

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 07, No. 07 - July, 2019

*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star - founded April, 1970*



PLEASE NOTE:

August 04 Meeting NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on **Sunday, August 04**, at 1:00 pm. At TWO GUYS FROM ITALY, in Dallas.

The restaurant is at 11637 Webb Chapel Road, Dallas, just south of LBJ Freeway.

We will be reading "**A Study in Scarlet (part 2, Chapters 4 - 7).**" The quiz will cover this tale.

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

July 07 Summary

There were 15 in attendance at the meeting. Tim Kline gave the opening toast, honoring "A Study in Scarlet" and its iconic magazine cover.

August 31st is the deadline for submitting limericks from members of our society to include in our book this year. We encourage everyone to write at least one or two.

Several members of the society attended the "Holmes and Watson" play at the Fort Worth Stage West Theatre. The play was thoroughly enjoyable.

The Crew then took a quiz on "A Study in Scarlet - Quiz 2," which was won by Liese Sherwood-Fabre, with Ann Caddell taking second place.

Ann Caddell guides us through a wonderful presentation on gemstones of the Canon (see page 4 for the article she developed for us).

The book Villains, Victims, and Violets: Agency and Feminism in the Original Sherlock Holmes Canon is due for release in August. Twenty-nine authors contributed, including several members of our Society.

BOUCHERCON 2019 is coming to Dallas, October 31-November 3. Our society will be involved in various ways.

We closed the meeting with a reading from the Spring, 2009 Baker Street Journal, "GETTING TO KNOW YOU, GETTING TO FEEL FREE AND EASY" (page 3).

The door prize drawing was won by Ann Caddell.

Thanks to Brenda Hutchison, who took the minutes (full minutes 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

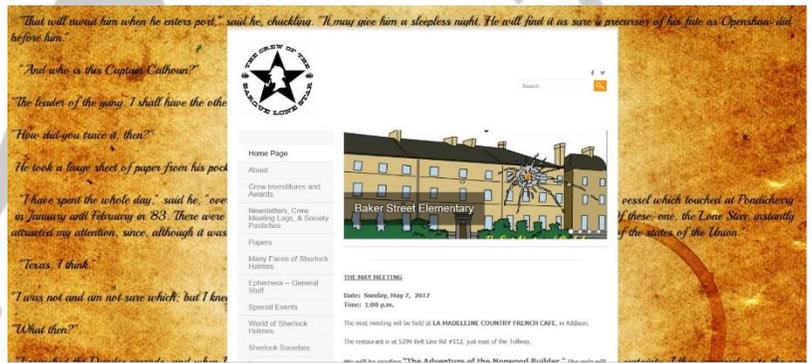
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Our Facebook Page:

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

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU, GETTING TO FEEL FREE AN EASY" (EXTRACT)

Steven Rothman, Editor, BSJ, Summer, 2009, Vol 59, No. 2

We all warmly recall our first meeting with Sherlock Holmes.

Recently the BSJ editor renewed his acquaintance with his own first introduction to Sherlock Holmes in book form—at a very early age.

It is Sherlock Holmes especially edited and abridged for The Golden Picture Classics by Charles Verrai with illustrations by Tom Gill.

This curious book has comic book-like illustrations on every page. Gill was a successful comic book artist most known for his work on The Lone Ranger and other westerns.

He must be good, for his illustrations have stayed with us for years.

We had nightmares based on his depiction of the writhing Speckled Band wrapped round Dr. Roylott's head.

It was an excellent introduction for us in our pre-literate days, though we are sure that the illustrations were scary enough to put us off seriously investigating Holmes until we reached the age of 9 or 10.

Indeed, having renewed this old acquaintance we are rather certain that it is the source of many (most?) of our strongly held misconceptions about the Canon.

How many of us are burdened with curious ideas about Baker Street stemming from some early introduction?

How often do we associate a story with a particular image from a Paget, a Steele, or even a Gill or with a Rathbone, a Brett, or—even a Downey?

It would be interesting to study such first meetings both in the Sherlockian community and the wider world to see what impressions of Holmes are the most common.

