

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 03, No. 05 - May, 2014

The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star



From the Editors: So more of the usual this month. But we do reveal the results of our survey on the most popular Holmes story. 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 MYSTERIOUS PARAMOUR.

Don, Steve, & Joe

June 1, 2014 Meeting

The next meeting (and future meetings) will be held on Sunday, June 1st, 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 Five Orange Pips,"** will be discussed (see page 5). This story gives us our society's namesake. 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.

May 4, 2014 Meeting

18 Sherlockians were present at La Madeline for the May meeting.

Dean Clark gave a rousing toast to the real victim of this month's story, Mrs. St. Clair (see page 2). We welcomed back our resident "villain", James Moriarty, who has had to miss several meetings, and he thanked the society for all the wonderful Christmas cards. Don Casey was victorious on the monthly quiz concerning "The Man with the Twisted Lip."

Walter Pieper provided an interesting presentation on his visit to the Ransom Center at the University of Texas, where he was able to see and hold the original manuscripts to the "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez." Both of the manuscripts are part of the BSI Manuscript series. A page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" was also available for viewing, as well as two Sidney Paget illustrations from "The Naval Treaty," and "The Norwood Builder."

Steve Mason then gave a presentation on the toys played with by children of the Victorian age, inspired by the building bricks described in the "Twisted Lip."

We then had a discussion on the August Murder Mystery at the Perot Museum, as well as the International Exhibition next Spring. Jonathan and Maria have offered to give us a demonstration of Victorian fencing at the June meeting.

Steve Mason closed the meeting with a toast to Conan Doyle, reading from the Baker Street Journal (see page 2).



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>

Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries

Steve Mason
Joe Fay
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb
Cindy Brown
Pam Mason

mason.steve@epa.gov
joef@HA.com
221b@verizon.net
jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com

A Toast to a Woman

Dean Clark

Many things in “The Man With The Twisted Lip” tantalize, virtually demanding educated speculation far afield from what Dr. Watson tells us.

The most tantalizing is that Mrs. Watson calls her husband “James”! How can that be?

Elementary, my dear Crew. Watson's first marriage must have ended, for unknown reasons, and a subsequent trip down the aisle found him married, unknown to him of course, to an agent of Professor Moriarty whose assignment was to provide information about Sherlock Holmes gleaned via pillow talk with his Boswell.

Thus the reference to “James” was just a slip of the tongue when Mrs. W was fantasizing about the man she really admired. It also appears to be a case where Watson heard but did not observe.

However, my purpose today is not Sherlockian research but to point out a character in the story worthy of our admiration.

To that end, I invite you to focus on a truly interesting person, not Neville St. Clair but Mrs. Neville St. Clair. I believe all would agree that she is young, attractive, intelligent, practical and facing a difficult existence in the coming weeks since she has to find a way to replace the income lost by the extinction of Hugh Boone if she wishes to maintain the lifestyle to which she has become accustomed.

Furthermore, this story occurs on the eve of the suffrage movement in England. Can there be any doubt that, in a few years, Mrs. St. Clair will be regularly marching in the vanguard and screaming “votes for women” as loudly as possible into the ear of the nearest bobby?

Interesting but much more interesting, as many writers have pointed out over the decades, is the obvious physical attraction between Mrs. St. Clair and you know who. Since Mrs. St. Clair is married and a mother and Holmes is, well, Holmes, she obviously is more cognizant than he about what is going on.

Surprisingly, perhaps astonishingly, she wants to find out immediately just where this is heading. She takes the extraordinary step of inviting an adult male, to whom she is not related in any way, to spend the night in her home when her husband is not present for whatever reason. This would cause tongues to wag today, much less in Victorian times.

Alas, whether this overture resulted in anything we would consider X-rated is one of those canonical loose ends that will never be firmly tied up.

But, despite this bit of frustrating canonicus interruptus, let us lift our glasses to Mrs. Neville St. Clair for at least trying to introduce Sherlock Holmes to a delightful side of life of which he was probably unaware.

Deus Ex Machina (God from the Machine)

Baker Street Journal, September, 1962

Sherlockians everywhere are certainly cognizant of our debt to Dr. Watson, and are aware also of how much we owe to his orderly, Murray.

