

# The Bilge Pump

Vol. 11, No. 05 - May, 2023

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



## PLEASE NOTE: **June 04, 2023 Meeting** NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on **May 04** 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 Missing Three-Quarter**".

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

**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".

**Jerry Kegley, BSI**, will be our featured guest speaker.

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

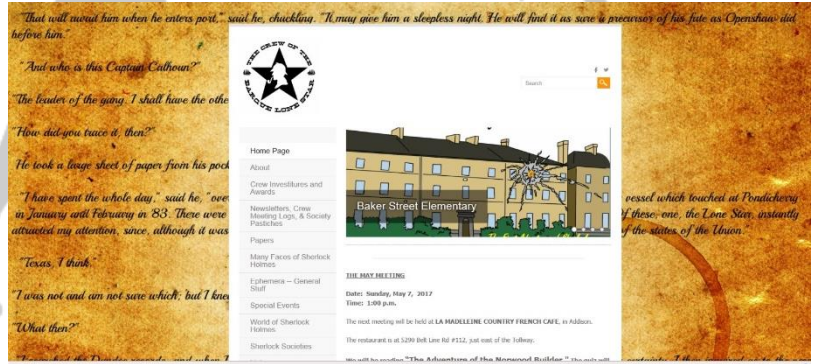
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You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>

<p><b>Who dunnit:</b></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><a href="mailto:mason.steve8080@gmail.com">mason.steve8080@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:waltpieper@att.net">waltpieper@att.net</a> <a href="mailto:221b@verizon.net">221b@verizon.net</a> <a href="mailto:jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com">jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com</a>  <a href="mailto:myrkrid08@yahoo.com">myrkrid08@yahoo.com</a></p>
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Our Website:

[www.dfw-sherlock.org](http://www.dfw-sherlock.org)



Our Facebook Page:

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

# MAY 07 SUMMARY

Cindy Brown

There were 56 in attendance at this ZOOM meeting.

**Brenda Rossini** opened the meeting with a wonderful limerick toast.

We then proceeded to the quiz on this month's story, "The Adventure of The Golden Pince-Nez".

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

**Sandy Kozinn, ASH** then did a limerick of "The Golden Pince-Nez" (see below).

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

**Joe Fay** continued his briefing on the "Writings on the Writings".

The featured speaker this month was **Daniel Stashower**, who gave an amazing talk on Arthur Conan Doyle and his relationship to Sherlock Holmes, especially as Doyle progressed during his life.

**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.*

Anna followed the coconut mat;

She would free her lost lover, but that

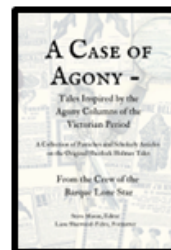
Didn't work. In a flash

Holmes found her, with ash,

For she'd stabbed Smith (Willoughby) flat.

Sandy Kozinn

The Crew of the Barque Lone Star Society is producing our 7<sup>th</sup> book as part of our 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.dfw-sherlock.org)

If you would like to participate, you can email us at: [mason.steve8080@gmail.com](mailto:mason.steve8080@gmail.com)



# MAKING IT UP

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD, Deck-Mate

In “The Man with the Twisted Lip,” Holmes washed the prisoner Hugh Boone’s face to remove theatrical makeup and reveal the man’s true identity—Neville St. Clair. St. Clair confessed to the charade and explained his theatrical background helped him create his disguise as a street beggar.

For years, he’d made a living by panhandling as Hugh Boone. Holmes’ own use of disguises most likely gave him some insight into the use of not only wigs and costumes but makeup as well. Advances in theatrical makeup during the Victorian period assisted both men in making their altered personalities much more realistic.

Before the Victorian period, women’s makeup was acceptable and popular (consider the images of Queen Elizabeth I). By the Regency period (1790-1837), its use was much less excessive, with rouge and powder still considered appropriate. (1)

The Victorian period saw a rejection of almost all makeup after the Queen noted that its use was “impolite.” Altering one’s appearance was viewed as a form of trickery—like what actors did in the theater when they portrayed another character. Makeup was deceptive, and the actresses who wore it were dishonest and on a level similar to prostitutes.

Thus, despite the popularity of theatrical performances and well-known actresses wearing makeup in public, the practice never caught on among the rest of the population until the end of the century as attitudes toward women’s social positions changed. (2)

While stage makeup was first widely used in the 1500 and 1600s in Europe, it has a much longer history, dating back to Greek theater. Those appearing on the

Greek stage wore masks to depict emotions until Thespis, considered the first actor (a person depicting another character instead of only being part of a chorus recounting the action), painted his face with a toxic mixture of white lead and mercuric sulfide. (3) Like Asian actors, such as Japanese Kabuki performers, he preferred makeup because it allowed facial expressions to depict emotions. (4)

Until the 1800s, theatrical makeup differed little from that used by ancient actors. Burnt cork; artist paints such as vermilion, red lead, and carmine; ink to draw in wrinkles; and face whiteners such as white lead, flour, and powdered pearls dated from ancient times.