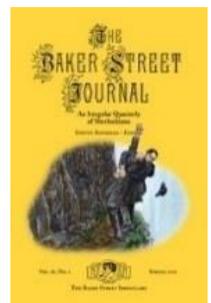
If talking books and podcasts continue to supplement reading, we soon will have many Sherlockians who know exactly what Holmes's voice sounds like, even if they are less sure of his appearance.

And maybe, just maybe, a few will continue to meet Holmes as drawn by Tom Gill..

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.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

"Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences"

August 8-11, 2019 – Minneapolis, MN

http://www.norwegianexplorers.org/2019_conference.html



Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium

October 12-13, 2019 – Portland, OR

<https://www.leftcoastsherlock.com/>



Building an Archive – The Arrival of the BSI Archive to the Lily Library

November 8-10, 2019 -- Bloomington, IN

<http://bsiarchivelilly.org/>



The BSI Weekend

January 15-19, 2020 – New York City, NY

<https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-weekend/>



GEMSTONES IN THE CANON

Ann Caddell

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Ann gave a wonderful presentation at our June Society meeting. This article is a follow-up to that presentation, expanding on what she provided.*

It's not surprising that valuable gems would play a large part in stories of crime and detection. Holmes himself muses on the power of jewels to inspire desperate actions and bloody deeds:

"It's a bonny thing...Just see how it glints and sparkles. Of course it is a nucleus and focus of crime. Every good stone is. They are the devil's pet baits. In the larger and older jewels, every facet may stand for a bloody deed." -- "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"

Gemstones in the Titles

In three of the Holmes stories, gems appear in the title.

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

He held out his hand and displayed upon the centre of the palm a brilliantly scintillating blue stone, rather smaller than a bean in size, but of such purity and radiance that it twinkled like an electric point in the dark hollow of his hand.



In this early story, a valuable gem has been stolen and the Countess of Morcar has offered 1000 pounds for its return. The stone comes to Holmes's attention when an honest neighbor brings it to Holmes after it inexplicably turns up in the crop of a goose. Holmes recognizes it immediately. As he tells Watson, "It is remarkable in having every characteristic of the carbuncle, save that it is blue in shade instead of ruby red." Since the definition of a carbuncle is "a red gemstone," that is remarkable indeed.

The discovery sends Holmes off on a literal goose chase. After many interactions with purveyors of geese, Holmes unravels the plot and apprehends the thief. In the only story set specifically at Christmas, Holmes lets the thief go because it is the season of forgiveness (and the thief seems too cowardly to commit any more crimes).

The story doesn't specify whether the stone's original finder got any share of the reward, but it would go against the spirit of the season if he didn't.

The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet

"There are thirty-nine enormous beryls...and the price of the gold chasing is incalculable."

In another early story, an unnamed aristocrat borrows a large sum of money from a prominent banker on the security of "one of the most priceless public possessions of the empire" – a beautiful beryl coronet. The banker then takes this national treasure home with him rather than leaving it in the bank's safe. What could possibly go wrong? That very night, three stones are ripped from the edge of the coronet and the banker's son is found clutching the mutilated remains.



At least the banker is smart enough to enlist Holmes's aid. It turns out that, out of a misplaced sense of chivalry, the banker's son was trying to protect his beloved cousin, who has been let astray by the son's own evil companion. So far, nobody in this family has shown a whole lot of common sense.

Fortunately, Holmes recovers the gems, the cousin disappears, the son is forgiven, and the banker's reputation is saved. Hopefully at least some of these people learn a lesson from their misadventure.

The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone

An instant later the amazed peer was standing, blinking and stammering, with the great yellow stone upon his shaking palm.



A large yellow diamond, one of the crown jewels, has been stolen. (These British aristocrats don't do a very good job of safeguarding their valuables.) Several members of the government, including the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, and Lord Cantlemere, hire Holmes to get it back.

