

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 05, No. 03 - March, 2017
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



April 2nd Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 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 reading "The Adventure of Black Peter."

The quiz will cover this tale.

Rusty Mason will do the second part, "Sherlock and My Childhood."

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

March 5th Meeting

There were 19 in attendance. A wonderful, whimsical toast was delivered by Don Hobbs, complete with limited souvenir copies of the toast (see page 2).

Steve Mason provided free bookmarks for the Beacon Society, as well as cute refrigerator magnets, graciously provided by Karen Murdock of the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota.

The quiz was based on "The Solitary Cyclist." The quiz was won by Brenda Hutchison (perfect score), with Karen Olson runner-up. Both received great prizes for their efforts.

Herb Linder gave an insightful presentation entitled "Weapons of the Canon." Herb neatly expounded upon an interesting list of weapons referred to in the Sherlockian Canon, starting with the cudgel, to the bull pup. Herb displayed a non-working firearm that he counts as part of his personal Sherlock Holmes collection.

Steve Mason provided the annual State of the Society, focusing on the efforts of all the crew members to make our society successful. We currently have 18 personnel who have been granted "Deck Mate" status, with three more on the pending promotion list.

The Allen Public Library has asked the Crew to do another symposium on Saturday, September 23, entitled "Sherlock Holmes goes to the Movies."

This week is the 100th episode of "Baker Street Elementary," created by Joe Fay, Rusty and Steve Mason.

Linda Pieper's birthday falls on March 20th. Since she is in a rehab facility after the automobile accident, please send birthday wishes to brighten her day through Walter Pieper at their home address. Ask for the address if you do not have it.

Steve Mason was re-elected as Third Mate; Walter Pieper was re-elected as Helmsman for the next two years.

The Baker Street Journal was an excerpt on "Women" being invested into the BSI, from March, 1991 (see page 3).

Thanks to Brenda Hutchison for taking notes of the meeting.

You can read the full notes on our website, 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 TOAST TO THE SOLITARY CYCLIST

Don Hobbs, BSI

While cycling down the lane one day
In the merry month preceding May
Violet Smith was taken by surprise
By a bearded man with hidden eyes
So she called Sherlock right away.

Holmes was very busy at the time
Watson went to the scene of the crime
But he missed all of the clues
And brought home useless news
So Holmes left Baker Street on his own dime.

Holmes entered a Charlington bar
But before he could get very far
He had a fight with Mr. Woodley
Who seemed to get over moodily
And left him with a brand new scar.

Violet had an uncle she never knew
He died in Africa as part of a stew
Carruthers and Woodley hatched a plot
To marry Violet and to share the pot
Appearing on the scene outta the blue.

Holmes smokes a bowl or two of shag
Then wiped his hand on an old rag
Violet Smith you are in great danger
I have deduced the bearded stranger
Please return to home – do not lag.

They find Violet's empty cart on the lane
This drives Mr. Carruthers totally insane
When they bust through the hedge-row
Running fast, it was not too far to go
They find Williamson a defrocked Dane.

Violet swooned and fell to the ground
Carruthers shot Woodley with a 9mm round
Holmes proclaimed the marriage a void and null
And Rev. Williamson out of his skull
Returning to London on a leap and abound.

Afterwards Holmes says, "My abilities are strong
Regardless if they are right or wrong
I see what others usually miss
But regardless of all that or this
That bearded man was no Lance Armstrong!"

Mr. Hobbs (Inspector Lestrade) was very kind... he produced a very limited quantity of the limerick above on a nicely done card for the attendees of our Society meeting. Here is the cover of the card...



"WOMEN"

Excerpt from BAKER STREET JOURNAL – March, 1991

In the spirit of March, which is Women's History Month...

In the 13 May 1934 issue of The Saturday Review, Christopher Morley published a Sherlockian crossword puzzle together with a note to the effect that those who submitted to him "correct solutions — but they must be correct in every detail — will automatically become members of the Baker Street Irregulars."

Ultimately, some fifteen people shipped off perfect puzzle solutions to Morley.

Realizing, though, that his "correct in every detail" injunction was, perhaps, too rigorous, Morley relaxed BSI entrance requirements to include another twenty-three nearly-perfect solutions.

What is interesting about these data is that of the fifteen perfect solutions, seven were submitted by women; and of the nearly-perfect, at least five.

However, in Morley's typewritten invitation to the first formal meeting of The Baker Street Irregulars on 5 June 1934, he included a concluding

sentence that read: "This first meeting will be stag."

No reason given.

Explanations were invented: There had been no women in Holmes's original Irregulars.

Holmes's aversion to women were well-known.

Victorian gentlemen's clubs did not admit women.

This changed in 1991, with the investiture of six women.

This move honored the spirit of the club's Constitution and Buy-Laws.

At long last, the BSI is what it said at its inception it intended to be.

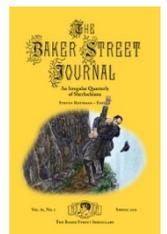
The gathering in joy of bookish folk of both sexes to celebrate Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson.

Hopefully our Society (the Crew of the Barque Lone Star) also honors that spirit each month.

The Baker Street Journal continues to be the leading Sherlockian publication since its founding in 1946 by Edgar W. Smith.

With both serious scholarship and articles that "play the game," the Journal is essential reading for anyone interested in Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and a world where it is always 1895.

Got to: <http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/itemsforsale/subscriptions.html> for subscription information.



In Shortly after moving into 221B with Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson provides a list of his flat mate's characteristics.

Among them is his expertise as a swordsman (1) and later, Holmes notes that fencing and boxing were his athletic tastes during his two years at college (2).

