

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 10, No. 02 - February, 2022
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star - founded April, 1970*



PLEASE NOTE: **March 06, Meeting** NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on March 06 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 Final Problem".

Our Special Guest Speaker will be **Tim Johnson, BSI**, who will discuss the University of Minnesota and the importance of preserving collections.

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

We will cover topic 18, which is the last one, on "The Legacy of Arthur Conan Doyle," by **Barbara Rusch, BSI, ASH, MBt**.

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

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Who dunnit:



Third Mate
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Spiritual Advisors

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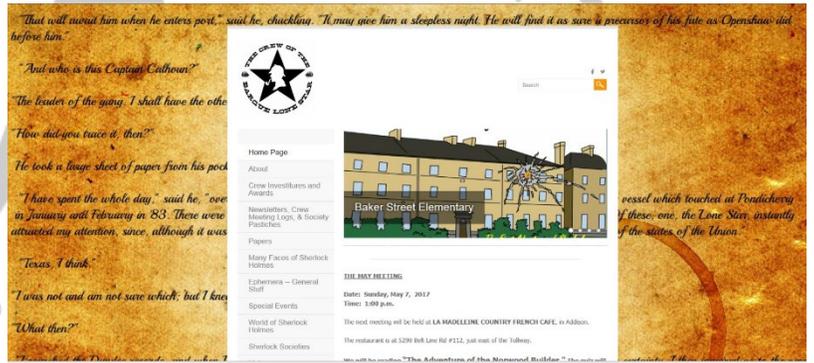
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<https://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar/>

FEBRUARY 06 SUMMARY

Cindy Brown

There were 69 in attendance at this ZOOM meeting.

The scion meeting was opened by **Cindy Brown** with a toast to "The British Navy and Armed Forces Men and Women all over the World" (see page 5).

Next, we had our first quiz on the story, "The Adventure of the Naval Treat". **Russell Merritt, BSI, ASH**, took first prize this month.

The League on Zoom will have its first conference on February 20, 2022. Some outstanding speakers have already agreed to participate. Go to www.sherlocklegionofzoom.org for information and registration.

The next toast was then given by **Nancy Holder, BSI**, on "The Texas Navy" (see page 7).

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

Our guest presenter for this month was **Brad Keefauver, BSI, ASH**, who gave a wonderfully whimsical and thought-provoking presentation on Sherlockian Chronologies. As always, Brad kept people involved and entertained.

We then had the lightning quiz, naming the actors who have portrayed Watson in various movies. **Monica Schmidt, BSI, ASH** took home first place.

Our Doyle presenter for the month was **Ann Caddell**, who gave us a well-researched discussion on the Estate of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Ann took a very complex, and many times confusing, issue and made sense of it.

Rich Krisciunas then closed the meeting with his poem written and dedicated to the Crew of the Barque Lone Star.

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

THE BRITISH NAVY

Cindy Brown

Ahoy. Ahoy is the most versatile pirate word used in movies and books. But it is also used by Sailors to call to other ships, greet each other, warn of danger, or say goodbye.

*"When Britain first, at Heaven's command
Arose from out the azure main;
This was the charter of the land,
And guardian angels sang this strain:
"Rule, Britannia! rule the waves:
"Britons never will be slaves."*

No wonder Percy Phelps was ill and nearly out of his mind with grief and fear when he realized the Naval Treaty Plans had been stolen while in his possession.

For it could mean the ruin of not only himself, but possibly, **no probably**, his beloved Britain, and maybe even throw the world into war. Who among us would want to carry that kind of responsibility, no matter what the payment of his position at the Foreign Office?

In the 18th and 19th centuries, Britain rose to a position in which it controlled the world's oceans. As a result, the history of the Royal Navy is important not just to modern Britain, but to the world. The political, linguistic, cultural and social complexion of the world today owes a huge amount to the activities of the Royal Navy from the 16th century onwards.

A rainy, irrelevant, resource-poor island in the North Atlantic, the British Isles, managed to impose

across vast swathes of humanity thanks to its navy, which could enforce Britain's will on every continent.

It used to be believed that British success was racial or a product simply of an aggressive spirit. But it wasn't. It was because the British paid for more ships and more guns than anyone else.



By the early 18th century, the British people had come to believe passionately that the best defense of their lives, liberty and religion, and the surest way of making money, lay at sea. From the king to the lowest peasant there was a bedrock of support for the navy that never wavered.

Money was made available to maintain ships, dry-docks, ports and foundries – modern government finance being created in the process. Other European navies came and went, as the enthusiasm of one monarch or chief minister was replaced by the skepticism of the next, but in Britain, the Royal Navy was always at the very heart of public life.

In the British Royal Navy, the officers' noon mess typically began with the loyal toast, followed by a toast distinctive for the day of the week:

- Monday: Our ships at sea.
- Tuesday: Our sailors.
- Wednesday: Ourselves. ("As no-one else is likely to concern themselves with our welfare")
- Thursday: They toasted to: A bloody war or a sickly season (meaning the desire and likelihood of being promoted when many people die: during war or sickness).
- Friday: Was to a willing foe and sea room.
- Saturday: They toasted to: "Our wives and sweethearts", with the retort of "may they never meet").



- Sunday: To Absent friends.

While **this toast** is generally meant to be to the great British Navy of the Victorian era, I can't help but include all our men and women in the military, who sacrifice and risk so much on a daily basis.

Please raise your glass and join me in a toast to men and women who protect our nation, as did the Victorian era Navy so many years ago.

TO THE TEXAS NAVY

Nancy Holder, BSI

As has long been known to the contemporary Crew members and passengers of the Barque Lone Star, the original vessel called the Lone Star was not lost at sea in 1887, as Dr. Watson implied in "The Five Orange Pips."



Rather, it has been established that the brave crew of Finns and Germans mutinied and put Captain Calhoun and the two mates, murderers of two generations of Openshaws, out to sea in a lifeboat and sailed on to the shores of Texas. There they sought refuge and blended into the landscape, though certainly none would have laid blame at their feet for their actions. It has been the duty of the Third Mate to locate their descendants and reassemble the Crew, and here we are as a society today.

In honor of the original crew's gallantry, the Texas House of Representatives of the 66th Legislature, passed Texas House Resolution #69, which states:

"RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 66th Legislature:

That the Barque Lone Star be listed as a ship-of-the-line of the Texas Navy, and that its ship's company be commissioned into the Navy of the Republic of Texas."

This historic event occurred on May 4, 1979.

But what is this Texas Navy into which we have been commissioned?

I have plagiarized the following from Wikipedia for the edification of us all:

The Texas Navy, officially the Navy of the Republic of Texas, also known as the Second Texas Navy, was the naval warfare branch of the Texas Military Forces during the Republic of Texas.

It descended from the Texian Navy, which was established in November 1835 to fight for independence from the Centralist Republic of Mexico in the Texas Revolution.

The Texas Navy, Texas Army, and Texas Militia were officially established on September 5, 1836 in Article II of the Constitution of the Republic of Texas.



Battles at sea allowed the Texas Navy to protect Texan sea lanes, allowing for supply of the Texas land-war effort, while hindering and denying sea-borne logistic support to the invading Mexican forces.

The Texas Navy and Texas Army were merged with the United States Armed Forces on February 19, 1846 after the Republic of Texas became the 28th state of the United States.

While it is true that the glory years of the Texas Navy occurred before the Lone Star



landed on the shores of the Lone Star State, we should all agree that our commission is an honor the crew of the *Barque Lone Star* justly deserve.

And also that if called upon, we will perform our duties as the crew of a valorous ship-of-the-line, undertaking to

honor the legacy we have been privileged to inherit.

And so let us raise our glasses one and all--to "The Crew of the *Barque Lone Star*", and to the Texas Navy!



**The Crew of the
Barque Lone Star
Society is producing
our 6th book as part of
our 51st Anniversary**



For 2022, we will be putting a together entitled *The Canon: The Rest of the Story*

Members may submit an essay or pastiche which “continues” or “fills in the blanks” of one of the 60 stories. In other words, what happened after Watson stopped writing, or were items to the story that Watson accidentally or deliberately left out.

- **Your pastiche / essay should be 3,000-5,000 words. Obviously, a shorter piece is fine.**
- **Your pastiche / essay will be edited by one or two editors, but only for grammar, typos, etc... we will not edit the content of your piece.**
- **This project is not limited to those members in the DFW area. Any member is welcome to submit a piece.**
- **We plan to finalize the compilation by the end of the calendar year, so we ask members to submit their entry by August 31.**
- **As in previous years, all submitters will receive a complimentary copy of the book as our thanks.**



THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY

Robert E. Robinson, *The Holmes-Watson Report*, March, 2004

Mr. Marlow Bates (THOR), manager of the estate of Mr. J. Neil Gibson, described his employer's wife as " ... a creature of the tropics, a Brazilian by birth ... tropical by birth and tropical by nature. A child of the sun and of passion."

Mr. Gibson himself remarked that" . . . she was rare and wonderful in her beauty. It was a very deep rich nature, too, passionate, whole-hearted, tropical, ill-balanced, very different from the American women whom I had known ... "

The *Gold King* had met her at the place of her birth, Manaus, Brazil, which was at that time but a native settlement 1,000 miles up the Amazon River, and far removed from any civilized place.

When told this, Sherlock Holmes made no effort to inquire further as to what sort of person would have been reared in such a remote region.

This reaction was in stark contrast to that which he had displayed when he learned of Jonathan Small's tenure in the Andaman Islands (SIGN), on which occasion he was not satisfied until he had thoroughly researched that part of the world and its inhabitants.

Why no interest in Manaus and its natives?



I considered eleven distinct possible explanations for this untypical lack of curiosity - and I shall not insult the intelligence of the reader by listing each one of these - before I came to the obvious conclusion that Holmes already was familiar with Manaus, for the very simple reason that he had been

there himself.

Such a visit could have taken place only during the so-called *Great Hiatus* following Holmes's apparent death at Reichenbach.

Otherwise, Watson would have known of it. Why should Holmes have chosen to travel 1,000 miles up the Amazon?



In the midst of that remote settlement stood the Manaus Opera House - one of the most celebrated in the world.

That magnificent edifice was patterned closely after the Paris Opera, and indeed had been designed and fabricated piece-by-piece in Europe before being shipped to Brazil to be assembled.

Since all of the great operatic voices in the world at one time or another sang at Manaus, Holmes's favorite contralto must have been among them.

In short, the Master made the journey so as to hear Irene Adler sing.

One would hardly expect that this Brazilian city at the confluence of the Rio Negro and the Amazon River could boast of such a splendid showplace, and, in fact, at the time when Neil Gibson first met his bride-to-be, Manaus could not have so boasted.

Then it was but a jungle settlement populated by folks who might be called savages today, were it politically correct to use such a term .

The remarkable transformation in Manaus was the direct result of an accidental event in the basement of a hardware store in New Haven, Connecticut.

Charles Goodyear, the son of the proprietor, somehow spilled grains of sulfur and particles of Brazilian gum rubber on the hot surface of a stove.

After the resulting mass had cooled sufficiently to allow for its removal, it amazingly peeled off as one flexible sheet which was considerably improved in strength, stability, and elasticity over the native rubber.

Goodyear's further experiments led to the development of vulcanized rubber as we know it today.

Unfortunately, details of his findings became widely known before he got around to obtaining any patents. Although a great industry arose, Charles Goodyear himself spent much of the rest of his life wallowing in debt, and he finally died a famous but poverty-stricken man.



This great discovery, as little as it benefited its inventor, performed miracles for the economy of Manaus, which was at that time the only source of the raw latex necessary to feed the sudden giant demand for vulcanized rubber.

