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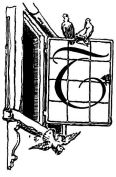
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One-hundred seventieth issue

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Graces of Bootprints

A golden issue

For Canadian Sherlockians and Doyleans, 50 is a magic number this year.

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library and the Bootmakers of Toronto will jointly celebrate their 50th anniversaries by hosting the Jubilee@221B conference from Sept. 23-25.

In keeping with the numerical theme, this issue of *Canadian Holmes* is the 50th for the current editorial team. The editorship began in 2009, and a lot has happened with the journal since then.

Canadian Holmes has settled in at 40 pages of Sherlockian goodness every issue. We have seen regular columns come and go, be revived and continue on to see a new audience. There have been hundreds of articles, reviews, songs and toasts during this time. Our readership has grown as well. *Canadian Holmes* is firmly rooted in Canada but is read around the world. We have contributors in this issue from Canada, Australia, the US and England.

If this were a wedding anniversary it would be the golden one. For us, it is another issue full of Sherlockian interest, fun, history and entertainment. Each issue we strive to bring you a variety of articles that our readers will enjoy, think about and maybe even spur them to contribute.

In this issue Barbara Rusch returns with her Bow Window column, this time taking a look at Victorian criminals. Ronald Levitsky's first article for *Canadian Holmes* looks at the Addington Peace mysteries and their homage to the Sherlockian Canon. Bill Mason returns to the journal with an article on the Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective Agency and how Moriarty was brought to ruin. Jerry Margolin tells us his tale of finally owning a piece of Sherlockian artwork which has hounded him for decades. Greg Ruby follows the hound with his article "Live from New York, it's Sherlock Holmes!" Michael Duke comes to us from Australia with an article about Indian servants in the Canon. Mark Jones then continues his regular column discussing Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian works from the *Strand Magazine*. The issue wraps up with Diary Notes, tributes to Michael Whelan by Hartley Nathan and Donny Zaldin, and a fond farewell to Ed Van der Flaes by Doug Wrigglesworth.

The view from the bow window

Barbara Rusch explores various aspects of Victorian and Edwardian life as they relate to the canonical tales. Bow Window illustration by Laurie Fraser Manifold.



From London's back alleys to its gas-lit thoroughfares, from overcrowded slums to bucolic country estates, Victorian criminal activity was both prolific and diffuse. Holmes comes into contact with a vast assortment of miscreants and their disreputable pursuits. As he observes, "There is no one who knows the higher criminal world of London so well as I do." They were his stock-in-trade, and despite his assertion that, "There are no crimes and no criminals in these days," in many ways the tales encompass an eclectic checklist – or perhaps a seething cauldron – of the nefarious activities of his fellow citizens. Victorian society was in flux, and crime along with it. Advances in industrialization and growing urbanization led to evolving forms of pernicious behaviour, though its causes in many cases remained unchanged, including unemployment, poverty, alcoholism and such human frailties as jealousy, avarice and revenge.

By far the most common crime was theft, in all its permutations and combinations. Chief amongst them was the petty variety, especially in urban areas, where greater opportunities presented themselves. If the breadwinner of the household were laid off, a family could rapidly decline into poverty and despair, and the pilfering of food and other necessities presented a viable alternative to the workhouse. Larceny on a grander scale proliferates in the Canon with the disappearance of a number of priceless gems, whose possession inevitably comes with a price. They are "the devil's pet bait," as Holmes observes, "a nucleus and focus of crime." The misappropriation of invaluable political documents by family members include the Naval Treaty and the sensitive papers stolen from Trelawney Hope. Holmes maintains that "the lowest and vilest alleys in London do not present a more dreadful record of sin than does the smiling and beautiful countryside," and rural areas enjoyed their own peculiar forms of plunder. Poaching routinely took place on the estates of the aristocracy, and horse theft was a routine offence, especially in the early half of the century. Silas Brown might well have earned a hefty prison sentence had not Sherlock Holmes intervened and returned Silver Blaze to Colonel

Ross. Punishment could be swift and harsh. In 1875, 29-year-old domestic servant Charlotte Bord, convicted of stealing two pots of jam, was sent to Wisbech Prison for 14 days with hard labour.

Child offenders, often driven by hunger and desperation, were a common enough sight on the streets of London. First-time offenders, some as young as 10, were subjected to whippings with a birch rod or sentenced to weeks of imprisonment at hard labour. We tend to assume that because Holmes deputizes the Baker Street Irregulars – his posse, if you will – they are innocents. But it’s equally likely that when these “street urchins” are not engaged in locating the detective’s missing persons, they are no better than Fagin’s motley crew, hoodlums and thieves-in-training, with Wiggins in the role of the Artful Dodger.

A particularly inventive thief was the “fisher,” who would lower a line with a lead weight smeared with sticky birdlime into a mailbox in order to retrieve envelopes containing valuables, money or indiscreet letters, which could be passed along to blackmailers. Richard Darrell, found guilty of stealing a cheque for £5 5s from a pillar box in the Edgeware Road, was sentenced to three years penal servitude. Such soulless blackmailers as Eduardo Lucas and Charles Augustus Milverton operate far more sophisticated enterprises, threatening not merely to expose past indiscretions, but willing to risk igniting a continent-wide conflagration. Despite the fact that Irene Adler may well be included amongst the extortionists, Holmes appears to have an abiding admiration for the lady.

Nor is he innocent himself of the crime of theft, breaking into a number of residences with a “first-class burgling kit” for the purposes of retrieving photographs, documents and incriminating letters. “Burglary has always been an alternative profession, had I cared to adopt it,” he tells Watson, “and I have little doubt that I should have come to the front,” though his borderline illegalities are invariably carried out in the pursuit of justice, and often justified as “private revenge.”



FBI wanted poster Edmund Moriarity, considered armed and dangerous, charged in 1937 with forgery and auto theft. From the collection of the author.

A Holmesian Homage – The Chronicles of Addington Peace

By Ronald Levitsky

Ron Levitsky, a retired educator and mystery writer, is a member of the Chicago-area Beespeckled Band and Criterion Bar. He has given several Sherlockian presentations to both organizations.

In July 1900, the steamship *Briton* sailed from South Africa to England. On board were two distinguished writers, 41-year-old Arthur Conan Doyle and 30-year-old Bertram Fletcher Robinson. Conan Doyle later wrote that the voyage “cemented” his friendship with Robinson. During their shipboard conversations, Conan Doyle purchased from Robinson the idea of creating a wax fingerprint coated in blood to mislead the police – a clue later used in the “Adventure of the Norwood Builder.” More importantly, Robinson helped Conan Doyle with the central idea and local colour of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. (1) The two men shared many interests, including English history, politics (both were Liberal Unionists), a bent toward spiritualism, a love of sports, and, most significantly, writing. Both joined the Crimes Club in 1904, a private dining society that studied actual criminal cases, historical and contemporary. The club supported re-examination of the Edalji and Slater cases.

Around this time, Robinson, who made a living as a journalist and magazine editor, turned his interest to detective fiction. In December 1902, he and J. Malcolm Fraser co-authored a serialized adventure for *Windsor Magazine*. The serial was published as a novel in 1904. Titled *Trail of the Dead*, the story recounted a chase across Europe to stop Professor Rudolf Marnac, a mad philosopher, from murdering those scholars who criticized his magnum opus, *Science and Religion*. The story’s protagonist, Sir Henry Graden, a surgeon and daring adventurer, wore a deerstalker cap, used a magnifying glass, smoked a pipe, and emphasized the importance of “observation.” Dr. Robert Harland, his sidekick and the story’s narrator, was also a physician. Early in the novel, they stayed at an inn in West Prussia called the Goldner Adler. They helped Mary Weston and her father escape the evil professor; later Dr. Harland and Mary were wed. The climax of the novel took place in the Swiss Alps with a carriage crash sending the evil Professor Marnac over a cliff to his death. (2)

References to characters and settings of the Sherlockian Canon are obvious. Was this simply an example of naked plagiarism or, perhaps,

rather a respectful tip of the deerstalker cap by Robinson to his friend Conan Doyle? Whatever the reason, *Trail of the Dead* surely capitalized on the enormous popularity of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, as well as the short story collection *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*.

Robinson was bitten by the detective bug. In the August 1904 edition of *Ladies Home Magazine*, his first detective story was published. Five followed in monthly succession. In 1905 two more were added to the collection, and the eight stories were published together as *The Chronicles of Addington Peace*. Even more than *Trail of the Dead*, these stories and their protagonist owe a great deal to Sherlock Holmes. They are a Holmesian homage but, also, a solid detective series in their own right. (3)

Addington Peace was an Inspector with the Criminal Investigation Department of Scotland Yard. This made him an unusual protagonist for Victorian and Edwardian crime fiction. Most series heroes were brilliant amateurs, such as Baroness Orczy's *Old Man in the Corner*, Jacques Futrelle's *The Thinking Machine*, J. Austin Freeman's *Dr. Thorndyke*, and G.K. Chesterton's *Father Brown*. In fact, the police were treated with anything but respect. In his critique of crime fiction, *The Perfect Murder: A Study in Detection*, David Lehman labels the policemen of these stories as "...humble, prosaic, oafish, well-meaning, slow." "They're straight men who come to scoff and stay to clap – or rush out to take the credit they don't deserve." (4)

Perhaps as a journalist dealing with real life, Robinson understood the potential of a policeman as a series hero. Unlike relying on the ragtag

2 THE SUNDAY HERALD—BOSTON, OCTOBER 15, 1905—MAGAZINE SECTION.


The HAIRY CATERPILLAR

THE TRAIL OF THE DEAD

BY B. FLETCHER ROBINSON

COLLABORATOR WITH SIR A. CONAN DOYLE

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT FOR THE BOSTON SUNDAY HERALD MAGAZINE.



"The girl had a more than ordinary amount of respect for her father, and she was not at all likely to be deceived by the man who had been so long in the habit of deceiving her. She had a more than ordinary amount of respect for her father, and she was not at all likely to be deceived by the man who had been so long in the habit of deceiving her. She had a more than ordinary amount of respect for her father, and she was not at all likely to be deceived by the man who had been so long in the habit of deceiving her." (This text is a placeholder for the actual story content.)

