

# A Compendium of Canonical Characters



## The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes



## Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,  
June, 1892

## The Adventure of the Copper Beeches



### "The Adventure of the Copper Beeches"

01

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

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## Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,  
June, 1892

## The Adventure of the Copper Beeches



### “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

02

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

- 10 - Young Edward Rucastle
- 11 - Mrs. Toller
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# Canonical Characters

*Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.*

—THE ADVENTURE OF THE COPPER BEECHES.

By A. CONAN DOYLE.

“To the man who loves art for its own sake,” remarked Sherlock Holmes, tossing aside the advertisement sheet of *The Daily Telegraph*, “it is frequently in its least important and lowliest manifestations that the keenest pleasure is to be derived. It is pleasant to me to observe, Watson, that you have so far grasped this truth that in these little records of our cases which you have been good enough to draw up, and, I am bound to say, occasionally to embellish, you have given prominence not so much to the many *causes célèbres* and sensational trials in which I have figured, but rather to those incidents which may have been trivial in themselves, but which have given room for those faculties of deduction and of logical synthesis which I have made my special province.”

“And yet,” said I, smiling, “I cannot quite hold myself absolved from the charge of sensationalism which has been urged against my records.”

“You have erred, perhaps,” he observed,

taking up a glowing cinder with his pipe and lighting with it the long cherry-stem pipe which was wont to replace his pipe when he was in a disputatious, rather than a meditative mood—“you have perhaps in attempting to put colour and life into each of your statements, instead of confining yourself to the task of placing upon record that severe reasoning from cause to effect which is really the only notable feature about the thing.”

“It seems to me that I have done you full justice in the matter,” I remarked, with some coldness, for I was repelled by the egotism which I had more than once observed to be a strong factor in my friend’s singular character.

“No, it is not selfishness or conceit,” said he, answering, as was his wont, my thoughts rather than my words. “If I claim full justice for my art, it is because it is an impersonal thing—a thing beyond myself. Crime is common. Logic is rare. Therefore it is upon the logic rather than upon the crime that you should dwell. You have degraded what should have been a course of lectures into a series of tales.”

It was a cold morning of the early spring, and we sat after breakfast on either side of a cheery fire in the old room at Baker-street. A thick fog rolled down between the lines of dun-coloured houses, and the opposing windows loomed dark, shapeless through the yellow wreath of gas which was lit on the table and glared and talked.



“TAKING UP A GLOWING CINDER WITH HIS TONGUE.”

## The Adventure of the Copper Beeches



## “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

03

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

Miss Violet Hunter seeks advice from Sherlock Holmes on whether she should accept a governess position at The Copper Beeches, owned by the Rucastle family.

She has been offered an extremely generous salary, but must meet a few requests from Jephro Rucastle, such as having her hair cut short and wearing a specific blue-colored dress he and his wife are very fond of. Rucastle stresses he will not require Violet do anything unbecoming a lady.

Holmes must determine if these requests are simply quirks of the family, or they conceal a much more sinister motive.



# Canonical Characters



Gaston Simoes  
da Fonseca,  
1909

## The Adventure of the Copper Beeches



# "The Adventure of the Copper Beeches" *(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

04

### Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
January, 1913	FR/ UK	Georges Tréville	
September 03, 1922	UK	Eille Norwood	Hubert Willis
March 06, 1965	UK	Douglas Wilmer	Nigel Stock
March 17, 1968	DE	Erich Schellow	Paul Edwin Roth
August 25, 1985	UK	Jeremy Brett	David Burke

### Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
November 10, 1930	Blue (NBC)	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
February 15, 1936	Mutual/ NBC	Luis Hector	Harry West
October 06, 1940	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
May 07, 1943	Mutual	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
November 02, 1947	Mutual	John Stanley	Alfred Shirley
August 11, 1959	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
1959		Maurice Teynac	René Clémont
July 31, 1967	SAB	Robert Langford	Kenneth Baker
July 16, 1978	BBC	Barry Foster	David Buck
1987	BBC	David Marsden	John Moffatt
February 06, 1991	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams



## Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



### "The Adventure of the Copper Beeches"

05

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

*"You were chosen, doubtless,  
as resembling her in height,  
figure, and the colour of your  
hair."*

*"I confess that it is not the  
situation which I should like to  
see a sister of mine apply for."*

*"Data! data! data! I can't make  
bricks without clay."*

(Richard Gordon, 1930, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, "The  
Copper Beeches")



## Canonical Characters



Dr. John Watson



### “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

06

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

“There was the huge famished brute, its black muzzle buried in Rucastle’s throat, while he writhed and screamed upon the ground. Running up, I blew its brains out, and it fell over with its keen white teeth still meeting in the great creases of his neck.”