At the time of Holmes' studies in 1874 (when the case of the Gloria Scott occurred), fencing was still taught in colleges and special schools because of its role in dueling.

The shift to being only a sport, instead of determining a question of honor between two men, was not completed until 1890. (3)

Fencing and swordplay date back to the Egyptians.

A bas-relief in a temple built in 1190 BC depicts a competition using sticks with bronze plates at the end (4).

Some combatants are shown wearing protective masks.

Four centuries later, the sport appeared in the Greek Olympic games and was introduced into the Roman camps about a hundred years after that. (5)

While tournaments might have been popular, its actual purpose served as a form of military training by developing soldiers' discipline and skills. (6)

Sword fights continued through the centuries as a way of settling disputes.

During the age of chivalry, loyalty, bravery and truth were also determined by combat between knights. (7)

In the late 1400s, swordsmanship exploded across Europe, the epicenters being in Germany and France.

Fencing guilds and academies taught the use of the rapier, and the French Fencing Academy formalized the positions used as the Prime, Seconde, Tierce, Quatre and lunge.



A romantic view of swordsmanship developed, emphasizing it as an art and as a means of defending one's honor through dueling.

A man's masculinity was determined in part by how many duels he had been involved in. (8)

Dueling declined sharply in the mid-nineteenth century, and fencing moved to being a sport.

The first Olympic games in 1896 included fencing with the foil (a flexible, light—under one pound—sword with a rectangular cross section) and the sabre (a weapon thirty-five inches long, stiffer than the foil with an "I" or "V" cross section).

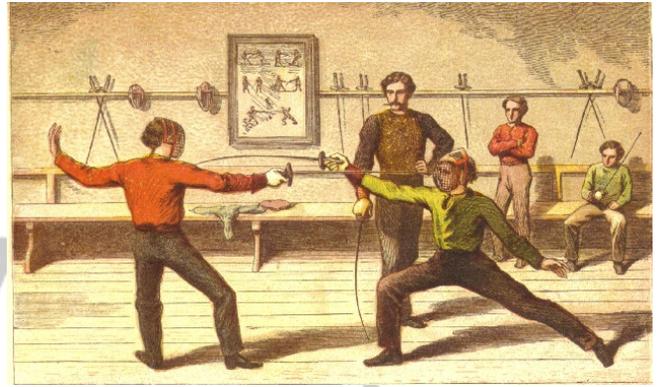
The épée (the stiffest sword with a triangular cross section and a “V” shaped groove in the middle) was included in the 1900 games.

The 1924 Olympics included women’s foil competition, but women’s épée was not introduced until 1996. (9)

Because fencing with the foil had been taught in schools and most were skilled in its use, it became the first weapon used in sporting competitions.

A judge and four witnesses determined the victor in a “blank duel,” or match.

They would count the number of hits by the foil’s button end as well as the manner and relative speed of the strikes. (10)



While not specified in the canon, given his participation in the sport during college, Sherlock was mostly likely as formidable an opponent with this weapon as with his fists.

- 1) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Location 556).
- 2) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Location 16307).
- 3) http://www.fencing.com/NewTFC/Fencing_History.html
- 4) Ibid
- 5) Ibid
- 6) <https://www.olympic.org/fencing-equipment-and-history>
- 7) http://www.fencing.com/NewTFC/Fencing_History.html
- 8) Ibid
- 9) <http://www.swordsmen101.com/historyoffencing.html>
- 10) http://www.fencing.com/NewTFC/Fencing_History.html
- 11) <http://www.swordsmen101.com/historyoffencing.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>

AUTHOR LYNDSAY FAYE STAYS TRUE TO ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S VOICE IN SHORT-STORY COLLECTION

By David Martindale, Special to the Star-Telegram, March 10, 2017

A story on one of our own...

If Lindsay Faye's byline weren't on the cover, readers might deduce that the Sherlock Holmes mysteries in "The Whole Art of Detection" actually came from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Her 15 short stories expertly recreate the style and substance of the originals in every way.

These "lost" Holmes and Watson adventures are clever and exciting.

And while the tales are altogether new, they also feel immediately familiar.

That's because "The Whole Art of Detection" is the work of a lifelong fan.

"I have read the original stories countless times," says Faye, who's best known for 2016's "Jane Steele," in which she re-imagined Bronte's Jane Eyre as a serial killer. "When the canon [four Holmes novels and 56 short stories] wasn't enough, I read as many of the pastiches as I possibly could.

"I've gotten to the point that, when reading the pastiches, if

someone's trying to emulate Dr. Watson's voice and they don't quite get it right, I can determine what's wrong within two paragraphs."



Faye was reading one such story several years ago when inspiration struck.

"I had picked up a new paperback of Sherlock Holmes," she recalls, "and I started critiquing it in my head.

"Then I thought, 'If I'm so smart, why don't I write one myself? Isn't it time I put up or shut up?'"

Her debut novel, 2009's "Dust and Shadow," sent Holmes in pursuit of Jack the Ripper.

Then she tried the short-story format. "The Case of Colonel Warburton's Madness" (the first tale in the new book) appeared in a "Sherlock Holmes in America" anthology.

Then came a series of stories in Strand Magazine.

They're all fun and faithful to the source material, but two in particular absolutely soar:

One is "The Adventure of the Honest Wife," in which a contemptible client insists that Holmes investigate his cheating wife (although our hero has a completely different agenda when taking the case).

In the other, "The Adventure of the Memento Mori," a woman held captive and hidden away sends Holmes a cryptic letter begging him to find her.

