

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 05 - May, 2016
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



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

June 5th Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, June 5, 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 Wisteria Lodge."

The quiz will cover this tale.

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

May 1st Meeting

There were 15 attendees on hand. The opening toast was delivered by Steve Mason, which was a wonderful toast written by Paula Cohen, "A Perennial Toast" (see page 2).

Sandra Little won the Quiz, based on "The Resident Patient", with a perfect score. She was awarded "The Sherlock Holmes Collection BBC" DVD set starring Peter Cushing. "Houdini & Doyle", a new television series, will start in our area on May 2nd at 8:00 p.m. Central on Fox 4.

On behalf of Dean Clark – Sandra Little did a great job in speaking before the Afghanistan Perceivers in Tulsa, OK.

QUESTION: What is Lady Day? Answer provided by Karen Olson: Lady Day falls on March 25th and celebrates the angel appearing to Mary to announce the conception of Christ.

Steve Mason discussed what a gasogene is, as compared to a seltzogene. Steve brought in an example of both.

Sharon Lowry was invested as a Deck Mate, and received the certificate with an English penny. She is one of the founding members of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star.

Sharon Lowry believes the start of the society most likely took place during 1970. If we embrace 1970, our fiftieth anniversary will arrive in 2020. It will be a special occasion.

Pam Mason delivered the closing talk, "That Last Quiet Talk" by Russell Rhine, from The Baker Street Journal, December, 1972 (see page 2).

Movie night will be next Saturday, May 7th. The movie will be "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes." Movie nights will now regularly be held each Saturday on the weekend following that of the regular meetings.

The full minutes may be viewed at our webpage: www.dfw-sherlock.org



For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://www.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, Brenda Hutchison
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A PERENNIAL TOAST

Linda Cohen, *The Serpentine Muse*, Spring, 1982

Here's to high lace collars and cameo pins, satin gowns and upswept hair, hansom carriages and gas-lit rooms.

Here's to etched glass door panes and a fire in the grate, a calling-card on the table and brandy in a snifter, slippers on the fender and a pipe in the ashtray.

And, above all, here's to downcast eyes, a well-turned ankle, and a maid to pick up your clothes the morning after.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Victorian Age!



THAT LAST QUIET TALK

By Russell Rhine, *Baker Street Journal*, December, 1972

I've often wished that I could have been there upon that terrace,
To listen to that last quiet talk of days gone past,
The recollections of places they've been,

The Grimpen Mire in Devonshire, the Manor of Biristone,
Boscombe Valley, the little village of Meiringen,
Eyford in Berkshire, Shoscombe Old Place;

Of women they've loved,

The notorious Irene Adler,
Lovely Miss Mary Morstan;

Of friends they've had,

Gregson and Lestrade of Scotland Yard,
Cartwright, Porlock, and Merivale,
Toby, the half—spaniel, Wiggins and the irregulars,
Mycroft;

Of dangers they've faced

The Hound of the Baskervilles
A fearful place called Reichenbach,
The Speckled Band of Stoke Moran,
The Sussex Vampire, The Devil's Foot;

Of people they've helped,

Red—headed Jabez Wilson,
Mr. Melas, the Greek Interpreter
Violet Smith and Violet de Merville,
The King of Bohemia;

Of foes they've met,

Moriarty, ex—professor of mathematics,
His friend, Colonel Sebastian Moran,
Charles Augustus Milverton,
Baron Adelbert Gruner,
And the Kaiser's special spy, Von Bork;

Of displeasures they've shared,

The needle, cocaine, and morphine,
Depression, failure, and secrecy;

Of enjoyments,

Music, literature, and tobacco,
The sharing of dangers, rewards,
Companionship, travels, successes,
And best. . . friendship.

But I know I could never be there to hear of days gone past, Of friends, foes, and the rest.

For it's best they spend those last few minutes alone.

Though when I feel a wind erupting from the East, I too remember.

17 STEPS TO WISTERIA LODGE

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

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

THE POLLYANNA OF DETECTIVES

"Audacity and romance seem to have passed forever from the criminal world," bemoans Sherlock Holmes in "The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge," sounding like a Raffles fan who just watched an episode of "COPS."

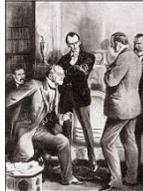


Isn't this view a bit dreamy for a man who has dealt with very real, very vicious criminals for a decade? Was the criminal world ever romantic outside of fiction?

THE MASTER AND HIS CLASS

"Private detectives are a class with whom I have absolutely no sympathy," states Scott Eccles.

What would a common, conservative citizen of 1892 know of private detectives as a class? Would we expect a fellow like Eccles to encounter on in everyday life?



