The Bilge Pump

Vol. 08, No. 01 – January, 2020

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

PLEASE NOTE:

February 02 Meeting

NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 02**, 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 **"The Boscombe Valley Mystery."** The quiz will cover this tale.

Ann Caddell will provide information on romances in the Canon.

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

December 01 Summary

There were 19 in attendance at the meeting. Cindy Brown offered a toast, honoring Sherlockians everywhere.

The Crew then took a quiz on "A Case of Identity," which was won by Eleanor and Thomas Hebert.

The discussion for the month centered on our State of the Society (2019) – see page 4.

We will consider developing a video for our 50th anniversary, similar to the Nashville, TN scion society.

Don Hobbs won the lightning quiz.

DRAWING FOR THE GANGWAY PRIZE

Herb Linder won a Crack the Case Game for the Gangway Prize Drawing.

The final reading was a toast by Steve Mason, honoring Sherlock Holmes birthday, which was originally written by Jan Cassetta (see page 3).

Thanks to Brenda Hutchison for keeping the minutes, which you can find 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

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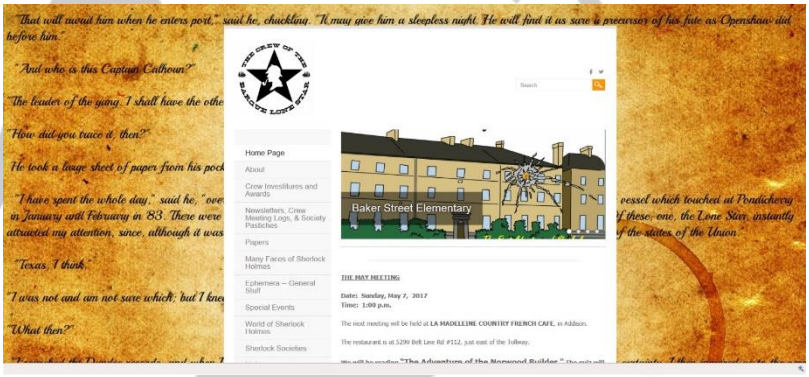


Our Facebook Page:

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

"Toast to the Master, Sherlock Holmes By Jan Cassetta"

Jan Cassetta, NMSOBC, 2016

We gather this evening to celebrate the birthday of a man who never lived and thus can never die-to quote Vincent Starrett from his famous poem, "it is always 1895."

But why has Sherlock Holmes continued to appeal to subsequent generations since the Victorian era? He is of course a brilliant detective, a warrior in the eternal battle between good and evil.

But he is also a man of great contradictions.

He is the most cerebral of men and yet subject to uncontrollable mood swings that range from manic activity to the depths of languor and depression from which he seeks solace in the forlorn strains of his Stradivarius and in the oblivion of the 7% solution.

H stands for lawfulness but not necessarily the letter of the law. After all he breaks into houses with impunity if he deems it necessary and lets a known thief go because it is the season of forgiveness while he allows the innocent man to languish in jail.

He seems to have no interest in the fair sex but he secretly keeps a photograph of The Woman in his desk.

He is an isolated man who does not seem to crave human contact and yet he enjoys a deep and lasting relationship with one true friend.

In short, he is an enigma, a continuing puzzle that intrigues each generation. Perhaps the greatest mystery of all is Sherlock Holmes himself.

So join me in a toast to a man who lives forever in the realm of imagination. To the eternally fascinating Sherlock Holmes.

To the Master!

