

# The Bilge Pump

Vol. 08, No. 02 – February, 2020  
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the  
Barque Lone Star – founded April, 1970*



## PLEASE NOTE:

March 01 Meeting

### NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 01**, 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 Adventure of the Five Orange Pips.**" The quiz will cover this tale.

Liese Sherwood-Fabre will provide information on Vernet's works in the Louvre.

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

## February 02 Summary

There were 23 in attendance at the meeting. Cindy Brown offered a toast to "Macavity the Mystery Cat", a poem by T. S. Elliott, who was a big admirer of Arthur Conan Doyle (see page 3).

The Crew then took a quiz on "The Boscombe Valley Mystery," which was won by Eleanor Hebert.

Our next book, to be published by the Crew, will be stories Sherlockians have developed from the agony columns from the English newspapers of the 18th century.

We discussed the Jan Stauber Grants through the Beacon Society and encouraged members to spread the word.

The Crew will be having a 50th anniversary party at the home of Karen and Charles Olsen, on April 11, 2020. Details will follow.

James Robinson gave a wonderful presentation called, "The World of Sherlock Holmes".

Tim Kline and Diane Tran gave some excellent examples of the 50th year logo which they have been designing.

Diane Tran won the lightning quiz.

The final reading was provided by Eleanor from the Baker Street Journal (see page 4).

Thanks to Cindy Brown 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>

## Who dunnit:



Third Mate  
Helmsman  
Spiritual Advisors

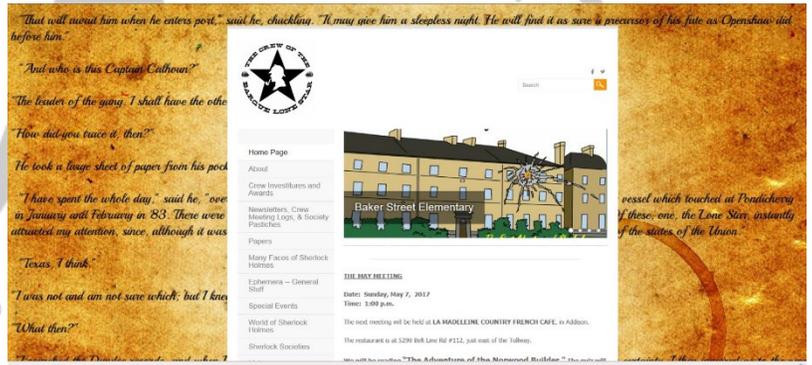
Secretaries  
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## Our Website:

[www.dfw-sherlock.org](http://www.dfw-sherlock.org)



## Our Facebook Page:

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

# "McCavity the Mystery Cat"

By T. S. Elliot, presented by Cindy Brown

Macavity's a Mystery Cat: he's called the Hidden Paw -  
For he's the master criminal who can defy the Law.  
He's the bafflement of Scotland Yard, the Flying Squad's  
despair:  
For when they reach the scene of crime - *Macavity's not  
there!*

Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like  
Macavity,  
He's broken every human law, he breaks the  
law of gravity.  
His powers of levitation would make a fakir  
stare,  
And when you reach the scene of crime -  
Macavity's not there!

You may seek him in the basement, you may  
look up in the air -  
But I tell you once and once again,  
Macavity's not there!  
Macavity's a ginger cat, he's very tall and thin;  
You would know him if you saw him, for his eyes are  
sunken in.  
His brow is deeply lined with thought, his head is highly  
domed;  
His coat is dusty from neglect, his whiskers are  
uncombed.  
He sways his head from side to side, with movements  
like a snake;  
And when you think he's half asleep, he's always wide  
awake.

Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity,  
For he's a fiend in feline shape, a monster of depravity.  
You may meet him in a by-street, you may see him in  
the square -  
But when a crime's discovered, then *Macavity's not  
there!*

He's outwardly respectable. (They say he cheats at  
cards.)  
And his footprints are not found in any file of Scotland  
Yard's.  
And when the larder's looted, or the jewel-case is rifled,  
Or when the milk is missing, or another Peke's been  
stifled,

Or the greenhouse glass is broken, and the  
trellis past repair -  
Ay, there's the wonder of the thing!  
*Macavity's not there!*

And when the Foreign Office find a Treaty's  
gone astray,  
Or the Admiralty lose some plans and  
drawings by the way,  
There may be a scrap of paper in the hall or  
on the stair -

But it's useless to investigate - *Macavity's not  
there!*

And when the loss has been disclosed, the Secret  
Service say:  
'It must have been Macavity!' - but he's a mile away.  
You'll be sure to find him resting, or a-licking of his  
thumbs,  
Or engaged in doing complicated long division sums.

Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity,  
There never was a Cat of such deceitfulness and suavity.  
He always has an alibi, and one or two to spare:  
At whatever time the deed took place - MACAVITY  
WASN'T THERE!

And they say that all the Cats whose wicked deeds are  
widely known,  
(I might mention Mungojerrie, I might mention  
Griddlebone)  
Are nothing more than agents for the Cat who all the  
time  
Just controls their operations: the Napoleon of Crime.!



# "FAR AWAY FROM THE COLD NIGHT AIR" (EXTRACT)

Steven Rothman, Editor, BSJ, Spring 2011, Vol 60, No. 3

When the world seems too much with us,  
Sherlockians are fortunate to have Baker Street as  
a retreat.

Financial markets may gyrate, war drums  
sound, domestic politics stagnate in heated  
deadlock, but we have the ability to escape it all  
simply by cracking open a book.

Sometimes Watson tells us the weather, cozily  
insulating us into Holmes's world.

Other times he offers a bit of Baker Street  
conversation.

No matter what our daily woes, inside the  
pages of the Holmes saga, we are protected, safe in  
our knowledge that these two friends will save the  
day.

No matter that the sun sets in midafternoon.

Our world is a bit brighter from the light of pure  
intelligence shining forth from Holmes's eyes.

The familiar rhythms of the Watsonian prose  
lulls us into a peaceful mood.

We know within sentences that a worried  
petitioner will draw Holmes's attention to some  
wrong that urgently needs righting.

Christopher Morley summed up these same  
feelings over sixty years ago when he sent out as  
his Christmas greetings this brief poem,

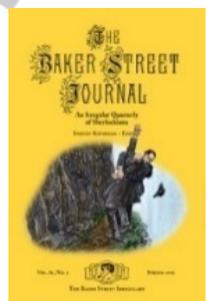
What opiate can best abate  
Anxiety and toil?  
Not aspirins, nor treble gins,  
Nor love, nor mineral oil—  
My only drug is a good long slug  
Of Tincture of Conan Doyle.



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

## "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends"

March 27-28, 2020 – Dayton, OH

<http://www.agratreasurers.net/holmes--doyle---friends--2020.html>

**HOLMES  
& DOYLE  
FRIENDS: *Seven***

March 27 & 28, 2020  
Clarion Airport Inn  
DAYTON, OHIO

## "221b Con – A Fan Con for all Things Sherlock Holmes"

April 3-5, 2020

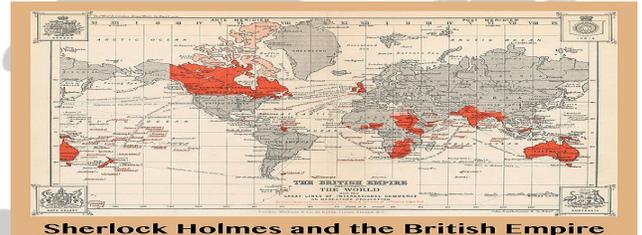
<https://www.221bcon.com/>

**221B  
CON**

## "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>



# SEVENTEEN STEPS TO "THE ADVENTURE OF THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS"

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of "The Five Orange Pips" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

## THE MAN WITH THE WATCH

We all love an untold tale, and this case gives us a few.

Among them we find "the Camberwell poisoning case" in which, Watson tells us, "Sherlock Holmes was



able, by winding up the dead man's watch, to prove that it had been wound up two hours before, and that therefore the deceased had gone to bed within that time-

-a deduction which was of the greatest importance in clearing up the case."

Okay, let me get this straight: the man was dead, undoubtedly poisoned as we are told this was a case of poisoning.

How many times do we remember Sherlock Holmes getting to a murder scene within two hours of the death?

As the man had gone to bed, he wouldn't have been discovered until morning, would he?

And death by poison wouldn't immediately noticeable, would it?

So how was it Sherlock Holmes was winding up a murder victim's watch only two hours after the man was still alive?

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## THE DOOM THAT CAME TO OPENSHAW BY DR. JOHN H.(P. LOVECRAFT)

"... we were forced to raise our minds for the instant from the routine of life, and to recognize the presence of those great elemental forces which shriek at mankind through the bars of his civilization, like untamed beasts in a cage."

