

# The Bilge Pump

Vol. 09, No. 02 - February, 2021  
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the  
Barque Lone Star - founded April, 1970*



## PLEASE NOTE:

### March 07 Meeting NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on March 07 at 1:00 pm. Will send out the link for the meeting the week before the meeting. The story for the month is "The Adventure of the Cardboard Box".

Our Special Guest Speaker will be Bonnie MacBird, who has written her fourth Sherlock Holmes Pastiche, "**The Three Locks**". Bonnie will provide us a reading from the book, and answer your questions on writing about Sherlock Holmes.

We will also have fun and games.

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We will cover topic 8 on "The Life and Times of Arthur Conan Doyle: 'His First Story'" by Donny Zaldin, BSI.

## February 07 Summary

There were 55 in attendance at this ZOOM meeting. The meeting started out with a toast by Don Hobbs on our Society and Steve Mason getting his BSI investiture (the Fortescue Scholarship).

We then conducted the monthly quiz on the story "Silver Blaze," which was won by Rich Krisciunas.

Robert Katz, BSI, then led a lively discussion on how Conan Doyle's writing of Silver Blaze compares to other stories of the Canon.

Liese Fabre Sherlock then provided a reading of her newest published book, *The Deceased Scholar*. The reading was done by R.J. Bayley, from Edinburgh, Scotland. He is the artist who narrates the story and can be heard by those who download the book.

Our special guest speaker this month was Rob Nunn, from the St. Louis area. Rob did a presentation entitled *The Immense Significance of the Curried Mutton*. This is a reference to the mutton that was served to the stable boy in Silver Blaze. The presentation is also included in the book which will soon be released entitled, "*Sherlock Holmes of Baking Street*", which will support the Beacon Society.

Steve Mason then gave his annual report of the State of the Society for the year 2020 (see page 3).

We then conducted a "Lightning Quiz", which focused on the last line of many of the stories of the Canon.

Steve then finished the meeting by doing a brief presentation on *The Rise and Fall of the Rest of the Medical Career of Author Conan Doyle*.



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  
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### Our Website:

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



### Our Facebook Page:

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

# "THE STATE OF OUR SOCIETY -- 2021"

Presented by Steve Mason, ASH, BSI

- It was another successful year for the Society...
- First, we celebrated that 2020 was the 50th anniversary of our Society, which held its first meeting in April, 1970.
- We will always be thankful to the efforts to Bill Beeson, Francine Morris Swift, and Bullitt Lowry for starting the society and giving it a strong foundation to build off of.
- The Society does plan on still developing something to celebrate our anniversary, once the University of Minnesota is opened back up, who holds all the papers of Francine, which we believe may help with the beginning of the Society
- And of course, hopefully sometime this year we will still conduct a party to celebrate the anniversary, hosted by Charles and Karen Olson.
- We added more members to the fold, with now over 215 members, either local or remote...
- As of every year, members of our Society faced health issues, and our members showed appropriate concern and offers of help.
- We had many wonderful presentations throughout the year by members of our Society, including by James Robinson,



Eleanor Hebert, Ann Caddell, Russell Merritt, Thomas Hebert, Adriana Zayia, Rich Krisciunas, Dr. Carlina de la Cova, Steve Doyle, Mike McSwiggin, Les Moskowitz, and Karen Murdock. And a big thanks to Bob Katz, who has been conducting our story discussions for the past several months.

- We began a monthly topic of Arthur Conan Doyle, which has been accepted well, and other people have now signed up to present one of the topics.
  - And of course, we had to change the venue of our monthly meetings, due to the ongoing health crisis. I appreciate everyone's patience as we have moved to Zoom calls, which my guess is will continue for the foreseeable future.
  - Our Society will continue to support and co-sponsor our national conference with SMU, highlighting Don Hobb's collection, which has now been moved to October, 2022.
- Our book this year focused on personal ads from the Agony Columns of Victorian newspapers. It has been extremely popular, downloaded many times off our website. As always, many thanks to Liese for helping to edit and format the book. All four books from the Society have been

published for contributors, and uploaded to our website as readable formats. And congratulations to Liese for continuing to be a published author.

- We provided another display at the Allen Library in January, 2020.
- Baker Street Elementary, which is now in its 6th year, has now surpassed 300 strips and 5 annual compilations, and 4 full-length comic books. As always, thanks so much for Joe Fay for having the imagination to come up with the idea and format for the strip, and Rusty for his wonderful illustrations.
- And of course, our monthly newsletter and website are still used by hundreds of people each month... I still hear from Sherlockians around the country on how much information is on the website, thanks to Rusty for all his efforts.
- Our members continue to represent our society wonderfully for which I want to thank you.



- I am sure there are other things that we have accomplished, but I hope to have hit the major points.
- For this year, we want to continue the things we did well, and do better on some things.
- For example, we have held periodic symposiums at various libraries

throughout the years... using the "Saturdays with Sherlock" conducted by the The Six Napoleons of Baltimore and Watson's Tin Box, as a suggested basis

- As always, we encourage all members to consider doing presentations for our Society. The presentation does not have to be tied to the story of the month, but can cover anything Sherlockian.
- We will try to continue to welcome all suggestions on how we can improve our Society.
- In closing, I hope we continue to support each other, discuss Sherlock Holmes in an open but friendly atmosphere, and look for opportunities to reach out to our communities with presentations.

# A DISCUSSION ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOLMES AND LESTRADE

Ronald E. Lies

Edited by my good friend and long suffering Editor Larry Feldman  
Dedicated to my dear friend Esmerelda who started this conversation

I often wondered about the changing relationship between Sherlock Holmes the world's only consulting Detective and Lestrade of Scotland Yard. Were they friends? Rivals? Enemies? Colleagues? So I started tracking that relationship through the Canon, seeing how Holmes and Lestrade worked together and how their relationship developed over the years. Holmes and Lestrade worked together actively in 11 cases. In two other cases, The Sign of The Four and the disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax, Lestrade is mentioned but does not appear.



Holmes finds it amusing and gently shows the professionals up, remembering his slights.

**"The importance lies in the fact that the knot is left intact, and that this knot is of a peculiar character."**

**"It is very neatly tied. I had already made a note of that effect," said Lestrade complacently."**

Here we see Lestrade making it clear that Holmes is not necessarily ahead of him. As I see it, more evidence of their "tit for tat"

relationship.

The cases I quote from are arranged in chronological order, as per the Sherlockian Scholar D. Martin Dakin.

## 1. A Study in Scarlet-- Early 1887

**"He and Lestrade are the pick of a bad lot. They are quick and energetic, but conventional—shockingly so. They have their knives into one another, too. They are as jealous as a pair of professional beauties. There will be some fun over this case if they are both put upon the scent."**

Holmes does not seem to have a high opinion of either one of the Scotland Yard detectives. He finds their rivalry amusing.

## 2. "The Cardboard Box" – August 10<sup>th</sup>---1888

**"There are really some very unique features about this case, Watson," said he. "I think it is time now that we took our friend Lestrade into our confidence. He has had his little smile at our expense, and perhaps we may do as much by him."**

Holmes states **"I have written to Lestrade asking him to supply us with the details which are now wanting, and which he will only get after he had secured his man. That he may be safely trusted to do, for although he is absolutely devoid of reason, he is as tenacious as a bulldog when he once understands what he has to do, and indeed, it is just this tenacity which has brought him to the top at Scotland Yard."**



Here we find little signs of friendship, but an acknowledgement of the value of Lestrade as a resource. We see the same attitude in the following statement by Holmes:

**"When he (Jim Browner) arrives, he will be met by the obtuse but resolute Lestrade and I have no doubt that we shall have all our details filled in."**

Lestrade sends Holmes a note:

***"The affair proves, as I always thought it would, to be an extremely simple one, but I am obliged to you for assisting me in my investigation. With kind regards, yours very truly, G. Lestrade"***

It seems like Lestrade does not value Holmes' help but does not want to cut it off. I suggest perhaps that this is a front. Lestrade likes to make it appear that he doesn't need Holmes' help, but will accept it politely and whenever offered.

### 3. The Noble Bachelor OCTOBER 9—12<sup>TH</sup> 1888.

The case begins when Lord St. Simon sends Holmes a letter which says in part:

***"Mr. Lestrade, of Scotland Yard, is acting already in the matter, but he assures me that he sees no objection to your co-operation, and that he even thinks that it might be of some assistance.[...]"***

Without acknowledging his superior ability, Lestrade does not discourage consulting Holmes.

