

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 08, No. 07 - July, 2020

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



PLEASE NOTE:

August 02 Meeting

NOTICE

It is unlikely we will be holding a face to face meeting in August, but let's plan on doing another virtual meeting through Zoom on August 02 at 1:00 pm. Will send out particulars in a week or two, but we do have Monica Schmidt, BSI and leader of the Younger Stamford's of Iowa Society.

July 05 Summary

There were 31 in attendance at this ZOOM meeting.

The meeting was opened with an inspirational toast to Innovation by Anne Caddell (see page 4). We then conducted the monthly quiz on the story "The Man with the Twisted Lip." We then conducted a discussion of the story, including the threat of potential suicide, the amount of money in the overcoat, St. Clair's future employment, and other issues.

Adriana Zayia, one of the Joel Senter Essay Prize Winners then read her essay "Mycroft and Sherlock: A Study in Contrasts", which was enthusiastically enjoyed by all. Adriana has been welcomed into our society as our newest member.

Over 190 members of our Society received a certificate of membership.

We will need to look closely at our ability to conduct the planned Symposium at the Allen Library, scheduled for November, as the library has still not opened, and we may not be able to meet in person as a Society before that timeframe. Allen Osborne will reach out to the library to see what their status is now and in the foreseeable future.

Starting in August, we will conduct a series of presentations on the Life and Times of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator and/or literary agent of Sherlock Holmes. These presentations will be conducted as an addendum at the end of each of our monthly meetings.

We then conducted the "Lightning Quiz", which was based on Conan Doyle and his life and works.

The closing reading was a wonderful toast conducted by Rich Krisciunas on Watson's Second Wife (see page 5).

Thanks to Pam Mason 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
Historian
Webmaster

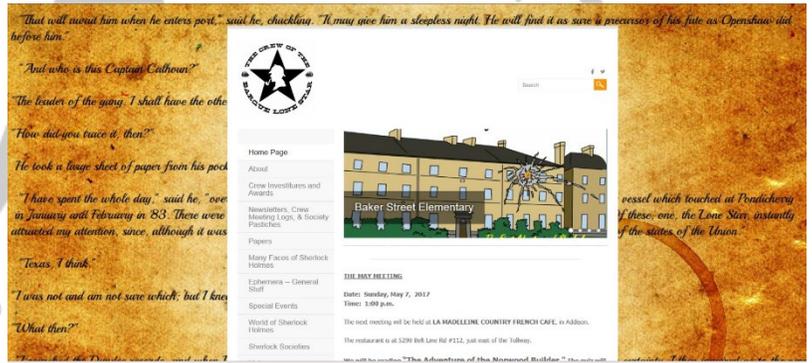
Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Dr. Jim Webb, BSI
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison
Pam Mason
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mason.steve@epa.gov
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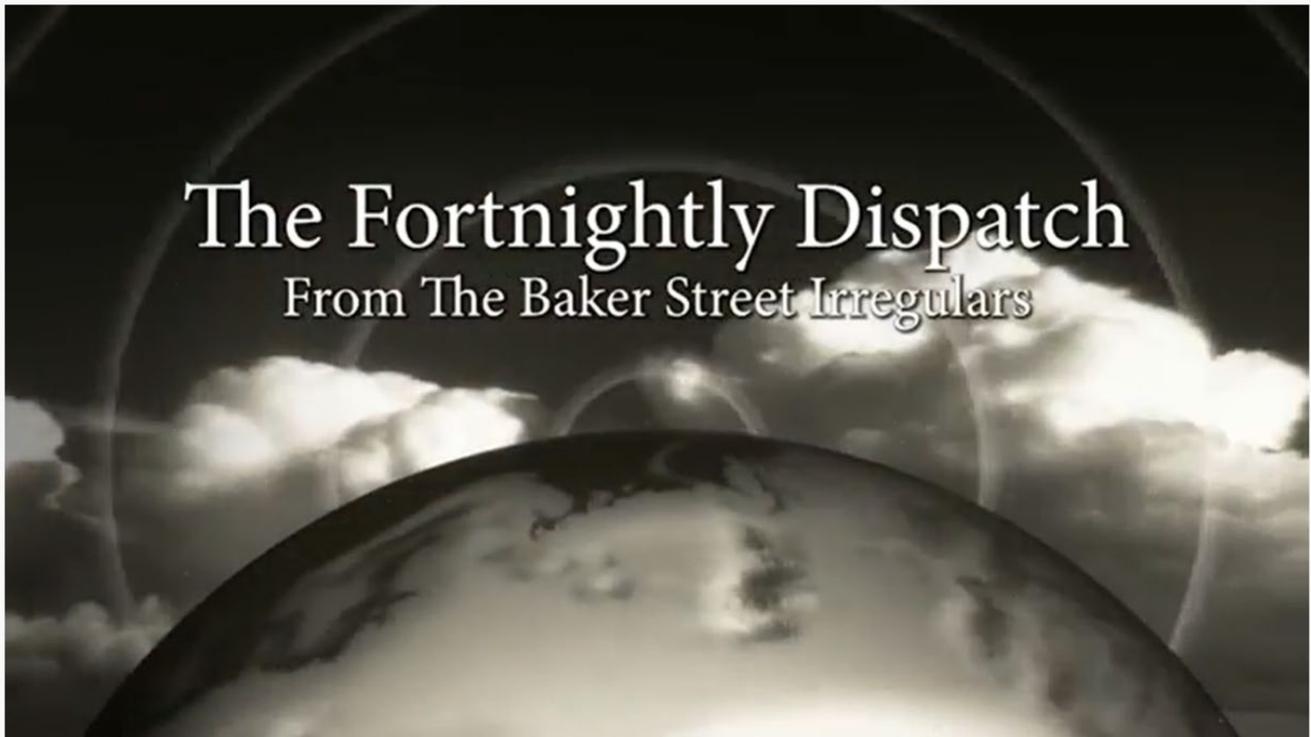
Our Website:

www.dfw-sherlock.org



Our Facebook Page:

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



The Fortnightly Dispatch

From The Baker Street Irregulars

The Fortnightly Dispatch is a video podcast sponsored by The Baker Street Irregulars.



