

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 12 - December, 2016
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



Please Note:

January 1st Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, January 1st at Cindy Brown's residence.

The focus of the meeting will be the viewing of the 1st episode of Season 4 of the "**BBC Sherlock**" series.



If you are planning on attending, please RVSP to Cindy at:
epacpa@gmail.com

We will be at our normal meeting venue, La Madeleine, in February.

December 10th Meeting

Karen and Charles Olson hosted a fabulous Christmas party for the society on Saturday afternoon. 19 attendees enjoyed the festivities, coming together for food, drink, contests, and general frivolity.

Brenda Hutchison won the quiz on "The Golden Pince-Nez," with Sharon Lowry coming in second. Both won a variety of prizes.

We enjoyed a variety of Victorian-styled foods and drink, and a local musician, Mark Landson, provided us wonderful music during the entire party. To see an amazing sample of his music during the party, go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/timotater/video/s/10202635107676324/>

We all owe Karen and Charles a debt of gratitude for putting on such a wonderful event!



For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>

Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries
Historian
Webmaster

Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison
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SAYING "I DO" IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

In "The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor," Hatty Doran vanishes during her wedding breakfast after her marriage to Lord Robert St. Simon. (1)

Up until the scandal of her disappearance, the sequence of events illustrates many of the typical Victorian wedding traditions.

For the Victorian woman, marrying well was the goal in her life. (2) That is, an appropriate match within one's social class to a man who would provide for her at the level to which she was accustomed.

While Hatty Doran is an American and something of a tomboy, as the only daughter of a millionaire and a noble woman at heart with an honorable reputation, her match with Lord St. Simon is considered advantageous—especially for him.

His family's precarious economic position will be eased by the large dowry her father offers. (3)

Hatty's father Aloysius Doran would have known of St. Simon's poor economic status because financial aspects of both the prospective bride and groom were openly discussed and negotiated prior to announcing the engagement.

Often the family would put the dowry in an estate trust which the bride continued to control after her marriage.

If no trust was created, all her possessions reverted to her husband on their wedding day. (4) Apparently Mr. Doran hadn't considered a trust necessary because Holmes notes St. Simon now has control of the dowry. (5)

Following such negotiations, the engagement would be announced, perhaps first to close friends and family.

The friends would then let others know. Thus, the announcement in the *Morning Post* notes the engagement between Hatty and Robert is "rumored," rather than formally declared. (6)

The bride was expected to pick the wedding's actual date and venue.

A number of traditions and rhymes provided guidance on the selection of the month and the day of the week.

Traditionally, however, June was the most popular month for a number of reasons: it was named after the Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage; it occurred after Lent; the weather was warmer; and the first child would be born in the spring, with enough time to recover before the fall harvest. (7)

Hatty, however, chooses the autumn, shortly after she and Robert were reacquainted during the London season, which occurred each year from January or February to July or August. (8)

Weddings would take place either in the bride's home or her parish church, but by the 1850s, almost all

occurred in church, and until the 1880s, the law required them to be in the morning.

Toward the end of the century, the ceremony could take place as late as 3 pm. (9) Interestingly, Hatty chooses St. George's on Hanover Square as her venue. (10)

An appropriate choice, given that this particular church was popular among Americans living or visiting London, including Theodore Roosevelt. (11)

In addition to the wedding party and invited guests, strangers could also observe a church wedding.

English law prohibited marriages performed behind closed doors, and so the church remained open during the ceremony. (12)

Thus, when Hatty's true husband, Francis H. Moulton, slips in with others observing the



ceremony, he doesn't call any undue attention from the wedding party—except for Hatty.

St. Simon notes the church was open and the man was but one of several strangers sitting in the pews. (13)

With a morning wedding, a breakfast reception followed at the bride's parents' home. Depending on the number of guests and the size of the room, guests might stand throughout the reception, but the couple would be seated. (14)

Hatty and Robert's table is positioned in such a way she is able to see out the window of her father's home. (15)

While not mentioned, the silk wedding dress Francis Moulton drops in the Serpentine Lake in Hyde Park is most likely white, as are her shoes. (16)

In 1840, brides began wearing white gowns following Queen Victoria's trend. Before that, gowns were most likely green for young women (a symbol of fertility), brown for those in their twenties, and black for older women. (17)

St. Simon might have spared himself the trouble and scandal of his new bride running off if he'd chosen to whisk her to Gretna Green instead.

From the mid-1700s, couples would elope across the border with Scotland to be married by a blacksmith.

Unlike in England, the bride and groom could be wed by a simple declaration in front of two witnesses.

Because the blacksmith shop was always open, those eloping would stop there to make their declaration, with the blacksmith pounding on his anvil at the end of the ceremony to indicate the two had been forged into one. (18)

In the end, St. Simon and Hatty's traditional ceremony assists Holmes's investigation.

Hatty's reaction to one of the uninvited guests at the church and her view from the wedding breakfast table are all Holmes needs to solve the case of this runaway bride.



- 1) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Locations 13845-13846). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 2) <http://www.angelpig.net/victorian/engagement.html>
- 3) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Location 13946). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 4) <http://www.angelpig.net/victorian/engagement.html>
- 5) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Location 13948). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 6) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Locations 13844-13846). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 7) <http://www.literary-liaisons.com/article003.html>
- 8) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Location 13945). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 9) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Location 13945). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 10) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Locations 13860-13863). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 11) <http://www.stgeorghanoversquare.org/history/stgeorges-and-the-usa.html>
- 12) Sally Mitchell, Daily Life in Victorian England (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996), 159.
- 13) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Locations 13962-13963). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 14) <http://www.angelpig.net/victorian/reception.html>
- 15) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Locations 14008-14009).
- 16) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Location 14158).
- 17) <http://www.angelpig.net/victorian/weddingattire.html>
- 18) <http://www.gretnagreen.com/traditions-of-a-gretna-green-wedding-a742>

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the Bilge Pump) and sign up for her newsletter at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

REGARDING THE TRUE AETIOLOGY OF THE SKIN-LIGHTENING SYNDROME IN "THE ADVENTURE OF THE BLANCHED SOLDIER"

Carl Heifetz, The Holmes & Watson Report, January, 1998

From Wednesday, January 7 through Monday, January 12, in the year 1903, Mr. Sherlock Holmes investigated the mysterious malady that seems to have afflicted Mr. Godfrey Emsworth and which is the subject of this essay.



Since Mr. James M. Dodd, Mr. Holmes's client and the former army comrade-in-arms of the afflicted man, had not had any communications from his friend for six months, he visited the home of Mr. Emsworth and found him to be hiding on the estate but mysteriously changed in physical appearance.

Through a series of observations and scientific deductions prior to and during his visit to the Emsworth habitation, Mr. Holmes reached the tentative hypothesis that Mr. Emsworth may have contracted leprosy in South Africa and was hiding this disastrous news from everyone except his family, trusted servants, and personal physician.

It was this latter gentleman, a Mr. Kent, the primary care physician, who diagnosed the condition as leprosy without calling in an expensive consultant to confirm his findings.

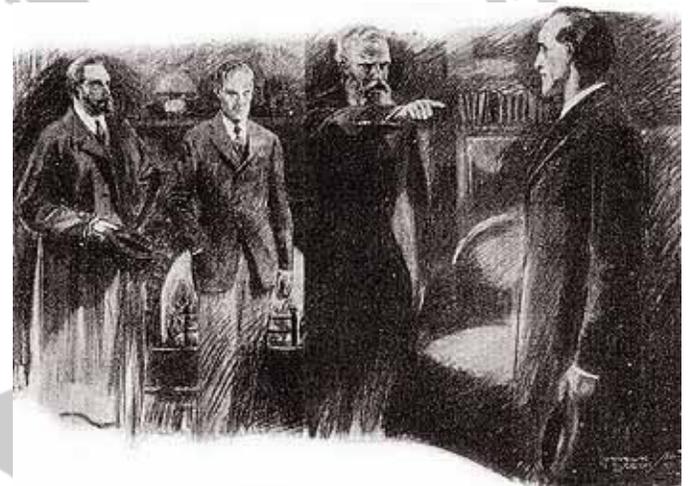
Deprived of the services of John H. Watson, M.D., who usually filled the role of physician-advisor to the detective but who had deserted him for a wife, Mr. Holmes was required to call in a favor and ask the noted dermatologist and tropical medicine specialist Sir James Saunders to provide a long-needed second opinion in this matter.



The diagnosis of "pseudo-leprosy or ichthyosis" was gratefully received by all in attendance at the denouement of this adventure.

As is often the case in the field of medical literature, some controversy has arisen regarding the true aetiology of the skin condition that afflicted Mr. Godfrey Emsworth.

Was it really leprosy, as Mr. Kent had initially diagnosed it?



Was it really "pseudo-leprosy or ichthyosis," as stated by the expert Sir James Saunders?

Was it something else again, as discussed in more recent medical literature?

It is unfortunate that Dr. Watson had not the opportunity to present this account to us.

I am certain that the clarity of his medical observations would have obviated all of the obscurity associated with this narrative by a scientifically brilliant though medically inexperienced detective.

Thus we must make do with the evidence that is available to us through the less than medically expert descriptions provided by Mr. Sherlock Holmes's account in order to explore the several possible alternative diagnoses.

A Chronology of
"The Adventure of
the Blanched Soldier"

January 1901

James Dodd joins his squadron and meets Godfrey Emsworth.

circa January 1902

Godfrey Emsworth is wounded and spends the night in a leper's bed. He is subsequently moved to a hospital in Pretoria.

circa February 1902

Godfrey writes to Dodd from hospital at Cape Town.

May-June, 1902

Godfrey returns to England, writes to Dodd from Southampton.

May 31, 1902

Boer War ends.

June 1902 or later

Dodd returns to England and writes to Godfrey's father.

Summer or fall 1902

Dodd writes second letter to Godfrey's father.

January 1903

James Dodd goes to Tuxbury Old Hall to find Godfrey.

Medical diagnoses are generally based on considerations of patient history, presenting symptoms, and the results of laboratory tests, and on occasion, of surgical intervention.

In this case, neither laboratory analyses nor diagnostic surgical procedures were performed. Thus we are forced to rely exclusively on the patient's case history and symptomology and the diagnostic skills and



personal experience of the physician.

Mr.

Godfrey Emsworth had seen military action in

South Africa during the Boer War. According to his comrade, Mr. James M. Dodd, "We took the rough and the smooth together for a year of hard fighting. Then he was hit with a bullet from an elephant gun in the action near Diamond Hill outside Pretoria. I got one letter from the hospital at Cape Town and one from Southampton. Since then not a word -- not one word, Mr. Holmes, for six months and more, and he my closest pal."

Later we learn, by Mr. Emsworth's own account, that after he was wounded he spent the night collapsed in a leper's bed in the Leper Hospital, and during that time, while in a weakened condition, he had a brief but close encounter with one of the infected inhabitants of the facility.

Let us first examine the foregoing, while the clues are fresh in our minds, before discussing the clinical signs. For approximately one year, Mr. Emsworth was subjected to the exigencies of warfare.

There must have been many occasions during which he was malnourished, poorly protected from the environment, and lacking in proper hygiene.

All of these influences may have reduced his resistance to infection. However, there is no evidence that anything was amiss during the approximately six-month interval between his being wounded and the time that he arrived in Southampton prior to returning home.

Then for some reason -- probably the rapid visibility of horrendous symptoms -- he dropped out of sight, thinking that he was a victim of leprosy and afraid of the terrible social consequences associated with this misunderstood affliction.

Thus whatever disease revealed itself did so very quickly and completely during the time Mr. Emsworth was at Southampton or just as he arrived home.

It was not a long-standing disease that can be traced back to childhood nor one in which the symptoms had begun to appear slowly over time.

Now let us turn our attention to the signs and symptoms. It should be noted that Mr. Dodd's visit that resulted in his observations of Mr. Emsworth was made some weeks after the last communique, thus more than six months after the events that ended the military career of Mr. Emsworth.

Consequently, the symptoms described by Mr. Dodd, Mr. Holmes, and Sir James, are not those of the initial stages of the disease.

As viewed in the window, illuminated by lamplight, Mr. Dodd provided the following description: "He was deadly pale -- never have I seen a man so white." And further: "... that ghastly face glimmering as white as cheese in the darkness." And again: "His face was -- how shall I describe it? -- it was of a fish-belly whiteness. It was bleached."

In response to Sherlock Holmes's query, it appeared that the face was not equally pale all over."

Then we have Holmes's own written description: "One could see that he indeed had been a handsome

man with clear-cut features sunburned by an African sun, but mottled in patches over this darker surface were curious whitish patches which had bleached his skin."

Finally, the words of the great dermatologist and tropical disease expert, Sir James Saunders: "A well-marked case of pseudo-leprosy or ichthyosis, a scale-like affection of the skin, unsightly, obstinate, but possibly curable, and certainly non-infective."

There we have it. First, the symptoms progressed rapidly, becoming significantly marked within a relatively short time after they first appeared. Second, the lesions on the face were patchy, very white, and scaly. And third, an eminent dermatologist and tropical disease specialist ruled out leprosy.

The subject under discussion has not been completely ignored by medical scholars. Dr. Herman Beerman, in several landmark papers, discussed several diseases that it appeared, based on his extensive experience as a dermatologist, might be the agent responsible for Mr. Emsworth's discomfort.



He concluded the disease was more likely the affliction vitiligo or the fungal infection tinea versicolor, a ubiquitous disease produced by *Pityrosporon orbiculare* (formerly named *Malassezia furfur*), rather than ichthyosis.

Although according to some, "early clinical indications of skin lesions and muscular and neurologic deficiency are usually significantly diagnostic in patients from endemic areas," the fact the family physician Mr. Kent misdiagnosed the affliction of leprosy should come as no surprise for several reasons.

Even today, there are many cases in which a wide variety of illnesses have been attributed to leprosy,



especially by the inexperienced observer.

According to Mr. Keith Skillicorn, from his experience and a review of other

sources, there are at least 30 diseases that may be wrongly attributed to the leprosy bacillus.

He state, "there are four cardinal signs of leprosy, at least two of which must be seen in a patient before we can safely diagnose that person as having leprosy: (hypopigmented, localized skin patches, (2) anaesthesia or sensory deficit, particularly of touch and temperature, (3) thickened nerves, particularly peripheral nerves, and (4) non-cultivable, acid-fast bacilli present in skin lesions and/or nasal mucosa."

In addition, leprosy produces anhydrosis (absence of or deficiency of sweating of the skin), is not highly contagious, requiring continuous close contact for transmission (only about 5% of contacts acquire the disease); has an unusually long -- six months to 30 years -- incubation period, and rarely appears as hairless hypopigmented patches until later stages of the disease.

Although Sir James Saunders did not appear to have used the services of a laboratory, he was no doubt sufficiently experienced to rule out leprosy on the grounds of clinical observation, the brief history of exposure, and the early onset of hypopigmented patches.

Let us now turn our attention to Sir James's diagnosis of "pseudoleprosy or ichthyosis." According to Beerman, Sir James's use of the term "pseudo-leprosy or ichthyosis" was not a definitive diagnosis; rather, "it is more likely that the specialist was more sure of what the condition wasn't than what it was. In other words, he used these terms with the primary intention of reassuring young Emsworth that he did not have the disease he so feared."

Ichthyosis is an inherited disease "characterized by excessive accumulation of scale on the skin surface." Further, the age of onset is from birth to early childhood.

As Dr. Beerman said: "Unless Godfrey Emsworth had had scaling skin lesions since infancy he certainly did not have ichthyosis."

A similarly appearing disease, xeroderma, might be implicated. However, this affliction "usually occurs on the lower legs of middle-aged or older patients most often in cold weather and in patients who bathe frequently."

This also does not match the pattern of history, patient age, and disease site that were described previously for the patient.

Vitiligo is another condition that merits our attention. After an, several statements in the narrative refer to a very white or pale facial appearance -- "white as cheese" and "fish-belly whiteness."



Who can forget the remarkable transformation that this disease has made on the facial appearance of Mr. Michael Jackson, a singer of some fame? This disease is often misinterpreted as leprosy by inexperienced practitioners, and a recent poignant account by a dermatologist stresses the importance of differentiating

these two disorders, which can have very profound social consequences in certain societies.

There is no loss of sensation in vitiligo as there is in leprosy, and no loss of sweating, so that the patch is not warmer than unaffected skin as in leprosy.

As pointed out by Drs. Balin and Balin, the lesions develop slowly over time, not precipitously as is apparently the case in our story.

In addition, the lesions are subject to sunburn, and thus could not have been so prominent in the lamplight. Also, there is no evidence that Godfrey Emsworth suffered from any of the preexisting associated conditions: pernicious anemia, hypothyroidism, hypoadrenalism, or Addison's disease, and "furthermore, vitiligo is not scaly."



That leaves us with Dr. Beerman's favorite diagnosis -- the fungal infection tinea versicolor. Unlike vitiligo, "Tinea versicolor is found in equal frequency in temperate and tropical zones, and [is a disease] which an unbathed soldier might easily have contracted."

I can state from personal experience, subsequent to short-term exposure to my sister's cat, that tinea versicolor develops rapidly after contact, producing significant clinical manifestations.

Any microbiologist can very easily confirm tinea versicolor "by finding groups of yeast and short plump hyphae on microscopic examination of scrapings from the lesions."

The lesions have been described as "tan, brown; or white, very slightly scaling, which tend to coalesce, are seen on the chest, neck, and abdomen and occasionally on the face."

However, although the descriptions of the clinical signs encountered in the story under discussion may somewhat match those listed above, this disease is relatively widespread and should be easily recognized by a competent physician, even one who is not an expert in dermatology and tropical medicine.

On the other hand, tinea versicolor is a disease that may be confused with leprosy.

Differentiation is accomplished by microscopic

examination of skin

scrapings and by noting that there is no loss of sensation at the site.



It is almost certain that this clearly recognizable disorder would be named as such by the dermatologist Sir James Saunders, rather than using the term "pseudo-leprosy."

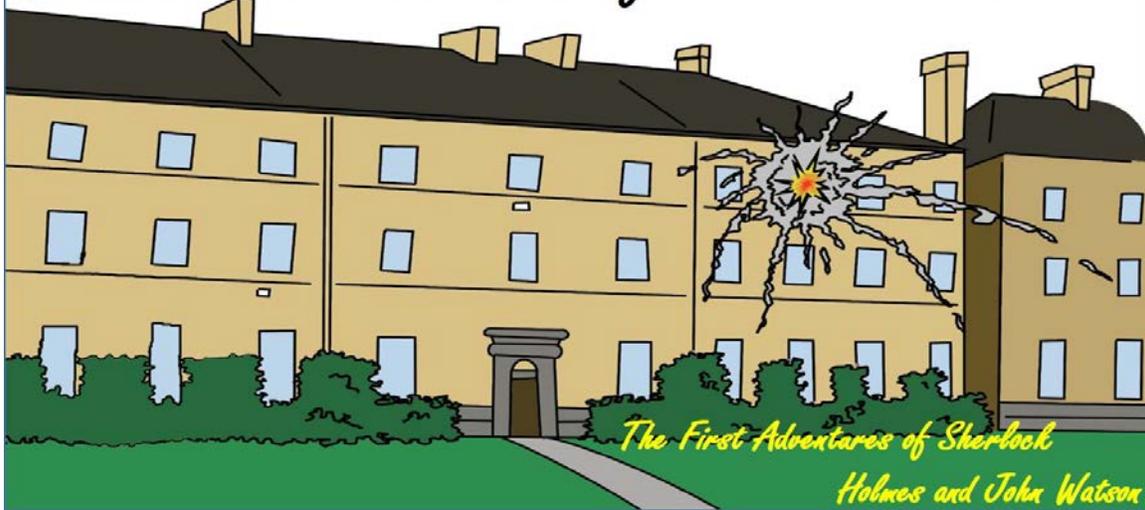
However, this is mere speculation, and we cannot definitively rule out tinea versicolor on these grounds. In conclusion, we have analyzed the paltry available data for the aetiology of the condition that afflicted Mr. Godfrey Emsworth, as recounted to us by Mr. Sherlock Holmes in his narrative "The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier."

Although we have reviewed clues in an attempt to define which of several conditions might fit the few pieces of information available to us, we can draw no final conclusions, except the very felicitous conclusion that it is not leprosy.

Perhaps the main message to come out of this adventure is the unfortunate fact that, as pointed out by Mr. Skillicorn and Drs. Balin and Balin, even in today's sophisticated medical climate many diseases are still misidentified as leprosy, resulting in horrendous psychological and social consequences to the innocent victims of this medical error.

Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Foy,
Rusty & Steve Mason



IT IS PERFECTLY ALRIGHT, JOHN. EVERYONE HAS SOME WEAKNESS. IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, YOU FAINTED LAST TIME I SPOKE TO YOU.

huh... OH YEAH. I... I JUST TRIPPED OVER MY BOOTS...

OH, WE'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU!



Baker Street Elementary
Number 086 - 12/11/2016

Foy, Mason, & Mason

WHERE IS HE? STAMFORD IS SUPPOSE TO BE HERE TO MEET IRENE AND THE OTHER GIRLS...



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STAMFORD, WHY ARE WEARING THAT OUTFIT? YOU REMEMBER LAST TIME YOU WORE THAT THING?

OH, COME NOW, JOHN. YOU SAW THE REACTIONS OF THE GIRLS THE LAST TIME I WORE THIS. I AIM TO WOO MISS IRENE THIS TIME.



OH, DO NOT LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, JOHN. WHAT IS THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?

WELL, FOR ONE... hmmm... WHY DO I EVEN TRY ANYMORE?



HELLO LADIES, WE ARE HERE TO ESCORT YOU TO THE "CAROL" REHEARSALS.

GREETINGS, GENTLEMEN. I, OF COURSE REMEMBER YOU, DEAR JOHN, HOWEVER, I MUST CONFESS, YOUR FRIEND IS UNFAMILIAR TO ME.



OH SWEET IRENE, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. I AM STAMFORD, ONE OF SHERLOCK'S MOST TRUSTED ADVISORS, AND MENTOR TO A VAST MAJORITY OF THE YOUNG'UNS.

STAMFORD, A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU. YOU ASSIST SHERLOCK ON HIS "CASES?"



HI LYNSDAY... HI KRISTINA...

THAT IS CORRECT. I AID SHERLOCK ON HIS MOST DIFFICULT MYSTERIES, AND...

HAS THAT THING ON YOUR HEAD MET ITS DEMISE?

IT WOULD EXPLAIN THE FOUL ODOR.



um... IT SMELLS?... I MEAN, THAT'S MY COLOGNE

THE UP-TURNED COLLAR ADDS A BIT OF INTRIGUE, BUT THE CHEEKBONES...

IS THAT YOUR REAL LOOK, OR ARE YOU TRYING TO "MAKE A MOVE" ON US?



WELL, I WAS JUST... I MEAN... FIRST IMPRESSIONS, YOU KNOW...

EXCUSES, STAMFORD... I BELIEVE THE YOUNG'UNS HAVE THE BETTER OF YOU.



The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 11 - November, 2016
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



Please Note:

December 10th Meeting

Karen and Charles Olson will host a Christmas gathering for the Crew of the Barque Lone Star at their home in McKinney, Texas.

We should bring a Sherlockian white elephant gift for the gift exchange. (A good place to look is on ETSY website.)

Address: 1005 Sundown Circle, McKinney. South of Hwy 380, east of Hwy 75. (940) 337-4984, (940) 337-4159, (214) 491-1847 for directions.

Please RVSP Karen if you are attending:

karen2500@gmail.com

We will have the monthly quiz, on "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez."

November 6th Meeting

There were 14 attendees on hand. As we lost one of our founding members, Bill Beeson, Steve Mason read passages from **Mystic Texas**, by Bryan Wooley, which included quotes and limericks from Bill Beeson. (see page 2).

Cindy Brown and Karen Olson tied on the Quiz, with Karen winning the tie-breaker. The Quiz was based on "The Norwood Builder".

Announcements were made, including last minute preparations for the symposium held on November 7th (see page 4).

Karen and Charles Olson are planning a Victorian Christmas Party for December 10 (see page 5).

A reminder was also given for people to get their home address to Cindy Brown if they plan to participate in the 2016 Sherlockian Christmas card exchange.

It was noted November 29, 2016, our fellow crew member Linda Pieper, will be having knee surgery.

Our member, Diane Tran, is in the hospital. Please keep Diane and Linda in your thoughts.

Rusty Mason gave a wonderful presentation of the website he has designed for the Crew of the Barque Lone Star. It has to be one of the best Sherlockian websites in the country.

Herb Linder was invested as a Crewmate of the Barque for his continuing work to spread the word on Sherlock Holmes through gifts to libraries or schools and by doing presentations.

The closing reading was an excerpt "A Yellow Fog Swirls Across the Windowpane," from the June, 1989, Baker Street Journal (see page 3).

The full minutes may be viewed at our webpage: www.dfw-sherlock.org.

Thanks to Cindy Brown for developing the minutes this month.



For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: [@barquelonestar](https://twitter.com/barquelonestar)

You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>

Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries
Historian
Webmaster

Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb

Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison

Pam Mason
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BILL BEESON, ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE CREW

From MYSTIC TEXAS, Bryan Wooley

As we reported earlier, one of our founding members, Bill Beeson, passed over the Reichenbach in October. Rusty Mason was able to find some quotes and other informaton about Bill in **Mystic Texas**, a book written by another Bryan Wooley who has passed on. The quotes below come from the chapter, "*The Adventure of the Eccentric Sherlockians.*"

Every day, Bill Beeson takes up a volume of the Sacred Writings and reads a story or two. "I've been studying them for fifty-five years," he says. "I always find new things. I never tire of them."

"Every true Sherlockian knows that Holmes and Watson were real!" says Mr. Beeson. "And the accouts of Holmes' cases were really written by Dr. Watson! A. Conan Doyle was merely his literary agent!"

"Of course, we're serious about it!" says Mr. Beeson. "But it's all in fun." He smiles foxily.

Mr. Beeson, a retired Texas Instruments technician, also has a goal: To write one thousand verses on the events and characters of the Canon, as The Sacred Writings also are called. "Every story will be represented," he says. "I'm up to verse 328 or 330 so far."

An insomniac, he often awakes in the wee hours with a Sherlockian limerick or dactyl in his head. He jots it down and refines it later at his computer.

'Fore a fire to protect me from winter chills,
I dreamt of the Canon's familiar thrills:
Had a fine time except
Before waking, I stepped
On the tail of the Hound of the Baskervilles.

He first picked up the Sacred Writings when he was eleven, he says, and has seldom ignored them for say since. "I want to pay something back," he says. "I want to contribute to the Sherlockian literature."

As he grappled with doomed Moriarty,
Holmes remarked, at their Reichenbach party,

"I'll use my baritsu
So the waterfall gits you,
You wicked old villainous smarty!"



Mr. Beeson joined the Crew at its first meeting in 1970. He also is an invested member of the Baker Street Irregulars. In Sherlockian circles, this entitles him to place the initials "BSI" after his name.

"I've had people sneer at me, 'Why don't you get a life?'" adss Mr. Beeson, BSI. "I have a life. There's a big, heavy-duty fantasy component to it, but it's a life." He smiles shrewdly. "Would you rather live in a world peopled by the likes of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson or one peopled by the likes of Adolf Hitler and Richard Nixon?"

A YELLOW FOG SWIRLS ACROSS THE WINDOWPANE

THE BAKER STREET JOURNAL – June, 1989

“IT WAS the end of November,” writes Dr. Watson in ***The Hound of the Baskervilles***, “and Holmes and I sat, upon a raw and foggy night, on either side of a blazing fire in our sitting-room in Baker Street.” And in ***The Copper Beeches***: “It was a cold morning of the early spring, and we sat after breakfast on either side of a cheery fire in the old room at Baker Street. A thick fog rolled down between the lines of dun-coloured houses, and the opposing windows loomed like dark, shapeless blurs through the heavy yellow wreaths.”

This is the Baker Street of Sherlock Holmes we love: the satisfying fire is in the grate— and outside the world is softened and diffused with romantic London fog in which both the criminal and his pursuer may lurk all but unseen.

So the fog is an element without which we cannot imagine the stories: it is at once sinister and cozy, a veil for crime and a medium of romance. But is this almost-mythologized impression of ours strictly Canonical? The plain fact is of the sixty Holmes adventures, only nine contain references to fog. And when these references occur, how, in fact, is this romantic fog described?

Listen to Holmes in the ***Sign of the Four***: “See how the yellow fog

swirls down the street and drifts across the dun-coloured houses. What could be more hopelessly prosaic and material?”

And to Dr. Watson in ***The Bruce-Partington Plans***: “In the third week of November, in the year 1895, a dense yellow fog settled down upon London. From the Monday to the Thursday, I doubt whether it was ever possible from our windows in Baker Street to see the loom of the opposite houses ..., the greasy, heavy brown swirl still drifting past us and condensing in oily drops upon the window-panes. ...”

In these scenes, as in others in the Canon, the presence of fog accompanies the characters’ being depressed, irritable, or both. And that Sherlockian fog which we so love is always brown or yellow, occasionally even greasy or oily.

That’s, of course, because it isn’t fog; it’s smog. It’s a nasty combination of natural water vapor and thousands of pounds of particulate waste belched yearly into London’s atmosphere by the burning of coal to heat homes and fire industry. It is yellow because of the high sulfur content of coal-fire smoke — sulfur dioxide spewed into the air and producing what we now refer to as acid rain.

In short, it’s air pollution of the most malodorous and

unhealthy kind. Little wonder such a shroud seemed to Holmes appropriate to criminous doings; little wonder that its pall depressed our heroes.

But for all this, for all of the manner in which the Victorians perceived the “greasy, heavy brown swirl,” we Sherlockians — romantic fundamentalists — are not to be dissuaded.

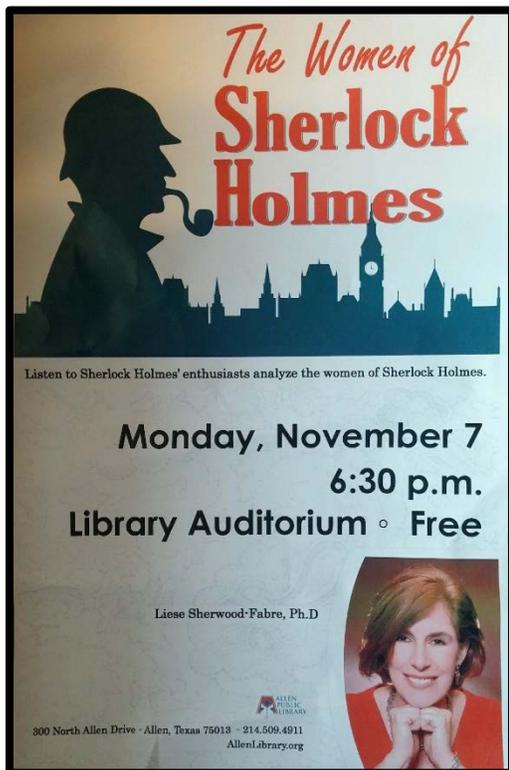
If fog appears in only a handful of the tales, we lovingly infuse the others with it. If Holmes and Watson grow impatient with its burdensome presence, from our armchairs we seek to assuage them and blanket Baker Street deeper in the stuff. For we know, with Holmes, that even “moonshine is a brighter thing than fog,” and — at least until the end of the story— we want our Sherlockian mysteries wrapped in wreaths of darkness. And we also want the rolling, dense fog-banks pressing at the windows as we ourselves push farther back into the cushions at our own firesides, setting out once more to adventure with Sherlock Holmes.

“A yellow fog swirls past the window-pane,” wrote Vincent Starrett; “the ghostly gas lamps fail at twenty feet.” No true Sherlockian would have it any other way.

The Baker Street Journal continues to be the leading Sherlockian publication since its founding in 1946 by Edgar W. Smith. With both serious scholarship and articles that “play the game,” the Journal is essential reading for anyone interested in Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and a world where it is always 1895.

Got to: <http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/itemsforsale/subscriptions.html> for subscription information.

THE WOMEN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES



On Monday evening, November 7th, several members of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star conducted a symposium at the Allen Public Library entitled “The Women of Sherlock Holmes.”

Liese Sherwood-Fabre started the discussions with an educational view on “The Villainesses of Sherlock Holmes.”

Next, Cindy Brown presented “Do Any of the Modern Irene Adlers Live Up to the Original?”

Tim Kline then gave the audience a view of the various female Sherlock Holmes through the years. And he also baked up several dozen Sherlock Holmes cookies for the attendees.

Steve Mason finished the presentations with “How Did Sherlock Holmes Feel About Women.”

The climax of the symposium was a wonderful mystery developed by Brenda Hutchison for the audience to participate in.

A total of 34 Sherlockian devotees were in attendance, and all of them were able to take home free books, bracelets, and other Sherlockian memorabilia.

And a few of the attendees are interested in becoming members of our Society!!

Thanks so much for the Allen Library, including Tom Keener, for hosting us again for annual symposium.

WE'RE HAVING A CHRISTMAS PARTY !!

Charles and Karen Olson have graciously offered to host a Christmas party for all of our Crew members...

DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

TIME: 2:00 – 5:00 PM

ADDRESS: 1005 SUNDOWN CIRCLE, MCKINNEY,
TX in a housing addition called
Sunset Acres, off HWY 380, just east
of McKinney

PHONE: if you need further directions, get
lost, or just want to say hi to Karen
or Charles... (940) 337-4984,
(940) 337-4159, (214) 491-1847.



Charles and Karen have a lovely house, and you will enjoy seeing their Sherlockian items, as well as wonderful items from all over the world.

There will be Victorian snacks and hors d'oeuvres... but feel free to bring your own favorite Victorian delicacy or libation to assist Karen.

We will also have a Christmas present exchange, so we are asking all attendees to bring a small Sherlockian/Victorian gift... \$10 maximum, if possible...

If you are stumped for a potential present, go to Etsy (<https://www.etsy.com/>) and search on Sherlock Holmes... they have thousands of potential gifts for an exchange (or for yourself) at reasonable prices...

Please RSVP to Karen Olson if you are attending, so she can plan for the number of attendees...

karen.olson2500@gmail.com

We hope to see you there...

Steve, Karen, Charles, Walter

17 STEPS TO THE GOLDEN PINCE-NEZ

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of the case at hand...

THAT'S ONE HEAVY TIN DISPATCH BOX

The ever-enigmatic Dr. Watson begins this week's tale with those intriguing words, "When I look at the three massive manuscript volumes which contain our work for the year 1894."



That's not one, not two, but three whole volumes and, better still, they're massive.

Then there's that word that has to set collectors' mouths to "high drool": manuscript.

Were these wondrous tomes the work of Watson alone? A combined record in the handwriting of both he and Holmes? How many cases might "three massive volumes" have held for 1894? Does this mean that Watson was recording every single one of Holmes's cases for that year?

And one for the collectors: three massive volumes of crime chronicles in the handwriting of Dr. Watson, many, if not most, of the cases unpublished. How much money would such a thing go for if it were to show up at auction?

THE SECRET OF HIS SUCCESS(ION)

Among the untold tales we are presented with this time is "the famous Smith-Mortimer succession case."

How many kinds of succession are there that might

pertain to this case? Did Mortimer necessarily succeed Smith, or was their succession something they shared or both caused? Or is this one just too vague?

HOW DULL WERE THE OTHER CASES?

Once more, Watson advertises this case up front in glowing terms that may not be backed up by the tale that follows: "On the whole I am of opinion that none of them unites so many singular points of interest as the episode of Yoxley Old Place, which includes not only the lamentable death of young Willoughby Smith, but also those subsequent developments which threw so curious a light upon the causes of the crime."

So **many** singular points? Well, there's the murder, the hidden panel, and the secret past ... and after "Norwood Builder" that panel isn't so distinctive. What were the "many" singular points Watson finds in this case?



HOW PROFITABLE WAS THE EVENING FOR WATSON?

"Holmes and I sat together in silence all the evening, he engaged with a powerful lens deciphering the remains of the original inscription upon a palimpsest, I deep in a recent treatise upon surgery."

Well, we know Holmes wasn't too happy with the results of his

studies, but what of the doctor? If Watson had sold his practice to Holmes's cousin, why was he reading up on surgery? Would this be a "how-to" treatise, or a study of some form of surgery? How often would Watson have been practicing surgery even if he was in practice?

SLOSHING YOUR WAY DOWN BAKER STREET

"I walked to the window, and looked out on the deserted street. The occasional lamps gleamed on the expanse of muddy road and shining pavement. A single cab was splashing its way from the Oxford Street end."

Time for some very basic questions: How much "mud" was there coating Baker Street? There was pavement under there somewhere wasn't there? Was there anyway for the dirt on the streets to wash off to?

WHERE WAS THE NEAREST CABSTAND?

For a promising young detective, Stanley Hopkins seems very free with his transportation, sending his cab away before he even knows Holmes is home, on a very unpleasant night to be walking home. What were his hopes for finding fresh transportation in that weather if he hadn't stayed?

A PRACTICAL MAN'S USES FOR A SCOTLAND YARD MAN

"It was young Stanley Hopkins, a promising detective, in whose

career Holmes had several times shown a very practical interest.”

Why was it so practical for Holmes to show an interest in Hopkins’s career? Wasn’t his connection to the Yard already well established?



GOOD MEDICINE FROM THE GOOD DOCTOR

“Here’s a cigar, and the doctor has a prescription containing hot water and a lemon, which is good medicine on a night like this.”

What else might have Watson’s prescription contained? Was this an actual attempt at a cold remedy or a bit of wassail for the caroller of criminal tales?

THE YOXLEY OLD PLACE BIOSPHERE

“If you were to search all England, I don’t suppose you could find a household more self-contained or freer from outside influences. Whole weeks would pass, and not one of them go past the garden gate.”

Would such self-containment have required any special measures in that much more self-sufficient time? What supplies might they have needed to break their solitude occasionally to go out for? How long could such a household have gone without outside contact, at the outside limit?

THE MORTIMER THAT DIDN’T KNOW ANY BASKERVILLES

“Mortimer, the gardener, who wheels the Bath chair, is an army pensioner—an old Crimean man of

excellent character. He does not live in the house, but in a three-roomed cottage at the other end of the garden.”

Does Hopkins mean Mortimer fought in Crimea, or that he’s actually of Crimean descent? Wasn’t a three-roomed cottage a luxury for a gardener at a household the size of Yoxley Old Place?

We are told that Coram couldn’t dress without the help of Mortimer, which, combined with the bath-chair business, shows that Mortimer’s duties went far beyond gardening.

Was he still referred to as the “gardener” because his employer was sensitive about his invalidated state and would not abide having a “nurse”?

THE REASONS FOR REDECORATING

We are told that Susan Tarlton “was engaged at the moment in hanging some curtains in the upstairs front bedroom.



Professor Coram was still in bed, for when the weather is bad he seldom rises before midday. The housekeeper was busied with some work in the back of the house. Willoughby Smith had been in his bedroom, which he uses as a sitting-room.”

The upstairs front bedroom plainly belonged to neither Coram nor Smith, as they both were occupying theirs.

Being the front bedroom, it would seem the logical choice for overnight guests. Why was Susan

suddenly hanging curtains in that bedroom, when the household seems so unsocial? Was Coram expecting a guest? Or was it just time to wash the curtains and the merest coincidence to all that happened in the tale?

KNIVES FOR EVERY POSSIBLE PURPOSE

In this tale we find “one of those small sealing-wax knives to be found on old-fashioned writing-tables, with an ivory handle and a stiff blade.”

How does a knife come into play in the process of administering sealing wax or opening an envelope sealed with such wax? Is it like a letter opener, a convenient, but basically unnecessary item?

AND THIS WAS THE SCOTLAND YARD MAN HE LIKED

“What did you do, Hopkins, after you had made certain that you had made certain of nothing?”

In this tale, Holmes gives

Hopkins a little bit of the criticism he usually saves for Watson.

Were Holmes’s little digs a measure of how comfortable he was with an individual? Might his tone have been humorously such that these bits were less stinging than they sometimes appear?



STANLEY HOPKINS — MEMORY CHALLENGED?

Sherlock Holmes makes several deductions from the golden pince-nez found at the scene of the crime, which is not an

unusual thing for him to do. What is a bit different is the fact that he writes them all on paper first, rather than just announcing them aloud, as is his usual fashion. Why? Though his write-up starts in the form of an advertisement, it finishes as suggested instructions for the investigator. What purpose did this write-up have?



THE LONG HOURS OF POLICE WORK

"I had intended," Hopkins says, "to go the round of the

London opticians."

Didn't London have a good-sized number of opticians even then? Just how long would it have taken Hopkins to do the legwork involved in such an effort, even with the help of a hansom?

THE HOSPITALITY OF 221B

"Well, it's nearly one, and we had best get a few hours' sleep. I daresay you can manage all right on the sofa in front of the fire. I'll light my spirit lamp, and give you a cup of coffee before we start."

Didn't 221B Baker Street have a guest room at some point? Hopkins isn't the first Scotland Yard man to sleep in the sitting room, but he's the first that requires a night-light. Or is

Holmes's spirit lamp to be used in the brewing of coffee, and why would the detective have brewed it himself? Didn't Mrs. Hudson keep he and Watson well supplied with coffee and breakfast?

PRODUCT PLACEMENT, VICTORIAN STYLE

"Is it a simple key?"

"No, sir, it is a Chubb's key."

Would this have qualified as a commercial for Chubb's locks and keys? Or was "Chubb's" a brand like Xerox or Kleenex that came to be commonly used as the word for a product that other companies produced as well?



AND WHEN THEY GOT DESPERATE, THEY MADE MAT CREAM PIE

"The professor's corridor is also lined with cocoanut matting."

This one has always mystified me: What part of the cocoanut did they make matting out of?

APPARENTLY, HE DIDN'T MAKE IT

Coram brags, "That is my magnum opus—the pile of papers on the side table yonder. It is my analysis of the documents found in the Coptic monasteries of Syria and Egypt, a work which will cut

deep at the very foundation of revealed religion. With my enfeebled health I do not know whether I shall ever be able to complete it, now that my assistant has been taken from me."

How might knowledge from the Coptic monasteries have cut out the foundation of revealed religion? Is he speaking strictly of a specific religion, or all religion? Would he have found a sympathetic reader in Holmes, who enjoyed Winwood Reade's "Martyrdom of Man" so much?

HOW DID SHE KNOW HER CUE?

"She is there," announces Sherlock Holmes, pointing to a bookcase, behind which Anna Coram was hidden. Mrs. Coram has lost her glasses, and even if she had them, we're not told whether or not she had a peephole. How did she know that Holmes's "She is there." was directed at her and not a maid in the doorway?



AND THEY'RE OFF!

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

The canon includes two cases involving race horses.

Holmes is called in to investigate the disappearance of Silver Blaze (1) just before the Wessex Cup and Sir Robert Norberton's odd behavior prior to his horse Prince running in the Epsom Derby. (2)

The popularity of the sport in Victorian England, in addition to the criminal element at that time, made it a perfect backdrop for these Sherlockian investigations.

The exact time of the horse's arrival in Britain is not known, but Caesar's first invasion of Britain in 55 BC was rebuffed by a cavalry.

The animals were smaller than those today, but quite numerous. (3)



Following their use in warfare and other pursuits, racing the animals came into fashion in the early 1600s when King James 1

built the first grandstand on the Newmarket Heath.

Charles II, however, brought horseracing into its own when he built a palace and moved his court there twice a year beginning in 1669. (4)

Ever since, Newmarket has been considered the headquarters of British horseracing.

In addition to the racetracks at Newmarket, the Jockey Club built a coffee house at the site for member meetings in 1752.

This club, created by gentlemen passionate about horses and racing, became the official governing body for horseracing in 1860s in an effort to impose more control over betting and horse management. (5)

In the early 1800s, horse owners who were commoners were permitted to enter their animals in the races. (6)

As a result, the events attracted larger crowds, including the working class. (7)

Betting had always been a part of the sport, but it grew more pronounced in the 1830s and 1840s with a number of scandals coming to light.

In addition to unscrupulous bookmakers, ineligible horses (above or below the age limit for the race) were discovered among the entrants. (8)

While betting on horses had always been a part of the sport, off-course betting developed in response to the working class interest, and by the end of the 1840s, was an important feature of the activity.

For the most part, these sites evolved from tobacconist shops where men already congregated and placed friendly wagers through the proprietor.

Over time, horse betting replaced the original commercial trade in many such establishments.

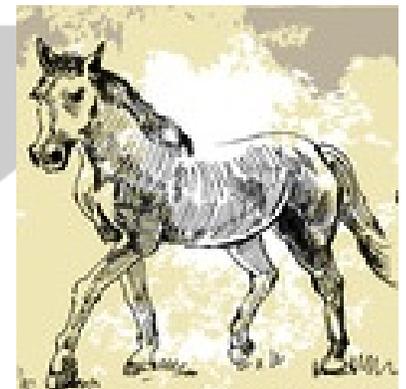
Partitions with pigeon holes for placing bets replaced the counter.

Lists of the various races and participants' odds were listed on the walls, and results were quickly reported as fast as runners could arrive from the telegraph office.

One of the most well-known and popular establishments was Dwyer's in St. Martin's Lane.

In 1851, following heavy betting on the favorite in the Chester Cup, those with winning tickets arrived to find the place emptied and the owner gone, leaving behind a debt of twenty-five thousand pounds. (9)

With The Jockey Club's management, the sport's respectability rose, and with additional security efforts, such as enclosing the tracks and



providing stands, certain races gained popularity as social events.

In addition to the race course, other amusements (from food vendors to sideshow attractions) were set up around the area. (10)

The Ascot, run in June, became part of the social season where women and men attended (and still do) in their most elegant clothes. (11)

Derby Day, also occurring in May or June, became a national holiday.

As these two Sherlockian cases show, however, despite the Jockey Club's efforts to maintain the respectability of horse racing, its continued popularity and history of betting on the outcome, fostered the persistence of a criminal element in the sport.

Gratefully, Holmes and Watson ferreted out at least two of the most grievous offenses.

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- 1) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Location 15130). Simon & Schuster UK. Kindle Edition.
 - 2) Ibid, Kindle Locations 31381-31382.
 - 3) <http://chestofbooks.com/animals/horses/Health-Disease-Treatment-4/The-Horse-In-Britain.html>
 - 4) <http://www.jockeyclubrooms.co.uk/about-us/home-of-the-sport-of-kings>
 - 5) Chesney, Kellow. The Victorian Underworld (New York: Schocken Books, 1972) 282.
 - 6) Hughes, Kristine. Everyday Life in Regency and Victorian England (Cincinnati: Writer's Digest Books, 1998) 142.
 - 7) Mitchell, Sally. Daily Life in Victorian England (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996) 221.
 - 8) Chesney, 282.
 - 9) Ibid 283 – 284.
 - 10) Hughes, 142.
 - 11) Mitchell, 220 – 221.

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the Bilge Pump) and sign up for her newsletter at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>



Baskerville, A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

Date/Time

Nov 18, 2016 to Dec 18, 2016 08:00 PM until 10:30 PM

This event occurs weekly, on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The game's afoot! Austin Playhouse is delighted to once again present a famous Sherlockian tale, the Texas Premiere of Ken Ludwig's ***Baskerville, A Sherlock Holmes Mystery***. This inventive new adaptation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" finds the intrepid Holmes and his loyal companion Watson battling their most notorious mystery amid foggy London streets and the foreboding moors of the English countryside. When a mythical hellhound begins prowling in the mists, the great detective must use every ounce of his

legendary wit and deductive power to crack the case before a family curse dooms its newest heir. With a cast of 5 actors juggling over 40 roles, *Baskerville* will be a fast-paced, pulse-pounding, and murderously funny ride.

Location: Austin Playhouse, 6001 Airport Blvd, Austin, TX

Contact email: boxoffice@austinplayhouse.com

Website: <http://https://austinplayhouse.ticketleap.com/baskerville/>

Sponsor: Austin Playhouse

Phone: 512-476-0084

The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays

By Ken Ludwig

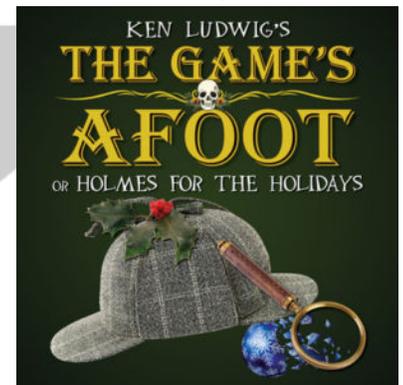
Allen's Community Theatre

December 2-18, 2016

Thursday - 7:30 pm, Friday & Saturday - 8 pm, and Sunday - 3 pm

Synopsis: In December 1936, Broadway star William Gillette, renowned for his leading role in the play *Sherlock Holmes*, invited fellow cast-members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. When a guest is stabbed to death, the festivities in this isolated house of tricks and mirrors quickly turn dangerous. Gillette assumes the persona of Holmes to track down the killer before the next victim appears. The danger and hilarity are non-stop in this glittering whodunit set during the Christmas holidays.

For more information, visit the [Allen's Community Theatre website](#)



56 STORIES IN 56 DAYS - THE ADVENTURE OF THE GOLDEN PINCE-NEZ

Posted on October 22, 2011 by barefootnbakerstreet



Interestingly, Watson refers to “our work” at the start of this one, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

Watson writes: “When I look at the three manuscript volumes which contain our work for the year 1894 . . .” Clearly the business has become more of a joint venture now that Watson devotes his full-time energies to it.

They must both now live off the proceeds because Watson no longer has his medical practice.

It’s an interesting quote because Watson certainly wouldn’t have referred to it as “our work” in the early days of their union.

We also hear that Holmes won an autographed letter of

thanks from the French President and the Order of the Legion of Honour.

Wow, impressive stuff. Business has improved greatly now that Watson is back at 221B.

Hopkins appears again in this story, the young detective in which Holmes has great hope for the future.

He freely admits to Holmes that he can’t make “Neither head nor tail” of the murder of Professor Coram’s secretary Mr Willoughby Smith at Yoxley Old Place.

A golden pince-nez was found in the hand of the dead man and Holmes does his usual startling piece of analysis describing perfectly the features of the woman who was wearing them.

Another apparently innocuous inanimate object also yields a massive clue when Holmes works out that without her pince-nez the lady would have become confused by the cocanut (sic) matting and lost her way, following it into the professor’s bedroom.

Therefore he must be hiding her.

By smoking heavily and dropping lots of ash near the suspected hiding place, Holmes was able to return to the room and see that the ash had been disturbed as the person came out from their hiding place behind the bookcase.

It turns out that the professor is not English, but Russian, and the woman is his estranged wife.

Yet again, mistakes of the past come back to haunt, but this time an innocent young man was the victim as the professor’s wife accidentally stabbed him when he caught her trying to take things from the bureau.

An interesting story, but a rather sad conclusion as the woman takes her own life.

In the Granada episode, the professor is murdered in the end by a member of the Russian brotherhood who he wronged, but in the original he is the only one who survives.

I think I prefer the TV ending as this one feels a little incomplete to me.

For that reason it’s a 6 out of 10.

STORY INFO PAGES FOR "THE GOLDEN PINCE-NEZ"

McMurdo's Camp, <https://mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com/>

First published in:

The Strand Magazine, July 1904, Collier's Weekly, October 29, 1904

Time frame of story (known/surmised):

Late November 1894, stated. Exact date not given.

Holmes & Watson living arrangements:

Together at 221B.

Opening scene:

It was a dark and stormy night. Watson was reading a surgical treatise, and Holmes was engaged with a powerful lens deciphering the remains of the original inscription upon a palimpsest.

Then, amid the droning of the wind there came the stamping of a horse's hoofs, and the long grind of a wheel of a cab as it rasped against the curb.

It was young Stanley Hopkins, a promising detective from Scotland Yard, in whose career Holmes had several times shown a very practical interest.

Holmes invited Hopkins to draw up and warm his toes.

Client:

Hopkins the detective.

Crime or concern:

Murder of Willoughby Smith, assistant to professor Coram, an elderly scholar. Smith had been stabbed in the underside of his neck, pierced with a very small but

deep wound, which had divided the carotid artery.

The instrument with which the injury had been inflicted was one of those small sealing-wax knives to be found on old-fashioned writing-tables, with an ivory handle and a stiff blade. It was part of the fittings of the professor's own desk.

Villain:

Professor Coram himself, whose treachery set it all in motion. The killer was his wife, who had been double-crossed by the professor years before.

Motive:

Anna, the wife, came back to steal papers that would exonerate her companion (or lover).

She had not planned murder, but stabbed the victim with the sealing-wax knife when he interrupted her and grabbed her.

Logic/clues used to solve:

Weapon used was not brought from outside.

The hallway to the professor's room had cocoanut matting just like the entry and the hall to the office where the killing took place.

The victim's last words, "The professor, it was she."

Found by the victim was a golden pince-nez, with two broken ends of black silk cord dangling from the end of it.

It was sized for a person with narrowly-set eyes.

Information from the housekeeper that the professor seemed to be a big eater at times.

During his interview with the professor, Holmes smoked cigarettes profusely.

He later observed traces of the ashes on the carpet that indicated someone else was present, and was hiding in the bookcases.

Policemen:

Stanley Hopkins, who brought Holmes in. The chief constable, who sent for Hopkins. Another constable met the three at the garden gate of Yoxley Old Place, the crime scene.

A Russian policeman was killed in a time of trouble by the Nihilists.

Holmes' fees:

No mention. Likely another case where Holmes was consulted (and presumably paid) by the Yard.

Transport:

Holmes & Watson and Hopkins took train from Charing Cross to Chatham at six in the morning, and got to Yoxley Old Place between eight and nine.

Food:

The three (Hopkins, Holmes & Watson) had coffee early in the morning, and then snatched a hurried breakfast after arriving in Chatham, while a horse was being put into a trap at the local inn.

The professor was a “big eater”. He was feeding his hidden wife/conspirator.

Drink:

No mention

Vices:

Professor Coram was a 3 ½ pack-a-day cigarette smoker!

Other cases mentioned:

SIGN. The repulsive story of the red leech and the terrible death of Crosby, the banker; the Addleton tragedy, and the singular contents of the ancient British barrow, the famous Smith-Mortimer succession case, and the tracking and arrest of Huret, the Boulevard assassin — an exploit which won for Holmes an autographed letter of thanks from the French President and the Order of the Legion of Honour.

Notable Quotables:

“By George, it’s marvellous!” cried Hopkins, in an ecstasy of admiration, upon having a clue explained to him by Holmes.

Watson, describing how Holmes dealt with women: “I may have remarked before that Holmes had, when he liked, a peculiarly ingratiating way with women, and that he very readily established terms of confidence with them. He (soon) captured the housekeeper’s goodwill and was

chatting with her as if he had known her for years.

“I have forged and tested every link of my chain, Professor Coram, and I am sure that it is sound. What your motives are, or what exact part you play in this strange business, I am not yet able to say. In a few minutes I shall probably hear it from your own lips.” – SH, just before pronouncing his solution.

Other interesting:

Pince-nez: A type of spectacles which are supported by pinching the wearer’s nose instead of held up by bows over the ears.

They were popular in the late



1800’s. By the late 1930’s, they were mostly used by the elderly and are rarely seen in modern times.

Famous wearers of pince-nez were Theodore Roosevelt and Anton Chekhov.

French, nose-pinch. Often provided with a loop of cord or fine chain to prevent loss or breakage.

Holmes tells us he had a very narrow face, but not as narrow as the owner of the pince-nez.

The professor had been analyzing documents found in the Coptic monasteries of Syria and Egypt, a work which would cut deep at the very foundation of revealed religion.

When all was said and done: The killer was Professor Coram’s wife. They had been Russian nihilists, and the professor had turned his wife and her companions in to the authorities.

After serving a prison term, Anna, the wife, came after the professor to steal some papers she believed would free her companions.

Willoughby Smith, the assistant, came onto Anna going through the professor’s papers and got stabbed, and Anna lost her pince-nez.

After the nearsighted Anna took the wrong corridor and ended up in the professor’s room, he hid her, and covered for her.

Holmes discovered the truth, and Anna poisoned herself, but gave Holmes some papers to take to the Russian embassy, which she hoped would free her companions.

In the end, Holmes allows Hopkins to take credit for the solution, and takes the papers to the Russian embassy.

AN INQUIRY INTO "THE ADVENTURE OF THE GOLDEN PINCE-NEZ"

Murray, the Courageous Orderly (a.k.a. Alexander Braun), Hounds of the Internet

"The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez" was first published in The Strand Magazine in July 1904.

According to Baring-Gould, as set down in The Annotated Sherlock Holmes, Second Edition, 1974, the case takes place on Wednesday, November 14, to Thursday, November 1894. At the time Holmes is 42 years old and Watson 44.

Lost Cases and Accepted Honors

As several times before, Watson begins this case by giving us another very tantalizing list of more of Sherlock Holmes' lost cases. In passing, he also tells us that the Great Detective was conferred (and accepted!) the Order of the Legion of Honor for his capture of Huret, the Boulevard assassin.

While it seems Holmes was as indifferent to his fees as he was to the honors the establishment was able to present, there have been times when he was very much aware of the value of money and this might have extended to the honors' category.

Watson was never clear as to why the Great Detective declined knighthood several times, yet accepted the Legion of Honor. I've speculated before that Huret might have been a serial killer, much like Jack the Ripper, and that having failed to apprehend him, Holmes did not deem himself deserving of knighthood; in Huret's case, however, he had deservedly earned the appreciation of the French. (Bald-faced plug follows)

In my book, "The Adventure of the Maiden Voyage," when the King, after again offering a knighthood Holmes declines, asks him why one and not the other, and Holmes replies, "I always thought 'Sir Sherlock' somehow has a rather pretentious-sounding alliterative ring to it, sir."

