

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 03, No. 12 – December, 2015
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



From the Editors: A compilation of various topics for you this month. Steve & Walt

January 3rd Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, January 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 Naval Treaty."

The quiz will cover this tale.

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

December 6th Meeting

There were 16 in attendance at the monthly meeting. Cindy Brown gave a very nice toast, honoring the work of the Third Mate, Steve Mason.

The quiz on "The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk" was given and ended in a great victory for Brenda Hutchison. [The Crimes of Dr. Watson](#) was awarded to the winner.

For an early Christmas present, we took a special quiz on "The Stockbroker's Clerk" which was developed by the Sons of the Copper Beeches Society. Liese Sherwood-Fabre took first prize, winning a Victoria-style tin with cookies.

Steve gave a presentation on the use of Arthur in the Canon. The name was used for 8 different characters, many of them exhibiting attributes of Conan Doyle. The talk was based on an article penned by Christopher Redmond for the [Baker Street Journal](#).

Steve also provided details and information on a Texas House Resolution which designated the Barque Lone Star as a ship within the Texas Navy, and all crew members of the Barque members of the Texas Navy (see page 6 for the text of the resolution). The original resolution was the brain-child of founder Bill Beeson and Bullitt Lowry. The original resolution is owned by Bullitt's wife, Sharon. We also discussed our scion society designation by the Baker Street Irregulars in 1996 (see page 7 for a copy of that designation).

Don Hobbs and Sandra Little are scheduled to provide presentations at the Tulsa Afghanistan Perceivers in the near future.

Walter showed the prototype for the society badges. If you would like a name badge, provide Walter \$12.00 at the society meeting.

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>



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
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CHRISTMAS WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES

When Dr. Watson called upon Mr. Sherlock Holmes upon the second morning after Christmas in the year 1887, it was with the intention — doubtless deliberately calculated — of wishing him the compliments of the season.

He was moved by sentiment and not by sentimentality; he bore no gift that we know of, and, his visit, as its tardiness testifies, was one which bordered upon the casual.

Yet it was a visit destined to bring Watson rich fruit indeed, in the form of a new adventure to share and a new tale to tell — to say nothing of a succulent goose to eat.

The Blue Carbuncle is, as Christopher Morley said, "a Christmas story without slush," and that, where Holmes and Watson are concerned, is as it should be.

But one must wonder if the whole tale of this Christmas season has 'been told; if there was not, on the festive day itself, while Watson lounged in connubial somnolence at home, a certain warmth in the rooms in Baker Street that mocked the sharp frost that had set in without and served to put a more cordial glow upon the scene than Watson was to bring to it when he came.

Not slush, certainly; but at least a genial thaw.

It is pleasant to think that this was so, and to visualize what may have happened when Christmas morning dawned.

Holmes was up, of course, for the light comes late in those northern latitudes at the period of the winter solstice, and it is no day, from childhood's sweet remembrance, to lie abed and dream...

There is a heavy tread upon the stair, and a cheerful tapping at the door, and Mrs. Hudson enters, her arms burdened with a breakfast the like of which a Scotchwoman might have conceived.

We may be sure that she did, not come to extend "the compliments of the season": more likely she cried, in hearty voice, "Merry Christmas, Mr. 'Olmes" and chuckled as she laid before him the special treats she had prepared.

And it is not stretching the imagination too far to think that Holmes himself unbent, and that frivolous small talk came on between them, with a spate of holiday in the air.

Then, as the hours wore on, who knows that Wiggins did not come by to add his word of greeting, bringing a troupe of irregulars in his train to seize in grimy palms the extra shillings Holmes dispensed.

It could be, too, that Porky Shinwell dropped in for a social glass, or Langdale Pike, or even Gregson and Lestrade.

And as the time for more robust fare approached, is it not likely that two brothers, living so close by each other in the great city, would find it fitting to dine together on this special day, and to talk of something else but shop?

It must have been, for Sherlock Holmes, a day of surcease and refreshment, when the troubled world, made sweeter by his presence, stood still and took refreshment too.

Then, as evening fell, there was the violin, and the dressing gown and slippers, and the consolatory pipe.

The day went, as it had come, in peace and contentment and good cheer.

The frost had set in sharper, and the windows — those legendary windows that looked out on Baker Street — were thick with their crystals of ice.

Before he went to his early bed perhaps Holmes stood before them, contemplating the London scene he knew so well, and musing upon the day itself and the fullness of its meaning.

"A window is a magic breach
That looks reflectively about
And stretches forth, in eager reach,
To bring within the world without.
"Christmas is a window, too,
That opens on the hearts of men
To let the light come shining through
And make them young and glad again."

PRACTICING LAW IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

In *A Study in Scarlet*, Watson notes that Sherlock Holmes "has a good practical knowledge of British law." (1) Given his country squire ancestry (2), a legal background would not have been out of the question for the detective. Country squires served as justices of the peace, adjudicating various crimes committed within their jurisdiction, and such a background would have provided Holmes an opportunity to observe the legal process while growing up.

Actually becoming a lawyer, however, would have required a great deal of study and training. The British legal profession was, and is, divided into two different groups: those who are able to argue cases in court, primarily barristers, but also sergeants and advocates; and solicitors, also referred to as attorneys. These two groups were highly divided with respect to social status, practice, and education.

