

A Compendium of Canonical Characters



The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes

Canonical Characters



Howard Elcock,
February, 1925

The Adventure of the Illustrious Client



“The Adventure of the Illustrious Client” 01

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

- 01 - Cover Card
- 02 - Cover Card
- 03 - Summary
- 04 - Filmography / Radiography
- 05 - Sherlock Holmes
- 06 - John Watson
- 07 - Baron Adelbert Gruner
- 08 - Sir James Damery

Canonical Characters

romance
y put the
at his mercy



John Flanagan,
November, 1924

The Adventure of the Illustrious Client



"The Adventure of the Illustrious Client" 02

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

- 09 - Violet de Merville
- 10 - General de Merville
- 11 - Kitty Winter
- 12 - Shinwell Johnson
- 13 - Sir Leslie Oakshott
- 14 - The Illustrious Client
- 15 - Vitriol (Prussic Acid)
- 16 - Data! Data! Data!

Canonical Characters



The Adventure of The Illustrious Client

A New
SHERLOCK HOLMES
Story
By
A. CONAN DOYLE

"can't hurt now," was Mr. Sherlock Holmes's comment when, for the first time in as many years, I asked him to leave to reveal the following story. So it was that at last I obtained the story out on record what was, in my opinion, the supreme moment of my

Both Holmes and I had a weakness for the Turkish Bath. It was over a smoke of the pleasant lassitude of the drying-room that I have found him less reticent than anywhere else. On the floor of the Northumberland Avenue Club, where the fishment there is an isolated room, two couches lie side by side.

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The Adventure of the Illustrious Client



"The Adventure of the Illustrious Client" 03

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

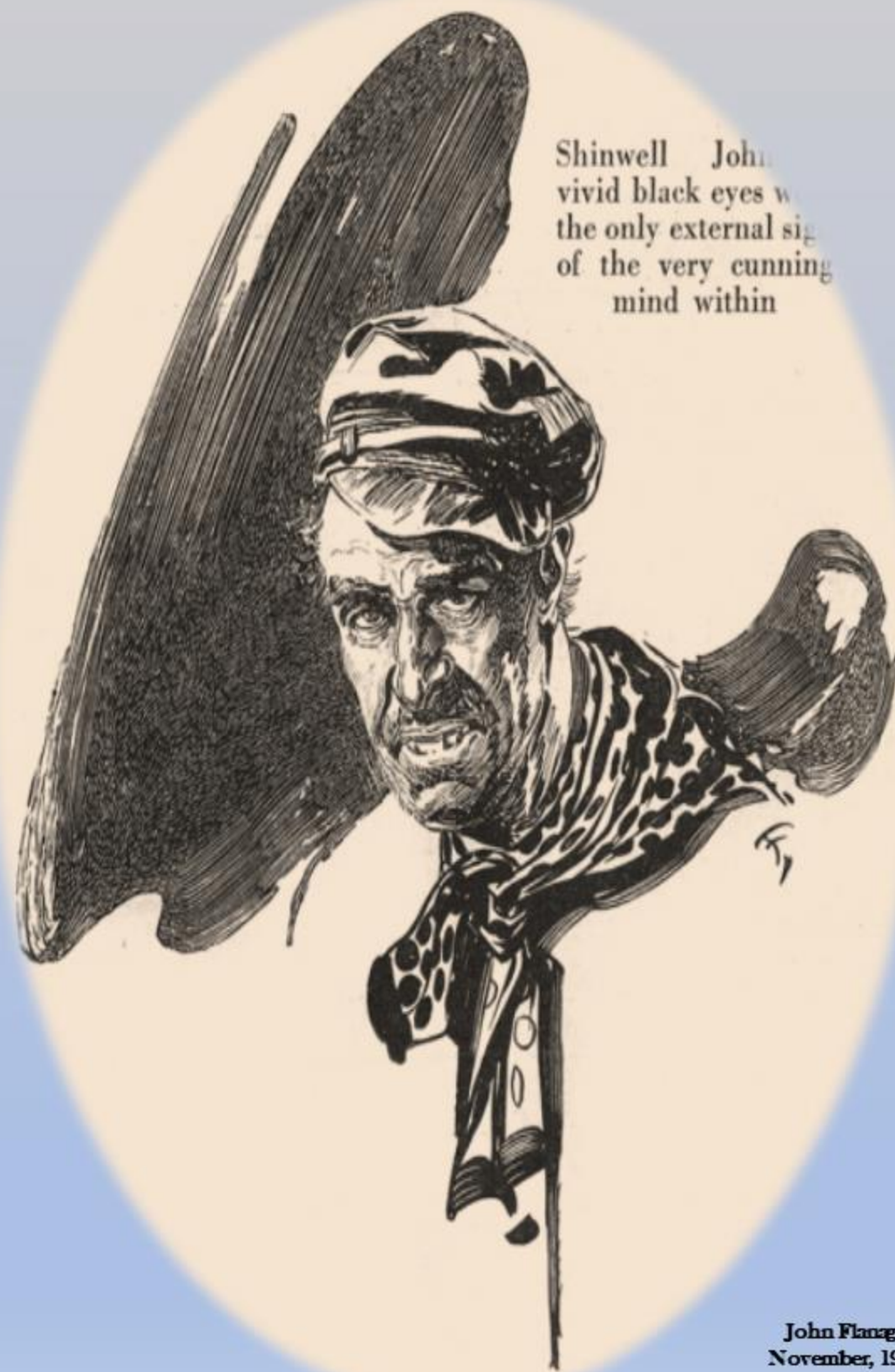
Sir James Damery requests Holmes and Watson help in discouraging Violet de Merville, the daughter of General de Merville, from marrying Baron Gruner.