Lestrade joins Holmes and Watson. Holmes greets him:

***"Good-afternoon, Lestrade! You will find an extra tumbler upon the sideboard, and there are cigars in the box."***

A sign to me that Holmes is warming to Lestrade by making comforts available to him and Lestrade remarks,

***"Here, signed with her initials, is the very note which was no doubt quietly slipped into her hand at the door and which lured her within their reach."***

***"Very good, Lestrade," said Holmes, laughing.***

***"You really are very fine indeed. Very likely not. It is most important, all the same. As to the note, it is important also, or at least the initials are, so I congratulate you again."***

Holmes does not begrudge Lestrade his praise, perhaps seems careful not to offend him, as he is correcting him.

Watson asks Holmes ***"And how in the world did you find them? It might have been difficult, but friend Lestrade held information in his hands the value of which he did not himself know"***.

***"I've wasted time enough," said Lestrade, rising. "I believe in hard work and not in sitting by the fire spinning fine theories. Good-day, Mr. Holmes, and we shall see which gets to the bottom of the matter first."***

To me, here Lestrade brushes off Holmes' expertise.

***"Lestrade looked sadly at my companion. Then he turned to me, tapped his forehead three times, shook his head solemnly, and goes away"***.

Here Lestrade is convinced Holmes is wrong, even eccentric, but (of course) it turns out Holmes' method is right.

### 4. The Boscombe Valley June 1890



***"A lean, ferret-like man, furtive and sly-looking, was waiting for us upon the platform. In spite of the light brown dustcoat and leather-leggings which he wore in deference to his rustic surroundings, I had no difficulty in recognizing Lestrade, of Scotland Yard. With him we drove to the Hereford Arms where a room had already been engaged for us.***

***"I have ordered a carriage," said Lestrade as we sat over a cup of tea. "I knew your energetic nature, and that you would not be happy until you had been on the scene of the crime."***

***"It was very nice and complimentary of you," Holmes answered.***

Here Lestrade seems to show deference to Holmes and his methods and to make him comfortable. His respect for Holmes seems to be growing.

While Holmes is working, Watson tells us, ***"Lestrade and I walked behind him, the detective indifferent and contemptuous, while I watched.***

***"What did you go into the pool for?" Holmes asked.***

*"I fished about with a rake. I thought there might be some weapon or other trace. But how on earth—"*

*"Oh, tut, tut! I have no time! That left foot of yours with its inward twist is all over the place. A mole could trace it, and there it vanishes among the reeds."*

Later, Holmes identifies the murder weapon.

*"This may interest you, Lestrade," he remarked, holding it out. "The murder was done with it."*

*"I see no marks."*

*"There are none."*

*"How do you know, then?"*

*"The grass was growing under it. It had only lain there a few days."*

Lestrade laughed. *"I am afraid that I am still a skeptic," he said. "Theories are all very well, but we have to deal with a hard-headed British jury."*

Lestrade shrugged his shoulders. *"I am a practical man," he said, "and I really cannot undertake to go about the country looking for a left-handed gentleman with a game leg. I should become the laughing-stock of Scotland Yard."*

Lestrade should have started looking for that man. Again, Lestrade finds that while Holmes and his theories seem to be outlandish, they seem to produce good results. For which, of course, Holmes will insist he take the credit.

#### 5. The Empty House: April 5<sup>th</sup> 1894

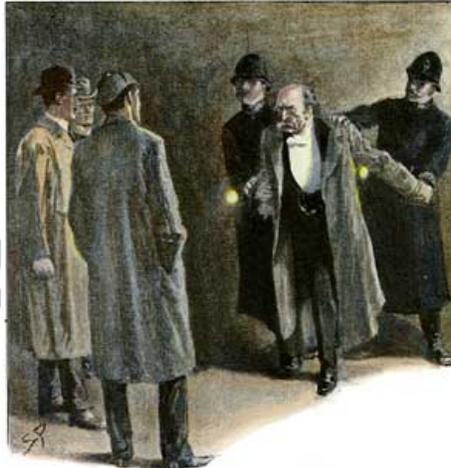
When Holmes returns to London from his hiatus:

The police answer Holmes's whistle

*"That you, Lestrade?" said Holmes.*

*"Yes, Mr. Holmes. I took the job myself. It's good to see you back in London, sir."*

*"I think you want a little unofficial help. Three undetected murders in one year won't do, Lestrade. But you handled the Molesey Mystery with less than your usual—that's to say, you handled it fairly well".*



Holmes lets Lestrade know that he's been following his progress, notes the three times he was unsuccessful in finding the murderer, and that he did note he did well in the Molesey case. Though perhaps, even there, he damns him with faint praise.

After the criminal is arrested, Lestrade asks Holmes:

*"Anything further to say?"*

*"Only to ask what charge you intend to prefer."*

*"What charge, sir why, of course, the attempted murder of Mr. Sherlock Holmes."*

*"Not so, Lestrade, I do not propose to appear in the matter at all. To you, and to you only, belongs the credit of the remarkable arrest which you have affected. Yes, Lestrade, I congratulate you! With your usual happy mixture of cunning and audacity, you have got him."*

*"Got him! Got whom, Mr. Holmes?"*

*"The man that the whole force has been seeking in vain. Colonel Sebastian Moran!"*

Holmes smiled, and clapped Lestrade upon the shoulder. *"Instead of being ruined, my good sir, you will*

*find that your reputation has been enormously enhanced. Just make a few alterations in that report which you were writing, and they will understand how hard it is to throw dust in the eyes of Inspector Lestrade."*



Here Holmes reassures the inspector that he is not out to steal his thunder, but to help him lay hands on a guilty criminal. Their long standing arrangement, which we have seen since "A Study in Scarlet", will resume. Holmes will remain the background consultant, and Lestrade will get the credit for any case in which he consults with him.

#### 6. The Norwood Builder—Summer ---1894

Holmes and Watson have had a visitor show up who is in danger of being arrested for murder. While they are talking:

*It was a clang of the bell, followed instantly by heavy steps upon the stair. A moment later, our old friend Lestrade appeared in the doorway. Over his shoulder I caught a glimpse of one or two uniformed policemen outside.*

*"Mr. John Hector McFarlane?" said Lestrade. Our unfortunate client rose with a ghastly face. "I arrest you for the willful murder of Mr. Jonas Oldacre, of Lower Norwood.*

*"One moment, Lestrade," said Holmes. "Half an hour more or less can make no difference to you, and the gentleman was about to give us an account of this very interesting affair, which might aid us in clearing it up."*

*"I think there will be no difficulty in clearing it up," said Lestrade, grimly.*

*"Well, Mr. Holmes, it is difficult for me to refuse you anything, for you have been of use to the force once or twice in the past, and we owe you a good turn at Scotland Yard," said Lestrade. "At the same time I must remain with my prisoner, and I am bound to warn him that anything he may say will appear in evidence against him." Lestrade looked at his watch. "I'll give you half an hour," said he.*

Holmes wants to hear from the unfortunate John Hector McFarland and asks Lestrade if they can hear his account together at Baker Street. Lestrade does, justifying this consideration by noting that "we" at the Yard owe Holmes for his help he has given in the past. By "we", Lestrade undoubtedly means himself.

*Lestrade's face had begun to grow red and angry. "I don't know whether you are playing a game with us, Mr. Sherlock Holmes," said he. "If you know anything, you can surely say it without all this tomfoolery."*

*"I assure you, my good Lestrade that I have an excellent reason for everything that I do. You may possibly remember that you chaffed me a little, some hours ago, when the sun seemed on your side of the hedge, so you must not grudge me a little pomp and ceremony now."*

After visiting the site of the murder, Lestrade loses his temper and moves on with the arrest. Holmes reminds

him that he allowed Lestrade to "chaff him" and Lestrade owes him the chance to return the favor. After he does, Lestrade goes to the parlor to write up the case. Holmes predicts that the case can be solved if Lestrade helps him.

*Lestrade knew my friend too well to disregard his words.*

The days when Lestrade feels safe brushing off Holmes' advice just because he does not fully understand it, are long gone by now.

After the case is solved Lestrade speaks to Holmes.

