

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	Dedicattee(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																
	Performed in front of undergraduate students in Cambridge	Late 1885																
	First draft	November 1885																
The Nightingale and the Rose	MS sent to the "English Illustrated"	Late 1886 or early 1887																
The Selfish Giant	Possibly written by or in collaboration with Constance Lloyd	Early 1886																
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."	Elimann (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."		<i>Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine</i> (146, n° 885, pp. 1-21)	July 1889	In <i>Blackwood</i> , "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. <i>Blackwood</i> was priced at 2s. 6d. Reprinted in <i>Eclectic Magazine</i> (50, n° 5, in August 1889)											
	Schroeder suggests that the Stuart Exhibition of 31 December 1889 is most likely source of inspiration	Early 1889																
Lord Arthur Savile's Crime	Possibly inspired by Wilde's friendship with palm-reader Heron-Allen, and the general palmistry and occultism craze of the 1880s.		"Lord Arthur Savile's Crime: A Story of Cheirromancy"	Unknown	<i>The Court and Society Review</i>	May 1887	-											
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 Canterville Ghost"	Illustrations by J. Bernard Partridge.	<i>The Court and Society Review</i>	23 February and 2 March 1887	-		<i>Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories</i> (July 1891)	None.	Osgood & McIlvaine (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: 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 Sphinx without a Secret"			Lady Airoy	No	<i>The World</i> (pp. 18-20)	25 May 1887	Published anonymously as part of the series "Town and Country Tales". I have a scanned copy of the original publication.											
"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	<i>The World</i> (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 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 I could possibly" [small2000m]	<i>Lady's Pictorial</i>	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, to whom Wilde had dedicated <i>The Happy Prince and Other Tales</i> , 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.]			Volume dedicated to Constance Lloyd, individual stories dedicated to aristocratic women: "The Young King" to Margaret, Lady Brook; "The Birthday of the Infanta" to Mrs. William H. Grenfell, of Taplow Court; "The Fisherman and his Soul" to H.S.H. Alice, Princess of Monaco; "The Star-Child" to Miss Margot Tennant								
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"	Unknown, but possible: the <i>Paris Illustré</i> was an illustrated news magazine.	Published in English in the London and New York editions of <i>Paris Illustré</i>	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 has "a more pronounced lexical density than the English version" as well as other stylistic choices that "bring to the fore the story's cruel or sadistic elements more forcefully than the English version" [small2017, xcvi].											
			"L'Anniversaire de la Naissance de la Petite Princesse"		Published in French in the Paris edition of <i>Paris Illustré</i>													
The Fisherman and His Soul	First draft written under commission for J. M. Stoddart on 30 August 1889 (for <i>Lippincott's Monthly Magazine</i>). As Wilde was writing "The Fisherman and His Soul", the plot to <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> came to him, so he abandoned the former.	Autumn 1889																
The Star-Child	Possibly written to complete <i>A House of Pomegranates</i> (1891)																	