



## The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

### Adventure XXI – The Adventure of the Reigate Squire (Puzzle)

#### Publication History

# 21 of the 60 stories

First published in *The Strand Magazine*, June, 1893

In the US *Harper's Weekly*, June 17, 1893

Part of *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* collection by George Newnes, Ltd., London, 1894

Harper Bros., New York, 1894

British illustrator – Sidney Paget

#### Chronology

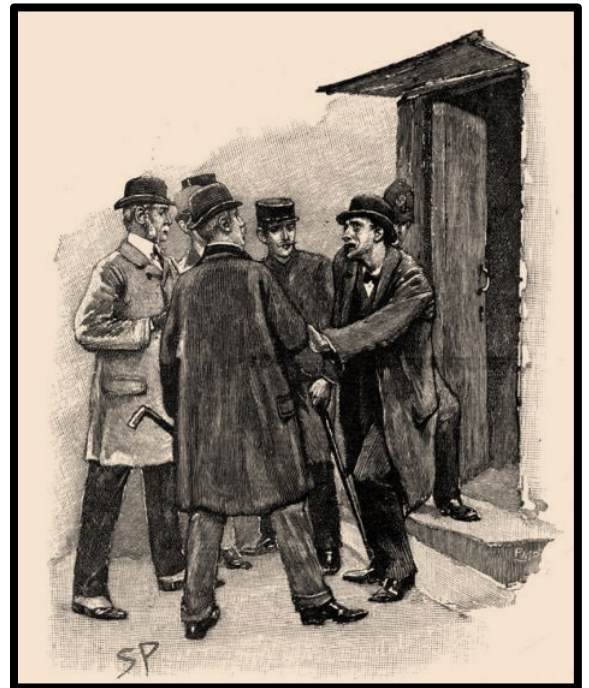
Baring-Gould places the dating of the story as Thur, Apr 14 to Tue, Apr 26, 1887 which makes it the 8<sup>th</sup> of the 60. This means that Holmes is 33 and Watson 35.

#### Christopher Morley Says

Holmes was recuperating from a breakdown, and he and Watson were staying with an old friend of Watson's army days. But the scrap of a note found in a dead man's hand rouses Holmes more than any tonic. We know from *The Sign of Four* his interest in handwriting, and he sees at once that a scrap of paper is extraordinary . . . .

#### Dummies Short Summary

"While recovering from a nervous breakdown, Holmes investigates a strange burglary that led to murder."



## **How Many Words**

At 7,186 words REIG has the 16<sup>th</sup> most words (#1 is VEIL – 4,499, #56 if NAVL – 12,701)

## **Classifying This Case**

This case is one of 23 classified as a MURDER and one of 14 where the perpetrator was either killed, arrested, or otherwise satisfactorily handled.

## **The Best Of Sherlock Holmes**

- 1927 – Arthur Conan Doyle named it 12<sup>th</sup> on his list of 12 favorites
- 1959 – The Baker Street Irregulars did not put it on their list of 10 best or worse
- 1999 – The Baker Street Irregulars voted it 39<sup>th</sup> of the 56 short stories
- 1999 – The Sherlock Holmes Society of London rated it 40<sup>th</sup> of the 56 short stories

## **What Else Happened That Year**

- Sudanese Revolt under Mahdi, war in the Sudan (1881 - 98)
- India reaches 253 million.
- Stanley founds Leopoldville in the Congo.
- Flogging is banned by the British Army and Navy.
- Tsar Alexander II of Russia accepts Melikov's proposal for a Consultative Committee for reform, is assassinated on the same day.
- James A. Garfield, 20th U.S. President, shot and wounded; died two months later.
- The Barnum and Bailey Greatest Show on Earth Circus is created.
- National Society of the Red Cross is established.
- De Lesseps and Gustave Eiffel, French engineers, begin construction of the Panama Canal.
- U.S. Supreme Court establishes income tax is constitutional.
- Revised Version of the New Testament.
- Carlos Finlay of Cuba develops theory that mosquitoes carry yellow fever.

## **Holmes And Watson – Personal Information**

Holmes and Watson sharing space at 221B Baker Street.

### **Dramatis Personae**

- **Mr. Cunningham**, J.P. of the county.
- **Alec Cunningham**, his arrogant son.
- **William Kirwin**, coachman of the Cunninghams and the murder victim.
- **Col. Hayter**, neighbor of Cunningham and friend of Watson (he had been a patient of Watson's in Afghanistan).
- **Mr. Acton**, neighbor of the Cunninghams who had a valid claim to a large portion of the Cunningham estate.
- **Inspector Forrester**, of the local police.
- **Annie Morrison**, mentioned in the murder note. A friend of Kirwin.

### **Quotable Sherlock**

- "It is of the highest importance in the art of detection to be able to recognize, out of a number of facts, which are incidental and which vital."
- "I am afraid that my explanation may disillusion you, but it has always been my habit to hide none of my methods, either from my friend Watson or from anyone who might take an intelligent interest in them."
- "Now I make a point of never having any prejudices, and following docilely wherever fact may lead me."
- "You may not be aware that the deduction of a man's age from his writing is one which has been brought to considerable accuracy by experts. In normal cases one can place a man in his true decade with tolerable confidence."
- "Watson, I think our quiet rest in the country has been a distinct success and I shall certainly return, much invigorated, to Baker Street to-morrow."
- "These are much deeper waters than I had thought."

### **Holmes' Fee**

Inspector Forrester asked Holmes for help, but there is no mention of an arrangement to pay Holmes. (Of the fully recorded cases there are at least nine, REIG, BLAC, SIXN, GOLD, ABBE, CARD, DYIN, STUD, VALL, in which Holmes participated solely in order to assist the police)

## **Disguises**

No disguises needed

## **Unrecorded Cases**

Sounds as if there was another potential villain

- The question of the Netherland-Sumatra Company and the colossal schemes of Baron Maupertius.

## **Sherlock Holmes On The Big And The Little Screen**

Only once has REIG been on the screen.

- 1922 The Reigate Squires with Eille Norwood was one of his 47 movies. The National Film and Television Archive at the BFI has viewing copies of this film but it has not been released

## **Fainting In The Canon**

In this tale Sherlock, himself, pretends to faint.

## **Newspapers**

None mentioned in this tale

## **Annotated Sherlock**

- **“to crack two cribs”** To “crack a crib” is thieves’ slang for breaking into a house or store.
- **“presses”** closets or cupboards
- **“petrel”** a small sea-bird associated with storms

## **Holmes The Author**

No publications noted or planned by Holmes in this tale

## **Weapons**

- **Collection of Firearms** - In the gunroom of Colonel Hayter.
- **Pistol** - Which Col. Hayter took from his gunroom and kept with him, because of a report of burglary in the neighborhood.
- **Revolver** - Used by Alec Cunningham to kill William Kerwin, his father's coachman, who was blackmailing both father and son and which Inspector Forrester knocked out of his hand after his apprehension.
- **Hands** - Of the two Cunninghams, father and son, which they used in their murderous attack upon Holmes.
- **Threat** - With which William Kirwin tried to blackmail the Cunninghams, but which only netted him an early demise

**Frank Mentzel**