The Bilge Pump

Vol. 11, No. 06 – June, 2023

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

PLEASE NOTE: July 02, 2023 Meeting NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on **July 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 Abbey Grange".

Bob Katz, BSI, ASH, will lead the discussion on the story of "The Adventure of the Abbey Grange".

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".

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, will be our featured guest speaker, and will be speaking on "The Truth About Opium Dens".

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

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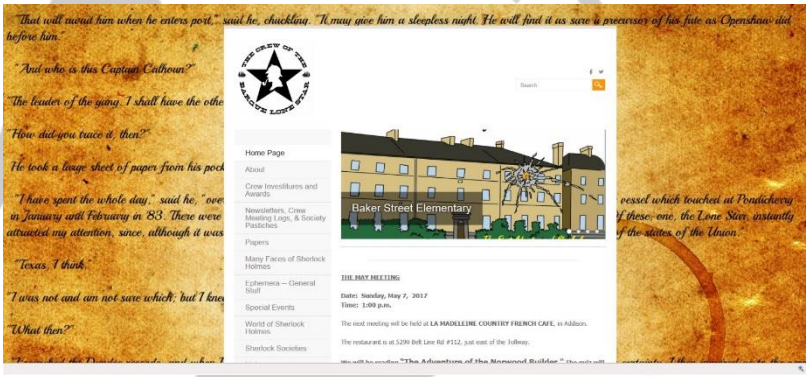


Our Facebook Page:

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

JUNE 05 SUMMARY

Cindy Brown

There were **58** in attendance at this ZOOM meeting.

The meeting was started with an opening toast given by Crew member **Anne Caddell, Deckmate,** on the topic of Illustrations of Conan Doyle, which was presented at our Lone Star Holmes Conference (see page 5).

We then proceeded to the quiz on this month's story, "The Adventure of The Missing Three-Quarter".

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

Eleanor Hébert, Deckmate, then provided the toast she provided at our Lone Star Holmes Conference on Holmes and Mrs. Hudson co-dependence (see page 6).

Thank you for all who attended or helped conduct our very successful Lone Star Holmes Conference held at SMU last month. 67 people enjoyed the opening of Don Hobb's foreign edition collection as well as wonderful presentations by our speakers. Over $1,000 was raised for the Beacon Society through our evening auction.

The next book to be published by the Crew of the Barque Lone Star will have a deadline for submissions on October 1, 2023. The topic of this year's collection of stories will touch on crimes in the late 1800's – early 1900s in the area where you live.

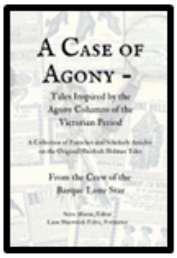
Sandy Kozinn, ASH then did a limerick of "The Missing Three-Quarter" (see page 6).

The featured speaker for the day was **Jerry Kegley, BSI,** who gave a very well-researched presentation on Colonel Sebastian Moran, a revised story of his life and 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.

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

SIDNEY PAGET: THE MAN WHO DREW THE DETECTIVE

Ann Caddell, Deckmate

Every Sherlockian has a mental image of Sherlock Holmes, and while no two of these images are identical, they no doubt share many features. While we could certainly create our mental pictures just from Conan Doyle's vivid descriptions, they are enriched by the many depictions of Holmes by artists and actors. While he was not the first artist to portray Holmes – that was Conan Doyle's own father, Charles -- the artist who first crystallized the image of Holmes for the masses was Sidney Paget.

Paget was already a successful artist and illustrator when The Strand Magazine first hired him in 1891 to illustrate the *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Beginning with 10 pictures for "A Scandal in Bohemia," he would go on to produce a total of 356 drawings for 38 Holmes stories over the next 13 years.

MR. SIDNEY PAGET.

He was the first to depict Holmes in an Inverness cape and deerstalker, accessories that never appear in the canon but have become a permanent and beloved part of the Holmes image. Paget reportedly used his brother Walter as the main model for Holmes. According to Conan Doyle in *Memories and Adventures*, Walter did not exactly fit the author's own mental image of Holmes. He says: "The handsome Walter took the place of the more powerful but uglier Sherlock, and perhaps from the point of view of my lady readers, it was as well."

Evidently there were no hard feelings, as Conan Doyle commissioned Paget to paint his own portrait at Undershaw in 1897.

The Paget brothers also gave the Sherlockian world a minor mystery of their own. A bit of Sherlockian lore holds that the Strand intended to hire Walter, also a well-known illustrator, to draw Holmes. Since the Paget brothers shared a studio, when the commission arrived addressed simply to "Mr. Paget," it was pure chance that Sidney first opened the letter and picked up his pencil. This fun piece of trivia has been mentioned by Conan Doyle biographers like Andrew Lycett and Mattias Bostrom, but is it true? In the Summer 2019 Baker Street Journal, Ira Matetsky did a thorough debunking job, claiming that the story doesn't show up until the 1950s and may have originated with an article by Sidney's daughter Winifred that was later embellished by a journalistic ghostwriter. Tellingly, Conan Doyle himself doesn't mention the mix-up in his autobiography.

