

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 05, No. 07 - July, 2017

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



August 6th Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, July 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 Missing Three-Quarter."

The quiz will cover this tale.

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

July 2nd Meeting

There were 17 crew members in attendance. Angela Lusk gave a great toast, titled "Your Personal Sherlock Holmes" (see page 3). We also recognized James F. Moriarty, Jr., who was a friend and society member. His obituary is on Page 5.

The quiz was based on "The Sussex Vampire." The quiz was won by Walter Pieper, with Bill Pervin taking second place. Both received prizes for their efforts.

We will resume movie night this month at the Piepers, showing "The Hands of a Murderer."

Rusty Mason treated us to fine commentary in conjunction with viewing of excerpts from television programs and commercials featuring Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson or containing comparable characters.

We also had a short discussion about the origin of vampires, how they are traditionally recognized, warded off, and ultimately dispatched.

The short story pastiches are due by the end of September. Some short stories have already been submitted.

The symposium "Sherlock Holmes at the Movies" will be held on September 23rd at the Allen Library. Rusty plans to present a chronology of Sherlock Holmes movies. A movie will be presented. The decision of which movie is still under consideration. There is room on the schedule for additional short presentations for anyone wishing to take part. A short family-friendly mystery will fill out the event.

THE GANGWAY PRIZE DRAWING: Charles Olson held the winning ticket to take home a framed Sherlock Holmes movie poster.

Steve Mason delivered the final reading, "Two Men of Note", from the Baker Street Journal December 1993.

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
Pam Mason
Rusty Mason

mason.steve@epa.gov
waltpieper@att.net
221b@verizon.net
jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com
myrkrid08@yahoo.com

Our Website: www.dfw-sherlock.org

"That will await him when he enters port," said he, chuckling. "It may give him a sleepless night. He will find it as sure a precursor of his fate as Openshaw did before him."

"And who is this Captain Calhoun?"

"The leader of the gang. I shall have the other..."

"How did you trace it, then?"

He took a large sheet of paper from his pocket...

"I have spent the whole day," said he, "over in January and February in '83. There were..."

attracted my attention, since, although it was..."

"Texas, I think."

"I was not and am not sure which; but I knew..."

"What then?"

"I remember the Doctor's records, and when I..."

vessel which touched at Pondichery of these, one, the Lone Star, instantly of the states of the Union."

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A SHERLOCK HOLMES LITERARY SOCIETY
Monthly meetings every 1st Sunday @ 1pm
La Madeleine Country French Café

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YOUR PERSONAL SHERLOCK HOLMES

Angela Lusk

Hello, everyone! It really is a pleasure to be here today. I found out about this society last year from a flyer at Half-Price Books for a Sherlock Holmes Symposium at the Allen Library.

I was elated that there were nerds like me out there. I really enjoyed the symposium. This society did an excellent job.

Thank you all so much for making it a success. Unfortunately, it took a while to get to one of your meetings, but I am so glad I finally did.

Today I would like to share with you my history with Sherlock Holmes and what I love most about the Sherlock Holmes fandom.

I was about nine-years-old when I read my first Sherlock Holmes story. He was so brilliant, dynamic and intuitive. I was captivated. Sadly, Sherlock Holmes took a backseat when I discovered Nancy Drew and The Babysitter's Club novels. However, Holmes wasn't done with me yet.

About a year and ½ ago I finally decided to see what all the fuss was about concerning the BBC series Sherlock. What I found when I watched it wasn't what I was expecting at all. This was definitely not the Sherlock I remembered from my childhood. He had a cell phone and a laptop! Since when did Sherlock become a sociopath albeit a high-functioning one?

I was intrigued. The contemplation of these changes to Sherlock's environment, appearance and personality led me on a passionate rediscovery of the canon and search for other adaptations of Sherlock Holmes.

Through the movies, TV, videogames and other adaptations I found, Sherlock Holmes seemed to take on many forms. It was apparent that Holmes has a few characteristics from canon we all seem to agree upon, but some liberties are taken and opinions can vary wildly on his other aspects.

The one thread I found in common with all of the adaptations was based on their differences. I began to see that one of the many reasons why Holmes has been such a beloved character for so long is because you could craft your own personal Sherlock Holmes.

How we craft our own personal Sherlock Holmes can be based on our ideals - on what we see, or want to see, in ourselves or others.

We may admire his obsessive search for knowledge, his strong set of morals, or his dogged determination once motivated towards a goal. Others may sympathize with Holmes' struggle against the mediocre or mundane and his thirst for discovery and adventure.

Misery loves company, as the old adage goes, and some of us may relate to his darker characteristics. Maybe some of us have found ourselves in a Holmesian deep, black mood. Perhaps like Sherlock Holmes, we may have gone to extreme measures to cure it. Others may identify with his anti-social leanings and conflicting desires to be acknowledged and praised.

An artist may have one subject in mind while painting, but the viewer will ultimately see the finished piece through the filter of their own experiences and emotions. This creates a richness and depth in meaning the artist may never have fathomed.

Indeed, works of art that have become classics are often shaped and modified and inspire each new generation. With each new adaptation, another generation can fashion a connection that is profound and intimate to them.

In closing, I'd like to say that I look forward to getting to know you all and each individual, personal Sherlock Holmes.

Cheers!

"TWO MEN OF NOTE"

Excerpt from BAKER STREET JOURNAL – December, 1993

One hundred years ago, the world acknowledged the distressing news that Sherlock Holmes had perished at the hands of James Moriarty.

How did readers of the Strand react?

Surprisingly, I witnessed a similar reaction in 1991.

I had been given a class of ninth grade remedial students who were said to be impaired with regard to their reading and writing skills.

After a cursory interview with them, I noted that the system had failed them, but the reverse was not necessarily valid.

