

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 06, No. 08 - August, 2018
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



PLEASE NOTE:

September 1 **Meeting NOTICE**

The next meeting will be our annual Picnic, on

Saturday,
September 1.

See page 5 for the details.

We will be reading "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax." The quiz will cover this tale.

August 05th Meeting Summary

There were 18 people in attendance today. Pam Mason conducted the Opening Toast, "A Few Garrideb Thoughts" written by Dorothy Belle Pollack and published in the Fall, 1997 *Serpentine Muse* (see page 3).

We then proceeded to have a quiz on today's story, "The Three Garridebs." The winner of the quiz was Karen Olson, with Ann Caddell finishing second.

"The Adventure of the Poisoned Cotton Merchant" leapt from the pages as Karen Olson thrilled us with a reading of her own Sherlockian pastiche, an adventure based upon historical events and details.

Dr. William J. Pervin, Professor Emeritus, University of Texas at Dallas presented his work "A Criticism of the Three Garridebs" (see page 6)

Anyone planning to write a story to include in *A Grimmer Holmes*, the follow-up book to *A Grimm Holmes*, needs to submit the completed story by the last day of September. This provides time for proofing, editing, and publishing prior to the Christmas holiday.

On Saturday, Sept 1st, the Crew's picnic will take place at Karen and Charles Olson's home. Please RSVP. The picnic will take place of our September meeting (see page 5).

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) Sherlock Holmes in the Movies and Television, and (3) Sherlock Holmes in Animation.

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.

Brenda Hutchison and Angela Lusk won Sherlockian prizes in the Gangway Drawings.

The Closing Reading was given by Steve and was taken from the Baker Street Journal in 2004 (see page 4).

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
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myrkrid08@yahoo.com

Our Website: www.dfw-sherlock.org

Our Facebook Page:

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

The image is a collage of Sherlock Holmes-themed content. On the left, there are several quotes from a story on a parchment-like background: "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..." "What then?" "I remember the Doctor..."

In the center, there is a screenshot of a website titled "THE CREW OF THE BARQUE LONE STAR". The website features a logo with a star and a silhouette of a man. Below the logo is a navigation menu with items: Home Page, About, Crew Investitures and Awards, Newsletters, Crew Meeting Logs, & Society Pastiches, Papers, Many Faces of Sherlock Holmes, and Ephemera -- General. A search bar is visible at the top right. The main content area shows an illustration of a building labeled "Baker Street Elementary" with a spiderweb in the foreground. Below the illustration is the text "THE MAY MEETING".

On the right, there is a poster for "A SHERLOCK HOLMES LITERARY SOCIETY". The poster features a silhouette of a man's profile and the text: "A SHERLOCK HOLMES LITERARY SOCIETY", "Monthly meetings every 1st Sunday @ 1pm", and "La Madeleine Country French Café".

At the bottom, there is a screenshot of a Facebook page for "The Crew of the Barque Lone Star @BarqueLoneStar". The page includes a navigation menu with items: Home, About, Photos, Events, Likes, Videos, Posts, and Reviews. There is a "Create Ad" button. The main content area shows a post with the text "A SHERLOCK HOLMES LITERARY SOCIETY" and "Monthly meetings every 1st Sunday @ 1pm La Madeleine Country French Café". Below the post are buttons for "Like", "Follow", "Share", and "Add a Button". There is also a "You Have Unread Messages" notification and a "Page Tips" section.

A FEW GARRIDEB THOUGHTS

Dorothy Belle Pollock, *The Serpentine Muse*, Volume 13, Number 4 - Fall, 1997

The will of a millionaire
Is involved in this affair.
And it's tricky beyond belief.

Before the weird case is closed,
A murderer is exposed
And brought to ultimate grief.

Nathan Garrideb we meet;
He's on Little Ryder Street,
And his place is really a mess -

Full of skulls and fossil bones,
And coins and flints and stones
(And Prescott's Printing Press!)

But wait! There comes to the fore
JOHN Garrideb, "Counsellor at Law,"
Whose face has a "broad set smile."

But WHY does John devise
"Such a rigmarole of lies,"
That betray a man of guile?

We discover, oh "wunderbar,"
That there IS no Lysander Starr.
And that Evans can make a blunder.

He is a.k.a. Garrideb,
And he weaves a mighty fine web,
Which Holmes, of course, tears all asunder!

The Serpentine Muse is a compendium of various and sundry learned articles, humorous verses, pertinent news, notable illustrations, and a plethora of erudite and recherché items to amuse and intrigue the discerning reader.

You can subscribe to this wonderful journal at: www.ASH-NYC.com



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and a plethora of erudite and recherché items to
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"THE EDITOR'S GAS-LAMP - "The Enthralling Fun of Overhauling You" (excerpt)

BAKER STREET JOURNAL, STEVEN ROTHMAN, EDITOR - Winter, 2004

All dedicated students of the Canon have, at one time or another, been confronted by a friend or relation who queried, "Why are you wasting your time on that?"

The Sherlockian under the lens hems and haws and finally says something about enjoying studying a text so carefully.

This doesn't really satisfy the inquisitor, but at least one is left alone.

A somewhat more sympathetic nod comes in the New York Times Book Review about Anthony Powell, noted:

Not all cults are religious. Some coalesce around the sort of novelist whose collected works paint a highly detailed fictional portrait of a specific time and place, usually far from here.

The worship rites of these latter cults consist of competitive demonstrations of the members'

knowledge of their sacred texts, which can also be used as the verbal equivalent of a secret handshake...

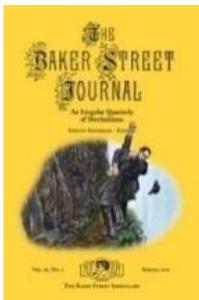
As hobbies go, literary cultism is innocent enough, but it does have a way of diminishing the perceived importance of its objects.

It's one thing to play games with Sherlock Holmes, another to do it with Jane Austen.

by example. Let others learn to look on Sherlockians as people of goodwill and wide reading and learning who have chosen to apply that to the study of a narrow text.

Remember ours is not the only canon. Know that our learning is best leavened by humor, but don't be too surprised if not everyone gets the joke.

But we must endeavor to continue to be amused and amusing and enjoy our world even if we are unable to share it with everyone.



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.

