The Bilge Pump

Vol. 13, No. 05 May, 2025

The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star

founded November, 1970

PLEASE NOTE: June 01, 2025 Meeting NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on **June 01** at 1:00 pm central. I will send out the link for the meeting the week before the meeting. The story for the month is **"A Study in Scarlet – Part 1"**.

Rich Krisciunas will once again present on Canonical Law 101.

Bob Katz, BSI, ASH, will lead the discussion on the story of **"A Study in Scarlet"**.

Our special guest speaker will be our own **Josh Harvey.**

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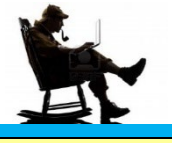

For more information concerning our society, visit: http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

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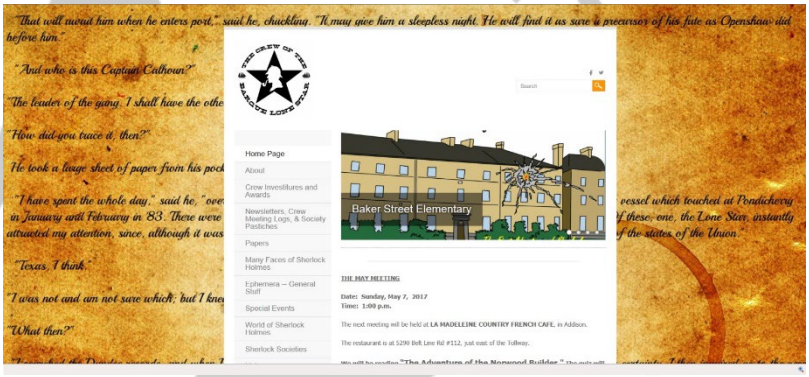


Our Facebook Page:

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

MAY 04 SUMMARY

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

Kyndall Potts started the meeting with a wonderful toast to Mrs. Hudson (see page 5).

This was followed by a quiz on this month's story, "The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place." This story was the last of the Sherlock Holmes novels to be published.

Bob Katz, BSI, then led a lively discussion of the story by asking the question, what is the one-word reaction when I say the word "culmination". Responses included, it's what we like about Sherlock Holmes from many of the stories in the canon. Another response was, happy endings all around.

He then asked, what is significant about the opening paragraph. One response was that it takes us back to the original story, *A Study in Scarlet*, where Holmes is in the lab doing blood research and pulls in Watson. There's also a dog in this story, as there is in many of the stories in the canon. This is sort of like Sherlock Holmes greatest hits. It was also mentioned that in this story, Sherlock Holmes makes enough money to actually retire to Sussex Downs and raise bees. Bob then asked if this story gives you a sense of closure and the consensus was "no".

We then moved onto announcements, which are as follows:

Steve Mason, BSI, noted that the presentations from this year's Zoom conference are now uploaded to the Crew website.

He also mentioned that the Crew's next book will be "Rejected Holmes". This will include stories that were rejected by The Strand Magazine. We would like to include the story as well as the rejection letter. October 1, 2025, is the deadline for submission.

Steve and Rusty Mason are also doing a new comic strip, but would like it to be stories that others write. They will add the drawings. October 1, 2025, is the deadline for this project.

Steve mentioned that Rusty lost a dear friend last week, and would like for us to keep Rusty the family in our thoughts and prayers.

Tim Kline mentioned that there is a new Sherlock Holmes movie called *Sherlock Holmes Mare of the Night*. It is showing at various locations around the country and is getting mixed reviews. It will be in the D/FW area on through May 11.

Olivia Kirkendall announced the next meeting of the New Alkaline Plainsmen will be on May 21, at 6:00 pm Central time.

Beth Gallego, BSI, noted that the Sub-Librarians will be at the Philadelphian conference of librarians Jun 28,and 29.

Brian Wilson announced that the Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa, will be going to a Sherlock Holmes double feature on Thursday. They will see *The Voice of Terror* and *Sherlock Holmes in Washington*.

The Torist Internationals announced that their next meeting is June 28 and it will be followed on the 29th by the 66th running of Silver Blaze.

The Bi-Metallic Question will be meeting on May 13, and will be discussion Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland.

Shanna Carter, BSI, mentioned that the monthly meeting of ASH will meet on the first Wednesday of the month. There will also be an ASH event on May 17. This will be the semi-annual ASH luncheon in New York City.

Tom Campbell announced that he is doing a research project on Sherlockian's definition of "canonical". He would like to hear from anyone who wants to participate.

Don Hobbs, BSI, mentioned that on June 21, at stage West they will be seeing David MacGregor's play "Fallen Souffle".

Steve Doyle, BSI, then gave a summation of last week's first Midwest Conclave. The event was well received and well attended. It is stirring discussion about more conclaves throughout the country.

Carl Stix noted that there will be a new scion society in Las Vegas, NV. The first meeting will be virtual on May 21. The society will be called The Honorable Ronald Adair's Cardroom.

Sandy Kozinn then entertained us with a limerick about the story. Why Are Bones Being Burnt in the Fire.

Rich Krisciunas was the featured speaker this month and gave us a fascinating presentation on "Would Sherlock Holmes be a Good Witness in Court?"

Brad Keefauver, BSI, next did the Top 10 Bones in the Canon.

Shanna Carter, BSI, did a reading from the BSJ, Vol. 4, #1, 1954, for the 100th anniversary of Sherlock Holmes Birthday.

Rich then did the closing toast, To the Crew of the Barque Lone Star.

Next month we will be starting over in the canon and the story will be A Study in Scarlet.

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

A TOAST TO MRS. HUDSON

Kyndall Potts

All those years, they lodged with me. So many breakfasts. So many suppers. So many pots of tea.

Thousands, by my reckoning.

And what did I get?

A paltry twenty-six lines. In three stories. Once, the Good Doctor even got my name wrong. He is a rubbish proofreader.

You would think I was a piece of furniture, not the woman who kept their household running like a well-oiled machine. And kept them nourished so they could focus on solving cases and bringing criminals to justice.

I'll have you know that I made contributions. And not just by crawling about on the floor to move a wax bust–

Oh, but it was rather exciting when that bullet came crashing through the window!

The world will never know how I helped Mr Holmes solve The Bogus Laundry Affair.

Or that I gave him the idea about the parsley in that dreadful business of the Abernetty family. Why? Because Dr Watson didn't publish those cases.

I believe if Mr Holmes had been the one writing, he would have given me my due. But Dr Watson—Well, I suspect he's still angry about his bullpup. It was a horrid beast, and I wouldn't allow it in my house.

And so, he gave me just twenty-six lines.

I deserved more.

If you agree, please raise your glass to me, Mrs Hudson.

TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

Shana Carter, ASH

Baker Street Journal
Volume 4, Number 1, 1954

Born January 6, 1854

The hundred years your prescient eyes have seen;
Are quickly gone, yet, late as they began,
To us who knew some part of them between,
They mark a long, a dilatory span.

The world, when you were born, was all secure;
Now, so prodigiously our minds have wrought,
Strange things have come to pass, and we endure,
A complex of Utopia, dearly bought.

Men wing the skies, and voices leap the sea;
The cosmic force, reluctantly confined,
Strains at its bonds, and strives, compellingly,
To rend the atom - and to rend mankind.

All, all is change; and change, it seems, is all;
But you are constant, though the heavens fall.

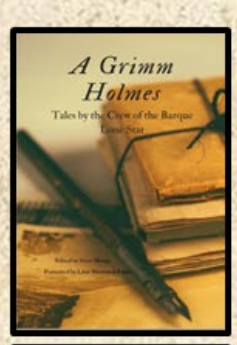
To subscribe to the Baker Street Journal, go to https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/the-baker-street-journal/

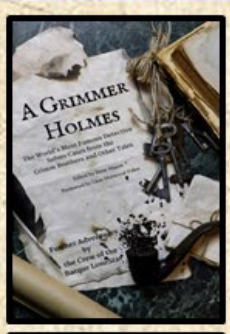
The Crew of the Barque Lone Star Society has published 9 wonderful books. Each book is chocked full of wonderful essays and pastiches by our own Society members. You may download a free copy of the books (as .pdf files) on our website…

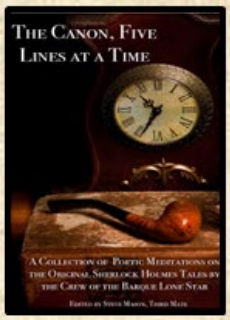
https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/society--crew-member-anthologies-pastiches.html

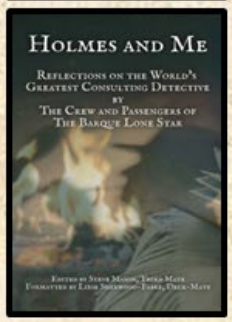
Or you may purchase a soft-back version of any of our books (at cost) at…

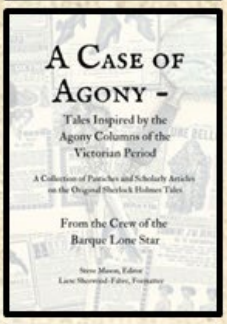
https://www.barnesandnoble.com/s/the%20crew%20of%20the%20barque%20lone%20star

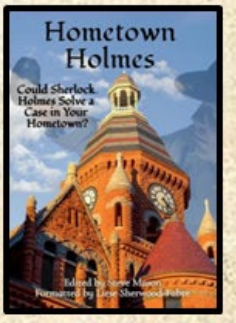


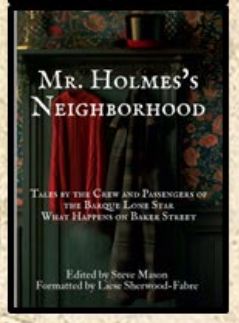












The Crew of the Barque Lone Star Society is producing our 10th book in our 55th year of existence.

Dr. Watson published 60 stories chronicling his adventures with Sherlock Holmes, most of them in the Strand Magazine. Any he mentioned many, many, unchronicled cases. But have you ever wondered, did the Strand ever reject any of the stories?

Rejected Sherlock will finally reveal those stories the Strand would not publish, for whatever reason.

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.
5. Remember this is a family book, with minors participating, when picking up a topic.
6. We ask that you not only provide the story, but the actual rejection letter from the Strand editor.

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 book will then be sold on Barnes & Noble, along with our other books at cost.

Baker Street Elementary

We are celebrating the 10th year of Baker Street Elementary … we are honored so many people enjoy it each week. We have issued over 550 weekly strips as well as 10 full-length comic books. We are inviting all of our Sherlockian fans to participate directly in the 10-year anniversary. We would love for you to submit a comic strip to include in a book of BSE. Here's how it would work:

- Send us the text for a strip (you do not have draw anything… we will do that…)
- Have the 3 kids either at their classroom desk or the playground wall
- Please, no more than 4 panels (preferably 1-3 panels) for the strip
- Many great cartoonists have admitted they borrow ideas from previous cartoonists, so if you have a favorite strip from your past, think how our 3 kids would handle the same situation
- The deadline is October 1, so we can finish the book by the end of the year.
- We will credit you with the strip in the book itself.
- And yes, you can submit up to 2 strips for us to include.
- As with all our crew books, we will not edit content, but will correct any typo's… however if a misspelling or other grammatical oddity is part of the appeal, let us know and we will leave it as is.
- Remember, the kids are in London during the same era as the Civil War in the U.S., so no mention of tv, movies, radio shows, basketball, etc…
- Don't worry if your idea is close to one of our past strips… just give us your take on the kids (heck, I can't remember all the strips I've written at this point!)
- And as always, this is a family strip…

In case you need an example, this is the format you may want to submit…

Panel 1:
Stamford: My father took me to his favorite pub this weekend.
Watson: Aren't you a little young to take up drinking?

Panel 2:
Stamford: My mother told him that God was watching him when he went to the tavern… I was to distract God by throwing a tantrum while dad was downing the pints.
Watson: Interesting approach by your dad.

Panel 3:
Holmes: My mother believes bars and taverns only exist to dilute the reality of our existence… I believe she may have been referring to your father.

I hope you will consider participating in this project… it will be a great way to end the 10th year…

SOME FURTHER COMMENTS ON PREJUDICE IN THE SHERLOCKIAN CANON

Bruce D. Aiken, MBt

Presented to The Bootmakers of Toronto, March 23, 2002

I.

On September 16th of 1995, I presented a paper entitled *Some Comments on Class, Race and Ethnic Prejudice in the Sherlockian Canon.* The story for that meeting was *The Three Gables*, so my paper largely dealt with racial prejudice. Tonight our story is *Shoscombe Old Place*, and we are considering its references to religious prejudice. So, I have entitled my presentation *Some Further Comments on Prejudice in the Sherlockian Canon.*

When I was preparing my presentation on *The Three Gables,* I found myself getting upset and angry with Arthur Conan Doyle. I had never really thought about all of the biases that were expressed in my favorite stories. Later, I was discussing this with someone and he asked me, "Are you not sure that what you are upset about are your own prejudices?" I concluded he was right.

So, I would like to consider the prejudices expressed in the Sherlockian Canon a little differently than I did in my last presentation on this subject.

II.

