

The MX Book of
New Sherlock Holmes
Stories

*Part XII: Some Untold Cases
(1894-1902)*

*Compiled for the Benefit of
the Restoration of Undershaw*



*34 New Holmes Adventures
Collected in Two Companion Volumes*

Edited by David Marcum

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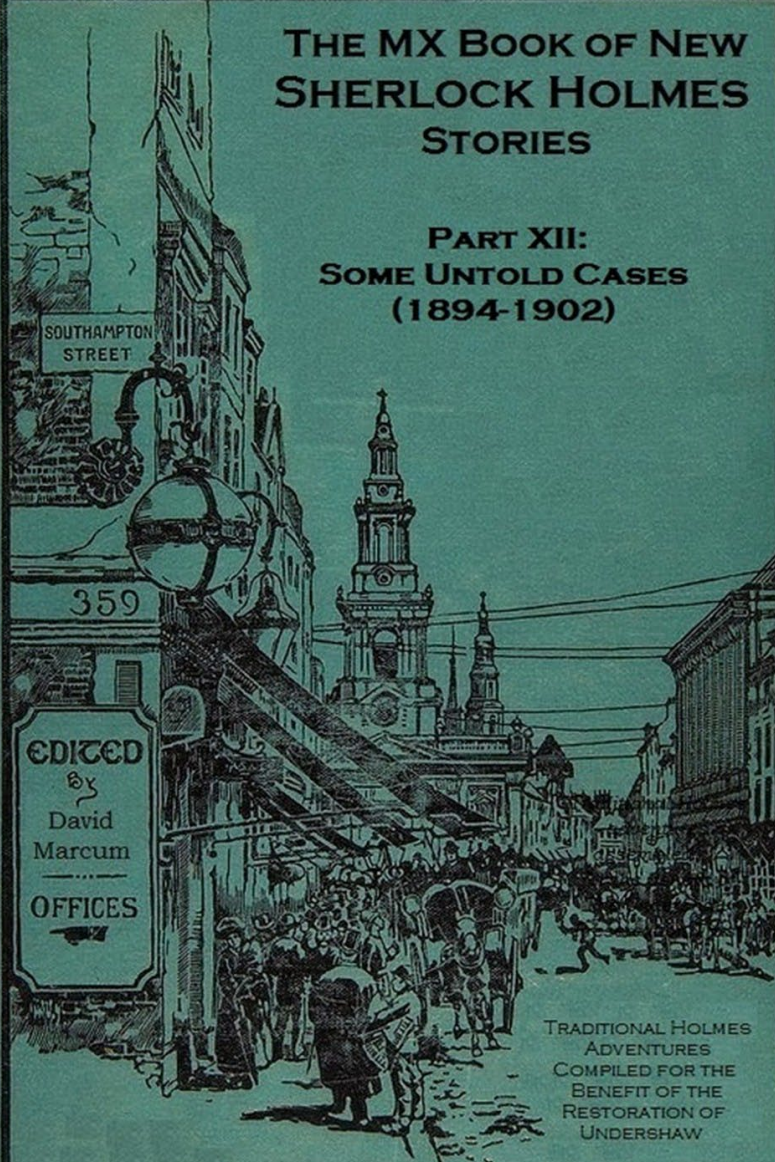
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THE
MX BOOK
OF
NEW
SHERLOCK HOLMES
STORIES

PART XII — SOME UNTOLD CASES

(1894-1902)



**THE MX BOOK OF NEW
SHERLOCK HOLMES
STORIES**

**PART XII:
SOME UNTOLD CASES
(1894-1902)**

SOUTHAMPTON
STREET

359

EDITED

By

David
Marcum

OFFICES

TRADITIONAL HOLMES
ADVENTURES
COMPILED FOR THE
RESTORATION OF
UNDERSHAW

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X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P

“Some Untold Cases”, *Parts XI and XII of*
The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories,
are dedicated to

Philip K. Jones

Phil passed away in June 2018.

As well as being a wonderful and very supportive Holmesian collector and reviewer, he was devoted to Sherlockian Pastiche and an expert in the area of Untold Cases. The theme for this collection grew from his suggestion, and he will be missed.

Editor's Introduction: Only Sixty?

By David Marcum

There are certain numbers that are triggers to deeply passionate Sherlockians. One of these is 221. I've discussed this with other people of like mind. If you're one of us, you know that feeling—when you're going through your day and look up to see that it's 2:21—hopefully in the afternoon, because you should be asleep for the other one. Seeing that it's 2:21 o'clock is a little thrill.

One can encounter 221 all over. Sometimes a lucky Sherlockian will be assigned 221 as a hotel room. (In her retirement home, my mother-in-law lived next door to someone in room 221, and I couldn't walk by that door without noticing it.) Maybe you have an office numbered 221, or at least you might have an appointment in one. If you're very lucky, your house number is 221—and I wonder how many non-London Baker Streets are there scattered throughout the world that have a 221 address?

I often notice when I reach page 221 in a book, and I know from asking that other Sherlockians do the same. (I was tickled a couple of years ago, while reading Lyndsay Faye's excellent collection of Holmes adventures, *The Whole Art of Detection*, to see that the story she'd written for the first MX collection, "The Adventure of the Willow Basket", began on page 221.)

Any American interstate that's long enough will have a marker for Mile 221, and just east of Nashville, Tennessee, where I'm sometimes able to attend meetings of The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem—a scion of which I'm a proudly invested member—there's a big sign for *Exit 221B* on the eastern side of Interstate-40. (My deerstalker and I have several photos in front of it.)

221 is a number that makes a Sherlockian look twice, but there's another—1895.

1895 is a year that falls squarely within Holmes's Baker Street practice—and I specify that location, because he had a Montague Street practice and unofficially a retirement-era Sussex practice as well, where he carried out the occasional investigation, while also spending a great amount of time first trying to prevent, and then trying to prepare for, the Great War of 1914–1918. But he was in Baker Street from 1881 to 1891 (when he was presumed to have died at the Reichenbach Falls,) and then again from 1894 (when he returned to London in April of that year) until autumn 1903, when his “retirement” began.