"THE STATE OF THE SOCIETY – THE CREW OF THE BARQUE LONE STAR -- 2019

Steve Mason

- It was another successful year for the Society…
- We added more members to the fold, with now over 175 members, either local or remote…
- We had many wonderful presentations throughout the year by members of our Society, including Ann Caddell, Rusty Mason, Jen Liang, Julie McKuras, Bonnie MacBird, Angela Lusk, and Cindy Brown.
- As in other years, members of our Society faced health issues, and our members showed appropriate concern and offers of help.
- And of course, we had to change the venue of our monthly meetings, due to the closure of our former meeting location.
- Walter and Linda Pieper continued to open their home to members for our Saturday Movie Night, with Cindy Brown pinch hitting a couple of times.
- Our members attended many of the national conferences, representing the Crew wonderfully. This included the BSI weekend, 221b in Atlanta, the Holmes, Doyle, and Friends in Dayton, the BSI Archive Conference in Bloomington, the Norwegian Explorers in Minneapolis, and Holmes in the Heartland in St. Louis conferences. Cindy Brown gave a wonderful toast at the Minneapolis dinner.
- Our Society participated in the Dallas Public Library Book Festival in June.
- Our Society will be working hard this year toward holding our own national conference in October, 2021.
- Our book this year, The Canon, Five Lines at a Time, focused on limericks developed by the Society's members and other guest authors. It has been extremely popular, downloaded many times off our website. As always, many thanks to Liese Sherwood-Fabre for helping to edit and format the book. All three books from the Society have been published for contributors, and uploaded to our website as readable formats. And congratulations to Liese for continuing to be a published author.
- Many people have indicated they enjoyed writing Holmes pastiches, as in A Grimm Holmes and A Grimmer Holmes. Therefore, this year we will publish a book of pastiches based on personal ads run in the agony columns of Victorian newspapers.
- We provided displays at the Allen Library twice this year, and will and another one this month.
- We conducted a movie night at the Half Price Books store, showing The Hound of the Baskervilles. Thanks to Cindy Brown and Tim Kline for helping put on the event.
- We continued our lending library, offering a chance to read more Sherlockian books.
- Several members attended Sherlockian plays in various cities in the State of Texas this past year. There are others scheduled this year in Plano, San Antonio, and other venues.
- Our members continue to represent our society wonderfully for which I want to thank you.
- I am sure there are other things that we have accomplished, but these are the major points.
- For this year, I want to continue the things we did well, and do better on some things.
- As always, I encourage all members to consider doing presentations for our Society.
- In closing, I hope we continue to support each other, discuss Sherlock Holmes in an open but friendly atmosphere, and look for opportunities to reach out to our communities with presentations.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

“Sherlock Holmes Birthday -- The BSI Weekend”

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

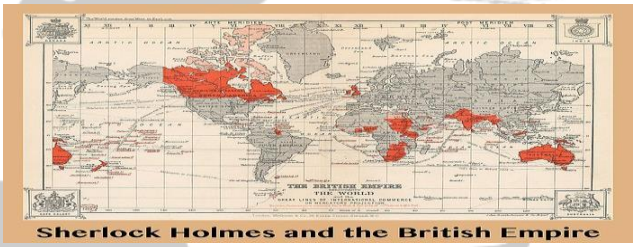
https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-weekend/

“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 "THE BOSCOMBE VALLEY MYSTERY"

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

DID THIS MAN EVER RECOVER FROM AFGHANISTAN?

"You have been looking a little pale lately," the good Mrs. Watson tells her husband at the beginning of BOSC. "I think that the change would do you good."

Holmes's own telegram to Watson recommends the air and scenery of Boscombe Valley, as one would suggest it to a sick friend.

While Watson writes of Holmes working himself to the point of illness on several occasions, it would seem the good doctor downplays his own moments of weakness.

Was this indeed the case? Was Watson chronically ill?

"My experience of camp life in Afghanistan had at least had the effect of making me a prompt and ready traveller," Watson writes, and the words "at least" sound very sad indeed.

Was his physical condition a reminder that would never let him forget that horrible war?

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THE ORIGIN OF THE DEERSTALKER?

Watson tells of Holmes's "tall, gaunt figure made even gaunter and taller by his long gray travelling-cloak and close-fitting cloth cap" as Sherlock Holmes heads out to the country for the first time in the Canon. Is this the same "ear-flapped travelling-cap" from "Silver Blaze"?

What does "close-fitting" imply about the cap's style, if anything?

Was "caps in the country, hats in the city" the fashion etiquette of the day?