The text I was given seemed too childish for these young adults, so I proffered an alternative.

If they would agree to read the Canon aloud in class, I would not require any written tests.

They would be compelled to write their thoughts on each case, receiving full credit for their labor no matter the length.

We began by exploring A Study in Scarlet, and by semester's end we had completed all of The Adventures and Memoirs.

They were very distressed to find that Holmes had perished.

It was time for exams, and I was obliged to give them an exam on their reading and writing skills.

They took the exams, and when the results were tallied, I was chagrined.

They had only progressed two to three grade levels, on the average, since the start of the semester.

I was soon illuminated when the learning disabilities staff revealed that the gain was a remarkable achievement.

The faces that greeted me on the following Monday were right out of the year 1893.

Without delay, I distributed The Adventure of the Empty House and proceeded in the established manner.

"You knew, didn't you?" was the sincere query when the old bookman

was transformed into Sherlock Holmes.

Yes, I had known that Holmes was not dead, and I did feel a kindred spirit with Mycroft Holmes in that respect.

The discussion that followed was quite interesting.

Their frustration had been not only that Holmes had died, but since there were no more cases to record, Watson too had died that day.

Even though I had explained that, had the saga ended at the Reichenbach, Holmes, Watson, and all who populate the narratives would survive in our hearts and minds.

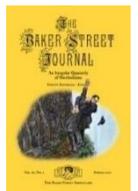
Only we belong to the temporary world of flesh; they are immortal.

This is true of all who follow in Dr. Watson's footsteps and write about the Immortal Sleuth.

Holmes may be the center of the Sherlockian universe, but as Starrett revealed, there were "two men of note" to whom we owe our fidelity.

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.



JAMES MORIARTY OBITUARY

Dallas Morning News



MORIARTY JR., James F. James F. Moriarty, Jr. was born July 11, 1931 in Washington, D.C. and died June 23, 2017 in Dallas, TX.

He was a 1953 graduate of The Citadel in Charleston, SC and served in the U.S. Marine Corps as an infantry officer until 1967.

During the Vietnam War he was awarded the Bronze Star, Navy Commendation and Purple Heart Medals while commanding an infantry company in 1965 and 1966.

After completing his military service he became an Account Manager for Riverside Manufacturing Co. for North Texas, serving over 29 years.

He was a member of Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, North Dallas Golden K Kiwanis Club and Crew of the Barque Lone Star - Sherlock Holmes.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years Carroll Elizabeth, two daughters Mary Ellen Mayers and her husband Stewart, of Durant, OK, Sarah Pucci and her husband John, of Palos Verdes, CA, two grand children Michael and Henry Pucci, two brothers William Moriarty, of Van Buren, MO and John Moriarty, of Slanesville, WV.

... and we received this email from Jim's wonderful wife...

I am sad to inform you that Jim died on June the 23rd. His grave-side service will be held at Sparkman Hillcrest on Thursday, the 29th of June at 11:00 a.m. with a reception to follow in the main building.

Being a member of this club meant a lot to Jim giving him a proud association with others who appreciate all matters concerning Sherlock Holmes.

Thank you for your kindness in maintaining Jim's membership while being unable to attend the meetings, interesting events and getting to know the other members.

Carroll (Beth) Moriarty

STEP RIGHT UP!

Liese Sherwood-Fabre



In "The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger," Holmes and Watson meet Mrs. Ronder, a circus performer who had been maimed by the lion who killed her husband seven years earlier. (1)

Sherlock notes Ronder had owned a circus rivaling the well-known shows of

Wombwell and Sanger.

The description of the Ronder circus, however, suggests more similarities with Sanger's than Wombwell's traveling menageries.

Circuses' histories trace back to ancient Rome where men and women could co-mingle while watching races, equestrian stunts, and mock battles were performed in permanent arenas.

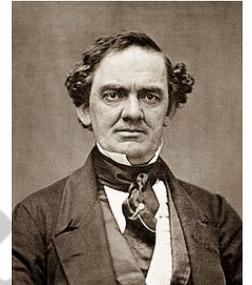
The fall of the Roman Empire ended the arenas' prominence, but performers who had their beginnings there, including animal trainers and troubadours, took to traveling from village to village performing at local fairs until the late 1700s. (2)

The first modern circus was developed by Philip Astley, a trick rider who formed the Astley Amphitheatre with a ring design for optimum centrifugal and centripetal forces for horse-back riding stunts.



In addition to trick riding, performances included acrobats, and large-scale reenactments of such events as battles, floods, or other natural disasters. (3)

Such shows spread from England to continental Europe, and then the U.S. U.S. circus promoters such as J. Purdy Brown, and P.T. Barnum, introduced such innovations as the "three-ring" circus, the "big top," and travel by railroad rather than horse-pulled wagons. (3)



British and European circuses continued to utilize only one ring with a tent using four poles instead of the taller center pole of the American big top.

"Lord" George Sanger and his brother started their own touring circus with family friends as performers in England in 1854.

Four years later he had added a number of animal acts, and continued touring, setting up their tent after a parade through the streets of the town. His parade was impressive with 160 horses, eleven elephants, a dozen camels and about 330 people (4). Always the showman, he once followed Queen Victoria's military escort through London (5).

George Wombwell's circus, on the other hand, was best described as a travelling menagerie.

Starting with two boas which he exhibited in taverns, he expanded his collection to more and larger exotic animals, including elephants, giraffes, various big cats, primates, and even a rhinoceros (billed at the "real unicorn of scripture).

At its height, he had three different menageries travelling the country.

Given the difference in climates for most of these animals, their death-rate was high, and he would

often have those that expired sold to taxidermists or medical schools.

He was, however, not above displaying the dead exhibit.

