

# The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 08 - August, 2016  
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the  
Barque Lone Star*



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

## September 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, September 4, at **LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE**, in Addison.

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

We will be reading "The Final Problem."

The quiz will cover this tale.

Rusty Mason will present on "The Sherlock of my Childhood."

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

## August 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting

There were 18 attendees on hand. An amazing toast was delivered by Bill Pervin, honoring Sir Robert Peel, Father of Modern Policing (see page 2).

Karen Olson won the Quiz, based on "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet", and was awarded a Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine and Sherlock's Logic.

Diane Tran gave a spirited and very informative presentation on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "The Great Mouse Detective." Diane interned at Disney Studios, thus having a wonderful insight into the production process. In addition, Diane displayed her skills in a demonstration of developing a single art cell.

The group discussed further details for a fall symposium, theme to be "The Women of Sherlock Holmes," and will be held at the Allen Library, Allen, TX, on Monday, November 7.

The closing reading was "On the Name of Our Rose," from the December, 1986, Baker Street Journal (see page 3).

The full minutes may be viewed at our webpage: [www.dfw-sherlock.org](http://www.dfw-sherlock.org).

Thanks to Brenda Hutchinson for developing the minutes this month.

Saturday Night at the Movies was held on August 13 at the Piepers residence... we watched "The Great Mouse Detective," celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



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

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

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

## Who dunnit:



Third Mate  
Helmsman  
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries  
Historian  
Webmaster

Steve Mason  
Walter Pieper  
Don Hobbs, BSI  
Jim Webb  
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison  
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Just a month ago, five Dallas policemen were murdered while protecting a peaceful demonstration downtown. In respect to their memory, I would like to give a toast to the founder of Scotland Yard and the father of modern police forces - Sir Robert Peel. We should note that while Sherlock Holmes often spoke poorly about the detecting abilities of Scotland Yard, he never questioned their dedication, loyalty to the cause of justice, or their bravery.

Today it is hard to believe that Britain in the 18th century did not have a professional police force. Scotland had established a number of police forces following the introduction of the City of Glasgow Police in 1800 and the Royal Irish Constabulary was established in 1822, in large part because of the Peace Preservation Act of 1814 which Peel was heavily involved with. However, London was sadly lacking in any form of protective presence and crime prevention for its people as we entered the 19th century. In 1829, when Sir Robert was Home Secretary, the Metropolitan Police Act was passed, providing permanently appointed and paid Constables to protect the capital as part of the Metropolitan Police Force. The first thousand of Peel's police, headquartered at Scotland Yard, dressed in blue tail-coats and top hats, began to patrol the streets of London on 29th September 1829. The uniform was carefully selected to make them look more like ordinary citizens, rather than a red-coated soldier with a helmet.

In Britain today all policemen are commonly referred to as "Bobbies" ("Peelers" in Ireland). To be a "Peeler" the rules were quite strict. You had to be aged 20-27, at least 5' 7" tall, fit, literate and have no history of any wrong-doings. Early Victorian police worked 7 days a week, with only 5 days unpaid holidays a year for which they received the grand sum of £1 per week. Their lives were strictly controlled; they were not allowed to vote in elections and required permission to get married and even to share a meal with a civilian. To allay the public's suspicion of being spied upon, officers were required to wear uniforms both on and off duty.

Peel's "Bobbies" were a huge success and Peel served as Prime Minister twice. It was during one of his terms as Home Secretary he also reformed the criminal law, reducing the number of crimes punishable by death, and simplified it by repealing a large number of criminal statutes and consolidating their provisions into what are known as Peel's Acts. He reformed the prison system, introducing payment for jailers and education for the inmates.

Known as the "Father of modern policing", Peel developed the Principles which defined the ethical requirements police officers must follow to be effective. I believe today's world justifies taking the time to read them.

These 9 basic principles are often referred to as "The Peelian Principles." Upon close examination of each of them, not only are direct connections to policing in today's world apparent, but often the 9 principles are cited as the basic foundation for current law enforcement organizations and community policing throughout the world. Many law enforcement agencies currently quote the Peelian Principles on their websites as their own principles.

1. "The basic mission for which the police exist is to prevent crime and disorder."
2. "The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approval of police actions."
3. "Police must secure the willing co-operation of the public in voluntary observance of the law to be able to secure and maintain the respect of the public."
4. "The degree of co-operation of the public that can be secured diminishes proportionately to the necessity of the use of physical force."
5. "Police seek and preserve public favor not by catering to the public opinion but by constantly demonstrating absolute impartial service to the law."
6. "Police use physical force to the extent necessary to secure observance of the law or to restore order only when the exercise of persuasion, advice and warning is found to be insufficient."

7. "Police, at all times, should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence."
8. "Police should always direct their action strictly towards their functions and never appear to usurp the powers of the judiciary."

9. "The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it."  
I find it quite amazing that at the very beginning, Peel articulated concepts that still today are most relevant. In his honor and in honor of the many fallen police, I propose a toast to the founder of Scotland Yard and the father of the modern police force: Sir Robert Peel.

## ON THE NAME OF OUR ROSE

THE BAKER STREET JOURNAL – DECEMBER, 1986

THOUGH the author of the Sherlockian Canon was indisputably a moral man,



much given to sermonizing on ethical issues, the Holmes stories — for all their implied advice — are simply not didactic.

At the same time, however, there occur moments of excellent insight into the philosophical cosmos of Sherlock Holmes revealed in his own carefully chosen words. One of these appears in *The Naval Treaty* with the Master's celebrated observation: "What a lovely thing a rose is!"

The statement, and the elucidation that follows it, is Holmes's affirmation of the "goodness of Providence. It is

vitaly important, though, to note what Holmes notes that "... this rose is an extra."

This strikes us as evidence that his world is grounded in material reality, and is frequently less than lovely. For Holmes, the rose is a happy addition well beyond what is "really necessary for our existence."

In all probability, this attitude is not a major reason that the Holmes stories appeal, especially, to Americans. But it should be. Sherlock's rose is lovely precisely because it is an extra. Perhaps Holmes's pragmatic vision is a function of his being British: after all, Britons have a long tradition of survival, having clung onto a sometimes tenuous existence in a small island over the course of two millennia.

Americans, on the other hand, have traditionally

perceived their continent as an inexhaustible geographic resource and as a metaphor for absolutely unlimited possibility.

This tends to lead to the "promise that the rock of the world [is] founded securely on a fairy's wing."

