

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 06, No. 03 - March, 2018
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



PLEASE NOTE:

April 1st Meeting NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 1st**, at 1:00 pm. at LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE, in Addison. We considered moving the meeting to the 8th, due to Easter, but the venue is already booked.

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

We will be reading "The Adventure of the Six Napoleons." The quiz will cover this tale.

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

March 4th Meeting Summary

There were 18 attendees on hand, including visitors. The Opening toast was delivered by Steve Mason, honoring Paul Herbert who passed away in February (see page 3).

The quiz covered "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton" and was won by Walter Pieper, gaining an authentic autograph of Lou Costello, who played Sherlock Holmes years ago.

Diana Tran gave a fascinating presentation on comic books of Sherlock Holmes, focusing on the crossover of Batman/Holmes issues.

Steve Mason closed the meeting with a reading from the Baker Street Journal (see page 4).



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

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

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

Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries
Historian
Webmaster

Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison
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Our Website: www.dfw-sherlock.org

Our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar/>

The image is a collage of Sherlock Holmes-themed content. On the left, there is a vertical strip of parchment with several quotes: "That will await him when he enters port," said he, chuckling. "It may give him a sleepless night. He will find it as sure a precursor of his fate as Openshaw did before him." "And who is this Captain Calhoun?" "The leader of the gang. I shall have the other..." "How did you trace it, then?" "He took a large sheet of paper from his pocket..." "I have spent the whole day," said he, "over in January and February in '83. There were attracted my attention, since, although it was..." "Texas, I think." "I was not and am not..." "What then?" "I was not and am not..."

In the center, there is a screenshot of a website titled "THE CREW OF THE BARQUE LONE STAR". The website features a logo with a star and a silhouette of a man, a search bar, and a navigation menu with items like "Home Page", "About", "Crew Investitures and Awards", "Newsletters, Crew Meeting Logs, & Society Pastiches", "Papers", "Many Faces of Sherlock Holmes", and "Ephemera -- General". A main image shows a building labeled "Baker Street Elementary" with a spiderweb in the foreground. Below the image is the text "THE MAY MEETING".

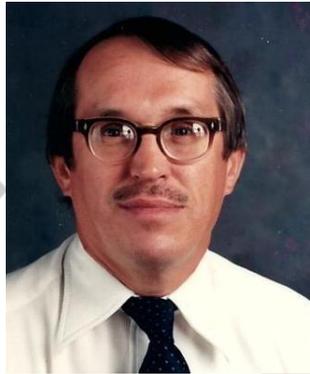
On the right, there is a vertical strip of parchment with a quote: "vessel which touched at Pondichery of these, one, the Lone Star, instantly of the states of the Union."

Overlaid on the bottom half of the collage is a screenshot of a Facebook page for "The Crew of the Barque Lone Star @BarqueLoneStar". The page includes a navigation bar with "Page", "Messages", "Notifications", "Insights", and "Publishing Tools". A notification banner says "You Have Unread Messages". The main content area features a poster for "A SHERLOCK HOLMES LITERARY SOCIETY" with the text "Monthly meetings every 1st Sunday @ 1pm La Madeleine Country French Café" and a silhouette of a man's profile. Below the poster are buttons for "Like", "Follow", "Share", and "Add a Button". The left sidebar shows the page name and navigation options like "Home", "About", "Photos", "Events", "Likes", "Videos", "Posts", and "Reviews". The bottom section includes a "Write something..." prompt and four action buttons: "Share a photo or video", "Advertise your business", "Get messages", and "Create an event". The right sidebar shows "Organization" and "Page Tips" sections.

ON THE TERRACE... PAUL DAVID HERBERT

Paul David Herbert, 79 of Miami Township., passed away Friday February 16, 2018.

Paul graduated college with a Master's degree in education, he retired after teaching many years in the Deer Park City School's.



He was an avid Sherlockian and an esteemed member of the BAKER STREET IRREGULARS, as well as a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and other Scions throughout the United States.

Paul maintained a large Sherlock Holmes collection and was the founder of the local Scion THE TANKERVILLE CLUB, the Cincinnati Ohio local scion society.

The society has been in for 40 years, where Paul managed four meetings a year to discuss a story and have fellowship with others who enjoy the writings of "The Master".

Paul received his investiture as "Mr. Leverton, of Pinkerton's" in 1977.

He received the BSI Two-Shilling Award in 2004

For twenty years Paul was the BSI's Dr. Watson, presiding over the Dr. John H. Watson Fund, which offers financial assistance to Sherlockians who might otherwise not be able to participate in the birthday festivities in New York.

Paul also loved baseball, especially baseball statistics and the history of the sport.



So raise your glasses and honor a wonderful Sherlockian, Paul Herbert, Mr. Leverton of Pinkerton's.

"THE EDITOR'S GAS-LAMP"

BAKER STREET JOURNAL, STEVEN ROTHMAN, EDITOR - SUMMER, 2001

There is a belief popular among some Sherlockians that, like Blake's grain of sand, the Canon encompasses the whole world.

In our innermost heart of hearts, we know it cannot be so.

Could we possibly appreciate the stories as much as we do if we only knew the Canon?

Think how much the various annotated editions have added to our enjoyment and how little of the information they impart is derived solely from the Canon.

Knowledge can be a funny thing. Holmes's own attitude toward learning seems to change over the years.

The curiously blinkered man we first meet in *Study in Scarlet* whose knowledge is sketched out by Watson is hard to connect to the polymath who

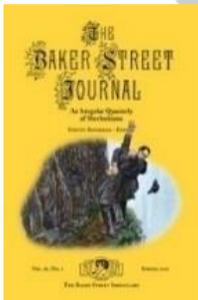
writes monographs on the polyphonic motets of Lasso and plans his holiday around his researches into ancient Cornish and its relationship to Chaldean.

Can we, who claim to follow in Holmes's footsteps, really deny ourselves the pleasures of learning as much as possible about as much as possible?

Can we afford to continue to pretend to deny the existence of Conan Doyle, when new biographies are bringing us more and more information about the creator of the Detective?

The true Sherlockian is the one who pursues learning-rushing down whatever avenue appears. The more we know, the better we can understand the Canon.

This year is a good time to throw off these old traces and run with the freedom that only knowledge gives.



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.

I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

While the image of Sherlock Holmes has been tied to the magnifying glass, only ten percent of the stories actually include a reference to the use of lenses.

He used a magnifying glass or lens in six of the stories in the canon (A Study in Scarlet, "The Adventure of the Red-Headed League," "A Case of Identity," "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet," "The Adventure of the Norwood Building," and "The Adventure of Black Peter") and a microscope at the end of "The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place."

Nonetheless, the history of optics suggests these tools serve as a fitting symbol for the detective.

References to magnifying devices, most likely using water, date back to 424 BC.

The Roman invention of glass in the first century included experimentation with different shapes.

They discovered that those with a convex shape (thicker in the middle) would enlarge an object held near it and could also be used to burn objects by concentrating light.

The term "lens" derives from the Latin word of "lentil" because the shape resembles that of the lentil bean.

While the interest and use of lenses languished in Europe following the fall of the Roman Empire, the Arab mathematician Ibn al-Haytham completed a seven-volume work on optics (written from 1011-1021). Considered the first true researcher, Ibn al-Haytham followed the scientific method of testing hypotheses through experimentation five hundred years before the approach re-appeared in Renaissance Europe.

His investigations with light, vision, mirrors and magnifying lenses were later translated into Latin in the 12th or 13th century and influenced a resurgence in the interest of lenses in Europe at that time.

Convex lenses appeared as eyeglasses (consisting of two lenses with handles riveted together) in Italy in the late 1200s and in Roger Bacon's magnifying glasses in 1250. He created these lenses for additional study of light, mirrors, reflection and refraction inspired by the writings of Ibn al-Haytham.

In the 1590s, Dutch spectacle makers Hans and Zacharias Jansen arranged several lenses in a tube and discovered they could increase the magnification beyond that of a single lens, but it was considered more of a novelty than anything with practical applications.

Anton van Leeuwenhoek, however, saw the potential and made and used the first true microscope.

He also developed techniques to grind and polish lenses to reach a power of 270x magnification.

By the Victorian era, the lenses for magnifying glasses and microscopes were well-made and very precise.



Dr. Robert Ing, a forensic scientist, has concluded Holmes most likely used a "10 power silver and chrome magnifying glass"—a much more powerful instrument than the 2x-6x typically available today.



His microscope was most likely “a brass tripod base monocular optical microscope probably manufactured by Powell & Lealand” based on the instrument’s popularity at the time.

While Holmes might be considered ill-equipped by current forensic lab standards, such equipment was considered state-of-the art

and served him well in his pursuits.

The image of Sherlock Holmes and his magnifying glass serves as an appropriate symbol for the detective.

Given its roots in the scientific method, the lens represents his disciplined approach to collecting and following facts to their final conclusion.

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- (1) <http://www.history-of-the-microscope.org/invention-of-glass-lenses-and-the-history-of-the-light-microscope.php>
 - (2) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_al-Haytham
 - (3) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnifying_glass
 - (4) <https://targetstudy.com/knowledge/invention/23/magnifying-glass.html>
 - (5) <http://www.history-of-the-microscope.org/history-of-the-microscope-who-invented-the-microscope.php>
 - (6) <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/sherlock-holmes-and-the-tools-of-deduction-10556242/>

You can check out more of Liese Sherwood-Fabre’s writings at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com.

The first 24 of Liese Sherwood-Fabre’s essays are now available in *The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes*, both paperback and ebook. Retailers are listed on her Webpage (www.liesesherwoodfabre.com).

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>

An Inquiry Into "The Adventure of the Six Napoleons"

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

- "The Adventure of the Six Napoleons" was first published in Collier's Weekly Magazine on April 30, 1904, and in The Strand Magazine in May 1904. It is part of The Return of Sherlock Holmes.
- The chronology for this case varies, depending on which Canon expert one consults. The various estimates are as follows: Canon: May 20; Baring-Gould: Friday, June 8, 1900; Bell: July 1900; Blakeney: 1895 or later; Brend: Late summer 1900; Christ: Friday, August 29, 1902; Dakin: July 1900; Folsom: Late June 1900; Hall: Late June 1900; Keefauver: Wednesday, June 4, 1902; Klinger: 1900; Zeisler: Monday, June 11, 1900.
- If the case does indeed take place in 1900, as the majority of the cited Canon chronologist state, then at the time Holmes was 46 years old and Watson 48.

Notable Quotes:

- "The Press, Watson is a most valuable institution, if you only know how to use it."
- "Well, I've seen you handle a good many cases, Mr. Holmes, but I don't know that I ever knew a more workmanlike one than that. We're not jealous of you at Scotland Yard. No, sir, we are very proud of you, and if you come down to-morrow there's not a man, from the oldest inspector to the youngest constable, who wouldn't be

glad to shake you by the hand."

The Sociable Lestrade

- Watson tells us that by this time the relationship of Holmes and Lestrade had reached a level at which it was not unusual for the latter to drop in during an evening to discuss police business, giving Holmes a very welcome update on the goings-on of Scotland Yard.
- I find this rather interesting. Not to be cruel, but I think that in the passing of time Holmes developed a kind of affection for Lestrade; perhaps not unlike that one might have for a somewhat large, not-too-bright clumsy big dog who always tries his best, and falls short of the mark.
- Considering the social gap between Lestrade and Holmes it is quite remarkable that that Scotland Yarder felt comfortable enough to regularly drop by 221B uninvited. We, in the 21st century have tended to forget how much the way people addressed others and were, in turn, addressed by others delineated the insurmountable class barriers.
- For example, the stately paced Mrs. Hudson was always referred as such, showing her status as an established member of at least the lower middle class, and therefore owed a higher level of respect than a servant; otherwise, she would have been just plain

"Hudson." In fact, as an example, Brunton would have been "Brunton" to his betters and "Mr. Brunton to the staff that labored under him.

- Nevertheless, regardless of how close the relationship between the professional and gifted amateur became. Holmes would always be "Mr. Holmes" to Lestrade, but Lestrade never "Mr. Lestrade" to Holmes. When the Great Detective refers to the Scotland Yarder as "Mister," it somewhat sarcastically, as in BOSC:
 - "There is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact. Besides, we may chance to hit upon some other obvious facts which may have been by no means obvious to Mr. Lestrade. You know me too well to think that I am boasting when I say that I shall either confirm or destroy his theory by means which he is quite incapable of employing, or even of understanding. To take the first example to hand, I very clearly perceive that in your bedroom the window is upon the right-hand side, and yet I question whether Mr. Lestrade would have noted even so self-evident a thing as that."
- ## Lestrade Does Not Disappoint
- Regardless of class or education, the fact remains that our friend Lestrade never appears to retain the many lessons given him by Sherlock Holmes. Although the

Scotland Yarder recognizes that someone who makes a point of smashing busts of Napoleon makes for an unusual case, his lack of perception is difficult to fathom.

- Consider the outstanding fact that this “maniac” smashes only one type of Napoleonic memorabilia: a bust of the Emperor—and a very specific one at that. Lestrade noticed that Dr. Barnicot, “is an enthusiastic admirer of Napoleon, and his house is full of books, pictures, and relics of the French Emperor.” However, he failed to take the connection that if, indeed, they were dealing with a criminal who was a monomaniac with an *idée fixe* about destroying things connected with Napoleon, why would he not have made a wreck of all of Barnicot’s collection? This should have been a very obvious fact. In the Rathbone/Bruce version, The Pearl of Death, the killer covered the smashing of the Napoleon busts by breaking up enough crockery and bric-a-brac to disguise what his target was.

- No, Lestrade, that won’t do!

Worth of the Borgia Pearl

- We are given to understand that the Borgia pearl was nothing short of legendary. Naturally, one would assume that its value would be commensurate to its reputation. In short, just how much was the Borgia pearl worth?
- Sometime back I looked into the matter and, like that very model of a modern Major-

General, I gathered information vegetable, animal, and mineral. One of the things I learnt (which made me feel a bit like Lestrade, so obvious is the fact) is that pearls are the only organically produced jewels.

- Relevant to our case is that real black pearls come from the *Pinctada margaritifera* oyster, known as the black-lip oyster, native to French Polynesia and the Cook Islands. Borgia-type pearls are very rare and are called Tahitian pearls or black South Sea pearls.
- Generally speaking, a faultless pearl would be perfectly shaped, with a flawless surface, excellent coloration, and sharp luster. Most top-grade pearls average 10.0 mm and larger, and retail in the \$1,000+ range. Some high-end large round white or pink freshwater pearls can retail at over \$5,000 to \$10,000 in jewelry stores. Richard Burton paid somewhat over \$37,000 for a rose-colored tear-shaped pearl he gave Elizabeth Taylor. However, this was not a black, pearl, and therefore much cheaper.
- Then there is Pliny’s story about Cleopatra’s pearl earrings. Disgusted with Antony’s gluttony and very un-Roman love of luxury and extravagance, she bet him she could spend 10,000,000 sesterces (\approx \$500,000 in gold) for one dinner. Antony promptly agreed, disbelieving that such a level of expense was possible for only one meal, regardless of how sumptuous, but when he

arrived at the banquet hall, he was surprised to see that while everything was set to host a banquet, there was no food.

- He asked Cleopatra about this and for an answer she removed one of her pearl earrings consisting “of the largest pearls of all time” said to have been left to her by oriental kings, and placed it in a glass of vinegar leaving it there until it dissolved and then drank it. As she reached for the second pearl, Lucius Plancus, a friend of Antony’s who was refereeing the bet stopped her and declared her the winner. Later, Augustus took the second pearl and had it cut in two, with each half ending in each ear of the statue of Venus in the Parthenon at Rome.
- By then, of course, both Cleo and Tony were beyond caring.
- So, if we consider the Serpent of the Nile’s pearl earrings as a benchmark and value the Borgia pearl accordingly, we are looking at a jewel worth \approx \$250,000 in today’s money. In Holmes’ time, this would have come to a price of \approx £800. Holmes paid £10 (\approx \$3,300) for all rights to the bust. Assuming a 10% finder’s fee, he received £80 (\approx \$26,000). Not a bad return for less than three days’ work!

Lestrade’s Tribute

- I think that Lestrade’s panegyric to Holmes’ abilities is unique in the Sacred Writings, because does not originate from someone’s passing surprise at one of our sleuth’s deduction, but is sincere admiration that comes

from the heart, respect and acknowledgement of a superior mind. Good for Lestrade!

What else happened in 1900:

EMPIRE

- Tonga placed under British protection.
- Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act; establishes federalism.
- Roberts replaces Buller in South Africa; relief of Ladysmith, Mafeking, Kimberly; Boer leader Kronje surrenders at Paardeberg; Transvaal and Orange Free State annexed by Britain.
- Royal Niger Company's territories are taken over by the British government.
- Yangtze Convention: Britain and Germany guarantee freedom of trade to uphold Chinese integrity.

BRITAIN

- Wallace collection displayed in current location in Manchester Square.
- Mount Pleasant postal sorting office opens.
- Passmore Edwards Museum in Stratford opens.
- Russell Hotel opens.
- Central London Railway (Central Line) opens; London's tubes electrified.

- Labour Representation Committee, beginning of the Labour Party.
- National Brass Band contests instituted at the Crystal Palace.
- School made obligatory until age 14.
- Birmingham University founded.
- Davis Cup presented for men's international lawn tennis.

WORLD

- Boxer Rebellion ended by military relief of besieged foreign legations.
- Franco-Italian Treaty concerning North African colonies.
- Proportionate Representation in Belgium.
- Tirpitz induces German Reichstag to pass Navy Act, to double the navy by 1920.
- Germany receives Samoa in the Pacific.
- Assassination of King Humberto of Italy, accessions of Victor Emmanuel III.
- Socialist Revolutionary Party formed in Russia, advocates terrorism.
- Russia occupies Manchuria, massacres 45,000 Chinese.
- Working day in France is limited to 10 hours.
- Since 1876, 2,000 km of new canals are completed in France.

- Witte brings 60% of Russian railways under state control.

ART

- Conrad publishes Lord Jim.
- Theodore Dreiser publishes Sister Carrie.
- Shaw debuts Three Plays for Puritans: The Devil's Disciple, Caesar and Cleopatra, Captain Brassbound's Conversion.
- Puccini debuts La Tosca.

SCIENCE

- G. Ricci and T. Levi-Civita develop the absolute differential calculus from earlier concept of tensors.
- Max Planck proposed quantum theory.
- Piotr Lebedev demonstrates the existence of the pressure of light.
- J.E. Brandenburger invents cellophane.
- First Zeppelin is built.
- Escalator, invented in the U.S.A., exhibited in Paris Exhibition.
- Hugo de Vries publishes The Mutation Theory, leading to the modern evolution theory.
- F.E. Dorn discovers radon, a heavy gas.
- Benjamin Holt invents the caterpillar tractor.
- Sigmund Freud publishes Traumdeutung, the interpretation of dreams.

PERIPATETIC PERCEIVER PROWLs PUBS AND PUBLIC PLACES - OBSERVATIONS FROM DEAN CLARK'S LONDON TOUR

Dean Clark

BAKER STREET W1
CITY OF WESTMINSTER



In 1990, the Afghanistan Perceivers published an article in their *Dispatch*, in which our own Dean Clark provided details of his recent visit of jolly ol'

London. Dean has graciously allowed us to reprint his article here for your entertainment.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Tulsa sponsored an eight-day tour of London in early March that was almost as much Sherlockian as Savoyard in that two Perceivers of long standing (well, if the public houses weren't open), namely, Ed Morrison and R. Dean Clark, were included in the forty person traveling party.

It was the seventh visit to London for the indefatigable Morrison who promptly decamped at the head of a thirteen-person group for an overnight stay in Manchester (the venue for the All Creatures Great and Small books and television shows).

London rookie Clark remained in the capitol and exhausted himself in a nonstop quest to do and see everything of interest in a single week. That is, as he discovered, impossible. It is equally impossible to fittingly describe everything that was seen and experienced in a few paragraphs.

Therefore, most of this article will be devoted to invaluable data that will help all potential London visitors (which likely includes 100 percent of the Perceiver membership).

LODGING: London hotel rates are among the highest in the world, and that's stratospheric. In



order to get a rate significantly under three figures per night, you have to settle for something that's at least two levels below a mediocre Holiday Inn. Our London hotel was,

not surprisingly, very spartan. The rooms were small and contained only essential essentials -- two twin beds, a small closet, a desk and chair, and a television set. However, a private bath with plenty of hot water was included and the maid service was efficient; In addition, a free continental breakfast (with virtually unlimited coffee and toast) was available.

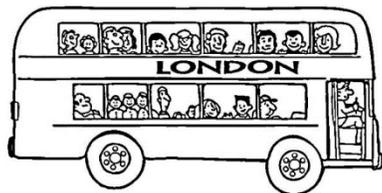
TRANSPORTATION: Unlike lodging, excellent transportation can be had quite inexpensively. In our case, it was very cheap because a Visitor's Travel Card was included in the overall price. This card gets you on the subways ("tubes" or "underground" in English English) and buses. That is all you need. I found the tubes wonderfully efficient. They, unlike their U.S. counterparts, have a very low rate of violent crime, but do watch you wallets and purses. The London subways are also extremely deep, much deeper than New York's tunnels and you instantly see why the Brits headed for them during the WWII air raids. You almost never wait more than a minute or two for a train. All the stations are well



marked and all contain very easy-to-read maps. After a day (at most), you'll be zipping around town with ease.

In addition, a high percentage of the famous sights are well within walking distance. London looks quite spread out on the map, but on nice days you'll astonish yourself at the distances you will cover on foot.

ARRANGED TOURS: A very good idea for the morning of the first day is to take a double-decker tour bus from Trafalgar Square. I took one that cost six pounds (about ten dollars). The tour lasted about ninety minutes and gives you an opportunity to both orient yourself and to identify some things you want to revisit for an extended period. An almost unlimited number of specialized walking



tours are available, including one on the "London of Sherlock Holmes" which begins at the Baker Street tube

stop and ends at the Abbey National Building, which most authorities cite as the spot where 221B would have been. Baker Street is now a mainly commercial thoroughfare but the houses a block or two away give you the feel of what Doyle had in mind when he located Holmes/Watson in this area. This part of Baker Street is also near Regent Park, arguably the most elegant of London's famous large parks and well worth a long, leisurely stroll. I highly recommend a tour titled "The London of Shakespeare and Dickens." Much of London that the latter experienced is still extant. You can almost live the great novel Little Dorritt. This latter tour, by the way, goes down Clink Street which was once the site of a notorious prison and thus the origin of an oft-used phrase.

MUSEUMS: As you might expect, an almost infinite number exist and many of the most famous are free, (i.e., British Museum, National Portrait Gallery, National Gallery of Art) as are the great cathedrals (Westminster, St. Paul's, St. Martin's in the Field). All of the above are within easy walking

distance of each other. There are so many museums that you won't possibly be able to see them all on a limited first visit. I wasn't able to cram in such celebrated ones as the Victoria and Albert and the Museum of Natural History. History buffs will probably be most fascinated by the British Museum and the National Portrait Gallery. The former has immense collections of Middle East/Egyptian and Greek/Roman



artifacts, including the Elgin Marbles and the urns that inspired Keats. It also contains the rare books portions of the British Library. I regard some of these books as the most beautiful things I have ever seen. It also contains many famous documents such as the Magna Carta; books (Gutenberg Bible, First Folio of Shakespeare) and autographed scores by many of the most famous composers (Handel's Messiah and a particularly awesome work, an original motet in the hand of W.A. Mozart at age nine!).

THEATRE: London is the center of the English-speaking theatrical world. You can easily go to a different play or opera or concert every night. Offerings range from the modern monster-hit musicals of Andrew Lloyd Weber (three and maybe four are now running), to revivals like a smashing production of "Anything Goes," to a half dozen new dramas and comedies, to the perennials like "The Mousetrap" or "Run for Your Wife," to the classics at the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre, and the Old Vic. The theatre is, in my view, the national genius of the English, so almost every production you attend will have superlative acting/singing/ dancing/special effect, etc. I attended three London shows: a modern staging of "The Mikado" at the English National Opera; "Anything Goes" at the Prince Edward Theatre; and the original classic comedy of France, "The Liar" at the Old Vic. All were excellent and "The Liar" was

so funny, so well-staged, and so superbly acted that I went for a second time. You can get into almost any show, even those nominally sold out, by paying exorbitant sums to scalpers. But there are so many shows you don't have to do that. By waiting until the last minute, you might not get into your number one choice but you probably can get excellent seats at another superb production in the \$15-20 price range.



FOOD: Restaurants of all sizes and prices, including American fast food franchises, are everywhere. But most travelers prefer to eat in the pubs, nearly all of which have delicious spreads at lunch (particularly) and in the evening. The Sherlock Holmes Pub, for example, features a wonderful steak and kidney pie. By the way, this pub is not on Baker Street but about a block away from Trafalgar Square.

A final note: there is much more to relate but I'm sure our beloved editor is about to have the big one so I'd better cut it off. However, I'm sure he'll

grant me a last paragraph to relay the fact that the AP traveling contingent brought international acclaim to our society by being the first in the memory of the Sherlock Holmes tour guide to answer the following question: What are the two known cases in which Holmes participated after his nominal retirement? (Take a bow if your answer hits the main target.)

Thus, my final word is -- start saving your money now because the G&S Society hopes to do this trip again next year and it's the bargain of a lifetime. Reporter: Dean Clark (AKA Dr. Leslie Armstrong)

EDITOR'S NOTE: ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING THINGS ABOUT DEAN'S TRIP WAS THE LOW COST - ONLY \$800.00 PLUS MEALS/ THAT INCLUDED ROUND-TRIP AIR FARE FROM TULSA AND A WEEK'S LODGINGS AT A SMALL HOTEL NEAR RUSSELL SQUARE, A CHOICE LOCATION FROM A TOURIST POINT-OF-VIEW. THE TRAVEL AGENT WHO ARRANGED ALL THIS FOR THE G&S SOCIETY IS WORKING ON A SIMILAR LONDON TOUR FOR NEXT YEAR, SO PERCENERS, START SAVING YOUR FARTHINGS NOW. SHERLOCK IS WAITING!!!

56 STORIES IN 56 DAYS - "THE SIX NAPOLEONS"

Posted on October 20, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet

What a treat it has been re-reading *The Return* as it contains so many of my favourites, including this great little story, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

I really love *The Six Napoleons* and think it contains everything which makes a Holmes story great. There is humour, action, friendship and Inspector Lestrade getting things wrong as usual.

Though this time, the Inspector is truly humbled and astonished when Holmes reveals the truth and both he and Watson burst into spontaneous applause. Holmes is touched by the response causing Watson to comment – 'It was at such moments that for an instant he ceased to be a reasoning machine, and betrayed his human love for admiration and applause.'

Lestrade is so overwhelmed by Holmes' dramatic smashing of the Napoleon bust and how he then pulls out the black pearl, that he makes a rather lovely statement – 'We're not jealous of you at Scotland Yard. No sir, we are very proud of you!'

He goes on to say that if Holmes were to come to the station the following day there is not a person there who would not wish to shake his hand and Watson tells us – 'It seemed to me that he was more nearly moved by the softer human emotions than I had ever seen him'.

It does seem to me throughout *The Return*, that Holmes has become increasingly human and less machine-like. I think that by living with Watson and working so closely with him during this period, Watson has softened Holmes.

To the point where I would argue that even Lestrade has become a friend of sorts, especially as we learn at the start of this story how he regularly calls around to 221B of an evening for a chat.

The story is simple enough, an Italian wrong 'un is in possession of a stolen precious pearl and gets arrested by the police over another matter.

At the time of his arrest he rushes into a factory where he used to work as a sculptor and pushes the pearl into the wet clay of a bust of Napoleon.

He is imprisoned for a year and on his release sets about tracking down the bust, which was one of six that have been sold all over London by now. He finds out who they have been sold to and breaks in to their houses to get at the busts.

The police seize upon the burglaries and smashed busts presuming it to be the work of a madman with a hatred of

Napoleon. Holmes finds out the truth in a most workman like fashion which is simply brilliant and a joy to follow. He works out where the final bust is and writes to the owner expressing his desire to purchase it.

The man brings the object to 221B and Holmes smashes it in front of his appreciative audience. It's the simplicity; the neatness of this story which I think makes it so good.

I seem to remember that the Basil Rathbone episode of this story was one of the best and did stick quite closely to the original. And why not, as I don't see any way of improving upon it.

Has to be another 10 out of 10.



STORY INFO PAGES FOR "THE SIX NAPOLEONS"

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

First published

in: The Strand Magazine, May 1904, Collier's Weekly, April 30, 1994



Time frame of story (known/surmised): June stated, 1900 or 1902 likely

Holmes and Watson living arrangements:

Holmes and Watson sharing quarters at 221B.

Opening scene: Inspector Lestrade looked in upon Holmes and Watson of an evening, and his visit was welcome.

Client: Lestrade. This is a continuing question, never explained in the Canon, what exactly was the relationship between Holmes and the Yard. The likely explanation is that Scotland Yard had an ongoing and approved retainer with Holmes. He would be called in as needed, and they would pay him. This arrangement was never detailed by Watson.

Crime or concern: Lestrade told SH of one of those senseless

acts of Hooliganism which occur from time to time, in which a man smashed a plaster bust of Napoleon which was on display in the retail shop of Morse Hudson. Then less than a week later, a doctor finds two identical busts, one in his house and one at his office, had also been smashed by an unknown break-in artist. Then, 4 days later another bust is missing, this one at a murder scene.

Villain: A suspected promiscuous iconoclast. It was Beppo, a simian man, with thick eyebrows and a very peculiar projection of the lower part of the face, like the muzzle of a baboon. He had stolen The Black Pearl of the Borgias either directly from the Prince of Colonna or from his crooked maid, Lucretia Venucci, and her brother who was found murdered at the fourth bust-smashing location.

Motive: Retrieve the pearl he had hidden in a bust of Napoleon at the bust-manufacturing facility where he worked, to avoid its seizure by the police, who were hot upon his trail for a knifing incident.

Logic used to solve: Holmes observed that the first four busts were broken where there was a light, in fact on the

fourth, the bust-smasher went some distance to a lighted spot. Photograph of Beppo found at the scene of the murder, whom inquiries revealed had been employed by Morse Hudson, tying the different smashed busts together. SH then contacted both the retailers and also the wholesale manufacturers, and could trace each of the busts from the beginning.

Policemen: Insp. Lestrade who consulted SH on behalf of the Yard.

Holmes' fees: No mention.

Transport: Holmes and Watson took a cab to 131 Pitt Street, a quiet little backwater just beside one of the brisker currents of London life. It took half an hour. No. 131 was one of a row, all flat-chested, respectable, and most unromantic dwellings.

Holmes and Watson with Lestrade took a four-wheeler which was at the door at eleven, and in it they drove to a spot at the other side of Hammersmith Bridge.

Food: No breakfast when Holmes and Watson were summoned to the murder scene. "There's coffee on the

table, Watson, and I have a cab at the door.”

The murdered man had an apple in his pocket.

While tracking down Beppo, the afternoon was far advanced before Holmes and Watson were able to snatch a hasty luncheon at a restaurant.

Lestrade dined with Holmes and Watson the evening of the arrest, and caught a few hours sleep at 221B prior to the excursion.

Drink: No mention

Vices: During the opening visit to Holmes and Watson, Lestrade puffed thoughtfully at his cigar.

Other cases mentioned: The dreadful business of the Abernethy family was first brought to Holmes’ notice by the depth which the parsley had sunk into the butter upon a hot day.

The Conk-Singleton forgery case.

Notable Quotables: “This business presents some features which make it absolutely original in the history of crime. If ever I permit you to chronicle any more of my little problems, Watson, I foresee that you will enliven your pages by an account of the singular adventure of the Napoleonic busts.” – SH

Other interestings: Lestrade admired Holmes’ handling of the case. “Well,” he said, “I’ve

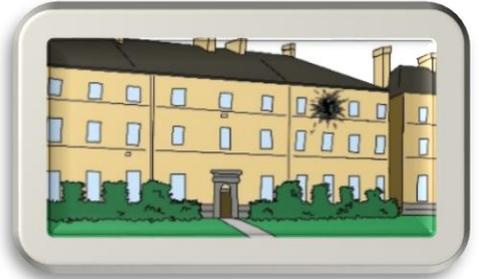
seen you handle a good many cases, Mr. Holmes, but I don’t know that I ever knew a more workmanlike one than that. We’re not jealous of you at Scotland Yard. No, sir, we are very proud of you, and if you come down to-morrow, there’s not a man, from the oldest inspector to the youngest constable, who wouldn’t be glad to shake you by the hand.”

When all was said and done: After five of the six busts proved to not contain the pearl, Holmes contacted Mr. Sandeford, the owner of the sixth, and bought it for £10. After Sandeford left, SH smashed the bust and found the pearl, fixed like a plum in a pudding. Watson does not tell us of how or when Holmes disposed of the Pearl.

Baker Street Elementary

Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason

The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson



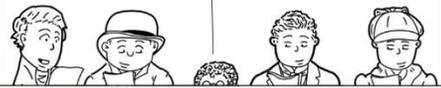
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ENJOYING YOUR STAY OVER HERE, MASTER BURT? I BET IT HAS BEEN NICE TO HAVE A BREAK FROM WORKING ON THE "IHOSE" DISPATCH.

I HAVE, MASTER IGNATIUS. MASTER SCOTT SEEMS TO BE HAVING FUN WITH IT WITHOUT MY AID. I LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT HE SELECTS FOR OUR SPRING PLAYS.



PLAYS? IN THE STATES, YOU RUN MULTIPLE SHAKESPEAREAN PLAYS IN THE SPRING?

WHY YES, JOHN. WE HOLD THREE PLAYS PER SPRING TERM AT OUR SCHOOL. THEY ARE QUITE WONDERFUL.



IT APPEARS MASTER SCOTT HAS PUT A FRAGMENT OF SAID UPCOMING PLAYS ON THE BACK OF THE NEWEST DISPATCH.

OH? LET US SEE WHICH PLAYS HE HAS SELECTED FOR THIS YEAR.



"THIS SPRING, "IHOSE" IS PROUD TO PRESENT THREE SHAKESPEAREAN PLAYS WITH... A TWIST." hmmm, I WONDER WHAT SCOTT HAS UP HIS SLEEVE THIS YEAR.

A TWIST... HOW EXCITING.



"THE PLAYS WILL BE IN THE OPERA BOUFFE FORM." NOT SURE WHAT TYPE OF STYLE THAT IS...

IT'S A GENRE OF COMEDY, SATIRE, PARODY, AND FARCE ORIGINATING IN FRANCE, MASTER WOLDER.

OH, THAT SHOULD BE ENTERTAINING.



"...AS FOR THE MAIN TWIST THIS YEAR, INSTEAD OF LIVE ACTORS, WE WILL BE USING..." no... no... no...

I THINK THE WORD YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IS 'GNOMES'.



HERE ARE THE NAMES MASTER SCOTT HAS SELECTED. "JULIUS GNOMAR," "MUCH ADO ABOUT GNOMING," AND "THE TWO GNOMBLE KINSMEN." THESE LOOK WONDERFUL.

I WISH WE ALL COULD TRAVEL TO ATTEND THEM...



Umm... ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU HAVE BECOME STRANGELY QUIET, MASTER WOLDER.



OF COURSE, MASTER SHERLOCK. I JUST REMEMBERED A SUPERB TRAGEDY I MUST SHARE WITH SCOTT WHEN I RETURN HOME... ...MOSTLY TRAGIC FOR SCOTT.

