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Cover: Basil Rathbone looms large on the Sherlockian landscape and throughout the Sherlockian world.

Canadian Holmes

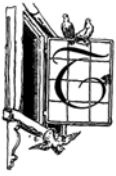
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GRACES OF BOOTPRINTS

Sherlockian love: beyond skin deep

Some readers of this journal have collections that contain thousands of books, posters and collectables. These Sherlockians have libraries full of shelves, groaning under the weight of various editions of our favourite 60 stories. Other readers may only have a handful of well-read, dog-eared books that they refer to before attending a local meeting. Whatever the case, each collection is valuable in its own way.

Part of today's youth culture, and renaissance of interest in all things Sherlock, is an increase in the use of tattoos to display one's personal loves, interests and history. That culture, however, is not just for the youth, although the younger cohort has made tattooing more popular. Some Sherlockians are availing themselves of this surge in popularity and getting inked in ways that remind them of Sherlock Holmes.

This issue features a three-page pictorial article on Sherlockian tattoos. The editors appreciate that tattoos are not for everyone, but neither are book collections that outweigh a city bus. *Canadian Holmes* strives to encourage a variety of voices, viewpoints and interests, and that extends the various ways in which we enjoy our Sherlockian world. We publish in black and white only so these images don't show the tattoos' true colours and vibrancy. To see these tattoos, and more, in full colour, please visit a special page of the Bootmakers' website: <http://www.torontobootmakers.com/canadian-holmes/tattoos/>

In addition to the tattoos, this edition features our regular columns of Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen, Letters from Lomax, reviews, a Canadian society roundup, international Sherlockian news and, of course, the Diary Notes. You also can read about why we admire Holmes and his reasoning methods, a song by Karen Gold, a speculative article on who may have been travelling with Watson, and an article on the Lion's Mane and how that descriptive name came about.

From Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen



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

A Cold Collation

“You must be weary, for you’ve had a long day...said the lady as we entered a well-lit dining-room, upon the table of which a cold supper had been laid out....”

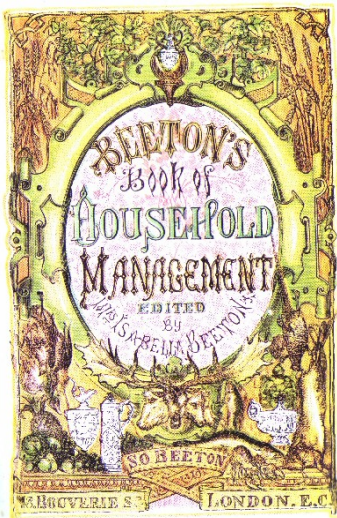
Mrs. St. Clair: “The Man with the Twisted Lip”

“We shall have some cold supper before we start.”

Sherlock Holmes: “The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton”

Late in the evening, often near the end of an elaborate social event, such as a ball or musicale, a fourth meal would be served to the guests. This meal, supper, or a “cold collation” was usually served around

midnight, and was typically made up of a large selection of cold meats, fish and seafood, cheeses, bread and rolls, and perhaps some small savoury pastry creations, with a large selection of sweetmeats. It was presented in a highly formalized manner. *Mrs. Beeton's Book of Household Management* (published 1859-1861 in installments) presents two very specific diagrams for the dishes and placement of such for a cold collation. Her offerings include luxury items such as lobster and boar's head garnished with aspic jelly. There is also a representation for smaller celebrations. If a family had gone out to the



theatre for the evening, there would usually be a cold collation awaiting them upon their return home. Most gentlemen's clubs would put out a cold collation each evening around midnight for the refreshment of their members. In a fashionable home where guests were present, for the evening or at a house party, a cold supper was usually served, again near midnight.

When Mr. Holmes and Dr. Watson travelled at night to a destination or worked late into the night, they would often be served with a cold collation at a client's home. These cold suppers were simpler than those mentioned above, but nonetheless were carefully presented. Typically these would be comprised of substantial fare: cold pies, sliced meats (tongue, ham and fowls were often included), salads and a selection of desserts. Cold poached salmon was a very popular dish for these suppers.

While the salads may have been simple – watercress, lettuce, celery and endive – the dressings were quite complex. There was a specialist, “The Fashionable Salad Maker,” who could be engaged to provide appropriate dressings. This enterprising individual was a Frenchman named D’Albinac. Upon request, he or one of his many minions would show up with a mahogany chest which contained truffles, caviar, anchovies, ketchup and other aromatic ingredients. Cooks often had their own specially guarded recipes for mayonnaise-based dressings, as well as access to commercially bottled options.

Everything offered at the table was sliced or presented in a manner that made it easy to help oneself to their choice of dishes. Jellies, blanc mange, trifle and tippy cake – a sweet dessert cake, made from fresh sponge cakes soaked in sherry and brandy – were often offered as dessert options.

Garnishing cold collations became an art in itself. Carrots and turnips were in the shapes of flowers while beetroots were cut into diamonds. Decorative skewers were threaded with aspic, cocks combs, mushrooms and shrimp and adorned cold meats whilst crystallized fruit, preserved violets and cherries were used to decorate jellies.

A 20th-century humourist, Terence Alan “Spike” Milligan, KBE, described the cold supper as:

“The Dreaded Cold Collation: Small part of cold dead chicken...slice of tomato laid like wreath on dead chicken bit... thin slice of bread curling at edges as though about to fly off plate... six pale peas glued together for security”

Recipes

Cold Poached Salmon with Green Mayonnaise (Serves 6-8)

Ingredients: 2-3 lb. cut of salmon tail end, skin on, 5 heaping Tbs. salt, 1 tsp. good vinegar, salt and pepper to taste, 1 large egg, ¼ C. chopped chives, 2 sprigs fresh tarragon, ½ C. chopped fresh parsley, 1 medium clove of garlic, 1 C olive oil. 1Tbs. sour cream.

Mode: Place salmon in pot then cover with cold water. Add salt and bring to boil. Turn off immediately and let salmon sit in hot water for 30 minutes. Remove fish from water and chill. To make mayonnaise, put vinegar, salt, pepper, egg, chives, tarragon, parsley, garlic and 1 tbs. oil in food processor or blender. Process 10 seconds then slowly add remainder of oil in very thin stream. The mayonnaise is done when all the oil is added and is creamy thick. Taste for seasoning and mix in sour cream. Mayonnaise will keep for at least a week when chilled. To serve salmon remove skin with fork & debone using spoon. Serve mayonnaise in separate dish.

Fruit and Wine Jelly (Serves 6)

Ingredients: 1 lb. 6oz fresh raspberries, ¾ C sugar, 1 ¼ C medium dry white wine, 5 sheets gelatine or 6 if to be set out in a mould.

Mode: Put raspberries and sugar in pan with scant ½ C water. Heat gently until the fruit releases juices and becomes very soft and sugar dissolved. Remove from heat and tip into fine sieve lined with cheesecloth and leave to strain into large bowl (this will take time but do not squeeze berries). When juice has drained make it up to 2 ½ C with water if needed. Soak gelatine in cold water 5 minutes to soften. Heat ½ the juice until very hot but not boiling. Remove from heat. Squeeze gelatine to remove excess water, then stir into hot juice until dissolved. Stir in remaining juice and wine. Pour into stemmed glasses or wetted mould and chill until set.

Why do we admire Sherlock Holmes? Reflections on his reasoning method

By *Martín Fleitas González*

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I have always wondered why Sherlock Holmes fascinates us so much. Sometimes I have thought his personality is worthy of imitation. However, when I recall the nature of the calculating automaton Watson shows us in *The Sign of the Four*, I immediately take that back. I really doubt many of us would like to build an identity as a Deep Blue computer. However, is Holmes, by any chance, just a calculating machine? Even though this is how Watson repeatedly describes his friend, I do not think it is the most complete description of Holmes, for it is Holmes himself who, in this adventure, offers a beautiful reflection to us:

How sweet the morning air is! See how that one little cloud floats like a pink feather from some gigantic flamingo. Now the red rim of the sun pushes itself over the London cloud-bank. It shines on a good many folk, but on none, I dare bet, who are on a stranger errand than you and I. How small we feel with our petty ambitions and strivings in the presence of the great elemental forces of nature! Are you well up in your Jean Paul? (...) He makes one curious but profound remark. It is that the chief proof of man's real greatness lies in his perception of his own smallness. It argues, you see, a power of comparison and of appreciation which is in itself a proof of nobility. There is much food for thought in Richter.