What had been a native settlement became overnight a major industrial center. Soon the place was swarming with wealthy Europeans, and the Opera House was constructed.

Unfortunately, this bubble burst as abruptly as it formed. A mysterious stranger crammed the belly of a live alligator with seeds of the rubber tree and transported the beast to Malaysia.

Germination of these seeds gave rise to a network of Asian rubber plantations which soon drove Manaus out of the business. Brazil was left with a city now approaching one million in population, whose inhabitants were no longer equipped to survive in the jungle.

The city and the central government of Brazil have not to this day recovered from the economic loss resulting from this devastating theft.

I traveled to Manaus and there managed to locate an ancient woman who told of the recollections recited by her dying grandfather many years before. She was able to speak only in her native tongue, which had to be translated by a street interpreter into Portuguese, a language in which I have little proficiency.

Still, after much colloquy, it became clear that the old gent had indeed spoken of an Englishman who had appeared in the city one day and convinced the people that he and he alone had infringed upon

Goodyear's invention and thus was responsible for Manaus's overnight prosperity.

He became an instant hero, but did not hang around for long to bask in his glory. The grandfather recalled that the stranger took a boat up the Rio Negro and returned in the company of a very large alligator.

The next day the man and his singular pet did indeed sail off down the Amazon.

Neither was ever seen again, but the rubber business was soon lost to Malaysia. This miscreant had not revealed his name, but the grandfather remembered him as being remarkably tall and gaunt, and with a face that *protruded forward and constantly oscillated from side to side in a curiously reptilian fashion*.

Can there be any mystery as to the identity of such a villain? None whatsoever. The criminal clearly was none other than Professor James Moriarty, who obviously had survived Reichenbach only to practice his evil ways in Manaus.

Although the Master's purpose in the area was only that of listening to opera, he most certainly would have been drawn into the matter of the rubber seed theft, and could not have had any trouble in determining the identity of its perpetrator.

You can tell an old master by the sweep of his brush. Holmes took off in pursuit of the pair.

It could not be too difficult to follow the spoor of a tall, oscillating-headed Englishman whose only traveling companion was a huge alligator, but by



the time Holmes arrived in Malaysia, the pirated seeds already were planted and germinating.

He was highly shaken by this ignominious defeat at the hands of his bitterest enemy, and off he crept to Lhasa, where, as he later reported to Watson (EMPT), he received spiritual regeneration administered by the high lama himself.

At length, much refreshed, he returned to Europe and took up his study of chemistry in Paris.

Having determined that Moriarty was responsible for the pirating of the rubber business from Brazil, I took it upon myself to investigate the perhaps idle boast that the evil professor had been responsible for the theft of Goodyear's rubber technology.

A friend of mine, who in his youth had studied law at some university or other in New Haven, remembered that long before his time the brothers of his fraternity were able to earn spending money by assisting Goodyear in his laboratory work.

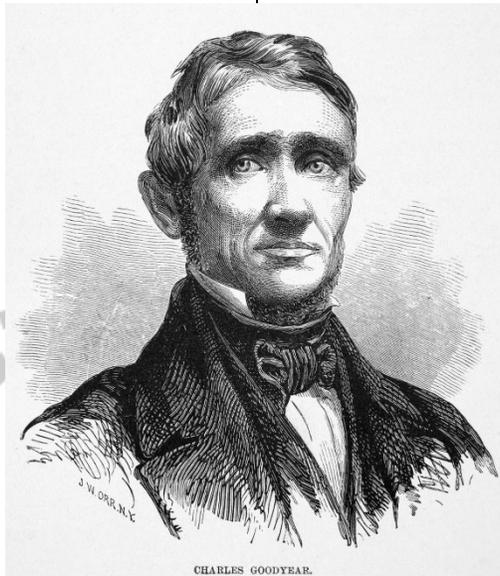
Among the relics still buried within the house in which my friend had dwelt, I actually located a mold-encrusted journal kept by one such fraternity member. Unfortunately, the fellow's records were inscribed in Greek, since he had belonged to a Greek fraternity.

Worse yet, he hadn't printed his notes but had carelessly scrawled them out in a cursive hand. My printed Greek is even worse than my spoken Portuguese, and my cursive Greek is by far the worst of all.

Nonetheless, I finally was able to discern that on a particular afternoon Goodyear had indeed received an odd visitor who had displayed much interest in the inventor's work.

The next day, many of the most vital technical records were missing.

The stranger was never seen again, but the cursive Greek manuscript clearly described him as a very tall and gaunt man, *with a face that protruded forward and was constantly oscillating from side to side in a curiously reptilian fashion.*



Everything was now crystal clear! The theft of the technology from Goodyear and of the seeds from Manaus both were manifestations of an even larger and more insidious scheme conceived and executed by the most evil genius of them all!

By stealing both from Goodyear and from the citizens of Manaus, the insidious professor had wrested total control over the vast vulcanized rubber

industry from all of those to whom it rightfully belonged.

The master criminal of the century had perpetrated the crime of the century.



THAT VOODOO YOU DO SO WELL

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD, Lone Star Deck-Mate

In “The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge,” Sherlock, Watson, and Inspector Baynes found some rather odd items in a house’s kitchen: a human figure with a shell belt, a dead white cock, a pail of blood, and charred bones. Based on these findings, Baynes arrested Garcia’s cook for his employer’s murder to lure the actual perpetrator from hiding.

Holmes explained the cook’s objects were related to an animal sacrifice made to appease the gods before attempting an important activity. While Holmes indicated he had researched the practice at the British Museum, the description had little to do with true voodoo rituals and more about misinformation commonly reported in the 1800s.