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NEWSPAPER BASKETBALL ANYONE?

Holmes brings quite a few papers on the train with him. "All the recent papers" is the way Holmes describes them.

An "immense litter of papers" is how Watson describes it.

But in the end, Holmes rolls the lot up into a gigantic ball which he arcs up into the rack for two points.

How many newspapers does it take to make a gigantic ball?

How many newspapers where coming out every day in London at that time?

Just how many days worth of papers do the Hounds think Holmes dragged on to that train?

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THE UNUSUAL CASE OF HOW HOLMES GOT THE CASE

"There are several people in the neighbourhood, however, and among them Miss Turner, the daughter of the neighbouring land-owner, who believe in his innocence, and who have retained Lestrade, whom you may recollect in connection with 'A Study in Scarlet', to work out the case in his interest. Lestrade, being rather puzzled, has referred the case to me."

James McCarthy's friends have taken up a collection and hired Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard to prove McCarthy's innocence.

Lestrade, being used to declaring guilt, finds innocence an angle he needs some help on.

Is Holmes now on the payroll of the friends of J.M., or is Lestrade just cutting Holmes in for a piece of his action?

And why is Holmes telling Watson "this is the guy from 'A Study in Scarlet'" and referring to the case by Watson's very own title?

****

THIS WASN'T THE DENNY'S ACROSS THE STREET

"We drove to our hotel, where we found lunch upon the table," Watson tells us.

He and Holmes are staying at the Hereford Arms, where they even have a nice sofa in their room, so surely they don't mean some common boarding-house table, do they?

Would they have arranged for lunch to be served to their room at a specific time in this country hotel?

And why wasn't Lestrade staying at the same place, if he was the one who arranged for them to come up, and their hotel room had been already procured for them?

Did Lestrade feel he had to get Holmes better lodgings than he himself had?

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THAT'S ONE THIN PLOT!

"I lay upon the sofa and tried to interest myself in a yellow-backed novel. The puny plot of the story was so thin, however, when compared to the deep mystery through which we were groping..."

While Watson's married state would seem to indicate that this case occurs after he's spent many years with Holmes, his excitement over this case seems rather over-played... or is it just me?

Do the rest of the Hounds find this simple murder as engrossing as Watson seems to?

Is this, combined with Holmes's explanation of who Lestrade is, an indication that this tale really occurred

earlier in the partnership than most Sherlockians suspect?
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THAT DIRTY "RAT"

Perhaps the most mysterious part of this mystery is the dying man's reference to "a rat."

In the end, we are expected to agree that this was the last two syllables of a six syllable identification of the murderer.

Would a dying man silently mumble the first two-thirds of his statement, then force up the last third in his dying breath?

And if the poor fellow had enough wits about him to identify his murderer to his son, wouldn't he have used a name his son would have more easily recognized, such as the man's current nomenclature?

If this were an Ellery Queen mystery would we consider this playing fair with the reader?

Or would "a rat" be a rather bogus device on the part of the mystery's constructor?
****

WHERE WAS HE HEADED OTHERWISE?

"I never hear of such a case as this that I do not think of Baxter's words, and say, 'There, but for the grace of God, goes Sherlock Holmes.'"

While it's nice that Holmes is sympathetic toward a dying old man at this story's conclusion, I've never quite understood just *why* he was particularly sympathetic toward Turner's situation.

Did Holmes have a criminal past that he feared might rise up to ruin those he loved?

A daughter wanting to marry the son of an enemy?

Or was it something involving a former college friend whose father was blackmailed to death?

"Well, it is not for me to judge you," Holmes says. "I pray that we may never be exposed to such a temptation."

Again, Holmes seems far too sympathetic with this murderer.

Was there a payoff involved on the part of this wealthy landowner?

Or can the Hounds find a more noble reason for Holmes's sympathies?

And while we're on that earlier quote: Jack Tracy claims Holmes was confusing Nonconformist Richard Baxter with Protestant John Bradford in his attribution of the paraphrase.