(Sherlock Holmes, *The Sign of the Four*, Ch. VII).

Although the influence of positivism on Holmes's profile is clear, in the light of the above reflection, I doubt his whole identity comes down to a mere calculating machine. But if it is not this trait of Holmes's that fascinates us, which one is it then? This is difficult to answer; it is easy,

though, to show how hard it is for us as readers to relate to this character, as it is impossible for us to completely understand his special personality. This is what I have always been interested in: how can we be fascinated by a character we cannot understand or relate to? In fact, most readers can relate more to Watson than to Holmes. Holmes, however, is lived and read as an unpredictable being, as a mystery that we pleasantly wish to solve over and over again to no avail. Holmes is undoubtedly the greatest mystery of the entire Canon. And this makes me reflect on why we – his followers – have fallen under his spell.

If we do not admire Holmes's Deep Blue side, what do we really admire about him? It is definitely the amazing way in which he displays his reasoning. Each time he cracks the case, each observation, every rational inference enunciated fills us with pleasant astonishment. However, why does Holmes possess deductive reasoning skills we are unable to reach? How is it possible that we can admire a character we cannot understand or fully relate to but which we can slightly sense, once he explains his entire train of thought? This set of questions has led me to suggest that Holmes evokes a certain ideal in readers; not wholly that of man, but rather a certain part of the ideal of man. This ideal part of the ideal man relates to the command of reasoning skills that Holmes shows us time and again. Moreover, I think that Holmes keeps us narratively distant, but close at the same time, to the extent that his reasoning skills evoke the ideal of rationality that we wish to achieve in ourselves. Hence, it could be suggested that it is possible to *partially* relate to Holmes, which can be established in the realm of rationality.

Based on this idea, I shall offer a modest insight on why Holmes fascinates us. I will describe the reasoning model used by Holmes in the resolution of cases. My first aim here is to show that Holmes possesses the same rational skills we, the readers, do, except that his are extraordinary powerful (I). Then, based on this rework, I will develop the idea that Holmes's deduction model is twofold: on the one hand, it takes us away from the character, narratively speaking; but on the other, it brings us close to him in a very peculiar way. So we can only partially relate to Holmes, as sometimes we can understand him enough to be fascinated by him, even if he remains an unpredictable and incomprehensible stranger most of the time (II).

My suggestion is that Holmes constitutes *a part* of the ideal of man we wish to achieve, and that is why we are fascinated by him. To some extent, he makes us want to be like him. We could not be fascinated by a character who only behaves like the Deep Blue computer; if we admire him, it is because at *some point* we can relate to him, at *some point* we

can see that he is human, and it is Holmes's humanity that I intend to highlight.

On Sherlock Holmes's reasoning model

In order to describe Holmes's type of rationality, it seems right to begin by quoting what Holmes himself thinks about it. Do you remember Holmes's words in *A Study in Scarlet*?

Most people, if you describe a train of events to them, will tell you what the result would be. They can put those events together in their minds, and argue from them that something will come to pass. There are few people, however, who, if you told them a result, would be able to evolve from their own inner consciousness what the steps were which led up to that result. This power is what I mean when I talk of reasoning backwards, or analytically.

(A Study in Scarlet, Chapter VII. The Conclusion)

This excerpt is Holmes's first systematic reference to his method of observation. In it, Holmes strives to explain in his own words what has come to be known as abductive reasoning. What Holmes describes as "reasoning backwards, or analytically" has been known since Aristotle as a kind of reasoning which seeks to infer the case based on details and the unrepeatable. Thus, such type of reasoning is understood as a kind of deduction whose premises are not enough to draw an accurate conclusion.(1) In this manner, the theoretically guided observation of details must



"THE PIPE WAS STILL BETWEEN HIS LIPS."

enable us to look at the case or the original cause of the observed details in terms of probability. Formally speaking, abduction is usually described as follows: Rule→Details/Result→Case. In order to show this,

I will quote a Sherlockian excerpt from *The Adventure of the Cardboard Box*:

Step 1: Rule: “As a medical man, you are aware, Watson, that there is no part of the body which varies so much as the human ear. Each ear is as a rule quite distinctive and differs from all other ones.”

Step 2: Details/Result: “I had, therefore, examined the ears in the box with the eyes of an expert and had carefully noted their anatomical peculiarities. Imagine my surprise, then, when on looking at Miss Cushing I perceived that her ear corresponded exactly with the female ear which I had just inspected.”

Step 3: Case: “Was clear that the victim had a blood relationship with her, probably very close.”

This type of reasoning can be found all across the Canon and it constitutes a way of reasoning that involves both inductions and deductions. While inductive reasoning is usually understood as a way to achieve a general law based on the observation of many unresolved particular cases, deductive reasoning, in its traditional form, involves the opposite mental process: using a general law to solve a particular case. Bear in mind the famous example of deductive syllogism by Aristotle: *if* all men are mortal *and* Socrates is a man, *therefore*, Socrates is mortal. However, Holmes rarely reasons in an inductive or deductive way; rather, his reasoning is abductive, so he uses inverted syllogisms.

I will try to explain this idea more clearly. Firstly, we must take into account that the order of the steps listed above is purely conceptual, for if we pay attention to the order of Holmes’s reasoning in real time, we will see that he always starts to make deductions from Step 2, by observing details. In fact, this is what has made him stand out as a detective: his insistence on knowing how to observe. This does not contradict what was established above; instead, it crystallizes it. During each of his brilliant observations (Step 2), Holmes keeps his store of knowledge – that is, the set of general laws he knows – on hold, (Step 1). This “theoretical background” is kept on standby because it does not neutralize the observed information; instead, it only helps Holmes know where it is relevant to look. Otherwise, Holmes would never know *what* and *where* to observe, or *why* observe one thing and not the other. However, after that deduction made from Step 1 to Step 2 there is another one, but this second deduction is always hidden during the cases: the one between

Step 3 and Step 2, for if the victim were killed by a relative (Step 3) *therefore* both of them would have identical ears (Step 2). But we see that Holmes has to discover Step 3, and thus he must reach it through an abductive reasoning, starting with Step 2: observing details. From all of this, we can conclude that Holmes always keeps Step 1 in mind: the set of general laws that he knows, which guides his observations (Step 2) and finally allows him to infer the probabilities of the case that triggered precisely what he observed (Step 3).

My suggestion is that this is the basic design which Holmes' reasoning follows, that which he never dared synthesize completely. But I wish to put forward some further insights.

Firstly, if I am right, we could ascertain how it is that Holmes has always kept Step 1 (Rule) in his mind as a guide for his observations. Holmes seems to have obsessively learned those disciplines which he believes are essential for the resolution of cases. Nevertheless, he still continues to research on issues which he believes will be equally useful for his purposes: whether it be different types of tobacco, ears, tattoos, footprints, hand shapes and the like. All of this guides his sight and his observation; it helps him look upon people's wrists, knees, kinds of paper, handwriting and so on: "Not invisible but unnoticed, Watson. You did not know where to look, and so you missed all that was important. I can never bring you to realize the importance of sleeves, the suggestiveness of thumb-nails, or the great issues that may hang from a boot-lace" – Sherlock Holmes in "A Case of Identity."

Only unlimited knowledge of general laws will help us follow Holmes in an attempt to leave out the irrelevant; otherwise it will be impossible for us, because, *I insist*, we would not know what to observe nor what conclusions to draw from the observed: "It is of the highest importance in the art of detection to be able to recognize out of a number of facts which are incidental and which vital. Otherwise your energy and attention must be dissipated instead of being concentrated" – Sherlock Holmes in "The Adventure of the Reigate Squires."

