

# The Bilge Pump

Vol. 03, No. 7 - July, 2015

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



From the Editors: A compilation of various topics for you this month. Attached to this newsletter is the start of a new Pastiche by our Jack Brazos. Don, Steve, & Walt

## August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, August 2nd, at LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE, in Addison.

The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

We will be starting The Hound of the Baskervilles. We will cover chapters #1-4 for this month.

The quiz will cover chapters #1-4.

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

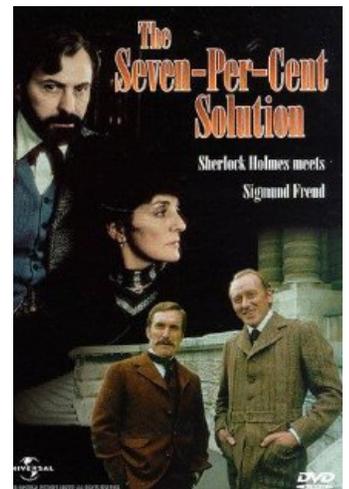
## THE CREW MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, June 27 saw us viewing the enjoyable "*The Seven Percent Solution*," starring Nichol Williamson, Alan Arkin, and Robert Duval.

The movie is based on the novel written by Nicholas Meyer.

While many of our veteran movie-goers were there, first time viewers Adele and her friend joined us.

Once again, Walt and Linda did a great job hosting the event, including a scrumptious strawberry pie.



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  
  
Historian  
Webmaster

Steve Mason  
Walter Pieper  
Don Hobbs, BSI  
Jim Webb  
Cindy Brown  
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# Notes for the Last Meeting: as reported by Cindy

- We had 16 members in attendance at the June, 2015 meeting.
  - Cindy Brown gave the Opening Toast to Sir Ian McKellen, who is starring in the soon to be released movie, Mr. Holmes (see page 3).
  - Steve Mason did a show and tell with his new (very old) gasogenes, which he was able to purchase from a wonderful Sherlockian from Pennsylvania.
  - Jack Pugh won the quiz for getting the most answers correct on the quiz, concerning the “Adventure of the Copper Beeches.” His prize was a book and a magazine.
  - Pam is developing a scrap book for our club and would like any additions for inclusion members may want to offer.
  - Steve and Pam attended a meeting of The Red Circle, the Washington D.C. scion for Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts, and another meeting of the Baltimore club, Watson’s Tin Box.
  - Liese gave a presentation on Order in the Victorian Times. This was a follow-up to her presentation last month on Law in the Victorian Times. Liese also pasted out bookmarks for her website. We liked them so much we are considering doing bookmarks for our next event at the Allen Library.
  - Our next event at the Allen Library is a Fall Symposium possibly titled **Sherlock Holmes in Popular Culture**. It will be on Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 9 am until 3 pm. We are still in the development stage, but have decided to keep it simple and make it as enjoyable as possible.
  - So far the agenda includes:
    - Opening Remarks about Sir Author Conan Doyle and the development of Sherlock Holmes, by Cindy
    - Foreign Editions of the Hound of the Baskerville, by Don
    - Games of Sherlock Holmes, by Tim
    - A Radio Play
    - Author Carol Nelson Douglas, will do a lecture “Do Any of the Current Ladies Live up to Irene Adler” and Q&A
  - Brenda and Liese have volunteered to head up the advertising for the upcoming symposium. We will hopefully be able to advertise in local schools, and bookstores, as well as invite the Tulsa, Austin, and Houston scion societies. We will also try to find other bookclubs in the area where we can advertise.
  - In closing Steve read from the Editor’s Glasslamp of the Baker Street Journal, “The World that Was.” See page 3.
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# OPENING TOAST - TO A GREAT ACTOR

Cindy

Sherlockians please raise your glass to honor a 76 year old English gentleman, who has given us so much entertainment during his career.

He has starred in movies, such as: The X-Men Series, the Lord of the Ring Series, The Dresser, and Plays such as: Waiting for Godot, and TV series such as: Vicious, Coronation street, The Prisoner, and many others.

