

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 04 - April, 2016
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



From the Editors: Thanks for all your support. Steve & Walt

May 1st Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, May 1st, 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 reading "The Adventure of the Resident Patient."

The quiz will cover this tale.

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

April 3rd Meeting

There were 20 in attendance at the monthly meeting, including 2 visitors from Iowa. Joe Fay offered up a well thought-out toast, honoring Benedict Cumberbatch (page 2). Steve Mason also offered up a toast to Douglas Wilmer, who recently passed away (page 4).

The quiz on "The Adventure of the Crooked Man" was won by Sandra Little, with a perfect score.

Announcements included the series "Elementary" has been extended to a 5th season and has moved to Sunday nights.

Steve led a discussion of the story, concerning Dr. Watson's living circumstances (number of servants, possible other incomes for Watson, expenses).

David Harnois summarized his "Lost Without My Boswell" project, with the goal of recording and presenting online an adaptation/dramatization of each of the sixty stories of the Canon. (See page 6 for more details).

Steve closed the meeting with a reading from the BSI journal from December, 1966, a writing called "Back to the Canon" by Chris Redmond (page 3).

Thanks to Brenda Hutchison for taking the minutes of the cruise. The full minutes are posted on our webpage at: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/log-of-the-crew.html>



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

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

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Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

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A TOAST

Joe Fay



A photo surfaced on the web this week,
Of you as Doctor Strange.

You've also played against another Holmes,
In Frankenstein on the stage.

You've crawled inside the beautiful mind,
Of Alan Turing, and showed his smartness.

And you gave your best to another awful mess,
As KHAN! in Star Trek: Into Darkness.



You've played Hamlet and other Shakespeare,
Hedda Gabler and After the Dance.

And Stephen Hawking on TV,

Years before Redmayne's Oscar chance.

We've heard your voice on The Simpsons,
As Prime Minister and Severus Snape.



You played William Pitt, the Younger,
In 2006's Amazing Grace.

To Kill a King, The Hobbit, Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy,
You even played Julian Assange, that elusive WikiLeaks guy.

But the role we'll forever cast you in,
Is the world's greatest consulting detective.



So here's to you, Benedict Cumberbatch,
As Sherlock Holmes, you've been the most effective.

BACK TO THE CANON - DECEMBER, 1966 BAKER STREET JOURNAL

CHRIS REDMOND

Note: While this essay was written almost 50 years ago, and Chris will quickly point out that those are not necessarily his contemporary thoughts and opinions, it is still wonderfully written (not a surprise – everything Chris composes is a treat).

“While yet the memory of Sherlock Holmes is green— and that will be as long as the spirit of adventurous emprise is still astir in human hearts—there will be those who will be moved to write in loving tribute to the master and his works.”

So wrote the greatest Sherlockian of them all, Edgar W. Smith, in the first issue of The Baker Street Journal. His words are as true today as they were in 1946, for the numbers of our movement are now many times what they were twenty years ago. More than thirty regional groups celebrate the activities of Sherlock Holmes, and the parent societies are strong and active. Yet there is a change. Today’s scholarship is quite different from that which appeared in the early days of the movement. Peruse the first issues of the BSJ, for example. The “higher criticism” published in the early days of the Irregulars was, generally speaking, based directly on Canonical references. Little outside material was drawn in, yet milestones in scholarship were reached which have rarely been surpassed. Was Watson a woman, for example, as Rex Stout claimed? Probably not — but when has such a

giddy height been reached since? Seldom indeed.

Current scholarship, in contrast to this, is based heavily on obscure outside materials. The footnotes in current articles tend to refer, not to the sixty Canonical tales, but to a multitude of non-Sherlockian volumes. Many great— invaluable—nay, priceless discoveries have been made in this way; yet at the same time utterly ineffable twaddle is thrust upon the world in the name of true scholarship. Many chronological revelations and other significant esoterica have been uncovered in recent months; yet a good deal of self— contradictory, valueless tripe is similarly unearthed.

And so where does it lead? I am not advocating the Sherlockian equivalent of the “Back to the Bible Movement.”

I am not—perish the thought—condemning outside scholarship. I am simply objecting to the perversion of the great name of Sherlockian scholarship for things which transparently are not...

...Instead, let us simply strive to keep the Sherlockian movement on the way upwards. Let us let our imaginations wander, but let them always return to the true Sherlock Holmes. And let us, the Sherlockians of the present and the future, always keep green the memory of that great detective who, as Vincent Starrett put it, “never lived and so can never die.”

AND SO WHAT IS A BILGE PUMP?

Steve Mason

Each month, the Crew of the Barque Lone Star issues a newsletter on the events of the society, as well as articles we think will be interesting and relevant to our members.

