

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 11, No. 04 - April, 2023

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



PLEASE NOTE: **May 07, 2023 Meeting** NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on **May 07** 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 Golden Pince-Nez**".

Bob Katz, BSI, ASH, will lead the discussion on the story of "**The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez**".

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".

Daniel Stashower, BSI, will be our featured guest speaker, who will be speaking on Doyle and Holmes.

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

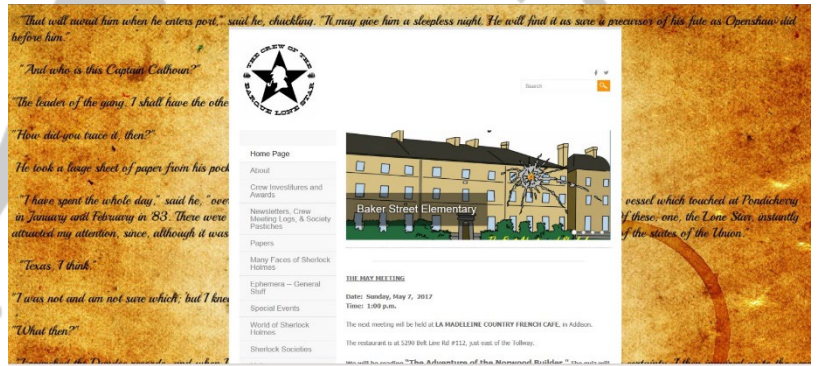
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You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>

<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/>

APRIL 02 SUMMARY

Cindy Brown

There were 54 in attendance at this ZOOM meeting.

Nancy Holder, BSI, opened the meeting with a toast to "The Ragged Schools" (See page 4).

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

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

During the Announcements period, **Steve Mason, BSI, ASH**, gave his annual "State of the Society, detailing our accomplishments over the past year and what we can look forward to this year.

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

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

Joe Fay initiated a new feature this month, the Writings on the Writings. Each month he will give a brief discussion on a book in his collection that covers the Canon.

The featured speaker this month was **Tom Brydges**, who spoke on "The Curious Incidence of the Telephone in the Canon," which was well-researched and gave us much more insights into the fledgling technology during Holmes' career.

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.

A TOAST TO THE RAGGED SCHOOLS

Nancy Holder, BSI, ASH, Deckmate

I am toasting the Ragged Schools today. Though they were not precisely beacons of light, they represented an attempt to bring light into the lives of the most vulnerable children in London.

Quoting from

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ragged_school

“Ragged schools were [charitable organisations](#) dedicated to the free education of destitute children in 19th century [Britain](#). The schools were developed in working-class districts and intended for society's most destitute youngsters who, it was argued, were often excluded from [Sunday School](#) education because of their unkempt appearance and often challenging behaviour.

After a few of such schools were set up in the early 19th century by individual reformers, the **London Ragged School Union** was established in April 1844 to combine resources in the city, providing free education, food, clothing, lodging and other home missionary services for poor children.^[1] Although the Union did not extend beyond London, its publications and pamphlets helped spread ragged school ideals across the country before they were phased out by

the final decades of the 19th century.

“Working in the poorest districts, teachers (who were often local working people) initially utilised stables, lofts and railway arches for their classes. The majority were voluntary teachers, although a small number were employed. There was an emphasis on reading, writing, arithmetic and study of the [Bible](#), and the

curriculum expanded into industrial and commercial subjects in many schools. It is estimated that between 1844 and 1881 about 300,000 children went through just the ragged schools in London alone.”

I specifically want to raise my glass to [John Pounds](#), a [Portsmouth](#) shoemaker.

“At the age of 12 his father arranged for him to be apprenticed as a shipwright. Three years later, he fell into a dry dock and was crippled for life after

damaging his thigh. Unable to continue as a shipwright, he became a shoemaker and, by 1803, had his own shop in St Mary Street, Portsmouth.

In 1818, Pounds, known as “the crippled cobbler”, began teaching poor children without charging fees. He actively recruited them to his school, spending time on the streets and quays of Portsmouth making contact and even bribing them to attend with the offer of baked potatoes. He taught them reading,



writing, and arithmetic, and his reputation as a teacher grew; he soon had more than 40 students attending his lessons. He also gave lessons in cooking, carpentry and shoemaking. Pounds, who died in **1839**, quickly became a figurehead for the later ragged schools movement, his ethos being used as an inspiration.”

The Ragged Schools were intended almost more to civilize than to educate the teeming masses, some of

who would now be able to vote when they came of age, thanks to new voting rights acts. But they did shine some light into the lives of children who grew up without the schillings and the friendship of Sherlock Holmes. Perhaps one or more of the Irregulars were recruited from their ranks. And so, in that spirit, let’s raise our glasses to the Ragged Schools.

