The Bilge Pump

Vol. 12, No. 05 – May, 2024

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

PLEASE NOTE: June 02, 2024 Meeting NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on **June 02** at 1:00 pm central. I will send out the link for the meeting the week before the meeting. The story for the month is "The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone".

Bob Katz, BSI, ASH, will lead the discussion on the story of "The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone". **Rich Krisciunas, ASH**, will provide us with another Canonical Law 101.

Our Special Guest Speaker will be **Donny Zaldin, BSI, ASH, MBt**, who will discuss "The Agony Column in the Sherlockian Canon and in Victorian Culture."

IN THIS ISSUE

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

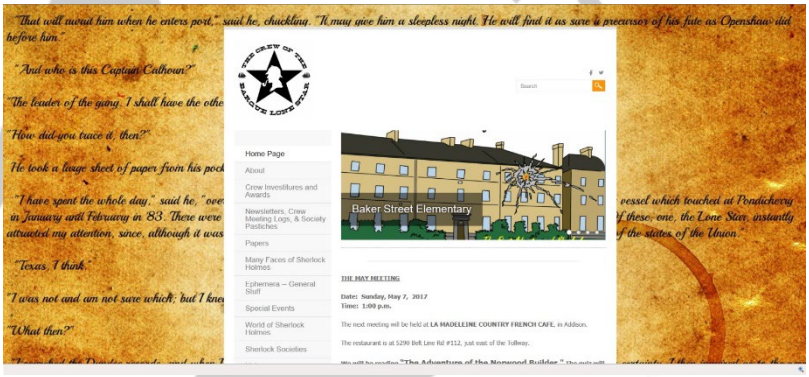
You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

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

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

Our Website:

www.dfw-sherlock.org



Our Facebook Page:

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

MAY 05 SUMMARY

Cindy Brown, BSI, ASH

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

Meghna and Pallavi Shanmugan, opened the meeting with a wonderful toast honoring the Baker Street Irregulars.

We then proceeded to the quiz on this month's story, *The Valley of Fear* (Part 2).

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 6).

The Beacon Society has announced the winners of the Joel Senter essay contest. Meghna Shanmugan won second place in her age category, and Thomas Hebert won first place in his age group.

Our featured speaker for the day was Rob Nunn, who did a presentation entitled "Might I Ask You a Question or Two?" This included a summary of the answers to the numerous questions he has asked the many interviewees during the past few years. A total of 89% said the future of Sherlock Holmes is very bright, and what has been important in the past will continue to be important in the future.

Brad Keefauver, BSI, presented his premiere *Canonical Top 10.*

Shana Carter, ASH, then conducted a reading from the *Baker Street Journal* (see page 4).

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.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LITERARTI

Shana Carter

From the *Baker Street Journal,* Volume 3, number 3, 1948, Editor: Edgar W. Smith

SHERLOCK HOLMES'S knowledge of literature was not, as the unobservant Watson proclaimed it, nil. It was, to the contrary, extensive and profound—but it was neither so extensive or profound, nor so sympathetic and understanding, as literature's knowledge of Sherlock Holmes.

There are few figures in the world of letters who have not been touched, since the Master came to greatness, by the magic of his being: there are many who have known him intimately and with affection, and who have paid him, in their writings, the inevitable tribute of their friendship. There is, for happy example, our own Christopher Morley, who has his lodgings, one must suspect, just round the corner from Baker Street. And standing fast beside him is Vincent Starrett, in solid company with such other giants of the pen as Samuel Clemens and James M. Barrie and Andrew Lang; O. Henry and A. A. Milne; Alexander Woollcott and Stephen Leacock and Conan Doyle.

All these, and others of their like, have sat in comfort and enjoyment in the hallowed room and answered when the great detective spoke. And what shall we say of the impact that Sherlock Holmes has had upon the corpus oi our literature itself? Not, surely, that he has molded the detective story to his image; for this is, at best, no more than a mere occupational achievement.

