

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 09, No. 10 - October, 2021
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star - founded April, 1970*



PLEASE NOTE: November 07, Meeting NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on November 07 at 1:00 pm CDT. I will send out the link for the meeting the week before the meeting. The story for the month is "The Adventure of the Resident Patient".

Our Special Guest Speaker will be **Cindy Brown**, who will discuss "Crime in Victorian London."

Bob Katz, BSI, will lead the discussion on the story "The Adventure of the Resident Patient". The monthly quiz will also focus on this story.

We will cover topic 14 on "ACD: The Real Life Detective," by Rich Krisciunas.

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|--|----|
| • Summary of the September Meeting | 3 |
| • Cambridge University, Paper Chemistry, and Doctor Sherlock Holmes", by Bruce D. Aikin, M.Bt., Sh.D. | 4 |
| • "A Handy Helper", by Liese Sherwood Fabre | 9 |
| • "Half and Half", by Karen Murdock, ASH | 11 |
| • "HERLOCK SHOLMES - The Captured Submarines!", by Charles Hamilton | 14 |
| • Baker Street Elementary, by Joe Fay, Rusty Mason, and Steve Mason | 16 |



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

Secretary
Historian
Webmaster

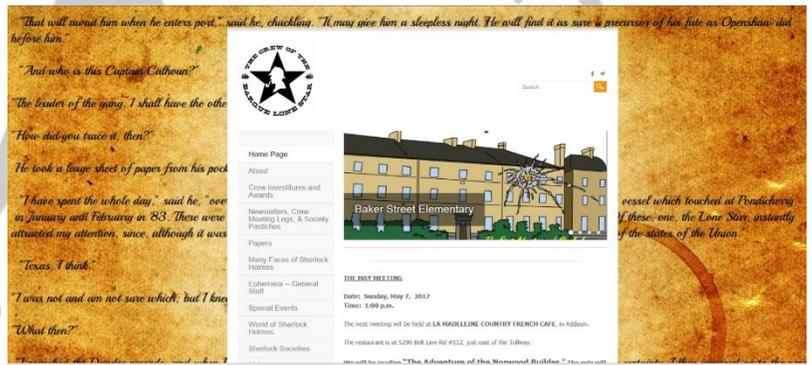
Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Dr. Jim Webb, BSI
Cindy Brown
Pam Mason
Rusty Mason

mason.steve@epa.gov
waltpieper@att.net
221b@verizon.net
jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com

myrkrid08@yahoo.com

Our Website:

www.dfw-sherlock.org



Our Facebook Page:

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

SEPTEMBER 05 SUMMARY

Cindy Brown

There were 48 in attendance at this ZOOM meeting.

We opened the meeting with a toast to the people who have hung in there during covid and continued to attend our meetings even though they have been and continue to be virtual.

Next, we had our first quiz on the story, *The Adventure of the Crooked Man*. The quiz was won by **Bruce Akin** and **Sonia Yazmadjian**.

We then proceeded to the lively story discussion led by our friend **Dr. Robert Katz, BSI**.

Our guest presenter for this month was **Hal Glatzer**, from the Shaka Sherlockians of Hawaii. Hal's presentation was on *Doyle's Dozen*, Arthur Conan Doyle's Twelve Favorite Stories. Hal also noted that his favorites might have been different on a different day. He also presented his own favorite dozen Conan Doyle stories.

We then had the lightning quiz which was a challenge to name the 18 inspectors mentioned in the canon. This quiz was won by **Howard Ostrom**.

Our Doyle presenter for the month was **Carol Cavallizzi, ASH**, who gave us a discussion of the *Travels of Arthur Conan Doyle*.

Hal Glatzer and **Carol Cavallizzi, ASH**, are now deck mates of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star.

Rich Krisciunas read the closing toast dedicated to the Crew of the Barque Lone Star.

As always, thanks so much to Cindy Brown for keeping the notes of the meeting.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, PAPER CHEMISTRY, AND DOCTOR SHERLOCK HOLMES

Bruce D. Aikin, M.Bt., Sh.D. – December 02, 2017

Thanks so much for permission to include this article from Bruce Aikin and George Vanderburgh

Have you ever had an idea for a Sherlockian paper that just did not come together, no matter how much you worked on it? I have tried a number of times to write this paper and something always seemed to derail my progress. Well, I decided to give my idea one last try and this time it worked. Well, I hope it did.

My idea was quite simple - it was to prove that Sherlock Holmes had a doctorate in Chemistry.

In *A Study in Scarlet*, Dr. Watson lists Holmes knowledge of Chemistry as "profound." So - it seemed only natural that he should have an advanced degree. However, proving that was more difficult than I imagined. I believe I have done just that and my research may shed a different light on some long-held ideas about Sherlock Holmes.

Where did Holmes receive his education and especially his knowledge of Chemistry? In 1977, Nicholas Utechin, of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London published a booklet entitled, *Sherlock Holmes at Oxford*.(1) Briefly, his premise was that Sherlock Holmes started at Oxford at the age of fifteen in 1869, with a seven year scholarship. He graduated with his Master of Arts degree in 1876.

