

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 11, No. 03 - March, 2023

*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star - founded November, 1970*



PLEASE NOTE: **April 02, 2023 Meeting** NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on **April 02** at 1:00 pm central. I will send out the link for the meeting the week before the meeting. The story for the month is "**The Adventure of the Three Students**".

Bob Katz, BSI, ASH, will lead the discussion on the story of "**The Adventure of the Three Students**".

Rich Krisciunas, ASH, will look at the legal aspects of the story.

Joe Fay will provide a summary of one of the "writings on the writings".

Tom Brydges, will be our featured guest speaker, who will be speaking on "The Curious Incidence of the Telephone in the Canon".

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

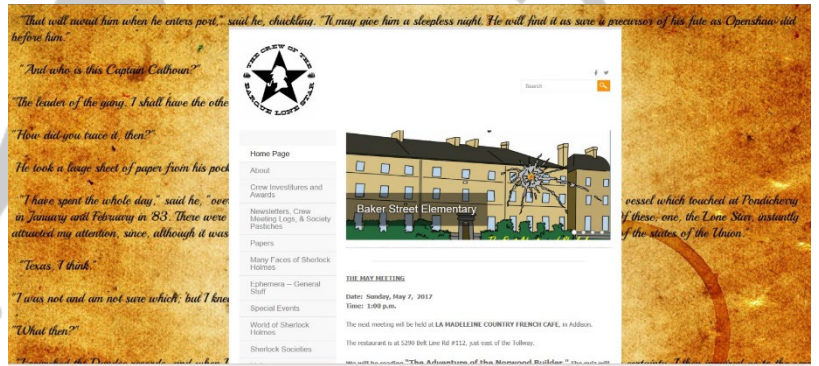
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You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>

<p>Who dunnit:</p> 	<p>Third Mate Helmsman Spiritual Advisors</p> <p>Secretary Historian Webmaster</p>	<p>Steve Mason, BSI Walter Pieper Don Hobbs, BSI Dr. Jim Webb, BSI Cindy Brown Pam Mason Rusty Mason</p>	<p>mason.steve8080@gmail.com waltpieper@att.net 221b@verizon.net jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com myrkrid08@yahoo.com</p>
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Our Website:

www.dfw-sherlock.org



Our Facebook Page:

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

MARCH 05 SUMMARY

Cindy Brown

There were 75 in attendance at this ZOOM meeting.

Ann Caddell opened the meeting with a toast to "The Relationship Between Holmes and the Scotland Yard Detectives." (See page 4 for Ann's toast, as well as page 5 for the toast given last month by **Rudy Altergott** on "Friendship.")

We then proceeded to the quiz on today's story, "The Adventure of The Six Napoleons".

Cindy Brown then did a very stirring tribute, "Stand With Me on the Terrace", to our deck mate and friend, Russell Merritt.

Next our own **Bob Katz, BSI, ASH** lead a discussion of the story for the month.

Sandy Kozinn, ASH then did a limerick of "The Six Napoleons" (see page 5).

Rick Krisciunas, ASH, conducted our monthly legal aspects on the story.

The featured speaker this month was **Danna Mancini** who spoke on "Plans, Patents, and Submarines," which was very informative and gave us insights into the Bruce-Partington plans.

Rich Krisciunas, ASH, then did the closing toast, to the Crew of the Barque Lone Star.

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

TO LESTRADE

Ann Caddell, Deck-Mate

One of the more interesting relationships in the Sherlockian canon is that between Holmes and the Scotland Yard detectives. And the detective who appears most consistently throughout the canon is our friend, Inspector Lestrade. When we first meet him near the beginning of *A Study in Scarlet*, Watson describes him as a “little sallow, rat-faced, dark-eyed fellow.” Not the most flattering first impression. Shortly thereafter, Holmes explains that Lestrade is a Scotland Yard detective, and that he and his frequent partner, Inspector Gregson, are “the pick of a bad lot – they are both quick and energetic, but conventional – shockingly so.”

