

# A Compendium of Canonical Characters



## The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

## Canonical Characters



Sydney Paget  
August, 1891

## The Red-Headed League



## "The Red-Headed League" (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

01

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

## Canonical Characters



Martin Van Maele,  
1905

## The Red-Headed League



## "The Red-Headed League" (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

02

- 08 - Jabez Wilson
- 09 - John Clay
- 10 - Duncan Ross
- 11 - Peter Jones
- 12 - Mr. Merryweather
- 13 - Jezekeiah Hopkins
- 14 -- Data! Data!

# Canonical Characters

*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*

ADVENTURE II.—THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

I HAD called upon my friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, one day in the autumn of last year, and found him in deep conversation with a very stout, florid-faced, elderly gentleman with fiery red hair. With an apology for my intrusion, I was about to withdraw, when Holmes pulled me abruptly into the room, and closed the door behind me.

"You could not possibly have come at a better time, my dear Watson," he said cordially.

"I was afraid that you were engaged."

"So I am. Very much so."

"Then I can wait in the next room."

"Not at all. This gentleman, Mr. Wilson, has been my partner and helper in many of my most successful cases, and I have no doubt that he will be of the utmost use to me in yours also."

The stout gentleman half rose from his chair, and gave a bob of greeting, with a quick little questioning glance from his small, fat-encircled eyes.

"Try the settee,"

said Holmes, relapsing into his armchair, and putting his fingers together, as was his custom when in judicial moods. "I know, my dear Watson, that you share with me a dislike of all that is vulgar and outside of the conventions and routine of life. You have your own way of thinking, which has led you to a life of



"Your cases have indeed the greatest interest to me," I observed.

"You will remember that I received the other day, just before we went into the country, a simple problem presented by Miss Sutherland, that for strange effects of extraordinary combinations we must go to the root of the matter, which is always far more daring than any effort of the imagination."

"A proposition which I took the liberty of doubting."

"You did, Doctor, but none the less you must come round to my view, for otherwise I shall keep on piling fact upon fact on you until your reason breaks down under them and acknowledges me to be right. Now, Mr. Jabez Wilson here has been good enough to call upon me this morning, and to begin a narrative which promises to be one of the most singular which I have listened to for some time. You have heard me remark that the strangest and most unique things are very often connected not with

## The Red-Headed League



## "A Case of Identity" (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

02

Miss Mary Sutherland, a typist by trade, consults Sherlock Holmes because her fiancé Mr Hosmer Angel, who she met at the gasfitter's ball, disappeared just before their wedding.

An inheritance from her deceased Uncle helps support her mother and step-father, and though Sherlock Holmes believes the case to be quite simple, he must still find the evidence to solve the mystery of the missing groom-to-be.

# Canonical Characters

## THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE

BY A. CONAN DOYLE



Stanley Armstrong, 1905

## The Red-Headed League



## "The Red-Headed League" (The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

04

### Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
April, 1921	UK	Eille Norwood	Hubert Willis
November 24, 1951	UK	Alan Wheatley	Raymond Francis
December 27, 1954	UK	Ronald Howard	Howard Marion-Crawford
March 13, 1965	UK	Douglas Wilmer	Nigel Stock
December 10, 1967	DE	Erich Schellow	Paul Edwin Roth
September 22, 1985	UK	Jeremy Brett	David Burke

### Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
November 03, 1930	NBC	Clive Brook	Leigh Lovell
1933	Blue (NBC)	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
February 08, 1936	Mutual/NBC	Louis Hector	Harry West
October 27, 1940	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
May 28, 1943	Mutual	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
June 02, 1947	ABC	Tom Conway	Nigel Bruce
October 12, 1947	Mutual	John Stanley	Alfred Shirley
1947	Mutual	Alfred Shirley	John Stanley
1953	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
1954	NBC	Sir John Gielgud	Sir Ralph Richardson
January 16, 1955	NBC	Sir John Gielgud	Sir Ralph Richardson

# Canonical Characters



Josef Friedrich,  
1906

## The Red-Headed League



# "The Red-Headed League" *(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

05

### Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
September 25, 1964	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
1967	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
April 26, 1977	CBS	Kevin McCarthy	Court Benson
June 04, 1978	BBC	Barry Foster	David Buck
1987	BBC	Roy Marsden	John Moffatt
November 14, 1990	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams
1957	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley

## Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



“The Red-Headed League”  
(*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

06

“As a rule, the more bizarre a thing is the less mysterious it proves to be.”

