

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 11, No. 09 - September, 2023
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star - founded November, 1970*



PLEASE NOTE: **October 01, 2023 Meeting** NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on **October 01** 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 Bruce-Partington Plans**".

Bob Katz, BSI, ASH, will lead the discussion on the story of "**The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans**".

Stephen Lee will be our guest speaker on "Sherlock Holmes and the Silent Contest"

IN THIS ISSUE


- | | |
|---|----|
| • Summary of the September, 2023 Meeting | 03 |
| • "A Toast to The Woman", by Steve Mason, BSI, ASH | 05 |
| • "A Limerick for Wisteria Lodge", by Sandy Kozinn, ASH | 06 |
| • "The Case for Broadmoor Rather than the Scaffold", by Liese Sherwood Fabre, Deckmate | 07 |
| • "Harrison Schmitt: Bringing Holmes to the Moon", submitted by William A. Walsh, BSI | 09 |
| • "Un Grand Talent Pour Le Silence" by Karen Murdock | 16 |



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

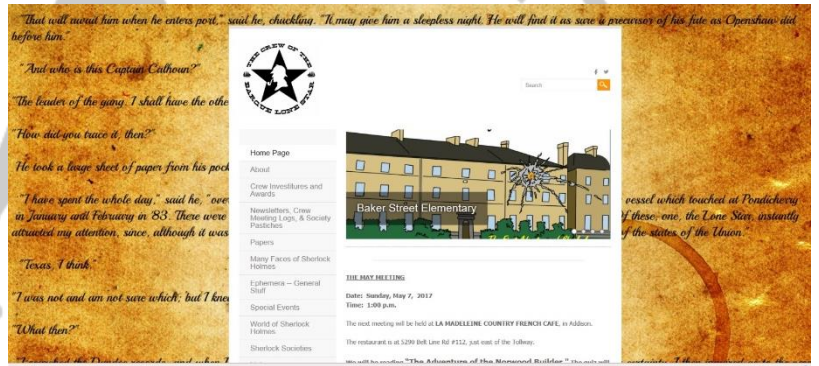
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<p>Who dunnit:</p> 	<p>Third Mate Helmsman Spiritual Advisors</p> <p>Secretary Historian Webmaster</p>	<p>Steve Mason, BSI Walter Pieper Don Hobbs, BSI Dr. Jim Webb, BSI Cindy Brown Pam Mason Rusty Mason</p>	<p>mason.steve8080@gmail.com waltpieper@att.net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

www.dfw-sherlock.org



Our Facebook Page:

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

SEPTEMBER 03 SUMMARY

Cindy Brown, BSI, ASH

There were 67 in attendance at this ZOOM meeting.

The Meeting was started with a toast given by Steve Mason, and was dedicated to "The Woman" (see page 5).

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

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

Members can still submit a pastiche or newspaper article for our 8th book, Not in My Back Yard, where Holmes solves a mystery (that actually happened) near your own home town or community. Deadline is October 1.

Members will celebrate our 50th anniversary by conducting the 2nd Great Sherlockian Whimsical Tour next April, with stops in Texas, Oklahoma, the Moon, and New Mexico.

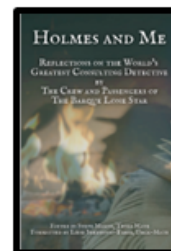
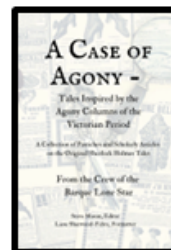
Sandy Kozinn, ASH then did a limerick of "Wisteria Lodge" (see page 5).

Rich Krisciunas, ASH gave us a description of the potential legal issues which might be involved in Wisteria Lodge.

Susan Dahlinger, BSI, ASH, MBt, was the featured speaker of the day with a presentation entitled, "Try it Yourself Holmes, or Just lie down Until the Feeling Passes".

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 "THE WOMAN"

Steve Mason, BSI, ASH

For most people who have read Sherlock Holmes, when you mention "The Woman", they immediately know who you are referring to.

Ah, but not so fast, I would suggest.

Yes, according to John Watson, Irene Adler is "the woman" to Sherlock Holmes.

But there are other women in the Canon just as deserving of the title.

For many, it could be the wonderful Mrs. Hudson, who patiently endured the habits and behaviors of the Great Detective, such as shooting up her rented room – both with a firearm and a hypodermic, consistently gassing the room with chemical experiments and potential flatulence from a very irregular but rich diet, and inviting hundreds of complete strangers to come traipsing through her home.

For others, it may be those women in the Canon who showed courage in the face of the adventure confronting them. Such is the case

with Violet Smith, Violet Hunter, Helen Stoner, and others. Or it could have been the numerous Mrs. Watson's, who were willing to let their husband go play cops and robbers for 20-30 years.

But for me, there is only one "the woman".

This amazing person decided to take me on as "a project" forty-two years ago last month.

Little did she know what she was signing

up for...

Such as raising two kids while I was absent much of the time due to work-related travel, such as seven months during Hurricane Katrina, four months on a detail to Washington DC, or three months during the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster.



