

# The Bilge Pump

Vol. 01, No. 07 - December, 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 SITTING CORPSE. In this month, we will also discuss the Beacon Society, as well as 2 PBS shows for Sherlockians.

Don, Steve, & Joe

## January 5 Meeting

### **BIG NEWS !!!!**

The next meeting (and future meetings) will be held on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, at **LA MADELINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE**, in Addison. The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

Following Baring-Gould's **Chronology of the Canon, "The Adventure of the Second Stain,"** will be discussed (see page 6). A quiz on the reading will be conducted at the beginning of the meeting.

We will also have a presentation on the peerage system in Great Britain.

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

## December, 2013 Meeting

The last meeting was held on December 1, with 16 members in attendance. The opening toast was presented by Steve Mason, who toasted Don Hobbs for being gainfully employed once again, and to his father, Rex Mason, who introduced Sherlock Holmes to Steve, as well as writing a pastiche just before passing away last month. Additionally, the society held a special good wishes and quick recovery toast to their own member, James Moriarty, who recently underwent surgery.

The monthly quiz covered the story of the month, "The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor." Ron Brackin won the race, with Bryan Woolley placing.

Ron also had a show and tell on souvenirs from a great uncle who gold mined in New Mexico and Arizona.

Dean Clark suggested holding a summer party to celebrate Dr. Watson's birthday. All agreed this was a fun idea. He suggested we have evening of one act radio plays. Dean and Steve have written radio plays which we could use for our first party.

Brenda Hutchinson provided the Christmas card list for those who signed up, as well as bringing a tin of wonderful Christmas cookies in a Victorian container.

Brian Wooley discussed his participation in a panel discussion at Half Price Books to commemorate the assassination of President Kennedy. His book which was originally published in 1981, has been re-printed is called November 22. The new edition includes a letter from Stanley Marcus to Brian Wooley, extolling Brian's writing.

We discussed how many adventures/cases Holmes and Watson were involved in throughout their career (good estimate is around 1,650 cases).

We also discussed the Beacon Society and its work with teachers (see page 3).

Don Hobbs was given the honor of being the editor of the BSI International Series.

We invested Jim Webb, one of our founders, as a full-fledged mate for all of his past work with both societies (see page 13).

Marland Henderson gave the final toast to Sherlock's hunting crop (see page 2).

A final reading from the Baker Street Journal on "Sherlock the Absolute" closed out the meeting (see page 11).



For more information concerning our society, visit:

<http://barquelonestar.com/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: [@barquelonestar](https://twitter.com/barquelonestar)

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



## THE TOAST

### The Hunting Crop --- Sherlock's FAVORITE WEAPON

Sherlock Holmes possessed a considerable degree of natural athleticism, and was adept at several athletic skills. Early on, Dr. Watson tells us of his friend's ability as a Singlestick player, Boxer and Swordsman. Only the last of these accomplishments suggests a purely recreational motive on Holmes's part, since there is no later reference to his swordsmanship.

Holmes's generally utilitarian attitude toward sports is clearly indicated by the fact that he chose to sacrifice the delicate and exacting art of fencing to the comparatively crude singlestick and boxing. There is no reason to believe that Holmes ever touched a foil or epee after his early acquaintance with Watson. He later developed skills in Baritsu.

His Singlestick work gave him an invaluable background for wielding a Hunting Crop, which Watson declares was his Favorite Weapon, in *The Adventure of the Six Napoleons*. It is Holmes's skill as a boxer which Watson emphasizes most. This may be partly to a British and American predilection for boxing among the more combative sports. There is no doubt that Holmes was an accomplished performer in the ring. However, his youthful practice

with the Singlestick made the Cane or Hunting Crop an unusually formidable weapon in his hands.

It is understandable that the Hunting Crop was his favorite, for when available, it spared him the bruised knuckles that resulted from fists alone and the exhausting hand-to-hand struggles like those in *A Study in Scarlet* and "The Reigate Squires." Moreover, a Hunting Crop could be used against a variety of opponents like the Swamp Adder in *The Speckled Band* where bare hands would hardly suffice, and against ruffians armed with bludgeons.

Holmes kept his Hunting Crop handy in his rooms and found it very effective in *The Red-Headed League*.

And so today, Please lift your glasses to the favorite weapon of Sherlock Holmes -- The Hunting Crop!

Information contained in this toast delivered to the Crew of the Barque Lone Star on 12/1/13 was assembled, compiled and edited from a number of original sources by Marland Henderson and used for educational and instructional purposes and not for commercial purposes.