It is devoted to connecting and talking with Sherlockians all around the country and world on a variety of subjects.

The informative series of Podcasts, hosted by Steven Doyle - Publisher of the Baker Street Journal - include the first five:

Ray Betzner and Vincent Starrett

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5M8sWGzIIUc>

Robert Katz and Sherlockian Societies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBJH43Y-Uwc>

Carlina de la Cova

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pn9LXE772b4>

Leslie Klinger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crELnfe8BRY>

Denny Dobry and Room 221b

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmPsE1c73Kw>

Reviews already embrace the series:

"Well done! Informative & fascinating..."
... a very entertaining and informative conversation..."
... It's a great pleasure to learn about the Sherlockian world..."

"INNOVATOR'S TOAST"

Presented by Anne Caddell

We Sherlockians, like the rest of the world, have been battered recently by new problems coming at us at breakneck speed from all directions.

Medical, social, political – the bad news keeps coming faster than we can process it, leaving us longing for a simpler time – for “that age before the world went all awry.”

And as Sherlockians, we’re already predisposed to seek comfort in that magical place where “it is always 1895.”

The last thing we want right now is still more novelty and innovation.

And yet, in these trying times, innovation is just what we need.

Sherlock Holmes himself was a great innovator.

The first time we meet him, he has just achieved an innovation in the detection of hemoglobin, and he is “as delighted as a child with a new toy,” according to Dr. Watson.

In fact, his entire career was an innovation – he was the world’s first consulting detective.

The stick-in-the-mud police officers like Gregson and Lestrade always claimed to prefer old-fashioned hard work over Holmes’s new-fangled theories and modern methods.

And yet, Holmes could run circles around them every time.

In our new, Covid-19 world of social distancing, we all long for a good old-fashioned face-to-face meeting in a nice restaurant where the drinks flow freely and we can clink our glasses in a toast.

We just don’t know when that will be possible again.

But thanks to the innovative members of so many Sherlockian societies, we can still stay in touch with webinars, video chats, and Zoom meetings.

And because of those online innovators, I’ve had the chance to meet Sherlockians around the world and attend meetings and symposia that I would never have made it to in person.

I know many of you have as well. So let’s raise a virtual, socially distanced glass to the men and women who keep us connected to Holmes’s 19th-century world through 21st-century technology - the innovators!



"TOAST TO WATSON'S SECOND WIFE"

Presented by Rich Krisciunas

Delivered to the Greek Interpreters of East Lansing, February 16, 2020 by Richard Krisciunas (c)

My task at today's meeting
Was to prepare a new toast
to John Watson's "second wife."
Was she real? Or just a ghost?

Who was this mysterious lady
That Holmes' Boswell had married?
On Google and Wikipedia
The number of wives he wed varied.

Mary Morstan was clearly his
spouse, but
As to a second, scholars couldn't
agree.
While one said Watson married six
times.
Baring-Gould put the number at
three.

Some Sherlockian writers have
argued
that the number was really two
But to find the wife's name in the
Canon,
You will never find a clue.

Was she Annie Morrison? Frances Carfax?
"She was Violet de Merville," someone wrote.

Through years of conjecture and speculation
Even widow Mrs. Hudson got a vote.

He's single, he's married, he's single again.
The Canon's confusing. Is he married or not?
Spends more time at Baker Street musing about
The Afghan campaign and how he got shot.

I think the truth is their marriage was rocky
Because they spent too much time
apart.
Working with Sherlock and playing
the game;
Both missed out on matters of the
heart.

After several years of separation
Watson asked for a second chance.
Both remembered why they fell in
love
And rekindled their romance.

So raise your glass for Watson's second wife.
You've solved the mystery; your work is done.
The "second wife" was Mary Morstan.
She was always Watson's only one.



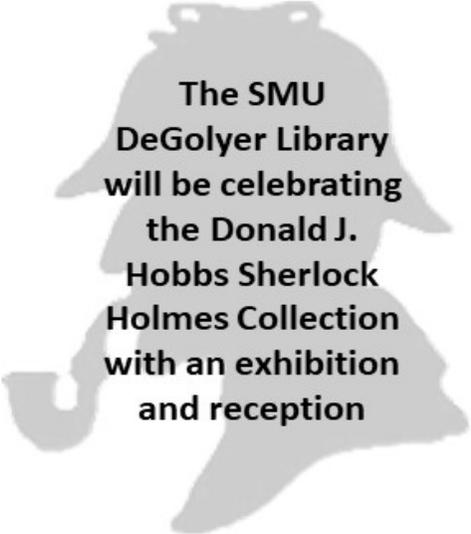
Please Join us at "The Collecting Mania"

A Symposium on all Things Sherlockian

What it takes to keep the Memory green and the Great Game alive

Tentative Speakers include:

