

Timeline with details pre-history, periodical publication and book publication of Oscar Wilde's short fiction

Working title	Pre-History		Periodical publication						Available material evidence and/or textual witnesses	Book publication										
	Source	Date	Title	Illustrations	Periodical	Date of publication	Notes	Short stories	Collection title	Dedicatee(s)	Publisher	Illustrators and design	Printer	Print run and price first edition	Marketing strategy	Reception	Notes			
"The Happy Prince"	Performed in front of children in America.	Summer 1882						MS in Constance Lloyd's hand with only the title, revisions in pencil, and a signature at the bottom of the last page are in Wilde's. The MS bears around 150 textual differences with the book version.	"The Happy Prince"	The Happy Prince and Other Tales (May 1888)	Carlos Blacker	David Nutt (UK)	Walter Crane (full-page illustrations for "The Happy Prince", "The Selfish Giant", and "The Remarkable Rocket") and Jacob Comb-Hood (B&W head- and tail-pieces)		First edition: 1,000 small quarto, hardcover copies of at 5/- Second edition: 3s. 6d. Special edition: 6s signed and numbered	Eclectic: giving copies to peers (John Ruskin, Roger de Bury, W.E. Gladstone) and reviewers (Century, Guild Hobby Horse, Irish Times), placing advertisements (Punch, The World) and placing cards with Crane frontispiece in bookshops, suggest copies be sent to librarians, suggested a reading by Ellen Terry.	Generally favorable reception. First edition sold out within months. Nutt quickly printed cheaper second edition (3s. 6d.) and number copies of special edition (£1.1s). THP would continue to sell throughout Wilde's lifetime	David Nutt was not Wilde's first choice of publisher. Wilde had intended to place the collection with Macmillan.		
	Performed in front of undergraduate students in Cambridge	Late 1885																		
	First draft	November 1885																		
	MS sent to the "English Illustrated"	Late 1886 or early 1887																		
The Nightingale and the Rose																				
The Selfish Giant	Possibly written by or in collaboration with Constance Lloyd	Early 1886						In Blackwood: "The Portrait of Mr W.H." was explicitly referred to as a "story". The text, which was originally 11500 words long, was revised and enlarged over eleven years. Blackwood was priced at 2s. 6d. Reprinted in Eclectic Magazine (50, n° 5, in August 1889)	"The Selfish Giant"	The Happy Prince and Other Tales (May 1888)	Carlos Blacker	David Nutt (UK)	Walter Crane (full-page illustrations for "The Happy Prince", "The Selfish Giant", and "The Remarkable Rocket") and Jacob Comb-Hood (B&W head- and tail-pieces)		First edition: 1,000 small quarto, hardcover copies of at 5/- Second edition: 3s. 6d. Special edition: 6s signed and numbered	Eclectic: giving copies to peers (John Ruskin, Roger de Bury, W.E. Gladstone) and reviewers (Century, Guild Hobby Horse, Irish Times), placing advertisements (Punch, The World) and placing cards with Crane frontispiece in bookshops, suggest copies be sent to librarians, suggested a reading by Ellen Terry.	Generally favorable reception. First edition sold out within months. Nutt quickly printed cheaper second edition (3s. 6d.) and number copies of special edition (£1.1s). THP would continue to sell throughout Wilde's lifetime	David Nutt was not Wilde's first choice of publisher. Wilde had intended to place the collection with Macmillan.		
The Devoted Friend																				
The Remarkable Rocket	Possibly a parody of James Abbott McNeill Whistler's Ten O'Clock lecture, given at the Prince's Hall on 20 February 1885																			
"The Portrait of Mr W.H."	Ellmann (1987) suggests that the story was first mentioned in a letter to Thomas Wemyss Reid in provides no proof.	October 1887																		
	Wilde's letters document first mention to the story in April 1889.	Spring 1889	"The Portrait of Mr W.H."	Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine (146, n° 885, pp. 1-21)	July 1889		In Blackwood: "The Portrait of Mr W.H." was explicitly referred to as a "story". The text, which was originally 11500 words long, was revised and enlarged over eleven years. Blackwood was priced at 2s. 6d. Reprinted in Eclectic Magazine (50, n° 5, in August 1889)	"The Portrait of Mr W.H."	The Happy Prince and Other Tales (May 1888)	Carlos Blacker	David Nutt (UK)	Walter Crane (full-page illustrations for "The Happy Prince", "The Selfish Giant", and "The Remarkable Rocket") and Jacob Comb-Hood (B&W head- and tail-pieces)		First edition: 1,000 small quarto, hardcover copies of at 5/- Second edition: 3s. 6d. Special edition: 6s signed and numbered	Eclectic: giving copies to peers (John Ruskin, Roger de Bury, W.E. Gladstone) and reviewers (Century, Guild Hobby Horse, Irish Times), placing advertisements (Punch, The World) and placing cards with Crane frontispiece in bookshops, suggest copies be sent to librarians, suggested a reading by Ellen Terry.	Generally favorable reception. First edition sold out within months. Nutt quickly printed cheaper second edition (3s. 6d.) and number copies of special edition (£1.1s). THP would continue to sell throughout Wilde's lifetime	David Nutt was not Wilde's first choice of publisher. Wilde had intended to place the collection with Macmillan.			
