

A Compendium of Canonical Characters



The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,
January, 1892

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle



"The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"

01

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

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Canonical Characters



Josef Friedrich,
1906

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle



"The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"

02

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

- 10 - The Countess of Morcar
- 11 - Mr. Windigate
- 12 - John Horner
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Canonical Characters

Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.

VII.—THE ADVENTURE OF THE BLUE CARBUNCLE.

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

IHAD called upon my friend Sherlock Holmes upon the second morning after Christmas, with the intention of wishing him the compliments of the season. He was lounging upon the sofa in a purple dressing-gown, a pipe-rack within his reach upon the right, and a pile of crumpled morning papers, evidently newly studied, near at hand. Beside the couch was a wooden chair, and on the angle of the back hung a very seedy and disreputable hard felt hat, much the worse for wear, and cracked in several places. A lens and a forceps lying upon the seat of the chair suggested that the hat had been suspended in this manner for the purpose of examination.

"You are engaged," said I; "perhaps I interrupt you."

"Not at all. I am glad to have a man with whom I can discuss my results. The matter is a perfectly trivial one" (he jerked his thumb in the direction of the old hat) "but there are points in connection with which are not entirely devoid of interest, and even of instruction."

I seated myself in his armchair, and warmed my hands before his crackling fire, for a sharp frost had set in, and the windows were thick with the ice crystals. "I suppose," I remarked, "that, homely as it looks, this thing has some deadly story linked on to it—that it is the clue which will guide you in the solution of some mystery, and the punishment of some crime."

"No, no. No crime," said Sherlock Holmes, laughing. "Only one of those whimsical little incidents which will happen

when you have four million human beings all jostling each other within the space of a few square miles. Amid the action and reaction of so dense a swarm of human beings every possible combination of events may be expected to take place, and many problems will be presented which



"SEEDY HARD FELT HAT."

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle



"The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"

03

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

Watson arrives to wish Sherlock Holmes the compliments of the season. Holmes tests Watson's deductive skills on a hat left by Commissionaire Peterson, who witnessed the hat's owner being assaulted by a group of ruffians.

The commissionaire not only salvaged the hat, but a goose also left behind by the victim. The goose may not lay the golden egg, but does deliver up a mystery for Holmes to solve before the wrong person is wrongly convicted of burglary charges.

Canonical Characters



Gaston Simoes
da Fonseca,
1909

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle



“The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

04

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

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
1980	RU	Algimantas Masiulis	Ernst Romanov
1984	UK	Jeremy Brett	David Burke

Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
December 28, 1932	Blue (NBC)	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
January 01, 1940	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
December 25, 1944	Mutual	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
December 26, 1948	Mutual	John Stanley	Ian Martin
March 13, 1955	NBC	Sir John Gielgud	Sir Ralph Richardson
October 25, 1961	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
1970		Robert Hardy	Nigel Stock
July 25, 1977	CBS	Kevin McCarthy	Court Benson
July 23, 1978	BBC	Barry Foster	David Buck
1987	BBC	Roy Marsden	John Moffatt
January 02, 1991	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams
March 26, 1992	NPR	Edward Petherbridge	David Pearl
December 28, 2008		John Patrick Lowrie	Lawrence Albert

Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



“The Adventure of the Blue
Carbuncle”

05

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

*“My name is Sherlock
Holmes. It is my business to
know what other people
don’t know.”*

After letting James Ryder go
free, Holmes said, “I
suppose that I am
commuting a felony, but it is
just as possible that I am
saving a soul.”

(Algimatas Masiulis, 1979, The Blue Carbuncle)

Canonical Characters



Dr. John Watson



“The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

06

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

“After getting married to Mary Morstan and moving out, Dr. Watson visits Sherlock Holmes on the second morning after Christmas to wish him “the compliments of the season.” Watson finds Holmes studying “a very seedy and disreputable hard-felt hat.”

“So much so... that, of the last six cases which I have added to my notes, three have been entirely free of any legal crime.”

(Ernst Romanov, 1979, The Blue Carbuncle)

Canonical Characters



James Ryder



“The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

07

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

“A senior attendant at the Hotel Cosmopolitan who, along with Catherine Cusack, stole the blue carbuncle. He used the alias John Robinson. Instead of reporting Ryder to the police, Holmes let him go.

“...and now I am myself a branded thief, without ever having touched the wealth for which I sold my character.”

(James Beck, 1968, *Sherlock Holmes*, “The Blue Carbuncle”)

Canonical Characters



Commissaire Petersen



“The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

08

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

A commissioner who observed a man being attacked and leave behind a hat and a goose. After bringing the hat and goose to Holmes, his wife found the blue carbuncle in the crop of the goose which Holmes identified as the blue carbuncle.

“A diamond, sir! A precious stone! It cuts into glass as though it were putty.”

(Viktors Zvaigzne, 1979, The Blue Carbuncle)

Canonical Characters



Henry Baker



“The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

09

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

A member of the Alpha Inn’s goose-club, whose Christmas goose, unknown to him, had the blue carbuncle hidden in its crop. He lost his hat and goose when assaulted by a gang of roughs on Christmas Eve.

“They might be useful to me as relics of my adventure, but beyond that I can hardly see what use the disjecta membra of my late acquaintance are going to be to me.”

(Frank Middlemas, 1984, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Blue Carbuncle”)

Canonical Characters



The Countess of Morcar



“The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

10

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

A noblewoman, whose blue carbuncle was stolen from a jewel case in her room in the Hotel Cosmopolitan. She offered a reward of 1,000 pounds for the jewel's return.

(Madge Ryan, 1968, Sherlock Holmes, “The Blue Carbuncle”)

Canonical Characters



John Horner



“The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

11

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

London plumber with a prior conviction for robbery. He was arrested and accused of stealing the blue carbuncle from the Countess of Morcar’s hotel room.

He fainted in court after his case was assigned to the Assizes.

(Neil Fitzpatrick, 1968, Sherlock Holmes, “The Blue Carbuncle”)

Canonical Characters



Catherine Cusack



“The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

12

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

The waiting-maid for the Countess of Morcar who along with James Ryder stole the blue carbuncle from the countess’ room in the Hotel Cosmopolitan.

She “deposed to having heard Ryder’s cry of dismay on discovering the robbery, and to having rushed into the room, where she found matters were as described by the last witness.”

(Irina Pechemikova, 1979, The Blue Carbuncle)

Canonical Characters



Mr. Breckenridge



“The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

13

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

A poultry dealer at Covent Garden Market. He bought geese from Mrs. Oakshott and sold the goose with the blue carbuncle to Mr. Windigate, the owner of the Alpha Inn.

“D’you think you know more about fowls than I, who have handled them ever since I was a nipper?”

(Oleg Korchikov, 1979, The Blue Carbuncle)

Canonical Characters



Inspector Bradstreet



“The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

14

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

Scotland Yard inspector assigned to the B Division who in 1889, arrested John Horner for the theft of the blue carbuncle.

“Gave evidence as to the arrest of Horner... [including] evidence of a previous conviction for robbery having been given against the prisoner [Horner].”

(Juris Strenga, 1979, The Blue Carbuncle)

Canonical Characters



Mr. Windigate



“The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

15

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

Proprietor of the Alpha Inn who instituted a goose club, by which, for a few pence a week during the year, he would deliver a Christmas goose. He gave the goose with the blue carbuncle to Henry Baker.

“Ah! yes, I see. But you see, sir, them's not our geese. ...I get the two dozen from a salesman in Covent Garden. Breckinridge is his name.”

(Don McCorkindale, 1984, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Blue Carbuncle”)

Canonical Characters



Maggie Oakshott



“The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

16

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

An egg and poultry supplier who lived at 117 Brixton Road and was the sister of James Ryder. She fattened a goose for her brother as a Christmas gift.

“Yes, Jem, there were two barred-tailed ones, and I could never tell them apart.”

(Maggie Jones, 1984, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Blue Carbuncle”)

Canonical Characters



The Blue Carbuncle



"The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"

17

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

A brilliantly scintillating blue diamond gem stone, smaller than a bean in size, but of such purity and radiance that it twinkled like an electric point.

Holmes said, "It is more than a precious stone, it is the precious stone." Estimated value was 20,000 pounds.

Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,
January, 1892

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle



“The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle” 18

(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

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Chronological
Date:

December 27
(Watson)
Tuesday, December 27, 1887
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

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

Jay Finley Christ
Abbreviation:

BLUE