



His Last Bow

Adventure XLVII – His Last Bow

Furies, Fenians, Fords, and foreigners? There's an east wind coming, no doubt about it, and on its leading edge is our next canonical tale, *His Last Bow*. My questions and comments this weekend:

A half-dozen people "are really in touch with the truth." Assuming Von Bork and Von Herling are two of that number, who are the four other people in on the secret?

Did Holmes get to keep the money that the Germans paid to Altamont?

Are the Irish unfairly singled out as Axis collaborators?

Didn't the Germans recruit members of any other nationalist movements within the British Empire?

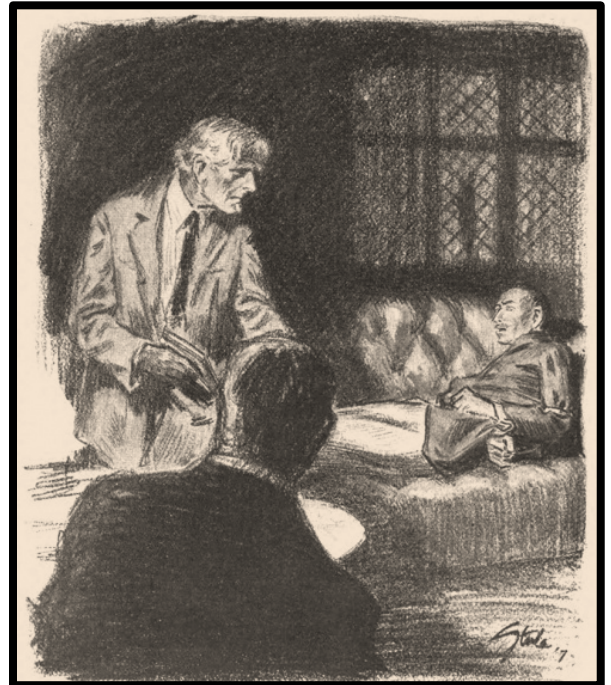
Was Mrs. Hudson "Martha," or not?

Holmes and his agents made a date to debrief at Claridge's, the ultra-posh hotel in Mayfair. That's a nice touch. Claridge's represents Great Britain at its best: elegant rather than showy, extremely attentive, and ever so discreet.

Discretion was one reason that the US government chose Claridge's as the London headquarters for FDR's personal envoy during World War II, Harry Hopkins. Hopkins was notoriously careless with top secrets and so required

exceptionally discreet hosts. Classified documents were routinely strewn all over his suite. He once sent a jacket out to be cleaned and pressed, heedless of secret cables from Washington stuffed in the pockets!

Claridge's circumspect maids, boots, and bellboys so impressed the Americans by their handling of Hopkins, that Gens. Eisenhower and Marshall arranged to stay there themselves. The hotel was (and is) so



conscientious about privacy that the Americans may not even have been aware that elsewhere in the hotel Claridge's staff were looking after King George of Greece, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, King Haakon of Norway, King Peter of Yugoslavia, Grand Duchess Charlotte of Luxembourg, the President of Poland, and Princess Alexandra, daughter of Princess Aspasia of the Hellenes. All in a day's work.

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