Deduced Clay’s plan to tunnel into bank; “... it was perfectly obvious from the first that the only possible object of this rather fantastic business ... must be to get this not over-bright pawnbroker out of the way for a number of hours every day.”

*“It is a capital mistake to theorise before one has data.”*

(Erich Schellow, 1967, *Sherlock Holmes*, “Die Liga der Rothaarigen”)

## Canonical Characters



Dr. John Watson



“The Red-Headed League”  
(*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

07

Visited Holmes at Baker Street in autumn of 1890. Holmes called the Red-Headed League “a three pipe problem.”

Watson put his army revolver in his pocket, and waited in bank cellar to capture Clay and Ross.

*“Mr. Wilson's assistant counts for a good deal in this mystery of the Red-Headed League.”*

(Paul Edwin Roth, 1967, *Sherlock Holmes*, “Die Liga der Rothaarigen”)



## Canonical Characters



Jabez Wilson



“The Red-Headed League”  
(*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

08

A London pawnbroker in Coburg Square. Watson described him as “a very stout, florid-faced, elderly gentleman with fiery red hair.”

Duped by Red-Headed League to copy the Encyclopedia Britannica away from his shop for four hours a day.

*“I thought at first you had done something clever, but I see that there was nothing in it after all.”*

(Roger Hammond, 1985, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Red-Headed League”)

## Canonical Characters



John Clay (aka Vincent Spaulding)



### “The Red-Headed League” (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

09

Short, stout, near 30, murderer, thief, smasher, and forger. He schemed to break into City and Suburban Bank.

“The fourth smartest man in London” and third most daring, according to Holmes. He had attended Eaton and Oxford and his grandfather was a Royal Duke.

*“You may not be aware that I have royal blood in my veins. Have the goodness also when you address me always to say ‘sir’ and ‘please’.”*

(Eugene Deckers, 1954, *Sherlock Holmes*, “The Case of the Red Headed League”)

## Canonical Characters



Duncan Ross (aka William Morris)



“The Red-Headed League”  
(*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

10

A solicitor and aka Archie,  
hired Wilson, claiming to  
be pensioner of fund left by  
fictitious American  
millionaire, Ezekiah  
Hopkins.

*“He has every requirement.  
I cannot recall when I have  
seen anything so fine.”*

(Richard Wilson, 1985, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, “The  
Red-Headed League”)

## Canonical Characters



Police Agent Peter Jones



### “The Red-Headed League” (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

11

Scotland Yard inspector described by Holmes as, “He is not a bad fellow, though an absolute imbecile in his profession. He has one positive virtue. He is as brave as a bulldog and as tenacious as a lobster if he gets his claws upon anyone.”

*“Our friend here is a wonderful man for starting a chase. All he wants is an old dog to help him to do the running down.”*

(John Labanowski, 1985, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Red-Headed League”)

