

THE FANTASY COLLECTOR

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A SUMMARY
OF THE
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IN THE
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TABLE I
SUMMARY OF RESULTS
OBTAINED IN THE
EXPERIMENT

NUMBER 3

A NOTE CONCERNING
THE LATE
MR. ALLAN QUATERMAIN

By J. E. Scott

"...I always find it easy to write of Allan Quatermain, who, after all, is only myself set in a variety of imagined situations, thinking my thoughts and looking at life through my eyes."

("The Days Of My Life," Volume II pp. 85-86.)

The popularity of Sherlock Holmes in fiction has led to several attempts being made in recent years to reconstruct his life from the material afforded by his creator, and equally interesting results can be obtained with a character only slightly less familiar--Allan Quatermain, the central figure of many of the late Sir H. Rider Haggard's adventure stories.

For many years it was generally believed that Sir Rider had drawn upon the life of the late F. C. Selous for this character; yet he had never heard of him when he conceived Allan Quatermain and Selous himself stated in February, 1893, that he had not met Haggard. Although Quatermain is a less universally popular figure than Holmes, it must be admitted that Haggard was more careful of chronology than Doyle and despite the fact there are certain discrepancies as will be shown in due course, yet Quatermain's life story can be worked out in detail and his various adventures dated with reasonable certainty.

"King Solomon's Mines" (1885) was the first of the Quatermain adventures to be published and, possibly because of the success it had, it is still the first title that occurs to most people in connection with Haggard's name. In this respect it has overshadowed

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"She" which is unfortunate, for "Bae" is a much better book; it deserves recognition not only as an effort of imagination but also, it is not too much to add, as being the forerunner of a new type of romantic-adventure novel.

When Haggard created Allan Quatermain in "King Solomon's Mines" as an old hunter already approaching the end of his career, he had no more idea that his name would be coupled indissociably with his character than had Doyle when he made Holmes the central figure of "A Study In Scarlet." But he was not slow to perceive the success of this character with the public and we find that "King Solomon's Mines," published in September, 1885, was followed in December of that year by "Hunter Quatermain's Story" (first published in "In a Good Cause"), and by "Long Odds" which appeared in Macmillan's Magazine for February, 1886. From this date we have a series of tales, long or short, until 1889 when there is a break until 1912 when the series is again continued with the publication of "Marie."

In order to stress the point that Haggard took a certain amount of trouble to connect the various adventures--particularly after 1912--it may be mentioned here that the references which follow have been taken from the first English edition of the titles concerned and not, as may reasonably be supposed, from later and revised editions.

On examination it is found that at least four of the adventures furnish definite dates upon which to work: "Marie" deals with the Kaffir War of 1835 and the Great Trek of 1836; "Child of Storm" describes the Civil War between the Zulu princess in 1856; "Finish" is set mainly in the period of the Zulu War of 1879; and finally "I

"Long Odds" (which was included in the collection of short stories "Allan's Wife and Other Tales," 1889) is itself dated by the author as having taken place in March, 1869 (p. 311, line 28). With these dates as a basis, therefore, it is quite possible to date the remaining stories, of which there are fourteen.

The earliest account we have of Quatermain's life is in "Marie" (1912). Here he describes his early youth in the Cradock District of the Cape and his first courtship which took place during the stormy days of the Kaffir War of 1835. Here too we are introduced to his faithful Hottentot servant Hans, whose cunning and resource, native knowledge and shrewd advice proved of the utmost value to his master on the various journeys--six in all*--they made together. Hans was killed by the rogue elephant Jana in "The Ivory Child" and it therefore follows that the other adventures in which he participated must have taken place before that particular one. "Marie" also contains a brief reference to another character who had a considerable influence upon the old hunter's life--the Zulu witch-doctor Zikali. In this story, Zikali himself does not actually appear on the stage; he is behind the scenes, working for his own ends (the downfall of the Zulu nation), and a few passing remarks (on pp. 272 line 34 and 291, line 4) serve merely to bring in his name; yet he takes a leading part in four more of Allan's adventures before dying**, his vengeance accomplished, in "Finished." From "Marie," this first adventure of all, we learn that Henri Marais and his party of Boers left on the