The papers for the Prize Fortescue

Were so easy to copy, 'tis true.

But young Gilchrist was good;

In the end, never would

Cheat, and make dear old Bannister blue.



Sandy Kozinn, ASH



"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

Rob Nunn, BSI, ASH

Soren Eversoll

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
includes all events

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

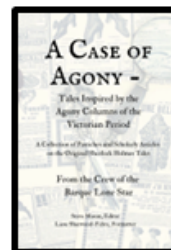
Co-hosted by Southern Methodist
University, DeGolyer Library, and the Crew
of the Barque Lone Star Society

Lone Star Holmes

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



The Crew of the
Barque Lone Star
Society is
producing our 7th
book as part of
our 53rd
Anniversary.



For this year, we are asking for members to submit a pastiche or newspaper article in which Sherlock Holmes is called upon to solve a mystery in your home local area. This may involve an actual crime, a ghost story, or any other mystery that is based on some historical event in your area. (and we are being very liberal on the definition of area – city, town, county, or region – your choice).

1. Again, you can write up the case as a pastiche (either 1st, 2nd or 3rd person) or you can write it as a newspaper article written by a reporter covering the event.
2. Your paper should not exceed 2,500-3,000 words, so that our book does not have more pages than a dictionary... but we can be a little flexible on that... obviously, shorter stories are fine.
3. Your story will be edited by one or two member volunteer editors, but only for grammar, typos... we will not edit the content of your story. Just please remember our books are for all ages.
4. This project is not limited to just those members in the DFW area. Any member (if you're getting this email) is welcome to submit a paper.
5. We plan to finalize the anthology by the end of the calendar year, so we ask for members to submit their entry by October 1.

The final product will be put together in book form and posted on our website and shared with all society members as a .pdf file. We plan on publishing copies of the book as a gift for those who submit a piece. And the book will be placed on Barnes & Noble, as we have done for the previous 6 books, for sale at cost.

Our Society has a wonderful website, chocked full of Sherlockian items. Visit us at... www.dfw-sherlock.org

If you would like to participate, you can email us at: mason.steve8080@gmail.com



THE LEGACY OF FIVE ORANGE PIPS IN THE DECLINE OF THE KKK

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD, Deck-Mate

In “The Adventure of the Five Orange Pips,” Watson pleads ignorance of the Ku Klux Klan organization. Holmes, himself, had to consult an encyclopedia to complete the knowledge in his brain attic. The entry describes the organization’s creation, its spheres of influence, and its sudden demise in 1869 (coinciding with the disappearance of Elias Openshaw from the US). While most of Holmes’ research appears to correspond with other historical records, he does provide some insights not well-known among other chroniclers.

Holmes’ encyclopedia notes the Klan formed after the Civil War and operated primarily in Tennessee, Louisiana, the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. Klansmen themselves, however, claimed a much older pedigree—asserting the organization held Scottish roots. Given the number of Scots who immigrated to the colonies, a connection between the two regions could be established. The offer of land and other opportunities created an “emigration mania” with 95,000 Scots leaving for America between 1700 and 1815, with many settling in the south. (1)

Holmes’ research also provided the group’s well-known aim of regaining political power following the Civil War by menacing those against them (both African-American voters and others). The group began as a social club in Pulaski, Tennessee in 1865, but soon spread as branches formed in most of the former Confederate states. They formally organized in 1867 and dedicated their efforts to reversing the reforms created under the Reconstruction Act which stimulated the election of Blacks as state and US government representatives. (2)

His encyclopedia also indicated that their threats to those opposing their views would often be accompanied by a “sprig of oak-leaves, melon seeds, or orange pips.” The entry did not mention the warning many now associate with this group—cross-burning—despite the practice’s Scottish roots. (3) In medieval times, Scottish clans burned crosses to rally their men on the way to war and as a

warning of enemy invasion, but this ritual did not appear as part of the Klan’s activities until after 1905. (4)

The practice appeared during a revival of the organization after the turn of the century. An increase in immigrants entering the US, a strong political movement in support of agricultural

workers created by the People’s Party, and the increase in nationalism in Europe and the south following WWI all led to increased unease by certain groups fearing a loss of power. (5) The organization was also made popular by a bestselling novel, *The Clansman* by Thomas Dixon Jr. In it, a cross is burned as a warning. The book was adapted into a movie, *Birth of a Nation*, which also showed the act. (6) Capitalizing on the mood in the south and the movie’s popularity, William Joseph Simmons burned a cross on top of Stone Mountain outside of Atlanta when the film premiered and recruited members during the showing. Through these and other actions, he was able to revitalize the moribund organization, reaching a membership of four million by the 1920s. (7)

Just as with the first iteration, the organization declined again. While some members left because of the group’s violent practices, the major factor was its poor leadership. Those in high positions were involved in highly publicized



crimes and poor money management that pushed members away. By 1928, the Klan had imploded. (8)

