

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 08, No. 08 - August, 2020

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



PLEASE NOTE:

September 06 Meeting NOTICE

It is unlikely we will be holding a face to face meeting in September, but let's plan on doing another virtual meeting through Zoom on September 06 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, as our guest speaker.

August 02 Summary

There were 32 in attendance at this ZOOM meeting.

We started the meeting with an opening toast given by Third Mate, Steve Mason, called "I Get No Respect" (see page 4). We then conducted the monthly quiz on the story "The Adventure of the Speckled Band."

Richard Krisciunas did a presentation called Doctors Gone Bad, in coordination with the story which included an evil doctor. This presentation generated a lot of good discussion.

August 31 is the deadline for the short story submission for the next book published by the Crew of the Barque Lone Star. The theme of the book will be articles from the Victorian Agony Columns.

As things stand now, we will continue to meet virtually for the foreseeable future.

Our guest speaker for the meeting was Dr. Carlina de la Cova, an associate professor and Director of undergraduate studies in the Department of anthropology at the University of South Carolina. Dr. de la Cova's presentation was entitled "Skulls coveted and otherwise: Criminal anthropology's bumpy ride". Her presentation was extremely interesting and very educational.

The final reading was done by Steve and was a toast he had given to the St. Louis scion society, entitled "Why is Sherlock Holmes so Popular Still" (Page 5).

The Doyle study focused on his early years at home, as well as a brief family history. In August, we will focus on his school years.

We conducted the "Lightning Quiz", which was based on Paget illustrations in the Canon.

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
Historian
Webmaster

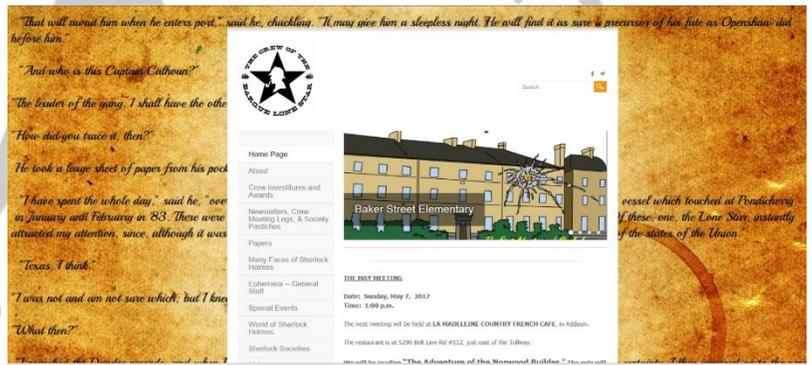
Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Dr. Jim Webb, BSI
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison
Pam Mason
Rusty Mason