1895 isn't especially known as Holmes's busiest or most famous year. Make no mistake, there were some interesting cases then: “Wisteria Lodge”, “The Three Students”, “The Solitary Cyclist”, “Black Peter”, and “The Bruce-Partington Plans”. But 1894 is when Watson specifically mentions, in “The Golden Pince-Nez”, the three massive manuscript volumes which contain his and Holmes's work. And it was the 1880's, before The Great Hiatus, where all of those beloved adventures recorded in *The Adventures* and *The Memoirs* occurred. “The Speckled Band”, possibly one of the most famous of them all, took place in 1883. All four of the long published adventures, *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Sign of Four*, *The Valley of Fear*, and perhaps the most famous of tales, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, occur chronologically before 1895.

And yet, 1895 is still the representative year most mentioned by Sherlockians—“*where it is always 1895*” said Vincent Starrett at the conclusion of his famous poem *221B*, written in 1942, and so it is subsequently referenced in essays and gatherings and toasts as *the year*.

Written in the early days of U.S. involvement in World War II—but several years after much of the rest of the world had already tipped into the conflagration—the closing couplet of Starrett's poem reflects his likely despair at the terrible conflict:

*Here, though the world explode, these two survive,
And it is always eighteen ninety-five.*

I'm not a Starrett scholar, but I suspect that he was looking back to a more innocent time—or so it seemed when compared to the terrible war-torn world of 1942. (For many of the people actually in 1895, the world was a relatively terrible place for them too, for all kinds of different reasons.) But did Starrett simply mean to invoke the whole Holmesian era, a bygone past, or did he specifically want to focus on 1895? It's likely that the former is true, and that he simply used 1895 because *five* rhymes with *survive*. It could have just as easily have been a different number—although with less effect:

*Here, though the world explode, these two are fine,
And it is always eighteen ninety-nine.*

Imagine—but for a different word choice, we could have been finding ourselves misty-eyed when referring to 1899. Or Starrett could have used 1885 and still made the original rhyme work. Still, it's 1895 that we have, and so that's what we'll be going on with as the year that we associate with Mr. Holmes and Dr. Watson—although I'm quick to point out that it's 1895, *along with several decades on either side of it*.

Sixty Stories

Having explored 221 and 1895, there's another Sherlockian number that might not immediately spring to mind, but that doesn't diminish it, because it holds a great deal of power for some Sherlockians. That number is 60—as in, *sixty stories* in the original Sherlockian Canon. For some die-hard types out there, this is it. No more, forever, period, *The End*. There can only be sixty Holmes stories and anything beyond that is fraudulent abomination. (Except, of course, for those one or two stories on their lists that get a free pass because they're written by a friend, or a celebrity worthy of desperate cultivation, or by some deceased literary person.) It's amusing

for me to read various scholarly works, such as Martin Dakin's *A Sherlock Holmes Commentary* (1972), that don't even really like all of the original sixty Canonical adventures, let alone anything post-Canonical, picking apart the originals and speculating that this or that later Canonical narrative is a forgery.

I don't buy into that philosophy. Early on, I ran out of Canonical stories to read and wanted more. And I found them—some admittedly of lesser quality, but some better than the originals. Even at a young age, I understood that some of the original tales weren't quite as good as others, but those first sixty stories, presented by the First Literary Agent and of whatever varying levels of quality, were about the *true* Sherlock Holmes, and they let me visit in his world, and I wanted more. Thankfully, before I'd even read all of *The Canon*, I'd discovered those post-Canonical adventures designated as *pastiches*, so even as I re-read the original adventures countless times, I also read and re-read all of those others that told of new cases, or filled in the spaces between the originals.

Luckily, even Watson never acted as if Holmes only solved sixty cases and that was it. No matter how intriguing a personality is Sherlock Holmes, or how vivid his adventures are that they make a visit to Baker Street sometimes more real than tedious daily life, how could we truly argue that he's the world's greatest detective based on a mere and pitifully few sixty stories?

In "The Problem of Thor Bridge", Watson tells us that:

Somewhere in the vaults of the bank of Cox and Co., at Charing Cross, there is a travel-worn and battered tin dispatch box with my name, John H. Watson, M.D., Late Indian Army, painted upon the lid. It is crammed with papers, nearly all of which are records of cases to illustrate the curious problems which Mr. Sherlock Holmes had at various times to examine. Some, and not the least interesting, were complete failures, and as such will hardly bear narrating, since no final explanation is forthcoming. A problem without a solution may interest the student, but can hardly fail to annoy the casual reader... Apart from these unfathomed cases,

there are some which involve the secrets of private families to an extent which would mean consternation in many exalted quarters if it were thought possible that they might find their way into print. I need not say that such a breach of confidence is unthinkable, and that these records will be separated and destroyed now that my friend has time to turn his energies to the matter. There remain a considerable residue of cases of greater or less interest which I might have edited before had I not feared to give the public a surfeit which might react upon the reputation of the man whom above all others I revere. In some I was myself concerned and can speak as an eye-witness, while in others I was either not present or played so small a part that they could only be told as by a third person.

Thank goodness this incredible tin dispatch box has been accessed throughout the years by so many later Literary Agents to bring us all these other wonderful Holmes adventures. Many that have been revealed have been complete surprises, but sometimes we've discovered details about a special group of extra-Canonical adventures, those that fire the imagination to an even greater level: *The Untold Cases*.

Of course, they aren't called that in The Canon. The earliest references to *The Untold Cases* that I've heard of so far (with thanks to Beth Gallegos) are by Anthony Boucher in 1955, and by William S. Baring-Gould in his amazing *The Chronological Sherlock Holmes* (1955). Additionally, Charles Campbell located a reference to "stories yet untold" by Vincent Starrett in "In Praise of Sherlock Holmes" (in *Reedy's Mirror*, February 22, 1918). The *Untold Cases* are those intriguing references to Holmes's other cases that—for various reasons—were not chosen for publication. There were a lot of them—by some counts over one-hundred-and-forty—and in the years since Watson's passing in 1929, many of these narratives have been discovered and published.

For example, The Giant Rat of Sumatra...

