

A Compendium of Canonical Characters



The Return of Sherlock Holmes

Canonical Characters



Frederic Dorr Steele,
April, 1904

The Adventure of the Six Napoleons



"The Adventure of Six Napoleons"

01

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

- 01 - Cover Card
- 02 - Cover Card
- 03 - Summary
- 04 - Filmography / Radiography
- 05 - Sherlock Holmes
- 06 - John Watson
- 07 - Beppo
- 08 - Pietro Venucci
- 09 - Lucretia Venucci
- 10 - Inspector Lestrade

Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,
May, 1904

The Adventure of the Six Napoleons



“The Adventure of Six Napoleons”

02

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

- 11 - Dr. Barnicot
- 12 - Horace Harker
- 13 - Mr. Harding
- 14 - Manager, Gelder & Co.
- 15 - Morse Hudson
- 16 - Mr. Sandeford
- 17 - Josiah Brown
- 18 - The Bust
- 19 - The Pearl of the Borgias
- 20 - Data! Data!

Canonical Characters

THE STRAND MAGAZINE.

MAY, 1904.

THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.

By A. CONAN DOYLE.

VIII.—*The Adventure of the Six Napoleons.*

LIT was no very unusual thing for Mr. Lestrade, of Scotland Yard, to look in upon us of an evening, and his visits were welcome to Sherlock Holmes, for they enabled him to keep in touch with all that was going on at the police head-quarters. In return for the news which Lestrade would bring, Holmes was always ready to listen with attention to the details of any case upon which the detective was engaged, and was able occasionally, without any active interference, to give some hint or suggestion drawn from his own vast knowledge and experience.

On this particular evening Lestrade had spoken of the weather and the newspapers. Then he had fallen silent, puffing thoughtfully at his cigar. Holmes looked keenly at him.

"Anything remarkable on hand?" he asked.

"Oh, no, Mr. Holmes, nothing very particular."

"Then tell me about it."

Lestrade laughed.

"Well, Mr. Holmes, there is no use denying that there *is* something on my mind, and yet it is such an absurd business that I don't want to bother you about it. On the other hand, although it is trivial, it is unusually queer, and I know that you have a way of seeing all that is out of the common. My opinion it comes more in Dr. Watson's hands than ours."

"I'll try," said I.

"How. And a queer madman, I don't think there was

anyone living at this time of day who had such a hatred of Napoleon the First that he would break any image of him that he could see."

Holmes sank back in his chair.

"That's no business of mine," said he.

"Exactly. That's what I said. But then, when the man commits burglary in order to break images which are not his own, that brings it away from the doctor and on to the policeman."

Holmes sat up again.

"Burglary! This is more interesting. Let me hear the details."

Lestrade took out his official note-book and refreshed his memory from its pages.

"The first case reported was four days ago," said he. "It was at the shop of Morse Hudson, who has a place for the sale of pictures and statues in the Kennington Road. The assistant had left the front shop for an instant when he heard a crash, and hurrying in he found a plaster bust of Napoleon, which stood with several other works of art upon the counter, lying shivered into fragments. He rushed out into the road, but, although several passers-by declared that they had noticed a man run out of the shop, he could neither see anyone nor could he find any means of identifying the rascal."

It seemed to be one of those senseless and Hooliganism which occur from time to time, and it was reported to the constable as such. The plaster cast was worth more than a few shillings, and the whole affair appeared to be of no particular investigation."

"The second case,"

"The second case,"

"The second case,"



"The Adventure of Six Napoleons"

03

(*The Return of Sherlock Holmes*)

Lestrade visits 221b to relate to Holmes about a series of petty thefts involving cheap busts of Napoleon. Strangely, the thief then smashes the busts and leaves the remnants behind.

The burglaries turn deadly. Can Holmes determine if this is simply a case of monomania, as Watson indicated, or something much deeper.