**You Are Cordially Invited to Attend
THE CREW OF THE BARQUE LONE STAR
Labor Day Picnic – 2018
Saturday, September 1 :: 4:00 – 8:00 pm**



**Karen and Charles Olson have
graciously agreed to host the Picnic at
their residence.**

**We will provide hamburgers, hotdogs,
fixings, sides, and soft drinks**

**You are welcome to BYOB, or bring a
unique dessert**



Please RSVP to Karen Olson so we have an accurate headcount --

Karen can provide you with address and directions

Karen Olson karen.olson2500@gmail.com

(940) 337-4984

(940) 337-4159

Criticism of the Three Garridebs

Dr. William Pervin, Professor Emeritus, University of Texas at Dallas

When the Crew of the Barque Lone Star in Dallas, Texas, decided to discuss 'The Adventure of the Three Garridebs' at their August, 2018 meeting, I quickly reread the story to refresh my memory and, as usual, found it exciting and interesting.

As all the stories in the 'canon', it brings the reader in with details and wording that explains why people all over the world still read and enjoy them.

However, since our Third Mate, Steve Mason, would be giving a quiz on the story, I next carefully went over the story looking for insignificant and unimportant details that he might put into his quiz. [Q: What was Nathan Garrideb's address? A: 136 Little Ryder St., W] [Q: Who was supposed to be the rich Garrideb? A: Alexander Hamilton Garrideb] [and many other such questions giving details that make for verisimilitude but are not, in themselves, critical to the plot]

Unfortunately, careful reading brought up two points that I found to be almost impossible to believe. Firstly, the villain [Q: What was John Garrideb's real name? A: James Winter] needs

to get Nathan out of his house for a very short time.

Indeed, the description near the end of the story shows that entering the room, opening the trap-door, and getting the counterfeit plates and money out [Q: Who was the forger? A: Roger Prescott] would only be a few minutes.

Nothing like the 'Red Headed League' where many days were necessary. In the face of that, "Killer Evans" concocts this incredibly complicated plot.

Prints up an advertisement {Q: Purporting to be from whom? A: Howard Garrideb] and takes all this time and effort. By the way, I might accept that Nathan gets his food delivered to his door by Amazon and Uber brings him dinner from his favorite restaurant so he actually doesn't leave his room – ever.

I immediately thought of many simpler ways for the villain to accomplish his goal. For example, make a fake call from Christie's telling him of a shipment he can see the next afternoon! [Q: What is the name of the caretaker? A: Mrs. Saunders] [Q: When does she leave? A: 4 o'clock].

Maybe offer him a commission to evaluate a collection at some location after 4.

The simplest for someone who got the nickname "killer" in Chicago must be to just go to the door after 4 and threaten Nathan with gun or knife.

Tying him up and gagging him wouldn't even be necessary if "Killer Evens" just hits him on the head with a 'cosh' and leaves him unconscious for a few minutes.

While that problem with the story concerned me, a second question arose at the end of the story and I could not come up with a reason for it.

Holmes and Watson lie in wait for the villain and get the drop on him when he goes down the trap-door.



The illustration in the Strand Magazine of January 1925 shows Holmes with right arm

extended and left arm back – his body an exciting picture of energy – with gun directed at “killer Evans”; Watson also has his gun trained on the villain.

Now I could believe that a quick-draw artist might draw his gun and fire (twice?) but what happens next is bizarre.

Watson is hit with a “superficial” wound but describes it as if a “red-hot iron” pressed on his thigh.

In the real world I believe a person holding a gun cocked and ready to fire would involuntarily pull the trigger but that does not happen. However, even if that does not happen, Holmes does

something that makes no sense.

The text says he hits Evans on the head with his pistol!

The illustration shows that Holmes, in the face of a quick firing Evans, has taken his left hand forward to help move his grip on the pistol from the butt and trigger to the barrel of the gun, raises the gun, and hits Evans.



In my humble opinion, that amount of time would allow Evans to shoot Holmes three times – killing him – leaving another bullet in his six shooter to finish off Watson.

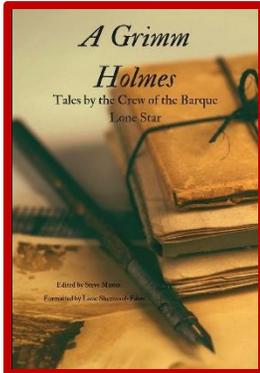
Can I explain these two inconsistencies?

Maybe Watson’s literary agent told him a story was needed and he took some material and put it together to make up a story.

Perhaps Holmes required him to change some (major) details for some reason.

I don’t know but I hope I have not ruined your pleasure in reading the story.

THE SEQUEL



As you may be aware, we will be celebrating our 50th year of existence in a couple of years. Last year, several members participated in writing a pastiche where Holmes and Watson solve a Grimm's fairy tale (or

nursery rhyme).

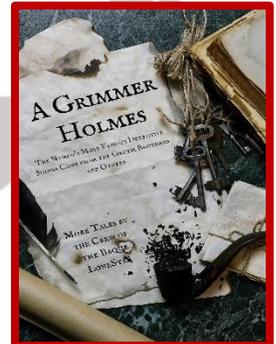
After discussions with several members, we have decided to repeat the process this year. The working title of the Anthology would be "Grimmer Holmes" or "A Grimmer Holmes."

Once again, members can write a pastiche (short story) involving Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, using a Grimm's Fairy Tale as the backdrop.

Some simple rules...

1. You can use any of the Grimm's Fairy Tales you want (most of us probably have a favorite). You may also use any nursery rhyme or other children's tale that you find appropriate. However, we would like to have each pastiche based on a single story, so please submit your tale's idea to Steve Mason, so we can ensure no one else uses the same tale.
2. Your story should be 3,000-5,000 words, which is average length for a short story. Obviously, a shorter story is fine.

3. Your story will be edited by one or two member volunteer editors, but only for grammar, typos... we will not edit the content of your story.
4. As our society and website is family-oriented, please keep your pastiche PG... I think all of our members can easily meet this criteria.
5. This project is not limited to just those members in the DFW area. Any member (if you're getting this email) is welcome to submit a pastiche.
6. We plan to finalize the anthology by the end of the calendar year, so we ask for members to submit their entry by September 30.



As we mentioned in the introduction to the first anthology, which was a big hit, much credit goes to Ms. Gayle Puhl, for the inspiration for this anthology... you can find her stories in "Sherlock Holmes and The Folk Tale Mysteries - Volume 1" and Volume 2...

The final product will be put together in book form and posted on our website and shared with all society members as a .pdf file. We plan on publishing copies of the book (as a Christmas present) for those who submit a pastiche in the anthology.