Since the mid-1990's, I've been chronologizing both Canon and Pastiche, and as part of that, I note in my annotations when a particular narrative is an Untold Case. Glancing through my notes, I see that there are far too many narratives of The Untold Cases to list here. For example, just a quick glance through my own collection and Chronology reveals, in no particular order, these versions of perhaps the greatest and most intriguing Untold Case of them all, *The Giant Rat of Sumatra*:

- **The Giant Rat of Sumatra**—Rick Boyer (1976) (*Possibly the greatest pastiche of all time*)
- “*Matilda Briggs and the Giant Rat of Sumatra*”, **The Elementary Cases of Sherlock Holmes**—Ian Charnock (1999)
- **Mrs Hudson and the Spirit's Curse**—Martin Davies (2004)
- **Sherlock Holmes' Lost Adventure: The True Story of the Giant Rats of Sumatra**—Laurel Steinhauer (2004)
- **The Giant Rat of Sumatra**—Paul D. Gilbert (2010)
- “The Giant Rat of Sumatra”, **The Lost Stories of Sherlock Holmes**—Tony Reynolds (2010)
- **The Giant Rat of Sumatra**—Jake and Luke Thoene (1995)
- “The Adventure of the Giant Rat of Sumatra”, **Mary Higgins Clark Mystery Magazine**—John Lescroart, (December 1988)
- “The Case of the Sumatran Rat”, **The Secret Chronicles of Sherlock Holmes**—June Thomson (1992)
- “Sherlock Holmes and the Giant Rat of Sumatra”, **More From the Deed Box of John H. Watson MD**—Hugh Ashton (2012)
- “The Case of the Giant Rat of Sumatra”, **The Secret Notebooks of Sherlock Holmes**—Liz Hedgecock (2016)
- “The World is Now Prepared”—“slogging ruffian” (Fan Fiction) (Date unverified)
- “The Giant Rat of Sumatra”, **Sherlock Holmes: The Lost Cases**—Alvin F. Rymsha (2006)
- “The Giant Rat of Sumatra”, **The Oriental Casebook of Sherlock Holmes**—Ted Riccardi (2003)

- **Sherlock Holmes and the Limehouse Horror**—Phillip Pullman (1992, 2001)
- “No Rats Need Apply”, **The Unexpected Adventures of Sherlock Holmes**—Amanda Knight (2004)
- **The Shadow of the Rat**—David Stuart Davies (1999)
- **The Giant Rat of Sumatra**—Daniel Gracely (2001)
- “The Giant Rat of Sumatra”, **Resurrected Holmes**—Paula Volsky (1996)
- “The Mysterious Case of the Giant Rat of Sumatra”, **The Mark of the Gunn**—Brian Gibson (2000)
- **Sherlock Holmes and the Giant Rat of Sumatra**—Alan Vanneman (2002)
- “The Giant Rat of Sumatra”—Paul Boler (2000)
- “The Case of the Missing Energy”, **The Einstein Paradox**—Colin Bruce (1994)
- “All This and the Giant Rat of Sumatra”, **Sherlock Holmes and The Baker Street Dozen**—Val Andrews (1997)

In addition to these that are available, there’s also one that isn’t—possibly the earliest telling of “The Giant Rat”, the intriguing radio version by Edith Meiser, which was broadcast multiple times: With Richard Gordon as Holmes on April 20th (although some sources say June 9th), 1932, and again on July 18th, 1936; and then on March 1st, 1942 (with Basil Rathbone as Holmes). Sadly, these versions are apparently lost, although I’d dearly love to hear—and read—them!

Although Rathbone and Bruce performed Edith Meiser’s version of “The Giant Rat” in 1942, they weren’t limited to just that version. A completely different version, this time by Bruce Taylor (Leslie Charteris) and Denis Green, was broadcast on July 31st, 1944. Amazingly, Charteris’s scripts have been located by Ian Dickerson, who is in the process of publishing them for modern audiences who would otherwise have never had the chance to enjoy these lost cases. And even more amazing, Mr. Dickerson has allowed the 1944 version of “The Giant Rat” to premiere here in these concurrent Untold Cases volumes.

What makes this twice as much fun is that also appearing in these books is Nick Cardillo's new 2018 version of "The Giant Rat", showing that there can be more than one version of an Untold Case without any of them being the definitive version.

More than one version...

The list shown above is by no means a complete representation of all the Giant Rat narratives. These are simply the ones that I found when making a pass along the shelves of my Holmes Collection, and what jumped out during a quick search through my Chronology. The thing to remember is that *in spite of every one of these stories being about a Giant Rat, none of them contradict one another or cancel each other out to become the only true Giant Rat adventure.*

Something that I learned very early, far before I created my Chronology back in the mid-1990's, is that there are lots of sequels to the original Canonical tales, and there are also lots of different versions of the Untold Tales. Some readers, of course, don't like and will never accept any of them, since they didn't cross the First Literary Agent's desk. Others, however, only wish to seek out the sole and single account that satisfies them the most, therefore dismissing the others as "*fiction*"—a word that I find quite distasteful when directed toward Mr. Sherlock Holmes

My approach is that if the different versions of either sequels or Untold Cases are Canonical, and don't violate any of the same rules that define what types of tales appear in these anthologies—no parodies, no anachronisms, no actual supernatural encounters, no murderous sociopathic Holmes portrayals—then they are legitimate.

Perhaps it seems too unlikely for some that there were so many Giant Rats in London during Holmes's active years. Not at all. Each Giant Rat adventure mentioned above is very different, and in any case, Watson was a master at obfuscation. He changed names and dates to satisfy all sorts of needs. For instance, he often made it appear at times as if Holmes went for weeks in fits of settee-bound depression between cases, when in fact he was involved constantly

in thousands upon thousands of cases, each intertwined like incredibly complex threads in The Great Holmes Tapestry.