Is this a hint toward the detective's theological upbringing?
****

JUDGE SHERLY MAKES HIS FIRST RULING

Here we are a mere six tales into the sixty, and Sherlock Holmes is already letting a murderer go free.

While turning in the killer would probably punish two innocents more than it would the villain himself, Holmes still shows as much disrespect for the criminal justice system here as he does in later cases, where he lets such men as Leon Sterndale and Captain Crocker walk away from their crimes, doesn't he?

Or does the future of the two innocents involved excuse him this time?
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THIS SURE ISN'T HAZZARD COUNTY

Watson calls for the weekly county paper, which contains "a surgeon's deposition" stating "that the posterior third of the left parietal bone and the left half of the occipital bone had been shattered by a heavy blow from a blunt weapon."

This seems like a lot of information for not only a weekly rural paper, but an inquest into a clubbing murder in the late 1800's as well.

Why would a surgeon have been called in to look at a man who plainly had his head smashed in?

Another local paper prints transcripts of the coroner's hearings -- was that ever done by any newspaper the Hounds have had experience with, be it 1880s vintage or otherwise?
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SHAVING BY SUNLIGHT

In this tale, Holmes makes an amazing deduction that Watson's bedroom window is on the right-hand side.

He does so with the following explanation: "You shave every morning, and in this season you shave by the sunlight; but since your shaving is less and less complete as we get farther back on the left side, until it becomes positively slovenly as we get round the angle of the jaw, it is surely very clear that that side is less illuminated than the other. I could not imagine a man of your habits looking at himself in an equal light and being satisfied with such a result."

As with many things in the Canon, it sounds good at first, but starts to weaken when one really considers it.

As shaving tends to be done by methodically dragging a sharpened blade across the expanse of one's face on a daily basis, patterns develop.

And do any male Hounds shave by looking at the whiskers themselves?

And would a man of "military neatness" judge the finished product without running a hand across it?

The concept of a shaving job so slovenly that one can actually judge degrees of how bad it is on different parts of the face seems totally incongruous with anyone the least bit neat about it.

Personally, I'm thinking Holmes found out about that bedroom window through other means (which may be a clue as to what happened to Watson's marriage).
****

SUCH LANGUAGE, MR. MCCARTHY!

"I found my father expiring upon the ground, with his head terribly injured. I dropped my gun and held him in my arms, but he almost instantly expired."

Does this seem a bit cold-blooded to anyone?

"Expired" is a word for newspaper obituaries, not sons whose fathers have died in their arms.

Did the Herefordshire paper clean up McCarthy's true language here for their reading public, or would a young man of that day actually use so dispassionate a term for his father's final moments?
****

AND NOW FOR POETRY TIME, LIKE IT OR NOT

After devouring all the facts of the McCarthy matter from that giant ball of newspapers and relaying them to Watson, Holmes refuses to speak to Watson for the last twenty minutes of the train trip.

After spending the first part of the trip silently reading and taking notes, might Holmes and Watson have enjoyed some non-murder-related chat during that time?

They were not living together at the time, and surely had a lot to talk about.

Would there have been any urgency in Holmes silently reading the poetry of Petrarch in that twenty minutes?

Had he been eagerly awaiting the chance to dive into that book, or was he perturbed with Watson for some reason?

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THE BALLARAT CONNECTION

We learned in The Sign of the Four that Dr. Watson had once been to Ballarat, and he is very quiet about that fact when he finally comes into the company of someone from that area.

Five other men came to England with Black Jack, all rich from their gold heist -- five other men we never hear anything else of.

Is Watson's silence suggestive of a brother or father that was one of Black Jack's cohorts?

Might that have been the reason that Holmes invited Watson along for a fairly straight forward murder case, then didn't speak to him on the trip down, leaving the doctor to his own thoughts?

Might not the true paraphrase have been "There, but for the grace of God, goes John H. Watson?"

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IS THERE A REAL DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

"Dr. Willows says that he is a wreck and that his nervous system is shattered," Miss Turner tells Holmes of her father.

