DENNIS BUDD

The Journal of the Bootmakers of Toronto
Volume 45 Number 3 – Summer 2022

Canadian Holmes is published by The Bootmakers of Toronto, the Sherlock Holmes Society of Canada.

***Bootprints** (editors) are Mark and JoAnn Alberstat, 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3A 2M2, Canada, to whom letters and editorial submissions should be addressed. E-mail: markalberstat@gmail.com and on Twitter at @CanadianHolmes*

Membership and subscription rates
(Full details online at www.torontobootmakers.com)
Canadian Premier - $40.00 CAD
US or International Premier – $40.00 USD
Canadian Regular - $30.00 CAD
US or International Regular - $30.00 USD
Full-time Student - $25.00 CAD or $25.00 USD
Past Issues of *Canadian Holmes*, including postage - $12.00 CAD per copy

Further Subscription information and details are available on the society's website, www.torontobootmakers.com.

Business correspondence should be addressed to The Bootmakers of Toronto, 2045 Lake Shore Blvd. West, Suite 3303, Etobicoke, ON, M8V 2Z6, Canada.

Copyright © 2022 The Bootmakers of Toronto. Copyright in all individual articles is hereby assigned to their respective authors.

Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement Number 40038614, The Bootmakers of Toronto, 2045 Lake Shore Blvd. West, Suite 3303, Etobicoke, ON, M8V 2Z6, Canada. Return postage guaranteed.

ISSN 0319-4493.
Printed in Canada.

Cover: Jeremy Brett by Dennis Budd. Budd's artwork, Sherlockian and otherwise, can be found at: https://www.deviantart.com/dennisbudd

Canadian Holmes
Volume 45 Number 3
Summer 2022
One-hundred seventy first issue

Contents
Canadian Holmes
Summer 2022
Volume 45 Number 3

Traces of Bootprints 1
By JoAnn and Mark Alberstat

The view from the bow window 2
By Barbara Rusch

A well-armed, whistful Colonel 4
By Ross Davies

Sherlock Holmes meets Sinclair Lewis 11
By Martin Bucco

A Study in Speech: The use of lisps in the Sherlock Holmes Canon and beyond 14
By Anna Brindisi-Behrens

A Doctor and his Dresser at War – Arthur Conan Doyle and Charles Blasson in South Africa 1900 23
By Doug Wrigglesworth

"a few lines upon a sheet of paper" – Conan Doyle's other work for *The Strand Magazine* 31
By Mark Jones

"Holmes gave me a brief review" 33

Letter to the Editors 36

Strictly Personal 37

Bootmakers' Diary 39

Traces of Bootprints

A Sherlockian Summer

Another Summer issue of *Canadian Holmes*. Time to sit on the deck with a drink of your choice and enjoy some Sherlockian reading. Reading can take us places planes, trains and automobiles simply cannot. Sit in the sun, enjoy the warmth and let your imagination take you back to 1895 with our favourite friends.

For your editors, the summer kicked off with a road trip to Cooperstown, New York, where Mark spoke at the annual baseball history conference about Conan Doyle and his love of baseball. Much time throughout the summer has been, and will be, spent on other Sherlockian pursuits, including JoAnn's work on the committee for the September conference in Toronto where we are both speaking, and of course, plenty of other writing and editing projects.

This issue kicks off with the Bow Window column where Barbara Rusch concludes her examination of crime in Victorian England. This is followed by Ross Davies's look at who may have been the model for Colonel Sebastian Moran, considering his penchant for the game of whist and his remarkable skills with a rifle. American author and playwright Sinclair Lewis makes a rare appearance in a Sherlockian journal with Martin Bucco's look at Holmes in Lewis's writing. During the year Conan Doyle died, Lewis became the first American writer to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. American Sherlockian Anna Brindisi-Behrens makes her *Canadian Holmes* debut with an article on the use of lisps in the Canon and beyond. This article is followed by journal stalwart Doug Wrigglesworth with his look at Charles Blasson, who was Conan Doyle's dresser in South Africa in 1900. Mark Jones continues his column with a brief examination of Conan Doyle's time on an arctic whaler. This is followed by the usual roundup of book reviews and Diary Notes.

As always, the summer issue took months to put together and then came together in a rush at the end – much like the warm days that we all dream about.

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.

Aside from outright theft in its many varieties, there were myriad ways for criminals to earn a dishonest living. Counterfeiting was a prolific and lucrative pursuit in 19th-century England. The "coiner" would make plaster casts of legitimate silver coins, into which molten base metal would be poured, then filed off and electro-plated. Holmes maintains that "the counterfeiter stands in a class by himself as a public danger." We're informed that "no living man could tell a Prescott from a Bank of England," and Holmes is hailed as a hero for recovering his printing plates.

With an expanding middle class earning vast amounts of money in industry and retail trades, perpetrators of fraud enjoyed commensurate growth. Often well-educated and well-mannered, they were all too convincing in separating the well-heeled from their billfolds. Motivated solely by greed, their scams ranged from stock manipulation to embezzlement. One particularly infamous case involved Arthur Orton, who impersonated the missing son of the wealthy Lady Tichborne. Ultimately exposed, he was charged with perjury and sentenced to 14 years at hard labour after the longest court case in British history, costing £200,000. Nor does the Canon suffer from a paucity of fraudsters assuming false identities for financial gain, including Killer Evans in the guise of long-lost relative John Garrideb in his nefarious plot to lure Nathan from his rooms; Neville St. Clair, who dons an elaborate disguise in perhaps the most egregious example of a 19th-century crowd-sourcing scam; and James Windibank, in an equally outrageous version of "catfishing," who assumes the pseudonym Hosmer Angel, wooing his stepdaughter Mary Sutherland in an attempt to divest her of her inheritance.

In the 1800s, domestic abuse was shockingly commonplace, and only caused outrage if it was exceptionally vicious or endangered life. Only a small percentage of cases were ever prosecuted, as wives had little legal recourse, and bought into the myth that they were somehow deserving of their harsh treatment. Greed, drink and jealousy are the source of much of

the domestic abuse of both wives and daughters in the Canon. Jephro Rucastle holds his own daughter hostage until she agrees to sign over her inheritance. Sir Eustace Brackenstall is a vicious brute when in his cups, whose wife, the former Mary Fraser, is the victim of unspeakable abuse, while Black Peter is described as "an intermittent drunkard, and when he had the fit on him he was a perfect fiend. He has been known to drive his wife and daughter out of doors in the middle of the night and flog them through the park until the whole village outside the gates was aroused by their screams." Difficult to know which method of murder is more pernicious – and ingenious – Grimesby Roylott introducing a poisonous snake into the bed of his stepdaughter out of pure greed, or Josiah Amberley introducing poison gas into his faithless wife's bedroom out of jealousy and revenge. Both of these killers are even more poisonous than their methods, though undoubtedly most gruesome of all is James Browner's murder of his wife Mary, mailing her severed ear, along with that of her lover, to her horrified sister.

And indeed, it was foul murder which most captured the Victorian imagination. "There is the scarlet thread of murder running through the colourless skein of life, and our duty is to unravel it, and isolate it, and expose every inch of it," says Holmes. The public ate up every grisly detail of the lurid and sensationalized accounts in such gutter papers as *The Police Gazette*, whose purpose it was to record "all Information received in cases of Felony and of Misdemeanors of an aggravated nature, and against Receivers of stolen Goods, reputed Thieves, and offenders escaped from custody," with a view to apprehending them. "I read nothing except the criminal news and the agony columns," Holmes confesses. No murders were more spectacular in the annals of crime or followed more closely in the press than those perpetrated by Jack the Ripper. Between August and November of 1888, five women were savagely slaughtered on the streets of Whitechapel. Such is the fascination and mystery surrounding his crimes that they have entered the realm of the mythological. A blood-stained letter and half of one of the victim's kidneys were sent to George Lusk, head of the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee, no doubt the inspiration for the sinister contents in the eponymous cardboard box erroneously mailed to Sarah Cushing.

"Crime is common. Logic is rare," claims Holmes. "Therefore it is upon the logic rather than the crime that you should dwell." The logical conclusions he draws anticipate the inexorable result: justice for the victims and the undoing of the criminal.

A well-armed, whistful Colonel

By Ross Davies

Ross Davies is a law professor at George Mason University, an editor of The Baker Street Almanac*, and steward of the "Sherlockian Toasts" webpage.*

The Canon of Sherlock Holmes can be usefully divided into two periods, pre-Sebastian-Moran and post-Moran. Likewise, prominent real-world characters who may have served as models for Moran can be usefully divided into two categories, the well-armed and the whist-playing. A close look at each of these divisions may give us a sense of why Moran was a colonel, and also a sense of why colonels are sometimes viewed as the most nefarious and ubiquitous soldiers in the Canon. (1)

The Canon Before Moran

Before Colonel Sebastian Moran first appeared in published reports of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes – in September 1903, in "The Adventure of the Empty House" (2) – one-half of the army officers appearing in the Holmes stories had been colonels (12 colonels; 12 generals, majors, captains, lieutenants, and commandants). The same ratios – roughly 50 per cent colonels, 50 per cent other officers – persist if the field is narrowed to more than insignificant roles (six colonels; seven other officers), and even if it is limited to genuinely significant roles (four colonels; three other officers).

So, if a knowledgeable reader of the Holmes stories had been asked in August 1903 to forecast the rank of the next army officer to appear in the Canon, they probably would have said something like, "well, there's about a 50-50 chance it will be a colonel."