"Prejudice" means: "1. An adverse judgment or opinion formed beforehand or without knowledge or examination of the facts, 2. A preconceived preference or idea; bias... 3. Irrational suspicion or hatred of a particular group, race or religion."(1)

The most commonly expressed prejudices in the Holmes stories are about social class. Let us begin with a few examples of how "lower class" people are treated.

In *A Study in Scarlet*, Holmes berates Constable John Rance because he did not realize that the "drunk" outside 3, Lauriston Gardens was actually the murderer of Enoch Drebber. Holmes's remonstrance is unreasonable. The man had just discovered a corpse and was seeking the aid of another police officer. Anyone would have expected a murderer to get as far away from the scene of the crime as possible. In *The Bruce-Partington Plans,* Dr. Watson says, "It was one of my friend's most obvious weaknesses that he was impatient with less alert intelligences than his own." Holmes' impatience is due not only to Constable Rance's "less alert intelligence," but also his lower economic class, as shown by his "sordid dwelling."

In "A Scandal in Bohemia," Holmes deduces that Watson had "a particularly malignant boot-slitting specimen of the London slavey." From what I understand of how poorly servants were paid at that time, the fact that the word "slavey" is a variant of "slave" is quite appropriate. However, how would Holmes have felt if Watson had said, "My servant has been too ill to work for a few days, so my wife tried to clean my boots for me," which is also a possible deduction from the evidence? (2)

In "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez," Professor Coram says of the maid, Susan Tarlton, "'Susan is a country girl, and you know the incredible stupidity of that class." If Holmes recognized that the professor was trying to deceive him by logically fallacious reasoning technically called an *argumentum ad populum*, (3) he never alludes to it. Apparently, "country" people are considered of low social position and lower intelligence by city dwellers, mostly due to lower income levels.

Apparently, assaulting someone of a lower class was acceptable behavior. Consider Holmes's treatment of the maid, Susan Stockdale, in *The Three Gables*. He may have caught her eavesdropping, but grabbing her by the shoulder and dragging her into the room was overreacting and would probably constitute assault.

In, "The Reigate Squires", (a.k.a. "The Reigate Puzzle"), Holmes says, "Now, I make a point of never having any prejudices, and of following docilely wherever fact may lead me..." A few pages later in, "The Crooked Man," Holmes tells Watson, "Sorry to see that you've had the British workman in the house. He's a token of evil." So much for "never having any prejudices."

And these are only a few of the possible examples of class prejudice.

Let us move to examining racial and ethnic prejudices in the Canon. The word "race" had an entirely different meaning in Victorian and Edwardian Britain than it does to us. The distinction between race and nationality was not as pronounced as it is today, and what we would call ethnic prejudice actually qualified as racism. (4) The English considered themselves to be a separate, and superior, race. (5) Although true superiority seems to have been reserved for a select few.

In "The Six Napoleons," and "The Red Circle," Italians are shown as violent criminals. Count Nigretto Sylvius, the villain of, "The Mazarin Stone," is half Italian. There are a number of details in other stories that reinforce this idea. For instance, Holmes describes Josiah Amberley, the murderous husband in "The Retired Colourman", as having "the sort of mind which one associates with the mediaeval Italian nature rather than with the modern Briton." (6)

People of Spanish descent from Central and South America are quite numerous in the Holmes stories and almost all of them are portrayed in a negative light. In T*he Hound of the Baskervilles*, the fact that Jack Stapleton's mother was from Costa Rica seems to explain his villainous character. Beryl Garcia Stapleton and the servant Antonio were also from that Central American country. In "Wisteria Lodge", we have Don Juan Murillo, his secretary Lopez, Aloysius Garcia and his servants, all of whom are from the Central American country of San Pedro. Garcia may be more sympathetic than the former dictator and his assistant, but he was planning to carry out an assassination. Maria Pinto Gibson, of "Thor Bridge," is described as "a creature of the tropics, a Brazilian by birth." Her passionate nature drives her to commit suicide and frame the governess, Grace Dunbar, for murder. Mrs. Robert Ferguson, of "The Sussex Vampire", turns out not to be a criminal, but her Peruvian nature causes problems, and makes her have serious communication problems with her husband. And, from "The Three Gables," we have Isadora Klein, who is described as being "pure Spanish," but is from Pernambuco, Brazil. The nationality of Eduardo Lucas, in, "The Second Stain" is not stated, but he is assumed to be of Spanish origin. (7)

Nor are other English-speaking nationalities spared. Australians do not come off well in "The Boscombe Valley Mystery", presumably due to all of the convicts transported there. The description of Rachel Howells, the maid in "The Musgrave Ritual", as being "of Welsh blood, fiery and passionate", and having a "passionate Celtic woman's soul", seems to be a personal prejudice of the author of the Holmes stories and not of the British public. (8) Americans do not appear very civilized in the Canon. In *A Study in Scarlet*, "The Five Orange Pips", "The Noble Bachelor", "The Dancing Men", *Valley of Fear*, "The Red Circle", "The Three Garridebs" and "Thor Bridge", it is Americans who bring trouble to the shores of England, although "The Noble Bachelor" and "Thor Bridge" have no violent American criminals. Sherlock Holmes may have wished for the day when "our children [will be] citizens of the same world-wide country under a flag which will be a quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes" but he had little doubt who should be the senior partner in administering the empire.

The "coloured races", as they were called in Victorian times, are generally represented as vile persons in the Canon. *The Sign of Four* shows natives of India as thieves and murderers. The late Jack Tracy notes that the description of Tonga, the Andaman Islander, "is decidedly racist despite any exaggeration due to the stress of the moment." (9) Holmes and Watson show no compunction in shooting him during the chase down the River Thames. (In the May, 1999) issue of *Scientific American,* there was an article about the Andaman Islanders and they never practiced cannibalism. (10) The cook in "Wisteria Lodge" is described as "a huge and hideous mulatto" who practices voodoo. The only positive description of a black person occurs in, "The Yellow Face." Little Lucy Hebron is treated affectionately by her mother and accepted by her stepfather. But the future may not be as promising as we might hope. How well will Grant Munro fare the scorn of the local populace with Lucy living in his house? It has been pointed out that Effie Munro's story about her daughter being "darker far than ever her father was" is only possible if she was a mulatto. (11) If Grant and Effie ever had children of their own, this might have caused problems

The last black person in the Canon is Steve Dixie in "The Three Gables." His violent and absurd behavior is one of the reasons that many consider this story the worst in the Canon. (12)

Conan Doyle biographer Michael Coren relates, "when this story was published [in 1926,] its author received a letter from a black reader in the United States explaining that he was disappointed in Conan Doyle, a man of such forward thinking and progressive thoughts. Could not, he asked, the creator of Sherlock Holmes have written a more sensitive portrayal of a black man, particularly as he had already shown his racial understanding and tolerance in the Congo case and elsewhere. It is to Conan Doyle's credit that he replied in contrite tones, explaining that if he ever wrote again of a man of "this race and colour" he would try to be far more empathetic." (13)

There are several anti-Semitic references in the Canon. In *A Study in Scarlet*, Watson describes one of Holmes's first clients as "a gray-headed, seedy visitor, looking like a Jew peddler." In "The Mazarin Stone," Count Nigretto Slyvius purchases the air gun with which he plans to kill Holmes from the shop of Straubenzee, in the Minories, which was in the Jewish quarter of London. In, "The Cardboard Box," Holmes narrated "with great exultation how he had purchased his own Stradivarius, which was worth at least five hundred guineas, at a Jew broker's in Tottenham Court Road for fifty-five shillings." Donald McGrady has written: "It seems apparent that the detective exults not only because he got a good bargain, but also because he outwitted a member of a group renowned for its economic acumen." (14)

It seems absurd that the Tottenham Court Road broker would have gone to the expense and trouble of having a violin examined which was pawned for twenty or thirty shillings. If he had no musical training, which seems likely, he would have had no reason to suspect the value of the violin.

A very objectionable reference to those of the Jewish faith occurs in *Shoscombe Old Place.* Let us now consider this story in more detail.

III.

Shoscombe Old Place was the last Holmes story to be published. Unlike some of the later stories where Sherlock Holmes does not seem up to his previous standards, he appears – at least to me - to be his masterful self. He is at least as good as he is in *The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax,* the other story in which he takes the lid off a coffin to solve the mystery. Where the story falls flat is in its "villain," Sir Robert Norberton, who is described in the same terms as Grimesby Roylott, but turns out to be a complete disappointment.

There are two stories involving horse racing in the Canon. In the first, *Silver Blaze,* an important clue to solving the mystery is provided by a dog which did not bark in the nighttime. In this story, an important clue is provided by a dog that barked in the daytime.

Sir Robert Norberton said that he was once "compelled to horsewhip" his then chief creditor. D. Martin Dakin has commented on the plausibility of the situation that Sir Robert would borrow a large sum of money from a man he once assaulted or that Sam Brewer would be willing to lend it to him. "But it may be that, with the insolence of men of his class and age, with their assumption of the *droit de seigneur,* he took it for granted that he had the right both to take money from and to chastise those of the lower orders who offended him…" (15) And perhaps Sam Brewer welcomed the possibility of ruining the man who had once nearly killed him.

Sir Robert describes his financial problems from gambling bets as "being in the hands of the Jews." In this context, the word "Jew" did not necessarily refer to the person's religion, but was a derogatory term for a tightfisted moneylender. Many of the men involved in this profession were Jewish, but not all of them. (16) It is not certain if Sam Brewer was Jewish. If he were, it would be unpleasant to think Sir Robert was not prosecuted for assault because of his victim's religion. On the other hand, we may conjecture that Sir Robert would rather deal with a man he once assaulted than with a moneylender who was Jewish. Either situation would be an example of prejudice. (17)

IV.

How should we judge Arthur Conan Doyle for all of the prejudices expressed in the Sherlock Holmes stories? Before we pass too harsh a judgment, there are some things we should consider:

1. We must be aware of the problem of "presentism," which is "when a historian sees events in the past through the prism of present-day standards." (18) Donald McGrady has also written, "…we must remember, when judging our author, that in his time the expression of personal bias was much more common than in our own." (19) As I said in the beginning of this presentation, it was not until I went looking for all of the prejudice in the Sherlockian Canon that I realized how much there was in it. If you consider only someone's faults it does not give an accurate view of that person as a whole.
2. We should realize that Conan Doyle was writing fictional stories and may have been using some of these statements for dramatic effect and did not necessarily believe them. Sir Arthur did not share Holmes' contempt for Dupin and Lecoq, or his aversion to women. If we consider Jabez Wilson of *The Red-Headed League,* Alexander Holder of *The Beryl Coronet* and Thorneycroft Huxtable of *The Priory School*, we could easily conclude that he was prejudiced against middle aged, middle class British men.

3. If we believe that Arthur Conan Doyle was so prejudiced, how are we to understand his efforts on behalf of George Edalji, who was the son of a convert to Christianity from India, Oscar Slater, who was Jewish, and the many other cases of injustice in which he engaged? In commenting on the writings of ACD, Anthony Howlett states: "There is …a driving sense of justice, of personal honour and duty, and of a proud patriotism. If these virtues seem a little old-fashioned nowadays,…that is our loss, they were deep in the soul of Conan Doyle." (20) When he saw injustice, Arthur Conan Doyle's sense of justice overcame any prejudices he may have had and he tried to correct the situation.
4. All of the writers who have commented on the biases expressed in the Sherlockian Canon seem to feel that we can judge ACD because prejudice has been eliminated. Does this prove the adage that if you think you don't have any faults that makes another one? Arthur Conan Doyle was a product of the time in which he lived, as we are shaped by our own time and culture. He was human and as such had faults. To borrow a phrase from my own religious tradition, we must stop pointing out the speck in Sir Arthur's eye, while ignoring the log that is in our own. (21)
5. What kind of a person was Arthur Conan Doyle? Was he a nice man whom we would have enjoyed having for a friend? Well, how many of us would like to meet Dr. Watson and cultivate his friendship? The same writings which show Dr. Watson's weaknesses and prejudices also show his strengths. Since Dr. Watson and Sir Arthur are the same person we can affirm that he was indeed a gentleman whom we would be proud to meet.

V.

Philosopher George Santayana wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." (22) This has been paraphrased: "those who do not remember the mistakes of history are destined to repeat them."

But there comes a time when simply avoiding repeating the mistakes of the past is not enough, we must progress beyond that.

It has been said that "assimilation of a canon (political, religious or scientific) has three stages: - the first is fundamentalistic and associated with fights, more against heretics than unbelievers; the second is the consequence of the recognition of errors in the Canon, and is followed by unkind and fantastic treatment; thirdly and finally, comes a reverent recognition of human fallibility and an attempt to separate it from immortal truth." (23) The Sherlockian canon has certainly had more than its share of "fantastic treatment."

Now let us move to the third and final stage. Recognizing the human fallibility shown by the examples of prejudice given above, can we separate some immortal truths from the Sherlock Holmes stories?