In addition, we ought to turn our thoughts to one other who deserves our profound gratitude. And perhaps we do, but that is not evident in some of the Writings upon the Writings.

Of course, one is referring to that throwback to the age of chivalry, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the gentle, perfect knight.

Let us remember that Sir Arthur was a great author in his own right. In his well-considered opinion, The White Company and his other historical novels were classics, and the critical judgment of later years has confirmed that opinion.

Moreover, anyone who has read them will agree that his short stories take rank with the best. It is only due to his association with Sherlock Holmes that those works which he considered his truly great literary accomplishments have been overshadowed and have not received the recognition that they deserve.

It is the duty of Sherlockians to remedy this neglect of a great man and a great author, and to atone for it as best they may.

If there are any who do not approve, let them consider what they would be doing at this very moment if it were not for Sir Arthur. Certainly they would not be in the company of other like-minded people, celebrating the most famous detective of all time.

Thoughts from an Always 1895 Sherlockian

By Ron Lies

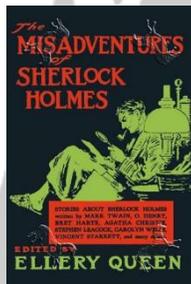
This article was originally published on the E-Sherlockian webpage, a wonderful site run by Joel and Carolyn Senter. Ron has graciously given us permission to reprint the article.

The Grand Game, played by scholars and Sherlockians, is based on a lovely fantasy that Sherlock Holmes was a real person, and that the sixty Canonical tales were actually written by Dr. Watson and reflect true historical events. Of course, the only problem is that the good doctor was frequently careless in keeping straight the dates and details from one story to the next, leaving the path open for scholars to explain the discrepancies and inconsistencies.



I think that the new Sherlockian generation is not playing The Game and has no interest in using the Canon for a field of study. Their Sherlock is that of 2014. Gaslights that fail at 20 feet have been replaced by modern electric lights. Is this a bad thing? I think not because some variant of Sherlock continues. I feel sorry for folks who will never know the joy of the great literature which is "our" Holmes. Turning the pages of a forgotten volume of Sherlockian scholarship, wow!

The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes, by Ellery Queen, is now on the internet. You can pull up the book and read it for free. I have heard the Misadventures referred to as a quaint, outdated volume. The books by Marvin Kaye are the scholarly works to refer to. The Queen book and the Kaye books show the hard work and love with which the authors infused their stories. They are an historical path as to what has been written before and are a great cornerstone to build on.

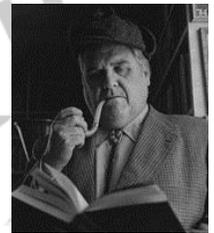


We can be glad that there is the Leslie Klinger movement and those laborers in the field, but I fear that the age of the kind of scholars and collectors we are, has passed. When I started collecting, it was to

acquire and enjoy what I was interested in. My interest soon blossomed into collecting for resale by my heirs when I passed on for the benefit of those to follow me.

Then a funny thing happened. I found you [Joel] and Carolyn [Senter]. You were selling items that I wanted just for me. You mentioned that I am one of 21 people that own that dark blue sweater with Sherlock on it. I am still wearing it even after being advised I should have kept it in pristine condition for it to be more valuable. I decided what I collected was for me to wear, read or play with.

Then I was highly honored to have met and to have become friends with, John Bennett Shaw. One day, while sitting with him amidst the thousands of books and other Sherlockian items in his collection, he asked me some questions. "Do you enjoy what you collect? My answer was yes. Do you use it? Again, my answer was yes. Can you afford to buy all the items I have listed on my 100 items to collect? My answer was no, I could not.

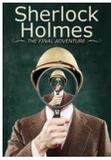


John then said, "Do not try. Do not turn your love of Sherlock into a dollars and cents game. Love is fragile and can turn to hate so quickly. Admire what you cannot have but love what you have."

That is what my collection has now become. Whatever I get, I love as much as the rarest item among Sherlock collectables. I would love to be able sell my collection for a small fortune but I enjoy being a quaint old person who still think Gaslights fail at 20 feet. If I am the last of the ones who regard their collections that way, I will wear that distinction proudly.

(We received this note from Ron a few weeks ago. We were very touched by his thoughts and we publish them here with his kind permission.)

ENCORE ! ENCORE !