The Strange Foreign Voice

I find it curious for such a world traveler and man of the world, Anna's accent sounded "strange"

to Watson, who surely must have been exposed to hundreds of them. Also, since the British Crown had close ties with the Russian Royal Family, and Russian tourists were not rare, Watson's reaction would seem peculiar.

I've Got a Bridge I'd Like You to See

Having been at the receiving end of Czarist justice for years, and having seen its operation for even more years, how could Anna seriously believe that the papers in question would have been enough to clear and free Alexis? Even if he did, as we are told, deplore violence, he had been a member of Anna and Coram's organization.

Russian justice would not have taken this fact too kindly.

The Useless Suicide

It always puzzles me why did Anna killed herself. She had heard Holmes say the killing of Coram's assistant had been unintended and, in any case, women were rarely executed in those days.

Imagine, however, if she had gone to trial. The proceedings would have been sensational and received international coverage. That, more than the papers, might have persuaded the Russian Government to take note of the court of public opinion, making Alexis' release more likely.

What else happened in 1894:

EMPIRE

- Uganda becomes protectorate.
- Jameson occupies Matabeleland.

BRITAIN

- Gladstone retires; Rosebery becomes prime minister.
- Tower Bridge opens.
- First Lyon's tea shop.
- Big wheel erected at Earl's Court.

- St Bride's Institute opens.
- Manchester ship canal completed.
- Harcourt's Budget raises death duties.
- Parish Councils Act: Parish, Rural, and Urban Districts established.
- Thirlmere Dam completed; for Manchester water supply, aqueduct 96 miles long.
- Water tube boilers fitted in HMS Hornet and HMS Sharpshooter.
- Turbinia, first steam-turbine ship launched.
- Merchant Shipping Act: Masters, mates, and engineers to hold Board of Trade certificates.
- Railway and Canal Traffic Act; fixes existing rates as maxima.
- Official opening of the Manchester Ship Canal (begun 1887).
- Blackpool Tower opens, 518 ft high.

WORLD

- Sino-Japanese War (1894 - 95).
- Tsar Nicholas II.
- French take Madagascar.
- Alfred Dreyfus found guilty of treason.
- President Carnot of France assassinated by Italian anarchist.
- French under Joffre capture Timbuktu.
- Hawaii becomes a republic.
- Sicilian bread riots lead to martial law and suppression of Italian socialist societies.
- Italians defeat Dervishes at Kassala.
- Kurds massacre Armenians at Sassoun.
- National Society founded in Greece to extend Greek authority in the Balkans.
- Alexander III of Russia died; Nicholas II (last Romanov tsar) accedes to the Throne.
- Sergius Witte becomes minister of finance in Russia.
- War breaks out between Japan and China. Japanese naval victory at Yalu River; Japanese capture of Port Arthur.

- Alexander Obrenovitch annuls liberal constitution of 1889.
- Sale of spirits resumed in Russia as state monopoly.
- Formation of French Agricultural Mutual Loan Society.
- Baron Pierre de Coubertin initiates congress reviving the Olympic Games.
- Beginning of car racing Paris to Rouen.

ART

- Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book.
- Debussy, L'Après Midi d'un Faun.
- Toulouse-Lautrec, Les Deux Amis.
- Degas, Femme à sa Toilette.
- Strauss' first opera, Guntram, produced at Weimer.
- Monet, Rouen Cathedral.
- George du Maurier, Trilby.
- Anthony Hope, The Prisoner of Zenda.
- Oscar Wilde, A Woman of No Importance.

SCIENCE

- Escalators introduced (U.S.).
- Halstead (U.S.) details his operation for breast cancer (mastectomy).
- Sir William Ramsey and Lord Rayleigh discover existence of zero valence.
- Flagstaff (Lowell) Observatory erected.
- Oliver and Schäfer discover the nature of insulin.
- J.H. Northrop (U.S.A.) invents automatic loom.
- Louis Lumière invents the cinematograph.
- Berliner modifies earlier work on the gramophone by using a horizontal disk instead of a cylinder. Not fully satisfactory until 1897.
- Guaranty Building, Buffalo erected. Metal-framed building.

CANNONICAL FOOTNOTES

Warren Randall, The Holmes & Watson Report, January, 1998

What was Watson?

As in all things, the answer is to be found in our own Good Old Index, the Canon, if only one knows where to look.

Our very first introduction to the good doctor is his statement he took his degree in medicine at the University of London and went through a course prescribed for surgeons in the Army at Netley.

There is absolutely no indication this course had anything to do with the healing arts.

It is entirely possible and more than probable the curriculum dealt more with military matters than the medical -- saluting rather than suturing, good form in uniform, or settling up the mess bill promptly, not to mention dealing with

"indigenous personnel."

Upon entering active duty, Watson went into the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers.

A fusil is a light flintlock musket.

In modern terms this would be a weapon carried by an infantryman (or does one now have to say an

infantry-person?), a soldier who travels by foot.

Watson then reports he was removed from this regiment and attached to the Berkshires, an infantry regiment.

We should pause to ask why a surgeon would be transferred.

With all due respect to any one of the six Napoleons, the stomach an army travels on also has feet, and Watson moved along because he was almost certainly a specialist in foot problems.

Almost immediately Watson's interest in the lower extremities becomes apparent.

You must recall that he reports that he was struck in the shoulder, by a bullet which grazed the subclavian, and then, with the ink barely dry on that report, he changes the location of his wound to his leg.

This is not sloppy writing, but pure puffery, booming his own professional specialty; for Dr. Watson makes eighty-eight specific references to "feet" and to

"foot," sixty-five, even to the extent of differentiating rights and lefts.

Mindful of the criticism that might be leveled at his immodesty, for ethical doctors in those times did not advertise, Dr. Watson made sure that the majority of foot notes are credited to Mr. Sherlock Holmes, his friend and occasional colleague.

For example, it would be more than likely that Watson, who spent time in India, was the source of Holmes's comment that "the Hindoo proper has long and thin feet" and "the sandal-wearing Mohammedan has the great toe well separated from the others."

In the same case, Watson has already made a point of asking Holmes if he has "any professional inquiry on foot at present" -- talk about a straight line.

And Watson commemorates their first meeting by reporting that "he [Holmes] sprang to his feet with a cry of pleasure."

We can but imagine that Holmes was still suffering the aftereffects of the freezing of Trevor's bull-terrier on his ankle and immediately recognized Watson as an Afghanistan foot specialist who might treat him.

This painful injury might explain why Holmes often sat with his knees drawn up, thus avoiding pressure on the ankle, or curled up on the sofa, which might not be so unusual since he did spend ten days in bed after it happened.



This may also account for the weakness in his limbs which caused him to suffer a violent strain of the ankle while merely walking about in the Priory School case.

Holmes's nonchalant attitude toward his feet almost required the presence of Watson -- recall how

Holmes jammed the door with his foot in seeking Lady Frances -- ouch!

There are other ankles to be considered -- such Watson's, which he avoided injuring by falling on his face, for example, or the swollen ankles of Mr. Blessington -- of course, he was dead, but that is important only to him.

We might conclude that Dr. Watson took his specialty quite seriously given his predilection for the ladies; there is not one reference to a "well-turned" ankle.

Inspector Hopkins was invited to warm his toes on a wet, rainy night.

Would that have been a good soak in the doctor's "prescription containing hot water and a lemon"? -- a decidedly different medication than the vinegar and water prescribed for swelling about the eye.

But there are throngs of toes milling about - square, sharp, cramped or cold, which Watson treated in **A Study in Scarlet**, "**A Scandal in Bohemia**," and **The Valley of Fear** while the instep is of interest in three other cases.

In the interest of brevity, which is the sole of something or other, I will proceed by mentioning only the problems Watson encountered or conditions reported:

Lestrade acknowledges that lameness is indicated by the less distinct impression of one foot over the other, but does not confirm Holmes's observation of "that left foot of yours with its inward twist."

One would think that Watson's surgical experience caused him to agree when Holmes commented on the difficulty "when a man has to take a foot off."

There were wet feet, feet that were drunken, uncertain, or ungainly.

Col. Barclay had tilted feet as well as command of the 117th Foot, which would have kept Watson busy for years.

There was a cloven foot and a devil's foot, bad feet, and feet that protruded and projected.

There were large feet and small feet and more bad feet to go with the bad copper, as well as trampling feet, fairy feet, and hurrying feet and a poor little old "footsore" lady.

I am happy to report that it appears that Dr. Watson enlisted the Adler Company - to Watson it was always the Shoe - to cure the Baker Street Irregulars of that unfortunate and common Victorian condition first reported by Watson, naked feet.

These were not related to the curious malady known as bare feet suffered by Arthur Holder and Eustace Brackenstall, nor were they connected to the bare ankles of Roylott or Blessington or the footprints of a gigantic hound.

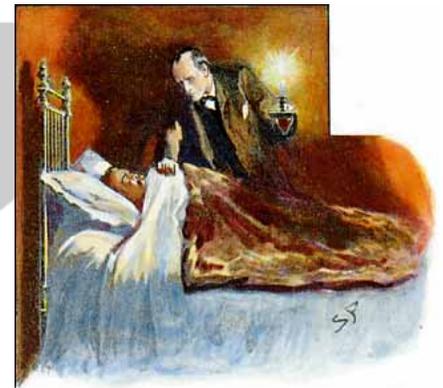
To support my claim of Dr. Watson's true calling, I need only mention a word that appears many times across six adventures (SIGN, REIG, HOUN, VALL, WIST and ABBE):

TO WIT: "we may be afoot again tonight," "two of the family were still afoot," "Holmes was afoot earlier still," "there was some mischief afoot," "Something serious was afoot," "When any serious business was afoot," "there were grave events afoot."

So, now the evidence is in.

There should be no doubt in your mind - Dr. Watson was a podiatrist.

Raise your other slipper with a toast to the best and wisest mantra we have ever known: "Come, Watson, come! The game is afoot."



Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Fay,
Rusty & Steve Mason



Baker Street Elementary
Number 083 - 11/13/2016

Fay, Mason, & Mason

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THIS JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO ME...

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING
TO MAKE SENSE OF?



I HAVE AN UNCLE IN THE STATES
WHO SENT ME A LETTER, DESCRIBING
A GAME HE WENT TO LAST WEEK.



FOOTBALL OR CRICKET?

NO, SOMETHING
CALLED "BASEBALL..."



HE WATCHED THE "KNICKERBOCKS," THE FIRST
PROFESSIONAL TEAM BEAT THE "NEW YORK
NINE;" BUT THE TERMS THEY USE STUMP ME.



"STOLEN BASE?" HOW CAN YOU CONTINUE
THE GAME IF SOMEONE NICKS A BASE?
"HOME RUN?" SO THEY RUN HOME AFTER
THE GAME IS OVER, INSTEAD OF RIDING?



SOUNDS LIKE A SPORT DESTINED TO FAIL.

ACTUALLY, MY UNCLE BELIEVES IT WILL
BECOME THEIR "NATIONAL PASTIME."



Congratulations to the Chicago Cubs and their fans!

Congratulations to the Chicago Cubs, and their fans...

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 10 - October, 2016
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



From the Editors: Thanks for all your support. Steve & Walt

November 6th Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, November 6th, at LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE, in Addison.

The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

We will be reading "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder."

The quiz will cover this tale.

We will have an overview of our Society's webpage.

Each monthly meeting will also include toasts as well as general business, introductions, and general fellowship.

October 2nd Meeting

There were 10 attendees on hand. A touching toast and tribute was offered up by Marland Henderson for Jack Pugh, who passed away in September, and was one of our most beloved members (see page 2).

Liese Sherwood-Fabre won the Quiz, based on "The Empty House", and was awarded a **Baker Street Game** and the book, **Baker Street Irregular**, by Jon Lellenberg.

Announcements were made, including the symposium being held in November (see page 4). Diane Tran's father has been in the hospital, so please keep Diane and her father in your thoughts.

Karen and Charles Olson are planning a Victorian Christmas Party (see page 5).

We will continue our Christmas card exchange again this year (see page 6)

Liese Sherwood-Fabre noted Mocha Memoirs Press is sponsoring a short story contest with Sherlock Holmes as the main character for Curious Incidents: More Improbable Adventures. The deadline for submissions is October 14, 2016. For more information, visit the 'About' section at <http://mochamemoirspress.com>.

We conducted a practice run for the mystery game to be presented at the symposium. Thanks so much to Brenda Hutchison for developing the mystery and conducting it at the symposium.

The closing reading was an excerpt "The Elite Devotee," from the March, 1988, **Baker Street Journal** (see page 3).

The full minutes may be viewed at our webpage: www.dfw-sherlock.org.

Thanks to Brenda Hutchison for developing the minutes this month.



For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>

Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries
Historian
Webmaster

Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison

Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb

Pam Mason
Rusty Mason

mason.steve@epa.gov
waltpieper@att.net
221b@verizon.net
jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com

myrkrid08@yahoo.com

JACK PUGH: AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN

Marland Henderson

I met Jack in the 1990's, while we were in law school. We did not see much of each other until later when we were studying for the State Bar Exam (the second time for both of us). Still there wasn't much time for socializing and it was only when we found we lived in the same general neighborhood we began to occasionally share rides. No doubt, most of you have read his obituary so you are likely more familiar with his survivors than I.

Jack had distinguishing characteristics. Whenever he joined a group or organization, he always volunteered for a 'working' role in whatever



was before him. He felt compelled to take a contributing leadership role in the group, whether it was a church, Kiwanis Club, Diogenes Club or one of the many organizations he joined over the time that I was privileged to know him.

One of Jack's most illustrative qualities was he was always punctual. We joined the Diogenes Club at the same time several years ago. Jack always drove while I dug through hurried notes and we discussed the Holmes story assigned that Sunday. When he drove, he always, without fail, pulled up at my door at 12:35PM sharp for the monthly meeting. At 12:35PM the front of his truck eased to a stop right at the end of my sidewalk.

He never honked, made any kind of noise or signal. I, or anyone, who was riding with him was expected to promptly step into his vehicle at that moment. In later years, when his health began to fail and I drove most of the time, he was always, without fail, ready at 12:35PM. No matter how

early I arrived at his door, he was always ready (occasionally sans suspenders).

As Jack was a retired Navy Commander, he always had some 'Sea Stories' to share. One of those stories explained how the U.S. Navy seldom lost any pilots when they accidentally crashed into the water during air operations training exercises.

All of the Destroyers, and Destroyer Escorts (DDs & DEs or 'Tin Cans') swarmed ahead at full steam to pull the crashed pilot out of the water – everybody wanted to rescue the downed pilot.



This was not just dedication for a fellow sailor. It seems that the Carrier provided several gallons of ice cream for the crew of the Tin Can that pulled the pilot out of the drink and returned him safely to the Flat-top.

Also, if you would listen, 'the old Commander' would patiently explain how the trick to keeping a naval vessel sailing evenly in the water, without listing to port or starboard, was to keep the Water Tender and the Oil King chiefs talking to each other so they would continually keep the proper ballast between fuel and water. These are just two of the many deep water tales Jack was only too happy to share with anyone who would listen, until of course the subject of Sherlock Holmes came up.

Jack Pugh lived a full and successful life. He was a good and decent man, who loved his family very much. I feel I can safely say that we all were fortunate to have known him. He will be missed.

Jack, we wish you Fair winds and Following seas.

THE ELITE DEVOTEE

THE BAKER STREET JOURNAL – March, 1988

IN all of my writing and speaking about the cult of Sherlock Holmes, I have scrupulously avoided using the word “fan” and have employed “devotee” instead. Though there is little practical difference in these words’ definitions, there is, I think, a substantial difference in what they connote.

“Fan,” in fact, is an informal word (derived from “fanatic,” as it happens, not that it matters); “devotee” is a word unto itself and is therefore by its very nature more formal. I like to think of Sherlockians — we ought to think of Sherlockians — as devotees, not fans.

“Devotee” suggests the Old World gentlemanly and ladylike milieu in which Sherlock Holmes lived and, later, from which the Baker Street Irregulars were born.

“Fan” (regardless of when or by whom the word was early used) suggests the more casual, less proprietous ambiance associated with life in the mid to-late twentieth century.

The true Sherlockian devotee presents him- or herself as a

gentleman or a lady when representing Sherlockiana publicly and, one hopes, at all other moments as well. The fan feels no such compulsion.

The devotee is acutely aware of social etiquette; often, too often, the fan has only the vaguest awareness that there are such



injunctions. The devotee, mindful of the earlier times that saw the genesis of Sherlock Holmes and of the Irregulars, turns out in a suit or a jacket and tie (depending upon the occasion)— or in commensurate attire if a lady; the fan contents himself with his blue jeans and slogan tee-shirt.

The devotee is a person of language, of words; the fan is more commonly a person of half-ideas, half-expressed. The devotee is comfortable in genteel, dignified

Sherlockian surroundings; the fan (dare we suggest this?) is at home at a science-fiction convention.

Do Sherlockians (and should they) struggle uphill against the prevailing social tide of public behavior today? Yes, they do. And, yes, they should. For the Sherlockian is devoted to the world where it is always 1895 and always 1934.



As Basil Rathbone is quoted in this issue as having observed about early meetings of the BSI, such convocations were affairs of “protocol” at which members were on “their best behaviour.” That rather expresses it.

The Baker Street Journal continues to be the leading Sherlockian publication since its founding in 1946 by Edgar W. Smith. With both serious scholarship and articles that “play the game,” the Journal is essential reading for anyone interested in Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and a world where it is always 1895.

Got to: <http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/itemsforsale/subscriptions.html> for subscription information.



THE WOMEN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

Listen to Sherlock Holmes' enthusiasts analyze the women of Sherlock Holmes

Monday, November 7 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Allen Public Library - Civic Auditorium
Address: 300 N. Allen Drive, Allen, TX 75013

- *The Villainesses of Sherlock Holmes*
- *The Female Versions of Sherlock Holmes*
- *The Modern Irene Adlers - Do They Live up to the Original?*
- *How did Holmes Really Feel about Women?*
- *Mystery Contest: The Hound of Pinchin Lane*

There will be door prizes as well as prizes for the mystery contest



300 North Allen Drive | Allen, Texas 75013 | 214.509.4911

WE'RE HAVING A CHRISTMAS PARTY !!

Charles and Karen Olson have graciously offered to host a Christmas party for all of our Crew members...

DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

TIME: 2:00 – 5:00 PM

ADDRESS: 1005 SUNDOWN CIRCLE, MCKINNEY, TX in a housing addition called Sunset Acres, off HWY 380, just east of McKinney

PHONE: if you need further directions, get lost, or just want to say hi to Karen or Charles... (940) 337-4984, (940) 337-4159, (214) 491-1847.



Charles and Karen have a lovely house, and you will enjoy seeing their Sherlockian items, as well as wonderful items from all over the world.

There will be Victorian snacks and hors d'oeuvres... but feel free to bring your own favorite Victorian delicacy or libation to assist Karen.

We will also have a Christmas present exchange, so we are asking all attendees to bring a small Sherlockian/Victorian gift... \$10 maximum, if possible...

If you are stumped for a potential present, go to Etsy (<https://www.etsy.com/>) and search on Sherlock Holmes... they have thousands of potential gifts for an exchange (or for yourself) at reasonable prices...

Please RSVP to Karen Olson if you are attending, so she can plan for the number of attendees...

karen.olson2500@gmail.com

We hope to see you there...

Steve, Karen, Charles, Walter

CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE



Again for 2016, we are continuing the fine tradition to provide addresses for those members who would like to exchange Christmas cards (Sherlockian / Victorian in theme, hopefully)...

If you would like to be on the Crew of the Barque Lone Star Christmas Card list, please send an email to Cindy Brown, who has graciously agreed to compile the list, with your address...

If you are looking for a wonderful printed Christmas card, go to:

<http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/product/christmas-card-2016/>

Product Description

“Let’s all go down the Strand”

The first issue of The Strand Magazine was published 125 years ago in January 1891, making 2016 the Quasquicentenary of the Magazine. It is fitting that our Christmas Card for 2016 should feature a cover from a Christmas edition of the Magazine.

Without The Strand Magazine, Sherlock Holmes might now be no more than a footnote in the history of popular fiction. In fact the association between Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes and The Strand began in the magazine’s first year of publication, and flourished for decades.

That’s a cause for celebration, wouldn’t you say?

The card will be produced in full colour and will be available in packs of ten. The cost includes postage and packing.

Only those members who provide their addresses will receive a copy of the final list. Essentially, this is where members share cards with each other.

Please send your address to:
epacpa@gmail.com

Please respond to Cindy no later than November 01 so she can compile the list to get out to those who want to participate in time for Christmas delivery...



17 STEPS TO THE EMPTY HOUSE

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of the case at hand...

LIFE WITHOUT PROFESSOR MORIARTY

"The community is certainly the gainer, and no one the loser, save the poor out-of-work specialist, whose occupation has gone. With that man in the field, one's morning paper presented infinite possibilities. Often it was only the smallest trace, Watson, the faintest indication, and yet it was enough to tell me that the great malignant brain was there, as the gentlest tremors of the edges of the web remind one of the foul spider which lurks in the centre. Petty thefts, wanton assaults, purposeless outrage--to the man who held the clue all could be worked into one connected whole."



With Moriarty gone, London crime is pretty much looking like

an episode of "COPS" to Holmes. He sounds like Moriarty was everywhere in the good old days, but in Watson's chronicles we laymen see him nowhere (except for the good people of Granada Television, who wisely spotted his hand in "Red-Headed League"). Of the 24 cases that occurred before "The Final Problem," how many might have looked Moriarty-related to the mind of the criminal specialist?

(And is Holmes's "out-of-work" comment one more complaint about the popularity of

Watson's writings, and how "Final Problem" has the world certain Holmes is dead despite anything the papers may be reporting?)

FIRST A BROTHER, NOW A COUSIN . . .

Watson writes: "A young doctor, named Verner, had purchased my small Kensington practice, and given with astonishingly little demur the highest price I ventured to ask--an incident which only explained itself some years later, when I found Verner was a distant relation of Holmes, and it was my friend who had really found the money."

One wonders, after "The Resident Patient," if Sherlock Holmes saw his young cousin as an investment opportunity. Would Holmes have gone with a deal like Blessington did in that tale (sans the "resident" part), would he have made it a loan to his kinsman, or was an outright gift more the detective's style?

WATSON'S NEW ROLE ... OR WAS IT?

"Our months of partnership had not been so uneventful as he had stated, for I find, on looking over my notes, that this period includes the case of the papers of ex-President Murillo, and also the shocking affair of the Dutch steamship Friesland, which so nearly cost us both our lives. His



cold and proud nature was always averse, however, from anything in the shape of public applause, and he bound me in the most stringent terms to say no further word of himself, his methods, or his successes--a prohibition which, as I have explained, has only now been removed."

Consider this for a moment: Holmes took Watson back on as a partner and room-mate under the condition Watson would write and publish no more of his cases. Sure, Holmes would eventually release Watson from it, but was that release spoken of at the time of the prohibition? Why did Holmes shut down Watson's literary career at it's most successful point?

Wasn't the damage already done? Wouldn't the public find out

Holmes was still alive through the newspapers after a case or two?

Is it conceivable that Holmes took Watson back as a partner against crime and that alone? For the first time, Watson is with Holmes as a career choice, having given up his practice -- was this the start of the detective "agency" that Holmes refers to later?

WATSON SEEMS TO BE CATCHING ON

Holmes observes, of John Hector McFarlane: "Beyond the obvious facts that you are a



bachelor, a solicitor, a Freemason, and an asthmatic, I know nothing whatever about you."

Watson then writes: "Familiar as I was with my friend's methods, it was not difficult for me to follow his deductions, and to observe the untidiness of attire, the sheaf of legal papers, the watch-charm, and the breathing which had prompted them."

Is Watson actually showing improvement in his observation/deduction skills? Had this improvement come as the result of studies he undertook after Holmes's "death"? Is he more of a fitting partner for Holmes now than he was in his bachelor days years before?

THE UPCOMING ARREST OF JOHN HECTOR MCFARLANE

Holmes is certainly pleased to hear McFarlane may be pursued by the police: ""Arrest you!" he remarks. "This is really most grati--most interesting."

Is it the pressure of having to save an innocent man that excites Holmes about this case? Or is it the chance to compete with Scotland Yard again? Could there have been yet another reason for Holmes's excitement over that one bit of information?

STICKING WITH YOUR STICK

J.H.M. tells, "I could not find my stick, and he said, 'Never mind, my boy, I shall see a good deal of you now, I hope, and I will keep your stick until you come back to claim it.'"

Were walking sticks more of an affectation in Victorian times

than today? Or did John Hector McFarlane have a bum leg we're not told of?

THE LAST MINUTE PART OF THE PLOT

"It is curious--is it not?--that a man should draw up so important a document in so haphazard a fashion. It suggests that he did not think it was going to be of much practical importance."



As we know by the tale's end, the will of Jonas Oldacre did have a certain amount of importance to Oldacre's plans. Why wouldn't a man who spent so much time on the other construction that was vital to his plot not spend a little time constructing a will prior to the train ride? What was the hurry?

ANOTHER UNTOLD HOLMES LIST

"Give me another theory that would fit the facts," Lestrade tells Holmes.

"I could very easily give you half a dozen," Holmes replies. He then proceeds to give Lestrade a free sample of one. Anyone care to enumerate another five that Holmes might have been thinking of?

WHAT'S IN THAT BOY'S HEAD?

Inspector Lestrade had definitely got some bulldog-like qualities. Once he's decided McFarlane is the culprit, that's that. He notices Holmes giving him a hint like he always does, and even looks at Holmes curiously about it. Why doesn't he give Holmes's clue another thought? Did he think Holmes was going to

Blackheath to look for his theoretical tramp?

AND WHILE WE'RE ON IT, WHAT'S HOLMES THINKING?

Sherlock Holmes's attitude toward Watson's published works has some very curious manifestations. While in "Empty House" last week, we saw Watson returning to partnership with Holmes with a ban on publishing any more stories, months later, we have Holmes saying, "I fear that the Norwood Disappearance Case will not figure in that chronicle of our successes which I foresee that a patient public will sooner or later have to endure."

Was Holmes's irritation with Watson about the publication of Adventures and Memoirs a

continuing pet peeve in the friendship? While many Watsonians have complained of Holmes's criticism of



Watson's writing as unfair or cruel, might Holmes have actually had a grievance over Watson's deal with Strand Magazine after the detective's "death"?

Were the fans driving Holmes nuts, causing him to shoot the occasional line at his friend like, "Perhaps I shall get the credit also at some distant day, when I permit my zealous historian to lay out his foolscap once more--eh, Watson?"

THE MURDERER IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

"That is a dangerous argument, my dear Watson. You remember that terrible murderer, Bert Stevens, who wanted us to get him off in '87? Was there ever

a more mild-mannered, Sunday-school young man?"

While one wonders how long

Holmes handled Bert Stevens's case before he realized the truth and how many people Bert killed to make him so terrible (or was it

his method?), there are more important questions here: When did Sunday school get its start, apart from standard church services? And in Victorian London, was it something peculiar to a certain faith or branch of a faith?

TEAMING UP ON HOLMES

Whenever three friends spend much time together, two of them are always liable to gang up on the third for the occasional ribbing. And in this tale we see a hint of something that may have happened more often than we are shown.

Lestrade is quite amused by Holmes's frustration over this case, laughing and commenting to Holmes, "You don't like being beaten any more than the rest of us do. A man can't expect always to have it his own way, can he, Dr. Watson?" Given Holmes's cool demeanor and Watson's accessibility, might Lestrade have been closer to Watson than Holmes as time went on?

LESTRADE AND FINGERPRINT TECHNOLOGY

"You are aware that no two thumb-marks are alike?" Lestrade asks.



"I have heard something of the kind," Holmes replies.

We know Holmes is up on every advance in criminological science, but what does this exchange tell us about Lestrade? In 1894, was he ahead or behind the rest of his colleagues at Scotland Yard? Had Lestrade actually learned of fingerprinting from Holmes and was needing him just a bit more?

UM, WHAT DOES "OUTWARDLY" MEAN?

"Holmes was outwardly calm, but his whole body gave a wriggle of suppressed excitement as he spoke."

Jeremy Brett's critics might have given him grief for a few of his more outlandish physical expressions in playing Sherlock Holmes, but as we see here, Holmes was not above a crazy physical expression or too of his own. But how did Holmes appear calm with his whole body wriggling? If he was gleeful enough to wriggle, wouldn't he also smile just a little bit? (In fact, a non-smiling wriggling man would look a little creepy, wouldn't he?)

NO CRIME SCENE TAPE IN THOSE DAYS

"Where was the night constable?"

"He remained on guard in the bedroom where the crime was committed, so as to see that nothing was touched."

Holmes has had enough time to go over the entire house and yard with a fine toothed comb. Wouldn't Scotland Yard have been

finished with the scene as well? With the limited forensics of the Victorian era, what more could they have hoped to gain from the guarded crime scene? What damage could an intruder have done to their case?

HOLMES LIKES THE BIG FELLOWS

Holmes has a simple question for Lestrade about his three men: "May I ask if they are all large, able-bodied men with powerful voices?"

And Lestrade replies: "I have no doubt they are, though I fail to see what their voices have to do with it."

Personally, I fail to see what their large, able bodies have to do with it. Was Holmes afraid that he, Watson and Lestrade were going to be unable to handle whoever came out of his theorized secret room?

HELPING WATSON FILL IN THE DETAILS

After Holmes can't get Oldacre to speak, he says, "Well, well, I daresay that a couple of rabbits would account both for the blood and for the charred ashes. If ever you write an account, Watson, you can make rabbits serve your turn."

WHAT!?! Is Holmes suggesting that Watson fictionalizes portions of his accounts? Is all of Sherlockian scholarship threatened by this single statement? Or is this just one more jab at Watson's work?



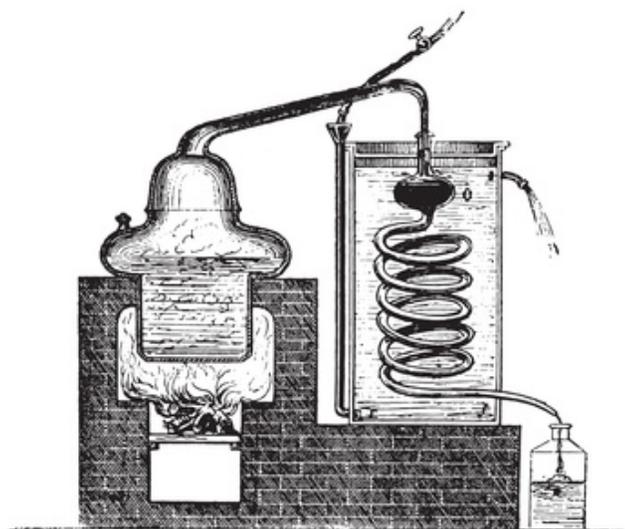
A TRUE KNOCK-OUT

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

In three stories in the canon, someone is incapacitated by chloroform. Lady France Carfax almost dies from breathing the fumes while hidden in a coffin, (1) Holmes captures German agent Von Bork with a sponge soaked in it, (2) and Mary Maberley is overcome with a rag held over her mouth. (3)

While ether and chloroform were both developed and introduced as anesthesia at about the same time, chloroform achieved greater popularity and was more widely used throughout the 1800s. (4)

In 1831, chloroform was developed almost simultaneously in the US by Samuel Guthrie, in France by Eugene Soubeiran, and in Germany by Justus von Liebig. Guthrie, however, published his findings first and is given credit for the process.



Seeking a cheap pesticide, he used a home-made distillation apparatus to create “chloric ether” from chloride of lime and whiskey.

Following its development, he freely shared the resulting pleasant-tasting spirit with his friends, which they imbibed a number of times over the next six months to determine its effects. He

considered it a stimulus, but did report to his daughter that she was the first to receive it to reduce her pain. (5)

He also sent samples to a number of physicians for additional experiments as to its uses.

Dr. Eli Ives reported using it for asthma in 1832, but its use as an anesthesia was not determined until 1847 when Dr. James Simpson and two other physicians opened one of Guthrie’s sample bottles and inhaled deeply.



When they came to the next morning, they announced they had found a substitute for sulphuric ether, introduced as an anesthetic only the year before. (6)

While ether had also served as an anesthetic, chloroform gained greater popularity because it was faster-acting and non-flammable. (7)

It was used extensively in the US during the Civil War and after Simpson used it on a patient during childbirth, it became popular enough for Queen Victoria to use it during the delivery of her eighth child, Prince Leopold, in 1853.

She inhaled the anesthetic from a handkerchief and declared afterwards, it was “delightful beyond measure,” and never had she recovered so quickly. (8)

Despite the royal seal of approval, the use of chloroform was not without risk or controversy. The first fatality related to chloroform occurred in

1848 when a fifteen-year-old girl died after being administered the drug.

It was not until 1911 that it was determined chloroform caused cardiac fibrillation. While fatal complications were estimated at 1 in 3000 to 6000 administrations (vs. 1 in 14,000 to 28,000 for ether), it was still the go-to anesthetic in the UK and German-speaking countries between 1865 to 1920, with 80-95% of all narcoses performed using the compound.

Chloroform's administration had always been problematic. Too much, and the patient died. Too little and the patient remained awake. (9)

Decline in the use of chloroform occurred in the 1930s as inhalation equipment improved and anesthetics such as nitrous oxide were introduced for safer, more effective narcosis.

By 1976, the end of chloroform's use was officially marked by its removal from medical texts. (10)

Current estimates suggest it can take as long as ten minutes for a person to succumb, (11) but popular Victorian press and fiction propagated the myth of the compound's instantaneous effects. (12)

As for overdoses, Dr. Watson noted the use of ether to assist in reviving Lady Carfax.

This was proposed by August Fabre [no known relationship to this author] in 1857, but could not be shown to be effective in a series of experiments and actually appeared to aggravate the symptoms. (13)

Regardless, the allure of the drug's true benefits and uses led to chloroform's pervasive appearance among the criminal element in Sherlockian tales.

(1) Doyle, Arthur Conan. *The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan* (Kindle Location 27245). Simon & Schuster UK.

(2) *Ibid*, location 27745

(3) *Ibid*, location 29248

(4) <http://www.history.com/topics/ether-and-chloroform>

(5) <https://sites.lib.byu.edu/sc/2011/05/20/samuel-guthrie-discoverer-of-chloroform/>

(6) A. G. Hart, "Chloroform Discovered by Dr. Samuel Guthrie, an American Physician," *St. Louis Clinique: A Monthly Journal of Clinical Medicine and Surgery*, Volume 19, pages 132-135.

(7) <http://www.history.com/topics/ether-and-chloroform>

(8) <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1e2ce5d6-aad3-11dd-897c-000077b07658.html>

(9) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Young_Simpson

(10) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9487785>

(11) <http://mentalfloss.com/article/56607/10-tv-and-movie-cliches-you-never-see-real-life>

(12) Stephanie Snow, *Blessed Days of Anaesthesia*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

(13) W.W. Morland and Francis Minot (eds.) *The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, Volume LV. Boston: David Clapp Publisher, 1857, page 86.

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the Bilge Pump) and sign up for her newsletter at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

56 STORIES IN 56 DAYS - THE ADVENTURE OF THE NORWOOD BUILDER

Posted on October 13, 2011 by barefootnbakerstreet

Doyle himself lived at Norwood for four years, writes Charlotte Anne Walters

During this time, Doyle completed the compilation of stories which make up The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and made the decision to 'kill off' his most famous creation.

London historian and Holmesian scholar Alistair Duncan wrote an excellent book on this period of Doyle's life called *The Norwood Author* which won the Howlett Literary Award this year.

It's worth a read, as is his excellent blog which can be found by following this link <http://alistaird221b.blogspot.com/>

Back to the original story and the fascinating details it reveals the relationship between Holmes and Watson after the detective returns 'from the dead' and is back with his old friend.

At Holmes' request, Watson sells his practice to a mysterious doctor Verner and returns to live in his old rooms at Baker Street.

As if this isn't quite extraordinary enough, we then learn Verner is a relative of Holmes and paid a generous amount for the practice because it was actually Holmes who put up the money himself.

Gosh, for a man that is supposed to be without emotion, this is a very clear statement of deep emotional attachment towards his friend and how much he needs him.

But there are alternate views to be considered – could it have been guilt that prompted such generosity? Did Holmes feel guilty about leaving Watson to mourn him for three years, putting him through all that grief and not being there to support him when his wife died?

And what about all the money Watson has lost over the years due to neglecting his business and chasing off after Holmes?

That trip to Switzerland must have been very expensive, not to mention earlier examples such as rushing from London to Lyon in twenty-four hours to be at Holmes' bedside when he fell ill there.

Was this money his compensation? A thank you and a sorry which Holmes couldn't find the words to say in the conventional way? Or was it simply an act of love?

As to the rest of the story, it returns us to the tried and tested formula of an innocent man being arrested and the evidence stacking up against him, with Holmes trying to prove his innocence much to the amazement of Inspector Lestrade who teases him as every fresh piece of evidence comes to light in the apparent favour of the Inspector's case.

Unusually, Holmes works on intuition at the start of the investigation. I say unusual because what tends to differentiate between Holmes and other detectives is his method, the reasoned observation which he uses to form his opinion, but in this case it

is the other way around and he looks for evidence to fit his theory.

A young lawyer is accused of murdering a builder who had once been a suitor of his mother's until she threw him over in favour of another.

Mr Jonas Oldacre turns up at the young man's office and asks him to draw up his will, in which the lawyer will be his heir.

When Mr Oldacre is believed to have been murdered and his body burned in a fire the night the lawyer visits him to conclude their business, there is only one suspect.

Holmes very cleverly discovers that the builder faked his death and is still hiding in the house – in a den of his own construction.

To take a little revenge on Lestrade who had teased him so much for being supposedly on the wrong track, Holmes dramatically gets the builder to run out from his hiding place after a cry of "Fire" is given by Holmes, Watson, Lestrade and the sceptical policemen. Lestrade is suitably humbled and an innocent man saved.

Brilliant, what a great story full of humour, friendship, intrigue and deduction. 9 out of 10.



AN INQUIRY INTO "THE ADVENTURE OF THE NORWOOD BUILDER"

Murray, the Courageous Orderly (a.k.a. Alexander Braun), Hounds of the Internet

"The Adventure of the Norwood Builder" was first published in **The Strand Magazine** in November 1903.

According to Baring-Gould's chronology, as set down in **The Annotated Sherlock Holmes**, Second Edition, 1974, the case takes place on Tuesday, August 20, to Wednesday, August 1895. At the time Holmes is 41 years old and Watson 43.

Notable Quotes:

"I much fear that British juries have not yet attained that pitch of intelligence when they will give the preference to my theories over Lestrade's facts."

Watson's Living

At the beginning of the story, the Good Doctor informs us that at Holmes' request, he sold his practice (leaving the medical profession) and went back to live with the Great Detective at Baker Street.

It is difficult to factor exactly how much the "princely sum" Holmes arranged to be paid for Watson's practice amounted to. In any case, although Holmes was by then a recognized expert, it seems doubtful he could have managed a sum that made his friend independent. While it is true that Watson could have

supported himself (as one of the Hounds so rightly pointed out) with his writing, Holmes had forbidden him to publish further. So, I wonder was the "princely sum" added to his military pension sufficient to make him a gentleman of leisure?

Lestrade, Sit in the Corner Until You Learn!

What is the matter with our dim inspector? By his own (and probably painful from experience) admission he concedes that Holmes has "been of use to the Force once or twice in the past, and we owe you a good turn at Scotland Yard."

One would think, having seen Holmes work on more than one occasion, the Scotland Yarder would have known enough to stay behind after McFarlane is taken away; however, all it occurs him to do is once again scoff at Holmes when he begins "to get on [his] theories." Even had he been convinced (as it seems) he was holding the guilty party, why not indulge the Great Detective, if for no other reason than to see him fall on his face? Giles, my dear fellow, you are an idiot.

The Happy Cat

Granted that stuffing a cat into an aviary does not say much for Oldacre's love of animals (unless he was a cat person), but it isn't the same as if he regularly went to the East End to off prostitutes.

Granted that it was a stupid, senseless action; however, was it by itself sufficient to turn the would-be Mrs. McFarlane away? One can safely assume, in her case, that if she was contemplating marriage she must have loved Oldacre, and might have been a bit more forgiving. One must remember that Victorians did not look upon animals in the more humane way we do today--they were close to the If she loved him enough to have considered marriage would she not have been a little more forgiving?

Lest we forget that animals then were not considered in the more humane way in which we look upon them today... they were much closer to the butcher than we are nowadays.

The Shamefully Defaced and Mutilated Picture

It has always puzzled me why Mrs. McFarlane would have kept for that many years the photograph that Oldacre so "shamefully defaced and mutilated with a knife"? Since

she did not use it to convince the police back then, why would she keep it? It was completely useless as evidence after all this time, especially since she could not prove that Oldacre was the one who actually mutilated as a threat, particularly since all contact between them had ceased years before.

The Remains

Exactly what were the "organic remains" identified as being Oldacre's, found by the police in the ashes of the fire? Even late 19th century coroners could have differentiated between human and animal remains.

What else happened in 1895:

EMPIRE

- Freetown, Sierra Leone, granted municipal status and privileges.
- Anglo-French interests begin to conflict in Nile Valley.
- U.S. intervenes in Anglo-Venezuelan border dispute, arbitration in Britain's favor.
- Construction of Uganda railway commenced.
- British East Africa Company surrenders Kenya as British protectorate.
- Jameson Raid.

BRITAIN

- Liberals defeated at general election, Salisbury again becomes prime minister.
- Compulsory retirement of aged Duke of Cambridge as C-in-C of British Army.
- London School of Economics and Political Science founded.
- First automobile exhibition in London.
- Electrification of first mainline railway.

WORLD

- Japan takes Formosa.
- Germany, France, and Russia unite to compel Japan to return Liaotung peninsula to China.
- Treaty of Simonoseki, end of Sino-Japanese war.
- Cuban rebellions begin, U.S. protests brutal suppression.
- Dreyfus refused new trial by French President Faure.
- National League founded in Poland; aimed at autonomy under Russia's suzerainty.
- Nyssens Law extended to Belgian provinces and communes.
- Armenian demonstration in Constantinople leads to massacre of 50,000 Armenians.

- Frontiers of Pamirs fixed by commission of Russians, Afghans, and British.
- Introduction of diphtheria antitoxin.
- Completion of Kiel Canal (61 miles) makes Germany North Sea power.

ART

- Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* debuts. Later that year, Wilde is imprisoned.
- Corelli publishes *The Sorrows of Satan*.
- H.G. Wells publishes *The Time Machine*.

SCIENCE

- Wilhelm Konrad Röntgen, German physicist, experiments with Crooke's tubes and discovers X-rays.
- Ramsey obtains helium, first identified by its spectrum in the sun, in 1868.
- On December 28th, in the Hotel Scribe, in Paris, the first public cinema show takes place.
- Thomas Armat, of Washington, develops modern cinema projection.
- King Gillette (U.S.) invents safety razor.
- Wireless telegraphy is demonstrated.

STORY INFO PAGES FOR "THE NORWOOD BUILDER"

McMurdo's Camp, <https://mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com/>



"I ARREST YOU FOR THE WILFUL MURDER OF MR. JONAS OLDACRE"

- **First published in:** Collier's, October 31, 1903; Strand Magazine, November 1903.
- **Time frame of story:** Midsummer 1894
- **H&W living arrangements:** Watson no longer married, probably a widower. (He mentioned his sad bereavement in "The Empty House" a few months previously, probably his wife's death.) He sold his practice and moved back to 221B with Holmes, at Holmes' request.
- **Opening scene:** During breakfast conversation, Holmes laments since Moriarty's death London had become a singularly uninteresting city for the criminal expert, although he concedes the community is certainly the gainer, and no one the loser, save the poor out-of-work specialist in crime. A visitor then rushed unceremoniously in to see Holmes.

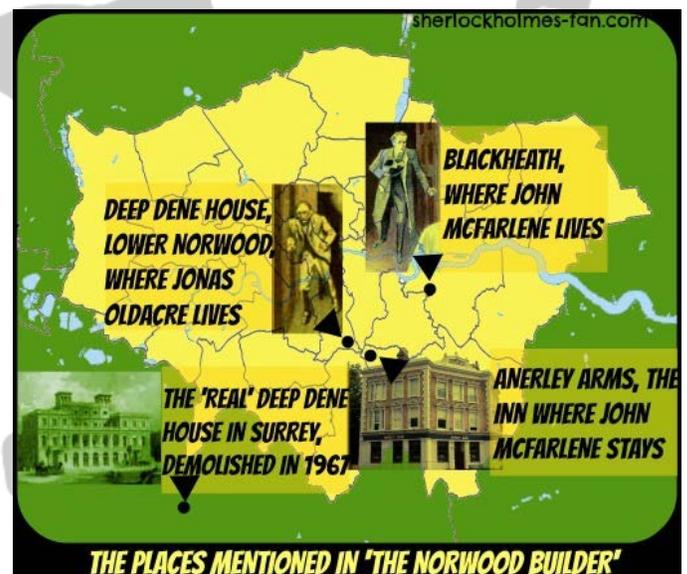
- **Client:** The visitor was a new client, John Hector McFarlane, a young solicitor (lawyer). He was flaxen-haired and handsome, in a washed-out negative fashion, with frightened blue eyes, a clean-shaven face, and a weak, sensitive mouth. His age was about twenty-seven; his dress and bearing were that of a gentleman.
- **Crime or concern:** Client was accused of killing the well-known Norwood Builder James Oldacre. Oldacre had been an acquaintance of McFarlane's family, had no heirs, and hired McFarlane to prepare his will. To McFarlane's surprise, he was not just hired to prepare the will, but he was the main beneficiary. Then he went to his client's house to go over some papers that night and stayed in a hotel, returning to town the next morning. Oldacre had disappeared overnight, and his stacks in the timber-yard had burned. Some charred organic remains were found in the ashes, plus buttons from Oldacre's clothing. Lestrade came to 221B and arrested the client for murder after Holmes heard his story.
- **Villain:** Oldacre, the presumed victim. He was a little wizened ferret-like man, with white eyelashes, and had keen gray eyes. Turned out he was not really dead but hiding in a secret room he had built in his house. He had been putting a large amount of money into the account of Mr. Cornelius, who was actually Oldacre himself using an alias.
- **Motive:** Financial speculation had gone against Oldacre, so he tried to swindle his creditors by faking his death, and then planned to move and start life again as Mr. Cornelius.

- **Logic used to solve:** Oldacre overdid it with a false bloody thumbprint of McFarlane made from a wax seal, placed on the wall overnight. Holmes had already inspected the area and knew the print appeared after the client was already in gaol. He then suspected Oldacre and paced off some dimensions in the house and determined the location of the hiding place. Holmes then smoked him out.
- **Policemen:** Inspector Lestrade was there, and also his head constable, plus two others, all with strong voices.
- **Holmes' fees:** No mention.
- **Transport:** Oldacre wrote his will on the train from Norwood to London, as evidenced by varied writing neatness. Neat in stations, messy while he was in motion, and illegible while passing over points (switches).
- **Food:** No mention of what H&W ate for breakfast.
- **Drink, Vices:** No mention
- **Other cases mentioned:** The case of the papers of ex-President Murillo, and also the shocking affair of the Dutch steamship Friesland, which so nearly cost H&W their lives.
The terrible murderer, Bert Stevens in '87, a mild-mannered, Sunday-school man.
- **Notable Quotables:** "It amused me to make him reveal himself. Besides, I owed you a little mystification, Lestrade, for your chaff in the morning." – SH
"You will find that your reputation has been enormously enhanced. Just make a few alterations in that report which you were

writing, and they will understand how hard it is to throw dust in the eyes of Inspector Lestrade." – SH, allowing Lestrade to take credit for solving the case.

"I pay a good deal of attention to matters of detail, as you may have observed." – SH

- **Other interesting:** A young doctor, named Verner, had purchased Watson's small Kensington practice, and gave with astonishingly little demur the highest price that Watson ventured to ask. The incident explained itself some years later, when it was learned that Verner was a distant relation of Holmes, and that it was Holmes who had really found the money.
- **When all was said and done:** Holmes to Oldacre: "What was it you put into the wood-pile besides your old trousers? A dead dog, or rabbits, or what? You won't tell? Dear me, how very unkind of you! Well, well, I daresay that a couple of rabbits would account both for the blood and for the charred ashes. If ever you write an account, Watson, you can make rabbits serve your turn."



A DEEPER BLUE

Rosemary Michaud, *The Holmes & Watson Report*, January, 1998

I have always felt sorry for James Ryder, that wretched little "shrimp" who got himself tangled in the net of the greatest detective who ever lived. The foolish, first-time criminal never had a chance against Holmes, who had already recovered the Blue Carbuncle and traced the goose that Ryder had sought in vain.

Holmes knew Ryder's real name, where he worked, and the name of his confederate in crime. No, poor Ryder never had a chance. Or at least that's the way it looked at the end of the story of "The Blue Carbuncle." But a moment's reflection reveals the truth of the matter: if James Ryder had been able to tell one goose from another, Holmes might never have caught him.

Would Holmes have solved the crime if the Blue Carbuncle had not practically fallen into his lap? You may argue, as I did myself when this idea first struck me, that even Sherlock Holmes probably did not make a habit of solving cases in which he was not personally involved. He had followed the case in the newspapers, of course, but that was hardly the same thing as being called in to conduct an active investigation.

However, there is a certain amount of evidence that Holmes actually had been called in. He was obviously familiar with the case and the history of the stone itself, and there is something just a little fishy in the show that he made of rummaging through his old newspapers to read aloud the details of the crime for the benefit of Watson and Peterson.

Notice also once Peterson left the room, Holmes did not need to refer to the papers in order to rattle off the entire history of the jewel's crime-ridden past. He could let down his guard in front of the faithful Watson.

But the most conclusive evidence of Holmes's involvement in the case is the little slip he made when discussing the reward offered for the jewel's return.

"I have reason to know that there are sentimental considerations in the background which would induce the Countess to part with half her fortune if she could but recover the gem. That was not part of any newspaper account. I think that his reason to know was that the Countess herself had said so when she hired him to find her stolen property.

It would have been sensible to consult a private detective in such a situation. The police had already done their job when they arrested John Homer, and though they certainly would have liked to return the

stone to the Countess, their interest in the case must have been greatly reduced once they had a culprit in custody.

Alas, up to the moment when Mrs. Peterson began to cook her goose dinner, even Holmes had not succeeded in retrieving the Blue Carbuncle.

It is not my intention to criticize or ridicule Sherlock Holmes for his failure. Even had Ryder been able to dispose of the Jewel as he intended, it would have been an extremely difficult task for anyone to trace its path.

As it turned out, the random nature of the Blue Carbuncle's hiding place made it virtually impossible to find, even for the man who had hidden it.

And though he may have been frustrated in the case, Holmes had not been idle. He had familiarized himself with all the actors in the drama -- Ryder, Cusack, Homer -- and I believe that he already had his suspicions that this case was something more than an impulse crime committed by an opportunistic thief.

When Holmes got his lucky break in locating the stone, he wasted little time filling in the rest of the story and saving an innocent man from a long prison sentence.

While he was at it, Holmes also saved the not-so-innocent James Ryder from a similar fate. Was Holmes equally lenient towards Catherine Cusack, the Countess of Morcar's maid?

He may have had to be, once he let Ryder go. Without Ryder's testimony in court, any charges against Cusack would have had no foundation.

By that point, of course, Holmes was beginning to realize that James Ryder was incapable of planning and carrying out such a crime on his own. And if Ryder was too dull-witted and nervous for the job, then Cusack was the next logical choice as the brains of the operation.

Watson did not tell us anything more about the maid, and I wonder if the silence was deliberate. If so, a clue to the reason for his silence may lie in the word "shrimp." Sherlock Holmes had a decided weakness for animal imagery.

Captain Croker (ABBE) was "strong as a lion" and "active as a squirrel," while Peter Jones (REDH) was as brave as a bulldog and as tenacious as a lobster," and so on. But at the mention of "shrimp" the reference that suggests itself is this marine-life metaphor from *The*

Valley of Fear: "Picture to yourself the pilot fish with the shark."

Shrimp, pilot fish, shark. Were these the shapes that Holmes was beginning to perceive through the murky currents of the criminal underworld? The Blue Carbuncle case probably took place in 1889, though there are a few scholars who argue for 1890.

If the case took place in 1890, this places it at the beginning of Holmes's intense pursuit of his nemesis. If the case took place in the earlier year, Holmes may not have been quite certain what it was that he saw, but even at that time he must have had some idea of the presence of that great predatory shark whom he would later identify as Professor Moriarty.

Let us suppose that at the very least, Holmes was not satisfied with either Ryder or Cusack as the intelligence behind the theft of the Blue Carbuncle. He would, of course, think of Maudsley, Ryder's friend who had served hard time in Pentonville prison.

In his account of events, Ryder stated that he consulted Maudsley only after the crime had been committed, and I think he was telling the truth. However, I don't think this was Maudsley's only connection to the crime, and I don't think Holmes thought so either.

Consider this scenario: During his time in prison, Maudsley was befriended by another inmate and recruited to become part of Moriarty's criminal organization. I have always believed that one of Moriarty's innovations in the field of crime was his information file, which would have been something akin to the files that modern corporations use to generate mailing or telemarketing lists.

Every new recruit to Moriarty's gang was probably required to list the names, addresses, and occupations of his friends and acquaintances. Anyone on the list having special talents, useful occupations or possible criminal leanings might find themselves approached with recruitment in mind.

Those on the list having large amounts of money or valuable possessions would find themselves the victims of crime. I wonder if Moriarty, the math whiz, was able to sort and merge his list on some sort of tabulating machine of his own design, the forerunner of a modern computer database.

But however he managed it, Moriarty brought the names Ryder, Cusack, and Horner together in a plot to

steal the Countess of Morcar's precious stone. And I wonder if Moriarty's plan was not to sell the Blue Carbuncle, but rather to "induce the Countess to part with half her fortune if she could but recover the gem."

Ryder was probably unaware that there was any such driving force behind the crime. Cusack tempted him by describing how easy it would be to take the jewel and fix the blame on Homer.

And of course Ryder went to Maudsley to fence the stolen goods, as Maudsley (and Moriarty) knew he would. Where else would Ryder go? He probably didn't know any other criminals; he knew Maudsley only because they had been friends before Maudsley "went to the bad." For Ryder's sake, I certainly hope that he knew nothing more than that.

From Moriarty's point of view, I believe that the serious threat came from John Horner. I wonder whether Horner had once been a Moriarty recruit, one who had incurred the Professor's wrath by spuming the criminal life for an honest plumber's trade.

It would have attracted too much undue attention for the gang to murder Horner, but Moriarty might have meant to make an example of him by framing him for the theft of the Blue Carbuncle. If so, Sherlock Holmes spoiled the plan.

Was this, perhaps, the "little, little trip" which enabled Holmes to eventually defeat Moriarty? Was John Horner so grateful to Sherlock Holmes that he told the detective all he knew about the Professor's criminal organization?

If he did nothing else, Horner probably provided Holmes with valuable lessons on how to disguise himself as a plumber, a ploy Holmes found useful in his later work. See the December, 1996, issue of *The Baker Street Journal* for Cathy Gill's delightful theory that Holmes may have used his plumber's disguise against Moriarty himself.

It is all mere conjecture, of course; in the absence of solid evidence, we can never know for sure whether Moriarty had anything to do with the theft of the Blue Carbuncle, or even whether Sherlock Holmes thought that he did. But if true it would be another reason, beyond the spirit of Christmas, why Holmes let Ryder and Cusack go unpunished.

What did Holmes want with the small fry? He was after a shark!

Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Fay,
Rusty & Steve Mason



If you are one of our “younger” readers, after the reading this strip, google... “He-Man Woman Hater’s Club...”

<p><i>Baker Street Elementary</i> Number 077 - 10/09/2016</p> <p><i>Fay, Mason, & Mason</i></p> <p>I HEAR LESTRADE AND GREGGSON HAVE FORMED A CLUB...THEY ONLY ALLOW MONITORS TO BELONG.</p> <p>YES, "CLUBLAND" IN THE PALL MALL AREA IS THRIVING, WITH OVER 200 CLUBS OF VARIOUS THEMES. I SUGGEST WE FOUND OUR OWN SUCH THEMED-ESTABLISHMENT.</p>	<p>WHAT WOULD BE THE MONIKER OF SUCH A CLUB FOR US?</p> <p>I WOULD SUBMIT "THE HE-MAN WOMAN HATER'S CLUB..."</p>	<p>AS WE ALL KNOW, GIRLS ARE NEVER TO BE ENTIRELY TRUSTED --- NOT THE BEST OF THEM.</p> <p>...but I like girls...</p>
<p>MAYBE AN ARCHERY CLUB.</p> <p>MY MOTHER WOULD NOT ALLOW ME AROUND SHARP OBJECTS. NO THANKS.</p>	<p>SO YOUNGUN', WHAT TYPE OF CLUB WOULD YOU SUGGEST WE CREATE?</p> <p>MY ELDEST BROTHER, SEBASTIAN, ENJOYS A GOOD GAME OF 'WHIST'... YOU SHOULD CREATE A CARD-PLAYING CLUB.</p>	<p>THE CLUB SHALL BE ESTABLISHED ON THE PREMISE THAT AN AVERSION TO GIRLS IS THE ONLY METHOD TO ENSURE OUR BRAIN GOVERNS OUR HEART, AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.</p> <p>...but I like girls... one even kissed me...</p>

Continued on next page

SOUNDS LIKE
DETENTION.



