

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

Sherlock Holmes is the most famous fictional detective in history, with a popularity that has never waned since catching the imagination of his late-Victorian readership. This *Companion* explores Holmes's popularity and his complex relationship to the late-Victorian and modernist periods; on the one hand bearing the imprint of a range of Victorian anxieties and preoccupations, while on the other shaping popular conceptions of criminality, deviance and the powers of the detective. This collection explores these questions in three parts. 'Contexts' explores late-Victorian culture, from the emergence of detective fiction to ideas of evolution, gender and Englishness. 'Case Studies' reads selected Holmes adventures in the context of empire, visual culture and the Gothic. Finally, 'Reinventions and Adaptations' investigates the relationship between Holmes and literary theory, film and theatre adaptations, new Holmesian novels and the fandom that now surrounds him.

Janice M. Allan is Associate Dean Academic, School of Arts and Media, University of Salford. She has published widely on nineteenth-century popular fiction as well as constructions of gender and literary value and is Executive Editor of *Clues: a Journal of Detection*.

Christopher Pittard is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Portsmouth. He is the author of *Purity and Contamination in Late Victorian Detective Fiction* (2011) and numerous articles and chapters on Victorian popular culture and detective fiction.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book.

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Edited by Janice M. Allan , Christopher Pittard
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EDITED BY
JANICE M. ALLAN
University of Salford
&
CHRISTOPHER PITTARD
University of Portsmouth



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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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A scholarly edition of Doyle's *The Parasite* and Stoker's *The Watter's Mou'* was published in 2009 and, with Sabine Vanacker, she co-edited a collection of essays on Doyle's afterlife, *Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle: Multi-Media Afterlives* (2012). She has also published extensively on Bram Stoker and her latest work is the biographical *Lady Butler: Painting, Travel and War* (2018).

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Christopher Pittard

TEXTUAL NOTE

The Sherlock Holmes canon has a complex publishing history, with a number of variants in titles and content. Three of the most obvious examples of this complexity are the re-naming of the second *Strand Magazine* series of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1892–3) as *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* on publication in volume form in 1894; the variation in title between the US and UK publications of *The Sign of Four* (the novel first appearing in *Lippincott's Monthly Magazine* in 1890 as *The Sign of the Four*, a title retained by many US editions) and the positioning of 'The Cardboard Box' within the canon. Originally published in the second series of *Adventures* in the *Strand*, Doyle felt its slightly more sensationalist tone made it unsuitable for inclusion in the *Memoirs*, and it did not appear in volume collections until the later collection *His Last Bow* (1917). Its status is further complicated by the fact that early scenes from 'The Cardboard Box' were transferred to the beginning of 'The Resident Patient' as published in *Memoirs*. Later editions of the stories can therefore vary considerably from their first appearances in magazines such as the *Strand* and the identification of a definitive text becomes a matter of textual choice.

For ease of reference, all citations from the Holmes stories are taken from *The Penguin Complete Sherlock Holmes* (London: Penguin Books, 2009), as the most widely available single-volume edition of the canon. Readers should be aware, however, that this edition incorporates various textual oddities (for instance, giving 'The Reigate Squires' the American title of 'The Reigate Puzzle' (under which it was published in *Harper's Magazine*)); breaking the chronology of the stories' publication by including *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* (1905) before *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1901–2); and including the revised opening of 'The Resident Patient'. More scholarly editions of the canon are available; these include the Oxford University Press editions of *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes* and *Selected Stories*;

TEXTUAL NOTE

Penguin Classics editions of *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Sign of Four*, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Valley of Fear* and *His Last Bow* and *the Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*; and Broadview's editions of *The Sign of Four* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. However, these are incomplete selections of Doyle's Holmesian work; the most comprehensive recent collected edition is Norton's two volume *The Complete Annotated Sherlock Holmes* (ed. Leslie S. Klinger), which divides the canon into short stories and novels.

The Penguin Complete Sherlock Holmes also omits the illustrations that accompanied the original publication of nearly all of the stories. Where it is necessary to refer to these (most prominently in Chapter 10 on Sidney Paget's illustrations for the *Strand*), page numbers will be given for the original magazine appearance of the stories. While a number of modern editions include the original illustrations, the demands of repagination often require the resizing or shifting of the images in relation to the accompanying text (a trend set as early as Newnes's republication of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* in single volume form in 1892, where the dual-column layout of the *Strand* was replaced with a more conventional single-column book page and thus necessitated the movement of illustrations that had been previously integrated into the print). Even where modern editions are reprints of the *Strand* pages (as in the three volume Wordsworth Classics edition of 1992) these can sometimes reverse the original recto-verso ordering of the pages, thus obscuring the visual echoes across page openings set up by the *Strand*'s illustrators and art editors.