We have several opportunities to attend Sherlock Holmes plays within our area in the next few months...

"Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure"
Dallas Theater Center, 2400 Flora Street
Dallas, TX Apr. 25 to May 25
www.dallastheatercenter.org

"Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of
the Sign of the Four"
First United Methodist, 1928 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX May 16-24
www.fumcdal.org



"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily"
Rover Dramawerks, 521 J Place
Plano, TX Sept. 11-27
www.roverdramawerks.com

So You Want to Know More ?

There is an amazing wealth of information on the internet connecting us to the world of Sherlock Holmes. Each month, we will highlight a website and resources they offer.

The Sherlockian.net



In 1994, Chris Redmond (BSI "Billy"), created a "small website" to give him a chance to hone his webpage development skills. The original site had just a few links to other interesting sites, information on books Chris had written, as well as information on the email group, "The Hounds of the Internet."

Little did Chris know at the time his site would grow to become one of the premier (if not the best) Sherlockian resources in the world.

A quick look at the categories of links included in the site show just how diverse a world of Sherlock Holmes Chris has created.

- The original Sherlock Holmes stories
- Holmes, Watson and their world
- Arthur Conan Doyle, the author
- Online resources
- TV, radio, stage, film
- Pictures, sounds, games

- Sherlockians • Tumblrs
- Books, reviews, libraries
- Fans, societies, events
- Merchandise
- Pastiche, fan fiction
- Mysteries and more
- England, the Victorian era
- Copyright issues
- Teaching Sherlock Holmes
- How to write a term paper

Sherlockian.Net

The web portal about the Great Detective • edited by Chris Redmond [email] • @darkgreendesk

FANFIC LIST • SPIRITUALIZING SHERLOCK • BBC SHERLOCK • TUMBLRS • CANON • ELEMENTARY • BLOGS • FAQ

I love Chris' own description of the site:

"About Sherlockian.Net"

'He sits motionless, like a spider in the centre of its web, but that web has a thousand radiations, and he knows well every quiver of each of them.' -- "The Final Problem"

Like Professor Moriarty, Sherlockian.Net sits in the centre of the Web.

To access the enormous wealth of information connected to Chris' site, go to:

<http://www.sherlockian.net/>

What is Our Favorite Story ??

In 1927 The Strand Magazine set a competition for its readers to decide the 12 best Sherlock Holmes stories. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was asked to provide his own list of the best 12 stories. Doyle wrote an article for the magazine, which we are **reprinting on page 10**. Remember at the time, the Casebook of Sherlock Holmes was not yet published, and so he did not include any of those stories in his deliberations. Later, he indicated "The Adventure of the Lion's Mane" and "The Adventure of the Illustrious Client" may have made his list if the Casebook was included.

This survey was preceded by the first request for a vote by readers of their favorite story in 1894, soon after Holmes was killed off by Doyle. Since only 24 stories had been published at this point, the choices were smaller.

So every fifteen to twenty years since Doyle's own response, someone polls Sherlockians to determine the best stories from the Canon. After Doyle's pronouncement in 1927, the BSI conducted a poll in 1944 (with approximately 44 people participating), establishing the twelve favorites of BSI members.

Then in 1954, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sherlock Holmes, the BSI conducted another such survey. This survey, which was answered by 56 BSI members, rated the ten best, the ten worst, and a combined score.

Another survey was conducted by Edgar Smith in 1959, which was completed by approximately 40-45 BSI members. Again the voters were asked to provide their best and worst stories.

In 1989, Nicholas Utechin conducted a survey for the Sherlock Holmes Journal. For this vote, Utechin tried to correlate tastes of the readers to their age, to see if a generation gap existed in the favorites.

Finally, in 1999, the most comprehensive survey was taken to determine the favorite stories of Sherlockians around the globe. More than 1,400 ballots were sent to voters, most who were considered Sherlockian scholars. More than 240 answers were received, completing the extensive ballot.

So last month, I asked our members and to simply provide me with their top 3 stories. The idea was to see how our members and others who read our newsletter would match up to these previous surveys. I was ecstatic that almost 100 people participated in our "very informal" survey.

I followed the same rationale of many of the previous surveys. A first place vote received 3 points, second place gained the story 2 points, and 3rd place received 1 point. All the points were tallied and the cumulative stories for each story ranked from highest to lowest.

