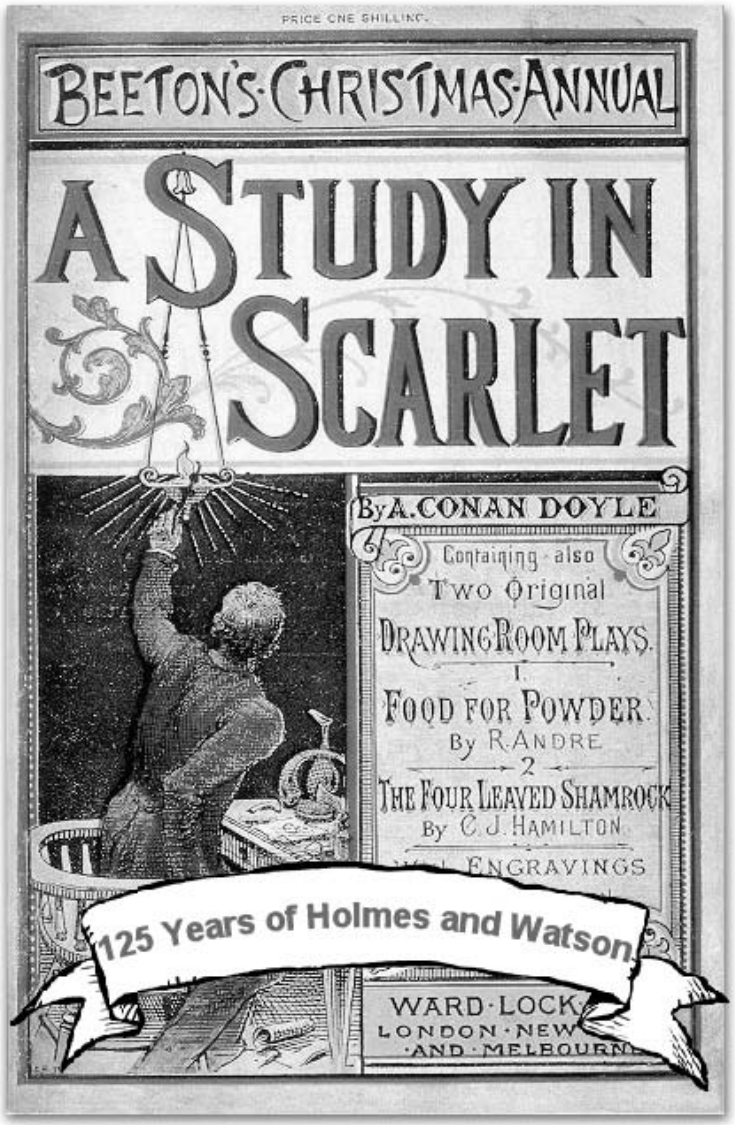


# Canadian Holmes

The Journal of the Bootmakers of Toronto
Volume 35 Number 2
Winter 2012/2013

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Cover: The cover of the 1887 Beeton's Christmas Annual. This rare magazine was where Holmes and Watson made their literary debut.

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One hundred and thirty-fourth issue

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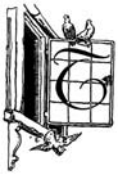


# TRACES OF BOOTPRINTS

## *125 Years and counting*

Wonder what was happening in the world a century and a quarter ago?

Teacher Anne Sullivan began working with blind pupil Helen Keller. Canada's first national park was created in the Rocky Mountains at Banff. Construction of Eiffel's famous tower began on the banks of the River Seine. And Glenfiddich produced its first single malt.

And, mostly importantly, 1887 was also the year in which Dr. John Watson met a consulting detective named Sherlock Holmes and became his roommate at 221B Baker St.

Doyle's groundbreaking novel *A Study in Scarlet* was published in *Beeton's Christmas Annual* that year, having been written in 1886. Ironically, the tale of bloody murder and Mormonism wasn't an immediate hit. However, the story laid the foundation for what became the world's most famous literary crime-fighting duo.

We learn a lot about these two Victorian gentlemen through this tale. We discover that Holmes has created a unique employment niche by becoming the world's first and only consulting detective and that Dr. Watson not only spent time in Afghanistan but was injured at the battle of Maiwand.

And now, 125 years after its publication, *A Study in Scarlet* should be celebrated for the first impression it gives us of Holmes and Watson. And what a lasting impression it has been.

The Toronto Reference Library's collection includes a copy of the original publication, a copy which once belonged to noted Sherlockian Edgar W. Smith. Also in the collection is the manuscript for the play *Angels of Darkness*, which was written around the same time (some say earlier; some say later) and which includes many of the same characters as STUD, but, alas, no Sherlock Holmes.

In this issue of *Canadian Holmes*, Dana Richards looks at Doyle's connection with spirit photography; John Addy is at sea with William Clark Russell and Margot French is teaching us all about exam security, then and now. There is, of course, much more good Sherlockian information between these covers, all thanks to a very special *Beeton's Christmas Annual* cover first seen 125 years ago.

# *A Song for The Devil's Foot*

*The following song parody was written and performed by Karen Campbell and Craig Brtnik and is their unique look at 'The Devil's Foot.'*

Watson's Bad Dream: based on "All I Have to Do" by the Everly Brothers

Drea-ea-ea-ea-eam, dream, dream, dream
Drea-ea-ea-ea-eam, dream, dream, dream

You say this drug made two men mad
and killed two more – it must be bad
Whatever possessed you, to want to try it too, and
Drea-ea-ea-ea-eam, dream, dream, dream

To find the truth, you lit the light
and breathed those fumes – it wasn't bright
The moment we smelled them, all that we could do was
Drea-ea-ea-ea-eam

Nightmares filled our brain, driving us insane
yes it worked, right away
Only trouble is, gee whiz, we're dreamin' our lives away

I need you so; can't let you die
I love you so and that is why
If ever you want to risk our lives again, you can
Drea-ea-ea-ea-eam, dream, dream, dream
Drea-ea-ea-ea-eam

Horrors in the cloud made us scream out loud
what a fine holiday
Only trouble is, gee whiz, we're dreamin' our lives away

I need you so; can't let you die
I love you so and that is why
If ever you want to be so dumb again, you can
Drea-ea-ea-ea-eam, dream, dream, dream
Drea-ea-ea-ea-eam, dream, dream, dream

# *From Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen*

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

"It was the era … of the scientist and civil engineer as hero. Holmes's profession as a consulting detective depended on just the right combination of cultural elements – popular acceptance of scientific principles…." Jack Tracy

Ever since the Great Crystal Palace Exhibition of 1851, spearheaded by Prince Albert, Consort of Queen Victoria, advances in modern technology and design increased consistently in Britain, as well as other developed countries. "World's Fairs" originally began in 1756 and continue to the present day. It has been said that the 19th century gave birth to the professional scientist. The word "scientist" was first used in 1833.

I was fascinated by the flurry of new inventions, particularly those of practical use in the home. It was fortunate that Mr. Holmes and Dr. Watson were early adopters of new technology as it related to their work. They encouraged me to seek new items for our household. I selected items that were most practical. My first acquisition was a telephone apparatus. It made commonsense given Mr. Holmes' and Dr. Watson's occupations. I also changed our door locks to Mr. Yale's sturdy design. Again, a prudent act since some of our visitors were rather malevolent.

I added large and small items for my own use. The gas cooking range was introduced at the 1883 Paris Exposition. An electric one followed just a few years later. I purchased a gas type. Many cookery books were available for gas ranges and professional chefs touted their ability to adjust heat more quickly and precisely.

Firms that sold ice began to sell insulated ice chests. They were popular and available in small to very substantial sizes. Other helpful devices included a rotary whisk that reduced the time to beat egg whites by half. Meat mincers, sausage machines, apple and potato parers, cucumber slicers, radish scrapers and pea shellers were popular. Food preserved in tin cans had many advantages: one could enjoy items out of season, store formerly perishable goods and keep a nicely stocked pantry without a daily visit to the shops. Some attempts were more successful than others but new varieties were introduced frequently.

A rotary knife cleaner and dishwasher were also available, but unnecessary in our little household. By 1886 technology and scientists gave us such valuable items as the light bulb, Bissell carpet sweeper, fountain pen, sewing machine, typewriter, zippers, bicycle frame, gramophone, coffee percolators and by 1901, the vacuum cleaner. Please forgive this delicate subject, but the invention of paper for personal sanitation was greatly appreciated and improved household hygiene considerably.

Below is a new recipe that utilized the insulated ice-chest. It was thoroughly enjoyed by Mr. Holmes and Dr. Watson.

*Blackcurrant Cream Ice – Serves 4*

Ingredients: 1 lb. blackcurrants, ½ pt. syrup made with 8 oz. sugar and ½ pt. water, ½ pt. double cream. To decorate: crystallized cherries, candied angelica, preserved fruits.

Mode: clean blackcurrants, stir and mash them over the fire for 5 minutes then pass them through a fine-hair sieve. Mix the syrup, at 32 degrees, with the blackcurrant puree and cream. When well beaten together, turn the mixture into the freezing part of the ice chest and work till stiff. Put the cream in a fluted metal mould, close it, pack in ice and leave in ice chest till frozen. Dip the mould in lukewarm water, wipe it and turn the cream out on a fancy dish. Decorate with cherries, angelica cut into points and garnish round with preserved apples, pears or other fruit. Surmount the whole with an ornamental attelette and set in ice chest to keep cold till wanted. This is reckoned to be one of the finest flavoured and handsomest sweets that can be prepared.

## *Write for Canadian Holmes*

Whether you write with an old-fashioned pen like this fellow or the the latest laptop, we are looking for you. All types of articles, toasts, thoughts, pastiches or reviews are welcome. It is up to you to continue to make *Canadian Holmes* the stand-out journal it is. Contact Bootprint, Mark Alberstat today with your ideas.

markalberstat@ns.sympatico.ca

# *A Toast to Two Gracious Ladies*

By Barbara Rusch
Presented at BOT Pub Night
May 26, 2012

As Queen Elizabeth celebrates her 60th year on the throne, she is rapidly closing the gap on Britain's longest reign. Queen Victoria, of course, presided over an empire on which the sun never set for almost 63 years, though there is a good possibility that our present queen will exceed even that impressive accomplishment. Whether or not that milestone is reached, there are some similarities, as well as some significant differences, between the long-lived sovereign and her great-great-granddaughter.