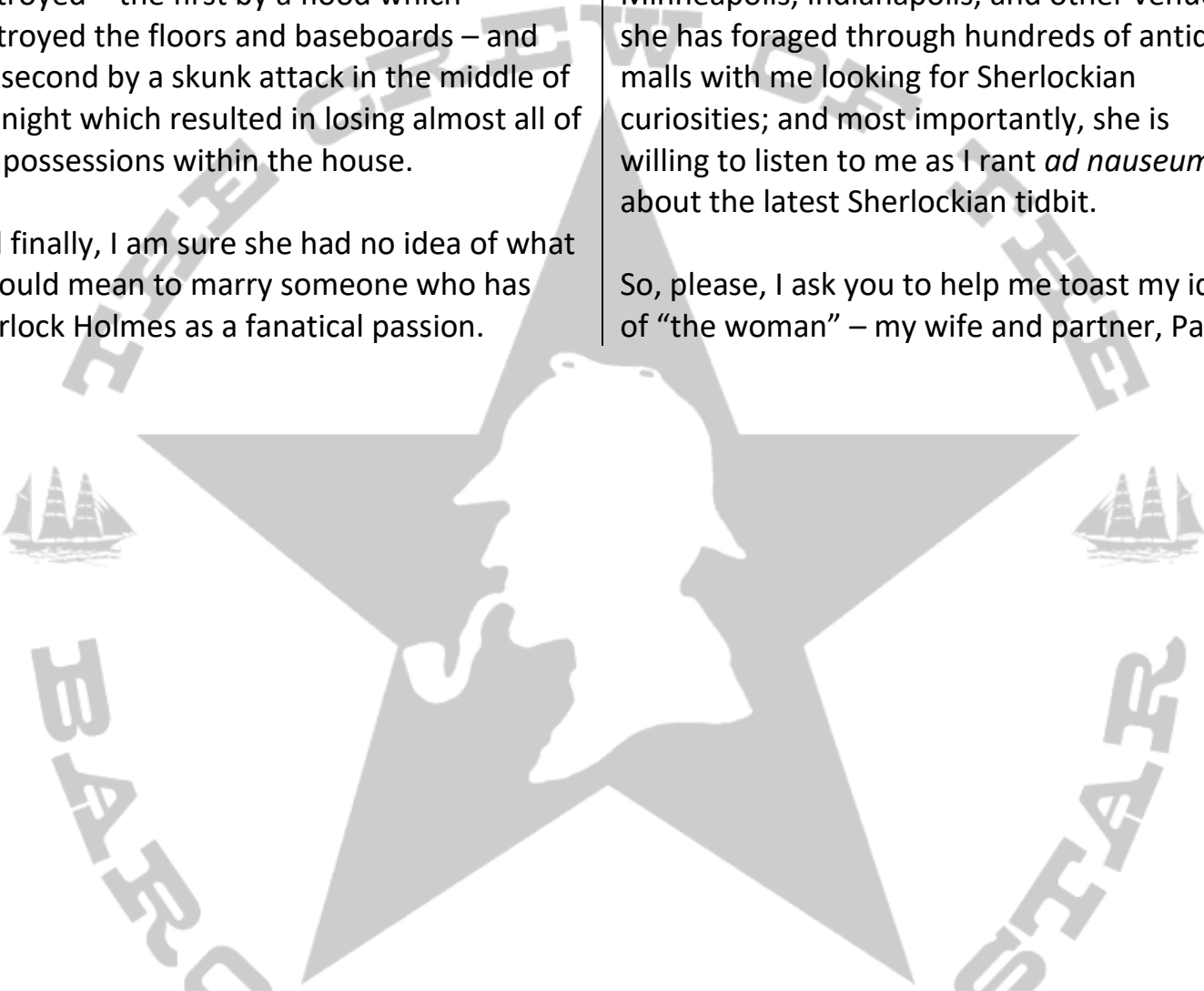
And I am sure she did not expect for her first house to burn to the ground when she was five months pregnant with our son.

Or having her present house twice almost destroyed – the first by a flood which destroyed the floors and baseboards – and the second by a skunk attack in the middle of the night which resulted in losing almost all of our possessions within the house.

And finally, I am sure she had no idea of what it would mean to marry someone who has Sherlock Holmes as a fanatical passion.

But not only did she tolerate it, she has embraced it... she has attended almost every one of our monthly meetings for the past 24 years; she has attended conferences in Minneapolis, Indianapolis, and other venues; she has foraged through hundreds of antique malls with me looking for Sherlockian curiosities; and most importantly, she is willing to listen to me as I rant *ad nauseum* about the latest Sherlockian tidbit.

So, please, I ask you to help me toast my idea of “the woman” – my wife and partner, Pam.



*There once was a case rather strange.
Its geography spans a wide range.
Shrunken heads, politics,
A house in the sticks,
Then Holmes just lets Baynes win. Now that's strange.*

Sandy Kozinn, ASH

THE CASE FOR BROADMOOR RATHER THAN THE SCAFFOLD

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD, Deck-Mate

In “The Adventure of the Retired Colourman,” Holmes noted that Josiah Amberley’s “mentality” would have most likely sent him to Broadmoor, the criminal lunatic asylum, rather than the scaffold. This possible option for Amberley reflected shifts in the Victorian definitions of and attitudes toward mental illness. Of particular interest for the miser, were the laws regarding punishment of criminals considered incompetent of rational thought.

Prior to the 1800s, an insanity plea required defendants to show obvious signs of madness and proof that they could not distinguish between good and evil or judge the consequences of their actions. As a result, few submitted such a defense, and those who were found incompetent were usually released to their families. When James Hadfield attempted to assassinate King George III in 1800, his use of this defense and his potential acquittal and release led to swift changes in public attitude and the law. The Criminal Lunatics Act of 1800 included, among other provisions, “a legal means to detain those acquitted on a plea of insanity” and a retroactive application to Hadfield’s case. (1)

This shift in the legal definition of insanity and its adjudication reflected an expanding understanding of mental illness, its treatment, and possibilities of reintegration into society. By the end of the 18th century, physicians identified insanity as one of two states: mania (irrationality accompanied by violence) or melancholia (severe depression).

