The Bilge Pump

Vol. 07, No. 12 – December, 2019

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

PLEASE NOTE:

January 05 Meeting

NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 05**, 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 Case of Identity."** The quiz will cover this tale.

We will also have our State of the Society discussion.

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

December 01 Summary

There were 14 in attendance at the meeting. Karen Wilson toasted the 12 days of Sherlockian Christmas (see page 3).

The Crew then took a quiz on "The Red-Headed League," which was won by Sharon Lowry, with Karen Wilson taking second place.

Tim Kline showed us his newest acquisitions that could make your special Sherlockian a great Christmas gift.

The discussion for the month centered around the questions in the Canon (how many were there, how did Holmes use them, and what lessons can we take from his skills).

We closed the meeting with a reading (by Pam Mason) from the Summer 2011 Baker Street Journal, "All Lost in Wonderland" (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

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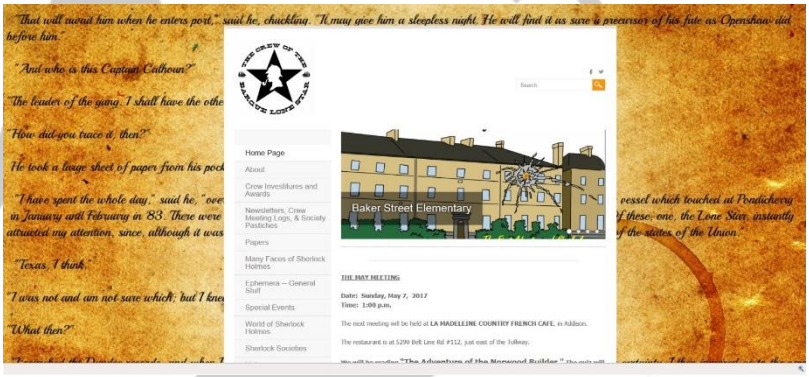
Our Website:

www.dfw-sherlock.org



Our Facebook Page:

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

"WATSON'S TOAST TO SHERLOCK"

Karen Olson

On the first day of Yuletide Sherlock
gave to me:
A spyglass at 221B
On the second day of Yuletide
Sherlock gave to me:
2 pipes smoking
and a spyglass at 221B
On the third day of Yuletide Sherlock
gave to me:
3 slippers of shag
2 pipes smoking
and a spyglass at 221B
On the fourth day of
Yuletide Sherlock gave
to me:
4 Deerstalker caps
3 slippers of shag
2 pipes smoking
and a spyglass at 221B
On the fifth day of Yuletide Sherlock
gave to me:
5 Hansom cabs
4 Deerstalker caps
3 slippers of shag
2 pipes smoking
and a spyglass at 221B

On the sixth day of Yuletide Sherlock
gave to me:
6 Draghounds tracking
5 Hansom cabs
4 Deerstalker caps
3 slippers of shag
2 pipes smoking
and a spyglass at 221B
On the seventh day of Yuletide
Sherlock gave to me:
7 Gasogenes fizzing
6 Draghounds tracking
5 Hansom cabs
4 Deerstalker caps
3 slippers of shag
2 pipes smoking
and a spyglass at 221B
On the eighth of Yuletide Sherlock
gave to me:
8 Baritsu fighters beaten
7 Gasogenes fizzing
6 Draghounds tracking
5 Hansom cabs
4 Deerstalker caps
3 slippers of shag
2 pipes smoking
and a spyglass at 221B

On the ninth day of Yuletide Sherlock gave to me:
9 teapots brewing
7 Gasogenes fizzing
6 Draghounds tracking
5 Hansom cabs
4 Deerstalker caps
3 slippers of shag
2 pipes smoking
and a spyglass at 221B

On the tenth day of Yuletide Sherlock gave to me:
10 Royals groveling
9 teapots brewing
8 Baritsu fighters beaten
7 Gasogenes fizzing
6 Draghounds tracking
5 Hansom cabs
4 Deerstalker caps
3 slippers of shag
2 pipes smoking
and a spyglass at 221B

On the eleventh day of Yuletide Sherlock gave to me:
11 Irregulars snooping
10 Royals groveling
9 teapots brewing
8 Baritsu fighters beaten
7 Gasogenes fizzing
6 Draghounds tracking
5 Hansom cabs
4 Deerstalker caps
3 slippers of shag
2 pipes smoking
and a spyglass at 221B

On the twelfth of Yuletide Sherlock gave to me:
12 tales in "The Strand" written by me

Thus, we have a toast to Sherlock Holmes written by Dr. John Watson

"ALL LOST IN WONDERLAND" (EXTRACT)

Steven Rothman, Editor, BSJ, Summer 2011, Vol 60, No. 4

As we continue in the second century of Sherlockian studies, an exciting time with new tools and their endless possibilities lies ahead.