The origins of vodou—the currently preferred spelling—are traced back to Haiti, (1) although it incorporates much of vodun, a West African religion practiced by about 30 million people. (2)

In addition to a supreme being, Bondye, other spirits (lwa or loa) have dominion over various parts of life, and depending on the worshiper’s needs, offerings are made to the spirit controlling that aspect—such as a farmer would focus on the spirit of agriculture, or one desiring love to another spirit.

When those from West Africa were brought to Haiti, Brazil, Cuba, and Louisiana as slaves, they incorporated aspects of this religion into Roman Catholicism when their owners “converted” them. Over time, many of the spirits became associated with Christian saints. (3)

Offerings to these spirits can include animal sacrifice, a practice appearing in many religions including Islam and Hinduism. When such sacrifices are made in vodou, the animal is then cooked and shared among members, primarily the poor. (4)

Current practices are moving away from such sacrifices although they may still occur in more rural areas. A high priestess in New Orleans, a vegan, has reported no problem completing her rituals without such traditions. (5)

Similarly, the use of fetishes has been misrepresented. Talismans used for medicine or spiritual power can be found in West African markets and may include statues or dolls representing gods and dried animal parts. (6)

The elaborately crafted images provide a personal connection to the spirits and have no purpose related to harming or controlling another person. (7)

Perhaps the most misunderstood aspect of vodou religion is spiritual possession. While some religions view such practice as evil, vodou practitioners seek such an experience.

The belief is that a soul can leave a body during possession, with a spirit replacing it and creating a sort of religious frenzy. Such control is different from zombies who lack

their soul and can be controlled by bokors by magical means and have no resemblance to the human-eating monsters in current films. (8)

The origin of such distorted views of vodou practices can be traced back to Victorian publications providing second-hand accounts of such activities.

While the actual events have been obscured by time, a trial in Haiti in 1864 condemned eight men and women to death for the murder and cannibalism of a young girl. European papers carried the story, and Sir Spenser St. John repeated the trial’s particulars in his commentary of his time as the British Consul-General in Haiti. (9)

Another Briton, James Froude, reported incidents of serpent worship and animal and child sacrifice a priest



shared with him in 1888. (10) William Newell, however, suggested these accounts were “myths,” comparing the description—and even the name—to practices of a European sect in the fifteenth century. (11)



repeating the misconceptions prevalent in Victorian England and perpetuated today in Hollywood.

The facts regarding the cook’s activities cleared him of any involvement in the murder, just as understanding vodou’s true beliefs and customs would strip the practice of its maligned mystique.

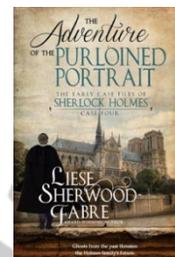
While Holmes recognized the items the cook left in the kitchen as part of a vodou ritual, he depended on Eckermann’s treatise to provide the meaning and practice behind them,

- 1) <https://www.livescience.com/40803-voodoo-facts.html>
- 2) <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1666721>
- 3) <https://www.livescience.com/40803-voodoo-facts.html>
- 4) <https://slate.com/culture/2013/11/anthony-karen-a-photographers-look-inside-a-haitian-voodoo-ritual-photos.html>
- 5) <https://www.vice.com/en/article/gvmnwb/the-vegan-vodou-high-priestess-of-new-orleans-isnt-interested-in-animal-sacrifice>
- 6) <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1666721>
- 7) <https://macaulay.cuny.edu/seminars/lutton07/articles/v/o/d/Vodou.html>
- 8) <https://www.livescience.com/40803-voodoo-facts.html>
- 9) <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-trial-that-gave-vodou-a-bad-name-83801276/>
- 10) James Anthony Froude, *The English in the West Indies*, London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1888, page 303.
- 11) William Newell, “Myths of Voodoo Worship and Child Sacrifice in Hayti,” *The Journal of American Folklore*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1888, pages 16-30.

Liese Sherwood-Fabre is pleased to announce that Case Four of The Early Case Files of Sherlock Holmes is now available for pre-order from these booksellers, here:

<https://books2read.com/u/mZZjzD>.

In *The Adventure of the Purloined Portrait*, the Holmes family travels to Paris where ghosts from Violette’s past threaten the family’s future.



LIME TREES IN THE LAND OF THE LIMEYS

Karen Murdock, ASH – 2009

Originally Published in *The Norwegian Explorers Christmas Annual 2009*

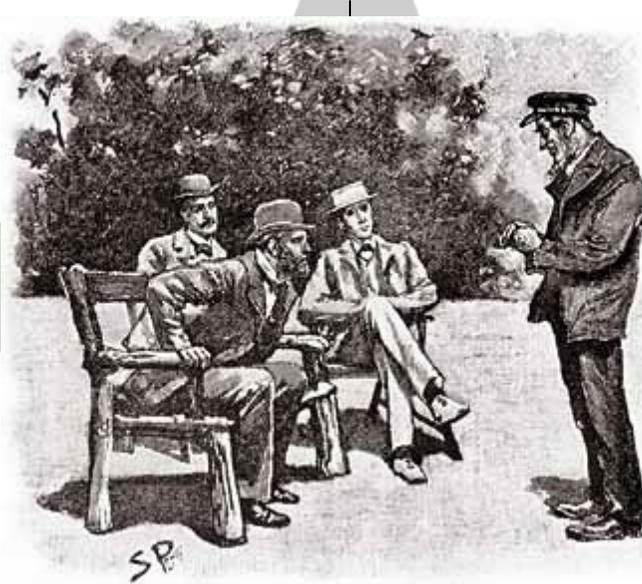
In “The Gloria Scott” Sherlock Holmes tells Watson about a visit he made to the Norfolk home of his college friend Victor Trevor:

Donnithorpe is a little hamlet just to the north of Langmere, in the country of the Broads. The house was an old-fashioned, wide-spread, oak-beamed brick building, with a fine lime-lined avenue leading up to it.