Of course, as a private citizen, Holmes has to depend on the official police to actually arrest the criminals that he tracks down. And from the beginning, he’s willing to let the Scotland Yarders take the credit for the tracking down in addition to the arresting. But he still reserves the right to “have a laugh at them, if nothing else,” as he proclaims in *A Study in Scarlet*.

Holmes and Lestrade are not above taking potshots at each other, as in *The Boscombe Valley Mystery*. Says Lestrade: “I find it hard enough to tackle facts, without flying away after theories and fancies.” Replies Holmes: “You are right, you do find it very hard to tackle the facts.”

However, by *The Adventure of the Six Napoleons*, the relationship between Holmes and Lestrade has become pretty cordial. As Watson relates, “It was no very unusual thing for Mr. Lestrade, of Scotland Yard, to look in upon us of an evening, and his visits were welcome to Sherlock Holmes, for they enabled him to keep in touch with all that was going on at the police headquarters.” And at the conclusion of that case, Lestrade is quite happy to admit to Holmes: “We’re not jealous of you at Scotland Yard. No sir, we are very proud of you.”



In the last story in which Lestrade appears, *The Adventure of the Three Garridebs*, Holmes has become even more appreciative of the official detective and his colleagues. He tells Watson: “I have been down to see friend Lestrade at the Yard. There may be an occasional want of imaginative intuition down there, but they lead the world for thoroughness and method.”

It’s good that Holmes recognizes the worth of the official police, conventional and plodding though they may be. His career would be far poorer without the boys from Scotland Yard to put him on the trail of new cases, arrest the criminals he delivers into their hands, and occasionally serve as comic foils to his scintillating leaps of deduction. So let’s raise a glass to that most iconic of Scotland Yard detectives – Inspector Lestrade!

TO FRIENDSHIP

Rudy Altergott

My Fellow Crewmates and Fellow Sherlockians:

I would like to give a brief and simple opening toast for this meeting with friendship as its theme.

We meet today to discuss the Master's run in with the Worst Man in London, to hear a limerick, to learn the letter of the law, and how to observe like Sherlock Holmes.

People often ask me what it is we do at these meetings of ours. Do we solve mysteries, they ask. Meh. Sometimes. Most of the time, we laugh together at these functions, we marvel at the scholarship and intellect of our companions and their ratiocination as they demonstrate how to play the Grand Game. We in this group always go back to the Canon, the 56 short stories and four novels written by Dr. Watson through the Literary Agent... but who am I telling?

Let me get to the point: a late Texan I greatly admire

always used to say, 'Where would we be without friends?' Had I the opportunity to reply, I would have said, 'Lost.' Holmes would have been lost without his Boswell. He even said so himself. Yours truly would be lost without the friends I fraternize with here, you, my friends, with whom I would gladly serve alongside when we get the call to muster from Austin.



Make no mistake: there are Milvertons in the world to be sure. They use blackmail and other means to acquire, wield, and maintain power. But the greatest power there is, I say, is love.

And so, may the example of friendship of those 'two men of note, who never lived and so can never die', be eternal in our own hearts, where our absent friends forever dwell, and may our Sherlockian friendships ever prosper and multiply.

To friendship!

Who so hated Napoleon Buonaparte

That he stole and then smashed busts apart?

A thieving servant girl

Took the Borgia's' black pearl.

Beppo hid it in the statue's dark heart.

