

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 09, No. 01 - January, 2021
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star - founded April, 1970*



PLEASE NOTE:

February 07 Meeting NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on February 07 at 1:00 pm. Will send out the link for the meeting the week before the meeting. The story for the month is "The Adventure of Silver Blaze".

Liese Sherwood-Fabre will discuss "Sherlock's Christmas Spirit"

Our Special Guest Speaker will be Rob Nunn, a wonderful teacher from Illinois and the leader of the Parallel Cases of St. Louis Society.

We will cover topic 7 on "The Life and Times of Arthur Conan Doyle: Setting Up Practice in Bush Villas, Portsmouth".

January 06 Summary

There were 51 in attendance at this ZOOM meeting. The meeting started out with a toast by Steve Mason to John Watson (see page 3).

We then conducted the monthly quiz on the story "The Beryl Coronet," which was won by Shana Carter.

Robert Katz, BSI, then led a lively discussion on the structure of the story, including notice much of the action in this story occurs "off-screen" - is told as a narrative.

Our special Guest Speaker, Barbara Rusch from Canada, gave a wonderful presentation on the collecting of Sherlockiana materials. Barbara has a unique and extensive collection herself. The presentation started by discussing the history of collecting and moved to the more special items she has obtained over the years, including letters written by Conan Doyle, ephemera from Doyle's life, and memorabilia from Sherlockian films and stage performances. One of her more interesting sets is undergarments owned by Queen Victoria and the Conan Doyle family.

We then conducted the "Lightning Quiz", which focused on jewelry stolen in the Canon, which was won by Ann Caddell.

Edith Pouden gave a wonderful presentation on Arthur Conan Doyle's time in Plymouth, working in partnership Dr. Budd, their falling out, and Conan Doyle's eventual move to Portsmouth.

We then had a lightning quiz on the stories which involve the theft of jewelry. Ann Caddell won the quiz.



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

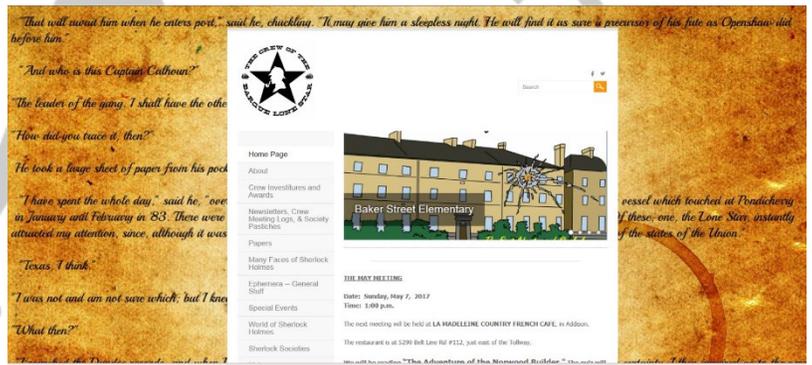
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Don Hobbs, BSI
Dr. Jim Webb, BSI
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Our Facebook Page:

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

"A TOAST TO DR. WATSON - A GOOD FRIEND"

Presented by Steve Mason

Yesterday I saw an interesting post on FaceBook, asking a very curious little question. What is something you choose to believe about the canonical stories despite not having any actual evidence?

Now, most Sherlockians believe almost all of my thoughts, opinions, and ideas are not based upon evidence, or even in reality. However, there is one belief I have had concerning Dr. Watson that I would like to share with you this evening.

In the year 1900, during "The Adventure of Thor Bridge", Dr. Watson reveals to us his battered tin dispatch-box at Cox and Company, crammed full of his notes on his adventures with Sherlock Holmes.

But let's consider something...

In 1888, during the "Hound of the Baskervilles," Sherlock Holmes states "When taken in conjunction with your uncle's death I am not sure that of all the five hundred cases of capital importance which I have handled, there is one which cuts so deep."

The debate on what Holmes considered to be a capital case can wait for another time. In addition, while escaping his nemesis, Professor Moriarty, Holmes states, "In the Final Problem", "In over a thousand cases I am not aware that I have ever used

my powers upon the wrong side." This occurred in 1891.

Now, mathematics not being the strongest of my few skills, I can still do a little extrapolation based on Holmes' two statements to estimate that Holmes may have been involved in approximately 1,600 cases during his 40+ years as a consulting detective.



If we can postulate that Watson may have been involved in even 25% of those cases, that would mean he witnessed and probably chronicled over 400 adventures with his long-time friend. That tin box would have to be the size of a commercial trash dumpster to handle that many files.

So I believe there may have been a number of such boxes for Watson to store the treasure trove of narratives. And those numerous boxes have been the source of scores, if not hundreds, of pastiches.

So raise your glasses with me to say thanks to Dr. Watson and all of those boxes in which he protected the legacy of Sherlock Holmes and himself, while providing us added enjoyment for the past 100 years or so.

Sherlock Holmes Walk in Covent Garden & Charing Cross

MC Black

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to a walk that will trace the footsteps of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson in Covent Garden and Charing Cross.

Although Holmes and Watson are most often depicted sitting in their lodgings at 221B Baker Street, the stories reveal that Holmes knew the streets of London very well – the obscure byways of Covent Garden as well as the principal thoroughfares of the West End. There are many references in the canon to the streets traversed during the course of various investigations, but Holmes and Watson also strolled for pleasure. In “The Resident Patient” Holmes says, “...the evening has brought a breeze with it. What do you say to a ramble through London?” Watson agrees, “I was weary of our little sitting-room, and gladly acquiesced. For three hours we strolled about together watching the ever-changing kaleidoscope of life.... “

We have met in The Shakespeare’s Head Public House just south of Holborn Underground Station. You have bought hot drinks to fortify yourselves for the afternoon’s activities and taken advantage of the facilities.

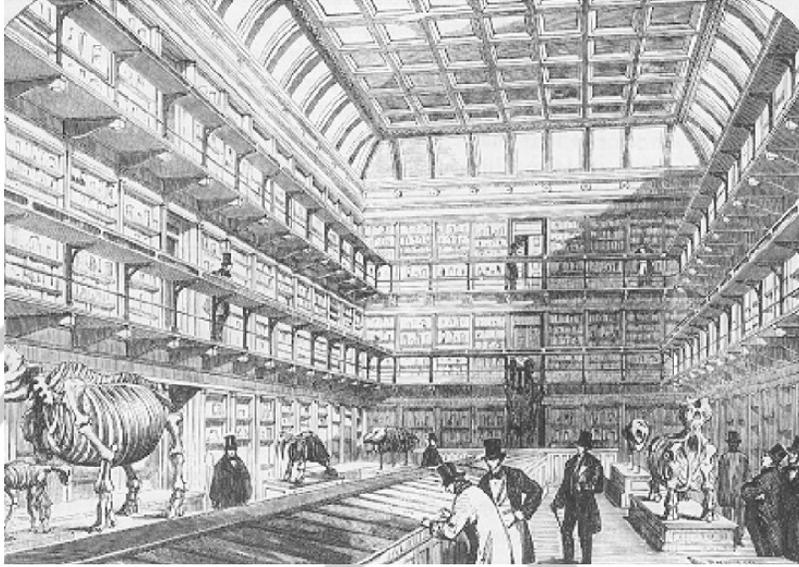
This JD Wetherspoon pub lies opposite the site of the Holborn Restaurant which was opened as a restaurant in 1874 and extended in 1896; it housed a ‘Grand Restaurant’ with Dancing and Cabaret, Grill Room, private dining rooms, and 14 smaller restaurants. It was demolished in 1955.



In *STUD*, Watson writes:

On the very day that I had come to this conclusion, I was standing at the Criterion Bar, when someone tapped me on the shoulder, and turning round I recognized young Stamford, who had been a dresser under me at Bart's. The sight of a friendly face in the great wilderness of London is a pleasant thing indeed to a lonely man. In old days Stamford had never been a particular crony of mine, but now I hailed him with enthusiasm, and he, in his turn, appeared to be delighted to see me. In the exuberance of my joy, I asked him to lunch with me at the Holborn, and we started off together in a hansom.

Leave the pub, turn left and immediately left again into Twyford Place; turn right at the end into Gate Street and forward into Lincoln's Inn Fields. Walk through the park to the south side where you will face The Royal College of Surgeons.



Holmes is talking to Dr. Mortimer in HOUN, just before Watson, Sir Henry Baskerville and Dr Mortimer leave on the 10:30 from Paddington.

I usually give up one day to pure amusement when I come to town, so I spent it at the Museum of the College of Surgeons.

Walk west along the south side of Lincoln's Inn Fields, forward into Sardinia Street, turn right into Kingsway, cross at the crossing and second left into Wild Court. Stop at junction with Wild Street.

You are now standing at the south-west corner of Freemasons' Hall.

ACD was a Freemason; the evidence in the stories suggests that Sherlock Holmes was not.

In REDH, Holmes tells Watson:

"Beyond the obvious facts that he has at some time done manual labour, that he takes snuff, that he is a Freemason, that he has been in China, and that he has done a considerable amount of writing lately, I can deduce nothing else."

Mr. Jabez Wilson started up in his chair, with his forefinger upon the paper, but his eyes upon my companion.

"How, in the name of good-fortune, did you know all that, Mr. Holmes?" he asked. "How did you know, for example, that I did manual labour? It's as true as gospel, for I began as a ship's carpenter."

"Your hands, my dear sir. Your right hand is quite a size larger than your left. You have worked with it, and the muscles are more developed."

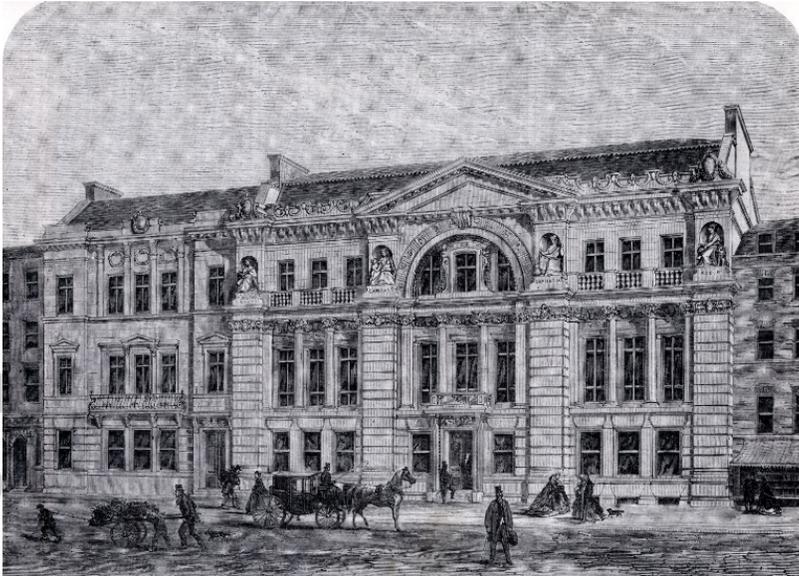
"Well, the snuff, then, and the Freemasonry?"

"I won't insult your intelligence by telling you how I read that, especially as, rather against the strict rules of your order, you use an arc-and-compass breastpin."

There are also references to Masonic emblems on Drebbler's ring in STUD and Barker's tie pin in RETI.

On the sconces to either side of the door, you can see the Arc & Compass symbol.

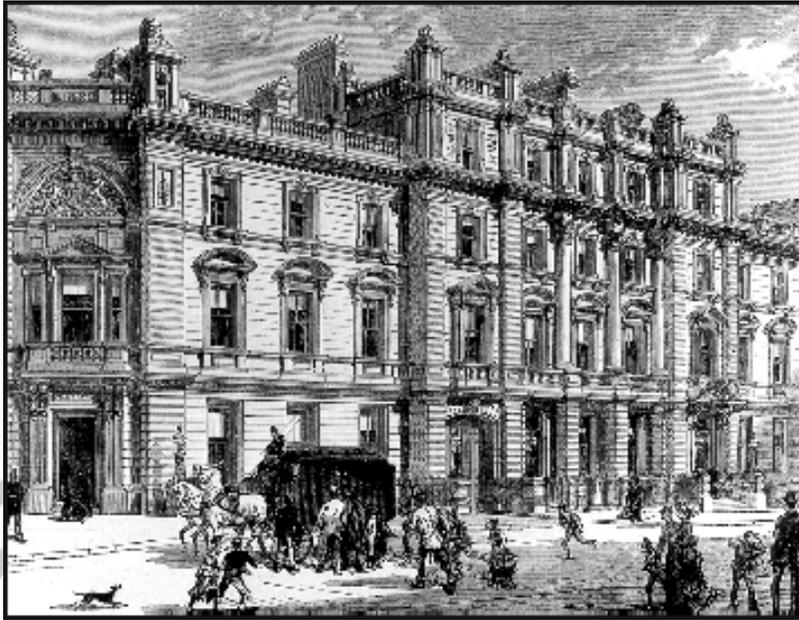
The Freemasons' Hall building of the late Victorian period was demolished after the Great War to build the existing building, known as the "Masonic Peace Memorial" until 1939!



Walk forward along Wild Street and pause at the Junction of Drury Lane/Great Queen street/Long Acre. Notice Stanford's map shop south-west Long Acre.



Cross Drury Lane, walk back a few yards and turn right into Broad Court (notice five original telephone boxes) into Bow Street. Stop by first entrance to Bow Street Police.



This is where Holmes unmasked Hugh Boone in TWIS.

“He was a middle-sized man, coarsely clad as became his calling, with a coloured shirt protruding through the rent in his tattered coat. He was, as the inspector had said, extremely dirty, but the grime which covered his face could not conceal its repulsive ugliness. A broad weal from an old scar ran across it from eye to chin, and by its contraction had turned up one side of the upper lip, so that three teeth were exposed in a perpetual snarl. A shock of very bright red hair grew low over his eyes and forehead”.

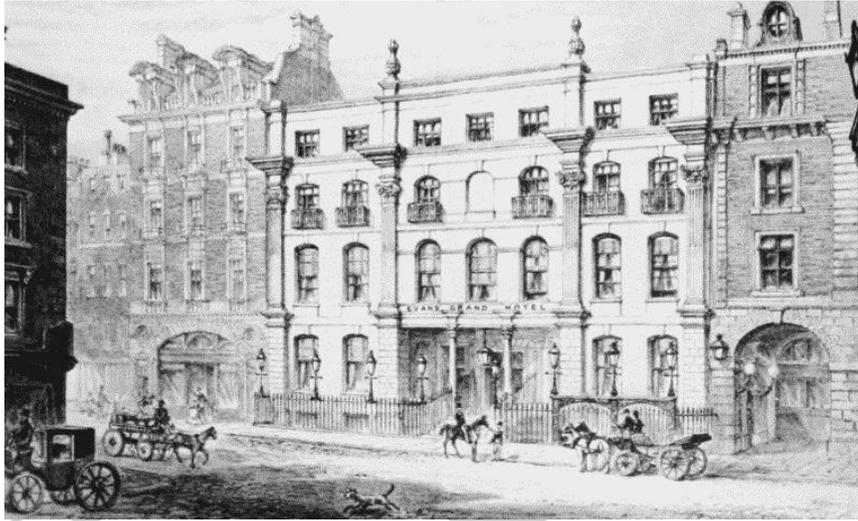
Look across Bow Street at the Royal Opera House.



Holmes' love of music included the opera. At the conclusion of “The Red Circle,” Holmes urges Watson:

“...it is not eight o'clock, and a Wagner night at Covent Garden! If we hurry, we might be in time for the second act”.

Walk through Royal Opera House arcade to Covent Garden Piazza and forward to 43 King Street.



ACD was a member of the National Sporting Club that occupied this building from 1891 to 1922. (The NSC was the “MCC of Boxing” – the Marquess of Queensbury was a member). During the period that Covent Garden housed a fruit and vegetable market, this building was converted to a Warehouse



but it has now been restored.

Walk to the south-east corner of the Covent Garden Piazza passing the Apple Shop (appropriately located in a former Fruit Market!).

Breckenridge’s stall selling Poultry was located in Covent Garden too See BLUE

Walk past the London Transport Museum and turn right into Tavistock Court.

The Public Conveniences (Toilets) may be open for those in need.

Cross Tavistock Street and into Burleigh Street.

No. 12 Burleigh Street (and 359 Strand) are given as the first address of The Strand Magazine, in which the Sherlock Holmes stories were published.



The George H. Haite cover drawing of Vol. 2, No. 7, in which appeared “A Scandal in Bohemia,” shows both ‘359’ and ‘Burleigh Street’. However, 12 Burleigh Street is generally acknowledged as the first outpost of George Newnes’ publishing empire and the birthplace of the Sherlock Holmes tales.

Walk east along Exeter Street; turn right into Wellington Street. Pause by Lyceum Theatre portico.



In SIGN, Miss Mary Morston received a letter from an unknown friend promising her justice as a “wronged woman” and instructing her to wait at the third pillar from the left outside the Lyceum Theatre at 7 o’clock. Having been cautioned not to bring police, she keeps the rendezvous accompanied by Holmes and Watson.

Forward to junction then turn right into The Strand. On the opposite side of the road:

Simpson’s In The Strand – Simpson’s restaurant is mentioned more than once in the canon. In “The Dying Detective” Holmes remarks,

“When we have finished at the police-station, I think that something nutritious at Simpson’s would not be out of place”.

Holmes and Watson dine twice at Simpson’s in “The Illustrious Client,”

“I met Holmes at Simpson’s that evening and we looked down on the rushing stream of life in the Strand from a small table near the front window”.

Simpson’s was originally a Chess Divan – somewhere to go and play chess. Notice the chess board and pieces design around the arch of the current entrance – a nod to the history.



Continue along Strand, turn right at Southampton Street

The *Strand Magazine* was moved to 8-11 Southampton Street early in 1892 and listed in the 1892 edition of the Post Office Directory.

Both editorial and printing took place in this building. On the day of publication, there was a queue of carriages waiting to take the finished magazines to retailers – to the many station bookstalls in the WH Smith empire

Gilbert and Sullivan's Savoy Operas provide rich source material for the historian of Victorian Britain. They parody several of the leading figures and most of the dominant institutions of the age and are rich in contemporary allusion. One of the best known characters in the Savoy Operas, for example, is Sir Joseph Porter, KCB, the First Lord of the

Admiralty in H.M.S. Pinafore. What is not so well known, however, is that Gilbert modelled Sir Joseph on William Henry Smith, the Conservative politician whom Disraeli had made First Lord of the Admiralty in 1877, the year before Pinafore opened.

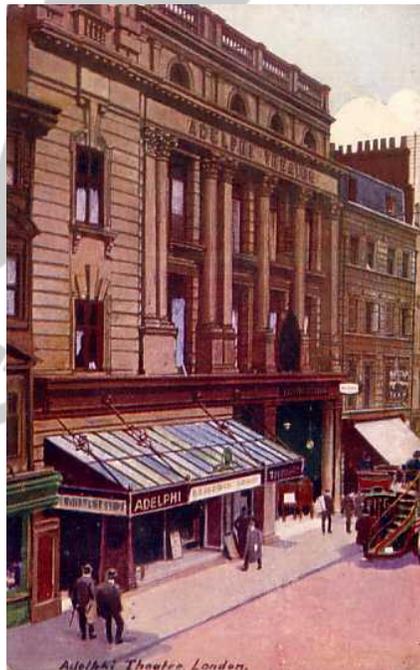


Continue along Southampton Street and turn left into Maiden Lane. Now take the second entry on the left into a narrow passage.

Bull Inn Court – This is one of the few places in London still lit by gas.

“It was a September evening and not yet seven o'clock, but the day had been a dreary one, and a dense drizzly fog lay low upon the great city. Mud-coloured clouds drooped sadly over the muddy streets. Down the Strand the lamps were but misty splotches of diffused light which threw a feeble circular glimmer upon the slimy pavement.”

Forward to The Strand and turn right. Pause outside the Adelphi Theatre.



In 1910, ACD took out a six-month lease on the Adelphi Theatre and oversaw all aspects of the preparations for *The House of Temperley*, running up great expenses. Starting out as a love story but ending with a climactic boxing match, the play opened on 11th February, 1910, to applause and good reviews. Doyle's hopes faded as the play continued on to a run of half-empty houses, and the brutality of the boxing match scared away prudish Victorian-valued women. Boxing was illegal in England at the time, so it's unclear why he thought such a play would be well accepted.

Doyle added a curtain raiser on April 19, *A Pot of Caviare*, based on one of his own short stories of the same title. It didn't help. A sense of desperation must have been setting in, and then the death knell sounded. King Edward VII died on May 6 and all London theatres closed for mourning. *The House of Temperley* made a few unnoticed performances after the theatres reopened, but it closed for good in June.

Even before the final ending, Doyle knew that the play would not recoup its costs, and he still had to pay for the remainder of the Adelphi lease. Financial necessity is one of mankind's greatest motivators. In three weeks, Doyle went from a blank page to a fully produced play, starring Sherlock Holmes!

In 1927 (before the publication of the *Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*), as part of a contest in *The Strand*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle listed his twelve favourite Holmes stories, excluding the novels. His number one choice was *The Speckled Band*. So, it should come as no surprise that back in 1910, with financial disaster looming over him, he took this story, transformed it into a play and enjoyed one of his biggest successes.

On 4th June, 1910, less than a month after *The House of Temperley* closed, *The Speckled Band* opened at the Adelphi Theatre. After a successful run, the Adelphi lease expired, and the play was moved to The Globe. There would be 169 performances of the hit play in its initial run, and two productions toured the English provinces. There was even a brief staging in New York City at the Garrick Theatre. Doyle recovered all of the money he had lost on *Temperley* and had also created a valuable property that would generate future royalties. The play would be revived many times for the rest of the century and is still irregularly performed in England and America.

Continue along The Strand, passing Heathcock Court, Exchange Court and Bedford Street.

In the angle formed by Agar Street and William IV Street stands the Charing Cross Police Station, formerly the Charing Cross Hospital. In HOUN Dr. Hugh Mortimer was presented with a Penang Lawyer (stout stick) by his colleagues at Charing Cross Hospital when he left to take a medical appointment on Dartmoor. When Holmes was attacked by two of Baron Gruner's men outside the Cafe Royal in Regent Street, he was taken to the Charing Cross Hospital for treatment in "The Illustrious Client".



Continue along The Strand to where the footway widens.

Lowther Arcade – The Lowther Arcade was originally built in 1831 to provide a centre of fashionable shops in the Strand and became a toy bazaar and a mecca for children at Christmas time. It was demolished in 1902 and the site is now occupied by Coutts & Co., the banking firm. In FINA Watson is instructed to drive to the Lowther Arcade, then run through it to the Adelaide Street entrance, and take a brougham there driven by a man in a black cloak with a red-trimmed collar.



Continue along The Strand

At the corner of Duncannon and Adelaide Streets, the West Strand Telegraph Office (aka Charing Cross telegraph office) was located. No. 448, now Coutts Bank, was mentioned in ABBE when Holmes drove round to the office and sent off a message to Captain Croker, inviting him to call at 221B Baker Street. And in WIST he receives a telegram from John Scott Eccles sent from the Post Office, Charing Cross:

“Have just had most incredible and grotesque experience. May I consult you?”.

In fact when Inspector Gregson traces Scott Eccles to Baker Street, he says,

“We picked up the scent at the Charing Cross Post Office and came on here”.

According to maps from 1861 and 1862, the post office and the telegraph offices were separated. The post office occupied what is now the southern tip of South Africa House as late as the 1920's. From this post office Beryl Stapleton mailed her cryptic warning to Sir Henry Baskerville in HOUN.

Cross The Strand (by the pedestrian crossing).

The **Charing Cross Station** appears in EMPT as the site of an unpleasant episode in Holmes' career when Mathews knocked out his left canine in the waiting room. In SCAN, Irene Adler and her husband, Godfrey Norton, fled to the continent by the 5:15 train from Charing Cross.

In BRUC the spy Hugo Oberstein is lured by a false message from Holmes to the smoking room of the Charing Cross Hotel, following which the plans are recovered. Holmes is summoned to Windsor and returns with a remarkably fine emerald tie-pin as a reward for his services to Queen and Country.



Walk down Villiers Street (to the east of the station) and turn right through the arches into Craven Street passing the Ship and Shovell Public House (the only pub in London consisting of two separate buildings on either side of a street, connected underground by a shared cellar.)

In *The Hound of the Baskervilles* Jack Stapleton and his wife Beryl stayed at the Mexborough Hotel in Craven Street. The Craven Hotel was located at Nos. 43-46 and the Waldor Hotel was at No. 37.

Then forward into Craven Passage.

Holmes and Watson frequented the Turkish Baths at Nevill's situated at the corner of Craven Passage and Northumberland Avenue. The disused ladies entrance still survives. In "The Illustrious Client," Watson comments:

"Both Holmes and I had a weakness for the Turkish Bath. It was over a smoke in the pleasant lassitude of the drying-room that I had found him less reticent and more human than anywhere else. On the upper floor of the Northumberland Avenue establishment there is an isolated corner where two couches lie side by side".



Walk to junction of Northumberland Street and Northumberland Avenue.

Sherlock Holmes Tavern contains a number of exhibits of Sherlockian interest, such as the reproduction of 221B Baker consulting rooms on the first floor. Originally the site of the Northumberland Hotel at which Sir Henry Baskerville lost one of his boots while staying there in HOUN, and known for some time as the Northumberland Arms, in 1957 it reopened as The Sherlock Holmes Pub.

You may now like to enter the pub for a well-earned pint of English beer (which is NOT warm and flat – it's served at cellar temperature and NOT artificially gassy) and buy one for your guide.

A Shot in the Dark

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

Handcuffs were used to detain nine persons in the Canon:

- Jefferson Hope in *A Study in Scarlet*
- Jonathan Small in *The Sign of the Four*
- John Clay in *"The Adventure of the Red-Headed League"* (referred to as "derbies," but pronounced "darbies")
- Abe Slaney in *"The Adventure of the Dancing Men"*
- Patrick Cairns in *"The Adventure of Black Peter"*
- Josiah Brown in *"The Adventure of the Six Napoleons"*
- Culverton Smith in *"The Adventure of the Dying Detective"*
- Count Sylvius and Sam Merton in *"The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone"*

Restraining prisoners, criminals, slaves, or others to deter their ability to flee or injure people most likely dates back to prehistoric times. Bindings made of hides or other material were probably the first such bonds. Once metal work developed, hand and foot shackles were designed. (1) These were most likely created even prior to coins, appearing in the Bronze Age and requiring a rivet to secure them. (2)

The Greeks and others used shackles to control prisoners of war. Chariots full of these devices would be brought to the battlefield in anticipation of the enemies' capture. The design involved a u-shaped piece of metal around the wrists and closed by a bar that could either be stamped shut as a more permanent device or locked to restrain someone temporarily. This "one size fits all" device

created a major drawback. Prisoners with small enough hands or wrists could slip them off and escape. (3)



In the early 1800s, the most common handcuffs used in Britain were the "Bango," which resembled a double oxen yoke for the hands and did not permit any movement, and the "Flexible" (or Darby) with a link between the cuffs on each hand that allowed some movement, such as for eating. Both of these were still "one size fits all" and required some effort to place on the prisoner. (4)

The introduction of ratchets, patented by W.V. Adams in 1862, on a cuff with a "swing gate" created the first adjustable bindings to fit large and small wrists. (5) Several additional modifications to this design by John Tower included the ratchet notches on the inside of the swing gate, the placement of the lock case on the side of the frame, and a release button to keep the cuffs from locking until applied to the prisoner's wrist. (6)



Such restraints, however, could be shimmed by sliding a piece of metal between the two sides of the cuff. They were also difficult to lock because the key had to be turned several times. These drawbacks, however, were addressed in 1912 by George Carney. The device he patented resemble those used today: a lightweight, swing-thru gate design that could be secured without a key. Easily slapped onto a person's wrist, a policeman only needed one hand to quickly restrain a criminal. (7)

The major parts of a handcuff include:

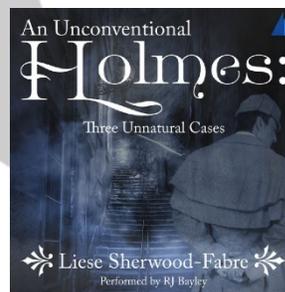
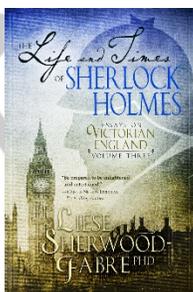
- The single strand, the moving part that loosens or tightens the cuff
- The teeth or ratchet at the end of the single strand to hold it in place after passing into
- The double strand or gap that holds the single strand in place by
- The pawl, which is spring-loaded and must be moved up to allow the single strand to pass into the double strand. This is accomplished by inserting a key into
- The keyway
- A rivet connects the single strand to the double strand and is what allows the cuff to adjust around the wrist
- A link attaches the two cuffs and allows limited movement

In three cases in the Canon, handcuffs are referred to as “bracelets,” and interestingly, women actually wore gold bracelets that resembled handcuffs in the late Victorian era. These were often presented by a gentleman to a young woman in place of an engagement ring to indicate the woman was now “bound” to her future husband. (8) Whether criminal or future bride, either might be told they “had a fine pair of bracelets.”

For images of British and other handcuffs, check out this site: <http://www.handcuffs.org/g/index.php?mode=1>

- 1) <https://unitedlocksmith.net/blog/the-history-of-handcuffs>
- 2) <http://torturemuseum.net/en/the-stand-of-shackles/>
- 3) <https://unitedlocksmith.net/blog/the-history-of-handcuffs>
- 4) https://www.blueline.ca/a_history_of_handcuffs-2396/
- 5) http://lawenforcementservices.biz/law_enforcement_services,_llc/Antique_Handcuffs_files/A%20Brief%20History%20of%20US%20Handcuffs.pdf
- 6) <https://www.encyclopedia.com/manufacturing/news-wires-white-papers-and-books/handcuffs>
- 7) http://lawenforcementservices.biz/law_enforcement_services,_llc/Antique_Handcuffs_files/A%20Brief%20History%20of%20US%20Handcuffs.pdf
- 8) <https://www.mimimatthews.com/2017/10/02/victorian-handcuff-bracelets-for-engagement-and-marriage/>

Liese Sherwood-Fabre has released her third volume of essays on The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes in paperback and eBook and is pleased to announce her first audiobook, *An Unconventional Holmes: Three Unnatural Cases*, will be released in early 2021.



A Little Look at Alliteration

Karen Murdock

Originally Published in *Explorations* (newsletter of The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota), Autumn 2009

Rhetors—teachers of rhetoric—can count on students knowing very few figures of speech in these days of the early 21st century. Shakespeare knew (and used) some 200 different figures, but the subject has been in decline in the schoolroom ever since. Similes, metaphors, the rhetorical question . . . perhaps antithesis and hyperbole—these are still part of the common heritage of educated people. To this very short list can be added alliteration, the repetition of similar sounds, especially repetition of initial consonants in words next to or near one another.

By some definitions any repetition of nearby sounds can be called “alliteration.” Other definitions limit the sense of this figure to consonants at the beginnings of words. Alliteration thus is sometimes called “head rhyme” or “initial rhyme.”

The effect of alliteration is to emphasize words and to make a line flow more smoothly. It is common in poetry:

I sing of **b**rooks, of **b**lossoms, **b**irds and **b**owers
—Robert Herrick, “The Argument of His Book”

On **s**crolls of **s**ilver **s**nowy **s**entences
—Hart Crane, “Voyages”

Five **m**iles **m**eandering in a **m**azy **m**otion
—Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “Kubla Khan”

Landscape-**l**over, **l**ord of **l**anguage
—Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “To Virgil”

Alliteration is also common in speeches:

In the United States today we have more than our share of the **n**attering **n**abobs of **n**egativism.

—Spiro Agnew, address at San Diego, 09/11/70 (written by William Safire)

Fifty-**f**our **F**orty, or **f**ight!

— Senator William Allen of Ohio, 1844

Overuse of alliteration can be comical:

“Step forward, Tin Man. You dare to come to me for a heart, do you? You **cl**inking, **cl**anking, **cl**attering **col**lection of **cal**iginous junk! [. . .] And you, Scarecrow, have the effrontery to ask for a brain! You **bill**owing **bal**e of **bo**vine fodder!”

—delivered by Frank Morgan (*The Wizard of Oz* in the 1939 movie)

However, moderate use of alliteration makes a line flow smoothly and gives a pleasing sound. In fact, since any language has but a limited number of sounds, some alliteration is almost inevitable, even if an author is not striving for it—as in these Sherlockian examples:

- a worn **st**one **st**aircase (3STU)
- “**P**ut your **p**istol in your **p**ocket” (STUD)
- **h**e put **h**is **h**and over **h**is **h**ear**t** (STUD)
- met us at the **g**arden **g**ate (GOLD)
- **M**onday **m**orning (CREE)
- **f**lickering **f**lames (STUD)
- “it **m**ade **m**e **m**ad” (IDEN)
- **b**anking **b**usiness (BERY)
- **p**rinting **p**ress (VALL)

Alliteration is by far the most common figure in the Canon. It occurs in every story, on nearly every page:

- “a **w**onder-**w**oman in every **w**ay.” (ILLU)
- upon a **s**oft **s**ea of **s**ound (SIGN)
- “this crazy **b**oob of a **b**ug-hunter” (3GAR)
- the motion of **w**inch or of **w**indlass (VALL)
- “among your **b**ees and **b**ooks” (LAST)
- “a **b**attered **b**illycock” (BLUE)
- “a **f**irst **f**olio of Shakespeare” (3GAB)
- “the very foundation of **r**evealed **r**eligion” (GOLD)
- “the **m**erest **m**oonshine” (BOSC)

and sometimes several times in a single sentence:

- “If your heart is as big as your body, and your soul as fine as your face” (VALL)
- “So say the Serpentine-mews, to a man.” (SCAN)
- the rifts of racing clouds [. . .] the long low curve of the melancholy moor (HOUN)
- a dense drizzly fog lay low upon the great city (SIGN)
- “clutching at her treasure trove and flying wildly up the winding stair” (MUSG)

Even some characters in the Canon have alliterative names (Miss Mary Morstan, the Duchess of Devonshire, Horace Harker, Laura Lyons, Professor Presbury).

QUIZ

From the thousands of examples of alliteration in the Sherlock Holmes stories, I have chosen a baker’s dozen. See if you can name the story in which these examples occur:

1. “His particular specialty is the beguiling of lonely ladies”
2. “I am a dangerous man to fall foul of!”
3. “Well, have you solved it?” I asked as I entered.
4. “Yes. It was the bisulphate of baryta.”
5. “Did you ever hear a bittern booming?”
6. “He locked the door lest the ladies should surprise him”
7. “Watson and I are famous fishermen—are we not, Watson?”
8. he sat up with his gun and kept watch and ward
9. “Never mind your usual petty puzzles of the police-court.”
10. “I find myself placed in such a position through your continual persecution that I am in positive danger of losing my liberty”

11. a hand appeared, a white, almost womanly hand
12. “My poor parish is devil-ridden!”
13. “a mixture of the modern and the mediaeval”
14. “I feel as if my name and my misfortune must be in every man’s mouth”

Choose your answers from these 13 tales. No tale is used more than once.

BRUC	DEVI	EMPT	FINA	HOUN
IDEN	LADY	NORW	REDH	SHOS
SPEC	STUD	SUSS		

ANSWERS TO ALLITERATION QUIZ

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. LADY | 2. SPEC | 3. IDEN |
| 4. HOUN | 5. EMPT | 6. SHOS |
| 7. STUD | 8. BRUC | 9. FINA |
| 10. REDH | 11. DEVI | 12. SUSS |
| 13. NORW | | |

HERLOCK SHOLMES - The Return of Herlock Sholmes

Charles Hamilton (Peter Todd), January 1, 1916, *The Greyfriars Herald*

Another Grand Story dealing with the Amazing Adventures of Herlock Sholmes, Detective.

Chapter 1

Herlock Sholmes having gone to his death in that last struggle with Professor Hickorychicory, it might be supposed that his remarkable career had come to a complete stop. That, however, was far from being the case.

Sholmes was no ordinary man. What happened would undoubtedly have put a period to the career of any other man. To Sholmes it was merely an incident.

I confess to feeling some surprise, however, when, a few weeks after that terrible fatality, Sholmes walked into our old rooms at Shaker Street. My feeling, I suppose, showed in my face, for Sholmes burst into a hearty laugh as he regarded me.

"I have surprised you, my dear Jotson," he remarked.

"Sholmes! It is really you?"

"Myself, in flesh and blood!" he replied. "You never expected to see me again, Jotson?"

"I should have known you better, Sholmes!" I said. "Even after all my amazing experiences with you, you never cease to surprise me!"

He looked anxious for a moment.

"I hope you have kept up the instalments on the furniture, Jotson?"

"I have."

"Good!" He sank into a seat, and rested his feet upon the table, in the old, easy, elegant manner that was so familiar to me. "Well, here I am again, Jotson, ready for work! Have any clients called during my absence?"

"Several. But, on hearing you were dead, Sholmes, they decided not to place their affairs in your hands. One, however, has persisted, and, indeed, he is calling again this morning. He has left his stick here."

"His stick?" said Sholmes. He took the walking-stick in his hands, and turned it over, regarding it with the old keen look. "Ah! A young man! Not over twenty-five, with a blonde moustache, and very strong teeth. It is curious that he should have black hair as well as a blond moustache. He must have made a long journey when he came here!"

I started.

"Sholmes, how can you know?"

"Because he lives in the country, Jotson, and we live in Shaker Street," smiled Sholmes. "A wealthy young man; money no object with him. Just the client I wish to see, if we are to keep those instalments paid, Jotson."

"Sholmes," I almost shouted, "do you seriously mean to tell me that you

have deduced all this from the walking-stick?"

"Undoubtedly. Is not my description correct?"

"Perfectly correct! But how, in the name of wonder——"

Sholmes yawned slightly.

"My dear Jotson, look at the stick for yourself. Every picture tells a story, you know, and every story a gem. It is the same with walking-sticks. In the first place, as to wealth. You see that the stick has a silver top, which must have cost, at the lowest computation, eighteen pence. I deduce a wealthy man, careless with his money."

"Most true! But his blonde moustache, his black hair, his strong teeth. Oh, Sholmes——"

"If you examine the stick, Jotson, you will see by certain marks that the owner is in the habit of gnawing it. The wood is hard, the deep indentations argue very strong teeth. In one of those indentations, Jotson, is a short blond hair, evidently from his moustache. In another, a long black hair, equally evidently from his head."

"Marvellous!"

"Marvellous to you, my dear Jotson, but to me a very simple matter." But his age, Sholmes. You stated——"



"Ah, there we are in deeper waters!" he smiled. "Yet it is obvious that if he were an old man, his hair would not have remained black."

"And how do you deduce that he comes from the country?"

"Look at the lower end of the stick, Jotson!"

"It is muddy," I said.

"Exactly. And that variety of mud, Jotson, is not found nearer than Slopshire. I have made a special study of varieties of mud, Jotson, and have, indeed, written a monograph on the subject, now in the collection at Hanwell. But here, I think, is our visitor himself."

The young man entered the room as he spoke, and Sholmes rose courteously.

"Herlock Sholmes?" exclaimed the visitor.

"Himself. You may speak quite freely before my friend, Dr. Jotson."

"Mr Sholmes, hear my story! My name is Hogg — you may have heard the name. I do not wish to boast, Mr. Sholmes, but since the beginning of history, there have been Hoggs in Slopshire. It is the oldest family in the county, connected at one time with the great Lord Bacon, and with the French family of Du Porc. I, sir, am the last of my race, I was reared in our ancient manor on the shores of the Wash. My grandfather, old Sir Pryze Hogg, cast me off. His sternness was due to my love of the cinema, which he held in abhorrence. He made a will, leaving the family estates to his butler, Pawker."

Sholmes nodded.

"Sir Pryze Hogg is dead," said the young man. "All the Hoggs have been rash, but Sir Pryze Hogg was rasher than the rest, and he was the victim of a fatality. Before he expired he sent for me, and whispered with his latest breath that he had made a new will. That will, Mr. Sholmes, cannot be found. Unless it is found, Pawker claims the estate under the old will. Mr. Sholmes, I have been accustomed to live in wealth and luxury——"

Sholmes shot me a triumphant glance. It was a verification of his infallible deductions.

"Unless the will is found I shall be reduced to poverty," said the young man moodily. "No more reckless expenditures of sixpences at the cinema, no more wild nights in the Mile End Road. For me, Woodbine cigarettes and fried fish will be things of the past. Save me, Mr. Sholmes!"

"I will save you!" said Herlock Sholmes quietly. "The will shall be found. As you are aware, where there is a will there's a way. Come, Jotson!"

CHAPTER 2

We arrived at the old Manor-house of Hogg, on the shores of the Wash, as night was falling. I glanced curiously at Pawker, the butler, as we were shown in. Unless the will was discovered, a Pawker would reign in the place of a Hogg. That Herlock Sholmes already suspected Pawker of concealing the will of the irascible old baronet, I knew. But where had he concealed it? That was the question. The mystery was, to me, impenetrable, but I had faith in my amazing friend.

For two days Herlock Sholmes appeared to be idle. Our young friend showed impatience, but I knew Sholmes too well. I knew that under the inscrutable exterior his marvellous brain was working at express speed. On the third day the young baronet could contain his impatience no longer.

"Mr. Sholmes, you have not been at work yet——"

Sholmes smiled.

"I have been at work;" he yawned.

"You have made discoveries?"

"Yes."

"And what, pray?"

"I have discovered," said Sholmes calmly, "that your butler always serves the soup."

"What?"

"And that he always, with his own hands, carefully places the soup in the tureen before it is brought into the dining-room."

"Mr. Sholmes!"

"And that he never allows the tureen to be washed up with the other crockery," said Sholmes lazily.

"But I do not see——"

"Naturally!" said Sholmes. "If you could see, you would not require my services. But patience! Let us dine!"

We sat down, in great astonishment. That Sholmes was not speaking at

random I knew. Yet I could not follow his line of reasoning.

The butler served us, as usual, with soup. I noticed that Sholmes did not taste his. "There is something in the soup," he said, in a quiet, deliberate voice.

The butler started.

"Pray bring the tureen here," said Sholmes.

"The — the tureen?" stammered the butler.

"Certainly!"

Pawker stood rooted to the floor. His face was deadly pale.

"I am waiting," said Sholmes, smiling. "I remarked that there was something in the soup, Pawker. Ha! Stop him!"

To my amazement, the butler seized the soup-tureen, and rushed to the door. Sholmes was upon him with the spring of a tiger.

Crash!

The tureen fell to the floor, where it was shattered into a thousand

fragments. Soup streamed over the polished floor. In the midst of the spilt soup lay a roll of parchment.

"What does this mean?" shouted the young baronet.

Sholmes yawned.

"It means the missing will is discovered, my young friend."

"Sholmes!" I exclaimed. "You mean to say—"

"Pick it up, my dear Jotson, and see for yourself."

I could no longer doubt. It was the missing will, discovered by the marvellous penetration of my extraordinary friend.

Chapter 3

Sholmes smiled as we stepped into the train for London. I knew that he was pleased with his success.

"You amaze me more and more, Sholmes!" I said, as he lighted a couple of pipes, and blew out two thick clouds of smoke. "May I ask—"

"The usual question, Jotson!" He laughed. "My dear fellow, it was

child's play. The butler had concealed the will. The soup-tureen was never out of his hands. Covered with soup, the document was always invisible. I had discovered that Pawker always washed the tureen himself. It was enough. I had noticed a slight flavour in the soup; I was sure then. True, I could have descended to the kitchen, and demanded the missing document, but I preferred to spring a surprise upon our friend Pawker. You know that I have a touch of the dramatic, Jotson. I dearly love a striking denouement. A cunning rascal, Jotson. Who else would have dreamed of hiding a will in a soup-tureen?"

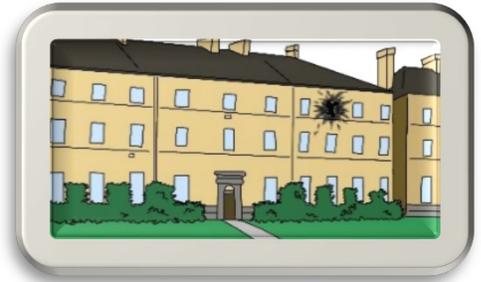
"And who but you would have divined it?" I could not help exclaiming. "I, too, had noticed a flavour in the soup, but I did not connect it with the missing will. Yet I have studied your methods."

"Ah, my dear Jotson!" said Sholmes, dropping into French, as he often did. "It is Montaigne who says, Vous êtes drôle, mon cher, vous êtes très drôle. Passez les allumettes ! Merci ! Allons!"

THE END

Baker Street Elementary

Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason



The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson

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FAY, MASON & MASON

I HATE THE COLD WEATHER AND
ALL THE SNOW... WHEN IS IT
GOING TO GET WARMER ?



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MY MOTHER HAD AN
INTERESTING
OBSERVATION...

WHICH
WAS...



SHE SAYS UNLESS YOU CAN
COMPLAIN TO THE PERSON WHO
CAN ACTUALLY FIX THE PROBLEM,
IT'S PROBABLY JUST WHINING...





ARE YOU LISTENING UP THERE ?
A LITTLE SUNSHINE BY MONDAY
WOULD BE NICE...



HOW ARE YOU AT A LITTLE
REPORT CARD 'REPAIRING' ?

