

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 03, No. 2 - February, 2015

The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star



From the Editors: A compilation of various topics for you this month. Joe, Rusty, and I have created a new comic strip. We should have fun with this. Marland has provided another of his wonderful pastiches, "THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS."

Don, Steve, & Walt

March 1, 2015 Meeting

The next meeting (and future meetings) will be held on Sunday, March 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 Greek Interpreter*." (see page 3). The quiz will cover the story.

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

February 1, 2015 Meeting

Sixteen Sherlockians were present at La Madeleine for the January meeting. Cindy gave a heart-felt toast to Les Kilinger for his Sherlockian work (page 2).

Walt and Cindy co-shared honors for the quiz this month, which was based on the "*The Adventure of Yellow Face*." A Doyle biography and a nice Sherlockian jar made by Pam were the prizes provided for first place.

A discussion and presentation was conducted on the story given by Effie Munro to justify her actions and deception, and why Sherlock did not make a larger effort to reveal the true story.

The next movie night hosted by Walt and Linda will be on Saturday, February 21. We will be viewing the fine work of Christopher Plummer in "*Silver Blaze*" and "*Murder by Decree*."

We will be setting up Sherlockian displays at the Perot Museum, in conjunction with the Sherlock International Exhibition (see page 7) on February 21, March 5, and April 2.

We had a very successful night at the Allen Library Murder Mystery (see page 6).

The final reading was given from a passage of *The Baker Street Journal* (see page 2).

THE CREW MOVIE NIGHT



The next Crew movie night will be on Saturday, February 21, at the lovely home of Walt and Linda. Please RVSP to Walt at waltpieper@att.net. Walt can also provide you with directions to his home if you need them.

We will be watching two fine films of Christopher Plummer.

Silver Blaze, issued in 1977 and *Murder by Decree*, issued in 1979. *Sherlock Holmes investigates London's most infamous case, Jack the Ripper. As he investigates, he finds that the Ripper has friends in high places.*



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:



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Helmsman
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A TOAST TO LES KLINGER

Cindy Brown

At the Meeting of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star, Feb. 1, 2015

I raise my glass to a hero among many Sherlockians.

A man who battled Goliath and came out victorious.

He's written over 20 books on Sherlock Holmes and when the Conon Doyle estate insisted that he pay a license fee, when many felt the copyright had already expired, he refused.

After a lengthy court battle in which the estate tried to strong-arm such industry giants as Barnes and Noble, Pegasus Books, and Amazon, the Supreme Court ruled in November 2014, in Leslie Klinger's favor.

Thus allowing him and other authors of his genre to write stories using the character of Sherlock Holmes.

Truly a win for us all.

"Holmes Belongs to the World."

Fellow Sherlockians, please join me in toasting our friend Mr. Leslie Klinger.

KINDRED SOULS

An excerpt from the Baker Street Journal, October, 1952

There was a man once - a well-rounded, earthy, generously-sophisticated man - who was not interested in Sherlock Holmes. He never beat his wife, and he went to church every Easter, and his breath was as free of halitosis as his coat-collar was innocent of dandruff - but he thought Sherlockians were a bunch of silly, grown-up children.

He was sane as a sage and sound as a dollar; but when he heard talk of hansom cabs and gasogenes and deerstalker caps his mind tottered and he became violently ill. Yes, there was such a man once: but, as far as we can determine, only once.

For it is characteristic of the well-rounded, earthy, generously-sophisticated man, somehow, to be interested in Sherlock Holmes; and to find in the scene and the age which the Canon recalls a great and sympathetic solace, as deep and as real as it is difficult to identify and define.

Not all, of course, who are capable of manifesting this characteristic have, in fact, brought it to fruition - but that, we like to think, is because they have not yet happened to discover the happy possibilities that a true Sherlockian devotion holds.

But certainly it is they who have the potential for such devotion - and there are not many others who do.

You will find, among the people you meet, a certain few who have the capacity to live beyond the harsh unrealities that circumscribe them, in contrast to the others who do not. It is those who have this capacity- whose perceptiveness is just a little fuller, whose imaginations are just a little more rife - to whom the things we talk and write about will have appeal.

It is to them, the saner and the sounder of the lot, we must feel, that an avenue will open up - an avenue not of "escape," if you please, but of discovery: an avenue that leads to brighter views, and happier things, and to the satisfaction of an inner impulse that will not be denied.

Those people - the well-rounded, the earthy, the generously sophisticated - are destined by their natures to seek some such avenue that will take them into themselves. Ours may be only one of many; but we think, as we have the right to think, that it is the broadest and the straightest and the best.

SEVENTEEN STEPS TO THE GREEK INTERPRETER

Brad Keefauver, BSI

MY ROOMMATE IS AN ALIEN

"This reticence upon his part had increased the somewhat inhuman effect which he produced upon me, until sometimes I found myself regarding him as an isolated phenomenon, a brain without a heart, as deficient in human sympathy as he was preeminent in intelligence."

Just how many people have any of us met that had a "somewhat inhuman effect" upon us? Not many, I'd wager, as those are some very strong words.

How does one befriend a man who produces such an effect? And on other side of the coin, if Watson was just overblown in his prose, how does one speak so about his best friend in good conscience?

SO JUST WHO DOES HE LIKE?

"His aversion to women and his disinclination to form new friendships were both typical of his unemotional character..."

Would the phrase "form new friendships" have applied strictly to fellow males in Victorian times? Is Watson basically saying, "He didn't like women, and he didn't really care for men either"? (Which basically leaves children and dogs, doesn't it?)

NATURE VERSUS NURTURE

"The point under discussion was, how far any singular gift in an individual was due to his ancestry and how far to his own early training."

While the science of genetics has come a long way since Holmes's time (and even gotten the name "genetics," which it didn't have then), the question he and Watson were discussing that evening is one we might still debate about today. Is there any more evidence today, however, of the dominance of one over the other? How much of Holmes's talents would we put down to ancestry, and how much to training, in this day and age?

COUNTRY BRED OR TOWN BRED?

"My ancestors were country squires, who appear to have led much the same life as is natural to their class."

While Sherlockian scholars and pasticheurs have often had Holmes's parents as country squires, what he says here is not that at all. His words "who appear to have led..." do not sound like he had had any contact whatsoever with said country squires.

