

Document Citation

Title	The spiders
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Cinematheque Ontario/a division of Toronto International Film Festival Group</i>
Date	1999 Oct 28
Type	intertitles
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	13
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Die spinnen (Spiders), Lang, Fritz, 1919

THE SPIDERS (DIE SPINNEN)

Directed by Fritz Lang

Germany 1919 70 minutes (when shown @ 20 fps)

35mm print from the Munich Filmmuseum; recommended speed 16 fps

Presented by Cinematheque Ontario (Toronto) on October 28, 1999 as part of the "Designs of Destiny: The Cinema of Fritz Lang" retrospective held October 22 – December 8, 1999.

English translations prepared by Devjani Chanda (Toronto) from the German intertitles corresponding to the Munich Filmmuseum's print.

PART 1: THE GOLDEN LAKE (DER GOLDEN SEE)

- 1] The Spiders
- 2] Screenplay: Fritz Lang
Director: Fritz Lang
- 3] Art Director: Hermann Warm, Otto Hunte and Carl Kirmse
Exotic decor: Voelkerkuendliches Museum von Heinrich Umlauf, Hamburg (Museum of Ethnology)
- 4] Photography: Emil Schuenemann and Karl Freund
- 5] Adventure One: The Golden Lake
- 6] Cast: Kay Hoog – Carl de Vogt
Lio Sha – Ressel Orla
Dr. Telphas – Georg John
Naela – Lil Dagover
- 7] Message in a bottle
- 8] Previous story
- 9] On the night before to the regatta between America and Japan at 'Standard Club' in San Francisco.
- 10] Lio Sha.
- 11] 'What is keeping Kay Hoog, the favourite for tomorrow's race?'
- 12] Kay Hoog.

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13] 'You are all aware of the enormous urgency of a message found in a bottle; a final attempt from a shipwreck to send out a distress signal.'

14] 'Today, while coming ashore from my yacht – '

15] 'I hurried home.'

16] January 7, 1914:

To the finder of this message:

Please inform Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts immediately that I am being held captive 75° w.v.G. by descendants of the Inca who are still practicing human sacrifice to the sun. There are incredible treasures to be found in the ruins of the temple ...

17] ... which originates from the ancient kingdom. Beneath the so-called 'sacred lake' lies a gold mine that is inexhaustible.

May 5th, 1918:

Today I was able to escape and reach the coast. Please help me, so God will.
– Fred Johnson.

18] 'I have found the location on the map –'

19] '– and have wired Harvard University at once.'

20] 'The ultimate proof that there is no mystery has been delivered by their response.'

21] (*Telegram*) Kay Hoog standard club San Francisco / Professor Johnson on expedition in Peru missing 6 years / Harvard University, Massachusetts.

22] 'Consequently, I will not compete for the 'Golden Cup of San Francisco' tomorrow. The golden treasures of the Incas are much more tempting.'

23] 'Mouton Rothschild 1863.'

24] 'Good luck, Kay Hoog.'

25] 'Shattered glass signifies good luck.'

26] Night.

27] The morning after.

- 28] The Spiders have taken the matter to heart, leave it alone.
- 29] Dr. Telphas.
- 30] 'The Spiders are waiting for you.'
- 31] 'Inform the Spiders of my plans. We must take possession of the golden treasures.'
- 32] 'And as soon as possible.'
- 33] 'Lio Sha has called this meeting on behalf of the Master to inform you of an important matter.'
- 34] 'The Master wishes immediate financing for this project. We must make haste and take action to beat Kay Hoog to it.'
- 35] Individual preparations.
- 36] Cuitan is the southernmost railway station of the Mexican railway line.'
- 37] 'The railway line was built by the government to establish a connection to the balloon station for meteorological readings.'
- 38] 'I will lead the expedition, and you, Dr. Telphas should accompany me.'
- 39] In the observatory carriage of the South Mexican Railway.
- 40] 'Hello, Boy.'
- 41] 'Mr. Rongoon! Mr. Rongoon!'
- 42] 'I work for the Meteorological Institute of Cuitan. I pilot a weather balloon.'
- 43] 'My next mission will be a flight to Chile across the Cordillera crater.'
- 44] In a bar, in Cuitan.
- 45] The Spiders on recruiting mission.
- 46] 'Gentlemen. Twenty dollars a day, and a bonus of a hundred dollars.'
- 47] 'We leave at 6 o'clock sharp. Be here on time if you want to join us.'
- 48] 'Two minutes after 6.'

- 49] 'Balloon ... go!'
- 50] At night above the Cordillera.
- 51] Ancient ruins of the Inca.
- 52] 'There is a document with strange writing that I was able to take away from the Spiders. As I understand – it concerns a mysterious ship of diamonds.'
- 53] The Spiders' expedition.
- 54] 'It is not enough to have Kay Hoog as our competitor in the hunt of the golden treasure – he is also in possession of the key to our biggest secret – the diamond ship.'
- 55] 'In the west where the sun sets is the sacred lake, that no man has seen before.'
- 56] 'Every morning with the first rays of the sun comes the Sun Priestess to take her bath – a golden woman – Eldora.'
- 57] 75° w.L.v.G.
- 58] 'The sacred lake –'
- 59] Naela, the Sun Priestess.
- 60] 'Sun, o sun!'
- 61] 'And the day is near that comes every 52 suns – the great festival of the sun.'
- 62] 'We will offer human sacrifices to make the Incas strong again, and may their resurrection be as glorious as in times past.'
- 63] 'Flee. Save yourself, death awaits you here!'
- 64] 'Flee, or you are lost. No white man has ever left this valley alive.'
- 65] And Kay Hoog saw...
- 66] 'You will not leave these chambers of rock alive. The festival of the sun is in three days, when your heart will be sacrificed to the Sun God.'
- 67] 'Tell us how you captured her –'
- 68] 'At night I saw smoke. I investigated and observed ...'

- 69] 'On the day of the holy festival, the blood of the prisoner shall colour the stone of sacrifice, and you, Sun Priestess, shall bring the sacrifice.'
- 70] 'I have made offerings of flowers that are pure – but human blood? Kill – I?'
- 71] 'Kill? No – sacrifice!'
- 72] 'You shall offer her to the Sun, to restore our people's strength – as in ancient times.'
- 73] 'Flee! Flee!'
- 74] 'I will save your life as you have saved mine.'
- 75] The gold mine beneath the golden lake.
- 76] 'The holy torches must not burn, they bring death.'
- 77] 'Hurry! Hurry!'
- 78] 'Nobody will find us here – this is the sanctuary of the Sun Priestess, forbidden to all.'
- 79] An underground waterfall.
- 80] 'Let me come with you – far, far away from here.'
- 81] 'And Lio Sha?'
- 82] 'Guards are posted at all exits, it is impossible to escape.'
- 83] 'Then there is only one way out. The waterfall must have an outlet, and bring us to daylight.'
- 84] 'Since childhood I have prepared Naela for the day – and I know how to force her.'
- 85] The Sun Festival.
- 86] 'I will come for you, to give the Sun our offering.'
- 87] 'Sun, o Sun!'
- 88] 'Gold! Gold!'
- 89] 'The holy candles are burning.'

90] 'Gold! Gold!'

91] 'Be patient, men. Each will receive his share of the treasure.'

92] The survivors.

93] And Kay Hoog –

94] Later.

95] Weeks later in San Francisco.

96] 'You are still in possession of a secret document that belongs to the Spiders. I have come to repossess it.'

97] 'The document of the diamond ship? It is in safekeeping.'

98] 'We should not be enemies. You saved my life, I love you Kay Hoog.'

99] 'My heart and my love are there.'

100] 'Beware, Kay Hoog. You have rejected Lio Sha's love, now prepare to fear her hatred.'

101] 'I will return soon, Naela, I must go into town.'

102] And upon Kay Hoog's return –

103] 'Where is Naela?'

104] 'Naela!'

105] 'The mark of the Spiders – Lio Sha, you will pay for this dearly.'

THE END

106] If this tale has sparked your interest to follow Kay Hoog on his adventures and his revenge on Lio Sha, join us for the next episode, THE DIAMOND SHIP.

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PART 2: THE DIAMOND SHIP (DAS BRILLANTENSCHIFF)

107] The Spiders

108] Screenplay: Fritz Lang
Director: Fritz Lang

109] Adventure Two: The Diamond Ship

110] Cast:
Kay Hoog – Carl de Vogt
Lio Sha – Ressel Orla
The Master – Georg John
The Diamond King – Rudolf Lettinger
Ellen, his daughter – Thea Zander

111]
Captain of the Diamond Ship – Reiner Steiner
All-hab-mah, the Yogi – Friedrich Kuehne
Four-finger John – Edgar Pauly
Chinese man – Meinhard Maur
Jewish man – Paul Morgan

112] The house of steel

113] Lio Sha

114] 'Our organisation functions brilliantly. It is not our fault that the jewel has not been found yet. The diamond ship...'