*“I cannot quite hold myself absolved from the charge of sensationalism which has been urged against my records.”*

*(Colin Blakely, 1970, The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes)*



## Canonical Characters



Violet Hunter



## “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

07

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

Governess for Col. Spence Munro  
who took a position with the  
Rucastles and was asked to cut her  
long chestnut hair and wear a blue  
dress.

Now the head of a private school in  
Walsall.

*“There was a man standing in the  
Southampton Road, a small  
bearded man in a grey suit, who  
seemed to be looking in my  
direction.”*

*(Suzanne Neve, 1965, Sherlock Holmes, “The Copper Beeches”)*



## Canonical Characters



Mrs. Rucastle



### “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

08

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

“...a silent, pale-faced woman, not more than thirty, ... she had some secret sorrow, this woman. She would often be lost in deep thought, with the saddest look upon her face.”

*“Jephro, there is an impertinent fellow upon the road there who stares up at Miss Hunter.”*

(Alethea Charlton, 1965, *Sherlock Holmes*, “The Copper Beeches”)



## Canonical Characters



Jephro Rucastle



### “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

09

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

“A prodigiously stout man with a very smiling face and a great heavy chin.”

Offered Violet Hunter a salary of £120 a year to be a governess in Hampshire at Copper Beeches. Wanted Hunter to cut her hair short so she resembled his daughter.

*“Kindly turn round and wave him away like that.”*

(Joss Ackland, 1985, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Copper Beeches”)



## Canonical Characters



Young Edward Rucastle



### “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

10

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

Six year old son of Jephro. “Oh, if you could see him killing cockroaches with a slipper! Smack! smack! smack! Three gone before you could wink!”

“He is small for his age, with a head which is quite disproportionately large. Giving pain to any creature weaker than himself seems to be his one idea of amusement.”

*(Garry Mason, 1965, Sherlock Holmes, “The Copper Beeches”)*



## Canonical Characters



Mrs. Toller



### “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

11

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

Rucastle’s servant, “a very tall and strong woman with a sour face, as silent as Mrs. Rucastle and much less amiable.”

*“When there was a chance of a husband coming forward, who would ask for all that the law would give him, then her father thought it time to put a stop on it.”*

*(Angela Browne, 1985, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, “The Copper Beeches”)*



## Canonical Characters



Mr. Toller



### “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

12

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

Rucastle’s groom and husband to the household servant. “A rough, uncouth man, with grizzled hair and whiskers, and a perpetual smell of drink.”

Let loose Rucastle’s mastiff, Carlo, every night “*and God help the trespasser whom he lays his fangs upon.*”

(Michael Robbins, 1965, *Sherlock Holmes*, “The Copper Beeches”)



## Canonical Characters



Miss Stoper



### “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

13

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

Manager of Westway’s, a  
well-known agency for  
governesses in London.

*“Well, really, it seems rather  
useless, since you refuse the  
most excellent offers in this  
fashion. You can hardly  
expect us to exert ourselves  
to find another such opening  
for you.”*

*(Sheila Keith, 1965, Sherlock Holmes, “The Copper Beeches”)*



## Canonical Characters



Alice Rucastle



### “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

14

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

Daughter of Jephro Rucastle.  
“The man in the road was undoubtedly some friend of hers—possibly her fiancé—and as you wore the girl’s dress and were so like her, he was convinced from your laughter, whenever he saw you, that Miss Rucastle was perfectly happy, and that she no longer desired his attentions.”

*(Sheila Keith, 1985, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, “The Copper Beeches”)*



## Canonical Characters



Carlo the Mastiff



### “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

15

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

“It was a giant dog, as large as a calf, tawny tinted, with hanging jowl, black muzzle, and huge projecting bones.”

“He's gone for the dog!”  
cried Miss Hunter.

“My God! Someone has loosed the dog. It's not been fed for two days. Quick, quick, or it'll be too late!”



## Canonical Characters



Mr. Fowler



### "The Adventure of the Copper Beeches"

16

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

Seaman suitor of Alice  
Rucastle. Climbed through  
skylight and freed Alice.

"Mr. Fowler and Miss Rucastle  
were married, by special  
license, in Southampton the  
day after their flight, and he is  
now the holder of a  
government appointment in  
the island of Mauritius."

*(Paul Harris, 1965, Sherlock Holmes, "The Copper Beeches")*





W. B.,  
1892

# The Adventure of the Copper Beeches



## “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches” (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

17

First  
Publication:

U.K. -- *The Strand Magazine*,  
June, 1892

U.S. - *The Courier-Journal*  
June 11, 1892

U.K. -- *The Adventures of Sherlock  
Holmes*,  
October 14, 1892 George Newnes Ltd.

U.S. - *The Adventures of Sherlock  
Holmes*,  
October 15, 1892, Harper & Brothers  
Publishers

Chronological  
Date:

April 19, 1891  
(Watson)

Friday, April 05, 1889  
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

# 19 of 56 short stories  
(Sherlockian poll, 1999, Stock)

Christ  
Abbreviation:

COPP