The Adventure of the Six Napoleons

Canonical Characters



Los Noisirs
1910

The Adventure of the Six Napoleons



"The Adventure of Six Napoleons" (*The Return of Sherlock Holmes*)

04

Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
March, 1922	UK	Eille Norwood	Hubert Willis
August 01, 1944	USA	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
March 27, 1965	UK	Douglas Wilmer	Nigel Stock
November 05, 1967	DE	Erich Schellow	Paul Edwin Roth
August 20, 1986	UK	Jeremy Brett	Edward Hardwicke

Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
May 25, 1931	NBC	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
October 12, 1941	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
March 07, 1948	Mutual	John Stanley	Alfred Shirley
December 07, 1954	BBC	John Gielgud	Ralph Richardson
March 06, 1955	NBC	John Gielgud	Ralph Richardson
1958		Maurice Teynac	Pierre Mondy
December 05, 1966	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
1970		Robert Hardy	Nigel Stock
August 13, 1978	BBC	Barry Foster	David Buck
1987	BBC	Roy Marsden	John Moffatt
May 31, 1992	NPR	Edward Petherbridge	David Pearl
September 08, 1993	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams

Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



“The Adventure of Six
Napoleons”

05

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

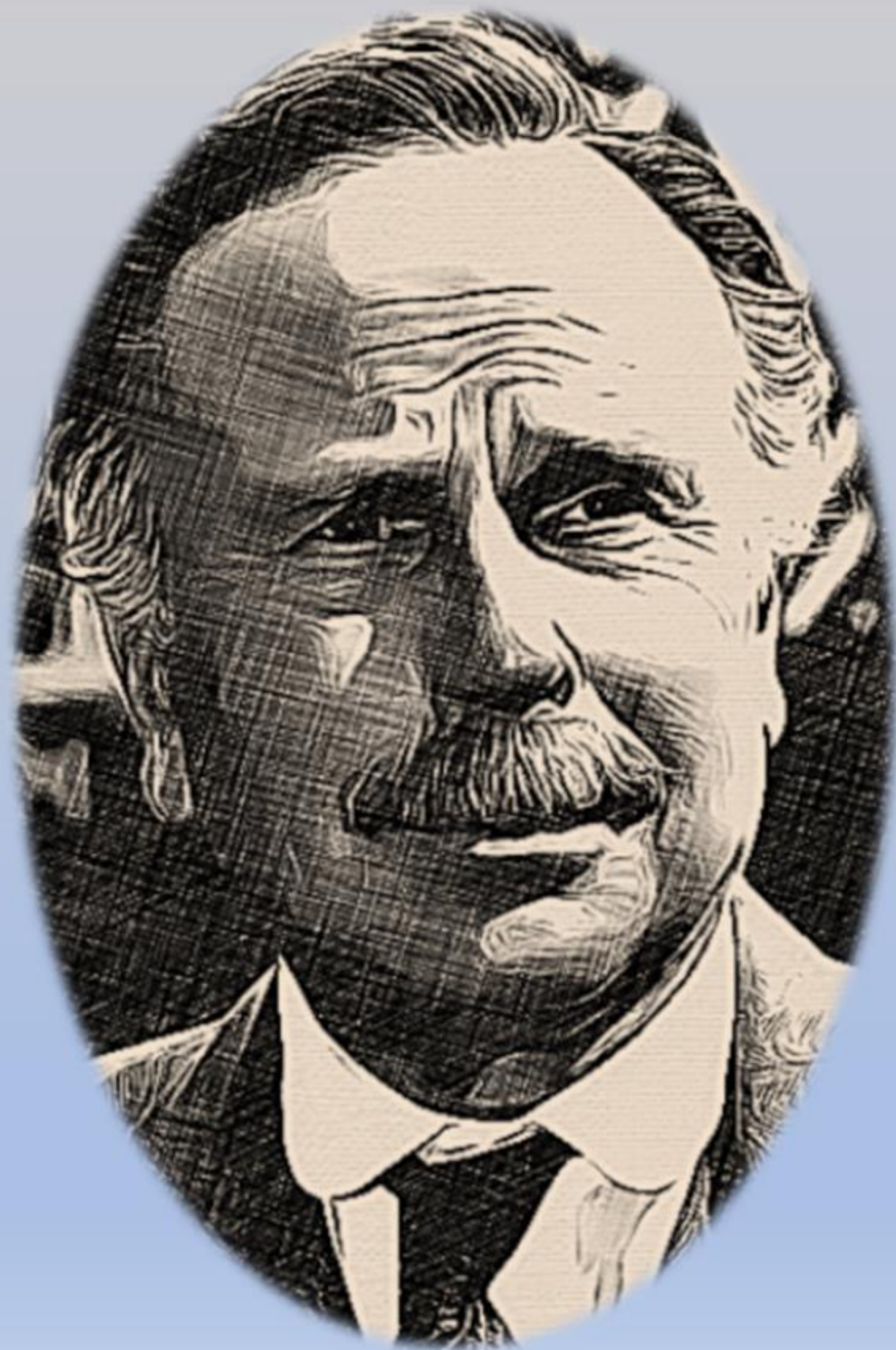
*“If ever I permit you to chronicle
any more of my little problems,
Watson, I foresee that you will
enliven your pages by an account
of the singular adventure of the
Napoleonic busts.”*