This newsletter, in its current form, is in its fourth year of being. Research has revealed a similar newsletter was issued by the Society periodically in the 1980's and 1990's.

And the name chosen for both versions of the newsletter is "The Bilge Pump..."

Which has led to the inevitable question, "What the heck is a Bilge Pump?"

I found a good explanation of what a bilge pump is and its functions.

Notes From Ship's Bilge Pumps; A History of their Development 1500-1900 (Thomas J. Oertling)

By Courtney Andersen, Historical Ship Rigging Supervisor, 9 April 2014

Pumps were the last defense, hope, and salvation of the lives on board. A ship could lose its rig or its rudder, and still give a hope of survival, but without a working bilge pump a ship was lost.

The 18th century naval architect William Hutchinson observed that crews sometimes left ships too soon; that the ship may appear in imminent danger of foundering but was discovered hours or days later to be still afloat. After the water rises high enough to cover a leak, the rate of inflow is reduced; equilibrium is reached, and the ship often won't go down much further, making it possible for the crew to pump and plug the leak.

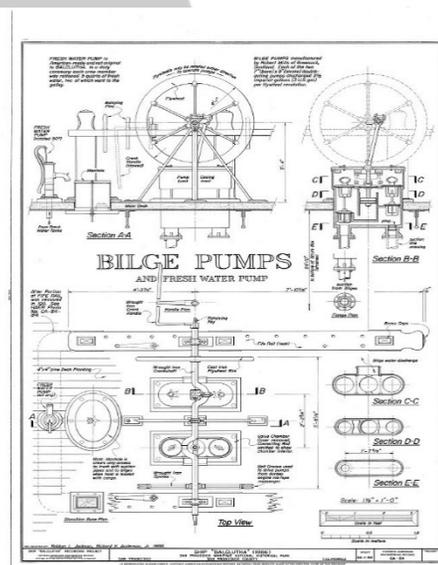
There were basically only three types of ship bilge pump used from the 1400s to the 1800s:

- burr pumps: basically a cone-shaped leather bucket that drew water up a tube
- chain pumps: a continuous chain with small burrs or buckets to catch water and pull it up, running over upper and lower sprockets
- common or "suction" pump: the earliest representation is from 1431. Use on ships was probably from sometime in late 1400s to early 1500s. The first recorded use of metal parts in ship pumps was 1526. Usually they were made entirely of wood until the late 1700s because the only tools available for boring iron tubes were those to make cannon. In 1712, the first practical steam engine was invented by Newcomen. A steam engine needed the piston and cylinder in very tight tolerances. Initially

made by hand, ground and filed...further developments in boring machines were needed before steam could progress, and it wasn't until those machines were made that all-metal pumps could be manufactured.

Dodgson's Patent Ship Pump 1799—similar to the pump on Balclutha, but still a common suction pump, using up-and-down pump handles to drive two pump boxes with two valves in each box.

Most of the early suction pumps rely on a moving upper one-way valve attached to a rod, and a stationary lower valve with a "claque" or one-way flap that allows water to move past it.

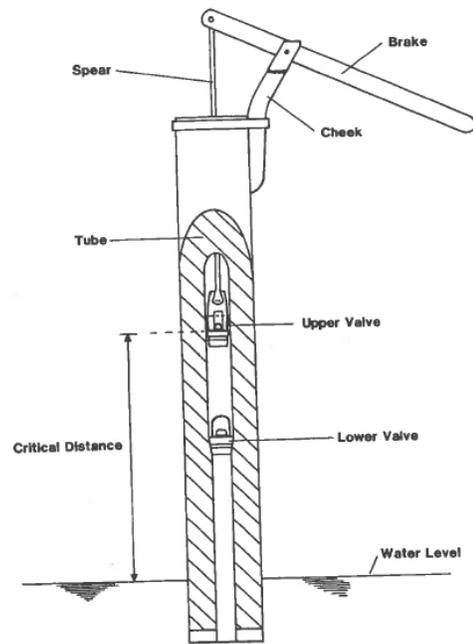


The pump has to be primed when there is no column of water in the tube. Water must cover the upper valve, sealing off the lower part of the tube from the air. As the piston works, the atmospheric pressure decreases in the tube. The water then rises through the lower valve because of the greater atmospheric pressure outside the tube pushing the water into the tube.

The height to which a common pump can raise water by suction is governed by barometric pressure -- about 28' from surface of the water to the "claque" of the upper valve at the top of the stroke. It wasn't until the 1850s that the iron flywheel to help maintain momentum of rotation was developed to work with a camshaft to drive the two piston rods. This quickly became the standard on packets and clipper ships.

