



The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure XIII – The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet

Publishing History

13 of the 60 stories

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Part of The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes collection by

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British Illustrator – Sidney Paget

American Illustrator– J. C. Drake

Chronology

Baring-Gould places the date of the story at Friday, December 19 to Saturday, December 20, 1886 which makes it the 30th of the 60. This means that Holmes is 32 and Watson 34.

Christopher Morley Says

“Dr. Watson thought it was a madman coming along Baker Street that winter morning; it was the portly banker Alexander Holder, whose despair was shown by his strange behavior. Holmes saved him from a scandal that would have involved an exalted name, but the story itself is less attractive than its brilliant opening.”



Dummies Short Summary

“The theft of a priceless piece of jewelry allows Holmes to once again display his amazing crime-scene investigation skills.”

How Many Words

At 9,783 words BERY has the 48th most words (#1 is VEIL – 4,499, #56 is NAVL – 12,701)

Classifying This Case

This case is one of 4 classified as a theft of gems. The others were BLUE, MAZA, and SIXN.

The Best Of Sherlock Holmes

- 1999 – The Baker Street Irregulars rated it 47th of the 56 short stories.
- 1999 – The Sherlock Holmes Society of London rated it 49th of the 56 Short stories.

What Else Happened That Year (1886)

This story takes place in 1886 the same as NOBL, the previous story.

Holmes And Watson – Personal Information

Holmes and Watson firmly ensconced at 221B Baker Street in this story.

Dramatis Personae

- **Alexander Holder**, Prominent Banker
- **Mary Holder**, niece and adopted daughter of Alexander.
- **Arthur Holder**, son of Alexander and a gambler
- **Anonymous Nobleman** leaves the coronet, a national treasure, with the banker as security for a loan.
- **Sir George Burnwell**, friend of Arthur, secret suitor of Mary. "One of the most dangerous men in England."
The thief.
- **Lucy Paar**, maid in the Holder house.
- **Francis Prosper**, a green-grocer, suitor of Lucy

Quotable Sherlock

- “You owe a very humble apology to that noble lad, your son, who carried himself in this matter as I should be proud to see my own son do, should I ever chance to have one.”
- "It is an old maxim of mine that when you have excluded the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."
- “I have no doubt that she loved you, but there are women in whom the love of a lover extinguishes all other loves, and I think that she must have been one.”

Holmes’ Fee

Holmes to client: “You place no limit on the sum I may draw.”

Client’s reply: “I would give my fortune to have them back.”

Holmes: “Very good.”

Holmes charged client £4000, which included £3000, 6s, in Holmes’ expenditures.

Disguises

Holmes went disguised as a common loafer.

Sherlock Holmes On The Big And The Little Screen

- 1921 *The Beryl Coronet* with Eille Norwood as his 9th of 47 movies
- 1965 *The Beryl Coronet* with Douglas Wilmer as an episode of his *Sherlock Holmes* series
- 1967 *Das Beryll Diadem* with Eric Schellow in a short German *Sherlock Holmes* series
- 2001 *The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet* as an episode of *Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century* (Animated TV series)

Fainting In The Canon

In this story it is MARY HOLDER who actually faints

Annotated Sherlock

- “**bow window**” (or curved bay window) was also mentioned in **MAZA** but no bow windows were on Victorian Baker Street.
- “**square, black morocco case**” A thin leather made from goatskin and tanned with sumac.

- **“beryl”** is a mineral, silicate of beryllium and aluminum whose crystals are hexagonal. Its colored form is considered a gem stone; emerald, the green variety of beryl is the most valued, followed by aquamarine, which is blue-green. There is no evidence of the color of the beryl’s in the Beryl Coronet.
- **“farthing”** originally a “fourthing,” a quarter-penny.
- **“a double carriage sweep”** a curved driveway.
- **“chafering”** bargaining or haggling about terms or price.

Weapons

Only two things considered weapons mentioned.

- Revolver - Sherlock Holmes’ and is mentioned in 8 cases. To clap to the head of Sir George Burnwell.
- Life Preserver - Which Sir George Burnwell grabbed to strike at Holmes.

Other Stuff

Several prominent Sherlockians enjoy verse and that often shows up a limerick. An example:

Who pilfered the Beryl Coronet
 Which was held by old Holder for debt?
 Only Holmes could discern well
 That Mary and Burnwell
 Had done it, to Arthur's regret.

--*W.W. Higgins*

Plugs & Dottles #204, Sept.1995

Frank Mentzel