

# The Bilge Pump

Vol. 09, No. 11 - November, 2021  
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the  
Barque Lone Star - founded April, 1970*



## PLEASE NOTE: December 05, Meeting NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on December 05 at 1:00 pm CST. I will send out the link for the meeting the week before the meeting.

Our Special Guest Speaker will be **Roger Johnson**, who will discuss "Rugger, Romance and Sherlock Holmes, or You Should Go to Blackheath First" - the importance of a picturesque London village suburb in the life of Arthur Conan Doyle and the career of Sherlock Holmes.

We will cover topic 15 on "ACD: Spiritualism and Harry Houdini" - **David Leal**

And we will have a couple of surprises to celebrate the Season !!

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For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>

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### Who dunnit:



Third Mate  
Helmsman  
Spiritual Advisors

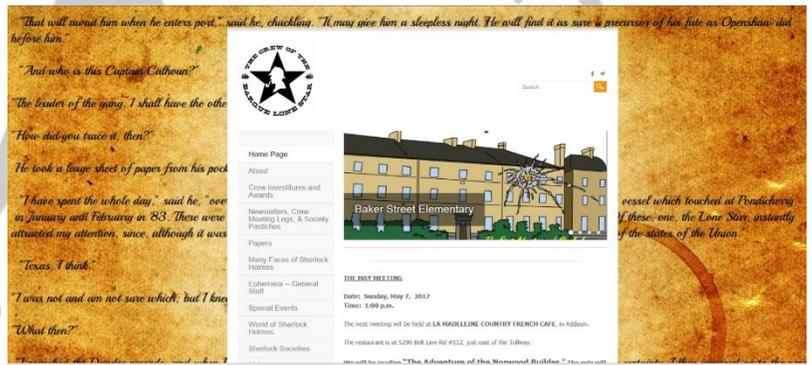
Secretary  
Historian  
Webmaster

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

[mason.steve@epa.gov](mailto:mason.steve@epa.gov)  
[waltpieper@att.net](mailto:waltpieper@att.net)  
[221b@verizon.net](mailto:221b@verizon.net)  
[jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com](mailto:jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com)  
  
[myrkrid08@yahoo.com](mailto:myrkrid08@yahoo.com)

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# NOVEMBER 07 SUMMARY

Cindy Brown

There were 52 in attendance at this ZOOM meeting.

We opened the meeting with a "Standing on the Terrace" and toasts to Michael Whelan, BSI; John Lellenberg; and Carole Nelson Douglas; three outstanding Sherlockians who have passed beyond the Reichenbach and were connected to our Society.

Next, we had our first quiz on the story, The Adventure of the Resident Patient. The quiz was won by **Marsha Pollak, BSI.**

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

We recognized our new visitors, which included **Adriana Fox** from Delaware.

We have decided the Crew will continue to meet virtually indefinitely on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at 1:00 pm central. We will have a quarterly social dinner at Two Guys from Italy on the Sunday of the meeting (the first dinner will be on Sunday, January 2 at 5:30 pm central)

Our features speaker for this month was **Cindy Brown**, who gave a very entertaining and informative presentation on the Crimes of Victorian England.

We then had the lightning quiz which was a challenge to name the 9 animals in the Canon who had a role in the adventure, and who were given a proper name.

Our Doyle presenter for the month was **Rich Krisciunas**, who gave us a discussion on the Real Detective, Arthur Conan Doyle, and his involvement in the Edalji and Slater cases..

**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.*

# MAKING AN IMPRESSION

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

In *The Sign of the Four*, Sherlock Holmes mentions his monograph on the use of plaster of paris to preserve footprint impressions. The gypsum compound, however, has many uses, some of which are mentioned in the Canon: for casting molds—such as busts of Napoleon—and plastering walls. Perhaps the most common reference to plaster in the cases involved none of the compound at all.

Plaster of paris is calcium sulfate that, when heated and ground to a fine powder, will set up again when water is added. This represents only one of three types of plaster but is the most common. The others are lime plaster, using calcium hydroxide and sand; and cement plaster, combining plaster, sand, Portland cement, and water. (1) If glue is added to the plaster, it creates a surface called gesso that can be used in tempera or oil painting. (2)

Plaster of paris has long been used in construction—from finishing interiors to flourishes on columns or cornices. (3) Until the 1930s, most homes involved lath-and-plaster walls and ceilings

(as mentioned in two cases in the Canon). Strips of one-inch-wide wood were nailed onto studs and then covered with about three coats of plaster. The practice declined after drywall became popular. (4)

These white walls gave the name to the compound in the thirteenth century. According to several accounts, King Henry III coined the name after visiting Paris in 1254 and importing the process to

England. (5) By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, most of the gypsum was mined in Montmartre, outside Paris, (6) but other deposits were found in East Sussex in England in 1873. (7)

Plaster of paris has the specific property of not shrinking or cracking when casting

molds—such as statues of Napoleon. Because of this feature, not only has it been used for decorative trim, but also for hand and foot castings. While casting babies' feet has been a common practice since ancient Egypt, (8) it wasn't until 1786 that a plaster cast of a footprint was used to solve a crime. A local constable noticed a boot print near the home of a murdered girl. He used a cast of the print to identify the culprit by



comparing it with the boots of those who attended her funeral. (9)

A shoe or footprint is a “plastic” print when it is left in mud, snow, or other substance retaining a three-dimensional track. Such prints can be traced to a particular individual because of several traits unique to each person. At its most basic, the print provides the size and make of a particular shoe, narrowing the number of possible suspects and eliminating others.

