

THE CHRONOLOGIES OF WU FANG AND YEN SIN

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Constructing chronologies for two short-lived villain pulps from Popular Publications, *The Mysterious Wu Fang* and *Dr. Yen Sin*, is not an overwhelming task. The novels clearly transpired in the order that they were published. Due to the short duration of each series, no severe chronological contradictions ever appeared. The main tasks of a chronologist are the assignment of the novels to particular months and the construction of an outline of the early careers of the main protagonists.

The Wu Fang Series by Robert J. Hogan consists of seven published novels: *The Case of the Six Coffins* (September 1935), *The Case of the Scarlet Feather* (October 1935), *The Case of Yellow Mask* (November 1935), *The Case of the Suicide Tomb* (December 1935), *The Case of the Green Ray* (January 1936), *The Case of the Black Lotus* (February 1936) and *The Case of the Hidden Scourge* (March 1936). In these novels, Wu Fang was opposed by an investigator named Val Kildare. Three of the seven novels contain references which indicate the respective seasons in which they transpired.

The Case of the Scarlet Feather seems to be set in the spring. The weather was warm: "The weather was rather warm, and it got warmer as they drove" (chap. 8). A recurring character, a newsboy named Cappy, was saving money to go on a camping trip with his Boy Scout troop in the summer (chap. 8). There were references to recent diplomatic actions: "...England writes a note to Germany—and Italy tells the League of Nations where they can go" (chap. 2). The reference to the English note is vague, but the Italy's dispute with the League of Nations stemmed from a territorial dispute with Ethiopia. The League of Nations was trying unsuccessfully to mediate this dispute in the spring of 1935, and Italy would invade Ethiopia in October.

The Case of the Suicide Tomb takes place after Election Day (November), but it is unclear how much time has passed since that event. It was mentioned that a noted archeologist had died from natural causes shortly after Election Day (chap.2), and some interval of time had passed since. This interval could be weeks or months.

The Case of the Green Ray transpired when sunrise was around six o'clock in London and neighboring areas (chap. 9). Sunrises occurs about this time in October.

Therefore, the second novel, *The Case of the Scarlet Feather*, should be assigned to the spring of 1935, and the fifth novel, *The Case of the Green Ray*, to October. The fourth novel, *The Case of the Suicide Tomb*, could be placed in the spring, summer or early fall of 1935.

In *The Case of the Yellow Mask*, Wu Fang recovered from burns received from a fire described in the previous novel. I have allowed for a gap of months to account for Wu Fang's convalescence. The novel implied that Wu Fang's recovery would have been much shorter if he was in a mental state to supervise his own medical treatment. Wu Fang had access to remedies that were not known to the doctor treating him. Once he recovered full use of his mental faculties, Wu Fang made use of these medicines. Wu Fang also received injuries in an explosion which happened in the conclusion of *The Case of the Black Lotus*. When he recovered at the start of the case of *The Case of the Hidden Scourge*, it was clear that Wu Fang had prescribed his own treatment. Consequently, the interval for Wu Fang's convalescence is about a month.

With the exception of the second and third novels, approximately a month separates the events of each novel in the chronology. These gaps permit Wu Fang to plot new devilry and for the various characters in the series to travel between novels. For example, *The Case of the Suicide Tomb* concluded with Wu Fang and Kildare in the United States, but the next novel, *The Case of the Green Ray*, opened with them in London. *The Case of the Black Lotus* ended with the regular cast in New York, but *The Case of the Hidden Scourge* began in Wu Fang in Singapore, and Kildare in the Middle East. Kildare had arrived in the Middle East after making a brief trip to London two weeks earlier (chap.2). In these novels, Wu Fang was regularly betrayed by his female assistant Mohra because of her love for Jerry Hazard, a newspaper reporter assisting Kildare. Usually Mohra was in Hazard's company at the end of one novel, but the novel would then open with Hazard searching for her after she had mysteriously been missing for at least several days.