Great Trek early in January, 1836 (see the entry in his Bible, p. 4, lines 13-17) and that Allan Quatermain had known his daughter for many years before that date--had, in fact, grown up with her (p. 15, lines 1-14). She was, he tells us, when he first saw her, "a lanky child...clad in a frock which exactly matched the colour of the peach bloom...her dark hair hanging down her back..." (p. 6, lines 17-20) and he himself "a small stubbly-haired youth with a sharp nose" (p. 5, lines 20-21). Their respective ages are not mentioned, but we do know that at this time Marie is "whole months older" (p. 7, line 28) and that later when the attack of the Quabies on Maraisfontein took place (Chapter 2) Marie was then a "well-grown young woman" (p. 26, line 23); we may then feasibly put Allan's age at 18 and Marie's at 18½.

Her father, Henri Marais, strongly opposed their friendship, however, and reminded Marie on the eve of the Great Trek (1836) that she could not marry without his consent whilst she was "under age, that is for two years or more" (p. 85, lines 16-17), which obviously means that she would become 21 some time in the year 1838.

"For more than a year" (p. 99, lines 14-15) Allan heard nothing of how the Boers fared until Marie's one and only note reached him (p. 103, lines 6-8), whereupon he immediately set out on July 3rd, 1837, from Port Elizabeth to go to their help (p. 108, lines 30-31). His journey took one month, yet, despite the fact that he had saved all their lives,

* "Marie," "She and Allan," "Hou-Hou," "The Treasure of the Lake," "The Holy Flower," and "The Ivory Child."

** "Marie," "She and Allan," "Hou-Hou," "Child of Storm," and "Finished."

Marais was still against the marriage, although he said "when she is of age, which will be in some six months' time, my will counts no longer..." (p. 133, lines 20-21) --thus giving proof that Marie will be 21 early in 1838.

When the Biers returned to Dingaan, the Zulu king, the cattle stolen from him by a native chief, they arrived at Marais' camp before going to the royal kraal on a certain Saturday afternoon (p. 239, line 17) to learn that Marie would come of age on the following Monday (p. 239, line 31). On this day Allan's marriage takes place, although he had but half an hour with his newly wed wife before having to set off for the king's kraal to attend to the signing of the treaty (p. 262, lines 8-10), which place the party reached on Saturday, February 3rd (p. 264, line 11). From this it is plain that Quatermain was married on January 29th, 1838, his wife being 21 and he himself some months her junior.

After the beer party under Retief was massacred by the Zulus, Allan was kept in captivity for one week (p. 294, line 15) and five days later he reached the Natal River where Marie was staying (pp. 306-307), which brings the date up to approximately February 18th. His trial for treason and Marie's tragic death (pp. 341-342) follow in the space of two or at the most three days, after which he was seriously ill for two weeks. Here, about March 6, 1838, the story ends, with Allan nearing the age of 21, which gives us the year 1817 as the probable date of his birth.

The shock of Marie's death and the mental and physical strain he had undergone, must have necessitated Allan's taking a complete rest and it may be assumed that he returned to the Mission station.

The wife he spent where is uncertain but it is likely to have been considerable. We do know that he had a great affection for Marie--an affection so great that he never spoke of her even to so intimate a friend as the Editor of his many chronicles. Indeed, the latter says, "Of this Marie, I never heard him speak save once..." ("Marie," Editor's note, p. xi, line 18); her name is seldom mentioned in his other adventures, for Allan could not bear to write, much less to speak, of this early period of his life. Such sorrow, falling upon a person of his nature just approaching manhood, was bound to leave a scar that would never heal. Therefore he kept the tragedy locked up within his own breast, well aware that when the secret was revealed he would not be alive; it was his own sorrow, and as such it would remain.