The story is based on the play "The Crown Diamond," and it reads very much like a play. It all takes place in one room, with lots of dialog and not much activity. There's no indication of how the jewel was stolen - we mainly see Holmes tricking the thief into giving it back, and then playing another trick on the supercilious Lord Cantlemere, who foolishly doubted Holmes' ability to retrieve it.

Gemstones Drive the Story

Even when gemstones don't appear in the title, they are the main factor in several of the stories.

The Sign of Four

"The light of the lantern gleamed on a collection of gems such as I have read of and thought about when I was a little lad at Pershore. It was blinding to look upon them."

In the second Holmes novel, the story revolves around the Agra treasure, the mother lode of gemstones in the canon. By actual count, the Agra treasure includes 143 diamonds, 97 emeralds, 170 rubies, 40 carbuncles (presumably all red), 210 sapphires, 61 agates, a great quantity of beryls, onyxes, cats-eyes, turquoises, and others, plus nearly three hundred pearls. These pearls get the action started, when Mary Morstan comes to Holmes with a very

strange story about receiving a mysterious package with a single pearl once a year.

There follows a long, convoluted plot involving the Indian mutiny and some prisoners and guards on a convict island. Eventually the treasure ends up scattered across five miles of the bottom of the Thames river, never to be recovered. However, the loss of the treasure allows Dr. Watson to propose to Mary, the girl who would have inherited it. We see Watson's romantic side as he declares that "Whoever had lost a treasure, I knew that night that I had gained one."

The Adventure of the Six Napoleons

"Gentlemen," he cried, "let me introduce you to the famous black pearl of the Borgias!"

There's only one pearl in this story, but it leads to one of the more bizarre puzzles Holmes faces. Why is someone stealing cheap plaster busts of Napoleon, smashing them, and running away? And why is he willing to resort to murder in the process? Only Holmes could make the connection between these outlandish events and a famous pearl stolen more than a year ago from the Prince of Colonna's bedroom and hastily shoved into a still-wet plaster bust by an Italian sculptor/thief.

After Holmes solves the mystery and recovers the pearl, does he return it? He tells Watson to put it in the safe, and that is the last we hear of it. Lestrade simply leaves his apartment without mentioning what should be done with it. It seems a police official should be more concerned with the disposition of stolen property.

The Musgrave Ritual

"There can, I think, be no doubt that this battered and shapeless diadem once encircled the brows of the royal Stuarts."

This early story presents another bizarre case with an even more bizarre resolution. A mysterious ritual in an English country house leads Holmes to a shapeless lump of metal and pebbles dredged from a pond. The debris turns out to be the crown of the House of Stuart, concealed with loyalists in England after Charles the First lost his head in 1649. For some reason, Charles II never asked for it back after the Stuarts returned to power.



The Musgraves, descendants of the loyalists, get to keep the crown “though they had some legal bother and a considerable sum to pay.” It seems a bit improbable that such an important piece of royal history would be left in private hands. Either Conan Doyle made the crown up out of thin air, or the Musgraves did a REALLY good job of concealment.

Gemstones Provide Clues

Sometimes the discovery of a gem or piece of jewelry gives Holmes the break he needs to unravel the case.

The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax

A silver-and-brilliant pendant of old Spanish design had been pawned at Bovington’s, in Old Westminster Road.

In this later short story, a single middle-aged woman disappears, kidnapped by fortune hunters. Holmes has been trying to find her but hasn’t made any headway. At last he gets his break when the criminals start to pawn her distinctive Spanish jewelry. Even with the help of this clue, Holmes is barely in time to prevent the lady’s death by suffocation in a coffin – a gruesome but ingenious method of murder and body disposal.

Rings Help Unravel the Plot

Various types of rings show up as clues in several Holmes adventures, starting with the very first.

A Study in Scarlet

As they raised him, a ring tinkled down and rolled across the floor.

At the initial crime scene, a woman’s wedding ring is found under Enoch Drebber’s body. Lestrade misinterprets it to mean “there’s been a woman here,” but for Holmes it provides a vital clue to tracking down the murderer.

The Man with the Twisted Lip

“Ha! There has been an enclosure here!” “Yes. There was a ring. His signet ring.”