Boston's Sunday Herald introduced The Trail of the Dead to readers with a full-page reproduction of Chapter 1 on October 15, 1905

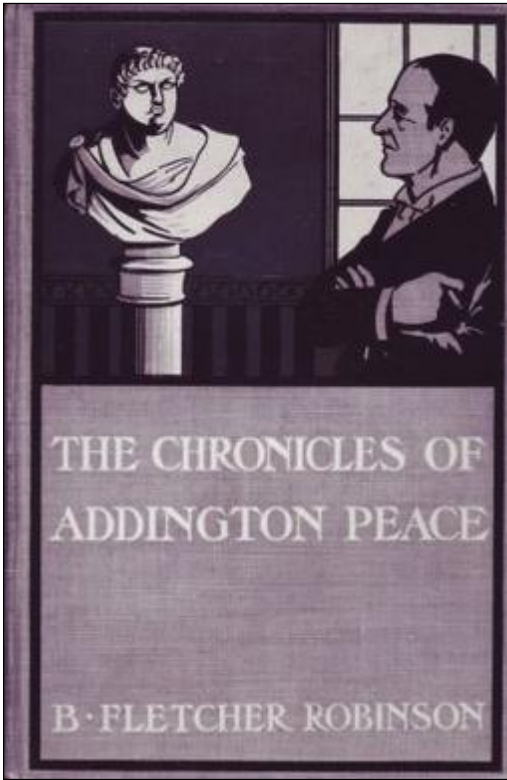
Baker Street Irregulars, Addington Peace had a squad of men at his beck and call. He orchestrated their movements, as they followed, observed and arrested wrong doers. The crime scenes he investigated were not limited to mansions or tidy middle-class homes. They included art studios, radical clubs and dive bars. His reputation preceded him throughout the country. As his sidekick wrote in “Mystery of the Causeway,” “Even a rural detective would know the famous policeman’s name.” Although an enforcer of the law, Peace, like Holmes, was not above acting as his own judge and jury. “I have let the breaker of the law go free in my time – perhaps more than once... The law cannot take cognizance of all the tricks that Fate plays on a man.” (“Tragedy of Thomas Hearne”)

Peace was about 35 years old, with “a stubble of brown hair, a hard, clean-shaven mouth, and confident chin.” (“Amaroff the Pole”) Throughout the series, he was described as “small” or “tiny.” He was compared to a terrier and was said to have the agility of a sparrow. He carried a “light cane” and smoked cigarettes while on the job and a pipe by his hearth.

Compare the physical description of Peace to Inspector Lestrade, the Canon’s most famous policeman. Called “a little sallow rat-faced, dark-eyed fellow” in *A Study in Scarlet*, “a lean, ferret-like man, furtive and sly-looking” in “The Boscombe Valley Mystery,” and “as wiry, as dapper, and as ferret-like as ever” in “The Adventure of the Cardboard Box,” Inspector Lestrade was also small and resembled an excitable animal that hunts – in this case, a ferret rather than a terrier. Lestrade arrogantly assumed that Holmes’s investigation could add nothing to what the policeman’s inquiries already had accomplished. These observations implied that Holmes had little respect for Lestrade. But the observations were from cases that took place during the earlier part of Holmes’s career.

Over the years, Holmes’s respect and affection for Lestrade grew. In *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Lestrade was described as “a small wiry bulldog of a man,” as well as “best of the professionals.” Lestrade looked at Holmes with a “reverential” gaze. At the end of the “Six Napoleons,” Holmes was deeply moved by Lestrade’s words acknowledging Scotland Yard’s pride in the consulting detective. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and “Six Napoleons” had been published within a few years of *The Chronicles of Addington Peace*. Robinson may have had the latter Lestrade in mind when creating Peace.

Addington Peace’s “Watson” was a young man named Phillips. He was a wealthy artist and dilettante or, as his uncle described him, “a silly young fool” (“Amaroff”). He lived as an aesthete among “delicate tapestries” brought from Italy and was not unlike Poe’s Auguste Dupin or the real Oscar Wilde. Phillips lived in sumptuous accommodations on the first



The Chronicles of Addington Peace by Bertram Fletcher Robinson (London: Harper & Brothers, June 1905)

action and adventure more than painting. While joining Peace on a dangerous chase, he admitted, “I regretted nothing. An hour of this was worth a year of artistic contemplation.” (“Amaroff”) He practically begged Peace to be allowed to tag along on cases, and the Inspector was not above chastising his friend for interrupting or not following orders. On a cab ride through a bitter winter’s night, Peace complained that Phillips was taking too much of the blanket.

Like most Victorian stories of detective fiction, Inspector Peace’s cases involved not only murder, but also jewelry theft, blackmail, kidnapping and espionage. Also, as was common in the Victorian era, some stories hinted at the supernatural, such as the legend of a murderous wolf or a jade spear that travelled at superhuman speed. (5) However, the solutions to these crimes were rational.

floor of a large building. There were offices on the second floor, and, by chance, Inspector Peace lived in a small apartment on the third. Thus, when the workday ended, the two men were alone in the building. Both were bachelors, and the stories revealed no female companionship.

Their relationship evolved in an amusing fashion. It began with Peace humbly asking Phillips’s help with an investigation involving the death of a fellow artist. Having cleaned his shoes carefully before entering his neighbour’s apartment, Peace waited with his “eyes on the carpet,” while Phillips rudely tried to dismiss him.

However, Phillips soon discovered that he loved

Like other literary detectives, Peace approached his investigations scientifically and methodically. In “The Mystery of the Causeway,” Phillips noted, “The last thing I saw of him was a neat boot sticking out from the reeds into which he was crawling on hands and knees.” Not so different from Holmes in *A Study in Scarlet*, taking out a magnifying glass and closely examining a room.

Also, like Holmes and other detectives prior to the Golden Age of Detective Fiction, predominantly in the 1920s and 1930s, Peace did not always play fair. (6) The Inspector frequently kept to himself, until the very end, key clues he had discovered while investigating outside of Phillips’s presence. This made it difficult for his companion and the reader to identify the culprit. Instead, both were treated to the Inspector’s explanation of his own brilliance. As Phillips ruefully observed, “There were moments when, to a man of ordinary curiosity, Inspector Addington Peace was extremely irritating.” (“Mystery of the Jade Spear”)

More so than most contemporary literary detectives, but again similar to Holmes, Peace solved his cases not only with his intellect, but also with physical exertion. He always went to the crime scene to gather evidence, sometimes crawling in the dirt or on snow-covered brick walls. He used hansom cabs and the Underground to follow suspects. Often there were stakeouts, which required both alertness and a great deal of patience.

There was always the possibility of danger and, with it, an opportunity for Phillips, like Watson, to stand with his friend. Once while chasing down a dangerous thief, Peace realized that his companion had no weapon.

“Well, take this, anyway. I had it from a German burglar.” He thrust a strip of hardened rubber into my hand, about eighteen inches in length by two in thickness. “It will stun a man without leaving a mark,” he said gently.” (“Mr. Taubery’s Diamond”)

In one of their cases, a bomb exploded, hurling Peace and Phillips from the roof on which they’d perched to keep surveillance on an anarchist.

It should also be noted that, like Conan Doyle, Robinson was a fine writer. He made his living as a journalist, and his descriptive prose gives the Addington Peace stories a visual elegance. For example, this description from “The Terror in the Snow:”

The house lay in a broad depression, in shape as the hollow of a hand, save only on the seaward side, where the line of cliff bit into it like the grip of a giant’s teeth.

One can visualize the geographic features as if a painting. Remember that Phillips, the narrator, was an artist. Therefore, the narration rightly felt

as if written by a painter, such as this passage from “The Tragedy of Thomas Hearne:” “It was blowing hard next day, a fierce northwester that cleans the clouds out of the sky like a sponge washes a slate.”

The characters of Peace and Phillips, their professional and personal relationships, and Peace’s approach to solving cases suggest the influence of Conan Doyle. But more than mere suggestion, almost every one of Robinson’s eight short stories borrowed blatantly from the Canon. For example, resembling *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, “The Terror in the Snow” dealt with an 18th-century legend of an estate being haunted by a white wolf. Visiting the manor house, Phillips thought he saw such a creature walking along a row of yew trees. In fact, a man was murdered where the “wolf” had prowled that same night.

In “Mr. Taubery’s Diamond,” with no time to get away, the thief was forced to hide a jewel immediately after he’d stolen it. The story dealt with Inspector Peace’s need to locate the diamond before the thief did. This plot device is similar to Conan Doyle’s “The Six Napoleons.”

In the same story of the stolen diamond, Phillips happened upon Peace in the park, “...flirting with a very pretty nursemaid ... there was nothing of the Don Juan in his composition. ... Yet, there he sat, sharing the same bench and talking earnestly into her ear.” Peace was trying to secure information regarding the household where the diamond was stolen. Not so different from Holmes disguising himself as a tradesman and wooing Charles Augustus Milverton’s maid.

“The Tragedy of Thomas Hearne” took place on the moors near a prison, again similar to the *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (although to be fair to Robinson, it was he who had described the moor to Conan Doyle).

There was a fight on a cliff, similar to Holmes vs. Moriarty, which led to a fall and a death. And, as in “Abbey Grange,” Peace admitted that he chose to exercise mercy rather than bring an alleged criminal to justice.

Other similarities in other stories

Like “The Norwood Builder,” Robinson’s “The Vanished Millionaire” contained a hidden room. As in “Black Peter,” “The Mystery of the Jade Spear” centered on a weapon thrown with tremendous strength. And in “Mr. Coran’s Election,” Inspector Peace surmised that someone known to the household was listening outside the window, because of the family dog’s behavior. “If it had been a stranger he would have run barking at the window. It is simple enough, surely.” Simple, especially if Robinson had read “Silver Blaze.”