THE BACKWARDS WATSONIAN STORYTELLER

"You are like my friend, Dr. Watson," Holmes tells Eccles, "who has a bad habit of telling his stories wrong end foremost."

Was Holmes speaking of Watson's written work, or merely his habits in daily conversation? Is the Canon told "wrong end first"?

DINING HEAD-TO-HEAD

"Our dinner was tete-a-tete," Scott Eccles tells of his visit to Garcia. What was Eccles expecting it to be? Had Garcia led him to believe it was going to be a party? Why was a

private meal with one's host worth remarking about?

THE ADMIRABLE MR. BAYNES

"A woman, as usual, was at the bottom of it," Baynes comments after his admirable display in finding the discarded note. For all his promise as a detective, does Baynes also display some heavy shortcomings like a prejudice against women?

PETTY CASH ON BAKER STREET

"You will show these gentlemen out, Mrs. Hudson, and kindly send the boy with this telegram. He is to pay a five-shilling reply."

Holmes doesn't hand Mrs.

Hudson five shillings to pay for that reply, so where is she getting the money?

A standing cash reservoir that

Holmes supplies, or would she be expected to use her own money, keep a record, and bill him later?

THE ADVENTURES OF ANOTHER COWARDLY CONSTABLE

Walters shivers: "And the look of it--the great staring goggle eyes, and the line of white teeth like a hungry beast. I tell you, sir, I couldn't move a finger, nor get my breath, till it whisked away and was gone. Out I ran and through the shrubbery, but thank God there was no one there."

Would Walters have been carrying a gun for his vigil? Why was he so spooked by a dead chicken, when nobody in the area seemed up on voodoo?

AND NEXT, HIS MONOGRAPH ON SHOE SIZES

"Yes," Holmes reports, after a short examination of the grass bed, "a number twelve shoe, I should say."

How might Holmes have been gauging shoe sizes at the scene of the crime without a measuring device?



Did he have a method, or was he just using guesswork specifics to make himself sound more skilled?

EL MARIACHI, 1892 STYLE



"Odds and ends, some pipes, a few novels, two of them in Spanish, an old-fashioned pinfire revolver, and a guitar were among the personal property."

Was the guitar a particularly Spanish instrument in 1892? Where would one expect to commonly find one in English life of that period?

THE BAYNES SYSTEM OF CRIME SOLVING

"But we all have our own systems, Mr. Holmes. You have yours, and maybe I have mine," Baynes explains once he has captured the mulatto cook.



What methods did Baynes plan to use at this point? He had captured his suspect . . . was he going to use extreme measures on his prisoner?

AH, THE LEISURELY SERVANT LIFE!

"For the rest, his house is full of butlers, footmen, maidservants, and the usual overfed, underworked staff of a large English country-house." What percentage of the servant class was Holmes referring to here? Did they really have it that easy, or is this Holmes displaying a slight prejudice from his past?

THOSE SAVAGES AND THEIR FILTHY DEITIES

From "Eckermann's Voodooism and the Negroid Religions" we hear: "The true voodoo-worshipper attempts nothing of importance without certain sacrifices which are intended to propitiate his unclean



gods. In extreme cases these rites take the form of human sacrifices followed by cannibalism. The more usual victims

are a white cock, which is plucked in pieces alive, or a black goat, whose throat is cut and body burned."

Okay, that's the aloof Victorian view of one man's religion. What was the cook attempting from his point of view? Did his arcane rites have some purpose in voodoo traditions other than the general appeasement of angry gods?

DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO SAN PEDRO?

Based on the scan information we have in this tale, would anyone care to hazard some speculation as to where, exactly, San Pedro was? (And while we're at it, where did the voodoo-loving cook



come from? The "backwoods of San Pedro"? How about New Orleans, serving up Cajun or Creole food? Or Haiti, serving up whatever Haitian specialties there are?)

LIKE PUTTING YOUR NAME ON A MARQUEE

"Some six months afterwards the Marquess of Montalva and Signor Rulli, his secretary, were both murdered in their rooms at the Hotel Escorial at Madrid."

Mr. Henderson of High Gable seems to be a low profile sort of guy, with good reason.



Wouldn't people be more likely to wonder about the background and credentials of supposed nobility, than a "Mr.

Henderson"? Could someone just waltz into Madrid claiming they were a marquis? Why would Don Murillo make such a move?

THE COLORS OF REVOLUTION?

"If you look it up you will find that the San Pedro colours are green and white," Miss Burnet explains.

Wouldn't the colours of a country whose dictator deserved an obsessive quest for vengeance be just the thing they wouldn't be wanting to use? Or

did these colors come into use after dictator Don Murillo was gone?

