

EXISTING EPISODES OF INNER SANCTUM MYSTERIES

(Revised as of September 9, 2007)

by Martin Grams, Jr.

The purpose of this listing is to encourage both collectors and fans to look back through their holdings, and see if maybe some episodes in their collection are considered "lost." A "lost" episode is considered any radio broadcast not known to exist, or available from collectors in circulation. This list is subject to change in the near future, as updates are acquired.

The code **LOC** are marked beside episodes known to exist in the Library of Congress Archives. Many of these **LOC** entries are not available from collectors yet, but according to the **LOC**, they do exist. If there is an episode marked **Q**, that means "questionable." There still remains a few episodes that supposedly exist but I marked a **Q** because I have not verified that the episode actually exists. If anyone feels they have a recording that isn't on this list, by all means contact me. There are still many recordings floating in circulation that have alternate dates and titles so beware of those mistakes!

- "The Amazing Death of Mrs. Putnam" (1/7/41)
- "The Strangled Snake" (2/18/41) **LOC**
- "The Man of Steel" (3/16/41) Boris Karloff **LOC**
- "Dead Freight" (5/18/41) Myron McCormick
- "The Tell-Tale Heart" (8/3/41) Boris Karloff
- "The Death Ship" (8/10/41)
- "Hunter From Beyond" (9/7/41) only last seven minutes known to exist
- "The Stallion of Death" (9/14/41) **LOC**
- "The Haunting Face" (9/28/41) **LOC**
- "Hell is Where You Find It" (10/19/41) Burgess Meredith
- "Nocturne of Death" (11/2/41) **LOC**
- "The Island of Death" (12/7/41)
- "The Man From Yesterday" (12/21/41) Myron McCormick
- "Death Has Claws" (12/28/41) Santos Ortega
- "The Scarlet Widow" (1/11/42) **LOC**
- "Dead Reckoning" (1/18/42) Arthur Vinton
- "A Study for Murder" (5/3/42) Boris Karloff
- "Terrible Vengeance" (6/14/42) The Australian version of this script is floating about, not the American.
- "The Dead Walk at Night" (9/20/42) Donald Buka starred in the 1952 version of the same script. This 1942 version does not have Donald Buka! Does anyone have this episode WITHOUT Buka?
- "The Black Seagull" (3/7/43) Peter Lorre
- "The Horla" (8/1/43) Arnold Moss
- "The Walking Skull" (4/15/44)
- "The Melody of Death" (4/22/44) Mary Astor
- "The Silent Hand" (5/13/44) Mary Astor
- "Death is a Joker" (6/10/44) Peter Lorre

- "Dead Man's Vengeance" (10/7/44)
- "Dead Woman's Tale" (10/28/44)
- "Blind Man's Bluff" (11/4/44)
- "The Voice on the Wire" (11/29/44)
- "The Color Blind Formula" (12/6/44) Richard Widmark
- "Desert Death" (1/9/45)
- "Death is an Artist" (1/23/45) Lee Bowman
- "Death in the Depths" (2/6/45) Santos Ortega
- "No Coffin for the Dead" (2/20/45) Les Tremayne
- "The Meek Die Slowly" (4/3/45) Victor Moore **Q**
- "The Bog Oak Necklace" (4/10/45) Miriam Hopkins
- "The Judas Clock" (4/17/45) Santos Ortega
- "Song of the Slasher" (4/24/45) Arnold Moss
- "The Girl and the Gallows" (5/1/45) Wendy Barrie
- "The Black Art" (5/15/45) Simone Simone
- "Dead to Rights" (5/22/45) Elspeth Eric and Santos Ortega
- "Musical Score" (5/29/45) Berry Kroeger
- "Death Across the Board" (6/5/45) Jackson Beck and Raymond Massey
- "Portrait of Death" (6/12/45) Leslie Woods
- "Dead Man's Holiday" (6/19/45) Myron McCormick
- "Dead Man's Debt" (6/26/45) Joseph Julian
- "Dead Man's Deal" (8/28/45) Larry Haines
- "The Murder Prophet" (9/4/45) Wendy Barrie
- "The Last Story" (9/11/45) Richard Widmark
- "Terror By Night" (9/18/45) Anne Shepherd
- "The Lonely Sleep" (9/25/45) Karl Swenson
- "The Shadow of Death" (10/2/45) Richard Widmark
- "Death By Scripture" (10/9/45) Stefan Schnabel
- "Till Death Do Us Part" (10/16/45) Larry Haines
- "The Corridor of Doom" (10/23/45) Boris Karloff
- "Death for Sale" (10/30/45) Boris Karloff. A recording of the 1945 version does exist, in AFRS format, and is commonly mistaken as the 1952 broadcast of the same script with the same lead actor. Does anyone actually have the 1952 version?
- "The Wailing Wall" (11/6/45) Jackson Beck and Boris Karloff
- "The Dreadful Hunch" (11/13/45) with Anne Shepard and Richard Widmark **Q**
- "Boomerang" (11/20/45) with Martin Gable **LOC**
- "The Dark Chamber" (12/11/45) Kenneth Lynch
- "The Undead" (12/18/45) Anne Seymour
- "The Creeping Wall" (1/8/46) Irene Wicker
- "The Edge of Death" (1/15/46) Larry Haines, Mercedes McCambridge
- "The Confession" (1/22/46) Santos Ortega
- "Blood of Cain" (1/29/46) Mercedes McCambridge, Karl Swenson
- "Skeleton Bay" (2/5/46) Betty Lou Gerson
- "Elixier Number Four" (2/12/46) Richard Widmark
- "I Walk in the Night" (2/26/46) Larry Haines

- "The Strands of Death" (3/12/46) Santos Ortega
- "Death is a Double Crosser" (3/26/46) Lawson Zerbe
- "The Night is my Shroud" (4/2/46) Ann Shepherd
- "Lady with a Plan" (4/9/46) Elspeth Eric
- "Make Ready My Grave" (4/23/46) Jackson Beck and Richard Widmark
- "You Can Die Laughing" (5/7/46) Santos Ortega
- "Detour to Terror" (5/21/46) Mason Adams
- "Eight Steps to Murder" (6/4/46) Berry Kroeger
- "I Want to Report a Murder" (6/18/46) Santos Ortega
- "Spectre of the Rose" [Ben Hecht special] (8/19/46)
- "Murder Comes at Midnight" (9/9/46) Mercedes McCambridge
- "The Dead Laugh" (9/23/46)
- "Death's Old Sweet Song" (11/4/46) Mercedes McCambridge
- "No Rest for the Dead" (11/25/46)
- "Death Bound" (2/3/47) Richard Widmark
- "The Ghost in the Garden" (2/10/47) Leslie Woods
- "Don't Dance on My Grave" (5/5/47) Charlotte Holland
- "Over My Dead Body" (6/23/47) Larry Haines, Vera Allen
- "Till Death Do Us Part" (10/27/47) Mercedes McCambridge
- "Death Out of Mind" (12/29/47) Larry Haines and Ann Shephard
- "Tempo in Blood" (1/12/48) Mason Adams and Everett Sloane
- "The Doomed" (1/26/48) Mercedes McCambridge and Karl Swenson
- "The Magic Tile" (3/8/48) Mercedes McCambridge and Everett Sloane
- "Lady Killer" (3/29/48) Everett Sloane
- "Death Demon" (7/5/48) Ann Seymour and Everett Sloane
- "Murder Takes A Honeymoon" (7/26/48) Ann Shepherd and Everett Sloane
- "The Murder Ship" (8/2/48) Mason Adams
- "House of Doom" (8/9/48) Charlotte Holland and Santos Ortega
- "Death Rides a Riptide" (9/6/48) Arlene Blackburn and Lawson Zerbe
- "The Murder Carousel" (9/13/48) Larry Haines
- "Hangman's Island" (9/20/48) Mason Adams and Elspeth Eric
- "Murder by Prophecy" (9/27/48) Joseph Julian
- "Death of a Doll" (10/18/48) Mason Adams
- "Deathwatch in Boston" (11/15/48) Ted Osborne
- "The Cause of Death" (12/6/48) Berry Kroeger
- "Murder Faces East" (12/13/48) Charlotte Holland
- "Between Two Worlds" (12/20/48) Mason Adams and Ann Shephard
- "Fearful Voyage" (1/3/49) Elspeth Eric and Arnold Moss
- "Murder Comes to Life" (1/10/49) Charles Irving and Santos Ortega
- "Mark My Grave" (1/17/49) Santos Ortega and Lawson Zerbe
- "The Deadly Dummy" (1/24/49) Mason Adams and Elspeth Eric
- "The Devil's Fortune" (1/31/49) Jackson Beck
- "Death Demon" (2/7/49) Everett Sloane and Leslie Woods
- "Birdsong for a Murderer" (2/14/49) Arlene Blackburn
- "Flame of Death" (2/21/49) Charlotte Holland

- "Only the Dead Die Twice" (3/21/49) Larry Haines
- "Appointment with Death" (3/28/49) Charlotte Holland and Karl Swenson
- "Death Wears a Lonely Smile" (4/4/49) Mercedes McCambridge
- "Murder Off the Record" (4/11/49) Mason Adams and Elspeth Eric
- "The Death Deal" (4/18/49) Mercedes McCambridge
- "The Unburied Dead" (5/16/49) Leslie Woods
- "Strange Passenger" (5/23/49) Mason Adams
- "Death on the Highway" (6/6/49) Ted Osborne and Alice Reinhart
- "Corpse Without a Conscience" (6/20/49) Karl Swenson
- "Pattern for Fear" (7/4/49) Cameron Prud'Homme and Everett Sloane
- "Deadly Fare" (7/18/49) Larry Haines
- "Dead Heat" (8/15/49) Mercedes McCambridge and Karl Swenson
- "Mind Over Murder" (8/22/49) Elspeth Eric
- "Death's Little Brother" (8/29/49) Amzie Strickland
- "Murder Rides the Carousel" (9/5/49) Leslie Woods
- "The Vengeful Corpse" (9/12/49) Karl Swenson
- "Honeymoon with Death" (9/19/49) Mason Adams
- "Catch a Killer" (10/3/49) Larry Haines and Barbara Weeks
- "The Devil's Workshop" (10/10/49) Mason Adams
- "Image of Death" (10/17/49) Jean Ellen
- "Night is my Shroud" (10/24/49) Ken Lynch and Ann Shephard
- "A Corpse for Halloween" (10/31/49) Larry Haines
- "The Wish to Kill" (11/14/49) Karl Swenson and Leslie Woods
- "Beyond the Grave" (12/19/49) Martin Gabel
- "Killer at Large" (1/9/50) Larry Haines
- "The Scream" (1/16/50) Barbara Weeks
- "The Hitch-Hiking Corpse" (1/23/50) Ken Lynch
- "Skeleton Bay" (1/30/50) Charlotte Holland (both versions exist)
- "Murder Mansion" (3/27/50) Arnold Moss
- "Beneficiary-Death" (4/17/50) Everett Sloane and Barbara Weeks
- "No Rest for the Dead" (7/13/50) different story from that of the 1946 episode of the same name. **Q**
- "Twice Dead" (11/6/50) Larry Haines and Amzie Strickland
- "Beyond the Grave" (12/4/50) Mercedes McCambridge
- "The Smile of the Dead" (2/19/51) Larry Haines - only the first half of this episode is known to exist.
- "The Man From the Grave" (2/26/51) Ralph Bell and Peter Cappel - only the second half of this episode is known to exist.
- "The Unforgiving Corpse" (5/28/51) Luis Van Rooten and Lawson Zerbe
- "Birdsong for a Murderer" (6/22/52) Boris Karloff
- "Terror By Night" (6/29/52) Agnes Moorehead
- "Death Pays the Freight" (7/6/52) Everett Sloane
- "Death for Sale" (7/13/52) Boris Karloff, I suspect the 1952 vesion doesn't exist... **Q**
- "The Listener" (7/20/52) Agnes Moorehead
- "The Murder Prophet" (7/27/52) Agnes Moorehead

- "Murder Off the Record" (8/3/52) Ken Lynch
- "The Magic Tile" (8/10/52) Ann Seymour "The Corpse Laughs Last" (8/17/52)
- "No Rest for the Dead" (8/24/52) Barbara Weeks and Everett Sloane "Strange Passenger" (8/31/52) Wendell Corey
- "The Meek Die Slowly" (9/7/52) Arnold Moss
- "Till Death Do Us Part" (9/14/52) Mason Adams
- "The Corpse Nobody Loved" (9/21/52) Joan Lorrington
- "The Dead Walk at Night" (9/28/52) Donald Buka
- "Death Pays the Freight" (10/5/52) Everett Sloane

FAKE INNER SANCTUM EPISODES

Here are small notes to add:

"The Mystery of the Howling Dog" (2/11/41) does not exist. There was such a drama aired over the radio, but there is no recording of this episode known to exist. Someone at one time, took the premiere episode, which is entitled "The Amazing Death of Mrs. Putnam," and labeled it "The Mystery of the Howling Dog." Why? Simple. Over the past few years, collectors have taken various recordings and edited them - or in this case, re-label them - so other collectors would think, "Horray! A new episode of Inner Sanctum has just been discovered!" This sort of scam (creating or labeling already existing episodes so people think a new episode has surfaced) only adds a little profit to the collectors who start this sort of con game. By the time a handful of people have complained, the seller then stops offering the recording and even if he has to refund money to a couple collectors, he has already made a large profit from the dozens of people who jumped on the bandwagon.

This has been done for many years. Examples: Many episodes of "Arch Oboler's Plays" had their opening and closings deleted, replaced with the familiar "Lights Out!" theme, and whoala - the collector just created a "newly discovered" episode of "Lights Out!" There are many of these recordings circulating, innocent collectors have turned around and put the "new" recording into their catalog, and the chain of circulation begins. Before we know it, the same false recording has been handed down through dozens of sources and many hands, and those with a keen ear start complaining because they discover that it wasn't a real "Lights Out!" episode.

Regarding "Inner Sanctum," the episode floating about on MP3s entitled "The Snow-White Scarf" is really an episode from a South African radio program (circa 1966-68) entitled "The Creaking Door." There was, in fact, an episode entitled "The Snow-White Scarf" from 1951, but this is not that episode - it's a recording of the sixties' South African broadcast.

This of course, is just ONE of MANY examples floating about. This bad practice comes back to haunt innocent researchers as well. Why? Authors and scholars over the past few years spend long hours and days and weeks of communication and digging through library collections till they realize that what they are looking for (such as a broadcast date to a circulating recording), does not exist. This also haunts the researcher, because after an author completes a very well-researched broadcast log and episode guide, stubborn and ignorant (innocent I should say) collectors who can't tell the difference between a legit radio program and a false radio program, start publicly attesting that the author/researcher is "wrong." In the past, authors have also been criticized for a "lack of information," not doing their research correctly, or even not knowing what they are talking about.

"Inner Sanctum Mystery" is one of the few radio programs that is really f---ed up. And I mean it's awful. Why?

1. It's one of the few radio programs out there that have really have not received any special treatment of restoration. Look at the "Gunsmoke" and "Suspense" series for example, and I guarantee with a little searching, you can acquire the entire series in the most beautiful, restored, remastered sound quality. Thanks to the technology of the twenty-first century, collectors can use their home computers and affordable sound equipment to make poor sound quality into beautiful, crystal clear recordings. The Inner Sanctum shows have not yet received that sort of treatment.
2. It is estimated that of the 100+ episodes of Inner Sanctum known to exist in circulation, about half of them only exist because of the AFRS. Since the AFRS replayed various episodes over the late forties and early fifties, (sadly editing many of these shows into their own format with a closing signature "this is the AFRS, brought to troops over seas."), about half of the circulating episodes are the AFRS broadcasts only. Take "Murder Comes at Midnight" from September 1946. Only the AFRS recording exists, not the CBS aircheck. Although many collectors dislike what the AFRS did to the recordings (like deleting the original sponsor commercials), we do have to thank the AFRS for having done what they did, else we would not have as many Inner Sanctum episodes floating about.
3. Like many radio programs, the same scripts were performed again years later, so even if the 1946 version of one episode exists and the 1949 version of the same drama does not, collectors have been labeling the same show under two different titles. So if collectors go by the airdates to verify whether or not they have a specific episode of Inner Sanctum or not, they will find that they do have the same recording, each labeled with a different airdate, but the same recording! (Careful listening to the closing of some of these episodes such as the host telling us the Inner Sanctum novel of the month can help narrow down which version of these episodes actually exists.) Have collectors actually done a little checking to figure the exact date out or did they just pick a date from a log, without thinking it might have been a different date?
4. Many of the Inner Sanctum episodes, during the mid-late forties, were also repeats of earlier scripts, but retitled and with a different cast. Instead of the female being the victim, the second version to air four years later had a man as the victim. All they did was switch the sex of the protagonist and change the title. The plot may be familiar, but the script was not 100% exact. There are multiple versions of these available in circulation. Sadly, stubborn collectors listen to the first few minutes, say to themselves "Hey, I've heard this before. This is the wrong title and airdate listed on my cassette!" Reality, it's the right date and title, just a repeat of the drama.
5. In the wake of the MP3 formats, people have sent me listings of their Inner Sanctum collection. While MP3 may be a format to collect OTR, many people compiling these MP3 discs are placing multiple copies of the same episodes on the same disc, just labeling each recording a different title, making the buyer or trader assume they are getting 100 different shows when in reality they are getting 87. And since MP3s are as cheap and easy as downloading off the web, collectors who catch the mistakes are just shrugging this off, so corrections are not being made like they should. Also, episodes of the South African series, The Creaking Door, are having their themes replaced with Inner Sanctums (much like the Arch Oboler Plays being remade to appear like Lights Out! episodes). "Waxwork," for example, a common title found on these MP3 discs, is not really an Inner Sanctum episode. While I myself have no intention of getting into the MP3 collecting, I can say from eyewitness accounts and observations, that each time I see another MP3 listing of Inner Sanctum shows, the new list seems to be holding one or two more recordings than the last list, and I have yet to see a real new episode surface that isn't a duplicate of fake. Please be aware of this!

Please keep in mind that the "existing episodes" list above is subject to multiple corrections as the months pass. Unless a collector can verify a correction to the list above using multiple sources as

reference, and not know-it-all mentalism (which is the polite way of saying their "assumptions"), please do not attempt to make a correction on this list. If fifty people every month were to start adding and deleting to the list above, the same titles and airdates would be going up, coming off, going up, coming off this web-page so much it'd be ridiculous. Just e-mail me, I'm open minded and will check the source.

ALTERNATIVE TITLES:

Thanks to Gordon Payton, a.k.a. "The Sci-Fi Guy," enclosed below is a list of alternative titles that have been floating about. Gordon severely fell victim to the plague many Inner Sanctum fans have gone through. He continued to buy and trade for copies of Inner Sanctum that did not match any other titles on his list. He eventually discovered like the rest of us, that he was just getting duplicates of what he already had. So Gordon started detailing the "alternative titles" in his catalog. Here they are. If you have an alternate title (though I think we've covered them all by now), please let me know.