The Hound of the Baskervilles and the short stories mentioned above (except for “Silver Blaze”) were, at that time, recent additions to the Canon. The stories were published in *The Strand Magazine* between 1903-

1904 and then in *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* (1905). Not only must Robinson have read them, but they were probably fresh in his mind. Indeed, his ideas had contributed to the creation of *The Hound*, as well as one of the stories, “The Norwood Builder.”

It’s unclear why Robinson so obviously borrowed from Conan Doyle. As a journalist, he was used to writing quickly. The first six Addington Peace stories were written one month apart. Perhaps, in his haste to complete them, he felt the need to borrow bits of character and plot from the Master. In a bit of role reversal, one could argue that some of Conan Doyle’s ideas spurred Robinson’s creativity in completing his short story collection, much as Robinson’s suggestions had helped Conan Doyle with *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Conan Doyle’s reaction to *The Chronicles of Addington Peace* is unknown. However, one more example of borrowing by Robinson, not from one of Conan Doyle’s stories but from his real life, may provide a clue. In “Mr. Coran’s Election,” Inspector Peace investigated the case of a decent man being blackmailed while running for County Council. In July 1904, one month before his first Addington Peace story was published, Robinson wrote an article for *Vanity Fair* titled, “On Political Lies – A Growing Danger in British Politics.” To illustrate his point, he referred to the Parliamentary General Election of 1900, in which Conan Doyle was a candidate for a seat in Edinburgh. Described by Robinson as “the worthy Scotsman,” Conan Doyle’s “...hard hitting, straight-forward oratory won him the hearts even of political opponents.” (7) However, being smeared falsely as a Roman Catholic cost Conan Doyle the election.

Also, in an article on eminent British personalities, written in 1906, Robinson referred to Conan Doyle as “...the creator of Sherlock Holmes, prince of detectives. He [Conan Doyle] is of a fine British type, a clear-headed, sport-loving, big-hearted patriot.” (8)

In both articles, Robinson’s respect and affection for “the worthy Scotsman” shine through. It’s likely that Conan Doyle saw those same qualities – sports enthusiast and patriot – in Robinson. Perhaps their “cemented” friendship led Conan Doyle to overlook Robinson’s actions, even when the latter bylined his first Addington Peace story as having been written by the “Joint author with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in his best Sherlock Holmes Story the Hound of the Baskervilles.” (9)

Would Conan Doyle have reacted differently had the series continued? Tragically, Robinson died in January, 1907 of enteric (typhoid) fever. Although only 36 years old, he had published a total of 265 items and edited several periodicals, including the *Daily Express* and *Vanity Fair*. (10)

While primarily a journalist, Robinson also left his mark on mystery fiction. In 1906, *Great Short Stories, Volume 1: Detective Stories* included 12 stories by such writers as Edgar Allen Poe, Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and Bertram Fletcher Robinson for his Addington Peace story, “The Vanished Millionaire.” In addition, *The Chronicles of Addington Peace* is listed in *Queen’s Quorum – A History of the Detective-crime Short Story as Revealed by the 106 Most Important Books Published in the Field Since 1845.*”

Such recognition suggests that, while *The Chronicles of Addington Peace* may be considered a Holmesian Homage, the collection stands as a solid addition to detective fiction of the age that was always 1895.

Notes:

(1) Pugh, Brian W. and Spring, Paul R., *Bertram Fletcher Robinson – A Footnote to the Hound of the Baskervilles*, “Holmes at his very best, and it is a highly dramatic idea which I owe to Robinson.” Letter to Conan Doyle’s mother, June 1, 1901, MX Publishing Ltd., 2008. p.94.

(2) Robinson, B.F. and Fraser, J. Malcolm, “The Trail of the Dead – The Strange Experience of Dr. Robert Harland,” https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Trail_of_the_Dead

(3) Robinson, Fletcher et al., *Two Detectives: The Chronicles of Addington Peace*, Landisville, PA, Coachwhip Publications, 2011.

(4) Lehman, David, *The Perfect Murder: A Study in Detection*, Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press, 2000, pg.57-58.

(5) For example, Wilkie Collins’s *The Woman in White* and *The Moonstone* and, of course, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

(6) Sayers, Dorothy, “Holmes – I regret to say it – doesn’t always play fair with the reader,” Introduction to *The Omnibus of Crime*, NY, Harcourt, Brace, and Company, 1929, p.27.

(7) Pugh and Spring, pg.127-128.

(8) Pugh and Spring, p.156.

(9) Pugh and Spring, p.129.

(10) Pugh and Spring, p.194.

The Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective Agency: How Moriarty was brought to ruin

By Bill Mason, BSI, MBt, ASH

Bill Mason is a not-quite-retired Sherlockian living in Greenbrier, Tennessee, and a member of the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem and the Fresh Rashers of Nashville.

When we think of Sherlock Holmes, we necessarily think of him in a certain time and place. The time? For Sherlockians, it is “always 1895” as Vincent Starrett has successfully indoctrinated us into believing. We think this, notwithstanding the Second World War Holmes of Basil Rathbone, the gritty New York Holmes of Jonny Lee Miller or the metrosexual modern-London Holmes of Benedict Cumberbatch. We can appreciate all of them for what they are and for what they are meant to be, but an authentic Holmes in his authentic era they are not.

And the place? Well, Holmes did go to Cornwall in “The Devil’s Foot” and off to Switzerland and Tibet and France during the Great Hiatus and to America to prepare for his face-off with Von Bork in “His Last Bow.” But London is where we visualize Holmes, finding his way through the gas lit, fog-swirled streets. That is where his greatest battles against crime took place, and it was there that he—operating from his fortress at 221B Baker Street—plotted and manoeuvred and masterminded his epic struggle against Moriarty, who operated from the centre of his gigantic web of intrigue. But Holmes did not fight alone; in London, he assembled his own “agency” to help him win that struggle.

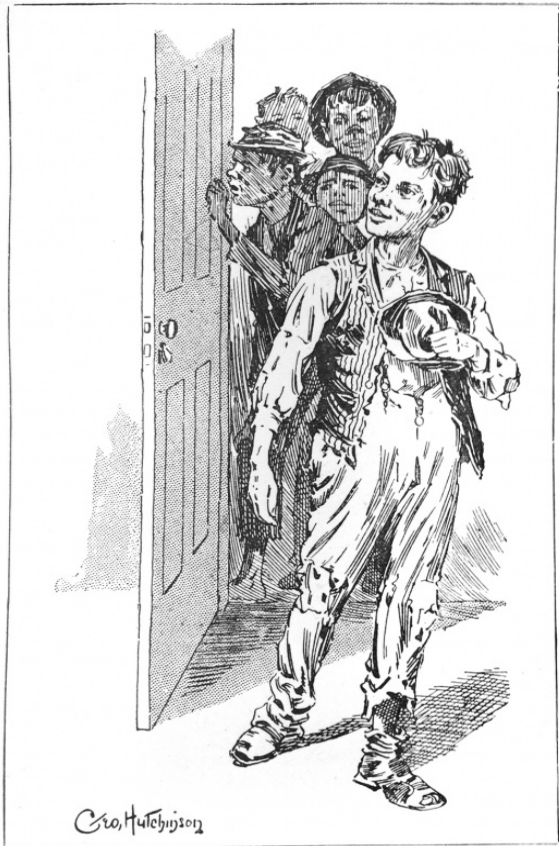
The Holmes Organization

Sherlock Holmes did not have as large and intricate an organization as did Moriarty but he did have one. He tells us in “The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax” that he employed “a small, but very efficient organization” to assist him in his detective practice. And he specifically referred to his “agency” twice, first in “The Copper Beeches” and again in

“The Sussex Vampire,” where he insisted that his agency “stands flatfooted upon the ground.” But who was a part of that “agency?”

Well, there was Dr. Watson, of course, but Watson is more properly thought of as an ally rather than as an actual functionary in the Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective Agency. There is no record in all of the Canon suggesting that Watson received any kind of payment for the huge amounts of time, effort or personal danger he invested in Holmes’s cases. Watson was not motivated by anything as vulgar as money when he assisted Holmes. Instead, he was driven by the thrill of “tingling with that half-sporting, half-intellectual pleasure which I invariably experienced when I associated myself with him in his investigations.”(1)

Otherwise, only a few members of Holmes’s organization are mentioned by name. One was Mercer, whom Holmes described in “The Creeping Man” as “my general utility man, who looks up routine business.” Another was Shinwell Johnson (a.k.a. Porky Shinwell) of “The Illustrious Client,” a former criminal who nevertheless became an associate of Holmes and provided him with information about the underworld. Finally, there was Langdale Pike of “The Three Gables,” the “human book of reference ... the receiving-station as well as the transmitter for all the gossip of the metropolis.” Pike sold his gossip to the scandal rags, and he traded information with Holmes on a regular basis. Other



George Hutchinson's 1891 illustration of the Baker Street Irregulars from the Ward, Lock, Bowden & Co. edition of A Study in Scarlet.

individuals could be called on when needed. For instance, an unnamed agent of Holmes—perhaps Mercer, perhaps someone else—sent a wire to Josiah Amberley in “The Retired Colourman.”

So these are the actual members of the agency, and while they come from later in his career, they do illustrate how he did his business. And we know from *A Study in Scarlet* that he had a working relationship with other private inquiry agencies, many of which referred clients to him. However, even early on, Holmes clearly had other, less formal connections to the underworld, and he was able to tap into those connections to get the manpower and the resources he needed.

By far the most famous are Wiggins and the rest of the members of the Baker Street Irregulars, including Simpson, who helped Holmes in “The Crooked Man.” These boys apparently were on call and ready for any job Holmes might send their way. But they were street urchins after all, engaged in a desperate struggle to survive day by day. Despite what we might hope for them, there is no guarantee that they were not pickpocketing and shoplifting or doing worse things, even unthinkable things, with themselves between jobs for Holmes.

