

# The Bilge Pump

Vol. 05, No. 02 - February, 2017  
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the  
Barque Lone Star*



## March 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at **LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE**, in Addison.

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

We will be reading "The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist."

The quiz will cover this tale.

Herb Linder will provide a presentation on "The Weapons of the Canon."

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

## February 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting

There were 20 in attendance. The opening toast was provided by Ron Lees, from the Denver SH club. It was originally written by Carl Heifetz, and was read by Pam Mason (see page 2).

The quiz was based on "The Three Students." The quiz was won by Karen Olsen and Sandra Little came in second. Both received great prizes for their efforts.

Allen Osborne gave a wonderful presentation entitled Sherlock Holmes and the Firearms in the Cannon. He conducted a very informative talk on firearms of the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century and how Doyle made use of them in the Sherlock Holmes stories.

The podcast, I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere has requested to include the Baker Street Elementary cartoons on their website.

There were a number of Crew who attended the BSI weekend in New York this last month. Approximately 15 people from Texas (either born, raised, or currently living) were at the BSI weekend.

The Allen Public Library has asked the Crew to do another symposium in September of 2017. We all agreed that would be fun, and the topic will most likely be Sherlock Holmes goes to the Movies. We are considering having 2 or 3 short presentations and then show a movie, possibly The Great Mouse Detective.

The final reading from the Baker Street Journal focused on civility among friends (see page 3). The meeting was well attended, with lively discussion.

Thanks to Cindy Brown for taking notes of the meeting.

You can read the full notes on our website, [www.dfw-sherlock.org](http://www.dfw-sherlock.org)



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

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

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## 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  
Rusty Mason

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# WATSON'S FINEST MOMENT

by Carl L. Heifetz

Prepared for The Formulary, The Journal of the Friends of Dr. Watson -- April 17, 2006

Thanks to Ron Lies, Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients, for providing this toast for our meeting.

The "sacred" Canon reveals many excellent instances that may fulfill the object of this essay - to describe the finest moment in the life and career of John H. Watson, M.D.



Could it be the time that he stood bravely on the deck of the Aurora, revolver in hand, facing down the dangerous Tonga and his poisoned dart in *The Sign of Four*, or, in the same adventure, when he walked, alone and unprotected, late at night through a dangerous part of London seeking Toby?

How about the time that he steadfastly acted as a British jury in "The Adventure of the Abbey Grange?" The list is virtually endless.



Although many other episodes could be cited as exemplifying the subject of this discourse, I maintain that the best exemplar was the occasion in which Dr. Watson agreed to share Baker Street quarters with Mr. Sherlock Holmes.

Look at the circumstances that would have mitigated against this decision. Watson was weak and weary from his horrible experiences. His leg and shoulder ached constantly, forcing him towards excessive drink.

His constitution had been weakened by a case of enteric fever. He was probably also suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. And, no doubt, his nerves

were very highly susceptible to anxiety, admitting later to "keeping a bull pup."

Yet, he agreed to share a suite with a man described as a very sinister companion; a man who greeted him with a mysterious statement concerning the fact that he had been in Afghanistan, a statement which could put most men's nerve on edge, and then ran around yelling about some test for blood.

It is indeed a tribute to Dr. Watson that he must have seen some very positive outcomes associated with a future relationship with the "mad scientist" whom he had just met.

Let us consider the serious consequences had Dr. Watson not decided that it would be in his best

interests to share rooms with this eccentric gentleman. Just imagine, we might never have heard of Sherlock Holmes.



His personal reticence would have dimmed whatever other records there were of his accomplishment. Think of it: The world would never have been the same; we would all have been deprived of the main focus of our scholarly pursuits.

Let us all sing the praises of Dr. Watson, and his finest moment - the beginning of an adventurous life for Dr. Watson and all of us who relish Dr. Watson's accounts.

# "COME IN SAID HOLMES"

BAKER STREET JOURNAL -- DECEMBER 1989

FOR all his anti-social bohemianism, Sherlock Holmes could be a gracious host when the situation called for it. At the conclusion of the matter of the Moulton — Doran -- St. Simon triangle, undoubtedly sensing the delicacy of the situation, Holmes generously provides "a quite epicurean cold supper" — partially, one suspects, to mitigate the effects of the adventure's denouement, but also certainly as a straightforward act of courteous hospitality.



Likewise, the doors of 221B Baker Street are thrown open to Percy Phelps, who is entreated to partake of a fine Mrs. Hudson

breakfast (the landlady having "risen to the occasion") comprising ham and eggs, curried fowl, and naval treaty.

And, in a more seasonal moment, though no third person is present, Holmes cordially invites Watson to a belated Christmas goose dinner in his cozy chambers as a chillwinter's darkness descends upon London.

That is the spirit of Sherlockiana — particularly at this soistitial time of the year when we approach worldwide celebrations of the Master's birth.

Thousands of Canonical devotees will find themselves tramping through snow or battling sharp winds (in the case of our tropical number, possibly challenging capricious monsoons) as they make toward the warmly-lighted windows of hotels, chop-houses, or private homes to lift a glass to the Sage of Baker Street and commune with the like-minded and light-hearted.

For The Baker Street Irregulars, The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and their compatriots, sundry Manhattan venues will be approached through bitter weather (excoriated only by a cadre of materialist subversives with no romance in their souls), and a special gladness and delight will be upon their hearts.



For it is the season of hospitality. If we are devoted passionately to those snug opening Canonical scenes into which we ourselves are invited from the stormy inclemency of a London street, we must treasure just as deeply the Sherlockian summons, the open door, the greeting, the tantalus and gasogene, the groaning board, the comradeship with its repartee and badinage, and, of course, "the compliments of the season."

Remember, in these times, we are friends first.

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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.

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# A TOAST TO MYCROFT

Bill Beeson

In 1981, one of our founding members, Bill Beeson, who was invested in the Baker Street Irregulars in 1983, as "The Barque Lone Star," was asked to give the toast to Mycroft Holmes during the BSI dinner. On the train ride to New York, Bill wrote out the following toast, with a little help from Jack Tracy. It was very well received.

In remembrance of Mr. Mycroft Holmes's probably prodigious appetite, this toast includes several opportunities to imbibe, so while I tell you a bit about it, you may wish to charge your glasses.

The model for this toast honouring Mr. Mycroft Holmes is a battlefield tribute proffered by the famous Victorian linguist, world-traveller, and *bon vivant*, Mr. Thomas Atkins, as recorded in the poem "Fuzzy-Wuzzy" by Tommy Atkins's admiring friend, Mr. Rudyard Kipling.

In form, my tribute may be regarded either as an Agony in Three Fits, or as another curious incident of the doggerel in the night-time.

Of all the gents in Watson's Sacred Writin's  
(An' some of them is sharp, but most is not)  
The sharpest three is Sherlock, James, an' Mycroft,  
An' Mycroft, 'e's the sharpest o' the lot!

So 'ere's TO yer, Mycroft, V, at yer lodgin's in Pall Mall;  
When it comes to abstract think in', no one else does  
'arf so well;

Your life is cogitatin', an' the pleasures of the  
trencherman,  
An', on occasion, dooty as yer bruvver Sherlock's  
'encherman.

'E will not 'ave no titles for 'is own;  
'E tolerates no honours nor no fame;  
But Sherlock certifies the skill 'e's shown  
To win 'is rat-i-o-ci-nat-ive game.



So 'ere's TO yer, Mycroft, in the guvnamint at White'all;  
Though yer 'aven't never 'ad no truck wiv honours,  
fame, nor title,  
Ye'r the greatest 'eavy think.er that the British ever  
found  
An' we wonders, bruvver Mycroft, does they pay yer by  
the pound?

'E almost never leaves 'is stately orbit;  
'E only veers in times of desp'rit need;  
In a land that loves its trifles an' Welsh Rorbit,  
'E's a gent 'oo's built for comfort, not for speed.

So 'ere's TO yer, Mycroft, at yer club, the quiet  
Diogenes;  
It's a pity that yer never sired (well, never claimed) no  
progenies;  
We wish that yer was 'ere tonight to confirm or to  
debunkular  
'Whever Nero Wolfe owes bulk and brains to  
chromosomes avuncular.

An' 'ere's TO yer, Mycroft, 'ear our toast now, if yer can;  
You're a pudgy-wudgy blighter, but a first-class  
THINKIN' man!

The Third Canonical Toast, as delivered at the BSI  
Dinner -- 9 January 1981

Perpetrated (and Copyright 1991) by William B. Beeson,  
BSI

# BLUE RIBBON BLUES

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

In "The Adventure of the Cardboard Box," Susan Cushing tells Sherlock Holmes that Jim Browner, her brother-in-law, had broken his pledge and returned to drinking. (1)

His "pledge" is a reference to the Gospel Temperance movement that spread across the country, particularly among the lower middle class from 1877 to 1889. (2)



While other temperance societies existed prior to the Gospel Temperance organization, Browner's mention of losing his "blue ribbon," (3) indicates membership in this particular organization.

The Temperance movement in the UK had its origins in the 1830s in response to a rise in public drunkenness and the successes of similar efforts in US, especially in New England.

Religious leaders, particularly those from Nonconformist denominations (Protestant groups outside the Church of England) and their middle and upper-lower class congregants were the first to promote the concept of signing a pledge for abstinence.

Many of these early local groups still allowed an occasional glass of wine or beer, and rifts occurred in some congregations over the use of fermented or non-fermented wine in services. (4)

In the late 1830s, a shift occurred in the movement to total abstinence, or teetotalism, led primarily by the same social classes.

The discipline required avoidance of all alcoholic beverages and aligned with the strict moral code upwardly mobile members in the lower classes observed. (5)

With public-house life now forbidden to them, these groups formed lodges or similar social centers to offer alternative gathering places and events.

The facilities also offered classes in reading, writing, and basic arithmetic and specialized programs for women and children. (6)

Despite such efforts, drunkenness continued to rise among the populace, and in 1853, Nathaniel Card, a Quaker reformer, organized a movement to pass laws prohibiting the sale of all alcohol to combat it.

While such legislation had some supporters in Parliament, within four years the emphasis sifted from a national ban to local option.

The continued push for passage of laws related to alcohol's sale and consumption gradually became a Liberal cause, with those involved in the drink trade aligning with the Conservatives. (7)

For the next fifteen to twenty years, the anti-drink efforts focused on the political arena, with efforts to restrict licenses or other measures to reduce the availability of alcohol.

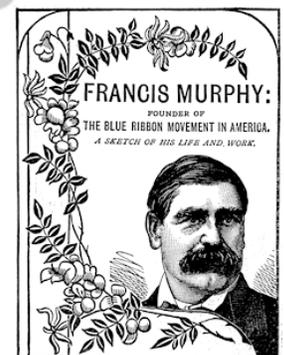
A revival in the movement occurred in 1877 when William Noble visited the US and observed Frances Murphy and his Blue Ribbon and Gospel Temperance movement in that country.

This approach combined religion and temperance in one-week camp meetings focused on converting both the tavern owner and the drinker.

Noble returned to England and created the Gospel Temperance hall in London's east end. (8)

Gospel Temperance, however, remained fragmented and local until the arrival of Richard Booth, an American temperance missionary, who carried the effort nationwide.

The man travelled the country holding meetings complete with choirs, speeches, and at the end of the event, a call to sign the pledge and wear a blue ribbon as a symbol of commitment to the cause. (9)



By the 1890s, the economic downturn that had pushed some to drink was over, and with prosperity, the Gospel Temperance movement lost steam.

Still, the movement had kept the issue in the public eye for more than forty years and it is estimated about a tenth of the population were abstainers by the end of Victoria's reign. (10)

While the temperance movement never achieved the ultimate goal of eliminating all alcohol, the dire consequences of drink were well

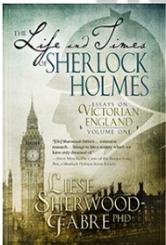
recognized—as clearly illustrated by Jim Browner's crime of passion.

In betraying his own blue ribbon pledge with the resulting consequences, he provided a moral lesson to Doyle's readers on the excesses of drink.



- 1) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* (Kindle Location 24897).
- 2) Shiman, Lilian Lewis. "The Blue Ribbon Army: Gospel Temperance in England." *Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church*, vol. 50, no. 4, 1981, pp. 391–408. [www.jstor.org/stable/42973859](http://www.jstor.org/stable/42973859), page 395.
- 3) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* (Kindle Location 25048).
- 4) Shiman, page 392.
- 5) Shiman, page 407.
- 6) Shiman, page 393
- 7) Mitchell, Sally, *Victorian Britain*. (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1988), page 796.
- 8) Shiman, page 395.
- 9) Shiman, page 400.
- 10) Mitchell, page 790.

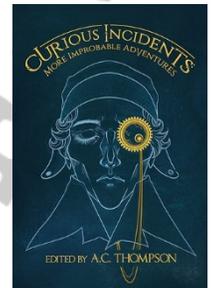
The first two years' of Liese's essays (numbers 1 - 24) are now out in book form as: *The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes*: <https://www.amazon.com/Life-Times-Sherlock-Holmes-Victorian/dp/0998411205>



Additionally, an alternate universe Sherlock Holmes anthology has been issued, in which Liese has the first pastiche. (*Curious Incidents: More Improbable Adventures*).

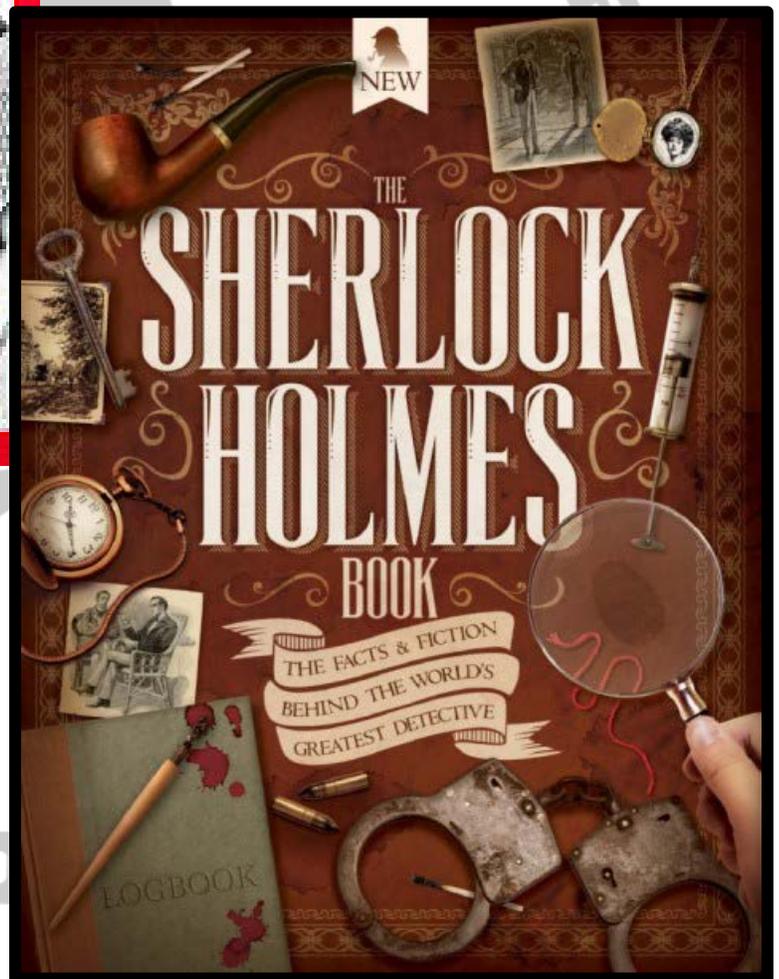
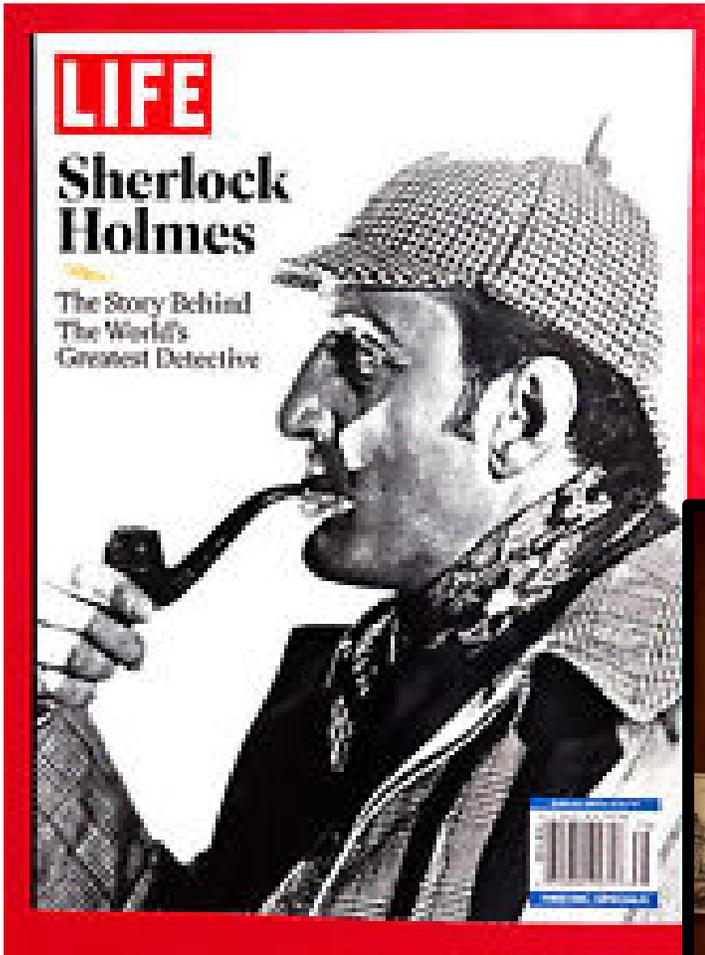
[https://www.amazon.com/Curious-Incidents-More-Improbable-Adventures-ebook/dp/B01MUEELMA/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1486870843&sr=8-1&keywords=curious+incidents](https://www.amazon.com/Curious-Incidents-More-Improbable-Adventures-ebook/dp/B01MUEELMA/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1486870843&sr=8-1&keywords=curious+incidents)

If you send Liese a copy their receipt to [liese@liesesherwoodfabre.com](mailto:liese@liesesherwoodfabre.com), I'll send them a copy of a deleted scene (had to be taken out to meet page length).



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>

CATCH THEM ON THE BOOKSHELF or NEWSTAND



# 17 STEPS TO "THE SOLITARY CYCLIST"

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

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

## PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS -- OR NOT

"For this reason I will now lay before the reader the facts connected with Miss Violet Smith, the solitary cyclist of Charlington, and the curious sequel of our investigation, which culminated in unexpected tragedy."



Once again, Watson gives us an exciting teaser that doesn't exactly line up with the tale that follows ... or is "the curious sequel" something that happened after the tale was over? Or is the wounding of a criminal a tragic thing to Watson's mind? Was there a part of this tale he's not telling?

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## THE WATSONIAN CASE RECORD SYSTEM

The good author writes: "there were some points about the case which made it stand out in those long records of crime from which I gather material for these little narratives."

Watson is referring to his notes as something a little more substantial in this case. In fact, this time around Watson almost makes it seem like the published stories are a subset of some more substantial chronicles. All this occurs at a time when Holmes had prohibited from Watson from further publishing, too. Were the "long records" Watson's contribution to the criminological partnership that began after Holmes's return? How much of the records were Holmes's work, and how much Watson's?

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANOTHER BRILLIANT DEDUCTION, BUT ...

Holmes gives Violet a once over and announces she's a bicyclist. We then find Violet "glanced down in

surprise at her feet, and I observed the slight roughening of the side of the sole caused by the friction of the edge of the pedal."



Was Holmes becoming less discreet in his old age? Did Violet see him staring at her shoes, and

then followed his gaze? Or was it the shoes he was staring at -- could even an eagle-eyed fellow like Holmes make out the differences a toned lower body would make beneath all that Victorian cloth?

\*\*\*\*\*

## WAS THAT FROM SEARS OR MONTGOMERY WARDS?

"He had ordered a horse and trap .... The horse and trap were to have come this week, but for some reason they were not delivered."

Mr. Carruthers has supposedly ordered some decent transport for Violet Smith, and whether or not her



really did, Violet seems to think it's a reasonable order. Where would one order a trap complete with horse, that took over a week to

deliver? A mail order catalog? The local livery stable?

\*\*\*\*\*

## SOME ACCOMPANIMENTS WITH DINNER?

"I play his accompaniments in the evening," Miss Smith says of Mr. Carruthers. Accepting that a nice young woman like Miss Smith was NOT making the sort of suggestive remark some members of our list are reading that as, what would Carruthers most likely be accompanied in doing? Would he have been singing? Playing an

instrument? Or just enjoying a pleasant dinner?

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE TRANSPORTATION SITUATION AT CHILTERN GRANGE

Six miles from the station, no horse, but apparently a piano and some other accoutrements of a well-kept house. Did Mrs. Dixon and her employer walk to town for all their needs? Could they get deliveries of their heavier supplies? They couldn't have been using a bicycle, or else Carruthers would have been quickly suspected by his



employee. And while Miss Smith refers to "my bicycle," is there any indication she had a bike before her new job? Did she take it on the train with her, or leave it at the station?

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE JUNIOR PARTNER IS ON THE CASE

"No, my dear fellow, you will go down," Holmes tells Watson. "This may be some trifling intrigue, and I cannot break my other important research for the sake of it."

As Holmes's business increased in the 1890's, having Watson pre-screen the less dangerous cases seems a smart move. Was this an exceptional case, or did Watson do this on a regular basis? Or a better question: Could Watson do such a thing on a regular basis under Holmes's critical eye without ruining the friendship?

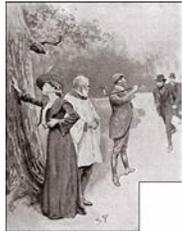
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## WATSON MAY HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF WRONG

"What should I have done?" Watson cries after Holmes criticizes his work.

"Gone to the nearest public-house," Holmes replies.

Well, Sherlock Holmes followed his own advice, and we saw what happened. What would have been the result had Dr. Watson done the same



and wound up going up against Roaring Jack Woodley? Would Watson have fared any better than Carruthers or come to "very

ignominious grief"?  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PARTNERSHIP OR BOSS-EMPLOYEE?**

Holmes gives Watson a thorough dressing-down in this case, stating Watson's results and asking: "Who's the better for that? Well, well, my dear sir, don't look so depressed. We can do little more until next Saturday, and in the meantime I may make one or two inquiries myself."

Does that sound like a friend or a boss? Was Holmes actually Watson's employer, rather than partner, at this point in their relationship?  
\*\*\*\*\*

**DID CARRUTHERS HAVE A CHANCE?**

Violet Smith writes, regarding her employer: "I am convinced his feelings are most deep and most honourable. At the same time, my promise is of course given."

Does that mean if she didn't already have Cyril, she might have married Carruthers? How much of that decision might have been romantic and how much economic?  
\*\*\*\*\*

**THE MAKE-UP OF THE COUNTRY PUB**

While Holmes is in the bar of the local pub, Woodley comes in from the tap-room. Was the bar for distilled beverages, while the tap-room was for beer or ale? Was this a pub of fairly decent size to have separate rooms for separate beverages, or was this the common state of pubs?  
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**THE HANDIWORK OF HOLMES**

Violet describes the beaten Jack Woodley: "He was always hideous, but he looks more awful than ever now, for he appears to have had an accident, and he is much disfigured."

Is Miss Smith reacting to minor abrasions due to her delicate nature, or did Holmes do serious damage to Woodley's face? What sort of disfigurements would we expect from Holmes's straight left?  
\*\*\*\*\*



**LIVING THE LIFE OF WATSON**

Watson tells us, "we hastened onward at such a pace my sedentary life began to tell upon me, and I was compelled to fall behind."

What "is" Watson doing with himself these days? Writing? Studying criminology? Lounging around until Thurston is ready to play pool? Is he really sitting all the time, or does he just mean he's not involved in active physical exercise? What about "the whirl of our incessant activity" he writes of later?  
\*\*\*\*\*

**THAT DOESN'T SOUND HEALTHY**

"As he spoke, a woman's shrill scream--a scream which vibrated with a frenzy of horror--burst from the thick, green clump of bushes in front of us. It ended suddenly on its highest note with a choke and a gurgle."



Miss Smith is soon found with a handkerchief in her mouth. But what did they do to her to end her scream with a choke and a "gurgle"?

Wouldn't that latter imply something awful like blood in the lungs or something equally deadly?

Might Woodley have poured whiskey down her throat, or some other liquor in an attempt to calm her?  
\*\*\*\*\*

**HOLMES'S FAME PRECEDES HIM**

"Who are you, then?" asks Bob Carruthers.

"My name is Sherlock Holmes."  
"Good Lord!"

While Carruthers may have heard of Holmes, the consulting detective, why does Holmes rate a "Good Lord!" Do criminals fear him that much? Did Carruthers think he was dead? Or what Carruthers's reaction just a general "Good Lord!" in the sense of "What else could go wrong?"  
\*\*\*\*\*

**THE VIRGIN EARS OF WATSON**

When Carruthers shoots Woodley, Williamson erupts in "such a string of foul oaths" as Watson never heard before.

Considering Watson had been in the Afghan War, among cursing military men, might Williamson have been swearing oaths he picked up in South Africa that were new to Watson? Might they have involved jungle creatures or African tribal deities?  
\*\*\*\*\*



**HOW WIDE WAS WOODLEY'S SWATH?**

Roaring Jack Woodley was "the greatest brute and bully in South Africa--a man whose name is a holy terror from Kimberley to Johannesburg." Quite a reputation for a man so young ... given the cities mentioned, how big an area was Woodley the greatest brute in? Was it all of South Africa?  
\*\*\*\*\*

# THE SEVEN SEAS

At the end of the "Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual," Watson's final entry states... "...of the woman (Rachel Howell) nothing was ever heard, and the probability is that she got away out of England, and carried herself, and the memory of her crime, to some land beyond the seas."

Since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the seven seas has meant parts of the oceans: the Arctic Ocean, the North Atlantic Ocean, the South Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the North Pacific Ocean, the South Pacific Ocean, and the Southern (or Antarctic) Ocean,

Before this "modern" change, can you name the seven seas Watson may have been referring to...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

The answers are at the bottom of this page...

## 56 STORIES IN 56 DAYS - "THE SOLITARY CYCLIST"

Posted on October 21, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet

The story centres around the experiences of a Miss Violet Smith – not to be confused with Violet Hunter from *The Copper Beeches*, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

Miss Smith makes quite an impression on Watson who clearly had a bit of a fancy for her – 'Young and beautiful woman, tall, graceful and queenly,' is his emotive description.

Holmes is initially too busy to investigate the strange case of Miss Smith being followed by a mysterious man as she cycles into town from Farnham to visit her mother from the country house where she was employed as a music teacher. Instead Holmes sends Watson to investigate and is pretty scathing about his results. Watson is happy to tootle off and do Holmes' bidding, but then what else has he to do now that he is no longer practicing medicine?

So even though their friendship has deepened of late, Holmes can still be very insensitive towards Watson, not to mention quite bossy. But then, I guess he has every right to ask favours after paying above the odds for Watson's medical practice, even though Watson is probably still unaware that it was actually Holmes who put up the money.

The adventure itself is fairly straightforward and doesn't contain many opportunities for brilliant deduction. And yet again it involves people from abroad with dodgy intentions. If I wasn't so stupidly busy at the moment I'd go through all the stories and work out how many of the villains are foreign and how many are English; I'm guessing the majority are from distant shores. I felt it was a bit of a come-down after the *Dancing Men*, which is a hard act to follow, so it gets 6 out of 10.

The Seven Seas:

1. the Adriatic Sea
2. the Mediterranean Sea, including its marginal seas, notably the Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea, Adriatic Sea and Tyrrhenian Sea.
3. the Black Sea
4. the Caspian Sea
5. the Persian Gulf
6. the Arabian Sea (which is part of the Indian Ocean)
7. the Red Sea, including the closed Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee

# AN INQUIRY INTO "THE SOLITARY CYCLIST"

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

"**The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist**" was first published in "Collier's Weekly Magazine" on December 26, 1903, and in "The Strand Magazine" in January 1904.

According to Baring-Gould's chronology, as set down in "**The Annotated Sherlock Holmes,**" Second Edition, 1974, the case takes place on Saturday April 13, to Saturday, April 20, 1895. At the time Holmes is 41 years old and Watson 43.

## Notable Quotes:

- "It is part of the settled order of Nature that such a girl should have followers."

## **The Spiritual Miss Smith**

Watson tells us that Holmes deduced that Violet Smith's "spatulate finger-end" although common to musicians and typists, argued for her being a musician because, "there is a spirituality about the face which the typewriter does not generate."

Does this not leave the realm of deduction and enters the area of feelings and guessing?

What is it about a typist that would keep him or her from having a spiritual expression?

What if the person typed to make a living but was a student of mysticism or someone who spent all his or her free time helping the poor and destitute?

Or, like Mr. Gladstone, rescuing fallen girls?

## **The Accommodating Watson**

Once again Watson is sent off on an errand to cover for Holmes.

And, of course, he does it unquestioningly with no concern for his practice, only to get berated by the Great Detective for his performance.

## **The Mock Marriage**

Why go through a mock ceremony?

Carruthers had to know that as an unfrocked cleric he had no authority--civil or canonical--to perform a marriage.

Added to that, the bride was acting under duress, and even if it were otherwise, the absence of a witness would have made the ceremony valueless (q.v., SCAN).

## What else happened in 1895:

### **EMPIRE**

- Freetown, Sierra Leone, granted municipal status and privileges.

- Anglo-French interests begin to conflict in Nile Valley.
- U.S. intervenes in Anglo-Venezuelan border dispute, arbitration in Britain's favor.
- Construction of Uganda railway commenced.
- British East Africa Company surrenders Kenya as British protectorate.
- Jameson Raid.



### **BRITAIN**

- Liberals defeated at general election, Salisbury again becomes prime minister.
- Compulsory retirement of aged Duke of Cambridge as C-in-C of British Army.
- London School of Economics and Political Science founded.
- First automobile exhibition in London.
- Electrification of first mainline railway.

## WORLD



- Japan takes Formosa.
- Germany, France, and Russia unite to compel Japan to return Liaotung peninsula to China.
- Treaty of Simonoseki, end of Sino-Japanese war.
- Cuban rebellions begin, U.S. protests brutal suppression.



- Dreyfus refused new trial by French President Faure.
- National League founded in Poland; aimed at autonomy under Russian suzerainty.
- Nyssens Law extended to Belgian provinces and communes.



- Armenian demonstration in Constantinople leads to massacre of 50,000 Armenians.
- Frontiers of Pamirs fixed by commission of Russians, Afghans, and British.
- Introduction of diphtheria antitoxin.
- Completion of Kiel Canal (61 miles) makes Germany North Sea power.



## ART



- Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* debuts. Later that year, Wilde is imprisoned.



- Corelli publishes *The Sorrows of Satan*.
- H.G. Wells publishes *The Time Machine*.

## SCIENCE



- Wilhelm Konrad Röntgen, German physicist, experiments with Crooke's tubes and discovers X-rays.
- Ramsey obtains helium, first identified by its spectrum in the sun, in 1868.
- On December 28th, in the Hotel Scribe, in Paris, the first public cinema show takes place.
- Thomas Armat, of Washington, develops modern cinema projection.
- King Gillette (U.S.) invents safety razor.
- Wireless telegraphy is demonstrated.



# STORY INFO PAGES FOR "THE SOLITARY CYCLIST"

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

- **First published in:** The Strand Magazine, January 1904, Collier's, December 26, 1903
- **Time frame of story (known/surmised):** Stated clearly by Watson – Saturday April 23, 1895. This is one of the few cases where Watson's date is totally specific. Unfortunately he gets it wrong. April 23, 1895 was Tuesday. No clues to the correct date.
- **HOLMES & WATSON living arrangements:** HOLMES & WATSON sharing quarters at 221B.
- **Opening scene:** Holmes was immersed in a very abstruse and complicated problem. Then a visitor, a young and beautiful woman, tall, graceful, and queenly, called upon him but was at first unwelcome, as Holmes resented anything which distracted his attention from the matter in hand. She was determined, however, and implored his assistance and advice, so he gave in with a resigned air and a somewhat weary smile.
- **Client:** Miss Violet Smith, the solitary cyclist of Charlington.
- **Crime or concern:** Client accepted job as music teacher at a country estate offered under strange circumstances with high pay. She visited her mother in London on weekends and had a 6-mile bicycle trip from/to the station. Found herself trailed by a cyclist who lagged behind, but kept her in view. Then there was Mr. Woodley, a guest of her employer, a despicable person, who treated the client poorly. She had misgivings and wanted Holmes' advice on how to proceed.
- **Villain:** Mr. Carruthers of Chiltern Grange, about six miles from Farnham, and Mr. Woodley, his friend and occasional guest. Woodley was the more villainous. They were both home on a visit from S. Africa. Carruthers was a dark, sallow, clean-shaven, silent person; but he had polite manners and a pleasant smile. Woodley, on the other hand, was hateful. He was a coarse, puffy-faced man, with his hair plastered down on each side of his forehead. Not only that, but he had a red moustache. One evening, he seized Violet in his arms and he swore that he would not let her go until she kissed him. Carruthers kicked him out of the house as a result, but he didn't go far.
- **Logic used to solve:** Odd situation. Unexplained connection between Carruthers and Woodley, since they appeared to be men a different type. Why were they both so keen upon looking up Ralph Smith's relations? And, what sort of a menage is it which pays double the market price for a governess, but does not keep a horse though six miles from the station? Odd, — very odd! Holmes sent Watson down to investigate, but he did a poor job. Then Holmes went down to inquire and figured it all out.
- **Policemen:** Three of the county constabulary arrived at the conclusion of the action.
- **Holmes' fees:** No mention.
- **Transport:** Trains between town and Farnam. Six miles by bicycle or horse-drawn trap between the station and Chiltern Grange.
- **Food, Drink, Vices:** no mention

- **Other cases mentioned:** That of Archie Stamford, the forger, who was taken near Farnham, on the borders of Surrey.  
The peculiar persecution to which John Vincent Harden, the well-known tobacco millionaire, had been subjected.
- **Notable Quotables:** “He made odious love to me” – Violet Smith, speaking of Mr. Woodley.  
“He has never said anything. He is a perfect gentleman. But a girl always knows.” – Violet Smith, speaking of Mr. Carruthers.
- **Other interestings:** While at the country pub making inquiries, Holmes is overheard by Woodley, who spoke to Holmes, with a fine flow of language, and his adjectives were very vigorous. He ended a string of abuse with a vicious back-hander which Holmes failed to entirely avoid. The next few minutes were delicious. It was a straight left against a slogging ruffian. Holmes emerged with minor scrapes and bruises. Mr. Woodley went home in a cart.  
So who was the solitary cyclist? In the opening scene, Watson tells us “I will now lay before the reader the facts connected with

Miss Violet Smith, the solitary cyclist of Charlington, and the curious sequel of our investigation, which culminated in unexpected tragedy.”

Then, near the end we hear: “As we turned the curve the whole stretch of road between the Hall and the heath was opened up. I grasped Holmes’s arm. A solitary cyclist was coming towards us. It was Carruthers, with a false beard.

When all was said and done: It had been a strange plot. Carruthers and Woodley knew Violet’s uncle in S. Africa, where he had become rich. He had a fatal disease, and they all know Violet would inherit. Carruthers and Woodley came to England to woo Violet and marry her, and agreed to share the fortune. Woodley won first dibs on her at cards while coming across. But she was engaged and not distracted, but did not know her uncle had money. Carruthers then fell in love with Violet. In the climactic moment, he shot Woodley but did not kill him.

Violet married her original fiancée, Mr. Cyril Morton, an electrical engineer who became the senior partner of Morton & Kennedy, the famous Westminster electricians.

# Could you afford to live in Sherlock Holmes' Baker Street flat?

By Lottie Evans | Posted: February 04, 2017

Mortgage Advisers has calculated the cost of some of the most famous fictional homes (and one rather famous non-fictional residence) in the UK and the hoops you'd have to jump through to turn owning them into a reality.

Principal mortgage adviser for Which?, David Blake, said: "Whether it's Albert Square or Aberdeen, Downton Abbey or Dartmouth, there is huge variation in the affordability of properties across the UK.

When looking for a mortgage, it is important to separate the fact from the fiction to ensure you know exactly what you can afford.

"Seeking independent advice from a reputable mortgage adviser can also help you to get the best possible mortgage deal."



## 221 Baker Street

More famously known as Sherlock Holmes' London flat.

What an agent might say: A beautiful two bedroom Georgian terrace in the centre of London which has a large, airy sitting room lit by broad windows. A sought-after property formerly the home of detective extraordinaire Sherlock Holmes. One wall partly indented with bullet holes.

Guide price: £1.7M

That's about \$2,122,875.00 in U.S. dollars

Real-life scenario: Properties next to or above commercial businesses are more difficult to secure mortgages on.

Smells could drift into the property and it may be deemed at an increased risk of fire.

Up to £425,000 (25 %) deposit likely required.

# NOW LET US DRINK TO FAMOUS PEOPLE

John Baesch, BSI, The Holmes & Watson Report, May, 1998

The person who asks you to give a toast pays you an honor.

The person honors you all the more if they give you respectable notice to prepare.

Some Sherlockian groups, like the Sons of the Copper Beeches of Philadelphia and the New

York Strangers Room, test your wit and knowledge

by giving you about five to ten minutes' notice.

For those Sherlockian societies (and possibly others), that's part of playing the game.

One of my most unforgettable toasts occurred when given a slip of paper with an Australian illusion I did not know.

I will never forget that test of quick-wittedness, but I hope my audience does.

The toast is an important part of many Sherlockian meetings.

Some societies have ritual toasts.

That is, the same persons, places, or things are toasted at every meeting.

In other cases, the toasts vary according to what's relevant for the particular event.



The practice of toasting goes all the way back to the formation of the Baker Street Irregulars and the original BUY-LAWS:

"An annual meeting shall be held on January 6, at



which time the canonical toasts shall be drunk; after which the members shall drink at will."

For many Sherlockians, giving a toast bridges the gap between being a mere onlooker at meetings and being an active participant.

Once that gap is bridged, it's a short step to presenting papers and actually becoming one of the sparking plugs of the Sherlockian group.

There was a time when society had very strict rules about toasting.

There are also vast differences between the practice of toasting in the United States and toasting in the United Kingdom.

That notwithstanding, nowadays, except for the diplomatic service and the armed forces, there is a great deal of freedom allowed in giving toasts.

This makes it easier on all of us to offer a toast when the occasion requires.

Except for toasts to the monarch, English toasts tend to be longer and more involved.

People toasting the immortal memory of some person, place, or thing often give toasts as elaborate as papers in some scion societies.

Toasts to the monarch, however, are quite brief.



The Loyal Toast is the first toast drunk and the form is simply:

"Ladies and gentlemen, the Queen."

If you are not in the Royal Navy and on a ship, drink this toast standing.

Embellishing this toast with Her Majesty's various titles like "of Great Britain and Ireland and the Dominions beyond the sea, Empress of India, etc." is simply bad form.

Some guidebooks specify that it is allowable to play one verse of "God Save the Queen" after the toast with the audience standing.

Except for one occasion at the Bull Terrier Club of Boston where I orchestrated it, I have never actually seen the Loyal Toast done precisely this way.

For other toasts, the following may be helpful, although I am not attempting to usurp the authority of the various guides that are available.

I only want to set before you what works for me and what I've seen work for others in practice.

1. Try to speak to the person, place, or thing being toasted in such a way that it relates to the gathering at hand. That generally means some preparation and possibly research to come up with some thoughts that can be expressed in less than two minutes.
2. Your audience should clearly understand why it's important that you honor the recipient of a toast. That's your job as the person offering it.

3. If you are comfortable with the group and with yourself, a little humor is a great thing. One of the most memorable toasts I ever heard to The Hound of the Baskervilles ended, " ... So now again we drink to thee, you phosphorescent S.O.B."

4. Similarly, a sung toast or a toast in verse will be long remembered. If you are good, you will be well applauded. If not, you have nailed yourself to a cross from which there is no resurrection as long as your audience remembers it.

There's another rule, but it doesn't have a number.

Just remember it. The rule is: "Above all, enjoy giving the toast."

Return the honor you were given with a few thoughts that do some justice to what you toast.

Toasts are wonderful icebreakers in the Sherlockian life.

They are a chance to contribute to the group while enjoying the group activity.

Here's an example of a Sherlockian toast given recently at a Sherlockian wine tasting.

It's almost in the English manner, but the wine tasting had no formal papers, only the toasts and the explanation of the wines we were sampling.

All the wines had some canonical significance.

This particular red wine was called "Old Telegram."

To the Old Telegram:

The Gospel of St. John begins thus, "In the beginning was the Word."

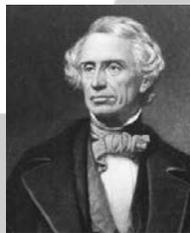
Even in the story of Genesis, God said it before He did it.

"God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."

For us mortals, saying, transmitting, and understanding words have been the benchmarks of our civilization.

The better and faster we did it, the more civilization flourished.

Professor Samuel F. B. Morse gave wings to words by the invention of a means to convert



words to code, send code electrically, and convert code back to words.

He patented his invention under the name "telegraph," and the messages were "telegrams."

The first intercity telegraph line was strung between Baltimore and Washington along the right of way of The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The first Morse telegram was sent by Morse himself from the old Supreme Court Chamber in the U.S. Capitol to the Mount Clare railroad station in Baltimore.

The message referred to the deity, the Word of St. John's Gospel.

The message read, "What hath God wrought."

The SECOND telegram, by the way, was a personal greeting from Dolly Madison to her friend, Mrs. John Wethered, the wife of Baltimore's Congressman.



Thus, the telegram was a means of communication for personal and commercial use from the very first day.



Soon the telegram was the ordinary means of communicating for millions of people when the message was short and had to get there fast.

In the Holmesian canon, there are more than eighty telegrams flying back and forth. Holmes sends over thirty telegrams himself, one of them to Wiggins of the Baker Street Irregulars.

In its day, the telegram was high tech and Sherlock Holmes would make the best use of technology.

So would Scotland Yard.

Who could fail the following summons from Lestrade to Holmes: Come instantly, 131 Pitt St. Kensington - Lestrade."

Who among us would not thrill, as Watson did, to receive the following telegram from Sherlock Holmes: "Have you a couple of days to spare? Have just been wired from the West of England in connection with the Bascombe Valley tragedy. Shall be glad if you would come with me. Air and scenery perfect. Leave Paddington by the 11: 15."

Ladies and gentlemen, to the Old Telegram.

# Baker Street Elementary



## The Second Year

Staff: Tom Figg, Rusty & Steve Mason

The First Animations of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson

Baker Street Elementary  
Number 096 - 02/12/2017

Figg, Mason, & Mason

FOR THE LAST TIME, IT'S MAGIC... IF I SHOWED YOU HOW IT'S DONE, IT WOULD CEASE TO BE AN ILLUSION...



WELL, NEVIL, YOU HAVE A NATURAL TALENT AT THIS...

I HOPE TO BE A PROFESSIONAL MAGICIAN WHEN I GET OLDER...



WITH YOUR CURRENT ABILITIES, MASTER MASKELYNE \*, IT IS SAFE TO SAY YOU WILL BE THE MOST TALENTED ILLUSIONISTS ANY OF US WILL EVER MEET, OR HAVE AS A FRIEND...



\* LOOK HIM UP

OH, THERE WILL BE OTHERS WHO WILL BE JUST AS GOOD, IF NOT BETTER...

HEY, I KNOW A MAGIC JOKE...



DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE UNDER-SIZED FORTUNE-TELLER WHO ESCAPED FROM PRISON...

THE NEWSPAPER HEADLINE READ, "SMALL MEDIUM AT LARGE..."



CAN YOU POSSIBLY MAKE ME DISAPPEAR BEFORE HE TELLS ANY OTHER JOKES...