Sandy Kozinn, ASH

Please Mark Your Calendars "Lone Star Holmes"

A look at Sherlock Holmes past, present & future
May 26 – 27, 2023

Tentative Speakers include:

Barbara Rusch, BSI, ASH, MBt

Tim Johnson, BSI

Marino Alvarez, BSI

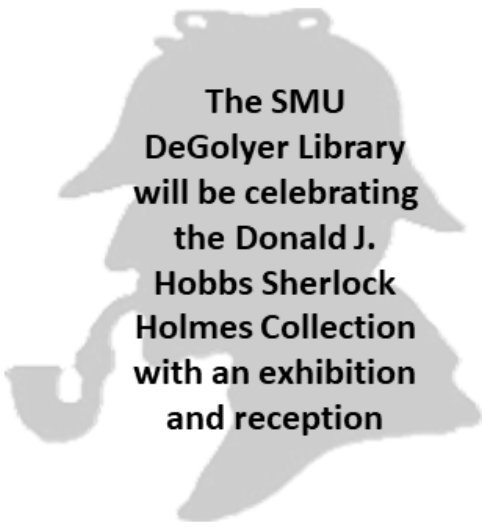
Glen Miranker, BSI

Russell Merritt, BSI, ASH

Rob Nunn, BSI

Keynote Speaker

Peter E. Blau, BSI, ASH, MBt



The SMU
DeGolyer Library
will be celebrating
the Donald J.
Hobbs Sherlock
Holmes Collection
with an exhibition
and reception

Registration and hotel
information may be
found at our website:
www.dfw-sherlock.org

Co-hosted by Southern Methodist
University, DeGolyer Library, and the Crew
of the Barque Lone Star Society

Lone Star Holmes

(A look at Sherlock Holmes past, present & future)
Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX
May 26 -27, 2023



FLUSHING OUT THE TRUTH

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

In “A Scandal in Bohemia,” Holmes gives Watson a plumber’s smoke rocket to toss into Irene Adler’s home as a means of flushing out the secret hiding place of an incriminating photo.

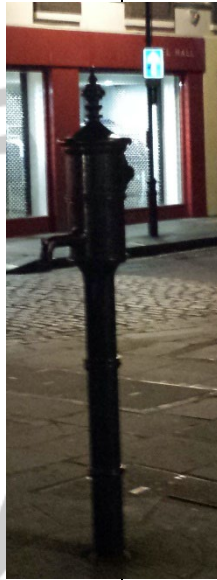
While the word “rocket” denotes a very different meaning today (something pointed to the heavens), it has a much older connotation. The Italian word *rocca* referred to the device that held the wool in looms. The diminutive of the word (*rocchette*) referred to cylindrical devices and entered the English language in the 1600s. (1)

The gadget Holmes provided Watson would have been tube-shaped and placed by a plumber into a pipe system to identify leaks.(2) Separating clean water from wastewater in a building’s interior plumbing served a very important means of avoiding cross-contamination. While this may seem a rather primitive approach to identify problems, these items are still available for purchase today at hardware stores.

Indoor plumbing was still a rather new addition to many parts of London in the 1800s, and mitigating leaks addressed the need to preserve water and ensure the public’s health. While upgrades to the system have been made, the original Victorian infrastructure remains at the heart of many homes and businesses.

In 1613, the wealthiest homes in London received fresh water from the River Lea through a network of wooden pipes (hollowed-out elm tree trunks) that were connected to private cisterns by lead pipes. (3)

Those not attached to this service would pay for their cisterns to be filled with water delivered by watermen or a pump from a private well. The less fortunate used public pumps and carried the water back to their



homes in buckets. Most dwellings, however, had piped water by 1885. (4)

Unfortunately, those who did not receive water from sources like the River Lea often received their water from the same places as where the wastewater was dumped. Due to an inadequate sewer system, wastewater might be piped from a building to a cesspool or local body of water (such as the Thames River). Other practices included throwing it onto a midden heap near the back door or simply thrown into the street. (5)

In 1854, John Snow, a physician considered to be the father of public health, traced a cholera outbreak to a public pump on Broad Street and its contaminated water supply. Once the handle was removed from the pump, the number of new illnesses dropped to zero. (6)

The development of London’s sewer system occurred in response to this and other epidemics in the first half of the 19th century. The leading theory of the time suggested miasma (foul, diseased air) caused the outbreaks, including “The Great Stink” of 1858 that disrupted Parliament.