“This is certainly very novel.”

*“The Press, Watson, is a most
valuable institution, if you only
know how to use it.”*

*(William Gillette, 1899, Sherlock Holmes: The Strange Case of Miss
Faulkner)*

Canonical Characters



John Watson



“The Adventure of Six Napoleons”

06

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

“There are no limits to the possibilities of monomania. Modern French psychologists have called the condition 'IDEE FIXE,' which may be trifling in character, and accompanied by complete sanity in every other way.”

“We both broke at clapping, as at the well-wrought crisis of a play. A flush of colour sprang to Holmes's pale cheeks, and he bowed to us like the master dramatist who receives the homage of his audience.”

(Edward Hardwicke, 1986, *Sherlock Holmes*, “The Six Napoleons”)

Canonical Characters



Beppo



“The Adventure of Six Napoleons”

07

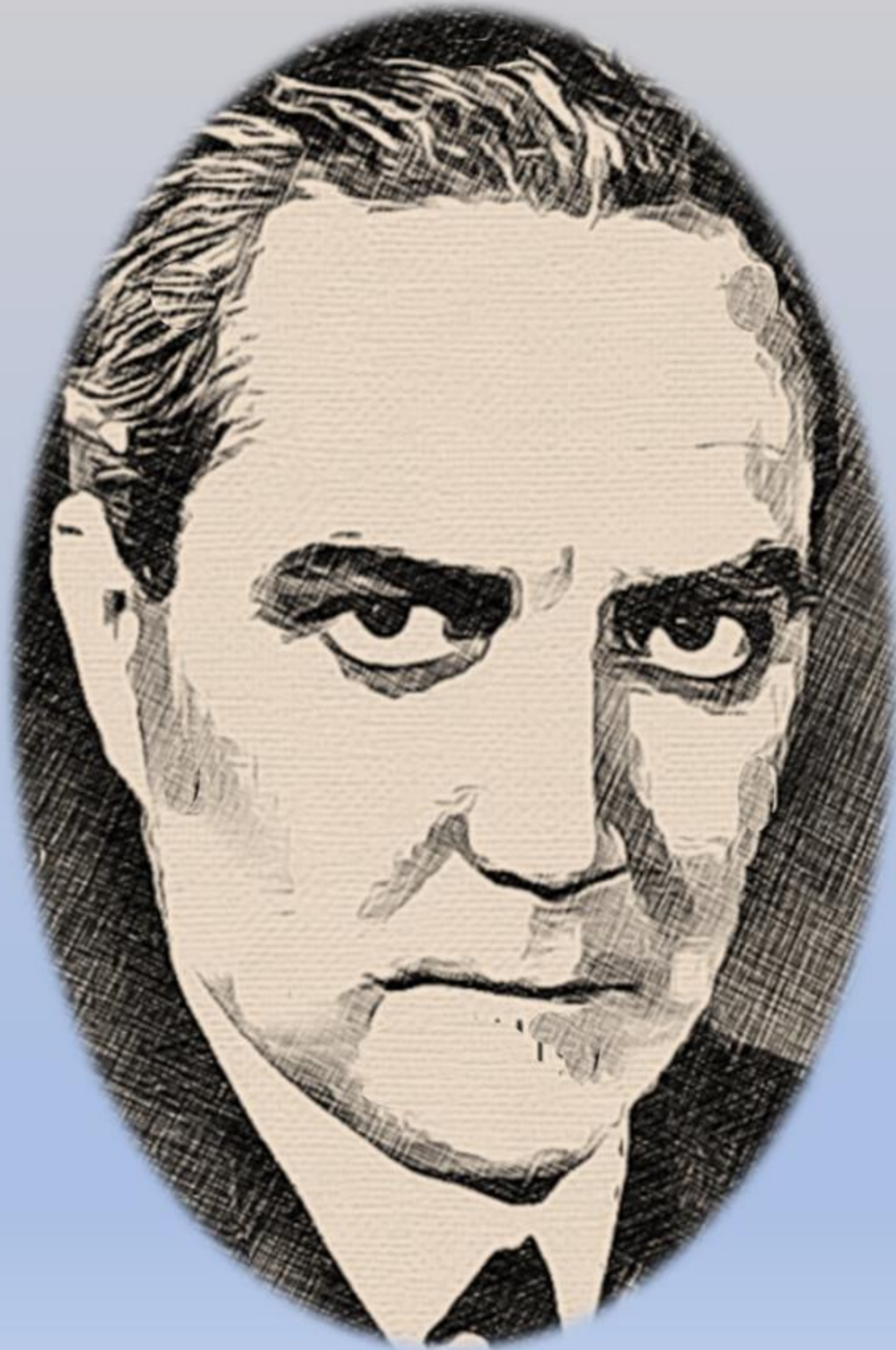
(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