He is the recipient of 6 Lawrence Olivier Awards, a Tony, A Golden Globe, a Screen Actor's Guild Award, a BIF, and 2 Saturn Awards.

He's also the recipient of the CBE= Commander of the British Empire, in 1979, and a KBE= Knighthood of the British Empire for Service to the Performing Arts, in 1990.

And now he's given us Mr. Holmes, which opens in the United States on July 17.

Please raise your glass to honor Sir Ian McKellen.

# THE WORLD THAT WAS

Baker Street Journal - April, 1957

There was a world, not so very long ago, that suffered from the lack of many of the things we have come today to know and to take for granted, but that rejoiced, too, in much that we have come to lack. It was a leisurely world, and, by our standards, an uncomfortable one: its inhabitants did not whisk about in motor cars and airplanes, or talk across the seas, or shoot to the top of skyscrapers in high-speed cages; they jogged along patiently in their hansoms and their four-wheelers, or went afoot in the roads and streets, and toiled up steep staircases as far, sometimes, as a full six storeys.

And when they got where they were going, there was no radio or hi-fi to listen to or television set to look at - but there were no commercials, either, and no want of good books to read or good music to play. The fine art of conversation flourished in this world, probably for the last time on earth; and men drew challenge and inspiration from one another, face to face, instead of succumbing to the beguilements and titillations of a machine.

There was rich food to be prepared and eaten, and dishes to be washed by hand, and floors to scrub - and the services performed in the doing of these things were personally rendered, and not dispensed, all built-in, in the form of a vacuum cleaner or an electric washing-machine or a prefabricated, pre-cooked and almost predigested meal.

The houses were of honest brick or stone, with honest roofs of nature's own materials to cover them and sturdy walls to gird them in; their furnishings and decor were fashioned on the spot by artisans enamored of their tasks, and not synthetically assembled at some distant factory.

But there was little sanitary plumbing and no central heating, and the all-pervading interior gloom was not to be relieved, over the years, until the picture window - with or without a picture outlook - came to be invented.

When disease or infection struck, there were no sera or antibiotics to perform their miracles, but death was, in the long run, no more inevitable than it is today. And when a man shaved, he had to do a lot else besides shoving a plug into an electric socket.

There were wars in those days, too, but they were waged by armies against other armies, and not by armies against whole peoples.

And there was, then as now, and as there has always been, the cruelty of man to man, and the oppression, and exploitation of the weak by the strong and of the poor by the rich; but the goal of a common and disciplined equality-in-mediocrity had not yet been attained - nor was it even sought.

It is difficult to say which world of these two can be acclaimed the better or the worse; which one it was that produced the rounder man, more nearly perfect and more nearly whole. To look back upon that world of the 1880's and the 1890's, however, is to realize, from our own perspective today, that it must have been a world with much to commend it - for it was this world, after all, that gave us Sherlock Holmes.

# 17 Steps to The Hound of the Baskervilles

Brad Keefauver

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of the case at hand . . .

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## THE MOST FAMOUS SKULL IN LONDON?

"This is my friend Dr. Watson," Holmes introduces Mortimer to Watson.

"Glad to meet you, sir," Mortimer replies, "I have heard your name mentioned in connection with that of your friend. You interest me very much, Mr. Holmes. I had hardly expected so dolichocephalic a skull or such well-marked supra-orbital development. Would you have any objection to my running my finger along your parietal fissure? A cast of your skull, sir, until the original is available, would be an ornament to any anthropological museum. It is not my intention to be fulsome, but I confess that I covet your skull."

From the above exchange, we might infer that Mortimer has heard of Holmes via reputation only, not from Watson's writings. Given what Mortimer didn't expect about Holmes's skull, what sort of skull (and what sort of man) was he expecting to find in Sherlock Holmes?