THE TELL-TALE SIGNS ON THE BODY

Miss Burnet explains, "I was confined to my room, terrorized by the most horrible threats, cruelly ill-used to break my spirit--see this stab on my shoulder and the bruises from end to end of my arms."



Burnet was seriously abused, to be sure. But what sort of abuse leaves bruises all along her arms, end to end? Would grabbing alone do such damage?

VENGEANCE OF A VODOO PRIEST

"Knowing that he would return there, Garcia, who is the son of the former highest dignitary in San Pedro, was waiting with two trusty companions of humble station, all three fired with the same reasons for revenge."

So if Garcia picked up his cook in his travels, why was the cook so fired up about revenge on Don Murillo? Did he really have any part in this aside from cooking?

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

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. Here is what Rusty and I came up with.

EGGS	ERGS	GENS	GONER	GORSE	NOGS	ONER	REGGO	SEGO	SONG
EGOS	ERNS	GOER	GONG	GROG	NOSE	ONES	ROES	SENO	SORE
EONS	EROS	GOES	GORE	NEGRO	NOSER	ORES	ROSE	SNORE	
ERGO	GENRO	GONE	GORGE	NOES	OGRE	REGOS	SEGNO	SONE	

WHAT'S IN "MORIARTY"?...

How clever are you? Test yourself. See if you can find 10 or more words of FIVE or more letters in the name "MORIARTY."

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.

NAME YOUR POISON

Liese Sherwood-Fabre



The canon includes 263 dead bodies and 119 murders, only a percentage of them can be considered "murder mysteries," (1) and while several such cases involve poison or medicines,

only one ("The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger") mentions a specific poison by name: prussic acid or cyanide. (2)

Despite Holmes' knowledge of poisons, (3) the lack of a precise cause in most of his cases reflects the country's nineteenth-century fear and fascination of the intimate, and often controversial, homicide cases populating the popular media of the day.

In 1815, the case of Eliza Fenning seized the public's attention and became an obsession as newspapers across the nation took sides in her case. The cook for the Turner family was charged and tried for attempted murder of five members of her employer's household.



Despite all the family members recovering after ingesting some presumed tainted dumplings, Mrs. Fenning was found guilty and executed. On one side, the press vilified her because of her status primarily as a member of the working class and to be less believed than those of the middle class.

The other side used her case to point out the problems with current government and the justice system. Even detailed analysis of the evidence presented pointing out many flaws in the prosecution's case and appeals for mercy did not save the woman from the gallows.

Not long after her death, she was immortalized on the stage and referenced during other celebrated later cases of poisoning. (4)

The attention given to this type of murder far exceed the actual cases ever making it to court. In 1849, of 20,000 suspicious deaths in all of England and Wales, only eleven involved possible murder by poison (and not all were found guilty).



Public fear, however, fueled an increase in arrests and prosecution, with the number of trials rising from seven in 1829-1838; to 23 from 1839 to 1848; to 17, 1849-1858, before dropping to seven the next decade. (5) By far, the most common poison, in about a third of the cases, was arsenic. This readily available chemical was particularly feared because it was almost tasteless and could be mixed in food or drink.

In addition to being sold in pharmacies as a medicine as well as to eliminate rats, ants, and other vermin, it was a common ingredient in many household products, including paint, dye, and even soap. (6)

In 1836, the highly sensitive Marsh test, named for its discoverer, provided the first reliable means for identifying the presence of arsenic, even in the stomach contents of corpses. (7) While arsenic could be undetectable to its victim, prussic acid, or cyanide, had a very distinct odor. Named for the blue pigment Prussian blue from which it was first isolated, the acid is also found in the pits of various fruits, including bitter almonds. With a distinctive smell and taste of bitter almonds, it was rarely be used for murder. (8) Ingestion was either by accident or intentional. In 1837-1838,

twenty-seven cases of prussic acid poisoning occurred in England. Of those, almost all were suicides. (9)

The intent, then, of Eugenia Rounder's plan for her own bottle of the poison in "The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger" becomes clear, and as well as her decision to mail it to Sherlock Holmes after their



meeting to indicate her intention to end her life had changed. Despite the public's concern and fascination with murder by poisoning, such cases were very rare in the 1800s.

Even Parliament's attempt in 1851 to regulate arsenic sales by requiring pharmacists keep a ledger

of sales and ordering certain amounts of arsenic be colored with soot or indigo to prevent murder attempts had little effect because so few of poisonings were homicides. (10) Even if taken to trial, such murders were hard to prove because other than arsenic, no tests existed to indicate poison as the cause of death.