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waltpieper@att.net
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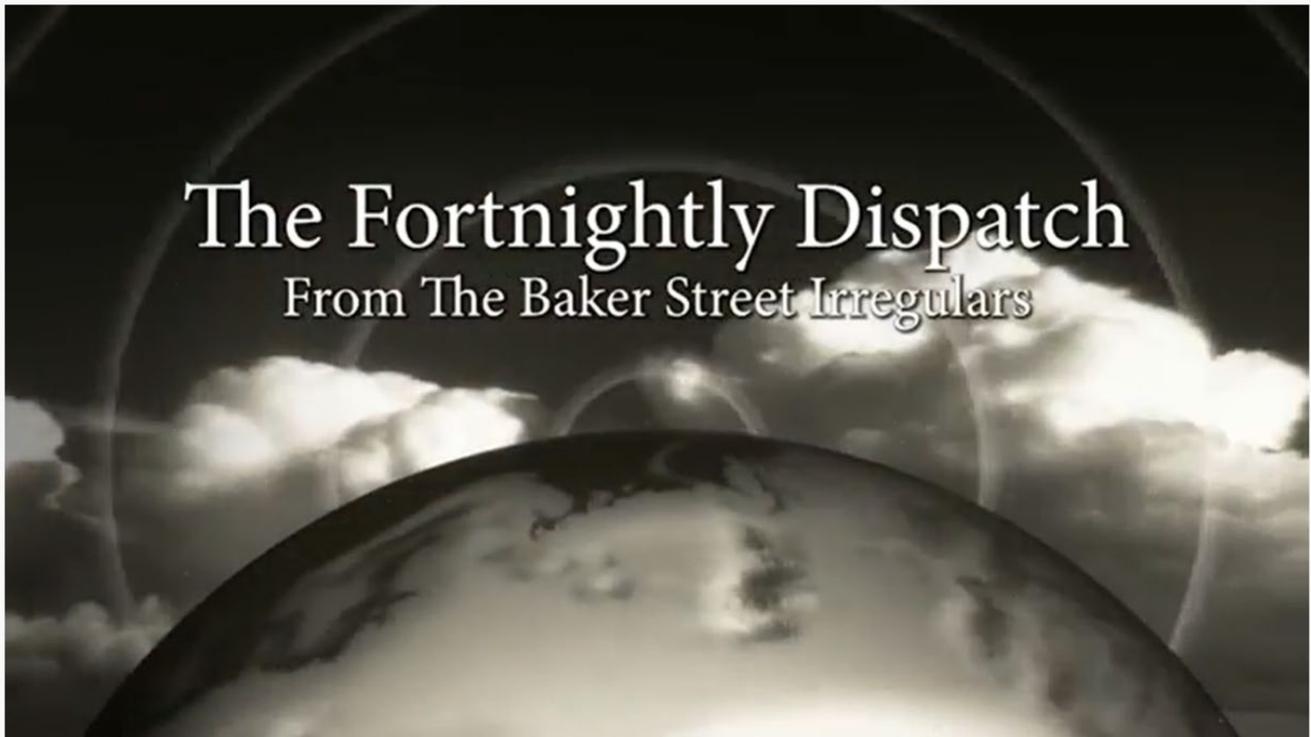
Our Website:

www.dfw-sherlock.org



Our Facebook Page:

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



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 six:

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>

Nicholas Utechin and Ronald Knox

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

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..."

"I GET NO RESPECT"

Presented by Steve Mason

Let me begin by stating how honoured I am to be speaking in front of such an august group.

But I must say, I have a few bones to pick with all of you, specifically three things.

As one of your most famous cultural philosophers use to state, "I get no respect."

So point # 1:

For over 100 years, Sherlockian experts have debated what I actually am

I have been determined to be:

- A generic serpent
- A cobra
- A Russell viper
- A Richardson viper
- A bamboo viper
- An Indian krait
- A puff adder
- And even a hybrid between a cobra and gila monster

By the way, what do you call a snake who works for the federal government?

A civil serpent.

But I digress... Does it really matter what I am...?

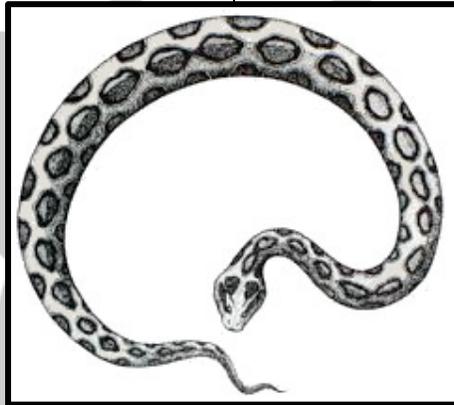
If you step off a curb in your hometown and get flattened by a speeding automobile, does it really matter whether you have an Astin-

Martin or Rolls-Royce logo tattooed to your forehead ?

Of course not... so just accept me for what I am...

Point # 2:

People for years have claimed I could not possess the ability to climb up and down the bell-rope to do my master's bidding



Did you never witness Ralph, the underwater swimming pig at the Aquarena Springs in Texas ?

Or Twiggy, the water skiing squirrel ?

And how many of you spent hours watching stupid pet tricks on the David Letterman show each week?

Learning to climb up and down a rope is not that hard... sorry if many of you could not master the skill in grade school P.E. or during the President's Fitness Challenge.

And after a hard climb up and down that rope, nothing quenches your thirst more than a room-temperature saucer of milk. I try to stick to the 1% or skim to keep my body in optimal shape.

Google Phys.org to see a study on rope-climbing snakes... we can do it...

And while you're at it, google snake ears, and you will find we have fully developed ears attached to our jawbone (just no eardrum), which allows us to feel vibrations, such as low whistles, hums, and other low-pitched sounds.