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## AN AUDIENCE WITH HIS HOLINESS

"I had observed some newspaper comment at the time, but I was exceedingly preoccupied by that little affair of the Vatican cameos, and in my anxiety to oblige the Pope I lost touch with several interesting English cases." If Sherlock Holmes were investigating a mystery involving Vatican property, would he have gotten an audience with the Pope? Or is his "anxiety to oblige" based on a request relayed through lesser church officials?

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## AND ONE WHOLE EVENING THEY JUST SPOKE OF EARS

"Sir Charles was a retiring man, but the chance of his illness brought us together, and a community of interests in science kept us so. He had brought

back much scientific information from South Africa, and many a charming evening we have spent together discussing the comparative anatomy of the Bushman and the Hottentot."

Surely Dr. Mortimer is speaking figuratively about those anatomy discussions, isn't he? The Bushman and Hottentot are surely not so different to need more than a relatively brief discussion between a medical man and a gold prospector, would it? How did Sir Charles gain all that anatomical knowledge? Consorting with the ladies, or something much more dire?

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## A FULL DAY OF CLUBBING

"I therefore spent the day at my club and did not return to Baker Street until evening. It was nearly nine o'clock when I found myself in the sitting-room once more."

Watson apparently spends about ten hours at his club. What would he have been doing there all that time? Lunch, supper, billiards, magazines, conversation, and what else?

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## SURE, I'LL CHANGE 5 POUNDS INTO 56 FOR YOU!

"And I should be glad to have change of this five-pound note."

"Here are twenty-three shillings."

"There are ten shillings over in case of emergencies."

Okay, twenty shillings to a pound, and Holmes hands out fifty-six shillings ... what other change might Holmes have gotten, that he didn't just throw in the other four shillings?

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## AND NOW, THE MAN WHO LOVES ART FOR ART'S SAKE ...

Holmes announces, "we will drop into one of the Bond Street picture galleries and fill in the time until we are due at the hotel."

It's his choice, but then Watson reports: "He would talk of nothing but

art, of which he had the crudest ideas, from our leaving the gallery until we found ourselves at the Northumberland Hotel."

Just how does Watson mean that? Was Watson's sense of art more developed than this descendant of Vernets, or would Holmes's "crudest ideas" have sounded equally crude to any listener?

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## THE HOUND OF THE RAILWAY CARRIAGE

"The journey was a swift and pleasant one, and I spent it in making the more intimate acquaintance of my two companions and in playing with Dr. Mortimer's spaniel."

How does one play with a spaniel in the limited confines of a railway carriage? "Tug o' war" is all that comes to mind -- what personal item might Watson have sacrificed to the dog's worrying, if that was the game?

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## THAT SAUCY BERYL STAPLETON

"It certainly did cross my mind that it might be a little dull--less for you, perhaps, than for your sister."

"No, no, I am never dull," said she quickly."

Was Beryl betraying a bit of her true character here? Could a true and faithful wife have led Sir Henry on as thoroughly as she did, "light in her eyes" and all?

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## AND THE WACKY BARONET OF BASKERVILLE HALL

"By thunder, Watson, I am going out to take that man!"

After making this bold statement, Sir Henry sets off to catch a murderer armed with only a riding crop. Was he counting upon Watson and his revolver when he first made that statement, was Henry just that good a man-handler, or was he just a bit daft? What evidence do we have one way or the other?

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**WATSON, THE RUNNER**

Watson seems to be quite the track star in this tale, as evidenced by two examples:

“Shall I run on and stop them?”

“We were both swift runners and in fairly good training, but we soon found that we had no chance of overtaking him.”

In the first he seems to think he can run better than Holmes, and in the second he mentions training. Had Watson taken up some sort of running as therapy for his old wound? How common was running as an avocation of Victorian health aficionados?

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**THE LADY’S MAN AT WORK**

“At the moment I was simply conscious that I was in the presence of a very handsome woman, and that she was asking me the reasons for my visit. I had not quite understood until that instant how delicate my mission was.”