Consequently such statements as "...I only married once and can but speak from my limited experience..." ("Allan's Wife," p. 174, lines 5-6) and "I remember my dear wife was just the same..." ("King Solomon's Mines," p. 248, lines 27-28) are not as conflicting as they seem and may well have sprung from that desire to keep this portion of his life a closed book to the world.

"Allan's Wife" (1889) is the next stage in his career; on the sudden death of his father, Allan decided to become an elephant hunter and in the course of his first hunting trip he married his second wife, Stella, who later bore him a son whom he called Harry. In this book we have evidence that Allan was born in 1817, for he says "By the time I was twenty I could speak Dutch and three or four Kaffir dialects perfectly" (p. 22, lines 24-25). Furthermore, he knew a Scotch blacksmith "who...could quote

the Scottish poet Burns and the 'Ingoldsby Legends', then recently published...." (p. 22, lines 15-16). The first collection of that "black-sided clerical cob's effusions" (as Stevenson wrote to Haggard) was published in 1840, and it follows that the Scottish blacksmith's recitations must have been after this date--approximately 1842 or 1843. This being so, we may place the date of Harry's birth as being about 1844, and in the adventure entitled "A Tale of Three Lions" Harry is named as Allan Quatermain's companion--indeed this was the only time the latter ever took his son with him on a hunting trip. As the Editor of this particular adventure mentions that "Harry was fourteen or thereabouts," if he was born in 1844, we may, for the present, date "A Tale of Three Lions" as having taken place in 1858.

This story also contains a reference to the tragic death of Quatermain's native servant, Jim-Jim, who was carried off by a lion, and as there is a further reference to this incident in "Maiwa's Revenge" (1888)--"after this little adventure, I determined to settle down for a bit..." (p. 11, lines 13-18), it is quite clear that "Maiwa's Revenge" must follow "A Tale of Three Lions." The following table shows the progress that has been made so far:-

"Mario"	1835-38
"Allan's Wife"	1842-43
"Child Of Storm"	1854-56
"A Tale Of Three Lions"	1858
"Maiwa's Revenge"	1859 (?)
"Long Odds"	1869
"Finished"	1879

"Child Of Storm" (1913) gives a very accurate account of the Zulu race in its prime, dealing as it does with the rivalry of the two royal brothers, Umbelazi and Ceto-wayo, the sons of King Ponda, but the heroine of the story is Mamona,

a Zulu girl whose beauty and insatiable lust for power brought about her death. The references which are made to her--all in the past tense--in "She and Allan" (p. 23, line 31), "Heu-Heu" (page 90, line 20), "The Ivory Child" (p. 50, line 28), and "Finished" (p. 201, lines 18-20), all prove "Child Of Storm" to be the first amongst these four titles and in passing it is worth noting that here, in this book, Allan Quatermain first met Zikali in person.

It has already been noted that the death of Hans, the Hottentot servant, occurred in "The Ivory Child"; the book "Finished" (1917) gives this as a fact--"I wondered what my old Hottentot retainer, Hans, would have advised....Alas! I could not raise him from the grave to tell me..." (p. 91, lines 21-26) and it therefore follows that all the other adventures in which he took part must precede "Finished." Moreover, it is in "The Holy Flower" that Hans received the titles of "Light-in-Darkness" and "Lord-of-the-Fire"--titles which, Allan says, "clung to the old Hottentot all his days" ("The Holy Flower," p. 358, line 6). References to these titles are to be found in "Heu-Heu" (p. 59, line 12) and "She and Allan" (p. 299, line 3) so that it is feasible to date these two adventures after that of "The Holy Flower" which in turn can be placed after "Long Odds" in the table.

