

# The Bilge Pump

Vol. 01, No. 02 - July, 2013

*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star*



From the Editors: Along with the newsletter itself, we are attaching a pastiche written by Jack Brazos III and provided to us by his literary agent, Marland Henderson. The pastiche, the Mystery of the Maniac Collector, is based on a talk given by our own Don Hobbs, hosted by Joe Fay.

Don, Steve, & Joe

## August, 2013 Meeting

The August meeting will be held on Sunday, August 4, at McFadden's in Addison.

Chapters 4-7 of "A Study in Scarlet" will be discussed. A quiz on the reading will be conducted at the beginning of the meeting.

Let's discuss stride vs. height, and other appropriate issues.

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

Stu Nelan has provided us with a wonderful idea. Starting at the August meeting, if you have any books (pastiche, higher criticism, etc) that you no longer need or desire, bring them to the meeting.

We will begin a book exchange where you can share books with other members.

Simple rule: Bring a book, take a book.

Leftover books will be carried over to the next month's meeting.

**GREAT IDEA, STU !!**

## July, 2013 Meeting

The July meeting was held on July 7, with 15 members in attendance. The opening toast for Frederick Steele was presented by Stu Nelan.

If members would like to bring shirts, caps, or other apparel to the next meeting, Steve will take them to the embroidery shop for the logo (we get a discount for larger orders).

A John H. Watson Appreciation Society has been formed by several prominent Sherlockians. Visit <http://www.johnwatsonsociety.com/> for more information.

The monthly quiz covered chapters 1-3 of A Study in Scarlet. Ms. Cindy Brown surpassed everyone else this month on the quiz.

Joe Fay provided an excellent report on St. Barts Hospital, where Holmes and Watson first met. We have attached the presentation Joe made.

Brenda Hutchinson painted in our minds what the Battle of Maiwand must have been like for the British soldiers and our Dr. Watson.

We discussed what Watson meant when he stated he had a bull-pup. Was it a pistol, an actual dog, a short temper, or (a new one) a child. The debate continues !!!

Bryan Woolley gave the closing toast to Col. Sebastian Moran, reminding us that without the bad guys, we would not need the good guys.

We closed with the reading of 221B by Vincent Starrett.

For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://barquelonestar.com/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar or

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

## Sherlocking with the Mensa Folks

By Don Hobbs



The American Mensa Society asked me to speak at their Annual Gathering – Culture in Cowtown, about my collection of Sherlock Holmes books.

This was one of the benefits from my fifteen minutes of fame, resulting from the article that ran in the Dallas Morning News on December 31, 2012. That article featured my foreign language Sherlock Holmes collection. AP picked up the silly thing and it saw worldwide distribution. This is why Mensa contacted me.

I am more like Densa or the Yin to Mensa's Yang. Regardless of the circumstances, I had six months to worry about the speech, six months to write it, six months to practice.



The slide showing the 1887 Beeton's Christmas Annual

Those six months flew past and on July 5, at 4:30, I found myself, along with my moral and oral support Joyce, at the Norris Conference Center in downtown Fort Worth among 1,500 2-per centers.

When I took the microphone and my slide presentation queued up, I began my talk. The early case of nerves melted away immediately and I soon found my groove.

The things I had worried about prior to taking the stage vanished in a heartbeat. The 75 or so attendees were very attentive and laughed at all of the right places. For the most part, everyone stayed awake and asked great questions along the way.



Checking out my orange Tom's

One of the more interesting things to the group was the orange Tom's I was wearing on my feet. They told afterwards that my talk was the most interesting they had heard so far at the Annual Gathering.

With talks such as "Has Unions Outlived Their Purpose"; "Can You Find the Pythagorean Comma?" and "Women Traveling Solo", to name just a few, I am not sure if it was a compliment or an insult.

My allotted time of 1:15 vanished in a blink of an eye. I actually had to skip over some of my talk to finish on time.

It was very rewarding to know that I can speak with the Mensa and hold my ground.

It sure helps knowing your subject matter. I do have the collection mania in its most acute form – especially on the subject of foreign language translations of the Canon!

Many of our members are interested in other societies who put out newsletters or journals on Sherlockian topics. I have put together a list of those societies I could find that **currently** put out a regular periodical. Some of these are free, some require you to join the society, and some charge a small annual fee.

Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes	<a href="http://www.ash-nyc.com/">http://www.ash-nyc.com/</a>	The Serpentine Muse
Afghanistan Perceivers of Oklahoma	<a href="http://www.angelfire.com/ok5/perceivers/Index.html">http://www.angelfire.com/ok5/perceivers/Index.html</a>	The Perceiver Literary Supplement
Baker Street Breakfast Club	<a href="http://www.bakerstreetbreakfastclub.org/home/">http://www.bakerstreetbreakfastclub.org/home/</a>	Groans, Cries and Bleatings
Baker Street Irregulars	<a href="http://www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/">http://www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/</a>	Baker Street Journal
Baker Street Irregulars Trust	<a href="http://www.bsitrust.org/newsletter">http://www.bsitrust.org/newsletter</a>	For the Sake of the Trust
Blustering Gales from the South-West	<a href="http://www.coliserv.net/bgsww/">http://www.coliserv.net/bgsww/</a>	The Zippy Zephyr
Bootmakers of Toronto	<a href="http://www.torontobootmakers.com/">http://www.torontobootmakers.com/</a>	Canadian Holmes
Copenhagen Speckled Gang	<a href="http://www.sherlockiana.dk/shklub/gang_en.shtml">http://www.sherlockiana.dk/shklub/gang_en.shtml</a>	Sherlockiana
Crew of the Barque "Lone Star"	<a href="http://barquelonestar.com/">http://barquelonestar.com/</a>	The Bilge Pump
Crew of the S.S. May Day	<a href="http://www.thessmayday.org.uk/">http://www.thessmayday.org.uk/</a>	Mayday Mayday
Curious Collectors of Baker Street	<a href="http://www.coliserv.net/ccobs/">http://www.coliserv.net/ccobs/</a>	Police News of the Past
Deerstalkers of Welshpool	<a href="http://sherlockholmeswelshpool.com/">http://sherlockholmeswelshpool.com/</a>	Baker Street Bugle
Friends of the Soldier Named Murray	<a href="mailto:josiahbaker@bkhcw.com">josiahbaker@bkhcw.com</a>	Alfalfa Gazette
Hansom Wheels	<a href="http://www.hansomwheels.com/">http://www.hansomwheels.com/</a>	Pink 'Un
Hated Rivals of the Surrey Shore	<a href="http://surrey-shore.freesevers.com/">http://surrey-shore.freesevers.com/</a>	From the Surrey Shore Newsletters
John H. Watson Society	<a href="http://www.johnhwatsonociety.com/">http://www.johnhwatsonociety.com/</a>	The Watsonian
Noble and Most Singular Order/Blue Carbuncle	<a href="https://sites.google.com/site/bluecarbunclesociety/home">https://sites.google.com/site/bluecarbunclesociety/home</a>	The Feathers Newsletter
Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota	<a href="http://www.norwegianexplorers.org/">http://www.norwegianexplorers.org/</a>	Explorations
Occupants of the Empty House		Camden House Journal
Pleasant Places of Florida	<a href="http://ppofl.net/">http://ppofl.net/</a>	Communication
Red Circle of Washington, D.C.	<a href="http://www.redcircledc.org/">http://www.redcircledc.org/</a>	Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press
Sherlock Holmes Society of India	<a href="http://www.sherlockholmessociety.in/">http://www.sherlockholmessociety.in/</a>	Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge
Sherlock Holmes Society of London	<a href="http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/">http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/</a>	The District Messenger
Sherlock Holmes Society of South Australia	<a href="https://sites.google.com/site/sherlocksa/">https://sites.google.com/site/sherlocksa/</a>	Report from the Unscrupulous Rascals
Sherlock Holmes Society of Western Australia	<a href="http://www.iinet.net.au/~exlibris/shswa.html">www.iinet.net.au/~exlibris/shswa.html</a>	The Western Flyer
Sherlock Peoria	<a href="http://sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com/">http://sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com/</a>	Sherlock Peoria
Sound of the Baskervilles	<a href="http://soundofthebaskervilles.com/">http://soundofthebaskervilles.com/</a>	Ineffable Twaddle
Stormy Petrels of British Columbia	<a href="http://thestormypetrels.com/">http://thestormypetrels.com/</a>	The Petrel Flyer
Stormy Petrels of Maumee Bay	<a href="http://members.toast.net/stormypetrels/">http://members.toast.net/stormypetrels/</a>	From the Petrel's Nest
Sydney Passengers	<a href="http://www.sherlock.on.net/">http://www.sherlock.on.net/</a>	The Passengers' Log
Three Garridebs	<a href="http://3garridebs.homestead.com/">http://3garridebs.homestead.com/</a>	Foolscap Document
Watson's Tin Box	<a href="http://www.watsonstinbox.org/">http://www.watsonstinbox.org/</a>	Irene's Cabinet

Welcome Sherlockians to the  
**Sherlock Seattle Convention**

at the Broadway Performance Hall in Seattle, WA  
on October 4th-6th, 2013!



The Sherlock Seattle Convention is a celebration of all things Sherlock! This year we have many wonderful guests, new and exciting events and panels, and an expanded Dealers Room and Artists Alley!

We are honored to have Laurie R. King (author of "The Beekeeper's Apprentice"), Leslie S. Klinger (author of "The Annotated Sherlock Holmes") and Lee Eric Shackleford (playwright of "Holmes & Watson") as Guests of Honor at Sherlock Seattle this year along with a host of other influential Sherlockian panelists.

Go to

<http://www.sherlock-seattle.org/#>

for more information on this conference



**From the Guardian UK Newspaper, 8 July 1930:**  
**Sherlock Holmes creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle dies**

**Author popularised the detective fiction genre. Before him, there were few stories of successful criminal investigators**



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930)

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who died yesterday, will be forever associated with the detective novel. He created Sherlock Holmes, and we all know Sherlock Holmes very well indeed. The fact that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was at one time a politician and latterly a spiritualist will count for nothing compared with his fame as a writer of detective fiction. For detective fiction has flourished exceedingly, and he is its father.

This abounding interest in the analysis of crime is a thing of comparatively recent date. Our forefathers appear to have liked executions but to have taken little interest in the process that resulted in them. Tales of successful criminals were plentiful in the eighteenth century, but never tales of successful criminal investigators. Moll Flanders repents, it is true, and gives us many edifying reflections on the evil of her ways, but that does not prevent her from relating with obvious gusto her long and successful battle with the officers of the law. And if a magistrate can be taken as in any way the equivalent of a detective, then, to judge from Fielding, a magistrate had in his day a much more tolerant view of crime than Sherlock, who was himself ready to stretch a point on occasion, or even than the sentimental Dr. Watson.

Nor does the Victorian novel deal with the investigation of crime. Indeed, it usually makes crime so obvious as scarcely to need investigating. There was no need to analyse Fagin's tobacco ash to find out that he was a rogue. One look would have been quite enough. And only the exigencies of melodrama enabled Sweeney [sic] Todd to carry on his evil practices so successfully and for so long a time, such was his face as popularly presented.

The first writer who saw the possibilities of crime investigation in fiction was Edgar Allan Poe. In such

stories as "Murders in the Rue Morgue" and "Mystery of Marie Roget" he successfully applied the method of inductive reasoning to the solution of crime problems. It was a lucrative vein, and now everyone reads detective stories.

The appeal they make is, perhaps, a little morbid: the same sort of appeal that leads people to queue up for hours to get a place at a murder trial or cluster in little groups round a closed door behind which they know an execution is going to take place.

But detective fiction interests as well because it is so purely intellectual. That is to say, it creates no moral problems: analyses no tangled emotions. And so, to most people, it gives the kind of relief that Edward Lear's nonsense rhymes do: relief that arises out of the fact that it is not connected with life at any point.

It does not, like drama, purge the emotions, but it rests them. We do not have to decide who is the villain in a detective story or who is the hero; nor does it lead us to the melancholy conclusion that there are neither heroes nor villains in life but only men. The fight it portrays is a straight fight, and the detective must win.

It is a battle of wits - an eternal line instead of the tediously eternal triangle. Thus any extraneous matter introduced into a detective story - love interest, for instance - spoils it. A good detective story should be all detective. The characters should not be alive, but only opposed forces working to plan.

For detective stories, like chess, have their openings, and the end of a good game is always mate. We must never sympathise with the characters as human beings, but only watch them playing their parts as nicely as a carburettor in a properly working motor.

Thus the detective world is on its own like the puppet world, and therefore entirely refreshing for those who are nervously exhausted from their struggles with the real world. It enables them to forget their ever-increasing sense of the disorder of life, because it shows them an orderliness on a different scale.

To have provided men with such a means of refreshment is a considerable achievement. This Sir Arthur Conan Doyle has done, and he deserves honour for it.

## Ronald Knox's Ten Commandments for Detective Writing

All true Sherlockians know Ronald Knox wrote *Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes*, which is attributed with the beginning of "Playing the Game..." Knox also developed his rules for *Detective Writing*, which was published in 1929. Remember, political correctness was a little different in that time period.



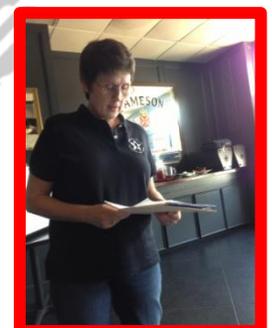
1. The criminal must be mentioned in the early part of the story, but must not be anyone whose thoughts the reader has been allowed to know.
2. All supernatural or preternatural agencies are ruled out as a matter of course.
3. Not more than one secret room or passage is allowable.
4. No hitherto undiscovered poisons may be used, nor any appliance which will need a long scientific explanation at the end.
5. No Chinaman must figure in the story.
6. No accident must ever help the detective, nor must he ever have an unaccountable intuition which proves to be right.
7. The detective himself must not commit the crime.
8. The detective is bound to declare any clues which he may discover.
9. The "sidekick" of the detective, the Watson, must not conceal from the reader any thoughts which pass through his mind: his intelligence must be slightly, but very slightly, below that of the average reader.
10. Twin brothers, and doubles generally, must not appear unless we have been duly prepared for them.



Our Society July Meeting

*Did You Know ???*

*We actually have a Canonical figure in our Society ??  
One of our esteemed members is named Jim  
Moriarty – Believe it or not !!*

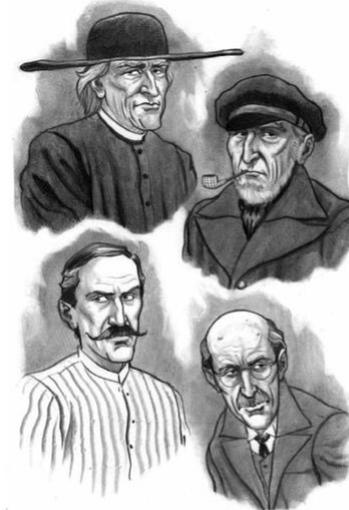


Brenda tells us about Maiwand

## How Good an Actor was He ??

Sherlock Holmes donned the disguises of many different personas to help solve cases. How many of these disguises can you penetrate? Just name the stories.

1. To get information from a housemaid, he posed as a plumber with higher employment aspirations dancing in his head.
2. In the same story he dressed as a common laborer, looking for work; the next day he was in drag, dressed as an old woman carrying a parasol.
3. In this story, he impersonated an Irish-American, looking very much like a caricature of Uncle Sam.
4. Using the cloth, he changed his appearance and personality to that of a benevolent clergyman.
5. With a very edgy temper, he disguised himself as an elderly book collector with many body deformities.
6. Posing as an elderly gentleman, hooked on opium, he finished the look with an opium pipe between his knees, while looking very frail and wrinkled.
7. As a badly-dressed homeless vagrant, he called at the suspect's residence, carried on a conversation with the valet, and bought a pair of cast-off shoes.
8. Dressed in seafaring attire, including a pea-jacket and a coarse red scarf, his breathing labored such as an elderly asthmatic.
9. Using the nom de plume Basil, he disguised himself as a sea captain, pretending to organize an Arctic expedition.
10. Once again, he took on the cloth, disguised as an Italian priest to travel to the continent.



"SHERLOCK HOLMES REMAINS ONE OF HISTORY'S FOREMOST MASTERS OF DISGUISE."



Answers will be in next month's Newsletter...



Who dunnit:

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