What about the two statements in the first sentence made Watson understand that his mission was delicate in the second? Would Watson have been more heavy-handed in his dealings were he not confronted with an attractive woman? Or was the sudden delicacy merely the result of Watson realizing that this was a woman he might have some non-investigatory interest in? (And how long did it take him to come to his second impression of the woman -- after he checked out the status of her divorce proceedings, perhaps?)

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**I FOUGHT THE LAW, AND THE LAW WON**

“The County Constabulary is in a scandalous state, sir, and it has not afforded me the protection to which I am entitled. The case of Frankland v. Regina will bring the matter before the attention of the public. . . . They have

treated me shamefully--shamefully. When the facts come out in Frankland v. Regina I venture to think that a thrill of indignation will run through the country.”

In perhaps his most foolish lawsuit ever, old Frankland the crank goes up against local law enforcement. What was he hoping to gain by it? Didn’t he have to be suing for some particular thing? Would it have been money, police patrols by his home, an apology, or what?

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**AND HIS HAWAIIAN SHIRT WAS THE BEST PART**

Watson describes Holmes: “He was thin and worn, but clear and alert, his keen face bronzed by the sun and roughened by the wind. In his tweed suit and cloth cap he looked like any other tourist upon the moor.”

Was Dartmoor much of a tourist attraction in the Victorian era? And was October a good time for getting a tan there?

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**THE MASTER PREPARES FOR HIS CLASS**

“I shall soon be in the position of being able to put into a single connected narrative one of the most singular and sensational crimes of modern times. Students of criminology will remember the analogous incidents in Grodno, in Little Russia, in the year '66, and of course there are the Anderson murders in North Carolina, but this case possesses some features which are entirely its own.”

What about the incidents in Godno and the Anderson murders could have possible come close to the strange series of events we find in the tale of the Hound? Is Holmes speaking of a narrative that he actually planned to write?

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**LESTRADE, THE PANTS POCKET PISTOLERO**

In one of my favorite quotes from this tale, our favorite Scotland Yard man says, “As long as I have my trousers I have a hip-pocket, and as long as I have my hip-pocket I have something in it.”

Was that safe? How about comfortable? Were pants pockets bigger and roomier back then than the standard trouser pocket now? Was Lestrade carrying a smaller pistol?

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**THE ISLE OF THE HOUND**

“Many traces we found of him in the bog-girt island where he had hid his savage ally.”

Okay, how did Stapleton get a starving giant of a dog in and out of his island hideout without the beast falling into the bog himself? How did he have such control over such a beast?

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**A FAST FRIENDSHIP, A SLOW BOAT TO EVERYWHERE**

Of Sir Henry, Watson writes, “But the shock of the night’s adventures had shattered his nerves, and before morning he lay delirious in a high fever under the care of Dr. Mortimer. The two of them were destined to travel together round the world before Sir Henry had become once more the hale, hearty man that he had been before he became master of that ill-omened estate.”

Brain fever, caused by a dog attack, striking a man who wanted to capture a killer with only a riding crop seems odd, but even odder is that round-the-world journey with a man he’s only known a month. How did the Canadian farmer and the skull-enthusiast hit it off so well so quickly? What’s the shortest amount of time the two could be gone?

Wouldn’t Mortimer’s practice and patients (not to mention his wife) be a bit put out?

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# Getting Around in Victorian England

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

In “The Adventure of The Three Garridebs,” the term “buckboards” tips Sherlock Holmes off that an advertisement purportedly from an English firm was actually written by an American. While the forms of transportation were quite varied in Victorian England, “buckboards,” at least by that term, were not common.

The options for transporting goods and people changed greatly from the beginning to the end of the 19th century. As road surfaces improved in the early 1800s, long-distance travel depended primarily on coaches. These large, enclosed vehicles carried paying passengers along set routes. Pulled by two horses, the weight was great enough to require them to change horses about every ten miles (usually an inn was attached to these designated stops) and the ride was long, uncomfortable and expensive. The wealthy, however, would have gone by private coach and change horses at similar stops along the route as well.

