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 Stranger-seeker; 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:**  

**EPISODE NOTES:**

500th *Imagination Theatre* Broadcast:  

**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

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.
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<td>03/20/2016</td>
<td>019</td>
<td>Poetic Injustice</td>
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**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:

Program Listings:

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

Newspapers and Periodicals:
   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:

Internet:
Various Web pages at Jim French Productions website:
   Web site is no longer active.