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Cover: Oscar Wigglesworth, grandson of Bootmaker extraordinaire, Doug Wigglesworth, enjoys a late night read of "The Adventure of the Speckled Band." Photo taken in Calgary by Doug's son Mike.

Canadian Holmes

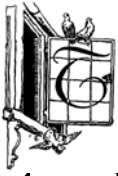
Volume 41 Number 1

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One-hundred fifty-third issue

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# Graces of bootprints

## *Another year begins*

As 2018 gets underway and we put the finishing touches on this edition of *Canadian Holmes* I think about the people who have helped get this issue and the journal in general to the point it is today. Past editors, of course, are top of mind, but also the hundreds of contributors who have written millions of words. Without the writers, columnists, poets and illustrators *Canadian Holmes* would not continue to be among the world's premier Sherlockian journals. There are also dedicated Sherlockians behind the scenes who make sure you can hold each issue by arranging the printing, packaging and mailing, and others who put this and previous issues online so subscribers can read these words in our new digital age.

The journal, of course, has changed over the years and it continues to grow, adapt and morph, just as the wider Sherlockian world does.

One change readers will see in future editions is that this is the final column for Wendy Heyman-Marsaw's "Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen" and Peggy Perdue's "Letters from Lomax." Although not going over the Reichenbach, Mrs. Hudson is taking a hiatus. If you feel the need for more of her, look no further than Amazon.ca, as her columns have been collected into a book by MX Publishing. Peggy has become the Department Head for Special Collections and is no longer the curator of the ACD Collection. The new curator, Jessie Amaolo, took on the role for six months in 2015, when Peggy was on leave, and already knows her way around the Canon. Readers and Sherlockians will miss Peggy in her well-known role but also welcome Jessie into the fold. Peggy hopes to continue contributing to *Canadian Holmes*, just not with the Lomax column.

Robert Moss has been an occasional contributor to *Canadian Holmes*. His review of *Conan Doyle and the Crimes Club* is on page 26. Robert passed away on November 27. As editor, I knew Robert only through correspondence but he was always easy to work with and happy to contribute. He will be missed.

This issue also features Michael Duke's look at *The Strand Magazine* and ACD, the first half of a two-part article on love by Barbara Rusch with artwork by Laurie Fraser Manifold, and Don Roebuck takes a closer look at blue carbuncles. There is, of course, our usual round up of book reviews, Diary notes, news from across the country, and Peggy Perdue's final Letters From Lomax column.

# From Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen

*This column is by Mrs. Hudson herself and dictated to Wendy Heyman-Marsaw, a Sherlockian and Master Bootmaker living in Halifax. Mrs. Hudson provided this photograph of herself at age 24, taken on the occasion of her betrothal to Mr. Hudson.*



## Currying Flavour

The regiment was stationed in India at the time....

Dr. John H. Watson in *A Study in Scarlet*

As described in *A Study in Scarlet*, after training as a military surgeon at Netley Military Hospital, dear Dr. Watson was attached to the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers. The Fusiliers joined forces with the 66th (Berkshire) Regiment of Foot under the command of Brigadier General George Burrows. They engaged the forces of Afghan leader Ayub Khan at Maiwand on 27 July, 1880. The objective was part of a British campaign to stop Russian influence in Afghanistan, as this threatened British control in India. I read in newspapers of the time that the strength of the forces is generally held to be only 2,500 British and Indian troops facing 3,000 Afghan cavalry and 9,000 infantry. What ensued was deemed to be one of the bloodiest battles of the three Anglo-Afghan wars (1839-42, 1878-80, 1919). It was during this horrific campaign that Dr. Watson was wounded by a Jezail bullet. The Afghan snipers were notoriously accurate and the .50 – .70-calibre bullets were filled with everything from iron nails to pebbles and thus were particularly deadly. It was only through the efforts of his orderly, Murray, that Dr. Watson survived the main wound to his shoulder. The bullet from such a high-calibre rifle could have done more damage to his body, especially if he were bent over, as some have postulated, which may explain his troublesome leg. He was sent to Peshawar in India (now part of Pakistan) to recover. It was during his time in India that Dr. Watson developed an affinity for curries and other Indian dishes. In fact, Queen Victoria, Empress of India, was noted to be so fond of curries that she had Indian staff prepare them every day.

The first Indian spices were present in English cookery since the time of the Crusades in the late-11th century. According to the Muslim Museum Initiative, “the first appearance of curry on a menu was at The Norris Street Coffee House in Haymarket, London in 1773. By 1784 curry and rice had become house specialties in some fashionable restaurants in London’s Piccadilly.” An ingenious Bengali immigrant, Sake Dean



Mahomed, a captain of the East India Company, a surgeon and the first Indian to publish books in English, is said to have founded London’s first Indian restaurant – The Hindoostane Coffee House – in 1810. It was located originally at 34 George Street – now renumbered to 102 between Gloucester Place and Baker Street. It was awarded a historical plaque by the City of Westminster in 2005.

Hannah Glasse’s *The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Simple*, published in 1747, is one of the first cookbooks to give recipes for curries and pulaos (rice dishes). However, it was not until the British Raj began in 1858 that returning Britons clamoured for the tastes of the cuisine that they enjoyed in India. Many dishes were adapted in Anglo-Indian recipes, such as kedgeree and mulligatawny soup. By the end of the 19th century there were approximately 70,000 South Asians living in Britain.

The late foreign secretary Robin Cook declared the derivative Anglo-Indian curry dish chicken tikka masala as Britain’s national dish in 2001. Today, there are over 10,000 curry houses in the U.K., employing over 80,000 staff and serving around 2.5 million customers every week.

Dr. Watson and Mr. Holmes shared a distinct penchant for new or exotic cuisines. Dr. Watson certainly relished the idea of introducing Mr. Holmes to his passion for Indian food whilst Mr. Holmes invited Dr. Watson to dine with him at Goldini’s Italian restaurant at the end of “The Bruce-Partington Plans.”

## Recipes

*Mango Chutney* – (An Anglo-Indian Dish) Makes 1 cup. May store in fridge up to 1 week.

Ingredients: ¼ cup brown sugar, 1/3 cup raisins, ¼ tsp. freshly ground nutmeg, pinch of salt, 2 cups mango coarsely chopped, 2 tbsp. lime juice, ¼ c white vinegar, 4 whole cloves, ½ tsp. cinnamon, 1 small onion finely chopped, 2 tbsp. water, ½ small chopped chili (optional).

Mode: In non-reactive pan, combine sugar, vinegar, raisins, cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, salt and onions. Bring mixture to a boil, then reduce to slow simmer and cook for 10 minutes. Add mango and water then simmer until thick, stirring often. Remove from heat and stir in lime juice. Serve at room temperature as a cooling agent for spicy dishes.

*Pork Vindaloo* – Serves 6-8. Adjust oven rack to lower 1/3 position and preheat oven to 300F.

Ingredients: 3 lbs. pork stew meat cut into 1 ¼ inch cubes, salt and pepper, 3 tbsp. oil or ghee (Indian clarified butter), 8 cloves of garlic minced, 3 medium onions coarsely chopped, 3 tbsp. flour, 1 tbsp. paprika, ¾ tsp. ground cumin, ½ tsp. ground cardamom, ¼ tsp. cayenne pepper, ¼ tsp. ground cloves, 1 tsp. sugar, 1 ½ cups chicken broth, 14.5 oz. can diced tomatoes, 2 bay leaves, 2 tbsp. red wine vinegar, 1 tbsp. mustard seeds, ½ cup minced parsley leaves.

Mode: Dry meat with paper towels and season generously with salt and pepper. Heat 1 tbsp. of oil or ghee in a Dutch oven over medium heat until it shimmers. Add ½ of the meat and cook not moving until well browned. Turn and brown all sides of meat until browned, about 5 minutes longer. Transfer pork and juices to medium bowl. Repeat with other ½ of the meat. Reduce heat to medium and add remaining 1 tbsp. of oil to pot and coat bottom. Add onions, ¼ tsp. salt and cook vigorously, scraping bottom and edges until onions have softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in garlic and cook 30 minutes. Add flour, paprika, cumin, cardamom, cayenne and cloves. Stir until onions are evenly coated and fragrant, about 2 minutes. Gradually add broth, tomatoes, bay leaves, sugar, vinegar, mustard seeds and bring to simmer. Add pork and juices. Return to simmer, cover and place in oven. Cook 2 hours. Remove from oven. Skim off any fat, remove bay leaves, stir in parsley and adjust seasonings. Serve immediately with basmati rice.

### *Quick Basmati Rice Variations Serves 2- 4*

Ingredients: 1 cup basmati rice, 1 ½ cups of water. Cook as directed.

Mode: Pulao – 2 tsp. ghee (Indian clarified butter) or peanut oil, 2 tsp. coconut ground to a powder, 2 tsp. ground almonds, 1 tsp. fennel seeds, 1 tsp. black cumin seeds. Heat ghee and stir fry spices for 30 seconds. Add other ingredients and stir into rice until hot. Lemon Rice – 2 tsp. ghee or peanut oil, 2 tbsp. toasted cashews, 1 tsp. coconut ground to a powder, juice of 2 lemons, 1 tsp. mustard seeds, 1 tsp. sesame seeds, 1 tsp turmeric, 6 fresh or dry curry leaves. Heat ghee or oil and stir fry spices for 30 seconds. Add other ingredients and stir well into rice until hot. Saffron Rice – Soak a few threads of saffron in 3 tbsp. water for 30 minutes. Pour over rice and return lid to pot for 5 minutes so aroma does not escape. Stir well before serving hot.

*Lamb Kabobs* – May be barbequed or broiled on skewers. Chopped meat can also be added to a salad. Accompany with naan. Serves 4.

Ingredients: 1 lb. ground lamb, 1 medium onion finely chopped, 2 tbsp. plain good quality Balkan or Greek style yoghurt, ½ tsp. crushed garlic, 1 tsp. ground coriander, 1 tsp. chili powder, 3 tbsp. garam masala, finely chopped fresh parsley, 2 green chilies finely chopped (optional), ½ tsp. finely grated ginger, 1 tsp. ground cumin, ½ tsp. salt, ½ tsp. ground allspice, ¼ tsp ground cardamom, small pinch ground cloves, ½ tsp. ground black pepper, 1 tsp. dried mint, 2 tbsp. melted ghee or oil, 1 tbsp. vinegar, 1 lime cut in wedges for garnish.

Mode: Mix onions, parsley, mint and chilies (if using) in a bowl. In separate bowl mix yoghurt with ginger, garlic, cumin, coriander, salt, black pepper, chili powder, allspice, garam masala, cardamom, cloves. Blend with onion mixture. Blend the combined mixture into ground lamb and mix well with hands. Divide into 8 equal portions. Using wet hands, shape the mixture into balls. Thread 3 onto each skewer. Brush kebabs with melted ghee or oil and broil or barbeque until cooked through and well browned on the surface. Serve immediately with lime wedges and raita (a dish of yoghurt and cucumber).

# *Arthur Conan Doyle and The Strand – the magazine and the Holmesian Canon*

By Michael Duke

*Michael Duke is a Sherlockian living in Melbourne, Australia and the author of Victorian Holmes, a book of commentary on the Canon.*



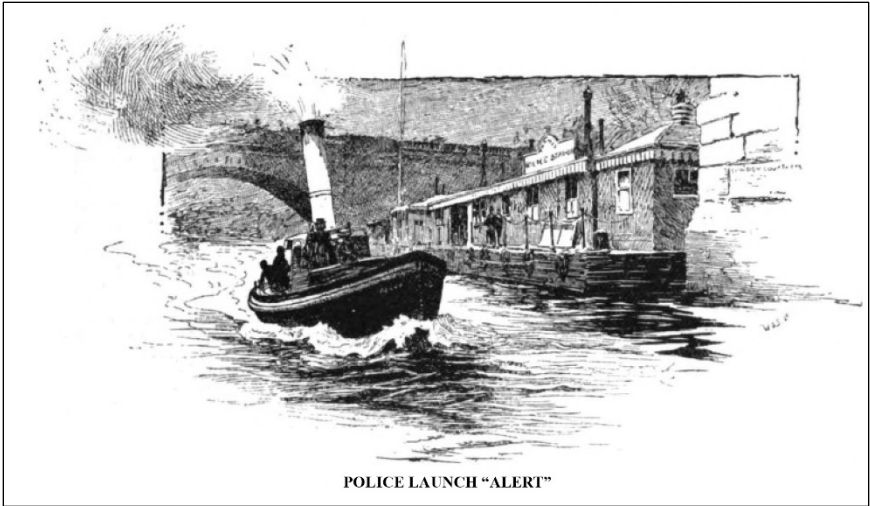
After *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Sign of Four* long stories, published by *Beeton's Christmas Annual* in November 1887 and *Lippincott's Monthly Magazine* from February 1890 respectively, Sherlock Holmes short stories started being published in *The Strand* magazine beginning in July 1891. This essay will review all articles from *The Strand* and compare them with topics and themes in all the Holmes stories until the supposed death of Holmes, in “The Final Problem,” published in December 1893.

Phil Bergem (1) published an article in *Canadian Holmes* in 2010 that covered the relationship in editorial terms between Doyle and the magazine. He goes through the magazine's history and the close involvement that Doyle had publishing all the Holmes stories. He does not consider the reverse influence of *The Strand* upon Doyle or the mutual interactions generated by the coupling.

Mike Ashley's book, *Adventures in The Strand*, (2) concerns itself with Doyle and his relationship with *The Strand Magazine*. This volume starts by looking at the early lives of Doyle; George Newnes, the publisher; and Herbert Greenhough Smith, the editor. It looks at all of Doyle's 300 or so publications within *The Strand*, which includes Holmes and many other subjects. Nonetheless, what may not have been observed as the canonical stories continued to flow until “The Final Problem,” then from 1903 onwards, is the influence of *The Strand* itself upon the Canon and vice versa. Despite being a monthly magazine, *The Strand* published bound volumes every six months. It is these volumes, 1 through 3, which are examined in this article.

*Volume 1: January to June 1891*

*The Strand* began publishing in January 1891. Just to show that the influence was not just one way, straight away, harking back to *The Sign of*



*Four*, there was published “A Night with the Thames Police,” in February 1891, pp124-132. This may well have been elicited by the editor because of the success of the Doyle novel. The Thames Police launch “Alert” illustrated on page 128 (see above) is surely the same as that in which Holmes and Watson pursued Jonathan Small and Tonga.

“Our Money Manufactory” about the Mint appears in the same February 1891 issue, at pages 143-149. The case Watson calls “The Engineer’s Thumb” is hereby evoked, in which coins are being forged. This canonical story was published in *The Strand* in March 1892. Money, as Thomas Carlyle is quoted in the article as having said, is “one certain nexus between man and man” (other sources give “sole universal nexus”). Holmes and Watson knew their Carlyle, despite Holmes’s kidding Watson shortly after they met that he had never heard of him. Then they chat about this very author in the next published story, *The Sign of Four*, while also discussing Jean Paul Richter.

In the same issue, at page 157, there is a feature about Mrs. Lillie Langtry as part of “Portraits of Celebrities at different times of Their Lives.” This lady is widely supposed to be a key original for Irene Adler, who appears in “A Scandal in Bohemia.” Langtry is called fulsomely “the Jersey Lily” and accurately noted as the former “Miss Le Breton.” She is “the belle of London drawing rooms” and “the charming actress who has won on both sides of the world.” Her beauty is described as “of that rare kind, statuesque yet blooming, which is adapted equally to represent the chiselled grace of Galatea, or the burning beauty of the Queen of Egypt.” “A Scandal in Bohemia” appeared in the July 1891 issue of *The Strand*. Galatea may be a reference to the female statue brought to life by the Goddess Venus because of the prayers of Pygmalion. There is an



From a Photo by]

AGE 23.

[Ouliss, Jersey.



From a Photo. by]

PRESENT DAY.

[Lafayette, Dublin.

Lillie Langtry from The Strand Magazine

opera, “Acis and Galatea” by Handel, originally composed in 1718 with libretto by John Gay. It was very popular and had a number of revivals through the 19th century; it may be this work that the writer of the piece in *The Strand* had in mind. It may be a veiled somewhat erotic reference, as Galatea is often painted as being naked (See Gerome 1890 and also Guillemot 1827).

Adeline Patti, another opera singer, also appears in the same issue, at page 161, and it has been proposed that her attributes added to the portrayal of Ms. Adler. A much fuller article on Ms. Patti appears in the May 1892 issue but this is well after the Sherlockian story. Does it hint that George Newnes, editor of *The Strand*, believed that Ms. Patti was part of the prototype for Ms. Irene Adler?

At page 284 in the March 1891 edition, the reader notes an entry under the heading “Portraits of Celebrities at Different Times of Their Lives”: a brief biography of Henry Morton Stanley, best known these days as the man who discovered the lost missionary Dr. Livingstone in “darkest Africa.” I have postulated that this man Stanley

is the model for Dr. Sterndale, the antihero of “The Devil’s Foot.” Whether or not this attribution is concurred with, the portrait is there, in *The Strand*, and the canonical tale was published many years later, in March and April 1911.

It is possible to discern another reflective influence in the same issue, in the “Stories of the Victoria Cross.” Gunner James Collis earned his VC at the Battle of Maiwand (pp292-294) and Private James Davis his because of his carrying out a wounded soldier colleague under very adverse circumstances (pp290-291). What do we think of reading these portraits?

It is Dr. Watson's participation in the Battle of Maiwand and his rescue by his orderly Murray, which form the opening of *A Study In Scarlet*.

In the April 1891 issue, a further story of a Victoria Cross winner appears. This is Deputy Inspector-General J. Jef, CB, VC. He is a military surgeon who saved many lives during the Indian Mutiny in 1857. Again, this may well have reminded readers of our own Dr. Watson and his perilous experiences in the same war.

The author Clark Russell, whose "fine sea stories" Dr Watson read in "The Five Orange Pips" for the first of many occasions, appears in May 1891 on pages 491-500 in a story called "Captain Jones of The 'Rose'." "The Five Orange Pips" appeared in the November 1891 issue of *The Strand*, just six months later. This is very canny of Conan Doyle, lending verisimilitude to his Holmes stories by appearing to have Dr. Watson read the very magazine that the readers of the Holmes's stories are just reading.

On pages 500-511 of the same May issue, there appears an article on "Child Workers in London." This covers such professions as domestic servant, child nurse, artist's model, acrobat and other theatre workers, factory worker (over the age of 13 in theory, doing such jobs as packing chocolates), flower seller and other street venders and crossing sweeper. For Sherlockians, the mention of child workers leads to thoughts of The Baker Street Irregulars, who appear in *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Sign of Four* – both appearing before the magazine started publication – and "The Crooked Man," published later in July 1893. The article also mentions the School Board that was established by the 1870 Education Act and is clearly the thought behind Holmes's optimistic talk about the Board Schools in "The Naval Treaty," published in October and November 1893.

The June issue brings us a portrait of Prince Albert Victor, the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, the younger son of Prince Edward, "Bertie," who himself became King Edward VII upon the death of his mother Queen Victoria. This grandson of the Queen was born in 1864 and died in 1894. He has been proposed as a candidate for the Ripper murders, although this is hotly contested, and of course never mentioned in *The Strand* encomium.

Also in Volume 1, June 1891, on pages 624-627, one reads "A Night in an Opium Den." This irresistibly reminds the Sherlockian reader of "The Man with the Twisted Lip," where Watson finds both Isa Whitney and Holmes in just such an opium den. It had been written by 10th August 1891, according to Brian Pugh's invaluable Chronology (3). The canonical tale was published in December 1891.

This brief survey of the first volume only gives a hint of how closely Arthur Conan Doyle and *The Strand* may have interwoven their connections.

*Volume 2: July to December 1891*

The first six Sherlock Holmes stories appear, one per month, and the craze begins!

In the August edition, pages 141-144, there appears a story by Albert Delpit, translated from the French, about a card game with cheating of one sort or another. The thief in the story died a hero. Conan Doyle may well have recalled this when he wrote “The Empty House,” published after the Great Hiatus, in October 1903 in *The Strand*, and the preceding month in *Lippincott's*, about the very reverse: a man who was a hero but became a villain, Colonel Sebastian Moran.

Later in the same issue, there is a long article, “In and About Newmarket,” pages 162-175, regarding the famous racing town and some of its stables. It is impossible to read this without being forcibly reminded of “Silver Blaze,” published in *The Strand* in December 1892. To be sure, this canonical story is set at the other end of the country, on Dartmoor, but as it is about murder and other turf malefactions, Newmarket is respectfully avoided.

An article about Michael Maybrick, also known as Stephen Adams, in the repeated section titled “Portraits of Celebrities at different times of Their Lives,” is on page 279 in the March issue. He is noted as having great musical ability both as singer and composer. He is not said here to be an intimate of the Royal Family, but he was and also came under scrutiny in some more recent books as being a candidate for either being Jack the Ripper or for covering up for the Ripper, who could be his brother James Maybrick (4).

On pages 291 to 301 of the September issue there is an article called “Wild Animal Training.” It even has a picture of a man attacked by a tiger at page 297. Eugenia Ronder and that cad Leonardo from the late story “The Veiled Lodger,” published in February 1927 in *The Strand*, are evoked immediately for readers of Holmes.

Clark Russell has another sea story, “Three In Charge,” in the October edition, from pages 372-382, wryly comic, about the necessity for a simple chain of command aboard ship.

In November, not only do we enjoy “The Five Orange Pips,” but there is a story, “London From Aloft,” pages 492-498, envisaging not only observation but aerial warfare, dropping bombs upon the enemy from above, perhaps even at a height of 8,000 feet, which the reporter’s balloon had reached. Where is Mycroft? Only in “His Last Bow” from 1914, 23 years later, do we read that Von Bork had a pigeonhole for Aeroplanes.

*Volume 3: January to June 1892*

In January there is a heart-rending story, “Jack Middleton’s Mother,” pages 57-63, about a poor boy found on the streets selling newspapers. It was the illustrations which first caught my eye, as they reminded me of Baker Street Irregulars. But it is a harsher story than Conan Doyle’s in some ways. Less harsh in that the boys are shown as wearing boots, when the Baker Street Irregulars are all barefoot (126). More harsh in that the newspaper boy, when given a shilling, is set upon and severely beaten up by other boys, and forced to hand over his shilling.

The very next article in the same issue is about Street Musicians, and here one recalls the garroter, Parker, who plays the Jew’s Harp in Baker Street while acting as lookout for the reformed Moriarty gang, presumably now headed by Colonel Sebastian Moran. There is no such Jew’s Harp musician portrayed, but the idea may have been planted in Conan Doyle’s mind by this article, which itself is immediately succeeded by that “Christmas story without slush,” “The Blue Carbuncle.”

In March, at page 275, Signor Martin Meliton Sarasate is portrayed and a short biography given. As we know, Holmes enjoyed this violinist’s playing so much he attended a concert at St James’s Hall in the middle of a case, “The Red-Headed League” (184), published in August 1891. Clearly *The Strand* was reading Doyle even as Doyle read *The Strand*.



*The Baker Street Irregulars by George Hutchinson and child newspaper sellers by George Hillyard Swinstead*

Holmes is depicted in “The Naval Treaty,” published October and November 1893, as expounding, disconcertingly, upon the beauty of a rose. In the March 1892 issue of *The Strand*, immediately following “The Engineer’s Thumb,” we find the second article regarding “Beauty in Nature” (289-295) by Sir John Lubbock. Lubbock quotes Cicero, the famous Roman lawyer, Francis Bacon and John Milton introducing his theme. Holmes – or Doyle – has clearly imbibed this article, and its prior of February 1892 and subsequent chapters in later issues of April and May 1892, and quite probably its cited authors when musing on the moss-rose.

From pages 577 to 585 of the June issue, there is an article “How A Sculptor Works.” with illustration of a bust, inter alia. The Holmesian immediately thinks of “The Six Napoleons,” where, improbably, the sixth bust is the bearer of the treasure, the Black Pearl of the Borgias. Holmes’s buying this last bust from the hapless Mr. Sandeford is at the edges of illegality, as he is fairly certain of its true worth, but this is not a new phenomenon. *Caveat vendor* rather than *caveat emptor* in this case. In the English television program “Antiques Roadshow,” one sees this not infrequently: “Oh yes, bought this trinket for 50 pence at a car boot sale”; “hmm,” says the expert, “Imperial Chinese box worth 20,000 pounds.”

#### Volume 4: July - December 1892.

Apart from the delicious Holmes story “Silver Blaze,” the only one in this volume number 4, we are also treated to the extended interview “A Day With Dr. Conan Doyle” by Harry Howe, from pages 182 to 188. Clark Russell again gets a story, “A Nightmare of the Doldrums,” immediately following the Doyle interview, from pages 189 to 198, although this does not seem to have inspired Doyle except through the Watsonian cross-reference.

#### Volume 5: January to June 1893.

In January, on page 55, the author we have already met, W Clark Russell is given a brief biography. It turns out that he was born in New York, of English parents, in 1844. His mother was a “poetess,” and related to other authors. He was sent to sea aged 13 and remained in that profession for eight years. He is said to be unrivalled with sea stories, as Dr Watson has also written.

Volume 6: July to December 1893.

From pages 148 to 156, there is a story by Richard Marsh, titled “Capturing A Convict.” The venue is Dartmoor and the eponymous convict has escaped from Princetown Prison. In this story Ted Lane and the first-person singular author are walking across the moor to Erme Head. The “convict” captures them rather than the other way round, and divests them of all their clothes, save their hats. But, comically, it turns out that the man who terrified the two men was a local lunatic, not Jim Slim, the Camden Town Murderer, at all. He had exchanged clothes earlier with the real convict, who got clean away.

Now here is one origin for poor Selden, Mrs Barrymore’s brother, who appears in that most famous of Sherlockian stories, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, published in 1901. Clothes are indeed involved in the Holmesian story, but this time those of Sir Henry given by Selden’s sister, Mrs. Barrymore, to her brother.

The rest of this volume seems devoid of articles which one can relate to the Canon.

There was the shattering news in the December 1893 issue in “The Final Problem” that Holmes and Moriarty had fallen to their deaths at Reichenbach. There were no more formal Holmes stories in *The Strand* for eight years until August 1901, when *The Hound of the Baskervilles* started being serialized. But Conan Doyle continued reading the magazine and contributed a huge number of articles. From this brief survey, readers today, and those who enjoyed the stories when they first appeared, can appreciate how Doyle was influenced by the journal and he, in turn, influenced what others read.

## Notes

- (1) Bergen, Phil, 2010. “ACD and The Strand Magazine.” *Canadian Holmes*, Fall, Vol 33, No 1, pp3-9.
- (2) Ashley, Mike, 2016. *Adventures in The Strand: Arthur Conan Doyle & The Strand Magazine*. British Library Publishing.
- (3) Pugh, Brian, 2012. *A Chronology of the Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 2nd edition*. Mx Publishing, London, p 35.
- (4) Feldman, Paul, 1997. *Jack the Ripper, the Final Chapter*. Virgin Books, London.

# *Love Betrayed, Love Reclaimed: A Question of Affection in the Canon*

By Barbara Rusch

*Barbara Rusch has been a Bootmaker since 1983, is a former Meyers and the recipient of several True Davidson and Warren Carleton Awards. Beginning this year, she will be contributing a regular column to Canadian Holmes.*

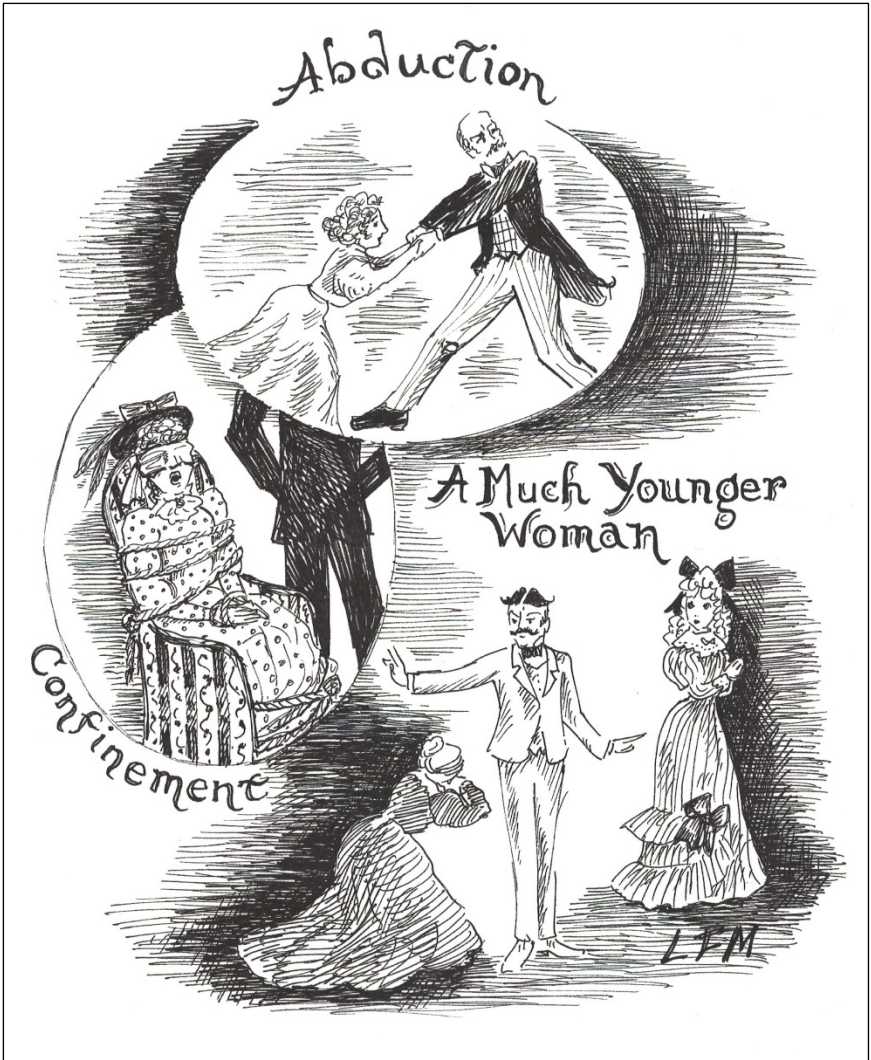
*Art by Laurie Fraser Manifold*

*Editor's note: This is Part 1 of a 2-part article. The second half will appear in the Spring 2018 edition.*



The Sherlock Holmes tales are replete with evidence of that ineffable human emotion that not only makes the world go round, but also much of the Canon, though not necessarily in its purest, most romantic form. For what passes for love are not narratives of conventional romance, but dark tales of love gone awry – of lies and deception, revenge and greed, sexual perversion, jealousy, secrets and abuse, both physical and psychological. As in life, love in the Canon is the most basic of interactions and it drives the plots, defines the characters and determines the outcome of many of the stories. Of the 56 short stories and four novels, all but 20 contain elements of this subject, most of them from an entirely negative perspective. Of these, 37 invoke the theme of abuse of women. Fifteen include incidents of women as victims of physical violence including sexual predation, murder, beatings or forcible confinement, forced or unhappy marriages, eight as the target of fiscal malfeasance, 10 as the result of emotional abuse, neglect or simply as collateral damage, 12 from abandonment, and three stemming from a threatened loss of reputation or status. And much of this injury originates from lovers, husbands, fathers, brothers and others who have a moral obligation to protect and cherish those women entrusted to their care.

An examination of the relationships between men and women and the various manifestations of so-called love in the Canon will prove



instructive, as so many of them are based on lies and deception in one form or another.

*Abduction and forcible confinement* of women is a popular theme in Victorian Gothic fiction and occurs at least twice in the Holmes stories. Possibly the worst of these is the incident of Hugo Baskerville, who kidnaps the yeoman's daughter and holds her captive in the upper reaches of Baskerville Hall before running her to ground, raping and ultimately murdering her. For "hounding" her to death, retributive justice

decrees that he and all his descendants through generations yet unborn be cursed by a demon hound.

But this is only one of many tales in which men take advantage of their positions of power to use and abuse women, a subject of particular relevance in today's world. There are other instances of forcible confinement as well, and most shockingly, the villains are their own fathers. In "The Copper Beeches," Jephro Rucastle cuts off his daughter's long, flowing hair, an act of physical violence, and keeps her imprisoned in the nether reaches of the house to prevent her from marrying until she signs away her inheritance. Many of the canonical tales contain allusions to contemporary events and popular fiction, as well as some fascinating social commentary. This is an especially interesting story, as it follows not only the model for the Gothic genre, which delights in damsels in distress held prisoner in an ancestral home (though in the pure Gothic model the prison is more often located in an underground dungeon), but another equally important narrative model.

*Fairy tales* are often a showcase for the cruelty and violence to which women and girls are subjected. They tend to feature wicked stepmothers who, out of greed or jealousy, seek to destroy the children of their husband's former wife. In the Canon it is all too often the stepfather or father figure who plays this role, though generally for financial gain. "The Copper Beeches" brings to mind the fairy tale of "Rapunzel," in which a young woman with long, lustrous locks is likewise held captive in a tower, her beautiful tresses (a gleaming gold, as opposed to the rich chestnut of our story) cruelly shorn to further a sinister plot. This is an appalling transgression of the strongest bond of all – the love and protection a parent is obligated to provide a child. And here it is not even a stepparent, but the biological father, a greedy, grasping villain, who is the abuser and extortionist. Like her fairy tale counterpart, Alice Rucastle's handsome prince keeps a desperate vigil on the ground below in a vain attempt to reach his love locked away high in her impregnable fortress.

*Greed and a coveted inheritance* are at the core of this, as well as a number of other canonical tales in which atrocities are inflicted on women by either biological or surrogate fathers. In "The Speckled Band," Dr. Grimesby Roylott has no compunction about murdering both his stepdaughters in an attempt to acquire the bequest from their mother that is rightfully theirs. It turns out that he is a worse snake than the one he employs as a murder weapon against them. In "A Case of Identity," Mary Sutherland's suitor, Hosmer Angel, is ultimately exposed as her

unscrupulous stepfather, James Windibank, who seeks to gain control of her inheritance.

Nor can we exclude evil brothers, like Mortimer Tregennis, whose greed proves stronger than the love for his siblings when, in “The Devil’s Foot,” he drives his brothers mad and kills his sister Brenda by introducing a deadly poison into an oil lamp around which they are seated.

In “The Greek Interpreter,” Paul Kratides and his sister Sophie are held captive and tortured by her lover in an effort to persuade Paul to sign over her inheritance. In “The Solitary Cyclist” the deception leads to a kind of forcible confinement, though of a more subtle kind, when Violet Smith is lured to a house under the pretense of being hired as a governess. The true story revolves around yet another inheritance, one left to her by her uncle. Unfortunately, Bob Carruthers, in a belated attempt to turn from villain to lover, falls in love with the unsuspecting woman. This example of love transforming a blackguard into a protector is rare in the Canon. Generally, once a villain, always a villain. And of course, Mary Morstan and her pearls in *The Sign of the Four* are another instance of a woman cheated of what is rightfully hers; though not by a lover or family member. This one has a happier ending, an act of treachery eventually leading to marriage with Dr. Watson in a rare canonical love story.

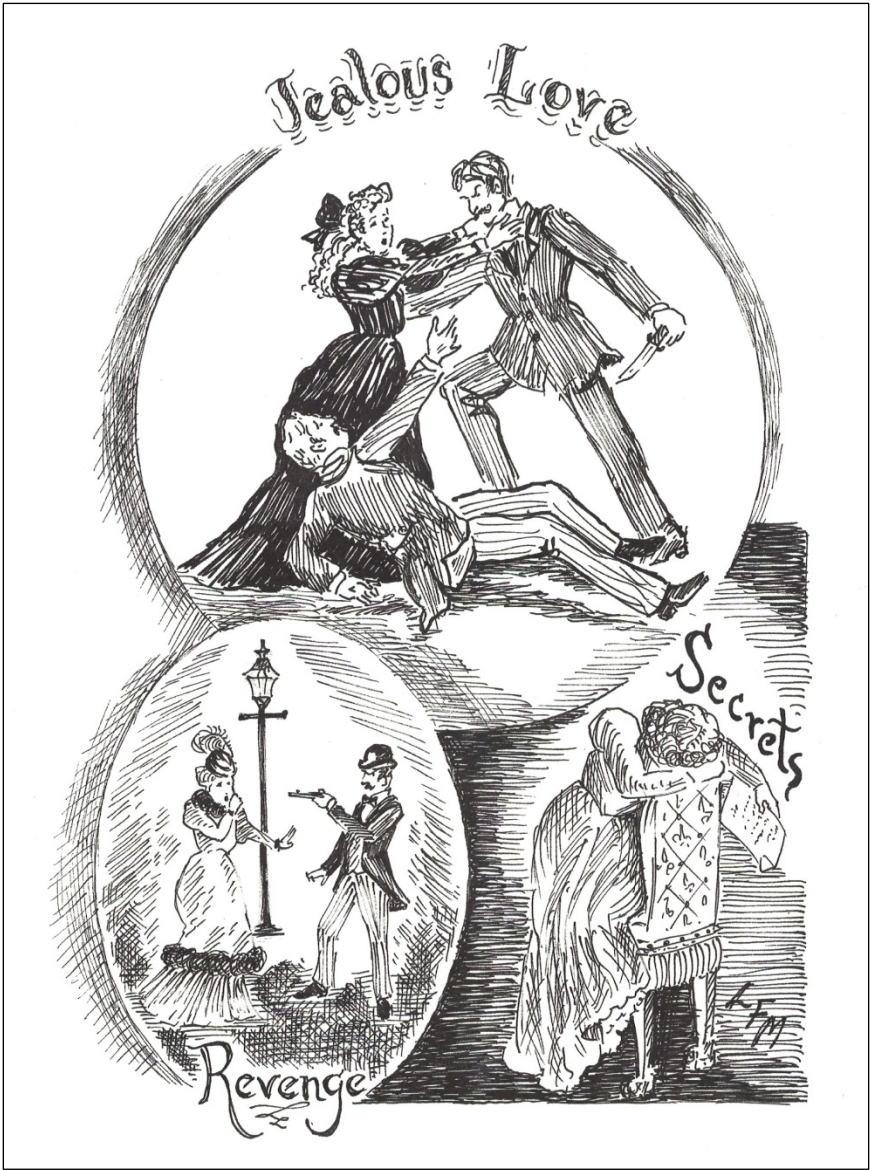
Greed is certainly the motivating factor in “The Musgrave Ritual,” in which Brunton the butler pretends to woo Rachel Howells the housemaid in order to obtain her assistance in retrieving the lost crown of Charles I, which he knows to be buried on the grounds of Hurlstone Manor. Deception of some kind generally plays a part in the numerous love-gone-bad relationships of the Canon. However, in a few of these tales the tables are turned on the villain. Rachel discovers Brunton’s true objective and locks him in his own underground crypt, just as he takes hold of the treasure he has so long coveted. Here is another popular Victorian Gothic plot device, this time reminiscent of Edgar Allan Poe’s tales of horror, including “The Cask of Amontillado” and “The Premature Burial,” in which characters find themselves buried alive. The importance of Poe’s influence on the Holmes stories cannot be overstated, and sometimes in unexpected ways.

