



## The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

### Adventure XVIII – The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk

#### Publishing History

# 18 of the 60 stories

First published in *The Strand Magazine*, March, 1893

In the US *Harper's Weekly*, March 11, 1893

Part of *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* collection by George

Newnes, Ltd., London, 1894

Harper Bros., New York, 1894

British Illustrator – Sidney Paget

#### Chronology

Baring-Gould places the dating of the story at Saturday, June 15, 1889 which makes it 23<sup>rd</sup> of the 60. This means that Holmes is 35 and Watson 37.



#### Christopher Morley Says

“When you discover that young Mr. Pycroft’s well-paid job in the Franco-Midland Hardware Company involves no work except checking off the names of hardware-dealers in a directory of Paris, you may be reminded of the task set for the pawnbroker in “The Red-Headed League.” And the reason for it is equally sinister.”

#### Dummies Short Summary

“Holmes cracks a case of early identity theft and narrowly prevents a serious crime.”

## How Many Words

At 6,832 words STOC has the 12<sup>th</sup> most words (#1 is VEIL – 4,499, #56 is NAVL – 12,701)

## Classifying This Case

This case is one of 3 classified as a theft of money. The others were REDH and 3GAR.

## The Best Of Sherlock Holmes

- 1944 – The Baker Street Irregulars voted it #7 on their worst list.
- 1999 – The Baker Street Irregulars voted it 52<sup>nd</sup> of the 56 short stories.
- 1999 – Sherlock Holmes Society of London voted it 48<sup>th</sup> of the 56 short stories.

## What Else Happened That Year (1889)

- British South Africa Company Charter awarded.
- Transvaal claimed to be "encircled" by Rhodes' concessions in East Africa. Rhodesia established.
- Great London Dock Strike; the "Dockers' Tanner"; growth of unskilled workers unions; New Unionism; Gasworkers' Union formed.
- March 30, Early use of photographs in newspaper: Illustrated London News runs Cambridge and Oxford boat crews.
- Establishment of telephone company.
- Board of Agriculture becomes government department with minister.
- General Booth (Salvation Army) publishes Survey of London Life and Labour.
- Italy takes Somalia and Ethiopia.
- October 6--The Moulin Rouge first opens its doors.
- Mayerling tragedy: suicide of Crown Prince Rudolph of Austria and Baroness Maria Vetsera.
- Treaty of Acciali: Ethiopia made Italian protectorate.
- End of Portuguese Empire in Brazil; republic proclaimed.
- Promulgation of Japanese Constitution.
- Paris Exhibition: proof of industrial development in France.
- Work on Panama Canal stopped; French company bankrupt.
- Bismarck introduces Old Age Insurance in Germany.
- Erection of Tacoma Building in Chicago. First skyscraper, 13 stories high.

- Conan Doyle publishes A Sign of Four.
- Mark Twain publishes A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court.
- Sudermann publishes Die Ehre, a German play.
- Renoir paints Girls Picking Flowers.
- Eiffel Tower completed, 985 feet high, taller than the Great Pyramid, become highest structure on earth.
- Eastman's Kodak camera comes into production, using photographic film.
- First linotype machine in use.

### **Holmes And Watson – Personal Info**

Holmes living at Baker Street but Watson is living (place not noted) with his new wife trying to build up a purchased medical practice.

### **Dramatis Personae**

- **Hall Pycroft**, the stock-broker's clerk.
- **Arthur Pinner**, gangster who hired Pycroft in order that Beddington could take the job he had just obtained.
- **Harry Pinner**, an alias used by Arthur when he posed as his brother.
- **Beddington**, the forger and cracksman. Pinner's partner.
- **Sgt. Tuson**
- **Constable Pollock**
- **Mr. Farquhar**, an elderly GP from whom Watson bought a practice.
- **Mr. Harris**, an alias used by Holmes.
- **Mr. Price**, an alias used by Watson.

### **Quotable Sherlock**

- "Results without causes are much more impressive."
- Holmes residing at Baker Street but Watson, with his new wife living (site not mentioned) and working to build up his practice.

### **Holmes' Fee**

Once again, there is no mention

## **Sherlock Holmes On The Big And The Little Screen**

There has only been 1 (yes just 1) time that STOC has been on the screen. It is really dull and has nothing for a viewer.

- 1922 The Stockbroker's Clerk 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**

- Harry Pinner almost faints in this tale.

## **Newspapers**

**Evening Standard** - The evening version of the popular Standard.

## **Annotated Sherlock**

- **"lost my crib"** Cockney slang for "lost my job."
- **"soft Johnny"** slang for inexperienced youngster or a new recruit
- **"but they were let in"** victimized
- **"Venezuelan loan"** financial difficulty there with defaulted loans and debts
- **"came a nasty cropper"** to fail
- **"of chaps on the same lay"** position
- **"innings"** turn
- **"the screw"** the pay
- **"sheeny"** pejorative term for a Jew, precise origin is unknown

## **Weapons**

- **Poker** - Which Beddington used to shatter the skull of the unfortunate watchman at Mawson and Williams.
- **Braces and Hooks** - Used as a makeshift gallows by Beddington (alias Pinner) to hang himself.

**Frank Mentzel**