

A Compendium of Canonical Characters



The Return of Sherlock Holmes

Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,
June, 1904

The Adventure of the Three Students



“The Adventure of Three Students”

01

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

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

Canonical Characters



Frederic Dorr Steele,
September, 1904

The Adventure of the Three Students



"The Adventure of Three Students"

02

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

08 -- Bannister

09 - Gilchrist

10 - Miles McLaren

11 - Daulat Ras

12 - The Fortescue Scholarship
Examination

13 - Data! Data!

Canonical Characters

THE STRAND MAGAZINE

JUNE, 1904.

THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.

By A. CONAN DOYLE.

IX.—*The Adventure of the Three Students.*

It was in the year '95 that a combination of events, into which I need not enter, caused Mr. Sherlock Holmes and myself to spend some weeks in one of our great University towns, and it was during this time that the small but instructive adventure which I am about to relate befell us. It will be obvious that any details which would help the reader to exactly identify the college or the criminal would be injudicious and offensive. So painful a scandal may well be allowed to die out. With due discretion the incident itself may, however, be described, since it serves to illustrate some of those qualities for which my friend was remarkable. I will endeavour in my statement to avoid such terms as would serve to limit the events to any particular place, or give a clue as to the people concerned.

We were residing at the time in furnished lodgings close to a library where Sherlock Holmes was pursuing some laborious researches in early English charters—researches which led to results so striking that they may be the subject of one of my future narratives. Here it was that one evening we received a visit from an acquaintance, Mr. Hilton Soames, tutor and lecturer at the College of St. Luke's. Mr. Soames was a tall, spare man, of a nervous and irritable temperament. I had always known him to be restless in his manner, but on this occasion he was in such a state of nervous agitation that it was clear that some very unusual had occurred.

"I am very busy just now, and I desire no distractions," my friend answered. "I should much prefer that you called in the aid of the police."

"No, no, my dear sir; such a course is utterly impossible. When once the law is evoked it cannot be stayed again, and this is just one of those cases where, for the credit of the college, it is most essential to avoid scandal. Your discretion is as well known as your powers, and you are the one man in the world who can help me. I beg you, Mr. Holmes, to do what you can."

My friend's temper had not improved since he had been deprived of the congenial surroundings of Baker Street. Without his scrap-books, his chemicals, and his homely untidiness, he was an uncomfortable man. He shrugged his shoulders in ungracious acquiescence, while our visitor in hurried words and with much excitable gesticulation poured forth his story.

"I must explain to you, Mr. Holmes, that to-morrow is the first day of the examination for the Fortescue Scholarship. I am one of the examiners. My subject is Greek, and the first of the papers consists of a large passage of Greek translation which the candidate has not seen. This passage is printed on the examination paper, and it would naturally be an immense advantage if the candidate could prepare it in advance. For this reason great care is taken to keep the paper secret."

"To-day about three o'clock the examination paper arrived from the printer. The exercise consists of half a chapter of the Iliad. I had to read it over, and the text must be absolutely correct."

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The Adventure of the Three Students



"The Adventure of Three Students"

03

(*The Return of Sherlock Holmes*)

Holmes is doing research in English charters at an unnamed University when Hilton Soames begs him to assist in solving a mystery.

Can Holmes find the student who copied the contents of the Fortescue Scholarship before the Exam is scheduled to be given the next day, thus avoiding a scandal for the University and the desperate tutor?

Canonical Characters



The Adventure of the Three Students



"The Adventure of Three Students"

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

04

Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
March, 1923	UK	Eille Norwood	Hubert Willis

Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
November 02, 1932	NBC	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
April 28, 1935	Blue (NBC)	Louis Hector	Leigh Lovell
November 24, 1940	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
1953	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
November 08, 1957	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
September 15, 1993	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams
2004	Old Court Radio	Jim Crozier	David Hawkes
February 26, 2006		John Patrick Lowrie	Lawrence Albert

Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



“The Adventure of Three Students”

05

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

Was in a university town researching early English charters.

“Without his scrapbooks, his chemicals, and his homely untidiness, he was an uncomfortable man.”

Found pencil chip and black clay pellet near table and deduced the intruder was Gilchrist on the track team.

“Well, if there is nothing to be learned here, we had best go inside.”

(Nicholas Rowe, 1985, Young Sherlock Holmes)

Canonical Characters



John Watson



“The Adventure of Three
Students”

06

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

1895... Watson did nothing in this case except report what happened.

“We were residing at the time in furnished lodgings close to a library.”

“The foul-mouthed fellow at the top. He is the one with the worst record. And yet that Indian was a sly fellow also. Why should he be pacing his room all the time?”

—
(Alan Cox, 1985, *Sherlock Holmes*)

Canonical Characters



Hilton Soames



“The Adventure of Three Students”

07

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

Mr. Hilton Soames, tutor and lecturer at the College of St. Luke's. A tall, spare man, of a nervous and excitable temperament.

Someone had entered his room and copied a portion of the examination for the Fortescue Scholarship, the day before the exam.

“A large sum of money is at stake, for the scholarship is a very valuable one.”

(William Lugg, 1923, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, “The Three Students”)

Canonical Characters



Bannister



“The Adventure of Three Students”

08

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

“A little, white-faced, clean-shaven, grizzly-haired fellow of fifty.”

Soames’ butler for ten years, carelessly left his key to Soames’ room in the door. Tried to protect Gilchrist from being discovered having previously worked for his deceased father.

“Wasn't it natural, sir, that I should save him, and wasn't it natural also that I should try to speak to him as his dead father would have done, and make him understand that he could not profit by such a deed?”