***Forced marriage*** is a different brand of forcible confinement altogether, and “The Solitary Cyclist” has that theme fully covered. When Carruthers’ and Woodley’s romantic ardour don’t seem to be having the desired effect on Violet Smith, they try a more direct approach and hire a defrocked priest to perform a fraudulent marriage. This one ends with shots fired. In fact, most wedding ceremonies in the Canon end badly. The noble bachelor, Lord Robert St. Simon, of the eponymous tale, is ditched at the

altar by Hattie Doran. The only truly celebratory wedding takes place between Irene Adler and Godfrey Norton in “A Scandal in Bohemia,” though there is deception present here as well. This tale boasts more disguises than any other in the Canon, Irene donning one and Sherlock Holmes two. For romantic wedding scenes, the Canon is a total bust.

A forced marriage to an odious groom ends in the deaths of three men in the first of the Holmes stories, *A Study in Scarlet*. Enoch Drebbler, who plays a role in the murder of John Ferrier and takes his daughter Lucy as his eighth wife, dies at the hands of her lover, Jefferson Hope, who follows him and Mormon companion Joseph Stangerson to England to exact a just revenge on them both.

In the pantheon of canonical cads and would-be inheritance thieves, Jack Stapleton of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* stands at the top of the heap, though Dante would undoubtedly have placed him in the lowest circle of Hell, reserved for those who murder their own kin. In this instance it is an inheritance from which he hopes to rob his cousin, Henry Baskerville, and for which he has already played a role in the death of his uncle, Charles. Apparently he sees Baskerville Hall as a more commodious residence than the cozy Merripit House. Nor does he reserve his cruelty for men alone but dispenses it equally amongst men, women and animals, including dogs and butterflies. Victims of ruthless men are a mainstay of Victorian Gothic fiction and there is no paucity of them in this tale. Hugo Baskerville has left an evil legacy that has been passed down through generations of his descendants. Both Stapleton’s wife Beryl and paramour Laura Lyons become butterflies caught in his net of lies and deceit. Laura makes an interesting character study. With a father like old Frankland, the neuroses she may have acquired during her formative years make her particularly susceptible to the seductions of a bounder the likes of Jack Stapleton. Beryl is forced to masquerade as his sister, in all likelihood in order to allow him the freedom to seduce and deceive such victims as Laura Lyons with impunity. Aside from the “The Solitary Cyclist,” *The Hound* is as close as Conan Doyle comes to the subject of sexual misconduct, and judging by the condition in which Holmes finds Beryl at the end of the story, affixed to a beam, like one of her husband’s butterflies impaled on a card, we might with some justification conclude that Stapleton’s crimes, like those of his ancestor, include sexual assault. In fact, physical and sexual violence inform the entire narrative, which ends where it began, with the abuse and forcible confinement of a woman in the upper reaches of the house, and the final punishment of her abuser out on the moor. In the Baskerville family, history does tend to repeat itself.



*Jealous love* is another common theme in the Canon. In “The Cardboard Box,” James Browner does not start out as a murderer and loves his wife as much as a man should. Jealousy and mistrust destroy what is wholesome and sacred – first the jealousy of Mary’s sister Sarah, who covets her

sister's husband, and then the jealousy and mistrust of Browner himself, who, through his own misconduct, practically ensures his wife's infidelity. He then tracks her and her alleged lover down, murders them both and mails off body parts as proof of his evil deed. This story takes not only Gothic fiction as its inspiration but Shakespearean tragedy. If Browner recalls the feckless Othello, Sarah Cushing, who whispers in his ear, plays the part of Iago to perfection. Love triangles in which jealousy plays a part are at the heart of many a disastrous canonical relationship. This story is a prime example, but there are numerous others, from "The Crooked Man," "Thor Bridge" and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* to "The Retired Colourman" and "The Abbey Grange."

*Revenge*, especially as punishment or retribution for being deceived and abandoned, is a common canonical theme, as we have already seen in "The Musgrave Ritual." It is most often men who perpetrate the abuse and women who plot revenge. Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, and nowhere does this hold more true than in the Holmes tales. In "A Scandal in Bohemia," Irene Adler insists on retaining possession of the photograph upon which the merging of two royal houses depends, with the result that the European balance of power lies in the hands of a woman who believes herself ill-used and is in a position to do something about it. Fortunately, a new love, "a better man than [the King]" has helped assuage her anger and bitterness, proof perhaps that love is a stronger force than hate. But a few questions linger about this tale of love and betrayal. The first is the nature of the incriminating photograph itself. The King mentions only that both he and Irene appear in it. But surely a photograph of a royal personage and an opera singer would hardly jeopardize an alliance between two reigning European houses. After all, royalty are known to carry on illicit liaisons all the time. It didn't seem to destroy Henry VIII. In the 19th century, Bertie, the Prince of Wales, Queen Victoria's eldest son, indulged in indiscreet escapades throughout his marriage, including one with actress Lily Langtry, on whom this story may well have been based. When he finally came to the throne in 1901 he was known affectionately as "Edward the Caresser." So what is it about this particular photograph that makes it so damning? It may well be that it is far more incriminating than it first appears, and not beyond the realm of possibility that it contains explicit pornographic content. In the wrong hands that photograph might well have been the equivalent of a 21st-century sex tape gone viral, the attendant public "exposure" having the effect of bringing down two royal houses like a house of cards.

The other question that remains unanswered in one of the most popular of all the Sherlockian tales is What was Irene thinking? Sure, it's fun to

date a prince, and the benefits must have been fairly remunerative, but did she really believe that the King's infatuation for her would translate into a proposal of marriage? Having a profession on the stage was only one short step up from walking the street, though opera singers were regarded somewhat more favourably than actresses or music hall singers. As the mistress to the Prince of Wales, Lily Langtry was welcomed at court, as preposterous as it sounds, and was even admitted to Queen Victoria's drawing rooms. But as soon as she became an actress, she lost her status and found herself beyond the pale of polite society. Irene would have been aware of all this. Did she really believe that there was even the remotest possibility that the King would actually marry her? Royal alliances were not forged from royal dalliances, especially with showgirls, at least not until the appearance of Grace Kelly on the scene, and anyway, that was 20th-century Monaco. Even if Irene weren't an opera singer, surely she understood that a prince of the blood would not marry a commoner. And anyway, she was a quintessential adventuress, not a gullible young ingénue like Violet de Merville, to be abused and deceived by the charms of a Baron Gruner. Did the King make promises to her or was she simply deluded? As Holmes observes, "There is danger for whoso snatches a delusion from a woman." It remains a mystery, and one that Sherlock Holmes did not attempt to resolve.

But when it comes to vengeance, few women can match the plodding perseverance of Jonas Oldacre of "The Norwood Builder" in exacting revenge upon the woman who once rejected his proposal of marriage. And if hell hath no fury like a *woman* scorned, you haven't met this old man, who saves up his fury for an entire generation. Like Maria Gibson of "Thor Bridge," he plots his own murder in order that young John Hector McFarlane, the son of the object of his affections from a quarter of a century before, would appear the likely suspect. While Maria Gibson actually carries out the plot, Oldacre's meticulous plan was never intended to be executed, serving the sole purpose of causing pain to his old flame. And that is all too often the message of love in the Canon – that when it is warped or blasted, or used as a weapon, it contains within itself a poison that has the power to destroy, not just former lovers who have become the target of their spite, but the perpetrator as well.

*In the next installment, Barbara continues her look at love in the Canon by examining such themes as foreign women, secrets and the pitfalls of men marrying much younger women.*

# *Red Herrings, Black Swans and Blue Carbuncles*

By Don Roebuck

Don Roebuck, FCNRS, teaches English in Toronto.



carbuncle is generally understood to be a red garnet cut *en cabochon* (that is, with a smooth, convex upper surface and, usually, a flat underside, something like half a bean).

I specified a “red” garnet, because not all garnets are red. And garnet is not a single mineral but a group of minerals with similar crystal structures and related chemical compositions. A century ago, there were six minerals recognized as members of the garnet group;(1) currently, there are 20.(2) Almandite, the most common of the garnet minerals, and the one that has been most commonly used in jewelry, is typically red, with a purple tint. Pyrope garnet (also known as “Bohemian Garnet”), which was the fashion stone of the 18th and 19th centuries, is typically red with a bit of an orange tint. But garnets are found in a great variety of colours. Some of these colours are intrinsic to the garnet minerals, others result from the partial replacement of one element in the chemical composition by one or more other elements (sometimes called “impurities”), and still others are found in mixtures of two or more of the garnet minerals. And some garnets are one colour in daylight or fluorescent light, and another colour in incandescent light.

Holmes, in the “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle,” said that the Countess of Morcar’s “blue carbuncle” had “every characteristic of the carbuncle,” except that it was blue instead of red – which is exactly what one would expect, from the name. It was, in other words, a blue garnet cut *en cabochon*. But in 1961 Philip Kasson, writing in *The Baker Street Journal*, raised an objection to this argument: “Garnets come in many colours ... but no blue garnet has ever been found.” (3) This objection was quoted by William S. Baring-Gould in *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes* (1967), and repeated by Leslie S. Klinger in his annotated Holmes (2005). The argument made its most recent appearance in Monica M. Schmidt’s essay on “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle” in *About Sixty*, edited by Christopher Redmond (2016). (4)

But the Countess’s carbuncle was, in Holmes’s words, “absolutely unique” so it is not surprising that the blue garnet from which this carbuncle would have been cut had never found its way into museum collections and scientific journals, even by 1961. One can easily imagine

an amateur mineral collector, for example, coming across a few specimens of a hitherto unknown blue garnet, selling one to a gem dealer, to keep the pot boiling, and making up a story – “the banks of the Amoy River” – about where he had found it.

So, Kasson’s objection was by no means conclusive. Still, there are a couple of problems. One problem is that Holmes referred to the blue carbuncle as a piece of “crystallized charcoal” – which led Kasson to speculate that it was actually a diamond because both diamond and charcoal consist basically of the element carbon.

But diamond is virtually pure carbon while charcoal contains a considerable proportion of impurities (as can be seen from the ash that remains when charcoal is burned), and while blue diamonds are rare, a blue diamond would not be “unique.” (Holmes would certainly have heard of the blue Hope Diamond, for example.)

Garnet minerals are silicates and contain no carbon whatever. But Holmes, whose knowledge of chemistry was, according to Watson, “profound” but also “eccentric,” may not have known this. So, is there anything that could have given Holmes the idea that garnet is a crystalline form of, of all things, charcoal?

I submit that on this point, Holmes was led astray by a red herring of etymology. If there is any subject in which Holmes would have received a systematic education, it’s Latin. The word “carbuncle” is from Latin “carbunculus” whose primary meaning is “a small coal, live or dead” (that is, burning or burnt out). “Carbunculus” was also used, in a secondary sense (for example, by Pliny the Elder in his *Natural History*), for a gem – any gem, not just a garnet – that glowed red (like a live coal). And “carbunculus” is the diminutive of “carbo,” which means “a coal, live or dead” – but “carbo” also means “charcoal”!

The other problem is that Holmes said the blue carbuncle glinted and sparkled, and Watson said it scintillated and twinkled. Now, this is what you get with a gem that has been faceted (that is, whose surface is made up of many small flat areas) because, when you tilt it this way and that, the light is reflected, externally and internally, from one facet after another. But a gem that has been cut *en cabochon* just glows, and when you tilt it the glow just moves around.

But this paradox of the sparkling carbuncle disappears when we remember that this adventure took place in late December, and Holmes had a “crackling” fire. Every crackle would have been accompanied by a little burst of light, which would have been reflected by the gem, and I would suggest that it was this display that the two gentlemen were referring to. And Watson’s remark that the gem was “rather smaller than

a bean” gives further support to the view that it had an unfaceted, convex surface.

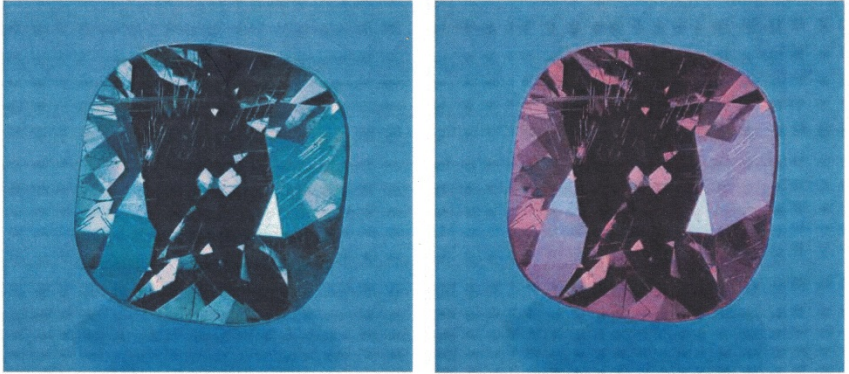
But to return to Kasson’s original objection, the supposed nonexistence of blue garnet. At one time, at least in Europe, black swans were assumed not to exist, and Juvenal could say, in his *Satires*, that a chaste woman would be “a rare bird ... like a black swan.” But in 1697 the explorer Willem de Vlamingh found black swans in Australia. And in 1998 there was a news item, in the journal *Gems and Gemology*, about some garnets from Sri Lanka that were “grayish greenish blue” in daylight.(5) And in 1999 there was an article in the same journal about some garnets from Madagascar with colours ranging from “bluish green” to “greenish blue (almost pure blue)” in daylight.(6) The authors of this article remarked, in their abstract, that these garnets from Madagascar “are particularly noteworthy because they represent the first commercially available ‘blue’ garnets.” (My impression, by the way, is that gemologists try to be very precise in their colour descriptions, and that if a gemologist says that something is “almost pure blue,” you can be confident that a layman would call it, simply, “blue.”)

So, blue garnet exists, and, to make a blue carbuncle, all someone would have to do is cut a piece of blue garnet *en cabochon*. Is it not likely, then, that the Countess of Morcar’s famous “blue carbuncle” was, in fact, a blue carbuncle?

## Notes

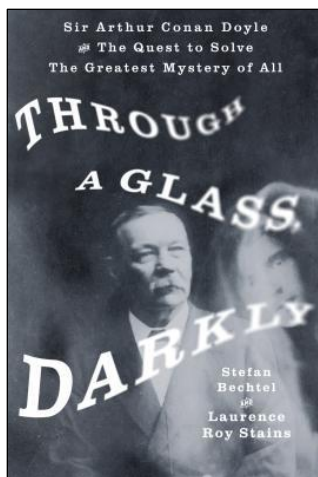
- (1) *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th ed. (1910-11), s. v, “garnet.”
- (2) Robert J. Lauf, *Collector’s Guide to the Garnet Group* (Atglen, Pa., Schiffer, 2012).
- (3) Philip Kasson, “The True Blue: A Case of Identification,” *The Baker Street Journal*, vol. xi, no. 4, n. s., Dec. 1961, pp. 200-202.
- (4) Monica M. Schmidt, “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle,” in Christopher Redmond, ed.: *About Sixty: Why Every Sherlock Holmes Story is the Best* (Wildside Press, 2016), pp. 50-53.
- (5) M. L. Johnson and J. I. Koivula, “Gem News: ‘Almost Blue’ Sri Lankan Colour-change Garnets,” *Gems & Gemology*, vol. 34, no. 2, Summer 1998, pp. 138-40.
- (6) Karl Schmetzer and Heinz-Juergen Bernhardt, “Garnets from Madagascar with a Colour Change of Blue-green to Purple,” *Gems & Gemology*, vol. 35, no. 4, Winter 1999, pp. 196-201.

## *Special to online version of Canadian Holmes*



This image is from *Gems & Gemology*, Winter 1999. It shows a 1.00 ct. colour-change garnet from Bekily, Madagascar. This pyrope-spessartine garnet is blue-green in day or fluorescent light (left) and purple in incandescent light (right). Photo by Maha Tannous.

## “Holmes gave me a brief review”



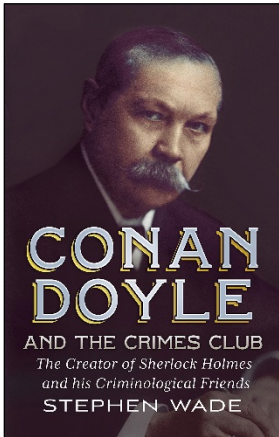
*Through a Glass, Darkly: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the Quest to Solve the Greatest Mystery of All* by Stefan Bechtel and Laurence Roy Stains (2017, New York: St. Martin's Press \$37.99 CAD)

Arthur Conan Doyle's belief in spiritualism (not to mention fairies) has proved to be an embarrassment to those who admire his fiction, particularly the Holmes stories. How is it possible, the case for the prosecution argues, that the creator of the detective who practiced the 'science of deduction and analysis' could possibly fall for such tommyrot? Bechtel and Stains answer this question not by examining the peculiarities of the mind of Conan Doyle but rather by placing his decades-long interest in and crusade for spiritualism within the historical context of the rise and spread of this extraordinary phenomenon. They convincingly demonstrate that his apparently bizarre commitment to séances, ectoplasm, and apports is, when viewed in a cultural and historical context rather than from a personal psychological perspective, a sign of the times rather than a symptom of individual aberration.

After reading this lucidly written and carefully researched book, one is much more inclined to see Conan Doyle's 'conversion' to spiritualism is far less astonishing than we are inclined to judge it today. Humans have always been predisposed to believe in an afterlife, but the desire to communicate with the departed was, the authors point out, given a strong impetus by the sheer magnitude of death wrought by the Great War and by the world-wide influenza epidemic that followed. Almost everyone had lost multiple family members and friends, and were desperately seeking consolation—including Conan Doyle, who lost his son Kingsley in the War and sought through séances to reach him. The educated, scientifically-trained, upper-middle-class Doyle was not the exception among the serious devotees of spiritualism. Members of the Society for Psychical Research (SPR), founded in 1882, included among its members such luminaries as the chemist William Crookes, physicist Oliver Lodge, Nobel laureate Charles Richet, psychologist William James (brother of the novelist Henry James), Cambridge philosopher Henry Sidgwick (its first

president), and a future prime minister, Arthur Balfour. In the 1920s the *Scientific American* took the claims of spiritualism seriously enough to offer \$5,000 to anyone who could verify those claims scientifically. Conan Doyle was in unimpeachable company. This illuminating book pries Conan Doyle's spiritualist adventure away from his biography and relocates it firmly in cultural history.

– Nils Clausson



*Conan Doyle and the Crimes Club* by Stephen Wade (2013, Fonthill Media \$29.99 US)

During the late-Victorian and Edwardian eras eminent men formed clubs of all kinds for social and networking purposes. In 1903/1904, luminaries from literary and legal fields came together in London as the Crimes Club to share their mutual interest in past and contemporary crime. Arthur Conan Doyle (ACD) was an early member.

Stephen Wade's *Conan Doyle and the Crimes Club* focuses on this group and a dozen of its members. However, the title of Wade's book, as well as the pictures of ACD on the front and back of the dust jacket, are misleading. Apart from an excellent short chapter on Fletcher Robinson, ACD, and *The Hound*, and a longer but mundane chapter on ACD, little of this book is devoted to Conan Doyle.

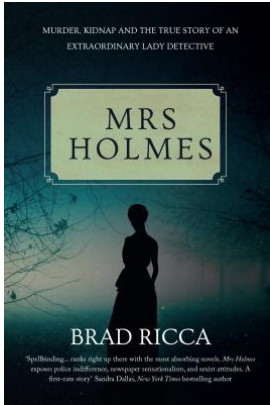
The Doyle chapter describes ACD's sociability and his corrective involvement in the George Edalji and Oscar Slater miscarriages of justice but those cases have been better described in other sources. There is also a long discussion of the theft of the Irish Crown jewels, in the wake of which ACD played no part but, Wade claims, "has the hallmarks of a Holmes casebook narrative."

There is a chapter devoted to George R. Sims, who was instrumental in obtaining justice for Adolf Beck, falsely accused and imprisoned for theft. There is some reason to believe that ACD modeled his campaign for George Edalji on Sims' crusade for Beck.

In the course of 15 chapters, Wade reviews many famous British crimes and criminals. Indeed, one is reminded of Dr. Watson's observation that Holmes "appears to know every detail of every horror perpetrated in the century." Unfortunately, Wade's narrative style is circuitous rather than linear. Too often the reader feels as if biographical and historical passages were pasted together rather than fully assimilated by the author.

For those willing to overlook these flaws, Wade’s book provides an interesting exploration of British crime, criminals, and Crimes Club afficianados, although it sheds little new light on Conan Doyle.

– Robert A. Moss



*Mrs. Sherlock Holmes* by Brady Ricca (2017, St. Martin’s, \$38.99 (CAD) hardcover, \$22.50 (CAD) paperback).

The title of this historical story is certainly attention getting. However, be advised that most of the book’s Holmesian content is contained to the four-page prologue. The opener is a short account of a visit by Arthur Conan Doyle, and his wife Jean, to New York City in 1914.

After that, there are only a couple of reference to Doyle’s Great Detective, since he gave the book’s main character her nickname. Pioneering lawyer and investigator Grace Quackenbos Humiston was dubbed “Mrs. Sherlock Holmes” by the New York press during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

When we meet her, it’s 1905 and Quackenbos Humiston’s a rookie nighttime lawyer defending a female Italian immigrant who is facing a first-degree murder charge in New Jersey. Her fame soon grows, and Quackenbos Humiston becomes involved in the case that dominates the book, the February 1917 disappearance of Ruth Cruger. The 18-year-old disappeared while running an errand near her affluent family’s New York City apartment.

Ricca’s meticulous research and solid writing gives us insight into a pioneering figure in the police and legal world, a woman who dressed in black and became the first female United States Attorney. Readers also become acquainted with other key public figures and high-profile events during the era.

Several sensational murders and criminal trials from the early 1900s add spice and drama to the story. The spectre of the Black Hand and white slavery are also present, capturing our attention in the same way they did the tabloid press of the time.

Although thin on the Sherlockian front, this work will appeal to true crime buffs, legal followers and students of New York City history. In fact, it will also strike a chord with fans of Lindsay Faye’s Timothy Wilde trilogy.

– JoAnn Alberstat

# *In Memoriam – Patrick J. Campbell M.Bt.*



It is with deepest sadness that we mourn the loss of our dear friend and Bimetallic Question Sovereign Emeritus Patrick James Campbell, who passed away at age 94 on November 5, 2017 in Montreal.

Patrick came into the Society in 1987 through Bruce Holmes, our “Resident Philatelist” and Sherlockian stamp expert, philately being their common interest. An aeronautical and marine engineer, Patrick was still working at that time, in connection with the Canadian Patrol Frigate Program, and told Bimetallic Question co-founder Wilfrid de Freitas that he was

systematically reading his way through the Sherlockian Canon during his lunch hours. We have proof that this indeed was the case, for Wilfrid still has a photograph of Patrick sitting at his desk, book in hand.

Patrick then proceeded to fling himself into the Great Game, with gusto. Almost immediately he was writing papers for *Canadian Holmes*, and on his frequent trips to the UK would research aspects of the stories that he found contradictory or puzzling. Then, in 1997, came his first collection of pastiches, *Shades of Sherlock*, followed in 1999 by a play, *Tides of the Wight*, and latterly, in 2000 a novel, *Holmes in the West Country*, all published by The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box. Patrick also joined The Bootmakers of Toronto in 1989, to later become a Master Bootmaker of that Society, earning the initials M.Bt. following his name, of which he was very proud.

Patrick served as Bimetallic Question Sovereign from 1989-1993 and from 1998-1999, and sat on the organizing committees for the two Bimetallic Colloquia, held in 1990 and 2000, which were three-day events held on the campus of McGill University, and brought in hundreds of Sherlockians from all over North America and the UK.

Even after declaring in later years that he would be slowing down in his Sherlockian activities, Patrick nonetheless distinguished himself at

meetings as a frequent winner of our often fiendishly difficult canonical quizzes, and further challenged us by setting even more devilish ones for the poor suckers at the next meeting. Speaking of devilish, his treasure hunt, (designed for a Society garden party) and car rally clues left practically everyone guessing. We can add to this portrait of Society involvement his dedication as a tireless worker behind the scenes, stepping in to carry out assiduous recordkeeping and archivist duties.

However, Patrick's crowning Sherlockian achievement was supervising the installation of a proper brass plaque (known as the *Reichenplaque*) at the Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland in 1992, with the co-operation of Marcus Geisser of the Reichenbach Irregulars, the Swiss Sherlock Holmes Society. Not only did he accompany the plaque on Swissair, Patrick ensured its installation with 12-inch brass bolts into a concrete bed – secure enough to deter even the most ardent souvenir hunter! By the way, for those who don't know, the actual spot at The Falls where the confrontation between Holmes and Moriarty took place had hitherto been marked only by a primitive white painted metal star, without any indication as to its *raison d'être*. (See "The Adventure of the Reichenplaque," *Canadian Holmes*, Michaelmas 1992.)

His Sherlockian pastiche play, *The Tides of the Wight*, was performed by Bimetallic Question members in Westmount in 2012, under the direction of Susan Fitch. The event raised funds for a Montreal Greyhound Rescue group, identifying another of Patrick's interests, a lifelong fondness and concern for animals.

Patrick was born in Selkirk, Manitoba in 1923. Following the deaths of his father and mother, he went to live in England in 1938 at age 15, attending school in London. Campbell worked in England in civilian aviation often on military-affiliated projects throughout the Second World War and its aftermath, returning to Canada in 1952 to continue his career in civil aviation here. On his retirement, he became a founding member of the Montreal Aviation Museum, where he worked as a dedicated volunteer from 1999 to 2017. Patrick was predeceased by his first wife, Elaine; his second wife Pierrette; his son Timothy; his sister Marjory and brother Colin. He leaves his daughters Lorraine, Frances, and Claude, as well as six granddaughters and five great-grandchildren.

# *Letters From Lomax*

*Musings and comments from Peggy Perdue, Curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection of the Toronto Reference Library*

My dear Bootmakers,

I started writing this column in 2005. It's lasted through four different editors and countless changes in the Sherlockian world. Some readers may be amazed to know that in 2005, we didn't even know what a "Cumberbatch" was. In all, there have been a few dozen *Letters from Lomax* articles, and I've enjoyed writing every one of them. I've had such fun exploring the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, and this was a way to take you with me as I rummaged through the stacks and found all kinds of

quirky and rare items. Occasionally, I've taken the column along on vacation, too, and shared some adventures with Sherlockians abroad. In fact, I'm writing this column in London, having come here for the Sherlock Holmes Society of London dinner.

It seems fitting to post this letter from this quintessentially Sherlockian location, because I believe it will be my last. I have recently been appointed Head of the Special Collections Department, and although I will still have a hands-on role with the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, it will no



longer be my primary job. Some of you will no doubt wonder how anyone could leave a full-time assignment working with Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes – believe me I still wonder that sometimes myself! My two predecessors kept the job until retirement, and for a long time, I was sure I'd do the same. However, there's a lot to be said for moving out of one's comfort zone, too. In a large organization, one starts to get curious about what it would be like to take a step up the ladder and see what's up there. Well, to make a long story short, I couldn't resist, and I am confident that in this role I will be able to continue to promote and support the ACD Collection.

But enough and too much about me. Now I'd like to introduce you to the new ACD Collection curator. Jessie Amaolo took care of the Conan Doyle Collection for six months in 2015 when I went on leave, and now she's back as the permanent Curator. She will bring a wonderful combination of experience and a fresh approach to the role, and I couldn't be more delighted with this outcome. I'm sure you'll be hearing plenty from Jessie in the future and I'm equally sure that you will love her as much as the Special Collections staff members do.

Well, it's time to go. Fellow Bootmakers Barbara Rusch and Donny Zaldin are here, and we're off to Westminster for the London society dinner. It's a good thing to be a Sherlockian, isn't it? An engrossing hobby, great events, and friends to share it all with. I look forward to future times with the Bootmakers.

Warm regards,

“Lomax”

# *News from Across Canada*

Stratford Upon Avon – September 24th, 2017 – The Case of the Floating Parsley.

Do you not remember the Abernetty business, and the sinking parsley? Of course, you do. We all do. While I may not be able to remember the adventure it is referenced in, I can never forget, “the depth which the parsley had sunk into the butter upon a hot day.”



Whilst thinking about a fun topic for our Stratford On Avon Sherlock Holmes Society, (On for Ontario), I thought to see how far down parsley will melt into soft butter on a hot day. A fairly easy task. The conclusion, however, was perplexing.

Let us begin with a quote of the one and only sentence concerning the affair. Within the context of the importance of trivialities Holmes remarks: “You will remember, Watson, how the dreadful business of the Abernetty family was first brought

to my notice by the depth which parsley had sunk into butter upon a hot day.” I have read that sentence for years, enjoyed it and never questioned it until now.

Our experiment began at 11 a.m. upon the hot day of our Autumnal Equinoctial Fete, in the year 2017. I placed about a quarter pound of butter on a dish, sprinkled dried parsley flakes on top and waited, and waited. Twenty-five hours later, long after the last Holmesian revellers had left, the parsley was still happily on top of butter, which had naturally clarified. “Fresh parsley must be used” cried the chorus. So I thought to do a little research on Victorian servings of butter. After searching high teas, and butter dishes and parsley recipes I came across Mr. Dennis Simanaitis’s test using fresh parsley and organic butter “the parsley sits on top leaving barely a mark.” In the pursuit of complete science, Dennis even microwaved that rascal and the leaves just float on top. I can say with complete confidence that parsley does not sink into butter on a hot day. Did Holmes know this? Of course, he did. Sherlock knows all. And if he says the parsley was sunken into the butter then it was.

But how? Why? I will bet that you thought the parsley would sink. Who wouldn't? I know that I did and was totally surprised when it did not. Someone must have pushed the parsley into the butter to fake the passage of time. Who would doubt it? Only Holmes, and that is what brought the Abernethy business to his notice. "Hummm, that parsley has been pushed into the butter. I wonder why?"

There you have my little addition to the complexity of Doyle's thought process. To me he is a first-rate author and certified genius. Oh, by the way, you will find the Abernethy quote near the beginning of "The Adventure of the Six Napoleons."

Halifax – Sherlock Holmes fans get surprise pearl

Fifteen members of the Spence Munros discovered that packages containing pearls can arrive during pub lunches, not just in the post, at the November 19 meeting, held at the Split Crow in downtown Halifax. Cheryl and Julia Weldon presented each attendee with a cardboard box, addressed to Miss Mary Morstan, and containing a single shiny jewel.

Richard Brown brought along three books for show and tell while Mark Alberstat passed around a copy of the first page of Doyle's manuscript for *The Sign of the Four*, the story under discussion for this meeting. The Colonel also talked about the use of the title *The Sign of the Four* versus *The Sign of Four*.

Grant Bradbury presented another challenging quiz. The winner was Ken Partridge, with a possible 21 out of 27, who claimed a picture book as his prize.

Discussion about the story included the Eastern influence and the negative depiction of the Sholto brothers. We also talked about how much better the story was than *A Study in Scarlet*, and its gothic atmosphere. Other topics raised included Watson and women, the travel throughout London, and Euclid's propositions.



The Spence Munros, November 2017.

# BOOTMAKERS' DIARY



... it is a page from some private diary.

— *The Five Orange Pips*

*Saturday, December 2, 2017*

The Bootmakers of Toronto met for the fifth story meeting of the year at the Gwen Liu Meeting Room of the North District Library. There were 47 members and guests in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m., by Meyers 2017, Michael Ranieri.

Announcements:

Mike welcomed everyone to the fifth story meeting and our Annual General Meeting.

Philip Elliott is stepping down as our Treasurer. Mike thanked him for his service to our society. We will be using a new financial system called WAVE online.

Mike is working on a new website.

The Annual Awards Dinner will be Saturday, January 27, 2018, at the York Masonic Temple.

Mike asked for suggestions for speakers for next year and at the Awards Dinner.

He asked for five or six volunteers to give toasts at the Awards Dinner. The toasts can be on any topic of the speaker's choosing.

The Marlene Aig Memorial Brunch will be on Sunday, January 28, 2018.

Mike introduced the first speaker, Bruce Aikin. The title of his presentation is, *Cambridge University, Paper Chemistry and Doctor Sherlock Holmes*. Bruce first examined the idea that Sherlock Holmes attended Oxford University. He found that Cambridge University would be a better choice because of Professor George Downing Liveing, who emphasized laboratory experiments. He also had an assistant who worked on coal tar derivatives. Bisulphate of baryta, mentioned in "A Case of Identity," should have been bisulphite of baryta and showed Holmes was experienced at paper chemistry. Holmes obtained his Doctor of Science Degree from the University of London.

Mike thanked his friend, Jeff, for helping with the speaker system. He also thanked the members of the Board for helping with the meetings.

Fifteen people participated in the Sherlockian Limerick 2.0 contest. The top three finishers will be published in *Canadian Holmes*. Everyone who submitted will get a Sherlockian mug. Mike will read the winners at an upcoming meeting.

Karen Campbell handed out the quiz.

For our break, Dayna Nuhn, Mike Losinski and Edith Reese acted as the Mesdames Hudsons.

Mike introduced the second speaker, Ashley Caranto Morford. She is a PhD. student in Literature and Book History at the University of Toronto. The title of her presentation is *From Colonial Figure to De-Colonial Power: Sexuality and the BBC's Sherlock*. Her scholarly writing is in relationship with Indigenous studies, decolonialism, and sexuality studies. She focused on representations of sexuality in the Holmes stories, especially in *A Scandal in Bohemia*. She discusses how the BBC's *Sherlock* series represents sexuality in decolonial ways, closely reading a scene between John and Sherlock in "A Study in Pink."

Karen Campbell then took up the quiz. There were three winners, Don Roebuck, John Gehan and David Sanders.

Karen Gold distributed the lyrics sheets for *Norbury*, sung to the tune of Johnny Rivers' *Memphis, Tennessee*.

Mike then announces the top three finishers of the Sherlockian Limerick 2.0 contest. The winners are: third place – Cliff Goldfarb; second place – Robert Stek and first place – Don Roebuck. The winning limericks will be published in a future edition of *Canadian Holmes*.

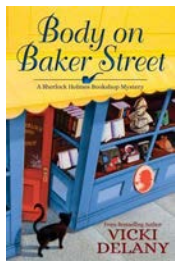
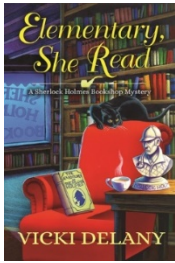
The Annual General Meeting was convened at 3:31 p.m.

The changes to the Bootmakers Constitution were approved. The size of the Board was reduced from 13 members to seven. And Meyers may now serve more than one year. The officers were elected. A full financial report will be posted on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

– Bruce D. Aikin, M.Bt., Sh.D.

## Book reviews continued...



*Elementary, She Read* (2017) & *Body on Baker Street* (2017) by Vicki Delaney, Crooked Lane (\$22.95 CAD)

Her bookmarks describe Canadian Vicki Delaney as a “One woman crime wave” and that’s no exaggeration. Since 2005, Delaney has produced two dozen or so crime books – an average of two a year, and that’s not counting the five crime novellas in the Rapid Read series aimed at “a reluctant reader and those short of time.”

Her latest series is the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop Mysteries, with the two books above published this year and a third, *The Cat of the Baskervilles*, already available on Kindle. So a bibliomystery hat trick.

A setting in the world of books is what distinguishes a bibliomystery, a genre that now has the blessing of Mysterious Bookshop proprietor Otto Penzler with his latest anthology, *Bibliomysteries*.

Delaney’s books revolve around the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop and Emporium in the tourist magnet town of West London on Cape Cod in New England. Transplanted Englishwoman Gemma Doyle is half owner of the bookshop, which she manages for her great-uncle Arthur Doyle. The shop cat is called Moriarty. Her best friend, Jane Wilson, operates an attached tea room. JW. Get it?

In addition to being bibliomysteries, these books also qualify as cozies — no sex, no profanity, no serial killers or psychopaths and a cast of repeating town characters that includes the requisite co-operative policeman.

Yes, it’s a formula but Delaney never becomes formulaic. The prose is sprightly and the Sherlockian echoes, imaginative. The plots are clever and the murderer in the first mystery surprised me.

If bibliomysteries don’t appeal, Vicki Delaney has several other series: Constable Molly Smith in a B.C. mountain town, a Klondike Gold Rush series, year-round Christmas mysteries, and, writing as Eva Gates, the real cozies in the Lighthouse Library Series.

At this rate, Delaney may challenge the most prolific mystery writer ever in Canada, Lana Hutton Bowen-Judd (better known as Sara Woods), who wrote 59 mysteries between 1961 and her death in 1985. That’s well more than two a year, yet who now remembers Woods?

– Peter Calamai



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