But where in all of England shall he start?

17 STEPS TO "BLACK PETER"

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

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

THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

Watson writes: "I have never known my friend to be in better form, both mental and physical, than in the year '95." Earlier, in "Empty House,"



Watson had written, "there was a dead-white tinge in his aquiline face which told me that his life recently had not

been a healthy one," but was that just a part of his disguise as the old book seller?

If Holmes was truly in his best physical form ever in 1895, might that have been somewhat due to his adventures while on hiatus?

Or was his improved physical shape entirely the result of his routine since returning to London?

THE TEAMWORK AT 221B BAKER STREET

"The fact that several rough-looking men called during that time and inquired for Captain Basil made me understand that Holmes was working somewhere under one of the numerous disguises and names with which he concealed his own formidable identity."

Okay, if people are coming to 221B Baker Street and asking for Captain Basil, Dr. Watson was probably not answering the door.

If Holmes informed Mrs. Hudson and her staff, they could cover for "Captain Basil" if Holmes were not there. Watson doesn't need to know, as the "rough-looking men" should never make it to the sitting room, right?

One's wife would never let one get away with such an omission, but

these are two male friends, so it's okay, isn't it?

Would you fellows out there okay with such a situation?

THE STAGING AREAS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

Sherlock Holmes "had at least five small refuges in different parts of London, in which he was able to change his personality."

You're Sherlock Holmes. You're famous.

You're a master of disguise.

You want to set up five sanctums across London where you can walk in as Holmes and walk out as someone else to



pursue an investigation. Which five neighborhoods in London do you choose for your hideouts? What sorts of places do you choose to use for such change-centers?

NOTHING LIKE A MORNING PIG-JAB

Holmes "had gone out before breakfast, and I had sat down to mine when he strode into the room, his hat upon his head and a huge barbed-headed spear tucked like an umbrella under his arm."

What was the necessity of sticking the pig before breakfast time? Was there something about the butcher's schedule that made early morning the time to jab? Or had Holmes been thinking about it all night and just went out as soon as he thought someone would be there?

AT WHAT POINT DOES HE BECOME A PROFESSIONAL?

"I recognized him at once as Stanley Hopkins, a young police

inspector, for whose future Holmes had high hopes, while he in turn professed the admiration and respect of a pupil for the scientific methods of the famous amateur."



If you look at the Latin roots of the word "amateur," there is no doubt that Sherlock Holmes was an amateur, doing the thing he loved most. But the truest definition of the word is "doing a thing for love alone, not professionally," and Holmes was as professional at criminology as anyone.

How can someone be a professional and an amateur at something simultaneously?

WHEN IS A CABIN NOT A CABIN?

"He had built himself a wooden outhouse--he always called it the 'cabin'--a few hundred yards from his house, and it was here that he slept every night. It was a little, single-roomed hut, sixteen feet by ten."

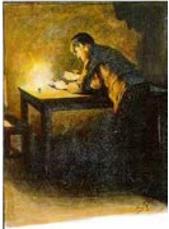
Why would a little wooden shack of the dimensions above not qualify as a cabin? Is this statement by Holmes a good argument against him having American roots, as he seems to think it odd that Carey would refer to his cabin as a cabin?

Or is this just a coincidence that a former sea captain thought of a backyard cabin as a ship's cabin and called it the "cabin," which it was anyway?

HIS LIFE, HIS LOVER, HIS LADY, WAS THE SEA

"He had called it a cabin, and a cabin it was, sure enough, for you would have thought that you were in a ship.

There was a bunk at one end, a sea-chest, maps and charts, a picture of the Sea Unicorn, a line of logbooks on a shelf, all exactly as one would



expect to find it in a captain's room."

Black Peter Carey was obviously a guy who was deeply into the nautical life, creating his own

reproduction ship's cabin behind his house and living in it as much as possible.

So why did he give up the seafaring life?

If he came into a little money, wouldn't he have wanted to get his own little boat and go travelling, rather than build a fake boat in the backyard?

MAYBE ANSTRUTHER CAN PLAY POOL WITH THURSTON

"Watson, if you can spare the time, I should be very glad of your company," Holmes tells his friend after Inspector Hopkins explains the case.

Spare the time? What was Watson doing in 1895 besides working with Holmes?

His practice had been sold a few months after Holmes's return in 1894.



Might there have been a touch of sarcasm in his words?

SHERLOCK VERSUS THE BIRDS

"My good Hopkins, I have investigated many crimes, but I have never yet seen one which was committed by a flying creature."

Does this rule out deadly trained cormorants attacking politicians from lighthouses?

Does it suggest that Wilson's canaries were not carrying plague? Should pasticheurs take the hint and not use trained falcons, owls, or

condors in their works, or was Holmes not necessarily including birds in that statement?

AND NOW, AN EXPERIMENT YOU CAN DO AT HOME

Take a nice clean drinking glass. If you're of drinking age, or have parental supervision, pour some rum in that glass.

Slosh it around a little bit, then pour it out in the nearest rum-accepting receptacle, human or otherwise.

Now look at this passage:

"The fact that the crime was committed at two in the morning, and yet Peter Carey was fully dressed, suggested that he had an



appointment with the murderer, which is borne out by the fact that a bottle of rum and two dirty glasses stood upon the table."

Does rum make glasses look dirty? The Captain Morgan's rum I used left no obvious traces, unless one smelled the glass.

Did rum have sediment and foreign particles in it in the old days?

Were Peter and his guest just filthy handed and greasy-lipped?

And later, Holmes asks: "Is he the man who hobnobbed in rum and water with Black Peter in the dead of the night?"

