

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 02, No. 07 - July, 2014

The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star



From the Editors: Let's look at Victorian photos, as well the new season of "Sherlock." We are attaching another pastiche written by Jack Brazos III titled "THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGES". Don, Steve, &

August 3, 2014 Meeting

The next meeting (and future meetings) will be held on Sunday, August 3rd, 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 Red-Headed League**," will be discussed (see page 5). A quiz on the reading will be conducted at the beginning of the meeting.

We may have a surprise guest provide a wonderful lecture on Christopher Morley, the founder of the Baker Street Irregulars.

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

June 1, 2014 Meeting

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

Pam gave a sweet toast to the victim of "A Case of Identity," Ms. Mary Sutherland, who suffered from the actions of her step-father. (page 2).

Brenda outlasted the other contestants in the quiz concerning IDEN.

As this was the anniversary week of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's death (July 8, 1930), Steve provided a short informational remembrance of the "Literary Agent."

We then had a "State of the Society" discussion since we have recently passed the 1 year anniversary of re-energizing the Crew.

As our Helmsman, Joe, has headed off to greener pastures, a new Helmsman was needed. Walter Pieper, a long-time Sherlockian and member of our society willingly volunteered to take on the position, focusing on the society's outreach, special events, and growing the membership. Cindy and Brenda have agreed to work with Walter on these projects.

Rusty Mason has agreed to take over maintaining the Crew webpage.

Don Hobbs presented Steve with his investiture as a full member of the Crew. We do have several others who are deserving of this achievement and will be so honored in the coming months.

Steve closed the meeting with a reading from the Baker Street Journal, on the most popular fictional characters (see page 2).



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>

Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors
Secretaries

Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb
Cindy Brown
Pam Mason

mason.steve@epa.gov
waltpieper@att.net
221b@verizon.net
jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com



Irving Wallace, in his excellent book The Fabulous Originals makes the categorical and arbitrary statement Robinson Crusoe is "the beet-known character in all fiction.

Mr. Wallace is probably right, but only probably.

Cases in opposition to his own could plausibly be made - and have plausibly been made - for Rip Van Winkle and Don Quixote; for Hamlet and Romeo and Alice and Dr. Jekyll-cum-Mr. Hyde; for Santa Claus, and - also especially at Christmas time - for old Scrooge and Tiny Tim.

The field of choice is a wide one, and there is bound to be continuing controversy as to who is right and who is wrong, by reason of the fact that the average human being, especially if he is literate, finds it difficult to be objective on a question where sentiment and sentimentality are so urgently invited.

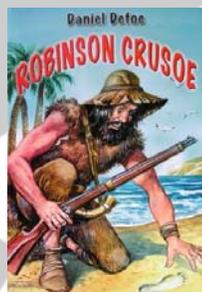
Even if objectivity were possible, we should probably never know the answer - for the one statistic the statistician have not been able to conjure up is the statistic of quantitative psychological consensus.

Whatever that consensus may be, if one there is, we BSIs can accept it, or a reasonable facsimile of it, with good grace and complete equanimity.

We have no particular axe to grind, in our own calm objectivity, and there seems no sense in either taking violent exception to Wallace's dictum or issuing a clarion call for its endorsement.

If Crusoe is the best-known character in all fiction, by all means let him bask in the reflected effulgence of that distinction.

Our own acclaim need neither be given nor withheld: we stand aloof; and, as we survey the contest from afar, it can be seen that we are smiling.



There is a man living today in peaceful retirement on the Sussex Downs of England who would, we think, agree with us in all of this.

And he, we may be sure, is smiling too.

A TOAST TO MARY SUTHERLAND

Today we sit back and have a drink with one of Conan Doyle's lesser-enjoyed stories, "A Case of Identity."

Yes, this story is rather weak, especially compared with others from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," it does have its points.



Probably the most overlooked aspect of "A Case of Identity" is our unfortunate heroine, Miss Mary Sutherland.

Keep in mind-- she is a young lady in Victorian England who has an income large enough to live on, but insists on working as a freelance typist.



She continually shows off her strong sense of self-worth by disobeying her stepfather's demand of not going out to meet people, and she comes alone to Baker Street in search of help.

This is no bland wallflower here. What happens to Miss Sutherland in the story is shameful and embarrassing, but she handles it with class.

Her hopes and dreams went unfulfilled; and her heart was broken.

So let's raise our glasses to a Miss Sutherland.

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.

Searching for Sherlock

Have you ever been stuck trying to remember which story a particular character was involved in the Canon ? Or wracked your brain to figure out how many times the term "gasogene" or "tantalus" was used in the Canon.

Well, a great search engine exists which will assist you in answering those nagging questions, as well as any many other uses. [Searching for Sherlock](#) is a website designed and maintained by Mr. Moon search engines.

MoonFind is designed as a text searching tool. As such, it searches through a database of text files which are stored line by line, such as they would be on a page of a book. The search is successful if it finds a match, according to the options you choose, on any given line in the text file.