Even in *The Sign of Four*, Holmes didn’t rely solely on the Baker Street Irregulars to help him track down Jonathan Small and the *Aurora*. “I have set other agencies at work, and used every means at my disposal,” he said. “The whole river has been searched on either side.” Apparently, when circumstances warranted, Holmes was able to mobilize a pretty large force to help him in his work. He did so again in “A Scandal in Bohemia,” when Holmes employed “a gang, and a rough one, too” to create a diversion in front of Irene Adler’s house.

Individuals also could be called on when needed. For instance, there was Sherman, the cantankerous old bird-stuffer who loaned the dog Toby to Holmes to follow the creosote trail left by Tonga.(2) As misanthropic as he was, he was still a collaborator for “Mr. Sherlock” as he called him—the only character in the Canon other than Mycroft, incidentally, to address Holmes by his first name.

Holmes in the Underworld

In “Black Peter,” Holmes revealed that he maintained “at least five small refuges in different parts of London,” making Mrs. Hudson only one of six trusted landlords connected to Holmes. Yet, we should assume that those lodging houses were not in the same class as the upscale rooms of Baker Street. Lodging house managers in the more dangerous parts of London had a notorious reputation for harbouring criminals and their nefarious operations. Some lodging houses “were literally thieves’ kitchens, chiefly frequented by pickpockets, house robbers and their confederates.”(3)

Holmes may have had one room but the next might be the hideout of a forger or pimp.

Evidence of Holmes's direct connection with the criminal underworld comes most convincingly when we consider his ability to engage in criminal activity himself. And the crime he knew best was burglary. In fact, Holmes remarked that burglary was an alternative profession at which he almost certainly would have excelled.(4) Watson's accounts support this: Holmes successfully burgled the homes of Hugo Oberstein in "The Bruce-Partington Plans," of Charles Augustus Milverton, of Baron Gruner in "The Illustrious Client," and of Josiah Amberley in "The Retired Colourman."

But his most daring burglaries were those in the personal quarters of none other than Professor James Moriarty. Holmes told Inspector MacDonald that he had been to Moriarty's rooms three times, twice in disguise and apparently without success. But the third time, he said, "I can hardly tell about it to an official detective." Obviously, it was another case of burglary. On that occasion, Holmes "took the liberty of running over [Moriarty's] papers."

Holmes didn't learn how to be a burglar by reading a book or studying it at university. He must have learned those skills from a real cracksman, or several of them—current or former criminals like Shinwell Johnson. He knew too well how to use those burglary tools, and he wasn't afraid to use them either. "I'll do the criminal part. It's not a time to stick at trifles," he told Watson. Of course, he was making Watson actually carry the tools, and he warned him not to drop them, creating a scene, and perhaps attracting the police. After all, it was a crime at the time just to be in possession of such tools.(5) So Holmes really wasn't running all the risks himself.

While Holmes had friends, even criminal friends, and a functioning detective agency of his own, he did not have the formal, structured operation of Moriarty. Therefore, he would not have been able to master the Victorian underworld through an organization that went head-to-head with the Moriarty gang. Instead, he had to find a way to undermine the professor's underworld empire. To do so, he became—sometimes—one of its citizens, its friend, its ally. He insinuated himself into the underworld, he understood it, he found a way to live in it. And he found a way to infiltrate it most often in disguise, in the character of an underworld familiar, or at least as a member of the "dangerous classes."

He was a "drunken-looking groom" in "A Scandal in Bohemia," a "common loafer" in "The Beryl Coronet," a flirtatious young plumber in "Charles Augustus Milverton," an "old sporting man" in "The Mazarin Stone," and a staggering opium smoker in "The Man with the Twisted

Lip.” It was in this last example that we see Holmes keeping a delicate balance. He revealed to Watson that he had to be in a foolproof disguise. Had he been recognized, it would have meant his death. After all, Holmes was still acting as an agent of law and order, of society in general. For most of the London underworld, despite what friends and allies he might have, Holmes was about as welcome as a crow in a cornfield.

Victory for Sherlock Holmes

Holmes used his agency, his contacts, his friends and allies, his disguises, and above all his intellectual skills—“my powers,” as he referred to them—to root out crime and solve mysteries generally and to prepare his case against Moriarty specifically. “I have woven my net round him until now it is all ready to close,” he told Watson. Holmes was not modest about it. He called the process “the most brilliant bit of thrust-and-parry work in the history of detection. Never have I risen to such a height.”(6) Obviously, Holmes never suffered from a lack of self-esteem.

As might be expected, if unfortunately so, Holmes did not really acknowledge those all-important allies who certainly, in the final analysis, made all the difference. As brilliant, gifted and tenacious as Holmes was, he and his agents and allies in the underworld could never have defeated Moriarty without the help of both Mycroft Holmes—who at times was the British government—and the police—Scotland Yard and the London City Police. Holmes may have gathered the evidence about those 40 major crimes engineered by Moriarty but it was the police, after all, who rounded up the gang, put them in jail, and allowed for the prosecution of the organization’s members.

Sherlock Holmes was able to continue to fight against crime long after Moriarty’s body fell into the Reichenbach Falls. And he was extremely effective, so much so that Marshall Berdan in his 1992 *Baker Street Journal* article has called Holmes “deterrence personified.” According to official police records, during the heart of his active practice, from 1883 to 1899, the number of indictable offences in England and Wales declined by more than 24 per cent, despite a population increase of about 20 per cent over the same period. (7)

Now this wasn’t because Holmes himself investigated all the crimes. After all, there were tens of thousands of crimes, and Holmes told Watson right before the Great Hiatus that he had been involved in a little more than 1,000 cases himself. That’s quite a workload but not nearly enough to personally decrease the crime rate. Instead, it must have been his influence, the fear of Sherlock Holmes, just knowing that he might be brought into a case, that made the difference. The smashing of the

Moriarty gang and the imprisonment of much of its leadership and a large number of its operatives made a huge impact as well.

Holmes was not shy about taking credit for that drop in crime: “On general principles, it is best that I should not leave the country. Scotland Yard feels lonely without me, and it causes an unhealthy excitement among the criminal classes.” (8) He told Watson in “The Final Problem” that “the air of London is the sweeter for my presence.”

In the end, the winners of wars write history their way. Holmes was the winner of his battle with Moriarty, and he lived on to fight battles with lesser villains. He can legitimately lay claim to the title. Sherlock Holmes—not Professor James Moriarty—was, ultimately, the true master of the Victorian underworld.

References

- (1) “The Crooked Man.”
- (2) *The Sign of Four*, Chapter 7.
- (3) Chesney, Kellow, *The Victorian Underworld*, London, Temple Smith, 1970, pp. 98-99.
- (4) “The Retired Colourman.”
- (5) Various English laws of the 18th Century made it illegal to possess burglary tools. These were codified nationally along with other common law offences in the *Larceny Act* of 1916, which in turn was revised in *The Theft Act* of 1968: “A person shall be guilty of an offence if, when not at his place of abode, he has with him any article for use in the course of or in connection with any burglary or theft” (Section 25).
- (6) “The Final Problem.”
- (7) Berdan, Marshall S., “Deterrence Personified: Sherlock Holmes’s Effect on Crime in the Late Victorian Era,” *Baker Street Journal*, Vol. 42, No. 1 (March 1992), pp. 8-15.
- (8) “The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax.”

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“The Slavering Hound” is brought to heel

By Jerry Margolin

Jerry Margolin is a member of several Sherlockian societies including the Baker Street Irregulars, where he has the investiture of Hilton Cubitt. Jerry and his collection live in Portland, Oregon.

Collectors often joke about the “collector gene” and either you have it or you don’t. When they unravel my DNA, that gene will be the one standing up straight, looking around and trying to collect a few more Sherlockian paintings.

I started collecting Sherlock Holmes in earnest around 1972. I had been reading the stories since I was 10 and had always been a collector of some sort, be it baseball cards, comics or model cars. At the same time, I began to build my Holmes rare book collection. I was introduced to several great Sherlockian booksellers and collectors such as my mentor Norman Nolan, Otto Penzler, Marvin Epstein and Lew David Feldman of the House of El Dieff.

My collecting had picked up speed by 1974, and I started making regular trips to El Dieff in New York City to visit Lew and look at the immense Holmes collection he displayed on his shelves. It was on one of these visits with my wife as we entered the apartment he used as his shop, we were greeted by two long banquet-sized tables filled with amazing Sherlockiana. One item caught my eye: a beautiful piece of art by Frederic Dorr Steele titled “The Slavering Hound,” in all its glory with fangs dripping. This piece was rarer than most, as it had not been used to illustrate any edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. This was an incredible piece, though for me, way out of my league. Also, this and the other material had been set aside for another collector to possibly obtain. I moved on to buy a few things for myself and never saw the Hound art again, but I never forgot it either.

Fast forward to approximately late May or early June of 2021, when friends alerted me to an upcoming auction of an original Steele drawing of “The Slavering Hound”! Could this be the same piece I had seen so long ago in 1974? I quickly looked up the auction and sure enough, there was the same art I had seen, and always remembered. I quickly registered to



Caption under image: "THE SLAVERING HOUND." Original unpublished crayon drawing in two colours by Frederick Dorr Steele.

bid, having no illusions of actually owning it as I thought the bidding would eventually get way out of my league.

I spoke to my wife Judy, known in Sherlockian circles as "St. Judy" for obvious reasons to those who know her. She was amazed as well to see this piece which she also remembered. She told me to go for it!

Just a bit of background on what I know of the travels of this artwork, which is limited. For a while, it was owned by then head of the Baker Street Irregulars, Edgar W. Smith. That must have been in the 1950s as he died in 1960. It had also shown up in the program for the 1939 Rathbone film *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. After seeing it back in the 70s, I had always thought it had been bought by the collector coming to see all the items on those long tables. I came to find out that was not the case. No one seems to know where it went until 2014, when it surfaced in a small auction and was purchased by an individual on the East Coast of the U.S.

No Sherlockian I know had even heard of the art showing up in that auction. I certainly did not. The Steele was kept until the owner decided to put it up for auction this year.