That no poisons were ever identified by name in canon (other than prussic acid intended for suicide) most likely reflects even the limits of Sherlock's ability to determine the exact cause of death.

As in A Study in Scarlet, he might be able to prove a homicide with the death of a terrier, but beyond that, even he couldn't name his poison.

(1) Steven Doyle and David Crowder, *Sherlock Holmes for Dummies* (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, 2010), p. 15.

(2) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert (2012-12-13). *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* (Kindle Location 31379).

(3) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert (2012-12-13). *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* (Kindle Locations 552-553).

(4) Judith Flanders, *The Invention of Murder* (London: Harper Press, 2011), pp . 183-197.

(5) *Ibid*, p. 234.

(6) *Ibid*, p. 232.

(7) E. J. Wagner, *The Science of Sherlock Holmes* (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, 2006), p. 48.

(8) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrogen_cyanide

(9) Alfred S. Taylor, *Medical Jurisprudence* (Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard, 1845), p. 210.

(10) http://dujs.dartmouth.edu/2008/02/sensational-murders-a-poisonous-history-of-victorian-society/#.Vw_UnPkrLs1

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>

HOLMES SWEET HOMICIDE

Old West Melodrama, noted by Peter E. Blau

Old West Melodrama theater company, in Spring, Texas, unveils a mystery dinner show that spoofs Victorian customs, Sherlock Holmes mysteries, exotic diseases and cures, and more.

World-famous detective, Hemlock Holmes, has just returned from a trip to a sanatorium in upstate New York, where he is visited by a long-lost cousin. Unbeknownst to his sidekick, Whatsun, Holmes brought the cousin, Elmira, back home. When Whatsun finds out the cousin is a beautiful woman with a rare mental disorder called Disrobe-a-phobia, she's shocked and jealous (yes, Whatsun is a woman too).

Mystery and intrigue abound when Dr. Charles Ovary and his nurse arrive to cure Elmira – and the doctor becomes as infatuated with Elmira as Holmes is! It's up to

you to guess who-done-it! Shows are from May 13-28.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.oldwestmelodrama.com/>



56 Stories in 56 Days -- The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge

Posted on October 26, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet

This is the first story in the compilation titled 'His Last Bow' and starts with a brief description of Holmes' current situation.

Watson tells us that Holmes is alive and well, though occasionally troubled by bouts of rheumatism.

He is living on a small farm upon the Downs near Eastbourne enjoying his retirement.

The story of Wisteria Gables pre-dates this and is set in 1892.

I feel somewhat let down by the story. I want to hear more about Holmes' retirement and why he has let Watson continue to write about him when The Second Stain was meant to be the last one.

What has happened to Watson once Holmes has retired?

Has he gone back to medical work?

Has he remarried?

I have tried to look at some of these things in my own novel, and interestingly have named the house in which Watson ultimately ends up living in as Wisteria Gables – a mix of Wisteria Lodge and The Three Gables.

This story is really not one of my favourites, too long and complicated in my opinion.

It's basically a tale, inexplicably split into two parts, about a nasty dictator who fled from his country taking great wealth with him and goes to hide in England.

A gang have been following him trying to seek revenge and some of its members are staying in a nearby house.

They enlist the services of a woman whose husband was killed by the dictator and she gains employment in his household as a nanny.

Here's where the problems start for me – why didn't she just kill him herself as she hated him so much? Why did they wait so long to make the attack?

Anyway, the leader of the gang befriends a respectable fellow and arranges for him to stay at his house, changing the times on the clocks so that he can provide an alibi, but the dictator gets wind of the planned attack and kills his would-be murder first.

Gosh, it is far too much coming-and-going for a short story.

For once, the police are on the right track, and the promising Inspector Baynes reaches the same conclusion as Holmes.

This is a first, a big change from all previous stories. Holmes is able to deliver the crucial witness, the nanny, but still justice cannot be done as the villain escapes.

There is a report years later which tells of his eventual murder but the whole thing seems unfinished to me.

I just didn't enjoy this one and wanted to know more about the central characters rather than some bonkers dictator.

It's a 4 out of 10 I'm afraid – here's hoping that the rest of His Last Bow scores a little better.

An Inquiry Into "The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge"

Murray, the Courageous Orderly (a.k.a. Alexander Braun)

"The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge," was first published in **The Strand Magazine** in September - October 1908. According to Baring-Gould's chronology, as set down in **The Annotated Sherlock Holmes,** Second Edition, 1974, the case takes place on Monday, March 24, to Saturday, March 29, 1890. At the time Holmes is 36 years old and Watson 38.