On one occasion, an elephant died, and a rival menagerie advertised itself as having the only live elephant.

Not to be outdone, Wombwell advertised the opportunity to see a dead elephant.

The public responded by flocking to his exhibit. (6)

- 1) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Location 31236).
- 2) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circus>
- 3) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circus>
- 4) <https://www.britannica.com/art/circus-theatrical-entertainment>
- 5) <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/nfca/researchandarticles/sanger>
- 6) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Wombwell

The first 24 of Liese Sherwood-Fabre's essays are now available in The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes, both paperback and ebook. Retailers are listed on her Webpage (www.liesesherwoodfabre.com).

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>

17 STEPS TO "THE MISSING THREE-QUARTER"

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

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

SHERLOCK WASN'T THE ONLY ONE RUNNING IN THE STRAND

"Strand postmark, and dispatched ten thirty-six," said Holmes, reading it over and over.

"Mr. Overton was evidently considerably excited when he sent it, and somewhat incoherent in consequence."

What might a young rugby player, having come up to play Oxford, be doing in the Strand? Was a sensible place to send a message on one's way from Scotland Yard to Baker Street?

RUGBO-BABBLE FOR DUMMIES

"He's simply the hinge that the whole team turns on. I'd rather spare two from the pack, and have Godfrey for my three-quarter line. Whether it's passing, or tackling, or dribbling, there's no one to touch him, and then, he's got the head, and can hold us all together..."

There's Moorhouse, first reserve, but he is trained as a half, and he always edges right in on to the scrum instead of keeping out on the touchline.

He's a fine place-kick, it's true, but then he has no judgment, and he can't sprint for nuts. Why, Morton or Johnson, the Oxford fliers, could romp round him. Stevenson is fast enough, but he couldn't drop from the twenty-five line, and a three-quarter who can't either punt or drop isn't worth a place for pace alone."

Okay, slowly and simply, can someone explain this paragraph for us, point by point?

HIS MATE WAS A MIGHTY RUGBY MAN, THE SKIPPER BRAVE AND SURE

"I am the skipper of the Rugger team of Cambridge 'Varsity.'" announces Cyril Overton. He's keeping the team in training, but he's

playing, too. Would this team have had a coach, or any non-playing advisers? Why is Overton carrying the ball in finding Staunton?

AND ON MR. BLACKWELL'S LIST FOR 1896

"He was dressed in rusty black, with a very broad-brimmed top-hat and a loose white necktie--the whole effect being that of a very rustic parson or of an undertaker's mute."

For starters: what color is "rusty black"? But why would one of the richest men in London dress like a country parson? Were parson outfits cheaper than regular formalwear?

THE ENUMERATED SHERLOCK HOLMES

"I had seven different schemes for getting a glimpse of that telegram, but I could hardly hope to succeed the very first time."

The Hounds have speculated upon these seven schemes before, but my question for you this time out is this: Did Holmes have time to come up with these seven schemes on his way to the telegraph office, or did he come up with such things at other times, make up lists, and hence was quite proud that he had seven ready to go?

SO THEY TOOK STAUNTON OUT ON THE MOOR WITH A CATARACT KNIFE

"Amateur sport is free from betting, but a good deal of outside betting goes on among the public, and it is possible that it might be worth someone's while to get at a player as the ruffians of the turf get at a race-horse."

This may seem a subject more suited for "Silver Blaze," but how did the ruffians of the turf get at race-horses? Did they often outright steal

them, as someone seems to have done with Staunton?

THE LATEST POP STAR OF THE MEDICAL WORLD

Watson writes: "It argues the degree in which I had lost touch with my profession that the name of Leslie Armstrong was unknown to me. Now I am aware that he is not only one of the heads of the medical school of the university, but a thinker of European reputation in more than one branch of science."

Wait a minute ... it's only been two years since Watson gave up his practice, hasn't it? And wasn't he reading a surgical treatise, even after that? (Publication date 1904, Watson says it's been seven or eight years when he wrote it. More in Monday's Chronology Corner.) Did Leslie Armstrong rise to medical fame all that quickly? And even if Watson was a practicing doctor, would we expect him to know who this guy was?

WATSON'S YEARS OF WEANING

"For years I had gradually weaned him from that drug mania which had threatened once to check his remarkable career."

When is Watson talking about in this statement? When Holmes seemed to be at his highest level of drug use, Watson was deserting him for Mary Morstan. Long periods of time passed during Watson's marriage(s) when he didn't see Holmes at all. So when did he have time for *years* of weaning?

THE APOSTROPHE THAT'S NOW HISTORY

"To-morrow is the 'Varsity football match."

Here's one of those questions that's probably clear as glass in England, but seems a bit odd in

America. Why is “Varsity” looking like a contraction with that apostrophe in front of it?

THE THIRTEEN GUINEA DOCTOR’S BILL

“Then perhaps you will explain this receipted bill for thirteen guineas, paid by Mr. Godfrey Staunton last month to Dr. Leslie Armstrong, of Cambridge. I picked it out from among the papers upon his desk.”

From the papers on the desk, Holmes has plucked a single bill. As Mrs. Staunton had an ongoing illness, would the bill have been for services over a period of time or an individual treatment?

Was a famous doctor like Armstrong charging a student his going rate, and if not, what was he basing that thirteen guineas on? It’s a very odd, almost ominous, amount for an arbitrary figure, isn’t it?

IRRITATING THE WITNESS

“Dear me, dear me--the postoffice again!’ Holmes sighed, wearily. ‘A most urgent telegram was dispatched to you from London by Godfrey Staunton at six-fifteen yesterday evening--a telegram which is undoubtedly associated with his disappearance--and yet you have not had it. It is most culpable. I shall certainly go down to the office here and register a complaint.’