*"Mr. Holmes," Lestrade continued, when they had gone, "I could not speak before the constables, but I don't mind saying, in the presence of Dr. Watson, that this is the brightest thing that you have done yet, though it is a mystery to me how you did it. You have saved an innocent man's life, and you have prevented a very grave scandal. This would have ruined my reputation in the Force."*

*Holmes smiled, and clapped Lestrade upon the shoulder. "Instead of being ruined, my good sir, you will find that your reputation has been enormously enhanced. Just make a few alterations in that report which you were writing, and they will understand how hard it is to throw dust in the eyes of Inspector*

*Lestrade."*

*"And you don't want your name to appear?"*

*"Not at all. The work is its own reward. Perhaps I shall get the credit also at some distant day, when I permit my zealous historian to lay out his foolscap once more—eh, Watson?"*

Holmes is ready to move on and Lestrade has again found out how valuable a friend Holmes is to him.

*"Wonderful!" said Lestrade. "Wonderful! It's all as clear as crystal, as you put it. But what is the object of this deep deception, Mr. Holmes?" It was amusing to me to see how the detective's overbearing manner had changed suddenly to that of a child asking questions of its teacher.*



Watson observes above an aspect of Lestrade and Holmes' relationship that Lestrade would never explicitly admit. He knows that Holmes is the true master.

#### 7. The Second Stain-September 18-22: 1894

Holmes and Watson are involved in another case of a missing document that would create horrible problems for the British Government. Holmes and Watson are on the way to the crime scene.

*Lestrade's bulldog features gazed out at us from the front window, and he greeted us warmly when a big constable had opened the door let us in. The room into which we were shown was that in which the crime had been committed, but no trace of it now remained.*

*"Look here, Lestrade," said he (Holmes), "has that constable in the passage been in charge of the place all the time?"*

*"Yes, he has."*

*"Well, take my advice.*

*Examine him carefully. Don't do it before us. We'll wait here. You take him into the back room. You'll be more likely to get a confession out of him alone. Ask him how he dared to admit people and leave them alone in this room. Don't ask him if he has done it. Take it for granted. Tell him you KNOW someone has been here. Press him. Tell him that a full confession is his only chance of forgiveness. Do exactly what I tell you!"*

*"By George, if he knows I'll have it out of him!" cried Lestrade. He darted into the hall, and a few moments later his bullying voice sounded from the back room.*

*"It's a lesson to you that you can't deceive me, Constable Macpherson," said Lestrade, with dignity.*

While Lestrade is occupied interviewing the constable Holmes puts into play a plan that solves the mystery.

Here we see Lestrade taking instructions from Holmes that he may or may not completely understand. Doing so, leads to the mystery's solution. Again, at the case's conclusion, Holmes takes little or no credit for his brilliant solution.

#### 8. The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans November 21---25<sup>th</sup> 1895

The country is in grave danger of losing a valuable weapon that would keep England the Queen of the seas. Mycroft Holmes, the British government turns to his brother Sherlock who brings Lestrade into their circle

*"Come, Watson! And you, Lestrade, could you favour us with your company for an hour or two?"*

*At his heels came our old friend Lestrade, of Scotland Yard—thin and austere.*

*"We can't do these things in the force, Mr. Holmes," said he. "No wonder you get results that are beyond us. But some of these days you'll go too far, and you'll find yourself and your friend in trouble."*



Here Lestrade points out that his professional status gives him less leeway to act than Holmes.

*Holmes looks at Watson and says "For England, home and beauty—eh, Watson? Martyrs on the altar of our country."*

Holmes here seems to be partly ironic, but sincerely expresses that though the risks he takes are real, that he will continue to do so in a good cause, particularly for his country.

#### 9. The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax summer 1897

Holmes was going ask Lestrade to help him get a warrant to stop the reverend, but Holmes had to move before Lestrade could help, so Holmes never actually makes use of him. Yet, it is Lestrade, of all the Scotland Yarders, that Holmes relies on. He is Holmes' "official" resource.

#### 10. The adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton: January 5---14<sup>th</sup> 1899

Watson asks Holmes who Milverton is.

*"Who is he?" I asked.*

*"The worst man in London," Holmes answered, as he sat down and stretched his legs before the fire.*

*Watson asks Holmes "But who is he?"*

*"I'll tell you, Watson. He is the king of all the blackmailers. Heaven help the man, and still more the woman, whose secret and reputation come into the power of Milverton! With a smiling face and a heart of marble he will squeeze and squeeze until he has drained them dry."*

*Holmes said, "I mean to burgle Milverton's house to-night."*

Watson then asks about Holmes' interest in Milverton.

*Holmes explains "Because an illustrious client has placed her piteous case in my hands. It is the Lady Eva Blackwell, the most beautiful debutante of last season. She is to be married in a fortnight to the Earl of Dovercourt. This fiend has several imprudent letters—imprudent, Watson, nothing worse—which were written to an impecunious young squire in the country. They would suffice to break off the match. Milverton will send the letters to the Earl unless a large sum of money is paid him. I have been commissioned to meet him, and—to make the best terms I can."*

Holmes and Watson proceed to break into Milverton's house. While there they witness the murder of Milverton by a mysterious woman. After the murderess leaves, Holmes and Watson destroy Milverton's stash of blackmail. They narrowly escape the property.

The next day, Lestrade comes to see Holmes.

*"Good-morning, Mr. Holmes," said he; "good-morning. May I ask if you are very busy just now?"*

*Holmes responds pleasantly, "Not too busy to listen to you."*

*Lestrade says, "I thought that, perhaps, if you had nothing particular on hand, you might care to assist us in a most remarkable case, which occurred only last night at Hampstead."*

*"Dear me!" Holmes said. "What was that?"*

*"A murder, a most dramatic and remarkable murder. If you would step down to Appledore Towers,*

*and give us the benefit of your advice. It is no ordinary crime."*

*"Criminals?" Said Holmes. "Plural?"*

*"Yes, there were two of them. They were as nearly as possible captured red-handed. We have their footmarks, we have their description, and it's ten to one that we trace them. The first fellow was a bit too active, but the second was caught by the under-gardener, and only got away after a struggle. He was a middle-sized, strongly built man—square jaw, thick neck, moustache, a mask over his eyes."*

*"That's rather vague," said Sherlock Holmes.*

*"My, it might be a description of Watson!"*

*"It's true," said the inspector, with amusement.*

*"It might be a description of Watson."*

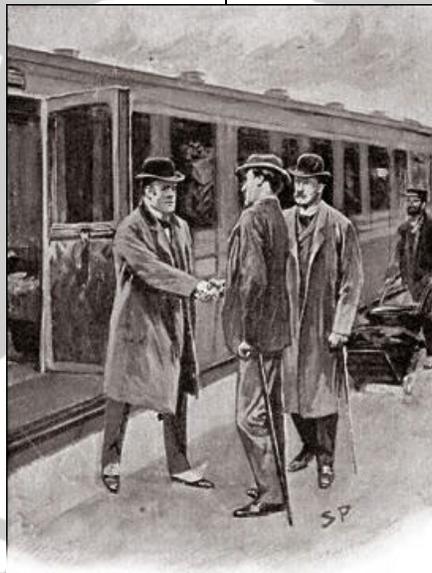
My friend Esmerelda and I wondered about the passage above. Did Holmes, get Lestrade to play along teasing Watson and inform Lestrade of their criminal activity or did he not? I have come to that Esmerelda was right when she assumed that Lestrade had his suspicions, but lacking hard evidence, and happy to be rid of at least one blackmailer, disregarded his own thoughts. Holmes was too useful to him to be brought up on a murder charge, and in any case, by this time they were friends, or as close as Holmes would allow.

Here, Holmes expresses honestly to Lestrade why he has no interest in finding Milverton's murderer.

*"Well, I'm afraid I can't help you, Lestrade, said Holmes. The fact is that I knew this fellow Milverton, that I considered him one of the most dangerous men in London, and that I think there are certain crimes which the law cannot touch, which therefore, to some extent, justify private revenge. No, it's no use arguing. I have made up my mind. My sympathies are with the criminals rather than with the victim, and I will not handle this case."*

11. Hound of the Baskervilles September 25th—October 20<sup>th</sup> 1899

*"The London express came roaring into the station, and a small, wiry bulldog of a man had sprung from a first-class carriage. We all three shook hands, and*



*I saw at once from the reverential way in which Lestrade gazed at my companion that he had learned a good deal since the days when they had first worked together. I could well remember the scorn which the theories of the reasoner used then to excite in the practical man.*

Holmes and Lestrade were working together and Watson observes what has changed between them over the years.