Lestrade says old Turner is "About sixty; but his constitution has been shattered by his life abroad, and he has been in failing health for some time."

Finally, Turner himself claims to have had diabetes for years, and his doctor says he might not live a month. Turner's fellow Australian, Dr. Watson, tells us that Turner died seven months later.

So many different diagnoses: Nerves. Health ruined by life in Australia. Diabetes.

Were any of these close to the truth, or just a part of some larger scam which involved Turner eventually dying of everyday old age?

****

HOLDING A PLACE

"If you will keep the two corner seats I shall get the tickets," Holmes tells Watson when they reach the train.

Apparently Watson did a good job, as the pair had a carriage to themselves.

But what did Holmes mean by "corner seats," and why were those so desirable?

Was it for the same reasons one might choose the back row in a movie theater?

And how odd was it that they had an entire carriage to themselves on an 11:15 train from Paddington Station?

(Extra points for anyone who can work that cute little bear into the discussion and stay on topic.)

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LEGAL HELP NEEDED!

"He was on Wednesday brought before the magistrates at Ross, who have referred the case to the next assizes. Those are the main facts of the case as they came out before the coroner and the police-court."

Coroner. Police-court. Magistrates. Assizes. Okay, I'm confused.

"The Boscombe Valley Mystery" gives us about as much legalese as any other tale in the Canon.

Can anyone give a clear, *concise* explanation of this process for we moderns ignorant of the British legal system?

Were coroner's jurymen allowed to question suspects?

Answers to Anaphora quiz on page 12

1. THOR, Doubleday 1066; 2. VALL, 784; 3. LAST, 971; 4. SIGN, 89-90; 5. BLUE, 255; 6. HOUN, 745; 7. 3GAR, 1054; 8. FIVE, 220; 9. 3STU, 607; 10. STUD, 63; 11. BOSC, 216; 12. DANC, 529

SLITHERING ASSASSINS

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

In "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," Sherlock Holmes identifies the culprit behind Julia Stoner's death as a swamp adder, "the deadliest snake in India."

While this particular serpent is fictitious, England is home to one poisonous adder (Vipera berus) that has killed two people since 1950.

This mortality rate can be compared to the saw-scaled or carpet viper (Echis carinatus) found from Senegal to Bengal that bites and kills more people than any other snake or Australia's inland taipan (Oxyuranus microlepidotus) whose venom is considered the world's most lethal.

More than 3000 species of snakes exist in the world, and they are found on all continents except Antarctica.

Of these, about 600 are venomous, with 200 considered "medically important" by the World Health Organization. In addition to being venomous, snakebites from the medically important species result in high levels of morbidity, disability, or mortality.

In addition to being common in all but the coldest climes, snakes have other common features, including using their tongues (not noses) to "smell;" not having eyelids, nor eyes that move; and a lack of ears.

These animals "hear" through vibrations from the ground.

In other words, the swamp adder that Holmes encountered was a very unique variety.

It could actually hear a whistle (not to mention descend a cord and drink milk), which is biologically impossible.

All the same, different true species have some amazing qualities.

Corn snakes use their scales to dig into bark and climb trees, the paradise tree snake "flies" by flinging its body into the air and catching airflow, the African black mamba snake can travel up to 12 mph, and the king cobra can go months between feedings.

The adder, such as Roylott's swamp adder, is a member of the Elapidae family (also includes cobras and mambas), characterized by short, small, fixed fangs.

After biting and injecting the venom, they usually do not let go of their victim.

This is in contrast with the Viperidae snake family, which has a very developed venom injection system with fangs that become erect just before biting.

They release their prey after injection and wait for the venom to take effect.

The final class of venomous snakes, the Colubridae, have fixed rear fangs and chew their victim while injecting the venom.

