The Bilge Pump

Vol. 12, No. 06 – June, 2024

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

PLEASE NOTE: July 07, 2024 Meeting NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on **July 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 Problem of Thor Bridge".

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

Our Special Guest Speaker will be **Phil Angelo**, who will discuss "The Murders of Sherlock Holmes."

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

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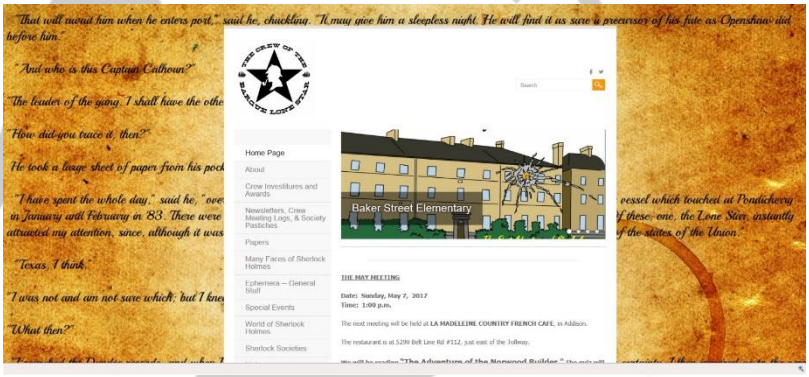


Our Facebook Page:

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

JUNE 02 SUMMARY

Cindy Brown, BSI, ASH

There were **69** in attendance at this ZOOM meeting.

Steve Mason, BSI, opened the meeting with a toast dedicated to the Norwegian Explorer's Conference in July (see page 4).

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

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).

Next Sandy Kozinn presented a limerick on The Mazarin Stone.

Rich Krisciunas led us through Sherlockian Law 101 and how it pertained to this month's story.

Our featured speaker for the day was **Donny Zaldin, BSI, ASH, MBt**, who provided a very well-researched presentation on the Agony Column in the Sherlockian Canon and in Victorian culture. The presentation sparked much discussion.

Brad Keefauver, BSI, then led us through a list of the top ten Canonical Women of a Certain Age.

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 TRIBUTE TO MYCROFT HOLMES

Steve Mason, BSI, ASH

Originally delivered at the Norwegian Explorer's Conference, August 2013

Today, I pay homage to one of the more honored figures from the Sacred Writings.

Though Lestrade, Mrs. Hudson and others may appear more often, I am sure everyone is this room has formed their own personal vision of Mycroft Holmes.

For many, he may be viewed as an overpaid (which is not supported by Watson's narrative), overweight (may we even employ the term "corpulent"), anti-social (reference his club membership, government employee.

Yes, occasionally he was considered the British Government.

And sadly, for others, the picture of him standing without clothing in front of Mary Watson in the latest cinema, will be forever burned onto their retinas and in their memories.

But I have a few visions I wish all of you to consider.

The first is of an older brother, seven years the elder to be precise, exploring the fields and meadows of England, with Mycroft's stern instructions, "Sherlock, do not just see things, but truly observe them," as well as, "Sherlock, do not clutter your mind with useless trivia. Categorize and memorize those things which will be the tools for your future work."

While we accept Sherlock mastering these traits, please give credit to the person probably most responsible for planting and cultivating them at an early age.

Much later he would further instruct, "This is a matter of national importance. Grow up!"

My other vision is for an elderly gentleman, acknowledged for his value to the throne, loyalty to his nation, and asked him to come forward, to receive on bended knee, the insignia and title of "Sir," bestowed by a grateful king.

Finally, if Mycroft were to stand before this assemblage, I believe he would say to himself, "My brother's memory is in good hands."

So I humbly ask you to raise your glass in honor of the other Holmes, Mycroft.

ON CANONICAL TITLING

Shana Carter

From the *Baker Street Journal,* Volume 1, number 2, 1951, Editor: Edgar W. Smith

We cannot assign to Watson the attributes of imaginative genius in respect to his writing of the tales of Sherlock Holmes, for the tales are true and not imagined. There is in them, be it said, the genius of good reporting and of sound narration: they are distinguished by a remarkable economy and exactitude of phrasing, and they contain more than a few passages of sheer poetic beauty.