What are the “limes” that line the avenue to the Trevor house? It is hard to find out. American annotators William Baring-Gould and Les Klinger did not footnote the phrase “lime-lined avenue” in their editions of the Canon and the Englishman Christopher Roden, who edited the *Memoirs for The Oxford Sherlock Holmes*, did not think that such a common English tree needed any explanation. Steve Clarkson did not count “lime” among the trees he listed in his analysis of GLOR in his *Canonical Compendium* (Calabash Press, 1999). S. Tupper Bigelow, Kelvin Jones, and Orlando Park do not mention lime trees in their Sherlockian reference works(1).

The result of this neglect of Trevor Senior’s lime trees is that generations of non-English Sherlockians, reading about the “lime-lined avenue,” have probably thought either that the road was outlined in green stripes or that the Norfolk Broads of East Anglia enjoy a remarkably equitable climate—similar to southern Florida—permitting Trevor Senior to cultivate citrus fruits on his estate.

The actual explanation for the “lime-lined avenue” is simpler than this. What the English call a “lime” tree is what Americans call a “linden” or “basswood.” Linden (genus *Tilia*) is a common shade tree of the northern deciduous forest, in both Europe and North America. *Tilia* trees are far hardier than those of the genus *Citrus*. Citrus



trees (the fruits of which include limes, oranges, mandarin oranges, lemons, grapefruits, clementines, kumquats, pomelo, and tangerines) only grow in tropical and semi-tropical regions. The *Oxford English Dictionary* traces the use of “lime” for linden as far back as a John Dryden poem from 1697(2).

This usage has not, apparently, crossed the Atlantic Ocean. Americans are aware of some

differences between their language and that of the Mother Country and can recognize that their “apartment” is an English “flat,” their elevator a “lift,” and the “hood” of their cars an English “bonnet.” However, Americans do not generally know that the tree they call a “linden” or “basswood” (the most common American species of which is *Tilia americana*) would be known to the average English person as a “lime.”

I sent an email to Christopher Roden in British Columbia(3) asking him if he had considered footnoting the “lime-lined avenue” in GLOR back when he was editing the *Memoirs* for Oxford in 1993. He replied:

No, I can’t say that I even gave it consideration. The term Lime Tree is common in England. Linden tree is less common—where I hailed from, anyway. And if you said Basswood in England, I’d wager you’d be looked at open-mouthed. And

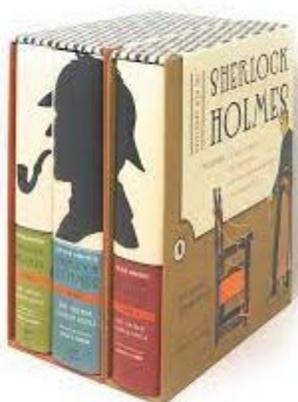
any self-respecting Brit wouldn't even give a second thought to trying to grow citrus fruit there. Not outside of a conservatory.

(Parenthetically, citrus grown under glass in conservatories was a popular architectural and botanical feature of wealthy estates in England from the 17th through the 19th centuries. These were called "orangeries" and certainly could have included lime trees as well as oranges(4).)

I also sent an email to Les Klinger in southern California, asking him if he had considered footnoting the "lime-lined avenue" for *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes* or *The Sherlock Holmes Reference Library*(5). He replied:

After looking over my notes, I must say that I never gave the nature of the lime tree a moment's thought (no more than I gave a moment's thought to a dozen other varieties of trees mentioned in the Canon). Inasmuch as the nature of the shrubbery had absolutely no bearing on the story, I admit that the species of tree did not seem worthy of a footnote, any more than did the nature of the moss mentioned in EMPT, DEVI, or numerous other stories.

Fair enough, but I am still worried that many readers are assuming *Citrus* when Conan Doyle intended *Tilia*. *Tilia* is a splendid shade tree, with some species growing to a height of 10–30 meters (30–100 feet). Some 45 species of *Tilia* are found in the northern temperate forest zone in both Europe and North America. The tree grows wild and is also extensively cultivated in parks and similar places. According to Allaby's *Dictionary of Plant Sciences*, the dominant *Tilia* species in English forests in pre-Neolithic times was *T. cordata*, but these trees "have become much scarcer as a result of human activities. The hybrid *T. x europea* (a natural hybrid between *T. cordata* and *T. platyphyllos*) is much planted in parks and avenues in Europe"(6). Perhaps it was these hardy hybrids, or perhaps the common British linden, *Tilia vulgaris*, that Holmes saw as he approached the Trevor house.



According to the online "Searching for Sherlock" concordance(7) the letters "l-i-m-e" occur in that order 23 times in the Canon. However, almost all of these occurrences come in the words "complimentary" or "compliments"(8). One of the deductions Holmes makes about Henry Baker from his hat in BLUE is that he "has grizzled hair which he has had cut within the last few days, and which he anoints with lime-cream"(9). Van Seddar, who plans to smuggle the Mazarin Stone over the Channel to Amsterdam, lives on Lime Street in London(10). However, the only lime trees mentioned in the Canon are along this lime-lined avenue in GLOR.

Various trees and shrubbery are common in the Canon; Clarkson categorizes most of them under the heading "Plant Life" in *The Canonical Compendium*. Canonical houses named after vegetation (the vegetation surrounding or common near the house, presumably) include The Copper Beeches and Wisteria Lodge (in the tales of those titles), The Myrtles (from which an informative letter arrives in GREE) and The Cedars, home of the St. Clair family near Lee in Kent in "The Man With the Twisted Lip."

Aside from the lime-lined avenue to the Trevor home, other vegetation-lined entrance roads in the Canon occur in the estate owned by the Cunninghams in REIG (to which Holmes and Watson walk "up an oak-lined avenue to the fine old Queen Anne House," the approach to Wisteria Lodge (Scott Eccles says the entrance road to this mysterious house is lined with "high evergreen shrubs" but the more observant and botanically scrupulous Watson says they are chestnut trees), and the avenue approaching Abbey Grange, which "ran through a noble park, between lines of ancient elms." A "quaint village street with a row of pollarded elms on each side of it" stretches between Birlstone station and the manor house in VALL. Baron Gruner's house in ILLU is approached by a "long winding drive, with banks of rare shrubs on either side" (so rare that Watson cannot identify them, although, in all fairness, he is driving down this road in the dark). But only the Trevor estate has a "lime-lined avenue."

