



THE UNBELIEVABLE

[RADIO-SERIES]

Cited in *Broadcasting* ((March 15, 1937): "National Lead Co., New York (Dutch Boy white lead), is starting on March 15 a 17-week test campaign in six markets, using a quarter-hour dramatic program, *The Unbelievable*, dealing with phenomena that are strange and weird but nevertheless true, transcribed by WBS."

Variety: "Using transcribed dramatization of series of yarns about odd facts, discs will be heard twice weekly over WCFH, Portland, Me., KRFT, Des Moines, WISN, Milwaukee, WBNS, Columbus, WFBL, Syracuse, and WHP, Harrisburg, Pa."

The show's scriptwriting team of Dunn and Stringer followed up for the same company with *The Secret City*, a mystery-adventure serial "based on the Atlantean myth..."

ORIGINATION: Mertens & Price Inc., Los Angeles (electrical transcriptions).

DURATION: March 15-July 7, 1937.

PERSONNEL: Winifred Dunn (scriptwriter), Roderick Ainsworth Mays (director), Sparks Stringer (scriptwriter).

SPONSOR: National Lead Co. (Dutch Boy Paints).

EXTANT RECORDINGS: None.

THE UNINVITED

[NOVEL; MOTION-PICTURE]

Ray Milland starred in...

THE SCREEN DIRECTORS PLAYHOUSE (

[

November 7, 1949

"The Uninvited"

[OTTAWA CITIZEN: "...Ray Milland will star in the radio adaptation of his screen... 'The Uninvited,' a blend of the everyday with the inexplicable has been described as 'a ghost picture as creepy as a rattlesnake ranch.' In the first scene, composer Rick Fitzgerald and his sister are sitting in a vacant house on the Devonshire coast, wondering whether to buy it. While they talk, some roses they have brought along suddenly shrivel. The Fitzgeralds decide to move in, and soon find themselves caught in the spectral crossfire of a pair of feuding nether-worldlings..."]

THE UNQUIET ONES

[RADIO-SCRIPT]

[*Radio Times*, July 22, 1938] "J. S. N. Sewell, author of several plays about school life, enters a new field with *The Unquiet Ones*, a play with a ghost theme, which is to be broadcast Saturday, August 6... *The Unquiet Ones* is set in a lonely country district of County Londonderry, and tells

the story of two English officers on a motor tour, who run out of petrol and seek shelter in a mysterious house occupied by an Ulsterman and his French wife and daughter. What happens to them in the eerie atmosphere of the house, and particularly their strange discoveries the next morning, make for excitement.”

ORIGINATION: Northern Ireland Programme, Belfast (BBC).

DURATION: August 6, 1938.

PERSONNEL: H. S. Denton (producer), J. S. N. Sewell (scriptwriter).

CAST: Fraser Mayne (Guy Duke), R. H. MacCandless (James ‘Hammer’ McAlister), Charles Owens (William Doherty), W. Gibson Parker (Peter Featherston), Kathleen Porter (Marie, McAlister’s wife), Lucie Young (Nicolette, McAlister’s stepdaughter).

EXTANT RECORDINGS: None.

[PROGRAM LOG]

(NORTHERN IRELAND PROGRAMME, BELFAST)

[Saturday—10:30-11:00 PM]

August 6, 1938

“The Unquiet Ones”

[“...Two English officers stranded without petrol on a lonely Ulster road... A long walk in County Londonderry... Shelter in a mysterious house... Stained relations between the Ulster landlord and his French wife and daughter... Nicolette’s odd remarks about her father... The scream in the night... The frightening significance of the clothes-pegs... And the strange discoveries next morning...”]

THE UNSETTLED DUST

[RADIO-SPECIAL]

A program devoted to the supernatural stories of Robert Aickman...

THE UNSETTLED DUST: THE STRANGE STORIES OF ROBERT AICKMAN (RADIO 4, SALFORD—BBC)

[Thursday—11:30 AM-12:00 NOON]

December 15, 2011

“The Unsettled Dust: The Strange Stories of Robert Aickman”

[BBC RADIO 4: “...Screenwriter Jeremy Dyson praises the supernatural stories of British author and conservationist Robert Aickman and argues they should receive greater recognition for their contribution to literature. Robert Aickman was the grandson of the prolific Victorian novelist Richard Marsh whose occult thriller *The Beetle* (1897) was in its time as popular as Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*. Aickman is best remembered today for co-founding the Inland Waterways Association, but his Grandfather’s work influenced him to write around fifty so called ‘strange’ stories involving the supernatural and macabre over a thirty year period starting in the late forties. In recent years League of Gentlemen writer Dyson has adapted Aickman’s work into various forms of Drama including the BBC Radio Four play ‘Ringing the Changes.’ By speaking with fans of Aickman and introducing students to his work for the first time, Dyson argues that Aickman’s literary gifts have been undervalued and during his lifetime he should have received greater critical acclaim...”]

