

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 01, No. 06 - November, 2013

The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star



From the Editors: Along with the newsletter itself, we are attaching another pastiche written by Jack Brazos III and provided to us by his literary agent, Marland Henderson, titled THE CASE OF THE WRONG CABMAN. In this month, we have a wonderful article by Ron Brackin, as well as information on the upcoming BSI weekend.

Don, Steve, & Joe

November, 2013 Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, December 1st, at McFadden's in Addison.

Following Baring-Gould's Chronology of the Canon, "The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor," will be discussed. A quiz on the reading will be conducted at the beginning of the meeting.

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

Remember to bring books you no longer want for the book exchange !!



carbuncle and its tie to today's royalty (you'll have to ask her.)

We welcomed two new members, Ron Brackin and Brandi Boddie to the meetings (OK, Ron is one of the original members of the Crew, so it is a welcome back).

Ron gave an impromptu discussion concerning writing and the changes in the publication world.

We discussed why Watson would keep a portrait of Henry Ward Beecher in the sitting room, and their potential relationship.

We also discussed the relationship between the publication chronology of the canon and the consensus timeline of the stories themselves (when they occurred).

The monthly quiz covered the story of the month, "The Adventure of the Resident Patient." Brandi Boddie, carrying on the rookie luck tradition, won the quiz. (see page 9 for the "17 Steps to the Resident Patient" by Brad Keefauver).

Cindy Brown gave the final toast on the villains of the canon (see page 9). Additionally, Cindy was invested as the newest mate on the crew for her work with the society (see page 12).

A final reading from the Baker Street Journal on the titles from the Canon closed out the meeting (see page 2).

October, 2013 Meeting

The last meeting was held on November 3, with 16 members in attendance. The opening toast was presented by Colleen O'Connor, who toasted the blue



For more information concerning our society, visit:

<http://barquelonestar.com/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

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



On the Canonical Titles – Baker Street Journal, April, 1951

We cannot assign to John H. Watson' the attributes of imaginative genius in respect to his writing of the tales of Sherlock, Holmes, for the tales are true and not imagined.

There is in them, be it said, the genius of good reporting and of sound narration; and both as stories and as literature they will endure - but Watson himself would be the first to admit that they are factual and not figmentive.

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

It is almost enough to read the table of contents to feel the full impulse of the adventures. What boundless vistas


of romance each name opens up, and yet, chipped as they all are from some dramatic facet of the story that is told, how perfectly descriptive, in its own fashion, each title is!

A Study in Scarlet, The Sign of the Four, A Scandal in Bohemia, The Red-Headed League, The Five Orange Pips, The Man with the Twisted Lip, The Speckled Band, Silver Blaze, Yellow Face, The Musgrave Ritual, The Crooked Man, The Greek Interpreter... and of course...

The Hound of the Baskervilles, the Valley of Fear, and the Sussex Vampire.

By his titles alone would we know him. For here is Watson at his best – not only a great artist, a great employer of words, but a great imaginer as well.

July 1946: Identify by character or case, except where otherwise indicated

<p>1 (Violets). Violet Hunter figured prominently in a famous case? Can you identify which? _____ Name three other Violets in the Sacred Writings</p>	
<p>a) _____ b) _____ c) _____</p>	
<p>2. (Ropes) Bell-ropes were important as evidence in two cases. Name them.</p> <p>a) _____ b) _____</p>	
<p>3. (Lost weekends) Alcoholic overindulgence is not infrequently mentioned. Can you identify characters or cases from the following passages:</p> <p>a. "The craze for drink had seized him again, and he ordered me to pull up outside a gin palace." b. I could see a change in my uncle, however. He drank more than ever, and he was inclined for any sort of society." c. "... lived for some time in poverty with occasional short intervals of prosperity and finally, taking to drink, he died."</p>	<p>a. </p> <p>b.</p> <p>c.</p>
<p>4. (SPCA) Cruelty to animals is cited in connection with: a victim, a would-be murderer, and a suspect. Name the story which is identifiable from the following three passages:</p> <p>a. "There was a scandal about his drenching a dog and petroleum and setting it on fire – her ladyship's dog to make the matter worse..." b. "... a shocking story of how he had turned a cat loose in an aviary." c. On one occasion, being plagued by a little dog belonging to McPherson, he had caught the creature up and hurled it through the plate-glass window..."</p>	<p>a.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>c.</p>
<p>5. (Telegrams) Below (without the sender's name) are three telegrams. Name the story.</p> <p>a. "The old man is dead." b. "Have visited the Commercial Road and seen Dorak. Suave person, Bohemian, elderly. Keeps large general store." c. "Will come without fail tonight and bring new sparking plugs."</p>	<p>a.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>c.</p>
<p>6. (Faces) Name the story.</p> <p>a. "My God, shall I ever forget their faces when they saw who was in the boat that was closing in on them?" b. "The face which she turned towards us was of the strangest livid tint, and the features were absolutely devoid of any expression." c. Looking straight at me and suspended, as it were, in the air, for all beneath was in shadow, there hung a face .. the very face of our companion..."</p>	<p>a.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>c.</p>
<p>7. (Sports) Name the story.</p> <p>a. "...arrived at the Brambletye on the very day of the crime. He came on the pretence of playing golf." b. Is there good fishing in that part of Berkshire?"</p>	<p>a.</p> <p>b.</p>

