

# A Compendium of Canonical Characters



## The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes



## Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,  
March, 1892

## The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb



“The Adventure of the  
Engineer's Thumb”  
*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

01

- 01 - Cover Card
- 02 - Cover Card
- 03 - Summary
- 04 - Filmography / Radiography
- 05 - Sherlock Holmes
- 06 - John Watson
- 07 - Colonel Lysander Stark



## Canonical Characters



Josef Friedrich,  
1906

## The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb



## "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb"

02

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

- 08 - Victor Hatherley
- 09 - Inspector Bradstreet
- 10 - Mr. Ferguson
- 11 - Elsie
- 12 - The Engineer's Thumb
- 13 - Data! Data!



# Canonical Characters

*Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.*

THE ADVENTURE OF THE ENGINEER'S THUMB

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

**I**F all the problems which have been submitted to my friend Mr. Sherlock Holmes for solution during the years of our intimacy, there were only two which I was the means of introducing to his notice, that of Mr. Hatherley's thumb and that of Colonel Warburton's madness. Of these the latter may have afforded a finer field for an acute and original observer, but the other was so strange in its inception and so dramatic in its details, that it may be the more worthy of being placed upon record, even if it gave my friend fewer openings for those deductive methods of reasoning by which he achieved such remarkable results. The story has, I believe, been told more than once in the newspapers, but, like all such narratives, its effect is much less striking when set forth *en bloc* in a single half-column of print than when the facts slowly evolve before your own eyes and the mystery clears gradually away as each new discovery furnishes a step which leads on to the complete truth. At the time the circumstances made a deep impression upon me, and the lapse of two years has hardly served to weaken the effect.

It was in the summer of '89, not long after my marriage, that the events occurred which I am now about to summarise. I had returned to civil practice, and had almost abandoned Holmes in his Baker Street rooms, although I continually visited him and occasionally even persuaded him to go his Bohemian habits so far as to visit us. My practice had steadily increased, and as I happened to live at a not great distance from Paddington I got a few patients from among the commuters. One of these whom I had seen to suffer from a painful and lingering disease, was advertising my virtues, and sending me on every day, a letter which might have any

One morning, at a little before six o'clock, I was awakened by the tapping at the door, to announce that two men had come from Paddington, and were waiting in the consulting room. I dressed hurriedly, for I knew by experience that railway cases were seldom trivial, and hastened downstairs. As I descended, my old ally the guard, came out of the room, and closed the door tightly behind him.

"I've got him here," he whispered, jerking his thumb over his shoulder; "he's all right."

"What is it, then?" I asked, for his manner suggested that it was some strange creature which he had caged up in my room.

"It's a new patient," he whispered. "I thought I'd bring him round myself; then he couldn't slip away. There he is, all safe and sound. I must go now, doctor, I have my dooties, just the same as you." And off he went, this trusty tout, without even giving me time to thank him.

I entered my consulting room, and found a gentleman seated by the table. He was quietly dressed in a suit of heather tweed, with a soft cloth cap, which he had laid down upon my books. Round one of his hands he had a handkerchief wrapped, which was mottled all over with bloodstains. He was young, not more than five-and-twenty, I should say, with a strong, masculine face; but he was exceedingly pale, and gave me the impression of a man who was suffering from some nervous agitation, which it took all his strength of mind to control.

"I am sorry to knock you up at this hour, doctor," said he. "But I have had a serious accident during the night, and got in by train this morning, and I don't know at Paddington as to where I can find a doctor a worthy fellow to attend me here. I gave the name of your consulting room, and she has left it to me."

I took it upon

## The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb



### "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb"

03

(*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

Watson is surprised at his medical practice when Victor Hatherley arrives to have the doctor treat his injured hand, minus one severed thumb. After bandaging the wound, Watson accompanies the engineer to Baker Street to relate the curious circumstances of how the accident occurred. Apparently, Hatherley had been hired by a very discreet man to fix a defective hydraulic press at a house in Eyford.

Sherlock Holmes agrees to determine the true purpose of the machine which almost cost Hatherley his life, and why the true intent of those occupying the house must be kept secret at all costs.



