

# The Bilge Pump

Vol. 01, No. 01 – June 2013

*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star*



From the Editors: Welcome to our first Publication of *The Bilge Pump*, which is designed to keep members of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star apprised of activities within the society. We hope to provide you details on Crew upcoming cruises, as well as monthly meeting information. Any member may submit articles, papers, or news worthy of our esteemed periodical.

Oh, and by the way, "Why the name The Bilge Pump, you ask?" Since our society is based on the ship "The Lone Star" from the story, "The Five Orange Pips..." It only seemed appropriate to name our newsletter for the mechanism which is at the very bottom of a ship (a Barque in this instance) where water collects and thus needs to be pumped out to keep the ship afloat or afoot for that matter.

Don, Steve, & Joe

## Annual Picnic

On Sunday, May 26, The Crew of the Barque Lone Star held its annual Picnic at the home of Don and Joyce Hobbs. It was a mini-Red Circle meeting because of the Hamburgers served to the 25 members and guests. Terri and David Haugen were special guests of honor.

They are the sparking plugs of the Sounds of the Baskervilles, the Seattle, WA Sherlockian group. They were on their way back to Seattle after spending nearly two months on holiday. They were returning from England and France and accompanied by our own Stu Nelan, who also happens to be the Webmaster of their society.

Authors Carole Nelson Douglas and T.D. McKinney held court during the afternoon, graciously answering questions about the book-publishing world and happily signing copies of their works.

For several members, it was their first time to see Don's collection of 11,000 Sherlockian related books.

Third Mate, Steve Mason and Helmsman, Joe Fay, conducted a short business meeting, finalizing the plans to attend the new Sherlock Holmes play down in Houston at the Alley Theatre, *Sherlock Holmes and the Suicide Club* by Jeffery Hatcher staged through June 23.

With a showing of hands, the group opted to attend the matinee performance on June 6. There will be a carpool leaving Dallas on that morning and some will return that evening and other will spend the night.

Another act of official business was the presentation of the Certificate of Deck Crew on the Barque Lone Star to the host Don Hobbs, BSI (Inspector Lestrade, 2012).

This is a wonderful piece of Sherlockiana and it features an English Penny, the Crew logo and officer signatures. The scuttlebutt has been very positive about the picnic.

For more information concerning our society, visit:

<http://barquelonestar.com/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

or

You can friend us on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>



David Haugen and Don Hobbs

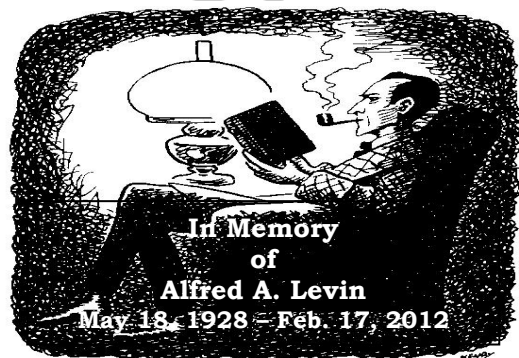
## In Memory of Fred Levin

Fred Levin, BSI (Abe Slaney) passed away in February 2012, after suffering a stroke the previous year. In the 90's, Fred and I shared a room at the Algonquin. Our vastly different hours of operation meshed perfectly.

I would be just getting in from the late night adventures at O'Lunney's and Fred would be just waking up. Fred was the first member of the Baker Street Irregulars to write on my behalf for a schilling of my own. He used to laugh and warn me that no one he wrote for received an investiture. Luckily, I broke that string and became an Irregular the month before Fred's death. Fred also collected foreign translations of the Canon. Once again, our vast collecting sensibilities meshed perfectly. Fred wanted one translation in every language and I wanted every translation in every language. When Fred's widow Sunnie contacted me and asked if I would help her price Fred's foreign collection, I was more than happy to do so.

After pricing everything as fairly as possible, Sunnie offered to sell the entire lot to me for a substantially reduced price, I accepted. I even drove to Chicago to pick them up. For my efforts, Sunnie gave me Fred's only Yiddish translation. It was not among the books I had priced for her. I tried for twenty-one years to find a Yiddish translation but never even got close. I created a Memorial bookplate and I am selling Fred's foreign language books. I incorporated two dozen books into my collection. I am offering the remaining books for what I priced them, \$10 - \$15 is the average price. It is a nice way to own part of a great Sherlockian's collection.

Anyone interested can email me at [221b@verizon.net](mailto:221b@verizon.net) and I will send an illustrated catalogue.



## Meeting Activities

"All Deerstalker, no Cattle"

### April, 2013

Opening Toast ..... Cindy Brown  
The NY Sherlock Holmes Weekend ..... Joe Fay  
Discussion on "The Gloria Scott" ..... Steve Mason  
So How Do I Earn a Cauliflower Ear ..... Joe Fay  
Closing Toast ..... Marland Henderson

### May, 2013

The May meeting was conducted on May 18 at McFadden's in Addison. The Opening toast was presented by Herb Linder. General announcements concerning the picnic and Cruise to Houston to view the Sherlock Holmes' play followed.

Steve Mason led a short discussion on "brain fever" as used by Doyle in many of the stories of the Canon.

Jack Pugh was honored by being the first Deck Mate invested in the Crew.

Cindy Brown provided the Crew with a historical view of King Charles I, from the "Musgrave Ritual."

The Map Clues from the "Ritual" were discussed, including a short learning lesson on geometry led by Joe Fay.

Pam Mason led the Closing Toast.

### July, 2013

The July meeting will be held on Sunday, July 7, at McFadden's in Addison.

The first 3 chapters of "A Study in Scarlet" will be discussed. A quiz on the reading will be conducted at the beginning of the meeting. Discussions on St. Bart's Hospital, as well as the Battle of Maiwand will be presented.

Each monthly meeting will also include appropriate toasts as well as general business, introductions, and general fellowship.

## Diogenes Club of Dallas to the Crew

Don Hobbs

The original Crew of the Barque LONE STAR was founded in 1972. It was the second Sherlock Holmes society in Dallas.

The first was VR - Victoria Regina founded by Dr. Charles Petty. Dr. Petty was the Dallas County Medical Examiner and sometime showed up at crime scenes wearing his Inverness Cape and Deerstalker. Because of the work schedule and other demands of the job, Dr. Petty eventually let the society die a peaceful death and no autopsy was required.

Margaret Petit, a resident of Arlington, Texas along with the support of John Bennett Shaw form the Crew. By the time, I started attending their meetings; they had been in and out of dry-dock several times. This was around 1988.

The main driving force then was Bill Beeson, BSI. Bill is a brilliant Sherlockian but many could only take small doses of Bill at any one time.

With that in mind, a small group of Crewmembers started holding secret meetings at my house in Flower Mound. Jim Webb or I was the Third Mate about every other year throughout the 1990's.

In 1995, the Diogenes Club of Dallas began on my patio with five bottle of red wine, shared between Jim Webb, Ron Bracken, John Kovak, Drew Dubenspeck, visiting Sherlockian from South Carolina and myself.

We chose the name Diogenes Club of Dallas because we did not speak about it to other members. At the time, several of the DCD members were doing consulting work and were free on Friday afternoons, so we started meeting nearly every Friday at the Londoner's previous location on Belt Line Road.

I had formed the Maniac Collectors, the first International Sherlock Holmes collectors' society and was the Third Mate of the Crew of the Barque LONE STAR.

When we applied and received our Scion Society status of the Baker Street Irregulars for the DCD, the members decided at that time that Jim Webb should run that society.

By now, many members of the Crew knew about the DCD but not able to attend our Friday afternoon sessions. Finally, Bill Beeson moved to Sherman, TX and the DCD came out of the closet.

The DCD was the first Sherlockian society to be a scion of the BSI and of the Franco-Midland Hardware Company, ran by Philip Weller in England.

When the DCD held a special meeting or had a group get together such as attending a play, we always call them a 'Cruise' of the Crew. Recently, there has been a re-launching of the Crew to further grow from the work done by Jim and other members of the DCD.

The DCD and Crew have merged their meetings into one meeting, which will be conducted under the Crew of the Barque Lone Star name and direction. They will continue to be on the first Sunday of the month at 1:00.

Steve Mason has been selected to be third mate. We have a new permanent home for our meeting, McFadden's on Belt Line Road in Addison, TX. Steve, with the help of Helmsman Joe Fay, is steering the Barque in a direction that will ensure calm sailing waters for years to come.

**Tip of the Deerstalker to Jim Webb for his years of dedication to both societies and for bringing so many people in the DFW area to the world of Sherlock Holmes.**



# Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place:

A conference exploring the universe of Sherlock Holmes August 9 – 11, 2013 – Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The conference will feature presentations by a stellar group of international Sherlockians, vendor tables, a silent auction of selected duplicate items from the Collections, an exhibit of rare and unique materials from the Collections, a dramatic performance by the Red-Throated League of the Norwegian Explorers, and the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections.

Confirmed Speakers Include:

Mattias Boström, B.S.I.

Michael Eckman

Marcus Geisser, B.S.I.

Don Hobbs, B.S.I.

Roger Johnson, B.S.I.

Leslie Klinger, B.S.I.

Guy Marriott, B.S.I.

Bill Mason

Marsha Pollak, A.S.H., B.S.I.

Chris Redmond, M.Bt., B.S.I.

Marina Stajic, A.S.H., B.S.I.

Jean Upton, A.S.H., B.S.I.

Panel discussion: "May I introduce Mr Holmes: connecting new audiences to the Canon."

For further information about this meeting, Please feel free to contact:

Richard J. Sveum, M.D., B.S.I. – President, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

[Richard.Sveum@parknicollet.com](mailto:Richard.Sveum@parknicollet.com)

[http://www.norwegianexplorers.org/2013\\_conference.html](http://www.norwegianexplorers.org/2013_conference.html)



## Who dunnit:

**Steve Mason**, Third Mate

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**Joe Fay**, Helmsman

[joef@HA.com](mailto:joef@HA.com)

**Don Hobbs, BSI**, Spiritual Advisor

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