Barristers held the higher status, argued cases in common-law courts, and gained their education either



at the "Inns of Court" (one of four Inns who determined those who could be "called to the bar" and allowed to present cases in court), at the

University College in London in 1826, or Oxford or Cambridge law schools established in the 1850s. Once their education was completed, they were then

required to dine at one of the Inns several times a year, and if the older members approved, would be "called to the bar." These men were not allowed to form partnerships, but could share chambers. (3)

An individual never hired a barrister directly. They would contact a solicitor who served as a go-between, selecting the barrister who would argue the case based on the materials collected and prepared by the solicitor. Most towns had at least one solicitor, who was often connected with the area's prominent families and served a number of functions, including clerk of the peace during the justices' of the peace quarterly court sessions. Because their training involved a five-year apprenticeship (three, if they attended one of the law schools mentioned above), these professionals were considered less prestigious than barristers. They did, however, have the advantage of forming partnerships. (4)



In "The Adventure of the Five Orange Pips," Watson reiterates the characterization of his roommate as a "lawyer." (5) While no indication exists that the detective ever completed the formal training to actually use the title, he did maintain his legal knowledge in his "brain attic," a necessary tool for identifying whether a crime had occurred as well as who perpetrated it.

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>

(1) Doyle, Arthur Conan (2012-12-13). *The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan* (Kindle Location 557). Simon & Schuster UK. Kindle Edition.

(2) Doyle, Arthur Conan (2012-12-13). *The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan* (Kindle Location 18057). Simon & Schuster UK. Kindle Edition.

(3) Mitchell, Sally, 1988. *Victorian Britain: An Encyclopedia* (Garland Reference Library of Social Science, vol. 438). Garland Publishing, Inc., page 444.

(4) *Ibid*, page 445.

(5) Doyle, Arthur Conan (2012-12-13). *The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan* (Kindle Locations 11961-11964). Simon & Schuster UK. Kindle Edition.

17 STEPS TO "THE ADVENTURE OF THE NAVAL TREATY"

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONA ... ER, STUDENT?

Of Percy Phelps, Watson writes: "He was a very brilliant boy and carried away every prize which the school had to offer, finishing his exploits by winning a scholarship which sent him on to continue his triumphant career at Cambridge." Here's a matter which an American Sherlockian needs a bit of filling in on: what sorts of prizes did schools offer in Victorian Britain? Scholarships are mentioned, but what others were offered? Cash, trophies, rankings or what? *****

THOSE LITTLE WASCALS AND THEIR WICKETS

When reading the phrase, "On the contrary, it seemed rather a piquant thing to us to chevy him about the playground and hit him over the shins with a wicket," one tends to think of Watson and his friends bullying the young Percy Phelps. Yet Phelps was two classes ahead and in the fifth form when Watson was in the third. Was Phelps being accosted by a gang of imps much smaller than himself? How was it that Phelps and Watson might have become close given their difference in classes and Watson's wicket-whacking? *****

MEETING WOMEN THROUGH GRAPHO-ANALYSIS

Holmes quickly sees the Phelps letter was written by "a woman of rare character. You see, at the commencement of an investigation it is something to know your client is in close contact with someone who, for good or evil, has an exceptional nature. My interest is already awakened in the case." What, Holmes actually showing an interest in his fellow man? Was he looking for kindred "exceptional" spirits or did he just think the presence of a rare individual made for more stimulating mental exercise during the case? *****

ANOTHER TREATY BETWEEN ENGLAND AND ITALY

The impending union of England's finest, Phelps, and Annie Harrison, she of the "large, dark, Italian eyes," seems to parallel the secret treaty between England and Italy a little too plainly. Was Watson trying to cast subtle suspicions toward the

"asymmetrical" Miss Harrison by describing her in Italian terms? *****

SUCH LANGUAGE FOR A TREATY!

Okay, here's a secret treaty between England and Italy which, among other things, details England's plans should France gain a naval advantage over Italy. Yet the original of this treaty is written in neither English or Italian, but French. Why? If it was something intended by the writers to serve as a warning to France, why the worries over the French finding out about it? Were international politics so sensitive that writing a treaty in the language of either signing country would show unwanted dominance? *****

THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE

Whose house is Briarbrae? Is it Percy Phelps's home or his parents' home? The reason I ask this is the curious business of Joseph Harrison being moved out of his room to make way for the ailing Percy Phelps. If Briarbrae was Percy's place of residence, one would think he would have been most comfortable in his own bedroom. Why turn out the guest just because Percy had brain fever? Any man who could make it home by train could surely make it upstairs to his room, couldn't he? *****

HOLMES, THE MAN OF NATURE

"He walked past the couch to the open window and held up the drooping stalk of a moss-rose, looking down at the dainty blend of crimson and green. It was a new phase of his character to me, for I had never before seen him show any keen interest in natural objects." Eventually, we'll find Holmes reading J.G. Wood, observing bee culture, and stating a desire to turn from the study of criminals to that of nature. But was it Holmes that changed, or Watson's knowledge of his friend? Were Holmes's naturalist inclinations there all along? *****

HOLMES, THE MAN OF RELIGION

The great detective states, "There is nothing in which deduction is so necessary as in religion. It can be built up as an exact science by the reasoner. Our highest assurance of the goodness of Providence seems to me to rest in the flowers." When Holmes speaks of "the reasoner," he is

usually speaking of himself. Had he built up his own personal faith with all the scientific methodology with which he had built up his detective methods? Does the fact he rarely speaks of his faith demonstrate an uncertainty that was not present in the detection side of his life? Or is this just another facet of Holmes that remains "off-camera" as it didn't pertain to the stories? *****

