

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 07, No. 09 - September, 2019
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star - founded April, 1970*



PLEASE NOTE:

October 06 Meeting

NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 06**, 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 "**The Sign of Four (Chapters 5-12)**" The quiz will cover this tale.

Julie McKuras, BSI, and Bonnie MacBird, BSI, will be our guest presenters.

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

September 01 Summary

There were 15 in attendance at the meeting. Ann Caddell gave a wonderful opening toast (see page 3).

We received over 200 limericks to include in our compilation. Thanks so much for everyone who participated.

The Crew then took a quiz on "The Sign of Four- Quiz 1," which was won by Sharon Lowry, with Mary Butcher taking second place.

Steve gave a presentation on the history of scion societies, including our own Crew.

The main Half Price Bookstore has invited us to participate in an event for **The Hound of the Baskervilles** scheduled for November 15th, including a screening of the film, possible costume contest, and trivia contest.

SMU is organizing a conference, tentatively scheduled for October, 2021, which will focus on Sherlockian Collecting Mania. Don has been working with them on it, and our society will provide support where needed to ensure the conference is successful.

We closed the meeting with a reading (by Brenda) from the Winter, 2009 Baker Street Journal, "I Walked with You Once Upon a Dream" (page 4).

The door prize drawing was won by Brenda.

Thanks to Brenda Hutchison, 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
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"TO MARY MORSTAN"

Ann Caddell

One of the abiding mysteries of the Sherlock Holmes canon is: "How many wives did Watson have, anyway?" Scholarly estimates range from one to as many as seven – one more than Henry VIII. We know that Watson had an eye for the ladies, as throughout the canon he frequently remarks on their appearance, demeanor, and personal qualities. In *The Sign of Four*, when he meets Mary Morstan for the first time, he hints at a pretty interesting past:

"In an experience of women which extends over many nations and three separate continents, I have never looked upon a face which gave a clearer promise of a refined and sensitive nature."

When Watson falls in love, he falls hard. He's soon so discombobulated that he's recommending strychnine as a sedative and telling a story about firing a double-barrelled tiger cub at a musket.

Mary must be really something to throw a battle-hardened military surgeon so thoroughly off his stride. Indeed, while she shows all the outward signs of meek Victorian womanhood, she stands up with tremendous fortitude to all the physical and emotional turmoil involved in the hunt for the Agra treasure.

And when the jewels end up at the bottom of the Thames, she understands that Watson's love is worth far more than any mere material fortune. It's no wonder that Watson exclaims:

"Whoever had lost a treasure, I knew that night that I had gained one."



Unfortunately, poor Mary only gets to enjoy about five or six years of domestic bliss. Sometime between Holmes's staged death at the Reichenbach Falls and his return in *The Adventure of the Empty House*, Watson suffers a "sad bereavement," leaving him free to accompany Holmes on more adventures, and also to (possibly) marry again at least once.

But no subsequent wives are ever described, or even named, leaving us to conclude that Mary alone was the true love of Watson's life.

Just as, for Holmes, Irene Adler would always be "the woman," for me, Mary Morstan will always be the Mrs. Watson. So, ladies, and especially gentlemen, raise a glass to a treasure greater than all the Agra jewels, to Mary Morstan Watson.

"I WALKED WITH YOU ONCE UPON A DREAM" (EXTRACT)

Steven Rothman, Editor, *BSJ*, Spring, 2010, Vol 60, No. 1

How many Sherlockians first made Holmes's acquaintance on the screen as opposed to the page?

No living Sherlockians were born before Holmes first appeared in the movies.

Only a dwindling few drew breath before he appeared on radio. It is likely that those who met Holmes while his adventures were still debuting in *The Strand* or *Collier's* are all gone.

If most became Sherlockians by reading, their knowledge of the character's usual tropes—deerstalker hat, Inverness cape, bent pipe, magnifying glass—was probably part of their cultural vocabulary long before it was part of their conscious knowledge.

So now there are serious plans for another Downey / Law movie. The rumors that a sequel may be made are intriguing.

Could it really be true that we'll have a third chance to watch Holmes and Watson? Not counting Holmes and Watson, or the TV adaptations.



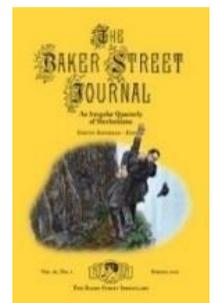
Yes, the page may be the best place to make Holmes's acquaintance through the only medium that has unlimited budget and the best of all special effects: one's own imagination.

But the truth of popular culture is that many ideas leech into our minds long before we are really aware of them. And Baker Street is one of those.

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.

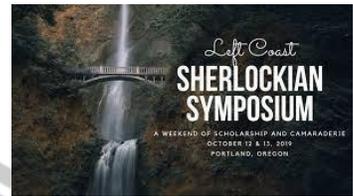


UPCOMING CONFERENCES

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/>



FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

In twelve of the Sherlock Holmes mysteries, someone who experienced a shock or injury was given brandy to “bring color to their cheeks.”

By the reign of Queen Victoria, the use of medicinal brandy was well established, having first appeared in fifteenth century medical texts as the treatment for everything from emotional problems to deafness. (1)

Brandy was created by distilling wine or fermented fruit mash and came from the Dutch word brandewijn (“burnt wine”), which referred to the use of heat in the distillation process. (2)

First practiced as a home industry at least as early as the 1100s, physicians and apothecaries had assumed the process by the late 1400s.

The use of heat to distill the product proved basic to Medieval beliefs related to the four elements (earth, water, air, and fire).

Hieronymus Brunschwig described in his books on distilling that the final product transcended the base elements to create a fifth element that was “the water of life.”

Brandy was considered to provide heat to the body and useful in the treatment of a number of ailments. Excessive use in the elderly, however, could lead to spontaneous combustion and was not recommended. (3)

By the 1800s, brandy was accepted by the medical profession as both a stimulant and a nutrient.

While other alcohols (such as whiskey, rum, or gin) could replace it, physicians considered brandy the most pure of all distilled spirits. (4) Physicians would prescribe brandy (or other liquors) with water as a stimulant.

Effects were described as bringing color to the face and increasing the heart rate and mental acuity. Greater quantities, however, were observed to serve as an anesthetic and decrease motor function.

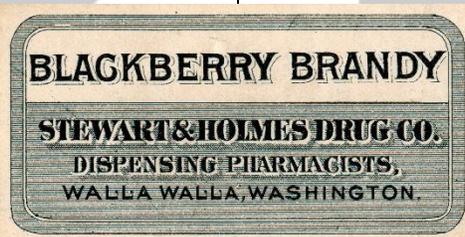
One doctor described prescribing brandy as a restorative, a sedative, and “soother of nerves.” (5)

Alcohol, particularly brandy, was also recommended as a part of a patient’s diet for those suffering from a variety of ailments, including cancer, diabetes, and other fevers (illnesses).

Because it was absorbed in the stomach, it required no digestion, (6) and had a higher caloric value than some other foods. For those convalescing, alcohol was recommended as part of the medical comforts provided to the patient. (7)

Thus, pharmacists dispensed brandy as part of their formulary, and it was even labeled as such. The British medical journal *The Lancet* carried advertisements for medicinal brandy directed at physicians and pharmacists as early as 1845.

At the same time, brandy and other spirits were recognized as leading to alcoholism, and the temperance movement questioned the need for its use in the treatment of diseases.



The London Temperance Hospital was recorded as having dispensed it only once in ten years of operation. (8)

Thus, as lawmakers sought to control the sale of alcohol, they had to consider its recognized use in the medical community.



For example, the Australian Parliament debated the need to exclude pharmacies from a prohibition of alcohol sales on Sunday, noting that some would be tempted to dispense the liquor to those who were unable to purchase it elsewhere. (9)

Perhaps the most controversial use of medicinal brandy and other spirits occurred in the U.S. during Prohibition.

Following the passage of the Volstead Act in 1920 to its repeal in 1933, only physicians with special prescription pads provided by the government could write non-refillable orders for one pint of medicinal alcohol.

The prescription cost about \$3 (more than \$37 in current dollars) and required another visit to the doctor if a refill was required.

For the first time in the country's history, the medical community actively opposed governmental regulation of their ability to prescribe a widely accepted treatment and took

the federal government to court to seek relief from its encroachment on their ability to treat patients.

This had a lasting effect by creating an adversarial relationship long after the repeal of the 20th amendment. (10)

With the exception of one case where Watson had to run to a pub to fetch some brandy, in all the other instances, the medicine appeared in a flask, a doctor's bag, or a nearby tantalus. And with the exception of Julia Stoner's bite from a swamp adder, a few sips or a dash of it in water or tea brought the affected person back from the brink.

Apparently, even brandy had its limitations.

- 1) B. Ann Tlusty, "Water of Life, Water of Death: The Controversy over Brandy and Gin in Early Modern Augsburg," *Central European History* Vol. 31, No. 1/2 (1998), page 11.
- 2) <https://www.britannica.com/topic/brandy>
- 3) Tlusty, page 9.
- 4) *New York Medical Journal*: 46: 1887. Page 700
- 5) Samuel Wilks, "An Introduction to a Discussion on the Effects of Alcohol," *The British Medical Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 1600 (Aug. 29, 1891), page 464
- 6) White W.H. Discussion on the value of alcohol as a therapeutic agent. *Proc R Soc Med*. 1920;13, page 47.
- 7) Henry Guly, "Medicinal Brandy," *Resuscitation*. 2011 Jul; 82(7-2): 951-954.
- 8) J. James Ridge, "The treatment of disease without alcohol," *British Medical Journal*. 1883;2, page 1158.
- 9) *Parliamentary Debates*: 1885, Melbourne: John Ferrers, 1885, page 908.
- 10) <https://melnickmedicalmuseum.com/2010/04/07/medicinal-alcohol-and-prohibition/>

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>

"WHAT SHERLOCK HOLMES TAUGHT US ABOUT THE MIND"

By David Robson, BBC Future

Soon after Andrew Lees embarked on his medical career at University College Hospital London, one of his superiors gave him a rather strange reading list.

Rather than the usual fusty anatomical volumes, it included *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*.

What on earth could the fictional detective teach an aspiring neurologist?

As it turns out, a good deal, as Lees recently wrote in a paper in *Brain* journal. Whatever your expertise, the insights provide a welcome lesson in the art of rational thinking.

As Lees points out, Holmes' creator Arthur Conan Doyle was a physician himself, and there is evidence that he modelled the character of Holmes on one of the leading doctors of the day, Joseph Bell of the Royal Edinburgh Infirmary.

"I thought I would try my hand at writing a story where the hero would treat crime as Dr Bell treated disease," Doyle recalled in a 1927 interview.

Notice the details

But Lees suspects that as his stories developed, Conan Doyle may have also drawn some inspiration from other doctors, such as William Gowers, who wrote the *Bible of Neurology*.

(Conan Doyle himself had specialised in neurodegenerative disease as a doctoral student, and he and Gowers had a mutual friend in the author Rudyard Kipling.)

Gowers often taught his students to begin their diagnosis from the moment a patient walked through

the door, as seen in a record of one of his clinical demonstrations, later published as *A Clinical Lecture on Silver and Syphilis*: "Did you notice him as he came into the room? If you did not then you should have done so. One of the habits to be acquired and never omitted is to observe a patient as he enters the room; to note his aspect and his gait. If you did so, you would have seen that he seemed lame, and you may have been struck by that which must strike you now – an unusual tint of his face."

In particular, it was the importance of the seemingly inconsequential that seems to inspire both men.

"It has long been an axiom of mine that the little things are infinitely the most important," Conan Doyle wrote in *A Case of Identity*.

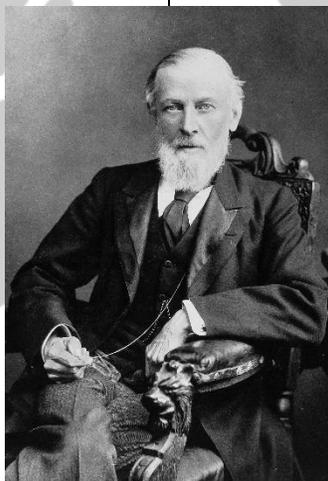
Both Gowers and Holmes also warned against letting your preconceptions fog your judgement.

For both men, cool, unprejudiced observation was the order of the day.

It is for this reason that Holmes chastises Watson in *The Scandal of Bohemia*: "You see, but you do not observe. The distinction is clear."

Or in the words of Gowers: "The method you should adopt is this: Whenever you find yourself in the presence of a case that is not familiar to you in all its detail forget for a time all your types and all your names. Deal with the case as one that has never been seen before, and work it out as a new problem *sui generis*, to be investigated as such."

Occasionally, Gowers' real-life powers' of observation appear to have rivalled Holmes' fictional hero.



Consider his study of a man initially misdiagnosed with a psychological disturbance similar to hysteria:

“I looked casually at the bed-card and at once my eye was caught by the record of his occupation ‘Painter’. I looked from the bed-card to his gums, and there I saw written in equally distinct characters the record of the effect of his occupation – in a conspicuous lead-line.”

By simply using his eyes to see what others had missed, Gowers correctly inferred that the man was being poisoned by his pigments.

There are many other examples: how both men “reasoned backwards”, for instance, dissecting all the possible paths that may have led to a particular disease (in Gowers’ case) or murder (in Holmes’).

This line of approach is perhaps best summarised as Holmes’ most famous aphorism: “When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.”

But perhaps the most important lesson to be learned, from both Gowers and Holmes, is the value of recognising your errors.

“Gentlemen – It is always pleasant to be right, but it is generally a much more useful thing to be wrong,”



wrote Gowers, while Holmes admits: “I confess that I have been blind as a mole, but it is better to learn wisdom late than never to learn it at all.”

This humility is key in beating the ‘curse of expertise’ that afflicts so many talented and intelligent people.

Over the last few years, the cognitive neuroscientist of University College London has documented many instances in which apparent experts in both medicine and forensic science have allowed their own biases to cloud their judgements – sometimes even in life or death situations.

Whatever the exact nature of Gowers’ influence on Conan Doyle, Holmes’ lessons today offer a larger lesson in the power of logical thought.

Even the most advanced technology can never replace the powers of simple observation and rational deduction.

As Lees says, the hospital “is still a crime scene” – and we still need the finest minds to solve those mysteries.

As he found all those years ago, if you want to train your powers of deduction, you could do a lot worse than read (or reread) Sherlock Holmes.

UCLA Film & Television Archive and The Baker Street Irregulars Lead an International Search to Find and Restore Missing Films Featuring Sherlock Holmes



Saving Film & Television for Future Generations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOS ANGELES, CA (August 15, 2019) – UCLA Film & Television Archive, the second-largest moving archive in the U.S. after the Library of Congress, and The Baker Street Irregulars (BSI), the first and foremost international Sherlock Holmes society, are mounting a world-wide search for the lost Sherlock Holmes films.

Actor Robert Downey, Jr., who has portrayed Sherlock Holmes on the screen in two films, with a third Holmes film that will begin production in the fall and scheduled to be released December 2021, is the Honorary Project Chair.

Entitled “Searching for Sherlock: The Game’s Afoot,” the two nonprofit organizations plan to contact film archives, Sherlock Holmes societies, film historians, collectors, and other potential sources around the world to find, restore, and eventually screen, currently lost films featuring the world’s first consulting detective.



According to Dr. Jan-Christopher Horak, Director of the UCLA Archive, more than 100 films about the iconic British detective are lost or are in need of restoration or preservation.

A blue-ribbon committee has been formed to lead the search, including such notables as BSI member Nicholas Meyer, author of the book and Oscar-nominated screenplay *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*, and leading silent film

historian Kevin Brownlow.

Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes is one of the most popular characters in all literature.

The Victorian detective has made the leap countless times from the printed page to the motion picture and television screens.

Beginning with his first appearance in “A Study in Scarlet” in *Beeton’s Christmas Annual* in 1887, Holmes has inspired aficionados internationally and is

the most-filmed character in the world.

More than 100 films about the British detective have been produced; the first was *Sherlock Holmes Baffled*, a 30-second motion picture released originally for Mutoscope arcade machines in 1900 and copyrighted in 1903.

Among the lost films are: a British production of *A Study in Scarlet*, produced in 1914; a Danish series, produced by Nordisk films, beginning in 1908; *The Missing Rembrandt*, produced in 1932, starring Arthur Wontner; and many more.

Spearheading the search is Archive Board and BSI member Barbara Roisman Cooper.

For further information about the project or suggestions regarding the search, contact her at peninc1@aol.com.

About the UCLA Film & Television Archive

The internationally renowned UCLA Archive is the largest university-affiliated archive and the sixth largest moving image

archive in the world, with more than 450,000 holdings stored in a state-of-the-art facility it meets or exceeds all preservation standards.

Established in 1965, the Archive advocates the circulation of all moving images in all formats by collecting, preserving, curating, and making accessible these media for research, education, and entertainment.

For more information about the UCLA Film & Television Archive, visit www.cinema.ucla.edu or contact Marisa Soto at (310) 206-8588 or msoto@cinema.ucla.edu.

About the Baker Street Irregulars

In 1934, literary lion Christopher Morley founded the oldest Sherlock Holmes society, The Baker Street Irregulars.

The BSI publishes the quarterly Baker Street Journal and several volumes of literary criticism.

It also sponsors several Holmes-themed events each year and encourages research into

Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes.



There are hundreds of Sherlock Holmes societies around the world.

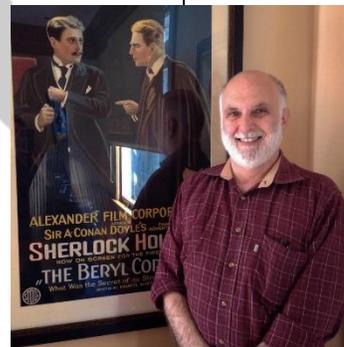
The Baker Street Irregulars is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt educational organization. For more information about The

Baker Street Irregulars, visit www.bakerstreetirregulars.com.

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“Searching for Sherlock” project volunteer committee members and consultants are:

- Angela Allen, MBE; script supervisor
- Kevin Brownlow, film historian; author
- Barbara Roisman Cooper, BSI; Archive Board member; film historian; author
- John P. Connolly, actor; Past President, AFTRA; former CEO, Actors’ Equity
- Bryony Dixon, Curator of Silent Film, British Film Institute



- Jan-Christopher Horak, Director, UCLA Film & Television Archive; film historian
- Leslie S. Klinger, BSI; author-editor
- Bonnie MacBird, BSI; author; screenwriter
- Nicholas Meyer, BSI; author; screenwriter; film producer; film director
- Russell Merritt, BSI; Adjunct Professor, UC Berkeley Department of Film & Media
- Glen S. Miranker, BSI; former Co-Chair, BSI Trust; former Chief

Technology Officer, Apple

- Judge Andrew J. Peck (ret.); BSI
- Steven Rothman, BSI; editor, Baker Street Journal
- Marisa Soto, Marketing & Communications Officer, UCLA Film &

Television Archive

- Bronni Stein, Vice Chair, UCLA Film & Television Archive Board
- Tony Palmer, film director
- John Ptak, Archive Board member; film producer; former agent
- Adrian Wood, archival film consultant

"GOD KNOWS I AM SORRY FOR IT:" PIOUS CRIMINALS IN THE CANON

By Karen Murdock

Sherlock Holmes confronts her about her treatment of Douglas Maberley in "The Three Gables," Isadora Klein admits that her hired bullies were "a little rough" in beating up the young man.

She tells Holmes the whole story of her relationship with Maberley and says, "Now, Mr. Holmes, granting that I was too hard on Douglas—and, God knows, I am sorry for it!—what else could I do with my whole future at stake?"

It might seem, at first blush, rather odd that a villain—even as attractive a villain as Isadora Klein—should evoke the name of God and claim to be sorry for her villainy.

It might be supposed that her piety comes from being a member of the gentle sex and of the gentry. However, such is not the case. God-fearing criminals are anything but rare in the Sherlockian Canon.

Conscience-stricken, Almighty-evoking evildoers are thick upon the ground in what we know, after all, as the "Sacred Writings"—and most of them are men.

Jefferson Hope:

"Let the high God judge between us. Choose and eat." (STUD, Doubleday 81)

"Providence would never have allowed his guilty hand to pick out anything but the poison." (82)

Jonathan Small:

"What I say to you is God's truth, every word of it." (SIGN, 144)

John Turner:

"God help me!" he cried. "But I would not have let the young man come to harm." (BOSC, 215)

Elias Openshaw:

"My God, my God, my sins have overtaken me!" (FIVE, 220)

Neville St. Clair:

"It was not the wife; it was the children," groaned the prisoner. "God help me, I would not have them ashamed of their father. My God! What an exposure! What can I do?" (TWIS, 242)

James Ryder:

"God help me! God help me!" He burst into convulsive sobbing, with his face buried in his hands. (BLUE, 257)

Trevor Sr. (James Armitage):

"if all should go well (which may kind God almighty grant!)" (GLOR, 381)

"Every word which I tell you is the naked truth, and this I swear as I hope for mercy." (381)

"Sweet Lord, have mercy on our souls!" (385)

Abe Slaney:

"I may have threatened her—God forgive me!—but I would not have touched a hair of her pretty head" (DANC, 524)

Patrick Cairns:

"It's soon told, and, by the Lord, every word of it is truth." (BLAC, 570)

Professor Coram:

"God bless you Anna!" he cried. (GOLD, 619)

(Professor Coram's piety is all the more surprising since he is a Nihilist and is at work upon a book "which will cut deep at the very foundation of revealed religion." Sloughing off revealed religion is not all that easy, apparently.)

Captain Jack Crocker:

"I was standing with her just inside the window, in all innocence, as God is my judge." (ABBE, 649)



Brother Morris:

"I had a conscience and a religion; but they made me a criminal among them. [. . .] I am a good Catholic; but the priest would have no word with me when he heard I was a Scowrer, and I am excommunicated from my faith." (VALL, 842)



James Browner:

"My God, whoever would have thought that it could have come to this?" (CARD, 898) "that I swear as I hope for God's mercy" (898)

"My God, shall I ever forget their faces when they saw who was in the boat that was closing in upon them?" (900)

"You can hang me, or do what you like with me, but you cannot punish me as I have been punished already." (901)

Colonel Valentine Walter:

"I did not! I did not! Before God I swear that I did not!" cried our wretched prisoner. (BRUC, 930)



Eugenia Ronder:

"I have not long to live, but I wish to die undisturbed. And yet I wanted to find one man of judgment to whom I could tell my terrible story, so that when I am gone all might be understood. [. . .] It will ease my mind to tell it." (VEIL, 1099)

Sir Robert Norberton:

"Fore God, Mr. Holmes, it's all right," said he. "Appearances are against me, I'll admit, but I could act no otherwise." (SHOS, 1111)

Victorian Sunday School teachers must have been doing their jobs very well, if these Canonical crooks are any indication of it, for even the pupils who go bad in the end never quite let go of the belief in God instilled in them at an early age.

The not-too-well-hidden piety of so many Canonical culprits illustrates a larger aspect of the Sacred Writings. Many of the criminals in the Sherlock Holmes stories are deep, interesting, complex people with multiple facets to their personalities.

"A complex mind," says Holmes, in ILLU (987), "All great criminals have that. My old friend Charlie Peace was a violin virtuoso. Wainwright was no mean artist. I could quote many more."

Many evildoers in the Canon, far from being small, mean, cold-blooded killers (a hardboiled type not found in the Canon) are rich in imagination, complexity, even playfulness.

It is one of the things that draws us back, again and again, to the cases. The central characters in the Saga, Holmes and Watson, are, of course, complex and interesting people themselves.

But so are the evildoers they battle. Watson tells us that "it is no easy task to know which [of the cases of Sherlock Holmes] I should select to lay before the public.

I shall, however, preserve my former rule, and give the preference to those cases which derive their interest not so much from the brutality of the crime as from the ingenuity and dramatic quality of the solution" (SOLI, 526). Truly brutal crimes, of the Jack-the-Ripper variety, are rather rare in the Canon.

Maybe this has to do with all those God-fearing pious criminals.

"TUNNEL DETECTION IN VICTORIAN LONDON

By Carl L. Heifetz, Holmes-Watson Report, January 2003

Presented at the Pleasant Places of Florida 27th Fall Gathering, November 2, 2002

In the 24th century, if science fiction literature and television programs are useful predictors of future progress, our descendants will be able to use remote sensing devices to scan distant planets.

They will be able to detect new life forms, nutrients, energy sources, and just about anything else they are looking for.

Even today, a wide variety of subsurface features and objects can be detected using "Surface Geophysics."¹ For example, the category identified as "Evaluation of Soil and Rock Properties and Man-Made Structures" includes "mapping of abandoned mines, tunnels, etc."

To achieve these objectives, many technical processes have been utilized: ground penetrating radar, frequency domain electromagnetics, time domain electromagnetics, very low frequency, resistivity, spontaneous potential, seismic refraction, seismic reflection, magnetic, metal detector, gravity, thermal, and radiometric.

A noted Sherlockian geologist suggests that geoseismology and geomagnetic processes would be the best methods to locate tunnels.

"Geoseismology involves generating sound waves that reflect back from underground strata.

Geomagnetic work involves using fluctuations in the earth's magnetic field to help figure out what's deep underground."

The details of these methods will not be pursued further. They are both beyond the scope of this thesis and the technical expertise of the author.

Suffice it to say that tunnels are very easily found using the technical skills currently at our disposal in the hands of people who know how to apply them.

But what has all of this to do with Sherlock Holmes?

The answer to this question jumps clearly to the mind of the experienced Sherlockian.

In August 1891, readers of The Strand Magazine were thrilled to learn that Sherlock Holmes had thwarted a daring robbery of 30,000 napoleons in French gold from the Coburg Branch of the City and Suburban Bank, as related in "The Red-Headed League."

To accomplish this feat, Mr. Holmes needed to detect the presence of a tunnel running from the rear of the cellar of Mr. Jabez Wilson's pawn shop to the vaults of the bank on the street behind the shop.

Lacking the technological assists that are quite available today, just how did he accomplish this?

The answer, of course, resides in the fact that Mr. Holmes was a trained research scientist.

As I have pointed out previously, he uses the "method of scientists" to guide his facility for observation, deduction, and hypothesis building and testing.

The only "scientific instrument" at his disposal was a stout walking stick able to withstand being "thumped vigorously upon the pavement."

Let us summarize the various pieces of information that led Mr. Holmes to his scientifically valid conclusion that a tunnel was being dug from the back of the pawn shop cellar to the bank vault.

The first inkling came in his interview with Mr. Wilson. Mr. Holmes easily saw through the ruse of the "Red-Headed League."

He realized that this scenario was merely a clever means of removing Mr. Wilson from his place of business for long periods of time to accommodate a crime therein.

The fact that this event followed shortly after the hire of a bright young man, Vincent Spalding, for a much lower salary than the going rate convinced Mr. Holmes that this was the man who had plans to use the premises in Mr. Wilson's absence.

Mr. Wilson's investigations, after he was notified that "The Red-Headed League is dissolved," supplied the information that it was a bogus group that no one had ever heard of.

Mr. Wilson's description of this young man, especially the "white splash of acid upon his forehead" and the fact that "his ears were pierced for earrings," signaled that a major criminal event was being planned by the "fourth smartest man in London" and the third most daring, John Clay.

Spaulding's apparent penchant for photography, and the fact that he was forever "diving down into the cellar like a rabbit into its hole to develop his pictures," convinced Mr. Holmes that a subterranean crime was about to ensue.

One more clue was all that was required for Mr. Holmes to deduce that a tunnel was involved.

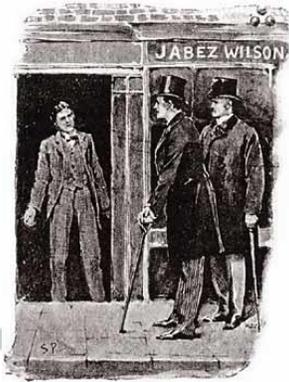
Upon visiting Mr. Jabez's place of occupation, Mr. Holmes observed that the knees of Mr. Spaulding's trousers were dirty, indicating that he had been digging.

Thus, he was likely to be excavating for a tunnel. Since Jabez Wilson had never mentioned buried treasure and had not himself been digging for it, Mr. Holmes was convinced that tunnel hypothesis was correct.

The recent closure of the Red-Headed League indicated that the crime was going to be committed very soon. After that weekend, no one cared if Jabez Wilson returned to his shop during the day or not. But where did the tunnel lead? Did it lead forward or towards the back?

Using his only scientific device, Sherlock Holmes used his stick to pound the pavement looking for signs of hollowness to locate the cellar, the starting point for the dig.

Seeing that the cellar was not forward of the shop, Holmes led Watson around the corner to the street



immediately behind the pawn shop, the prosperous business district behind Saxe-Coburg Square. There it was!

The only logical target for all of the effort put forth by the criminals was directly in line with the rear of the pawn shop -- the Coburg Branch of the City and Suburban Bank.

Somewhere in the underground recesses of that financial institution was a fortune worthy of the planning, cost, and immense effort put forth by the thieves.

The scene was set for the test of the hypothesis -- to wit, a pair of daring and intelligent criminals were burrowing under the earth, from the pawn shop cellar to the underground recesses under the bank, to obtain vast riches.

It is to this location that Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, Bank Director Mr. Merryweather, and Mr. Jones of Scotland Yard wound their way down and around to their final destination.

It was at this location that Mr. Merryweather both provided the final link in the logical deduction that brought them to this site and almost ruined Mr. Holmes's plan of attack:

"Nor from below," said Mr. Merryweather, striking his stick upon the flags that lined the floor.

"Why, dear me, it sounds quite hollow!" he remarked, looking up in surprise. We are all familiar with the exciting events of that evening as the *partie carree* waited silently in the dark.

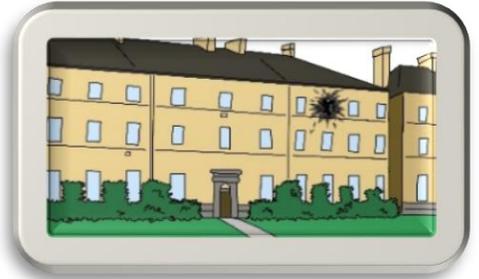
The emergence of John Clay through a hole in the ground into the bank's vault provided strong support for Mr. Holmes's hypothesis.

Again, Mr. Holmes had utilized the "method of scientists" to neatly solve a criminal case.



Baker Street Elementary

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



Baker Street Elementary
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Fig. Name & Name

HOLMES, ONCE AGAIN CONGRATULATIONS ON SOLVING THE MISSING MARBLES... WANT TO SHARE YOUR PROCESS?

EASY... FIRST, I HAD TO DETERMINE WHY SOMEONE WOULD STEAL ALL THE MARBLES JUST BEFORE THE SCHOOL'S SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP...?

SECOND, HOW DO YOU SNEAK OUT OVER 100 MARBLES FROM THE SCHOOL WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING?

I WOULD GUESS SOMEONE WHO WANTED TO HAVE THE MARBLES TO HIMSELF MIGHT STEAL THEM ALL...

OR SOMEONE WHO SIMPLY CANNOT STAND THE SIGHT OF THEM... SUCH AS PROFESSOR MARBURY.



YOU MAY RECALL HE TRIPPED A FEW WEEKS AGO AND SEVERELY SPRAINED HIS ANKLE, NECESSITATING THE USE OF A CRUTCH.



WHAT YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF IS HE SLIPPED ON SOME MARBLES LEFT ON THE DINING HALL FLOOR BY A COUPLE OF ABSENT-MINDED STUDENTS.



I WAS COMING BACK FOR THEM IN JUST A FEW MINUTES... I WAS CHECKING OUT A DISTURBANCE IN THE AUDITORIUM.



THUS THE MOTIVE... I WAS ALSO ABLE TO DISCERN AS HE WAS WALKING THROUGH THE COURTYARD TODAY THAT HIS CRUTCH WAS LEAVING A DEEPER IMPRINT THAN IN PREVIOUS DAYS...



THIS COULD ONLY BE DUE TO HIS HOLLOW ALUMINUM CRUTCH BEING HEAVIER THAN USUAL... HE INTENDED ON DUMPING THE STASH IN THE ON-CAMPUS POND.



WELL, THE MARBLES HAVE BEEN RETURNED AND THE PROFESSOR HAS BEEN GIVEN A FEW MONTHS OFF...



I GUESS YOU COULD SAY HE 'LOST HIS MARBLES' IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE...

