The Bilge Pump

Vol. 12, No. 03 – March, 2024

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

PLEASE NOTE: April 07, 2024 Meeting NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on **April 07** at 1:00 pm central. I will send out the link for the meeting the week before the meeting. The story for the month is "The Valley of Fear (Part I)".

Bob Katz, BSI, ASH, will lead the discussion on the story of "The Valley of Fear (Part I)".

Our Special Guest Speaker will be our own **Tim Kline**.

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

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

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

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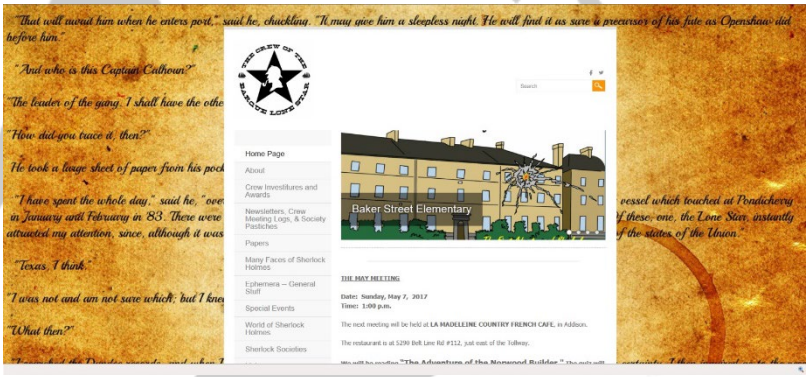


Our Facebook Page:

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

MARCH 03 SUMMARY

Cindy Brown, BSI, ASH

There were **55** in attendance at this ZOOM meeting.

Dennis Keiser, BSI, provided a wonderful toast on the Ghazi sniper (see page 4).

We then proceeded to the quiz on this month's story, "His Last Bow".

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

The Crew's 9th book is being planned for 2024. *Mr. Holmes Neighborhood* will tell stories about the people who live on Baker Street, and what they must think of their curious neighbor (see page 7).

One of our long-time Crew members and friend, Stu Nelan, passed away in February. He will be dearly missed, and Cindy Brown will conduct a "Stand on the Terrace" tribute to Stu in April.

Sandy Kozinn, ASH then did a limerick of "His Last Bow". (see page 4).

Rich Krisciunas, ASH, then did his monthly presentation of Sherlockian Law 101.

For this month our featured speaker was our own **Meghna & Pallavi Shanmugam**, who gave a wonderful retrospective of their journey into the world of Sherlock Holmes. Both young Sherlockians are now DECKMATES of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star.

Shana Carter, ASH, then conducted a reading from the *Baker Street Journal* (see page 5).

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

Thanks to Cindy Brown, BSI, Deckmate, for keeping the minutes.

A TOAST TO THE GHAZI SNIPER

Dennis Keiser

Over the years I have heard many toast regarding the Canon.

They have included "The Woman", Watson. Mrs. Hudson, Mycroft, and even Toby the dog.

But we have failed to recognize the one event and person that started our obsession with Mr. Sherlock Holmes.

That event is the battle of Maiwand in northern Afghanistan where Dr. Watson received his famous "moving wound".

It is there that a Ghazis sniper using a primitive Jazail rifle wounded our dear Watson, who was later saved by Murray.

If that sniper had used a better firearm or was a better shot, the battle experience of Dr. Watson may have ended there and there would have never been any adventures with Mr. Holmes.

So raise a glass and toast the Ghazis sniper and his poor marksmanship.

A retired Holmes made one final bow.
Through his acting, he showed us, and how,
That a man with his skill
And unshakeable will
Does the job. Would we had him right now!

Sandy Kozinn

THE FORTUNATE ONES

Shana Carter

From the *Baker Street Journal*, Volume 2, number 3, 1947, Editor: Edgar W. Smith

IT WAS A heartening experience, at the meeting of the Baker Street Irregulars last January, to look around the room and take count of the many young. faces that brightened an otherwise august and rather doddering assemblage. The legend has persisted too long, certainly, that only those who sowed their oats by gaslight are eligible for this inner circle, or that a purely personal nostalgia is essential to affection for the man who stands as symbol of the old remembered times.

Sherlock Holmes has more than this to commend him to the world's esteem, and the rising generation knows it. Some of the guests in their thirties and their twenties who sat with the Irregulars that night were the scions, if you will—of the founding gaffers whose roots lie deep in the beckoning past. A few of them, perhaps, were there from filial piety or as a mere gesture of imitation; but there were many more who came, with or without parental sponsorship and incitement, for the simple and satisfying reason that they had found something they liked, and that they liked what they had found,

Such neophytes, whether within the body of the Irregulars themselves or as a part of the burgeoning societies out around the land, are the fortunate ones among us. For theirs is a wholly objective devotion, unbolstered by the treacherous props of memory.