The missing Neville St. Clair writes his wife a letter to reassure her that he is all right, and encloses his signet ring to prove it’s from him. In this case, Holmes doesn’t think the ring signifies anything, and he proceeds to solve the mystery without it, but at least the wife takes comfort from its evidence that her husband is still alive.

The Valley of Fear

“Master always wore his plain gold wedding ring on the little finger of his left hand. That ring with the rough nugget on it was above it, and the twisted snake ring on the third finger.”

Another murder in an isolated country house. The corpse in question is missing the wedding ring but still wearing the nugget ring. Would a thief have removed the nugget ring to get at the wedding ring, then put the nugget ring back on? This oddity puts Holmes on a long and winding track ending in the revelation that the dead man is not who he appears to be, and that the apparent murder was really justified self-defense.

Holmes Cashes In (Sometimes)

It’s not always clear how Holmes gets paid for his efforts, but occasionally payment comes in the form of some valuable bling.

A Scandal in Bohemia

He slipped an emerald snake ring from his finger and held it out upon the palm of his hand.

“Your Majesty has something which I should value even more highly,” said Holmes.

In the very first Holmes short story, Irene Adler becomes the first and only woman to ever outwit Holmes. The King of Bohemia hires Holmes to recover a compromising photograph, but Miss Adler stays ahead of him at almost every turn. At the conclusion of the case, Holmes is so impressed with her that he asks only for her picture as a reward, turning down a valuable emerald.

A Case of Identity

He held out his snuffbox of old gold, with a great amethyst in the center of the lid.

“And the ring?” I asked, glancing at a remarkable brilliant which sparkled upon his finger.

Only a few months later, we see Holmes showing off a valuable snuffbox that was a “little souvenir from the King of Bohemia in return for my assistance in the case of the Irene Adler papers.” Even though Holmes earlier turned down the emerald ring, he apparently had a change of heart about taking the bling.

The brilliant ring was a gift from the reigning family of Holland, but the service Holmes rendered them was so sensitive that he could not even let Watson know anything about it.

Neither gem has anything to do with the story in which they are mentioned.

The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans

I learned incidentally that my friend spent a day at Windsor, whence he returned with a remarkably fine emerald tie-pin.

This story, as well, has nothing to do with jewels, but rather with the theft of plans for the Bruce-Partington submarine. If Holmes had not recovered the plans, the nation’s naval defenses would have been seriously compromised. The tie-pin was “a present from a certain gracious lady in whose interests he had once been fortunate enough to carry out a small commission.” Holmes’s modesty prevents him from

naming her, but the implication is clear that it is none other than Queen Victoria.

And the Most Important Jewelry of All

Unlike rings and pendants, bracelets as jewelry are never mentioned in the canon. However, bracelets in the colloquial meaning of handcuffs show up in two of the novels.

A Study in Scarlet

“I went round suspecting no harm, and the next thing I knew, this young man had the bracelets on my wrists.”

The Sign of Four

“I can see that I have you to thank that I have these bracelets upon my wrists. Still, I bear no grudge for that.”

Both Jefferson Hope in “A Study in Scarlet” and Jonathan Small in “The Sign of Four” seem very understanding of Holmes causing them to end up in handcuffs. Not only does Holmes nearly always get his man – he does it so smoothly that the man in question can only admire him for it. As do we.

A TALE OF TWO WATSONS

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

While the instrument carrying Alexander Graham Bell's cry for help to his assistant ("Watson, come here, I need you,") made its appearance in Britain a year after the famous call (1), Sherlock preferred to telegraph his plea for assistance to his Watson, reflecting one British Post Office engineer's assessment that Britain had no need for the device.

This preference for telegrams is confirmed by finding no references in the Canon to Holmes ever telephoning Watson.

Once Watson does call his friend from Little Purlington in "The Adventure of the Retired Colourman."

Telephones are mentioned in five additional stories: "The Sign of the Four," "The Man with the Twisted Lip," "The Adventure of the Illustrious Client," "The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier," and "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs," and telephone directories are consulted in another two: "The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk" and "The Adventure of the Three Gables."