Peter Blau, BSI
Lindsay Faye, BSI
Sonia Fetherson, BSI
Tim Greer, BSI
Robert Katz, BSI
Tim Kline
Bill Mason, BSI
Russell Merritt, BSI
Glenn Miranker, BSI
Howard Ostrom
Barbara Rusch, BSI



The SMU
DeGolyer Library
will be celebrating
the Donald J.
Hobbs Sherlock
Holmes Collection
with an exhibition
and reception

The Beeman Hotel, Dallas, Texas October 22-24, 2021

For more information, see our website
at: www.dfw-sherlock.org

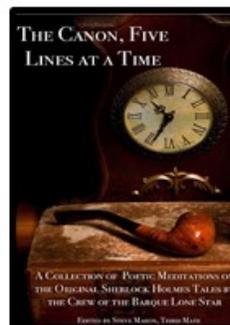
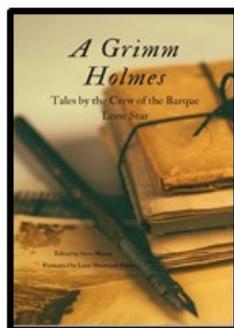
Co-hosted by Southern
Methodist University
DeGolyer Library and The
Crew of the Barque Lone
Star Society



SMU



**We are producing
our 4th book for our
50th Anniversary.**



For this year, members may submit an adventure involving Holmes and Watson solving a personal ad from one of the Victorian papers' Agony Columns.

1. You can use any personal ad available to you from a paper from the time of Holmes/Watson's career.
2. We have attached a list of personal ads researched and decoded by Liese and myself from various sources. You are welcome to use any of those in the enclosed list.
3. Your story should be 3,000 – 5,000 words, which is the average length for a short story. Obviously, a shorter story is fine.
4. Your story will be edited by one or two member volunteer editors, but only for grammar, typos... we will not edit the content of your story.
5. This project is not limited to just those members in the DFW area. Any member is welcome to submit a pastiche.
6. We plan to finalize the anthology by the end of the calendar year, so we ask for members to submit their entry by August 31.

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



KEEPER OF THE PLEAS

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

In “The Boscombe Valley Mystery,” Watson read a local newspaper’s partial account of the coroner’s inquest into the death of Mr. Charles McCarthy.

The article included the responses of his son James McCarthy to questions by both the coroner and one of the inquest’s jurymen.

By the time of Mr. McCarthy’s murder, the coroner system was more than seven hundred years old.

During the Victorian period, however, its role shifted with the introduction of a more organized law enforcement system, which set the two processes into conflict.

The British coroner system dates back to 1194.

The position was created as a means of representing the Crown’s interest against the corrupt practices of many provincial sheriffs.

Such sheriffs used tax and other laws to enrich themselves from the fines and monies they were to collect for the King.

Because the crown created this new position of “keeper of the pleas,” this person was often referred to as the “crowner,” or “coroner.” (1)

The first coroners were knights or other men of substance who owned property or had other income to reduce the corruption associated with the sheriffs and were never expected to determine who committed a crime.

Their duty was to enforce adherence to all procedures with regard to a suspicious death, assessing fines when they were not followed (often the case) and providing judges with a duly recorded list of witnesses, neighbors, property, and chattel. (2)

In the 1500s, coroners were no longer collecting such fees, and their responsibilities had been reduced to investigating suspicious sudden deaths. (3)

Richard Sewell provided a guide to coroners in 1843, clearly noting their judicial and ministerial obligations as well as detailed information for determining various causes of death.

As a judge during an inquest, the coroner’s role was to determine the cause of death in the case of sudden or

violent deaths.

As the crown’s representative, he became a magistrate and would execute writs from the sheriff. (4)

When a suspicious death occurred, an official, such as a peace officer, was to contact the coroner who determined whether to summon a jury to review “when, how, and by what means the deceased came by his death.”

The inquiry began with a viewing of the body and the place where the deceased was discovered.



If someone was identified as being the cause of the death, the coroner was expected to complete an inventory of the accused's property. (5)

The inquest itself involved the coroner and a jury of twelve to twenty-four men who would hear from the "first finder" of the body as well as other witnesses, including, occasionally, a medical witness.

As in "The Boscombe Valley Mystery," the jury could also question witnesses, but it was the coroner's duty to take notes and summarize the evidence to the jurors—who then returned the verdict. (6)

Their final determination involved providing the identity of the deceased; the time and place of the death; and means of death, including murder or manslaughter.

This verdict as well as any evidence was passed on for trial. (7)

Given that the coroner system was originally conceived to ensure the correct application of criminal fines—often misappropriated by the sheriffs—this system was often at odds with both the local constabulary as well as other parish officials.

Until 1860 when they became salaried officials, coroners were paid by inquest, and some cost-conscious parish officials were reluctant to ask for an investigation of a death. In addition, as a more modern police system was introduced, these officers also investigated suspicious deaths—further cutting the need and cost of a coroner's inquest.

This clash between coroner and police most often came to a head with respect to suspects and witnesses.

If the police arrested a suspect prior to the inquest, they could refuse to provide him or her as a witness at the inquiry. (8)

The parishes went so far as to create a "coroner's officer" within the police force who could collect evidence and present it to the coroner. (9)

Reforms, based on such issues, restructured coroners' responsibilities and procedures.

No longer elected officials, local authorities appointed the coroner, often providing him with a staff of one to two coroner's officers.