Although not represented in this volume, there have been many stories about Holmes and Watson's encounter with Huret, the Boulevard Assassin, in 1894. Contradictory? Not at all. Holmes simply rooted out an entire nest of *Al Qaeda*-like assassins during that deadly summer. There are a lot of tales out there relating the peculiar persecution of John Vincent Harden in 1895. No problem—there were simply a lot of tobacco millionaires in London during that time, all peculiarly persecuted—but in very different ways—and Watson lumped them in his notes under the catch-all name of *John Vincent Harden*. Later Literary Agents, not quite knowing how to conquer Watson's personal codes and reverse-engineer who the real client was in these cases, simply left the name as written.

What Counts as an Untold Case?

As mentioned, there have been over one-hundred identified Untold Cases, although some arguments are made one way or another as to whether some should be included. Do Holmes's various stops during The Great Hiatus—such as Persia and Mecca and Khartoum—each count as an Untold Case? (To me they do.) What about certain entries in Holmes's good old index, like "*Viggo, the Hammersmith Wonder*" or "*Vittoria, the Circus Belle*"? Possibly they were just clippings about odd people from the newspaper, but I—and many other later Literary Agents—prefer to think of these as Holmes's past cases. Then there are the cases that involve someone else's triumph—or do they?—like Lestrade's "Molesley Mystery" (mentioned in "The Empty House", where the most well-known Scotland Yard inspector competently handled an investigation during Holmes's Hiatus absence), or "The Long Island Cave Mystery", as solved by Leverton of the Pinkertons, and referenced in "The Red Circle". (And as an aside, I have to castigate Owen Dudley Edwards, the editor of the Oxford annotated edition of *The Canon* [1993], who decided to change *the Long Island Cave* to *Cove* simply because "*there are no caves in Long Island, N.Y.*" (p.

206)—thus derailing a long-standing point of Canonical speculation. Pfui!)

And then there's the matter of the Oxford Comma, sometimes known as the "Serial" or "Terminal" Comma. A quick search of the internet found this example of *incorrect* usage: *This book is dedicated to my parents, Ayn Rand and God*. Clearly this author either had some interesting parents, or more likely he or she needed to use a comma after *Rand* to differentiate that series of parents, Ayn, and Deity.

And that relates to Untold Cases in this way: There are two Untold Cases that might actually be four, depending on one's use (or not) of the Oxford Comma. In "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez", Watson tells of some of the cases that occurred in 1894. As he states:

As I turn over the pages I see my notes upon the repulsive story of the red leech and the terrible death of Crosby the banker. Here also I find an account of the Addleton tragedy and the singular contents of the ancient British barrow.

I have many adventures in my collection that present these as two cases: (1) *The repulsive story of the red leech and the terrible death of Crosby the banker* and (2) *The Addleton tragedy and the singular contents of the ancient British barrow*. All are very satisfying. But I also have others that split them up into four cases: (1) *The repulsive story of the red leech* and (2) *the terrible death of Crosby the banker* and (3) *the Addleton tragedy* and (4) *the singular contents of the ancient British barrow*. For this collection, Nik Morton and Thomas Fortenberry have chosen to assume that the comma was intentionally omitted, and that there are two cases here, and not four, to be related.

More about the Oxford Comma...

As an amateur editor, I honour the Oxford Comma. I've been aware of it for years, ever since reading—somewhere—that editor *extraordinaire* Frederic Dannay (of Ellery Queen-fame and found-

er and the founding editor of *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* from 1941–1982,) was a strong supporter of it. When writing this foreword, I couldn't remember where I'd read that, so I asked his son, Richard Dannay, who replied:

I can say with certainty that my father believed in the serial, or Oxford, or terminal (pick your poison) comma. I have no doubt. But sitting here, I'm not sure where he said that in print. I'll need to think about that. But I will send you a secondary source, absolutely unimpeachable in accuracy, where his preference is described.

And then he sent me a PDF excerpt from Eleanor Sullivan's *Whodunit: A Biblio-Bio-Anecdotal Memoir of Frederic Dannay* (Targ Editions, NY, 1984, pp. 17–18). Ms. Sullivan was Dannay's chief editorial assistant for *EQMM* for many years, and after he died, she became the *EQMM* editor as his successor for about ten years before her premature death. (As Richard pointed out, the current editor is Janet Hutchings, only the third *EQMM* editor in its now over seventy-five-year history.)

Ms. Sullivan wrote:

Fred's style in editing EQMM could be considered eccentric, but I soon became used to it because there was his special logic behind everything he did. I didn't know he was exasperated by my non-use of the terminal comma (that is, a comma between the second-to-last word in a series of words and the "and") until one day when we were discussing some copy I'd sent him, he sighed dramatically and said, "I wish you could learn to use the terminal comma." I've been scrupulous about using it ever since.

Recalling Frederic Dannay's passion for the Oxford Comma, I try to notice and then to add one in every place that needs it in these books. Having hubristically stated that, I'm absolutely certain that sure you will find places where I've missed it, along

with many other unfortunate typos. These books live and grow as a single ever-expanding Word document on my computer—I have no publishing software—until such time as I send the final version to amazing publisher Steve Emecz, and they aren't seen by anyone else before their publication. There are no other proof-readers or editors who have a crack at them, and I'm flying without a net here. (My incredible wife of thirty-plus years has a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, and two Master's Degrees in English Literature and Library Science, and her first job years ago was as a copy editor, but these books are neither her passion nor her problem, so I can't ask her to proofread them.) I've had several offers from volunteers to proofread, but due to the fast turn-around involved in this new publishing paradigm, that simply isn't possible. Thus, the errors that you find that throw you out of the story are on my head. Mortifying things sometimes slip through, and I apologize. But I do try to catch and fix every Oxford Comma situation that I can.

Other Untold Cases

While editing and assembling this particular set of books, I was concurrently working on *Sherlock Holmes: Adventures Beyond the Canon* (2018) for Belanger books, a three-volume set of twenty-nine new adventures that are sequels to The Canon. (It was amazing fun reading and editing all of these stories—over fifty of them between these five books—fresh from the Tin Dispatch Box, while keeping straight which went with which book.) Like the Untold Cases, these sequels don't contradict any of the sequels that have come before. One can't have too many traditional tales about the true Sherlock Holmes, and thankfully there are many more still out there. (I'm already receiving stories for next year's *Part XIII: 2019 Annual* from MX, and sequels for the next Belanger collection.)