To quote from the booklet: "What, then, of Chemistry? ... I tend to look on this as Holmes's primary interest outside his university studies: to achieve a 'profound' knowledge of chemistry, as Watson once put it, he must have spent nearly all his time, apart from his formal university work, on research and experimentation."(2)

This made me wonder what kind of science courses were taught at Oxford at the time Holmes would have gone there. I emailed Oxford University and asked about this. The man who answered told me I could buy the new history of Oxford for \$60.00 US plus shipping from Great

Britain. Fortunately for me the Toronto Reference Library has a copy. I need only quote one sentence: "Even given its limited resources, late Victorian and Edwardian Oxford's contribution to the development of the natural sciences was lamentable."(3)

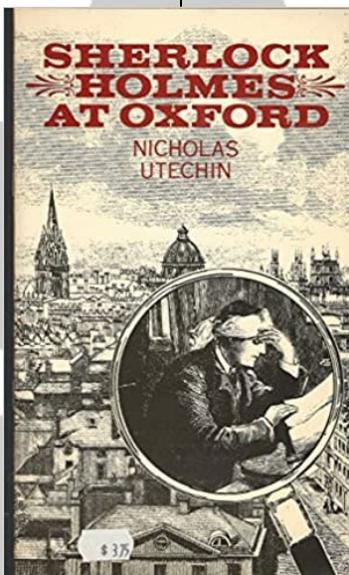
I really began to doubt Mr. Utechin's ideas about Holmes educating himself in chemistry at Oxford.

So, I utilized the resources of the wonderful institution

known as the Toronto Reference Library once again and entered "Chemistry at Cambridge" in a computer station. The first item on the list it gave me was the rather unimpressive title: *The 1702 Chair of Chemistry at Cambridge*.(4) I could not have been more wrong in my initial lack of enthusiasm.

At this point I need to introduce you to a very interesting gentleman named George Downing Liveing. He in turn will introduce us to two more interesting gentlemen. He was born on 21 December 1827, at Nayland, Suffolk. His father was a surgeon and his mother was the daughter of a barrister. He went up to St. John's College, Cambridge,(5) in 1847. He

graduated with honours, with distinction in chemistry and mineralogy in 1851. To improve his experimental skills, he studied for some months in 1851 – 1852 at the Royal College of Chemistry in London. In the summer of 1852, he studied chemistry and mineralogy in Berlin, Germany. Returning to Cambridge later that year he started teaching a course in practical chemistry for medical students. He was among the first professors to have students perform laboratory experiments to learn practical chemistry rather than just reading. In 1861, he was elected to the 1702 Chair of Chemistry of Cambridge University.(6) The University provided expanded laboratory space for chemistry students and other sciences beginning in 1865. The need for more space eventually led to the



construction of the Pembroke Street laboratory for Professor Liveing in the late 1880's.

In 1875, the Jacksonian professorship of Natural Philosophy became vacant at Cambridge and a demonstrator of chemistry from Edinburgh University was appointed to the position. His name was James Dewar. (Today he is known as the father of cryogenics, the study of very cold temperatures and superconductivity. If you have ever seen anyone use liquid nitrogen on television it was held in a container known as a Dewar vacuum flask. A Thermos bottle is an adaptation of a Dewar flask.) He was born on 20 September 1842 in Kincardine-on-Forth in Scotland. He was educated at Dollar Academy and from 1859 at Edinburgh, where he studied under J.D. Forbes, Professor of Natural Philosophy and Lyon Playfair, Professor of Chemistry. Dewar also studied under August Kekulé at Ghent, in Belgium.(7) He later was an assistant to Playfair and after that an assistant to Crum Brown who succeeded Playfair in 1868.(8)(9)

The name Crum Brown will be familiar to anyone who knows about Arthur Conan Doyle's education at the Edinburgh Medical School. In his autobiography, *Memories and Adventures*, he recalls his medical school professors. "There was kindly Crum Brown, the chemist, who shielded himself carefully before exploding some mixture, which usually failed to ignite, so that the loud "Boom!" uttered by the class was the only resulting sound. Brown would emerge from his retreat with a "Really, gentlemen!" of remonstrance, and go on without allusion to the abortive experiment."(10)

Alexander Crum Brown was born in Edinburgh on 26 March 1838. His father, Dr. John Brown, was a minister. He had an older half-brother, John Brown, M.D., who was a well-known physician and an author.(11) Alexander was educated at the Royal High School in Edinburgh, followed by one year at Mill Hill School. In 1854 he entered the University of Edinburgh. He was Class Medalist in Chemistry and graduated M.A. in 1858. He then studied Medicine graduating M.D. in 1861. During the same time,

he read for the science degree of London University, and in 1862 he had the distinction of being the first candidate on whom the Doctorate of Science of London University was conferred. On 15 April 1869, he was elected the Chair of Chemistry of the University of Edinburgh.(12)

So, in the careers of these three distinguished chemists we have connections to Cambridge, Edinburgh and London. Perhaps some future investigator will establish links between Arthur Conan Doyle, John H. Watson and Sherlock Holmes through them.

One note: In 1861, George Downing Liveing hired an assistant named William James Sell. He went on to become a distinguished chemist. "Perhaps his most important work was a long series of investigations on pyridine derivatives."(13) Pyridine is a coal tar derivative, one of the specialties of Sherlock Holmes.

Let us return to Mr. Utechin's theory about Holmes at Oxford.

He thinks that Sherlock enjoyed his time at university. But this may not necessarily be true.

In *The Naval Treaty*, Watson remembers Percy Phelps at school. [He] "was of much the same age as myself, though he was two classes ahead of me."... "[I]t seemed rather a piquant thing to us to chevy him about the playground and hit him over the shins with a wicket." If Holmes was even more advanced than two classes ahead, he may have had a more difficult time. Watson does not record Holmes' reaction to this story but it probably was not pleasant. Perhaps Holmes' time at university was the reason he was such an excellent boxer and single-stick fighter.

