

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 11, No. 08 - August, 2023

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



PLEASE NOTE: **September - 03, 2023 Meeting**

NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on **September 03** 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 Wisteria Lodge**".

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

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".

Susan Dahlinger, BSI, ASH, will be our featured guest speaker.

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

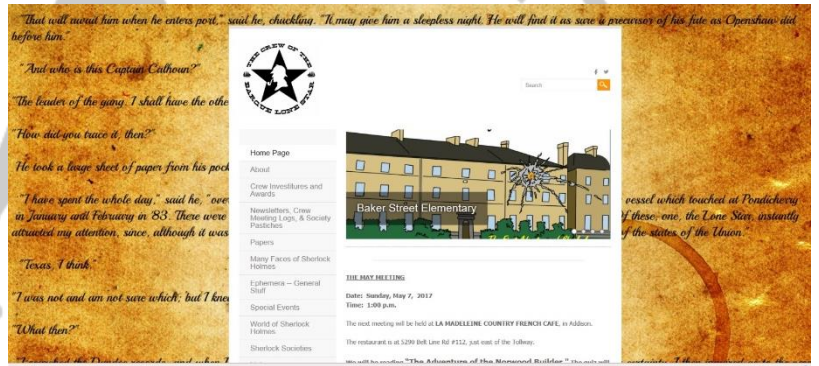
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Our Website:

www.dfw-sherlock.org



Our Facebook Page:

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

AUGUST 06 SUMMARY

Cindy Brown, BSI, ASH

There were 69 in attendance at this ZOOM meeting.

We welcomed several guests and 2 new members from Canada, 2 10-year olds from Calgary. We also remembered Pat Ward, a wonderful Sherlockian, who recently passed away.

The Meeting was started with a toast given by Nancy Holder, and was dedicated to William Morris (see page 5).

We then proceeded to the quiz on this month's story, "The Adventure of The Second Stain".

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

The Sherlock Holmes Theater Goer's went to see the *Whimsical World of Sherlock Holmes*. It was enjoyed by all, and there was a live streaming of the play again on Sunday night.

The John H. Watson Society's 8th treasure hunt has started. All entries must be received by August 31.

<https://www.johnwatsonsociety.com/treasure-hunt/>

The 8th book by the Crew of the Barque Lone Star will be published this year, and the topic will be unsolved mysteries which took place in the late 1800's, in the area where the author lives and how Sherlock Holmes might have solved the crime.

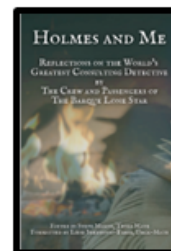
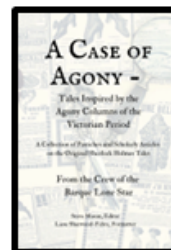
Sandy Kozinn, ASH then did a limerick of "The Abbey Grange" (see page 5).

Rich Krisciunas, ASH gave us a description of the potential legal issues which might be involved in the story of the Second Stain.

The featured presenter this month was Mike Ranieri, leader of the Bootmakers of Toronto. Michael did a wonderful presentation which included readings from *The Second Stain*, *Casa Blanca*, *Scandal in Bohemia*, and other famous works. His amazing presentation was in the various characters' style and voices. The extremely humorous speech was outstanding.

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

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



A TOAST TO WILLIAM MORRIS

Nancy Holder, BSI, ASH

As we all know, a carpet features heavily in today's story, "The Adventure of the Second Stain." One often asks, "Who let the dogs out?" but rarely is the question answered. Maybe no one knows.

Today's question, "Who made that carpet?" may be asked less frequently, but it is equally crucial to literate, up-to-date Sherlockians such as the friends, family, and Crew of the Barque Lone Star. And happily, I have a possible answer, which attendees of this esteemed gathering have probably already guessed: I believe that this carpet was made by William Morris's shop, and perhaps designed by William Morris himself.