That promise may have suited the later Conan Doyle, but it does not suit Sherlock Holmes. If not his being British, then certainly his scientism will not permit a fatal blindness to the difficult realities of life.

Just as Holmes, then, has "much to hope from the flowers," we have much to hope from Sherlock Holmes inasmuch as, for most Sherlockians, Holmes's world is not— and should not be — a paradigm of the cosmos.

It is an extra, a subtle and lovely extra. And the extras are, of course, what make life worth the living.

# 17 STEPS TO THE FINAL PROBLEM

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

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

## THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND ... WAIT A MINUTE!

A still-bereaved Watson writes: "My hand has been forced, however, by the recent letters in which Colonel James Moriarty defends the memory of his brother, and I have no choice but to lay the facts before the public exactly as they occurred. I alone know the absolute truth of the matter, and I am satisfied that the time has come when no good purpose is to be served by its suppression."

Two years after Moriarty's death, his brother has suddenly been moved to defend the late Professor's good name. Watson tells us at the story's end the colonel's defense cast aspersions on Sherlock, and the good doctor appears fairly outraged about those aspersions. But he knows very little about Moriarty, doesn't he? He can't even say for sure Moriarty killed Holmes or vice versa. Under close cross-examination, Watson couldn't even tell us with any real authority the detective and the mathematician didn't skip off along some mountain trail to sojourn in Cannes together. Is Watson a truly reliable source in this tale, when it comes to Moriarty?

## PARANOIA MAY DESTROY YA, YEA...

Holmes is pale, thin, and spooky as he enters this tale. And when Watson asks him what's up, he holds out his scraped knuckles and says: "It's not an airy nothing, you see." Had Watson implied any airiness to Holmes's concerns? Is Holmes perhaps a bit overstressed, a bit over the edge, even for the



James Moriarty defends the memory of his brother, and I have no choice but to lay the

situation? Maybe not so far as the cocaine-induced dementia Nicholas Meyer suggested was behind this tale, but still, this is not the cool, collected Holmes as we have come to know him. Was this the first time that the cerebral consulting detective faced a foe who sent assassins after him?

## HOW MUCH DID HE NEED TO RETIRE?

"Between ourselves," Holmes tells Watson, "the recent cases in which I have been of assistance to the royal family of Scandinavia, and to the French republic, have left me in such a position that I could continue to live in the quiet fashion which is most congenial to me, and to concentrate my attention upon my chemical researches."

Given Holmes's standard of living, the fact he wasn't sharing rooms, and the fact he wasn't all that old, how much money must Holmes have made from those past cases to put him in a position to retire?

## THE PROFESSOR MORIARTY STORY, NEXT ON BIOGRAPHY

"His career has been an extraordinary one. He is a man of good birth and excellent education, endowed by nature with a phenomenal mathematical faculty. At the age of twenty-one he wrote a treatise upon the binomial theorem, which has had a European vogue. On the strength of it he won the mathematical chair at one of our smaller universities, and had, to all appearances, a most brilliant career before him. But the man had hereditary tendencies of the most diabolical kind. A criminal strain ran in his blood, which, instead of being modified, was increased and rendered more dangerous by his extraordinary



mental powers. Dark rumours gathered round him in the university town, and eventually he was compelled to resign his chair and to come down to London, where he set up as an army coach." Where did this young prodigy go wrong? One of the more ingenious parts of this tale is the way Moriarty is described in the vague, terrible fashion of a Lovecraftian horror than a specific sort of criminal. But for the practically-minded Sherlockian student, it holds little solid matter for chewing, melting away under close study like cotton candy in the rain. Diabolical hereditary tendencies means exactly what? A long family chain of addiction? Child abuse? Devil worship? What sort of crimes do we think Moriarty fell into? Sex crimes? Theft? Murder? What crime would have been best served by his extraordinary mathematical mind?

## THE MORIARTY CAREER PATH

"He is the Napoleon of crime, Watson. He is the organizer of half that is evil and of nearly all that is undetected in this great city ... his agents are numerous and splendidly organized. Is there a crime to be done, a paper to be abstracted, we will say, a house to be rifled, a man to be removed--the word is passed to the professor, the matter is organized and carried out. The agent may be caught. In that case money is found for his bail or his defence. But the central power which uses the agent is never caught--never so much as suspected."

In the modern day, there are criminal organizations one can work one's way up the ladder in, like any other business. But for a man to build



such an organization from the ground up, as Moriarty did, where does one start? Did Moriarty have a business model of that time to work from, or was this a plan all his own? Did he always work through others, or was there a day when he performed the work himself?

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### AND THEN HE GAVE US “BLANCHED SOLDIER”

Holmes remarks, “I tell you, my friend, that if a detailed account of that silent contest could be written, it would take its place as the most brilliant bit of thrust-and-parry work in the history of detection.”

Why didn’t Holmes write up that detailed account? Wouldn’t it have been the first choice for a case he would put before the public, the best lessons for students of detection combined with a record of one of the most significant events in the history of crime? Why do writers of pastiche even shy away from this one? Is Moriarty’s influence still active and suppressing it, even now?

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### COVERING MORIARTY WITH A COVERED PISTOL

Holmes tells Watson “I had slipped the revolver from the drawer into my pocket and was covering him through the cloth.”



Where are the pockets on a dressing gown? Are they large enough to conceal a pistol, and one that’s actually pointed forward, at that? Was Moriarty being especially observant in thinking Holmes had a pistol in his pocket, or was it actually fairly obvious from the gun-barrel-shaped protrusion in the cloth? (Let’s keep the Mae West style remarks to a minimum, ladies and gentlemen.)

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### THE FRENCH CONNECTION

Moriarty reports: “You crossed my path on the 4th of January. On the 23rd you incommoded me; by the middle of February I was seriously inconvenienced by you; at the end of

March I was hampered in my plans; and now, at the close of April, I find myself placed in such a position through your continual persecution that I am in positive danger of losing my liberty.” Yet earlier in the story, Watson reports letters and news accounts placed Holmes in France during the early spring. Were they ruses to cover undercover work Holmes was doing in London? Or did Moriarty have concerns in France that were key to Holmes in bringing down his London organization?

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### THE FULL EXTENT OF ONE MAN’S ORGANIZATION

The evil professor brags “You stand in the way not merely of an individual but of a mighty organization, the full extent of which you, with all your cleverness, have been unable to realize.”

