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CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING  
THE ADVENTURER IN SPAIN:

Letter to Watt: His pitch letter to A.P.Watt was written from Auchencairn.

11<sup>th</sup> Sept 1901

Dear Mr Watt,

*I've only got to page 256 (or thereby) of *The Firebrand*<sup>1</sup> as yet. Perhaps the second packet has not materialised, it delays its coming at Penicuik. However, I am going thither in a week and will be in London with Mrs Crockett about the 24<sup>th</sup> when I hope to see you and we can discuss anything that there may be to discuss.*

*My ideas as to the Spanish book are briefly these – 'Twelve True Adventures in Spain of about 10,000 words each, personal adventures told in the First person, and the types, characters etc illustrated from my own photographs which may either be reproduced or given to the draughtsman to make a picture from.*

He then goes on to lay out his plan:

*Here are some of the adventures I mean to tell:*

1. *The Smugglers of San Gregorio*

*Containing an account of a strange family of smugglers at the Eastern Pyrennean frontier, with whom I abode nearly three months and with whom I made four double trips into France and back into Spain, breaking the revenue laws of both kingdoms in the interests of literature.*

2. *A Week in a Carlist Camp*

*With the story of their running from the gendarmes after the manner of De Wet – and a most curious and unexpected (and therefore true) denouement – eminently Iberian.*

3. *A Spanish Love Story*

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<sup>1</sup>He must have been working on the final proofs. It was published in the autumn of 1901.

4.

*That of my guide Vigno. An idyll in the style of 'Nuria'<sup>2</sup> which I sent to Max (P??) with the illustrations of characters from photographs.*

5. *Three nights with a hermit of the Twentieth Century. 'A curious dweller among the rocks, a survivor of the stone age (if the stone age includes fleas) I put up with him at the upper end of the valley of the Ariege. I have some lovely illustrations for this.*

6. *The Charcoal burners*

7. *A fortnight with them – mostly ex- brigands and not so very much ex either.*

8. *The Resin Gatherer*

*I found a dwarf in one of the forests of N. Catalonia who had cut his foot and I looked after him for ten days doing his work for him and going his rounds – quite an inhuman life. Of course I will make a story of these experiences, inventing nothing and extenuating nothing, but only (because I want to go back there) altering names and places to avoid giving offence. These and a few others will crop up. I would like to deliver MSS an instalment at a time of 10,000 words. I find that is best for it gives time for new ideas to occur. I could deliver the first one in time for next January but would prefer later a little. I write a little leaf as to the idea of the book which of course would be accurate and picturesque enough. But each would be a story also, united like George Borrow's by the personality of the writer – yet eminently self-contained and suitable for any respectable magazine. If you have a copy of 'Maria Perrone Murderer and Saint'*

*\*<sup>3</sup>in the box as I think you have you can shew that story as a sample of manner and matter. That was a personal adventure of mine and I worked it into the Italian General's story as Maria Perrone.*

*Now I think you have the whole matter clearly before you, and if you can make the deal well and good. If not we will just wait and write the series, and I doubt not you will sell easily enough that. It is a new thing and of*

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<sup>2</sup>Nuria is a story in the collection "The Bloom o' The Heather" published in 1908 but first published as a short story possibly as early as 1900/1901

<sup>3</sup>Published in the Cosmopolis magazine in 1897 and reviewed as follows by The Spectator Reveiwed by The Spectator in Jan 1897: Mr. S. R. Crockett's story-sketch bearing the startling title of "Maria Perrone, Murderess and Saint." 'Mr. Crockett's Italian story is full of a power that is yet kept well in hand, and has absolutely nothing of what is vulgarly known as the "Kailyard" about it. The passionate love of a woman for her husband is admirably brought out, though Maria seems in the long-run to be guilty of perjury—not of murder—for the sake of that husband. No objection can be made to the general character of the contents of Cosmopolis, in respect of the quality of the literature it gives to the public. But it is too apt to run into grooves.'

*course editors want 'The Usual Output' of an author when they have to pay a price for it.*

*Yes, I mean to do a story in the 'Joan' manner, for the Windsor but with Spanish colouring – full and [with] Moors and Christians, captives and maids of honour – all the old romance that never has and never will grow old.*

He asks Watt to send post as follows:

*Address after Friday 13<sup>th</sup> (Sept 1901) c/o R.H.Crockett Esq 30 King Street, Castle Douglas. N.B After Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> sent to Milroy as usual.*

*(As we know, he'll be in London around 24<sup>th</sup>)*

The idea clearly took hold. On paper headed from Selkirk Arms, Kirkcudbright (but not dated, most likely sometime between 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> – perhaps he and his cousin Robert went to eat there and he wrote the notes then) he wrote as follows to Watt:

*Additional notes on the Twelve Spanish Adventures:*

*To be a book without the stock subjects. No bull shall gore, no steed be disembowelled. Gipsies shall not dance for Cookist gold at Granada. There will be no complaints about the punctuality of design of the Alhambra or of Cathedral architecture. Ventas and peasant huts instead and purple wine instead of purple patches and hackneyed quotations. The last weariful Moor shall not sigh for 'the hand of the Castanet' but there will be vintages burnt black in the fields, salt workers scaled like fishes on Catalonian marshes, rice-fields and rook-scareres, fishes of tunny and white-bait on the Valentian coast.*

*Pictures of the whole dollop, photographs like those in 'A Romancers Local Colour'*

*\*<sup>4</sup>of which I will send you a copy. Marks of the Brown and of the Black Lily women gathering scented herbs at twilight meadows among the Sierras, young Carlists playing at Revolution, groups of smugglers and campfires and charcoal burner's huts – these are a few of the characters in the dramas of action.*

*Dust and summer heat. White hillset villages, far seen cities, icy winds blowing from the Guadalahara upon winter Gregoria – Spain in pictures and words tawny, magnificent, untroubled by the world's progress. Peasants, fishers, herdsmen, sheep masters, wine growers, the May harvest of the wheat, the toilers called home by the sudden storm, the life and death of the poor in the glaring sunshine – mosquitos and flamingos and all the swift loves and hates of a southern clime.*

*The perils of revenue officers at lonely mountain stations, or stretched on perilous*

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<sup>4</sup>A *Romancers Local Colour* was published by Newman & La Guardia in 1900. (Downloadable copy available on website)

*ledges - all I knew had seen his stature five times taken by Carlist partisans and five times retaken by national troops, and aided by the French gendarmes. In brief 'The Adventurer in Spain.' NOT personally (con)ducted.*

SRC

The final contents for *The Adventurer in Spain* were as follows:

CONTENTS

Chapter One: The Adventure of the Way Hither

Chapter Two: The Adventure of Dona Isidra

Chapter Three: The Midnight Free-Traders

Chapter Four: The City of Dream

Chapter Five: The Strange Thoughts of a Beggar Man

Chapter Six: Some wanderings with Zaida in her garden

Chapter Seven: 'God's Babe'

Chapter Eight: In a Carlist Camp

Chapter Nine: The Good Samaritan – with an eye to business

Chapter Ten: Cyrilla

Chapter Eleven: The Feast of the Dead –and of the living

Chapter Twelve: How Love Came Home.

It was also sold internationally in serialised form in 1903-4.

The Galloway Raiders archive yields other information regarding the work, which gives an idea of what Crockett earned from it, and how it was marketed abroad.

a letter stating that Crockett expected £5-£10 per 1000 words for stories in 1901. A serialisation could therefore yield around £1000.

*The Adventurer in Spain* was serialised as 'Twelve Adventures in Spain' both in the UK and US before it was published as a book in 1903.

In a US – Agreement dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 1902 and a letter 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 1903 , writing 'on behalf of the firm' and dealing with a five year clause, is the following correspondence from the American company contracted to serialise:

'We have been compelled to omit the clause relative of protecting all our rights and those of Mr C as to the matter of copyright in Spanish Adventures. We shall of course attend to the matter carefully for the **five Adventures to be published in Leslie's Monthly** but **it is not our understanding that we are to copyright the remaining seven at the time of their serial publication in England, but that this will be attended to by you or by Messrs Isbister.** Of course you may sell this yourselves serially in the US and will arrange with the serial publishers for the copyright. **As far as book publication here is concerned we are quite willing to restore the copyright of the five separate Adventures, and if you do not sell the others here serially we may be glad to copyright some of them a little later on.** We shall be glad to have you keep us informed as to the details of this matter.

Watt replies on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1903

As to the matter of copyright for 'The Spanish Adventures' we shall, of course, file the copyright notice in all of our areas and I shall forward two complete copies of the best edition to the Librarian of Congress at Washington. It is of course, just as important to us that the copyright be carefully guarded as it is to the author but we did not wish to make ourselves responsible for the copyrighting sections serially with which we have nothing to do until their publication in book form, when it will be too late for us to protect each of the sections in question.

The final agreement in Jan 1903 reveals:

Serialisation: 12 articles of 8000 words not less than 3 and 4 photos with each. Each article 3 months ahead pay on delivery. All serial rights Eng Lang £1000

Book [?] same terms as Moss Hags. American book to be offers to P's [ ]

And and agreement: with Morten Cutler & Co ... Meynell (18<sup>th</sup> Jan 1904 which is presumably for the American publication)