So, for our survey, the 12 stories receiving the most points, thus letting us know our favorite stories, were (using the Jay Christ abbreviations):

SCAN	A Scandal in Bohemia
SPEC	The Speckled Band
SILV	Silver Blaze
BLUE	The Blue Carbuncle
EMPT	The Empty House
FINA	The Final Problem
REDH	The Red-Headed League
SIXN	The Six Napoleons
DANC	The Dancing Men
COPP	The Copper Beeches
PRIO	The Priory School
THOR	Thor Bridge

On the next page, I have developed a table which will compare our results to the previous survey tabulations. I think you will find our members have similar tastes to those of bygone eras.

Comparison of Survey Results

	1894 Tit-Bits	1927 Doyle	1944 BSI	1954 BSI	1959 BSI	1989 BSI	1999 BSI	2014 Lone Star
1	SPEC	SPEC	SPEC	SPEC	SPEC	SPEC	SPEC	SCAN
2	SILV	REDH	SCAN	REDH	REDH	REDH	REDH	SPEC
3	FINA	DANC	REDH	SCAN	BLUE	MUSG	SCAN	SILV
4		FINA	SILV	SILV	SILV	BLUE	SILV	BLUE
5		SCAN	DANC	MUSG	SCAN	SCAN	BLUE	EMPT
6		EMPT	MUSG	BLUE	MUSG	SILV	MUSG	FINA
7		FIVE	FIVE	BRUC	BRUC	DANC	FINA	REDH
8		SECO	FINA	PRIO	SIXN	FINA	EMPT	SIXN
9		DEVI	EMPT	EMPT	DANC	BRUC	DANC	DANC
10		PRIO	BRUC	DANC	EMPT	DEVI	SIXN	COPP
11		MUSG	SECO	SIXN	NAVA	EMPT	BRUC	PRIO
12		REIG	DEVI	FIVE	FINA	SIXN	TWIS	THOR

One final thing... If you combine the results from all the surveys, and then compare to our own results you get:

	Combined Survey	2014 Crew Survey
1	SPEC	SCAN
2	REDH	SPEC
3	SCAN	SILV
4	SILV	BLUE
5	BLUE	EMPT
6	FINA	FINA
7	MUSG	REDH
8	DANC	SIXN
9	EMPT	DANC
10	BRUC	COPP
11	SIXN	PRIO
12	FIVE	THOR

While the order is different, our members selected 9 out of 12 of the same stories as the previous surveys.

Thanks for everyone who participated in the survey.

Seventeen Steps to "The Adventure of the Five Orange Pips"

By Brad Keefaver

THE MAN WITH THE WATCH

We all love an untold tale, and this case gives us a few. Among them we find "the Camberwell poisoning case" in which, Watson tells us, "Sherlock Holmes was able, by winding up the dead man's watch, to prove that it had been wound up two hours before, and that therefore the deceased had gone to bed within that time--a deduction which was of the greatest importance in clearing up the case."

Okay, let me get this straight: the man was dead, undoubtedly poisoned as we are told this was a case of poisoning. How many times do we remember Sherlock Holmes getting to a murder scene within two hours of the death? As the man had gone to bed, he wouldn't have been discovered until morning, would he? And death by poison wouldn't immediately noticeable, would it? So how was it Sherlock Holmes was winding up a murder victim's watch only two hours after the man was still alive?

THE DOOM THAT CAME TO OPENSHAW BY DR. JOHN H.P. LOVECRAFT

"... we were forced to raise our minds for the instant from the routine of life, and to recognize the presence of those great elemental forces which shriek at mankind through the bars of his civilization, like untamed beasts in a cage."

The secret cult, death by agents unseen, is this a horror story or what? Do those great elemental beasts Watson mentions early in the story foreshadow the deaths of Captain Calhoun and his boatload of Finns and Germans? Or is there a supernatural subtext to this story that's telling us the destruction of the Lone Star was not entirely due to natural causes? And might that detective moodily poring over his personal tomes be somehow involved?

KNOWLEDGE OF NAUTICAL NOVELS -- NIL?

Okay, Hounds, tough question: It's 1887. John H. Watson is reading a sea story by W. Clark Russell, the man the Army and Navy Register called "the Fenimore Cooper and Captain Marryatt of his time rolled into one." Watson tells us merely that "the howl of the gale from without seemed to blend with the text, and the splash of the rain to lengthen out into the long swash of the sea waves."

