

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 06, No. 10 - October, 2018
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



PLEASE NOTE:

November 4 Meeting NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, November 4th, at 1:00 pm. at LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE, in Addison.

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

We will be reading "The Adventure of the Red Circle." The quiz will cover this tale.

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

October 7th Summary

There were 16 people in attendance today. Allen Osborne the Opening Toast (see page 3).

We then proceeded to have a quiz on today's story, "The Illustrious Client." The winner of the quiz was Karen Olson, with James Robinson finishing second.

Reminder: The Dallas Preston-Royal Library will host our society on (Tuesday) November 13th for a symposium. We have time slots for three speakers for 10-15 minutes to cover the following topics: (1) An Introduction to Sherlock Holmes, (2) The Golden Age of Sherlock Holmes, and (3) The Modern Sherlock Holmes.

Our symposium at the Allen Library will be on (Saturday) November 17th from 2-5 pm. We will focus on Holmes in TV, film, stage, radio, and the internet. "The Hound of Pinchin Lane" will be played in the final 40 minutes of the program.

Linda Pieper won Sherlockian prizes in the Gangway Drawings.

The Closing Reading was given by Walter Pieper and was taken from the Baker Street Journal in 2005 (see page 4).

Thanks to Brenda Hutchison for taking the minutes, which can be found on our website.



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
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jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com

myrkrid08@yahoo.com

Our Website: www.dfw-sherlock.org

Our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar/>

The image is a composite of two digital pages. The top portion shows a website for 'THE CREW OF THE BARQUE LONE STAR'. The website has a star logo with a silhouette of a person inside. A navigation menu includes: Home Page, About, Crew Investitures and Awards, Newsletters, Crew Meeting Logs, & Society Pastiches, Papers, Many Faces of Sherlock Holmes, and Ephemera -- General. A featured image shows a building labeled 'Baker Street Elementary' with a spiderweb graphic. A quote on the right side of the website reads: 'vessel which touched at Pondichery of these, one, the Lone Star, instantly of the states of the Union.'

The bottom portion shows a Facebook page for 'The Crew of the Barque Lone Star' (@BarqueLoneStar). The page features a profile picture of the same star logo. A navigation bar includes: Page, Messages (with a red notification), Notifications (with a red notification), Insights, and Publishing Tools. A notification banner says 'You Have Unread Messages' with a 'Read Message' button. The main post is a black and white graphic with the text: 'A SHERLOCK HOLMES LITERARY SOCIETY Monthly meetings every 1st Sunday @ 1pm La Madeleine Country French Café'. Below the post are buttons for Like, Follow, Share, and Add a Button. The left sidebar shows navigation options: Home, About, Photos, Events, Likes, Videos, Posts, and Reviews. The right sidebar includes an 'Organization' section and 'Page Tips' such as 'What's a Boosted Post?' and 'Write a Post to Connect With Your Page Visitors'.

OPENING TOAST - An Old Irish Proverb

Delivered by Allen Osborne



There are good ships and there are wood ships,
Ships that sail the sea

But the best ships are friendships,
May they always be!



THE EDITOR'S GAS-LAMP - SUMMER, 2005

"CAPACITY FOR INNOCENT ENJOYMENT"

Editor – Steven Rothman

Sherlock Holmes has a curious relationship with law enforcement in the Canon.

He discovers criminals, but he does not always let the Law deal with them.

He works with the police, but he isn't a policeman.

He sometimes sneers at Scotland Yard, but seems hurt when they ignore or diminish his contributions to a case.

In short, his relationship with professional law enforcement is much like that of the Sherlockian world with the academic community.

Sherlockians often complain that our interest receives little if any respect in the halls of academe.

While we view ourselves as scholars, we are sheep in wolves' clothing.

We point fingers at errors in perception and fact that we find in critical articles written outside of the parameters we have created to examine the Holmes stories.

We have even gone so far as to dub those stories a Canon, a word that originally was used in biblical studies and has now crept into wider use in the study of literature.

Sherlockians, like Holmes with the police, are in but not of the very serious business that is literary criticism.

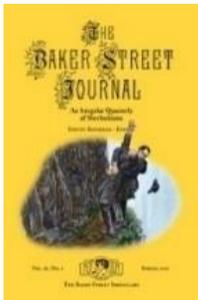
We both want to enjoy our joke and lament that others don't take us seriously. In reality we have won our war.

We may not have respect, but we have earned it for the object of our devotion.

Perhaps it is time to emulate the Holmes of the later stories and relax in our relationship with the academic community.

We should applaud their acceptance of Holmes as a literary character worthy of study and ignore the fact that many of them look down on us for playing the game.

We should be, like Holmes in "The Six Napoleons," gracious victors.



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.

SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR ALL!

NOVEMBER 13TH, 6:00 - 7:30 PM.



*Learn everything about
Sherlock Holmes,
including solving
a mystery like the legend
himself.*

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Dallas, Texas 75229 | 214-670-7128
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Sherlock Holmes Symposium



Saturday, November 17, 2018

Learn more about Sherlock Holmes in a free program presented by The Crew of the Barque Lone Star. This group in a Sherlock Holmes literary society for the greater Dallas/Ft. Worth area, and a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars.

Date: November 17, 2018

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Allen Public Library - Civic Auditorium [View Facility](#)

Address: 300 N. Allen Drive
Allen, TX 75013

Contact: 214.509.4911



SEVENTEEN STEPS TO "RED CIRCLE"

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of "Illustrious Client" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

WHAT'S SHERLOCK GOT AGAINST MRS. WARREN?

We begin this case with Holmes saying, "Well, Mrs. Warren, I cannot see that you have any particular cause for uneasiness, nor do I understand why I, whose time is of some value, should interfere in the matter."

He then proceeds to ignore her. Then Mrs. Warren finally convinces him just to *listen* to her case. Up until this point, Holmes hasn't heard anything but the fact Mrs. Warren's lodger doesn't leave his rooms, and he probably heard that from Mrs. Hudson. Isn't Holmes violating everything he ever preached to Watson early in their partnership? Theorizing in advance of the facts. Ignoring commonplaces, just because they're commonplace. Is Mrs. Warren an especially irritating person whom he's endured before? Is the scrapbook business a lot more fascinating than one would think? Or has Holmes become addicted to rubber cement fumes?

GIVING MRS. WARREN THE HOLMES HYPNO-STARE

"Holmes leaned forward and laid his long, thin fingers upon the woman's shoulder. He had an almost hypnotic power of soothing when he wished. The scared look faded from her eyes, and her agitated features smoothed into their usual commonplace."

Sounds good, but let's break this down. Holmes leans in close enough to Mrs. Warren to put his fingers on her shoulder. He doesn't seem to say anything at all, as would seem natural in such a lean-in moment of comfort.

So what's he doing? If he's looking her straight in the eye while touching her at arm's length,

wouldn't that be a little creepy? He's not patting her -- it's all fingers and shoulder. Is he trying to give her a Vulcan nerve pinch?

URBAN SECURITY, VICTORIAN STYLE

While those of us who live near small towns must endure tales of how everyone used to leave their doors unlocked in the good old days, we find a quite different version of things in Mrs. Warren's neighborhood. Her new lodger asks her not to bar the door before he comes in on that first night. How many households in London of that period actually laid a bar across their door before turning in? Was it more common than locks in the less affluent districts?

HOLMES GOES FOR THE EASY SHOT

This case has to contain the surmise that puts the "duh" in "deduction" as Holmes looks at the two matches and cigarette stub brought by Mrs. Warren and says: "The matches have, of course, been used to light cigarettes. That is obvious from the shortness of the burnt end. Half the match is consumed in lighting a pipe or cigar."

Okay, pipe or cigar smokers, is that necessarily true?

And why did Mrs. Warren only bring *one* cigarette butt and two matches? Nobody smokes just one cigarette, uses two matches to light it, and neither of the matches shows signs of being burned down during a failed lighting attempt. Any ideas?

LIFE IN THE AGONY COLUMN OF THE DAILY GAZETTE

As if the untold tales weren't enough, Holmes teases us with partial ads from the personal column:

"Lady with a black boa at Prince's Skating Club"

"Surely Jimmy will not break his mother's heart"

"If the lady who fainted in the Brixton bus"

"Every day my heart longs"

What might we deduce from such samples? Would a lady skating with a black boa have questionable morals, or is she just another typist in a Duchess of Devonshire hat? Is Jimmy destined for a life of crime?

What happened to the woman who fainted on the bus, and why would anyone want to contact her? And as for that longing heart ... well, there are a few too many longing hearts in the world for any deductions from that one ... aren't there?

THE EASIEST CASE HOLMES EVER HAD

If the "lighting cigarettes" deduction wasn't simple enough, the code Holmes gets to break in this case is surely the limit:

"The path is clearing. If I find chance signal message remember code agreed--one A, two B, and so on. You will hear soon. G."

And that's from the newspaper. How simple did G. think his wife was that he had to remind her of the world's easiest code key? If she's that dense, why didn't he also write, "I'll wave a candle back and forth in the window once for each count"?

WARREN -- THE HUMAN PUNCH CLOCK?

And now the discussion leader's foolish question of the week. We are told that "Mr. Warren is a timekeeper at Morton and Waylight's, in Tottenham Court Road." What or who was he timing?

RECOGNITION COMES SLOWLY SOMETIMES

As if everyone else in this case hasn't already seemed dim enough, the thugs that kidnap Mr. Warren take a full hour to realize they've gotten the wrong man. Did they ever pull the coat off of him? How did they know they'd gotten the wrong man, and why didn't they realize that before they put the coat on him? Did they take him to their chief in that hour, an event Warren was to insensible to notice?

HE ALWAYS RETURNS TO HIS ROOTS

"At half-past twelve we found ourselves upon the steps of Mrs. Warren's house--a high, thin, yellow-brick edifice in Great Orme Street, a narrow thoroughfare at the northeast side of the British Museum."

Does Holmes wind up in his old neighborhood around the British Museum an uncommon amount of times?

Or was the Museum the sort of central location one would expect to wind up at time and again?

SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THE LODGER

Holmes admits "What I did not foresee is we should find a woman, and no ordinary woman, Watson."

So what is it about the lady makes her "not ordinary" to Holmes? Is he actually commenting upon her good looks?

THE SMARTEST MAN AT SCOTLAND YARD RETURNS

We originally meet Inspector Gregson at the same time as Inspector Lestrade in the very first Holmes tale.

Yet Gregson virtually disappears from the stories after that, with Lestrade gaining prominence. Even in this case, one of Gregson's few appearances, the encounter comes entirely by accident.

Both each man seems to admire the other, so it doesn't seem to be a matter of personal friction. So why don't we see more of Gregson?

THERE'S "KNOWING" AND THEN THERE'S "KNOWING"

Leverton says, of Giorgiano, "We know he is at the bottom of fifty murders, and yet we have nothing positive we can take him on."

So how does one know that someone is behind fifty murders (and that's just in America), yet not have proof of any sort to arrest him? They had to hear that Giorgiano did the killings from somebody, didn't they? Was the burden of proof harder to make back then, or easier? Or was Pinkerton's involved because local New York law enforcement was too corrupt and wouldn't arrest him?

LEVERTON -- HOT SHOT DETECTIVE OR SOMETHING ELSE?

An interesting moment occurs on the stairs as the forces of justice move in on Giorgiano: "The Pinkerton man had tried to push past him, but Gregson had firmly elbowed him."

What was Leverton's hurry? Was he seeking credit for the arrest? Did he have a personal grudge against Giorgiano? Or was there some more sinister purpose behind the hero of a supposed mystery involving caves where no caves supposedly exist?

THE POLITICS OF CRIME

"My poor Gennaro, in his wild and fiery days, when all the world seemed against him and his mind was driven half mad by the injustices of life, had joined a Neapolitan society, the Red Circle, which was allied to the old Carbonari."

How would an alliance between the Red Circle and the Carbonari serve either group? Wouldn't one criminal society be looking to keep the other out of its business? While we see the Red Circle moving on to

America, did the Carbonari ever make such a move?

FIXING THE DRAWING

"There was a drawing of lots as to who should carry out the deed. Gennaro saw our enemy's cruel face smiling at him as he dipped his hand in the bag. No doubt it had been prearranged in some fashion, for it was the fatal disc with the Red Circle upon it, the mandate for murder, which lay upon his palm."

Okay, I can understand how one fixes a drawing so one can pull the winner out for one's self. But how do you fix it so a specific someone else pulls the winner?

THE CURIOUS AGENDA OF GENNARO LUCCA

"Finally Gennaro told me, through the paper, that he would signal to me from a certain window, but when the signals came they were nothing but warnings, which were suddenly interrupted."

What had Gennaro hoped to tell his wife through candle signals he couldn't tell her via the newspaper?

And what good are "Warning! Warning! Warning! Danger! Danger! Danger!" messages, anyway? Once he had killed Giorgiano, why didn't Gennaro head straight for his wife, anyway? Had the rest of the Red Circle dragged him off? Or was he running the gang now?

LOOKING BACK AT HOLMES'S PRIORITIES

"By the way, it is not eight o'clock, and a Wagner night at Covent Garden! If we hurry, we might be in time for the second act."

It's interesting to note that Holmes is not so focused on this case that he can't carry concert schedules in his head. Is this a sign he's losing interest in detection, or has his concert-going always had a priority?

CARE FOR A CUPPA?

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

The Canon has thirty-five references to tea and thirty-one for coffee (plus one additional one that describes the color of Miss Mary Sutherland's dress in "A Case of Identity"). While Britain is known for its tea-drinking, coffee also has its place in the culture, having made its way to the island before the first tea leaf arrived.

Coffee is recognized as having been introduced by a Turk in 1637 in Oxford where students and instructors created "The Oxford Coffee Club." The first coffeehouse, The Angel, was opened there in 1650, (1) followed two years later in London by a coffee stall run by Pasqua Roseé, a Greek (now, somewhat ironically, the site of a Starbucks). From the beginning, these establishments were considered places where men in their periwigs could gather to discuss topics of the day, gossip, write, and review what others had written—all fueled by a dark brew served in dishes with unlimited refills. (2)

The first recorded sale of tea was at an auction in 1658, (3) but was first made popular among the aristocracy by Portugal Princess Catherine of Braganza who married Charles II when she brought her habit with her in 1662. Soon, the practice spread from the elite to the middle class where it was consumed in...coffeehouses. Prior to 1689, tea was taxed in liquid form. The tea merchants would brew it in the morning, pay the tax to the collector, and serve it throughout the day. In 1689, tea leaves were taxed instead, and could be brewed throughout the day.

Only men frequented coffeehouses. Women would have the men bring the leaves to be used for

home consumption and social events such as tea parties where the beverage was served from silver teapots into fine china cups. While tea is drunk throughout the day (from breakfast onward), "afternoon tea" raised the traditional tea party to a social institution. According to lore, in 1841, Anna Maria, the wife of the seventh Duke of Bedford, introduced a light meal of small sandwiches and pastries and tea to see her through between lunch and dinner. She was soon inviting friends to join her, and the ritual was born.



Afternoon tea should not be confused with "high tea." With the arrival of the industrial revolution, working class families shifted their main meal of the day to the late afternoon. While tea was still served, hot and much more substantial meal accompanied it when everyone arrived home from school or work. (4)

A great deal of controversy swirled around *Camellia sinensis*. After the introduction of the beverage in Britain, prominent theologians and philanthropists argued for and against its consumption, considering deleterious to one's health—or at least to those in the working class—or a healthful substitute to gin. The rise of the temperance movement led to an increase in tea and coffeehouses that offered non-alcoholic alternatives to pubs. Tea's popularity also increased issues related to smuggling and even a war with China. Due to high taxes the government placed on tea (there was a certain "tea party" in Boston to protest such tariffs), smugglers would bring in the product and undercut legitimate sellers. The government finally succumbed to pressures and eliminated the tax in 1785.

Because all tea came from China (along with other goods such as silk), a great trade imbalance occurred between it and other countries. The one import that could be sold in enough quantity for the required silver and gold was opium. For the British, the East India Company used “country traders” licensed to carry goods from India to China to sell the product, which the Company then used to purchase Chinese products. By 1838, so much opium was sold that the trade balance actually tipped in Britain’s favor. Chinese efforts to stem the trade led to two wars where the European countries were able to create a legal trade in the drug. (5)

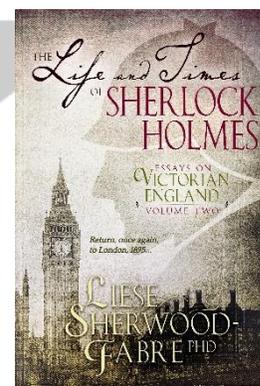
Subterfuge was not limited to smuggling. There were attempts to bring seedling and seeds from China to India for cultivation, but they never flourished as well as a native bush found in the

Upper Brahmaputara Valley, which led to large tea plantations and the creation of several major companies.

Tea continues to be a major part of the British diet, with the average British man drinking about thirteen cups a week, and women drinking about eleven. (6) Coffee drinking having been on the rise since the 1970s, a result of a swing in preferences as well as a push to reduce workplace “tea breaks” under Margaret Thatcher has led to fewer cups being consumed each year. (7)

Holmes and Watson were not above consuming both tea and coffee, but as with other Victorians, tea offered a social moment unique to British culture. The two sat down to high tea in The Valley of Fear, not “high coffee.”

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- (1) <https://www.turkishcoffeeworld.com/History-of-Coffee-s/60.htm>
 - (2) <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/united-kingdom/england/london/articles/London-cafes-the-surprising-history-of-Londons-lost-coffeehouses/>
 - (3) <http://www.teaanswers.com/history-tea/>
 - (4) <http://www.tea.co.uk/a-social-history>
 - (5) <https://www.britannica.com/topic/opium-trade>
 - (6) <https://www.newfoodmagazine.com/news/22349/coffee-consumption-in-the-uk/>
 - (7) https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/05/04/why-the-british-are-drinking-coffee-instead-of-tea/?utm_term=.afb50958ef7f



You can check out more of Liese Sherwood-Fabre’s writings at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com.

Dr. Sherwood-Fabre’s book “The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes” includes this and other essays on Victorian England and is now available on Amazon. It will be available everywhere September 15. She will have a booth at “From Gillette to Brett V” in Bloomington, Indiana in October where copies will also be available for purchase.

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>

An Inquiry Into "The Red Circle"

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

- "The Adventure of the Red Circle" was first published in The Strand Magazine in March 1911. It is part of His Last Bow.
- The chronology for this case is not unanimous. The various estimates are as follows:
Canon: None; Baring-Gould: Wednesday, September 24, 1902; Bell: January 1897; Blakeney: 1881–1887; Brend: January 1896; Christ: January 1893; Dakin: 1897, possibly February; Folsom: February 1902; Hall: Mid-February 1902; Keefauver: Tuesday, January 6, 1885; Klinger: 1902; Zeisler: Winter 1895-1902.
- If the case took place in 1902, as the majority of our Canon chronologists state, then at the time Holmes was 48 years old and Watson 50.

Notable Quotes:

- Holmes was accessible upon the side of flattery, and also, to do him justice, upon the side of kindness.
- "Bleat, Watson—unmitigated bleat!"
- "Education never ends, Watson. It is a series of lessons, with the greatest for the last."

== The Linguistic Deduction ==

Holmes' deduction that the mysterious lodger did not speak English well, because she asked for "match" instead of "matches" is not only solid, but inspired. However, according to him, he based this deduction upon the

belief that she probably had to look up the English word for "match" out of a dictionary, because "a dictionary would give the noun but not the plural."

I have English dictionaries dating back to the time (one of which defines uranium as "a yellow oxide of little value, first isolated from pitchblende by Klaproth in 1789." Wonderful!), and they invariably provide a word's plural. Not owning any bilingual dictionaries of the time, I can only go by my experience with modern dictionaries, and these also provide the plural of the words; this is especially true if the noun in question stands for something that almost always comes in numbers, such as matches, cigarettes, eyes, and grapes.

== The Incredible Discovery ==

This is not the only case we find in the Sacred Writings in which someone desperate to escape from some nemesis from a previous life (DANC, GLOR, and STUD pop into mind right away), takes extreme measures and exerts great efforts to disappear, but is nevertheless found by the foe.

How could Gorgiano have possibly have tracked the Luccas—Emilia in this case—to Mrs. Warren's? When one considers the way Gennaro secreted away his wife into her hiding place and the fact that she would not even peek through the window, the whole thing appears improbable.

Added to this is the fact that even had Gennaro been located and followed, he ensured that he would not be near his wife—would not even write to her—and solely used the newspaper's agony column to communicate with her. The result seems to be rather improbable.

== Sexual Writing ==

According to Holmes, "The printed messages, as is now evident, were to prevent her sex being discovered by her writing." I always have problems with this. This kind of comment was fairly common in the literature of the time. However, I remain unconvinced. While it is true that often (not always) an expert is able to make a determination of the writer's sex, it still requires an expert.

Doubtless, Holmes would have been able to do this at a glance, but I rather suspect that this would be easier today than it was back then. I caught the tail end of the requirement to master calligraphy using pen and ink (blotches, blotches!). We learnt from exercise books intended for both boys and girls, not different ones for each sex. The result was that the forming of the letters was the same for both sexes.

While eventually, of course, one did develop a personal style, the result did not resemble what is in fashion today, when some ladies affect cutesy little curlicues over the letter "i" or write with

colored, often odoriferous, inks.
What say you, Hounds?

== The Peculiar Interpretation ==

It always puzzles me how Holmes did not call in the police, because everything that had been going on—including a message stating, “Beware! Danger!”—“may bear some more innocent interpretation”! What did the Great Detective need to call the law ---?

== The Pinkertons ==

Members of this organization appear in two of the canonical stories, as intrepid bloodhounds of the law. Holmes’ admiration seems somewhat ill-placed considering the somewhat mottled history of the group.

That being said it is interesting that it is not the American police that are after Gorgiano, but a private detective agency with no official standing. This makes me believe that our Italian thug was just that—a thug, run-of-the-mill murderer. Someone the police would be very happy to collar, but would not exert an international effort to accomplish.

Conclusion? The Pinkertons did not act unless they had a client. If they were searching for Gorgiano beyond the borders of the United States it had to be because someone—individual or group and not the government—was footing the bill. Whoever wanted Gorgiano found most likely had a strong interest in ruining his health—probably an enemy or a rival criminal organization; the Pinkertons weren’t too choosy about their clients as long as they had ready cash.

Something else to consider it that a Pinkerton agent in England would have had no authority whatsoever; he would be just another private citizen—a foreigner (American!) at that. Since there was no mention that Leverton had any authority or backing from any level or branch of the American government that British authorities might recognize, why was Gregson so ready to cooperate with him, including Leverton in an official investigation? It does not appear that there was even an outstanding warrant for Gorgiano’s arrest!

== An Odd Communication with the Police ==

Emilia told Holmes that her husband “wished to be free that he might communicate with both the American and with the Italian police.” This is understandable from the perspective that the police of either country would have been happy to get a hold of Gorgiano. But that why would Gennaro not contact the English police as well? Even if he had been able to reveal the whereabouts of Gorgiano to the Americans and Italians that would have done him no good, because they still would have been unable to do anything to intervene.

Even if at first Scotland Yard did not believe him, a check with their colleagues on both continents would have soon confirmed the story and Gennaro would have had a somewhat more substantial ally at his back. Leverton must have approached the Yarders; however, he would have later encountered the problem that Gorgiano would have been arrested by British

authorities, and it is very unlikely that he would have been given custody.

What else happened in 1902:

EMPIRE

- First celebration of Empire Day (renamed “Commonwealth Day” in 1959).
- First meeting of the Committee of Imperial Defence in London.
- Joseph Chamberlain advocates return to Protection and Imperial Preference.
- Anglo-German fleet seizes Venezuelan fleet to recover debts and reparations.
- Peace of Vereeniging, ends Boer War. Casualties: 5,774 British and 4,000 Boers killed.

BRITAIN

- Salisbury resigns, succeeded as PM by Arthur Balfour.
- Anglo-Japanese Treaty, for mutual defense and to maintain status quo in Far East recognizes the independence of China and Korea.
- Sir Giles Gilbert Scott designs Liverpool Cathedral.
- Institution of the Order of Merit by King Edward for distinguished service to the state; limited to 24 holders at one time.
- Education Act abolishes School Board system. Local control goes to town and county councils.
- Secondary Education authorized out of rates.
- British Academy granted Royal Charter.
- Esperanto introduced to England.

- Establishment of Metropolitan Water Board, supplying London.
- Arthur Conan Doyle is knighted.

WORLD

- Franco-Italian secret treaty; Italy to remain neutral if France is attacked by a third power.
- Failure of second Belgian General Strike.
- Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria, and Italy) renewed to 1914.
- Italian designs on Tripoli conditionally approved by France and Austria.
- Russo-Japanese Convention, Russia agrees to evacuate Manchuria in 18 months.
- Leon Trotsky escapes from Siberia, settles in London.
- Martinique volcanic eruption destroys town of St. Pierre.
- Coal strike in U.S.A.
- National bankruptcy declared in Portugal.
- French work day reduced to 9 1/2 hours.

- U.S.A. acquires perpetual control over Panama Canal. Control is held until 1977, when President Jimmy Carter turns canal over to Panama, which assumes final control in 1999.
- Public Health Act in France improves artisan living conditions.
- White settlement of Kenya begins.
- Aswan Dam opened.
- St. Pierre, Martinique, destroyed by earthquake.
- Abdul Hamid gives Germany concessions to build railway to Baghdad; rail system to stretch from Hamburg to the Persian Gulf.
- Tientsin Sanitary Police established; first Chinese public health measure.
- F.A. Krupp takes over Germania shipbuilding yard at Kiel; great armaments firm develops.

ART

- Conan Doyle publishes *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

- Kipling publishes *Just So Stories*.
- Arthur Edward Woodley Mason publishes *The Four Feathers*.
- Beatrix Potter publishes *Peter Rabbit*.
- Enrico Caruso makes his first gramophone record—154 recordings in all.
- Elgar composes the first of his *Pomp and Circumstance* marches, the *Coronation Ode*.
- Monet, *Waterloo Bridge*.
- Gauguin, *Riders by the sea*.
- Gauguin paints *The Call*.
- Debussy composes *Pelléas et Mélisandé*.
- Picasso paints *Nude, Back View*.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Wireless telegraphy applied to ships.
- Oliver Heaviside, English physicist, reveals the existence of an atmospheric layer which aids the conduction of radio waves.
- Trans-Pacific Cable laid.
- Completion of Aswan Dam in Egypt.

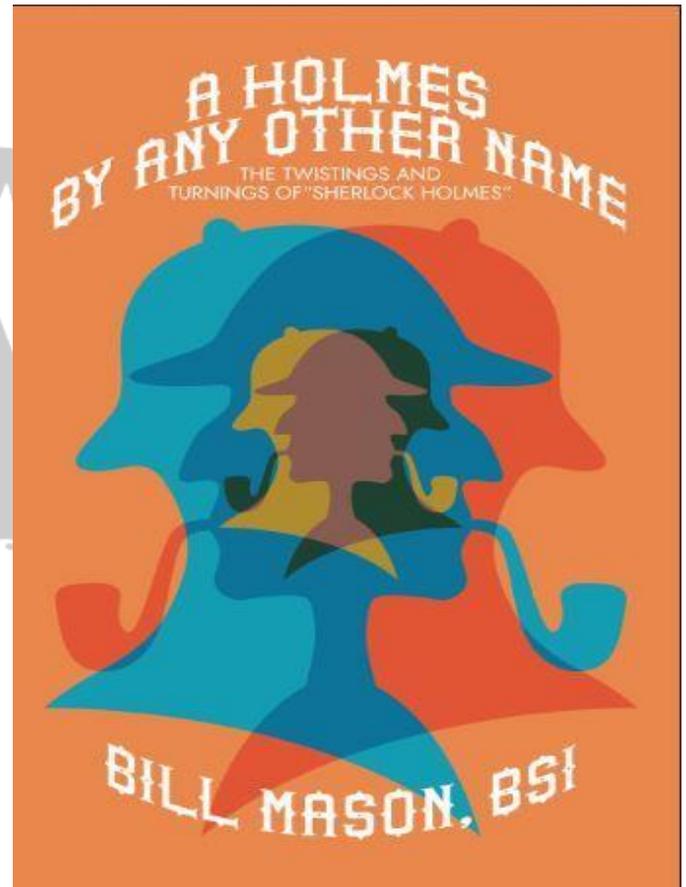
From One of Our Own

A Holmes By Any Other Name: The Twistings and Turnings of “Sherlock Holmes” is now available from Wildside Press.

When Arthur Conan Doyle finally decided on a name for the greatest detective in history, he could not have envisioned just how perfect “Sherlock Holmes” would be for parody, for rhyme, for the transposing of letters and sounds, for the substitution of suggestive words in the name of a comic character: Beerlock Foams, Cockroach Bones, Heddlock Phones, Herlock Sholmes, Mukluk Gnomes, Picklock Holes, Sheerluck Hums, Shellshock Sloan, Shirley Combs, Smallpox Soles...and hundreds more!

This is not just a list, but also a catalogue of 578 parody names derived from a true phonetic gold mine: the name Sherlock Holmes. Many are unique, the exclusive product of a single creative mind. Others are found frequently, although they were most likely continually reinvented rather than copied. All are credited to their creators and referenced to their first appearance. Also included are lists of parody names for Watson and Moriarty and a full index.

These appellations are gleaned from a multitude of sources. The “twistings and mis-shapenings” of the name Sherlock Holmes can be found almost everywhere: novels, short stories, jokes, cartoons, comics, movies, plays, puppet shows, radio and television programs, the internet, newspapers, magazines, video games, jewelry, toys, music, and even supermarket fliers. All are represented in this listing.



Soft cover, 196 pages. Now available for \$12.99 from Wildside Press at <http://wildsidepress.com/a-holmes-by-any-other-name-by-bill-mason-paperback/> and from Amazon.com.

CANON QUEERIES - The Red Circle

RALPH EDWARDS, BSI 2s

Ralph Edwards was secretary of The Six Napoleons of Baltimore, responsible for sending meeting notices. In 1972, he began attaching a set of questions to serve as stimulus for discussion at the meetings. This practice was continued by the other Baltimore scion society, The Carlton Club, which Ralph formed in 1976.

Thanks to Les Moskowitz Les221b@comcast.net, for making these available to us.

1. What other cases does Holmes try not to accept?
2. Are pertinacity and cunning sexual traits?
3. What does "and all complete" include?
4. Was five pounds a week excessively high?
5. Why did Gennaro promise a long stay?
6. Was it usual for doors to be both locked AND barred?
7. Is all the pacing consistent with but one cigarette-end?
8. Do cigars and pipes take half a match?
9. Does the code mentioned suggest a stupid recipient?
10. Was the attack on Mr. Warren a logical development?
11. Are Morton, Waylight and Castalotte intended as puns?
12. Does the distant tinkle suggest the house's history?
13. Did clearing a space in the box room alert Emilia to danger?
14. Did Emilia have lunch and dinner that day?
15. Does writing differ by sex?
16. Was the code message changed by Watson for dramatic effect?
17. Who did Gennaro think Gregson was?
18. Is there significance in the use of knives and not guns?

DEAD? NOT HARDLY

Bill Mason, Holmes and Watson Report, January, 2001

"I heard you were dead," asserts one bad guy after another to the very much alive and always formidable John Wayne in *Big Jake* (1970). "Not hardly," he'd reply before delivering either a beating or a bullet to the offender. The same statement was directed repeatedly to the estimable, but clearly exasperated, Snake Plissken (Kurt Russell) in *Escape from New York* (1981) just before he turned the futuristic prison society on its ear.

As anyone who has ever watched a television soap opera knows full well, if you don't actually see someone die, convincingly and completely, with face intact, and without an identical twin, and then actually see the body go into the grave, with dirt piled on top and packed down firmly - well, that person more than likely really isn't dead. "I'll be back" is written all over the last scene.

Fiery car wrecks, lost planes, falls off cliffs, and reports of a plague in a remote Mexican village are all notoriously unreliable affirmations of death. The soap opera character not only can, but certainly will, reappear - usually after the "surviving" spouse has married a best friend, relative, or bitter enemy. Amnesia is a convenient partner in such plots. It occurs approximately twelve thousand percent more often in soap operas than in real life.

Now, don't misunderstand. We're not talking about the "living dead" a la *Dracula* or the "evil twin" theme explored in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Stoker and Stevenson can lay claim to popularizing, if not originating, those motifs. No, we're talking about the character not having died at all. Two of the greatest examples from literature have to be Tom Sawyer (who attended his own funeral) and Sherlock Holmes, who globe-trotted for three years before condescending to let his grief-stricken best friend know anything about it.

Tom, a child after all, just lost track of time while playing pirates with Huck Finn. Holmes's approach seems harder to explain. Neither had amnesia. At any rate, the reappearance of Holmes was dramatic and exciting and truly spectacular. And if it worked for Holmes, there is no reason it could not work for others as well. Casting about the Canon, more examples of reportedly dead men being alive after all easily can be found.

By far, the most colorful of these is Francis Hay (Frank) Moulton - documented to have been killed in New Mexico when "a miner's camp had been attacked by Apache Indians" (NOBL). Hattie Doran "never doubted that Frank was really dead," but her account of his reappearance rivals and even excels that of Holmes, at least

for timeliness and effect.

Explains Hattie: "Frank had been a prisoner among the Apaches, had escaped, came to 'Frisco, found that I had given him up for dead and had gone to England, followed me there, and had come upon me at last on the very morning of my second wedding." Many modern soap opera writer would steal that scene in a minute! One of them probably has. There are others. Henry (Harry) Wood, long presumed to be dead by the man who had betrayed him at the time of the Indian Mutiny, so shocked James Barclay he fell over dead - "The bare sight of me was like a bullet through his guilty heart" (CROO).

The flint-hearted Jonas Oldacre hid in a secret room, trying to frame "the unhappy John Hector Mcfarlane" (NORW). And Neville St. Clair was found in disguise, sitting in prison and accused of his own murder (TWIS).

All of these returned to the living in the very pages of the Canon. But could there be others? Holmes's adventures chronicle a number of "deaths" which were never really confirmed, leaving a crack in the door for a return. Here, then, is a top ten list of "not hardly dead" characters, in ascending order of their likelihood to have really been alive after all:

#10 - John Openshaw (FIVE)

Holmes has been harshly criticized for sending John Openshaw out of his Baker Street rooms and into the waiting arms of the Ku Klux Klan; but what evidence is there, really, the young man was killed? All the constable heard was "a cry for help and a splash in the water." There was no account of anyone actually identifying the body. An assumption was made based only upon "an envelope which was found in his pocket." Openshaw told Holmes he was "armed," but there was no report of a weapon being on the body, nor did he have a struggle with his attackers. He had two warnings from Holmes fresh on his mind and ample reason to be on his guard anyway. Openshaw's death was more likely an elaborate hoax, a staged death to divert his adversaries.

#9 - Harold Latimer and Wilson Kemp (GREE)

The whole tale involving Paul and Sophy Kratides, Mr. Melas, Mycroft, and the two villains Latimer and Kemp is so full of improbabilities and unexplained loose ends that Watson's supposition about the demise of the two kidnapers / murderers easily can be taken with a grain of salt. There can be little doubt the entire episode was in reality a skirmish in The Great Game (as Kipling described it) of international espionage and power-politics intrigue Mycroft was so deeply involved in conducting. The "curious newspaper clipping" suggesting that Sophy "came to be avenged" by stabbing the two

men to death would be child's play for the Secret Service - British or otherwise - to manufacture. Nothing in this story can be taken at face value; and Sophy, Latimer and Kemp may well have played The Great Game for many years to come.

#8- Hudson and Beddoes (GLOR)

Sherlock Holmes suspected that Hudson, the blackmailing sailor-turned-butler, was murdered by one of his targets, Beddoes (formerly Evans). The police believed just the opposite – that Hudson killed Beddoes and ran off with whatever money he could scrape together. The fact is, there is not one shred of evidence that either of them was murdered at all. Both simply disappeared without a trace, and "neither of them was ever heard of again." Once the elder Trevor was dead and the secret of the Gloria Scott was revealed, Hudson's hold on Beddoes was gone. If no murder occurred, these two either went their own ways or perhaps – being practical opportunists - even came to terms and began a new life of criminal conspiracy together.

#7 - Leonardo the Strong Man (VEIL)

The strong man of the Ronder circus would have been a woman's fantasy under any circumstances, considering his "magnificent physique" and "splendid body," but Eugenia Ronder was particularly susceptible to his charms because of her husband's cruelty. They conspired to murder Ronder and framed the

circus lion for the crime, but not before Eugenia was maimed for life. She kept their secret until she read in some unidentified newspaper that "he was drowned last month when bathing near Margate." But how seriously can this report be taken? After all, Leonardo had "a clever scheming brain," and the likelihood of someone so physically fit drowning at a seaside resort would appear to be as slim as it would be ironic. No, Leonardo would be more likely to end seven years of looking over his shoulder by faking his own death.

#6 - Captain James Calhoun (FIVE)

Captain Calhoun and his two accomplices supposedly met their just deserts when the sailing ship Lone Star of Savannah went down in "the equinoctial gales" of the Atlantic Ocean. Now, the Ku Klux Klan of the 1880s, of which Calhoun and his minions were members - was not the beer-guzzling, pot-bellied, semi-literate trailer trash of today. These were fairly sophisticated conspirators who had journeyed overseas to commit two, and perhaps three, murders that went undetected until they already had departed for America. Even if the ship really sank - and the only evidence for that is a rumor about a piece of wood with "L.S." carved on it - there is no absolute assurance that Calhoun was on board. For all we know, he made it back to Florida and lived out his life as just another

bitter ex-Confederate, shaking his fist at history.

#5 - The Worthington Bank Gang (RESI)

The members of the Worthington Bank Gang - Biddle, Hayward and Moffat - stalked and finally killed their former partner in crime Sutton (a.k.a. Blessington) to exact their revenge because he had turned evidence against them. "From that night, nothing has been seen of the three murderers by the police, and it is surmised by Scotland Yard that they were among the passengers of the ill-fated steamer Norah Creina, which was lost some years ago with all hands upon the Portuguese coast, some leagues to the north of Oporto." Of all the vague and weak cases for justice-served-by-fate-at-sea (a recurring theme in this list and throughout the Canon), this takes the cake. This trio had no past history of foreign travel, and there is no real evidence presented to justify the assumption they were on board this vessel. Scotland Yard, perhaps embarrassed by its failure to close the case, may have seized on an otherwise unremarkable loss of a rickety old steamer to get the case off the shelf.

#4 - Don Murillo (WIST)

Six months after escaping England, Don Murillo, "once called the Tiger of San Pedro," and his secretary Lopez "were both murdered in their rooms at the Hotel Escorial at Madrid," where they supposedly were

registered under false names. But all that Inspector Baynes, Holmes and Watson had on hand to convince them that "justice, if belated, had come at last" was "a printed description of the dark face of the secretary, and of the masterful features, the magnetic black eyes, and the tufted brows of his master." However, Murillo was, after all, "as cunning as he was cruel," and he had managed to elude the howling mobs of a general uprising in the country he had ruled for more than a decade. Despite being hunted, Murillo always "took every precaution," and he and Lopez managed to escape England altogether. Surely, such a Machiavellian figure easily could arrange a pair of murders in Madrid, cross a few palms among the local police and the press, and see to it that the "printed description" -- along with the false conclusion it was intended to produce -- found its way to Baynes.

#3 - Jack Stapleton CHOUN)

Watson, himself, admitted that there was "no slightest sign" of Stapleton as they searched for him in "the heart of the great Grimpen Mire." When Sir Henry Baskerville's missing boot was discovered along the treacherous path, Holmes assumed that Stapleton had it with him on the night of the final attempt on Sir Henry's life. Yet, the time of the boot's usefulness was long past - there were many opportunities for Stapleton to get better and fresher objects bearing Sir Henry's scent after he

became a regular visitor to Merripit House. And why would he carry it around once he had loosed the hound? "There was much we might surmise" about the fate of "this cold and cruel-hearted man," said Watson. However, the assumption that he was "forever buried" in "the foul slime of the huge morass" has very little in the way of facts to support it. Rodger Baskerville, who had at least twice taken on false identities (as Vandeleur and Stapleton), may have found a new identity and a new criminal career far away from the gloom of Dartmoor.

#2 - Tonga (SIGN)

No more thrilling chase scene can be found in literature than that on the Thames when Holmes and Watson pursued Jonathan Small and Tonga, a fierce Andaman Islander, who were aboard the Aurora. As Tonga prepared a deadly poison dart for his blow-gun, Holmes and Watson fired their pistols. Tonga "whirled round, threw up his arms, and, with a kind of choking cough, fell sideways into the stream." As they "shot past," still in pursuit, Watson records that he "caught one glimpse of his venomous, menacing eyes amid the white swirl of the waters." The body was never found, and Watson assumed that it lay "somewhere in the dark ooze at the bottom of the Thames." Yet, the last time anyone actually saw Tonga, he was very much alive - dead or even dying people in the water don't have "venomous, menacing eyes." The "choking

cough" could have been no more than an exclamation of anger or fear prior to a dive into the water. Tonga was being shot at, after all. And don't forget, he came from a strong water-oriented island culture. A dip in the Thames likely would have been child's play for him. With a primitive instinct for survival, in a bustling city like London with so many places to hide, and with a large number of ships available for stow-away, Tonga was an odds-on favorite not only to survive, but also to escape England altogether.

#1 - Birdy Edwards (VALL)

Of all the supposed deaths in the canon, that of Birdy Edwards is the most difficult to believe. This was a hardened, experienced, and very professional detective, a master of survival. This was a man who infiltrated the infamous Scowlers of Vermissa Valley, dodged several attempts on his life, and braved the violence of the California gold fields. He twice lived under false identities

- as Jack McMurdo and Jack Douglas - and engineered a magnificent deception, the apparent deaths of the entire Wilcox family. Yet, we are asked to believe that he was "lost overboard in a gale off St. Helena," an almost passive victim of the agents of Moriarty.

Some have speculated that Holmes's near-obsession with the evil professor caused him to leap to a paranoid extreme in linking Moriarty to The Valley of Fear case at all. In fact, there is no real evidence of a connection outside of Holmes's own assertions and a supposed "cipher" from Fred Porlock - a message which, significantly, was never decoded. Even then, Holmes had to acknowledge that Moriarty's involvement was "an absolute extravagance of energy." But why, indeed, would Moriarty agree to help a bunch of coarse ex-convicts from America, no longer wielding any criminal power or organization and out of money (which had been "spent like water" trying to save Boss McGinty and his

stooges), in what, to him, was a simple case of revenge? Why would Moriarty's reputation need such a boost?

It seems much more likely that Birdy Edwards, with the help of his wife Ivy, once again engineered a death - this time his own. Holmes spoke truly when he speculated that "it was well stage-managed." And if Holmes was a party to Edwards' plan, knowing in advance that he intended to put his pursuers off his track once and for all by staging this "accident" (as the cable-gram called it), then blaming Holmes' nemesis Moriarty was a perfect diversion. Holmes was looking "far into the future." He knew a showdown with Moriarty was coming. In the meantime, if he managed to boost the professor's reputation as "the greatest schemer of all time" while helping a friend and ally in the fight against crime, then all the better. Surely, Edwards, like Holmes, lived to work for justice long after Moriarty supposedly ended his life.."

56 STORIES IN 56 DAYS - "The Red Circle"

Posted on October 28, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet (Charlotte Anne Walters)

This is another complicated story, but unlike Wisteria Lodge, I think it hangs together really well, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

Landlady Mrs. Warren comes to see Holmes regarding her unusual lodger.

This strange man took the room, paid above the odds on the condition she left him completely alone, and he hasn't left the room or been seen for the last ten days – except going out on the evening he arrived and returning after everyone had gone to bed.

Holmes is busy at the time when she calls, sticking things in his scrap book, and is initially rather rude and dismissive towards her.

Mrs. Warren persists and persuades him with a little flattery.

Watson tells us – 'Holmes was accessible upon the side of flattery, and also, to do him

justice, upon the side of kindness'.

It is something that this bogging project has reminded me of – that Holmes was capable of much kindness, sensitivity, even emotion at times and the stereotype of a cold, clinical thinking machine is far too simplistic.

The lodger who stays in the room is not actually the person who engaged it.

There was a switch and the person occupying the room is actually an Italian woman who is hiding from the leader of The Red Circle – an Italian mafia-style gang of which her husband (who took the rooms initially) was a member.

The couple fled to London in order to escape the gang because the leader, Gorgiano, made a pass at the wife then ordered her husband to murder a close family friend.

Once in London, the husband hides his wife at Mrs Warren's

for safety – that is why she hasn't seen her lodger leave the room for ten days.

The police are already investigating the situation with help from an American detective from Pinkerton's agency.

Holmes' investigation interweaves with the official one and ultimately the woman's husband kills Gorgiano.

Upon hearing the wife's story, all decide that he should not be punished as he was justified in bumping off such a notorious murderer and all-round nasty villain.

So, all's well that ends well and a complicated tale draws to a close.

Generally, I do prefer the more small-scale stories to these complicated international sagas, but there is a subtlety to this one which I enjoyed. 7 out of 10.

STORY INFO PAGES FOR "The Red Circle"

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First published in: The Strand Magazine, March/April 1911• Time frame of story (known/surmised): Winter. No other indications. To us, it sounds like an earlier Holmes rather than a later Holmes.• H&W living arrangements: Sharing quarters at 221B.• Opening scene: Mrs. Warren, a landlady, has arrived, and tells SH of her concerns regarding a tenant with peculiar habits.• Client: Mr. Warren, the landlady.• Crime or concern: The tenant paid double, asked for absolute privacy, and was never seen by Mrs. Warren after the initial contact. Constantly paced the room nervously. Then two weeks later, Mrs. Warren's husband was abducted and released without harm. H&W later peeked at the lodger, and determined it was a woman.• Villain: Giuseppe Gorgiano, an Italian criminal. He was a leader of the Red Circle, a | <p>Neapolitan society which was allied to the old Carbonari. an organization of Italian criminals, which Mrs. Warren's tenant's husband, Gennaro, had innocently joined years earlier. Gorgiano tried to force Gennaro to kill his friend and benefactor and had assaulted Gennaro's wife, but the couple fled to England instead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motive: Gennaro was hunted down, but then killed Gorgiano in self defense while trying to send a coded warning signal to his wife.• Logic used to solve: Clues from the agony columns: "Be patient. Will find some sure means of communication. Meanwhile, this column. G." That was two days after Mrs. Warren's lodger arrived. Three days later: "Am making successful arrangements. Patience and prudence. The clouds will pass. G." A week later, and a day before the client called: "The path is clearing. If I find chance signal message remember code agreed — one A, two B, and so on. You will hear soon. G." Two days later: "High | <p>red house with white stone facings. Third floor. Second window left. After dusk. G."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A stake-out of the lodger revealed it was a woman, not the man who had rented the room. The woman was tall and beautiful.• Holmes viewed the window and read the coded message. It was warned of danger, in Italian, and was interrupted. The interruption was indicative of some devilry going forward.• Policemen: When H&W went to the building where Gennaro had been hiding, they found Inspector Gregson in company with an American Pinkerton detective, Mr. Leverton.• Holmes' fees: It is art for art's sake, Watson. I suppose when you doctored you found yourself studying cases without thought of a fee?" "For my education, Holmes."• "Education never ends, Watson. It is a series of lessons with the greatest for the last. This is an instructive case. There is neither money nor credit in |
|---|---|---|

it, and yet one would wish to tidy it up.”

- **Transport:** H&W came round in time to client’s house, by unspecified means. Later when they returned. the gloom of a London winter evening had thickened into one gray curtain, a dead monotone of colour.
- **Food:** The client’s mysterious lodger usually had lunch about 1:00.
- **Drink:** None mentioned.
- **Vices:** The mysterious lodger, who turned out to be a woman, smoked cigarettes in her quarters.
- **Other cases mentioned:** A simple matter in which SH brought light into the

darkness and arranged an affair for Mr. Fairdale Hobbs, who was one of Mrs. Warren’s lodgers.

- The Long Island cave mystery, of which Mr. Leverton, the Pinkerton, was the hero.
- **Notable Quotables:** “(She) had the pertinacity and also the cunning of her sex.” – SH
- I’ll do you this justice, Mr. Holmes, that I was never in a case yet that I didn’t feel stronger for having you on my side. – Gregson
- **Other interestings:** Once more, Watson is described as having a moustache: “Watson, even your modest moustache would have been singed.” -SH
- Client’s husband had a job as a timekeeper at Morton

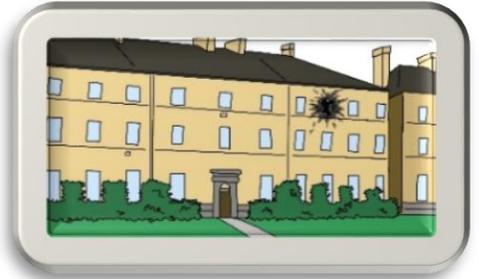
and Waylight’s, in the neighbourhood where Henry Baker lost his hat and goose.

- “Education, Gregson, education. Still seeking knowledge at the old university.” – SH
- **When all was said and done:** Gorgiano had been a devil and a monster. He was a giant, and everything about him was grotesque, gigantic, and terrifying. He had trailed Gennaro and his wife to England, but his revenge scheme did not work out. He was killed by Gennaro instead
- Later, after the case was resolved, it was not yet eight o’clock, and a Wagner night at Covent Garden. H&W hurried, to be in time for the second act.

Baker Street Elementary

Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason

The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson



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