

"HOW IT ALL STARTED"

"I stopped in some confusion" [REIG]

For those who have followed the evolution of Sherlockian scholarship or — "writings about the writings" — is that since its early days, one of the elements of playing the Game has been to acknowledge that Watson was the true author of the stories and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was his "literary agent."

This relegation of Conan Doyle to the role of literary agent irked some — in particular, his two living sons in the 1940s: Denis and Adrian (or "Adrenaline," as Edgar W. Smith called this short-tempered scion).

Both wanted to see Sir Arthur recognized for the genius of his creation. (No doubt they also wanted to see some of that sweet royalty money for the estate, but that's a story for another time.)

But doesn't our assignment of Watson as the author acknowledge the true genius of Conan Doyle?

continued

His ability as a storyteller was so skilled that in some cases, contemporary readers couldn't discern fact from fiction.

And more than a century later, we honor his skill with a tongue-in-cheek continuation of that tradition of confusion.

If we're to believe the origin story of that arrangement, Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle got the better part of the bargain, given that he reaped the financial reward and avoided all of the physical danger of accompanying Sherlock Holmes.

Let's see how it all began at Baker Street Elementary...

*IGNATIUS, THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER HAS INDICATED THEY
NO LONGER WANT TO RECEIVE THE SAME ARTICLE ON
HOLMES' MOST RECENT EXPLOIT FROM BOTH OF US.*

*JOHN, I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW THAT
MAY BE A LITTLE CONFUSING. I
PROPOSE A VERY SIMPLE SOLUTION.*



YOU WILL CONTINUE ACCOMPANYING HOLMES' DURING HIS ADVENTURES... YOU WILL THEN COMPILE WHAT TOOK PLACE IN YOUR NOTES... I WILL TAKE YOUR NOTES AND WHATEVER ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU MAY MAKE AND COMPOSE AND SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO THE NEWSPAPER.



THAT SOUNDS GOOD TO ME... JUST ONE QUESTION...
WHOSE NAME WILL BE ON THE BYLINE OF THE ARTICLE?

SINCE I AM SUBMITTING THE
ARTICLE, THE NEWSPAPER WILL BE
POSTING IT UNDER MY NAME.



I WILL WRITE EACH ARTICLE IN THE 1ST PERSON,
SO THAT IT DOES APPEAR YOU ACTUALLY WROTE
IT... I MAY THROW A CURVE AND WRITE A FEW IN
3RD PERSON, JUST TO CONFUSE THE READERS.



I CAN LIVE WITH THIS GOING FORWARD... IT WILL MAKE BOTH OF OUR LIVES MUCH SIMPLER... HOPEFULLY HOLMES' CRITICISM IN THE FUTURE ON HOW THE ARTICLES ARE SUPERFICIAL AND PANDERING TO POPULAR TASTE WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARD YOU.

THIS IS HOW THE GAME GETS PLAYED BEST.