Though Gruner has a violent, and potentially even murderous past, he has been able to persuade Violet that he is a good man.

Even after being violently attacked, Holmes takes on the task.

Can Holmes and Watson, along with the assistance of Shinwell Johnson and Kitty Winter, keep Miss de Merville from making a horrendous mistake, which ultimately may cost her life?

Canonical Characters



Shinwell John
vivid black eyes w
the only external sig
of the very cunning
mind within

John Flanagan,
November, 1924

The Adventure of the Illustrious Client



"The Adventure of the Illustrious Client" 04

(*The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*)

Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
1965	UK	Douglas Wilmer	Nigel Stock
1991	UK	Jeremy Brett	Edward Hardwicke

Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
February 23, 1931	NBC	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
March 08, 1933	Blue (NBC)	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
April 18, 1936	Mutual/NBC	Louis Hector	Harry West
October 05, 1941	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
May 09, 1948	Mutual	John Stanley	Alfred Shirley
1959		George Descrieres	Pierre Destailles
May 31, 1960	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
July 24, 1967	SABN	Robert Langford	Kenneth Baker
1970		Robert Hardy	Nigel Stock
September 21, 1994	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams
October 25, 2010	Jim French	John Patrick Lowrie	Lawrence Albert

Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



“The Adventure of the Illustrious Client” 05

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

After contacting Baron Gruner, Holmes was attacked by the Café Royal by two men with sticks.

“It is my business to follow the details of Continental crime.”

“A complex mind,” said Holmes. “All great criminals have that.”

“Surely you would be wiser if you left the lady alone. It would not be pleasant for you if these facts of your past were brought to her notice.”

(George C. Scott, 1971, They Might Be Giants)

Canonical Characters



John Watson



“The Adventure of the Illustrious Client” 06

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

“I was living in my own rooms in Queen Anne Street at the time.”

“So it was that at last I obtained permission to put on record what was, in some ways, the supreme moment of my friend's career.”

Pretending to be Dr. Hill Barton, distracted Gruner under the guise of selling a unique set of Ming china while Holmes broke into Gruner's house to recover “the lust diary” when Winter threw vitriol on the baron's face.

“What can I do, Holmes? Of course, it was that damned fellow who set them on. I'll go and thrash the hide off him if you give the word.”

(Joanne Woodward, 1971, They Might Be Giants)

Canonical Characters



Baron Adelbert Gruner



“The Adventure of the Illustrious Client” 07

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

Rich and remarkably handsome.
Engaged to marry Violet de Merville. Described by Damery as “the most dangerous man in Europe” and by Holmes as “The Austrian murderer.”

“You have been engaged, no doubt by General de Merville, to endeavour to stop my marriage with his daughter, Violet.”

“My last word to you is, go your own way and let me go mine.”

(Peter Wyngarde, 1965, *Sherlock Holmes*, “The Illustrious Client”)

Canonical Characters



Sir James Damery



“The Adventure of the Illustrious Client” 08

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

Asked Holmes to help break off Gruner’s engagement. “His name is a household word in society.”