Over the century, additional diagnoses included monomania (fixation or obsession with one thing), partial insanity (encompassing hypochondria and

hysteria), and moral insanity (marked by antisocial behavior and a lack of self-control). (2) Treatments for these conditions shifted from earlier practices of bloodletting, purging, and restraints to “moral treatment” with activities to stimulate patients’ thinking (reading, painting, and games, for example), religious instruction (to assist in their moral development), and practicing a trade. Those in such institutions as Broadmoor (established in 1863) created friendships and a sense of community, replacing the isolation their illness created between them and their families and the larger society. (3)



Unfortunately, Broadmoor and the other institutions created by the Asylums Act of 1845 became overcrowded as the number of those committed to these institutions increased, leading to less treatment and more warehousing. (4)

For Josiah Amberley to successfully present an insanity defense, he would have had to meet the test provided by the McNaughton Rules of 1843, which read:



“It must be clearly proved that, at the time of committing the act, the party accused was labouring under such defect of reason, from disease of the mind, as not to know the nature and quality of the act he was doing; or, if he did know it, that he did not know what he was doing was wrong.” (5)

Amberley’s defense, therefore, would have had to show his mental state was such that he no longer thought the act was wrong. Failure to meet this criterion in the court’s judgment would have resulted in a guilty verdict and a death sentence (the scaffold).

Holmes' own assessment of Amberley's mental state hinged on a few observations: that the man was miserly, that he had reverted to a "mediaeval Italian nature," and his "jealousy became a frantic mania." The reference to his nature denoted a common historical belief that a culture of vengeance permeated medieval Italy.

Feuding families or clans sought revenge for any insults or wrongdoings against them, such as the quarreling Capulet and Montague families in *Romeo and Juliet*. (6) Amberley's jealousy of any familiarity between his wife and Dr. Ernest would have fueled his vengeful nature. A fixation on the assumed affair between the two would most likely have been identified as a monomania. Achieving a finding of not guilty by reason of insanity, however, involved one additional, but crucial,



factor. His defense would have had to convince the court that his mental state—based on his manic obsession with his wife's conduct and a throwback to the practice of avenging one's honor—erased his ability to identify right from wrong.

Holmes, unfortunately, did not mention whether Amberley truly had lost his capacity to do so.

If the court agreed that Amberley could have no longer made such a distinction regarding his actions in the case, he might have been saved from the scaffold, but thanks to the passage of a law almost one

hundred years earlier, he would have never returned to his Lewisham home.

Hadfield's 1800 case would have assured Amberley spent the rest of his days at Broadmoor.

1) Moran, R. (1985). The Origin of Insanity as a Special Verdict: The Trial for Treason of James Hadfield (1800). *Law & Society Review*, 19(3), 487–519. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3053574>

2) M.J. Kurata "Insanity" in S. Mitchell (ed.) *Victorian Britain: An Encyclopedia*, New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1988, pp. 397-399.

3) <https://activisthistory.com/2017/05/19/treating-mental-illness-in-victorian-britain/#:~:text=The%20insane%20were%20hidden%20from,with%20so%2Dcalled%20moral%20treatment.>

4) <https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/objects-and-stories/medicine/victorian-mental-asylum>

5) M'Naghten, 10 Cl. & Fin. 200, 8 Eng. Rep. 718 (1843).

6) <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/268890>

HARRISON SCHMITT: BRINGING HOLMES TO THE MOON

William A. Walsh, BSI

Originally published in *The Newspapers: An Irregular Journal of Sherlockians*, No. 3, 2019.

During a four year period between 1968 and 1972, 24 men left the confines of Earth and traveled to the Moon. Three of these men made the trip twice.¹ More importantly, starting fifty-four years ago this summer on July 20, 1969, 12 men walked on the lunar surface.² Eleven of those men were military pilots, most having served as test pilots. The last man to step onto the surface of the Moon had no military experience, did not have a pilot's license prior to joining NASA and had followed in his father's footsteps to become a geologist. The man who stood somewhat apart within this group of stellar achievers was Harrison "Jack" Schmitt.

Dr. Schmitt, one of four Moonwalkers still with us at the start of 2023, is a man of particular interest to Sherlockians. Schmitt would achieve a number of notable feats from the lunar surface. He collected both one of the youngest and one of the oldest samples from the lunar surface and perfected a method for moving across the Moon. He, more importantly, ensured that Holmes made it to the Moon by giving the detective's name to a feature there. Additionally, in his conversation with CapCom, Schmitt engaged in a dialog familiar to most Sherlockians.



Harrison Schmitt provides an out-of-this world tale which the world witnessed and which should be retold.

Becoming an Astronaut

Harrison Schmitt achieved early success within his field comparable with many of the early astronauts. His resume included graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from the California Institute of Technology, a Fulbright Fellowship, a Society of Kennecott Fellows scholarship in geology, a Harvard Fellowship, a Harvard Travelling Fellowship, a National Science Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship and a Doctorate from Harvard University in 1964. After earning his PhD in 1964, Eugene Shoemaker recruited Schmitt to join the US Geological Survey's Astrogeology Center in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Shoemaker's team provided significant support for the planned Apollo missions. Schmitt became the chief of the Lunar Field Geological Methods Project, which was tasked with developing the techniques for the sampling and photography protocols in the lunar missions. Schmitt also developed a key aspect of the future astronaut training for lunar landings. Utilizing photographs from Ranger 8,

¹ Jim Lovell, John Young and Gene Cernan, in that order, accomplished the feat with Lovell being the only individual to make two trips without reaching the surface.