Are we ready to face the challenges those possibilities will present?

Probably not.

Sherlockiana has always been among the oddest of pastimes, stranger than collecting bus tickets or bird watching.

That would come from its deepest ground rules, based on Knox's deliberate reading in 1911: the unspoken-of breathing of life into the printed page.

Of course, Sherlockiana has many parents and even more midwives and nursery maids.

This host that has raised Sherlockiana for the last century may not have prepared it for the current one.

We show every evidence of being bound—almost literally—to our books, our "print culture," as it is increasingly called in academic circles.

Oh yes, we have our movies, recordings, and television, but even they have physical existence in most Sherlockians' minds.

And the greater culture is, I fear, leaving us, and our 19th-century hero worship, behind.

How do we attract new Sherlockians in this new age?

How do we transfer ourselves from groups that meet in dining rooms and on the page, to a community that has both a virtual and a real existence?

Virtual existence on the Internet, on Twitter and Facebook, almost allows for immediacy, but the traditional dinner meetings are just as important for forming real friendships and that understanding that comes only face to face.

We will all be joined by our electronic tethers soon.

We go not entirely willingly into this new age, but we go fully expecting to be dazzled by many of the changes.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

“Sherlock Holmes Birthday -- The BSI Weekend”

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

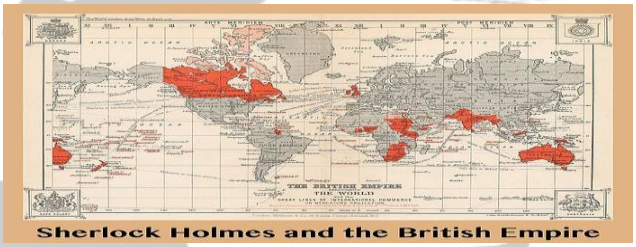
https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-weekend/

“221b Con – A Fan Con for all Things Sherlock Holmes”

April 3-5, 2020

https://www.221bcon.com/

"Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire"



July 17-19, 2020 -- Bear Mountain Inn, NY

https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/2019/08/03/bsi-2020-conference-dates/

“Holmes in the Heartland”

July 24-26, 2020 -- St. Louis, MO

https://parallelcasestl.wixsite.com/home/holmes-in-the-heartland

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SEVENTEEN STEPS TO "A CASE OF IDENTITY"

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of "A Case of Identity" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

FRIENDS WITH THINGS IN COMMON

In this tale Watson refers to Holmes's "position of unofficial adviser and helper to everybody who is absolutely puzzled, throughout three continents."

Does this coincide with Watson's 3 continents? Is this also, perhaps, evidence that Watson was in the habit of seducing Holmes's clients?

And while we've often mused upon the identity of Watson's three continents, what were Holmes's three?

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THAT'S A PLUMB GOOD BUSINESS YOU'VE GOT THERE!

Miss Mary Sutherland tells us, "Father was a plumber in the Tottenham Court Road, and he left a tidy business behind him, which mother carried on with Mr. Hardy, the foreman; but when Mr. Windibank came he made her sell the business... They got L4700 for the goodwill and interest..."

Nearly 5000 pounds for a plumber's business without a plumber? Perhaps Escott's "rising business" in CHAS shouldn't have been abandoned so hastily by Holmes!

How big a business must Sutherland have owned? How many employees besides Hardy might he have had?

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WITH POUND SIGNS IN HIS EYES

"You interest me extremely," Holmes says before he hears anything at all about Miss Sutherland's problem, but having just heard about her monetary situation.

Was the rent due at 221B? Were his royal clients giving him baubles and not enough cash? Or is Holmes just greedy?

****

BUT MAYBE IT WASN'T THE MONEY

"Quite an interesting study, that maiden," he observed. "I found her more interesting than her little problem."

Compare this statement to Sherlock's comments after Mary Morstan leaves in SIGN, as he barely notices she's female. Is Sutherland the anti-Morstan?

Does Holmes actually find her attractive? Is there significance in the fact that Sutherland is the only female in the Canon that Holmes refers to with old-fashioned gallantry as "a maiden"? Could Watson's Irene Adler praises have been red herrings to cover Holmes's true love?