Notable Quotes:

"I suppose, Watson, we must look upon you as a man of letters."

"My mind is like a racing engine, tearing itself to pieces because it is not connected up with the work for which it was built."

Writing Affliction

This is yet another instance of Holmes criticizing Watson about his writings... so it would seem. However, if we look at it closely: "If you cast your mind back to some of those narratives with which you have afflicted a long-suffering public..." it sounds to me as if he is making more of a joke than a criticism with even--dare I say it?--a tinge of affection.

A Refresher Course?

According to what he tells us, when Watson examined the voodoo implements, the nature of one seemed to elude him: "At first, as I examined it, I thought that it was a mummified Negro baby, and then it seemed a very twisted ancient monkey. Finally, I was left in doubt as to whether it was animal or human."

I have difficulties in believing any doctor would be unable to

determine whether whole remains in that state of preservation are human or not. I cannot believe that even an educated layman would be that uncertain. The bone structure--particularly arms and legs--of a monkey is clearly different to that of a human. I think this is one instance when the Good Doctor, very possibly to protect the then more fragile sensibilities of his readers is keeping something from us. It is interesting to note the doctor who identified the remains had been burned as not being human, apparently said nothing about the relic that so confused Watson.

The Ex-Dictator's Planning

It seems strange that when he realized who she was, Murillo hesitated and did not get rid of the "governess" in a far more practical and permanent manner. And then later why did he risk his getaway by drugging her and taking her with him? A shallow grave was called for--much safer.

The Nemesis

It is hard to believe in all the time she worked as governess, Sra. Durando limited herself to informing her co-conspirators about Murillo's whereabouts. One would have expected a woman bent on avenging her husband's death who has been living in danger of her life close to her husband's murderer to have acted more directly--a shot to the back of the head, a knifing, a trace of cyanide, getting back at him through his daughters, etc. Her status as an English lady would not have applied here, in view of the character of the man she kept under surveillance.

Baynes the Detective

It seems peculiar Watson would have been so careful about chronicling this case instead of, say, the giant rat of Sumatra. There is little here that can be called a Holmsian triumph. It is Baynes who identifies Murillo by tracking his travels--to the surprise of Holmes. It is Baynes who arrests the mulatto, against Holmes' amused advice, and only later we find out it was a ruse on Baynes' part. Then Baynes watches Holmes approaching Murillo's house without the Great Detective realizing it. Then, to top it all, Holmes misses the governess. Had it not been by Warner, she surely would have been killed. It seems that in almost every instance, Holmes lagged behind.

What else happened in 1890:

EMPIRE

- Helgoland ceded to Germans.
- Work of Rhodes Pioneers begun in Southern Rhodesia.
- Britain annexes Uganda.
- Britain recognizes French Protectorate over Madagascar.
- Treaty of Busah: improved Franco-British relations in West Africa.
- Zanzibar Settlement: Tanganyika becomes Imperial Germany Colony; Germany excluded from Upper Nile; British Protectorate over Zanzibar.

BRITAIN

- Parnell vindicated of Phoenix Park murder charges; ruined by O'Shea divorce petition; rejected as leader of Irish Nationalists in Commons, resigns.

- Omnibus strike in London settled on basis of 12-hour day.
 - January 4, Daily Graphic launched, first daily illustrated paper. Merged with Daily Sketch in 1926.
 - Horniman Museum opens.
 - First part of Rosebery Avenue opened.
 - Dulwich Park, gifted by Dulwich College, opens.
 - Vauxhall Park opens.
 - City and South London Railway from Stockwell to William Street, first deep level tube railway.
 - London-Paris telephone line opened.
 - Financial panic in London and in Paris.
 - Lunacy Act gives management of asylums to visiting committees.
 - Housing of Working Classes Act.
 - Sir B. Baker and Sir J. Fowler complete cantilever Forth Bridge (for railway) at Queensferry, near Edinburgh; length 1.3 miles.
 - Gilbert writes, Original Comic Operas.
 - Barry writes, My Lady Nicotine.
 - Booth writes, In Darkest England.
 - Caine writes, Bondman, a Novel.
 - Sir James George Frazer writes, The Golden Bough (to 1915).
 - Morris writes News from Nowhere.
 - Sir William Watson write, Wordsworth's Grave.
- WORLD
- German control over East African territories.