Victoria never visited Canada, though she chose our capital, Ottawa, for a number of sound reasons. She did so well with that decision that she also named our most westerly province British Columbia. Elizabeth has officially visited this country on 22 occasions, more than any other Commonwealth nation. On her latest visit, to celebrate Canada Day in the summer of 2011, she referred to Canada as her home and observed, "During my lifetime I have been a witness to this country for more than half its history since Confederation. I have watched with enormous admiration as it has grown and matured, remaining true to its history, its distinctive character and its values. It is a country which has dedicated itself to being a caring home for its own, a sanctuary for others and an example to the world." What pride we Canadians can take in those words.

*Queen Victoria as photographed by Alexander Bassano, 1882*

Victoria, Canada's Queen and very much beloved by her people, regarded her northern colony with inordinate affection, though she never referred to herself as Queen of Canada, a title conferred on Elizabeth in the *Royal Styles and Titles Act* of 1953. Nor did she ever open Canadian Parliament, as Elizabeth did first in 1957. Nevertheless, Victoria took an intense interest in her colonial subjects and no individual has been more honoured in Canada's public buildings, streets, towns, cities and geographical features, where her name appears more than a hundred times.

But she never dropped a puck at a hockey game (though the image is a tantalizing

one), while her illustrious descendant has enjoyed that distinction. To underscore its devotion to the memory of her distinguished reign, Canada is the only place on Earth that still celebrates Queen Victoria's birthday, the official birthday of the reigning monarch.

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was observed in 1897. One hundred and fifteen years later we are marking that milestone in the life of her even longer-lived descendant, if not amidst quite the same level of fanfare and jubilation, certainly with much enthusiasm and anticipation. A century ago, school children were given commemorative medals, mugs and notebooks with the Queen's image on the cover. There were balls and parades to celebrate the event across the country. Though the practice of monarchy in 1897 was perhaps more central to Canadian life, and this year's Diamond Jubilee may lack something of the pageantry of a century ago, the notion of monarchy is still integral to our form of government and our legal system is still very much in the monarchical tradition.

But perhaps the greatest difference between them is that Elizabeth never had the privilege of knowing Mr. Sherlock Holmes, of being referred to as "a certain gracious lady" and being turned down upon offering him a knighthood. She never had the thrill of meeting him at Windsor Castle and having the honour of presenting him with an emerald tie-pin. And, of course, the initials shot into the wall of 221B were VR, not ER.

Nevertheless, we have been enormously blessed to call both these women our sovereign. There is a sense of common purpose and continuity in their reigns, and as we pray for Elizabeth's continued good health through the 21st century, we also pay tribute to the monument of stability and endurance who so aptly represented the 19th. "God Save Our Queen and Heaven Bless The Maple Leaf Forever."

Now please rise and charge your glasses – twice – to two gracious ladies: first to the head of a great empire and the second of the Commonwealth of Nations. Fellow Bootmakers: To Victoria, Canada's Queen, and to Elizabeth, Queen of Canada.

# *Spirit Photography: Doyle in the Land of Od*

By Dana Richards

Dana Richards first presented this paper in October 2011 at the BOT's SinS conference. A professor of computer science at George Mason University, Dana has been active in many Sherlockian societies for 35 years, including the BSI and ASH. He has published in a variety of society publications and issued four pamphlets. After delivering this talk in Toronto, he was told he emanated a blue aura.

 rthur Conan Doyle's interest in Spiritualism, which dominated the last years of his life, extended to various aspects of that movement. In this paper we will concentrate on the field of spirit photography. We will begin with background information before moving on to Doyle's specific involvements. Spiritualism often co-existed with other occult/psychic claims and Doyle might deal with one even if his real interests lie with another.

Spiritualism grew quickly after 1848, when some sisters played a joke that was taken far too seriously by adults. The exponential growth of interest led to a variety of phenomena. (As a skeptic, I would say that the direction in which Spiritualism went was toward those phenomena where the charlatans' talents lie.) A potted history of Spiritualism is difficult, since fraud detected in one area led to an ebb and flow of interest in other areas. One aspect of its history that needs to be emphasized is the paradoxical attitude of its adherents: supernaturalism was embraced with religious-like faith, while their belief was rooted in empirical claims. In post-Darwinian popular culture, the scientific trappings were key.

Photography and the occult can be divided into two categories. First, the photographing of unseen images concerned those cases where the subject was only revealed after the film was developed. Animistic vital forces, which were conceived of as emanating fluids, were auras or energy fields that science had not yet addressed. But the most common example of photographing the unseen were images of spirits that were in the room but only visible to the film but not the human eye.

In the second category were photos of what was visible. For the most part these captured scenes that participants at seances (etc.) claimed to have witnessed. These were often mediums with "ectoplasm" emanating from their orifices. These records of what observers witnessed filled the need for empirical/scientific data that people demanded.

Further, for many people in this era, photography itself was miraculous! There are anecdotes of people regarding *any* photograph as more remarkable than the

idea of spirits. So it was not surprising that a spirit could cause its image to be impressed on the emulsion of the camera's glass plate.

The first person to claim to photograph an unseen spirit was the American William Mumler, in 1861. This is early in the history of photography (which began in 1822 but really dates from about 1850) but already such images were commonplace. They were known as artifacts and were not considered supernatural. So when Mumler found an image of a girl on a self-photo, he did not think it was a spirit. But a friend did and told the newspapers. Mumler, realizing that he could charge 10 times the going rate, set himself up as a photographer and moved to NYC. In 1863, a "spirit extra" in one of his photos was found to be living nearby! He dropped out of the business for a short while. Later, in 1869, he was sued for fraud in a sensational trial that attracted national attention. P.T. Barnum testified. Despite clear evidence, the judge finessed the whole issue by declaring questions about the reality of spirits were outside his jurisdiction. Perhaps because of these public exposures, spirit photography in England was not seen until 1871 (by Frederick Hudson).

Spirit photography did take off soon thereafter. After the various techniques for producing ghostly images became better known, the art proliferated. In fact, there were numerous contemporary newspaper articles explaining how the tricks were done so the public's ignorance was willful, as is often the case in matters of the occult. Today, collectors have identified thousands of these images.

There are many reasons why people believe in things paranormal. But with spirit photography there were two reasons people were predisposed to it. In Christian lore there is a tradition of apparitions appearing (to some or to all) and of spirits being near, so it made sense that photography — a new way of seeing — might reveal these. Second, popular literature/illustration had long depicted spirits as wraiths that resembled nothing so much as a double exposure.

*Florence Cook*

The actual photographing of mediums and séances probably started with William Crookes. He released photos of the medium Florence Cook, who was able to materialize the spirit guide, Katie King. Anyone, besides Crookes, could see in these photos that Katie King was the same person as Florence Cook! Many examples showing ectoplasm were circulated. Again, most outsiders thought the ectoplasm was remarkably like cheesecloth, etc. In general these photos rather reinforced the skeptics' opinions.

The evolution of Doyle's belief in Spiritualism is beyond the scope of this article. Well-known milestones were: an 1887 *Light* article reporting on a Portsmouth séance he attended; his joining the Society for Psychical Research in 1891; and his public declaration of his belief in 1916. (I happen to believe Doyle's conversion dates from 1914 and was emotional, largely independent of any data.)

Doyle had an early episode dealing with the occult. He had a youthful interest in photography, which involved having a detailed knowledge of how to prepare, expose and develop glass plates. He became a frequent contributor to the *British Journal of Photography* (BJP). W.H. Warner wrote a letter to BJP in 1883 defending Od (whereby colors, not light, affect photographs!). What was Od? It was one of the early efforts to propose, in scientific trappings, a "vital force" that emanated from all matter. It was proposed by Baron von Reichenbach in a series of publications around 1850. It is impossible, today, to describe Od with a straight face.

What makes this odd notion of occult photography relevant is that Doyle responded by vociferously attacking Warner and occult-based assertions:

> "Mr. Warner cites as facts things which are incorrect, and that in a crisp and epigrammatic way which is delightful. From these so-called facts he draws inferences which, even if they were facts indeed, would be illogical, and upon these illogical inferences draws deductions which, once more, no amount of concession would render tenable. … He tells us that scientific men have discovered a force in all living things, which they have named "Od." What scientific men? At the risk of being flippant I should submit that it is very odd that such force should be mentioned in no textbook of science. … The statement is so gloriously and symmetrically absurd that it appears absolutely brutal to suggest such botanical considerations as volatile oils, etc., especially in the face of the chirpy self-content with which Mr. Warner remarks in the next line that "these things are easy of proof, as must be apparent to any well-ordered mind." Alas! for my poor cerebrum! … Let Mr. Warner mature his views for another twelve years or so, and then give them light more logically and less dogmatically, while producing some show of reason for the faith that is in him."

These types of observations, almost word for word, were later used against Doyle when he adopted the faith of spiritualism. It is conjectured that he suppressed any mention of the BJP; this letter was unknown for 50 years after his death.

Doyle became less logical and more dogmatic after he became an apologist for spiritualism. But he carried a curious mixed message. His speeches were full of "proofs" of the spirit world. (He had a huge photograph of himself, which depicted the face of his dead son looking over his shoulder). "I handled the plate for that picture myself. Nobody else touched it. How can people doubt when they have such proof as that?" But he forthrightly conceded that such proofs mattered little to him since he knew the truth. ("I am not talking about what I believe, I'm not talking about what I think, I'm talking about what I know.") Since the strength of the empirical evidence did not matter to his own beliefs, and since he might convert others with a mountain of evidence, he was lax in accepting examples. He admitted that not all his proofs were of equal quality.