William Morris (24 March 1834 – 3 October 1896) was a British textile designer, poet, artist, fantasy writer, environmentalist, and socialist activist associated with the British Arts and Crafts movement. He was a major contributor to the revival of traditional British textile arts and methods of production. His literary contributions helped to establish the modern fantasy genre, while he helped win acceptance of socialism in *fin de siècle* Great Britain.

He was born in Essex to a wealthy middle-class family. He came under the strong influence of medievalism while studying classics at Oxford. He also loved the works of Sir Walter Scott, also beloved by Conan Doyle, who wrote the medieval romance, *The White Company*.

As a child, William Morris adored going to Blackgang Chine, the oldest amusement park in Britain, located

on the Isle of Wight. Queen Victoria visited Blackgang Chine in 1853. It was also a favorite childhood haunt of Rupert Grint, of *Harry Potter* movie fame. What an amazing coincidence, then, that Watson put these words into the mouth of the Honourable Trelawny Hope:

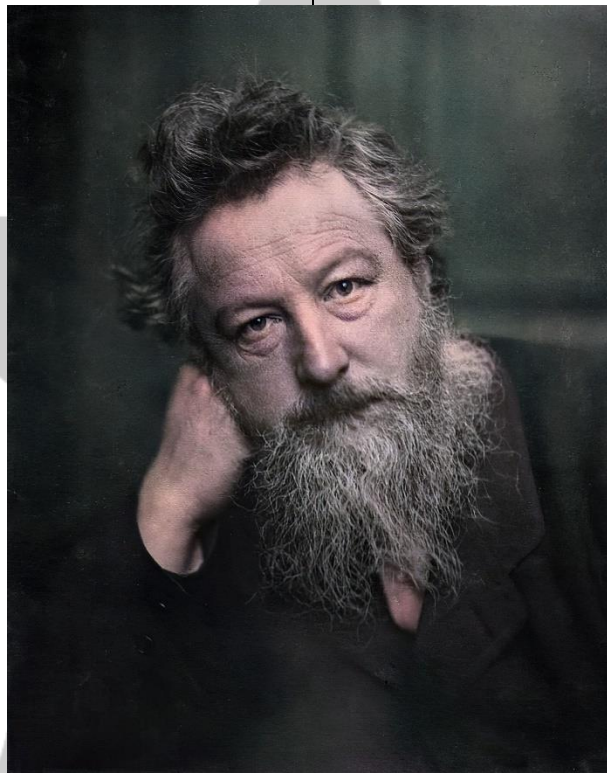
"Mr. Holmes, you are a wizard, a sorcerer! How did you know it was there?"

The park is still in operation, and it features giant robotic dinosaurs—can Professor Challenger Land be far behind?

But back to Morris. He developed close friendships with Pre-Raphaelite artists Edward Burne-Jones and Dante Gabriel Rossetti and the neo-Gothic architect Phillip Webb. In 1861, Morris founded

a decorative arts firm with Burne-Jones, Rossetti, Webb, and others, which became highly fashionable and much in demand. The firm profoundly influenced interior decoration throughout the Victorian period, with Morris designing tapestries, wallpaper, fabrics, furniture, and stained glass windows. In 1875, he assumed total control of the company, which was renamed Morris & Co.

He is considered by many to be one of the most influential figures of Victorian Britain, and even today, his designs grace homes all over the world. In fact, I have in my home a bedspread, four sofa



pillows, and many drinks coasters and candles bearing William Morris designs. The tea rooms at the Victoria and Albert Museum are located in the museum's "William Morris rooms."

Thus it makes sense that William Morris or someone working in his firm designed the carpet on the floor of Eduardo Lucas's house, although this "carpet" was actually a drugget.

A drugget is "a coarse woollen fabric felted or woven, self-coloured or printed on one side." They were kind of cheap things, but this one must have been exceptional, as Lucas's lair was described by Watson as "sumptuous" and "luxurious."

