

RAFFLES, THE GENTLEMAN THIEF

2004 – 2016

A Radio Series Broadcast Log By:
Stewart Wright

Initial Compilation: 04/30/2005

Last Update: 04/30/2019

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First Show: 07/18/2004
Last Show: 03/20/2016.
Number of Shows: 19.
Audition Show: None

STATUS NOTE:

Effective Friday, March 31, 2017 Jim French Productions has ceased producing new shows.

Starting in July 2017, new episodes of *The Adventures of Harry Nile* and *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* are being produced on a less frequent basis. These episodes will only be broadcast on Seattle radio station KIXI and they will be available for listening on the *Imagination Theatre* YouTube channel.

BACKGROUND:

Predecessors: Literature, Radio, and Motion Pictures:

Raffles, The Gentleman Thief was based on E. W. Hornung's stories which were written in the latter years of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth.

A. J. Raffles was England's most renowned cricketer. His fame gave him access to the highest circles of English Victorian society. Unfortunately, his acquired taste for the better things in life cost Raffles more than he made from playing cricket. To supplement his income, Raffles became a highly proficient burglar.

Generally, it is acknowledged that the Raffles stories were inspired by Doyle's Sherlock Holmes tales; Hornung was the brother-in-law of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Hornung's dedication in his first collection of Raffles stories, "The Amateur Cracksman", reads, "To A. C. D. This Form of Flattery." Sherlock Holmes was the master detective; A. J. Raffles was the master thief. Holmes' chronicler was his friend and associate, Dr. Watson; the chronicler of Raffles was his friend and partner-in-crime, Bunny Manders.

The Raffles character was no newcomer to American radio and motion pictures.

During the Golden Age of Radio, there were two CBS radio series based on the adventures of Hornung's Gentlemen Thief. The first effort, *Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman*, had a six month run on CBS from early Spring through early Fall during 1934. The second series, *The Adventures of Raffles*, ran during the 1942-1943 broadcast season. It started as a regional CBS 1942 Summer replacement and continued through mid-Fall. It resurfaced in the Spring, 1943 and continued through Summer of that year.

Well-known actors such as John Barrymore, Ronald Colman, and David Niven played A. J. Raffles on the silver screen.

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

This Jim French Productions series aired in the Seattle/Puget Sound area as part of *Imagination Theatre* on KIXI and was syndicated as part of *Imagination Theatre* on radio stations in the United States. *Imagination Theatre* was also heard in New Zealand and worldwide over the Internet. *Imagination Theatre* also airs other Jim French series such as *Crisis*; *The Adventures Of Harry Nile*; *Call Simon Walker*; *The Hilary Caine Mysteries*; *Kincaid*, *The Strangeseeker*; *The Classic Adventures Of Sherlock Holmes*; *The Further Adventures Of Sherlock Holmes* and several other series.

Raffles, The Gentleman Thief featured a mixture of adaptations of the original RAFFLES stories and brand new pastiches. English writer M. J. Elliott provided most of the scripts for this series. Elliott had also created the *Hilary Caine Mysteries* series and wrote scripts for *Kincaid*, *The Strange-seeker* and *The Further Adventures Of Sherlock Holmes*. He also adapted the novels and stories from the Conan Doyle Canon for *The Classic Adventures Of Sherlock Holmes*.

In the short story "The Ides Of March," Raffles revealed his financial situation to a chum from his school days, Harry "Bunny" Manders, "And, with your own experience, do you think that because a fellow has rooms in this place, and belongs to a club or two, and plays a little cricket, he must necessarily have a balance at the bank? I tell you, my dear man, that at this moment I'm as hard up as you ever were. I have nothing but my wits to live on – absolutely nothing else." Later in the story, Raffles disclosed the solution to his own financial problems: burglary. Bunny, who also had similar monetary problems, became Raffles' partner and his chronicler.