This preliminary characteristic is important enough for the FBI to maintain a database of sole patterns. To link a shoe print to a particular individual, the wear pattern is used. Each person has his/her own manner of walking (more weight on the heel, more on the ball, etc.) and wears out shoe soles differently. In addition, cuts or nicks on the sole will leave marks in the print. An investigator can compare the plaster cast to a



suspect’s shoe to determine if they match or not. (10)

Plaster is also mentioned in *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Valley of Fear*, “The Man with the Twisted Lip,” and “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter” in reference to a very different item. Plasters are also medicinal compounds applied to the skin (for example “mustard plaster”). (11) In 1880, a pharmacist spread a rubber-like substance over gauze to cover the skin and hold a salve in place and termed it “Guttaplaste.” (12) Sticking plaster soon entered the market and appears in the Canon as an

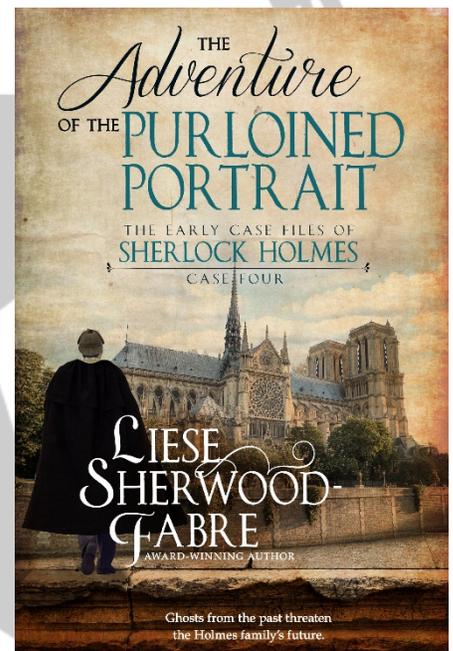
adhesive tape used to cover cuts, as well as to disfigure Neville St. Clair’s and Paul Kratides’ face and cover Kratides’ mouth to keep him from talking.

Whether distorting a person’s features or forming a cast of Napoleon or a suspect’s footprint, plaster has quite an “impressive” history.

- 1) <https://cementanswers.com/who-invented-plaster-of-paris/>
- 2) <https://www.britannica.com/technology/plaster-of-paris>
- 3) <https://ourpastimes.com/plaster-of-paris-history-13401651.html>
- 4) <https://www.thespruce.com/plaster-and-lath-came-before-drywall-1822861>
- 5) <https://history.physio/plaster-of-paris/>
- 6) <https://peternewburysblog.wordpress.com/2012/10/14/why-gypsum-was-mined-at-montmartre/>
- 7) <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2010/jun/17/south-downs-gypsum-mining>
- 8) <https://www.handprints.in/single-post/2017/11/06/history-of-hand-and-foot-impressions>
- 9) <http://www.iowaia.org/about/forensics/footwear/>
- 10) D.P. Lyle *Forensics for Dummies*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2019.
- 11) <https://www.etymonline.com/word/plaster>
- 12) <http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/beiersdorf-ag-history/>

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Liese Sherwood-Fabre is proud to share the cover of case four in “The Early Case Files of Sherlock Holmes.” “The Adventure of the Purloined Portrait” will be available shortly for pre-order and will be released in 2022. You can learn more about this series and other books at [www.liesesherwoodfabre.com](http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com). Signing up for her newsletter will ensure you keep up with all the latest news about her books and appearances.



## THREE QUESTIONS FOR LIESE-SHERWOOD FABRE

Thanks so much to Karen Murdock for alerting us to this article.

An excerpt from a piece by Drucilla Shultz in "Publishers Weekly" 25 October under the headline "Three Questions for Liese Sherwood-Fabre":

Putting well-known characters in new situations can give a classic new life," Liese Sherwood-Fabre says. She should know: "entertaining" and "enticing" are just some of the ways Publishers Weekly has described her Early Case Files of Sherlock Holmes series. BookLife spoke with Sherwood-Fabre about expanding on the adventures of one of the world's most well-known literary figures.

1) What sparked your interest in Sherlock Holmes?

While I cannot pinpoint when I first met Sherlock Holmes, I do recall watching the old black-and-white Basil Rathbone movies after school. A lot of cartoon characters over the years have also sported a deerstalker hat and carried a magnifying glass investigating something. My first clear memory of reading a story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was "The Captain of the Polestar" in one of my public school classes.

As a mystery fan from an early age, I read all the Nancy Drew and Trixie Belden books I could get my hands on. I was always drawn to the Sherlock Holmes character because of his application of scientific methods to solve problems. He was kind of a nerd, and I could relate to that more than to popular Nancy and Trixie.

My interest in writing about a young Sherlock Holmes came one day while on the treadmill. I wondered about how the man learned to be the world's greatest consulting detective.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

provided little in the way of this character's history or family. Both Sherlock and Mycroft had exceptional intellectual abilities, but someone had to nurture these traits. [. . . ] To give it a twist, I chose his mother to be the major influence in his life. During the Victorian period, a woman with a mind as keen as her sons' wouldn't have had the opportunities afforded the boys. [. . . ]



2) How does the writing process change when you're using another author's creations?

Basing a work on another author's characters is, by definition, fan fiction. While the term is rather recent, dating back to the 1940s or 1950s, creating such tales is much older. [ . . . ]

In my mind, the term fan fiction implies that both the reader and writer have more than a casual interest in the character. In the case of Sherlock Holmes, he has a very old and well-organized fan base. Given Holmes's popularity, an author does not approach the subject lightly. Moving forward with such a project involves keeping true to the spirit of the original Holmes. The base and heart of Sherlock's popularity was—and is—his ability to apply logic and science to solving mysteries, and this must be preserved, along

with some of his well-known eccentricities. Because my work explores his early development, I do have a little more freedom. I began the series in his early adolescence, when his deductive skills are not as refined and he is still discovering himself. The goal, of course, is to bring him into his full form by the end.

3) What advice would you give to someone who wants to continue another author's work?

A writer who considers continuing another author's work must respect the original work and character. This approach includes reading the original works to understand the characters' personalities and traits as well as the original writer's voice. Research into the time and setting lends further authenticity to the work.

# HANDS UP !!

Karen Murdock, ASH – Fall, 2012

Published in *The Serpentine Muse* -- Volume 28, number 4 (Fall 2012)

In a Saga which stretches over 60 stories and 40 years, some plot elements inevitably repeat themselves. The secret chamber in a house, the thuggish foreign secret societies, the jilted lover who wants to get even, the stolen secret government documents: all these plot elements, and more, are repeated in the Saga. Sherlockian scholars have long noted such repeated plot elements. In *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, Vincent Starrett wrote of the stories in *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*:

*It is to be noted, however, how curiously many of Holmes's problems, in effect, repeat themselves, from first to last. It is almost as if, returning after his reputed death in Switzerland, he began the cycle over again—so much in common have A Scandal in Bohemia and The Norwood Builder; The Blue Carbuncle and The Six Napoleons; The Greek Interpreter and The Solitary Cyclist; The Naval Treaty and The Second Stain. [ . . . ] And, no doubt, it is merely further evidence in support of Holmes's own contention. "There is nothing new under the sun," he told Inspector Gregson, in A Study in Scarlet, adding significantly, "It has all been done before."*(1)

Less remarked on than the literary repetition are some physical gestures repeated throughout the Canon. One of these is fainting. Twenty-five characters keel over in a faint in the stories and another 22 come close to fainting but manage to hang onto consciousness.(2) Such a dramatic gesture occurs at moments of high drama. The author "used the act of fainting to represent acute

emotional stress and, of course, to heighten an already dramatic event."(3)

## Clenched hands

Emotional crises less drastic than those that result in fainting are sometimes expressed by a character's clenching his hands. When Sherlock Holmes tells Count Sylvius in MAZA that "Ikey has peached and the game is up," the Count responds physically.

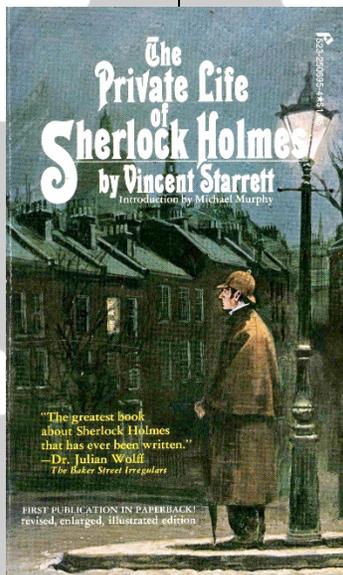
*The veins stood out on the Count's forehead. His dark, hairy hands were clenched in a convulsion of restrained emotion.*(4)

When in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Watson thinks that Sir Henry has fallen over a precipice and died of a broken neck, he blames Stapleton. "The brute! the brute!" I cried with clenched hands. "Oh, Holmes, I shall never forgive myself for having left him to his fate."(5)

Holmes clenches his hands in frustration after being turned out of the house of Holy Peters in LADY:

*Holmes's expression was an impassive as ever under the jeers of his antagonist, but his clenched hands betrayed his acute annoyance*(6)

In "His Last Bow," when Von Bork hears of the double-crossing of his man "Altamont," he "clutched at his own throat in despair."(7) (He might have raised his hands in a more dramatic gesture, but he is unable to do so since he is trussed up with "a strap round his upper arms and



another round his legs” and is lying supine upon his own sofa.)

In “The Devil’s Foot,” clenched hands nearly turn into fists for fighting when Holmes accuses Leon Sterndale of the killing of Mortimer Tregennis:

*Sterndale’s fierce face turned to a dusky red, his eyes glared, and the knotted passionate veins started out in his forehead, while he sprang forward with clenched hands towards my companion(8)*

Hand-clenching can be involuntary. In the “mind reading” segment at the beginning of both RESI and CARD, Watson falls into a “brown study” and, without really being aware of what he is doing, clenches his hands when he thinks of “the gallantry which was shown by both sides” in the American Civil War.(9)

### **Hands up!**

When the emotion is more powerful, characters in the Canon do more than clench their hands. They throw them up. Dr. Thorneycroft Huxtable does this to emphasize the importance he places on the case of the kidnapped nobleman’s son.

*“Important!” Our visitor threw up his hands. “Have you heard nothing of the abduction of the only son of the Duke of Holderness?”(10)*

Neville St. Clair in TWIS raises his hands in surprise at seeing his wife walking down Swandam Lane near his hideout at The Bar of Gold. “He waved his hands frantically to her, and then vanished from the window.”(11)

When the true story of the supposed vampirism of his wife is related to Big Bob Ferguson, he stands by her bed “his hands outstretched and quivering.”(12)

In “The Illustrious Client,” Colonel Damery reacts physically to Holmes’s characterization of Baron Gruner as “the Austrian murderer”:

*Colonel Damery threw up his kid-gloved hands with a laugh. “There is no getting past you, Mr. Holmes! Wonderful! So you have already sized him up as a murderer?”(13)*

After seeing the face of Eugenie Ronder, ravaged by the bite of a lion, “Holmes held up his hand in a gesture of pity and protest.”(14)

### **Clenching or clawing**

The most dramatic hand gesture in the Canon occurs when a character not only raises his hands in the air but also clenches them in fists or claws the air with them. There are three circumstances under which Canonical characters perform this gesture: trying to regain lost balance, gesturing before dying, and expressing overpowering emotions.

### **Lost balance**

Clawing the air in an attempt to regain lost balance only occurs once in the

Canon, but this is in a crucial climactic scene, the confrontation of Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty at the Reichenbach Falls. As Holmes relates the scene to Watson, “I slipped through his grip, and he with a horrible scream kicked madly for a few seconds, and clawed the air with both his hands. But for all his efforts he could not get his balance, and over he went.”(15)



## Dying gesture

That is the Professor's dying gesture. Several other Canonical characters, their balance more or less intact, claw or clutch the air as they are in the act of dying dramatically. In "The Speckled Band," Helen Stoner recounts the death of her twin sister Julia:

*"I saw my sister appear at the opening, her face blanched with terror, her hands groping for help, her whole figure swaying to and fro"(16)*

Two other dying gestures involve the raising of hands but not clutching or clawing with them. Inspector Stanley Hopkins tells Holmes of Susan Tarlton's account of the death of Willoughby Smith in "The Golden Pince-Nez":

*He [Willoughby Smith] tried desperately to say something else, and he held his right hand up in the air. Then he fell back dead.(17)*

Stung by an exotic jellyfish, Fitzroy McPherson in "The Lion's Mane" manages to stagger to the top of the cliff, where, at the feet of Harold Stackhurst and Sherlock Holmes "he threw up his hands and, with a terrible cry, fell upon his face." (18) It is his last gesture.

## Overpowering emotion

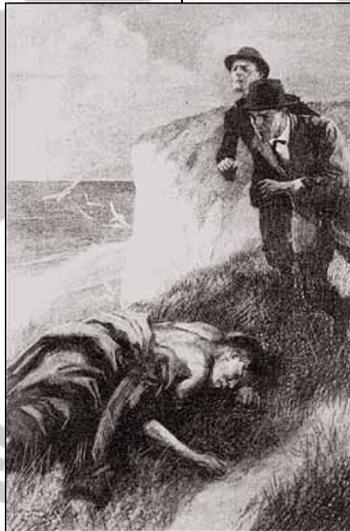
Finally, characters may shake clenched fists or claw in the air when they are overcome by strong emotion. The emotion is particular to the individual. In the case of Hall Pycroft in "The Stockbroker's Clerk" this emotion is chagrin. When he realizes how he has been duped, he shakes clenched hands in the air and cries "Good Lord!" (19)



Anger is another overpowering emotion. Henry Wood, after seeing Nancy Barclay for the first time in 30 years, recalls his anger at being betrayed by James Barclay and stands beneath a lamp-post "shaking his clenched fists in the air as if he were mad with rage" (20) Anger mixed with an overwhelming desire for revenge motivates Kitty Winter in

her feelings toward Baron Gruner in ILLU. She says to Holmes

*"If I can help to put him where he belongs, I'm yours to the rattle," said our visitor with fierce energy. There was an intensity of hatred in her white, set face and her blazing eyes such as woman seldom and man never can attain. "You needn't go into my past, Mr. Holmes. That's neither here nor there. But what I am Adelbert Gruner made me. If I could pull him down!" She clutched frantically with her hands into the air. "Oh, if I could only pull him into the pit where he has pushed so many!"(21)*



Frustration, mixed with a certain contempt for the official police, motivates Sherlock Holmes to "rave" with clenched hands in the air, twice, when told of the "[i]ncredible imbecility" of the police in their indifference to the danger which faces John Openshaw in "The Five Orange Pips." (22)

The Duke of Holderness experiences strong feelings of shame and guilt when Sherlock Holmes accuses him of complicity in the kidnapping of his son. The Duke's reaction is to claw with his hands in the air "like one who is sinking into an abyss" then to drop his "last attempt at self-command" and begin "pacing the room with a

convulsed face and with his clenched hands raving in the air.”(23)

It is hard to say what powerful emotions (anger? guilt? jealousy? disappointment?) move in the breast of Josiah Amberley in “The Retired Colourman” when he finds that Sherlock Holmes knows about the murder of his wife and her lover, but, like others in the Canon, he claws the air in the intensity of whatever emotions move him:

*The man sprang to his feet with a hoarse scream. He clawed into the air with his bony hands. His mouth was open, and for the instant he looked like*



*some horrible bird of prey. In a flash we got a glimpse of the real Josiah Amberley, a misshapen demon with a soul as distorted as his body.(24)*

Though not as common as fainting, raving with hands in the air is the perpendicular equivalent of fainting in the Saga. It is the outward physical manifestation of intense inner emotion. It may also serve to get

the blood moving to the brain, because none of the characters who “rave” go on subsequently to faint. “Hands up!” should be the command to all queasy Canonical characters who feel their grip on consciousness slipping from them.

- (1) Vincent Starrett, *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, revised and enlarged, University of Chicago Press, 1960, page 33. Originally published 1933.
- (2) see my article “Insensible Upon the Bearskin: Fainting in the Canon,” *The Serpentine Muse*, Volume 20, no. 3, Summer 2004.
- (3) Rodin, Alvin E. and Jack D. Key, *Medical Casebook of Doctor Arthur Conan Doyle: From Practitioner to Sherlock Holmes and Beyond*. Malabar, Florida: Robert E. Krieger Publishing Company Inc., 1984, page 228.
- (4) MAZA, Doubleday 1018
- (5) HOUN, Doubleday 744
- (6) LADY, Doubleday 952
- (7) LAST, Doubleday 979
- (8) DEVI, Doubleday 967
- (9) RESI, Doubleday 423-4 and CARD, Doubleday 888-889

- (10) PRIO, Doubleday 539
- (11) TWIS, Doubleday 234
- (12) SUSS, Doubleday 1044
- (13) ILLU, Doubleday 985
- (14) VEIL, Doubleday 1102
- (15) EMPT, Doubleday, 486
- (16) SPEC, Doubleday 262
- (17) GOLD, Doubleday 610
- (18) Doubleday 1084
- (19) STOC, Doubleday 372
- (20) CROO, Doubleday 418
- (21) ILLU, Doubleday 990
- (22) FIVE, Doubleday 223
- (23) PRIO, Doubleday 555
- (24) RETI, Doubleday 1119

**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.

# SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TRACING OF BIGFOOT PRINTS

Stu Shiffman, *Holmes-Watson Report*, March, 2003

Published in *The Serpentine Muse* -- Volume 28, number 4 (Fall 2012)

"It is a mistake to confound strangeness with mystery."(STUD)

Sam Stinson 's excellent short piece in the January 2003 issue of *The Holmes & Watson Report*, 'The Professor, Snowman, and the Dalai Lama,' gave us a flavorful mix of speculation involving the Hiatus, the Yeti, and Professor Presbury. His work tracing the origins of Presbury's simian serum is to be applauded. Yet there is more to be discovered here in the matter of Holmes and the great cryptozoological mystery of the Great Northwest, Bigfoot.

In my still unpublished and unfinished epic poem (or doggerel), "Ballad of Sourdough Sigerson and Slippery Jim Muirtagh" (*Unpublished? Look after this article for a change in the poems status. - The Editor*) and an earlier article ("Were Holmes & Watson at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle in 1909: A Speculation," which appeared in *The Shoso-in Bulletin*), I have speculated on the possible travels of the great detective to the North American Northwest in the 1890s and early part of the twentieth century.

So, would Holmes and Watson's natural curiosity be enough to bring them to the region? For Holmes to leave London would overexcite the city's criminal underworld. It seems that it must have been something more than curiosity that lured them to the farther reaches of North America, where reality is thin and strange things can happen. Visions of bizarre flying warships of the future?(1) Bigfoot sightings?(2)

Holmes's monograph upon "the tracing of footsteps, with some remarks upon the uses of plaster of Paris as a preserver of impresses" shows that he might be the perfect person to track Bigfoot.

My own theory is that Holmes and Watson came out for Seattle's Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909 (perhaps six years after the curious affair of Professor Presbury, the "Creeping Mali") at the invitation of Neville St. Clair and Dr. James Mortimer (and perhaps millionaire James J. Hill(3) of the Great Northern, whose rails rolled to Seattle and ships *Minnesota* and *Dakota* plied the Pacific). All the world loves a fair.

The local and national press was much in evidence for the opening of the Exposition, and I suspect it might have been covered by representatives of the Central 'Press Syndicate such as Horace Harker (SIXN). I

believe that Neville St. Clair(TWIS) and his lovely wife, after the public exposure of his clandestine life as "Hugh Boone," might have emigrated to British Columbia or Washington to make a new start at one of the Victoria or Vancouver area newspapers or the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

I believe that Dr. Mortimer, after his cruise with Sir Henry Baskerville at the conclusion of the events involving that notorious Hound, may have heard quite enough of Sir Henry's table talk about the wonders of Canada and decided to investigate the opportunities for a physician in this hemisphere rather than continue to rusticate in Dartmoor.



He and his wife might have found that British Columbia or Washington State suited them well. With his interest in natural history and ethnology,(4) Dr. Mortimer might have found much of interest in the fair's most popular feature, the "Pay Streak," the by-now traditional "fun zone" full of less highbrow amusements including the Ferris wheel, sideshow-like thrills, and a view of exotic dancers from Cairo. Thousands even paid to stare at native peoples from the Philippines, the Igorrotes, who lived through the entire fair in a replica of one of their villages. This repeated a popular feature of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis.(5)

Hill stated the imperial vision in his address: "If the star of empire in history has moved westward, it followed rather than led those bold spirits by which empire is made and upheld." Take up the "White Man's Burden," Kipling had written at the end of the Spanish-American War, when the U.S. had found itself holding a new colonial empire overseas. Hill's words seemed an endorsement.

We know that Holmes had been involved in cryptozoological investigation before, as in the case of the *Matilda Briggs*. a ship, explains Holmes, "associated with the giant rat of Sumatra, a story for which the world is not yet prepared."(SUSS) It is true that he is a rationalist, saying, "This agency stands flat-footed upon the ground, and there it must remain. The world is big enough for us. No ghosts need apply."(SUSS) The Bigfoot, however, may be more than a Ghost Who Walks,(6) but a very real creature or someone who wants to create the illusion of the existence of such a creature.

Whether it is known as Bigfoot, Sasquatch, Tsiatko, Bukwus or Dzonokwa (various names by which such creatures were known to the local tribes), sightings of a creature, real or imagined, persist to this day. The evidence of the classic Roger Patterson home movie may have been discredited, but something seems to be out there, at least in the public imagination, surviving *Gigantopithecus* or supernatural creature. As appearing in some tribal legends, "the most frequent form of Tsonoqua is that of a giantess, with a huge body and head, long pendulous breasts, upthrust hands and bushy unkempt hair. Her face has a heavy brow, an arched nose and sunken cheeks and eye sockets. Her

rounded lips are pursed to utter the cry, 'HU HU!' Tsonoqua is also described as sleepy, with half closed eyes. She is vain, stupid and clumsy, but at the same time is a horrid and threatening figure. On her back, Tsonoqua carries a basket in which she collects children, taking them home to eat."(7)

She sounds more like a classic European ogre than the somewhat sylvan hominid that some imagine.

Was this also a story for which the world is not yet prepared? The continued reports of sightings and encounters in British Columbia and the Yukon Territory must have been intriguing to Neville St. Clair's journalistic instincts. A curious story appeared in July 1884 in the *Daily Colonist* of Victoria, British Columbia, telling of the capture of a giant anthropoid ape creature. The creature was supposedly spotted by a train crew along the Fraser River near Yale, B.C.

The crew stopped the train to give chase and captured the animal after following it up a rocky hill. It was given the name "Jacko," housed in the local jail, and was "something of the gorilla(8) type, standing four feet seven inches in height and weighing 127 pounds. He has long black, strong hair and resembles a human being with one exception; his entire body, excepting his hands (or paws) and feet are covered with glossy hair about one inch long ... he possesses extraordinary strength, as he will take hold of a stick and break it by wrenching it or twisting it, which no man could break in the same way."

Some have suggested that this was a chimpanzee brought back and released by a traveling sailor. There is a whiff of the hoax about the whole thing, and yet ... The New Westminster, B.C., *Mainland Guardian* of 9 July 1884 mentioned the story and noted: "The 'What Is It' is the subject of conversation in town. How the story originated, and by whom, is hard for one to conjecture. Absurdity is written on the face of it. The fact of the matter is, that no such animal was caught, and how the *Colonist* was duped in such a manner, and by such a story, is strange." Later, in the first few years of the 1900s, a spate of new published eyewitness reports of Sasquatches in Canada grabbed attention throughout the Northwest.

Could St. Clair's current employer have hired Holmes to prove or disprove the existence of such creatures? I imagine a small expedition, perhaps only

Holmes, Watson and a tribal guide following a difficult trail into the Cascades. There is, after alls "no branch of detective science which is so important and so much neglected as the art of tracing footsteps." And there in the deep primeval forests, what might they find? When they have eliminated the impossible, what might be possible? As I have said, consensus reality is thin

beyond the edge of the civilized lands. There among the immense trees and the lurkers on the edge, they might find ... something.

Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic ape.

**Footnotes:**

- (1) See *The War in the Air* (1908) by H. G. Wells for warnings about the use of aircraft in warfare. Consider also *The Great Airship Mystery: A UFO of the 1890s* (Dodd, Mead 1981) by Daniel Cohen. In 1896 and 1897, thousands in the US reported seeing a "mysterious airship" overhead, though no such ship was possible at that time. Both the sightings and the reactions to them parallel what took place with the first reports of UFO encounter in Washington State after World War II. Media attention was present, and explanations proposed included hoaxes, a "mysterious inventor," and spaceships from other worlds. Both are interesting in regard to the establishment of the Boeing Company in Seattle a generation later and its place at the forefront of military aviation and secret "black" projects.
- (2) During the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898-1899, miners claimed to encounter a sinister glacial demon which bears a marked resemblance to the Abominable Snowman as depicted in the tabloids." From "Unknown Hominids and New World Legends" by Bacil F. Kirtley, *Western Folklore*, Vol. XXIII, No. 2, April 1964.
- (3) Not to necessarily endorse the canonical nature of the works of Larry Millett, enjoyable though they are.
- (4) Mortimer in HOUN describes himself as a "mere dabbler. ... a picker up of shells on the shores of the great unknown ocean." Yet he is obviously interested in the practice of anthropometry: "You interest me very much, Mr. Holmes. I had hardly expected so dolichocephalic a skull or such well-marked supra-orbital development. Would you have any objection to my running my finger along your parietal fissure? A cast of your skull, sir, until the original is available, would be an ornament to any anthropological museum. It is not my intention to be fulsome, but I confess that I covet your skull." Mr. Frankland is rumored to initiate prosecution of Dr. Mortimer for "opening a grave without the consent of the next of kin because he dug up the neolithic skull in the barrow on Long Down." Mortimer also showed himself interested in the sometimes dubious work of M. Bertillion. I am sure that he would have been fascinated to measure the skull of Professor Presbury after his sustained serum use. Might there have been physical change as well as behavioral? How he would be gratified to find a relic of a missing link in the forests of the Northwest, some relative of the then-unknown *australopithecines* or *Gigantopithecus blacki*!
- (5) Robert W. Rydell, *All the Worlds a Fair: Visions of Empire at American International Expositions. 1876-1916*, (University of Chicago Press, 1984). Rydell says that these *people* were carted from show to show, almost as a freak act, to help demonstrate the racial primitiveness of the Philippine population and superiority of the Anglo-Americans.
- (6) A very different sort of Phantom.
- (7) Karen Duffeck, "History and Development," website of the Kwagiutl Collection ([www.benativeindianart.com/history.htm](http://www.benativeindianart.com/history.htm)).
- (8) Loren Coleman, co-author of *The Field Guide to Bigfoot, Yeti, and Other Mystery Primates Worldwide*, points out that "in North America, at the end of the 19th century, the use of 'gorilla' in article references (as I detailed in a *Fortean Times* column in 1997) is directly related to the media attention about gorillas whipped up by Du Chaillu's sensationalistic travels in Africa and his book that came out in 1861. Vernon Reynolds (*The Apes*, 1967; p. 137) writes: 'After (Du Chaillu's) trip, which lasted from 1856 to 1859, Du Chaillu returned to the United States, where he received widespread acclaim.' In 1863, another famous gorilla/travel book was published, written by American explorer Winwood Reade, after he spent five months in gorilla country. Nineteenth-century articles about 'strange creatures' - whether real or imagined - often thus labeled them as 'gorillas.'" You may recall that Holmes mentioned Winwood Reade in SIGN.

# HERLOCK SHOLMES - The Sham Huns !

Charles Hamilton (Peter Todd), March 04, 1916, *The Greyfriars Herald*

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

## Chapter 1

During the latter part of 1915 a series of remarkable disappearances had attracted a great deal of public attention. It was natural that, after Scotland Yard had realised its helplessness in the matter, the assistance of my amazing friend, Herlock Sholmes, should be called in.

Sholmes, took up the case willingly enough. There were, as he explained to me, many points of quite unusual interest in it. On my return one morning from the funeral of an old friend and patient, I found him busily engaged with the papers relating to the case.

"Quite a remarkable case, Jotson," he said, looking up. "Needless to say, the police can make nothing of it. We must see if we can help them out a little — eh, Jotson? During the past few weeks, my dear fellow, two hundred persons have mysteriously disappeared from London. Strangest of all, the disappearances are continuing, so it is evident that the same mysterious agency is still at work."

"Extraordinary, Sholmes!"

He nodded, and blew out two large clouds of smoke from his pipe.

"A very extraordinary case, Jotson. Look over these papers, my dear fellow,

and tell me your opinion. You have studied my methods."

"I will do my best, Sholmes."

I perused the pages eagerly. I should have been very willing to show that I had achieved some measure of success in my study of his amazing methods. I looked up at last with some degree of confidence.

"Foul play," I said.

"And by whom, Jotson?"

"The Germans."

"Such, I believe, is the police theory," said Sholmes, with a smile. "I do not deal in theories, but in facts, unfortunately. However, let us see upon what you base this theory, Jotson?"

I was somewhat nettled by his bantering tone, and I replied a little warmly:

"In each case some sign of German intervention has been discovered. Each of the men who have disappeared was in poor circumstances. Some of them had suffered losses and hardships. Yet, when their lodgings were searched by the police after their amazing disappearance, in most cases a German grammar was discovered. In many cases a German dictionary also came to light. Why should they have purchased these

expensive volumes themselves, with their straitened means?"

"Ah! Why?" said Sholmes.

"Moreover, in many cases written sheets of German exercises were found, showing that the unfortunate victims had been studying the German language."

"True."

"In some cases neighbours have given that the victims were heard making guttural and animal-like sounds, evident proof that they were endeavouring to learn to speak in German."

"Quite correct."

"I deduce, therefore, Sholmes, that the German agency in the matter is clearly proved. For some reason, which I do not pretend to fathom, German agents supplied these unfortunate men with grammars and dictionaries. Their disappearance followed. In some cases it is possible — I speak as a medical man — that apoplexy may have supervened as a result of speaking too recklessly in German, and the unfortunate victims may have fallen and expired by the wayside. This, however, I admit, would hardly account for two hundred cases."



"Probably not, Jotson. There is no reason why a man of ordinary physical fitness, and with a well-developed larynx, should not speak German for many years, and, indeed, live to a good old age."

"I admit it, Sholmes. For the disappearances I cannot account, but the German agency in the matter appears to me proved beyond the shadow of doubt. Otherwise, why the German grammars, dictionaries, and exercises?"

I was considerably nettled to see Sholmes burst into a hearty laugh.

"My dear Jotson," he said, "you should really apply for a position in the official police."

"You do not, then, agree with my deductions, Sholmes?"

"I fear that I cannot, my dear fellow. You have overlooked the most important point in the case."

"And that?"

"That the victims were in very poor circumstances."

"I do not see how that affects the case."

"Naturally, Yet it is obvious. Allow me to draw your attention to this paragraph in the daily paper, Jotson."

I glanced at the paragraph. It had not, so far as I could see, anything whatever to do with the matter in hand. It gave a description of a concentration camp in which aliens were interned as follows:

"The fitting up of the Jollyboys Hall for interned Germans is now completed.

There was some dissatisfaction expressed at first, owing to the lack of marble baths, but this has now been supplied. A seven-course dinner is now provided, the former dinner of five courses having caused discontent. Some ill-natured critics of the administration have found fault with the circumstance that guns and game-licences are supplied to the interned aliens, but we are assured that without these concessions their comfort would not have been complete. We are happy to say that now their only dread is that the war may come to an end, and that they may be sent back to their own country."

I looked at Sholmes in amazement.

"In Heaven's name, Sholmes, what connection has this paragraph, relating to internment camps, with the disappearance of two hundred inhabitants of London in poor circumstances?"

Sholmes did not reply. He yawned, and rose to his feet, and drew his dressing-gown about him. He knocked out the ashes from his pipe absently on the back of my head.

"Would you care for a little run to-day, Jotson?"

"Certainly, my dear Sholmes! But where?"

"To find the two hundred men in poor circumstances who have disappeared," he replied, with a twinkle in his eyes.

"My dear Sholmes——"

"Come!" he said.

We descended to the street. I was lost in amazement. I could not fathom what mysterious clue Herlock Sholmes had

discovered, yet it was certain that he was not directed by chance. His deductions were always dictated by a cold, clear logic, and the unravelling of a mystery placed in his hands was a mathematical certainty.

We stepped into a taxi, and sped away through Shaker Street.

Herlock Sholmes sat silent. I asked no questions. For the directions he had given to the driver completed my amazement. It was:

"Jollyboys Hall!"

## Chapter 2

Herlock Sholmes did not speak during our journey to Jollyboys Hall. He was examining with care a number of photographs, evidently those of the missing men whose strange disappearance had so startled and mystified the authorities. To a brain like Sholmes; it was nothing to remember every trait in two hundred photographs.

We arrived at Jollyboys Hall.

It was a handsome building, surrounded by sumptuous gardens. The soft strains of a band proceeded from the lofty dining-hall, where the interned aliens were sitting down to the first of the usual seven courses. From the deep woods came occasionally the crack of a gun, showing that the shooting-parties had not yet left all the coverts. The whole scene told of a luxurious comfort that spoke well for the sportsmanlike qualities of the British people, who, in the midst of a great war, could provide for their enemies regardless of expense.

"A happy scene!" said Herlock Sholmes, as we entered the dining-hall. "But I fear, Jotson, that our visit will cast a shadow upon the general bliss."

"But why, Sholmes?"

"I fear, Jotson, that there are some here who are not entitled to share in these luxuries. Duty is sometimes painful, but duty must be done."

Most of the diners glanced at us as we came in. Most of them seemed very contented, though a few were complaining of the soup, which, it appeared, was not a real turtle. The waiters apologised humbly, and assured them that mock-turtle should never be served again at Jollyboys Hall. Sholmes stopped beside one of the diners, who seemed to shrink from his eye, and spoke to him in German:

"Hack, hock!" said Sholmes quietly. "Donnerblitzen sauerkraut. Gug-gug-gooch. Grooh-grooh-grooh!" Sholmes speaks German like a native. "Bub-bub—hack—shack—gerrrrrrgh!"

"Das der dem, ja wohl!" stammered the man. Sholmes smiled.

"I am afraid your German will not pass muster, William Jones," he said. "Leave this establishment at once, and return to your home. You are sharing in a splendour that was never intended for such as you."

I stood rooted to the floor.

Sholmes was busy for an hour or more, and at the end of that time two hundred

downcast wretches had been turned from the gates of Jollyboys Hall. Then Sholmes touched me lightly on the arm.

"Come, Jotson!"

We returned to the taxi. As we drove away the merry strains of the band followed us, and hundreds of guttural German voices merrily raised in singing the "Hymn of Hate."

### Chapter 3

Sholmes did not speak till we were in our sitting-room at Shaker Street once more, and he had written out his report for the authorities. Then he consented to explain. I was, as usual, on tenterhooks.

"You are surprised, Jotson?"

"I am astounded, Sholmes. You have discovered the hundreds of men in poor circumstances who were missing——"

"Every one, Jotson."

"At Jollyboys Hall?"

"Exactly!" "But how — why — what clue?"

Sholmes laughed.

"The clue was obvious, Jotson. Did I not observe that the most important point in the case was that the missing men were in poor circumstances? That, added to the fact that it was clear that they have been learning German, supplied all the evidence I needed. My dear Jotson, put yourself in their place.

As Britishers they might have perished of starvation, but once they had succeeded in passing themselves off as German aliens, they were assured of every comfort and care.

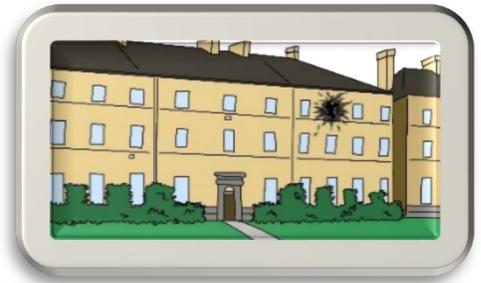
"I do not defend their conduct, Jotson, but it was a strong temptation. The idea undoubtedly originated with the first man who disappeared — naturally, without leaving a trace behind him, for had the imposition been discovered, he would have been cast out of the lap of luxury, back into the sordid penury of his ordinary existence. But finding himself a happy dweller in the splendours of Jollyboys Hall, every want provided, every wish anticipated, doubtless he decided to let his friends into such a good thing, and they, in turn, communicated the good news to their friends, so that the number of disappearances increased week by week.

"Had I not been called in, Jotson, the number of pretended German aliens might have run into millions in the long run, and the accommodation of the internment camps strained to breaking point; indeed, it might even have been necessary to cut down the luxuries supplied to the genuine Germans, which would have caused our great State a very real grief. The scheme, however, has been nipped in the bud, owing to my intervention; and the public may rest assured that in future the splendours of Jollyboys Hall will be wholly preserved for genuine Germans."

**THE END**

# Baker Street Elementary

Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason

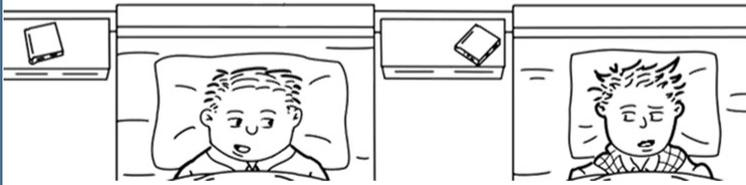


Baker Street Elementary  
Number 368 – 11/14/2021

Fay, Mason & Mason

DID YOU EVER  
WONDER HOW OLD  
YOUR PARENTS  
REALLY ARE ?

OLDER THAN DIRT, I  
WOULD GUESS...



THE FIRST ADVENTURES OF HOLMES AND WATSON

I ASKED MY MOTHER  
TO HELP ME WITH  
THE ESSAY WE HAVE  
TO WRITE ON 'THE  
WAR OF THE  
ROSES'...



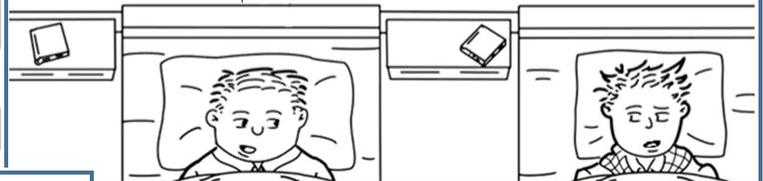
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**SHE SUGGESTED A TRIP TO THE LIBRARY WOULD PROBABLY GET ME ALL THE INFORMATION I NEEDED...**



**I REPLIED THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THAT TRIP, WHEN SHE COULD JUST GIVE ME A FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT...**

**GOOD WAY GETTING OUT OF EATING SUPPER THAT NIGHT... NEVER DISCUSS AGE WITH YOUR MOTHER...**



**I HAVE FIGURED OUT ONE TRUISM... WHEN YOUR PARENTS TELL YOU TO ACT YOUR AGE, WHAT THEY REALLY MEAN IS, ACT LIKE SOMEBODY A LOT OLDER THAN YOU ARE, LIKE AN ADULT...**