The frequent title prefix of 'The Adventure of . . .' has been dropped when referring to the short stories. The only other text to be cited parenthetically in the *Companion* is Doyle's autobiography *Memories and Adventures* (1924), which is cited throughout as *Memories*; all page numbers in this case refer to the 2012 Cambridge University Press edition.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1859 Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle born at 11 Picardy Place, Edinburgh, on 22 May, son of Charles Altamont Doyle and Mary Doyle (*née* Foley).
- 1860 Sidney Paget, Doyle's illustrator for the *Strand Magazine's* Holmes stories, born 4 October.
- 1868 Doyle moves to England and attends a Roman Catholic preparatory school, Hodder House, in Stonyhurst.
- 1870 Doyle attends Stonyhurst College, a Catholic school run by Jesuits (–1875).
- 1874 Jean Leckie, Doyle's second wife, born at 3 Kidbrook Terrace, Kidbrook, Kent, on 14 March.
- 1876 Doyle begins medical studies at the University of Edinburgh (completed in 1881).
- 1877 Doyle meets Dr Joseph Bell, whom he identifies as the intellectual model for Sherlock Holmes.
- 1879 Doyle's first publications, 'The Mystery of Sasassa Valley' and 'Gelsanium as a Poison' appear in *Chamber's Edinburgh Journal* and the *British Medical Journal* respectively, in September and October.
- 1880 Doyle is employed as ship's surgeon on the Greenland whaler *Hope* (February–September).
- 1881 Doyle graduates from Edinburgh University with Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery; makes second voyage as ship's surgeon on *S. S. Mayumba*, sailing to West Africa.
- 1882 Doyle sets up medical practice at 1 Bush Villas, Elm Grove, in Southsea, a suburb of Portsmouth, in June; writes first novel, *The Narrative of John Smith* (lost and published posthumously in 2011).
- 1885 Doyle receives MD from University of Edinburgh (dissertation entitled, 'On Vasomotor Influences in *Tabes Dorsalis*'); marries Louisa Hawkins ('Touie') on 5 August, in St Oswald's Church in Thornton, North Yorkshire.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1886 Doyle drafts *A Study in Scarlet*; the novella, introducing Sherlock Holmes, is rejected by three publishers before Ward, Lock and Company buy the copyright for £25 and agree to publish it the following year.
- 1887 UK publication of Fergus Hume's *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab* (first published in Melbourne in 1886); *A Study in Scarlet* appears in *Beeton's Christmas Annual*.
- 1888 First volume edition of *A Study in Scarlet* published by Ward, Lock and Company, including six illustrations by Charles Doyle.
- 1889 Doyle and Oscar Wilde commissioned by Joseph Stoddart to write for *Lippincott's Magazine*; Wilde contributes *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.
- 1890 *The Sign of the Four* appears in *Lippincott's Magazine* in February; Doyle studies ophthalmology in Vienna and travels within Europe; George Newnes launches the *Strand* in December.
- 1891 Doyle contributes an anonymous story to the *Strand*, 'The Voice of Science', followed by the first series of Adventures (July 1891 to June 1892); moves to London to practice as an eye specialist at 2 Upper Wimpole Street; in August, decides to give up medicine and make his living as an author.
- 1892 The first set of Adventures is published in volume form as *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*; a second set appear in the *Strand* (December 1892 to December 1893).
- 1893 Doyle visits Reichenbach Falls; Louisa is diagnosed with tuberculosis; Charles Doyle dies. 'The Final Problem', in which Holmes 'dies', appears in December, initiating the period known as the 'Great Hiatus' (–1894: within Holmesian chronology his death occurs in May 1891 and his 'resurrection', in 'The Empty House', in April 1894). *Under the Clock*, the first Holmesian theatrical adaptation opens at Royal Court Theatre, London, in November.
- 1894 Second set of Adventures published in volume form as *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*.
- 1895 Doyle travels to the front to witness the Sudan War first hand; publication of *The Stark Munro Letters*.
- 1897 Doyle moves with Louisa to Undershaw, Surrey; meets Jean Leckie.
- 1899 William Gillette portrays Holmes on stage in *Sherlock Holmes, or the Strange Case of Miss Faulkner*, at Garrick Theatre, New York, in November.
- 1900 Doyle serves as a volunteer during the Boer War at the Langman Field Hospital; stands unsuccessfully for Parliament.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1901 Holmes reappears in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, a retrospective adventure serialised in the *Strand* (August 1901 to April 1902).
- 1902 Doyle is knighted.
- 1903 A new series of thirteen stories appear in *Collier's Weekly* (September 1903 to January 1905) and the *Strand* (October 1903 to December 1904); 'The Empty House' explaining the events at the end of 'The Final Problem'.
- 1905 Latest series of Holmes stories published in volume form as *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*.
- 1906 Louisa Doyle dies on 4 July; Doyle becomes involved in the case of George Edalji, wrongly accused of cattle mutilation.
- 1907 Doyle marries Jean Leckie.
- 1908 Sidney Paget dies on 24 January; Doyle and Jean move to Windlesham, Crowborough, East Sussex.
- 1910 *The Speckled Band*, a theatrical adaptation written and produced by Doyle, is performed at the Adelphi Theatre, London in June.
- 1912 Ronald Knox publishes 'Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes'.
- 1914 *The Valley of Fear* serialised in the *Strand* (September 1914 to May 1915)
- 1915 Frank Richards's parodic series *Herlock Sholmes* first appears, published until 1954 in boys' magazines including *Greyfriars Herald*, the *Magnet* and *Gem*; *The Valley of Fear* published in volume form.
- 1917 *His Last Bow* published, comprising a preface, seven stories published in the *Strand* between 1908 and 1913, and the delayed volume publication of 'The Cardboard Box' (originally from the first series of *Adventures*).
- 1921 Stoll Picture Productions produce 47 film adaptations (–1923; two of which are feature length). Mary Doyle (mother) dies.
- 1924 Publication of *Memories and Adventures*.
- 1927 *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes* published, comprising twelve stories published in the *Strand* and various US magazines between 1921 and 1927; 'Shoscombe Old Place' is the last Holmes story published by Doyle.
- 1928 *Sherlock Holmes – The Complete Short Stories* published by John Murray.
- 1929 *Sherlock Holmes – The Complete Long Stories* published by John Murray; Basil Dean, director, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, the first Holmes film to feature sound.
- 1930 Doyle dies on 7 July at Windlesham Manor in Crowborough, East Sussex.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1934 Baker Street Irregulars founded in New York by Christopher Morley; the Sherlock Holmes Society founded in London by A. G. Madconell, Dorothy Sayers and others.
- 1939 Basil Rathbone portrays Holmes in fourteen films (and numerous radio plays), updating Holmes to contemporary settings, starting with *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and concluding with *Dressed to Kill* (–1946).
- 1940 Jean Conan Doyle dies 27 June.
- 1946 *The Baker Street Journal* launched by the Baker Street Irregulars.
- 1951 Holmes's Baker Street rooms recreated for display at the Festival of Britain, and subsequently transferred to the Sherlock Holmes pub, Northumberland Street, London.
- 1954 Publication of John Dickson Carr and Adrian Conan Doyle's *The Exploits of Sherlock Holmes*.
- 1964 BBC series *Sherlock Holmes*, starring Douglas Wilmer and Nigel Stock (–1968).
- c.1967 Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes founded by Evelyn Herzog, Linda Patterson, Pat Moran, Lisa Jones, Mary Ellen Ebeling and M. E. Couchon.
- 1970 Billy Wilder, director, *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*.
- 1974 Nicholas Meyer, *The Seven Per-Cent Solution* (film adaptation in 1976).
- 1978 Michael Dibdin, *The Last Sherlock Holmes Story*.
- 1979 Bob Clark, director, *Murder by Decree*.
- 1984 Granada Television series *Sherlock Holmes* (with nine series varying in title according to the source material), starring Jeremy Brett (–1994).
- 1985 Barry Levinson, director, *Young Sherlock Holmes*.
- 1986 Ron Clements, Burny Mattinson, Dave Michener and John Musker, directors, *The Great Mouse Detective*, based on Eve Titus's book series *Basil of Baker Street* (1958–82).
- 1988 Thom Eberhardt, director, *Without a Clue*.
- 1990 Opening of the Sherlock Holmes Museum on Baker Street.
- 1994 Laurie R. King's *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* starts the Mary Russell series of novels featuring Holmes.
- 1999 Animated television series, *Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century* (–2001).
- 2000 The last of Doyle's Holmes stories enter the public domain.
- 2004 Michael Chabon, *The Final Solution*; Holmesian collector and editor Richard Lancelyn Green dies 27 March.