I therefore wish to propose:

A Sherlockian Canon for the 21st Century: (24)

1. Learn to both see and observe (SCAN). In an address in Toronto some years ago, writer Harlan Ellison "suggested that those in search of success should read and re-read only one essential book: the collected Sherlock Holmes stories by Arthur Conan Doyle. 'They teach you deductive logic. They teach you observation. They teach you to see what is going on around you. The more you see, the more you understand. And the quicker and cleverer you are at spotting and reading people and things, the less you can be manipulated.'" (25) In addition to this, learn some Formal Logic. Prejudices are based on and perpetrated by logically fallacious reasoning.
2. Believe that "it's every [one's] business to see justice done." (CROO) Arthur Conan Doyle believed that if justice is not based on truth, then there is in truth no justice. We must regain Sir Arthur's driving sense of justice, of personal honour and duty.
3. "There is nothing in which deduction is so necessary as in religion."(NAVA) The word "religion" comes from the same root as the word "ligament." Ligaments connect muscles to bones. So the root word means, "to connect, to bind, to tie together." "Religion" literally means, "continuously tying it all together." (26) Is it not therefore, an obvious deduction that that which is supposed to help us tie it all together should not be used to tear us apart? In ***The Prophet***, by Kahlil Gibran, (27) Almustafa, a wise and gentle teacher is about to leave the city where he has lived for twelve years and return home. The people of the city gather and ask his final advice on many topics: Love, Marriage, Giving, Joy and Sorrow, and a number of others. Near the end, a priest asks him to speak of Religion; he says, "Have I spoken this day of aught else? Is not religion all deeds and all reflection…?" Or to phrase it less poetically, "all actions and all thought." If we use this idea, we can further define "religion" as: the psychological process which

continuously reconnects what we know and what we believe to our thoughts and actions." This definition is neutral; it does not differentiate between good and bad. It is up to us to make our religion good. Sherlock Holmes can be used in a positive way if we use what we learn from the stories to do that which will help the causes of justice.

Can we ever achieve these high goals? As Dr. Watson says in *The Creeping Man:* "We can but try."

FOOTNOTES

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5. Tracy, Op. cit., page 18.
6. Donald McGrady, "On The Expression of Certain National and Ethnic Prejudices in the Canon," *The View-Halloa: Sherlockian Essays.* Edited by Dana Richards. The Game Is Afoot, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1990. Pp. 18 – 29. Page 22.
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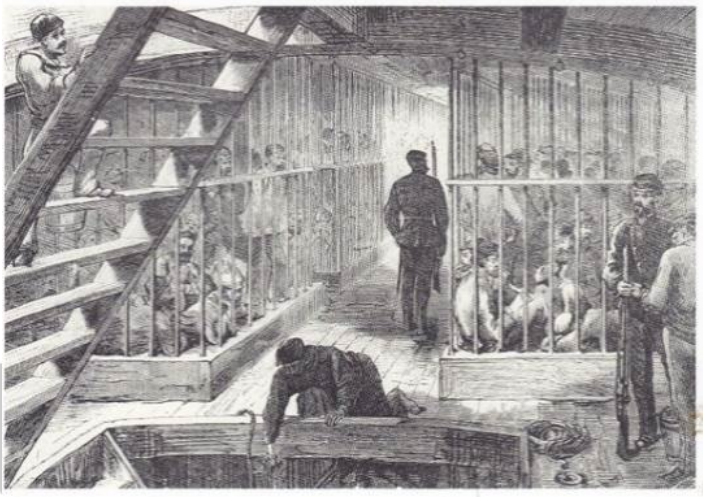
10. *The Andaman Islanders,* by Sita Venkateswar, *Scientific American,* May 1999, pp. 82 – 88.
11. Patrick E. Drazen, "Next Stop, Norbury: Reflections on *The Yellow Face,*" *Baker Street Miscellanea,* 29, No. 1 (March, 1979.) Pp. 16 – 20.
12. Barbara A. Lapinskas, "The Worst Story In The Canon," *The Baker Street Journal,* Vol. 27, No. 3, September 1977. Page 147.
    See also:
    Walter Pond, "A Plea for Respect For The Canon: With Some Observations on *The Three Gables," The Baker Street Journal,* Vol. 28, No. 1, March 1978. Pp. 41 –42.
    William P. Collins, "Norbury And Steve Dixie: Holmes And Victorian Racial Attitudes," *The Baker Street Journal,* Vol. 27, No. 3, September 1977. Pp. 149 – 152.
13. Michael Coren, *Conan Doyle* (Toronto: Stoddart, 1995) p. 192
14. McGrady, Op. cit., p. 20
15. D. Martin Dakin, *A Sherlock Holmes Commentary,* David & Charles Limited. 1972. P. 283.
16. Information from Alfred E. Levin, BSI, January 2002.
17. For a fuller discussion of this subject, see Andrew Solberg's article, "Sherlock Holmes: Anti-Semite?" in the Spring 2001, *Baker Street Journal,* pp. 35 – 41.
18. Peter E. Blau, *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press* (November, 1997) Page 2.
19. McGrady, Op. cit., p. 29.
20. *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: 1859 – 1930,* by Anthony Howlett. *The Sherlock Holmes Journal,* Vol. 14, Nos. 3 & 4, Summer 1980, pp. 75 – 81. Page 77.
21. The Gospel of Luke 6:41.
22. George Santayana, *The Life of Reason, Volume 1, 1905*
    US (Spanish-born) philosopher (1863 - 1952)
23. Professor Doctor Karl Krejci-Graf, "The Philosophy of Holmes," *The Sherlock Holmes Journal,* Vol. 11, No. 4, Autumn, 1974. Pp. 117 – 121. Page 121.
24. Although I do not quote from it directly, much of the inspiration for the "Sherlockian Canon for the 21st Century," is drawn from, "Sherlock Holmes as Divine Manifestation: The New Revelation of the Canon," by Christopher Redmond, M.Bt., B.S.I., *Canadian Holmes,* Vol. 22. No. 4, St. Jean Baptiste Day (Summer) 1999. Pp. 14 – 22.
25. Trevor Raymond, "A Commonplace Of Sherlockian Advertences," *Canadian Holmes,* Vol. 15, No. 3, Lady Day (Spring), 1992. Pp. 30 – 31. Page 31.
26. *Lay Voices in an open church,* by Celia A. Hahn. 1985 The Alban Institute, Inc. Page 56 (Out of print). Ms. Hahn originally gave the definition as "tying-it-all-together." I wrote and asked her if it would be a good idea to add "continuously" to the definition and she agreed.
27. Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet.* Alfred A. Knopf. 1923

THE CANON AND THE AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION

Franklin Saksena, M.D., BSI

There are two stories in the Canon that touch on Australian history (BOSC & GLOR). In the "Boscombe Valley Mystery" we learn of Black Jack of Ballarat killing gold miners and then settling in England as a rich man, something I discussed in the September 2018 Cri Bar Crier. In "The Gloria Scott" James Armitage is to be shipped to Australia in 1855 because he was convicted of embezzlement. I thought it would be of some interest to the readers to write about the transportation of convicts to Australia.



In England in the first half of the 19th century most of the working classes were living in a state of extreme poverty. The industrial revolution resulted in a large number of factory workers living in houses that were crowded and lacked sanitation. Working conditions in the factories were also appalling. These factories were often dirty, lacked ventilation, and had potentially dangerous machinery. The hours were often long and unrestricted, and wages were low. (3)(5)

After the conclusion of the Napoleonic wars the returning soldiers and sailors were often unemployed, as trade with an impoverished Europe was at a standstill. The national debt now amounted to £831 million. (5)

It appears that harsh working conditions, unemployment, and poverty lead to an increase in crime rate. More than 200 crimes were punishable by death (stealing a sheep, pickpocketing, poaching). (3,4,6)

Because the prisons were overcrowded, criminals were kept off shore in battered ships (hulks). Dickens portrayed Magwitch as being a convict who temporarily escaped from a hulk in his novel Great Expectations. (6)

As space was running out in the hulks, it was decided to send convicts to Australia as they could no longer send them to the American colonies after 1776.

At least 162,000 were transported to Australia between 1788 and 1868; 70% were English and 30% were Irish. (3,4,6) They were usually men between the ages of 16 and 25 and of average height and weight. He often had a trade. Surprisingly, 60% could read and write. (4) Women constituted about 15% of the prisoners. (4) Some of the prisoners were in fact criminals and repeat offenders; others were convicted of stealing some food, smashing machinery (Luddites), causing a riot (Fenians), or violating the game laws. (3,4,6)

The first ship to land in Australia was in 1789 after an 8-month voyage of 13,000 miles. Many died on board because of lack of food and being chained up all day. However, by 1802 conditions improved as the ships' surgeons and captains were given financial incentives to keep the prisoners alive and fit for work.

Once in Australia the convicts would work on government farms, build roads, erect public buildings or break rocks. (1) Many would be assigned to a free settler to work. (1) In both instances, the convict would be clothed and fed by either the government or by the free settler. The women in government service would mend and wash clothes, spin linen or act as a domestic servant. (1) Added to this work force would be men and women whose terms had expired, children of convicts, and ex-convicts who had sold their land grants. (1) Their sentences would usually be between 7 and 14 years. Then they would be given a ticket of freedom and could set up their own business. The government could also grant conditional or free pardons. Often these pardoned convicts would settle in Australia. (4,6)

The children of the convicts would be free. This is unlike the African slaves transported to America, where the children of slaves would also be slaves. (4) Convicts that failed to toe the line were severely punished by flogging (300 lashes with a cat of 9 tails) or being attached to a chain gang. The more recalcitrant convicts would be sent to penal colonies on Norfolk Island or Tasmania.

Over time the percent of convicts to the population diminished, especially in the 1850s at the time of the gold rush, in which hundreds of people from England and China rushed to Australia. (4)
There has been a tendency for some Australians to downplay the role the convicts played in developing the country. Most of the convicts did settle down and become productive citizens. (2,4) The Irish convicts, while often rabble rousers, also contributed to society by building churches and schools, and being exponents of a strict moral code. (4)

In 1868 the country now had a population of one million, and there were enough jobs to go around. (6) Many Australians and Englishmen believed that transportation was an inappropriate punishment, and so in 1868 it was abolished. (6)

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A MORE COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT 'A STUDY IN SCARLET'

1. Summary (Diogenes Club)

Watson was serving in India with the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers. At the battle of Maiwand, he was struck in the shoulder by a Jezail bullet. Murray, his orderly, saved his life and he was sent to England to recover.

While he was looking for lodgings, he met young Stamford at the Criterion bar. Stamford had been a dresser under him at Bart's. Stamford told him that he knew Sherlock Holmes who was also looking for lodgings. He introduced the immortal pair.

Holmes was just perfecting a test for occult blood when Watson met him. After one casual glance in his direction, Holmes said, "You have been in Afghanistan I perceive."

Holmes tells Watson he is a consulting detective and has written an article for the Times called "The Book of Life."

Gregson asks Holmes to help him with a murder in Lauriston Gardens. Enoch Drebber is found dead by poisoning in an empty house. A wedding ring is on the floor beside him. The word "RACHE" is written on the wall in blood.

Hope returned to the house to get the ring but Rance was there. Hope pretended to be drunk and thus avoided capture.

Holmes placed an ad in The Times saying he found a wedding ring in Lariston Gardens. Hope answered the ad disguised as an old woman to get back the ring and gave Holmes the slip in a cab.

Gregson arrests Arthur Charpentier for Drebber's murder because Drebber made unsolicited and unwelcome advances to Alice and Arthur swore revenge.

Strangerson did not return to Charpentier's house after Drebber's murder. Two days later he was found murdered by stabbing in another hotel. A small pill box was found on the window sill containing two pills. The murder occurred on the second floor of the hotel and the murderer gained access to the room via a ladder at the window.

Holmes feeds half of one of the pills to an old dog but nothing happens. He feeds half of the other pill to the dog and it promptly dies. A cabman comes to 221B to pick up some boxes. As he leans over to do so, Holmes snaps a pair of handcuffs on him and announces to Lestrade and Gregson that he has caught the murderer, Jefferson Hope.

Hope tells the following story:

John and Lucy were the only two survivors of a wagon train that lost its way in Utah. They were rescued by the Mormons who were on the journey which eventually took them to Salt Lake. They were forced to adopt the Mormon faith.

Ferrier prospered and became one of the wealthiest men in Salt Lake City while Lucy grew to become "The Flower of Utah." Ferrier remained celibate. Hope comes to Salt Lake and saves Lucy's life in a cattle stampede. His father and Ferrier had been friends in St. Louis. Hope and Lucy fall in love.

Hope leaves to get a silver mine functioning in Nevada and Lucy promises to marry him when he returns.

Brigham Young visits Ferrier and tells him that Lucy must wed one of the Elder's sons in a month. Ferrier plans to flee from Utah and sends word via a wagon train to Hope in Nevada, telling him what has transpired.

Hope tries to carry Lucy and Ferrier to safety, but the two are captured while Hope is away hunting. Ferrier is killed on the spot and Lucy is forced to marry Drebber. She pines away and dies within a month.