As mentioned, there are far too many Untold Cases to list or recommend. The first encounter that I recall with attempts to reveal the Untold Cases was in *The Exploits of Sherlock Holmes* (1954) by a son of the First Literary Agent, Adrian Conan Doyle, and famed locked-room author John Dickson Carr. At the end of each of those twelve stories, a quote from The Canon revealed

which Untold Case that it was—since it wasn't always clear from the story's title—and how it was originally mentioned. I liked that, and have followed the same convention with this book.

Many later stories have related Untold Cases, such as some included in collections like *The Mammoth Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories* (1997) and *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1985). Others have appeared in the new *Strand Magazine* edited by Andrew Gulli, Bert Coules' amazing *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, or on Jim French's famed *Imagination Theatre*, broadcast on radio for decades across the U.S.

Interestingly, Untold Cases have been presented in Holmes radio shows since the 1930's, but they are much more rare in television episodes and movies. Sadly, except for some Russian efforts and a few stand-alone films, there have been no Sherlock Holmes television shows whatsoever since the Jeremy Brett films from Granada in the 1980's and 1990's. Hopefully, a set of film scripts by Bert Coules featuring an age-appropriate Holmes and Watson, set in the early 1880's, will find a home soon. I've been wanting to see (or read) these for years, and I'm curious as to whether any other Untold Cases feature in them—especially since Bert covered some of them so well in his radio scripts.

Some authors have specialized in finding the Untold Cases, like June Thomson, and more recently Hugh Ashton. For the record, I tried to recruit June twice to these books, and she wrote me some nice letters declining due to age. From the beginning of this anthology series, Hugh has been extremely supportive, and I'm very glad that he's a part of these books.

Philip K. Jones and the Untold Cases

I first became aware of Phil Jones back in the mid-when I ran across his amazing and massive online Pastiche Database. I've been collecting pastiches since I first found Holmes at age ten, in 1975, and have thousands of them on my shelves. I've scoured libraries and copied them from magazines and journals—a dime a page at old Xerox machines—and I've printed and archived them from the internet. I've bought Holmes books and asked for books—with tra-

ditional pastiches having first priority—as birthday and Christmas presents. I think that I’ve acquired one of the best pastiche collections ever. But finding Phil’s database made me realize that it was only a drop in the bucket—and it also gave me new directions in which to hunt.

Phil was born in Missouri in 1938 and raised in Michigan. He worked in Information Technology for many years, and upon retirement turned his attention to Sherlock Holmes Literature.

In 2011, I published my first Holmes story collection, *The Papers of Sherlock Holmes* (later reprinted by MX in 2013). I desperately wanted it to be included in Phil’s database, because to me that felt like I was actually (and finally) a part of this amazing World of Holmes. Phil and I began emailing, and I learned that he also wrote very respected Holmesian reviews. I was very thrilled when he took the time to review my book.

Later, when the first of the MX anthologies appeared, he was one of the most supportive fans. I still treasure his comment about the first volume, where he said: *This first volume, on its own, is the finest anthology of Sherlockian fiction I have ever read.*” That means a lot coming from a man who has read so many Sherlockian adventures.

Over the years we continued to communicate. He sent me copies of his scholarly articles, and I learned that, not only did he list in his database when a story was an Untold Case, but he had also done a lot of research into defining all of them, as well as devising his own story-title code, rather like what Jay Finley Christ did for The Canonical stories. Back in November 2011, we traded emails where he lamented that that he had found a story for every one of the Untold Cases except for “The St. Pancras Case” (as mentioned in “Shoscombe Old Place”), where a cap was found beside the dead policeman, and Merivale of the Yard asked Holmes to look into it. I was able to point him toward a fan-fiction called “Merivale of the Yard” by the uniquely named “AdidasandPie”, and he was able to cross it of his list.

Also in 2011, Phil wrote a book with Sherlockian Bob Burr, *The Punishment of Sherlock Holmes* (MX Publishing), demonstrating

his great love of puns. A couple of times he offered to write a pun-filled story for the MX anthologies, but I had to turn him down, as the scope of the books was absolutely Canonical. Conversely, I never stopped trying to get him to write a traditional adventure, because I thought that he, who had done so much to support post-Canonical adventures, should be a part of these books. He didn't feel that he had one in him.

On January 31st, 2017, Phil wrote to Steve Emezc and me with an idea for a future anthology volume. He stated:

[M]y suggestion is that you produce an anthology in this series devoted to The Untold Tales ... One of the good features of this project is that authors would discover that there are more than the two- or three-dozen commonly told Untold tales, some quite obscure, but intriguing. Another is that authors could fit almost any story idea into the one-hundred-and-thirty available subjects.

As you can see, Phil's idea stuck in my head, and on February 19th, 2017, I issued the first invitations for submissions to what became the volume that you hold in your hands.

I wanted Phil to write a foreword to this book, and on July 19th, 2018, I sent an email to follow up on that. Three days later, I received a reply from Phil's wife, Phyllis Jones, indicating that Phil had passed away in June 13th, 2018.

I was stunned, and when I related the information online to various Sherlockian groups, there was shock, as well as a great outpouring of what a great guy Phil was, and what a loss this was to the community.

Therefore, as you'll see, these two concurrent volumes, *Parts XI and XII: Some Untold Cases*, are dedicated to Phil Jones. He was the Untold Cases Scholar, and the theme for these books was his idea. If he wasn't able to write a foreword, at least he can be honoured in this way.

"Of course, I could only stammer out my thanks."

– *The unhappy John Hector McFarlane,*
“The Norwood Builder”

These last few years have been an amazing. I’ve been able to meet some incredible people, both in person and in the modern electronic way, and also I’ve been able to read several hundred new Holmes adventures, all to the benefit of the Stepping Stones School at Undershaw, one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s homes. The contributors to these MX anthologies donate their royalties to the school, and so far we’ve raised over \$30,000.

First and foremost, as with every one of these projects that I attempt, I want to thank my amazing and incredibly wonderful wife (of thirty-plus years!) Rebecca, and our truly awesome son and my friend, Dan. I love you both, and you are everything to me!

