

A Compendium of Canonical Characters



His Last Bow

Canonical Characters



Arthur Twidle,
December, 1908

The Adventure of the Bruce- Partington Plans



“The Adventure of the Bruce-
Partington Plans” 01
(His Last Bow)

- 01 - Cover Card
- 02 - Cover Card
- 03 - Summary
- 04 - Filmography / Radiography
- 05 - Sherlock Holmes
- 06 - John Watson
- 07 - Arthur Cadogen West
- 08 - Mycroft Holmes
- 09 - Railway Representative

Canonical Characters



Frederic Dorr Steele,
December, 1908

The Adventure of the Bruce- Partington Plans



"The Adventure of the Bruce- Partington Plans" *(His Last Bow)*

02

- 10 - Sidney Johnson
- 11 - Inspector Lestrade
- 12 - Hugo Oberstein
- 13 - Sir James Walter
- 14 - Colonel Valentine Walter
- 15 - Violet Westbury
- 16 - The Plans
- 17 - Data! Data! Data!

Canonical Characters

Reminiscences of Mr. Sherlock Holmes.

(From the Diaries of his friend—John H. Watson, M.D.)

By ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE.

The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans.

IN the third week of November, in the year 1895, a dense yellow fog settled down upon London. From the Monday to the Thursday I doubt whether it was ever possible from our windows in Baker Street to see the loom of the opposite houses. The first day Holmes had spent in cross-indexing his huge book of references. The second and third had been patiently occupied upon a subject which he had recently made his hobby—the music of the Middle Ages. But when, for the fourth time, after pushing back our chairs from breakfast we saw the greasy, heavy brown swirl still drifting past us and condensing in oily drops upon the window-panes, my comrade's impatient and active nature could endure this drab existence no longer. He paced restlessly about our sitting-room in a fever of suppressed energy, biting his nails, tapping the furniture, and chafing against inaction.

"Nothing of interest in the paper, Watson?" he asked.

I was aware that by anything of interest Holmes meant anything of criminal interest. There was the news of a revolution, of a possible war, and of an impending change of Government; but these did not come within the horizon of my companion. I could see nothing recorded in the shape of crime which was not commonplace and futile. Holmes groaned and resumed his restless meanderings.

"The London criminal is certainly a dull fellow," said he, in the querulous voice of the sportsman whose game has failed him. "Look out of this window, Watson. See how the figures loom up, are dimly seen, and then blend once more into the cloud-bank. The thief or the murderer could roam London as such a day as the tiger does the jungle, until he pounces, and then evident to his victim."

"I have," said I, "been numerous times in his contempt."

"This great and sombre stage is set for something more worthy than that," said he. "It is fortunate for this community that I am not a criminal."

"It is indeed!" said I, heartily.

"Suppose that I were Brooks or Woodhouse, or any of the fifty men who have good reason for taking my life, how long could I survive against my own pursuit? A summons, a bogus appointment, and all would be over. It is well they don't have days of fog in the Latin countries—the countries of assassination. By Jove! here comes something at last to break our dead monotony."

It was the maid with a telegram. Holmes tore it open and burst out laughing.

"Well, well! What next?" said he. "Brother Mycroft is coming round."

"Why not?" I asked.

"Why not? It is as if you met a tram car coming down a country lane. Mycroft has his rails and he runs on them. His Pall Mall lodgings, the Diogenes Club, Whitehall—that is his cycle. Once, and only once, he has been here. What upheaval can possibly have derailed him?"

"Does he not explain?"

Holmes handed me his brother's telegram.

"Must see you over Cadogan West. Coming at once—MYCROFT."

"Cadogan West? I have heard the name."

"It recalls nothing to my mind. But that Mycroft should break out in this erratic fashion! A planet might as well leave its orbit. By the way, do you know what Mycroft is?"

I had some vague recollection of an explanation at the time of the Adventure of the Greek Interpreter.

"You told me that he had some small office under the British Government."

Holmes chuckled.