- "Aunt Ellen" is the same as "The Listener" (7/20/52)
- "Catherine Bryan" is the same as "The Confession" (1/22/46)
- "Cemetery Hitch-hiker" is the same as "Murder Prophet" (7/27/52)
- "Chinese Tile" is the same as "The Magic Tile" (8/10/52)
- "Claudia" is the same as "Murder Prophet" (7/27/52)
- "Corpse in a Cab" is the same as "The Corpse Nobody Loved" (5/23/49)
- "Death Rides a Carousel" is the same as "The Murder Carousel" (9/13/48)
- "Death" is the same as "Detour to Terror" (5/21/46)
- "El Fortuna Diablo" is the same as "The Devil's Fortune" (1/31/49)
- "Florida Keys" is the same as "Appointment With Death" (3/28/49)
- "Ghosts Always Get the Last Laugh" is the same as "The Dead Laugh" (9/23/46)
- "Highgate" is the same as "Murder By Prophecy" (9/27/48)
- "Homicidal Maniac" is the same as "Lady Killer" (3/29/48)
- "Jane Carter" is the same as "The Meek Die Slowly" (9/7/52)
- "Kathleen Bryan" is the same as "The Magic Tile" (8/10/52)
- "Lady and the Corpse" is the same as "The Corpse Nobody Loved" (5/23/49)
- "Lady is a Witch" is the same as "The Black Art" (5/15/45)
- "Last Refrain, The" is the same as "Murder Prophet" (7/27/52)
- "Lion Reigns at Hillcrest" is the same as "Murder By Prophecy" (9/27/48)
- "Raymond Meets Gideon Blake" is the same as "Dead Man's Vengeance" (10/7/44)
- "Raymond Receives a Call From a Dead Man " is the same as "Dead Man's Vengeance" (10/7/44)
- "Razor's Edge" is the same as "The Corpse Nobody Loved" (5/23/49)
- "Richard Fenner" is the same as "The Color Blind Formula" (12/6/44)
- "Ship of Doom" is the same as "Murder Ship" (8/2/48)
- "Skull That Walked" is the same as "The Walking Skull" (4/15/44)
- "Stardust" is the same as "Strange Passenger" (8/31/52)
- "Switch" is the same as "Death Pays the Freight" (10/5/52)
- "Terror Out of the Fog" is the same as "Beyond the Grave" (12/19/49)
- "The Three Steps" is the same as "Murder By Prophecy" (9/27/48)
- "Thing From the Sea" is the same as "Dead Reckoning" (1/18/42)

- "Undertaker" is the same as "The Meek Die Slowly" (9/7/52)

Wonder if you have any recordings in your collection marked with no airdates but these alternative titles instead? If so, you can make the corrections now.

OTHER CORRECTIONS TO BE NOTED:

There are some very bad misconceptions that have been floating about regarding various episodes of "Inner Sanctum" and even after years of research (and the fact that anyone can simply listen to the recordings themselves and verify with their own ears), people still stubbornly insist that facts are facts. Here are some corrections to be noted and hopefully, this will put things to rest once and for all.

The June 10, 1944 broadcast of "Death is a Joker" stars Peter Lorre in the drama - NOT Boris Karloff. This was an AFRS broadcast that played an excerpt of a Karloff performance from a different radio show, AFTER the Inner Sanctum drama. Reference works still continue to list Karloff as the star of the drama. He was featured in the recording, but NOT in the drama. If someone was to find the original CBS aircheck, you would never hear Karloff in that Inner Sanctum broadcast.

People insist that the broadcast of October 7, 1944 entitled "Dead Man's Vengeance" was not an Inner Sanctum episode. Well, it was an Inner Sanctum episode. Raymond Edward Johnson was the star and lead actor in more than one Inner Sanctum episode, this is no different.

Shameless pitch: Material for this broadcast log originates from the book, INNER SANCTUM MYSTERIES: BEHIND THE CREAKING DOOR, copyright 2003. Reprinted material with permission. For more info about the *Inner Sanctum* series, this book comes highly recommended. The book documents the history of the radio series, television series, mystery magazine, mystery novels, movies, and much more. Lots of photos and radio advertisements reprinted, tons of trivia, episode guide for both radio and television, and so much you'll fall in love with the book.

Available \$29.95 plus \$4.00 postage. INNER SANCTUM BOOK, Po Box 189, Delta, PA 17314

Author and researcher Martin Grams, Jr. is also the author of THE HISTORY OF THE CAVALCADE OF AMERICA, and co-author of THE CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATER: AN EPISODE GUIDE AND HANDBOOK, THE HAVE GUN-WILL TRAVEL COMPANION, THE ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS COMPANION, and THE SOUND OF DETECTION: ELLERY QUEEN'S ADVENTURES IN RADIO. If you have a question for the author, Martin can be contacted at mmargrajr@hotmail.com.