But happier and more fortunate still, if we stop to consider, are those virginal souls, young and old alike, who have never read the tales of Sherlock Holmes at all. Here is the optimum of all potential: for them the world has not begun, and they have yet to live. Think what it is they have before them! We who have wisdom in the lore would not give up one whit of what we have acquired— but for these others the joy that we have known is promised in the very fact of acquisition. It is a joy that we would know anew if only ignorance could be recaptured and innocence restored.

What ransom would we pay if we could wonder once again at the meaning of the task poor Jabez Wilson had been called upon to do; if we could speculate upon the sinister and mysterious significance of the, Dancing Men? And how we would delight to find ourselves bewildered by the tiny footprints in the attic of the house where Bartholomew Sholto had died in agony, or by the cryptic references to the gipsy band that roamed the neighborhood of Stoke Moran!

These are the voyages of great discovery that we can never take again...

"Footprints?"

"Footprints."

"A man's or a woman's?" . .

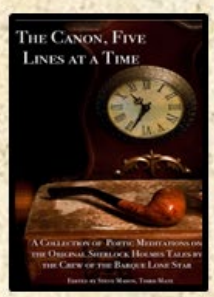
We know the epic answer. But how we wish that we did not!

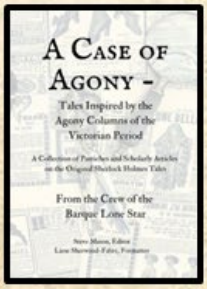
The Crew of the Barque Lone Star Society has published 8 wonderful books. You may download a free copy of the books (as .pdf files) on our website...

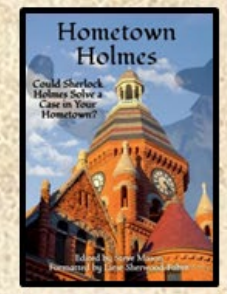
https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/society--crew-member-anthologies-pastiches.html

Or you may purchase a soft-back version of any of our books (at cost) at...

https://www.barnesandnoble.com/s/the%20crew%20of%20the%20barque%20lone%20star







The Crew of the Barque Lone Star Society is producing our 9th book in our 54th year of existence.

Have you ever wondered how the neighbors of 221 Baker Street, or those who worked on the street (such as the police officer, commissionaire, delivery boys) dealt with the constant drama permeating from the most famous address in the world?

Mr. Holmes' Neigbourhood will let residents and workers to voice their take on the world of Sherlock Holmes.

1. Stories should be 3,000 – 5,000 words, which is the average length for a short story. Obviously, a shorter story is fine.
2. 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.
3. This project is not limited to just those members in the DFW area. Any member, or true Sherlockian, is welcome to submit a pastiche.
4. 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 pastiche in the anthology.

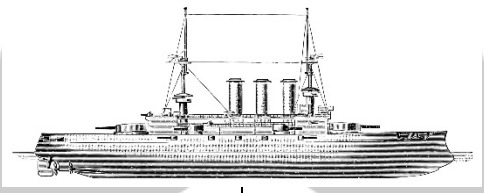
CATCHING SPY FEVER

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD, BSI, Deck-Mate

On June 28, 1914, in Sarajevo, Bosnia, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austria-Hungarian throne, and his wife Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, were assassinated by Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian Serb nationalist.

A month later, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Given the series of alliances already in place, France, Britain, and Russia declared war on Germany and Austria-Hungary—a conflict that lasted more than four years.

The hostilities between these countries, however, had deeper roots, and in which, Sherlock Holmes played a role. While Britain had a long-established position as a global and imperial power, Germany desired to launch itself onto the world stage at the end of the 1800s.



In particular, the country sought to expand its navy with bigger and better ships to rival those of Britain. An arms race ensued, with Britain seeking to maintain its superiority through a new line of battle cruisers—the first being the HMS Dreadnought. (1)

The development of this ship caught Germany by surprise—even with a spy network operating in the country. (2) As Thomas Bogart described Germany and Britain's efforts:

> The history of German espionage in Great Britain reveals a curious double failure: the incapacity of [Germany] to make a significant contribution to the German war effort and the inability of British counter-espionage to produce a realistic assessment of German espionage. (3)

While British military intelligence failed to develop any true idea of Germany's network within its borders, it operated under the same belief that the British government and popular culture held: German spies were operating effectively and efficiently in a coordinated network under their very noses.

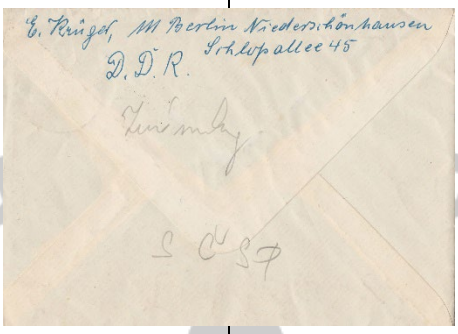
Several fiction novels spurred these sentiments. In them, they presented a scenario where a large web of secret agents assisted a successful German invasion. The most popular, written by William Le Queux, described how more than 5000 Germans were operating in the country. Hyped by the popular press, his books and others became best sellers. (4)

In response to these perceived threats, the government created the Secret Service Bureau (the precursor to MO5) in 1909. With a staff of sixteen, the organization accomplished little in its first years. (5) The concern, however, over such spy networks, continually fueled by the popular press, only increased "spy fever."