Just kidding about the milk. Actually, my crazy owner kept a few pet mice (he thought I might actually eat them... yuck), so the saucer of milk was for them... Can't believe that detective friend of yours assumed it to be mine. I am a proud vegetarian.

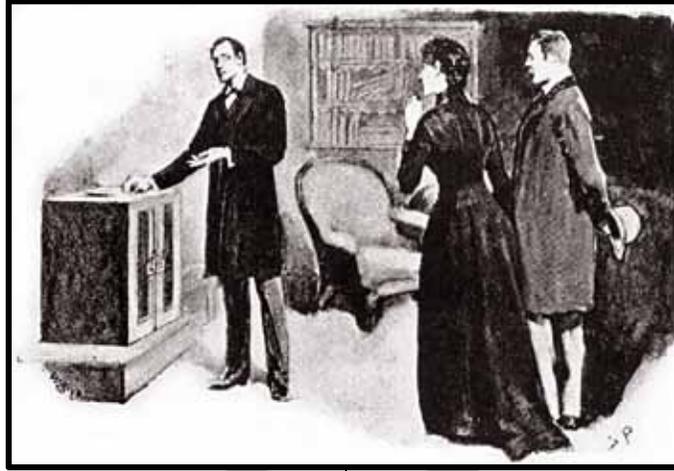
And finally, point #3:

At the end of the story, did any of you ever wonder what happened to me after Mr. Holmes simply tossed me back into the safe?

Did you ever see at the end of the Canonical stories the statement, "No animals were

harmed during the production of this adventure ?

Several of my comrades in the animal world -- an abused hound; a jellyfish minding its own business; a starved watchdog trained to attack intruders; cockroaches just trying to find sustenance; an aging dog just trying to quietly finish his days in Mrs. Hudson's kitchen -- have all given their lives so all of you could be further entertained.



So, in respect to all those animals who were mentioned throughout the entire Canon, please raise your glasses to toast my family, the most misunderstood animals in the entire Canon, the simple swamp adders, who are considered the best mathematicians in the reptile world.

"WHY IS SHERLOCK STILL SO POPULAR"

Steve Mason

For over 130 years since the first adventures of the Master were chronicled by Dr. Watson and submitted for publication by Conan Doyle, one question has been brought up over and over again.

Hundreds, if not thousands of pages, have been devoted in answering this one simple question... why is Sherlock Holmes still so popular?

Theories abound.

For me, it's very simple.

At the end of "The Final Problem," Watson writes, "he was the best and wisest man whom I have ever known."

If you take a moment, I am sure you can take that phrase and ascribe it to someone in your life. For me, it's my father.

For you, it could be a relative, a work associate, or just a good friend.

And what do most of us, if not all of us, have in common. We want to be with that person. As much as possible. To share experiences, discussions, opinions, and our wants and desires.

And, you probably believe other people within your sphere would feel the same toward that person – they are the best and wisest person you have ever known, if they could know them as you do.



How lucky we are that Watson and Doyle believed we would want to know that person – and gave us the opportunity to get to know him again and again, every time we pick up the Canon.

So raise your glasses to the Master and your best and wisest person.

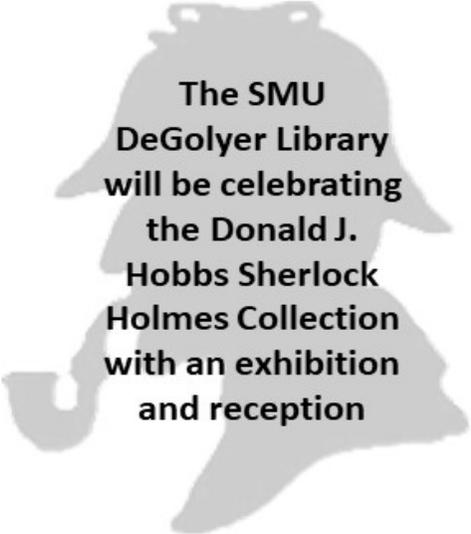
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What it takes to keep the Memory green and the Great Game alive