Mr. Utechin points out that in *The 'Gloria Scott'* Holmes says that Victor Trevor was "the only friend he made during the two years he was at college." He maintains that it should say "the first two years." If I understood his explanation correctly, during the first two years as an undergraduate a student is "at college." After that he is "at university."

Mr. Utechin believes that *The Three Students* took place at Cambridge. He bases this on the description of



the doors. But it has been pointed out that the doors described are common to both Oxford and Cambridge.(14)

What if Holmes had asked Watson to deliberately obscure his education so the criminal classes would not realize how much help he really was as a consulting detective? So, the references to various institutions in *The Musgrave Ritual*, *The Missing Three-Quarter*, *The Creeping Man*, and the other two stories mentioned previously, are not reliable indicators of the true locations of the cases.

So, in light of all of the foregoing, I conclude that Sherlock Holmes attended St. John's College at Cambridge University and studied chemistry under George Downing Liveing. The reason that his "line of study was quite different from that of the other fellows" (GLOR) was that Holmes was getting his master's degree when all the other students his age were still undergraduates.

Is there any other evidence Holmes had an advanced degree in chemistry?

In 1995, I wrote a paper about *The Illustrious Client* called *Some Comments on Vitriol*. I re-read it a while ago. It was just after having had a conversation about bisulphate of baryta, which is mentioned in *A Case of Identity*. One quote caught my attention: "The first step in the production of sulfuric acid is to make sulfur dioxide, which when dissolved in water produces sulfurous acid, used in the sulfite process of papermaking."(15) Could the bisulphate of baryta have something to do with papermaking? Once again, the Toronto Reference Library came to my aid. I found a three-volume reference book called ***Pulp And Paper: Chemistry and Chemical Technology***.(16)

First, to give a little background on the discussion of the compound in the Sherlockian literature: In an article entitled *The Chemistry of Sherlock Holmes*, Louise Haskett discusses a number of articles which have been written about this. To quote one source: "There is no stable bisulphate of baryta," according to Donald A. Redmond, because "barium and the sulphate ion are both divalent: BaSO_4 is the formula."(17)

But the phrase bisulphate of baryta seemed peculiar to me so I decided to pursue it further. In the ***Pulp and Paper*** book I found a different explanation. I will spare you as much complicated chemistry as possible and quote from Wikipedia. The **sulfite process** produces wood pulp which is almost pure cellulose fibers by using various salts of sulfurous acid.... The salts used in the pulping process are either sulfites (SO_3^{2-}), or bisulfites (HSO_3^-), depending on the pH.

The kraft or sulfate process converts the added sulfate compounds to sulfides. (Kraft is the German word for strong and the process produces the paper for brown paper bags.)

To quote from the story: "Well, have you solved it?" I asked as I entered.

"Yes. It was the bisulphate of baryta."

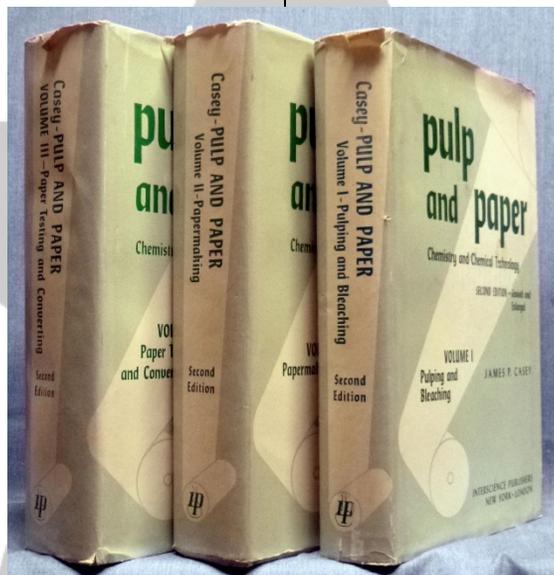
What Holmes actually said was the *bisulphite* of baryta. When Dr. Watson wrote up his notes on the case later, he erroneously put *bisulphate*. The ease with which the names of compounds can be confused was the reason this system of chemical nomenclature was abandoned.(18)

Paper chemists express all of the sodium salts used in the pulping process as Na_2O , disodium oxide.(19) This compound does not exist but is a convenience.

Since baryta is barium oxide, BaO , it would be natural for an experienced chemist to express his result as bisulphite of baryta.

All barium compounds, except barium sulphate, are poisonous so an inexperienced person must have tried to use barium salts in a test batch of pulp and died as a result. Holmes was consulted as an expert chemist. The analysis of pulp is a difficult process and Holmes could not have done it at his chemical table in 221B.(20) Perhaps the reason that we never hear of a tenant in 221A is that Holmes had it outfitted as his private chemical laboratory. But that is a possible topic for another paper.

Where did Holmes learn about paper chemistry? I contacted the British Association of Paper Historians and



learned that there were no academic laboratories doing any research on the subject at the time Sherlock Holmes would have been a student.(21) So like Liveing and Dewar he went to Europe. In *A Scandal in Bohemia*, Holmes easily recognizes the King of Bohemia and notes that Egria is noted for its numerous glass-factories and paper-mills. What better place to spend a summer studying paper chemistry?(22)

As mentioned earlier Professor Liveing had an assistant named William James Sell, who did research on pyridine. If one assistant did research on a coal-tar derivative there must have been others: perhaps Holmes himself?

In *The Empty House*, Holmes says, "Returning to France, I spent some months in a research into the coal-tar derivatives, which I conducted in a laboratory at Montpellier, in the South of France." To quote Ms. Haskett again, "Critics argue that in 1894 ... there was nothing revolutionary to be investigated in coal-tar derivatives; and besides, Germany was the dominant location for such procedures prior to World War I, not France."