Following this event, Parliament funded a project through The

Metropolitan Board of Works to create a sewer system. The next twelve years saw more than 80 miles of brick-lined sewer tunnels, pumping stations, and embankment changes along the Thames to pipe the wastewater farther from the city. (7)

An 1882 map of the London sewer system shows Baker Street was connected by that time, (8) and might have sported a device similar to that in the Sherlock Holmes Museum.

During the same period, Parliament passed the Public Health Act of 1848. This act included recommendations for dwellings to have “fixed sanitary arrangements,” making it a model for such efforts elsewhere. (9)

It also placed responsibility on the government, down to the local level, for having a role in its population’s health by requiring the development of local boards of



health to oversee their population’s improvement. (10)

As buildings became fitted with both clean water as well as wastewater disposal, devices such as the plumber’s smoke rocket helped to ensure a safe water supply for residents by eliminating cross-contamination. Holmes, however, demonstrated the gadget had uses for smoking out other secrets as well.

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- 1) <https://blog.collinsdictionary.com/language-lovers/we-take-a-look-at-the-etymology-behind-the-word-rocket-and-its-italian-origins/>
 - 2) <http://s164303.blogspot.com/2014/05/plumbers-smoke-rocket.html>
 - 3) <https://www.museumofthehome.org.uk/explore/stories-of-home/a-brief-history-of-running-water/>
 - 4) Sally Mitchell, *Daily Life in Victorian England*, Weatport, CT: The Greenwood Press, 1996, page 119.
 - 5) Sally Mitchell (ed.), *Victorian England: An Encyclopedia*, New York: Garland Publishing, 1988, page 608.
 - 6) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7150208/>
 - 7) Sally Mitchell, *Daily Life*.
 - 8) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_sewer_system
 - 9) Mitchell, *Daily Life*.
 - 10) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1113799/>



A CANONICAL ASIDE...

MILORD'S LOSS OF HIS CHARMING INVADER

Alexander E. Braun

When Watson protests in NOBL that St. Simon's conduct fell short from being gracious, Holmes smiles, "Ah, Watson, perhaps you would not be very gracious either, if, after all the trouble of wooing and wedding, you found yourself deprived in an instant of wife and of fortune. I think that we may judge Lord St. Simon very mercifully."

Just how very much deprived was our nobleman? A short and concise answer would be, "Extremely."

We tend to think of money-strapped nobility like St. Simon as spendthrifts and wastrels, who squandered fortunes on women, horses, and cards.

While that may have been mostly true back during the heady days of the Regency, for the most part at this time of the 19th century when the lords of great estates found themselves practically penniless it wasn't their fault.

The invention of refrigeration and faster ships, added to the all-encompassing web of railroads, enabled the importation and distribution of foreign products on a grand scale.

It was now cheaper to bring in great quantities of cereals and meats from places like America and New Zealand than to buy the national product. This caused an agricultural crisis that put local profits in free fall. The great houses could no longer be sustained solely on the earnings of what was raised on the estate.

Added to this, more and more people were abandoning the country for better paid jobs in urban industries. Those who remained at the plow or with

the sheep expected better returns for their labor, exacerbating the situation.

The situation that ensued was best described by Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, when learning that Jack wants to marry Gwendolyn she queries about his income, and he replies:



JACK. Between seven and eight thousand a year.

LADY BRACKNELL. [Makes a note in her book.] In land, or in investments?

JACK. In investments, chiefly.

