



The Return of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure XXXVI – The Adventure of the Three Students

Publishing History

36 of the 60 stories

First published in *The Strand Magazine*, June, 1904

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Part of *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* collection by

George Newnes, Ltd., London, 1905

McClure Phillip & Co., New York, 1905

British Illustrator – Sidney Paget

American illustrator – Frederick Dorr Steele

Chronology

Baring-Gould places the dating of the story as Friday, April 5 to Saturday,

April 6, 1895 making it 34th of the 60. This means that Holmes is 41 and Watson 43.



Christopher Morley Says

“At St. Luke’s College the examination paper in Greek for a valuable scholarship consisted of sight translation from Thucydides. But Mr. Soames, the lecturer in Greek, went out to tea and left the paper on his desk.

Which of the three students cheated by looking at the Greek Text?”

Dummies Short Summary

“While doing research in one of England’s *great university towns*, Holmes is asked to look into an academic cheating scandal. Which of the three students is guilty?”

How Many Words

At 6,508 words 3STU has the 10th most words (#1 is VEIL – 4,499, #56 if NAVL – 12,701)

Classifying This Case

This case is one of 2 classified as fear of physical harm or public scandal. The other is SCAN.

The Best Of Sherlock Holmes

- 1999 – The Baker Street Irregulars voted it 51st of the 56 short stories.
- 1999 – The Sherlock Holmes Society of London voted it 53rd of the 56 short stories.

What Else Happened That Year (1895)

- Anglo-French interests begin to conflict in Nile Valley.
- U.S. intervenes in Anglo-Venezuelan border dispute, arbitration in Britain's favor.
- Construction of Uganda railway commenced.
- British East Africa Company surrenders Kenya as British protectorate.
- Liberals defeated at general election, Salisbury again becomes prime minister.
- First automobile exhibition in London.
- Electrification of first mainline railway.
- Japan takes Formosa (Taiwan).
- Germany, France, and Russia unite to compel Japan to return Liaotung peninsula to China.
- Treaty of Simonoseki, end of Sino-Japanese war.
- Cuban rebellions begin, U.S. protests brutal suppression.
- Dreyfus refused new trial by French President Faure.
- Armenian demonstration in Constantinople leads to massacre of 50,000 Armenians.
- Introduction of diphtheria antitoxin.
- Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* debuts. Later that year, Wilde is imprisoned.
- H.G. Wells publishes *The Time Machine*.
- Wilhelm Konrad, German physicist, experiments with Crooke's tubes and discovers X-rays.
- Ramsey obtains helium, first identified by its spectrum in the sun, in 1868.
- Thomas Armat, of Washington, develops modern cinema projection.

- King Gillette (U.S.) invents safety razor.
- Wireless telegraphy is demonstrated.

Holmes And Watson – Personal Information

Though not really stated they surely were at 221B. Holmes and Watson were spending some weeks in one of the great university towns, residing at the time in furnished lodgings close to a library where Holmes was pursuing some laborious researches in early English charters – researches which led to striking results.

Dramatis Personae

- **Hilton Soames**, tutor and lecturer in Greek at St. Luke’s College.
- **Bannister**, servant of Soames and former butler to Jabez Gilchrist.
- **Daulat Ras**,* an Indian student.
- **Gilchrist**,* an athletic student.
- **Jabez Gilchrest**, his father who ruined himself at the turf.
- **Miles McLaren**,* a brilliant but dissipated student.

* = The three students competing for the Scholarship.

Quotable Sherlock

- “Let us hear the suspicions. I will look after the proofs.”
- “It is nearly nine, and the landlady babbled of green peas at seven-thirty.”
- “It is human to err, at least no one can accuse you of being a callous criminal.”
- “For once you have fallen low. Let us see in the future how high you can rise.”

Sherlock Holmes On The Big And The Little Screen

This story was only placed on the screen for one very short movie

- 1923 The Three Students with Eille Norwood as 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

Bannister pretends to faint and he almost faints. Mr. Soames says he nearly fainted.

Annotated Sherlock

- “**tutor**” is one who instructs undergraduates at Oxford
- “**baize**” a coarse woolen cloth used for curtains, door covers, and table covers.
- “**fine tan**” Oak bark or other material used for tanning

Holmes The Author

Even though Holmes was doing research, there is no comment on anything published or planned.

Weapons

Just one of three stories where nothing contrived to be a weapon was used. The other two stories were CREE and YELL

Frank Mentzel