Persons reported on hundreds of Germans to the police (forcing many restaurants to dismiss their German waiters). Although none produced any evidence of actual spying, (6) the director of military operations, counter-intelligence section (MO5 and later called MI5), passed on these accusations as fact,

constructing an image of a well-developed German espionage ring operating within Britain's borders. (7)

While the number of pre-war spies was highly exaggerated in the press, Germany did send agents to Britain during the war, and the Secret Service eventually identified, followed, and arrested several of them.



According to German archives, the country sent a total of 120 spies into Britain during WWI, of which MI5 caught 65. (8) One of the first to be arrested was Armgaard Karl Graves, sent to Edinburg in 1912 to observe fleet maneuvers.

When one of his coded messages was sent to the wrong address in London, it was passed to the police, and MO5, who had already been intercepting and reading his messages (some coded, some not), arrested him. After a very public trial, he offered to assist MO5 with hunting out the spy ring he insisted existed in Britain.

The man, an accomplished fraudster, was released from prison and bilked funds to finance his travels to Germany and the US in search of the spymaster he claimed had a list of all those in the network. (9)

Holmes' counterespionage efforts reflected those reported in the press at the time. The focus in three adventures—"The Adventure of the Naval Treaty," "The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans," and "His Last Bow"—shared the role maritime strategies played in World War I and both countries' efforts to obtain and protect naval intelligence.

This portrayal shared the fears and uncertainties prevalent during this period, where the control of the seas helped shape the two nations' destinies. Thanks to Holmes, however, Britain's borders remained safe.

_____

1) https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/learning/first-world-war/the-kaisers-spy-in-scotland-naval-espionage-before-the-great-war#:~:text=The%20German%20spy%20network%20in,in%20London%20acting%20as%20intermediaries
2) http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=12283
3) Boghardt, Thomas, *Spies of the Kaiser: German Covert Operations in Great Britain during the First World War Era*, New York: Macmillan, 2004.
4) https://graemeshimmin.com/william-le-queux-and-british-spying/
5) https://www.mi5.gov.uk/the-establishment-of-the-secret-service-bureau
6) https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=12283
7) French, David. "Spy Fever in Britain, 1900-1915." *The Historical Journal*, vol. 21, no. 2, 1978, pp. 355–70.
8) https://www.mi5.gov.uk/world-war-i#:~:text=German%20archives%20reveal%20that%20at,back%20significant%20intelligence%20to%20Germany
9) https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/learning/first-world-war/the-kaisers-spy-in-scotland-naval-espionage-before-the-great-war#:~:text=The%20German%20spy%20network%20in,in%20London%20acting%20as%20intermediaries

HALF AND HALF

Karen Murdock, Deck Mate

published in *Prescott's Press*, # 56 (June 2010)

Holmes and Watson never did things by halves. There are, however, a good many "half" words in the Canon.

Not including the words "half" and "halfway," the most common "half" word in the Sherlock Holmes stories is "half-past," which is used 29(1) times, always in reference to telling time:

> *It was half-past five before Holmes returned. He was bright, eager, and in excellent spirits, a mood which in his case alternated with fits of the blackest depression.* (SIGN, Chapter 3, "In Quest of a Solution")

> *In vain I begged him to tell me more. "You will hear and see enough before morning," he answered. "We have three years of the past to discuss. Let that suffice until half-past nine, when we start upon the notable adventure of the empty house."* (EMPT)

> *Half-past two had chimed, and it was the darkest hour which precedes the dawn, when we all started as a low but sharp click came from the direction of the gate.* (BLAC)

After these 29 time-related appearances, "half" words fall off precipitously in occurrence. Three hyphenated "half" words occur five times apiece (half-moon, half-opened, half-sovereign) and three more occur four times apiece in the Canon (half-crown, half-dozen, half-sheet). Four hyphenated "half" words are used three times in the Canon (half-closed, half-humorous, half-pay, half-timbered):

> *Tuxbury Old Hall [. . .] is a great wandering house, standing in a considerable park. I should judge it was of all sorts of ages and styles, starting on a <u>half-timbered</u> Elizabethan foundation and ending in a Victorian portico. Inside it was all panelling and tapestry and half-effaced old pictures, a house of shadows and mystery.* (BLAN)

> *Holmes leaned back in his chair with <u>half-closed</u> eyes. "You must admit, my dear Watson, that the idea of a joke is impossible. There were grave events afoot, as the sequel showed, and the coaxing of Scott Eccles to Wisteria Lodge had some connection with them."* (WIST)

The following dozen words occur twice apiece in the Canon:

half-buttoned	half-confidences	half-drawn	half-drunk
half-effaced	half-full	half-hour	half-human
half-mad	half-pennies	half-pound	half-smoked

But most "half" words occur only once. They are what are called "hapax legomena" (2) or one-use words occurring in a literary work. The Sherlock Holmes Canon contains 45 "half-hyphenated" words that are hapax legomena. They range, alphabetically, from half-bashful (3) to half-written (4) and in Canon order from half-carrying (5), to half-brother (6).