- Wounded Knee massacre.
 - Idaho and Wyoming are admitted into the Union.
 - Workmen in France allowed compensation for contracts broken by employers.
 - William III of Holland dies; Luxembourg passes to Duke of Nassau.
 - Fall of Bismarck; Caprivi made Imperial Chancellor; start of personal rule of William II.
 - Zemstva Law in Russia; limited franchise in local government; excluded intellectual professions.
 - Russia attempts to limit Finnish Control over customs and money.
 - First meeting of Japanese Legislature under new Constitution.
 - French miners to elect delegates to supervise safety while working.
 - In Chicago, the first entirely steel-framed building erected.
 - French Explorer Monteil's journey Niger-Kano-Tchad-Tripoli; completed 1892.
 - First Chinese cotton mill constructed.
 - Olderbank Clubs (q.v., 1882) in Italy suppressed.
- ART
- Franck, Belgian organ composer dies.
 - Cézanne paints Mme. Cézanne in the Conservatory.
 - Degas paints Dancers in Blue.
 - Pietro Mascagni writes Cavalleria Rusticana.

- Van Gogh paints Portrait of Dr. Gachet, Street in Anvers, dies.
 - Prince Igor, commenced by Borodin (dies 1887), completed by Glazunov and Rimsky-Korsakov.
 - Tschaikovsky composes Queen of Spades.
 - Whistler writes, The Gentle Art of Making Enemies.
 - Paul Claudel presents Tête d'Or.
 - Stefan George writes, Hymnen.
 - Arno Holtz writes, Die Familie Selicke.
 - Ibsen writes, Hedda Gabler.
 - Zola writes, La Bête humaine.
- SCIENCE
- Bertillon publishes La photographie judiciaire, in which he explains his anthropometry (q.v., 1882).
 - Emil von Behring, German bacteriologist, discovers immunity to tetanus can be given by use of serum; introduces name "antitoxin."
 - Halstead, at John Hopkins Hospital, first to use rubber gloves in surgery.
 - Moving-picture films, precursor of cinematography (q.v., 1894) shown in New York.
 - Cyanide process of preparation of gold from crude ore developed in South Africa (q.v., 1887).
 - Lockyer's theory of stellar evolution.
 - P. Rudolph's anastigmatic camera lens.
 - Discovery of Cleopatra's tomb

Between the Lines: Thoughts on Sherlock Holmes and Two Remarkable Women

By Bill Mason, Holmes and Watson Report, Sherlock Peoria

The editor of The Holmes & Watson Report has performed a great service by debunking the rampant, but totally unfounded, speculation about a "relationship" between Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler Norton. As everyone knows, she was regarded as the woman by the Master Detective because of her success in outwitting him in "A Scandal in Bohemia."

Building on this statement, the world of pastiche is infested with stories about a romance between the two, and the more objectionable of them go so far as to produce marriage and/or progeny from the couple.

This is done, apparently, because of a curious reluctance to allow Holmes to pursue his life without the emotional entanglements that are central to most other people. In addition, this is done obstinately and shamelessly despite the plain testimony of Dr. Watson: "It was not that he felt any emotion akin to love for Irene Adler. All emotions, and that one particularly, were abhorrent to his cold, precise, but admirably balanced mind."

Such a statement, in and of itself, ought to be enough to banish the impudent and offensive attempts to link the two, either emotionally or physically, from Holmes-inspired literature once and for all.

However, there are three other very good reasons to remove Irene Adler Norton from any scenario that pertains to the private life of Sherlock Holmes.

First, she was a "well-known adventuress," that is, a professional mistress "of dubious and questionable memory." Why Holmes would want to bind himself to such a woman - used (in fact well-used) goods - has never been adequately explained. A man of his standing in the Victorian age, a man descended from the landed gentry, would not lower himself in his own eyes or the eyes of others by cavorting with her.

Second, she was married. She married a lawyer, who presumably was lacking in either scruples (which is not difficult to believe) or good judgment (being blinded by love) and thus would have none of the reluctance of an upright and knowledgeable citizen like Holmes. On the other hand, Mr. Norton may have been totally unaware of her background.

In any case, Sherlock Holmes knew she was married; he had, after all, facilitated the ceremony. Whatever we

might think of Holmes, surely we do not believe he was a partner in adultery.

Third, she was dead. This is a clincher. Remember, Watson referred to her as "the late Irene Adler" and recalled her "memory."

The case took place in March of 1888, and Watson's account was published in 1891. A period of only three years is available for the theorists to have her fall out of love with her husband, get a divorce (no quick process at that time), and return ... not to the high-rolling world of millionaire playboys, but to the arms of the Spartan-living Sherlock Holmes to share secret liaisons or even babies - all without Watson's knowledge.

The newly-married doctor may have been preoccupied and somewhat thick, but not that thick. Too little time, too little opportunity, too little likelihood - the starry-eyed romance novelists must look elsewhere for their fodder.

So the hypothesis romantically linking Irene Adler Norton to Sherlock Holmes fails. Unfortunately, not content to bravely shoot down this popular and enduring - but distasteful - myth, the aforementioned editor has attempted to create a new one, substituting the lovely Maud Bellamy for Mrs. Norton based on some expansive descriptions penned many years later by Sherlock Holmes himself in "The Adventure of the Lion's Mane."

A close analysis of Holmes's ruminations on Maud Bellamy, however, appears to disprove any idea that she commanded a romantic interest in the Master Detective or even that she could replace or supplant Irene Adler in his estimation. Consider his actual statements and a reasonable bit of "between the lines" dissection of them. Here is what Holmes had to say about Miss Bellamy and what he may well have been thinking:

"There is no gainsaying she would have graced any assembly in the world."

"I haven't been studying human nature all this time for nothing. I know full well how a woman like this can be 'excellent for drawing the veil from men's motives and actions.'" 1

"Who could have imagined that so rare a flower would grow from such a root and in such an atmosphere?"

"Part of solving any case is winnowing the ordinary from the exotic. The very fact that she is so different from every other woman in this part of the country may have significance."

"Women have seldom been an attraction to me, for my brain has always governed my heart ... "

"And when I say 'always,' I mean it. I have lived like one of Poe's neurotic narrators, who said, 'In the strange anomaly of my existence, feelings with me had never been of the heart, and my passions always were of the mind.'²

Even Irene Adler, the woman, fascinated me only because she alone of her sex was my intellectual peer."

"... but I could not look upon her perfect clear-cut face, with all the soft freshness of the Downlands in her delicate coloring ... "

"This specimen bears up well under the kind of observation I advocated in 'The Book of Life.'³ How remarkable that there is not the slightest blemish or irregularity in her! However, her home county would be an easy enough deduction for me, wherever I might meet her."

"... without realizing that no young man would cross her path unscathed."

"Fortunately, I am not a young man - there will be no losing of my senses over a pretty face. I resolved long ago to remain unshaken by purely physical charms, and at this point in my life, I would justly be considered an 'old fool' for even looking her way."

"Such was the girl who had pushed open the door and stood now, wide-eyed and intense, in front of Harold Stackhurst."

"Yes, she's a girl, not a woman. To me, that's no small difference." However, as I said before, some young man will gladly take her for his own. These were the first impressions that Maud Bellamy made upon Sherlock Holmes, but her subsequent actions could not help but impress him favorably. She was dealing with the death of her fiancé without any feminine hysterics, and she had asserted her independence of mind in the face of the forceful demands of her father and brother. Holmes had further reflections on this uncommon woman:

1 "A Scandal in Bohemia."

2 From "Berenice" by Edgar Allan Poe, in Tales of Mystery and Imagination.

3 A Study in Scarlet, Chapter 2.

4 "A Scandal in Bohemia."

"She listened ... with a composed concentration which showed me that she possessed strong character as well as great beauty."

"Thank goodness, we have not endured the weeping and wailing of some vapid damsel in distress. That would be Watson's department, in the old days. But Miss Bellamy turns out to be an excellent witness and a fine example of how a woman ought to behave. "

"Maud Bellamy will always remain in my memory as a most complete and remarkable woman."

"I cannot imagine that Miss Bellamy continued to reside in this part of the country, considering all of her charms. Perhaps it is for the best that she lives for me 'in my memory' rather than in my daily experience. Doubtless, I would have been disappointed more than once with the failings common to her sex."

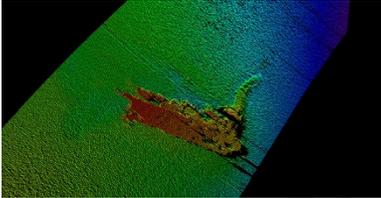
Indeed, Holmes might have felt some twinges of disappointment even before the conclusion of the "Lion's Mane" matter. Despite Miss Bellamy's excellent qualities, Holmes described her as looking at him "helplessly" and noted that "she blushed and seemed confused." To Sherlock Holmes, she was only a girl, after all. No wonder he felt compelled to be kind, to condescend, to tell her a little white lie: "I value a woman's instinct in such matters."

Of course, nothing could be farther from the truth. Even so, Holmes looked upon her with a degree of approval that few women had been able to earn. Certainly, Maud Bellamy belonged to an elite set of women who commanded the admiration and esteem of Sherlock Holmes - a group that, until that time, may have been no larger than Irene Adler Norton and Mrs. Hudson (although a case can be made for at least a few others).