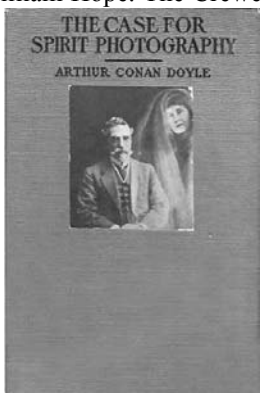
Sometimes his laxity was clear to even the casual observer. When commenting on the fact that images of spirits in photos looked like photographs from newspapers, he wrote:

> On examination with a lens it was noticeable that the countenance was pitted with fine dots, as in the case of process printing. This is to be noticed in a certain proportion, possibly one in ten, of Hope's results, and occurs in the case of persons whose faces could by no possibility have appeared in newspapers. One can only suppose that it is in some way connected with the psychic process, and some have imagined a reticulated screen upon which the image is built up. I am content to note the fact without attempting to explain it. I have observed the same effect in other psychic photographs.

Given the two hypotheses — a photo possibly appeared in a newspaper or psychic phenomena exactly duplicated the tiny artifacts of the newspaper printing process — most readers would shake their heads at Doyle's tack. (No such examples predate the invention of that printing process.) And here we see another jaw-dropping example of his inability to see that fraud is the overwhelming hypothesis:

> On the other hand, many of the likenesses, obtained under the same test conditions, are obviously simulacra or pictures built up by some psychic force, not necessarily by the individual spirits themselves, to represent the dead. In some undoubtedly genuine cases it is an exact, or almost exact, reproduction of an existing picture, as if the conscious intelligent force, whatever it might be, had consulted it as to the former appearance of the deceased, and had then built it up in exact accordance with the original. In such cases the spirit face may show as a flat surface instead of a contour. Rigid examination has shown that the existing model was usually outside the ken of the photographer.

The "Hope" referred to two paragraphs above was William Hope. The Crewe Circle was a changing group of spirit photography enthusiasts, and Hope, their principal photographer, was the central member. While Hope also served as a medium, a Mrs. Buxton was their best-known medium. When they were caught in some fraud, Doyle wrote a entire book defending them, *The Case for Spirit Photography*. The book was essentially a pamphlet but was padded out with contributions and testimonials by others.




Harry Price, as a representative of the Society for Psychical Research, investigated Hope. It was normal practice (and Hope would know this) for Price to bring his own plates and have marked them. The

subsequent spirit photo did not show the mark. Doyle made excuses and accusations. Doyle had sat for Hope in 1919, using marked plates, and detected no fraud. One of these photos had a spirit face, some ectoplasm and a written message, all on one glass plate!

*The Combermere Photograph*

In 1918 the Society for the Study of Supernormal Pictures was formed. Doyle was its vice-president. Hope took their group photo and … it had a spirit face in it. Under the auspices of the SSSP, he gathered a sizable collection of photos. (Not only did Doyle sit for spirit photos but after his death his face started showing up in others' examples.)

Doyle only dabbled in the investigation of spirit photos. One instance was an article he wrote in 1926, "The Combermere Photograph." This concerned a photo taken decades earlier and he wrote letters asking if what he heard was true; that was his investigation. The photo was a four-hour exposure of a room (with low natural light) and there was a ghostly presence in a chair. Presumably someone sat briefly in the chair during the exposure. However, Doyle was sure it was genuine since no one could recall such a person, all those years before. In fact he labelled it, the "best case upon record of supernormal photography in normal life."

Doyle also tested Ada Deane and endorsed her. She was elderly and did not take up photography until late in life. She produced a series of Armistice Day photos taken at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, wherein are found some faces of the dead from the Great War. Unfortunately, they were actually the faces of a sports team.

I must briefly address Doyle's most famous excursion into photography. He wrote articles about the Cottingley Fairies that were collected into a book. This is a well-documented case and does not reflect well on Doyle's detection of fraud. However, this case does not qualify as spirit photography since the images showed fairies that presumably were real; the girls certainly claimed to have seen them. Doyle actually tried to photograph fairies; he never attempted to take spirit photographs.

So in closing, we have a strange situation. Doyle understood the mechanics of photography from experience, which should have given him expertise in detecting fraud. Further, fraudulent methods were public knowledge. And Doyle himself attached no intrinsic importance to spirit photography; his beliefs were not enhanced or diminished by their truth or falsity. Even so, in the service of his Spiritualist crusade, he conscripted all proofs and defended them, even when the fraud was or should have been clear.

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Molly McGarry, Ghost of Futures Past, Univ Cal Press, 2008.

# *In Memoriam — Jay Macpherson*

Jay Macpherson, who died March 21, 2012 after a distinguished career in Canadian literature and scholarship, is also remembered for the role she unwittingly played in helping the Bootmakers of Toronto come into existence more than 40 years ago.

Macpherson was already a Governor General's Award winner (for her epic poem *The Boatman*, 1958) and a prominent professor at Victoria College, University of Toronto, when she was invited to speak at the Weekend with Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle held at the Metropolitan Toronto Central Library, then at the corner of College and St. George streets, in 1971. Most of the symposium speakers were known Sherlockians, including Peter Blau and Francine Morris, but someone, in a moment of inspiration thought of inviting Macpherson as well (could it have been fellow poet Cameron Hollyer?). A former student and close associate of academic giant Northrop Frye, she was known to be interested in literary genres and myth; who better, then, to speak on "Sherlock Holmes as a Figure of Romance"?

Her paper was among the more substantial presentations that weekend, and when the Bootmakers of Toronto was organized shortly afterwards, building on the enthusiasm generated at the symposium, it was, in part, because Macpherson had shown that Sherlock Holmes could be the subject of serious literary talk as well as plain fun. She never joined the society but did attend at least one meeting in later years.

Her 1971 paper was published in *Canadian Holmes* in 1981, "transcribed from a tape and slightly edited but not rewritten." It began with a characterization of Holmes and Watson — highly relevant in today's media environment — as "the manhunter and his stunned chum," continued with references to Poe, "obsessed characters" and the cliché of the ominous waterfall, included a reading of T. S. Eliot's 'Macavity,' and described the typical Holmes story as involving "oaths and mutiny, treasure and treachery." In a way, the Bootmakers have been dining off Macpherson's rich offering ever since.

# *Strictly Personal*

***Canadian Holmes* puts a prominent Canadian Sherlockian under the microscope.**

**Name:** Hartley R. Nathan

**Age, birthplace**: 73, Toronto, Ont.

**Occupation**: Lawyer (Q.C.)

**Current city of residence**: Toronto
**In school I excelled at**: Law – Gold Medalist Osgoode Hall Law School (Failed Manual Training)
**A great evening for me is**: Being anywhere with my wife Marilyn, children Cindy, (Michael), Brad and grandchildren Shawn and Erin
**Goal in life**: Learn how to record a TV program
**Other hobbies and interests**: Coaching baseball, travel, collecting *Vanity Fair* prints, books, stamps and coins and selective Sherlockiana, and writing Sherlockian papers with Cliff Goldfarb
**Favourite dining experience**: Dining with Mordechai Richler in Montreal in 1972 when he confirmed his reputation as a humourist and a lover of Scotch.
**First Sherlockian memory**: Attending the weekend with Sherlock Holmes at the Toronto Central Library in 1971
**Three favourite Canonical tales**: Hound, Study in Scarlet, Illustrious Client
**Least favorite Canonical tale**: The Creeping Man (lacks credibility)
**Favourite Non-Sherlockian reading**: Victorian-era British mysteries, and non-fiction
**Favourite Sherlockian movie**: *Murder by Decree*, with Christopher Plummer as Holmes and James Mason as Watson chasing after Jack The Ripper
**Favourite non-Sherlockian movies**: *Casablanca* and *Breaker Morant*
**Most prized items in my Sherlockian collection**: The Crowborough Edition and a Penang lawyer with the inscription: To James Mortimer, M.R.C.S. from his friends at the C.C.H. "1884"
**If I could live anywhere in the world it would be**: London, England
**If I could live at any time in history, it would be**: 1888 – The year of Jack the Ripper but with today's scientific knowledge
**If I could ask Holmes, Watson and Doyle each one question, they would be**:
Holmes – Were you in love with Irene Adler?
Watson – Would you sanction Lucy Liu playing you in a TV series?
Doyle – Who was the Hebrew Rabbi?

# *William Clark Russell source for the origin of the name 'Sherlock Holmes'*

By John Addy

John Addy is Membership Secretary of The Musgraves Sherlock Holmes Society, northern England. He has a passion for reading and writing about Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle and William Clark Russell, the pre-eminent sea-author of his generation.

There have been countless pages of research by Sherlockian scholars on the origin of the name 'Sherlock Holmes,' and Hugo Koch's recent interesting monograph: Psychoanalytic Hypothesis of Over-determinism in Literary Productions,[1] is the latest. In this wide-ranging work, Koch implores us to undertake a detailed new study of this important topic, re-examining what we already know and expanding our field of enquiry. In the spirit of continued research, I present a new source in the search for the origin of the name 'Sherlock Holmes.'

The new source comes from a book first published in 1876 by the author Clark Russell, who was well known to Conan Doyle as a master of the sea story. Owen Dudley Edwards believes that his influence on Conan Doyle's writing was significant: "He [Doyle] always retained a kind word for old favourites such as his contemporary W. Clark Russell."[2] Conan Doyle was impressed enough with Clark Russell's work to write in *Through the Magic Door*, "If I had to choose a sea library of only a dozen volumes … Clark Russell deserves a whole shelf for himself, but anyhow you could not miss out *The Wreck of the Grosvenor*.[3] And when discussing literature in England and contemporary authors, Conan Doyle said, "There are at least a dozen men and women who have made a deep mark and are still young. No one can say how far they may go." He then lists his dozen authors, including Barrie, Kipling, Jerome and Clark Russell.[4]


*William Clark Russell (1844-1911). From The* Idler*, vol. VII, 1895.*

Conan Doyle also, of course, mentioned Clark Russell in his Sherlockian short story 'The Five Orange Pips' where, on a rainy night of autumnal gales, Holmes

was busy cross-indexing his records of crime and Dr Watson, "was deep in one of Clark Russell's fine sea stories." We may never know the actual story Watson was reading (though many scholars have tried to confirm this) but we do know that the good doctor, like Conan Doyle, was an admirer of Clark Russell.