The numbers remain pretty much identical when the same topic is viewed from the inside – that is, from the perspectives of Holmes and Dr. Watson as the stories unfolded in sequence within the internal calendar of the Canon. (3) Before they confronted Moran in the spring of 1894, 14 colonels and 12 other officers had appeared in their adventures. And again, the same ratios – roughly 50 per cent colonels, 50 per cent other officers – persist if the field is narrowed to more than inconsequential roles (six colonels; seven other officers), and even if it is limited to significant roles (four colonels; three other officers).

So, if Holmes and Watson themselves had been asked in early 1894 to forecast the rank of the next army officer to cross their paths, they probably would have said something like, "well, there's about a 50-50 chance it will be a colonel."

In other words, the fates in both worlds – Conan Doyle's and Watson's – were indifferent as to whether a colonel or some other officer would be next on life's stage with Holmes and Watson.

In addition, pre-Moran villainous army officers of any rank were in short supply. Of those with significant roles, only two – Major John Sholto in *The Sign of Four* and Colonel Lysander Stark in "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb" – were indisputably evil. A good argument could be made that Colonel James Barclay also belongs in this category, but he had been a sergeant when he committed evil acts long ago, in "The Adventure of the Crooked Man." And there were at least as many indisputably non-evil officers with significant roles in the pre-Moran years, including Colonels Hayter in "The Adventure of the Reigate Squires" and Ross in "The Adventure of Silver Blaze" and Major Murphy in "The Adventure of the Crooked Man."

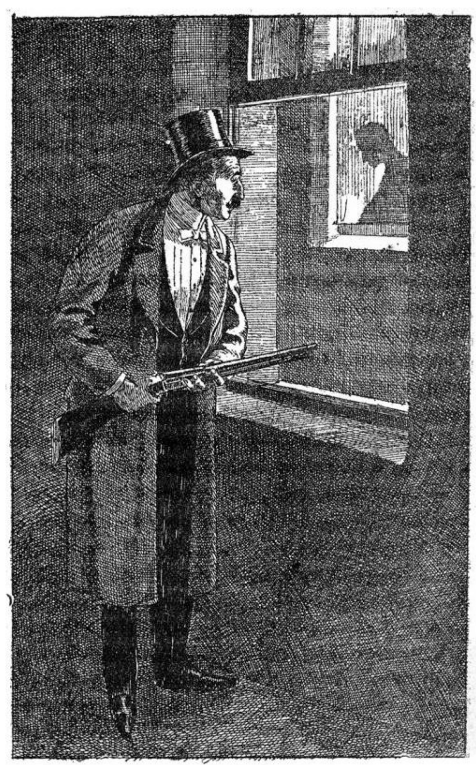
Thus, it seems fair to say that Sebastian Moran was not portrayed as a colonel because colonels were already the dominant military presence in the Canon (they were not), nor because colonels were already overwhelmingly malignant (they were not that either). Some other factor must have tipped the scales in favour of a colonelcy for the villain-in-chief of "The Empty House."

Weapons and Whist

There was, conveniently, just such a tipping factor – a pair of factors, actually.

In "The Empty House," the villain is an expert with firearms – expert enough to put a bullet through one human being (Ronald Adair) and one wax bust (of Holmes) at long distances and under difficult conditions. And the villain is also an expert whist-player – expert enough to cheat successfully (at least for a time) while playing with and against sophisticated players. (Whist is a trick-taking card game in the same family as bridge and hearts.) So, the ideal model for the villain in "The Empty House" is an expert in both guns and whist.

The first expertise, firing a gun, prompted Donald Redmond to suggest that "the original of Moran's reputation as a heavy-game shot may have come from Col. George Sartorius, CB, 1840-1912." "One of a distinguished Army family," Sartorius's "own recreation was shooting: tigers in India, lion and buffalo in Africa; he had shot the largest buffalo ever bagged." (4) Thus, he may have been in Doyle's mind when he



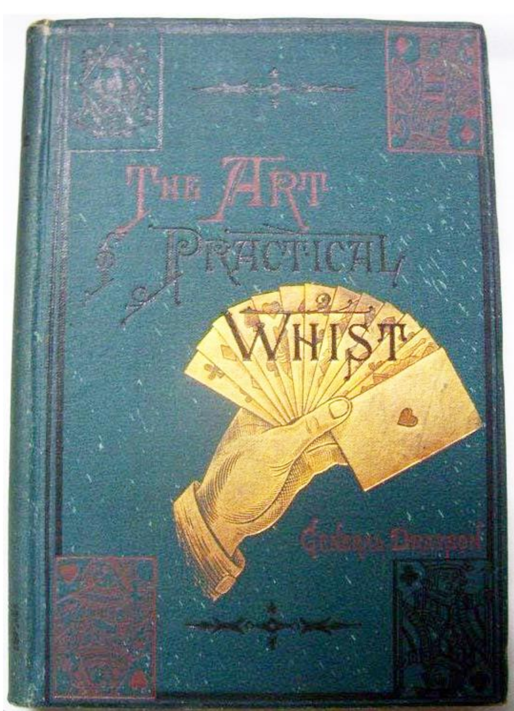
Colonel Moran by Martin Van Maële from the 1906 Société d'Édition et de Publications.

described Colonel Moran. Sartorius seems to be well-qualified as a shooter, but I have not found any evidence that he played whist, much less that he was an expert.

More importantly, however, there are Army officers of other ranks who are at least as well-qualified. Perhaps the most obvious example is Major Henry Astbury Leveson (1828-1875), a renowned big-game hunter and veteran of service in the Army in Crimea and, before that, with the East India Company. As John Linsen-meyer noted in the *Baker Street Journal* many years ago, "Leveson wrote a number of books on sport in India [including a memoir that devoted many pages to tiger hunting, Moran's specialty] under the nom-de-guerre 'The Old Shekarry.'" (5) Is it coincidence that Holmes refers to Moran as "a shikari" in "The Empty House?" Alas, Leveson, like Sartorious, appears to lack expertise at whist.

So, there was no particular reason to use a colonel as a model for Moran. This is not to say that the availability of a superior model who happened to have held a different rank would have precluded identification of Moran as a colonel. Rather, it is merely to say that notable expertise in the operation of small arms was not a distinctive feature of colonels. Indeed, it seems likely that if the only qualification for the role of villain in "The Empty House" was skill with a gun, Leveson would have been the model and Moran would have been Major Moran.

But a second expertise, playing whist, was also required, and that brings to mind Alfred Drayson. He wrote *The Art of Practical Whist* in 1879, when he was a colonel in the Army, (6) and *Sporting Scenes Amongst the Kaffirs of South Africa* – a memoir devoted in part to his enjoyment of hunting in South Africa in 1858, when he was a captain. (7) So, he was a



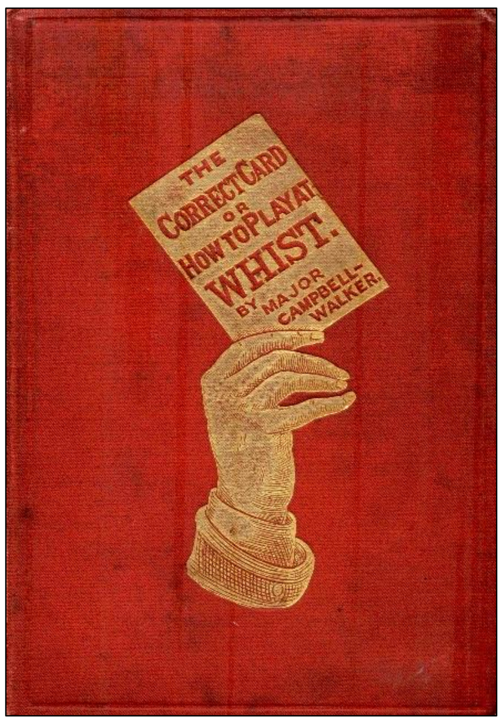
Outside cover of The Art of Practical Whist*, by Alfred Drayson.*

whist expert and a hunting enthusiast. On that basis, he has been put forward by at least one commentator as the best available model for Moran. (8) Drayson's friendship with Conan Doyle (the two had met in Portsmouth in the 1880s and were fellow spiritualists) strengthens his appeal. But there are problems. First, while Drayson served many years in the Army, his expertise was as an astronomer, mathematician, and teacher, not an armed combatant, and most of his service reflected that reality. In fact, he "had been Professor of Surveying and Astronomy at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and written one of the standard textbooks." (9) Second, most of Drayson's published work reflected his interest in astronomy (his writing forays into whist and adventure in South Africa were relatively brief, and early in his career), which made him a much better model for the scholarly Professor James Moriarty than for the soldierly Colonel Sebastian Moran. Expert opinion in support of this choice is nicely phrased by Daniel Stashower in his biography of Conan Doyle: "Conan Doyle once compared Drayson favorably to Copernicus, and when one recalls that Professor Moriarty, the arch-nemesis of Sherlock Holmes, also taught mathematics and was the author of *The Dynamics of an Asteroid*, it is clear that Drayson made a lasting impression." (10)

Finally, by the time Drayson and Conan Doyle met, Drayson had been promoted to major-general, a fact reflected on the title page of later editions of his whist book. (11) So, again, there was no particular reason to use a colonel as a model for Moran. Indeed, it seems likely that if expertise in whist and enthusiasm for hunting – amplified by Conan Doyle's friendly relations with General Drayson – were sufficient

qualifications for the role of villain in “The Empty House,” Drayson would have been the model and Moran would have been General Moran.