****

YOU SEE BUT YOU DO NOT . . . WELL, MAYBE YOU DO OBSERVE!

"Well, she had a slate-coloured, broad-brimmed straw hat, with a feather of a brickish red. Her jacket was black, with black beads sewn upon it, and a fringe of little black jet ornaments. Her dress was brown, rather darker than coffee colour, with a little purple plush at the neck and sleeves. Her gloves were grayish and were worn through at the right forefinger. Her boots I didn't observe. She had small round, hanging gold earrings, and a general air of being fairly well-to-do in a vulgar, comfortable, easy-going way."

Who says Watson does not observe? Is this amazing attention to detail a sign that Watson was actually learning under Holmes's tutelage?

The critique from his teacher isn't too bad, for Holmes: "It is true that you have missed everything of importance, but you have hit upon the method, and you have a quick eye for colour."

Watson has actually hit upon Holmes's method! Did Watson attempt to be a true partner in the detective business, before eventually settling in as chronicler and publicist? Is this part of a larger pattern of Holmes the teacher/Watson the student running throughout the tales?

****

THE BROTHER, THE UNCLE, OR COUSIN EARL?

"It is just as well that we should do business with the male relatives," Holmes announces as he's about to wrap up the case. Why the plural? Is he making a policy statement for the future, or had Holmes contacted other male relatives of Mary Sutherland in hopes of letting them finish the thrashing that Holmes almost starts on Windibank?

****

EVERYBODY HAS TO IMPRESS SOMEBODY

For an ice-cold reasoning machine, Holmes does seem to make an effort to show off his new snuff-box and ring to his friend. And why not? If your best friend stops over after you've recently been given some pretty swanky merchandise (in contrast to your "homely ways and simple life" as Watson puts it), wouldn't you show it off? And would you do it as Holmes did, or just say, "Hey, Watson, look at this neat snuffbox I got!"

Or was Holmes just wearing a pricey ring around the house and waving a jewelled snuffbox without thinking?

****

CALLING DR. QWERTY! "I find that I can do pretty well with what I earn at typewriting. It brings me twopence a sheet, and I can often do from fifteen to twenty sheets in a day."

Fifteen to twenty sheets a day? Was this a reasonable speed for a Victorian typist?

How long a day was she putting in? And was she using all ten fingers, or was the

whole world still hunting and pecking back then?

****

THE GASFITTER'S CINDERELLA

Mary Sutherland meets her Prince Charming at the gasfitter's ball. Sounds like dancing, but what kind of band were the gasfitters likely to have at their ball? A couple of fiddles and a tambourine?

We see the grand affairs of royalty in movies, but what was the typical combo of the working man's dance party?

****

THIS ONE'S GOT A JOB

As the Canon moves on, we shall see many a step-father scheming to hang on to his step-daughter's money, but Windibank is unusual in he does have a job. He also doesn't seem to have a large estate to keep up. Why was he so desperate for the cash that he'd head for the very first social his step-daughter goes to? This is a guy who's seriously afraid of losing that income. Why?

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DIAGNOSIS: LIAR?

Hosmer Angel tells his date that "He'd had the quinsy and swollen glands when he was young, he told me, and it had left him with a weak throat, and a hesitating, whispering fashion of speech."

Okay, medical experts, we know Hosmer isn't telling the truth, but is this a credible fib? Might a fellow have existed with such a speech impediment as the result of quinsy?

****

COULD THEY ONLY AFFORD THE ONE?

The Smash may be showing his own dreadful ignorance here, but the phrase, "He was in dreadful earnest and made me swear, with my hands on the Testament…" strikes me odd.

Does the mention of a single Testament indicate one particular religious persuasion or another for the Windibanks? I'm betting they're not Mormons, despite the near-bigamy thing, but wonder if the Hounds can clear the meaning of this usage up for me.

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THE ADVENTURE OF THE COMMON SPINSTER

"A Case of Identity" makes a nice pairing with "The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor," doesn't it? Both feature clients whose betrothed disappears on the wedding day, and as Holmes says in the later tale, "They often vanish before the ceremony, and occasionally during the honeymoon..."

He also tells of working on a similar case for the King of Scandinavia. And, in this tale, parallel cases in Andover in '77 and at The Hague the previous year.

Was this another reason he frequented the personal ads? Was the tracking of marital escapees a specialty of his? Would Scotland Yard concern themselves with this sort of thing at all, or did they leave the field open to the private investigator?

****

A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR THE SCIENTISTS...