Auction day finally arrived and the nerves were running full blast! I have been involved in many auctions over my collecting years but nothing like this. When the bidding started for the *Hound* art, it was so fast and furious that it was literally over in about two minutes. I almost had no time to even look at what the bidding was, I just kept hitting the bid button

until I realized what amount I had on my screen. I took my hand off the mouse button and said to Judy, hovering over my shoulder, that's it for me, my limit was met. The next thing I know, a sign is flashing that I had won the auction. After almost 50 years since I first saw this art, it was going to be added to my Holmes art collection. When "St. Judy" saw the final bidding price, let's just say, she had earned her nickname!

Now the slight downside of bidding on an item like this, in addition to the final bidding price, is the buyer's premium and shipping costs. I won't mention it here, but suffice it to say, that it caused a slowdown for purchasing any subsequent art. Now this is not to say that it wasn't totally worth everything I did to obtain the *Hound* art.

I will close this article by saying the ruts in my carpet made by pacing back and forth waiting for the art's arrival are still evident. As soon as it did arrive, I was off to my framer of some 20 years and he very kindly framed the piece while I waited. I brought it home and, with what I like to call logistical engineering, tried to make room on an already crowded wall, which was a task in itself. The *Hound* now has a home on my gallery wall. *The Slaving Hound* has become a very proud part of my collection of Sherlock Holmes original art.



The author in his home with many pieces of artwork including The Slaving Hound.

Live from New York, it's Sherlock Holmes!

By Greg D. Ruby

Greg Ruby, BSI (“Bulldog Pin with Ruby Eyes”) is the founder of The Fourth Garrideb, a group of Sherlockian coin collectors. He is also the founder and current SOB in Charge of the Sherlockians of Baltimore in his native hometown, where he has spent too much time on Zoom these last two years.

At 11:30 p.m. on October 11, 1975, *NBC's Saturday Night* premiered and returned live comedy to the television airwaves. That first show began with a cold open, a sketch that ended with Chevy Chase (one of the original *Not Ready For Prime Time Players*) breaking character and exclaiming: “Live from New York, it's Saturday Night!” The same format has been used for each of the nearly 900 episodes that have aired since the premiere. Midway through the second season, in March 1977, the show's name would change to *Saturday Night Live*, sometimes abbreviated as *SNL*. In 45 seasons of episodes, to date, there have been five sketches featuring Sherlock Holmes.

April 8, 1978 – Season 3, Episode 16

Guest host
Michael Palin, of
Monty Python
fame, portrayed
Sherlock Holmes
with a serious
cocaine habit in
the sketch “The
Forgotten Mem-
oirs of Sherlock



Holmes: The Case of the Scarlet Membrane.” Cast members included Jane Curtin (Mrs. Hudson), Dan Ackroyd (Dr. Watson), Bill Murray (Inspector Lestrade), Gilda Radner (the client) and John Belushi (the constable).

Like many parodies, all the way back to “The Mystery of the Leaping Fish” in 1916, this sketch focuses on how much cocaine Holmes uses, to

the point where he doesn't remember his own actions. At one point, he follows the clues and believes that he is the murderer. The blood that he finds as a clue comes from his own nose, and all the other clues point to his cocaine-related issues. The actual murder was a simple case solved by the police, without any help from the sleuth.

January 18, 1986 – Season 11, Episode 7

A short 90-second commercial parody advertised the Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday White Sale for Jack's Discount Emporium. Jon Lovitz, as Jack, promotes the low prices for his sheets and linens. Next, Terry Sweeney and Dennis Miller, as Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, endorse the White Sale. After another sales pitch by Lovitz, Randy Quaid as Sitting Bull asks, "How. How. How do they do it?" to Sherlock Holmes, played by head writer Jim Downey. Downey replies, "Elementary, my dear Sitting Bull, low overhead means low prices." The sketch closes with a final sales pitch by Lovitz and then cuts to Tarzan, played by a 20-year-old cast member, Robert Downey.



March 23, 1991 – Season 16, Episode 16

Actor Jeremy Irons was guest host for this episode and played the detective in the sketch "Sherlock Holmes Surprise Party." Set in the sitting room at 221B Baker Street, cast members Phil Hartman (Dr. Watson), Mike Myers (Inspector Lestrade), Jan Hooks (Mrs. Hudson),

Victoria Jackson (Irene Adler) and Kevin Nealon (Reginald Musgrave) attempt to throw a surprise party for Holmes, without success.

December 8, 2001 – Season 27, Episode 8

SNL cast member Will Ferrell portrayed singer-actor Robert Goulet in a parody television commercial for the "Robert Goulet All Holiday Special" on the USA Network. Within this sketch, there is a 30-second "clip" of a comedy sketch featuring Goulet, as Sherlock Holmes, making a joke about the Clinton and Lewinsky scandal that had dominated the news of the era. Dr. Watson is portrayed in the clip by fellow *SNL* cast member Darrell Hammond and rejoins Goulet for the closing scene of the special.

March 16, 2002 – Season 27, Episode 15

The final (to date) appearance of Sherlock Holmes occurred only seven episodes after the previous appearance. In a sketch titled “Hot Air Balloon Mystery Theater,” guest host Ian McKellen, later to take the title role in the 2015 film *Mr. Holmes*, was the Professor, solving a murder that takes place in a hot air balloon. The Professor wears a deerstalker cap and smokes a calabash pipe. All other characters in the sketch are dressed in Victorian-era costumes but there are no canonical references in the scene.

This episode was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Costumes for a Variety, Nonfiction, or Reality Programming and won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Writing for a Variety, Music or Comedy Program.



SNL Cast Members with Sherlockian Connections

Three members of the *SNL* cast would be involved with Sherlock Holmes after they left the show, while one current cast member (as of season 45) had a previous Sherlockian connection.

Robert Downey, Jr., is the third youngest cast member in *SNL* history when he joined the cast for the 11th season in 1985-1986 at the age of 20. Credited as Robert Downey in the opening titles, he has the distinction of being declared “the worst cast member” in a 2015 *Rolling Stone* article ranking all *SNL* cast members of the first 40 years. He would go on to portray Holmes in the films *Sherlock Holmes* (2009) and *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* (2011), both directed by Guy Ritchie. Downey would win the 2010 Golden Globe Award for Best Actor for his role in the first film.

Will Ferrell would be an *SNL* cast member for seven years, from 1995 until 2002. In late 2016 and early 2017, he was in England filming *Holmes and Watson*. This comedy, in which Ferrell portrays Holmes, was originally planned for release in August 2017 but was delayed twice and finally was released in December 2018.

Tracy Morgan spent seven years as a *SNL* cast member. From 2006-2013, he was in the cast of the sitcom *30 Rock*, playing the character of Tracy Jordan, a star on a fictional live sketch comedy show. In at least one episode of the series, a faux movie poster hangs in his office for *Sherlock Homie* with Tracy in deerstalker cap.

Current cast member Kyle Mooney joined *SNL* in 2013. A year earlier, Mooney portrayed Dr. Watson for the *Batman versus Sherlock Holmes* episode of the second season of *Epic Rap Battles of History*. This episode has nearly 74 million views since it was posted on YouTube.

SNL Guest Hosts with Sherlockian Connections

Over the course of 45 seasons, there have been numerous guest hosts who have portrayed Sherlockian roles in films and television. For present purposes, we are excluding the likes of comedy sketches on variety shows or single episodes of television series. Otherwise, this list would be much longer than the 13 names below. None of these guests, except Ian McKellen and Benedict Cumberbatch, would have any Sherlockian references on the episodes they hosted. Cumberbatch, during a musical number in his opening monologue, referred to his *Sherlock* role.

In alphabetical order (with *SNL* episode date and season/episode numbers):

Peter Cook (January 24, 1976, S01E11) – Co-hosted the episode with **Dudley Moore**. Both would portray Holmes and Watson in the 1978 comedy film *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Benedict Cumberbatch (November 5, 2016, S42E05) – Would portray Sherlock in four seasons of the BBC series *Sherlock*.

Martin Freeman (December 13, 2014, S40E09) - Would portray John Watson in four seasons of the BBC series *Sherlock*.

Charlton Heston (March 28, 1987, S12E15) – Went on to portray Holmes in the 1991 television movie *The Crucifer of Blood*.

Madeline Kahn (May 8, 1976, S01E19; October 8, 1977, S03E02 and December 16, 1995, S21E09) – Kahn had been cast as Jenny Hill (initially using the alias Bessie Bellwood), a character with some resemblance to Irene Adler, in the 1975 film *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother*.

Hugh Laurie (October 28, 2006, S32E04; and December 13, 2008, S34E11) – In the recent *Holmes and Watson* film with Will Ferrell, Laurie portrays Mycroft Holmes. In the television series *House*, his character of Dr. Gregory House shares many of the same qualities as Sherlock Holmes and there are many references to the stories over the course of its eight seasons. In addition, Laurie would portray Holmes in a 2002 BBC radio adaptation of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Jude Law (October 23, 2004, S30E03) – Would portray Watson in the Guy Ritchie directed films of *Sherlock Holmes* (2009) and *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* (2011).

Christopher Lee (March 25, 1978, S03E15) – This talented actor has multiple Sherlockian acting credits. He had portrayed Sir Henry Baskerville in the 1959 Hammer horror film of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Three years later, he would portray Holmes in *Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace*. He would have the role of Mycroft Holmes in Billy Wilder’s 1970 film *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*. He would reprise Holmes in two television films, *Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady* (1991) and *Incident at Victoria Falls* (1992).

Lucy Liu (December 16, 2000, S26E08) – Starred as Dr. Joan Watson in the CBS television series *Elementary* from 2012 to its concluding seventh season in 2019.

Ian McKellen (March 16, 2002, S27E15) – One must wonder if McKellen might have had any thoughts of portraying Holmes again when he acted in the “Hot Air Balloon Mystery Theater” sketch while he hosted *SNL*. He would star as a 93-year-old version of the great detective in the 2015 film *Mr. Holmes*.

Dudley Moore (January 24, 1976, S01E11) – Co-hosted the episode with Peter Cook. Would portray Watson along with Cook in the 1978 comedy *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

John C. Reilly (October 21, 2006, S32E03) – Reilly portrayed Dr. Watson to Ferrell’s Holmes in *Holmes and Watson*.