This scarcity of telephone use may represent the instrument's rockier history in England.

From its inception, the various telephone designs (of which Alexander Graham Bell's represents only one) have involved a power source, a switch hook, a dialer, a ringer, a transmitter, and a receiver.

The transmitter and receiver each house a membrane which sound waves cause to vibrate.

Vibrations from the transmitter flow along wires to be recreated in the receiving membrane.

When Bell patented this device in 1876, he included not only the instrument, but the system to link them.

At the beginning, the structure involved non-insulated wires similar to telegraph wires connecting the device to a central point, or exchange, where a switchboard operator would connect the caller to the receiver's wire using a short cable.

The increase in the number users and the poor transmission quality of the wires made it difficult for the signal to carry as long a distance as a telegraph line until the invention of hand-drawn copper wire. (2)

Within a year of the patent, the telephone was presented around the world as a curiosity.

It first appeared in Britain in 1877 when Sir William Preece, chief engineer for the British Post Office, demonstrated the instrument.

He famously noted to the House of Commons two years later the telephone was not necessary in Britain because they had plenty of messenger boys. (3)

Regardless, following a demonstration to the Queen in 1878, Bell created the Telephone Company Ltd. to sell his instrument in Britain, and soon had a number of subscribers. (4)

The Telephone Company Ltd., however, faced stiff competition from the Edison Telephone Company of London Ltd. because the second offered lower rates.



Ironically, an 1880 court decision gave control over the budding service to the British Post Office, noting telephone conversations could be considered a form of telegram, which this government agency already controlled.

The judgement gave the Post Office a monopoly over service, and the organization created the National Telephone Company.

The Post Office became a separate non-governmental entity in 1969 but still ran the telecommunications system until 1981 when British Telecom was created as a public corporation (5), and the same year announced the discontinuation of telegram services. (6)

For the public, the Telephone Company converted some telegraph exchanges into telephone exchanges—as well as offering public call offices in railway stations and general stores. (7)

The original call offices were small wooden huts where anyone could make a call for a “tuppence.”

These early call offices had no standard design until 1921.

That year, the Post Office introduced a kiosk specifically designed for the telephone.

Made of reinforced concrete, they could be painted to match their surroundings.

Not until 1926 was the iconic red telephone kiosk designed.

Other designs were introduced over the next forty years, the last in 1968. (8)

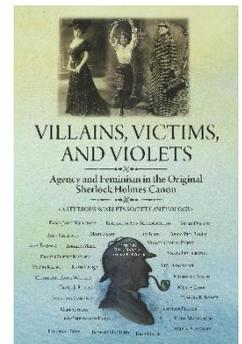
Despite their colleagues’ preferences for one form of communication over another (telephone vs. telegram), when the plea arrived, both Watsons quickly responded to the call.



- 1) <https://www.nytimes.com/1976/03/07/archives/mr-watson-come-here.html>
- 2) <https://www.britannica.com/technology/telephone>
- 3) <http://the-eye.eu/public/WorldTracker.org/Computers/Computer%20Science/Huurdemann%20-%20The%20Worldwide%20History%20of%20Telecommunications.pdf>
- 4) <https://owlcation.com/humanities/history-of-the-telephone-system-uk>
- 5) <https://www.btplc.com/Thegroup/BTsHistory/Eventsintelecommunicationshistory/index.htm>
- 6) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telegram_messenger
- 7) <https://owlcation.com/humanities/history-of-the-telephone-system-uk>
- 8) <http://home.bt.com/tech-gadgets/history-of-the-red-telephone-box-kiosk-11364141615834>

Liese Sherwood-Fabre is proud to announce the upcoming publication of “Villains, Victims, and Violets: Agency and Feminism in the Original Sherlock Holmes Canon” by BrownWalker Press in August. Twenty-nine members of the Studious Scarlets Society examine the Canon’s female characters. More details to follow.