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Howard Ostrom
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The SMU
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will be celebrating
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For more information, see our website
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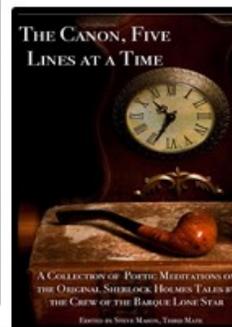
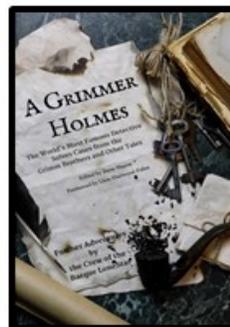
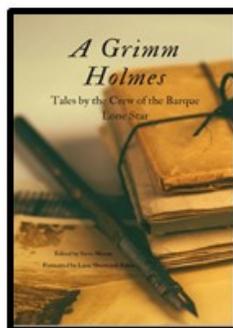
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Star Society**



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 addition to Dr. Watson's brother's business with a pawnbroker, Jabez Wilson's profession in "The Red-Headed League" provided insights into a very common, but ancient, practice during the Victorian period.

Pawnbrokers and pawnshops proliferated during most of the 1800s, but by the end of the century, the business diminished as the country's economy shifted.

Providing a means of short-term credit, pawnshops originated in China about three thousand years ago, with the practice migrating west to become common even in ancient Greece and Rome.

The term "pawn" comes from "patinum," Latin for "cloth or clothing"—often the one item even the poor possessed.

Following the lifting of Church restrictions during the Middle Ages, pawnbrokers expanded again in 14th and 15th century Europe. (1)

By the 19th century, such businesses flourished in both England and the United States.

During the latter half of the 1800s, the number of such shops doubled in England, (2) and in the US, they were so popular that in New York City in 1828, there were as many items pawned as there were men, women, and children living in the city. (3)

Two of the most well-known and powerful organizations in such short-term loan enterprises were The House of Lombard and the Medici Family.

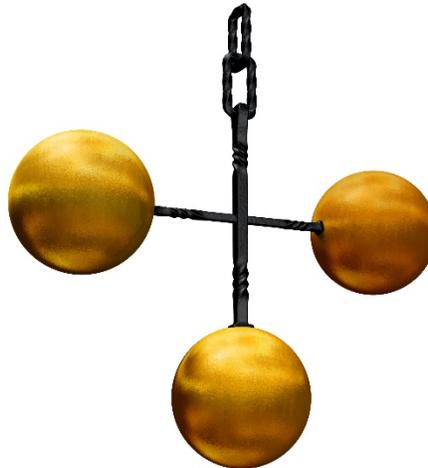
The House of Lombard (name for its base in Lombardy, Italy) operated pawnshops throughout Europe, including England.

The Medici Family was based out of Florence but had interests throughout Europe as well.

The Medici coat of arms included three gold balls, and as other businessmen opened their own pawnshops, they included the symbol in their own signs and coats of arms.

Over time, the three gold balls became the universal symbol for pawnbrokers, including Jabez Wilson's own establishment. (4)

As in ancient Greece and Rome, for the poor and working class, they would most likely pawn their clothes—the most valuable possessions they possessed. (5)



If a person had one good item (such as a greatcoat), they might pawn it on Monday for the monies needed to purchase food or pay rent, then repay the loan on Saturday when they received their wages to wear it on Sunday, and then pawn it again on Monday. (6)

As Jabez Wilson shared with Holmes, Thursday and Friday nights—those just before pay day—were his busiest in the pawnshop and most likely represented the need to tide a person over until they received their earnings.

It was not uncommon for those with greater incomes to use such services as well—although with more expensive goods.

Several British monarchs used the crown jewels to fund shortfalls in the royal coffers.

King Edward III pawned them to Flemish merchants to support his war with France, King Richard II also used them as collateral, and Henry V used them to back the relaunch of the Hundred Years' War. (7)

During the Victorian period, "stylish" or "City" pawnshops offered discreet services with private

compartments to serve the more well-heeled in need of emergency funds. (8)

In addition to short-term credit lenders, pawnshops also served as a banking system.

Many occupations were seasonal, with periods of full employment followed by reduced or no hours.

To maintain a more stable income, those with less capital would pawn their coins or bills to keep them safe in the pawnbroker's possession.

They might also purchase more expensive or well-made items when flush to have something of value to pawn for lean times. (9)

The end of the Victorian era marked a decline in the pawnbroker business.

The introduction of compulsory schooling led to an increase in assimilation of middle-class values of

frugality and the shame of borrowing funds to a wider population.