Even following such reforms—as Charles McCarthy's death illustrated—this position still had jurisdiction over violent, unnatural, or other suspicious deaths as well as those that occurred in prisons.

Their determination, conducted during an inquest, was limited to determining who and how a person died without applying criminal or civil liability. (10)

As in the case of James McCarthy, decisions related to any charges followed an arrest with guilt determined at a trial (Assizes).

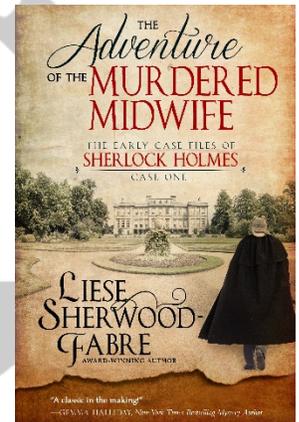
For the son of Charles McCarthy, while the coroner's inquest provided some damning evidence shared at the trial, thanks to additional evidence Holmes provided to the defense, his story ended there and not in prison.



- (1) <https://www.britannica.com/topic/coroner>
- (2) Max M. Houck, Jay A. Siegel, in *Fundamentals of Forensic Science* (Second Edition), 2010, page 160.
- (3) <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/advances-in-psychiatric-treatment/article/coroners-court-and-the-psychiatrist/A911FDB35712FFCBD1AC0E351523D045/core-reader>
- (4) Richard Clarke Sewell, *A Treatise of the Law of Coroner*. London: Owen Richards, Law Bookseller and Publisher, 1843, page 23.
- (5) *Ibid*, page 30.
- (6) Ian Burney, *Bodies of Evidence: Medicine and the Politics of the English Inquest, 1830-1926*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000, page 5.
- (7) Sewell, page 205
- (8) https://victoriandetectives.wordpress.com/2013/11/06/coroners-vs-police/#_ftnref1
- (9) <https://legalhistorymiscellany.com/2016/07/30/deaths-gatekeepers-the-victorian-coroners-officer/>
- (10) Nigel Meadows, "A Guide to the Coroner's Inquest System," October 2002, page 1.

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.

Liese Sherwood-Fabre released the first cases from her series "The Early Case Files of Sherlock Holmes," exploring his development into the world's most famous consulting detective. This and future volumes will be available in paperback and eBook online at all major bookstores. Links are listed on her Website www.liesesherwoodfabre.com.



Read more about Liese's works at: <https://castlehillsmagazine.com/local-award-winning-author-released-new-mystery-series/>

THE COLD, LONELY DEATH OF MARGARET DENNISTON STARRETT

By Karen Murdock

Published in *The Petrel Flyer*, (Vancouver, British Columbia). Volume 17, number 4, (Summer 2005), "Starrett Special" Issue

[Editor's Note: For those not familiar with Vincent Starrett, In 1920, he wrote a Sherlock Holmes pastiche entitled "The Adventure of the Unique 'Hamlet'", a story in which Holmes investigates a missing 1604 inscribed edition of Shakespeare's play 'Hamlet'. Starrett's most famous work, *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, was published in 1933. Starrett wrote a book column, "Books Alive," for *The Chicago Tribune*. Starrett was one of the founders of *The Hounds of the Baskerville* (sic), a Chicago chapter of *The Baker Street Irregulars*.]

They were so unlike one would hardly think they were even distant relations, much less a mother and her first-born child. Vincent Starrett was never one to profess any religion; if pressed on the subject, he would assert that he was a Somnambulist, which seemed to satisfy people who did not know that a somnambulist is a person walking in his sleep. His mother, though, held her Christian religion as the most important thing in her life.

She was born Margaret Denniston Young on March 11, 1864. In his autobiography, *Born in a Bookshop*, Vincent wrote, of his mother

She was as Scotch as my father was Irish, although both were born in Canada. She had been a schoolteacher (a good one, I believe) but after her marriage she devoted herself exclusively to Dad, who needed a lot of looking after.

Margaret and her husband, Robert Polk Starrett, were living in Toronto when their first child, Charles Vincent Emerson Starrett, was born on October 26, 1886. They moved to Chicago when little "Charlie" was four. Their three other sons (Stanley, Harold, and Robert) were all born in Chicago, and first-born Charlie, who later decided to go by his second name, Vincent, was to spend almost all the rest of his life in this city of ferment and energy, even if he sometimes wished he were elsewhere.

His mother did end up elsewhere—and that is the reason for the publication of this special issue of *The Petrel Flyer*. She ended up back in her native Canada. To quote again from Starrett's autobiography:

Mother was a good woman and a brave one, and frequently she was an unhappy one. But much of the time, too, she was a happy woman who found her happiness in her church. She had several churches. Although born a Presbyterian, in Chicago she attended first a Congregational church, then a Methodist, and finally an Evangelical chapel, where for the first time, I believe, her troubled spirit found something it had been seeking.

She had the missionary spirit and would have been a missionary in foreign lands if opportunity had permitted. For a time, in her last years, she was actually a missionary among the Indians in western Canada, and at the time of her death, in 1935, was on her way to a waterside mission in Vancouver, British Columbia.

There is no hint in this passage that Margaret Starrett died from drowning, or that the drowning was a suicide. This may have been too painful a thing for the author to admit, even all those decades later. It is odd, however, that Vincent Starrett—who got his start in writing as a newspaper reporter, where accuracy in such things as dates is important—got the year of her death wrong. In fact, the death of his mother occurred in 1933, and in case Starrett had forgotten the date, he had the full documentation about the event in his possession until the day he died. It is currently in the Vincent Starrett Archives at the University of Minnesota, which is where I came across the file.