There was, however, one figure who indisputably filled both qualifications for villainy in “The Empty House.” Arthur Campbell-Walker (1834-1887) wrote *The Correct Card or How to Play Whist* in 1876, when he was a captain in the Army. (12) In 1864, after seeing action in the Crimean War and in India (including at the siege of Lucknow, a city familiar to readers of *The Sign of Four*), he wrote *The Rifle: Its Theory and Practice* while serving as an instructor in the Army’s Small Arms School Corps. (13) Campbell-Walker was, in other words, a recognized, published contemporary expert in both the playing of whist and the firing of small arms. To the best of my knowledge, this combination of expertise in one person was uniquely Campbell-Walker’s in late Victorian times. And at the time of his death in 1887 Campbell-Walker was a lieutenant-colonel, a fact reflected on the title page of at least one of the later editions of his whist book. (14)



Outside cover of The Correct Card or How to Play at Whist*, by Arthur Campbell-Walker. Note the incorrect rank (major) attributed to the author.*

So, it turns out that there was a particular reason to use a colonel as a model for Moran: the only person who fit the role perfectly (except for the part about being evil), was, in fact, a colonel. Indeed, it seems likely, or at least quite possible, that Campbell-Walker was the model for the gun-toting, whist-playing villain of “The Empty House,” and that his rank made it natural for Moran to be a colonel as well.

Why, then, has Colonel Campbell-Walker escaped (as best I can tell) the attention of Sherlockians puzzling over the provenance of Colonel Moran? I do not know. My best guess is that it is related to the decline of whist. In Victorian times, it was

popular on both sides of the Atlantic and around the world and even in the Canon (15) – and books on the subject abounded.

Oddly, several popular works were written by colonels. (16) Nowadays, not so many people play whist. That means, I suppose, not many people read books on the subject, especially old books like Campbell-Walker's. To the limited extent that he is still appreciated today, it is for his work on firearms, not whist. So today, if someone sees a copy of *The Correct Card* they probably ignore it, and if they happen to pick it up off a pile in a bookshop they probably do no more than look at the cover, or flip through it quickly, pausing briefly, perhaps, at a pretty engraving. They would have to be an attentive reader of whist books to notice that the last edition of *The Correct Card* lists Campbell-Walker as a colonel. Why so attentive? Because the covers of even that last edition listed him as a major. Thus, like the purloined letter, Campbell-Walker the colonel was there for anyone to see, but only for a particular (and perhaps particularly odd) type of viewer to observe.

The Canon After Moran

After Moran's appearance in "The Empty House," very nearly all army officers in the Canon were colonels (nine colonels; one general). Intriguingly, the ratio of evil to non-evil army officers with significant roles tilted in favour of the non-evil (2 to 1). Even more intriguingly, however, Moran became the first officer to be honoured with repeated mentions in stories in which he was not a significant character: three of those nine post – "Empty House" appearances by colonels were reappearances by Moran.

In other words, the post-Moran years of the Holmes-Watson adventures were not really post-Moran. They were post–"Empty House," with Moran persisting. Readers were repeatedly reminded of the extraordinarily nefarious Colonel Moran. Perhaps, to paraphrase Stashower on Drayson, it is clear that Moran made a lasting impression on Conan Doyle and Watson, and that this lasting impression has been passed on to we the readers who, as a result, see the canonical colonels as more dominant and malignant than they really were.

References

(1) Leading papers on the subject include Foss, Lt. Colonel T.F., "Doctor, Why Clobber the Colonels?," *Sherlock Holmes Journal* 12.3/4, Summer 1976, pg. 82-83; Tate, Scott, "A Catalogue of Canonical Colonels," *Voices From the Strangers' Room*, ed. Joseph Coppola, San Diego, Aventine Press, 2008, pg. 40-44.

(2) *Collier's Weekly Magazine*, September 26, 1903, pg. 12-16.

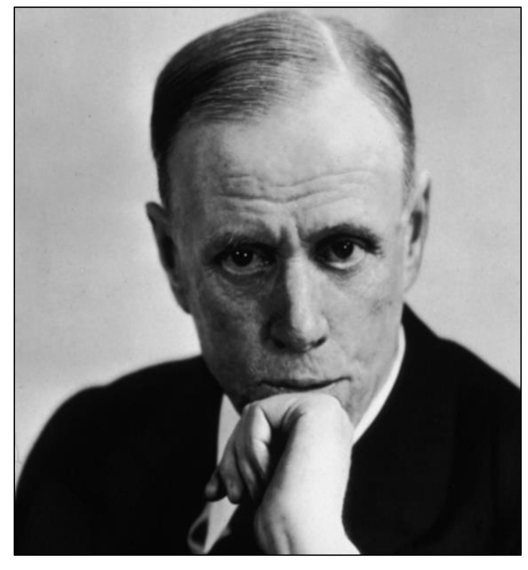
(3) Peck, Andrew Jay, and Leslie S. Klinger, "The Date Being—?" *A Compendium of Chronological Data*, New York, Magico, 1996, (expanded and revised edition), passim.
(4) Redmond, Donald A., *Sherlock Holmes, A Study in Sources*, Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1982, pg. 113 and 186.
(5) VanValkenburgh, Norman, "The Old Shikari," *Baker Street Journal* 31.1, March 1981, 14, editorial note, Leveson, H.A., *Sport in Many Lands,* London: Chapman and Hall, 1877, Vol. 1 "The Old Shekarry", *An Old Shekarree, The Spear and the Rifle; or Recollections of Sport in India,* London, Ward and Lock, 1860.
(6) Drayson, Col. A.W., *The Art of Practical Whist*, London, George Routledge and Sons, 1879.
(7) Drayson, Capt. Alfred W., *Sporting Scenes Amongst the Kaffirs of South Africa*, London, George Routledge and Co., 1858.
(8) Schaefer, B.E., "Sherlock Holmes and some astronomical connections," *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*, 103.1, February 1993, pg. 30-34.
(9) Yes, Conan Doyle did once attend a talk delivered by Drayson on "The Art of Killing." But, "[d]espite its melodramatic title this seems to have been a fairly light-hearted survey of primitive hunting weapons; bows and arrows, poisoned darts and blowpipes, and so forth." Stavert, Geoffrey, "The Southsea Connection," *Sherlock Holmes Journal*, 16.1, Winter 1982, pg. 8-9.
(10) Stashower, Daniel, *Teller of Tales: The Life of Arthur Conan Doyle*, New York, Henry Holt and Co., 1999, p. 95.
(11) For example, Drayson, Major-Gen., *The Art of Practical Whist*, London, George Routledge and Sons, 1886, fourth edition.
(12) Campbell-Walker, Capt. Arthur, *The Correct Card or How to Play Whist*, New York, D. Appleton and Co., 1876.
(13) Walker, Arthur, *The Rifle; Its Theory and Practice*, Westminster, J.B. Nichols and Sons, 1864.
(14) Campbell-Walker, Lt.-Colonel Arthur, *The Correct Card or How to Play Whist*, New York, D. Appleton and Co., 1888.
(15) Klinger, Leslie S. and Tim Bourke, "What Game Was Afoot in the 'Red-Headed League'?," *Sherlock Holmes Journal*, 25.1, Winter 2000, pg. 10-11.
(16) For example, [Blyth, Augustus Frederick], *The Whist-Player: The Laws and Practice of Short-Whist* by Lieut. Colonel B****, London, Chapman and Hall, 1858, Lowsley, Lieutenant-Colonel B., *Whist of the Future*, London, Swan Sonnenschein and Co., 1898, and, of course, Campbell-Walker and Drayson.

Sherlock Holmes meets Sinclair Lewis

By Martin Bucco

Editor's note: This article first appeared in The Sinclair Lewis Society Newsletter*, Volume 9, Number 1, Fall 2000.*

Although the versatile Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) wrote historical romances, straight histories, and books on spiritualism, any character in Sinclair Lewis who reads Conan Doyle is reading something (from four novels and 56 short stories) about Sir Arthur's Master Detective Sherlock Holmes, in all likelihood the most famous alter ego in English fiction. In his early review of Algernon Blackwood's *John Silence* (1908) in the *Detroit Free Press* (March 21, 1914), Lewis describes the novel's metaphysical doctor as "a Sherlock Holmes of mysticism." (1) To the laughing applause of the crew on the cattle-boat to Liverpool in *Our Mr. Wrenn*, pipe-smoking Harry Morton, deriding the know-it-all bully Pete, winds up his unruffled sally with "Watson, the needle, quick!" (2). Morton's facetious punchline directing a phantom John M. Watson, M. D., [sic] to administer to the sleuth's cocaine habit cuts two ways: on the one hand, it mocks the bully's illusion of knowing "so much more than the rest of us" and, on the other, Morton's own modest powers of Sherlockian deduction.



Sinclair Lewis

Doyle-Holmes crops up in eight other Sinclair Lewis novels. While duck-hunting in *The Trail of the Hawk*, young Carl Erickson, on the recommendation of his friend Ben Rusk, reads for an hour a paperback wherein the prairie youth meets Sherlock Holmes for the first time (3). In 1903,

young Lewis first delighted in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1902), the best of the Sherlock Holmes novels. At Terwillinger College, even Elmer Gantry's muscular evangelist owns two volumes of Conan Doyle (4). In *Dodsworth*, the tough-talking newspaperman Ross Ireland appreciates Conan Doyle, although Lewis notes that this closet intellectual admires Joseph Conrad more (5). Lindsay Atwell, the scholarly lawyer in *Ann Vickers*, reads Conan Doyle on his Adirondack vacations. A copy of Conan Doyle is in hotel-keeper Myron Weagle's *Westward Ho!* suite in the 1934 novel *Work of Art* (7). And in *World So Wide*, Hayden Chart, touring London, fancies running into Sherlock Holmes. (8)

An addict of "whodunits" generally and of English detective stories particularly, Sinclair Lewis uses the great ratiocinator most cogently in *Arrowsmith* and *Kingsblood Royal*. Walking in on Cliff Clawson, Martin Arrowsmith catches his roommate reading a Sherlock Holmes story under a medical textbook (9). But what is more important, Lewis later ties Conan Doyle's sleuth to Martin's mentor: "However abstracted and impractical, Gottlieb [a scientist character in the novel] would have made an excellent Sherlock Holmes—if anybody who would have made an excellent Sherlock Holmes would have been willing to be a detective. His mind burned through appearance to actuality." (10) Thus, Gottlieb the scientist and Holmes the criminologist—both endowed with uncanny powers of intuition and reason, both investigators of natural phenomena, both possessed with restless, searching brains—are brothers under the skin.

