



## An Inquiry into: "The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger"

"The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger" was first published in *Liberty Magazine* on January 22, 1927. It was published in *The Strand Magazine*, on February 1927. It is part of *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*.

Canon chronologists agree that this case took place in 1896; that being so, then at the time Holmes was 42 years old and Watson 44.

### Main Characters:

Mrs. Merrilow, Eugenia Ronder, Mr. Ronder, Leonardo, Sahara King.

### Notable Quotes:

I deprecate, however, in the strongest way the attempts which have been made lately to get at and to destroy these papers. The source of these outrages is known, and if they are repeated I have Mr. Holmes's authority for saying that the whole story concerning the politician, the lighthouse, and the trained cormorant will be given to the public. There is at least one reader who will understand.

"The ways of fate are indeed hard to understand. If there is not some compensation hereafter, then the world is a cruel jest."

"Your life is not your own. Keep your hands off it."

### The Holmes Papers

As our case opens, Watson informs us that there have been attempts to destroy papers that hold information about Holmes' various cases, giving us yet another tantalizing hint of another of the Great Detective's 140 or so unpublished cases.

It is not unusual for governments to seal certain papers for decades if not more (when they do not outright destroy them). For instance, it is now a well-known fact that Winston Churchill sought to block the release of secret Second World War documents revealing Nazi plans to install the Duke of Windsor as king in the event of a successful German invasion. So it is not strange that our sleuth's papers kept their explosive capabilities for a number of years.

### The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger

Chronologist	Date of the Adventure
Canon	Late 1896
Baring-Gold	October 1896
Bell	Autumn 1896
Blakeney	Winter 1896
Brend	Early November 1896
Christ	Autumn 1890
Dakin	October(?) 1896
Folsom	September 1902
Hall	Early 1896
Keefauver	Tuesday, September 22, 1896
Klinger	1896
Zeisler	October 1896

What I do find interesting is that upon his retirement, Holmes gave custody of these potentially scandalous documents to Watson. This displays on the part of Holmes unlimited confidence and trust in his friend and colleague by making him the guardian of these notes despite the fact that, as he complained in *LION*, he and the Good Doctor were no longer in close, regular contact. That aside, if the material is so delicate and could unleash so much damage, why would Holmes have chosen not to keep them under his direct control?



To me, at least, it seems blatantly obvious that the Good Doctor's threat to reveal details about the story concerning the politician, the lighthouse and the trained cormorant was directed to someone in government: "There is at least one reader who will understand."

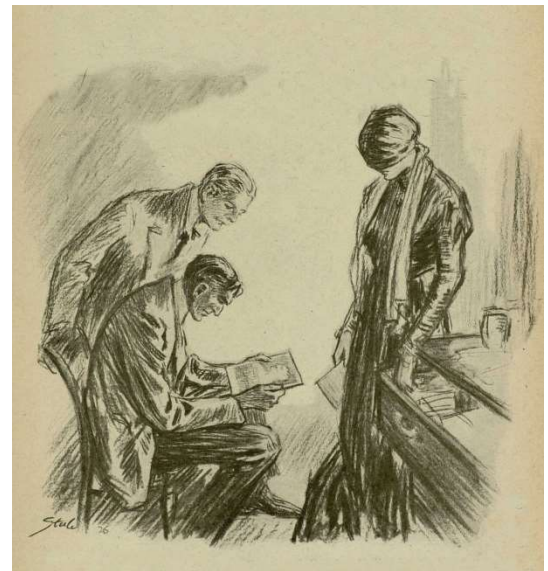
Could it be that the disappearance of that "large tin box" was a government move to keep that information from getting out?

### *Eugenía's Intentions*

In some ways, one might wish to know a little more about Eugenia Ronder, and exactly what propelled her to bring Holmes into her life.

Ostensibly, from what she said, she wanted to clear her conscience by letting the world know what had really happened so many years ago. Her reason was that she did not have much life left; why she thought this is never revealed. As far as we know, it could have been just a feeling on her part, or some physical infirmity that was slowly killing her, or simply a decision to end her own life. We just do not know.

For someone who wanted to keep away from the world, why would she have chosen Sherlock Holmes for her revelation? Understandably, she knew about him by being one of Watson's many readers. However, she had to realize that this might end her hidden, private existence. There was no assurance—as Holmes himself warned her—that he would not consider it necessary to go to the authorities after hearing her story.



She could easily have accomplished this in writing, setting down all the facts and then leaving everything in a sealed letter in the care of an attorney who would forward it to the proper authorities at the appropriate time.