Apart from the paragraphs quoted above, Vincent Starrett wrote little about his mother in his autobiography, and he lied to his biographer about the manner of her death. Peter Ruber, then a young man in

his twenties, got to know Vincent Starrett well in the early 1960s and published a tribute volume to him, *The Last Bookman*, in 1968 through his own imprint, The Candlelight Press of New York City. This book includes numerous tributes to Starrett by his friends and a lengthy biographical sketch of the great Sherlockian by Ruber. Here is how the death of Starrett's mother is told in *The Last Bookman*:

Lastly, she joined the Evangelical Chapel, where her troubled spirit seemed to find the comfort it had so long been seeking. She returned to Canada to take up missionary work among the Indians in Vancouver, British Columbia. She died in 1935 while en route, by ferry, to a waterside mission. When the ferry docked at its destination all that remained of her person was a coat and handbag. As Vincent told it to me: "I presume that while she stood by the rail and watched the water foam and swirl beneath her feet, she imagined Christ approaching and went out to meet him. Her love for Him must have been very great. It is a sad, yet strangely beautiful ending, and I have always believed that she was serenely happy that night."

Starrett told this account to Ruber some thirty or more years after his mother's death and by then he may have himself come to believe that she met her end "serenely happy." This was not, however, what he or his brothers or anyone else thought at the time. They believed her death was a suicide and that her mental state just before her death may have warranted institutionalization.

Vancouver is a water city. Canada's great Pacific port, the city is deeply embayed and consists of numerous inlets and peninsulas. In the days before the Lions Gate Bridge opened in 1938, the North Shore of Burrard Inlet was mainly accessed by ferry boat. From one of these, Ferry #3 between Vancouver and North Vancouver (foot of Lonsdale Avenue), Margaret Starrett went overboard on the night of Tuesday, October 3, 1933.

The *Vancouver Daily Province* reported the incident the next day under the headline "Woman Is Missing From Inlet Ferry":

Search is being made by city and North Vancouver police for Mrs. M. Starrett, 2861 West Third, who disappeared Tuesday evening from a

North Vancouver ferry. Her handbag, containing clothing and papers, was found on the boat. [. . .]

Members of the crew of a northbound ferry saw a woman answering Mrs. Starrett's description on board and noted that she did not land at North Vancouver. They saw her again while the ferry was making its return trip to Vancouver and watched for her to leave the boat here. When she failed to do so they searched and found her handbag.

Friends notified Vancouver police and said they thought she had met with misadventure.

Hugh Miller of Vancouver, a second cousin to Vincent and a friend of the 69-year-old Mrs. Starrett, had the sad task of telephoning Vincent Starrett with the news of his mother's disappearance. He must have done this on October 4th or 5th. Vincent, true to his calling as a writer of mystery stories, jotted down some questions he had about this mysterious death and incorporated some of these into a letter he wrote to Hugh on the fifth of October:

Dear Hugh:

Your telephone account of the unhappy situation, a few hours ago, was so complete that there is little more to ask; but one or two things have entered my mind.

[. . .]

Are you quite satisfied with everything the police have done? At this distance it is difficult to visualize all that must have happened. For instance, was it an easy matter for her to go overboard from the ferry, without being seen, if that was what she wanted to do? [. . .] Is there, in short, the slightest reason to suspect foul play? And we wonder why she put her hat in her bag— and what else the bag contained— and whether everything found has been unquestionably identified as hers— and so on. I presume it was dark on the water when she made the trip? We wonder why she did not land, but instead decided to make the return trip. Was there any money in her bag— enough, anyway, to pay her fare? It seems remarkable that no one saw her go overboard, if that is what she did; but it may seem remarkable to us only because we do not know anything about the ferries? Are the police satisfied with what the ferry people say? Are you?

[. . .]

If she is not overboard, by any chance, but wandering or, for some reason that we do not

know, hiding, she would be likely to be in mission surroundings, I think. She used to speak of the Four Square Mission and similar places. [. . .]

I enclose on a separate page a statement authorizing you to act for us [Vincent and his three brothers, who all lived in Chicago] in whatever manner you may deem fitting or necessary, in Mother's behalf. [. . .]

*Faithfully,
Vincent Starrett*

This must have been the hardest letter Vincent Starrett ever wrote.

Subsequent investigation revealed that Margaret had taken Ferry #3 to North Vancouver to visit some friends. She left Vancouver at 6:20 p.m. The ferry docked at North Vancouver at 6:40. Margaret did not disembark but, apparently, hid in the ladies room. Ferry #3 returned to Vancouver and it was on this return voyage Margaret Starrett finally left the ferry and this world. No one saw her go overboard. The boat docked at Vancouver at 7 p.m. A deckhand found Mrs. Starrett's overnight bag on a coil of rope in the car alley—but Mrs. Starrett was gone.

Margaret Starrett left no suicide note behind to explain why she took her life. But there are strong indications that she had become both despairing and detached from reality near the end of her life and that, had she lived, she might have had to be institutionalized. She had been "acting peculiarly" in the days just before her death, wrote Hugh Miller in a letter. In fact, on the 4th of October, before he had heard of Margaret's disappearance, Hugh had sent a telegram to his cousin Alex L. Young in Toronto saying that Margaret

HAS DELUSIONS ACTING VINDICTIVELY MENTAL
CONDITION CRITICAL REQUIRES LOOKING AFTER.