Answers in next month's newsletter

The 2014 BSI Weekend

<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html>

Sherlock Holmes's birthday is celebrated every January in New York City. The Weekend is always fun, filled with formal and informal opportunities for Sherlockians new and old to gather for a common purpose. With the exception of the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars, the events are open to all Sherlockians.

This site has the [official Schedule](#), information on [Accommodations](#), and details on other events open to the public including the [Lecture](#) and the [Merchant's Room](#).

Advance reservations are needed for some events; see the Reservations Form below for due dates.

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

- **ASH Wednesday**
The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes kick off the weekend with a dinner, for those who are already in the city.
6:30 p.m. Dinner at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street)
Cost: Attendees pay their own checks

Thursday, January 16, 2014

- **The BSI Distinguished Speaker Lecture**
This year's Distinguished Speaker is Dr. James O'Brien, emeritus professor at Missouri State University and author of Edgar Award winning *The Scientific Sherlock Holmes* (2013).
6:15 p.m. BSI Distinguished Speaker Lecture on the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club at 40 West 45th Street ([map](#))
Cost: \$11.00 per ticket; advance purchase only (no sales at the door).

- **Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet Charity Ball**
The Baker Street Babes present a charity ball to benefit the Wounded Warriors Project.
8:00 p.m. The Player's Club at 16 Gramercy Park South, NY 10003
Cost: \$35.00
Open to all Sherlockians and their friends. There will be a quiz, costume competition, raffle, and military-themed Sherlockian toasts. Visit the Baker Street Babes website for ticketing details.

Friday, January 17, 2014

- **Open House - Mysterious Bookshop**
11:00 a.m. Otto Penzler opens the Mysterious Bookshop ([map](#)) to Sherlockians; open until 5:00 p.m. Cost: Free
- **The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon**
12:00 noon Lunch and entertainment at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant
Cost: \$47.00 for salmon or chicken; \$52.00 for prime rib
Contact Susan Rice for an announcement; send checks to her at 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014. Space is limited; reserve early.
- **The Baker Street Irregulars Dinner**
6:00 p.m. The BSI dinner at the Yale Club - invitation only

- **The Gaslight Gala**
6:30 p.m. The Gaslight Gala (dinner and entertainment) - open to all Sherlockians and their friends
Cost: Not available.
Details available from Becky Robare (111 North 9th Street #300, Philadelphia, PA 10107 (917-817-1608) robareowl@gmail.com

Saturday, January 18, 2014

- **The Merchants Room**
Open to the public. A wide variety of Sherlockiana will be offered for sale in the Vanderbilt Suite on the second floor of the Roosevelt Hotel
9:00 a.m. Doors open; runs until 12:00 noon
See the BSI Weekend Merchandise page for more details.

- **The Beacon Society**
10:00 a.m. The Beacon Society's annual meeting and Beacon Award presentation in the York Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 4th Street). Cost: Free
Contact Susan Diamond for information about the meeting or the Beacon Society.

- **The Baker Street Irregulars Annual Reception**
Open to all Sherlockians and their friends. Hors d'oeuvres and open bar. Includes an auction of rare Sherlockiana for the Dr. John H. Watson Fund.
1:30 p.m. Doors open at The Yale Club 2nd floor Lounge (50 Vanderbilt Avenue,
Cost: \$69.00 in advance; \$79.00 after Nov. 29 or at the door

- **The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner**
Details not yet available.

Sunday, January 19, 2014

- **The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes - informal brunch**
11:30 a.m. Brunch at Harley's Smoke Shack and BBQ at 356 West 44th Street Cost: \$20.00
Open to all, but an e-mail RSVP is required to insure space. No advance payment needed - you will pay (cash or check only) at the door. Please e-mail Lyndsay Faye at lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com.