Both as stories and as literature they will endure - but Watson himself would be the first to admit they are factual and not figmentive.

The titling of the tales, however, is something else again. Here Watson was really on his own, and here he had the opportunity, denied him otherwise, to give his imagination full rein. And how magnificently he rose to the occasion!

It is almost enough to read the omnibus table of contents to feel the full impulse of the adventures. What boundless vistas of romance each name opens up, and yet, chipped as they all are from some dramatic facet of the story that is told, how perfectly descriptive, in its own fashion, each title is!

The first attempt, we must admit, was rather too flamboyant - A Study in Scarlet is slightly on the corny side , and Crimson would, in any event, have been a better and a bloodier word. But after that there is no complaint. The Sign of the Four is everything the heart could wish, and with it the splendid procession begins:

"A Scandal in Bohemia,"
"The Red-Headed League"
"The Five Orange Pips"
"The Man with the Twisted Lip"
"The Speckled Band"
"Silver Blaze"
"The Yellow Face"

How they roll on the tongue and resound in the mind!
"The Musgrave Ritual"
"The Crooked Man"
"The Creek Interpreter"

No wonder the readers are queuing up at the bookstalls! Nor does the enchantment lessen as the years go on:
The Hound of the Baskervilles
The Valley of Fear
"The Dancing Men"
"Black Peter"
"The Second Stain"
"The Six Napoleons"

And even in the later tales, so often lightly scorned, the Watson touch is still superb:'
"The Devil's Foot"
"The Red Circle"
"The Creeping Man"
"The Veiled Lodger"

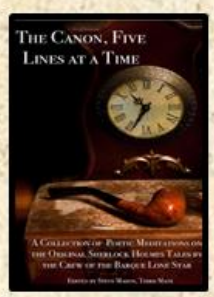
If one might ask which one of all the names held most of mystery, suspense and promise, which one combined to best advantage the sinister and the mellifluous, the answer might well be - or could there be a choice? – "The Sussex Vampire."
By his title alone would we know him. For here is Watson at his best - not only a great artist, a great employer of words, a faithful raconteur, but a great imaginer as well.

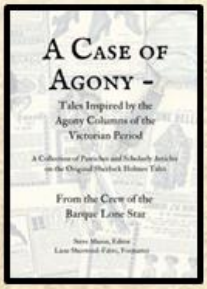
The Crew of the Barque Lone Star Society has published 8 wonderful books. You may download a free copy of the books (as .pdf files) on our website...

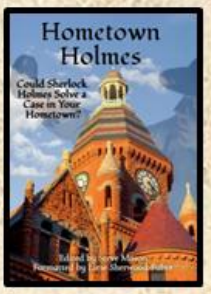
https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/society--crew-member-anthologies-pastiches.html

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 GAME'S AFOOT -- A LOOK AT SHERLOCKIAN GAMES

Tim Kline, Deck-Mate

Sherlock Solitaire is a brand new exciting card game that can be played by 1 or 2 players.

This is not a traditional set of cards. It has investigation, threat, wound, and detective cards that have you collect sets of which contain amazing artwork. Characters grace the investigation cards while shattered glass, and a house grace the threat cards.

The game is played similar to a game of solitare but with a Mystery case element that you must keep from gaining a severe wound in order to win the game.

A collection of 4 complete sets wins the game. It comes with a setup of 2 case scenarios that affect the game play. These are the Valley of Fear and the Final Problem. Each has a Standard, Hard and Expert level to play and win/lose the game.

The choices for detectives are Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson; Let the best detective win!

The game is available on Amazon.com and other stores around the internet.

IS IT REAL, OR IS IT…?

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

Counterfeiting is mentioned in seven of Holmes' cases. It plays a major role in "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb," "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs," and "The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place." Mentions also occur in "The Red-Headed League," *The Valley of Fear,* and "The Crooked Man." (1) Even Moriarty is involved in forgery in "The Final Problem."

