The Bilge Pump

Vol. 12, No. 07

July, 2024

The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star

founded November, 1970

PLEASE NOTE: August 04, 2024 Meeting NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on **August 04** 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 Creeping Man".

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

Our Special Guest Speaker will be **Mark Alberstat, BSI, MBt**, who will discuss "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Olympics."

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

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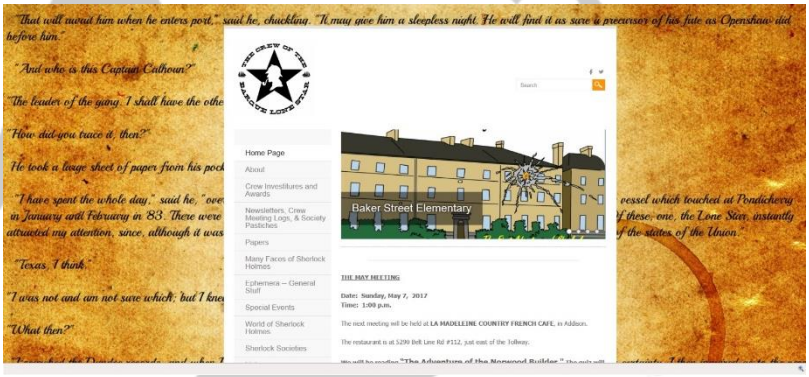


Our Facebook Page:

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

July 07 SUMMARY

Cindy Brown, BSI, ASH

There were **63** in attendance at this ZOOM meeting.

Phil Angelo opened the meeting with a toast to the Master of Mastering Murderous Cases (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, including 3 very pertinent questions which required all attendees to think about the characters.

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).

There will also be a Mid-America scion gathering on April 26, 2025, in Indianapolis, IN. This conclave will be focused on encouraging growth, and health of scion societies at the grass roots level.

We then had a reading by the Beacon Society Essay contest winner, Thomas Hebert. The essay was entitled "Sherlock Holmes, Judge, Jury, and Liberator (see page)."

Next Sandy Kozinn presented a limerick on Thor Bridge (see page 4).

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

Our featured speaker for the day was **Phil Angelo**, who provided a survey of the murders throughout the 60 stories of the Canon. The presentation was well conducted and received.

Brad Keefauver, BSI, then led us through the Canonical Top 10 for the month.

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.

TO THE MASTERING MURDER CASES

Phil Angelo

Holmes solves crimes in many English places.

There are abbeys, schools and a pawnbroker's shop.

Our hero keeps going when Scotland Yard may stop.

Jellyfish, Sahara King the lion and a swamp adder.

In the canon, even animals become badder.

The Scowrers, the mafia, even the Ku Klux Klan,

Holmes tackles the worst mobs known to man.

The list of formidable villains long in the book.

We have Milverton, Roylott and an old Chicago crook.

Fatal tools included a harpoon, air-gun, a hempen rope.

Like Julia Stoner, some victims turn to Holmes for hope.

Revenge, adultery, greed drive these British killers.

Plenty of material for Watson to write the thrillers.

Many a canonical story has a terrific ending

Freedom for McCarthy, Henry Wood heart-rending.

If life seems a circle of misery and violence and fear,

The power of Holmes makes the skies to clear.

We presume many killers to the gallows were sent.

Yet how much better that Sherlock cleared the innocent.

Eccles, Dunbar, McFarlane, Neligan gain their liberty.

The game is afoot to better the world eternally.

Let's consider the man called "Gold King"
He was bored with his wife
or something.
He preferred pretty Grace --
Even Holmes liked her face –
Moral influence? Or just a quick fling?

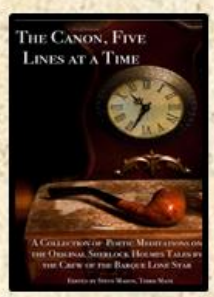
Sandy Kozinn, Deckmate

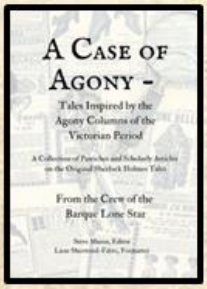
The Crew of the Barque Lone Star Society has published 8 wonderful books. You may download a free copy of the books (as .pdf files) on our website...