Watson comes into 221B and smells "the pungent cleanly smell of hydrochloric acid." Holmes soon tells him the result of his chemical experiment was identifying bisulphate of baryta. How would the hydrochloric acid figure into such an investigation?

****

TALK OF AGES

James Windibank is "some thirty years of age." His wife, then, is about forty-five, and his step-daughter around twenty-five. Holmes is only around thirty himself, and Watson a few years older. Was Holmes's treatment of Windibank affected by their common ages?

Did Holmes and Watson see Windibank as a lesser creature for marrying a woman they may have regarded as far too old? And would Holmes have taken up the hunting crop and started after a man who was more plainly his senior? And were Holmes and Watson comparing observations on Mary simply because she was a female of an age that suited their fancy?

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THE BALD TRUTH

"About five feet seven inches in height; strongly built, sallow complexion, black hair, a little bald in the centre, bushy, black side-whiskers and moustache; tinted glasses, slight infirmity of speech."

So reads the printed description of Hosmer Angel.

"I eliminated everything from it which could be the result of a disguise--the whiskers, the glasses, the voice, and I sent it to the firm, with a request that they would inform me whether it answered to the description of any of their travellers."

So sayeth Sherlock. Which leaves us a five-seven, strongly-built, sallow-skinned fellow with a bald spot. Enough data for Westhouse and Marbank to identify one of their employees? Perhaps, with that bald spot.

But the bald-spot isn't mentioned by Watson when he sees Windibank, and it would seem a dead giveaway to the step-daughter. Could Windibank have faked a bald spot with Victorian make-up technology?

****

CRIMINAL TYPISTS BEWARE!

"I think of writing another little monograph some of these days on the typewriter and its relation to crime," Holmes says, after explaining how he used the distinctive characteristics of type to match up Hosmer Angel's letters with Windibank's note.

How many other criminal activities could possibly be related to the typewriter?

A DEADLY IMPORT

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

Yellow fever caused the death of Rodger Baskerville in Central America in The Hound of the Baskervilles and Effie Hebron's husband in Atlanta in "The Adventure of the Yellow Face."

Primarily a tropical disease—as in Rodger Baskerville's case—outbreaks prior to and during the Victorian era were documented in cooler climes, such as Atlanta and England, as well.

The symptoms initially appeared similar to the flu with headaches, body aches, and chills and fever.

The acute phase (lasting three to four days) was marked, in addition to those that first appeared, by a loss of appetite, shivers, and backaches.

Following this period, most recovered, but about 15% progressed to the toxic phase, exhibiting decreased urination, jaundice (hence, the name "yellow fever"), vomiting, seizures, and delirium. About 50% of those experiencing these advanced symptoms would die. (1)

While it is known today to be carried by the Aedes aegypti mosquito (associated recently with the Zika virus outbreak), (2) during Sherlock's time, two competing theories existed related to its transmission.

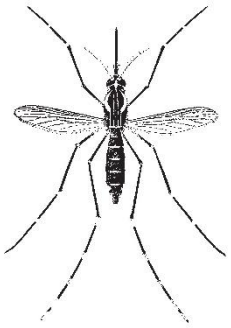
The "contagionists" believed yellow fever could be passed from person to person through close association with an infected person.

The "infectionists" insisted that miasma, air pollution created by putrefying plant and animal waste, sickened those who breathed it. (3)

Both these theories relied, in part, on the idea that such diseases were "filth diseases," primarily carried by African slaves transported to different countries. (4)

Several well-known outbreaks were associated with ships traveling from Africa or Central America.

Such episodes originated in the summer in port cities where infections passed from those on the ship—such as those importing sugar from Cuba (1802) or Brazil (1820)—to the port city's population.



Given the mosquito's lifespan and the duration of transatlantic journeys, theories identified water barrels as the most likely means for transporting the disease from port to port.

Once onboard, female mosquitos laid their eggs in the barrels, allowing generations to live and breed until their arrival in a new port where they could infect the local population. (5)

One of the deadliest outbreaks affected a number of ports in 1793.

The Hankey picked up the survivors of an ill-fated colony on the island of Bolama off the west coast of Africa.

Many had already succumbed to yellow fever, and as the ship stopped in Barbados, Grenada, Saint Dominique, and Philadelphia, the disease would break out within days of the ship's arrival.

The epidemic was so bad, George Washington fled Philadelphia to Mt. Vernon to avoid contracting the disease.