Christian Slater (October 26, 1991, S17E04; and October 30, 1993, S19E05) – Slater, then aged just 12, had made his second television appearance when Home Box Office broadcast the Williamstown Theatre Festival’s production of *Sherlock Holmes by William Gillette* for its *One Night Only* series of specials in 1981. Frank Langella’s portrayal of Holmes was ably assisted by Slater’s character of Billy the page.

SNL is well known for having many actors and other famous personalities making cameo appearances on the show. Once again, dozens of actors with Sherlockian connections, such as John Cleese and Morgan Fairchild, are in this category. Due to space constraints, they will not be listed here.

Recent seasons of *Saturday Night Live* have been generating very good ratings and have been broadcast live coast to coast. It seems likely that there will be several more seasons of the show for the foreseeable future. Who knows if there will be any future sketches featuring the master detective?

“...and who is the wiser?” *Lal Chowdar* – The Sign of the Four

By Michael Duke

Mike Duke has been engrossed in the Holmesian world since receiving the Baring-Gould Annotated for his 30th birthday. He has now been published in four continents, has had chapters in two Holmesian books and one book of his own collated annotations, Victorian Holmes. The Game continues.

A part from Chris Redmond’s engrossing 2015 (1) account in *The Passengers’ Log*, Paul Beam’s older excellent essay (2) and John Linsenmeyer’s slightly earlier examination (3), there is little to be found in the literature about the Indian servants in the Canon. This seems strange given the prominence of India in the British Empire, and the reliance upon it that Britain had for its wealth. India was seen even by contemporaries as “the corn chest for Scotland” (4) (Cain is quoting one of Conan Doyle’s favourite authors, Sir Walter Scott) and “drawing up riches from the banks of the Ganges and squeezing them down upon the banks of the Thames.” (5) This essay revisits the topic of these less considered servants to the white protagonists in the Sherlock Holmes stories.

India at the time was split into three Presidencies: Bombay, Bengal and Madras (6) for administrative purposes. Each had its own army. Mary Morstan states that Major Sholto and her father Captain Morstan were part of the 34th Bombay Pioneers which, as Linsenmeyer points out, is not a regiment from which men were drafted to serve on the Andaman Islands, which were part of the Bengal Presidency. This is one of many anomalies in the Canonical tale, which Linsenmeyer brilliantly exposes.

In his encyclopedia, and regarding a word from *The Sign of the Four*, Tracy (7) laconically states that a *Khitmutgar* is an Indian butler, being an under-butler to the *Khansameh*, or house-steward. He notes that both Thaddeus and Bartholomew Sholto had one of the former. Tracy also notes that Dr. Grimesby Roylott of “The Speckled Band” beat his own native butler to death in India but received only a “long term of imprisonment,” despite murder being a capital offence.

Englishmen were often brutal to their Indian servants, and the comment that Roylott was lucky to escape hanging for killing his native butler is just untrue. When Robert Augustus Fuller kicked his servant to death in 1875,

he received merely 15 days imprisonment OR a fine of 30 rupees to be paid to the widow. (8) This was not uncommon in the Raj.(9)

Klinger in his Reference Library edition of *The Sign of Four* (10) cites the *Anglo-Indian Dictionary* (11) as *Khitmutgar* meaning a servant or personal attendant. The *Dictionary* itself labels the *kitmutgar* (so spelled) as a table servant, one who serves meals, and as being peculiar to the Bengal Presidency. Klinger does not specify other ranks of house servant. The same dictionary, however, notes that the more senior position of *Khansameh* or *Kansamah* combines the office of house steward and butler.

The late Major John Sholto, who died upon April 28, 1882, had as *Khansameh* the faithful Lal Chowdar, who helped him dispose of the body of Major Morstan after the “accident” or “natural” death of this co-conspirator. Conveniently this man, Lal Chowdar, had died by the time of the Canonical story. Redmond gives Chowdar as being Thaddeus’s servant but the story given by this man cites his father as using Chowdar to help get rid of a corpse. By the time of the Canonical tale, the late Lal Chowdar’s role in Bartholomew’s household had been taken by a combination of McMurdo, the pugilist, whom Holmes knows, and Mrs. Bernstone, the excitable housekeeper. Thaddeus, for his part, had Williams, a one-time light heavyweight champion of England.

Inspector Athelney Jones, in his fairly random detective work, arrests Lal Rao, the *Khitmutgar* of the deceased Bartholomew Sholto. That there were other “staff of native servants” brought from India by his father Major John Sholto is stated by Thaddeus in his own statement but we do not encounter any in the tale given to us. Such a staff could number 15 or more in India, and all male except an ayah or child’s nurse. (12) Back in England this staff would be fewer.

It would be likely that in India there would have been various other wallahs (again from the *Anglo-Indian Dictionary*, just meaning, for the English living in India, a servant) as well for the Sholtos: for instance the chai wallah who makes tea, the punkah wallah who works the fans, the dhobi wallah who washes the clothes, tiffin or dabba wallah, who delivers lunch to the white male who is at work, rickshaw wallah who obviously pulls the rickshaw containing the white people, and bhistie or water carrier. There is also the masalchi who lights lamps and candles. Back in England some of these would be superfluous, as punkahs (overhead fans) are scarcely required, rickshaws are not used, there are reticulated water supplies in some places and so on.

Lal Chowdar, Major Sholto’s loyal butler, has a name meaning “red” (“lal” in Bengali) or “precious” and “watchman,” “gatekeeper” or “bodyguard” (noted by Redmond as “chowkidar” not “chowdar”; the *Anglo-Indian Dictionary* Hobson-Jobson gives the spelling as

“chokidar”). Alternatively, it could be a variant of the common surname Chowdhury, meaning landholder or upper caste landlord. It was members of this caste who were often dispossessed by the rapacious English with their burden of taxes, forcing them into menial roles. (13)

I would like to dwell a little on Lal Chowdar and his collaboration with Major Sholto in disposing of the body of Major Morstan. Why would he be so ready to accept the abrupt death of the Major and attribute it to a blow or blows? Why would he be so ready to help dispose of the corpse? How would he? Is this a regular job for him, disposing of inconvenient bodies?

Major John Sholto, once of the Indian Army, had retired “some eleven years ago,” so 1877 by all Canonical chronologies. (14) He had prospered in India, as many Englishmen did, and indeed that was their purpose in going there in the first place. He lived in “great luxury” at Pondicherry Lodge. Pondicherry as a territory, by the way, was not in English hands at the time (Linsenmeyer op. cit., p135), so it is an odd choice for the name of the mansion. Nonetheless that was the house’s name. The French “owned” Pondicherry until 1954 (the actual agreement between France and India was only signed in 1962) although the whole territory had changed hands frequently during the Anglo-French Wars from 1742 to 1814. The man Lal Rao, the other named Indian servant, could well have come from south-eastern India, perhaps Tamil Nadu, as Pondicherry (Ponducherry nowadays) is just to its north. Or he could have come from Karnataka, to the northwest of Pondicherry, where Rao is a common surname. The Madras Presidency covering these areas was one of the three jurisdictions under the British. Madras is now called Chennai and is the capital of Tamil Nadu. It is highly likely, therefore, that Major Sholto served in the Madras Presidency, despite the assertion of his sons. This is despite the title *khitmutgar* being said to be exclusive to the Bengal Presidency, which would be congruent with the Canon and the posting of Sholto and Morstan to the prison Port Blair on the Andamans.

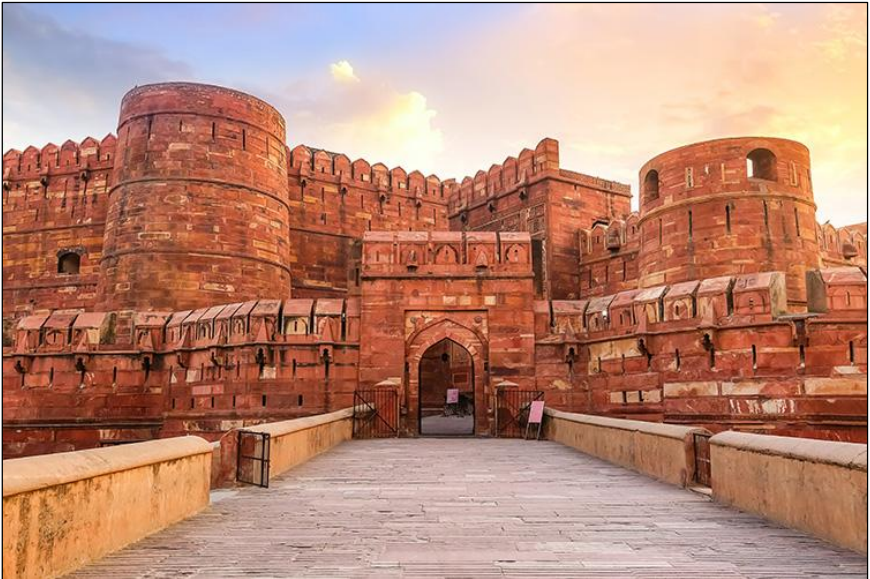
Lal Chowdar as a name does not give hints as to his point of origin but it seems clear he had been with Major Sholto for quite some time. The Madras Presidency had been spared in the so-called “Sepoy Rebellion” in 1857 (15) so it had remained relatively peaceful since Madras was handed from the French back to the British in exchange for part of North America in 1763. In fact, it would have been something of a plum position for Sholto to be based there. The Bombay Presidency was much involved in the Indian Mutiny, a common alternative name for the Sepoy Rebellion. How long the Major was in India is unknown. His twin sons Thaddeus and Bartholomew, “bald-headed” adults but ages never given in the 1888 Canonical tale, must have been born in India. The wife, Mrs. Sholto, is

never mentioned, and is presumably dead, although whether in India or England is unknown.