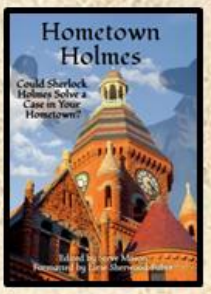
https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/society--crew-member-anthologies-pastiches.html

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

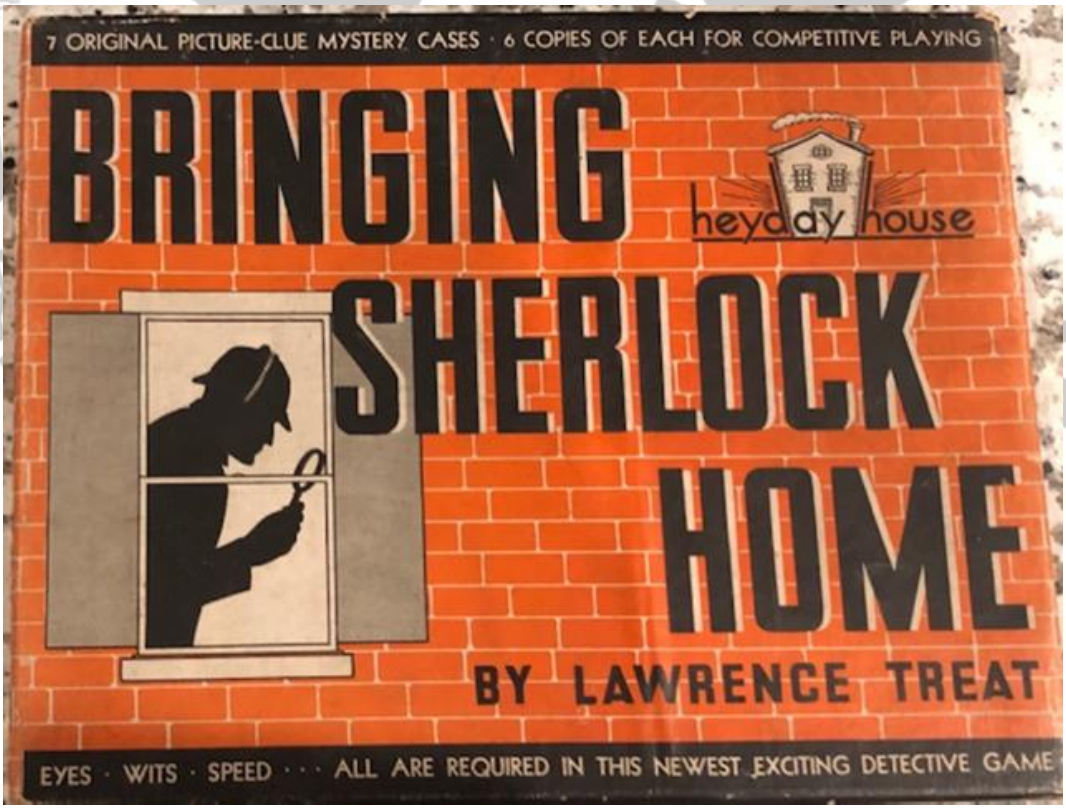
Tim Kline, Deckmate

Bringing Sherlock Home is a chance for you to be your own Sherlock by observation and deduction.

Given a crime scene picture and short explanation an answer must be derived at logically and a winner who is challenged to give a reason and fails to give a proper one gets the dunce cap.

The first person to answer all the questions correctly and logically is Sherlock himself, entitled to wear the deerstalker and say, "Elementary, Watson.

This game was printed in 1935 by Lawrence Treat who was a pioneering police procedural writer and a founding member of the Mystery Writers of America. He was a lawyer and had a 70 year career writing hundreds of short stories for magazines and publishing houses. He is also known for his Crime And Puzzlement game books of the late1980's.



JUDGE, JURY, AND LIBERATOR

Thomas Hebert, Deckmate

As President Abraham Lincoln once said, "Mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice." Throughout the Canon and the years of his consulting detective career, Sherlock Holmes brings dozens of perpetrators to justice while unraveling numerous baffling cases. A reliable guardian of justice and equity, he can be trusted to make the right decision. Yet, at times, his judgment seems to falter. One example of such an event is in "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot," wherein Mortimer Tregennis kills his sister Brenda and drives his two brothers mad using a poison known as the devil's-foot root. Leon Sterndale, who loved Brenda, then kills Mortimer with the same root. Sherlock Holmes catches Sterndale but chooses to let him go free, even after proving his guilt in the murder of Mortimer Tregennis. However, this is anything but a lapse in insight. Rather, Holmes's ultimate decision to show mercy to Sterndale is indisputably justified due to the extenuating circumstances of the crime as well as Holmes' own experience and wisdom.