An Italian piece-work man, who worked at Gelder & Co. He could carve, gild and frame, and do odd jobs. Broke into home of Josiah Brown and stole a bust of Napoleon, then smashed it. Was accused by Lestrade of killing Pietro Venucci.

“He could talk English perfectly well. His reasons for destroying the busts were still unknown, and he refused to answer any questions.”

(Andreas Markos, 1965, Sherlock Holmes, “The Six Napoleons”)

Canonical Characters



Pietro Venucci



“The Adventure of Six Napoleons”

08

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

From Naples. Lestrade said, “he is one of the greatest cut-throats in London. He is connected with the Mafia, a secret political society, enforcing its decrees by murder.”

“A horn-handled clasp knife was lying in a pool of blood beside him. There was nothing in his pockets save an apple, some string, a shilling map of London, and a photograph.”

*(Jack Raymond, 1922, The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes,
“The Six Napoleons”)*

Canonical Characters



Lucretia Venucci



“The Adventure of Six
Napoleons”

09

(*The Return of Sherlock Holmes*)

Maid to Princess Colonna
and sister of Pietro
Venucci.

Holmes suspected she
stole valuable jewel from
the princesses’ bedroom.
Holmes theorized Beppo
was the go-between Pietro
and Lucretia.

(Marina Sirtis, 1986, *Sherlock Holmes*, “The Six Napoleons”)

Canonical Characters



Inspector Lestrade



"The Adventure of Six Napoleons"

10

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

"You wouldn't think there was anyone living at this time of day who had such a hatred of Napoleon... that he would break any image of him that he could see."

"We are very proud of you, [Mr. Holmes,]... there's not a man, from the oldest inspector to the youngest constable, who wouldn't be glad to shake you by the hand."

(Dennis Hoey, 1944, The Pearl of Death)

Canonical Characters



Dr. Barnicot



"The Adventure of Six Napoleons"

11

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

Well-known medical practitioner with one of the largest practices on the South side of the Thames.

An enthusiastic admirer of Napoleon, his house is full of books, pictures, and relics of the French Emperor. Had two busts of Napoleon stolen from his home and office.