"I did not know you quite so well those days. One has to be discreet; one talks of high matters of State; right in thinking that he is under-

Copyright, 1904, by Arthur Conan Doyle, in the United States of America.

The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans



"The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans"

03

(His Last Bow)

Mycroft leaves his rails to seek brother Sherlock's assistance in recovering stolen secret plans for a submarine.

All evidence points to a young government clerk, Arthur Cadogan West, whose body was found near the rail tracks with some of the papers on his person, but his fiancé believes he is innocent.

Will Holmes be able to recover the papers, protect the secret and solve a homicide?

Canonical Characters



P.B. Hicking
March, 1910

The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans



"The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans" (*His Last Bow*)

04

Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
March, 1922	UK	Eille Norwood	Hubert Willis
April, 1965	UK	Douglas Wilmer	Nigel Stock
January, 1968	DE	Erich Schellow	Paul Edwin Roth
April, 1988	UK	Jeremy Brett	Edward Harwicke

Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
October 22, 1931	NBC	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
October 22, 1936	Mutual/NBC	Louis Hector	Harry West
November 06, 1939	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
November 16, 1941	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
September 10, 1943	Mutual	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
September 26, 1948	Mutual	John Stanley	Ian Martin
1954	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
August 28, 1964	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
1954		John Gielgud	Ralph Richardson
February 06, 1955		John Gielgud	Ralph Richardson
1958		Maurice Teynac	Pierre Destailles
1987	BBC	Roy Marsden	John Moffatt
April 23, 1992	NPR	Edward Petherbridge	David Pearl
January 26, 1994	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams
2010	Jim French	John Patrick Lowrie	Lawrence Albert

Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



“The Adventure of the Bruce-
Partington Plans”
(His Last Bow)

05

“I play the game for the game's own sake.”

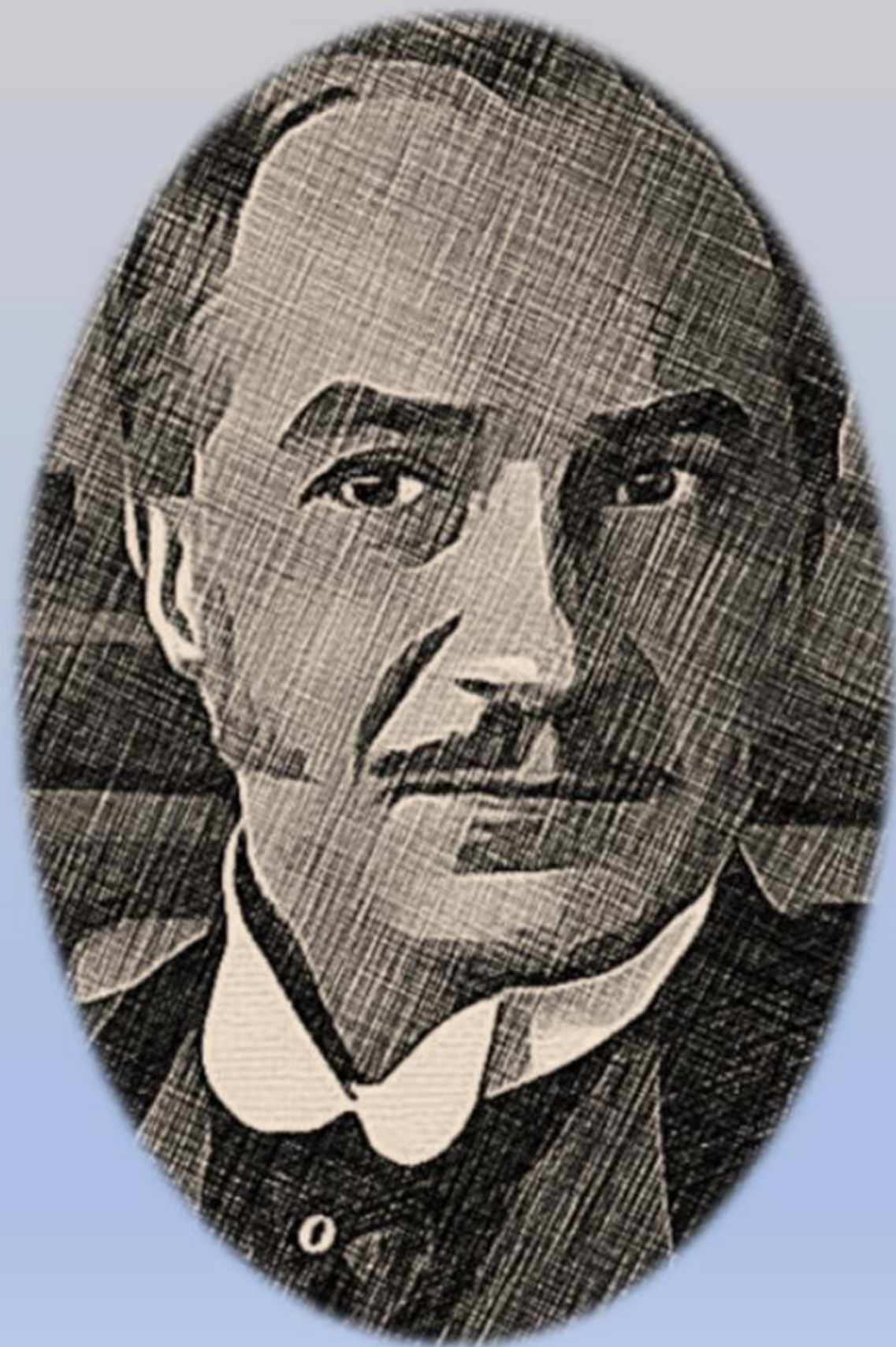
“[Mycroft] has the tidiest and most orderly brain, with the greatest capacity for storing facts, of any man living.”