### *What else happened in 1896:*

#### *Empire*



Jameson Raid in South Africa; British negotiations with Boers (to 1899) fail.

◀ Anglo-French treaty settles boundaries in Siam.

Kaiser's telegram to Kruger, congratulating him on the defeat of the Jameson Raid.

Matabele Revolt suppressed (1896 - 97).

Protectorate established in Sierra Leone and East Africa.

Start of Kitchener's campaign against the Madhi in the Sudan (1896 - 99).

Sudanese railway extended to Wadi Haifa.

Widespread famine in India, to 1897.

### *Britain*

Hotel Cecil, the Strand, built.

National Portrait Gallery moves to present site in Trafalgar Square.

Beginning of period of rising prices and falling wages (until 1914).

Truck Act: regulates deductions from wages or fines for bad workmanship.

Conciliation Act: boards can settle industrial disputes if both sides are willing.

First all-steel English building erected at West Hartlepool.

Locomotives Act: repeal of "Red Flag" restriction; maximum speed raised to 14 mph.

Royal Victorian Order founded as Personal Order of Sovereign.

### *World*

First modern Olympic Games are held at Athens.

Utah admitted as state in the U.S.

France annexes Madagascar.

State visit of Tsar Nicholas to France (Paris).

Van Houten's Franchise Bill extends the Dutch franchise.

French Tunisian protectorate recognized by Italy.

◀ Italians are defeated by Menelek of Abyssinia at Adowa, resulting in Treaty of Addis-Ababa and end of Italian protectorate.

Massacre of Armenians by Kurds and Circassians supported by the Sultan.

Insurrection in Crete against Turkish rule.

Beginning of the Klondike Gold Rush.



Foundation of Russo-Chinese Bank.

Cassini Treaty: China gives Russia the right to build a railway through Manchuria to Port Arthur.

Russian newspapers granted temporary licenses; imported books and newspapers are strictly censored.

First public film exhibition, in U.S.

### *Art*

Wells publishes *Island of Dr. Moreau*.

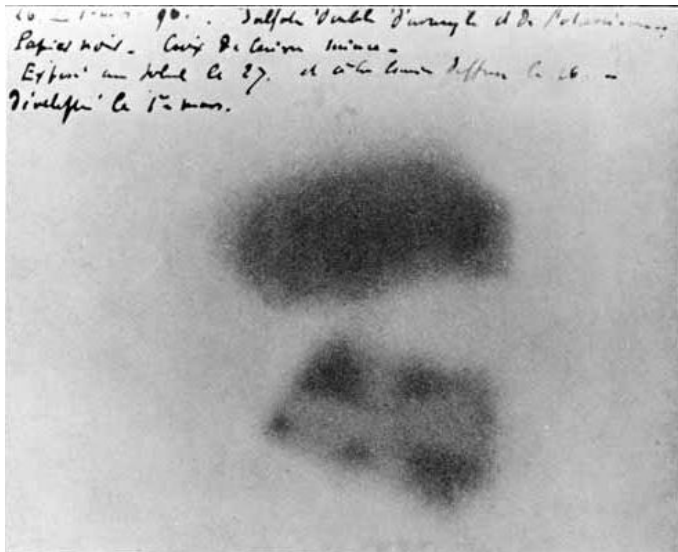
Gilbert and Sullivan debut *The Grand Duke*.

Giacomo Puccini debuts *La Bohème* at Turin.

Toulouse-Lautrec paints *Maxime Dethomas*.

R. Strauss debuts Also Sprach Zararhustra.

## *Science and Technology*



◀ Antoine Henri Becquerel, observes radiation from uranium affects photographic plates; discovery of radioactivity.

Nobel Prizes started, for physics, physiology or medicine, chemistry, literature, furtherance of the cause of peace.

Guglielmo Marconi demonstrates on Salisbury Plain the practicability of wireless telegraphy.

Emile Achard first describes paratyphoid fever.

Samuel Langley (U.S.), successfully flies a steam-driven model aircraft.

Rehn, of Frankfort, sutures a heart wound; beginning of heart surgery.

Zeeman observes that light emitted by a substance placed in a magnetic field undergoes changes.

Earliest record of water chlorination, during typhoid outbreak in Italy.

## *Next week's case: SHOS*

Respectfully submitted,

## *Murray, the Courageous Orderly*

(a.k.a. Alexander E. Braun)

"I should have fallen into the hands of the murderous Ghazis had it not been for the devotion and courage shown by Murray, my orderly..."

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