The book "Finished" describes events leading up to the Zulu War of 1879 and the war itself, but there is an interval of many months between the introduction and the story proper. Although Quatermain met Anscombe in April, 1877, at the time of the Annexation of the Transvaal, their buffalo-hunting trip did not begin until 18 months later

--October, 1876. Mention is also made in this tale to the short episode of "Magopa the Buck" (included in "Smith and the Pharaohs and Other Tales", 1920, after appearing in a Christmas Annual in 1912) which describes a feat of native endurance performed after the battle of Isandhlwana and may well be classed as part of "Finished."

"The Ivory Child" opens with Quatermain's first meeting with Lord Ragnall when he happened to be staying in England with his friend Scroope...a fleeting reference to which is made in "The Holy Flower" --"It was during this stay of mine in Essex, by the way, that I first met Lord Ragnall and the beautiful Miss Holmes with whom I was destined to experience some very strange adventures in the after years" (p. 33, lines 20-23). After the attempted abduction of Lord Ragnall's fiancée, Miss Holmes (which was frustrated by Allan) there is an interval of two years before the trip to Kendaaland is undertaken. These two years are important, for, in "The Treasure of the Lake" Allan is instrumental in saving the life of an Englishman named Arkle, who, on hearing his rescuer's name, exclaims: "Allan Quatermain. Seems familiar to me somehow. Oh! I remember, a man I knew, Lord Ragnall, told me about you..." (p. 146, lines 16-18). When this remark was made, the trip to Kendaaland (as described in "The Ivory Child") could not have taken place, for Hans appeared in "The Treasure of the Lake" and we know that he died in Kendaaland; consequently we may presume that during the two years which had elapsed since Allan's first meeting with Ragnall and the commencement of the search for the latter's wife, the adventures of "The Treasure of the Lake" occurred.

In "Hou-Hou" (1924) mention is

made of the Zulu King Penda as being a very old man, which places this tale not later than 1872 as in that year the old king died. Inserting this fresh material in the chronological table we now get:-

"Marie"	1835-38
"Allan's Wife"	1842-43
"Child of Storm"	1854-56
"A Tale of Three Lions"	1858
"Maiwa's Revenge"	1859
"Long Odds"	1869
"The Holy Flower"	1870 (?)
"She and Allan"	?
"Hou-Hou"	1872
"The Treasure Of The Lake ?"	
"The Ivory Child"	?
"Finished"	
"Magopa the Buck"	1879

and are now left with five more stories to fit in--namely "King Solomon's Mines," "The Ancient Allan," "Allan and the Ice-Gods," "Hunter Quatermain's Story" and "Allan Quatermain."

"Finished" (p. 308, lines 16-17) contains the following remark: "When I came to England some years later after King Solomon's Mines had made me rich..." which must mean that this well known journey took place after 1879 and further, in "King Solomon's Mines" itself we find that Allan met Curtis and Good on the ship Dunkeld "in which Sir Garnet or one of those swells went down the coast" (p. 15 lines 8-9). It is a fact that Sir Garnet Wolseley did travel on the Dunkeld when he went out to South Africa to take over the command of the British Army from Lord Chelmsford in 1879, so that we may well date "King Solomon's Mines" about the year 1880.

"The Ivory Child" ends with the rescue of Lady Ragnall and the restoration of her memory, and it is more than likely that she and her husband would have stayed in England for at least

two years after this adventure so that she could fully regain her health before going to Egypt for five years in succession as we are told that they did in "The Ancient Allan" (p. 10, lines 8-9). Assuming, therefore, that Hans died about 1874 (for we know that "Heu-Heu" took place about 1872 and "The Treasure Of The Lake" comes between this and "The Ivory Child"), it would appear that the Ragnall's first visit to Egypt was in 1876-77--i.e., 1874 plus two years' rest in England--which would make the date of "The Ancient Allan" approximately 1882, followed closely by "Allan and the Ice-Gods."

