

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 09, No. 12 - December, 2021

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



PLEASE NOTE: **January 02, Meeting** NOTICE

We will be conducting our next monthly meeting virtually on January 02 at 1:00 pm CST. I will send out the link for the meeting the week before the meeting.

Our Special Guest Speaker will be **Edith Pounden**, who will discuss "Edgar Allen Poe's Influence on A Scandal in Bohemia".

The story for January will be "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter", including a quiz and discussion by our own **Bob Katz, BSI, ASH**.

We will cover topic 16 on "ACD: Biographies, Autobiographies, and adaptations" - **Cindy Brown**

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For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>

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Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretary
Historian
Webmaster

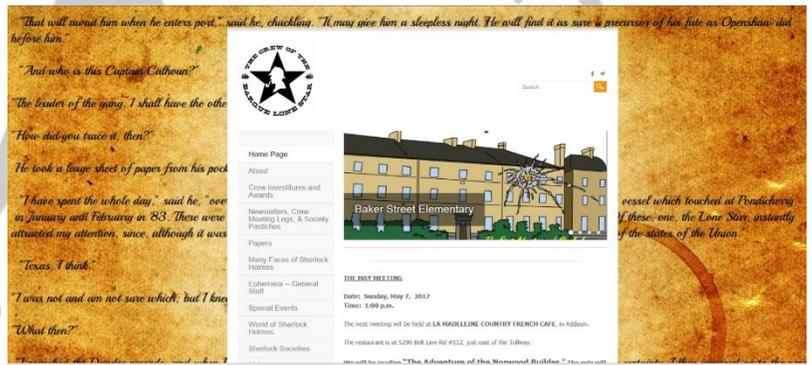
Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Dr. Jim Webb, BSI
Cindy Brown
Pam Mason
Rusty Mason

mason.steve@epa.gov
waltpieper@att.net
221b@verizon.net
jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com

myrkrid08@yahoo.com

Our Website:

www.dfw-sherlock.org



Our Facebook Page:

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

DECEMBER 05 SUMMARY

Cindy Brown

There were 70 in attendance at this ZOOM meeting.

The Opening Toast was given by our friend **Sandy Kozinn, ASH**, who wrote a toast dedicated to the Crew of the Barque Lone Star (see page 4).

Our next book will be titled "The Rest of the Story" and will take stories from the Canon with the idea to continue and take the story to the next chapter/level. In other words, participants can add an interesting twist to the Sherlock Holmes tale, maybe with a different ending, or can expand on the existing tale. All are welcome to submit stories for this publication. The deadline for submission will be August 31, 2022.

We will have our first quarterly social dinner at Two Guys from Italy on the Sunday of the meeting (the first dinner will be on Sunday, January 2 at 5:30 pm central).

Members of the Barque Lone star performed a radio play written by **Dean Clark, BSI**, entitled "Dr. Watson's Christmas Present." The play was wonderfully developed by Dean, and well received by the audience.

Our main speaker was **Roger Johnson, BSI, ASH**, who presented on "Rugger, Romance, and Sherlock Holmes." His presentation was very informative, and quite interesting, as would be expected from one of the most respected Sherlockians worldwide.

As a Christmas treat for the Crew, Dr. John H. Watson (**Steve Mason, BSI, ASH**) and Mrs. Hudson (**Cindy Brown**), read Christmas cards which had been sent to Sherlock Holmes.

To round out our meeting with the Doyle segment, **David Leal, ASH**, gave a presentation on Arthur Conan Doyle and Spiritualism. **Roger Johnson, BSI, ASH**, best summed up David's presentation - "fascinating, scrupulously researched and powerfully persuasive."

As always, thanks so much to Cindy Brown for keeping the notes of the meeting.

A TOAST TO FRIENDSHIP

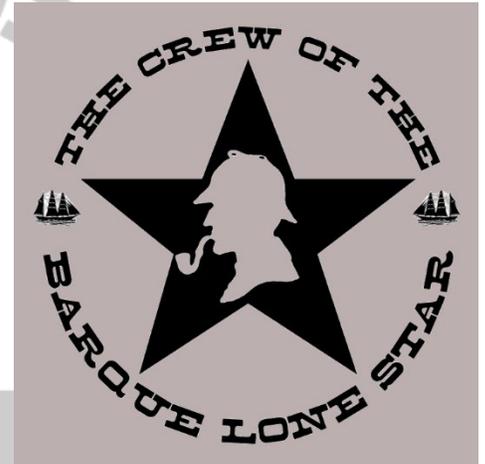
Sandy Kozinn, ASH

We gather here to honor Sherlock Holmes, We
gather here to honor Watson, too.
We gather here to speak of Conan Doyle
And have some fun with many of his tomes.

Together, we find we've made so many friends Who
make our lives far richer than they were.
Together we all laugh and we all learn.
Holmes told us "Education never ends."

We've spent our time together with the Master And Watson, who has told us
wonderful tales, With Conan Doyle, who wrote, or was the Agent.
Such time together seems to move much faster

So thanks to Watson, Holmes, to Doyle, and more, We meet in friendship.
What else are meetings for?