² For bar bet purposes, this select group of 12 are Armstrong, Aldrin, Conrad, Bean, Shepard, Mitchell, Scott, Irwin, Young, Duke, Cernan and Schmitt.

an unmanned lunar probe, Schmitt used the high-resolution photos as a basis for developing both a geologic map of the lunar surface and a means for simulating a lunar mission.

NASA selected Schmitt as part of its fourth group of astronauts after significant modifications in the selection process. For the first two astronaut groups, test pilot qualification was a leading, if not the, primary requirement for a future astronaut. The third group, selected in 1963, incorporated an engineering or science background into the requirements (playing a role in Buzz Aldrin's selection given his PhD from MIT in rendezvous). Outside groups, however, pressed for additional changes. The National Academy of Science (NAS) issued a report, which concluded:

Manned exploration of space is science in space, for man will go with the instruments that he has designed to supplement his capabilities ... to observe what is there, and to measure and describe the phenomena in terms that his scientific colleagues will clearly understand. A scientifically trained and oriented man will be essential for this purpose.

While NASA would still require the applicants for the fourth group to pass a Class I military Flight Status Physical, its announcement for scientist-astronauts sought individuals with a doctorate in natural sciences, medicine or engineering.

NASA received an unanticipated number of applications for the selection of scientist-astronauts. 1,351 applications or letters of interest reached Houston by the deadline. NASA initially reduced this pool to 400, including four women, for the NAS's review. The NAS then reduced the pool to 16 individuals and NASA conducted the final medical exam and candidate interview. NASA chose six scientists as scientist-astronauts in June 1965; Harrison Schmitt was one of the six.³

Oh the Places You will Go

Converting a rock collector into an astronaut started with flight training. NASA immediately moved Schmitt and two other members of his group to Williams Air Force base for the Air Force's Undergraduate Training Program. After a 54-week training program, Schmitt, Garriott and Gibson became the first civilians to receive Air Force pilot wings from the program. Schmitt qualified for as a pilot for both jet aircraft and helicopters as a result of his training. The training was essential as anyone selected as a crew member might need to fly one of the spacecrafts and flying jets and helicopters was the only dynamic simulators open to the astronauts. As Schmitt has observed, performing certain maneuvers required exceptional hand-eye coordination as the astronauts looked at various gauges and worked your hands in different directions. Piloting a helicopter provided the best training for this challenge.

NASA assigned each astronaut oversight responsibility for various aspects of the engineering or operations of the Apollo program. The Astronaut Corp. operated on an 8-day week/16-hour work day inherent to the program's effort to meet Kennedy's lunar goal. Becoming the Group 4 member most associated with Apollo, Schmitt assumed a hardware duty for the development of the scientific experiments of Apollo, the Apollo Lunar Surface Experiment Package (ALSEP). Schmitt also coordinated the development of the suite of tools which astronauts would use on the lunar surface.

Dr. Schmitt played a direct role in the identification of features on the Moon. Frank Borman, commander of Apollo 8, asked Schmitt to draft the flight plan for the mission's 20-hour orbit around the Moon. Schmitt then worked closely with Bill Anders to develop the checklist for the geologic observations during

³ The six selected individuals were Owen Garriott, PhD, Edward Gibson, PhD, Duane Graveline, MD, Joseph Kerwin, MD, F. Curtis Michel, PhD and Harrison Schmitt, PhD. The existing astronauts were less than supportive of this group. Cernan later noted, "It seemed to us as though NASA was caving in to the scientific community, bargaining for dollars and support by promising a ride for some guy toting test tubes."

those orbits. Schmitt also worked closely with most of the lunar missions in training the astronauts for their time on the Moon. Once training moved to the actual landings, Schmitt redesigned the geology instruction with a focus on a field program, starting with Apollo 13. After the return of Apollo 11, the resident geologist also had the opportunity to co-author a paper on the first samples brought back from the Sea of Tranquility.

Crew assignment, for most of the early astronauts, had a quality of the unknown. After aiding with most of the early Apollo missions, Schmitt was assigned as the back-up lunar module pilot (LMP) for Apollo 15. Under the standard crew rotation, the backup crew of Gordon, Brand and Schmitt would become the prime crew three missions later and, as NASA had missions through Apollo 20 planned, this assignment put Schmitt in a good position to walk on the Moon as a member of Apollo 18. Then, in January 1970, as a result of the Nixon administration's budget cuts, NASA cancelled Apollo 20 in order to use the Saturn V to lift Skylab into orbit. Nine months later, in September, further budget cuts forced NASA to cancel both Apollo 19 and 18.⁴ The loss of these missions left the backup crew from Apollo 14, Cernan, Evans and Engle, as the likely crew for the final lunar mission.