Clark Russell had been writing novels since 1867, when he anonymously published *Life's Masquerade*[5] and *The Hunchback's Charge*[6] under his own name. He then continued for several years with a succession of melodramatic novels written under three pseudonyms! Although he had served in the merchant service for almost eight years, he didn't write about the sea until 1875, when *John Holdsworth, Chief Mate* was published. After this a stream of exciting tales of derring-do upon the ocean flowed from his pen, including *The Wreck of the Grosvenor* (1877), which made his name.

**Introducing Mr Skerlock**

During Clark Russell's melodramatic literary period he published the novel *Is he the Man?*[7] in 1876. It is a rather drawn-out detective story about a colonel's daughter who is wrongly and shamefully accused of a terrible crime, and the efforts of her father, Colonel Kilmain, and others to prove the lady's innocence and bring the guilty party to justice.

When Colonel Kilmain is at the town of Copsford he meets an old acquaintance whose name is "Mr Skerlock." This gentleman is described as "a spare man, of a dry and dusty aspect, a great consumer of snuff; his face was full of amiability and kindness.' Mr Skerlock is also described as an "investigating magistrate" who has involved himself in the intricate and mystifying problem relating to the colonel's daughter. He seems to do more investigating than the local police and with greater efficiency and common sense.

*From "Is He the Man?"1876 - Mr Skerlock is seated on the left with his back to a standing Colonel Kilmain*

The similarity between the names 'Sherlock' and 'Skerlock' immediately presents yet another candidate for consideration as the origin of the Great Detective's first name. In this case we have a very similar-looking and sounding name and the reasonable possibility that Conan Doyle, as a self-professed reader and admirer of Clark Russell, may have read *Is he the Man?* This novel was first published 11 years before *A Study in Scarlet*, the book that introduced Sherlock Holmes to the world.

Mr Skerlock recommends that the colonel should call upon a police inspector and lay a charge against a footman involved in the intrigue. He also suggests that the colonel should hire someone to search for his

missing son-in-law, promoting the value of "putting the matter into the hands of men accustomed to this sort of work." Mr Skerlock wisely says the colonel should "Flatter the inspector by placing the matter in his hands; he is a talker, and will unconsciously serve your ends by telling everybody his commission. But do not let the matter rest with him. The man who is to search for your son-in-law may as well search for the footman also. The police are sharp enough; but there is no sharpness equal to that of the man whom you pay highly for his discoveries."

Mr Skerlock then gives the colonel a contact who can secure the services of such a man — and the name of the man is Johnson. Again, there is a remarkable parallel with Holmes' use of a personal agent in the criminal underworld, Shinwell Johnson (aka 'Porky' Shinwell), a man who helps Holmes in the adventure of 'The Illustrious Client.' Holmes says that Johnson was a valuable assistant who obtained information of vital importance and who "had the entree of every night-club, doss house, and gambling-den in the town, and his quick observation and active brain made him an ideal agent for gaining information."

*From "Is he the Man?" 1876 - The colonel's daughter becomes crazed.*

Colonel Kilmain's daughter refers to Johnson as "the detective, or whatever he is." We also hear that Johnson "had for many years followed the queer profession of hunting down people and hunting up evidence." And, says the colonel when he has the benefit of Johnson's assistance, "his manner of making enquiries astounded me by the cunning and cleverness they illustrated."

Johnson (with the energy of a Holmes or a 'Porky' Shinwell) throws himself into a prolonged search for his quarry, asking about the neighbourhood, enquiring at every inn and tavern along the way, following up clues and tracking leads through half-a-dozen towns and villages across two counties. Johnson eventually finds his man in lodgings just off Oxford Street in London — a thoroughfare regularly crossed by Holmes and Watson on their way to and from 221B Baker Street! The delighted colonel says, "There's a clever dog, this Johnson! what patience! what shrewdness! what slow, unerring sagacity he has displayed!"

Nearing the climax of the story, four people are asked to confront the rediscovered son-in-law at the colonel's house and Mr Skerlock agrees readily to the colonel's invitation saying, "Of course I will attend; and I only wish he had asked me to present myself with a horsewhip. I would give a trifle for the privilege of flogging the rascal who had subjected a beautiful and innocent woman to a monstrous and unnatural suspicion." There may even be a tenuous

connection here with Sir Robert Norberton, whom we are told once horsewhipped Sam Brewer, the well-known Curzon Street money-lender, in 'The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place.'

So, could Conan Doyle have read *Is he the Man?* by an author he states he admired; and could he have dredged up from his subconscious 'Mr Skerlock' to use a similar name for his detective hero some years later? And might he also have remembered the astute enquiry agent Johnson from *Is he the Man?* and invented Shinwell Johnson to ably assist Sherlock Holmes? Yes, I hear you say!

So, let us all therefore respond to Hugo Koch's challenge and follow in the footsteps of Vincent Starrett, John Dickson Carr, Christopher Morley, William Baring-Gould and many others who have entertained us with studies on the origin of the name 'Sherlock Holmes.'

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[3] A. Conan Doyle, *Through the Magic Door*, London: Smith, Elder & Co., 1907, p. 238-9.

[4] Robert Barr, 'A Chat With Conan Doyle,' *The Idler*, Volume VI, London, Chatto & Windus, 1894, p. 344.

[5] W. Clark Russell, *Life's Masquerade*, London: Charles W. Wood, 3 vols., 1867. [Although published anonymously, I recently attributed this novel to Clark Russell when I found an article in a New York newspaper: *The Tioga County Record*, for 22 July, 1887, in which Clark Russell is directly quoted as saying that this title was his first novel. The novel is dedicated to Annie M. Alexandrina Henry, whom the author married on 27 June, 1868, at the Church of Saint Stephen in Paddington. The novel is available to read online at: http://www.archive.org/stream/lifesmasqueraden01lond#page/n5/mode/2up]

[6] W. Clark Russell, *The Hunchback's Charge*, London: Sampson Low, Son, & Marston, 3 vols., 1867. [A first edition of this never-seen-for-the-last-35-years novel sold at Sotheby's in October 2010 for £12,500!]

[7] W. Clark Russell, *Is he the Man?* London: Tinsley Brothers, 3 vols., 1876. Titled *The Copsford Mystery* or, *Is he the Man?* in the US]. The novel is available to read online at:
http://www.archive.org/stream/copsfordmystery00russgoog#page/n28/mode/2up

# *Reflections on 'The Three Students' and on exam security then & now*

By Margot French

Margot French started her career with Sherlock Holmes more than 20 years ago, after she attended a lecture at The Toronto City Morgue. As a Bootmaker she has presented papers, served as Mrs. Hudson and Meyers, received the True Davidson Award and wears her Master Bootmaker shoehorn with pride. She is a scientist and educator who recently retired from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. This article is from a paper delivered at the October 24, 2009 meeting of The Bootmakers.

es Klinger said, "The crime presented here is regarding a student who cheats on an exam."

Mr. Hilton Soames called it "a very painful incident."

Watson adds that "to exactly identify the college or the criminal would be injudicious and offensive. So painful a scandal may well be allowed to die out..."

Sherlock Holmes described it as "the problem of the nervous tutor. The careless servant, and the three enterprising students."

To nit-pick a little, cheating did not actually occur in this story. Yes, the initial intent was certainly to cheat. Ultimately the culprit only copied the questions and did not put that information to any further use. This story is about the breach in the office security and the confidentiality of the examination itself. Intrusion, perhaps, although not a true break and enter. Nothing concrete was stolen and no crime was actually committed. Had evidence not indicated an intruder's presence, Mr. Soames would not have been the wiser. Yet what a wonderful array of evidence we have in this story: three little bits of putty-like material, papers on the floor, a scratch and hole in the new blotter. This story provides us more details of how Sherlock's analytical brain works and allows us to follow as he pieces the mystery together. Watson, however, has taken great pains to confuse us and elicits false tangents of investigation in his attempt to foil the reader from discovering the true identities in this case of academic imprudence. We have the facts and a solution as to the culprit within some 14 hours. It is all very neatly sewn up by Holmes, of course, after learning the secret connection with Ballinger and the motivations behind the facts.

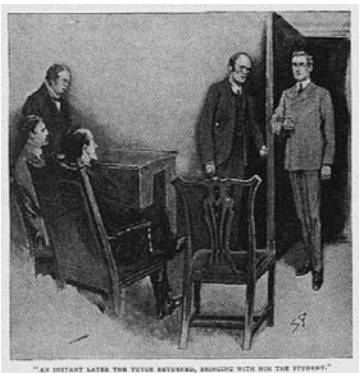
Although debate may continue about exactly at which "great university" Holmes and Watson were, I am convinced by Klinger's annotation that the university in question must be Cambridge. The concrete evidence comes from

letters by C.B. Fry and analysis by W.S. Bristowe confirming, to my satisfaction, that Cambridge was the only athletic field using the unique compound of clay and sand for the jumper's landing pad. They, and they alone, had developed this material and began using it before 1895 when the 'The Three Students' was published. Oxford did not introduce this material until after the 1903 competitions, when it became a popular replacement for sand at many British sports fields. Doyle, an avid sportsman, would surely have been intrigued by this innovation and thus incorporated this bit of reality into our story. Bristowe also speculates that Cambridge hurdler and jumper C. B. Fry might also have been the inspiration for Gilchrist. Although a possible fit, we know Sherlock, as well as Watson's literary agent, kept many secrets and would never divulge his source in any case.

My take on this story is that its crux is essentially a breach of security. And the issue, and embarrassment for Mr. Soames as the tutor in charge, is his failure to keep the examination confidential. He did not do the job he was charged with.

Examinations are a stressful time for students. Miles McLaren refuses to open his door with "a torrent of bad language." Everyone reading this, no doubt, has experienced the emotional anxiety of preparing for and writing an examination, especially one we believe to be crucial or pivotal to our success. Under such extreme anxiety, individuals are not in a normal state. Daulat Ras paced the floors. Holmes corrects Watson's suspicions, "There is nothing in that. Many men do it when they are trying to learn by heart." He further surmises, "when you are preparing for an examination next day, and every moment is of value." Hence, trepidation and fear of failure can induce an array of behaviours and make an otherwise principled student, like Gilchrist, take advantage of a serendipitous opportunity. For him, seeing the exam ahead of time and making a copy of the questions was a certain means to pass the examination in question.