The secret cult, death by agents unseen, is this a horror story or what?

Do those great elemental beasts Watson mentions early in the story foreshadow the deaths of Captain

Calhoun and his boatload of Finns and Germans?

Or is there a supernatural subtext to this story that's telling us the destruction of the Lone Star was not entirely due to natural causes?

And might that detective moodily poring over his personal tomes be somehow involved?

\*\*\*\*\*

## KNOWLEDGE OF NAUTICAL NOVELS--NIL?

Okay, Hounds, tough question: It's 1887. John H. Watson is reading a sea story by W. Clark Russell, the man the Army and Navy Register called "the Fenimore Cooper and Captain Marryatt of his time rolled into one."

Watson tells us merely that "the howl of the gale from without seemed to blend with the text, and the splash of the rain to lengthen out into the long swash of the sea waves."

Based on that limited description and the year involved, can we make any sort of reasonable estimation of what exactly Watson was reading?

Did his calling it a story, rather than a book or novel, indicate short fiction from a magazine? (And did Russell have any in any magazines in 1887?)

Certainly Watson would have mentioned a classic Russell novel like "The Wreck of the Grosvenor" by name, wouldn't he?

Might this indicate a lesser known Russell work, like "The Lady Maud," "An Ocean Free Lance," or "The Copsford Mystery"?

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANOTHER AGE-OLD QUESTION . . .

"My wife was on a visit to her mother's ..." Watson says in this tale.

"My mother was dead ..." Mary Morstan said in SIGN.

So what's the deal?

While we might attribute dates to Watson's carelessness, married men tend to be very (and sometimes painfully) aware of their mother-in-law's status.

Does sheer logic dictate that the wife Watson speaks of was \*not\* Mary Morstan?

And why is Mary Morstan's name never mentioned in the same tale where Watson's wife is mentioned?

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## IT'S ALL IN THE PRESENTATION

"Who is this K. K. K.?" Watson asks.

A simple question. But watch Holmes in the paragraphs that follow:

"Sherlock Holmes closed his eyes and placed his elbows upon the arms of his chair, with his finger-tips together. 'The ideal reasoner,' he remarked, 'would, when he had once been shown a single fact in all its bearings, deduce from it ...'"

And on and on it goes. Holmes refers to Cuvier, he speaks of art and how he has honed his skills to their highest degree, he refers to Watson's earlier analysis of the detective's knowledge, talks about what a great place Florida is, and mentions brain-attics and lumber room libraries.

And when all is said and done, what does he do?

He takes down the encyclopaedia and looks up K.K.K.

For a case where Holmes fails miserably, he's certainly showboating.

Is this a matter of pride going before a fall?

Or did

Watson beef up this tale with Holmes lectures

from elsewhere to make Holmes look better (or feel better when he read it)?

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**AND HE WAS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE CRIMINALS POST-MORIARTY!**

"A single man could not have carried out two deaths in such a way as to



deceive a coroner's jury," Holmes says in this tale, as his reason for suspecting multiple perpetrators (aside from the fact that "K.K.K." the name of a

\*society\* was on the letters).

Is Holmes still pumping up the case for Watson's benefit?

Or do the Hounds honestly think a single man could not have killed two men in such a sneaky fashion?

\*\*\*\*\*

**OH, STOP IT HOLMES!!!**

As if the previous two bits weren't enough:

"Have you never--" said Sherlock Holmes, bending forward and sinking his voice--"have you never heard of the Ku Klux Klan?"

Is this more melodramatics, or is Holmes actually afraid of the Ku Klux Klan?

And does that fear totally come from his readings about the Klan?

Or is there any reason to think Holmes actually had some disastrous previous encounter with the secret society?

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**THE HEAD BONES CONNECTED TO THE...**

That Cuvier reference: "As Cuvier could correctly describe a whole animal by the contemplation of a single bone, so the observer who has thoroughly understood one link in a series of incidents should be able to accurately state all the other ones, both before and after."

Since Holmes seemed to concentrate on studies that would help him in his work, what could we think he gained from the French naturalist's work?

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**STRONG REASONS FOR LEAVING AMERICA**

Colonel Openshaw's departure from America after the Civil War seems to be taken as unusual by Holmes, who attributes it to fear of someone.

