

Sax Rohmer

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Sax Rohmer



Born February 15, 1883
Birmingham, United Kingdom

Died June 1, 1959 (aged 76)

Arthur Henry Sarsfield Ward (February 15, 1883 - June 1, 1959), better known as **Sax Rohmer**, was a prolific English novelist. He is most remembered for his series of novels featuring the master criminal Dr. Fu Manchu.

Born in Birmingham he had an entirely working class education and early career before beginning to write. His first published work was in 1903, the

short story *The Mysterious Mummy* for Pearson's Weekly. He made his early living writing comedy sketches for music hall performers and short stories and serials for magazines. In 1909 he married Rose Knox. He published his first novel *Pause!* anonymously in 1910 and the first Fu Manchu story, *The Mystery of Dr. Fu Manchu*, was serialized over 1912-13. It was an immediate success with its fast paced story of Sir Denis Nayland Smith and Dr. Petrie facing the worldwide conspiracy of the 'Yellow Peril'. The Fu Manchu stories, together with those featuring Gaston Max or Morris Klaw, made Rohmer one of the most successful and well-paid writers in of the 1920s and 1930s. But Rohmer was very poor at handling his wealth. After World War II the Rohmers moved to New York.

A number of films were made featuring Dr. Fu Manchu. Warner Oland starred in three early talkies: 1929's *The Mysterious Dr. Fu Manchu*, 1930's *The Return of Dr. Fu Manchu*, and 1931's *Daughter of the Dragon*. Boris Karloff starred in 1932's *The Mask of Fu Manchu*. There was a Republic Pictures serial, *Drums of Fu Manchu* in 1940 and a short-lived TV series, *The Adventures of Fu Manchu* in 1956. The character was revived after his creator's death for a series of variable

quality starring Christopher Lee: *The Face of Fu Manchu* (1965), *The Brides of Fu Manchu* (1966), *The Vengeance of Fu Manchu* (1967), *The Blood of Fu Manchu* (1968), and *The Castle of Fu Manchu* (1969). Pulp film legend Harry Alan Towers produced two films based on the *Sumuru* character in the 1960s, and an updated space fantasy version in 2002. Legendary comic actor Peter Sellers starred in the 1980 spoof, *The Fiendish Plot of Dr. Fu Manchu*. The Fu Manchu characters were featured in Marvel Comics' long-running series, *Master of Kung-Fu* and were revived for two novels by Rohmer's friend and biographer, Cay van Ash. A new authorized novel featuring the characters, *The Terror of Fu Manchu* by William Patrick Maynard is expected in 2007.

Selected bibliography

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- *The Mystery of Dr. Fu Manchu*, [US Title: The Insidious Dr. Fu Manchu] 1913
- *The Yellow Claw*, 1915
- *The Exploits of Captain O'Hagan* 1916
- *The Devil Doctor*, [US Title: The Return of Dr. Fu Manchu] 1916
- *The Si-Fan Mysteries*, [US Title: The Hand of Fu Manchu] 1917
- *Brood of the Witch Queen*, 1918
- *Tales of Secret Egypt*, 1918
- *The Orchard of Tears* 1918
- *Dope*, 1919
- *The Golden Scorpion*, 1919
- *Quest of the Sacred Slipper*, 1919
- *The Dream Detective*, 1920
- *The Green Eyes of Bast*, 1920
- *The Haunting of Low Fennel*, 1920
- *Bat Wing*, 1921
- *Tales of Chinatown*, 1922
- *Fire Tongue*, 1921
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- *Moon of Madness*, 1927
- *She Who Sleeps*, 1928
- *The Book of Fu Manchu*, [Compilation of first 3 Books] 1929
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- *Tales of East and West* (British edition) 1932
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- *The Bat Flies Low*, 1935
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- *Hanover House* 1949
- *The Sins of Sumuru*, [US Title: *Nude in Mink*] 1950
- *Wulfheim*(written as Michael Furey)later printing as *Sax Rohmer* 1950
- *The Slaves of Sumuru*, [US Title: *Sumuru*] 1951
- *Virgin in Flames*, [US Title: *Fire Goddess*] 1953
- *Sand and Satin*, [US Title: *Return of*

Sumuru] 1954

- *The Moon is Red* 1954
- *Sinister Madonna*, 1956
- *Re-enter Fu Manchu*, 1957 [UK Title: Re-Enter Dr. Fu Manchu]
- *Emperor Fu Manchu*, 1959
- *The Secret of Holm Peel and other Strange Stories* 1970
- *The Wrath of Fu Manchu*, 1973 [published posthumously]

see also:

- *Master of Villainy* - biography by Cay Van Ash and Elizabeth Sax Rohmer
- *Twent years beyond Baker street* (Sherlock Holmes clash with Fu Manchu)by Cay Van Ash 1984

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