Maybe the adventure of the substituted siblings doesn't quite rise to the level of a first-class Sherlockian mystery, and without the help of the master himself it may never be truly solved. All the same, we can be sure that Sidney's artistry has brought the great detective, his faithful friend Watson, and many other unforgettable characters to life for millions of readers for over a century. So let's raise a glass to the man who drew the detective: Sidney Paget!

HOLMES and HUDSON

Eleanor Hébert, Deckmate

What strange kind of codependence entangled Holmes and Mrs. Hudson?

Two chaste solitary creatures with cryptic pasts, yet, while subtle to the casual observer, deeply intertwined with each other.

Watson has "no doubt" that Holmes could have nearly purchased 221B with the price he paid for his rooms in his prime consulting days.

Then why did he sustain the long term struggles of tenancy?

Could it have perhaps been the mysterious draw, the "queenly tread" of familiar Mrs. Hudson, the woman unassuming and humble enough to remain in the background yet possessing the poise and quiet intelligence to arguably match the unrivaled wits of Holmes?

Behind every powerful man is often a strong woman . . .

Holmes is an infamously terrible tenant. Mrs. Hudson could have very well booted the consulting detective in favor of order and peace, but she chose to continue indulging Holmes.

He could have easily owned property rather than rented, yet he chose to remain under Mrs. Hudson's matronly care.

The subtle implications of these choices point toward a perplexing codependency between the two and raise the question: Can Holmes' success ever be separated from the secretive Mrs. Hudson, who balanced his restless recklessness with her unwavering strength and stability?

Let's raise a glass to the unparalleled Mrs. Hudson, the strongest and most mysterious woman of the Canon.

Playing rugby is such a grand life.
On the field there is much joyous strife.
The three-quarter, though, cried,
When he found she who'd died.
Ever after he'd be missing his wife.

Sandy Kozinn, Deckmate

A WHALE OF A TALE

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD, Deck-Mate

In "The Adventure of Black Peter," the victim was a former captain of a whaling vessel, the *Sea Unicorn*. He had been harpooned to a cabin wall. Holmes concluded only a professional harpooner could have committed the crime because of the strength required to pin the man. When the case occurred in July 1895, the whaling industry had operated for more than 700 years but was threatened by both a depletion of the whale population as well as more easily produced substitutes for whale products.

Whaling has at least an 8000-year-old history. Norwegians hunted whales at least 4000 years ago, (1) and petroglyphs in southern Korea showing whales tied to boats date back to 6000-5000 BCE. (2) These early whalers followed practices similar to those of the Inuits today. While different whale species were hunted, the most common at that time was the bowhead because its blubber caused it to float even after death. The whale hunters would select and pursue one whale, harpooning it until it died. They would then tow the whale to shore for flensing (stripping the flesh from the carcass). All parts of the whale were used—the skin for boats, the meat for food, the oil from the blubber for everything from food to preserving boat skins; the baleen (whalebone) for a variety of uses, including boat ribs; and whale bones for construction. (3)

This type of sustainable whaling continued until the Basques introduced commercial whaling in the 11th century. Before that period, Basque villages on the Bay of Biscay would slaughter a whale that occasionally beached itself in the bay's shallow waters. Similar to other groups, they would harvest its meat, blubber, and bones. Over time, they recognized how profitable these mammals were and developed means of driving a whale into the shore. Whether because of over-harvesting or a desire for more profits, the Basques developed methods to hunt whales in the open sea, holding a monopoly on the business until the 1500s. (4)

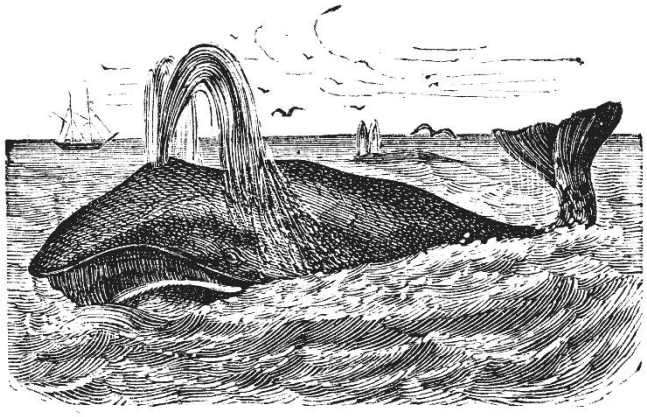
As the right whale (the one primarily hunted by the Basques) declined almost to extinction, other European countries began their own commercial whaling on the open seas, focusing on the humpback and sperm whales. These whales provided oil derived from their blubber that lubricated machinery and was used in soap-making. The sperm whale also produced and stored in its head a very high-grade oil called spermaceti. This oil was colorless and odorless and highly prized. (5) Additional products that became popular during this period included baleen for a variety of fashion accessories, including corsets, parasols, and women's hats; and ambergris, found in whales' intestines and used to make perfumes. (6)