I have all the gratitude in the world for the contributors who have used their time to create this project. I’m so glad to have gotten to know all of you through this process. It’s an undeniable fact that Sherlock Holmes authors are the *best* people!

Next, I’d like to thank those who offer support, encouragement, and friendship, sometimes patiently waiting on me to reply as my time is directed in many other directions. Many many thanks to (in alphabetical order): Bob Byrne, Mark Mower, Denis Smith, Tom Turley, Dan Victor, and Marcia Wilson.

Additionally, I’d also like to especially thank:

Steve Emecz—Always supportive of every idea that I pitch—and there are some forthcoming projects that aren’t common knowledge yet. It’s been my great good fortune to cross your path—it changed my life, and let me play in this Sherlockian Sandbox in a way that would have never happened otherwise. Thank you for every opportunity!

Lyndsay Faye—I remember first reading her wonderful Holmes-versus-The Ripper novel *Dust and Shadow* (2009) while in a motel room in Asheville, NC, where my son and I had taken a weekend trip. (I see from the note on the front page where I wrote my name

that it was a gift from my wife and son for my birthday that year.) By then, I'd been keeping my Holmes Chronology for over ten years, so I read it while making notes as to how it would fit into the Autumn of Terror, 1888—since that's a very complex period, and certainly Holmes's finest hour.

I recall seeing in several interviews that this book—her first—was written during a period of unemployment. Since it was published in 2009, possibly she was unemployed in 2008—a year when I was also jobless, laid off from an engineering company at the start of The Great Recession and using my time to pull some stories from Watson's tin dispatch box.

I continued to read her stories as they appeared in *The Strand* magazine, beginning with “The Case of the Beggar's Feast”—an Untold Case!—in issue No. 29, (October 2009). She clearly had hit a hot wire running into the Great Watsonian Oversoul.

In January 2015, I had the idea for these anthologies and started writing to a few Sherlockian authors that I really admired, hoping that they might be convinced to join the party. On January 25th, 2015, 11:16 am, I wrote to Lyndsay, explaining the project, and hoping against hope that she would be interested. At 4:54 pm—the engineer in me had to go and check—she wrote back with: *Hi David, I'd be happy to—when do you need it by?*

Later, when it became obvious that this would be a series instead of a one-time thing, I contacted everyone who had previously participated, including Lyndsay. However, her many commitments as a professional author prevented additional contributions—until now. On March 27th, 2018, I wrote to see if she would write a foreword. The next day, she replied, *Hey David, I would be absolutely delighted to write a foreword!*

Lyndsay is a true Sherlockian, and I'm very jealous that she's up there at Ground Zero of the U.S. Holmesian world, with Otto Penzler's Mysterious Bookshop and various Baker Street Irregular activities, while I'm looking on from out here the Delta Quadrant. Sometimes when I've pestered her too much for a story, or when she thinks that I've been too public with my views about certain television shows, she's made the effort to write and tell me how I've

vexed her—and I’m glad to have her thoughts on these matters, even if she hasn’t changed my mind. I’m very grateful for her time and the support that she’s given to these books—and also personally to this Tennessee Sherlockian!

Roger Johnson—From the first time I reached out to Roger, upon the occasion of my first published book, he has been amazingly supportive, and I’m glad that he’s my friend. He and his wife Jean were incredible hosts when I stayed with them as part of Holmes Pilgrimage No. II in 2015, and I’ll never forget the times that he has showed me Chelmsford, Colchester, and parts of London. He led me to the market where I purchased my black deerstalker—because even though I have two-dozen other deerstalkers, I absolutely needed a formal black one. And I’ll also never forget when our late afternoon train to leave Colchester was delayed, and we were walking briskly through the crowds, back-and-forth, from one platform to another, trying to get the next train. I was having fun—after all, I was in England, and I was wearing my deerstalker on a British railway platform racing for a train. I told Roger that we were having an adventure, and he said indignantly, “*I don’t have adventures!*”

Roger has supported these and other books from the beginning, and I am incredibly thankful.

Derrick Belanger—Even as I was putting these books together, I was editing stories for a three-volume set of stories from Belanger Books, *Sherlock Holmes: Adventures Beyond the Canon*, featuring twenty-nine sequels to the original tales. This is just one of many past and future projects that Derrick, his brother Brian, and I have going. But additionally, I’ve enjoyed getting to know Derrick over the last few years, ever since our first enthusiastic emails sharing all sorts of Sherlockian thoughts. Derrick: Thanks very much for your friendship, as well as the Sherlockian opportunities.

Brian Belanger—Brian is incredibly talented graphic artist who grows from success to success. Additionally, he’s a positive and

gifted person. Brian: Thank you so much for all that you do—it's appreciated by many people besides me!

Richard Dannay—I'm very grateful that I can write Richard every few months with a question, or just wanting to discuss some aspect of Ellery Queen, and he quickly replies with exactly what I need. It's a thrill being able to correspond with him.

Ian Dickerson—In the previous MX anthology volume, *Part IX (1879–1895)*, Ian explained how he came to be responsible for a number of long-lost scripts from the 1944 season of the Holmes radio show, starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, and written by Denis Green and Leslie Charteris (under the name Bruce Taylor). When I was writing this foreword and researching various versions of “The Giant Rat”, I came across mention of the Basil Rathbone version. It was simply going to be mentioned in passing, and then I thought to ask Ian about it.

He's published one set of the scripts—*Sherlock Holmes: The Lost Radio Scripts* (2017), and more recently another set—*Sherlock Holmes: More Lost Radio Scripts* (2018). I either wanted to mention the Rathbone “Giant Rat” if it's going to be in the current volume, or possibly use it if it won't be published until a later collection. Ian informed me that “The Giant Rat” isn't in the current book, and that I could have it if I wished for this collection. Of course I wanted it.

Ian then worked like a crazy man, transcribing the original script into a new Word document, and within a very few days of my request, I had it in hand, and ready for editing. It was an incredible effort.