They would remove the paints with butter, (5) or possibly a homemade cold cream (originally developed by Romans in 150 CE). Many Victorian women made their own version of this water, oil, and wax mixture, until in the late 1800s when the first commercially manufactured cold cream appeared on the

market. (6)

The introduction of theatrical gaslighting, however, revealed much more of the stage to audiences. Such harsh lights accentuated the shabby costumes and washed-out actor features hidden in candlelight. Ludwig Leichner, a German opera singer, responded to the demand for better coloring for actors by using his interest in chemistry to create greasepaint, a mixture of lard (and later other fatty bases) with powders. (7)

As more and more actors demanded them for their own theatrical performances, the pigments were commercially produced as “makeup boxes” with greasepaint sticks that included tints for different nationalities. (8)

In addition to creating the illusion of different ethnic groups, makeup was (and still is) used to make the actor appear younger or older, hide facial defects such as blemishes, or call attention to a certain feature. (9)

S. J. Adair Fitz-Gerald, in his book *How to "Make-Up"* provided instructions on how to use makeup to create such illusions. The actor was to use the greasepaint only after applying a layer of cocoa butter. To remove the makeup, the person would rub the paint again with cocoa butter and then wash with soap and water. (10)

Given their experience in the art of disguises, both Neville St. Clair and Holmes would have been



familiar with the theatrical makeup techniques Fitz-Gerald developed. Watson's portrayal of St. Clair's makeup peeling off like the bark from a tree suggested the man used greasepaint to create the Hugh Boone character—certainly, not something that could have been removed with two swipes from a sponge and water as the good doctor described.

Either Holmes had something else on the sponge, or Watson did not study the process too carefully. Regardless, Watson's apparent misunderstanding of the process illustrated once again Holmes' criticism of his friend's poor observational techniques.

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- 1) <https://hair-and-makeup-artist.com/womens-regency-makeup/>
  - 2) <https://hair-and-makeup-artist.com/womens-victorian-makeup/>
  - 3) <https://costumes.lovetoknow.com/dance-performance-costumes/history-of-theatre-makeup>
  - 4) <https://seatup.com/blog/guide-to-theater-makeup/>
  - 5) [https://www.ehow.co.uk/facts\\_4868752\\_history-makeup-theater.html](https://www.ehow.co.uk/facts_4868752_history-makeup-theater.html)
  - 6) <https://besamecosmetics.com/blogs/blog/what-is-cold-cream#:~:text=In%20150%20C.E.%2C%20Roman%20physician,used%20to%20improve%20the%20scent.>
  - 7) <https://www.cosmeticsandskin.com/bcb/greasepaint.php>
  - 8) <https://recipes.hypotheses.org/4755>
  - 9) <https://www.iofthestormoffbroadway.com/adorable-makeup-tutorial/a-history-of-theatre-makeup/>
  - 10) S. J. Adair Fitz-Gerald, *How to "Make-Up,"* London: Samuel French, Ltd, 1901.

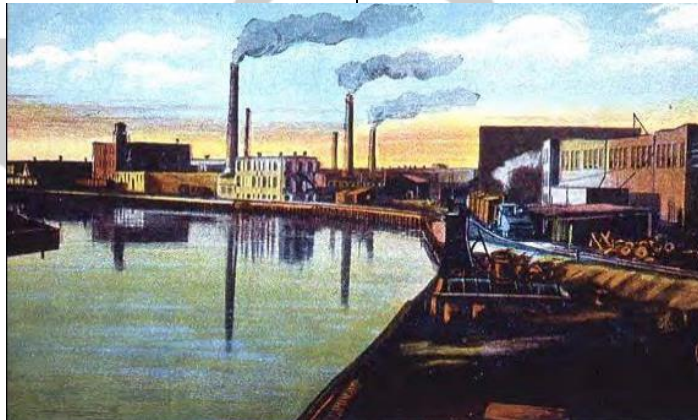
# VERMISSA VALLEY LODGE 341 AND GENERAL IRON

Bob Sharfman

In *The Valley of Fear* (VALL), the Worshipful Master of Lodge 341 was told by the treasurer of the lodge that the actions of the brothers in the lodge had driven all the smaller and most vulnerable companies from the Vermissa Valley and left large companies “like the Railroad or General Iron who have their directors in New York or Philadelphia and care nothing for our threats.” (VALL) The setting for this scene was placed in the year 1894 (Baring-Gould)<sup>1</sup> and the novel published in 1923—one year after our favorite literary agent visited the United States and, for my purposes obvious from what follows, Chicago.

My interest in the novel was stimulated, to say the least, by the reference to General Iron. General Iron is a storied Chicago company. Did Doyle learn of it on his 1914 trip to the United States? I say—without any documentary proofs, but how else could the reference be explained—Yes! What was the reason

for General Iron and not “the Railroad” or other companies mentioned in the story? Well, I can’t say for sure, but as to General Iron, the answer is very personal and has to do with the wonderful history of this company, its exemplification of the success that has attended many—if not most—of the opportunities open to the immigrants from Eastern European countries during the first half of the twentieth century.<sup>2</sup> It’s a true American story. Also, of no small importance, is the fact that General Iron’s founder, Grandma Rosie Rosenmutter, was my wife’s grandmother, and after our marriage the doings of General Iron were a part of my life—including a great hiatus (a story the world is not yet ready for). The second generation did me a life-changing favor which I can never repay. The third generation contained my favorite cousins, and the fourth generation was every bit as hard-working as the previous managers. And so, what is the story about General Iron, and what makes it so special that it was mentioned in *The Valley of Fear*? Read on.



