

Silent Sherlock
Sherlock Holmes and the Silent Film Era

by

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Part Sixteen (1918/19 Continued - 1920)

1918 - "A Black Sherlock Holmes" - Sam Robinson (1888 - 1971) as Knick Carter, a black Sherlock Holmes and Rudolph Tatum as Rheuma Tism, Carter's sidekick (Watson). Ebony Films.



"A Black Sherlock Holmes" - Critical Reviews and Comments - The main feature of this reel, the first Ebony comedy, also a new brand on The General Film program, is the fact that the cast is composed entirely of colored players. It is a burlesque on the Sherlock Holmes stories, and while there are some amusing scenes, there is a tendency among all the players to over act. Its strongest point is the novelty of the cast."¹

¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 36 May - Jun. 1918 Pg. 745

GENERAL FILM COMPANY

EBONY COMEDIES

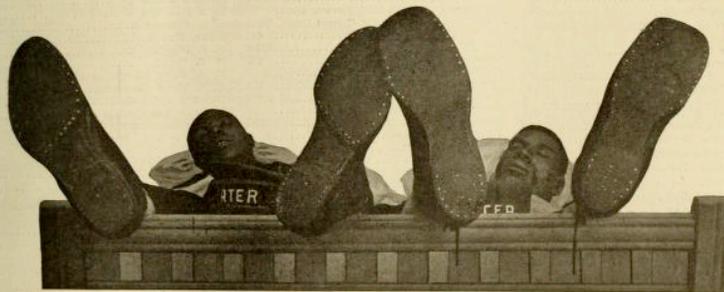
Honest-to-John Laugh Producers that Appeal to Fans of
All Tastes and Ages

Showmanship means suiting the majority. EBONY COMEDIES
—with their novel presentation of real negro players beaming with
quaint racial happiness—please every audience.

Every picture theatre now can have a "colored act" on its bill,
just as every vaudeville house carries one as an indispensable
feature. It is a reliable box-office help. Book the series—
beginning with:

A BLACK SHERLOCK HOLMES
SPYING THE SPY
THE PORTERS

A MILK FED HERO
A BUSTED ROMANCE
SPOOKS



Produced by **EBONY FILM CORPORATION** Chicago

Distributed by General Film Company, New York
Thirty Exchanges

In Answering Advertisements, Please Mention the MOVING PICTURE WORLD.

Is this the first ever image of JohnLock??

"A Black Sherlock Holmes" - Comments - "A novel feature in connection with this brand, which is new to the General Film program, is that the cast is composed of entirely negro players. The story is a burlesque on Sherlock Holmes, and has some amusing situations, but the players are inclined to overact."²

² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 36 May - Jun. 1918 Pg. 896

1918 - "Hide and Seek Detectives" - Ben Turpin (1869 - 1940) as Hide and Charles Lynn (Heinie Conklin) (1886 - 1969) as Seek. Paramount - Mack Sennett Comedy.



"Hide and Seek Detectives" - for release Dec. 15,1918 - As the title implies, there is much of the Sherlock Holmes travesty in this two-reeler, with Ben Turpin and Charles Lynn playing the title characters and Marie Prevost in another important role."³

1919 - "The Carter Case" - Herbert Rawlinson (1885 - 1953) as Craig Kennedy. Oliver Films.

Item Page 122 - "The Carter Case" - (Oliver Films) - "Episodes in the career of Craig Kennedy, with Herbert Rawlinson disguised as that chemical Sherlock."⁴

Arthur B. Reeve's Famous Scientific Detective is now on the screen - the stories which caused your blood to boil when you read them in the "Cosmopolitan" magazine are now more real on the screen! (original ad below)

³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 37/38 Jul. - Dec. 1918 pg. 1050

⁴ Photoplay Magazine Jan-Jun 1919. Vol 15-16 Pg. 122

They Both Like a Good Detective Story



President Wilson's Blessed Intervals

President Wilson is quoted as saying: "There are blessed intervals when I forget, by one stress or another, that I am the President of the United States. One means by which I forget is to get a rattling good detective story, get after some imaginary offender and chase him all over."



When Roosevelt was in the Hospital

When Colonel Roosevelt came out of the Hospital a few weeks ago—after a long and trying illness—he told the reporters: "I did a whole lot of reading. I particularly enjoyed half a dozen rattling good detective stories by Arthur B. Reeve—some of them were corkers."

Get fresh strength for the problems of war as they did—these two greatmen. Get for yourself a thousand nights of pleasure and forgetfulness—of thrills and excitement—by reading

ARTHUR B. REEVE

The American Conan Doyle
CRAIG KENNEDY
The American Sherlock Holmes

He is the detective genius of our age. He has taken science—science that stands for this age—and allied it to the mystery and romance of detective fiction. Even to the smallest detail, every bit of the plot is worked out scientifically. For nearly ten years America has been watching his Craig Kennedy—marvelling at the strange, new, startling things that detective-hero would unfold. Even under the stress of war, England is reading him as she never did before.

