

SMOKING OUT THE “NORWOOD BUILDER”

A BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SEARCH FOR AN EARLY BOOKLET

[parallel citation: 2015 Green Bag Alm. 496]

Cattleya M. Concepcion[†]

Bibliographies of Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes mystery “The Adventure of the Norwood Builder” and the collection in which it appears, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, have been done and done well. Two in particular are excellent: *A Bibliography of A. Conan Doyle* by Richard Lancelyn Green and John Michael Gibson, and *The Universal Sherlock Holmes* by Ronald Burt De Waal.

The bibliography presented here builds on what has been done by using resources that were not yet available or have been much improved since bibliographers first picked up the task. Among these resources are online union catalogs that reach into thousands of library collections around the world, and digital libraries with millions of digitized books, magazines, and newspapers. Because many early printings may be publicly accessed online, digitized copies are noted where available.

This bibliography is intended to cover authoritative publications of “The Adventure of the Norwood Builder” — defined here as those published during Conan Doyle’s lifetime. Publications were included on the list only if an existing copy of the work could be verified. So, some works identified by other bibliographers are not listed,¹ and it is possible — even probable — that there are publications that have yet to be identified by any bibliographer. This is an effort that will, hopefully, keep getting better with time.

[†] Reference and Faculty Services Librarian, George Mason University School of Law.

¹ Not included in this bibliography are editions of *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* published by John Murray (London) from 1918 to 1927, as identified by De Waal. RONALD BURT DE WAAL, *UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES*, at nos. C1792-C1794, C1796, C1799 (1994). Also omitted are printings of the *Return* stories in the *Augusta Herald*, *Boston Sunday Post*, *Cleveland Sunday Plain Dealer*, *Portland Daily Advertiser*, and *Wausau Daily Record*, which are noted by Green and Gibson. RICHARD LANCELYN GREEN & JOHN MICHAEL GIBSON, *A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF A. CONAN DOYLE* 140, 716 (first rev. ed. 2000).

A “NORWOOD BUILDER” BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, McClure, Phillips & Co. (New York), February 1905 (first American edition)²
- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, McClure, Phillips & Co. (New York), February 1905 (special edition)
- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, Morang & Co. Limited (Toronto), 1905 (first Canadian issue)³
- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, George Newnes, Ltd. (London), 1905 (first English edition)⁴
- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, John Murray (London), 1905 (variant of first English edition)
- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, Longmans, Green & Co. (London), 1905 (first colonial issue; for India and the British Colonies)
- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, Bernhard Tauchnitz (Leipzig), vol. 1 of 2, 1905 (first continental issue; not for Great Britain or the British Colonies)⁵
- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, Doubleday, Page & Co. (Garden City, NY), 1906, 1910, 1913, 1915, 1918, 1921, 1923, 1925, 1926, 1927
- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, A. Wessels Company (New York), 1907⁶
- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, A. Wessels Company (New York) [Grosset & Dunlap on spine], 1907⁷
- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, Smith, Elder & Co. (London), 1908, 1911, 1913, 1915

² For a digitized copy, see Google Books, books.google.com/books?id=JvwNAAAAYAAJ&oe=UTF-8; HathiTrust Digital Library, catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006871797; Internet Archive, archive.org/details/returnofsherlock00doyliala.

³ For a digitized copy, see HathiTrust Digital Library, catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/100293457; Internet Archive, archive.org/details/cihm_73462.

⁴ For a digitized copy, see Google Books, books.google.com/books?id=sO89AQAAMAAJ&source=gbs_navlinks_s; HathiTrust Digital Library, catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006871798.

⁵ For a digitized copy, see HathiTrust Digital Library, catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/011665294.

⁶ For a digitized copy, see Internet Archive, archive.org/details/returnofsherlock00doyluoft.

⁷ Grosset and Dunlap bought A. Wessels Company and released copies of *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* with the Wessels title page. GREEN & GIBSON, *supra* note 1, at 137. For a digitized copy, see Google Books, books.google.com/books?id=Le49AQAAMAAJ&source=gbs_navlinks_s; HathiTrust Digital Library, catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006904254.

SMOKING OUT THE "NORWOOD BUILDER"

- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, George Newnes Ltd. (London), n.d. (Sixpenny Copyright Novels)⁸
- Works of A. Conan Doyle*, P.F. Collier & Son (New York), vol. 8 of 10, n.d. (Latest Books of Conan Doyle by Special Arrangement with the Author)⁹
- Works of A. Conan Doyle*, P.F. Collier & Son (New York), vol. 8 of 10, n.d.¹⁰
- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, John Murray (London), 1918 (New Impression)¹¹
- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd. (London), n.d.¹²
- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, John Murray (London) (Murray's Fiction Library), 1924, 1927
- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, John Murray (London) (Thin Paper edition), 1924, 1928
- The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, W.R. Caldwell & Co. (New York), n.d. (Three Owls edition)¹³
- The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, Doubleday & Company Inc. (Garden City, NY), vol. 2 of 2, 1927, 1930 (Memorial edition)
- The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, Garden City Books (Garden City, NY), 1927 (Deluxe edition)
- Sherlock Holmes: His Adventures, Memoirs, Return, His Last Bow & the Case-Book: The Complete Short Stories*, John Murray (London), 1928, 1929
- The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, Garden City Pub. Co. (Garden City, NY), 1930 (De Luxe edition)
- The Crowborough Edition of the Works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*, Doubleday, Doran, & Company, Inc. (Garden City, NY), vol. 19 of 24, 1930

⁸ Green and Gibson provide the publication date of 1913. GREEN & GIBSON, *supra* note 1, at 579.

⁹ Per Green and Gibson, the publication date is 1914. *Id.* at 596. For a digitized copy, see HathiTrust, catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/100032271.

¹⁰ According to De Waal, this set was published in three different bindings. DE WAAL, *supra* note 1, at nos. C2225-C2227.

¹¹ For a digitized copy, see HathiTrust Digital Library, catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006880283.

¹² Green and Gibson give the publication date of 1918. GREEN & GIBSON, *supra* note 1, at 572.

¹³ Green and Gibson narrow the publication date to sometime during the 1920s. *Id.* at 596. For a digitized copy, see Google Books, books.google.com/books?id=xgnTteuZ694C&source=gb_s_navlinks_s; HathiTrust Digital Library, catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006880454.

Magazines and Newspapers

- Collier's Weekly*, October 31, 1903, vol. 32, no. 5 (first U.S. publication)
The Strand Magazine, November 1903, vol. 26 (first U.K. publication)
Evening Bulletin (Philadelphia), February 18, 1905
Evening Star (Washington, D.C.), February 18, 1905¹⁴
The Evening World (New York), February 18, 1905 [supplement]¹⁵
The Kansas City Star, February 18, 1905
The Atlanta Sunday Journal, February 19, 1905
The Daily Picayune (New Orleans), February 19, 1905
The Indianapolis Sunday Star, February 19, 1905
The Los Angeles Sunday Times, February 19, 1905
The Omaha Illustrated Bee, February 19, 1905¹⁶
The Pittsburg Gazette, February 19, 1905
The Salt Lake Herald, February 19, 1905¹⁷
The Sunday Call Magazine (San Francisco), March 12, 1905 [supplement]¹⁸
Rock Island Argus, May 17, 1905¹⁹
Nashua Telegraph, May 27-June 2, 1905²⁰
Burlington Weekly Free Press, June 1, 1905²¹

¹⁴ For a digitized copy, see Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/issues/.

¹⁵ For a digitized copy, see Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030193/issues/. For a history on the poor quality of this copy, taken from the New York Public Library's microfilm, see Ira Brad Matetsky, *The Adventure of The New York World*, in 2015 GREEN BAG ALM. 465.

¹⁶ For a digitized copy, see Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn99021999/issues/.

¹⁷ For a digitized copy, see Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85058130/issues/.

¹⁸ For a digitized copy, see Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/issues/.

¹⁹ For a digitized copy, see Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn92053934/issues/.

²⁰ For a digitized copy, see Google News Archive, news.google.com/newspapers?nid=KFIQUvoPKFAC.

²¹ For a digitized copy, see Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86072143/issues/.

SMOKING OUT THE “NORWOOD BUILDER”

The Guthrie Daily Leader, June 23-24, 1905²²

The Paducah Sun, June 23-29, 1905²³

The Evening News (San Jose), June 30-July 6, 1905²⁴

Richmond Planet, July 15, 1905²⁵

The Columbus Journal, July 19-August 16, 1905²⁶

Evening Bulletin (Honolulu), July 26-29, 1905²⁷

The Carroll Herald, February 28-March 14, 1906²⁸

The New York Sunday World, April 16, 1911 [booklet]

The Chicago Sunday Tribune, July 2, 1911 [supplement]

The Salt Lake Tribune, August 11, 1912 [magazine]²⁹

SEARCH FOR THE *NEW YORK SUNDAY WORLD*

From early publications of “The Adventure of the Norwood Builder,” one stood out. The *New York Sunday World*’s printing of the Sherlock Holmes mystery on April 16, 1911 was unlike previous appearances in newspapers. The “Norwood Builder” was not just an item in the paper, or part of an accompanying weekend supplement or magazine. It was, as the newspaper’s own advertisement described it, a separate “pocket edition booklet.”³⁰

²² For a digitized copy, see Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86063952/issues/.

²³ For a digitized copy, see Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85052116/issues/.

²⁴ For a digitized copy, see Google News Archive, news.google.com/newspapers?nid=0q7iQwrhYWUC.

²⁵ For a digitized copy, see Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84025841/issues/.

²⁶ For a digitized copy, see Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn95073194/issues/.

²⁷ For a digitized copy, see Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82016413/issues/.

²⁸ For a digitized copy, see Google News Archive, news.google.com/newspapers?nid=8v7czoltWYsC.

²⁹ For a digitized copy, see Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045396/issues/.

³⁰ See Advertisement, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes: Story No. 2*, N.Y. WORLD, April 9, 1911, at 10. The ad appears in this *Almanac*. See Ross E. Davies, *The Regulatory Adventure of the Two Norwood Builders*, in 2015 GREEN BAG ALM. 567, 626.

The challenge in finding the booklet was not in figuring out where or when it was published, but determining who might have a copy over 100 years later. My first step was to verify the newspaper's title. Using the U.S. Newspaper Directory on Chronicling America, the Library of Congress' historic newspapers website, I confirmed that a daily New York newspaper called *The World* was published by Joseph Pulitzer during this time period.

I then turned to WorldCat, an online union catalog, to locate a physical copy. Although many newspapers in the public domain are available online, I had been able to quickly rule out the availability of a digitized copy, as resources like Chronicling America and the Google News Archive did not have it. WorldCat listed 98 libraries — ranging from academic libraries to public libraries to historical societies — that had collected issues of *The World* in print and microform formats.

The microfilm of the April 16, 1911 issue was a dead end. It did not include the "Norwood Builder" booklet. The only trace of the story was the advertisement in the April 9th issue for the booklet, which would be "Free With Every Copy of Next Sunday's World."³¹

Returning to the list of 98 libraries, I eliminated ones that had the April 16th issue on microfilm or did not have the issue at all. In the end, only one library in the world remained on my list: The David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

There was an important question still to be asked: Did the copy in the Rubenstein Library have the booklet of "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder," or had the newspaper issue and booklet been separated long ago? A helpful staff member at the Rubenstein Library retrieved the April 16th issue to check its contents. The booklet was there.

This was, as far as I could tell, an extremely rare copy of *The World* from April 16, 1911, complete with a booklet of Conan Doyle's "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder."³² Even now, I dare not think of what would have been lost if every print copy of this issue had been discarded — without a clue of the treasure inserted within its pages.

³¹ *Id.*

³² Turns out that this booklet is actually a pamphlet, and that both booklet and pamphlet versions were issued. See Davies, *supra* note 30.