Secondly, the standby in Step 1 is described as a blank mind, which does not mean a mind void of knowledge: "We approached the case, you remember, with an absolutely blank mind, which is always an advantage. We had formed no theories. We were simply there to observe and to draw inferences from our observations" – Sherlock Holmes in "The adventure of the Cardboard Box." Here, Holmes does not embody the positivist ideal of a neutral, impartial scientist, as some Sherlockian scholars suggest (2), but instead, he emphasizes a methodological step. We must be careful; our observations and judgments should not be

guided by our prejudices, but rather, by our useful knowledge of details, whether it be about sleeves, knees or odours. The theories Holmes refers to here are not the ones we have in our biographical background (Step 1); instead, he particularly refers to the theories we can make about Step 3 (Case). We must not make conjectures about facts prior to observing them: “It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has a data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts.” – Sherlock Holmes in “A Scandal in Bohemia,” Ch. I. (3)

The leap from Step 2 to Step 3 (Details to Case) naturally demands guesswork, the formulation of hypotheses. However, Holmes surprisingly claims he never guesses: “No, no: I never guess. It is a shocking habit, — destructive to the logical faculty” (Sherlock Holmes, *The Sign of the Four*, Ch. I. The Science of Deduction). (4) I think this is an accidental conceptual mistake, since, in other cases, Holmes repeatedly claims that his mind is making some hypotheses. This point is of vital importance because abductive reasoning requires Holmes to guess (Step 3); this guesswork explains what he effectively observed (Step 2). This is the most clearly scientific moment of Holmes’s method, for it is not here that he embodies an outdated positivist ideal, but rather he exemplifies a contemporary ideal which includes creation, imagination and even the fallibility of thought itself. However, it is not the amount of creative and appealing hypotheses that makes Holmes stand out; his scientific approach lies in his endless efforts to isolate the best hypothesis, the only one that can elucidate the chain of events. It does not matter how unsatisfying the hypothesis is, as long as it is the only one that can explain the whole chain of events by itself: “(...) when you have eliminated all which is impossible, then whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth. It may well be that several explanations remain, in which case one tries test after test until one or other of them has a convincing amount of support” – Sherlock Holmes in “The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier.”

Here, Holmes stands out from the rest of us. He can make hypotheses that we, the readers, cannot, not only because of our limited knowledge (Step 1), but also because of our inability to manage to explain the entirety of facts with one single hypothesis (Step 3). This scientific approach, which tends to explain an entire chain of events based on one single hypothesis, first appeared with the famous Occam’s razor: “*Numquam ponenda est pluralitas sine necessitate*” – Plurality must never be posited without necessity. This razor is the backbone of Occam’s thought and is understood as the methodological seed of modern science and philosophy. (5)

But even if Holmes, like Occam, is convinced that there is one and only one hypothesis that can explain an entire chain of events, he does not consider his reasoning needs to be right, but instead, likely. Here we find the realm of his mental freedom; this is when Holmes makes a difference: in Step 3, when making hypotheses that are able to narrow the probability of circumstances down to zero. In order for me to show this, bear in mind the following excerpt from *The Sign of the Four* in which Holmes astounds Watson by deducing that the latter spent the morning at the Wigmore Street Post-Office (Chapter I). After two instances in which he shows his deductive abilities, Holmes says: “Ah, that is good luck. I could only say what was the balance of probability. I did not at all expect to be so accurate.” In this manner, it becomes clear that regardless of his statements, Holmes’s mental process is based on guesswork. But, out of many hypotheses, only one, the best one, will survive Occam’s razor’s cut and will explain the chain of events. This is what Charles S. Peirce, a 20th-century American philosopher, logician and mathematician, has called the search of the simplest and most natural hypothesis, given that – paraphrasing him – facts cannot be better explained by means of a more remarkable hypothesis than facts themselves, even accepting the less remarkable hypothesis, if there is more than one. (6)

If this rework of Holmes’s reasoning model is right, it could easily be affirmed that we are dealing with a character whose rational structure is like ours, except he uses it on a much higher level. Holmes seems inapprehensible to us due to that smidge of uncertainty and mental freedom that we find between Steps 2 and 3. So, in order to be Sherlock Holmes, we should not only have an unlimited store of knowledge (Step 1) and make good observations (Step 2); we should also be particularly good at taking guesses and reviewing those, but we should not draw too many hypotheses; only that which is the best (Step 3). Here is where Holmes seems unreachable to us, as a genius whose simple explanations and interpretations of facts we vaguely understand. (7)

Author’s note: The writing of this paper was enlightened by the rewarding discussions I held with Martín Beraza López, the invaluable help of Leonardo Goday and Stefan Fernández’s translation into English.

Notes

1) Aristotle, *The Organon*, II, 25.

2) Jens Byskov Jensen, “The avant-garde Sherlock Holmes”, *The Baker Street Journal*, vol. 53, N. 1, pages 13-20, particularly pages 14 and on; Peter Calamai, “It’s Their Birthday Too–Yeah”, *The Baker Street Journal*, vol. 53, no. 4, pages 15-21, particularly his reflections on the “Brain without heart” idea.

3) This also explains why Holmes conceives his mind as a place of limited ability, where data must be kept if it may turn out to be useful in the resolution of some cases.

4) The Sebeoks have made reference to this and have successfully linked Holmes’s rational method to Charles S. Peirce’s abductive reasoning theory: Thomas A. Sebeok and Jean Umiker-Sebeok, *Sherlock Holmes y Charles Peirce. El método de la investigación (1979)*, Buenos Aires: Paidós, 1994.

5) One of Occam’s most explicit formulations may be found in *Summa Totius Logicae*, I, 12, when he says “*Fustra fit per plura quod potest fieri per pauciora*” – It is futile to do with more things that which can be done with fewer. I think this is Occam’s razor behind Holmes’s practicality which J. L. Hitchings puts forward in “Sherlock Holmes the Logician,” *The Baker Street Journal (Old Series)*, April 1946, pages 117 and on.

6) Charles S. Peirce, *Collected Papers*, 7.219, and 7.220-7-232.

7) Naturally, Holmes’s practice of abduction also shows his outstanding (precognitive) intuitiveness and interpreting skills impossible to tackle here. Whoever is interested in Sherlockian hermeneutics should find invaluable material here: “*At first glance abduction seems to be a free movement of the imagination, more endowed with emotion (more similar to a vague ‘intuition’) than a normal decoding act*” (Umberto Eco, *A Theory of Semiotics*, Indiana University Press, 1976, page 132); according to what has been established here, Holmes’s abductive reasoning should be understood as “(…) an instinct which relies upon *unconscious perception* of connections between *aspects of the world*, or to use another set of terms, *subliminal communication* of messages” (Umberto Eco and Thomas A. Sebeok, *The Sign of the Three, Dupin, Holmes, Peirce*, Indiana University Press, 1983). See also Guy Debrock’s “El ingenioso enigma de la abducción”, *Analogía Filosófica*, vol. 12, no. 1, 1998, pages 21-39. Some episodes of the famous television medical drama *House M.D.* accurately show this way of hermeneutic-abductive reasoning.

“You had a companion”

By Michael Duke

Michael Duke has been entranced by Sherlock Holmes since getting Baring-Gould's two volume annotated for a 30th birthday present. Since then he has helped found the Sherlock Holmes Society of Melbourne (1996), joined the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and The Bookmakers of Toronto. He has published many articles over four continents and one book collecting some of these, Victorian Holmes. Another book is in the works.



In a late tale, dated by most chronologists as 1901 or 1902, Sherlock Holmes undertakes some deductions about his old friend Dr Watson (“The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax,” 942). From mud splashes upon the left sleeve and shoulder of his jacket, Watson is thought to have “had a companion” while a passenger in a hansom cab. From his shoes being tied differently than usual, Watson is deduced to have had them tied by some third party. The good doctor does not demur from these inferences. Watson also confesses to having been to the Turkish Bath as an “alterative,” a word for any drug, as Klinger remarks (“His Last Bow,” 109), ‘used empirically to alter favourably the course of an ailment and to restore healthy bodily functions.’ Watson says further that he had been feeling “rheumatic and old.”

As with every word of the Canon, interpretations ensue. Was the companion male or female? Did he have a companion or did he just sit to one side of the cab anyway? Did he buy new shoes and the salesman tie them rather than attend a Turkish Bath, or anywhere else for that matter? Bell (1953, p 93) stakes a claim for a female companion. Weller opts for the single passenger in the cab (1996, p 35).

If a man, a widower of some 50 years of age, complains of feeling rheumatic and old, seeks an “alterative” to “restore healthy bodily functions,” can be deduced to have a companion in a hansom cab ride, and has his shoes tied by another party, what should we reasonably deduce ourselves? That he has a considerably younger girlfriend. Or a very sexy one.

So what does Holmes do, with his “mischievous twinkle”? He bribes Watson with the offer of a first-class all-expenses paid trip to Switzerland – effective immediately. Reticent Watson, rather than tell

Holmes he is in the midst of a new romance, accepts and does a job with which Holmes then overlaps by going to the continent himself when he has lied to Watson that he is unavailable. “On general principles it is best that I should not leave the country” (943). Jealousy regarding the new girlfriend? Certainly possible. Or did Holmes believe that it was a more casual assignation and Watson was freely available? Can we tease out this matter further?

It is stated in the Canon itself that Watson remarried in the autumn of 1902, shortly after this “Lady Frances Carfax” case (“The Blanched Soldier”: Holmes writes that Watson “had at that time deserted me for a wife” [1000]). Baring-Gould (1967, p 328) had suggested, *inter alia*, Helen Stoner for this honourable estate. Klinger (2007, p 48) lists many other candidates considered for Watson’s second wife. (Yes, I know that the Revisionists such as William Baring-Gould [1962, p 72] have opted for an earlier wife from the U.S., Constance Adams, from the play *Angels of Darkness* [BSI, 2001], but I am sticking to the Canon itself.) These other possibilities are given by Klinger as Violet de Merville, Mrs Neville St Clair, Violet Hunter, Lady Frances Carfax herself, Kitty Winter, Grace Dunbar or even Irene Adler.

In my view, Violet de Merville, very upper crust, even if she became less icy, would still not contemplate a man in Watson’s middle class for a lover or husband. Mrs Neville St Clair is a possibility, although the future of that Twisted couple is unclear: after his exposure as a beggar, Mr Neville St Clair and his family may have been forced to emigrate. There is no hint that the couple became estranged. Violet Hunter was apparently, after the canonical case, according to Watson himself, in Walsall, over 200 kilometres away from London – not such an easy distance to navigate in those days. Lady Frances Carfax had a suitor, the Honourable Phillip Green, who may well have monopolized her time. Grace Dunbar, it seems to me, had her sights on a richer man than Dr. Watson would ever be. The acid thrower Kitty Winter was the only person canonically named who was a professional courtesan, but I fancy Watson would not risk himself with anyone of the fiery revenger type. Irene Adler, the adventuress, is said to have died although, of course, Carol Nelson Douglas (for instance, *Good Night, Mr Holmes* [1990] and *Good Morning, Irene* [1990]) created a number of novels assuring us that this death was as fake as Holmes’s. Too many resurrections can become a strain on the imagination, as Benjamin Poore has recently pointed out (BSJ, 2015).

Adding to these ladies, one may postulate Beryl Stapleton, nee Garcia, who was exotic, beautiful and unattached once the murderous Jack

Stapleton departed the scene. But it is widely supposed that Sir Henry Baskerville would make the running with this lady. Mrs. Douglas from *The Valley of Fear* is said to be English, beautiful and 20 years younger than her husband, so aged 30 at that time (the case is possibly 1889, and thus aged 42 by the time of “Carfax”) and certainly a widow by the end of the canonical story. Her future probably remained at Birlstone Manor rather than London, although many such landed gentry had town houses as well as country estates. She is tantalizingly unaccounted for after the Canon, but the very present friend Cecil Barker may have been matrimonially interested in her. Sophy Kratides, that resourceful “Grecian girl” (“The Greek Interpreter,” 446) was available after she stabbed the horrid Harold Latimer, but may not have returned at all to England. But there is no particular extra reason from the text itself to suppose it was any of these canonical ladies in Watson’s hansom cab.

On another tack, a girlfriend is not necessarily a wife to be. And a possibly younger female companion, where recourse to an alterative, restoring those healthy bodily functions, is undertaken, may be entirely different. “The fair sex is your department” (“The Adventure of the Second Stain,” 657), and again Watson had “experience of women which extends over many nations and three separate continents” (*The Sign of the Four*, 94). Chris Redmond (1984) summarizes the later Victorian era and the Edwardian era as seething with sexuality, but one which was constrained in many ways. Prostitutes and “grand horizontals” were widespread because of the requirement for “respectable” women to be seen as chaste before marriage and monogamous in marriage (Harrison, 1971). Prince “Bertie,” who became King Edward VII, changed that ethos such that married women of a certain class were open to extramarital affairs (Leslie, 1974).

Nonetheless, despite the canonical second marriage, it is possible in that Edwardian era, then, that Watson was either in the cab with a compliant married lady, or possibly a Cyprian, a pretty rider, a high-class escort or whichever euphemism one may prefer. Or possibly, a younger woman whom he had taken for his kept lover in, say, St. John’s Wood (as in Holman Hunt’s painting “The Awakening Conscience,” 1853). Although she may well have pressed him to make an honest woman of her not too long afterwards – in the autumn of 1902. I think these speculations become unnecessary when the exact wording is reviewed.

“A wife” says Sherlock Holmes, and he may have intended that ambiguity. Someone’s wife even if not Watson’s at the time Holmes uttered this statement. My hazard: Elsie Cubitt, nee Patrick, from “The Dancing Men” (usually dated 1898, four years before “The Blanched

Soldier”). She is described an “American young lady” (512) by Hilton Cubitt himself at the outset of the case, when he also says they have been married for a year. Watson states that she “recovered entirely” (526) after Hilton’s death and had devoted herself to the poor and her late husband’s estate. And “recovering entirely” may well have entailed this young woman regaining those healthy bodily functions.

There are drawbacks to this idea of nuptial candidature. Elsie has been postulated to have conspired with Abe to kill Hilton Cubitt, her husband (Koelle, 1966). This may have occurred to Watson and given him pause, even if never proven. Elsie is also said by Slaney to have escaped Chicago with “honest money” (525) but how would she have come by that? And finally, having been shot through “the front of the brain” (518) is an injury where recovering entirely is quite a feat. She may have retained intelligence but had interesting personality changes, becoming disinhibited or apathetic depending on which area is damaged is more common (Lishman, 2012, p 58-60). But let us take the medical Dr. Watson as giving us an accurate prognosis.

Watson, with his possibly Australian antecedents (those mullock heaps of Ballarat, 107) may have been inclined to “foreign” women, as witness his self-proclaimed “many nations and three separate continents.” And Elsie had the advantage, like himself, of no “kith nor kin” (15) in England. Insular Norfolk may well have been rather unwelcoming once she lost her husband Hilton Cubitt, the local landowner, in such mysterious circumstances. *Stadtluft macht frei*, the air of the city makes you free, as the Germans have it. And Watson’s new medical practice address, Queen Anne Street, Marylebone, (“The Illustrious Client,” 984, usually dated 1902) is quite a salubrious address to which to move. The illustrious painter J.M.W. Turner lived there from 1812 until his death in 1851, for instance. And it intersects with Harley Street, THE place for society doctors to practice. Dr Arthur Conan Doyle himself had his brief ophthalmic practice around the corner in Wimpole Street in 1891 before becoming a full-time writer (Stashower, 1999, p 118-9).

What with her honest money, the money from the estate of Hilton Cubitt, and Watson’s not inconsiderable income from his writings and sporadic medical practice, Elsie and John would have been quite comfortable. And exercising those healthy bodily functions.