ONE OF HOLMES'S GREAT UNTOLD LISTS

One of the happy challenges for a Sherlockian is when we read something like this exchange: "Do you see any clue?" "You have furnished me with seven, but of course I must test them before I can pronounce upon their value." Holmes doesn't get around to counting off exactly what his seven clues were. Can we deduce them from the info he does give us? *****

SELF-INDUCED BRAIN FEVER

When Holmes tells Percy Phelps not to get his hopes up, Phelps replies: "I shall be in a fever until I see you again." While this might just have been a turn of phrase, it also could have been Phelps's pathetic way of actually trying to spur Holmes on with Phelps's own piteousness. One could almost see the sensitive ex-schoolmate of Watson's lapsing back into brain fever to await Holmes's solution. Which brings up this point: Was Percy Phelps working himself into that vague and all-encompassing ailment "brain fever" just to avoid taking responsibility for the missing treaty? We are told he was not to be fired until he was healthy again, so he did have a motive for remaining ill. Did he only rouse himself from it upon hearing of Sherlock Holmes, perhaps from someone reading Watson's early chronicles to him on his sickbed? *****

LOOKING DOWN ON THE URBAN SPRAWL

Holmes remarks during the train ride: "It's a very cheery thing to come into London by any of these lines which run high and allow you to look down upon the houses like this." Watson thinks he is joking at first, calling the view "sordid." Holmes then makes his well-known board-school remark, which Watson accepts as the detective's reason for finding the view "cheery." But did Holmes have other

reasons for enjoying the overview of the suburbs? Was he observing other details about the residents' lives of the "slates"?*****

THE CLASSES OF TRUE LOVE

Of Annie Morrison, we are told: "She and her brother are the only children of an iron-master somewhere up Northumberland way." Given Percy Phelps's family connections and appointment in the foreign office, was it unusual that he would wind up engaged to an iron-master's daughter? How might they have met during Percy's travels Northumberland way?

COUNTING HIS CASES

"Out of my last fifty-three cases," Holmes says, "my name has only appeared in four, and the police have had all the credit in forty-nine." Was fifty-three the total number of cases Holmes had undertaken at the time of "Naval Treaty"? Is he leaving out matters that never involved the police, like "Yellow Face"? Was he making up this statistic, just to impress the Scotland Yard inspector, or did Holmes keep running totals on his performance? And if he did, what was the starting point for his count of fifty-three?

WATSON EDITORIALIZES A BIT

Of Lord Holdhurst, Watson writes: "Standing on the rug between us, with his slight, tall figure, his sharp features, thoughtful face, and curling hair prematurely tinged with gray, he seemed to represent that not too common type, a nobleman who is in truth noble." The normally good and agreeable doctor slips in quite a slam against the nobility in that statement. Was this a common opinion among the folk of Victorian London? Or is Watson more rebellious about class structures than most?

WATSON'S HOLMES AND ROYALTY COUNT

Watson tells Phelps, of Holmes: "To my certain knowledge he has acted on behalf of three of the reigning houses of Europe in very vital matters." Another classic "three" statement, but didn't Holmes work for more royal houses than that? Did Watson just like to group things into threes more often than the exact facts required?

A SCOTCHWOMAN'S BREAKFAST

There's nothing like a classic food moment in the Canon: "Mrs. Hudson has

risen to the occasion," says Holmes, uncovering the dish of curried chicken. "Her cuisine is a little limited, but she has as good an idea of breakfast as a Scotchwoman. What have you there, Watson?" "Ham and eggs," Watson replies. Ham and eggs is standard breakfast fare, but curried chicken? What part of Scotland is known for its breakfast curries? Holmes certainly seems to ignore it in favor of the ham and eggs. How many of us find curried chicken an acceptable breakfast choice?

SMOOTHING UP TO THE MASTER

We are told Phelps "seized his hand and kissed it" when Holmes returned the treaty to him. Is Percy Phelps truly the only person known to have kissed Sherlock Holmes?

And a postscript ...

THE BIRLSTONE RAILWAY SMASH -- BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER! Why did Annie Harrison spend more time with her loved ones? "Then came the Smash, and she stayed on to nurse her lover, while brother Joseph, finding himself pretty snug, stayed on, too."

THE ABOMINABLE BRIDE

MASTERPIECE and PBS today announced that *Sherlock: The Abominable Bride*, a 90-minute special, will premiere Friday, January 1, 2016, on MASTERPIECE Mystery! on PBS at 9:00pm ET, and simultaneously online at pbs.org/masterpiece.

The special will have an encore broadcast on Sunday, January 10, at 10:00pm ET. This is the first time that *Sherlock* has premiered in the US and the UK on the same day.

Fans will also have the opportunity to see *Sherlock: The Abominable Bride* in special theatrical screenings. BBC Worldwide North America, Fathom Events and MASTERPIECE on PBS celebrate the two-night special screening engagement premiering Tuesday, Jan. 5th, 2016, with an encore on Wednesday, Jan. 6th, 2016, both at 7:30pm local time.