The sort of “lime” tree that produces small green acid fruits, useful for squeezing into one’s gin-and-tonic, is *Citrus aurantifolia*. These trees, growing only 2.4 to 4.6 meters (8–15 feet) tall, would be dwarfed by the *Tilia* sort of lime, if the two trees grew in the same forest. They do not. The *Citrus* sort of lime trees, which are native to Southeast Asia(12), grow in tropical and semi-tropical regions such as Spain, southern China, Mexico, South Africa, Australia and the southern U.S. states of Florida, Texas, and California.

Englishmen got the nickname “limey” not because the *Citrus* sort of lime tree grows there but because during the 19th century British sailors on long sea voyages were issued a daily allowance of citrus such as lime juice in order to ward off scurvy, a disease which results from a deficiency of vitamin C in the diet. James Lind (1716-1794) is credited with identifying citrus as an effective cure in his 1753 book *A Treatise on the Scurvy*. Physician to the fleet Sir Gilbert Blane (1749-1834) recommended the use of lemon juice to the Royal Navy in 1793, with the result that scurvy was virtually eradicated from the fleet within a few years.



By the mid-19th century, British plantations in the West Indies, especially Jamaica(13), were producing barrels of lime juice to supply the Royal Navy. This led to British ships being nicknamed “lime juicers” and the sailors who manned them “limeys,” a term eventually applied to all Britons(14).

Incidentally, the flowers of a number of *Tilia* species are utilized in herbal medicine. These flowers are said to have a tranquillizing effect, and are therefore supposed to be useful in dealing with anxiety and with cardiovascular problems such as high blood pressure(15). It is a pity that Trevor Senior did not know about this. When he received the coded letter revealing that “Hudson has told all,” he “clapped both his hands to his head and began running round the room in little circles, like a

man who has been driven out of his senses.” He dropped to the floor, unconscious, and was dead within a day. If only he had run out to his lime-lined avenue instead of all around his sitting room, he could perhaps have picked some flowers from the lime/linden/basswood trees growing there and have soothed his jangled nerves with a nice hot healing cup of *Tilia* tea.

- 1) S. Tupper Bigelow, *An Irregular Anglo-American Glossary of More or Less Unfamiliar Words, Terms and Phrases in the Sherlock Holmes Saga*, 2nd ed., Shelburne, Ontario, The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, 1998, Kelvin I. Jones, *A Sherlock Holmes Dictionary*, New York, Magico Magazine, 1988, Orlando Park, *The Sherlock Holmes Encyclopedia*, Northwestern University Press, 1962. Jack Tracy does give further information on the lime (or linden), which he defines as “a common European ornamental tree. The drive leading to Trevor Senior’s house was lime-lined (GLOR),” *The Encyclopedia Sherlockiana*, Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, 1977. Donald Jewell mentions the lime-lined avenue in GLOR and says that lime “is another name for the European or common linden. It is a large shade tree with a dense pyramidal growth” (“The Botanical Holmes,” *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*, Volume 19, no. 2, Summer 1989).
- 2) Those who know of Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772—1834) only through the surreal dream imagery and tiddly-pom tiddly-pom meter of “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” will be pleasantly surprised to encounter the Lake District serenity and sure-handed iambic pentameter of the poet’s “This Lime-Tree Bower My Prison.” This poem, which arrives at a sense of harmony between the external world and the internal mind, includes such lovely nature-loving lines as

A delight

*Comes sudden on my heart, and I am glad
As I myself were there! Nor in this bower,
This little lime-tree bower, have I not marked
Much that has soothed me. Pale beneath the blaze
Hung the transparent foliage; and I watched
Some broad and sunny leaf, and loved to see
The shadow of the leaf and stem above
Dappling its sunshine! And that walnut-tree
Was richly tinged, and a deep radiance lay
Full on the ancient ivy, which usurps
Those fronting elms, and now, with blackest mass
Makes their dark branches gleam a lighter hue
Through the late twilight*

