

Silent Sherlock
Sherlock Holmes and the Silent Film Era

by

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Part Three (1910)

The year 1910 witnessed the further continuation of the first actual Sherlock Holmes film series by Nordisk Film Company of Denmark with four new films.

1910 - "Den Forklaedte Guvernante" or, "Den orklaedte Barnepige" (Denmark) or, **"The Bogus Governess"** - Otto Lagoni as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.

1910 - "Sherlock Holmes i Bondefangerkloer" or, "Den Stjaalne Tegnog" (Denmark) or, **"A Confidence Trick"** - Otto Lagoni as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.



1910 - "Den Sorte Haand" or, "Mordet i Baker Street" (Denmark) or, **"The Black Hand" or, "The Blackmailers"**- Otto Lagoni as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.

1910 - "Milliontestamentet" or, "Millionbligationen" or, "Den Stajlne Millionbligationen" (Denmark) or, "The Stolen Legacy" or, "The Million Dollar Bond"- Alwin Nuess as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.



Here are bits of interesting information from old magazines about these four 1910 Great Northern films.

"The Stolen Legacy" (Northern) - "In this Sherlock Holmes Story, which has much merit and interest, a will is stolen and through a series of exciting incidents Sherlock Holmes captures the thieves and secures the legacy for the countess. ..."1

"The Bogus Governess" (Northern) June 3, 1911 "One of the Best Sherlock Holmes Detective Films Ever Produced"2

"The Bogus Governess"- (Northern) - "This is a Sherlock Holmes story which holds the interest throughout."3

The year 1910 also saw the continuance of the Sheerluck Finch series of comedies parodying Sherlock Holmes. Sheerluck Finch was still tracking down Three Fingered Kate.

1 "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 8 Jan. - July 1911 pg. 1020

2 "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 8 Jan. - July 1911 pg. 1227

3 "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 8 Jan. - July 1911 pg. 1389

1910 - "Three Fingered Kate, Her Victim The Banker" - Charles Calvert as Sheerluck Finch. Cosmos Pictures (U.K.).

1910 - "The Episode of the Sacred Elephants" - Charles Calvert as Sheerluck Finch. Cosmos Pictures (U.K.).

Also 1910 saw the start of a new series of films, featuring **"Arsene Lupin vs. Sherlock Holmes"**, from Vitascope Pictures (Germany) with a familiar face returning as Holmes, Viggo Larsen.

1910 - "Der alte Sekretar" or, "The Old Secretaire" - Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

1910 - "Der blaue Diamant" or, "The Blue Diamond"- Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).



1910 - "Die flaschen Rembrandts" or, "The Fake Rembrandts"- Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

1910 - "Die Flucht" or, "Arsene Lupin's Escape"- Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

Numerous films relied on simply using the name Sherlock Holmes in their ads, or the descriptions of their main characters.

1910 - "The Girl and the Judge" or, "A Terrible Temptation" - William Humphrey as the Judge and Maurice Costello as the young lover. Vitagraph Film Co. (Maurice Costello was not Holmes here either!)

Vitagraphs Film Ad - "... How a Southern Judge solved a great murder mystery and was tempted to conceal his discovery. A study in deduction more convincing than Sherlock Holmes."⁴

1910 - "The Livingston Case" - Herbert Bostwick as the detective. Edison Mfg. Co.

Edison Films Ad - "The Livingston Case" - "A detective story, much on the order of the famous 'Sherlock Holmes' is depicted on this film."⁵

Comments on the Films - "The Livingston Case" - "A detective story much on the order of the famous 'Sherlock Holmes' tales. By a process of deduction a detective follows out a series of clues by which he obtains a confession from a suspect. ..."⁶



The name Clifton Woolridge means little to people today, but to Chicagoans and Chicago criminals, he was notorious. Woolridge, a former police officer was described at the time as "the incorruptible Sherlock Holmes of America," and he was on a mission to save Chicago from itself. Read about Clifton Woolridge at:

<http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/feature/chicago-detective/>

⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 6 Jan. - June 1910 pg. 116

⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 6 Jan. - June 1910 pg. 224

⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 6 Jan. - June 1910 pg. 258

Here is an example of Great Northern using the Holmes name, which they've had so much success with, on a film that surely has nothing to do with Holmes

1910 - "Tsing Fu, The Yellow Devil" - Actors unknown . Great Northern Films

Comments on the films - "Tsing, The Yellow Devil" - (Great Northern) - "A thrilling and convincing detective story worked out with all the care and attention which characterize the great Northern films. The same quality of acting and the same effort to make the acting sympathetic is shown here that were such prominent factors in the success of the Sherlock Holmes series. ..." ⁷

1910 - "Hemlock Hoax, The Detective" - Actors unknown. Lubin Pictures

"Hemlock Hoax, The Detective" - (Essanay) 1910 - Hemlock Hoax thinks he can "put it all over" Sherlock Holmes, and his sleuthing is somewhat of a joke in the little tropical town where he lives. Two boys plan some fun at his expense and bring him the news of a terrible murder. Holmes is led to the scene of the crime and with measuring tape and magnifying glass proceeds to search for clues and material for deductions in the most approved detective fashion. He discovers a shred of cloth on a projecting branch and declares the murderer to be as good as found. Like the human hound that he is, he starts hot upon the scent and finds a tramp wearing the garment from which the cloth was torn. The surprised tramp develops a burst of speed that is astonishing and Hoax makes a good second. Others aid the pursuit and they are led on a merry cross country chase that ends in the capture of the tramp by Hoax and a policeman they have picked up. The trembling tramp is led back to the scene of his atrocious crime and confronted with the body of the victim. Then, for the first time, Hoax discovers that the body is merely a dummy stuffed with leaves, and the poor boys are properly punished, though not until the crowd has enjoyed a good laugh at the expense of the crestfallen Hoax. ⁸

1910 - "A Twenty-Nine Cent Robbery", Marie Eline (1902 - 1981) as Edna Robinson, a juvenile Sherlock Holmes. Thanhouser Film Co.

⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 6 Jan. - June 1910 pg. 599

⁸ ⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 6 Jan. - June 1910 pg. 613



Thanhouser Notes column - "Tiny Marie Eline, who made a hit as the juvenile Sherlock Holmes in "A 29-Cent Robbery" (1910)...."⁹

1910 - "Trapped By His Own Mark", Actors unknown. Capitol Films Co.

Capitol Films Ad - "Trapped By His Own Mark" - (Capitol) 1910 - Length 900 feet - "A true detective story of early days in the West. Arsene Lupin and Sherlock Holmes outdone. A baffling mystery solved."¹⁰

1910 - "The Thief", or "The Hollow Cane" - Brinsley Shaw as Detective Bramwell (Sherlock Holmes). Essanay Films.



⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 6 Jan. - June 1910 pg. 644

¹⁰ ¹⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 6 Jan. - June 1910 pg. 1131

Article - "Essanay Puts Over a Sherlock Holmes - "The Hollow Cane" with Brinsley Shaw as Detective Bramwell (Article w/photos).¹¹

"The Hollow Cane" is now called "The Thief", and described as Arsene Lupin (thief) vs. Sherlock Holmes (Bramwell).¹²

1910 - "The Monogrammed Cigarette", Elsie Albert (1888 - 1981) as Nell Pierce "The Yankee Girl Detective". Yankee Film Co.



Independent Film Stories column - "The Monogrammed Cigarette" - (Yankee) 1910 - "The cigarette has been credited with being the cause of a great many crimes.Nat Pierce, a Sherlock Holmes type of crime investigator, was retained by Sloan to ferret out the theft, there being important reasons why Sloan did not desire publicity, and therefore kept the loss of the jewels from the police." Long story - short - Nat Pierce ends up getting killed, his daughter, Nell Pierce, "The Yankee Girl Detective", with only a cigarette but and only half-obliteraed monogram, and the use of disguises, avenges her father's death and solves the Waldo jewel theft case."¹³

1910 - "The Cat Came Back", Elsie Albert (1888 - 1981) as Nell Pierce "The Yankee Girl Detective". Yankee Film Co.

"The Cat Came Back" - (Atlas) - Nell Pierce the girl detective once again solves a case of a missing jeweled bracelet, by saving a cat tossed in a bag in a pond by a tramp, and the cat had the bracelet around it's neck. "Nell

¹¹ "The Film Index" magazine July 2, 1910 (Vol. XI. #1. pages 2-4).

¹² "The Film Index" magazine July 9, 1910 (Vol. XI. #2. page 22)

¹³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 7 July - Dec. 1910 pg. 832

was a sharp shrewd and well read young miss and had a literary acquaintance with every detective from Nick Carter to Sherlock Holmes."¹⁴

1910 - "The Italian Sherlock Holmes", Actors unknown. Yankee Film Co.

Yankee Film Co. Ad - "The Italian Sherlock Holmes" (Yankee) 1910 - Large letters - Petrosini, The Detective -smaller letters - was undoubtedly one of the bravest sleuths ever detailed on an important case by the New York Secret Service Bureau. His exploits and adventures were know the worldwide over. We've produced a wonderful film, whose story deals with the unravelling of a mystery in high society by an unusually clever Italian Sleuth who is noted for his many disguises and impersonations.¹⁵

Independent Film Stories column - "The Italian Sherlock Holmes" - (Yankee) - A fake Italian Nobleman, a fake Countess, a missing pearl necklace - here we go again. Petrosio the famous Italian sleuth is assigned to the case. Chases, disguises, and finally the sleuth captures the criminals, and of course wants no reward.¹⁶

"The Italian Sherlock Holmes" (Yankee) - ".... Here is a valuable necklace stolen and the detective runs down the thief because he has a bit of dust on his arm."¹⁷

1910 - "The Case of the Missing Heir", Elsie Albert (1888 - 1981) as Nell Pierce "The Yankee Girl Detective". Yankee Film Co.

Yankee Film Co. Ad - "The Case of the Missing Heir" - (Yankee) - Nov. 14, 1910 - "Tells a story more hair-raising then the exploits of Sherlock Holmes, a plot more intently interesting than Arsine Lupin's most daring achievement."¹⁸ Another Nell Pierce "The Yankee Girl Detective" story.

1910 - "The Barnstormer in the Photoplay", by Louis Reeves Harrison

"The Barnstormer in the Photoplay" - A very long plot summery which once again involves, saving the girl, capturing the gang and retuning the jewels.

¹⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 7 July - Dec. 1910 pg. 893

¹⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 7 July - Dec. 1910 pg. 975

¹⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 7 July - Dec. 1910 pg. 1014

¹⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 7 July - Dec. 1910 pg. 1119

¹⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 7 July - Dec. 1910 pg. 1091

The key feature in this film is that there are two detectives - Sherlock Carter & Nick Holmes.¹⁹ Article author gives no other title for film?

1910 - "Diamantbedrageren", or "The Diamond Swindler". Franz Skondrup (1874 - 1941) as Harry Taxon?. Great Northern Film Co.

"The Diamond Swindler" - (Great Northern) Nov. 19, 1910 - "It is adapted from the adventures of Harry Taxon, a clever pupil of the celebrated Sherlock Holmes"

"The Diamond Swindler" - (Great Northern) - Long plot summary in which again, with the help of disguises, Sherlock Holmes saves the stolen jewelry, and returns it to the girl, wishing no reward. No mention of Harry Taxon as in the ads - just Holmes. What ever happened to Harry Taxon, lol?



"The Diamond Swindler" - (Great Northern) - These comments now say "Harry Traxton", a clever pupil of Sherlock Holmes. Will the real Sherlock Holmes (Slim Shady) please stand-up.

1911 - "A Jar of Cranberry Sauce" or, "The Crime in Room 13" - Actors unknown. Edison Mfg. Co.

Recent Films Reviewed - "A Jar of Cranberry Sauce" - (Edison) - Here we see an amateur Sherlock Holmes run amuck most amusingly. The comedy is well managed, and arouses much hearty laughter.²⁰

Ray Wilcockson says, "My prize for best title – A Jar of Cranberry Sauce – rivals the parsley in the butter!"

End of Part Three
1911 Starts in Part Four

¹⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 7 July - Dec. 1910 pg. 1103

²⁰ "The Nickelodeon" Page 200 - Oct. 1, 1910