Balclutha's pump by Robert Mills of Greenock, Scotland is an improved "force pump" design which uses a central water-filled piston chamber connected to two valve chambers. Each of these valve chambers has two heavy valves with leather gaskets. Water is drawn up past the lower valve by the piston's suction stroke; the lower valve then seals closed; then when the piston pushes against the water in the pump case, it is pushed past the upper valve and out through the discharge "dale." The two sets of valves means that the pump ejects water smoothly in both the up and the down motions of the piston; this is known as "double action."

This "force pump" design was known to the Romans, but it wasn't until metal working progressed in the mid 1800s that it became a practical shipboard pump style. A force pump



differs from a common suction pump in that the valves are not located on the piston rod.

With usually one or two "heads" aboard a ship, and sometimes hundreds of sailors, many sailors used the bilge as a latrine. The accumulation of filth and garbage in the hold polluted the bilges, and though a health hazard, the nature of the bilge water provided proof of whether the hull was tight:

Boteler 1634: "when it stinketh much, it is a sign that the water hath lain long in the hold of the ship; and on the contrary, when it is clear and sweet, it is a token that it comes freshly in from the sea. This stinking water therefore is always a welcome perfume to an old seaman; and he that stops his nose at it is laughed at, and held but a fresh-water man at best."

For those who would like to learn more about bilge pumps, you can read the entire thesis by Thomas Oertling, Texas A&M, at <http://nautarch.tamu.edu/pdf-files/Oertling-MA%201984.pdf>

I AM LOST WITHOUT MY BOSWELL

A Sherlock Holmes Audio Drama Project: By Fans, For Fans

Hi everyone, my name is David Harnois.

By day I work in customer service, having previously worked professionally in theatre.

I am also a Sherlockian, Holmesian, Sherlock Holmes fan...whatever designation you want to put on it.



To my knowledge, there have only been 2 complete audio recordings of the canon, and on screen the closest anyone came was Eille Norwood in the 1920s Stoll series with 47 stories, followed

by Jeremy Brett in the Granada series with 41 of the stories.

So why would I want to tread where others have gone before? Honestly...it sounded fun.

I had played the role of Holmes in a production of "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" by Katie Forgette, and some part of me just can't let him go.

I was reading through the canon, and started thinking to myself how easy it really would be to just layout the straight text as a script.

Again, it's been done, so why do it again? Well, in this day and age, there is the opportunity to make this a real international Holmes adaptation by fans, for fans.

Characters in the canon come from all over the globe, so should the voice actors; and unlike shooting a film or tv show, they don't even need to leave their home to do it.

I want to do the whole thing; continuity errors, the uncomfortable attitudes towards other cultures, and everything else that comes up in the canon.

My hope is to make a quality product that will appeal to old and new fans alike. If this sounds like something you want to try and help me with, click on the Auditions page.

There's a long way to go, but I would love to accomplish this.

To this point, there are four stories posted on the webpage you can listen to, or download for free:

- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
 - A Scandal in Bohemia
 - The Red-Headed League
 - A Case of Identity
 - The Boscombe Valley Mystery

Go to the webpage for more information:
<https://iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com/>

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17 STEPS TO THE RESIDENT PATIENT

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

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

WATSON BECOMES A BIT JADED

"For in those cases in which



Holmes has performed some tour de force of analytical reasoning, and has demonstrated the value of his peculiar methods of investigation,

the facts themselves have often been so slight or so commonplace I could not feel justified in laying them before the public.

On the other hand, it has frequently happened he has been concerned in some research where the facts have been of the most remarkable and dramatic character, but where the share which he has himself taken in determining their causes has been less pronounced than I, as his biographer, could wish.

The small matter which I have chronicled under the heading of "A Study in Scarlet," and that other later one connected with the loss of the Gloria Scott, may serve as examples of this Scylla and Charybdis which are forever threatening the historian." That's one complicated quote.

Correct me if I'm wrong here, but isn't Watson saying "A Study in Scarlet" was a case where the facts were commonplace or slight?

Were American frontiersmen using fifty-fifty poison pills on gal-stealing bigamists every day in Victorian London?

Or is Watson thinking less of his initial work as his involvement with Holmes's cases went on?

THE WEB OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

"He loved to lie in the very centre of five millions of people, with his filaments stretching out and running through them, responsive to every

little rumour or suspicion of unsolved crime."



Sounds a bit like Moriarty, doesn't it? Moriarty, however, had a vast organization behind him. What are Holmes's "filaments" that bring him these

little rumors and suspicions of unsolved crime?

WATSON GETS PASSIONATE

"You were recalling the incidents of Beecher's career. I was aware you could not do this without thinking of the mission which he undertook on behalf of the North at the time of the Civil War, for I remember you expressing passionate indignation at the way in which he was received by the more turbulent of our people."