I contend that Watson and Conan Doyle both may have actually known William Morris, and were thinking of him while Watson was busily concealing the facts of this case, as he explains at the opening of the story. For example, Morris's friends nicknamed him "Topsy" after a character in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. He had a wild temper and when sufficiently

enraged could suffer seizures and blackouts. His wife was having an affair with his friend and former business partner Dante Rossetti. This sounds to me like Madame Fournaye:

Mme. Fournaye, who is of Creole origin, is of an extremely excitable nature, and has suffered in the past from attacks of jealousy which have amounted to frenzy.

Whether or not that is likely, it is quite likely that Lady Hilda and Company were busily arranging and rearranging a William Morris carpet, as did many Victorian ladies and murderers, and so to him I raise my glass.

To William Morris!

Sources: wikipedia and Blackgang Chine website.



*We've read something like this before.
Is it special? Take it home, through your door.
Someone then takes the thing.
(Here 'twas writ by a King
And ends up in a hole in a floor.)*

Sandy Kozinn, ASH

THE SCANDALOUS BOHEMIAN

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD, Deck-Mate

Five references to Bohemia or Bohemian appeared in the Canon—two for the country: Wilhelm Gottsreich Sigismund von Ormstein, the king of Bohemia; and the ethnicity of Professor Presbury’s rejuvenation serum’s contact; and three to a person’s lifestyle.

Watson referred to Holmes’ “Bohemian” habits in “The Adventure of the Engineer’s Thumb,” but then also defined his own disposition as “Bohemian” in “The Musgrave Ritual.” A final reference to “Bohemian” practices occurred in “The Adventure of the Three Garridebs,” when he described the office/living quarters where Nathan Garrideb resided.

The term *Bohemia* originally referred to the Boii. (1) These were Celtic tribes inhabiting the Alps in what was later Northern Italy. They had been conquered by the Romans in 220 BCE, joined Hannibal’s forces in 218 BCE to defeat them, only to be conquered once again by Julius Caesar in 191 BCE. Those who survived were allowed to remain in Gaul (parts of Italy, France, Belgium, and Germany.) (2)

While von Ormstein’s Bohemia may have given the name to those under his rule, the French used the term “Bohemian” in a much broader sense. (3) It was originally used in the 1400s as a pejorative for the Romani because it was assumed they originated in Bohemia. (4)

This nomadic, ethnic group tended to pursue jobs on the fringe of society, often populating Paris’ poorer sections, including the Latin Quarter. This section of Paris had been the home to major

universities for centuries and many inhabitants spoke Latin, giving it its name. In the 1800s, it became a popular area for artists, and Henri Murger immortalized it in his play and novel *Scènes de la vie de Bohème*.



He described the life of one artist (based on himself) and his struggles of living an artist’s existence. His male characters were young and educated but had rejected their “bourgeois” background in favor of a dedication to “art for art’s sake.” The women tended to be less educated and from poorer backgrounds, often reduced to low-paying jobs or prostitution to keep from starving. (5)

By the mid-1800s, this romanticized concept of Bohemianism had swept across Europe. Christina, Dante Gabriel and Elizabeth Rossetti were considered among the founders of the bohemian movement in England. Christina was known for her unconventional life and poetry; Dante Gabriel for his co-creation of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and



rejection of current academic teachings of art; and Elizabeth (his wife) for her art as well as her self-made fashions.

Their efforts in support of expressive freedom in behavior, fashion, and art put them in direct opposition to Victorian England’s norms of social propriety, but the group had a popular following, including art critic John Ruskin and US painter James Abbott Whistler. (6)

Watson characterized his, Holmes’ and Nathan Garrideb’s lifestyles as “Bohemian” because each displayed a similar rejection of some Victorian notions of respectability.

All three exhibited less-than-tidy habits, to some extent similar to the common stereotype of the “dirty” Romani. (7) Watson, however, pointed out that his Bohemian spirit had limits that Holmes ignored.

Beyond his cluttered habits, Holmes shunned other conventions of prescriptive Victorian norms. Eschewing social activities, Holmes secluded himself “among his old books,” and drugged himself with cocaine when such use was recognized as addictive. These practices and his family’s artistic background certainly could have defined him as a Victorian Bohemian.