“Dr. Leslie Armstrong sprang up from behind his desk, and his dark face was crimson with fury.”

Why is Holmes taunting Armstrong? Doesn’t he actually expect to get anything out of him with such tactics, or has he decided that Armstrong is a villain and now enjoys tormenting him?

WORKING LATE AGAIN

All Hounds who’ve ever held supper for a late-working spouse can

sympathize with Mrs. Hudson’s dilemmas in feeding Holmes. But at the inn he and Watson are staying at, the landlord doesn’t seem to be too concerned:

“These few inquiries proved, however, to be a more lengthy proceeding than Holmes had imagined, for he did not return to the inn until nearly nine o’clock. He was pale and dejected, stained with dust, and exhausted with hunger and fatigue. A cold supper was ready upon the table ...”

How long would supper have been sitting there? What might a typical cold supper have consisted of?

THE LITERARY DOCTOR OF CAMBRIDGE

“But Armstrong is not really a doctor in practice. He is a lecturer and a consultant, but he does not care for general practice, which distracts him from his literary work.”

Leslie Armstrong was a man of science, who is busy writing a treatise during this tale. Was the public’s perception of “literary” broader in Victorian times?

THE BEST LOCATION IN THE CANON

The inn Holmes and Watson are staying at is perhaps the most convenient they’ve ever encountered: it’s across the street from a prime suspect and, “There is, as you may have observed, a bicycle shop next to our inn. Into this I rushed, engaged a bicycle ...”

How common would a shop specializing in bicycles have been in Victorian times? Was this something one might find in a college town, but not a similar city without a yearly influx of young people?

THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN DID IT!

“The daily appearance of a brougham and pair could hardly have

been overlooked in such Sleepy Hollows.”

Is the capitalization of “Sleepy Hollows” an indication that Holmes is referring to the Washington Irving tale? Or might Holmes have been saying lower case “sleepy hollows,” only to have it interpreted in a literary fashion by Watson, the real reader of fiction in the house?

THE OBJECT OF WATSON’S HORROR

“I was horrified by my first glimpse of Holmes next morning, for he sat by the fire holding his tiny hypodermic syringe. I associated that instrument with the single weakness of his nature, and I feared the worst when I saw it glittering in his hand.”

Is Watson’s horror at this simple object a sign that there is more to Holmes’s addiction than he wrote of in his chronicles? Or were the drug incidents we’ve read enough to spur such a statement on their own? Why is Holmes carrying aniseed around in a syringe, anyway? Wouldn’t a small bottle, poured over the carriage wheel, have worked just as well?

THOSE BLOODHOUNDS WILL WORK FOR ANYBODY

Pompey, the pride of the local draghounds, does an excellent job for Holmes and Watson, two men he’s never seen before the Staunton case. Is it normal for a draghound to work well with strangers? Shouldn’t Pompey’s master have come along to get his best performance?

56 STORIES IN 56 DAYS - "THE MISSING THREE-QUARTER"

Posted on October 23, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet



There is a period of inactivity and Watson fears that Holmes may turn to drugs, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

Watson tells us that over the years he has managed to wean Holmes off drugs but as there has now been such a sustained period

without work, he fears there will be a relapse.

As I have said before in previous blogs, I don't think Holmes used drugs because he was bored, but because his mental processes could overwhelm him if he had nothing to channel them into – like voices he needed to drown out.

But Watson takes a rather more conventional view and is relieved when a case comes their way in the form of a missing rugby player.

I confess I had no idea what a three-quarter was and presumed it was a coin of some sort when I first read this story.

Holmes didn't have the foggiest either when team captain Cyril Overton started whittling on about Godfrey Staunton, the famous rugby player, who has disappeared the day before a crucial match with Oxford. Surprised at Holmes' ignorance he exclaims: "Good Lord! Mr Holmes, where have you lived?"

My husband regularly says things like that to me when his sporting talk is met with a blank expression.

This is a very enjoyable story and Holmes comes up against a worthy adversary in the form of the sinister Dr Armstrong who he states could even fill the gap left by the late Professor Moriarty, if he so inclined.

But, actually the doctor turns out to be the hero of the story protecting the missing young man's secret wife who sadly dies at the end of the tale, with the rugby player weeping at her bedside.

It is a clever writer who can take you from humour to tragedy as smoothly as Conan Doyle does.

On the one hand you have the comical Cyril Overton and his boisterous rugby talk, the brilliant use of Pompey the sniffer dog and, of course, the hilarious old miser Lord Mount-James, the missing boy's only relative and the reason for the concealment of his marriage.

But then we discover the sad young death at the end and everything takes on a deeper meaning.

A simple but clever story with a great twist that draws you in very quickly and doesn't quite let you go for some time afterwards – well worth 7 out of 10.

Sherlock's Pub... Texas Style

Robert Nunn, Sunday, July 2, 2017

Any time I am in a different city, I like to search out if there are any Sherlockian spots of interest, much to chagrin of my wife and daughter. On a recent trip through Texas, I discovered that there is a regional chain called Sherlock's Baker Street Pub and Grill. Lo and behold, there was one right down the street from our hotel in Arlington!

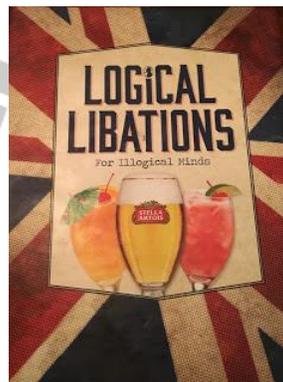


I can only speak to the Arlington location, but from what my friend in Austin told me, they seem to be pretty similar in each city. When I first came across the Google result, I expected a quiet pub that served fish and chips. Like a true detective, I didn't do any more searching than that. So I was surprised to find Sherlock's to be a large restaurant in a strip mall. We walked in to the sounds of Bon Jovi and plenty of sports on the TVs around the bar.