Until the mid-1800s, whales were hunted with harpoons thrown by the crew from small boats. Once one or more harpoons were embedded into the whale, the animal might drag the boat for miles until it tired and expired. After killing their prey, the crew would haul it back to the main ship for processing. (7)

In the latter half of the 1800s, Svend Foyn, a Norwegian, revolutionized the whaling industry with the introduction of the steam-powered whale catcher and the harpoon canon that included an explosive at the end of its barb. (8) This increased efficiency led to

further depletions of the whale populations, which, in turn, moved the hunting to the Antarctic. (9)

The market for whale products, however, declined by the end of the 1800s after petroleum was discovered. With the advent of the gaslight (and later electric lights), steel for corsets and other fashion items, and vegetable oil, demand for whale oil dropped, only to increase during WWI when the alternatives became scarce. (10)



Since 1946, the International Whaling Commission has regulated the whaling industry and holds responsibility for the conservation of whale populations. Since 1982, the IWC has imposed a moratorium on commercial whaling to preserve the species. Norway, Iceland, and Japan left the IWC in order to continue their commercial endeavors. (11)

By the time Captain Black Peter Carey retired in 1884, commercial whaling was already in decline. A need still existed, however, for whaling boat crews on a smaller scale. Otherwise, Captain Basil—Sherlock Holmes in his seafaring disguise—would have appeared rather foolish looking for a harpooner for his own ship.

1) https://Education.Nationalgeographic.Org/Resource/Big-Fish-History-Whaling
2) https://www.Scienceandmediamuseum.Org.Uk/Objects-And-Stories/History-Whaling
3) Whitridge, Peter. "The Prehistory Of Inuit And Yupik Whale Use." *Revista De Arqueología Americana*, No. 16, 1999, Pp. 99–154. Jstor, Http://Www.Jstor.Org/Stable/27768424. Accessed 15 May 2023.
4) https://Nabasque.Eus/Whaling.html
5) https://www.Thecollector.Com/Hunting-Whales-Whaling-In-The-Industrial-Revolution/#
6) https://www.Livescience.Com/Why-Whaling-Nineteenth-Century.html
7) https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/objects/co41125/
8) https://www.britannica.com/topic/whaling
9) https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?13796/The-History-of-Whaling-and-the-International-Whaling-Commission-IWC
10) https://www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/objects-and-stories/history-whaling
11) https://iwc.int/management
-and-conservation/whaling/commercial

EACH JUNE I MAKE A PROMISE SOBER by Ogden Nash

Karen Murdock

Published in *The Passengers' Log,* (Sydney, Australia), May-August 2005

(Ogden Nash (1902-1971) was the most famous American humorous poet of his generation. Born in Rye, New York, on August 19, 1902, he worked in teaching, selling war bonds, and writing advertising copy before landing a job as an editor and publicist for Doubleday Page Publishers in 1925.

At Doubleday, Nash met Christopher Morley (1890-1957), twelve years Nash's senior and one of the most popular American writers of the 1920s. Morley, Nash and Cleon Throckmorton (1897-1965) collaborated on *Born in a Beer Garden, or She Troupes to Conquer*, which was published in 1930. That same year, Nash's first humorous poem, "Spring Comes to Murray Hill," appeared in *The New Yorker*. By the mid-1930s, Nash had quit his job to devote himself fulltime to his verse. He published several dozen books of verse, children's stories and essays. His Broadway play, *One Touch of Venus* (1943), written with S. J. Perelman, was a smash hit. He died in Baltimore, where he had spent much of his life, on May 19, 1971.

Nash was a fan of Sherlock Holmes, as he confessed in his poem "Each June I Make a Promise Sober." This poem first appeared on the front page of "The New York Times Book Review" section on Sunday, June 7, 1953, the "Vacation Reading Issue" of that magazine. It expresses only too well the melting away of lofty reading ambitions in the somnolence of summer, a pattern just as widespread today as it was fifty-two years ago.