Starting with the third issue (November 1935) of *The Mysterious Wu Fang*, a regular feature called "The Temple of Death" began to appear in the magazine. In this feature, author Hogan had Wu Fang talk directly to the readers. Generally he discussed the current novel and previewed the next novel. However, he sometimes revealed details of his past. In the third issue, "The Temple of Death" column gave the details of Wu Fang's origin.

Wu Fang's father was a wealthy man who lived in a pagoda on the Yangtze River. When Wu Fang was fifteen years old, his father purchased an American woman as a slave. Her brother traveled to the Yangtze pagoda with the intent of hopes of purchasing her freedom. When Wu Fang's father refused, the American slew him. Besides liberating his sister, the American captured Wu Fang and sold him as a slave. Wu Fang eventually gained his freedom when he led a rebellion of rickshaw coolies in Shanghai. This was Wu Fang's first taste of power. Many of the coolies that followed Wu Fang orders in the rebellion continued to serve him into the 1930's.

This Shanghai coolie rebellion sounds like one of the strikes which plagued Chinese cities shortly after World War I. Although I was unable to find any record of such a strike in Shanghai, there was an actual strike of the rickshaw coolies of Hankow in 1921. Both Hankow and Shanghai are located on the Yangtze River. Word of the Hankow strike could have reached Shanghai and prompted the coolies led by Wu Fang to launch their own strike.

If we assume that Wu Fang's coolie revolt was in 1921, then we can make an estimate regarding his year of birth. Wu Fang was at least in his thirties in Hogan's novels. He probably was in his early twenties when he led the Shanghai rebellion. Probably Wu Fang was born in 1900, an appropriate year of birth because the Boxer Rebellion erupted then. The Boxer Rebellion, an attempt by militant Chinese to expel all foreigners from their homeland, augmented anti-Asian feelings in the West. One product of this anti-Asian prejudice was the "Yellow Peril" literature which eventually spawned the Wu Fang novels of Robert J. Hogan.

If Wu Fang was born in 1900, then 1915 was the year in which he was sold into slavery. In 1910, slavery had been outlawed in China. However, it did exist on a clandestine level for decades afterwards. Wu Fang claimed that his father was a man of prominent and noble birth. His father must have been a member of a prominent and noble family of criminals if he was engaged in slavery in 1915 (1). It is also surprising

that the American did not appeal to any of the Western garrisons stationed in Shanghai to rescue his sister. Even if slavery had still been legal, there would have been an outcry among the Westerners in Shanghai about the enslavement of a Caucasian female by an Oriental. Since the American treatment of Wu Fang was hardly ethical, it is extremely likely that the American was a bit of a crook himself. A criminal record would easily prevent the American from petitioning the Western authorities in Shanghai. Wu Fang indicated that the American had long been dead in 1935. It is quite possible that Wu Fang later arranged the American's demise after fleeing Shanghai.

It may be assumed that Wu Fang returned to his father's Yangtze temple after escaping his life as a rickshaw coolie. In fact, this pagoda could be "The Temple of Death" from where Wu Fang was supposedly addressing the readers.

"The Temple of Death" column from the last issue (March 1936) was virtually a short story about Wu Fang. Among Wu Fang's followers was a minor crook named Lu Snow. In the United States, Lu Snow had developed a lust for a young man, Louise Lawton. Because he was bored at the time, Wu Fang decided to amuse himself by allowing Lu Snow to fulfill his bestial desires. Louise was raped by Lu Snow. Louise, her mother and her brothers perished in the torture chambers of Wu Fang. Her father, John Lawton, was turned into a raving maniac who languished in the dungeons of Wu Fang. This barbaric crime transpired two years after Wu Fang related it in "The Temple of Death." Although this story was published in 1936, it was probably written by Hogan in late 1935. 1933 would most likely be the year in which Wu Fang victimized the Lawton family.