Counterfeiting has existed since the creation of "money." Cowrie shells were used as early as 3300-2000 BCE as currency in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. The Europeans used the shells in the 16th century to trade along the African coast. (2) The shells were valued for their beauty and rarity, and considered difficult to counterfeit. (3) Even these, however, were forged using ivory, bone, clamshell, and stone. (4)

The introduction of coins generated new means of creating fraudulent replicas. Counterfeits of coins from the kingdom of Lydia in Western Asia Minor (7th-6th century BCE) have been found and suggest that some were made using the same dies as the genuine coins. (5) Roman soldiers introduced "irregular" Roman coins into Britain following their invasion. Some of these coins filled a shortfall in official coins. The practice appears to have been tolerated in such cases. Some estimates suggest there may have been as many fake as official coins circulating at the time on the island. (6)

While governments sometimes tolerated the production of fraudulent coins, the economic impact could be debilitating. Henry VIII debased English coins to only 20% silver over a 7-year period. The value of the shilling dropped; prices rose; and social disorder and public unrest followed. Queen Elizabeth I reversed the trend by hiring German coiners to work with the royal mint to create enhanced coins with 100% silver and restore public and international faith in the currency. (7)

"Coining," or counterfeiting coins uses one of two methods. Fourées (from the French word meaning "stuffed") are formed by coating a non-precious metal with a thin coat of precious metal. This metal is then struck between two engraved dies. This method was used in "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb." The second involves creating a mold using an authentic coin and then pouring molten metal into it to form a replica. (8) These were the "coining moulds" mentioned in *The Valley of Fear*. In "The Adventure of the Crooked Man," Henry Wood's landlady suspects he had counterfeited a florin (a two-shilling coin) when he used an Indian rupee to pay his rent.

"The Adventure of the Three Garridebs" and "The Adventure of Old Shoscombe Place" involve counterfeiting banknotes, or "uttering," rather than coins. The earliest banknotes resembled promissory notes or IOUs. They were written to a specific person and the amount could be redeemed for gold. The Bank of England issued the first £5 note in 1793. Dubbed the "white fiver" because it was printed on one side of white paper, it was created to offset the gold shortage from the French Revolutionary Wars. In 1797, they also issued £1 and £2 notes. Passing off forged notes was relatively easy because few were familiar with paper currency and more readily deceived. During WWII, the Nazis created Operation Bernhard, releasing millions of counterfeit notes into the country to destabilize England's economy. (9) While not specifically identified as creating false banknotes, John Clay's skills mentioned in "The Adventure of the Red-Headed League" included forgery.

Penalties for creating counterfeit currency or other forgeries, deemed high treason, included capital punishment. Between 1797 and 1821, more than 300 people were hanged for this crime. The Counterfeiting Coin Act of 1741 listed silver, copper, or brass coins. These penalties were extended to include half pennies and farthings in 1791, and the Forgery Act of 1830 included banknotes. (10) Those possessing such notes were punished with transportation to Australia. (11) Given

the number of hangings, The Bank of England worked to reduce those sentenced to death by proposing a law passed in 1801 to allow those caught producing notes to reduce their charge to possession rather than forgery. (12) Henry Fauntleroy, a documents forger, was the last person hanged in 1821. (13)

In addition to creating contemporary currency, counterfeiters also found a lucrative business in fabricating ancient coins. While collecting had been a pastime for England's elite, often in private collections created during their Grand Tour of Europe, the Industrial Revolution produced newly wealthy individuals interested in developing their own collections. At the same time, excavations related to subway tunnels, water and sewage pipes, and new buildings led to the discovery of ancient foundations and artifacts, including coins. Laborers were not above creating these coins for the interested, and European forgers were also willing to help satisfy the demand. (14)

That a tenth of Holmes' cases mention counterfeiting or forgery reflects the historical and economic significance of the crime. Beyond destabilizing the country's economy, Sara Malton argues that it attacked the identity of Victorian culture and created skepticism regarding the reliability of many items, including wills, news reports, and even marriage registries. (15) Holmes' ability to expose counterfeiters and forgers reassured a society grappling with the uncertainties of authenticity and truth in an era rife with fraudulent activities.