CHRONOLOGY

- 2005 Mitch Cullin, *A Slight Trick of the Mind*, adapted for film as *Mr Holmes* (2015).
- 2009 Guy Ritchie, director, *Sherlock Holmes*.
- 2010 Official opening of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection (Lancelyn Green Bequest), Portsmouth City Library.
- 2010– The BBC series *Sherlock*, written and produced by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat, featuring Benedict Cumberbatch as Holmes.
- 2011 Anthony Horowitz's *The House of Silk*, endorsed by the Arthur Conan Doyle estate as an authorised pastiche; Guy Ritchie, director, *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*; the Baker Street Babes established by Kristina Manente.
- 2012– CBS series *Elementary* starring Jonny Lee Miller as Holmes and Lucy Liu as a female Dr Watson.
- 2014 *Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die*, a major exhibition at the Museum of London (–2015).
- 2015 A 'lost' Holmes story, 'Sherlock Holmes: Discovering the Border Burghs and, by deduction, the Brig Bazaar', is discovered in Selkirk and reprinted in the *Daily Telegraph*; the story's attribution to Doyle is largely dismissed.
- 2016 Confirmation of a *Sherlock Holmes 3* with Robert Downey Jr.
- 2018 Etan Cohen, director, *Holmes and Watson*, comedy starring Will Ferrell as Holmes and John C. Reilly as Watson.

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