Based on that limited description and the year involved, can we make any sort of reasonable estimation of what exactly Watson was reading? Did his calling it a story, rather than a book or novel, indicate short fiction from a magazine? (And did Russell have any in any magazines in 1887?) Certainly Watson would have mentioned a classic Russell novel like "The Wreck of the Grosvenor" by name, wouldn't he? Might this indicate a lesser known Russell work, like "The Lady Maud," "An Ocean Free Lance," or "The Copsford Mystery"?

ANOTHER AGE-OLD QUESTION . . .

"My wife was on a visit to her mother's ..." Watson says in this tale.

"My mother was dead ..." Mary Morstan said in SIGN.

So what's the deal? While we might attribute dates to Watson's carelessness, married men tend to be very (and sometimes painfully) aware of their mother-in-law's status. Does sheer logic dictate that the wife Watson speaks of was *not* Mary Morstan? And why is Mary Morstan's name never mentioned in the same tale where Watson's wife is mentioned?

IT'S ALL IN THE PRESENTATION

"Who is this K. K. K.?" Watson asks.

A simple question. But watch Holmes in the paragraphs that follow:

"Sherlock Holmes closed his eyes and placed his elbows upon the arms of his

chair, with his finger-tips together. 'The ideal reasoner,' he remarked, 'would, when he had once been shown a single fact in all its bearings, deduce from it ...'" And on and on it goes. Holmes refers to Cuvier, he speaks of art and how he has honed his skills to their highest degree, he refers to Watson's earlier analysis of the detective's knowledge, talks about what a great place Florida is, and mentions brain-attics and lumber room libraries. And when all is said and done, what does he do?

He takes down the encyclopaedia and looks up K.K.K.

For a case where Holmes fails miserably, he's certainly showboating. Is this a matter of pride going before a fall? Or did Watson beef up this tale with Holmes lectures from elsewhere to make Holmes look better (or feel better when he read it)?

AND HE WAS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE CRIMINALS POST-MORIARTY!

"A single man could not have carried out two deaths in such a way as to deceive a coroner's jury," Holmes says in this tale, as his reason for suspecting multiple perpetrators (aside from the fact that "K.K.K." the name of a *society* was on the letters). Is Holmes still pumping up the case for Watson's benefit? Or do the Hounds honestly think a single man could not have killed two men in such a sneaky fashion?

OH, STOP IT HOLMES!!!

As if the previous two bits weren't enough:

"Have you never--" said Sherlock Holmes, bending forward and sinking his voice--"have you never heard of the Ku Klux Klan?"

Is this more melodramatics, or is Holmes actually afraid of the Ku Klux Klan? And does that fear totally come from his readings about the Klan? Or is there any reason to think Holmes

actually had some disastrous previous encounter with the secret society?

THE HEAD BONES CONNECTED TO THE...

That Cuvier reference: "As Cuvier could correctly describe a whole animal by the contemplation of a single bone, so the observer who has thoroughly understood one link in a series of incidents should be able to accurately state all the other ones, both before and after."

Since Holmes seemed to concentrate on studies that would help him in his work, what could we think he gained from the French naturalist's work?

STRONG REASONS FOR LEAVING AMERICA

Colonel Openshaw's departure from America after the Civil War seems to be taken as unusual by Holmes, who attributes it to fear of someone. Anyone who has done much reading on the fortunes of plantation owners after the war, however, quickly realizes that there were a great many reasons for a former Confederate citizen with money to get out of the South during the Reconstruction, especially a man like the Colonel, who had roots back in England.

Does Holmes's lack of knowledge about America hurt him in this case? He seems to ignore young Openshaw's remarks about the Colonel leaving due to Republican policies. Might he have been too eager to assign this all to the mysterious and foreign Klan?

BURNING CROSSES ON SHIPBOARD?

And while we're on the subject of motivations, what's the story behind Captain James Calhoun? A sea captain commanding a ship full of men from countries different from him seems like the sort of fellow whose entire life has been at sea. He's familiar with different cultures, and must have some sympathy for all the Finns and Germans he spends his every waking moment with. So how are we supposed to think that this fellow became a devoted member of the Ku Klux Klan, a group of land-bound ethnocentrists? Was Calhoun an

innocent man, who might have eventually returned to London to see what Holmes was sending him orange seeds for, had he lived?

SAVANNAH SHERIFF GETS TELEGRAM, LAUGHS

One of the more astounding actions by Sherlock Holmes in this tale is his sending a telegram to the Savannah, Georgia police department, a telegram which tells them that the three Americans aboard the Lone Star are wanted for murder in England. Holmes's charges are based on the most circumstantial of evidence, and he seems to lump all three men together for no other reason than that they are shipmates and countrymen. Just what actions would the Savannah police be expected to take based on an accusation from an English private detective? Something as ambitious as extradition, or just keeping a close eye on the three in case they pulled anything in Savannah?

THREE DOWN, SEVERAL MORE TO GO

You just can't get away from the wild statements Holmes seems to be making in this case. Holmes speaks of the Ku Klux Klan as a gang, and Calhoun as their leader, then says "I shall have the others, but he is the first." What others? And how was Holmes expecting to find them, when he barely found Calhoun and his mates by ship's records?

THE COLONEL'S CHESS GAME

"I'll checkmate them still," Elias Openshaw says, and does two things. First, he burns the papers that the Florida Klansmen seem to be after. Second, he leaves his worldly goods to his brother. How does this checkmate the Klan? If they were seeking the papers for fear of blackmail or criminal arrest, Elias was doing their job for them. And what good would a will do? Who would the estate have gone to without a will? Surely the only person who might claim a man's estate before his brother would be a wife or offspring...was Elias being stalked by in-laws he left behind in Florida? Might the

"Paramore" of March 1869 been a "paramour"?

THE PARTNERSHIP STAYS FIRM

As much as poet Vincent Starrett liked the year 1895 as a classic year of Canonical lore, I don't think it will ever surpass 1887 in my mind. It's a year at the very heart of the early half of the partnership, and full of many great moments. As Watson says in FIVE, "The year '87 furnished us with a long series of cases of greater or less interest, of which I retain the records."

Note the use of the word "us" in that sentence. Despite the fact that he's married and carrying on a full medical practice in this tale, he is still very much a part of the detective team. Is this a touch of egotism on Watson's part, something he might have wrote after Holmes's demise but not while the detective was living? Have we seen much evidence of a partnership before now?

THE SMALL ESTATE IN SUSSEX

Elias leaves his estate to Joseph. Joseph leaves his estate to John. John dies with no known heir. Elias seemed to think that passing on his estate could be passing on a sort of curse. Sherlock Holmes swore to follow up on the Openshaw case, and one would think that he traveled down to Horsham after the events of the story to do exactly that. Did the Openshaw curse pass on to the next residents of that Sussex estate? Would Holmes have warned the next residents of possible trouble heading their way? Or checked those occupants out to see if they were involved in the wholesale extermination of Openshaws?

MAJOR PRENDERGAST STRIKES!

"I spoke to Major Prendergast about my troubles and was advised by him to come to you," John Openshaw tells Holmes. The only other Prendergast we hear of in the Canon is Jack Prendergast of "The Gloria Scott," an ingenious criminal schemer of good family who may or may not have been killed on a prison ship in 1855. Now Holmes

supposedly cleared the Major of a card cheating scandal at the Tankerville Club. The only other mention we hear of the Tankerville Club is in "The Adventure of the Empty House," where we learn Colonel Sebastian Moran, known card cheat, is a member. Might both Prendergasts and Moran be one in the

same, and this whole Openshaw business be a set-up designed to test still-naive Holmes by one Professor Moriarty? Or is all this just a series of amazing coincidences?

THE MAID BRINGS UP THE COFFEE

This, we guess, is the same maid at 221B whose footsteps Watson heard pattering off to bed in "A Study in Scarlet." Might she also be the Mrs. Turner of "A Scandal..."? Would a live-in maid have been a married woman or possibly a young widow?