On the trail of his ancestors, Neil Kingsblood—who owns a set of Sherlock Holmes (11) — is, however, closer to the "normal" imperceptiveness of Dr. Watson. During his convalescence in wartime England, Neil had imagined coming and going through the pointed door of a nearby flint church the figure of Henry Baskerville, the hound-haunted heir to melancholy Baskerville Hall (12). The game is further afoot when Ash Davis, a pleasant, clear speaking "colored man" later walks into the Second National Bank in Grand Republic [a fictional city in Minnesota] to consult war veteran Neil Kingsblood about hiring "Negroes." In a Sherlock Holmes story a stranger might step out of the London fog...be admitted into the cozy Victorian clutter of 221B, Baker Street...and be immediately informed by the deducing mastermind of his origins, travels, associates, and so forth. "Had Neil been Sherlock Holmes," writes Lewis, "he might have detected in Dr. Davis's accent an Ohio boyhood, three years in England and France and Russia, friendships with tennis-partners and piano-teachers and laboratory-mates." (13) But to discover truths about mysterious Ash Davis, Neil (like Watson) must rely—as all readers of *Kingsblood Royal* know—on methods less nimble-witted and expeditious than those of the detective par excellence.

References
(1) *Detroit Free Press*, 21 March 1914, p6.
(2) Lewis, Sinclair, *Our Mr. Wrenn,* New York, Harper and Brothers, 1914, p72.
(3) Lewis, Sinclair, *The Trail of the Hawk,* New York, Harper and Brothers, 1915, p32.
(4) Lewis, Sinclair, *Elmer Gantry,* New York, Harcourt Brace, 1927, p9.
(5) Lewis, Sinclair, *Dodsworth*, New York, Harcourt Brace, 1929, p153.
(6) Lewis, Sinclair, *Ann Vickers,* Garden City, Doubleday Doran, 1933, p248.
(7) Lewis, Sinclair, *Work of Art,* Garden City, Doubleday Doran, 1934, p284.
(8) Lewis, Sinclair, *World So Wide*, New York, Random House, 1951, p34.
(9) Lewis, Sinclair, *Arrowsmith*, New York, Harcourt Brace, 1925, p61.
(10) Ibid., p138.
(11) Lewis, Sinclair, *Kingsblood Royal,* New York, Random House, 1947, p11.
(12) Ibid., p42.
(13) Ibid., p85.

A Study in Speech: The use of lisps in the Sherlock Holmes Canon and beyond

By Anna Brindisi-Behrens

Anna Brindisi-Behrens, M.A., CCC-SLP is a Speech-Language Pathologist and co-founder of the Monadnock Sherlockians, a scion group of Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts based in Keene, NH. She publishes her late husband Richard Behrens's writings, including his Lizzie Borden, Girl Detective Mysteries *through her publishing venture Nine Muses Books, and she produces the Lizzie Borden podcast.*

> Sweet the lisp and lulling whisper and luxurious laughter,
> Soft as love or sleep, of waves whereon the sun dreams,
> And dreams not of the darkling hours before nor after.
>
> (Excerpted from *A Word with the Wind* by Algernon Charles Swinburne, 1895)

The worlds of Sherlock Holmes and speech-language pathology converged, albeit briefly, when researchers using plagiarism software found that the Grandfather Passage, part of a language assessment used to test articulation and reading abilities in adults, was, in fact, adapted from a passage in Arthur Conan Doyle's novel *The Valley of Fear*. When compared side-by-side, there was an 88 per cent overlap between the passage in Conan Doyle's novel and the "My Grandfather" passage that Charles Van Riper published in 1963. Since that time, this passage has become the go-to source for adult language assessments because, with Van Riper's additions, it contains all the sounds in the English language. Van Riper, himself a fiction writer who published under the pen name Cully Gage, neglected to give credit to Conan Doyle when he published his passage. (1)

Yet another convergence became evident when actor Stephen Fry recorded his audio version of the Holmes Canon in 2017, and striving to be true to the text, included the characters' lisps, sometimes to unintentionally humorous effect. Certainly, others have recorded audio versions of the Canon, but none seem to have exaggerated characters' lisping as much as Fry. It is curious that Conan Doyle would assign this affectation to several of his characters not only in his Holmes stories, but

in his other writings as well. Conan Doyle was certainly not alone in doing this, however, as his contemporaries also created some lisping characters.

Dickens accurately spelled out his character Mrs. Sleary's lisps in *Hard Times* (1854): "Don't thay nothing, Thquire. What doth your friend thay? If you haven't took your feed yet, have a glath of bitterth." Oscar Wilde in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890) used a lisp as a positive trait, describing his character Mrs. Erlynne as "a pushy nobody, with a delightful lisp, and Venetian red-hair." Rudyard Kipling in *The Brushwood Boy* (1907) instructs his character how not to lisp: "'Yeth; I wrote the words too.' Miriam spoke slowly, for she knew she lisped when she was nervous." But P.G. Wodehouse in *Golf Without Tears* (1922) instructed his character how to lisp: "It was I who had given her her first driver and taught her infant lips to lisp "Fore!" It is not easy to lisp the word "Fore!" but I had taught her to do it, and this constitutes a bond between us which has been strengthened rather than weakened through the passage of time."

Today, a lisp is a speech disorder where s is pronounced much like the *th* in thin, and *z* is pronounced like the *th* in this. Specifically, a lisp is any atypical articulation of the sibilants, such as the pronunciation of *s* and *z* with the tongue protruding out between the teeth, referred to as a lingual, or frontal lisp. There are also other types of lisps. When the tongue is close to or touching the upper front teeth, it is referred to as a dental, or dentalized lisp. When the tongue is raised so that the breath is emitted laterally along the sides of the tongue, it is referred to as a lateral lisp. A nasal lisp, which is more rare, occurs when part of the entire air stream is directed through the nasal cavity. A palatal lisp is where the speaker attempts to make an *s* when the middle of the tongue is in contact with the soft palate, and results in a posterior articulation of the sound, almost like inhaling *s* and *z* sounds. A strident lisp results in a high-frequency whistle, or hissing sound, caused by the air stream passing between the tongue and the hard palate. These are current categorizations of lisps but in Conan Doyle's lifetime, the term lisp may have been used more generally.

In physician and psychologist Edward Wheeler Scripture's book *Stuttering and Lisping* (1912), he used the term lisp to refer generally to "articulation problems." Scripture's terminology was based on late-19th century medicine in Germany, where he received his medical training. He divided lisping into subtypes: negligent lisping, organic lisping, and neurotic lisping. He believed that these speech disorders resulted from both emotional shocks and poor speech habits; to correct them, he combined psychoanalysis with voice exercises. (2)

Negligent lisping, Scripture believed, was due to mental carelessness, where the child is negligent in observing and imitating correct speech sound productions in adults. Scripture's category of organic lisping referred to articulation problems caused by physical defects, such as a tongue tie. Neurotic lisping was thought to occur when someone is extremely nervous or anxious, causing their mouth muscles to cramp and no longer move fluidly. For neurotic lisping, Scripture prescribed similar treatments as to those of hysteria including change of climate, hypnotism, and various tonics containing arsenic, quinine or strychnine. (3) Conan Doyle was possibly made aware of lisps from his medical training, where he may have been taught that lisps in adults, or speech disorders in general, could be characterized as 'neurotic' in nature, consistent with the belief of his day. What we do know is that in Conan Doyle's lifetime, speaking well was of growing importance to English society.

Possessing a speech disorder, was, as it can be today, an obstacle in 19th century England and "speaking well was crucial to being accepted in polite society and to succeeding in a profession." (4) There was also a stigma attached to speech issues, as they were often associated with mental weakness. Those with means would seek out practitioners who could "cure" their children of their speech issues. This created demand for the services of speech practitioners, a new profession that found its niche.

In the 19th century speech therapy was regarded more as an art, and not the science that it is today. Practitioners were largely self-taught, as there was no formal speech and language training available in England. These practitioners gained in popularity as medical doctors came under increasing suspicion for their painful, even barbaric, treatments for speech disorders. Some doctors even went as far as removing portions of the tongue or prescribing false teeth when the cause of lisping was diagnosed as "imperfection and irregular position" of the teeth. (5) Many practitioners were elocutionists working with theatrical clients, while other practitioners worked with the deaf or with those who stutter. A gradual belief took hold that there was a connection between nervous conditions and speech disorders, and practitioners therefore developed kinder and gentler methods of treatment. (6)

It was not until 1944, when Australian Lionel Logue, from *The King's Speech* fame, founded the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists that standardized, formal training began in England. King George VI became the royal patron of this college until his death, and currently Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex is its patron. A serendipitous connection, as Sherlockians will no doubt be reminded of, is The Wessex Cup, the fictitious horse race in Conan Doyle's 1892 short story "The Adventure of Silver Blaze."