HALF AND HALF QUIZ

Here is a quiz of a dozen "half" words used only one time in the Canon. Can you identify the stories in which they occur?

Choose your answers from these stories: EMPT, ENGR, HOUN, LADY, MAZA, REDH, REIG, SCAN, SIGN, STUD, TWIS, WIST. No story is used more than once.

1. In the cab was a woman, half-collapsed from nervous exhaustion. She bore upon her aquiline and emaciated face the traces of some recent tragedy.

2. Seizing a half-consumed piece of wood from the smouldering fire, he blew it into a flame, and proceeded with its help to examine the little camp.

3. "I was half-dragged up to the altar, and before I knew where I was I found myself mumbling responses which were whispered in my ear, and vouching for things of which I knew nothing"

4. "For an instant I could hardly believe that here was indeed a door which led away from death. The next instant I threw myself through, and lay half-fainting upon the other side."

5. A huge driving-wheel and a shaft half-filled with rubbish showed the position of an abandoned mine.

6. On the table, under a half-lit chandelier, the coffin was lying.

7. "He actually picked up my parasol for me once. 'By your leave, madame,' said he—half-Italian, you know, and with the Southern grace of manner when in the mood"

8. She stood with her figure outlined against the flood of light, one hand upon the door, one half-raised in her eagerness, her body slightly bent, her head and face protruded, with eager eyes and parted lips, a standing question.

9. We had during this time been following the guidance of Toby down the half-rural villa-lined roads which lead to the metropolis.

10. The face was turned half-round, and the effect was that of one of those black silhouettes which our grandparents loved to frame. It was a perfect reproduction of Holmes.

11. "Why did you pick him?"
    "Because he was handy and would come cheap."
    "At half-wages, in fact."

12. "She is very old and deaf, and we can get no information from her. The shock has made her half-witted, but I understand that she was never very bright."

ANSWERS TO HALF AND HALF QUIZ

1. half-collapsed, WIST
2. half-consumed, STUD
3. half-dragged, SCAN
4. half-fainting, ENGR
5. half-filled, HOUN
6. half-lit, LADY
7. half-Italian, MAZA
8. half-raised, TWIS
9. half-rural, SIGN
10. half-round, EMPT
11. half-wages, REDH
12. half-witted, REIG

(1) For the word counts and all the hapaxes, I am indebted to Les Moskowitz, who compiled a concordance to the Canon in 1980 and subsequently wrote a computer program enabling him to sort all the words in the Canon and to determine, for example, which words are used the most and which the least often.

(2) See my article "How's Your Hapax Legomenon?" *The Serpentine Muse*, Volume 24, no. 3 (Spring 2008). To get a copy of this article or a list of some 8200 hapaxes in the Canon, email me at murdock1212@gmail.com.

(3) They were, as McMurdo found, quite ready to converse about their deeds in the past, which they recounted with the half-bashful pride of men who had done good and unselfish service for the community., VALL.

(4) "These are samples of the questions and answers which made up our strange half-spoken, half-written conversation." GREE

(5) Jefferson Hope [. . .] led the way across the fields at the top of his speed, supporting and half-carrying the girl when her strength appeared to fail her (STUD)

(6) "The public don't know how good he is. Sir Robert has been too clever for the touts. He has the Prince's half-brother out for spins. You can't tell 'em apart." (SHOS)

DR. WATSON, HERO OF SAN FRANCISCO

Brad Keefauver, BSI, Deck Mate
***The Holmes / Watson Report,* September, 2004**

Was Dr. Watson actually in San Francisco in the 1870s?

Among the apocryphal tales of Dr. Watson is one of his early medical life in San Francisco, living in Madame Charpentier's Boarding House with a lisping baronet named Sir Montague Brown. There, he was said to have fought cholera among the poor, and even to have saved a Chinese immigrant from the mob violence that occurred there in the 1870s and before. Today, the only remaining evidence of this heroic period in the young doctor's life is a bad play found among the papers of the late Sir Arthur Conan Doyle… an account so easily discredited that third graders hoping to impress their teacher might attempt the challenge.

The data found in the play *Angels of Darkness* would plainly seem, on the surface, to be in direct contradiction of the events in *A Study in Scarlet.* The same three characters, Stangerson, Drebber, and Jefferson Hope all die in both accounts, once in San Francisco and once in London. Lucy Ferrier survives her escape from Utah in one version and dies imprisoned in Salt Lake City in the other. Most readers would simply use these duplications to dismiss the *Angels of Darkness* as a very rough draft of the tale found in the later *A Study in Scarlet.* They see, but as the Master Detective once told his ever-learning Trusted Companion, they do not observe.