Coaches were replaced by railways beginning in the 1840s. Besides being much less expensive, the ride was more comfortable and faster. Gentry would ride first class, their servants and tradespeople in second, and the rest in third. Over time, the sometimes roofless third class was upgraded, and second class coaches were eliminated. (1) Even with the expansion of the rail

system, the horse remained the mainstay of nineteenth century travel. Whether pulling omnibuses (twelve-passenger public coaches) in the cities or carriages in the country, they kept the nation on the move. At the same time, they were expensive. Only about 100,000 of the 18 million living in England in



1848 had their own horses.

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing and sign up for her newsletter at [www.liesesherwoodfabre.com](http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com).

(1) Sally Mitchell, *Daily Life in Victorian England* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996), 72-73.

(2) Daniel Pool, *What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew* (New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1993), 142-143.

(3) Daniel Pool, *What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew* (New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1993), 146.

(4) Steven Doyle and David Crowder, *Sherlock Holmes for Dummies* (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, 2010), 79.

In the country, different horses would have been kept for work, carriages, or hunting, and ponies and donkeys might pull a smaller, lighter wagon, such as a dog or donkey cart, for shorter visits or hunting. In the city, most would have stabled their animals at a livery because of the care required. The majority of city dwellers, however, would have opted for renting a horse from such stables—even if they had their own carriage. (2) The type of carriage owned was a simple social class marker. Closed carriages held the highest status, and with a coat of arms on the side, commanded the right of way on the road. Those pulled by four horses were more prestigious than two, and one horse indicated someone from the lower middle class. (3)

For those without horses or carriages and living in the city, the hansom cab was the go-to vehicle for private travel. Because the driver rode behind the passengers, an unmarried woman riding in one with a non-relative of the opposite sex could easily ruin her reputation. The privacy afforded the occupants permitted an unseen kiss or two. (4) The subtleties of the choice of transportation described in Victorian writings might be lost on the modern reader, but for the nineteenth century English person, and especially for the trained observer such as Sherlock Holmes, they provided a great deal of information about its occupants. Thus, even before a person knocked on the door of 221B, their mode of arrival said much about who would soon be ascending the stairs.



# "The End of an Era"

From Les Moskowitz

From "The Daily Mail", June 24

Criterion, famed for being the London restaurant where Dr Watson first hears of Sherlock Holmes, serves its last supper

It was elementary: the London restaurant where Dr Watson first hears of Sherlock Holmes in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's debut novel has fallen into administration after the landlord hiked the rent 60 per cent.

The Grade II-listed Criterion, which first opened its doors in Piccadilly Circus in 1874, is one of the 10 oldest restaurants in the world and, until Marco Pierre White took charge, was better known for its neo-Byzantine style than its gastronomy.

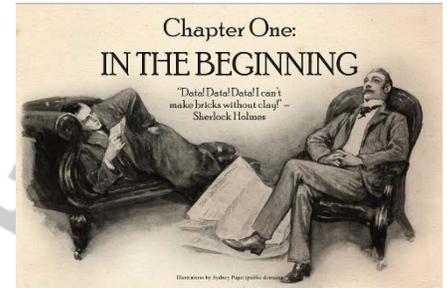
Bought in 2009 by the Georgian Sopromadze family through holding company Vox Restaurants they called in UHY Hacker Young as administrator last week. The

landlord had raised the rent to £850,000 from £525,000 as well as demanded £517,000 in rent arrears.

Peter Kubik, of Hacker Young, said: 'Until now the company has traded successfully.

'It was decided that administration was the most viable option as it allows the business to continue to trade as normal while the administrators market the business for sale.'

The restaurant made literary history in Conan Doyle's novel A Study in Scarlet, when Dr Watson is told about a potential new flatmate.