Henry Beecher came to London in 1863 to help gain English support for the Northern cause in the Civil War. Reading of what happened during Beecher's speaking at that time will shatter any stereotypes an American might hold of reserved and ultra-civilized Englishmen, and Watson was plainly ashamed of his "more turbulent" countrymen.

Beecher's troubles are over twenty years in the past at the time of "Resident Patient," however . . . so why was Watson so passionate about it at this later date?

Was a young Watson actually

present for one of Beecher's speeches? Why else would he get so passionate about something so long ago?



A PERFORMANCE WE'D ALL PAY TO SEE

Despite the fact Watson claims everyone is out of town, when he and Holmes decide to take a stroll, London seems the happening place.



"For three hours we strolled together,

watching the ever-changing kaleidoscope of life as it ebbs and flows through Fleet Street and Strand. His characteristic talk, with its keen observance of detail and subtle power of inference, held me amused and enthralled."

Who wouldn't want to spend three hours with Holmes as he rambled off the details of passers-by on busy streets? But wouldn't people notice that these two men were glancing at them and talking about them? How dangerous might that have been in urban London?

THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE

When Holmes identifies Trevelyan's brougham as belonging to a doctor, Watson knows it is from "the nature and state of the various medical instruments in the wicker basket which hung in the lamp-light inside the brougham."

One would think such portable and better known medical instruments as stethoscopes, syringes, and scalpels could be carried in the traditional doctor's bag.

What medical instruments would be big enough and commonly used enough Trevelyan would carry them around in a wicker basket?



THE DRIVERLESS CARRIAGE

Holmes and Watson encounter Trevelyan's brougham sitting outside 221 Baker Street with medical tools visible inside.

Yet they never mention the carriage's driver until Trevelyan says something.

Where was the coachman? Wouldn't it be strange for Holmes to be loudly making deductions about their visitor when the driver was sitting right there?

Where might he have been? Taking tea with Mrs. Hudson? Down the block chatting up some street wench? Would the contents of the carriage have been safe on a London street at that hour? Not all street urchins wound up in the Irregulars after all . . .

THE COMMENT ABOUT THE CANDLE

Holmes deduces Trevelyan hasn't been waiting long due to the state of the candle upon the side-table. Sounds good on the surface, but it would also mean that either

a.) Mrs. Hudson started each evening with fresh candles throughout the house, or

b.) Holmes observed and remembered the current length of every candle in his abode.

Which was the case, or are there other options? And didn't they have gas lighting in 221B at that time?

VENTURE CAPITALISTS OF THE MEDICAL TRADE

"This was the strange proposal, Mr. Holmes, with which the man Blessington approached me," Trevelyan states.

But after hearing the doctor's story of his promising career being held up for lack of funding, Blessington's offer to set him up in a practice for a share of the profits seems like the perfect solution.

Such investments were surely common in other businesses at the

time. Why should it seem so strange in the medical field? Was the mixture of business and medicine something uncommon then that we've grown accustomed to in the modern day?

OH, PERCY'S DELICATE EARS!

"Who has been in my room?" he cried.

"No one," said I.

"It's a lie!" he yelled. "Come up and look!"

"I passed over the grossness of his language, as he seemed half out of his mind with fear," Trevelyan comments on the previous exchange.

What was so "gross" about Blessington's language? No obvious coarse words there, are there?

Or was the accusation of lying what Percy considered so gross?

THE LONG WALK HOME

"A minute later we were in the street and walking for home. We had crossed Oxford Street and were halfway down Harley Street before I could get a word from my companion."

It took something

under a quarter of an hour to ride in a carriage to 403 Brook Street. It's now probably between eleven and midnight. Holmes and Watson have already been out for one long walk earlier in the evening. Why didn't they take a cab? How long would the walk home have taken them? Would there have been many people out on the streets at that time of night on their route?

THE ADVENTURE OF THE CATALEPTIC DETECTIVE

"And the catalepsy?" Watson asks.

"A fraudulent imitation, Watson, though I should hardly dare to hint as much to our specialist. It is a very easy



complaint to imitate. I have done it myself."

We've seen Holmes pretend to pass out in "Reigate Squires" and seen the use he had for such an act.

But catalepsy is a fairly specific sort of losing consciousness involved muscular rigidity -- why would Holmes need to play-act that specific ailment instead of just a general, all-purpose faint? Was he just varying his repertoire, or would there be a situation where just that ailment was called for?

THE PROPHECY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

"But we may sleep on it now, for I shall be surprised if we do not hear something further from Brook Street in the morning," Holmes says after visiting Blessington.

He knows someone wanted something in Blessington's room, probably Blessington himself.

But when he says "hear something further," does he mean he expects a change of heart from the less-than-forthcoming resident patient, or does Holmes actually know a break-in will occur before dawn?