While his fame generally placed Raffles above suspicion, Inspector Mackenzie of Scotland Yard was convinced that A. J. Raffles was The Gentleman Thief. Mackenzie was resolved to bring Raffles to justice and was assisted in his efforts by Sergeant Clyde.

Several episodes of *Raffles, The Gentleman Thief* opened with the following narrative by the very determined Mackenzie, "The Gentleman Thief. He was responsible for the theft of the Thimbleby diamonds in 1890. He stole Lady Dormer's pearls six months later and his list of crimes goes on. He hides in

plain sight, a member of London Society. Scotland Yard won't even admit he exists, but I know his secret and I'm the man to catch him!"

CREW:

Producer: Jim French

Director: Lawrence Albert & Dennis Bateman

Writer: E. W. Hornung stories adapted by M. J Elliott 001, 002, 004 - 006, 008, 012, 015, 019.

Pastiches written by

M. J. Elliott episodes 003, 007, 011;

Jim French Episodes 009, 016, and 018;

John Hall Episode 010, 013, 014, and 017.

Music: "Vagabonds" by Dwight St. John

Sound Effects: Jim French and Lawrence Albert

Engineer: Jim French

Announcer: Lawrence Albert

CAST:

Starring:

John Armstrong as A. J. Raffles

Dennis Bateman as Harry "Bunny" Manders

Lawrence Albert as Inspector Mackenzie

Gary Schwartz as Sergeant Clyde

Guest Stars:

Susan Connors, Ted D'arms, Caitlin Finne, Jim French, Rachel Glass, Tom Hammond, Ron Hippe, Jeffrey Hitchin, Katrina Baxter Hodiak, Randy Hoffmeyer, John Patrick Lowrie, Louise Moore, Terry Edward Moore, David Natale, Marlene Phillips, Terry Rose, Cynthia Lauren Tewes, and Stephan Weyte.

EPISODE NOTES:

500th *Imagination Theatre* Broadcast:

"The Third Gate," a special program for the 500th week of *Imagination Theatre* aired on 10/16/2005. Featured were characters from various Jim French series: Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson (*The Further Adventures Of Sherlock Holmes*), Harry Nile and Murphy (*The Adventures Of Harry Nile*), Raffles and Bunny (*Raffles, The Gentleman Thief*), Hilary Caine (*The Hilary Caine Mysteries*), and Michael Kincaid, Shelly Mars and Randall "Biggie" Bigelow (*Kincaid, The Strangeseeker*) all appearing in one adventure as written by Jim French and British writer M. J. Elliott.

Sherlock Holmes Versus Raffles:

The principle creations of Hornung and Conan Doyle cross paths in shows presented by Jim French Productions. Raffles and Sherlock Holmes matched

wits in *The Further Adventures Of Sherlock Holmes* episode, "The Singular Affair Of The Persian Diadem" and the *Imagination Theatre* episode "The Third Gate." In the *Raffles* episode, "An Affair Of State," Mycroft Holmes coerced The Gentleman Thief and his cohort, Bunny Manders, to recover a missing document of international importance and Sherlock made a cameo performance.

Special *Imagination Theatre* 15th Anniversary Broadcast:

"Fifteen Years Later: Chapter 10 of War Comes to Harry Nile"

A special episode of *The Adventures Of Harry Nile*.

This double-length story celebrates 15 years of *Imagination Theatre* broadcasts and features guest stars:

John Patrick Lowrie from *The Classic* and *Further Adventures Of Sherlock Holmes*;

Terry Rose from *Kincaid The Strangeseeker*;

John Armstrong from *Raffles, The Gentleman Thief*;

and

Karen Heaven from *The Hilary Caine Mysteries*.

The time was June, 1944 and following the events of Chapter 3, "D-Day Minus One," Harry was still in England waiting to get a flight home. However, he isn't bored. He manages to get himself involved with murder, treason and a former "girl" detective. He also encounters an aged consulting detective; a reformed, for the duration, gentleman thief; and a nut job who says he was a seeker of the strange and unusual.