Conan Doyle used lisps in his characters in a variety of ways: in those with great beauty, in those of great moral fortitude, and even more curious, in those with foreign accents and speakers of foreign languages. It is not evident whether Conan Doyle thought his lisping characters neurotic, or under great stress, as characterized by Edward Scripture, but a least a few of his lisping characters pretended to be someone they were not for criminal purposes.

For example, in "The Adventure of the Resident Patient," Hayward, one of the bank robbers, who, along with two confederates, seeks revenge on his partner turned-informant Sutton, is described by Conan Doyle as a "tall young man, surprisingly handsome, with a dark, fierce face, and the limbs and chest of a Hercules," spoke with a slight lisp. Hayward becomes a murderer when he and his gang hang Sutton for his treachery. Conan Doyle seems to make a point of exaggerating Hayward's good looks to contrast them with his "slight lisp." "You will excuse my coming in, Doctor," said he [Hayward] to me, speaking English with a slight lisp." Perhaps Conan Doyle was implying that Hayward was attempting to speak using an accent, as he was pretending to be the son of a Russian nobleman to gain entry into Sutton's room, and Dr. Trevelyan makes a point of saying that Hayward was "speaking English."

A lisping Beryl Stapleton meets Dr. Watson by Richard Gutschmidt from a 1905 German edition of The Hound of the Baskervilles.

In *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Beryl Stapleton, the abused wife of John Stapleton, was forced to masquerade as his sister and to allow Henry Baskerville to woo her in the hope of marriage, while

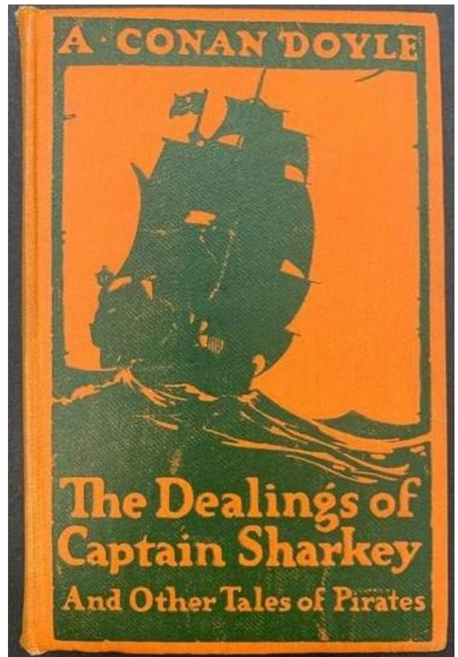
John Stapleton planned for the night when he could release his ferocious hound upon Henry, clearing the last man who stood between him and the Baskerville family's fortune. Beryl is a morally ambiguous character; she tries to warn Henry Baskerville but takes it only so far, never telling him the truth of the danger he is in, while at the same time going along with the ruse that Stapleton is her brother and not her husband. Here is another circumstance where a Conan Doyle character possesses a rare beauty: "slim, elegant and tall" with a "sensitive mouth" and "beautiful dark, eager eyes," yet possesses a lisp. '"I cannot explain." She [Beryl Stapleton] spoke in a low, eager voice, with a curious lisp in her utterance."

Watson describes Beryl's beauty as "of a most uncommon type," and Henry Baskerville is smitten at the first sight of her "perfect figure" and "elegant dress." Watson makes much of her exotic look, stating that "she was darker than any brunette whom I have seen in England" but is perplexed because "there could not be a greater contrast between brother and sister," thus foreshadowing Holmes's discovery that the Stapletons are indeed husband and wife, and that Beryl Stapleton (nee Garcia) is native to Costa Rica.

There is also the brief mention of the old manservant of the Stapletons at their Merripit House, called Anthony, or as deduced by Holmes, Antonio, who is the servant that presumably takes care of the hound and who also has the same "curious" lisp as Mrs. Stapleton. "The man, who, like Mrs. Stapleton, spoke good English, but with a curious lisping accent."

Conan Doyle implies that the "curious lisping accent" of Beryl Stapleton and Antonio are attributed to their Spanish-American heritage, as the only remaining vestige of their Spanish accent. However, it may have been that Conan Doyle was unaware that Spanish speakers of the Americas do not pronounce s with the interdental "th" (or what is perceived as a lisp) as do the Spanish speakers of Castilian Spain. Conan Doyle does not specify where Antonio is from but Holmes indicates that he must be from a "Spanish or Spanish-American" country because he has the same "curious" lisp as Beryl, and that he must have have been with the Stapletons for at least the time they have been in England. Conan Doyle refers to Spanish-American accents as lisping as he includes a servant as having the same lisp as Beryl Stapleton. Her lisp, like Hayward's in "The Resident Patient," is in great contrast to her beauty but may not be a lisp as we think of today but rather a different pronunciation from the English standard as would be the case with foreign accents.

In Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian works, he also includes some lisping characters. An example of foreign language lisps occurs in *The Dealings*



of Captain Sharkey and Other Tales of Pirates (1919), where John Sharkey and his crew free a young woman held captive on a ship, and when Sharkey speaks to her, "The woman shook her head and smiled, "No Inglese – no Inglese," she lisped." After some time, the ship's surgeon shouts that her hand has the unmistakable sign of leprosy, and everyone who had touched her is suddenly repulsed, particularly Sharkey, who had invited her to sit on his knee and, up until the surgeon's warning, had been enjoying her caresses. The young woman is a native Spanish speaker, so here is someone speaking in a foreign language referred to as lisping. The same is true for Conan Doyle's *The Adventures of Gerard* (1903) where a Portuguese man called Manuelo "lisped out his words with the most mincing and amiable fashion," while the lovely Sophie, who possessed "creamy skin, raven hair, and a pair of the most glorious dark eyes," spoke "French with a most adorable lisp."

There are yet other examples of Conan Doyle referring to foreign accents as "lisping." In his 1883 eerie tale "The Winning Shot," Conan Doyle describes the vampire-like character Dr. Octavius Gaster as speaking with a "slightly foreign lisp, which imparted a peculiar beauty to his voice." In his short story, "The Man from Archangel," Conan Doyle refers to a Russian sailor as having "a slight foreign lisp in his accent which was rather pleasing." In his 1911 poetry collection, *Songs of the Road*, within "Narrative Verses 1902-1909," Conan Doyle wrote: "while she lisped to him in Taal," which is the Dutch or Afrikaans word for language. Could Conan Doyle have been merely trying to indicate that the accents sounded different from English pronunciations, and so used the term lisp generally?

Interestingly, Conan Doyle also included a slight lisp in the description of his chivalrous Sir Nigel Loring character in his novel *The White Company* (1891), who is loosely based on the real-life medieval knight Sir Neil Loring. "Sir Nigel was a slight man of poor stature, with soft lisping voice and gentle ways. So short was he that his wife, who was no very tall

woman, had the better of him by the breadth of three fingers." Although not conventionally handsome, Sir Nigel speaks both English and French, and possesses traits that Conan Doyle admired: duty, honour, tradition, loyalty, and love of family. As Michael Dirda wrote for the Conan Doyle Estate website: "These, he [Conan Doyle] insisted, characterize a moral, civic, and martial tradition worth honoring and living up to even in the modern world." (7)

In Conan Doyle's Sir Nigel (1906), published 15 years after *The White Company*, it is another knight, Sir Walter Manny, a newly naturalize Englishman and previously a famous knight of Hainault, who "bore a high reputation for chivalrous valor and for gallant temerity," and like Sir Nigel himself, is short and speaks with a lisp. "His [Sir Walter Manny] voice, however, when he spoke was gentle and lisping, while his manner was quiet and courteous." Curiously, Conan Doyle only mentions Sir Nigel's lisp once in this novel, when he speaks French to a group of monks, '"Excusez!" said he, in a lisping French." Sir Walter Manny speaks with a foreign accent, and Sir Nigel speaks in French when their speech is described as lisping. However, because he is a native English speaker, Sir Nigel may be the only character who truly possesses a lisp, or speech disorder of some kind, as he is described as having a "soft lisping voice" in *The White Company*, presumably when he speaks English as well as French.

In *The Tragedy of the Korosko* (1898), where tourists are taken prisoner in the Egyptian desert, Conan Doyle describes their attempting to speak with dry mouths as lisping. "Their lips were parched and dried, and their tongues like tags of leather. They lisped curiously in their speech, for it was only the vowel sounds which would come without an effort." This would suggest that Conan Doyle referred to any unusual pronunciation as lisping, much like Scripture's description of general speech disorders as vowel sounds cannot be lisped with tongue protrusion.

Conan Doyle, in his story "Uncle Jeremy's Household" (1887), must have understood that young children often have developmental speech sound errors (Scripture's negligent lisping) that may include lisping for s and z sounds. However, in an attempt to spell out a lisp *à la* Dickens, Conan Doyle spells the word story without an s, but a lisp should be written as "thory", and "yes" should be spelled "yeth" to accurately indicate the misarticulation. "Don't want to come," said the boy, with decision. "Want to hear the rest of the story." "Yes, the -tory," lisped the younger one [child]. In his 1889 *Micah Clarke*, Conan Doyle also refers to a child lisping, when "a blue-eyed cherub lisps out the blessed philosophy which would send us all to our homes with softened hearts and hale bodies."

Why did Conan Doyle, who was arguably an excellent writer adept at boiling down the flowery language of the Victorian era to simple and direct prose that created atmosphere and a sense of character, include lisps for some of his characters? Was his understanding of lisps something more like Scripture's, where a lisp was a general term that referred to any speech disorder, or differing pronunciation, as with a foreign accent? Curiously, Conan Doyle often described foreign accents as lisping, although he assigned positive adjectives such as "adorable" to women who lisped and "pleasing" to men who lisped, indicating that he may not have considered a lisp to be a detrimental attribute.