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1) Matthew E. Bunson, *Encyclopedia Sherockiana*, New York: Macmillian, 1994.
2) https://nmaahc.si.edu/cowrie-shells-and-trade-power
3) https://pukashell.store/blogs/news/the-power-of-cowrie-shells-an-overview-of-their-meaning-and-use
4) https://www.rba.gov.au/publications/bulletin/2019/sep/a-brief-history-of-currency-counterfeiting.html#
5) https://coinweek.com/bad-money-ancient-counterfeiters-and-their-fake-coins/
6) https://museum.wales/articles/1722/Counterfeit-Coins/#:~:text=As%20early%20as%20the%20sixteenth,realised%20what%20he%20had%20bought?
7) https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/features/naughty-money-clippers-and-coiners-in-16th-century-england
8) https://coinweek.com/bad-money-ancient-counterfeiters-and-their-fake-coins/
9) https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum/online-collections/banknotes/counterfeit-and-imitation-notes
10) https://historyimagined.wordpress.com/2016/02/26/button-fakes-or-the-art-of-counterfeiting-coins/
11) https://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/apr/03/bank-of-england-letters-prisoners-forging-bank-notes
12) https://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/apr/03/bank-of-england-letters-prisoners-forging-bank-notes
13) https://insider.spink.com/2020/06/05/the-last-man-to-hang-for-forgery-in-britain-the-public-execution-of-henry-fauntleroy-1824/
14) https://timelineauctions.com/stories/victorian-collectors-v-victorian-swindlers-and-fakers/20/
15) https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/vic.2009.52.1.170?read-now=1&seq=2#page_scan_tab_contents

THE REST IS DEDUCTION

David Richardson, The Holmes-Watson Report, May 2007

Sherlock Holmes is justly famed for his deductions, but are they actually deductions? To answer this, let us tum to the question of "reasoning" in general. Commonly, there are two forms of reasoning recognized: deduction and induction. Deduction is typically described as reasoning from premises to conclusions: All men are mortal; Socrates is a man; Socrates is mortal.

Induction is considered to be reasoning from particulars to generalizations: this crow is black; that crow is black; yonder crow is black; ... all crows are black. Deductions are regarded as being true in virtue of the form of the syllogism which yields them; induction is clearly a bit chancier (unless one defines "crow" as "a black bird," in which case the generalization
becomes a tautology).

Holmes's deductions, however, do not seem to fit either model very well. Consider the one in *The Sign of the Four* in which Holmes "deduces" from mud on Watson's shoe that he has sent a telegram. Try constructing the major premise in the following syllogism:

Major premise:	?
Minor premise:	Watson has mud on his shoe.
Conclusion:	Watson has sent a telegram.

If we follow the "All men are mortal/Socrates is a man/Socrates is mortal" pattern, we come out with something like "Having mud on your shoe means you have sent a telegram"! It is clear that some major steps in the argument are missing, and indeed Holmes acknowledges this and fills them in for Watson. Let me quote
the relevant passage from SIGN:

" ... Observation tells me that you have a little reddish mould adhering to your instep. Just opposite the Wigmore Street Office they have taken up the pavement and thrown up some earth, which lies in such a way that
it is difficult to avoid treading in it in entering .... So much is observation. The rest is deduction."

"How, then, did you deduce the telegram?"

"Why, of course I knew that you had not written a letter, since I sat opposite to you all morning. I see also in your open desk there that you have a sheet of stamps and a thick bundle of postcards. What could you go into the post-office for, then, but to send a wire? Eliminate all other factors, and the one which remains must be the truth."

If we attempt to construct a syllogistic representation of the deductive part of the argument, we are likely to find ourselves looking at something like:

Major premise:	Watson has entered the Wigmore Street Office.
Minor premise:	Watson did not do so to mail a letter or buy supplies.
Conclusion:	Watson has sent a telegram.