Hope tries to kill Drebber and Strangerson from ambush but their security is too tight. He returns to Nevada and prospects. He is unable to return to Salt Lake for five years. He returns in disguise to find that a schism has developed within the church and Drebber and Strangerson have taken all the money they can get and left Utah. Hope tracks them across the United States to Europe and then to England. He carries with him two identical capsules, one poisoned and one placebo. He has taken a job as a cabman in London and when he gets Drebber into his cab (Drebber is drunk), he takes him to the empty house in Lauriston Gardens where he offers him a choice of one of the capsules. Drebber chooses the fatal one. When he catches Strangerson, Strangerson won't play the capsule game so Hope stabs him.

Hope suffers from an aortic aneurysm which causes him to have severe nose bleeds. The aneurysm ruptures the day following his capture and he dies in his cell.

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2. Story Info Sheet (McMurdo's Camp)

- First published in:
  Beetons Christmas Annual, London, 1887

- Time frame of story (known/surmised):
  March 4, 1881

- Holmes & Watson living arrangements:

  Holmes and Watson were introduced by a common acquaintance, and took up residence together at 221B Baker Street.

- Opening scene:

  Watson and Holmes got better acquainted, then Holmes received a message from Tobias Gregson of Scotland Yard asking for his assistance.

- Client:

  Scotland Yard/Gregson, although it is not clear if this was an official request or a casual one.

- Crime or concern:

  A dead man, Enoch J. Drebber, of Cleveland, Ohio, USA, was discovered in an empty house by a constable on patrol. There was no wound upon the deceased although there was plenty of blood (from the killer's nose-bleed).

- Villain:

  The killer was Jefferson Hope, a former resident of Salt Lake City, Utah, a Mormon settlement in the USA. The dead man, Drebber, was something of a villain himself, in fact, his demise could be considered a positive development.

- Motive:

  Revenge, for the murder of his prospective father-in-law, John Ferrier, and the dishonour and death of Lucy, his fiancée. Lucy died as a result of a marriage to Drebber forced upon her by the Mormon leadership.

- Logic used to solve:

  Holmes made a very precise crime scene investigation, and determined there had been murder done, and the murderer was a man, more than six feet high, in the prime of life, with small feet for his height, wearing coarse, square-toed boots and smoking a Trichinopoly cigar. He had arrived with his victim in a four-wheeled cab, which was drawn by a horse with three old shoes and one new one on his off fore-leg, and in all probability the murderer had a florid face, and the finger-nails of his right hand were remarkably long. Holmes smelled the man dead man's lips and determined that he had been poisoned.

  Holmes had already determined in his own mind that the man who had walked into the house with Drebber was none other than the man who had driven the cab. The marks in the road showed that the horse had wandered on in a way which would have been impossible had there been anyone in charge of it. Where could the driver have been unless he were inside the house? It would be absurd to suppose that any sane man would carry out a deliberate crime under the very eyes of a third person who was sure to betray him. Lastly, supposing one man wished to dog another through London, what better means could he adopt than to turn cabdriver? These considerations led Holmes to the conclusion that the killer was to be found among the jarveys of the Metropolis.

  When the body was removed, a woman's wedding ring was discovered, and Holmes advertised its discovery (on the street, he said) to lure the presumed killer to reveal himself. An old crone, actually a male in disguise, responded, however, and gave Holmes the slip.

  A small chip ointment box containing a couple of pills was found on the body of Drebber's secretary, helping to confirm the poisoning premise. Cable inquiry to the Cleveland Police told Holmes that Drebber had already applied for the protection of the law against an old rival in love, named Jefferson Hope. This name was the key to a convenient capture.

  The BSI's were sent systematically to every cab proprietor in London until they ferreted out the wanted man, Hope. Holmes then summoned him to 221B and snapped on the darbies (hand-cuffs).

- Policemen:

  Inspectors Gregson and Lestrade of Scotland yard, who compete as rivals on this case. Also constable John Rance, who discovered the body, and a a stalwart police constable, surrounded by a small knot of loafers who were guarding the crime scene. When he went to arrest Arthur Charpentier, Gregson took two officers with him.

- Holmes' fees:

  Holmes told Waston: "Supposing I unravel the whole matter, you may be sure that Gregson, Lestrade, and Co. will pocket all the credit. That comes of being an unofficial personage." Holmes then said he would work it out on his own hook, and have a laugh at them if nothing else.

- Transport:

Watson and Stamford rattled through the crowded London streets on their way to the Holborn. A minute after receiving a note from Gregson, Holmes & Watson we were both in a hansom, driving furiously for the Brixton Road. Holmes prattled away about Cremona fiddles. Holmes & Watson took a cab from the nearest telegraph office to the residence of John Rance, the constable.

The old crone who responded to the advertisement about the ring hailed a four-wheeler, but skipped out the other side unobserved by Holmes or the driver. After the capture of Jefferson Hope, the killer, they used Hope's own cab to take him to Scotland Yard.

The Mormons took a wagon train from Nauvoo, Illinois to Salt Lake City, and on the way, rescued John and Lucy Ferrier who were stranded on the Great Alkali Plain (desert), and were at death's door. They were required to take up the faith as a condition of their rescue. Lucy Ferrier often traveled on horseback when she went into town.

- Food:

Watson had lunch at the Holborn, with no mention of what he and young Stamford ate.

Upon the 4th of March, Holmes was eating breakfast, and munched silently at his toast. Slightly later, Watson sat down at his own breakfast. He used an eggspoon.

There was a lack of food for the pair of vagabonds trapped in the desert, but, after their rescue by the Mormons, a meal was already awaiting them. When Hope came to the Ferrier house two days away from the deadline, he had had no time for bite or sup for eight-and-forty hours." He flung himself upon the cold meat and bread which were still lying upon the table from his host's supper, and devoured it voraciously.

After discovering Ferrier's grave and Lucy's abduction, Hope cooked enough of the bighorn sheep he had killed to last him for a few days, as he swore his revenge.

- Drink:

Watson encountered Stamford in the Criterion Bar. No mention of drink there. Then they went to lunch at the Holborn, where during lunch, Young Stamford looked rather strangely at Watson over his wineglass. No mention of what type of wine they had. Gregson spilled his drink when he found out Stangerson the secretary had been murdered. While on patrol John Rance pondered how uncommon handy a four of gin hot would be. No record if he actually had any to drink.

The old crone who came to get the ring said it belonged to her girl, Sally, whose husband was short with her enough at the best o' times, but more especially when he had drink. Enoch Drebber, on the very night of his arrival at Mme. Charpentier's, became very much the worse for drink, and, indeed, after twelve o'clock in the day he could hardly ever be said to be sober.

Back in London and trailed by Jefferson Hope, Drebber walked down the road and went into one or two liquor shops, staying for nearly half an hour in the last of them. When he came out, he staggered in his walk, and was evidently pretty well on. Then, in Hope's cab, the craze for drink seized him again, and he ordered Hope to pull up outside a gin palace. He went in, and there he remained until closing time.

- Vices:

Holmes & Watson discussed their smoking habits of choice during their first meeting at Bart's.

At the Brixton Road crime scene, Holmes gathered up very carefully a little pile of gray dust from the floor, and packed it away in an envelope. It was cigar ash, from which Holmes determined what type of cigar the killer had smoked.

Gregson came and told Holmes he had arrested Arthur Charpentier, sub-lieutenant in Her Majesty's navy. At Holmes' invitation, he had a cigar with some whisky and water. He puffed complacently.

While Holmes was out following the "old crone" who came to pick up the ring, Watson sat stolidly puffing at his pipe.

Holmes had given a friend a little pinch of the latest vegetable alkyloid.

- Other cases mentioned:

The case of Von Bischoff at Frankfort. Mason of Bradford, the notorious Muller, Lefevre of Montpellier, and Samson of New Orleans. The death of Van Jansen, in Utrecht, in the year '34. The Ratcliff Highway murders. The forcible administration of poison in the cases of Dolsky in Odessa, and of Leturier in Montpellier.

- Notable Quotables:

"It is a capital mistake to theorize before you have all the evidence. It biases the judgment."

"You know a conjurer gets no credit when once he has explained his trick and if I show you too much of my method of working, you will come to the conclusion that I am a very ordinary individual after all."

"The most commonplace crime is often the most mysterious, because it presents no new or special features from which deductions may be drawn."

- Other interestings:
  The introduction of the Baker Street Irregulars (BSI's), half a dozen dirty and ragged street Arabs.

- When all was said and done:
  The killer, Hope, died of an aortic aneurysm not long after his capture, but he had his revenge. Lestrade and Gregson got the credit, and Watson got the idea of publishing an account of the case, along with Holmes' permission to do so.
  Said Watson to Holmes, "I have all the facts in my journal, and the public shall know them. In the meantime you must make yourself contented by the consciousness of success, like the Roman miser —"*Populus me sibilat, at mihi plaudo Ipse domi simul ac nummos contemplar in arca*." (The people hiss at me, but I applaud myself at home, as I contemplate the money in my chest.) – from Horace, Book 1, Satire 1
  This whole business would have been much different had Jefferson Hope the sense to blow out his candle before leaving the scene. The discovery of Drebber's body would have been likely delayed until its putrefaction attracted attention, probably a lengthy process given the closed-up empty house and its history of problems with the drains (sewers) and typhoid. The tracks which were key to the solution would have been obliterated. Would Holmes have gotten another high-profile case? Would Watson have recorded it? Or would the career of this remarkable 19th-century consulting detective passed unrecorded?

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3. Data! Data! Data! (Frank Mentzel)

- # 01 of the 60 stories
  First published in *Beeton's Christmas Annual*, 1887
  The illustrations in the first edition were by Charles Doyle – Arthur Conan Doyle's father

- Interesting Fact
  The struggling young doctor Arthur Conan Doyle received a lowly £25 for the story giving all rights to the publisher. He never earned one more pence in royalties.

- Chronology
  William Baring Gould places it as Friday, March 4 to Monday, March 7, 1881, which makes it 3rd in time. This means that Holmes is 27 and Watson is 29. They are much younger than they are usually portrayed.

- Christopher Morley Says
  "A very unpleasant American is found dead in an empty house on a small street in London. There were no signs of a wound, yet the word RACHE was scrawled in blood on the wall . . . . Dr. Watson's first introduction to the sordid and gruesome details of violent crime."

- Dummies Short Summary
  "First published in 1887 by Ward, Lock & Co. in Beeton's Christmas Annual, this novel is the first Sherlock Holmes story. In this landmark adventure, Dr. John Watson is looking for a roommate, and when he's introduced to Sherlock Holmes, their immortal partnership begins. As they take up residence together, Watson begins to wonder about the weirdo he moved in with. What's with the mysterious chemical experiments? The endless parade of unusual visitors? What is his line of work? The mystery involves a case of revenge, murder, and obsession that dates back 30 years to the Mormons in Salt Lake City, Utah. Not a bad start!"

- Classifying This Case
  This case is one of 23 classified as a MURDER and one of 14 where the perpetrator was either killed, arrested, or otherwise satisfactorily handled.

- The Best Of Sherlock Holmes
  1927 – Arthur Conan Doyle did not put in on list of his 12 favorites.
  1959 – Baker Street Irregulars did not put it on their list of 10 favorites.

- What Else Happened That Year (1881)
  - Sudanese Revolt under Mahdi, war in the Sudan (1881 - 98).
  - India reaches 253 million.
  - Stanley founds Leopoldville in the Congo.
  - Flogging is banned by the British Army and Navy.
  - Tsar Alexander II of Russia accepts Melikov's proposal for a Consultative Committee for reform, is assassinated on the same day.
  - James A. Garfield, 20th U.S. President, shot and wounded; died two months later.
  - The Barnum and Bailey Greatest Show on Earth Circus is created.
  - National Society of the Red Cross is established.
  - De Lesseps and Gustave Eiffel, French engineers, begin construction of the Panama Canal.
  - U.S. Supreme Court establishes income tax is constitutional.
  - Revised Version of the New Testament.
  - Carlos Finlay of Cuba develops theory that mosquitoes carry yellow fever

- Holmes And Watson – Personal Information

  Holmes and Watson meet and take up residence at 221b Baker Street – a world famous address. Watson had been living in a private hotel on the Strand and Holmes on Montague Street. Then young Stamford introduced them to each other at "Barts" and they move to 221B Baker Street.

- Dramatis Personae
  - Murray, Watson's orderly who saved his life at Maiwand
  - Young Stamford, a former dresser under Watson who introduced him to Holmes
  - Enoch J. Drebber, murdered at Lauriston gardens
  - Joseph Strangerson, secretary to Drebber
  - Gregson, Inspector of the Yard
  - Lestrade, Inspector of the Yard
  - John Rance, Patrolman on duty who discovered the body at Lauriston Gardens
  - Harry Murcher, fellow constable to Rance
  - Tom Dennis \
  - Sally Dennis |- fictitious people invented by Stangerson
  - Mrs. Sawyer /
  - Madame Charpentier, ran a boarding house where Drebber stayed.
  - Alice Charpentier, daughter to Madame
  - Arthur Charpentier, brother to Alice.
  - Jefferson Hope, the murderer.
  - Lucy Ferrier, beloved of Jefferson Hope
  - John Ferrier, foster father of Lucy

- Quotable Sherlock

  This being the first tale, memorable quotes from Holmes abound.
  - "How are you? You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive."
  - "I suppose I am the only one in the world. I'm a consulting detective, if you can understand what it is."
  - "It is a capital mistake to theorize before you have all the evidence. It biases the judgment."
  - "London, that great cesspool into which all the loungers and idlers of the Empire are irresistibly drained."