The scientific community rallied around their own in an effort to get the lone trained geologist on the final mission. Internal lobbying also occurred as Dick Gordon argued in favor of keeping his crew together and having all three assigned to the final mission. NASA administrators rejected Deke Slayton's initial proposed crew of Cernan-Evans-Engle and prompted the substitution of Schmitt for former X-15 pilot Joe Engle as the LMP for Apollo 17. National media had the scoop first and announced the news of Schmitt's selection before Slayton had asked Schmitt if he wished to join the crew. While unhappy with the change in his crew, Apollo 17 commander Gene Cernan would later write, "In my opinion, this dour Sherlock Holmes of a scientist deserved every opportunity to solve the riddles that remained hidden on the Moon for billions of years."



Naming a Crater

Apollo's movement out of Earth orbit forced NASA to begin adding names to celestial features in order to aid navigation. The Apollo navigational system used 37 stars to plot the spacecraft's location. In 1966, astronaut Gus Grissom, working with University of North Carolina Morehead Planetarium director Tony Jenzano, arranged for three of these 37 to be named Dnoce, Navi and Regor and publications promptly accepted these names. Accordingly, the crew of Apollo 1 managed to name three stars after themselves⁵ and they remained part of the navigational program after their death in the Fire. Starting with Apollo 8's scheduled trip to the Moon, NASA started providing names for features on the Moon.

Schmitt handled most of the naming of lunar features for Apollo 17. Beyond seeking to honor family members, Cernan left the task to his LMP. Schmitt and Cernan provided names for 64 features in the immediate vicinity of their landing site. In explaining the names selected, Schmitt wrote: "The names chosen for crater designations (at Taurus-Littrow) generally attempt to honor men and women who have explored the far limits of human endeavor. These men and women are representatives of many, many others of their

⁴ Schmitt has added that different consideration prompted a push for the cancelation of Apollo 17 as well. Schmitt maintains that the White House originally called for terminating the mission out of a fear of a disaster occurring in space on the eve of the 1972 presidential election. NASA management's solution was to adjust the mission for a December 1972 launch.

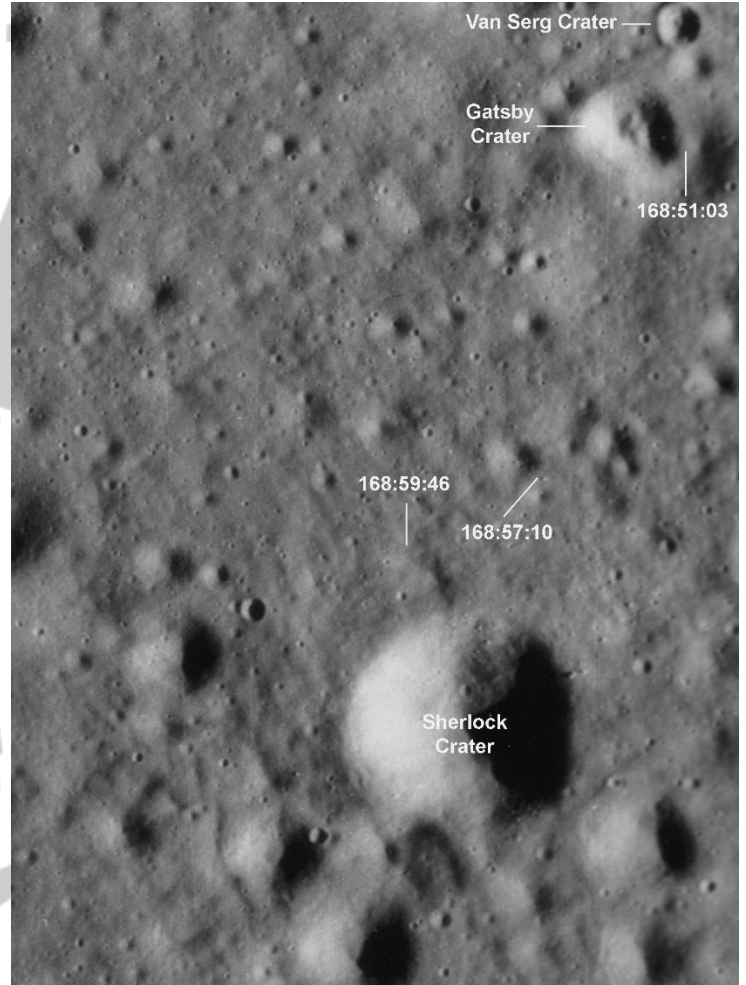
⁵ Dnoce, is second spelled backwards and arrives from Edward H. White II's name. Navi, is Gus Grissom's middle name spelled backwards and Roger Chaffee's first name provides the source for Regor. The stars are in the Great Bear constellation, Cassiopeia and the constellation of Vela, respectively.

generations who were or are true humanists - no matter what enterprise may call upon them for excellence. Most of the crater designations reflect the bias of my own specific interests in literature, history of western man, geographical exploration and geology. Several other names were suggested by other individuals deeply involved in our mission."

Of primary interest, Schmitt named a crater after Sherlock Holmes. Schmitt explained: "Sherlock Holmes, whose adventures were preserved for us by Dr. Watson, was not only the world's most famous and most brilliant detective, but was also one of the leading geological thinkers of his time. His knowledge of London soils and many other aspects of nature, combined with his use of deductive reasoning, serve as examples to all who aspire to understand the worlds around us." Crater Sherlock is almost half a kilometer in diameter with its center latitude at 20.18° and its center longitude at 30.81°. Sherlock lies about a kilometer due east of the Apollo 17 landing site with Van Serg⁶ and Shakespeare to its immediate north. The mission plan designated the crater as Station 10, which the astronauts would visit during their third EVA. Unfortunately, time constraints ultimately barred Cernan and Schmitt from driving to and visiting Crater Sherlock.