The sharp-eyed reader can't help but notice a single detail in the later of the two tales that shines an entirely new light on this "Case of the Duplicate Denouements." That detail is one simple reference, which is oddly altered with one simple letter "s." You probably have observantly noticed it yourself, many times: The reference to 'the Jefferson Hopes of St. Louis' in part two, chapter two of *A Study in Scarlet.* Since that chapter, "The Flower of Utah," mentions multiple Jefferson Hopes, be they father and son, or even brothers, it makes one stop for a moment and wonder, "Well, if there was more than one Jefferson Hope, what if there was more than one set of Mormons named Stangerson and Drebber?"

Well, guess what? (The astute Sherlockian, will, of course, not be guessing here, knowing exactly what I'm about to say.) *A Study in Scarlet* also makes much of elders Stangerson and Drebber, who have sons, Stangerson and Drebber. Suddenly it seems very possible for the trio to have died in San Francisco *and* to have died again in London.

Consider the following timeline for an *Angels of Darkness I A Study in Scarlet* fusion:

1847 to 1859 ... Lucy Ferrier grows to the age of seventeen in Salt Lake City. At the end of that period, her father and her beau, Jefferson Hope, try to get her out of Utah with the help of a traveling salesman named Elias Fortescue Smee. Hope and the elder Ferrier are lost in the attempt, battling the mysterious Avenging Angels, but Lucy and Smee escape, making it to San Francisco.

Mid-1870s .. . John Watson comes to live in San Francisco at Madame Charpentier's boarding house where he meets Lucy Ferrier, now in her thirties, but still quite attractive to the younger man. She still pines for her lost Jefferson Hope, yet keeps some hidden affection for her new young suitor. The elder Stangerson and Drebber learn of Lucy's whereabouts

and come to claim her for their sons, only to wind up facing a still-alive Jefferson Hope, who has been searching for Lucy as well, and learned of her whereabouts from the same source. Hope, Stangerson, and Drebber all die in the ensuing conflict, but not before Hope can release Lucy Ferrier to her young suitor, Dr. Watson. In an impromptu sort of ceremony that one C?n read of in *Angels of Darkness,* Lucy Ferrier becomes the first Mrs. Watson, an act that was surely officialized soon after.

Later in the 1870s ... Lucy Watson vanishes, kidnapped and taken back to Salt Lake City by the younger Stangerson and Drebber, and is forced to marry Drebber. The surviving member of "the Jefferson Hopes of St. Louis" arrives in Salt Lake City looking for his namesake, and stumbles onto the dying Lucy Ferrier Watson Drebber. He also learns what happened to the other Jefferson Hope. The young and heartbroken Dr. Watson, sure his more worldly wife has deserted him, travels to London to continue his medical studies, then tries to lose himself in the Afghan War.

1884 *(Keefauver chronology)* ... The second Jefferson Hope pursues the elder Stangerson and Drebber to London to seek his revenge. When Dr. Watson helps Sherlock Holmes arrest this Hope, whom Watson had never met, he finally learns of his wife's fate in Salt Lake City. Finding she had been stolen from him and not betrayed him, Dr. John Watson devotes his life to helping Mr. Sherlock Holmes solve such mysteries as his own.

Considered in this fashion, *Angels of Darkness* and *A Study in Scarlet* are puzzle pieces that fit together to reveal both Watson's first love and his prime motivation for allying himself with Sherlock Holmes. Mere coincidence? Then one might consider these other three bits of coincidence as well:

(1) While Dr. Watson seemed to only complete his medical studies in London in 1878, California required no certification at all for medical doctors before 1876, at which time a written examination was sufficient to be called "doctor."

(2) Sir Montague Brown, a smart young Englishman who smokes a bit and seems to toss meaningless marriage proposals around bears an uncanny resemblance to Holmes when he suspects Stangerson and Drebber of something nefarious. Sherlock Holmes, it will be remembered, smoked a lot and tossed at least one meaningless marriage proposal around. Holmes also spoke of his early days on Montague Street.

(3) "Charpentier's Boarding House," which appears in both tales, was plainly a chain with franchises in many major cities like San Francisco and London. Anyone who has ever seen Renoir's painting "Madame Charpentier" would know in an instant that an early marketing genius was behind tying a brand of boarding house to that warm scene of home and family: Of course, with so many murders occurring at their boarding houses., one can see why the chain is not around today.