Might this statement have been made to Moriarty as well? The professor undoubtedly had many a corrupt government official under his cloak, but did he have any idea of the official we know Holmes had working with him? Did Sherlock Holmes use brother Mycroft as a trump card? Did Mycroft use exposing Moriartian corruption inside the government to further his own career?

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### JUST HOW BAD WAS PROFESSOR MORIARTY?

While the depth of Moriarty’s evil is written up in vague and unspecific terms by Watson, Sherlock Holmes surely saw it all. And to me, the outrage it sparked in this cool logical machine of a man can be seen in a single statement that comes after Moriarty says Holmes can’t beat him without destroying himself: “If I were assured of the former eventuality I would, in the interests of the public, cheerfully accept the latter.”

Is this just a fine, heroic statement, or a yardstick measuring the depth of the pain and misery Moriarty had inflicted upon London? Holmes didn’t care enough about rich men’s money or the noble classes to

give his life to stop embezzlement and theft? Might there have been a single moment in Holmes’s investigation, an act he traced to Moriarty so vile that Holmes’s case immediately became a to-the-death priority?

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### LONDON ITSELF TURNS ON HOLMES

A 2-horse van tries to run the detective down. A brick comes falling from a rooftop at his head. A rough with a bludgeon assaults him on his way to Watson’s. These acts imply a certain knowledge of Holmes’s movements. Was Holmes sticking to his daily routines, even while at war with the Moriarty empire? Was he doing it on purpose? He fears air-guns when he arrives at Watson’s house -- why wasn’t an air-gun sniper used instead of one of those earlier methods? It’s plain that Holmes knew of Moriarty’s main assassin, Moran, but was Moran out of town?

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### DETAINING THE “SUSPECT”

Holmes tells us a bit about how he dealt with the rough with the bludgeon: “I knocked him down, and the police have him in custody.” We are not told what happened between those two events. How did Holmes detain the man until the police arrived? We know Holmes knocked his teeth in with his fist, but did he then pull a gun and hold him at gunpoint? Would Holmes have handcuffed him once the rough was on the ground? Or just do something as simple as putting a foot on some strategic point and simply pinning the man to the ground while he whistled for the law?



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### THE SAFETY OF BROTHER MYCROFT’S ROOMS

Holmes explains, “I took a cab after that and reached my brother’s rooms in Pall Mall, where I spent the

day." Were Sherlock and Mycroft actively plotting, consulting, and deducing the entire day? Or was Holmes just hiding out, and if so, what made Mycroft's rooms so safe?  
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### BACK TO PALL MALL OR WHERE?

"You will spend the night here?" asks Watson.

"No, my friend, you might find me a dangerous guest," replies Holmes. So where does Holmes spend the night on this most dangerous occasion? Not in Baker Street, as Holmes says Moriarty's men would not have thought him there if they had kept track of him. Did any of his little refuges across London afford him the protection he needed, if he had been followed?  
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### THE GREAT BAKER STREET FIRE



"They set fire to our rooms last night. No great harm was done."

As with so many things in "The Final Problem," this little statement leaves us begging for the tale behind it. We've often heard how Baker Street was a mess, crowded with piles of paper. Was there ever a more perfect place to set fire to? And if Holmes wasn't home, how was that fire discovered so quickly as to contain it? Did the setting of it involve something like a Molotov cocktail thrown through a window, in which case the mere act of setting it would raise an alarm? Or were Mrs. Hudson, maid, cook, page, etc., all informed of the danger they were in, and thus were on their guard? (One note -- Holmes refers to them as "our" rooms, even when Watson is away and married. If Watson was in the same habit, that throws one more monkey wrench into a chronological speculation.)  
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### WHY DOES MORIARTY WANT HOLMES SO BADLY?

"Glancing back, I saw a tall man pushing his way furiously through the crowd, and waving his hand as if he desired to have the train stopped."

Holmes has told Watson the tall man was Moriarty himself. After all the subtle attacks we've seen, and the fact that Moriarty is reputed to distance himself from actual crime, what was the professor going to do if the train had actually stopped? Follow Holmes himself? Kill Holmes there at the train station? Or did he have some new threat to deliver, along the lines of, "We have Watson's wife and we'll kill her if you don't stop the investigation now!?" The apparent need for personal contact would imply a message, wouldn't it? Or is Holmes's later supposition of a murderous attack at Canterbury hold true for the train station as well?  
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### WHY IS HOLMES SO SURPRISED AT MORIARTY'S ESCAPE?

On the Monday morning of his flight from Moriarty, Holmes telegraphs the London police to find Moriarty has escaped capture. He curses and tosses the reply away, apparently expecting a better result. Now, just a few days before, Holmes was telling Watson that Moriarty would hire a special to chase them (which the Professor does), go on to Paris where Holmes's luggage is, and wait two days for them there. Why is he then so surprised that Moriarty is not in London on Monday? He's already said he expects the professor to be in Paris. Had Holmes expected that the French police might catch him?  
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### IT TAKES MORE THAN 17 STEPS TO GET TO REICHENBACH

"Your memoirs will draw to an end, Watson, upon the day that I crown my career by the capture or

extinction of the most dangerous and capable criminal in Europe."

After these words Watson was still going to end his accounts with "Naval Treaty." Why leave out Holmes's crowning achievement?

"We had strict injunctions, however, on no account to pass the falls of Reichenbach, which are about halfway up the hills, without making a small detour to see them."

Was Peter Steiler the elder really being a helpful tour-guide, or was he actually directing the two into a trap at Moriarty's command? "There was Holmes's Alpine-stock still leaning against the rock by which I had left him." What's the deal with Holmes and Moriarty and their seeming insistence on a fair fight? Even if Holmes wasn't carrying a gun, why not whack the kill-crazed Moriarty with his stick, something Holmes was an expert with?

"Tell Inspector Patterson that the papers which he needs to convict the gang are in pigeonhole M., done up in a blue envelope and inscribed 'Moriarty.'"



This statement was left on a note, sitting in the open, that conceivably could have been picked up by a Moriarty who had just killed Sherlock Holmes. Is it the truth or just a ruse?

"An examination by experts leaves little doubt that a personal contest between the two men ended..." What experts? And what was their area of expertise?

"It is due to those injudicious champions who have endeavoured to clear his memory..."

At the beginning we were told that Colonel James Moriarty, brother to the professor, was the one defending the mastermind. Here it sounds like there were others. Who might they have been?

# LONDON ON ELEVEN SHILLINGS A DAY

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

The canon references a variety of coins and their nicknames, common enough for the Victorian reader, but quite confusing for those in the twenty-first century. Even more perplexing was the basis for system, a non-decimal classification involving dozens and scores, instead of the decimal system introduced in 1971. When Dr. Watson reported a daily income of eleven shillings and sixpence after he returned from India, (1) what did that exactly mean to the Victorian reader and how does a modern one interpret it?

The British monetary system was based on the penny, the shilling, and the pound; and coins were minted in various portions and quantities of those. (2) The penny, the oldest, can be traced back to a seventh-century thick, silver Anglo-Saxon coin referred to as denarii. (3)

The variations on the penny, the plural being pence, include the:

- Farthing (one-fourth of a penny), introduced during the reign of Edward III (1312-1377)
- Halfpenny, entered into circulation in 1672
- Twopence, minted only in 1797 of two pence worth of copper (4)
- Groat (four pence), introduced during the reign of Edward I (1272-1307) and then issued on an irregular basis until 1856 when minting ceased in the UK (5)
- Sixpence, also known as a tanner, first issued in 1551 with a value of half a shilling (6)

The shilling—or bob—was a silver coin worth twelve pence and first minted in 1504. The different denominations are:

- The florin, or two shillings, a failed attempt in 1849 to replace the half-crown
- The double florin (four shillings), one of the most short-lived coins, being minted only between 1887 and 1890 (7)

- The half-crown, worth two shillings and sixpence, first issued in 1465 and only demonetized in 1969.
- The crown, worth five shillings—or one-quarter pound—first minted in 1707 (8)
- The half sovereign, ten shillings, first introduced in 1544, discontinued in 1604, but reintroduced in 1817 (9)

The pound coin, or sovereign, was equal to 20 shillings (or 240 pence) and was made of gold. The guinea, worth twenty-one shillings, was discontinued in 1813, but people still used the term when referring to the cost for luxury goods. (10)

This 1200-year-old system changed in 1971 when the country shifted to a decimal system. On February 15, 1971, the pound became equal to 100 “new” pence. The government also issued a five pence and ten pence piece (about the same size as the shilling and the two shilling coins) after withdrawing the halfpenny and half-crown in 1969, and devaluing the farthing in 1960. (11)

The new system as well as different standards with respect to prices and goods makes the translation of Victorian costs into twenty-first century currency difficult. (12) MeasuringWorth.com has broken the concept into “(1) the type of transaction or asset, called the ‘subject’ and (2) the appropriate comparable, called the ‘indicator.’ Which measure (that is, which of the alternative results) best represents an amount depends on proper identification of both the subject and the indicator.” The “subject” can be prices, income or wealth, or project. The indicators are prices, household consumption, income, and output. Dr. Watson’s daily income of eleven shillings and sixpence, translates into a variety of different amounts, ranging £375 as a weekly standard of living to £6,210 as the share of the GDP in 2015.

If the most appropriate measure is accepted as the weekly standard of living (“a fixed amount of food, housing, clothing, entertainment, etc., that is proportional to what the average household consumes”), then the £375 appears most telling. (13) The current median income in the UK is £569.33/week, and the poverty level for a single person is £206/week (60% of the median income). This translation of Watson’s income would put him below the median income, but above the current poverty level by only 6 percentage points. (14)

The cost of living for one person in London is about £605/week. (15) This translates into a required standard of living of between £6 and £7 per week in 1881. With Dr. Watson’s daily income translating to a little more than £4/week, it is clear living in

London would have put a strain on his resources. Seeking shared quarters was certainly the prudent answer for his desire to remain in the city and resulted in a life-long friendship with the most famous consulting detective in the world.



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- (1) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* (Kindle Location 382).
  - (2) Sally Mitchell, *Daily Life in Victorian England* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996), 30.
  - (3) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_English\\_penny\\_\(c.\\_600\\_%E2%80%93\\_1066\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_English_penny_(c._600_%E2%80%93_1066))
  - (4) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two\\_pence\\_\(British\\_pre-decimal\\_coin\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two_pence_(British_pre-decimal_coin))
  - (5) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groat\\_\(coin\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groat_(coin))
  - (6) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixpence\\_\(British\\_coin\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixpence_(British_coin))
  - (7) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double\\_florin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double_florin)
  - (8) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown\\_\(British\\_coin\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown_(British_coin))
  - (9) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Half\\_sovereign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Half_sovereign)
  - (10) Sally Mitchell, *Daily Life in Victorian England* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996), 31.
  - (11) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decimal\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decimal_Day)
  - (12) Sally Mitchell, *Daily Life in Victorian England* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996), 31.
  - (13) <https://www.measuringworth.com/worthmeasures.php>
  - (14) <http://www.poverty.ac.uk/definitions-poverty/income-threshold-approach>
  - (15) <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2008/jul/02/welfare>

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

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# 56 Stories in 56 Days - The Adventure of the Final Problem

Posted on October 12, 2011 by barefootnbakerstreet

This story is of such importance, I feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the task, writes Charlotte Anne Walters. Well, where to start? I suppose it's best to start with Moriarty himself as he appears for the first time in this story. And with this I have a bit of a problem. It just feels a bit hurried, like Conan Doyle had decided to finish off Holmes and needed to quickly invent a villain suitable for such a task.

Why haven't we heard of him before? If Moriarty was truly working away in the background for all those years doing his villainy, why is this the first time Holmes mentions him? And the other problem, which readers of my previous blogs will know, is I find the description of Moriarty's inclination towards criminality very simplistic. To say, as Holmes does, he has, 'Hereditary tendencies of the most diabolical kind' and 'A criminal strain ran in his blood', is very naive. Surely someone who has studied criminality in as much detail as Holmes would know such things are not hereditary. So what really did turn the brilliant math professor to crime? Well, I have tried to answer this very comprehensively in my novel and it is based around the idea he is an autistic savant.

There is much evidence to support this in the original text, such as his, 'Phenomenal mathematical ability', the way that 'He does little himself' and stays withdrawn from society instead paying and facilitating others to do the criminal acts for him. Even the curiously oscillating head

could be seen as a sort of twitch, or compulsion. I have tried to flesh-out and give much more detail to this fascinating man and create a back-story to fill in the blanks left by the Final Problem.

As to the rest of the story, it does all feel a little hurried to me but is still gripping, clever and actually rather emotional. The devotion which Watson shows is touching, and I remember how well David Burke portrayed this in the Granada adaptation. I must also mention how fantastic I thought the characterisation of Moriarty was in BBC's Sherlock – making him into a playful, flirty, camp but deadly villain was a stroke of absolute genius in my opinion. I do hope to send the creators a copy of my book and will post up a blog with their feedback if they are kind enough to submit any and happy for me to do so.

I admit during the writing of Barefoot, I pictured Moriarty as being a curious mix of Eric Porter, who played the character so well in the Granada version, and Mr Burns from the Simpsons (though obviously not yellow) with his bird-like features and domed forehead. That particular combination seemed to work quite well for me.

My own novel includes The Final Problem in great detail and I have tried to stick to the movements of the



original as much as possible, just adding in my own characters and weaving it into my own narrative. Holmes is working with the French Government and the adventure starts in Narbonne, the very place which Holmes writes to Watson from in the original. I hope this section is a good example of where the astute Holmes fans will spot many original references such as getting the continental express from Victoria and disembarking at Canterbury, to the argument in the Strasbourg sale-a-manger when Holmes warns of the dangers ahead and expresses his desire to travel alone. By adding a new take on the proceedings and a back-story which explains so much, I hope readers will enjoy it too whilst Holmes fans will appreciate the detail included and the way this has been adapted into something new whilst retaining elements of the original.

I spent so many hours slaving over this and my Penguin Complete Sherlock Holmes has so many notes, underlining, highlighting and drawings on the pages of The Final Problem that they are now almost impossible to read. But, re-read it I have, and I must admit that it remains very enjoyable (especially as we know it isn't really the end) and absorbing. Though how it must have felt to those reading it when it was first published and there was no hope at that point of a return, I can only imagine.

8.5 out of 10. Despite all the good points and obvious significance it still felt a bit rushed and underdeveloped.

# An Inquiry Into "The Final Problem"

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

"The Final Problem" was first published in December 1893 in "The Strand Magazine."

According to Baring-Gould's chronology, as set down in The Annotated Sherlock Holmes, Second Edition, 1974, the case takes place on Friday, April 24, to Monday, May 4, 1891. At the time Holmes was 37 years old and Watson 35.

## Notable Quotes:

"Between ourselves, the recent cases in which I have been of assistance to the royal family of Scandinavia, and to the French republic, have left me in such a position that I could continue to live in the quiet fashion which is most congenial to me, and to concentrate my attention upon my chemical researches."

"He is the Napoleon of crime, Watson. He is the organizer of half that is evil and of nearly all that is undetected in this great city. He is a genius, a philosopher, an abstract thinker. He has a brain of the first order. He sits motionless, like a spider in the centre of its web, but that web has a thousand radiations, and he knows well every quiver of each of them."

"He is extremely tall and thin, his forehead domes out in a white curve, and his two eyes are deeply sunken in his head. He is clean-shaven, pale, and ascetic-looking, retaining something of the professor in his features. His shoulders are rounded from much study, and his face protrudes forward, and is forever slowly

oscillating from side to side in a curiously reptilian fashion."

"I think that I may go as far as to say, Watson, that I have not lived wholly in vain. If my record were closed to-night I could still survey it with equanimity. The air of London is the sweeter for my presence. In over a thousand cases I am not aware that I have ever used my powers upon the wrong side."

"If I have now been compelled to make a clear statement of his career, it is due to those injudicious champions who have endeavoured to clear his memory by attacks upon him whom I shall ever regard as the best and wisest man whom I have every known."

## Moriarty's Brother

I've always wondered what kind of a defense Professor Moriarty's brother attempted to use to clear his dead brother's name. One must assume that when Holmes set things up to allow the police to take apart the professor's organization, there must have been extremely abundant evidence of crimes to secure all the necessary convictions. Paramount in this evidence had to be proof of the complicity of the planner and designer who headed the mighty criminal organization. The fact that Moriarty avoided the long arm of the law, together with a couple of his top people, proved him skillful at his craft, not innocent of his crimes.

Since his part in all the illegal activities must have come out during what must have been a

series of sensational trials, what sort of defense could his brother have attempted? A particularly puzzling aspect is Watson's comment about the trials: "Of their terrible chief few details came out during the proceeding." Why? How could that have been? One would think that the evidence against Moriarty--even though he was dead by that time--would have been of prime importance, if for no reason other than he had planned the crimes for which the accused were being tried.

## The Professor's Curious Hesitancy

If we are to believe Holmes (and there is no reason not to) Professor Moriarty was \*the\* criminal mind of his age, and had "a mighty organization" at his command, one would have thought that the man was extremely pragmatic, and prepared to deal with any inconvenience. Why, then, did he hesitate to do something final to stop Holmes in his tracks well before the Great Detective had him "absolutely hampered" in his plans? While Holmes had to struggle to find out who Moriarty was, the Professor would not have had that problem with his archenemy thanks, to a great extent, to Watson's writings. A quick, anonymous shot in the back of the Great Detective's head would have kept him from his downfall. Why would he stay his hand until things began getting serious?

## **An Act of Friendship?**

Holmes' fear of air guns shows that he was very aware that he was a marked man. Why, then would he risk Watson's life? It might have been understandable if there had been anything that the Good Doctor might have contributed in bringing Moriarty down, but there wasn't; according to Holmes everything was in motion and all that was required was to wait for the legalities to take their course. So why endanger Watson by asking him to travel to the Continent with him? Why not, for instance keep his priestly guise and go hide in the Vatican? It almost seems as if Holmes did not realize the true danger until he learned that Moriarty escaped the police when they closed in on his gang.

## **The Whale and the Sardines**

When Watson suggests to Holmes, after narrowly escaping Moriarty, that the professor be arrested, the Great Detective answers that to do so would ruin the work of three months: "We should get the big fish, but the smaller would dart right and left out of the net." So what? If Holmes had decapitated the organization by having Moriarty detained, wouldn't the body collapse? The "smaller fish" would have been easier to net afterward.

## **What else happened in 1891:**

### **EMPIRE**

- Australian demands for trade protection and unification.
- Anglo-Portuguese Convention on East Africa.
- Nyasaland becomes British Protectorate.

- Bering Sea Arbitration Treaty signed.
- Anglo-Italian Agreement; spheres of influence defined in Northeast Africa.
- Indian Mint closed to silver.
- British South Africa Company granted use of port of Beira by Portugal.

### **BRITAIN**

- November 4, First half-tone newspaper picture published in Daily Graphic: that of George Lambert, Liberal parliamentary candidate.
- Waterlow Park, gifted by Sir Sydney Waterlow, opens. 
- Palace Theatre, Cambridge Circus, opens.
- Steam trams discontinued.
- James Keir Hardie elected MP, first Independent Labour Party Member.
- Brooklands Agreement. Basis for wage negotiations in cotton industry.
- Independent Labour Party newspaper, The Clarion, published.
- All elementary education to be free.
- Factory Act: no child under 11 to work in factories.
- Small Holdings Act, County Councils are empowered to purchase land for letting as small holdings under 50 acres.
- Sebastian Z. de Ferranti builds Deptford power station for the London Electricity Supply Corporation.

### **WORLD**

- Germany develops first pension scheme.

- Boulanger commits suicide in Brussels.
- French Labor Department formed; Labor Exchanges projected.
- French fleet pays official visit to Kronstadt; Franco-Russian entente.
- Massacre of Europeans following Arab revolt in Belgian Congo.
- Plan to introduce universal military service in Holland Fails.
- Triple Alliance, Germany, Austria, Italy renewed to 1902.
- Law for Protection of Workers, restricted hours for German workers.
- Republican uprising in Oporto fails.
- Formation of Young Turk Movement to secure liberal reforms. Committee established at Geneva. 
- Maxim Gorky urges class war in Russia.
- Bank failures in the U.S.A. and Australia.
- Bank of Portugal Suspends payments for 60 days.
- Widespread famine in Russia.
- Building of Trans-Siberian Railway commenced.

### **ART**

- Gaughin travels to Tahiti.
- The Little Minister, Barrie.
- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle.
- Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Hardy.
- Lyra Heroica, Henley.
- The Light That Failed, Kipling.
- Quintessence of Ibsenism, G. B. Shaw.

- Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde.
- Le Jardin de Bérenice, Maurice Barrès.
- Les Cahiers d'Andre Walter, André Gide.
- Là-bas, Huysmans.
- Einsame Menschen, Frühlings, Frank Wedekind.
- Gösta Berling, Selma Lagerlöf.
- Man with Pipe, Card Players, Cézanne.
- Women on the Beach, Vahini with Gardenia, Paul Gauguin.
- Caisse-Noisette, incidental music for Snow-Maiden, Peter Tchaikowsky.

#### SCIENCE

- Dewar liquifies oxygen in quantity.
- Beginnings of wireless telegraphy based on work of Clark Maxwell and Hertz.
- René Panhard, French, produces his car chassis.
- Tesla further develops his high-tension induction coil--one million volts.
- American astronomer George Hale and Deslandris independently invent the spectroheliograph.



- Tuffier, of Paris, performs early lung operation for tuberculosis.
- Eugene Dubois discovers Pithecanthropus erectus.
- W.L. Hudson, American, invents zipper. First practical design in 1913.
- Whistler writes, The Gentle Art of Making Enemies.
- Paul Claudel presents Tête d'Or.
- Stefan George writes, Hymnen.
- Arno Holtz writes, Die Familie Selicke.
- Ibsen writes, Hedda Gabler.
- Zola writes, La Bête humaine.

## Story Info Pages for "The Final Problem"

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

- **First published:** Strand Magazine, Dec 1893; McClure's Magazine, December 1893
- **Time frame of story (known):** Begins on Friday, April 24, 1891 (stated clearly)
- **H&W living arrangements:** After Watson's marriage and subsequent start in private practice, the very intimate relations which had existed between H&W changed. Holmes still saw Watson from time to time, but these occasions grew more and more seldom, until in 1890 there were only three cases of which Watson kept any record.
- **Opening scene:** Holmes came to see Watson on the evening of April 24th. Watson's wife was away upon a visit. Holmes was looking even paler and thinner than usual. Two of his knuckles were burst and bleeding, and he was worried about air-guns. He closed the shutters and announced his intention to leave the house by scrambling over the back garden wall. Holmes proposed Watson should come away with him for a week to the Continent. Holmes told Watson of the arch-criminal, Moriarty, who sat motionless, like a spider in the centre of its web, a deep organizing power which forever stood in the

way of the law, and threw its shield over the wrongdoer, and was the deep organizer of half the evil and of nearly all that was undetected in the great city. In appearance, Moriarty's face protruded forward and forever slowly oscillated from side to side in a curiously reptilian fashion. Not only that, but he had puckered eyes.

- **Client:** Holmes was acting in his own interests, and for the good of society as a whole.
- **Crime or concern:** Immediate concern was several potential murderous assaults made upon Holmes. Big picture concern was the large-scale organized crime empire run by Professor Moriarty.
- **Villain:** Professor Moriarty, the Napoleon of Crime.
- **Motive:** Holmes extensive investigation and evidence-gathering was about to bring down the Moriarty organization. Moriarty wanted to kill Holmes to prevent this, and was an especially dangerous foe.
- **Logic used to solve:** Holmes felt the presence of the force, and deduced its action in many of those undiscovered crimes in which he had not been personally consulted. For years he endeavoured to

break through the veil which shrouded it, and at last the time came when he seized the thread and followed it, until it led, after a thousand cunning windings, to ex-Professor Moriarty. Holmes devoted his whole energy to exposing and breaking it up.

- **Policemen:** None mentioned except some who examined slates and bricks that had fallen near Holmes from a roof under repair, which they believed the wind had toppled over. Also some Swiss experts who examined the foot-marks near the falls and verified Watson's conclusions.
- **Holmes' fees:** NA
- **Transport:** Holmes gave Watson instructions to take a hansom the next morning to the Lowther Arcade, and then quickly switch to a small brougham to reach Victoria in time for the Continental express. H&W then departed by train to Dover, to catch the boat to Calais. Moriarty engaged a special to chase them, but H&W got off at Canterbury. Moriarty sped through to Dover. H&W then took train to Newhaven and made their way at leisure into Switzerland, via Luxembourg and Basle, encouraging the manufactures of the countries through which they traveled, since their luggage had gone on to Paris.
- **Food and Drink:** No mention.
- **Vices:** When he called upon Watson at the beginning, Holmes drew in the smoke of his cigarette as if the soothing influence was grateful to him.
- **Other cases mentioned:** STUD & NAVA. Also noted that Holmes was engaged by the French government in a matter of extreme importance, and had assisted the royal family of Scandinavia.
- **Notable Quotables:** "The air of London is the sweeter for my presence." – SH

- "Danger is part of my trade." – SH
- "Let me pay you (a complement) in return when I say that if I were assured of the former eventuality (Holmes' destruction of Moriarty) I would, in the interests of the public, cheerfully accept the latter (Holmes' own destruction)." – SH to Moriarty
- "Of late I have been tempted to look into the problems furnished by nature rather than those more superficial ones to which our artificial state of society is responsible." – SH
- **Other interestings:** A worthy sidelight to this case is Holmes' and Moriarty's decision-making logic on getting off the train to Canterbury and Calais. There is an article on this subject here on McMurdo's Camp web site. See "Decision on the Dover Train" in the sidebar on the right, under Trifling Monographs. Some classic but very simple mathematical reasoning is involved.
- When all was said and done: Once in Switzerland, S&H detoured to view the falls of Reichenbach. Watson was lured away by a phony message to help an English patient. Upon learning of the ruse, Watson returned to where he left Holmes. Two lines of footmarks were clearly marked along the farther end of the path near the cliff, both leading away. There were signs of a scuffle, and no tracks returning. The inevitable conclusion was that Moriarty had followed Holmes, they struggled, and both fell into the abyss. Holmes left a note before the scuffle, courtesy of Moriarty, who awaited the final discussion of those questions which lay between the two men. Any attempt at recovering the bodies was absolutely hopeless.
- Watson regarded Holmes as the best and the wisest man whom he had ever known.

# JUPITER DESCENDING

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

I found an idea. You will notice I didn't say I thought of it myself. No, I found it lying around - I practically tripped over it, to tell the truth - so I picked it up, dusted it off a bit, and took a good look. The owner's name is clearly printed on it, and I promise I'm going to return his idea to him immediately upon the conclusion of this article. But it's the bonniest, brightest little idea I've seen in a long while, and I just want to hold it up to the light for a few minutes, to see how it glints and sparkles. When I tell you the rightful owner of the idea is Ronald Knox, you'll see why I don't think he would object to my borrowing it for a few minutes. As one of the founding "fathers" of the Great Game, I think he might be pleased to know his writings have not lost their power to intrigue and instruct.

You see, I recently read *Baker Street Studies*, the collection of classic Sherlockian articles edited by H. W. Bell. I had read it once some years ago, after I found the 1934 edition at an antiquarian book fair. These days it is much easier and far less expensive to obtain a copy, thanks to Otto Penzler's publication of this and several other erstwhile rarities of scholarship - an effort which ought to have earned him a knighthood, in my opinion, if we were a country with knighthoods to bestow.

Thanks to Sir Otto, anyhow, I was able to bring a paperback copy of *Baker Street Studies* along to read on the subway, something I wouldn't dream of doing with the original edition. The article that particularly caught my attention this time around was "The Mystery of Mycroft," in which Mgr. Knox made a number of utterly compelling arguments showing Mycroft Holmes was on the wrong side of the law, and he was probably none other than the informant called "Porlock," the weak

link in Moriarty's criminal chain. I recommend you read Knox's article without delay, but in case you don't have it close at hand, let me review the important points for you:

Mycroft's ability to supply his brother with some of his "most interesting cases" seems farfetched for a civil servant with a boring daily routine; but makes perfect sense if Mycroft was himself a criminal.

Mycroft's actions during the case of "The Greek Interpreter" are those of a man who is working in the interests of the criminals. How else are we to explain his various attempts to delay Sherlock's pursuit to Beckenham, not to mention the newspaper advertisement with which he signaled Mr. Melas's betrayal?

It was only natural for Sherlock to conceal his criminal brother's existence even from his closest friend. When he did introduce Mycroft to Watson, the timing of the event suggests Sherlock's hand was forced by the coming showdown with Moriarty, when it was almost certain Watson was going to have to find out about Mycroft anyway. As his reward for the successful recovery of the missing letter in "The Second Stain," Sherlock requested the reinstatement of his now-repentant brother into government employ, and by the time of the theft of the Bruce-Partington plans, Mycroft had settled down and made himself indispensable in a position of great authority and trust.

It's great stuff! This explains why Sherlock never mentioned his brother unless he absolutely had to, and also why, despite Mycroft's brilliance and his eventual position of clandestine power, he "will receive neither honour nor title." The mystery of Mycroft is solved! Or is it?

Well, you knew I was going to have to put in my own two cents, didn't you? It's not that I have the gall to argue with the theories of the

great Knox; it's just I think he didn't go far enough. Actually, I think he may have deliberately held back, because the next logical conclusion from all his evidence would have been too controversial in those earlier days of Sherlockian studies. Granted, it's controversial enough to think of Mycroft being mixed up in crimes like the affair that cost the life of the innocent Paul Kratides. But there is something worse than Moriarty's minions, and you know what that is as well as I do: Moriarty himself.

I don't actually mean to say Mycroft was the same person as the former mathematics professor, the tall, thin man with the oscillating head. There really was an individual named Moriarty. He wrote abstruse mathematical treatises, and he once explained eclipses to Inspector MacDonald. The real Moriarty was involved in criminal activity, too; Sherlock would surely never have named a completely innocent man as a criminal. But you'll recall from *The Valley of Fear* how Sherlock cautioned Watson to keep 'mum about the professor's crimes, because "in calling Moriarty a criminal you are uttering libel in the eyes of the law." He obviously didn't want Watson broadcasting that "Napoleon of Crime" business all over town - at least not yet.

Let's put Moriarty on the back burner for a moment and return to Mycroft. If we follow the excellent reasoning by which Mgr. Knox proved Mycroft to be a criminal in the first place, then I think we must ask ourselves if it was likely a man of Mycroft's personality and genius would have been content to remain a mere criminal pawn or underling. No, I think that Mycroft was too proud, too well aware of his own abilities.

Watson's accounts of the interaction between the two Holmes brothers convey the impression

Mycroft was the favored child. He was the elder, of course, and even Sherlock admitted Mycroft was the more brilliant of the two. Did their parents spoil Mycroft and cater to his every whim? According to his brother, Mycroft had "no ambition and no energy," and "would rather be considered wrong than take the trouble to prove himself right." So there he was: self-satisfied, too clever by half, and very much accustomed to getting his own way without making the effort to apply his intelligence to any definite task.

Through his family connections, he got an entry-level auditing job in the government. How boring and inconsequential it must have seemed to a man who was so utterly convinced of his own great talents! Mycroft probably tried to get his superiors to give him something challenging to do, but where do you think that got him? I don't think we would be far wrong if we were to assume that they gave him the bureaucratic equivalent of a pat on the head - and then assigned him an extra load of grunt work, in an attempt to keep him too busy to make any more trouble.

We may imagine, therefore, that Mycroft turned to crime largely from a sense of frustration and resentment. From the very first, he must have realized that his talents lay in planning crimes, not in carrying them out, and so he gathered about him a small cadre of operatives, whom he trained in his own special methods. I believe that he started out with the intention of perpetrating only non-violent, white-collar crimes: embezzlements, investment schemes, real estate swindles, savings and loan frauds, and so forth. He wasn't particularly interested in making money, however; to him it was a game, one in which he always

emerged the winner over the sort of mediocre minds who had frustrated his hopes of a brilliant career in government. From time to time, he also found it amusing and advantageous to set his detective brother onto the trail of his various criminal competitors.

But the enterprise got out of hand. Word of his brilliance spread through the criminal underworld, and Mycroft's empire grew with uncontrollable rapidity. To fund his ever-expanding organization, he needed constant infusions of capital, and so the crimes became more varied and more likely to lead to violence: safecracking, smuggling, railway hijacking, extortion. Then, as his empire grew larger still, his competitors began to resent his power - all the more bitterly, if they suspected his penchant for informing against them. No doubt some of them tried to test his strength. It became necessary for Mycroft Holmes to hire his own "muscle," if only to protect himself from his challengers.

It was inevitable that even more violence resulted.

Perhaps Mycroft began to fear the consequences of the impending battle with his particularly strong new rival, James Moriarty. Or perhaps the elder Holmes brother was inspired with a genuine feeling of remorse as he witnessed the cruel death of poor Paul Kratides. But whatever the cause, Mycroft finally decided that he wanted no more of it. Where else would he turn for help but to his crime-solving brother Sherlock? There is little doubt that Sherlock Holmes had been aware of his brother's double life for some time before this.

Perhaps his pleas and warnings had helped Mycroft to see the error of his ways. Of course they both knew that Mycroft could not simply walk away from the world of crime; to do

so would have meant certain death at the hands of either his rivals or his former employees. Then, too, there was the penalty of the law to consider, or rather, in Mycroft's case, how to avoid it. And perhaps Mycroft was also thinking about some way to make at least partial reparation for the harm his crimes had done.

The Holmes brothers worked it all out between them. Sherlock would help Mycroft avoid prison time if Mycroft agreed to help him round up as many of his cohorts as possible and bring them to trial.

The emergence of Moriarty and his rival gang provided an effective cover for their plan. The entire process may have taken years to accomplish, but eventually the Mycroft Holmes organization was dissolved, dozens of criminals were arrested, and Moriarty was lured to his death at the Reichenbach Falls.

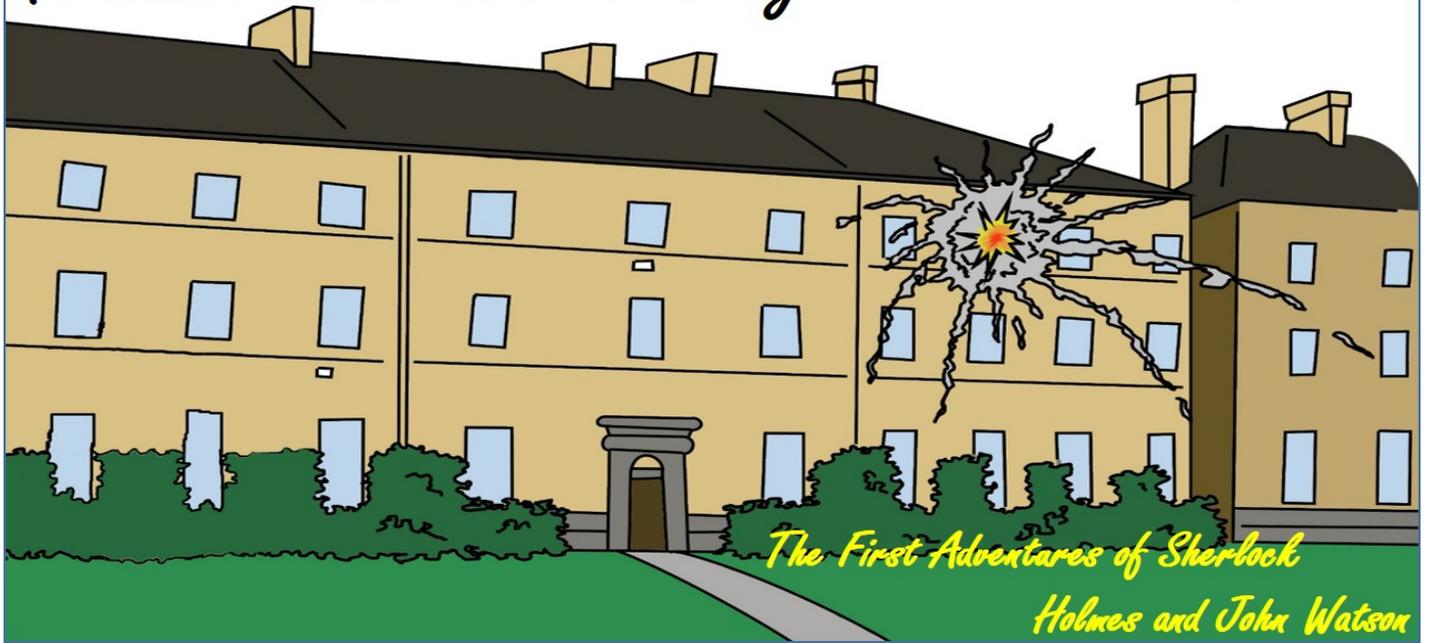
The Holmes brothers spent three years in exile together while things cooled down. Sherlock's "Napoleon of Crime" story - told to Watson in the certain knowledge that he would eventually publish it - was meant to give still more credence to the idea that Moriarty and no one else, least of all Mycroft Holmes, had been the central power in the London underworld all along. Upon their return to London, Sherlock Holmes embellished the Moriarty story still further, covering his brother's tracks yet again by implying that his brother had never left England at all.

Mycroft Holmes, a criminal! The whole idea is incredible to our minds, but perhaps that only proves how well he and Sherlock covered up the truth. If you still don't believe it's possible, I just have one thing left to say:

"Don't Knox it if you haven't tried it."

# Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Fay,  
Rusty & Steve Mason



*The First Adventures of Sherlock*

*Holmes and John Watson*

## Baker Street Elementary

Number 069 – 08/15/2016

MA'AM, IF WE LEARN  
FROM OUR MISTAKES,  
LOGICALLY, SHOULDN'T I  
MAKE AS MANY MISTAKES  
AS POSSIBLE EACH DAY  
IN CLASS?



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