Possibly Queen Anne Street’s proximity to Baker Street was difficult for Holmes. He would have to restrain himself from crashing in on the Watsons. “The Final Problem” was a good excuse for calling by but what now?

So Sherlock Holmes retired shortly thereafter, tearing himself away from that tantalizing closeness, to rustivating alone with his bees in Sussex. His Boswell had left him again. We have only “The Lion’s Mane” and “His Last Bow,” neither penned by Watson, given us in the Canon itself for the rest of his known life.

(All page references are to the Penguin *Complete Sherlock Holmes* unless otherwise specified).

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How the Lion's Mane Was Let Out of the Bag: Arthur Conan Doyle's Unintentional Contribution to Biological Nomenclature

By Don Roebuck

Don Roebuck FCNRS teaches English in Toronto.

Editor's note: This article was first presented to the Bootmakers as a talk on 12 September 2015



I am an amateur naturalist, and when Fitzroy McPherson, the science master at The Gables, staggered up from the beach, where he had gone to swim in one of the tidal pools, and screamed something about “the lion’s mane,” I immediately guessed that he had been stung by a lion’s mane, which is a species of jellyfish, whose acquaintance I have made in various field guides. Holmes’s description of the marks on McPherson’s back, in the next paragraph, clinched it for me. I then spent the next several pages wondering why it was taking Holmes so long to come to the same conclusion. Had he never heard of this magnificent creature, with a disc up to eight feet in diameter, and tentacles up to 200 feet long?

And why did Arthur Conan Doyle, who knew how to write a good story, spoil this one for his readers, or at least some of his readers (the amateur naturalists), by having McPherson name his assailant right at the beginning?

Well, it turned out that Holmes *had* heard of this species, but only under its scientific name, *Cyanea capillata*, and McPherson, being a science teacher, may have known the scientific name, but – I thought – he may have decided to use the common name, Lion’s Mane, in speaking to Holmes, on the assumption that the common name would be more familiar to a layman.

This hypothesis – that McPherson failed to communicate with Holmes, by using a name that Holmes didn’t know — would explain why Holmes

failed to identify the ‘murderer’ immediately, but we would still have the problem of why Doyle spoiled the story. After pondering this for several days I came up with a possible solution: in 1926, when this story was first published, the common name Lion’s Mane might not yet have been in use. In that case, McPherson would have been using the phrase “lion’s mane” not to name the creature but to describe it, and it would hardly be fair to criticize Doyle for not having foreseen that this descriptive phrase would one day become a name.

This new hypothesis – that Lion’s Mane was not yet the common name of this species in 1926 — can be tested empirically, by checking old field guides. But first, a few words about biological nomenclature.

Every species – or, at any rate, every species known to science – has a scientific name, which consists of two words in Latin or Latinized Greek. But, for the most part, only the better-known species have common (in English-speaking countries, English) names. The great majority of marine invertebrates, in particular, do not have common names. A species may also have two or more common names. There may be one (for example, Woodchuck, which is a rough Anglicization of this animal’s Algonquian name) that is used by scientists, and another (in this case, Groundhog) that is used by everyone else (we call it Groundhog Day, not Woodchuck Day). Or the common name may vary from one region to another (so the Grey Squirrel is usually called the Black Squirrel in the Toronto area, because the local population of this species is mostly black). Of course, the common name will be different in different languages.

Now, these are the common names of *Cyanea capillata* given in the six geographically relevant field guides to seashore life that I happen to have on my bookshelf, in chronological order:

1. Roy Waldo Miner, *Field Book of Seashore Life* (New York, G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1959), which covers the Atlantic coast of North America from Labrador to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina: Pink Jellyfish. But Miner adds that “in England, it is spoken of as the Lion’s Mane” – which shows that in 1950 this name was not used in the U.S. And Miner says: “mature specimens are abundant in the cold water off the coast of Maine, in August and September.” (The important word here is *abundant*. Being abundant, it was well-known, and being well-known, it had a common name.)

2. Herbert S. Zim and Lester Ingle, *Seashores: A Guide to Animals and Plants along the Beaches* (New York, Golden Press, 1955), which covers the whole tidal coastline of the continental U.S.: Pink Jellyfish.

3. John H. Barrett and C.M. Yonge, *Collins Pocket Guide to the Sea Shore* (London, Collins, 1958), which covers Great Britain. In this field guide, only the scientific name of this species is used, and since the authors tell us, in the introduction, that their policy was to give the common name “where one exists,” we can safely conclude that in 1958 there was no common name in use for this species in the U.K. This conflicts with Miner’s remark, in 1950, that in England this species was “spoken of as the ‘lion’s mane,’” but I think the two British authors would be more trustworthy on this point, because they would be in a better position to know. And, regarding the abundance of this species on British seashores, Barrett and Yonge say, “Mostly S.W. coasts. Rare.” So this would be an example of a species that didn’t have a common name in Great Britain because it was not sufficiently well-known there.

4. Kenneth L. Gosner, *A Field Guide to the Atlantic Seashore* (Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1979), which covers the Atlantic coast of North America from the Bay of Fundy to Cape Hatteras: two common names, Lion’s Mane and Red Jelly. (“Jellyfish” and “Jelly” in these names seem to be interchangeable. But note that “Red” has replaced “Pink.” According to Gosner, the colour of this species varies geographically: pinkish south of Cape Hatteras, yellow or orange-brown from Cape Hatteras to Cape Cod, and darker brown or red northward. He says, “Probably a single North Atlantic species” so it sounds as if several colour variants that had previously been regarded as different species have been lumped together, as often happens in biology.)

5. Merritt Gibson, *Summer Nature Notes for Nova Scotians: Seashores*, (Hantsport, N.S., Lancelot Press, 1987), which covers Nova Scotia: Lion’s Mane Jellyfish and Red Jellyfish.

6. Peter Hayward, Tony Nelson-Smith and Chris Shields, *Sea Shore of Britain & Europe* (London, HarperCollins Publishers, 1996), which covers the Atlantic, Mediterranean, North Sea, Irish Sea and English Channel coasts of Britain and Europe: Lion’s Mane Jellyfish.

We see, then, that the common name Lion’s Mane (or Lion’s Mane Jellyfish) was not yet in use in the U.S. in 1950 or in the U.K. in 1958, which means that it would not have been in use in either country in 1926, when the story was first published.

Therefore, I would like to propose the following reconstruction of the chain of events by which the phrase “lion’s mane” became a name:

1. The Reverend John George Wood, in his book *Out of Doors* (which appeared in three editions between 1874 and 1890), said that *Cyanea capillata* looked “something like very large handfuls of lion’s mane and silver paper.” Note that, in Wood’s description, “lion’s mane,” like

“silver paper,” denotes a material. (So “lion’s mane,” as used here, is analogous to “horsehair,” hair from the mane or tail of a horse.)

2. Arthur Conan Doyle used the “lion’s mane” part of Wood’s description in McPherson’s warning, and this phrase rang a bell for Holmes, but – not surprisingly — it took him a week to remember where he had seen it before, in a relevant context (namely, in Wood’s book). And, most importantly, Doyle gave his story the title “The Adventure of the Lion’s Mane.”

3. Someone who had read this story, but not too carefully, or who, some years later, remembered the title of the story more clearly than the story itself, might assume that the “Lion’s Mane” in the title was the creature’s common name, at least in the U.K. – especially if he or she didn’t live there. Even a biologist might make this mistake. A case in point, I suspect, was Roy Waldo Miner, Curator Emeritus of the Living Invertebrates at the American Museum of Natural History, who remarked, in his *Field Book of Seashore Life*, published in 1950 (which I referred to earlier), that in England this species was “spoken of as the ‘lion’s mane.’”

4. Later field guide writers took Miner’s remark at face value (or may have just made the same mistake on their own), and gave Lion’s Mane (or Lion’s Mane Jellyfish) as the common name, or one of the common names, of this species. In so doing, these field guide writers *made* Lion’s Mane (or Lion’s Mane Jellyfish) the common name, or one of the common names, of this species, because that was how users of these field guides (such as amateur naturalists) would henceforth refer to it.