Once my initial shock wore off, I could see a lot of Sherlockian touches. The main bar/restaurant is an odd mash up of sports bar and Victorian theme. The Baker Street signpost and leather sitting chairs offset the Golden Tee machine and Corona banners. The walls are covered with memorabilia, ala Applebee's, but it is all Victorian themed. The wall decorations included old newspaper headlines, Victorian style pictures, and lots and lots of books (Okay, most of them were Reader's Digest condensed classics, but give the place points for trying).



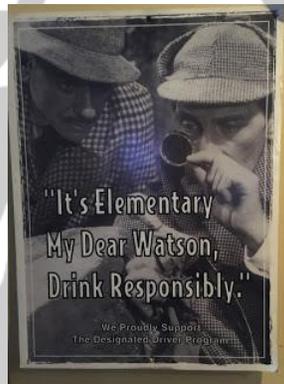
My family settled into a booth and checked out the menu. I had mixed opinions about the place, but the menu does not fall into this category. Not being too hungry, we kept it simple: a bacon cheddar burger and Watson's Chicken Tenders (My daughter is seven. Every new restaurant is a chance to have more chicken tenders.) Both meals were great! Like I said, we didn't get too adventurous. On a return trip, I would've liked to try the London Platter or Baja Tacos, but we left full and happy. Being a sports bar, there was an extensive drink menu, but the wife and I stuck to tried and true favorites: draft beer and margarita.



While we waited for our food, I convinced my daughter to walk around the rest of the building so I wouldn't seem like an oddball looking at all of the decorations by myself. The dining area is a nice, large space, with more seating outside on a patio. A nice touch was a British phone booth that had been turned into a phone charging station. I expected that to be the end of it; and then I saw the game room! The Sherlockian/Victorian theme is completely abandoned once you pass into this room, but there are scores of pool tables and dart boards, with the walls decorated with British rock bands. Another room off of the game room has a large stage and seating for the bands that play the bar each weekend.



All in all, Sherlock's Baker Street Pub and Grill was a nice surprise. It clearly wasn't the quiet British pub I had imagined, but for a sports bar, it was a nice place. If I lived around one of the locations throughout Texas, I could see it being a spot I would frequent with friends (and maybe my daughter because she LOVED the chicken tenders). If you find yourself in Texas, I would recommend checking it out if there's one in near you. But listen to the Great Detective, and don't overdo it with the alcohol.



AN INQUIRY INTO "THE MISSING QUARTER"

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

An Inquiry Into "The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter."

"The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter" was first published in "The Strand Magazine" in August 1904.

According to Baring-Gould's chronology, as set down in *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes,* Second Edition, 1974, the case takes place on Tuesday, December 8, to December 10, 1896. At the time Holmes is 44 years old and Watson 46.

Notable Quotes:

"For years I had gradually weaned him from that drug mania which had threatened once to check his remarkable career. Now I knew that under ordinary conditions he no longer craved for this artificial stimulus; but I was well aware that the fiend was not dead, but sleeping."

Matter of the Lazy Inspector

In this case, I am always surprised by Inspector Hopkins' reaction. Consider the following: Overton tells his story to Hopkins who refers him to Holmes. Why? The Scotland Yarder is faced with what we would call a missing person report and a high likelihood of foul goings-on. He is told that the young man became so extremely upset when he received a note handed to him by a "rough-looking man with a beard,"

that a stranger--the porter--was sufficiently concerned to attempt to go for help. Then he disappears and cannot be found at any of his usual places.

Added to this, as Holmes noted, is the fact Staunton was his team's key player and he vanishes on the eve of a major game. Then there is the fact that he is the heir to a considerable fortune. How could Hopkins not look into the case? Was he feeling lazy that day?

A Holmesian Boast?

According to Watson, Holmes claimed that he "had seven different schemes for getting a glimpse of [the] telegram." I must wonder about this when I consider the Victorian sense of propriety and privacy. Let us recall that neither Holmes nor Watson suspected that the other had a brother until this had to be revealed by circumstances. I expect that it would not have been that simple to get a telegraph office staffer to show him a sent telegram. I find Dr. Armstrong's reaction when Holmes asks about Staunton to be more in line with the times.

The Not-so-Invisible Detective

How could Holmes have been so clumsy in following Dr. Armstrong's carriage? Did he think that the doctor would not note someone on a bicycle (and deerstalker) following him? Whatever became of "That is what you may expect to see when I follow you"?

The Uncared-for Mrs. Staunton

It appears to me that it would have been more reasonable and caring to have hospitalized Staunton's wife. In a hospital, she would have received far better 24-hour-a-day care. Yet she is hidden in a lonely cottage, essentially, left to die. The marriage could have been kept secret by having her register with another name, or in an out-of-town hospital.

A Dull Case

This is one of the few cases in the Sacred Writings where no crime has been committed. Unarguably, it is also lacking in excitement or interest. Plus, our detective certainly does not seem to be at his best, and his unique capabilities are not very much in evidence. With all the unwritten cases Watson could have selected, it is very puzzling why he would have chosen this one.

What else happened in 1896: EMPIRE

- Jameson Raid in South Africa; British negotiations with Boers (to 1899) fail.
- Kaiser's telegram to Kruger, congratulating him on the defeat of the Jameson Raid.
- Matabele Revolt suppressed (1896 - 97).
- Protectorate established in Sierra Leone and East Africa.
- Start of Kitchener's campaign against the Madhi in the Sudan (1896 - 99).

- Anglo-French treaty settles boundaries in Siam.
- Sudanese railway extended to Wadi Haifa.
- Widespread famine in India, to 1897.