In all a tenth (5000) of the city's population died. The ship then returned to England, but word of its destructive path reached the country and after the passengers and crew disembarked, they burned the ship to the waterline and sank it to the bottom of the Thames.

Despite many of those on the ship succumbing to the disease, the captain never flew "the yellow Jack," a flag warning others of an infection onboard.

If he had, everyone would have been quarantined and the pandemic averted. (6)

Even during the Philadelphia outbreak, mosquitos were never considered a carrier although Dr. Benjamin Rush (a local physician) observed in his meticulous notes a greater than usual number of mosquitos that summer.

In 1886, Dr. Carlos Finlay proposed that mosquitos transmitted the disease, but he was ignored for twenty years, until Walter Reed and other researchers visited him in Cuba to study the infection.

They confirmed his assertion, and the team ultimately eradicated the disease from Panama and Cuba. (7) A vaccine, however, took more than thirty years before Max Theiler and his team developed it in 1937. (8)

Had the findings of Dr. Finlay been given more attention, efforts to eliminate the disease might have progressed much sooner.

Unfortunately, such information would have come too late to save Roger Baskerville or Effie's husband. Many others, however, would have been spared a disease that still claims about 30,000 a year.

Dr. Liese Sherwood-Fabre's first four years of essays have been collected in The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes, Volumes 1 and 2, available through online bookstores such as Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

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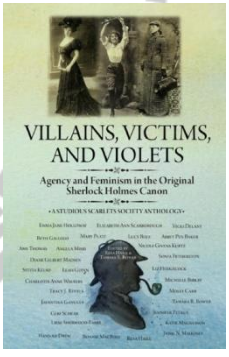
(1) https://www.healthline.com/health/yellow-fever#prevention
(2) https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/zika-virus
(3) https://www.jstor.org/stable/158263?seq=3#page_scan_tab_contents
(4) https://www.britannica.com/science/yellow-fever
(5) https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/6070/427464c1cd26aeb71c8c8d01b8661aaaa079.pdf
(6) https://www.annmarieackermann.com/hankey-yellow-fever-nautical-signal-flags/
(7) https://www.britannica.com/biography/Carlos-J-Finlay
(8) https://www.historyofvaccines.org/timeline/yellow-fever

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



Liese Sherwood-Fabre's articles on Sarah Cushing and Scandal in the Canon are now out in "Villains, Victims, and Violets," a study of feminism and agency in the original Sherlock Holmes stories. Available in paperback and eBook from BrownWalkerPress, Amazon, and Barnes and Noble.

SHERLOCK HOLMES'S VIOLIN

William C. Honeyman & Conan Doyle, Copyright 2019 Samuel J. Hardman

Thanks so much to Samuel Hardman for permission to add this wonderful essay to our newsletter.

Steve

My interest in violins began when my mother gave me a handsome Scottish violin. When I wished to know more about its maker, I consulted William C. Honeyman's Scottish Violin Makers: Past and Present; hence, my first contact with William Crawford Honeyman. Later, through genealogical connections, I learned more about Mr. Honeyman and his literary work. When I was a boy, I received several gifts of lasting value, among them The Complete Sherlock Holmes (1930). The portrait of Sherlock Holmes on the dust covers thrilled me. Stuck fast to my hero, I soon adopted Holmes's deductive method.

In her excellent note about William Crawford Honeyman in The McGovan Casebook, Mary Anne Alburger demonstrates that she is an able sleuth, especially when she links Honeyman and Sherlock Holmes's musical sensibilities: “But it is likely that Honeyman, always seen with his Stradivarius, and a leading writer of detective fiction, unknowingly supplied Doyle with the idea of making musical sensibilities central to Holmes's character.”

When writing about Honeyman, it appears that Alburger did not know about “Sherlock Holmes' Kiwi Connection” by Tom Hunt (2014), or “A Scottish Sherlock Holmes, M'Gov'an, The Edinburgh Detective” by Norval Scrymgeour. Further, she did not know about essential Honeyman information in this note. That Alburger did not know about these works adds luster to her Holmes-like deductions.

Norval Scrymgeour knew William C. Honeyman quite well. Further, he interviewed Conan Doyle. Scrymgeour's interview with Doyle was reported in The Scotsman on 30 November 1930. During the interview, Doyle told Scrymgeour “that when a student at Edinburgh University he read with zest the detective stories of James M'Govan, and although he did not say so, I took it that these then immensely popular sensations, as much as the queer foible of his teacher, the eccentric Bell, influenced him towards evolving the logical processes that in time flowered into the Sherlock Holmes series." When Scrymgeour told Doyle that he “had known intimately the man who had made famous James M'Govan,” Doyle was not surprised.

