

A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

By William S. Dorn



The Casebook of Sherlock
Holmes
Adventure LIV -- The
Adventure of the
Illustrious Client

THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENT DATE OF THE ADVENTURE*

(Date when Kitty Winter threw vitriol into
the face of Baron Adelbert Gruner)

CLUES:

1. Watson says that he and Holmes were in the Turkish bath
“ ... upon September 3, 1902, the day when my narrative
begins.” (984)
2. September 1, 1902 was Monday
3. Watson says, “I did not see Holmes again until the following
evening ... when I asked him what luck he had had in his
interview (with Violet de Merville).” (991)
4. Watson says, “The date was just two days after the last
conversation ... was the terrible news-sheet MURDEROUS
ATTACK UPON SHERLOCK HOLMES” (993)
5. No further news would appear in the newspapers until the
next weekday.
6. Watson says, “For six days the public were under the
impression that Holmes was at the door of death” (994)
7. Watson says, “On the seventh day, the stitches were taken
out, ...” (994)
8. Holmes asks Watson to “ ... spend the next twenty-four hours
in an intensive study of Chinese pottery.” (994)
9. At the conclusion of Watson’s study of Chinese pottery,
Holmes says, “That (Dr. Hill Barton) is your name for the
evening, Watson. You will call upon Baron
Gruner ...” (995)

*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.

10. Watson's interview was interrupted by sounds, which caused Baron Gruner to rush from the room whereupon; "An arm ... shot out from among the leaves. ... the Baron uttered a horrible cry ..." (997-998) It was then that vitriol was thrown into the Baron's face.

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. 1 and 2 imply the narrative begins on Wednesday, September 3, 1902
- B. A and 3 imply Holmes's interview with Miss de Merville was Thursday, September 4, 1902
- C. B and 4 imply the attack on Holmes took place on Saturday, September 6, 1902
- D. C and 5 imply the next news report on Holmes's condition appeared on Monday, September 8, 1902
- E. D and 6 imply that the public thought Holmes was dying up to and including Sunday, September 14, 1902
- F. E and 7 imply the stitches were removed from Holmes on Monday, September 15, 1902
- G. F, 8 and 9 imply that Watson (as Dr. Hill Barton) called upon Baron Gruner on the evening of Tuesday, September 16, 1902
- H. G and 10 imply that Kitty Winter threw the vitriol into Baron Gruner's face on Tuesday, September 16, 1902

Kitty Winter threw the vitriol into Baron Adelbert Gruner's face on Tuesday, September 16, 1902

THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENT VOCABULARY WORDS

- Turkish bath (984) – **a bath in which the client is placed in a heated room and perspires heavily and then is soaped, washed, massaged, and finally lies on a couch to cool**
- lassitude (984) – **listlessness**
- drying-room (984) – **room where person in Turkish bath lies on a couch to cool**
- reticent (984) – **inclined to keep his thoughts to himself**
- lucent (985) – **giving off light**
- frock-coat (985) – **knee-length, double-breasted coat worn by a man in the daytime**
- meticulous (985) – **excessively concerned with details**
- kid-gloves (985) – **gloves made from the hide of a young goat**
- presentiment (985) – **a sense that something is about to occur**
- dotes (986) – **shows excessive love or fondness**
- martyr (986, 999) – **someone who endures great suffering**
- doddering (986) – **infirm or feeble**
- frocks (986) – **dresses**
- incognito (986) – **disguise**
- nark (987) – **police spy or informer**
- entrée (987) – **liberty to enter**
- doss house (987) – **cheap rooming house**
- Simpson's (988) – **a well-known, exclusive restaurant in the Strand**
- the Strand (988) – **busy and important street in London just north of the River Thames**
- affable (988) – **gentle and gracious**
- colour card (989) – **face card**
- tomfoolery (989) – **foolish behavior**
- Apaches (989) – **street ruffians of Paris**

Montmartre district (989) – **administrative district of Paris that includes the Arc de Triomphe, the Champ Elysées and other well known sites**

blithe (989) – **carefree and lighthearted**

scorbutic (989) – **literally affected by scurvy, that is, having spongy and bleeding gums, bleeding under the skin, and extreme weakness**

settee (989) – **small or medium-sized sofa**

brand (989) – **a disgraced or notorious person**

the rattle (990) – **until death**

parish (990) – **area served by one particular church of the Church of England**

fence (991) – **person who buys and sells stolen goods**

abject (991) – **outright**

filial (991) – **befitting a son or daughter**

demure (991) – **affectedly shy or modest**

ethereal (991) – **not of this world; spiritual**

advent (991) – **coming or arrival**

abbess (991) – **Mother Superior of a convent**

mendicants (991) – **beggars**

malign (991) – **make evil and untrue statements about**

aspersions (992) – **unfavorable or damaging remarks**

tinker (992) – **someone who travels from house to house and mends metal household utensils**

self-complaisance (993) – **a self imposed inclination to comply willingly with the wishes of others**

gambit (993) – **maneuver or ploy used in the first part of a battle or match**

privy (993) – **had knowledge of something private or secret**

remonstrance (993) – **expression of protest**

chemist's shop (993) – **druggist's store**

miscreants (993) – **villains**

- lacerated (993) – **having jagged or deeply cut edges**
- single-stick (993) – **heavy stick with a guard for the hand, about 3 feet long, and used for saber training**
- erysipelas (994) – **also called Saint Anthony's fire; acute disease of the skin caused by streptococcus and marked by localized inflammation and fever**
- barrister (995) – **lawyer admitted to plead at the bar in the superior courts**
- duplicity (995) – **deceptiveness in behavior or speech**
- scintillate (995) – **sparkle or shine**
- turrets (996) – **small towers or tower-shaped projections**
- bench of bishops (996) – **the bishops who represent the Church in the House of Lords and who, as a consequence, sit on a bench**
- swarthy (996) – **dark complexioned**
- languorous (996, 997) – **listlessness**
- inexorable (996) – **not capable of being persuaded by pleading**
- emissary (997) – **agent sent to represent the interests of another**
- girt (997) – **surrounded**
- vitriol (998) – **sulfuric acid**
- avenger (998) – **someone who inflicts punishment for revenge**
- cockaded (999) – **a ribbon worn on the hat to denote a person in domestic service**
- armorial bearings (999) – **coat-of-arms**
- dock (999) – **place in the courtroom where the prisoner stands**

THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENT SOME OPEN QUESTIONS

1. Watson used oil, cotton wadding and morphine to treat Baron Gruner (998). Since Watson was there to distract Baron Gruner with a Chinese tea saucer, where did he (Watson) get those medical supplies?

Apparently Watson was always prepared. He might have had cotton wadding protecting the precious saucer, and he could have obtained oil from the servants in Baron Gruner's household. The morphine, however, he must have carried with him. Of course, Watson also might have had his medical bag with him since he was posing as Dr. Hill Barton.

2. Who was the 'illustrious client' who provided the Chinese tea saucer?

Most observers believe it was His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales.

THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENT SIMPLE QUIZ*

1. What was the name of the woman who threw vitriol in Baron Gruner's face?
 - a. Mary Sutherland
 - b. Violet de Merville
 - c. Kitty Winter
 - d. none of the above

2. What did Watson pose as an expert on when he visited Baron Gruner?
 - a. Chinese pottery
 - b. Venetian art
 - c. exotic African diseases
 - d. none of the above

3. What did Holmes steal from Baron Gruner's house?
 - a. a book detailing Gruner's prior wife's murder
 - b. a book detailing Gruner's previous love affairs
 - c. a book describing Gruner's spying activities for the Austrian government
 - 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 ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENT INTERMEDIATE QUIZ[#]

1. What was unusual about the news vendor who was selling papers announcing the attack on Sherlock Holmes?
 - a. he was blind
 - b. he had only one leg
 - c. he had only one arm
 - d. none of the above
2. What was Violet de Merville's father's profession?
 - a. a university professor
 - b. a cabinet minister
 - c. an army general
 - d. none of the above
3. What was the name of the man who brought Kitty Winter to Holmes?
 - a. Charlie Peace
 - b. Shinwell Johnson
 - c. Sam Merton
 - d. none of the above
4. Holmes says, "Miss Winter's advent rather amazed her (Miss de Merville)." What does 'advent' mean in this sentence?
 - a. arrival
 - b. dress
 - c. physical appearance
 - 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 ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENT ADVANCED QUIZ[&]

1. What case did Sir James Damery negotiate with Sir George Lewis?
 - a. the Manor House case
 - b. the Paradol Chamber case
 - c. the Hammerford Will case
 - d. none of the above

2. What was the name of the French agent who was beaten by Apaches in Montmartre?
 - a. Le Brun
 - b. Lesurier
 - c. Le Villard
 - d. none of the above

3. What was Baron Gruner's address?
 - a. Briony Lodge, St. John's Woods
 - b. Vernon Lodge, near Kingston
 - c. Popham House, Lee
 - d. none of the above

4. Outside what building was Holmes attacked by two men in the hire of Baron Gruner?
 - a. Charing Cross Railroad Station
 - b. the Grosvenor Hotel
 - c. the Café Royal
 - 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