Sherlock was not the only crater in Apollo 17's mission plan honoring geology. Crater Agricola honors Georg Bauer, who wrote some of the first known treatises on mineralogy, geology, and mining. His most famous work was on 16th Century mining and metallurgy." Crater Emory was named for William H. Emory, "one of the most capable members of the United States Army Corps of Topographical Engineers who, in the quarter century prior to the American Civil War, systematically explored the American West. This group of military officers and explorers had specialized training in the physical sciences and engineering, and held many close parallels to the Astronauts and Cosmonauts of today. Following in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark and the mountain men, they provided the basic information required to open up the West for travel and eventual settlement." Crater Smith honors "William Smith (1769-1839) and other natural scientists of the 18th and 19th Centuries who established the fundamental axioms of geology from which we now build our theories on the evolution of the earth and, indeed, of all the planets."

As indicated, Schmitt named a number of other craters after authors and literary figures. These names reflect the importance of individuals to Schmitt, such as Shakespeare, Charlotte Bronte, Thornton Wilder, Jules Verne, John Steinbeck and others. As Apollo 17 traveled to the Moon during December, Schmitt also added Frosty and Rudolph to the named features on the lunar surface. Schmitt also christened one crater Camelot to



⁶ In explaining this name, Schmitt wrote: "Professor Hugh McKinstry, one of the leading exploration mining geologists of this century, wrote many educational satires under the pseudonym Nicholas Van Serg. The name honors him and all professors who, through dedication and ability, have infused the wisdom of the past into the understanding of the present."

SHERLOCK
CRATER

APOLLO 17
LANDING
SITE



honor both King Arthur and President Kennedy, who set the national lunar goal. This naming also prompted Schmitt to audition for the off-off Broadway performance of Lerner and Lowe's musical during the second EVA.

The naming of these crater, mountain ranges and other features went well beyond NASA's actual authority. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) held the formal responsibility for naming features on the Moon. Unfortunately for the IAU, NASA mission briefings, press releases and the comments from the astronauts largely established the names without prior consent from the IAU. As a result, the IAU typically accepted names which NASA assigned, excluding those names having religious implication or honoring living people or politicians.

Fun and Games at Taurus Littrow

The first twelve men to set foot on the Moon had a rare opportunity to write their

own chapters in the annals of history. Neil Armstrong set a high bar with his initial statement "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Buzz Aldrin continued with his observation "magnificent desolation." Pete Conrad, however, as the third man on the Moon, brought the rhetoric back down to Earth. Standing 5'6" outside of his spacesuit, Conrad exclaimed on Apollo 12, "Whoopie! Man, that may have been a short one for Neil, but that's a long one for me." Dave Scott, on Apollo 15, sought to return dignity to these first words, radioing back: "Okay, Houston. As I stand out here in the wonders of the unknown at Hadley, I sort of realize there's a fundamental truth to our nature. Man must explore." As the last man to add footprints to the lunar surface, Dr. Schmitt sounded like Sherlock Holmes frustrated with Scotland Yard at a crime scene. Looking around the LM, Schmitt commented "Hey, who's been tracking up my lunar surface."

Schmitt proved the benefit of a trained geologist on the mission as he collected several key samples during his time at Taurus-Littrow. At Shorty Crater, Schmitt observed and collected "orange soil." The sample proved to be orange glass spheres, most likely of volcanic origin, and the fragments were the finest particles brought back from the Moon. Indeed, CMP Ron Evans photographed orange patches on the Moon from lunar orbit. NASA later estimated the sample to be from a lunar volcanic eruption approximately 3.64 billion years ago, making it one of the youngest samples brought back from the Moon. Schmitt also captured a rake sample at the North Massif (Station 6) labeled Troctolite 76535. This sample had a slow cooling history and was not damaged by a shock event. A 1992 study estimated the sample at 4.26 billion years in age, making it the oldest, unshocked lunar sample.

Images of astronauts hopping or bouncing across the Moon have endured and continue to appear in commercials or brief movie clips (e.g., *Armageddon*). Schmitt, however, developed a different technique for moving along the lunar surface. Based on an interest discovered during his time as a Fulbright Scholar in Norway, Schmitt developed a motion similar to cross-country skiing. As he detailed, "In the Moon's low gravity, you can ski above the moondust – and I did. Imagine swinging your arms and legs cross-country style. With each push of your toe, your body glides above ground. Swing, glide, swing, glide. The only marks you leave in the moondust are the tow-pushes."

Schmitt also experienced a common Earthbound ailment on the Moon. Following their first EVA and after reentering the LM and removing their helmets, Schmitt suffered the first case of extraterrestrial hay fever. Reacting to the lunar dust which they tracked back in, Schmitt's turbinates became swollen. Schmitt's lunar hay fever diminished after a few hours, but repeated itself after his second and third EVA.

Finally, a few hours after his first EVA on the Moon (and as his hay fever was subsiding), Schmitt conversation with Houston took on a ring most Sherlockians will recognize. Speaking with Joe Allen, another scientist-astronaut from the sixth group of astronauts, the two men turned to both Holmes and puns. Their conversation, starting with Schmitt speaking about a sample he had collected, appears below.

128:10:07 Schmitt: No, I mentioned when I sampled it. It had one very planar surface, and looking at it more closely, it looks like one of those parting planes that I talked about even earlier in the EVA.

128:10:17 Allen: Ah, Rog. Copy. "Parting planes", thank you.

128:10:24 Schmitt: That's like a parting shot (for the night). (Pause)

128:10:34 Allen: Of which you've been known to have an overabundance, by the way.

128:10:43 Schmitt: Oh, I didn't know that.

128:10:49 Allen: All us fast finishers do. (Pause)

128:10:58 Schmitt: That's right. You got to figure out what race you're in though, first, Joe.

128:11:09 Allen: I'm sure that Sherlock Holmes would have a suitable quotation to answer that, Jack. I just can't come up with it right now. (Pause)

128:11:16 Allen: Something like "therein, Watson, lies the problem"...

128:11:20 Schmitt: That, in itself, is a singular event. (Long Pause)

128:11:44 Schmitt: But the dog did nothing in the nighttime, Joe. (Long Pause)

128:11:59 Allen: And when you've examined all possibilities and eliminated all but the very improbable ones, then the improbable one must mean the truth.

128:12:16 Schmitt: I told you he (Holmes) was a good geologist (pause), one of the experts on the soils of London. (Pause) Not to mention their relationship to all kinds of brands of tobacco. (Pause)

128:12:58 Allen: Jack, maybe we better get off onto another vein. Surgeon's giving me a puzzled look over here. We may be getting in trouble.

128:13:12 Schmitt: You want to talk about veins. Now that's something an old ore geologist could talk about all night. (Pause)

128:13:26 Allen: Ore geologists and cardiologists alike. (Pause)

128:13:42 Schmitt: Thou strikest for the jugular. (Pause)

128:13:53 Allen: Jack, we running a contest down here to come up with a reply to that.

As Schmitt closed out his time on the Moon, he took a couple of actions appropriate to his position as the geologist on the mission. He interrupted Cernan, who was about to throw his hammer across the lunar surface, and asked for the honor of the throw. Cernan replied: "You deserve it. A hammer thrower. ... You're a geologist. You ought to be able to throw it." Immediately thereafter, Schmitt grabbed an unused core tube and leaned on it underneath the LM, pushing down as far as he could, and collected a sample from Apollo 17's landing site at the base of the LM strut. Shortly thereafter, Apollo 17 closed out its time on the Moon, safely returned to Earth and, nearly 50 years later, the Moon continues to wait for its next human visitor.

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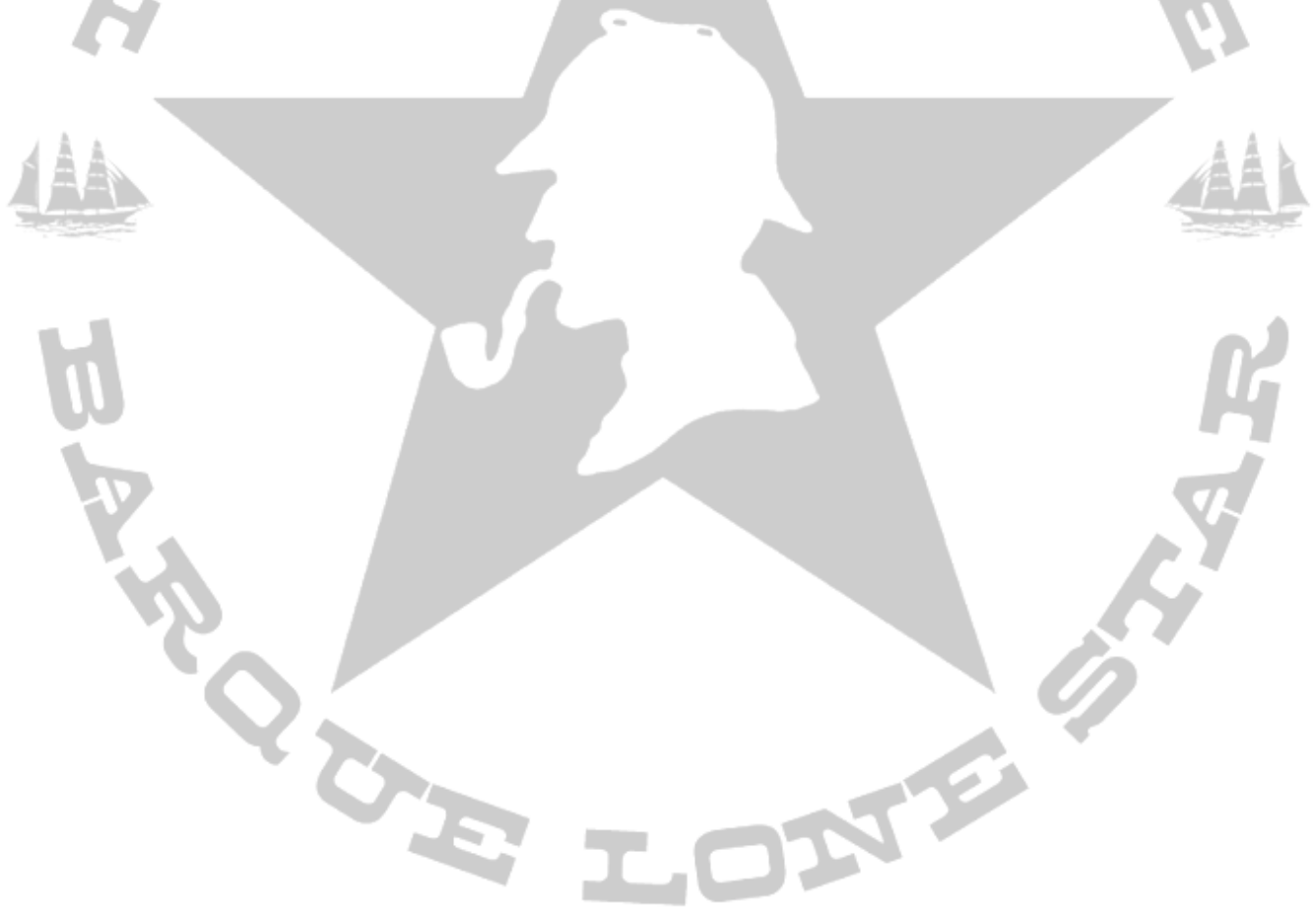
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Will Walsh's, BSI, ASH, interest in space exploration predates his interest in Sherlock Holmes. Fortunately, Will had understanding parents when, at the age of 4, he used a marker to convert his bedroom closet into a Gemini capsule, complete with an instrument panel. Will continues to await his invitation from NASA to head the "Giant Footprints" Sherlockian scion at the first lunar colony.



UN GRAND TALENT POUR LE SILENCE

Karen Murdock

Published in The Petrel Flyer, Volume 20, number 5 (Fall, 2008)

In “The Man with the Twisted Lip,” Watson unexpectedly encounters Sherlock Holmes in an opium den on a “vile alley” just to the east of London Bridge. The two leave the “vilest murder-trap on the whole riverside” and drive off in “a tall dog-cart” that Holmes had left lurking nearby. Holmes takes the reins for “a seven-mile drive” from Upper Swandam Lane to The Cedars, the house of Mr. and Mrs. Saint Clair near Lee in Kent. Watson continues the narrative:

Holmes drove in silence, with his head sunk upon his breast, and the air of a man who is lost in thought, whilst I sat beside him curious to learn what this new quest might be which seemed to tax his powers so sorely, and yet afraid to break in upon the current of his thoughts. We had driven several miles, and were beginning to get to the fringe of the belt of suburban villas, when he shook himself, shrugged his shoulders, and lit up his pipe with the air of a man who has satisfied himself that he is acting for the best.

“You have a grand gift of silence, Watson,” said he. “It makes you quite invaluable as a companion.”

Richard Lancelyn Green (1953-2004), who annotated the story for *The Oxford Holmes* (1993), gave this endnote to Holmes’s observation about Watson:

You have a grand gift of silence, Watson: a phrase taken from Robert Louis Stevenson, to which ACD refers in his article on ‘Mr. Stevenson’s Methods in Fiction’: ‘Mr. Stevenson, like one of his own characters, has an excellent gift of silence’ (*National Review*, Jan. 1890)

Green may be correct in his attribution of where Arthur Conan Doyle got the phrase “gift of silence.” He got it from Stevenson. But where did Stevenson (1850-1894) get it?

Possibly he got it from Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881), who—like Doyle and Stevenson—was Scottish. *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, 2nd ed. (1953) gives this entry under Carlyle:

I hope we English will long maintain our grand talent pour le silence.

(*Heroes and Hero-Worship*, 1841, “The Hero as King”)

Where, then, did Carlyle get the quote? Presumably from some French person, since the quote is in French.

A website of French quotes

(<http://www.bribes.org/silence.htm>) attributes the quote to the French critic Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr (1808-1890), who wrote in *Une poignée de vérités* (1866)

Ce n’était pas un compliment sans portée que celui qu’on faisait en disant d’un homme : “Il a un grand talent pour le silence.”

[This was not a compliment without range that one made by saying of a man: “He has a great talent for silence.”]

However, the phrase must obviously predate 1866, since Carlyle used it in 1841.

In *Sketches of Switzerland* (published 1836) the American author James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851) recalled his trip to Switzerland in 1828. He wrote of a traveling party of English guests who stayed at his hotel

even the servants appearing more sulky and dogged than English servants in general, which is saying a good deal for those who have un si grand talent pour le silence

But the phrase is older yet. Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) used it in a letter to John B.S. Morritt in 1818:

Colonel MacLeod leaves us this morning after a visit of about a week: he improves on acquaintance and especially seems so pleased with everything that it would be very hard to

quarrel with him. Certainly as the Frenchman said il a un grand talent pour le silence.

www.walterscott.lib.ed.ac.uk/etexts/etexts/letters5.PDF

The English novelist Maria Edgeworth (1767-1849) toured the continent of Europe around 1802. In her 1809 novel *Ennui*, she wrote:

As the Frenchman said of the Englishman, for whom even his politeness could not find another compliment, 'Il faut avouer que ce Monsieur a un grand talent pour le silence.'

[It is necessary to acknowledge that this gentleman has a great talent for silence.]

In his *Autobiography* (1859), Leigh Hunt (1784-1859) attributes the phrase to Madame de Staël (Anne Louise

Germaine de Staël-Holstein, 1766-1817), who, in describing the Earl of Liverpool, is said to have remarked

"Ces Anglais ont un grand talent pour le silence"

Other online sources credit Napoleon (1769-1821) or Talleyrand (1754-1838) with the phrase "un grand talent pour le silence" used to describe the taciturn British. I give up the chase. All I am willing to venture is that Robert Louis Stevenson was not the original source. And that the phrase was common in Great Britain by the middle of the 19th century. And that William Baring-Gould and Les Klinger were wise to ignore it in their annotated editions of the Sherlockian Canon. Let a wise silence prevail on the subject.