NOW THAT I THINK OF IT,
IT DOES SOUND LIKE THAT...

WHO WOULD
WILLINGLY DO
SUCH A THING?



GIRLS' HEARTS AND MINDS ARE INSOLUBLE
PUZZLES TO THE MALE... MY CLUB WOULD
ALLOW US TO SOLVE THOSE PUZZLES.

... but I really like girls...



I VOTE FOR A GIRL'S
APPRECIATION CLUB...

YOU KNOW,
I DO TOO...



OH, FORGET IT... I'LL FORM A BEE-KEEPING
OR BARITSU APPRECIATION CLUB...

AGAIN... I AM
NOT ALLOWED
TO BE AROUND
SHARP OBJECTS...

WHO'S BARITSU...



The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 09 - September, 2016
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



From the Editors: Thanks for all your support. Steve & Walt

October 2nd Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, October 2nd, at LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE, in Addison.

The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

We will be reading "The Empty House."

The quiz will cover this tale.

Each monthly meeting will also include toasts as well as general business, introductions, and general fellowship.

September 4th Meeting

There were 19 attendees on hand. A wonderful toast was delivered by Cindy Brown to her favorite Sherlock Holmes, Jeremy Brett (see page 2).

Walter Pieper and Don Hobbs tied for first on the Quiz, based on "The Final Problem", and was awarded a Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine and other prize.

Rusty Mason gave a whimsical presentation on the "Sherlock of My Childhood," which included a slide presentation and video excerpts from various historical cartoons where Sherlock Holmes was either a character in the story, or another character took on the persona of Sherlock Holmes. It was a nice trip down memory lane.

Two investitures, promoting members to Deck Mate status, were given to Charles Olson and David Harnois, both who have met the requirements for such an exalted position. We have now 16 deck mates, which should keep our Barque afloat and navigable.

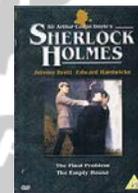
The group discussed further details for a fall symposium, theme to be "The Women of Sherlock Holmes," and will be held at the Allen Library, Allen, TX, on Monday, November 7. Brenda Hutchison is writing the murder mystery, which we will test out at the October meeting. We welcome any members who would like to donate items as door prizes or prizes for the mystery competition.

The closing reading was an excerpt "On Verbs and Ontology," from the June, 1987, Baker Street Journal (see page 3).

The full minutes may be viewed at our webpage: www.dfw-sherlock.org.

Thanks to Cindy Brown for developing the minutes this month.

Saturday Night at the Movies was held on September 10, at the Piepers' residence... we watched "The Final Problem," and "The Empty House," from the Granada Series, starring Jeremy Brett.



For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>

Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries
Historian
Webmaster

Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison
Pam Mason
Rusty Mason

mason.steve@epa.gov
waltpieper@att.net
221b@verizon.net
jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com
myrkrid08@yahoo.com

MY FAVORITE HOLMES: JEREMY BRETT

Cindy Brown

My favorite Sherlock Holmes, Jeremy Brett, died 21 years ago this month and he is still remembered fondly and lovingly by many including myself.

The Sherlock Holmes team from the BBC Granada Series became a family and Jeremy led splendidly.

He used to carry a little Instamatic Camera in the pocket of his costume. Unnoticed he would snap away at actors and crew.



Then, a few days later, nothing said, a photograph would appear pinned up around the back of the set. Done with humor and affection, it was a great way of bringing everyone together. Very simple, and very clever.

The crew and casts loved him and would do anything for him.

Jeremy often said that there were few larger-than-life personalities around these days. Jeremy gave the lie to that.

He was certainly larger than life, and could be a true eccentric. He developed a Jeremy uniform - white cotton trousers and navy or dark green sweaters - always cashmere - and a scarf.

Whether entertaining cast and crew, which he frequently did, to dinner at Coco's, a wonderful Italian restaurant in Manchester, or champagne for everyone in the cocktail lounge of Britannia Hotel or the Midland, he was in the same outfit.

It took a long time to work out why anyone so flamboyant as he, seemed to be so restricted in his dress. Then suddenly it became clear.

A needless complication had been removed from his life.

Whatever the occasion, no one ever expected to see Jeremy in any other cloths - brilliant.

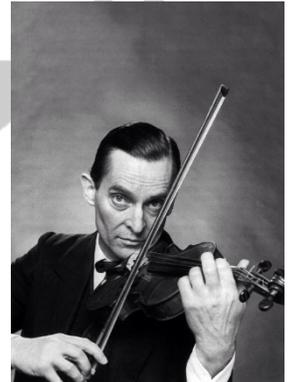
This did have it's funny side, however ...

One morning, as he approached the entrance to the Granada studios, Jeremy arrived in a cab.

As he leant forward on the pavement to pay the driver, the waistband of his well-worn, much-laundered white trousers parted company with the legs which fell in a heap on the curb.

Giggling, Jeremy pulled them back up and struggled to the safety of the wardrobe, where his laughter could be heard as far away as Liverpool. His laugh was always infectious.

When I think of Jeremy, I think of his laughing... that will always be my lasting memory of him. I cannot pay him a greater compliment.



Among the many, many letters of tribute that arrived from all over the world, one in particular from America was memorable. It starts with a wonderful tribute to Jeremy's performance as Holmes and then says:

"Do you believe in an afterlife? I do and I'll bet that wherever Jeremy is right now he is buying everyone champagne."

I don't know the exact quote, but someone once said:

"No one is truly gone as long as they are remembered."

My dear late friend will be remembered and greatly missed. Here's to you, Jeremy!

THE standard demonstration that Sherlock Holmes was (and still is) alive is to point to the fact that numerous events surrounding his life have been reported in the



pages of the London Times but that his obituary has never appeared there.

There is, however, a far more subtle and, importantly, a more persistent suggestion of Holmes's reality: the verb tense that Sherlockians feel compelled to use in writing about him.

T. S. Eliot wrote in 1929 that "when we talk of [Holmes] we invariably fall into the fancy of his existence."



Indeed we do.

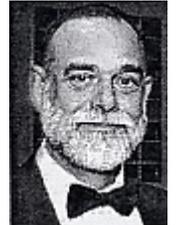
It is a not uncommon editorial problem faced at this Journal that a positive quagmire of present- and past-tense verb usage must be cleaned up before an essay or article may be printed.

Sherlockian authors, not invariably but surely much of the time, shift blithely back and forth between the literary "Holmes says" and the historical "Holmes said."

Often, too often, I have had to excavate myself from the ruins of

such sentences and paragraphs of my own composition.

And sometimes, there is simply no way to untangle these skeins without sacrificing clear communication.



In no other field that I know of does this particular vicissitude present itself; but then in no other field is the insistent pervasiveness of such a one as Sherlock Holmes both a past and present reality.

It is, therefore, a testament to Holmes's solidly-sensed historical existence and his enduring importance to us in this, his one-hundredth year, that in our writing he simultaneously was and is.

In short, it is most likely to be the Sherlockian who is so uncourteous to his verbs.

The Baker Street Journal continues to be the leading Sherlockian publication since its founding in 1946 by Edgar W. Smith. With both serious scholarship and articles that "play the game," the Journal is essential reading for anyone interested in Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and a world where it is always 1895.

Got to: <http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/itemsforsale/subscriptions.html> for subscription information.

17 STEPS TO THE EMPTY HOUSE

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of the case at hand...

JOHN H. WATSON, CRIME DOCTOR

"And I even attempted, more than once, for my own private satisfaction, to employ his methods in their solution, though with indifferent success."



Without Holmes, Watson would have us believe that his entire contact with crime came via the newspapers. But could he truly try to use Holmes's

methods only using the information supplied by the papers? Is Watson covering up some actual scene-of-the-crime investigations he attempted in Holmes's absence?

THE ENGLAND/AUSTRALIA MEDICAL DIFFERENCE

"Adair's mother had returned from Australia to undergo the operation for cataract."

What was the state of available medical services in Australia at the time? Was cataract surgery a specialty available only in the city of London? Even at that, was the surgery a very successful procedure in 1894?

THOSE ARE SOME REALLY GREAT NEWSPAPERS

"All day I turned these facts over in my mind, endeavouring to hit upon some theory which could reconcile them all ..."

The facts that Watson refers to in the paragraphs before that line are quite detailed: the crocuses by the house are in bloom, the money next to the murdered man is detailed by denomination ... did reporters accompany police to crime scenes in those days? Or is Watson

embroidering the details from the newspaper for his readers' benefit?

THE MYSTERIOUS BOOKSHOP

Watson's visitor, the little old bookman, says, "I am a neighbour of yours, for you'll find my little bookshop at the corner of Church Street, and very happy to see you, I am sure."

If the corner of Church Street was in Watson's neighborhood, wouldn't he have noticed a bookstore there? Well, maybe not. But was there really a book store there that the "bookman" used to back his story? Or was this a flaw in his mask that Watson was supposed to catch?

Would he have expected Watson to be familiar with the interior of a bookstore in his neighborhood, or did he claim ownership confident in the knowledge Watson had never been inside it?

THE STRUCTURE OF WATSON'S LIBRARY

The bookman also tells Watson: "With five volumes you could just fill that gap on that second shelf. It looks untidy, does it not, sir?"



Watson then writes: "I moved my head to look at the cabinet behind me." Watson is in his study -- what sort of cabinet would a Victorian doctor keep his books in? And would these have been Watson's medical books, recreational reading, or something a little more valued? Is Watson's reaction (looking at the shelf space first, not the books) a sign that the doctor was no bibliophile?

DIAGNOSING WATSON'S SWOON

"... it appears that I must have fainted for the first and the last time in my life. Certainly a gray mist swirled before my eyes ..."

Do people really see gray mists before their eyes when they're passing out? Wouldn't one see colored flashes of some sort? Or possibly blackness? Does this gray mist tell us anything about Watson, like perhaps he's color-blind?

THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

"Holmes!" Watson cries, "Is it really you? Can it indeed be that you are alive? Is it possible that you succeeded in climbing out of that awful abyss?"

You have to love moments like this. Watson (a doctor) is stunned enough to ask the man in front of him if he's alive. His first thought is that this man he has portrayed in superhuman terms so many times actually fell into the abyss, and then spent three years climbing back out again.



While the doctor gets the full story very soon, this moment and that vision make one wonder: how much did Watson see his friend as a legendary figure, the sort of man who not just survives a fall from a cliff, he climbs back up the cliff-face to show it hasn't beaten him? Is mythologizing one's friends a healthy thing to do? Or did Holmes just amaze Watson so often that he couldn't help such a viewpoint?

WATSON'S BEEN TALKING TO HIS AGENT

"Well, you're not a spirit, anyhow," the good doctor comments

after feeling Holmes's "thin, sinewy arm" With all Watson's questions, one has to wonder why Watson didn't trust his eyes. Had he had some encounter with the spirit world in his time apart from Holmes?



With Holmes's death and Watson's "recent bereavement," would we expect Watson to turn to a medium? Was Holmes's later comment, "No

ghosts need apply," directed at a particular pet belief of Watson?

HOLMES'S HARD LIFE IN FRANCE

"Holmes looked even thinner and keener than of old, but there was a dead-white tinge in his aquiline face which told me that his life recently had not been a healthy one."

Wait a minute ... Holmes later says his most recent activities were spending "some months in a research into the coal-tar derivatives, which I conducted in a laboratory at Montpellier, in the south of France." The sunbelt of France?

With Mediterranean beaches not all that far away?

There have even been theories tossed about that he had family there, so why is Holmes so unhealthy-looking?

WATSON'S HIDDEN SADNESS

"In some manner he had learned of my own sad bereavement, and his sympathy was shown in his manner rather than in his words. 'Work is the best antidote to sorrow, my dear Watson,' said he."

How long before this case would we guess Watson's sad event took place? Would Holmes be making his "antidote" comment if it were more than six months prior?

Or was it fresh enough to be the unspoken reason for Holmes's return? Does Watson's fresh interest in a criminal case hold any clues?

HANSOMS, GUNS, AND THRILLS

"It was indeed like old times when, at that hour, I found myself seated beside him in a hansom, my revolver in my pocket, and the thrill of adventure in my heart."

While Watson's chronicles are full of non-criminal cases, Holmes was a specialist in crime. On what percentage of Holmes's cases did Watson carry a gun?

How big a part of "feels like old times" was Watson packing heat? Did he need a gun more often than the Canon would seem to indicate?

DID THEY GET THE STRAND MAGAZINE IN TIBET?

"Might I trouble you, my dear Watson, to draw a little nearer to the window, taking every precaution not to show yourself, and then to look up at our old rooms--the starting-point of so many of your little fairy-tales?"



At the time Holmes disappeared into his travels, Watson had only published two of his "fairy-tales." All of the Adventures and

Memoirs came out while Holmes was in Asia and Europe (most while he was in Tibet).

How was it Holmes got to read Watson's tales? Did they have them in France by the end of 1893? Might Holmes have first read them in French?

A second sign Holmes had not only read, but remembered Watson's works, enough to almost follow one of Watson's title conventions: "We have three years of the past to discuss. Let that suffice until half-past nine, when we start upon the notable adventure of the empty house."

PRIME BAKER STREET PROPERTY GOING TO WASTE

"The place was pitch dark, but it was evident to me that it was an empty house. Our feet creaked and

crackled over the bare planking, and my outstretched hand touched a wall from which the paper was hanging in ribbons ... the window was thick with dust ..."

The general impression we get of Camden House is one of a long-vacant house, of the sort neighborhood kids always consider haunted. What sort of neighborhood was Baker Street in those days, and would we expect to find a completely vacant house there?

Why would a house in the center of London sit empty so long as to get a coating of dust on the windows?

AND WHAT OF 221B BAKER STREET?

If Camden House wasn't in bad enough shape, next Holmes is describing 221B as "that picturesque pile." Good thing Holmes isn't running a real estate open house for his old digs. Of what age would we expect the house at 221 to be, and in what state of repair?

Holmes is no pauper -- if he truly thought of 221 as a "pile" why didn't he move?

HOLMES'S OTHER FRENCH DIVERSION

Of Holmes's wax twin, he says, "The credit of the execution is due to Monsieur Oscar Meunier, of Grenoble, who spent some days in doing the moulding."

Holmes was obviously planning his trap for Colonel Moran long before he left France, knowing that the Colonel was his main impediment in returning to his life of old. How did Moran stay free when the rest of Moriarty's gang was convicted?

Holmes knew of Moran and his air-gun in 1891. Was he fleeing Moran when he went to Tibet? Why



would he take three years to get up the guts to come back and catch Moran, a man he knew was a killer in 1891?

Does the blame for Ronald Adair's death fall partially on Holmes's reluctance to return earlier? Or did it just take three years for Oscar to mold that dummy?



And while we're at it, of Moran we hear: "Moriarty supplied him liberally with money, and used him only

in one or two very high-class jobs, which no ordinary criminal could have undertaken. You may have some recollection of the death of Mrs. Stewart, of Lauder, in 1887. Not?

Well, I am sure Moran was at the bottom of it, but nothing could be proved." Holmes actually traced a crime from 1887 to Moriarty and

Moran, and still couldn't catch the assassin until seven years later?

IGNORE THAT HARMLESS MAN WITH THE GARROTE

"He is a harmless enough fellow, Parker by name, a garroter by trade, and a remarkable performer upon the jew's-harp."

Was a garroter necessarily a mugger and not a murderer, as some Sherlockians would have us believe? Choking someone into insensibility is an inexact science.

One probably kills a few victims before one truly gets the "hang" of it. And heck, once one had killed someone accidentally, why not take out a victim or two for a



price? Why would Holmes consider Parker so harmless?

THE SOURCE OF THE INFAMOUS AIR GUN

Holmes admits: "I knew Von Herder, the blind German mechanic, who constructed it to the order of the late Professor Moriarty. For years I have been aware of its existence, though I have never before had the opportunity of handling it."

The detective was obviously aware of the gun back in 1891. Might Von Herder have been a London acquaintance of Holmes's who helped put him on to the Professor's track? Does "I knew Von Herder" imply a relationship before the Moriarty investigation?

Basil of Baker Street

As this the 30th Anniversary of the issuance of "The Great Mouse Detective," you can decorate your upcoming Christmas tree with a cute ornament, celebrating the movie.

Elementary

Solve the mystery of making the merriest season of all by assigning Basil of Baker Street and his assistant Dawson to the case. This Sketchbook Ornament, based on The Great Mouse Detective, will provide the clue to a happy holiday.

Product Details (\$ 16.95)

- Optional Personalization available on additional 1" metal charm
- Personalize charm up to two lines, up to 14 characters on first line
- Fully sculptured figural ornament
- Translucent spyglass
- Satin ribbon for hanging
- 2016 Disney Store logo charm
- From Disney Store artist sketchbook designs inspired by Disney's The Great Mouse Detective (1986)
- Part of the Disney Store Sketchbook Ornament Collection
- Resin
- 3 1/2" H x 4" W x 2 1/4" D
- Imported



<https://m.disneystore.com/ornaments-seasonal-home-decor-basil-and-dawson-sketchbook-ornament-the-great-mouse-detective-personalizable/mp/1408461/1000344/>

WHEN A MUSEUM IS MORE THAN A MUSEUM

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

Four different stories in the canon reference the British Museum: twice to serve as location markers, and twice as the source of information to help solve a crime. In “The Musgrave Ritual,” Holmes identifies his first London lodgings as “around the corner from the British Museum.” (1)

The institution’s role as a repository for a wide array of artifacts and knowledge, however, suggests that Holmes’ selection of this address might have been more than just a coincidence.



In the two other narratives, he consults the museum’s collections and experts to learn that the man known Jack Stapleton in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* had been a well-known authority on entomology under another name (2) and that the odd remains found in the Wisteria Lodge kitchen came from a Voodoo ritual. (3)

Merriam-Webster’s definition of a museum is “an institution devoted to the procurement, care, study, and display of objects of lasting interest or value.” (4)

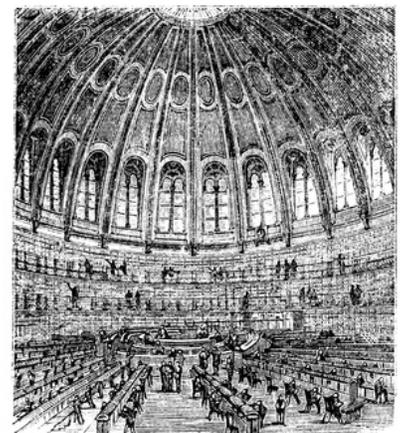
While the common concept of the “objects” in a museum involve paintings, sculptures, or items of historical or scientific interest, the origins of the British Museum involves books and manuscripts as well as antiquities and natural history specimens, making it a “universal museum.” (5)

Three private collections (bequeathed by Sir Hans Sloane; Robert Harley, 1st earl of Oxford; and Sir Robert Cotton) formed the original catalogue. They willed them to the king, and through him, the British nation.

In 1753, Parliament established the British Museum from these estates, adding to them the British monarchs’ Royal Library in 1757. When the institution opened at Montagu House in 1759, it created the first national museum, open to the public and belonging to all. (6)

The collection continued to grow, adding objects from the James Cooks’ travels to the South Seas, antiquities from Egypt, Rome, and Greece, and the excavations from Asia Minor. (7)

The institution quickly outgrew its original building, and it was replaced by Greek Revival style construction on the same site in the early 1800s. Despite the additional space, the facility was continually short of room, and several wings were added to relieve pressure.



One of the most famous adjustments was the cast-iron circular Reading Room built in an originally empty quadrangle. The room opened on May 2, 1857 and for one week (May 8 – 17), the public was allowed to inspect the structure. Sixty-two thousand visitors passed through during that time.

Those actually interested in using the room to consult the written materials had to apply to the Principal Librarian for a reader’s ticket.

Among those requesting the privilege were Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, Bram Stoker, and, of course, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. (8)

Edward Ellis compiled a listing of all the references to the British Museum in fiction, and published 179-page tome of such citations—which includes Doyle’s canon pieces and one more non-canon piece, “The Leather Funnel” from Round the Fire Stories. The constantly growing holdings forced the museum to move its natural history collection to a new building in South Kensington in 1881, forming the Natural History Museum. In 1973, the library collection was moved to help create the British Library. (9)

In 2000, the original Reading Room reopened to the general public after undergoing reconstruction and restoration. More than 25,000 books and other written materials, primarily about the cultures on display at the museum, are available for review. (10)

It is still the most visited attraction in the United Kingdom with more than 6.5 million visitors each year. (11) Given his proximity to the museum and the breadth of its collection, it can be certain Sherlock Holmes had his own reader’s ticket and made much more use of the information stored there than mentioned in the canon. What better means to fill his brain attic than through the ever-mounting holdings that make the British Museum the attraction it continues to be.

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- (1) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Locations 16696-16697).
 - (2) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Locations 7035-7037).
 - (3) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Locations 25615-25617).
 - (4) <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/museum>
 - (5) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Museum
 - (6) Ibid.
 - (7) Ibid.
 - (8) https://www.britishmuseum.org/about_us/the_museums_story/architecture/reading_room.aspx
 - (9) https://www.britishmuseum.org/about_us/the_museums_story/general_history.aspx
 - (10) Ibid.
 - (11) <http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-31877819>
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By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the Bilge Pump) and sign up for her newsletter at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

SHERLOCKIAN SOCIETIES

Rusty Mason

On our society website, <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/sherlock-societies.html> Rusty Mason has created a very useful interactive map, which provides a geographic reference of Sherlockian Societies across the globe.

This map is based on the "Active Sherlockian Societies," regularly maintained by Peter E. Blau.

For societies that have web-sites, a link is provided also.

The list provided by Mr. Blau can be accessed at:

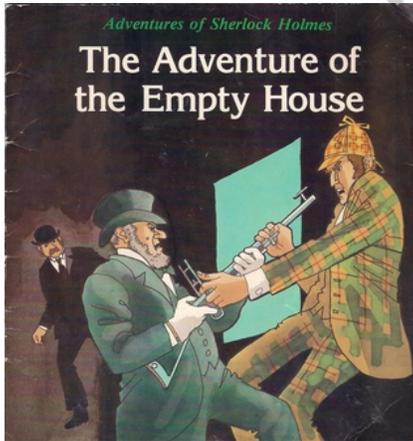
<http://www.sherlocktron.com/three.pdf>



56 Stories in 56 Days - The Adventure of the Empty House

Posted on October 13, 2011 by barefootnbakerstreet

It's back to business as Holmes returns from the dead to a very forgiving Doctor Watson, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.



If one of my very best friends had faked their own death, withheld the truth from me, and left me to mourn them for three years, I would be pretty annoyed if they suddenly turned up on my doorstep asking to renew acquaintances. But Watson is just so happy to see his friend alive that he doesn't really question Holmes' explanation if Watson had known the truth he would surely have let it slip somehow. That's not showing much faith in the man who regularly dropped everything to accompany Holmes into dangerous and very sensitive situations without ever failing him or betraying a trust.

Add the fact Watson had suffered a genuine bereavement during Holmes' absence, presumably of his first wife, and you can't help but feel sad for the doctor as he was alone during the period when he probably needed Holmes the most. The one time when Watson could have really

used a friend, and the person who could have been the most comfort to him stayed away, even though he had somehow learned of the sad news.

Can we forgive Holmes for not trusting Watson? For letting him believe in a lie and mourn needlessly? Well, obviously we can because we are just so glad to have him back.



So off we go on another adventure just like old times and there is something quite satisfying and reassuring about this. The last of Moriarty's henchman is captured in the form of Colonel Moran and Holmes cleverly uses a wax bust of himself positioned by the window of his rooms at 221B to trap him. The story is very imaginative and does neatly tie up all the loose ends.

Once again, I have used the Empty House heavily in my own novel and it's another part of my Penguin Complete Sherlock Holmes which is covered in notes and underlining. I have, once again, stuck very closely to

the original but this time there has been some very significant changes in Watson's life and only he knows the truth. For once, Holmes is in the dark and this threatens to change the dynamic of their friendship forever.

Re-reading the original has reminded me of why I called the poisoner, who features in the 'Paris' part of Barefoot, Morgan. It is because when Holmes goes to his index of Biographies to look up Moran he mentions Morgan the poisoner. I do hope the Holmes fans spot that one.

And another curious thing that springs into my memory is that of the confusion over Moriarty's first name. In the Empty House he is referred to as James, but in the Final Problem his brother is called James. Can it be that both children were given the same name? That must have been confusing when they were growing up. This did cause me some angst when writing about Moriarty's childhood and I eventually decided that both boys were probably given the same name as their father but while the eldest continued to use it, the youngest was commonly known by a different name. Conan Doyle really did get mixed up over names didn't he?

Though the explanation for Holmes' reappearance feels a little hurried and unrealistic, the story that follows is enjoyable and it is great to have Holmes and Watson re-united and back on form together. Normality is thankfully restored – 7 out of 10.

An Inquiry Into "The Empty House"

Murray, the Courageous Orderly (a.k.a. Alexander Braun), Hounds of the Internet

"The Empty House" was first published in The Strand Magazine in October 1903. According to Baring-Gould's chronology, the case takes place on Thursday, April 5, 1894. At the time, Holmes is 40 years old and Watson 42.

Notable Quotes:

I moved my head to look at the cabinet behind me. When I turned again, Sherlock Holmes was standing smiling at me across my table. I rose to my feet, stared at him for some seconds in utter amazement, and then it appears that I must have fainted for the first and the last time in my life.

"I owe you many apologies, my dear Watson, but it was all-important that it should be thought I was dead, and it is quite certain that you would not have written so convincing an account of my unhappy end had you not yourself thought that it was true. Several times during the last three years I have taken up my pen to write to you, but always I feared lest your affectionate regard for me should tempt you to some indiscretion which would betray my secret."

"I travelled for two years in Tibet, therefore, and amused myself by visiting Lhasa, and spending some days with the head lama. You may have read of the remarkable explorations of a Norwegian named Sigerson, but I am sure that it never occurred to you that you were receiving news of your friend. I then passed through Persia, looked in at Mecca, and paid a short but interesting visit to the Khalifa at Khartoum, the results of which I have communicated to the Foreign Office. Returning to France, I spent some months in a research into the coal-tar derivatives, which I conducted in a laboratory at Montpellier, in the south of France." Three years had certainly not smoothed the asperities

of his temper or his impatience with a less active intelligence than his own.

"Not so, Lestrade. I do not propose to appear in the matter at all. To you, and to you only, belongs the credit of the remarkable arrest which you have effected. Yes, Lestrade, I congratulate you! With your usual happy mixture of cunning and audacity, you have got him." On the margin was written, in Holmes's precise hand: The second most dangerous man in London.

"There are some trees, Watson, which grow to a certain height, and then suddenly develop some unsightly eccentricity. You will see it often in humans.

"I have a theory that the individual represents in his development the whole procession of his ancestors, and that such a sudden turn to good or evil stands for some strong influence which came into the line of his pedigree.

"The person becomes, as it were, the epitome of the history of his own family."

"Meanwhile, come what may, Colonel Moran will trouble us no more. The famous air-gun of Von Herder will embellish the Scotland Yard Museum, and once again Mr. Sherlock Holmes is free to devote his life to examining those interesting little problems which the complex life of London so plentifully presents."

"Not so, Lestrade. I do not propose to appear in the matter at all. To you, and to you only, belongs the credit of the remarkable arrest which you have effected. Yes, Lestrade, I congratulate you! With your usual happy mixture of cunning and audacity, you have got him."

"[O]nce again Mr. Sherlock Holmes is free to devote his life to examining those interesting little problems which the complex life of London so plentifully presents."

Factoid: "Shikari" is a Hindu word for a big game hunter or hunting guide.

A Peculiar Request

At the beginning, our biographer says Holmes barred him for a decade from writing anything connected with the Adair murder. I find that puzzling. The destruction of Moriarty's criminal empire must have been a matter of great public interest. Let us also remember regarding Moriarty himself, in FINA Watson had already set the record straight regarding the allegations of Professor's brother. What then, would Holmes want to keep away from public notice for a decade, about the capture and trial of Moran, the last important member of this most dangerous gang?

The Fastened Door

Unless it was a dramatic touch added by Watson (i.e., an unsolvable locked-door crime!) I find it strange Adair locked the door to his sitting-room when he sat down to clear up his gaming accounts. To begin, he wasn't doing anything dishonorable -- quite to the contrary! In any case, he had to know nobody was going to surprise him at what he was doing by simply walking into the room--even his mother would have knocked before entering her son's room.

A Flair for the Dramatic

Holmes shows a definite--somewhat reckless--flair for the dramatic, which has at times been life-endangering--witness Phelps' shock in NAVA. And after a three-year absence, how could he be certain Watson might not have developed an ailment, say a heart problem, that might cost him his life if shocked? After all, the poor man fainted!

Moriarty's Actions

According to Holmes, Moriarty "rushed at me and threw his long

arms around me. He knew his game was up, and was only anxious to revenge himself upon me." Knowing little about the Professor, his actions still seem uncalled for. Why would Moriarty attempt to kill Holmes in a way which endangered his own life? He could end Holmes' (and Watson's) careers in gunfire from the mountain top. With Holmes eliminated, he could leisurely and carefully proceeded, with Moran and other members' assistance, to rebuild his empire. Some have attributed Moriarty's suicidal actions to a derangement caused by the fall of his organization, but I find it strange a criminal of Moriarty's intelligence level would be shocked into madness and resort to such a solution.

The Unnecessary Deceit

Why did Holmes take such drastic and careful steps to make everyone think he had been killed (unforgivably deceiving Watson!) by disappearing and wandering the planet? It wasn't to deceive the survivors of Moriarty's gang since one of them--possibly Moran--was rolling down rocks at him while he was trying to leave the scene of the Professor's death. They knew he survived after he killed their leader. So why this flawed deception? Unquestionably, the top leaders of Britain's underworld must have known Holmes had cheated death.

What else happened in 1894:

EMPIRE

- Uganda becomes protectorate.
- Jameson occupies Matabeleland.

BRITAIN

- Gladstone retires; Rosebery becomes prime minister.
- Tower Bridge opens.
- First Lyon's tea shop.
- Big wheel erected at Earl's Court.
- St Bride's Institute opens.
- Manchester canal completed.

- Harcourt's Budget raises death duties.
- Parish Councils Act: Parish, Rural, and Urban Districts established.
- Thirlmere Dam completed; for Manchester water supply, aqueduct 96 miles long.
- Water tube boilers fitted in HMS Hornet and HMS Sharpshooter.
- Turbinia, first steam-turbine ship launched.
- Merchant Shipping Act: Masters, mates, and engineers to hold Board of Trade certificates.
- Railway and Canal Traffic Act; fixes existing rates as maxima.
- Official opening of Manchester Ship Canal (begun 1887).
- Blackpool Tower opens, 518 ft high.

WORLD

- Sino-Japanese War (1894-95).
- French take Madagascar.
- Alfred Dreyfus found guilty of treason.
- President Carnot of France assassinated by Italian anarchist.
- French under Joffre capture Timbuktu.
- Hawaii becomes a republic.
- Sicilian bread riots lead to martial law and suppression of Italian socialist societies.
- Italians defeat Dervishes at Kassala.
- Kurds massacre Armenians at Sassoun.
- National Society founded in Greece to extend Greek authority in the Balkans.
- Alexander III of Russia dies; Nicholas II (last Romanov tsar) accedes to the Throne.
- Sergius Witte becomes minister of finance in Russia.
- War breaks out between Japan and China. Japanese naval victory at Yalu River; Japanese capture of Port Arthur.

- Alexander Obrenovitch annuls liberal constitution of 1889.
- Sale of spirits resumed in Russia as state monopoly.
- Formation of French Agricultural Mutual Loan Society.
- Baron Pierre de Coubertin initiates congress reviving the Olympic Games.
- Beginning of car racing Paris to Rouen.

ART

- Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book.
- Debussy, L'Après Midi d'un Faun.
- Toulouse-Lautrec, Les Deux Amis.
- Degas, Femme à sa Toilette.
- Strauss' first opera, Guntram, produced at Weimer.
- Monet, Rouen Cathedral.
- George du Maurier, Trilby.
- Anthony Hope, The Prisoner of Zenda.
- Oscar Wilde, A Woman of No Importance.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Escalators introduced (U.S.).
- Halstead details his operation for breast cancer (mastectomy).
- William Ramsey and Rayleigh discover existence of zero valence.
- Flagstaff (Lowell) Observatory erected.
- Oliver and Schäfer discover the nature of insulin.
- J.H. Northrop (U.S.A.) invents automatic loom.
- Louis Lumière invents the cinematograph.
- Berliner modifies work on gramophone by using a horizontal disk instead of a cylinder. Not fully satisfactory until 1897.
- Guaranty Building, Buffalo erected. Metal-framed building.

A STUDY IN SHERLOCK: KNOWING TO BE KNOWN

As most of you remember, we were thrilled to have a bright, young college student, Allana Wooley, as a fellow crew member while she was a student at Texas Christian University (TCU). To fulfill her master's degree, Allana developed a thesis, which focused on "the ways social communities are consciously, purposefully created and maintained so that they reinforce both individual identity and notions of personal value."

Much of the thesis looks at our Sherlockian society, and the interaction between members.

In her acknowledgements, Allana states, "The Crew of the Barque Lone Star welcomed an awkward, 20-year-old girl into their midst and allowed her to watch them, take notes on them, and write about them. Somewhere in the middle of doing all of that, they also became her friends. To Stu Nelan, Don Hobbs, Brenda Hutchinson, Cindy Hobbs, Steve Mason, and Les Klinger—thank you for sitting down with me and sharing intimate details about your perceptions of the Sherlock Holmes community and the relationships you have formed."

If you would like to read her thesis, go to:

https://repository.tcu.edu/bitstream/handle/116099117/10463/WooleyAllana_ANTHThesis.pdf?sequence=1



Allana, we are very proud of your efforts... good luck in your future activities, and feel free to participate in your Home Society any time you find yourself back in the Metroplex.

Story Info Pages for "The Empty House"

McMurdo's Camp, <https://mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com/>

(he's back . . .)

- **First published in:** Collier's, September 26, 1903; The Strand Magazine, October 1903
- **Time frame of story (known/surmised):** First week of April, 1894, stated.
- **Holmes and Watson living arrangements:** Watson in practice and living in Kensington, no mention of wife. Holmes presumed to have perished in the falls of Reichenbach, 3 years previously. Then Holmes reveals himself. Turns out he was not killed as presumed, but had been traveling all over the world, to Florence, Lhasa in Tibet, Persia, Mecca, Khartoum, and finally Montpellier, in the south of France. Mycroft was in on it but Watson was not. The quarters at 221B were preserved and the fire damage repaired.
- **Opening scene:** Watson goes for a stroll by the house of Adair, recently shot and killed in a closed-

room murder which had dismayed the fashionable world and interested all London. Watson observes the house and ponders the mystery, attempting to employ Holmes' methods in its solution, but without success. He does not clear up the problem. While there he mingles with the usual group of loafers and then bumps a deformed, old bibliophile. Later, the bibliophile visits Watson, and turns out to be Holmes in disguise. Watson faints and Holmes revives him with brandy, the universal palliative.

- **Client:** None. Holmes is acting on his desire and opportunity to finish off Moriarty's society.
- **Crime or concern:** Shooting death of the Honourable Ronald Adair, a young nobleman, after an evening at the Bagatelle Card Club. He was shot in the head with an expanding soft-nose revolver bullet, believed to have been fired from within the locked room. Later found to have been a longer range shot from an air-gun using the projectile from

a revolver bullet. Shot was fired through an open window by an expert marksman.

- **Villain:** Sebastian Moran, late of Her Majesty's Indian Army, an old shikari and expert heavy-game shot, whose bag of tigers remained unrivalled. He had once crawled down a drain after a wounded man-eating tiger. Col. Moran had a tremendously virile and yet sinister face, with the brow of a philosopher above and the jaw of a sensualist below. He had cruel blue eyes, with drooping, cynical lids, and a threatening deep-lined brow. Not only that, but he had a fierce, aggressive nose.
- **Motive:** Col. Moran murdered Adair, so Adair could not expose him as a card cheat. Exposure would have cut into the handsome income he made cheating at cards, which he needed, now that Moriarty was not around to pay him.
- **Logic used to solve:** Holmes watched the criminal news, and the chance to get Moran came at last with the death of Ronald Adair. Knowing what he did, it was certain that Colonel Moran had done it. Having played cards with the Adair, he followed him home from the club, and shot him through the open window. There was not a doubt of it. Holmes had been long aware of the air-gun, noiseless and of tremendous power, made by the blind German mechanic Von Herder.
- **Policemen:** Inspector Lestrade and two constables, called in by Holmes. Lestrade welcomed Holmes back to London, and Holmes somewhat ungraciously replied, "I think you want a little unofficial help. Three undetected murders in one year won't do, Lestrade. But you handled the Molesey Mystery with less than your usual – that's to say, you handled it fairly well."
- **Holmes' fees:** No mention. It is likely he was paid through whatever arrangement he had with the Yard, because he did turn the murderer of Adair over to Lestrade.
- **Transport:** HOLMES AND WATSON take a hansom to the empty house, by an indirect route. No

mention of the diverse modes used on the long sojourn, but they must have been interesting.

- **Food:** HOLMES AND WATSON had time for a mouthful of dinner before they needed go to the empty house.
- **Drink:** Brandy used to revive Watson after fainting.
- **Vices:** After reviving Watson, Holmes lit a cigarette in his old, nonchalant manner, and puffed upon it while relating the story of Moriarty's death. Following the arrest of Moran, HOLMES AND WATSON returned to Baker St., where despite the draught from a broken window, they planned to spend time over a cigar reviewing the case.
- **Other cases mentioned:** The death of Mrs. Stewart, of Lauder, in 1887. Morgan the poisoner, and Merridew of abominable memory, and Mathews, who knocked out Holmes' left canine in the waiting-room at Charing Cross.
- **Notable Quotables:** "You fiend!" Moran muttered after his capture. "You clever, clever fiend!" You cunning, cunning fiend!"
"I trust that age doth not wither nor custom stale my infinite variety." – SH, paraphrasing Antony and Cleopatra (Shakespeare).
- **Other interestings:** Holmes was saved from the precipice at the falls of Reichenbach by his knowledge of baritsu, enabling him to out-wrestle Moriarty in this all-important match.
Holmes refers to the 221B lodgings as "that picturesque pile".
Back in London, Holmes was watched by Moran's accomplice; Parker by name, a garroter by trade, and a remarkable performer upon the Jew's harp.
When all was said and done: "Once again Mr. Sherlock Holmes is free to devote his life to examining those interesting little problems which the complex life of London so plentifully presents." – SH

THE SINGLE CARTRIDGE PROBLEM

Brad Keefauver and John Holliday, *The Holmes & Watson Report*, January, 1998

Of all the little forensic puzzles offered by the Canon of Sherlock Holmes, "The Adventure of the Dancing Men" offers us one of the most puzzling. Once all the code business is over and done, the case comes down to, very simply, this:

Hilton and Elsie Cubitt are found shot after two shots are heard. A revolver lies halfway between them with two shots fired. Hilton has a bullet in his heart, Elsie, one in her brain. But another bullet is found in the window frame, so another shot is presumed, fired at the same moment as the first. Sherlock Holmes combs the flower bed and finds a single brass cartridge.

Holmes's conclusion is that a third person, outside the window, fired in at Hilton Cubitt while Cubitt fired back at the person, hitting the window. Elsie Cubitt, overcome with grief, then shot herself. Later, when Abe Slaney is lured back to the scene of the crime and gives a less-than-detailed confession, this is shown to be the truth of the matter.

The problem lies in the single brass cartridge. Why is it in the flower bed?

"The revolver had an ejector," Holmes concludes, not helping matters any. Revolvers of the day required either that all six cartridges be ejected at

once when the gun was broken open, or the performance of a labor intensive process consisting of opening the loading gate, half-cocking the hammer, manually spinning the cylinder to the right position, pushing the cartridge out with the ejector rod, and manually taking the cartridge the rest of the way out. This means that either six cartridges, five of them unused, would have been found in the flowerbed or that Abe Slaney, the man in the flower bed, was some sort of crazed compulsive sort, taking unnecessary time in his getaway just to make sure his gun was fully loaded.

In his article "Firearms in the Canon: The Adventure of the Dancing Men" (Baker Street Journal, March 1991), Dante Torrese concludes that Abe Slaney used a Colt Single Action Army revolver.

The Colt would have required Slaney to perform the latter time-consuming process described above, stopping and reloading the sixth bullet before fleeing the scene of the crime. As we've seen, this was not a simple task.

Torrese writes "It was and continues to be common practice among professional pistoleros to reload as soon as possible to avoid having to remember how many cartridges have been used and

how many remain. Every self-respecting gunslinger knew this..."

The big flaw in Torrese's example is the image of Abe Slaney as a six-gun-wielding cowboy from the American West. In reality, Slaney was a Chicago gangster. Watson describes him thus: "He was a tall, handsome, swarthy fellow, clad in a suit of gray flannel, with a Panama hat... flourishing a cane as he walked."

No mention of a big leather holster there that we can see. And even after Slaney is arrested, there is no mention of a gun being taken from him. Obviously, Abe Slaney was an urban criminal, who behaved very differently from Torrese's "gunslinger." Slaney was also visiting a foreign country, and did not want to draw attention to himself by carrying a large weapon -- something not in common practice in either England or Chicago of the time.

We have only Holmes's conjecture that Slaney carried a revolver, and that is a conjecture transcribed by Watson. The actual word "revolver" may never have been used. And given the circumstances, it is very probable that Abe Slaney did not carry a revolver at all. He was, after all, going to meet an ex-girlfriend, not purposefully going to kill anyone.

What Slaney probably had on his person was a .41 rimfire single shot derringer of Colt manufacture, kept as a hideout gun in a watch pocket or inside jacket pocket. When Hilton Cubitt came out waving his revolver, Slaney; went for his own gun and fired just as Cubitt did.

Using the good instincts of anyone who knew gunplay, Slaney was also ducking under the window ledge even as he fired.

Hiding in the cover of the ledge, Slaney unlocked the barrel of his derringer and swung it sideways to kick out the cartridge. He then reloaded and waited a few seconds for Hilton Cubitt to come over the window ledge, not knowing if he'd killed or injured his opponent. When Cubitt didn't come after a moment or two, Slaney fled.

If Slaney had still had five bullets in his gun, he would never have taken the time to reload one shell with the chance that Cubitt would be on him at any second. A single shot derringer is the only reasonable explanation for Slaney's actions and that single brass cartridge. That, and the fact that he still wasn't sure

whether or not he had killed Hilton Cubitt. During his confession, he admits he saw Cubitt drop, but like Slaney, Cubitt could have been diving for cover. This uncertainty also shows up the next day, when Slaney is described as coming to the murder scene like so:

"He swaggered up the path as if the place belonged to him, and we heard his loud, confident peal at the bell." No criminal in his right mind, however he was summoned, would come back to the scene of a recent murder with that much confidence.

Only one who thought the police would be nowhere near would return in such a manner. If he knew he killed Cubitt, he wouldn't have walked straight into the police trap like he did. Slaney walks into the house where he murdered a man the night before, then is surprised to find Inspector Martin slapping handcuffs on him. Strangely enough, however, Abe Slaney starts to laugh.

"Well, gentlemen, you have the drop on me this time," he says, seeming somewhat amused. And why is Slaney so amused.

Remember how we mentioned earlier about no gun

being taken from Slaney by the police? Well, the single shot derringer was not the sort of thing Scotland Yard inspectors were used to looking for. Abe Slaney may have been handcuffed, but he still had the gun he used to kill Hilton Cubitt.

While it's true Watson tells us that "Abe, Slaney was condemned to death at the winter assizes at Norwich, but his penalty was changed to penal servitude," it is also true that Inspector Martin is never seen again after "The Adventure of the Dancing Men. Perhaps Watson didn't want his readers to know about the American gangster who made his escape after killing a Scotland Yard inspector. So it is that the solution of one mystery, the single cartridge problem solved by the single shot derringer, provides us with another mystery, the fate of Inspector Martin. Did Abe Slaney have the last laugh after all?

Mysteries within mysteries, however, are the bread and cheese of the Grand Game, so we'll leave that little bit of Sherlockian sustenance for another day.

Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Fay,
Rusty & Steve Mason



The First Adventures of Sherlock

Holmes and John Watson

Baker Street Elementary
Number 074 - 09/11/2016

Fay, Mason, & Mason

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I MUST SAY, THIS EPISODE
IS QUITE RIVETING.



WHAT ARE YOU GENTLEMEN
SO ENTHRALLED WITH?

AN "I HEAR OF SHAKESPEARE
EVERYWHERE" DISPATCH
FROM THE UNITED STATES.



A DISPATCH FROM AMERICA? Huh, MUST BE REALLY
POPULAR TO CATCH ON ALL THE WAY TO THIS
SCHOOL. HOW MANY DISPATCHES HAVE THERE BEEN?

THERE ARE 103 AT PRESENT.



THAT'S IMPRESSIVE. I ASSUME YOU GENTLEMEN
ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR ACHIEVEMENT?



CONGRATULATIONS ON
DISPATCH 103, SCOTT
AND BURT !!



The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 08 - August, 2016
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



From the Editors: Thanks for all your support. Steve & Walt

September 4th Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, September 4, at **LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE**, in Addison.

The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

We will be reading "The Final Problem."

The quiz will cover this tale.

Rusty Mason will present on "The Sherlock of my Childhood."

Each monthly meeting will also include toasts as well as general business, introductions, and general fellowship.

August 7th Meeting

There were 18 attendees on hand. An amazing toast was delivered by Bill Pervin, honoring Sir Robert Peel, Father of Modern Policing (see page 2).

Karen Olson won the Quiz, based on "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet", and was awarded a Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine and Sherlock's Logic.

Diane Tran gave a spirited and very informative presentation on the 30th Anniversary of "The Great Mouse Detective." Diane interned at Disney Studios, thus having a wonderful insight into the production process. In addition, Diane displayed her skills in a demonstration of developing a single art cell.

The group discussed further details for a fall symposium, theme to be "The Women of Sherlock Holmes," and will be held at the Allen Library, Allen, TX, on Monday, November 7.

The closing reading was "On the Name of Our Rose," from the December, 1986, Baker Street Journal (see page 3).

The full minutes may be viewed at our webpage: www.dfw-sherlock.org.

Thanks to Brenda Hutchinson for developing the minutes this month.

Saturday Night at the Movies was held on August 13 at the Piepers residence... we watched "The Great Mouse Detective," celebrating its 30th anniversary.



For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>

Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries
Historian
Webmaster

Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison
Pam Mason
Rusty Mason

mason.steve@epa.gov
waltpieper@att.net
221b@verizon.net
jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com
myrkrid08@yahoo.com

Just a month ago, five Dallas policemen were murdered while protecting a peaceful demonstration downtown. In respect to their memory, I would like to give a toast to the founder of Scotland Yard and the father of modern police forces - Sir Robert Peel. We should note that while Sherlock Holmes often spoke poorly about the detecting abilities of Scotland Yard, he never questioned their dedication, loyalty to the cause of justice, or their bravery.

Today it is hard to believe that Britain in the 18th century did not have a professional police force. Scotland had established a number of police forces following the introduction of the City of Glasgow Police in 1800 and the Royal Irish Constabulary was established in 1822, in large part because of the Peace Preservation Act of 1814 which Peel was heavily involved with. However, London was sadly lacking in any form of protective presence and crime prevention for its people as we entered the 19th century. In 1829, when Sir Robert was Home Secretary, the Metropolitan Police Act was passed, providing permanently appointed and paid Constables to protect the capital as part of the Metropolitan Police Force. The first thousand of Peel's police, headquartered at Scotland Yard, dressed in blue tail-coats and top hats, began to patrol the streets of London on 29th September 1829. The uniform was carefully selected to make them look more like ordinary citizens, rather than a red-coated soldier with a helmet.

In Britain today all policemen are commonly referred to as "Bobbies" ("Peelers" in Ireland). To be a "Peeler" the rules were quite strict. You had to be aged 20-27, at least 5' 7" tall, fit, literate and have no history of any wrong-doings. Early Victorian police worked 7 days a week, with only 5 days unpaid holidays a year for which they received the grand sum of £1 per week. Their lives were strictly controlled; they were not allowed to vote in elections and required permission to get married and even to share a meal with a civilian. To allay the public's suspicion of being spied upon, officers were required to wear uniforms both on and off duty.

Peel's "Bobbies" were a huge success and Peel served as Prime Minister twice. It was during one of his terms as Home Secretary he also reformed the criminal law, reducing the number of crimes punishable by death, and simplified it by repealing a large number of criminal statutes and consolidating their provisions into what are known as Peel's Acts. He reformed the prison system, introducing payment for jailers and education for the inmates.

Known as the "Father of modern policing", Peel developed the Principles which defined the ethical requirements police officers must follow to be effective. I believe today's world justifies taking the time to read them.

These 9 basic principles are often referred to as "The Peelian Principles." Upon close examination of each of them, not only are direct connections to policing in today's world apparent, but often the 9 principles are cited as the basic foundation for current law enforcement organizations and community policing throughout the world. Many law enforcement agencies currently quote the Peelian Principles on their websites as their own principles.

1. "The basic mission for which the police exist is to prevent crime and disorder."
2. "The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approval of police actions."
3. "Police must secure the willing co-operation of the public in voluntary observance of the law to be able to secure and maintain the respect of the public."
4. "The degree of co-operation of the public that can be secured diminishes proportionately to the necessity of the use of physical force."
5. "Police seek and preserve public favor not by catering to the public opinion but by constantly demonstrating absolute impartial service to the law."
6. "Police use physical force to the extent necessary to secure observance of the law or to restore order only when the exercise of persuasion, advice and warning is found to be insufficient."

7. "Police, at all times, should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence."
8. "Police should always direct their action strictly towards their functions and never appear to usurp the powers of the judiciary."

9. "The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it."
I find it quite amazing that at the very beginning, Peel articulated concepts that still today are most relevant. In his honor and in honor of the many fallen police, I propose a toast to the founder of Scotland Yard and the father of the modern police force: Sir Robert Peel.

ON THE NAME OF OUR ROSE

THE BAKER STREET JOURNAL – DECEMBER, 1986

THOUGH the author of the Sherlockian Canon was indisputably a moral man,



much given to sermonizing on ethical issues, the Holmes stories — for all their implied advice — are simply not didactic.

At the same time, however, there occur moments of excellent insight into the philosophical cosmos of Sherlock Holmes revealed in his own carefully chosen words. One of these appears in *The Naval Treaty* with the Master's celebrated observation: "What a lovely thing a rose is!"

The statement, and the elucidation that follows it, is Holmes's affirmation of the "goodness of Providence. It is

vitaly important, though, to note what Holmes notes that "... this rose is an extra."

This strikes us as evidence that his world is grounded in material reality, and is frequently less than lovely. For Holmes, the rose is a happy addition well beyond what is "really necessary for our existence."

In all probability, this attitude is not a major reason that the Holmes stories appeal, especially, to Americans. But it should be. Sherlock's rose is lovely precisely because it is an extra. Perhaps Holmes's pragmatic vision is a function of his being British: after all, Britons have a long tradition of survival, having clung onto a sometimes tenuous existence in a small island over the course of two millennia.

Americans, on the other hand, have traditionally

perceived their continent as an inexhaustible geographic resource and as a metaphor for absolutely unlimited possibility.

This tends to lead to the "promise that the rock of the world [is] founded securely on a fairy's wing."

That promise may have suited the later Conan Doyle, but it does not suit Sherlock Holmes. If not his being British, then certainly his scientism will not permit a fatal blindness to the difficult realities of life.

Just as Holmes, then, has "much to hope from the flowers," we have much to hope from Sherlock Holmes inasmuch as, for most Sherlockians, Holmes's world is not— and should not be — a paradigm of the cosmos.

It is an extra, a subtle and lovely extra. And the extras are, of course, what make life worth the living.

17 STEPS TO THE FINAL PROBLEM

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of the case at hand...

THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND ... WAIT A MINUTE!

A still-bereaved Watson writes: "My hand has been forced, however, by the recent letters in which Colonel James Moriarty defends the memory of his brother, and I have no choice but to lay the facts before the public exactly as they occurred. I alone know the absolute truth of the matter, and I am satisfied that the time has come when no good purpose is to be served by its suppression."

Two years after Moriarty's death, his brother has suddenly been moved to defend the late Professor's good name. Watson tells us at the story's end the colonel's defense cast aspersions on Sherlock, and the good doctor appears fairly outraged about those aspersions. But he knows very little about Moriarty, doesn't he? He can't even say for sure Moriarty killed Holmes or vice versa. Under close cross-examination, Watson couldn't even tell us with any real authority the detective and the mathematician didn't skip off along some mountain trail to sojourn in Cannes together. Is Watson a truly reliable source in this tale, when it comes to Moriarty?

PARANOIA MAY DESTROY YA, YEA...

Holmes is pale, thin, and spooky as he enters this tale. And when Watson asks him what's up, he holds out his scraped knuckles and says: "It's not an airy nothing, you see." Had Watson implied any airiness to Holmes's concerns? Is Holmes perhaps a bit overstressed, a bit over the edge, even for the



James Moriarty defends the memory of his brother, and I have no choice but to lay the

situation? Maybe not so far as the cocaine-induced dementia Nicholas Meyer suggested was behind this tale, but still, this is not the cool, collected Holmes as we have come to know him. Was this the first time that the cerebral consulting detective faced a foe who sent assassins after him?

HOW MUCH DID HE NEED TO RETIRE?

"Between ourselves," Holmes tells Watson, "the recent cases in which I have been of assistance to the royal family of Scandinavia, and to the French republic, have left me in such a position that I could continue to live in the quiet fashion which is most congenial to me, and to concentrate my attention upon my chemical researches."

Given Holmes's standard of living, the fact he wasn't sharing rooms, and the fact he wasn't all that old, how much money must Holmes have made from those past cases to put him in a position to retire?

THE PROFESSOR MORIARTY STORY, NEXT ON BIOGRAPHY

"His career has been an extraordinary one. He is a man of good birth and excellent education, endowed by nature with a phenomenal mathematical faculty. At the age of twenty-one he wrote a treatise upon the binomial theorem, which has had a European vogue. On the strength of it he won the mathematical chair at one of our smaller universities, and had, to all appearances, a most brilliant career before him. But the man had hereditary tendencies of the most diabolical kind. A criminal strain ran in his blood, which, instead of being modified, was increased and rendered more dangerous by his extraordinary



mental powers. Dark rumours gathered round him in the university town, and eventually he was compelled to resign his chair and to come down to London, where he set up as an army coach." Where did this young prodigy go wrong? One of the more ingenious parts of this tale is the way Moriarty is described in the vague, terrible fashion of a Lovecraftian horror than a specific sort of criminal. But for the practically-minded Sherlockian student, it holds little solid matter for chewing, melting away under close study like cotton candy in the rain. Diabolical hereditary tendencies means exactly what? A long family chain of addiction? Child abuse? Devil worship? What sort of crimes do we think Moriarty fell into? Sex crimes? Theft? Murder? What crime would have been best served by his extraordinary mathematical mind?

THE MORIARTY CAREER PATH

"He is the Napoleon of crime, Watson. He is the organizer of half that is evil and of nearly all that is undetected in this great city ... his agents are numerous and splendidly organized. Is there a crime to be done, a paper to be abstracted, we will say, a house to be rifled, a man to be removed--the word is passed to the professor, the matter is organized and carried out. The agent may be caught. In that case money is found for his bail or his defence. But the central power which uses the agent is never caught--never so much as suspected."

In the modern day, there are criminal organizations one can work one's way up the ladder in, like any other business. But for a man to build



such an organization from the ground up, as Moriarty did, where does one start? Did Moriarty have a business model of that time to work from, or was this a plan all his own? Did he always work through others, or was there a day when he performed the work himself?

AND THEN HE GAVE US “BLANCHED SOLDIER”

Holmes remarks, “I tell you, my friend, that if a detailed account of that silent contest could be written, it would take its place as the most brilliant bit of thrust-and-parry work in the history of detection.”

Why didn't Holmes write up that detailed account? Wouldn't it have been the first choice for a case he would put before the public, the best lessons for students of detection combined with a record of one of the most significant events in the history of crime? Why do writers of pastiche even shy away from this one? Is Moriarty's influence still active and suppressing it, even now?

COVERING MORIARTY WITH A COVERED PISTOL

Holmes tells Watson “I had slipped the revolver from the drawer into my pocket and was covering him through the cloth.”



Where are the pockets on a dressing gown? Are they large enough to conceal a pistol, and one that's actually pointed forward, at that? Was Moriarty being especially observant in thinking Holmes had a pistol in his pocket, or was it actually fairly obvious from the gun-barrel-shaped protrusion in the cloth? (Let's keep the Mae West style remarks to a minimum, ladies and gentlemen.)

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

Moriarty reports: “You crossed my path on the 4th of January. On the 23rd you incommoded me; by the middle of February I was seriously inconvenienced by you; at the end of

March I was hampered in my plans; and now, at the close of April, I find myself placed in such a position through your continual persecution that I am in positive danger of losing my liberty.” Yet earlier in the story, Watson reports letters and news accounts placed Holmes in France during the early spring. Were they ruses to cover undercover work Holmes was doing in London? Or did Moriarty have concerns in France that were key to Holmes in bringing down his London organization?

THE FULL EXTENT OF ONE MAN'S ORGANIZATION

The evil professor brags “You stand in the way not merely of an individual but of a mighty organization, the full extent of which you, with all your cleverness, have been unable to realize.”