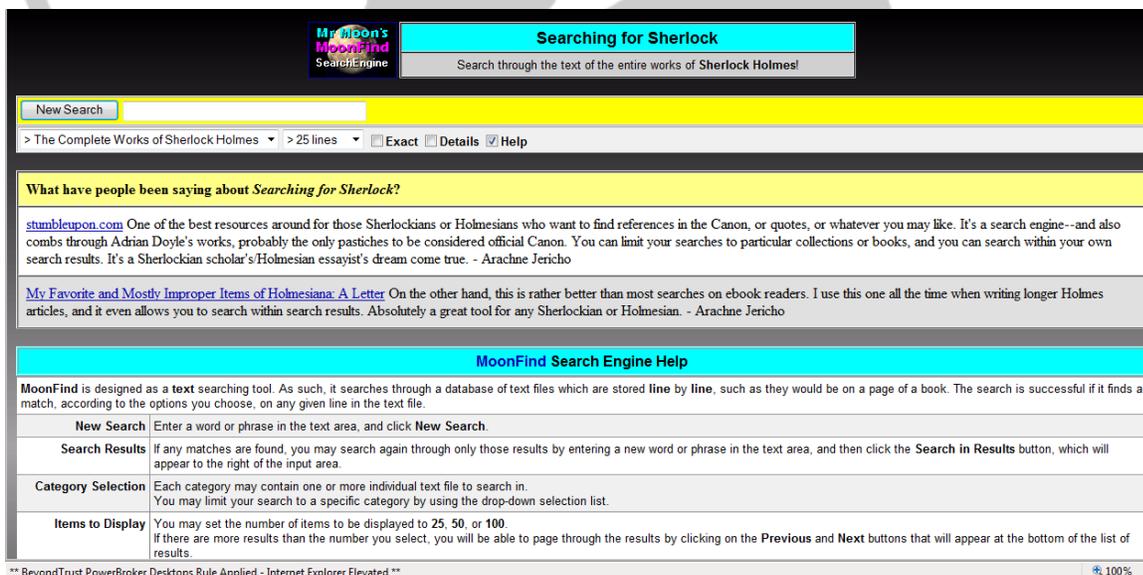
New Search Enter a word or phrase in the text area, and click New Search.
Search Results If any matches are found, you may search again through only those results by entering a new word or phrase in the text area, and then click the Search in Results button, which will appear to the right of the input area.

There are several other options to the search, including an advanced search, and several qualifiers. What have people been saying about Searching for Sherlock?

"One of the best resources around for those Sherlockians or Holmesians who want to find references in the Canon, or quotes, or whatever you may like. It's a search engine--and also combs through Adrian Doyle's works."

"I use this one all the time when writing longer Holmes articles, and it even allows you to search within search results. Absolutely a great tool for any Sherlockian or Holmesian."

You can find Searching for Sherlock at: <http://mrmoon.com/moonfind/holmes/>



Mr. Moon's MoonFind SearchEngine Searching for Sherlock
Search through the text of the entire works of Sherlock Holmes!

New Search

> The Complete Works of Sherlock Holmes > 25 lines Exact Details Help

What have people been saying about Searching for Sherlock?

[stumbleupon.com](#) One of the best resources around for those Sherlockians or Holmesians who want to find references in the Canon, or quotes, or whatever you may like. It's a search engine--and also combs through Adrian Doyle's works, probably the only pastiches to be considered official Canon. You can limit your searches to particular collections or books, and you can search within your own search results. It's a Sherlockian scholar's/Holmesian essayist's dream come true. - Arachne Jericho

[My Favorite and Mostly Improper Items of Holmesiana: A Letter](#) On the other hand, this is rather better than most searches on ebook readers. I use this one all the time when writing longer Holmes articles, and it even allows you to search within search results. Absolutely a great tool for any Sherlockian or Holmesian. - Arachne Jericho

MoonFind Search Engine Help

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New Search	Enter a word or phrase in the text area, and click New Search .
Search Results	If any matches are found, you may search again through only those results by entering a new word or phrase in the text area, and then click the Search in Results button, which will appear to the right of the input area.
Category Selection	Each category may contain one or more individual text file to search in. You may limit your search to a specific category by using the drop-down selection list.
Items to Display	You may set the number of items to be displayed to 25, 50, or 100 . If there are more results than the number you select, you will be able to page through the results by clicking on the Previous and Next buttons that will appear at the bottom of the list of results.

** BeyondTrust PowerBroker Desktops Rule Applied - Internet Explorer Elevated ** 100%

Seventeen Steps to "The Red-Headed League"

By Brad Keefaver

WHO GETS THE SETTEE?

Who do the Hounds think wound up in the settee? Watson or Wilson?

I always assumed it was Wilson, but a careful re-re-reading after that question changed my mind. Wilson only "half" rose from his seat.

He would have had to rise all the way to change to the settee. Watson, on the other hand, was dithering as to whether he should remain.

So of course Holmes suggests the settee, which is far more polite than telling him to "Sit down, already!"

THAT ELDERLY REDHEAD

Had Wilson retained his hair color to an elderly age, or is Watson, still fairly young at this point, over-exaggerating Wilson's elderliness?

Or was "elderly" younger back then than it is now?

A little of each, I suspect. I do know people who've retained their hair color into their 70's, and I suspect anything over 50 would be considered elderly back then.

PHOTO STUDY OF A PAWN SHOP

So what was he taking pictures of?

Nothing. I'm sure he told Wilson he took the pictures on his day off (Sunday) when the store would have been closed.