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>



"A TERRIFIC LITTLE DINNER PARTY"

Karen Murdock, Published in the *Petrel Flyer*, Volume 15, No. 1, Vancouver, BC

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Karen Murdock, one of our remote Society members, has written numerous articles concerning the Canon and Arthur Conan Doyle. She has graciously agreed to allow us to reprint many of these articles that most of our Society members may not have seen previously. Thanks so much, Karen !!!*

The Sherlockian world, by and large, accepts the date of January 6, 1854 as the birthday of Sherlock Holmes.



Hugo's Companions of Chicago, however, holds out for May 17th as the true date, and celebrates this annually.

And even among January 6th adherents, suspicions persist that Christopher Morley picked January 6th himself, as it was the birthday of his younger brother Felix—born January 6, 1894.

Whatever its origins may have been, the traditional date is widely accepted and celebrated.

Few Sherlockians, though, are aware that the following famous folk all share the birthday of January 6th:

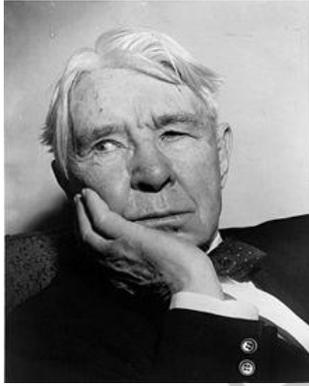
- Joan of Arc (born 1412), French liberated and liberating woman
- Charles Sumner (1811), American abolitionist Senator from Massachusetts
- Gustave Doré (1833), French illustrator
- Sherlock Holmes (1854), English private consulting detective
- Carl Sandburg (1878), American poet and author from Illinois
- Khalil Gibran (1883), Lebanese-American poet and essayist
- Earl Scruggs (1924), bluegrass banjo player from North Carolina
- E. L. (Edgar Lawrence) Doctorow (1931), American novelist from New York City

This group has the potential, does it not, to make up a terrific little dinner party, could all these shades gather around the same table in the hereafter. (Scruggs and Doctorow are still with us, so this party may take a while to come about.)

The place favors, of course, will be designed and illustrated by Doré.



Holmes and Scruggs can provide the musical entertainment for the evening (Holmes sawing away energetically on "The Orange Blossom Special," while Scruggs provides hot banjo licks in his famous "three-finger roll" style.



Sandburg could play the guitar, after a fashion, so he can join the group).

Sandburg, Gibran, and Doctorow can read extracts from their literary works.



Sumner will give a stemwinder of an after-dinner human freeing



speech about dignity and the slaves.

Then, after all the dishes have been cleared away, Saint Joan can lead the whole merry band in an attack to lift the siege of Orleans.

A memorable evening will be had by all!"

Mixed Teams in the Canon or Crime is an Equal Opportunity Employer

By Ron Lies, "Chips" 5-19-15

A question posted on the Welcome Holmes discussion site started it all. "Isn't it rare in the Canon to have a male and female act jointly for a criminal purpose?"

I came up with the following list and added some of my thoughts about the pairings. What is a team? The first definition I come to is a group of people banded together to accomplish a common goal. But can a group of people with different reasons for being in that group be called a team? Can someone be forced by fear or blackmail to be in that group be a member of such a team? I say yes, how about you dear reader? Let me know what you think? I would welcome your thoughts along with any pairing I missed.

1. My first pairing is Barney and Susan Stockdale in 3GAB. From the words of their employer in this case "They are good hounds who run silent."---- "They will take what comes to them. "That is what they are paid for.", All 3 of the above quotes are from Isadora Klein, their current employer. I shudder to have be the target of their services or have crossed their Employer.



2. Next is Mr. Jethro Rucastle and his second wife in COPP. This

odious couple is working for the same purpose and result. A father and a stepmother working against the father's own daughter. What will their son turn to be with such parental figures to look up to?

3. Our third team is The Butler Brunton and Rachel Howells in MUSG. This duo could be proof of the old adage "Hell has no fury like a Woman scorned". Or was the outcome of the case a tragic accident? I find it hard to feel sympathy for Brunton. Yet Brunton feeling his life dying with each breath he takes, so horrible!