Did Conan Doyle know about William Crawford Honeyman's keen interest in rare, antique violins and that Mr. Honeyman was the author of James McGovan? If not, Conan Doyle lived alone in a dark hole, was deaf, dumb, and blind, and could not have written Sherlock Holmes.

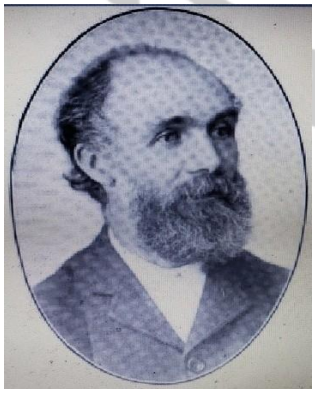
Like Holmes, Honeyman played the violin quite well. In A Study in Scarlet , Dr. Watson makes the following remark: “That he [Holmes] could play pieces, and difficult pieces, I knew well, because at my request he has played me some Mendelssohn's Lieder, and other favourites. When left to himself, however, he would seldom produce any music or attempt any recognized air.” In Doyle's original notes, Sherlock Holmes was a collector of rare, antique violins. In A Study in Scarlet, Holmes, like Honeyman, “prattled away about Cremona fiddles, and the difference between a Stradivarius and an

Amati." Both Holmes and Honeyman owned Stradivarius violins. Altogether, an acceptable portrait of William Crawford Honeyman. Further, there are clues in Honeyman's "The Romance of a Real Cremona" that link Honeyman to Doyle's Sherlock Holmes. Hence, I accept William Crawford Honeyman as one of Conan Doyle's real-life models for Sherlock Holmes and the inspiration for Holmes's violin.

Did Conan Doyle know William Crawford Honeyman? I think so. Honeyman was well-known in Edinburgh as a violinist, writer, and editor when Doyle lived there. Did Doyle know that Honeyman was the author of James McGovan? That Doyle did not know that Honeyman was the author of James McGovan seems quite impossible. The following information about William Crawford Honeyman, published in 1909, makes it quite clear that Honeyman was known as the author of James McGovan in the United States, as well as in England and Scotland. Indeed, it appears that Honeyman made no secret of his famous sleuth, James McGovan.

According to a newspaper account and A. Van Doren Honeyman (1909), William Crawford Honeyman, "whose work has entertained thousands of readers has no pride about him and he hates all shams."

Honeyman Family
In Scotland and America 1548-1908
by
A. Van Doren Honeyman Plainfield, N. J. 1909.
Mr. William C. Honeyman, of Newport.



"One of the best known authors of the present day in Scotland, and a most successful violinist and musical composer, is William Crawford Honeyman, of Cremona Villa, Newport, Fife. He was born in 1845, and is descended from George Honeyman, farmer and linen weaver, of near Largo, Fife. Mr. Honeyman is a proficient and skillful player upon the violin, and is the author of various works upon that instrument, which have obtained a large circulation in Scotland and England. One work, The Violin, How to Master It (1879) had gone through eighteen editions up to a year or so since. The Edinburgh Scotsman said of it: 'Full of shrewd practical advise and instruction. The author has contrived to make his work readable and interesting as well as instructive.' All other reviews of it speak in the same high terms, as of a book 'which will be greatly relished by violin players everywhere;' as 'wonderful, well packed, comprehensive and thoroughly practical;' and as 'violin-teaching by one whose understanding of the instrument is as nearly as possible perfect.'

Others of similar works are: The Young Violinist's Tutor, Scottish Violin Makers, Past and Present, The Secrets of Violin Playing (1885).

Mr. Honeyman comes honestly of his musical bent, his mother being the second daughter of Mr. Adam Crawford, of Edinburgh, author of 'O, wha hasna' heard o' Toon o' Dunkel?' 'All Hallow Fair, O,' and other racy Scotch songs and poems; also various articles in newspapers and magazines. In addition to his musical work he has been fiction editor of the People's Journal and contributed a series of beautiful stories under the title of 'Romances of Real Life' to the People's Friend, with which he became permanently connected in 1872. In fiction, among his books are the following: Brought to Bay, Hunted Down, Strange Clues, Traced and Tracked, Solved Mysteries, etc., many of them running through a large number of editions.