And he no doubt came up with some reason or other why the pictures didn't come out well enough to be shown.

Or he had a stack of pictures of birds, flowers, scenery, etc., he'd taken and developed in the past to show Wilson.

After all, the latter gentleman was not the brightest bulb in the chandelier, and he seemed to be able to believe almost anything.

He wasn't even curious enough to ask to see the photographic setup in his own basement!

IN A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN

During the boredom of his daily copying routine, wouldn't you expect Wilson to wonder about the rest of the league, spread across London in individual offices, copying away?

But Wilson wasn't too swift, and the pay was so good for so little work, that he

wasn't about to rock any boats by questioning the arrangements.

An enterprising fellow like Wilson, looking to move up in the League to a Duncan Ross level position.

I doubt that advancement ever entered Wilson's mind. I'm sure Clay knew that.

If Wilson were the curious type who went beyond the surface of what he was told, (and remember, he never looked in his basement for three months to see what Clay's equipment looked like), Clay would have had to use another method.

If Wilson had suddenly developed a bump of curiosity, I fear that Clay would have buried him in that same cellar and told anyone who inquired that Wilson had sold him the shop -- at least up until the day of the robbery.

JONES'S NAPOLEON OF CRIME

"John Clay, the murderer, thief, smasher, and forger . . . he is at the head of his profession . . . His brain is as cunning as his fingers, and though we meet signs of him at every turn, we never know where to find the man himself.

He'll crack a crib in Scotland one week, and be raising money to build an orphanage in Cornwall the next.

I've been on his track for years and have never set eyes on him yet."

Now, that's a pretty impressive testimonial from Inspector Peter Jones . . . at least until we hear Holmes tell Watson that Jones is "an absolute imbecile in his profession." If Jones is that stupid, can Clay be quite so clever?

Well, Holmes says Clay's the fourth smartest man in London. Even a stopped watch is right twice a day, after all, and Jones may also just be repeating what he's heard from others in the police.

And as we'll learn in a future story, a certain mathematics professor is operating behind the scenes in London's criminal world, helping the common criminal look much brighter than he was.

So what is the Hounds' verdict on Clay? Criminal genius or candidate for a COPS episode with Moriarty's help?

From the wording of Holmes' description of Clay's activities, I suspect

he's rather high in Moriarty's organization; there are certain parallels of phrasing.

GYPSY EAR-PIERCERS STRIKE!

When Vincent Spaulding's new boss asks him how his ears came to be pierced, Spaulding tells him that "a gypsy had done it for him when he was a lad."

Was this a valid Victorian excuse for having pierced ears? Did lads often run off to see the gypsies and get their ears pierced?

Was there any truth to it, or was it a fanciful tale covering some darker ear-piercing secret . . . and what would that be, anyway?

John Clay was very likely born on the wrong side of the blanket, quite likely to a servant on the estate of his father's family.

He wasn't one of The Family, so was allowed to run somewhat wild, hence the experience with the gypsies.

He was, however, provided with an education once he was old enough to be hard to ignore; he probably resembled his father or grandfather a great deal.

THE LEAGUE RULES AND THE MEN WHO OBEY THEM (BARELY)

Okay, Hounds, be honest. Your business, like Wilson's, can spare you from ten to two each day, without affecting your income. You get offered \$500 American per week and a berth in the Red-headed League, with all the League's rules. Do you take it? And if you do, how many sheets of paper do you show up with on the first day?

IMHO, the rules were set up to need red-headed men who needed help. If you are making a good living otherwise, why would you take this boring job in the first place? If you need the money, you might well be willing to do anything legal, however idiotic. After all, anyone who's worked for someone else has been asked to do something idiotic now and then anyhow.

If I took the job, I'd show up with more than seven sheets of paper, since I'm sure that I could fill more than less than a single sheet in a half hour, which is all that Wilson allowed. I haven't hand written anything more than a note or a shopping

list in so long that I have no idea how much I could fill, but IIRC, I went through a lot of pages in a blue book in a one-hour exam in college. True, Wilson may not have written as fast (or as messily) as I do and probably took his time checking unfamiliar words, and so forth, but seven still seems small.

I guess I'd buy a dozen and write on both sides, to start with, adjusting as I saw what time it took to do a page.

Or I'd practice on an old newspaper to time myself, if I didn't want to waste money on paper.

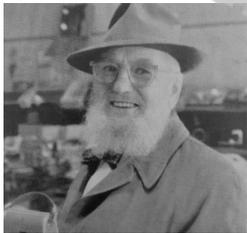
I've always wondered how Wilson managed to fill up "nearly a shelf" at his rate of seven sheets a day.

That's 7 sheets a day for six days a week for eight weeks, or 336 sheets.

That's very close to two thirds of a ream, and even a whole ream doesn't take up that much room.

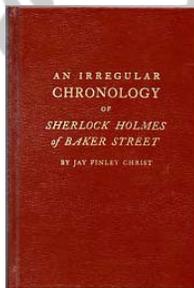
The Abbreviations of the Canon

We have all seen the abbreviations used to signify the stories and novels of the Canon. IDEN = "**A Case of identity**," STUD = **A Study in Scarlet**, HOUN = **The Hound of the Baskervilles**, and so on. We have one person to thank for developing these abbreviations.