It took roughly a century, then, for the name of a material to become a name of a species, and my thesis is that Conan Doyle played a key role in this. To prove my thesis wrong, it would only be necessary to find a single instance of the use of Lion’s Mane as a common name for this species before 1926. But Doyle not only supplied the name but may have created the need for one. If it is true that *Cyanea capillata* “gained fame in a Sherlock Holmes story” — according to the *Encyclopedia of Marine Invertebrates* (ed. Jerry G. Walls, T.F.H. Publications, Hong Kong, 1982) — then, having gained fame, it would have needed a common name, and what would be a more natural choice than the name that appeared to have been used for it in the story’s title?

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— P R I Z E S —



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A ticket to our annual dinner celebration!

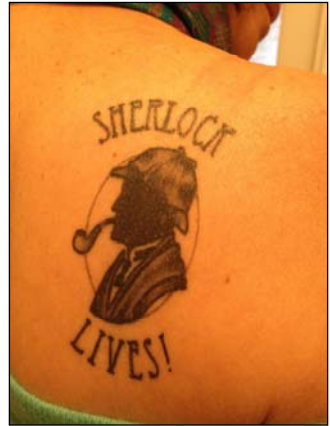


A one-year subscription to Canadian Holmes!

“I have made a small study of tattoo marks...”

Jabez Wilson, in “The Adventure of the Red Headed League,” had a fish tattoo on his right wrist. Today, Sherlockians are showing their love of the Canon by wearing it proudly on their skin. This three-page pictorial is just a small sampling of Sherlockian tattoos. You can see all of these tattoos in full colour on the Bootmakers website at <http://www.torontobootmakers.com/canadian-holmes/tattoos/>

This shoulder tattoo is owned by Wendy Heyman-Marsaw, creator of *Canadian Holmes’s* From Mrs. Hudson’s Kitchen column. The typeface is Baskerville. The “Sherlock Lives” message is Wendy’s firm conviction of the statement: “The man who never lived and will never die.” The tattoo was done by Tyson Ward of Passage Tattoo in Toronto.



This tattoo is on the right shoulder of Monica Schmidt. The fingerprints are Monica’s own, and the pipe is the Sherlock Holmes model from Peterson. The signature is taken from Holmes’s own signature in the Brett adaptation of “Wisteria Lodge.”

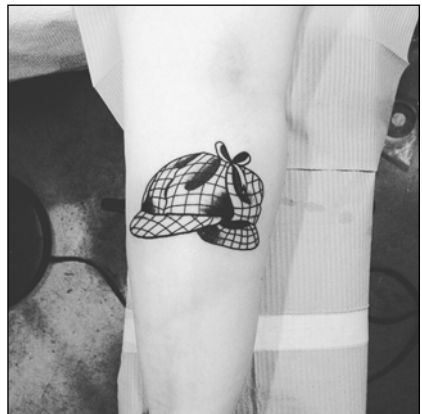


Tiffany French is the owner of two Sherlockian tattoos. The shoulder tattoo's Excelsior motto is from "The Creeping Man" while "The Dancing Men" font tattoo spells out "irregular."



This tattoo not only reminds us of the famous Baker Street address but is a nice pun on Holmes's retirement pursuit of bee keeping. This address is on the arm of Courtney Powers.

Lorelei Hoffman of Niagara Falls sports this jaunty deerstalker on her left forearm. The image was done by Curt Montgomery of Toronto. Lorelei is a university student in Toronto majoring in English.





Showing her arm strength and her love of Sherlock is Laura Schulte. Saying that the skull is a timeless tattoo theme and being a fan of *Sherlock*, artist Paul Sutton combined the best of both worlds.



This stylized skull and cross bones tattoo is on the shoulder of Elana Mayer. The bones represent Sherlock Holmes by being displayed as a magnifying glass and pipe while the crow reminds us of Edgar Allan Poe's influence on Conan Doyle.

Katrina Ohelmacher has this original Norbury tattoo, which is in her own handwriting. "Lacking a Watson of my own," says Katrina, "I got the tattoo to remind myself to be diligent in all things and not get too far ahead of myself."



Sherlockian World News

Nessie Found! – A nine-metre model of the Loch Ness monster built for *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* in 1969 has been found almost 50 years after it sank in the loch.

The prop was created for the Billy Wilder-directed movie starring Robert Stephens and Christopher Lee.

Images of the prop were captured by an underwater robot. Loch Ness expert Adrian Shine told the BBC that the shape, measurements and location pointed to the object being the movie prop.

Shine told the BBC News Scotland website: “We have found a monster, but not the one many people might have expected.

“The model was built with a neck and two humps and taken alongside a pier for filming of portions of the film in 1969.

“The director did not want the humps and asked that they be removed, despite warnings I suspect from the rest of the production that this would affect its buoyancy.

“And the inevitable happened. The model sank.”

At Auction – Only one of the five Conan Doyle lots sold at an auction at Bonhams in April.

The five lots were: autographed manuscript to “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter;” autographed manuscript to *Rodney Stone*, one loose manuscript sheet for *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, autographed manuscript of “The Prisoner’s Defence” and autographed manuscript to “The Problem of Thor Bridge.”

The Thor Bridge manuscript sold for \$269,000 (including buyer’s premium). For more information on this sale, visit:

<http://www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/bonhams-2016-manuscripts.htm>

Season 4 starts filming – Season 4 of the hugely popular BBC *Sherlock* started filming. Possible air date for the shows will be January 2017.

Downey Movie #3 – Robert Downey Jr. announced that filming on the third installment of his Sherlock Holmes movies will begin later this year.

Douglas Wilmer – Douglas Wilmer died March 31 at the age of 96. He played Holmes in the mid-1960s and made a cameo appearance in the BBC *Sherlock* series in 2012.

“Holmes gave me a brief review”

A Quick Succession of Subjects by Christopher Redmond (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2016, \$19.95 [US])

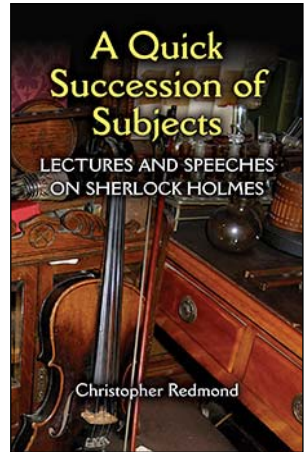
I want to propose Christopher Redmond as Canada’s first Living National Treasure. The concept began in Japan and now exists in at least eight other countries, including the U.S., Australia and Thailand. Those selected embody intangible national cultural values, just as places or things can be designated national treasures for their cultural significance.

Consider how much Redmond has contributed to that cultural embedding — authoring *In Bed With Sherlock Holmes*, *Welcome to America, Mr. Sherlock Holmes*, two editions of *A Sherlock Holmes Handbook* (reference), editing *Canadian Holmes* from 1979 to 1991 and then two books for the Bootmakers 25th anniversary, creating Sherlockian.Net in 1994; the list marches on.

Now for those who haven’t been fortunate enough to hear Redmond at a Sherlockian conference or scion meeting, we have this volume of 27 talks spanning 1978 to 2015. As someone who for several years was paid to draft speeches, I can attest that Redmond writes as well for the ear as for the eye. The talks are replete with learning worn lightly (the Canon, scholarly writings, the classics, the Bible and mathematics), delightfully quirky (the sobriety test for drivers used by British police), myth-puncturing (overegged titles for the untold stories) and novel research ideas (plot the location of Holmes’s cases against London’s actual crime rates in the 1890s).

Editing by the author appears minimal, although several puns that might just possibly have succeeded with Redmond’s droll delivery could better have been deleted. Also maybe the book’s cover should feature a warning of the sort often urged for the annual *Bedside Guardian* compendium: Avoid overindulging at one sitting. And anyhow, you’ll want to make the enjoyment last as long as possible.