This seems better, but do not turn this in as a homework assignment in Aristotelian logic, for it does not have the form of a syllogism at all. Do not despair, however, for all that is required is the recognition that there are really two syllogisms here and some simple, if prolix, recasting of terms. The first syllogism will look something like:

At the Wigmore Street Office one may either:

mail a letter.
or purchase postal supplies.
or send a telegram.

Watson has entered the Wigmore Street Office.
Watson is going to either: mail a letter.
or purchase postal supplies.
or send a telegram.

The conclusion of this syllogism becomes the major premise of the second, which may now be stated:

Watson is going to either: mail a letter.
or purchase postal supplies.
or send a telegram.

Watson is not going to either mail a letter or purchase postal supplies.

Watson is going to send a telegram.

Very straightforward (if remarkably long-winded), and in addition, as Holmes would say, a fine example of his maxim that when you eliminate the impossible (from an all-inclusive list), what is left must be the truth. So it does seem that Holmes uses deduction, doesn't it?

Alas, no. The Master has rather pulled the magician's old misdirection trick on us, calling our attention to the part of his reasoning that is deductive and rather glossing over the part that is not. What part is not? Why, the part he calls "observation." On examination this turns out not to be simple observation at all, but the actual crux of Holmes's reasoning. What he said was:

" ... Observation tells me that you have a little reddish mould adhering to your instep. Just opposite the Wigmore Street Office they have taken up the pavement and thrown up some earth, which lies in such a way that it is difficult to avoid treading in it in entering…"

That seems simple enough; surely we could put that into a syllogism too:

There is reddish mould outside the Wigmore Street Office.
Watson has reddish mould on his shoe.
Watson entered the Wigmore Street Office.

But this isn't quite valid. The conclusion from this should be

"Watson was outside the Wigmore Street Office." Holmes does not actually say that you will get the mould on your shoe *only* if you enter the post office. (A trivial distinction, but critical for a formal syllogism.) We must *infer* that Watson actually entered the post office. This is not an unreasonable inference, but it is nonetheless an inference. It is not a deduction, and it most certainly is not a "simple" observation. (Simple observation would be: "I saw you go into the post office.")

I hope that the appearance of these syllogisms strikes you as quite cumbersome, and somewhat alien to our notions of how we actually think, as that has been the point of this exercise. If we were to try to set down the thoughts which

Holmes had, following the lead he gave us in *A Study in Scarlet* (where he reconstructed for Watson how he knew he had been in Afghanistan), we might well come up with something like:

> Hmm . . . Watson has some reddish mould on his shoe;
> I've seen that at the Wigmore Street Office, where
> you'd get it on your shoe if you went in.
> He hasn't written a letter this morning
> and he has plenty of stamps and postcards.
> Probably he sent a telegram.

Which conclusion he then announces, producing the desired amusement at Watson's amazement. This, I hope you will agree, looks very little like the syllogisms proffered above, and there are reasons for that. Clearly, Holmes is reasoning, but he is not reason deductively -- nor for that matter is he reasoning inductively, for he is dealing with only a single case. Since he is reasoning, but neither inductively nor deductively, what is he doing?

The American philosopher Charles Sanders Peirce (1839-1914) realized that people quite frequently reason this way, which he identified as reasoning from effect (the reddish mould) to cause (the sending of a telegram). "Backwards," one might say. Peirce was a philosopher who delighted in inventing names (he invented the name "pragmatism" for his philosophy, and when he thought William James had stolen the term, he decided to re-name it "pragmaticism," "a name so ugly that no one will steal it.") This backward style of reasoning he called "abduction," so that Holmes is "abducing" when he concludes that Watson has sent a telegram.

Pierce, may we note, was an older (by 15 years) contemporary of Holmes, and he was well -known in Europe - England included - by 1883, when he traveled there. With his special interest in reasoning, Holmes would undoubtedly have read Peirce (perhaps in the St. Louis-based *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* I local plug]). That he does not ever mention either Peirce or his notion of abduction is likely due to the fact that Peirce regarded it as a codification of the rules for *guessing* - and we all know what Holmes thought about guessing.