Tickets will be available beginning Nov. 6, 2015, and can be purchased online at Fathom Events.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/programs/features/news/sherlock-special-premiere-january-2016/>
<http://www.fathomevents.com/event/sherlock/buy>

Theaters in the Dallas area which will be showing the special include: Northpark 15, Galaxy Theater (on I-635), Village on the Parkway, Cinemark Plano West, Cinemark 24 Plano, Cinemark 16 Allen, Stonebriar 24, Cinemark Frisco, Vista Ridge Mall, Grapevine Mills, Cinemark 17 Farmers Branch, Cinemark 14 Denton, and others.



TEXAS HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 69

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In 1887 the Crew of the Barque Lone Star found refuge in the great State of Texas, and the 203 current members have now rebuilt the vessel in the North Texas area; and

WHEREAS, the Crew was innocent of, and appalled by, the crimes committed by the captain and the first and second mates, which crimes are recounted by John H. Watson, M.D., in "The Five Orange Pips", a case printed in The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes; and

WHEREAS , The Crew of the Barque Lone Star is recognized collectively as a Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars; and

WHEREAS , This tall ship, the Barque Lone Star has brought distinction to Texas by sailing to represent the state at such varied ports of call as Santa Fe, New Mexico; Moriarty, New Mexico; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and New York, New York; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the Texas House of Representatives recognize the contributions of the crew of the Barque Lone Star; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 66th Legislature, That the Barque Lone Star be listed as a ship-of-the-line of the Texas Navy, and that its ship's company be commissioned into the Navy of the Republic of Texas; and, be it further

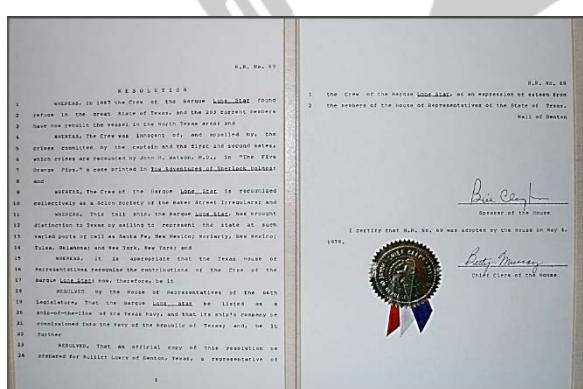
RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Bullitt Lowry of Denton, Texas, a representative of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star, as an expression of esteem from the members of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas.

Hall of Denton

Signed: Bill Clayton, Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 69 was adopted by the House on May 4, 1979.

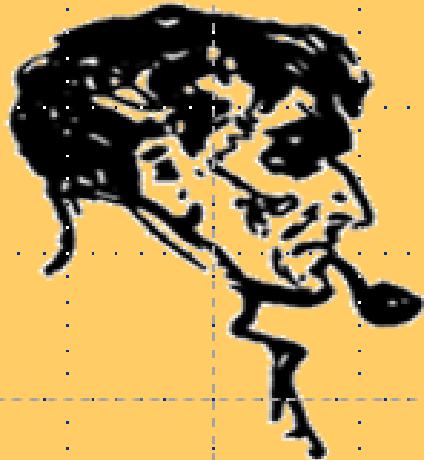
Signed: Betty Murray, Chief Clerk of the House



The Baker Street Irregulars

This is to certify that the

The Crew of the Barque LONE STAR



IS RECOGNIZED AS AN

IRREGULAR SCION SOCIETY

Its members are entitled to all Irregular rights,
and are privileged to
"go everywhere, see everything,
overhear everyone."

Signed this 13th day of October 1996

Werner L. Stir'r Jr.

Wiggins

Many Resurrections

From Karen Murdock ("May Blunder")

Here is an excerpt of an article by Amy Sturgis and Katherine Mangu-Ward in "Reason" magazine Volume 47, issue 5 (October 2015). This is only a short excerpt—the whole article is six pages long. The title of the piece is "The Many Resurrections of Sherlock Holmes."

- Reason 1: Because We Are the New Victorians
- Reason 2: Because Max Weber Would Approve
- Reason 3: Because We GrokSpock
- Reason 4: Because Holmes Is Now

Why the Great Detective is always in fashion

ON A RECENT TRIP to London, I stood outside the Sherlock Holmes Museum at 221B Baker Street for three and a half hours in the rain.



The wait wasn't just worth it; it turned out to be part of the fun. Just ahead of me, a Japanese mother and teenage daughter adjusted their deerstalker caps and stood their ground with firm determination while the rest of their party appeared periodically to try to tempt them away to other sightseeing. Just behind me, a family from the North of England served as a patient audience while their youngest member, a tween boy, deconstructed every scene featuring Moriarty in the BBC's hit series *Sherlock* as compared to the character's appearances in Arthur Conan Doyle's canonical writings.

Even the heterogeneity and perseverance of my fellow Sherlockians didn't prepare me for the most compelling item in the museum, however: a simple cork bulletin board where visitors had posted handwritten personal messages and drawings for the Great Detective by the dozens, layers deep, in many different languages. The docents had their hands full clearing away the loving tributes to make room for more.

The Great Detective may never have been so popular on a global scale as he is this minute.

Why do we continue to resurrect and reinterpret Sherlock Holmes? Why do we stand in line for hours at a time at Baker Street in the rain? Surely there must be a reason. Or perhaps four.

