



The Return of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure XXXII – The Adventure of the Priory School

What’s this? Another story about bicycles and abduction?

The Adventure of the Priory School may share some themes with SOLI, but it has a sinister lining all its own! As you read this week’s story, here are my questions and comments to spur your own thoughts:

I like the peat-cutter! If you’ve never watched peat being cut, it’s a real art — takes a good eye, careful hands, and a strong knee. He was likely cutting it for home fuel, but the proximity to the Fighting Cock makes me wonder if he didn’t keep a still to supply Reuben Hayes and his customers.

Several days after Heidegger vanished, Watson spied dabbled “crimson” blood stains on the yellow blossoms of a gorse bush. Shouldn’t the blood be brown by that time? How long does blood retain its fresh red color?

PRIO was first published in Collier’s Weekly (Jan. 1904) with the map that was reproduced in the Doubleday edition. The next month, PRIO appeared in the Strand with a slightly different version of the map — reproduced in the pages of the Oxford edition (and both maps appear in the Oxford footnotes). For those who have both versions: what are the differences? Can you live with them, or do they change your perception of the story in any way?



Why did Heidegger climb down the ivy, as opposed to taking the stairs?

The Priory School is a gold mine of noms! For new Hounds looking for a nom, this is your week to declare yourself! Just a few that occur to me as I turn the pages: Our Bearskin Hearthrug, The Post Bag, The Patched Dunlop, A Lying Corn-Chandler, A Remarkable Cow, The Rejoicing Lackey, A Self-Evident Villain, A Grimy Lad, A Long Dwindling Beard, and His Milk and Biscuits. Why, there are enough noms to create a whole new scion society; say, the “Pals of the Dook!”

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September 11, 1997