



The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure XXIII – The Adventure of the Resident Patient

Publishing History

23 of the 60 stories

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

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

Harper Bros., New York, 1894

British Illustrator – Sidney Paget

American illustrator – W. H. Hyde



Chronology

Baring-Gould places the story at Wednesday, October 6 to Thursday, October 7, 1886 which makes it 5th of the 60. This means that Holmes is 32 and Watson 34.

Christopher Morley Says

“A case that greatly interested Watson since the client was a young doctor struggling to establish a reputation as a nerve specialist. Dr. Trevelyan had acquired what many young doctors dreamed of, a wealthy patient entirely under his care. But then a Russian nobleman came to consult him, and passed into a trance while the doctor was questioning him.”

Dummies Short Summary

“Holmes looks into the hanging death of a wealthy but paranoid man in another crime-scene investigation tour de force.”

How Many Words

At 7,355 words RESI has the 20th 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 where the perpetrator was either arrested, killed, or otherwise satisfactorily handled. Holmes solved the case but this is one of 5 where the perpetrator escaped justice. The others were FIVE, GREE, MUSG, and WIST.

The Best Of Sherlock Holmes

- 1944 – The Baker Street Irregulars voted it #6 on their worst list
- 1999 - The Baker Street Irregulars rated it 43rd of the 56 short stories
- 1999 – The Sherlock Holmes Society of London rated it 41st of the 56 short stories

What Else Happened That Year (1886)

- Royal Niger Company Chartered.
- British annex upper Burma.
- Prime Minister Gladstone’s Home Rule bill is defeated. It would have established a separate Irish legislature, Gladstone resigns.
- Chamberlain forms Liberal Unions.
- English Lawn Tennis Association is established.
- Woolwich Arsenal football team established.
- Slavery abolished in Cuba.
- Tunisia becomes French protectorate.
- First Tournament of Roses is held in Pasadena.
- Geronimo surrenders, effectively ending the Indian Wars of the Southwest.
- Haymarket Square riot in Chicago.
- Statue of Liberty is dedicated.

- The Westinghouse Electric Company is established.
- Bonaparte family is banished from France.
- Robert Louis Stevenson publishes *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* as well as *Kidnapped*
- Henry James publishes *The Bostonians*
- Rodin exhibits his statue, The Kiss.
- James E Keeler discovers Saturn's rings being made of debris.
- Nobel invents nitroglycerine.
- The element Fluorine is isolated.

Holmes And Watson – Personal Information

Holmes and Watson are both residing in Mrs. Hudson's 221 Baker Street.

Dramatis Personae

- **Percy Trevelyan**, a physician who wrote a monograph on obscure nervous diseases.
- **Blessington** aka **Sutton**, who set Trevelyan up in business.
- **The Page**, employed by Trevelyan and Blessington but who was bribed by the gang into betraying Blessington.
- **Biddle, Hayward, Moffat, Sutton** and **Cartwright**, the Worthingdon Bank gang.
- **Tobin**, caretaker at the Worthingdon Bank.
- **Lanner**, of Scotland Yard.

Quotable Sherlock

- "However, wretch as he was, he was still living under the shield of British law, and I have no doubt, Inspector, that you will see that though the shield may fail to guard, the sword of justice is still there to avenge."
- "the features are given to man as the means by which he shall express his emotions and you are faithful servants."

Holmes' Fee

The source of Holmes' fee end up dead. Dead men don't pay bills.

Sherlock Holmes On The Big And The Little Screen

- 1921 *The Resident Patient* with Eille Norwood as one of the 47 movies he made in 3 years.
- 1985 *The Resident Patient* with Jeremy Brett as part of his *Sherlock Holmes* series for the BBC / Granada TV
- 1999 *The Resident Patient* as an episode in the *Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century* (Animated TV series)

Annotated Sherlock

- **“tour-de-force”** French for a feat of remarkable strength.
- **“Scylla and Charydbis”** From Homer’s “Odyssey,” Scylla was a sea-monster with 6 heads, 12 feet, and a voice like the yelp of a dog. Charydbis, another sea-monster, lived on the opposite side of the sea.
- **“Lady Day”** March 25. A Day to observe the Virgin Mary, commemorating the Feast of the Annunciation.
- **“five and three pence for every guinea”** A guinea is 21 shillings and there are 12 pence to a shilling,, this is exactly $\frac{1}{4}$ of a guinea.
- **“scratches on this ward”** part of a key lock
- **“shingle of Southsea”** pebble beaches of Southsea
- **“General Gordon”** Charles “Chinese” Gordon (1833-1885) - Brit. Gen. sent to Khartoum in Sudan in 1884 to rescue garrison under attack - was besieged for 10 months - Gordon was killed 2 days before relief arrived
- **“brougham”** a 4 wheel enclosed carriage named for statesman Lord Brougham (1778-1868)
- **“guinea”** a pound plus 1 shilling

Weapons

- **Pistol** - Which Sutton (alias Blessington), the bank robber turned police informer, kept for protection against the members of his former gang, and which he pulled on Holmes and Watson, mistaking them for two of his former partner in crime.
- **Rope, Block, and Pulley** - Used to hang Sutton (alias Blessington) by Moffat, Biddle, and Hayward, three members of his former gang.

Frank Mentzel