(John Merhyl, 1992, Sherlock Holmes, "The Master Blackmailer")

Canonical Characters



Horace Harker



"The Adventure of Six Napoleons"

12

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

Journalist with Central Press Syndicate. A bust of Napoleon was stolen from his home and the body of Pietro Venucci was found outside.

"There came a most horrible yell—the most dreadful sound, Mr. Holmes, that ever I heard. It will ring in my ears as long as I live. I sat frozen with horror for a minute or two."

(Donald Hewlett, 1965, Sherlock Holmes, "The Six Napoleons")

Canonical Characters



Mr. Harding



“The Adventure of Six Napoleons”

13

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

Owner of retail store on High Street that sold busts of Napoleon to Mr. Horace Harker, Mr. Josiah Brown and Mr. Sandeford. Did not recognize Beppo.

“A brisk, crisp little person, very dapper and quick, with a clear head and a ready tongue.”

“No, I have never seen this face which you show me in the photograph. You would hardly forget it - would you, sir? - for I've seldom seen an uglier.”

Canonical Characters



Manager, Gelder & Co.



“The Adventure of Six Napoleons”

14

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

German whose company had employed Beppo and sold three busts each to Morse Hudson and Harding Brothers for six shillings.

“The only time that we have ever had the police in it was over this very fellow. He knifed another Italian in the street... Serve me right for engaging a man with such a face.”

—
(Harry Cording, 1944, The Pearl of Death)

Canonical Characters



Morse Hudson



“The Adventure of Six Napoleons”

15

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

Proprietor of store on Kennington Road who bought three busts from Gelder & Co. and sold two busts to Dr. Barnicot. Other bust was smashed in his store.

“Disgraceful, sir! A Nihilist plot—that's what I make it. No one but an anarchist would go about breaking statues.”

(Martin Wyldek, 1965, *Sherlock Holmes*, “The Six Napoleons”)

Canonical Characters



Mr. Sandeford



"The Adventure of Six Napoleons"

16

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

An elderly red-faced man with grizzled side-whiskers who lived in Reading. Purchased bust of Napoleon from Harding Brothers.

"I have your letter here. You said, 'I desire to possess a copy of Devine's Napoleon, and am prepared to pay you ten pounds for the one which is in your possession.'"

(Lloyd Pearson, 1965, *Sherlock Holmes*, "The Six Napoleons")

Canonical Characters



Josiah Brown



“The Adventure of Six Napoleons”

17

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

A jovial rotund man who lived at Laburnum Lodge, Laburnum Vale, Chiswick. Purchased bust of Napoleon from Harding Brothers and had it stolen after a burglary by Beppo.

“I did exactly what you told me. We locked every door on the inside and awaited developments.”

(Josiah Brown, 1992, Sherlock Holmes, “The Master Blackmailer”)

Canonical Characters



The Bust



"The Adventure of Six Napoleons"