*“I have hold of one idea which may lead us far. The man met his death elsewhere, and his body was on the **ROOF** of a carriage.”*

“Please come at once and join me. Bring with you a jemmy, a dark lantern, a chisel, and a revolver.”

(Michael Caine, 1998, Without a Clue)

Canonical Characters



John Watson



“The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans”

06

(His Last Bow)

“In the third week of November, in the year 1895, a dense yellow fog settled down upon London.”

“Of contemporary literature, philosophy and politics [Holmes] appeared to know next to nothing. He appears to know every detail of every horror perpetrated in the century. Plays the violin well. Is an expert singlestick player, boxer, and swordsman.”

“Then, again, why should he leave the girl in the street and dart away to commit a felony?”

(Ben Kingsley, 1998, Without a Clue)

Canonical Characters



Arthur Cadogen West



"The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans"

07

(His Last Bow)

He was 27 and a clerk at Woolwich Arsenal. Engaged to Violet Westbury.

"He has the reputation of being hot-headed and imperious, but a straight, honest man."

"The young man had apparently fallen out of the train and killed himself. He had not been robbed, and there was no particular reason to suspect violence."

"The papers which this wretched youth had in his pocket were the plans of the Bruce-Partington submarine."

(Sebastian Stride, 1988, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, "The Bruce-Partington Plans")

Canonical Characters



Mycroft Holmes



“The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans” (*His Last Bow*)

08

Sherlock’s elder brother by seven years. Tall and portly. “Mycroft has his rails and he runs on them. His Pall Mall lodgings, the Diogenes Club, Whitehall—that is his cycle.”

“You would also be right in a sense if you said that occasionally he IS the British government.”

“You must drop everything, Sherlock. Never mind your usual petty puzzles of the police-court. It’s a vital international problem that you have to solve.”

(Charles Gray, 1988, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Bruce-Partington Plans”)

Canonical Characters



Railway Representative



"The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans" (*His Last Bow*)

09

"A courteous red-faced old gentleman."

"This is where the young man's body lay," said he, indicating a spot about three feet from the metals.

"It could not have fallen from above, for these, as you see, are all blank walls. Therefore, it could only have come from a train, and that train, so far as we can trace it, must have passed about midnight on Monday."

(John Rapley, 1988, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,
"The Bruce-Partington Plans")

Canonical Characters



Sidney Johnson



“The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans” *(His Last Bow)*

10

Senior clerk and draughtsman who locked up plans the night they were stolen.

“He is a man of forty, married, with five children. He is a silent, morose man, but he has, on the whole, an excellent record in the public service.”

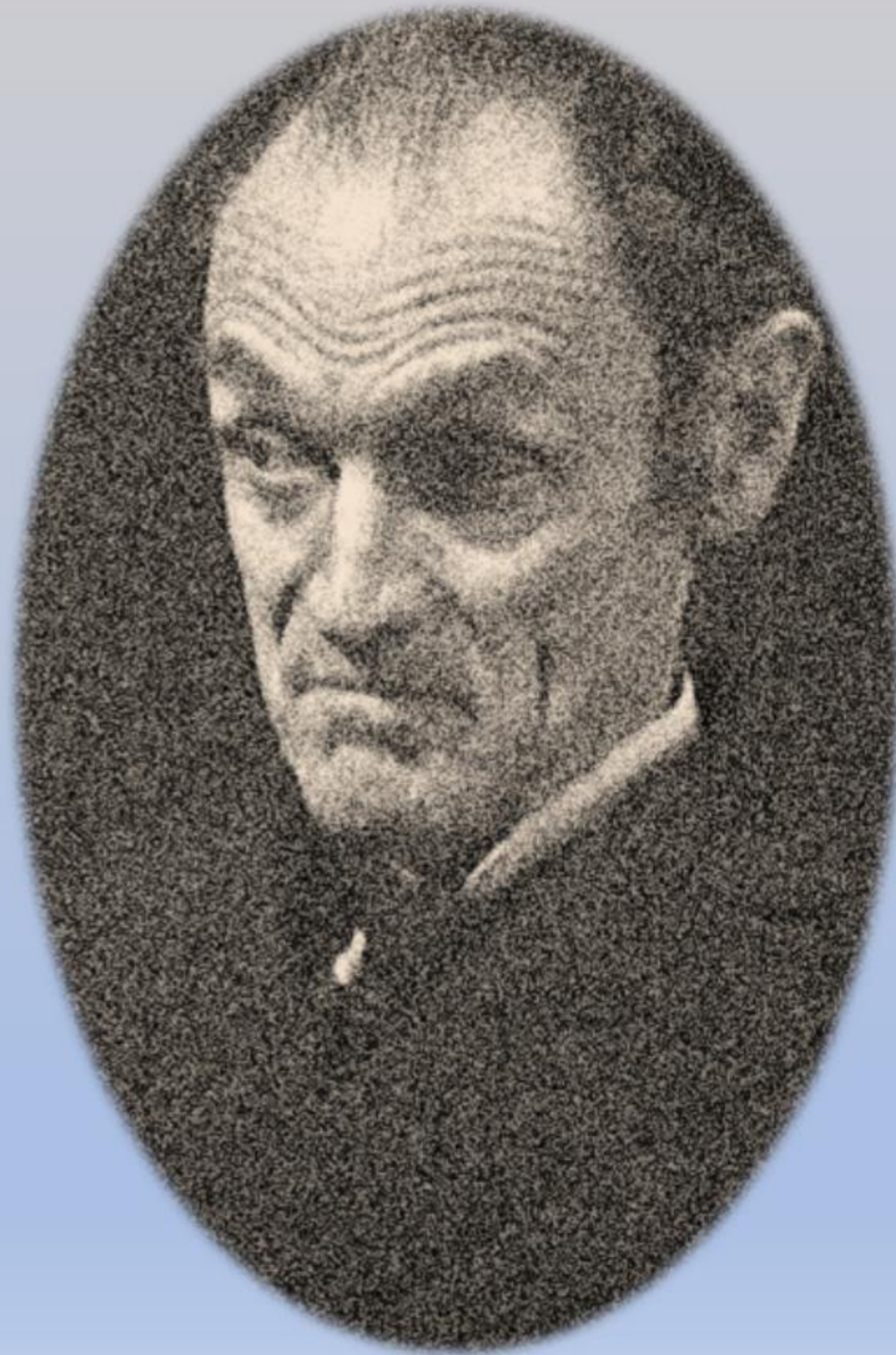
“I am always the last man out.”

“Where were the plans?”

“In that safe. I put them there myself.”

(Geoffrey Bayldon, 1988, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,
“The Bruce-Partington Plans”)

Canonical Characters



Inspector Lestrade



“The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans”

11

(His Last Bow)

Scotland Yard inspector, thin and austere, “a little sallow rat-faced, dark-eyed fellow who came [to Baker Street] three or four times in a single week.”

“I have no doubt at all as to what occurred. He took the papers to sell them. He saw the agent. They could not agree as to price. In the train the agent murdered him, took the more essential papers, and threw his body from the carriage.”

—
(Peter Madden, 1965, *Sherlock Holmes*,
“The Bruce-Partington Plans”)

Canonical Characters



Hugo Oberstein



“The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans”

12

(His Last Bow)

Spy living at 13 Caulfield Gardens,
Kensington.

“As West forced his way after us into the house Oberstein struck him on the head. The blow was a fatal one. He was dead within five minutes.”

“Eager to complete the coup of his lifetime, came to the lure and was safely engulfed for fifteen years in a British prison. In his trunk were found the invaluable Bruce-Partington plans, which he had put up for auction in all the naval centres of Europe.”

(Derek Ware, 1988, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,
“The Bruce-Partington Plans”)

Canonical Characters



Sir James Walter



“The Adventure of the Bruce- Partington Plans” *(His Last Bow)*

13

Decorated head of the Submarine Department and official guardian of the papers. Died after papers were stolen by his brother Valentine.

“He is a gentleman, a favoured guest in the most exalted houses, and, above all, a man whose patriotism is beyond suspicion. He is one of two who have a key of the safe.”

“He was always so proud of the efficiency of his department, and this was a crushing blow.”

Canonical Characters



Colonel Valentine Walter



“The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans” (*His Last Bow*)

14

Brother of Sir James. a very tall, handsome, light-bearded man of fifty, the younger brother of the dead scientist.

“I needed the money badly. Oberstein offered me five thousand. It was to save myself from ruin.”

“He had caught me once with his keys, and I think that he suspected. I read in his eyes that he suspected. As you know, he never held up his head again.”

(Johnathan Newth, 1988, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,
“The Bruce-Partington Plans”)

Canonical Characters



Violet Westbury



“The Adventure of the Bruce-
Partington Plans”
(His Last Bow)

15

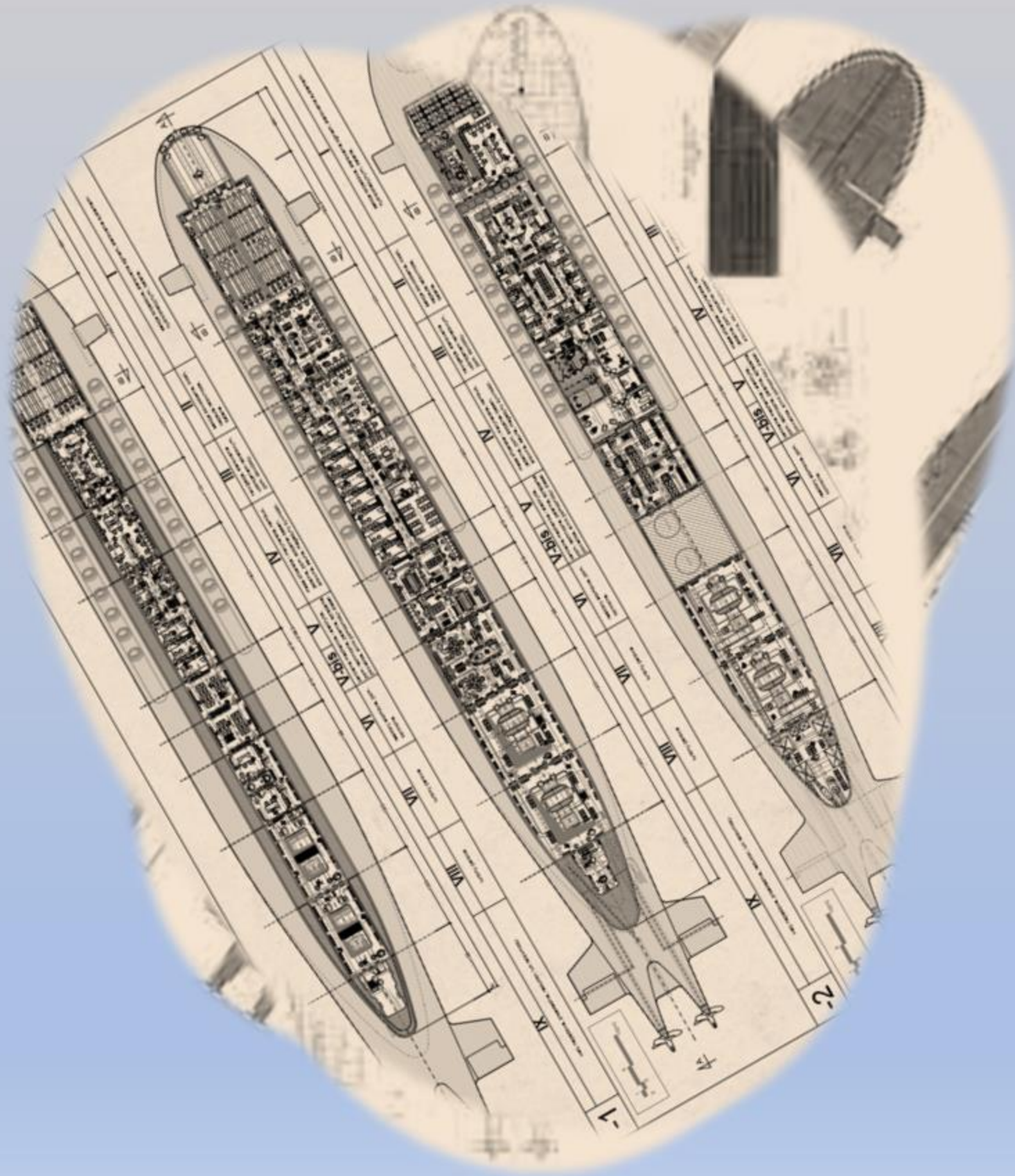
Fiancé of Cadogen West.

“Arthur was the most single-minded, chivalrous, patriotic man upon earth. He would have cut his right hand off before he would sell a State secret confided to his keeping. It is absurd, impossible, preposterous to anyone who knew him.”

“Oh, Mr. Holmes, if you could only, only save his honour! It was so much to him.”

(Amanda Waring, 1988, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,
“The Bruce-Partington Plans”)

Canonical Characters



The Plans



“The Adventure of the Bruce-
Partington Plans”
(His Last Bow)

16

“There we have it at last, Watson!
British Government-Woolwich
Arsenal - Technical papers -
Brother Mycroft, the chain is
complete.”

“The plans, which are exceedingly
intricate, comprising some thirty
separate patents, each essential to
the working of the whole.”

“I have little doubt that the emerald
pin will for ever recall to my friend's
memory the adventure of the
Bruce-Partington plans.”

Canonical Characters



G. Dutrac,
October, 1928

The Adventure of the Bruce- Partington Plans



“The Adventure of the Bruce- Partington Plans” (*His Last Bow*)

17

First
Publication:

U.K. -- *The Strand Magazine*,
December, 1908
U.S. - *Colliers*
December 12, 1908

U.K. - *His Last Bow*,
October, 1917, John Murray
U.S. - *His Last Bow*,
October, 1917, George H. Doran

Chronological
Date:

November, 1895
(Watson)
November 21, 1895
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

11 of 56 short stories
(Sherlockian poll, 1999, Stock)

Christ
Abbreviation:

BRUC