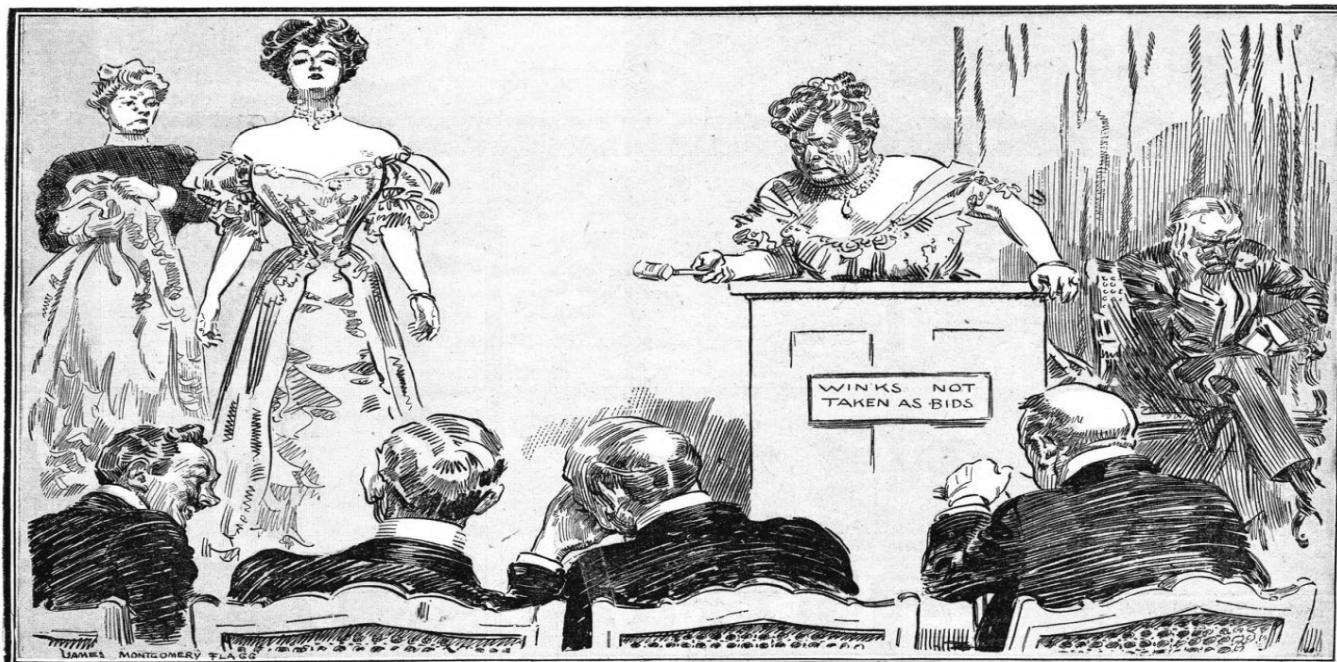
LADY BRACKNELL. That is satisfactory. What between the duties expected of one during one's lifetime, and the duties exacted from one after one's death, land has ceased to be either a profit or a pleasure. It gives one position, and prevents one from keeping it up. That's all that can be said about land.

Then, like a life preserver tossed at a drowning man, American heiresses began making an appearance on the scene. It is impossible to overstate the impact that these—as the newspaper Watson read to Holmes called them—"charming invaders" had upon those impoverished aristocrats who had little to offer beyond debts and coronets.

The heiresses' parents, although obscenely rich, were "new money," socially uncertain and therefore devoted to making their daughters acceptable in any society, sparing no effort or expense towards this goal. The result was that on average the American ladies were far better educated than their British counterparts.

James Montgomery Flagg's Sketches .

"Baronetcy! Baronetcy! Do I Hear Dukedom?"
With Verses by Joe Teye



They spoke other languages fluently, were well-traveled, up on history and current events, and in their conversation and attitude had not been raised to be shrinking violets as most English girls had.

They dressed better and charmed the men like the sirens did poor Ulysses. Bertie, a.k.a. the Prince of Wales, was particularly attracted by some of these "fair American cousins from across the Atlantic," much to the indignation and amusement of some members of the Court.

Oscar Wilde probably put it best in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, when Lord Henry is asked by his brother about the American heiress a common acquaintance is to marry:

*"Is she pretty?"
"She behaves as if she was beautiful. Most American women do. It is the secret of their charm."*

Then, of course, there was the matter of the dowry.