"Each June I Make a Promise Sober" was reprinted in *The Baker Street Journal*, Volume 3, No. 4 (October 1953) and was then, apparently, lost to the sight of the Sherlockian community. Ronald DeWaal's massive 1994 bibliography *The Universal Sherlock Holmes* lists the poem (C13489) as having appeared in just two places—the original appearance in the *Times* in June 1953 and the reprinting in the *BSJ* in October of that year. I have been unable to find "Each June I Make a Promise Sober" in any book of Nash poems. The poem is not posted anywhere on the Internet, although there are several online sites devoted to Nash poems. "Each June I Make a Promise Sober" has, apparently, never been published in Australia, nor anywhere else in the Southern Hemisphere. I thought that Aussie Holmesians would enjoy reading it. Even if June represents the depths of winter Down Under, the sentiments Nash captures are universal.

I have added some footnotes in case you, like Ogden Nash then and like me now, have not yet gotten around to reading the originals of all the "masterpieces major" we once hoped to read.

I am grateful to Isabel Eberstadt for her kind permission to reprint this poem by her father, Ogden Nash.
~KJM, January 2005)

Each June I Make a Promise Sober

by Ogden Nash

Every summer I truly intend
My intellectual sloth to end,
Leave Dumas(1) and Conan Doyle behind me,
And let the dog days, when they find me,
Find me beside the sea perusing
Volumes of Mr. Hutchins' choosing(2),
Congesting my uncultured head
With famous books I haven't read—
With Milton's Areopagitica(3),
The almanacs of Gotha(4) and Whitaker(5),
With Lysistrata and The Frogs(6)
And lots of Plato's dialogue(7),
With Darwin's Voyage of the Beagle(8),
Erasmus(9), and Tyl Eulenspiegel(10),
Corneille and Moliere and Racine(11)
And Rasselas(12) and The Faerie Queen(13).
Every summer with me I wager
That I'll read these masterpieces major.

Each June I make a promise sober,
That I'll be literate by October,
Lose d'Artagnan and Sherlock Holmes
In worthier and weightier tomes,
In Nietzsche(14) and even preachier Germans,
And Donne's more esoteric sermons(15),
The lofty thoughts of Abelard(16),
And Rilke(17), Kafka(18), and Kierkegaard(19);
Loop in one comprehensive lasso
Turgeniev(20), Thomas Aquinas(21) and Tasso(22),
The Conquest of Peru, by Prescott(23),
And David Harum, by Edward Westcott(24).
Of the classics, from Beowulf(25) to Baedeker(26),
I know less than a first or second gradeke(27),
So every summer I truly intend
My intellectual sloth to end,
And every summer, for years and years
I've read Sherlock Holmes and The Three Musketeers(28).

i. Alexandre Dumas (1824-1895), French novelist best known for *The Three Musketeers* (1844).
ii. Robert Maynard Hutchins (1899-1977) became the president of The University of Chicago in 1929, at the tender age of 30. He believed that all educated people should be familiar with the great books of the past and sought to reorganize the curriculum of the University of Chicago around that and several other of his strongly held beliefs. Hutchins was the editor-in-chief of "Great Books of the Western World" (1952), a 54-volume series published by the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in collaboration with the University of Chicago. This series included works by several of the authors Nash mentions in "Each June." As this poem was published in 1953, the "Great Books" would have been fresh in the minds of those readers who actually read them instead of simply bringing them along to the beach.
iii. The poet John Milton (1608-1674) published his pamphlet *Areopagitica* in 1644 as an appeal to Parliament to repeal the Licensing Order of 1643, which imposed controls on publishers. *Areopagitica* has since come to be seen as one of the all-time classic defenses of freedom of thought, of speech, and of the press.
iv. The *Almanach de Gotha*, first published in 1763, is the world's leading authority on the genealogy of the noble families and the reigning houses of Europe. It can be found online at http://www.almanachdegotha.com/main_page.htm#
v. *Whitaker's Almanac* is an annually published guide to the government and social structure of the United Kingdom and the rest of the world. It was founded by the bookseller and publisher Joseph Whitaker (1820-1895) in 1868 and has been printed annually since then. Sherlock Holmes used *Whitaker's Almanac* to decipher a code message at the beginning of *The Valley of Fear*, a feat which is proudly mentioned on the home page of Whitaker's Almanac online (www.whitakers-almanack.co.uk). In May 2002, Whitaker's Almanac was purchased for £750,000 by Bloomsbury Publishing PLC.
vi. Two classic comic plays by the Greek playwright Aristophanes (ca. 450-385 BC)
vii. The famous dialogues of the classic Greek philosopher Plato (ca. 428-347 BC) include *Phaedrus*, *Symposium*, *Apology*, *Phaedo*, *The Republic*, *Parmenides*, and *Theaetetus*.
viii. Charles Darwin (1809-1882), biologist and author of *On the Origin of Species* (1859), the *locus classicus* of the theory of evolution. In 1831, at the age of 22, he embarked on the ship "The Beagle" for a voyage of scientific discovery. The voyage lasted five years and took Darwin around the world. He kept a journal during his trip, during which he developed his famous theory. The journal was published posthumously, in 1909, as *The Voyage of the Beagle*. It is perhaps the greatest scientific travel narrative ever penned.
ix. Desiderius Erasmus (c. 1466-1536), Dutch humanist and scholar, a central figure in the Reformation. He edited the New Testament in Greek and authored several works including *In Praise of Folly* (1509).
x. Tyl Eulenspiegel (or Ulemspiegel) was a peasant trickster who, supposedly, lived in the 14th century. He is part of the folklore of Germany and the Low Countries.
xi. These are considered the "Big Three" playwrights of the classic French theater. Pierre Corneille (1606-1684) was the author of "Le Cid" (1636). Molière (pseudonym of Jean Baptiste Poquelin, 1622-1673) wrote comic plays including "L'École des Femmes" (1662), "Tartuffe" (1664), "Le Misanthrope"(1666), and "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme" (1670). Jean Racine (1639-1699) wrote tragic plays, most famously *Phèdre* (1677).
xii. *The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abissinia* by Samuel Johnson (1709-1784), the great lexicographer, critic and conversationalist. *Rasselas*, published in 1759, is Johnson's only long work of prose fiction. In it, four characters (including the title character) travel through Egypt in search of the happiest mode of life, which they never find.
xiii. *The Faerie Queen*, an allegorical vindication of Puritanism in verse, was written by the Elizabethan poet Edmund Spenser (1552-1599). It was published in three books beginning in 1590.

xiv. Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche (1844-1900), German philosopher and poet. He believed in the perfectibility of man and championed the superman (Ubermensch) in his work *Also Sprach Zarathustra* (1883 ff.).

xv. John Donne (1572-1631), poet and Anglican priest. An edition of Donne's *Sermons* was actually published by The University of California Press in 1953, the year Nash published this poem, so he *could* have brought it to the beach with him.

xvi. Peter Abelard (1079-1142), Medieval French philosopher, teacher, and theologian. He published his *Theologica Christiana* in 1123-24. Although one of the greatest theological minds of his age, he is remembered today mainly for his passionate love affair with Héloise (c. 1098-c.1164) and for the letters he exchanged with her over many years. Abelard once wrote, in a letter to Héloise, "Against the disease of writing one must take special precautions, since it is a dangerous and contagious disease."

xvii. Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926), German lyric poet

xviii. Franz Kafka (1883-1924). Austrian poet and writer of surrealist fiction. He is best known for his posthumously-published novels *The Trial* (1925) and *The Castle* (1926).

xix. Søren Aabye Kierkegaard (1813-1855), Danish philosopher and theologist. His works, which emphasize a personal relationship to God, include *Fear and Trembling* (1843) and *Concluding Unscientific Postscript* (1846).

xx. Ivan Sergeevich Turgeniev (sometimes rendered into the Roman alphabet as Turgenyev or Turgenjev or Turgenjeff or Turgeniv or Turgenuvha), (1818-1883), Russian novelist. His books include *A Nobleman's Nest* (1858)*, On the Eve* (1860), and *Fathers and Sons* (1862).

xxi. Thomas Aquinas (1225(?)-1274), also Saint Thomas or Thomas of Aquino, Italian philosopher and one of the greatest theological minds of all time. He was canonized by Pope John XXII in 1323. His most famous work is the *Summa Theologica* (1273), which has never been read on any beach in the history of beaches.

xxii. Torquato Tasso (1544-1595), Italian poet. Known for his *Jerusalem Delivered* (*Gerusalemme Liberata*), 1575, an epic poem on the capture of Jerusalem during the First Crusade.

xxiii. *History of the Conquest of Peru, with a preliminary view of the civilization of the Incas* (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1847) by William Hickling Prescott (1796-1859).

xxiv. Edward Noyes Westcott (1847-1898) was the author of *David Harum, a Story of American Life* (New York: D. Appleton and Co., 1899). The book was dramatized in 1939 by Ripley Hitchcock (1857-1918) and became a popular play.

xxv. *Beowulf*, written in Old English around the year 1100, describes the adventures of Beowulf, a great Scandinavian warrior of the 6th century. It is the oldest surviving epic in British literature.

xxvi. Karl Baedeker (1801-1859), German editor and publisher of a classic series of travel guides that are still being published under the “Baedeker” name today. The first Baedeker guide (1829) was for the city of Coblenz. The guides are currently published in Hamburg.

xxvii. Nash often used outrageous rhymes like “second gradeke” for “second grader.” In the United States, free public education begins with kindergarten, which a child enters at the age of five (or nearly five). First grade follows (age six), then second grade (age seven).

xxviii. Dumas wrote three novels about d’Artagnan and his friends Athos, Porthos and Aramis. The first and most famous of these was *The Three Musketeers*, first published in serial form in 1844.