In the Wake of the *Lone Star*

by Ronald E. Brackin

He took an orange from the cupboard, and tearing it to pieces, he squeezed out the pips upon the table. Of these he took five, and thrust them into an envelope. On the inside of the flap he wrote 'S.H. for J.C.' then he sealed it and addressed it to "Captain James Calhoun, Barque Lone Star, Savannah, Georgia.

It is considerably more difficult to prove that something is not than that something is.

One can always turn up evidence of something's existence, if only the subjective testimony of an eyewitness. Hence, the endless sightings of Nessie, Sasquach and intergalactic thingummies.

Nevertheless, the nonexistent must have its advocate as well. Case in point: the barque *Lone Star*.

Contrary to the Canonical testimony and generally held Sherlockian scholarship, I maintain that the *Lone Star* is an illusion, a literary agent's fantasy, or, at best, an attempt by the honourable Dr John H. Watson to conceal the true identity of an infamous vessel for reasons that he has heretofore been unwilling to reveal.

Evidence to the contrary

Until now, the unchallenged scholastic investigation of the *Lone Star* has been that of Richard W. Clarke¹ citing an item in "the Georgia register" which identifies the owners of the barque to be the "Johannsen brothers of Savannah".

Canonical evidence was cited by Holmes out of "Lloyds registers and the files of old papers", which William S. Baring-Gould clarifies as Lloyds Register of Shipping.² An explanatory note in *The Oxford Sherlock Holmes* concerning this document suggests two possible vessels: one an iron screw steamer, the other a brigantine built in 1864.³

The name of the alleged owners is indeed consistent with the Canonical description of the crew as being composed of "Finns and Germans", except, of course, for the dastardly Captain James Calhoun and his two mates – native Americans, all.

The vessel was presumed sunk in 1887 "somewhere far out in the Atlantic", a victim of one of the exceptionally violent "equinoctial gales" that plagued the area that year. Its demise was Canonically confirmed by Watson, according to a report concerning a recovered sternpost bearing the carved letters, "L.S."

Rolfe Boswell considers this a bit suspicious, since "a ship's stern-post ordinarily bears the craft's name, not her initials."⁴

This being the sole body of evidence of the barque's existence, it remained for someone to rummage about on the other side of the Pond for some trace of either the Johannsen brothers or their vessel in Savannah, Georgia.

The quest begins

Founded on Thursday, February 12, 1773 by James Oglethorpe, Savannah was the state's first colonial settlement and the capital of the Georgia colony throughout the Revolutionary War.

In 1819, the *S.S. Savannah* became the first steamship to cross an ocean, sailing from Savannah to Liverpool.

Linked to the Atlantic Ocean by a five-fathom channel, Savannah is the chief trading centre for a broad farming region and a major Southern port, boasting one of the world's most modern systems of docks and warehouses.

This being the case, the Georgia Ports Authority seemed a logical place to begin my search.

"Never heard of a Georgia register," a spokesman said. "Have you checked with the U.S. Coast Guard?"

"The What?" responded the Coast Guard. "We don't have it. You should check with the Army Corps of Engineers."

"Nope," said the engineers. "But you might try Rusty Fleetwood out on Tybee Island. He's written a lot of books about Savannah shipping."

An e-mail to Rusty.

"Sorry to report I have nothing on the *Lone Star*" was the discouraging reply from Tybee Island.

Georgia Department of Transportation. No Georgia register. No barque *Lone Star*.

Not a little frustrated, I reasoned that where local record keepers appeared lax, federal historians would surely be more efficient. To Washington then.

The National Archives. The maritime area of the Smithsonian Institute's National History Museum. The Library of Congress. The Naval History Centre. The Federal Maritime Commission.

Disappointments all.

One sympathetic federal worker directed me across the Potomac to the Mariner's Museum in neighbouring Newport News, Virginia. But the reply was the same: "We have no record of a barque by that name".

Determined to upend every possible stone, I scanned the Internet web sites in Finland. But, looking for a Johannsen in Finland is not unlike looking for a Smith in Manhattan. It was a haystack bristling with needles.

I returned to Georgia to run down my final two leads.

But the Museum of Ships of the Sea, reputed to know everything worth knowing about, well, ships of the sea, knew nothing of the barque *Lone Star*.

Quest abandoned

The Georgia Historical Society Library was my last hope.

If it happened in Savannah, and anybody wrote it down for any reason, it was dutifully recorded, catalogued, cross-indexed and stored at 501 Whitaker Street.

Now let's see, if the Johannsen brothers lived here, they would undoubtedly appear in the census records. Right?