Although these considerations are still common (albeit very private)

these days when members of rich and powerful families marry, back in Victoria's day the arrangements almost inevitably saw the light of day and Fleet Street would gleefully disseminate all the sordid details.

Astonishingly so, dowries as high as £200,000 (~\$75,000,000 today) and often more were not unusual, and were not the sole monetary arrangement. More often than not, the bride's parents would settle real estate, trusts, and other financial instruments upon the daughter, to provide her with an income of her own.

Sometimes laughingly referred to as "pin money," the pins that those yearly sums could buy would have easily transfixed Moby Dick.

It has been estimated that in the late 19th century 454 American heiresses married European aristocrats, and thus acquired, at considerable expense, hereditary titles of nobility. Of these, 136 bagged Earls or Counts, 42 married princes, 17 married dukes, 19 married viscounts, 33 married marquises, and there were 46 wives of baronets and knights, and 64 baronesses.



Many viewed these golden marriages as little more than financial transactions with substantial dowries behind them.

The New York Times suggested in 1893 that as much as \$50 million might have accompanied the American brides as they sailed across the Atlantic for their new lives in the decayed and impoverished estates of the great aristocratic families.

Gustavus Myers, (1872–1942) an American journalist and historian who published a series of highly critical and influential studies on the social

costs of wealth accumulation, estimated the true value of the transatlantic marriages at something like \$220 million.

Small wonder that, to great societal chagrin, in one year alone nine of the noblest peers of the Realm were netted by Uncle Sam's irresistibly moneyed daughters. As Tennyson put it,

*A simple maiden in her flower
Is worth a hundred coats of arms.*



ANOTHER SHERLOCKIAN CHRISTMAS STORY?

Tom Brydges

I had thought *The Blue Carbuncle* was the only story in the canon with a Christmas angle.

But there I was, all settled down and reading *The Naval Treaty*, when what to my wondering eyes did appear than this passage from Percy Phelps's narrative:

"There was a pause then for about ten minutes, as if the person were waiting to see whether the noise had awakened me. Then I heard a gentle creaking as the window was very slowly opened. I could stand it no longer, for my nerves are not what they used to be. ***I sprang out of bed and flung open the shutters.*** A man was crouching at the window. I could see little of him, for he was ***gone like a flash. He was wrapped in some sort of cloak*** which came across the lower part of his face."

'*The Night Before Christmas*' flashed through my mind: 'I sprang from my bed'; 'Away to the window I flew like a flash'; and 'Tore open

the shutters'. And also a line from 'The Raven': 'Open here I flung the shutter'.

I sprang into detective mode and thought, perhaps '*The Night Before Christmas*' had just been published ...but no, it was published in 1823! Well then, perhaps ACD was writing in the Christmas season, when he might have encountered TNBC in some way or other? Unlikely, since NAVA was published in *The Strand Magazine* in October 1893, and probably written during the summer. Perhaps he was in his study and his eyes fell on an old and valued gift which reminded him of Christmas? Or maybe ACD just thought up his lines out of the blue.

As to 'The Raven', of course we know ACD was inspired by Poe's detective stories, and there are indications in his biographies that he was also well up on Poe's other works too – no doubt including his poetry, since ACD himself wrote a fair amount of verse. Who knows, maybe Poe was inspired by TNBC when he penned 'The Raven' in 1845!

"YOU MIGHT BE A SHERLOCKIAN IF..."

Denny Dobry, BSI

By the White Rose Irregulars of York, Pennsylvania

Edited by Denny Dobry

The idea popped into my head one day when I walked into the bedroom and looked at the digital alarm clock. A smile crossed my face and I thought of the comedian Jeff Foxworthy and his bit –

“You might be a redneck if... “.

Naturally following came:

“You might be a Sherlockian if you smile when you see a digital clock that reads ‘221’.”