But Dr. Watson's presence in San Francisco isn't proven by coincidences and timelines alone. All the thoughtful reader must do is look at the heart of the man in both tales: a caring hero, a man who hardly thinks himself worthy, yet a great man all the same. Yes, this is our Dr. Watson. Even surrounded by clowns and buffoons instead of the genius of Baker Street, there's no missing him. Some may still dispute this notion. But while Dr. Watson's San Francisco days may be argued by Sherlockian historians for some time to come, like so many other parts of the good doctor's Iif e, they do make for one thing ... a good story…

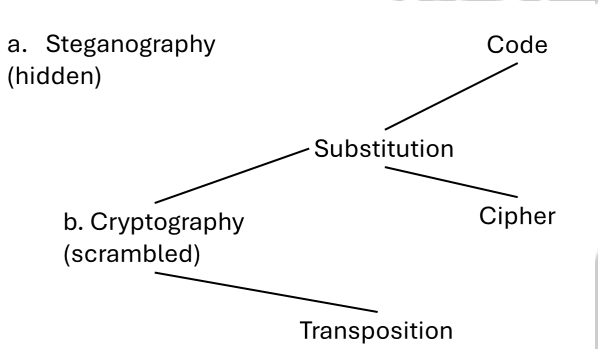
HIDDEN MESSAGES IN THE CANON AND ELSEWHERE

Franklin Saksena, BSI

With kind permission from Dr. Saksena (originally printed in the Criterion Bar Crier, Volume 29, No. 3 March 2024)

In his history of cryptography (3), Simon Singh presents the following classification of secret writing:

Secret writing



Steganography is a method of concealing the existence of a message such as the use of invisible ink or a microdot.

A code involves replacing a word or phrase by another symbol. A code book is required to decode the message.

In a cipher a letter is substituted with another letter, whereas transposition involve only rearranging the letters (= anagram).

There are at least 4 stories in the Canon in which secret messages are mentioned (REDC, GLOR, DANC, VALL).

In the Red Circle story flashing lights are used to convey a short message. One flash = A and 20 = T. The message: “Attenta pericola” is Italian for “Beware - danger.” This way of communicating is time consuming and it’s easy to miscount the number of light flashes.

In the Gloria Scott story, the following message was enough to give James Artmitage a stroke:

The supply of game for London is going steadily up. Head-keeper Hudson we believe has now told to receive all orders for fly paper and for preservation of your hen-pheasant life.

Holmes deduced that the real message was obtainable by writing down every 4th word:

The game is up. Hudson has told all. Fly for your life.

This is an example of steganography. It was also used in WWII (2) in which a seemingly innocently letter can convey secret information using the 5-6-0 grid system.

A grid system is set up relating to the number of letters in the first 2 words of the letter, e.g. “so pleased” indicates a 14-word code message in a 2 x 7 grid. The 5th word alternating with every 6th word in the ensuing paragraphs is selected and placed in the grid. The message is read in reverse order.

	S	O
P	PAID	be
L	will	remit
E	HOBBS	Mrs.
A	following	others
S	hope	received
E	N	blhmr
D	Of	MAP
MAP OF BLHMR N RECEIVED HOPE OTHERS FOLLOWING MRS. HOBBS REMIT WILL BE PAID		

Example of 5-6-0 grid system (2)

In the Dancing Men story Holmes used frequency analysis (Fig 2 is an updated version) to decode the meaning of the stick figures. Thus, E is the commonest letter in the English language, occurring in about 12% of cases (Fig 3). The nonsense phrase “ETAOIN SHRDLU” represents the 12 most frequent letters in a typical English language text (6). This was mentioned in part in the Dancing Men story.

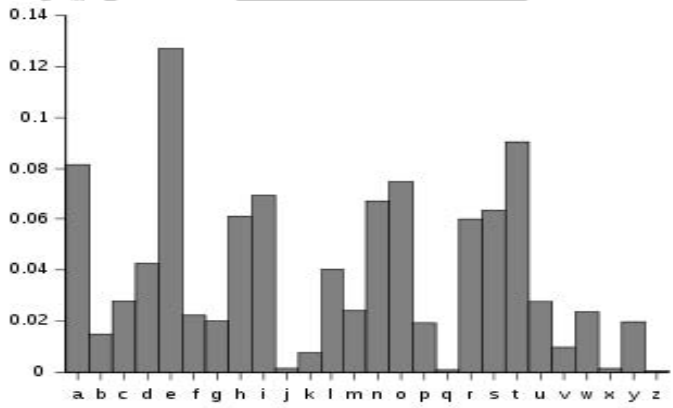


Fig 2. Frequency analysis (1,5) Sample size=100,362.alphabetic characters taken from novels & newspapers.

The most common pairs of letters are TH, ER, ON, and AN. And the most common repeats are SS, EE, TT and FF (6). [I used frequency analysis to label the 25 cubes in boggle. As each cube has 6 faces, i.e. 150 faces in all, E would be inscribed 15 times (10%) T 12 times (8%) etc.]