- 3) Christopher Roden and his wife Barbara, both BSI Sherlockians, live in Ashcroft, British Columbia and publish Ash Tree Press (for supernatural fiction) and Calabash Press (a Sherlockian imprint). Website <http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/ashtreecurrent.html>. Email: ashtree@ash-tree.bc.ca
- 4) See <http://www.oakconservatories.co.uk/orangeries.htm> for a history of orangeries in Britain.
- 5) Les Klinger is a BSI Sherlockian who edited *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes* (2004 and 2006) for Norton (<http://www.annotatedsherlockholmes.com/sherlock/>) and The Sherlock Holmes Reference Library for Wessex Press (<http://www.wessexpress.com/html/shrl.html>). Email: mail@lesliesklinger.com
- 6) Michael Allaby, *A Dictionary of Plant Sciences*. Oxford University Press, 2006.
- 7) The "Searching for Sherlock" concordance to the Canon can be found online at [http://mrmoon.com/moonfind/holmes/index.mv?\[RHomePage\]](http://mrmoon.com/moonfind/holmes/index.mv?[RHomePage]).
- 8) There are also some *limestone* boulders in PRIO and one mention of slime in HOUN.
- 9) In *A Sherlock Holmes Dictionary* (New York, Magico Magazine, 1988), Kelvin I. Jones defined "lime-cream" as "A hair-cream popular among Victorian men which was scented with the flower of the common lime tree, a tropical citrus tree bearing a small, nearly globular fruit and with an acid pulp." I think the "common lime tree" used in the hair tonic was probably *Tilia* and not *Citrus*. *Tilia* produces fragrant yellowish flowers, much prized by beekeepers because bees produce excellent honey from the flowers of the lime/linden. *The Oxford English Dictionary* gives an 1888 citation for "lime flower oil" as "a colourless or yellowish volatile oil obtained by distillation from the flowers of *Tilia europaea* and other species."
- 10) Doubleday 1020. Lime Street can be found running between Leadenhall and Fenchurch Streets about a quarter mile southeast of the Bank of England and half a mile northwest of the Tower of London. According to *A Dictionary of London*, the name of this street has to do not with lime trees but with the "lime" made from limestone, which is used for such purposes as tanning and spreading on fields to neutralize acid soil. The earliest mention of Lime Street is "Limstrate" in the 12th century (Henry A. Harben, *A Dictionary of London*, London, Herbert Jenkins, 1918. Harben cites W. Stow, *Remarks on London*, etc., 1722).
- 11) "lime" *World Encyclopedia*. Philip's, 2008.
- 12) Allaby, *A Dictionary of Plant Sciences*.
- 13) S. O. Waife, "1753: Lind, Lemons and Limeys," *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Volume 1, no. 6 (Sept.-Oct. 1953), pp. 471-3. See also Stephen R. Bown, *Scurvy: How a surgeon, a mariner, and a gentleman solved the greatest medical mystery of the age of sail*. New York, Thomas Dunne Books, St. Martin's Press, 2004 and N. A. M. Rodger, *The Wooden World: An Anatomy of the Georgian Navy* (London: Collins, 1986).
- 14) For a detailed study of the discovery of citrus as a scurvy preventative see David I. Harvie, *Limeys: The True Story of One Man's War against Ignorance, the Establishment, and the Deadly Scurvy*. Phoenix Mill, U.K.: Sutton Publishing, 2002.
- 15) J. G. Vaughan and P. A. Judd, *The Oxford Book of Health Foods*. Oxford University Press, 2009.

HERLOCK SHOLMES - The Kaiser's Code

Charles Hamilton (Peter Todd), March 11, 1916, *The Greyfriars Herald*

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

Chapter 1

I have often referred to the fact that my amazing friend, Herlock Sholmes, has frequently placed his marvellous talents at the service of the police. Inspector Pinkeye, of Scotland Yard, has reason to be grateful to him, notably in the famous case of the Pawned Pickle-Jar. It is much to be regretted that Sholmes has never been given full credit for his inestimable services. Indeed, it is painful to relate that, upon more than one occasion the authorities have preferred their own facts to Sholmes' theories. Such an instance occurred in the case of the Kaiser's Code.

I am perfectly well aware that Inspector Pinkeye does not believe in the Kaiser's Code. Needless to say, I take Sholmes' view of the matter.

After my amazing experiences with him at Shaker Street I am not likely to lose faith in the judgment of my astounding friend. Herlock Sholmes was smoking a pipe and several cigarettes one morning after breakfast in our room at Shaker Street, when Inspector Pinkeye was shown in. Sholmes gave him a friendly nod.

"What is it this time, Pinkeye?" he asked. "Help yourself to the

cocaine, my dear fellow. You can speak quite freely before my friend Dr. Jotson."

"A very curious case, Mr. Sholmes," said the inspector. "Of course, we are quite capable of dealing with it ourselves——"

Herlock Sholmes smiled ironically.

"But I admit that I should like to have your opinion," said the inspector. "Kindly look at that postcard."

He laid a postcard on the table, and Sholmes glanced at it carelessly. I followed his glance, and could not repress a start of surprise.

For this is what was written on the card:

"Kt. to K 2.
W. J."

I could see that Sholmes was interested, for he allowed several of his cigarettes to go out.

"And now this," said the inspector, producing another card.

It contained the following:

"P takes R. Ch.
W. J."

Herlock Sholmes' eyes glistened.

He turned over the cards, and found that both of them were addressed to "George Wopps, Esq., Forest View, Sluggs' Road, Peckham."

"Well," said the inspector, "what do you make of that, Mr. Sholmes?"

Herlock Sholmes yawned.

"Nothing; excepting that these cards were posted by a man about six feet high, with a sandy moustache and a cast in the left eye, dressed in a brown ulster, and wearing a fancy waistcoat," he replied.

The inspector started.

"How did you discover that, Mr. Sholmes?"

"My dear Pinkeye," drawled Sholmes, "your methods are not mine, and it would be useless for me to explain. Let us get to business. What is it you wish me to do?"

"For some time past, Mr. Wopps, of Peckham, has been receiving these mysterious communications, and it has come under the notice of my



department," explained the inspector. "Evidently it is a secret code. At least, it appears as such."

"It is such," said Sholmes calmly.

"I am glad you agree with me, Mr. Sholmes," said the inspector, evidently relieved. "In war time one cannot be too careful. The efficiency of the German spy system is well known, and if we had the time, we should certainly keep a watch upon the Germans now living in England."

"What steps have you taken, inspector?"

"I have made enquiries concerning this man Wopps. He is a retired grocer, and lives a very quiet life, chiefly amusing his leisure time in playing chess."

"Probably a blind."

"Possibly," assented the inspector.

"I said probably!"

"I do not dispute your judgment, Mr. Sholmes. The house has been watched, and all visitors carefully scrutinised. Nothing of a suspicious character has been observed; but, remembering your methods, Mr. Sholmes, I have come to the conclusion that that fact alone is very significant."

"Extremely so," said Sholmes drily. "How did you obtain possession of the cards?"

"They were discovered in the sanitary dustbin by one of my men."

"That is remarkable," I ventured to observe. "It looks as if Mr. Wopps attaches little importance to them."

Herlock Sholmes smiled.

"My dear Jotson," he said, "how often have I told you that the obvious is necessarily incorrect? If Mr. Wopps appears to attach no importance to these postcards, that is a direct proof that he attaches the greatest importance to them."