He advised that one of her sons should come to Vancouver and asked for Alex's advice.

In a letter to Vincent dated November 4, 1933, Hugh Miller wrote, "for the past two years or more your mother maintained that she was psychic and able to talk with God almost at will." Her last letters to her eldest son reveal that she was sure that the end of the world was close at hand. Her next-to-last letter to the son she always called "Charlie" spoke of recent storms

on the West Coast heralding the Second Coming and "the opening of the Sixth Seal, which is the beginning of the day of God's wrath, because of the widespread apostasy."

Margaret Starrett's last letter to Vincent was dated from Vancouver on September 27, 1933. "We are in the closing days of this era," the letter began. "Christ is coming almost at once." She urged "Charlie" and his brothers to get together at once and repent of their sins. "See the terrible earthquakes, floods, apostasy. You have barely a chance, time is so short. Hurry I entreat you, before it is too late." It was signed "Mother." It was the last communication her son ever had from her. It is quite possible that he received it in the mail after he had learned by telephone of her death.

In the weeks and months after her disappearance, Vincent Starrett and his brothers must have wondered often what really had happened to their mother. Her Vancouver relatives petitioned the court to declare her dead so that they could settle her estate. The petition was granted and the official decree of Margaret's death was handed down on 23 March 1934.

Over a year after Margaret went overboard, her body was finally recovered. A telegraph message to Vincent Starrett on October 25, 1934 must have been, for him and his brothers, both a tragedy and a relief.

CORONER REPORTED CHARACTERISTICS OF BODY
TAKEN FROM INLET YESTERDAY AGREEING WITH
YOUR MOTHER HEAVILY BUILT ELDERLY FEMALE
FIVE FEET FOUR PROMINENT CHEEKBONES TRACES
GREY HAIR IN WATER ABOUT YEAR NO CLOTHING
EXCEPT FRAGMENT BLACK OR BLUE SERGE YOUR
MOTHER WORE BLACK SERGE COAT NO DENTAL
IDENTIFICATION POSSIBLE STOP REQUESTED
MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR BADLY SET FRACTURE
RIGHT WRIST RESULTING IN ENLARGED JOINT
WHICH SHE HAD STATED RESULTED FROM OLD
FRACTURE BUT WOULD LIKE YOUR CONFIRMATION
OF ITS POSITION WILL SEEK IDENTIFICATION OF
CLOTH IF POSSIBLE STOP IF NOTHING CONTRA
APPEARS CONSIDER EVIDENCE STRONGLY
PRESUMPTION SHALL I CLAIM AND ARRANGE
PRIVATE BURIAL DO NOT SUGGEST ANYONE
COMING EXTERNAL IDENTIFICATION IMPOSSIBLE
HUGH MILLER

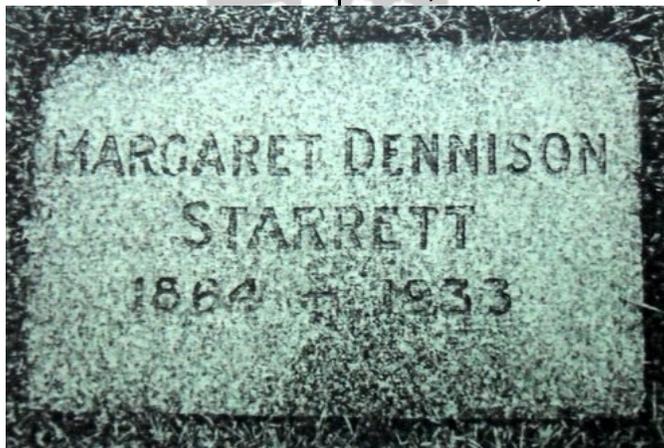
The next day brought confirmation of the discovery in another telegram to Vincent Starrett in Chicago from Hugh Miller in Vancouver.

MOTHER RECOGNIZES CLOTH AND IDENTIFIES FRACTURE I VIEWED BODY HEAD AND CHEEKS FORMATION AND GENERAL BUILD LEAVE NO DOUBTS TAKING OTHER EVIDENCE INTO CONSIDERATION STOP CORONER OFFICIALLY CONFIRMS IDENTIFICATION STOP TENTATIVELY ARRANGING INTERNMENT WESTVANCOUVER CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE TOTAL EXPENSE ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS SATURDAY IF YOUR CONFIRMATION THIS RECEIVED BY EIGHT AM HERE OTHERWISE MONDAY OR LATER IF REQUESTED NO MONEY PRESENTLY NEEDED WILL ARRANGE FLOWERS SONS

HUGH MILLER

And so the mortal remains of Margaret Starrett have rested in West Vancouver—in peace, finally—for the

past seventy years. The story is not quite over, though. As soon as I came across the documents on Mrs. Starrett's death, I knew that the Stormy Petrels would be interested in hearing about their local connection to that great Canadian-born Sherlockian, Vincent Starrett. I therefore emailed Len Haffenden, who greeted my message as "BIG NEWS" for the Stormy Petrels. The very next day, Len and Elsa went to the West Vancouver



Cemetery and located Mrs. Starrett's grave. They reported this discovery in the June issue of *The Petrel Flyer*. Len decided to dedicate the next issue of the *Flyer* to Vincent Starrett and that is why I am writing this piece.