SCRIPT: Jeremy Dyson.

PERSONNEL: Jayne Ashbourne (reader), Ramsey Campbell (interviewee), Jeremy Dyson (presenter), Stephen Garner (producer), Mark Gatiss (interviewee), Stuart Maconie (interviewee).

EXTANT RECORDING

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

[RADIO-SERIES]

Broadcast in 1934 from Los Angeles station KHJ, this series was then transcribed and syndicated

in 1936.

[*Variety*, January 8, 1935] “KHJ has a type of program that looks like a natural to garner station letters. Yarns running 15 minutes Monday nights are mainly historic mysteries. Some not so historic, are nevertheless puzzling. End of the program announcement is made that a probable solution of the mystery can be had for the asking, by writing to the station or by calling at one of the gas stations of the commercialer, Rocket gasoline.

“Programs called ‘Unsolved Mysteries,’ are well written and handled, with about 50 percent narration and the higher spots presented in play form. On recent broadcasts programs have been a maritime nature with outstander a dramatization of the ‘Marie Celeste’ sea puzzle.

“Night yarn was caught, it was of a ghostly nature, telling how an American newspaperman in England was warned by a ghost not to sail on the Titanic, although he had booked passage on its tragic voyage.

“Parts and narration well done except for a weakness on the part of the femme players, who appear to be new at the mike.”

ORIGINATION: KHJ, Los Angeles, California.

DURATION: November 5, 1934-January 21, 1935.

PERSONNEL:

CASTS: Joe France, Frank Nelson, Eris Norman, Ted Osborne, Fred Shields, Don Wilson, et al.

SPONSOR: Rocket Gasoline Company.

EXTANT RECORDINGS: None.

[OG-NOTE: Surviving recordings are from the 1936 transcription series.]

[PROGRAM LOG]

[listed as “Mystery Drama”]

September 3, 1934

September 10, 1934

September 17, 1934

September 24, 1934

October 1, 1934

October 8, 1934

October 15, 1934

[October 22—FDR speech; October 23 (Tue)—Drama]

October 29, 1934

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES (KHJ, LOS ANGELES—DON LEE)

[Monday—7:45-8:00 PM]

November 5, 1934

“**The Chinese Rug Mystery**” ???

[“...India is the setting of tonight’s play...”]

[Tuesday—7:45-8:00 PM]

November 13, 1934

“**The Mystery of the Marie Celeste**”

[“...a play telling about the Marie Celeste, a brigantine, found in the North Atlantic 62 years ago with all sails set but without a living or dead person on board...”]

[Monday—7:45-8:00 PM]

November 19, 1934

“**The Perfect Crime**”

[“...One night four years ago, Isadore Fink was shot in his hand laundry. When the police arrived, they had to break through the transom as the two doors were bolted on the inside and the window and transom were nailed in place. There was no gun...”]

November 26, 1934

“**The Witch Doctor Mystery**”

[“...a story of weird black magic practiced by witch doctors in Africa...”]

December 3, 1934

“**The Mystery of the Zombie**”

[“...A story of the terrifying voodoo magic of the natives of Haiti...”]

December 10, 1934

“**The St. George Club Murder**”

December 17, 1934

“**The Borden Mystery**”

[“...The mystery play will tell about a double murder, that of a Mr. and Mrs. Borden...”]

December 24, 1934

December 31, 1934	<p>“The Writing on the Wall” [“...a play in which a newspaper correspondent’s life was saved as the result of a ghostly warning written on his bedroom wall... The story of the sinking of the Titanic...”]</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>JANUARY 1, 1935: [Broadcasting—“Network Accounts”] “Rocket Oil Co., Los Angeles, on Nov. 5 renewed ‘Unsolved Mysteries’ on CBS-Don Lee network, Mondays, 7:45-8:00 p. m., PST. Agency: Beaumont & Hohman, Los Angeles.”</p> </div>	
January 7, 1935	<p>“The Murder in the Rue Morgue” [“...an unsolved French mystery... The true events unlying Poe’s widely read story. Rocket Players present their solution to this world-famous baffler...”]</p>
January 14, 1935	<p>“The Trial of Oscar Slater” [“...the true story of the international chase, capture and trial of an innocent victim of circumstances...”]</p>
January 21, 1935	<p>“A Voice from Beyond” [“...the story of a house in which for over twenty years no one would live for more than a few days because of the strange ghostly figures which would appear at night... A phantom betrays a murderer, and a surprise ending explains the mysterious presence of the ghostly forms...”]</p>

Sources for log information: *Hollywood Citizen-News*, *Fresno Bee*.