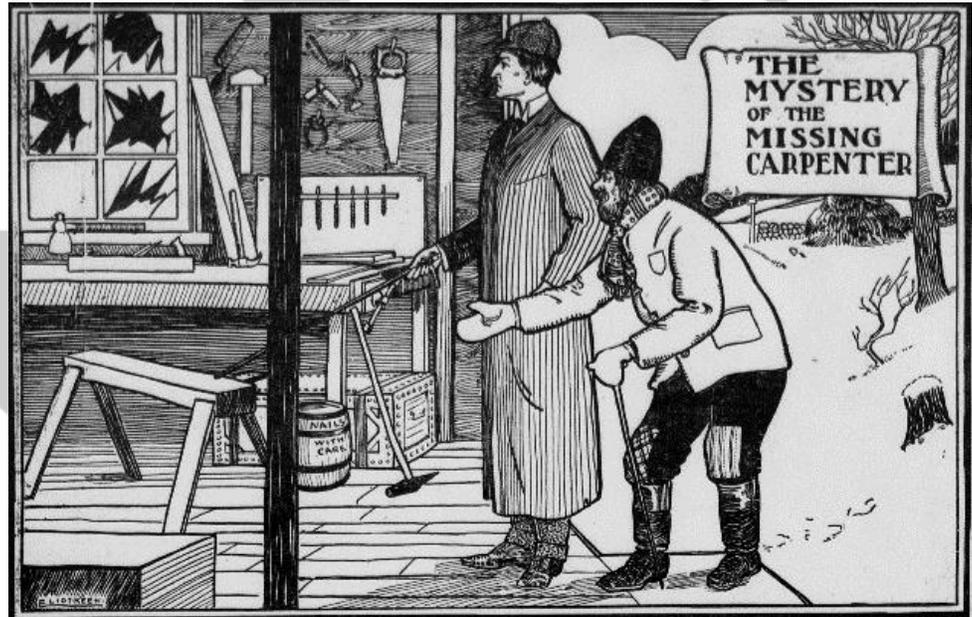
Eliot Keen's Sherlockian Puzzles from the Los Angeles Herald

ANSWERS TO "THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING CARPENTER"

"I see," said Sherlock Holmes, "that there are a number of clues to the mystery of the missing carpenter, who was also a thief. The article at which I am pointing suggests to me that he was a horse thief. I see also a plane, which leads me to suppose that he has not gone to the mountains. As his chest is very strong, I see that he was not consumptive.

"I also see that he was a man of gentlemanly habits. I notice a clue which suggests to me in what sort of a vehicle he went away from here. I see that since leaving here he has become reformed, and I observe a clue which tells me that he is much better in health than he formerly was."

Can you find in the picture the last four clues mentioned by Sherlock Holmes? How did Sherlock deduce:



The thief was a horse thief	Holmes points to the saw horse
The thief had not gone to the mountains	There is a plane ("plain") on the workbench
The thief is not consumptive	The chest under the table is very well built
The thief was a man of gentlemanly habits	He took care of his nails (the cask is marked with 'nails with care')
The thief left in what type of vehicle	A sledge (short for sledge-hammer, a long-handled hammer)
The thief had become reformed	He left behind his vise (the tool with jaws for holding an object)
The thief is in better health than he used to be	He once had six pains and now has only one pain (the window panes)



It was a great mystery. The beautiful heiress had been stolen by desperadoes. Her friends were terribly worried. At last they decided to call in Sherlock Holmes. The great detective came. "I see," he said, "many clues to this mystery. I see that the heiress was present at an entertainment and what sort of a function it was; I see that she was very popular, I see why the thieves bought her to this place, what they ate during the flight, where they are now hiding, and I can also find for you the chief kidnapper. Are you as clever as Sherlock?"

What function was the heiress at: _____

How did Holmes know she was popular: _____

Why did the thieves bring her here: _____

What did they eat during the escape: _____

Where are they hiding: _____

Who is the chief kidnapper: _____

How I Made My List

by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

From the Strand Magazine, 1927:

When this competition was first mooted I went into it in a most light-hearted way, thinking that it would be the easiest thing in the world to pick out the twelve best of the Holmes stories. In practice I found that I had engaged myself in a serious task. In the first place I had to read the stories myself with some care. "Step, steep, weary work," as the Scottish landlady remarked.

I began by eliminating altogether the last twelve stories, which are scattered through the Strand for the last five or six years. They are about to come out in a volume form under the title *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*, but the public could not easily get at them.

Had they been available I should have put two of them in my team - namely, 'The Lion's Mane' and 'The Illustrious Client'. The first of these is hampered by being told by Holmes himself, a method which I employed only twice, as it certainly cramps the narrative. On the other hand, the actual plot is among the very best of the whole series, and for that it deserves its place.

'The Illustrious Client', on the other hand, is not remarkable for plot, but it has a certain dramatic quality and moves adequately in lofty circles, so I should also have found a place for it.

However, these being ruled out, I am now faced with some forty odd candidates to be weighed against each other. There are certainly some few an echo of which has come to me from all parts of the world, and I think this is the final proof of merit of some sort.

There is the grim story 'The Speckled Band'. That I am sure will be on every list. Next to that in popular favour and in my own esteem I would place 'The Red-Headed League' and 'The Dancing Men', on account in each case of the originality of the plot. Then we could hardly leave out the story which deals with the only foe who ever really extended Holmes, and which deceived the public (and Watson) into the erroneous inference of his death.

Also, I think the first story of all should go in, as it opened the path for the others, and it has more female interest than is usual. Finally, I think the story which essays the difficult task of explaining away the alleged death of Holmes, and which also introduces such a villain as Colonel Sebastian Moran, should also have a place.

This puts 'The Final Problem', 'A Scandal in Bohemia', and 'The Empty House' upon our list, and we have got our first half-dozen. But now comes the crux. There are a number of stories which really are a little hard to separate. On the whole I think I should find a place for 'The Five Orange Pips', for though it is short it has a certain dramatic quality of its own.

So now only five places are left. There are two stories which deal with high diplomacy and intrigue. They are both among the very best of the series. The one is 'The Naval Treaty' and the other 'The Second Stain'. There is no room for both of them in the team, and on the whole I regard the latter as the better story. Therefore we will put it down for the eighth place.

And now which? 'The Devil's Foot' has points. It is grim and new. We will give it the ninth place. I think also that 'The Priory School' is worth a place if only for the dramatic moment when Holmes points his finger at the Duke. I have only two places left.

I hesitate between 'Silver Blaze', 'The Bruce-Partington Plans', 'The Crooked Man', 'The Man with the Twisted Lip', 'The Gloria Scott', 'The Greek Interpreter', 'The Reigate Squires', 'The Musgrave Ritual', and 'The Resident Patient'. On what principle am I to choose two out of those? The racing detail in 'Silver Blaze' is very faulty, so we must disqualify him. There is little to choose between the others. A small thing would turn the scale.

'The Musgrave Ritual' has a historical touch which gives it a little added distinction. It also has a memory from Holmes' early life. So now we come to the very last. I might as well draw the name out of a bag, for I see no reason to put one before the other.

Whatever their merit - and I make no claim for that - they are all as good as I could make them. On the whole, Holmes himself show perhaps the most ingenuity in 'The Reigate Squires', and therefore this shall be twelfth in my team.

It is proverbially a mistake for a judge to give his reasons, but I have analysed mine if only to show any competitors that I really have taken some trouble in the matter.

The Sherlock Holmes International Exhibition at the Perot Museum

The Exhibition makes it way to the Perot Museum in Dallas, beginning on February 12, 2015... Our Crew is excited for its arrival, and has offered to work with the Museum and the Conan Doyle Estate to provide whatever assistance we can. Each month, we will provide a snippet of what can be expected.

THE MEDIA

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With more than 50 newspapers operating in the city of London alone, and a hundred more in the suburbs, the Victorian era was an age of fast, efficient, and widespread reporting of the latest news.



Criminal Type

Many newspapers achieved a distinctive look with specially-designed fonts and other unique design features. Sherlock Holmes made a special hobby of being able to identify various types of

newspaper print at a glance, from the "leaded bourgeois type" of one to the "slovenly print" of another.

This talent was especially useful when attempting to trace the origins of messages composed of newspaper fragments, such as ransom notes.

"The detection of types," the detective remarked, "is one of the elementary branches of knowledge to the special expert in crime."

[from "The Hound of the Baskervilles"]



The Daily Gazette, Morning Post, Times, Daily Telegraph, Standard, Daily News, Globe, Star, Pall Mall, St. James, Evening News, and Echo were just some of the daily periodicals that Holmes would peruse on a regular basis, usually the Agony columns, to assist in his detective work.