And if the latter, did he suspect Blessington's criminal nature and leave him to his fate?

LANNER, SOCIOLOGIST AND SCOTLAND YARDMAN

"It's about five in the morning, you know, that suicides are most common," Inspector Lanner says.

Any truth to this, or is he just talking off the top of his head? (And from his own experience or from some statistics he'd read?)

Late, late at night, perhaps, but by five a.m., wouldn't even the most ambitious suicide be tired enough to put it off until tomorrow?

ALL THE PRISON RELEASE NEWS

"No doubt the day on which he was so perturbed was the day when he had seen of their release in the newspapers."

Were all the latest prison releases in the papers of the day?

While the release of the aging Worthington bank gang might be big news in Worthington, would it have rated a mention in the London papers that Blessington subscribed to?

THE WATERY SWORD OF JUSTICE STRIKES AGAIN!

"I have no doubt, Inspector," Holmes observes, "that you will see that, though that shield may fail to guard, the sword of justice is still there to avenge."

Once more Sherlock Holmes speaks of vengeance, and once more the villains meet a mysterious death at sea, just like in "Five Orange Pips."

Coincidence? How common were shipwrecks in those days?

Enough that we might expect it to occur this often?

MORE GREAT DETECTIVE WORK BY VILLAINS

How did the newly released convicts find their fellow bank robber? He had changed his name from Sutton to Blessington and moved into a part of London one would never expect an ex-robber to be in. Blessington only went out at one point during the day, and if they had seen him on the street (by some extremely unlikely chance), wouldn't they have just grabbed him there?

Or at least have known that was the time he took his walks?

The gang's discovery of Blessington is practically more amazing than Holmes's deductions at the end of the case.

How did they pull it off?

THAT'S A DEAL ANY CROOK WOULD GO FOR

Sutton is said to be the worst of the Worthington bank gang. He turns informant on the rest, and is, apparently, set free for testifying against them.

From the money he had to invest in Trevelyan's career, one would think that Sutton still had the seven thousand pounds the gang stole.

Wouldn't the money be the first thing Scotland Yard would have wanted Sutton to tell them about?



WHAT'S IN "WATSON"?... answers

How clever are you? Test yourself. See if you can find twenty or more words of four or more letters in the name "WATSON"

To make it a little more challenging, if you use the singular form a word, such as HOLE, do not then also count the plural form HOLES. ... and no proper nouns need apply. Here is what Rusty and I came up with.

- | | | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| ANTS | OATS | SNOW | SWAN | TONS | TWOS |
| AWNS | OWNS | SOWN | SWAT | TOSA | WANS |
| NATS | SANTO | STOA | SWOT | TOWS | WANT |
| NOTA | SAWN | STOW | TANS | TOWN | WONT |
| OAST | SNOT | STOWN | TAWS | TWAS | |

WHAT'S IN "GREGSON"?...

How clever are you? Test yourself. See if you can find twenty or more words of four or more letters in the name "GREGSON."

To make it a little more challenging, if you use the singular form a word, such as HOLE, do not then also count the plural form HOLES. ... and no proper nouns need apply.

We will supply the answers next month.

GOING TO THE DOGS

Liese Sherwood-Fabre



From the evil hound of the Baskervilles to Toby's exceptional nose in *The Sign of Four*, dogs have played a significant role in 17% of the stories in the canon, with only two serving as a villain's accomplice.

For the most part, the canines appearing in these tales either directly or indirectly provided a clue.

Perhaps the most famous of these, Toby and Pompey, both assisted Sherlock in tracking down his prey with a superior sense of smell than even that of the great detective. (1)

Scientists estimate dogs can identify odors in parts per trillion—or 10,000 to 100,000 times greater than humans.

Their anatomy creates a very powerful instrument involving passageways for the inhalation and exhalation of air (where human use one for both directions), with about twelve percent of it diverted specifically for olfaction.

This air passes through a bony structure called turbinates and is filtered into different odor molecules, which specific receptors are able to identify. In addition, dogs have an organ (Jacobson's organ) dedicated to identifying animal pheromones.

The information from this organ is actually sent to another part of the brain and analyzed separately from that detected by the turbinates.

Most amazing is that despite all the data bombarding dogs, they are able to concentrate on the

task at hand and ignore all other scents to stay on their quarry's trail. (2)

While Toby and Pompey provided exceptional service, they bucked a Victorian preference for pure-bred dogs.

Toby was half-spaniel-half lurcher; (3) Pompey a beagle and foxhound mix. (4) Victorian show organizers would not have been allowed either to be shown or participate in field trials because of their heritage.

During the nineteenth century, the British created an interest in showing pure bred dogs as they did other livestock, and a shift occurred from a dog's talent to his appearance.