Might this statement have been made to Moriarty as well? The professor undoubtedly had many a corrupt government official under his cloak, but did he have any idea of the official we know Holmes had working with him? Did Sherlock Holmes use brother Mycroft as a trump card? Did Mycroft use exposing Moriartian corruption inside the government to further his own career?

JUST HOW BAD WAS PROFESSOR MORIARTY?

While the depth of Moriarty's evil is written up in vague and unspecific terms by Watson, Sherlock Holmes surely saw it all. And to me, the outrage it sparked in this cool logical machine of a man can be seen in a single statement that comes after Moriarty says Holmes can't beat him without destroying himself: “If I were assured of the former eventuality I would, in the interests of the public, cheerfully accept the latter.”

Is this just a fine, heroic statement, or a yardstick measuring the depth of the pain and misery Moriarty had inflicted upon London? Holmes didn't care enough about rich men's money or the noble classes to

give his life to stop embezzlement and theft? Might there have been a single moment in Holmes's investigation, an act he traced to Moriarty so vile that Holmes's case immediately became a to-the-death priority?

LONDON ITSELF TURNS ON HOLMES

A 2-horse van tries to run the detective down. A brick comes falling from a rooftop at his head. A rough with a bludgeon assaults him on his way to Watson's. These acts imply a certain knowledge of Holmes's movements. Was Holmes sticking to his daily routines, even while at war with the Moriarty empire? Was he doing it on purpose? He fears air-guns when he arrives at Watson's house -- why wasn't an air-gun sniper used instead of one of those earlier methods? It's plain that Holmes knew of Moriarty's main assassin, Moran, but was Moran out of town?

DETAINING THE “SUSPECT”

Holmes tells us a bit about how he dealt with the rough with the bludgeon: “I knocked him down, and the police have him in custody.” We are not told what happened between those two events. How did Holmes detain the man until the police arrived? We know Holmes knocked his teeth in with his fist, but did he then pull a gun and hold him at gunpoint? Would Holmes have handcuffed him once the rough was on the ground? Or just do something as simple as putting a foot on some strategic point and simply pinning the man to the ground while he whistled for the law?



THE SAFETY OF BROTHER MYCROFT'S ROOMS

Holmes explains, “I took a cab after that and reached my brother's rooms in Pall Mall, where I spent the

day." Were Sherlock and Mycroft actively plotting, consulting, and deducing the entire day? Or was Holmes just hiding out, and if so, what made Mycroft's rooms so safe?

BACK TO PALL MALL OR WHERE?

"You will spend the night here?" asks Watson.

"No, my friend, you might find me a dangerous guest," replies Holmes. So where does Holmes spend the night on this most dangerous occasion? Not in Baker Street, as Holmes says Moriarty's men would not have thought him there if they had kept track of him. Did any of his little refuges across London afford him the protection he needed, if he had been followed?

THE GREAT BAKER STREET FIRE



"They set fire to our rooms last night. No great harm was done."

As with so many things in "The Final Problem," this little statement leaves us begging for the tale behind it. We've often heard how Baker Street was a mess, crowded with piles of paper. Was there ever a more perfect place to set fire to? And if Holmes wasn't home, how was that fire discovered so quickly as to contain it? Did the setting of it involve something like a Molotov cocktail thrown through a window, in which case the mere act of setting it would raise an alarm? Or were Mrs. Hudson, maid, cook, page, etc., all informed of the danger they were in, and thus were on their guard? (One note -- Holmes refers to them as "our" rooms, even when Watson is away and married. If Watson was in the same habit, that throws one more monkey wrench into a chronological speculation.)

WHY DOES MORIARTY WANT HOLMES SO BADLY?

"Glancing back, I saw a tall man pushing his way furiously through the crowd, and waving his hand as if he desired to have the train stopped."

Holmes has told Watson the tall man was Moriarty himself. After all the subtle attacks we've seen, and the fact that Moriarty is reputed to distance himself from actual crime, what was the professor going to do if the train had actually stopped? Follow Holmes himself? Kill Holmes there at the train station? Or did he have some new threat to deliver, along the lines of, "We have Watson's wife and we'll kill her if you don't stop the investigation now!?" The apparent need for personal contact would imply a message, wouldn't it? Or is Holmes's later supposition of a murderous attack at Canterbury hold true for the train station as well?

WHY IS HOLMES SO SURPRISED AT MORIARTY'S ESCAPE?

On the Monday morning of his flight from Moriarty, Holmes telegraphs the London police to find Moriarty has escaped capture. He curses and tosses the reply away, apparently expecting a better result. Now, just a few days before, Holmes was telling Watson that Moriarty would hire a special to chase them (which the Professor does), go on to Paris where Holmes's luggage is, and wait two days for them there. Why is he then so surprised that Moriarty is not in London on Monday? He's already said he expects the professor to be in Paris. Had Holmes expected that the French police might catch him?



IT TAKES MORE THAN 17 STEPS TO GET TO REICHENBACH

"Your memoirs will draw to an end, Watson, upon the day that I crown my career by the capture or

extinction of the most dangerous and capable criminal in Europe."

After these words Watson was still going to end his accounts with "Naval Treaty." Why leave out Holmes's crowning achievement?

"We had strict injunctions, however, on no account to pass the falls of Reichenbach, which are about halfway up the hills, without making a small detour to see them."

Was Peter Steiler the elder really being a helpful tour-guide, or was he actually directing the two into a trap at Moriarty's command? "There was Holmes's Alpine-stock still leaning against the rock by which I had left him." What's the deal with Holmes and Moriarty and their seeming insistence on a fair fight? Even if Holmes wasn't carrying a gun, why not whack the kill-crazed Moriarty with his stick, something Holmes was an expert with?

"Tell Inspector Patterson that the papers which he needs to convict the gang are in pigeonhole M., done up in a blue envelope and inscribed 'Moriarty.'"



This statement was left on a note, sitting in the open, that conceivably could have been picked up by a Moriarty who had just killed Sherlock Holmes. Is it the truth or just a ruse?

"An examination by experts leaves little doubt that a personal contest between the two men ended..." What experts? And what was their area of expertise?

"It is due to those injudicious champions who have endeavoured to clear his memory..."

At the beginning we were told that Colonel James Moriarty, brother to the professor, was the one defending the mastermind. Here it sounds like there were others. Who might they have been?

LONDON ON ELEVEN SHILLINGS A DAY

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

The canon references a variety of coins and their nicknames, common enough for the Victorian reader, but quite confusing for those in the twenty-first century. Even more perplexing was the basis for system, a non-decimal classification involving dozens and scores, instead of the decimal system introduced in 1971. When Dr. Watson reported a daily income of eleven shillings and sixpence after he returned from India, (1) what did that exactly mean to the Victorian reader and how does a modern one interpret it?

The British monetary system was based on the penny, the shilling, and the pound; and coins were minted in various portions and quantities of those. (2) The penny, the oldest, can be traced back to a seventh-century thick, silver Anglo-Saxon coin referred to as denarii. (3)

The variations on the penny, the plural being pence, include the:

- Farthing (one-fourth of a penny), introduced during the reign of Edward III (1312-1377)
- Halfpenny, entered into circulation in 1672
- Twopence, minted only in 1797 of two pence worth of copper (4)
- Groat (four pence), introduced during the reign of Edward I (1272-1307) and then issued on an irregular basis until 1856 when minting ceased in the UK (5)
- Sixpence, also known as a tanner, first issued in 1551 with a value of half a shilling (6)

The shilling—or bob—was a silver coin worth twelve pence and first minted in 1504. The different denominations are:

- The florin, or two shillings, a failed attempt in 1849 to replace the half-crown
- The double florin (four shillings), one of the most short-lived coins, being minted only between 1887 and 1890 (7)

- The half-crown, worth two shillings and sixpence, first issued in 1465 and only demonetized in 1969.
- The crown, worth five shillings—or one-quarter pound—first minted in 1707 (8)
- The half sovereign, ten shillings, first introduced in 1544, discontinued in 1604, but reintroduced in 1817 (9)

The pound coin, or sovereign, was equal to 20 shillings (or 240 pence) and was made of gold. The guinea, worth twenty-one shillings, was discontinued in 1813, but people still used the term when referring to the cost for luxury goods. (10)

This 1200-year-old system changed in 1971 when the country shifted to a decimal system. On February 15, 1971, the pound became equal to 100 “new” pence. The government also issued a five pence and ten pence piece (about the same size as the shilling and the two shilling coins) after withdrawing the halfpenny and half-crown in 1969, and devaluing the farthing in 1960. (11)

The new system as well as different standards with respect to prices and goods makes the translation of Victorian costs into twenty-first century currency difficult. (12) MeasuringWorth.com has broken the concept into “(1) the type of transaction or asset, called the ‘subject’ and (2) the appropriate comparable, called the ‘indicator.’ Which measure (that is, which of the alternative results) best represents an amount depends on proper identification of both the subject and the indicator.” The “subject” can be prices, income or wealth, or project. The indicators are prices, household consumption, income, and output. Dr. Watson’s daily income of eleven shillings and sixpence, translates into a variety of different amounts, ranging £375 as a weekly standard of living to £6,210 as the share of the GDP in 2015.

If the most appropriate measure is accepted as the weekly standard of living (“a fixed amount of food, housing, clothing, entertainment, etc., that is proportional to what the average household consumes”), then the £375 appears most telling. (13) The current median income in the UK is £569.33/week, and the poverty level for a single person is £206/week (60% of the median income). This translation of Watson’s income would put him below the median income, but above the current poverty level by only 6 percentage points. (14)

The cost of living for one person in London is about £605/week. (15) This translates into a required standard of living of between £6 and £7 per week in 1881. With Dr. Watson’s daily income translating to a little more than £4/week, it is clear living in

London would have put a strain on his resources. Seeking shared quarters was certainly the prudent answer for his desire to remain in the city and resulted in a life-long friendship with the most famous consulting detective in the world.



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- (1) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* (Kindle Location 382).
 - (2) Sally Mitchell, *Daily Life in Victorian England* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996), 30.
 - (3) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_English_penny_\(c._600_%E2%80%93_1066\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_English_penny_(c._600_%E2%80%93_1066))
 - (4) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two_pence_\(British_pre-decimal_coin\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two_pence_(British_pre-decimal_coin))
 - (5) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groat_\(coin\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groat_(coin))
 - (6) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixpence_\(British_coin\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixpence_(British_coin))
 - (7) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double_florin
 - (8) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown_\(British_coin\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown_(British_coin))
 - (9) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Half_sovereign
 - (10) Sally Mitchell, *Daily Life in Victorian England* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996), 31.
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 - (13) <https://www.measuringworth.com/worthmeasures.php>
 - (14) <http://www.poverty.ac.uk/definitions-poverty/income-threshold-approach>
 - (15) <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2008/jul/02/welfare>

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the Bilge Pump) and sign up for her newsletter at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

56 Stories in 56 Days - The Adventure of the Final Problem

Posted on October 12, 2011 by barefootnbakerstreet

This story is of such importance, I feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the task, writes Charlotte Anne Walters. Well, where to start? I suppose it's best to start with Moriarty himself as he appears for the first time in this story. And with this I have a bit of a problem. It just feels a bit hurried, like Conan Doyle had decided to finish off Holmes and needed to quickly invent a villain suitable for such a task.

Why haven't we heard of him before? If Moriarty was truly working away in the background for all those years doing his villainy, why is this the first time Holmes mentions him? And the other problem, which readers of my previous blogs will know, is I find the description of Moriarty's inclination towards criminality very simplistic. To say, as Holmes does, he has, 'Hereditary tendencies of the most diabolical kind' and 'A criminal strain ran in his blood', is very naive. Surely someone who has studied criminality in as much detail as Holmes would know such things are not hereditary. So what really did turn the brilliant math professor to crime? Well, I have tried to answer this very comprehensively in my novel and it is based around the idea he is an autistic savant.

There is much evidence to support this in the original text, such as his, 'Phenomenal mathematical ability', the way that 'He does little himself' and stays withdrawn from society instead paying and facilitating others to do the criminal acts for him. Even the curiously oscillating head

could be seen as a sort of twitch, or compulsion. I have tried to flesh-out and give much more detail to this fascinating man and create a back-story to fill in the blanks left by the Final Problem.

As to the rest of the story, it does all feel a little hurried to me but is still gripping, clever and actually rather emotional. The devotion which Watson shows is touching, and I remember how well David Burke portrayed this in the Granada adaptation. I must also mention how fantastic I thought the characterisation of Moriarty was in BBC's Sherlock – making him into a playful, flirty, camp but deadly villain was a stroke of absolute genius in my opinion. I do hope to send the creators a copy of my book and will post up a blog with their feedback if they are kind enough to submit any and happy for me to do so.

I admit during the writing of Barefoot, I pictured Moriarty as being a curious mix of Eric Porter, who played the character so well in the Granada version, and Mr Burns from the Simpsons (though obviously not yellow) with his bird-like features and domed forehead. That particular combination seemed to work quite well for me.

My own novel includes The Final Problem in great detail and I have tried to stick to the movements of the



original as much as possible, just adding in my own characters and weaving it into my own narrative. Holmes is working with the French Government and the adventure starts in Narbonne, the very place which Holmes writes to Watson from in the original. I hope this section is a good example of where the astute Holmes fans will spot many original references such as getting the continental express from Victoria and disembarking at Canterbury, to the argument in the Strasbourg sale-a-manger when Holmes warns of the dangers ahead and expresses his desire to travel alone. By adding a new take on the proceedings and a back-story which explains so much, I hope readers will enjoy it too whilst Holmes fans will appreciate the detail included and the way this has been adapted into something new whilst retaining elements of the original.

I spent so many hours slaving over this and my Penguin Complete Sherlock Holmes has so many notes, underlining, highlighting and drawings on the pages of The Final Problem that they are now almost impossible to read. But, re-read it I have, and I must admit that it remains very enjoyable (especially as we know it isn't really the end) and absorbing. Though how it must have felt to those reading it when it was first published and there was no hope at that point of a return, I can only imagine.

8.5 out of 10. Despite all the good points and obvious significance it still felt a bit rushed and underdeveloped.

An Inquiry Into "The Final Problem"

Murray, the Courageous Orderly (a.k.a. Alexander Braun), Hounds of the Internet

"The Final Problem" was first published in December 1893 in "The Strand Magazine."

According to Baring-Gould's chronology, as set down in The Annotated Sherlock Holmes, Second Edition, 1974, the case takes place on Friday, April 24, to Monday, May 4, 1891. At the time Holmes was 37 years old and Watson 35.

Notable Quotes:

"Between ourselves, the recent cases in which I have been of assistance to the royal family of Scandinavia, and to the French republic, have left me in such a position that I could continue to live in the quiet fashion which is most congenial to me, and to concentrate my attention upon my chemical researches."

"He is the Napoleon of crime, Watson. He is the organizer of half that is evil and of nearly all that is undetected in this great city. He is a genius, a philosopher, an abstract thinker. He has a brain of the first order. He sits motionless, like a spider in the centre of its web, but that web has a thousand radiations, and he knows well every quiver of each of them."

"He is extremely tall and thin, his forehead domes out in a white curve, and his two eyes are deeply sunken in his head. He is clean-shaven, pale, and ascetic-looking, retaining something of the professor in his features. His shoulders are rounded from much study, and his face protrudes forward, and is forever slowly

oscillating from side to side in a curiously reptilian fashion."

"I think that I may go as far as to say, Watson, that I have not lived wholly in vain. If my record were closed to-night I could still survey it with equanimity. The air of London is the sweeter for my presence. In over a thousand cases I am not aware that I have ever used my powers upon the wrong side."

"If I have now been compelled to make a clear statement of his career, it is due to those injudicious champions who have endeavoured to clear his memory by attacks upon him whom I shall ever regard as the best and wisest man whom I have every known."

Moriarty's Brother

I've always wondered what kind of a defense Professor Moriarty's brother attempted to use to clear his dead brother's name. One must assume that when Holmes set things up to allow the police to take apart the professor's organization, there must have been extremely abundant evidence of crimes to secure all the necessary convictions. Paramount in this evidence had to be proof of the complicity of the planner and designer who headed the mighty criminal organization. The fact that Moriarty avoided the long arm of the law, together with a couple of his top people, proved him skillful at his craft, not innocent of his crimes.

Since his part in all the illegal activities must have come out during what must have been a

series of sensational trials, what sort of defense could his brother have attempted? A particularly puzzling aspect is Watson's comment about the trials: "Of their terrible chief few details came out during the proceeding." Why? How could that have been? One would think that the evidence against Moriarty--even though he was dead by that time--would have been of prime importance, if for no reason other than he had planned the crimes for which the accused were being tried.

The Professor's Curious Hesitancy

If we are to believe Holmes (and there is no reason not to) Professor Moriarty was *the* criminal mind of his age, and had "a mighty organization" at his command, one would have thought that the man was extremely pragmatic, and prepared to deal with any inconvenience. Why, then, did he hesitate to do something final to stop Holmes in his tracks well before the Great Detective had him "absolutely hampered" in his plans? While Holmes had to struggle to find out who Moriarty was, the Professor would not have had that problem with his archenemy thanks, to a great extent, to Watson's writings. A quick, anonymous shot in the back of the Great Detective's head would have kept him from his downfall. Why would he stay his hand until things began getting serious?

An Act of Friendship?

Holmes' fear of air guns shows that he was very aware that he was a marked man. Why, then would he risk Watson's life? It might have been understandable if there had been anything that the Good Doctor might have contributed in bringing Moriarty down, but there wasn't; according to Holmes everything was in motion and all that was required was to wait for the legalities to take their course. So why endanger Watson by asking him to travel to the Continent with him? Why not, for instance keep his priestly guise and go hide in the Vatican? It almost seems as if Holmes did not realize the true danger until he learned that Moriarty escaped the police when they closed in on his gang.

The Whale and the Sardines

When Watson suggests to Holmes, after narrowly escaping Moriarty, that the professor be arrested, the Great Detective answers that to do so would ruin the work of three months: "We should get the big fish, but the smaller would dart right and left out of the net." So what? If Holmes had decapitated the organization by having Moriarty detained, wouldn't the body collapse? The "smaller fish" would have been easier to net afterward.

What else happened in 1891:

EMPIRE

- Australian demands for trade protection and unification.
- Anglo-Portuguese Convention on East Africa.
- Nyasaland becomes British Protectorate.

- Bering Sea Arbitration Treaty signed.
- Anglo-Italian Agreement; spheres of influence defined in Northeast Africa.
- Indian Mint closed to silver.
- British South Africa Company granted use of port of Beira by Portugal.

BRITAIN

- November 4, First half-tone newspaper picture published in Daily Graphic: that of George Lambert, Liberal parliamentary candidate.
- Waterlow Park, gifted by Sir Sydney Waterlow, opens. 
- Palace Theatre, Cambridge Circus, opens.
- Steam trams discontinued.
- James Keir Hardie elected MP, first Independent Labour Party Member.
- Brooklands Agreement. Basis for wage negotiations in cotton industry.
- Independent Labour Party newspaper, The Clarion, published.
- All elementary education to be free.
- Factory Act: no child under 11 to work in factories.
- Small Holdings Act, County Councils are empowered to purchase land for letting as small holdings under 50 acres.
- Sebastian Z. de Ferranti builds Deptford power station for the London Electricity Supply Corporation.

WORLD

- Germany develops first pension scheme.

- Boulanger commits suicide in Brussels.
- French Labor Department formed; Labor Exchanges projected.
- French fleet pays official visit to Kronstadt; Franco-Russian entente.
- Massacre of Europeans following Arab revolt in Belgian Congo.
- Plan to introduce universal military service in Holland Fails.
- Triple Alliance, Germany, Austria, Italy renewed to 1902.
- Law for Protection of Workers, restricted hours for German workers.
- Republican uprising in Oporto fails.
- Formation of Young Turk Movement to secure liberal reforms. Committee established at Geneva. 
- Maxim Gorky urges class war in Russia.
- Bank failures in the U.S.A. and Australia.
- Bank of Portugal Suspends payments for 60 days.
- Widespread famine in Russia.
- Building of Trans-Siberian Railway commenced.

ART

- Gaughin travels to Tahiti.
- The Little Minister, Barrie.
- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle.
- Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Hardy.
- Lyra Heroica, Henley.
- The Light That Failed, Kipling.
- Quintessence of Ibsenism, G. B. Shaw.

- Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde.
- Le Jardin de Bérenice, Maurice Barrès.
- Les Cahiers d'Andre Walter, André Gide.
- Là-bas, Huysmans.
- Einsame Menschen, Frühlings, Frank Wedekind.
- Gösta Berling, Selma Lagerlöf.
- Man with Pipe, Card Players, Cézanne.
- Women on the Beach, Vahini with Gardenia, Paul Gauguin.
- Caisse-Noisette, incidental music for Snow-Maiden, Peter Tchaikowsky.

SCIENCE

- Dewar liquifies oxygen in quantity.
- Beginnings of wireless telegraphy based on work of Clark Maxwell and Hertz.
- René Panhard, French, produces his car chassis.
- Tesla further develops his high-tension induction coil--one million volts.
- American astronomer George Hale and Deslandris independently invent the spectroheliograph.



- Tuffier, of Paris, performs early lung operation for tuberculosis.
- Eugene Dubois discovers Pithecanthropus erectus.
- W.L. Hudson, American, invents zipper. First practical design in 1913.
- Whistler writes, The Gentle Art of Making Enemies.
- Paul Claudel presents Tête d'Or.
- Stefan George writes, Hymnen.
- Arno Holtz writes, Die Familie Selicke.
- Ibsen writes, Hedda Gabler.
- Zola writes, La Bête humaine.

Story Info Pages for "The Final Problem"

McMurdo's Camp, <https://mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com/>

- **First published:** Strand Magazine, Dec 1893; McClure's Magazine, December 1893
- **Time frame of story (known):** Begins on Friday, April 24, 1891 (stated clearly)
- **H&W living arrangements:** After Watson's marriage and subsequent start in private practice, the very intimate relations which had existed between H&W changed. Holmes still saw Watson from time to time, but these occasions grew more and more seldom, until in 1890 there were only three cases of which Watson kept any record.
- **Opening scene:** Holmes came to see Watson on the evening of April 24th. Watson's wife was away upon a visit. Holmes was looking even paler and thinner than usual. Two of his knuckles were burst and bleeding, and he was worried about air-guns. He closed the shutters and announced his intention to leave the house by scrambling over the back garden wall. Holmes proposed Watson should come away with him for a week to the Continent. Holmes told Watson of the arch-criminal, Moriarty, who sat motionless, like a spider in the centre of its web, a deep organizing power which forever stood in the

way of the law, and threw its shield over the wrongdoer, and was the deep organizer of half the evil and of nearly all that was undetected in the great city. In appearance, Moriarty's face protruded forward and forever slowly oscillated from side to side in a curiously reptilian fashion. Not only that, but he had puckered eyes.

- **Client:** Holmes was acting in his own interests, and for the good of society as a whole.
- **Crime or concern:** Immediate concern was several potential murderous assaults made upon Holmes. Big picture concern was the large-scale organized crime empire run by Professor Moriarty.
- **Villain:** Professor Moriarty, the Napoleon of Crime.
- **Motive:** Holmes extensive investigation and evidence-gathering was about to bring down the Moriarty organization. Moriarty wanted to kill Holmes to prevent this, and was an especially dangerous foe.
- **Logic used to solve:** Holmes felt the presence of the force, and deduced its action in many of those undiscovered crimes in which he had not been personally consulted. For years he endeavoured to

break through the veil which shrouded it, and at last the time came when he seized the thread and followed it, until it led, after a thousand cunning windings, to ex-Professor Moriarty. Holmes devoted his whole energy to exposing and breaking it up.

- **Policemen:** None mentioned except some who examined slates and bricks that had fallen near Holmes from a roof under repair, which they believed the wind had toppled over. Also some Swiss experts who examined the foot-marks near the falls and verified Watson's conclusions.
- **Holmes' fees:** NA
- **Transport:** Holmes gave Watson instructions to take a hansom the next morning to the Lowther Arcade, and then quickly switch to a small brougham to reach Victoria in time for the Continental express. H&W then departed by train to Dover, to catch the boat to Calais. Moriarty engaged a special to chase them, but H&W got off at Canterbury. Moriarty sped through to Dover. H&W then took train to Newhaven and made their way at leisure into Switzerland, via Luxembourg and Basle, encouraging the manufactures of the countries through which they traveled, since their luggage had gone on to Paris.
- **Food and Drink:** No mention.
- **Vices:** When he called upon Watson at the beginning, Holmes drew in the smoke of his cigarette as if the soothing influence was grateful to him.
- **Other cases mentioned:** STUD & NAVA. Also noted that Holmes was engaged by the French government in a matter of extreme importance, and had assisted the royal family of Scandinavia.
- **Notable Quotables:** "The air of London is the sweeter for my presence." – SH

- "Danger is part of my trade." – SH
- "Let me pay you (a complement) in return when I say that if I were assured of the former eventuality (Holmes' destruction of Moriarty) I would, in the interests of the public, cheerfully accept the latter (Holmes' own destruction)." – SH to Moriarty
- "Of late I have been tempted to look into the problems furnished by nature rather than those more superficial ones to which our artificial state of society is responsible." – SH
- **Other interestings:** A worthy sidelight to this case is Holmes' and Moriarty's decision-making logic on getting off the train to Canterbury and Calais. There is an article on this subject here on McMurdo's Camp web site. See "Decision on the Dover Train" in the sidebar on the right, under Trifling Monographs. Some classic but very simple mathematical reasoning is involved.
- When all was said and done: Once in Switzerland, S&H detoured to view the falls of Reichenbach. Watson was lured away by a phony message to help an English patient. Upon learning of the ruse, Watson returned to where he left Holmes. Two lines of footmarks were clearly marked along the farther end of the path near the cliff, both leading away. There were signs of a scuffle, and no tracks returning. The inevitable conclusion was that Moriarty had followed Holmes, they struggled, and both fell into the abyss. Holmes left a note before the scuffle, courtesy of Moriarty, who awaited the final discussion of those questions which lay between the two men. Any attempt at recovering the bodies was absolutely hopeless.
- Watson regarded Holmes as the best and the wisest man whom he had ever known.

JUPITER DESCENDING

Rosemary Michaud, *The Holmes/Watson Report*, January, 1998

I found an idea. You will notice I didn't say I thought of it myself. No, I found it lying around - I practically tripped over it, to tell the truth - so I picked it up, dusted it off a bit, and took a good look. The owner's name is clearly printed on it, and I promise I'm going to return his idea to him immediately upon the conclusion of this article. But it's the bonniest, brightest little idea I've seen in a long while, and I just want to hold it up to the light for a few minutes, to see how it glints and sparkles. When I tell you the rightful owner of the idea is Ronald Knox, you'll see why I don't think he would object to my borrowing it for a few minutes. As one of the founding "fathers" of the Great Game, I think he might be pleased to know his writings have not lost their power to intrigue and instruct.

You see, I recently read *Baker Street Studies*, the collection of classic Sherlockian articles edited by H. W. Bell. I had read it once some years ago, after I found the 1934 edition at an antiquarian book fair. These days it is much easier and far less expensive to obtain a copy, thanks to Otto Penzler's publication of this and several other erstwhile rarities of scholarship - an effort which ought to have earned him a knighthood, in my opinion, if we were a country with knighthoods to bestow.

Thanks to Sir Otto, anyhow, I was able to bring a paperback copy of *Baker Street Studies* along to read on the subway, something I wouldn't dream of doing with the original edition. The article that particularly caught my attention this time around was "The Mystery of Mycroft," in which Mgr. Knox made a number of utterly compelling arguments showing Mycroft Holmes was on the wrong side of the law, and he was probably none other than the informant called "Porlock," the weak

link in Moriarty's criminal chain. I recommend you read Knox's article without delay, but in case you don't have it close at hand, let me review the important points for you:

Mycroft's ability to supply his brother with some of his "most interesting cases" seems farfetched for a civil servant with a boring daily routine; but makes perfect sense if Mycroft was himself a criminal.

Mycroft's actions during the case of "The Greek Interpreter" are those of a man who is working in the interests of the criminals. How else are we to explain his various attempts to delay Sherlock's pursuit to Beckenham, not to mention the newspaper advertisement with which he signaled Mr. Melas's betrayal?

It was only natural for Sherlock to conceal his criminal brother's existence even from his closest friend. When he did introduce Mycroft to Watson, the timing of the event suggests Sherlock's hand was forced by the coming showdown with Moriarty, when it was almost certain Watson was going to have to find out about Mycroft anyway. As his reward for the successful recovery of the missing letter in "The Second Stain," Sherlock requested the reinstatement of his now-repentant brother into government employ, and by the time of the theft of the Bruce-Partington plans, Mycroft had settled down and made himself indispensable in a position of great authority and trust.

It's great stuff! This explains why Sherlock never mentioned his brother unless he absolutely had to, and also why, despite Mycroft's brilliance and his eventual position of clandestine power, he "will receive neither honour nor title." The mystery of Mycroft is solved! Or is it?

Well, you knew I was going to have to put in my own two cents, didn't you? It's not that I have the gall to argue with the theories of the

great Knox; it's just I think he didn't go far enough. Actually, I think he may have deliberately held back, because the next logical conclusion from all his evidence would have been too controversial in those earlier days of Sherlockian studies. Granted, it's controversial enough to think of Mycroft being mixed up in crimes like the affair that cost the life of the innocent Paul Kratides. But there is something worse than Moriarty's minions, and you know what that is as well as I do: Moriarty himself.

I don't actually mean to say Mycroft was the same person as the former mathematics professor, the tall, thin man with the oscillating head. There really was an individual named Moriarty. He wrote abstruse mathematical treatises, and he once explained eclipses to Inspector MacDonald. The real Moriarty was involved in criminal activity, too; Sherlock would surely never have named a completely innocent man as a criminal. But you'll recall from *The Valley of Fear* how Sherlock cautioned Watson to keep 'mum about the professor's crimes, because "in calling Moriarty a criminal you are uttering libel in the eyes of the law." He obviously didn't want Watson broadcasting that "Napoleon of Crime" business all over town - at least not yet.

Let's put Moriarty on the back burner for a moment and return to Mycroft. If we follow the excellent reasoning by which Mgr. Knox proved Mycroft to be a criminal in the first place, then I think we must ask ourselves if it was likely a man of Mycroft's personality and genius would have been content to remain a mere criminal pawn or underling. No, I think that Mycroft was too proud, too well aware of his own abilities.

Watson's accounts of the interaction between the two Holmes brothers convey the impression

Mycroft was the favored child. He was the elder, of course, and even Sherlock admitted Mycroft was the more brilliant of the two. Did their parents spoil Mycroft and cater to his every whim? According to his brother, Mycroft had "no ambition and no energy," and "would rather be considered wrong than take the trouble to prove himself right." So there he was: self-satisfied, too clever by half, and very much accustomed to getting his own way without making the effort to apply his intelligence to any definite task.

Through his family connections, he got an entry-level auditing job in the government. How boring and inconsequential it must have seemed to a man who was so utterly convinced of his own great talents! Mycroft probably tried to get his superiors to give him something challenging to do, but where do you think that got him? I don't think we would be far wrong if we were to assume that they gave him the bureaucratic equivalent of a pat on the head - and then assigned him an extra load of grunt work, in an attempt to keep him too busy to make any more trouble.

We may imagine, therefore, that Mycroft turned to crime largely from a sense of frustration and resentment. From the very first, he must have realized that his talents lay in planning crimes, not in carrying them out, and so he gathered about him a small cadre of operatives, whom he trained in his own special methods. I believe that he started out with the intention of perpetrating only non-violent, white-collar crimes: embezzlements, investment schemes, real estate swindles, savings and loan frauds, and so forth. He wasn't particularly interested in making money, however; to him it was a game, one in which he always

emerged the winner over the sort of mediocre minds who had frustrated his hopes of a brilliant career in government. From time to time, he also found it amusing and advantageous to set his detective brother onto the trail of his various criminal competitors.

But the enterprise got out of hand. Word of his brilliance spread through the criminal underworld, and Mycroft's empire grew with uncontrollable rapidity. To fund his ever-expanding organization, he needed constant infusions of capital, and so the crimes became more varied and more likely to lead to violence: safecracking, smuggling, railway hijacking, extortion. Then, as his empire grew larger still, his competitors began to resent his power - all the more bitterly, if they suspected his penchant for informing against them. No doubt some of them tried to test his strength. It became necessary for Mycroft Holmes to hire his own "muscle," if only to protect himself from his challengers.

It was inevitable that even more violence resulted.

Perhaps Mycroft began to fear the consequences of the impending battle with his particularly strong new rival, James Moriarty. Or perhaps the elder Holmes brother was inspired with a genuine feeling of remorse as he witnessed the cruel death of poor Paul Kratides. But whatever the cause, Mycroft finally decided that he wanted no more of it. Where else would he turn for help but to his crime-solving brother Sherlock? There is little doubt that Sherlock Holmes had been aware of his brother's double life for some time before this.

Perhaps his pleas and warnings had helped Mycroft to see the error of his ways. Of course they both knew that Mycroft could not simply walk away from the world of crime; to do

so would have meant certain death at the hands of either his rivals or his former employees. Then, too, there was the penalty of the law to consider, or rather, in Mycroft's case, how to avoid it. And perhaps Mycroft was also thinking about some way to make at least partial reparation for the harm his crimes had done.

The Holmes brothers worked it all out between them. Sherlock would help Mycroft avoid prison time if Mycroft agreed to help him round up as many of his cohorts as possible and bring them to trial.

The emergence of Moriarty and his rival gang provided an effective cover for their plan. The entire process may have taken years to accomplish, but eventually the Mycroft Holmes organization was dissolved, dozens of criminals were arrested, and Moriarty was lured to his death at the Reichenbach Falls.

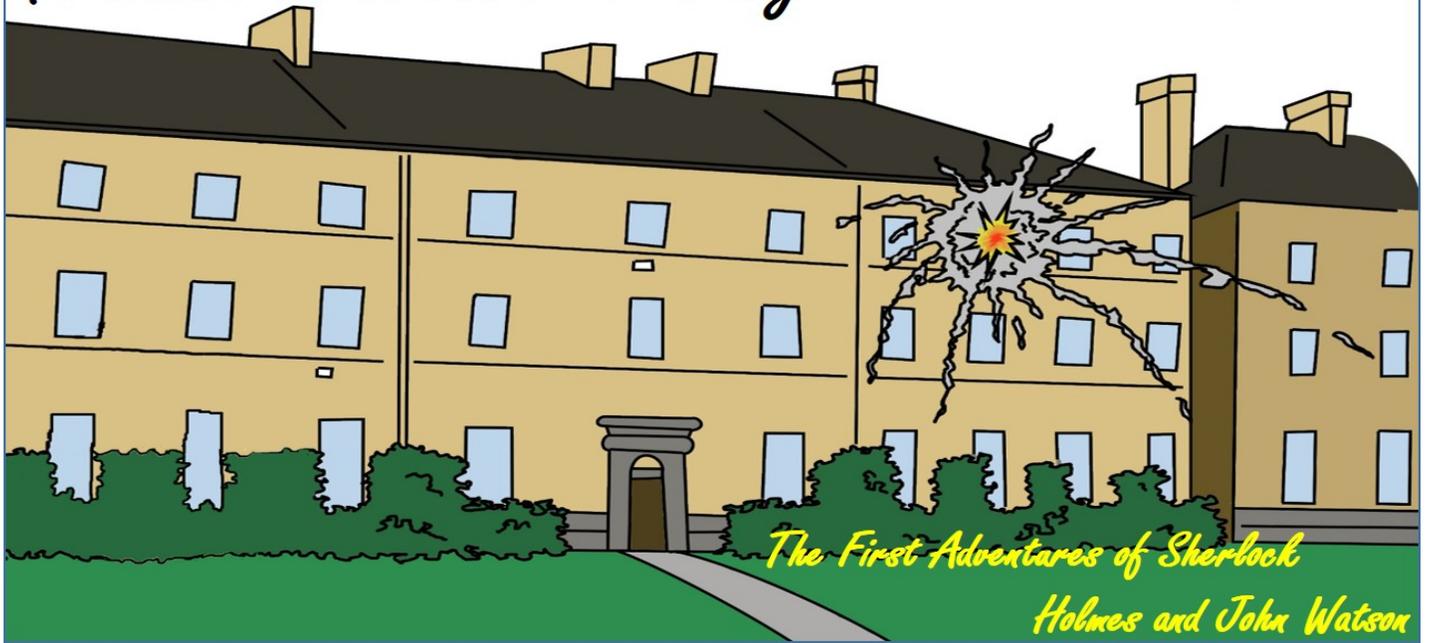
The Holmes brothers spent three years in exile together while things cooled down. Sherlock's "Napoleon of Crime" story - told to Watson in the certain knowledge that he would eventually publish it - was meant to give still more credence to the idea that Moriarty and no one else, least of all Mycroft Holmes, had been the central power in the London underworld all along. Upon their return to London, Sherlock Holmes embellished the Moriarty story still further, covering his brother's tracks yet again by implying that his brother had never left England at all.

Mycroft Holmes, a criminal! The whole idea is incredible to our minds, but perhaps that only proves how well he and Sherlock covered up the truth. If you still don't believe it's possible, I just have one thing left to say:

"Don't Knox it if you haven't tried it."

Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Fay,
Rusty & Steve Mason



The First Adventures of Sherlock

Holmes and John Watson

Baker Street Elementary

Number 069 – 08/15/2016

MA'AM, IF WE LEARN
FROM OUR MISTAKES,
LOGICALLY, SHOULDN'T I
MAKE AS MANY MISTAKES
AS POSSIBLE EACH DAY
IN CLASS?



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The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 07 - July, 2016
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



From the Editors: Thanks for all your support. Steve & Walt

August 7th Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, July 3, at LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE, in Addison.

The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

We will be reading "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet."

The quiz will cover this tale.

Diana Tran will present on the 30th anniversary of "The Great Mouse Detective."

Each monthly meeting will also include toasts as well as general business, introductions, and general fellowship.

July 3rd Meeting

There were 14 attendees on hand. The opening toast was delivered by: Steve Mason, honoring The Norwegian Explorers and the University of Minnesota for hosting "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" Conference in June.

Karen Olson won the Quiz, based on "The Adventure of Silver Blaze", and was awarded Sherlock Holmes in the Newspapers, volume 2.

Charles Olson gave a wonderful presentation on the influence of Edgar Allen Poe on Arthur Conan Doyle, including references in the Canon of Poe's creations.

Steve Mason gave a review of his presentation at the Minnesota Conference.

Don Hobbs also gave a review of the Conference itself.

The group discussed further details for a fall symposium, theme to be "The Women of Sherlock Holmes."

The closing reading was "The Deerstalker," from the June, 1975, Baker Street Journal (see page 2).

The full minutes may be viewed at our webpage: www.dfw-sherlock.org. Thanks to Pam Mason for developing the minutes this month.



For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>

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Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries
Historian
Webmaster

Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison
Pam Mason
Rusty Mason

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THE most recognizable emblem of Mr. Sherlock Holmes is his deerstalker cap. Beyond doubt, the Great Detective affected one upon occasion (the authentic color for which, I suggest, was gray, to match the travelling-cloak with which he wore it in Boscombe).

Indeed, an 1886 illustration of the lounge-car in the fabled Orient Express prominently features what can only be a clay pipe-smoking Holmes in his cloak and cap, attended by an earnest Watson—a year before the publication of *STUD* and fully five years before Sidney Paget placed the deerstalker on Holmes's head in a Strand Magazine drawing!

This new visual evidence surely must destroy once for all the cynical notion of Paget's having invented a deer-stalkered Sherlock (see *Smithsonian*, March 1979, pp. 136-37).

Because of its connection with the Sage of Baker Street, the deerstalker cap has enjoyed a peculiar sort of attention, having been transmuted, for Sherlockians at least, from the proper headgear for rough expeditions into something akin to laurel leaves.

To the uninitiated, however, the honorable fore-and-aft is, alas, perhaps more than a bit comedic—owing principally, one suspects, not so much to its connection with the Canon's Holmes as to that with the parodied Holmes of popular culture.

This turn of events is a sad one, since it has had the effect of discouraging hundreds of dedicated Sherlockians from fulfilling a fond fantasy: wearing deerstalkers themselves.

At any large gathering of Sherlockians, a scattering of deerstalker caps occurs, under some of which one can find those who are so fanatically devoted to Holmes's memory that they wouldn't dream of leaving their caps at home.

In addition, there are those so committed to play that they don't care how it all "looks." And then there are those who frankly don't seem to know that there's

anything odd in a deerstalker at all. Huzzah for the lot of them!

But for the greatest number of us . . . well, there is safety in numbers, and we might don the deerstalker now and again — in the company of others so doing— and cast about us occasional, guilty, side-long glances to see who is looking and whether or not they wear bemused or hilarious expressions.

More commonly, like a legion of forlorn Prufrocks, we simply succumb: we dare not disturb the universe, and our deerstalkers that beg for some sunshine or fog lie limply on the bookshelf next to a well-worn copy of the Canon.

Now. Have I articulated anything that is not true for any but the most curmudgeonly of Sherlockians?

The question on the floor, then: Shall we wear— yes, actually wear — our deerstalkers at Sherlockian convocations, perhaps even daily?

The answer: Certainly.

Sherlock Holmes wore his when it pleased him. Christopher Morley was not loath to sport one for photographers from national magazines, nor were other of our Founding Fathers.

But, one may cry, those were other days, more innocent times. Today we are more sophisticated, the dictates of fashion change, and this is neither 1895 nor 1935.

There is but one sensible reply to this remonstrance: It is always 1895.

And then, especially in the United States today, where athletic "warmup" suits are considered (by some, at any rate) to be appropriate attire for public wear, a deerstalker cap, even in town, is conservative.

Moreover, the deerstalker is the emblem not only of Sherlock Holmes, but also of Sherlock Holmes's disciples.

Dedication to Sherlockiana bestows upon the individual the right to imitate the Master in this particular way.

Go thou and do likewise.

17 STEPS TO THE BERYL CORONET

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of the case at hand...

THE FINE ART OF PAVEMENT-SCRAPING

Watson writes: "Down the centre of Baker Street it had been ploughed into a brown crumbly band by the traffic, but at either side and on the heaped-up edges of the foot-paths it still lay as white as when it fell. The gray pavement had been cleaned and scraped, but was still dangerously slippery ..."



While snow removal might not be a topic of interest to Hounds in warmer climes, the snow-blower fans among us have to wonder what Victorian Londoners did when the white stuff started to pile up. In this tale, the streets seem to be left for traffic to deal with, but the sidewalks on Baker Street have plainly had a shovel's attention, though salt was not something Londoners wasted on the sidewalks.

Was this the general state of things? Did the city government have to clear the streets on occasion, did the city shut down after a big snow, or were the citizens industrious enough to clear things themselves?

Holder speaks of the cabs going slow through the snow, so it almost sounds like the streets were left alone -- was this the case?

ALEXANDER HOLDER SYNDROME

The client in this case is not a man who handles stress well.

He is running "hard" "occasional little springs," jerking his hands up and down, wagging his head, contorting his face, swaying his body, plucking at his hair, and beating his head against the wall ... hard.



Then, after all this, he mops his brow, composes himself, and tells Holmes a story about one of the "most exalted names in England."

When Holmes and Watson accompany this man home, are they really thinking this is a serious case to be undertaken, or are they just accompanying the loon home to find who cares for him and advise them to keep a tighter rein on him?

Is Holder's behaviour within the boundaries of what we could expect from a man in his situation, or is he just plain nuts and will remain so once the business of the coronet is finished?

FAMOUS BANKERS OF LONDON

After his introduction to Holder, Watson writes: "The name was indeed well known to us as belonging to the senior partner in the second largest private banking concern in the City of London."

Why is Watson so familiar with the senior partners of private banks?

Would Holder have been in Watson's social circle? Would Holmes and Watson have known of Holder through some professional matter, and if so, did it involve an untold tale?

Or were prominent bankers more of a celebrity then than now?

EVALUATING THE VALUABLES

Banker Holder, in explaining his work, says: "there are many noble families to whom we have advanced large sums upon the security of their pictures, libraries, or plate."

While we're all familiar with the prices great works of art or metals can bring, I'm sure the



thought of nobles being advanced great amounts of money based on their libraries intrigues the bookmen and bookwomen among us.

What sort of books would the nobles have in their libraries that would be of such high values back in Victorian London?

What was their equivalent of a first edition Harry Potter or Beeton's Christmas Annual?

THE ILLUSTRIOUS BERYL CORONET

In this tale, everyone appears to have heard of everyone and everything that comes up. When Holder's mysterious client asks, "Y ou have doubtless heard of the Beryl Coronet?"

Holder recognizes the name immediately, citing it as "One of the most precious public possessions of the empire."

Would a gold coronet of thirty-nine beryls really be that precious in comparison to other crown jewels of England? And if it was that well known, as well as a public possession, wouldn't it have been on display somewhere?

Or were such things displayed? Sherlockians have often tried to identify nobles that Watson supposedly changed the names of, but has anyone ever ventured a theory on the true identity of the Beryl Coronet?

THE STRANGE SCANDAL OF THE NON-SCANDAL

Once again we find Sherlock Holmes supposedly averting a massive public scandal, only to have Watson publish the whole mess a few years later in the Strand Magazine. The matter takes a deeper turn,



however, when one considers that Alexander Holder called in the police about the missing piece of coronet and had his son arrested.

How was it the papers never picked up on that little bit of news? How many people knew of the broken coronet and how it came to be in Holder's hands?

If the mystery client was somehow able to cover up the scandal of the broken coronet, would it have been any harder to cover up a coronet with a piece missing?

ACCEPTABLE SECURITY OR DANGEROUS GAME OF LET'S PRETEND?

We assume that the fellow who used the Beryl Coronet as collateral showed up on Monday with the 50,000 pounds (and whatever interest was due).

But what if something had gone wrong and he hadn't been able to come up with the cash?



What would "the second largest private banking concern in the City of London" have been able to do about it? If the Coronet is a "public possession," wouldn't they be charged with receiving stolen property if they tried to sell it or ransom it back to the government somehow?

Did the involvement of the Coronet have any true value in this deal, or was Holder merely going through the motions to placate the whims of some impractical royal?

AND THE PLOT THICKENS ...

As one delves further into "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet," one begins to notice further oddities, such as the way Holder's client says plainly of the coronet, "Any injury to it would be almost as serious as



its complete loss, for there are no beryls in the world to match these,

and it would be impossible to replace them."

He seems to make a point of spelling out almost exactly what will wind up happening to the coronet, which makes one wonder if the whole thing wasn't some sort of set-up.

Could Alexander Holder have been the target of some conspiracy to get him thrown out of his position at the second largest private bank in London?

Or might such a plot have had more far-reaching effects than that?

INBREEDING AMONG WELL-BRED VICTORIANS

"Twice my boy has asked her to marry him, for he loves her devotedly, but each time she has refused him," Alexander Holder says of his son Arthur and his adopted daughter Mary (his brother's daughter).



As much as we hate to see Mary Holder running off with a scoundrel like Burnwell, she does at least seem to have sense enough to stay away from her first cousin.

How common and accepted was marriage between first cousins in the Victorian era?

At what point did it gain the social stigma and illegal status it has today?

THE ADVENTURE OF THE STREATHAM VAMPIRE

Dr. Watson describes Mary Holder thusly: "She was rather above the middle height, slim, with dark hair and eyes, which seemed the darker



against the absolute pallor of her skin.

I do not think that I have ever seen such deadly paleness in a woman's face.

Her lips, too, were bloodless, but her eyes were flushed . . ."

While it's true Mary Holder has every reason to be a little pale, the way a medical doctor describes her as

"deadly" pale beyond anything he has seen before tends to make a more fanciful sort such as myself wonder. Was there something more than jewel thievery going on here? Consider the facts about Sir George Burnwell.

He is only encountered at night in this tale. He has a hypnotic "glamour" that is so powerful Alexander Holder can only think about him objectively when he is nowhere nearby.

He has the strength to bend and break off a piece of a coronet that a healthy young man cannot bend back into its original state. And associating with him seems to have drained all the blood from Mary Burnwell.

Might "Sir George" have actually been a certain foreign nobleman trying to reclaim a personal treasure stolen from him centuries before?

Is the love triangle of Lucy, Arthur, and "Sir

George" a bit too close to the triangle of Lucy Westenra, Arthur Holmwood, and Count Dracula?



Might the pseudonym "Burnwell" have referred to one of the traditional methods of destroying Dracula's kind? Or, as in the case of a certain Mrs. Ferguson, is this all mere coincidence?

CROWNS VERSUS FIREPLACE POKERS

What exactly was the beryl coronet made of? A little gold, thirty-nine beryls . . . whenever the broken off corner is referred to, gold is the mentioned material.

Yet it took the strength of two men to break it between them, and when Sherlock Holmes tries to break off the other corner, it doesn't even bend . . . and here was a man who could bend a fireplace poker.

Why was this thing so tough?

MIXING OF THE SOCIAL STRATA

Holmes explains that he "went in the shape of a loafer to Sir George's house, managed to pick up an acquaintance with his valet, learned that his master had cut his head the

night before, and, finally, at the expense of six shillings, made all sure by buying a pair of his cast-off shoes."

Just how does a bum strike up an acquaintance with a gentleman's valet?

Does he just walk up to the back door and see if any of the hired help wants to loaf with him?

And wouldn't the six shilling offer mark Holmes as something other than a loafer, in which case, why the disguise to begin with?

Wouldn't the straight-off bribe work just as well?



THE DECOR OF THE NOBLE RUINED GAMBLER'S HOME

Sir George Burnwell is said to have "took down a life-preserver from the wall."

Now, we know Holmes isn't speaking of a white ring with "S.S. Minnow" printed on it, but why would Sir George have such a thing on his wall?

Were such blunt instruments decorative in the least?

NO BARGAINS FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES

Does it strike anyone else as odd that Holmes has a gun to a criminal's head, then offers him a thousand pounds each for stolen gems that the detective could have stolen back with seemingly little criminal consequence?

Or that Holmes actually does wind up paying that same amount to a fence to get the gems back, when the police are well aware of the

matter and could have accompanied him to just take them back?

For a man we often accuse of being overly criminal, Sherlock sure doesn't seem to want to treat the real criminals unfairly in this tale.

Or did he actually take the gems and pocket the three thousand when he finally got it?

Would Sherlock have had been walking around with three thousand of his own money in his pocket when he went to see Burnwell to begin with?

A THOUSAND POUNDS AND NO TRICKS

Whether or not Holmes kept the three thousand he supposedly paid for the gems, he did clear a tidy thousand pounds in this case.



He also turns over the gems with very little drama. No breakfast table surprises.

No slipping it in the client's coat pocket or back in the dresser. Did the prospect of that thousand pounds take precedence over any dramatics Holmes might have otherwise tried?

A TIME FOR SNOW AND ICE

With all the talk of beryls and snow in this tale, one can't help but think of "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle," another tale featuring winter and jewelry.

The matters of the Mazarin Stone and the Borgia pearl both took place in summer.

The Musgrave and Agra treasures both appeared (and subsequently

disappeared) in the fall. Upon casually surveying the Canon, however, there don't seem to be any tales of precious stones taking place in the spring.



Is this just coincidence, or did Watson have something against thinking about gems in the springtime, which made he leave

out such chronicles of that season?

With his love of the ladies and quick-to-fall-in-love nature, did he steer clear of diamonds in the spring out of bachelor self-defense? (Yes, it's a reach, but at question sixteen, any straw seems quite grabbable.)

MEANWHILE, BACK IN A STINKING JAIL CELL . . .

While it seems quite natural that Holmes might forego his usual tricks in his haste to get his reward, what about poor young Arthur Holder?



Sure, Holmes stops in at the jail at about one a.m. to tell the young fellow that everything is going to be fine, but shouldn't he be doing something about getting the boy out?

Holmes then heads home to the comfort of his non-jail-cell bed, and then sometime after nine when Papa Holder finally shows up, Holmes gets his check, tells his tale, and then lets the banker run off to get his son out of the lockup.

Couldn't things have been handled a little more expeditiously for the young man's sake?

Spreading the Word

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

Throughout the canon, Holmes and Watson constantly communicate with each other, law enforcement officials, and clients through letters and telegrams sent and received throughout the day, often with replies coming only a few hours after the first is sent.

Given its speed and efficiency for sending and receiving messages, the communication system developed in Victorian England has been labeled the precursor of the present-day Internet. (1)

Until the mid-1800s, a family member who traveled or moved away from home quickly lost touch with those who remained behind.

A letter was simply beyond the reach of many.

The British Post Office was established in 1682 and was used from its inception as a source of revenue to finance, among other things, the almost constant warfare with France. When national finances lagged, the cost of mailing a letter would increase. (2) The charge was based on the distance and number of pages sent, often adding up to more than the lower-class daily wage.

The burden was also on the recipient to pay the postage. (It being considered unseemly to prepay the service and suggest the recipient wasn't able to afford it.) To reduce costs, the writer might turn the page horizontally and write perpendicular to the original text and use a wax seal to avoid the added charge of an envelope. Another trick would be to include a code on the outside of the letter.

The recipient would get the message, but avoid the charge by refusing the letter's receipt. (3)

Eighteen thirty-seven became a watershed year for communications in Britain and the world.

During her first year as monarch, Queen Victoria created a committee, chaired by Rowland Hill, to study the postal problem.

He had already noted issues such as that mentioned above as well as the unnecessary cost of letter carriers having to make numerous trips to deliver and collect postage when the recipient was not at home.

In response, he proposed a uniform pre-paid postal rate of one penny.

In 1840, the Penny Post was inaugurated, allowing for any letter up to one ounce to be sent

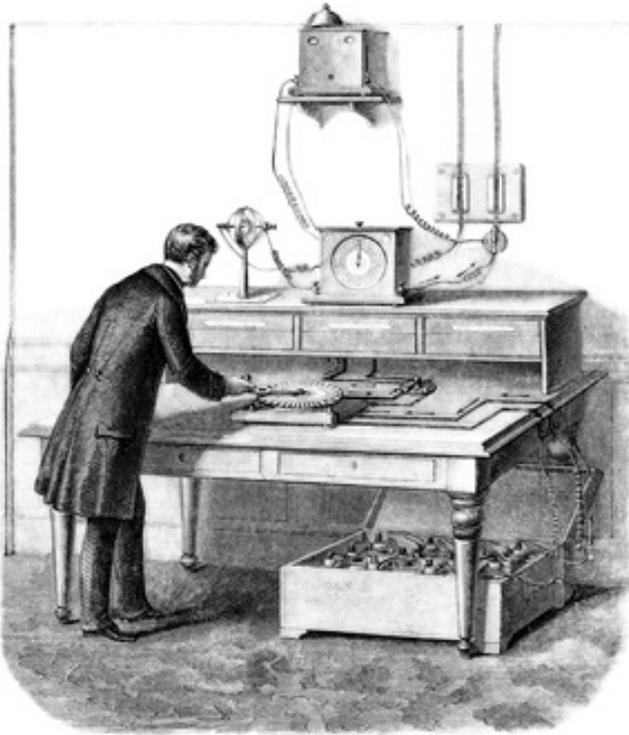


throughout the country for a penny. (4)

In May, 1840, the pre-paid postage stamp was introduced along with pre-paid envelopes, called "Mulreadies" after a well-known artist who illustrated them. (5)

Also in 1837, Charles Wheatstone and William Cooke demonstrated the first electrical telegraph, sending messages between Camden Town and Euston railway stations (about nineteen miles apart). Their device involved using an electrical current to create an electromagnetic field to move needles located on a grid containing 20 of the 26 letters of the alphabet to spell out messages.

At first, the system was used to send information along railway lines to monitor trains' locations, but its commercial value was soon



Samuel Morse, Alfred Vail and Leonard Gale who are credited with the world's first global telecommunications network.

These men had been working on their own electrical telegraph using a single cable and code of "dots" and "dashes" to send messages.

They only got around to patent it in 1840, but its greater simplicity moved them ahead of the Wheatstone and Cooke device. (7)

Until the introduction of the Penny Post and telegraphy, the speed of communication had not changed significantly from Roman times.

With the advent of Hill's reforms, the volume of mail increased exponentially, leading to numerous deliveries each day (twelve in London and elsewhere at least six).

And telegraphed messages traveled even faster.

A murderer known to have boarded a train at one station was apprehended upon his arrival at Paddington Station after the police received a telegram with his description. (8)

For Holmes and Watson, such speed served them with the rapid responses needed as they sent enquiries across the city, country, and the world.

Receiving additional information in a matter hours often gave them that one essential bit needed to solve a mystery.

recognized and the devices were installed in post offices across the country to send other messages as well. (6)

The Wheatstone and Cooke device, however, required six electrical cables, and while they were able to reduce the number over time, it was

1) Tom Sandage, *The Victorian Internet*. (New York: Bloomsbury, 1998).

2) <http://www.victorianweb.org/history/pennypos.html>

3) <http://www.victorianweb.org/technology/letters/intro.html>

4) <http://www.victorianweb.org/history/pennypos.html>

5) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mulready_stationery

6) https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Electrical_telegraph&oldid=723236853

7) <http://www.cntr.salford.ac.uk/comms/ebirth.php>

8) Ibid

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the *Bilge Pump*) and sign up for her newsletter at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. GODZILLA

Thanks to Bill Pervin for alerting us of this production...



Holmes and Watson fight the greatest evil yet in this spooflicious comedy. Time travelers, a fictional giant lizard and a villain from drive-in movies challenge our deductive hero with evil and seduction of every stripe. Watson helps as best he can but is distracted by the call of the wild in the form of both automaton seductresses and an unwillingly cross-dressed assistant.

In the end, Holmes must face Godzilla and his own goey inner demons to save the world from its farcical fate.

Sherlock Holmes vs. Godzilla premiered at the Pocket Sandwich Theatre. It won the 2011 Steve Lovett Award for Outstanding New Work by a Local Playwright.

Sherlock Holmes vs. Godzilla was revived at PST in August, 2013.

"Tossing political correctness overboard in a cascade of tossed popcorn and a parade of Stepford-style shebots, Ben Schroth proves once again that reason trumps brute strength, as long as there are plenty of doughnuts! Sherlock Holmes v. Godzilla reinvigorates the jelly-filled dimension of eternal truth and exploitation."

---Alexandra Bonifield, Critical Rant and Rave

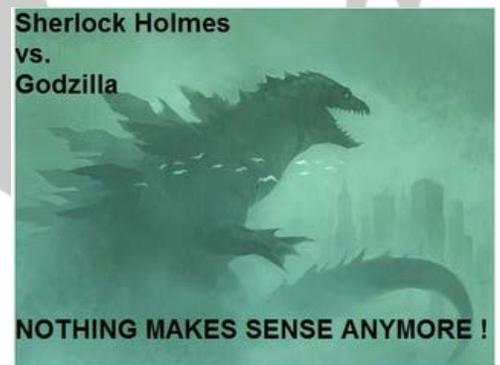
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56 Stories in 56 Days - The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet

Posted on September 30, 2011

by barefootonbakerstreet



Homes is full of energy in this one, analysing footprints at great length, charging around in disguise and even holding a gun to the head of a villain – it's like a film by Guy Ritchie, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

The story of private banker Alexander Holder loaning money to a royal personage and keeping the priceless beryl coronet as security, takes on a dramatic turn when parts of the jewel go missing and he catches his son with the remainder in his hand beside the bureau from which it had been taken. As is often the case, all against the wayward young man looks hopeless and only Holmes is confident of his innocence.

We then follow Holmes as he unravels the mystery and finds the missing stones in his own unique way. This involves lots of detailed footprint analysis, disguising himself as a common loafer and having a sprightly exchange with the real villain who is a typical cad – a sort of Dorian Grey type who has made the banker's niece fall so in love with him that she would betray her own family for him.

I have always enjoyed the escapism element to the Holmes stories, the way they draw you into another time and it's not just the narrative which captures the reader, but also the settings, the epoch itself.

At the start of this story Watson paints such a lovely scene that for a moment you are right there with him in the sitting room at 221B with Sherlock Holmes, a fire burning in the grate, cosy and warm as snow lays on the ground outside and a bitter wintery air pervades over Victorian London.

The story is also noteworthy for containing the famous line spoken by Holmes – 'When you have excluded the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.'

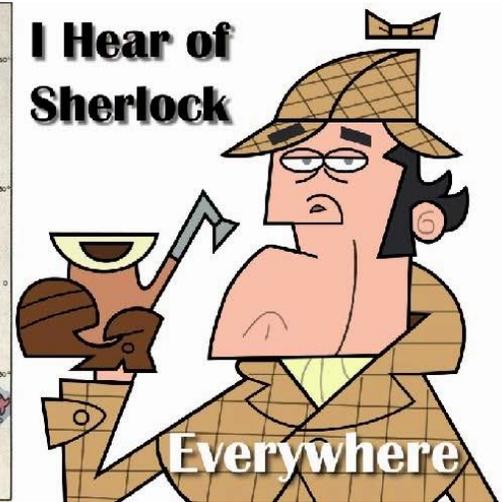
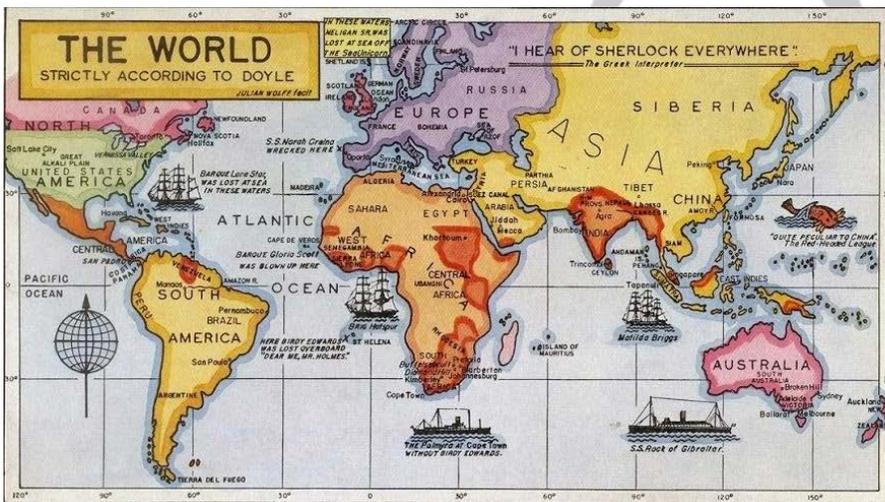
Also rather noteworthy, but for a less positive reason, is the incestuous love the son has for his cousin. This is made even more-so by the fact that his father really wanted them to marry, even though she was like a daughter to him and called him Dad. Was marriage between first cousins acceptable then in Victorian times?

I thought they were more prudish than modern society and such a thing would have been unthinkable but clearly I am wrong.

I have to say that I did feel a bit sorry for poor Mary at the end, running away with a ruthless player and losing her family, certain to face much heartache. Yes, I know she probably deserved it after stealing the coronet and handing it to him but haven't we all done foolish things for love at least once in our lives?

Good deduction, love, incest and family troubles – what more can you want in a story? – 7 out of 10.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: I HEAR OF SHERLOCK EVERYWHERE ON THEIR UPCOMING 100TH EPISODE



As the creators of the program, Scott Monty and Burt Wolder, have said, "The 100th episode of I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere is set to be published on **July 15, 2016**. It's been nine years in the making, and we're looking forward to celebrating with you."

www.ihose.com

An Inquiry Into "The Beryl Coronet"

Murray, the Courageous Orderly (a.k.a. Alexander Braun), Hounds of the Internet

"The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet" was first published in The Strand Magazine in May 1892. According to Baring-Gould's chronology, as set down in The Annotated Sherlock Holmes, Second Edition, 1974, the case takes place on Friday, December 19 to Saturday, December 20, 1890.

At the time Holmes is 36 years old and Watson 38.

Notable Quotes:

"It is an old maxim of mine that when you have excluded the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."

The Brown Crumbly Band

At the opening of the story, Watson writes that "Down the centre of Baker Street [the snow] had been ploughed into a brown crumbly band by the traffic..."

You didn't want to throw snowballs in London back then, because a large percentage of the "brown crumbly" stuff was horse manure.

Nineteenth-century cities depended on thousands of horses for their daily functioning. London in 1900 had 11,000 cabs.

There were also buses, each of which required 12 horses per day.

This does not take into account the countless carts, drays, and wains, all working constantly to deliver the goods needed by the rapidly growing population of the largest city in the world.

Considering that the average horse produces 15 to 35 pounds of manure per day, it is unsurprising

that the streets of all great cities were layered with it.

In the warmer months, this attracted battalions of flies and the dried and ground-up manure was blown everywhere.

In 1900 New York, its population of 100,000 horses produced 2.5 million pounds of manure per day, all of which had to be daily swept up and disposed of.

In 1898 the first international urban-planning conference convened in that city and closed after only three days, instead of the scheduled ten, because the delegates could see no solution to the growing crisis posed by the output of urban horses.

The problem appeared intractable--the larger and richer cities became, the more horses they needed to function.

In a letter to *The Times* of London in 1894, a reader estimated that in 50 years every street in London would lie under nine feet of manure.

Moreover--he added--all these horses had to be stabled, requiring ever-larger areas of increasingly valuable land.

As the number of horses grew, he warned, more land would have to be devoted to producing hay to feed them, rather than producing food for people, and this had still to be brought into cities and distributed by horse-drawn vehicles!

Urban civilization was Time frame of story (known/surmised): doomed, he concluded. Thank heavens for the internal combustion engine!

The National Treasure

When asked by his illustrious client whether he has heard of the Beryl Coronet, Holder replies that it is "One of the most precious public possessions of the Empire."

According to the client, the coronet consisted of "...thirty-nine enormous beryls, and the price of the gold chasing [was] incalculable."

He added that the lowest estimate would put its worth at £100,000 (~\$3.0 million today).

Whenever we discuss this case, it always disturbs me that Holder's client (identified by many Canon scholars as most likely being "Tum-Tum," (a.k.a. HRH Albert Edward, Prince of Wales) was playing fast and loose with public property.

It appears the coronet was just as much national property as the Crown Jewels or Buckingham Palace.

Victoria herself would not have had the authority to hock either.

There is no need to go into HRH's proclivities, but Holder should have known better.

Conceivably, he could have been accused of receiving stolen goods; note that HRH avoided claiming that he had any right to use it as security, just that he "should not dream of doing so were it not absolutely certain that I should be able in four days to reclaim it."

Just having a key to the jewel box doesn't mean you can dispose of someone else's (i.e., British subjects') property.

Holder's Concern

Holder is panicked by the thought that something might happen to the precious coronet and wisely locks it in his private office safe.

Then, before he leaves, he decides that the bank isn't sufficiently secure, so he removes the diadem from a steel safe, takes it home with him and locks it in a flimsy wooden bureau that anyone can open.

Only then does he breathe a sigh of relief!

He has decided that it is safer to keep it in his possession during his comings and goings to and from the office than in a bank safe.

Considering that he did not even keep a carriage of his own, this goes beyond idiotic!

Then, as if this weren't enough, he reveals the story and whereabouts of the coronet to his household in such a careless manner that it is probable that he has been overheard by the maid.

Does the term "twit" fit or not?

Stimulating the Scandalous Occurrence

Holder made it clear that he realized that if anything happened to the coronet the result would be "a scandal which would convulse the nation."

So when it is stolen instead of proceeding discreetly, possibly by first contacting the illustrious borrower, he raises a hullabaloo ("... it had ceased to be a private matter, but had become a public one, since the ruined coronet was national property") by calling in the police, having them arrest his own son as a thief, and as icing on

the cake, offering a £1,000 reward for the missing jewels, an attention-attracting amount.

If that is not begging for a scandal, nothing is!

While one might justify Fleet Street missing the news item of so many redheaded folk congregating in one spot (REDH) it seems rather impossible that they would not have looked into this little brouhaha.

If discretion is a requirement for his profession, Holder should start perusing the want ads!

The Coronet's Condition

Incredibly, Holder shows little if any distress over the condition of the Beryl Coronet--broken and bent out of shape.

One must recall that it was specifically stated that *any* injury to it would be almost as serious as its complete loss.

So whence Holder's lightheartedness over the considerable damage?

Did he expect that HRH would have had to keep quiet about the wrecking of a national treasure to avoid scandal?

Couldn't the same have been true had the coronet not have been recovered?

What else happened in 1890: EMPIRE

- Helgoland ceded to Germans.
- Work of Rhodes Pioneers begun in Southern Rhodesia.
- Britain annexes Uganda.
- Britain recognizes French Protectorate over Madagascar.
- Treaty of Busah: improved Franco-British relations in West Africa.
- Zanzibar Settlement: Tanganyika becomes Imperial

Germany Colony; Germany excluded from Upper Nile; British Protectorate over Zanzibar.

BRITAIN

- Parnell vindicated of Phoenix Park murder charges; ruined by O'Shea divorce petition; rejected as leader of Irish Nationalists in Commons, resigns.
- Omnibus strike in London settled on basis of 12-hour day.
- January 4, Daily Graphic launched, first daily illustrated paper. Merged with Daily Sketch in 1926.
- Horniman Museum opens.
- First part of Rosebery Avenue opened.
- Dulwich Park, gifted by Dulwich College, opens.
- Vauxhall Park opens.
- City and South London Railway from Stockwell to William Street, first deep level tube railway.
- London-Paris telephone line opened.
- Financial panic in London and in Paris.
- Lunacy Act gives management of asylums to visiting committees.
- Housing of Working Classes Act.
- Sir B. Baker and Sir J. Fowler complete cantilever Forth Bridge (for railway) at Queensferry, near Edinburgh; length 1.3 miles.
- Gilbert writes, Original Comic Operas.
- Barry writes, My Lady Nicotine.
- Booth writes, In Darkest England.
- Caine writes, Bondman, a Novel.

- Sir James George Frazer writes, *The Golden Bough* (to 1915).

- Morris writes *News from Nowhere*.

- Sir William Watson writes, *Wordsworth's Grave*.

WORLD

- Bismarck dismissed.
- German control over East African territories.
- Wounded Knee massacre.
- Idaho and Wyoming are admitted into the Union.
- Workmen in France allowed compensation for contracts broken by employers.
- William III of Holland dies; Luxembourg passes to Duke of Nassau.
- Fall of Bismarck; Caprivi made Imperial Chancellor; start of personal rule of William II.
- Zemstva Law in Russia; limited franchise in local government; excluded intellectual professions.
- Russia attempts to limit Finnish Control over customs and money.
- First meeting of Japanese Legislature under new Constitution.

- French miners to elect delegates to supervise safety while working.

- In Chicago, the first entirely steel-framed building erected.

- French Explorer Monteil's journey Niger-Kano-Tchad-Tripoli; completed 1892.

- First Chinese cotton mill constructed.

- Olderbank Clubs in Italy suppressed.

ART

- Franck, Belgian organ composer dies.

- Cézanne paints *Mme. Cézanne in the Conservatory*.

- Degas paints *Dancers in Blue*.

- Pietro Mascagni writes *Cavalleria Rusticana*.

- Van Gogh paints *Portrait of Dr. Gachet, Street in Anvers*, dies.

- Prince Igor, commenced by Borodin (dies 1887), completed by Glazunov and Rimsky-Korsakov.

- Tchaikovsky composes *Queen of Spades*.

- Whistler writes, *The Gentle Art of Making Enemies*.

- Paul Claudel presents *Tête d'Or*.

- Stefan George writes, *Hymnen*.

- Arno Holtz writes, *Die Familie Selicke*.

- Ibsen writes, *Hedda Gabler*.

- Zola writes, *La Bête humaine*.

SCIENCE

- Bertillon publishes *La photographie judiciaire*, in which he explains his anthropometry.

- Emil von Behring, German bacteriologist, discovers immunity to tetanus can be given by use of serum; introduces name "antitoxin."

- Halstead, at John Hopkins Hospital, first to use rubber gloves in surgery.

- Moving-picture films, precursor of cinematography (q.v., 1894) shown in New York.

- Cyanide process of preparation of gold from crude ore developed in South Africa.

- Lockyer's theory of stellar evolution.

- P. Rudolph's anastigmatic camera lens.

- Discovery of Cleopatra's tomb.

Story Info Pages for "The Beryl Coronet"

McMurdo's Camp, <https://mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com/>

- First published in: The Strand Magazine, May 1892
- Time frame of story (known/surmised): February – year not given, likely mid-1880's.
- H&W living arrangements: Sharing bachelor quarters at 221B Baker St.
- Opening scene: A well-dressed portly gentleman runs down the street from the train station to see Holmes, and is in a state of high agitation. Explains that one of the highest, noblest, most exalted men in England took out a short-term loan of £50,000 and left a valuable coronet loaded with jewels as security, an odd arrangement.
- Client: Alexander Holder, a very prominent and well-know banker, one of the foremost citizens of London.
- Crime or concern: Client took coronet home with him for safekeeping (a foolish move) and later found his son Arthur wrenching, or bending it, with a piece of the coronet and some beryls missing. Arthur refused to explain.
- Villain: Sir George Brunwell, an upper class bounder and, unknown to the Holmes' client, the lover of Mary, his niece and adopted daughter.
- Motive: Money. Steal the the coronet and jewels and sell them.
- Logic used to solve: Arthur's story did not add up. Holmes summary: "Your son came down from his bed, went, at great risk, to your dressing-room, opened your bureau, took out your coronet, broke off by main force a small portion of it, went off to some other place, concealed three gems out of the thirty-nine, with such skill that nobody can find them, and then returned with the other thirty-six into the room in which he exposed himself to the greatest danger of being discovered."
- Policemen: Client had been to see the police who responded in force to the missing coronet, but who were unable to recover anything or find the thief. Police advised client to consult Holmes.
- Holmes' fees: SH to client: "You place no limit on the sum I may draw."
 - Client's reply: "I would give my fortune to have them back." SH: "Very good."
 - Holmes charged client £4000, which included £3000, 6s, in Holmes' expenditures.
- Transport: H&W and client took a short railway journey to the southern suburb of Streatham, and a short walk to Fairbank, the client's home.
- Food: Holmes went out to investigate and took a slice of beef from the joint upon the sideboard, sandwiched it between two rounds of bread, and thrust this rude meal into his pocket.
- Drink, Vices: none mentioned
- Other cases mentioned: none
- Notable Quotables: "It is an old maxim of mine that when you have excluded the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."
- Other interestings: Both the Holder son Arthur and (adopted) daughter Mary refer to Alexander as "dad".
 - Holmes tracks events by footprints in the snow. Arthur had gone out barefoot some distance.
 - Holmes goes out to investigate while disguised as a common loafer. Gets cleaned up and visits Brunwell.
- Holmes' hypothetical son: "Your son has carried himself in this matter as I should be proud to see my own son do, should I ever chance to have one."
- When all is said and done: Mary stole the coronet and gave it to Brunwell. Arthur gave chase and took the big hunk of it back by force, damaged, and covered for Mary. Holmes sees Brunwell, promises silence, gets name of fence who paid Brunwell £600 for the 3 beryls. Holmes pays fence £3000 and returns beryls. Mary runs off with Brunwell and gets what she deserves. Holders are sad to lose Mary, but happy to avoid ruin.

Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Fay,
Rusty & Steve Mason



The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson

Baker Street Elementary
Number 066 - 07/10/2016

Fay, Mason, & Mason

WHO DID BRITISH FORCES DEFEAT
IN THE BATTLE OF QUEBEC CANADA?



WHO DID BRITISH FORCES DEFEAT IN THE BATTLE OF QUEBEC CANADA?
I choose to not answer this question, which could be in conflict
with my religious beliefs...

Copyright 2016, Fay, Mason, Mason



HEY, IT'S
WORTH A SHOT...



The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 06 - June, 2016
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



From the Editors: Thanks for all your support. Steve & Walt

July 3rd Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, July 3, at LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE, in Addison.

The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

We will be reading "The Adventure of Silver Blaze."

The quiz will cover this tale.

Each monthly meeting will also include toasts as well as general business, introductions, and general fellowship.

June 5th Meeting

There were 15 attendees on hand. A wonderful opening toast was written and delivered by Cindy Brown on Sherlockian societies (see page 2).

Walter Pieper and Bill Pervin tied on the Quiz, based on "The Wisteria Lodge", both being awarded books on Sherlock Holmes.

Steve Mason led a discussion on one aspect of the story, that of Holmes' assessment of Miss Burnet, including the statement that her age and character preclude a love interest as a motive in the story. A variety of subjects broached during the discussion ranged from the expectation of marital prospects according to a female's age during the historical time period to the status or class of a governess.

Tim Kline was invested as a Deck Mate, and received the certificate with an English penny.

Based on evidence from the Baker Street Journal, and interviews with long-standing members, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted on to accept the month of April of 1970 for the establishment of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star.

The Crew also voted to move forward on holding the second symposium at the Allen Library in late October or early November. The theme for this symposium would be "The Women of Sherlock Holmes," whether from the books, pastiches, stage, or television and film.

The closing reading was "To Martha Hudson," by Beldon Wigglesworth, from the March, 1973, Baker Street Journal (see page 2).

The full minutes may be viewed at our webpage: www.dfw-sherlock.org.

Thanks to Brenda Hutchison for developing the minutes this month.



For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>

Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries
Historian
Webmaster

Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison
Pam Mason
Rusty Mason

mason.steve@epa.gov
waltpieper@att.net
221b@verizon.net
jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com
myrkrid08@yahoo.com



SCION SOCIETIES

Cindy Brown

We've all heard of the Baker Street Irregulars and the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

But there are a few lesser known scion societies that I would like to honor today.

For instance, there is the Baker Street Vienna Society, the Copenhagen Speckled Gang, the Reichenbach Irregulars, and the Retired Beekeepers of Sussex.

We certainly could never forget to give a tip of the hat to the Cardboard Boxers of Croydon, and the Scandalous Bohemians, and how about Holmes on the Range, and the Wisteria-Hysteria Society.

And then, there is always the Napa Valley Napoleons, the Pips of Orange County, Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients, and Sherlock Holmes' Dumber Brother.

Lest we forget to mention the scions of the Priory School Dropouts, the Iowa Valley of Fear, or the Occupants of the Empty House, as well as the Speckled Bandits of Silver Springs, and Martha Hudson's Cronies.

And we could never fail to mention the Maiwand Jezail Scion Society, and the Dog in the Night of Taos, NM, and our friends to the north, the Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa, and the 221 Bees of Belgium.

And where would we be without the Bitches of the Beeches, or the Chaslockians of Charleston, SC, the Knights of Shag, the Gooseclub of the Alpha Inn, and the Notorious Canary Trainers.

But the one that takes center stage on Sherlock Holmes fireplace mantels is of course, the Crew of the Barque Lone Star.

Please raise your glasses to toast this society, and others around the world.

TO MARTHA HUDSON

By Belden Wigglesworth, *Baker Street Journal*, March, 1973

I wonder, Martha, if you thought
Across the years of all you'd wrought
In Baker Street, for you were there
To welcome the Immortal Pair,
Unsung, unheralded, unsought.

Your days in Baker Street were fraught
With worries, perils, nerves all taut,
Yet seemingly you'd not a care...

I wonder, Martha...
Then at the end, with Von Bork caught,
Upon the South Downs you still brought
To high achievement your calm air
And gentle spirit. Can we share
In your deep secret, we untaught?

I wonder, Martha...

Please go to:

<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/>

To subscribe today to the most respected
source of Sherlockian scholarship!

17 STEPS TO SILVER BLAZE

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of the case at hand...

HIS OWN PERSONAL CNN



“Fresh editions of every paper had been sent up by our news

agent,” Watson writes.

We all know London had a lot of papers in those days, but did everyone have a newsagent to deal with their newsprint needs? Or did most folks get by with a paperboy or two?

VERY EXCELLENT FOR WHAT?

Holmes asks Watson to bring his “very excellent field glass” to King’s Pyland with him, but never makes use of it. What would Holmes have expected to do with it? Scan the moors for the missing horse? While Holmes does use the glass four days later at the big race, it never seems to come into play during that first trip. Was Holmes just planning ahead, or was there an earlier purpose for taking it?



FLYING ALONG TO EXETER FIRST CLASS

As the classic Paget illustration for this tale so beautifully shows, Holmes and Watson had window seats in a first class carriage on the train to Dartmoor. What exactly were the amenities to be expected in first class rail transport of that

era? Was anything but privacy included for the price?

HOLMES’S BLUNDER

If ever we wondered whether Holmes was more devoted to the “art” of detection or the actual cause of justice, this tale has some pretty heavy evidence for the former. Both Silver Blaze’s owner and Inspector Gregory ask Holmes on Tuesday to investigate the trainer’s murder and the horse’s theft. Holmes,



however, expects the matter to take care of himself, and waits until Thursday to head to the scene of the crime. When Scotland Yard asks for help with a murder, isn’t it the prerogative of every red-blooded, patriotic, justice-loving son of England to answer the call? What’s with Holmes’s prima donna act?

NOTHING SINISTER ABOUT SHERLOCK

“Holmes, leaning forward, with his long, thin forefinger checking off the points upon the palm of his left hand.”

Can we therefore assume Holmes is right-handed?

HADN’T STRAKER HEARD OF WEIGHT WATCHERS?

After only five years of being a jockey, John Straker is forced to retire because he’s become too heavy. Couldn’t this guy say “no” to second helpings, even if his career depended on it? Did

anyone go on diets back then? How much did Straker’s age have to do with his weight?

THE INVALID SUBDIVISION NEXT DOOR

“About half a mile to the north there is a small cluster of villas built by a Tavistock contractor for the use of invalids and others who may wish to enjoy the pure Dartmoor air.”

The term “villa” has implications of elegance and upscale living. Were there enough wealthy invalids who wanted to live in Dartmoor to make such a business venture viable? Was the pure Dartmoor air noted for healthful benefits, or was the London reek so bad any countryside would have been equally healthful to city folk?

THE OTHER MISSING HORSE

“You’ve two horses in for the Wessex Cup--Silver Blaze and Bayard,” the tout tells the stable-boy. Yet when we look down the card on the day of the race, Bayard is nowhere to be found. What happened? With Silver Blaze’s whereabouts unknown, wouldn’t Colonel Ross have left Bayard in for the Wessex Cup?



KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE TOUT'S HAND

The visiting tout takes a piece of white paper folded up" out of his pocket. Later, Edith Baxter



notices "the corner of the little paper packet protruding from his closed hand." So what was it? Folded

paper, as a note would be, or a packet, as would contain opium or money? Or was the word "packet" just a terminology red herring dropped in by Watson or his literary agent?"

VICTORIAN FORENSIC CHEMISTRY

"Finally, an analysis has shown that the remains of his supper left by the stable-lad contained an appreciable quantity of powdered opium ..."

How would the stableboy's dinner have been tested for opium in that period? An actual chemical test or something as simple as feeding it to a dog?

THE LION OF SCOTLAND YARD

While poor Lestrade is always compared to smaller creatures like rats and bulldogs, Inspector Gregory is said to have "lion-like" hair and beard. What exactly does that mean? Lion-like in color, style, or what?

IT DOESN'T GET ANY MORE CIRCUMSTANTIAL THAN THIS

We are told of Silas Brown and his stable: "As Desborough, their horse, was second in the betting, they had an interest in the disappearance of the favourite. Silas Brown, the trainer, is known

to have had large bets upon the event, and he was no friend to poor Straker."

Add the possession of the stolen horse to those facts, and you come up with quite a case against Silas Brown. Had Scotland Yard been the ones who discovered Silver Blaze at Mapleton, there is little doubt the trainer would have been behind bars and found guilty of murder and horse theft. Wouldn't Brown have taken this into consideration upon finding Silver Blaze on the moor?



Holmes's manipulation of the events surrounding the Straker murder are so heavy-handed that one might even wonder if he was helping the true murderer escape by pointing the finger at Silver Blaze, who can't defend himself or tell where he's been held. Was Brown another Leon Sterndale, whom Holmes let escape the consequences of his crime? What motive might Holmes have had for helping Brown get away with murder?

EXIT, STAGE LEFT!

When the carriage leaves King's Pyland, who is in it? If only Holmes and Watson, we are treated to a failed dramatic moment as Holmes says:

"Gregory, let me recommend to your attention this singular epidemic among the sheep. Drive on, coachman!"

The coachman then ignores Holmes, and the carriage stays put. Instead of dropping his vague exit-line and being whisked away, Holmes is left sitting in front of an

audience that wants more. Colonel Ross just looks disgusted at this ploy, and Inspector Gregory gets a chance to ask more questions.

Holmes recovers quickly in one of the most memorable exchanges in the Canon, but was it his original attempt to leave matters with the line above? If Colonel Ross and Inspector Gregory are also in the carriage, and the coachman did obey Holmes and was driving the lot of them away as Gregory asks his questions, why was Holmes commanding Ross's driver?

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GARDEN PARTY

"Surely I met you in Plymouth at a garden-party some little time ago, Mrs. Straker?" Holmes asks the victim's widow. We know he's lying of course, especially as a garden-party was most certainly one of those "unwelcome social summonses which call upon a man to either be bored or to lie."



Time for the more socially enlightened Hounds to fill us in on this thing called the garden-party. What makes a garden party? Is it merely a cocktail party with flowers and sunlight? Would Sherlock Holmes have ever attended one for real? Of what social standing would we expect the attendees of a garden party to be? Would a horse trainer's wife be included, or was Holmes flattering Mrs. Straker?

THE TOUT WHO CARRIED A PURSE

“He says that it was a ten-pound note. One was found in his purse.”

Purses appear in male possession several times in the Canon, and I’ve always assumed that these were something like a large clasp coin purse.

Where did men carry their purses back then? Trouser pockets? Coat pockets? Did the purse contain anything besides money?

THE MILLINER’S BILL AND THAT FANCY DRESS

William Derbyshire’s bill from Madame Lesurier of Bond Street is

made out for thirty-seven pounds fifteen.

We’re told of a twenty-two guinea dress, which accounts for about twenty-three pounds of that bill, but that leaves fourteen pounds of unknown merchandise.

Was it another dress? Or accessories for that dove-colored, ostrich-feathered monstrosity?

What sort of added items of clothing might Straker’s mistress have made him buy her at Madame Lesurier’s to go with the dress? Would said dress have been bought for attending a special occasion, or just as an impressive gift?

THE LATEST THING IN DRIVEWAY PAVING

Watson writes of “the paving of asphalt which led up to the gates of the Mapleton stables.”

We don’t usually think of asphalt driveways in association with Holmes’s era, but there you have it.

How common was asphalt paving in those days, and was it an indication of wealth or progressive thinking?



WHAT’S IN “MORIARTY”?... answers

How clever WERE you? Test yourself. We asked if you could find more than TEN words of FIVE or more letters in the name “MORIARTY”

To make it a little more challenging, if you use the singular form a word, such as HOLE, do not then also count the plural form HOLES. ... and no proper nouns need apply. Here is what Rusty and I came up with.

AMITY	AMORT	ATOMY	RATIO	TOMIA
MARTYR	ARMOR	MORTAR	ROTARY	
MAYOR	MARRY	TARRY	RARITY	
MORAY	ARMORY	TRYMA		

IF IT'S A PRINT, IT MUST BE TRUE

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

In “The Adventure of the Norwood Builder,” a bloody thumb print appears to clearly identify the murderer. Despite Lestrade’s certainty of the evidence, however, Holmes remains skeptical. (1)

Given where this story lies in the chronological order of the canon, as well as when the story was first published, both Lestrade and Holmes were on the cutting edge of the day’s forensic science. (2)

Based on events and remarks in the story, the case is estimated to have occurred in August, 1894. Sherlock had reappeared after his triumph over Moriarty, Watson had rejoined his friend at 221b, and Holmes searched the murder scene under the August sun. (3)

Only two years before, Sir Francis Galton published his treatise *Finger Prints*, which identified three characteristics for identifying and comparing impressions (loop, whorl, and arch). These attributes, now referred to as Galton’s details, are still used today. (4)

Sir Edward Richard Henry further developed these classifications and provided the system adapted by Scotland Yard when its fingerprint branch was created in 1901, (5) two years before publication of “The Adventure of the Norwood Builder.”

The first scientific study of fingerprints, or “skin furrows,” appeared in *Nature* in 1880. Dr. Henry Faulds, a Scottish medical missionary in Japan reported on his observation of finger-marks in ancient pottery, which led to the study of monkey and human finger tips.

He was the first to propose using prints to identify criminals, hands or arms severed from bodies, and possibly family members. (6)

Sir William Herschel, a British civil servant stationed in India, responded to *Nature* in the next issue that he had used fingerprints for signing contracts since 1860 and had noticed no two matched. He, however, did not suggest its uses for criminal matters. (7)

Galton, a relative of Charles Darwin, intrigued by what he’d read, corresponded with Herschel

extensively and published his book in 1901, offering it as an addition to an earlier system of body measurements, anthropometry, used to identify criminals.

Developed by the Frenchman Alphonse Bertillon, this first classification process involved eleven body measurements considered unchangeable after the age of twenty and was the basis, along with photographs and other information such as hair and eye color, for the files maintained by the French Police Identification Service.

With some reluctance, Bertillon, who considered finger prints a rival to his work and system, added the right thumb print to the files.

His unwillingness to fully embrace this new research led to a major embarrassment when he was unable to identify a print found at the scene of the Mona Lisa theft in 1911 because it came from the man’s left thumb. (8)



Additional difficulties with prints, such as blurred or partial impressions, were studied by Edmond Locard, a student of Bertillon. In 1913, he discovered it was possible to plant false prints using a finger fashioned by tree gum. (9)

This sort of deception, however, had been shared by Doyle ten years earlier. Holmes determines the bloody print found at the scene had been planted using a similar procedure with wax. (10)

Ever on the cutting edge of forensic science, Sherlock demonstrates his extensive knowledge of the use—and misuse—of fingerprints even before it became standard practice.

- (1) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Location 20040). Kindle Edition
- (2) Steven Doyle and David Crowder, Sherlock Holmes for Dummies (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, 2010), p. 160.
- (3) http://www.sherlockpeoria.net/Who_is_Sherlock/ChronCornerReturn.html#NORW
- (4) <http://www.fingerprintamerica.com/fingerprinhistory.asp>
- (5) <http://onin.com/fp/fphistory.html>
- (6) E. J. Wagner, The Science of Sherlock Holmes. (Hoboken , New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2006), pp. 99-102.
- (7) <http://www.fingerprintamerica.com/fingerprinhistory.asp>
- (8) E. J. Wagner, The Science of Sherlock Holmes. (Hoboken , New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2006), pp. 99-105.
- (9) Ibid, p. 107.
- (10)Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Location 20151). Kindle Edition.

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the Bilge Pump) and sign up for her newsletter at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

56 Stories in 56 Days -- The Adventure of Silver Blaze

Posted on October 26, 2011 by barefootnbakerstreet

Today is my husband's birthday and therefore it is quite a coincidence that I should be writing about Silver Blaze, as it is his favourite Sherlock Holmes story, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

Husband used to be a racing journalist and remains a very knowledgeable admirer of the sport. I suppose it is quite natural therefore, that Silver Blaze should be his favourite.

As today is his birthday, my little blogging challenge is causing a degree of friction between us. He wanted to go out for the day, have Sunday lunch in a lovely country pub and spend the afternoon walking together before celebrating with a few friends tonight – but what about the blog?

My suggestion that we stayed in tonight so that I could re-read Silver Blaze and write my blog was met with – “It's like you're having an affair with Sherlock Holmes, he certainly gets more of your attention than I do.”

I must admit that trying to cope with my full time job at our busiest time of year, helping to look after my mother who has dementia and write this daily blog is quite a challenge. Yes, husband is being neglected.

So as I will be out tonight, here's a quick round-up of my thoughts on Blaze, which is easy really because I absolutely love the story too and re-reading it was a pleasure. Followers of my blogs will know that Blaze was my favourite Granada episode because they captured the humour and

adventure aspect of the original so perfectly, and Jeremy Brett was on top form.

But the actual story has much to shout about too from the playful way Holmes toys with a sceptical colonel Ross to the way he deduces the truth about what really happened to the thoroughbred out on the moor.

Everything is brilliant; the way Holmes knows that the stable boy was poisoned because the curry would have been strong enough to disguise it, the discovery of the groom's double-life, the significance of the lame sheep and, of course, the immortal line about the curious incident of the dog in the night-time.

What's not to love in this clever, inventive tale? 9 out of 10.

An Inquiry Into "Silver Blaze"

Murray, the Courageous Orderly (a.k.a. Alexander Braun), Hounds of the Internet

Silver Blaze was first published in "The Strand Magazine" in December 1892. According to Baring-Gould's chronology, as set down in "The Annotated Sherlock Holmes," Second Edition, 1974, the case takes place on Thursday, Sept 25 to Tuesday, Sept 25, 1890. At the time Holmes is 36 years old and Watson 34.

Notable Quotes:

"The difficulty is to detach the framework of fact--of absolute, undeniable fact--from the embellishments of theorists and reporters."

"Is there any other point to which you would wish to draw my attention?"

"To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time." "The dog did nothing in the night-time." "That was the curious incident."

Holmes' Delay

Holmes tells Watson he ignored the telegrams he received from Ross and Gregory for some two days before deciding to intervene in the case and travel to King's Pyland. Somehow, in view of the fact he was being asked to help by both Silver Blaze's owner and the police, this appears somewhat atypical. The excuse he gives, that he could not conceive of such a horse being concealed for so long also sounds peculiar. I cannot think of any other case--known to be of importance from its beginning--in which Holmes seemed to be so vacillating in taking part. Can any of the Hounds come up with another?

The Scene of the Crime

Whenever we study this case, I always wonder why John Straker did not attempt to cripple Silver Blaze at the stables? Consider he had already drugged Ned Hunter, so he would not have been aware of Straker's presence, and conditions there were better for what he wanted to do--the lighting, for example; instead of a guttering candle he would have had the benefit of a lamp.

If someone had come in while he was working on the horse, he could have given excuses that would not raise any suspicion. Instead, he chooses to take the horse out of the stable at night, an action that would be difficult to justify had someone seen him and asked what he was doing. He then goes out to the moors at night with Silver Blaze to cripple it there and, if everything had gone as he had planned, he would again have risked discovery and difficult questions when bringing the horse back. As to the other two who slept in the loft, they must as been as good as drugged if they didn't react to the horse being taken. Even if, as Holmes said, the horse's reaction had awakened the soundest of sleepers, Straker could have explained it without raising the kind of suspicion that would result from his being caught removing the horse from the stables at that hour.

Silas Brown--Twit

It would be interesting to know why Holmes was so certain Brown would carry out his instructions to the letter. After all,

if after Holmes had left, Brown had let Silver Blaze go, nobody would have been able to track the horse back to him or to even suggest that it had been kept hidden by him. Even if Brown believed Holmes had seen him take the horse from the moor, it would still have been a matter of his word against the other's, and the evidence provided by the tracks would have been insufficient to have him charged.

The Incognito Silver Blaze

Although it certainly adds to the story's dramatic ending, I don't think a disguised Silver Blaze would have been allowed to race. When one considers not even its owner recognized it, none of the racing authorities would have such a horse, ostensibly without any pedigree or papers showing it had been officially entered and accepted to participate, to race. Certainly, the public betting its shillings and pounds would have objected.

What else happened in 1890:

EMPIRE

- Helgoland ceded to Germans.
- Work of Rhodes Pioneers begun in Southern Rhodesia.
- Britain annexes Uganda.
- Britain recognizes French Protectorate over Madagascar.
- Treaty of Busah: improved Franco-British relations in West Africa.
- Zanzibar Settlement: Tanganyika becomes Imperial Germany Colony; Germany excluded from Upper Nile;

British Protectorate over Zanzibar.

BRITAIN

- Parnell vindicated of Phoenix Park murder charges; ruined by O'Shea divorce petition; rejected as leader of Irish Nationalists in Commons, resigns.
- Omnibus strike in London settled with 12-hour day.
- January 4, Daily Graphic launched, first daily illustrated paper. Merged with Daily Sketch in 1926.
- Horniman Museum opens.
- First part of Rosebery Avenue opened.
- Dulwich Park, gifted by Dulwich College, opens.
- Vauxhall Park opens.
- City and South London Railway from Stockwell to William, first deep level tube railway.
- London-Paris telephone line opened.
- Financial panic in London and in Paris.
- Lunacy Act gives management of asylums to visiting committees.
- Housing of Working Classes Act.
- Sir B. Baker and Sir J. Fowler complete cantilever Forth Bridge (for railway) at Queensferry, near Edinburgh; length 1.3 miles.
- Gilbert writes, Original Comic Operas.
- Barry writes My Lady Nicotine.
- Booth writes, In Darkest England.
- Caine writes novel Bondman.
- Sir James George Frazer writes, The Golden Bough (to 1915).

- Morris writes News from Nowhere.
- Sir William Watson write, Wordsworth's Grave.

WORLD

- Bismarck dismissed.
- German control over East African territories.
- Wounded Knee massacre.
- Idaho and Wyoming are admitted into the Union.
- Workmen in France allowed compensation for contracts broken by employers.
- William III of Holland dies; Luxembourg passes to Duke of Nassau.
- Fall of Bismarck; Caprivi made Imperial Chancellor; start of personal rule of William II.
- Zemstva Law in Russia; limited franchise in local government; excluded intellectual professions.
- Russia attempts to limit Finnish Control over customs and money.
- First meeting of Japanese Legislature under new Constitution.
- French miners to elect delegates to supervise safety while working.
- In Chicago, the first entirely steel-framed building erected.
- French Explorer Monteil's journey Niger-Kano-Tchad-Tripoli; completed 1892.
- First Chinese cotton mill constructed.
- Olderbank Clubs (q.v., 1882) in Italy suppressed.

ART

- Franck, Belgian organ composer dies.
- Cézanne paints Mme. Cézanne in the Conservatory.

- Degas paints Dancers in Blue.
- Pietro Mascagni writes Cavalleria Rusticana.
- Van Gogh paints Portrait of Dr. Gachet, Street in Anvers, dies.
- Prince Igor, commenced by Borodin (dies 1887), completed by Glazunov and Rimsky-Korsakov.
- Tschaikovsky composes Queen of Spades.
- Whistler writes, The Gentle Art of Making Enemies.
- Paul Claudel presents Tête d'Or.
- Stefan George writes, Hymnen.
- Arno Holtz writes, Die Familie Selicke.
- Ibsen writes, Hedda Gabler.
- Zola writes, La Bête humaine.

SCIENCE

- Bertillon publishes La photographie judiciaire, in which he explains his anthropometry (q.v., 1882).
- Emil von Behring, German bacteriologist, discovers immunity to tetanus can be given by use of serum; introduces name "antitoxin."
- Halstead, at John Hopkins Hospital, first to use rubber gloves in surgery.
- Moving-picture films, precursor of cinematography (q.v., 1894) shown in NY.
- Cyanide process of preparation of gold from crude ore developed in South Africa (q.v., 1887).
- Lockyer's theory of stellar evolution.
- P. Rudolph's anastigmatic camera lens.
- Discovery of Cleopatra's tomb.

Reichenbach Where We Started

By Rosemary Michaud, Holmes and Watson Report, Sherlock Peoria

They call it the Grand Game, but sometimes I like to think of these Sherlockian studies as if I were coloring in a great big coloring book. Although the pictures are already drawn, I get my choice of colors with which to fill them in. Hours of creative fun for kids of all ages! Coloring within the lines is optional! Color as you will, of course, the picture retains its original outline. For instance, I believe wholeheartedly in Watson's account of Holmes's duel with Moriarty. However, I will go so far as to admit that there are gaps in the narrative. I think that Watson and his literary agent had to make some deep cuts in the text to achieve a word count that was acceptable to The Strand Magazine. There are nagging little questions that can never be solved without Watson's or Holmes's complete notes. However, we can reason logically from what we see, and use our big box of crayons to fill in some of the gaps.

Let's start with that first big conversation between Holmes and Moriarty in "The Final Problem." I love this scene. I loathed Moriarty from the moment he appeared in Holmes's sitting room and delivered his opening line, "You have less frontal development than I should have expected." Translating from professor-speak into plain English, this becomes, "Gee, Sherlock, I guess you're a lot smarter than you look." A puerile taunt, if ever I heard one. What a louse! And the Professor kept it up. Although he scored a legitimate point by noticing Holmes had a revolver in the pocket of his dressing gown, Moriarty's next remark, "You evidently don't know me," was yet another slimy attempt at gamesmanship. However, I don't think the Professor was saying to Holmes "You don't recognize me," because it really was obvious Holmes knew who Moriarty was. I think Moriarty was taunting Holmes for being afraid, saying in effect, "If you think I'm going to kill you, then you don't understand how I operate. Don't you know I never do my own dirty work?"

On any level, however, either by feature or by modus operandi, Holmes certainly did know his adversary. As he told Watson later on, Moriarty "does little himself. He only plans." However, I think Holmes was also aware Moriarty was not likely to have come to Baker Street alone. The "something in his eyes" which made Holmes glad to have his revolver handy was probably Moriarty's unconscious shifting of his glance in the direction of his confederates. They may not have

been very far away; perhaps they were just outside the sitting room door, having slipped into the house with their chief. You'll notice that Moriarty was apparently not shown in by Mrs. Hudson. Instead, Holmes tells Watson, "the door opened and Professor Moriarty stood before me." I think that Moriarty and at least one of his henchmen (Colonel Moran?) waited until the landlady was out, so that there would be no witnesses to the murder of Sherlock Holmes. But Holmes was alert and quick to arm himself against the danger. Yes, I firmly believe that if Holmes hadn't had his gun so handy, he would have been killed then and there. Why else would Moriarty have bothered to come at all?

You don't believe Moriarty came merely to warn Holmes off the case, do you? Why should the Napoleon of Crime go to the trouble, when murder was so much easier? Holmes told Watson Moriarty "saw every step" Holmes took against him, and, "this morning, the last steps were taken, and three days only were wanted to complete the business." He said also, "Matters have gone so far now that they can move without my help as far as the arrest goes, though my presence is necessary for a conviction." Once they were all arrested, what would Holmes have to fear from those "extreme measures" which the professor blustered about? How much more effective and certain it would be to simply kill Holmes without delay. That business about how Holmes's death would have been "a grief" to Moriarty was just so much horse manure. Holmes smiled to hear it. He knew better than to believe it.

Holmes's flight to the Continent is probably the least analyzed area of the story, because it seems so obvious that Holmes fled England when Moriarty made things too hot for him to safely remain. Be that as it may, I don't believe Holmes's choice of travel itinerary was as random as he led Watson to imagine. On the contrary, I think the Continental tour was largely intended to provide still more evidence against Moriarty. In fact, it is very possible that Holmes expected to obtain that last piece of damning evidence from someone he had arranged to meet, someone who, for whatever reason, could not see him until "Monday, next" when, as Holmes told Watson, "matters will be ripe." Note that in the first portion of their trip, Holmes and Watson went straight to Brussels and stayed there two days. This is hardly suggestive of precipitous flight.

Consider this, also: one day of travel plus two days in Brussels accounts neatly for all three of those days that Holmes said were necessary to "complete the business." It seems logical to conclude that Holmes went to Brussels because he was going to meet someone there on Monday.

Holmes may have obtained his case-clinching evidence in Brussels, but it was not long afterwards that he got the news of Moriarty's escape from the police dragnet. Imagine for a moment that you are Sherlock Holmes in this situation. You have labored for months to bring off the arrest of a criminal mastermind. You have rubbed your hands in anticipation, and bragged to your best friend about bringing off "the greatest criminal trial of the century." Now you learn that the criminal in question is going to go free. Do you give up and run away in fear of Moriarty's revenge? Not if you are Sherlock Holmes, you don't!

Instead, Holmes made alternate plans. He knew that Moriarty would come after him, and he welcomed the thought. He meant to capture the Professor, to succeed where the police had failed. It was a dangerous plan, and he tried to get Watson out of the way in case something went wrong. But I don't think Holmes ever hesitated. His demeanor was hardly that of a hunted man. No, Holmes was in "exuberant spirits," and he spoke often in anticipation of "the capture or extinction of the most dangerous and capable criminal in Europe."

Holmes seemed so certain of the coming events that I cannot think he left the matter entirely up to Moriarty's desire for revenge. Think for a moment about the kind of information that Holmes might have hoped to obtain in Brussels, one of the financial centers of Europe. He was not likely to find evidence concerning, say, a murder that took place in London. I think Holmes probably obtained evidence of Moriarty's international financial dealings. There is little doubt that Moriarty was aware of where Holmes went and what he found there. Perhaps Holmes had learned of a vast fortune in stolen funds, secreted in Brussels by Moriarty against just such a crisis as had occurred in England. Would it be too far-fetched to imagine that Holmes might have obtained, for instance, the key to a safe deposit box containing a small fortune in jewels or high-denomination currency notes? Revenge is one thing, but Moriarty was not exactly a hot-headed type, and I think at the very least, he could have postponed his revenge until a more opportune moment. But

Moriarty's criminal operation had been shut down, and money was going to be tight for a while. If Sherlock Holmes had the key to his emergency source of funds, Moriarty would be sure to go after him.

It was Holmes who ensured that a meeting should take place between himself and the Professor. I think Holmes also decided upon the location for the meeting. Reichenbach Falls is a scary place, but that dead-end path had one advantage from Holmes's point of view: he could be sure to meet Moriarty there alone. Holmes had no way of knowing how many of Moriarty's henchmen had also escaped the police, or how many the Professor would bring along with him, but he knew that Moriarty would not play fair, and so he chose a place where he could keep the others at a distance. As an added dividend, the rocky overhangs and the constant mist from the falling water made it a difficult place for a sniper's bullet to find its mark. I am sure that Holmes had not forgotten the threat of air-guns, and he obviously selected his meeting spot wisely. Why do you think that Colonel Moran was reduced to throwing rocks at Holmes? And even then, Moran had to wait for Holmes to venture forth from his safe ledge into a more open area. It seems obvious that there was no clear shot to the ledge from any place of concealment where Moran could have waited - otherwise, it really would have been Holmes's final problem.

Imagine Moriarty's dismay when Moran was unable to kill Holmes according to plan. I think Moriarty may have panicked then. It was a fatal mistake for him to rush wildly at Holmes as he did; he should have known that his younger and stronger opponent would get the better of him in close combat. Or perhaps Moriarty did know precisely what he was doing, and he chose certain death over certain capture.

By then, I think, Holmes was weary of the struggle and ready enough to end the entire business by letting Moriarty choose his own fate. Without Moriarty, there would be no need for Holmes to give evidence at his trial. Without Moriarty, Holmes could make his own escape from the world of crime, at least for a three years' hiatus. There, you see? I didn't change the pictures at all, but only added my own shadings to them. And the beauty of it is, the outline is always there, always fresh, always ready for the application of our Canonical Crayolas as we choose. Now I wonder, is Cornflower Blue the right color for Dr. Watson's eyes ...

Story Info Pages for "Silver Blaze"

McMurdo's Camp, <https://mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com/>

- First published: The Strand Magazine, Dec, 1892
- Time frame of story (known/surmised): Not given. Autumn, in the late 1880's likely.
- Holmes & Watson's living arrangements: Sharing bachelor quarters at 221B.
- Opening scene: Brief discussion as Holmes & Watson sat down to breakfast one morning about a case which was the topic of conversation through length and breadth of England, involving the disappearance of a race horse, Silver Blaze, which was the favorite for the Wessex Cup. The horse's trainer had apparently been tragically murdered.
- Client: On Tuesday evening, Holmes received telegrams from both Colonel Ross, the owner of the horse, and from Inspector Gregory, who was looking after the case, inviting his cooperation.
- Crime or concern: Disappearance of a race horse and apparent murder of the trainer.
- Villain: Straker, trainer had attempted to injure horse's tendon. Horse kicked trainer in head, killing him.
- Motive: Alter outcome of race, make money by laying against his own horse, to support his illicit girl-friend.
- Logic used to solve: Clue of bill found on Straker from London milliner Madame Lesurier led Holmes to suspect a girl-friend with expensive tastes.
 - Curried Mutton used to drug stable-guard made it an "inside job". It is beyond reason that an outsider could have made someone at the Straker household come up with the idea of serving a highly spiced meal that evening for his purposes. Therefore, someone in the household must have conceived the idea
 - Another indicator of an inside job was the dog in the stable that did not bark, as he would have if a stranger had approached.
 - Lamé sheep gave Holmes the idea of nicking a tendon to cause lameness. Someone had practiced on the sheep, using the small surgical knife found on Straker.
- Policemen: Inspector Gregory, an extremely competent officer, but not gifted with imagination.
- Holmes' fees: No mention, although Col. Ross did acknowledge he was under obligation to Holmes. Holmes had also made a bet on the next race and stood to win a little. It is possible he was helped with a little inside information.
- Transport: Holmes & Watson took train that morning from Paddington to Exeter, and on to Tavistock, which lies in the middle of Dartmoor. Upon arriving in the evening, they were picked up by Col. Ross and Inspector Gregory and were all seated in a comfortable landau, and rattled on to King's Pyland, Col. Ross' residence.
- Food: Curried mutton served by Strakers that night, and carried down to the lad guarding the stables. We believe this is the only Holmes case where the food played an important part in the mystery beyond providing nourishment.
- Drink: no mention
- Vices: The day before leaving for Dartmoor, Holmes smoked heavily, charging and recharging his pipe with the strongest black tobacco, and was absolutely deaf to any of Watson's questions or remarks.
 - During the train ride to Dartmoor, Watson lay back against the cushions, puffing at his cigar.
 - At the end, Holmes invited Col Ross to 221B to smoke a cigar.
- Other cases mentioned: none
- Notable Quotables:
 - Gregory: "Is there any other point to which you would wish to draw my attention?" Holmes: "To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time." Gregory: "The dog did nothing in the night-time." Holmes: "That was the curious incident."
 - "I made a blunder, my dear Watson — which is, I am afraid, a more common occurrence than anyone would think"
- Other interestings: Ross did not seem to have a high opinion of Holmes and his methods, and made a few remarks along those lines. Holmes reacted to this as he has been known to do, by being less than candid, or trying to make the uppity person look foolish.
 - About two miles distant across the moor from King's Pyland lay the larger training establishment of Mapleton, which belonged to Lord Backwater. Not known if there was more than one Lord Backwater in Britain at the time, but this Backwater was probably the friend of Lord St. Simon who recommended Holmes in NOBL.

Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Fay,
Rusty & Steve Mason



Baker Street Elementary
Number 062 - 06/12/2016

Fay, Mason, & Mason

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I CAN'T BELIEVE THE SCHOOL PAPER DID NOT CREDIT ME FOR THE CHRONICLING OF YOUR MOST RECENT EFFORTS.



YOU MAY BE SORELY DISAPPOINTED, BUT ACCOLADES FOR YOUR WORK IS NOT THE ULTIMATE GOAL... YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON THE ACHIEVEMENT ITSELF.



EASY FOR YOU TO SAY... YOU'LL PROBABLY BE A HOUSEHOLD NAME BY THE TIME YOU PASS ON.



I BLUSH... I VOW, WATSON, I SHALL NOT FORGET THE LITTLE PEOPLE, SUCH AS YOURSELF, WHO HELPED ME ALONG THE WAY.



hmmm... YOU MAY NOT WANT ME MEMORIALIZING YOUR EXPLOITS... I MAY HAPPEN TO 'ACCIDENTALLY' POINT OUT YOUR FOIBLES, OR EVEN ATTRIBUTE SOME 'ERRACTIC BEHAVIORS' TO YOU.



GOOD IDEA... HUMANIZING YOUR IDOL WILL MAKE THE ADVENTURES MORE BELIEVABLE...





The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 05 - May, 2016
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



From the Editors: Thanks for all your support. Steve & Walt

June 5th Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, June 5, at **LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE**, in Addison.

The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

We will be reading "The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge."

The quiz will cover this tale.

Each monthly meeting will also include toasts as well as general business, introductions, and general fellowship.

May 1st Meeting

There were 15 attendees on hand. The opening toast was delivered by Steve Mason, which was a wonderful toast written by Paula Cohen, "A Perennial Toast" (see page 2).

Sandra Little won the Quiz, based on "The Resident Patient", with a perfect score. She was awarded "The Sherlock Holmes Collection BBC" DVD set starring Peter Cushing. "Houdini & Doyle", a new television series, will start in our area on May 2nd at 8:00 p.m. Central on Fox 4.

On behalf of Dean Clark – Sandra Little did a great job in speaking before the Afghanistan Perceivers in Tulsa, OK.

QUESTION: What is Lady Day? Answer provided by Karen Olson: Lady Day falls on March 25th and celebrates the angel appearing to Mary to announce the conception of Christ.

Steve Mason discussed what a gasogene is, as compared to a seltzogene. Steve brought in an example of both.

Sharon Lowry was invested as a Deck Mate, and received the certificate with an English penny. She is one of the founding members of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star.

Sharon Lowry believes the start of the society most likely took place during 1970. If we embrace 1970, our fiftieth anniversary will arrive in 2020. It will be a special occasion.

Pam Mason delivered the closing talk, "That Last Quiet Talk" by Russell Rhine, from The Baker Street Journal, December, 1972 (see page 2).

Movie night will be next Saturday, May 7th. The movie will be "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes." Movie nights will now regularly be held each Saturday on the weekend following that of the regular meetings.

The full minutes may be viewed at our webpage: www.dfw-sherlock.org



For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>

Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries
Historian
Webmaster

Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison
Pam Mason
Rusty Mason

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myrkrid08@yahoo.com

A PERENNIAL TOAST

Linda Cohen, *The Serpentine Muse*, Spring, 1982

Here's to high lace collars and cameo pins, satin gowns and upswept hair, hansom carriages and gas-lit rooms.

Here's to etched glass door panes and a fire in the grate, a calling-card on the table and brandy in a snifter, slippers on the fender and a pipe in the ashtray.

And, above all, here's to downcast eyes, a well-turned ankle, and a maid to pick up your clothes the morning after.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Victorian Age!



THAT LAST QUIET TALK

By Russell Rhine, *Baker Street Journal*, December, 1972

I've often wished that I could have been there upon that terrace,
To listen to that last quiet talk of days gone past,
The recollections of places they've been,

The Grimpen Mire in Devonshire, the Manor of Biristone,
Boscombe Valley, the little village of Meiringen,
Eyford in Berkshire, Shoscombe Old Place;

Of women they've loved,

The notorious Irene Adler,
Lovely Miss Mary Morstan;

Of friends they've had,

Gregson and Lestrade of Scotland Yard,
Cartwright, Porlock, and Merivale,
Toby, the half—spaniel, Wiggins and the irregulars,
Mycroft;

Of dangers they've faced

The Hound of the Baskervilles
A fearful place called Reichenbach,
The Speckled Band of Stoke Moran,
The Sussex Vampire, The Devil's Foot;

Of people they've helped,

Red—headed Jabez Wilson,
Mr. Melas, the Greek Interpreter
Violet Smith and Violet de Merville,
The King of Bohemia;

Of foes they've met,

Moriarty, ex—professor of mathematics,
His friend, Colonel Sebastian Moran,
Charles Augustus Milverton,
Baron Adelbert Gruner,
And the Kaiser's special spy, Von Bork;

Of displeasures they've shared,

The needle, cocaine, and morphine,
Depression, failure, and secrecy;

Of enjoyments,

Music, literature, and tobacco,
The sharing of dangers, rewards,
Companionship, travels, successes,
And best. . . friendship.

But I know I could never be there to hear of days gone past, Of friends, foes, and the rest.

For it's best they spend those last few minutes alone.

Though when I feel a wind erupting from the East, I too remember.

17 STEPS TO WISTERIA LODGE

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of the case at hand...

THE POLLYANNA OF DETECTIVES

"Audacity and romance seem to have passed forever from the criminal world," bemoans Sherlock Holmes in "The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge," sounding like a Raffles fan who just watched an episode of "COPS."



Isn't this view a bit dreamy for a man who has dealt with very real, very vicious criminals for a decade? Was the criminal world ever romantic outside of fiction?

THE MASTER AND HIS CLASS

"Private detectives are a class with whom I have absolutely no sympathy," states Scott Eccles.

What would a common, conservative citizen of 1892 know of private detectives as a class? Would we expect a fellow like Eccles to encounter on in everyday life?



THE BACKWARDS WATSONIAN STORYTELLER

"You are like my friend, Dr. Watson," Holmes tells Eccles, "who has a bad habit of telling his stories wrong end foremost."

Was Holmes speaking of Watson's written work, or merely his habits in daily conversation? Is the Canon told "wrong end first"?

DINING HEAD-TO-HEAD

"Our dinner was tete-a-tete," Scott Eccles tells of his visit to Garcia. What was Eccles expecting it to be? Had Garcia led him to believe it was going to be a party? Why was a

private meal with one's host worth remarking about?

THE ADMIRABLE MR. BAYNES

"A woman, as usual, was at the bottom of it," Baynes comments after his admirable display in finding the discarded note. For all his promise as a detective, does Baynes also display some heavy shortcomings like a prejudice against women?

PETTY CASH ON BAKER STREET

"You will show these gentlemen out, Mrs. Hudson, and kindly send the boy with this telegram. He is to pay a five-shilling reply."

Holmes doesn't hand Mrs.

Hudson five shillings to pay for that reply, so where is she getting the money?

A standing cash reservoir that

Holmes supplies, or would she be expected to use her own money, keep a record, and bill him later?

THE ADVENTURES OF ANOTHER COWARDLY CONSTABLE

Walters shivers: "And the look of it--the great staring goggle eyes, and the line of white teeth like a hungry beast. I tell you, sir, I couldn't move a finger, nor get my breath, till it whisked away and was gone. Out I ran and through the shrubbery, but thank God there was no one there."

Would Walters have been carrying a gun for his vigil? Why was he so spooked by a dead chicken, when nobody in the area seemed up on voodoo?

AND NEXT, HIS MONOGRAPH ON SHOE SIZES

"Yes," Holmes reports, after a short examination of the grass bed, "a number twelve shoe, I should say."

How might Holmes have been gauging shoe sizes at the scene of the crime without a measuring device?



Did he have a method, or was he just using guesswork specifics to make himself sound more skilled?

EL MARIACHI, 1892 STYLE



"Odds and ends, some pipes, a few novels, two of them in Spanish, an old-fashioned pinfire revolver, and a guitar were

among the personal property." Was the guitar a particularly Spanish instrument in 1892? Where would one expect to commonly find one in English life of that period?

THE BAYNES SYSTEM OF CRIME SOLVING

"But we all have our own systems, Mr. Holmes. You have yours, and maybe I have mine," Baynes explains once he has captured the mulatto cook.



What methods did Baynes plan to use at this point? He had captured his suspect . . . was he going to use extreme measures on his prisoner?

AH, THE LEISURELY SERVANT LIFE!

"For the rest, his house is full of butlers, footmen, maidservants, and the usual overfed, underworked staff of a large English country-house." What percentage of the servant class was Holmes referring to here? Did they really have it that easy, or is this Holmes displaying a slight prejudice from his past?

THOSE SAVAGES AND THEIR FILTHY DEITIES

From "Eckermann's Voodooism and the Negroid Religions" we hear: "The true voodoo-worshiper attempts nothing of importance without certain sacrifices which are intended to propitiate his unclean



gods. In extreme cases these rites take the form of human sacrifices followed by cannibalism. The more usual victims

are a white cock, which is plucked in pieces alive, or a black goat, whose throat is cut and body burned."

Okay, that's the aloof Victorian view of one man's religion. What was the cook attempting from his point of view? Did his arcane rites have some purpose in voodoo traditions other than the general appeasement of angry gods?

DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO SAN PEDRO?

Based on the scan information we have in this tale, would anyone care to hazard some speculation as to where, exactly, San Pedro was? (And while we're at it, where did the voodoo-loving cook



come from? The "backwoods of San Pedro"? How about New Orleans, serving up Cajun or Creole food? Or Haiti, serving up whatever Haitian specialties there are?)

LIKE PUTTING YOUR NAME ON A MARQUEE

"Some six months afterwards the Marquess of Montalva and Signor Rulli, his secretary, were both murdered in their rooms at the Hotel Escorial at Madrid."

Mr. Henderson of High Gable seems to be a low profile sort of guy, with good reason.

Wouldn't people be more likely to wonder about the background and credentials of supposed nobility, than a "Mr.



Henderson"? Could someone just waltz into Madrid claiming they were a marquis? Why would Don Murillo make such a move?

THE COLORS OF REVOLUTION?

"If you look it up you will find that the San Pedro colours are green and white," Miss Burnet explains.

Wouldn't the colours of a country whose dictator deserved an obsessive quest for vengeance be just the thing they wouldn't be wanting to use? Or

did these colors come into use after dictator Don Murillo was gone?

THE TELL-TALE SIGNS ON THE BODY

Miss Burnet explains, "I was confined to my room, terrorized by the most horrible threats, cruelly ill-used to break my spirit--see this stab on my shoulder and the bruises from end to end of my arms."



Burnet was seriously abused, to be sure. But what sort of abuse leaves bruises all along her arms, end to end? Would grabbing alone do such damage?

VENGEANCE OF A VODOO PRIEST

"Knowing that he would return there, Garcia, who is the son of the former highest dignitary in San Pedro, was waiting with two trusty companions of humble station, all three fired with the same reasons for revenge."

So if Garcia picked up his cook in his travels, why was the cook so fired up about revenge on Don Murillo? Did he really have any part in this aside from cooking?

WHAT'S IN "GREGSON"? ... answers

How clever are you? Test yourself. See if you can find twenty or more words of four or more letters in the name "GREGSON"

To make it a little more challenging, if you use the singular form a word, such as HOLE, do not then also count the plural form HOLES. ... and no proper nouns need apply. Here is what Rusty and I came up with.

EGGS	ERGS	GENS	GONER	GORSE	NOGS	ONER	REGGO	SEGO	SONG
EGOS	ERNS	GOER	GONG	GROG	NOSE	ONES	ROES	SENO	SORE
EONS	EROS	GOES	GORE	NEGRO	NOSER	ORES	ROSE	SNORE	
ERGO	GENRO	GONE	GORGE	NOES	OGRE	REGOS	SEGNO	SONE	

WHAT'S IN "MORIARTY"?...

How clever are you? Test yourself. See if you can find 10 or more words of FIVE or more letters in the name "MORIARTY."

To make it a little more challenging, if you use the singular form a word, such as HOLE, do not then also count the plural form HOLES. ... and no proper nouns need apply.

We will supply the answers next month.

NAME YOUR POISON

Liese Sherwood-Fabre



The canon includes 263 dead bodies and 119 murders, only a percentage of them can be considered "murder mysteries," (1) and while several such cases involve poison or medicines,

only one ("The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger") mentions a specific poison by name: prussic acid or cyanide. (2)

Despite Holmes' knowledge of poisons, (3) the lack of a precise cause in most of his cases reflects the country's nineteenth-century fear and fascination of the intimate, and often controversial, homicide cases populating the popular media of the day.

In 1815, the case of Eliza Fenning seized the public's attention and became an obsession as newspapers across the nation took sides in her case. The cook for the Turner family was charged and tried for attempted murder of five members of her employer's household.



Despite all the family members recovering after ingesting some presumed tainted dumplings, Mrs. Fenning was found guilty and executed. On one side, the press vilified her because of her status primarily as a member of the working class and to be less believed than those of the middle class.

The other side used her case to point out the problems with current government and the justice system. Even detailed analysis of the evidence presented pointing out many flaws in the prosecution's case and appeals for mercy did not save the woman from the gallows.

Not long after her death, she was immortalized on the stage and referenced during other celebrated later cases of poisoning. (4)

The attention given to this type of murder far exceed the actual cases ever making it to court. In 1849, of 20,000 suspicious deaths in all of England and Wales, only eleven involved possible murder by poison (and not all were found guilty).



Public fear, however, fueled an increase in arrests and prosecution, with the number of trials rising from seven in 1829-1838; to 23 from 1839 to 1848; to 17, 1849-1858, before dropping to seven the next decade. (5) By far, the most common poison, in about a third of the cases, was arsenic. This readily available chemical was particularly feared because it was almost tasteless and could be mixed in food or drink.

In addition to being sold in pharmacies as a medicine as well as to eliminate rats, ants, and other vermin, it was a common ingredient in many household products, including paint, dye, and even soap. (6)

In 1836, the highly sensitive Marsh test, named for its discoverer, provided the first reliable means for identifying the presence of arsenic, even in the stomach contents of corpses. (7) While arsenic could be undetectable to its victim, prussic acid, or cyanide, had a very distinct odor. Named for the blue pigment Prussian blue from which it was first isolated, the acid is also found in the pits of various fruits, including bitter almonds. With a distinctive smell and taste of bitter almonds, it was rarely be used for murder. (8) Ingestion was either by accident or intentional. In 1837-1838,

twenty-seven cases of prussic acid poisoning occurred in England. Of those, almost all were suicides. (9)

The intent, then, of Eugenia Rounder's plan for her own bottle of the poison in "The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger" becomes clear, and as well as her decision to mail it to Sherlock Holmes after their



meeting to indicate her intention to end her life had changed. Despite the public's concern and fascination with murder by poisoning, such cases were very rare in the 1800s.

Even Parliament's attempt in 1851 to regulate arsenic sales by requiring pharmacists keep a ledger

of sales and ordering certain amounts of arsenic be colored with soot or indigo to prevent murder attempts had little effect because so few of poisonings were homicides. (10) Even if taken to trial, such murders were hard to prove because other than arsenic, no tests existed to indicate poison as the cause of death.

That no poisons were ever identified by name in canon (other than prussic acid intended for suicide) most likely reflects even the limits of Sherlock's ability to determine the exact cause of death.

As in A Study in Scarlet, he might be able to prove a homicide with the death of a terrier, but beyond that, even he couldn't name his poison.

(1) Steven Doyle and David Crowder, *Sherlock Holmes for Dummies* (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, 2010), p. 15.

(2) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert (2012-12-13). *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* (Kindle Location 31379).

(3) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert (2012-12-13). *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* (Kindle Locations 552-553).

(4) Judith Flanders, *The Invention of Murder* (London: Harper Press, 2011), pp . 183-197.

(5) *Ibid*, p. 234.

(6) *Ibid*, p. 232.

(7) E. J. Wagner, *The Science of Sherlock Holmes* (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, 2006), p. 48.

(8) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrogen_cyanide

(9) Alfred S. Taylor, *Medical Jurisprudence* (Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard, 1845), p. 210.

(10) http://dujs.dartmouth.edu/2008/02/sensational-murders-a-poisonous-history-of-victorian-society/#.Vw_UnPkrLs1

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the Bilge Pump) and sign up for her newsletter at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

HOLMES SWEET HOMICIDE

Old West Melodrama, noted by Peter E. Blau

Old West Melodrama theater company, in Spring, Texas, unveils a mystery dinner show that spoofs Victorian customs, Sherlock Holmes mysteries, exotic diseases and cures, and more.

World-famous detective, Hemlock Holmes, has just returned from a trip to a sanatorium in upstate New York, where he is visited by a long-lost cousin. Unbeknownst to his sidekick, Whatsun, Holmes brought the cousin, Elmira, back home. When Whatsun finds out the cousin is a beautiful woman with a rare mental disorder called Disrobe-a-phobia, she's shocked and jealous (yes, Whatsun is a woman too).

Mystery and intrigue abound when Dr. Charles Ovary and his nurse arrive to cure Elmira – and the doctor becomes as infatuated with Elmira as Holmes is! It's up to you to guess who-done-it! Shows are from May 13-28.



For more information, go to:

<http://www.oldwestmelodrama.com/>

56 Stories in 56 Days -- The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge

Posted on October 26, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet

This is the first story in the compilation titled 'His Last Bow' and starts with a brief description of Holmes' current situation.

Watson tells us that Holmes is alive and well, though occasionally troubled by bouts of rheumatism.

He is living on a small farm upon the Downs near Eastbourne enjoying his retirement.

The story of Wisteria Gables pre-dates this and is set in 1892.

I feel somewhat let down by the story. I want to hear more about Holmes' retirement and why he has let Watson continue to write about him when The Second Stain was meant to be the last one.

What has happened to Watson once Holmes has retired?

Has he gone back to medical work?

Has he remarried?

I have tried to look at some of these things in my own novel, and interestingly have named the house in which Watson ultimately ends up living in as Wisteria Gables – a mix of Wisteria Lodge and The Three Gables.

This story is really not one of my favourites, too long and complicated in my opinion.

It's basically a tale, inexplicably split into two parts, about a nasty dictator who fled from his country taking great wealth with him and goes to hide in England.

A gang have been following him trying to seek revenge and some of its members are staying in a nearby house.

They enlist the services of a woman whose husband was killed by the dictator and she gains employment in his household as a nanny.

Here's where the problems start for me – why didn't she just kill him herself as she hated him so much? Why did they wait so long to make the attack?

Anyway, the leader of the gang befriends a respectable fellow and arranges for him to stay at his house, changing the times on the clocks so that he can provide an alibi, but the dictator gets wind of the planned attack and kills his would-be murder first.

Gosh, it is far too much coming-and-going for a short story.

For once, the police are on the right track, and the promising Inspector Baynes reaches the same conclusion as Holmes.

This is a first, a big change from all previous stories. Holmes is able to deliver the crucial witness, the nanny, but still justice cannot be done as the villain escapes.

There is a report years later which tells of his eventual murder but the whole thing seems unfinished to me.

I just didn't enjoy this one and wanted to know more about the central characters rather than some bonkers dictator.

It's a 4 out of 10 I'm afraid – here's hoping that the rest of His Last Bow scores a little better.

An Inquiry Into "The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge"

Murray, the Courageous Orderly (a.k.a. Alexander Braun)

"The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge," was first published in **The Strand Magazine** in September - October 1908. According to Baring-Gould's chronology, as set down in **The Annotated Sherlock Holmes,** Second Edition, 1974, the case takes place on Monday, March 24, to Saturday, March 29, 1890. At the time Holmes is 36 years old and Watson 38.

Notable Quotes:

"I suppose, Watson, we must look upon you as a man of letters."

"My mind is like a racing engine, tearing itself to pieces because it is not connected up with the work for which it was built."

Writing Affliction

This is yet another instance of Holmes criticizing Watson about his writings... so it would seem. However, if we look at it closely: "If you cast your mind back to some of those narratives with which you have afflicted a long-suffering public..." it sounds to me as if he is making more of a joke than a criticism with even--dare I say it?--a tinge of affection.

A Refresher Course?

According to what he tells us, when Watson examined the voodoo implements, the nature of one seemed to elude him: "At first, as I examined it, I thought that it was a mummified Negro baby, and then it seemed a very twisted ancient monkey. Finally, I was left in doubt as to whether it was animal or human."

I have difficulties in believing any doctor would be unable to

determine whether whole remains in that state of preservation are human or not. I cannot believe that even an educated layman would be that uncertain. The bone structure--particularly arms and legs--of a monkey is clearly different to that of a human. I think this is one instance when the Good Doctor, very possibly to protect the then more fragile sensibilities of his readers is keeping something from us. It is interesting to note the doctor who identified the remains had been burned as not being human, apparently said nothing about the relic that so confused Watson.

The Ex-Dictator's Planning

It seems strange that when he realized who she was, Murillo hesitated and did not get rid of the "governess" in a far more practical and permanent manner. And then later why did he risk his getaway by drugging her and taking her with him? A shallow grave was called for--much safer.

The Nemesis

It is hard to believe in all the time she worked as governess, Sra. Durando limited herself to informing her co-conspirators about Murillo's whereabouts. One would have expected a woman bent on avenging her husband's death who has been living in danger of her life close to her husband's murderer to have acted more directly--a shot to the back of the head, a knifing, a trace of cyanide, getting back at him through his daughters, etc. Her status as an English lady would not have applied here, in view of the character of the man she kept under surveillance.

Baynes the Detective

It seems peculiar Watson would have been so careful about chronicling this case instead of, say, the giant rat of Sumatra. There is little here that can be called a Holmsian triumph. It is Baynes who identifies Murillo by tracking his travels--to the surprise of Holmes. It is Baynes who arrests the mulatto, against Holmes' amused advice, and only later we find out it was a ruse on Baynes' part. Then Baynes watches Holmes approaching Murillo's house without the Great Detective realizing it. Then, to top it all, Holmes misses the governess. Had it not been by Warner, she surely would have been killed. It seems that in almost every instance, Holmes lagged behind.

What else happened in 1890:

EMPIRE

- Helgoland ceded to Germans.
- Work of Rhodes Pioneers begun in Southern Rhodesia.
- Britain annexes Uganda.
- Britain recognizes French Protectorate over Madagascar.
- Treaty of Busah: improved Franco-British relations in West Africa.
- Zanzibar Settlement: Tanganyika becomes Imperial Germany Colony; Germany excluded from Upper Nile; British Protectorate over Zanzibar.

BRITAIN

- Parnell vindicated of Phoenix Park murder charges; ruined by O'Shea divorce petition; rejected as leader of Irish Nationalists in Commons, resigns.

- Omnibus strike in London settled on basis of 12-hour day.
 - January 4, Daily Graphic launched, first daily illustrated paper. Merged with Daily Sketch in 1926.
 - Horniman Museum opens.
 - First part of Rosebery Avenue opened.
 - Dulwich Park, gifted by Dulwich College, opens.
 - Vauxhall Park opens.
 - City and South London Railway from Stockwell to William Street, first deep level tube railway.
 - London-Paris telephone line opened.
 - Financial panic in London and in Paris.
 - Lunacy Act gives management of asylums to visiting committees.
 - Housing of Working Classes Act.
 - Sir B. Baker and Sir J. Fowler complete cantilever Forth Bridge (for railway) at Queensferry, near Edinburgh; length 1.3 miles.
 - Gilbert writes, Original Comic Operas.
 - Barry writes, My Lady Nicotine.
 - Booth writes, In Darkest England.
 - Caine writes, Bondman, a Novel.
 - Sir James George Frazer writes, The Golden Bough (to 1915).
 - Morris writes News from Nowhere.
 - Sir William Watson write, Wordsworth's Grave.
- WORLD
- German control over East African territories.

- Wounded Knee massacre.
 - Idaho and Wyoming are admitted into the Union.
 - Workmen in France allowed compensation for contracts broken by employers.
 - William III of Holland dies; Luxembourg passes to Duke of Nassau.
 - Fall of Bismarck; Caprivi made Imperial Chancellor; start of personal rule of William II.
 - Zemstva Law in Russia; limited franchise in local government; excluded intellectual professions.
 - Russia attempts to limit Finnish Control over customs and money.
 - First meeting of Japanese Legislature under new Constitution.
 - French miners to elect delegates to supervise safety while working.
 - In Chicago, the first entirely steel-framed building erected.
 - French Explorer Monteil's journey Niger-Kano-Tchad-Tripoli; completed 1892.
 - First Chinese cotton mill constructed.
 - Olderbank Clubs (q.v., 1882) in Italy suppressed.
- ART
- Franck, Belgian organ composer dies.
 - Cézanne paints Mme. Cézanne in the Conservatory.
 - Degas paints Dancers in Blue.
 - Pietro Mascagni writes Cavalleria Rusticana.

- Van Gogh paints Portrait of Dr. Gachet, Street in Anvers, dies.
 - Prince Igor, commenced by Borodin (dies 1887), completed by Glazunov and Rimsky-Korsakov.
 - Tschaikovsky composes Queen of Spades.
 - Whistler writes, The Gentle Art of Making Enemies.
 - Paul Claudel presents Tête d'Or.
 - Stefan George writes, Hymnen.
 - Arno Holtz writes, Die Familie Selicke.
 - Ibsen writes, Hedda Gabler.
 - Zola writes, La Bête humaine.
- SCIENCE
- Bertillon publishes La photographie judiciaire, in which he explains his anthropometry (q.v., 1882).
 - Emil von Behring, German bacteriologist, discovers immunity to tetanus can be given by use of serum; introduces name "antitoxin."
 - Halstead, at John Hopkins Hospital, first to use rubber gloves in surgery.
 - Moving-picture films, precursor of cinematography (q.v., 1894) shown in New York.
 - Cyanide process of preparation of gold from crude ore developed in South Africa (q.v., 1887).
 - Lockyer's theory of stellar evolution.
 - P. Rudolph's anastigmatic camera lens.
 - Discovery of Cleopatra's tomb

Between the Lines: Thoughts on Sherlock Holmes and Two Remarkable Women

By Bill Mason, Holmes and Watson Report, Sherlock Peoria

The editor of The Holmes & Watson Report has performed a great service by debunking the rampant, but totally unfounded, speculation about a "relationship" between Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler Norton. As everyone knows, she was regarded as the woman by the Master Detective because of her success in outwitting him in "A Scandal in Bohemia."

Building on this statement, the world of pastiche is infested with stories about a romance between the two, and the more objectionable of them go so far as to produce marriage and/or progeny from the couple.

This is done, apparently, because of a curious reluctance to allow Holmes to pursue his life without the emotional entanglements that are central to most other people. In addition, this is done obstinately and shamelessly despite the plain testimony of Dr. Watson: "It was not that he felt any emotion akin to love for Irene Adler. All emotions, and that one particularly, were abhorrent to his cold, precise, but admirably balanced mind."

Such a statement, in and of itself, ought to be enough to banish the impudent and offensive attempts to link the two, either emotionally or physically, from Holmes-inspired literature once and for all.

However, there are three other very good reasons to remove Irene Adler Norton from any scenario that pertains to the private life of Sherlock Holmes.

First, she was a "well-known adventuress," that is, a professional mistress "of dubious and questionable memory." Why Holmes would want to bind himself to such a woman - used (in fact well-used) goods - has never been adequately explained. A man of his standing in the Victorian age, a man descended from the landed gentry, would not lower himself in his own eyes or the eyes of others by cavorting with her.

Second, she was married. She married a lawyer, who presumably was lacking in either scruples (which is not difficult to believe) or good judgment (being blinded by love) and thus would have none of the reluctance of an upright and knowledgeable citizen like Holmes. On the other hand, Mr. Norton may have been totally unaware of her background.

In any case, Sherlock Holmes knew she was married; he had, after all, facilitated the ceremony. Whatever we

might think of Holmes, surely we do not believe he was a partner in adultery.

Third, she was dead. This is a clincher. Remember, Watson referred to her as "the late Irene Adler" and recalled her "memory."

The case took place in March of 1888, and Watson's account was published in 1891. A period of only three years is available for the theorists to have her fall out of love with her husband, get a divorce (no quick process at that time), and return ... not to the high-rolling world of millionaire playboys, but to the arms of the Spartan-living Sherlock Holmes to share secret liaisons or even babies - all without Watson's knowledge.

The newly-married doctor may have been preoccupied and somewhat thick, but not that thick. Too little time, too little opportunity, too little likelihood - the starry-eyed romance novelists must look elsewhere for their fodder.

So the hypothesis romantically linking Irene Adler Norton to Sherlock Holmes fails. Unfortunately, not content to bravely shoot down this popular and enduring - but distasteful - myth, the aforementioned editor has attempted to create a new one, substituting the lovely Maud Bellamy for Mrs. Norton based on some expansive descriptions penned many years later by Sherlock Holmes himself in "The Adventure of the Lion's Mane."

A close analysis of Holmes's ruminations on Maud Bellamy, however, appears to disprove any idea that she commanded a romantic interest in the Master Detective or even that she could replace or supplant Irene Adler in his estimation. Consider his actual statements and a reasonable bit of "between the lines" dissection of them. Here is what Holmes had to say about Miss Bellamy and what he may well have been thinking:

"There is no gainsaying she would have graced any assembly in the world."

"I haven't been studying human nature all this time for nothing. I know full well how a woman like this can be 'excellent for drawing the veil from men's motives and actions.'" 1

"Who could have imagined that so rare a flower would grow from such a root and in such an atmosphere?"

"Part of solving any case is winnowing the ordinary from the exotic. The very fact that she is so different from every other woman in this part of the country may have significance."

"Women have seldom been an attraction to me, for my brain has always governed my heart ... "

"And when I say 'always,' I mean it. I have lived like one of Poe's neurotic narrators, who said, 'In the strange anomaly of my existence, feelings with me had never been of the heart, and my passions always were of the mind.'²

Even Irene Adler, the woman, fascinated me only because she alone of her sex was my intellectual peer."

" ... but I could not look upon her perfect clear-cut face, with all the soft freshness of the Downlands in her delicate coloring ... "

"This specimen bears up well under the kind of observation I advocated in 'The Book of Life.'³ How remarkable that there is not the slightest blemish or irregularity in her! However, her home county would be an easy enough deduction for me, wherever I might meet her."

" ... without realizing that no young man would cross her path unscathed."

"Fortunately, I am not a young man - there will be no losing of my senses over a pretty face. I resolved long ago to remain unshaken by purely physical charms, and at this point in my life, I would justly be considered an 'old fool' for even looking her way."

"Such was the girl who had pushed open the door and stood now, wide-eyed and intense, in front of Harold Stackhurst."

"Yes, she's a girl, not a woman. To me, that's no small difference." However, as I said before, some young man will gladly take her for his own. These were the first impressions that Maud Bellamy made upon Sherlock Holmes, but her subsequent actions could not help but impress him favorably. She was dealing with the death of her fiancé without any feminine hysterics, and she had asserted her independence of mind in the face of the forceful demands of her father and brother. Holmes had further reflections on this uncommon woman:

1 "A Scandal in Bohemia."

2 From "Berenice" by Edgar Allan Poe, in Tales of Mystery and Imagination.

3 A Study in Scarlet, Chapter 2.

4 "A Scandal in Bohemia."

"She listened ... with a composed concentration which showed me that she possessed strong character as well as great beauty."

"Thank goodness, we have not endured the weeping and wailing of some vapid damsel in distress. That would be Watson's department, in the old days. But Miss Bellamy turns out to be an excellent witness and a fine example of how a woman ought to behave. "

"Maud Bellamy will always remain in my memory as a most complete and remarkable woman."

"I cannot imagine that Miss Bellamy continued to reside in this part of the country, considering all of her charms. Perhaps it is for the best that she lives for me 'in my memory' rather than in my daily experience. Doubtless, I would have been disappointed more than once with the failings common to her sex."

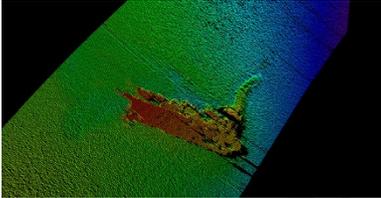
Indeed, Holmes might have felt some twinges of disappointment even before the conclusion of the "Lion's Mane" matter. Despite Miss Bellamy's excellent qualities, Holmes described her as looking at him "helplessly" and noted that "she blushed and seemed confused." To Sherlock Holmes, she was only a girl, after all. No wonder he felt compelled to be kind, to condescend, to tell her a little white lie: "I value a woman's instinct in such matters."

Of course, nothing could be farther from the truth. Even so, Holmes looked upon her with a degree of approval that few women had been able to earn. Certainly, Maud Bellamy belonged to an elite set of women who commanded the admiration and esteem of Sherlock Holmes - a group that, until that time, may have been no larger than Irene Adler Norton and Mrs. Hudson (although a case can be made for at least a few others).

That Sherlock Holmes had no romantic interest in either Mrs. Norton or Miss Bellamy should not lessen either of them in the eyes of the world. No woman was so honored, but these two merited his respect. There is no need to "replace" Irene with Maud or anyone else as Sherlock Holmes's love interest. The entire subject belongs in the realm of idle conjecture. Let Sherlock be Sherlock, a man who "never spoke of the softer passions, save with a gibe and a sneer."⁴

Loch Ness Monster scanner picks up something very curious...

Metro, United Kingdom



After 80 years of searching for the Loch Ness Monster, you would imagine there would be butterflies for research teams when

they saw this on their radar. But that excitement quickly turned to disappointment when it turned out the shape was actually a 1970s film prop.

Nessie hunters were left disappointed when monster remains uncovered at the bottom of Loch Ness turned out to be a 1970s film prop.

The 30ft model is thought to have sunk after the shooting of *The Private Life Of Sherlock Holmes*, directed by Hollywood great Billy Wilder.

It was found on the loch bed during the latest survey of the 755ft deep stretch of water.

A marine robot named Munin is being used to explore areas that have not been reached before.

A spokesman for VisitScotland, which is supporting the project, said: 'Operation Groundtruth has uncovered a recognisable creature.'

'Although it is the shape of Nessie, it is not the remains of the monster that has mystified the world for 80 years, but a star of the silver screen.'

Christopher Lee starred in the 1970 film where the monster in fact turned out to be a disguised naval submarine. The prop is thought to have sunk after its humps were removed and it had not been seen again until now.

Discoveries already made in Loch Ness include a crashed Second World War bomber, a 100-year-old fishing vessel and parts of



John Cobb's speed record attempt craft *Crusader*, which crashed at more than 200mph in 1952.

In a further blow to monster hunters, early survey findings have revealed that claims made earlier this year about a 'Nessie trench' in the northern basin of the loch are incorrect.

More precise underwater evidence shows there is no anomaly or abyss at the location.

The survey – the first of its kind in Scotland – is being carried out over two weeks by Kongsberg Maritime and supported by the Loch Ness Project and VisitScotland.

Loch Ness has been notoriously difficult to survey in the past due to its depth and steeply sloping side walls.

Munin can map vast areas to depths of 4,921ft (1,500m) and has been used in the past to search for downed aircraft and sunken vessels.

Loch Ness project leader Adrian Shine said: 'Because Munin can dive and navigate itself safely at great depth, it can approach features of interest and image them at extremely high resolution.'

'We already have superb images of the hitherto difficult side wall topography and look forward to discovering artefacts symbolic of the human history of the area.'

Despite no conclusive evidence of the famed monster, the mystery and interest surrounding Nessie is worth an estimated £60 million to the Scottish economy, with hundreds of thousands of visitors travelling to Loch Ness every year in the hope of catching a glimpse.

VisitScotland chief executive Malcolm Roughead said: 'We are excited

to see the findings from this in-depth survey by Kongsberg, but no matter how state-of-the-art the equipment is, and no matter what it reveals, there will always be a sense of mystery and the unknown around what really lies beneath Loch Ness.'



Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Foy,
Rusty & Steve Mason



Baker Street Elementary
Number 057 - 05/08/2016
Foy, Mason, & Mason

HOW DID I GET STUCK TUTORING THE NEW TRANSFER YOUNGINS'?

OK STAMFORD, YOU CAN DO THIS. JUST START BY ASKING THEIR NAMES AND GO FROM THERE. HOW HARD CAN THIS BE...

WELL, GOOD MORNING. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

YU.

OH, MY APOLOGIES. MY NAME IS STAMFORD. AND YOU ARE?

YU.

hmm... SEEMS WE HAVE A LANGUAGE BARRIER. OK, LET'S TRY THE TEXAN HERE. AT LEAST HE SPEAKS ENGLISH.

HELLO, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

HOWDY, I RECKON THIS AIN'T SOMETHANG YA DUN FORE...

YA MIGHT OUGHTA BE CAREFUL; YU LOOKS LIKE HE'S FIXIN' TO START A-CRYIN'...

ME? YOU NEED TO START USING PROPER ENGLISH...

GOSH DURN IT, NOW YA DUN IT... YU HAS DUN STARTED A-CRYIN'...

I HAVE NOT... OH... WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

Y - U !

WHY ME? I DID NOT MEAN TO MAKE HIM CRY...

NO, I DUN TOLD YA HIS NAME IS YU, SPELLED Y-U... YA MIGHT WOULD A HAD OUGHTA LISTENED MORE CLEARLY...

WITHIN FIVE MINUTES, I MADE A YOUNGIN CRY... THAT'S PROBABLY SOME SORT OF RECORD...

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 04 - April, 2016
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



From the Editors: Thanks for all your support. Steve & Walt

May 1st Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, May 1st, at **LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE**, in Addison.

The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

We will be reading "The Adventure of the Resident Patient."

The quiz will cover this tale.

Each monthly meeting will also include toasts as well as general business, introductions, and general fellowship.

April 3rd Meeting

There were 20 in attendance at the monthly meeting, including 2 visitors from Iowa. Joe Fay offered up a well thought-out toast, honoring Benedict Cumberbatch (page 2). Steve Mason also offered up a toast to Douglas Wilmer, who recently passed away (page 4).

The quiz on "The Adventure of the Crooked Man" was won by Sandra Little, with a perfect score.

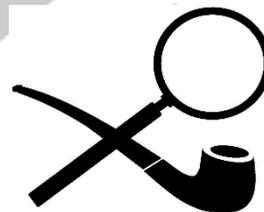
Announcements included the series "Elementary" has been extended to a 5th season and has moved to Sunday nights.

Steve led a discussion of the story, concerning Dr. Watson's living circumstances (number of servants, possible other incomes for Watson, expenses).

David Harnois summarized his "Lost Without My Boswell" project, with the goal of recording and presenting online an adaptation/dramatization of each of the sixty stories of the Canon. (See page 6 for more details).

Steve closed the meeting with a reading from the BSI journal from December, 1966, a writing called "Back to the Canon" by Chris Redmond (page 3).

Thanks to Brenda Hutchison for taking the minutes of the cruise. The full minutes are posted on our webpage at: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/log-of-the-crew.html>



For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://dfw-sherlock.org/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: [@barquelonestar](https://twitter.com/barquelonestar)

You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>

Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries
Historian
Webmaster

Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison
Pam Mason
Rusty Mason

mason.steve@epa.gov
waltpieper@att.net
221b@verizon.net
jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com
myrkrid08@yahoo.com

A TOAST

Joe Fay



A photo surfaced on the web this week,
Of you as Doctor Strange.

You've also played against another Holmes,
In Frankenstein on the stage.

You've crawled inside the beautiful mind,
Of Alan Turing, and showed his smartness.

And you gave your best to another awful mess,
As KHAN! in Star Trek: Into Darkness.



You've played Hamlet and other Shakespeare,
Hedda Gabler and After the Dance.

And Stephen Hawking on TV,

Years before Redmayne's Oscar chance.

We've heard your voice on The Simpsons,
As Prime Minister and Severus Snape.



You played William Pitt, the Younger,
In 2006's Amazing Grace.

To Kill a King, The Hobbit, Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy,
You even played Julian Assange, that elusive WikiLeaks guy.

But the role we'll forever cast you in,
Is the world's greatest consulting detective.



So here's to you, Benedict Cumberbatch,
As Sherlock Holmes, you've been the most effective.

BACK TO THE CANON - DECEMBER, 1966 BAKER STREET JOURNAL

CHRIS REDMOND

Note: While this essay was written almost 50 years ago, and Chris will quickly point out that those are not necessarily his contemporary thoughts and opinions, it is still wonderfully written (not a surprise – everything Chris composes is a treat).

“While yet the memory of Sherlock Holmes is green— and that will be as long as the spirit of adventurous emprise is still astir in human hearts—there will be those who will be moved to write in loving tribute to the master and his works.”

So wrote the greatest Sherlockian of them all, Edgar W. Smith, in the first issue of The Baker Street Journal. His words are as true today as they were in 1946, for the numbers of our movement are now many times what they were twenty years ago. More than thirty regional groups celebrate the activities of Sherlock Holmes, and the parent societies are strong and active. Yet there is a change. Today’s scholarship is quite different from that which appeared in the early days of the movement. Peruse the first issues of the BSJ, for example. The “higher criticism” published in the early days of the Irregulars was, generally speaking, based directly on Canonical references. Little outside material was drawn in, yet milestones in scholarship were reached which have rarely been surpassed. Was Watson a woman, for example, as Rex Stout claimed? Probably not — but when has such a

giddy height been reached since? Seldom indeed.

Current scholarship, in contrast to this, is based heavily on obscure outside materials. The footnotes in current articles tend to refer, not to the sixty Canonical tales, but to a multitude of non-Sherlockian volumes. Many great— invaluable—nay, priceless discoveries have been made in this way; yet at the same time utterly ineffable twaddle is thrust upon the world in the name of true scholarship. Many chronological revelations and other significant esoterica have been uncovered in recent months; yet a good deal of self— contradictory, valueless tripe is similarly unearthed.

And so where does it lead? I am not advocating the Sherlockian equivalent of the “Back to the Bible Movement.”

I am not—perish the thought—condemning outside scholarship. I am simply objecting to the perversion of the great name of Sherlockian scholarship for things which transparently are not...

...Instead, let us simply strive to keep the Sherlockian movement on the way upwards. Let us let our imaginations wander, but let them always return to the true Sherlock Holmes. And let us, the Sherlockians of the present and the future, always keep green the memory of that great detective who, as Vincent Starrett put it, “never lived and so can never die.”

AND SO WHAT IS A BILGE PUMP?

Steve Mason

Each month, the Crew of the Barque Lone Star issues a newsletter on the events of the society, as well as articles we think will be interesting and relevant to our members.

This newsletter, in its current form, is in its fourth year of being. Research has revealed a similar newsletter was issued by the Society periodically in the 1980's and 1990's.

And the name chosen for both versions of the newsletter is "The Bilge Pump..."

Which has led to the inevitable question, "What the heck is a Bilge Pump?"

I found a good explanation of what a bilge pump is and its functions.

Notes From Ship's Bilge Pumps; A History of their Development 1500-1900 (Thomas J. Oertling)

By Courtney Andersen, Historical Ship Rigging Supervisor, 9 April 2014

Pumps were the last defense, hope, and salvation of the lives on board. A ship could lose its rig or its rudder, and still give a hope of survival, but without a working bilge pump a ship was lost.

The 18th century naval architect William Hutchinson observed that crews sometimes left ships too soon; that the ship may appear in imminent danger of foundering but was discovered hours or days later to be still afloat. After the water rises high enough to cover a leak, the rate of inflow is reduced; equilibrium is reached, and the ship often won't go down much further, making it possible for the crew to pump and plug the leak.

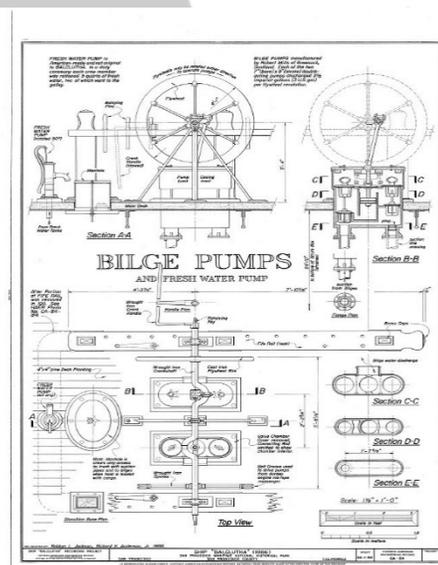
There were basically only three types of ship bilge pump used from the 1400s to the 1800s:

- burr pumps: basically a cone-shaped leather bucket that drew water up a tube
- chain pumps: a continuous chain with small burrs or buckets to catch water and pull it up, running over upper and lower sprockets
- common or "suction" pump: the earliest representation is from 1431. Use on ships was probably from sometime in late 1400s to early 1500s. The first recorded use of metal parts in ship pumps was 1526. Usually they were made entirely of wood until the late 1700s because the only tools available for boring iron tubes were those to make cannon. In 1712, the first practical steam engine was invented by Newcomen. A steam engine needed the piston and cylinder in very tight tolerances. Initially

made by hand, ground and filed...further developments in boring machines were needed before steam could progress, and it wasn't until those machines were made that all-metal pumps could be manufactured.

Dodgson's Patent Ship Pump 1799—similar to the pump on Balclutha, but still a common suction pump, using up-and-down pump handles to drive two pump boxes with two valves in each box.

Most of the early suction pumps rely on a moving upper one-way valve attached to a rod, and a stationary lower valve with a "claque" or one-way flap that allows water to move past it.

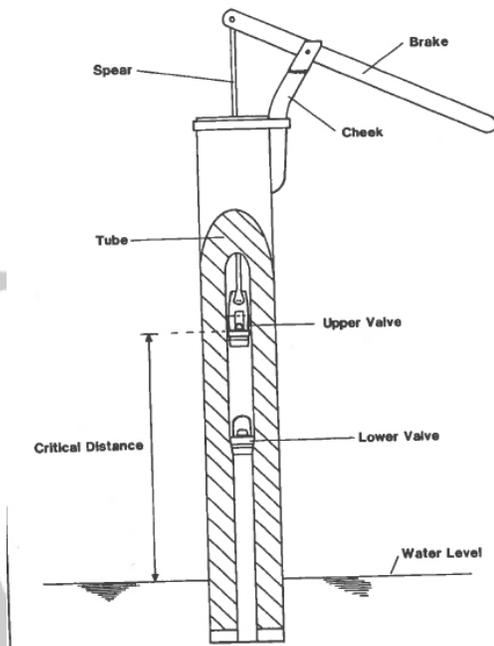


The pump has to be primed when there is no column of water in the tube. Water must cover the upper valve, sealing off the lower part of the tube from the air. As the piston works, the atmospheric pressure decreases in the tube. The water then rises through the lower valve because of the greater atmospheric pressure outside the tube pushing the water into the tube.

The height to which a common pump can raise water by suction is governed by barometric pressure -- about 28' from surface of the water to the "claque" of the upper valve at the top of the stroke. It wasn't until the 1850s that the iron flywheel to help maintain momentum of rotation was developed to work with a camshaft to drive the two piston rods. This quickly became the standard on packets and clipper ships.

Balclutha's pump by Robert Mills of Greenock, Scotland is an improved "force pump" design which uses a central water-filled piston chamber connected to two valve chambers. Each of these valve chambers has two heavy valves with leather gaskets. Water is drawn up past the lower valve by the piston's suction stroke; the lower valve then seals closed; then when the piston pushes against the water in the pump case, it is pushed past the upper valve and out through the discharge "dale." The two sets of valves means that the pump ejects water smoothly in both the up and the down motions of the piston; this is known as "double action."

This "force pump" design was known to the Romans, but it wasn't until metal working progressed in the mid 1800s that it became a practical shipboard pump style. A force pump



differs from a common suction pump in that the valves are not located on the piston rod.

With usually one or two "heads" aboard a ship, and sometimes hundreds of sailors, many sailors used the bilge as a latrine. The accumulation of filth and garbage in the hold polluted the bilges, and though a health hazard, the nature of the bilge water provided proof of whether the hull was tight:

Boteler 1634: "when it stinketh much, it is a sign that the water hath lain long in the hold of the ship; and on the contrary, when it is clear and sweet, it is a token that it comes freshly in from the sea. This stinking water therefore is always a welcome perfume to an old seaman; and he that stops his nose at it is laughed at, and held but a fresh-water man at best."

For those who would like to learn more about bilge pumps, you can read the entire thesis by Thomas Oertling, Texas A&M, at <http://nautarch.tamu.edu/pdf-files/Oertling-MA%201984.pdf>

I AM LOST WITHOUT MY BOSWELL

A Sherlock Holmes Audio Drama Project: By Fans, For Fans

Hi everyone, my name is David Harnois.

By day I work in customer service, having previously worked professionally in theatre.

I am also a Sherlockian, Holmesian, Sherlock Holmes fan...whatever designation you want to put on it.



To my knowledge, there have only been 2 complete audio recordings of the canon, and on screen the closest anyone came was Eille Norwood in the 1920s Stoll series with 47 stories, followed

by Jeremy Brett in the Granada series with 41 of the stories.

So why would I want to tread where others have gone before? Honestly...it sounded fun.

I had played the role of Holmes in a production of "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" by Katie Forgette, and some part of me just can't let him go.

I was reading through the canon, and started thinking to myself how easy it really would be to just layout the straight text as a script.

Again, it's been done, so why do it again? Well, in this day and age, there is the opportunity to make this a real international Holmes adaptation by fans, for fans.

Characters in the canon come from all over the globe, so should the voice actors; and unlike shooting a film or tv show, they don't even need to leave their home to do it.

I want to do the whole thing; continuity errors, the uncomfortable attitudes towards other cultures, and everything else that comes up in the canon.

My hope is to make a quality product that will appeal to old and new fans alike. If this sounds like something you want to try and help me with, click on the Auditions page.

There's a long way to go, but I would love to accomplish this.

To this point, there are four stories posted on the webpage you can listen to, or download for free:

- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
 - A Scandal in Bohemia
 - The Red-Headed League
 - A Case of Identity
 - The Boscombe Valley Mystery

Go to the webpage for more information:
<https://iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com/>

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17 STEPS TO THE RESIDENT PATIENT

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of the case at hand...

WATSON BECOMES A BIT JADED

"For in those cases in which



Holmes has performed some tour de force of analytical reasoning, and has demonstrated the value of his peculiar methods of investigation,

the facts themselves have often been so slight or so commonplace I could not feel justified in laying them before the public.

On the other hand, it has frequently happened he has been concerned in some research where the facts have been of the most remarkable and dramatic character, but where the share which he has himself taken in determining their causes has been less pronounced than I, as his biographer, could wish.

The small matter which I have chronicled under the heading of "A Study in Scarlet," and that other later one connected with the loss of the Gloria Scott, may serve as examples of this Scylla and Charybdis which are forever threatening the historian." That's one complicated quote.

Correct me if I'm wrong here, but isn't Watson saying "A Study in Scarlet" was a case where the facts were commonplace or slight?

Were American frontiersmen using fifty-fifty poison pills on gal-stealing bigamists every day in Victorian London?

Or is Watson thinking less of his initial work as his involvement with Holmes's cases went on?

THE WEB OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

"He loved to lie in the very centre of five millions of people, with his filaments stretching out and running through them, responsive to every

little rumour or suspicion of unsolved crime."



Sounds a bit like Moriarty, doesn't it? Moriarty, however, had a vast organization behind him. What are Holmes's "filaments" that bring him these

little rumors and suspicions of unsolved crime?

WATSON GETS PASSIONATE

"You were recalling the incidents of Beecher's career. I was aware you could not do this without thinking of the mission which he undertook on behalf of the North at the time of the Civil War, for I remember you expressing passionate indignation at the way in which he was received by the more turbulent of our people."

Henry Beecher came to London in 1863 to help gain English support for the Northern cause in the Civil War. Reading of what happened during Beecher's speaking at that time will shatter any stereotypes an American might hold of reserved and ultra-civilized Englishmen, and Watson was plainly ashamed of his "more turbulent" countrymen.

Beecher's troubles are over twenty years in the past at the time of "Resident Patient," however . . . so why was Watson so passionate about it at this later date?



Was a young Watson actually present for one of Beecher's speeches? Why else would he get so passionate about something so long ago?

A PERFORMANCE WE'D ALL PAY TO SEE

Despite the fact Watson claims everyone is out of town, when he and Holmes decide to take a stroll, London seems the happening place.



"For three hours we strolled together,

watching the ever-changing kaleidoscope of life as it ebbs and flows through Fleet Street and Strand. His characteristic talk, with its keen observance of detail and subtle power of inference, held me amused and enthralled."

Who wouldn't want to spend three hours with Holmes as he rambled off the details of passers-by on busy streets? But wouldn't people notice that these two men were glancing at them and talking about them? How dangerous might that have been in urban London?

THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE

When Holmes identifies Trevelyan's brougham as belonging to a doctor, Watson knows it is from "the nature and state of the various medical instruments in the wicker basket which hung in the lamp-light inside the brougham."

One would think such portable and better known medical instruments as stethoscopes, syringes, and scalpels could be carried in the traditional doctor's bag.

What medical instruments would be big enough and commonly used enough Trevelyan would carry them around in a wicker basket?



THE DRIVERLESS CARRIAGE

Holmes and Watson encounter Trevelyan’s brougham sitting outside 221 Baker Street with medical tools visible inside.

Yet they never mention the carriage’s driver until Trevelyan says something.



Where was the coachman? Wouldn’t it be strange for Holmes to be loudly making deductions about their visitor when the driver was sitting right there?

Where might he have been? Taking tea with Mrs. Hudson? Down the block chatting up some street wench? Would the contents of the carriage have been safe on a London street at that hour? Not all street urchins wound up in the Irregulars after all . . .

THE COMMENT ABOUT THE CANDLE

Holmes deduces Trevelyan hasn’t been waiting long due to the state of the candle upon the side-table. Sounds good on the surface, but it would also mean that either

a.) Mrs. Hudson started each evening with fresh candles throughout the house, or

b.) Holmes observed and remembered the current length of every candle in his abode.

Which was the case, or are there other options? And didn’t they have gas lighting in 221B at that time?

VENTURE CAPITALISTS OF THE MEDICAL TRADE

“This was the strange proposal, Mr. Holmes, with which the man Blessington approached me,” Trevelyan states.

But after hearing the doctor’s story of his promising career being held up for lack of funding, Blessington’s offer to set him up in a practice for a share of the profits seems like the perfect solution.

Such investments were surely common in other businesses at the

time. Why should it seem so strange in the medical field? Was the mixture of business and medicine something uncommon then that we’ve grown accustomed to in the modern day?



OH, PERCY’S DELICATE EARS!

“Who has been in my room?” he cried.

“No one,” said I.

“It’s a lie!” he yelled. ‘Come up and look!’

“I passed over the grossness of his language, as he seemed half out of his mind with fear,” Trevelyan comments on the previous exchange.

What was so “gross” about Blessington’s language? No obvious coarse words there, are there?

Or was the accusation of lying what Percy considered so gross?

THE LONG WALK HOME

“A minute later we were in the street and walking for home. We had crossed Oxford Street and were halfway down Harley Street before I could get a word from my companion.”



It took something under a quarter of an hour to ride in a carriage to 403 Brook Street. It’s now probably between eleven and midnight. Holmes and Watson have already been out for one long walk earlier in the evening. Why didn’t they take a cab? How long would the walk home have taken them? Would there have been many people out on the streets at that time of night on their route?

THE ADVENTURE OF THE CATALEPTIC DETECTIVE

“And the catalepsy?” Watson asks.

“A fraudulent imitation, Watson, though I should hardly dare to hint as much to our specialist. It is a very easy

complaint to imitate. I have done it myself.”

We’ve seen Holmes pretend to pass out in “Reigate Squires” and seen the use he had for such an act.

But catalepsy is a fairly specific sort of losing consciousness involved muscular rigidity -- why would Holmes need to play-act that specific ailment instead of just a general, all-purpose faint? Was he just varying his repertoire, or would there be a situation where just that ailment was called for?

THE PROPHECY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

“But we may sleep on it now, for I shall be surprised if we do not hear something further from Brook Street in the morning,” Holmes says after visiting Blessington.

He knows someone wanted something in Blessington’s room, probably Blessington himself.

But when he says “hear something further,” does he mean he expects a change of heart from the less-than-forthcoming resident patient, or does Holmes actually know a break-in will occur before dawn?

And if the latter, did he suspect Blessington’s criminal nature and leave him to his fate?

LANNER, SOCIOLOGIST AND SCOTLAND YARDMAN

“It’s about five in the morning, you know, that suicides are most common,” Inspector Lanner says.

Any truth to this, or is he just talking off the top of his head? (And from his own experience or from some statistics he’d read?)

Late, late at night, perhaps, but by five a.m., wouldn’t even the most ambitious suicide be tired enough to put it off until tomorrow?

ALL THE PRISON RELEASE NEWS

“No doubt the day on which he was so perturbed was the day when he had seen of their release in the newspapers.”

Were all the latest prison releases in the papers of the day?

While the release of the aging Worthington bank gang might be big news in Worthington, would it have rated a mention in the London papers that Blessington subscribed to?

THE WATERY SWORD OF JUSTICE STRIKES AGAIN!

"I have no doubt, Inspector," Holmes observes, "that you will see that, though that shield may fail to guard, the sword of justice is still there to avenge."

Once more Sherlock Holmes speaks of vengeance, and once more the villains meet a mysterious death at sea, just like in "Five Orange Pips."

Coincidence? How common were shipwrecks in those days?

Enough that we might expect it to occur this often?

MORE GREAT DETECTIVE WORK BY VILLAINS

How did the newly released convicts find their fellow bank robber? He had changed his name from Sutton to Blessington and moved into a part of London one would never expect an ex-robber to be in. Blessington only went out at one point during the day, and if they had seen him on the street (by some extremely unlikely chance), wouldn't they have just grabbed him there?

Or at least have known that was the time he took his walks?

The gang's discovery of Blessington is practically more amazing than Holmes's deductions at the end of the case.

How did they pull it off?

THAT'S A DEAL ANY CROOK WOULD GO FOR

Sutton is said to be the worst of the Worthington bank gang. He turns informant on the rest, and is, apparently, set free for testifying against them.

From the money he had to invest in Trevelyan's career, one would think that Sutton still had the seven thousand pounds the gang stole.

Wouldn't the money be the first thing Scotland Yard would have wanted Sutton to tell them about?



WHAT'S IN "WATSON"?... answers

How clever are you? Test yourself. See if you can find twenty or more words of four or more letters in the name "WATSON"

To make it a little more challenging, if you use the singular form a word, such as HOLE, do not then also count the plural form HOLES. ... and no proper nouns need apply. Here is what Rusty and I came up with.

ANTS	OATS	SNOW	SWAN	TONS	TWOS
AWNS	OWNS	SOWN	SWAT	TOSA	WANS
NATS	SANTO	STOA	SWOT	TOWS	WANT
NOTA	SAWN	STOW	TANS	TOWN	WONT
OAST	SNOT	STOWN	TAWS	TWAS	

WHAT'S IN "GREGSON"?...

How clever are you? Test yourself. See if you can find twenty or more words of four or more letters in the name "GREGSON."

To make it a little more challenging, if you use the singular form a word, such as HOLE, do not then also count the plural form HOLES. ... and no proper nouns need apply.

We will supply the answers next month.

GOING TO THE DOGS

Liese Sherwood-Fabre



From the evil hound of the Baskervilles to Toby's exceptional nose in *The Sign of Four*, dogs have played a significant role in 17% of the stories in the canon, with only two serving as a villain's accomplice.

For the most part, the canines appearing in these tales either directly or indirectly provided a clue.

Perhaps the most famous of these, Toby and Pompey, both assisted Sherlock in tracking down his prey with a superior sense of smell than even that of the great detective. (1)

Scientists estimate dogs can identify odors in parts per trillion—or 10,000 to 100,000 times greater than humans.

Their anatomy creates a very powerful instrument involving passageways for the inhalation and exhalation of air (where human use one for both directions), with about twelve percent of it diverted specifically for olfaction.

This air passes through a bony structure called turbinates and is filtered into different odor molecules, which specific receptors are able to identify. In addition, dogs have an organ (Jacobson's organ) dedicated to identifying animal pheromones.

The information from this organ is actually sent to another part of the brain and analyzed separately from that detected by the turbinates.

Most amazing is that despite all the data bombarding dogs, they are able to concentrate on the

task at hand and ignore all other scents to stay on their quarry's trail. (2)

While Toby and Pompey provided exceptional service, they bucked a Victorian preference for pure-bred dogs.

Toby was half-spaniel-half lurcher; (3) Pompey a beagle and foxhound mix. (4) Victorian show organizers would not have been allowed either to be shown or participate in field trials because of their heritage.

During the nineteenth century, the British created an interest in showing pure bred dogs as they did other livestock, and a shift occurred from a dog's talent to his appearance.

The first dog show in the world occurred in 1859 and featured five categories: sheepdogs, mastiffs, terriers, scent hounds, and companion hounds. (5)



After a number of shows, some of which failed as financial ventures, a group of thirteen created the Kennel Club in 1873 to provide a governing body and a structure for assessing a dog's quality and sanctioning exhibitions. (6)

The Club developed a stud book, providing the pedigrees of all dogs competing at shows beginning with the one in 1859, and a "Code of Rules for the guidance of Dog Shows and Field Trials" that set the standards for all recognized show breeds. (7)

Another outgrowth of the dog shows was the Canine Defense League—later the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. This group's activities led to the creation of homes for dogs, a concern for strays, and the banning of certain "sports" involving

dogs and other animals. (8) Unfortunately, the interest in purebreds led at times to in-breeding and the rise of genetic flaws among some animals. As Toby and

Pompey illustrated and Sherlock knew, a dog's breeding can enhance some skills, but in the end, it is the result that counts.

(1) <http://thenorwoodbuilder.tumblr.com/post/58441380261/sherlock-holmes-and-dogs-in-canon-well>

(2) <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/nature/dogs-sense-of-smell.html>

(3) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert (2012-12-13). The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Locations 3142-3143). Kindle Edition.