"She and Allan" is important as here for the first time old Quatermain met Umslopogaas (pp. 36et seq) and we are given a clue thereby to the dating of Allan Quatermain, for, in the latter tale, Allan meets Umslopogaas again and recognises him--"I knew my man at once, although I had not seen him for twelve years"--("Allan Quatermain" p. 15, lines 6-7); if therefore we add twelve years to the date of "She and Allan"--which is approximately 1872/3, we get 1884/5 as the year in which Allan's last trip of all may have taken place.

Only "Hunter Quatermain's Story" now remains to be fitted into the table, and it is interesting to note that in this tale is the only reference ever made in all the eighteen stories to the fact that Quatermain had a noticeable accent. Often we are told of his scrubby hair and lameness, but only this once "that he spoke, too, when he returned Good's enthusiastic greeting, with a curious little accent, which made his speech noticeable" (p. 229, lines 17-19). This particular adventure was related after the journey to King Solomon's Mines and in telling it Quatermain says it took place "about ten years ago" (page 252, line 24); hence as we have dated that famous trip

1880, and taking advantage of the liberty allowed by the word "about," "Hunter Quatermain's Story" may well be dated 1868 rather than 1870.

From these facts it is now possible to draw up a final chronological table of the old hunter's adventures, which we find to be as follows:-

Allan Quatermain's birth	1817
"Marie"	1835-36
"Allan's Life"	1842-43
"Child Of Storm"	1854-56
"Tale Of Three Lions"	1858
"Maiwa's Revenge"	1859
"Hunter Quatermain's Story"	1868
"Long Odds"	1869
"The Holy Flower"	1870
"Heu-Heu"	1871
"She And Allan"....	1872
"Treasure Of The Lake"	1873
"The Ivory Child"	1874
"Finished")	
"Haggard The Buck")	1879
"King Solomon's Mines"	1880
"The Ancient Allan"	1882
"Allan and the Ice-Gods"	1883
"Allan Quatermain"	1884-85
Allan Quatermain's death, c. June 18th,	1885.

It is not claimed, however, that all these stories, written over a period of many years, are entirely free from conflicting statements, for this is not so. An examination of the first editions of the tales written between the years 1885-89 proves that Haggard, in those early days, had no idea that Quatermain would prove to be so popular a character or that he would write so many stories concerning the old hunter's wanderings.

The opening lines of "King Solomon's Mines" are a case in point: "It is a curious thing that at my age--fifty five last birthday..." This wording remained unchanged until after 1905 when in an edition of the book published in

1912 we find that it has been revised to: "...I shall never see sixty again..." It has been proved by the detailed evidence found in "Mario" that Quatermain was born in 1817; consequently to make him 55-56 years of age at the time of the journey to King Solomon's Mines would bring the date of that trip to 1872-73--an impossibility when it is remembered that "Finished" describes events of 1878-79.

"Allan Quatermain," on the other hand, gives a description of Allan himself (on p. 8, lines 9-10): "Imagine to yourself a small, withered, yellow-faced man of sixty three..." making (if we accept this as correct) the date of this, his last trip of all, 1880.. This would mean however that the adventures of "King Solomon's Mines," "The Ancient Allan," "Allan and the Ice-Gods," and "Allan Quatermain" all took place within one year (1879-80) which is of the utmost improbability.

Finally there is the misleading statement in the last adventure of all where we are told that Harry's unfortunate death so unsettled Allan that he determined to set out again in search of fresh fields to conquer. The only time Quatermain ever took Harry with him on a hunting trip was in "A Tale of Three Lions," when, according to the Editor, "Harry was fourteen or thereabouts." The table shows that Harry is likely to have been born in 1844 and the last adventure -- "Allan Quatermain" -- to have taken place in 1884; it therefore appears that Harry was then 40--at which age, apparently, he had just passed his last examination with honours!

Throughout the series he is always spoken of as a young man in the region of the twenties so that we can only conclude him to have been a second Peter Pan.