"I stand corrected, Sholmes," I said meekly.

And indeed I could not help being astounded at this fresh proof of the perspicacity of my amazing friend.

"You want me to decipher this, I presume," said Sholmes carelessly.

"Exactly," said the inspector. "once the cipher is read, we have evidence in our hands, and can proceed to action. But I fear that even you, Sholmes, may fail."

Sholmes made a gesture, and the inspector was silent.

My friend's eye were fixed upon the mysterious cipher. We watched him anxiously—the inspector with doubt, myself with perfect confidence. I felt, however deep the mystery, Sholmes would not fail. I was right.

Herlock Sholmes looked up at last.

"The first card reads 'Kt. to K 2,'" he said calmly. "K evidently stands for Kaiser."

The inspector drew a deep breath.

"And the 2?" he asked.

"You are probably aware that the present Kaiser is William II."

"True. But the 'Kt.'"

"Evidently an abbreviation of 'Kraut,'" explained Sholmes. "You may know that Germans subsist largely upon a dish known as sauer-kraut. Deciphered, the message means simply this: 'Sauer-kraut to Kaiser William II' Evidently it refers to some attempt to baffle the British blockade of Germany, and hints that sauer-kraut is the article of which they are most in need."

"By Jove!" said the inspector. "And the second card, Mr. Sholmes?"

"P takes R. Ch." said Sholmes musingly. "It is perfectly clear. Prussia takes risks — meaning that the Kaiser takes the risk of the shipment being seized by the British Fleet, so that no loss will fall upon the traitor who is trading with the enemy."

"And the 'ch'?"

"'Ch' are the second two letters of the German word 'schnell.' Schnell means quick. It means that there is no time to be lost."

"Thank you, Mr. Sholmes." The inspector rose to his feet. "With this evidence in our hands, we can obtain a search-warrant. Good-morning."

"I advise you to search the house, and secure the incriminating evidence which is undoubtedly there," said Sholmes. "Let me know your success on the telephone."

"Certainly." The inspector hurried away.

Chapter 2

Buzzzzz!

It was about two hours later that the telephone bell rang. Sholmes took up one receiver, and I the other. Sholmes was looking somewhat elated. Only his powerful brain could have penetrated the secret of the Kaiser's secret code, and he knew it. The glory of the capture of the man who was trading with the enemy would fall to Inspector Pinkeye, but for that my friend cared little.

"Is that 'Mr. Sholmes?'" came the inspector's voice over the wires.

"Yes, inspector. Have you been to Mr. Wopps'?"

"I am 'phoning from there," replied the inspector.

"You have made the arrest?"

"Nunno."

"Then what has happened?"

"Mr. Wopps has explained the matter satisfactorily."

Sholmes gave a somewhat bitter smile.

"Oh, the police!" he murmured.

"It is quite all right, Mr. Sholmes," went on the inspector's voice. "Mr. Wopps is a chess player."

"That is a blind, my dear fellow."

"Not at all. He is in the habit of playing chess by correspondence with a friend at a distance, named William Jones. Mr. Jones' initials are signed on the cards, you will remember."

"And what is Mr. Wopps' valuable explanation of the cipher?" asked Herlock Sholmes, with a smile of sarcasm.

"On the first card, 'Kt. to K2' stands for 'Knight to King's second square.' It was Mr. Jones' move in the game then under progress."

"Egregious!" murmured Sholmes. "And the second card?"

"'P takes R — ch,'" said the inspector. "That stands for 'Pawn takes Rook — check!'"

"My dear Sholmes," I ventured to remark, "the explanation is most plausible."

Sholmes smiled.

"The fact that the explanation is plausible, Jotson, is convincing proof that there is nothing in it."

"Most true!"

"And you are satisfied, inspector?" asked Sholmes.

"Quite."

Herlock Sholmes laughed.

"Then if you are satisfied, inspector, I have no more to say. Good-bye!"

Sholmes rang off.

"What will you do in the matter now, Sholmes?" I asked.

"Nothing!" said Sholmes firmly.

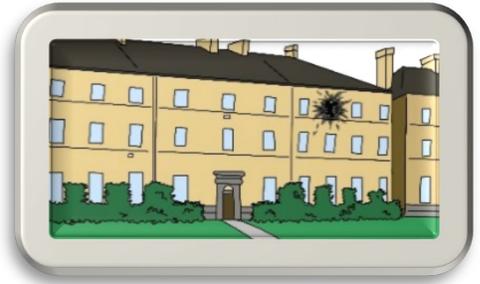
"Unless the authorities call me in, I shall make no move in the matter at all. Importation of sauer-kraut into Germany is undoubtedly going on, on a large scale, but I cannot move in the matter. Doubtless the inspector will realise his egregious mistake, and return later to ask my aid. I shall not refuse it."

It is with deep regret that I record that Inspector Pinkeye did not return to ask for further aid in the matter. Whether he realised his egregious blunder, even, I am unable to state. So far as my knowledge extends, no further step has been taken in the case of the Kaiser's Code. The fault is not Sholmes'.

THE END

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Fay, Mason & Mason

...COULDN'T PUT HUMPTY
TOGETHER AGAIN



THE FIRST ADVENTURES OF HOLMES AND WATSON

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MA'AM... I DO HAVE
ONE QUESTION ON
OUR LESSON
TODAY...

YOUR QUESTIONS
ARE VERY SIMILAR
TO ARGUMENTS...



COULD HUMPTY SUE THE KING'S MEN FOR MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ?

CAN'T CRY OVER SPILLED EGGS...



OR POSSIBLY GET A JUDGEMENT AGAINST THE KINGDOM FOR BUILDING A DEFECTIVE WALL ?

I WONDER HOW BIG AN OMLETTE HUMPTY MADE ?



AND YOU TWO WONDER WHY I STICK TO MATH AND SCIENCES... ?

SEEMS WE WERE LEFT WITH A RHYME, BUT NO REASON...