No; let us think, instead, of the words of Mycroft Holmes: "I hear of Sherlock everywhere."

Let us think of such examples of the great man's ubiquity as that which saw T. S. Eliot, in Murder in the Cathedral, committing the unwitting plagiarism of an almost literal paraphrasing of the Musgrave Ritual. And let us ponder, if we wonder why this all should be, upon the words of W. H. Auden, given elsewhere in this issue, when he says of Sherlock Holmes—and the thought is surely one that has found expression in Mr. Auden's own poetry—that he is "the exceptional individual who is in a state of grace because he is a genius in whom scientific curiosity is raised to the status of a heroic pattern."

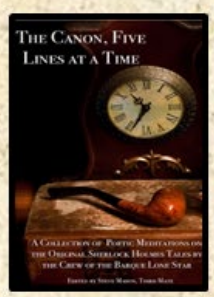
There can be no such praise of an individual as this unless there is knowledge of him, too; and it goes without saying, where Sherlock Holmes is concerned, that there can be no knowledge without praise.
me.

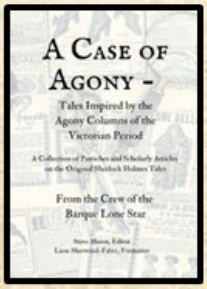
The Crew of the Barque Lone Star Society has published 8 wonderful books. You may download a free copy of the books (as .pdf files) on our website...

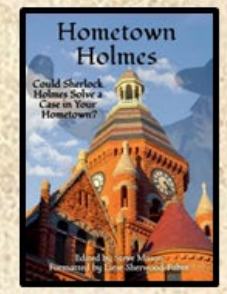
https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/society--crew-member-anthologies-pastiches.html

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 neighbours 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' Neighbourhood 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.

THE CREW OF THE
BAROQUE LONE STAR

I COME FROM THE LAND DOWN UNDER

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

Several of Holmes' cases have an Australian connection, including "The Boscombe Valley Mystery," "The Adventure of The Gloria Scott," "The Adventure of the Empty House," "The Adventure of the Abbey Grange," and "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax." In each, the colony's distinct identity flavors the case.

The first Aborigines in Australia were thought to have arrived from southeast Asia around 40,000 BCE and had spread throughout the mainland by 20,000 BCE. (1)

While no documentation exists, speculation suggests explorers from China and Southeast Asia may have also visited the continent. The Portuguese, Spanish, and Dutch documented the land mass, but the British were the ones to truly explore—and later colonize—the land. Captain James Cook claimed it for the Crown and named it New South Wales.

In 1786, the British government decided to settle New South Wales and sent a fleet of 11 vessels that included 730 convicts to settle in what was later Sydney. (2)

Transportation of convicts to Australia continued for almost a hundred years, with about 168,000 convicts having settled on the continent when the practice ended. These were often first-time offenders and came with various skills. Once they completed their sentence, they could apply for land grants. (3)

Sheep farming became a major industry in Australia thanks to such land grants, and ex-convicts and immigrants seeking to make their fortune created the world's largest wool producer by 1870. (4) Many were able to amass a fortune not possible in England. Samuel Terry, an ex-convict, had accumulated by the time he passed in 1838 what would be the equivalent of $24 billion in 2004. (5)

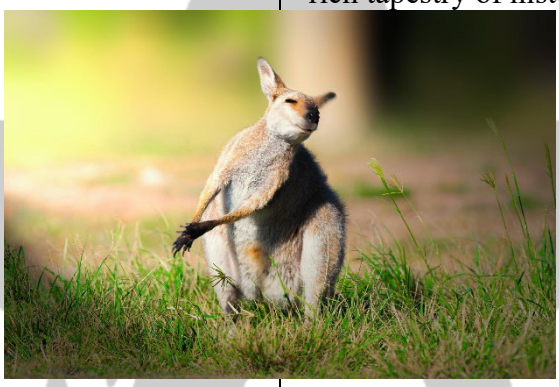
About 17 years earlier, gold had been discovered, attracting free European, American, and Chinese settlers, and providing additional opportunities for both convict and free immigrants to make their fortune. (6)

Australian characters in the Canon reflect some of the continent's population. Unlike most who had a shady background, Ronald Adair's father, mentioned in "The Adventure of the Empty House," was the Earl of Maynooth and Governor of the Australian colonies, giving even this second son a very privileged lifestyle.