The next we know is that Major Sholto was posted to the prison islands of the Andamans, established as such after the Mutiny. He and the other officers were terrible gamblers and, despite Thaddeus saying that his father had prospered, the Major was “the hardest hit” to the extent of confessing to Captain Morstan that he was “a ruined man.” Was Lal Chowdar in service with him by then? Almost certainly, as the Major would have brought his servants with him from Madras (or Bombay). So, by 1877 Sholto had prospered in India but was “ruined” in the Andamans.

The Major then went to India with the knowledge of the Agra Treasure and its whereabouts – and never came back. Thaddeus says that the Major was wealthy upon return to England in 1877. Surely only the Agra Treasure made this possible. We are told he came back to England with “a considerable sum of money.” Lal Chowdar must have been part of the group recovering the treasure, and probably was made aware of the murder required to get it from the Rajah’s courier Achmet in the first place. Did Sholto and Chowdar have to kill anybody to get and keep the treasure?

The Agra Treasure was buried in the same hall as the body of Achmet “under certain bricks in the best-preserved wall” inside the Great Fort at Agra. It is a huge place, known as the Red Fort, with circumferential walls over 2.5km. Today it is a UNESCO heritage site. Tourists flock to it along with the Taj Mahal in the same city. It has a “maze of buildings” (16)



The primary tourist entrance to The Red Fort in Agra.

within it. After the Mutiny, when the Fort was relieved in October 1857 by Colonel Greathed (17), it was garrisoned by the military and remained so throughout the Raj period and even today. How Sholto got the treasure out or even the exact date are never discussed. But for Chowdar to be so ready to believe the worst of Sholto, one suspects that they used nefarious means, unscrupulous ways not only to learn of the treasure but to extract it from India. Looting by the British – and their collaborators – continued.

Jonathan Small was caught and convicted of Achmet's murder soon after the end of the Mutiny in 1857 and was in Agra (Bengal Presidency), then Madras, then Blair Island in the Andamans, although we do not learn the duration of his stay there. Sholto was in England from 1877. Captain Morstan arrived back the following year, 1878. Jonathan Small says that he got to England about four years before the case, so 1884, but this is quite incongruent with Mary Morstan getting six pearls, one a year, after Sholto died following the sight of Small through the window in 1882. Given the date of the case as 1888, the six pearls do take the death back to 1882. One of many insoluble elements of this story.

And the Islander Tonga? Yes, the Andamans were part of the Bengal Presidency but the Islanders never identified as Indian in any way. And Tonga was a partner for Jonathan Small, not a servant.

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Continued from page 33

action. In so doing, he gets as close as ever to recreating a remarkable lost age. As Rodney says of students of history, "all this they can read, with the date of this treaty or that battle, but I do not know where they are to read of ourselves, of the folk we were, and the lives we led, and how the world seemed to our eyes when they were young as theirs are now." If you want to experience that lost world of the Regency, then look no further than *Rodney Stone*.

Notes

- (1) Unpublished preface.
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“a few lines upon a sheet of paper” – Conan Doyle’s other work for The Strand Magazine

By Mark Jones

Mark Jones is a Sherlockian and Doylean based in York, in the United Kingdom. He writes widely on all matters ACD and is co-host of Doings of Doyle – The Arthur Conan Doyle Podcast.

Throughout 1895, Conan Doyle dominated the pages of *The Strand* as the author of the Brigadier Gerard tales, later collected as *The Exploits*. The author’s presence continued throughout 1896 with the 12-part serialization of another Regency tale, this time on the British side of the Channel – the sprawling historical adventure, *Rodney Stone*.

One commonly hears *Rodney Stone* referred to as a boxing tale. Conan Doyle went so far as to subtitle the story “A Reminiscence of the Ring” in his unpublished preface. But to see the story purely through the lens of prizefighting is to miss a great deal. This is a study of a bygone age, an era “sufficiently distant to be softened with the haze of romance.” In constructing this wandering tale – with its ghost story, murder mystery, family dramas, cart chases and, yes, boxing – Conan Doyle sought to bring to life an England that had “hardly been depicted, save by the instructive but unimaginative pens of the historian or social student.” (1)

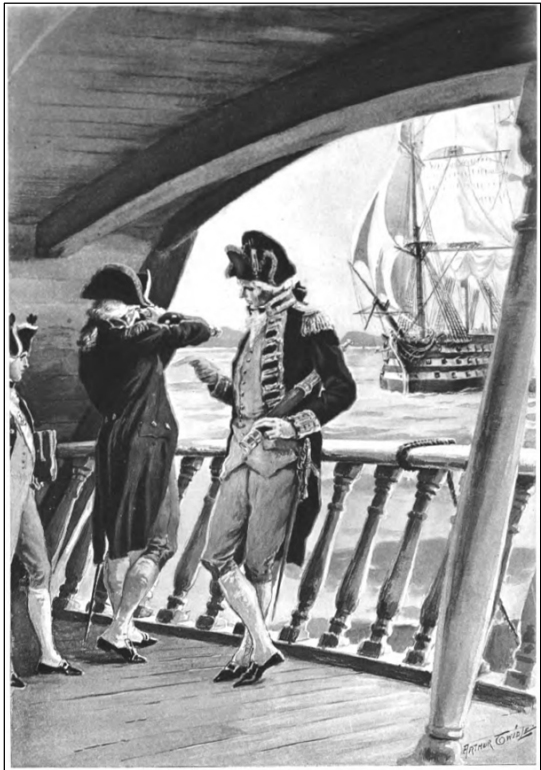
The titular character is one of Conan Doyle’s more anonymous narrators and deliberately so. His coming of age allows him to act as our eyes and ears in a forgotten land. Conan Doyle immediately pushes him into the background to propel other characters forward: “I must warn you also that, if you think you will find much that is of interest in your guide, you are destined to disappointment,” remarks Rodney in an early paragraph. But his presence is essential – a rock of ages, supporting a much larger cast of characters, drawn convincingly from history. Working-class heroes like the homely blacksmith and former champion boxer, Jim Harrison, and his noble son, Boy Jim, rub up against a host of aristocratic backers like Rodney’s uncle, the buck Sir Charles Tregellis, and walk-on historical figures including Beau Brummell, the Prince Regent and Admiral Lord Nelson.

Nelson’s presence underscores the oft-overlooked importance of the navy in *Rodney Stone*. Like all his male relatives, Rodney is named after

a famous Admiral, and it is to the navy – that great symbol of British national pride – that he looks for his career. The chapters covering the Peace of Amiens, the gossip of half-pay sailors lounging in London clubs, and Nelson’s impatience for his battle orders make for some of Conan Doyle’s better historical writing. The short chapter depicting Lady Hamilton’s fawning and Nelson’s unseemly vanity is particularly well drawn. But in the end the naval story is knocked off course and we do not get to see Trafalgar as many readers must have expected, Winston Churchill included. (2) Nevertheless, the navy is central to *Rodney Stone*: it’s no coincidence that the first edition is embossed with the symbol of a rope and anchor.

While the naval story might eventually fall short, the boxing saga is better resolved, and it is for this reason that the story is synonymous with the noble sport. The tale reaches a crescendo with the tense match on Crawley Downs between the slogging Crab Wilson and young Boy Jim whose chivalrous nature almost leads to his demise on the eve of the fight. Twists and turns ensue but just as important is the drama on the other side of the ropes where Crab’s despicable backer, Sir Lothian Home, and Sir Charles have exorbitant sums at risk. We are equally invested in each.

Whether on the small canvas of the boxing ring or the larger canvas of the sweeping historical narrative, Conan Doyle again demonstrates a remarkable ability to carry the reader with the



Frontispiece by Arthur Twidle in the D. Appleton & Co. version of the 1903 Rodney Stone.

... continued on page 31

A toast to Sir Hugo Baskerville

By Dan Andriacco

This toast was first given to Hugo's Companions Birthday Celebration on May 25, 2019.

Companions and fellow guests:

Every great novel demands a great villain, and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* has one. But it's not the man responsible for the death of Sir Charles Baskerville and the persecution of his nephew, Sir Henry. That feckless butterfly collector inspires only our derision. No, the real villain of the story is the "most wild, profane, and godless man" who met his much-deserved fate at the time of the Great Rebellion.

Let us lift our glasses in dishonour of one:

- Who himself drained many glasses during the long carouses that were his nightly custom;
- Who surrounded himself with idle and wicked companions (a tradition maintained by our own Sir Hugo to this very day);
- Who when in his cups uttered such terrible oaths which might blast the man who said them;
- Whose "certain wanton and cruel humor. . . made his name a byword throughout the West;"
- Who, in the end, rendered his body and soul to the Powers of Evil;
- And without whom there would be no Baskerville curse, no Baskerville hound, and no adventure of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

To Sir Hugo Baskerville — may his eternally damned spirit stay where it is!

BOOTMAKERS' DIARY



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

— *The Five Orange Pips*

Saturday December 4, 2021

At 1:03pm Mike Ranieri welcomed 63 Sherlockians by Zoom to “The Adventure of the Second Stain” meeting.

Along with encouraging those who are not Bootmakers to join, guaranteeing they would get meeting notices and a subscription to *Canadian Holmes*, Mike also called for volunteers to plan and help organize our 50th Anniversary Celebration to be held in September 2022 in conjunction with The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection.

Former Lassus Jim Ballinger performed two songs, one based on *A Study in Scarlet* and the second based on “His Last Bow.”

Meyers introduced longtime Sherlockian and Doylean, Daniel Stashower, who gave us an overview of the relationship between Conan Doyle and Houdini and how it descended from friendship to bitter acrimony over Doyle’s belief in spiritualism and Houdini’s persistence on debunking spiritualists.

Barbara Rusch presented an excerpt from her play *The Crossing or Three Authors in Search of a Character* which had been performed at the SINS Conference in 2011. It takes place in an antechamber of the afterlife on July 7, 1930, where Houdini, Edgar Allan Poe and Oscar Wilde were discussing issues they had with Conan Doyle. In the scene performed, Conan Doyle arrives on the day of his death and continues the debate on spiritualism and the change it caused in their relationship. Doyle was portrayed by Mike Ranieri, Daniel Stashower was Houdini, Diane Gilbert Madsen was to have been Lady Conan Doyle but Moriarty crashed her computer and Barbara stepped in to play Lady Conan Doyle, as well as the voice of the narrator.