When did the water show up?

AND FOR DINNER -- ROOTS AND BERRIES!

"Let us walk in these beautiful woods, Watson, and give a few hours to the birds and the flowers. We shall meet you here later, Hopkins . . . It was past eleven o'clock when we formed our little ambushade."



Holmes, Watson and Hopkins spend two hours in Carey's cabin. Holmes and Watson then spend a few hours in the woods. Eventually, it's eleven o'clock. Did Holmes and Watson risk getting lost in the widespread woods?

How remote or built-up was this area? Did Watson get his supper?

THE SCHEME OF HONEST NELIGAN SENIOR

"It has always been said that my father stole all the securities and fled. "It is not true.

"It was his belief that if he were given time in which to realize them, all would be well and every creditor paid in full.

"He started in his little yacht for Norway just before the warrant was issued for his arrest.

"I can remember that last night, when he bade farewell to my mother.

"He left us a list of the securities he was taking, and he swore that he would come back with his honour cleared, and that none who had trusted him would suffer."

Suppose for a moment that John Hopley Neligan's

trust in his

father is

justified. How

was the older

Neligan going to

turn those

securities into

enough money to pay the creditors

when they apparently weren't of the

value to do so at the time he fled?

Was there any way his story could be true?

THE BONDS OF SEAFARING MEN

Would the two harpooners waiting in the next room during

Holmes's interview with Patick Cairns come to investigate when they heard the third harpooner being shanghaied? Wouldn't they have also been likely to enter the fracas on Cairns side?

THE WATSON WE NEVER SEE

"Only when I pressed the cold muzzle of the revolver to his temple did he at last understand that resistance was vain."



As usual, Watson is leaving off his own part of the conversation, unless we are to believe the doctor mutely pressed the gun to Cairns head. And pressing a gun to an enraged man's head is only useful if you can get his attention and convince him you mean to use it. Was there a hard-boiled side to Holmes's gun-toting friend Watson that he covered up in his writing? (Perhaps hoping to impress more ladies with his gentle literary nature?)

THE RETURN OF THE NELIGAN SECURITIES

"The tin box must be returned to him, but, of course, the securities which Peter Carey has sold are lost forever."

Were the securities the rightful possession of young Neligan? What of all his father's creditors?

THE TEMPTATIONS OF EXPLORATION

"Therefore spent some days in the East End, devised an Arctic expedition, put forth tempting terms for harpooners who would serve under Captain Basil ..."



Why would a harpooner find a berth on an Artic exploring ship particularly

tempting?

Wouldn't it be among the more dangerous ships to be on?

THE NORWEGIAN CONNECTION

Has anyone in the history of Sherlockiana come up with a plausible reason why Holmes and Watson were headed for Norway, just after hearing of John Hopley Neligan's father heading for Norway with his securities? Did Holmes learn some secret reason the elder Neligan was headed there in hope of profit, and decide to follow that lead himself?



Worth passing along !

From Ron Lies, Crew Member from Denver, CO, Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients

{1}

Once all villagers decided to pray for rain.

On the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella.

That's FAITH.

{2}

When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them.

That's TRUST.

{3}

Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being

alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up.

That's HOPE.

{4}

We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future.

That's CONFIDENCE.

{5}

We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children.

That's LOVE.

{6}

On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.'

That's ATTITUDE.

Have a happy day and live your life like the six stories.

When I was a child, I thought nap time was punishment. Now it's like a mini-vacation.

"GOOD FRIENDS ARE THE RARE JEWELS OF LIFE... DIFFICULT TO FIND AND IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLACE!

56 STORIES IN 56 DAYS – “BLACK PETER”

Posted on October 18, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet

By this point in his career, Holmes has found fame, success and also wealth thanks to that cheque from Lord Holderness, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

But as Watson reminds us, these things are not the focus of Holmes' work and despite his great success he still turns down cases that are not of interest even though the financial gains would be high and clients notorious.

He hasn't risen too high to take on cases where the only reward is the resolution to a fascinating problem and is happy for the local police to take the credit for his discoveries.

In this story we are introduced to a young police inspector, Hopkins, who is very respectful towards Holmes and seems keen to learn from so great a teacher.

Holmes in turn has high regard for the potential of this young man.

But still, the outcome is the same as with Lestrade and all the other police who work with Holmes – Hopkins fixes upon the wrong theory and ignores the hints from Holmes which would put him back on the right track.

In Watson's introduction we hear about how Holmes has been round to the local butchers with a harpoon and tried to drive it through a hanging pig carcass.

Nothing unusual there then.

This is followed by a hearty breakfast and a visit from Hopkins during which he explains the details of the case.

An old sea captain, Black Peter, who was a hateful drunkard, has been murdered in his funny little cabin by someone who stabbed him with his own harpoon.

The strength needed to drive the harpoon through the man's body, the initials on a pouch of ship's tobacco (the dead man didn't smoke much) and the presence of two glasses and a bottle of rum on the table suggest straight away to Holmes that the murderer must be a sailor.

He busies himself following this line of inquiry by taking on the persona of Captain Basil who advertises for a harpooner to join an expedition.

All great fun – particularly at the expense of Hopkins.

Hopkins has arrested an innocent young man who has got caught up the case due to something complicated involving his father and some investments which the murdered man stole from him.

Holmes reminds us all, and young Hopkins, why he is the master of his profession and as usual, makes everything seem so obvious once explained.

Holmes curiously remarks at the end that he and Watson will be going to Norway, presumably for a holiday but this seems very out of character.