A recent list of his publications indicate that up to 1899 he had published fifty-nine works, chiefly

as serials, seventeen of which had been published in book form. He is a methodical worker, writing his stories at his Cremona Villa. One of the Scotch newspapers says of him: 'The man whose work has entertained thousands of readers has no pride about him and he hates all shams.'"

Miss Lisa Honeyman, of Newport.

"Miss Lisa Honeyman, of Newport, Fife, Scotland, is the daughter of the William Crawford Honeyman of the preceding sketch, and born in Edinburgh. She is a solo-violinist of great repute. She began the study of the violin at the age of five, and made her first appearance as a soloist at the age of seven, when it is said of her that she played her solo 'with a truthfulness of intonation and an amount of expression that were altogether beyond what might be expected from a girl of her years.' At the age of fourteen she entered the Royal College of Music, London, as a student, continuing there for six years, her violin masters being Alfred Burnett, R.

A. M., and Professor Gompertz. She uses the violin which was made at Cremona in the year 1742 by Joseph Guarnerius (del Jesu), and which was pronounced by Sivori (Paganinni's only pupil) to be 'the finest toned violin in the world.' In Newspaper accounts of her performance in London and in Scotland the critics have stated that 'her execution was faultless,' and 'beyond all criticism;' and that she played 'with grace and sweetness.' Said one journal, 'In her hands the violin is, indeed, a charming instrument. Her playing is a triumph of manipulated skill and artistic expression.'"

THE REAL GIANT RAT

Ronald Lies, 2019

A wonderful remembrance from one of our members.

Steve

I met the evil horrible Professor Ratigan.

He was cleverly disguised as the American actor, Vincent Price, known for his roles in horror movies.

The Walt Disney movie of "The Great Mouse Detective" had been released a year earlier.

At that time my wife (my Mary Morstan) was a Catholic youth minister at Denver University.

Mr. Price was invited to the DU campus to deliver a lecture on his film career for the Drama Department and to attend a private showing of his paintings for the alumni of the school to bid on.

The donations were to help support student scholarships to the Art and Drama Departments.

The evening lecture was only for students and staff of the University.

My wife knew that I was a fan of Vincent Price horror films and an obsessed Sherlockian.

She arranged with one of her students who was working security to smuggle me in.

Of course, I was wearing my deerstalker but still managed to stay below the radar and take my seat.

The actor was announced, and this incredibly old, slightly bent-over man walked slowly out to the speaker's podium.

And then a miracle happened.

As he began to speak softly and then with the richer, slightly menacing tones that we recalled, his voice was the voice in our memories.

Before my eyes the old man straightened up and his face became richly animated as he described the career that he so adored and loved.

The two hours flew by, then came time for questions.

There was a small rush to line up at the microphone stand; a slightly older looking man wearing a deerstalker was second in line.

The first questioner asked Mr. Price if he could say which his favorite horror role was.

Taking his microphone from the speaker's podium, he strode out onto the middle of the stage and stated that it was easy.

He'd played a crazed Shakespearean actor in London who was convinced his career had been destroyed by the so-called theater critics because of their jealousy of his immense talent.

In the movie death came from the plays of William Shakespeare.

The Bard had created some monstrously terrifying deaths.

The secret to casting the movie was every actor from well-known to unknown wanted to be in the picture where the critics who had so lambasted them were so brutally and painfully murdered.

Then I came to the microphone.

Mr Price looked at me with a twinkle in his eye seeing my deerstalker and He cackled out, "Yes detective, your question is?"

His voice took on the accent of Professor Ratigan as he asked me?
I swallowed and asked how He enjoyed being in the Great Mouse Detective movie?

"Well Detective (I think he observed my deerstalker and deuced I was a detective) I enjoyed the role so tremendously. I am hoping that there will be a sequel and I will be asked back to reprise the role. My instructions for the role were to overact in my lines and my gestures He imitated having a cape and sweeping it around him and even was granted the privilege of preform my own singing and dancing."

Mr. Price said that the artists sketched his dance moves and applied them to the animated villain.

Then in his most evil Professor Ratigan tone Mr. Price said Thank you, Mr. Detective and threaten Basil for me -- we will meet again!

I moved back to my seat. The questioning went on.