(4) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert (2012-12-13). The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Locations 23768-23770). Kindle Edition.

(5) <http://hzmhomework.bogspot.com/200712/value-of-dogs-and-victorian-era.html>

(6) http://www.davidhancockondogs.com/archives/archive_399_493/461.html

(7) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kennel_Club

(8) http://www.davidhancockondogs.com/archives/archive_399_493/461.html

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the Bilge Pump) and sign up for her newsletter at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

DOUGLAS WILMER PASSES AWAY

The Times Union

LONDON (AP) — Douglas Wilmer, who played detective Sherlock Holmes in a 1960s television series, has died at 96.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London says Wilmer died Thursday in a hospital in Ipswich, eastern England.

Wilmer played the pipe-smoking sleuth a series of TV dramas in 1964 and 1965.

The Sherlock Holmes Society said that "for many, he was the seminal television Sherlock Holmes."

In a tribute, the society called his characterization "incisive, drily witty, utterly in command of events ... exactly as Sherlock Holmes should look and sound."

Wilmer returned to the role in



the 1975 TV movie "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" and in a series of audio books.

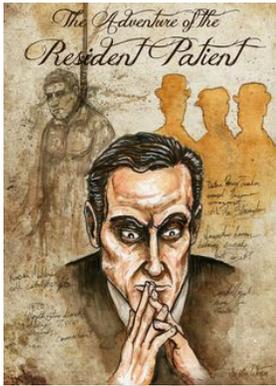
Wilmer also appeared alongside Christopher Lee in the "Fu Manchu" movies and with Roger Moore in 1960s TV adventure series "The Saint" and in the James Bond film "Octopussy."

Moore tweeted that Wilmer was "a fine actor and joyous to be in 'The Saint' and 'Octopussy' with."

In his later life, Wilmer opened a wine bar, Sherlock's in Woodbridge, the eastern England town where he lived. One of his final screen appearances was a 2012 cameo as a grumpy member of the Diogenes Club in the BBC's "Sherlock," which stars Benedict Cumberbatch as the great detective.

56 STORIES IN 56 DAYS - THE RESIDENT PATIENT

Posted on October 8, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet



Watson sits in the rooms at 221B on a rainy day in October longing to go on a holiday which he can't afford.

I'm not surprised he's skint considering the way he abandons his patients to chase off after Holmes at every opportunity, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

Holmes shocks Watson at the start by seeming to read his mind, and it is rather brilliant that by just observing where his friend looks in the room, how he raises a hand to his old war wound, and the movement of his eyebrows, Holmes knows what he is thinking.

Not only is this a fantastic demonstration of the method which Holmes uses to reach his conclusions and the unusual way he sees the world, but also how very well he knows his only friend.

He also seems to sense that Watson is in a 'Brown study' and suggests they go for an evening walk together which lifts Watson from his unhappiness.

Sherlock Holmes can actually be rather sweet when he wants to be. Upon returning from their evening walk, the two friends find a visitor waiting for them by the name of Dr Percy Trevelyan.

I do sympathise with this young man's story.

He is a very skilled young man who excelled at university but is not of wealthy birth and therefore cannot jump the queue to success and buy all the trappings he needs to become a successful doctor, such as impressive premises, horse and carriage etc.

So instead he resolves to start small and perhaps in ten years have earned enough to set up as a specialist in his chosen field.

I have known many young people in this position who have turned up at my office door looking for retail work because they needed to earn some money before

continuing with studies or doing unpaid work experience in the profession they aspire to.

Other young people seem to have the resources to do what they need to without these diversions and this does often seem unfair.

Fortunately, in my role as manager of a temp agency I am able to help a little but the work isn't fantastically paid and I have known many a gifted young person who has had to give up their dreams and take full-time retail work because they simply can't carry on any longer without a full time wage.

So I really like Dr Trevelyan and understand the sense of elation he must have felt when a wealthy patron, Mr Blessington, comes forward to offer assistance and make all his dreams come true.

That's what I need, someone to step forward out of the shadows to make my dreams of being a full time writer come true. Hurrah then for Mr Blessington but what a shame he lands up dead, and am I the only person left wondering what will become of the poor young doctor now that his funding has been cut off?

Mr Blessington was clearly afraid for his life but wouldn't tell Holmes the truth about his past on his first visit, prompting Holmes to simply walk away from the case. I wonder if perhaps, Holmes should have felt some guilt therefore when the man was murdered that very night?

Perhaps if he had tried a bit harder to extract the truth a tragedy could have been avoided?

But then as he was such a scoundrel in his past anyway, perhaps Holmes felt as if justice had been done. Everything points to suicide but Holmes' brilliant deduction at the scene – very CSI – particularly involving the cigar ash, leads to a very conclusive verdict of murder and the truth about Blessington's past being comprehensively revealed.

I really enjoyed returning to this story and will happily give it 8 out of 10.

MAID OF HONOR

By Rosemary Michaud, Holmes and Watson Report, Sherlock Peoria

Did you ever wonder about Kitty Winter? That is, did you ever think about what might have been going through her mind when she pitched that vitriol into Baron Gruner's face? She must have known she would go to jail for it, not to mention the Baron's penchant for getting back at the people who crossed him.

What really drove her to do what she did, in spite of the probable consequences?

The Granada television rendering of "The Illustrious Client" came up with an excellent motive for Kitty. In their version, she was a respectable artists' model prior to her encounter with the evil Adelbert Gruner. He disfigured her with acid, presumably because she was not willing to be added to his collection of women.

When she in turn disfigured Gruner, her actions seemed perfectly justified. In Watson's original version of the story, however, Kitty was morally, rather than physically scarred.

Kitty admitted that she had been Gruner's willing partner at one time; her grudge against him apparently rested upon his somewhat kinky ideas of pleasure, and the fact that she was merely one of the many women he used.

My first thought is that Watson's Victorian sensibilities could justify her later actions on that score alone, in a way that my modern mind can scarcely comprehend.

But on second thought, it seems to me that at the point in the story where she throws the vitriol, Kitty has lost her individuality and merely represents the retribution meted out by a belatedly just universe.

Based on Watson's account alone, we don't really see Kitty as a justifiable perpetrator, but we accept her actions because Gruner is a completely justifiable victim: a blackguard and murderer who got what was coming to him.

That's okay as far as it goes, but what about Kitty Winter, the wronged woman? Who was she, why was she so violently ticked off at the Baron, and why did she choose that particular means - and that particular moment - to revenge herself upon him?

There is little information about Kitty's life prior to her first meeting with Gruner. I think we can all agree that at one time she must have been quite beautiful.

We can also safely assume that she had no great fortune; if she had been rich, Gruner probably would have married her and murdered her. It is more difficult to assess her precise social (as opposed to economic) standing in her pre-Gruner days, but her reference to being "old mates" with Shinwell Johnson suggests that she was a resident of "Hell, London," even prior to her ruin.

Her speech patterns bear this out. I am especially fond of the phrase "yours to the rattle," which suggests to me a kind of Eliza Doolittle gone wrong.

The comparison to Eliza may be quite apt. Perhaps Gruner discovered the flame-like Kitty in just such a situation as Henry Higgins would later stumble across Eliza. But the Baron had no thoughts of turning his discovery into a lady.

Like Henry Higgins, though, Gruner seems to have brought Kitty home to live with him. Note her later reference to having "left him," and her complete familiarity with his house and possessions. And this may be part of the circumstances which made her so bitter later on.

She may have felt that their intimate living arrangement raised her above the level of a mere mistress. She may have considered herself to be Gruner's wife in common law. After all, she probably knew lots of folks in Hell, London, who considered themselves married couples based on arrangements no more formal than hers with Gruner.

And for all we know, Gruner may have encouraged her to believe that a genuine marriage ceremony would eventually take place. This is the kind of broken promise that might well send a hot-tempered girl to the chemist's for a mixture of vitriol.

And there is something else to consider. How old was Kitty when the Baron first seduced her? She was still apparently quite young at the time when Holmes and Watson met her.

She may have been even younger than Watson imagined her to be. By her account, she had already spent a year apart from Gruner, and Watson suggests "terrible years" of sin and sorrow prior to this.

Suppose that Gruner met Kitty when she was fifteen, or fourteen, or even younger. The sophisticated Baron would have found it easy to captivate the heart

of a very young girl, even such a comparatively street-wise youngster as would be found in Kitty's neighborhood.

True, Kitty had no money or social standing to attract him - only her innocence - and so he took that. As Kitty grew older, she began to see her situation bore clearly. The sight of Gruner's "beastly book" seems to have been the first awakening light for her, and eventually she summoned up the courage to leave him.

He seems not to have objected to her departure; he was probably tired of her. For her part, she had sense enough to go without causing the kind of fuss that might have made it necessary for the Baron to eliminate her.

In truth, she was biding her time, hoping for revenge, but helpless to bring it about. And then Shinwell Johnson introduced her to Sherlock Holmes.

If you were to meet Sherlock Holmes yourself, what do you suppose would strike you first about him? Would it be his keen eyes, his hawk-like features, his air of determination?

I think you would probably see many of his attributes nearly simultaneously, and the impression they would make upon you could probably be expressed in a single word: masterful. Kitty Winter saw it right away.

"Maybe dear Adelbert has met his match this time," she said to Holmes. It was nothing new for people to react this way to the great detective. After all, he made his living by getting people to trust him with their most difficult problems.

When Kitty met Holmes, she sensed that she was on the winning team at last. And even though he was not successful at first in persuading Violet DeMerville to break her engagement, I suspect that Kitty was very favorably impressed by Holmes's earnest speech to the general's daughter.

Imagine how Kitty felt as Holmes compassionately outlined the horrors of a fate so similar to Kitty's own downfall. Holmes was brave, gallant, incorruptible, righteous. Is it any wonder that Kitty fell in love with him?

It makes sense, doesn't it? In addition to everything else, Holmes treated Kitty with respect and courtesy,

and he did his best to protect her from harm, even after he himself was gravely injured.

This is not to say that Kitty ever deluded herself into thinking that Holmes returned her feelings. I believe that his lack of romantic and/or sexual interest in her only added to her admiration of him.

Perhaps for the first time in her life, she had met a man who wanted nothing from her except her help in saving the soul of another innocent woman. Holmes was a shining knight, a hero.

Now, imagine Kitty's thoughts during that terrible week she spent hiding in the suburbs, reading the newspaper reports of Holmes's deteriorating condition. And though she must have been mightily relieved when she saw him and discovered that he was going to make a full recovery, the sight of his injuries must have put her into a very dangerous frame of mind.

Who knows what he might have done if Gruner's men had actually killed Holmes? As it was, Holmes was only wounded, though perhaps he was somewhat disfigured, at least temporarily.

Kitty could allow the Baron to live, but I believe that she prepared her flask of vitriol as much to avenge Holmes's injuries as to settle the old score on her own account.

Perhaps Kitty might not have thrown the vitriol even then, had Holmes made a clean escape from the Baron's premises. But Gruner heard the intruders, and dashed to the window while Holmes was still in view.

Was the Baron about to fire the gun that Watson saw him searching for in the side-drawer? Kitty did not wait to find out. She flung the vitriol at the man she loathed, in order to protect the man she loved.

What did a possible jail term mean to her at that moment? Her gallant hero was in danger!

We will never know for sure what happened to Kitty Winter after she got out of prison. It seems likely that Holmes would have helped her find a new life, somewhere Baron Gruner could never find her.

She didn't get to live happily ever after with Holmes, but I'm sure she felt her life was the better for having known him and loved him.

And in that respect, I think a lot of us can identify with Kitty Winter.

Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Foy,
Rusty & Steve Mason



Baker Street Elementary
Number 054 - 04/10/2016

Foy, Mason, & Mason

HELLO, GENTLEMAN... I UNDERSTAND WE ALL VOLUNTEERED TO REDESIGN THE SCHOOL MASCOT. SHALL WE REVIEW EACH OTHER'S DRAFT DRAWINGS?

SURE, EVEN THOUGH YOU TWO ARE MUCH MORE TALENTED THAN I AM.



SO SIDNEY, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT I CAN ONLY ASSUME WILL BE ANOTHER OF YOUR DRAWING MASTERPIECES...



WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK, JOHN? WILL EITHER OF THESE MASCOTS INSTILL FEAR INTO OTHER SCHOOL TEAMS?



um, IGNATIUS. IS THAT A SHAVED CHICKEN?

OF COURSE NOT, JOHN... IT IS A FIERCE DINOSAUR!



IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A STALLION OR A BRONCO?

A DARTMOOR PONY, TO BE PRECISE...



ONLY IF THEIR MASCOT IS A KITTEN OR BABY UNICORN !!



The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 03 - March, 2016
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



From the Editors: Thanks for all your support. Steve & Walt

April 3rd Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 3rd, at LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE, in Addison.

The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

We will be reading "The Adventure of the Crooked Man."

The quiz will cover this tale.

Each monthly meeting will also include toasts as well as general business, introductions, and general fellowship.

March 6th Meeting

There were 19 in attendance at the monthly meeting, including 5 visitors (2 from the East Coast.) Cindy Brown offered up a whimsical toast (page 2).

The quiz on "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb" was won by Sandra Little. Walter Pieper finished in second.

Steve Mason presented plaques to each member that helped out with the November Symposium, "Sherlock Holmes Deep in the Heart of Texas" at the Allen Library.

Tim Klein shared his new finds of Sherlockian books and magazines.

We welcomed back Joe Fey, who has been living outside of the Dallas area for the last 18 months. It's nice to have him back.

Walter Pieper announced the next movie night will be March 12, and we will be seeing the movie "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars".

Greg Ruby from The 4th Garrideb in Baltimore, Maryland, was our guest speaker today, presenting a PowerPoint on Basil Rathbone, and all of his endorsements. It was called "A Day in the Life of Basil Rathbone".

Steve discussed the possibility of changing the name of the Crew of the Barque's newsletter, which is currently called "The Bilge Pump". Some people find this a distasteful name. He explained that the bilge pump was not really the toilet, but a mechanism used to eliminate water that the wooden boat took on while sailing. We will be having a more in-depth presentation on this topic at a later meeting.

Steve closed the meeting with a reading from the BSI journal from June 1966, a writing called "A Legend" by Chris Redmond (page 2).

Thanks to Pam and Cindy for taking the minutes of the cruise. The full minutes are posted on our webpage at: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/log-of-the-crew.html>

For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://dfw-sherlock.org/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>



Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries
Historian
Webmaster

Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison
Pam Mason
Rusty Mason

mason.steve@epa.gov
waltpieper@att.net
221b@verizon.net
jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com
myrkrid08@yahoo.com

ODE TO COINS

Cindy Brown

New coins, Old coins, Copper
coins, Gold coins.

John Watson, London Fog,
Sherlock Holmes, there is that
dog.

Jack Ruby, Tutti Fruitti, Scooby
Dooby, Greg Ruby.

Please raise your glasses as we
toast our guest from

The 4th Garrideb, Greg Ruby.

A LEGEND - JUNE, 1966 BAKER STREET JOURNAL

CHRIS REDMOND

Remember the famous profile.
See the pipe—

Traditionally curved, though really
straight—

On which he puffs, as men of every type
Narrate their strange experience or fate.

That famous phrase of “Elementary,
My dear Watson,” was one he never spoke;
But he is known for it in every
Discussion of him, each pastiche, each joke.

Popularly, he crawled across the rug,
In deerstalker and cape, viewing with care
Through magnifying glass each thread or
bug,
Each ash orbit of mud, which he found
there.

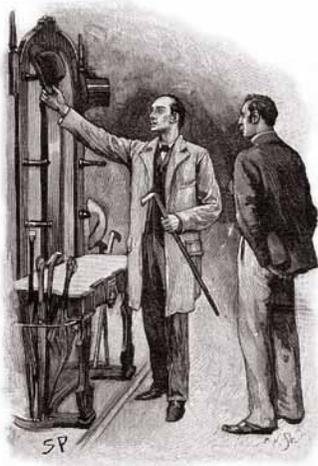
It’s fiction, or else legend—but forsooth!
Since we believe it, isn’t it the truth?

17 Steps to the Crooked Man

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of the case at hand...

HOLMES STOPS BY FOR AN OVERNIGHT



Holmes's overnight stay is an item that it is almost too easy to breeze over in "The Crooked Man."

The detective shows up on Watson's doorstep at 11:45 at night, asks if he can sleep in the spare room, then invites Watson along on an investigation the next morning. All this would seem to make sense, except for the fact that they don't have to catch the morning train until 11:10 the next day . . . plenty of time for Holmes to return from Baker Street and pick Watson up. Why the need for a sleepover?

Was something wrong with 221B? Was Holmes afraid that if he left Watson alone with Mrs. Watson she'd forbid him from accompanying Holmes, yet would be too polite to do it in person?

THE MACHINE OR THE MAN?

"For an instant the veil had lifted upon his keen, intense nature, but for an instant only.

When I glanced again his face had resumed that red-Indian composure which had made so many regard him as a machine rather than a man."

Here we find as good a statement of the duality of Holmes's image as any in the Canon (ignoring the antiquated Native American stereotype, of course.). There is the "keen, intense" Holmes, as passionate about his art as any painter or poet.

There is also the "Mr. Spock" side of Holmes, cold, logical, and scientific. Seeing Holmes through Watson's eyes, we are privy to both sides of Holmes, and those little emotional outbursts that probably only came out when he was alone or with Watson.

But he can't have been a machine to everybody else, can he? Certainly Lestrade has seen the human side of Holmes, as has Mrs. Hudson.

Who were these people who thought of Holmes as a machine?

Anyone we know?

WATSON'S UNMENTIONED ACT

Watson is usually quick to condense his own explanations or leave out his responses as he writes up the tales, but in this case he seems to drop something important: food. He quotes Holmes as saying:

"Ah! He has left two nail-marks from his boot upon your linoleum just where the light strikes it. No, thank you, I had some supper at Waterloo, but I'll

smoke a pipe with you with pleasure."

Watson doesn't say anything in between the linoleum remark and the supper remark, so we are left wondering.

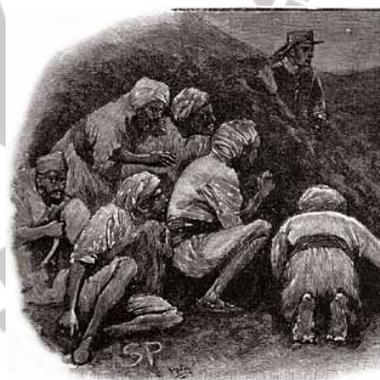
Was he waving a plate of pot roast or a leg of lamb in Holmes's face? Did he actually ask Holmes if he needed something to eat, then left out his own question, but not Holmes's response?

(And why, writing the story at a later date, would he put in one but not the other?) Was the food available at Chez Watson so bad that it didn't bear mentioning?

THE DAY RENTAL OF A HANSON

Holmes tells Watson, "When your round is a short one you walk, and when it is a long one you use a hansom."

As I perceive that your boots, although used, are by no means dirty, I cannot doubt that you are



at present busy enough to justify the hansom."

Was renting a hansom cab (and driver) for an entire day cost-effective for a doctor making his rounds? From the singular reference, it would seem there



was just one, and not a series of cabs . . . or was it?

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

"The first battalion of the Royal Munsters (which is the old One Hundred and Seventeenth) has been stationed at Aldershot for some years," Holmes explains.

Okay, military buffs, why would the old One Hundred and Seventeenth now be called the Royal Munsters? (And don't tell me it has anything to do with the old TV show.)

ISN'T SHE STILL A MEMBER?

"Mrs. Barclay was, it appears, a member of the Roman Catholic Church and had interested herself very much in the establishment of the Guild of St. George, which was formed in connection with the Watt Street Chapel for the purpose of supplying the poor with cast-off clothing."

Holmes doesn't usually identify the religion of those involved in a crime, though the follow-up details might seem to give him some reason for doing so.

Is his subconscious trying to tell him that her active church status might show him the answer to that "David" clue?

And why does he refer to her in the past tense, when she just has brain fever?

THAT DARNED SOCIAL FRICTION!

Holmes reports: "There was, therefore, as can be imagined, some little social friction when the young couple (for they were still young) found themselves in their new surroundings."

I'm guessing that "new surroundings" refers to the new social status that James and Nancy Barclay gained when he went from being a sergeant to being an officer. What kind of friction might they have encountered?

Was it between the Barclays



and the officers and their wives, or between the Barclays themselves?

THE TELL-TALE CUP OF TEA

After learning of her husband's treachery and her lover's fate, Nancy Barclay enters her house, avoids her husband, and goes into the morning-room.

She then rings for the maid and asks for tea, which was "was quite contrary to her usual habits."

Was she attempting to calm her nerves with the tea? Would one even want to speak to anyone at a time like that, to even do so much as order tea?

THE SECURITY OF LACHINE

We are told that the morning room at Lachine "faces the road and opens by a large glass folding-door on to the lawn."

A folding door? Perhaps the Smash has a too-limited experience of folding doors, but I have yet to see one that would serve as an outside entrance to a house. Too easily taken off their tracks and not very conducive to getting a good seal against the elements. Are there good solid folding doors for use against the outdoors?

Was this the predecessor to the modern sliding patio door?

THE DIVINE MISS "M."

Holmes does something in this case that he does in no other . . . he calls a woman by a nickname of sorts.

"I took the obvious course, therefore, of calling upon Miss M."

Would it be too much to assume that Holmes's turn of phrase indicates a certain happiness of thought when Miss Morrison comes to mind?

The detective describes her as "a little ethereal slip of a girl, with timid eyes and blond hair, but I found her by no means wanting in shrewdness and common sense," which sounds a lot like Mary Morstan, another little blonde that Holmes thought was "one of the most charming young ladies I ever met, and might have been most useful in such work as we have been doing."

Of course, Watson stole Miss Morstan away before Holmes had a chance with her. Might things have gone differently this time?

Might Holmes have brought Watson into this case simply for a

little off-the-record advice on wooing? (That would explain the sudden need for a late-night slumber party at Watson's.)

SIMPSON IS ON THE JOB

"I have one of my Baker Street boys mounting guard over him who would stick to him like a burr, go where he might," Holmes says, and we soon find he has assigned the task to a lad named Simpson.

But the job to which Simpson is assigned is far from Baker Street.

Did Holmes take Simpson up to Aldershot with him to begin with, come back and get him, or send him up on a Tuesday night train and expect him to find Wood on his own?

CALLING ALL CORONERS

"The inquest is just over.

The medical evidence showed conclusively that death was due to apoplexy."

Okay, medically-minded Hounds, what's the conclusive evidence of death due to apoplexy?

THE WORST LIFE IN THE CANON

While we've seen a lot of hard-luck cases in the Canon, there is no one who compares with Henry Wood.

Anyone for whom the job description of "slave" was a step up in life is really hurting, and for poor Wood "hurting" is an understatement.

The mind boggles at what sort of tortures result in a twisting of the spine, and there are other aspects of his imprisonment that one doesn't even want to bring up on a family list.

Add to this the almost incidental fact that his one true love was stolen from him by the man who condemned him to Hell on Earth, and you get the one man who deserved revenge above any other that Sherlock Holmes encountered.

So what if Colonel Barclay had not been struck dead upon seeing him? Would Henry Wood have attempted to kill him?

Or was Wood such a broken man at this point that he was incapable of taking his revenge?

HOW TWISTED WAS BARCLAY?

His regiment is trapped by ten thousand rebels. The water has run out.

He needs to send word to General Neill.

Barclay then sets up his one volunteer to die by having his servant run out and tell the rebels of the volunteer's path.

Trying to destroy a rival is one thing, but risking the lives of men, women and children just to get a clear path toward a member of the opposite sex? Either Barclay was psychotically obsessed with Nancy Devoy or he knew something that no one else did about Neill getting there.

Did he know, or was he just that crazy about Nancy?

NANCY BARCLAY'S OPTIONS

We've already supposed what would have happened had Colonel Barclay not had his attack from Henry Wood's point of view.

But what if the attack never came, and Henry Wood had not come either?

What could Nancy Barclay have done in that day and age to

free herself from the lie her entire life had become?

WATSON AND THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

"It's a mongoose," Watson cries out, upon seeing Teddy.

Had he seen such creatures before while in India?

Would the London Zoo have sufficed? Or one of J.G. Wood's picture books?

Why didn't he think of the mongoose sooner, as in "If this were India, I'd think it was a mongoose."

THE HEDGES HENRY LOVED

"For years I've been dreaming of the bright green fields and the hedges of England. At last I determined to see them before I died," Henry Wood says.

How important a part of the English countryside are hedges?

Enough so that Wood would be nostalgic for them, it would seem.

Does this give us some indication of the part of the country he's from?



Clubbing, Victorian Style

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

In “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter,” Doyle introduces readers to the Diogenes Club, “the queerest club in London.” (1)

While gentlemen’s clubs were first established in the 1700s, they reached their hey-day in the 1800s when more than four hundred such establishments existed, as gentlemen sought out the company of like-minded men to relieve the stress and routine of daily life in surroundings they would not have been able to afford on their own. (2)



The first members-only private clubs (notably, White’s, Brooks’ and Boodle’s) offered aristocrats a place for legal gaming, but gained in popularity as more and more men were allowed the vote under the Reform Acts and could then call themselves “gentlemen.” (3)

With the first clubs having a wait list of sometimes twenty years or more, those unable to join the established organizations often created their own based on similar interests. Some of the most well-known included the Athenaeum, “for men of science, literature, and art;” one for supporters of the Reform Act and another for its detractors (Carlton); clubs for

travelers (Travellers Club), the military (United Service Club), and performers (Eccentric and Savage). (4)

Most of these were found in “clubland,” an area around St. James and Pall Mall streets, which began as a suburban promenade in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. (5)

These organizations provided members with an opulent, but home-like, atmosphere, having often been designed by the same architects who built large country estates. In addition to the “comfortable chairs and the latest periodicals,” (6) offered by the Diogenes Club, other clubs offered amenities such as dining halls, libraries, game rooms, studies, bathrooms and washrooms. Some even provided rooms for overnight guests.



The domestic ambience recreated in the clubs offered the privacy and comradery not available elsewhere. The upper class Victorian home was on display as social conventions required them to entertain guests at formal dinners, teas, and parties, which often then appeared in newspaper reports.

For members, these clubs became sources of “men-talk” and other behavior (gambling and excessive drinking, among others) not considered appropriate in mixed society. (7) Discretion governed the clubs, with rules about gossip and reporting of behavior or events occurring within their walls.

Until the 1950s, non-members were restricted from entering the club except for one or two rooms, such as the “Stranger’s Room” in the Diogenes Club, to ensure members from prying eyes. (8)

The Diogenes Club reflects the common characteristics of Victorian clubs taken to the extreme—a “home away from home” that caters to the tastes and

preferences of its members—in this case, the absence of all distractions for the shy or misanthropic who “have no wish for the company of their fellows.” (9)

- 1) Doyle, Arthur Conan (2012-12-13). *The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan* (Kindle Locations 18089-18092). Simon & Schuster UK. Kindle Edition.
- 2) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gentlemen%27s_club
- 3) Ibid
- 4) <http://www.victorianweb.org/misc/usp.html>
- 5) Ibid
- 6) Doyle, Arthur Conan (2012-12-13). *The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan* (Kindle Locations 18089-18092). Simon & Schuster UK. Kindle Edition.
- 7) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gentlemen%27s_club
- 8) Ibid
- 9) Doyle, Arthur Conan (2012-12-13). *The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan* (Kindle Locations 18089-18092). Simon & Schuster UK. Kindle Edition.

A World-Famous Address

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

Within a day of meeting, John Watson and Sherlock Holmes moved into 221B Baker Street. (1) When Arthur Conan Doyle penned *A Study in Scarlet*, Baker Street existed, but the address did not. William Baker originally laid out the street bearing his name in the 18th century, and the numbers extended only into the 100s at the time of the story’s publication. (2)



With such a street actually existing in London, reality finally caught up with fiction in the 1930s when Baker Street, York Place, and Upper Baker Street were renamed together as Baker Street and the buildings renumbered.

At that point, a building housing the Abbey National Building Society, a financial firm, became 221 Baker Street, and almost immediately the Royal Mail began delivering letters addressed to the great detective to the organization.

The correspondence was great enough for their public relations office to employ a full-time secretary to respond to it all, most often noting Mr. Holmes had retired to raise bees in Sussex. (3)



In 1990, the Sherlock Holmes Museum opened farther down at 239 Baker Street in a Georgian townhouse that resembled Doyle’s description of Holmes and Watson’s residence. John Aidiniantz purchased the house with funds his mother Grace raised by selling her own home. (4)

The museum and Abbey National fought for the next twelve years over who should receive the mail still arriving for Mr. Holmes. The firm argued they were more equipped to handle the letters. Only after the company moved to new quarters in 2002 and the City of Westminster approved the museum's use of the address 221B did the Royal Mail agree to deliver correspondence there. (5)

Unfortunately, the museum owner did not only have a contentious relationship with outside interests. Family members have accused each other of various wrong-doings and sued each other for a portion of the £20 million business. (6) The in-fighting took a toll on Grace Aidianantz, who died, the family reported, of a broken heart in December, 2015. (7)

The museum provides its 700 annual visitors a recreation of the full flat, including Dr. Watson's bedroom and a Victorian water closet on an upper floor. Other replicas exist, but do not necessarily offer as complete a vision of the men's living quarters. While certain aspects of the apartment are described by Doyle, such as the number of rooms, the fireplace in the sitting room, Holmes' chemical table, Watson's desk, and the basket, or wicker, chair for guests, (8) other features were less defined, such as wallpaper or other furnishings.

As a result, the various replicas reflect the tastes and interests of the designer. For example, the Sherlock Holmes Pub displays the first collection of Holmes memorabilia collected for the Festival of Britain

in 1951, including Doyle's desk and chair. Other depictions can be found at the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Meiringen, Switzerland near the Reichenbach Falls; another museum inside a hotel at Lucens, Switzerland; and the Wilson Library at the University of Minnesota.



In all, the rooms are arranged to appear as if its occupants just left and will return shortly. Fires burn in the fireplace, a jack-knife holds recent correspondence in place on the mantel, and papers are scattered about the room. (9)

The visitor is left the impression that at any moment, the two will enter, offer the basket chair to the guest, and settle back as a new mystery is presented to them.

1) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert (2012-12-13). *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* (Kindle Locations 477-478). . Kindle Edition.

2) <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-mystery-of-221b-baker-street-3608784/?no-ist>

3) <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-mystery-of-221b-baker-street-3608784/?no-ist>

4) <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3270857/A-case-Sherlock-Holmes-Founder-Baker-Street-museum-accused-embezzling-mother-s-money-bitter-court-battle-half-sisters-brother-lucrative-tourist-trap.html>

5) <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-mystery-of-221b-baker-street-3608784/?no-ist>

6) <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3270857/A-case-Sherlock-Holmes-Founder-Baker-Street-museum-accused-embezzling-mother-s-money-bitter-court-battle-half-sisters-brother-lucrative-tourist-trap.html>

7) <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3341419/Founder-Sherlock-Holmes-Museum-dies-broken-heart-amid-long-running-poisonous-feud-2m-ticket-sales-divided-family.html>

8) Steven Doyle and David Crowder, *Sherlock Holmes for Dummies* (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, 2010), p. 160.

9) <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-mystery-of-221b-baker-street-3608784/?no-ist>

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the Bilge Pump) and sign up for her newsletter at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

Houdini and Doyle: A strange friendship

By Virginia Blackburn, The London Express



As a TV drama based on the duo begins this weekend we look at how the Sherlock Holmes author and master escapologist clashed over spiritualism. As odd couples go they took some beating. One was a Scottish novelist, the product of the Victorian era and the creator of one of the world's most famous detectives. The other was an escapologist who was the son of a Hungarian rabbi.

But Sherlock Holmes author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini were friends and are about to feature in a TV drama. But they did share a strong interest in spiritualism, albeit from opposite sides of the spectrum. When Harry met Arthur in 1920 both were already well established in their fields. Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle had been born in Edinburgh in 1859 and published the first Holmes story *A Study In Scarlet* in 1886. By 1920 he was a world-famous author who had been married twice and fathered five children, one of whom, Kingsley, died just before the end of the First World War.

Doyle had always had an interest in spiritualism, which was a great fad at the time, and after this bereavement, combined with a slew of other deaths

including his brother Innes, two brothers-in-law and two nephews, became a fervent supporter, looking to it for proof that there was life beyond the grave.

Houdini's attitude and background could not have been more different.

Born Erik Weisz in 1874 in Budapest and taken to the US at the age of four, Ehrich, as he was by now styling himself, launched himself as a trapeze artist at the age of nine followed by a stint as an athlete before turning to magic.

Following his 1894 marriage to Bess who became his stage assistant Harry caught the eye of the vaudeville manager Martin Beck in 1899 who had been impressed with some business that involved breaking out of handcuffs.

And so a career as an escapologist was born. Soon he was performing all over the world, which is how the unlikely pair met. That they should ever have become friends in the first place is surprising because both were obsessed with spiritualism in totally opposite ways. Spiritualism became hugely popular in the late 19th and early 20th century with public séances held at venues such as the Royal Albert Hall.

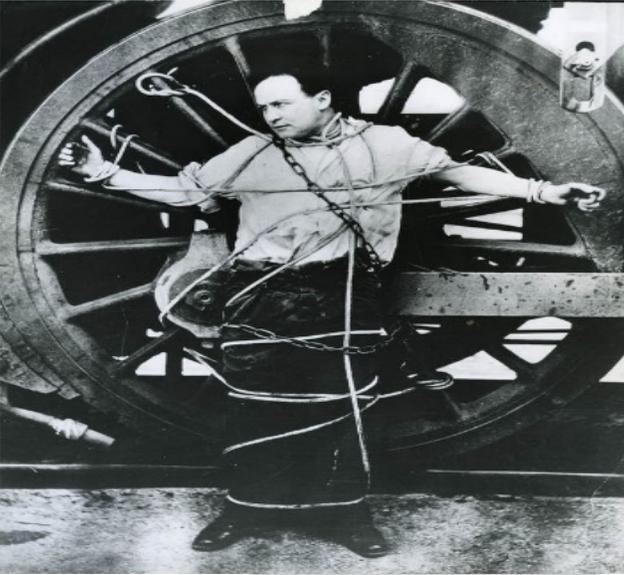
In the aftermath of the slaughter of the First World War they became more sought after still with grieving families desperate to contact the fallen.

The fascination cut across the social divide: Rudyard Kipling's sister was a medium as was Conan Doyle's wife. Sir Arthur was increasingly convinced it was based on reality and was in later decades to be the subject of some ridicule because he thought the Cottingley Fairies photographs taken in 1917, later exposed as a hoax, to be true. He wrote a novella about it, *The Land Of The Mist*, and became a regular at séances and spiritualist meetings.

When he heard about and later met the great Houdini – who not only could escape from almost any perilous situation but who also performed feats such as walking through brick walls – Conan Doyle actually believed Houdini himself expressed supernatural powers – something he wrote about in *The Edge Of The Unknown*. He was not alone in this belief either. The actress Sarah Bernhardt asked Harry to conjure up a new leg for her after hers was amputated following an accident on stage. That Conan Doyle harboured these beliefs was ironic because Houdini was passionately

opposed to spiritualism and was spending quite a bit of his time debunking it.

For a start there was no one better in the world than Houdini to understand trickery (in the early years he and his wife had run the odd séance and he would



recognise people running séances as past showbusiness acquaintances) but it took on a more personal note after the death of his mother, whom he had absolutely adored. Houdini did go to a few séances in the hope that there might be contact but became increasingly hostile towards mediums whom he saw as exploiting other people's grief and vulnerability.

It was a stance that was going to have an odd effect on his life. When Conan Doyle and Houdini first met they were happy to debate the subject with Houdini confining himself to comments such as "apple sauce" and "hogwash".

He even staged a trick at Conan Doyle's home to prove that it could be faked but Conan Doyle proved himself a lot more gullible than his most famous literary creation and refused to accept that the trick was false.

But as Conan Doyle was drawn deeper into the philosophy Houdini became increasingly hostile and began to publish his exposes. It was inevitable that a rift would eventually occur. When it finally happened it was because of an episode involving Conan Doyle's medium wife Jean. Unwisely, perhaps, she decided to hold a séance at a hotel in Atlantic City in 1922 and claimed to have made contact with Houdini's mother, producing 15 pages which she said had come from Harry's mum.

Houdini was livid, not least because the pages consisted of perfect grammatical writing while his mother's English was terrible and she also put a cross on the pages despite the fact she was Jewish.

A froideur began to form. Even so the two men were still on speaking terms (just) when Houdini himself, as Conan Doyle saw it, went too far.

By now denouncing mediums as "human leeches" he launched a vitriolic attack on Margery Crandon, a Boston medium who would conduct séances in the nude and emit ectoplasm from her most private of areas. Conan Doyle took the attack personally and the rift between the two men was complete. Conan Doyle was "a menace to mankind" said Houdini. But it had an odd epitaph.

It was said (and also disputed) that in a séance in 1924 Margery channelled a spirit named Walter who told Houdini: "I put a curse on you that will follow you every day for the rest of your short life."

Two years later Houdini died at the age of 52. The cause was peritonitis from a ruptured appendix but lurid rumours circulated to the effect that he had been poisoned, possibly by spiritualists, or done away with in some other ominous manner.

His wife Bess meanwhile held a séance every year for a decade after his death as they had arranged to see if she could contact him to discover their prearranged message "Rosabelle believe".

Houdini never turned up. Conan Doyle meanwhile died in 1930 at the age of 71. To the last he believed that Houdini had supernatural powers.



WHAT'S IN "SHERLOCK"?... answers

How clever are you? Test yourself. See if you can find twenty or more words of four or more letters in the name "SHERLOCK."

To make it a little more challenging, if you use the singular form a word, such as HOLE, do not then also count the plural form HOLES. ... and no proper nouns need apply. Here is what Rusty and I came up with.

CEORL	CORSE	HOLER	OCHER	SHOCK
CERO	COSH	HORSE	OCHRE	SHOCKER
CHOKE	CRESOL	HOSE	ORES	SHOE
CHOKER	ECHO	HOSEL	ORLE	SHOER
CHOLER	ELKS	HOSER	RECK	SHORE
CHORE	EROS	KOHL	RELOCK	SLOE
CHOSE	HECK	KOSHER	RESH	SOCK
CLERK	HERO	LEHR	ROCK	SOCLE
CLOSE	HERS	LOCH	ROCS	SOKE
CLOSER	HOCK	LOCK	ROES	SOLE
COKE	HOCKER	LOCKER	ROLE	SORE
COLE	HOER	LORE	ROSE	
CORE	HOES	LOSE	SCHORL	
CORK	HOLE	LOSER	SCORE	

WHAT'S IN "WATSON"?...

How clever are you? Test yourself. See if you can find twenty or more words of four or more letters in the name "WATSON."

To make it a little more challenging, if you use the singular form a word, such as HOLE, do not then also count the plural form HOLES. ... and no proper nouns need apply.

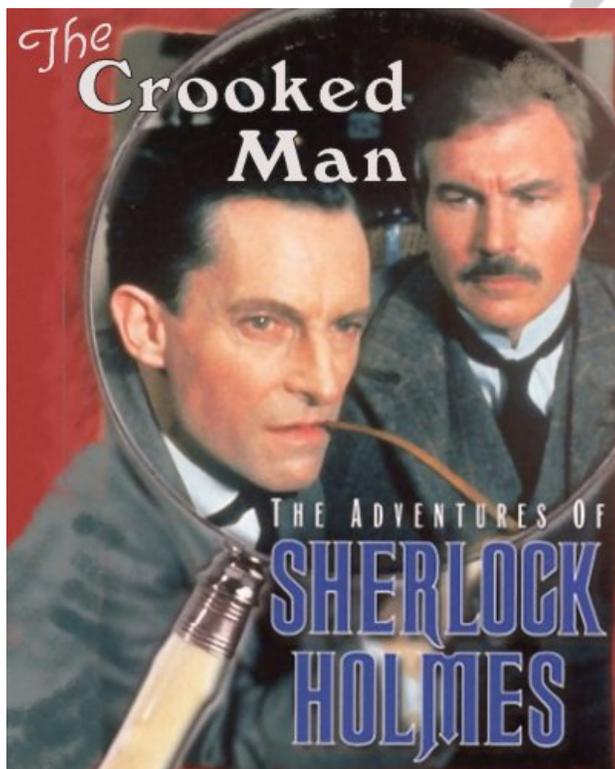
We will supply the answers next month.

56 Stories in 56 Days - The Crooked Man

Posted on October 8, 2011 by barefootbakerstreet

This is another story in which Watson drops everything to go to assist his friend, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

Holmes turns up at Watson's house late one summer's evening and asks to stay. He expresses his desire that Watson travel with him to Aldershot the following day to assist in the case he is working on. Watson enthusiastically agrees to both requests, despite it being clear from Holmes' deduction that the doctor has a heavy workload at that time. Once again he passes off his poor patients onto a fellow doctor so that he can go on the adventure. And what a strange little adventure it proves to be.



I have recently re-read my novel (how on earth I found the time with things being so manic at work and all this blogging is impossible to say) and I was concerned about a latter few chapters which are

arguably rather 'romantic' in theme. Though none-Holmes readers will probably think nothing of this, I have been concerned that the more traditional Holmes fan base will not take to it and prefer instead action, crime etc. But then, having just read the Crooked Man it has occurred to me that most of the original Holmes stories involve love in one form or another. Here again we have a story about a woman who believes the person she really loves to be dead so marries another, only to discover years later that he is alive and her husband had a hand in her lover's fate. A bit like the American, Hatty Doran, in the Noble Bachelor, who thought her first lover had died and is shocked to see him in the front pew on her wedding day to Lord St Simon.

Clearly love played a massive part in the short stories which we all know and love so well. As love is the foundation of our lives in one form or another, I really shouldn't worry about the fact that it plays its part in the life of the character I have created in my novel. And besides, it's only a few chapters out of twenty-two which are pacey and full of action so surely that will be ok? Won't it?

Back to the crooked man who suddenly sees the woman he loved and wanted to marry in his youth in India, before another suitor set him up and led him into a rebel ambush. After revealing the truth to her out in the street, he follows her home and walks in on her arguing with her husband about the matter. Upon seeing the man he thought was long dead, the husband suffers a seizure and dies instantly, banging his head on the fender on the way down. The man flees and everything points to murder by the wife, but Holmes cleverly unravels the truth. However, he does not reveal all to the police and exercises his own judgement on the matter. It becomes clear to the police anyway that the man died of natural causes.

The story is another example of Holmes solving a problem for its own sake, not for glory, money or reputation. And poor Watson's patients pay the price yet again. 8 out of 10.

MAID OF HONOR

By Hughes, Holmes and Watson Report, Sherlock Peoria

The most annoying questions in the Canon, to me, are the ones posed by "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton." In this brief story we encounter more of Sherlock Holmes's character (or lack thereof) than in any other ten tales combined. Here are a few of the questions that pound my brain like a hammer.

- Why was a blackmailer more repulsive than a murderer, kidnapper, etc.?
- Why did Holmes willingly allow, even encourage, Watson's participation in the robbery they attempted when Milverton called on Baker Street, and yet actively discourage Watson's participation in the burglary of Appledore Towers? . . .
- Why did Holmes treat Agatha so shabbily, and how did he justify his behavior to his own mind? After all, with his indifference to rank and title, wasn't a housemaid's happiness just as important as the happiness of a debutante?
- Why did Watson include the anticlimactic visit to the portrait of the lady who'd "dunit"?

In my last bit of - ahem - scholarship, I hinted that Holmes may have been a victim of blackmail himself, by the notorious Hudson, who seemed to be the most likely reason for Holmes's hasty departure from the Trevor residence. Obviously, if

Holmes had some personal experience with blackmail, it would be all the more disgusting to him than another crime with which he had no direct experience. But that only answers the first question. After careful thought, though, I have come up with some answers to the other questions too, and I drew a startling conclusion.

I make no claim that my hypothesis is correct, but the day I first tried to type it, my computer blew up, and the first day I printed it out, my printer crashed. While researching the story, I had three copies of the Canon stolen from me. So, true or not, this is a story that SOMEONE doesn't want told. I can only wonder who.

Why didn't Holmes want Watson to accompany him in the burglary attempt? Surely it was no ethical consideration. He took Watson along in several other "extra-curricular" activities, including the caper at Irene Adler's house and the visit to Hugo Oberstein's apartment.

It was not fear of being caught or fear of endangering his friend – this consideration weighed not at all in the jaunt at Baron Gruner's. It wasn't even a fear that Watson would get in the way -- although he certainly did that. So what was it? The conclusion I reached: Watson's presence was an inconvenience along the lines of "two's company, three's a crowd."

What's more, Watson's description of the dialogue between the "lady" and Milverton was just as fictitious as his account

of Holmes's demise at Reichenbach Falls. All Milverton said was "Good God is it you?" The conversation ended there, and for good reason.

Now, why was Watson's presence inconvenient? I'll tell you. Holmes had other plans, and they didn't include Watson. What kind of plans, and who did they include? I'll give you a clue. The visit to the photo shop window was a fiction, dreamed up to divert suspicion from Milverton's real murderer. There never was a "regal and stately lady" in Milverton's room that night.

What there was, was Agatha. Watson had stumbled into the biggest get-rich-quick scheme of the 19th century, and with his mere presence he botched it for both Agatha and Sherlock. Agatha was more than just an information source to Sherlock.

She was also his fiancée - and accomplice. No, I don't mean an unwitting accomplice who innocently fed information to her fine plumber in the hopes that he would use the knowledge to visit her. She was a full-fledged, willing partner in this crime, and if things had gone right she and Escott would've hooked it to the Riviera with a safe full of cash.

"Women have seldom been an attraction to me," said Holmes at one point. Fortunately he didn't say, "Women have NEVER been an attraction." We know he admired Irene Adler. We know he was quite taken by Maude Bellamy. And for all his bumbling around with a really trite and lame

explanation to Watson, I think he was ("taken" with Agatha as well, and he saw in her a chance to do several things. He could put a stop to the worst blackmailer in London.

He could get rid of a bunch of blackmail materials. He could make a fortune – because you know there was a pile of cash in that safe, too. Milverton had to have a place to keep the cash paid by his "late-night callers." Agatha, being his housemaid - and definitely a girl who had aspirations to a better life -- knew about her master's business, and about the "loose change" locked in his study. She only needed someone to help her get at it. And even with the fake beard, Sherlock Holmes had been well-described on several occasions by Watson, and Agatha was no dummy.

She read those Strand magazines. She couldn't have been so silly as to not notice that the mysterious appearance of a plumber occurred when there were no problems with the drains -- but there were lots of problems with Milverton's "clienteles."

(Remember that Milverton was determined to bring the

rebels into line by making an example of the rebellious Lady Eva. He was dealing with an insurrection already; Holmes was merely the one who acted OVERTLY.)

The plan was simple: Agatha would contrive to bring Milverton into the study while Holmes opened the safe. At the crucial moment, Holmes would pop out from his hiding place behind the curtains and execute the bad guy with a poker from the fireplace. Agatha and Holmes would get rid of all the blackmailing materials and confiscate the cash. Their escape plan would then take them safely out of the country.

But it didn't work - Watson insisted on coming along. Some contingencies had been planned for. If Holmes couldn't open the safe within a specified amount of time, Agatha would bring Milverton in and have him open the safe before Holmes made his appearance. In the event that Milverton proved hard to kill, Agatha would assist.

But Watson's arrival wasn't a planned-for contingency, and it threw both Holmes and Agatha into a panic. He wasn't able to get

the safe open in time to get rid of the incriminating documents and pocket the cash; she panicked at the turn of events and shot Milverton herself.

Poor Charles Augustus had only time enough to gasp, "Good God, is it YOU?" at the gun in his face before the trigger was pulled. Poor Agatha also bumbled again -- rather than bolting the door and helping with the papers, she lost her head and took off running. Holmes and Watson were left with the mess -- and it was probably at that point that Holmes realized Agatha was not quite as wonderful as he'd originally thought either.

She didn't have the natural turn for this sort of thing that he had. So the engagement was off, and Holmes, left with the choice of explaining the truth or creating a plausible lie, dragged Watson down to a portrait gallery and pointed out a famous face.

Watson, hidden behind Holmes and a heavy curtain, hadn't seen anything anyway, and he'd believe whatever he was told. There are indeed advantages to the press, if you know how to use it.

Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Fay,
Rusty & Steve Mason



*The First Adventures of Sherlock
Holmes and John Watson*

Baker Street Elementary
Number 050 - 03/12/2016

Fay, Mason, & Mason

GREAT
PHILOSOPHERS
BELIEVE "SUCCESS
RESULTS WHEN
SKILL INTERSECTS
WITH
OPPORTUNITY"



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eeek ...



THEY NEVER
TELL YOU
"FAILURE IS
WHEN
FANTASY
INTERSECTS
WITH
REALITY"



The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 02 - February, 2016
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



From the Editors: Thanks for all your support. Steve & Walt

March 6th Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 6th, at LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE, in Addison.

The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

We will be reading "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb."

The quiz will cover this tale.

Each monthly meeting will also include toasts as well as general business, introductions, and general fellowship.

February 7th Meeting

There were 19 in attendance at the monthly meeting, including 5 visitors (2 from the East Coast.) Pam Mason read a wonderful toast, "Ruminations on the Cardboard Box," from the *Serpentine Muse Journal*.

The quiz on "The Adventure of the Cardboard Box" was won by Sharon Lowry, scoring a perfect 10 out of 10. She accepted the prize, *The Sherlock Holmes Puzzle Collection*.

Steve Mason then did a presentation exploring the duplication of the opening of the "Cardboard Box" to the "Resident Patient." The group also discussed the use of earlobes as a means of identification presently and in the future.

Don Hobbs and Dean Clark offered up a summary of events during the BSI Weekend in New York. The Crew was well represented and was awarded with several distinctions.

Don also displayed a copy of *Spain and Sherlock Holmes*, the latest installment of the BSI International series. Don was the editor of this edition.

Sandra Little reported the Allen Library has released Carole Nelson Douglas' speech during our November symposium on YouTube.

Steve Mason gave the Closing Toast from the Baker Street Journal on December, 1961, entitled "Yes Virginia, there is a Sherlock Holmes."

Thanks to Brenda for taking the minutes of the cruise. The full minutes are posted on our webpage at: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/log-of-the-crew.html>

Jack Pugh, one of our long-time crew mates, has chosen to move to an assisted living facility in the Highland Village area. This will limit his chance to participate with us. We will not publish his address, for his privacy, but if you would like to send Jack a card or note, email me and I will be happy to provide you his address.

For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://dfw-sherlock.org/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>



Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries
Historian
Webmaster

Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison
Pam Mason
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myrkrid08@yahoo.com

RUMINATIONS ON A CARDBOARD BOX

Dorothy Belle Pollack, *The Serpentine Muse*

Surprise, surprise!
A box, small size,
 Is speeded through the mails.

It is a story
Rather gory
 In some of its details.

For it appears
Two human ears
 Have suffered amputation,
Which fact, alas,
Is rather crass,
 And causes perturbation.

In fact it serves
To jangle nerves
 Of poor Miss Susan C.
For such a gift
Has her quite miffed -
 And understandably!

We meet a trio
(Not con brio)
 Of Susan, Sarah, Mary.
And so it goes.
But Alec knows
 Of which one to be wary.

And now, attention! -
While I mention
 A fact you should be knowing.
The moral here
Is crystal clear -
 Do NOT, my friends, go rowing!



Dorothy wrote many, many lovely poems and other items in the ***Serpentine Muse Journal***, the official journal of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes (ASH). To subscribe to the journal, visit the ASH website at:

<https://ash-nyc.com/>

YES, VIRGINIA THERE IS A SHERLOCK HOLMES

Baker Street Journal – December, 1961

Dear Mister Editor:

I am a young blonde girl (38-22-36) and all my friends in our chorus line laugh at me because I believe in Sherlock Holmes. They say that there is no such person and that he was invented just to fool people.

I asked my sugar daddy and he said to write to The Baker Street Journal, because if you see it in the Journal, it's so. Please tell me, is there a Sherlock Holmes? Virginia B. G. West

Dear Virginia, your daddy is correct. If you see it in The Baker Street Journal, it is so——and so it is. Your friends are all wrong, and you are right. There has to be a Sherlock Holmes. How can we dismiss the existence of such a great man whose adventures have given so much pleasure to so many people?

Just because he has become a legend one does not have to stop believing in him. Many other great men have become legends, and everybody believes in them.

None of your friends ever saw Abraham Lincoln or George Washington (or maybe even Babe Ruth and Diamond Jim Brady——two really fabulous characters) but they believe in them all. They are certainly legendary figures. King Arthur and Robin Hood are too, and many, many others, too numerous to list here.

No one doubts their reality, even though we must depend on stories printed in books for what we

know about them. And what stories, and what books we have about Sherlock Holmes? How can anyone read Vincent Starrett's Private Life of Sherlock Holmes and then say that he does not exist?

Who can read Dr. Watson's reminiscences without knowing that there must be a Sherlock Holmes? How can a person visit those famous places connected with him, Baker Street, the Criterion Bar, the Reichenbach, all marked with plaques, and then be so silly as to believe that there never was such a man?

What is more, Sherlock Holmes enjoys one great advantage over all those other legendary people; he is immortal, and we shall always have him with us.

No Sherlock Holmes, indeed! The next thing your misguided friends will say is that there is no Santa Clause.

Or, to be completely ridiculous, somebody may insist that there is no Dr. Watson, who gave us all those wonderful stories. The world is in a bad enough state as it is. Let us not make it worse by removing one of the fixed points in a changing age, one of the few influences for good among so many that tend to move in the opposite direction.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Sherlock Holmes, and I am glad that you wrote to me because I enjoyed this opportunity to say what I thought about that great and good man who has gladdened my heart and the hearts of so many others all over the world.

Numismatic Friends Dinner

Greg Ruby, The Fourth Garridebs

The Fourth Garrideb will be in Dallas, Texas for the American Numismatic Association's National Money Show being held March 3-5, 2016 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center.

The Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes Dinner will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2016. Drinks at 7P, dinner at 7:45P at the Green Door Public House, just a few blocks from the Convention Center. Both Sherlockians and



Numismatists are invited to attend. Individuals will order off the restaurant's menu and be responsible for their own tabs.

The dinner is purely social – no scholarly papers, no slideshows, no quizzes . . . just toasts.

The Green Door Public House is the only free-standing restaurant in the Farmer's Market area, conveniently located a few short blocks from the heart of downtown. The Green Door Public House occupies the first floor of a two-story brick building built in the late 1800's.

Its history includes four saloons during the early 1900's and was remodeled and occupied by Liberty Bank in the 1920's when prohibition

began. During prohibition, speakeasy owners would paint their doors green to alert customers that they had the "goods."

We'll have updates as we get closer to March. If you want to attend, please email Greg at [Greg Ruby](mailto:GregRuby@fourthgarrideb.com) or Steve Mason.

Perot Museum Potential Display

Are you the world's biggest Snoopy fan? Maybe you still have that beer bottle collection from college? Did you try to catch 'em all during the Pokémon heyday? Remember when you thought Beanie Babies were a good investment?

Or maybe you have the largest foreign edition Sherlock Holmes collection, or the most Sherlock Holmes games!!

You're in luck, collectors young and old! The Perot Museum

of Nature and Science wants to display your meticulously curated collections as part of an upcoming exhibition titled Eye of the Collector. The exhibit, which will run April 16 until September 5, will examine reasons that people and museums collect things.

This will be the first exhibit that the museum has curated itself, said Krista Villarreal Moore, senior communications manager for The Perot. Since the museum opened in 2012, it has relied on



traveling exhibitions from other museums to supplement the permanent collection.

Eye of the Collector will be a deep examination of what it means to collect, why we collect and what stories are hidden within private collections.

<http://www.guidelive.com/culture/2016/01/29/collect-odd-stuff-submit-memorabilia-perot-dallas>

THE DEADLINE TO ENTER IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

Forty-Nine References to Tobacco

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

In *The Sign of the Four*, Sherlock Holmes shares with Watson that he has authored a number of technical monographs to assist in solving crimes. Among his treatises is “Upon the Distinction between the Ashes of the Various Tobaccos,” in which he provides information on the ash from 140 different tobaccos. (1)

In fact, Matthew Hilton points out that of the sixty works in the canon, only eleven do not mention Holmes smoking.

While tobacco appears as one of Holmes’ tools of his trade, it also clearly characterizes him as representative of a growing cultural trend among the middle and lower-middle classes of his day. (2)

Prior to the 1800s, both British men and women most commonly used tobacco in the form of snuff, a mixture of the powdered leaf and spices sniffed through the nose to cause sneezing.

Polite Victorian society, however, banned smoking tobacco even as it grew in popularity. Despite Queen Victoria’s attitude toward the habit, the upper classes introduced cigar smoking, and the practice trickled down to the lower classes. (3)

Royal disdain limited smoking to men and only in certain venues. Clubs and large homes designated a “smoking room.” Where such a space did not exist, the man of the house would smoke outside in the dark after servants had gone to bed.

No one was supposed to see him, and he also took great pains not to smell of smoke. Smoking jackets and special caps kept the odor from penetrating his clothes or hair. (4)

Pipe smoking also increased in use during the Victorian era, with some credit given to the introduction of the briar pipe. (5) In the 1850s and earlier, pipes were often made of clay or, for higher end smokers, meerschaum (made from the mineral sepiolite). (6)

The descriptive briar had nothing to do with the wild rose plant, but originated from the French word for heath, *bryere*.