The innocent man's father was killed by Black Peter in that area but I don't see any professional reason why Holmes would go there unless I have missed something.

So perhaps, due to his heavily workload of late and all that money from Lord Holderness, now seems like the perfect time to take a break – and how nice to take Watson along too?

I hope he pays for everything though, as poor Watson is now his full-time helper and without income.

7 out of 10.

AN INQUIRY INTO "BLACK PETER"

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

"**The Adventure of Black Peter**" was first published in "Collier's Weekly Magazine" on February 27, 1904, and in "The Strand Magazine" in March 1904.

According to Baring-Gould's chronology, as set down in "The Annotated Sherlock Holmes," Second Edition, 1974, the case takes place on Wednesday, July 3, to Friday, July 5, 1895. At the time Holmes is 41 years old and Watson 43.

Notable Quotes:

- "I understand now, what I should never have forgotten, that I am the pupil and you are the master."

Holmes' Refuges

Watson mentions in passing that Holmes "had at least five small refuges in different parts of London in which he was able to change his personality."

I've always found this very intriguing, and wondered whether our sleuth (at times) might not have led a double--or even triple--life. It certainly would have been very easy for him to do so.

It would be interesting to know what these "refuges" were like and where they were situated. Did they consist of

just a small room in some East End tenement, and other such places throughout London? Or were one or more of them more than that? Perhaps as much as a residence in Pall Mall?

If Holmes had different identities and periodically adopted them, it would have given him the opportunity to fit very well into the different levels of society in which these refuges were. I can see him as a common laborer, keeping abreast of all the goings-on on certain projects, or as a retired barrister or policeman, perhaps a commissionaire near some of the posh clubs, keeping track of happenings in the upper classes. Any conjectures, Hounds?

Transfixing a Pig or a Captain

More than once our Biographer has mentioned that Sherlock Holmes, although spare of figure, possessed of unusual strength. Certainly, a gentleman capable of straightening a bent fireside poker (SPEC) is no slouch. This raises some questions.

Although Holmes was no harpooner, he had several tries (unsuccessful) at transfixing the pig at Allardyce's butcher shop.

He must have been able to chuck the harpoon hard enough for it to penetrate the pig deep enough for it to remain in the carcass, but without popping out the other side.

The fact that the pig was hanging from a hook would have given the carcass some give; i.e., it would have swung away from the harpoon's impact, thus dissipating some of its kinetic energy. This brings us to Black Peter who, according to Hopkins, was left "pinned like a beetle on a card."

The dimensions of the Captain's "cabin" (16 by 10 feet), as provided by Watson, bring up another issue. The two men sat with a table between them. If we assume the table was small, say, three feet across, we'd need to add about two feet for each chair. Overall, this reduces the room's length by seven feet. Cairns would have had less than ten feet (less, assuming Black Peter had stood up and was looming towards him) to swing back the harpoon and hurl it.

In such reduced circumstances, it seems unlikely that this happened. The harpoon could not have gone through the body with sufficient energy to lodge itself in the wooden wall behind him

deeply enough to support its weight, particularly since Black Peter would not have had his back solidly against the wall. Also, like the pig, his body lacked the mass (i.e., inertia) of a whale's. I therefore conclude that Black Peter was not killed by a harpoon.

Unlike the modern gunpowder-propelled version, back then the harpoon was only meant to act as a hook to fasten the whale to the whaleboat--not to kill it; killing was done by the lance, a long, thin spear without flukes, meant to penetrate deeply.

The harpooner was called boat steerer because after the whale was made fast by the harpoon, he changed places in the whaleboat with the mate who was heading the boat and then he steered the boat while the officer lanced the whale. Only officers would lance a whale.

It would not have been unlikely for Black Peter (an officer) to have had a lance on the wall, besides a couple of regular harpoons.

I believe that it was a lance--which wasn't hurled, but used again and again to deeply stab the whale--what Cairns used to kill Black Peter. Such a weapon was not hurled, but pushed with great force.

Add to this the weight of Cairns' body behind it, and it could have easily penetrated Carey's body and the wall. Was Watson hiding something? Probably not. For a landsman,

the difference between a lance and a harpoon might not have been so obvious.

The Missing Securities

Perhaps one of the Barkers might want to give an opinion as to why Cairns did nothing about the securities. He knew that they were valuable "and" negotiable, easily converted to cash.

Why didn't he do it? Assuming he did not know what the procedure to cash them was, he had to realize that there were several ways to go about it—even including the use of a fence to peddle them for a portion of their value.

The Trip to Norway

D. Martin Dakin wrote an interesting comment in his book, "A Sherlock Holmes Commentary:"

"[W]hat did Holmes mean by saying that his and Watson's address would be somewhere in Norway? There must be some connection with the case, yet I cannot see any that makes sense. He cannot have been after some of Neligan's securities, for, even if it had been any business of his, neither he nor they ever got as far as Norway. (What did Neligan senior hope to do there, anyway?) This cannot even, by a coincidence, be Holmes' business with the King of Scandinavia, since that preceded the Scandal in Bohemia in 1889."

What say you to this, Hounds?

What else happened in 1895:

EMPIRE

- Freetown, Sierra Leone, granted municipal status and privileges.
- Anglo-French interests begin to conflict in Nile Valley.
- U.S. intervenes in Anglo-Venezuelan border dispute, arbitration in Britain's favor.
- Construction of Uganda railway commenced.
- British East Africa Company surrenders Kenya as British protectorate.
- Jameson Raid in South Africa in 1895--failed attempt to overthrow the Afrikaans government.