*"Holmes asked: Are you armed, Lestrade?"*

*The little detective smiled." As long as I have my trousers I have a hip-pocket, and as long as I have my hip-pocket I have something in it."*

Lestrade answers Holmes' question with a friendly and knowing good humor. They interact here like old friends.

## 12. The Adventure of the Six Napoleons: June 8---10<sup>th</sup> 1900

Here Watson grants us much insight into the transactional nature of Holmes' relationship with Lestrade.

*"It was no very unusual thing for Mr. Lestrade, of Scotland Yard, to look in upon us of an evening, and his visits were welcome to Sherlock Holmes, for they enabled him to keep in touch with all that was going on at police headquarters. In return for the news which Lestrade would bring, Holmes was always ready to listen with attention to the details of any case upon which the detective was engaged, and was able occasionally, without any active interference, to give some hint or suggestion drawn from his own vast knowledge and experience."*

Holmes and Watson have been brought into a case where there is an apparently insane criminal at large busting bust of Napoleon. It becomes serious when an unknown man is murdered near the scene of the theft and destruction of the third bust. Lestrade and Holmes split up, each investigating the case from their own directions. Lestrade investigates the murder, while Holmes traces the busts to their origin point.

When they meet up later, Holmes expresses no skepticism about Lestrade's results. At least; at first.

*Lestrade: I have identified the dead man."*

*Holmes: "You don't say so?"*

*Lestrade; "And found a cause for the crime."*

*Holmes; "Splendid!"*

*Lestrade; "We have an inspector who makes a specialty of Saffron Hill and the Italian Quarter. Well, this dead man had some Catholic emblem round his neck, and that, along with his colour, made me think he was from the South. Inspector Hill knew him the moment he caught sight of him. His name is Pietro Venucci, from Naples, and he is one of the greatest cut-throats in London. He is connected with the Mafia, which, as you know, is a secret political society, enforcing its decrees by murder. Now, you see how the affair begins to clear up. Pietro is set upon his track. Probably the photograph we found in his pocket is the man himself, so that he may not knife the wrong person. He dogs the fellow, he sees him enter a house, he waits outside for him, and in the scuffle he receives his own death-wound.*

*How is that, Mr. Sherlock Holmes?" Lestrade asks.*

*Holmes clapped his hands approvingly. "Excellent, Lestrade, excellent!" he cried.*

Holmes, however, points out that he doesn't understand where the Napoleon busts come in to Lestrade's theory of the case. Lestrade dismisses the theft and destruction of the busts as incidental to the murder.

Later, when Holmes proves to have really understood the case, and brings the true murderer to justice, Lestrade surprises everyone with this unconditional approbation.

*"Well," said Lestrade, "I've seen you handle a good many cases, Mr. Holmes, but I don't know that I ever knew a more workmanlike one than that. We're not jealous of you at Scotland Yard. No, sir, we are very proud of you, and if you come down to-morrow, there's not a man, from the oldest inspector to the youngest constable, who wouldn't be glad to shake you by the hand."*

*"Thank you!" said Holmes. "Thank you!" And as he turned away, it seemed to me that he was more nearly moved by the softer human emotions than I had ever seen him.*



Lestrade shows his desire to learn from Holmes. A teacher he respects. And Holmes respects Lestrade for his desire to learn and works to help him. And Holmes shows his so seldom shown emotional side.

*Here, instead of quoting the Canon, I will share with you some remarks I came across on The Hounds of the Internet site, where much of my spare time is happily spent. The following is from remarks I found there written by Alex Braun aka "The Courageous Orderly". He is the leader of The Hounds of the Internet and a most superior scholar of the Canon as well as all subjects connected to the Great Detective. He also reflects on each of the Canon cases weekly, year in and year out, of which our membership seems to never tire. Here our Courageous Orderly expounds on this moment of Lestrade's effusive praise of the Master Detective.*

*"Later, at the moment that the Great Detective solves the case, Lestrade's praise of Holmes' abilities is unique in the Sacred Writings. This is principally because it is not an expression prompted by astonishment like so many others ("Amazing, Holmes!"), but one born out of a very sincere admiration that goes beyond simply acknowledging someone's superiority; it is appreciation that comes from the heart. It shows the Scotland Yarder to be considerably less of the fool that he is usually assessed as being and to be an extremely honest man. It shows that, in his own way, the inspector was a gentleman. It is not surprising that Holmes was touched by it and had to turn away to conceal his emotions".*

13. The Adventure of the Three Garidebs: June 26---27<sup>th</sup> 1902

*"I have been down to see friend Lestrade at the Yard. There may be an occasional want of imaginative intuition down there, but they lead the world for thoroughness and method."*

So now in their relationships Holmes calls on his friend to get information in a case. I cannot conceive of Holmes using the word friend if he did not mean it. Holmes to me was precise and careful in his choice of words. Holmes calls Lestrade friend nine times in the Canon.

14. Final thoughts: After reviewing all these quotes from the Canon, I have to upgrade my opinion of Giles Lestrade and his relationship with Holmes. Like all relationships that are worthwhile these gentlemen involved changed from barely knowing each other to a warm respectful caring friendship. Holmes and Lestrade grew to be good friends as Holmes was capable of having, with the exception of his devoted biographer and companion, Dr. John H. Watson.

All Canon quotes from the following: Doyle, Arthur Conan; Books, Maplewood. Sherlock Holmes: The Ultimate Collection, Maplewood Books. Kindle Edition.

# GOT YOU UNDER MY SKIN

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

In “The Adventure of the Red-Headed League,” a fish tattoo above the right wrist of Jabez Wilson told Sherlock Holmes his guest had been to China. Holmes’s study and writings on tattoos indicated Wilson’s inking could only have been done in that country.

The practice of tattooing can be found in cultures all over the world from very ancient times. Implements for marking the skin, dating back more than 12,000 years, have been found in France, Portugal, and Scandinavia. (1) Ötzi, the “Iceman” discovered in 1991 on the Italian-Austrian border, displays the oldest actual markings. His remains were carbon-dated back 5200 years. (2)

Tattoos, however, were not limited to European countries. They have been found in ancient Egypt (but only on women), the Scythian Pazyryk in the Altai Mountains, ancient Briton, ancient Greece and Rome, pre-Columbian civilizations of Peru and Chile, the Cree, China, Japan, and the Polynesian cultures.

This last group, which James Cook visited in Tahiti in 1769, provided the contemporary name to such marks. Their term “tatatau” or “tattau” became “tattoo.” (3)

Ötzi sported about fifty lines and crosses marked on various parts of his body, including his spine, knee and ankle joints. Interestingly, these are also the points used in traditional Chinese acupuncture, although the earliest indications of the use of needles on pressure points didn’t occur for another 2000 years.

Researchers believe these tattoos were used for therapeutic purposes related to arthritis and abdominal pain. (4) Similar uses were found in female Egyptian



mummies where tattoos were believed to be related to childbirth. (5)

Tattoos served additional purposes over the centuries. Romans and the Japanese marked criminals. Slaves carried an indication of ownership. North and South American cultures as well as Britons used them for ceremonial purposes.

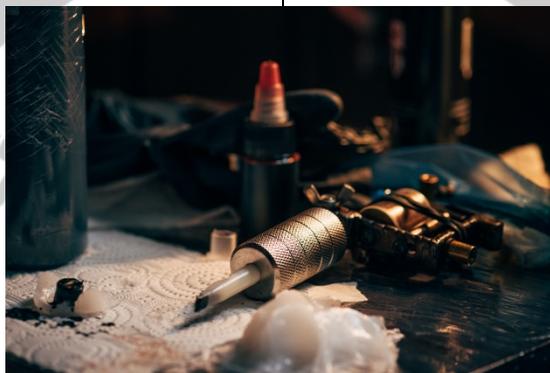
Scandinavians and Saxons carried a family crest. Europeans who joined the crusades often had a cross on their hand to indicate a desire for a Christian burial. Sailors and miners had them for identification in case of a disaster. (6)

Various methods have been used to create tattoos, but all require a means of puncturing the second layer of skin, or dermis, to apply a pigment underneath.