His professed rejection of emotions for logic, however, put him in direct contradiction with other

followers—with perhaps one major exception. In “A Scandal in Bohemia,” Watson presented the most famous instance where Holmes’ interest in Irene Adler ran contrary to his efforts to deny emotions and could be viewed as a different interpretation of the case’s title.

The Sherlock Holmes Book posited the true scandal was his displayed feelings for a woman and rejection of his art (logic and deduction) for a more conventional attraction. (8) While scandalous indeed for this Bohemian, it should be noted that like Watson, Holmes, too, limited his Bohemianism when presented with a proper situation like Irene Adler.

1) <https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/bohemian-word-history-origin>

2) <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Boii>

3) <https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/bohemian-word-history-origin>

4) <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-12711181>

5) <https://www.wbjc.com/the-bohemian-life/>

6) <https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20230412-the-rossettis-the-bohemians-who-shocked-victorian-britain>

7) <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/roma-european-culture>

8) P. Boyd, C. Dunford, J. Dunne, J. Edwards, S. Kennedy, P. Newman, C. Scot, D. Wolter (eds.) , *The Sherlock Holmes Book*, New York: DK Publishing, 2015.



12 COMMANDMENTS FOR SHERLOCKIAN SENIORS

Submitted By Crewmember Fred Stroud

1. "Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice."
2. "'In Style' are the clothes that still fit."
3. You don't need anger management. You need people to stop ticking you off."
4. "Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work."
5. "The biggest lie you tell yourself is, 'I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it.'"
6. "'On time' is when you get there."
7. "Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it sure does muffle the sound."
8. "It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for 10 minutes, and then come out wrinkle-free and 3 sizes smaller."
9. "Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you."
10. "Growing old should have taken longer."
11. "Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up."
12. "You still haven't learned to act your age and hope you never will."

And a freebie...

"'One for the road' means visiting the bathroom before you leave the house."

INSENSIBLE UPON THE BEARSKIN: FAINTING IN THE CANON

Karen Murdock

Published in *The Serpentine Muse*, Volume 20, number 3, (Summer 2004)

I rose to my feet, stared at him for some seconds in utter amazement, and then it appears that I must have fainted for the first and last time in my life. (EMPT)

Horner, who had shown signs of intense emotion during the proceedings, fainted away at the conclusion and was carried out of court. (BLUE)

But the lady has fainted! (BLAN)

Clunk! Splonk! How often has it happened to you? Never? You are, quite obviously, not a character in the Sherlockian Canon. Fainting is rare in real life. But it is common in the Canon.

Sometimes a character only pretends to faint:

Sherlock Holmes	REIG
Sherlock Holmes	DYIN
Bannister (1)	3STU
Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope	SECO

Lady Brackenstall in ABBE claims to have been knocked unconscious by a burglar and then to have fainted when the burglar killed her husband. Good story, but it turns out that she is lying.

Quite a number of Canonical characters come close to fainting but do manage to hang onto consciousness:

"The boots" at Stangerson's hotel	STUD
Jefferson Hope	STUD
Major Sholto	SIGN
Mary Morstan	SIGN
James Windibank	IDEN
Elias Openshaw	FIVE
James Ryder	BLUE
Victor Hatherley	ENGR
Hatty Doran	NOBL

Silas Brown	SILV
Effie Munro	YELL
Harry Pinner	STOC
Nancy Barclay	CROO
Percy Phelps	NAVA
Violet Smith	SOLI
Bannister	3STU
Lady Brackenstall	ABBE
Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope	SECO
Laura Lyons	HOUN
Jack McMurdo	VALL
Brother Morris	VALL
John Scott Eccles	WIST

All these near-faints and faked faints aside, however, twenty-five characters in the Canon actually do faint (2). The gold medal for Best Faint goes to Thorneycroft Huxtable with his over-the-top-and-under-the-table entrance to 221B in PRIO:

We have had some dramatic entrances and exits upon our small stage at Baker Street, but I cannot recollect anything more sudden and startling than the first appearance of Dr. Thorneycroft Huxtable, M.A., Ph.D., etc. [. . .] his first action, when the door had closed upon him, was to stagger against the table, whence he slipped down upon the floor, and there was

that majestic figure prostrate and insensible upon our bearskin hearthrug.