Anyone who has done much reading on the fortunes of plantation owners after the war, however, quickly realizes that there were a great many reasons for a former Confederate citizen with money to

get out of the South during the Reconstruction, especially a man like the Colonel, who had roots back in England.

Does Holmes's lack of knowledge about America hurt him in this case?

He seems to ignore young Openshaw's remarks about the Colonel leaving due to Republican policies.

Might he have been too eager to assign this all to the mysterious and foreign Klan?

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**BURNING CROSSES ON SHIPBOARD?**

And while we're on the subject of motivations, what's the story behind Captain James Calhoun?

A sea captain commanding a ship full of men from countries different from him seems like the sort of fellow whose entire life has been at sea.



He's familiar with different cultures, and must have some sympathy for all the Finns and Germans he spends his every waking moment with.

So how are we supposed to think that this fellow became a devoted member of the Ku Klux Klan, a group of land-bound ethnocentrists?

Was Calhoun an innocent man, who might have eventually returned to London to see what Holmes was sending him orange seeds for, had he lived?

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**SAVANNAH SHERIFF GETS TELEGRAM, LAUGHS**

One of the more astounding actions by Sherlock Holmes in this tale is his sending a telegram to the Savannah, Georgia police department, a telegram which tells them that the three Americans aboard the Lone Star are wanted for murder in England.

Holmes's charges are based on the most circumstantial of evidence, and he seems to lump all three men together for no other reason than that they are shipmates and countrymen.

Just what actions would the Savannah police be expected to take based on an accusation from an English private detective?

Something as ambitious as extradition, or just keeping a close eye on the three in case they pulled anything in Savannah?

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**THREE DOWN, SEVERAL MORE TO GO**

You just can't get away from the wild statements Holmes seems to be making in this case. Holmes speaks of the Ku Klux Klan as a gang, and Calhoun as their leader, then says "I shall have the others, but he is the first."

What others?

And how was Holmes expecting to find them, when he barely found Calhoun and his mates by ship's records?

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**THE COLONEL'S CHESS GAME**

"I'll checkmate them still," Elias Openshaw says, and does two things.

First, he burns the papers that the Florida Klansmen seem to be after.

Second, he leaves his worldly goods to his brother.

How does this checkmate the Klan? If they were seeking the papers for fear of blackmail or criminal arrest, Elias was doing their job for them.

And what good would a will do? Who would the estate have gone to without a will?

Surely the only person who might claim a man's estate before his brother would be a wife or offspring.

... was Elias being stalked by in-laws he left behind in Florida?

Might the "Paramore" of March 1869 been a "paramour"?

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**THE PARTNERSHIP STAYS FIRM**

As much as poet Vincent Starrett liked the year 1895 as a classic year of Canonical lore, I don't think it will ever surpass 1887 in my mind.

It's a year at the very heart of the early half of the partnership, and full of many great moments.

As Watson says in FIVE, "The year '87 furnished us with a long series of cases of greater or less interest, of which I retain the records."

Note the use of the word "us" in that sentence.

Despite the fact that he's married and

carrying on a full medical practice in this tale, he is still very much a part of the detective team.



Is this a touch of egotism on Watson's part, something he might have

wrote after Holmes's demise but not while the detective was living?

Have we seen much evidence of a partnership before now?  
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**THE SMALL ESTATE IN SUSSEX**

Elias leaves his estate to Joseph. Joseph leaves his estate to John.

John dies with no known heir.

Elias seemed to think that passing on his estate could be passing on a sort of curse.

Sherlock Holmes swore to follow up on the Openshaw case, and one would think that he traveled down to Horsham after the events of the story to do exactly that.

Did the Openshaw curse pass on to the next residents of that Sussex estate?

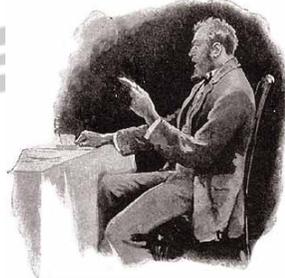
Would Holmes have warned the next residents of possible trouble heading their way?

Or checked those occupants out to see if they were involved in the wholesale extermination of Openshaws?  
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**MAJOR PRENDERGAST STRIKES!**

"I spoke to Major Prendergast about my troubles and was advised by him to come to you," John Openshaw tells Holmes.

The only other Prendergast we hear of in the Canon is Jack Prendergast of "The Gloria Scott," an ingenious criminal schemer of good family who may or may not have been killed on a prison ship in 1855.



Now Holmes supposedly cleared the Major of a card cheating scandal at the Tankerville Club.

The only other mention we hear of the Tankerville Club is in "The Adventure of the Empty House," where we learn Colonel Sebastian Moran, known card cheat, is a member.

Might both Prendergasts and Moran be one in the same, and this whole Openshaw business be a set-up designed to test a still-naive Holmes by one Professor Moriarty?



Or is all this just a series of amazing coincidences?  
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**THE MAID BRINGS UP THE COFFEE**

This, we would guess, is the same maid at 221B whose footsteps Watson heard pattering off to bed in "A Study in Scarlet."

Might she also be the Mrs. Turner of "A Scandal in Bohemia"?

Would a live-in maid have been a married woman or possibly a young widow?

# AN ITALIAN - AMERICAN IMPORT

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

In more than one case in the Canon, trouble from another country pursues an individual to London. Guiseppe Gorgiano pursued Emilia and Gennaro Lucca from the US to England.

Gorgiano had been a leader in the Red Circle, a secret organization allied to the Carbonari in Naples, Italy.

Originally, Conan Doyle had identified the Camorra as the Italian organization (1) but later changed it to the Carbonari.

While different histories and operations exist between these two groups, as well as the Mafia, confusion between the aims and operations of each continued into the 1940s.

The Carbonari formed as a secret political society during the Risorgimento—an effort to unify Italy finally achieved in 1861 with the creation of the Kingdom of Italy. (2)

With a connection to Freemasonry, the Carbonari modeled their organization after the Freemasons by having symbols, initiation ceremonies, and a hierarchy.

When the Freemasons were outlawed after the end of Napoleonic rule, the adherents were accepted into the order at a higher level than a new recruit and referred to as “cousins,” rather than “brothers.”

Local groups were organized into baraccas (huts), that were united into a republic, and governed by one of two alte vendite—one in Naples and the other in Salerno.

The Italian Carbonari included high government officials, military officers, and the clergy (3) as well as many in the middle class. (4)

Even Lord Byron was counted among its sympathizers at one point. (5)

The name “carbonari” refers to “coal burners.” Members often met secretly in the mountains (primarily in central and southern Italy), and if approached by the police, they would explain they were “charcoal burners.” (6)

True carbonari were a nomadic people who spoke their own language and burned wood to create the charcoal used to heat homes and cook food. (7)

Similar groups spread to France (where they were called “Charbonnerie”), (8) but with much stricter rules regarding secrecy.

Any mention of the group or written communications was punishable by death. (9)



By the time “The Adventure of the Red Circle” appeared in print, the original Carbonari had lost much of the power they had held in the 1820s.

While the Red Circle described by Emilia Lucca suggests a political origin for the group, the brotherhood in New York was more involved in extortion, similar to that of the Mafia operating at the time. (10)

Although assassination and armed revolt were part of their efforts to achieve a republic, they did not resort to the type of criminal activities suggested by Emilia Lucca. (11)

Like the Carbonari, another group, the Camorra, also originated in Naples with a similar goal of revitalizing the region. (12)

The Camorra organization lacked the hierarchical structure of the Carbonari and Mafia.

Instead, each group operated as a separate clan.

Their illegal enterprises included extortion as Emilia described as well as trade in black market goods. (13)

With the goal of profit by any means, this organization controlled those living in their areas through threats and bribes—as needed. (14)

It would not be the only time these secret societies were confused.

Following the reunification of Italy in 1861, the government pursued this group for twenty years.



The final blow to the organization occurred in 1911 when more than 20 members, including their boss, were arrested and convicted of major crimes. (15)

A report of a murder in 1902 in New York suggested it was the result of the operations of one of three secret societies (Carbonari, Camorra, or Mafia) operating in the city. (16)

Similarly, in 1941, a discussion of these groups again equated the societies. (17)

The depiction of the Carbonari in “The Adventure of the Red Circle” suggests a much more criminal and gruesome organization than occurred in their true history.

Given their similar origins in both geography and time such confusion—including Conan Doyle’s—can be understood.

Had Conan Doyle left “Camorra” as The Red Circle’s affiliation, rather than changing it to “Carbonari,” he would have provided a more accurate portrayal of the group’s lawless character.

Their aims and operations, however, make each a separate—and very different—society.

- (1) William S. Baring-Gould, *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes, Volume 2*, (New York, Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., 1967), 703
- (2) <https://www.britannica.com/event/Risorgimento>
- (3) <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/europe/carbonari.htm>
- (4) <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Carbonari>
- (5) <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1875/06/27/88161532.html?pageNumber=10>
- (6) <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1941/02/19/issue.html>
- (7) <https://www.tuscanvillarental.com/italys-untouchables-the-charcoal-burners/>
- (8) <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Carbonari>
- (9) <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/europe/carbonari.htm>
- (10) <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1902/07/27/117980252.html?pageNumber=21>
- (11) <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/europe/carbonari.htm>
- (12) <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1902/07/27/117980252.html?pageNumber=21>
- (13) <https://time.com/5435772/elena-ferrante-hbo-mafia-camorra/>
- (14) <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/para/camorra.htm>
- (15) <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Camorra>
- (16) <https://www.nytimes.com/1902/07/27/archives/italian-secret-societies-the-camorra-the-mafia-and-the-carbonari.html>
- (17) <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1941/02/19/issue.html>

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](http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com).

A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

# PROBING THE MYSTERIES OF FELINEDOM

Abbey Row, *The Newark Advocate*, January 26, 2020

Thanks to Karen Murdock for finding this wonderful article

Preface: Readers, I have decided to convey the following piece of correspondence to our family's feline companion (or, more accurately, a "presence," as "companion" sounds a bit too...canine), named after everyone's favorite fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes. As you may know, our Sherlock was once dubbed by his veterinarian as a "high-functioning sociopath," a trait he shares with his namesake by pure coincidence.



Yes, I see you looking at me with your big, beautiful, irritated green eyes. It's not my fault that you sat on my typing hand. I do this every week. You should not be surprised.

I'm writing because I believe you hold some keys to the universe and I would like to unlock them. I know you can read this. I can tell by the way you're staring at me while pretending to be asleep.

If you are a cat person, this letter will make a lot of sense.

If you are not a cat person, this letter will probably affirm your convictions about not being a cat person.

And now to the matter at hand.

Dear Sherlock,

Hi, it's me, Abbey, your part-owner--the one who is never sedentary long enough for you to get comfortable on her lap and who does not impulsively buy you stuffed Yoda cat toys from the grocery store. I know you see me more as a subservient Provider of Plush Blankets for Your Royal Behind-ness and Disher-Outer of Expensive Prescription Cat Food, but that's beside the point.

You. Owe. Me.

(Listen, I'm really sorry about the declawing thing, I honestly didn't know. You have sent me and Mr. Roy to urgent care once apiece. We spend \$200 for a bag of your exclusive formula food. You are officially considered middle-aged. Can we please put it behind us?)

Anyway, Dearest Household Feline, if you wouldn't mind writing back when you get a chance, I will pay you in feathery toys that you will only play with when you know no one is watching.

1. How is it possible to sleep in the same spot for 18 hours a day? I am struggling to hit 8. Don't you get stressed about your daily responsibilities of staring out the windows, hogging the sunny spots and trying to escape when someone opens the door? Don't you need to do your business? Do you even care that I can't make the bed until you get off?
2. What special radar do you use to detect when it's time for me to get out my laptop so you can come sit on the keyboard? Is it the same kind that you use to know when to stand in the middle of our board games? Can this radar be installed in children to attract them to math homework? If so, how?
3. That one time I forgot to cover the butter on the countertop. It was you, wasn't it?
4. I once saw a YouTube video of person who'd trained a cat to use an actual toilet. I'm

wondering if this could work the other way around, and if so, how many treats does it cost to litter-train a 3-year-old?

5. As far as I can tell, you've made it your entire life (9 years) with only two real and traumatizing baths. I understand you use the "clean-as-you-go" method, and I think I'd like to give it a try. With three kids, I just don't have the time for showers. Does your method work with dry shampoo? Is it problematic that I am physically unable to lick in between my toes?

...You know what, scratch that, showers are fine.

6. You're blocking the heating vent. Can you please move so the rest of us can be warm, too?



7. Despite your numerous quirks and unpredictabilities, how do you manage to win our affection? Is it the way you look so peaceful, curled up in a ball on a fuzzy blanket? The way you don't require us to take you on walks or play ball with you in the yard? The way you somehow--by sleepy dedication and a little bit of sass--earned a place as a Presence in our family, which wouldn't feel quite the same without you?

Yes, I guess it must be a little of each.

Anyway, the sooner you can provide me with answers to these questions, the better. I want to get the ball rolling on that litter-training.

Love,

Your Subservient Owner

# SHERLOCKIAN ALLUSIONS BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

By Doris Dale, The Holmes / Watson Report, January, 2003

Agatha Christie wrote dozens of mystery stories: some featuring Hercule Poirot, some featuring Miss Jane Marple, and a few

featuring Tommy and Tuppence Beresford.

Hercule Poirot has been portrayed in film by Peter Ustinov and by David Suchet.



It is difficult to compile a

complete list of the Hercule Poirot stories, as very often a novel had one title in the United Kingdom and another title in the United States.

Dumb Witness was also published as Poirot Loses a Client; the feature-length film of this story carries the first title.

*Lord Edgware Dies* was also published as *Thirteen at Dinner*.

*Murder on the Orient Express* was also published as *Murder in the Calais Coach*.

*Hercule Poirot's Christmas* was also published as *Murder for Christmas* (the feature-length film carries the first title).

*Hickory Dickory Dock* was also published as *Hickory Dickory Death*; again, the feature-

length film carries the former title.

Agatha Christie was very familiar with the stories about Sherlock Holmes written by Arthur Conan Doyle.

She makes literary allusions to various events in the stories as early as 1920.

A few references are listed here.

*The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (1920)

Hastings: "Well, I've always had a secret hankering to be a detective!"

Mary Cavendish: "The real thing - Scotland Yard? Or Sherlock Holmes?"

Hastings: "Oh, Sherlock Holmes by all means. But really, seriously, I am awfully drawn to it. I came across a man in Belgium once, a very famous detective, and he quite inflames me. He was a marvelous little fellow."

*The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* (1926)

"Well, it seems that M. Poirot solved a baffling murder mystery that threatened to involve them both [Prince Paul of Mauretania and a dancer]. Prince Paul was beside himself with gratitude."

"Did he give him an emerald tie pin the size of a plover's egg?" Hastings inquired sarcastically.

Hastings: "I played Watson to his Sherlock."

*Peril at End House* (1932)

"One should not keep a dog and have to bark oneself," agreed Nick with mock sympathy. "Who is the dog, by the way? Dr. Watson, I presume."

"My name is Hastings," I said coldly.

Poirot: "It is a hypothesis. I am driven to it by the difficulty of finding a reasonable theory elsewhere. When you have eliminated other possibilities you tum to the one that is left and say -- since the other is not -- this must be so..."

*Death in the Clouds* (1935)

"Ah," said Mr. Clancy. "But, you see, I have my methods,

Watson, if you'll excuse my calling you Watson. No offense intended. Interesting, by the way, how the technic of the idiot friend has hung on. Personally, I myself think the Sherlock Holmes stories greatly overrated. The fallacies -- the really amazing fallacies -- that there are in those stories ..."

*The A.B.C. Murders (1936)*

Poirot: "Mon ami, what will you? You fix upon me a look of doglike devotion and demand of me a pronouncement a la Sherlock Holmes!"

*Cards on the Table (1936)*

Poirot: "It reminds you of Sherlock Holmes, does it not? The curious incident of the dog in the night. The dog did not howl in the night. That is the curious thing! Ah, well, I am not above stealing the tricks of others."

"Do you think this man Poirot is clever?"

"He doesn't look a Sherlock," said Rhoda. "I expect he has been quite good in his day."

*Dumb Witness (1937)*

"I [Hastings] had recently returned from the Argentine " 'Turning my head, I said with a smile: 'Poirot, I - the humble Watson - am going to hazard a deduction.'"

Poirot: "You are indeed the Sherlock Holmes!"

Hastings: 'Well, out with it. What's the interesting point? I suppose, like the 'incident of the dog in the nighttime,' the point is that there is no interesting point."



# Baker Street Elementary

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



THE CREW OF THE

*Baker Street Elementary*  
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*Fay, Mason, & Mason*

CAN ANYONE TELL THE PRIMARY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MORNING AND EVENING EDITIONS OF THE MAJOR NEWSPAPERS ?

Three cartoon characters, a woman on the left, a man in a hat in the middle, and a woman on the right, are sitting at a table with papers and pens, looking thoughtful.

YOU NEED A CANDLE TO READ THE EVENING PAPER.

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