## Examining the Evidence - in Charts

From Judith Freeman

You might find this interesting:

[http://www.theguardian.com/books/gallery/2015/jun/29/sherlock-holmes-examining-the-evidence-in-charts?CMP=tw\\_t\\_gu](http://www.theguardian.com/books/gallery/2015/jun/29/sherlock-holmes-examining-the-evidence-in-charts?CMP=tw_t_gu)



It's more than a century since the world's most famous literary detective made his appearance, but our appetite for his startling deductions is undiminished.

Adam Frost and Jim Kynvin go back to the stories in search of data to explain his enduring appeal.



## Hounds and ACD list

From Randall Stock

For those interested in original Sidney Paget drawings, I've updated the Paget census.

It now includes photos of many of his original Holmes drawings.

It also has more information about the history of many drawings, along with links to larger photos and citations to publications that include larger photos of the originals, including the Museum of London catalogue.

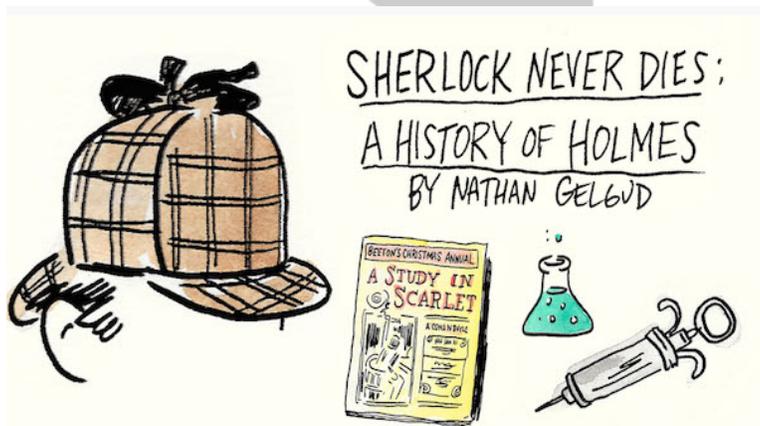
The census is at: <http://www.bestofsherlock.com/sidney-paget-original-art.htm>



Courtesy of Christie's [www.bestofsherlock.com](http://www.bestofsherlock.com)

## An Illustrated History of Sherlock Holmes

From Dean Clark



### From Word and Film:

Editor's Note: The release of "Mr. Holmes" starring Ian McKellen left us thinking here at Word & Film about all of the various incarnations of Sherlock Holmes. The British detective made his first appearance in 1887 at the hands of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Over the past 120-plus years, the character of Sherlock Holmes has inspired heaps of movies, television shows, other books, and more. We, of course, are most interested in the cinematic Sherlock Holmes, and so we enlisted the help of the very talented illustrator Nathan Gelgud to tell the story of Holmes on film through his drawings. Enjoy!

<http://www.wordandfilm.com/2015/07/an-illustrated-history-sherlock-holmes/?ref=8B8E6587234C>

## Two-Gun Watson? Or "The Curious Incident of the Bull Dog the Medical Bag"

BY WILLIAM BALLEW

In his 1992 article, "Firearms in the Canon: The Guns of Sherlock Holmes and John H. Watson" (Baker Street Journal, vol. 42, no. 3; September 1992), Dante M. Torrese provided a great deal of useful information about the weapons and ammunition which would have been available to Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson during the 1880s and 1890s.

He also reached some very sound conclusions about the weapons which Holmes, Watson, and even Lestrade probably carried.

Based on solid but not refutable evidence, he concluded that Watson's service revolver was a standard Army issue Adams No. 3 and that Watson later acquired a Webley Metro-Police to carry in his pocket in place of the Adams.

William S. Baring-Gould and the organizers of the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at the 1951 Festival of Britain agreed with Torrese about the service revolver, but identified Watson's pocket pistol as a Webley's No. 2, a .320 caliber short-barreled pistol which they assume Holmes mistakenly referred to in "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" as an Eley's" No. 2. They even suggest that Watson owned a second Webley .320 in a hammerless model.

The identification of the Adams as Watson's service revolver may seem obvious, since it as the standard Army sidearm in

1878 when Watson entered the service. However, Army officers had to purchase their own revolvers, and were limited only by the requirement that those pistols must fire standard Army ammunition, the Adams .450 cartridge.

Mr. Torrese argued that Watson would have acquired an Adams revolver when he entered the Army because the Adams used interchangeable parts and would thus be easier to have repaired in the field if it broke or malfunctioned. This is a cogent point, but not necessarily dispositive of the issue.

The Adams, as Mr. Torrese so colorfully pointed out, was not by any stretch of the imagination a pocket pistol - it was both too big and too heavy to be carried in a pocket. However, as early as 1883, Watson was carrying a pocket pistol which fired an "Eley's No. 2" cartridge (SPEC). Watson makes two other references to carrying his pistol in his pocket (EMPT, PRIO), and describes his pistol in "The Problem of Thor Bridge" as "a short, handy, but very serviceable little weapon" which Holmes calls "heavy - remarkably heavy." Watson thus owned this weapon, or one like it, from 1883 or earlier to at least about 1900.

By contrast, Watson refers to his "old service revolver" in A Study in Scarlet (dated 1881 by most scholars) and in The Sign of the Four (dated 1888 by Watson). Watson therefore owned his

service revolver and his pocket pistol during some or all of the same years.

Nowhere does Watson refer to owning more than one weapon, nor does it seem natural for a physician to be a collector of handguns. That Watson's two guns were in fact one is suggested in "The Red-Headed League" when Holmes says to Watson, "... kindly put your army revolver in your pocket." (Emphasis added.) Unless Watson had a very large pocket, it is clear that Watson's "army revolver" was not the standard service model Adams, nor should this fact surprise us.

As a doctor, Watson would not have been expected to take an active role in combat except as a last resort. The Adams itself was a short range weapon with very little velocity or muzzle energy for its massive size. Since Watson had to purchase his own sidearm, it stands to reason that he might well look for a different revolver, one which would fire the Adams cartridge but be easier to carry.

Such weapons were not hard to find in those days, as the Adams .450 cartridge could be fired in most revolvers chambered for the .45 Webley cartridge. By coincidence, in the very year that Watson took his medical degree and joined the British Army (1878), Webley began manufacturing its line of "Bull Dog" (i.e., short-barreled or snub-nosed) revolvers. How natural that Watson would choose one of

these "short, handy" but "heavy - remarkably heavy" weapons as his personal sidearm in the military.

Many of these revolvers were chambered to fire the same Eley's No. 2 cartridge as the Adams, packed almost as much punch at short range, and were much easier to carry. If Watson chose such a weapon as his Army sidearm, it would explain how Watson's "army revolver" would fit so easily into his pocket.

As for Mr. Torrese's argument about ease of repair, the Bull Do was a rugged and simple piece of equipment which would probably need little attention from the regimental armorer.

Finally, we may even have direct confirmation of Watson's choice of side-arms when he confesses to Holmes in *A Study in Scarlet* that he keeps "a bull pup."

Given the total lack of any later reference to a Watsonian dog, the reference may have been to Watson's Bull Dog revolver. The comment would thus be Watson's way of asking Holmes if he objected to guns in the house.

Given the Canonical evidence, we have no reason to believe that Watson owned more than one handgun, nor that his weapon was anything other than a pocket pistol. Indeed, when he and Holmes were about to confront Killer Evans in "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs," Holmes provided Watson with a pistol, presumably because Watson's 1878 revolver was no longer a match for the more powerful smokeless powder handguns of the turn of the century.

Of course, it may be argued that Watson did not use his

Webley because it had not recovered from the dunking that Holmes gave it in "The Problem of Thor Bridge," but this simply underscores the strength of the inference that Watson did not have a second pistol. If Watson had more than one gun, would he not have simply used his long-barreled Adams, or perhaps a more modern and more powerful replacement for it, rather than borrow unfamiliar gun from Holmes?

No, I think the evidence is overwhelming that Watson owned only one handgun, a pocket pistol which fired the Eley's No. 2 cartridge. There is no Canonical confirmation of the exact model of weapon he owned, but the most likely probability is that it was a Webley of the "Bull Dog" variety.

#### NOTES

- Baring-Gould, *The annotated Sherlock Holmes*, pp. 180, 252. Eley was a manufacturer of ammunition, not of firearms, a fact which Holmes would surely have known, just as he would have known that Webley was the leading British manufacturer of handguns.
- Baring-Gould, *op. cit.*, p. 604.
- "The Adams #3 would have weighed close to three pounds fully loaded; if the good doctor had slipped this baby into his pocket, his Boxer cartridges would go sailing through his boxer shorts and come to rest somewhere around his spats ." (Torrese, p. 157.)
- As Mr. Torrese pointed out, the "Eley's No. 2" or, more properly, the "Eley's Mark 2" was the .450 service cartridge fired by the Adams No. 3. Like the cartridges in Holmes's hair-trigger (MUSG), it was a Boxer cartridge, i.e., a pistol cartridge using one of the "newfangled" centerfire primers invented by Col. Edward M. Boxer.
- This description of the gun argues for a short-barreled but large-caliber weapon, not the wimpy little Webley .320 identified by William S. Baring-Gould and the *Sherlock Holmes Exhibition of 1951* as Watson's pocket pistol. It also disposes of Baring-Gould's assertion that it was the Adams No. 3 which Watson was carrying at Thor Bridge (Baring-Gould, p. 180).
- The term "Bull Dog," or sometimes "bulldog," was used as a marketing name by Webley, but also became a generic term for this style of pocket pistol, somewhat like "scotch tape" and "xerox copy" in more modern times.
- This was a much more cogent factor in the days of black powder revolvers, since the slow-burning gunpowder had much less power than modern day smokeless powders, especially in short-barreled guns. Even large-caliber handguns often had less muzzle energy than a typical .38 revolver of today. Once again, the .320 Webley identified by Baring-Gould as Watson's pocket pistol seems an unlikely candidate, since it would have had no more stopping power than a modern-day .22.

## DAYS GONE BY...

The Crew of the Barque Lone Star, has a long and distinguished history. For the new people, or recently new, I found this in the Society Updates of the Baker Street Journal, dated March, 1971...

### THE CREW OF THE BARQUE LONE STAR of North Central Texas

Correspondence: Miss Margaret F. Morris, Third Mate,  
472 Westview Terrace, Arlington, Texas 76013.

The fall cruise was held Friday, 6 November 1970, sailing from the Farmer's Daughter pier in Fort Worth.

Crew members enjoyed a period of liquid fellowship while awaiting the Austin group (thereafter designated as "Chips off the Old Barque").

Quiz honours were taken by Dr. Jesse Shera, and then twelve members and a guest enjoyed a steak dinner during which toasts were offered by Sam Lewis and Emory Estes.

Greetings from absent members and friends were read by Third Mate Morris.

John Bennett Shaw ever helpful to new Scions, was scheduled to speak but was unable to be present.

Sandra Myres very ably filled in by reading Mr. Shaw's enlightening paper, "The Cult and Culture of Sherlock Holmes."

The crew then offered toasts to Mr. Shaw and Dr. Myres.

After some discussion of a birthday dinner, the cruise ended with the ceremonial signing of the log.



# Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Fay,  
Rusty & Steve Mason



*The First Adventures of Sherlock  
Holmes and John Watson*

Baker Street Elementary

Fig. Mason, & Mason

How I do love books,  
Holmes. Do you...?

I guess they're OK...



My books are friends that  
never fail me.

OK.....



*That's from Thomas Carlyle. Do you not read him, Holmes?*

*Thomas who...?*



*Thomas Carlyle !!*

*Well, what has he ever done...?*



*He's only one of the most celebrated English authors of the modern era."*

*Contemporary literature does not interest me in the slightest.*



*Sometimes your ignorance can be as remarkable as your knowledge.*

*Thanks, my friend...*