SEVENTEEN STEPS TO "LADY FRANCES CARFAX"

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of "Lady Frances Carfax" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

THE WATSON INFLUENCE ON HOLMES

"The bath!" Holmes corrects Watson, then asks, "Why the relaxing and expensive Turkish rather than the invigorating home-made article?" Sometimes one has to wonder if Holmes is simply posing these questions so he can impress Watson with the deduction that follows, especially with the abbreviated, "But why Turkish?" that precedes it. Was that the case this time? Or was Holmes really wondering, and used Watson's opinion to persuade him into the Turkish bath at the start of "Illustrious Client"? When did the Turkish bath fall out of fashion?

AND WE WON'T MENTION WATSON'S OTHER FRIENDS

"It belongs to the same elementary class of deduction which I should illustrate if I were to ask you who shared your cab in your drive this morning," Holmes says. Yet Watson never bothers to mention who shared his cab. Was it someone he'd rather not mention? Might Holmes have not gotten along with Watson's other friends? Might his opinion of them been so low that it was better Watson didn't bring them up?

GETTING WATSON OUT OF ENGLAND

Holmes has sent Watson on missions before, but to Europe? We have also seen Holmes send Watson on trips when the detective has an ulterior motive in mind . . . was this another? Could Watson have been sharing his cab with a woman Holmes didn't particularly approve of, and the trip to Europe in pursuit of a single

woman was Holmes's best way to get him out of her clutches?

AND ON DISPLAY AT SILVESTER'S BANK . . .

"She banks at Silvester's. I have glanced over her account." What would it take to get the accounts manager at Silvester's to let one look over another person's account? Was Holmes's reputation what got him that look? Would he have been able to bribe a bank clerk? Or are those entrusted with such great funds anyway unbribable?

ONE MORE VICTORIAN CELEBRITY

We've discussed celebrity bankers of the Victorian era before, but celebrity hotel managers? Watson writes:

"Two days later found me at the Hotel National at Lausanne, where I received every courtesy at the hands of M. Moser, the well-known manager."

Is the fact that a French hotel manager is well known to him a sign of the social circles Watson travels in these days? Or is this just another celebrity people read of in Strand Magazine or some other publication?

TRAVEL AGENTS ALONG THE WAY

"This much I gathered from the manager of Cook's local office," Watson reports, after visiting the local Cook's Tourist Office, said by Tracy's Encyclopaedia Sherlockiana to be a chain of travel agents and money changers. What sort of clientele did Cook's have, and would Watson have been using them for this trip? Was this a part of his arrangements on a "princely" scale?

THE VICTORIAN HOLIDAY INN

"Lady Frances had stayed at the Englischer Hof for a fortnight."

Wait a second . . . wasn't there an "Englischer Hof" in Meiringen in "The Final Problem"? Was this another chain, or merely a coincidence?

A MAP-MAKER A LONG WAY FROM THE MAP'S TARGET

"Dr. Shlessinger" was supposedly "preparing a map of the Holy Land, with special reference to the kingdom of the Midianites, upon which he was writing a monograph." Why would a sham South American missionary choose the kingdom of the Midianites to impress his prey with his scholarship? Is there anything about that topic to especially make the ladies more sympathetic to him?

A GRAY-EYED VISION IN BLUE

Watson is wrestling with Philip Green when "an unshaven French ouvrier in a blue blouse darted out from a cabaret opposite, with a cudgel in his hand" leaping to Watson's aid.

As perhaps Holmes's most colorful disguise, the unshaven French workman may have been the disguise that most modern women would find sexy . . . is it? What else would have made up his costume, besides that blue blouse?

ROLLING BACK TO LONDON ON THE EXPRESS

"I rather think you had better come back with me to London by the night express. . . . Now, Watson, if you will pack your bag I will cable to Mrs. Hudson to make one of her best

efforts for two hungry travelers at 7:30 to-morrow."

If they were taking the night express, how much time was spent traveling to get home by 7:30 P.M. the next day? What would the difference have been between this trip and Watson's original two days to Lausanne, in time, distance, and route?

APPARENTLY GREGSON GOT THE FIRST SHIFT JOB

Holmes says, "Later in the evening I will stroll down and have a word with friend Lestrade at Scotland Yard."

If it's 7:30 when they arrive and start eating supper, how late is Lestrade to be at Scotland Yard? What sort of workday did a Scotland Yarder put in in those days?

NOW YOU TELL US, WATSON!

"For two days the Hon. Philip Green (he was, I may mention, the son of the famous admiral of that name who commanded the Sea of Azof fleet in the Crimean War) brought us no news."

Why this last minute insertion of Green's bonafides? Watson has insulted the man's appearance, accosted him in the street, and holds back Green's famous father until deep into the story -- was this a sign of the point where Watson was finally taking a shine to him?

IF ONLY SHE HAD MET LESTRADE FIRST

Annie Peters is described by Green as "a tall, pale woman, with ferret eyes."

What is it with Victorians and ferrets? Everybody seems to use them as a fram of reference. First we get ol' "ferret-face" Lestrade, and now this. Were ferrets common wildlife along the English countryside? Popular household pets? Herded by fur farmers?

GREAT CLUB NAME: THE USUAL IRREGULARS

"Now, Watson," Holmes announces as Green departs for the Yard, "he will set the regular forces on the move. We are, as usual, the irregulars, and we must take our own line of action."

If you're a usual irregular, does that make you a regular? (Sorry, just had to ask.)

MAYBE DIAMONDS AREN'T FOREVER

Holy Peters complains: "Once in London, she gave us the slip, and, as I say, left these out-of-date jewels to pay her bills."

How could jewels ever be "out-of-date"? Do they lose any value just because they're set in a style gone out of fashion?

TWO HARDCASES, LOOKING FOR TROUBLE

In one of my favorite Canonical quips, Holmes advises Peters, "'My companion is also a dangerous ruffian. And together we are going through your house."

Did Watson at all look the part, or was Holmes enjoying casting Watson against type? Would we qualify Watson as "a dangerous ruffian" given his experiences with Holmes?

BEST RECEPTION A BURGLAR EVER GOT FROM THE POLICE

"Bless you, sir, we know you very well," says the sergeant who interrupts Holmes's burglary. Why such a pleasant reception from the constabulary? Was Holmes's reputation now "that" good with the police, were these some avid reader cops, or had Holmes actually met the sergeant before and forgotten?

WATSON BRINGS THE LADY BACK

"And then, at last, with artificial respiration, with injected ether, with every device that science could suggest, some flutter of life, some quiver of the eyelids, some dimming of a mirror, spoke of the slowly returning life."

In a scene that might be in a Victorian version of "ER," Dr. Watson uses a battery of methods to bring Lady Frances back to consciousness. Would he have carried his medical bag with him often (though unmentioned) when accompanying Holmes? Would ether have been a common part of its contents? What sort of "artificial respiration" might he have been using?