This second decline was very different from the first, where the government made a concerted and active effort to suppress it. Congress passed the Force Acts between 1870 and 1875 to authorize federal authorities, including the military, to protect Blacks' rights under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. (9) Despite these measures, White supremacy gradually regained control. By the end of 1876, they once again dominated all levels of government. (10)



What is missing from these accounts, however, was Elias Openshaw's role in the Klan's demise. Holmes observed that the dissolution coincided with Openshaw's return to

England with papers implicating Klan membership (and their terrorist acts) for some of the "first men of the South." These leaders' fear of exposure was enough to disband the group. Holmes' actually solved two mysteries with this case: the murders of three generations of Openshaws and the first death of the Klan.



- 1) https://www.americancivilwar.asn.au/meet/2011_10_Scots_migration_to_%20antebellum_South.pdf
- 2) <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ku-Klux-Klan>
- 3) <https://timeline.com/why-does-the-ku-klux-klan-burn-crosses-they-got-the-idea-from-a-movie-75a70f7ab135>
- 4) <https://www.csmonitor.com/2002/1213/p25s04-wonq.html>
- 5) <https://www.studysmarter.us/explanations/history/emergence-of-usa-as-a-world-power/ku-klux-klan/>
- 6) <https://www.history.com/news/kkk-birth-of-a-nation-film>
- 7) <https://timeline.com/why-does-the-ku-klux-klan-burn-crosses-they-got-the-idea-from-a-movie-75a70f7ab135>
- 8) <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/essays/the-ku-klux-klan-in-the-1920s>
- 9) <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Force-Acts>
- 10) <https://www.history.com/topics/19th-century/ku-klux-klan>

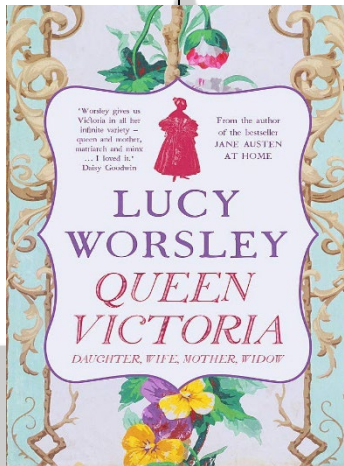
BOOK REVIEW: QUEEN VICTORIA: DAUGHTER, WIFE, MOTHER, WIDOW, BY LUCY WORSLEY (HODDER & STOUGHTON, 2018)

Nancy Holder, BSI, ASH, Deck Mate

Lucy Worsley, a well-known historical author and TV presenter, has written a fascinating biography of our “Certain Gracious Lady,” Queen Victoria. Worsley examines Victoria’s life in terms of the deliberately crafted roles she assumed during her lifetime as a Victorian woman ruling an empire.

When Victoria was a young girl, her mother and her mother’s advisor devised the Kensington System, in which every detail of Victoria’s life was programmed and controlled. When Victoria ascended the throne just after her 18th birthday, she rejected their attempts to dominate her and took complete command of her life. For two years, she asserted herself, surprising her all-male cabinet and government.

Aware that she walked a fine line as a woman ruling a man’s world, she agreed to get married when she turned 20. But as soon as Prince Albert came into the picture, she yielded her power to him, consulting him on nearly every subject. She wrote in her diary that she wished he



could become king. Her ministers were conflicted—as Victorian men, they approved that she submitted herself to her husband’s authority; but on the other hand, she, not he, was their sovereign.

Her public adored her in part because she appeared to be a loving wife and mother. A canny celebrity, she circulated retouched (prettier) photos of herself with Albert and their nine children all over the Empire. Yet in private she was not a very attentive parent, lavishing her attention on Albert instead.

The strength and self-confidence she showed when she took the throne never reemerged. After Albert’s death, she relied on the earthy Scotsman John Brown and then on Abdul Karim, her controversial “Munchi” (“language teacher”) from India.

This story of the queen near and dear to Sherlockian hearts and her power (or lack thereof) is well told in this expertly researched, readable book. I highly recommend it.

ELSIE CUBITT, MAFIA BANKER?

Bob Sharfman

As much as I enjoy reading the stories in the Canon, I must admit that some of them leave me with a question: Great! Then what happened?

As Paul Harvey used to say: "What is the 'Rest of the Story'?"

That question was on my mind after and rereading "The Adventure of the Dancing Men." Oh. The code was fascinating and kept the suspense level high; the uncertainty of what exactly was the problem with Mrs. Cubitt piqued my curiosity; and the denouement was...well...Sherlockian. So why my question?

Let's look at the facts. We need clay to make bricks. Here is the clay:

- I was born in Chicago in 1936 (you do the math, it is too distressing for me).
- Never heard of Abe Slaney.
- Learned that Mrs. Cubitt's father was a gangster in Chicago named Patrick;* (probably a "made man" in the Outfit—look it up. (I am pretending I don't know what that means.)
- Mrs. Cubitt was exposed to the Chicago crime scene her entire life before Hilton Cubitt entered her life.
- The story takes place in 1898 (Baring-Gould) and was published in 1903.

So therefore at the time of the story Michael "Hinky Dink" Kenna was active; the Chief of Police was indicted for graft (and left the country); John "Mushmouth" Johnson was the first South Side (pronounced and spelled properly "soside") policy racket king; Bathhouse John Coughlin was elected to be alderman of the notorious First Ward.

The Everleigh sisters (Ada and Minna) ran a house of "negotiated affections" called the Everleigh Club. They attended the "First Ward Ball" on the arm(s) of the mayor.¹

The "Black Hand" was organized by six brothers: "Bloody" Angelo, Mike (the Devil), Pete, Sam, Jim, and Tony Gennas who hired Albert Anselmi and John Scalise as their gunmen. Oh yes, Michael Finn's salon was closed down after complaints about his drugging the patrons' drinks and then robbing them. Yes, Chicago is the home of the "Mickey."²

Hymie Weiss, Dion O'Banion, and Tony Accardo were born and later to advance the Outfit to greater heights—or lows depending on your point of view.³

There is more, but suffice it to say that to be "the most dangerous crook in Chicago" would take some doing. Be as it may, I just assume that Slaney was an alias for one of the Gennas brothers or Albert Anselmi, a murderer and a very dangerous man.

Returning to "The Adventure of the Dancing Men" and after reading it, Mrs. Cubitt is left administering her husband's rather substantial estate. Yes, this daughter of a Mafia leader (or at least a high-ranking thug) was in charge of a significant pool of assets. What happened to the estate? As the saying goes, follow the

money. During the late nineteenth/early twentieth century, the best investments a Chicago Mafia daughter (regardless of English titles and social class) could make would be in gambling operations, brothels or violence (murder included) for hire. Could it be that Tony Accardo, Hymie Weiss or Dion O'Banion were financed by proceeds of Riding Thorpe Manor?

Our most famous (and violent) criminal, Al Capone, had yet to appear and was mostly involved with Chicago during the Prohibition experiment.⁴ It is doubtful that the Cubitt widow had anything to do with Capone. But then, who knows?

It was not long after Mr. Cubitt's death that "Bugsy" Siegel went to the desert and built what is now the Las Vegas Strip; the Chicago Outfit acquired legitimate business and



adopted anticompetitive (to say the least) methods to dominate entire industries; and, seed capital was needed for gambling bookies, policy banks, and an occasional effort to control the competition—generally associated with the trunk of an automobile or a forty gallon drum found floating in the Chicago River.

Let me state here and now that I have found nothing actually connecting the Cubitt money with Chicago crime. But then, where did the money go? Just asking.

* Lenny Patrick was a name from my early years. He was said “to be connected” (to the Mafia), but I cannot support the common knowledge with any fact known to me.

NOTES

¹ Wikipedia: Timeline of organized crime in Chicago. For those not familiar with the names of Hinky Dink and Bathhouse John or Paddy Bowler (“Chicago ain’t ready for reform”), they were our elected officials. The Everleigh sisters were entrepreneurs who “gave the man what he wanted,” a motto later used by John Selfridge and Marshall Field who said (and did) “give the lady what she wants. The “Black Hand” was later known as the Mafia or the Outfit in Chicago and elsewhere. While the beginnings of the criminal organization was in Italy, every ethnic group who make up this effort was involved.

² Wikipedia: Timeline of organized crime in Chicago.

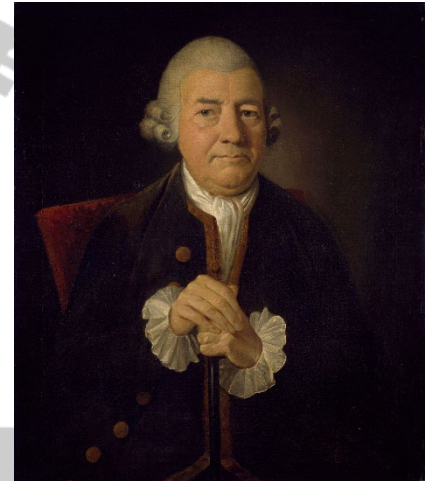
³ In other words the city government was corrupt beyond any norm of crookedness (just made that word up) found in governments run by human beings. Today things are different. Gambling is run by the government; policy/numbers (lottery) is run by the government; and marijuana can be purchased at government regulated (and taxed) shops; and alas, amateur talent has taken over the need for brothels and sex can be negotiated on the internet. Now that is progress!

⁴ Prohibition was not to be successful except that it created an opportunity for several families to achieve great wealth manufacturing or selling alcoholic beverages. Prohibition did not prohibit selling wine and spirits for religious or medical purposes. Chicago and the entire nation became the sickest and most religious nation in the world if the sales of alcohol to ministers, priests and rabbis as well as pharmacists counted. Add the bootleg booze to the mix and it is safe to say that nobody who wanted a drink was denied.

"SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE GENEALOGY OF THE BASKERVILLES"

Tom Brydges

John Baskerville was an important – many would say the most important – typefounder and printer in English history. He lived from 1706 to 1775 (1), and is known for his elegant letter forms, as well as for the beautiful editions of the classics which he produced. Happily both Bill Gates and Steve Jobs have offered us a Baskerville font to admire and use for our Sherlockian correspondence.



As we know, Watson did not mention John Baskerville the printer in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. And why might he have? Because it is highly unlikely – no, it is **almost inconceivable** – that Sherlock Holmes did not bring his name into the conversation sometime during this adventure.

Recall the scene at 221b when Holmes met Sir Henry Baskerville and analyzed the cryptic note Sir Henry had received at the Northumberland Hotel. On that occasion, after pointing out that the snipped-out words of the message were in the distinctive typeface of a Times leader, Holmes opined that “the detection of types is one of the most elementary branches of knowledge to the special expert in crime”.

So Holmes would certainly have been quite familiar with the work of John Baskerville the printer. And finding himself speaking of printing types in the presence of a man named Baskerville, surely Holmes would have commented on this coincidence. And certainly he would have wanted to make sure Sir Henry was acquainted with the accomplishments and recognition of this earlier Baskerville.

So why might Watson have held back on reporting Holmes’s comments on John Baskerville the printer? Well, we know from the final paragraphs of both *The Illustrious Client* and *Charles Augustus Milverton* that both he and Holmes were highly protective of the reputations of prominent individuals. So it would be quite reasonable for Watson to feel it would tarnish the respected name of John Baskerville the printer to associate it in any way with the sordid saga of Hugo and the Curse.

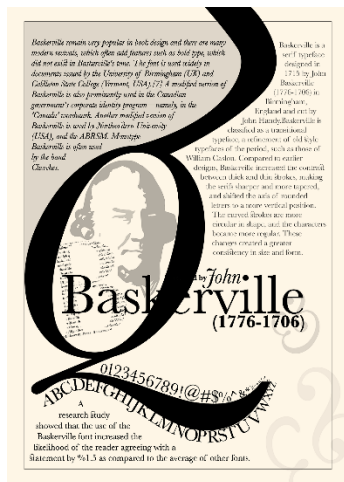
And now let’s recall how we learned about Hugo and the Curse. It was when Dr. Mortimer called at Baker Street, carrying in his pocket a manuscript, written in 1742, describing the terrible events in the Baskerville family a century earlier. And that manuscript was written by a later Hugo, who directed it to his sons Rodger and John, with the instruction that they say nothing thereof to their sister Elizabeth.

But when it comes to tarnishing the name of John Baskerville the printer, sharing the Baskerville surname is not the only association about which Watson might have been concerned. For I see the evidence pointing to the **startling conclusion** that not only did John Baskerville the printer carry the same surname, **he was in fact Hugo’s son John** to whom the Curse manuscript was directed!

Consider:

Certainly the dates admit of this possibility – born in 1706, at the time the manuscript was written in 1742 John Baskerville the printer would have been 36. So his father would likely have been in his sixties – an age perfectly

consistent with Hugo Baskerville's strong desire and efforts to ensure the family history was recorded and passed on to his sons before it was too late.



More support comes from one of several biographies of John Baskerville the printer (2), in which the frontispiece is an engraving titled “John Baskerville of Plymouth” – and we know Plymouth to be the largest city near Dartmoor!

To top it off, John Baskerville the printer wrote of himself that he had “been an early admirer of the beauty of letters” (3). And discussing Baskerville’s type designs, another of his biographers noted “it is natural that he should turn for inspiration to the formal calligraphy of his own day.”(4) Can you imagine any better example and inspiration for him than the Baskerville Curse manuscript penned by his very own father?

Surely even the most skeptical among us would acknowledge this adds up to a rather convincing case that the printer John Baskerville shared the lineage of the Baskervilles of *Hound* reknown.

Oh sure, there are a few loose ends still to be addressed such as his biographers suggesting John Baskerville the printer was born in Wolverley, Worcs, near Birmingham (5), and not making any mention of brothers or sisters.

But I anticipate that a little more Sherlockian investigation will show these are not serious obstacles to confirming that John Baskerville the printer was indeed Hugo’s son.

In other words, I’m betting that the same can be said for these biographers as Holmes said of women – they “are never to be entirely trusted - not the best of them.”

1. *John Baskerville*, in the online Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, oxforddnb.com/article/1624, accessed August 5, 2015
2. *Notes on the Life of John Baskerville*, Edward Hooker Harvey in *Rofantia Number Two*, Published by The Rowfant Club, Cleveland, Ohio, 1901
3. *John Baskerville, A Memoir*, Ralph Straus and Robert K. Dent, Printed at the University Press, Cambridge, for Chatto and Windus, London, 1907, p. 15
4. *John Baskerville, Typefounder and Printer*, Josiah Henry Benton, New York, Printed for The Typophiles, 1944, p. 2
5. Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, op. cit.

A TWO CRAVAT WINNER! OR FASHION IN THE BLUE CARBUNCLE

John Foster

I keep thinking I should probably quit offering to do papers on the Blue Carbuncle, for a time is going to come when I will be unable to come up with a topic to cover.

I thought that was going to happen several papers ago. And I thought it again this year.

But, alas (I am using the word alas because I picked on a friend who used it a couple of days ago), re-reading the story I happened on a reason to once again put pen to paper and do a presentation.

While Holmes and Watson are not known to discuss fashion, and what they wear is hardly ever mentioned, fashion plays a big part in the introduction of characters in each tale.

Think of our introduction to the instigating individual in SCAN:

His dress was rich with a richness which would, in England, be looked upon as akin to bad taste. Heavy bands of astrakhan were slashed across the sleeves and fronts of his double breasted coat, while the deep blue cloak which was thrown over his shoulders was lined with flame coloured silk and secured at the neck with a brooch which consisted of a single flaming beryl. Boots which extended halfway up his calves, and which were trimmed at the tops with rich brown fur, completed the impression of barbaric opulence which was suggested by his whole appearance.

How could we not know we would undoubtedly end up not liking this guy.

Or think of Holmes' disguise when he went to burglar Irene's home as the non-conformist clergyman;

His broad black hat, his baggy trousers, his white tie,

That description, along with his masterful makeup pretty well paints the picture of the character Holmes is portraying.

How about our introduction to the future Mrs. Watson, Mary Morstan;

She was a blonde young lady, small, dainty, well gloved, and dressed in the most perfect taste. There was, however, a plainness and simplicity about her costume which bore with it a suggestion of limited means. The dress was a sombre grayish beige, untrimmed and unbraided, and she wore a small turban of the same dull hue, relieved only by a suspicion of white feather in the side.



He paints a picture of someone of simple living yet remains elegant. How could Watson do anything else other than to fall in love with her.

Or how about in Hound when we meet Dr. Mortimer;

He was clad in a professional but rather slovenly fashion, for his frock-coat was dingy and his trousers frayed.

We are painted a picture of someone, while being a professional, finds more pleasure in a simpler life. The trappings of his profession are unimportant to him.

In many cases, we form our first impressions of an individual by how Watson describes them and the clothes they wear.

Think of our introduction to Steve Dixie in 3GAB;

"He would have been a comic figure if he had not been terrific, for he was dressed in a very loud gray check suit with a flowing salmon coloured tie."

Watson also uses his description of clothing as a way to set the mood for the state of mind of some of the characters, as in our introduction to the troubled Kate Whitney in TWIS;

Our own door flew open, and a lady, clad in some dark coloured stuff, with a black veil, entered the room.

The way he describes what she is wearing leaves no doubt as to her distraught behavior.

Watson uses attire, as well as the expression of features, as much as anything, to set the atmosphere and mood of the individuals about to be interviewed.

While the expressions may describe the demeanor of an individual, the attire is used to describe one's station or situation.

A starkness in the description is often used to set up the individual as an unfavored character.

Think of the dark way we are introduced to Helen Stoner. Before Watson reveals her physical features we get an idea of her state of mind from the attire he describes;

"A lady dressed in black and heavily veiled,"

While the individuals of sympathy are more often introduced in more subtle way, or more colorful and softer. Once again think of Mary Morstan.

However when it comes to our dynamic duo, we are often left with a more confusing image.

Often controversy surrounds our discussions of the wardrobe of Holmes and Watson.

It was something of a controversy that started this idea for a paper.

On a Facebook page recently introducing a new game a 'follower' of Holmesian sites took umbrage to fact that the illustrator depicted Holmes, as many have, wearing a deerstalker and Inverness.

While the follower was wrong in her argument about the introduction of the deerstalker to the Canon, her comments once again made it clear that the least known facts in the stories are usually the ones that concern Holmes and Watson.

Well, you ask, or someone should ask about now, how does this concern of December story.

Well, I'm glad you asked.

For one thing, this case begins with a fashion item, that seedy and disreputable felt hat. Also known as a bowler, billy-cock, bob hat or derby.

Before we meet the mysterious HB Holmes as already generated an image of the individual who lost the hat, and the man's situation. We could easily call that a fashion statement.

But, we are not here to talk about bowlers, we have done that before. We are also not here to talk about hat securers, we have done that before.

Nor are we here to talk about the purple dressing-gown, Holmes was wearing while studying the tattered billy-cock. Was it a dark purple dressing gown or sort of a mousy colored purple?

Nor are we here to talk about the Ulster cape which is very similar to the Inverness which could explain in part the problem with why he is often illustrated with wrong one.

No, tonight we are going to talk about an item of clothing that required far less material, but was no less important to the Victorian gentlemen than was his walking stick, which would make a great paper on its own.

No crimes have been committed by or clues garnered from this item of fashion.

Yet I believe it is only mentioned in one story, perhaps erroneously, our story for tonight.

Yet a large majority of the early illustrations we have of Holmes and Watson has it present.

And no, it is not their socks.

Now you know to what I refer to right?

Yes, it's the CRAVAT!

That colorful piece of neck-ware so fashionable in its time. The fore barer of the bow and neck tie.

The history of the cravat goes back to the 17th century to the members of a military unit called the Croats. These Habsburg mercenaries wore a necktie called a *tour de cou*. *This item of military kit, an unusual, picturesque scarf aroused the curiosity of the Parisians.*

It is believed Charles II imported this fashion on his return after exile.

It was described as: "A cravatte is another kind of adornment for the neck being nothing else but a long towel put about the Collar, and so tyed before with a Bow Knott; this is the original of all such Wearings; but now by the Art and Inventions of the seamsters, there is so many new ways of making them, that it would be a task to name, much more to describe them"

Like most items of fashion, it changed over the years becoming less flamboyant and suited to more daily wear. It is also still common with military dress uniforms. Robert Duvall's "Lt Col Kilgore wore a yellow one in Apocalypse Now.

In America they are commonly called an Ascot.

By the late 1880's men wore them more loosely tied and more colorful.

Again they were the forerunner of the broad necktie.



As I hope I have shown, the wearing of a Cravat is part of Watson's daily uniform, part of being a well dressed professional uniform.

Indeed, most of these early illustrations of Watson have him wearing a cravat.

In the illustrations we have in BLUE it seems to be clear that Holmes is wearing a sort of bow tie, while Watson is wearing a Cravat. It would probably be, again, part of his professional attire.

When he first enters Baker St. and is examining the billy-cock it is clear that he has on a cravat.

And a little later when Peterson comes in with the stone, the illustration once again shows that he is wearing one.

Shortly after Petersons exit Watson returns to his rounds and just before seven he returns to Baker St and joins Holmes with Mr Henry Baker.

During this interview with Baker, Watson is wearing his Cravat.

Shortly after the conclusion of the interview, Holmes and Watson depart Baker St. in search of clues.

And it is here, just before they walk out the door that the biggest mystery takes place.

As I hope I have shown, the wearing of a Cravat is part of Watson's daily uniform, part of being a well dressed professional uniform. It is worn as you would a tie and not removed until one has returned home.

In BLUE, just as they are getting ready to walk out the door, Watson is explaining that; "It was a bitter night, so we drew on our ulsters and wrapped cravats around our throats."

If, as the illustrations show, Watson is already wearing a cravat, what would be the purpose of wearing another? Or even if you want to argue that he was just wearing a wide tie, once again, why would he wear a cravat?

It can be surrendered that a cravat does offer some protection to the throat, but being made out of light weight material it would hardly be enough on a bitter night. And way wear two?

And while some use the term Cravat as broad statement covering all types of neck wear from ties to scarves, none of those are Cravats.

Remember, Watson said, "(we) wrapped the cravats about our throats."

Scarves you wrap, cravats you tie.

Once the duo do start their hike of investigation the illustrations no longer show scarves or cravats.

But the high collared coats they are shown wearing would suggest the wearing of a cravat and not a scarf.

Which brings us back to why wear two?

The Cravat has never gone completely out of fashion. Still worn today for weddings and fancy occasions.

While this may seem unimportant to the scholarly pursuits into the Canon, I believe it is an important discovery into the fashion faux pas in the Canon.

While trying to come up with a tonight's topic for this presentation I also did some research on the location and site of the altercation on Goodge Street, at the corner of Tottenham Court road.

Goodge St. Is now called the A5204 and meets Tottenham Court Road near Bedford Square Garden. It is approx. a half mile from the Alpha Inn. An easy walk. While much has changed in London since the story took place I believe I have found the location of the broken window.

Just as you reach the corner of the two streets there is a restaurant called Le Pain Quotidien, a rustic-chic bakery/cafe. Before that it was called Rising Sun, a 19th century pub. The building was definitely there at the time of the story.

I mean, I guess it could have been the one, or it could be the KFC just down the street.



EACH IS SUGGESTIVE

Rob Nunn, BSI

[Interesting Though Elementary](#), June 30, 2019

Reading "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot" this morning gave me a couple different thoughts about this story. So this week, I'm just going to ramble through my thoughts on one of the less popular stories in the Canon.

I feel like the stories from 'His Last Bow' get a short shrift. We often dismiss the last two collections of stories either purposely or subconsciously. And while there can be a good debate about 'The Case-Book', I think 'His Last Bow' isn't in the forefront of our minds because they weren't the packaged deal of 'Adventures,' 'Memoirs,' and 'Return.'

DEVI gives us this great Sherlockismus:

"I followed you."

"I saw no one."

"That is what you may expect to see when I follow you."

If you had asked me what story that quote came from, I wouldn't have been able to tell you. Admittedly, I'm not as great at quotes as I'd like to be, but that's another story.

Dr. Leon Sterndale seems like a character that would be rife for a spin off full of his own adventures. I can just see him meeting up with Professor Challenger or Sebastian Moran in his travels.

Do you think Holmes showed more emotion towards Watson in this story or when he was shot in 3GAR? Either way, it's one of those rare moments when Holmes shows us just how important the good doctor is to him.

DEVI reminded me of a lot of other stories, too. Mainly REIG and ABBE. In REIG, Holmes is ordered to recuperate and finds himself investigating a local problem instead. The end of ABBE shows Holmes weighing the justification of a criminal and allowing him to go. Although the motive and murder weapon of DEVI are new to us, the beginning and the end can give the reader *deja vu*.

But what really got me thinking today were the following lines:

"The ancient Cornish language had also arrested his attention, and he had, I remember, conceived the idea that it was akin to the Chaldean, and had been largely derived



from the Phoenician traders in tin. He had received a consignment of books upon philology and was settling down to develop this thesis..."

There are just enough buzzwords in here to pique my interest, but I also immediately recognize them as words I don't fully understand. Chaldean. Phoenician. Philology.

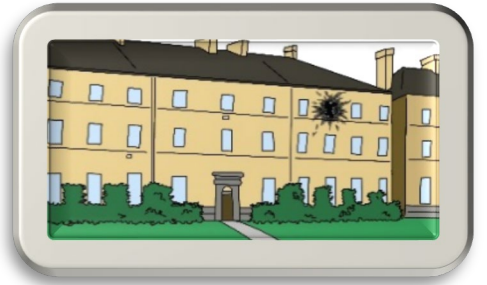
These have always struck me as vaguely theological words. At least 'Phoenician.' You hear of them in relation to the Israelites in the Bible. A quick Google search shows me that 'philology' is the study of languages. 'Chaldean' comes up quite a bit in the Old Testament.

Like someone else once said, "My biblical knowledge is a trifle rusty," but those few sentences always spark something in the back of my brain. There's something there related to my interest in the overlap of Sherlock Holmes and theology, I just don't have the knowledge to make it make sense. Perhaps I need to do some more reading. After all, "to let the brain work without sufficient material is like racing an engine. It racks itself to pieces."



Baker Street Elementary

Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason

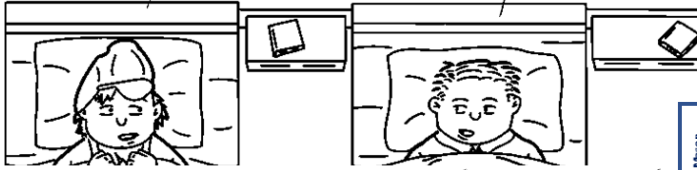


BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY
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FAY, MASON & MASON

WHAT WERE YOU READING EARLIER THIS EVENING?

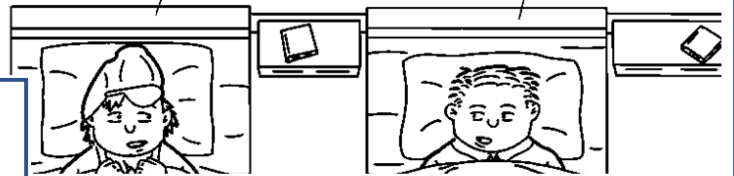
I WAS READING AN ARTICLE
ABOUT THE FEAR OF BEING
TOUCHED BY SOMEONE ELSE... IT
IS CALLED 'HAPHEPHOBIA'.



THE FIRST ADVENTURES OF HOLMES AND WATSON

THE AUTHOR STATED IT CAN BE A VERY
DEVASTATING CONDITION TO BE SUBJECTED TO.

I WOULD THINK HAVING
HAPHEPHOBIA WOULD STILL
BE BETTER THAN HAVING A
WHOLE PHOBIA.



THAT IS AN INTERESTING WAY OF LOOKING AT IT.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE A PHOBIA
OF PEOPLE WITH PHOBIAS?