1,000th *Imagination Theatre* Broadcast:

On 05/17/2015, "The Three Gifts of Malebolgia or Three of Our Actors Are Missing," a special program for the 1,000th week of *Imagination Theatre* aired on a one-time basis only. Featured were three leading actors from various Jim French series: John Patrick Lowrie (Sherlock Holmes), Lawrence "Larry" Albert (Dr. Watson and Harry Nile), and Terry Rose (Michael Kincaid.) Also appearing out-of-character were John Armstrong (*Raffles, the Gentleman Thief*), Rachel Glass (*The Hilary Caine Mysteries*), David Natale (*Mr. Darnborough Investigates*), Kathryn Shield and Richard Sanders (Shelly Mars and Bigelow of *The Strange Seeker*), Jay Green, Mary Anne Dorward (Murphy of *The Adventures of Harry Nile*) and the man responsible it all, Jim French. The script was written by writer M. J. Elliott.

LOG:

All dates were the dates of original airings on Seattle radio.

ALTERNATE TITLES:

Alternate titles are shown in parentheses () in a separate line immediately following the primary show title entry.

Orig Date	Episode	Title
07/18/2004	001	The Ides Of March
08/15/2004	002	A Costume Piece (Costume Piece) (The Costume Piece)
10/31/2004	003	A Gift From The Gods
12/12/2004	004	Out Of Paradise
02/27/2005	005	Gentlemen And Players
04/10/2005	006	Le Premier Pas
06/12/2005	007	A Long Night
08/28/2005	008	Wilful Murder (Willful Murder)
10/23/2005	009	A Diamond For The Dead
01/22/2006	010	The Ardagh Emeralds
01/21/2007	011	An Affair Of State
07/15/2007	012	Nine Points Of The Law
04/27/2008	013	A Change Of Direction
04/26/2009	014	Raffles And Miss Morris
11/21/2010	015	The Return Match
10/16/2011	016	A Piece Of Cake
06/24/2012	017	Leviathan With A Hook
06/29/2014	018	The Duchess of Ireland
03/20/2016	019	Poetic Injustice

AVAILABILITY:

As of 03/31/2017 Shows can no longer be purchased through Jim French Productions.

THESE SHOWS ARE STILL PROTECTED UNDER COPYRIGHT LAW and should be purchased only from authorized dealers.

Jim French Productions Compact Discs and MP3 Downloads:

Compact Discs:

Jim French Productions released four single compact disc volumes with 3 episodes each. As of January 1, 2014, these single volumes are no longer available in CD format, but will be available as MP3 downloads.

Also available was a 4 CD Set.

Compact Disc Set:

Raffles, the Gentleman Thief - Set 1

A boxed set of four audio CDs with 3 episodes each.

MP3 Downloads:

Many episodes of this series were available for download in MP3 format.

The CD single volumes and CD Set of this series were available for download in MP3 format.

SOURCES CONSULTED:**Radio Broadcasts:**

Imagination Theatre Compact Discs: 2004 - 2017.

Program Listings:

Imagination Theatre Episode Guides 2004 - 2006.

Imagination Theatre program information supplied by Jim French Productions 2004 - 2016.

Correspondence and Conversations:

Larry Albert of Jim French Productions who provided episode titles, episode initial airing dates, and recurring characters information.

Correspondence and conversations with Jim French and Larry Albert 2004 - 2017.

Newspapers and Periodicals:

Radio Recall

(The Journal of The Metro Washington Old-Time Radio Club)

The End of An Era by Stewart Wright, April, 2017.

Radio sections of various 1934, 1942, 1943 newspapers.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer - Various Dates 2004 to 2009.

Books:

The Second, Revised Ultimate History of Network Radio Programming and Guide to All Circulating Shows by Jay Hickerson, 2001.

The Third, Revised Ultimate History of Network Radio Programming and Guide to All Circulating Shows by Jay Hickerson, 2005.

Internet:

Various Web pages at Jim French Productions website:

Web site is no longer active.