BRITAIN

- Liberals defeated at general election, Salisbury forms his third Unionist ministry.
- Compulsory retirement of aged Duke of Cambridge as C-in-C of British Army.
- London School of Economics and Political Science founded.
- First automobile exhibition in London.
- Electrification of first mainline railway.

WORLD

- Japan takes Formosa (now Taiwan).
- Germany, France, and Russia unite to compel Japan to return Liaotung peninsula to China.
- Treaty of Simonoseki, end of Sino-Japanese war.
- Cuban rebellions begin, U.S.A. protests brutal suppression.
- Dreyfus refused new trial by French President Faure.
- National League founded in Poland; aimed at autonomy under Russian suzerainty.
- Nyssens Law extended to Belgian provinces and communes.
- Armenian demonstration in Constantinople leads to massacre of 50,000 Armenians.

- Frontiers of Pamirs fixed by commission of Russians, Afghans, and British.
- Introduction of diphtheria antitoxin.
- Completion of Kiel Canal (61 miles) makes Germany North Sea power.
- Volleyball invented.
- French troops capture Antananarivo in Madagascar.
- Abyssinia defeats Italy in the First Italo-Ethiopian War (1885-1896).

ART

- Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* debuts. Later that year, Wilde is imprisoned.
- Corelli publishes *The Sorrows of Satan*.
- H.G. Wells publishes *The Time Machine*.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Wilhelm Konrad Röntgen, German physicist, experiments with Crooke's tubes and discovers X-rays.
- Ramsey obtains helium, first identified by its spectrum in the sun, in 1868.
- On December 28th, in the Hotel Scribe, in Paris, the first public cinema show takes place.
- Thomas Armat, of Washington, develops modern cinema projection.
- King Gillette (U.S.) invents safety razor.
- Guglielmo Marconi, an Italian electrical engineer, transmits the first wireless signal.

STORY INFO PAGES FOR "BLACK PETER"

McMurdo's Camp, <https://mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com/>

- **First published in:** The Strand Magazine, March 1904, Collier's Weekly, February 27, 1904
- **Time frame of story (known/surmised):** Early July 1895 (given) Most likely July 10.
- **HOLMES & WATSON living arrangements:** HOLMES & WATSON sharing quarters at 221B
- **Opening scene:** Holmes had been out early at the butcher's, harpooning a pig's carcass, to judge the difficulty of similarly impaling a man. As HOLMES & WATSON sat down for breakfast, Inspector Hopkins joined them, but had already eaten. He had an air of deep dejection.
- **Client:** Hopkins, who asked Holmes for assistance.
- **Crime or concern:** Killing by harpoon of "Black" Peter Carey, a ornery retired sea captain. Carey was an intermittent drunkard, and when he had the fit on him he was a perfect fiend. Women ran for it when they heard him coming. He was loathed and avoided by every one of his neighbours, and there was not a single word of sorrow about his terrible end.
- **Villain:** Black Peter, who was murdered, was a villain. His killer, Patrick Cairn who had been a harpooner under him on the whaler "Sea Unicorn", claimed self-defense. Neither one of them was a fine fellow. Peter had rescued, then robbed a banker (old Neligan) at sea, stole securities, and threw him overboard. Cairn attempted to blackmail Black Peter over this, but harpooned him instead when Peter got violent.
- **Motive:** Black Peter killed old Neligan to steal securities being taken to Norway. Patrick Cairn killed Black Peter in a violent argument between them over blackmail.
- **Logic used to solve:** The amazing strength, the skill in the use of the harpoon, the rum and water, the sealskin tobacco-pouch with the coarse tobacco — all these pointed to a seaman, and one who had been a whaler. There was a red-herring, young Neligan, who traced stolen securities to Black Peter, and was trying to clear his father's honour, who broke into Black Peter's cabin following his killing. Young Neligan was captured by Holmes and Hopkins. Holmes had experimented with a harpoon and realized Neligan did not have the physical stature to have done the deed. Holmes advertised for a harpooner, and Patrick Cairn came looking.
- **Policemen:** Story includes the introduction of Stanley Hopkins, a young police inspector, for whose future Holmes had high hopes, while Hopkins in turn professed the admiration and respect of a pupil for the scientific methods of the famous amateur. Hopkins was about thirty years of age, with an erect bearing.
- **Holmes' fees:** No mention. Holmes worked for the Yard on many occasions, but there was never an explanation or mention of him being paid for his efforts. Since Holmes, like

everyone, needed to buy his bread and cheese and pay other expenses, it is reasonable to believe he had some sort of retainer arrangement. This would also explain the common result of Holmes' not taking credit for his solutions.

- **Transport:** Following Hopkins' visit, the three of them took a four-wheeler to the station and went on to Forest Row, alighting at a small wayside station and went on through the weald to Black Peter's cabin.
- **Food:** HOLMES & WATSON had breakfast, no details specified.
- **Drink:** Black Peter was a habitual drunkard, flushed with drink and as savage as a dangerous wild beast the night he was harpooned. After the murder, there was bottle of rum and two dirty glasses upon the table.
- **Vices:** Black Peter smoked very little, and yet he might have kept some tobacco for his friends.

Other cases mentioned: PRIO. The famous investigation of the sudden death of Cardinal Tosca — an inquiry which was carried out by him at the express desire of His Holiness the Pope — and the arrest of Wilson, the notorious canary-trainer, which removed a plague-spot from the East End of London.

- **Notable Quotables:** "There can be no question, my dear Watson, of the value of exercise before breakfast." — SH

"What savage creature was it which might steal upon us out of the darkness? Was it a fierce tiger of crime, which could only be taken fighting hard with flashing fang and claw, or would it prove to be some skulking jackal, dangerous only to the weak and unguarded?" — Watson, dramatizing stake-out duty.