- Holmes' Fee

  Holmes told Watson: "Supposing I unravel the whole matter, you may be sure that Gregson, Lestrade, and Company will pocket all the credit. That comes of being an unofficial personage." For Holmes there can have been little reward save the experience.

- Unrecorded Cases

  Holmes and Watson regularly make references to cases and don't give any details. This is pure torture to Sherlockians. No torturing of the readers as yet.

- Sherlock Holmes On The Big And The Little Screen
  STUD is one of the most popular and has been done by several actors.
  - 1914 – A Study in Scarlet with James Bragington as Holmes (it is lost)
  - 1933 – A Study in Scarlet with Reginald Owens as Holmes
  - 1934 – The Triumph of Sherlock Holmes with Arthur Wontner as Holmes
  - 1968 – A Study in Scarlet (TV) with Peter Cushing as Holmes
  - 1979 – Part of 2 episodes for Russian Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson (TV) with Vasily Livanov
  - 1983 – A Study in Scarlet (TV-cartoon) A Study in Scarlet with Peter O'Toole as Holmes
  - 2010 – A Study in Pink (TV) in Sherlock series with Benedict Cumberbatch as Holmes

- **Fainting In The Canon**
  In this tale, the "boots" at Stangerson's hotel almost faints. Jefferson came close to fainting also.

- **Newspapers**
  - Daily News - Morning paper in London which was extremely liberal. Founded in 1846.
  - Daily Telegraph (and Courier) - Morning paper of London which was Liberal until the middle of the 1880's whereby it became Unionist. It became very popular for the middle classes. Established in 1855. Is considered the country's "other paper of record."
  - Echo - London evening paper that was liberal in politics and near bankruptcy throughout its short career.
  - Standard - One of the more popular papers. It was of a Conservative nature. Had a distinguished staff of writers in journalism and literature.

- **Annotated Sherlock**
  - "an income of eleven shillings and sixpence a day" was the equivalent of $2.87 U.S. This comes to £200 which was the same as an Army surgeon's pay.
  - "I always smoke 'ships' myself" refers to naval tobacco which was an Arcadia mixture.
  - a "commissionaire" refers to a uniformed messenger of the Corps of Commissionaires founded in 1859 employing pensioned soldiers and sailors who perform their tasks for "a consideration."
  - a "Trichinopoly cigar" is one made of dark tobacco grown near Trichinopoly in the Madras district of India. It was usually open at both ends.
  - a "Parthian shot" is a concluding retort because the ancient calvary of Parthia used to shoot backwards as they fled.
  - the term "a four of gin hot" was fourpence (8 cents) worth of gin with hot water and lemon
  - "Houndsditch" derives from the old fosse which once encircled the quarter of the City and formed a depository for dead dogs.
  - "The Vehmgericht" was a system of secret courts in Germany of the Middle Ages to execute punishment and revenge.
  - "the boots" was a servant at an inn or hotel who blackened boots and did minor offices for the guests.
  - "the mews" were stable yards or a back lane or alley leading to the stables.
  - "jarveys" was Cockney slang for coachmen or cabdrivers. The term may have come from Saint Gervase, whose emblem was the whip.

- **Holmes The Author**
  Holmes shares, or plans to share, his research via publishing it as a monograph. In this story there is a publication on the science of deduction called The Book of Life.

- **Weapons**
  This case is filled with weapons too many to list here, but an interesting few are:
  - Jezail Musket - of a murderous Ghazi, a bullet from which struck Watson in the shoulder, tore through his leg (after grazing the sub-clavicle artery), and into his Tendo Achilles, causing a wound (or wounds, rather) that would trouble the good doctor on and off for some time afterward.
  - Service Revolver - Dr. Watson's and is mentioned in 13 cases.
  - Rusty Old Shotgun - Of Ferrier, which he cleaned and loaded in case of a Mormon raid on his home.
  - Knife - Which Jefferson Hope used to force Enoch Drebber into a little game of modified Russian Roulette with his poison pills and which he latter used to kill Joseph Stangerson, after he refused to participate in Hope's little game.

4. Case Inquiries (Alexander E. Braun)

A Study in Scarlet first appeared in November 1887's Beeton's Christmas Annual. It was never published in *The Strand* Magazine. It is the first of the four Canonical novels. Uncharacteristically, the overwhelming majority of our chronologists agree regarding the year in which these happenings took place, with most even concurring on a specific date!

If the case took place in 1881, as the majority of these Canon chronologists state, then at the time Sherlock Holmes was 27 years old and Doctor John H. Watson 29.

- Main Characters:
  Stamford, Watson's former dresser at Bart's.
  Inspectors Lestrade and Gregson, two of Scotland Yard's best detectives.
  Enoch J. Drebber, an Elder of the Mormon Church in Salt Lake.
  Joseph Stangerson, Mormon Elder and Drebber's secretary.
  Jefferson Hope, the man wronged by Drebber and Stangerson.
  Constable John Rance, a beat policeman.
  Wiggins, leader of the Baker Street Irregulars, a gang of street Arabs.
  Madame Charpentier, Drebber's landlady.
  Arthur Charpentier, a naval officer, son of Madame Charpentier.
  Alice Charpentier, Madame Charpentier's young daughter.
  John Ferrier, wanderer rescued by the Mormons.
  Lucy Ferrier, John Ferrier's adopted daughter.
  Brigham Young, leader of the Mormon Church.

- Notable Quotes:

I served at the fatal battle of Maiwand. There I was struck on the shoulder by a Jezail bullet, which shattered the bone and grazed the subclavian artery. I should have fallen into the hands of the murderous Ghazis had it not been for the devotion and courage shown by Murray, my orderly, who threw me across a pack-horse, and succeeded in bringing me safely to the British lines.

I had neither kith nor kin in England, and was therefore as free as air—or as free as an income of eleven shillings and sixpence a day will permit a man to be. Under such circumstances, I naturally gravitated to London, that great cesspool into which all the loungers and idlers of the Empire are irresistibly drained.

"You don't know Sherlock Holmes yet, perhaps you would not care for him as a constant companion."

"Dr.Watson, Mr. Sherlock Holmes," said Stamford, introducing us.

"How are you?" he said cordially, gripping my hand with a strength for which I should hardly have given him credit. "You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive."

Sherlock Holmes—his limits.

1. Knowledge of Literature.—Nil.
2. Philosophy.—Nil.
3. Astronomy.—Nil.
4. Politics.—Feeble.
5. Botany.—Variable. Well up in belladonna, opium, and poisons generally. Knows nothing of practical gardening.
6. Geology.—Practical, but limited. Tells at a glance different soils from each other. After walks has shown me splashes upon his trousers, and told me by their colour and consistence in what part of London he had received them.
7. Chemistry.—Profound.
8. Anatomy.—Accurate, but unsystematic.
9. Sensational Literature.—Immense. He appears to know every detail of every horror perpetrated in the century.
10. Plays the violin well.
11. Is an expert singlestick player, boxer, and swordsman.
12. Has a good practical knowledge of British law.

"Well, I have a trade of my own. I suppose I am the only one in the world. I'm a consulting detective, if you can understand what that is. Here in London we have lots of Government detectives and lots of private ones. When these fellows are at fault they come to me, and I manage to put them on the right scent. They lay all the evidence before me, and I am generally able, by the help of my knowledge of the history of crime, to set them straight. There is a strong family resemblance about misdeeds, and if you have all the details of a thousand at your finger ends, it is odd if you can't unravel the thousand and first."

"It is a capital mistake to theorize before you have all the evidence. It biases the judgment."

I had already observed that he was as sensitive to flattery on the score of his art as any girl could be of her beauty.

"There's the scarlet thread of murder running through the colourless skein of life, and our duty is to unravel it, and isolate it, and expose every inch of it."

- A Personal Disappointment

Besides teaching a writing class, I have been tutoring a few calculus-challenged students. I make a good teacher, because at their age I was an utter jackass as far as calculus was concerned and I therefore (painfully) recall which potholes I had to get over before mastering it.

The point to this is that I have become re-accustomed to thinking in numbers. So, when I reread STUD, I realized something nobody else has: our sleuth was way off when he informed Watson and Stamford that "the Sherlock Holmes' test" for hemoglobin was accurate to one part in a million.

Basing my calculation on the basis that a drop of blood would roughly be the same volume as a drop of water (0.05 grams to a liter in this case), my result came to one part in 50,000, not one part in a 1,000,000! Aha! Not so accurate, Mr. Holmes!

Not only that, my calculation resulted in something completely original to contribute to canonical literature! Visions of BSI leaders gratefully granting me the much-yearned-for Shilling danced in my mind.

My dreams were roughly shattered. Fortunately, I ran cursory check before crowing my triumph and discovered that legendary science and science-fiction writer Isaac Asimov (himself a noted Sherlockian) had reached the same conclusion—in 1980! The fact that I reached the exact same result did little to alleviate my disappointment.

Upon further research, I found in James O'Brien's excellent book, The Scientific Sherlock Holmes, that the author concluded that Holmes' calculation, quickly done in his head 141 years ago, was not as inaccurate as Asimov (and I) contended because, as he explained, "in Europe, quantities were, and still are, calculated in terms of weight rather than volume."

Nihil novi sub sole…

- In Pursuit of the Great Game

We again initiate the Great Cycle to once more engage in the profound and scholarly study of The Canon of Sherlock Holmes.

In Sherlock Holmes Sir Arthur Conan Doyle gave us one of the most enduring characters in the history of fiction. Surveys regularly show that he is more readily recognizable across the globe than Superman, Mickey Mouse, or any world leader. Those who thrive on detective fiction may be able to tell you who Mrs. Marple and Nick Charles are, or even Raffles and Lord Peter; yet even someone who has never read a detective story will immediately recognize the aquiline profile, the deerstalker and Meerschaum pipe.

According to a survey, many today believe that Sir Winston Churchill was a fictional character, while many more believe (as we all do!) that Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street was real. England's Royal Mint recently honored him by issuing a 50-pence piece with his likeness on the reverse, and that of Queen Elizabeth II on the obverse. Unsurprisingly, in 2002 Holmes was awarded an Honorary Fellowship from the Royal Society of Chemistry, for his pioneering use of forensic science.

Holmes was born during a time when it was rapidly becoming obvious to everyone that science was destined to play an increasingly important part in their lives—on the year that STUD took place, everyone 30 years old or older remembered the impact that Darwin's Origin of the Species exerted upon the Victorian zeitgeist. Early science-fiction writers like Jules Verne, H.G. Wells, and Edgar Rice Burroughs all contributed to this by popularizing the bright promises and dystopian possibilities of the advancement of science and technology. Sir Arthur himself contributed to the genre with the adventures of Professor Challenger.

Sherlock Holmes made his appearance into this world, full-grown from ACD's mind, much like Athena out of Zeus' forehead. He was the first (and it may be genuinely argued the only) one of his kind. A consulting detective who applied logic, science, and observation to his professional activities and who, for the sake of his calling, chose to be as detached as possible from the mainstream of human society, a highly moral individual guided by an unerring sense of ethics.

We would not see anyone even comparable to him until the coming of Mister Spock who (with atypical Vulcan pride) once boasted from the very bridge of the starship USS Enterprise of being a direct descendant of the Great Detective.

Above everything else, Sherlock Holmes is a product of his era, which explains the difficulty—some would say the impossibility—to transplant him to another time. He forever lives in 1895; he is the archetypal Victorian gentleman a kind of paladin that no other culture or era has been able to match. He was the first to apply what would become known as forensic methods to the detection of crime—an able chemist who knew the use of a microscope and understood that crimes are solved by the observation of small detail such as the ash of a cigar or a faint footprint.

He also understood the fact that sometimes the slow turning wheels of justice grind far more exceedingly fine than necessary, preferring to rely upon his own conscience for a judgment.

Small wonder that until relatively recently, Scotland Yard presented its new recruits with a copy of Watson's complete works.

Part of the genius of ACD in creating Holmes was that he did not make him perfect. Like Superman and kryptonite, our sleuth has his weaknesses: his self-pride is somewhat oversized, his behavior sometimes tended to be self-destructive, he suffered with

great difficulty the existence of those who like so many of us were unable to follow the lightning conclusions of his agile mind, and as poor Watson well knew, he tended to indulge in acerbic comments.

It is not so much Holmes himself who calls to every generation, as the unattainable wish in all our hearts that we could be like him: wise, observant, and logical, while inhabiting an orderly world in which life flowed in three-quarters time, where everyone and everything had its place, and where, with our help, justice always prevailed. Of course, this is not possible, so we all content ourselves with emulating Watson.

Thank you very much, Sir Arthur. And now once more, Hounds, the game is afoot!

- The Doctor's Health

Watson laments that he returned from the battlefield in Afghanistan with his health "irretrievable ruined." Fortunately, this was not the case; otherwise, he would have been physically unable to be the stouthearted and often energetic (he jumped over a six-foot wall in CHAS) participant in so many of Holmes' adventures. Like many veterans, the war wounds reminded him of their existence on certain occasions, but this seems to have been more a function of weather than of mind.