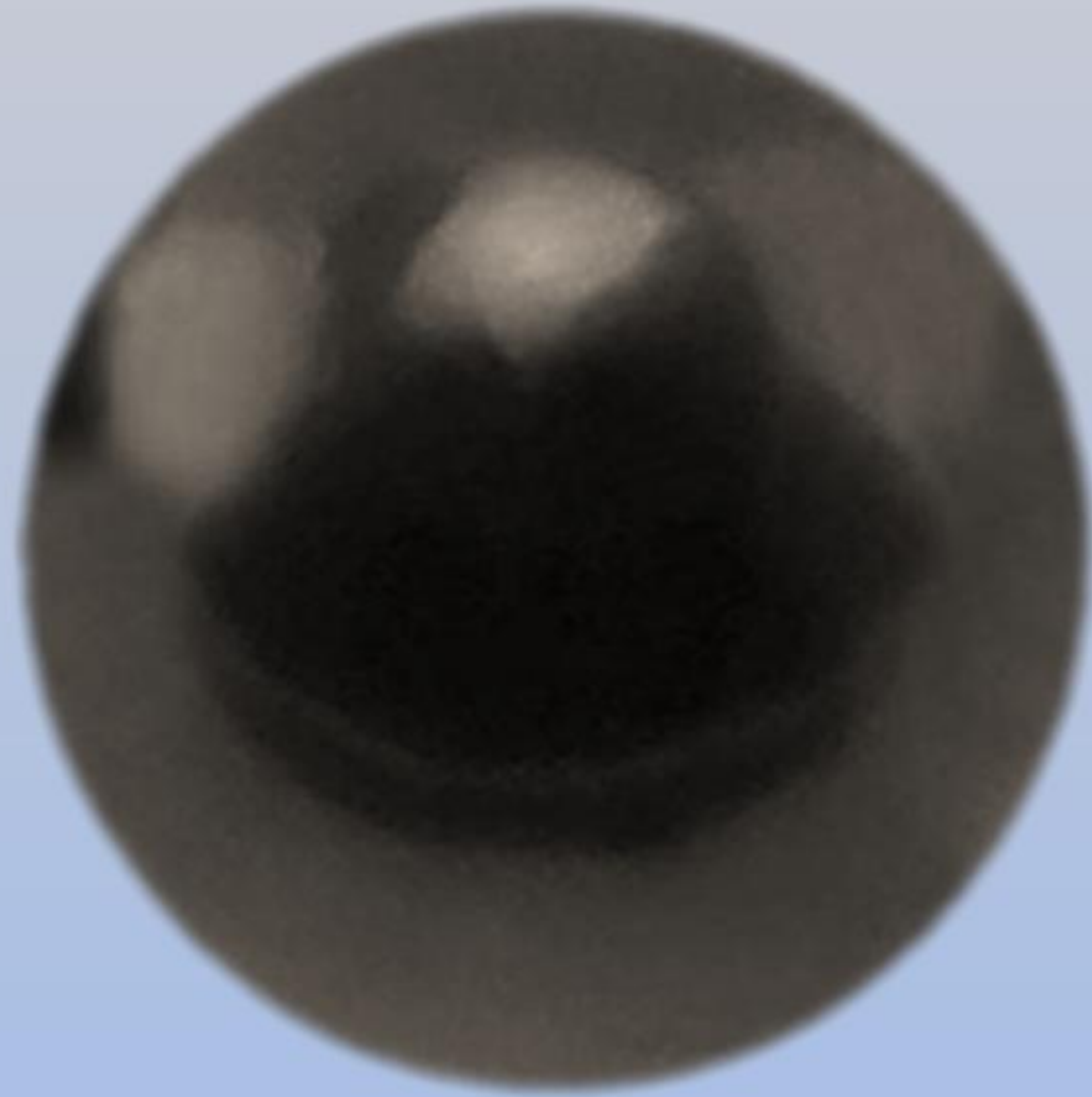
18

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

"A reference to his books showed that hundreds of casts had been taken from a marble copy of Devine's head of Napoleon, but that the three which had been sent to Morse Hudson a year or so before had been half of a batch of six, the other three being sent to Harding Brothers, of Kensington."

"Madness, anyhow. And a queer madness too! You wouldn't think there was anyone living at this time of day who had such a hatred of Napoleon the First that he would break any image of him that he could see."

Canonical Characters



The Pearl of the Borgias



"The Adventure of Six Napoleons"