In addition, they were often associated with poor habits such as drink and shiftlessness. (10)



A further blow occurred in the twentieth century when social policies reduced the need to cover financial obligations. (11)

While not mentioned, it may have been the general decline in pawnbroking that made the offer of work at the "League of the Red-Headed Men" so appealing to Wilson.

He had been forced to reduce his staff to meet business expenses.

Thanks to Sherlock Holmes, however, what was left of his business did not become embroiled in the scandal of a major bank theft.

(1) <https://www.history.com/shows/pawn-stars/articles/pawning-through-the-age>

(2) Sally Mitchell, editor, Victorian Britain: An Encyclopedia, New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1988. Pp 584-585.

(3) <https://nationalpawnshops.com/about/history-of-pawn-shops/>

(4) <http://qsloan.net/history-of-pawnbroking>

(5) <https://www.history.com/shows/pawn-stars/articles/pawning-through-the-age>

(6) Kellow Chesney, The Victorian Underworld, New York: Schocken Books, 1972, page 192.

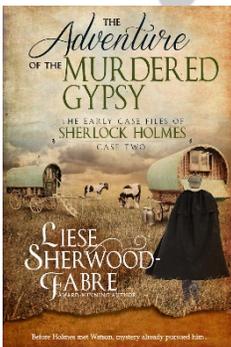
(7) Nigel Jones, Tower: An Epic History of the Tower of London, New York: St. Martin's Press, 2011, page 359.

(8) Mitchell, page 584

(9) Ibid

(10) Mitchell, page 584.

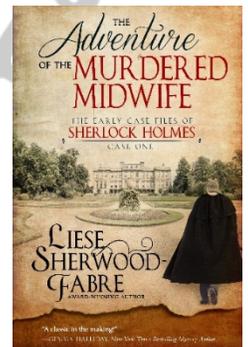
(11) <https://www.britannica.com/topic/pawnbroking>.



Liese Sherwood-Fabre has launched her new young Sherlock series "The Early Case Files of Sherlock Holmes" this summer with the introduction of case one:

"The Adventure of the Murdered Midwife" at the end of June and "The Adventure of the Murdered Gypsy" at the end of August. These can be purchased through all major online bookstores. Links are provided on her Website:

www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. Case three "The Adventure of the Deceased Scholar" will be following shortly.



THE COLD, LONELY DEATH OF MARGARET DENNISTON STARRETT

By Karen Murdock

This quiz was prepared by Karen Murdock and inflicted upon The Norwegian Explorers at their "BSI West Dinner" on January 6, 2004 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. There are 44 possible correct answers. However, the quiz is so fiendishly difficult that any score over 10 is considered excellent.

1. As to the Admiralty—it is buzzing like an overturned bee hive."
 - a. Who is the speaker
 - b. Which tale?
2. "Well, sir, said she in a voice like the wind from an iceberg.
 - a. Who is the speaker?
 - b. Which tale?
3. ...the caps of the great mountains lit up one after the other, like lamps at a festival
 - a. Which tale?
 - b. Which mountain range?
4. The sight of it was to me like a fire in a snowstorm
 - a. Who or what is being described?
 - b. Which tale?
5. Folk who were in grief came to my wife like birds to a light-house
 - a. Who is in grief?
 - b. Which tale?
6. ...his face was all crinkled and puckered like a withered apple
 - a. Who is being described?
 - b. Which tale?
7. ..."that ghastly face glimmering as white as cheese"
 - a. Whose face is being described?
 - b. Which tale?
8. "He sits motionless, like a spider in the centre of its web"
 - a. Who sits motionless?
 - b. Which tale?
9. ...the breath of the passers-by blew out into smoke like so many pistol shots
 - a. Which tale does this description occur in?
10. ...we saw a gigantic column of smoke [. . .] like an immense ostrich feather
 - a. Which tale does this description occur in?
11. "You are as thin as a lath and as brown as a nut."
 - a. Who makes this observation?
 - b. Who is being described?
 - c. Which tale?
12. ...the lady herself loomed behind his small black figure like a full-sailed merchant-man behind a tiny pilot boat
 - a. Who is being described here?
 - b. Which tale?
13. ...putting out a broad, fat hand like the flipper of a seal
 - a. Whose hand?
 - b. Which tale?
14. ...[his voice] boomed out like a dinner-gong
 - a. Whose voice boomed out?
 - b. Which tale?
15. ...[a certain character's] native accent rattled like a stick upon railings
 - a. Whose accent is being described?
 - b. What city and country is this person native to?
 - c. Which tale?
16. ...the man must have gone down like a pole-axed ox
 - a. Which man?
 - b. Which tale?



17. ...his grey whiskers bristled like those of an angry cat

- a. Whose whiskers?
- b. Which tale?

18. ...a round, dark object was fixed like a plum in a pudding

- a. What is the object?
- b. Which tale?

19. ...a bright, quick face, freckled like a plover's egg

- a. Whose face?
- b. Which tale?
- c. What is a plover?

20. "See how that one little cloud floats like a pink feather from some gigantic flamingo"

- a. Who is the speaker?
- b. Which tale?

21. ...the wind cried and sobbed like a child in the chimney

- a. Which tale does this simile appear in?

22. ...they scampered away downstairs like so many rats

- a. Who scampered?
- b. Which tale?

KEY: QUIZ, Canonical Similes

1. a. Mycroft Holmes b. "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (Doubleday, 916)
2. a. Violet de Merville b. "The Illustrious Client" (Doubleday 991)
3. a. A Study in Scarlet (Doubleday 71) b. not named in this passage, but has to be the Wasatch Range in Utah (The geography of the American West, as described in STUD, is highly fanciful)
4. a. Jack Prendergast b. "The Gloria Scott" (Doubleday 381)
5. a. Kate Whitney b. "The Man With the Twisted Lip" (Doubleday 230)
6. a. Henry Wood b. "The Crooked Man" (Doubleday 418)
7. a. Godfrey Emsworth b. "The Blanched Soldier" (Doubleday 1004)
8. a. Professor Moriarty b. "The Final Problem" (Doubleday 471)
9. "The Blue Carbuncle" (Doubleday 251)
10. "The Engineer's Thumb" (Doubleday 285)
11. a. Young Stamford b. Doctor Watson (recently returned from Afghanistan) c. A Study in Scarlet (Doubleday 16)
12. a. Miss Mary Sutherland b. "A Case of Identity" (Doubleday 192)
13. a. Mycroft Holmes b. "The Greek Interpreter" (Doubleday 436)
14. a. The Duke of Holderness b. "The Priory School" (Doubleday 544)
15. a. Inspector Alec MacDonald b. Aberdeen, Scotland c. The Valley of Fear (Doubleday 798)
16. a. Black Gorgiano b. "The Red Circle" (Doubleday 909)
17. a. Old Frankland b. The Hound of the Baskervilles (Doubleday 737)
18. a. The Black Pearl of the Borgias b. "The Six Napoleons" (Doubleday 594)
19. a. Violet Hunter b. "The Copper Beeches" (Doubleday 318) c. A plover is a wading bird of the family Charadriidae. Any mention of "bird" constitutes a correct answer. Contestants deserve a correct answer about this point in the quiz. (As long as you didn't think it was a snake or a dinosaur . . .)
20. a. Sherlock Holmes, believe it or not—in a rare lyrical mood b. The Sign of the Four (Doubleday 121)
21. a. "The Five Orange Pips" (Doubleday 218)
22. a. The Baker Street Irregulars b. A Study in Scarlet (Doubleday 42)

THE MORIARTY TRIANGLE

By David Richardson, *The Holmes and Watson Report*, January, 2005

The Bermuda Triangle is a somewhat ill-defined area in the Atlantic Ocean where ships and airplanes are said to disappear and where instruments seem to become quite unreliable.

There is, I would venture to suggest, a trio of cases in the Canon which might serve to define our knowledge of Moriarty, but which seem to suffer something of the characteristics of the Bermuda Triangle, for implications and dates seem to go rather awry in them.

The identity of two of the cases -- "The Final Problem" and *The Valley of Fear* -- is obvious; that of the third is not, and I shall withhold identification of it until we have seen the nature of the problems posed by the first two.

The principal problem affecting the first two is the well-known one of Dr. Watson's knowledge of Moriarty.

In 1891, in "The Final Problem," he seems not to have heard of him at all, but in "the late eighties," in *The Valley of Fear*, he seems to know him well enough to make a pawky joke, and receives an extensive description of him from Inspector MacDonald.

It would seem that the calendar runs backwards in the Moriarty Triangle.

There are other, more subtle, indications that time has gone a bit wonky between the two accounts.

In FINA we are led to believe that Holmes has only recently "sussed out" just who Moriarty is, and Moriarty himself tells us, in the process of telling Holmes, "You crossed my path on the 4th of January. On the 23rd you incommoded me..."

This suggests that Holmes was working rather rapidly, and Holmes himself seems to imply that he was devoting full time to the task.

Now the latest possible date for VALL is January of 1889, and that is something like two years before his path crossed Moriarty's.

This seems an excessively long time for surreptitious visits (to his office) to lead to actual path-crossing.

In FINA Holmes tells us that "when the time came" (which can only mean when an opportunity came) "I seized my thread and followed it," and was able to discover the identity of this "deep organizing

power" that he had sensed behind crime.

Holmes does not tell us -- at least Watson does not tell us -- where that thread began, but clearly this is the crux of the matter.

If we accept that, just as there is really no "Bermuda Triangle" where instruments go away, and that there is also no "Moriarty Triangle" where calendars run backward and hotly pursued investigations take two years to complete, then we must look for some mundane solution to our problems.

We must try to follow the thread backward from the events of early 1891 to its genesis.

What can we surmise about this instigating event? While it clearly must occur before January of 1891, I do not believe that it can have occurred very long before, for Moriarty would surely become quickly aware of an actively pursued investigation by Holmes.

Also, while Holmes will not yet know the identity of Moriarty, it must clearly point to his presence in the shadows.

And finally, it must offer a "wedge" -- some plausible clue or opening that could, when pursued, lead to Moriarty himself.

I have a modest suggestion.

While we have no reason to suppose that this event will have been recorded in the Canon, there is one case in which, to misquote John Webster (1580-1625), crime is normal, but [a] Moriarty shrieks out.

Just as Holmes knew a Moriarty when he saw one, I believe that we, too, can recognize the signs, especially if we are looking for them.

My candidate?

"The Red-Headed League."

I am hardly the first to have "detected" the presence of Moriarty behind this case, but I do believe I may be the first to realize that this may well be the very case that was the start of Holmes' thread.

What shrieks of Moriarty (to me and to so many others) is the very nature of the crime: the theft of 30,000 gold napoleons from the cellar of a branch of the City and Suburban Bank.

That two men might dig a tunnel from Jabez Wilson's

pawnshop to under that cellar is unlikely enough.

That they could haul the bullion back to the pawnshop is perhaps marginally possible.

But to haul it away from the pawnshop and then convert it (launder it, as we would now say) is the stuff of crime fiction.

And how, we might ask, did they know where to dig in the first place?

That is to say, where in the bank's cellars was the gold stored, and where was that relative to the pawnshop?

How did they know that what they would encounter when they got there was a lightly-paved cellar, and not a properly reinforced vault floor?

So it clearly points to that "deep organizing power" that Holmes will identify as Moriarty, and it takes place in October of 1890, giving something over two months for Holmes to pursue his thread, a quite adequate time span, I believe, given the nature of Holmes' concentration when he was on a trail.

But what is the "wedge"?

Consider the key elements of the information which Moriarty must supply to John Clay: where exactly is the bullion stored (just "in the cellar" will

hardly do, and even which cellar will not do, since one does not want to 'free up' a paving stone on which a trunk full of bullion sits), and what will they encounter when they get there (that weak floor)?

Who might be the most likely source of such information?

Clearly someone intimately associated with the bank, and for long enough to know the weakness of the floor (by being there when it was built, e.g.).

And he must do something to call Holmes's attention to him.

I rather suspect that it was Mr. Merryweather's striking the floor of the cellar with his stick that did it; it seems an oddly forceful demonstration for an elderly man whose primary concern seems to have been missing his rubber, and, as Holmes immediately recognized, it could easily have warned off Clay.

Watson seems to have regarded it as incidental, but I suspect that Holmes began to wonder if it was not deliberate and here found one end of his thread.

And I further suspect that the fact that this case appears -- and appears early -- in the Canon might not be coincidental.

During their flight from Moriarty, Holmes will have had ample opportunity to tell Watson of particular cases in which Moriarty was a factor, and he might well have reminded Watson of Jabez Wilson's little problem.

We know from FINA that Watson had decided not to write of the events surrounding Holmes's death, and this personal prohibition may well have extended to any mention or hint of Moriarty.

But, recalling that at the time neither he nor Holmes knew of his involvement in the French bullion caper, he decided that he could write an account of it without violating his own prohibition, and so did.

But if this provides us with a plausible beginning for Holmes's quest after Moriarty, what explanation can we offer for the topsy-turvy chronology of FINA and VALL?

I believe we can find one if we reflect on the dates of publication of the two accounts.

FINA was published in December, 1893, less than three years after the events it relates.

VALL, on the other hand was written something like a

quarter-century after the tragedy of Birlstone.

The first was written somewhat in haste, in response to letters which may have impugned the memory of Holmes.

The second is clearly a more lengthy effort, for Watson has obviously had time to investigate events in which he was not a participant, and has included them in his account.

One is an emotional reaction to a provocation, the other a more studied account that, while ultimately dark, opens with that famous bit of humor.

It seems clear (at least to me) that what Watson has done here is what he did many times before: created a "story" out of a case (much to Holmes's oft-expressed annoyance).

Besides including events at Birlstone in which he was not a participant, he recast the opening events to reflect what he later came to know was the true background of the case.

I think we can legitimately infer that the Birlstone tragedy did indeed occur in the late eighties, and was investigated by Holmes and Inspector MacDonald, but it seems quite likely that at that time Holmes had no suspicion Moriarty was involved -- indeed was not yet

even able to put a name to him -- and knew Porlock only as an informant with "underground ties."

The Inspector's conversation with Moriarty will not have taken place then, but rather after Holmes had "found his thread," and might well be the "first time" that Moriarty says Holmes's path crossed his, for Moriarty will surely have known who had set Scotland Yard upon him.

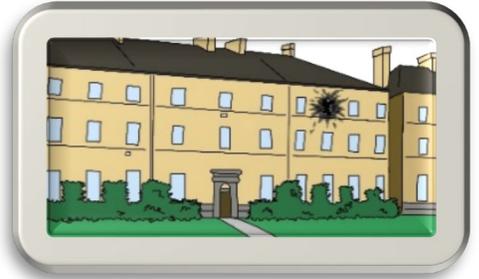
What this means, alas, is that Watson's wonderful example of his pawky humor could not have caught Holmes off-guard, since it could not have been uttered.

Why Watson put it into the story is unknowable.

It may have been just to give his story a dramatic opening, but it might have been to give the reader a sly hint: Moriarty is "unknown to the general public," but Watson himself is a member of that public, and so will not have heard of Moriarty either.

You will have realized, of course, that if my identification of "The Red-Headed League" as the third vertex of the Moriarty Triangle is correct, then the thread that Holmes followed to Moriarty began as a scarlet thread.

Baker Street Elementary



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The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson

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FAY, MASON & MASON

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... AND, THUS, WE MUST
BE CAREFUL TO NOT
'THROW THE BABY OUT
WITH THE BATHWATER...'
THANK YOU.

VERY WELL
EXPLAINED,
MASTER
HOLMES...



YOU KNOW I HAVE NEVER QUITE UNDERSTOOD
WHAT THAT EXPRESSION MEANS...

IT'S AN OLD WIVES'
TALE... POORER PEOPLE
WOULD TAKE A BATH
ONCE A WEEK OR LESS...



... USING THE SAME HOT
BATH WATER FOR THE
ENTIRE FAMILY... THE
WATER WOULD GET PRETTY
MUCKY BY THE TIME THE
BABY WAS WASHED...

YUCK...



THE WATER MIGHT BE
SO OPAQUE, THE BABY
MIGHT NOT BE SEEN
WHEN THE WATER WAS
THROWN OUT...

DOUBLE YUCK...



THAT IS SIMPLY ASTOUNDING...

WHAT, THAT THEY
WOULD USE THE SAME
WATER OVER AND OVER
AGAIN ?



NO... THAT PEOPLE WOULD VOLUNTARILY
TAKE A BATH EACH WEEK...

uhh... BEEN MEANING
TO TALK TO YOU
ABOUT THAT...