Victor Trevor in "The Adventure of the Gloria Scott" also had a privileged upbringing after his father made his fortune in Australia's gold mines. What this country squire's son did not know was that his father had been transported (sent there as

a prisoner) to the colony after embezzling funds. Similarly, John Turner in "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" had been a highway robber in the colony, lying to all that he had mined the gold he brought to England. Finally, Henry Peters, the attempted murderer of Lady Frances Carfax, had honed his skills as a thief in the colony.

In addition to exporting such characters to England, Australians also introduced new aspects of language to British English. While spelling and sentence structure are similar, they had different accents and vocabulary. They shared Aboriginal words such as kangaroo and dingo with the world. At the same time, they shared some words like zucchini (and not courgette) with American English. (7)



The most telling word in the Canon was "cooee" in "The Boscombe Valley Mystery." In this case, Charles McCarthy shouted out "cooee" to attract John Turner, a clue that both had lived in Australia. The term was a corruption of the Dharug word "guu-wii," which meant "come here." (8)

The term was immortalized in the Coo-ee March, occurring in 1915. Over two months World War I recruits marched from Gilgandra to Sydney to enlist recruits as they marched. Along the 268 miles, their numbers swelled from 25 to 263. (9)

The intertwining narratives of Australia and England, as depicted in Sherlock Holmes' cases, illustrate the rich tapestry of history and cultural exchange between the two nations. The legacy of British colonization, exemplified by the transportation of convicts and the establishment of a thriving wool industry, shaped the economic and social landscape of the continent. Against this backdrop, emerged characters like Ronald Adair, Victor Trevor, John Turner, and Henry Peters, whose journeys from Australia to England revealed Holmes' knowledge of the colony's language and legacy as he solved these cases.

1) https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-15675556
2) https://www.britannica.com/place/Australia/History
3) https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/Convicts_and_the_Colonisation_of_Australia,_1788-1868
4) https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Australia%27s%20Rise%20to%20Wool%20and%20Sheep%20Meat%20Dominance_Canberra_Australia_AS2023-0023.pdf
5) https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/Convicts_and_the_Colonisation_of_Australia,_1788-1868
6) https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/The_Australian_Colonies,_1787-1901
7) https://www.acrolinx.com/blog/language-variations-between-us-uk-and-australian-english/
8) https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/blogs/ag-blog/2013/11/aussie-lingo-coo-ee/
9) https://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/conflict/ww1/display/107777-100th-anniversary-of-the-coo-ee-march

Liese Sherwood-Fabre is pleased to announce the release of her first full-length audiobook on April 16 through Amazon and Audible. In "Saving Hope," an unemployed Russian microbiologist must foil a plot to export a deadly virus from the country. Check out the links on her website www.liesesherwoodfabre.com

EARS IN THE CANON

Franklin Saksena M.D. BSI

There are at least 4 stories in the Canon that refer to the ear as providing a useful clue in a criminal case. The normal ear structure is seen in Fig 1. Most of the ear is composed of cartilage except for the lobule and the part between the tragus and the helix.

Fig 1

In the Red headed league Vincent Spaulding is described as having pierced ears which along with a white splash of acid on his forehead helped SH to identify him as the notorious murderer John Clay.

In the Gloria Scott story, Holmes deduces that Mr. Trevor was a boxer by the peculiar flattening and thickening of the ears (Fig 2).