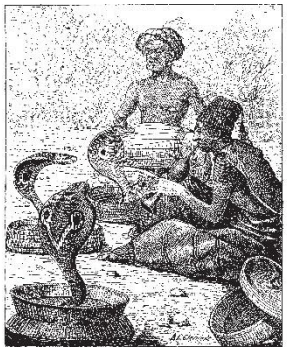
Regardless of the type of fang, the injection system has five parts:

- The venom is the harmful substance. With few exceptions, snakes are venomous, not poisonous. Venoms must be injected and once in the bloodstream become effective. Poisons are toxins that must be ingested. For example, the garter snake is poisonous because it eats other reptiles with toxins in their skins. The snake stores the poison in its liver and other organs and kills its victim when the snake is eaten.
- Venom glands are found in the head and produce and store the toxin
- Special muscles near the glands squeeze the toxins from the glands
- Ducts transport the venom from the glands to the fangs
- Fangs, the teeth that inject the venom, do so through canals through the center of these specialized teeth.

Venoms fall into three main categories:

- Cytotoxins destroy cells, which leads to necrosis, and are usually specific to a particular organ
- Neurotoxins affect the nervous system, disrupting the transmissions between neurons and causes paralysis

- Hemotoxins cause red blood cells to burst open and interfere with clotting, leading to organ damage and tissue death.



Venomous snakes are identified by their eye pupils (round for non-venomous; elliptical for venomous); a pointed snout; a broad, triangular head with a bulbous head and skinny neck; and a colorful pattern—although the African black mamba is one color.

The coral snake has black, yellow, and red bands and can be identified with the rhyme: "red touches yellow will kill a fellow."

Snake venom glands appeared about 60-80-million years ago and have continued to evolve, with the toxins continuously becoming more deadly.

The current anti-venoms (developed by injecting diluted venom into horses and sheep and filtering out the anti-bodies) were running low in 2015, and new targeted anti-venoms were being developed to address these stronger venoms.

The creation of anti-venoms has been credited to two groups working simultaneously, but independently, on the problem. Cesaire Auguste Phisalix, a naturalist, studied the problem from a natural immunity approach while Albert Calmette, a microbiologist, put his study of anti-virals into practice and produced anti-venom in Lille in 1895.

Given that the account of the speckled band first appeared in 1892 and was to have occurred in 1883, no antivenom was yet available.

Thanks to Holmes' fast action, however, Miss Stoner had no need for it.

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(1) https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/should-we-be-scared-of-british-snakes.html
(2) https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/866568
(3) https://www.britannica.com/list/9-of-the-worlds-deadliest-snakes
(4) https://www.livescience.com/27845-snakes.html
(5) https://apps.who.int/bloodproducts/snakeantivenoms/database/
(6) https://www.livescience.com/27845-snakes.html
(7) https://www.ualberta.ca/newtrail/featurestories/milk-drinking-killer-snake
(8) https://www.livescience.com/27845-snakes.html
(9) https://onekindplanet.org/animal/snake/
(10) https://www.thoughtco.com/how-snake-venom-works-4161270j
(11) https://www.beprepared.com/blog/14959/how-to-identify-venomous-snakes/
(12) https://genome.cshlp.org/content/15/3/403.full
(13) https://www.bbc.com/news/health-34214029
(14) https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4898362/

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.

SANAPHORA DEFINED, ANAPHORA ILLUSTRATED, ANAPHORA IN A QUIZ

Karen Murdock

Published in The Petrel Flyer (Journal of The Stormy Petrels of BC, Vancouver, British Columbia) Volume 19, number 4 (Summer 2007)

Anaphora is a rhetorical figure of repetition, very commonly used although not often recognized by name. Anaphora is the repetition of one or more words at the beginning of successive clauses, sentences, or—in poetry—lines of verse.

Anaphora enhances the importance of the repeated element. Notice how I began the first three lines of this essay with the word I want you, my readers, to learn: ANAPHORA.

This figure is found commonly in many literary forms. In prose it is especially common in the Old Testament and in sermons and speeches:

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. (Psalm 29)

You know, my friends, there comes a time when people get tired of being trampled over by the iron feet of oppression [. . .] There comes a time, my friends, when people get tired of being thrown across the abyss of humiliation where they experience the bleakness of nagging despair [. . .] There comes a time when people get tired of being pushed out of the glittering sunlight of life's July, and left standing amidst the piercing chill of an alpine November. (Martin Luther King Jr.)

We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing-grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender. (Winston Churchill, speech in the House of Commons, June 4, 1940)

Anaphora is also common in verse:

Rich in the treasure of deserved renown,
Rich in the riches of a royal heart,
Rich in those gifts which give the eternal crown.
(Sir Philip Sidney, "Astrophil and Stella")

After the torchlight red on sweaty faces
After the frosty silence in the gardens
After the agony in stony places
(T. S. Eliot, "The Waste Land," V)

Over the tree-tops I float thee a song,
Over the rising and sinking waves, over the myriad fields and the prairies wide,
Over the dense-pack'd cities all and the teeming wharves and waves
(Walt Whitman, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd")

Arthur Conan Doyle, who commonly employs figures of classical rhetoric in his writings, often uses anaphora in the Sherlock Holmes stories. The figure usually appears in spoken dialogue and serves to emphasize a point that a character wishes to make.

In "The Boscombe Valley Mystery," for example, Alice Turner is positive that James McCarthy did not commit the murder he is accused of. Her "natural reserve lost in her overpowering excitement and concern," Alice uses anaphora in conveying to Sherlock Holmes her conviction of James's innocence:

"I know that James didn't do it. I know it, and I want you to start upon your work knowing it, too" (Doubleday 208)

In "The Golden Pince-Nez" Sherlock Holmes is sure that Professor Coram is shielding the person who murdered his secretary. When Coram says he would have been aware if a woman had entered his room as he lay in bed, Holmes uses anaphora to accuse the professor of complicity in the crime:

"You were aware of it. You spoke with her. You recognized her. You aided her to escape." (618)

In "Wisteria Lodge," Scott Eccles emphasizes the strangeness of his experience by his repetition of the word "foreign," employed as anaphora:

"The foreign host, the foreign footman, the foreign cook, all had vanished in the night!" (873)

In "Thor Bridge," Sergeant Coventry takes Holmes and Watson to the scene of the supposed murder and shows them where the body of Mrs. Gibson lay. His use of anaphora emphasizes the lack of obvious clues to the mystery:

"No trace of a struggle. No marks. No weapon." (1063)

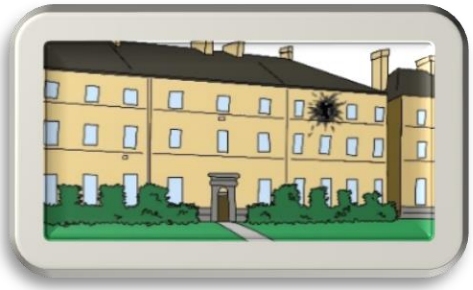
In The Hound of the Baskervilles Holmes uses dramatic anaphora to tell Watson how he thinks Sir Charles Baskerville met his death:

"He was running, Watson—running desperately, running for his life, running until he burst his heart and fell dead upon his face." (684)

The Sherlockian Canon contains scores of other examples of this classical figure. I have put together a short quiz of a dozen examples of anaphora. See if you can name the stories in which these examples appear:

1. "She hated me, Mr. Holmes. She hated me with all the fervour of her tropical nature."
2. "There's the nugget and there's the snake"
3. "You yacht against them, you hunt with them, you play polo, you match them in every game"
4. "Give me problems, give me work, give me the most abstruse cryptogram."
5. "I never went wrong before! I never will again."
6. "Not a word to show your suspicions—not a word, or my plans crumble"
7. "I've not used this plant. I've not hurt this old stiff."
8. "His lip had fallen, his eyes were protruding, his skin the colour of putty."
9. "Wasn't it natural, sir, that I should save him, and wasn't it natural, also"
10. "Have I not given to the common fund? Have I not attended at the Temple? Have I not—?"
11. "Whatever he wanted he must have, and whatever it was I gave him without question"
12. "Don't tell me that she is in this? Don't tell me that she helped to set a trap for me?"

Baker Street Elementary



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The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson