

# The Bilge Pump

Vol. 02, No. 11 - November, 2014

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



From the Editors: More answers from the \$ 64,000 question, plus a wonderful article from our own Dean Clark on the naming of Holmes Peak in Oklahoma. We are attaching another pastiche written by Jack Brazos III titled "THOU SHALT NOT KILL."

Don, Steve, & Walt

## December 7, 2014 Meeting

The next meeting (and future meetings) will be held on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at **LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE**, in Addison. The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

OK, so for Christmas, following tradition, "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle," will be discussed. A quiz on the reading will be conducted at the beginning of the meeting. We will have a discussion on what a "blue carbuncle" is, as well as a video.

*If you have any crafts or other Sherlockian items you would like to put up for sale, please bring them to the December meeting. MAKES FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT. Bring your cash or checks !*

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

## November 2, 2014 Meeting

Fourteen Sherlockians were present at La Madeleine for the October meeting. Allana provided a wonderfully unique toast, praising the acting skills of Holmes (see page 2).

Jack studied hard, winning the quiz for the month, receiving a nice hand-made prize from Pam. The contest was based on the chapters 5-7 of "The Valley of Fear."

We held a discussion on moats and drawbridges, and their use within the "Valley of Fear." This led to a discussion on the Tower of London, as well as letters sent to 221b Baker Street over the years.

The Sherlock Holmes Museum in London is having a few legal issues (see page 3).

The next movie night will be in December, where we will watch the Blue Carbuncles. Read the review of the first movie night on page 3.

The pastiches of Jack Brazos III (Marland) have been well received, and are all posted on the website, as well as the pastiche written by Rex Mason concerning the deaths of Crown Prince Rudolf and his friend, the Baroness Mary Vetsera.

For anyone interested in going to New York for the annual weekend, you can talk to Stu or Don concerning the details.

In Oklahoma City, the play "Holmes for the Holidays" will be conducted from November 28-December 20. See our website for details.

We discussed the exhibits we will be setting up at the Perot museum before the Sherlock Exhibition arrives. We will be meeting with the Perot museum shortly to work on details.

PLEASE LET BRENDA KNOW IF YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE ([brendahutchison243@att.net](mailto:brendahutchison243@att.net)).

The closing toast was given by Steve from a passage of The Baker Street Journal (see page 2).



For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://dfw-sherlock.org/>

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

Webmaster

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

[mason.steve@epa.gov](mailto:mason.steve@epa.gov)  
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[myrkrid08@yahoo.com](mailto:myrkrid08@yahoo.com)

# A TOAST FOR SHERLOCK

Allana Wooley

As we all know, Sherlock Holmes is off enjoying his retirement at the moment. While undoubtedly a peaceful existence, this century-long isolation from the thrill and adventure of solving crimes no doubt grows wearisome, boring.

This is why I have no doubt that every year on Halloween, the great detective comes out of hiding, knowing this is the only time of the year he can pass among us, unnoticed by his still active fans.

Drawn by the slightly sinister element inherent in Halloween and the promise of camouflage crowds bring, as well as his demonstrated knowledge and



appreciation of the Americas, Holmes' favorite Halloween haunt must be the very streets of the DFW—a place where Halloween celebrations are bigger, better, scarier, a little

more immersive, and an opportunity to get away from his staid day-to-day life.

As we well know, Holmes was a master at acting and disguise. A convincing enough dying man to fool



Watson's physician in "The Adventure of the Dying Detective," an old man in an opium den in "The Man with the Twisted Lip," a plumber, of all things, so method in his acting style that he becomes engaged to a housemaid in "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton," a book collector who shocks Watson after three years of supposed death in "The Adventure of the Empty House," and a drunk stable hand in "A Scandal in Bohemia."

Clearly, Holmes' repertoire of characters is extensive. Who can say whether he walked among us this Halloween or not?

So, this toast is to Sherlock Holmes, for deceiving us and slipping under our noses unnoticed one more year.

Next year, when a grown man knocks on your door and asks for something a little sweeter, a little stronger than candy, look twice—it may just be the master in disguise.



## WATSON, BORN 1852

Baker Street Journal, Gas-lamp, January, 1952

He does not tell us so himself, but we know, somehow — by deduction and the logic of events, or better still, perhaps, by intuition - that John H. Watson, M.D., was born in 1852. Just when and where is not important; nor do we care too much to know his family tree or how his youth was spent or which of his three separate continents brings him today

the fondest memories. What matters, where Dr. Watson is concerned (and what else really matters anywhere with anyone?) is that he lived at, all, and that he did the things he did.



The things he did! He stood as friend and strong right arm to Sherlock Holmes. How better could one live? And what greater glory could there be than to have shared with all the world the essence of those great events in which he took the Master's part?

John Watson has taken on new stature with the years. We see him now, in the retrospect of his centennial, as the symbol of a day and age long gone and much beloved: a better symbol, we may come to think, than Sherlock Holmes himself.



# LEGAL DISPUTE OVER SHERLOCK HOLMES MUSEUM

Karen Murdock

An excerpt of an article by Benedict Moore-Bridger in the "London Evening Standard" 20 October under the headline "Sherlock's not-so-elementary investigation":



THE founder of the Sherlock Holmes Museum — who was sued by his family over millions in admission fees — is being investigated by police over allegations of fraud, theft and blackmail. Father-of-two John Aidiniantz, 58, was taken to court last year by his 86-year-old mother Grace Riley over nearly £2 million of ticket and gift shop receipts from the London attraction. The complex case involved disputes over the ownership of various

family companies, properties and who was entitled to the various strands of income from the museum business.

Mr Aidiniantz is a convicted fraudster who was given a three-year jail sentence in 1994 over a £1.2 million mortgage swindle. The family claimed he misappropriated museum funds, while he insisted they had no entitlement to the takings and in turn alleged £175,000 of other cash had gone missing, taken by others in the family. But last year a judge granted an injunction freezing his assets, and the case seemed to be concluded when the family subsequently reached an out-of-court settlement with him.

However the Standard has learned that the dispute continues and police enquiries are also under way. [ . . . ]

Last month Mr Aidiniantz was interviewed under caution at Charing Cross police station on suspicion of theft and fraud. [ . . . ]

A spokesman for Surrey police said "thorough and extensive" enquiries into the allegations of blackmail and harassment are continuing. The Holmes museum, at the fictional detective's claimed London address — 221B Baker Street — was set up by Mr Aidiniantz with his mother in 1990 and makes an



estimated £20,000 a day.

The family claim Mr Aidiniantz promised to pay them £2million, plus legal fees of £171,000, mortgage debts of £58,000 and care for his mother in exchange for control of the business and two family properties.

## AT THE MOVIES

Walt Pieper

On Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> the first movie matinee was held at Walt's home in Plano. Present were Walt and Linda, Steve and Rusty, Brenda, and Tim. Appetizers and desserts were prepared by Linda. Tim generously provided the wine, a limited vintage Hound of the Baskervilles Red Zinfandel by 221B Cellars, which was enjoyed by all.



We viewed the 1939 "The Hound of the Baskervilles" starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce which was the first Holmes movie to be filmed with a Victorian era setting. This was followed by a documentary titled: "Dartmoor, Devil Dogs and Conan Doyle." It covered local legends and places that Doyle used as inspiration for his famous novel.

It was decided that this movie event was a success and that it should be continued every 1-2 months. It was further decided that it would be best to have it as an evening event and that it will therefore be referred to as movie night. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all.



# SHERLOCK HOLMES, UNLIKELY STYLE ICON

The Atlantic Monthly, October 27, 2014

The detective's iconic tweeds, robes, and deerstalker hat came from the imaginations of illustrators and filmmakers far more than from Arthur Conan Doyle himself.

The Museum of London recently debuted *Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die*, a major exhibition devoted to the fictional detective and the real city he inhabited.

The items on display include a rare manuscript of Edgar Allan Poe's *The Murders in Rue Morgue*—a key influence on Holmes's creator, Arthur Conan Doyle—and a portrait of Conan Doyle never before seen in public. But alongside these one-of-a-kind historical treasures, visitors will find two curiously modern artifacts: the coat and dressing gown worn by Benedict Cumberbatch in *Sherlock*, the BBC's 21st-century reboot of the Holmes stories.

While these costumes are obvious bait for fanboys (and fangirls) who might not be clued into the Victorian literary sensation behind the modern-day television sensation, they also serve as a reminder that Holmes's fashion choices, from page to screen, have always launched real-world trends.

In Conan Doyle's lifetime, Holmes's name and likeness were used to advertise pipes and shirts as well as tea, toffee, and mouthwash. More recently, *Esquire*, *FHM*, and *GQ* have advised readers on how to get the Sherlock look.

The exhibition provides a retrospective of Sherlockian style, investigating how it has evolved while retaining its instantly recognizable Victorian fashion DNA.

The museum even commissioned a Scottish textile mill to create a signature tweed in Holmes's honor, and a concurrent show features fashion photographer Kasia Wozniak's prints made using a 1890 field camera.



This lasting fashion legacy is all the more extraordinary considering how stingy Conan Doyle was with descriptions of dress.

Our image of Holmes comes almost entirely from his illustrator, Sidney Paget, whose elegant, angular prototype influenced every incarnation thereafter.

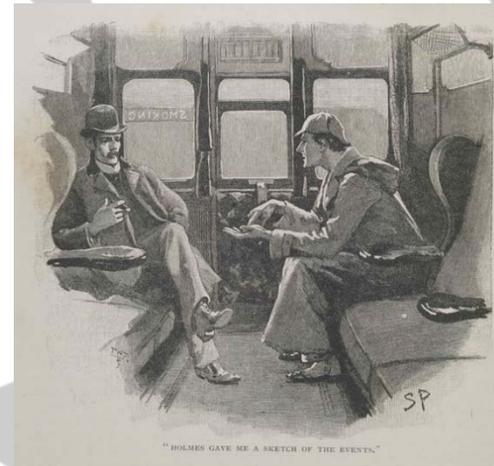
Though he didn't always share them with readers, however, Conan Doyle clearly had firm ideas about Holmes's appearance; he once protested that a poster for the 1899 play *Sherlock Holmes* made the detective look "about five feet high" and "badly dressed."

And Timothy Long, the Museum of London's fashion curator, points out that Conan Doyle used a "lost language" of fashion. "The modern audience reading these stories often overlooks clues that were very obvious to contemporary readers," he says. "Putting Watson in a morning coat or a frock coat indicated the time of day, for example."

Long describes Holmes's wardrobe as that of "a modern English gentleman. The greatcoat and the deerstalker were key components of any gentleman's wardrobe in England at that time period."

Thanks to the popularity of the Holmes stories, plays, and films, they remain so in the popular imagination today. Holmes's clothes in their various iterations are both timeless and very much of their times. The three most indelible

Sherlocks—  
Paget's  
original  
illustrations,  
Basil  
Rathbone in  
the 1930s,  
and



Cumberbatch—all wear contemporary dress, yet they are all unmistakably the same character. Take that coat, for example. In the stories, Holmes was "enveloped" in an Ulster, a long, single-breasted coat with a small collar and an attached hip-length cape. Conan Doyle also mentioned an "overcoat" (possibly the same one) and a "long grey travelling-cloak."

These have morphed over time into one stately, billowing garment, lending the character the mystery and panache of a superhero. (The poster for the 1965 film *A Study in Terror* called Holmes "the original caped crusader.") Rathbone's iconic tartan coat was tailored for the big screen, with a more mobile, elbow-length cape and a wide, face-framing collar.

Cumberbatch's coat—an off-the-rack number by British label Belstaff—was inspired not by the Victorian ulster but the 18th-century greatcoat, with its high, stiffened collar and wide lapels. Instead of a cape, its double-breasted front and pleated, belted back provide volume and movement.

With his Ulster, the literary Holmes wore a cravat. Rathbone's colorful silk scarves look almost feminine today, but they harmonized with 1930s fashions (think Fred Astaire).

In Guy Ritchie's steampunk-inspired Sherlock Holmes movies, Robert Downey Jr.'s flashy ascots are the only recognizably Holmesian aspect of his costumes, even if they seem more appropriate to circa 2008 Brooklyn than Victorian London. Cumberbatch's blue-gray scarf functions as an extension of his coat (and eyes).

It was Paget who introduced the deerstalker, mentioned nowhere in Conan Doyle's writings. (Holmes never uttered "Elementary, my dear Watson!" either.) As its name implies, it was a hunting garment, suitable for outdoor pursuits. Paget's Holmes wore it in the country, never in London.

However, Rathbone and subsequent Holmeses wore it everywhere, including indoors. As a trope, the deerstalker improved upon the generic "ear-flapped travelling-cap" Conan Doyle gave his hero. "Holmes never hunted," exhibition curator Alex Werner reminds us. "But Conan Doyle used the metaphor of hunting to express Holmes's pursuit of the truth." Though the deerstalker is no longer a staple of the English gentleman's wardrobe, it makes an ironic appearance in *Sherlock*: Cumberbatch impulsively dons one to hide his face from the paparazzi, only to have it become his trademark. (His humiliating nom de tabloid is "Hat Detective.") Downey, however, wore a fedora, in keeping with his Brooklyn hipster interpretation. His gentlemanly dress often hid what Conan Doyle called Holmes's "Bohemian soul." The melancholy, violin-playing, cocaine-injecting insomniac was betrayed by his off-duty clothes, specifically his collection of dressing gowns, which ranged from "mouse-colored" to a dandyish purple. The camel version

on display at the Museum of London is the most subdued of several Cumberbatch wears in the BBC series.