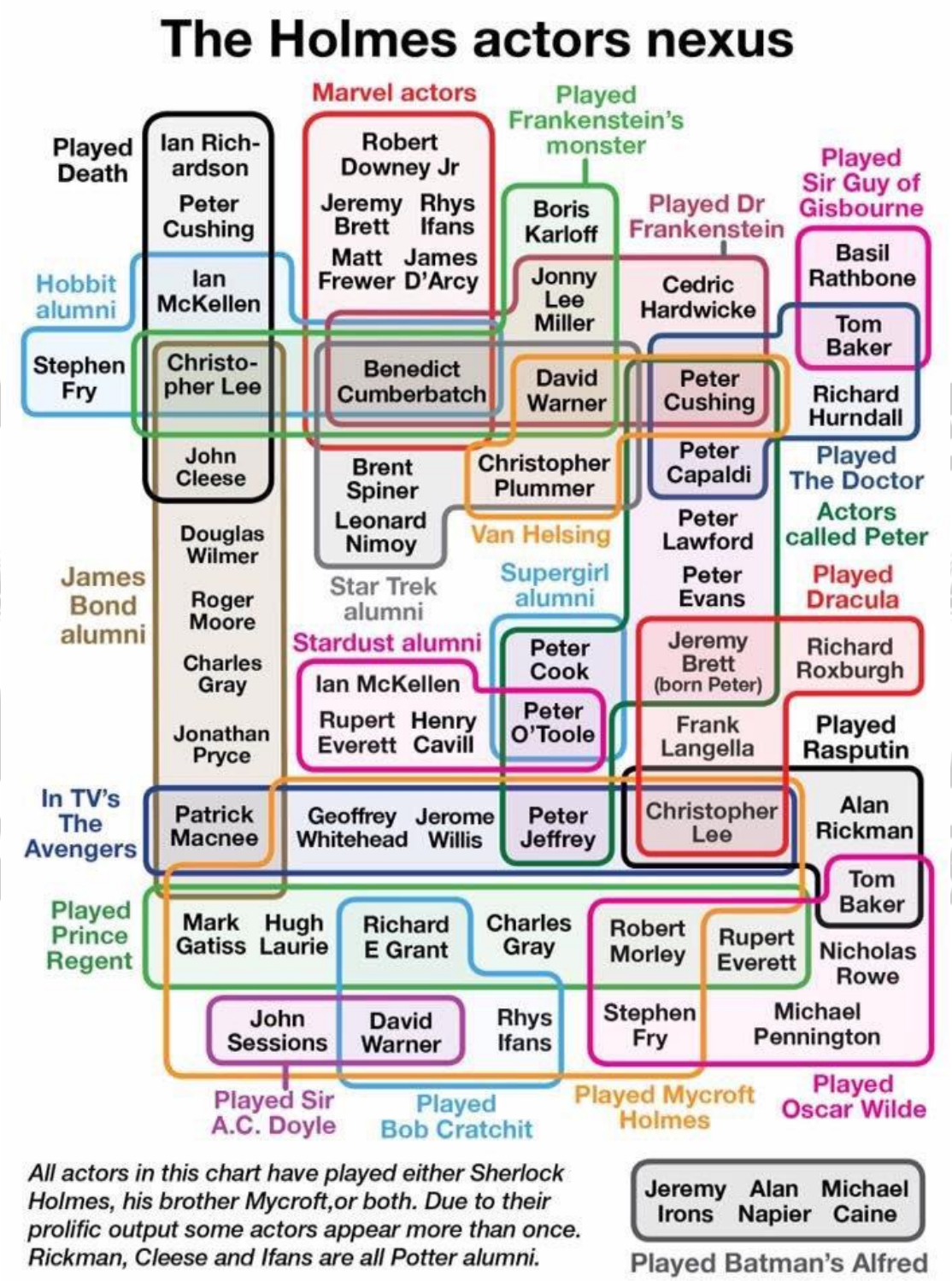
The student who smuggled me in signaled that I should fade away before he was caught.

It seems the student thought I might have brought attention to myself being the only one in the auditorium wearing a deerstalker.

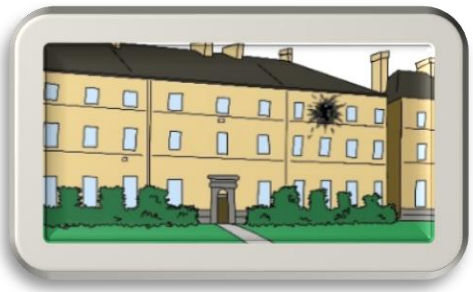
So, I moved out to an exit, where he let me out and I walked [home] two feet above the ground and re watched my video of what else but "The Great Mouse Detective".

Ron aka the Game is Afoot

Found this on the internet… There was no attribution, but it is informative…



Baker Street *Elementary*



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The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson