

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 07, No. 04 - April, 2019

*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star - founded April, 1970*



PLEASE NOTE:

May 05 Meeting NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, May 05, at 1:00 pm. At TWO GUYS FROM ITALY, in Dallas.

The restaurant is at 11637 Webb Chapel Road, Dallas, just south of LBJ Freeway.

We will be reading "His Last Bow." The quiz will cover this tale.

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

April 05 Summary

There were 13 in attendance at the meeting. Cindy Brown opened the meeting with a toast to the Master, Sherlock Holmes, written by Glen S. Miranker. (page 3).

The Crew then took a quiz on "The Lion's Mane," which was won by James Robinson, with Kip Hatchell taking second place.

Cindy Brown provide a quick summary of the Dayton, OH Conference, "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends" held the last week in March.

Liese Sherwood Fabre also gave a brief reminder that in October, 2019 the Bouchercon 2019 Conference will be held here in Dallas and is a mystery writer's conference. The conference will be held from October 31, through November 3, 2019.

Tim Kline gave a wonderful slide show presentation discussing his recent trip to London. He stayed in the Sherlock Holmes Hotel and visited many notable Sherlockian sites, including the Sherlock Holmes Experience, the Jack the Ripper Midnight Tour, and Madame Tussaud's Was Museum.

Tim also showed some Sherlockian patches he purchased on the internet, which were being sold to support the Boy Scout's 24 World Scout Jamboree.

Walter Pieper closed the meeting with a reading from the Winter, 2008 Baker Street Journal, "GETTING TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU" (page 4).

The door prize drawing was won by Walter Pieper and by Diane Tran.

Thanks to Cindy Brown, who took the minutes (full minutes can be found 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

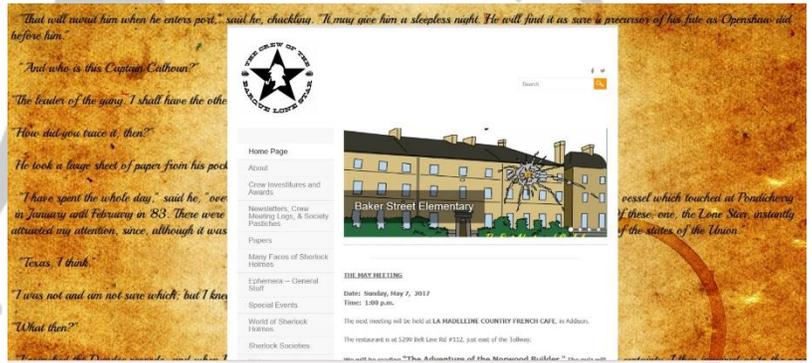
Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb
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Pam Mason
Rusty Mason

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Our Website:

www.dfw-sherlock.org



Our Facebook Page:

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

TO THE MASTER

Cindy Brown

**WITH HIGH FOREHEAD
AND SALLOW CHEEK**

**OBSERVANT EYE AND
HAWK'ED BEAK**

**THERE IS NO FACE LIKE
HOLMES.**



TO SHERLOCK

- GLEN S. MIRANKER (01/2018)

"GETTING TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU" (EXTRACT)

Steven Rothman, Editor, BSJ, Summer, 2008, Vol 58, No. 2

Where did you first discover Sherlock Holmes? Was it between the covers of a book, or on stage, or in the movies, or on television, or comic books, or—and we feel terribly aged suggesting it—on the Internet?

Wherever it was, the sheer choice shows what a malleable, chameleon-like creature Holmes is. He is a master of multi-media and has been for well over 100 years.

The first incarnation in which we meet Holmes affects our view of him thereafter. Every generation has a different image in their head.

Whether that Holmes comes from an actor's face or voice, or an illustrator's pen, your first Holmes is always, in some vital way, the true one to you.

You may be a firm Steeler or a diehard Bretton, it matters little what Holmes grabbed your nascent imagination. You might even be, poor devil, wed to the Holmes drawn by Charles Doyle.

Whoever and however you first saw Holmes made flesh, no matter how hard you may try to shake it, that is your Holmes.

When does a child first meet Holmes? The image of the "detective" with deerstalker, pipe, and magnifying glass must be familiar to children from a very young age through illustrations and television. But is this a true meeting?

