

The Speckled Band

By Drew R. Thomas (“Conductor of Light”)

Clicking on the links provided in the table below will lead to Sherlock Holmes treasures as they pertain to “The Speckled Band” by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. I think they will enhance your enjoyment of my presentation at the Nashville Scholars of the Three-Pipe Problem (March 19, 2022) at Corky’s BBQ at 100 Franklin Road, Brentwood, TN 37027) — Corky’s BBQ web address is <https://www.corkysbbq.com/locations/brentwood>

<i>Author/Title</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Link(s)</i>
<i>Sir Arthur Conan Doyle — Sherlock Holmes: “The Adventure of the Speckled Band” (Short Story), 1892</i>		http://diogenes-club.com/spec.htm
<i>Sir Arthur Conan Doyle — The Speckled Band (Play), 1910</i>		http://diogenes-club.com/specplay.htm
<i>Raymond Massey as Sherlock Holmes in “The Speckled Band”—(Movie)</i>		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwMpJ8_wpr8&t=1482s
<i>Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce as Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson in an old-time radio presentation of The Speckled Band</i>		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmsjWfHvIZA
<i>Nigel Bruce and Tom Conway in an old-time radio presentation of The Speckled</i>		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRYD968FjNU&list=PLneoVXdPCzrdnSajLxbcK

<i>Band</i>		wqdcFmxinApN&index=36
<i>Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwick in "The Speckled Band" (Television episode)</i>		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mwR2y966D0

The Adventure of the Speckled Band

The focus of our discussion is the short story "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. However, I plan to touch on the play version (1910) and the Raymond Massey version of the movie (1931), as well.

Below are my notes for "talking points" during the discussion.

Talking Points and Notes

- When this story takes place, Holmes and Watson are still sharing rooms together. (Watson has not yet met Mary Morstan and is still a bachelor.)
- Helen and Julia Stoner are twins. William Baring-Gould (*The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, Volume I)—In annotation 14, Baring-Gould writes that in Conan Doyle's original manuscript Helen Stoner is called Helen Roylott and Dr. Roylott is her father.)
- In the 1910 play by Conan Doyle, Helen and Julia Stoner appear as Enid and Violet Stonor (Note the change in the spelling of their surname as well as their given names.)
- Helen tells Holmes that Julia was "but thirty at the time of her death. . . Her hair had already begun to whiten, even as mine has." (Baring-Gould, *Annotated*, page 247)
- Helen says, "She died just two years ago."
- Dr. Roylott "hurled a local blacksmith over a parapet into a stream. . . ." [Talking point: How strong is a blacksmith?]
- The sisters had "an aunt, my mother's maiden sister, Miss Honoria Westphail. . . .
 - Julia met "a half-pay Major of Marines" at her aunt's and became engaged to him.
- Helen: "We had no feeling of security unless our doors were locked." (Baring-Gould, *Annotated*, page 248)

- What did Helen think her sister died of?
- What did Helen Stoner think the allusions to a “speckled band” meant?”
- Who is Percy Armitage? (Baring-Gould, *Annotated*, page 249)
- Description of Dr. Roylott (Baring-Gould, *Annotated*, page 251)
- Quotes of Holmes and Helen (Baring-Gould, *Annotated*, page 256)
- Holmes: “When a doctor does go wrong he is the first of criminals. He has nerve and he has knowledge.” (Baring-Gould, *Annotated*, page 257)
- Holmes: “It is a nice household.” (Baring-Gould, *Annotated*, page 258)
- Holmes: “It is a swamp adder—the deadliest snake in India.” What might “experts” say the speckled band is? (Baring-Gould, *Annotated*, pages 261, 253-266)

Bibliography:

Baring-Gould, William. *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, Volume I. New York: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., 1967. Copyright © 1967 by Lucille M. Baring-Gould

Tracy, Jack. *Sherlock Holmes: The Published Apocrypha*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1980

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