The Crew of the Barque Lone Star Society is producing our 6th book as part of our 51st Anniversary



For 2022, we will be putting a together entitled *The Canon: The Rest of the Story*

Members may submit an essay or pastiche which “continues” or “fills in the blanks” of one of the 60 stories. In other words, what happened after Watson stopped writing, or were items to the story that Watson accidentally or deliberately left out.

- **Your pastiche / essay should be 3,000-5,000 words. Obviously, a shorter piece is fine.**
- **Your pastiche / essay will be edited by one or two editors, but only for grammar, typos, etc... we will not edit the content of your piece.**
- **This project is not limited to those members in the DFW area. Any member is welcome to submit a piece.**
- **We plan to finalize the compilation by the end of the calendar year, so we ask members to submit their entry by August 31.**
- **As in previous years, all submitters will receive a complimentary copy of the book as our thanks.**



HOLMES vs. DUPIN

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

In *A Study in Scarlet*, Watson compares Holmes to Dupin, Edgar Allan Poe's Parisian detective. Holmes replies the comment is not the compliment it appears because Dupin was not the "analytical phenomenon" portrayed. Holmes' opinion reflects Poe's own after he wrote three stories, despite the detective being a groundbreaking character.

While known for his tales of the macabre, Poe had an analytical bent as well. Before he wrote of Dupin the detective, he penned a series of essays on cryptography and challenged readers to submit their ciphers for him to decode. Rosenheim argues that Dupin and his approach to solving crime reflected Poe's efforts to apply similar logic to the field of criminal investigation. Police departments were still forming, and their methods were

often brutal and not always effective. Dupin set the stories in Paris because they had an established police department as well as the Sûreté, for criminal investigation. (1)

The detective appears in three Poe stories: "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," "The Purloined Letter," and "The Mystery of Marie Roget." He also has a companion, never named, who narrates the stories. (2) All three are considered tales of "ratiocination," a term used by Poe to describe the process involved in solving the three crimes. The term relates to reason (or

ratio), and computation. (3) This requires establishing relationships between unknown events and motives to solve complex problems through a combination of scientific reasoning and intuition. The focus is on deviations from the normal, anticipation of



Edgar Allan Poe

others' actions, and information that, at first glance, is external to the case. (4)

Such reasoning is referred to as "abductive." Compared to deductive or inductive reasoning, abductive reasoning includes the use of perception of what may appear random

information or observations from a "leap of inference" that creates a pattern. This pattern becomes a "rule" which can be tested. (5) Through the newspaper and police accounts of the crime scene as well as his own visit to the murder victims' apartment, Dupin makes an abductive conclusion. The strength and agility of the perpetrator, as well as an unusual tuft of hair, leads him to announce an orangutan killed the two women. An advertisement in a newspaper leads to the animal's owner.

This use of reasoning reflects an increased interest in the application of the scientific method against superstitions and customs ordering life prior to the 1800s. Fueled by social fears and anxieties, the public had a fascination with the macabre. Scientific



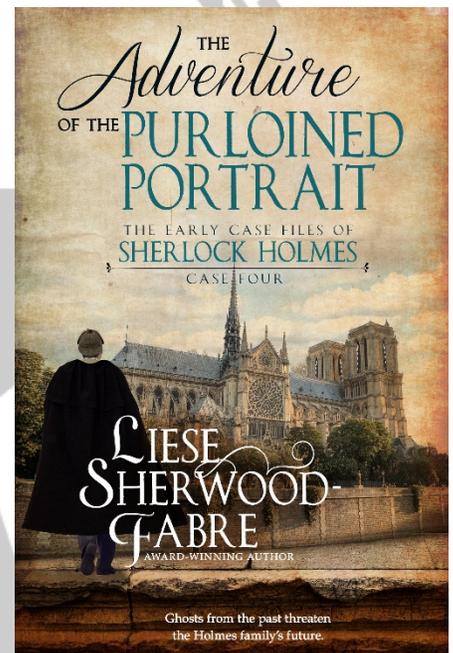
advancements and reasoning could be applied to such concerns and provide a more rational explanation of events without relying on superstitions. When Poe wove the macabre and "ratiocination" into a mystery story, he created a new genre—Gothic detective fiction. (6)

Poe, however, abandoned his detective and the genre after the three stories. J.G. Kennedy argues that he recognized such tales as artificial because the writer had developed the mystery and the solution. He went so far as to mock the process in the next story he published, "The Oblong Box." (7)

While Holmes followed much of the same techniques as Dupin, application of abductive reasoning to solve the cases presented to him—some with Gothic characteristics such as vampires—he saw through the pretense just as Poe did. When the author is in control of the mystery, it will follow the author's logic in the end.

- 1) Rosenheim, Shawn. "'The King of ` Secret Readers': Edgar Poe, Cryptography, and the Origins of the Detective Story." *ELH* 56, no. 2 (1989): 375-400. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2873064>.
- 2) <https://www.britannica.com/topic/C-Auguste-Dupin>
- 3) <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ratiocination>
- 4) <https://litchatte.com/2019/06/27/poe-responds-to-concerns-about-rising-crime-in-the-19th-century-and-creates-the-genre-of-detective-fiction/>
- 5) Grimstad, Paul. "C. Auguste Dupin and Charles S. Peirce: An Abductive Affinity." *The Edgar Allan Poe Review* 6, no. 2 (2005): 22-30.
- 6) Michelle Miranda "Reasoning through madness: the detective in Gothic crime fiction" *Palgrave Communications* 3, 17045 (2017).
- 7) J. Gerald Kennedy, "The Limits of Reason: Poe's Deluded Detective" in *American Literature*, 47, No. 2 (May 1975): 184-96.

Liese Sherwood-Fabre is proud to share the cover of case four in "The Early Case Files of Sherlock Holmes." "The Adventure of the Purloined Portrait" will be available shortly for pre-order and will be released in 2022. You can learn more about this series and other books at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. Signing up for her newsletter will ensure you keep up with all the latest news about her books and appearances.



HOW'S YOUR HAPAX LEGOMENON ?

Karen Murdock, ASH – Fall, 2012

Published in abridged form in *The Serpentine Muse* -- Volume 24, number 3 (Spring 2008)

One of the things I admire most about Sherlockians is their scholarly thoroughness—bordering on ruthlessness—in endeavors that can bring them absolutely no monetary reward. It puts me in mind of the Olympic ideal of pure amateur sport (back before the Olympics went pro). As Holmes himself said in BRUC, “I play the game for the game's own sake.”

One such mighty (if unremunerative) effort was put out by Les Moskowitz, an actuary from Baltimore (now retired and living on the Gold Coast of Florida). In 1980, Les decided that he needed a Sherlockian concordance. (Bill Goodrich had not yet compiled his *Good Old Index*, which is an excellent resource but does not include every word in the Canon.)(1) Les wanted a concordance for every word. The year 1980 was a human generation ago, and several generations ago in computer technology—the long-ago days before the Internet, before email, even before Word for Windows. In 1980, Les recalls, “affordable scanners were hand-held, and extremely inaccurate. A flatbed scanner which, today, might cost \$100, just didn't exist.”

So he put together his concordance by typing every word of the Canon into his computer, in DOS format. The mind boggles at the effort involved, but Les now cheerfully asserts that typing in the entire Canon “was a tremendous learning project.” It was, he recalls

comparable to walking through a neighborhood, versus passing the neighborhood by automobile. You notice a lot of things on foot, traveling at three miles an hour, which you never see from a car traveling at 30 miles an hour.(2)

The end result of this Herculean task was a searchable database which can yield some interesting results. For instance, entering a single word or group of similar words (i.e. *murd** for all words beginning with the four letters m,

u, r, and d) gives a screen showing the number of such words in each story (murder, murdered, murdering, murderous). The database can then generate a list showing the sentence in which the word appears in any of the stories of the Canon.

Another result that can be generated from Les's concordance is a list of all the words that are used once and only once in the Writings. There are approximately 7700 such words. An exact count is somewhat subjective, due to factors such as textual variants, mis-spellings, and compound adjectives (e.g. *telltale* or *tell-tale*, *lunchtime* or *lunch-time*). Doyle himself spelled words differently in different adventures and sometimes the same noun can have two or even three different specific spellings (*post-office*, *post office*, *Post Office*).

Les's list also distinguishes between the same word if it is capitalized or not. For example, the word “prosper” occurs twice in the Canon, once as a verb and once as a person's last name. In Les's list these are two different entries:

“Oh, yes! he is the green-grocer who brings our vegetables round. His name is Francis Prosper.” (BERY)

*“Yes. I read the stock-exchange list every morning.”
“Now that shows real application!” he cried. “That is the way to prosper!” (STOC)*

The technical term for a word used only once in a given work is “hapax legomenon” (plural “-na”). Some surprisingly common words, according to Les's list, are hapax legomena in the Sherlockian Saga: *acre*, *brook*, *carve*, *creek*, *decreased*, *drum*, *feeds*, *fork*, *hoop*, *horn*, *log*, *mail*, *pegs*, *pins*, *reads*, *saves*, *soap*, *soup*, *storms*, *teaches*.

In spite of the fact that they only appear once in the Writings, some words are instantly recognizable to Sherlockians. Virtually all Sherlockians, I venture to guess, would quickly identify the source of such hapax legomena as “adder,” “aeroplanes,” “baritsu,” “contralto,” and “dumb-bells.”

However, some one-use words are misleading. The word “Afghans,” for example, is a hapax legomenon in the Sherlockian writings. Most Sherlockians would guess that the word applies to one of Dr. Watson’s experiences in the Afghan War. However, the word actually appears in “The Crooked Man,” and the speaker is Henry Wood:

I was tortured and tried to get away, and was captured and tortured again. You can see for yourselves the state in which I was left. Some of them that fled into Nepal took me with them, and then afterwards I was up past Darjeeling. The hill-folk up there murdered the rebels who had me, and I became their slave for a time until I escaped; but instead of going south I had to go north, until I found myself among the Afghans.

The word “race-horse” occurs not in SILV or SHOS but in MISS:

“Amateur sport is free from betting, but a good deal of outside betting goes on among the public, and it is possible that it might be worth someone’s while to get at a player as the ruffians of the turf get at a race-horse.”

The word “dockyard” appears not in SIGN or FIVE or GLOR or BLAC or other stories in which sailing ships play a prominent part, but in the land-locked “Boscombe Valley Mystery”:

“for the barmaid, finding from the papers that he is in serious trouble and likely to be hanged, has thrown him over utterly and has written to him to say that she has a husband already in the Bermuda Dockyard”

“Flamingo” is a hapax legomenon and most Sherlockians would guess that it occurs in some story with a semi-tropical setting. In fact, it occurs in Chapter 7 of SIGN, in

which Dr. Watson, Sherlock Holmes and Toby are walking along following the creosote trail. As the sun comes up Holmes waxes poetic and uses “flamingo” in a simile:

“How sweet the morning air is! See how that one little cloud floats like a pink feather from some gigantic flamingo. Now the red rim of the sun pushes itself over the London cloud-bank. It shines on a good many folk, but on none, I dare bet, who are on a stranger errand than you and I.”

Did you realize that the words “impregnated,” “obscene,” “orgies,” “slut,” and “voluptuous” all occur once in the Canon? Are you thinking that you might have missed a very interesting scene in some story?? Actually, these words occur in BLAN, HOUN, TWIS, BOSCO, and VEIL

I noticed that Ralph, who carries out the meals, had gloves which are impregnated with disinfectants

Its tenacious grip plucked at our heels as we walked, and when we sank into it it was as if some malignant hand was tugging us down into those obscene depths, so grim and purposeful was the clutch in which it held us.

he had, when the fit was on him, made use of an opium den in the farthest east of the City. Hitherto his orgies had always been confined to one day

He was urging his son to marry my daughter with as little regard for what she might think as if she were a slut from off the streets.

Long years of inaction had coarsened the lines of her figure, but at some period it must have been beautiful, and was still full and voluptuous.

“Craniology” is a hapax legomenon and it does apply—as most Sherlockians would no doubt guess—to the hobby of Dr. Mortimer in HOUN:

when Mortimer pressed his questions to an inconvenient extent I asked him casually to what type Frankland’s skull belonged, and so heard nothing but craniology for the rest of our drive.

However, “cranium” is also a hapax legomenon and appears not in HOUN but in VALL:

[Alec MacDonald’s] tall, bony figure gave promise of exceptional physical strength, while his great cranium and deep-set, lustrous eyes spoke no less clearly of the keen intelligence which twinkled out from behind his bushy eyebrows.

Some hapax legomena have almost nothing to do with the story in which they appear. Given the word “cormorant” (a hapax legomenon) to place, most Sherlockians would quickly reply that the word applies to the untold tale of “the politician, the lighthouse, and the trained cormorant”—but how many know that this intriguing reference comes in “The Veiled Lodger”? The word “canary-trainer” comes in BLAC, “ostrich” in ENGR, “peacock” in SIGN; none of these birds has anything to do with the action of the narratives.

- (1) William D. Goodrich, Good Old Index, Dubuque, Iowa, Gasogene Press, 1987. Updated and published as The New Good Old Index, 1994
 (2) personal communication from Les Moskowitz, July 25, 2007

So, how’s your hapax legomenon? How good are you at identifying the context of words that appear only one time in the Canon? I have put together a quiz of 20 hapax legomena in the Sherlockian Saga. You are asked to name the stories in which these words appear. It is a difficult quiz, but, in order to make it slightly easier for you, I have

- used only one hapax legomenon per story
- given you the list of the 20 stories in which these hapax legomena appear
- tried to choose words that have something to do with important events or persons or situations or settings in the story.

HAPAX LEGOMENA QUIZ:

NAME THE STORIES IN WHICH THESE HAPAX LEGOMENA APPEAR. NO STORY IS THE ANSWER TO MORE THAN ONE QUESTION.

1	Cro-Magnon	11	rebus
2	danseuse	12	roysterers
3	elixir	13	sarcophagus
4	girlie	14	scrum
5	hand-mirror	15	Shakespeare
6	headlights	16	tantalus
7	hell-cat	17	tea-tray
8	ichneumon	18	unfrocked
9	peached	19	valves
10	pig’s-bristles	20	window-sash

CHOOSE YOUR ANSWERS FROM THESE 20 TALES:

BLAC	CREE	HOUN	MAZA	SHOS	3GAB	VALL
BRUC	CROO	ILLU	MISS	SOLI	3GAR	YELL
COPP	DANC	LAST	NOBL	SUSS	3STU	

ANSWERS TO HAPAX LEGOMENA QUIZ:

• 1. **Cro-Magnon** 3GAR

Above was a line of plaster skulls with such names as "Neanderthal," "Heidelberg," "Cro-Magnon" printed beneath them. It was clear that he was a student of many subjects.

• 2. **danseuse** NOBL

"Miss Flora Millar, the lady who had caused the disturbance, has actually been arrested. It appears that she was formerly a danseuse at the Allegro, and that she has known the bridegroom for some years."

• 3. **elixir** CREE

Lowenstein! The name brought back to me the memory of some snippet from a newspaper which spoke of an obscure scientist who was striving in some unknown way for the secret of rejuvenescence and the elixir of life.

• 4. **girlie** YELL

"and little Lucy is darker far than ever her father was. But dark or fair, she is my own dear little girlie, and her mother's pet."

• 5. **hand-mirror** COPP

My hand-mirror had been broken, so a happy thought seized me, and I concealed a piece of the glass in my handkerchief. On the next occasion, in the midst of my laughter, I put my handkerchief up to my eyes, and was able with a little management to see all that there was behind me.

• 6. **headlights** LAST

"Well, au revoir, Von Bork!" With a final wave of his hand he sprang into the car, and a moment later the two golden cones from the headlights shot forward through the darkness.

• 7. **hell-cat** ILLU

Between his screams the victim raged and raved against the avenger. "It was that hell-cat, Kitty Winter!" he cried. "Oh, the she-devil! She shall pay for it! She shall pay!"

• 8. **ichneumon** CROO

"It's a mongoose," I cried.

"Well, some call them that, and some call them ichneumon," said the man. "Snake-catcher is what I call them, and Teddy is amazing quick on cobras."

• 9. **peached** MAZA

"I have the cabman who took you to Whitehall and the cabman who brought you away. I have the commissionaire who saw you near the case. I have Ikey Sanders, who refused to cut it up for you. Ikey has peached, and the game is up."

• 10. **pig's-bristles** VALL

"Jot down the words, Watson! Number thirteen is 'Mahratta.' Not, I fear, a very auspicious beginning. Number one hundred and twenty-seven is 'Government,' which at least makes sense, though somewhat irrelevant to ourselves

and Professor Moriarty. Now let us try again. What does the Mahratta government do? Alas! the next word is 'pig's-bristles.' We are undone, my good Watson! It is finished!"

• 11. **rebus** SUSS

It was a large, straggling building, very old in the centre, very new at the wings with towering Tudor chimneys and a lichen-spotted, high-pitched roof of Horsham slabs. The doorsteps were worn into curves, and the ancient tiles which lined the porch were marked with the rebus of a cheese and a man after the original builder.

• 12. **roysterers** HOUN

But it was not the sight of her body, nor yet was it that of the body of Hugo Baskerville lying near her, which raised the hair upon the heads of these three dare-devil roysterers, but it was that, standing over Hugo, and plucking at his throat, there stood a foul thing, a great, black beast, shaped like a hound, yet larger than any hound that ever mortal eye has rested upon.

• 13. **sarcophagus** SHOS

He [Holmes] turned and tore open the coffin-lid behind him. In the glare of the lantern I saw a body swathed in a sheet from head to foot with dreadful, witch-like features, all nose and chin, projecting at one end, the dim, glazed eyes staring from a discoloured and crumbling face. The baronet had staggered back with a cry and supported himself against a stone sarcophagus.

• 14. **scrum** MISS

"What am I to do? That's what I ask you, Mr. Holmes. There's Moorhouse, first reserve, but he is trained as a half, and he always edges right in on to the scrum instead of keeping out on the touch-line."

• 15. **Shakespeare** 3 GAB

"At first I thought of some buried valuable. But why, in that case, should they want your furniture? You don't happen to have a Raphael or a first folio Shakespeare without knowing it?"

"No, I don't think I have anything rarer than a Crown Derby tea-set."

• 16. **tantalus** BLAC

"Was there any other spirit but rum in the room?"

"Yes, there was a tantalus containing brandy and whisky on the sea-chest."

• 17. **tea-tray** 3STU

"How came you to leave the key in the door?"

"I had the tea-tray in my hand. I thought I would come back for the key. Then I forgot."

• 18. **unfrocked SOLI**

"I have been ordained," cried the old rascal.

"And also unfrocked."

"Once a clergyman, always a clergyman."

• 19. **valves BRUC**

"Do you mean to say that anyone holding these three papers and without the seven others, could construct a Bruce-Partington submarine?"

"I reported to that effect to the Admiralty. But today I have been over the drawings again, and I am not so sure of it.

The double valves with the automatic self-adjusting slots are drawn in one of the papers which have been returned."

• 20. **window-sash DANC**

"So it would seem," said Holmes. "Perhaps you can account also for the bullet which has so obviously struck the edge of the window?"

He had turned suddenly, and his long, thin finger was pointing to a hole which had been drilled right through the lower window-sash, about an inch above the bottom. them.

***Karen Murdock, ASH** (who, you might remember, gave a Zoom talk to the Crew in December 2020) is finishing up her book on figures of speech in the Sherlockian Canon. She has identified 46 classical figures of speech, from alliteration to zeugma, in the Holmes stories. Her book will identify, list, and discuss each of these figures. She hopes it will be in print in the new year.*



THE COLOSSAL SCHEMES OF BARON MAUPERTUIS

Stu Shiffman, Holmes-Watson Report, July, 2003

The whole question of the Netherland-Sumatra Company and of the colossal schemes of Baron Maupertuis are too recent in the minds of the public, and are too intimately concerned with politics and finance to be fitting subjects for this series of sketches. They led, however, in an indirect fashion to a singular and complex problem which gave my friend an opportunity of demonstrating the value of a fresh weapon among the many with which he waged his lifelong battle against crime.

- REIG



It surprised me in the course of my research to discover Baron Maupertuis and H.G. Wells' Doctor Moreau(1) may have been derived from one and the same individual. This original was an 18th century natural philosopher so controversial that he was assailed by Church and Voltaire alike. His work may have provided the underpinnings of Moriarty's own renowned monograph "On the Dynamics of an Asteroid," as well as inspiring a sinister descendent known to fantastic literature under these various identities of Baron Maupertuis and Moreau.

"It has been maintained by several authors that it is as easy to believe in the creation of a million beings as of one; but Maupertuis's philosophical axiom 'of least action' leads the mind more willingly to admit the smaller number ... " (Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species*, [1872], 6th edition, Everyman's Library, p. 457)

Pierre Louis Moreau de Maupertuis (1698-1759) was a French philosopher, mathematician, and geodesist.(2) Maupertuis is most famous for formulating the principle of least action, as well as contributing to the early general theories of evolution.(3) Like so many of the period's *philosophes*, he did not limit himself to one specific area of science, but embraced them all. About his theories, one savant wrote:

"Maupertuis gave the name of action to the product of space and velocity, or rather to the sum of all such products for the various elements of any motion; conceiving that the more space has been traversed and the less time it has been traversed in, the more action may be considered to have been expended: and by combining this idea of action with Newton's estimate of the velocity of light, as increased by a denser medium, and as proportional to the refracting index, and with Fermat's mathematical theorem of the minimum sum of the products of paths and indices in ordinary refraction at a plane, he concluded the course chosen by light corresponded always to the least possible action, though not always to the least possible time. He proposed this view as reconciling physical and metaphysical principles, which the results of Newton had seemed to put in opposition to each other; and he soon proceeded to extend his law of least action to the phenomena of the shock of bodies. Euler, attached to

Maupertuis, and pleased with these novel results, employed his own great mathematical powers to prove that the law of least action extends to all the curves described by points under the influence of central forces; or, to speak more precisely, that if any such curve be compared with any other curve between the same extremities, which differs from it indefinitely little in shape and in position, and may be imagined to be described by a neighbouring point with the same law of velocity, and if we give the name of action to the integral of the product of the velocity and an element of a curve, the difference of the two neighbouring values of this action will be less than the greatest linear distance (itself indefinitely small) between the two near curves; a theorem which I think may be expressed by saying that the action is stationary. Lagrange extended this theorem of Euler to the motion of a system of points or bodies which act in any manner on each other; the action being in this case the sum of the masses by the foregoing integrals. Laplace has also extended the use of the principle in optics, by applying it to the refraction of crystals; and has pointed out a principle in mechanics, for all imaginable connexions between force and velocity."

-- from "On a general Method of expressing the Paths of Light, and of the Planets, by the Coefficients of a Characteristic Function" by William R. Hamilton, Royal Astronomer of Ireland, in *Dublin University Review and Quarterly Magazine*, Vol. I, 1833, pp. 795-826.

Perhaps we will leave this to the students of Simon Newcomb and James Moriarty for further clarification. My head, as well as the Earth, is spinning. Maupertuis was a translator and

popularizer of the theories of Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1724), particularly those about the shape of the Earth: A philosophical contretemps had arisen between the followers of Rene Descartes (1596-1650) and those of Newton. The Cartesians' vortex theory proposed the Earth, by spinning on its own axis, takes on the shape of a lemon (i.e. pointed toward the poles). The Newtonians embraced the "Orange Theory", centrifugal forces lead to the enormous mass of the Earth swelling out at the equator, flattening the poles, and giving the Earth a similar shape to that of an orange. To settle the argument, meticulous measures would have to be set up.

The French Academy of Sciences sent Moreau de Maupertuis and his accompanying experts on a mission in 1736 to determine whose theories were correct, through detailed measurements and comparison of meridians.(4) If the length of a meridian in the vicinity of the Arctic Circle was longer than a degree along the same meridian in France (or close to the equator), this would confirm the "orange theory while if the opposite were true, it would confirm the Cartesians' "lemon theory."

This took place between 1736 and 1737, when his expedition spent almost exactly one year in the area of the Gulf of Bothnia. The measurements were performed in the northernmost regions of Europe, in areas that people in the cultural centers of Europe considered more or less uninhabitable - immediately north and south of the Arctic Circle in Sweden. Accounts were subsequently written by the leader of the expedition himself, and by the accompanying clergyman and chronicler, the abbot Reignard Outhier (1694-1774).

The Frenchmen spent the winter of 1737 in Tornio, where they led a lively social life, and two daughters of a local merchant are said to have fallen in love with Moreau de Maupertuis. They followed him back to Paris, where they occasioned as much comment (if not more) than his findings published in the book *La figure de la Terre* in 1738.(5)

His enemies in the scientific establishment seized the opportunity to make a scandal of the whole expedition. Irrespective of that nonsense, Maupertuis was proven right; or as Voltaire expressed it, "he flattened the Cassinis as well as the Earth." The Cassinis (father and son) were respectively head of the Paris Observatory and a supporter of the Lemon Theory.(6)

Maupertuis's fame caused Frederick the Great of Prussia to court him. Thomas Carlyle, in his *History of Friedrich II of Prussia*, includes this letter:

TO MONSIEUR DE MAUPERTUIS, at Paris. [No date, perhaps June, 1740.] "My heart and my inclination excited in me, from the moment I mounted the throne, the desire of having you here, that you might put our Berlin Academy into the shape you alone are capable of giving it. Come, then, come and insert into this wild crab-tree the graft of the Sciences, that it may bear fruit. You have shown the Figure of the Earth to mankind; show also to a King how sweet it is to possess such a man as you." Monsieur de Maupertuis, -
votre tres-aff ectionne

"FEDERIC" [sic] (*Euvres*, xvii. i. 334. ("Federic," instead of "Frederic," is, by this time, the king's common signature to French letters.)

This letter was leaked to the newspapers, leading to greater notoriety for Maupertuis and greater jealousy on the part of his rivals (including Voltaire). Truly, Maupertuis had become a great shining celestial body in the philosophical firmament. After going to Berlin, he accompanied the Prussian army in the field and was taken prisoner in 1741. He became a member of the Berlin Academy of Sciences in 1741 and became its president from 1745 to 1753.

Maupertuis published on many topics, including mathematics, geography, astronomy, and cosmology. In 1744, he first enunciated the Principle of Least Action, and he published it in *Essai de cosmologie* (1750). Maupertuis hoped that the principle might unify the laws of the universe and combined it with an attempted proof of the existence of God. An essay entitled *Venus Physique* was published anonymously by him in 1745 (stating a particle theory of inheritance) along with the fundamental ideas both parents must contribute equally to the characters of the offspring, they reappear in several generations, and because these characteristics show up so frequently, this can't be due to chance. He found the inheriting of traits, especially polydactyly (the possession of extra digits), to be especially telling. This anticipates much of the Mendelian theory as well as that of Dr. Erasmus Darwin in the same period.

The influence of the noted Comte Georges-Louis Leclerc de Buffon (1707-1788) was one reason that these ideas did not have greater currency. Buffon still clung to the "chain of being" ideas sanctioned by the Church, although by 1766 he had become convinced that related species could

arise from common ancestors, further anticipating Charles Darwin. Buffon, among other achievements, was head of the French king's botanical gardens (*Jardin du Roi*, later the *Jardin des Plantes*), also the site of the royal menagerie. Maupertuis has suggested the caging of dissimilar species as an experiment to produce radical cross-breedings.

Maupertuis was accused by Samuel Konig of plagiarizing Leibniz's work (while he had accused Leibniz of plagiarizing Newton), but he was defended by Euler. Voltaire was so critical of Maupertuis's work (he accused Maupertuis of plagiarism, blunder, and misuse of office to suppress free discussion) that the latter eventually left Berlin in 1753. The whole affair was further compounded when it was found that Maupertuis had published letters in which he proposed certain dubious scientific projects, such as that "enough opium enables man to see the future" and that "in order to avoid sicknesses, you should just cover the body with an unpenetrable paste, to prevent sicknesses from coming in." He also advocated "the vivisection of the brain of living criminals, to find out how the mind works," because the individual means nothing, like a Dr. Mengele of the *ancien regime*. In response, Voltaire wrote his famous diatribe, "Dr. Akakia," which was published in the Hague. Now Frederick the Great was angry, and Voltaire was compelled to flee Berlin.

Maupertuis also produced a work on the movement of comets that may have influenced the later work of Moriarty. It was later published in English as *An essay towards a history of the principal comets that have appeared since the year 1742: including a particular detail of the return of the famous*

comet of 1682 in 1759, according to the calculation and prediction of Dr. Halley: compiled from the observations of the most eminent astronomers of this century: with remarks and reflections upon the present comet to which is prefixed, by way of introduction, a letter upon comets, addressed to a lady by the late M. de Maupertuis (Published in London : Printed for T. Becket and P.A. de Hondt, 1769).

"The Moreau Horrors!" The phrase drifted loose in my mind for a moment, and then I saw it in red lettering on a little buff-coloured pamphlet, to read which made one shiver and creep. Then I remembered distinctly all about it. That long-forgotten pamphlet came back with startling vividness to my mind. I had been a mere lad then, and Moreau was, I suppose, about fifty - a prominent and masterful physiologist, well-known in scientific circles for his extraordinary imagination and his brutal directness in discussion.

- *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896)

Maupertuis's descendant, recorded in the fictionalized work alluded to at the beginning, was the real radical vivisectionist,(7) who probably had the full name of Dr. Piers Lewis Moreau de Maupertuis. The family is likely to have relocated to England at the time of the French Revolution, perhaps aided by the League of the Scarlet Pimpernel under the direction of Sir Percy Blakeney,(8) or at the time of the overthrow of Louis Phillippe.

In *SUSS*, Holmes refers to the case of the Giant Rat. "Matilda Briggs was not the name of a young woman, Watson," says Holmes. "It was a ship which is associated with the giant rat of Sumatra, a story for which the world is not yet

prepared." This is probably another example of Watson's fictionalizing the identity of a sensitive subject that might bring scandal upon another ancient family. "Baron Maupertuis" referred to in REIG is surely the one responsible for the creation of the horrific giant rat of Sumatra, *Rattus sapiens*.⁽⁹⁾ Perhaps the "Matilda Briggs" was a Dutch company vessel named something like "Matilde Briggen." Could the ships of the Netherland-Sumatra Company⁽¹⁰⁾ have reached Moreau's island? It is clear that Baron Maupertuis and Dr. Moreau are one and the same person.

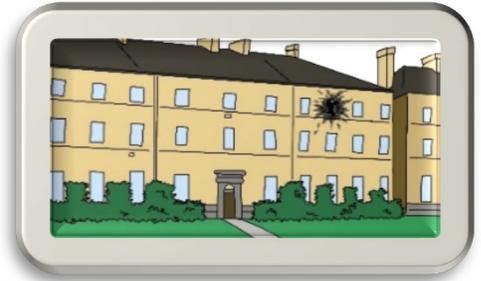
The only island known to exist in the region in which my uncle was picked up is Noble's Isle, a small volcanic islet and uninhabited. It was visited in 1891 by H.M.S. *Scorpion*. A party of sailors then landed, but found nothing living thereon except certain curious white moths, some hogs and rabbits, and some rather peculiar rats.

- *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896)

- (1) *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896) details the sinister experiments of outre vivisection and mutation in which Dr. Moreau produced his "Animal-Men" on the isolated Noble's Isle at Latitude 5°3' South and longitude 101° West.
- (2) A geodesist is one versed in geodesy, the geologic science of the size and shape of the earth.
- (3) From *The Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication*, Volume 1, by Charles Darwin:
"As the first origin of life on this earth, as well as the continued life of each individual, is at present quite beyond the scope of science, I do not wish to lay much stress on the greater simplicity of the view of a few forms or of only one form having been originally created, instead of innumerable miraculous creations having been necessary at innumerable periods; though this more simple view accords well with Maupertuis's philosophical axiom of 'least action.'"
- (4) The French Royal Academy of Sciences (Academie Royale de Sciences) sent two expeditions to measure the meridian at the equator and near the poles and prove the oblate form of the globe. One led by La Condamine was sent to Mitad del Mundo, at that time in Peru, now in Ecuador.
- (5) "Salon, Academy, and Boudoir: Generation and Desire in Maupertuis's Science of Life," *Isis* 1996, 87: 217-229.
- (6) Jean-Dominique Cassini (a.k.a. Gian Domenico Cassini), 1625-1712, founded a dynasty of prominent French astronomers working out of the Paris Observatory. In his early forties, Cassini had accepted a position to help set up the Paris Observatory and remained for the rest of his career. He was an advocate for the observatory to acquire the latest technology and to make use of the most recent inventions and improvements. His own studies focused on the Moon, Mars, Jupiter, comets and planetary and satellite orbits. Cassini discovered Iapetus, Rhea, Tethys, and Dione and, in 1775, discovered that Saturn's rings are split largely into two parts by a narrow gap that has been identified ever since as the "Cassini Division." He opposed the theory of universal gravitation, Tycho Brahe's planetary system and Newtonianism. He at first believed in the sphericity of the Earth ("orange"), but near the end of his career he adopted the hypothesis of the lengthening of the terrestrial spheroid ("lemon"), an idea supported by the Cartesians. An impressive dynasty!
- (7) "Each preserved the quality of its particular species: the human mark distorted but did not hide the leopard, the ox, or the sow, or other animal or animals, from which the creature had been moulded." - *Island of Doctor Moreau*, (1896), Chapter 15.
- (8) Perhaps that of the Andre-Louis Moreau recorded in *Scaramouche* (1921) by Rafael Sabatini. Moreau, fugitive, strolling player, master of the sword, who gained fame and happiness because he fought equally well with tongue and rapier, was known as the sardonic Scaramouche who was "born with the gift of laughter and a sense that the world was mad."
- (9) "Rodents of unusual size" - *The Princess Bride* (William Goldman).
- (10) Perhaps related to the very same "Anglo-Dutch Sumatra Rubber Company" in which Bertie Wooster's uncle had invested.

Baker Street Elementary

Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason



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Fay, Mason & Mason

WELL, I THINK I FAILED QUESTIONS FROM MY SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER AGAIN...

THERE'S A PATTERN FORMING...

THE FIRST ADVENTURES OF HOLMES AND WATSON

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HE ASKED, "IF I FOUND MONEY OUT ON THE STREET, WOULD I KEEP IT?"

I REPLIED, "OF COURSE NOT... I WOULD SPEND IT..."

HE THEN ASKED IF I KNEW THE MORAL OF 'GENESIS' ?

I STATED, "DON'T WALK WITH A CAIN IF YOU'RE ABEL..."

DID YOU KNOW THEY HAVE DETENTION IN SUNDAY SCHOOL ?

WHEN DO YOU GET YOUR MORALS - IN OTHER WORDS, HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG ?

ACCORDING TO MY DAD, THAT'S EASY...
WHATEVER MOM SAYS IS RIGHT...



IT DOES SEEM THAT FOR MOST
PEOPLE, THEY ARE CONSTANTLY
LOOKING FOR THE GOOD IN
OTHERS, BUT ONLY THINKING
THEY FIND IT IN THEMSELVES...



I HOPE I AM CONFUSED, BUT
IT APPEARS TO ME IN LIFE,
RIGHT IS RIGHT, BUT WRONG
USUALLY PAYS BETTER...



I THINK I MAY STICK WITH MY DAD'S
ADVICE... NEVER DO ANYTHING YOU WOULD BE
EMBARASSED FOR YOUR WIFE, SISTER, AND
GRANDMOTHER TO KNOW ABOUT...



STAMFORD, YOU ARE
GOING TO HAVE ONE
BORING LIFE...

BUT YOUR
RELATIVES WILL BE
ABLE TO SLEEP AT
NIGHT, UNLIKE US...