19

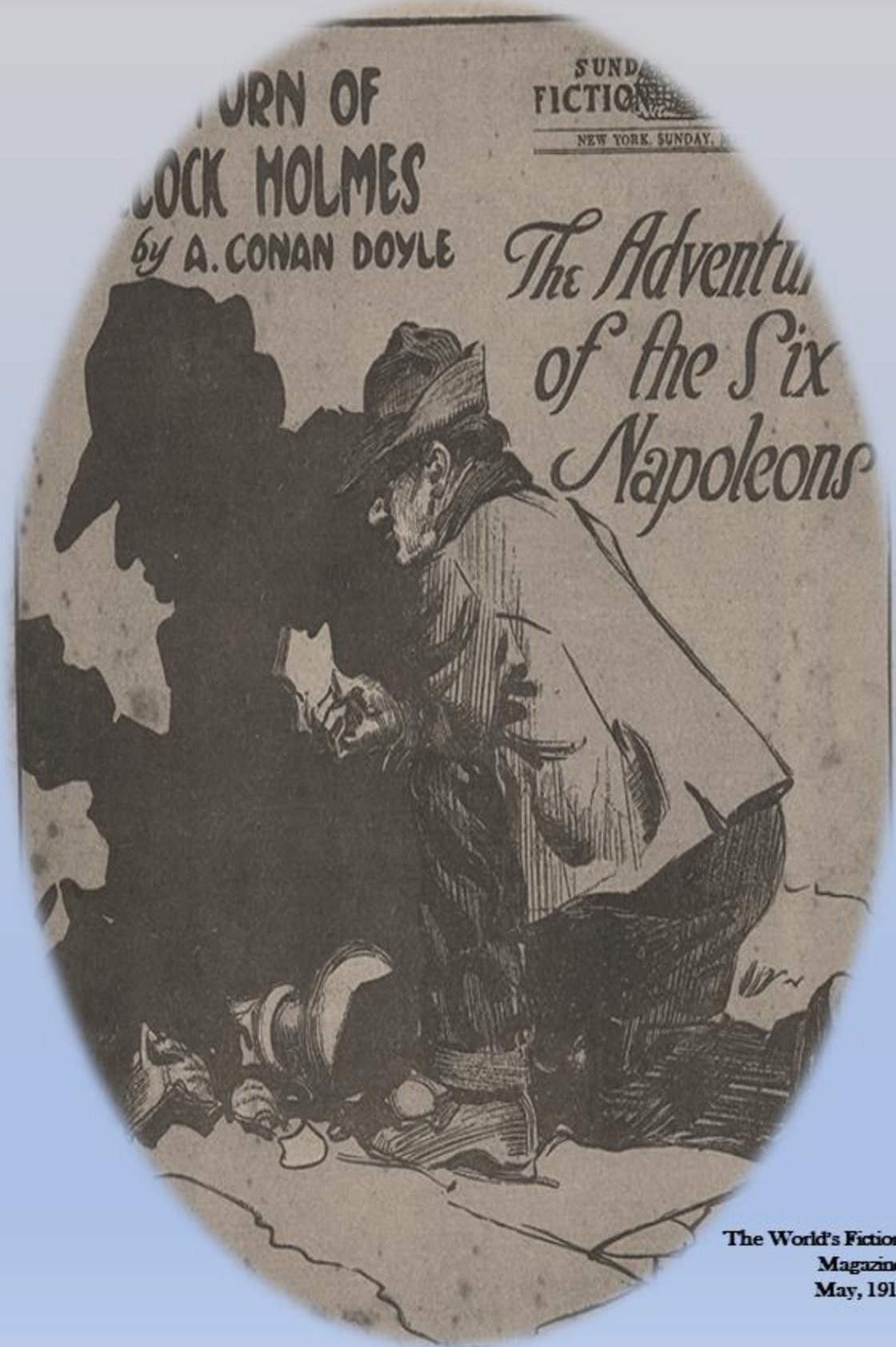
(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

The figure broke into fragments, and Holmes bent eagerly over the shattered remains. Next instant, with a loud shout of triumph, he held up one splinter, in which a round, dark object was fixed like a plum in a pudding.

"Gentlemen," he cried, "let me introduce you to the famous black pearl of the Borgias."

Pietro, his sister, and Beppo were all considered confederates in the theft of the pearl from the Prince of Colonna's bedroom.

Canonical Characters



The Adventure of the Six Napoleons



“The Adventure of Six Napoleons” (*The Return of Sherlock Holmes*)

20

First
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U.K. -- *The Strand Magazine*,
April, 1904
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March 26, 1904

U.K. - *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,
March 07, 1905 George Newnes Ltd.
U.S. - *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,
February, 1905, McClure, Phillips & Co.

Chronological
Date:

January 05, 1899
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

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

Christ
Abbreviation:

CHAS