This skin layer isn’t shed like the epidermis, and the pigmentation becomes permanent. The implement to puncture the skin requires a sharp point—today a needle—that will penetrate to this layer. (7)

Current electric tattoo machines use the same basic model as that patented in 1891, based on Thomas Edison’s electric engraver pen. Pigmentations have included soot, cinnabar (for red markings), and cadmium compounds for hues such as orange and yellow. (8)

The pigments used in modern tattoos are from colorless metal salts that give off different hues when light refracts off them. (9)



As Sherlock noted with respect to Jabez Wilson’s tattoo, different tattoo artists use different types of pigments as well as each having their own style.

Modern day forensic experts are able to extract some of the pigment, which investigators use to exclude or confirm a particular artist's work. (10) Michelle Miranda, author of *Forensic Analysis of Tattoos and Tattoo Inks*, described the chemical analysis of the tattoo pigments as assisting in determining "the age, quality or prevalence of the ink."

Ancient pigments were carbon-based, but by the late 1800s, ink colors were introduced (mostly black, blue, green, and red). From the mid- to late-1900s, the pigments contained high concentrations of heavy metals. Currently, most of the colors are synthetic organic, and the designs have finer lines with more and brighter colors. (11)

Tattoos fell out of favor in Europe with the spread of Christianity. These markings were considered a disfigurement of those "made in God's image," with Emperor Constantine going so far as banning them in the fourth century.

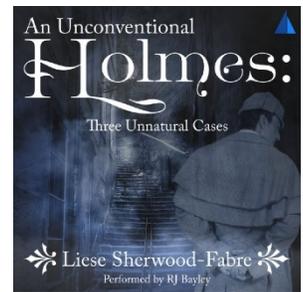
Certain populations—such as sailors and miners, mentioned above—continued the practice even in the Victorian era. (12) Currently, about one in seven people in North America sport at least one tattoo. (13)

Some of this increased popularity among the general public has been attributed to the TV show "Miami Ink," which premiered in 2005 and showcased the artistry involved in such work. (14)

Watson didn't document much about Holmes' investigation into the practice of tattooing. As he displayed in "The Adventure of the Red-Headed League," however, his treatises on the subject were bound to have included extensive information on the types of inks, craftsmanship, and symbols—all going more than just skin deep.

For images of British and other handcuffs, check out this site: <http://www.handcuffs.org/g/index.php?mode=1>

- 1) <https://interestingengineering.com/the-very-long-and-fascinating-history-of-tattoos>
- 2) <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/tattoos-144038580/>
- 3) <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/tattoos-144038580/>
- 4) <https://www.mcgill.ca/oss/article/history-you-asked/what-history-tattoos>
- 5) <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/tattoos-144038580/>
- 6) <https://www.mcgill.ca/oss/article/history-you-asked/what-history-tattoos>
- 7) <https://interestingengineering.com/the-very-long-and-fascinating-history-of-tattoos>
- 8) <https://inchemistry.acs.org/atomic-news/tattoo-ink.html#:~:text=Historically%2C%20pigments%20used%20in%20tattoo,used%20to%20produce%20red%20hues.>
- 9) <https://www.mcgill.ca/oss/article/history-you-asked/what-history-tattoos>
- 10) D.P. Lyle, *Forensics for Dummies*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2019, page 160.
- 11) <https://www.the4thwall.net/blog/2017/2/8/inkspector>
- 12) <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/tattoos-144038580/>
- 13) <https://www.mcgill.ca/oss/article/history-you-asked/what-history-tattoos>
- 14) [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/how-tattoos-went-from-sub\\_b\\_6053588](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/how-tattoos-went-from-sub_b_6053588)



Dr. Sherwood-Fabre is pleased to share that her first audiobook "An Unconventional Holmes: Three Unnatural Cases" is now available. A list of vendors can be accessed at <https://linktr.ee/liesesf>.

# "DEAD, NOT HARDLY"

By Bill Mason, ASH, BSI, [The Holmes and Watson Report](#), July, 2001

This essay was also included in "Pursuing Sherlock Holmes," (2010) a wonderful collection of essays by Bill Mason, ASH, BSI, available from several avenues on the internet, including

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/pursuing-sherlock-holmes-bill-mason/1100387518>

"I heard you were dead," asserts one bad guy after another to the very much alive and always formidable John Wayne in *Big Jake* (1970). "Not hardly," he'd reply before delivering either a beating or a bullet to the offender. The same statement was directed repeatedly to the estimable, but clearly exasperated, Snake Plissken (Kurt Russell) in *Escape from New York* (1981) just before he turned the futuristic prison society on its ear.

As anyone who has ever watched a television soap opera knows full well, if you don't actually see someone die, convincingly and completely, with face intact, and without an identical twin, and then actually see the body go into the grave, with dirt piled on top and packed down firmly - well, that person more than likely really isn't dead. "I'll be back" is written all over the last scene.

Fiery car wrecks, lost planes, falls off cliffs, and reports of a plague in a remote Mexican village are all notoriously unreliable affirmations of death. The soap opera character not only can, but certainly will, reappear - usually after the "surviving" spouse has married a best friend, relative, or bitter enemy. Amnesia is a convenient partner in such plots. It occurs approximately twelve thousand percent more often in soap operas than in real life.

Now, don't misunderstand. We're not talking about the "living dead" à la *Dracula* or the "evil twin" theme explored in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Stoker and Stevenson can lay claim to popularizing, if not originating, those motifs. No, we're talking about the character not having died at all. Two of the greatest examples from literature have to be Tom Sawyer (who attended his own funeral) and Sherlock Holmes, who globe-trotted for three years before condescending to let his grief-stricken best friend know anything about it. Tom, a child after all, just lost track of time while playing pirates with Huck Finn. Holmes's approach seems harder to explain. Neither had amnesia.

At any rate, the reappearance of Sherlock Holmes was dramatic and exciting and truly spectacular. And if it worked for Holmes, there is no reason it could not work

for others as well. Casting about the Canon, more examples of reportedly dead men being alive after all easily can be found.

By far, the most colorful of these is Francis Hay (Frank) Moulton - documented to have been killed in New Mexico when "a miner's camp had been attacked by Apache Indians" (NOBL). Hattie Doran "never doubted that Frank was really dead," but her account of his reappearance rivals and even excels that of Sherlock Holmes, at least for timeliness and effect. Explains Hattie: "Frank had been a prisoner among the Apaches, had escaped, came to 'Frisco, found that I had given him up for dead and had gone to England, followed me there, and had come upon me at last on the very morning of my second wedding." Any modern soap opera writer would steal that scene in a minute! One of them probably has.

There are others. Henry (Harry) Wood, long presumed to be dead by the man who had betrayed him at the time of the Indian Mutiny, so shocked James Barclay that he fell over dead - "The bare sight of me was like a bullet through his guilty heart" (CROO). The flint-hearted Jonas Oldacre hid in a secret room, trying to frame "the unhappy John Hector McFarlane" (NORW). And Neville St. Clair was found in disguise, sitting in prison and accused of his own murder (TWIS).

All of these returned to the living in the very pages of the Canon. But could there be others? Holmes's adventures chronicle a number of "deaths" which were never really confirmed, leaving a crack in the door for a return. Here, then, is a top ten list of "not hardly dead" characters, in ascending order of their likelihood to have really been alive after all:

## #10 • John Openshaw (FIVE)

Sherlock Holmes has been harshly criticized for sending John Openshaw out of his Baker Street rooms and into the waiting arms of the Ku Klux Klan; but what evidence is there, really, that the young man was killed? All the constable heard was "a cry for help and a splash in the water." There was no account of anyone actually

identifying the body. An assumption was made based only upon "an envelope which was found in his pocket." Openshaw told Holmes he was "armed," but there was no report of a weapon being on the body, nor did he have a struggle with his attackers. He had two warnings from Holmes fresh on his mind and ample reason to be on his guard anyway. Openshaw's death was more likely an elaborate hoax, a staged death to divert his adversaries.