I'm very grateful to Ian for allowing this one to appear in these volumes before it's reprinted in one of the other upcoming volumes. When I first discovered Holmes, I quickly found a number of Rathbone and Bruce broadcasts on records at the public library, and that was where I first “heard” Holmes. I can't express the thrill of getting to read these rediscovered lost treasures, having been

tantalized by their titles for so long. Many thanks to Ian for making these available.

Andrew Gulli—For resurrecting *The Strand* magazine, and then for (usually) including a Holmes story, I'm very thankful. Additionally, your support, especially in publishing some of my own Holmes adventures in *The Strand*—truly a bucket list item fulfilled!—and also for your kind words about me during your interview on *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere* are very much appreciated.

Joel Senter—While these volumes were being prepared, Sherlockian Joel Senter passed away. I'll write more about him in the next MX volumes (in Spring 2019), but I'm grateful for everything that he did to support me personally over the years, and also how he helped these books in so many ways, including writing (with his wife Carolyn) the final story in the original three-volume set, *Parts I, II, and III*. He will be missed.

Melissa Grigsby—Thank you for the incredible work that you do at the Stepping Stones School in at Undershaw Hindhead. I was both amazed and thrilled to visit the school on opening day in 2016, and I hope to get back there again some time. You are doing amazing things, and it's my honour, as well that of all the contributors to this project, to be able to help.

In addition those mentioned above—Bob Byrne, Derrick Belanger, Roger Johnson, Mark Mower, Denis Smith, Tom Turley, Dan Victor, and Marcy Wilson—I'd also like to especially thank, in alphabetical order: Larry Albert, Hugh Ashton, Deanna Baran, Jayantika Ganguly, Paul Gilbert, Dick Gillman, Arthur Hall, Mike Hogan, Craig Janacek, Tracy Revels, Roger Riccard, Geri Schear, and Tim Symonds. From the very beginning, these special contributors have stepped up and supported this and other projects over and over again with their contributions. They are the best and I can't explain how valued they are.

Finally, last but certainly *not* least, **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**: Author, doctor, adventurer, and the Founder of the Sherlockian Feast. Present in spirit, and honoured by all of us here.

As always, this collection, like those before it, has been a labour of love by both the participants and myself. As I've explained before, once again everyone did their sincerest best to produce an anthology that truly represents why Holmes and Watson have been so popular for so long. These are just more tiny threads woven into the ongoing Great Holmes Tapestry, continuing to grow and grow, for there can *never* be enough stories about the man whom Watson described as "*the best and wisest ... whom I have ever known.*"

David Marcum

August 7th, 2018

The 166th Birthday of Dr. John H. Watson

*Questions, comments, and story submissions
may be addressed to David Marcum at
thepapersofsherlockholmes@gmail.com*

Lose Yourself in New Pastiche

by Lyndsay Faye

When kindly folks ask me to write about Sherlock Holmes, my answer ought to be carved into a woodblock so I can stamp it on every occasion: I would love to. Yes, absolutely! But I do this for a living, weirdly—the writing, storytelling, etc. And it takes me about three weeks to craft a good short story, so I am careful about my *pro bono* projects. I always say, if you're not good enough for poetry, write short stories. And if you're not good enough for short stories, write novels.

I write mostly novels, by the way.

I can recall the exact moment when David asked me to contribute a Holmes pastiche for the first volume to benefit Undershaw. I remember it because I immediately said absolutely yes, turned it in, saw it in print, and then was relentlessly hounded for more pastiches until the point when I said (pretty much) never ever ask me this again.

So he asked me to write a forward.

I'm not telling this story in a negative light, in case anyone was wondering. In fact, David is responsible for a huge amount of new stories existing. He badgers, he cajoles, he solicits, he wheedles, and he cadges. It works. I value very few things more than I value new Sherlock Holmes stories, so I applaud these results.

Let this be a proclamation: David Marcum, and the authors featured herein, have brought more Sherlock Holmes stories into the world. The tales are fantastic. They are traditional, which is tricky. They are labours of love. And David Marcum loves Sherlock Holmes the way I do, never quite forgetting about him as we walk around grocery shopping or vegetable chopping or bar hopping.

Lose yourself in new pastiches. Nitpick them. Love them. Analyze them.

Whatever you do with them, I'm simply glad they exist in the world.

Lyndsay Faye
BSI, ASH
July 2018

Known Unknowns

by Roger Johnson

To borrow a phrase from a very different discipline, the cases that Dr. Watson mentions but doesn't actually relate are *known unknowns*.¹ We know that Sherlock Holmes did investigate the singular affair of the aluminium crutch, the Smith-Mortimer succession case, and the adventure of the old Russian woman, but the details are not recorded in the sixty Canonical accounts, and therefore remain unknown.

A recent meeting of *The Sherlock Holmes Society of London* was devoted to some of these unreported exploits. Eleven members were each invited to select the story that best deserved to be published and, within five minutes, to explain why. We were encouraged to avoid the likes of the giant rat of Sumatra and the whole story concerning the politician, the lighthouse, and the trained cormorant, but there were more than eighty others more to choose from.

I commended the case of the Second Stain.

“The Adventure of the Yellow Face” opens thus: “*In publishing these short sketches based upon the numerous cases in which my companion’s singular gifts have made us the listeners to, and eventually the actors in, some strange drama, it is only natural that I should dwell rather upon his successes than upon his failures. And this not so much for the sake of his reputation—for, indeed, it was when he was at his wits’ end that his energy and his versatility were most*

[1] In 2002, speaking of the evidence, or lack of evidence, linking the Iraqi government to the supply of weapons to terrorist groups, Donald Rumsfeld used the expressions “*known knowns*”, “*known unknowns*”, and “*unknown unknowns*”. This is not meaningless jargon: The terms are precise and entirely relevant.