### Sherlock's Favorite Weapon



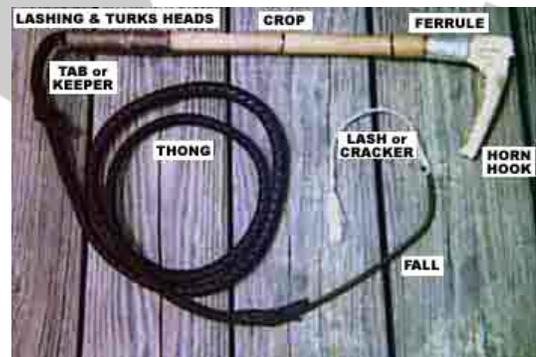
Here is an action shot of [Laurence Oliphant](#) using a hunting crop to fight samurai:



Mentioned in the adventure of *The Six Napoleons*:

***"I was not surprised when Holmes suggested that I should take my revolver with me. He had himself picked up the loaded hunting-crop which was his favourite weapon."*** [SIXN]

This is a hunting crop (really more of a whip, a 'crop' would have a little leather loop instead of the lengthy thong):



Used by horsemen, the hooked handle is meant for opening gates without having to dismount. "Loading" refers to the practice of filling a weapon with lead to increase its bludgeoning potential..

### SOURCE of Information:

<http://sherlockianinformation.tumblr.com/post/8163895822/sherlocks-favorite-weapon>

## Join THE BEACON SOCIETY

A not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization

We provide resources for bringing the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life in the classroom in order to engage young people in the pleasure of reading.

There are no membership dues. We gratefully accept donations to fund our work. See our website at [www.BeaconSociety.com](http://www.BeaconSociety.com) for information on how to donate. (Credit cards are welcome via PayPal.)

The Beacon Society scion serves as a link to all scions of the Baker Street Irregulars and to teachers, librarians, and others working with young people.



### We give GRANTS and an AWARD each year

- A JAN STAUBER GRANT provides up to \$500 to assist in developing a teaching project that will introduce more young people to Sherlock Holmes. In 2013, we funded programs for SEVEN outstanding teachers and librarians.
- THE BEACON AWARD recognizes an individual who has successfully introduced young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Examples of grants given out under the Stauber Grant...

- Johanna Archer, Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School, "Whodunit?: Mysteries in the Library" for grades K - 6<sup>th</sup>
- Kirsten Bester, Guelph Public Library, "Sherlock Holmes Video Adventure Project—Unlocking Guelph Public Library's Sherlock Holmes Collection" for grades 7 – 12
- Brittany Maguet, Ste. Rose Regional Library, "Baker Street Detective Club" for ages 8-12
- Tracey Pankratz, Jake Epp Library, "The Mystery of Sherlock Holmes" for ages 5-9 and 10-14
- Christopher Pearce, Middletown High School, "A Study in Comic: Sherlock Holmes' Graphic Novel Anthology" for grade 9
- Elizabeth Simmons and Sally Gummere, Granville High School, "What's the Mystery?" for grade 12
- Marie Wright, The River School, "Sleuthing Through Books: A Scientific Connection" for grade 3

Our website at [www.BeaconSociety.com](http://www.BeaconSociety.com) provides

- IDEAS for using Sherlock Holmes as a teaching aid in classrooms and libraries
- EXAMPLES of projects that have successfully introduced young people to the stories of Sherlock Holmes
- HELP for Sherlock Holmes societies who want to get involved with teaching in their communities
- INFORMATION about the world of Sherlock Holmes for students and teachers of all kinds

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!**

## SHERLOCKIANS – WHAT WE HAVE RECEIVED, WE SHOULD PASS ON (Part 1 of 3)

From time to time it is good to pause and look back, and to consider the history of our craft and to thank those who have brought us from the past to the present.

Occasionally, I stop and think about Christopher Morley, Sr. (1890-1957) and reflect upon his special influence upon the world of Sherlock Holmes as we know it.



As Sherlockians we share, among ourselves, a common interest and we enjoy a true sense of camaraderie and congeniality. In today's fast-track world of hustle-bustle, those qualities are as

precious as they are rare; and within the Sherlockian realm this tradition of amiability may well have had its origin with Morley.

In the beginning, C. Morley (and that little band of intellectual ruffians with whom he associated) set a tone that still exists today. They were a literate, talented, free-



spirited, fun-loving bunch of devotees who held nothing Canonical to be sacred. Everything was subject to their humour and became the objects of their spoof.

They had their fun. It was clean fun, with refinement and civility. It is among the highest forms of entertainment.

They had their own special way of "keeping the memory green," and they revelled with gusto in doing it. Mr. Morley set the attitude and the pace in poking fun at the never-to-be-taken-too-seriously Canon and its priesthood.

And, of course, he was, himself, one of the front-line, fun-poked high priests. He had mastered that first principle of affability: take nothing too seriously, nor yourself nor others.



Respectfully submitted, Inspector Baynes (To be continued at Part 2 of 3)

## For Those of You Who Have Waited

For the first time, BBC's hugely popular series "Sherlock" will air four episodes in its upcoming third season, including a mini-episode called "Many Happy Returns."