“He has rather a reputation for arranging delicate matters which are to be kept out of the papers.”

[Gruner] “is, as you may have heard, extraordinarily handsome, with a most fascinating manner. a gentle voice and that air of romance and mystery which means so much to a woman.”

(Ballard Berkeley, 1965, *Sherlock Holmes*, “The Illustrious Client”)

Canonical Characters



Violet de Merville



"The Adventure of the Illustrious Client" 09

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

Daughter of General de Merville
"young, rich, beautiful, accomplished,
a wonder-woman in every way." Was
engaged to marry Baron Gruner.

"As she is of age and has a will of iron,
it is hard to know how to prevent her."

*"You have called, as I understand, to
malign my fiancé, Baron Gruner. I
warn you in advance that anything you
can say could not possibly have the
slightest effect upon my mind."*

—
(Jennie Linden, 1965, *Sherlock Holmes*,
"The Illustrious Client")

Canonical Characters



General de Merville



“The Adventure of the Illustrious Client” 10

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

Famous for his military role at Khyber. Tried, unsuccessfully, to break up the engagement of his daughter Violet to Baron Gruner. Resided at “104 Berkley Square—one of those awful gray London castles which would make a church seem frivolous.”

“The strong soldier has been utterly demoralized by this incident. He has lost the nerve which never failed him on the battlefield.”

Canonical Characters



Kitty Winter



“The Adventure of the Illustrious Client” 11

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

Former lover of Gruner who threw vitriol on his face.

“This man collects women and takes a pride in his collection. as some men collect moths or butterflies.”

“I tell you, you foolish woman, if you marry this man, he'll be the death of you. It may be a broken heart, or it may be a broken neck, but he'll have you one way or the other.”

“Such extenuating circumstances came out in the trial that the sentence, as will be remembered was the lowest that was possible for such an offence.”

—————
(Kim Thomson, 1991, *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*,
“The Illustrious Client”)

Canonical Characters



Shinwell Johnson



“The Adventure of the Illustrious Client” 12

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

“Porky.” Introduced Holmes to Kitty Winter.
“He had the entree of every night-club, doss house, and gambling den in the town, and his quick observation and active brain made him an ideal agent for gaining information” for Holmes.

“He made his name first as a very dangerous villain and served two terms at Parkhurst. Finally he repented and allied himself to Holmes, acting as his agent in the huge criminal underworld of London and obtaining information which often proved to be of vital importance.”

“No fence wants stuff of that sort that you can neither melt nor sell.”

—
(Norman Mitchell, 1965, *Sherlock Holmes*,
“The Illustrious Client”)

Canonical Characters



Sir Leslie Oakshott



"The Adventure of the Illustrious Client" 13

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

The famous surgeon who treated Holmes for his injuries.

"No immediate danger," was his report. "Two lacerated scalp wounds and some considerable bruises. Several stitches have been necessary. Morphine has been injected and quiet is essential, but an interview of a few minutes would not be absolutely forbidden."

(Selma Hall, 1937, The Illustrious Client)

Canonical Characters



The Illustrious Client



“The Adventure of the Illustrious Client” 14

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

Presumed by many, the illustrious client was none other than King Edward VII.

“It is important that I should be able to assure him that his honoured name has been in no way dragged into the matter.

His motives are, to the last degree, honourable and chivalrous, but he prefers to remain unknown. Surely the actual name of your client is immaterial?”

“Sherlock Holmes was threatened with a prosecution for burglary, but when an object is good and a client is sufficiently illustrious, even the rigid British law becomes human and elastic. My friend has not yet stood in the dock.”

Canonical Characters



Vitriol (Prussic Acid)



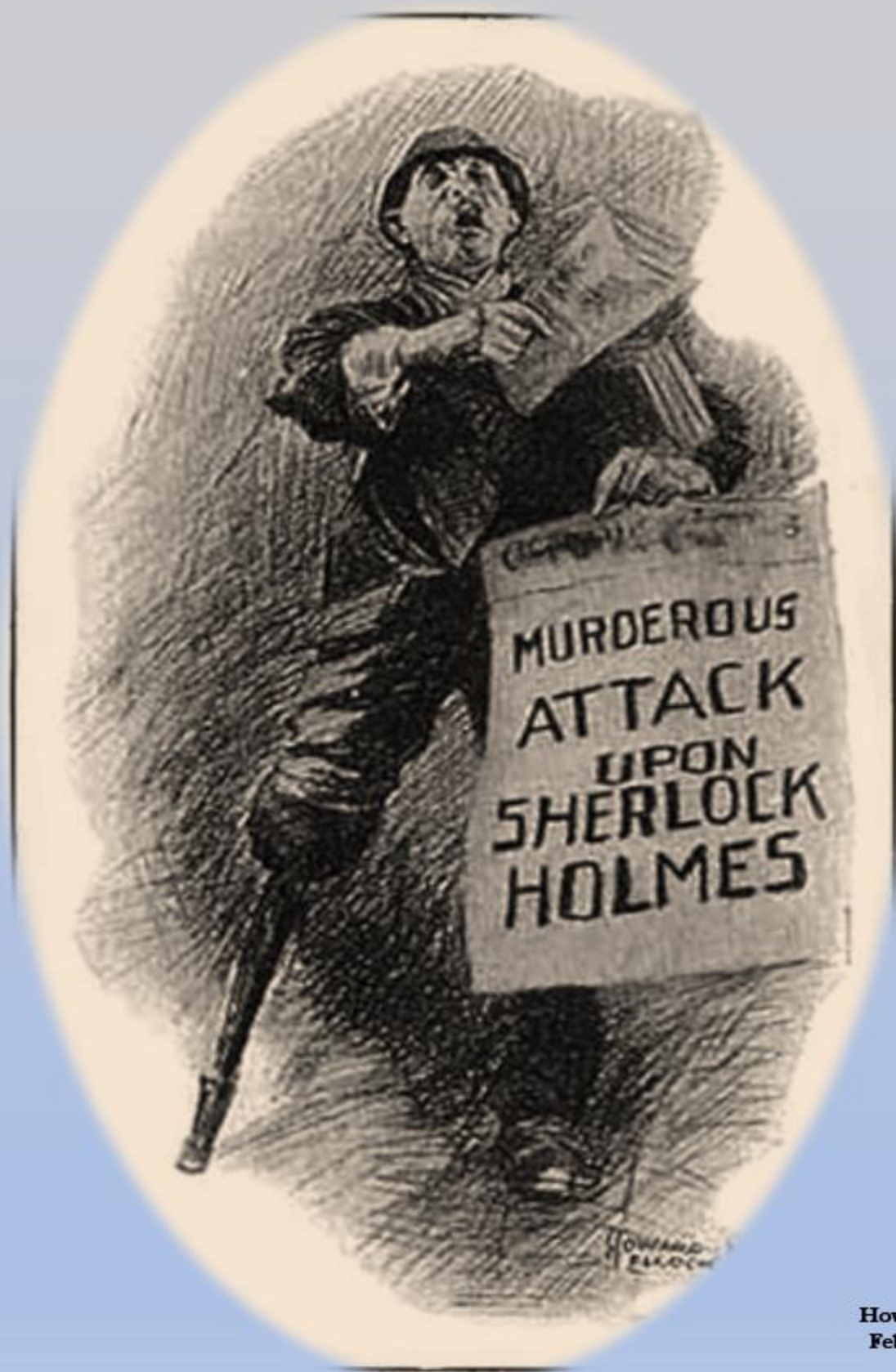
"The Adventure of the Illustrious Client" 15

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

A liquid, a strong solution of sulfuric acid, which Kitty Winter threw upon Baron Gruner's face.

"The vitriol was eating into it everywhere and dripping from the ears and the chin. One eye was already white and glazed. The other was red and inflamed. The features which I had admired a few minutes before were now like some beautiful painting over which the artist has passed a wet and foul sponge. They were blurred, discoloured, inhuman, terrible."

Canonical Characters



Howard Elcock,
February, 1925

The Adventure of the Illustrious Client



“The Adventure of the Illustrious Client” 16

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

First
Publication:

U.K. -- *The Strand Magazine*,
February, 1925
U.S. - *Colliers*
November 08, 1924

U.K. - *The Casebook of Sherlock
Holmes*,
October, 1917, John Murray
U.S. - *The Casebook of Sherlock
Holmes*,
October, 1917, George H. Doran

Chronological
Date:

September 03, 1902
(Watson)
September 03, 1902
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

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

Christ
Abbreviation:

ILLU