And the comfort and ease with which he moves through London make him seem quite the urban native. Is there any other evidence that Holmes was not a city boy? Or that he was truly London born and raised?

SHERLOCK HOLMES, ARTIST

"But, none the less, my turn that way is in my veins, and may have come with my grandmother, who was the sister of Vernet, the French artist. Art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms."

He's observant. He's musical. He's definitely a genius. But how does Sherlock Holmes see himself as an artist? Shouldn't an artist be creating something? And how are these artist qualities shared with Mycroft?

DID WATSON HAVE A LISP OR WHAT?

This has been mentioned in the 17 Steps before, but here Watson goes again: "If there were another man with such singular powers in England, how was it that neither police nor public had heard of him? I put the question, with a hint that it was my companion's modesty which made him acknowledge his brother as his superior."

Why is Watson constantly paraphrasing himself or leaving his lines out altogether?

Is he modest, or is this a more effective prose style that giving his own words in full quotation?

In other words, is this a quirk of personality or a conscious style choice? (Or perhaps even something he was taught?) How does his use of it compare to other writers of then and now?

THE TRUE ARMCHAIR DETECTIVE

"If the art of the detective began and ended in reasoning from an armchair, my brother would be the greatest criminal agent that ever lived."

One of Holmes's great abilities as a criminologist was his vast knowledge of the history of crime. In "The Sign of the Four," Holmes speaks of Francois le Villard, saying that the French detective possesses two of the three qualities necessary for the detective: observation and deduction.

The third quality, which le Villard lacks, is knowledge. Are we to surmise from Holmes's estimate of Mycroft as a criminal agent that the elder Holmes has just as much criminal knowledge as the younger?

And if Sherlock didn't even think of becoming a detective until meeting old Trevor, how is it that he and Mycroft both came to possess such knowledge?

SO THAT'S WHY HOLMES NEVER MENTIONED HIS BROTHER

"Again and again I have taken a problem to him, and have received an explanation which has afterwards proved to be the correct one."

Wait a minute... "again and again"? That sounds fairly often to me. How many times have we seen Holmes disappear for the afternoon, only to come back with the solution to a case?

How many times has he had to return to London to come up with an answer? Is Mycroft Holmes the true brains of this outfit after all? Was Sherlock just his Archie Goodwin?

FROM MYCROFT'S CASEBOOK...

Mycroft Holmes apparently takes some interest in crime:

"By the way, Sherlock, I expected to see you round last week to consult me over that Manor House case. I thought you might be a little out of your depth."

"No, I solved it," said my friend, smiling.

"It was Adams, of course."

"Yes, it was Adams."

"I was sure of it from the first."

Mycroft actually solved the case from his armchair, but what was his information source? Was he working solely from the newspapers?

Or did he have another channel for data? Who or what might that have been?

AND WHILE WE'RE ON INFORMATION SOURCES...

"We shall know if you speak of this. We have our own means of information. Now you will find the carriage waiting, and my friend will see you on your way."

Who needs their own means of information when Mycroft Holmes is going to place evidence of Melas's loose tongue in the Daily News? What was Mycroft thinking?

But what was Kemp and Latimer's info source other than the newspaper? An insider in Scotland Yard? A spy at Melas's residence? Or something much more malevolent and far-reaching?

SOMETHING MUCH MORE MALEVOLENT AND FAR-REACHING

No other case prior to "The Final Problem" screams "Moriarty!" more than "The Greek Interpreter." Look at the Kemp/Moriarty similarities:

- Moriarty: Pale.
- Kemp: Pale.
- Moriarty: Round shoulders.
- Kemp: Round shoulders.
- Moriarty: Oscillating head.
- Kemp: Facial twitch.

Sure, Moriarty is "tall" in Holmes's eyes, and Kemp is "small" to Melas's point of view. And Kemp has those glasses and that "thready, ill-nourished" beard, of the sort that a man might think better of and shave off. Any chance they might be the same man?

SO WHO IS THIS GUY?

If you don't go for the Moriarty theory, then who is Wilson Kemp?

There's nothing about the Latimer-Kratides money-grab that requires this sickly little fellow, is there? Why should a big, smart young fellow like Latimer put up with him? Were they related?

HAROLD LATIMER, CONFIRMED BACHELOR?

And speaking of relationships, what exactly is the relationship between Sophy Kratides and Harold Latimer? Are they married, even if it's not by a priest recognized by her brother?

If they aren't, how did Latimer have any claim over her property? And if the brother's signature was needed to get Latimer more of said money and property, would his death have done the trick as well?

THAT MARVELOUS VICTORIAN LONDON MAIL SERVICE

One subject that's come up before on Hounds list is the multiple mail deliveries that happened every day in Victorian London. In this story, however, we find a mail delivery happening sometime during the evening.

Holmes and Watson call on Mycroft after six, visit with the elder Holmes and Mr. Melas for a time, and the mail is apparently still coming.

While seven-ish might now be too far into the night, how late in the evening could ordinary, newspaper-ad-answering letters still get delivered?

A STRANGE COMBINATION OF WRITING INSTRUMENTS

"Have you the slate, Harold?" asks the older villain of the younger. "Are his hands loose? Now, then, give him the pencil."

Bad enough they've tortured poor Paul Kratides ... now they want him to write on a slate with a pencil. The sound alone has to be horrific, and how legible is black-on-black going to be?

Were white pencils used on slates back then? Where white slates used with black pencils? What goes here?

IT SURE ISN'T A ZIP CODE...

At the end of Mycroft's newspaper ad is this little number: "X 2473."

An actual Holmes's phone number? If so, why does the response to Mycroft's ad come through the mail?

MORE MYSTERIOUS INFORMATION SOURCES

"Months afterwards a curious newspaper cutting reached us from Buda-Pesth. It told how two Englishmen who had been travelling with a woman had met with a tragic end."

Who sent this clipping to Holmes and Watson, and why? Could it have been sent by the assassin himself? Did Buda-Pesth have an English newspaper, or was the article in Hungarian?

And why, months later, would anyone think this was Latimer, Kemp, and Kratides? (Was Moriarty, still in England, just trying to distract them?)

"Ol' Curly Blessing"

From CNN, through Cindy./Jim Brown



Benedict Cumberbatch is known as "Curly Blessing," or "juan fu."

In Mandarin, "juan" means curly, referring to Cumberbatch's curly hairstyle in his role as Sherlock Holmes.

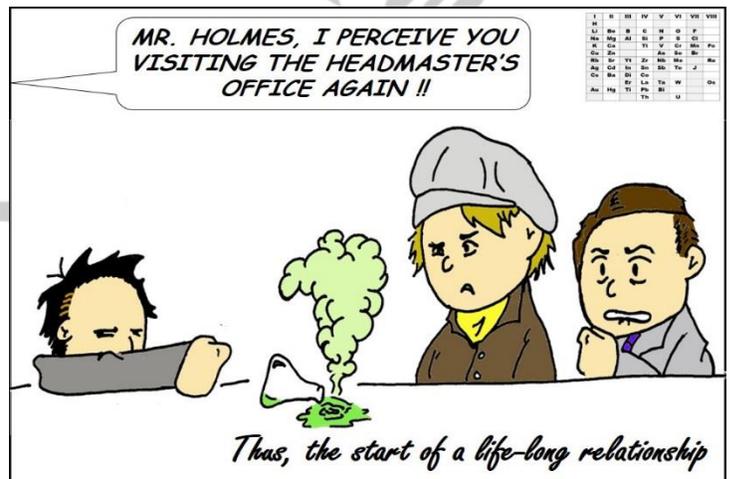
"Fu" means happiness, fortune, or blessing -- and it's the first part of the Chinese name for Sherlock Holmes.

Put those two together, and you get something like "Curly Sherlock" or, more poetically, "Curly Blessing."

Baker Street Elementary

Joe Fay, Rusty Mason, Steve Mason

This month we introduce a new comic strip of our favorite characters from the Canon. We hope you enjoy. We hope to start posting weekly strips on the webpage soon.



ALLEN LIBRARY MURDER MYSTERY...

On Wednesday night, January 28, several Crew Members conducted a presentation and murder mystery at the Allen Public Library as part of their reading program.

Cindy gave a very good presentation on the life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, followed by a slide show presentation by Steve on the world of Sherlock Holmes, followed up by a question and answer session.

Mayor Terrell gave a welcoming talk to the approximately 100 participants. We then instructed the attendees on the murder scenario, and the clues they would need to solve the mystery.

We used 5 different inspectors and 5 different suspects, so that not everyone came up with the same solution.

Tim brought up a variety of his games for display, which the attendees all enjoyed looking over.

All participants said they had a great time solving the mystery and hearing about Sir Arthur.

Thanks so much to everyone who pitched in to make the evening a success !!!



"The Speckled Band: An Adventure of Sherlock Holmes"

A new play by Timothy N. Evers is scheduled at the Classical Theatre Company in Houston, Tex., Feb. 4-22.

This play, penned by Doyle himself in 1910, dramatizes one of the Great Detective's most famous mysteries: The Adventure of the Speckled Band.

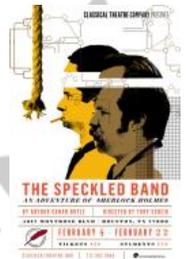
"I have idolized the character of Sherlock Holmes since I was a young child," says CTC artistic chief John

Johnston, "and the opportunity to portray one of my literary heroes on stage is a real thrill." Adapted by Timothy N. Evers, whose adaptation of Marlowe's Doctor Faustus, the CTC produced in February, this script will be streamlined and have a contemporary feel about it.

Set to star Johnston in the titular role, and directed by CTC veteran, Troy Scheid, this production will

capitalize on the Sherlock-mania that is gripping pop culture right now, while breathing new life into Doyle's century-old play.

Go to <http://classicaltheatre.org/> for more information.



The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes' opens Feb. 14

Allen American

Trust the evidence, not the theories." This is the foreboding greeting from literature's most famous detective beckons visitors via phonograph into "The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes," the newest mystery-solving adventure at the Perot Museum.

Visitors will be transported to 19th-century Victorian London as they become the detectives, using hands-on forensic techniques and tools to solve a baffling crime. Presented in English and Spanish, the bilingual exhibition runs Feb. 14 through May. The interactive journey delves into the world of one of the most beloved and recognizable figures from past and popular cultures. In this hands-on exhibition, guests will learn firsthand how Sherlock Holmes, a scientific expert ahead of his time, used seemingly trivial observations of clues others missed to solve crimes.

The fictional detective's practices and techniques, created in the mind of doctor-turned-author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, revolutionized forensic science and remain relevant in modern-day crime investigations. Against the backdrop of Sherlock Holmes' London, visitors will solve a crime in a quickly advancing world filled with innovation and experimentation – primed for his groundbreaking methods.

Guests will trade their museum maps for detective notebooks as they step into a Scotland Yard scene to collect clues and solve a crime using the same interactive methods employed by Holmes more than a century ago. Using observation and deduction, guest detectives will evaluate spatter patterns, footprints and other evidence to test their theories in pursuit of the truth.

"This exceptional Sherlock Holmes exhibition, which was endorsed by the Conan Doyle Estate, gives you a chance to become a detective, use your deductive reasoning skills and experience the thrill of solving a

mystery," said Colleen Walker, the Eugene McDermott Chief Executive Officer of the Perot Museum. "And it's fascinating to see the methods used by the famed Baker Street sleuth laid a foundation for the science used in CSI labs and law enforcement agencies today."

Guests will learn about the practices of Holmes, explore the world from which Doyle drew to develop his stories, and gain an understanding of the core principles of forensic science. This exhibition also takes visitors through the progression of Sherlockian pop culture via an array of film and television props and costumes, original manuscripts and period artifacts.

"The legend of Sherlock Holmes has mesmerized people for over a century, and, because of movies and TV, his popularity continues to soar," said Steve Hinkley, the museum's vice president of programs. "Visitors of all ages whether a parent, kid or teacher are going to love this very compelling convergence of literature and science."

The galleries in the Sherlock Holmes exhibition include:

Dr. Conan Doyle's Study – Doyle, a scientifically educated physician, was a curious and tireless investigator his entire life. Guests will discover his world first as a medical student at Edinburgh University, then as an apprentice at Royal Surgeons' Hall, next as a practicing physician in Southsea, Portsmouth, and finally as a creator of literary genius who moved to London in the early 1890s and became a full-time author. On display will be an original manuscript, letters and illustrations through which guests will gain perspective on the experiences that influenced Conan Doyle in creating Sherlock Holmes.

Science and History – Sherlock Holmes solved mysteries using observation and solid experimentation, something real-world detectives (police or private) had not fully embraced. Guests

will participate in experiments of their own by exploring the developments in science and technology made in the 1890s – developments that are still highly relevant today. Supported by forensics expert and crime historian E. J. Wagner, author of "The Science of Sherlock Holmes," the exhibition digs into real forensic studies in order to demonstrate the link between the Sherlock Holmes stories, detective science and the world of today.

Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street – Guests will visit Sherlock Holmes' and Dr. Watson's sitting room at 221B Baker Street, where their investigations began and concluded – a room looming large in popular imagination around the globe ever since the first Holmes tale, "A Study in Scarlet," in 1887. Poet Vincent Starrett said of the famed room: "Here dwell together still two men of note / Who never lived and so can never die ... Here, though the world explode, these two survive / And it is always eighteen ninety-five."

Become a Detective – Guests will draw upon their book of clues while hot on the trail to solve a remarkable "whodunit." Using their own powers of observation, guests can crack a new Sherlock Holmes mystery written exclusively for this exhibition by Daniel Stashower, the acclaimed writer and award-winning Conan Doyle biographer (author of "Teller of Tales: The Life of Arthur Conan Doyle" and co-editor of "Arthur Conan Doyle: A Life in Letters") and the author of new Sherlock Holmes stories as well.

Culture of Sherlock – Pop culture enthusiasts will enjoy the exhibition's robust collection of all things "Sherlockian," including movie and television show props and costumes. Featured are Victorian-era props from the Warner Bros.' current Sherlock Holmes movies, alongside costumes, props and behind-the-scenes tools from the hit television shows *Elementary* and *Sherlock* BBC, both of which are set in the present day. The exhibition will offer museum guests the most comprehensive display anywhere of Sherlock Holmes as portrayed in popular imagination over the last 128 years.

KAREEM ABDUL JABBAR

Jonathan Blitzer, *The New Yorker*, February 2

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar walked through the lobby of his hotel on Central Park South recently, doing his best impression of someone with a low profile. He swerved to avoid a chandelier (low clearance for a former N.B.A. center), then bumped into an old friend who'd been a coach with the Chicago Bulls.

Handshakes, camera flashes. Finally, Abdul-Jabbar wriggled free. "I have somewhere to be," he said, adjusting a white cashmere scarf over his blue pin-striped suit. He ducked through a doorway, took a few loping steps to the curb, and scrunched into the back of a black Suburban.

He was late for cocktails at the Yale Club, where the Baker Street Irregulars, an eighty-one-year-old Sherlock Holmes society, was hosting its annual dinner. Abdul-Jabbar—a Sherlockian since he began reading Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as a rookie with the Milwaukee Bucks, in 1969—was making his inaugural appearance.

Earlier that week, Abdul-Jabbar had announced he would soon publish his first novel, "Mycroft Holmes," a thriller about Sherlock Holmes's older brother. Conan Doyle's Mycroft is old and haggard, "world-weary," Abdul-Jabbar said. "We want to see how he was before he took his lumps from the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune."

The car crept through midtown, and Abdul-Jabbar said, "I'm curious just to see who these people are." He did an impression of Jonny Lee Miller, the latest incarnation of Sherlock Holmes, on the CBS show "Elementary." "I am not a nice man. I am acerbic. I get things done in my style," he said, in a plummy English accent.

Abdul-Jabbar was raised in Harlem, but he lives in Los Angeles. "I first read these books on the beach in San Diego when we were playing the Rockets," he said. "Holmes saw clues where other people saw nothing." From then on, he imagined himself as a courtside sleuth. He recalled going up against Manute Bol, one of the tallest players in N.B.A. history.

"He was the only guy I had to look up to. So I figured out his weaknesses," he said. "I make deductions. That's what I do. Hey, I read Sherlock Holmes." In the Holmes stories, the Baker Street Irregulars are a group of street urchins who pass along intelligence to the detective. Abdul-Jabbar lifted tips from ball boys. One time, he heard them complaining about how Bob Lanier—the six-foot-eleven Moriarty of the Detroit Pistons—would sneak cigarettes during halftime. "I knew, if Lanier was smoking, if I made him run in the second half he'd be in pain," he said.

These are the little clues I pick up."

Abdul-Jabbar walked into the Yale Club. "I'm here for Holmes," he told a bewildered doorman, who waved him to an elevator. On the twentieth floor, he entered a ballroom, where

two hundred people were holding highballs and exchanging arcana about their man. In Conan Doyle's day, the Sherlockians drove the author to the edge of madness. He once tried to kill off Holmes to keep the fanatics at bay.

On a table by the entrance were nametags: King of Bohemia, The Red Circle, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Society members have their own aliases, or "investitures," culled from the Holmes stories.

"These used to all be story titles, but we ran out," said Leslie Klinger (Abbey Grange), the editor of a Holmes anthology and Abdul-Jabbar's attorney. "One of the investitures is Smack, Smack, Smack," he said, after a bug-squashing character in the story "The Adventure of the Copper Beeches."

Klinger, who wore a tuxedo, tried to whisper into his client's ear but wound up shouting: "Kareem, there's someone here who wants you to do a podcast about Mycroft!" Abdul-Jabbar was being accosted by Inspector Baynes, whose alias refers to a character from the Surrey Constabulary, and Vincent Spaulding, named for one of Conan Doyle's criminals.

"The Bucks need you," a Sherlockian from Oshkosh pleaded with Abdul-Jabbar, before staggering away. The Irregulars meet only once a year, and their exuberance showed.

Corporal Henry Wood offered an outstretched hand and asked Abdul-Jabbar about his novel. "It all started with a book called 'Enter the Lion,' Mycroft's posthumous memoir," he said. Corporal Henry Wood knew it well. "But of course, edited by my dear friend. A great book. Preach on!" Then the Corporal pulled out a selfie stick and waved it up toward Abdul-Jabbar. "Mind if we take a photo?"

"What is that contraption?" Abbey Grange asked.

"I guess it was inevitable," Abdul-Jabbar said, more of the stick than of the selfie. Holmes wasn't one for gadgetry.

Dinner was announced, and the Irregulars repaired to the dining room, two floors below, where the Sherlockian rites would commence.

There would be a toast to Dr. Watson's second wife, a reading from "The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual," and a tribute to the society's fallen members, in an installment called "Stand with Me Here Upon the Terrace." Secrets had to be kept. With a nod, Abdul-Jabbar strode off to the back stairway.

ILLUSTRATION BY TOM BACHTTELL



BRYAN WOOLLEY, RENOWNED DALLAS FEATURE WRITER, DIES

Michael Mershel, Dallas Morning News, January 10, 2015

Bryan was one of our longest, respected members of the Crew. We all have fond memories of his re-telling of stories on the road.

Bryan Woolley, the Texas-roving journalist and respected novelist, died Friday night in Dallas. He was 77.

The cause was heart-related, said his sister, Sherry Bartlett. Woolley was a staff writer for *The Dallas Morning News* from 1989 until his retirement in 2006.

Previously, he worked at newspapers including *The Anniston Star* in Alabama, *The Courier-Journal* in Louisville, Ky., and the *Dallas Times Herald*.

Woolley, who earned degrees at the University of Texas at El Paso, TCU and Harvard, was the author of several books, including the novels *November 22* and *Some Sweet Day*, and several compilations of his newspaper work.

He received many honors for his writing, including the PEN West Literary Journalism Award, three Stanley Walker Newspaper Journalism Awards and an O. Henry Magazine Journalism Award from the Texas Institute of Letters.

He traveled to just about every corner of Texas, covering everything from Roy Orbison (his first Dallas Morning News byline) to cowboy poets to his days as a cub reporter for the *El Paso Times* in the 1950s, which became the book *The Wonderful Room*.

Below is the last review Bryan wrote for the *Dallas Morning News*, published on December 19, 2014



Holmes for the holidays: Two new books, one eternally great detective

The first sentence Sherlock Holmes uttered to Dr. John Watson on the day they met is as modern now as it was then: "You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive."

Dr. Watson's reason for being in Afghanistan was equally modern. He had been wounded in a war there.

It was about this season of year in 1887 that Holmes and Watson first stepped into the world. Upon being introduced to his soon-to-be roommate and sidekick, Holmes began investigating his first recorded case as "the world's first consulting detective," and Watson began describing his work to the public.

The short novel called *A Study in Scarlet*, published in Beeton's Christmas Annual, was only a modest success. But it was the first of the four novels and 56 short stories that would make Holmes the most popular fictional character in the history of English-language literature. So popular did he become that when word got out that a new issue of *The Strand* magazine was to have a Sherlock Holmes story in it, London readers would queue up outside the magazine's building to buy a copy hot off the press.

Although Sherlock's popularity made his creator rich and famous, the ungrateful Arthur Conan Doyle eventually grew sick of his creation. He wanted his literary

reputation to bloom from his high-toned, three-volume, leather-bound historical novels such as *The White Company* and *Sir Nigel*, not from the magazine adventures of his eccentric, emotionless, unfriendly, annoying, fiddle-playing, dope-using — but on the other hand, brilliantly rational and acute — detective.

So on Sept. 3, 1893, Conan Doyle put the finishing touches on a story called "The Final Problem" and wrote in his private journal: "Killed Holmes."

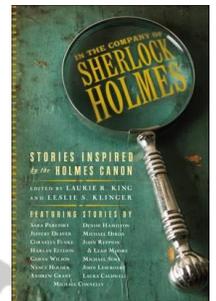
"The Final Problem," of course, concerns that business at the Reichenbach Falls, where Holmes and his archenemy, Professor James Moriarty, "the Napoleon of crime," presumably fall together into the watery abyss to their deaths.

The story set off howls of outrage across the British Empire — some from Conan Doyle's own mother — and North America. Conan Doyle was threatened by strangers and shunned by friends. The absence of Holmes from the newsstands added nothing to his literary reputation and withheld a great sum from his bank account. So in 1903 *The Strand* published "The Empty House," in which Sherlock, very much alive, returns to 221B Baker St., shocks poor Watson nearly into a heart attack and then resumes his war against evil.

It was inevitable, you see. Conan Doyle couldn't kill him. The world needed him. Even in 1927, when the last Holmes story was published, he wasn't dead. He was an old man, living in a cottage on the Sussex Downs, tending bees. But was he just tending bees?

Conan Doyle died in 1930, and so he could write no more Sherlock Holmes stories. But since he gave Holmes to the world, the world has never been able to do without that cold, emotionless instrument of pure reason that stands as a bulwark of sanity, that sharp instrument of justice against the intimidating and destructive chaos of fear and evil. So since Conan Doyle's death, other writers over the years — squadrons of them — have taken up his task.

Hundreds of Holmes pastiches, ranging in quality from godawful to brilliant, are published every year. A few pastiche writers — Nicholas Meyer, June Thomson and Hugh Ashton, for example — sometimes are good enough to make you forget you're not reading the Master himself, having Watson narrate a lost but



newly discovered story from some secret bank box or barrister's drawer.

Since Dr. Watson presented his first Holmes story to the world during the Yuletide season, it isn't surprising that many new pastiches appear about this time, and there are dozens this year. Two of the more intriguing current Sherlockian offerings aren't pastiches and seldom mention Holmes and Watson at all.

Anthony Horowitz is a recently knighted British author who in 2011 made a splash with the international best-selling pastiche *The House of Silk*. His new thriller, *Moriarty*, barely touches Holmes, but as the title indicates, approaches the Holmes narrative from the opposite end, the end where chaos and evil triumph, and the action reads more like James Bond than Sherlock Holmes. The tale will leave Sherlockian mouths agape and, some of them, sputtering.

Horowitz's inconclusive ending leaves room for one or more sequels. He likes gore and morbidity more than the typical Sherlockian perhaps, or maybe he's simply catching the whiff of our cruder times.

Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger are offering *In the Company of Sherlock*

Holmes: Stories Inspired by the Holmes Canon, an anthology of 15 stories written by friends of King and Klinger with highly varying degrees of connection to Sherlock and his canon. King is the author of the immensely popular *Mary Russell* novels, which began with *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* and continue through the adventures of the brilliant young detective and her elderly husband, *Sherlock Holmes*. Klinger, as every serious Sherlockian knows, is the editor of *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, a three-volume critical study of all 60 Holmes stories.

In 2011 King and Klinger published *A Study in Sherlock: Stories Inspired by the Sherlock Holmes Canon*. The stories were by writers in genres that had nothing to do with Sherlock, and the connections of the stories with him were tenuous, but they were there nonetheless. The operative words in the title are "inspired by." The anthology was a best-seller.

So King and Klinger are trying it again with a different set of friends. As with most anthologies, the quality of the stories varies: There are some clunkers; there are some gems.

The brightest gem is the opening story, "The Crooked Man," by Michael Connelly, in which Harry Bosch, a cop from Connelly's own police detective series, interacts with an intriguing deputy coroner named Doyle. There are a few other nifty inside jokes involving names as well.

And no reader is likely to forget the shocker by Jeffery Deaver, "The Adventure of the Laughing Fisherman," which will have many a sleepless Sherlockian staring at the ceiling at night.

Like its predecessor, this book was conceived in fun, written in fun and edited in fun. It should be read in that spirit.

As should all the 60 Sherlock Holmes stories that Arthur Conan Doyle gave us. Praise be to all the writers who have followed after him, to give us more stories about a hero who with sheer wit and reason overcomes the grossness and chaos of evil. For 127 years since his first case and for 84 years since the death of his creator, Sherlock Holmes is still entertaining us.

And he's still as modern as a war in Afghanistan.

A Bustle Outside the Door

Sherlockian Scholarship, by Mel Hughes, *The Holmes / Watson Report*, May 1997

After reading Rosemary Michaud's brilliant "Victor Victorian," I was both impressed and dismayed. To have such a wonderful and long-overdue examination of Canonical cross-dressing and then to leave out the main person guilty of it!

Or was "Mrs. Hudson's" disguise so good it fooled even the wily Ms. Michaud?

"What?" I hear you ask. "The stately landlady of Baker Street?"

Perhaps... then again, perhaps not. Perhaps the landlord of Baker Street... and perhaps more than that.

Let's just examine a few of the facts. How many times is Mrs. Hudson mentioned in the entire Canon? Well, she appears in about 20 stories. Yet never once is there a description of her. Watson goes to great lengths to describe every woman he sees, but Mrs. Hudson never rates a look.

Even the mousy Mary Sutherland was described right down to her fur muff - but we are never even told the color of Mrs. Hudson's hair. Why does Watson not see fit to tell us something of her?

Obviously because the fair sex was Watson's department - and Mrs. Hudson is in a different department.

Too, we never hear of a Mr. Hudson. The consensus is that the landlady was widowed, but there's no proof of that. We do hear of her having many female friends, though - in fact, some of her "cronies" are of such a nature that Holmes expected them to show up even in the worst possible weather. (Witness "The Five Orange Pips" and Holmes's remark that nothing but the most serious case would bring out a man on such a night, therefore it must be a woman coming to visit "Mrs." Hudson. I have known many women to venture out on worse nights with the prospect of such a "visit.")

Incidentally, looking up "crony" in the dictionary does not reveal any relation to the word "crone." A "crony" is a close friend. How close? Close enough to come calling on stormy nights, at least.

In fact, one special friend, calling herself "Mrs. 'Turner,'" must have been around so much that she was often relegated to helping out with meals, such as the tray of simple fare she brought in during "A Scandal in Bohemia."

"Mrs. Hudson" had, of course, prepared the meal. You'll notice that Mrs. Hudson's meals are generally a bit spare.

Simple fare; "her cuisine is a little limited," commented Holmes during "The Naval Treaty."

In fact, she ended up acquiring a cook, not that the cook was any better (recall how the cook could not even boil an egg properly in "The Problem of Thor Bridge"). Obviously the cook had other talents.

Do the mere facts that she has no physical female attributes to speak of, that a parade of women came in and out "her" door at any hour of any given day or night, and that "she" can't cook worth a darn mean that Mrs. Hudson is in reality a man?

Of course not. But I suspected her on my first reading of **A Study in Scarlet...**

The landlady is never mentioned by name in STUD, and yet something far more interesting can be learned about her.

Recall Watson waiting up to find out the results of Holmes's investigations after the visit of the "Old Woman Be Damned." Hours passed as Watson sat in his chair, listlessly reading.

At 10 o'clock he heard "the footsteps of the maid as she pattered off to bed. Eleven, and the more stately tread of the landlady passed my door, bound for the same destination."

Now just a darn minute here. What was Mrs. Hudson doing headed for the maid's bed?"

Of course, if you're still in doubt, take a look at "Wisteria Lodge," where a certain narrative is interrupted. "There was a bustle outside, and Mrs. Hudson was at the door."

Of course there was a bustle. Bustles were still fashionable in the 1890s, and besides, if you were a man, and anxious to conceal your gender, wouldn't you pad every part of your anatomy that you could.

The closest we ever get to anything approaching a description of Mrs. Hudson is listening to her speak, and has it ever seemed to you that she's always incredibly nervous? She chatters, she wails, she wrings her hands, she rambles on and on about worrying about "Mr. Holmes."

She overdoes the "silly Victorian female act, in my book. Certainly she's not exactly the kind of landlady I'd picture as "stately."

But then. Mrs. Hudson didn't have much reason to be stately.

She had every reason to be nervous; every reason to put up with Holmes's stinky chemical experiments, indoor target practice, and occasional cocaine binges, not to mention Dr. Watson's late-night pub rounds.

Her tenants knew her little secret.

Of course, to get to the bottom of all this, we have to know just why the secret was so important. And we have to look at the real reason for Holmes's hasty departure from Victor Trevor's house in "The Gloria Scott."

Notice that in GLOR, the awkward incident with Victor Trevor's father occurs shortly after Holmes's arrival. Yet Holmes does not leave for some time afterward. In fact, he doesn't leave until the arrival of the mysterious and sinister "Hudson."

Obviously, Hudson has the goods on old Trevor and Mr. Beddoes... but just why is Sherlock Holmes so frightened of him?

Hudson had turned to the same trade that Charles Augustus Milverton would later perfect to an art form. He blackmailed people. Recall Holmes's utter hatred of Milverton, far worse than his loathing of Moriarty. Why? He had some personal experience with being blackmailed. By whom?

Hudson. Hudson, "the devil." Hudson, who smiled in a loose-lipped sort of way. The old seaman who'd had enough of being out to sea with only males for company, and was anxious to make up for lost time with a constant parade of maids, cooks, and Mrs. Turners, at Baker Street.

What did Hudson know about Holmes? We'll probably never know. But whatever Hudson had, it was enough to keep Holmes at Baker Street for many years, making absolutely princely payments to his "landlady."

And of course Holmes had plenty on Hudson too - enough to keep him in line most of the time.

And as for Watson, you'll notice he got married and out of there just as fast as he could, as often as he could.

They still live with their old servants, who probably know so much of Rucastle's past life that he finds it difficult to part from them...

"The Copper Beeches"

Just for the Fun of it... 6 Degrees of Separation

Six degrees of separation is the theory that everyone and everything is six or fewer steps away, by way of introduction, from any other person in the world, so that a chain of "a friend of a friend" statements can be made to connect any two people in a maximum of six steps.

Last month, we connected Cesar Romero (The Joker) with Basil Rathbone. This month, let's connect Burgess Meredith (The Penguin) with Basil Rathbone.

This Month: Burgess Meredith (1907-1997) as the Penguin



Appeared in 21 episodes as the Penguin
Over 175 TV and movie credits

Burgess Meredith appeared as Ernie Pyle in
"The Story of G. I. Joe" (1945)



Dick Rich also appeared in *"The Story of G. I. Joe"*

Dick Rich appeared as a Kaidu Officer
in *"The Adventure of Marco Polo"* (1938)



Basil Rathbone appeared as Ahmed
in *"The Adventure of Marco Polo"* (1938)

The First Line Quiz

Try to match the first line of each Story, with the Story itself... ANSWERS will be posted in next month's newsletter...

| | Abbrev. | Line | Abbrev. |
|-----|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | | "BUT why Turkish?" asked Mr. Sherlock Holmes, gazing fixedly at my boots. | 3GAB |
| 2. | | "FROM the point of view of the criminal expert," said Mr. Sherlock Holmes, "London has become a singularly uninteresting city since the death of the late lamented Professor Moriarty." | 3GAR |
| 3. | | "HOLMES," said I as I stood one morning in our bow-window looking down the street, "here is a madman coming along." | 3STU |
| 4. | | "I AM afraid, Watson, that I shall have to go," said Holmes as we sat down together to our breakfast one morning. | ABBE |
| 5. | | "I AM inclined to think--" said I. "I should do so," Sherlock Holmes remarked impatiently. | BERY |
| 6. | | "I HAVE some papers here," said my friend Sherlock Holmes as we sat one winter's night on either side of the fire, "which I really think, Watson, that it would be worth your while to glance over." | BLAC |
| 7. | | "IT CAN'T hurt now," was Holmes's comment when, for the 10 th time in as many years, I asked his leave to reveal the following narrative. | BLAN |
| 8. | | "MY DEAR fellow," said Sherlock Holmes as we sat on either side of the fire in his lodgings at Baker Street, "life is infinitely stranger than anything which the mind of man could invent." | BLUE |
| 9. | | "TO THE man who loves art for its own sake," remarked Sherlock Holmes, tossing aside the advertisement sheet of the Daily Telegraph, "it is frequently in its least important and lowliest manifestations that the keenest pleasure is to be derived." | BOSC |
| 10. | | "WELL, Mrs. Warren, I cannot see that you have any particular cause for uneasiness, nor do I understand why I, whose time is of some value, should interfere in the matter." | BRUC |
| 11. | | AN ANOMALY which often struck me in the character of my friend Sherlock Holmes was that, although in his methods of thought he was the neatest and most methodical of mankind, and although also he affected a certain quiet primness of dress, he was none the less in his personal habits one of the most untidy men that ever drove a fellow-lodger to distraction. | CARD |
| 12. | | DURING my long and intimate acquaintance with Mr. Sherlock Holmes I had never heard him refer to his relations, and hardly ever to his own early life. | CHAS |
| 13. | | FROM the years 1894 to 1901 inclusive, Mr. Sherlock Holmes was a very busy man. | COPP |
| 14. | | HOLMES had been seated for some hours in silence with his long, thin back curved over a chemical vessel in which he was brewing a particularly malodorous product. | CREE |
| 15. | | HOLMES had read carefully a note which the last post had brought him. | CROO |
| 16. | | I DON'T think that any of my adventures with Mr. Sherlock Holmes opened quite so abruptly, or so dramatically, as that which I associate with The Three Gables. | DANC |
| 17. | | I FIND it recorded in my notebook that it was a bleak and windy day towards the end of March in the year 1892. | DEVI |
| 18. | | I HAD called upon my friend Sherlock Holmes upon the second morning after Christmas, with the intention of wishing him the compliments of the season. | DYIN |
| 19. | | I HAD called upon my friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, one day in the autumn of last year and found him in deep conversation with a very stout, florid-faced, elderly gentleman with fiery red hair. | EMPT |
| 20. | | I HAD intended "The Adventure of the Abbey Grange" to be the last of those exploits of my friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, which I should ever communicate to the public. | ENGR |
| 21. | | I HAVE never known my friend to be in better form, both mental and physical, than in the year '95. | FINA |
| 22. | | IN CHOOSING a few typical cases which illustrate the remarkable mental qualities of my friend, Sherlock Holmes, I have endeavoured, as far as possible, to select those which presented the minimum of sensationalism, while offering a fair field for his talents. | FIVE |
| 23. | | IN GLANCING over the somewhat incoherent series of Memoirs with which I have endeavoured to illustrate a few of the mental peculiarities of my friend Mr. Sherlock Holmes, I have been struck by the difficulty which I have experienced in picking out examples which shall in every way answer my purpose. | GLOR |
| 24. | | In publishing these short sketches based upon the numerous cases in which my companion's singular gifts have made us the listeners to, and eventually the actors in, some strange drama, it is only natural that I should dwell rather upon his successes than upon his failures. | GOLD |
| 25. | | IN RECORDING from time to time some of the curious experiences and interesting recollections which I associate with my long and intimate friendship with Mr. Sherlock Holmes, I have continually been faced by difficulties caused by his own aversion to publicity. | GREE |
| 26. | | IN THE third week of November, in the year 1895, a dense yellow fog settled down upon London. | HOUN |
| 27. | | IN THE YEAR 1878 I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and proceeded to Netley to go through the course prescribed for surgeons in the Army. | IDEN |
| 28. | | ISA WHITNEY, brother of the late Elias Whitney, Principal of the Theological College of St. George's, was much addicted to opium. | ILLU |
| 29. | | IT IS a most singular thing that a problem which was certainly as abstruse and unusual as any which I have faced in my long professional career should have come to me after my retirement, and be brought, as it were, to my very door. | LADY |
| 30. | | IT IS with a heavy heart that I take up my pen to write these the last words in which I shall ever record the singular gifts by which my friend Mr. Sherlock Holmes was distinguished. | LAST |

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 31. | IT IS years since the incidents of which I speak took place, and yet it is with diffidence that I allude to them. | LION |
| 32. | IT MAY have been a comedy, or it may have been a tragedy. It cost one man his reason, it cost me a blood-letting, and it cost yet another man the penalties of the law. | MAZA |
| 33. | IT WAS in the spring of the year 1894 that all London was interested, and the fashionable world dismayed, by the murder of the Honourable Ronald Adair under most unusual and inexplicable circumstances. | MISS |
| 34. | IT WAS in the year '95 that a combination of events, into which I need not enter, caused Mr. Sherlock Holmes and myself to spend some weeks in one of our great university towns, and it was during this time that the small but instructive adventure which I am about to relate befell us. | MUSG |
| 35. | IT WAS nine o'clock at night upon the second of August—the most terrible August in the history of the world. | NAVA |
| 36. | IT WAS no very unusual thing for Mr. Lestrade, of Scotland Yard, to look in upon us of an evening, and his visits were welcome to Sherlock Holmes, for they enabled him to keep in touch with all that was going on at the police headquarters. | NOBL |
| 37. | IT WAS on a bitterly cold night and frosty morning, towards the end of the winter of '97, that I was awakened by a tugging at my shoulder. | NORW |
| 38. | IT WAS pleasant to Dr. Watson to find himself once more in the untidy room of the first floor in Baker Street which had been the starting-point of so many remarkable adventures. | PRIO |
| 39. | IT WAS some time before the health of my friend Mr. Sherlock Holmes recovered from the strain caused by his immense exertions in the spring of '87. | REDC |
| 40. | MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES was always of opinion that I should publish the singular facts connected with Professor Presbury, if only to dispel once for all the ugly rumours which some twenty years ago agitated the university and were echoed in the learned societies of London. | REDH |
| 41. | MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES, who was usually very late in the mornings, save upon those not infrequent occasions when he was up all night, was seated at the breakfast table. | REIG |
| 42. | MRS. HUDSON, the landlady of Sherlock Holmes, was a long-suffering woman. | RESI |
| 43. | OF ALL the problems which have been submitted to my friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, for solution during the years of our intimacy, there were only two which I was the means of introducing to his notice—that of Mr. Hatherley's thumb, and that of Colonel Warburton's madness. | RETI |
| 44. | ON GLANCING over my notes of the seventy odd cases in which I have during the last eight years studied the methods of my friend Sherlock Holmes, I find many tragic, some comic, a large number merely strange, but none commonplace: for, working as he did rather for the love of his art than for the acquirement of wealth, he refused to associate himself with any... | SCAN |
| 45. | ONE summer night, a few months after my marriage, I was seated by my own hearth smoking a last pipe and nodding over a novel, for my day's work had been an exhausting one. | SECO |
| 46. | SHERLOCK HOLMES had been bending for a long time over a low-power microscope. | SHOS |
| 47. | SHERLOCK HOLMES took his bottle from the corner of the mantelpiece, and his hypodermic syringe from its neat morocco case. | SIGN |
| 48. | SHERLOCK HOLMES was in a melancholy and philosophic mood that morning. | SILV |
| 49. | SHORTLY after my marriage I had bought a connection in the Paddington district. | SIXN |
| 50. | SOMEWHERE in the vaults of the bank of Cox and Co., at Charing Cross, there is a travel-worn and battered tin dispatch-box with my name, John H. Watson, M.D., Late Indian Army, painted upon the lid. | SOLI |
| 51. | THE ideas of my friend Watson, though limited, are exceedingly pertinacious. | SPEC |
| 52. | THE JULY which immediately succeeded my marriage was made memorable by three cases of interest, in which I had the privilege of being associated with Sherlock Holmes and of studying his methods. | STOC |
| 53. | THE LORD ST. SIMON marriage, and its curious termination, have long ceased to be a subject of interest in those exalted circles in which the unfortunate bridegroom moves. | STUD |
| 54. | TO SHERLOCK HOLMES she is always the woman. | SUSS |
| 55. | WE HAVE had some dramatic entrances and exits upon our small stage at Baker Street, but I cannot recollect anything more sudden and startling than the first appearance of Thomeycroft Huxtable, M.A., Ph.D., etc. | THOR |
| 56. | WE WERE fairly accustomed to receive weird telegrams at Baker Street, but I have a particular recollection of one which reached us on a gloomy February morning, some seven or eight years ago, and gave Mr. Sherlock Holmes a puzzled quarter of an hour. | TWIS |
| 57. | WE WERE seated at breakfast one morning, my wife and I, when the maid brought in a telegram. | VALL |
| 58. | WHEN I glance over my notes and records of the Sherlock Holmes cases between the years '82 and '90, I am faced by so many which present strange and interesting features that it is no easy matter to know which to choose and which to leave. | VEIL |
| 59. | WHEN I look at the three massive manuscript volumes which contain our work for the year 1894, I confess that it is very difficult for me, out of such a wealth of material, to select the cases which are most interesting in themselves, and at the same time most conducive to a display of those peculiar powers for which my friend was famous. | WIST |
| 60. | WHEN one considers that Mr. Sherlock Holmes was in active practice for twenty-three years, and that during seventeen of these I was allowed to cooperate with him and to keep notes of his doings, it will be clear that I have a mass of material at my command. | YELL |