The first dog show in the world occurred in 1859 and featured five categories: sheepdogs, mastiffs, terriers, scent hounds, and companion hounds. (5)



After a number of shows, some of which failed as financial ventures, a group of thirteen created the Kennel Club in 1873 to provide a governing body and a structure for assessing a dog's quality and sanctioning exhibitions. (6)

The Club developed a stud book, providing the pedigrees of all dogs competing at shows beginning with the one in 1859, and a "Code of Rules for the guidance of Dog Shows and Field Trials" that set the standards for all recognized show breeds. (7)

Another outgrowth of the dog shows was the Canine Defense League—later the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. This group's activities led to the creation of homes for dogs, a concern for strays, and the banning of certain "sports" involving

dogs and other animals. (8) Unfortunately, the interest in purebreds led at times to in-breeding and the rise of genetic flaws among some animals. As Toby and

Pompey illustrated and Sherlock knew, a dog's breeding can enhance some skills, but in the end, it is the result that counts.

(1) <http://thenorwoodbuilder.tumblr.com/post/58441380261/sherlock-holmes-and-dogs-in-canon-well>

(2) <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/nature/dogs-sense-of-smell.html>

(3) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert (2012-12-13). The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Locations 3142-3143). Kindle Edition.

(4) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert (2012-12-13). The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Locations 23768-23770). Kindle Edition.

(5) <http://hzmhomework.bogspot.com/200712/value-of-dogs-and-victorian-era.html>

(6) http://www.davidhancockondogs.com/archives/archive_399_493/461.html

(7) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kennel_Club

(8) http://www.davidhancockondogs.com/archives/archive_399_493/461.html

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the Bilge Pump) and sign up for her newsletter at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

DOUGLAS WILMER PASSES AWAY

The Times Union

LONDON (AP) — Douglas Wilmer, who played detective Sherlock Holmes in a 1960s television series, has died at 96.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London says Wilmer died Thursday in a hospital in Ipswich, eastern England.

Wilmer played the pipe-smoking sleuth a series of TV dramas in 1964 and 1965.

The Sherlock Holmes Society said that "for many, he was the seminal television Sherlock Holmes."

In a tribute, the society called his characterization "incisive, drily witty, utterly in command of events ... exactly as Sherlock Holmes should look and sound."

Wilmer returned to the role in



the 1975 TV movie "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" and in a series of audio books.

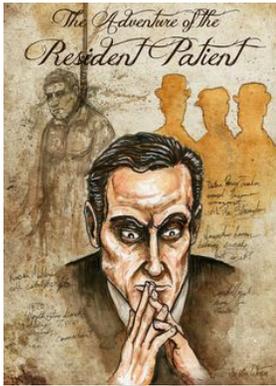
Wilmer also appeared alongside Christopher Lee in the "Fu Manchu" movies and with Roger Moore in 1960s TV adventure series "The Saint" and in the James Bond film "Octopussy."

Moore tweeted that Wilmer was "a fine actor and joyous to be in 'The Saint' and 'Octopussy' with."

In his later life, Wilmer opened a wine bar, Sherlock's in Woodbridge, the eastern England town where he lived. One of his final screen appearances was a 2012 cameo as a grumpy member of the Diogenes Club in the BBC's "Sherlock," which stars Benedict Cumberbatch as the great detective.

56 STORIES IN 56 DAYS - THE RESIDENT PATIENT

Posted on October 8, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet



Watson sits in the rooms at 221B on a rainy day in October longing to go on a holiday which he can't afford.

I'm not surprised he's skint considering the way he abandons his patients to chase off after Holmes at every opportunity, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

Holmes shocks Watson at the start by seeming to read his mind, and it is rather brilliant that by just observing where his friend looks in the room, how he raises a hand to his old war wound, and the movement of his eyebrows, Holmes knows what he is thinking.

Not only is this a fantastic demonstration of the method which Holmes uses to reach his conclusions and the unusual way he sees the world, but also how very well he knows his only friend.

He also seems to sense that Watson is in a 'Brown study' and suggests they go for an evening walk together which lifts Watson from his unhappiness.

Sherlock Holmes can actually be rather sweet when he wants to be. Upon returning from their evening walk, the two friends find a visitor waiting for them by the name of Dr Percy Trevelyan.

I do sympathise with this young man's story.

He is a very skilled young man who excelled at university but is not of wealthy birth and therefore cannot jump the queue to success and buy all the trappings he needs to become a successful doctor, such as impressive premises, horse and carriage etc.

So instead he resolves to start small and perhaps in ten years have earned enough to set up as a specialist in his chosen field.

I have known many young people in this position who have turned up at my office door looking for retail work because they needed to earn some money before

continuing with studies or doing unpaid work experience in the profession they aspire to.

Other young people seem to have the resources to do what they need to without these diversions and this does often seem unfair.

Fortunately, in my role as manager of a temp agency I am able to help a little but the work isn't fantastically paid and I have known many a gifted young person who has had to give up their dreams and take full-time retail work because they simply can't carry on any longer without a full time wage.

So I really like Dr Trevelyan and understand the sense of elation he must have felt when a wealthy patron, Mr Blessington, comes forward to offer assistance and make all his dreams come true.

That's what I need, someone to step forward out of the shadows to make my dreams of being a full time writer come true. Hurrah then for Mr Blessington but what a shame he lands up dead, and am I the only person left wondering what will become of the poor young doctor now that his funding has been cut off?

Mr Blessington was clearly afraid for his life but wouldn't tell Holmes the truth about his past on his first visit, prompting Holmes to simply walk away from the case. I wonder if perhaps, Holmes should have felt some guilt therefore when the man was murdered that very night?

Perhaps if he had tried a bit harder to extract the truth a tragedy could have been avoided?

But then as he was such a scoundrel in his past anyway, perhaps Holmes felt as if justice had been done. Everything points to suicide but Holmes' brilliant deduction at the scene – very CSI – particularly involving the cigar ash, leads to a very conclusive verdict of murder and the truth about Blessington's past being comprehensively revealed.

I really enjoyed returning to this story and will happily give it 8 out of 10.

MAID OF HONOR

By Rosemary Michaud, Holmes and Watson Report, Sherlock Peoria

Did you ever wonder about Kitty Winter? That is, did you ever think about what might have been going through her mind when she pitched that vitriol into Baron Gruner's face? She must have known she would go to jail for it, not to mention the Baron's penchant for getting back at the people who crossed him.

What really drove her to do what she did, in spite of the probable consequences?

The Granada television rendering of "The Illustrious Client" came up with an excellent motive for Kitty. In their version, she was a respectable artists' model prior to her encounter with the evil Adelbert Gruner. He disfigured her with acid, presumably because she was not willing to be added to his collection of women.

When she in turn disfigured Gruner, her actions seemed perfectly justified. In Watson's original version of the story, however, Kitty was morally, rather than physically scarred.

Kitty admitted that she had been Gruner's willing partner at one time; her grudge against him apparently rested upon his somewhat kinky ideas of pleasure, and the fact that she was merely one of the many women he used.

My first thought is that Watson's Victorian sensibilities could justify her later actions on that score alone, in a way that my modern mind can scarcely comprehend.

But on second thought, it seems to me that at the point in the story where she throws the vitriol, Kitty has lost her individuality and merely represents the retribution meted out by a belatedly just universe.

Based on Watson's account alone, we don't really see Kitty as a justifiable perpetrator, but we accept her actions because Gruner is a completely justifiable victim: a blackguard and murderer who got what was coming to him.

That's okay as far as it goes, but what about Kitty Winter, the wronged woman? Who was she, why was she so violently ticked off at the Baron, and why did she choose that particular means - and that particular moment - to revenge herself upon him?

There is little information about Kitty's life prior to her first meeting with Gruner. I think we can all agree that at one time she must have been quite beautiful.

We can also safely assume that she had no great fortune; if she had been rich, Gruner probably would have married her and murdered her. It is more difficult to assess her precise social (as opposed to economic) standing in her pre-Gruner days, but her reference to being "old mates" with Shinwell Johnson suggests that she was a resident of "Hell, London," even prior to her ruin.

Her speech patterns bear this out. I am especially fond of the phrase "yours to the rattle," which suggests to me a kind of Eliza Doolittle gone wrong.

The comparison to Eliza may be quite apt. Perhaps Gruner discovered the flame-like Kitty in just such a situation as Henry Higgins would later stumble across Eliza. But the Baron had no thoughts of turning his discovery into a lady.

Like Henry Higgins, though, Gruner seems to have brought Kitty home to live with him. Note her later reference to having "left him," and her complete familiarity with his house and possessions. And this may be part of the circumstances which made her so bitter later on.

She may have felt that their intimate living arrangement raised her above the level of a mere mistress. She may have considered herself to be Gruner's wife in common law. After all, she probably knew lots of folks in Hell, London, who considered themselves married couples based on arrangements no more formal than hers with Gruner.

And for all we know, Gruner may have encouraged her to believe that a genuine marriage ceremony would eventually take place. This is the kind of broken promise that might well send a hot-tempered girl to the chemist's for a mixture of vitriol.

And there is something else to consider. How old was Kitty when the Baron first seduced her? She was still apparently quite young at the time when Holmes and Watson met her.

She may have been even younger than Watson imagined her to be. By her account, she had already spent a year apart from Gruner, and Watson suggests "terrible years" of sin and sorrow prior to this.

Suppose that Gruner met Kitty when she was fifteen, or fourteen, or even younger. The sophisticated Baron would have found it easy to captivate the heart

of a very young girl, even such a comparatively street-wise youngster as would be found in Kitty's neighborhood.

True, Kitty had no money or social standing to attract him - only her innocence - and so he took that. As Kitty grew older, she began to see her situation bore clearly. The sight of Gruner's "beastly book" seems to have been the first awakening light for her, and eventually she summoned up the courage to leave him.

He seems not to have objected to her departure; he was probably tired of her. For her part, she had sense enough to go without causing the kind of fuss that might have made it necessary for the Baron to eliminate her.

In truth, she was biding her time, hoping for revenge, but helpless to bring it about. And then Shinwell Johnson introduced her to Sherlock Holmes.

If you were to meet Sherlock Holmes yourself, what do you suppose would strike you first about him? Would it be his keen eyes, his hawk-like features, his air of determination?

I think you would probably see many of his attributes nearly simultaneously, and the impression they would make upon you could probably be expressed in a single word: masterful. Kitty Winter saw it right away.

"Maybe dear Adelbert has met his match this time," she said to Holmes. It was nothing new for people to react this way to the great detective. After all, he made his living by getting people to trust him with their most difficult problems.

When Kitty met Holmes, she sensed that she was on the winning team at last. And even though he was not successful at first in persuading Violet DeMerville to break her engagement, I suspect that Kitty was very favorably impressed by Holmes's earnest speech to the general's daughter.

Imagine how Kitty felt as Holmes compassionately outlined the horrors of a fate so similar to Kitty's own downfall. Holmes was brave, gallant, incorruptible, righteous. Is it any wonder that Kitty fell in love with him?

It makes sense, doesn't it? In addition to everything else, Holmes treated Kitty with respect and courtesy,

and he did his best to protect her from harm, even after he himself was gravely injured.

This is not to say that Kitty ever deluded herself into thinking that Holmes returned her feelings. I believe that his lack of romantic and/or sexual interest in her only added to her admiration of him.

Perhaps for the first time in her life, she had met a man who wanted nothing from her except her help in saving the soul of another innocent woman. Holmes was a shining knight, a hero.

Now, imagine Kitty's thoughts during that terrible week she spent hiding in the suburbs, reading the newspaper reports of Holmes's deteriorating condition. And though she must have been mightily relieved when she saw him and discovered that he was going to make a full recovery, the sight of his injuries must have put her into a very dangerous frame of mind.

Who knows what he might have done if Gruner's men had actually killed Holmes? As it was, Holmes was only wounded, though perhaps he was somewhat disfigured, at least temporarily.

Kitty could allow the Baron to live, but I believe that she prepared her flask of vitriol as much to avenge Holmes's injuries as to settle the old score on her own account.

Perhaps Kitty might not have thrown the vitriol even then, had Holmes made a clean escape from the Baron's premises. But Gruner heard the intruders, and dashed to the window while Holmes was still in view.

Was the Baron about to fire the gun that Watson saw him searching for in the side-drawer? Kitty did not wait to find out. She flung the vitriol at the man she loathed, in order to protect the man she loved.

What did a possible jail term mean to her at that moment? Her gallant hero was in danger!

We will never know for sure what happened to Kitty Winter after she got out of prison. It seems likely that Holmes would have helped her find a new life, somewhere Baron Gruner could never find her.

She didn't get to live happily ever after with Holmes, but I'm sure she felt her life was the better for having known him and loved him.

And in that respect, I think a lot of us can identify with Kitty Winter.

Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Foy,
Rusty & Steve Mason



Baker Street Elementary
Number 054 - 04/10/2016

Foy, Mason, & Mason

HELLO, GENTLEMAN... I UNDERSTAND WE ALL VOLUNTEERED TO REDESIGN THE SCHOOL MASCOT. SHALL WE REVIEW EACH OTHER'S DRAFT DRAWINGS?

SURE, EVEN THOUGH YOU TWO ARE MUCH MORE TALENTED THAN I AM.



SO SIDNEY, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT I CAN ONLY ASSUME WILL BE ANOTHER OF YOUR DRAWING MASTERPIECES...



WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK, JOHN? WILL EITHER OF THESE MASCOTS INSTILL FEAR INTO OTHER SCHOOL TEAMS?



um, IGNATIUS. IS THAT A SHAVED CHICKEN?

OF COURSE NOT, JOHN... IT IS A FIERCE DINOSAUR!



IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A STALLION OR A BRONCO?

A DARTMOOR PONY, TO BE PRECISE...



ONLY IF THEIR MASCOT IS A KITTEN OR BABY UNICORN !!