Jay Finley Christ (1884-1963) was a professor of law at

the University of Chicago (1920-1950) and eminent Holmesian. Christ published his system of abbreviations for the first time in his book **An Irregular Guide to Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street** (1947). This system still refers and is still used today. Not only did Christ establish the abbreviations, he also provided a chronology for the stories that differed from other historians. His unique timeline included his belief that Holmes' hiatus lasted only 11 months.



This chronology was published in 1947 in the book: An Irregular

Chronology of Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street.

Christ first became interested in the Baker Street Irregulars after reading **Profiles by Gaslight**



Edgar W. Smith and the article "**Books Alive**" by Vincent Starrett in the Chicago Tribune.

In 1944, he began a correspondence with Starrett, who invited him to join the BSI in 1949, and Christ was invested with the canonical name: The Final Problem.

Christ became a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, The Hounds of Baskerville of Chicago, and an early member of the Hugo's Companions. He also helped create the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis.

Christ provided two lecture series at the University of Chicago: The Life and Times of Mr. Sherlock Holmes (5 conferences in 1946) and Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street (6 lectures from 7 January to 11 February 1947 and 4 October to 8 November 1947). These were considered some of the earliest scholarly lectures at a university setting.

Christ made his mark among the Irregulars very quickly after first emerging into view. On June



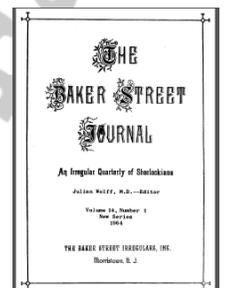
29, 1945, for example, Edgar W. Smith wrote to Christopher Morley:

"I am sending you a rather delightful paper by the pertinacious and perennial J. Christ, who has proved himself in this instance, I feel, to have been truly a Messiah in so far as it concerns the identification of the Island of Uffa. The piece is so good it deserves copying – and after you have read it, I shall have a few extras made for yourself and others."

Christ died December 10, 1963 at the age of 79 after two years of illness, and in 1964, he was awarded a Two-Shilling Award, by the BSI.

A wonderful tribute was provided in the **Baker Street Journal** in September, 1964, under "Stand with me here upon the terrace...":

JAY FINLEY CHRIST died on 10 December 1963, and we lost one



of our immortals. The quantity and the quality of his researches was not surpassed by anybody, and he had earned every Sherlockian honour. Not only was he an Investitured Irregular ("The Final Problem") of long standing, but he was also an Honorary Member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the recipient of our Two—Shilling Award.

Even the suffering of his last, long illness did not dampen his ardour, as shown by his contributions to the last issues of this Journal and The Sherlock Holmes Journal. Although he is no longer with us, we all shall continue to benefit from his contributions to the literature of our favourite subject.

When talking about the tales of Sherlock Holmes, you often times will see a four letter reference, such as 3GAB or MISS. These four-letter abbreviations are the legacy of Jay Finley Christ. They are as follows:

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|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3GAB - The Adventure of The Three Gables • 3GAR - The Adventure of The Three Garridebs • 3STU - The Adventure of the Three Students • ABBE - The Adventure of the Abbey Grange • BERY - The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet • BLAC - The Adventure of Black Peter • BLAN - The Adventure of The Blanched Soldier • BLUE - The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BOSC - The Boscombe Valley Mystery • BRUC - The Adventure of Bruce-Partington Plans • CARD - The Adventure of The Cardboard Box • CHAS - The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton • COPP - The Adventure of The Copper Beeches • CREE - The Adventure of The Creeping Man • CROO - The Adventure of the Crooked Man • DANC - The Adventure of The Dancing Men • DEVI - The Adventure of The Devil's Foot • DYIN - The Adventure of The Dying Detective • EMPT - The Adventure of The Empty House • ENGR - The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb • FINA - The Adventure of the Final Problem • FIVE - The Five Orange Pips • GLOR - The Adventure of the "Gloria Scott" • GOLD - The Adventure of The Golden Pince Nez • GREE - The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter • HOUN - The Hound of the Baskervilles • IDEN - A Case of Identity • ILLU - The Adventure of The Illustrious Client • LADY - The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax • LAST - His Last Bow • LION - The Adventure of The Lion's Mane • MAZA - The Adventure of The Mazarin Stone • MISS - The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUSG - The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual • NAVA - The Naval Treaty • NOBL - The Adventure of The Noble Bachelor • NORW - The Adventure of The Norwood Builder • PRIO - The Adventure of The Priory School • REDC - The Adventure of The Red Circle • REDH - The Red-Headed League • REIG - The Adventure of the Reigate Squire • RESI - The Resident Patient • RETI - The Adventure of The Retired Colourman • SCAN - A Scandal in Bohemia • SECO - The Adventure of The Second Stain • SHOS - The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place • SIGN - The Sign of Four • SILV - The Adventure of Silver Blaze • SIXN - The Adventure of The Six Napoleons • SOLI - The Adventure of The Solitary Cyclist • SPEC - The Adventure of The Speckled Band • STOC - The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk • STUD - A Study in Scarlet • SUSS - The Adventure of The Sussex Vampire • THOR - The Problem of Thor Bridge • TWIS - The Man with the Twisted Lip • VALL - The Valley of Fear • VEIL - The Adventure of The Veiled Lodger • WIST - The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge • YELL - The Adventure of the Yellow Face |
|---|--|--|

The Real Moriarty

Some information from Dr. Bruce Rosen & Paul Darin

In January of 1902, less than a year after the death of Queen Victoria or, as she was properly titled and styled, "Her Majesty Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India," Henry Raymond was buried in a paupers' grave in Highgate Cemetery. Although buried as Raymond,



his real name was Adam Worth, and just as Victoria sits in the background of so many of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's tales of the great detective, Sherlock Holmes, so too, we find Adam Worth, better known to the world as Professor Moriarty.