Even the most loving homage is not the same as entering the sitting-room in Baker Street, albeit in one's mind. Would an initial exposure to a parody of Holmes have the same effect?

Unlikely. Parodies cannot much influence those who have yet to experience the real thing. The place of your first meeting with Sherlock Holmes isn't important. Nor is the form that initial Holmes took.

What matters most, especially within these pages, is that you met Holmes and your imagination blossomed; a child—an adult?—with all the questions met a man with all the answers.

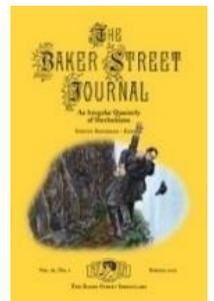
Actual friendships have been built on less..



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.

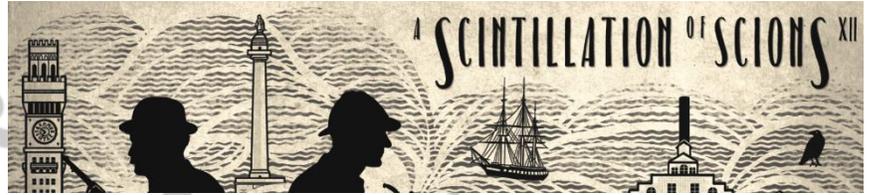


UPCOMING CONFERENCES

A Scintillation of Scions XII

June 7-8, 2019 -- Linthicum Heights, MD

<https://www.scintillation.org/>



"Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences"

August 8-11, 2019 – Minneapolis, MN

http://www.norwegianexplorers.org/2019_conference.html



Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium

October 12-13, 2019 – Portland, OR

<https://www.leftcoastsherlock.com/>



Building an Archive – The Arrival of the BSI Archive to the Lily Library

November 8-10, 2019 -- Bloomington, IN

<http://bsiarchivelilly.org/>



The BSI Weekend

January 15-19, 2020 – New York City, NY

<https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-weekend/>



SEVENTEEN STEPS TO "His Last Bow"

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of "The Creeping Man" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

THE RECORD HOLDER FOR TERRIBLE

Watson begins this tale, published in 1917 with: "It was nine o'clock at night upon the second of August--the most terrible August in the history of the world."

And indeed it was -- at that time. Has the world had a more terrible August in the eight decades and more since them? And, not to branch off into pastiche too much, what might undercover Holmes have been doing to best aid England on those terrible days?

THE KAISER'S OWN SPEED RACER

"One of these was his present companion, Baron Von Herling, the chief secretary of the legation, whose huge 100-horse-power Benz car was blocking the country lane as it waited to waft its owner back to London."

Story problem time: If Baron Von Herling owns a 100-horse Benz in 1914 and goes as fast as the law allows, how long will it take him to hit London?

How long if he cuts loose and leaves all local constables along the way in a cloud of dust?

THE GERMAN LIVING IN BRITAIN

"They have, for example, their insular conventions which simply must be observed," Baron Von Herling comments on the English citizenry.

"Meaning, 'good form' and that sort of thing?" Von Bork then

sighs as "one who had suffered much."

Von Bork is obviously living the good life, yet having to deal with the residents of Great Britain seems to give him pain. What cultural differences might be most irritating to a German visitor to that country?



WHEN IS HOLMES GOING TO SHOW UP?

Having written these seventeen questions for a good many stories now, the discussion leader is finding this one a bit harder than most ... simply due to the absence of our usual main character.

Would the Scarlet Pimpernel have been more popular if he had appeared in his stories more often, instead of letting unfamiliar characters hog the tale until mid-story, like Holmes does in this one?

What must the readers of the original tale have thought, when a magazine booms "His Last Bow" as a Sherlock Holmes story, and they find none of the usual Holmes-story features? Is the surprise in

this tale worth leaving that comfortable Watsonian form we've all come to know and love?

THE GERMANS HAVE MUCH TO ANSWER FOR

Von Bork asks, "How, then, can England come in, especially when we have stirred her up such a devil's brew of Irish civil war, window-breaking Furies, and God knows what to keep her thoughts at home."

Is he taking credit for all of England's domestic troubles? Did the Germans actually have anything to do with Britain's unrest, either in encouraging what was already there or starting things altogether?

AREAS OF GERMAN INTEREST

"Each pigeon-hole had its label, and his eyes as he glanced along them read a long series of such titles as 'Fords,' 'Harbour-defences,' 'Aeroplanes,' 'Ireland,' 'Egypt,' 'Portsmouth forts,' 'The Channel,' 'Rosythe,' and a score of others. Each compartment was bristling with papers and plans."

While some of these topics of German spy research make perfect sense to the modern reader, a few of them seem a bit odd. What interest did the Germans have in Fords and Egypt? What data might they have gained from the British on such subjects?

IS HOLMES THERE YET? IS HOLMES THERE YET?

Von Bork says of Altamont, "You see he poses as a motor expert and I keep a full garage."

What might a "full garage" consisted of in 1917? Multiple motorcars, or just all the parts and tools to keep just one in perfect order?

THE PFENNIG-PINCHING BARON

Baron Von Herling comments "They are useful, these traitors, but I grudge them their blood money."

Was the Baron so involved in the German cause that he actually expected foreigners to see the light and work for free? Was Germany that strapped for cash that it pained him to see any of it paying off people like Altamont? Or was the Baron just cheap?

WHO IS AT WAR WITH WHOM HERE?

Von Bork says of Altamont, "Besides he is not a traitor. I assure you that our most pan-Germanic Junker is a sucking dove in his feelings towards England as compared with a real bitter Irish-American . . . He seems to have declared war on the King's English as well as on the English king."

Why would an Irish-American be at war with England? Wouldn't the fact that he was now an American remove him a bit from Irish-English antipathies?

Or is there something behind his move to America that would make him even more bitter than a regular Irishman?

IN HEAVEN OR ON EARTH?

"The heavens, too, may not be quite so peaceful if all that the good Zeppelin promises us comes true," Von Herling says.

Was Zeppelin promising something other than Zeppelins, that slow and peaceful-looking airship? Would the dirigibles really disturb the heavens so much, or were the bombing targets on Earth the true place things would change?

THE CANON'S REAL WOMAN OF MYSTERY

She is "a dear old ruddy-faced woman in a country cap." She knits and she likes cats. Her presence keeps Holmes "easy in my mind." And her name is Martha.

Forget Irene Adler -- Martha is the real wonder woman of the Canon, undertaking two-year missions for Holmes. And he actually seems to trust her, too, something a younger Holmes might not have felt about any female.

Do we have any clues about the origin of this amazing woman? Could she have been someone we have met elsewhere? Or did she come from some unwritten part of Holmes's life?



UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU, SHERLOCK HOLMES!

"He was a tall, gaunt man of sixty, with clear-cut features and a small goatee beard which gave him a general resemblance to the caricatures of Uncle Sam."

Sherlock Holmes has always had American sympathies, but his time in the U.S. of A. seems to have completed his conversion. He now looks like Uncle Sam, he seems to think he'll be talking like an American forever, and he's now had some exposure to just how popular the Holmes tales were on the other side of the pond.

What are the chances that Holmes is going to decide to move to America when his war service is over? Would the younger country have appeals for him?

HOPEFULLY HE DIDN'T FIND IT IN THE ROAD

"A half-smoked, sodden cigar hung from the corner of his mouth, and as he sat down he struck a match and relit it."

We know "Altamont" has never had the best smoking habits, but running around with a "sodden" cigar butt in his mouth seems rather disgusting. Do cigars suddenly go out during a car ride and need relighting when one stops?

Or would Altamont have snuffed it getting into the car, to pick it up upon getting out again?

VON BORK'S SPY NETWORK

Von Bork seems to use a lot of mercenary non-Germans in his espionage activities: Jack James, the bone-headed American. Hollis the role-playing madman with a hundred suspicious men around him. And Steiner . . . was he a storekeeper, or was it just his "store" of papers that got raided?

If one isn't using one's own countrymen for a spy network, isn't it a bit like setting up a criminal empire, using the flawed souls that exist locally? How close might Von Bork have been to the late Professor Moriarty in evil management skills?

ALTAMONT'S AREA OF RESIDENCE

"My landlady down Fratton way had some inquiries, and when I heard of it I guessed it was time for me to hustle."

What was the Irish-American spy doing "down Fratton way"? Did it have anything to do with the signals and codes he was stealing, and how so?

ALTAMONT'S NEXT PORT OF CALL

"It's me for little Holland, and the sooner the better," Altamont says.

Von Bork replies, "by all means, go to Holland," but was Rotterdam Altamont's true meaning? Isn't putting "little" in front of a place usually an indication you mean some urban neighborhood full of immigrants

from that place? Or was Holland just known for being small?

MORE CASES FROM THE TIN DISPATCH BOX

"I have done a good deal of business in Germany in the past," Holmes tells Von Bork.

Perhaps my mind just isn't too quick at the moment, but when did Holmes or Watson ever mention a case that took Holmes to Germany? Sure, he's dealt with Germans in London, but when did Holmes have time to be "in Germany"?



THE TAVERNS IN THE TOWN

"Well, you realize your position, you and your accomplice here. If I were to shout for help as we pass through the village--"

"My dear sir, if you did anything so foolish you would probably enlarge the two limited titles of our village inns by giving us 'The Dangling Prussian' as a signpost."

Anyone have any ideas on what the two village inns were in the nearby village?

THAT LAST QUIET TALK

On the terrace, Holmes and Watson have what may or may not have been their last words together: "The two friends chatted in intimate converse for a few minutes, recalling once again the days of the past."

Given that they aren't spending too much time here, what might they have recalled in those moments? What times might have meant the most to the two men? What else might they have talked about in those last moments before transporting Von Bork?

CARDBOARD ADVENTURES

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

When the events of “The Adventure of the Cardboard Box” occurred in 1888, cardboard boxes had only been in existence for nine years, and the cardboard box we know today had not yet appeared.

Its manufacture began in 1895—two years after the story’s publication.

Specifically, the package was described as “a yellow, half-pound honeydew box” wrapped in brown paper (also invented in 1879).

While the box and the wrapping paper had only been in existence for a short while, their predecessors have a long history.

Evidence exists of the Chinese using flexible sheets of bark to wrap food from the first or second century BC. (1)

The bark was later mixed with plant fibers and cloth and turned into a pulp that was spread out, pressed, and dried to make paper. (2)

This process was refined and passed westward into Europe by 1310 and America by 1690—although the formula in the colonies used flax fibers and linen rags. (3)

The familiar brown paper used in bags and cardboard was invented by German chemist Carl Dahl in 1879.

This “Kraft process” used wood chips to create a paper resistant to tearing. (4)

While the paper became more resistant, its texture evolved as well. Corrugated paper appeared in the 1850s.

Edward Allen and Edward Healey developed it to line men’s hats.



American Albert Jones used this paper to cushion glassware during shipping.

Oliver Long sandwiched this paper between two sheets of paper, creating the closest approximation to modern cardboard in 1879.

The cardboard carton was first developed in the US in 1895.

It used the Kraft paper to cover both sides of corrugated paper. (5)

By the 1900s, these cartons began to replace the wooden crates customarily used to ship items. (6)

The salt-filled cardboard box Susan Cushing received in the mail was most likely a paperboard carton invented by Robert Gair in the 1870s.

Gair ran a printing and paper-bag business in Brooklyn.

A machine used for bags cut instead of creasing the paper one day, and Gair realized the machine could be used to both crease and cut the paperboard to create cartons automatically. These are referred to a “semi-flexible packaging.” (7)



The “yellow, honey-dew” box used by Browner most likely was a paperboard box printed yellow and holding a shag tobacco referred to as “honey dew,” used in cigarettes and pipe tobacco. (8)

The use of such boxes took off when the Kellogg brothers used them to package their corn flakes cereal in 1906.

The box was covered in a waxed bag, printed with the brand name. (9)

Despite the rise in the use of plastics for packaging in the 1970s and 80s, there has been a resurgence in the use of recyclable paper and cardboard cartons. (10)

As a result, cardboard packaging in the UK is worth about four billion pounds annually and employs about 27,000 people. (11)

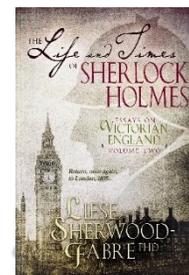
That Susan Cushing received her gruesome correspondence only nine years after the paperboard

box was invented indicates the popularity and diffusion of this relatively inexpensive, yet sturdy, packaging—both box and paper.

Browner's message would certainly have been lost on all concerned if the packet had failed to stand up to its handling through the mail—a fateful decision on his part.

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- (1) <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/cdfs-133>
 - (2) <https://blog.papermart.com/buyers-guide/the-history-of-cardboard-boxes/>
 - (3) <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/cdfs-133>
 - (4) <https://blog.papermart.com/buyers-guide/the-history-of-cardboard-boxes/>
 - (5) Ibid
 - (6) <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/cdfs-133>
 - (7) Ibid
 - (8) <https://ia600208.us.archive.org/0/items/cu31924001715998/cu31924001715998.pdf>
 - (9) <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/cdfs-133>
 - (10) Ibid
 - (11) <https://www.revell-tubes.co.uk/index.html>
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Dr. Liese Sherwood-Fabre will be presenting at the Scintillation of Scions XII, June 7 and 8 on "Scandal in the Canon." If you haven't registered yet, you can do so at <https://www.scintillation.org>. Please stop by her vendor table and say "hi!"



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

Dr. Sherwood-Fabre's book "The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes - Volume 2" includes this and other essays on Victorian England and is now available on Amazon.

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>

CANON QUEERIES - HIS LAST BOW

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, for making these available.

1. What was the most terrible August in the twentieth century?
 - a. August, 1914 - start of WW I
 - b. August, 1939 - introduction to WW II
 - c. August, 1945 - atomic bomb explosions over two Japanese cities?
2. Is the word "degenerate" significant?
3. Were the two Germans famous?
4. Why did they speak in low tones outside von Bork's house?
5. Is a 100-horse-power automobile huge?
6. What provided the impression that the English were docile and simple?
7. What was von Bork's purported occupation?
8. What answer could von Herling have given to a question about the war tax?
9. Were suffragettes part of the devil's brew?
10. What was kept in the pigeonhole labeled "Fords"?
11. Has the feeling of Irish-Americans changed during the last 100 years?
12. What happened to Harwich during the war?
13. How was Altamont to be fixed up?
14. Having spoken in low tones outside the house, why was von Bork now speaking in a normal voice inside his house?
15. What line from Rotterdam was meant?
16. Why did Altamont pay off the gunner in dollars and not in pounds?
17. How did Holmes hide the sponge? When did he soak it with chloroform?
18. Was von Bork bound on his arms and legs, or on his hands and feet?
19. How did von Bork clutch at his throat? How was he walked to the car?
20. Why couldn't the originals have been safely sent out of the country?
21. Why, on war's eve, did Holmes reveal to von Bork, who was to be returned to Germany, that his military information was faulty?
22. Did Holmes have anything to do with the separation of Adler and the King of Bohemia?
23. Are German sportsmen rare?
24. Did a cleaner, better, stronger land emerge?
25. August 2, 1914 was a Sunday. The next day was a planned Bank Holiday. What was Holmes's rush to cash the check early? (Actually, the war start was anticipated, there was a run on the London banks, and the Bank Holiday lasted 4 days. Both the London and New York Stock Exchanges were closed for months from the end of July)
26. Why did the British government allow this story to be published in 1917, while the war was still in progress?

56 STORIES IN 56 DAYS - "HIS LAST BOW"

Posted on November 02, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet (Charlotte Anne Walters)

Well, this one is certainly very different, but then, there was a war on, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

Written in the third person, this unusual tale is set during the First World War and sees a sixty-year-old Holmes come out of retirement to trap a brilliant German spy.

It takes him two years and involves taking on the persona of a cocky Irish-American with colourful dialogue and a goatee beard.

The story has a very different feel to the ones set in an earlier time.

Here we have mention of a 100 horse-power Benz car, the electric light switch, spark plugs, coppers (as in policemen), dough (as in money) and various other Americanisms.

The world is changing and I think Conan Doyle wanted his writing to reflect this.

I suppose this is where I have a problem with the story.

It seems a bit like Doyle felt he needed to do something war-

HIS LAST BOW



related and put this together rather hurriedly.

Perhaps I am being too harsh but when you pull the plot apart some things just don't make sense.

Holmes has been supplying Von Bork (the spy) with incorrect information for two years, surely someone must have noticed by now that the info is false?

And would the German really tell him so freely the pass-code for the safe?

The stereotypes are alive and well too – the sporty German, cocky American and the 'Thicket chauffeur' in the form of a very solid, English, Watson.

There is naturally that hint of propaganda too, the way the German is so dismissive of the English for example.

He describes his house-keeper as having 'Complete self-absorption and general air of comfortable somnolence', underestimating her completely as she is actually working for Holmes and part of the plot to trap Von Bork.

English spirit and resolve triumph over German cunning but still the spirit of fair play remains.

Holmes doesn't physically hurt the German, much to the relief of the housekeeper who says that despite everything he has been a good master to her.

Holmes even offers him a cigar. The Brits are certainly made out to be the gracious heroes in true propaganda style.

The ending is somewhat sad as Holmes and Watson say goodbye, not sure when they will see each other again due to the winds of war blowing across England bringing change and danger, 'A good many of us may wither before its blast.'

I am left desperate to know what happens to them next.

7 out of 10.

STORY INFO PAGES FOR "HIS LAST BOW"

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

- **First published in:** The Strand Magazine, September 1917, and Collier's Weekly, September 22, 1917
- **Time frame of story (known/surmised):** August 2, 1914, at the beginning of WWI. (Note: Britain declared war on Germany on August 4, 1914, in response to a German ultimatum regarding passage through Belgium on August 2nd.)
- **H&W living arrangements:** Not stated. Holmes is 60 years old, and came out of retirement to become a double agent for Britain. He had been keeping bees, presumably upon the Sussex Downs which was a plan he stated earlier.
- **Opening scene:** (This story is not told by Watson or Holmes, but by the author, in the third person.) Baron Von Herling, the chief secretary of the German legation, and Von Bork — a remarkable man who could hardly be matched among all the devoted agents of the Kaiser, were standing outside Von Bork's quiet country house gloating about their success spying upon the English in preparation for the war.

They are waiting for the arrival of their last contact, an Irish-American spy named Altamont, who is to bring important new information about the latest naval signals, code-named sparking plugs. (Altamont is actually Holmes, who had been portraying a motor-expert.) The Baron left in his car just before Holmes arrived.
- **Client:** Holmes had come out of retirement and became a double agent, feeding false information to the German spymasters. Holmes was working for the British government, and

known to the Germans as Altamont. (Altamont was Arthur Conan Doyle's father's middle name.)

- **Crime or concern:** Enemy espionage in Britain.
- **Villain:** "The Hun", the Kaiser, the German government. Particularly their spy network in Britain.
- **Holmes Method:** Holmes was recruited by the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister to break up the spy network. It had cost him 2 years, which were not devoid of excitement.

Holmes started his pilgrimage at Chicago, graduated in an Irish secret society at Buffalo, gave serious trouble to the constabulary at Skibbreen, and eventually caught the eye of a subordinate agent of Von Bork, who then recommended him as a likely man. The matter was complex.

Since then Holmes was honoured by Von Bork's confidence, which did not prevent most of the German plans going subtly wrong and five of their best agents going to prison. Holmes watched them and picked them as they ripened. Von Bork was fooled. His assessment of Altamont: "Our most pan-Germanic Junker is a sucking dove in his feelings towards England as compared with a real bitter Irish-American."
- **Policemen:** The Skibbreen constabulary, in West Cork. Finally, Scotland Yard where the spies were deposited.
- **Holmes' fees:** Not mentioned. Surely the British government paid Holmes. Holmes as Altamont also got a final payment of £500 from Von Bork for the "sparking-plugs".

- **Transport:** Modern. The Baron had a 100 PS Benz car. Holmes and Watson, as Holmes' chauffeur, drove a little Ford of unspecified power rating.
- **Food:** No mention.
- **Drink:** After capturing Von Bork, H&W celebrate by drinking some of Von Bork's excellent dessert wine, Imperial Tokay from Franz Josef's special cellar at the Schoenbrunn Palace, which Holmes proclaimed to be "a remarkable wine, Watson."
- **Vices:** After capturing Von Bork, Holmes offered to light a cigar and place it between his lips, but all amenities were wasted upon the angry German.
- **Other cases mentioned:** SCAN. Also that it was Holmes who saved from murder, by the Nihilist Klopman, Count Von und Zu Grafenstein, Von Bork's mother's elder brother.
- **Notable Quotables:** Holmes to Von Bork, the captured spy – "You are a sportsman and you will bear me no ill-will when you realize that you, who have outwitted so many other people, have at last been outwitted yourself. After all, you have done your best for your

country, and I have done my best for mine, and what could be more natural?"

- **Other interestings:** Mrs. Hudson (Martha) worked as a servant in the Von Bork house. She was working with Holmes as a covert agent, and was invited to meet him at Claridge's Hotel the following day. The relationship between Mrs. Hudson and Holmes had changed to that of co-workers.
- **When all was said and done:** Holmes remarks to his old friend after wrapping up their last case: "Watson, you are joining us with your old service, as I understand, so London won't be out of your way. Stand with me here upon the terrace, for it may be the last quiet talk that we shall ever have."
 "Good old Watson! You are the one fixed point in a changing age. There's an east wind coming, such a wind as never blew on England yet. It will be cold and bitter, Watson and a good many of us may wither before its blast. But it's God's own wind none the less, and a cleaner, better, stronger land will lie in the sunshine when the storm has cleared. Start her up, Watson, for it's time that we were on our way. I have a check for five hundred pounds which should be cashed early, for the drawer is quite capable of stopping it if he can."

AN INQUIRY INTO "HIS LAST BOW"

Murray, the Courageous Orderly (a.k.a., Alexander E. Braun)

"His Last Bow" was first published in "The Strand Magazine," on September 1917.

According to Baring-Gould's chronology, as set down in *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes,* Second Edition, 1974, the case takes place on Sunday, August 2, 1914. At the time Holmes is 60 years old and Watson 62.

Notable Quotes:

"I chose August for the word and 1914 for the figures."

"The old sweet song. How often have I heard it in days gone by. It was a favorite ditty of the late lamented Professor Moriarty. Colonel Sebastian Moran has also been known to warble it. And yet I live and keep bees upon the Sussex Downs."

"Good old Watson! You are the one fixed point in a changing age. There is an east wind coming all the same, such a wind as never blew on England yet. It will be cold and bitter, Watson, and a good many of us may wither before its blast. But it's God's own wind none the less, and a cleaner, better, stronger land will lie in the sunshine when the storm has cleared."

== Authorship ==

Since this story isn't told by Watson in the first person, some Canon scholars have expressed doubts about its authorship,

attributing it--among others--to Mycroft. Others have pointed out that it couldn't be so, because only Watson could have known about their conversation at the end,

== No Indiscretions Between Gentlemen ==

Von Bork remarks of how at a gathering at the home of a Cabinet Minister over a weekend, he found the conversation to be "amazingly indiscreet." It may seem strange that this would be the case for a people so adept at playing the "Great Game." The fact is that espionage was then looked upon with great distaste by the English, unless it was engaged upon with some of "the lesser races." Alas, six months in the trenches changed that forever.

== Criticism? ==

If we assume that Watson--for whatever reason--decided to write this story in the third-person, it is interest to note his emphasis on the two Germans' contempt for British unpreparedness, which seemed to be at such a low ebb that they doubted that England would honor her treaty with Belgium. It appears here that Watson was using this story as a forum to criticize the government for its nearsightedness.

However, the question of Britain preparedness can be considered from two perspectives: the first views the British as indeed being seriously unprepared for the Great

War (as they were for the Second, but for different reasons).

The second perspective (to which I tend to subscribe) is that for almost a century, since the Battle of Waterloo, there had been no major European war. Therefore, England's army was perfectly suited for its purpose since 1815, which was to keep peace within the Empire. When it went to battle in Europe, its officers and men were fewer than the Germans, but very competent and well trained.

The Realm's defense was in the care of the Royal Navy, which was very much up to its task, as it proved in the Battle of Jutland. Germany's High Seas Fleet hoped to lure and destroy a portion of Britain's Grand Fleet, because the German navy was insufficient to openly engage it. This was part of a strategy to break Britain's blockade of Germany and allow the German navy access to the Atlantic. Meanwhile, Great Britain's Royal Navy pursued a strategy to engage and destroy the High Seas Fleet, thereby keeping the German force contained and away from Britain and her shipping lanes.

Jutland ended in a pyrrhic victory, with 14 British and 11 German ships sunk. During the night, the German fleet gave up the fight and returned to port. Both sides claimed victory. The British lost more ships and twice as many sailors but contained the

Germans. Eventually, the British strategy to prevent Germany's access to both Great Britain and the Atlantic succeeded. The German Navy had to accept that their surface ships had been successfully contained, and turned its efforts to unrestricted submarine warfare which, by April 1917, helped trigger the United States of America's declaration of war on Germany.

== The Treasure Trove of Espionage ==

It has always seemed strange to me that von Bork would have kept the results of his four years of spying in a safe until the night before the beginning of the war. One would think that all along he would have been sending all that information to Berlin either in code through telegrams or via diplomatic pouch. Why would he have risked it until the very eve of the event? He really couldn't (certainly shouldn't!) have expected that diplomatic immunity would have protected his possession of the material once a war of such scale breaks out.

== The Endemic Irish Problem ==

Holmes' cover as an embittered Irish-American with a deep hatred of England to dispel any possible

doubts von Herling might have harbored about him in the beginning was a brilliant choice.

It is a fact that the Irish were always a source of concern for England. In the 1600s they plotted with Spain, during the Napoleonic wars a major headache of the Royal Navy was the fact that, overwhelmingly, a large percentage of its sailors -- as well as many officers -- were Irish. During the First (and Second) World War, many Irish tried in one way or another to help the Germans.

== Pricking the German's Ego ==

How like Sherlock Holmes to amuse himself with von Bork by recriminating him over the sad fate of the men that Holmes turned over to the authorities! You can almost see the Great Detective smile, watching him squirm as he accuses him of turning in his own agents!

== The Great Relationship's Interruption ==

It seems peculiar that apparently Holmes and Watson hadn't seen each other in years ("How have the years used you? You look the same blithe boy as ever.") One would have expected that the would have kept up their

relationship--meet once a year at least! Not taking into account the time spent undercover "working" for von Bork, why would the Great Relationship have been so completely interrupted? Holmes, of course, knew that while there was breath in Watson, he could depend on him for anything, regardless of the passage of years. Still, it seems is curious that two such great friends, living in the same country, would not have seen one another for so many years.

== Coming Out of Retirement ==

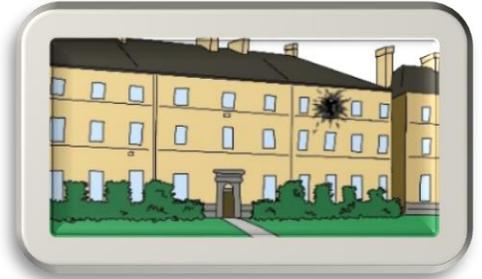
I wonder why Holmes, the quintessential Victorian gentleman, would have had to be pressured to come out of retirement to help the Realm by no less than Lord Asquith!

What else happened in 1914:

My chronology ends with the death of Victoria's son; however, it is well to note that on the day in which LAST takes place, Russia declared war on Germany and Austria after Austria had attacked Serbia. Germany declared war on France, which began mobilizing, and the U.S. expressed concern for the estimated 100,000 American nationals who found themselves in Europe at the start of the hostilities..

Baker Street Elementary

Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason
The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson

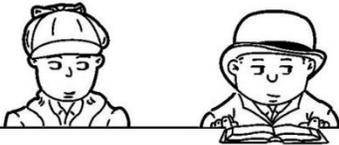


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TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO
LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR
HOME LIFE...



SHERLOCK, WHAT DOES
YOUR MOTHER DO ?



SHE IS MULTI-TALENTED... SHE RUNS
OUR HOUSEHOLD, IS A WRITER,
ARTIST, AND KEEPS MY BROTHER
AND I IN LINE...



SO, WHAT DOES YOUR
FATHER DO ?



WHATEVER MOTHER SAYS...