That Sherlock Holmes had no romantic interest in either Mrs. Norton or Miss Bellamy should not lessen either of them in the eyes of the world. No woman was so honored, but these two merited his respect. There is no need to "replace" Irene with Maud or anyone else as Sherlock Holmes's love interest. The entire subject belongs in the realm of idle conjecture. Let Sherlock be Sherlock, a man who "never spoke of the softer passions, save with a gibe and a sneer."⁴

Loch Ness Monster scanner picks up something very curious...

Metro, United Kingdom



After 80 years of searching for the Loch Ness Monster, you would imagine there would be butterflies for research teams when

they saw this on their radar. But that excitement quickly turned to disappointment when it turned out the shape was actually a 1970s film prop.

Nessie hunters were left disappointed when monster remains uncovered at the bottom of Loch Ness turned out to be a 1970s film prop.

The 30ft model is thought to have sunk after the shooting of *The Private Life Of Sherlock Holmes*, directed by Hollywood great Billy Wilder.

It was found on the loch bed during the latest survey of the 755ft deep stretch of water.

A marine robot named Munin is being used to explore areas that have not been reached before.

A spokesman for VisitScotland, which is supporting the project, said: 'Operation Groundtruth has uncovered a recognisable creature.'

'Although it is the shape of Nessie, it is not the remains of the monster that has mystified the world for 80 years, but a star of the silver screen.'

Christopher Lee starred in the 1970 film where the monster in fact turned out to be a disguised naval submarine. The prop is thought to have sunk after its humps were removed and it had not been seen again until now.

Discoveries already made in Loch Ness include a crashed Second World War bomber, a 100-year-old fishing vessel and parts of



John Cobb's speed record attempt craft *Crusader*, which crashed at more than 200mph in 1952.

In a further blow to monster hunters, early survey findings have revealed that claims made earlier this year about a 'Nessie trench' in the northern basin of the loch are incorrect.

More precise underwater evidence shows there is no anomaly or abyss at the location.

The survey – the first of its kind in Scotland – is being carried out over two weeks by Kongsberg Maritime and supported by the Loch Ness Project and VisitScotland.

Loch Ness has been notoriously difficult to survey in the past due to its depth and steeply sloping side walls.

Munin can map vast areas to depths of 4,921ft (1,500m) and has been used in the past to search for downed aircraft and sunken vessels.

Loch Ness project leader Adrian Shine said: 'Because Munin can dive and navigate itself safely at great depth, it can approach features of interest and image them at extremely high resolution.'

'We already have superb images of the hitherto difficult side wall topography and look forward to discovering artefacts symbolic of the human history of the area.'

Despite no conclusive evidence of the famed monster, the mystery and interest surrounding Nessie is worth an estimated £60 million to the Scottish economy, with hundreds of thousands of visitors travelling to Loch Ness every year in the hope of catching a glimpse.

VisitScotland chief executive Malcolm Roughead said: 'We are excited

to see the findings from this in-depth survey by Kongsberg, but no matter how state-of-the-art the equipment is, and no matter what it reveals, there will always be a sense of mystery and the unknown around what really lies beneath Loch Ness.'



Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Foy,
Rusty & Steve Mason



Baker Street Elementary
Number 057 - 05/08/2016
Foy, Mason, & Mason

HOW DID I GET STUCK TUTORING THE NEW TRANSFER YOUNGINS'?

OK STAMFORD, YOU CAN DO THIS. JUST START BY ASKING THEIR NAMES AND GO FROM THERE. HOW HARD CAN THIS BE...

WELL, GOOD MORNING. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

YU.

OH, MY APOLOGIES. MY NAME IS STAMFORD. AND YOU ARE?

YU.

hmm... SEEMS WE HAVE A LANGUAGE BARRIER. OK, LET'S TRY THE TEXAN HERE. AT LEAST HE SPEAKS ENGLISH.

HELLO, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

HOWDY, I RECKON THIS AIN'T SOMETHANG YA DUN FORE...

YA MIGHT OUGHTA BE CAREFUL; YU LOOKS LIKE HE'S FIXIN' TO START A-CRYIN'...

ME? YOU NEED TO START USING PROPER ENGLISH...

GOSH DURN IT, NOW YA DUN IT... YU HAS DUN STARTED A-CRYIN'...

I HAVE NOT... OH... WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

Y - U !

WHY ME? I DID NOT MEAN TO MAKE HIM CRY...

NO, I DUN TOLD YA HIS NAME IS YU, SPELLED Y-U... YA MIGHT WOULD A HAD OUGHTA LISTENED MORE CLEARLY...

WITHIN FIVE MINUTES, I MADE A YOUNGIN CRY... THAT'S PROBABLY SOME SORT OF RECORD...