#### #9 • Harold Latimer and Wilson Kemp (GREE)

The whole tale involving Paul and Sophy Kratides, Mr. Melas, Mycroft Holmes, and the two villains Latimer and Kemp is so full of improbabilities and unexplained loose ends that Watson's supposition about the demise of the two kidnapers/murderers easily can be taken with a grain of salt. There can be little doubt that the entire episode was in reality a skirmish in The Great Game (as Kipling described it) of international espionage and power-politics intrigue that Mycroft Holmes was so deeply involved in conducting. The "curious newspaper clipping" suggesting that Sophy "came to be avenged" by stabbing the two men to death would be child's play for the Secret Service - British or otherwise - to manufacture. Nothing in this story can be taken at face value; and Sophy, Latimer and Kemp may well have played The Great Game for many years to come.

#### #8 • Hudson and Beddoes (GLOR)

Sherlock Holmes suspected that Hudson, the blackmailing sailor-turned-butler, was murdered by one of his targets, Beddoes (formerly Evans). The police believed just the opposite - that Hudson killed Beddoes and ran off with whatever money he could scrape together. The fact is, there is not one shred of evidence that either of them was murdered at all. Both simply disappeared without a trace, and "neither of them was ever heard of again." Once the elder Trevor was dead and the secret of the *Gloria Scott* was revealed, Hudson's hold on Beddoes was gone. If no murder occurred, these two either went their own ways or perhaps - being practical opportunists - even came to terms and began a new life of criminal conspiracy together.

#### #7 • Leonardo the Strong Man (VEIL)

The strong man of the Ronder circus would have been a woman's fantasy under any circumstances, considering his "magnificent physique" and "splendid

body," but Eugenia Ronder was particularly susceptible to his charms because of her husband's cruelty. They conspired to murder Ronder and framed the circus lion for the crime, but not before Eugenia was maimed for life. She kept their secret until she read in some unidentified newspaper that "he was drowned last month when bathing near Margate." But how seriously can this report be taken? After all, Leonardo had "a clever scheming brain," and the likelihood of someone so physically fit drowning at a seaside resort would appear to be as slim as it would be ironic. No, Leonardo would be more likely to end seven years of looking over his shoulder by faking his own death.

#### #6 • Captain James Calhoun (FIVE)

Captain Calhoun and his two accomplices supposedly met their just deserts when the sailing ship *Lone Star* of Savannah went down in "the equinoctial gales" of the Atlantic Ocean. Now, the Ku Klux Klan of the 1880s --, of which Calhoun and his minions were members - was not the beer-guzzling, pot-bellied, semi-literate trailer trash of today. These were fairly sophisticated conspirators who had journeyed overseas to commit two, and perhaps three, murder that went undetected until they already had departed for America. Even if the ship really sank -- and the only evidence for that is a rumor about a piece of wood with "L.S." carved on it -- there is no absolute assurance that Calhoun was on board. For all we know, he made it back to Florida and lived out his life as just another bitter ex-Confederate, shaking his fist at history.

#### #5 • The Worthington Bank Gang (RESI)

The members of the Worthington Bank Gang - Biddle, Hayward and Moffat - stalked and finally killed their former partner in crime Sutton (a.k.a. Blessington) to exact their revenge because he had turned evidence against them. "From that night, nothing has been seen of the three murderers by the police, and it is surmised by 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 Portugese coast, some leagues to the north of Oporto." Of all the vague and weak cases for justice-served-by-fate-at-sea (a recurring theme in this list and throughout the Canon), this takes the cake. This trio had no past history of foreign travel, and there is no real evidence presented to justify the assumption that they were on board this vessel. Scotland Yard, perhaps

embarrassed by its failure to close the case, may have seized on an otherwise unremarkable loss of a rickety old steamer to get the case off the shelf.

#### #4 • Don Murillo (WIST)

Six months after escaping England, Don Murillo, "once called the Tiger of San Pedro," and his secretary Lopez "were both murdered in their rooms at the Hotel Escorial at Madrid," where they supposedly were registered under false names. But all that Inspector Baynes, Holmes and Watson had on hand to convince them that "justice, if belated, had come at last" was "a printed description of the dark face of the secretary, and of the masterful features, the magnetic black eyes, and the tufted brows of his master." However, Murillo was, after all, "as cunning as he was cruel," and he had managed to elude the howling mobs of a general uprising in the country he had ruled for more than a decade. Despite being hunted, Murillo always "took every precaution," and he and Lopez managed to escape England altogether. Surely, such a Machiavellian figure easily could arrange a pair of murders in Madrid, cross a few palms among the local police and the press, and see to it that the "printed description" - along with the false conclusion it was intended to produce - found its way to Baynes.

#### #3 • Jack Stapleton (HOUN)

Watson, himself, admitted that there was "no slightest sign" of Stapleton as they searched for him in "the heart of the great Grimpen Mire." When Sir Henry Baskerville's missing boot was discovered along the treacherous path, Holmes assumed that Stapleton had it with him on the night of the final attempt on Sir Henry's life. Yet, the time of the boot's usefulness was long past - there were many opportunities for Stapleton to get better and fresher objects bearing Sir Henry's scent after he became a regular visitor to Merripit House. And why would he carry it around once he had loosed the hound? "There was much we might surmise" about the fate of "this cold and cruel-hearted man," said Watson. However, the assumption that he was "forever buried" in "the foul slime of the huge morass" has very little in the way of facts to support it. Rodger Baskerville, who had at least twice taken on false identities (as Vandeleur and Stapleton), may have found a new identity and a new criminal career far away from the gloom of Dartmoor.

#### #2 • Tonga (SIGN)

No more thrilling chase scene can be found in literature than that on the Thames when Holmes and Watson pursued Jonathan Small and Tonga, a fierce Andaman Islander, who were aboard the *Aurora*. As Tonga prepared a deadly poison dart for his blow-gun, Holmes and Watson fired their pistols. Tonga "whirled round, threw up his arms, and, with a kind of choking cough, fell sideways into the stream." As they "shot past," still in pursuit, Watson records that he "caught one glimpse of his venomous, menacing eyes amid the white swirl of the waters." The body was never found, and Watson assumed that it lay "somewhere in the dark ooze at the bottom of the Thames." Yet, the last time anyone actually saw Tonga, he was very much alive - dead or even dying people in the water don't have "venomous, menacing eyes." The "choking cough" could have been no more than an exclamation of anger or fear prior to a dive into the water. Tonga was being shot at, after all. And don't forget, he came from a strong water-oriented island culture. A dip in the Thames likely would have been child's play for him. With a primitive instinct for survival, in a bustling city like London with so many places to hide, and with a large number of ships available for stow-away, Tonga was an odds-on favorite not only to survive, but also to escape England altogether.

#### #1 • Birdy Edwards (VALL)

Of all the supposed deaths in the canon, that of Birdy Edwards is the most difficult to believe. This was a hardened, experienced, and very professional detective, a master of survival. This was a man who infiltrated the infamous Scowrers of Vermissa Valley, dodged several attempts on his life, and braved the violence of the California gold fields. He twice lived under false identities - as Jack McMurdo and Jack Douglas - and engineered a magnificent deception, the apparent deaths of the entire Wilcox family. Yet, we are asked to believe that he was "lost overboard in a gale off St. Helena," an almost passive victim of the agents of Moriarty. Some have speculated that Holmes's near-obsession with the evil professor caused him to leap to a paranoid extreme in linking Moriarty to *The Valley of Fear* case at all. In fact, there is no real evidence of a connection outside of Holmes's own assertions and a supposed "cipher" from Fred Porlock - a message which, significantly, was never decoded. Even then, Holmes had to acknowledge that Moriarty's involvement was "an absolute extravagance of energy."

But why, indeed, would Moriarty agree to help a bunch of coarse ex-convicts from America, no longer wielding any criminal power or organization and out of money (which had been "spent like water" trying to save Boss McGinty and his stooges), in what, to him, was a simple case of revenge? Why would Moriarty's reputation need such a boost? It seems much more likely that Birdy Edwards, with the help of his wife Ivy, once again engineered a death - this time his own. Holmes spoke truly when he speculated that "it was well stage-managed." And if Holmes was a party to Edwards' plan. knowing in advance that he

intended to put his pursuers off his track once and for all by staging this "accident" (as the cable-gram called it), then blaming Holmes' nemesis Moriarty was a perfect diversion. Holmes was looking "far into the future." He knew a showdown with Moriarty was coming. In the meantime, if he managed to boost the professor's reputation as "the greatest schemer of all time" while helping a friend and ally in the fight against crime, then all the better. Surely, Edwards, like Holmes, lived to work for justice long after Moriarty supposedly ended his life.