Holmes was well aware of the power of clothing to reveal as well as transform. Anthropometry—a legitimate scientific discipline in the Victorian era—held that physical characteristics corresponded to character traits; Holmes's high forehead indicated the mighty brain behind it. Clothing, by extension, could do the same—a perfectly reasonable assumption at a time when read-to-wear was in its infancy and those who could afford to still had their clothes custom-made. Dress is a main character in the stories when it comes to providing clues for Holmes," Long says. No scuffed shoe or scratched pocketwatch escaped his notice; the smallest sartorial detail could be the key to solving a case. He once deduced an entire psychological history from the "very ordinary black hat" that led him to the famous blue carbuncle. Holmes's methods—baffling to Watson—are well known to modern-day costume curators and conservators. "We are quite Sherlockian in our approach," Long says. "We regularly look at wear marks, labels, and types of materials."

Inspired by the Holmes stories, Long and "an army of volunteers" scoured the museum's archives for historical garments with tell-tale clues to the wearer's identity. A pair of men's evening shoes on display has circular wear marks on the soles, suggestive of dancing; a woman's blouse with ink-stained sleeves recalls the one that

helped Holmes identify his client as a typist in *A Case of Identity*.

A master of disguise, Holmes had an arsenal of unlikely alter egos, from an old lady to a "simple-minded Nonconformist clergyman." Long notes that although Holmes's borrowed makeup and wardrobe techniques from the Victorian stage, his disguises were not particularly theatrical or exotic, but "the disguises of the everyday."

In *Sherlock*, Cumberbatch has convincingly posed as a French waiter, a Guardsman, a hoodie-clad heroin addict, and a Pakistani terrorist.

But Cumberbatch's greatest disappearing act is his effortless embodiment of Conan Doyle's archetypal character: the angular silhouette, the hawk-like profile, the cape-like coat. A distinct lack of physical resemblance may be why the other modern-day TV Holmes, *Elementary*'s Jonny Lee Miller, has struggled to connect with viewers. Miller (like Downey) is more of a Watson than a Sherlock—compact and muscular rather than tall and lanky. It follows, then, that his clothes also break the mold. A floppy coat would not just envelop but swamp him; instead, a double-breasted pea coat provides warmth in the New York winters, while a red tartan scarf provides what little sartorial panache he possesses. But his endless supply of rumpled vests and ill-fitting blazers convey his Englishness—especially next to Lucy Liu's quintessentially chic New Yorker of a Watson—while his habit of buttoning his shirts up to the chin telegraphs the character's OCD tendencies. In this case, however, there's no mystery why it's Liu's Watson wardrobe that has inspired style bloggers.

# DID ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND 'THE REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES' SOLVE THE JACK THE RIPPER MYSTERY?

Paul Jones, RadioTimes.com



Ripper author Diane Madsen believes Doyle and his mentor Joseph Bell correctly deduced the identity of

the Victorian serial killer. Did Sherlock Holmes creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his friend and mentor Dr Joseph Bell correctly deduce the identity of the most infamous serial killer of all time, Jack the Ripper? Author Diane Madsen believes exactly that and has dramatised her ideas in her new book *The Conan Doyle Notes: The Secret of Jack the Ripper*.

Doyle was a clerk under Dr Bell at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary during the late 1870s and credits the pioneering forensic scientist as a key inspiration for his literary detective and his renowned methods of deductive reasoning.

After Bell's status as 'the real Sherlock Holmes' became public, he was one of the medical experts called upon for help by Scotland Yard during the Ripper investigation into the murders of five prostitutes in London's Whitechapel area in 1888. Meanwhile, Doyle himself is said to have later been taken on a tour of the same East End streets where the killings took place by a police detective who had worked on the case.

And Madsen believes the pair used Bell's Sherlockian methods to independently come up with the same suspect.

"Bell said that he had a 'friend who liked puzzles', and they both investigated the files," says Madsen. "They researched everything and then they each wrote their suspect's name down on a piece of paper, put it in an envelope and exchanged envelopes – and they both identified the same suspect."

Bell duly filed a report to Scotland Yard, and soon afterwards the murders stopped. But no such document has ever been found among the case files, and Madsen believes this points to an official cover up.

"All of this fits in with there being some kind of a police conspiracy because the report was never publicised," says Madsen. "It's no longer in the files, apparently, nobody has seen it, nobody has talked about it, yet he says he made a report."

But if Conan Doyle was indeed the "friend who liked puzzles", as Madsen believes, why did he not reveal the results of his and Bell's deductions?

Surely the man who created Sherlock Holmes, a character whose *raison d'être* was the pursuit of truth and justice, would have felt compelled to share his findings about the real-life crimes?

"When I first told my theory to a really well-known Sherlockian, he told me that I could not propose a theory where, if Conan Doyle knew the name of the Ripper, he would not announce it," says Madsen.

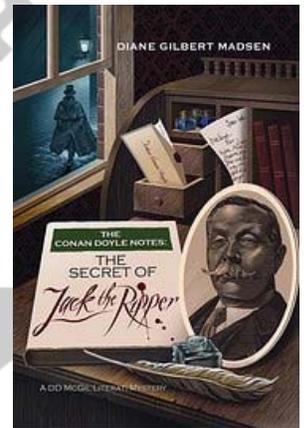
But she argues that it is precisely because of the identity of Doyle and Bell's suspect that they refrained from going public. As expanded upon in her novel, Madsen believes their investigations led them to one James K Stephen – tutor to Prince Albert Victor, son of the Prince of Wales – and that Stephen's royal connections could have been behind Doyle's decision to stay quiet, for fear of causing a scandal.

"I believe that Sherlock Holmes's moral compass was based on the Victorian code and who more embodies the code of ethics – God, King and Flag – than Conan Doyle? I believe that if the government had asked Conan Doyle to be quiet he would have done. And he was no doubt a royalist."

In the first ever Sherlock Holmes short story, *A Scandal in Bohemia*, the detective protects (if somewhat begrudgingly) the head of a European royal house, while in 1904's *The Adventure of the Second Stain* he comes to the aid of the government in a case of national security following a personal visit to Baker Street from the prime minister.

And in one of his final outings, *His Last Bow*, Holmes fights for King and country, joining the war effort as an Allied spy. If even an iconoclast like Sherlock Holmes exhibited a certain degree of deference to royalty and the British establishment, it seems likely that the man who created him, and who seemed to so relish writing about such encounters, would have been significantly more devoted.

But even if Madsen's theories do hold water up to this point, what of the recent well-publicised claims that a Polish barber named Aaron Kosminski was in fact the Ripper?



Published in September, the book Naming Jack The Ripper by Russell Edwards claims that DNA found on a shawl that supposedly belonged to Ripper victim Catherine Eddowes connects it to her and proves Kosminski was the killer.

But Madsen points out that since Eddowes was a prostitute living in the same area as Kosminski, she could quite easily have encountered him as a client, hence his DNA being present on the shawl. And while Madsen would be the first to admit that she, like Doyle, is an educated amateur enthusiast rather than a professional detective (consulting or otherwise), she is not the only one casting doubt on Edwards' findings and Kosminski's guilt. DNA experts including Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, the inventor of genetic fingerprinting, believe that Dr Jari Louhelainen, who was commissioned by Edwards to perform the tests on the shawl, made a basic mistake and

misidentified the mitochondrial DNA sequence he was using to connect the shawl to Eddowes.

Professor Jeffreys told The Independent that if Louhelainen's methods are indeed flawed in the way they appear to be "then obviously there is no significance whatsoever in the match between the shawl and Eddowes' descendant, and the same match would have been seen with almost anyone who had handled the shawl over the years."

It seems, then, that 126 years after those terrible months in Whitechapel, the identity of Jack the Ripper continues to be a mystery. And yet for Sherlock Holmes fans there remains the tantalising suggestion that it has already been solved – by the man who created the great detective and the real-life deductive genius who inspired him...



## THE MYSTERY OF THE RUNAWAY KING

"Ah," said Sherlock Holmes, as he clambered down the mountain. "Here are five clues which will tell us about: the runaway monarch. There is one clue that tells me that he is in plain sight from here."

"Oh, how do you tell that?" asked the girl.

"A very simple deduction," said Holmes. "You see the ruler is in plain sight, and there, sure enough, is the king himself."

"What else can you tell?" asked the girl, studying the clues.

"I see by the other clues that the king was at military maneuvers when he ran away. I see in what place the military maneuvers took place. I see how he tried to get away I also see a clue which suggests to me what the game was which he so much preferred to military maneuvers that he ran away to play it. See if you can find all of these clues."

# THE \$ 64,000 QUESTIONS

Last month, we published the questions and answers posed to Captain and Mrs. O'Rourke on the 1956 "\$64,000 Question Show," as published in The Five Pound Note. This month, we are answering the questions published in the Baker Street Journal. Since the answers were not actually provided anywhere else, I am doing these myself... Feel free to provide me with more appropriate answers, if you see any mistakes.

From the Baker Street Journal, July, 1956

Mrs. O'Rourke's Questions	
a) \$ 64.00: Who was the medical man who was Holmes' closest friend?	WATSON
b) \$ 128.00: Who was Holmes's arch enemy?	MORIARTY
c) \$ 256.00: Who was the woman admired by Holmes?	IRENE ADLER
d) \$ 512.00: Who was the boy who led the gang of street urchins known as the Baker Street Irregulars?	WIGGINS
e) \$1,000.00: In what novel was Holmes first introduced?	A STUDY IN SCARLET
f) \$ 2,000.00: In what country had Holmes spent the years before his return in EMPT?	FRANCE
g) \$ 4,000.00: In STUD, Holmes worked with two Scotland Yard inspectors. What were their names?	INSEPECTORS LESTRADE & GREGSON
h) \$ 8,000.00: Give the name of the story in which Holmes assumed the following disguises: 1) A plumber with a rising business 2) An opium addict 3) A French workman in a blue blouse 4) An old woman	1) CHARLES AUGUSTUS MILVERTON 2) THE MAN WITH THE TWISTED LIP 3) THE DISAPPEARANCE OF LADY FRANCES CARFAX 4) THE MAZARIN STONE
i) \$ 16,000.00: Give the stories associated with these numbers and tell who it was who brought the case to Holmes' notice: 1) 6 2) 5 3) 4 4) 3	1) THE SIX NAPOLEONS -- INSPECTOR LESTRADE 2) THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS -- JOHN OPENSHAW 3) THE SIGN OF FOUR -- MARY MORSTAN 4) THE THREE GARRIDEBS -- JOHN GARRIDEB; & THE THREE STUDENTS -- HILTON SOAMES
j) \$ 32,000: By what other names were the following known, and identify the story in which they appeared: 1) Arthur Pinner 2) Sutton 3) Mrs. Norlett 4) Don Murillo 5) Hosmer Angel 6) Sergius the Nihilist 7) Mr. Cornelius	1) HARRY PINNER -- THE STOCKBROKER'S CLERK 2) BLESSINGTON -- THE RESIDENT PATIENT 3) EVANS -- SHOSCOMBE OLD PLACE 4) HENDERSON -- THE WISTERIA LODGE 5) WINDIBANK -- A CASE OF IDENTITY 6) PROFESSOR CORAM -- THE GOLDEN PINCE-NEZ 7) OLDACRE -- THE NORWOOD BUILDER

At this point, not yet having been asked who was the landlady at 221B Baker Street, Mrs. O'Rourke took her check and left, presumably, for the hospital, as she was pregnant and ready to deliver.

Capt. O'Rourke's Questions

a) \$ 64.00: What was Holmes's street address?	221b BAKER STREET
b) \$ 128.00: Give the full name of Professor Moriarty's assistant	COLONEL SEBASTIAN MORAN
c) \$ 256.00: Who was the man used as the dupe in the Red-Headed League?	
d) \$ 512.00: To what regiment (sic) was Watson attached?	
e) \$ 1,000.00: In which case did Holmes recover the crown jewels?	THE ADVENTURE OF THE MUSGRAVE RITUAL
f) \$ 2,000.00: What device was used to kill the Honorable Ronald Adair?	A GERMAN AIR RIFLE
g) \$ 4,000.00: What was the first case in which Holmes was engaged, and what was the first case in which Holmes and Watson were engaged?	THE GLORIA SCOTT; A STUDY IN SCARLET
h) \$ 8,000.00: Identify these manor houses, with the tales in which they appear: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Riding Thorp Manor</li> <li>2) Charlington Hall</li> <li>3) Deep Dene House</li> <li>4) The Myrtles</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) THE DANCING MEN</li> <li>2) THE SOLITARY CYCLIST</li> <li>3) THE NORWOOD BUILDER</li> <li>4) THE GREEK INTERPRETER</li> </ol>
i) Death came in what unusual ways to the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Enoch Drabber</li> <li>2) Bartholomew Sholto</li> <li>3) Heidegger</li> <li>4) John Straker</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) POISON PELLET</li> <li>2) POISONED DART</li> <li>3) HEAD SMASHED IN BY HAYES</li> <li>4) KICKED IN HEAD BY HORSE</li> </ol>
j) By what other names were the following known, and identify the story in which they appeared: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Waldron</li> <li>2) Signora Durando</li> <li>3) Holy Peters</li> <li>4) Jack McMurdo</li> <li>5) James Winter</li> <li>6) Vandeleur</li> <li>7) James Armitage</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) PRESCOTT – THE THREE GARRIDEBS</li> <li>2) MISS BURNET – WISTERIA LODGE</li> <li>3) DR. SHLESSINGER – DISPEARANCE OF LADY FRANCES CARFAX</li> <li>4) JOHN DOUGLAS – THE VALLEY OF FEAR</li> <li>5) JOHN GARRIDEB – THE THREE GARRIDEBS</li> <li>6) JACK STAPLETON – HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES</li> <li>7) SENIOR TREVOR, THE GLORIA SCOTT</li> </ol>

At this point, not yet having been asked what Holmes first name was, Captain O'Rourke took his check and left, presumably to accompany his wife to the hospital.

# TODAY'S TOP TEN... LITERARY VILLIANS

Evening Times, Glasgow, October 30

## 1. Bill Sykes:

Murdered Nancy, beat his dog and an all-round bad guy in *Oliver Twist*.



## 2. Professor Moriarty:

The arch-nemesis of Sherlock Holmes in his many adventures.



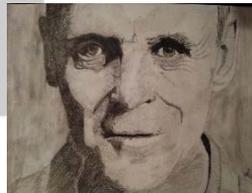
## 3. The Wicked Witch of the West:

We cheered when she melted in *The Wizard of Oz*.



## 4. Hannibal Lecter:

Psychotic killer turned cannibal in *Red Dragon*.



## 5. Count Dracula:

The evil count sharpened his teeth on many an unwitting victim.



## 6. The White Witch:

She even cancelled Christmas in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*.



## 7. Long John Silver:

One legged pirate who led a mutiny in *Treasure Island*.



## 8. Annie Wilkes:

Paul Sheldon's psychotic "number one fan" in Stephen King's 1987 novel *Misery*.



9. **Alex:** English teenager who leads his gang on a night of violence in *Clockwork Orange*.



10. **Simon Legree:** Vicious slave owner in the deep south in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.



# ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON: U.S. COURT REJECTS SHERLOCK HOLMES DISPUTE

Lawrence Hurley, Reuters

Reuters - The case of the disputed Sherlock Holmes copyright is hereby closed after the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday left intact a ruling that said 50 works featuring the famed fictional detective are in the public domain.



The high court's justices, which like the eccentric detective get to decide which cases to tackle, declined to hear an appeal filed by the estate of author Arthur Conan Doyle, who died in 1930.

The estate had wanted writer Leslie Klinger to pay a \$5,000 license fee before a volume of new stories based on the Holmes character, famed for his genius IQ, deerstalker hat and cocaine habit, could be published.



The court's action means that the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling from June in Klinger's favor is the final word in the case.

The appeals court held that the 50 Sherlock Holmes works published before 1923 are in the public domain as copyright protections have expired.

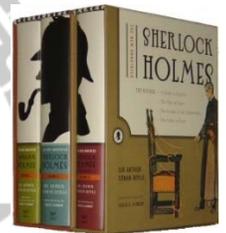
The works depict the brilliant Victorian-era detective and include references to his sidekick Dr. Watson, his arch-enemy

Professor Moriarty, 221B Baker Street, and even Holmes' cocaine use.

The appeals court said only Conan Doyle's last 10 Holmes works, which were published between 1923 and 1927 and have copyrights expiring after 95 years, deserved protection.

Klinger is the editor of "The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes" and other Holmes books.

He had paid the estate a licensing fee for a prior work but sued after refusing to pay another fee for a compendium of new Holmes stories that he and co-editor Laurie King were editing, "In the Company of Sherlock Holmes."



Their publisher, Pegasus Books, refused to publish the work after the Conan Doyle estate threatened to stop sales by Amazon.com Inc and Barnes & Noble Inc unless it received another fee.

The case is Conan Doyle Estate v. Klinger, U.S. Supreme Court, No. 14-316.

# The Naming of Holmes Peak: A Story for which the World is now Ready

By Dean Clark, at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Tulsa Afghanistan Perceivers

You may or may not know that you are within a few miles of the only geographic feature on Earth named after Sherlock Holmes, who we all of course know is by far the most popular character in literature and who has appeared, almost always with great success, in virtually all entertainment media in dozens of cultures and languages including at least two Broadway musicals, two Spanish zarzuelas, and one ballet.

You also may have noticed that I deliberately said “on Earth” in the previous sentence because it is not the only geographic feature named after Holmes in the solar system. There is one on the Moon (although perhaps part of the Moon is technically not a “geographic” feature) and it is assumed that is the current limit in the universe, but who knows how far out into deep space that the astonishing popularity of Holmes extends.

The story of the naming of Holmes Peak is recent, dating from the early 1970s, and it begins at Cape Canaveral with the launch of Apollo 17. Peter Blau was attending with press credentials from a geological publication. Peter, as everyone here knows, has long been one of the prominent Sherlockians in the world and he is ever conscious of the responsibilities that go with that distinction.

After Peter got to the press center, he looked at the map of the landing zone on the Moon and saw a feature was named “Sherlock Crater.” He asked why and was told the astronauts had named the areas they were scheduled to visit on the moon because they couldn’t just tell the folks back on Earth that “we’re heading for the third crater on the left.” Peter

learned that Harrison Schmitt, usually known as Jack, was the astronaut who had named the crater and he said he needed to talk to him to learn if he had indeed named it after Sherlock Holmes. Jack Schmitt was then in the capsule and Peter was told he couldn’t talk to him because they were ready to launch. Well, there was a long delay before the launch and when Peter eventually talked to Schmitt, after he had returned, he learned he had been taking a nap at the time. He also learned that, during the rest period between Moon EVA 2 and EVA 3, Schmitt had had a conversation about Sherlock Holmes with a friend at the command center in Houston and this is, without question, the longest-distance Sherlockian conversation ever. Schmitt confirmed to Peter that Sherlock Crater was indeed named in honor of you know who for his expertise as a geologist, but that, because the astronauts spent too much time at Shorty Crater (and who cares about whoever that is named after), they didn’t get to Sherlock Crater. However, this part of the story has a happy ending because Schmitt later made it to the summit of Holmes Peak. And yes, thanks to the efforts of Farouk el Baz, the International Astronomical Union approved the name “Sherlock Crater” which now appears on the official USGS maps of the Moon.

The story now shifts to Tulsa. In 1981, the late Dick Warner, a founding member of our local Sherlock Holmes club The Afghanistan Perceivers (it’s a long story) read a newspaper article about the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which said that citizens could suggest official names for unnamed geographic features. Dick immediately

remembered an article that Peter Blau published in the Baker Street Journal about Harrison Schmitt and Sherlock Crater and which stated that Sherlock Crater was the only feature anywhere officially named for you know who. Dick then looked back at the newspaper article and found that it had an address from which people could obtain information about how to go about proposing an official name. Dick requested this material and, I am glad to report, the agency acted promptly and he received it within two weeks.

Dick immediately discovered a big problem. Geographic features were named for “real” people, not literary characters and, in order to propose that a geographic feature be named for a person, you had to supply the dates of his or her birth and death. Well, the former is not a problem. It’s widely accepted that Sherlock Holmes was born on January 6, 1854. However, he’s still alive...an Englishman as eminent as Sherlock Holmes would rate a long obituary in the London Times upon his demise and we’ve had a man look through the Times for decades and such an obit has never appeared. QED.

As a result, Dick decided he had to do the unthinkable and murder Sherlock Holmes. He, naturally, had some qualms about this. So he consulted John Bennett Shaw, an unquestioned authority on all things about Sherlock Holmes.. Shaw’s advice was “not to worry” because Holmes had feigned death on a couple of previous occasions and this would just be a similar ploy.

So Dick had that problem out of the way, but he now faced a bigger one – he had to find a geographic feature, preferably in the Tulsa area,

that didn't have a name. He added the constraint that it had to be near a paved road because he was relying on fellow Perceivers for manpower and most, if not all, will not attend any kind of event that is not near a paved road.

Fortunately, Dick was very knowledgeable about the history of the Tulsa area and was aware that the famous writer Washington Irving visited what is now part of metropolitan Tulsa in 1832 and wrote about it in his book *A Tour of the Prairies*. A monument was erected some years ago at Irving's campsite. It contains this quotation from Irving's book: "If you keep along yonder, by the edge of the prairie, you will come to a bald hill, with a pile of stones on it. These stones were set up by the Osages as a land marker." On October 14, 1832, Irving and his party reached the summit of what is now known as Holmes Peak.

Dick then learned that the USGS topographic map of the area showed the hill, but it did not have a name on it. It also appeared taller than its neighbors. So, Dick had met his major criteria: he'd found a fairly prominent feature, apparently unnamed, in the Tulsa area, and a paved road was much less than a mile away.

Just to make sure that the hill did not have an official name, Dick journeyed to Pawhuska, seat of Osage County, and examined very detailed maps of the area – none of which had a name for this hill. County authorities said the hill did not even have an "unofficial official" name but was referred to as "Old Baldy" or "Bald Knob." He then visited people who lived near the hill. All confirmed that there was no official name. An elderly woman, who had lived in the area for more than 80 years, said she just called it "the hill" but added that she had called it other names when, as a young girl, she had to climb it to look for stray cattle.

Dick completed this part of his quest by searching the archives of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, the journal of

the Oklahoma Historical Society. He found an article by James Gardner which discussed the visit of Washington Irving. Gardner suggested that the hill be called "Beatie's Knob" in honor of the leader of the expedition. Dick was worried. But then he noted that the map that Gardner had prepared to accompany his article had the name "Bald Knob." Dick believed this inconsistency might have been very important when the final decision regarding a name was made because it might have been the final straw proving that the hill did not have an official name or a name by which it was commonly known.

Dick's next step was to pick a name. Holmes Hill immediately came to mind...but Dick decided to investigate further and looked up synonyms for "hill" in his Roget's. He found, among many others, brae, butte, crest, hillock, hump, knoll, kopje, mountain, peak, pinnacle, point, summit, and tor. He thought Holmes Crest sounded like a housing addition and Holmes Hump, well....He really liked Holmes Tor but felt that name would be rejected. He finally decided on Holmes Peak because it was a little classier than Holmes Hill, not as pretentious as Holmes Mountain (which it certainly isn't) and short enough to fit nicely on a map.

Dick then filled out the official form, throwing in famous names like Washington Irving, Franklyn D. Roosevelt, and Harry Truman (both of whom had been Sherlockians) where he thought they might help. The form calls for: 1) Proposed name, 2) Location, 3) Reasons for Wishing to Name the Feature, 4) Origin of the Name Proposed, 5) Basis of Knowledge that the Feature is Unnamed, and 6) Approval of the Landowner.

No. 6 is where the real adventure started. Dick's research established that the land was owned by James A. Kennedy, a member of a prominent Tulsa family which had once owned thousands of acres in the area. Dick

had written Mr. Kennedy about his plans, had received no reply, and assumed things were ok on that front. However, after the bureaucratic wheels began to grind away at his proposal, Dick learned that Kennedy had died about a year earlier and left the property jointly to the University of Tulsa, Oral Roberts University, and the Catholic Diocese of Tulsa.

Dick went back to work. He got, fairly quickly, permission to proceed from TU and ORU. However, the bishop of the Catholic diocese wrote Dick that he "preferred a more meaningful name in conjunction with our work" and therefore would not give his approval. Dick was not worried about this because he felt he held a high trump card, the previously mentioned John Bennett Shaw. Shaw was then living in retirement Santa Fe but he was a native Tulsan who had been very active in diocesan affairs in Tulsa and had been, as a result, made some kind of knight in the Catholic Church (which he claimed allowed him to ride a horse in St. Peter's Square in Rome). But this ploy didn't work. Shaw contacted the bishop and, despite this with and charm and honors, reported back that the local bishop refused to budge.

So, the project stalled for more than a year during which Dick tried, without success, to find other features in the area that needed a name. Then, in December 1983, inspiration – an undeniable master stroke—hit Dick with full force. Go right to the top! Yes, on December 9, 1983, a day that will live on as the day Dick Warner achieved immortality in the Sherlockian world, he mailed a letter to Pope John Paul II asking that His Holiness intercede in this grave matter. He mentioned that Sherlock Holmes had done investigative work for two of his predecessors in that office and that Arthur Conan Doyle had been raised as a Catholic (but he didn't mention that Conan Doyle had left the church and become a spiritualist).

Now, we don't know if John Paul II read Dick's letter but it's a safe bet that somebody in the Vatican did because, on March 1, 1984, Dick received a letter from the local bishop....and he was really, really mad! His letter spelled out, in no uncertain terms, that Dick had been far out of line in going over his head. However, the bishop's letter also contained the information that Dick needed, namely that the church's interest in the property had been traded to the other two organizations for another bit of land in the area. Dick amended his proposal, and the bureaucratic gears again started to grind.

Dick was informed that his proposal would be considered at a meeting of the Board of Geographic Names on October 5, 1984. On, October 5, 1984, Dick picked up his morning paper and learned that Congress had not approved a budget for the year and that all nonessential government employees had been told to stay home....forgot about that one didn't you! However, the Board evidently considered itself essential. It met that day and approved the name Holmes Peak and on October 24, 1984, Dick received official notification that the name Holmes Peak had been approved and would appear in Decision List No. 8404, whatever that is.

The ownership of Holmes Peak has changed several times in the years after Dick's ordeal and many ascents have been made.

Appropriately, Peter Blau, who played such a key role at the start, led the first geological expedition to the summit of Holmes Peak. He had the foresight to be accompanied by Charles Mankin who, as the Oklahoma State Geologist, was authorized to trespass on private land just in case. It turned out that Mankin's credentials were not needed.

Undoubtedly the most elaborate of these early ascents occurred in the mid 1980s when the local Chamber of Commerce, in an attempt to make Tulsa a tourist mecca, convinced several travel writers to visit as a group. The writers knew about Holmes Peak and wanted to see it. So the Chamber contacted Stafford Davis, the founder and lifelong leader of four club, and a man of swuch wild imagination that we have added the word Staffordian to our local lexicon to describe a concept that this far out of the box.

Stafford arranged for a bus to take the group to the base of Holmes Peak which was called, of course, the Base Camp where yours truly described the geology and geophysics of the area. The trek then began up the hill but halted at the Rest Camp where a young woman from the Oxley Nature Center lectured on the area's flora and fauna. She was outstanding, far superior to the previous speaker, and the writers didn't want to leave. The spell was broken by the sudden appearance, at the summit, of a yeti. It was actually a young woman dressed in a costume that an oil company

sponsored as a mascot of the games of the Tulsa Roughnecks in the old North American Soccer League where it was unofficially but universally know as the Getty Yeti. I later met the woman who was wearing the costume and she advised that she was expecting her first child at the time so we really saw one and a half yetis. The writers then trudged to the top where they had a sit down dinner, complete with china, stemware and silverware, under a huge tent while listening to a brass quintet play selections from Gilbert and Sullivan.

However,, in 2005, the intrepid band which made "The Great Whimsical Sherlockian Tour of Oklahoma and Texas" learned that the current owner is not a Sherlockian. They could not gain access or even find the tasteful commemorative plaque that the Afghanistan Perceivers put at the base of Holmes Peak in the 1980s. Investigation established the plaque had been missing for some years and nobody had any idea where it was. Eight years later, in January 2913,, it miraculously turned up and was returned to me at a library in Broken Arrow (which is diagonally across town from Holmes Peak). This sacred relic of our local society was immediately transported for safekeeping in a place that I will not divulge. I am informed that the sign at the base of Holmes Peak now reads: "Trespassers will be violated." So, ladies and gentlemen, consider yourselves warned.

# SEVENTEEN STEPS TO THE ADVENTURE OF THE BLUE CARBUNCLE

Brad Keefauver, BS

## THE WATSONIAN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Perhaps it's an all-too basic question that we all pondered on before, but it needs to be asked whenever this story comes up: Why was Watson visiting the man we think of as his best friend on the "second" day after Christmas to wish him a happy holiday? Did Watson have no time to spare in the three or four days prior? Had he invited Holmes to the Watson's Christmas feast? Were he and Mrs. Watson out of town, spending Christmas at her mother's? Or was this at a time when Mrs. Watson wished her husband to have nothing to do with Holmes, and this was the first occasion the doctor could sneak off? Is Watson's tentative "You are engaged, perhaps I interrupt you" a sign that he and Holmes have not been on the best of terms?

## THE CONNOTATIONS OF HAND GESTURES

We are told Holmes "jerked his thumb in the direction of the old hat." Try that gesture out yourself and see how you feel about it. Does it seem particularly "Sherlock" to you? It's hard to point with your thumb without closing your fingers in the traditional "hitchhiker" mode. Doesn't that seem a bit yokelish for Holmes, as compared to the standard forefinger point? Or is the Smash reading far too much into a casual gesture?

## THE POPULATION DENSITY OF LONDON

This case, Holmes says, is "Only one of those whimsical little incidents which will happen when you have four million human beings all jostling each other within the space of a few square miles."

A rough calculation of Holmes's statement shows roughly sixty-three square feet of space per person (3 time 5280 feet, squared and divided by 4,000,000).

If all of Holmes's people had sixty-three square feet surrounding them, it doesn't seem like they would jostle very much, does it?

While this is an all-too literal interpretation of Holmes's words, just how close was he? And are urban areas of

today better or worse, and thus generating more or less whimsical little incidents?

## WE ALL KNOW PETERSON!

"You know Peterson, the commissioner?" Holmes asks Watson. Not "Do you remember Peterson?" as though Holmes knew Watson had met him during his time at Baker Street. While we've learned in an earlier tale that such folk as bankers were much more celebrated in those days, commissionaires were still probably only known to you if you lived near one or had dealings with him. So how did Holmes expect that Watson knew Peterson? Of course, a few sentences later, Holmes expects that Watson even knows Peterson is "a very honest fellow." Was the question purely rhetorical?

## ONE HECK OF A JOLLIFICATION!

Peterson, we are told, is returning from "some small jollification" at four in the morning.

So is Henry Baker. What kind of parties were these fellows at that lasted until four a.m. Christmas morning? Were the bars open that late on a major holiday? Henry Baker is obviously showing signs of having been drinking all that time, but what of Peterson?

Would a commissionaire have been working late on Christmas Eve prior to said jollification, or is his seemingly less-intoxicated state due to some other distraction, perhaps of the feminine variety? Don't even a "little knot of roughs" have somewhere to be at that hour on Christmas morning?

## TIME TO EAT THE GOOSE

Holmes's brilliant powers of observation even extend to food, we find this time out, as he says, "there were signs that, in spite of the slight frost, it would be well that it should be eaten without unnecessary delay." What exactly are those signs? Presented with a nice bar-tailed goose road-kill on the second day after Christmas, how might the diehard Sherlockian gourmand tell if it's time to eat it without being too late to eat it?

## WATSON HIDES HIS LIGHT UNDER A BUSHEL

Here's what Watson sees:

"It was a very ordinary black hat of the usual round shape, hard and much the worse for wear. The lining had been of red silk, but was a good deal discoloured. There was no maker's name; but, as Holmes had remarked, the initials "H. B." were scrawled upon one side. It was pierced in the brim for a hat-securer, but the elastic was missing. For the rest, it was cracked, exceedingly dusty, and spotted in several places, although there seemed to have been some attempt to hide the discoloured patches by smearing them with ink."

Here's what Watson says:

"I can see nothing."

If ever we wanted evidence that Watson was holding back to glorify Holmes, here it is. Watson sees everything and then acts like he even missed the man's initials . . . a real "gimme." Did Watson actually miss these details the first time, then fill them in for the reader when writing it up? Or did he see them and just play dumb for Holmes's benefit? (Or, a third option: he was just so happy to be reconciled with his friend after their squabble that he was overcome with emotion and didn't care about a silly hat.)

## GREASY KID'S STUFF NOW COMES IN FLAVORS!

Henry Baker anoints his grizzled hair with lime cream. Having been kept in a buzz cut until he could use a blow dryer, the Smash is of a generation completely unfamiliar with the oils and creams of yesteryear.

What was "lime cream" made of? Did the lime smell come from real limes? Sure sounds tasty, but this particular cream has to be more of the "hand cream" variety than the "cream pie" sort. How long had such hair products been in use at the time?

## LESS FRONTAL DEVELOPMENT THAN HENRY BAKER

"For answer Holmes clapped the hat upon his head. It came right over the forehead and settled upon the bridge of his

nose. "It is a question of cubic capacity," said he; "a man with so large a brain must have something in it."

The size of a man's head is related to the size of a man's intellect more than once in the Canon of Holmes. Sherlock Holmes's own head is criticized by Professor Moriarty and admired by Dr. Mortimer for its frontal development, so you have to wonder if it wasn't all just in their overlarge heads. Did Holmes really think Baker was smarter than him, just because he had a bigger head? Has any scientific relationship between big skulls and big intellects ever been recorded? Why were otherwise intelligent men like Moriarty, Mortimer, and Holmes so fixated on it in those days?

#### HAT-BRUSHING EQUALS LOVE

Holmes deduces that Henry Baker's wife has ceased to love him because she allows him to go out with dust on his hat. But how many other deductions could one make from that same evidence?

His wife is nearsighted. His wife is a poor housekeeper. His wife is very short. Looking at the other details of the hat as told by Watson a few questions back, can we come up with totally different and equally unprovable stories about Baker's life and being?

#### DR. WATSON'S ACCENT

"It was lost, if I remember aright, at the Hotel Cosmopolitan," Watson says in this tale, and his "aright" seems slightly off his normal pattern of speaking. Could this have been an indication of an accent that he largely kept out of the stories? What region would "aright" place him in? Or was it just a common phrase for the time?

#### THE COUNTESS'S CASKET

"The small morocco casket in which, as it afterwards transpired, the Countess was accustomed to keep her jewel, was lying empty upon the dressing-table."

Morocco, my dictionary tells me, is goatskin or sheepskin treated with sumac. While that description is all well and good, why is it such a lovely thing to keep a priceless gem in?

Was this a temporary holding place for the gem, until the Countess could get it mounted on some piece of jewelry, or did jewel owners just walk around with their jewels in leather cases in those days,

pulling them out to show off as the mood struck them?

#### SURE, IT'S A NICE JEWEL, BUT SUICIDE?

"There have been two murders, a vitriol-throwing, a suicide, and several robberies brought about for the sake of this forty-grain weight of crystallized charcoal." (Not to mention a goose-killing!)

Murder during the course of a robbery, or to accelerate an inheritance, one can understand, but how could the blue carbuncle be responsible for a vitriol-throwing and a suicide? Would vitriol damage the stone if splashed upon it?

#### GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

Holmes closes Watson's post-Christmas visit with: "Very glad to see you. I dine at seven. There is a woodcock, I believe." Is the first sentence more evidence of a recent rift between them? Is "I dine at seven" an actual dinner invitation, or more of a "come by when I'm done eating"? How often did Holmes know in the morning what Mrs. Hudson would be serving for dinner, and why would he?

#### THE OCCUPATIONS OF A BAKER

Henry Baker tells us, "There are a few of us who frequent the Alpha Inn, near the Museum--we are to be found in the Museum itself during the day, you understand.

Was this an alcoholic's excuse for wasted days? Why else should he be so concerned that Holmes knows he spends his days at the museum and not the pub? Was he actually doing research there with his big-brained head, and if so, regarding what? Do we have any sense of where Baker's income comes from in this tale, or is he just another retired gentleman spending his days reading and evenings drinking?

#### CRUISING THE BAD SIDE OF TOWN

Watson reports: "We passed across Holborn, down Endell Street, and so through a zigzag of slums to Covent Garden Market." Just how bad were the neighborhoods between Holborn and Covent Garden? Was Watson doing them justice in calling them slums? Were he and Holmes in any danger passing through them on foot if they were?

#### FIVE HUNDRED BODIES OF GEESE ON THE SLAB, 500 BODIES . . .

Breckinridge the goose salesman tells Holmes he can let him have 500 geese in the morning. Was he serious? Where would he get 500 geese, and could he hope to move them all that quickly a few days after Christmas? (Mrs. Oakshott only sold him twenty-four during the Christmas rush, as it was, though she was hardly his only supplier.)

#### \* YOUR CHRISTMAS BONUS: MORE QUESTIONS! \*

#### A DANGEROUS GAME

While James Ryder was a nervous little man, even nervous little men have been known to carry guns. Was Holmes being foolish in inviting him into 221B and then producing the blue carbuncle? What if Ryder had been armed and demanded the gem? Or worse yet, tried shooting them both outright and taking the gem? (Two murders have already been committed for it, remember!) Could Holmes and Watson have handled the gun-toting shrimp? Would the story ended have happily?

#### A NEW RECIPE FOR GOOSE

Holmes refers to the carbuncle-carrier as "a most unimpeachable Christmas goose." Would goose be at all impeachable -- in other words, might there be a recipe for that sizeable fowl that involved peaches in the cooking, much like duck ala orange involves oranges? Sure, it's a horrible twist of the phrase, but entire cookbooks have been based on worse recipes than "peachable Christmas goose." While this runs dangerously close to being off-topic, this is the season of forgiveness AND feasting after all . . . any more suggestions for holiday dining based on this tale?

What-a-shrimp-it-is cocktail, perhaps?