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

[RADIO-SERIES]

A year after its run on KHJ, the series was made into a transcription package. Mentioned in *Broadcasting*, April 15, 1936.

ORIGINATION: American Radio Features, Los Angeles, California (transcription disc series).

DURATION: Released in 1936; distributed by Conquest Alliance Co.

[OG-NOTE: The series was re-released in 1949 by Kasper-Gordon Studios in Boston.]

PERSONNEL: Unknown.

SPONSOR: The Texas Co. (Texaco), on stations in the south and southwest.

EXTANT RECORDINGS: “Bela Kiss,” “The Cambridge Mystery,” “The Disappearance of Judge Draper,” “The Hypnotist,” “Jack the Ripper,” “The Mount Shasta Mystery,” “The Toll Bridge.”

[PROGRAM LOG]

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES (AMERICAN RADIO FEATURES DISC SERIES)

[1] **“The Borden Case”**

[“...A double murder is followed by Lizzie Borden’s trial...”]

[2] **“The Horror of Bene Debele”**

[“...An old witch doctor swears revenge and plans to return to his tribe as a black panther...”]

[3] **“The Wireless Mystery”**

[“...A radio warning from nowhere saves a ship from collision...”]

[4] **“The Bridge Whist Mystery”**

[“...The New York police solve a baffling murder case...”]

[5]

[6] **“The Mystery of the Zombie”**

[“...A case of voodoo magic in Haiti. A white woman is raised from the grave...”]

[7] **“The Chinese Rug Mystery”**

[“...An Indian fakir requests a strand of an Englishwoman’s hair. He’s

given a piece of a Chinese rug instead..."]

[8] **"The Rue Morgue Mystery"**

["...A famous locked room mystery...and why Edgar Allan Poe's version was wrong..."]

[9] **"The Writing on the Wall"**

["...A 'modern' ghost in an old castle warns with flaming words on the wall, 'Avoid the Titanic'..."]

[10] **"The Mystery of the Marie Celeste"**

[11] **"The Perfect Crime"**

["...A tailor named Isadore Fink is murdered within a locked room..."]

[12] **"The Toll-Bridge Mystery"**

["...An innocent man is about to be hanged; a 'gentleman of quality' is awakened in the middle of the night..."]

[13]

[14]

[15] **"The Mount Shasta Mystery"**

["...A visit to the strange man who lives atop Mount Shasta in California. He's always been there and can do many things. He knows the secret of the Lemurians..."]

[16]

[17] **"The Trial of Oscar Slater"**

["...Arthur Conan Doyle spent 17 years trying to prove Slater innocent..."]

Episode numbers have not been determined for the following episodes:

"Bela Kiss"

"The Cambridge Mystery"

"The Disappearance of Gerald Neville"

[Britain's master spy is sent to Russia and is never heard from again..."]

"The Disappearance of Judge Draper"

"The Houdini Escape Mystery"

"The Hypnotist"

"Jack the Ripper"

"The Murder on Yarmouth Sands"

["...A dead woman has been found on the beach. A photo and necklace are the circumstantial evidence needed to convict her husband..."]

"The Mystery of the Chinaman's Cell"

["...An accused thief is placed in a haunted Hawaiian jail for the evening..."]

"The Washington Square Mystery"

["...A woman murdered in the park accuses a man's mad wife of killing her..."]

"The Witch Doctor Mystery"

["...A German ivory trader comes down with malaria in the jungle. The local witch doctor uses telekinesis to bring him the needed medicine..."]

The following are listed by "Tomkle":

"The Bandit Priest"

"The Bathurst Disappearance"

"The Coffins of San Cristobal"

"The Desmond Taylor Murder Mystery"

"The Haunted Railroad"

"The Mad Monk"

"The Mystery of the Athletes Club"

"The Mystery of the Black Drakes"

"The Mystery of the Chorded Note"

"The Mystery of Peter the Painter"

"The Mystery of the Sergeant Major Thomas"

"The Mystery of the Treasure Left Behind at Plum Point by Blackbeard"

“The Raising of the Dahli Lama”
“The St. George Club Mystery”



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