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# Vowel Rhyme: Assonance

Karen Murdock

Originally Published in *Explorations #60* (newsletter of The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota), Winter/Spring 2010

In the last issue of Explorations, I wrote about the device called alliteration, which is the repetition of nearby sounds, especially consonant sounds at the beginning of words. If the repetition of sounds is of vowel sounds (in adjacent or almost adjacent words) rather than consonants, the figure gets a new name: assonance.

Like alliteration, assonance (sometimes called “vowel rhyme” or “vocalic rhyme”) is a device more frequently noticed and remarked upon in poetry than in prose. Assonance gives a sense of continuity and fluidity to poetic lines.

I heard a fly buzz when I died  
—Emily Dickinson

Let me choose, and I will dwell  
Where the sea, with sounding tread  
Climbeth, till his feathery crest  
Brush the mountain’s feet.  
—George Perkins Marsh, Lectures on the English Language, 1860

Whales in the wake like capes and Alps  
Quaked the sick sea and snouted deep  
—Dylan Thomas, “Ballad of the Long-Legged Bait”

that dolphin-torn, that gong-tormented sea  
—William Butler Yeats, “Byzantium”

Assonance is not the same thing as rhyme. Rhyme implies that terminal consonant sounds are involved in the word play. (In poetry, rhyme usually means “end-rhyme” —the rhyming words are found at the end of poetic lines).

Assonance merely means that vowel sounds are the same. “Moon” and “June” are rhyme. “Moon” and “moor” are assonance. In these lines from Tennyson’s “Lady of Shalott”

Long fields of barley and of rye  
That clothe the wold and meet the sky

the words “rye” and “sky” are rhyme; the words “clothe” and “wold” are assonance.

As an aside, rhyme is actually rather hard to avoid entirely since there are so many examples of it in English. Although the Sherlock Holmes stories are written in prose, there are many examples of incidental rhyme within lines:

sad faces and glad, haggard and merry (SIGN)  
“a sneering, leering, insolent face” (GLOR)  
“True for you” (VALL)  
“I know you could if you only would.” (REDC)  
“I have not got the stone” (MAZA)  
Holmes took the book (3GAR)  
“upon the ground round the body” (HOUN)

Assonance was one of the toughest figures of speech for me to compile. Vowel sounds are much harder for me to notice than are initial consonants. Also, vowel sounds are often what distinguish one accent from another.

I speak (and hear) with a standard Middle-Western American accent. Speakers of other forms of English speak, write and hear things differently. Vowel sounds shift over space (from one region to another) and also over time. Holmes and Watson would certainly have heard and pronounced vowel sounds differently than I do.

For example, in HOUN, Stapleton says, “the fates were against us.” The long “a” vowel sound of “fates” is the same sound as the second “a” in “against” in “Received Pronunciation” British English.

In standard American English, on the other hand, “against” is pronounced “uh GENST” (with a short vowel sound in the accented syllable). On the other hand, the line “we found ourselves in Pall Mall” (GREE) contains assonance in both British and American English, even though the pronunciation of the vowels is not the same.

Assonant in American but not English English is Watson’s observation in BERY “it seems rather sad” (BERY) Assonant in British but not American English are these Canonical lines:

“a dead junior clerk in the heart of London” (BRUC)  
“What a blind beetle I have been” (PRIO)

QUIZ on assonance.

Identify the stories in which these examples occur:

1. “There is a chalk-pit by the camp, with a deep green pool at the base of it.”
2. “It seems to me, mister,” said he, “that you are gettin’ set on my Ettie.”
3. be circumspect in the future, that those foul passions whereby our family has suffered so grievously may not again be loosed to our undoing
4. “Was there a fellow about thirty, black-bearded, dark, of middle size?”  
“Yes; he was he was the last to pass me.”
5. “What could I do? Absolute ruin faced me.”
6. “Why shouldn’t we use a little art jargon.”
7. “What have we to do with walking corpses who can only be held in their grave by stakes driven through their hearts?”
8. “He may pick up some garbage in the darker recesses of the underworld”
9. “Besides, with this crowd about, it was well that she should have someone near to look after her.”
10. Deep down in the recesses of the coffin lay an emaciated figure.
11. “The Foreign Minister alone I could have withstood”

12. “There are only those three capable of playing so bold a game—there are Oberstein, la Rothiere, and Eduardo Lucas.”
13. “I could see hundreds of the black fiends, with their red coats still on their backs, dancing and howling round the burning house.”
14. “That fellow will rise from crime to crime until he does something very bad, and ends on a gallows.”
15. “the rascally lascar who runs it has sworn to have vengeance upon me.”

Choose your answers from these stories.

No story is used more than once.

HOUN  
IDEN  
ILLU  
LADY  
LAST  
REDC  
SECO  
SHOS  
SIGN  
SOLI  
STUD  
SUSS  
TWIS  
VALL  
VEIL



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### ANSWERS TO ASSONANCE QUIZ

- |          |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. VEIL  | 2. VALL  | 3. HOUN  | 4. REDC  | 5. SHOS  |
| 6. STUD  | 7. SUSS  | 8. ILLU  | 9. SOLI  | 10. LADY |
| 11. LAST | 12. SECO | 13. SIGN | 14. IDEN | 15. TWIS |

# HERLOCK SHOLMES - The Missing Mother-in-Law

Charles Hamilton (Peter Todd), January 8, 1916, *The Greyfriars Herald*

Another Grand Story dealing with the Amazing Adventures of Herlock Sholmes, Detective.

## Chapter 1

Herlock Sholmes has frequently been the recipient of striking testimonials of gratitude from clients whom his wonderful abilities have served.

Clients of all classes have generally shown the same desire to testify their gratitude. I need only refer to the splendid elephant, with howdah complete, presented the Rajah of Bunkumpore after Sholmes' amazing discovery of his fifteen missing wives; the magnificent set of artificial teeth, jewelled in every hole, which came as a reward for the solution of the mystery of the Duke's Dentist; and the humbler, but not less highly-prized, gift of kippered herrings from William Sikes, Esq., after Sholmes had elucidated the problem of the Missing Moke. That last gift, indeed, was long remembered by us, for its fragrance long haunted our rooms in Shaker Street.

But there have been occasions when Sholmes has been repaid with the blackest ingratitude. Such occasions have been rare, but they have occurred.

It is such a case that I find next upon my list. Even now, in speaking of the adventure of the Missing Mother-in-Law, Sholmes will pass his hand tenderly over his nose and his left eye. It is one of his least happy recollections, yet in no case in my long records did his amazing abilities shine forth so marvellously.

On referring to my notes at the time, I find that it was upon Monday, January

32nd, that the matter came under our notice.

Sholmes had been looking inexpressibly bored at breakfast. During the meal I had been entertaining him with some account of my former experiences in India.

The case of the Pawned Pickle-Jar had been wound up, and Sholmes was idle. Idleness did not agree with his active, energetic nature. That there were several cases at Scotland Yard requiring his amazing insight was very probably, but the police preferred to go on in their own blundering way.

The case of Mrs. Knagg came, therefore, as a relief. I had read the report in the paper, and I saw Sholmes glancing at it.

"After all, I must work, my dear Jotson," he remarked. "This is a very pretty little problem."

"You have not been approached upon the subject, Sholmes?"

He shook his head.

"No. Crouch, the son-in-law, appears content to leave it in the hands of the police." Sholmes shrugged his shoulders. "You know what that means. The bereaved man will probably never see his mother-in-law again."

He reflected a little.

"I am idle for the moment, Jotson. I can afford to take up the case; the instalments are paid on the furniture,

and I can afford a little relaxation. Why should I not take up this case for nothing, and bring joy to a humble household?"

"My dear Sholmes," I said warmly. "that is like you! Any assistance I can render—"

"After all, the thanks of a good and worthy man are a sufficient reward to one who cares little for mere lucre," said Sholmes thoughtfully. "Besides, the case is interesting in itself. Mrs. Knagg, a widow lady, took up her residence with her married daughter six weeks ago. On Thursday morning she left the house in Larkhall Rise, taking with her a bag and an umbrella. From that moment she disappears from human ken. A very pretty problem!"

"You have already formed a theory, Sholmes?"

He frowned a little.