Such plots—such suspense—with real, vivid people moving through the roadstom of life! Frenchmen have mastered the art of terror stories. English writers have thrilled whole nations by their astful heroes. But all these seem old-fashioned—out-of-date—beside the infinite variety—the weird excitement of Arthur B. Reeve's tales.

Book Ad for The American Conan Doyle - Arthur B. Reeve
& The American Sherlock Holmes - Craig Kennedy

1919 - "I Will, I Will, I Will" - Wallace Bosco (1880 - 1973) as Sherlock Blake. Ideal Films (U.K.).



"I Will, I Will, I Will" - A lazy young man is aided by Sherlock Blake to help win the hand of a socialite's daughter.

1920 - "The Village Sleuth" - Charles Ray (1891 - 1943) as William Wells, a bucolic Sherlock Holmes. Paramount.



"The Village Sleuth" - Cast: Charles Ray - "This time he is a bucolic Sherlock Holmes and the world just seethes with clues and crimes"⁵

"The Village Sleuth" - Across the Silver Screen -Starring Charles Ray - "...The story is trite and tells of this boy who reads Dead-Eye-Dick detective stories while he should be doing his chores. Finally his sheriff-father permits him to leave the farm and seek fame as a detective and he eventually lands at a sanitarium where his Sherlock Holmes talents are no longer wasted on the discovery of watermelon thieves."⁶

1920 - "Bray Pictograph, No. 448" - Sherlock Holmes, a trained dog. Goldwyn.

"Bray Pictograph, No. 448" - Short Reels "...Sherlock Holmes, a trained dog, is shown performing some of his stunts in the section titled, 'Do Dogs Reason?' Undoubtedly the canine is remarkably well trained, but as to his reasoning powers, those are still left in doubt despite this exhibition."⁷...

⁵ Photoplay Magazine Jan-Jun 1920. Vol 17-18 pg. 95

⁶ Motion Picture Magazine 1921 (Jan) (Vol 20) pg. 116/117

⁷ "The Film Daily" (Volume 13-14) Jul-Dec 1920 pg. 272

Germany, for a reason I'm not aware of, it seems re-released the final two episodes of the seven piece "Der Hund von Baskerville" series, which I have as being made in 1915 and 1916, once again in 1920.

1920 - "Dr. MacDonald's Sanitarium"- Erich Kaiser-Titz as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

1920 - "The House Without Any Windows"- Erich Kaiser-Titz as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

From the world of animation we would get Mutt & Jeff in a cartoon.

1920 - "Sherlock Hawkshaw and Company"- A Mutt & Jeff Cartoon. Modern Film Sales Corp.

And from Latin America??

1920 - "Memories of Detective Tex"- Actors unknown. (Argentina?, Cuba?)



LA SERIE MAS SENSACIONAL DEL AÑO
**MEMORIAS
DEL DETECTIVE**
"TEX"

En
Doce
Episodios
De Seis
Actos

FRIEDLAND '20

UN nuevo carácter de historias de detectives que rivalizan con las famosas aventuras de Sherlock Holmes, por Conan Doyle, o las de Nick Carter. Misterio, incertidumbre y acción insólita.

VENDIDAS—Argentina: Sociedad General Cinematográfica
Cuba: Blanco y Martínez.

TODOS LOS DEMAS TERRITORIOS LIBRES.

NOTA: Contratos para esta serie comprenden la entrega inmediata del primer episodio de seis actos "LAS PRUEBAS ACUSAN", y los otros episodios serán embarcados mensualmente durante los subsiguientes once meses. La longitud de cada episodio de seis actos es de 5.000 pies aproximadamente (1.500 metros).

Si Ud. está interesado cablegráfeme por las cotizaciones para su territorio.

Cable: "MASTERFILM", N. Y.
Claves: A. B. C. 5ª Edición.

L. H. ALLEN
Director: FOREIGN MARKETS DISTRIBUTING CORPORATION
130 West 46th Street, Nueva York, E. U. A.

"The most sensational series of the year, 'Memories of Detective Tex' a new character of detective stories that rival the famous adventures of Sherlock Holmes, by Conan Doyle..."⁸

Finally the notice below is a harbinger of big things to come, namely the release of Stoll's ambitious "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1921), "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1922) and "The Last Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1923) making Eille Norwood the most prolific silent film Sherlock Holmes, with forty-five shorts and two features. These films will be discussed starting in part seventeen of this essay series.

Item page 2 Oct 14, 1920 - "In January, Elvey will begin the production of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" Stoll films will be re-edited by American experts before release in this country."⁹

I hope it wasn't those same 'American experts' who cut out the eight minutes of each episode of the BBC "Sherlock" series!

End of Part Sixteen
(1921) Begins in Part Seventeen

⁸ "Cine-Mundial" Vol. 5 1920

⁹ "The Film Daily" (Volume 13-14) Jul-Dec 1920 pg. 2