The silver medal in this hotly-contested Canonical event goes to Trevor Senior in GLOR:

Mr. Trevor stood slowly up, fixed his large blue eyes upon me with a strange wild stare, and then pitched forward, with his face among the nutshells which strewed the cloth, in a dead faint.

Huxtable and Trevor Senior are joined in unconsciousness by the following Canonical characters:

*Jonathan Small	SIGN
Mrs. St. Clair	TWIS
John Horner	BLUE
*Victor Hatherley	ENGR
Hatty Doran	NOBL
Mary Holder	BERY
Trevor Senior	GLOR
Nancy Barclay	CROO
"more than one" person in Col. Barclay's household(3)	CROO
Dr. Watson	EMPT
*Sherlock Holmes (4)	NORW
Elsie Patrick Cubitt	DANC
*Thornycroft Huxtable	PRIO
Horace Harker	SIXN
Sir Henry Baskerville	HOUN
Beryl Stapleton	HOUN
Lady in the Brixton bus	REDC
Col. Valentine Walter	BRUC
*Mrs. Porter	DEVI
Baron Gruner's servant	ILLU
*Godfrey Emsworth	BLAN
Mrs. Emsworth (5)	BLAN
*Ian Murdoch	LION
Eugenia Ronder	VEIL

For the characters marked with an asterisk, a very good medical reason caused them to have passed

out (lack of food, loss of blood, breathing poisonous fumes, attacked by a really unusual and unexpected sea creature, etc.). For the others, a general diagnosis of "emotional shock" may be given. (We don't know why the lady in the Brixton bus fainted. We only hope that she got home safely.)

The majority of people who keel over from emotional shock in the Canon are men. This goes against the usual notion (fondly held by Victorian men) of Victorian women being weak, emotionally frail creatures, much prone to succumbing to attacks of "the vapours."

The numerical dominance of males in the Canon partly explains this unexpected finding. Of the named characters in the Canon, 755 are males, 159 females (6). However, many of the named characters do not appear "in person." Inactive, albeit named, characters include authors, artists, military leaders, and statesmen who are mentioned only in passing, the principal players in Watson's unchronicled cases, various law-abiding homeowners in the vicinity of Wisteria Lodge, and any number of victims of the Scowrers.

A count of "active" characters in the Canon is inevitably subjective, but includes approximately 51% of the named males and 77% of the named females. Approximately 3.6% of the active males and 8.2% of the active females in the Canon faint. This extraordinarily high percentage indicates that the author "used the act of fainting to represent acute emotional stress and, of course, to heighten an already dramatic event (7)."

MEDICAL DIGRESSION

The medical term for fainting is *vasovagal (vasodepressor) syncope*. Syncope is a brief loss of consciousness caused by temporary acute impairment of the circulation of blood to the brain. It can be caused by emotional shock, pain or injury, loss of blood, hunger (8), prolonged

standing, and various health problems such as heart disease (9).

The loss of consciousness in a faint is not usually sudden, as it is in a blackout. Warning signs may include blood draining from the face, sweating, nausea, a sensation of warmth or cold, yawning, lightheadedness, buzzing in the ears, or dilation of the pupils.

A special type of fainting is *carotid sinus syncope*, sometimes called "tight collar syndrome." The carotid arteries supply blood to the head and neck. Each artery contains, midway up the neck, a carotid sinus, a section with nerve endings sensitive to pressure. When a carotid sinus is stimulated, the heart rate slows and the blood vessels dilate. As blood pressure falls, so does the flow of blood to the brain, which may result in a faint. A tight collar pressing upon the carotid sinus can start the process. Blood does not drain from the face and there is no nausea or sweating.

If a person who is lying down or sitting stands up quickly, blood flow to the brain may decrease temporarily. This can cause positional hypotension, a kind of *vasomotor syncope*. Elderly people who have been sitting or lying down for awhile are susceptible to this.

When Watson fainted in EMPT, his tight collar may have contributed to his collapse by restricting the flow of blood to his brain. Perhaps positional hypotension contributed too, as Watson "rose to my feet, stared at him [Sherlock Holmes] some seconds in utter amazement," and then fainted. Holmes did the right thing by loosening Watson's collar and leaving him on the floor to restore his circulation.

FACE DOWN IN THE CANON

The Canon—written by a medical man—offers vivid and varied descriptions of people either fainting or

about to faint. They show many of the classic symptoms:

BLOOD DRAINING FROM THE FACE. While not all characters exhibiting this symptom faint, the implication is that they came close to doing so:

Miss Stoner turned white to the lips as she listened. (SPEC)

I couldn't stand it, and the doctor was as white as a sheet. Indeed, he fell into a chair in a sort of faint, and we nearly had him on our hands as well. (DEVI)

The lady sprang to her feet, with the colour all dashed in an instant from her beautiful face. (SECO)

At the short account of her father's death, Miss Morstan had turned deadly white, and for a moment I feared that she was about to faint. (SIGN)

She [Elsie Patrick Cubitt] turned deadly white, read the letter, and threw it into the fire. (DANC)

SWEATING. Several characters break into perspiration when under emotional stress. Jem Ryder sweated, although it was a cold December day, as he rushed to his sister's house in the Brixton Road (BLUE). She noticed that he had become pale (another warning sign), but he did not faint on that occasion. Ian Murdoch in LION did faint after sweating. He continued to sweat after he had come round. Col. Elias Openshaw in FIVE—under great mental stress after receiving a death threat from the KKK—sometimes broke out into a cold sweat. "At such times," reported his nephew, "I have seen his face, even on a cold day, glisten with moisture, as though it were new raised from a basin." John Openshaw does not report, however,

if the colonel fainted from emotional shock after these episodes of sweating.

BUZZING IN THE EARS. This prelude to a faint occurs to several Canonical characters. Victor Hatherley in ENGR reported of his ordeal in Eyford:

I glanced down at my hand, which was throbbing painfully, and then, for the first time, saw that my thumb had been cut off and that the blood was pouring from my wound. I endeavoured to tie my handkerchief round it, but there came a sudden buzzing in my ears, and next moment I fell in a dead faint among the rose-bushes.

Hatty Doran in NOBL nearly fainted during her wedding service. She said the words spoken around her sounded "like the buzzing of a bee."

DILATION OF THE PUPILS. Holmes said Trevor Senior's "large blue eyes [fixed] upon me with a strange wild stare" before he fainted in GLOR.

SLOW PULSE. When Dr. Thorneycroft Huxtable lies unconscious, Watson finds "the stream of life trickled thin and small."

FASHIONABLE FAINTING

In the late 19th century, to attain the then-fashionable small waist, a woman would lace her corset tightly. Many women took this too far. In *The Agony of Fashion*, Eline Canter Cremers-van der Does writes:

The tapes [of the corset] could, if pulled too tight, make a deep ridge which might ultimately damage the liver[. . .] The corset pushed the liver partly upwards, partly downwards; upwards it pressed into the

lungs, impeding breathing; downwards it pressed into the abdomen, making breathing practically impossible, which occasioned the much sought-after "heaving bosom."

A corset laced this tightly increased the risk that even the slightest exertion or a sudden shock would put such a demand on a woman's heart that the wearer of the corset would faint. Tight collars on dresses were also at fault. There was some advantage to fainting, however, as Cremers-van der Does observes:

Fainting, a power tool in the hands of a clever woman to be used if she did not immediately get her way, was blamed on the tight corset. The real culprit in the drama was actually the tight collar, which obstructed the flow of blood to the brain. This fainting, the so-called "vapours," and the headache, the "migraine," may have given a lady more power than voting rights and legal equality.

TREATMENTS, SOME DUBIOUS

What should you do if someone has fainted or seems about to faint? Modern medical advice is to loosen the person's clothing and have him lie down with his feet slightly higher than his head. A medical misconception in Victorian times was that a person who had fainted needed a stimulant, such as brandy (10). Upon Dr. Huxtable's dramatic faint, "Holmes hurried with a cushion for his head, and I with brandy for his lips. The cushion, at least, was a good idea. It would have been a better idea, however, if Holmes had put the cushion under Dr. Huxtable's feet rather than under his head. The brandy is dubious at best.

While the usual remedy for women who fainted was "smelling salts" (not mentioned in the Canon), the usual remedy for men was brandy poured down

their unresponsive throats (11). The tendency of Canonical characters to faint may explain the prevalence of hip flasks filled with brandy. This universal specific presumably averted fainting in the case of John Scott Eccles in *WIST*: "He had gulped off the brandy and the colour had returned to his face." It returned the stricken man to consciousness in the cases of Dr. Thorneycroft Huxtable, Dr. Watson, and Sir Henry Baskerville. J. G. Wood just happened to have this miraculous medicine on hand (in his picnic basket?!) when he needed it most. After being stung by *Cyanea capillata* (*LION*), he "gulped down brandy, a whole bottleful, and it seems to have saved his life."

Brandy is, by far, the most common type of alcohol in the Canon, appearing in seventeen of the tales, almost always in a medical context. Col. Elias Openshaw in *FIVE* seems to be the only character who drinks brandy for pleasure; and even he used it, at least in part, as self-medication in an attempt to blot out his fears of the KKK. The prevalence of brandy is directly linked to the prevalence of fainting, as it is always the treatment of first resort when any character faints or looks as though he might. If it were not for the great number of characters who faint, brandy would be as rare as Curaçao in the Canon.

ENDNOTES:

1. Bannister was partly faking this fainting episode. But only partly. He was dreadfully shaken by seeing his young master's gloves in the room and looked "quite ghastly." Some people were never meant to lie.
2. Maurice Campbell reported 21 instances of fainting, but acknowledged that this was based on a casual count. Rodin and Key repeat the figure of 21 in their book. I have added a few more here.
3. I am counting "more than one" as meaning "two," for a total of 25 fainters. Of course, more than two of Colonel Barclay's servants could have fainted when they saw his dead body with its "most dreadful expression of fear and horror."
4. While there is no evidence that Sherlock Holmes faints in *NORW*, Watson writes, "I have known him [Holmes] presume upon his iron strength until he has fainted from pure inanition."
5. She is the only one who faints upon receiving good news.
6. Based upon the "Names" lists in Clarkson's *The Canonical Compendium*.
7. Rodin and Key, p. 228
8. Hunger is a major factor in the faint of the usually-well-fed Dr. Thorneycroft Huxtable in *PRIO*, for he is as good as dead after "a glass of milk and a biscuit."
9. Trevor Senior in *GLOR* attributes his faint to heart disease, although it is a stroke that carries him off several weeks later.
10. In low doses, alcohol is a stimulant. The initial euphoria of intoxication often stimulates excited or uninhibited behavior. In higher doses, alcohol is a depressant. The relationship between stimulants and depressants was apparently not very well understood in Dr. Watson's day. His treatment for Lady Frances Carfax as she lay near death from suffocation and an overdose of chloroform (a depressant) was "injected ether" (another depressant).

Rodin and Key comment, "Using one anesthetic agent to overcome the effects of another is rather startling because both are depressants of the central nervous system."

11. A medical look at the use of brandy in the Canon is "Doctor Watson's Universal Specific" in Van Liere's *A Doctor Enjoys Sherlock Holmes*. A thorough—and thoroughly amusing—discussion of the medicinal uses of alcoholic beverages in the Victorian age is Patricia Guy's "Just What the Doctor Ordered: Victorian Medicinal Imbibing," *The Serpentine Muse*, Volume 12, no. 4.

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