Sherlock lets Sterndale go mainly due to the contextual intricacies surrounding the offense and Sterndale's relative innocence. Even though, by his own admission, Sterndale killed Mortimer, his deed was somewhat warranted. Mortimer was the one who murdered his innocent sister and drove his two brothers mad. Consequently, fueled by a rage that only heartbreak can kindle, Sterndale used the root to kill Mortimer, exacting his revenge with the same method that caused his poor beloved Brenda's demise. Love impels people to actions that defy logic. Holmes himself admits that if he had a love who suffered such a fate, he "might act even as [Sterndale] has done." Sherlock recognizes that Sterndale had no real criminal intent. He committed the murder with little premeditation, spurred on by vengeance. Sterndale was not the "real killer"; rather, he acted out of revenge, eliminating the original criminal. Mortimer undoubtedly had murderous intentions, whereas Sterndale would never have committed the crime if not for the initial murder of Brenda. Holmes likely feels sympathy for Sterndale, who is more a victim than a culprit. These elements of the case legitimize his choice to free Sterndale.

Regardless of the mitigating circumstances, though, is Sherlock qualified to make such a choice? Many would argue that a private citizen should not be allowed to judge an important matter like criminal punishment. Yet Holmes is much more than an ordinary citizen. He has an excellent familiarity with the field of crime, attained through years of experience as a consulting detective. In fact, he may be more capable of determining a culprit's fate than a judge or jury. The criminal justice system is and has

always been flawed, and punishment from the police might only make Sterndale more likely to commit a future crime, alienating him from the government and the law. In contrast, Sherlock's extensive familiarity with the field qualifies him to decide Sterndale's fate. In the Canon, Watson relates sixty stories of cases Holmes solved, yet he repeatedly states that there are many more instances left untold. Sherlock Holmes is one of the most esteemed men in England, and known around the world for his astounding reasoning, bafflingly complex logic, and razor-sharp mind. Years as a detective have given him pivotal knowledge and practical wisdom. There is no substitute for experience, and Sherlock has that in abundance. One of the most critical subjects he has mastered is human nature. Holmes is an expert at reading people, and he possesses a deep understanding of those he meets. His powers of observation combine with this knowledge of humanity to make him unrivaled in his acuity. It is this wisdom that allows him to assess Sterndale with a discerning eye, determining his hidden motives and basic nature. He recognizes that, if left on his own, Sterndale will certainly not perpetrate another crime, let alone kill someone. Clearly confident in Sterndale's relatively sound character, he allows him to leave with no consequences. Holmes can be trusted to soundly judge anyone due to his experience in the field. Consequently, his choice to let Sterndale go remains fully rationalized.

The moral ambiguity of Holmes's choice cannot be ignored. Society agrees that murderers must not be allowed to run amok. Nevertheless, this story presents a reasonable exception due to both Holmes's extensive expertise and the alleviating details of the crime itself. The detective is justified in releasing Sterndale. While this may at first appear to be unwise, it is in fact quite an astute choice. By not turning in the perpetrator, Sherlock shows kindness and lenience, eliminating the possibility of any future animosity as well as performing an admirable act of forgiveness. Holmes knows that a jail sentence will do no good to Sterndale, nor will it help others. Moreover, he realizes that the crime can be effortlessly hidden. The original murder is solved, and the killer identified. It will be easy to label Mortimer's death as a suicide. No one will ever know about Sterndale's vengeful act. A wise person knows not only when to punish but also when to forgive. It speaks to Holmes's incredible insight that he knows both. Thus, he chooses to let Sterndale go, keeping his murder a secret from the world. Mercy is a virtue, and for good reason. A choice such as this leaves a far greater impact than any punishment could, ensuring the endurance of Sterndale's morality and closing the unforgettable case of the devil's-foot root.

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD, BSI, Deckmate

One of Watson's running commentaries on the state of the flat he shared with Holmes involved the piles of newspapers that accumulated in the sitting room. Until he had time to review and catalog any items of interest in his journals, Watson and Mrs. Hudson were prohibited from touching them, let alone organizing them. The Canon mentioned at least fifteen different publications across the sixty cases.(1) Holmes consulted the agony columns for amusement and as a means of sharpening his deductive skills; both he and Watson reviewed the details of numerous crimes in the newspaper accounts as a starting point for their own investigations; and he used newspaper advertisements to lure criminals to 221B on several occasions.