(A. Harding Steerman, 1923, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Three Students”)

Canonical Characters



Gilchrist



“The Adventure of Three Students”

09

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

A student athlete, played on the Rugby and cricket teams, and got his Blue for the hurdles and the long jump. Tall, slim and agile and flaxen-haired. His father was Sir Jabez Gilchrist.

Admitted he copied the exam.
Accepted a commission in Rhodesian police.

“I have a letter here, Mr. Soames, which I wrote to you early this morning in the middle of a restless night. It was before I knew that my sin had found me out.”

Canonical Characters



Miles McLaren



“The Adventure of Three
Students”

10

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

Lived on top floor.

“He is a brilliant fellow when he chooses to work—one of the brightest intellects of the university; but he is wayward, dissipated, and unprincipled. He was nearly expelled over a card scandal in his first year.”

“I don't care who you are. You can go to blazes! Tomorrow's the exam, and I won't be drawn by anyone.”

Canonical Characters



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Canonical Characters



Daulat Ras



“The Adventure of Three
Students”

11

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

Indian student, “quiet and
inscrutable.”

Lived on second floor.

“Short, silent little hooked-
nose fellow.”

He was not thrilled to have
a visit the night before the
exam, and was glad when
Holmes and others left.

Canonical Characters



Daulat Ras



“The Adventure of Three
Students”

11

(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)

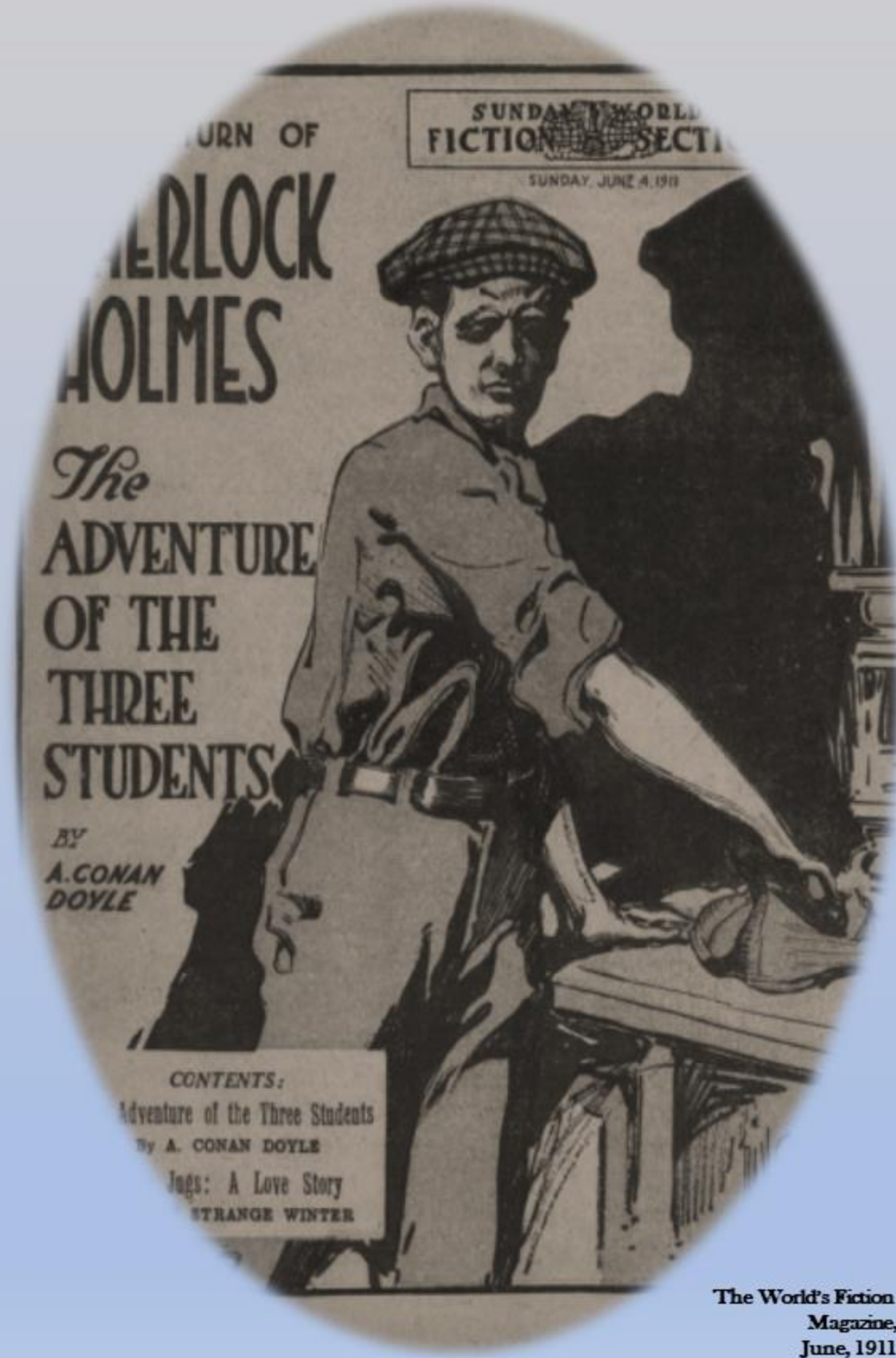
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The Adventure of the Three Students



"The Adventure of Three Students"

13

(*The Return of Sherlock Holmes*)

First
Publication:

U.K. -- *The Strand Magazine*,
June, 1904
U.S. -- *Collier's*
September 24, 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:

1895
(Watson)
April 5, 1895
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

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

Christ
Abbreviation:

3STU