A dastardly quiz was presented by Karen Campbell the winners were Russell Merritt, Julia Solyom-Newman and Bruce Aikin.

Karen Gold performed *The Missing Letter*, based on “*I’m Gonna Sit Right down and Write myself a Letter*” by the Boswell Sisters.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27pm and was followed by the AGM chaired by Thelma Beam.

– David Sanders MBt.

January 22-26, 2022

This year's annual BSI weekend was in-person after last year's virtual event. Two Bootmakers received investitures; Mark Jones was given the investiture of Peter Jones and Robb Nunn received the investiture of Elementary.

The ACD Society (<http://acdsociety.com/>) presented a suite of inaugural awards with Canadians, including three Bootmakers in the mix. Barbara Rusch won in the fiction and poetry category for her pastiche, "The Consulting Detective and the Literary Agent: The Untold Tale," which was published by The Crew of the Barque Lone Star. Peggy Perdue won for her Arthur Conan Doll that was pictured on the cover of the Fall 2021 *Canadian Holmes* in the performing and visual arts category and Bonnie MacBird won for Modern Major Super Sleuth (Youtube) in the same category as Peggy. Christopher Roden was given the Lifetime Service award. The Literary Agents's Second Annual Meeting featured Donny Zaldin as one of three panellists discussing Conan Doyle's India.

January 29, 2022 – The Blue Carbuncle Awards

The Bootmakers of Toronto met on Zoom to present the Annual Blue Carbuncle Awards. There were 77 in attendance.

Mike Ranieri began by announcing that depending on how things went he hoped to begin having in-person meetings at some point this year, and if possible, continue Zoom as well so out of towners could also join in.

He then called on Jim Ballinger to do the song, *A Toast to Holmes*.

Mike had a major announcement about the 50th Anniversary Conference for The Bootmakers and The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. It will be held on the weekend of Friday, Sep. 23 to Sunday, Sep. 25, 2022.

- The main conference venue will be the Beeton Room at the Toronto Reference Library.

- Co-chaired by Mike Ranieri and Cliff Goldfarb.

- The purpose is to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Collection in 1971 and the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Bootmakers in 1972

- We are looking for volunteers to help us with all of these items. Please contact Mike or Cliff if you are interested in working on any of the above things.

Barbara Rusch gave *A Toast to Sherlock Holmes and "A certain Gracious Lady."*

JoAnn Alberstat gave *A Toast to Dr. Watson.*

Mike then introduced our main speaker, Nick Martorelli, BSI. Nick studied English and Theatre at Villanova University, and currently lives in New York city. He is a retired actor, occasional writer, haphazard collector and works as an audiobook producer at PRH Audio, where he was nominated for an Audie award. Nick is a Sherlockian, a trekkie, a Superman fan and Headmaster of the *Priory Scholars of NYC*, a Sherlock Holmes book group that meets three times a year. He has spoken at *A Scintillation of Scions*.

Nick spoke about how the Holmes stories show a progression of ideas in relation to Holmes and Watson. He drew parallels to *Superman*, *Star Wars* and *Star Trek*. He concluded by saying that he should have titled his talk *On the Importance of Un-Chronology*.

David Sanders gave *A Toast to Sir Henry Baskerville.*

Rich Krisciunas gave *A Toast to Mrs. Hudson.*

Mike showed a video of the audience applauding at the Oscar Awards to announce the award winners for 2020 and 2021.

The True Davidson Award for the Best Formal Paper:

- 2020 Mark Alberstat, Sept. 19, "ACD and the Bicycle"
- 2021 Cliff Goldfarb and Hartley Nathan, April 3, "ACD and Boxing."

The Warren Carleton Award for the best Informal Presentation or Contribution:

- 2020 Jim Ballinger, Sept. 19, Original Songs.
- 2021 Rich Krisciunas, Feb. 27, "Who Really Killed Charles Augustus Milverton."

The Derrick Murdoch Award for the Best *Canadian Holmes* Article:

• 2020 "We Never Mention Lord Shinwell," by Clifford S. Goldfarb and Hartley R. Nathan.

• 2021 "The Real Killer of Charles Augustus Milverton," by Richard Krisciunas.

Master Bootmakers for 2022:

- Bruce W. Aitken, MBt.
- Mark Jones, MBt.
- Don Roebuck, MBt.

Karen Campbell gave *A Toast to the Russian Sherlock Holmes series.*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 P.M.

- Bruce D. Aikin, MBt., Sh.D.

To the memory of Michael Whelan

This toast was given by Hartley R. Nathan at the February 26, 2022 meeting of the Bootmakers of Toronto

My toast today is to the memory of Michel Whelan, who passed away on October 25, 2021. He was Wiggins, or head, of the Baker Street Irregulars for 23 years.

It is an honour for me to toast his memory today.

I first met Mike when I was serving as Meyers in 1974. He was living in Cleveland and came to Toronto to attend some of our Bootmakers meetings. In January 1975 I attended my first BSI dinner in New York and met up with Mike in “his” territory. When I received my induction into the BSI in January 1982 from Julian Wolff as “The Penang Lawyer,” Mike was on hand to congratulate me. When Marilyn was named “The Woman” in 2016 Mike presented her with that honour.

Mike’s contributions are legion:

He turned the BSI Archival Series into the BSI Press with over 60 volumes of scholarship. Those volumes included the BSI Manuscript Series, BSI International Series, BSI Biography Series and BSI Professional Series, among others. Many Bootmakers have contributed articles. Donny Zaldin co-edited *Canon Law*, for which Cliff Goldfarb and myself contributed articles. Peter Calamai and Mark Alberstat co-edited *Canada and Sherlock Holmes*. Barbara Rusch and other Bootmakers have contributed to other volumes.

Mike created the BSI weekend to commemorate Sherlock Holmes’s birthday in January each year.

He established the BSI Distinguished Lecture Series, presented annually at the BSI Weekend.

He created the BSI Trust to collect archival material relating to the BSI.

Mike and his wife Mary Ann attended many Bootmaker functions in Toronto, and Mike was made a Master Bootmaker in 2001.

Wiggins is described by Watson in *A Study in Scarlet*:

An urchin, of no fixed abode; leader of the Baker Street Irregulars. “The spokesman of the street arabs, young Wiggins, introduced his insignificant and unsavoury person.”

Mike overcame these flaws in the Wiggins’s character.

Let us raise a glass to the Memory of Michael Whelan.

He will truly be missed!

Mike Whelan and the BSI Connection with the Bootmakers

This tip of the deerstalker was given by Donny Zaldin at the February 26, 2022, meeting of the Bootmakers of Toronto

As Hartley stated in his tribute to Mike Whelan, over his two decades at the helm, he grew the Baker Street Irregulars into an important and influential literary society – via its press and publishing, scholarly conferences, establishment of its archives at two prestigious American universities, and so much more.

During his tenure, Mike and his beloved and indispensable wife and partner, Mary Ann Bradley, honoured Canada and the Bootmakers of Toronto by extending BSI ties north of the 49th parallel, in Toronto and to other Canadian Sherlockian societies:

- by granting BSI investitures to 13 Bootmakers of Toronto, 11 of whom are still participating members: Doug Elliott, Christopher Roden, Doug Wigglesworth, Barbara Roden, Trevor Raymond, Dayna Nuhn Lozinski, Barbara Rusch, Peggy Perdue, Donny Zaldin, Mark Alberstat, and Charles Prepolec. Sadly missed are Mary Campbell and Peter Calamai, who have passed over the Reichenbach;
- attending and participating in the 2011 “SINS” Conference, “ACD: A Study in Scandal,” put on by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society at the Toronto Public Library, chaired by Barbara Rusch; and
- co-sponsoring and personally attending three triennial Can-Am Silver Blaze Events at Toronto (in 2013, 2016 and 2019): the Saturday afternoon Race at Woodbine and the Saturday evening Conference at the Toronto Public Library.

Thanks to Mike and Mary Ann, the BSI footprint is alive and well in Canada, Mike’s legacy lives on, with our gratitude and appreciation, and his are unquestionably the footprints of a gigantic Sherlockian.



Edwin Van der Flaes – a tribute

This tribute by Doug Wrigglesworth to Ed, who passed over the Reichenbach on February 22, 2022 at the age of 82, was given at the Bootmakers of Toronto virtual meeting on February 26, 2022.

When identifying prominent Bootmakers in his excellent *Sherlock Holmes Handbook*, Chris Redmond includes: “Maureen Green and Edwin van der Flaes, a Toronto couple who are the best-known Canadians in American Sherlockian circles.” Both were early Bootmakers, and former Meyers, Ed in 1980 and 1992, Maureen in 1984. They were



Maureen and Ed

invested Irregulars (Kitty Winters and Victor Trevor) and appeared at many events in the US and abroad. I remember the surprise of running into Ed at the unveiling of the Sherlock Holmes statue in London in 1999.

Maureen and Ed were always present during the first four decades of the Bootmakers.

In my very early days as a Sherlockian, Ed and Maureen were most kind and encouraging to this young enthusiast. Ed once visited me at home to present me with several treasured relics of early Bootmaker history. He stimulated my Sherlockian spirit – and advised me to get out to as many Sherlockian events as I could. Both were wonderful sources of advice and support as I entered upon my first term as Meyers in 1997.

Ed certainly continued his connections with the Bootmakers – even after the tragic loss of dear Maureen in 2006. He would appear at the annual dinner and greet the old-timers, but not often at a regular meeting. It was sometimes hard to keep track of Ed. For example, when the internet and email arose, Ed was only accessible if he could find a free source of an internet provider. Sometimes his natural curmudgeon-like character emerged when he disagreed with how things were developing – and I am afraid we haven’t seen Ed for many months – he had seemingly dropped out of sight.

However, we old-time Bootmakers offer a fond farewell to Edwin van der Flaes.



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