"I have already made deductions from the obvious facts," he replied. "Theories I leave to the police. The case centres round the umbrella."

"The umbrella, Sholmes!" I could not help exclaiming.

"Undoubtedly."

"From the reports in the newspapers, the police appear to attach no importance to the umbrella."



"Ah, the police!" smiled Sholmes.  
"Fortunately for Mrs. Knagg and her grief-stricken son-in-law, we follow other methods. Mark, my dear Jotson, this good lady had no possible motive for disappearing of her own accord. She had been heard to declare that she intended to reside permanently with her son-in-law. It was her intention to wean him from such bad habits as smoking and consuming whisky-and-soda. Why, then, did she disappear so completely?"

"Foul play?" I suggested.

"Or accident?" said Sholmes.

"But, in the case of an accident, surely something would have been heard——"

"That depends upon the nature of the accident." Herlock Sholmes rose to his feet, and stretched himself "Are you prepared for a little run to-day, Jotson?"

"I am entirely at your service, Sholmes."

"Then I will call a taxi."

I could not dissemble my astonishment as we stepped into the taxi, and I was still further amazed to hear Sholmes give the driver instructions to drive us to Winkle Bay.

"My dear Sholmes, are we going to the seaside?" I exclaimed.

"Why not, Jotson?"

"But Winkle Bay is on the South-Eastern line."

"Exactly!"

"Then why not take a train?"

He smiled in his inscrutable way.

"Undoubtedly we could take a train, Jotson. I have no doubt that, if we did so, we should ultimately arrive at our destination. But what length of time

might elapse before we could return to London?"

"True!"

"No, Jotson; as I have only days, and not weeks, to spare we will not travel by the South-Eastern railway. A taxi will serve our turn."

"But what do you expect to find at Winkle Bay, Sholmes?" I exclaimed.

His answer astounded me.

"The missing mother-in-law!" he said calmly.

## Chapter 2

Sholmes declined to speak another word as the taxi bore us to our distant destination. I sat in puzzled silence. What unknown clue had presented itself to the amazing brain of my gifted friend, while I remained completely in the dark? I had endeavoured to study Sholmes' methods. But I had to confess that I could not see a gleam of light. What was the mysterious connection between Winkle Bay, on the South Coast, and the disappearance of Mrs. Knagg from Larkhall Rise? Time alone could tell.

Winkle Bay came in sight at last. To my surprise, Sholmes directed the chauffeur to drive to the railway-station.

We soon reached a dreary, deserted building, with few signs of life about it. A train stood upon the metals with great masses of cobwebs festooned over the carriages. A thrush had built its nest in the tender.

Bidding the driver wait, Sholmes entered the station, and I followed him, greatly amazed. What were we to find there? The dust, seldom disturbed by human feet, rose in clouds as we advanced.

On the platform a gaunt woman, with a bag and an umbrella paced to and fro.

It was evidently a passenger waiting for a train.

Her thin face showed signs of exhaustion, and of a deadly, dull, persistent patience, of the hope deferred that maketh the heart sick.

Sholmes raised his hat.

"Mrs. Knagg?" he said.

The gaunt woman started.

"That is my name;" she said.

"Sholmes!" I murmured.

"Madam, I am returning to London in my taxi," said Sholmes. "May I have the honour of offering you a lift?"

The gaunt face brightened up.

"For three days," said Mrs. Knagg hoarsely, "I have waited here for a train. Hope had almost died in my breast. And what may be happening in my absence, goodness alone knows. That George Crouch has resumed smoking in the drawing-room I have not the slightest doubt." Her hand tightened upon her umbrella. "I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Let us go."

A minute more, and we were whirling London-wards.

I sat in amazement.

The taxi stopped at last in Shaker Street, and we alighted. Mrs. Knagg wrung my friend's hand, and the taxi bore her onwards to Larkhall Rise, to the bosom of her bereaved family.

It was not till Herlock Sholmes had consumed his usual quart of cocaine and gross of cigarettes, that I ventured to ask him for the usual explanation.

He smiled in a slightly bored fashion.

"My dear Jotson, it was very simple — elementary, in fact. I told you that the clue lay in the umbrella."

"But how——"

"Last Thursday, Jotson, was a fine day—the finest day we have had this year. For what reason, then, did Mrs. Knagg take with her an umbrella? It was not likely to rain in London. Evidently, my dear Jotson, because she was about to make a journey to some place where rain might be expected."

"True!"

"If you read the weather reports in last Thursday's paper, Jotson, you will see that, while fine weather reigned in London, there was a heavy rainfall at Winkle Bay. The conclusion was irresistible."

"Most true. But, having established that Mrs. Knagg left her home to spend a day at Winkle Bay, why did she not return? In the name of all that is wonderful, Sholmes, how did you trace her to the railway-station at Winkle Bay?"

"That was the simplest part of the problem, Jotson. The good lady intended to return — we knew that. To one who has travelled on the South-Eastern line, Jotson, the reason of her non-return was not difficult to guess. She was waiting for a train."

"Sholmes!"

"You see, my dear Jotson, it is no longer wonderful when it is explained. I had established that Mrs. Knagg paid a visit to Winkle Bay. I knew that Winkle Bay was on the South-Eastern. I looked for her, therefore, at the Winkle Bay station on that line. I found her, as I expected, waiting for a train. But for our intervention, the unfortunate lady might be waiting there still, perhaps for weeks, and her son-in-law would still be in doubt of her fate. I have no doubt that he will call to thank me. The thanks of a good and worthy man——"

Heavy footsteps on the stairs interrupted Sholmes.

The door was thrown open, and a little man, with a pale and harassed face, rushed into the room.

"Mr. Herlock Sholmes?" he exclaimed.

"I am he!" said Sholmes, rising. "You are Mr. Crouch?"

"I am. You found my mother-in-law, who was missing?"

"I am happy to say I did."

"But for you she might still be waiting for a train on the South-Eastern — for weeks, perhaps for years?"

"Undoubtedly."

"Then take that?"

To our amazement, the man hurled himself violently upon Herlock Sholmes, hitting out with indescribable fury. I was spellbound, and Sholmes, for once, was taken utterly by surprise. One terrible drive caught him on the nose, another in the left eye. He fell to the floor, and the visitor, whose rage was still unabated, danced upon his fallen form.

Then, shaking his fist at my amazing friend, Mr. Crouch quitted the room. Herlock Sholmes sat up, gasping.

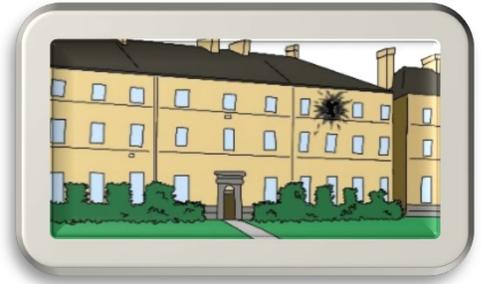
"My dear Jotson — grooogh — oh, my eye! Oh, my nose — ow-ow-ow!"

His eye was already becoming black; his nose was streaming red. His famous dressing-gown was torn and rumpled, and both his pipes were broken. I helped my unfortunate friend into a chair.

"Jotson!" he gasped. "My dear Jotson — yow-ow-ow! — if ever I help a man to discover his missing mother-in-law again — grooogh! — you may use my head for a football — wow-wow-wow!"

THE END

# Baker Street Elementary



Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason

The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson

BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY  
NUMBER 322-02/14/2021

FAY, MASON & MASON

SO DID YOU GIVE A CARD TO YOUR SWEETIE  
TODAY ?

YES... IT SAID I  
DISLIKE YOU LESS  
THAN MOST PEOPLE...



VERY ROMANTIC...



SO STAMFORD, WHAT DID YOU DO FOR THE  
GIRL YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR HEART TO ?

I PINCHED HER FOR NOT  
WEARING GREEN...



ALL OF THESE HOLIDAYS  
ARE SO CONFUSING TO ME...



THE GIRL I GAVE A VALENTINE'S CARD TO SAID,  
'ABSENCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER...'

I THINK THAT'S  
SWEET ?



SHE TOLD ME NOT TO LOOK FOR HER FOR  
ANOTHER YEAR...

THAT'S NOT SO  
SWEET...



WELL ANYWAY, HAPPY ST. VALENTINE'S DAY !!