A SCIENTIFIC LESSON LEARNED FROM "YELLOW FACE"

Carl L. Heifetz, *The Holmes -Watson Report*, March, 2004

Research scientists do not always have all of the information that they require to reach a valid hypothesis. They may believe that everything is in hand, but occasionally the available facts point in a wrong direction. Often, more information is required to derive an appropriate conclusion. That is why scientific papers use the word "likely" so often, as in "this is likely to be the case" or "this antibiotic will likely be useful in treating" a particular infection.

Let me give an example of how this can happen from personal experience. Research scientists often need to perform mundane, repetitive tasks during an investigation. Nothing could be more humdrum that performing microbiological disk-agar diffusion assays to determine the concentrations of an orally administered sulfonamide in the body fluids of dogs sampled at different time intervals after they receive oral doses of medication. The samples are received from the administering pharmacologists, diluted in the appropriate buffer, and quantitatively measured onto 6.25 mm filter paper disks.

These are then placed on agar plates seeded with the standardized inoculum of test bacterium. After incubation and a standardized growth temperature and time interval, the circular zones of inhibition, the diameters of which are proportional to the logarithm of the concentration of drug in the sample, are carefully measured, and converted to mcg per ml by means of a standard linear regression line. This method is so routine that its basic aspects have been described in the Code of Federal Regulations. During the experiment in question, samples of plasma and urine provided drug concentrations that were predictable from prior experience with other drugs of this class as well as the results of pharmacokinetic studies in mice.

Can you imagine the surprise that was generated by the apparent discovery that concentrations in biliary fluids were enormous? The diameters of the inhibition zones resulting from even the most highly diluted samples were far outside of the range of all expected values. There were three possible explanations that immediately suggested themselves: (1) this particular sulfa drug was more highly concentrated in the liver than any other member of the class, (2) it was metabolized in the livers of dogs to a new drug with remarkable activity, or (3) someone screwed up the assay. When several replicate assays revealed reproducible data, the third option was eliminated.

Then, my experienced supervisor suggested a fourth possibility that had not occurred to the rest of us: there might be something wrong with the experimental design. He suggested that I check out the protocol. I did, and there it was! To prevent infection, the investigators who processed the samples always administered penicillin when cannulating the bile ducts of dogs! Wow! Eureka! This is something that a microbiologist would never do, so it never occurred to us that anyone else would do it. Bingo, this one little piece of information resolved our dilemma and a simple procedure, adding penicillinase to the biliary samples, obviated the need to repeat the animal phase of the procedure. And verification that the inhibition zones now resulted only from the sulfa drug was demonstrated by eliminating the activity with para-amino benzoic acid, a competitive inhibitor of sulfonamides.

What has this to do with Sherlock Holmes and the Watsonian narrative published as "The Yellow Face" in *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes?* Well,just about everything.

Let us summarize the mysterious events concerning this case. Very suspicious things were going on in the Munro household. First of all, Mrs. Effie Hebron, a city-bred 25-year-old American woman, agreed to marry Mr. Grant Munro, an older bachelor, and move with him to a "countrified" environment, after only a few weeks' courtship. This, by itself, is not conclusive, but it is suggestive of ulterior motives to those with a cynical outlook.

Then enigmatic things began to take place. First, Effie asked her husband for a hundred pounds while refusing to tell him what she wanted it for. Next, there was the very unfriendly meeting between Munro and the secretive occupant in the previously empty cottage next door. His

suspicions were further heightened by the strange yellow face peering out the window. This was followed by Effie sneaking out in the middle of the night. On another occasion, she was spied emerging from that cottage in the daytime, when she thought that Munro was away on business, and refused to give him entry into the cottage next door or explain her actions. Further, she appeared to violate her promise never to go there again. Evidence indicated that she had slunk over again when he unexpectedly returned early from London to find the cottage deserted. When he immediately checked out the now empty house, he was surprised and dismayed to find a large picture of his wife. This demonstrated that one of the inhabitants knew her very well. Since Effie had stated that her only child and her husband were dead, who could be secluded next door that she felt so impelled to hide and to visit? Fearing the worst, Mr. Munro consulted the scientific detective, Mr. Sherlock Holmes.

Putting all of the available evidence together, and using the method applied by scientists that I have reiterated in previous "Sherlock Holmes, Scientist" articles, Mr. Holmes developed a tentative hypothesis. In response to Watson's query: "You have a theory?" Sherlock Holmes replied: "Yes, a provisional one. But I shall be surprised if it does not tum out to be correct. This woman's first husband is in that cottage." And then, he goes on to lay out his interpretation of all of the preceding events that had led to the development of his hypothesis.

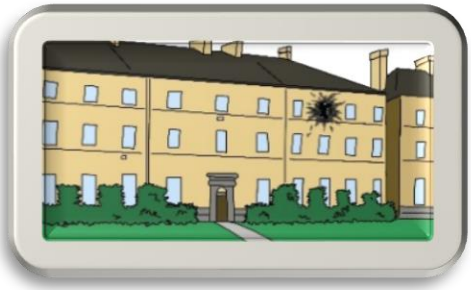
What a surprise was in store for Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Grant Munro when they uninvitedly rushed into the cottage. Yes, there was an inhabitant who knew Effie very well - her still-living daughter, a delightful little black girl whose identity was kept secret and whose visage was unnecessarily hidden behind the yellow mask. As the reader of this story will note, "All's well that ends well."

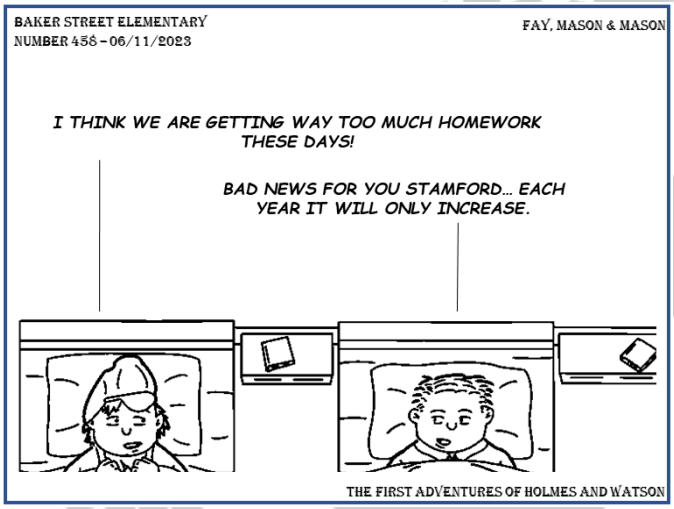
No evaluation of the available data would have predicted this occurrence, and there was no way possible to obtain this fact without Jay Finley Christ's Abbreviations to the Tales the final phase of their investigation. They needed to get all of the facts, just as we needed to ascertain them in the more recent past.

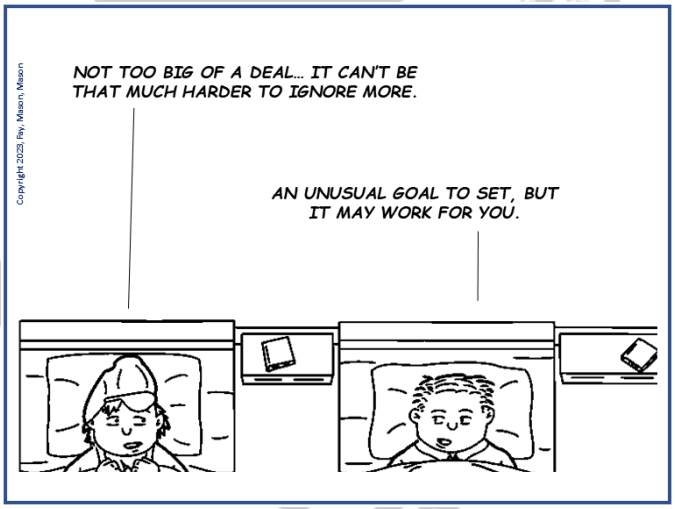
Let us forgive Mr. Holmes for his rush to judgment. After all, the case took place early in his career, perhaps even before the events documented in *The Sign of Four.* Happily, Mr. Holmes learned his lesson from these events, something that all scientists need to adhere to. Sherlock Holmes summed it up with the following statement: "Watson," said he, "if it should ever strike you that I am getting a little overconfident in my powers, or giving less pains to a case than it deserves, kindly whisper 'Norbury' in my ear, and I shall be infinitely obliged to you." This is a Sherlock Holmes story that all scientists should be assigned to read as part of their training.

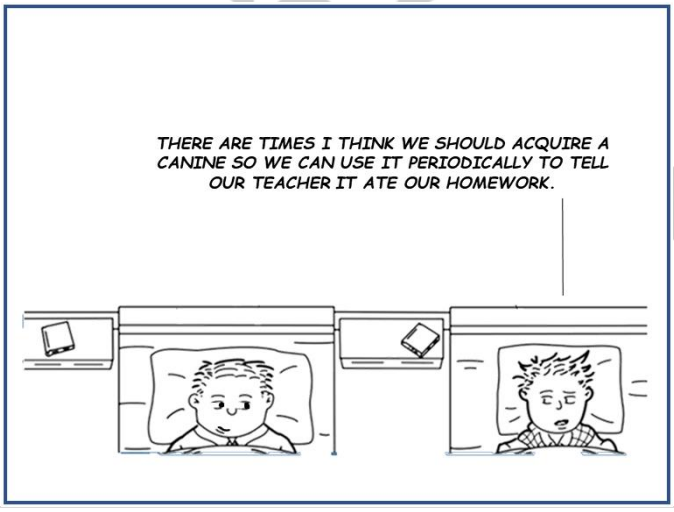
Baker Street *Elementary*

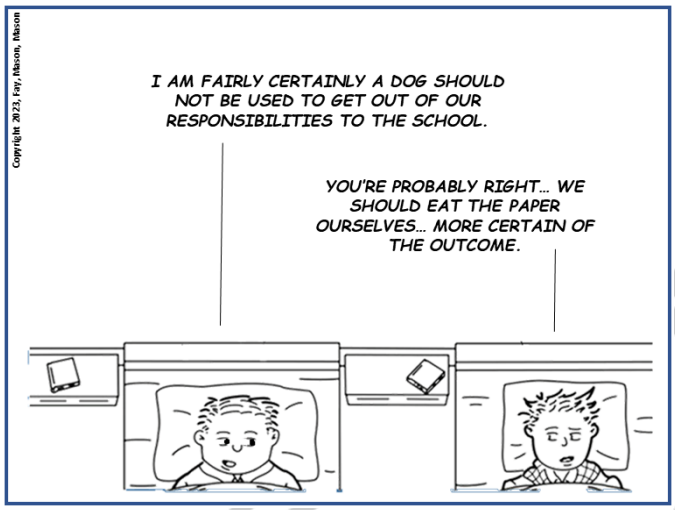
Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason







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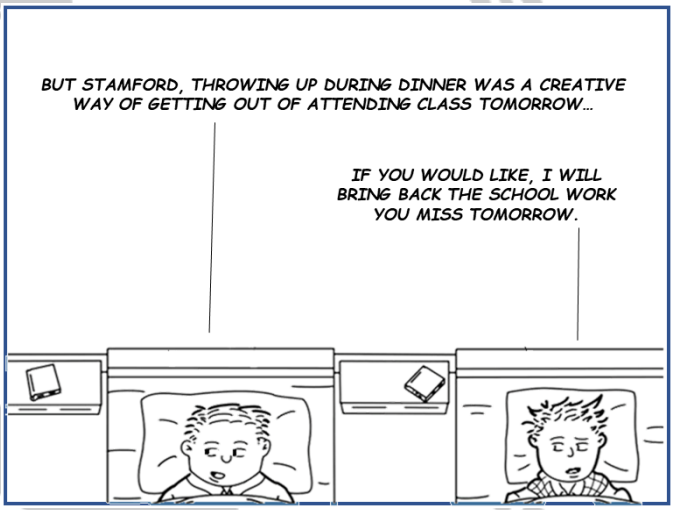
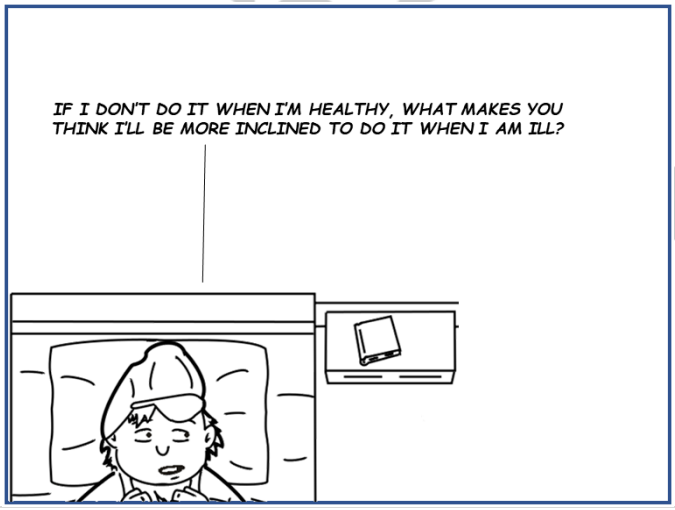
I AM FAIRLY CERTAINLY A DOG SHOULD NOT BE USED TO GET OUT OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE SCHOOL.
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT… WE SHOULD EAT THE PAPER OURSELVES… MORE CERTAIN OF THE OUTCOME.


BUT STAMFORD, THROWING UP DURING DINNER WAS A CREATIVE WAY OF GETTING OUT OF ATTENDING CLASS TOMORROW…
IF YOU WOULD LIKE, I WILL BRING BACK THE SCHOOL WORK YOU MISS TOMORROW.


IF I DON'T DO IT WHEN I'M HEALTHY, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'LL BE MORE INCLINED TO DO IT WHEN I AM ILL?