Conan Doyle sometimes assigned lisps to those with a strong moral code, as with the knights Sir Nigel and Sir Walter Manny, or to those of weaker morals but great beauty such as Beryl Stapleton and Hayward. However, it should be noted that Sir Nigel lisped while speaking French, and Sir Manny spoke English with an accent, as did Beryl Stapleton, and Hayward was possibly faking a Russian accent, so their lisps may be attributed to pronouncing English words differently. It remains unclear what Conan Doyle's intentions were when he included lisping characters in his works. However, what is evident is that readers should not necessarily assign today's definition of a lisp to that of Conan Doyle's characters. Lisps were categorized differently in Conan Doyle's time and may have been thought of as any differing pronunciation from the standard and used as a more general term and not specifically for the protruding tongue "th" sound that we think of today.

What of Conan Doyle's own speech? On the 1927 Fox Film Corporation newsreel interview with Conan Doyle, he states that "I've got to speak two or three words just to try my voice, I understand." He goes on to explain the origins of Holmes as well as his interest in spiritualism. The quality of the audio notwithstanding, there is a faintly perceptible "whistle" whenever Conan Doyle produced an s sound, particularly on the words stories, so, and scientifically. A "whistle" can be the result of spaces between teeth that allow airflow through the front of the mouth, such as missing teeth would allow, although Conan Doyle's walrus mustache does not allow for a clear view of his front teeth. Or, the whistle can be the result of a strident lisp which can produce a high frequency whistle, or hissing sound, caused by the air stream narrowing to pass between the tongue and the hard palate. That is, it may be in the realm of possibility that Conan Doyle himself may have spoken with a type of lisp. If true, Conan Doyle indeed would be in good company as Dickens also spoke with a "slight lisp" (8) as did Wilde, who not long after moving to Oxford in England, "learned to pass among the English by shedding his Irish accent and lisp." (9)

References

(1) Reilly, Jamie and Fisher, Jamie, "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Attribution: A Historical Note on the Grandfather Passage," *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research,* Vo. 55, Issue 1, Feb. 2012.

(2) Duchane, Judy, *A History of Speech-Language Pathology*, 2011. https://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~duchan/index.html

(3) Ibid.

(4) Forster, Elizabeth, "Fear of Giving Offence Makes Me Give the More Offence': Politeness, Speech and Its Impediments in British Society, c.1660–1800," *The Journal of the Social History Society*, Vol. 15, 2018, Issue 4.

(5) Ibid.

(6) *Study Unearths Britain's First Speech Therapists*, *Research News*, University of Cambridge, Oct. 22, 2018.

(7) Dirda, Michael*, Sir Nigel Loring, The Many Men of Arthur Conan Doyle,* website of The Conan Doyle Estate, (https://arthurconandoyle.co.uk /character/sir-nigel-loring).

(8) Shore, W. Teignmouth, *Charles Dickens and His Friends*, London, New York, Cassell And Company, Ltd.,1909.

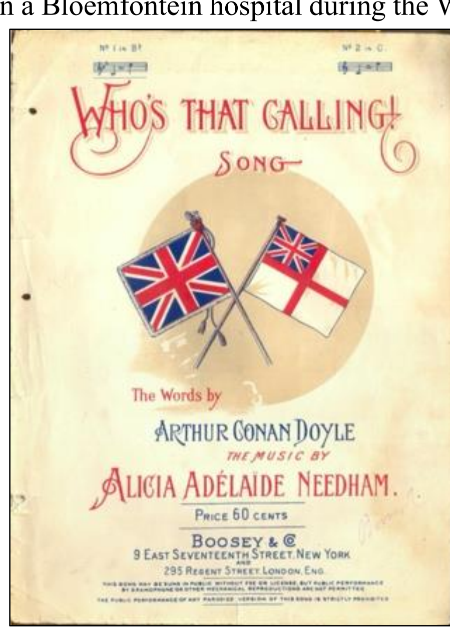
(9) Stewart, Ian, *The Life of Oscar Wilde*, 2018, https://book-it.org/2018/05/the-life-of-oscar-wilde-part-1/

A Doctor and his Dresser at War – Arthur Conan Doyle and Charles Blasson in South Africa 1900

By Doug Wrigglesworth

Doug Wrigglesworth is a retired educator who, as well as explorer of the world of Sherlock, is a certified history nerd and happy bibliophile. A Bootmaker for decades, he is a proud Master Bootmaker and twice Meyers. His BSI investiture is The Retired Colourman.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's beloved second wife was not at all hyperbolic when she chose his epitaph: *Steel True Blade Straight: Knight, Patriot, Physician and Man of Letter*s. The truth of these words was never more certain than during his stint as a volunteer doctor in a Bloemfontein hospital during the War in South Africa (also known as the Boer War) in 1900.



The sheet music for ACD's patriotic call to the Dominions.

Conan Doyle, the patriot that he was, responded immediately to his Empire's call as soon as war broke out in 1899. His patriotism and love for the Empire was demonstrated in many ways.

His call to the sons of the Empire was published in the *Daily News* of October 18, 1889, and his poem "Who's That Calling?" was soon set to music.

While he was too old to don a uniform, he found that his medical training could be useful. In spite of leaving the practice of medicine some 10 years earlier, his offer to work in

Charles Blasson

a private hospital funded by the father of his friend Archie Langman was accepted.

Aboard the troop ship *SS Oriental,* Conan Doyle and the other staff of the hospital sailed from London on February 28, 1900.

On that same ship sailed a young medical student, Charles Blasson, who was to become Conan Doyle's dresser, (1) or medical assistant. At the time, Blasson was a medical student at the University Hospital of London.

Little has been known about Charles Blasson until one of those serendipitous finds of an old family diary. While clearing family papers, a descendant of Blasson discovered a battered diary, in which Blasson chronicled his time in South Africa as an assistant to Conan Doyle, and as his personal secretary during the four months ACD was there.

Happily, Ken Cooper, whose wife was a Blasson relative, was encouraged to transcribe and publish the diary under the title *Aide-de-Camp to Conan Doyle: the Boer War Diary of Charles Blasson.* (2) Entries in the diary give some rare and unusual images of Conan Doyle as doctor, writer, and adventurer.

Blasson and Conan Doyle (with his butler Cleeve) travelled to South Africa on the P&O liner *Oriental,* sailing from Tilbury on February 28. Blasson recorded some of the events during the voyage, including a cricket match at St. Vincent in which Conan Doyle played for the ship's XI and took three wickets for the winning team. Conan Doyle also arranged a concert on board.

Probably the entries most relevant to this article are those describing a program to vaccinate the passengers against typhoid (enteric fever). An early example of vaccine-phobia arose from the often-uncomfortable side effects of early typhoid vaccines. Many of the troops on the *Oriental* may later have wished they had taken the offered dose, as they died by dozens in Bloemfontein. However, Conan Doyle encouraged others by being vaccinated himself.

On Sunday, March 4, Blasson writes: *"Divine Service at 10:45 conducted by the skipper. Forty-nine cases inoculated for typhoid today, including Bolton, who was very seedy in the evening in consequence."* (3)

On the next day: *"Three of yesterday's inoculations fainted today, otherwise results good."*

On March 21, 1900, Conan Doyle and the staff and equipment for the hospital arrived in South Africa. The 35-tent hospital was established in Bloemfontein, on the grounds of the Ramblers Cricket Club.

Lord "Bobs" Roberts

Bloemfontein was the capital of the Orange Free State, with a population of some 4,000. After train delays, supplies finally arrived, and by April 8 the hospital was able to open. An early visitor was Lord "Bobs" Roberts (4), leader of the British Forces in the Second Boer War, whose headquarters were in Bloemfontein.

Conan Doyle remained in South Africa for only four months and, as we shall see, certainly contributed his medical skills and care to the patients of the hospital. However, some would believe that he had another objective in mind. It was mere days after the hospital was opened that he and his friend Archie Langman were off to see the fighting. Conan Doyle fully intended to produce a history of the war on his return, but while he was there, wrote frequent letters and reports to London newspapers. Conan Doyle took every opportunity available to get out to see the fighting – and its aftermath.

One disastrous incident during the war was on April 14th, when the water supply of Bloemfontein was captured and cut off by the Boer army. The result was a horrific outbreak of typhoid that flooded the hospital with patients. Apparently, it took some considerable medical activism before administration separated the food preparation for the staff from that of the typhoid patients.

From April to June 1900, there were nearly 5,000 cases of typhoid and 1,000 deaths but official statistics do not truly reflect the magnitude of the suffering. Conan Doyle argued that the British Army had made a major mistake by not making anti-typhoid inoculation compulsory. Because of the new vaccine's side effects, 95 per cent of the soldiers refused immunization. Despite his strong opinions, Conan Doyle failed to press the issue of compulsory inoculation when he testified before two Royal Commissions investigating the medical and military management of the

war in South Africa. One can only imagine how the army might have benefited from the new idea of prophylactic vaccination in preventive medicine if Conan Doyle had not let these opportunities slip away. Consequently, anti-typhoid inoculation was still voluntary when Great Britain entered the First World War in August 1914.

In *The Great Boer War*, Conan Doyle wrote:

> How great was the strain only those who had to meet it can tell? The exertions of the military hospitals and of those others which were fitted out by private benevolence sufficed, after a long struggle, to meet the crisis. At Bloemfontein alone as many as fifty men died in one day, and more than 1,000 new graves in the cemetery testify to the severity of the epidemic. No men in the campaign served their country more truly than the officers and men of the medical service, nor can anyone who went through the epidemic forget the bravery and unselfishness of those admirable nursing sisters who set the men around them a higher standard of devotion to duty. (5)

Mortimer Menpes (1855-1938), an artist for the *Illustrated London News* who visited Langman Hospital to interview and sketch Conan Doyle, noted that the wards resembled a slaughterhouse.