This variety of dailies resulted from an explosion in the publishing world, fueled by several innovations and movements. Steam presses increased the speed and quantity of printing. Paper production was also industrialized, decreasing the cost of newsprint. Finally, railways and telegraph lines reduced "time and space" as information could be quickly shared from one point to another.(2)

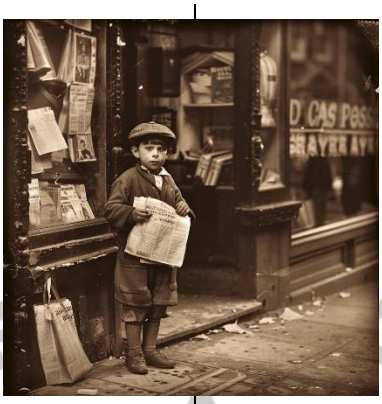
Periodicals also became more affordable with the repeal of the stamp tax. The tariff, initiated in 1765, assessed a penny on each newspaper and a shilling on each ad. Publishers were forced to raise their prices to cover such costs, which reduced their lower-class readership. The abolition of the duty on advertisements occurred in 1853, and the remaining taxes were removed in 1855, resulting in more affordable newspapers.(3) The resulting explosion in newspaper publication can be seen in the Daily Mail. By 1900, it sold one million copies a day.(4)

Additionally, literacy increased, creating a larger reader base. With more people able to read and purchase newspapers, a shift in content followed. Traditionally, British newspapers had forged connections to the literary world and represented the conservative upper classes. Those in charge of the press in the early 19th century viewed their role as educators of the "people," that is, sharing "beliefs and virtue from betters to inferiors." Such endeavors involved instruction on political and social issues to the masses and helping them accept their position in society.(5)

This viewpoint, however, shifted over the century as readership competition increased. Not only did newspaper production change, its content did as well. With a greater readership and a need to appeal to a larger audience, publishers entered the mass-market industry. The "news" covered in these papers shifted from conservative, political-centered reports to sensational stories about crime, scandal, and sports.(6) The result was termed "New Journalism," as opposed to "high journalism," viewed as an instructor to the people emphasizing the search for truth through informed argument.(7)

The role of the journalist also evolved over the century. In the early 1800s, the chief writer was most likely also its editor and proprietor. Newspaper editing was considered below a gentleman's status, but ownership and writing did

gain respectability over the century. Part of the rise in propriety was a consequence of article bylines. Until the 1860s, writers were anonymous. In addition to journalists, historians, scientists, politicians, and others contributed articles and considered themselves social leaders. Some writers gained notoriety and in the last thirty years of the century, the number of journalists tripled.(8)



That Holmes was able to gain both information as well as amusement from the British newspapers reflects the shifts seen in journalism during the 19th century. When newspapers evolved from highbrow political commentary to more accessible and varied content, they became an indispensable tool for a detective of Holmes' caliber. And as the publications expanded in number, so did the piles at 221B Baker Street..

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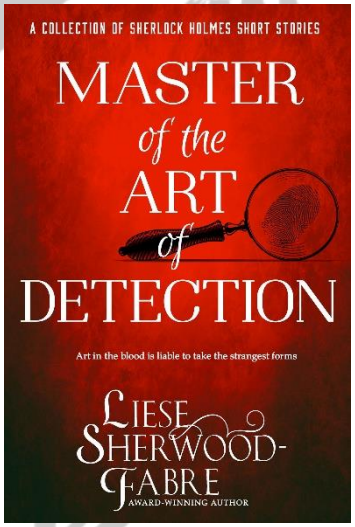
1) Matthew E. Bunson, *Encyclopedia Sherockiana*, New York: Macmillian, 1994.
2) https://ncna.dh.chass.ncsu.edu/infonetworks/history.php
3) https://www.britannica.com/topic/publishing/The-modern-era
4) https://ncna.dh.chass.ncsu.edu/infonetworks/history.php
5) ttps://www.jstor.org/stable/20084186?read-now=1&seq=2#page_scan_tab_contents
6) Phillip M. Guerty, "For God and Country: W.T. Stead and the Beginnings of the New Journalism in Victorian Britain 1883-1885. Masters Thesis for Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, 1997.
7) Mark Hampton, Visions of the Press in Britain: 1850-1950, Urbana: University of Illinois, 2004.
8) Sally Mitchell, editor, Victorian Britain, New York: Garland Publishing, Inc, 1988.