	Schroeder suggests that the Stuart Exhibition of 31 December 1888 is most likely source of inspiration	Early 1889																		
Lord Arthur Savile's Crime	Possibly inspired by Wilde's friendship with palm-reader Heron-Alen, and the general palmistry and occultism craze of the 1880s.		"Lord Arthur Savile's Crime: A Story of Cheiromancy"	Unknown	The Court and Society Review	May 1887	-	"Lord Arthur Savile's Crime: A Study of Duty"	Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories (July 1891)	None.	Osgood & Mclvaine (UK) & Dodd, Mead and Co. (USA)	No illustrations. Lettering and binding by Charles Ricketts	R & R Clark (Edinburgh)	1500 copies at 2s (UK); 500 copies at \$1 (USA)	No illustrations, low price suggests that volume was aimed at broad public	Mixed reviews. Poor sales figures. Poor sales figures: first edition did not sell out	No references to any of the stories or the collection itself in Wilde's correspondence. Second edition of this volume would include "The Portrait of Mr W.H.".			
The Canterville Ghost	Possibly inspired by Wilde's experience during his lecture tour in North America in 1882, related to contents of his lecture tour through United Kingdom in 1883-1884.																			
"The Sphinx without a Secret"																				
"The Model Millionaire"	Possibly written alongside Wilde's article "London Models" (written in March 1886, published in June 1886)	Early 1886 (@small2015, 9)	The Model Millionaire	No	The World (pp. 18-19)	22 June 1887	Published anonymously as part of the series "Town and Country Tales". I have a scanned copy of the original publication.	"The Model Millionaire: A Note of Admiration"	The Happy Prince and Other Tales (May 1888)	Carlos Blacker	David Nutt (UK)	Walter Crane (full-page illustrations for "The Happy Prince", "The Selfish Giant", and "The Remarkable Rocket") and Jacob Comb-Hood (B&W head- and tail-pieces)								
The Young King		Late 1888	"The Young King"				No evidence, but secondary sources affirm that the story was accompanied by five illustrations by J. Bernard Partridge. To Partridge, "I cannot help writing to you to tell you how charmed I am by them. You have seen the Young King just as I hoped you would see him, and made him by delicate line and graceful design the most winsome and fascinating lad possible" [@wilde2000m]	Lady's Pictorial	Christmas 1888/1889 edition	Unclear whether Alfred Gibbons, editor of the LP, commissioned the story, or whether Wilde submitted it for review. Although Carlos Blacker took credit for the illustrations in The Happy Prince and Other Tales, seems to have been displeased at the erotic undertones of the story, and "one paper called the story a 'weird and wild' allegory, most commentators thought it possessed both 'charm' and 'an admirable moral', besides being 'exquisitely expressed' (@sturgis2018, v.8.)	"The Young King"	A House of Pomegranates (November 1891)	Charles Ricketts and Charles Shannon	Cheswick Press	1000 copies at £1.1s (UK); unknown number of copies at \$5 (USA) in 1892	Aimed at market of book connoisseurs and collectors.	Poor sales figures, criticism on book's poorly executed design, concern about the association of the series of fairy tales being inappropriate for children's literature. In 1904, stock of first edition was sold as remainders for a few shillings.			
The Birthday of the Little Princess	According to Wilde, this story was inspired by Diego Velazquez's Las Meninas (1656)		"The Birthday of the Little Princess"				Published in English in the London and New York editions of Paris Illustré	May 1889	Unclear whether Wilde translated the story himself or not. Unclear which of the two versions, if any, is the original. The French version is more refined and lexical density than the English version" (@small2017, xcvi).	"The Birthday of the Infanta"	Osgood & Mclvaine (UK) & Dodd, Mead, and Co.	Charles Ricketts and Charles Shannon	Cheswick Press	1000 copies at £1.1s (UK); unknown number of copies at \$5 (USA) in 1892	Aimed at market of book connoisseurs and collectors.	Poor sales figures, criticism on book's poorly executed design, concern about the association of the series of fairy tales being inappropriate for children's literature. In 1904, stock of first edition was sold as remainders for a few shillings.				
The Fisherman and His Soul	First draft written under commission for J. M. Stoddart on 30 August 1889 (for Lippincott's Monthly Magazine). As Wilde was writing "The Fisherman and His Soul", the plot to The Picture of Dorian Gray came to him, so he abandoned the former.	Autumn 1889					The MS suggests that Wilde worked on it at least two occasions—probably an initial draft, and then a general revision for its inclusion in A House of Pomegranates.	-	"The Fisherman and His Soul"	"The Star-Child"	Charles Ricketts and Charles Shannon	Cheswick Press	1000 copies at £1.1s (UK); unknown number of copies at \$5 (USA) in 1892	Aimed at market of book connoisseurs and collectors.	Poor sales figures, criticism on book's poorly executed design, concern about the association of the series of fairy tales being inappropriate for children's literature. In 1904, stock of first edition was sold as remainders for a few shillings.					
The Star-Child	Possibly written to complete A House of Pomegranates (1891)																			