— Peter Calamai



Houdini and Doyle (2016) – What if Harry Houdini and Arthur Conan Doyle had teamed up to assist the police in solving vaguely supernatural mysteries in 1901? Neat idea. Created by David Hoselton (House) and

David Titcher (The Librarians), under the banner of House creator David Shore's Shore Z production company, *Houdini and Doyle* was pitched as a sort of Victorian/Edwardian X-Files to Fox television, ITV in the UK and Global in Canada. Houdini the curious skeptic and



Doyle the believer in the supernatural was a perfect combo for a period Scully and Mulder. Given the popularity of BBC *Sherlock*, Showtime's *Penny Dreadful* and various other new gothic and period dramas, plus Fox getting behind a new series of the actual X-Files, it must have seemed like a no-brainer for the networks. Unfortunately, this American, British and Canadian co-production appears to suffer from too many cooks trying to please too wide an audience and little in the way of daring creative vision, leaving the viewer with something that is too lightweight, too blandly Canadian and lacking the edge to please anyone, except possibly fans of *Murdoch Mysteries*, which, with an added dash of the supernatural, is what it most resembles. Of course, given that Shaftesbury films, the company producing *Murdoch Mysteries*, is one of the production companies involved, this isn't a huge surprise (and goes some ways toward explaining the shift of setting from London, England to Eastern Canada in the final two episodes). But the news isn't all bad...

The rather well-cast Michael Weston's (*House*, *Six Feet Under*, *Elementary*) Houdini is a brash charmer, stealing scenes at every turn from Stephen Mangan's (*Episodes*, *Dirk Gently*) rather too earnest Arthur Conan Doyle, and hitting on their first female Metropolitan Police liaison, Constable Adelaide Stratton (winningly played by Canadian actress Rebecca Liddiard). The first few episodes lack chemistry between the cast, are hindered by weak Scooby Doo stories about vengeful spirits and even an alien abduction. Things do, however, start to gel around

...continued on page 31

Letters From Lomax

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

I've been on a bit of a Nero Wolfe bender lately. If you've never read Rex Stout to excess, I recommend trying it sometime. In these stories you can find everything that is enjoyable about the Holmes Canon: mysteries set in a fascinating time and place, an engaging narrator with a pawky sense of humour, and brilliant deductions by an eccentric detective. For this column I've decided to take a look at what we have in the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection that is related to two princes among men—Rex and Nero.

You might ask why we even have Wolfean materials in the ACD Collection. It's not that we have holdings on all classic crime fiction: that would be another kind of collection and we like to keep our focus fairly tight. The Nero Wolfe stories, however, deserve to be an exception. Rex Stout, BSI ("The Boscombe Valley Mystery," 1949) was a card-carrying Sherlockian, and to a degree, these stories can be read as Holmesian pastiches (although they are also much more.) On top of this, some Sherlockians have even suggested that Nero Wolfe was the product of an affair between Holmes and Irene Adler. To explore this possibility you can consult both the *Baker Street Journal* issue (Vol. 6, no 1, January, 1956) where John D. Clark first mentioned the idea in "Some notes relating to a preliminary investigation into the paternity of Nero Wolfe" and William S. Baring-Gould's further treatment of the idea in the biography *Nero Wolfe of West Thirty-Fifth Street*, (Viking Press, 1969).

Whether or not shared DNA is the cause, there are certainly some similarities between Holmes and Wolfe. Nero Wolfe is a great detective who is rather rough around the edges when it comes to the social niceties. Both Holmes and Wolfe have little interest in women and leave the fair sex to their assistants/Boswells. Wolfe is an expert on orchids, which brings to mind Holmes's effusive comment in "The Adventure of the Naval Treaty," "What a lovely

thing a rose is!” One major difference between the two detectives is that whereas Holmes often seems indifferent to food and sometimes goes for days without eating, Wolfe is a gourmet’s gourmet who keeps a live-in chef. Never read these stories on an empty stomach or you will be tortured by Stout’s loving descriptions of Fritz Brenner’s fine food. Stout (who was actually quite slender) gives Wolfe fans the opportunity to sample some of Fritz’s recipes in his book *The Nero Wolfe Cookbook* (Penguin, 1981). Try the recipe for scrambled eggs. They take a full 30 minutes to cook but the result is (almost) worth the trouble.

Sherlockians have their writings on the writings. Wolfeans have them too, and Sherlock Holmes gets an occasional mention. One example is “The case of the spurious bar-sinister” written by J. G. O’Boyle and illustrated by noted BSI illustrator Scott Bond, in *Gazette: The Journal of the Wolfe Pack* (v. 3, no. 2 1984: Spring) There’s also “From Zech to Moriarty to Wild” by Marvin Kaye in the *Rex Stout Journal* (No. 4: Spring 1986/1987). Wolfean commentary sometimes explores research topics found in Sherlockian studies. For example, *The Brownstone House of Nero Wolfe* (by Ken Darby. Little, Brown, 1983) about Wolfe’s beloved New York brownstone is very reminiscent of scholarship regarding 221B Baker Street.

For many *Canadian Holmes* readers, Rex Stout’s contributions to Sherlockian literature will be more intriguing than all this Wolfeana. Most famous is his treatise “Watson was a woman,” which he first delivered at a Baker Street Irregulars dinner in 1941, and which you will find published in *The Pocket Mystery Reader* (Pocketbooks, 1942), *The Grand Game: A Celebration of Sherlockian Scholarship* (King and Klinger ed., BSI, 2011-2012) and other anthologies. Needless to say, this outrageous claim has not gone uncontested. Take, for example, “That was no lady: a reply to Mr. Stout in which are included some observations upon the nature of Dr. Watson’s wound,” written by Julian Wolff and published in the *American Journal of Surgery* in 1942. You can read more about Rex Stout and his Sherlockian connections in *Rex Stout: A Biography* by John J McAleer (Little, Brown, 1997), McAleer’s shorter work *Royal Decree* (Pontes Press, 1983) and

Corsage: A Bouquet of Rex Stout and Nero Wolfe (Michael Bourne, Ed. James A. Rock, 1977).

In the end Rex Stout would write 33 novels and 39 short stories about Nero Wolfe from 1934 to 1974. Interestingly, this echoes Arthur Conan Doyle's 40-year career with Sherlock Holmes. The Wolfe stories start with *Fer de Lance* (which is part homage to "The Speckled Band") and end with *A Family Affair*. The novels themselves are not available in the ACD Collection because our holdings are limited to reference materials with connections to the Holmes stories. However, the titles are easily found elsewhere in the Toronto Public Library. If you're not in Toronto, chances are that at least a few of these books are available in your local public library. Give yourself a treat and read one soon, even if you've already read them all. Like Ducklings in Flemish Olive Sauce as prepared by Fritz Brenner, they are even better the second time you savour them.

"Holmes gave me a brief review"

Continued from page 28

episode five, which focuses on a travelling medium, and really hits its stride with episode seven, "Bedlam," where Conan Doyle finds himself confronting the spectre of his dead father and his effect on Doyle's writing. The episode is further bolstered by Ewan Bremner's appearance as a sort of psychotic Sherlock Holmes residing in Doyle's subconscious. It's a great episode and for once Mangan isn't upstaged at every turn by Weston's Houdini. The only other episode to rise above the bland family-friendly Hallmark tone is episode nine "Necromanteion," which has our intrepid trio meet Thomas Edison (Peter Outerbridge, the original Murdoch) and his dubious device enabling people to communicate with the dead.

If you can ignore the total fiction of the premise (for starters, Houdini and Doyle didn't meet until nearly 20 years later and never investigated crimes), get past the first few totally weak episodes, and aren't too demanding about lightweight period-set entertainment, give this a spin. Weston and Mangan are worth watching, and Liddiard doesn't hurt the proceedings either.

– Charles Prepolec

Canadian Roundup

Edmonton – The May 8, 2016 meeting started off with a quiz on “The Boscombe Valley Mystery.” Most of the members who were present rated the story highly. Some members consider this story to contain some of Sherlock Holmes’s best deductions. Australia and how it related to the story was discussed. Some had a problem with Lestrade letting John Turner go free. There was a lengthy discussion on Dr. Watson's attention on Alice. Was Conan Doyle emphasizing that Watson was a ladies' man?