This is not to belittle his war experiences. One should not understate the seriousness of his condition. In those pre-antibiotic days any wound could be serious. Watson was fortunate after all, considering that Jezail ordnance was composed of bits and piece of various metals—including old nails—which almost always resulted in infected wounds.

In Watson's case, things progressed from bad to worse. After being seriously wounded and when he was at his weakest during the beginning of his recovery, he contracts enteric (i.e., typhoid) fever. Finally, after everything that he had to endure, he was invalidated out of the Army, possibly destroying the possibility of a career he may have intended to follow.

The question then arises as to why he came out seemingly so weakened. Many Canon scholars have speculated that he suffered from what today we call post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). While this could be likely, I do not think it accurate.

I think that at worse, Watson was experiencing posttraumatic stress syndrome (PTSS). The main difference between PTSS and PTSD is intensity and duration. PTSS often resolves on its own within a few days or weeks, in which case it is not considered a diagnosable mental disorder. And the more severe post-traumatic symptoms—flashbacks, total loss of self-confidence, suicidal ideation—typically do not occur with PTSS, or are one-time and relatively minor.

In my experience it is far from unusual to meet someone recovering from serious wounds or a life-threatening disease that is going through a period of depression. In short, it might not have been of PTSS either. The real reason is described by Watson himself, "Under such circumstances, I naturally gravitated to London, that great cesspool into which all the loungers and idlers of the Empire are irresistibly drained. There I stayed for some time at a private hotel in the Strand, leading a comfortless, meaningless existence. . . ." Notice the word lounger, and "leading a comfortless, meaningless existence."

What Watson needed most at that point in his life was not so much rest, as a new purpose in life. It is revealing that although he claims that his nerves are shattered and wants to avoid noise or excitement, he is willing to share digs with someone described to him as a would-be poisoner who is following an eccentric course of studies (when he is at the university and not avoiding it for weeks), of whom nobody dares ask personal questions, and who beats up cadavers. Someone in Watson's supposed condition would have avoided placing himself in a situation in which he must share his daily life with someone with such as seemingly unbalanced personality!

Yet when he asks Stamford how it was that Holmes knew he came from Afghanistan and the other answers that many would like to know how he concludes these things, Watson's reaction is, "Oh! A mystery is it? This is very piquant. I am much obliged to you for bringing us together. 'The proper study of mankind is man,' you know."

His friendship with Holmes provided him when he needed it the most with a North for his life compass, which led to new interests, to resume his profession, and even embark upon marriage.

- The Educated Ignoramus

There is a general consensus amongst Canon scholars and students, that Holmes was having fun at Watson's expense when it came to the extent of his education. We know that later, on more than one occasion, he was able to guess Watson's thoughts when the latter fell into a brown study. Surely he must have realized from the Good Doctor's sidelong glances and unexpressed curiosity over the clients who visited at 221B—forcing him to abandon the sitting room to Holmes—that he was consumed with curiosity to find out what it was he was involved in.

Realizing as he must have, with great amusement, that Watson was ineffectually attempting to gauge his abilities it is not too extreme a conclusion that he had fun at his expense regarding his supposed ignorance of common-knowledge things such as the Copernican Theory. The remarkable thing is that Watson did not realize that he was being had!

Regardless of how focused Holmes' adult studies were then, as a schoolboy he would have been force-fed the reality of the workings of the Solar System. How could the Good Doctor have thought that Holmes was such an ignoramus, when he tells us that he, "Prattled away about Cremona fiddles, and the difference between a Stradivarius and an Amati." Not only that, but he quoted Darwin, and bought a book printed in Latin, De Jure inter Gentes, which, from the title, one may suppose dealt with the beginnings

of international law. In this first adventure with Watson, Holmes gave him proof of having at least a working knowledge of German, French, and Latin.

It has been said that, "First impressions are always unreliable." In Watson's case, however, the lack of accuracy of his first (and later) impressions of Holmes was not improved by the Great Detective's pawky wit.

Holmes' invitation to Watson (whom he still hardly knew) to accompany him in what would become their first case together is also another indication his great perspicacity in giving his new companion something to distract him from his despondency and survivor's misery.

Sadly enough, Watson was also mistaken when he concluded that had not been for "the temperance and cleanliness of his whole life," he might have suspected Holmes of using narcotics. Here, his incipient admiration for the man clouded his medical judgment. We can, however, celebrate the fact that the Good Doctor eventually weaned him away from the use of drugs.

- Destitution at 221B

We regularly rejoice over the fact that Holmes was unable to afford by himself the quarters at 221B and had to look for a roommate. Had it been otherwise, our friends would have never met and we would have been deprived of many wonderful times and comradeship.

However, one must wonder why Holmes' economy was at that troubled low level. Watson tells us that from the moment they settled down in their new digs, Holmes had many "visitors" (a.k.a. "clients").

It is difficult to believe that if he were as strapped for cash as he supposedly was that he would say, "My professional charges are upon a fixed scale I do not vary them, save when I remit them altogether."

Surely, this was still in the future. It seems more likely that at the beginning of the Great Friendship Holmes, like Watson, had to carefully use every available pence.

Although he did not yet command the munificent fees that he was to receive years afterwards, the volume of a large clientele would have supplied a decent amount of shillings. Although it is not mentioned, his reputation must have already been respectable by this time; otherwise, why would members of the official police regularly consult him?

Watson revealed to us what his economic resources were—£17 5s per month, or roughly $7,000; however, we are uncertain about Holmes' resources.

We are told that the Great Detective was unable to swing the rent for 221B by himself, which is why he was looking for someone with whom to share expenses. The question arises, then how great were those expenses?

In 1881 (as today with Washington DC), Imperial London was not an inexpensive place to live in, particularly for someone who wanted to keep his surroundings above the level of the working class.

Although it was possible to live very economically, it would have been impossible to sustain the social standing both Holmes and Watson were accustomed to. Thus, the Baker Street solution was ideal. It was situated at the center of the great city and in view of what prices were then, it is not unlikely that our friends shared a yearly rent of £200 (≈$75,000), which probably included laundry and food. It simplified their desire to decently get along.

And, lest we forget, not too much later afterwards, by 1890, Holmes could afford paying "princely" sums for his digs all by himself, to the point at which, according to Watson, "the rooms might have been purchased at the price."

It has often been speculated that much of Holmes' financial success at his invented profession partly resulted from the publicity that Watson's telling of his adventures gave him. There are good grounds for this; even he conceded the point in FOUR, "[A] good many of the criminal classes begin to know me—especially since our friend here took to publishing some of my cases. . . ."

When he and Watson first met, our sleuth was already well known (and sought after) by leading Scotland Yarders. This had to mean that in certain circles beyond those of just the official police he already had a good reputation. As he himself remarked, some of his clients were recommended to him by the police. Watson tells us that by the time they first met, he already had a wide and varied clientele who obligingly climbed up those seventeen steps to consult him. If fact, as Holmes examined the rooms at Lauriston Gardens, Watson's observation that Gregson and Lestrade "watched the maneuvers of their amateur companion with considerable curiosity and some contempt," seems off the mark—after all Holmes was there at their request. Had they deemed Holmes so contemptible it is unlikely that they would have called upon him so regularly.

The question of course arises whether Holmes do this pro bono? It would seem so because he was unofficially called to help by the detectives on the field, not by Scotland Yard authorities. Considering that a police inspector's yearly earning back then was ≈£80 (≈$$30,000 today) our official detectives would have been unable to afford outside experts on their own shilling!

Of course, his unofficial assistance did nothing to burnish his reputation because even back then the papers would credit the Yard, not Holmes for the results.

Had it not been for Watson singing his praises, Holmes might not have experienced the resounding successes that he obtained.

Then, years later, came what Sherlock Holmes must have considered the highest praise he ever received when, in SIXN, Lestrade says, "I've seen you handle a good many cases, Mr. Holmes, but I don't know that I ever knew a more workmanlike one than that.

We're not jealous of you at Scotland Yard. No, sir, we are very proud of you, and if you come down to-morrow there's not a man, from the oldest inspector to the youngest constable, who wouldn't be glad to shake you by the hand."

- The Baker Street Irregulars

Often our Canonical studies give us an insight into another era. I have been told by some that Holmes' apparent unfeeling acceptance of the state of Wiggins and the other Barker Street Irregulars showed a lack of feeling and humanity. Of course, that is pure presentism.

The Great Detective displayed a modicum of admiration for the boys' pluck in earning a living, oblivious of their miserable situation. Like in every other country of the time, poverty existed with very little notice of the rest of the population, Mark's admonition (Mar 14:7), "For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good" was staunchly believed.

"Street Arab," generally meant "orphan" and at that time, in Victoria's Imperial England (and the rest of the world, West and East, for that matter), children were very much disposable items. While some attempts were made by some charitable organizations to care for them, for the most part nobody cared much about their fate. Dickens certainly knew what he was writing about.

What else happened in 1907:

Empire

Sudanese Revolt under Mahdi, war in the Sudan (1881-1898).
India reaches 253 million.
Stanley founds Leopoldville in the Congo.
Britain defeated by the Boers at Laing's Neck and Majuba Hill. Prime Minister Gladstone grants Transvaal self-government. Britain reserves right to veto all foreign treaties that might be entered into by the South African Republic.
British North Borneo Company chartered.
Parliament passes Second Irish Land and Coercion Acts, Land Courts to fix fair rents.

Britain

Bradlaugh reelected; ejected from Commons by ten policemen.
Report of Royal Commission on agricultural depression.
Flogging is banned by the British Army and Navy .
London's population reaches 3.3 million.
The Savoy Theatre is built in London.
Queen's College, Dundee, Founded; becomes part of St. Andrews University in 1953.
Former Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli (Lord of Beaconsfield) dies.
National History Museum at Kensington in London opens.
Thomas Carlyle, British historian, dies.
Leadenhall Market opens.
First electrical power plant and grid in Godalming, Britain.
Leyton Orient football team formed.

World

Jewish pogroms in East Europe, particularly Russia.

Tsar Alexander II of Russia accepts Melikov's proposal for a Consultative Committee for reform, is assassinated on that same day. Alexander III decides to dismiss the draft for a liberal constitution found in his father's desk after the assassination.

James A. Garfield, 20th U.S. President, shot and wounded after four months' administration; dies two months later.

Japanese promised a constitution and national parliament to meet in 1890. Rights of sovereignty and executive power, are vested in the person of the Mikado, with ministers were accountable to him alone.

Dr. Ogden of Aberdeen publishes account of experiments to ascertain the causes of inflammation and suppuration. He concludes that suppuration is caused by certain bacteria. Results achieved afterward verify this.

Maximilien Littré, French philologist and philosopher, author of the Dictionnaire de la Langue Française dies.
French Ministry of Agriculture established.
The Barnum and Bailey Greatest Show on Earth Circus is created.
National Society of the Red Cross is established.
Gunfight at the O.K. Corral.
De Lesseps and Gustave Eiffel, French engineers, begin construction of the Panama Canal.
U.S. Supreme Court establishes income tax is constitutional.

France invades Tunis; occupies Bizerta; Treaty of Bardo establishes protectorate over Tunis—Arabs revolt and are put down; Italians hostile.

Franco-British intervention secures most of Thessaly and part of Epirus for Greece.

Serbia and Austria sign secret treaty.

Liberty of public meeting and press granted in France.

Tidal wave in China kills 300,000 people.

Completion of St. Gotthard Tunnel linking Göschenen and Airolo, Switzerland.

Prince Alexander of Bulgaria Suspends Organic Laws; takes absolute power for seven years.

Jules Ferry laws passed in France, establish free, secular education.

Sitting Bull surrenders.

Russian General Skobelev takes Geok Tepe, defeats Turkomans, brings territory under Russian influence.

Nitrate war between Chile and Peru continues after fall of Lima.

Art

Monet's painting, *Sunshine and Snow* exhibited.

Gilbert and Sullivan's *Patience* debuts.

Mark Twain publishes *The Prince and the Pauper*.

Tales of Hoffmann completed after Offenbach's death.

Feodor Mikhailovitch Dostoevsky dies.

Revised Version of the *New Testament*.

Flaubert's *Bouvard et Pécuchet*, published posthumously.

Anatole France's *Le Crime de Sylvestre Bonnard* published.

Ibsen's Ghosts, a drama dealing with venereal disease debuts.

Science and Technology

Electricity exhibition in Paris.

Hiram Maxim invents a self-regulating electrical generator.

Michelson invents an instrument to measure distance with light waves.

Carlos Finlay of Cuba develops theory that mosquitoes carry yellow fever.

Koch works on the destruction effect of certain chemicals (disinfectants) on microbes.

Louis Pasteur develops anthrax vaccine.

Billroth successfully operates on the abdomen.

First electrical power plant and grid in Godalming, Britain.