115] The jewel we seek is not on hand. I will inform our client.'

116] 'And Kay Hoog?'

117] 'Kay Hoog will not cross our path again...he now knows of the power of the Spiders.'

- 118] Kay Hoog.
- 119] 'I can assure you that I have finally succeeded in organizing a raid of the building in question.'
- 120] 'But how are you involved in the whole matter?'
- 121] 'I have an old score to settle.'
- 122] 'The raid is planned for 11 o'clock sharp.'
- 123] 'I will join in.'
- 124] A modern raid.
- 125] '6.5 carat...70.000 dollars...once...twice...'
- 126] In the subterranean Chinese town.
- 127] 'The secret of the many diamond robberies.'
- 128] The following day.
- 129] An old bookworm (an old professor).
- 130] 'This is proof of my suspicion that the police will not acknowledge at any cost. Beneath the Chinese quarter, an underground Chinese town exists, and this fragment of ivory permits your entrance.'
- 131] 'Look for this sign in one of the Chinese shops...there you will find the way leading to the underground Chinese town.'
- 132] 'But be careful. The police deny protection upon entrance to the Chinese quarter above ground. Therefore, you are beyond protection of the law upon entrance of the underground Chinese town, the existence of which is denied by the police.'
- 133] In the subterranean Chinese town.
- 134] 'I must speak with the captain of 'Sturmvogel' (Thunderbird). Our investigation for the jewel with the shape of Buddha's head has been futile.'
- 135] Above, in one of the shops in the Chinese quarter.
- 136] 'The guards of Chinatown.'

- 137] Gambling den 'Red Dragon'.
- 138] 'The jewel with Buddha's head is not here in this town, or else we would surely have found it.'
- 139] 'The proceeds from the sale of diamonds that were valueless to us, were partially transferred to the joint account, and partially...'
- 140] 'I intend to stay for two more days until the initial excitement has died down. Tomorrow evening I will be on board the 'Sturmvogel', and we may sail at once.'
- 141] 'Kay Hoog has arrived.'
- 142] 'Set this woman free, and you may leave without interference.'
- 143] 'I promise you in the name of Buddha, the Almighty, that none of us will try to detain you.'
- 144] Two days later.
- 145] Making a deal?
- 146] 'How much?'
- 147] Mr. Baker, an advocate who does not like to have anything to do with the law.
- 148] 'I have heard from the port authority that 'Sturmvogel' is setting out for South America. Is that true?'
- 149] 'It concerns the smuggling of a crate of secret documents from the United States, without giving the authorities a chance to look at the papers.'
- 150] 'My client will pay 10.000 dollars if the contract is fulfilled, and 20.000 dollars when the crate is delivered with the seal intact.'
- 151] That evening.
- 152] An episode in India.
- 153] 'The diamond ship has not served its purpose, as the diamond with Buddha's head has not been found.'
- 154] 'The Master will make another attempt to investigate the whereabouts of the diamond. India's most famous clairvoyant All-hab-mah has put himself at our disposal for the glorious matter.'

- 155] A hypnotic-telepathic experiment
- 156] 'Find Buddha's stone, and free Asia's growth and freedom from foreign domination.'
- 157] 'A heart beat.'
- 158] The experiment is a success...under hypnosis All-hab-mah observed the stone to be in the hands of John Terry, the great diamond king, whose ancestors stole the religious stone...Four-finger John making all arrangements...change your plans at once...
- 159] The experiment is a success...under hypnosis All-hab-mah observed the stone to be in the hands of John Terry, the great diamond king, whose ancestors stole the religious stone...Four-finger John making all arrangements...change your plans at once...
- 160] Dear Mr. Hoog. Enclosed, please find the contents of the secret document that was given to me to be deciphered. 400 years ago the Ming dynasty in China possessed a diamond of unique shape and cut...
- 161] ...showing the head of Buddha. The stone was stolen, and the story goes that Asia would be liberated by a princess, the woman who would bring back the diamond to Asia...
- 162] 'Change course...steer toward England!'
- 163] John Terry, the diamond king and his daughter Ellen.
- 164] 'I must leave without delay...a pressing matter...'
- 165] The Spiders at work.
- 166] The log of the 'Seehexe' (Sea Witch).
- 167] Night.
- 168] The morning after.
- 169] The Spiders have kidnapped your daughter. As ransom they demand the diamond with Buddha's head. You will hear from us.
- 170] The following day.
- 171] Special edition / 5000 pounds reward!!!
- 172] 'The 'Sturmvogel' has left port tonight, her destination unknown.'
- 173] On board the 'Sturmvogel'.