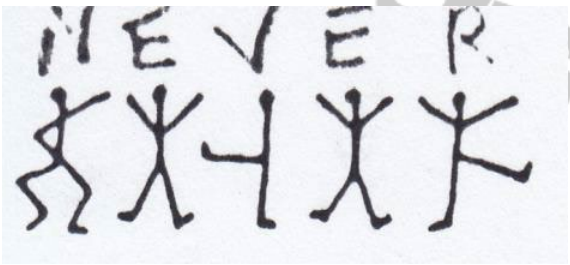


Fig. 3 Dancing figures depicting the word “Never.” Note the stick figure for E occurs twice

Mary,Queen of Scots fled to England in 1568 to seek sanctuary from the Scots (having been complicit in the murder of her husband and consorting with his murderer). Queen Elizabeth, her cousin placed her under house arrest as she was a potential rival for the English throne.

Mary Queen of Scots wrote letters in code to her Catholic supporter Babbington. Sometimes there was a letter substitution and sometimes symbols were used for complete words (Fig 4). She was conspiring to have Elizabeth assassinated so she could assume the English throne. Once the code was broken (using frequency analysis) a postscript was added by Elizabeth's spymaster to inquire the name of Babbington's co-conspirators As a result of this information all the conspirators along with Mary Queen of Scots were executed for high treason in 1587(3).

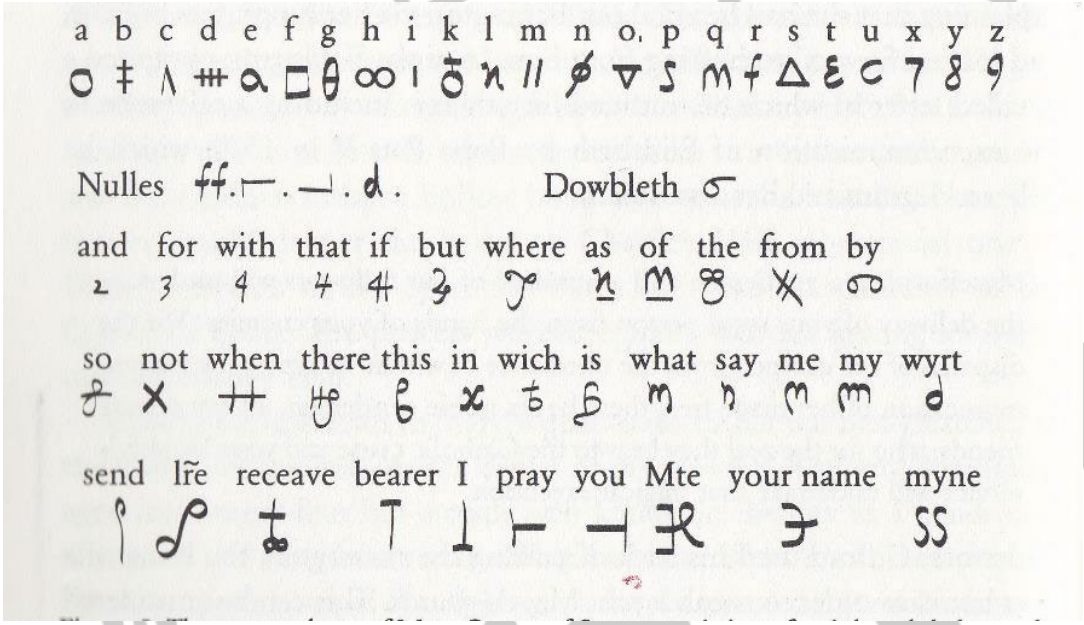


Fig. 4. Codes and ciphers used by Mary Queen of Scots in her letters to Babbington (3)

In the Valley of Fear story, Porlock sent Holmes this message:

534 C2 23 127 36 31 4 17 21 41
Douglas 109 293 5 37 Birlstone
26 Birlstone 8 47 171

Holmes assumed that the likeliest source was Whitaker's Almanac starting at page 534 column 2 and that the rest of the numbers referred to the position of the words in the paragraph from the top of the page. The decoded message said that Douglas of Birlstone House was in danger. This is an example of a book cypher (6).

Using a book cypher was first mentioned by Jacobus Silvestri in 1526 (6). The sender and the recipient would use the same book such as a dictionary or the Bible. More recently others have used the book cypher approach: Benedict Arnold (in his failed attempt to surrender West Point to the British 1780), Scovell (under Wellington in the Peninsular war(1810), and the Doubleday brothers in 1861(4).

In wartime coded messages used numbers for letters and required a code book to decipher a message. The Zimmerman telegram (5) was first picked up by British Intelligence in Jan 1917 when Zimmerman sent it to the German ambassador in Washington. It consisted of 15 rows of numbers. Each number represented a word.

Some numbers such as “97556 =Zimmerman,” the German foreign minister, were well known. Equally intriguing was the mention of Japan (52262) and Mexico (767893) in the telegram. Using previous decoded messages it took 5 weeks to fully decode the message that Germany was proposing to Japan and Mexico to invade the US and thus distract the Americans from sending troops overseas to help the allies in 1917.This telegram and the German intention to carry out unrestricted U Boat warfare were important factors in the US entering the war against Germany in 1917(5). Thus deciphering coded messages may play a decisive role in changing the course of history.