BRITAIN

- Hotel Cecil, the Strand, built.
- National Portrait Gallery moves to present site in Trafalgar Square.
- Beginning of period of rising prices and falling wages (until 1914).
- Truck Act: regulates deductions from wages or fines for bad workmanship.
- Conciliation Act: boards can settle industrial disputes if both sides are willing.
- First all-steel English building erected at West Hartlepool.
- Locomotives Act: repeal of "Red Flag" restriction; maximum speed raised to 14 mph.
- Royal Victorian Order founded as Personal Order of Sovereign.

WORLD

- First modern Olympic Games are held at Athens.
- Utah admitted as state in the U.S.
- France annexes Madagascar.

- State visit of Tsar Nicholas to France (Paris).
- Van Houten's Franchise Bill extends the Dutch franchise.
- French Tunisian protectorate recognized by Italy.
- Italians are defeated by Menelek of Abyssinia at Adowa, resulting in Treaty of Addis-Ababa and end of Italian protectorate.
- Massacre of Armenians by Kurds and Circassians supported by the Sultan.
- Insurrection in Crete against Turkish rule.
- Beginning of the Klondike Gold Rush.
- Foundation of Russo-Chinese Bank.
- Cassini Treaty: China gives Russia the right to build a railway through Manchuria to Port Arthur.
- Russian newspapers granted temporary licenses; imported books and newspapers are strictly censored.
- First public film exhibition, in U.S.

ART

- Wells publishes Island of Dr. Moreau.
- Gilbert and Sullivan debut The Grand Duke.

- Giacomo Puccini debuts La Bohème at Turin.
- Toulouse-Lautrec paints Maxime Dethomas.
- R. Strauss debuts Also Sprach Zarathustra.

SCIENCE

- Antoine Henri Becquerel, observes radiation from uranium affects photographic plates; discovery of radioactivity.
- Nobel Prizes started, for physics, physiology or medicine, chemistry, literature, furtherance of the cause of peace.
- Guglielmo Marconi demonstrates on Salisbury Plain the practicability of wireless telegraphy.
- Emile Achard first describes paratyphoid fever.
- Samuel Langley (U.S.), successfully flies a steam-driven model aircraft.
- Rehn, of Frankfurt, sutures a heart wound; beginning of heart surgery.
- Zeeman observes that light emitted by a substance placed in a magnetic field undergoes changes.
- Earliest record of water chlorination, during typhoid outbreak in Italy.

STORY INFO PAGES FOR "THE MISSING QUARTER"

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

- **First published in:** The Strand Magazine August 1904; Collier's Weekly, November 26, 1904
- **Time frame of story (known/surmised):** Winter, stated. February, stated by Watson. Probably 1897. (Note: this does not agree with published accounts of rugby matches. Some specialists in Holmes chronology believe Watson mis-stated the month.)
- **H&W living arrangements:** Sharing quarters at 221B.
- **Opening scene:** Times are slow, and Watson is worried about SH's tendency to revert to drug use. Then a telegram arrives, signaling a new case.
- **Client:** Mr. Cyril Overton, Trinity College, Cambridge, and skipper of the 'Varsity Ruggers, an enormous young man, who was more accustomed to using his muscles than his wits. He was sixteen stone (224 lbs) of solid bone and muscle, and his comely face was haggard with anxiety. Overton had been referred to Holmes by Inspector Stanley Hopkins. Hopkins said the case was more in Holmes' line than that of the regular police.
- **Crime or concern:** Disappearance of Godfrey Staunton, star three-quarter for the Cambridge team. Overton believed he was a sportsman, down to his marrow, and wouldn't have stopped his training and let in his skipper if it were not for some cause that was too strong for him.
- **Villain:** None. Staunton left the team of his own accord, to attend personal matters. He slipped out in the middle of the night.
- **Motive:** Staunton was married secretly, to protect his inheritance from his uncle, Lord Mount-James, a queer little old man, one of the richest in England and an absolute miser, whom Staunton believed would have opposed the marriage. Staunton ran off to see his wife who was dying of consumption (TB). He was assisted, and the wife attended by, Dr. Leslie Armstrong, a family friend and noted physician.
- **Logic used to solve:** Holmes narrowed down his inquiry into the connection between Godfrey Staunton and the bearded man who summoned him from his hotel, and finding the third source from which each of them sought help against pressing danger, as indicated by an ink-blot on a telegraph form written by Staunton. Holmes tricked a telegraph agent into revealing the addressee. Then Holmes put anise-seed oil on Armstrong's carriage wheel and tracked it with Pompey, a dog-hound.
- **Policemen:** Inspector Hopkins, of the Yard, who referred the client to Holmes.
- **Holmes' fees:** Staunton's rich uncle, Lord Mount-James, a noble miser, was initially opposed to Overton's hiring Holmes because of the cost. But when Holmes suggested the nephew may have been kidnapped for ransom or to learn how to burgle his house, Mount-James became worried about the villainy and the money. He told Holmes, "I beg you to leave no stone unturned to bring him safely back. As to money, well, so far as a

fiver or even a tenner goes you can always look to me.”

- **Transport:** H&W and the client stepped round together to the hotel to see the porter.
- **Food:** When visiting , H&W had a cold supper which was ready upon the table at nine o'clock, at the little inn in Cambridge. When preparing to follow Dr. Armstrong a second time, H&W had best to carry their breakfast, for Armstrong made an early start.
- **Drink:** No mention
- **Vices:** After supper, Holmes lit his pipe.
- **Other cases mentioned:** none

- **Notable Quotables:** “A draghound will follow aniseed from here to John O’Groats” – SH
- “I was well aware that the fiend (drug-mania) was not dead but sleeping” – Watson, referring to Holmes’ old habit.
- “It argues the degree in which I had lost touch with my profession that the name of Leslie Armstrong was unknown to me. Now I am aware that he is not only one of the heads of the medical school of the university, but a thinker of European reputation in more than one branch of science.” – Watson
- **Other interestings:** The Scottish town of John o’Groats is the northeast-most point on mainland

Great Britain. Land’s End (the southwest-most point)-to-John o’Groats is a common term for a long journey, or more broadly, to mean simply “all-encompassing”. It is the longest land journey it is possible to make in Great Britain (unless you go around in circles).

- Lord Mount-James had dry skin. How dry was it? Read the story and find out.
- **When all was said and done:** The young wife died, and the team lost their important game. Holmes made friends with Dr. Armstrong, and all agreed to keep the story quiet. This was most likely important to the potential heir of old Lord Mount-James’ estate.

THE NAPOLEON OF DETECTIVES

Rosemary Michaud, Sherlockian Scholarship, Holmes & Watson Report, July, 1998

He was a genius whose intellect was equally adept at both flame-like intuition and severely disciplined logic. He made his living with his brains, acting as a consultant for those who needed his assistance. He walked fearlessly amid the criminal underworld of London, and he easily outdistanced the official police because his methods were so far ahead of his time.

Sherlock Holmes? Well, yes, the description also applies to him. But in this instance, I was actually thinking of Professor James Moriarty. It is not a new idea to point out the similarities between Holmes and Moriarty. However, I wonder if there isn't a further similarity between the two that isn't so well known, another common bond that has been forever obscured by later events. What am I talking about? I'll start my explanation by repeating two quotes that recently caught my eye. You recognize the speaker, of course, none other than Sherlock Holmes, upon whose words we rely for most of our information about Professor Moriarty:

"He is the Napoleon of crime, Watson. He is the organizer of half that is evil and of nearly all that is undetected in this great city." (FINA)

"I happen to know who is the first link in this chain – a chain with this Napoleon-gone-wrong at one end, and a hundred broken fighting men, pickpockets, black-mailers, and card sharpers at the other, with every sort of crime in between." (VALL).

It's the repetition of the "Napoleon" reference that I want to explore. What exactly does this mean? Napoleon was a military genius, a conqueror, an emperor, and much more. Although most of us are not in favor of world conquest, there are aspects of Napoleon and his career that we admire, and it is fairly clear from his remarks that Sherlock Holmes also admired at least some of Napoleon's accomplishments.

You wouldn't call someone a "Hitler-gone-wrong," for instance; the name alone speaks for itself. Napoleon, on the other hand, brought at least temporary order to a country that had been through a revolution. He instituted economic and legal reforms, and left a legacy of good

which somewhat balances his over-reaching ambition.

Speaking on another topic, Sherlock Holmes once said that his choice of words should be taken as "the exact and literal truth." Therefore, if he made such a reference as "Napoleon gone wrong," I think we should examine this statement in all of its implications.

Moriarty was an emperor of crime, that's true, as ambitious for power as any world conqueror. But was Moriarty also desirous of doing good, of seeing his name written down beside the great and respected names of history? If he was, he certainly picked a strange line of work. Master criminals may be remembered, but they are not often revered, and if they are respected at all, it is only grudgingly, as one respects the power of any awesome and harmful thing. In addition, a criminal does not gain world renown until he is at least suspected of his crimes, but Moriarty was so subtle that even Scotland Yard scarcely knew of his criminal brilliance. Except for Holmes's opinion that Moriarty had "a brain which might have made or marred the destiny of nations," the parallels to Napoleon seem strained, to say the least.

But perhaps the problem is that we are looking at Moriarty after he had already "gone wrong," and not as he first set out to be. We do know that Moriarty did not start his career as a criminal; he was a mathematician and a brilliant one. His family was well off, he had an excellent education, and in his early life, when things were going his way, he seemed to be mercifully free of the volatile temperament that had driven such a frightening proportion of his Moriarty ancestors into acts of madness and violence, those "hereditary tendencies of the most diabolical kind" of which Holmes spoke. Mathematics. Was young James Moriarty's passion, and its perfect logic provided a comforting structure for a mind that might otherwise have been congenitally disposed towards chaos.

At twenty-one, Moriarty wrote his treatise on the binomial theorem, and the world of mathematics took due notice. So far, so good; he was on his way to fame

and greatness. Soon, he thought, he would occupy a chair at one of the great universities. He would concentrate his efforts on research and abstract thought; further theoretical breakthroughs would follow.

Could a knighthood be far behind? Then came the silence. His theorem had its day -- its "European vogue" -- and the excitement quickly faded. Other young mathematicians put forward their discoveries, and the academic world's attention passed to them. But James Moriarty did not despair. That binomial theorem had got his foot in the door, but his study of asteroids would make his name a household word. For months, or perhaps even years, he worked on it, and when he was finished, he knew he had created something brilliant, something that no one else in the mathematical and scientific world could touch. The trouble was, no one did touch it. Not even so much as the tiniest university press would give it a second look. Moriarty's genius had taken him so far ahead that none of his peers could follow him there. Later in his life, Moriarty would publish "The Dynamics of an Asteroid" at his own expense, as much to provide cover for his criminal activities as to impress the world of science.

At the time when the disappointment was fresh, Moriarty must have been furious at this new setback in his grand plans. Perhaps it was then that the beast of the family temperament began to stir. He lost patience with the pace of university life. He felt stifled and confined, and in this constantly irritable state, he picked ceaseless quarrels with his colleagues, with students, with anyone whose intellect was inferior to his own -- and that was just about everyone. The inevitable occurred, and he was asked to resign his professorship.

And yet, he was still primarily a man of intellect, and I think he turned to his intellect to find solace for his latest disappointments. Examining his situation with a rational eye, he could see that his mathematical theorems were simply too abstract, too arcane, to bring him the world-wide renown he craved. To gain the attention of the world large, he now

understood that he must accomplish something that was of crucial interest to large numbers of people. Perhaps it was family history of violent deeds which made him think of making his name in the field of law enforcement.

Yes, law enforcement. More specifically, the art of detection. I believe that Moriarty may have attempted to start up his own private detective agency. With his analytical mind, his intense powers of concentration, and the inherent understanding of the criminal mind that was part of his natural inheritance, Moriarty may have hoped to bring the discipline of science to the detection and punishment of crime.

As did Sherlock Holmes later on, Moriarty saw many deficiencies in the methods used by the existing police forces of Great Britain. And Moriarty had another interesting idea as well. Emulating the pioneering French detective Eugene Francois Vidocq, who founded the Brigade de la Surete with a staff which included rehabilitated criminals, Moriarty sought the criminal expertise of those who knew the criminal game best: those "broken fighting men, pickpockets, blackmailers, and card sharpers" who were later to be mentioned by Sherlock Holmes. No doubt Moriarty gathered up those who were the cleverest at their trade to be part of his agency. And he planned his organization upon a grand scale, recruiting literally dozens of operatives for his vast network.

However, the attempt to copy Vidocq's methods did not achieve the results Moriarty intended. I believe that he failed because he was not able to compensate effectively for his two great

deficiencies; his lack of practical experience and his solitary nature. The great Vidocq had himself served hard time for forgery, and also for escaping from prison, and he knew first-hand what it meant to deal with the men who became criminals. Even more importantly, Vidocq seems to have been either an astute judge of character, or else a thoroughly inspirational leader of men, for his rehabilitated subordinates remained on the straight and narrow path almost without exception, only rarely betraying the trust that Vidocq placed in them. We will probably never know if Moriarty chose the wrong men, or if he failed somehow to support those he selected, but whatever the difficulty, his organization was never effective in its original goal of crime detection. There were some successes, but more often than not his men used the information of they had gained in the course of an investigation in order to commit further crimes themselves. The breadth of the organization was also a disadvantage when it came keeping tabs on the employees and enforcing discipline.

At first Moriarty tried what he could to keep his agency on the side of the law. But at some point, he must have run out of patience with his underlings. We can only picture the scene in which Moriarty, tired of being played for a fool by his own employees, finally lost his temper and administered a ruthless discipline in response to some particularly egregious transgression.

Did he kill a man with his own hands? Did he send others to do the deed? Or was there no single moment of anger? Was it merely the lure of the criminal gain

so close to hand which caused Moriarty himself to finally tum to the bad? Whatever actually happened, at some point Moriarty himself became a criminal, and then there was no turning back. What use had it been, Milverton after all, for him to combat the nature he had inherited? He took his empire of would-be crime detectors, and turned them back to the professions in which he had found them. The rest of his story is well known. What has been lost forever is any tangible proof that Moriarty may have once had the best of intentions for his Napoleonic undertaking.

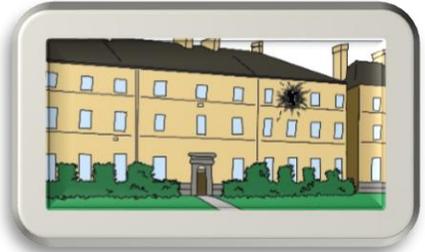
Did Sherlock Holmes know of Moriarty's failed attempt to join the ranks of the great crime-fighters? Was this the reason he thought of Moriarty as a "Napoleon-gone-wrong?" And was this also the reason that Holmes preferred to work nearly alone throughout most of his career as a private detective, with only the trustworthy Watson as his bodyguard and confidant?

Later on, Holmes put limited responsibility into the hands of a few reformed criminals like Shinwell Johnson, but in his early career he trusted no one, not even Watson.

And although Holmes never built a detective agency to rival the empire of Napoleon, neither did he leave behind him the legacy of such an empire gone to the bad. Long since the day when Moriarty, the Napoleon of crime, plunged to the bottom of the Reichenbach abyss, the solitary star of Sherlock Holmes is still in the ascendant.

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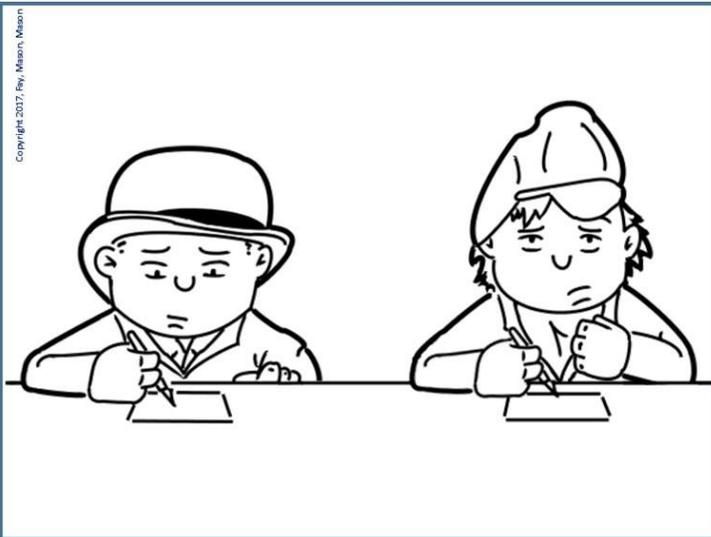
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The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson



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CREATIVE WRITING ASSIGNMENT: WRITE A SHORT STORY, IN AS FEW WORDS AS POSSIBLE, CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS... RELIGION, SELF-ASSESSMENT, AND MYSTERY



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GOOD LORD...
I HAVE NOTHING...
I WONDER IF THIS
WILL PASS?