Pyridine has military uses. If added to a water supply it causes nausea and cramps. Because it is not lethal it is not considered against any Geneva Convention. Mycroft must have asked Holmes to find an antidote for pyridine. It would not have been a good idea to let Germany know about this. And Sherlock Holmes was supposed to be dead and could not risk being recognized by any visitors from Cambridge University.

"In the year 1878, I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London..." (STUD). The University of London at that time did not have any facilities for classes, but was an examining board which approved the qualifications of students for work in hospitals or private study.

In *The Musgrave Ritual*, Holmes says, "When I first came up to London I had rooms in Montague Street, just

round the corner from the British Museum, and there I waited, filling in my too abundant leisure time by studying all those branches of science which might make me more efficient."

Why not use that time to get a Doctor of Science degree from the University of London?

When we first meet Sherlock Holmes, he is in a chemical laboratory in St. Bartholomew's Hospital doing chemical research. How did he get permission to use the facilities? Professor Liveing had been teaching practical chemistry to medical students for over twenty-five years by the time Holmes and Watson met in 1881. By that time a number of his former students must have been administrators at the hospital. If he had asked them to allow Holmes to pursue research there, they would have

accommodated him. Why was the usually taciturn Holmes so excited when Watson and Stamford came in? He had just completed the last experiment which would earn him the proper title of Doctor. Holmes must have asked Watson to hide his true level of expertise so he could remain in the background, just as Dr. Joseph Bell of Edinburgh did for a long time. But now at last we can properly recognize him as Sherlock Holmes, Doctor of Science.

Notes to help you understand what I am talking about. (Good Luck to all of us.)

bisulphate of baryta – bisulphate or bisulfate, has the formula HSO_4^- . Today it is called hydrogen sulfate. Baryta is BaO , barium oxide. The bisulfate of baryta could not exist because it would spontaneously react to form the very stable compound BaSO_4 . Barium is poisonous in any form but this. Barium sulfate is so stable that it is used in diagnostic tests called upper and lower GI scans. If you have one of these tests you have to drink a "milkshake" of barium sulfate. It is so stable that the acid in your stomach cannot dissolve enough of it to cause any problems.



Kraft process: From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
Kraft process (so called because of the superior strength of the resulting paper, from the German word *Kraft* for 'strength') was invented by Carl F. Dahl in 1879 in Danzig, Prussia, Germany.

The **kraft process** (also known as **kraft pulping** or **sulfate process**) is a process for conversion of wood into wood pulp, which consists of almost pure cellulose fibers, the main component of paper. The kraft process entails treatment of wood chips with a hot mixture of water, sodium hydroxide, and sodium sulfide, known as white

liquor, that breaks the bonds that link lignin, hemicellulose, and cellulose.

This is the paper used in brown paper bags.

From Wikipedia: The **sulfite process** produces wood pulp which is almost pure cellulose fibers by using various salts of sulfurous acid to extract the lignin from wood chips in large pressure vessels called digesters. The salts used in the pulping process are either sulfites (SO_3^{2-}), or bisulfites (HSO_3^-), depending on the pH. The counter ion can be sodium (Na^+), calcium (Ca^{2+}), potassium (K^+), magnesium (Mg^{2+}) or ammonium (NH_4^+).

This is the paper books are printed on.

- (1) Sherlock Holmes at Oxford, by Nicholas Utechin. Robert Dugdale, Oxford, 1977.
- (2) Utechin, page 16.
- (3) The University of Oxford: A History, by L.W.B. Brockliss, Part III, The Imperial University; Chapter 12: Towards the Research University; D. The Sciences; page 505. Oxford University Press, 2016.
- (4) The 1702 Chair of Chemistry at Cambridge: Transformation and Change, edited by Mary D. Archer and Christopher D. Haley. Cambridge University Press; 2005. Chapter 7, Chemistry at Cambridge under George Downing Liveing, by John Shorter, pages 166 – 187.
- (5) Interestingly, Nicholas Utechin posits that Sherlock Holmes attended St. John's College, Oxford.
- (6) Professor Liveing held the 1702 Chair of Chemistry until he resigned in 1908. He was given an honorary Doctor of Science degree at that time. He became a Trustee of St. John's College and in 1911, was elected its President. He held that position until his death in 1924.
- (7) Wikipedia entry on James Dewar
- (8) Dewar and Liveing collaborated on a number of research projects for about 48 years. In 1878, they began studying the spectroscopy of gases. If you have ever taken high school Chemistry and remember that carbon has a valence of 4 because it can form sp^3 hybrid orbitals, the terms s, p and d used for this come from the work of these two men. (George Downing Liveing and the Early History of Chemical Thermodynamics, by William B. Jensen, Bulletin of the History of Chemistry, 2013, Vol. 38, Number 1, pp. 37-51; published by the American Chemical Society. It is available online.) Continuing the work of Dewar and Liveing and applying it to chemical bonding won the American chemist Linus C. Pauling, the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1954.
- (9) Archer and Haley, op. cit., James Dewar's Role in Chemistry at Cambridge, pp. 170 – 172.
- (10) Arthur Conan Doyle, Memories and Adventures, 1924. Recollections of a Student, page 19.
- (11) Rab and His Friends, by John Brown, published 1899. It is still available through Amazon.com or as NOOK book at Barnes and Noble.
- (12) The University of Edinburgh, School of Chemistry, Alexander Crum Brown (1838-1922), by W. P. Doyle. Available online.
- (13) Archer and Haley, op. cit., page 178.
- (14) William S. Baring-Gould, The Annotated Sherlock Holmes, Vol. II, page 371, Note 5.
- (15) Encyclopaedia Britannica, 15th. Edition, 1976. Macropaedia, Volume 13, "Paper and Paper Production," Pages 966 - 977.
- (16) Pulp and Paper: Chemistry and Chemical Technology, Third Edition; edited by James C. Casey; John Wiley and Sons; 1980.
- (17) The Chemistry of Sherlock Holmes, by Louise Haskett; this article first appeared in the book Clients' Case-Notes, edited by Brian MacDonald, in 1983. It is available online.
- (18) Dr. Clarence W. Klingensmith, my Advanced Inorganic Chemistry professor.
- (19) James C. Casey, op. cit., page 378.
- (20) James C. Casey, op. cit., Composition and Analysis of Alkaline Pulping Liquors, pp. 379 ff.
- (21) I initially contacted the Stationers' Company. After I was congratulated for asking the most eccentric question they had ever gotten, they forwarded my request.
- (22) If Holmes also studied glass and ceramics it would explain why he was so conversant on medieval pottery in The Sign of Four.

A HANDY HELPER

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

Although handkerchiefs might appear to have a limited (and outdated) use in contemporary culture, they served a variety of purposes from their earliest appearances, several of which are illustrated throughout the Canon. The first mention occurred in *A Study in Scarlet*, when Jefferson Hope remarked that poisoning Enoch Drebber was preferable to “firing over a handkerchief” (a duel).

Handkerchiefs were never mentioned in the Canon as being used to clean one’s nose, but several other uses were included: wiping away tears (*The Sign of the Four*) and sweat (“The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet,” “The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge,” and “The Adventure of the Devil’s Foot”); as a gag (“The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist” and “The Adventure of Abbey Grange”); and to bind a wound (“The Adventure of the Engineer’s Thumb”). While men often carried a handkerchief in their pocket (“The Adventure of the Lion’s Mane”), some, taking the habit from the military, (1) carried it in their sleeve (“The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier”), and others, such as gypsies, tied large ones around their heads (“The Adventure of the Speckled Band”).

The humble handkerchief has a long history, although its contemporary use did not appear until the fifteenth century when the Dutch philosopher Erasmus noted that using one’s sleeve for such a purpose was boorish. (2) Chinese sculptures from the Chou dynasty (1122 BCE) displayed a decorative cloth head covering, assumed for protection from the sun. Among the early Chinese exports were silk handkerchiefs. The Japanese

have used “*hankachi*” since the ninth century. (3) Romans used squares to wipe away sweat (*sudariums*) and threw them to start gladiator games. (4) They became a fashion accessory by the end of the seventeenth century. (5) Originally arriving as a kerchief (a covering for the head), the handkerchief (to be held instead of worn) appeared in the 1500s. (6)



Handkerchiefs became an important means of sending messages, especially where romance was concerned. Knights would indicate their love by tying a handkerchief to the back of their helmets. A young lady would drop her handkerchief for a young man to retrieve. Should the gentleman keep it, he declared his love for her. She might also send him one she embroidered herself or a singed one to declare her burning passion for the man. Should she catch his eye, she might hold it in the middle to indicate a late-night meeting. He would wave his own in response, to show he’d gotten

the message. Returning the object later broke off a relationship. (7)

Popularity for the item continued throughout Europe from the 1500s into the twentieth century. Italian designs were the most desirable. They were made with the finest fabrics and were embellished with needle lace. These were often scented with perfume and could be held over the nose and mouth to combat foul odors. (Of course, Holmes scented his with creosote in *The Sign of the Four*.) By the late 1500s, they were so valuable, they were listed in wills, used in dowries, and given as presents to nobility. (8) They also grew in size

to the point that King Louis XVI of France declared no one could have one larger than his. (9)

The pocket square became a men's fashion staple in the late 19th century with the introduction of the two-piece suit. Men didn't want their clean handkerchief mixed in with coins, etc. in their pockets and moved the cloth to their upper outside breast pocket. (10) The fashion trend began in England and spread from there, in part, from their use by actors such as Cary Grant and Gary Cooper. While not required for a formal suit, many men still wear one in their jacket. (11) These are distinguished today from a normal handkerchief by a rolled hem and can be worn in several different styles (from a flat square running parallel to the pocket edge to a puff that shows more). (12)

Despite continued use in men's suits, the handkerchief itself is no longer the fixture it once was. Its demise began with the introduction of the paper tissue.



"Gayetty's Medical Paper" (a brown, rough, thin paper that continued to be available in parts of Europe through the 1970s), appeared in 1857, but the tissue paper recognized today was not developed until 1920. Kimberly-Clark produced a disposable, soft, absorbent paper developed by "creping" (a process of microfolding) that broke down the paper fibers. (13) The company introduced Kleenex, first as a means of removing cold cream, and later for blowing one's nose, with the slogan, "Don't carry a cold in your pocket." (14) Although handkerchiefs have, for the most part, disappeared in the US, they remain popular in Japan. Most Japanese carry at least one or two, primarily for drying one's hands in public restrooms, wiping one's face on a hot day, and covering one's mouth and nose in the event of a fire. (15)

As the Japanese demonstrate, the lowly handkerchief still proves its usefulness in a variety of ways—just as it did more than a hundred years ago.

- 1) <https://www.bloomsburyfashioncentral.com/products/berg-fashion-library/dictionary/the-dictionary-of-fashion-history/handkerchief>
- 2) <https://hankybook.com/hankybook-blog/>
- 3) <https://topdrawershop.com/blogs/blog/why-carrying-a-handkerchief-never-went-out-of-style-in-japan>
- 4) <https://www.shpgroup.eu/tips/from-the-history-of-handkerchiefs/>
- 5) <https://www.shpgroup.eu/tips/from-the-history-of-handkerchiefs/>
- 6) <https://www.etymonline.com/word/handkerchief>
- 7) <https://hankybook.com/hankybook-blog/>
- 8) <http://margaretroedesigns.com/wp-content/uploads/HandkerchiefHist.pdf>
- 9) <https://hankybook.com/hankybook-blog/>
- 10) <https://www.rampleyandco.com/pages/the-history-of-the-pocket-square>
- 11) <https://www.studiosuits.com/blog/looking-back-history-pocket-squares/>
- 12) <https://www.aristocracy.london/how-to-fold-your-pocket-square/>
- 13) <https://www.valmet.com/media/articles/tissue/the-history-of-tissue-products/>
- 14) https://www.heraldbanner.com/opinion/columns/on-second-thought-pass-me-a-kleenex-interesting-history-of-tissues-handkerchiefs/article_ff685e36-42a3-11e9-838e-bbf1c1cfaa20.html
- 15) <https://topdrawershop.com/blogs/blog/why-carrying-a-handkerchief-never-went-out-of-style-in-japan>

HALF AND HALF

Karen Murdock, ASH – June, 2010

Published in *Prescott's Press*, #56

Holmes and Watson never did things by halves. There are, however, a good many “half” words in the Canon.

Not including the words “half” and “halfway,” the most common “half” word in the Sherlock Holmes stories is “half-past,” which is used 29 times(1), always in reference to telling time:

It was half-past five before Holmes returned. He was bright, eager, and in excellent spirits, a mood which in his case alternated with fits of the blackest depression. (SIGN, Chapter 3, “In Quest of a Solution,” Doubleday)

In vain I begged him to tell me more. “You will hear and see enough before morning,” he answered. “We have three years of the past to discuss. Let that suffice until half-past nine, when we start upon the notable adventure of the empty house.” (EMPT)

Half-past two had chimed, and it was the darkest hour which precedes the dawn, when we all started as a low but sharp click came from the direction of the gate. (BLAC)

After these 29 time-related appearances, “half” words fall off precipitously in occurrence. Three hyphenated “half” words occur five times apiece (half-moon, half-opened, half-sovereign) and three more occur four times apiece in the Canon (half-crown, half-dozen, half-sheet). Four hyphenated “half” words are used three times in the Canon (half-closed, half-humorous, half-pay, half-timbered):

Tuxbury Old Hall [. . .] is a great wandering house, standing in a considerable park. I should judge it was of all sorts of ages and styles, starting on a half-timbered Elizabethan foundation and ending in a Victorian portico. Inside it was all paneling and tapestry and half-effaced old pictures, a house of shadows and mystery. (BLAN)

Holmes leaned back in his chair with half-closed eyes. “You must admit, my dear Watson, that the idea of a joke is impossible. There were grave events afoot, as the sequel showed, and the coaxing of Scott Eccles to Wisteria Lodge had some connection with them.” (WIST)

The following dozen words occur twice apiece in the Canon:

half-buttoned	half-confidences	half-drawn
half-drunk	half-effaced	half-full
half-hour	half-human	half-mad
half-pennies	half-pound	half-smoked

But most “half” words occur only once. They are what are called “hapax legomena”(2) or one-use words occurring in a literary work. The Sherlock Holmes Canon contains 45 “half-hyphenated” words that are hapax legomena. They range, alphabetically, from half-bashful(3) to half-written(4) and in Canon order from half-carrying(5), to half-brother(6).

HALF AND HALF QUIZ

Here is a quiz of a dozen “half” words used only one time in the Canon. Can you identify the stories in which they occur?

Choose your answers from these stories: EMPT, ENGR, HOUN, LADY, MAZA, REDH, REIG, SCAN, SIGN, STUD, TWIS, WIST. No story is used more than once.

1. In the cab was a woman, half-collapsed from nervous exhaustion. She bore upon her aquiline and emaciated face the traces of some recent tragedy.
2. Seizing a half-consumed piece of wood from the smouldering fire, he blew it into a flame, and proceeded with its help to examine the little camp.
3. “I was half-dragged up to the altar, and before I knew where I was I found myself mumbling responses which were whispered in my ear, and vouching for things of which I knew nothing”
4. “For an instant I could hardly believe that here was indeed a door which led away from death. The next instant I threw myself through, and lay half-fainting upon the other side.”
5. A huge driving-wheel and a shaft half-filled with rubbish showed the position of an abandoned mine.
6. On the table, under a half-lit chandelier, the coffin was lying.
7. “He actually picked up my parasol for me once. ‘By your leave, madame,’ said he—half-Italian, you know, and with the Southern grace of manner when in the mood”
8. She stood with her figure outlined against the flood of light, one hand upon the door, one half-raised in her eagerness, her body slightly bent, her head and face protruded, with eager eyes and parted lips, a standing question.
9. We had during this time been following the guidance of Toby down the half-rural villa-lined roads which lead to the metropolis.
10. The face was turned half-round, and the effect was that of one of those black silhouettes which our grandparents loved to frame. It was a perfect reproduction of Holmes.
11. “Why did you pick him?”
(1) “Because he was handy and would come cheap.”
(2) “At half-wages, in fact.”
12. “She is very old and deaf, and we can get no information from her. The shock has made her half-witted, but I understand that she was never very bright.”

ANSWERS TO HALF AND HALF QUIZ

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. half-collapsed, WIST | 2. half-consumed, STUD | 3. half-dragged, SCAN |
| 4. half-fainting, ENGR | 5. half-filled, HOUN | 6. half-lit, LADY |
| 7. half-Italian, MAZA | 8. half-raised, TWIS | 9. half-rural, SIGN |
| 10. half-round, EMPT | 11. half-wages, REDH | 12. half-witted, REIG |

Notes

- (1) For the word counts and all the hapaxes, I am indebted to Les Moskowitz, who compiled a concordance to the Canon in 1980 and subsequently wrote a computer program enabling him to sort all the words in the Canon and to determine, for example, which words are used the most and which the least often.
- (2) See my article "How's Your Hapax Legomenon?" The Serpentine Muse, Volume 24, no. 3 (Spring 2008). To get a copy of this article or a list of some 8200 hapaxes in the Canon, email me at murdock1212@gmail.com.
- (3) They were, as McMurdo found, quite ready to converse about their deeds in the past, which they recounted with the half-bashful pride of men who had done good and unselfish service for the community., VALL, Doubleday.
- (4) "These are samples of the questions and answers which made up our strange half-spoken, half-written conversation." GREE
- (5) Jefferson Hope [. . .] led the way across the fields at the top of his speed, supporting and half-carrying the girl when her strength appeared to fail her (STUD)
- (6) "The public don't know how good he is. Sir Robert has been too clever for the touts. He has the Prince's half-brother out for spins. You can't tell 'em apart." (SHOS)

Karen Murdock, ASH (who, you might remember, gave a Zoom talk to the Crew in December 2020) is finishing up her book on figures of speech in the Sherlockian Canon. She has identified 46 classical figures of speech, from alliteration to zeugma, in the Holmes stories. Her book will identify, list, and discuss each of these figures. She hopes it will be in print in the new year.

HERLOCK SHOLMES - The Captured Submarines!

Charles Hamilton (Peter Todd), February 26, 1916, *The Greyfriars Herald*

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

Chapter 1

The efficient manner in which our Navy has dealt with the submarine menace is well known. The part played in the affair by my amazing friend, Herlock Sholmes, has not, however, been communicated to the public in the official reports. It is not generally known that, as a matter of absolute fact, the failure of the German submarine campaign was largely due to my amazing friend. But honour must be given where honour is due.

I was reading the obituary notices of some of my patients one morning, in our sitting-room in Shaker Street, when Sholmes came in, and I could not help glancing at him in some surprise. He wore a skipper's cap, and his famous dressing-gown was tucked into high sea-boots.

"My dear Jotson," he said. "are you a good sailor?"

"I am quite at home upon the water, Sholmes. In those far-off peaceful days before the war, I frequently made the trip from London Bridge to Southend. On more than one occasion I have ventured upon the remotest recesses of the turbid Serpentine."

"Good! I require an experienced seaman as first mate of the Spoof Bird. You shall have the post, Jotson."

"Where are we going?" I asked.

"Hunting," he replied. "You are aware, Jotson, that the German submarines have caused a good deal of havoc among our shipping. The authorities, for reasons best known to themselves, have not cared to avail

themselves of my services. I have, however, decided to step in. A trim craft, the Spoof Bird, lies ready. We have but to embark."

"You have formed a plan, Sholmes, for dealing with these pests?"

"Naturally, Jotson. But you will see." I forbore to ask further, knowing my friend's dislike of questioning. I followed him. Shaker Street, with its old familiar motor-buses, and its familiar, haunting scent, was left behind, and we embarked upon the Spoof Bird, and ere long we were cleaving the wild water of the North Sea.

I admit that I was in some perplexity.

The Spoof Bird was a well-found craft, but I could observe no means aboard of dealing with submarines. There were no guns, and there was no ammunition. The absence of ammunition I could have understood, on the supposition that Sholmes was acting upon expert advice from high quarters. But I had expected to see guns. No guns, however, were visible.

Several large packing-cases were piled on the deck, the contents of which Sholmes did not acquaint me with.

Sholmes was tireless. In the intervals of absorbing cocaine and smoking some thousands of cigarettes, he kept an intent watch upon the sea with a very large telescope. Towards evening, he turned to me with a smile of satisfaction.

"The enemy are in sight, Jotson."

I felt a thrill.

"A submarine, Sholmes?"

"A submarine," he replied.

A dark object appeared on the waters.

Herlock Sholmes rapped out a rapid order. A

large packing-case was immediately tossed over the side, and it floated between us and the submarine.

"Sholmes, in the name of wonder - --"

Sholmes did not reply.

The submarine was approaching rapidly, and all his skill was needed to save the Spoof Bird from the treacherous torpedo.

Sholmes was an accomplished seaman. His voice rang out from the bridge, giving orders.

"Take a double reef in the propellor! Lower the topgallant sails into the engine-room! Hoist the main deck overboard!"

These orders were promptly obeyed.

Like a thing of life, the Spoof Bird flew over the wild waters, and the submarine and the floating packing-case vanished astern.

Herlock Sholmes rubbed his hands with satisfaction.

"One!" he said, with his inscrutable smile.

"But, Sholmes, I do not comprehend!"

"My dear Jotson, have you forgotten the old proverb, that little



boys should not ask question?" said Sholmes.

"True. But——"

"Moreover, if I should explain it now, it would spoil our usual little explanation in the sitting-room at Shaker Street, which should properly come at the end of the story," added Sholmes.

"I submit to your judgment, Sholmes. But I am amazed."

"By this time, Jotson, you should be accustomed to amazement."

I felt the force of my friend's remark, and was silent.

Our cruise continued, and each time that an enemy submarine was sighted, a fresh packing-case was dropped overboard, and, owing to Sholmes' wonderful seamanship, the Spoof Bird eluded the enemy.

It was not till the last of the packing-cases had been disposed of that the prow of the Spoof Bird was turned for home.

When we arrived at Baker Street, I could contain my impatience no longer.

"Sholmes," I exclaimed, "I am on tenterhooks."

"Remain, my dear Jotson, upon tenterhooks a little longer. I am awaiting for a report from the Admiralty."

"But——"

"Pass the cocaine!" said Herlock Sholmes.

I passed the cocaine, and was silent.

Chapter 2

I could not help wondering about this strange affair. That Herlock Sholmes' apparently mysterious action was based upon some amazing and far-reaching plan, I knew. But it was not till

a week later that I learned the astounding facts.

One morning, when I came down to breakfast, I found Sholmes in high good-humour. He was reading a long report, but he looked up as I came in, with a smile.

"Well, Jotson, your curiosity is about to be satisfied," he said. "The submarine campaign has been an eminent success."

"I am overjoyed to hear it, Sholmes. And the result——"

"You remember that there were twelve packing cases on board the Spoof Bird, Jotson?"

"Exactly."

"Twelve submarines have been captured," said Sholmes, rubbing his hands. "The crews were in a helpless condition, and fell easily into our hands."

"But how — why? It was your work, Sholmes?"

"It was my work, Jotson, though I doubt whether my name will appear in the official communications. That, however, I do not desire. I derive my satisfaction from the knowledge that I have dished the enemy, and that Admiral Von Whiskerpitz will be tearing his hair."

"You promised me an explanation, Sholmes."

"I am ready to give it, my dear fellow. You did not know the contents of those packing-cases?"

"Some terrible explosive?"

"More dangerous than that, Jotson."

"Some deadly chemical?" "More dangerous than that."

"Some poisonous gas?" "Still more dangerous, my dear Jotson."

"In Heaven's name, Sholmes, what terrible secret did those packing-cases contain?"

Sholmes smiled.

"German sausages!" he replied.

"German sausages?" I exclaimed.

"Nothing more nor less, Jotson.

Consider. The submarine crews were far away from land. For days and days they had not tasted German sausages. They examined the packing-cases left floating behind the Spoof Bird; they found them to contain German sausages. You can easily guess the result — an orgy in the submarine. Not one of the sausages, probably, was left undevoured."

"True. But still, you forget, Sholmes, that German sausages, though perhaps fatal to civilised stomachs, are an accustomed article of diet among the Huns."

"I do not forget, Jotson," said Sholmes coldly. "Excuse me, Sholmes, then how—" "I have not told you all. In each sausage were cunningly concealed a fragment of American potted beef, especially imported from Chicago for the purpose."

"Sholmes!"

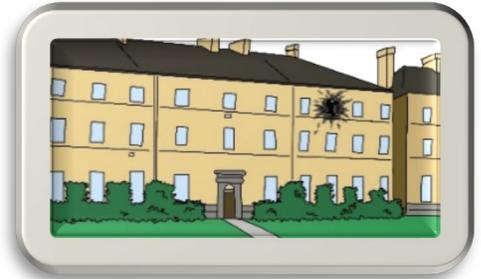
"You will now comprehend, Jotson, The sausages they would have survived, their systems being inured to such diet. But the Chicago beef, Jotson, put the lid on it. That mysterious compound, the ingredients of which are known only to the American inventor, was too much for them. Completely overcome, they lay sick and feeble, at the mercy of wind and waves, and submarine after submarine was snapped up by our patrols before they could recover."

I could only gaze at my amazing friend in silent admiration.

THE END

Baker Street Elementary

Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason

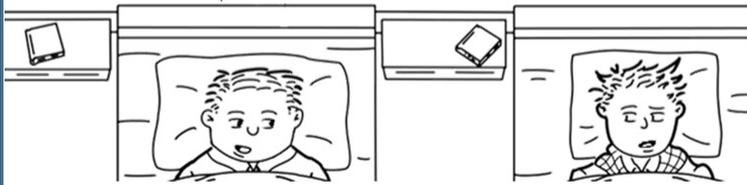


Baker Street Elementary
Number 361 – 10/10/2021

Fay, Mason & Mason

DID YOU FINISH
THE LIST OF ALL
THE BOOKS YOU
WANT TO READ
THIS YEAR ?

I STARTED IT
BUT ALL I HAD
WAS A CRAYON
TO WRITE WITH...



THE FIRST ADVENTURES OF HOLMES AND WATSON

SUCH A LIST
DESERVES A LITTLE
MORE PROFESSIONAL
APPEARANCE...



Copyright 2021, Fay, Mason, Mason

THE COLOUR OF THE CRAYON
COULD DETERMINE WHETHER
THE LIST IS AMATEURISH
LOOKING OR NOT...



SO I STARTED A LIST OF THINGS I
NEEDED TO COMPLETE MY BOOK LIST...

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN
THE CRAYON
SCRIBBLING ON YOUR
SHIRT CUFF...



I ASSUME PENCIL AND PAPER WERE AT
THE TOP OF THE LIST...

YOU KNOW A SHIRT CUFF IS
A GOOD PLACE TO WRITE
LITTLE NOTES TO YOURSELF...