And even after she's revived, "what with actual suffocation, and what with the poisonous fumes of the chloroform," as Watson writes, wouldn't the lady have most likely suffered brain damage?

SAILOR, PLUMBER, OR PRIEST?

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia Website lists eleven stories where Sherlock Holmes used fourteen different disguises:

- A sailor (The Sign of the Four)
- An asthmatic old master mariner (The Sign of the Four)
- A drunken-looking groom ("A Scandal in Bohemia")
- An amiable and simple-minded Nonconformist clergyman ("A Scandal in Bohemia")
- A doddering opium smoker ("The Man with the Twisted Lips")
- A common loafer ("The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet")
- A venerable Italian priest ("The Final Problem")
- An elderly book-collector ("The Adventure of the Empty House")
- An East End familiar known as Captain Basil ("The Adventure of Black Peter")
- A plumber with a rising business named Escott ("The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton")
- An unshaven French ouvrier ("The Adventure of Lady France Carfax")
- A workman looking for a job ("The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone")
- An old sporting man ("The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone")
- An elderly woman ("The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone")
- An Irish-American spy named Altamont ("His Last Bow")



This list suggests he was able to age himself; appear sick, drunk, or drugged; adapt another accent; change his sex; and be quite attractive to women. We also learn from Watson he was quite adept at acting and had several places around London where he could change his appearance. (1)

While the use of disguises dates back to the Bible, Watson's descriptions indicate Holmes' skills exhibit that of a true master. As CIA "master of disguise" Antonio Mendez remarks, the basis for a good disguise is not only changing one's appearance but also creating a full illusion that misdirects others to keep them from seeing what is before them. (2) The appropriate disguise is based on an understanding of the culture, creation of a backstory, and making everything appear familiar and in the open. (3) This occurs through an understanding the culture and picking benign characters for the disguise, such the elderly or women. (4)

One of the most innovative tools described by Mendez is the GAMBIT. Given the sensitive nature of the device, he only provides a vague description of the actual disguise. Developed through a collaboration with a Hollywood makeup artist, the malleable material used to create cinematic science-fiction characters serves in real-life to change the race, ethnicity, and even sex of an individual. Over his career, Mendez worked to create a disguise kit that could be applied quickly in the dark and even carried or stored flat to easily hide or pass on. (5) Mendez's wife, Jonna tells of her own use of the disguise at a briefing in the White House. After entering the Oval Office using a GAMBIT, she removed it—thoroughly fascinating

the senior President Bush. While the event was photographed, the only copy she was able to obtain had the actual disguise air-brushed out. This technique of changing a person's physical appearance is still considered top secret. (6)

Changing a person's physical appearance, however, is only part of the disguise. Mendez notes it is a much larger package—the gait, the mannerisms, and the attitude—as well as good planning and strong backstory that makes a disguise succeed. The operation must set up the deception. (7)

Holmes had a clear understanding of the “whole package” required to pull off a successful ruse one

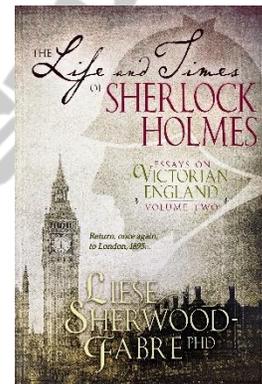
hundred years before Mendez. On more than one occasion, Watson described how Holmes was able to create a completely different persona based on the character he portrayed—a priest, a bookseller, or an Irish-American spy. This transformation was complete enough to pass inspection by his closest friend or to win the heart of Charles Milverton's housemaid. Holmes could so completely submerge his own personality to become the young plumber Escott, he was not beyond proposing marriage when Sherlock would have never harbored the thought. Holmes was such a master of disguise, he actually fooled himself.

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- 1) https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/index.php/Sherlock_Holmes#Disguises
 - 2) (2) <https://www.spymuseum.org/multimedia/spycast/episode/the-secret-history-of-disguises/>
 - 3) (3) <https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/csi-studies/studies/vol46no1/article09.html>
 - 4) (4) <https://www.spymuseum.org/multimedia/spycast/episode/the-secret-history-of-disguises/>
 - 5) (5) Antonio Mendez, *The Master of Disguise*, New York: William Morrow and Company, 1999, page 119.
 - 6) (6) <https://www.spymuseum.org/multimedia/spycast/episode/woman-in-disguise--jonna-mendez/>
 - 7) (7) Mendez, page 232.

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

This and other articles on Sherlock Holmes and Victorian England are now available in Volume Two of Dr. Sherwood-Fabre's essay collection regarding "The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes." Currently, the book is offered on Amazon and everywhere September 15.

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 "Lady Frances Carfax"

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

- "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax," was first published in "The Strand Magazine" in December 1911.
- According to Baring-Gould's chronology, as set down in "The Annotated Sherlock Holmes," 2nd Edition, 1974, the case takes place on Tuesday, July 1, to Friday, July 18, 1902. At the time Holmes was 48 years and Watson 50.

- Notable Quotes:

"One of the most dangerous classes in the world is the drifting and friendless woman. She is the most harmless, and often the most useful of mortals, but she is the inevitable inciter of crime in others."

"Single ladies must live, and their pass-books are compressed diaries."

"Besides, on general principles it is best that I should not leave the country. Scotland Yard feels lonely without me, and it causes an unhealthy excitement among the criminal classes."

== Peculiar Isolation == The first thing that comes to my mind whenever we study this case is why Carfax was so alone. According to Holmes, she is "a beautiful woman, still in middle age." Even assuming she and all of her family had a falling out, it still seems peculiar to me a woman of some means, who is good-looking and of gentle birth would have had no friends (male and female) as well as admirers, and found herself limited to corresponding

with an old former governess. Although Watson, with his usual discretion says nothing, I must wonder whether there was not something wrong or unusual about the lady.

== Obtaining Information == I find it fascinating how Holmes manages to obtain information which even the official police might find difficult to get, whether it is the content of a telegram or someone's bank account. One must keep in mind that Victorians made a cult out of keeping their personal lives private. Notice the fact that neither Holes nor Watson learned about the other's brother until this was revealed by necessity. It is not an enormous leap to postulate that the same reticence existed in the case of semiprivate affairs, such as one's bank account. If even Lady Carfax's family was unable to obtain information about her bank account, how did Holmes do it?

== An Unforgivable Slip == How could Watson, after years together, acquainted as he was about Holmes' habits, have ignored the Great Detective's telegram requesting information about Shlessinger's left ear? How could he think of it in terms of a practical jokes? And even if Holmes had indulged in that obnoxious habit, he would not let it surface during a serious investigation. Really, Doctor!

== An Unnecessary Disguise? == Holmes was disguised when he rescued Watson from Green. Many Canon scholars have

wondered why Holmes would take the trouble. As far as he knew, Carfax was on her way to London with "Holy" Peters. From what Watson tells us it seems unlikely that anyone in Montpellier would have recognized the Great Detective. So why the disguise?
== Pure as What? == According to Philip Green, he led a wild life while he was young. Because of this, although he and Lady Frances were in love, her incredible delicacy prevented her from continuing the relationship:

"...her mind was as pure as snow. She could not bear a shadow of coarseness. So, when she came to hear of things that I had done, she would have no more to say to me." Although Victorian ladies were supposed to be delicate creatures, this could not have been exaggerated to such a point. One must recollect that they accompanied their fathers, husbands, and brothers to corners of the Empire that weren't exactly civilized or pacified. Added to this is the fact that she evidently loved him so much that she could not even look at another man for all that time. What could Green have possibly done to turn her away from him, while leaving her love untouched? Being "coarse" might entail etiquette failures such as blowing one's nose on the tablecloth or scratching one's naked toes at church, but it isn't the same as cruelty such as Oldacre in NORW, or a prison record.

== Disposing of the Jewelry == It is puzzling why Peters resorted to a pawnbroker to dispose of Lady Frances' jewelry. As a criminal he had to realize besides being under the constabulary's attention, pawnbrokers were not as tight lipped as a fence; besides, he would have probably gotten a better price.

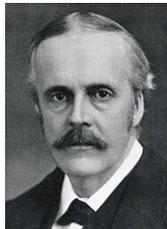
== Tough to Kill == It seems impossible with her head "all wreathed in cotton-wool, which had been soaked in [chloroform]," while in a practically hermetic air-limited coffin Frances could have lasted more than a very few minutes.



What else happened in 1902:

EMPIRE

- First celebration of Empire Day; renamed "Commonwealth Day" in 1959.
- 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.



BRITAIN

- Salisbury resigns, succeeded as PM by Arthur Balfour.
- Anglo-Japanese Treaty, for mutual defense and to maintain status quo in Far East.

- Sir Giles Gilbert Scott designs Liverpool Cathedral.
- Institution of the Order of Merit 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 were attacked by a third power.
- Failure of second Belgian General Strike.
- Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria, 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.
- French work day reduced to 9 1/2 hours.
- Public Health Act in France improves artisan living conditions.
- White settlement of Kenya begins.
- St. Pierre, Martinique, destroyed by earthquake.

- Abdul Hamid gives Germany concessions to build railway to Baghdad; rai 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.
- Gauguin paints The Call.
- Debussy composes Pelléas et Mélisandé.
- Picasso paints Nude, Back View.
- Elgar composes Coronation Ode.



SCIENCE

- Wireless telegraphy applied to ships.
- Trans-Pacific Cable laid.
- Completion of Aswan Dam in Egypt.

The Great American Read

From Karen Murdock, May Blunder

An excerpt of a piece by Adam Kirsch in "The Wall Street Journal" 04 August under the headline "REVIEW -- The Way We Read Now --- A new survey of America's favorite novels shows that storytelling moves us far more than literary quality":

When the novelist Philip Roth died in May, the obituaries and tributes agreed that he was (to quote a few choice descriptions) "towering," "pre-eminent" and a "giant of the American novel." [...] Is Philip Roth in fact one of America's favorite novelists? Can such a thing even be measured?

As it turns out, it can -- and he isn't. We know this thanks to "The Great American Read," a new initiative from PBS, which set out to produce a list of America's 100 favorite works of fiction.

The alphabetical list (the books aren't ranked) was released this spring, based on a poll of more than 7,000 American readers. The results of the poll were winnowed down by an advisory panel of "literary industry professionals" using a few rules: The books had to be published (though not necessarily written) in English, with a series like "Harry Potter" counted as one title, and there could be no more than one book per author.

This month, a companion volume called "The Book of Books" will be published, with pithy one-page essays discussing the background and significance of each of the chosen hundred. Starting in September, PBS will broadcast a Great American Read series, hosted by Meredith Vieira and featuring interviews with celebrities, literary and otherwise.

All of this will culminate in October with the announcement of America's favorite novel, as determined by online voting.

[...] Among the American novelists missing from the list are Nobel Prize winners like Sinclair Lewis, William Faulkner, and Saul Bellow; legendary names like Flannery O'Connor and Edith Wharton; and living greats such as Joyce Carol Oates and Jonathan Franzen, whose 2001 novel "The Corrections" sold around three million copies.

If Americans don't love the books that are usually supposed to constitute American literature, then what do we love? One answer the Great American Read list provides is that we love the books we read as children or teenagers. A few venerable children's classics retain a stubborn foothold in the memory of readers: "Tom Sawyer," "The Call of the Wild." [...]

The Great American Read list is heavy on genre writing: science fiction ("Jurassic Park," "Ready Player One"), mysteries and thrillers ("The Da Vinci Code," "Gone Girl"), and other best sellers ("Lonesome Dove," "The Help," "The Clan of the Cave Bear"). Such books get little respect from critics and are seldom taught in classrooms, but they are the ones that people remember and love.

[...] In every genre, the Great American Read list is very much a snapshot of a moment in time. Thirty years ago, or 30 years from now, a similar poll would find other titles to take pride of place. You can see this happening in the absence from the list of books that were once enormously popular, like the Sherlock Holmes stories of Arthur Conan Doyle and the pioneering science fiction of H.G. Wells. (Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein," however, does make the cut.)

By my count, of the 100 titles on the list, 23 were published in the 21st century -- that is, in less than the last 20 years -- and another 60 were published in the 20th century. That leaves just 17 titles to represent the previous 3,000 years of world literature.

CANON QUEERIES - The Three Garridebs

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 inquiries available to us.

1. Is a home bath necessarily invigorating rather than relaxing?
2. Are alteratives still in use?
3. How did Watson's splashes from a hansom differ from Helen Stoner's splashes from a dog-cart (SPEC)?
4. Why couldn't Watson's bow have been tied by a bootblack?
5. What bow knots were normal?
6. What other circumstances would result in Watson having a companion and removing his shoes?
7. Why is a drifting and friendless woman the most useful of mortals?
8. Who supplied Holmes with a copy of the account?
9. Reconcile "drifting and friendless", "sole survivor of the direct family of the late Earl of Rufton" and "the family are anxious."
10. Having spared no sum to clear the matter up, what was the reaction of the wealthy family of Lady Frances Carfax on learning that Holmes remained in London while he sent Watson to investigate her whereabouts?
11. Is the "week's rent" comment significant?
12. Why did Watson report Lady Frances Carfax's return to London by letter instead of by telegram?
13. Having received the letter, why did Holmes leave London?
14. Why did Holmes disguise himself?
15. Was Holmes's statement that Watson gave the alarm everywhere and yet discovered nothing accurate?
16. Did Holmes really do better?
17. 7:30 - AM or PM?
18. Why the delay in getting a warrant?
19. Why was Annie allowed to get a policeman?
20. Should Holmes have been arrested?
21. Could invited police not have searched the house, discovering the den?
22. How did Peters learn of Rose Spender?
23. Where did the screwdrivers come from?

RITUAL MURDER - SOME UNCOMFORTABLE THOUGHTS ON THE MUSGRAVE RITUAL

David Richardson, Holmes and Watson Report, January, 2001

Watson was an essentially humble man, but we may all be thankful that on occasion he overcame this sufficiently to give himself virtuous airs. For if he had not, we would not have the delightful tale of "The Musgrave Ritual" to amuse and bemuse us. It is this story that gives us what may be the most famous Persian slipper in all literature, as well as one of the more remarkable displays of patriotic fervor from a period not noted for being shy in such matters.

It also gives us something not often remarked: a tale told wholly by Holmes himself that escapes the charge of being second-rate. In telling this tale, Holmes comments that he was convinced that he had not three mysteries to solve, but one, and so it proved for him. Unfortunately for us, we are left with three of our own. You were not aware of any? Allow me to list them:

Why was so little treasure recovered from the mere, and why was it in such calamitous shape?

Why were the crown and treasure never recovered at the Restoration?

Why was Hurlstone expanded in the eighteenth century, and not in the seventeenth?

One of the curious things about the treasure recovered from the mere. is that it seems to have been in a state more fitting to something recovered at Sutton Hoo than from a few days' immersion in a pond following a two-hundred-or-so-year rest in a nice comfortable chest. The "mass" recovered in the linen sack seems to have consisted of some coins, a few forlorn jewels, and a remarkably battered crown.

Presumably what had been placed in the chest would have been an "ancient crown of the kings of England" and a goodly amount of coinage and jewelry - the sort of "stash" that a prince fleeing the country might arrange to leave for later recovery.

But it was not recovered then - which is rather curious, and that is our second mystery. And it leads directly to the third, for if Sir Ralph had indeed been one of those aiding Charles the Second in his return to power, we might well have expected that the new wing at Hurlstone would have been constructed in the seventeenth century, with the pecuniary rewards that would accrue to Sir Ralph for his service. But no, the family continued to live in the eminently unlivable old

"wing" (not really, of course, a wing) for another hundred years. Why?

As with all such questions, to raise one is to unbar the door to a flood of others. What did happen to Rachel? How exactly did butler Brunton die? (Holmes's narration never actually says.)? How is it that the Ritual was not affected by the new wing? (That is to say, was it just luck that the new wing didn't cover ground that was supposed to be paced over?) Why was a butler who was such a fixture - and who had given "trouble" before - fired so summarily? It all seemed so clear when Holmes told the tale, but suddenly we are in the midst of the Grimpen Mire (to mix stories just a bit).

Re-reading the story with newly jaundiced eyes, one notes a curious feature: most of the information comes from Reginald, and is never independently verified by Holmes - indeed, he takes no time to verify it, but seems to have spent his time whittling a peg during the hour that he had calculated must elapse before the sun stood over the oak. One also comes to reflect on the fact that Holmes is quite young when these events take place, and while he has "taken to living by [his] wits," he is as yet neither established nor very experienced in this invented profession of his. Thus, he arrives at Hurlstone eager to display his skills, and perhaps not quite as alert to some of the oddities that he no doubt would have noticed later in his career.

Take the tale of the surprised butler and the shocked nobleman: it comes solely through Reggie, and could not have been verified, as the participants were supposed to have behaved afterward as if nothing had happened. I have no doubt that it is in the main true, but I am beginning to suspect that what transpired was not quite what Reggie said.

Then there is the matter of the elm: How high was it, asks Holmes. I can tell you exactly, says Reggie, for I measured the height of every tree on the estate. Every tree? On a game preserve? Is this merely a colorful exaggeration or a bit of hasty rhetoric to explain the possession of an important fact?

There is also the luck of the stepping: However the new wing formed its L, it is clear that the stepping walks one around the combined wings to the opposite side. But if one were headed from tree shadow to door, at a

time when the new wing was not there, it might seem more natural to start east directly, then go north and then west. Of course, when the new wing is built, this becomes impossible, so isn't it fortunate that the first pacing just happens to parallel the wall of the not yet built wing?

It is also noteworthy that when winding up his telling of this tale, Holmes remarks, with respect to Rachel, with no obvious basis in sight, "the probability is that she got away out of England ... to some land beyond the seas." Granted that this was a time of emigration, one might have thought first of a return to her native Wales, or for that matter, a descent into the all-too-common fate of many "lost" Victorian women.

It is, I believe, this last oddity that offers an insight into the true story of the Musgraves's ritual, one that Watson either did not hear or did not observe - and certainly did not report. Holmes was, as I have said, inexperienced at this time, but he certainly had that keen intellect to bring to bear, and I think that as he sat down on that keg after the removal of butler Brunton's body, he must have sighted his intellect in on the odd circumstances of the discovery of the body and ultimately had a quiet, private talk with Reginald.

And what might his first question have been? Holmes, as we all know, built at least a part of his reputation on being able to present the results of trains of deductions in the most startling way possible (the better to impress his clients). I think that Holmes's first question to Sir Reginald might just have been: "And where is Rachel?"

Such is my admiration of Holmes that I can quite believe that he could have invested this question with enough implication (and venom) that Reginald would have instantly realized that the game, far from being afoot, was up, and would have answered with the actual name of that "some land beyond the seas." Holmes's next question might have been asked in the guise of soliciting information, although Reginald would have realized that it was an invitation to confession: "And how do you believe butler Brunton died?"

The implications of this question are two-fold: First, it suggests that Holmes does not think the implied death from suffocation is correct, and that he also does not think that Reginald caused it. It would be, in short, an invitation to "fess up." What did Reginald answer? I don't know, but shall return to my own thoughts on this matter after we examine some of the other questions Holmes no doubt raised once the dazzling possibilities

of this case - possibilities for his career, you understand - had passed.

He might have gone back to the questions we proposed at the start of this article: Why was there so little treasure, and why was it in such bad shape; why was Hurlstone expanded a century after one might have expected? Watson placed the key question into the mouth of Reginald when he came to write his narrative: "How was it then that Charles did not get his crown when he returned?" How indeed. Holmes's answer is a marvel of obfuscation: "Ah, there you lay your finger upon the one point we shall probably never be able to clear up."

But perhaps we may be able to clear it up. It is a maxim of mine that to find the cause, look to the effect. What was the "effect" of Charles not getting back his crown (nor, one presumes, any of his treasure)? The effect, if there be one, seems to be two-fold: The family lives in an unsuitable building for a century, and then builds a new wing onto an old structure. The curious thing about this is the retention of the old "wing." Most "stately homes" which date from this period (and quite a few do) are constructed *sui generis* ... they incorporate no "old wings" at all. The retention of such a structure at Hurlstone is thus most unusual.

This suggests two things to me - firstly, for various reasons, they did not want the old building to be torn down, and secondly, for some reason, money was not available when one would have expected, but became available quite some time thereafter.

Not to put too fine a point on it, I rather began to entertain the thought that one of the reasons Charles never got his crown back was that the relevant Musgrave saw the depositing of the treasure with him less as a public trust ("I leave this with you until I return") and more as a personal trust ("At last I can provide for my heirs.")

With this in mind, we might look at the Ritual ... The famous first lines are, of course:

"Whose was it?"

"His who is gone."

I now ask you to read the next lines in light of this altered viewpoint:

"Who shall have it?"

"He who will come."

Does this not now sound like someone promising something to his own heir?

The immediate heir does not seem to have felt safe "recovering" the treasure, but by the time a century had passed (and the Stuarts had departed from the scene),

the pressure seems to have eased, and the new Hurlstone Hall seems to have arisen (with the no doubt peculiar instruction to the architect that the old building must be incorporated into the new).

Quite obviously, the Ritual, in this interpretation, is less an "absurd business" than a handing over of the keys to the family's treasure trove. I have always thought that Holmes's rather direct insult, "Musgrave... your butler appears to me... to have had a clearer insight than ten generations of his masters" - was more than an English aristocrat would have absorbed with no response unless he had, if not anticipated it, resolved that he was going to get this Holmes fellow down to his estate no matter what.

We come, ultimately, to the Ritual itself. It has some difficulties which suggest that it really was a kind of aide-memoire for the family. It is, as has been often remarked before, both astronomically and horticulturally impossible. For one thing, the idea that the sun could be "over the oak" is absurd, for in the latitude of England the sun never quite gets "over" anything. In addition, we seem to have trees which stay the same height for two centuries. There is also the problem, alluded to above, that the pacing seems to track one wall of the new wing, which cannot have been there, if the Ritual were of the age that is claimed for it.

I would suggest that the Ritual, far from being an ancient document, was one that modified itself to fit the times (sort of as, every once in a while, the key to one's safety deposit box changes). Holmes, we may note, does not actually see the "original," but rather a copy that Musgrave (despite his feeling that it has no bearing) has brought up for Holmes to look at.

That Reginald was engaged in the kind of "conspiracy" I am suggesting is, in my view, rather confirmed by his reaction to Holmes's wonderment at having been led into a building: "I had thought that it meant that we were to dig:" Sir Reginald, however, could not contain himself and cried "And under ... and

under." Imagine it - here he has led the smartest man in England to the very spot - and he doesn't get it ...

The discovery of butler Brunton's body has to have signaled to Holmes that this was not quite the mystery that he had been lured down to investigate. (I pass over, as Watson seems to have passed over, the most obvious effluvia that must have emerged when that stone was raised.) It must have occurred to Holmes that he had been summoned to make this discovery, since the presence of the lamp and scattered wood indicated that this room had never been searched, despite Reggie's claim that the whole place had been searched.

Holmes's conclusion (correct, I happen to think) would be that Reggie was not guilty of butler Brunton's death, but was involved in it. I think he postulated that Butler Brunton had figured out the "secret" of the Musgrave family (namely that their wealth came from taking Charles II's "stash" as their own), and that Brunton had suggested to Reggie that there might be a little more of it for distribution. (This is, of course, blackmail.) I suggest further that Reggie offered to demonstrate that the original "stash" was quite gone, and so he and butler Brunton (perhaps accompanied by Rachel) "paced over" the current Ritual and wound up in that basement, where butler Brunton had to lift the stone to see for himself.

He and Rachel did manage to lift it - one cannot see Reggie assisting - and it was a very physical task, so that when Brunton descended into that sub-cellar, his heart gave out.

Now Rachel and Reggie are confronted with a dead man at the bottom of a little stone room. Rachel decides that what she wants to do is get away. Reggie agrees and provides for her departure ... and then wonders how he is going to have that body "discovered."

He remembers a fellow he knew at University who could make a mystery about the most trivial things ... and says to himself, "If I can get that guy down here "

56 STORIES IN 56 DAYS - "LADY FRANCES CARFAX"

Posted on October 31, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet (Charlotte Anne Walters)

"Oh I remember this one," says husband, "it's got something to do with a coffin," writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

Yes, it does involve a coffin and a very clever way to get around needing a death certificate for someone you have tried to murder.

It's funny how sometimes we remember the stories by the inanimate objects which they contain – such as a pince-nez, a pencil or a deadly cardboard box.

But the interesting point about this story is that Holmes sends Watson abroad alone to make preliminary researches into the disappearance of Mrs. Carfax, a lonely middle-aged woman.

This does show a high-degree of trust but then he ends up being completely critical of Watson's efforts in his usual abrupt manner – "A very pretty hash you have made of it!"

As usual, Watson simply forgives this rather rude and ungrateful outburst and they carry on together with the investigation.

Watson is a very forgiving man and sometimes behaves like a submissive wife.

It's one of those stories when you want to reach into the pages, take hold of him and shout – "Come on Watson, man-up!"

Poor Watson had told us at the start of the story that he was feeling 'Rheumatic and old' but then landed up feeling like a failure.

Lady Carfax is forty and when I first read this story as a youngster I distinctly remember thinking how old this was.

The lady I pictured in my head back then was grey, wrinkled and past her best.

Now that I'm in my thirties my whole attitude about the story is different and I picture a glamorous lady travelling around Europe turning heads with her style and sophistication.

I do find the story a little dull until the rather sinister discovery of the unusual coffin.

It certainly is a shock when Holmes opens it up to find a genuine dead person in there who died of natural causes.

But then, of course, he realises why the coffin was so large for such a small old lady and rushes to stop coffin leaving for the funeral.

This time he forces open the lid and finds two bodies inside, the lifeless old lady and a chloroformed Lady Francis who is moments from suffocation.

This is a fantastic twist in the tale, I remember how completely unexpected it was the first time I read it.

Holmes is very active in this one too, bursting into the house without a warrant twice, waving a gun around and shouting the orders – very dramatic.

The stories are often full of brawn as well as brains and this one is a fine example.

The disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax scores 8 out of 10.

STORY INFO PAGES FOR "Lady Frances Carfax"

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

- First published in: The Strand Magazine, December 1911; American Magazine, December 1911. (Called "The Disappearance of Lady Carfax" in American Magazine)
- Time frame of story (known/surmised): No clear indication. Probably around 1900.
- Holmes and Watson living arrangements: Not clearly stated, but seemed to be together at 221B.
- Opening scene: Holmes made some observations and deductions regarding mud, shoelaces, and the Turkish bath. He then offered Watson a trip to the Swiss resort town of Lausanne — first-class tickets and all expenses paid on a princely scale. Holmes was not immediately able to leave London, so he sent Watson to investigate the concern.
- Client: Miss Susan Dobney, the long retired governess of Lady Frances Carfax.
- Crime or concern: The disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax, a drifting and friendless woman. Lady Francis was helpless, migratory, and had sufficient means to take her from country to country and from hotel to hotel, lost, as often as not, in a maze of obscure pensions and boarding-houses, a stray chicken in a world of foxes. She was a person of precise habits, and for four years it had been her invariable custom to write every second week. Nearly five weeks passed without a word, so Miss Dobney consulted Holmes.
- Villain: Holy Peters, a big, clean-shaven bald-headed man with a large red face, and a disfigured left ear which had been badly bitten in a saloon-fight at Adelaide in '89. He had pendulous cheeks, and a general air of superficial benevolence which was marred by a cruel, vicious mouth. His companion was his so-called wife, an Englishwoman named Fraser, a worthy helpmate. They were a most infernal couple, who would stick at nothing.
- Motive: Peters' particular specialty was the beguiling of lonely ladies by playing upon their religious feelings, and he made his living by it. He portrayed himself as a missionary. In this case he was after Lady Carfax's jewels and money.
- Logic used to solve: Holmes knew of Peters and his M.O. Holmes enlisted an admirer of Lady Carfax to watch the pawn-shops for her jewels back in London. Once the connection was made, he traced her to Peters' house. There were preparations for the burial of an unrelated woman, but Holmes determined the coffin to be used was unusually deep. Peters was planning to bury two people (the other one being Lady Frances) in a single coffin using one death certificate.
- Policemen: Insp. Lestrade
- Holmes' fees: Not detailed, but Lady Carfax's family were anxious, and as they were exceedingly wealthy no sum would be spared to clear the matter up.
- Transport: Lots of travel. Watson travelled to Lausanne in Switzerland by unspecified means, and then to Baden, Germany, and Montpellier in southern France. Holmes then travelled from England to Montpellier, connected with Watson, and they returned to Baker St, all by unspecified means.

Back in England, Holmes and Watson took a cab from Kennington to Brixton. From Baker St., they drove past the Houses of Parliament and over Westminster Bridge to Poultny Square to the house of Holy Peters, aka Schlessinger. Then they drove to Brixton Workhouse Infirmary, and on to Scotland Yard.

At 7:25 the next morning Holmes and Watson were flying in a hansom down Baker Street after Holmes had figured it all out. As the coffin was being removed from Peters' house, Lestrade was driven up in a cab.

- Food, drink, vices: Holmes figured it out overnight. Watson had left him smoking hard, with his heavy, dark brows knotted together, and his long, nervous fingers tapping upon the arms of his chair.
- Other cases mentioned: That of old Abrahams, who was in mortal terror of his life. The case kept Holmes in London.

- Notable Quotables: "Should you care to add the case to your annals, my dear Watson," said Holmes that evening, "it can only be as an example of that temporary eclipse to which even the best-balanced mind may be exposed. Such slips are common to all mortals, and the greatest is he who can recognize and repair them. To this modified credit I may, perhaps, make some claim. My night was haunted by the thought that somewhere a clue, a strange sentence, a curious observation, had come under my notice and had been too easily dismissed. Then, suddenly, in the gray of the morning, the words came back to me. It was the remark of the undertaker's wife." (about the unusual coffin)
- Other interesting: Watson's investigation on the continent was not helpful. Holmes evaluation of his performance: "And a singularly consistent

investigation you have made, my dear Watson. I cannot at the moment recall any possible blunder which you have omitted. The total effect of your proceeding has been to give the alarm everywhere and yet to discover nothing." Watson was bitter.

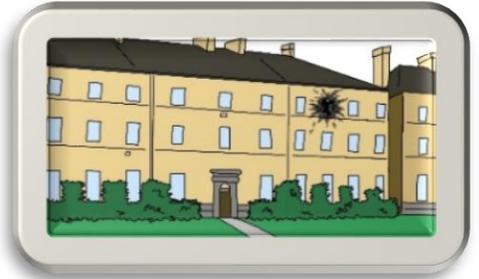
Holy Peters and his wife were described by Holmes as being from South America. . . . "an exceptionally astute and dangerous man. The Rev. Dr. Shlessinger, missionary from South America, is none other than Holy Peters, one of the most unscrupulous rascals that Australia has ever evolved" Was there some geographic mix-up here, or was he simply an Australian posing as a South American?

- When all was said and done: Lady Frances was in the coffin but was not quite dead. She had been chloroformed, but recovered with Dr. Watson's help...

Baker Street Elementary

Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason

The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson



Baker Street Elementary
Number 175 - 08/12/2018

Fay, Mason, & Mason

ON THE FIELD TRIP YESTERDAY, I NOTICED THE MAIN BRIDGE HAD A SIGN WHICH READ, "WEIGHT LIMIT: 12 TONNES".



HOW DO THEY DETERMINE HOW MUCH WEIGHT THE BRIDGE CAN HOLD?



IT IS REALLY AN AMAZING FEAT OF ENGINEERING, USING SOME VERY COMPLICATED...

...ACTUALLY IT'S QUITE SIMPLE.



1. THEY BUILD THE BRIDGE;
2. THEY STACK DRUMS FILLED WITH WATER ONTO THE BRIDGE UNTIL IT COLLAPSES;
3. THEY WEIGH THE DRUMS;
4. THEY REBUILD THE BRIDGE;
5. AND, THEY PUT THE SIGN UP.



AND YOU SAID IT WAS COMPLICATED...



ENGINEERS THROUGHOUT ENGLAND JUST COLLECTIVELY SHUDDERED...

I WONDER IF THEY ERECT BUILDINGS THE SAME WAY?