Wrong. There were no Johannsens. Nor were the brothers listed in the city directory at any time after 1858. Nothing in the Naturalization/Immigration Index between 1804 and 1910. Not even a Johannsen branch in the genealogy records.

County history? Marriage Records? Cemetery Records? Wills? Passenger List Index? Military Registers? Men of Mark? Dictionary of Georgia Biography? History of Savannah? An unpublished manuscript perhaps.

Not a jot or tittle.

Could there be any other record, any publication where the Johannsen brothers or the *Lone Star* might yet appear to give credence to the barque's authenticity?

Yes, of course, the newspapers! I didn't expect front page stories, but certainly there would be a mention of cargo, passenger, docking, or departure information. Perhaps even a lost-at-sea notice, a tear or testament to the brave fathers, sons and brothers who perished in that terrible equinoctial gale.

Eureka! *Lone Stars* there were indeed in Savannah ... but none, I'm afraid, that would stand even the most cursory Canonical examination.

The first appeared under the heading of "Boating and Boats", September 13, 1855 and reads as follows:

The first Regatta of the New Club came off Tuesday at Vernonburg, White Bluff. A considerable company was gathered. Several ladies of the neighborhood graced the occasion by their presence. The following boats entered the race: First class, 20 feet and over; ANNA C., John Lama; TARGET, R.F. Aikin. Second Class, under 20 feet: NIMROD JR., W.H. Gladding; NIMROD WILDFIRE, W.F. Holland; LONE STAR, J. Acosta ... A suit of beautiful colors was awarded to each winner. The company partook of a bountiful repast under the trees after which The Chatham Regatta Club was organized.

The second, under the heading of "Skirmishes", dated December 10, 1862, read:

Baton Rouge. Yesterday evening, about 4 o'clock, the steamer LONE STAR, an abolition boat from New Orleans, landed about two miles below Plaquemine, for sugar. Our cavalry attacked her when she crossed the river to this side, and was again attacked by Capt. Stockdale's cavalry, who captured her and her crew, and burned the boat.

Finally, listed among "Accidents & Disasters", February 1, 1868:

The sloop LONE STAR sailed from this port for Hilton Head on last Wednesday, with a Captain and crew, some ten in all. Yesterday the bark UKRAINE, Captain Malcher, arrived at this port, and reports that, twenty-five miles southeast of Tybee light, he came across a sloop called LONE STAR, with three negroes aboard. The sloop was rudderless and at the mercy of the high wind and sea. The Captain took the three negroes aboard his ship and brought them to this port, leaving the sloop abandoned.

And here, alongside the abandoned sloop, *Lone Star*, my search, too, is abandoned.

I do not dispute Lloyds esteemed register.

If, however, either of the worthy vessels in its logs ever dropped anchor in Savannah, Georgia, much less resided there, it must have been in the dead of night, with running lights extinguished and all hands securely gagged. Neither could have landed, unloaded stores, or taken on supplies. For not one in that charming old city marked their coming or going.

Surmisings

Yet, the vessel could be neither illusion nor fantasy, for the fact remains that three men were dead. The “discoloured, blue-tinted paper” still bears its “enigmatical notices”. And the route of Holmes’ logic never ran truer.

The only conclusion, then, is that the good doctor published the wrong name, either as the result of one of his occasional memory lapses, as when he forgot the exotic Abbas Parva tragedy in *VEIL*, or as an intentional cover-up.

Neither is uncommon in the Canon.

If the latter, however, why would Watson take pains to conceal the identity of an infamous scoundrel like Captain James Calhoun? Of course, only the doctor can say for certain, but we are at liberty to speculate.

William Smith⁵ postulates that 19-year-old Watson travelled to America. While there, in 1861, he joined Company I of the 29th Pennsylvania Volunteers, as many good abolitionists did. Both the names of John H. Watson and John M. Murray, the orderly who Watson credited in *STUD* with saving his life, appear on the regimental roster.

At Gettysburg, Calhoun, fighting for the Confederacy, could have fired his weapon, the ball striking Watson on the shoulder.

Charging through the smoke, Calhoun came upon the wounded man, and met his eyes.

“Run ‘im through, Calhoun, and let’s go,” shouted a wild-eyed young comrade. “Jim, what’s the matter with ye?”

Calhoun broke eye contact with the square-jawed corporal, shrugged his heavy shoulders, cocked his cap to one side and laughed at his friend. He glanced once more at the soldier in blue, thrust his bayonet forward, and ran on, leaving the lad to live or die as Providence willed.

Years later, in England, when Holmes linked the orange pips to the Ku Klux Klan and the name of James Calhoun, and after reports of the shipwreck, Watson’s keen sense of fairness demanded that he repay an old debt – even if beyond the grave – by concealing the man’s final bloody acts.

Or perhaps the doctor was preserving family honour after discovering a heretofore link between his drunken elder brother and the nefarious Calhoun. Or maybe the captain had been involved in a youthful indiscretion in America in company of one of Watson’s wives, prior to or after Mary Morstan.

Or might there have been, as we see all too often in the Tales, sordid events that proceeded from financial irresponsibility of a fondness for the turf – both weak links in John Watson’s mail.

Finally, there is his “experience of women which extends over many nations and three separate continents (SIGN)”. Mightn’t one of the young ladies have had a brother who, though a rascal, would bring shame upon her if it were known that he went to his watery grave, his hands glistening with innocent blood?

While anything is possible, only the sea – and perhaps John H. Watson – know the truth.

1. Clarke, Richard W., “On the Nomenclature of Watson’s Ships”, *Baker Street Journal*, Apr. 1946.
2. Baring-Gould, William S., *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, Volume I, “The Five Orange Pips”, p.403, note 41.
3. Edwards, Owen Dudley, gen. ed., *The Oxford Sherlock Holmes*, “The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes”, Oxford, New York, Oxford University Press, 1993.
4. Boswell, Rolfe, “A Connecticut Yankee in Support of Sir Arthur”, *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, Volume 1, “The Five Orange Pipe”, p.403, note 43.
5. Baring-Gould, *ibid*, p.69, William Smith, *You Have Been In Gettysburg, I Perceive*.

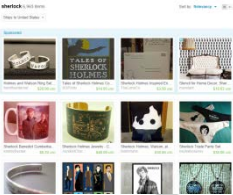
The Sherlock Holmes Journal, Vol 23 No 3 (Ninetieth Issue) Winter 1997, published by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

From the Baker Street Journal, April, 1947: Businesses in the Sacred Writings (Answers)

Listed below are certain businesses or professional firms which are to be found in the Writings. Match the type of enterprise in which these businesses engaged. Five points for each correct answer. 80 rates you as Sherlockian fan, 90 as Sherlockian scholar, 100 as Sherlockian savant.

Business		Enterprise	
1.	Allan Brothers	Solicitor Firm	7
2.	Mawson & Williams	Clothier (Manufacturer)	12
3.	Brickfall & Amberley	Stockbroker's Firm	2
4.	Dawson & Neligan	Dog Dealers	16
5.	Ferguson and Muirhead	Banking Firm	9
6.	Gelder & Company	Coal Owners	15
7.	Graham & McFarlane	Claret Importers	19
8.	Harding Brothers	House Agents	10
9.	Holder & Stevenson	West Country Bankers	4
10.	Holloway & Steele	Engineering Firm	18
11.	Madame Lesuier	Tea Brokers	5
12.	Marx & Co.	Land Agents	1
13.	Morton & Kennedy	Morticians	17
14.	Morrison, Morrison, & Dodd	Gift Shop	8
15.	Rae & Sturmash	Westminster Electricians	13
16.	Ross & Mangles	Artistic Materials Manufacturers	3
17.	Stimson & Company	Milliner (Hatmaker)	11
18.	Venner & Matheson	Machinery Assessors	14
19.	Westhouse & Marbank	Plaster Bust Manufacturer	6

QUIRKY SHERLOCKIAN ITEMS FOR CHRISTMAS ?



Thanks to Brenda Rossini for this...

If you're interested in a quirky item,

at www.etsy.com

they feature charming purses, cups, pens, bookmarks with Sherlockian themes.

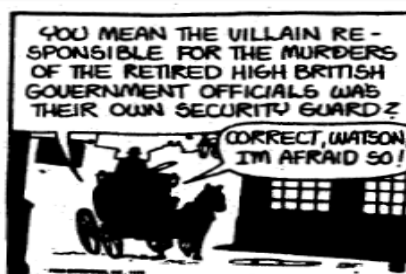
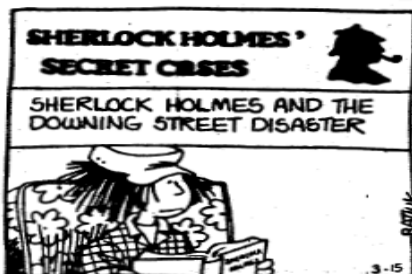
There is even a book purse with a Sherlock Holmes theme...

www.NovelCreations.etsy.com

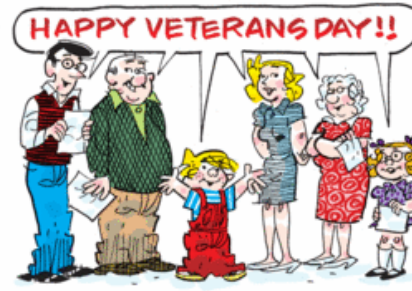


I looked... a simple search of Sherlock on the website showed over 6,900 Sherlockian items for sale...

FUNKY WINKERBEAN



You can find Sherlock Everywhere... even in a stretch...



So how does this fit in with Sherlock....

Look at the first frame of this comic... The quote is attributed to Elmer Davis...

Elmer Davis (January 13, 1890 – May 18, 1958) was a well-known news reporter, author, the Director of the United States Office of War Information during World War II and a Peabody Award recipient.

... and in February 1934, he wrote the Constitution and Buy-Laws for the Baker Street Irregulars...

CONSTITUTION OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS

ARTICLE I: The name of this society shall be the Baker Street Irregulars.

ARTICLE II: Its purpose shall be the study of the Sacred Writings.

ARTICLE III: All persons shall be eligible for membership who pass an examination in the Sacred Writings set by officers of the society, and who are considered otherwise suitable.

ARTICLE IV: The offices shall be: a Gasogene, a Tantalus, and a Commissionaire. The duties of the Gasogene shall be those commonly performed by a President. The duties of the Tantalus shall be those commonly performed by a Secretary. The duties of the Commissionaire shall be to telephone down for ice, White Rock, and whatever else may be required and available; to conduct all negotiations with waiters; and to assess the members pro rata for the cost of same.

BUY LAWS

- 1) An annual meeting shall be held on January 6th, at which those toasts shall be drunk which were published in the Saturday Review of January 27th, 1934; after which the members shall drink at will.
- 2) The current round shall be bought by any member who fails to identify, by title of story and context, any quotation from the Sacred Writings submitted by any other member.
 - o Qualification A.—If two or more members fail so to identify, a round shall be bought by each of those so failing.
 - o Qualification B.—If the submitter of the quotation, upon challenge, fails to identify it correctly, he shall buy the round.
- 3) Special meetings may be called at any time or any place by any one of three members, two of whom shall constitute a quorum.
 - o Qualification A.—If said two are of opposite sexes, they shall use care in select-ing the place of meeting, to avoid misinterpretation (or interpretation, either, for that matter).
 - o Qualification B.—If such two persons of opposite sexes be clients of the Personal Column of the Saturday Review, the foregoing does not apply; such persons being presumed to let their consciences be their guides.
- 4) All other business shall be left for the monthly meeting.
- 5) There shall be no monthly meeting.

Thanks to our member, Stu Nelan, for finding the comic strip with Mr. Davis' quote...

A TOAST TO THE BAD GUYS OF MERRY OLE ENGLAND

Cindy Brown

I raise my glass in celebration today, for all those unsavory characters
Who make reading so worthwhile.

To the likes of Dr. Grimsby Roylott and his deadly swamp adder,
Who trained the snake to slither down ropes and drink milk from a round platter.

To the robust Colonel Sebastian Moren who brought his sharp shooting skills, and his habit of cheating at cards back to England;
just in time to bring Holmes out of his long and painful absence.

I raise my glass to Maria Gibson, the hot blooded Brazilian wife who died at Thor Bridge and made us absolutely cheer for the
innocent governess, when she overcame her strife.

To Professor Moriarty who's Final Problem wasn't really final at all, thank Heaven.

And to my personal favorite Mr. Charles Augustus Milverton, the best ever blackmailer, I simply wanted to stand up and cheer
when he was shot dead in his study by a woman who no longer felt fear.

Where would we be, without these colorful characters in the stories of the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Members of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star, please raise your glasses in a toast to the Villains of the Canon.

17 Steps to the "Adventure of the Resident Patient"

Starting this month, we will include articles authored by Brad Keefauver, Peoria Sherlock (friends of our Mr. Hobbs), who developed discussion points for each of the 60 stories.

WATSON BECOMES A BIT JADED

"For in those cases in which Holmes has performed some tour de force of analytical reasoning, and has demonstrated the value of his peculiar methods of investigation, the facts themselves have often been so slight or so commonplace that I could not feel justified in laying them before the public. On the other hand, it has frequently happened that he has been concerned in some research where the facts have been of the most remarkable and dramatic character, but where the share which he has himself taken in determining their causes has been less pronounced than I, as his biographer, could wish. The small matter which I have chronicled under the heading of "A Study in Scarlet," and that other later one connected with the loss of the Gloria Scott, may serve as examples of this Scylla and Charybdis which are forever threatening the historian."

Okay, that's one long and complicated quote.

Correct me if I'm wrong here, but isn't Watson saying that "A Study in Scarlet" was a case where the facts were commonplace or slight? Were American frontiersmen using fifty-fifty poison pills on gal-stealing bigamists every day in

Victorian London? Or is Watson thinking less of his initial work as his involvement with Holmes's cases went on?

THE WEB OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

"He loved to lie in the very centre of five millions of people, with his filaments stretching out and running through them, responsive to every little rumour or suspicion of unsolved crime."

Sounds a bit like Moriarty, doesn't it? Moriarty, however, had a vast organization behind him. What are Holmes's "filaments" that bring him these little rumors and suspicions of unsolved crime?

WATSON GETS PASSIONATE

"You were recalling the incidents of Beecher's career. I was well aware that you could not do this without thinking of the mission which he undertook on behalf of the North at the time of the Civil War, for I remember you expressing your passionate indignation at the way in which he was received by the more turbulent of our people."



Henry Ward Beecher came to London in 1863 to help gain English support for the Northern cause in the Civil War. Reading of what happened during Beecher's speaking engagements at that time will shatter any stereotypes an American might hold of reserved and ultra-civilized Englishmen, and Watson was plainly ashamed of his "more turbulent" countrymen. Beecher's troubles are over twenty years in the past at the time of "Resident Patient," however . . . so why was Watson so passionate about it at this later date? Was a young Watson actually present for one of Beecher's speeches? Why else would he get so passionate about something so long ago?

A PERFORMANCE WE'D ALL PAY TO SEE

Despite the fact Watson claims everyone is out of town, when he and Holmes decide to take a stroll, London seems quite the happening place.

"For three hours we strolled about together, watching the ever-changing kaleidoscope of life as it ebbs and flows through Fleet Street and the Strand. His characteristic talk, with its keen observance of detail and subtle power of inference, held me amused and enthralled."

Who wouldn't want to spend three hours with Holmes as he rambled off the details of passers-by on London's busy streets? But wouldn't people notice that these two men were glancing at them and talking about them? How dangerous might that have been in urban London?

THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE

When Holmes identifies Trevelyan's brougham as belonging to a doctor, Watson knows it is from "the nature and state of the various medical instruments in the wicker basket which hung in the lamp-light inside the brougham."

One would think that such portable and better known medical instruments as stethoscopes, syringes, and scalpels could be carried in the traditional doctor's bag. What medical instruments would be big enough and commonly used enough that Trevelyan would carry them around in a wicker basket?

THE DRIVERLESS CARRIAGE

Holmes and Watson encounter Trevelyan's brougham sitting outside 221 Baker Street with medical tools clearly visible inside. Yet they never mention a the carriage's driver until Trevelyan himself says something.

Where was the coachman? Wouldn't it be a little strange for Holmes to be loudly making deductions about their visitor when the visitor's driver was sitting right there? Where might he have been? In taking tea with Mrs. Hudson? Down the block a bit chatting up some street wench? Would the contents of the carriage have been safe on a London street at that hour? Not all street urchins wound up in the Irregulars after all . . .

THE COMMENT ABOUT THE CANDLE

Holmes deduces that Trevelyan hasn't been waiting long due to the state of the candle upon the side-table. Sounds

good on the surface, but it would also mean that either a.) Mrs. Hudson started each evening with fresh candles throughout the house, or b.) Holmes observed and remembered the current length of every candle in his abode. Which was the case, or are there other options? And didn't they have gas lighting in 221B at that time?

VENTURE CAPITALISTS OF THE MEDICAL TRADE

"This was the strange proposal, Mr. Holmes, with which the man Blessington approached me," Trevelyan states. But after hearing the doctor's story of his promising career being held up for lack of funding, Blessington's offer to set him up in a practice for a share of the profits seems like the perfect solution. Such investments were surely common in other businesses at the time. Why should it seem so strange in the medical field? Was the mixture of business and medicine something uncommon then that we've grown accustomed to in the modern day?

OH, PERCY'S DELICATE EARS!

"'Who has been in my room?' he cried.

"'No one,' said I.

"'It's a lie!' he yelled. 'Come up and look!'

"I passed over the grossness of his language, as he seemed half out of his mind with fear," Trevelyan comments on the previous exchange. What was so "gross" about Blessington's language? No obvious coarse words there, are there? Or was the accusation of lying what Percy considered so gross?

THE LONG WALK HOME

"A minute later we were in the street and walking for home. We had crossed Oxford Street and were halfway down Harley Street before I could get a word from my companion."

It took something under a quarter of an hour to ride in a carriage to 403 Brook Street. It's now probably between eleven and midnight. Holmes and Watson have already been out for one long walk earlier in the evening. Why didn't they take a cab? How long would the walk home have taken them? Would there have been many people out on the streets at that time of night on their route?

THE ADVENTURE OF THE CATALEPTIC DETECTIVE

"And the catalepsy?" Watson asks.

"A fraudulent imitation, Watson, though I should hardly dare to hint as much to our specialist. It is a very easy complaint to imitate. I have done it myself."

We've seen Holmes pretend to pass out in "Reigate Squires" and seen the use he had for such an act. But catalepsy is a fairly specific sort of losing consciousness involved muscular rigidity -- why would Holmes need to play-act that specific ailment instead of just a general, all-purpose faint? Was he just varying his repertoire, or would there be a situation where just that ailment was called for?



THE PROPHECY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

"But we may sleep on it now, for I shall be surprised if we do not hear something further from Brook Street in the morning," Holmes says after visiting Blessington. He knows someone wanted something in Blessington's room, probably Blessington himself. But when he says "hear something further," does he mean he expects a change of heart from the less-than-forthcoming resident patient, or does Holmes actually know a break-in will occur before dawn? And if the latter, did he suspect Blessington's criminal nature and leave him to his fate?

LANNER, SOCIOLOGIST AND SCOTLAND YARDMAN

"It's about five in the morning, you know, that suicides are most common," Inspector Lanner says. Any truth to this, or is he just talking off the top of his head? (And from his own experience or from some statistics he'd read?) Late, late at night, perhaps, but by five a.m., wouldn't even the most ambitious suicide be tired enough to put it off until tomorrow?

ALL THE PRISON RELEASE NEWS

"No doubt the day on which he was so perturbed was the day when he had seen of their release in the newspapers."

Were all the latest prison releases in the papers of the day? While the release of the aging Worthingdon bank gang might be big news in Worthingdon, would it have rated a mention in the London papers that Blessington subscribed to?

THE WATERY SWORD OF JUSTICE STRIKES AGAIN!

"I have no doubt, Inspector," Holmes observes, "that you will see that, though that shield may fail to guard, the sword of justice is still there to avenge."

Once more Sherlock Holmes speaks of vengeance, and once more the villains meet a mysterious death at sea, just like in "Five Orange Pips." Coincidence? How common were shipwrecks in those days? Enough that we might expect it to occur this often?

MORE GREAT DETECTIVE WORK BY VILLAINS

How did the newly released convicts find their fellow bank robber? He had changed his name from Sutton to Blessington and moved into a part of London one would never expect an ex-robber to be in. Blessington only went out at one point during the day, and if they had seen him on the street (by some extremely unlikely chance), wouldn't they have just grabbed him there?

Or at least have known that was the time he took his walks? The gang's discovery of Blessington is practically more amazing than Holmes's deductions at the end of the case. How did they pull it off?

THAT'S A DEAL ANY CROOK WOULD GO FOR

Sutton is said to be the worst of the Worthingdon bank gang. He turns informant on the rest, and is, apparently, set free for testifying against them. From the money he had to invest in Trevelyan's career, one would think that Sutton still had the seven thousand pounds the gang stole. Wouldn't the money be the first thing Scotland Yard would have wanted Sutton to tell them about?

Who dunnit:



Third Mate

Steve Mason
mason.steve@epa.gov

Helmsman

Joe Fay
joef@HA.com

Spiritual Advisors

Don Hobbs, BSI
221b@verizon.net

Secretaries

Jim Webb
jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com

Cindy Brown
Pam Mason



By the Third Mate and Helmsman of the Barque Lone Star to

Cindy Brown

By virtue of all powers, and reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage, and exemplary Conduct, we do hereby affirm and appoint you to

Deck Crew

on the Barque Lone Star

With this investiture, we hereby bestow upon you all privileges and responsibilities of an appointed member of the Crew, an official scion of the Baker Street Irregulars. You may therefore carefully and diligently discharge any such Sherlockian duties as We may hereafter from time to time request of you.

*Stephen Mason
Third Mate, Crew of the Barque Lone Star*

Date

*Joe Fay
Helmsman, Crew of the Barque Lone Star*



BARQUE LONE STAR