Based on my personal experience with both provincial and national examinations, being responsible for the content and publishing an examination is a somewhat onerous task made more so when a number of others are expecting to contribute and/or audit the final product. In this case, Soames appears to be solely responsible. Apart from creating questions, this includes the responsibility of defending the statistical outcomes and justifying the correct answers. Dealing with petitions is another onerous task and often a last resort for students seeking a better grade. Is it curious that Soames is called a tutor instead of a professor, assistant professor or perhaps even a course director? I am certain that a lowly tutor would not been given sole authority and responsibility in this situation. Certainly this must be another falsehood meant to confuse identities. Proofing an examination is sensitive and time consuming. It requires rigorous and



fastidious examination for any imprecision. You must know what answer you seek before you can ask the best question to elicit the correct response. Developing multiple-choice questions is an art unto itself. The wrong answers seem to cause the most anguish and take up the most time. Soames controls this particular examination process from its inception to its publication.

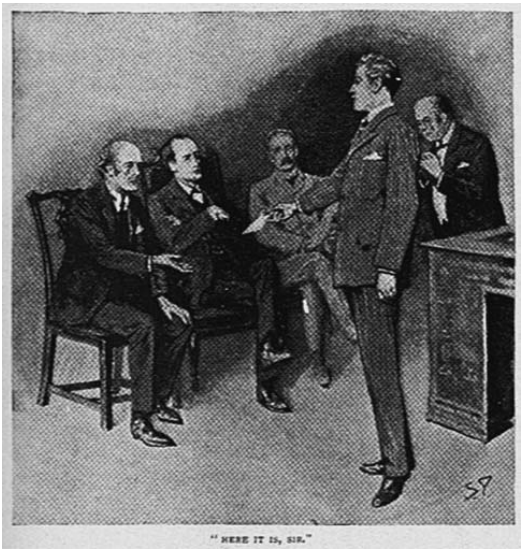
It is he who selected the appropriate passage of Thucydides. "His subject is Greek, and the first of the papers" as the first of the components these students, sitting for the Fortescue Scholarship, must complete. But why does it take him so long to proof the original copy? Surely he did not have to perform a fresh translation? Indeed, he has taught Greek, apparently, for some years and as a chief tutor (as he must have been in order to be entirely in charge of this examination section at such a "great University"). Soames must have been readily familiar with this passage since he chose it. Would he have selected something he was not already familiar and comfortable with? As Judge Judy would say, "If it doesn't make sense, it didn't happen."

Greek had been part of grammar school curriculums for over a century, and at higher levels, much longer. St. Andrew's University in Scotland still conducts much of its convocation ceremony in Latin. Watson has previous knowledge of Soames as a Greek teacher. Certainly Thucydides' writings must have been within the designated or recommended text that every candidate would have been advised to purchase or study as a prerequisite for applying for the Fortescue Scholarship. In all likelihood, Soames had been involved in previous examination preparation, as we are not told otherwise. So why was extra, meticulous time required for him to proof this one? He had not finished after 1.5 hours at this task, to be interrupted with a supper appointment at 4:30 after which he expected to continue. Watson describes him as "of a nervous and excitable temperament" having "always known him to be restless in his manner." On this occasion Soames was indeed in "a state of uncontrolled agitation." This does seem to reinforce a stereotypical academic figure to Watson's other academic figures, described as somewhat unstable, excitable and certainly nervous personalities. Although these are certainly not attributes of Professor Moriarty, was this perhaps a lingering archetype from Doyle's grammar school? Latin, if not Greek, was a prerequisite to medical school in his day, after all.

I put to you that Soames was especially anxious over this examination as his own position as tutor (professor?) was in jeopardy. Possibly the Language Faculty was downsizing and a full-time Greek tutor was deemed no longer necessary? His own position and tenure assessment was underway. Soames was undergoing his own personal 'examination' within this case.

This story takes place in the year 1895 and the need to teach Greek, and the need for specifically Greek-only teachers, was on a downward trend. Since the publication of Samuel Johnson's Dictionary in 1755, the study of classical languages had begun to fall out of favour. The rise of a new middle class required practicality with modern languages and commercial subjects instead. Arithmetic and English had been introduced at the public (to us, private)

grammar-school level and had begun to be universally taught by the early 1800s. By the end of the 19th century, classical languages were significantly diminished as modern languages such as French and German became in demand for everyday communication and usage. Invention and innovation had become code words as the Industrial Revolution's impact on education emerged and grew. I suspect Soames was feeling in a delicate situation before this incident befell him. Life in the academic hierarchy was (and still is) a precarious one where one's reputation and integrity must be protected. Any perception, however slight, or suspicion of any irregularities or blame was to be avoided at all costs. A breach of confide-entially would have been a nightmare for Soames since he was already under consid-erable pressure. His con-fidence and self-esteem had already begun to erode, leaving him anxious about his position and future income. Job insecurity had reduced Soames to a nervous wreck. He was soon to face his own 'examination' by either his peers and/or superiors. This incident had further unnerved him and he could ill afford any suspicion. Nothing could be put on paper that might jeopardize his position, much less involve the local constabulary. Total secrecy was crucial and mandatory.




Considering the history of the examinations, we need to look at the roots of scholarship. Both Cambridge and Oxford, as great universities, were established upon ecclesiastical foundations. A Roman congregate of scholars became Cambridge's first college of Peterhouse, founded by the Bishop of Ely in 1209. Similarly, Oxford's Blackfriars began in 1221 and continues to be run by the Dominican order into the 21st century. Studies were largely the areas of philosophy and theology. Access to university was dominated by religious affiliation and, like most forms of formal education, opened only to those with wealth and influence. Attendance was a privilege of the upper class and for several centuries, primarily those headed for roles in the Church. Admission was frequently conditional or dependant upon the monarch's denomination and/or tolerances at the time. Available exclusively to males, admission was more by means and affiliation than merit or intellectual pursuits. By the early 1800s the capacity to excel in some sporting activities had became highly valued, which enhanced securing a place in a varsity setting. Rhodes scholarships, one of the most prestigious to Oxford even now, suggest a suitable candidate should be

"regarded as a successful athlete as well as embody high moral calibre and ethical decision-making practices," as per its website application.

Entirely subjective, debate remained the standard form of interrogation. Candidates demonstrated their education and knowledge base verbally. Dissertations were open discussions with other students being present and frequently taking part in the proceedings. Even today, institutions publish the dissertation schedule and faculty, staff and the public may attend. Examination was the student's opportunity not just to prove his or her advanced level of scholarship but to be acclaimed as a scholar within his or her academic surrounds. On occasion the proceedings had been known to even accelerate into brawls, especially when views clashed or hypotheses were controversial and/or unpopular. Presentation was crucial and oratory, the primary vehicle of distinction. Debate was the tool of choice to defend one's thesis and/or theories. Public speaking and eloquence were highly valued assets and essential in getting your point across as an undergraduate. Verbal competence was a mainstay at the university level of education; certainly for achieving an appointment, as most would be destined for the academic life unless entering the Church. In later years, a route into politics was a common practice for university graduates to represent the seats their families frequently 'owned' either by running for a parliamentary party or by legacy sitting in the House of Lords. Being questioned was a normal means of assessment and, at so many levels, conditional to achievement. The social standards of the day prevailed in morals, social affiliations and social attributes. In such arenas, being a gentleman was ingrained within the university code of conduct. Scholarship was still bound by theological constraints. Radical thinking from orthodox views was considered scandalous. Indeed, such thinking could become a social liability. Though no longer a student, we see such trepidation with Charles Darwin's reluctance to share his thoughts on Evolution, even within his academic society, for many years. Restraint and personal dilemma kept scholars and intellects alike from voicing new ideas within intellectual environments. Especially vulnerable were those whose sole income, such as academics like Soames, were derived exclusively from their university employers. To be different or out of favour was to become an outcast – and jobless!

Generally speaking, formal written examinations did not exist until the late 1880s at most universities in Britain. By the 1700s, scientific fields of endeavour were expanding, especially in mathematics, physics and chemistry. These fields increasingly required written analysis or explanation with appropriate formulae. Competence and knowledge had to be assessed in hard copy. Increasingly rigorous standards began to be demanded of individuals at the undergraduate levels, then imposed on post graduates as well. Germany was one of the first to introduce written examinations along with a standardized curriculum. Eventually scholarship criteria were introduced to decide who was considered expert enough to teach or tutor. Britain soon followed suit. London's St. Mary's was the first to introduce a modern curriculum in 1876, not long after 1871, when it first began keeping a list of pupils. In 1858, the Institute, formerly

known as London Mechanics Institute, was one of the first to introduce written examinations to its largely part-time students. This facility evolved into the University of London.

The first woman to write her examination for Special Certificates in mathematics and in logic and moral philosophy was Susan Helen Couper Black. Considered gifted, she attended the University of London from 1871- 1874. This was before they began awarding degrees to women in 1878. After teaching mathematics, Black changed her name to Helen Lenoir for a brief acting career, eventually meeting up with Richard D'Oyly to create the theatrical organization that is best known as The D'Oyly Carte; Lenoir acted as its business manager. Being D'Oyly's right hand 'man,' they produced all the Gilbert & Sullivan productions and other Savoy Operas. Lenoir married D'Oyly in 1888 after his wife's death and carried on in control of the business after his death in 1901. She formed and ran her own production company until her death in 1913.

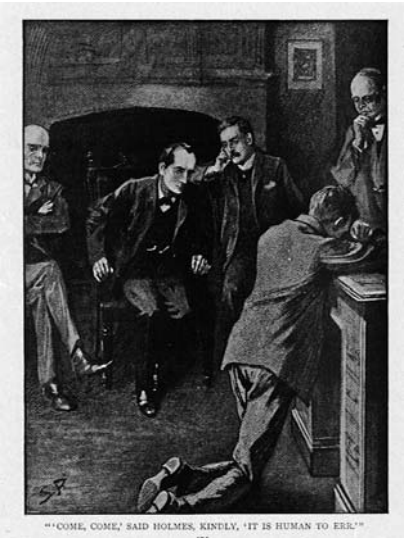
Even then women were largely not allowed equal opportunity to study for a degree at university. Cambridge took its first five female students in 1873, followed by Oxford in 1879, even though the first American woman graduated from medicine in 1849. Despite these gains, life for female students was very difficult. In 1884, at University College of the University of Toronto, sisters Catherine and Margaret Brown (daughters of George Brown, one of the Fathers of Confederation and namesake of the university) were the first women to even be allowed in a classroom. Previously they had had to listen to lectures given by President Daniel Wilson through the open door of his office, beside the lecture room, concealed from the "lascivious" eyes of young men, according to author Martin L. Friedland. When the first 11 women began their studies at the University of Toronto in 1884, there was no women's washroom on campus. They also had no access to a reading room, a residence or the library catalogues.

The intruder in our story had left evidence that he had tried to copy the contents of the papers with a pencil. Certainly knowing the translation passage would be a significant help for any candidate. Hence the intruder knew what the document was. His pencil breaks and using a large, blunt penknife, he sharpens it to continue his task.

In 1565 local farmers started marking sheep with a hand print after a large graphite deposit was discovered in England. Graphite's softness meant it could be shaped but required encasement for the graphite stick to be used as a writing implement. Although twine and different materials were tried, wood encasement was the best and initially largely explored by Italian craftmen. With the Napoleonic Wars came blockages against France's importation of graphite and pencils. This forced development of a vast improvement to the graphite stick when Nicholas Jacques Conte in 1795 discovered a method of forming powdered graphite with clay into rods and firing in a kiln, thus creating a longer lasting instrument. The Conte crayon was born.

In similar fashion the American Revolution led to another European embargo on pencil exportation. This circumstance pushed American inventors to perfect this common writing tool using red wood, which did not splinter, as the material

of choice for pencils. American Hyman Lipman received the first patent in 1858 for attaching an eraser to the end of the pencil. In our story the pencil is an exceptionally long one and none of the students produced a similar pencil when put to Sherlock's test. The letters NN were most assuredly part of the manufacturer's name (Johann Faber). I am inclined to agree with Bruce Holmes and Les Klinger that this clue was on a chip cut from the pencil when it was sharpened.


"'COME, COME,' SAID HOLMES, KINDLY, 'IT IS HUMAN TO ERR.'"

I smiled when I re-read this story with the thought of the array of technological items found in today's student knapsack. No doubt many writing instruments might be found but surely not the ubiquitous pencil I imagined. Then it dawned on me that indeed the lowly pencil is **only** used for examinations these days. It is, in fact, an essential writing implement across the university environment in North America and beyond. A graphite pencil was initially mandatory to be used with multiple-choice scan sheets (aka scanatron sheets), which are a basic component, along with answer booklets, for answering examination questions. Although ballpoint pen can now also be used, marking is 'read' by comparing the number of correctly filled-in boxes, compared to a template of the correct answers. These correct totals are uploaded into the master computer. Quick and reliable, this marking format enables huge numbers of examination answer sheets to be marked with little cost and considerable efficiency. With University of Toronto enrollment now topping a staggering 74,000 students across its three campuses, examinations would be inoperable without such a computerized marking tool. And to do so includes the need and use of thousands of pencils for this sole purpose.

Of course, in today's world carrying a penknife into an examination room, even a dull one as a sharpening tool, might not be so well accepted or condoned. I expect metal detectors discovering such an 'armed' student might instigate a possibile SWAT team alert and a campus-wide lock-down.

Total security around examination preparation is essential. Computer hacking, technological advances and microchips can go anywhere and can potentially copy anything. Computer usage is everywhere and I learned recently that the term GEEK is now redundant as we are now all geeks with our breadth of computer and electronic expertise. First-hand experience has made me well aware of the issues of confidentiality and how extensive exam protocols can become. As an invigilator ('keeping watch,' as the Oxford dictionary defines it) for undergraduate medical exams, this means surveillance and maintaining:

1. absolute confidentiality of the contents before the exam;

2. care, scrutiny and proficiency of student identification and grade confidentiality; and

3. vigilance during the examination to prevent cheating or copying.

The ultimate examination security is, in fact, not having a standard examination paper for all those writing the exam.

With no one examination, security, cheating and confidentiality requirement are gone. The Medical Council of Canada's (MCC) Licensure Part I Examination is just that. It is a 3.5-hour examination of 196 multiple-choice questions. The afternoon is a four-hour component of clinical decision making with short answers or write-in questions through 19 sites that have a computer lab hook-up to Ottawa's central server. Some 4,000 medical students across Canada book their dates to write this examination. Each and every examination is unique. Questions are randomly selected and how they are worded, randomly determined, thereby adding another variabile to thwart any would-be cheaters.

Marking is immediate, with marks accumulated for each section once it has been submitted by the candidate. Result anxiety is limited as this efficiency gets the individual marks recorded and sent out by email. Part Two of the MCC examination is a practical exam conducted within residency training. It consists of a rotation through a series of examination stations with a coached standardized patient at each station mimicking a medical condition or disease. Each station includes a specialist to evaluate the trainee and provides test results or X-rays, depending upon what investigation the medical student decides to perform. Each station encounter is recorded for review regarding non-verbal behaviours and patients, usually very-well informed on their specific condition, also evaluate their findings as to the examinee's eye contact, bedside manner and rapport, or comfort level during the physical and history taking.

I would like to end with some anecdotes from my favourite Brit, anatomy and forensic pathologist Professor Ian Taylor at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto.

Taylor and his classmates in the late 1960s Manchester University's medical school routinely conducted examination sweepstakes for their finals each year with whomever leaving the examination hall first taking the pot of cash. It was never determined if the first was necessarily the best student or the highest mark.

In this same era, female undergrads at Oxford were required to wear a uniform consisting of a tunic as their dress code. This tunic was prerequisite attire for attending all curriculum lectures and mandatory during written examinations. No radical reforms had been made in the decades since women were admitted so it was not surprising that there had been no dispensation for being pregnant during an examination. Even then the word pregnant was not routinely spoken, much less acknowledged inside the academic sector. Thus one very large, nearly full-term pregnant undergrad was forced to wear an extremely tight tunic, despite its being the largest size available, in order to be admitted into the examination hall to write her final examination, required to complete her course of studies.

Certainly, in today's Undergraduate Medical Education (UME), accommodating a pregnancy during the curriculum schedule is almost routine. However, few students request extensions for assignment deadlines or other accommodations.

My last examination story might be an urban myth, as I was unable to track down corroborating facts.

Some years ago at one of the 'great' universities, a student discovered an old set of examination statutes or bylaws containing the obscure clause that said an examinee could demand a pint of beer at a particular point during the examination provided they inform the college authorities of their wishes in writing. Thinking this an excellent idea, he did make this formal request before the exam started and in due course and at the designated time (much to the astonishment of his fellow students and to himself) a pint of beer did materialize for his consumption, which he duly enjoyed in his moment of glory. However, the notoriety of this perk was short lived when he was arrested upon leaving the examination hall by campus police and fined because he was not wearing his sword. This was a dress prerequisite detail at the same academic period that he had obviously failed to notice during his research.

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# *Il Gioco e a Piedi - "Uno Studio in Holmes" style*

By Noreen Crifo

*Noreen Crifo is a Bootmaker of Toronto and attended the Italian Sherlockian Society's conference, 'Sherlock and Shylock: The Sleuths of Venice,' in Venice, Italy, October 12th-14th, 2012.*

The "game" began at three o'clock on a beautiful sunlit autumn afternoon in front of the Santa Lucia Train Station. Sherlockians gathered from all over Italy, and elsewhere, and were welcomed warmly by Enrico Solito (Uno Studio in Holmes, or USIH). We began our sleuthing with a walk through the back streets led by "Toby" (Ivo Lombardo), who pointed out secret places and told us of mysterious happenings, some still unsolved, but no match for the Master's touch had he been consulted, I warrant.

The "game" progressed, for me, to figuring out how to ride the vaporetto (water taxi) to arrive at my next venue, the Casino di Venezia, for a 'Concert for two violins and one Holmes.' (My sincere thanks to Patricia Guy and Kate Karlson of *Ladies, Ladies: The Women in the Life of Sherlock Holmes* fame, who took me under their respective wings and ensured that I am not still churning up and down the Grand Canal). Two young artists entertained us royally in a lovely palazzo towering over the Grand Canal. (Here I think the Master might have met his match – these young people were virtuosos, very talented, wonderful to watch and hear).

Next stop was dinner at the Al Nono Risorto restaurant, memorable because, tucked away in the back streets of Venice, it was hard to find; these piazzas all look alike, you know. In groups, we kept going around corners and wells and meeting other groups of Sherlockians, who were looking for the restaurant, too. However, we did eventually all converge in front of the restaurant and enjoyed a fine spaghetti dinner.

*Roberto Vianello (left) and Enrico Solito (right)*

The lectures were held at the Scoleta de' Calegheri (a charming former school house, now a conference centre), on the topic, 'The Literary Agent in Italy: The unpublished pictures from the Sveum Collection.'

Philip Weller, Stefano Guerra, Ivo Lombardo and Enrico Solito spoke on their contributions to their newly published book on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *Viaggio in Italy – Italian Journey*. The book is well

researched and beautifully illustrated with postcards, newspaper clippings, letters and anecdotes; it was a fascinating time in Conan Doyle's life. And, why was he really in Italy? Aha! The mystery lives on.

Saturday evening we took a magical gondola tour along the canals of Venice, supposedly hunting for Tonga. Our historical boats were provided by the Arzana Association, a group dedicated to keeping the culture and traditions of these beautiful crafts alive.

Sunday morning was final lectures and goodbyes. I would like to paraphrase a quote by Enrico Solito and Gianluca Salvatori from *Italian Journey*. Their comment: "to friendship, which made this book possible." My thoughts, after a wonderful Italian journey of my own: to Sherlock, for making all my canonical journeys possible.

## In Memoriam — Michael Doyle

We sadly report the passing of Michael Doyle, who crossed the Reichenbach on 25th September, 2012. He was a long-time member of the Stormy Petrels, joining in 1988 (member #10). A distinguished Sherlockian and Arthur Conan Doyle enthusiast, he was a Friend of the ACD Collection in Toronto, attended several conferences there and was a friend of Georgina Doyle.

Born in 1930, he grew up in war-time England. After the war, he did his two years National Service in the Queen Victoria Rifles. Soon after, he emigrated to Ceylon and began a career in international trade. Later he specialized in International Letters of Credit. He re-emigrated to Vancouver, B.C., in 1956 and he met his future wife, Angela. They were happily married for 50 years and had five children: Barbara, Sheila, Brian, Rosemary and Kevin. Michael, a devoted family man, also had 11 grandchildren.

Michael was a regular contributor to the Stormy Petrel's newsletter, *The Petrel Flyer*, which once included his monograph, 'A Study in Sparring,' to do with ACD's boxing stories. Then there was his magnum opus, 'Sherlock Holmes and the Legacy of Rachel Howells,' first published by Hansom Press Ltd., the Petrels' publishing arm, as a special edition of *The Petrel Flyer*, Vol. 6-1, in January 1994. This found some success and was reprinted in *Canadian Holmes*, Autumn 1995, to even more acclaim. The story was reprinted in a mystery anthology of 26 stories titled *The Mammoth Book of New Sherlock Holmes Adventures*, 1997, Carrol and Graf Inc. N.Y.

Michael Doyle at a 1992 meeting of The Stormy Petrels

In 1994, Michael and Angela retired to Kaleden in the Okanagan to build their dream home and develop a vineyard overlooking Shaha Lake. In retirement he became active as a community volunteer in areas such as education, museums, the environment and the SPCA. He will be greatly missed.

# *From the Editor's Bookshelf*

***Garment of Shadows*** by Laurie R. King (Bantam, $31)

This work, the 12th in the series, continues where the previous tale, *The Pirate King*, left off. This installment is a much stronger story because of its foundation in history. It's tempting to read this action-packed tale, with its kidnappings, prison captures and gun battles, quickly. However, stop and read the section on local politics more than once to get an idea of the national and international politics fighting for control of North Africa between world wars. The complex finale will also require reading over and over again because of its multiple twists and turns.

The novel opens with Mary Russell awakening in a room in Fez, Morocco, in the fall of 1924. She doesn't know who she is, where she is or how she got there. And the scholarly wife of Sherlock Holmes is dressed in men's clothing, suffering from a head wound and has blood on her hands.

Meanwhile, her husband has been visiting his distant cousin, who is the top official in Morocco's French-occupied territory. Louis Lyautey has little time for socializing, though, being focused on the guerrilla warfare that rages in the Spanish protectorate to the north.

King uses real-life events and figures involved in a revolt known as the Rif Rebellion to develop her riveting tale. – JoAnn Alberstat

***Sherlock Holmes's London*** by David Sinclair. Robert Hale Ltd. 2009. 224pp. £17.99

There are several guides to Sherlockian London and England available and Sinclair's book is a fine addition to this group. All Sherlockians love London; as Sinclair puts it: "London itself is a central figure in the drama, often recognizable but sometimes as mysterious as the circumstances with which Holmes is presented."

Most Sherlockians will remember the episode in SIGN which takes Holmes, Watson and Miss Morstan from the Lyceum Theatre to Norwood. Sinclair takes the reader on the same trip, pointing out landmarks and problems with that journey. The final chapter, 'Following the Trails,' takes the reader to a wide variety of surviving Canonical locations in London.

Although the book lacks maps of the areas discussed, the photographs that accompany some of the entries are contemporary and will certainly help any Sherlockian find his or her way through the streets and alleyways of the Canon.

"I knocked down several books which he was carrying."

# *Letters From Lomax*

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

ons. Solar Pons.

If you have been knocking around the Holmesian world for a while, you have most likely encountered Mr. Solar Pons at some point. Pons is a Holmes pastiche but he is a pastiche in a class of his own.

The Solar Pons origin story goes something like this: In the late 1920s, aspiring American author August Derleth (1909-1971) was disappointed to hear that Arthur Conan Doyle had decided to stop writing stories about Sherlock Holmes. In that he was like many other young men but whereas other young men swallowed that disappointment and looked elsewhere for congenial reading material, Derleth took a different approach. Perhaps you have seen a picture of Mr. Derleth—big, beefy guy, not the type to sit around and be acted on by fate. He wrote to Conan Doyle and asked if he could continue the stories himself, assuring Sir Arthur that he would change the names and other details of the story enough to distinguish them from the originals.

Young August is said to have received at least some encouragement from the senior author and so he set about writing a series of stories that mirrors Holmes as much as possible. He gave his detective the curious name of Solar Pons, which was meant to evoke the meaning "bridge of light." The Watson character is dubbed Dr. Lyndon Parker, which doesn't mean anything in Latin but has the advantage of sounding like a name someone might actually have. By the time he was done with these characters, Derleth had written 74 short stories and two novels. All of these can be read in the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. Some significant items include a number of first editions and a signed monograph copy of 'The Adventure of the Unique Dickensians' (Mycroft & Moran, 1968).

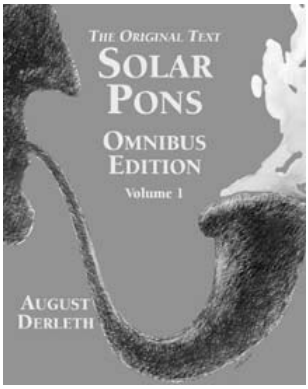
*August Derleth*

This alone would keep anyone new to the Pons canon busy. But wait — there's more. Solar Pons is one of the only pastiches that has spawned pastiches of its own. These have primarily been written by an English author named Basil Copper. Copper wrote 28 stories about Pons, an impressive output for someone who was using characters based on characters based on someone else's characters. The success of this elaborate literary cloning experiment is surely some evidence of the hardiness of the original Holmesian DNA.

Basil Copper also edited the *Solar Pons Omnibus* (Arkham House, 1982), which offended many with its extensive 'corrections' to the original text. The corrections Copper thought necessary were mostly done to make the dialogue sound more authentically British. August Derleth never visited England and based his version of London on research from books so it's not surprising that the stories as originally written sounded excessively American to the British editor's ears. However, many fans of the stories were outraged by this bowdlerization of Derleth's style. Those who prefer the transatlantic mélange of Derleth's original authorial voice can choose *The Original Text Solar Pons Omnibus* instead (Mycroft & Moran/Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, 2000).

There are, no doubt, Pons devotees among *Canadian Holmes* readers for whom all this is already well-trodden ground. Those who love Solar Pons love him very much indeed and August Derleth himself seemed to have the ability to inspire devotion as well. Like Conan Doyle, Derleth wrote poetry, historical fiction, horror and science fiction, in addition to detective stories. His fan base includes an active August Derleth Society, which promotes reading and study of Derleth's work. The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection has subscribed to the society's newsletter since 1978. Other items in the collection which take a comprehensive look at Derleth's literary output include *Return to Derleth: Selected Essays*, Volumes 1 and 2 (White Hawk Press, 1993 and 1995) and *A Derleth Collection* (The August Derleth Society, 1993).

Although Derleth's home state of Wisconsin is the epicentre of interest in his writings, he does have an international following as well, including a strong Canadian connection. Bootmaker George Vanderburgh's Battered Silicon Dispatch Box publishing company has revived the original Mycroft & Moran imprint and is responsible for many of the more recent publications. The ACD Collection holds several items that have come from this initiative, including the *Original Text Solar Pons Omnibus Edition* mentioned above, *The Unpublished Solar Pons* and for the truly dedicated, a pig Latin translation of the Pons adventure 'The Adventure of the Orient Express.'




Where do you fit on the Pontine continuum, Dear Reader? Have you skimmed quickly over this article murmuring, "Been there, done that," or are you new to this influential pastiche series and interested in giving it a try? If the latter, before you start making room on your bookshelves for a Pons collection, please consider sampling the adventures of Solar and Lyndon by visiting the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection.

# OOTMAKERS' DIARY

*… it is a page from some private diary.*
*- The Five Orange Pips*

***By Donny Zaldin, BOT Diarist. (Readers are encouraged to submit Diary entries to donaldzaldin@rogers.com)***

*Saturday, September 15, 2012: The 2012 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture by Roy Pilot*

Bootmaker and FACD Collection Chair **Cliff Goldfarb** welcomes an appreciative audience of more than 50 people to the Beeton Auditorium at the TPL to mark the centenary of Arthur Conan Doyle's ground-breaking literary masterpiece of science fiction, *The Lost World*.

Our 2012 guest speaker is much-published **Roy Pilot**, co-author with the late **Al Rodin** of *The Annotated Lost World*, published in 1996. Roy is presently working on a revised edition of *The Annotated Lost World*, and together with Bootmaker **Doug Elliott**, has recently completed an annotated version of Conan Doyle's *The White Company*.

*The Lost World* was released in 1912 after being serialized in *The Strand Magazine* over eight months between April and November of that year. An expedition consisting of a reporter, a scientist and an adventurer return with Professor Challenger to the lost prehistoric world of dinosaurs and ape-men discovered on a South American plateau by the professor some years earlier.

Roy reveals the back story and details of the genesis and development of the 1925 movie, *The Lost World*, a silent-film adaptation of the novel, and follows the twists and turns of the seven years it takes to make the movie after ACD contracts for its cinematic production.

Roy focuses on Willis H. O'Brien, a special-effects pioneer in stop-motion filming who combined animal animation with live-action footage of humans without having to split the screen. O'Brien would reprise his art in the 1933 hit King Kong and win an Oscar for best visual effects for 1949's Mighty Joe Young. After a succession of delays and lawsuits over patents and production rights, the First National Pictures film, directed by Harry O. Hoyt, based on a screenplay by Marion Fairfax, premieres at New York's Astor Theatre on February 14, 1925, featuring an opening appearance by Arthur Conan Doyle seated at a desk, penning his novel.

The original of the 10-reel, 104-minute-long film, including the ACD footage, was destroyed in 1929, leaving only a 50-minute (approx.) educational five-reel copy. A 93-minute (approx.) restoration by Eastman House was pieced together in 1992 from a variety of film collections, especially an unused and well-preserved 35mm version discovered in the Filmovy Archiv in Prague, Czechoslovakia. In 1998, the film was deemed "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant" by the U.S. Library of Congress and selected for preservation in the U.S. National Film Registry. King Kong and Jurassic Park and other imitators owe much to Conan Doyle's original theme of prehistoric creatures being discovered, exhibited and escaping in modern society (with variations on the theme of man vs. nature) with the inevitable, disastrous result. *The Lost World* was the first feature-length film with model animation as the primary special effect and was the first movie to be shown in-flight to airline passengers (in April 1925, on an Imperial Airways flight from London to Paris).

**Barbara Rusch** and **Dayna Nuhn** serve a giant cake with the image of the cover of Roy's magnum opus, *The Annotated Lost World*, complete with plastic dinosaurs and Pleistocene punch.

Following all that background and build-up, the audience then raptly watches the 50-minute version of the movie.

In her appreciation, Barbara points out that modern science fiction owes much to ACD, who kick-started the big screen franchise of mummies and Egyptology with his 1890 story, 'The Ring of Thoth,' as well as the dinosaur films of Steven Spielberg, based on Michael Crichton's *Jurassic Park*. Barbara also thanks Roy on our behalf for following Doyle's advice in *The Lost World* — for speakers to take the trouble to make heard something which is worth hearing — for writing his annotation and speaking to us about the novel and the film, in the centennial year of ACD's landmark adventure tale.

The annual lecture honours the memory of Bootmaker **Cameron Hollyer**, the co-founder, first curator (for 20 years) and guiding spirit of the ACD and SH Collection. In recognition and appreciation, The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection of the Toronto Public Library each year seek out top-quality speakers to deliver a lecture related to the Collection in


*Roy Pilot and* The Lost World *cake. Photo courtesy of Bruce Aikin.*

the library which Cameron built and loved so dearly. This year was no exception and Roy Pilot did Cameron, the Friends and the Library proud.

Saturday, September 15, 2012: Third Story Meeting, 'Thor Bridge'

More than 40 Bootmakers and guests are greeted by **Marilyn Penner** at the Beeton Auditorium of the Toronto Public Library for the year's third story meeting, 'The Adventure of Thor Bridge' (THOR), organized by Meyers 2012 **Dave Sanders**.

**Philip Elliott** introduces the story, first published in *The Strand Magazine* and *Hearst's International Magazine* in two parts, in February and March 1922. The story was previously taken up by the Bootmakers in 1983 and 1996. Philip traces the history of the manuscript, which is presently preserved in the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museums, and lists several interesting issues, including Munchausen Syndrome.

ACD Collection curator **Peggy Perdue** shares a newly acquired treasure from the Collection, an early 20th-century autograph album, signed by Arthur Conan Doyle in May 1903 at Norwich, Norfolk, U.K. The album also contains a rudimentary stick-figure alphabet drawn by 11-year-old Gilbert John Cubitt in 1902. ACD's autograph pre-dated the December 1903 publication of 'The Dancing Men' in *The Strand Magazine* and *Collier's Weekly* by just over six months and undoubtedly served as one inspiration for this tale.

**Chris Redmond** muses on 'Sherlockian Thoughts on the Danforth,' which came to his mind while dining outdoors (without an interpreter) at a Greek restaurant this past summer. Chris, whose hair still retains some of the flaming red of his youth, ponders the hereditary trait of red-headedness, and traces ACD's idea for the story, 'The Red-Headed League' to another hereditary trait, blue eyes, which was coincidentally exhibited by six murderers in 1879 in Lebanon, PA., with the motive of collecting $8,000 in life insurance proceeds.

**Barbara Rusch** delivers an original pastiche titled 'A Box of Delicate Undergarments, Some Shocking Confessions and A Son's Remorse,' in which an acquisition of Lady Conan Doyle's underthings leads to an unexpected narrative involving Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes and the ways in which their sorry relationships with their fathers come to alter the direction of their lives.

**Barbara Rusch** and **Donny Zaldin** share the details of their spring 2012 visit in the Hampshires with ACD's niece (by marriage) Georgina Doyle, and the families of Richard Doyle and Catherine Beggs Doyle (ACD's great-nephew and great-niece). Highlights of the gracious hospitality of their hosts included examining family photo albums and sleeping in a room which contained some of ADC's furniture, a pilgrimage to his grave (marked by the famous stone memorial inscribed "Steel True/Blade Straight"), and the reunion of Sir Arthur's nightshirt (owned by the Doyles) and Lady Conan Doyle's nightdress (owned by Donny and Barbara) - with consecutive laundry marks - in the "afterlife" of these bed clothes.

In the absence of Mrs. Hudson, Meyers provides us with a light repast of crackers and cheese, and thematic chocolate gold coins.

Quizmaster **Chris Redmond** and Vice-Quizmaster **Elizabeth Carbone** test our knowledge of the evening's story, in which Holmes proves the innocence of governess Grace Dunbar, who stands accused of the murder of the wife of J. Neil Gibson, the greatest gold-mining magnate in the world. The first letters of the 40 answers form an acrostic, which spells out the name of the next story meeting, 'The Priory School.' Prize winners are **Bruce Aikin**, **Karen Campbell** and guest **Michael McTavish**, great-nephew of BOT Sylvia Anstey.

Announcements/Show and Tell include: Sherlockian scarves; two newly published books of interest; the October 11, 2012, TPL programme about ACD's hitherto unpublished *Diary of an Arctic Adventure*; a casting call by honorary Bootmaker **Dean Clark** for the role of Sherlock Holmes in the radio play at his upcoming Gaslight Gala production at the January 2013 BSI Weekend; an update on the health of longtime Bootmaker **Dave Dunn**; and greetings and a toast by **Jack Winn** of the Stratford on Avon Sherlock Holmes Society, a scion society of the BOT as of September 18, 2011.

Half A Duet with an Occasional Chorus, diva **Karen Campbell**, entertains us with a Sherlockian parody of 'Thor Bridge' titled 'Saving Grace' [Dunbar], sung to a pre-recorded audio track laid down by accompanist **Craig Brtnik** to the tune of Simon and Garfunkel's 'Bridge Over Troubled Water.'

*Saturday, November 3, 2012: Fourth Story Meeting,* 'The Priory School'

At a joint meeting of The Bootmakers of Toronto and The Dickens Fellowship of Toronto, BOT **Marilyn Penner** greets about 50 Sherlockians and 20 Dickensians at the Beeton Auditorium of the Toronto Reference Library for the year's fourth story meeting, 'The Adventure of the Priory School' (PRIO).

Meyers 2012 **David Sanders** and Dickens Fellowship, Toronto branch president **Terry Sleightholm** exchange welcomes and thanks. David displays the framed cancelled cheque of the Duke of Holdernesse, in the amount of £6,000, paid to Holmes for solving the disappearance of Lord Saltire and the murder of his would-be rescuer.

ACD Collection curator **Peggy Perdue** introduces the evening's story, first published in *Colliers* on January 30, 1904, and in the *Strand Magazine* in February 1904. Peggy cleverly employs '*kamishibai'* (literally 'paper drama'), a form of Japanese storytelling that features large pictorial cards. The cards in this case are the Sidney Paget illustrations for PRIO.

Bootmaker **Donny Zaldin** takes the members of both literary groups 'In the Footsteps of Charles Dickens and Arthur Conan Doyle: Chroniclers of London' to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Dickens and the 125th anniversary of the publication by ACD of his first Sherlock Holmes story, *A Study in Scarlet*. Dickens was a social critic whose aim was to reform society and alleviate the cruel conditions created by the Industrial Revolution. On the other hand, Doyle sought to entertain, amuse and educate his readership and the general public.

Dickens wrote primarily of lower-class London and Doyle of its upper class. Between these two literary lions, they covered the entire spectrum of London society over a full century.

The *Dickens Players* [Narrator: **Henrietta Johnson**, Mr. Pickwick; **Stefan Sierakowski,** Sam Weller; **Frank Quinlan,** Mr. Wardle; **Terry Sleightholm,** Mr. Winkle; **Lise Olds,** Sherlock Holmes; **Doug Paton,** Dr. Watson; **Jean Paton,** All the Ladies; **Martha McKinnon**], put on a play titled 'Sherlock Holmes Meets the Pickwick Club.' With thanks to playwright Jean Paton and both thanks and apologies to Charles Dickens and Vincent Starrett, the drama features "the best of times … the worst of times … [in] the age before the world went all awry" for Holmes and Watson, who "'never lived … [and so will] never die.'" They interact with the Pickwick Club, hear a cry of "fire," undertake a three-pipe problem, carve the letters "*VR*" into a church pew, and ice-skate on a frozen pond – all while searching for a valuable gem in the crop of a two-barred goose (à la 'The Blue Carbuncle').

Half *A Duet with an Occasional Chorus*, diva **Karen Campbell,** entertains us (to the pre-recorded music of the other half, accompanist **Craig Brtnik**) with two Sherlockian parodies, sung by the Duke's private secretary and illegitimate son, James Wilder, including 'I am the Son,' sung to the tune of 'Here Comes the Sun,' written by George Harrison, on the Beatles' 1969 album, *Abbey Road*.

Quizmaster **Chris Redmond**, with the assistance of Deputy Quizmaster **Elizabeth Carbone**, test our knowledge of the story under discussion. Prize winners are **Bruce Aikin**, **Sarah Hood**, **Garry Marnoch** and **Karen Campbell**.

At the break, Mrs. Hudson **Philip Elliott**, together with Mrs. Turner **Kathy Burns** provide a repast of cold cuts, cheese, vegetables and sweets.

**Dave Drennan** defines 'fraud' as an act of deception for unlawful gain or unjust advantage, and canvasses different forms of 'Fraud in the Canon' in the five stories taken up in calendar 2012: MILV, SIXN, THOR, PRIO and SHOS. He poses the question whether allowances should be made for these deceptions by reason of the circumstances under which they were committed.

**Garry Marnoch** delivers a short monograph on bicycles and bicycle tires in this story, showing us examples of the longitudinally striped Palmer tire of the German master Heidegger and the patched Dunlop tire of the kidnapper of Lord Saltire, the Duke's 10-year-old heir and only son. Garry disproves Conan Doyle's reasoning and concludes that ACD would be unable to determine whether the bicycle with the Palmer tires was headed away from or toward the Priory School.

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