Fig 2

In the Cardboard box story 2 ears are sent in a box to Miss Susan Cushing, the oldest of 3 sisters. One of the ears was a woman's ear. It was small, finely formed and pierced with an earring. It bore a close anatomical resemblance to Susan's ear "There was the same shortening of the pinna, the same broad curve of the upper lobe, the same convolutions of the inner cartilage." This implied that the ear in the box was a relative of Susan's. It turned out the ear belonged to Susan's youngest sister Mary Browner. The other ear belonged to a man. SH deductions lead to the arrest and capture of Mr. Browner. Mr. Browner had murdered his wife and her lover, and sent the ears addressed to S. Cushing, intended for the middle sister Sarah, and not Susan.

In the Lady Carfax story, SH realizes that the man who has lost part of his left ear (Fig 3) is Dr. Shlessinger (aka Holy Peters) - an exceptional astute and dangerous man who preys on lonely women.

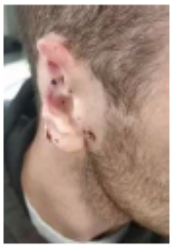
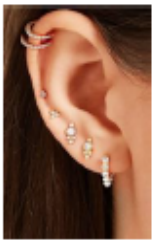


Fig 3 Dog bite to ear

Comments:



Ear piercing involving the ear lobe commonly occurs in both sexes and per se is of limited use in identifying a person. A split ear lobe is seen if an earring has been yanked off the ear. Multiple earrings are often seen now and could be unique for a person (Fig 4). The helix of the ear has a poor blood supply so, should the ear piecing of the helix becomes infected, healing can be delayed for ≥6months. In my opinion, the anatomical appearance of the ear in family members only rarely resemble each other.

Fig 4

Medical observations:

An ear may take on a cauliflower appearance (Fig 2) if it is subject to trauma (e.g. a boxer), an infection caused by using multiple earrings on the helix of the ear (Fig 4, above), amyloidosis (a buildup of the amyloid protein in the organs), or leprosy.

Fig 2 Cauliflower ear in a boxer: also seen in leprosy on the right.

A bright red ear can be seen in otitis externa or frostbite (Fig 5). The reason why ears are red in cold weather is that cold affects the ability of hemoglobin to give up its oxygen. The redness reflects the increased oxygenated hemoglobin in the ear.

Fig 5 frostbite (exposure to -40C)

Patients with coronary artery disease may have a diagonal ear crease sign (Fig 6). The mechanism for his is not fully understood. It's probably a useful sign in detecting CAD in someone under 60.

Fig 6

Gout may be detected if urate crystals (tophi) are usually deposited on the helix of the ear (Fig 7).

Low slung ears are seen in various genetic disorders (Fig 8).

Fig 7

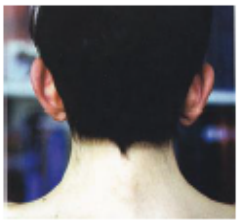


Fig 8

An absent ear (anotia) is seen in Goldenhar syndrome which may be associated with partition defects of the heart (Fig 9).

Fig 9 Absent Ear
(only cochlea implant seen)

Franklin Saksena M.D. BSI

A BOY NAMED ISADORA

Karen Murdock, Deck Mate

published in *The Petrel Flyer, Volume 20, number 4*

> *Some, and not the least interesting, were complete failures, and as such will hardly bear narrating, since no final explanation is forthcoming. A problem without a solution may interest the student, but can hardly fail to annoy the casual reader. Among these unfinished tales is that of Mr. James Phillimore, who, stepping back into his own house to get his umbrella, was never more seen in this world. No less remarkable is that of the cutter Alicia, which sailed one spring morning into a small patch of mist from where she never again emerged, nor was anything further ever heard of herself and her crew. A third case worthy of note is that of Isadora Persano, the well-known journalist and duellist, who was found stark staring mad with a match box in front of him which contained a remarkable worm said to be unknown to science*.

Sherlockians have long wondered about the man so casually mentioned by Watson in "The Problem of Thor Bridge." We have wondered about that remarkable worm (1). We have wondered how anybody can live long enough to become "well-known" as a duelist. Most of all, we have wondered about his given name. Isadora—like most names ending in "a"—is a female name (the male versions are Isador or Isadoro). But the match box is found "in front of him"—so obviously, in this case, the person named Isadora is a man.

The most likely explanation for the name "Isadora" is that it is a misprint. Arthur Conan Doyle had very legible handwriting, but his lower-case "a" was sometimes confused with his lower-case "o" by the printers who transcribed his tales. (2)

Another explanation may be found in the old Johnny Cash song "A Boy Named Sue." (3) You may recall the situation:

> *My daddy left home when I was three*
> *And he didn't leave much to ma and me*
> *Just this old guitar and an empty bottle of booze.*
> *Now, I don't blame him 'cause he run and hid*
> *But the meanest thing that he ever did*
> *Was before he left, he went and named me "Sue."*

The upshot of this unfortunate christening is that the boy named "Sue" grows up fighting everyone who teases him about his name. Years later, he runs into his father for the first time in his life in a bar in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. They get into a huge fight ("kickin' and a-gougin' in the mud and the blood and the beer"). In the end

> *He went for his gun and I pulled mine first,*
> *He stood there lookin' at me and I saw him smile.*
> *And he said, "Son, this world is rough,*
> *And if a man's gonna make it, he's gotta be tough,*
> *And I knew I wouldn't be there to help ya along.*
> *So I give ya that name and I said goodbye,*

I knew you'd have to get tough or die,
And it's the name that helped to make you strong."
He said, "Now you just fought one hell of a fight
And I know you hate me, and you got the right
To kill me now, and I wouldn't blame you if you do.
But ya ought to thank me, before I die,
For the gravel in your guts and the spit in your eye
Cause I'm the son-of-a-bitch that named you "Sue."(4)

Maybe Papa Persano was thinking along the same lines as the father of the boy named Sue. Maybe Papa Persano named his son Isadora because he intended to desert Mama Persano and the bambino and he wanted the boy to grow up with "gravel in his guts and spit in his eye." If so, it certainly worked. The boy named Isadora apparently grew up so touchy about his name that he ended up dueling (and, presumably, killing) anyone who teased him about it. Maybe Grimesby Roylott in SPEC also hated his name and that helps to explain, in part, his nasty disposition. It is fortunate, indeed, that Sherlock and Mycroft were not so sensitive.

ENDNOTES:

1. The 1976 Baker Street Irregulars investiture of the famous science fiction author Isaac Asimov (1920-1992) was "The Remarkable Worm." Alvin Blomquist in 1955 received the investiture "Isadora Persano."

2. The "Long Island Cave mystery" mentioned in REDC has occasioned much speculation, since there are no caves on Long Island. However, a simpler explanation is that Doyle intended this to be the "Long Island cove" mystery. Owen Dudley Edwards, who edited the volume "His Last Bow" for The Oxford Sherlock Holmes, changed "cave" to "cove" and noted that there are no caves on Long Island and that "ACD's handwriting, while good, has had its 'o' taken for 'a' in other cases." Wags have sometimes suggested that the question raised in BLUE of whether or not a goose actually has a crop can be explained in similar manner.

3. Although made famous by Johnny Cash (1932-2003), who recorded the song at his San Quentin Prison concert in 1969, "A Boy Named Sue" was actually written by Shel Silverstein (1930-1999), who later became famous for his books of comic children's verse such as *Where the Sidewalk Ends* (1974) and *A Light in the Attic* (1981). Silverstein won a 1970 Grammy award for "A Boy Named Sue."

4. The song has a happy ending then, because

I got all choked up and I threw down my gun
And I called him my pa, and he called me his son,
And I came away with a different point of view.

However, the narrator vows that if he ever has a son, the lad will be named "anything but Sue!"