- 174] 'I do not know what diamond you are speaking of...'
- 175] 'And yet the solution is only to be found at John Terry's, as All-hab-mah has guided us in that direction!'
- 176] The Spiders have kidnapped your daughter. As ransom they demand the diamond with Buddha's head. You will hear from us.
- 177] 'I do not know what they want from me – I have never owned the diamond they are looking for.'
- 178] 'And yet the solution to the mystery must be with you – the Spiders undertake nothing without thinking it over well. Has it not been known in your family that such a stone exists? Perhaps one of your forefathers?'
- 179] 'He is the founder of our family's wealth, one of the most notorious pirate captains of the 16th century.'
- 180] 'The log of 'Seehexe' – '
- 181] 'In the 16th century the government equipped pirate ships fully, their captains being nothing less than licenced pirates.'
- 182] 'I vaguely remember reading something in the captain's log, that could relate to the diamond with Buddha's head.'
- 183] ...Once again we landed on the coast of the Falklands, and looked for our hidden camp site in the rocky caves. We found everything untouched, the way we had left things two years ago...
- 184] 'The log is missing several pages...whatever happened after the loot was divided is unknown. It seems to have been catastrophic, as the last page says...
- 185] I was the only one who succeeded in escaping...
- 186] 'The log has no information on what unfortunate fate awaited the prisoners. Soon thereafter, the pirate captain was defeated in a battle, and his successor brought the log and this painting to his family.'
- 187] Many have tried to get to the bottom of the mystery but none have succeeded, because I, the owner place my hand on my property.
- 188] 'Four-finger John!'
- 189] 'We shall search his room to see if we can find traces of the kidnapped woman.'

- 190] 'If you are able to provide us with exact information about Ellen Terry's fate, we will see to it that you are not sentenced. Furthermore, you will receive 5000 pounds. Think it over!'
- 191] 'Ellen Terry has been brought on board 'Sturmvogel', long at sea, her destination unknown.'
- 192] 'You will spend the next 48 hours here, so that you can not cross our plans. Then you will be set free.'
- 193] 'I will try to find the diamond – the fate of your daughter is bound to it. I will win this battle or go under!'
- 194] Presume stone to be in the Falklands. Kay Hoog on his way to find the diamond.
- 195] Presume stone to be in the Falklands. Kay Hoog on his way to find the diamond.
- 196] 'Change course of 'Sturmvogel' immediately!'
- 197] 'I will have Ellen Terry under my control, and I will force her to be the queen to free Asia from foreign rule.'
- 198] 'When the creature with no will puts on the crown of Asia, we will have all of Asia at our feet.'
- 199] A trail of footsteps.
- 200] 'The treasure cave.'
- 201] 'Hand over the diamond with Buddha's head.'
- 202] 'He must have the stone – I have seen it in his hand!'
- 203] 'Hunger and thirst will make you come around!'
- 204] The poisonous cave.
- 205] In the night the crater let out poisonous fumes.
- 206] The fight to reach the cave entrance.
- 207] Weeks later, in London.
- 208] '...I was the only one to escape...and here is the stone.'

- 209] 'Before you arrived, the Pinkerton Detective Agency, in whom I have entrusted the search of my daughter's whereabouts, telephoned me to report that they have found a trail. I expect one of the gentlemen to turn up any minute.'
- 210] 'An elderly gentleman has checked into Hotel Royal, accompanied by a young lady who he declares to be his daughter, and who resembles the photographs of your daughter.'
- 211] 'I have been sent to take you there, so that you may identify the young lady.'
- 212] In the lobby of Hotel Royal.
- 213] 'We must be careful not to raise suspicion. From here you can keep an eye on the suspect's room.'
- 214] 'Lio Sha is dead.'
- 215] 'The diamond is lost forever.'
- 216] 'Nobody shall know of this. I am being followed by Indian spies. The Asian committee suspects me of double-dealing as I have not yet been able to produce the diamond as promised.'
- 217] 'There is only one way out of this precarious situation. Have a copy of the diamond made. In this way, we may succeed in tricking them.'
- 218] 'Proceed to Amsterdam today. Do not worry about expenses. It will be our last means of getting what we want.'
- 219] 'And Ellen Terry is always under my power. At present she is asleep.'
- 220] 'You have betrayed Asia. You and the woman, who was about to steal the crown of Asia, you must die!'
- 221] 'Your daughter seems to have been under hypnosis. She is awake now but recalls nothing of what happened.'
- 222] THE END.