

A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

By William S. Dorn



The Casebook of Sherlock
Holmes
Adventure XLIX -- The
Adventure of the Mazarin
Stone

THE MAZARIN STONE DATE OF THE ADVENTURE*

(Date on which Holmes recovers the Mazarin Stone)

NOTE: You can only determine the approximate date.

CLUES:

1. Watson was not living at 221B Baker Street
2. Watson was living at 221B Baker Street at the time of ‘The Adventure of the Six Napoleons’
3. ‘The Adventure of the Six Napoleons’ took place in June 1900.
4. Holmes retired from active practice in 1903. (1071, 1080)
5. “It was seven in the evening of a lovely summer’s day ...” (1012)

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 imply it was after June 1900.
- B. 4 implies it was 1903 or earlier.
- C. 5 implies it was summer
- D. A, B and C imply it was summer in 1900, 1901, 1902 or 1903.

Holmes recovered the Mazarin Stone in the summer of one of the years 1900 to 1903

*The story may contain other clues to the date of the adventure. However, use only the clues shown here. Your only goal should be to use logical reasoning to find a date based on the clues shown here.

THE MAZARIN STONE VOCABULARY WORDS

- saturnine (1012) – **melancholy or sullen**
solicitude (1012) – **care or concern**
parasol (1013) – **small umbrella carried as protection from the sun**
gasogene (1014) – **device for manufacturing seltzer water by impregnating water with carbon dioxide**
gudgeon (1014, 1018) – **someone who is easily duped**
incarnate (1014) – **embodied in human form**
Minories (1014, 1016) – **a street that was named for the community of the Abbess and Sisters Minoreesses of the Order of St. Clare; established 1293**
nettle (1015) – **plant with stinging hairs that cause skin irritation on contact**
fatuous (1015) – **unconsciously foolish**
C.I.D. (1015) – **Criminal Investigation Department**
swarthy (1015) – **having a dark complexion**
flamboyant (1015) – **highly elaborate; ornate**
sardonic (1016) – **scornfully or cynically mocking**
effigy (1016) – **a crude figure or dummy**
invidious (1016) – **tends to rouse resentment**
peached (1018) – **turned informer**
morbid (1018) – **psychologically unhealthy or unwholesome**
obstinate (1019) – **stubborn**
slab-sided (1019) – **having flat sides**
debonair (1019) – **suave; urbane**
astute (1019) – **shrewd; discerning**
raucous (1019) – **boisterous; disorderly**
cove (1019) – **fellow**
sallow (1019, 1022) – **sickly yellow**
split (1019) – **turned informer and run**

thick'un (1019) – **thrash him**

lag (1019) – **send to prison**

swag (1019) – **stolen property; loot**

quid (1019) – **slang for a pound (of money)**

pate (1019) – **top of the head**

Lime Street (1020) – **street that housed wealthy merchants,
named for the lime-burners; the Lime
Street police station was a well-known
station**

gramophones (1021) – **sound reproduction machines that used
discs instead of cylinders; phonographs**

austere (1021) – **somber and grave**

insidious (1021) – **treacherous; beguiling but harmful**

courtier (1021) – **member of the royal court**

impish (1022) – **mischievous**

THE MAZARIN STONE SOME OPEN QUESTIONS

1. Dr. Watson says, “We used something of the sort (dummy of Sherlock Holmes) once before.” (1013) To what case was Watson referring?

The Adventure of the Empty House

2. This story is the only one written in the third person. Why do you think it was written in this style? (HINT: This story was adapted from a play “The Crown Diamond” written earlier by Conan Doyle.)

It is likely that the dialogue was lifted directly from the play and hence lent itself more readily to third person style.

3. There is no record of any musical recordings being available in London before 1907. Yet Holmes retired from active practice in 1903. How can you explain this discrepancy?

At least one prominent critic, M. Martin Dakin, contends that this story is apocryphal. Among other things he claims that since there could be no musical recordings available during Holmes’s career, then Sherlock Holmes was not involved in the adventure at all.

4. Holmes’s plan relied on both Count Sylvius and Sam Merton looking the other way when he (Holmes) removed the dummy and sat in the chair. Some observers have found this unusual. Why do you suppose these observers were perplexed by this?

It is untypical of Holmes to rely on chance to solve a case; he was much more methodical and sure in his planning.

THE MAZARIN STONE SIMPLE QUIZ*

1. Who wrote this adventure?
 - a. Dr. Watson
 - b. Sherlock Holmes
 - c. an unnamed third person
 - d. none of the above

2. What was the name of the page?
 - a. Billy
 - b. Wiggins
 - c. Sam
 - d. none of the above

3. Where was the music that Sam Merton and Count Sylvius heard coming from?
 - a. the page was playing a piano
 - b. Mrs. Hudson was playing a piano
 - c. a recording
 - d. none of the above

* The Simple Quiz is designed to determine if the student has read the story. Anyone who has read the story through should have no trouble in completing this quiz. The Intermediate and Advanced Quizzes are more challenging.

THE MAZARIN STONE INTERMEDIATE QUIZ[#]

1. What color was the Mazarin stone?
 - a. blue
 - b. crystal clear
 - c. yellow
 - d. none of the above

2. Where did Holmes put the Mazarin stone?
 - a. in his desk
 - b. in Watson's coat pocket
 - c. in Lord Cantlemere's overcoat pocket
 - d. none of the above

3. Watson wanted to stay in the rooms in Baker Street but Holmes sent him away. To where did Holmes dispatch Watson?
 - a. back to Watson's consulting room
 - b. Scotland Yard
 - c. the Bow Street Police Station
 - d. none of the above

4. Which of the following descriptions fits Count Sylvius?
 - a. big, swarthy fellow with a dark moustache and a nose like the beak of an eagle
 - b. short, stout man with an olive face and coal black hair
 - c. a man with cruel blue eyes, a fierce, aggressive nose, and a deep-lined brow
 - d. none of the above

[#] The Intermediate Quiz is designed to test whether the student has read the story with reasonable attention to detail. The Simple Quiz is an easier test while the Advanced Quiz is much more challenging.

THE MAZARIN STONE ADVANCED QUIZ[&]

1. What was another name for the Mazarin stone?
 - a. the Crown diamond
 - b. the Yellow diadem
 - c. the Most Cursed jewel
 - d. none of the above

2. Where was Count Sylvius planning to take the Mazarin stone?
 - a. Denmark
 - b. Holland
 - c. South America
 - d. none of the above

3. On which bank had Count Sylvius forged a check?
 - a. the Bank of England
 - b. the Crédit Lyonnais
 - c. the bank of France
 - d. none of the above

4. Who made the bust of Holmes that sat in the window?
 - a. Straubenzee
 - b. Tussaud
 - c. Tavernier
 - d. none of the above

[&] The Advanced Quiz is designed for aficionados of the Canon. The questions are quite challenging. The Intermediate and Simple Quizzes are designed for the more casual reader of the stories.

ANSWERS TO QUIZZES FOR THE CASEBOOK

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Illustrious Client				
Simple	c	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	c	a	b	c
Blanched Soldier				
Simple	a	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	b	a	b	c
Mazarin Stone				
Simple	c	a	c	xx
Intermediate	c	c	b	a
Advanced	a	b	b	c
Three Gables				
Simple	b	b	c	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	b
Advanced	b	c	a	b
Sussex Vampire				
Simple	b	c	b	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	c
Advanced	a	b	c	c
Three Garridebs				
Simple	a	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	b	a	a
Advanced	b	a	a	c

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Thor Bridge				
Simple	b	a	b	xx
Intermediate	a	a	c	c
Advanced	a	b	a	b
Creeping Man				
Simple	b	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	a	c	b
Advanced	d	a	b	c
Lion's Mane				
Simple	b	c	b	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	a
Advanced	c	a	a	a
Veiled Lodger				
Simple	a	a	c	xx
Intermediate	c	b	b	c
Advanced	c	b	b	a
Shoscombe Old Place				
Simple	c	a	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	a	a
Advanced	b	a	a	a
Retired Colourman				
Simple	a	a	a	xx
Intermediate	a	c	b	b
Advanced	b	c	a	b