Between the Shanghai rebellion of 1921 and the vendetta against the Lawton family in 1933, Wu Fang would have been busy building his criminal empire. He joined secret societies like the Sacred Order of the Golden Dragon (mentioned in *The Case of the Scarlet Feather*, chap. 18), and the Chang Li. An association that played a major role in *The Case of the Black Lotus*. He enslaved various beautiful women to act as his agents. There was Mohra, who was either of Afghan or Turkish extraction (*The Case of the Six Coffins*, chap. 16), Nee-Sa the child-like temptress (2) and Tanya, who was probably Russian.

Tanya's parents were supposedly members of a royal family (*The Case of the Hidden Scourge*, chap. 14). When she was a child, one of Wu Fang's henchmen abducted her after murdering her parents. Tanya's parents were probably members of the Romanov family which had ruled Russia until the revolution of 1917. Tanya's parents were conceivably cousins of Tsar Nicholas II. There was a sizable Russian community in the Chinese province of Manchuria after World War I. Manchuria was most likely where Tanya and her parents fled after the outbreak of the revolution. Assuming that Tanya was in her twenties at the time of Wu Fang's exploits in 1935, then she was probably ten years old when she was kidnapped.

The agent who abducted Tanya and killed her parents was Zaru, a gigantic henchman who asserted that one of his recent ancestors was an ape. Wu Fang conducted experiments in crossbreeding different species. Normally he conducted these experiments with reptiles, but he did apparently crossbreed humans and monkeys. Bizarre monkey-men serving Wu Fang appeared in *The Case of the Scarlet Feather* and *The Case of the Green Ray*. These monkey-men may only have been a decade old in 1935, but Zaru must have been twenty years old during Tanya's kidnapping. If Zaru was

the product of an experiment by Wu Fang to crossbreed a human being and an ape, then the mastermind would be much older than I have speculated.

However, there is another possible explanation for Zaru's existence. There are legends of ape-men in Asia. The most famous is that of the Yeti (Abominable Snowman) in Tibet. Another pulp writer, Robert E. Howard (1906-36), wrote stories in which master criminals utilized Yeti-like ape-men from the Gobi Desert in Mongolia. These stories (published posthumously) were *Three-Bladed Doom* (Zebra Books, 1977) and "The Devils of Dark Lake" from *WT 50* (1974, published and edited by Robert Weinberg). Wu Fang seems to have visited the Gobi Desert. He utilized a monstrous bird from that region in *The Case of the Yellow Mask*. Wu Fang could have met Zaru, the hybrid offspring of an ape-man and a human female, in the Gobi Desert in the 1920's. Recruiting Zaru into his service, Wu Fang then dispatched him to Manchuria to abduct Tanya. The existence of Zaru could then have prompted Wu Fang to conduct his own experiments in crossbreeding.

Wu Fang also visited the Malayan peninsula. There he gained the loyalty of a tribe that would act as his minions. One peculiarity of this tribe is that none of its members would take a bath. The tribe was said to live near the Chinese border (*The Case of the Yellow Mask*, chap. 18). This statement is erroneous because Malaysia, or Malaya as it was known in the 1930's, does not border China. Probably the tribe lived near the border between Malaysia (Malaya) and Thailand (Siam).

The career of Val Kildare contains some unresolved questions. When the series began, Kildare was an FBI agent. An agent of Wu Fang penetrated the FBI and persuaded the Bureau to fire Kildare for "continued failure." The official who signed Kildare's notice of dismissal was named "Hower" (*The Case of the Six Coffins*, chap. 2). "Hower" sounds like a thinly disguised alias for FBI director J. Edgar Hoover. In *The Case of the Scarlet Feather* (chap. 2), it was stated that Kildare's "immediate superior" in the FBI had granted him permission to maintain his federal badge. Whether this "immediate superior" was "Hower" is unclear. It could be that Kildare's dismissal from the FBI was all an elaborate sham to fool Wu Fang. Perhaps Kildare was always working for J. Edgar Hoover.

Two novels, *The Case of the Scarlet Feather* (chap. 3) and *The Case of the Hidden Scourge* (chap. 2) identify Kildare as a former agent of the Secret Service. Like Vic Marquette in *The Shadow* series, Kildare could have worked originally for the Secret Service and then transferred to the FBI.

Kildare had traveled in Asia. In *The Case of the Yellow Mask* (chap. 19), Kildare mentioned that he had earlier in the Gobi Desert seen the species of monstrous nighthawk which Wu Fang had trained. It is not stated that Kildare tangled with Wu Fang during this unrecorded trip to the Gobi Desert, but the possibility exists.

Kildare had been on Wu Fang's trail since "sometime ago" in *The Case of the Six Coffins* (chap. 2). To have been dismissed for "continued failure" could imply that Kildare had been tracking Wu Fang for several months. The FBI must have handed Kildare the Wu Fang assignment in 1934. Could Kildare's vendetta against Wu Fang have begun even earlier? Had Kildare previously encountered Wu Fang in the Gobi Desert? Did the Secret Service employ Kildare to track down Wu Fang in the early 1930's? The answer to these questions will never be known.

Jerry Hazard of the McNulty News Services had investigated crimes before he joined Kildare's crusade against Wu Fang. One year before *The Case of the Six Coffins*, Hazard had cracked the McDanold case (chap. 2).

In the course of these novels, Wu Fang was responsible for the deaths of two people who had real-life counterparts. In *The Case of the Yellow Mask*, the action shifted to Peru. There Kildare identified a corpse crushed by a boulder as the President of Peru. Kildare's identification was based on the shoes worn by the dead man. Wu Fang murdered several prominent citizens of New York City in *The Case of the Black Lotus*. A radio news report professed that one of these victims was the Mayor. Since neither of the real-life holders of these offices died a violent death, it can be theorized that the corpse of someone else shared the Peruvian President's taste in footwear, and the New York media incorrectly reported the Mayor's demise.

CHRONOLOGY (Wu Fang)

1900	Birth of Wu Fang.
1915	An American kills Wu Fang's father. The same American sells Wu Fang into slavery.
1921	Wu Fang leads a rebellion of rickshaw coolies in Shanghai.
1921-32	Wu Fang becomes involved with Chinese secret societies such as the Sacred Order of the Golden Dragon and the Chang Li. He gains the allegiance of Zaru the ape-man (possibly in the Gobi Desert). Zaru kidnaps Tanya after murdering her royal (Romanov?) parents. Wu Fang begins to conduct experiments in crossbreeding different animals as well as humans with monkeys. He asserts control over a strange Malayan tribe.
	Val Kildare visits the Gobi Desert. In the early 1930's, he may have been a member of the American Secret Service.
1933	Wu Fang destroys the Lawton family.
1934	Jerry Hazard solves the McDanold Case. As a member of the FBI, Val Kildare is assigned to probe Wu Fang's operations.
1935: April (9 days)	<i>The Case of the Six Coffins</i> .
May (2 days)	<i>The Case of the Scarlet Feather</i> .

August (17 days)	<i>The Case of the Yellow Mask.</i>
September (5 days)	<i>The Case of the Suicide Tomb</i>
October (9 days)	<i>The Case of the Green Ray</i>
November (2 days)	<i>The Case of the Black Lotus</i>
December (7 days)	<i>The Case of the Hidden Scourge</i>

The Case of the Hidden Scourge concluded with the arrest of Wu Fang in Singapore. Another novel, *The Case of the Living Poison*, was planned, but Popular Publications canceled *The Mysterious Wu Fang* and replaced it with *Dr. Yen Sin*. The Yen Sin series consists of three novels by Donald E. Keyhoe: *The Mystery of the Dragon's Shadow* (May-June 1936), *The Mystery of the Golden Skull* (July-August 1936) and *The Mystery of the Singing Mummies* (September-October 1936). In these novels, Yen Sin was opposed by Michael Traile, the Man Who Could Not Sleep.

The months in which the novels were set correspond to the months by which the issues were dated. In *The Mystery of the Golden Skull*, a phony report by Yen Sin's agents was dated July 17 (chap. 5). In *The Mystery of the Singing Mummies* (chap. 10), the first day of the novel was identified as the eleventh of September (chap. 10). The same novel mentioned that the FBI director had issued an order instructing all agents to cooperate with Traile on May 19 (chap, 5). This order would have been issued shortly before the events of *The Mystery of the Dragon's Shadow*.

Since the novels can be easily assigned to specific months, the question of the year should be addressed. In *The Mystery of the Singing Mummies*, it was mentioned that a scientist had been performing a series of experiments since 1934 (chap. 11). Therefore, the novel took place after 1934. Since the novels were published in 1936, their chronological year would either be 1935 or 1936. Of these two choices, I prefer 1935 since it would permit the pretense that these fictional events were thinly disguised accounts of actual occurrences.

We do not learn much about Yen Sin's background in these novels, but we are provided with a wealth of detail about Michael Traile. In fact, Traile is a far more interesting character than Yen Sin. The details of Traile's early life were given in *The Mystery of the Dragon's Shadow* (chap.1). At the age of two in Jubblepore, India, Traile had to be operated on due to an unspecified brain injury. The Hindu doctor performing the operation had to remove the portion of the brain that controlled sleep. When it was noticed that the young child could not sleep, it was feared that he would die. Traile's parents engaged a fakir who taught the child the Yoga trick of complete relaxation of the muscles. Three months after the operation, Traile was in perfect health. Traile and his parents returned to the United States. It was realized that Traile must be educated along unique lines in order to be mentally healthy. At the age of five, Traile was provided with a day tutor, a night tutor and a physical instructor. Traile's intelligence developed rapidly as a result. At the age of fourteen, Traile was fluent in three or four languages, and adept in the sports of wrestling, boxing and archery.

Between the ages of sixteen and twenty, Traile traveled around the world. In his twentieth year, Traile's parents were killed in an accident.

Traile professed that he had not slept for twenty-seven years. Since he lost the power of sleep at two years of age, Traile was twenty-nine when the series began. If the novels are placed in 1935, then Traile was born in 1906. Traile had a servant named Denny (3), who had been serving his family for eighteen years by the time of *The Mystery of the Dragon's Shadow* (chap.7).

Traile's sidekick was Eric Gordon, a correspondent for World Radio and Cables. Gordon's age was given as twenty-five in *The Mystery of the Singing Mummies* (chap. 5). Gordon would seem to have been born in 1910. He had with World Radio and Cables for three years in *The Mystery of the Dragon's Shadow* (chap. 1).

Dr. Yen Sin was head of an international spy network known as the Invisible Empire. Yen Sin, alias the Cobra, recruited agents into his organization frequently through blackmail. In *The Mystery of the Golden Skull* (chap,7), an American businessman claimed that his steamship line in Shanghai had been plagued by an extortion campaign conducted by the Cobra. This criminal campaign supposedly occurred six years before the events of the novel. The businessman was later revealed to be the Invisible Empire's chief agent in New York, and this tale of extortion was one of many fabricated "half-truths" (chap. 8). More likely, the extortion campaign did occur, and Yen Sin used it to coerce the American magnate into the service of the Invisible Empire. The successful recruitment of the wealthy American would have transpired in 1929. This would be the earliest reference in the series to Yen Sin's criminal past.

One year before the events of *The Mystery of the Golden Skull* (chap. 2), Yen Sin imprisoned Grand Duke Sergius Damitri (also called Damatri (4)), a nobleman who fled his native Russia for the Orient during the Bolshevik Revolution. Sergius had become a sort of secret agent for right-wing Russian expatriates. He had trained his daughter Sonia to be a spy. Yen Sin used the Grand Duke as a hostage to force Sonia to work for the Invisible Empire. She would function as a reluctant agent in the Traile's duels with Yen Sin.