Liese has a new book (a short story collection) coming out August 13. ***Master of the Art of Detection*** *is now available for pre-order and if you would like a copy for review. It's available now for pre-order here:*



https://books2read.com/u/mB1W1p

CANONICAL STORMS

Steve Mason, BSI, ASH, Deckmate

For several hundred years many hurricanes in the West Indies were named after the particular saint's day on which the hurricane occurred. For example, Hurricane Santa Ana struck Puerto Rico with exceptional violence on July 26, 1825, and "San Felipe" (the first) and "San Felipe" (the second) hit Puerto Rico on September 13 in both 1876 and 1928.

Clement Wragge, an Australian meteorologist who began giving women's names to tropical storms before the end of the 19th century.

In 1953, the United States abandoned a confusing two-year old plan to name storms by a phonetic alphabet (Able, Baker, Charlie) when a new, international phonetic alphabet was introduced. That year, the United States began using female names for storms.

The practice of naming hurricanes solely after women came to an end in 1978 when men's and women's names were included in the Eastern North Pacific storm lists. In 1979, male and female names were included in lists for the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

But in 1952, the last year of using the phonetic alphabet there was a storm named 'Baker'

Here is what I could identify where named storms were named after the first names of Canonical characters…

Alice (1953, 1954, 1973)
Alice Charpentier (STUD)
Andrew (1986, 1992)
Andres Rae (VALL)
Anna / Ana (1956, 1961, 1965, 1969, 1976, 1979, 1985, 1991, 1997, 2003, 2009, 2015, 2021)
Anna Coram (GOLD)
Arthur (1984, 1990, 1996, 2002, 2008, 2014, 2020)
Arthur Cadogan West (BRUC)
Beryl (1982, 1988, 1994, 1999, 2006, 2012, 2018, 2024)
Beryl Stapleton (HOUN)
Bob (1979)
Bob Ferguson (SUSS)
Brenda (1955, 1960)
Brenda Tregennis (DEVI)
Carrie (1957, 1972)
Carrie Evans (SHOS)
Clara (1977)
Clara St. Simon (NOBL)
Dora/Isodore (1956, 1964, 1984)
Isadora Klein (3GAB)
Edith (1955, 1959, 1963, 1967, 1971)
Edith Presbury (CREE)
Flora (1955, 1963)
Flora Millar (NOBL)
Frances (1961, 1968, 1976, 1980, 1986, 1992, 1998, 2004)
Lady Frances Carfax (LADY)
Fred (2009, 2015, 2021)
Fred Morris (VALL)
Grace (1991, 2009, 2015, 2021)
Grace Dunbar (THOR)
Harold (2023)
Harold Stackhurst (LION)
Harvey (1981)
Harvey (SHOS)
Henri (1979, 1985, 2009, 2015, 2021)
Henri Murger (STUD)
Hilda (1955, 1964)
Hilda Adair (EMPT)

Hope (1978)
Trelawney Hope (SECO)
Hugo (1989)
Hugo Baskerville (HOUN)
Irene (1953, 1959, 1971, 1981, 1999, 2005, 2011)
Irene Adler (SCAN)
Isidore (1984, 1990, 1996, 2002)
Isidora Klein (3GAB)
Janet (1955)
Janet Tregellis (MUSG)
Jose (1981, 1999, 2005, 2011, 2017, 2023)
Jose (WIST)
Joyce (2000, 2012, 2018)
Joyce Cummings (THOR)
Juan (1985, 2003)
Juan Murillo (WIST)
Julia (2010, 2016, 2022)
Julia Stoner (SPEC)
Kate (1985)
Kate Whitney (TWIS)
Laura (1971, 2008, 2020)
Laura Lyons (HOUN)
Leslie (2000, 2012, 2018)
Leslie Oakshott (ILLU)
Maria (2005, 2011, 2017)
Maria Pinto (THOR)
Martha (1969)
Martha (LAST)
Michael (2000, 2012, 2018)
Michael (SUSS)
Nana (1990)
Nana Sahib (SIGN)
Peter (2003, 2021)
Peter Carey (BLAC)
Philippe (2005, 2011)
Philippe de Croy (STUD)
Richard (2010)
Richard Brunton (MUSG)
Rose (2021)
Rose Spender (LADY)
Sally (2020)
Sally Dennis (STUD)
Sam (2021)
Sam Merton (MAZA)
Sandy (2012)
Sandy Bain (SHOS)
Sebastien (1995, 2019)
Sebastian Moran (EMPT)
Teddy (2020)
Teddy (CROO)
Victor (2021)
Victor Lynch (SUSS)