On November 29, the BBC announced the UK release date of series 3 as 1 January 2014 by driving a hearse through London, which displayed the date. This relates to the first episode of the third series, "The Empty Hearse".

**It will be broadcast in the United States on PBS three weeks later, on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.**

Created by Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss, it stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes and Martin Freeman as Doctor John Watson. Six episodes have been produced, the first three of which aired in 2010. Series two aired in 2012, and a third series began production in March 2013.

### ***Christmas Special (2013)***

BBC One is premiering a "Sherlock" mini-episode online on Christmas Day. The episode is entitled "Many Happy Returns" and will act as a prequel to the upcoming third season of the series.

Picking up two years after the second season finale when Sherlock supposedly died, the synopsis for the episode reads, "Sherlock has been gone for two years. But someone isn't quite convinced that he's dead ..."

PBS has not commented yet on whether they will air the mini-episode or not.



**ANSWERS: 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><b>The Copper Beeches</b>  a. <b>Smith – Solitary Cyclist</b>  b. <b>Westbury – Bruce Partington Plans</b>  c. <b>de Merville – The Illustrious Client</b></p>
<p>2. (Ropes) Bell-ropes were important as evidence in two cases. Name them.</p>	<p>a. <b>The Speckled Band</b>  b. <b>The Abbey Grange</b></p>
<p>3. (Lost weekends) Alcoholic overindulgence is not infrequently mentioned. Can you identify characters or cases from the following passages:  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. <b><u>A Study in Scarlet</u></b>  b. <b>"The Five Orange Pips"</b>  c. <b><u>The Sign of Four</u></b></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:  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. <b>"The Abbey Grange"</b>  b. <b>"The Norwood Builder"</b>  c. <b>"The Lion's Mane"</b></p>
<p>5. (Telegrams) Below (without the sender's name) are three telegrams. Name the story.  a. "The old man is dead."  b. "Have visited the Commercial Road and seen Dorak. Suave person, Bohemian, elderly."  c. "Will come without fail tonight and bring new sparking plugs."</p>	<p>a. <b>"The Solitary Cyclist"</b>  b. <b>"The Creeping Man"</b>  c. <b>"His Last Bow"</b></p>
<p>6. (Faces) Name the story.  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. <b>"The Cardboard Box"</b>  b. <b>"Yellow Face"</b>  c. <b><u>The Sign of Four</u></b></p>
<p>7. (Sports) Name the story.  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. <b>"Black Peter"</b>  b. <b>"Shoscombe Old Place"</b></p>

**HOW SHERLOCK CHANGED THE WORLD**

A new two-hour special about the world's most legendary fictional detective, reveals the astonishing impact Holmes has had on the development of real criminal investigation and forensic techniques.

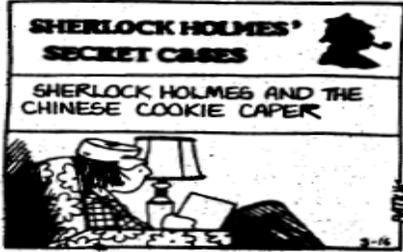
From blood to ballistics, from fingerprints to footprints, Sherlock Holmes was 120 years ahead of his time, protecting crime scenes from contamination, looking for traces of evidence and searching for what the eye couldn't see. Featuring interviews with forensic scientists, toxicologists, crime scene investigators and profilers, How Sherlock changed the

from [bbwtvworld.com](http://bbwtvworld.com)

World premieres on PBS on Tuesday, December 17, 8:00-10:00 p.m. on PBS/KERA in Dallas.

Embraced by the public from his first appearance in 1887, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's literary creation is more popular than ever, with multiple contemporary film and television series introducing new generations to the detective's keen observations and lightning powers of deduction. (continued on page 11)





# 17 Steps to the "Adventure of the Second Stain"

authored by Brad Keefauver, Peoria Sherlock

## KNOWLEDGE OF TIMELY ADVERTISING -- NIL

Watson begins this tale with the words, "I had intended "The Adventure of the Abbey Grange" to be the last of those exploits of my friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, which I should ever communicate to the public. . . . The real reason lay in the reluctance which Mr. Holmes has shown to the continued publication of his experiences. So long as he was in actual professional practice the records of his successes were of some practical value to him, but since he has definitely retired from London and betaken himself to study and bee-farming on the Sussex Downs, notoriety has become hateful to him, and he has peremptorily requested that his wishes in this matter should be strictly observed."