Yen Sin first crossed the path of Michael Traile in China. In Cherfoo, Traile witnessed the death of an Englishman from a poison known as the Dragon's Shadow (*The Mystery of the Dragon's Shadow*, Chap. 4). This incident happened three months before the events of the first novel (chap. 7). Traile then went to Shanghai when he followed a lead to Yen Sin. Secretly attending a meeting of the Invisible Empire in disguise, Traile learned about one of Yen Sin's schemes and sabotaged it. When Traile's ruse was discovered, he escaped to the United States.

In Washington D. C., Traile met with members of the State Department and other government agencies. He convinced them of the serious threat posed by Yen Sin. Traile was given special authority to deal with the activities of the Invisible Empire inside the United States. In order to confuse Yen Sin, it was pretended that Traile was actually part of a special investigative unit known as the Q-Group. On May 19, the FBI Director issued an order instructing all agents to cooperate with Traile under his alias of Q-5-8983. (*The Case of the Singing Mummies*, chap. 5). In the Yen Sin novels, the FBI Director was called John Glover, an obvious alias for J. Edgar Hoover.

Besides Yen Sin, Traile had to contend with another master criminal, Monsieur. X, an international spy in *The Case of the Singing Mummies*. During the American

involvement in World War I, Monsieur X had been an American conducting espionage for Germany (chap. 9). For three years before the events of *The Case of the Singing Mummies*, (chap.9), Monsieur X had been conducting freelance espionage inside the United States. His principal clients were Germany and Japan during these years.

CHRONOLOGY (Yen Sin)

1906	Birth of Michael Traile.
1908	At the age of two, Traile loses the ability to sleep due to a delicate brain operation conducted in Jubblepore, India.
1910	Birth of Eric Gordon.
1911	At the age of five, Traile is assigned a day tutor, a night tutor and a physical instructor.
1917	A servant named Denny enters the service of the Traile family.
1917-18	Grand Duke Sergius Damitri with his family flees Russia. He becomes a spy in the Orient. Monsieur X spies for Germany against the United States.
1920	Traile (fourteen years old) is now fluent in three or four languages and adept at boxing, wrestling and archery.
1922-26	Traile travels around the world.
1926	Death of Traile's parents in an accident.
1929	Under the alias of the Cobra in Shanghai, Dr. Yen Sin successfully conducts an extortion campaign that coerces a prominent businessman into joining the Invisible Empire.
1932	Eric Gordon joins World Radio and Cables. Monsieur X organizes a freelance spy ring inside the United States.
1934	Yen Sin captures Sergius Damitri and forces his daughter Sonia to become a spy for the Invisible Empire.

1935: Feb. to mid-May	In Cherfoo, Michael Traile witnesses the poisoning of an Englishman. In Shanghai, Traile in disguise attends a meeting of the Invisible Empire conducted by Yen Sin. After foiling one of Yen Sin's schemes, Traile travels to Washington, D. C. to confer with government officials. The Q group is established as a cover for Traile's investigations of Yen Sin.
May 19	The FBI Director issues an order to all agents to cooperate with Traile (under the alias of Q-5-8983).
Late May (3 days)	<i>The Mystery of the Dragon's Shadow.</i>
July 17	A false report is prepared by the Invisible Empire with the intent of later tricking Traile.
Late July (6 days)	<i>The Mystery of the Golden Skull.</i>
Sept 11-13 (3 days)	<i>The Mystery of the Singing Mummies.</i>

A fourth Yen Sin novel, *The Case of the Faceless Men*, was announced, but it was never published.