Pipe makers began to use the root of the white heath, found in France, in the early 1800s, but did not introduce it in Britain until the 1850s.

The cigarette did not gain popularity in Britain until the end of the century when manufacturing processes were able to offer a consistent product.

The “roll your own” preference of U.S. smokers never reached across the ocean. When the Wills tobacco firm offered their “Woodbine” brand at five for a penny, sales took off.

Women were also targeted beginning the 1900s,



and sales increased even more. (7)

Tobacco and all the accoutrements for smoking them—be it with a pipe, as a cigar, or the cigarette—were all sold through tobacconist shops.

Tobacco would arrive in blocks, which the tobacconist would then shred, or cut and blend into different varieties and keep in air-tight containers.

A review of one weekly tobacco journal included a list of more than 112 brands for the 12 products (loose tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes) offered by just one of the wholesalers supplying such shops. (8)

Given the number of brands and variety of tobacco and blends available through the various manufacturers, Holmes’ research based on only 140 of them appears to have merely scratched the surface.

Researching all the types offered would seem to be more than a “three pipe problem” for the great detective. (9)

- 1) Doyle, Arthur Conan (2012-12-13). The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Locations 2401-2402). Simon & Schuster UK. Kindle Edition.
- 2) Hilton, Matthew, Smoking in British Popular Culture 1800-2000. Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press, 2000. Print.
- 3) <http://www.giveup.ca/HistorySmoking/Early-Victorian-Days.html>
- 4) Graham, Kelley, Gone to the Shops, Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 2008. Print.
- 5) <http://www.giveup.ca/HistorySmoking/Early-Victorian-Days.html>
- 6) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meerschaum_pipe
- 7) Mitchell, Sally (editor). Victorian Britain. New York: Garland Publishing, Inc. 1988. Print.
- 8) Lilley, C.; Hardin, S.; Delano, T.; and Pond, W. (eds.) Tobacco: An Illustrated Weekly Journal for the Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Cigars, Manufactured Tobacco and Smoker's Articles. Volume 74. Lockwood Trade Journal Company, 1922.
- 9) Doyle, Arthur Conan (2012-12-13). The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Locations 10746-10750). Simon & Schuster UK. Kindle Edition.

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the Bilge Pump) and sign up for her newsletter at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

Beacon Award Winner – 2013

From the Beacon Society



Mrs. Shannon Carlisle is the accelerated learning teacher at Moore Elementary, a school in Franklin, Tennessee, serving kindergarten-4th grade students. Her role is to ensure the unique intellect of every individual be challenged by developing critical thinking, creative thinking, and research skills through the study of the Common Core State Standards.

The hallway to Mrs Carlisle's classroom is decorated with Baker Street signs, and her classroom door is "221B," the front door of the great detective. She even signs her memos and newsletters to our staff and the parent community "Chief Sherlockian."

During the first week of the school year, she invites the 4th graders to 221b Baker Street (her classroom) to have them solve the "Mystery of the Borrowed Bear." The students are told they are Sherlockians-in-Training and by the end of the week they can earn the title of Sherlockians. As a part of the investigation, the students learn about Sherlock Holmes.

Because of her Sherlockian Training and her Baker Street hallway decorations, our students have begun to learn who Sherlock Holmes is and have taken further steps themselves to learn more about the great

detective. The newly-published The 100-Year-Old Secret, book one of The Sherlock Files, by Tracy Barrett, has been checked out over 40 times since it was catalogued in our library. The Mysteries of Sherlock Holmes: based on the stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was entered into our library's circulation February 2007, but wasn't until Mrs. Carlisle became our Chief Sherlockian it was finally checked out in October 2011.

Recently, the walls of our library were painted with a fantastic mural highlighting characters from some of our best-loved books. In a hot air balloon, flying high over Clifford the Big Red Dog, is Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson with the line "It's Moore... Elementary my dear Watson". Students are creating their own deerstalkers for crazy hat day. They are attending the play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at the Nashville Children's Theater on their own. One student gets a lot of attention when he wears his Priest Holmes jersey. And ultimately, our students are learning about the science of deduction and applying it daily as they complete tasks in all subject areas.

Alisha Erickson, Assistant Principal

For information on the wonderful work of Shannon, see the brochure attached to this newsletter.

17 Steps to the Engineer's Thumb

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

WATSON VERSUS JOURNALISM

Watson writes of ENGI: "The story has, I believe, been told more than once in the newspapers, but, like all such narratives, its effect is much less striking when set forth en bloc in a single half-column of print ..."

Did newspapers ever carry the full tale of Victor Hatherly?

Since the suspected criminals were never found, nor were their counterfeit coins, was there actually more to report than the attack on the engineer and the burning of the house?

Watson claims it's better "when the facts slowly evolve before your own eyes, and the mystery clears gradually away as each new discovery furnishes a step which leads on to the complete truth," but is this more of the good doctor's self-promotion?

Does ENGI really evolve slowly, or is it basically a two step tale, the first part being Hatherly's tale and the second part being the discovery that the villains have gotten away?

PAINFUL, LINGERING, AND CURABLE

Among Watson's patients who worked at Paddington Station was a fellow with a "painful and lingering disease" that Watson cured.

Given the current state of medicine in 1889, any speculation on what manner of disease might this have been? Something connected with working at a railway station, perhaps?

WATSON'S ECCENTRIC FRIEND

"I continually visited him and occasionally even persuaded him to forego his Bohemian habits so far as to come and visit us." While the cases of Sherlock Holmes were always the *raison d'être* for Watson's writings, wouldn't you like to know just what went on during a social evening at the Watson's home?

In other stories we see the topics Holmes discusses when dining with Watson and Lestrade, but would his subject matter change when dining with Mrs. Watson?

HATHERLY FORCES A CARD

"I gave the maid a card," Victor Hatherly tells Watson, "but I see that she has left it upon the side-table."

Watson takes up the card and reads, "Mr. Victor Hatherley, hydraulic engineer, 16A, Victoria Street (3d floor)," then writes, "That was the name, style, and abode of my morning visitor."

Okay, Victor's a little delirious, as he seems to be more concerned with etiquette and presenting his card as an introduction than the fact his thumb's been chopped off ... or was this what one would expect of that day and age?

And then we have Watson, who not only feels the need to explain to us what those nouns, proper and otherwise, on that card are, but then goes on to call Hatherly's occupation his "style."

Any Hounds familiar with this usage of the word, or was Watson being a little free with his wordage?

LET'S GET A SECOND OPINION ...

Now, we're all used to Watson's universal brandy cure-all, but what about his treatment in this case.

As a former army surgeon with training in such things as amputations and traumatic injuries, should he be doing anything more than bandaging that stump?

While he's probably not up to plastic surgery, shouldn't he be doing something more to close that thing off?

SHE'S GOT MONO!

A mysterious and beautiful foreigner appears once Victor Hatherly is on the job, and she tries to

persuade him that he'd be better off leaving.

Hatherly immediately diagnoses: "This woman might, for all I knew, be a monomaniac."

Have Hatherly's experiences with women been that bad? Why would he jump to that conclusion so quickly? Monomania in the family?

HE'S AN ENGINEER, NOT A ROCKET SCIENTIST

Bad enough Hatherly decides to check out a hydraulic press room by going inside it, but does he really have to start smarting off to his mysterious employer while still inside?

Wouldn't he have wanted to check out the workings of the machine first?

MAYBE HE WANTED PANCAKES

Colonel Lysander Stark seemed handy enough with edged weapons. Why mess up a perfectly good hydraulic press with engineer goop?

And if Hatherly's demise messed the press up any further, he'd have to get yet another engineer.

Was this just a fit of temper, or is there any redeeming factors to killing people with a hydraulic press?

SHADES OF THE STAPLETONS!

Is Elise the wife of Fritz? His sister?

Ferguson's girlfriend? What sort of deductions can the Hounds make about the arrangements of the villains' household?

FORSOOTH, KNAVE, A PEASANT I SPY!

Watson writes: "Early that morning a peasant had met a cart containing several people . . ." Okay, I'm an out-of-touch American in the 2000s, but did they still have peasants in Victorian England?

HE MUST HAVE BEEN FAMILY

“During two years I have had three consultations and one small job, and that is absolutely all that my profession has brought me. My gross takings amount to L27 10s,” Hatherly explains.

Yet he seems to have a clerk working for him, bringing him the card of his fourth consultation in two years.

What was this clerk doing for three years?

WHERE THERE ARE BOOKS ...

We bookish sorts must identify them. In his client’s house, Hatherly “glanced at the books upon the table, and in spite of my ignorance of German I could see that two of them were treatises on science, the others being volumes of poetry.”

German poetry?

Or a German translation of some other country’s poets?

If it were indeed poetry in the original German, do we have any speculation on who the poet might have been?

NOT THE LADIES MAN, THIS HATHERLY

While he says Elise was beautiful, Victor Hatherly also speaks of: “her

eyes glancing back, like those of a frightened horse.”

Hopefully, Victor didn’t meet this gal again once Watson had the story published.

Or do the ladies present think they’d allow a man to get away with comparing any of their features to a horse?

THE REMARKABLE HOLMES MEMORY

In the course of the case, Sherlock Holmes remembers a year-old personal ad: “Lost, on the 9th inst., Mr. Jeremiah Hayling, aged twenty-six, a hydraulic engineer.”

If Mr. Hayling was an orphan like Mr. Hatherly, who was advertising in all the papers for him?

And why would Holmes remember a single personal ad after all this time?

Was Holmes brought in on the disappearance, perhaps?

Or was his memory really just THAT good?

THE DEGREES OF PIRACY

The villain of the piece is said by Holmes to be “like those out-and-out pirates who will leave no survivor from a captured ship.”

Isn’t piracy merely the act of armed robbery on the high seas?

Does one become more of a pirate by killing one’s victims?

TAKING THE MORNING INSPECTOR

In both TWIS and ENGI, we find Holmes working with Inspector Bradstreet when the case takes an early morning turn.

Is Bradstreet a believer in the early bird theory, or is the timing just a coincidence?

NOT THE SEVERED THUMB STORY AGAIN!

Sherlock Holmes, a man known for avoiding social situations that might bore him, advises Hatherly on his experience, “Indirectly it may be of value, you know; you have only to put it into words to gain the reputation of being excellent company for the remainder of your existence.”

Is there anything to this advice, or was Holmes just once again showing his disdain for socializing?

Is this some backhanded reference to the old “war” stories of some other social acquaintance of Holmes?

Perhaps one who occasionally persuaded him to dine with the friend’s wife and himself?

Reporting on the BSI Weekend

Don Hobbs, BSI

The Baker Street Irregulars celebrated the 162nd birthday of Sherlock Holmes in New York City with a variety of events, official and unofficial, from January 13 to January 17. This year's festivities bore an enormous imprint from The Crew of the Barque Lone Star.

Five regular Crew members attended: Third Mate Steve Mason, Don Hobbs (the Crew's only active BSI member), Rusty Mason, Stu Nelan, and Dean Clark.

This number was augmented by Stu's daughter Kami, now a resident of Washington, D.C., but who has been a regular at the BSI weekend in recent years and Texas native Tiffany Rae Knight, now living in New York but who attended the January meeting of the Crew and who has expressed the desire to become a Mate of the Crew. (At the conclusion of the weekend, it was announced that Tiffany would become co-hostess of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes (ASH) Brunch Sunday morning of the BSI Weekend beginning next year.)

However, the Crew's presence in New York went far beyond just the impressive attendance figure.

Among the prominent events during the weekend was the official publication of "Spain and Sherlock Holmes" which was the first book issued since Don Hobbs became the BSI's General Editor of the International Series.

Hobbs said this book was praised by John Bergquist, the BSI's overall editorial leader, for

being the best edited of any in the BSI's International Series. This was a compliment to the Crew at large because several members helped with streamlining the prose after Don had obtained the initial translations.

Steve was honored in several ways. His play "When Death Comes A'Callin'" won The Jan Whimsey Award for 2016. This award is for writings that appear in the ASH quarterly newsletter, "The Serpentine Muse."

Steve also was named communications chair for the Beacon Society. In addition, original artwork by Steve that he donated to the BSI auction was purchased by Jerry Margolin. This is a huge compliment to Steve's talent because Margolin is one of the largest collectors of Sherlockian artwork (an original Sidney Paget is among his treasures).

Steve, Rusty and Stu also performed in Dean's radio play "The Case of the Missing Vernet" during the Gaslight Gala. This was the sixth play that Dean has either authored or co-authored that has been performed during the BSI weekend. He is too modest to say so publicly but he is pretty proud of that number.

A well-deserved accomplishment for both Dean and Steve. The rest of the members of the Crew can stick their collective chests out with pride for such a fabulous showing in the Big Apple. All the more reason to plan ahead for the next BSI Weekend and Birthday Celebration to be held the weekend of January 6th, 2017.

56 Stories in 56 Days - The Engineer's Thumb

Posted on October 27, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet

This is a curious story, gripping but very different to the usual formula, writes Charlotte Walters. On the one hand, as a stand-alone short story about a hydraulic engineer who inadvertently goes off to fix a press used in coin forging and gets his thumb cut off by a cruel German baddie, it's a really absorbing little story.

The part where the poor young man is trapped inside the press with it coming down on top of him is as exciting as an action sequence from Indiana Jones. But on the other hand, as a Holmes adventure, it gives little opportunity to see the detection and observation that makes up the usual formula we know and love.

There is, of course, Holmes' observation that the horse which pulled the carriage from the station to the mystery forging house taking the engineer to his work was described as 'fresh and glossy' and therefore hadn't travelled far to reach it. This explained much

about the location of the press but was irrelevant really as the column of smoke billowing from its ruins gave away its location anyway. Holmes was also the one who linked the incident to a previous disappearance of a hydraulic engineer but this too didn't lead to any particular resolution, except for suggesting that the German had form in his murdering ways.

But that's it really; Holmes has very little impact beyond these two points. But does that matter when the story is as neat and concise as this one? And what of the ending? The villains escape but the crushing of the engineer's oil lamp in the press has caused the whole forging operation to be swallowed by flames. I suppose this is a closure of sorts but I was left wanting more – more deduction and more comeuppance.

Pacey and gripping, but more just 'short story' rather than 'Sherlock Holmes short story' – 7 out of 10.

A TWIST ON CANONICAL TITLES -- ANSWERS

The Three Garridebs of Westchester County, New York

We took 11 story titles, replaced a word or phrase in each with one from a different story. See if you can identify the new titles from the clues provided. The answers will be provided next month.

1. I guess hitchhiking was out of the question for him.	The Man With the Twisted Thumb
2. Not who you'd want when negotiating an international deal.	The Crooked Interpreter
3. The low-end version for the visually and financially impaired.	The Adventure of the Copper Pince-Nez
4. The titular individual in this case must have had amazing coordination.	The Adventure of the Dancing Cyclist
5. Might have chipped some teeth on Nathan's fossils.	The Hound of the Garridebs
6. An ironic description, when you think about it.	The Adventure of the Blanched Colourman
7. Holmes to Hudson.	The Resident Detective
8. The smiley one.	The Adventure of the Yellow Circle
9. Scowrers in Herefordshire.	The Boscombe Valley of Fear
10. A dark lantern's light source?	Black Blaze
11. Aka a visit to the Container Store.	The Adventure of the Empty Box

SHERLOCKIAN SCHOLARSHIP: L'affaires du Couer

BY Melissa Hellen, Holmes and Watson Report, Sherlock Peoria

(Another Sherlockian unwisely leaps into the fray)

A wise man once said, "What you start out loving about a person you'll eventually end up hating about them."

Call it a ying-yang thing.

Call it the flipside of a good quality.

Whatever you want to call it, there's a lot of truth in the statement, and I think it's worth keeping in mind when discussing this "Holmes and Adler" business.

No story makes as much of Holmes's reaction to a woman as SCAN does over Irene Adler. And this is largely based on the fact that she had a lot in common with Holmes.

She was theatrical, intelligent, a risk-taker, decisive, not bound by convention, and shared many other qualities with the famous detective.

And isn't that the traditional formula for a successful pairing?

However, I'm not so sure we should back what seems to us – or what seemed to Watson - like the obvious choice of possible romantic links to the Master.

It reminds me of what Holmes himself once said on evidence: viewed from a slightly different angle; it may point in the exact opposite direction to the one you thought it did ... point to.

The evidence, I mean. The -- pay attention, can't you?

But first: about this whole idea of constantly pairing Holmes with Canonical women.

What the deuce is it to me, or to you, or to anyone else whom he may or may not have found attractive? Will someone tell me, please?

I didn't come to Holmes looking for, a Harlequin Romance.

"Ah, but the romance was there."

"Shut up, Watson. You see romance in a rubbish tip."

It's like a Victorian version of the Enquirer anymore.

Every couple of months, somebody's back on the subject: "Alien mum confesses: 'I Had Sherlock's Love-Child,'" "Wolfe Paternity Blood Test Shocker" and "Adler Claims 'Bloody Deerstalker Was Planted.'"

Pooh ... what a waste of brainpower.

Yet, having said that, I will now proceed to hop into the mud puddle with all the rest of the kids and put in my tuppence on the subject.

This is my "take" on it all: If there truly were anyone special in Sherlock Holmes's heart, no one - and I mean NO ONE - other than Holmes himself would know it.

Especially not Watson, and that means, especially not us.

Sherlock Holmes never let go of one iota of information before its time, never unguardedly babbled his thoughts on any matter without weighing each word, never, ever, ever in the whole of the Canon.

Do you remember Watson ever quoting Holmes as saying "Woopsie!" or "You didn't hear that, old man," or "Heh, heh, heh, that was just the cocaine talking, Watson."

Whoever coined the phrase "close as wax" was, I am certain, picturing Sherlock Holmes when he said it.

Oh, it's true, a person - a demented, desperate-for-attention sort of person - could as easily make a strong a case for Holmes' having the hots for poor, dim, dead-common Mary Sutherland, the belle of the Gasfitters' Ball and the unlikeliest of available female love-interests, as any other Canonical dame you'd care to name.

They could do it, but does that make it so?

Consider: Holmes told Watson "opposites attract," and "the angel calls to the caveman."

If an angel and a caveman can date, why not a genius and the hands-down densest female in the entire Received Text?

You could hardly get any further opposite Sherlock Holmes than Mary Sutherland. He is eagle-eyed.

Even on a good day she can't see past the end of her nose.

He thinks the genius is in the details, she waltzes around London with mismatched shoes buttoned up sideways.

He prides himself on his iron control of his emotions, she's fond of "banging out of the house."

He "effects a certain quiet primness" of dress and is subtly colour coordinated, while she wears matted plush and puts purple and brown together (gag!)

He's so thin he's got some people around here worried that he's consumptive, while her initials, as "Billy the tug-boat" can attest, are "H.M.S."

He can sort out her little mystery without leaving his armchair and cosy fire, while she spends whole evenings with her own stepfather who's wearing the Victorian equivalent of a rubber nose and glasses, and she hasn't a clue who the fellow really is.

Holmes is all brain with a bit of appendix on the side; Mary Sutherland couldn't reason her way out of a wicker poke with a map, a torch, and a tour guide.

Hey presto: a match made in heaven! I ask you, what could be better?

I'm being ridiculous, of course. I no more think Holmes was interested in Mary Sutherland than I think he was interested in any of them -- ANY of them, mind you.

Sherlock Holmes had different ideas of fun. If he had any interest at all in Irene Adler beyond the fulfilling of his royal commission, it was probably to hire her to be a part of that "small but efficient organization" he was building.

Certainly she'd have made a dandy accomplice in any case where a woman operative was wanted.

Yes, a wise man once said, "What you start out loving about a person you'll eventually end up hating."

(Oh, all right, all right. I said it, last week to my husband, whose logical mind fascinated me until he turned it to evil ends - i.e., justifying the deplorable snowed-under condition of his computer desk.)

I think I should get very tired indeed of someone who constantly bested me at my own game; In fact, I'm certain of it.

Why should that be significant?

Because I know Holmes and I share at least one trait: competitiveness.

One rarely wants to remain permanently attached to someone with whom they directly compete -- It's a very volatile combination.

I think Holmes would be about as likely to cuddle up with Irene Adler as he would with that other great competitor in his life, James Moriarty.

They had exactly the same attractions, Adler and Moriarty -- though I heard Arty Morty had the better legs -- and just remember, Holmes finished up by tossing HIM off a cliff.

WHAT'S IN "SHERLOCK"?

How clever are you? Test yourself. See if you can find twenty or more words of four or more letters in the name "SHERLOCK."

To make it a little more challenging, if you use the singular form a word, such as HOLE, do not then also count the plural form HOLES. ... and no proper nouns need apply.

I will give you my list next month.

HOLMES, WHAT MISCHIEF ARE YOU PLOTTING NOW?

CREATING VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS, OF COURSE.



VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS? FOR GIRLS? I THOUGHT YOU DISDAINED GIRLS.

DON'T BE SILLY, WATSON. I AM NOT AFTER GIRLS' AFFECTION. I AM AFTER THE SWEETS THAT ARE RETURNED FOR THESE CARDS.



OH... GUESS THAT EXPLAINS YOUR ENLISTMENT OF THE YOUNGIN'S TO AID YOU.

CORRECT. I'VE LEARNED GIRLS ANTICIPATE RECEIVING THESE CARDS. SIMPLE CHOICE OF WORDS, HERE AND THERE, AND WE REAP THE BENEFITS. WITH THE YOUNGIN'S HELP, THERE IS MORE HOPE FOR DELECTIBLE REWARDS.



OH, HOLMES, THIS IS SO MORALLY WRONG ...

... IGNATIUS?

HELLO, JOHN. ARE YOU HERE TO ASSIST IN OUR ENDEAVOR?



HELP? HOLMES, WHO ELSE PARTICIPATES IN THIS LITTLE OPERATION OF YOURS?

STAMFORD IS INCLUDED. CARE TO JOIN US IN THIS 'LITTLE OPERATION'? WE ANTICIPATE ENOUGH CANDY TO LAST US THROUGH SPRING. YOU WILL GET A SHARE OF THE PROCEEDS.



... HAND ME A PEN ...



The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 01 - January, 2016
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



From the Editors: This is the start of our 4th year of publication of the Bilge Pump... Thanks for all your support. Steve & Walt

February 7th Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, February 7th, at LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE, in Addison.

The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

We will be reading "The Adventure of the Cardboard Box."

The quiz will cover this tale.

Each monthly meeting will also include toasts as well as general business, introductions, and general fellowship.

January 3rd Meeting

There were 20 in attendance at the monthly meeting, including 5 visitors (2 from the East Coast.) Jim Brown provided an excellent toast in celebration of Arthur Conan Doyle, as well as the upcoming birthday of Sherlock Holmes.

Each of the attendees were provided a copy of the 1st edition of the **Baker Street Elementary** Comic Strips. The quiz on "The Adventure of the Naval Treaty" was won by Sharon Lowry, with Walter Pieper receiving second place.

Steve Mason then did a presentation on "A Rose by Any Other Name", from the passage in the "Naval Treaty" describing the mysterious personality of Sherlock Holmes and how he was perceived by many. The relationship between Doyle and Harry Houdini, and how spiritualism affected each of them was also brought up.

There was a discussion of the history of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star; the Crew is lucky to still have some of the very early members participating, e.g. Sharon Lowry, and Herb Linder. Bill Pervin was invested as a Deck Mate, noting his wonderful presentation on mathematics and the Sherlock Holmes canon.

Steve discussed Sherlockians Searching for Sherlockians, which involved the search by Don Hobbs and Steve to locate Bill Beason, one of the founding members of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star, along with Sharon Lowry's late husband Bullet, and Francine Morris.

Steve then gave a State of the Society, which included the Crew's accomplishments and adventures in 2015.

The Piepers have asked that we set a specific weekend night each month to have Sherlock Holmes movie watching night. The group agreed on the second Saturday of each month starting in February. In January we will have the 4th Saturday be our movie watching night, so on January 30, we will be watching "A Study in Time".

A discussion of the newest "Sherlock" story, The Abominable Bride, which was viewed by the majority of the club on New Year's Day. Steve mentioned that in the show there was a picture on Holmes wall called "All is Vanity" which is the same picture his Sherlock loving Father had passed down to him.

Steve Mason gave the Closing Toast from the Baker Street Journal on July 1960, entitled "Holmes the Epicure".

Thanks to Cindy for taking the minutes of the cruise. The full minutes are posted on our webpage at: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/log-of-the-crew.html>

For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://dfw-sherlock.org/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>



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	Secretaries Historian Webmaster	Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison Pam Mason Rusty Mason	myrkrid08@yahoo.com

TOAST TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

Jim Brown

Ladies and Gentlemen, I propose a toast!

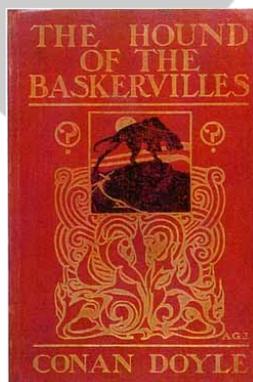
We are gathered here today, only three days before his 162nd birthday on January 6, to celebrate the wonderful legacy of Sherlock Holmes.

My dad loved reading Sherlock Holmes and he has passed this love on to me.

This truly is a tradition that has stood the test of time.

And indirectly, we are also celebrating Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who created the character that, in today's vernacular, is a superpower that uses exclusively his superior intellect.

Even more indirectly, we are celebrating the medium through which our beloved Sherlock was created – the book.



From the first stone tablets, humankind has continually improved the book, until in modern day a Maestro like Sir Arthur – by putting symbols on a sheet of paper - can paint the vivid images and complex characters of the Sherlockian world into the minds of others.

So here is to the book, which like the canvas for painters, is the most exquisite medium of expression.

And here is to Sir Arthur, the genius that created the Sherlockian world.



And here is to Sherlock – who does it all with his brain! Happy Birthday, Sherlock!

Hear hear!

HOLMES THE EPICURE

Excerpt from *The Baker Street Journal*, July, 1960

We know much of Sherlock Holmes' tastes in food and drink, but there is more, much more, that we do not know.

It is, of course, from his fine palate for such delicacies as grouse and oysters that Holmes's reputation as an epicure derives; but his proclivities were broader than that: he was not above extolling Mrs. Hudson for her plain breakfasts or combining business with pleasure in the enjoyment of a glass of beer in a public house — and we must remember the occasion when he tore a piece of bread from the loaf on the sideboard and washed it down with a long draught of water, thereby moving Dr. Watson to remark, astutely, "You are hungry."



Holmes patronized such first-rate restaurants as Marcini's and Goldini's and Simpson's, and, along with his Montrachet, he savored an occasional whiskey from

the tantalus he kept always handy.

And we may be sure that he took a nip now and again of the brandy Watson carried so persistently in his hip-pocket as a sovereign remedy for every ailment known to man.

All this speaks loudly and well of a trencherman both fastidious and robust, and of a man who knew his liquor.

But there are vast gaps in the testimony we have of the Master's diet, spare as we are told that diet was.

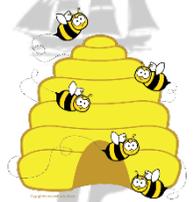
Surely he did not live on oysters and bread-crusts alone: no gourmet of his day or any other could have failed to relish occasionally a plain-grilled Dover sole.

It is strange we hear nothing at all in the Canon of the Master's taste for cheese — he must have eaten it straight at many a meal, and what more tempting, on such an occasion, than a short — or better yet, a stringy — Welsh rabbit?

Or it may be that he relished better one of those other flesh—substitute dishes made of cheese or eggs, such as a Scotch woodcock or a Yorkshire buck.

There must have been sweets, too, in the Holmesian diet, served with one of those afternoon teas, high or low, of which the Canon strangely makes no mention.

It is suggestive, that in his retirement the Master turned to the keeping of bees, and we may think he did this simply because he wanted to engorge his honey fresh from the comb.



The world is so full of a number of gastronomic delights, and Sherlock Holmes was such an eager, inquisitive, questing soul, that we cannot conceive of his failing to sample every nectar and ambrosia the gods could offer.

We are told that he went for long periods without food or drink, and we may believe he did this not only to concentrate his energies on the case he had in hand, but also, and more to the point, in order to restore the sharpness and efficacy of his taste-buds when a multi-pipe problem had furred them over.

It is good to know that this "reasoning-machine" was also a man with a hearty appetite and a discriminating choice in appeasing it.

17 STEPS TO "THE ADVENTURE OF THE CARDBOARD BOX"

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

"Ring for our boots and tell them to order a cab. I'll be back in a moment when I have changed my dressing-gown and filled my cigar-case." Now, we know Holmes's boots aren't going to order a cab. We know that Holmes isn't just changing into a different dressing gown to go out. And we also know that Holmes's grammatical shorthand doesn't extend to his cigar and cigarette cases. As a tobacco connoisseur, Holmes seemed very deliberate with his smoking, matching pipes to moods.

So what can we make of his taking cigars along for this particular outing? Were cigars his odor-cover of choice in cases involving severed body parts?

A SALTING OF THE EARS

"Again, carbolic or rectified spirits would be the preservatives which would suggest themselves to the medical mind, certainly not rough salt."

Okay, so you're a mad-dog killer sending severed ears to the woman you blame for your murderous ways. Why are you even attempting to preserve the ears?

Do you think she'll want to save them as keepsakes? Wouldn't unpreserved ears have much more shock value to the recipient?

WELL, IT WASN'T THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Of Browner, we hear: "That was before he broke the pledge..."

Temperance pledges of Victorian England seem to have come in many levels and varieties. What sort of pledge might we expect a seaman like Browner to have taken? Would he have taken it as a part of his church life? Or a promise to his wife?

JIM'S RELATIONSHIP WITH SUSAN

Susan says, "First he dropped me, then he quarrelled with Sarah, and now that Mary has stopped writing we don't know how things are going with them." How does she mean that Jim "dropped" her? Just a few lines before she says he only came to visit her once before he started drinking. It doesn't seem like there

was much of a relationship there to drop, does it?

BRAIN FEVER STRIKES AGAIN!

Sarah Cushing's doctor says, "She has been suffering since yesterday from brain symptoms of great severity. As her medical adviser, I cannot possibly take the responsibility of allowing anyone to see her. I should recommend you to call again in ten days."

We've seen and discussed brain fever on many occasions, but in "Cardboard Box" we get some interesting statements from a doctor who's treating it. He mentions "brain symptoms" as though they're commonly recognized, and cites a ten day recovery period. Do we know what brain symptoms are, having seen this ailment so many times in the Canon? And why ten days? Did he pull that number out of his shiny black hat?

THAT MOMENT THE ENTHUSIAST LIVES FOR

"We had a pleasant little meal together, during which Holmes would talk about nothing but violins, narrating with great exultation how he had purchased his own Stradivarius, which was worth at least five hundred guineas, at a Jew broker's in Tottenham Court Road for fifty-five shillings."

Doesn't this sound like something from a dinner with a fellow Sherlockian? The enthusiast whose special knowledge enables him to purchase a rarity for a bargain price is something many a Sherlockian can relate to, and an experience that makes this dinner seem like one we'd enjoy sitting in on.

With that in mind, do any Hounds have "rare Sherlockian find" tales they'd care to share with fellow Hounds who are dining as they read their e-mail?

SHERLOCK HOLMES, PAGANINI FAN

"This led him to Paganini, and we sat for an hour over a bottle of claret while he told me anecdote after anecdote of that extraordinary man."

Where would a fan of Nicolo Paganini have picked up tales of that remarkable violinist? From fellow fans, violin

instructors, or books? As Paganini and his devil-related reputation are a bit reminiscent of some modern rock star, would the violinist have been favored by young music lovers more than old?

REASONING BACKWARDS, YES, BUT ARRESTING BACKWARDS?

Holmes says, "I have written to Lestrade asking him to supply us with the details which are now wanting, and which he will only get after he has secured his man."

Even Holmes doesn't know the whole story, but on the basis of the consulting detective writing a name on a card, Inspector Lestrade makes an arrest. Was this a case where Holmes was using Scotland Yard's tendency to "arrest first, ask questions later" to his advantage? Why didn't Holmes conjure up some climactic staged capture, as he did in so many other cases?

LESTRADE, THE MAD DOG OF THE YARD

"That he may be safely trusted to do, for although he is absolutely devoid of reason, he is as tenacious as a bulldog when he once understands what he has to do." Devoid of reason? Boy, we talk about Holmes insulting Watson, but this has to be the ultimate Holmes slam of one of his familiars. Is Lestrade, indeed, incapable of basic reasoning of the detective sort? Or is this an affectionate little jibe, spoken to a friend about a friend?

THE MYSTERY OF THE MYSTERY ITSELF

This entire mystery revolves around the fact that the package of ears was addressed to "Miss S. Cushing."

Had Browner addressed the package with the full name of his intended recipient, she may not have been as quick to announce it to the police as she fell into brain fever. So why did our culprit address it so confusingly when he "knew" that there were two "S. Cushing's"? Did addressing etiquette demand a maiden ladies first name not be spelled out?

USING THE FORCE TO FIND FRIENDS

"I therefore sent off a telegram to my friend Algar, of the Liverpool force, and

asked him to find out if Mrs. Browner were at home, and if Browner had departed in the May Day."

From Holmes's reference to Algar as a friend, can we assume that he once was involved in a case that Algar was handling? Would there have been any other way Holmes wound up friends with a Liverpool law enforcement officer?

Might Holmes have purposefully cultivated relationships with members of key English police forces?

THE DESTINATION OF THE THIRD COPY

Lestrade's note says about Browner's confession: "We had three copies typewritten, one of which I enclose."

While one has to wonder about what sort of life a Scotland Yard typist had, one also has to wonder if carbon paper had been invented yet (or the typist had to retype the confession), and who that third copy was for. One copy for Holmes, one for Lestrade or his department's records, and the third for whom? The prosecuting attorneys?

S. CUSHING, G. LESTRADE -- DON'T THESE PEOPLE EVER LEARN?

The Scotland Yard inspector signs her note: "With kind regards, Yours very truly, G. Lestrade."

Is that the double closing what one would expect of a professional exchange, or is Lestrade kissing up? And why is Lestrade withholding his first name?

DIDN'T ANYONE WANT CREDIT ON THIS CASE?

"This is his statement as made before Inspector Montgomery at the Shadwell Police Station, and it has the advantage of being verbatim."

First Holmes passes the case and its credit to Lestrade, then Lestrade passes the murderer on to Montgomery for his confession. What was Montgomery's part? Surely Scotland Yard didn't make inspectors of their "shorthand man," did they?

FOOT FETISHES OF VICTORIAN SEAMEN

"I thought more of my wife's footprint in the mud than I did of her whole body and soul," confesses Jim Browner. After Captain Crocker's kissing the deck where Mary Fraser had walked in "Abbey Grange," Browner's statement almost looks like there's a pattern forming here. Does this fixation with footsteps show up in any other writings by Watson or his Literary Agent?

THE CUSHING INCOME SOURCES

"Sarah found that she could not make a living in Liverpool," Browner reports, after saying Sarah took a house to let lodgings to sailors. We are also told earlier that Susan Cushing had taken on medical student boarders before. So how did Susan and Sarah make their livings?

Wouldn't they have had to have capital to invest in a boarding house to earn a living that way? Or did they rent and sublet?

THE SARAH CUSHING FIXATION

"If Sarah had been there, by the Lord, she should have joined them. I pulled out my knife, and--well, there! I've said enough. It gave me a kind of savage joy when I thought how Sarah would feel when she had such signs as these of what her meddling had brought about."

Jim Browner's wife seems to be cheating on him, which naturally throws him into a rage. He's angry enough at her and her lover to kill them both, yet somehow in that rage, he still has room to be irritated by his sister-in-law. If he's that enraged and that fixated on Sarah, why didn't he deliver the ears personally and take his anger out on Sarah as well?

The Bryan Woolley Memorial Scholarship: Remembering good books and an old friend

Michael Merschel, Dallas Morning News

Sometimes, books are like friends. And sometimes, books remind us of old friends. That's the case for me right now, as I think of some of the titles that have crossed my desk lately — books on Roman history, a Sherlock Holmes collection, a Lincoln novel coming from Stephen Harrigan.

All are subjects that would have drawn the interest of my keen-minded former colleague Bryan Woolley, who died in January at age 77.

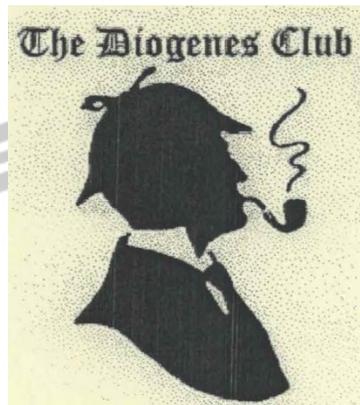
Bryan was well-known to Dallas Morning News readers as a longtime feature writer and regular contributor of book reviews. He led a remarkable life.

Bryan was fiercely proud of his West Texas roots, and not long ago, his family contacted me to say that the Friends of the Jeff Davis County Library set up a scholarship in his honor. The annual award of \$1,000 will be given to a graduating senior from Fort Davis High School or Valentine High School for a winning essay, judged by the scholarship committee of the library board. Bryan would love this; a contest played a significant role in his beginnings as a writer.

Donations, for anyone inclined, may be made at <http://friendsjdcl.org/support/>

THE 7TH ANNUAL PICNIC FOR OUR SOCIETY

AUGUST 31, 2002



THE NORTH TEXAS REGIONAL SHERLOCK HOLMES GROUP
(No TRASH)
Present
The 7th Annual Picnic

Menu featuring:

Those semi-famous Mrs. Hudson Burgers: This is a Missing Three Quarter pound of 90% lean, beef that will be cooked to perfection over a Silver Blaze of charcoal. Little Red Circles of Texas tomatoes and a 7% solution of mustard. Ketchup may be added for that Second Stain. Served with or without those little Yellow Faces of cheese.

Mrs. Warren's Devil's Foot Deviled Eggs: These things are good enough to straighten up any Crooked Man and give the Mona Lisa a Twisted Lip. Be an illustrious Client and eat several. Originally served at The Priory School to their original Three Students who wore Golden Pince-Nez.

Colonel Sebastian Moran's Side Dish Surprises: These truly come from The Valley of Fear. Who knows what Moriarty's minions have in store. You may need a Greek Interpreter to help with these dishes. If they aren't a Scandal in Bohemia, nothing is. Don't end up in a Red-Headed League of your own, try them all!! Beware of the Black Peter and Blanched Soldier but try the Gloria Scott.

The Blue Carbuncle Margarita: Joyce's own concoction. Drinking these little Hound of the Baskervilles is a virtual Musgrave Ritual, just ask the last Six Napoleons who drank them. That was their Final Problem. Guaranteed to turn Dancing Men into a Reigate Puzzle. Just ask Charles Augustus Milverton.

All food remaining will be placed inside a Cardboard Box according to the Bruce Partington Plan and given to that Solitary Cyclist, Lady Frances Carfax and the Retired Colourman from the Abbey Grange.

In Cases of Identity, there will be Study in Scarlet to determine The Sign of Four. Entertainment will be provided by Gladys Knight and The Five Orange Pips. The Norwood Builder provided the Empty House

SHERLOCKIAN SCHOLARSHIP: John Clayton: Cabdriver in Town, Archaeologist in the North

BY JAMES LUDWIG, Holmes and Watson Report, Sherlock Peoria

Editor Brad Keefauver offers as note 17 to his perspicacious *The Annotated John Clayton*, distributed to those lucky enough to be in attendance at a Hansoms of John Clayton Annual Banquet, sources of speculation regarding the real identity of John Clayton, with possible connections to the fifth Duke of Greyminster and grandfather of Tarzan. Keefauver refers to H. W. Starr's "A Case of Identity" (originally printed in *The Baker Street Journal*, New Series Volume 10) and Philip Jose Farmer's *Tarzan Alive*.

While these postulations may pique the casual reader, the real source person for the hansom cabdriver of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* fame, and the namesake of the Peoria, Illinois, scion society, has been discovered to be a notable landowner, scholar, archaeologist, and only occasional visitor to London in search of the lurid pleasures of the urban environment, where, in disguise, he played an unwitting part in the Baskerville saga. Following two weeks in London during which the actual path of that famous cab ride was traced - it now is bracketed by Madam Tussaud's near Baker Street and the Royal National Theatre near Waterloo Station - an additional week took my companion and me on a completely unrelated cultural investigation along the boundary marked in Roman



times as the northernmost edge of civilization, Hadrian's Wall. Erected in the second century to exclude the Scots, the Wall was 80 miles long, 12 feet wide, and 20 feet high. Credited to the Emperor Hadrian, the wall - punctuated by milecastles, forts, bridges, and turrets -- stretched from

the east at Sunderland, through Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Birdoswald, and Halfwhistle, to the ocean on the west. Over centuries, the Wall decayed. Its forts abandoned, the barracks and baths, once lively with Roman soldiers enlisted for 25-year terms during which they were not permitted to marry other Romans at home, fell into ruin from neglect and disinterest.

The soldiers had established families amongst the locals, but deserted them, as well as the Wall, when tours of duty were fulfilled and they returned to Rome. So, there remain the remnants of the Wall and the progeny of the soldiers for the visitor to meet in the nineties. Notable among the fragments of Hadrian's Wall visible to modern curiosity seekers are the occasional stretches of Wall at Hedden-on-Wall, Once Brewed, and Sewingshields.

Three restorations are the most complete and instructive: Birdoswald with its fort and turf wall, housesteads high upon a hill with views of the Wall course atop ridges in the distance, and Chesters Fort -- the most magnificent for its clearly detailed building sites and its nearly-complete bathhouse which seems to lead moderns from its lobby and through hot and cold water treatments so treasured by the Roman soldiers. Hadrian's Wall was rediscovered during the Victorian era when gentlemen aristocrats, who were wealthy landowners and aspiring scholars and savants, turned their attention to the relics of Britain's past to be found literally just below the surface of their farms and pastures. It was a great surprise to us as current American travelers to learn



that the person most responsible for the spectacular work done in the nineteenth century to revitalize Chesters Fort was none other than its landowner, John Clayton.

John Clayton took possession of his estate in 1832. He developed a passionate interest in Chesters Fort as well as Roman remains in the area. He acquired five of the most important locations along Hadrian's Wall and instigated serious excavations resulting in publications and diagrams which detailed his spectacular discoveries. He also sought to protect these findings for the future. His energies and wealth were applied to the acquisition of antiquities displayed in a museum he had constructed for the purpose.

He is credited by the English Heritage organization with providing the greatest impetus for the investigation and preservation of Hadrian's Wall. Virtually all that can be seen of the fort at Chesters today was inspired and accomplished by John Clayton. It was his goal to discover new knowledge and also to make it available to the newly inquisitive and curious pleasure-seekers of his times. Up to his death in 1890, John Clayton was a formidable leader in archaeological revitalization as well as education and preservation. One more interesting factor applies to the connection between John Clayton the archaeologist and Doyle's John Clayton, the cabdriver.



The English Heritage booklet Chesters Roman Fort indicates John Clayton devoted only Mondays to his practical archaeological activities.

What were his activities during the rest of the Week? Trips to London to visit contemporary luminaries, such as



Arthur Conan Doyle? If so, surely a man so important to nineteenth century learning, so accomplished in his results, and so available for trips down to London would have been a familiar figure to Doyle who chose to recognize this important Victorian figure by using his name in a cameo performance as the cabdriver in *The Hound*. Or perhaps more

romantically, maintaining his own name, but living a second life in London, for the fun of it or to be near a lover, the northern gentleman opted for a squalid alternative as a cab driver who was casually included in the adventure. Just so he was back north for the digs on Mondays!

56 Stories in 56 Days - The Cardboard Box

Posted on October 27, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet

The beginning of this story is giving me a strange sense of *deja vu*, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

Let me explain, or try to at least. There is a passage at the start of *The Cardboard Box* which is exactly the same in the *Resident Patient*. Confused? Well this is the reason – as far as I understand it anyway.

The Cardboard Box was originally supposed to be included in *The Memoirs*, but Conan Doyle decided to leave it out due to some sexual content. It was presumed that the story would therefore never be published. It seemed to be very unfortunate that the brilliant piece of deduction which Holmes does at the start involving knowing Watson's innermost thoughts just by reading his body language, would never be seen. So it was decided to insert this into the *Resident Patient* instead. Eventually though, the *Cardboard Box*, minus the sexual bit, was published as part of *His Last Bow* and the duplication occurred. Clear? I know, all a bit strange and I probably haven't explained it very well.

If you are more informed, then please do enlighten me using the comments box below. Also, I'd be interested to know what the original sexual content was as it has now been removed (or at least I presume it has as there is nothing remotely sexual in the story). If anyone knows, do write below as it would be very interesting to see what Doyle deemed as 'inappropriate'.

The story itself is a rather gruesome one about an enraged husband who murders his wife and her lover, cuts off an ear from each of them, and sends them to his sister-in-law who he holds responsible for turning his wife against him. They are accidentally received by the third sister who calls in the police. As usual, Lestrade gets it completely wrong and it is left to Holmes to find out the truth behind the unpleasant parcel.

An analysis of the string which binds it and the knot suggests a sailor is to blame. Discovering that the male ear had a hole for a piercing also compounded the sailor theory. The female ear was remarkably similar to that of the lady who received it suggesting that she must be related to the victim, and quite closely. Holmes professed to have made a study into ears – 'Each ear is as a rule quite distinctive and differs from all other ones. In last year's *Anthropological Journal* you will find two short monographs from my pen on the subject'. There really is no limit to the strange bits of knowledge which Holmes would store in his great brain!

A photograph in the lady's house of herself with two sisters prompts Holmes to inquire whether either of them is married to a sailor and indeed one of them is – a nasty drunkard. Hey presto, mystery solved.

That usual happy blend of observation, clever logic and sound reasoning gives Holmes all the answers.

An enjoyable story, but with a sad ending and macabre undertones – 7 out of 10.

THE SECOND ANGLO-AFGHAN WAR

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

When Dr. Watson is first introduced in *A Study in Scarlet*, he notes his recent return from Afghanistan, where he was wounded in the battle at Maiwand in July, 1880. (1)

This clash represented the worst disaster for the British during what was later referred to as the Second Anglo-Afghan War. It played, however, no small part in the empire's final victory following Lord Roberts' march to Kandahar, creating a hero of this commander of the Kabul and Kandahar field forces. (2)

During the Victorian period, India played a pivotal role in Britain's foreign policy. It was considered the most valuable possession in the British Empire, and major military efforts were employed to ensure its borders and prevent intrusion, particularly from the Russians.



Afghanistan served as a buffer between the two powers, and as a result, the country's emir faced economic and political pressures from both sides in what was often

referred to as "The Great Game." (3)

In 1877, Russia invaded Turkey and planned to attack the British in India by marching through Afghanistan. To use the country as a staging ground, the Tsar sent a diplomatic mission to Kabul to pressure the emir Sher Ali into allowing the establishment of an embassy there.

Because the British provided the emir with an annual pension to reject the advances of other countries, they were outraged by the betrayal and prepared to invade the country, but only after they sent their own diplomatic mission to the emir to establish a British embassy in Kabul. Being caught in the middle between these two powerhouses, the emir ordered Afghan troops to rebuff the British mission at the border.

In response, the British government warned the emir to accept their ambassador or suffer invasion. When the

emir didn't respond, British and Indian troops entered the country.

By May, 1879, Sher Ali's son Yakub Khan had replaced his father and now sued the British for peace, accepting their permanent embassy in Kabul. Unfortunately, when the ambassador and the rest of his men arrived, they were slaughtered, and Lord Roberts was ordered to advance on the city in response to the ambassador's assignation. Upon retaking Kabul in October, he forced Yakub Khan to abdicate and Roberts became the city's governor. (4)

While the British negotiated with Abdur Rahman, a nephew of Sher Ali's and the soon-to-be emir in Kabul, Yakub Khan's brother Ayub Khan declared himself emir and advanced on Kandahar with 7500 men.

Lt. Gen. J.M. Primrose, then in charge of Kandahar, sent 2,734 soldiers to stop their advance near Maiwand. After more than four hours of intense fighting in severe heat, the British fell. Only 1,595 made it back to the Kandahar.

When word of the massacre and subsequent siege of Kandahar reached Kabul, Roberts was given command of 9900 men, whom he raced through the country, reaching Kandahar, a distance of 313 miles, in 21 days.

The soldiers battled heat during the day, freezing temperatures at night, and thirst for the entire march, but still arrived ready for a fight, and



quickly defeated Ayub Khan and his army. For his efforts, Roberts was advanced to Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath.

The Afghan people accepted Abdur Rahman as their ruler and the British withdrew from Kabul and Kandahar. The new emir retained his control of foreign policy and continued to reject Russian influence as he had promised during negotiations with the British.

While it might be argued that in the end, the war created a more stable country to the north, little territorial shift occurred as a result and the final political situation remained as it had under Sher Ali, making this one of the most controversial conflicts in the region. (5)

The press coverage of the war, including the defeat at Maiwand and Lord Roberts' subsequent victories, made both well-known back in Britain.

Watson's reference to his own involvement in the battle at Maiwand would have recalled the dire circumstances of the conflict and marked him as a man with the courage and resilience to serve as Holmes' associate.

1) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert (2012-12-13). The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Location 372). . Kindle Edition.

2) <http://www.garenewing.co.uk/angloafghanwar/sitestuff/faq.php>

3) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Great_Game

4) <http://www.historynet.com/second-afghan-war.htm>

5) <http://www.garenewing.co.uk/angloafghanwar/sitestuff/faq.php>

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the Bilge Pump) and sign up for her newsletter at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

Sherlock: The Abominable Bride, nine things we learned

Ed Power, The Telegraph

Could Sherlock keep the Holmes fire burning? That was the real mystery as Benedict Cumberbatch once more donned the detective's flapping overcoat for a giddily-anticipated feature length return to Baker Street.

It was by no means elementary that The Abominable Bride would live up to a drum-roll of hype that, even amid the clamour and chaos of Christmas, has been deafening. Two years off our screens, had the sleuthing sociopath retained pole position as our favourite crime-solving weirdo?

We needn't have fretted. From the first dramatic shot of Holmes, whipping a corpse with his back to camera ("to establish

how long after death bruising is possible"), it was obvious the magic had endured. Sherlock was back – and as compellingly eccentric as we remembered. There was a new (old) setting, with Victorian London seemingly replacing the 21st century backdrop of the original series, and a spooky storyline owing more to classic gothic literature than to Arthur Conan Doyle's stories.

Yet the chemistry between Holmes and Freeman's Watson fizzled as thrillingly as ever, the script by Moffat and Mark brimming with wry exchanges and comedic misunderstandings.

Plus, with the one-off nature of the endeavour requiring an

entire story arc to be crammed into just 90 minutes, the action clipped by at whip-smart pace.

As ever, the chief pleasure lay in interplay between the emotionally tin-eared Holmes and a perpetually perplexed Watson as they tried (and generally failed) to understand the world from the other's perspective.

But after the smug, self-celebratory tenor of the most recent season of Sherlock (from 2014), it was a joy, too, to watch the perfectly mismatched duo get stuck into a properly knotty whodunit – even if a flurry of time-hopping convolutions at the death muddled matters somewhat. Here is what we learned.

1. Cumberbatch Remains The Definitive Modern Holmes

Cumberbatch was Cumberbatch, in the role that set him on the trajectory to stardom. Frankly, he had been too long away. While he has gone on to dizzying over-achievement in the movies, many viewers will feel this is where he belonged – trading wisecracks with Freeman's Watson while enmeshed in one of Moffat's gloriously overcooked brain-twisters.

He was visibly relishing reconnecting with Holmes too – his eyes twinkling with delight as he reprised that uncanny portrayal of Sherlock as a calculating machine disguised as a human.

2. The Nineteenth Century Backdrop Worked A Charm

It's often forgotten now, but when Sherlock debuted in 2010, the modern setting was perceived as crucial to its appeal.

Few characters have been resuscitated with such tiresome frequency as Conan Doyle's iconic crime fighter and the choice of contemporary London as a backdrop was regarded as a vital innovation on the part of show-runner Moffatt.

Of course, we soon discovered that the real magic was the dynamic between Cumberbatch and Freeman and this element was preserved wonderfully as the New Year special whooshed back to 1895. Amid the picturesque gloom of gothic London, their banter retained its sparkle while the absence of the internet and smartphones permitted Holmes's genius to shine more brightly.

He seemed twice as smart now that none of the other characters could second-guess him by sneakily consulting Wikipedia.

3. The Storyline Was Riper Than A Banana Cart On A Hot Day – But Who Cared?

A blood-spattered bride blew her brains out, then apparently returned as a gun-wielding ghoul and dispatched her husband ("it's a shot gun wedding," she cackled).

Against all logic, Emelia Ricoletti had defied death and mastered the secret of bilocation (her corpse was mouldering in the mortuary at the time of her spouse's killing).

Holmes refused to countenance a supernatural explanation - even as Ricoletti was linked to a spree of subsequent husband-slayings.

4. It Was All A Dream

The shaggy tale was revealed to be a cold case that had been on ice for over 100 years and which present day Sherlock had attempted to solve by journeying deep into his "mind palace".

This was divulged after in an imaginary confrontation with his nemesis Moriarty (Andrew Scott), who shot himself through the mouth yet lived. The sequence took on a nightmarish aspect as the super villain turned to display a vast gaping hole in the rear of his head and cackled ("would a comb over work?").

Snapping back to reality, Holmes found himself on the jet into which he'd been unceremoniously bundled at the end of Sherlock series three.

He had a real life mystery to solve – the apparent return of Moriarty – but could not let go of his obsession with the Ricoletti killings.

We had expected some dramatic twists en route to a resolution (Moffat and Gatiss had not allowed preview screenings in order to keep a lid on spoilers). But was this a thrilling kink in the tale – or desperate recourse to the oldest parlour trick in the dramatist's repertoire?

Opinions will doubtless divide down the middle. In fact, we expect Twitter is imploding right now.

5. It Was Really A Horror Story Masquerading as A Mystery

"Horror is a very big part of Sherlock Holmes," co-writer Gatiss told USA Today recently. This proved a significant tip-off, as Dream Sherlock and Imaginary Watson were sucked into a spooky whodunit in the richest tradition of M.R. James and Sheridan Le Fanu.

Nobody will have gone to bed braced for a sleepless night – but more than a few may have experienced a tingle of disquiet.

A scene in which the "undead" bride stalked her latest intended victim through a mist-shrouded maze was, in particular, a triumph of gilded creepiness. Who'd have thought a wedding-veil looming in the gloom could chill so deeply?

6. There Was No Mucking About

Five minutes in, Holmes and Watson were having their momentous first meeting – cut short because Sherlock had to dash to a hanging in Wandsworth

("I take a professional interest") and the duo were soon off solving mysteries together.

Straight away we understood there was to be no "origin story" shilly-shallying. The game was afoot from the outset.

7. Moffat and Gatiss Still Write Some of the Smartest Dialogue in British Drama

The zingers came thick and fast. "There is a woman in my sitting room – is this intentional?", "Suicide street theatre, murder by corpse – Lestrade you're spoiling us", "It is NEVER twins Watson!"

Indeed, the dialogue was eclipsed only by the fat suit Gatiss donned as Sherlock's corpulent brother Mycroft (he and Holmes had wagered how long it would take him to eat himself into the

grave – or at least they had in Sherlock's fevered dreamscape).

8. It Came Together in the End (Sort Of)

"Excellent – superb theatre. I applaud the spectacle," said Holmes as he interrupted a gathering of the cultists behind the Ricoletti killings.

The "corpse bride", we learned, had been conjured via lookalikes, creative make-up, and drawing room sleight of hand. Viewers will have echoed Sherlock's sentiment – even if the big reveal that the killers were a vengeful cabal of suffragettes felt random and tacked on.

But there was another twist as Sherlock delved too deep into his mind palace and found himself locked in stand-off with Moriarty, at the fateful Reichenbach Falls.

"When it comes to unarmed combat at the edge of a precipice you're going into the water," promised Sherlock.

Actually, it was pretend-Watson who saved the day while Holmes yanked himself out of his retro reverie by following Moriarty over the edge.

9. The Stage Was Set For The Next Series Proper

Sherlock is to return in 18 months or so and, as he snapped awake, the detective had a premonition of the challenges awaiting.

"Of course Moriarty is dead," he said. "And I know exactly what he's going to do next."

That familiar musical refrain swooped in and you wished it was 2017 already.

AND IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION ON THE ABOMINABLE BRIDE...

I HEAR OF SHERLOCK EVERYWHERE, an amazing podcast and website, has more reviews on the BBC Sherlock special. You can access them at...

Everything You Need to Know — A Roundup of Abominable Bride Reviews

<http://www.ihearofsherlock.com/>

A TWIST ON CANONICAL TITLES

The Three Garridebs of Westchester County, New York

We took 11 story titles, replaced a word or phrase in each with one from a different story. See if you can identify the new titles from the clues provided. The answers will be provided next month.

1. I guess hitchhiking was out of the question for him.	
2. Not who you'd want when negotiating an international deal.	
3. The low-end version for the visually and financially impaired.	
4. The titular individual in this case must have had amazing coordination.	
5. Might have chipped some teeth on Nathan's fossils.	
6. An ironic description, when you think about it.	
7. Holmes to Hudson.	
8. The smiley one.	
9. Scowrsers in Herefordshire.	
10. A dark lantern's light source?	
11. Aka a visit to the Container Store.	

Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Fay,
Rusty & Steve Mason



*The First Adventures of Sherlock
Holmes and John Watson*

**MA'AM... YESTERDAY, YOU SAID
HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF... WHY
CAN'T WE JUST LEARN ABOUT THE
FIRST HUNDRED YEARS OR SO?**

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