And in 1912, with the publication of "Mario," Haggard continued the Quatermain series, such discrepancies as the above disappear and it is evident that the remaining ten stories were written with an eye to chronological sequence. Only in one book ("She and Allan" 1922) is there an obvious slip of the pen; in the "Note by the late Mr. Allan Quatermain," we read:

"Good...brought a book to the house which he insisted over and over again I really must peruse. Ascertaining that it was a novel I declined... Being a persistent person, however before he went away about ten o'clock that night, he deposited it by my side, under my very nose indeed so that it might not be overlooked. Thus it came about that I could not help seeing some Egyptian hieroglyphics in an oval on the cover, also the title... all of which excited my curiosity, especially the title, which was brief and enigmatic, consisting indeed of the one word "SHE". I took up the work and on opening it the first thing my eye fell upon was a picture of a veiled woman, the sight of which made my heart stand still, so painfully did it remind me of a certain veiled woman whom once it had been my fortune to meet. Glancing from it to the printed page, the word seemed to leap at me. It was KCR! Now of veiled women there are plenty in the world, but were there also two Kers?...."

This passage is interesting for it shows that Good's copy of "She" was not a first, second, or even fourth edition--for none of these were illustrated--but apart from this, the first edition of the book was published in England in 1887--i.e., two years

after Allan Quatermain's death.

In a long series of stories written around one central character, the above discrepancies are after all but minor errors, and when one considers that all the above references from which the table has been built up have been taken from the first (and therefore original) edition in each case, such chronological accuracy is indeed noteworthy and a fact not universally recognised.

J. E. Scott

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am indebted to Mrs. Elizabeth Scott for her kind permission to reprint A NOTE CONCERNING THE LATE MR. ALLAN QUATERMAIN by J. E. Scott, from his book "A Bibliography of the Works of Sir Henry Rider Haggard" (1947)

--Oswald Train

For several years I had been carrying on an extensive correspondence with J. E. Scott of England. We never met in person, yet we came to know each other quite well. Suddenly, those letters ceased for several months, and then started again with the news that he had been very ill and forced to stay in bed for months. By this time he was feeling much better and the letters came regularly. Then there was another lapse caused by certain difficulties. There were no more letters, and there will be no more now. For on June 6th of this year, after having seemingly recovered from his long illness, he suddenly passed away. We had planned to do many things together, the most important being a book of letters by H. Rider Haggard. What will happen to those projects now is anybody's guess.

The chances are that only a few

of you know of J. E. Scott, for he was of a retiring nature and shunned publicity. He always wanted to write but could spare little time for it. While he produced no fiction, the fans of H. Rider Haggard are indebted to him for writing the extensive Bibliography of that famous writer. Countless hours of hard work went into that book, for all of the items had to be examined and verified. Besides listing British and American first editions he also gives information on the serialized versions, articles, letters to magazine and papers and reports on speeches. Besides this book he also had published at least two articles. The first of these was in 1944 in the papers of the American Bibliographical Society in which he proved that a certain pamphlet was not written by Haggard. The other, "Hatchers-Out of Tales," was published over a year ago in the Colophon and it showed how Haggard and Rudyard Kipling worked together on many of their stories, and how they influenced each other's work.

Of all the collectors of Haggard's work, J. E. Scott was certainly the foremost one. He often described portions of his collection to me in his letters and it contained all British and American first editions, many of them being signed copies, serialized versions in magazines and newspapers, articles and literally hundreds of letters written by Haggard and to Haggard by famous authors. He also had many of the original illustrations of Charles Kerr, Maurice Greiffenhagen and other artists who illustrated the books; notebooks; the original manuscript of "Allan Quatermain;" the script of an unpublished article written in 1879, and many other items of interest.

J. E. Scott has made a place for himself in literature with his Bibliography Of The Works of H. Rider Haggard.



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