*admirable—but because where he failed it happened too often that no one else succeeded, and that the tale was left forever without a conclusion. Now and again, however, it chanced that even when he erred, the truth was still discovered. I have noted of some half-dozen cases of the kind; the affair of the second stain and that which I am about to recount are the two which present the strongest features of interest.”*²

Fascinating! But in “The Adventure of the Naval Treaty”, we’re told that the case of the Second Stain occurred in “*the July which immediately succeeded [Watson’s] marriage*” and that it “*deals with interest of such importance and implicates so many of the first families in the kingdom that for many years it will be impossible to make it public. No case, however, in which Holmes was engaged has ever illustrated the value of his analytical methods so clearly or has impressed those who were associated with him so deeply. I still retain an almost verbatim report of the interview in which he demonstrated the true facts of the case to Monsieur Dubuque of the Paris police, and Fritz von Waldbaum, the well-known specialist of Dantzig, both of whom had wasted their energies upon what proved to be side-issues.*”

Clearly we have two different cases, each dependent upon a second stain! Even more extraordinary is that neither of them is the investigation eventually chronicled in *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*.

Having heard the outcome of each speaker’s scholarly speculation—or inventive fiction—or outrageous parody—our listeners voted for the case that best merited actual publication. My preference was firmly for the case of the two Coptic Patriarchs, advocated by the Revd. Simon Smyth, who is himself a priest of the Coptic Orthodox Church. It was exciting to learn that there actually *were* two Coptic Patriarchs at the time, and their followers were not on friendly terms. (Imagine those tense years in Western Europe when there were rival Popes). However, the winner by several lengths was the Dundas Separation Case, of which Holmes

[2] At least, that’s how it runs in the standard British text. The American text follows *The Strand Magazine* in classing “The Musgrave Ritual” as a case in which Holmes failed to discover the truth. Which is patently untrue.

said, “*as it happens, I was engaged in clearing up some small points in connection with it. The husband was a teetotaller, there was no other woman, and the conduct complained of was that he had drifted into the habit of winding up every meal by taking out his false teeth and hurling them at his wife...*” According to Peter Horrocks, who claimed that an account of this investigation, more than any of the others, deserved to be published, the “*separation*” was not between husband and wife, but between Mr. Dundas and his dentures!

Fortunately—perhaps—you won’t find anything of the sort in this book. David Marcum has ensured that the contributions are firmly in the tradition established by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and followed to their great credit by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr, William E. Dudley, Martin Edwards, M.J. Elliott, James C. Iraldi, Barrie Roberts, Denis O. Smith, Edgar W. Smith, June Thomson, Alan Wilson—and others who have written first-rate accounts of exploits that were merely hinted at by Dr. Watson.³

Enjoy!

Roger Johnson
BSI, ASH
July, 2018

[3] I’ll also recommend the adventures of Solar Pons, “The Sherlock Holmes of Praed Street”, created by August Derleth and active between the wars. His cases included “The Adventure of Ricoletti of the Club Foot”, “The Adventure of the Remarkable Worm”, “The Adventure of the Grice-Paterson Curse”, “The Adventure of the Trained Cormorant”, and “The Adventure of the Aluminium Crutch”. His authorised chronicler is now the amazingly industrious David Marcum.

An Ongoing Legacy for Sherlock Holmes

by Steve Emecz



Undershaw, Circa 1900

It is three years since the first volumes of this series, and it's wonderful that we've reached Volumes XI and XII. We have raised over \$30,000 for Stepping Stones School—the majority of which from the generous donation of the royalties from all the authors, but also from some interesting licensing deals in Japan and India. With this money, the school has been able to fund projects that would be very difficult to organise otherwise—especially those to preserve the legacy of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle at Undershaw.

There are now over two-hundred-and-fifty stories and well over a hundred authors taking part. We have new writers, unknown authors, established names, and even a few *New York Times* bestselling authors (like Lee Child) taking part. With more stories on the way under the careful eye of our wonderful editor David Marcum, the collection goes from strength to strength.

The critics agree that not only is it the largest, but *The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories* is the highest quality collection of new Holmes stories ever compiled. The last five volumes have all had glowing reviews from Publishers Weekly—Here are a few sample quotes:

“The traditional pastiche is alive and well, as shown by the 35 Sherlock Holmes stories in Marcum’s excellent sixth all-original anthology”

“This is a must-have for all Sherlockians.”

“Marcum continues to impress with the quality of his selections, many from little-known authors, in his seventh anthology of traditional pastiches”

“Sherlockians eager for faithful-to-the-canon plots and characters will be delighted.”

“The imagination of the contributors in coming up with variations on the volume’s theme is matched by their ingenious resolutions.”

“Sherlockians will rejoice that more volumes are on the way.”

MX Publishing is a social enterprise—all the staff, including me, are volunteers with day jobs. In addition to Stepping Stones School, our main program that we support is the Happy Life Children’s Home in Kenya. My wife Sharon and I have spent the last five Christmases at the baby rescue centre in Nairobi. We have

written a book called *The Happy Life Story* which explains how this incredible project has saved the lives of over five-hundred abandoned babies in its first fifteen years, with many being adopted. During the time that we have been involved, we've seen the project expand to include a school and now an incredible hospital which is saving lives every week.

Our support of both of these projects is possible through the publishing of Sherlock Holmes books, which we have now been doing for a decade. Our very first book was called *Eliminate The Impossible*, and we now have over three-hundred titles in print.

You can find out more information about the Stepping Stones School at www.steppingstones.org.uk, and Happy Life at www.happylifechildrenshomes.com. You can obtain more books from MX, both fiction and non-fiction, at www.sherlockholmesbooks.com. If you would like to become involved with these projects or help out in any way, please reach out to me via LinkedIn.

Steve Emecz

July, 2018

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The Doyle Room at Stepping Stones, Undershaw
*Partially funded through royalties from The MX
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A Word from the Head Teacher of Stepping Stones

by Melissa Grigsby



Undershaw, September 9, 2016
Grand Opening of the Stepping Stones School
(Photograph courtesy of Roger Johnson)

As Stepping Stones School sails into its third year at Undershaw, we reflect on the unfinished and unknown tales that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle never drew to a close or was unable to complete.

One such story was that of “The Giant Rat of Sumatra”, a story that distorted one’s imagination beyond the concepts of the days he sat to unfold and write his stories. Within his writings, Doyle has Sherlock Holmes declare, as an aside, to Dr. Watson: