

# The Bilge Pump

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



## PLEASE NOTE:

### July 1st Meeting NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on **Sunday, July 1st**, at 1:00 pm. 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 Shoscombe Old Place.**" The quiz will cover this tale.

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

## June 03<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Summary

There were 21 people in attendance today. We welcomed newcomers Stephanie of Coppell and Ann of Richardson.

Steve Mason conducted the Opening Toast, "Sherlock Holmes and Lifelong Learning," written by Alex Katz and published in the Fall, 2013 *Serpentine Muse* (see page 3).

We then proceeded to have a quiz on today's story, "Priory School." The winner of the quiz was Karen Olson.

Steve Mason, gave a presentation on "Are There Any Questions," inspired by an article by Bruce Harrison in *The Baker Street Journal* on questions in the Canon.

Sandra Little, one of our favorite Deck Mates will be moving to Colorado, but will continue to be a member of our Society.

Anyone planning to write a story to include in A Grimmer Holmes, the follow-up book to A Grimm Holmes, needs to submit the name of the Brothers Grimm tale, Mother Goose story, or other written inspiration in order to avoid duplication. The deadline for submitting a completed story is the last day of September. This provides time for proofing, editing, and publishing prior to the Christmas holiday.

The Dallas Preston-Royal Library confirmed our event for Tuesday, November 13th. This will likely entail a children's mystery and two or three presentations.

Congratulations to Liese Sherwood-Fabre for the publication of an article titled "Villainesses: Female Antagonists in the Canon" in the Spring 2018, Vol. 68, *Baker Street Journal*.

The newest official member of the Deck Crew is Karen Olson having dutifully accomplished the essential requirements.

The Closing Reading was given by Steve and was taken from the Baker Street Journal in 2002 (see page 4).

Allen Osborne took home the door prize drawing for this month.

Thanks to Brenda Hutchison, who took minutes for this meeting, which we can read in full on our website.



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  
Rusty Mason

[mason.steve@epa.gov](mailto:mason.steve@epa.gov)  
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[myrkrid08@yahoo.com](mailto:myrkrid08@yahoo.com)

Our Website: [www.dfw-sherlock.org](http://www.dfw-sherlock.org)

Our Facebook Page:

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

The image is a collage of three distinct elements related to the Sherlock Holmes literary society. On the left, a parchment-like background features several quotes from the character: "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?"

The top center element is a screenshot of the website [www.dfw-sherlock.org](http://www.dfw-sherlock.org). It features a circular logo with a star and the text "THE CREW OF THE BARQUE LONE STAR". A navigation menu includes: Home Page, About, Crew Investigations and Awards, Newsletters, Crew Meeting Logs, & Society Pastiches, Papers, Many Faces of Sherlock Holmes, and Ephemera -- General. A search bar is visible in the top right. The main content area shows an illustration of a building labeled "Baker Street Elementary" with a spiderweb in the foreground. Below the illustration, the text "THE MAY MEETING" is visible.

The bottom center element is a screenshot of the Facebook page for "The Crew of the Barque Lone Star" (@BarqueLoneStar). The page header includes "Page", "Messages", "Notifications", "Insights", "Publishing Tools", "Settings", and "Help". A notification banner states "You Have Unread Messages". The main content area features a large black and white 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 navigation options: Home, About, Photos, Events, Likes, Videos, Posts, and Reviews. The bottom of the page has 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 contains "Organization" and "Page Tips" sections.

# TOAST TO CANONICAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

Alex Katz, *The Serpentine Muse*, Volume 29, Number 4 - Fall 2013

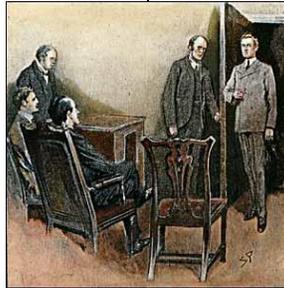
The Canon allows us to view the life of many students, and we are all familiar with them ... the students "taking" their exam in 3STU (as it is cleverly titled) and the students at the Priory School.

But all of these individuals are students for brief and finite periods in their lives.

The Canon, however, introduces us to a real scholar, and we are allowed to learn and grow from him.

We first see him studying hemoglobin at a hospital; later, we see him

analyzing the motets of Lassus, types of tobacco ash, and even violin performance.



When we last see him, he's studying beekeeping. Sherlock Holmes is always pursuing more knowledge, teaching us the joys of

learning and the necessary skills to do so.

But it is the variety and depths of his studies that distinguish him from the rest of us.

So let us raise our glasses and toast Sherlock Holmes, who commemorates the idea of lifelong learning.

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The Serpentine Muse is a compendium of various and sundry learned articles, humorous verses, pertinent news, notable illustrations, and a plethora of erudite and recherché items to amuse and intrigue the discerning reader.

You can subscribe to this wonderful journal at: [www.ASH-NYC.com](http://www.ASH-NYC.com)



# "THE EDITOR'S GAS-LAMP"

BAKER STREET JOURNAL, STEVEN ROTHMAN, EDITOR - Spring, 2002

Sometimes, when thinking about Sherlock Holmes, it is difficult to separate fantasy from reality.

Take, for example, our mental image of Holmes. Does it come from Watson (the only true source, since no reliable photographs have been identified), or from Paget (who may have been able to draw Holmes from life), or from one of the impersonators of the stage or the screen?

Increasingly, it would seem that our image of Holmes comes to us from the lively arts. This has some advantages.

It gives the detective flesh and voice and movement in a way that no book can. But, of course, it also shackles our Holmes to a real person who lives a real life and dies a real death.

By basing one's mental image of Holmes on an actor (any actor) you have instantly limited the detective in your mind.

He is now limited to the abilities of a mere man. No actor can be Holmes.

Sherlock Holmes is more than looks, and gestures, and vocal tricks. If that were all we required from

him, how long would our interest in him last? Only until the next thespian came down the pike. No!

We have been caught in a web as intricate as Moriarty's by Holmes's immortal appeal.

We look to him as an intellect unparalleled, as a man of genius who is able to be a man of action when the situation requires it.

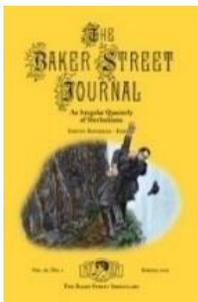
Our Holmes cannot be fettered by any one look. At once young and old, remote and involved, indolent and impatient.

He is inactive for days at a time and then curiously tireless when on the trail of a clue.

He is a man who returned from death and whose only interest in life is discovering the truth.

Our Holmes is better than any one man who ever lived.

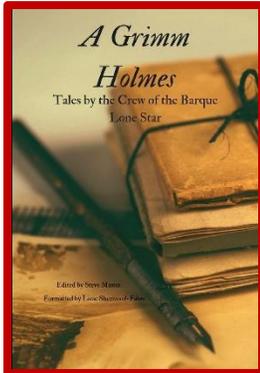
No one person can portray every aspect of him; no artist can draw his borders. He must forever live within us.



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.

# THE SEQUEL



As you may be aware, we will be celebrating our 50th year of existence in a couple of years. Last year, several members participated in writing a pastiche where Holmes and Watson solve a Grimm's fairy tale (or

nursery rhyme).

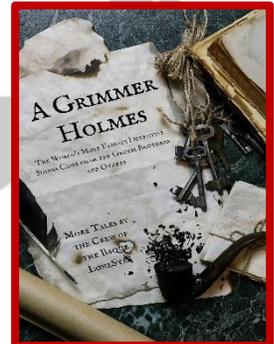
After discussions with several members, we have decided to repeat the process this year. The working title of the Anthology would be "Grimmer Holmes" or "A Grimmer Holmes."

Once again, members can write a pastiche (short story) involving Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, using a Grimm's Fairy Tale as the backdrop.

Some simple rules...

1. You can use any of the Grimm's Fairy Tales you want (most of us probably have a favorite). You may also use any nursery rhyme or other children's tale that you find appropriate. However, we would like to have each pastiche based on a single story, so please submit your tale's idea to Steve Mason, so we can ensure no one else uses the same tale.
2. Your story should be 3,000-5,000 words, which is average length for a short story. Obviously, a shorter story is fine.

3. Your story will be edited by one or two member volunteer editors, but only for grammar, typos... we will not edit the content of your story.
4. As our society and website is family-oriented, please keep your pastiche PG... I think all of our members can easily meet this criteria.
5. This project is not limited to just those members in the DFW area. Any member (if you're getting this email) is welcome to submit a pastiche.
6. We plan to finalize the anthology by the end of the calendar year, so we ask for members to submit their entry by September 30.



As we mentioned in the introduction to the first anthology, which was a big hit, much credit goes to Ms. Gayle Puhl, for the inspiration for this anthology... you can find her stories in "Sherlock Holmes and The Folk Tale Mysteries - Volume 1" and Volume 2...

The final product will be put together in book form and posted on our website and shared with all society members as a .pdf file. We plan on publishing copies of the book (as a Christmas present) for those who submit a pastiche in the anthology.

# SEVENTEEN STEPS TO "SHOSCOMBE OLD PLACE"

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of "Shoscombe Old Place" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

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## THE SCOTLAND YARD FORENSICS DEPARTMENT

"Is it one of your cases?" Watson asks Holmes of his microscope study.

"No; my friend, Merivale, of the Yard, asked me to look into the case."

If the matter of the dead policeman wasn't Holmes's case, it would seem Merivale only brought the cap to Holmes for forensic work. Was he the only outlet Scotland Yard had for the scientific study of evidence at the time? Or was this a sign of his friendship for Merivale?

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## A MAN AND HIS CUFFS WITH A PARTING OF THE WAYS

"Since I ran down that coiner by the zinc and copper filings in the seam of his cuff they have begun to realize the importance of the microscope."

Wouldn't Holmes have had the culprit if he had his cuff? Could Scotland Yard search a

suspect's home and take his shirt?

\*\*\*\*\*

## WATSON WON'T BE THE JURY ON THIS ONE

Did Holmes purposely stay "forensics only" with the

picture-frame maker case because it involved a cop-killing and he wanted to allow the police to deal with the murder of one of their

own? Would the men of the Yard have worried too much about corroborating evidence once they had someone they thought had killed a fellow cop? Or was Merivale trying to make sure his fellow officers didn't come down with a vengeance on an innocent man?

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## GOVERNMENT RACETRACK BETTING RELIEF

"By the way, Watson, you know something of racing?"

"I ought to. I pay for it with about half my wound pension."

Obviously, Watson's not hurting for cash if he fritters his pension money away at the track. So what were his sources of income at the time of this case? Did he have any responsibilities to worry about saving money for? What age would he have had to have been to be collecting a wound pension?

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## WATSON'S SUMMER HOME

"He lives at Shoscombe Old Place, and I know it well, for my summer quarters were down there once."

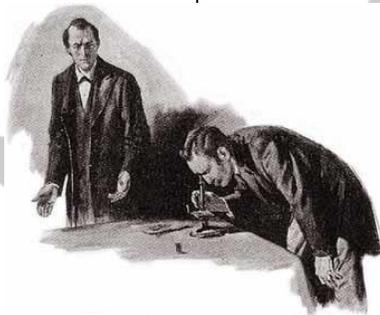
Is Watson referring to a place he stayed for a single vacation, or a place he owned and returned to for several seasons? If the latter, when in his life could this have occurred?

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## THE SPANIEL HERDS OF

## SHOSCOMBE

"There are the Shoscombe spaniels. You hear of them at every dog show. The most exclusive breed in England. They are the special pride of



the lady of Shoscombe Old Place."

Were the Shoscombe spaniels a breed unto themselves? What qualities would make one set of spaniels more desirable than another, and how exclusive would they have been? How long could a particular breed be expected to breed true?

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**FORTY LASHES AND THEN SOME**

"It was when he horsewhipped Sam Brewer, the well-known Curzon Street money-lender, on Newmarket Heath. He nearly killed the man."

Would the horsewhip referred to be a stiff buggy-whip type or more of the bullwhip variety? What manner of abuse would it take to nearly kill a man with a such a whip? Wouldn't it have taken a lot of time? Why wouldn't someone intervene in that time?

\*\*\*\*\*

**THOSE HORSES ARE QUITE A HANDFUL, AREN'T THEY?**

Watson writes, "The door had opened and the page had shown in a tall, clean-shaven man with the firm, austere expression which is only seen upon those who have to control horses or boys."

Riding herd on a family of wound-up boys can take the



humor out of a person surely enough, but horses?

Are they that hard to get along with, that one would expect a horse trainer to be so austere?

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE ADVENTURE OF THE FLAMING SKELETON**

"It was burned to a black cinder, but there could be no question as to its anatomical significance."

"'It's the upper condyle of a human femur,' said I."

Can one burn an entire skeleton in the standard heating furnace? Would we have expect more than a femur to be left?

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**DEFINITION QUIZ FOR THE WEEK**

"A highly coloured young woman with flaxen hair and impudent eyes sat on the left."

Okay, we know by the "flaxen" hair that Carrie Evans is a blonde. But what does Watson mean by "highly-coloured"? Lots of make-up or lots of freckles? Rosy red cheeks or flashy outfits?

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**THE FISHING DETECTIVE**

"My companion seemed to have no further plans for the day, and we did actually use our fishing tackle in the mill-



stream, with the result that we had a dish of trout for our supper."

When Holmes shows a skill not related to the field of detection, one can't help but wonder if it relates to his childhood. Does trout-fishing give us a clue as to where Sherlock Holmes grew up? When might he have learned to fish, if not as a child, and why would he have taken it up during his crime-obsessed years?

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE FISHING DETECTIVE, PART TWO**

"The rack above us was covered with a formidable litter of rods, reels, and baskets. On reaching our destination a short drive took us to an old-fashioned tavern, where a sporting host, Josiah Barnes, entered eagerly into

our plans for the extirpation of the fish of the neighbourhood."

While Holmes and Watson wind up going after trout, there is much talk of pike, jack, eels, and dace. How much different equipment would they need for all these

different types of fish?

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**THE LANTERN THAT SHINED YELLOW**

"Holmes had lit his lantern, which shot a tiny

tunnel of vivid yellow light upon the mournful scene."

From the fact it has a directed beam, one would guess Holmes is using a dark lantern. But would such a lamp put out a yellow-colored beam? Isn't firelight basically white?

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### **WAS THIS A CRYPT OR THE CATACOMBS OF ROME?**

"Holmes set to work making a very careful examination of the graves, ranging from a very ancient one, which appeared to be Saxon, in the centre, through a long line of Norman Hugos and Odos, until we reached the Sir William and Sir Denis Falder of the eighteenth century."

Considering the hundreds and hundreds of years represented in this crypt, wouldn't it have had to be pretty large? Whose remains would have been allowed in it, and whose wouldn't?

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### **AND HE DID IT WITHOUT AN ACTOR AS MYCROFT**

Sir Robert explains, "I am running a dark horse for the Derby and that everything depends upon my success. If I win, all is easy. If I lose--well, I dare not think of that!"

"I understand the position," Holmes replies.

What does this statement say, if anything, about Holmes's actions in "Silver Blaze"? Had Holmes invested a large share of his worldly possessions at that time on his inside knowledge about Silver Blaze, just as Sir Robert was doing this time?

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### **PAYOFFS FOR EVERYONE!**

"Shoscombe Prince did win the Derby, the sporting owner did net eighty thousand pounds in bets, and the creditors did hold their hand until the race was over, when they were paid in full, and enough was left to reestablish Sir Robert in a fair position in life."

Earlier, we were told the odds were "forties now, but it was nearer the hundred when he began to back him." So how much did Sir Robert have to bet to get his net profits, allowing for the fact he probably borrowed most, if not all of it? How much of the profits would have to be left for him to be in "a fair position for life"?

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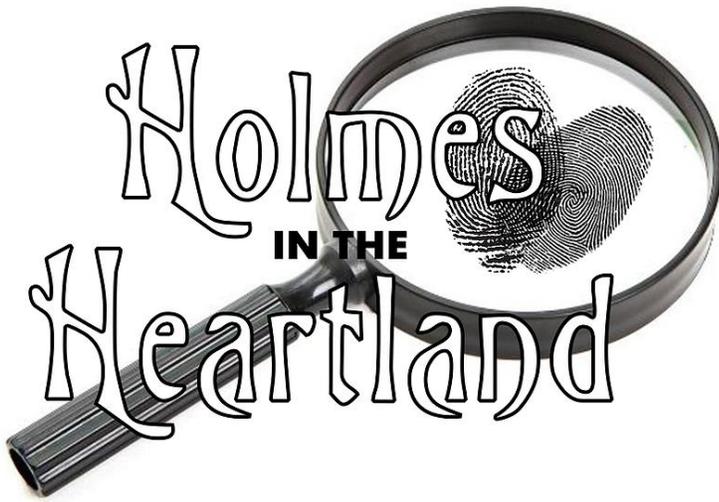
### **SO MAYBE IT WASN'T A BRIBE, BUT ...**

"Both police and coroner took a lenient view of the transaction, and beyond a mild censure for the delay in registering the lady's decease, the lucky owner got away scatheless from this strange incident in a career which has now outlived its shadows and promises to end in an honoured old age."

Did the leniency of all involved have anything to do with inside info on Sir Robert's "dark horse"? Would he have to have told them the full situation, or could he have kept the money-making part of his scheme quiet?

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# Holmes IN THE Heartland



August 10-12, 2018 - St. Louis MO

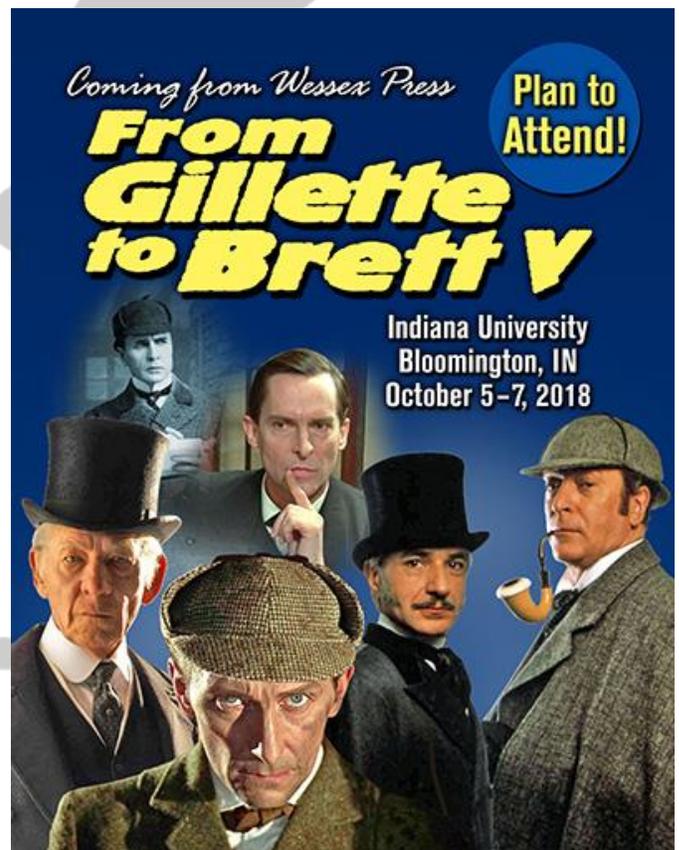
<https://parallelcasestl.wixsite.com/home/holmes-in-the-heartland>

October 5-7, 2018

Indiana University

Bloomington, Indiana

<http://www.wessexpress.com/html/g2b5main.html>



# An Inquiry Into "The Priory School"

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

- "The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place," was first published in Liberty Magazine on March 5, 1927. It ran in The Strand Magazine, on April 1927. It is part of The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes.
- Our chronologists differ as to the year in which this case took place. Their reckoning is as follows: Canon: May, no year; Baring-Gould: Tuesday, May 6, 1902; Bell: May 1897; Blakeney: May 1896-1902; Brend: May 1894; Christ: Wednesday, May 9, 1883; Dakin: Tuesday, May 6, 1902; Folsom: Tuesday, May 6, 1902; Hall: End of May, 1888; Keefauver: Tuesday, May 26, 1903; Klinger: 1902; Zeisler: Tuesday, May 6, 1902.
- At the time Holmes is 48 years old and Watson 50.
- Main Characters: Sir Robert Norberton, Lady Beatrice Falder, John Mason, a Shoscombe spaniel, Shoscombe Prince.
- Notable Quotes:  
"It is only the colourless, uneventful case which is hopeless."  
"You do occasionally find a carrion crow among the eagles."

- Holmes, the Forensic Detective  
Our case opens with Holmes, eye to the microscope, studying the "scattered objects in the field" to determine innocence or guilt in a crime. That he is carrying out his study at the request of Merivale of the Yard shows he has been successful in making the official police realize the importance not only of the microscope, but of other scientific methods (such as the Holmes Test for hæmoglobin).  
It is no small wonder in 2002 our sleuth was distinguished by being receiving an Honorary Fellowship from the Royal Society of Chemistry, for his use of forensic science.
- Watson's Finances  
When Watson confesses to Holmes he knows "something of racing," since he pays for it with about half of his wound pension, he unwittingly reveals quite a bit about his financial situation. We know when the Good Doctor was invalidated after Afghanistan, the government provided him with a pension of 11s 6d per diem, which, in modern terms, came to a total of about \$79,000 per year.  
That amount was as insufficient to maintain a gentleman's lifestyle in a

megalopolis like 1888 London, as it would be today were one to reside in, say, 2017 Manhattan or Washington DC. We know from his own pen, Watson found himself in what very quickly threatened to become a penurious situation, hence 221B.  
The fact he now considered at least half of his pension (\$39,500) as simple disposable income, would seem to argue for a much-improved financial situation.  
An aside: One of the things that always puzzle me when we consider this case is Holmes coming to Watson for racing world information. In SILV, our sleuth appears to have been very well informed about the goings-on of that community.

- Why the Interest?  
Looking at things from the context of the times, John Mason's tale is little more than kitchen gossip, a possibly disgruntled servant tittle-tattling about the actions of his betters. While what he had to say about the actions of Sir Robert Norberton would certainly make him appear eccentric at worse, they do not come close to being criminal.  
That being said why, then, would Holmes have been so interested from the very start? We must consider there was

nothing to indicate Lady Beatrice might have been in any kind of danger—least of all dead.

Mason’s claim there had been a bitter quarrel, and Sir Robert was mucking about in the old family crypt might have appeared as peculiar, perhaps, but by no extent of the imagination life-threatening to anyone. Even digging up a 1000-year-old skeleton from that self-same family vault, which was on personal property, could also hardly rise to the level of a crime.

Therefore, the question is why would Holmes have been so interested? Had he been true to form, he probably would have waited to see if something truly sinister occurred, as he did on other occasions, notably COPP, FIVE, or SOLI. Could it have been— as Dr. Roylott, of Stoke Moran once put it—a case of “Holmes, the busybody, the Scotland Yard Jack-in-office”?

- **A Legal Perspective**

Watson writes that, “Shoscombe Prince did win the Derby, the sporting owner did net eighty thousand pounds in bets, and the creditors did hold their hand until the race was over, when they were paid in full, and enough was left to reestablish Sir Robert in a fair position in life. Both police and coroner took a lenient view of the transaction, and beyond a mild censure for the delay in registering the lady’s decease,

the lucky owner got away scatheless from this strange incident in a career which has now outlived its shadows and promises to end in an honoured old age.”

When I look at what should have been a veritable avalanche of charges and lawsuits burying Sir Robert, I must confess my surprise at getting away with his plan.

Seeing how he was of a noble family, and important in the region, it might not be surprising the local authorities - in this case the police and the coroner - would have only mildly censured him for not reporting his sister’s death and not say anything about his keeping an unembalmed four-week-old corpse above ground.

While the authorities might have been accommodating, it seems his relations and debtors might have various causes of action against him. An argument might be made about intent to defraud. Although it is made clear the only profit that Sir Robert derived from Shoscombe Prince winning the race was derived from his personal bets, the law might not be so forgiving. At the moment of Lady Beatrice’s death, the horse became the property of the brother of Lady Beatrice’s husband.

When he did not immediately turn over the horse to its lawful owner, Sir Robert became guilty of Conversion, which is defined as “a distinct act of dominion

wrongfully exerted over another's personal property in denial of or inconsistent with his title or rights therein, or in derogation, exclusion, or defiance of such title or rights, without the owner's consent and without lawful justification.” An argument for fraud might also be made.

Because, as Watson tells us, Sir Robert paid off all his debts and the (non-legal) argument could be made that Shoscombe Prince became an even more valuable horse after winning such an important race, it is logical to assume that none of those affected by his actions would have been interested in pressing the machinery of the law to ground him under.

In the end, Sir Robert received £80,000 in bets won; roughly about \$30,000,000. No question he could have paid all his debts and retired well for the rest of his life!

- What else happened in 1902:

### **EMPIRE**

First celebration of Empire Day (renamed "Commonwealth Day" in 1959).

First meeting of the Committee of Imperial Defence in London.

Joseph Chamberlain advocates return to Protection and Imperial Preference.

Anglo-German fleet seizes Venezuelan fleet to recover debts and reparations.

Peace of Vereeniging, ends Boer War.

## **BRITAIN**

Salisbury resigns, succeeded as PM by Arthur Balfour.

Anglo-Japanese Treaty, for mutual defense and to maintain status quo in Far East, recognizes the independence of China and Korea.

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott designs Liverpool Cathedral.

Institution of the Order of Merit by King Edward for distinguished service to the state; limited to 24 holders at one time.

Education Act abolishes School Board system. Local control goes to town and county councils.

Secondary Education authorized out of rates.

British Academy granted Royal Charter.

Esperanto introduced to England.

Establishment of Metropolitan Water Board, supplying London.

Boer War casualties: 5,774 British and 4,000 Boers killed.

Arthur Conan Doyle is knighted.

## **WORLD**

Franco-Italian secret treaty; Italy to remain neutral if France were attacked by a third power.

Failure of second Belgian General Strike.

Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria, Italy) renewed to 1914.

Italian designs on Tripoli conditionally approved by France and Austria.

Russo-Japanese Convention, Russia agrees to evacuate Manchuria in 18 months.

Leon Trotsky escapes from Siberia, settles in London.

Martinique volcanic eruption destroys town of St. Pierre.

Coal strike in U.S.A.

National bankruptcy declared in Portugal.

French work day reduced to 9 1/2 hours.

U.S.A. acquires perpetual control over Panama Canal. Control is held until 1977, when President Jimmy Carter turned the canal over to Panama, which assumed final control in 1999.

Public Health Act in France improves artisan living conditions.

White settlement of Kenya begins.

Aswan Dam opened.

St. Pierre, Martinique, destroyed by earthquake.

Abdul Hamid gives Germany concessions to build railway to Baghdad; rail system to stretch from Hamburg to the Persian Gulf.

Tientsin Sanitary Police established; first Chinese public health measure.

F.A. Krupp takes over Germania shipbuilding yard at Kiel; great armaments firm develops.

## **ART**

Conan Doyle publishes The Hound of the Baskervilles.

Kipling publishes Just So Stories.

Arthur Edward Woodley Mason publishes The Four Feathers.

Beatrix Potter publishes Peter Rabbit.

Enrico Caruso makes his first gramophone record--154 recordings in all.

Elgar composes the first of his Pomp and Circumstance marches.

Monet, Waterloo Bridge. Gauguin, Riders by the Sea.

Gauguin paints The Call.

Debussy composes Pelléas et Mélisandé.

Picasso paints Nude, Back View.

Elgar composes Coronation Ode.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Wireless telegraphy applied to ships.

Oliver Heaviside, English physicist, reveals the existence of an atmospheric layer which aids the conduction of radio waves.

Trans-Pacific Cable laid.

Completion of Aswan Dam in Egypt.

# THE PLAYING FIELDS OF ETON

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

In “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter,” Holmes notes his country squire ancestry, and in “The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual” that he attended university for two years.

In *A Study in Scarlet*, he is pursuing independent studies at St. Bartholomew’s when he and Watson meet.

Given his gentry background and accepted practices of the times, he most likely attended either Oxford or Cambridge for those two university years, and to prepare him for such studies, would have attended Eton prior to that time.

While boys and girls might both be educated at home for the first few years, primarily through governesses or visiting tutors, most middle- and upper-class families would send their boys to complete their preparatory work at a “public school.”

These schools were “public” in the sense that they were open to boys regardless of religious background, provided they passed entrance examinations and could pay the tuition and boarding fees.

In the Victorian era, there were seven boarding schools: Eton, Harrow, Westminster, Rugby, Winchester, Charterhouse, and Shrewsbury.

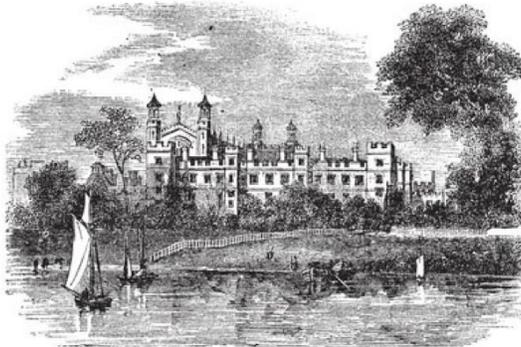
Two additional schools in London educated boys during the day: St. Paul’s and Merchant Taylors’s.

By the beginning of the 1800s, many of these schools had deteriorated to teaching less-than-ideal subjects, using poor methods, and overlooking severe bullying of younger boys by the older ones.

Their main focus had become to train young boys to be gentlemen with proper manners and diction, and those in the upper-middle class used them as a means of

upward mobility for their sons through the connections they made with the country’s elite.

Shifts in the educational system in these schools were epitomized by Thomas Arnold, headmaster of the Rugby School from 1828 to 1842.



His belief in moral and spiritual discipline and the addition of more modern practices, such as art education turned that school’s lagging reputation around.

Other schools followed this example.

Emphasis was also placed on sports for further development of a boys’ discipline as well as leadership and teamwork, cricket and “football” (soccer), being the most popular.

The quotation (disavowed by the Duke of Wellington) that “the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton” refers to this sense of loyalty and maintaining composure in the face of adversity.

The “stiff upper lip” of the Victorian gentleman was taught through such lessons in discipline.

Despite such efforts, reforms came slowly to the public schools throughout this period.

While religious organizations had created schools to provide rudimentary instruction to those in the lower- and working-classes—often through Sunday schools or Ragged schools—and pressure on the state grew to create a national system of secondary education.

The Taunton Commission (1864-1868) developed a plan for a series of secondary schools with instruction depending on the goal (terminal studies, technical studies, or entrance into a university).

The Education Act of 1870 led the way to free elementary education.

Later efforts supported an increase in science, raising the age for compulsory education, and additional technical studies, but an emphasis continued to stress the traditional academics that included Latin and Greek.

Sherlock could have entered Eton, or another public school, at about age 13 (or 1867).

After an examination by the headmaster, he would have been assigned to a form (grade) and perhaps been selected by an older boy to do errands and chores with the goal of being given guidance and friendship.

At Eton, two of the six-form boys would be selected as Praepostor.

These and other older boys in such positions received practical experience in leadership and management.

By the time Holmes left, he would have developed a moral code, emphasizing teamwork, loyalty, obedience, and command.

Such training appears in his conduct toward his clients, but perhaps most importantly in his relationship with Watson. What better way to describe their friendship than both teamwork and loyalty?

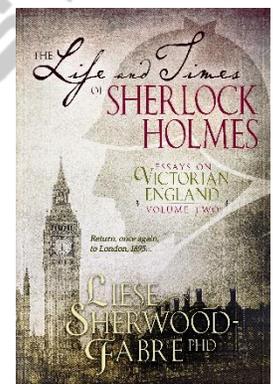
- 1) Steven Doyle and David Crowder, *Sherlock Holmes for Dummies*. New Jersey: Wiley Publishing, Inc. 2010, page 88.
- 2) Ibid
- 3) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public\\_school\\_\(United\\_Kingdom\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_school_(United_Kingdom))
- 4) <http://www.victorianweb.org/victorian/history/education/eh4.html>
- 5) Ibid
- 6) Sally Mitchell, *Daily Life in Victorian England*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996, page 217-218.
- 7) <http://oupacademic.tumblr.com/post/57740288322/misquotation-the-battle-of-waterloo-was-won-on>
- 8) Sally Mitchell, editor, *Victorian Britain: An Encyclopedia*, New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1988, page 246-47.
- 9) Mitchell, *Daily Life in Victorian England*, page 176
- 10) <http://www.etoncollege.com/glossary.aspx#p>
- 11) Mitchell, *Daily Life in Victorian England*, page 176.

You can check out more of Liese Sherwood-Fabre's writings at [www.liesesherwoodfabre.com](http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com).

*This and other articles on Sherlock Holmes and Victorian England are now available in Volume Two of Dr. Sherwood-Fabre's essay collection regarding "The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes." Currently, the book is offered on Amazon and everywhere September 15.*

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>



# CANON QUEERIES

RALPH EDWARDS, BSI 2s

Ralph Edwards was secretary of The Six Napoleons of Baltimore, responsible for sending meeting notices. In 1972, he began attaching a set of questions to serve as stimulus for discussion at the meetings. This practice was continued by the other Baltimore scion society, The Carlton Club, which Ralph formed in 1976.

Thanks to Les Moskowitz [Les221b@comcast.net](mailto:Les221b@comcast.net), for making these inquiries available to us.

1. Was it a coat or a cap?
2. Do all framers get glue on their hair or their clothes?
3. Was Watson in need of Gamblers Anonymous?
4. Was 'Handy Guide ....' an actual publication?
5. Didn't Holmes know of Watson's summer places?
6. Why does Watson consider a horsewhipping case to be in Holmes's province?
7. What gave Watson a knowledge of dog shows?
8. Is 'only horses and boys' overly restrictive?
9. Is two lengths in a furlong enough to reduce the odds to 40-1?
10. Did Lady Beatrice have love affairs?
11. What was in the glass or bottle?
12. Why did Sir Robert and Mr. Norlett part at the crypt?
13. Wouldn't a full bottle impair one's running ability?
14. Does shuffling confirm "cold self-possession"?
15. Was the choice of pipes of any significance?
16. What quote does "trout in the mill-stream" suggest?
17. Did Holmes and Watson bet on the Derby?
18. If not caught, would Holmes have notified the police?
19. Why did Holmes conjecture murder and not natural death?
20. Is horsewhipping a man characteristic of honorable stock?
21. Why did the spaniel return to Holmes?
22. How had the coffin been fastened?
23. Why did Sir Robert return to the crypt that final evening?
24. Does a vertical corpse hold its shape for a week?
25. Did Holmes serve the interest of his client, Mr. Mason?
26. Did Holmes condone deceit as to which horse was run?
27. Why did the creditors hold their hand?
28. In LADY, Holmes is in a hurry, so he uses screw drivers to open a coffin; why, here, with plenty of time, does he use a jemmy?
29. What did Mason really want of Holmes?

# How to Write Good

Thanks to Scott Monty for finding this list for us... Anyone with the writer's itch will welcome these simple tips...

The first set of rules was written by Frank L. Visco and originally published in the June 1986 issue of Writers' digest. The second set of rules is derived from William Safire's Rules for Writers.

My several years in the word game have learnt me several rules:

1. Avoid Alliteration. Always.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. Avoid cliches like the plague. (They're old hat.)
4. Employ the vernacular.
5. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
6. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary.
7. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
8. Contractions aren't necessary.
9. Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
10. One should never generalize.
11. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
12. Comparisons are as bad as cliches.
13. Don't be redundant; don't use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
14. Profanity sucks.
15. Be more or less specific.
16. Understatement is always best.
17. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
18. One word sentences? Eliminate.
19. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
20. The passive voice is to be avoided.
21. Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
22. Even if a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
23. Who needs rhetorical questions?
24. Parenthetical words however must be enclosed in commas.
25. It behooves you to avoid archaic expressions.
26. Avoid archaic spellings too.
27. Don't repeat yourself, or say again what you have said before.
28. Don't use commas, that, are not, necessary.
29. Do not use hyperbole; not one in a million can do it effectively.

30. Never use a big word when a diminutive alternative would suffice.
31. Subject and verb always has to agree.
32. Placing a comma between subject and predicate, is not correct.
33. Use youre spell chekker to avoid misspelling and to catch typographical errors.
34. Don't repeat yourself, or say again what you have said before.
35. Use the apostrophe in it's proper place and omit it when its not needed.
36. Don't never use no double negatives.
37. Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.
38. Hopefully, you will use words correctly, irregardless of how others use them.
39. Eschew obfuscation.
40. No sentence fragments.
41. Don't indulge in sesquipedalian lexicological constructions.
42. A writer must not shift your point of view.
43. Don't overuse exclamation marks!!
44. Place pronouns as close as possible, especially in long sentences, as of 10 or more words, to their antecedents.
45. Writing carefully, dangling participles must be avoided.
46. If any word is improper at the end of a sentence, a linking verb is.
47. Avoid trendy locutions that sound flaky.
48. Everyone should be careful to use a singular pronoun with singular nouns in their writing.
49. Always pick on the correct idiom.
50. The adverb always follows the verb.
51. Take the bull by the hand and avoid mixing metaphors.
52. If you reread your work, you can find on rereading a great deal of repetition can be by rereading and editing.
53. And always be sure to finish what

Even after twenty some years of poring over Dr. Watson's records of Sherlock Holmes, I occasionally still get taken by complete surprise.

Whether it's in my own studies, a chance comment on the Internet, or a full-fledged article by one of my Sherlockian colleagues, a previously harmless quotation suddenly springs forth with a whole new significance, sometimes giving whole new meanings to an array of Canonical events.

Sometimes this is a happy occasion. Sometimes it is a been frightening. An example of the latter occurred this May as Ron Ritter posted a bit of top ten fun to the Hounds of the Internet based on the following quote from "The Dying Detective":

"I walked slowly round the room, examining the pictures of celebrated criminals with which every wall was adorned."

Even though I enjoyed Ron's top ten list, something about that quote, seen apart from the whole text for the first time, gave me shivers of dread.

Watson is walking slowly around a room whose walls are covered with pictures of famous criminals - a scene that eerily echoes a movie lead's discovery of a stalker or serial killer's lair, in which obsession is suddenly revealed by an overabundance of photos plastering walls like some sort of bizarre shrine.

The most eerie aspect of Watson's statement, however, comes when one remembers exactly where he is during that passage from "The Dying Detective": Sherlock Holmes's bedroom.

Like some teenaged girl infatuated with the latest singing heartthrob, Sherlock Holmes has decorated his bedroom walls with photos.

And not of Wilhemina Norman-Neruda or Irene Adler, or some other talented beauty whose charms a man would not mind staring at, but of famous criminals.

"Mr. Mac, the most practical thing that you ever did in your life would be to shut yourself up for three months and read twelve hours a day at the annals of crime," Sherlock Holmes tells a Scotland Yard man in *The Valley of Fear*.

Holmes seems to be encouraging Inspector MacDonald to follow the same course that he himself has taken, and when putting those words together with the pictures upon Holmes's bedroom walls, we suddenly see a different Holmes: not the criminal expert due to his choice of law enforcement specialty, but the expert who became that way as a fan first.

"You know, Watson, I don't mind confessing to you that I have always had an idea that I would have made a highly efficient criminal," Holmes says in *"The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton."* "This is the chance of my lifetime in that direction."

He gets very excited about playing the burglar, just as any fan does when given the chance to emulate his object of affection.

And that's not the only instance in which we find Holmes playing the make-believe criminal. Take this passage from *"The Gloria Scott,"* for example:

"You know my methods in such cases, Watson. I put myself in the man's place, and, having first gauged his intelligence, I try to imagine how I should myself have proceeded under the same circumstances."

In his classic work of filmed Sherlockian scholarship, *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, Billy Wilder theorizes that Sherlock Holmes remained a bachelor because the only women he was attracted to were criminals.

(Remember his words from *The Sign of Four*? "I assure you that the most winning woman I ever knew was hanged for poisoning three little children for their insurance-money.")

While Wilder's theory was on the right track, it is entirely possible that it just didn't go far enough. What

if Holmes admired not just female criminals, but all criminals ... and perhaps a little too much at that.

Nowhere does this admiration become as plain as in Sherlock Holmes's intense fascination with Professor Moriarty, the greatest criminal Holmes ever met.

Moriarty is mentioned in more of Watson's cases than any other person who is not directly involved in those particular cases.

He is lamented upon long after he is gone, and certain conflicts in Watson's accounts of "The Final Problem" and The Valley of Fear would seem to indicate that Holmes had much more to do with Moriarty than we were originally told. But why should Watson be so shy about revealing Holmes's complete campaign against the evil professor to the world?

Were Holmes's fannish behaviors finally crossing the line into true fanaticism in his pursuit of Moriarty?

"My horror at his crimes was lost in my admiration at his skill," Holmes admits, and it has to make one wonder: If Moriarty's crimes were gruesome enough to inspire horror in a normal person, just how much admiration would it take to blind one to those horrors? Too much.

And how obsessed must one be to make a master criminal actually come to your house and ask you to stop stalking him?

"You crossed my path on the fourth of January," Professor Moriarty finally tells Holmes at 221B.

"On the twenty-third you incommoded me; by the middle of February I was seriously inconvenienced by you; at the end of March I was absolutely hampered in my plans; and now, at the close of April, I find myself placed in such a position through your continual persecution that I am in positive danger of losing my liberty. The situation is becoming an impossible one."

We Sherlockians have long thought, as Watson obviously intended, that Moriarty was referring to Holmes's interference in his criminal activities. But what

if Moriarty was simply talking about his everyday life and social commitments, and the fear of having to stay in his house all the time just to avoid this crazed fan?

There have perhaps been more interpretations of Holmes and Moriarty's final confrontation at Reichenbach Falls than any other scene in the Canon. The one thing that students of Holmes have yet to take into account, however, is the actual physical evidence.

We are told that Sherlock Holmes was fleeing for his life from the pursuit of the master criminal. Yet where are the guns? Where are the knives? Something has never been quite right about the business at Reichenbach, but all we have to do is look at the true physical evidence for the real situation.

No guns were at the falls. No knives or weapons of any kind. Just three things remain at the scene of the crime when Watson comes upon it at the last: Holmes's Alpine-stock, his silver cigarette-case, and three pages torn from his notebook.

The Alpine-stock was obviously acquired when Holmes and Watson got to the mountains. The cigarette-case was Holmes's constant companion to soothe his nicotine addiction. The only thing Sherlock Holmes was really taking to his final confrontation with the man he was stalking was that little "notebook" ... or as we would refer to it in fan terms, his autograph book.

We can't be sure exactly what happened when Holmes approached Moriarty for his autograph. Things apparently went badly enough that the detective felt he needed to leave Watson a cover note and head for the hills. Perhaps he had heard of illustrious criminals in Mecca or Lhasa whose autographs he also wanted to get before returning to London.

Whatever the result, we can be sure of the name of at least one celebrated criminal whose smiling face beamed down from Sherlock Holmes's bedroom wall - that of Professor Moriarty.

Though given Holmes's apparent problems with getting autographs, it probably wasn't signed.

# 56 STORIES IN 56 DAYS - "THE PRIORY SCHOOL"

Posted on November 13, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet

This is a great little tale, dark and gothic, writes Charlotte Anne Walters. In this story we have crypts, dead bodies, the burning of bones in a furnace, rumours of ghosts, it's all great fun and a wonderful macabre story.

There's even a bit of horse racing thrown in which made my husband sit up and pay attention (as I have mentioned before, he is an ex-racing journalist).

This story is such a good example of what a great story-teller Doyle was – not just clever and responsible for creating one of the best-loved characters in English fiction, but really good at spinning an imaginative yarn which is entertaining and a real page-turner.

This is the dilemma isn't it for so many writers?

Do you create a work of great intellectual significance which might change the world?

Do you use your writing as a vehicle show-off your intellectual prowess, or do you just try to create an entertaining page-turner that people can't put down?

With my book, I went for the latter and aimed for something in-between low-brow and high-brow, an entertaining middle-ground with a mix of literary clout and fast-paced story-telling.

I think Doyle made the same choice with Holmes, a choice which he

perhaps came to regret when he struggled to get his more serious work recognised – though not when counting his money of course!

The story begins with Holmes bent over a microscope analysing threads from a coat and finding traces of glue amongst the fibres of fabric.

He also tells Watson about brining a coiner to justice by finding the zinc and copper filings in the seam of his cuff.

In this way Holmes was such a pioneer – using the science of deduction and forensic analysis rather than old-fashion methods of following a hunch to find the bad guys.

Watson reveals his love of betting on the horses when Holmes asks if he knows anything of the sport – "I ought to. I pay for it with about half my wound pension."

Here again we see how Watson is rather carefree when it comes to money, just as with previous examples of him getting Holmes to keep his cheque book locked away and the general lack of business acumen shown towards his medical practice.

This side of Watson gave me great creative opportunities in my own novel and I have used his human deficiencies to their full potential. The story itself is all about Sir Robert Norberton from the estate of Shoscombe Old Place and his

money troubles. The estate is actually owned by his sister who inherited it on the death of her husband.

He is in debt and has bet all he has on his horse, Shoscombe Prince, to win the Derby.

His sister dies of natural causes a week before the race and Sir Robert is so afraid that creditors will descend upon him and claim the horse, that he conceals the death in the hope of stalling things until after the race.

He hides her body in a used coffin in the family crypt and burns the bones of the original occupant in a furnace.

Despite his questionable actions, all ends well when Shoscombe Prince wins the Derby and Sir Robert is able to settle his debts.

For once, Doyle doesn't really come down on one side or the other with regard to how wrong the protagonist has been and leaves it up to the reader to decide whether the happy ending is deserved or not.

For me, I think it ties things up neatly and rounds off an excellent story which shows Holmes and his methods in all their glory.

A well deserved 9 out of 10.

# STORY INFO PAGES FOR "SHOSCOMBE OLD PLACE"

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

- **First published in:** Liberty, March 5, 1927; The Strand Magazine, April 1927
- **Time frame of story (known/surmised):** May, 1902 (likely)
- **Holmes and Watson living arrangements:** Sharing quarters at 221B.
- **Opening scene:** Holmes had been bending over a low-power microscope. He straightened himself up and remarked upon an unrelated case. Then the new client, who was overdue, arrived and was shown in by the page. Holmes had earlier received from him a letter.
- **Client:** Mr. John Mason, the head-trainer at Shoscombe Old Place, a tall, clean-shaven man with the firm, austere expression which is only seen upon those who have to control horses or boys. Mason had many of both under his sway.
- **Crime or concern:** Mason thought his employer, Sir Robert Norburton, had gone mad, and that everything he did was queer. Sir Robert wasn't sleeping, and was down at

the stables at all hours. His eyes were wild, and his nerves were affected. He seemed to have caused his sister, Lady Beatrice, to ignore her main interests, and she became brooding and sulky, and took to drink. Sir Robert also was visiting an old ruined chapel on the property. Under the chapel was a crypt which had a bad name among the staff. The crypt was especially creepy during those hours of darkness when the powers of evil were exalted.

- **Villain:** Sir Robert. His name was that of a dangerous man. He was the most daredevil rider in England — once second in the Grand National. He was one of those men who overshot their true generation; he should have been a buck in the days of the Regency — a boxer, an athlete, a plunger on the turf, and a lover of fair ladies. But by all account, he was so far down Queer Street he was unlikely to ever find his way back again. Sir Robert lived with his sister, who thought well of him.
- **Motive:** Sir Robert's sister, Lady Beatrice Falder, was

heir to the Shoscombe estate. Upon her death title would go to her late husband's brother. Lady Beatrice died from dropsy 2 weeks before the big race. Sir Robert was on the verge of ruin, and had bet heavily on his horse. His whole life was on it. He was up to the neck; his last chance. Everything he could raise or borrow was on the horse — and at fine odds. He was holding off the Jews till then. He needed to hide his sister's death until his horse came in.

- **Logic used to solve:** Holmes realized that something happened a week or so before his visit which cut deep into the life of the Shoscombe household. The brother stopped visiting his beloved invalid sister and gave away her favourite dog. The lady kept to her room, altered her habits, was not seen save when she drove out with her maid, she refused to stop at the stables to greet her favourite horse. and apparently took to drink. This line of thought, which concerned Lady Beatrice, had a vaguely sinister flavour. The second line of thought, a scandalous

supposition, put forward for argument's sake — was that Sir Robert had done away with his sister. The visits to the crypt and some burned bones were suggestive.

- **Policemen:** Merivale, of the Yard, who asked SH to look into a case. The Yard had begun to realize the importance of the microscope.
- **Holmes' fees:** No mention.
- **Transport:** On a bright May evening Holmes and Watson took a first-class carriage bound for the little "halt-on-demand" station of Shoscombe. They posed as visiting fishermen. Upon arrival they took a short drive to an old-fashioned tavern.
- **Food:** After the "experiment", an encounter with the Lady Beatrice (?), Holmes and Watson did actually use their fishing tackle in the mill-stream with the result that they had a dish of trout for supper.
- **Drink:** Prior to the queer business, Lady Beatrice

would take her glass, but later it often became a whole bottle of an evening. At the tavern, Holmes and Watson had their host in for a glass of his own wine, and held some high converse upon eels and dace in preparation for their "fishing" activities.

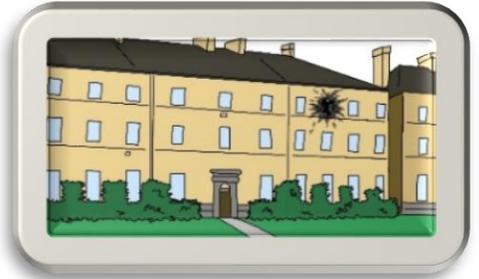
- **Vices:** Listening to the client's story, SH, sat for some time in silent thought, and lit the oldest and foulest of his pipes.
- **Other cases mentioned:** The St. Pancras case, in which a cap was found beside the dead policeman. That of a coiner run down by Holmes based upon filings in his cuff.
- **Notable Quotables:** "By the way, Watson, you know something of racing?" — SH  
"I ought to. I pay for it with about half my wound pension." — JW  
"Things seem to be of a curiously mixed character. But that should surely help us. It is only the colourless, uneventful case which is hopeless." — SH  
"You do occasionally find a carrion crow among the eagles." — SH

- **Other interestings:** Lady Beatrice died from edema or oedema (British) both words from the Greek οἴδημα, then known as dropsy or hydropsy The disease is an abnormal accumulation of fluid beneath the skin or in one or more cavities of the body, often associated with heart problems.
- **When all was said and done:** This singular episode ended upon a happier note than Sir Robert's actions deserved. His horse, Shoscombe Prince, did win the Derby, the sporting owner did net eighty thousand pounds in bets, and the creditors did hold their hand until the race was over, when they were paid in full, and enough was left to reestablish Sir Robert at a fair position in life. Both police and coroner took a lenient view of the transaction, and beyond a mild censure for the delay in registering the lady's decease, the lucky owner got away scatheless from this strange incident..

# Baker Street Elementary

Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason

The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson



Baker Street Elementary  
Number 166 - 06/10/2018

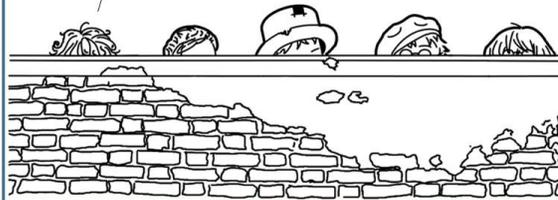
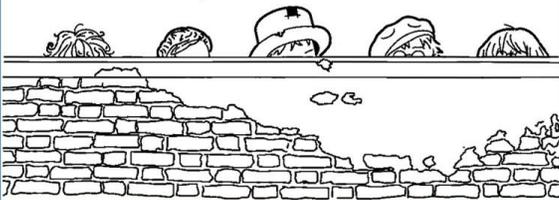
Fay, Mason, & Mason

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MASTER PETER, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON CHOOSING 'ROMEO AND JULIET' AS THE SHAKESPEAREAN PLAY THIS SPRING...

OH YES, IT IS THE GREATEST LOVE STORY OF ALL TIME...

AU CONTRAIRE, MADAMOISELLE...



THE GREATEST LOVE STORY ISN'T ROMEO AND JULIET, WHO DIED TOGETHER AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE, BUT MY GRANDPARENTS, WHO HAVE GROWN OLD TOGETHER, AND ARE STILL IN LOVE...

OH, YOU ARE ALL CURMUDGEONS... MASTER BRAD, I WAGER YOU LOVE THE ROMANTIC STORYLINE...

MISS CHRISTINA, IT'S A 3-DAY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A 13-YEAR-OLD AND A 17-YEAR-OLD THAT RESULTS IN 6 DEATHS.



MAYBE ROMEO SHOULD HAVE CONTINUED PURSUING ROSALINE...

JULIET WOULD STILL BE ALIVE IF SHE HAD STUCK WITH PARIS...

LISTENING TO YOU MALES, I FEEL MY BRAIN COMMITTING SUICIDE, ONE CELL AT A TIME...

DRINK SOME BRANDY...