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(cf L Klinger Annotated SH The novels Norton NY. 2006 p 517)
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General Reading

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'THE WOMAN' HAD A SISTER

Bob Sharfman, BSI

"To Sherlock Holmes she was always the Woman." Ah, but not just *the* woman. The woman who confounded the Master, rejected a king, married an English lawyer…well, you all know the story.

It's about Irene Adler, born in New Jersey, U.S.A., an accomplished opera singer, and wife of Godfrey Norton. The question remains: what about her family back in the wilds of New Jersey? Here is at least part of that story.

Many years of research and investigation were required as well as interviews with people from several continents. Privacy and nondisclosure documents were signed as well as many "you never talked to me" were heard. Here is a part of what we know.

Irene was born to parents from Yanow, Belarus, in what was then the pale of Russia. Her father, Moshe, emigrated to the United States and later sent for his wife, Gittel, and his two daughters, Irene and Pearl. The birth (and marriage) records have been long lost due to two wars and a few pogroms, but Pearl was quite a bit younger than her famous—the Woman. That was to change.

While the dates are forever blurred, Pearl was about twenty years old when World War I broke out. Pearl saw her opportunity. Newly inducted servicemen were all over New York City and Pearl learned at a young age what gratified a soldier, sailor or marine who was going to war. As any entrepreneur knows, she filled an unmet need for girls. These girls were not just "necking" or "petting" in the parlance of the day; they would "go the limit." "Nothing too good for our fighting men" was the cry.

Now to be clear, Pearl left no evidence that she took part in this sexual revolution—which evolved into the Jazz Age and the Roaring Twenties, but she did take notice. Against the advice of her brother, Berl (later changed to Ben or Benny) she decided to capitalize on this revolution—now fueled by Prohibition, bootleggers, and booze and in our modern jargon "monetized sex." She was more plain in stating her job description: "I run a whorehouse," she said.

Changing her name from Pearl to Polly, Irene's sister became a real celebrity of the Jazz Age and later. Houses of "negotiated affection" or "assignation" were not uncommon (but illegal) in New York City. Polly went for the top. Her customers could probably buy and sell the King of Bohemia (who wants to own a king anyway?). Her customers included department store owner John Wanamaker, Bernard Gimbel and Buzzy Warburton, automaker Walter Chrysler and financier Otto Kahn. Let this excerpt from *Madam The Biography of Polly Adler Icon of the Jazz Age* tell not of her customers but her fans. The story should be somewhat familiar, what with stag dinners, rowdy men who guzzled liquor (as in toasts), sang off-color songs (Aunt Clara?) and the like. Judge for yourself:

At this point a disclaimer:

NO STAG DINNER WITH ROWDY MEN SIGNING OFF-COLOR SONGS ARE MEANT TO, OR DO, REFER TO ANY SPECIFIC OR DISCRETE (is this really the proper adverb?) DINNER HELD IN NEW YORK CITY DURING THIS TIME PERIOD ESPICIALLY THE BSI DINNER.

Irene followed a traditional education for a woman of her time. Home schooled in what the stiffs and swells of that time called “high art.” Music and the piano were her favorite subjects and her opera career was to follow…and of course her dalliance with the king of Bohemia, run-in with the Master and her marriage to the lawyer Norton.

Pearl, on the other hand did her lessons as required, but her favorite pastime was helping her parents run their small business. There she came into contact with and learned about all kinds of people: vendors, customers, workmen, police officers, rich, poor and all between. She learned about life in the new America of her parents. In the eyes of many she was smart, attractive and energetic, but a few steps away (read below) from her opera singer sister traveling in Europe.

Aside from the literary personages who were fans of Polly the underworld had its share of entertainment at Polly’s place of business. Lucky Luciano and Detroit’s Purple gang were reported to have enjoyed her services—as did top politicians of the day. While we can’t divulge names, governors, mayors, police officials and prosecutors all knew of and enjoyed Polly’s hospitality.

High society, as it was known then also found Polly’s establishment worthy of a visit or two. John Hay “Jock” Whitney and Alfred Vanderbilt were very aware of Polly’s services as was Walter Winchell. While no European royalty was found by our investigations, American royalty in the form of Duke Ellington and Count Basie were friends of Polly. Surely of a different class than the King of Bohemia—who couldn’t play a note!

Charlie Barnet was also close to Polly. He was married no fewer than eleven times as best he could count. Martha Raye was a friend of Polly…whatever that means. Polly was also an author penning her autobiography; *A House Is Not a Home* and it was a success. Polly had an unforgettable publication party at New York’s famous 21, a survivor of the Prohibition era speakeasies.

Polly died in 1961. There is no mention of her sister Irene as a survivor, or relative, so it probably could be assumed they were estranged—or better yet just shared the same name.

So there you have it, Irene’s youngest sister a real piece of NYC royalty from the highest of society, the business world, political and entertainment celebrities, Polly was a friend to all. She was never *the* woman but we all call her Madam.

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