"One should always look for a possible alternative, and provide against it. It is the first rule of criminal investigation." — SH

- **Other interestings:** Watson tells us Holmes had at least five small refuges in different parts of London, in which he was able to change his personality. ("safe houses", in modern lingo)

There was a tantalus containing brandy and whisky on the sea-chest in the cabin. It was of no significance to the mystery, however, since the decanters were full and it had therefore not been used.

When all was said and done: If you want me for the trial, my address and that of Watson will be somewhere in Norway — I'll send particulars later." Holmes gave no explanation for this, but was probably going to Norway to hunt or trace securities old Neligan planned to take there. Or maybe Sigerson had a girl-friend. Holmes was multi-lingual, speaking French, German, and Italian in addition to English, and maybe others. It is hard to imagine how he impersonated a Norwegian explorer for quite some time if he had not mastered Norsk as well.

The Case to Make Sherlock Holmes Required Reading

Alex Judd, The Utah Daily Chronicle, March 6, 2017



A few weeks ago, I was treated by an orthopedic surgeon for a recurring shoulder injury.

It didn't take long for introductory small talk to reveal that I was a medical student and my doctor was a member of the University of Utah School of Medicine Class of 1968, and we soon became quite friendly.

My appointment was graciously extended as we continued to chat long after my shoulder had been examined.

We exchanged stories about our respective medical school experiences, discussed my career plans, and talked about how much medicine has changed over the last few decades.

At the close of the visit, the doctor said that he had a single piece of advice to assist me in my nascent quest to become a successful physician.

His sage words of wisdom? "Read Sherlock Holmes."

This tip might strike you as more than a bit odd.

It certainly caught me off-guard at first.

However, if you are a pre-med or medical student, put the idea to the test as I have (I'm currently halfway through novel number four), and the good doctor's logic will invariably come into focus.

Before diving into the texts, however, allow me to provide some relevant historical context.

For starters, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the author of the 60 novels and short stories about the world's first "consulting detective," was himself a physician.

Doyle received his medical degree from the University of Edinburgh in 1881 worked briefly as a doctor on two ships, and then opened his own medical practice before publishing his first novel, "A Study in Scarlet," in 1887.

It is also important to know that the two main characters in this novel, and all of the Sherlock Holmes works that followed, were largely taken from Doyle's own life.

Dr. John Watson shares striking similarities with Doyle himself: both are physicians who transition from a career in medicine to one focused on writing.

Holmes, on the other hand, was modeled after a medical school professor, Dr. Joseph Bell,

who inspired Doyle by his uncanny ability to make difficult diagnoses with seemingly limited and unrelated clinical clues; in other words, his ability to solve medical mysteries.



With this in mind, it is easy to see that Doyle's stories are about more than just crime-solving.

At their core, their plots revolve around Holmes — modeled after the brilliant diagnostician — who is training Watson, and Watson represents the young doctor striving to sharpen his skills, in what Doyle calls "the science of deduction."

As each murder or robbery develops, Holmes takes time to instruct his friend on how to develop and apply awareness, thoughtfulness and inference.

Holmes sums up his assessment of the ever-eager but often simple-minded Watson in one succinct sentence: "You see, but you do not observe."

This criticism is at the heart of my orthopedic surgeon friend's

suggestion to incorporate Doyle's books into my medical education.

To be a successful detective — whether you are solving crimes or making diagnoses — you must learn to look beyond the superficial, think deeply about the clues presented to you, and devise a suitable solution.

Unfortunately, this talent is quickly becoming a lost art in the world of medicine, for a variety of reasons; time pressures instituted by current payment structures and a rising dependence on technology are two that come to mind.

Physicians are losing their ability to think independently, critically and creatively about their cases.

My orthopedic surgeon made this point to me time and time again.

Charmingly old-school, he bragged that he could learn more from two simple tools — his hands and his brain — than most doctors of the younger generation could with all of the MRI, CT and X-ray scans that money can buy.

He promised that a thoughtful reading of "Sherlock Holmes" would encourage me to avoid a similar fate and to learn to look beyond a simple image or lab value; to think deeply about their clinical significance; to thoughtfully synthesize various data into a coherent differential diagnosis; to graduate from simply seeing the world around me to truly observing it.

This has certainly been the case.

The past month of my medical education has been enormously enhanced by immersing myself in Sherlock Holmes's world of observation and deduction.

I am sure that I will benefit from many of the lessons found in its pages throughout my career as I work to make sense of difficult cases and learn to apply the full weight of my intellect to my craft.

So I echo the advice of my orthopedic surgeon and encourage you to add a Sherlock Holmes novel to your biochemistry, pharmacology and genetics readings.

You might be surprised by the results.

THREE SHEETS TO BAKER STREET AND STRAIGHT ON 'TIL MORNING

Joe Fay and Steve Mason

This week we celebrate the 100th episode of *Baker Street Elementary*



Deep into the night, on a Thursday morning about 4:00AM, during the Baker Street Irregulars Weekend 2014,

the grade school world of Holmes and Watson came to life inside a cramped room at the Roosevelt Hotel.

Joe was slightly inebriated.

OK, he was feeling no pain.

He had just thrown down about a dozen pints at O'Lunney's with Don Hobbs and that crew.



Steve was impressed Joe was still functioning and alert.

For those who've been there, we salute you.

And we had just inhaled two outsized slices of corner-shop pizza (open 24 hours).

We were rooming together because New York City is expensive for two regular ole Texas boys.

Joe had been thinking about a certain concept for awhile.

He knew Holmes and Watson could present well as a three-panel comic strip arranged basically like this: intro / punchline / smartass remark.

Joe had played around on Strip Creator for years, and had much more fun with creating comic strips than he ever thought possible before.

Joe had also always wanted to explore the lives of Holmes and Watson as kids.

Growing up, both of us had an unusual attachment to Young Sherlock Holmes.

The idea of the boy-genius-becomes-eccentric-genius-detective was always intriguing.

He also knew the bully had to be Moriarty. And Mrs. Hudson to be the lunch lady.

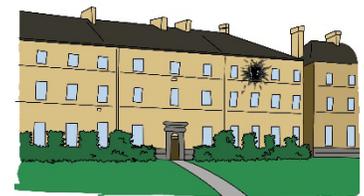
But Joe was stuck.

That's really all he had.

"I wanted to start a simple comic strip with Holmes and Watson in elementary school. Elementary school," I thought. "Holmes, Watson, ELEMENTARY school! It was just too good to be true, right?"

So Joe gave the idea the moniker, "Elementary Elementary."

"I thought it was clever at the time. But it turned out to be one of



those titles that seemed like a good idea at the time, and ultimately just wasn't."

But as far as we knew, and still know, there hadn't been a comic strip to explore the Deductive Duo in grade school (and if we're wrong, we expect to hear about it any minute now).

Joe decided to bring the idea up to Steve that night while we lay in separate beds (just thought that should be clarified, not that there is anything wrong...)

And as soon as the words were out of Joe's mouth, Steve, jumped on the idea like Holmes on a coke vial.

Steve suggested characters, scenarios, compositions, and so on. Lestrade and Gregson would be the hall monitors.

Irene would be the red-headed girl on the playground with whom the great boy detective was smitten, Conan Doyle would be included, and of course, Stamford would be the loveable character that never quite gets it straight.

And so on.

Steve suggested "It's Elementary, Sherlock," as a working title, but once Joe came up with "Baker Street Elementary," we both agreed that was the perfect title.

We quickly realized neither of us could draw, though.

And drawing is kind of important for a comic strip.

"Not to fear," Steve said, "I have a son for that."

His name is Rusty.

And Rusty Mason became the artist, and now creative partner in the strip.

We all decided against detailed backgrounds and long narratives.

Instead, we would focus on the dialogue and expressions of the characters, following the example set by the great Charles Schultz.

So Steve and I volleyed ideas back and forth (almost all of the strips would be set at an outdoor stone wall overlooking the playground, or in the classroom), until we both passed out that night, and Baker Street Elementary was born.

Now, we're 100 installments into the game, with Rusty doing the illustrations, and all of us writing the scripts.

So many good ideas come to lubricated Sherlockians during BSI Weekend.

Thank goodness Joe had the wonderful original idea, Steve is a teetotaler, that Joe mentioned the little idea to Steve, and that Baker Street Elementary made it home.

Editor's note... Rusty and I very proud to be part of something created by Joe. His inspiration for the comic strip, as well as his guidance at the beginning, has kept us producing a product that we can look at with pride. During the BSI weekend, as well as other conferences, it has become apparent how many readers enjoy the antics of the young Holmes and Watson, as well as their classmates. Joe, you should bask in the knowledge that your creation has brought a smile, chuckle, and hardy laugh to so many across the country. Keep up the great work and collaboration.

Steve

Baker Street Elementary



The Second Year

Staff: Jim Figg, Rusty & Steve Mason

The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson

Baker Street Elementary
Number 100 - 03/12/2017

Fig, Mason, & Mason

WELL, HOLMES, I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU ARE GIVING THE 'I HEAR OF SHAKESPEARE EVERYWHERE (i)hose' DISPATCH A CHANCE...

SEEING HOW ALL OF YOU KEEP RAVING ABOUT IT, AND THEY HAVE TRANSMITTED OVER 100 DISPATCHES, I FANCY THERE IS SOMETHING MAY INTRIGUE ME ...



SPEAKING OF MILESTONES, WE HAVE REACHED ONE WE SHOULD SHARE WITH EVERYONE.

MILESTONE? WHAT MILESTONE? AND WHOM ARE WE SHARING THIS WITH?



WHY THEM OF COURSE... WHO HAVE BEEN WITH US SINCE THE BEGINNING.

THEM? um... WATSON... I DON'T SEE WHO YOU SPEAK OF...



I THINK I SEE SOMEONE... oh... IT IS MASTERS DOYLE AND BARRIE IN THE BUSHES...

NO, NO... NOT THOSE TWO... I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE OTHER PEOPLE.



I SUSPECT THEY ARE HUNTING FAIRIES ONCE AGAIN. IS THAT THE MILESTONE YOU REFER TO? THE TWO OF THEM HUNTING FAIRIES FOR THE 100TH TIME?

huh? NOT AT ALL, STAMFORD...

IS THAT... MY MAGNIFYING GLASS AND NET THEY POSSESS?



IGNATIUS! JAMES! YOU DARE USE MY HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED DETECTIVE TOOLS FOR CHASING DOWN IMAGINARY FIGURES!?



EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO GO AND RETRIEVE MY INSTRUMENTS, WHILE TEACHING THOSE TWO A LESSON...



... AND HE WONDERS WHY WE DON'T CELEBRATE MILESTONES, LIKE BIRTHDAYS, AROUND HERE?

WE CAN'T HAVE BIRTHDAY CAKE WITH CANDLES, 'CAUSE YOU TWO ARE BANNED FROM OPEN FLAMES.