# Canonical Characters



Gaston Simoes  
da Fonseca,  
1909

## The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb



### "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb" (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

04

#### Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
1923	UK	Eille Norwood	Hubert Wilis

#### Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
December 17, 1931	Blue (NBC)	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
October 20, 1940	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
June 04, 1943	Mutual	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
January 25, 1948	Mutual	John Stanley	Alfred Shirley
1959		Maurice Teynac	Réne Clermont
May 17, 1960	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
1987	BBC	Roy Marsden	John Moffatt
January 16, 1991	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams



## Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



### “The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb”

05

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

“Here is an advertisement which will interest you,” said he. “It appeared in all the papers about a year ago. ‘Lost, on the 9th inst., Mr. Jeremiah Hayling, aged twenty-six, a hydraulic engineer. Left his lodgings ... and has not been heard of since.’”

*“It is easy to see that your experience has been no common one...”*

(Maurice Teynac, 1959, *Les Enquêtes de Sherlock Holmes*, “Le pouce de l'ingénieur”)



## Canonical Characters



Dr. John Watson



### “The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb”

06

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

“In the summer of ‘89. I entered my consulting-room and found a gentleman seated by the table. Round one of his hands he had a handkerchief wrapped, which was mottled all over with bloodstains.”

*“I should strongly recommend you to come to my friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, before you go to the official police.”*

(Alfred Shirley, 1958, *Sherlock Holmes*, “The Case of the Engineer's Thumb”)



## Canonical Characters



Colonel Lysander Stark



“The Adventure of the  
Engineer's Thumb”

07

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

aka Fritz, German. Hired Hatherley to repair hydraulic press used in counterfeiting for fifty guineas, then tried to kill him to hide the existence of the operation. “A man rather over the middle size, but of an exceeding thinness”

*“Very well, you shall know all about the machine.”*

(Richard Warner, 1955, *Sherlock Holmes*, “The Case of the Shoeless Engineer”)



## Canonical Characters



Victor Hatherley



### "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb"

08

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

A hydraulic engineer, residing at  
16 A Victoria Street (3rd Floor).

As an orphan and bachelor,  
residing alone, he was the perfect  
selection for the repairs of a  
unique hydraulic press.

*"I saw the lean figure of Colonel  
Lysander Stark rushing forward  
with a lantern in one hand and a  
weapon like a butcher's cleaver  
in the other."*

(David Oxley, 1955, *Sherlock Holmes*, "The Case of the Shoeless  
Engineer")



## Canonical Characters



Inspector Bradstreet



### “The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb”

09

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

A plain clothes Scotland Yard officer who accompanied Holmes and Watson to the house in Eyford in Berkshire where Hatherley was injured.

*“We have known for some time that a clever gang was at work. They have been turning out half-crowns by the thousand.”*

(Victor Brook, 1965, *Sherlock Holmes*, “The Man with the Twisted Lip”)



## Canonical Characters



Mr. Ferguson



"The Adventure of the  
Engineer's Thumb"

10

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

An Englishman, aka Dr. Becher, he was the secretary and manager of Stark's, who owned the mansion where the press was located.

"A short thick man with a chinchilla beard growing out of the creases of his double chin."



## Canonical Characters



Elsie



“The Adventure of the  
Engineer's Thumb”

11

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

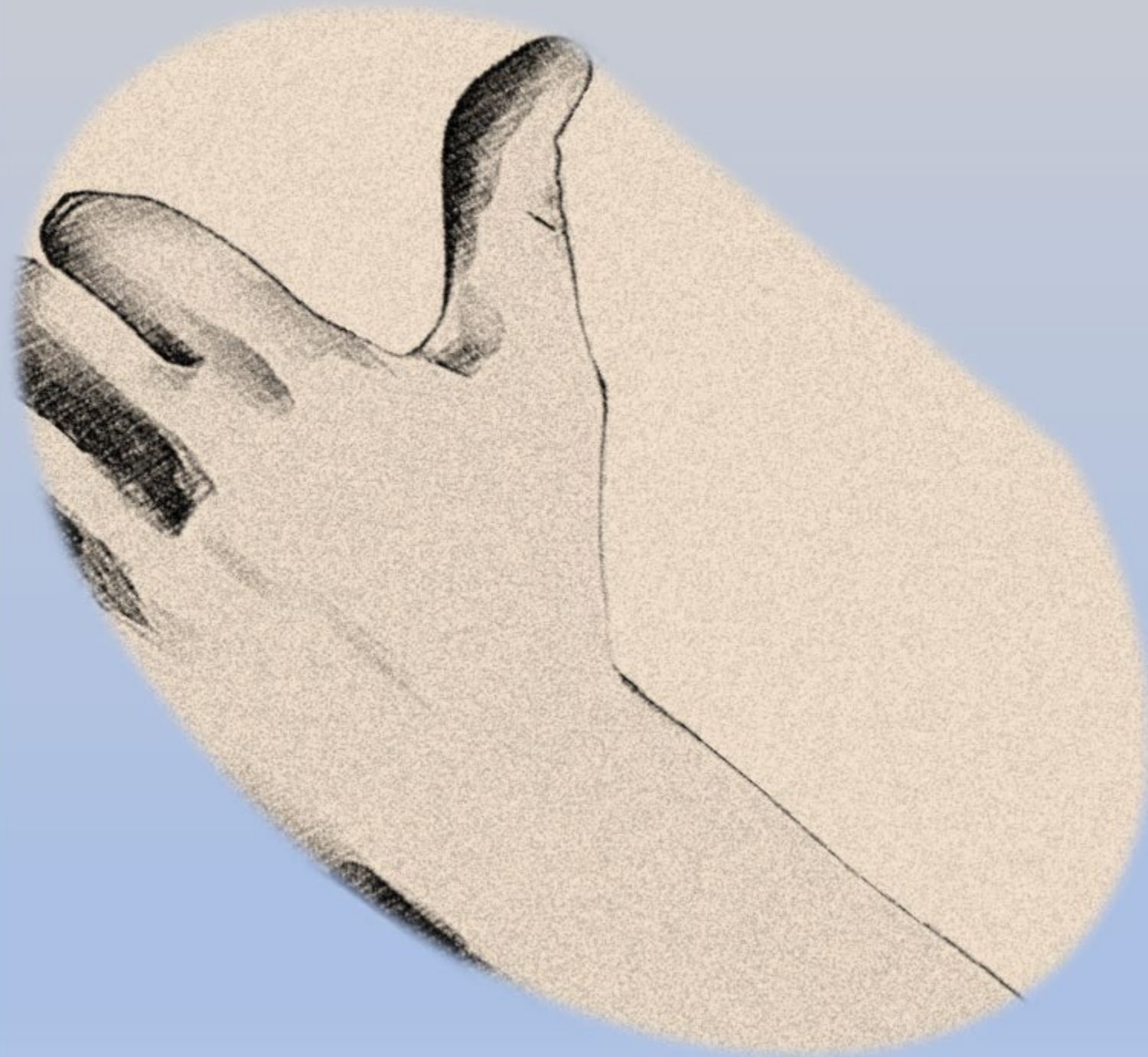
German woman who warned Hatherley. “I could see at a glance that she was sick with fear, and the sight sent a chill to my own heart.”

“I would go... I would go. I should not stay here. There is no good for you to do.”

*(June Elliott, 1955, Sherlock Holmes, “The Case of the Shoeless Engineer”)*



## Canonical Characters



The Engineer's Thumb



### “The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb”

12

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

“He unwound the handkerchief and held out his hand. It gave even my hardened nerves a shudder to look at it. There were four protruding fingers and a horrid red spongy surface where the thumb should have been. It had been hacked or torn right out from the roots.”

Responding to a mysterious fire at an “abandoned” house, the firemen were “much perturbed” at finding a severed human thumb in the aftermath of the fire on a second-floor windowsill.



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Sidney Paget,  
March, 1892

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13

First  
Publication:

U.K. -- *The Strand Magazine*,  
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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:

Summer, 1889  
(Watson)

Saturday, September 07, 1889  
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

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

Christ  
Abbreviation:

ENGR