4. Anna Sergius, wife of Sergius/Professor Corum and the unnamed second secretary of Professor Corum, in GOLD. He was an agent of a private detective firm who provided Anna with what she needed to break into the Professor's. Then the unnamed agent quit before he was involved any further in Anna's plot. So she is forced to go into the Professor's on her own. Blind so to speak.

5. There is Anna Sergius and Professor Corum, in GOLD. They acted together to hide Anna from discovery by Holmes and The authorities. They hated each other and wanted the other dead but they acted together for a common

purpose, I wonder what would have happened if they would deceived Holmes and Authorities who have left Professor and Anna alone to their own devices.

Anna Sergius is one for which it can be said that she was in the wrong places at the wrong times. She strikes me as a female Joe Btfsplk: The world's worst Jinx (Check out the Cartoon strip Li'l Abner by Al Capp for background)

6. In the HOUN, we have Beryl Garcia, aka Vandeleur, aka Stapleton. In addition, there is Jack Baskerville aka, Vandeleur aka Stapleton.



Beryl composed and sent the letter warning Sir Henry not to go to Baskerville Hall. She tries to warn who she thought was Sir Henry on the moor. Beryl seems not to be a willing participant yet she is willing to risk her life to warn a stranger?..

7. Sir George Burnwell and Mary Holder are next, in the Beryl Coronet. Here are a combination of the wolf and the sheep. They are one of the best examples I know of love being blind.

8. A mean team is James Ryder and Catherine Cusack, in BLUE. To do the crime and try to

pin it on an innocent party and at Christmas time! They are my candidates for The Marley Scrooge, Snidely Whiplash award for the nastiest at Christmas Time. (For background, if needed on Whiplash see the Adventures of Dudley Do Right on the Rocky and Bullwinkle show.) If background needed on Marley and Scrooge, you have to be kidding!

9. Next up is Jonas Oldacre and his housekeeper Mrs.

Lexington, in the Norwood Builder. Talk about there being a fine line between love and hate. His housekeeper could



fill in for Mrs. Danvers at Manderley. (See the novel Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier if background is required)

10. James Windibank aka Hosmer and Mrs. Windibank, in IDEN. What a pair! I have heard of evil stepparents but an evil stepfather and the victims own mother. That is a new one on me.

11. Then there is Mrs. Eugenia Ronder and Leonardo the strong man, in VEIL. Mrs. Ronder is one for whom I have sympathy for. Holmes was extremely kind and sympathetic to her. To me, this is an example of what Holmes had learned about people over the years and how he changed.

12. We have The Lady Trelawney Hope and Eduardo Lucas, in SECO. The expression of "being caught between a rock and a hard place" fits this Lady Hope to a T. I have my suspicions about the lady herself. She showed a clever

mind later on in the story. Yet for her to believe that she was being forced to steal only minor papers at the start?

13. We have Holy Peters and Annie Frasier aka Peters, aka Schlesinger, in SOLI. They are another pair of really, really, nasty people. I wonder if there has ever been a pastiche written about these two.

14. Next come the Butler Barrymore and his wife Elisa in HOUN. I imagine Barrymore as a man in a difficult situation. On one hand, he has an obligation to turn in a viscous killer, on the other destroying his wife and possibly his marriage.

15. We have Von Bork and his wife, in LAST. His wife acted as a funnel for minor papers while protected by her diplomatic immunity. Von Bork had one very bad evening.



16. Then we have Reuben Hayes and his wife in PRIO. This unnamed wife had a reputation in the neighborhood as a good person. Yet she could not do anything and would not do anything without her husband's permission for fear of her husband.

17 We have the unnamed Man, who acted as carriage driver and his equally unnamed wife in GREE. Surely, that must be a pastiche written involving these two characters. On the other

hand, maybe posting this will give someone the idea to write one.

Teams consisting of One Female/ two males are:

18. We come to a trio who very little is known about. We have Elsie, Stark and Ferguson from ENGR. Elsie is opposed to Stark using violence again so she has been with the team at least a year. If so why does she stay? Family love, Romantic Love, Fear, or another reason? She warns our Engineer, helps him escape. So why leave our maimed and bleeding helpless Engineer laying in the garden? Short of a confession from one of the three we will never know.