I threw out the challenge to the members of my Scion Society, the White Rose of Irregulars of York, Pennsylvania, and this is what they came up with:

“You might be a Sherlockian:

... if, while on your annual family summer vacation, you’re the only one sunning yourself on the beach while wearing a woolen deerstalker.”

... if you can remember your first Sherlock Holmes story, where you were when you read it, and why you were struck by it; but, you can’t remember your spouse’s birthday.”

... if all your witty, erudite quotes from Canon go right over your friends’ heads.”

... if you drive to Trenton, New Jersey to eat at the Afghan Kabob Grill and barge into the kitchen specifically to address the first chef you see with the immortal words, “*You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive.*””

... if you realize that you have visited the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London for the fourth time.”

... if you are saddened and disappointed when you learn there are no Sherlock Holmes stories in your child’s school reading curriculum.”

... if, when the doctor asks you “Where does it hurt?”, and you can’t remember if it’s your shoulder or your leg.”

... if you have multiple copies of a Sherlock Holmes book, and buy another copy because it was such a great buy!”

... if you agree to bid on a stuffed baboon for your partner’s 221b room.”

... if you’d rather stand on Baker Street than visit the Eiffel Tower at night or tour Disney World.”

... if your favorite font type is Baskerville.”

... if you want to downsize your flat screen TV in order to make room for another shelf of Sherlock Holmes books.”



... if you're willing to make a three-hour round trip just to talk to people who understand your love of the canon!"

... if you have a parakeet named Sherlock who was accidentally scared off his perch by your new cockatiel named Moriarty."

... if when you get your flu shot, you say 'Quick Watson, the needle.'"

... if you attend a scion meeting on a regular basis."

... if you have a 221B style study in your house."

... if your favorite day is February 21."

... if you know what a tantalus and gasogene are."

... if you know an "ear-flapped travelling cap" (deerstalker) is worn only in the country."

... if you know who William Gillette is."

... if you know that Holmes never says, "Elementary, my dear Watson" in the Canon."

... if you know what the Canon is."

... if you believe that a monograph on the ashes of 140 different varieties of pipe cigar, and cigarette tobacco promises to be an exciting read."

... if you believe that "shag" does not rightfully pertain to either baseball, carpet, or sex."

... if you're invited to a friend's, and they want you to bring a movie, and you bring the entire Grenada series."

... if you're upset that your school uniform doesn't include a deerstalker."

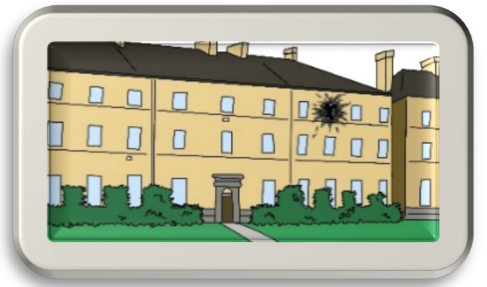
... if, despite the very limited amount of baggage space the military provides you, you still pack the hardbound edition of the Complete Sherlock Holmes with you on deployment, because a year with a e-reader 'just won't cut it.' "

And finally:

"You might be a Polish-American Sherlockian, if you've ever scoured a Krakovian bookstore for a copy of the complete Sherlock Holmes in Polish, so you can read it in your native language."

Baker Street Elementary

Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason



BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY
NUMBER 447-03/12/2023

FAY, MASON & MASON

DO YOU BELIEVE MAN WILL EVER BE
CAPABLE OF FLIGHT?

BEFORE OR AFTER PIGS?



THE FIRST ADVENTURES OF HOLMES AND WATSON

CAN YOU IMAGINE A BIRD
THAT HAD A FEAR OF FLYING?

NO WORSE THAN A FISH
THAT WAS HYDROPHOBIC.



IF I JUMP OFF THE ROOF OF THE
SCHOOL, AM I TECHNICALLY FLYING
OR FALLING FOR A SPLIT SECOND?

TECHNICALLY, FOR A
SPLIT SECOND YOU
ARE AN IDIOT!



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