He is the "Napoleon of Crime," as described by Sherlock Holmes. As it turns out, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes series, pulled that

phrase from a Scotland Yard inspector (Robert Anderson) of the day who was referring to aristocrat Adam Worth, according to Princeton University. Anderson was the most famous policeman of his day. He was a spy-master and a chief of detectives at Scotland Yard, having been appointed, in 1888. Coming from him, the title "Napoleon of the criminal world" was no small accolade.

Adam Worth was born into a poor Jewish family in Germany. His original surname might have been "Werth". When he was five years old, his family moved to the United States, settling in Cambridge, Massachusetts where his father became a tailor.

In 1854, he ran away from home and moved first to Boston and then in 1860 to New York City. He worked as a clerk in a department store for one month.

When the American Civil War broke out, Worth was 17. He lied about his age and enlisted in the Union army. Worth served in the 2nd New York Heavy Artillery, Battery L (later designated 34th New York Battery) and was promoted to sergeant in two months. He was wounded in the Second Battle of Bull Run on August 30, 1862 and was shipped to a Georgetown Hospital in DC. In the hospital, he learned he had



been listed as "killed in action" and left. Worth became a bounty jumper; enlisting into various regiments with assumed names, receiving his pay, and then deserting. When

the Pinkerton Agency began to track him, like many others using similar methods, he fled to New York City.

Worth became a pickpocket in New York. In time, he founded his own gang of pickpockets, and then began to organize robberies and heists. When he was caught stealing the cash box of an Adams Express wagon, he was sentenced to three years in Sing Sing; he soon escaped and resumed his criminal career.

Worth had a network of criminal connections equal to or perhaps even greater than Moriarty. He stole his way through New York before jumping ship to England in 1869. By that time he had already committed 53,000 crimes leaving little to no evidence. Unlike Moriarty, he had a unique morality when committing crimes. He was opposed to hurting or killing anyone and even firmly instructed his henchmen to follow the same practice.

When he made it to England, he transformed himself into an English Gentleman named Henry J. Raymond and blended in flawlessly with London's upper class. Behind the scenes, he built a criminal network stretching across continents. His crimes stretched even as far as Port Elizabeth, South Africa, leaving police confused and at a loss for evidence.

Worth's most remembered crime is probably the abduction of the famous portrait of 18th century Duchess of Devonshire Georgiana by Thomas Gainsborough in 1787. The portrait was much admired in its day when it disappeared from Agnew and Son London Gallery on the night of May 25, 1876. Worth held onto the painting for the next 25 years.

Worth's reasons for stealing the portrait were two-fold. On the one hand, he had seen the picture and apparently fell very much under its spell. Like anyone in love, Worth assumed that others would have been just as smitten with the painting and so decided to use it to bail an associate out of jail. He intended to either sell the portrait or use it to force the owners of the gallery from which it had been purloined, to go bail for his incarcerated colleague.

Worth eventually got busted while committing a crime in Belgium in 1892. The robbery of an express carrier in Liege went wrong. He spent the next five years behind bars and lost everything, including his money and family, as a result.

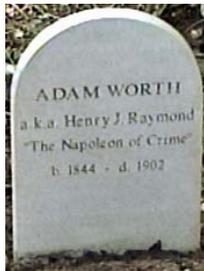


Through Pinkerton, Worth arranged the return of the painting Duchess of Devonshire to Agnew & Sons in return for \$25,000. The portrait and payment were exchanged in Chicago on March 28, 1901. Worth returned to London with his



children and spent the rest of his life with them. His son took advantage of an agreement between his father and Allan Pinkerton and became a career Pinkerton detective.

Adam Worth died on 8 January 1902. He was buried in Highgate Cemetery in a mass pauper's grave under the name of "Henry J. Raymond". A small tombstone was erected to mark his resting place in 1997 by the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation.



It has been widely speculated Doyle used Worth as the prototype for Sherlock Holmes' adversary,

Professor Moriarty. In his "Books Alive" column in The Chicago Sunday Tribune (26 December 1943), Vincent Starrett wrote, "Worth was the original of Prof. Moriarty. This information, which isn't generally known, was revealed by Conan Doyle in conversation with Dr. Gray C. Briggs of St. Louis, Dr. Briggs once told me." Starrett was a good friend of Dr. Gray Chandler Briggs (1882—1942), a St. Louis doctor and X-ray specialist.

In all his criminal career, and all the various crimes he committed, ... Worth was always proud of the fact that he never committed a robbery where the use of firearms had to be resorted to, nor had he ever escaped, or attempted to escape from custody by force or jeopardizing the life of an official, claiming that a man with brains had no right to carry firearms, that there was always a way, but the quick exercise of the brain.

Although Worth has been gone for over a century, the character of Professor Moriarty has lived in literature through the ages and the character dynamic between Holmes and Moriarty, hero and arch-enemy, continues to be a source of inspiration for stories today.



Mr. Holmes by Joshua Nealey, Hypable

Sir Ian McKellen has Tweeted the first image of him as the great detective Sherlock Holmes in his upcoming film titled Mr. Holmes.

McKellen may only be 75, but he's set to play a 93-year-old Sherlock Holmes in director Bill Condon's Mr. Holmes. We have to say he still looks quite sharp.

The film takes place in 1947, where McKellen plays a Holmes who is currently enjoying his retirement with his housekeeper and her amateur-sleuthing son.

The story is based on a novel by Mitch Cullin, where Sherlock Holmes must solve the greatest mystery of his career from 50 years ago without Watson at his side, and with declining mental abilities.



The last time Ian McKellen paired up with director Bill Condon, McKellen was nominated for Best Actor and Condon for Best Adapted Screenplay for their film Gods and Monsters.

Mr. Holmes' release date is set for 2015 and is currently in pre-production. We imagine they're doing screen tests with Sir Ian Tweeting a picture of his first time in costume as the beloved detective.

The film was originally titled A Slight Trick of the Mind, but Ian McKellen's Tweet reveals that the new title is officially Mr. Holmes.

Happy father's day, Sherlock Holmes! By Brad Keefauver

Are the sons of Sherlock Holmes paying a call on their old man today, in that special place where all such titans still dwell? Nero Wolfe, Auguste Lupa, Scott Adler, Clyde Miller Wynant, Mycroft Adler Norton, John Hamish Adler . . . most of Holmes's boys seem to have come via poor Irene Adler, who probably had to work hard to keep her stage figure after that lot.

Unless they were just one or two lads with multiple names. But that is old school Sherlockian thinking, and I've probably missed a Mary Russell pregnancy or a daughter by some Victorian incarnation of Molly Hooper. (We can retrofit new Canon into old, can't we?) If dear Sherlock was that potent, he probably produced some girls in his line, and my five minutes of research was just too lazy to turn them up.

Whether or not any or all of those kids are wishing Sherlock Holmes a

happy Father's Day, I would certainly like to add my own compliments of the season to the list. For Sherlock Holmes has always been a little bit of a remote father figure to me.

My own father died when I was thirteen years old, under circumstances I sometimes wistfully wish I could turn into a Sherlock Holmes story, instead of the grim reality that it was.

And during those following formative years when a boy is growing to manhood, looking around for role models to chart his course, I didn't really connect with any of the adult males wandering through my life . . . except for the ones I saw in books.

They had integrity, will power, courage, and drive. And foremost among them was a fellow named Sherlock Holmes. He was a man of many talents, who raised the life of his friend Watson to a level beyond the

ordinary. Dedicated to finding scientific answers, hidden truths of the human ocean, and exposing superstitious silliness, Sherlock Holmes has always been a fellow to look up to, both then and now. Sure, he's not really a loving paternal figure, but not everybody can be Santa Claus.

And Sherlock Holmes is not a guy who will steer you wrong. Such advice as "When one tries to rise above Nature, one is liable to fall below it," has come in very handy over the years. Perhaps I'm still not an exemplary human being for Holmes's role in my life, but hey, who among us did turn out perfect? "We can but try," as the big guy used to say.

So a very happy Father's Day, Mr. Sherlock Holmes! I hope those swarms of offspring Irene Adler went to all the trouble to deliver are treating you well.

4th Season of Sherlock by Blair Marnell, CRAVEOnline



Sherlock Holmes and John Watson will be back for a new season... in about a year and a half.

Last weekend, "Sherlock" star Martin Freeman hinted that a "Sherlock" Christmas special was likely to premiere in 2015. Today, BBC revealed that Sherlock Holmes and John Watson are going to have a busy year.

"Sherlock" Season 4 has been officially announced, with both Freeman and Benedict Cumberbatch reprising their roles as John Watson and Sherlock Holmes, respectively.

The "Sherlock" Christmas special will be filmed early next year, with the three episode fourth season slated to begin production later in 2015. This likely means that "Sherlock" Season 4 will premiere in 2016, after the 2015

Christmas special. That would be in line with the roughly two years between each season up to this point.

In the official announcement, "Sherlock" co-creator Steven Moffat said "A special, plus a new series of three episodes — it's a record-breaking run!! Of course, it's far too early to say what's coming, but we're reasonably confident that the very next thing to happen to Sherlock and John, is the very last thing you'd expect."

Moffat's co-creator, Mark Gatiss hinted that the fourth season of "Sherlock" will bring Sherlock and John "into deeper and darker water than ever before."

The bad news for "Sherlock" fans in America is that PBS has shown little interest in releasing the new episodes simultaneously with their premieres in the United Kingdom. That means that the "Sherlock" Christmas special may not air until 2016 in the United States. The fourth season of "Sherlock" will probably also be shown several months after it's debut on BBC One.

The Field Bazaar by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 1896

Many of us are familiar with the Sherlock Holmes parody, "How Watson Learned the Trick," written by Doyle, in 1922. But there was an earlier parody written almost ¼ of a century earlier. "The Field Bazaar" was written in 1896 as a fund raiser for Edinburgh University, which was Doyle's Alma Mater. It was published in THE STUDENT, the Edinburgh Undergraduate Magazine. The story was re-published in 1947 by the Baker Street Irregulars in pamphlet form. The Atheneum Press version is listed as Number Thirty-nine in Otto Penzler's 100 Indispensables in Sherlock Holmes.

"I should certainly do it," said Sherlock Holmes.

I started at the interruption, for my companion had been eating his breakfast with his attention centered upon the paper which was propped up by the coffee pot.

Now I looked across at him to find his eyes fastened upon me with the half-amused, half-questioning expression which he usually assumed when he felt he had made an intellectual point.

"Do what?" I asked.

He smiled as he took his slipper from the mantelpiece and drew from it shag tobacco to fill the clay pipe which he invariably rounded off his breakfast.

"A most characteristic question of yours, Watson," said he. "You will not, be offended if I say any reputation for sharpness which I may possess has been entirely gained by the admirable foil which you have made for me. Have I not heard of debutantes who have insisted upon plainness in their chaperones? There is a certain analogy."

Our long companionship in the Baker Street rooms had left us on those easy terms of intimacy when much may be said without offence. And yet I acknowledged I was nettled at his remark.

"I may be very obtuse," said I, "but I confess I am unable to see how you have managed to know I was... I was..."

"Asked to help in the Edinburgh University Bazaar..."

"Precisely. The letter has only just come to hand, and I have not spoken to you since."

"In spite of that," said Holmes, leaning back in his chair and putting his finger tips together, "I would venture to suggest the object of the bazaar is to enlarge the University cricket field."

I looked at him in such bewilderment he vibrated with silent laughter.

"The fact is, my dear Watson, you are an excellent subject," said he. "You are never blase. You respond instantly to any external stimulus. Your mental processes may be slow but they are never obscure, and I found during breakfast you were easier reading than the leader in the Times in front of me."

"I should be glad to know how you arrived at your conclusions," said I.

"I fear my good nature in giving explanations has seriously compromised my reputation," said Holmes. "But in this case the train of reasoning is based upon such obvious facts no credit can be claimed. You entered the room with a thoughtful expression of a man who is debating some point in his mind. In your hand you held a solitary letter. Now last night you retired in the best of spirits, so it was clear it was this letter in your hand which had caused the change in you."

"This is obvious."

"It is all obvious when it is explained to you. I naturally asked myself what the letter could contain which might have this affect upon you. As you walked you held the flap side of the envelope towards me, and I saw upon it the same shield-shaped device which I have observed upon your old college cricket cap. It was clear, then, the request came from Edinburgh University - or from some club connected with the University. When you reached the table you laid down the letter beside your plate with the address uppermost, and you walked over to look at the framed photograph upon the left of the mantelpiece."

It amazed me to see the accuracy with which he had observed my movements.

"What next?" I asked.

"I began by glancing at the address, and I could tell, even at six feet, it was an unofficial communication. This I gathered from the use of the word 'Doctor' upon the address, to which, as a Bachelor of Medicine, you have no legal claim. I knew University officials are pedantic in their correct use of titles, and I was thus enabled to say with certainty your letter was unofficial. When on your return to the table you turned over your letter and allowed me to perceive the enclosure was a printed one, the idea of a bazaar first occurred to me. I had already weighed the

possibility of its being a political communication, but this seemed improbable in the present stagnant conditions of politics.

"When you returned to the table your face still retained its expression and it was evident your examination of the photograph had not changed the current of your thoughts. In that case it must itself bear upon the subject in question. I turned my attention to the photograph, therefore, and saw at once it consisted of yourself as a member of the Edinburgh University Eleven, with the pavillion and cricket field in the background. My small experience of cricket clubs has taught me next to churches and

cavalry ensigns they are the most debt-laden things upon earth. When upon your return to the table I saw you take out your pencil and draw lines upon the envelope, I was convinced you were endeavoring to realise some improvement which was to be brought about by a bazaar. Your face still showed some indecision, so I was able to break in upon you with my advice you should assist in so good an object."

I could not help smiling at the simplicity of his explanation.

"Of course, it was as easy as possible," said I. My remark appeared to nettle him.

"I may add," said he, "the particular help which you have

been asked to give was you should write in their album, and you have already made up your mind the present incident will be the subject of your article."

"But how - !" I cried.

"It is as easy as possible," said he, "and I leave its solution to your own ingenuity. In the meantime," he added, raising his paper, "you will excuse me if I return to this very interesting article upon the trees of Cremona, and the exact reasons for the pre-eminence in the manufacture of violins. It is one of those small outlying problems to which I am sometimes tempted to direct my attention."

Sherlock Holmes & Numismatists (Coin Collectors) from Greg Ruby

Yours truly first became familiar with Sherlock Holmes in the fifth grade with the required reading of 3GAR.

Just a few months earlier, I had started to collect coins and was fascinated by this story's plot with a counterfeiting press. I discovered there were more stories and read REDH which featured gold French Napoleon coins.

I was hooked on Holmes and scoured the Canon for other references to coins as I read the stories.

I believe that there are many other Sherlockians who are numismatists (coin collectors) and likewise, many coin collectors who are Sherlockians. I also believe it's time to create an organization to merge these two interests together.

We will have an organizational meeting on Saturday, August 9 from 11A-12N in room 40 of the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in the Chicago suburb of Rosemont, Illinois. This meeting will take place during the American Numismatic Association's

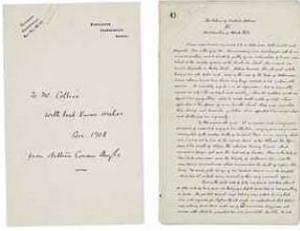
World Fair of Money. ANA members can attend the convention for free and non-ANA members have a daily \$6 rate. However, if you only wish to attend our meeting, please head directly to our meeting room and you do not have register for the show. More information about the coin show can be found at www.worldsfairmoney.com.

There is another meeting in the room before us that is scheduled to end at 10:30A. Due to schedule demands on myself and a few of the other interested attendees, we really need to end our meeting by 12 noon, so this will be a fairly quick meeting.

Anyone interested in coin collecting and Sherlock Holmes is welcome to attend. Please email me OFFLINE at Greg@GregRubyConsulting.com if you are interested in this group and whether you can or cannot attend this meeting.

Likewise, it would be appreciated if you could share this announcement with other interested Sherlockians and coin collectors you may know.

The High Bid Goes to...



On 19 June, at Christie's in New York, The manuscript of 'Black Peter' was sold for \$317,000, and the iconic 'Silver Blaze' illustration by Sidney Paget of Holmes and Watson in the railway compartment went for \$112,500.

The autographed manuscript of the Sherlock Holmes story "The Adventure of Black Peter," signed ("A. Conan Doyle") and dated ("Undershaw, July 26, 1903"), was published in Collier's 26 February 1904, and in The Strand Magazine, March 1904; and collected in The Return of Sherlock Holmes, New York and London, 1905.

The original gouache and watercolor drawing for Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes story "The Adventure of Silver Blaze," was signed "SP" in the lower right-hand corner.

The drawing is captioned in ink (probably by Paget) along the right-hand margin: "Holmes gave me a sketch of the events."



The story and drawing was published in The Strand Magazine, December 1892, p. 646.

Arthur Conan Doyle's surgical scissors fetched \$4,625. This pair of surgical scissors, formerly used by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Circa 1875 – 1900 was 6½ (16 mm.) in length.

The two steel blades are held together by a single rivet, iron cast, with circular fingerholes, marked with small stamped design of a key, above the imprint of "Geo. Butler & Co., Sheffield"



That Time J.M. Barrie Founded A Truly Atrocious Cricket Club by Katharine Trendacosta

Thanks to Dean Clark for bringing this to our attention.

There are all sorts of literary friendships in history. J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis. Jack Kerouac, Neal Cassady and Allen Ginsberg. The Algonquin Round Table. But they usually restricted themselves to literary pursuits.

Not so with J.M. Barrie's cricket team, which was packed with famous names and almost no athletic ability.

J.M. Barrie loved cricket. He loved it so much he formed a cricket club in 1887. But he didn't pick his team based on athletic ability, no. That would be silly. Instead, he invited people based on a more eccentric set of criteria:

With regard to the married men, it was because I liked

their wives, with the regard to the single men, it was for the oddity of their personal appearance.

He got what he asked for, naturalist Joseph Thomson wore pajamas as a substitute for cricket whites. Also joining the team were Rudyard Kipling, H. G. Wells, Arthur Conan Doyle, P. G. Wodehouse, G. K. Chesterton, Jerome K. Jerome, and A. A. Milne.

The name of the club was the "Allahakbarries," which is a culturally insensitive pun. And a mistake, since the two explorers who came up with it thought the name meant "Heaven help us," which was something the team would need to say a lot.

That's not what "Allah Akbar" actually means, but, hey, they did manage to get Barrie's name in

there. Among the team's greatest hits:

- Right before the first game, Barrie discovered his teammates trying to decide which side of the bat to use to hit the ball.
- One French player thought that when the umpire called "over," the game was literally finished.
- Barrie described a player as "Breaks everything except the ball."
- Barrie had to write the team a book of advice which included asking them not practice before matches since it would only give their opponents confidence and "Should you hit the ball, run at once. Do not stop to cheer."

Poor Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was the only one on the team who was actually a good player, and was described by Barrie as "A grand bowler. Knows a batsman's weakness by the colour of the mud on his shoes."

Barrie himself had just the right attitude about the game. He was relentlessly positive about the team and their opponents.

He dedicated his book on the team with "To Our Dear Enemy

Mary de Navarro," an American actress who had bowled him out.

He was also aware of his own shortcomings as a bowler, repeatedly writing about how slow he was. Eventually he fell back on an excuse that so many of us have used: the more accomplished a man was at writing, the worse he played.

Sadly, the end of the team was not as joyful as its inception or career: World War I finished the

team. Barrie saw it coming, writing in his diary:

"The Last Cricket Match. One or two days before war declared – my anxiety and premonition – boys gaily playing cricket at Auch, seen from my window. I know they're to suffer. I see them dropping out one by one, fewer and fewer."