## Canonical Characters



Mr. Merryweather



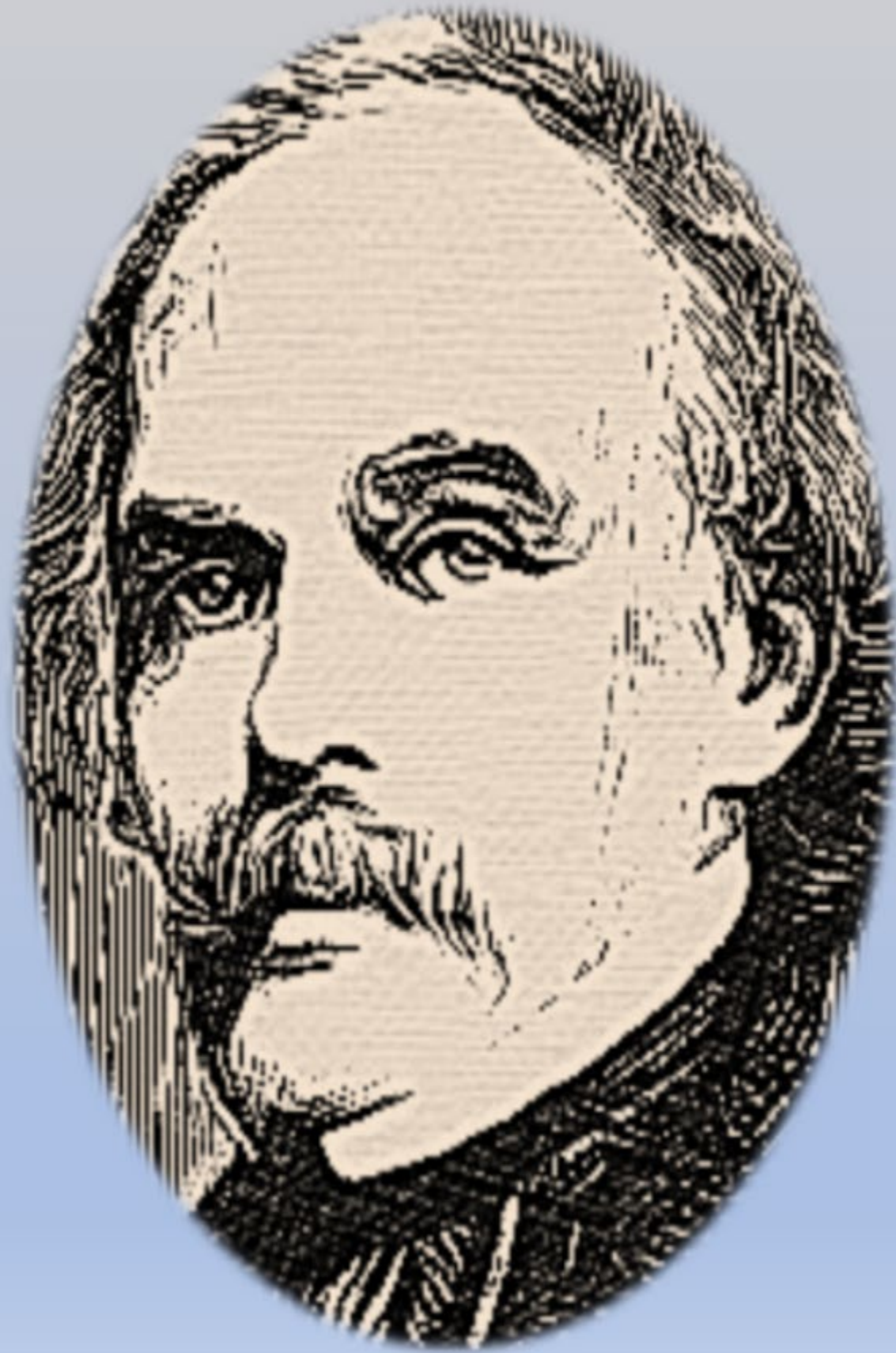
“The Red-Headed League”  
(*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

12

The bank director of the City and Suburban Bank in London borrowed 30,000 napoleons from the Bank of France.

*“Our reserve of bullion is much larger at present than is usually kept in a single branch office, and the directors have had misgivings upon the subject.”*

## Canonical Characters



Ezekiah Hopkins



“The Red-Headed League”  
(*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

13

Fictitious American millionaire who founded Red-Headed League in his will for men with hair of that colour. He had a great sympathy for all red-headed men; so, provided berths to those men, which would be considered comfortable with very little work to accomplish.

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## Canonical Characters



Paul Carrey,  
1907

## The Red-Headed League



## "The Red-Headed League" (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

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First  
Publication:

U.K. -- *The Strand Magazine*,  
August, 1891  
U.S. -- *The Inter Ocean*  
August 8, 1891

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:

Thursday, October 09, 1890  
(Watson)  
Sunday, October 29, 1887  
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

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

Christ  
Abbreviation:

REDH