It seems appropriate that Margaret Dennison Young Starrett, a daughter of Canada, should rest for all

eternity beneath Canadian soil. She has surely found in her final resting place that peace which she did not find in life. I am happy to think that, because of this discovery, Sherlockians now and in the future may visit her grave and honour a woman who gave the world one of its greatest Sherlockians.

A FACE OF IDENTITY

By Warren Randall, *The Holmes and Watson Report*, January, 2004

In "A Case of Identity," the faces of three individuals tell the story in Dr. Watson's inimitable style. He describes the faces of Mary Sutherland, James Windibank, and Sherlock Holmes. Although Mr. Windibank makes only one appearance, it does seem that within the space of a single speech by Holmes, his face is both pale and ghastly and the sneer upon his face is first cold and then bitter. His insolent demeanor results in Holmes's face "flushing up" and his reaching for his hunting crop. Miss Sutherland is more modest: a flush steals over her face when asked about Mr. Hosmer Angel.

Holmes's face does not light up, but only has a "look of infinite languor" after he lights his old and oily clay pipe. (This should not be confused with Lowenstein's "black-faced langur" in "The Creeping Man.") Dr. Watson does not suggest what was in the bowl of the pipe at the time that would induce such a reaction, but we may hazard that it was neither plug nor dottle.

However, it is the third party in the case, Miss Mary Sutherland, who faces not too kindly a treatment by Watson's remarks. Within her brief appearance, Watson twice

describes her face as "vacuous," adding it was "broad" and "good-humoured."

It could have been worse, as we consider the facial imagery used by Watson in other selected cases:

1. Monkey-faced - Jonathan Small, called by Holmes a "wooden legged man," but whom Mrs. Smith calls "a brown, monkeyfaced chap." (SIGN)
2. Puffy-faced - Violet Smith, "The Iotherl Solitary Cyclist," describes the young Mr. Woodley as a coarse, puffy-faced, red-moustached young man who is apparently the most odious and perfectly hateful person she ever met. Later, as a groom, he is reported as brutal and heavy-faced, and still with a red moustache.
3. Rat-faced - In Watson's first case with Holmes, "There was one little sallow, rat-faced, dark-eyed fellow, who was introduced to me as Mr. Lestrade, and who came three or four times in a single week." Then there was James Ryder, the cringing little rat-faced fellow standing in the centre of the circle of

yellow light at the stall of Breckinridge, in "The Blue Carbuncle." Mr. Norlett, seen at "Shoscombe Old Place," was a small rat-faced man with a disagreeably furtive manner.

4. Sharp-faced - Mike Scanlan, the fellow member whom McMurdo had met on the train to Vermissa Valley, was sharp-faced, nervous, and enjoyed a glass or two of whisky (VALL).
5. Vulture-faced - The secretary of the lodge, Harraway, was a vulture-faced old graybeard in *The Valley of Fear*.
6. Red-faced - Athelney Jones, a red-faced, burly, and plethoric Scotland Yarder, is known to Holmes and *vice versa* in *The Sign of Four*. Mr. Frankland, of Lafter Hall, is an elderly, red-faced man (HOUN). Shinwell Johnson, of "The Illustrious Client," is huge, coarse, and red-faced.
7. Acid-faced - Hudson is the acid-faced seaman who held Trevor senior in a grip of fear in "The Gloria Scott."

Watson does mention a number of others with hyphenated faces and pleasanter dispositions:

1. An old gentleman representing the railway company is red-faced and courteous (BRUC).
2. Sir Henry in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* receives a salute from the hard-faced coachman.
3. "Inspector Forrester is official, smart, and keen-faced, despite the

Cunninghams and their the 'The Reigate Puzzle.'

4. The official who processed Jefferson Hope at the police station; Bannister, the servant in "The Three Students"; the hard-breathing Constable Walters, of "The Wisteria Lodge"; Inspector Gregson in *A Study in Scarlet*; and the young lady, Violet Westbury, in "The Bruce-Partington Plans" are all white-faced.

5. However, in *The Sign of Four*, a very angry Jonathan Small rails against "every cursed black-faced policeman who loved to take it out of a white man."

There is one truth I am happy to convey to the reader - within the entire Canon, with its murderers, assassins, felons, thieves, frauds, imposters, charlatans, and Napoleons of crime, there is not one *barefaced* or, to the author's great relief, one *bald-faced* liar to be found.



ANSWERS TO THE CANONICAL PLACE QUIZ (page 12)

1. Abergavenny (Wales) PRIO
"My colleague, Dr. Watson, could tell you that we are very busy at present. I am retained in this case of the Ferrers Documents, and the Abergavenny murder is coming up for trial. Only a very important issue could call me from London at present."
2. Amsterdam (The Netherlands) MAZA
"I've fooled better men than he," the Count answered. "The stone is here in my secret pocket. I take no chances leaving it about. It can be out of England to-night and cut into four pieces in Amsterdam before Sunday."
3. Brooklyn REDC
"Signor Castalotte was a bachelor, and I believe that he felt as if Gennaro was his son, and both my husband and I loved him as if he were our father. We had taken and furnished a little house in Brooklyn, and our whole future seemed assured when that black cloud appeared which was soon to overspread our sky."
4. Darjeeling (India) CROO
"I was tortured and tried to get away, and was captured and tortured again. You can see for yourselves the state in which I was left. Some of them that fled into Nepal took me with them, and then afterwards I was up past Darjeeling."
5. Halifax (Nova Scotia) COPP
"I have been a governess for five years," said she, "in the family of Colonel Spence Munro, but two months ago the colonel received an appointment at Halifax, in Nova Scotia, and took his children over to America with him, so that I found myself without a situation."
6. John O'Groats MISS
"A draghound will follow aniseed from here to John o' Groat's, and our friend, Armstrong, would have to drive through the Cam before he would shake Pompey off his trail."
7. Lebanon (Pennsylvania) REDH
TO THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE: On account of the bequest of the late Ezekiah Hopkins, of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, U. S. A., there is now another vacancy open which entitles a member of the League to a salary of 4 pounds a week for purely nominal services.
8. Marseilles (France) IDEN
"The larger crimes are apt to be the simpler, for the bigger the crime the more obvious, as a rule, is the motive. In these cases, save for one rather intricate matter which has been referred to me from Marseilles, there is nothing which presents any features of interest."
9. Mecca EMPT
"I then passed through Persia, looked in at Mecca, and paid a short but interesting visit to the Khalifa at Khartoum, the results of which I have communicated to the Foreign Office."
10. Melbourne (Australia) BOSC
"One day a gold convoy came down from Ballarat to Melbourne, and we lay in wait for it and attacked it. There were six troopers and six of us, so it was a close thing, but we emptied four of their saddles at the first volley."
11. Montmartre (Paris) ILLU
" 'By the way, Mr. Holmes,' said he, 'did you know Le Brun, the French agent?'"
" 'Yes,' said I."
" 'Do you know what befell him?'"
" 'I heard that he was beaten by some Apaches in the Montmartre district and crippled for life.'"
" 'Quite true, Mr. Holmes. By a curious coincidence he had been inquiring into my affairs only a week before."
12. New Jersey SCAN
"Let me see!" said Holmes. "Hum! Born in New Jersey in the year 1858. Contralto — hum! La Scala, hum! Prima donna Imperial Opera of Warsaw — yes! Retired from operatic stage — ha! Living in London — quite so! Your Majesty, as I understand, became entangled with this young person, wrote her some compromising letters, and is now desirous of getting those letters back."

13. Oporto (Portugal) RESI

Such were the singular circumstances in connection with the Resident Patient and the Brook Street Doctor. From that night nothing has been seen of the three murderers by the police, and it is surmised at Scotland Yard that they were among the passengers of the ill-fated steamer *Norah Creina*, which was lost some years ago with all hands upon the Portuguese coast, some leagues to the north of Oporto.

14. Pernambuco (Brazil) 3GAB

"But does the name Isadora Klein convey nothing to you? She was, of course, the celebrated beauty. There was never a woman to touch her. She is pure Spanish, the real blood of the masterful Conquistadors, and her people have been leaders in Pernambuco for generations. She married the aged German sugar king, Klein, and presently found herself the richest as well as the most lovely widow upon earth."

15. Plumstead Marshes SIGN

We were not more than four boat's lengths behind them, both boats flying at a tremendous pace. It was a clear reach of the river, with Barking Level upon one side and the melancholy Plumstead Marshes upon the other.

16. Rhodesia 3STU

"Come, Watson! As to you, sir, I trust that a bright future awaits you in Rhodesia. For once you have fallen low. Let us see, in the future, how high you can rise."

17. Siam BRUC

"A most annoying business, Sherlock," said he. "I extremely dislike altering my habits, but the powers that be would take no denial. In the present state of Siam it is most awkward that I should be away from the office. But it is a real crisis. I have never seen the Prime Minister so upset."

18. Skibbareen (Ireland) LAST

"I started my pilgrimage at Chicago, graduated in an Irish secret society at Buffalo, gave serious trouble to the constabulary at Skibbareen, and so eventually caught the eye of a subordinate agent of Von Bork"

19. Suez Canal ABBE

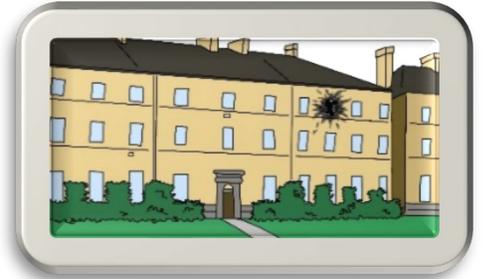
It was the *Rock of Gibraltar*, their largest and best boat. A reference to the passenger list showed that Miss Fraser, of Adelaide, with her maid had made the voyage in her. The boat was now somewhere south of the Suez Canal on her way to Australia.

20. Transylvania SUSS

"Hullo! Hullo! Good old index. You can't beat it. Listen to this, Watson. Vampirism in Hungary. And again, Vampires in Transylvania."

Baker Street Elementary

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



BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY
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FAY, MASON & MASON

IT'S RAINING CHICKENS AND DUCKS TODAY...

DON'T YOU MEAN CATS AND DOGS ?

NO, IT'S RAINING MOST "FOUL" TODAY...

THAT THUNDER SOUNDED LIKE A DRUM RIM SHOT...

SNOW, I CAN WORK WITH... HAVE YOU EVER HAD A RAINBALL FIGHT, OR BUILT A RAINMAN ?

WHEN I BECOME AN ADULT, I AM GOING TO STAY IN BED ANY DAY IT'S RAINING...

SO WHY AM I STANDING IN THE RAIN, WAITING TO GO INTO THE CLASSROOM, WHICH I DON'T ENJOY ?

SEEMS I AM GOING TO LEARN, BUT I NEVER LEARN WHAT I WANT...

LIKE WHEN TO COME IN OUT OF THE RAIN ?

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