19. Here are Carrie Evans and her husband, who practiced his trade as an actor and Sir Robert Norberton from SHOS. The old saying that money is the root of all-evil applies in this case. That must have been quite a brother sister relationship in the Norberton family.

20. Next we have Ivy Douglas, her husband



John Douglas aka Bertie Edwards and Cecil Barker in VALL. Mrs. Douglas was trying to protect her husband. I have wondered, based on my reading the story, were Cecil Barker's motives really, what they seemed to be on the surface?

Teams that consisted of two females/one male combinations who acted jointly together are

21. Lady Eva Brackenstall, her personal maid Theresa Wright and Captain Jack Crocker in ABBE. A plot device that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle used so well in this and the next case on this list.



22. Hatty Doran/Mouton, her personal maid Alice, and Frank Mouton in NOBL. To marry another man while seeing her first husband in attendance. Wow! What a lady who can think so fast on her feet.

Two teams of Female as leader of a group of males are:

23. Signora Victor Durando/Miss Bernet and the society who conspired against Don

Murillo in WIST: Revenge in this case is one I can sympathize with and hope she was able to find peace.

24. Isadora Klein and The Spencer John gang in 3GAB. This Villainess reminds of Cruella De Ville of The original Disney cartoon movie "One Hundred and One Dalmatians." To paraphrase the song about Ms. De Ville:

"At first you think Isadora is a devil, but after time has worn away the shock, you come to realize you've seen those kinds of eyes watching you from underneath a rock. A vampire bat, an inhuman beast! She ought to be locked up and never released. She's like a spider waiting for the kill," look out for Isadora Klein!

Finally, there is my favorite one of all:

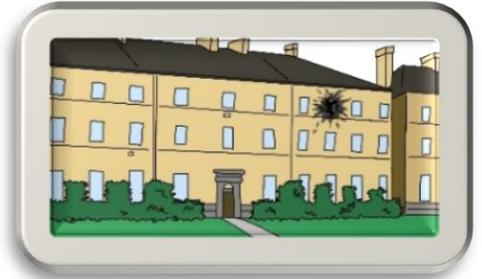
25. A female or is it a male impersonating an old woman and Jefferson Hope in STUD? Did this person give Jefferson Hope help in other ways that Watson and Holmes were not aware? How about the ideas that the fellow actor helping Hope was John Clay or a member of the Moriarty organization helped Hope in return for a promise to help the Professor when the Professor called the favor in.



The opportunities for Sherlockian research theories will continue for as long people can read and think "what if?" May the Canon always be with us!

Baker Street Elementary

Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason
The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson



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Fay, Mason, & Mason

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MASTER DOYLE, I BELIEVE
YOUR REPORT ON 'MOBY DICK'
TO BE A LITTLE EXAGGERATED...



YOUR BELIEF THAT A WHALING
EXPEDITION WOULD BE
GLAMEROUS AND ADVENTUROUS
MAY BE LOOKING AT THE
JOURNEY THROUGH 'ROSE-
COLORED GLASSES'



WHILE I ADMIT THE LIFE ON A WHALER
WOULD BE EXTREMELY TRYING, I BELIEVE
IF SOMEONE WAS TO TAKE THE POSITION
OF SHIP'S DOCTOR, THE THREAT OF
DANGER WOULD BE MINIMIZED...



UNLESS YOU FELL OFF THE ICE
ONCE OR TWICE...

OR THE INJURED MAMMAL
TOOK A SWIPE AT YOU
WITH HIS FIN...



FOR THOSE ON THEIR FIRST VOYAGE, I WOULD
SUGGEST THEY MAY BOARD THE WHALER AS A
STRAGGLING YOUTH, BUT THEY WOULD EXIT
AS A POWERFUL WELL-GROWN MAN...



...OR SINK TO THE BOTTOM OF
THE SEA AS DID MOST OF THE
CHARACTERS IN THE STORY