5. Selected Chronologies

a.	The Original Story by Arthur Conan Doyle	Monday, March 4 (1878)
b.	William Baring-Gould	Saturday, March 4, 1882
c.	H.W. Bell	Friday, March 4, 1881
d.	Roger Butters	Friday, March 4, 1881
e.	Jay Finley Christ	Friday, March 3, 1882
f.	Jean-Pierre Crauser	Friday, March 4, 1881
g.	D. Martin Dakin	Friday, March, 4, 1881
h.	Bill Dorn	Thursday, March 3, 1881
i.	Henry Folsom	Friday, March, 4, 1881
j.	John Hall	Friday, March 4, 1881
k.	Craig Janasek	Friday, March 4, 1881
l.	Brad Keefauver	Saturday, July 16, 1881 / Tuesday, March 4, 1884
m.	Toshio Suzuki	Tuesday, March 4, 1884
n.	June Thomson	Friday, March 4, 1881
o.	Ernest Bloomfield Zeisler	Friday, March 4, 1881

6. Canonical Queeries (Ralph Edwards, BSI)

- What would indicate that an artery had been grazed?
- What was in store for Watson at the end of his nine months?
- Why all the blue flickering flames for only one student?
- How could Holmes be sure that nothing else precipitated his re-agent?
- Why did Holmes seize Watson instead of Stamford by the coat-sleeve?
- What composed 97% of Holmes's blood? (assume 1 liter = 30,000 drops)
- Is there any evidence that the Sherlock Holmes test was ever used?
- What were Watson's vices when he was well?
- Was agreeing to share quarters strange after so brief an acquaintance?
- Was Watson correct that Holmes was not a difficult man to live with?
- Did poor pen, ink, left-handedness or carelessness blot Holmes's hands?
- Reconcile "no knowledge of philosophy" with philosophical instruments.
- Did the magazine name the author?
- How did Holmes munch silently on toast?
- Why "bread and cheese" instead of "bread and butter"?
- Did Holmes observe that Dr. Watson was of a medical type?
- Should a young gentleman address a middle-aged retired marine as "my lad"?
- Did "no reply" indicate that Holmes had decided to take the case?
- Do business cards usually indicate city, state and country, but no street address?
- What was Holmes's experience with professional beauties?

- How did Gregson and Lestrade travel to Lauriston Gardens?
- Was state of hat, collar and cuffs compatible with activity, weather and Euston?
- Does agitation remain showing on the face of the dead?
- Is a Masonic device appropriate for a former Mormon?
- Is plaster normally yellow?
- Does a man with a nose bleed keep smoking a cigar?
- Would a puddle on the garden walk be seen late at night?
- Would Hope, steadying Drebber have taken long strides?
- When had Watson previously flattered Holmes on the score of his art?
- Does Holmes ever give any other police officer a half-sovereign for providing information?
- Relate the condition of drains to typhoid fever. Why not enteric fever?
- What "legal twist" might be discerned in four words of writing?
- Was Hope fooled by the facsimile ring?
- Was less than three weeks in London a reasonable time for Hope to track down Drebber?
- When does a young girl become "of age"? What things would such a girl be too innocent to understand?
- Why would a boy in the navy be costly?
- Isn't a ladder to the second (third in the U.S.) floor very long and heavy?
- How could Lestrade know that Stangerson usually did all the paying?
- Why no luggage, passports, toiletry, etc., but a useless telegram?
- What events led to the Cleveland police sending a telegram regarding Hope? How would they know Hope's destination?
- What happens to a pill box on a sill when a man in a long coat climbs out?
- Why is the path 1500 miles in a territory that is 600 miles across?
- How long does it take to die of hunger? of thirst?
- What happened to brother Bob and his father?
- Are desert nights suitable for unlighted walking?
- Did women carry burdens during migrations to the West?
- Were homespun garments common in 1847?
- Were the Mormons all Anglo-Saxons?
- Was there gold fever in California in 1859?
- How distant were the Wahstach mountains?
- Is Utah the Pacific slope?
- Was Lucy's hair golden or chestnut?
- Must the bride consent in a Mormon wedding?
- Why do two people need a roomy villa when the servants sleep in an outhouse?
- If one can get half-way through the mountains in a night, how many days does it take to get the rest of the way?
- Was the wedding band a suitable keepsake?
- What happened to the eleven wives of Drebber and Stangerson?
- How did Hope locate his two men?
- Why did Hope emphasize Holmes being on his trail?
- At what time of day was the gentleman house-hunting in the Brixton Road?
- What does "firing across a handkerchief" mean?
- Why did Hope leave the candle burning?
- Could Holmes have smelt poison through all the alcohol Drebber consumed?
- What is the background for a belief that pure chance will favor the righteous?
- Hope was suspicious of Holmes's advertisement. Why didn't he suspect anything when asked to drive his cab to the same address mentioned in the advertisement?
- Why would the Cleveland police respond to a telegram from an unknown Englishman asking about Drebber's private affairs?
- Did Holmes note two tracks entering and one leaving?
- How far would an unattended horse travel?
- Did Hope lead a useful life?
- Should Hope have been hung if he had survived?
- Is it pure coincidence that the superior mortals (Holmes, Ferrier and Hope) were bachelors?

7. 17 Steps (Brad Keefauver, BSI)

1. The Honeymoon Period

"Holmes was certainly not a difficult man to live with. He was quiet in his ways, and his habits were regular." Watson and Holmes were obviously in their "honeymoon" phase as room-mates -- or was Holmes really a better lodger in those days? When did Sherlock become the sort of room-mate Watson would later call "the very worst tenant in London"? Did Holmes's good behaviour last until Watson's first marriage, or was it over the minute Jefferson Hope crashed through that window? I'd be interested in hearing whether the Hounds think Holmes was putting on a show, or if he actually changed . . . and what caused that change.

2. Playing By Ear

Watson on Holmes's abilities with a violin: "That he could play pieces, and difficult pieces, I knew well, because at my request he has played me some of Mendelssohn's Lieder, and other favourites . . . . playing in quick succession a whole series of my favourite airs as a slight compensation for the trial upon my patience."

Now, the Smash knows darn little about musicians, but Watson's descriptions would have me believe that Holmes played by ear, and not using sheet music. Performing a rapid succession of known tunes would indicate he was doing it from memory . . . do music readers memorize a jukebox full of numbers, like Holmes seemed to? (Note: he had to be familiar with many more tunes that Watson's favorites, just to be able to select that grouping from his repertoire.)

3. Starsky And Hutch, Gregson And Lestrade

"Gregson is the smartest of the Scotland Yarders," my friend remarked; "he and Lestrade are the pick of a bad lot. . . . There will be some fun over this case if they are both put upon the scent."

Holmes only has a note from Gregson at this point . . . why does he think that Lestrade will also be put on the case? I remember no other time that we see two Scotland Yarders working with/against each other like this; what made the Brixton Road business so important?

4. The Business Card

Holmes tosses his card at John Rance when the constable becomes suspicious of him, along with mentioning Lestrade and Gregson. Apparently his card has some professional description on it . . . but what? Watson never tells us what Holmes had on his cards, and Holmes described his career in many different ways. Using Canonical evidence, what do you think the card said?

5. Throwing In The Towel

"Holmes at once took the prisoner at his word, and loosened the towel which we had bound round his ankles."

Here's an experiment for the kids at home: try binding the ankles of an active person with a towel, especially a person whose ankles are thickened by boots. Maybe you can get the towel around those ankles, and maybe you can tie it a bit, but it's not that hard to get out of the towel is it? At least with modern towels. Any experts on Victorian towels out there?

And why a towel to begin with? An experience man-handler like Holmes, a connoisseur of handcuffs and a well-armed detective as well, doesn't stock a length of rope?

6. Filling Billets

Jefferson Hope, frontiersman, prospector, janitor, and cab-driver, admits to a number of careers in his travels. He also says "I was a fairly good dispenser, so I worked this alkaloid into small, soluble pills." Was this a common skill at the time, or an indication Hope did a little pharmacy work?

7. You Are Holding Back, I Presume . . .

We all recall Sherlock Holmes's second sentence to Dr. Watson, "You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive." From what we learn of Holmes later, this seems remarkably spare for him in the observation department. In his brief conversation with his potential room-mate, the detective undoubtedly observed a great deal more than that one detail in Watson before he asks, "What have you to confess now?" Was this the ultimate test of the new room-mate? Had Watson not admitted to the bull pup, might the deal not have come off?

8. The Cisco Kid Corrals Poncho

In a classic cowboy moment, the sombrero-wearing Jefferson Hope grabs Lucy Ferrier's bucking mustang Poncho and leads it out of the herd of "steaming" cattle while the normally unemotional Indians are undoubtedly still "marveling" at her beauty. Lucy, though letting loose of the reins as her head began to swim, somehow still retains her riding whip (weapon of choice for both Sherlock Holmes and cowgirls, it would seem).

How much Western wackiness is there in the second half of this novel? Or does it seem pretty straightforward stuff to my fellow Hounds? Me, I'm still laughing at the thought of those Vulcans of the old West, the Indians, and what were surely such gentlemanly comments as "My, Red Coyote, isn't she lovely!"

"Why, yes, Young Cactus, her pale complexion doth remind me of the mountain snow."

9. Just Get It Out Of Your System

Bull pup. Bull pup. Bull pup. Say it over and over to yourself until an image comes to mind. This is what "bull pup" means to you. Now keep it to yourself -- you don't want to spoil anyone else's personal "bull pup" vision.

10. Lucy's Old Man (In More Ways Than One)

This one is contributed by a former discussion leader with the initials MH/SC: "We know that old John Ferrier was not related by blood to Lucy in any way. Why didn't he marry her himself to keep her away from the likes of Drebber and Stangerson? That would have made ol' Brigham Baby happier, too. (Of course, then D&S might have plotted to bushwhack Old John so they could have a go with his widow.)"

11. And That's All He Wrote . . .

"I served at the fatal battle of Maiwand. There I was struck on the shoulder by a Jezail bullet, which shattered the bone and grazed the subclavian artery. I should have fallen into the hands of the murderous Ghazis had it not been for the devotion and courage shown by Murray."

It seems remarkable to me that a man who seemed so happy writing up his adventures in later life is so silent about such a dramatic episode. Surely he would have wanted to glorify Murray a bit, the man who saved his life. Is this a tin dispatch box tale, or could Watson have had other reasons for not writing, such as battlefield trauma?

12. What Goes Around, Comes Around

Watson writes, "It struck me as being a remarkable mixture of shrewdness and of absurdity. The reasoning was close and intense, but the deductions appeared to me to be far fetched and exaggerated."

And then he cries out, "What ineffable twaddle! I never read such rubbish in my life."

In previous Hounds discussions, we've discussed Holmes's comments about Watson's writing. Looking at the above words on Holmes's writing, I think Watson got off pretty easy!

13. G-G-G-Ghosts!

Constable Rance confesses, "I ain't afeared of anything on this side o' the grave; but I thought that maybe it was him that died o' the typhoid inspecting the drains what killed him."

The thought of any real policeman looking for backup because of a possible spook infestation seems rather absurd to the modern American. But I've always heard that ghosts are quite common to England, and a larger share of the old country's populace claims to have seen them. Any truth to this? Do any of the Hounds think Rance was not an uncommon specimen where ghosts versus Victorian constables are concerned? Or was Rance comic relief then as now?

14. The Game Has A Footnote!

In the third chapter of "The Country of the Saints," we find something quite rare in the Canon: a footnote. The Prophet has just said, "We Elders have many heifers," and someone felt it necessary to point out that this was an actual phrase used by an actual Mormon about his wives. With the novel's allusions to things like mass slaughter in the process of wife-gathering, the need to footnote a simple insult seems ironic. Yet it also has a touch of Watson to it, as we all know of his respect for the fair sex. Ignoring the whole "Who wrote part two?" question, could Watson have written the footnote?

15. Take A Memo, Lestrade!

In the end of the second chapter six, Lestrade is putting "the finishing touches on his shorthand account." In 1881, would he have been trained in some system of shorthand (and still wound up as a lawman?), or was this just Watson's way of saying Lestrade was writing an abbreviated account of Hope's narrative. And if Lestrade was taking the notes, what are the odds that he was the writer behind "The Country of the Saints" and that he and Watson started out as a writing duo (only to have their Literary Agent say "Sorry, G." and take Watson alone on to fame and fortune).

16. Keeping It To Himself

"Brag and bounce!" Watson thinks to himself after a comment from Holmes in chapter two (the first chapter two). It seems a very energetic reaction for Watson to be keeping it bottle up inside. Was it just good manners or did Watson really have a problem

expressing himself? As we move on through the stories, Watson often seems to say little and writes even less of his own activities. Was this a man with self-esteem problems?

17. The Key To 221b

"Open the door slightly. That will do. Now put the key on the inside."

In the fifth chapter of STUD, we find Holmes and Watson getting ready for company . . . villainous company. It would seem Holmes is getting ready to lock the villain in with he and Watson. But where was the key kept normally, when not waiting in the inner keyhole? Was Mrs. Hudson locked out of 221B on occasion? And if not her, whom was normally being locked out? The tenant in 221C?

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8. View Halloas (Rosemary Michaud)

It is the first story in the Canon, and we treasure it for its account of the first meeting of our beloved heroes Holmes and Watson. Yet despite its honored position as Holmes's debut, I wonder how many of us would have established our deep and longstanding passion for the adventures of Sherlock Holmes based only upon this single tale. It seems to me that the first Holmes story is actually more enjoyable when it is read over again after experiencing the full extent of Holmes's adventures and the full range of his and Watson's characters. Then indeed do we cherish the moment when it all began, long ago in the chemical laboratory at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Questions

This is where it all began: the published adventures of Sherlock Holmes and the treasured friendship between Holmes and Watson. On this theme of "firsts," I have two personal questions to ask the Hounds. When you first read the stories of Sherlock Holmes, did you begin at the beginning with A Study? If you had a non-Sherlockian friend who wanted to see what all the fuss over Sherlock Holmes was about, would you recommend that he or she start here?

But in this age of movies and television, our first reading of A Study in Scarlet or any Holmes story is not likely to be our first impression of Sherlock Holmes. The Hounds have often discussed the merits of the various "major" interpretations of Holmes upon the stage and screen, but isn't it true that "we hear of Sherlock everywhere," in everything from cartoons to commercials? Is this a good thing or a bad thing? Does Sherlock Holmes "belong" to too many people these days?

We think of Sherlock Holmes as an extremely introverted man, but in this tale, he seems to take a liking to Watson almost immediately, even before learning that Watson is interested in splitting the cost of those lodgings that Holmes cannot afford on his own. For all of his quick deductions about Watson's profession, his wound, and Afghanistan, is it possible that Holmes was expecting someone else to come into the chemical laboratory that day,and that he at first mistakenly supposed Watson to be that person? Who did he think Watson was, and why was he so happy to see him?

The December, 1987, issue of the Baker Street Journal featured a wonderfully insightful article by Jennifer Decker, citing the parallels between A Study and Herman Melville's Moby Dick, and comparing Holmes and Watson's relationship to that of Queequeg and Ishmael. Are there any thoughts among the Hounds as to Holmes's resemblance (or not) to the strange and prescient harpooner of the Pequod? Do you think that the author of A Study meant to shock us with the unusual character of Sherlock Holmes? Is it possible that Watson was originally meant to be the true focus of the tale, the Everyman-observer of all things bizarre?

The Arrest: It seems to me that Sherlock Holmes chose a very clumsy way of bringing Jefferson Hope into custody. I wonder if Hope was actually startled into his desperate fight — a natural reaction to Holmes's sudden slapping on of those handcuffs. If Holmes had Hope's capture to do over, do you think he would choose a different method?

Does anyone else find it interesting that Inspector Lestrade was the one who drove Hope's cab once the American was in custody? Is it possible that Lestrade knew something of, say, "Shipley's Yard" before turning his career steps towards Scotland Yard?

Did Sherlock Holmes ever regret that he tracked down Jefferson Hope? Was this one of those cases where Holmes eventually felt he had done more harm in his capture of the criminal than the criminal had done by his crime?

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9. Delicate Questions (Chris Redmond, BSI)

Part I

The original reader of this tale can have had no preconceptions about the conventions of a detective story or the behaviour of a detective, because no such thing was known.

Is there evidence in the details of the story, and in Holmes's proceedings, that he was in fact originally conceived of as a medical student or a doctor?

Part II

The characters in “The Country of the Saints” frequently refer to “the Lord” and sometimes venture to speak in God’s name.

What do these chapters suggest that the author of the Sherlock Holmes stories thought — early in his adult life, at least — about organized religion and the value of religious belief?

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10. Additional Thoughts (Steve Clarkson)

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11. Questions & Comments (Sonia Fetherston, BSI)

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12. 56 Stories in 56 Days (Charlotte Anne Walters)

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13. Observance of Trifles (Brian Keith Snell)

This is 100% true:

My first experience with written Sherlock Holmes came when I was in 4th or 5th grade, and found a book in the elementary school library titled something like "Sherlock Holmes for Young Readers." (Cut my hazy memory a little slack here---this was 40+ years ago, after all)

Appropriately enough, the book lead off with *A Study In Scarlet*. But after the end of Part I, where Part II (The Country Of The Saints) should have followed, there was instead an editor's note explaining that this next portion of the book was thought to be "too tedious for children." So they presented a 1-page synopsis of The Country Of Saints, and then leaped forward to Chapter VI of that section, back to the present day and the confession of the murderer, Jefferson Hope.

Now, precocious 9 year old that I was, I figured the only reason they would have to hide that section from children was because of salacious or naughty material. So I just assumed tedious meant "dirty." No, I never bothered to look the word up in the dictionary--I was too certain I already knew what it meant. So imagine my surprise when I finally read an unexpurgated version of the novel, and found out that it wasn't dirty at all! (Also, imagine my embarrassment to discover that I had been using tedious incorrectly for several years...)

Which merely goes to show that I encountered the same difficulty as many readers/adapters over the years--what the heck to make of The Country Of The Saints? What the heck, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle?

A Study In Scarlet (A STUDY IN SCARLET from here on...I'm lazy), aside from presenting the first meeting of Holmes and Doctor John H. Watson, establishes the template for most future stories. Holmes impresses Watson with some feat of deduction, a baffling case comes their way, Holmes claims to have solved it from the very beginning, and after some running around and some exasperation from the mere mortals in his sphere, they arrest the culprit. *A Study in Scarlet* introduces us to both Lestrade and Gregson, and the Baker Street Irregulars (not yet named that).

Yet immediately after that arrest, in one of the biggest non-sequiturs in literary history, the book suddenly and without any warning or transition, changes narrators and continents, while jumping back 3 decades, in a 50+ page flashback ! And we don't even meet the murderer of his victims until nearly halfway through this portion of the tale!

It's fairly disconcerting, especially if you're not prepared for it. Every word in *A STUDY IN SCARLET* had been from Watson's view up until that point. We were eager to find out who Jefferson Hope is, and how Holmes seemingly magically produced him out of thin air to arrest him. To then be plunged into what initially seems to be something from an entirely different novel is rather disorienting, to say the least.

But is it "too tedious for children"? I hardly think so. The Country Of The Saints is well written and engaging, once you get past the confusion of *A STUDY IN SCARLET*'s shifting gears so unexpectedly. The tale of John and Lucy Ferrier is well told and engaging, and becomes gripping and suspenseful once the forces of evil begin to move against them. Tedious? No, I wouldn't say that.

But perhaps there might be another reason to be concerned about the youngsters reading it, because, well...let's be blunt: the book comes pretty close to religious hate speech at times. To suggest The Country Of The Saints is harshly anti-Mormon is an understatement. The Mormons--and Brigham Young, specifically--refused to rescue dying travelers unless they converted? They kidnapped woman from outside communities to fill their polygamous harems? They had (essentially) a ninja death army to fulfill their leaders' whims and kill any dissenters??

At the time *A STUDY IN SCARLET* was published, anti-Mormon feeling ran pretty high, and there was plenty of misinformation out there, probably doubly so in far-away countries like England. And yes, some of what is depicted in The Country Of The Saints may have been based in some small way on true incidents. But extrapolating that to an entire religion makes for uncomfortable reading at times.

Yes, it is a product of its time, and should be read as such. "New" religions are often demonized by existing culture (I would imagine if Doyle were writing today, Part II of *A STUDY IN SCARLET* would be about people fleeing the evil of Scientology...)

But maybe this section does render *A STUDY IN SCARLET* less suitable for young readers--indeed, some U.S. schools have removed the book from the curriculum for 6th graders, while leaving the book available for older students who are better equipped to understand the issues involved.

Perhaps these difficulties presented by The Country Of The Saints explains why there is such a surprising dearth of adaptations of *A Study In Scarlet*. How, exactly, do you present this story on film? As is? Substantially restructure it somehow? Tone down or ignore the anti-Mormonism?

So for the introductory Sherlock Holmes story, there's not a lot of video to watch. There were two silent films, both of which have sadly been lost to the ravages of time. The 1933 film is not an adaptation at all--the producers merely bought the right to the title, not the actual story, so the movie has zero to actually do with A Study In Scarlet. There has been a Russian TV adaptation. Even Granada passed on the story.

Which leaves us the 1968 BBC TV series, starring Peter Cushing, and a 1983 Australian animated version, with Peter O'Toole voicing Holmes. Both version, it turns out, completely eliminate any reference to Mormonism whatsoever. Enoch Drebber was just a rich jerk who kidnapped Lucy Ferrier and forced her to marry him, and she promptly died of a broken heart. The animated version does give us the flashback, but broken into segments interspersed with contemporary scenes. Interestingly enough, they change the location from Utah to Colorado...just to be doubly sure of not offending anyone, it seems. The BBC version has no flashbacks, and reduces the entire back story to two lines of dialogue after Jefferson Hope is arrested. Neither is terribly satisfying, with the BBC solution in particular leaving the audience emotionally uninvested in the story and completely unsympathetic to Hope's quest.

The quandary comes down, I think, to Doyle's inexperience as a mystery writer. The genre was still new, and we can't really expect him to abide by "play fair" standards that hadn't been developed yet. Add to that the difficulty of having your hero be far more intelligent than everyone else, yet his exploits narrated by someone who doesn't know half of what Holmes knows. The net effect is rather like watching an episode of Murder, She Wrote where at the very end, Jessica Fletcher pulls onto the screen a character the audience has never seen and no one has even named aloud, and declared "He's the murderer." Dramatically unsatisfying, at the very least.

Holmes earlier declared, "You know a conjuror gets no credit when once he has explained his trick, and if I show you too much of my method of working, you will come to the conclusion that I am a very ordinary individual after all." But because Holmes holds all of the information to himself, it does come off as magic, not detection and deduction.

I remain confident that, had he taken up this story later in his career, a more experienced Doyle would have been far better at structuring it so that Watson (and the audience) shared in at least some of the information he was collecting, so the resolution would seem less from left field.

Ditto for the flashbacks--I'm sure Sir Arthur would have found a way to integrate the information more organically into the story, instead of stopping the novel for a 6-chapter info dump.

As for the calumny against the Mormons? Recognize it for what it is, hold your nose, and explain to young readers that Mormons aren't an organized crime outfit with ninja death cults at their beck and call (probably).

OTHER TRIFLES AND OBSERVANCES:

** Watson refers to London as "that great cesspool into which all the loungers and idlers of the Empire are irresistibly drained." Kind of harsh, but it seem to be shared by some of the newspapers of the day. After the case concludes, the Echo opines, "If the case has had no other effect, it, at least, brings out in the most striking manner the efficiency of our detective police force, and will serve as a lesson to all foreigners that they will do wisely to settle their feuds at home, and not to carry them on to British soil."

Of course it served as no such lesson. London and Britain would continue to be a magnet for foreign intrigues, as countless foreign groups (The Ku Klux Klan! The Reavers! The Mafia! etc!) would use England as the field to settle their grudges.

** Lots of book covers like to play up the "Scarlet" in *A Study In Scarlet*:

Quite lurid, of course. But those covers never seem to mention that all of that blood is just from a nosebleed. Not quite as grand guignol, eh? And as Stangerson's death occurred offstage, as it were, this was about as clean a double homicide as you can have.

** Who was the person who posed as the old woman coming to reclaim the lost wedding ring? That's one heck of a loose end. Doyle deliberately left it so, having Hope refuse to give up his confidante. The 1968 BBC episode actually spends some time on this, and Holmes tracks down the actor whom Hope hired:

About as convincing as a Monty Python character… which does make Holmes seem rather the dunderhead for falling for it.

Others have speculated the accomplice was any famous name you can think of – Irene Adler, Moriarty, you name it. Too cute by half, of course. Let's just leave it as mystery cross-dresser: unknown.

** I should mention that I thought Peter Cushing was quite a good Holmes.

Peter O'Toole's voice work in the cartoon, however, felt very lackluster, almost phoned it in.

** "I keep a bull pup," Watson tells Holmes, when they discuss lodging together. The pup is never seen, and never mentioned again in the canon.

** Soon after moving in together, Watson says of Holmes: "On these occasions, I have noticed such a dreamy vacant expression in his eyes, that I might have suspected him of being addicted to the use of some narcotic, had not the temperance and cleanliness of his whole life forbidden such a notion."

Poor naïve Watson clearly had some learning to do here. When next we meet the Baker Street duo, Holmes is openly injecting drugs, and Watson chiding him for it.

** For someone who was too broke to afford his own lodgings, Holmes if fairly profligate with his money. He gives Constable Rance a half sovereign for his version of events, pays the Baker Street Irregulars more than once, sends transcontinental telegrams (obviously long ones, from the amount of information it had to contain), attends well-to-do-recitals, takes out advertisements in all the newspapers, pays several cab fares…

** Speaking of the newspapers, it is interesting to see both their stature and the role they play in society in 1880s England. All of the newspapers have multiple editions; one can place classified ads and not only know that they will be seen, but responded to within the day. When you lose an item of importance, your first instinct is to check the lost and found columns, confident someone would take out an ad here. Readership is already at such a level of sophistication papers have staked out political editorial positions to attract audiences. We'll see much more of this in future stories…

** Holmes tells Watson, "There's the scarlet thread of murder running through the colourless skein of life, and our duty is to unravel it, and isolate it, and expose every inch of it."

That's a pretty good mission statement.