The beginning is not in the United States but in Poland: Stashover, Poland, a village east of Warsaw, Poland, where Rose Rosenmutter was born, lived and married (in Stashover) and had seven children. The eldest was Sam, then Fae, Nathan, Harry, Charles, David and Eleanor.<sup>3</sup> The family emigrated to the United States in 1912 and settled in a Polish/Jewish neighborhood in the area of what is now called Bucktown. Bucktown got its name from William “Buck” Worley a fisherman who operated a boat rental business in the 1880s. Another source says that the area was the “Polish downtown” and got its name from the number of goats kept by the residents.<sup>4</sup>

It was not the upscale area that now characterizes the neighborhood. They often told stories of the violence that the “Black Hand” brought to their neighborhood (what is now known as the Mafia).

The fortunes of the family were at its lowest ebb. Then Grandma Rosie would walk the streets and alleys with an old baby carriage calling for “any old rags and iron.” Later this baby carriage was upgraded to a horse and wagon. This “junk,” which included paper and rags, was then sold and allowed the family to keep going—and keep going they did! They all attended Burr elementary school until they finished the sixth grade.<sup>5</sup>

A notable exception was Dave who actually finished high school and attended Illinois Institute of Technology so he could take a few classes in what was then called metallurgy—a skill needed after the business stopped collecting paper and rags and limited their efforts to ferrous and non-ferrous metals thereby requiring some knowledge of the difference. This knowledge was imparted to all the brothers (and making them “scrap dealers” rather than “junk men).

This lack of formal education or “schooling” as the term is used was very common among the poor immigrants of that era, which made up most of my friends’ parents and grandparents. What was present in those new Americans was an intellectual curiosity or IC as that term was used in my schools. After the first generation, the children and grandchildren all went to college and many to business school for the coveted MBA degree—and came away with the knowledge their predecessors knew by instinct and experience—buy low, sell dear! Here are some names of business leaders of my youth who had very similar educational background, to wit: none past grammar school or a year or two of high school, and who made a great success in businesses. Not coincidentally, they left great amounts of money to educational institutions. They truly built bridges for those that followed.<sup>6</sup>

Julius Rosenwald – founded Sears Roebuck

Henry Ford (went to 8<sup>th</sup> grade in a one-room schoolhouse

Montgomery Ward – retailing/marketing

Marshall Field – retailing

Andrew Carnegie – first integrated steel producer, the richest man in the world

Henry Crown – built a construction supply company into a controlling interest in General Dynamics

Edward Henry Harriman – built railroads

Allen Pinkerton – Birdy Edwards employer!<sup>7</sup>

Back to General Iron.

Empty lots were purchased, or leased, so the metals could be sorted and stored, and little by little, equipment, i.e., fork lifts, trucks, presses and shears made their appearance. All of this combined with an exceptional (not really from this group, or any group of immigrants) deprivation of personal comforts in favor of growing the business.

By 1953 General Iron was already a great success, but the best was yet to come. Sometime in the 1950s, the company built a hydraulic press capable of crushing two automobiles into a cube (called a bale) about the size of an orange crate (ask your grandparents), and were processing almost 200 cars every day. How important is that? Well, steel cannot be made without scrap and Chicago was making more steel than the rest of world in the 40s, 50s and 60s. *It was a big deal.* That press was also featured in a “gangster movie,” *Mickey One* in which a new Lincoln automobile (complete with a body in the trunk) was made into a bale (cube) about three feet by three.

General Iron’s part in this Midwestern success? They were the largest scrap dealer in the area and very ably led by

Nathan (Nate) Rosenmutter (Rose) and later his daughter and then by his grandson—Grandma Rosie’s great grandson.



Aside from that favor I benefited from, the only thing I received from General Iron was a jacket with the company’s name and logo on the front. I cannot count the number of times I met people who

noticed the jacket and asked if I worked at the company. I said, “No, my cousin gave this to me.” The response was always the same (or some slight—very slight—variation). “Oh, my father or brother or sister or mother, etc. worked there. That’s the best place ever to work.” Or “They are really nice and generous people.” While I can’t claim any affinity to the Rosenmutter gene pool it makes me very proud to be part of this family. Not to mention my pride in this great American story—one of many.

Getting back to the Canon, it is clear that Lodge 341 in Vernissa Valley did not bring General Iron down. The company was forced to cease operations as the result of gentrification of an area that was formerly: a steel mill, two scrap yards, a tannery and a slew of derelict buildings and warehouses. An area zoned Heavy Industry and on the Chicago River at a point where ocean-going barges could reach the producers of steel. They employed over 300 heads of families who could perpetuate the American dream.



However, I can't prove it, but I know for sure that Boss McGinty did believe that if the Scowrers would bypass General Iron, the management would not only help their (adopted) country become the largest producer of steel in the world with all that means to the national well-being. In addition to that macro benefit, the officers, directors, and employees left behind them civic involvement in good deeds. Charity directed toward their country, service in the armed forces during World War II, support for the fledgling country of Israel, aid to almost every community-oriented entity and the respect of their vendors, customers, and even their competitors.

All this from a family of junk collectors, scrap dealers, and lastly recyclers.<sup>8</sup> Whatever the name, Boss McGinty and his band of thugs are at least to be commended on this one decision to let General Iron keep operating without their normal level of harassment.

Good call McGinty! Remember what Leroy Brown was known for...“meaner than a junkyard dog”<sup>9</sup> That could well describe the Rosenmutterers if you added knew how to be an asset to their family and community.



A good ending to *The Valley of Fear*.

So now you know. The founders of General Iron in the Vermessa Valley and the Pinkertons had at least this common bond and more importantly they built bridges for those who would come after. Aside from the education or lack thereof, great success which lasted over succeeding generations, very active and directed philanthropy toward schools, universities (and libraries in Carnegie's case) seems to be a common thread. General Iron included.

Thank you, Boss McGinty.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Baring-Gould, William S., *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., New York, NY (1967)

<sup>2</sup> Eastern European Jews, Hungary, Romania, And also Italy

<sup>3</sup> The last three were born in the United States

<sup>4</sup> Time out, Oct. 15, 2015, Gambit

<sup>5</sup> Nate was the recipient of his diploma on his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday—with the entire school in attendance at the ceremony—which was proudly displayed in his office with a portrait of his mother (“Our Founder”).

<sup>6</sup> Dromgoogle, Will Allen: *The Bridge Builder*

<sup>7</sup> In Chicago the Crown, Pritzker, Ryan and Turanno families are just a few examples. See Berkow, Ira, *Maxwell Street*, Doubleday (1977).

<sup>8</sup> The business became even more complicated and sophisticated, but the people “in” it were proud to be junk dealers or peddlers.

<sup>9</sup> Croce, Jim, *Bad Bad Leroy Brown*, “Life and Times”

# THE NATURAL LAW PRINCIPLE IN SHERLOCK HOLMES

Morrison St. John Lee

Thanks to Max McGee for finding this article for our newsletter.

*"I shall have to compound a felony, as usual."*

Sherlock Holmes

*Felony: ME. Wickedness, baseness – 1489 wrath, Guile perfidy, 1533. A crime, misdeed, sin..any class of crimes regarded by the law as of a graver character than misdemeanours .*

Shorter Oxford English Dictionary

An inductive study of the outcomes of the career of Sherlock Holmes over the sixty recorded cases, (roughly classified) reads thus:

## 1. Arrests /Captures (Due process of law observed. 19/60)

Jefferson Hope of *A Study in Scarlet* arrested  
Jonathan Small of *Agra* arrested  
John Clay of *Redheads* arrested  
Beddington the forger arrested  
Cunningham father and son arrested for *Reigate* murder  
Sebastian Moran caught  
Oldacre arrested for murder  
Slaney arrested for murder in the *Dancing Men*  
Woodley caught, Carruthers defended  
Patrick Cairns arrested for murder of *Black Peter*  
Beppo arrested in *Six Napoleons*  
Browner arrested for murder  
Valentine Walter and Oberstein arrested for murder and treason/espionage  
Peters arrested for kidnapping/attempted murder of *Lady Frances Carfax*  
Culverton Smith arrested for the murder of *Victor Savage*  
Von Bork arrested for espionage  
Count Sylvius arrested for theft  
Evans arrested for attempted murder  
Retired Color-man *Amberley* arrested for twin murder

31.7%

## 2. Outwitted. (Clearly defeated. 1/60)

Irene Adler 1.6%

## 3. No result but villain dealt just outcome. (A kind of 'karmic' justice. 8/60)

Roylott dies of snake bite  
Stapleton dies on the moor  
Black Georgiano killed by Gennaro Luca  
Tiger of San Pedro Don Murillo murdered in Madrid  
Wilder dies from fall in cave  
Resident Patient's murderers die in sinking

KKK die in Lone Star sinking  
Hudson dies by the hand of Beddoes

13.3%

**Successful other. (Successful miscellaneous outcomes. 18/60)**

Neville St Clair identified  
Wood vindicated  
Greek interpreter Melas rescued  
Douglas acquitted (self defence)  
Miss Dunbar vindicated at Thor Bridge  
Ms Ronder saved from suicide  
Lion's Mane organism identified  
Illustrious client's secret preserved  
Blanched Elmsworth found  
Creeping professor exposed  
Rucastle exposed  
St Simon's bride found  
Daughter identified  
Butler Brunton's body found  
Stark escapes Holmes, barely  
Straker's killer as a horse identified  
Anna Coram discovered in her husband's room  
Missing ¾ found

30.0%

**4. 'Holmesian Justice. (Personal [subjective?] 'justice.' 14/60)**

John Turner - freed from homicide  
James Ryder - freed from theft  
Joseph Harrison - freed deliberately  
Woman protected - *"my sympathies are with the criminal, not the victim."* (ie. Milverton)  
Professor Moriarty - killed by Holmes  
Captain Crocker - freed to marry after committing homicide  
Hilda Trelawny Hope - protected from theft  
Dr Leon Sterndale - freed from murder  
Young Jack Ferguson (15 yrs old) sent to sea: attempted murder  
Isadora Klein - let off from homicide  
Windibank - freed from attempt to defraud  
Mary Holder - protected from theft  
Gilchrist - let off from charge of cheating/ theft  
Sir Robert Norberton - let off attempt to pursue personal advantage

23.5%

Thus in an analysis of Holmes' cases we find the following classification:

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Arrests /captures; due process -        | 31.7% of cases |
| 2. Outwitted (bungled) -                   | 1.6%           |
| 3. No definite results (natural justice) - | 13.3%          |
| 4. Successful – other -                    | 30.0%          |
| 5. 'Holmesian' justice -                   | 23.4%          |

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100%

## The issue.

It is the last and most curious 'felonious' category, (23.5% nearly ¼ of outcomes 'Holmesian' justice, where he does not follow due process) that I would like to query here. The two issues are these:

1. *on what basis does Holmes make these 'felonious' calls?*
2. *is this basis personally capricious or objective?*

## Material facts.

Consider a sample of felonies against Holmes. He is guilty (upon normal interpretation of British law) of:

- . obstruction of justice - Charles Aug. Milverton shooting
- . denial of due process - Sir Eustace Brackenstall homicide
- . homicide - Professor Moriarty
- . allowing known felons to escape - Dr Leon Sterndale; Captain Crocker, James Ryder, Joseph Harrison.
- . non-disclosure of information - Mary Holder, Hilda Trelawny Hope, Isadora Klein.
- . tampering with evidence - Devil's Foot Root

There is no doubt that upon a literal and just interpretation of modern legal statute that Holmes has committed numerous felonies, which he admits is unexceptional, and 'usual' by his self confession, as reported in the case of the three Gables: *"I shall have to compound a felony, as usual."*

It is the quixotic nature of his judgments that demands our full attention here, as in the homicide of Sir Eustace Brackenstall of Abbey Grange. Was there a more bizarre scene in fiction?

- Holmes. *"See here Captain Crocker, we'll do this in due form of law. You are the prisoner. Watson you are a British jury, and I never met a man who was more eminently fitted to represent one. I am the judge. Now gentleman of the jury, you have heard the evidence. Do you find the prisoner guilty or not guilty?"*
- Watson. *"Not guilty my lord," I said.*
- Holmes. *"Vox populi vox dei. You are acquitted Captain Crocker."*

Here a nobleman was brutally killed and his killer apprehended by Holmes, and yet despite clear evidence of the crime and a confession, the killer was allowed to go free upon his private judgment and the dead denied due process, but upon what justification? The same in the case of Mortimer Tregennis and his killer Dr Leon Sterndale

- Sterndale. *"My soul cried out for revenge...I have spent so much of my life outside the law, that I have come at last to be a law unto myself."*
- Holmes. *"What were your plans?"*
- Sterndale. *"I had intended to bury myself in Central Africa. My work there is but half finished."*
- Holmes. *"Go and do the other half," said Holmes. "I, at least for one, am not prepared to prevent you."*

Thus upon his own authority Holmes released a confessed killer. (This was after he tampered with crime-scene evidence found in the sitting-room lamp of the Tregennis family.) In the case of Moriarty, Holmes pitched him headlong to his death over the Reichenbach Falls, and then conspicuously failed to notify the authorities of his part in the death. Similarly Sir Robert Norberton was let off from the charge of failing to notify the authorities of the death of his sister.

Other examples of Holmesian 'justice' are found in the release of James Ryder and Mary Holder, both of whom stole jewelry worth vast sums of money, and Joseph Harrison and Lady Hilda Trelawny Hope, who both abstracted highly important state papers that could have altered the course of European history. Likewise Gilchrist was allowed to skip off to Rhodesia without punishment after it was discovered the young man stole examination proofs from his university. All these were discovered by Holmes, yet all were allowed impunity in due process of law. Only in Holmes does the law 'bear the sword in vain,' in contradistinction to St. Paul in Romans 13. Perhaps Holmes was serious when he said; *"I'd rather play tricks with the law than with my own conscience."* echoing the rather injudicious remark;

*"my sympathies are with the criminal, not the victim."*

On the face of it Holmes judgments appear capricious, subjective and contrary to law.

### **Law.**

I take it as axiomatic that in any society laws are made to be obeyed. Laws enjoin upon the members of a society the requirement to submit criminal actions to a forum for the objective consideration of evidence. These fora we know as courts of law. Courts of law were established to realize justice by an impartial consideration of evidence. Clearly these private acts of Sherlock Holmes are at variance with the letter of British law. Here I take the object of all law (Stammler 1856-1938) *to be the realization of Justice, that is the most perfect harmony of social life possible under the conditions of time and place.* (In Bodenheimer p.136. The Philosophy and Method of Law)

### **Apply law to fact.**

The real object of law is the realization of Justice. Has justice been served by Holmes? The ancient Greeks proposed that right action is defensible by right reason. In the classical formulation of Natural Law, where an action stood on undefeated reasons, the action was allowed to be justified. What is seen when we apply this rule to the facts? In the shooting of Charles Augustus Milverton the official police knew:

- . Milverton was a known blackmailer
- . He held papers for blackmailing
- . These papers were burned by the blackmailed person /murderer
- . No other item was stolen
- . The sole object seemed to be the prevention of social exposure

But Holmes knew much more:

- . the motive of the murderess
- . that Milverton was one of the most dangerous men in London
- . substantive evidence against him was unobtainable or unconvincing
- . the private act of revenge elicited Holmes' sympathies.

Knowing the true circumstances behind the shooting, Holmes declined the invitation to 'step down to Appledore Towers' to benefit the official police investigation.

His reasoning was:

*Milverton was guilty of gross criminal actions*

*Evidence against Milverton's criminality was unobtainable legally*

*Criminal ends came upon a criminal by persons to whom crime was exceptional*

*Therefore his sympathies were with the person to whom crime was exceptional and acted under duress.*

This 'Holmesian' principle of Natural Law – the realization of Justice – is seen in other cases. Holmes' deliberations outside due process are not capricious, but he follows a pattern of Natural Law in three scenarios. Holmes used private judgment:

1. *where the party was a good person and the crime exceptional to their character.*
2. *where the guilty party executes proper Justice*
3. *where the guilty party is part of a greater scheme, and a greater good to be served*

1. *For example in the case where the party was a good person and the crime exceptional to their character.*

Holmes considered the out-of-character and exceptional commission of crime as an opportunity to extend leniency. In the case of the theft of the Blue Carbuncle James Ryder:

- . was tempted to theft by Catherine Cusack
- . showed contrition toward his misdeed
- . gained nothing by the theft
- . was sensibly aware of his good character

- . was acutely aware of the pain to his parents
- . possessed not a criminal character

The jewel was recovered, and the case against John Horner, (the falsely accused) fell over and he was freed. Further prosecution of Ryder would have meant jail for a good man and shame for a decent family, without a better guarantee of repentance than he had already demonstrated.

In the case of the Beryl Coronet Mary Holder was protected by Holmes' silence after the Coronet and jewels were recovered. Her crime was suggested and planned by the criminal machinations of Sir George Burnwell. Exposing Mary would have meant a public scandal for a noble family with no opportunity for her to return, after a predictable rejection by Burnwell. In the case of Hilda Trelawny Hope Holmes perceived she was a naïve and defenseless woman tempted to act out of character in reaction to the threats of a villain. The main object of his investigation was to recover a diplomatic letter and the preservation of national security.

But Isadora Klein had less claim to Holmes' sympathies after she brought about the premature but unpremeditated and death of Douglas Maberley of the Three Gables. Her desire to protect herself against exposure resulted in her use of violent men to achieve her ends. (Douglas was believed to have died by self-inflicted grief after an assault). Holmes seems to have realized the difficulties in realizing her prosecution, and settled for a stern warning to the imperious lady, and a one thousand pound cheque to compensate the grandmother of the deceased.

## 2. In the case where the guilty party is a good person and executes Justice, Holmes accepts the Justice

The three cases in which this principle is seen clearly are; The Abbey Grange, the Devils Foot and the Final Solution. The three characters; Captain Crocker, Dr Leon Sterndale and Sherlock Holmes himself, are under scrutiny for content and motive.

### Captain Crocker

- . responsible sea captain endorsed on all hands
- . Brackenstall had a history of violence
- . acted under provocation and
- . was first attacked by Brackenstall (under influence of liquor)
- . acted in self defence
- . on behalf of a wronged woman
- . honorably and in character at all times
- . without regard for personal advantage.

Also,

### Dr Leon Sterndale

- . Adventurer in a lawless land
- . knew of Tregennis' theft of poison and its toxic effects
- . of his questions for its use
- . and his character and motive

but in a court of law this would be;

- . reduced to circumstantial evidence
- . defense based on hearsay from the accused

In this matter Sterndale acted in character with no advantage to be gained by his act but the administration of justice:- the application of the poison that the murderer applied to his own family. Sterndale's 'defense' to Holmes was the simple truth told with an honest and real sense of justice prompted by the willful murder of his beloved. (Under French law crimes of passion are mitigated.) After assisting the official police force Holmes announces: *"It's not a case in which we are called upon to interfere. Our investigation has been independent, and our action shall be also."* Holmes saw clearly no greater good could come of condemning a just man to penal servitude and depriving society of the good he might yet do. He believed Justice had been served on the murderer. It was enough.

It might be argued that Holmes obstructed justice in taking the powder, but this does not stand up to close scrutiny.

- . Holmes took but a sample of the evidence leaving half "*so as not to stand in the way of an official police force.*")
- . additionally he left two hints with Vicar Roundhay to communicate to them: the open window, and the talc on the sitting room lamp

In the homicide of Professor Moriarty Holmes had a duty to confess to his death, but he chose not to.

Firstly consider the character content of Holmes. He is;

- . a good man actively opposed to evil, who
- . assisted the police force to alleviate crime and
- . acted as a private police force, and
- . acts on strictly rational principles from force of constrained habit

Secondly consider his motive:

- . he acted against the criminality of Moriarty
- . whose criminality was known to the police
- . but the evidence against whom was not substantive
- . Moriarty set out to destroy Holmes and
- . Holmes accepted his own death if it negated Moriarty.
- . Holmes acted in self defense at the Falls
- . in the interest of others and
- . would have been hunted if it was known he had survived.

To Holmes, Moriarty's destruction was justice for those he killed, robbed and ruined in the past, (and prospectively in the future had he survived.) With nothing to gain but the good of others Holmes had no personal advantage nor motive for the death of Moriarty. In these three cases rationality and circumstance dictated Holmes' judgments, judgments in accord with right reason and therefore morally defensible. These actions would have been appropriate had there been no formal legal system at all.

### *3. In the case where the guilty party was part of a greater scheme, and a greater good to be served*

Holmes acted arbitrarily in a number of cases, but two cases (where he extended the *Nelson-eye* to crime) bear particular notice. In the Naval Treaty Holmes '*let his man go,*' and again in the case of the case of the Second Stain, Holmes' main object was the recovery of vital documents and the preservation of secrecy in the interest of national security. It was in this context of the *higher good* that he sought to avoid due process, though in Naval Treaty he notified the authority in charge, one, Forbes.

*"If he is quick enough to catch his bird well and good. But if, as I shrewdly suspect, he finds the nest empty before he gets there, why, all the better for the government."*

This avoidance of due process preserved a higher good, even at the cost of a criminal's freedom. In the case of Shoscombe Old Place Sir Robert Norberton pleaded with Holmes not to denounce him for failing to register his sister's death. His defense was:

- . she died of natural causes
- . of a known illness and
- . was interred in a family crypt and
- . buried with reverence and respect and
- . sincerely mourned

but practically:

- . declaring her death immediately meant certain financial ruin and shame
- . a short delay meant a probable chance at financial security.

While Holmes rightly saw this conduct as *"inexcusable,"* he was moved by compassion at seeing the entire destiny of a highborn aristocrat reduced to a single wager, and allowed the delay warning him:

*"..this matter must of course, be referred to the police. It was my duty to bring the facts to light, and there I must leave it. As to the decency or morality of your conduct, it is not for me to express an opinion."*

The happy ending was that Shoscombe Prince won the Derby, Sir Robert recovered enough to pay his debts and gain financial security, and was only mildly censured by the police and coroner for the delay in registering his sister's death. Holmes' compassion was vindicated and certain ruin was avoided. This all-encompassing scope of deliberation is the object of Natural Law.

### **Conclusion.**

In this brief survey of Holmes' cases it may be observed that Holmes had a definite Natural Law rationale for all the decisions he made. While committed to due process in the main (31.7% of his cases) it is found that independent 'Holmesian' justice (no formal process involved) accounts for a substantial 23.4% of all his outcomes.

While the letter of due process was not observed in these cases, 'Holmesian' justice is not entirely arbitrary or capricious. Holmes' rationale accords with the spirit of the Natural Law tradition applied on a case –by–case basis according to three principles:

1. where the party was a good person and the crime exceptional to their character.
2. where the guilty party executed proper Justice
3. where the guilty party was part of a greater scheme with a greater good to be served

In the actions of Holmes we discover no felony; ie. *No wickedness, baseness or perfidy, no misdeed, sin or any class of crimes regarded by the law as of a graver character than misdemeanors.* In each case Holmes exercised both justice and compassion. Law without reason is no law. Law without compassion is vicious.

Natural Law consists in heart and mind. Its scope is both cognitive and affective; thinking and feeling. It requires a preeminent love of justice, a strictly rational mind, a truly compassionate heart, and a robust courage independent of the safety nets of peer approval and social consensus. Natural Law plucks corn for the hungry, tends to drowning oxen, surrenders its life jacket to a drowning non-swimmer, practices medicine, and does good, even on the Sabbath.

True Justice sees deeper than the letter of the law, and looks to preserve the spirit of the same. Justice, (and its commensurate Natural Justice) is based on Natural Law, and synonymous with Divine Law;

*Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment; thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbor.* Leviticus 19:15 (KJV)

In this vignette of Holmesian justice we see, as in a glass darkly, the complexity of the supreme regulatory principle of human conduct, the law of the heart and mind, Natural Law – the harmony of right thought and right feeling with right action. Natural Law is seen here in the head-and-heart judgments of Sherlock Holmes.

Morrison Lee *Holmes' Clay Pipe* Seoul, Korea May 2009



# A RETHINKING OF THE JAY FINLEY CHRIST ABBREVIATIONS

Chris Redmond, BSI, MBt

Thanks so much, Chris, for sharing this with us.

Occasionally somebody suggests that the traditional four-letter Jay Finley Christ abbreviations for the canonical story titles could do with an updating. This puzzle is offered rather in that spirit. Each of these sixty four-letter gems is taken from somewhere in a canonical title. In each case the letters appear consecutively. How quickly can you identify them? The answers are on the next page...

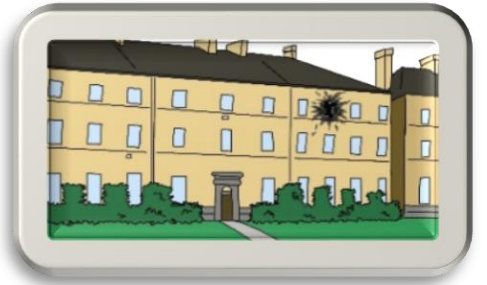
- |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. ADED  | 16. DIER | 31. ISLA | 46. RIDE |
| 2. ALPR  | 17. ECHE | 32. KINT | 47. RINS |
| 3. ANDA  | 18. ECON | 33. KPET | 48. RSTH |
| 4. ARBU  | 19. REDC | 34. LESA | 49. RYCY |
| 5. ARFA  | 20. EDMA | 35. LUST | 50. SCLE |
| 6. ARTE  | 21. ELLO | 36. NTIT | 51. SIDE |
| 7. AVER  | 22. EVIL | 37. ORBR | 52. THET |
| 8. BEOL  | 23. GMEN | 38. ORON | 53. TYHO |
| 9. BEVA  | 24. GRAN | 39. PECK | 54. URMA |
| 10. BLEB | 25. HEBA | 40. PIRE | 55. VALT |
| 11. BLES | 26. IGAT | 41. POLE | 56. VEOR |
| 12. BOAR | 27. IGNO | 42. REEP | 57. VERB |
| 13. CARL | 28. ILDE | 43. REES | 58. YING |
| 14. CENE | 29. ILED | 44. RIAL | 59. YOFF |
| 15. CEPA | 30. IONS | 45. RIAS | 60. YSCH |

Answers:

1. ADED	Red He <b>aded</b> League	REDH	31. ISLA	His <b>Last</b> Bow	LAST
2. ALPR	Final <b>Pr</b> oblem	FINA	32. KINT	Greek <b>Inter</b> preter	GREE
3. ANDA	<b>Scanda</b> l in Bohemia	SCAN	33. KPET	Black <b>Peter</b>	BLAC
4. ARBU	Blue <b>carbu</b> ncle	BLUE	34. LESA	Charles <b>A</b> ugustus Milverton	CHAS
5. ARFA	Disappearance of Lady Frances <b>Carfax</b>	LADY	35. LUST	<b>Illust</b> rious Client	ILLU
6. ARTE	Missing Three- <b>Quarte</b> r	MISS	36. NTIT	Case of <b>Ident</b> ity	IDEN
7. AVER	Musgr <b>ave</b> Ritual	MUSG	37. ORBR	Problem of <b>Thor Br</b> idge	THOR
8. BEOL	Shoscom <b>be</b> Old Place	SHOS	38. ORON	Beryl <b>Coron</b> et	BERY
9. BEVA	Boscom <b>be</b> Valley Mystery	BOSC	39. PECK	<b>Speck</b> led Band	SPEC
10. BLEB	No <b>ble</b> Bachelor	NOBL	40. PIRE	Sussex Vamp <b>ire</b>	SUSS
11. BLES	Three Ga <b>bles</b>	3GAB	41. POLE	Six Na <b>pole</b> ons	SIXN
12. BOAR	Card <b>boar</b> d Box	CARD	42. REEP	<b>Creep</b> ing Man	CREE
13. CARL	Study in <b>Scar</b> let	STUD	43. REES	<b>Three</b> Students	3STU
14. CENE	Golden Pen <b>ce-Nez</b>	GOLD	44. RIAL	Wister <b>ia</b> Lodge	WIST
15. CEPA	Bru <b>ce-Par</b> tington Plans	BRUC	45. RIAS	<b>Gloria</b> Scott	GLOR
16. DIER	Blanched Sold <b>ier</b>	BLAN	46. RIDE	Three Gar <b>ride</b> bs	3GAR
17. ECHE	Copper Be <b>che</b> s	COPP	47. RINS	Maza <b>rin</b> Stone	MAZA
18. ECON	<b>Secon</b> d Stain	SECO	48. RSTH	Engineer's <b>Thum</b> b	ENGI
19. EDCI	<b>Red</b> Circle	REDC	49. RYCY	Solitary <b>Cy</b> clist	SOLI
20. EDMA	Crook <b>ed</b> Man	CROO	50. SCLE	Stockbroker's <b>Clerk</b>	STOC
21. ELLO	<b>Yello</b> w Face	YELL	51. SIDE	Re <b>side</b> nt Patient	RESI
22. EVIL	<b>Devil</b> 's Foot	DEVI	52. THET	Man with <b>the</b> Twisted Lip	TWIS
23. GMEN	Danc <b>ing</b> Men	DANC	53. TYHO	<b>Empty</b> House	EMPT
24. GRAN	Abbey <b>Gran</b> ge	ABBE	54. URMA	Retired Colou <b>rman</b>	RETI
25. HEBA	Hound of <b>the</b> <b>Bas</b> kervilles	HOUN	55. VALT	Nav <b>al</b> Treaty	NAVA
26. IGAT	Re <b>igat</b> e Squire	REIG	56. VEOR	<b>Five</b> Orange Pips	FIVE
27. IGNO	<b>Sign</b> of Four	SIGN	57. VERB	Silver <b>Blaze</b>	SILV
28. ILDE	Norwood <b>Builde</b> r	NORW	58. YING	<b>Dying</b> Detective	DYIN
29. ILED	Ve <b>iled</b> Lodger	VEIL	59. YOFF	Valle <b>y</b> of Fear	VALL
30. IONS	<b>Lion's</b> Mane	LION	60. YSCH	Priory <b>Sch</b> ool	PRIO

# Baker Street Elementary

Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason



BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY  
NUMBER 455-05/14/2023

FAY, MASON & MASON

MOM, I'M HUNGRY... CAN I HAVE A SNACK  
WHILE I AM WRITING MY ESSAY?

OF COURSE, WHAT DOES  
MY LITTLE MAN WANT?



THE FIRST ADVENTURES OF HOLMES AND WATSON

ICE CREAM?

NO.

BISCUITS?

NOPE.



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CHEESECAKE?

NOT A CHANCE.

SWEET PUDDING?

DON'T THINK SO.



BLANCMANGES?

YOU MUST BE DREAMING.

JAM PUFFS?

NOT SO CLOSE TO SUPPER.



<<sigh >> SOME FRUIT?

SURE, IF THAT IS WHAT YOU REALLY WANT.



I BET ALL OF YOU CAN RELATE TO THIS... YOU MUST HAVE EXPERIENCED A SIMILAR INCIDENT IN CHILDHOOD.