"I have seen dreadful sights in my life; but I have never seen anything quite equal to this – the place was saturated with enteric fever, and patients were swarming in at such a rate that it was impossible to attend them all." (6)

To cope with this tremendous patient load, Conan Doyle and his coll-eagues worked tirelessly from morning to night. Moved by Conan Doyle's dedication, Menpes continued with "I never saw a man throw himself into duty so thoroughly heart-and-soul."

Conan Doyle ready to explore.

Blasson's diary entries during this period concentrated on personal events outside the

Conan Doyle visiting Canadian patients with Charles Blasson assisting.

hospital, as well as the health issues of his colleagues, tales of incidents with friends and the activities of Conan Doyle in his travels to and from the front. Blasson reports that, as Conan Doyle's dresser, he made the round of the patients each morning. Such an event was captured in the illustration on page 27 from the *Illustrated London News* dated June 2, 1900.

It would appear that Blasson agreed to act as a clerk; copying out, in a clear hand, Conan Doyle's notes before mailing them back to England for him. The notes resulted from his visits to the front, and likely they formed a foundation for his *The Great Boer War*. Blasson reported that he was paid extra by Conan Doyle for this work.

On May 24, 1900, Bloemfontein celebrated in grand style the birthday of that "certain gracious lady," Queen Victoria. Blasson writes:

> Thursday 24th May
>
> Today is the Queen's 81st birthday. Bloemfontein is gay with flags and bunting. One would little think that less than ten weeks ago this town was the Boer capital and overflowing with men armed to the teeth, prepared to withstand Lord Roberts with his 80,000 men. Turle, Mayes and I went to see the grand review in the morning. There were about 4,000 troops on parade, the number left behind by Roberts to garrison the town. Crowds turned out to witness the march past, which must have impressed the natives very much.
>
> We had dinner about 6:30 in time for the concert in the evening in honour of Her Majesty. Conan Doyle was kind enough to give us reserve seat tickets. He also read the chapter from his Brigadier Gerard entitled 'The Brigadier and the Fox.' The audience were very delighted with him. He read splendidly.

Life in Bloemfontein continued, with Conan Doyle managing many excursions to battle zones, interviewing senior officers, and gathering notes and material for Blasson to write up. Typical titles included: *Paardeberg* and *Advance on Bloemfontein.* Blasson notes that on June 14, Conan Doyle gave him £5:5s in payment.

Conan Doyle left Bloemfontein on July 6, heading for home via Cape Town and sailing on the *SS Briton*. (7)

Blasson stayed behind in Bloemfontein. The hospital was moved to Pretoria in late July. Sadly, he died two days after arriving in Pretoria on his 23rd birthday – likely of the effects of enteric fever. He is buried in Pretoria.

On learning of his death, Conan Doyle wrote to a letter to his mother that praised the young man as "a fine fellow, always cheery and bright, with a remarkably good head also. I was very fond of him." (8)

In the preface to *The Great Boer War*, Conan Doyle writes:

> There are many who have helped me in my task, but I would especially acknowledge the cooperation of Mr. Blasson of the Langman Hospital, now dead in the service of his country . . . who collected and arranged my material.

Langmam Hospital Staff, self-described: Back at Café Enterique, Boulevard des Microbes.

Conan Doyle returned home with material for his historical writing and a swirl of controversy.

Conservative MP William Burdett-Coutts, in a series of reports to *The Times,* raised alarm about ravages of typhoid in South Africa and criticized the incompetence of the Royal Army Medical Corps. Conan Doyle testified at the subsequent Commission of Inquiry and praised the heroic efforts of all involved. However, he also encouraged a better understanding of the transmission of the disease and urged the Army to require typhoid inoculations.

His book, *The Great Boer War*, was a huge success, selling thousands of copies. For historians of today, however – like his Great War histories to come, Conan Doyle wrote based only on what he learned from the generals he visited and therefore presented a rather narrow view of the situation.

The surrender of Pretoria in the spring of 1900 brought a short calm but many determined Boers adopted guerrilla warfare, at which they excelled, primarily conducting raids against railways, resource and supply targets, all aimed at disrupting the operational capacity of the British Army. They avoided pitched battles and casualties were light.

The British then implemented a "scorched earth" policy under which they targeted everything within the controlled areas that could give sustenance to the Boer guerrillas with a view to making it harder for the Boers to survive. As British troops swept the countryside, they systematically destroyed crops, burned homesteads and farms and interned Boer and African men, women, children and workers in concentration camps.

The outrage that arose around the world against these British actions alarmed the patriot in Conan Doyle.

The result was a small pamphlet titled *The War in South Africa, Its Cause and Conduct.* In *Memories and Adventures*, Conan Doyle wrote:

> One of the most pleasing and complete episodes in my life was connected with the pamphlet which I wrote upon the methods and objects of our soldiers in South Africa. It was an attempt to stem the extraordinary outbreak of defamation which had broken out in every country. (9)

Conan Doyle wrote the pamphlet in a very short time using extracts from *The Great Boer War*. Thousands of copies in several languages were published and the booklet was widely distributed.

The success of this booklet apparently impressed the new King Edward VII enough that in October 1902 Conan Doyle became Sir Arthur Conan

Doyle – and at the same time was appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey.

The four months Conan Doyle spent in South Africa certainly gave him experiences, helped him form opinions, and played a major role in his subsequent life and career. Sadly, as for so many young men who, in history, have gone off to war, the promising young Charles Blasson was unable to fulfill his life.

References

(1) Dresser: In Great Britain, a surgical assistant whose primary duty is bandaging and dressing wounds.

(2) Cooper, Ken: *Aide-de-Camp to Conan Doyle: The Boer War Diary of Charles Blasson,* CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013. Available on Amazon. The term "Aide de Camp" was chosen as the author felt that "Dresser" would not be a term familiar to many.

(3) Bolton was a fellow medical student at University College in London.

(4) Field Marshal Frederick Sleigh Roberts, 1st Earl Roberts, VC, KG, KP, GCB, OM, GCSI, GCIE, KStJ, VD, PC, FRSGS was a British Victorian era general who became one of the most successful British military commanders of his time. A man of small stature, Roberts was affectionately known to his troops and the wider British public as "Bobs" and revered as one of Britain's leading military figures at a time when the British Empire reached the height of its power. Roberts would go on to serve as the Commander-in-Chief, India before leading British Forces to success in the Second Boer War. He also became the last Commander-in-Chief of the Forces before the post was abolished in 1904.

(5) Doyle, Arthur Conan, *The Great Boer War,* George N. Morang, Toronto, 1900.

(6) Menpes, Mortimer: *War Impressions: Being a Record in Colour,* Adam & Charles Black, London, 1901, pg 153-154. Included in the book is a delightful sketch of Conan Doyle at his desk in Bloemfontein.

(7) And it was on this voyage that Conan Doyle met Bertram Fletcher Robinson and the seeds of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* were sown.

(8) The original of this letter is now in the Conan Doyle Collection of the Toronto Public Library

(9) Doyle, Arthur Conan, *Memories and Adventures*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne, 2009, p135.

“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.

Two years ago, Andrew Lycett drew long-overdue attention to Conan Doyle’s talent for travel writing in *Conan Doyle’s Wide World* (Bloomsbury, 2020). Anyone in doubt would do well to read ‘Life on a Greenland Whaler,’ Conan Doyle’s account of his seven-month voyage aboard the *Hope* in 1880.

In many ways, the article is the perfect demonstration of Conan Doyle’s storytelling abilities, despite being non-fiction. In 10 pages, we have a dazzling number of vignettes in an array of literary styles, from the obvious sporting stories of hunting and even boxing, to his comic adventures as “the great northern diver,” and romance of a sort in the sentimental songs of the steward and the spellbound love of life aboard ship. There’s even a mystery in the form of the handsome, tall, dark-eyed man, suspected of being on the run from the law who brains the cook with a copper pan. “I could believe from his appearance that his temper was Satanic, and that the crime for which he was hiding may have been a bloody one.” This is in no way a dry account.

Horror is perhaps the most obvious genre, and to our modern sensibilities the bloody slaughter is painful to read. The cold, scientific precision with which the crew triangulates the breeding site of the seals is followed by the crew’s restless wait until midnight chimes on 3 April and the slaughter can begin. “Their half-human cries fill the air; and when you are sitting in the cabin of a ship which is in the heart of the seal pack, you would think you were next door to a monstrous nursery.” After the seals, there is the grim attrition of the killing of the Greenland whale, the men turning their backs to the creature and heaving with the ropes, while the harpooner shoots at point-blank range. It was for good reason that Conan Doyle, musing on the topic in *Through the Magic Door* (1907) 10 years later, wrote the Arctic could be “both the most lovely and the most repellent upon earth.”

In all this, Conan Doyle is careful not to make his shipmates criminals. There is enjoyment of the hunt and the victory on his part, for sure, but no blood lust, and he is careful to explain the professionalism and skill of the men. He is not afraid to cite the complicity of consumers: "An inexorable demand creates an inexorable supply," he writes, "and the seals, by their death, help to give a living to the long line of seamen, dockers, tanners, curers, triers, chandlers, leather merchants, and oil-sellers, who stand between this annual butchery on the one hand, and the exquisite, with his soft leather boots, or the savant, using a delicate oil for his philosophical instruments, upon the other."