Reason 1: Because We Are the New Victorians

Holmes became a symbol of the London in which he thrived. From our vantage point, his gas-lit, fog-bound haunts may appear cozy and quaint, but in reality Holmes' setting represented a world buffeted by rapid change.

Victorian Brits faced issues that are easily recognizable to us today, from fears of economic recession and unemployment to political debates over the immigration of populations speaking different languages and worshipping different gods than the mainstream.

In short, the Victorians lived (as we do) through one game-changing moment after another. They craved (as we do) someone who did not fear the future but instead embraced and embodied progress.

Reason 2: Because Max Weber Would Approve

The upheavals and changes experienced by the Victorians signaled that big-m Modernity was here to stay. The German philosopher, sociologist, and political economist Max Weber famously noted that this modernity brought with it the two-edged sword of rationalism:

On the one hand, it freed people from the confines of pointless traditions, but on the other, it restricted individual freedom, trapping people like cogs in a dehumanizing machine. This ultrarational, secular, bureaucratic, controlling modernity, in Weber's view, produced disenchantment -- the loss of meaning and wonder and creativity.

Sherlock Holmes represents an older, more liberating concept of rationality, one that can be traced to the concept of cognition discussed by figures such as the Scottish Enlightenment's David Hume. This concept blends reason with imagination, unites science with art, and, Saler argues, possesses the power to re-enchant the disenchanted.

Reason 3: Because We GrokSpock

Sherlock Holmes was a sexy nerd before sexy nerds were cool. Modern science fiction had been around nearly 70 years (going back to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*) when Holmes came onto the literary scene, but he instantly became a poster boy for the science-fictional sensibility.

Doyle asserted a different premise with the Holmes stories -- what if the detective discovers the answers



scientifically? What kind of adventures might he have?" Holmes certainly has had many adventures, in part because as science fiction grows more mainstream and ubiquitous, so too does Holmes.

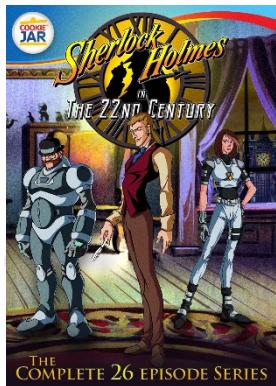
Science fiction's celebration of Holmes doesn't end with the written word.

The animated series *Sherlock Holmes in the Twenty-Second Century* takes audiences to the future, complete with a returned-through-cellular-rejuvenation Sherlock Holmes, compudroid Watson, and cloned Moriarty. The episodes adapt Conan Doyle's original stories reasonably well -- but with more flying cars. Obviously.

"We're all nerds now," Noam Cohen announced in *The New York Times* on September 13, 2014. If it's true that geek culture is mainstream, then it follows that science fiction is mainstream. Few characters have the old-school science fiction pedigree of Sherlock Holmes, or the well-earned, new-school homages.

Reason 4: Because Holmes Is Now

That said, identifying one final key to Holmes's popularity requires going back to Conan Doyle's original intent as shown in his canonical works.



When we are collecting books, we are collecting happiness.

— Vincent Starrett —

American author Vincent Starrett, in his poem "221B", tells us: "Here, though the world explode, these two survive,/And it is always eighteen ninety-five."

Indeed, the teaser for an upcoming BBC Sherlock special (which airs on PBS' *Masterpiece* in the U.S.) shows the typically sharp-suited, nicotine patch-addicted Cumberbatch alighting from a carriage in front of 221B, wearing full Victorian regalia and puffing on a pipe. But Conan Doyle didn't write Holmes and Watson as flies caught in amber, forever the same, shut away in their sitting room. They lived in the readers' present tense, walking the identical streets and visiting the identical buildings as their audience members.

This means that every time Holmes is updated -- brought to today's London, or moved to New York, or turned into a medical doctor and renamed House, complete with a Wilson for a Watson -- he actually is restored to what Conan Doyle meant for him to be: here with us now.

SHERLOCKIAN SCHOLARSHIP: A Few Salacious Tid-Bits Which Watson May Have Omitted

BY THOMAS CYNKIN, *Holmes and Watson Report, Sherlock Peoria*

Far be it from Watson to pander to the prurient public. The old campaigner was nothing if not a Victorian gentleman of the highest discretion.

Moreover, his chivalry in matters concerning the fairer sex was above reproach. Small wonder he might have omitted a suggestive detail or two from his narratives - even if they were piquant. A few examples from the Canon follow:

Beryl Coronet

Sir George Burnwell was most assuredly a ladies' man. It appeared at

first blush that a maid in the Holder household, Lucy Parr, might have been on intimate terms with the perpetrator.

She was suspected of eavesdropping when Alexander Holder revealed to his family that the Coronet was in his keeping. This line of investigation was abandoned only when it became apparent that Mary Holder herself had been in league with Sir George.

However, we may posit that Sir George had separately exploited the affections of both Lucy and Mary. It seems improbable on the surface of it that Lucy, a "very pretty girl," would

have succumbed to the charms of a peg-legged paramour. Rather, it seems more plausible that the latter's role was one of go-between for Sir George.

Mary have had sufficient lingering family loyalty not to have rushed to inform Sir George about the Coronet; whereas Lucy, a new arrival in the Holder household, would have lacked any such compunctions. (She may have relayed the information through PegLeg, with whom she was seen communicating not long before the crime was committed.)