A comparison of the two chronologies leads to some interesting speculation. J. Edgar Hoover appeared in both series under thinly disguised aliases. Perhaps Hoover was criticized for his dismissal of Kildare in April 1935, and this criticism caused him to adopt a cooperative attitude towards Michael Traile in May. In "The Case of the Scarlet Feather," Wu Fang received some competition from a spy ring with ties to Europe. May this spy ring was the same as Monsieur X's from the Yen Sin series.

The most intriguing question of all is the possible relationship between Wu Fang and Yen Sin. Was their concurrent presence in the United States during 1935 the product of some insidious master plan? If it was, then the architect of this grand scheme would have been most likely Dr. Fu Manchu, the fictional master criminal who inspired Popular Publication to create Wu Fang and Dr. Yen Sin. There is strong evidence that Fu Manchu was also in the United States during 1935. In Sax Rohmer's *President Fu Manchu* (1935), the sinister mastermind was scheming to place a puppet in the White House. In order to achieve this end, Fu Manchu orchestrated the assassination of Harvey Bragg, a third party presidential candidate. Bragg's murder was based on the real-life assassination of Senator Huey Long in September 1935.

In Rohmer's novels, Fu Manchu headed the Si-Fan, a confederation of various secret societies. The Si-Fan dominated the Chinese tongs. Fu Manchu could have instructed the tongs to support Wu Fang in order to have the American authorities divert resources away from investigating the Si-Fan scheme to control the White House. Of

course, Wu Fang did not see himself as merely a stalking horse for Fu Manchu. Wu Fang clearly had his own agenda for world domination.

As for Yen sin, the Invisible Empire must have been an important component of the Si-Fan. Yen Sin's campaign of sabotage and espionage would have been directed toward advancing the Si-Fan's scheme of capturing the White House. The most invisible aspect of this Invisible Empire might have been its ultimate goal. Yen Sin acknowledged that his ambition was to put the world under the yoke of an emperor, but nowhere in Keyhoe's novel does the master criminal mention the identity of this global despot. Traile assumed that Yen Sin was talking about himself, but the leader of the Invisible Empire was really serving a secret master, Fu Manchu.

NOTES

1. Wu Fang and his father were probably members of the Wu pirate clan that features prominently in the Asian Saga novels of James Clavell. The infamous patriarch of this family was Wu Fang Choi, a pirate of the 1840's.
2. Nee-Sa was probably either fifteen or sixteen in the Wu Fang novels. In *The Case of the Suicide Tomb* (chap. 1), Nee-Sa suggested that she was spawned by the devil and a "she-vampire." Nee-Sa's father could be Satan, the Eurasian criminal from A. Merritt's *Seven Footprints to Satan* (1928). Satan had mated with various women to produce a male heir. The children born were female, and Satan boasted that these undesired offspring were all put to death. Perhaps the executioner entrusted with liquidating one such child was prompted by pity to spare her. The executioner then raised this child, known as Nee-Sa, as his own. When the illegal enterprises of Satan collapsed, the executioner and his foster daughter sought employment in Wu Fang's organization. As for Nee-Sa's mother, she could be Anarra, the title character of "Vampire" by George F. Worts. This story (serialized in *Argosy* during 1931) can be found in *The Compleat Adventures of Peter the Brazen: Volume II* (The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, 2003). According to her known history, Anarra was sold by a Siamese prince to the Sultan of Sakala. She easily dominated the Sultan. When Anarra developed anemia, the Sultan kept her alive by murdering others in order to obtain blood transfusions. Anarra could have originally been Satan's mistress. When she failed to produce a male heir, Satan decided to dispose of her by arranging her sale to the Sultan of Sakala using the Siamese prince as a proxy (many of Satan's agents were prominent men). Satan's plan was to control the Sultan through Anarra. When Nee-Sa later learned of Anarra's anemic condition, the young girl constructed the legend that she was born from a vampire mother.
3. Perhaps this Denny was a relative of James Denny, Bulldog Drummond's butler.
4. Alternate spellings of Russian names are common because the names are transliterated into the Latin alphabet from the Cyrillic alphabet.