On Thursday, May 19 at 7:00, at the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Telus World of Science Centre at Edmonton, Constantine Kaoukakis gave a lecture on the scientific methods of Sherlock Holmes. The lecture first covered the scientific background of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, then proceeded to discuss the different monographs that Sherlock Holmes authored, focusing on what type of knowledge a forensic detective might need for his work. Kaoukakis presented Holmes as a chemist and how this helped him with his work. Poisons and their use in detection by Holmes were also discussed. Sherlock Holmes’s pioneering work in the use of fingerprints was another topic covered. The lecture ended with Holmes’s “accurate but unsystematic” knowledge of anatomy. Throughout the lecture,

Kaoukakis kept referring to Sherlock Holmes as a forensic manual that helped influence real forensic crime detection.

– Constantine Kaoukakis

Halifax – May 15, 2016 saw more than a dozen Sherlockians attend a luncheon on Windsor, Nova Scotia at The Spitfire Arms Alehouse. The second half of *The Valley of Fear* was discussed with Grant Bradbury delivering a very tough quiz. Dennis Penton won first prize and took home a hardcover version of *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Sign of Four*. Wendy Heyman-Marsaw received her Master Bootmaker award while Morley Wills and Mark Alberstat supplied some items for Show and Tell.



BOOTMAKERS' DIARY



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

— *The Five Orange Pips*

Saturday April 2, 2016

Sixty-one Bootmakers and guests gather at the Orchard View Library to examine “The Boscombe Valley Mystery,” where James Reese ‘Meyers’ calls the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, and welcomes those in attendance.

Angela Misri announces a new contest for the best submission to *Canadian Holmes* by a first time contributor.

Chris Redmond gives us an introduction to the evening’s story and begins by telling us that he did an introduction to the same story at the Awards Banquet in 1978 and was the first presentation he made to the Bootmakers. He ranks it as one of the best of the Holmes stories and says that Ronald Knox in his 1911 “A Study in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes,” pointed out that where most of the stories begin in the Baker Street chambers then move to the scene of the crime, this one is an exception to that format. This was also the first story in which illustrator Sidney Paget shows Holmes wearing the deerstalker. He finishes his talk by mentioning that he brought copies of his new book, *Lives Beyond Baker Street*, a directory of contemporaries of Conan Doyle.

Chris is followed by Don Roebuck who, in “The Boot in the Bog,” gives us an interesting speculation on Sir Henry Baskerville’s boot, which gives us our name. He theorizes that the boot Holmes found was a plant placed there the afternoon of the day Sir Henry was set upon by the hound while returning from the Stapletons, that Stapleton retained the scent boot and had not perished in the mire but had disappeared into a new and untraceable identity perhaps back to Costa Rica.

Barbara Rusch presents a paper from her husband Donny Zaldin, who could not be there. The paper recounts that on May 19, 2004 among Doyle papers up for auction by Christie’s was Doyle’s very first story, 36 words long and about a Bengal tiger, which he had written when he was six years old, and which Doyle said, at the age of 34, was his first attempt at writing. Donny then goes on to say that Conan Doyle retained

his interest in tigers as they pop up in person or are mentioned in several of the Holmes stories.

The break is called, Chris Redmond and Angela Misri announce that they will be on hand to sell and autograph their new books and Karen Campbell distributes the evening's quiz.

A selection of sandwiches, fruit and cheese is overseen by Mrs. Hudsons Angela Misri and Edith Reese.

After Meyers recalls the meeting to order Karen Campbell takes up the quiz, the winners are Bruce Aikin, Don Roebuck and Renee MacTaggart.

Several guests are introduced: Rich Kato from Ann Arbor, Michigan; Diana Draper and new Bootmaker John Gehan.

Lassus, Karen Gold, leads the room in a rendition of "Black Jack of Balarat" sung to the tune of "Hit the Road Jack."

Bruce Aikin distributes photocopies of the edition of *Liberty Magazine* for June 6, 1931, containing an article in which Doyle's widow claimed she received a message from her late husband. There is also a reminder of the Annual Silver Blaze outing to be held on Saturday, July 18, with a special meeting that same night as this year it will be a combined Bootmaker/Baker Street Irregulars event.

James thanks all the participants for their contributions, the audience for attending and adjourns the meeting at 9:30.

Diarist's Note – In the report on the Blue Carbuncle Banquet (Spring 2016), Donny Zaldin's name was inadvertently left off the list of the Emerald Tie Pin recipients. Your diarist also neglected to mention that the Marlene Aig Brunch was organized by Kathy Burns, who arranged the venue, Cafe California, and worked out the menu choices with the management. Philip Elliott arranged for the printing of the flyers and menus. I give belated congratulations to Donny, and thanks to Philip and Kathy for a job well done.

– David Sanders M.Bt.

Monday April 11, 2016

On the evening of April 11, Peggy and Pat Perdue, Susan Murray, Dave Drennan, Gary Marnoch, James Reese and David Sanders meet at the Artful Dodger Pub for dinner with Jim Hawkins, a Sherlockian from Nashville, Tennessee who is in town to fulfill a long-standing ambition to visit Toronto's Conan Doyle Collection, which he plans to do the next day. He gives each of those present a GooGoo Cluster Supreme, a chocolate treat made in Nashville.

– David Sanders M.Bt.

Saturday May 7, 2016

Thirty-two attendees gather at the York Masonic Temple for the third story meeting of 2016.

The brunch was scheduled for 12:00 noon but is delayed for a few minutes to accommodate those held up by a traffic jam on the Don Valley Parkway.

The brunch proves to be worthy of the wait as we partake of an assortment of delicacies.

The formal meeting begins at 1:15 pm. Meyers introduces Cliff Goldfarb to give the introduction to today's story.



Cliff tells us that Arthur Conan Doyle liked this story, placing it seventh in his 1927 list of the 12 best Sherlock Holmes stories. Other listings have not ranked it so highly. In 1999, it placed 23rd in Randall Stock's compilation. In Chris Redmond's forthcoming book, Cliff has contributed an essay on why *The Five Orange Pips* is the best story in the Sherlockian Canon.

A number of announcements are made: Donny Zaldin announces that the Silver Blaze Race on July 16 will be the Second Triennial Can-Am Race. Space is limited and Donny offers a rebate to anyone who reserves at this meeting. The race will be held at the Woodbine Racetrack. Later in the evening there will be a mini-conference at the Northern District Library from 7:00 to 10:00 pm.

Dave Sanders announces that the Pub Night will be on June 11 at the Duke of Kent, which is just across the street from our new meeting venue.

Next up is Doug Wrigglesworth to talk about “The Importance of an Autograph” (or more accurately “Importance of Provenance to a Collector”). Among several examples is an 1887 Tourist Guide to London for visitors for Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee. The item is quite interesting in itself but gains provenance when one sees that it was signed by Vincent Starrett, who connected it with the date of publishing *Study in Scarlet*. Doug shows several other examples in which autographs demonstrated the history of the item and added interest and value for the collector.

James Reese tells about “The Rise and Fall of the Ku Klux Klan.” The Klan was founded by Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest after the American Civil War. Reese recounts the history of the organization, which at one time grew to have over four million members. It currently has about five thousand.

The quiz on “The Five Orange Pips” is taken up by our Quiz Master, Karen Campbell. The winners are: Bruce Aikin, Dave Sanders, Dave Drennan and Garry Marnoch.

Karen Gold distributes sheets for her original lyrics for *Take Five Orange Pips*, sung to the tune of Dave Brubeck’s instrumental *Take Five*. Since the song is rather complicated she does a solo rendition. She receives quite an ovation for her performance.

Garry Marnoch thanks everyone for their cards and thoughts for his recovery from his recent auto accident. He is up to 95 per cent and glad to be able to come to the Bootmakers’ meetings again.

Our one guest, Joan Nader, is welcomed to the meeting.

The meeting is then adjourned.

– Bruce Aikin



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