

A Compendium of Canonical Characters



The Return of Sherlock Holmes

Canonical Characters



Frederic Dorr Steele,
December, 1903

The Adventure of the Dancing Men



"The Adventure of the Dancing Men" *(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

01

- 01 - Cover Card
- 02 - Cover Card
- 03 - Summary
- 04 - Filmography / Radiography
- 05 - Sherlock Holmes
- 06 - John Watson
- 07 - Elsie Cubitt

Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,
December, 1903

The Adventure of the Dancing Men



“The Adventure of the Dancing Men”

02

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

- 08 - Hilton Cubitt
- 09 - Inspector Martin
- 10 - Abe Slaney
- 11 - Saunders & Mrs. King
- 12 - The Dancing Men
- 13 - Data! Data!

Canonical Characters

The Return of Sherlock Holmes

IV

The Adventure of the Dancing Men

Holmes had been seated for some hours ^{in silence} with his thin back curved over a chemical vessel in which he was brewing some particularly malodorous product. His head was sunk upon his breast and he looked from my point of view ~~behind him~~ like some strange lank bird with dull grey plumage and a black top-knot.

"So, Watson" said he suddenly "you do not propose to invest in South African Securities"

I gave a start of astonishment. Accustomed as I was to Holmes' curious faculties, this sudden intrusion into my most intimate thoughts was utterly inexplicable.

"How on earth do you know that?" I asked.

He wheeled round upon his stool with a test-tube in his hand, and a gleam

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03

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

Hilton Cubbit has taken a young American, Elsie, as his bride, and returned to Riding Thorpe Manor. Elsie has earnestly asked her husband not to pry into her past in Chicago.

Recently, Hilton has discovered a series of random drawings around the property showing little dancing men, in various positions, drawn with a chalk or on a paper. Elsie fainted straight-away upon seeing the stick figures. Not wanting to break his vow to his wife by digging too deeply into her dark secrets, Hilton comes to Baker Street to seek Holmes's advice in lieu of going to the police.

Holmes must determine if the drawings are a simple childish prank, or something much more sinister.

Canonical Characters



R. Thomson,
March, 1905

The Adventure of the Dancing Men



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04

Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
1923	UK	Eille Norwood	Hubert Willis
1968	UK	Peter Cushing	Nigel Stock
1984	UK	Jeremy Brett	David Burke

Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
April 20, 1931	NBC	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
May 09, 1936	Mutual/ NBC	Louis Hector	Harry West
December 01, 1940	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
1968		Enwell	Cheshire
June 24, 1969	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
March 10, 1993	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams
June 24, 2007		John Patrick Lowrie	Lawrence Albert

Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



“The Adventure of the Dancing Men”

05

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

“So, Watson, you do not propose to invest in South African securities?”

“Don't you think, Mr. Cubitt, that your best plan would be to make a direct appeal to your wife, and to ask her to share her secret with you?”

“If my calculations prove to be correct, you may have a particularly dangerous prisoner to convey to the county jail.”

(Frank Langella, 1981, Sherlock Holmes: The Strange Case of Alice Faulkner)

Canonical Characters



John Watson



“The Adventure of the
Dancing Men”

06

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

“How absurdly simple!”

“Without a word Holmes hurried to a carriage, and during the long seven miles' drive he never opened his mouth. Seldom have I seen him so utterly despondent.”

“In an instant Holmes clapped a pistol to his head, and Martin slipped the handcuffs over his wrists.”

(John Hillerman, 1990, Hands of a Murderer)

Canonical Characters



Elsie Cubitt



“The Adventure of the Dancing Men”

07

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

Daughter of the leader of an American criminal gang, she broke her engagement to Abe Slaney and moved to London. Fainted after being shown dancing men drawings.

“If you take me, Hilton, you will take a woman who has nothing that she need be personally ashamed of, but you will have to be content with my word for it.”

(Betsy Brantley, 1984, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, “The Dancing Men”)

Canonical Characters



Hilton Cubitt



“The Adventure of the Dancing Men”

08

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

Squire of Riding Thorpe Manor,
Norfolk. Married to Elsie. Shot
through the heart after hiring
Holmes.

“I found on one of the window-sills
a number of absurd little dancing
figures like these upon the paper.
They were scrawled with chalk.”

*“A promise is a promise, Mr.
Holmes. If Elsie wished to tell me
she would.”*

(Tenniel Evans, 1984, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, “The
Dancing Men”)

Canonical Characters



Inspector Martin



“The Adventure of the Dancing Men”

09

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

Police inspector from the
Norfolk Constabulary
assigned to investigate the
homicide of Hilton Cubitt.

*“Why, Mr. Holmes, the
crime was only committed at
three this morning. How
could you hear of it in
London and get to the spot as
soon as I?”*

*(David Martin, 1984, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, “The
Dancing Men”)*

Canonical Characters



Abe Slaney



“The Adventure of the Dancing Men”

10

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

Chicago gangster who was engaged to Elsie Cubitt and tracked her down in London after she fled. Sentenced to life in prison.

“The most dangerous crook in Chicago.”

“But if you think I could have hurt that woman, then you don't know either me or her. I tell you, there was never a man in this world loved a woman more than I loved her.”

(Eugene Lupinski, 1984, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Dancing Men”)

Canonical Characters



Saunders & Mrs. King



“The Adventure of the Dancing Men”

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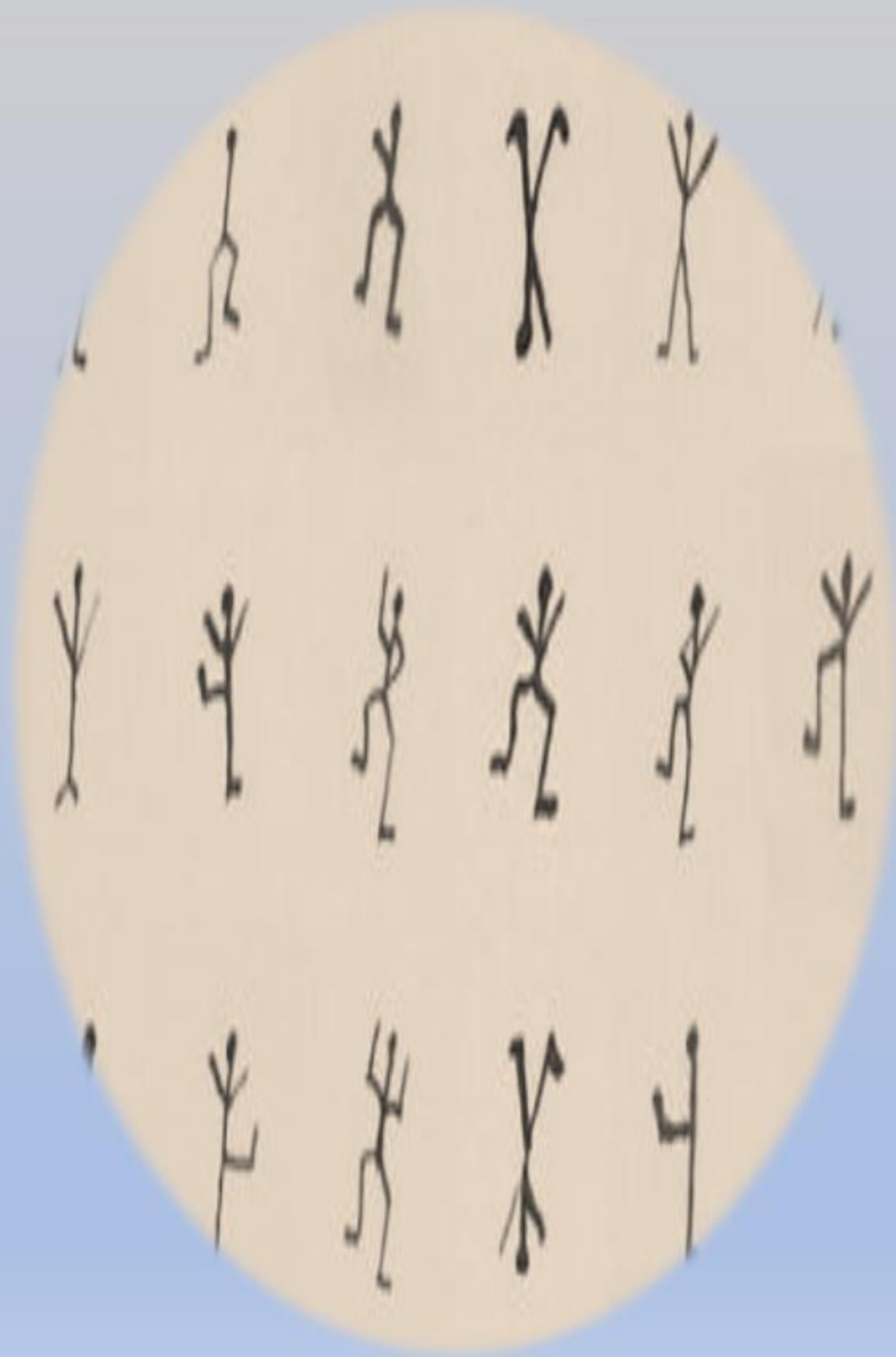
(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

Housemaid and cook “had been aroused from their sleep by the sound of an explosion, which had been followed a minute later by a second one.”

“Their master lay upon his face in the centre of the room. He was quite dead. Near the window his wife was horribly wounded, and the side of her face was red with blood.”

(Wendy Parker & Lorraine Peters, 1984, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, “The Dancing Men”)

Canonical Characters



The Dancing Men



“The Adventure of the Dancing Men”

12

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

A cypher created by Elsie’s father, Mr. Patrick, in which to pass messages back and forth to their crime group in Chicago. It was assumed it would pass as a ‘child’s scrawl’ unless the reader possessed the key to the code.

“You wrote it? There was no one on earth outside the joint who knew the secret of the dancing men. How came you to write it?”

Canonical Characters



Jacques Camoreyt,
June, 1905

The Adventure of the Dancing Men



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U.K. -- *The Strand Magazine*,
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U.K. - *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,
March 07, 1905 George Newnes Ltd.
U.S. - *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,
February, 1905, McClure, Phillips & Co.

Chronological
Date:

July 27, 1898
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

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

Christ
Abbreviation:

DANC