

The Bilge Pump

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



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

October 2nd Meeting

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

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

We will be reading "The Empty House."

The quiz will cover this tale.

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

September 4th Meeting

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

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

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

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

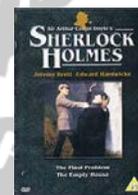
The group discussed further details for a fall symposium, theme to be "The Women of Sherlock Holmes," and will be held at the Allen Library, Allen, TX, on Monday, November 7. Brenda Hutchison is writing the murder mystery, which we will test out at the October meeting. We welcome any members who would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

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

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

Thanks to Cindy Brown for developing the minutes this month.

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



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

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

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

Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries
Historian
Webmaster

Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison
Pam Mason
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MY FAVORITE HOLMES: JEREMY BRETT

Cindy Brown

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

A needless complication had been removed from his life.

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

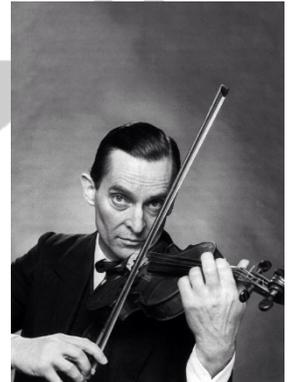
This did have it's funny side, however ...

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



Indeed we do.

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

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

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

such sentences and paragraphs of my own composition.

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



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

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

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

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

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

17 STEPS TO THE EMPTY HOUSE

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

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

JOHN H. WATSON, CRIME DOCTOR

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



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

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

THE ENGLAND/AUSTRALIA MEDICAL DIFFERENCE

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

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

THOSE ARE SOME REALLY GREAT NEWSPAPERS

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

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

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

THE MYSTERIOUS BOOKSHOP

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

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

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

THE STRUCTURE OF WATSON'S LIBRARY

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



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

DIAGNOSING WATSON'S SWOON

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

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

THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

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

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



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

WATSON'S BEEN TALKING TO HIS AGENT

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

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



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

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

HOLMES'S HARD LIFE IN FRANCE

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

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

With Mediterranean beaches not all that far away?

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

WATSON'S HIDDEN SADNESS

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

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

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

HANSOMS, GUNS, AND THRILLS

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

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

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

DID THEY GET THE STRAND MAGAZINE IN TIBET?

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



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

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

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

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

PRIME BAKER STREET PROPERTY GOING TO WASTE

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

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

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

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

AND WHAT OF 221B BAKER STREET?

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

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

HOLMES'S OTHER FRENCH DIVERSION

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

IGNORE THAT HARMLESS MAN WITH THE GARROTE

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

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

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



price? Why would Holmes consider Parker so harmless?

THE SOURCE OF THE INFAMOUS AIR GUN

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

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

Basil of Baker Street

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

Elementary

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

Product Details (\$ 16.95)

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



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

WHEN A MUSEUM IS MORE THAN A MUSEUM

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHERLOCKIAN SOCIETIES

Rusty Mason

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

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

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

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

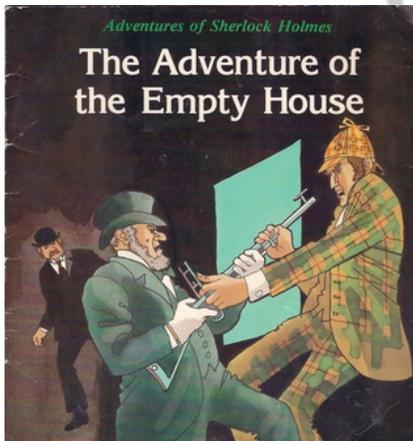
<http://www.sherlocktron.com/three.pdf>



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

Posted on October 13, 2011 by barefootnbakerstreet

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

An Inquiry Into "The Empty House"

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

"The Empty House" was first published in The Strand Magazine in October 1903. According to Baring-Gould's chronology, the case takes place on Thursday, April 5, 1894. At the time, Holmes is 40 years old and Watson 42.

Notable Quotes:

I moved my head to look at the cabinet behind me. When I turned again, Sherlock Holmes was standing smiling at me across my table. I rose to my feet, stared at him for some seconds in utter amazement, and then it appears that I must have fainted for the first and the last time in my life.

"I owe you many apologies, my dear Watson, but it was all-important that it should be thought I was dead, and it is quite certain that you would not have written so convincing an account of my unhappy end had you not yourself thought that it was true. Several times during the last three years I have taken up my pen to write to you, but always I feared lest your affectionate regard for me should tempt you to some indiscretion which would betray my secret."

"I travelled for two years in Tibet, therefore, and amused myself by visiting Lhasa, and spending some days with the head lama. You may have read of the remarkable explorations of a Norwegian named Sigerson, but I am sure that it never occurred to you that you were receiving news of your friend. I then passed through Persia, looked in at Mecca, and paid a short but interesting visit to the Khalifa at Khartoum, the results of which I have communicated to the Foreign Office. Returning to France, I spent some months in a research into the coal-tar derivatives, which I conducted in a laboratory at Montpellier, in the south of France." Three years had certainly not smoothed the asperities

of his temper or his impatience with a less active intelligence than his own.

"Not so, Lestrade. I do not propose to appear in the matter at all. To you, and to you only, belongs the credit of the remarkable arrest which you have effected. Yes, Lestrade, I congratulate you! With your usual happy mixture of cunning and audacity, you have got him." On the margin was written, in Holmes's precise hand: The second most dangerous man in London.

"There are some trees, Watson, which grow to a certain height, and then suddenly develop some unsightly eccentricity. You will see it often in humans.

"I have a theory that the individual represents in his development the whole procession of his ancestors, and that such a sudden turn to good or evil stands for some strong influence which came into the line of his pedigree.

"The person becomes, as it were, the epitome of the history of his own family."

"Meanwhile, come what may, Colonel Moran will trouble us no more. The famous air-gun of Von Herder will embellish the Scotland Yard Museum, and once again Mr. Sherlock Holmes is free to devote his life to examining those interesting little problems which the complex life of London so plentifully presents."

"Not so, Lestrade. I do not propose to appear in the matter at all. To you, and to you only, belongs the credit of the remarkable arrest which you have effected. Yes, Lestrade, I congratulate you! With your usual happy mixture of cunning and audacity, you have got him."

"[O]nce again Mr. Sherlock Holmes is free to devote his life to examining those interesting little problems which the complex life of London so plentifully presents."

Factoid: "Shikari" is a Hindu word for a big game hunter or hunting guide.

A Peculiar Request

At the beginning, our biographer says Holmes barred him for a decade from writing anything connected with the Adair murder. I find that puzzling. The destruction of Moriarty's criminal empire must have been a matter of great public interest. Let us also remember regarding Moriarty himself, in FINA Watson had already set the record straight regarding the allegations of Professor's brother. What then, would Holmes want to keep away from public notice for a decade, about the capture and trial of Moran, the last important member of this most dangerous gang?

The Fastened Door

Unless it was a dramatic touch added by Watson (i.e., an unsolvable locked-door crime!) I find it strange Adair locked the door to his sitting-room when he sat down to clear up his gaming accounts. To begin, he wasn't doing anything dishonorable -- quite to the contrary! In any case, he had to know nobody was going to surprise him at what he was doing by simply walking into the room--even his mother would have knocked before entering her son's room.

A Flair for the Dramatic

Holmes shows a definite--somewhat reckless--flair for the dramatic, which has at times been life-endangering--witness Phelps' shock in NAVA. And after a three-year absence, how could he be certain Watson might not have developed an ailment, say a heart problem, that might cost him his life if shocked? After all, the poor man fainted!

Moriarty's Actions

According to Holmes, Moriarty "rushed at me and threw his long

arms around me. He knew his game was up, and was only anxious to revenge himself upon me." Knowing little about the Professor, his actions still seem uncalled for. Why would Moriarty attempt to kill Holmes in a way which endangered his own life? He could end Holmes' (and Watson's) careers in gunfire from the mountain top. With Holmes eliminated, he could leisurely and carefully proceeded, with Moran and other members' assistance, to rebuild his empire. Some have attributed Moriarty's suicidal actions to a derangement caused by the fall of his organization, but I find it strange a criminal of Moriarty's intelligence level would be shocked into madness and resort to such a solution.

The Unnecessary Deceit

Why did Holmes take such drastic and careful steps to make everyone think he had been killed (unforgivably deceiving Watson!) by disappearing and wandering the planet? It wasn't to deceive the survivors of Moriarty's gang since one of them--possibly Moran--was rolling down rocks at him while he was trying to leave the scene of the Professor's death. They knew he survived after he killed their leader. So why this flawed deception? Unquestionably, the top leaders of Britain's underworld must have known Holmes had cheated death.

What else happened in 1894:

EMPIRE

- Uganda becomes protectorate.
- Jameson occupies Matabeleland.

BRITAIN

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

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

WORLD

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

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

ART

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

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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

A STUDY IN SHERLOCK: KNOWING TO BE KNOWN

As most of you remember, we were thrilled to have a bright, young college student, Allana Wooley, as a fellow crew member while she was a student at Texas Christian University (TCU). To fulfill her master's degree, Allana developed a thesis, which focused on "the ways social communities are consciously, purposefully created and maintained so that they reinforce both individual identity and notions of personal value."

Much of the thesis looks at our Sherlockian society, and the interaction between members.

In her acknowledgements, Allana states, "The Crew of the Barque Lone Star welcomed an awkward, 20-year-old girl into their midst and allowed her to watch them, take notes on them, and write about them. Somewhere in the middle of doing all of that, they also became her friends. To Stu Nelan, Don Hobbs, Brenda Hutchinson, Cindy Hobbs, Steve Mason, and Les Klinger—thank you for sitting down with me and sharing intimate details about your perceptions of the Sherlock Holmes community and the relationships you have formed."

If you would like to read her thesis, go to:

https://repository.tcu.edu/bitstream/handle/116099117/10463/WooleyAllana_ANTHThesis.pdf?sequence=1



Allana, we are very proud of your efforts... good luck in your future activities, and feel free to participate in your Home Society any time you find yourself back in the Metroplex.

Story Info Pages for "The Empty House"

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

(he's back . . .)

- **First published in:** Collier's, September 26, 1903; The Strand Magazine, October 1903
- **Time frame of story (known/surmised):** First week of April, 1894, stated.
- **Holmes and Watson living arrangements:** Watson in practice and living in Kensington, no mention of wife. Holmes presumed to have perished in the falls of Reichenbach, 3 years previously. Then Holmes reveals himself. Turns out he was not killed as presumed, but had been traveling all over the world, to Florence, Lhasa in Tibet, Persia, Mecca, Khartoum, and finally Montpellier, in the south of France. Mycroft was in on it but Watson was not. The quarters at 221B were preserved and the fire damage repaired.
- **Opening scene:** Watson goes for a stroll by the house of Adair, recently shot and killed in a closed-

room murder which had dismayed the fashionable world and interested all London. Watson observes the house and ponders the mystery, attempting to employ Holmes' methods in its solution, but without success. He does not clear up the problem. While there he mingles with the usual group of loafers and then bumps a deformed, old bibliophile. Later, the bibliophile visits Watson, and turns out to be Holmes in disguise. Watson faints and Holmes revives him with brandy, the universal palliative.

- **Client:** None. Holmes is acting on his desire and opportunity to finish off Moriarty's society.
- **Crime or concern:** Shooting death of the Honourable Ronald Adair, a young nobleman, after an evening at the Bagatelle Card Club. He was shot in the head with an expanding soft-nose revolver bullet, believed to have been fired from within the locked room. Later found to have been a longer range shot from an air-gun using the projectile from

a revolver bullet. Shot was fired through an open window by an expert marksman.

- **Villain:** Sebastian Moran, late of Her Majesty's Indian Army, an old shikari and expert heavy-game shot, whose bag of tigers remained unrivalled. He had once crawled down a drain after a wounded man-eating tiger. Col. Moran had a tremendously virile and yet sinister face, with the brow of a philosopher above and the jaw of a sensualist below. He had cruel blue eyes, with drooping, cynical lids, and a threatening deep-lined brow. Not only that, but he had a fierce, aggressive nose.
- **Motive:** Col. Moran murdered Adair, so Adair could not expose him as a card cheat. Exposure would have cut into the handsome income he made cheating at cards, which he needed, now that Moriarty was not around to pay him.
- **Logic used to solve:** Holmes watched the criminal news, and the chance to get Moran came at last with the death of Ronald Adair. Knowing what he did, it was certain that Colonel Moran had done it. Having played cards with the Adair, he followed him home from the club, and shot him through the open window. There was not a doubt of it. Holmes had been long aware of the air-gun, noiseless and of tremendous power, made by the blind German mechanic Von Herder.
- **Policemen:** Inspector Lestrade and two constables, called in by Holmes. Lestrade welcomed Holmes back to London, and Holmes somewhat ungraciously replied, "I think you want a little unofficial help. Three undetected murders in one year won't do, Lestrade. But you handled the Molesey Mystery with less than your usual – that's to say, you handled it fairly well."
- **Holmes' fees:** No mention. It is likely he was paid through whatever arrangement he had with the Yard, because he did turn the murderer of Adair over to Lestrade.
- **Transport:** HOLMES AND WATSON take a hansom to the empty house, by an indirect route. No

mention of the diverse modes used on the long sojourn, but they must have been interesting.

- **Food:** HOLMES AND WATSON had time for a mouthful of dinner before they needed go to the empty house.
- **Drink:** Brandy used to revive Watson after fainting.
- **Vices:** After reviving Watson, Holmes lit a cigarette in his old, nonchalant manner, and puffed upon it while relating the story of Moriarty's death. Following the arrest of Moran, HOLMES AND WATSON returned to Baker St., where despite the draught from a broken window, they planned to spend time over a cigar reviewing the case.
- **Other cases mentioned:** The death of Mrs. Stewart, of Lauder, in 1887. Morgan the poisoner, and Merridew of abominable memory, and Mathews, who knocked out Holmes' left canine in the waiting-room at Charing Cross.
- **Notable Quotables:** "You fiend!" Moran muttered after his capture. "You clever, clever fiend!" You cunning, cunning fiend!"
"I trust that age doth not wither nor custom stale my infinite variety." – SH, paraphrasing Antony and Cleopatra (Shakespeare).
- **Other interestings:** Holmes was saved from the precipice at the falls of Reichenbach by his knowledge of baritsu, enabling him to out-wrestle Moriarty in this all-important match.
Holmes refers to the 221B lodgings as "that picturesque pile".
Back in London, Holmes was watched by Moran's accomplice; Parker by name, a garroter by trade, and a remarkable performer upon the Jew's harp.
When all was said and done: "Once again Mr. Sherlock Holmes is free to devote his life to examining those interesting little problems which the complex life of London so plentifully presents." – SH

THE SINGLE CARTRIDGE PROBLEM

Brad Keefauver and John Holliday, *The Holmes & Watson Report*, January, 1998

Of all the little forensic puzzles offered by the Canon of Sherlock Holmes, "The Adventure of the Dancing Men" offers us one of the most puzzling. Once all the code business is over and done, the case comes down to, very simply, this:

Hilton and Elsie Cubitt are found shot after two shots are heard. A revolver lies halfway between them with two shots fired. Hilton has a bullet in his heart, Elsie, one in her brain. But another bullet is found in the window frame, so another shot is presumed, fired at the same moment as the first. Sherlock Holmes combs the flower bed and finds a single brass cartridge.

Holmes's conclusion is that a third person, outside the window, fired in at Hilton Cubitt while Cubitt fired back at the person, hitting the window. Elsie Cubitt, overcome with grief, then shot herself. Later, when Abe Slaney is lured back to the scene of the crime and gives a less-than-detailed confession, this is shown to be the truth of the matter.

The problem lies in the single brass cartridge. Why is it in the flower bed?

"The revolver had an ejector," Holmes concludes, not helping matters any. Revolvers of the day required either that all six cartridges be ejected at

once when the gun was broken open, or the performance of a labor intensive process consisting of opening the loading gate, half-cocking the hammer, manually spinning the cylinder to the right position, pushing the cartridge out with the ejector rod, and manually taking the cartridge the rest of the way out. This means that either six cartridges, five of them unused, would have been found in the flowerbed or that Abe Slaney, the man in the flower bed, was some sort of crazed compulsive sort, taking unnecessary time in his getaway just to make sure his gun was fully loaded.

In his article "Firearms in the Canon: The Adventure of the Dancing Men" (*Baker Street Journal*, March 1991), Dante Torrese concludes that Abe Slaney used a Colt Single Action Army revolver.

The Colt would have required Slaney to perform the latter time-consuming process described above, stopping and reloading the sixth bullet before fleeing the scene of the crime. As we've seen, this was not a simple task.

Torrese writes "It was and continues to be common practice among professional pistoleros to reload as soon as possible to avoid having to remember how many cartridges have been used and

how many remain. Every self-respecting gunslinger knew this..."

The big flaw in Torrese's example is the image of Abe Slaney as a six-gun-wielding cowboy from the American West. In reality, Slaney was a Chicago gangster. Watson describes him thus: "He was a tall, handsome, swarthy fellow, clad in a suit of gray flannel, with a Panama hat... flourishing a cane as he walked."

No mention of a big leather holster there that we can see. And even after Slaney is arrested, there is no mention of a gun being taken from him. Obviously, Abe Slaney was an urban criminal, who behaved very differently from Torrese's "gunslinger." Slaney was also visiting a foreign country, and did not want to draw attention to himself by carrying a large weapon -- something not in common practice in either England or Chicago of the time.

We have only Holmes's conjecture that Slaney carried a revolver, and that is a conjecture transcribed by Watson. The actual word "revolver" may never have been used. And given the circumstances, it is very probable that Abe Slaney did not carry a revolver at all. He was, after all, going to meet an ex-girlfriend, not purposefully going to kill anyone.

What Slaney probably had on his person was a .41 rimfire single shot derringer of Colt manufacture, kept as a hideout gun in a watch pocket or inside jacket pocket. When Hilton Cubitt came out waving his revolver, Slaney; went for his own gun and fired just as Cubitt did.

Using the good instincts of anyone who knew gunplay, Slaney was also ducking under the window ledge even as he fired.

Hiding in the cover of the ledge, Slaney unlocked the barrel of his derringer and swung it sideways to kick out the cartridge. He then reloaded and waited a few seconds for Hilton Cubitt to come over the window ledge, not knowing if he'd killed or injured his opponent. When Cubitt didn't come after a moment or two, Slaney fled.

If Slaney had still had five bullets in his gun, he would never have taken the time to reload one shell with the chance that Cubitt would be on him at any second. A single shot derringer is the only reasonable explanation for Slaney's actions and that single brass cartridge. That, and the fact that he still wasn't sure

whether or not he had killed Hilton Cubitt. During his confession, he admits he saw Cubitt drop, but like Slaney, Cubitt could have been diving for cover. This uncertainty also shows up the next day, when Slaney is described as coming to the murder scene like so:

"He swaggered up the path as if the place belonged to him, and we heard his loud, confident peal at the bell." No criminal in his right mind, however he was summoned, would come back to the scene of a recent murder with that much confidence.

Only one who thought the police would be nowhere near would return in such a manner. If he knew he killed Cubitt, he wouldn't have walked straight into the police trap like he did. Slaney walks into the house where he murdered a man the night before, then is surprised to find Inspector Martin slapping handcuffs on him. Strangely enough, however, Abe Slaney starts to laugh.

"Well, gentlemen, you have the drop on me this time," he says, seeming somewhat amused. And why is Slaney so amused.

Remember how we mentioned earlier about no gun

being taken from Slaney by the police? Well, the single shot derringer was not the sort of thing Scotland Yard inspectors were used to looking for. Abe Slaney may have been handcuffed, but he still had the gun he used to kill Hilton Cubitt.

While it's true Watson tells us that "Abe, Slaney was condemned to death at the winter assizes at Norwich, but his penalty was changed to penal servitude," it is also true that Inspector Martin is never seen again after "The Adventure of the Dancing Men. Perhaps Watson didn't want his readers to know about the American gangster who made his escape after killing a Scotland Yard inspector. So it is that the solution of one mystery, the single cartridge problem solved by the single shot derringer, provides us with another mystery, the fate of Inspector Martin. Did Abe Slaney have the last laugh after all?

Mysteries within mysteries, however, are the bread and cheese of the Grand Game, so we'll leave that little bit of Sherlockian sustenance for another day.

Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Fay,
Rusty & Steve Mason



The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson

Baker Street Elementary
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Fay, Mason, & Mason

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I MUST SAY, THIS EPISODE
IS QUITE RIVETING.



WHAT ARE YOU GENTLEMEN
SO ENTHRALLED WITH?

AN "I HEAR OF SHAKESPEARE
EVERYWHERE" DISPATCH
FROM THE UNITED STATES.



A DISPATCH FROM AMERICA? Huh, MUST BE REALLY
POPULAR TO CATCH ON ALL THE WAY TO THIS
SCHOOL. HOW MANY DISPATCHES HAVE THERE BEEN?

THERE ARE 103 AT PRESENT.



THAT'S IMPRESSIVE. I ASSUME YOU GENTLEMEN
ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR ACHIEVEMENT?



Ummm...

CONGRATULATIONS ON
DISPATCH 103, SCOTT
AND BURT !!