However, once having learned of the Coronet, Sir George would

naturally have approached Mary - who had better access - to purloin it.

In order to overcome any doubts on Mary's part, he may have found it necessary to suggest that the Coronet serve as her de facto dowry. She handed it over, and ultimately followed him to her presumed downfall.

Naturally, Lucy would have remained silent about her own role in the theft, however indirect it may have been.

And Watson, even if he suspected Lucy's involvement, might have hesitated to further shame the distinguished Holder household by revealing that Mary had shared Bumwell's indiscriminate affections with her own housemaid.

Reigate Puzzle

In the finale, Holmes observed archly that "we do not yet know what the relationship may have been between Alec Cunningham, William Kirwan, and Annie Morrison" - respectively, the Cunningham scion, the Cunningham coachman, and the referent in the mysterious note which lured Kirwan to his death.

Much may be inferred about Kirwan's emotional make-up from the fact that, despite having been in the service of the Cunninghams for many years and therefore obviously not a child, he still lived with his mother.

As to the younger Cunningham's character, Holmes noted obliquely that the burglar who perpetrated the robbery at the Acton household was a "very peculiar fellow."

Reading between the lines in this vein, it is highly significant that the incriminating note was found in Alec Cunningham's dressing gown.

This and the time of the assignation - nearly midnight - suggest that it may have been a tryst which drew Kirwan out, and that the Cunninghams were motivated by more than an interest in concealing their culpability in the Acton robbery.

It may be posited that Annie was another paramour of Alec Cunningham's to whom Kirwan threatened to tell all, leading to the Cunninghams' murderous act - or else that she was the third partner in a singularly illicit relationship.

Even if Watson had suspected, his sense of propriety might well have led him to avoid what was in the Victorian context a taboo subject.

Black Peter

The family of Captain Peter Carey was clearly dysfunctional; he was segregated from his wife and daughter in a small cabin near their house.

Carey's 20-year-old daughter slept with her window open so that she might be forewarned should her father attempt to pay her a nocturnal visit.

It is clear that young Miss Carey avoided such intrusions at all cost; on at least one occasion, Peter Carey's visit drove his daughter along with her mother, out into the dark. Upon learning of Black Peter's death, his daughter blessed the hand which had struck him down.

Sadly, review of these bizarre circumstances seems to lead inexorably to the conclusion that there was a perverse inclination in Peter Carey.

Few families in Victorian England would have brought in the authorities in such a case - even while they took every precaution.

Needless to say, Watson would have been loathe to report this distasteful aspect of the case to the public and further disgrace Peter Carey's innocent and long-suffering survivors.

Second Stain

"Second Stain" might well be a double entendre - an oblique reference to a second blemish upon the character of Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope.

Desperate to expunge the "first stain" by retrieving the compromising letter from the home of Eduardo Lucas, she encountered a final obstacle in the person of Constable MacPherson.

It may be postulated that Lady Hilda was driven to resort to basic feminine persuasion to achieve her end - bringing a "second stain" upon her reputation in the process.

Lady Hilda had demonstrated herself to be not only cunning and resourceful, but also quite capable of taking extraordinary measures in order to preserve her marriage.

As testament to her state of mind during this period, Lady Hilda told Holmes in a frenzy of emotion that she would rather cut off her right hand than give her husband a moment of sorrow - provided that her transgressions, however dire, remained concealed from him.

As for Constable MacPherson, when abruptly cornered by Lestrade he was found to be "very hot and penitent."

MacPherson went so far as to confess that suffering from loneliness, he had found Lady Hilda with her "coaxing ways" very attractive. Otherwise, MacPherson's narrative had gaping holes through which a dog-cart might have been driven.

He attempted to explain the fact that the drugged had been moved by claiming that Lady Hilda had fallen on it.

Yet, assuming the Constable was not a willing conspirator, the drugged would surely have been the last thing to which Lady Hilda would have wished to draw his attention. In fact, moving the drugged in such a manner would only have increased the risk of his discovering the compartment it concealed. MacPherson's story about Lady Hilda's tumble on the drugged might really have been a slip of a more Freudian nature.

MacPherson claimed to have fetched brandy from the local public house to revive the supposedly insensate Lady Hilda – leaving both

her and the house unguarded in the meantime.

Setting aside the incredible lapse of judgment this would have involved, it seems dubious on the face of it that the luxurious household of the ban vivant Eduardo Lucas would have been devoid of alcoholic beverages.

Irrespective of where the brandy was obtained, it may be posited that

MacPherson intended it to serve a social, rather than medicinal, purpose.

Perhaps out of a sense of discretion, Holmes, in confronting Lady Hilda, was extremely terse about the means she had used (to retrieve the letter; for her part, Lady Hilda glossed over the point in a decidedly vague manner.

Should Watson have caught on, his redoubtable moral rectitude might well have made him reluctant to expose matters further.

However, as is the case throughout the Canon, we may only speculate about what Watson, the consummate Victorian gentleman, might have chosen to omit.

56 Stories in 56 Days - The Naval Treaty

Posted on October 11, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet

Well, I don't know if it's because it's wages day again and my brain is too full of figures and pay-rates, but I can't think of much to say about this one, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

I'm sure there are many Holmesian scholars who could write pages about this story; a neat little tale which involves a naval treaty that is stolen from the foreign office by the soon-to-be brother-in-law of an old school friend of Watson's who works there.

I guess this is one of those times when I think to myself, – 'What are you doing? Who are you to write a blog about Sherlock Homes when you are not exactly an expert, just an ordinary admirer who has always enjoyed reading the stories?

Is that really enough to qualify you for this task?'

But then husband comes to the rescue and reminds me that I have written a very well researched novel involving Holmes and couldn't possibly have got this far with my blogging adventure if I didn't know at least a little bit of what I was talking about.

This is very nice of him, though a little biased, but still doesn't help me think of much to say about the Naval Treaty except that it is rather long (like my day has been) for a short story and Holmes does an

excellent job of wrapping things up when all seems hopeless.

And, it is another case which Watson brings to him, like with the Engineer's Thumb, making him more than just a passive observer.

Oh, and there is the mention of Watson's moustache which is interesting because I couldn't remember there ever being one in the original stories and have therefore often wondered why people always portray him as having one.

Well, now I know.

In my own my own novel, I have left it up to the reader's imagination by not stating either way about the good doctor's facial hair.

In my mind's eye I pictured him as clean-shaven most of the time while writing it, and then seeing Jude Law with a 'tash was enough to seal the deal – sorry Jude, no offense intended.

Nothing wrong with the story at all really, it just didn't have enough about it to fully drag my mind away from a hard day at work.

5 out of 10.

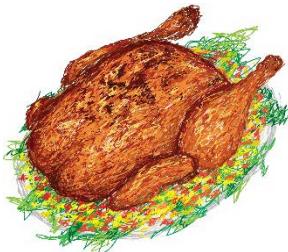
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Sherlock's Christmas Spirit

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

In "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle," a Christmas goose leads Holmes and Watson on a merry chase from one vendor to another to apprehend the stone's thief and determine how the Countess of Morcar's blue carbuncle wound up in the bird's crop in the first place.¹

The American public might be surprised to know that while a goose served as the Christmas bird in this story, many Victorians chose to feast on turkey instead. The American bird joined the Christmas tree and crackers to become part of British holiday celebrations during the 1800s. Although the turkey was imported into the country beginning in the 1500s, the Victorians introduced it as a replacement for the traditional goose.²



As the turkey and goose battled it out to make it to the Christmas dinner table, many other Christmas traditions practiced today were first popularized during the Victorian period. Most prominent among these

practices include the Christmas tree, cards, and crackers. The tree became fashionable after Prince Albert brought the custom from Germany and the *Illustrated London News* included an image of the royal family gathered around one in 1848. Within a few short years, most families had their own. Family members also picked up the practice of creating and sending cards to one another. The original Christmas card was commissioned in 1843 and cost a shilling a piece (a fortune in those times), but modern industrial printing and a drop in postage rates made the convention accessible to most of the population. By the 1880s,

more than 11 million cards were sent each year. Also in 1848, a British confectioner introduced the Christmas cracker—a package of twisted paper that popped when opened. The original candy contents, however, were replaced with paper hats and small gifts as the century passed.

Speaking of gifts, the practice of exchanging presents moved from the New Year at the beginning of the century to Christmas as Victorians more widely observed the holiday. The small traditional gifts of fruits, nuts, or homemade items, however, were replaced with larger, purchased articles over time.³



Perhaps more important than the outward trappings of the season was the shift in the overall view of Christmas that occurred in the mid-1840s, coinciding with the publication of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. At the beginning of the 1800s, the day was not even recognized as a holiday by many businesses. Dickens' tale is credited with spearheading the change from the somber 18th century Puritan observance to earlier practices of merriment and joy during the Yuletide season.⁴ The concept of the "Christmas spirit" popularized by Dickens is possibly behind Holmes' own belief that the thief of the blue carbuncle had learned his lesson, and in the "season of forgiveness," sends him on his way, a free man.

So, in the words of Dickens and in the spirit of Sherlock Holmes, "God bless us everyone," and have a happy holiday!

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>

¹ Doyle, Arthur Conan (2012-12-13). The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Location 12637). Simon & Schuster UK. Kindle Edition.

² <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/happy-christmas-turkey-its-your-last-1526939.html>

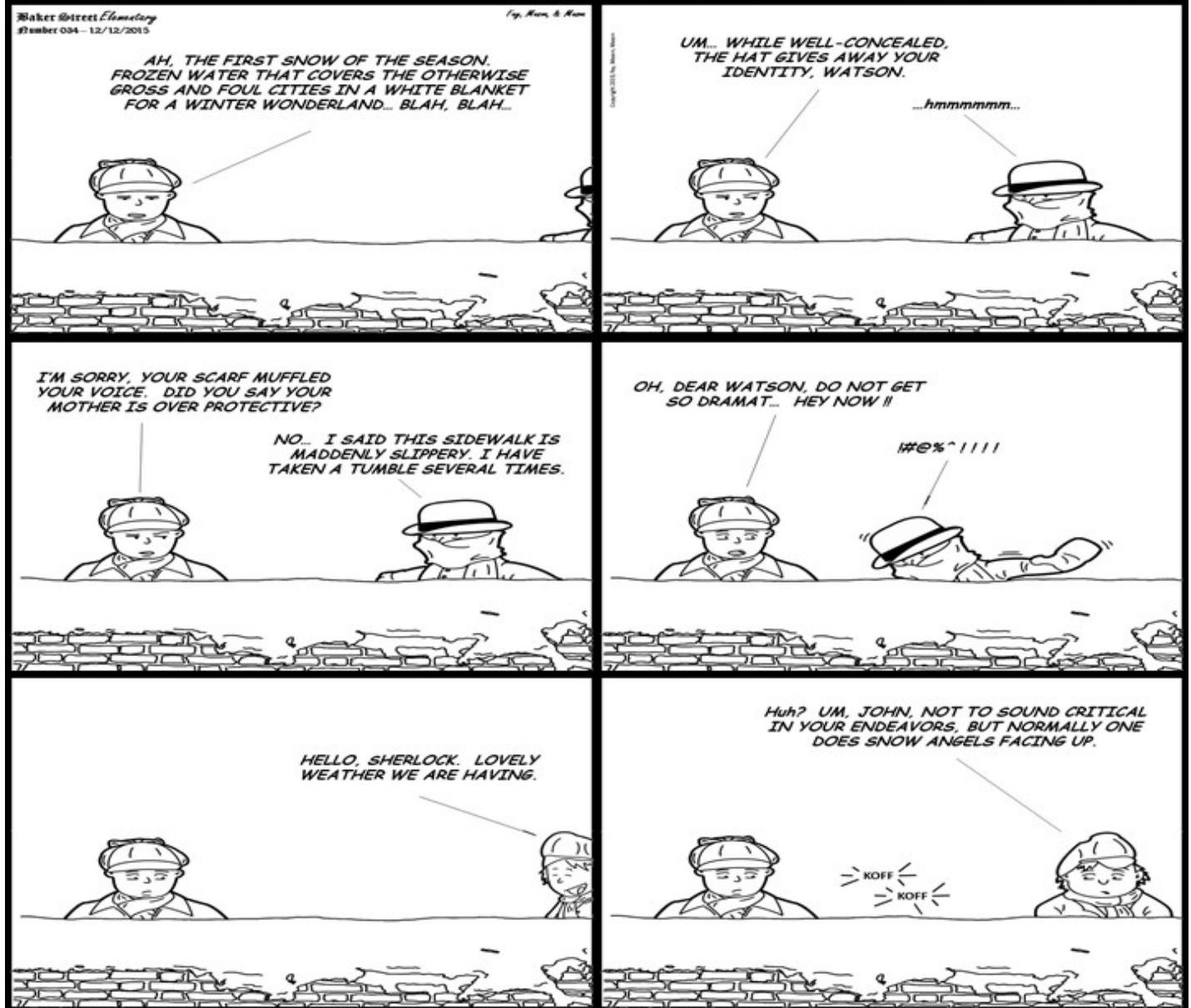
³ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/victorianchristmas/history.shtml>

⁴

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Christmas_Carol#cite_note-68

Baker Street Elementary

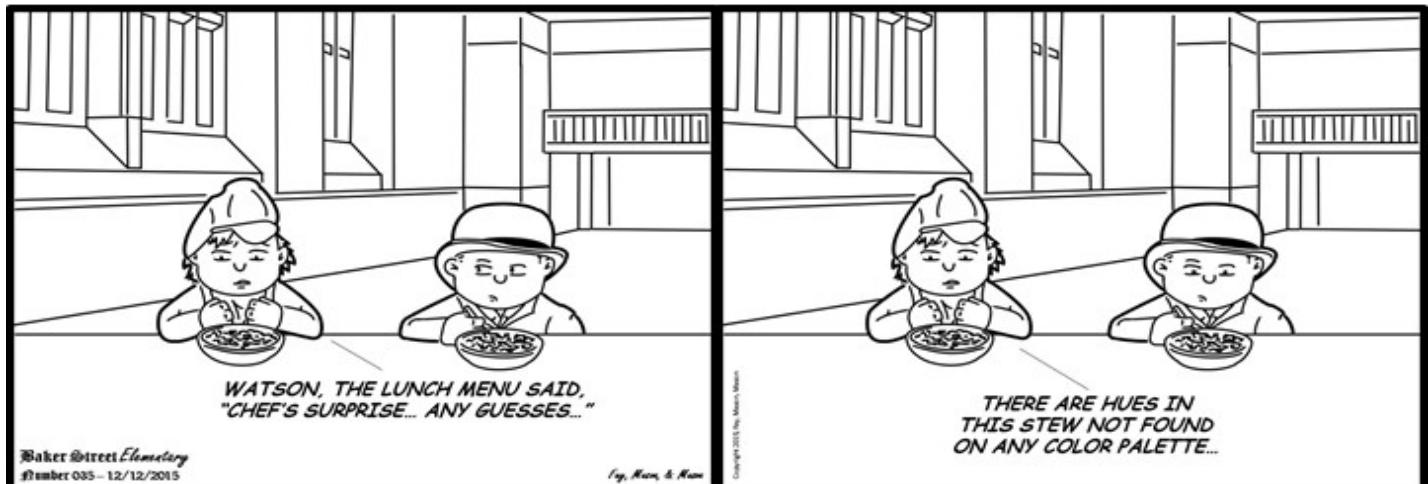
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The First Adventures of Sherlock
Holmes and John Watson



THERE ARE HUES IN
THIS STEW NOT FOUND
ON ANY COLOR PALETTE...