But a simple comparison of publication dates to the dates give within the stories makes these words somewhat nonsensical. Just as all of the "Adventures" and "Memoirs" were published while Holmes was thought dead, the stories of the "Return" set weren't published until late 1903 -- a time when Holmes would have seemed to be retiring in Sussex. And looking within the stories of "Return," one finds Holmes criticizing the stories and forbidding Watson to publish all through the detective's post-hiatus career. Why would Holmes find value in Watson publishing his cases if he were about to retire? Or was the value he found simply in Watson's writing, and not the actual publishing?

## THIS MAY HAVE SOME BEARING ON JAMES PHILLIMORE

"The Premier's thin, blue-veined hands were clasped tightly over the ivory head of his umbrella."  
 Would ivory-handled umbrellas have been a common luxury item in Victorian England? Or is the Premier's umbrella something special?

## TIME FOR DINNER AND THE THEATER

"I actually opened the box while I was dressing for dinner ..."  
 "What time did you dine?"  
 "Half-past seven."  
 "How long was it before you went to bed?"  
 "My wife had gone to the theatre. I waited up for her. It was half-past eleven before we went to our room."

What was the curtain time of the standard London theatrical production, and did Lady Hilda have time to dine with her husband and still get to the play? (Or pretend she was going to a play.) Would Trelawney Hope have dressed for dinner if he was dining alone?

## NO LISTENING DEVICES AT THAT TIME, WERE THERE?

"You may safely trust us," Holmes asserts, but the trust he gets is not complete, as the tale is still vaguely told: "The letter, then, is from a certain foreign potentate ..."  
 Holmes then writes a name upon a slip of paper and hands it to the Premier.

"Exactly," replies the Premier. "It was he."  
 Was Holmes afraid Mrs. Hudson was listening at the keyhole? Or is he actually keeping the potentate's identity a secret from Watson? Would Holmes have continued with the case, had the Premier refused to tell him the identity of the letter writer?

## THEY MUST BELONG TO THE JAMES BOND SCHOOL OF WELL-KNOWN SPIES

"To whom would the thief take it? To one of several international spies and secret agents, whose names are tolerably familiar to me. There are three who may be said to be the heads of their profession. I will begin my research by going round and finding if each of them is at his post."

Okay, Holmes is a criminal specialist. He knows things. But how effective can spies be if a man to whom espionage was simply a side issue knows who they are and where they can

be found? Given Holmes's knowledge, how many other people in London knew as well? Were spies often as popular and charming in social circles as Eduardo Lucas of this tale and Von Bork from "His Last Bow"?

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#### **AND THE RESERVE PRICE ON EBAY WOULD BE . . . ?**

"After all, it is a question of money with these fellows, and I have the British treasury behind me. If it's on the market I'll buy it--if it means another penny on the income-tax."

The recovery of the letter never does become a question of money, but just how much might it have gone for if money was what it took to retrieve it? What was the upper limit the government might have been able to afford to pay? How much cash would another penny on the income-tax have brought in?

(And what was the going income tax rate in those days anyway?)

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#### **WHOA! DUDE, IT'S THE MOST LOVELY WOMAN IN LONDON!**

"A moment later our modest apartment, already so distinguished that morning, was further honoured by the entrance of the most lovely woman in London. I had often heard of the beauty of the youngest daughter of the Duke of Belminster, but no description of it, and no contemplation of colourless photographs, had prepared me for the subtle, delicate charm and the beautiful colouring of that exquisite head."

Beauty is certainly in the eye of the beholder. If Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope was, according to Watson, the most lovely woman in London, and perhaps the whole Canon, does the use of "lovely" over "beautiful" imply that her visage inspired thoughts of love in Watson's bachelor breast? Had circumstances of social rank and marital status been different, does Watson's reaction tell us he'd have pursued her for a role as the next Mrs.

Watson? How enamored was Watson to be listening intently to the very last "frou-frou" of her skirts as she departed?

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#### **THE FIRST AND FOREMOST CONSULTING WOMANOLOGIST OF HIS DAY**

In this tale we get that classic line from Holmes, "Now, Watson, the fair sex is your department."

How much experience with women must Watson have had for Holmes to casually make such a pronouncement? One late wife? Dalliances in Australia, Asia, or America? Is it the quality or quantity of Watson's experience with the fair sex that makes them his department?

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#### **BEATEN BY A WOMAN AGAIN!**

"And you must have observed, Watson, how she manoeuvred to have the light at her back. She did not wish us to read her expression. . . . You remember the woman at Margate whom I suspected for the same reason. No powder on her nose--that proved to be the correct solution. How can you build on such a quicksand? Their most trivial action may

mean volumes, or their most extraordinary conduct may depend upon a hairpin or a curling tongs."

How many times must Holmes have been frustrated by female motives in order to utter such a statement? Or was he fresh from some defeat at feminine hands when this case occurred?

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#### **THE RECEPTIONIST AT 221B BAKER STREET**

"Do you stay on guard, my good Watson, and receive any fresh visitors."

Is this another hint as to Watson's role in the partnership when he began working with Holmes post-hiatus? With a busy Holmes out gathering clues, were a part of Watson's duties to be present for potential walk-in clients, possibly screening them for Holmes?

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#### **THE PROMISCUITY OF EDUARDO LUCAS**

Looking over Lucas's things, Holmes pronounces, "As to his relations with women, they appeared to have been promiscuous but superficial. He had many acquaintances among them, but few friends, and no one whom he loved. His habits were regular, his conduct inoffensive."

How would Holmes deduce such data? From letters alone? Is he saying that Lucas was celibate, or just a one-night-stand guy?

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#### **THE TELEGRAMS OF THE DAILY TELEGRAPH**

"Upon the fourth day there appeared a long telegram from Paris which seemed to solve the whole question."

"A discovery has just been made by the Parisian police [said the Daily Telegraph] ..."

Was the Daily Telegraph a newspaper composed entirely of telegrams from afar with no editing? How did one tell a newspaper article from a telegram?

Timeliness and distance alone, or was there a special column for telegrams from foreign correspondents?

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#### **HOLMES AND WATSON AGAINST THE LAW**

Sherlock Holmes complains, "It is a case, my dear Watson, where the law is as dangerous to us as the criminals are. Every man's hand is against us, and yet the interests at stake are colossal."

Why were the forces of the law against them? Wouldn't the powers that put Holmes on the case to begin with have some influence with Scotland Yard, even if they weren't telling the Yardmen exactly what was going on? Unlike Holmes, couldn't Scotland Yard be ordered to take action even when ignorant of the true circumstances?

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#### **THE MANY SIDES OF LADY HILDA**

While Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope presents a noble, caring front to Holmes and Watson, the side we see of her in Constable MacPherson's report is something else entirely: "Was answering an advertisement about typewriting and came to the wrong number--very pleasant, genteel young

woman . . . some would say she was very handsome. 'Oh, officer, do let me have a peep!' says she. She had pretty, coaxing ways, as you might say, and I thought there was no harm in letting her just put her head through the door."

Lady Hilda demonstrates considerable skill at acting and duplicity in her mission to regain the letter. Might there have been more to this woman than just the blackmailed wife? Might she have been a spy in her own right?

Was the blackmail story a cover for her true role?

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#### THE ADVENTURE OF THE SECOND FAINT

When confronted by Holmes, we read of Lady Hilda: "Her eyes glazed--she tottered--I thought that she would faint."

After her performance at Godolphin Street, can we believe there is any reality to Lady Hilda's near-faint? Had she sensed it would have worked on Holmes, would she have gone through with it?

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#### THE MANLINESS OF BROWBEATING LADY HILDA

"It is not a very manly thing, Mr. Holmes, to come here and browbeat a woman."

Maybe it's not chivalrous, but not manly? Is this a woman plainly used to using her feminine charms and attacking the manhood of all who don't fall under her sway? The commanding, assertive Holmes who confronts her with the truth seems quite manly enough to this reader. How do the rest of the Hounds call it?

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#### THE COOLEST ENDING IN THE CANON

"The Premier looked at Holmes with twinkling eyes.

"Come, sir," said he. "There is more in this than meets the eye. How came the letter back in the box?"

"Holmes turned away smiling from the keen scrutiny of those wonderful eyes.

"We also have our diplomatic secrets," said he and, picking up his hat, he turned to the door."

Is there any post-climax scene in the Canon that has more cinematic potential than this one? Holmes's cool reply to the Prime Minister himself, his little smile as he walks away ... it's the sort of thing a James Bond movie might end with, if one added a half-naked woman on Holmes's arm. Are there any others that compete?

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## Holmes for the Hollydays

The Hounds Collection, Vol. II, April 1997 -- by Ron Brackin, aka "the crudest of writers" IDEN

Sherlock Holmes, like Dickens' miser, kept Christmas in his own way, that is to say, he left it alone. Its religious significance he acknowledged as an historic fact; its social customs, he mostly ignored. I, on the other hand, overflowed with Christmas spirit, anxious to bless my fellow man and went to garnish our rooms at 221b with evergreen and gaily wrapped presents. I was yearning for a plump young goose (without a jaw-breaking gem in its crop) and a steaming bowl of Smoking Bishop, when we heard footfalls on the steps outside our rooms.

"A client, I think, Watson," announced Holmes.

"One of your less impressive deductions, old man," said I, "since Mrs. Hudson has few callers at this time of night."

"Shall I tell you more than?" said he, his thin lips tightening into a slight smile. "She is a young woman wearing new boots and commonly yet warmly dressed against the cold, having walked all the way from Limehouse. She carries with her a three-page letter in which she hopes I will discover the explanation for certain curious happenings of late."

I was speechless. Never before had Holmes deduced so much from so little information. I was just

gathering the courage to ask him to reveal his thought sequence when the door opened.

"A Miss Rider t'see ye, Mr. Holmes."

"Thank you, Mrs. Hudson. Some hot tea, please, for our guest and one of your coveted mince pies recently removed from the oven, perhaps."

The dear landlady blushed and hurried to her kitchen. Miss Rider told us her story, and Holmes glanced over at me as each of his observations was proved. And he positively gloated when she handed him a letter. Normally, Holmes would have read it aloud, but this time he read silently to himself, nor did he hand the letter to me afterward.

"I do see several things that I suspect you have overlooked, Miss Rider. The events are clear and logical, but one very important piece is missing to this intriguing puzzle. Come, Watson, the hour is late. We must accompany Miss Rider back to Limehouse immediately. If we tarry even an hour, all may be lost."

A chill hovered about my shoulders that morning that had nothing to do with the damp, icy wind that lashed the twisting streets and rattled the loose boards and windowpanes. Miss Rider led us up to a dark, weathered shanty, illuminated only by a fire burning in

the grate. In front of the fire was a large winged chair that had lost most of its stuffing and was made to look even larger by the small boy who sat in it. He was the fairest child I had ever seen, despite his black curly hair and translucent olive skin. Holmes stood and looked at him with questioning eyes and said nothing. Then he knelt beside the chair and peered into the boy's face.

"This is Mr. Holmes, dearest," said Miss Rider.

The child turned from the fire to face my friend. He smiled. The loveliest, purest expression of affection and sadness I think I had ever beheld. A bit of silver glistened in Holmes' eyes.

"Thank God that we arrived in time," said he.

"I am very glad," the boy replied.

"Yours is a very great mystery," Holmes said. "The facts are so clear, yet the motive has eluded me until now. I had to see you. But you are not what I expected."

"I never am."

His smile widened into a laugh and infected us all. We didn't know why we laughed, but we laughed all the same until tears flowed freely and we collapsed breathlessly to the floor.

The next day, our rooms were transformed.

Holmes' jack-knife pinioned a pine wreath to the mantle instead of the usual correspondence. I awoke Christmas morning to the sound of his Stradivarius playing a round of bright carols like a merry street fiddle. After noticing that Holmes' mouse-coloured dressing gown had been replaced by one of bright red with forest green lapels, I saw a wrapped package at my place at the table. I looked back at Holmes.

"Go ahead, old man," said he, "open it."

I tore away the paper to find a handsome leather-bound Bible with three pages marked by small cards.

"You hold the solution to last night's mystery."

The first two cards marked the beginning and end of St. John's gospel.

"I don't understand, Holmes."

"The letter, Watson. Miss Rider's letter. It was three pages from the Bible. The first announced that the Word was made flesh and the second quoted the victim's last words: 'It is finished.' I have never been what people think of as a religious man, my friend. I have believed in Providence but never considered it in any personal or intimate way. The incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection were stories of valour – not

unlike those of King Arthur and his knights, I suppose. But I never understood the reason behind it because such understanding required a vulnerability on my part that I was unwilling to endure. Last night, Miss Rider delivered a challenge.

"Who was she, Holmes?"

"The clue is at the third marker."

It was inserted at the thirteenth chapter of the book of Hebrews, and the second verse was underlined. 'Be not forgetful to entertain strangers,' it said, 'for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.' "

Neither of us spoke for some time.

"And this child?" I asked.

But Holmes simply picked up his instrument and began to play:

"Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains.  
And the mountains in reply  
Echo back their joyous strains."

While he played, I went to my room to fetch a package.

"Watson, what's this?" he exclaimed when I handed it to him.

I stood excitedly as he tore away the wrapping. Opening the box, Holmes removed a cardboard box containing the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle game.

"For your long, frustrating evenings between cases," I explained.

"Splendid, old man. But what is it supposed to be? The picture's been removed from the box lid."

"Yes, I wanted to make it more of a challenge for you. But I'll give you one clue. This puzzle is one of a set of instructional puzzles, each of which portrays anatomical structure of a different portion of the human anatomy. If you had all twelve of the games, you would have the whole body."

After breakfast, being even now between cases, Holmes called to Mrs. Hudson to remove the dishes and arranged the game pieces by size, shape and colour on the table. Several hours later, he shouted, "Watson! I've solved it! The game is a foot!"

And we laughed until we wept.

"Merry Christmas, Holmes," said I.

"And may God bless us, my dear doctor," said he, "every one."

## Match all the John's, James', Joseph's, and Jephro's in the Canon

Not to mention John H. Watson himself... and sadly, there are more James and John's not mentioned here...

A	1. John Mason	Wisteria Lodge	
B	2. Joseph Harrison	The Valley of Fear	
C	3. John Bull	Silver Blaze	
D	4. James Phillimore	Wisteria Lodge	
E	5. James Ryder	The Hound of the Baskervilles	
F	6. John Clayton	Shoscombe Old Place	
G	7. James Dodd	The Blanched Soldier	
H	8. Joseph Strangerson	The Second Stain	
I	9. Sir James Damery	The Boscombe Valley Mystery	
J	10. Jephro Rucastle	The Blue Carbuncle	
K	11. John Barrymore	The Priory School	
L	12. John Swain	The Red-Headed League	
M	13. Sir James Walter	A Study in Scarlet	
N	14. John Warner	The Five Orange Pips	
O	15. James Windibank	The Valley of Fear	
P	16. John Scott Eccles	The Three Garridebs	
Q	17. John Mitton	The Hound of the Baskervilles	
R	18. John Openshaw	The Solitary Cyclist	
S	19. James Desmond	Boscombe Valley Mystery	
T	20. John Hopley Neligan	Yellow Face	
U	21. John Ferrier	The Sign of Four	
V	22. James Wilder	The Five Orange Pips	
W	23. John Hector McFarlane	The Final Problem	
X	24. John Vincent Harden	A Case of Identity	
Y	25. James Winter	The Crooked Man	
Z	26. John Hebron	The Norwood Builder	
AA	27. James Smith	The Five Orange Pips	
BB	28. John Straker	Hound of the Baskervilles	
CC	29. James Armitage	The Illustrious Client	
DD	30. John Horner	The Blue Carbuncle	
EE	31. John Robinson	The Blanched Soldier	
FF	32. James Moriarty	The Bruce-Partington Plans	
GG	33. John Garrideb	The Five Orange Pips	
HH	34. John Sholto	The Naval Treaty	
II	35. John Turner	A Study in Scarlet	
JJ	36. James Calhoun	The Gloria Scott	
KK	37. John Clay	The Solitary Cyclist	
LL	38. Joseph Oppenshaw	The Problem of Thor Bridge	
MM	39. John McMurdo	The Hound of the Baskervilles	
NN	40. James Barclay	The Three Garridebs	
OO	41. John Douglas	The Copper Beeches	
PP	42. Sir James Saunders	Black Peter	
QQ	43. James Mortimer	His Last Bow	
RR	44. John Rance	A Study in Scarlet	
SS	45. James McCarthy	The Blue Carbuncle	

Answers in Next Month's Newsletter

## HOLMES THE ABSOLUTE

STUART RAND -- Baker Street Journal, October, 1953



Holmes is fundamentally an Absolute, with a capital "A". He is always right. I don't ignore the Yellow Face.

I don't ignore that woman hoodwinked Holmes to his face. I am sure that once he knew the truth he elected not to carry out

his commission.

But in the main he was always right – right with the rightness of a sledge—hammer when it drives a spike or a tack.

When and where his Truth struck, there was no escape.

I know that we sometimes love to look for his errors. Many have taken an almost innocent pleasure in doing It.

But after all, isn't it a bit unworthy of us?

Who are we to question his time-tables or his conclusions?

If he says he took an 6:10 for North Walsham -- that is the time the train left, and all the railroad gazetteers in the world cannot tell us nay.

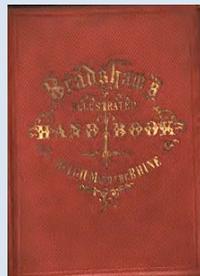
If he says there was a colored lawyer in Atlanta in the year 1890, who left his widow a fortune of over 4000 pounds, there was — and Atlanta can look to its history in vain to contradict us.

Certainly none of us have within our immediate acquaintance today a little girl who can fall into a rabbit-hole and talk with a white rabbit; but Alice said that is what happened, and boys and girls — yes, and men and women — will be believing it long after you and I are not even memories.

Emerson wrote: "Trust yourself — all the world vibrates to this Iron string."

Holmes did just that. He is as real as Reality itself.

That is why we love him, and that is why he will always be with us, till all the seas gang dry.



## HOW SHERLOCK HOLMES CHANGED THE WORLD (continued from page 5)



Narrated by Andrew Lincoln, How Sherlock changed the World features dramatized excerpts from several of Doyle's stories, along with scenes from "Sherlock," the wildly popular MASTERPIECE series starring Benedict Cumberbatch, which returns with a new season on Sunday, January 19, 2014 on PBS.

In an era when eyewitness testimony and "smoking gun" evidence were needed to convict and police in competence meant that Jack the Ripper stalked the streets freely, Sherlock Holmes used chemistry, bloodstains and fingerprints to catch offenders. In many ways, the modern detective can be seen as a direct extension of Conan Doyle's literary genius. Using interviews and archival materials, HOW SHERLOCK CHANGED THE WORLD explores real crimes that were solved thanks to techniques, equipment or methods of reasoning Holmes used.

Forensic scientist Dr. Henry Lee shows how he used blood evidence to free a woman charged with the murder of her husband in a mysterious case in Florida, and Karen Smith demonstrates how blood splatter patterns exonerated Dr. Sam Sheppard of his wife's murder years after his conviction. The history of Sherlock's techniques from the 1880s to the present is explored, showing how the scientific methods he introduced to the world have evolved into the stunning CSI-style forensic labs of Scotland Yard and the FBI.

Holmes was the first to use ballistics, including bullet trajectory, as evidence in criminal cases. "Sherlock anticipates the abilities that modern forensic science has, that we can actually now convict criminals on the basis of scientific evidence," says Jonathan Ferguson, Curator of Firearms, Royal Armouries. "And Sherlock was there at the beginning, doing that in fiction."



Long before modern toxicologists developed sophisticated tests for chemical analysis, Holmes was using scientific methods to detect the presence of poisons, which for centuries had been used as an undetectable means for murder. Dr. Michael Rieders reveals how modern toxicology tests were used to unmask the true killer of Robert Curley, a Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania man who died of thallium poisoning.

One of the best known forensic scientists in history and an avid reader of Sherlock Holmes stories, Frenchman Edmond Locard built the first real forensics lab in 1910, 23 years after Sir Arthur Conan Doyle dreamed up a fictional one.





Like Sherlock, Locard kept meticulous collections of soil, mineral, fiber and

hair samples and used a microscope to identify trace evidence. Locard formulated one of the breakthroughs of forensic science, the exchange principle, which states that when two things come into contact, they each leave a trace on the other.

"That is something right out of a Sherlock Holmes novel, that whenever two things come into contact, they leave a trace,"

explains forensic scientist Sue Moran. "And as forensic scientists we play that out on every crime scene that we come across."



Sherlock's obsession with shoe print evidence inspired one of the most recent advances in solving

crimes - gait analysis. "Forensic gait analysis was only used for the first time in 2001, so Sherlock Holmes was 120 years ahead of practice," says Wesley Vernon, a



forensic podiatrist who used the technique to convict a killer. As Sherlock's fame

grew, so did that of his creator, and Doyle received letters appealing for help with crimes. One such letter led Doyle to turn detective himself, and in 1903 his shrewd observations and experience as an eye doctor helped exonerate a man accused of brutally killing animals in a Staffordshire village. Even though Doyle proved the accused innocent, the police refused to believe it. The experience propelled Doyle to become an influential voice in setting up the first official British Court of Appeal two years later.

"Because of this character that he created, he now has this tremendous opportunity to have an impact and influence on real-life cases,"



Brent Turvey says. "One of the most exciting things about the Holmes series is that it not only inspired generations of forensic scientists, but changed the life of the author to make him more of an advocate for the forensic sciences and for competent, adequate criminal and scientific investigation."

How Sherlock changed the World demonstrates that the legacy of Holmes, the first crime scene investigator, is not solely as a reservoir of brilliant stories and wonderfully drawn characters, but can be found in the development of modern scientific criminal investigation techniques and improved methods for capturing today's criminals.

November 17, 2013 -- Mineral Wells Index

## Mineral Wells gets mention on national TV

By CLINT FOSTER

The land of Crazy Water got some national exposure when a murder victim on the CBS show "Elementary" was mentioned multiple times as being from "Mineral Wells, Texas." "Elementary" is a modern adaptation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories in which Holmes is a former consultant for Scotland Yard now living and solving crimes in New York City.

The show features the talents of Johnny Lee Miller as Holmes and Lucy Liu as Dr. Joan Watson – named for Holmes' sidekick in the original novels.

In Thursday's episode, titled "Blood is Thicker," the character from Mineral Wells, named Haley Tyler, fell to her death from the balcony of her New York City apartment onto the roof of a delivery truck.

The detectives are left to determine if Tyler's death was an accident or if foul play was involved.

In bygone day, Mineral Wells was a destination city for the rich and famous, as many celebrities such as Clark Gable and Judy Garland flocked to the North Texas town to stay in the luxurious Baker Hotel and soak in the town's healing Crazy Water mineral baths.

Could such national exposure signal an impending rise for Mineral Wells back to prominence?

With plans to now renovate the Baker, reopen the Crazy Water Bath House and a potentially build a specialized ammunition factory, only time will tell if Mineral Wells does indeed go the way of the phoenix. Watch "Elementary" on Thursdays at 9 p.m. on CBS on online at [cbs.com/shows/elementary](http://cbs.com/shows/elementary).



**Who dunnit:**



Third Mate	Steve Mason <a href="mailto:mason.steve@epa.gov">mason.steve@epa.gov</a>
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Secretaries	Cindy Brown Pam Mason



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

*Jim Webb*

*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*