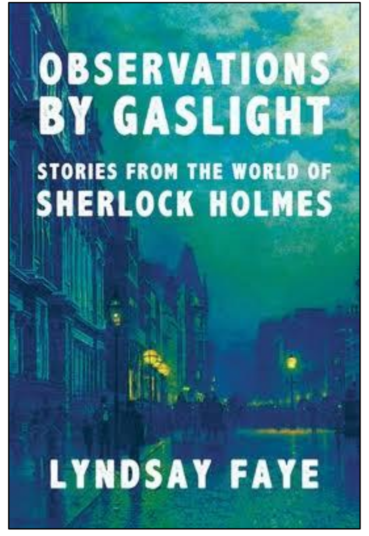
Indeed, this article finds Conan Doyle in an unusually philosophical mood. The slaughter "is brutal work, though not more brutal than that which goes on to supply every dinner-table in the country," he notes. He offers passing criticism of the standards by which proficiency is measured, praising one man who is "an officer by natural selection, which is a higher title than that of a Board of Trade certificate." Perhaps this was an unconscious reflection of his own status as ship's surgeon, a title for which he was not called on to prove his worth, but which he no doubt felt he earned, despite a knowledge of medicine that was "that of an average third year's student." When he finally escapes the eternal daytime of the Arctic circle and sees a star a-new, he wistfully notes that "half the beauties of Nature are lost through over-familiarity." The whole account is framed as a blissful melancholic reflection of a bygone age.

Above all, this is Conan Doyle's recollection of an adventure that coloured his life. Of his knee-jerk decision to accept the berth, he writes "in an instant the thing was settled, and within a few minutes the current of my life had been deflected into a new channel." All life is here, the friendship, laughter, horror and drama. As Owen Dudley Edwards noted, "it was the sea that discovered the literary genius of Arthur Conan Doyle." We see it not just in tales of the sea, like the beautifully haunting 'The Captain of the Pole-star' or the gruesome 'Black Peter,' but in the rich cast of characters he created in all his works.

References

Edwards, Owen Dudley, *The Quest for Conan Doyle*, Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, England, 1984, p.225.

“Holmes gave me a brief review”

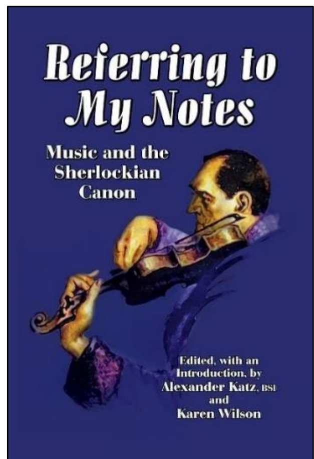


Observations by Gaslight by Lyndsay Faye (The Mysterious Press, $34.95 CAD, hardcover)

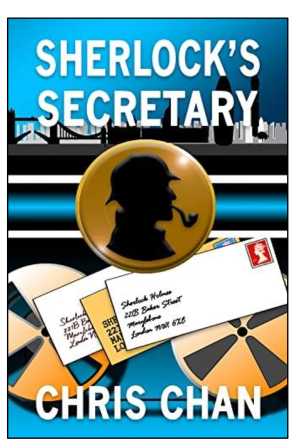
This pastiche collection has six stories, each told from the perspective of a secondary character in the Canon. The narrators include well-defined figures like Irene Adler and Wiggins, along with more shadowy ones like Stanley Hopkins and Lomax. The stories include prequels and sequels to the originals in which the characters appeared and are told in formats that include diary entries and letters. There is intrigue tied to a collection of antique clocks that has fallen silent, and more than one mysterious box of which to be wary. In addition, personal tragedies that shaped the lives of both Lestrade and Mrs. Hudson are revealed.

Readers will gain fresh insight into each supporting character who takes a turn on the main stage and will enjoy seeing Holmes and Watson in a new light. The detective has moments where he is funny and caring; protective and concerned; arrogant and addicted. Similarly, Dr. Watson’s humanity is on display as he talks about his gambling problem and lends support to yet another troubled relative. Faye is an accomplished writer of fiction with historical and literary themes, so it’s a treat when she returns to Sherlock Holmes and his world. – JoAnn Alberstat

Referring to My Notes: Music and the Sherlockian Canon edited by Alexander Katz and Karen Wilson (2021, Baker Street Irregulars Press, $39.95 USD, hardcover) This book is a long overdue companion to Guy Warrack’s *Sherlock Holmes and Music* (1947). While Warrack concentrated on references to music in the stories, the scope of this book is much broader, with sections on the violin, Irene Adler, music in the world of Sherlock Holmes, and music inspired by Holmes, each section having two to five contributions by knowledgeable authors. Some are quite



serious but most have a light tone. Among the random pieces of information which caught my interest: there is a difference between a gramophone and a phonograph; Doyle learned to play the banjo, possibly to entertain his young children; 15 of Doyle's poems were set to music during his lifetime by composers as famous and diverse as Charles Villiers Stanford and Eric Coates; and the Victorian music hall makes only one appearance in the Canon. The most delightful chapter is Bonnie MacBird's interview with concert violinist Bruce Dukov, who played Sarasate in the Granada episode "The Red-Headed League." The final chapters discuss music at early meetings of the Baker Street Irregulars and the two major attempts to fashion a Broadway/West End musical of Sherlock Holmes, with varying results. While this book will be of great interest to Sherlockians of a musical bent, it should also be enjoyable for general readers. - Jim Ballinger



Sherlock's Secretary, by Chris Chan (2021, MX Publishing, $25.20 CAD, paperback)

I have reviewed Chris Chan's short story *The Man in the Maroon Suit* and his book *Sherlock and Irene: The Secret Behind a Scandal in Bohemia* and I thoroughly enjoyed them. But *Sherlock's Secretary* eclipses both stories as a splendid full-length novel that I read in one sitting. Chris Chan is a writer with a rare gift of humour mixed with strong Sherlockian knowledge. This delightful book will hopefully lead to others. Chan provides a fresh and welcome contribution to the pastiche genre.

The notion that someone answering letters addressed to Sherlock Holmes at 221B Baker Street is not a new premise. But the moment I read that Adelbert Zhuang was answering them I knew that this tale was going to be unique. (Adelbert is the given name for Baron Gruner in "The Adventure of the Illustrious Client.")

Adelbert (aka Addy) works for a bank in a large building that straddles the famous 221B address. The bank employed Addy to answer letters delivered there addressed to Holmes as a public relations position. The

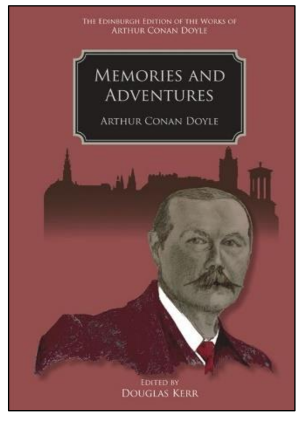
bank also gave him a small budget to "dress" his office with items relating to the great detective. Occasional tours were given to the public. On the first page, Addy is speaking to Inspector Dankworth about being bound to a chair by two men who were dressed in overcoats and wore fake noses and eyeglasses as a disguise. I began to laugh as Addy sets off to find the men who absconded with nothing but three seemingly random letters.

As the story began to unwind, I realized that Chan's style was reminiscent of G.K. Chesterton. Extraordinary things happened to very ordinary people who have extraordinary names. Silas Crumpet and Rafferty Jarsdel III come to mind. (The latter perhaps a nod to Scottish song writer Gerry Rafferty who wrote "Baker Street.")

The author takes a circuitous route through hilarious scenarios, with each one linking seamlessly to the next.

I am looking forward to Chan's next book with great anticipation.

- Wendy Heyman- Marsaw



Memories and Adventures by Arthur Conan Doyle, edited by: Douglas Kerr (2021, Edinburgh University Press, $195.00 USD, hardcover)

All students of ACD's works know and appreciate this autobiography of life in literature, medicine, travel, sport and spiritualism. This new edition, however, the first of a series of books from Edinburgh University Press, includes a collation of four versions of the book including manuscripts, an introduction by Kerr that couldn't be better or more complete, textual notes pointing out all significant revisions and variations, and explanatory notes.

The book is over 540 pages with another 40 pages of unpaginated introductory matter, making this a substantial book, along with an equally substantial price tag. However, for those who want a very serious and, at times, academic look at ACD's life in his own words this is the definitive version to date.

The content after Conan Doyle's *Memories and Adventures* is the part that scholars will sink their teeth into. A listing and brief biography of many of the people and places mentioned and an in-depth look at the various versions of the book from manuscript forward makes this a compelling read for anyone interested in ACD's life. Kerr's "An Essay on the Text" is an interesting read for any bibliophile. - Mark Alberstat

etter to the Editors

Dear Editors:

I have a few issues with the Milverton murder by Holmes and Watson article written adventurously by Rick Krisciunas (Spring 2021).

The most inescapably applicable quote was “Hell Hath No Fury Like a Woman Scorned.”

That’s the motive. Regal Lady was adrenaline-fueled before, during and after.

There was no stopping that revenge.

I know this from personal experience when a little neighbour threw a brick at me from the other side of our garden wall.

Garden brick walls.

Many houses had them. We had one, and there were many boy vs. girl military-style battles in my youth.

The bricks also had pits and edges where we would get a foothold in for climbing.

Watson may have once been one of the clumsier boys on the other side of the wall.

Could Regal Lady recall the fitness of her youth?

Leave the corset. Take the wall.

I write this letter on March 8, International Women’s Day, I believe she could. Intention and deviltry were her motivators.

As to Holmes’s motivation to murder Milverton: pshaw!

No way would Watson and Holmes be complicit–within minutes–in reacting to being caught in the act of breaking and entering by shooting Milverton. Those are the acts of indiscriminate individuals.

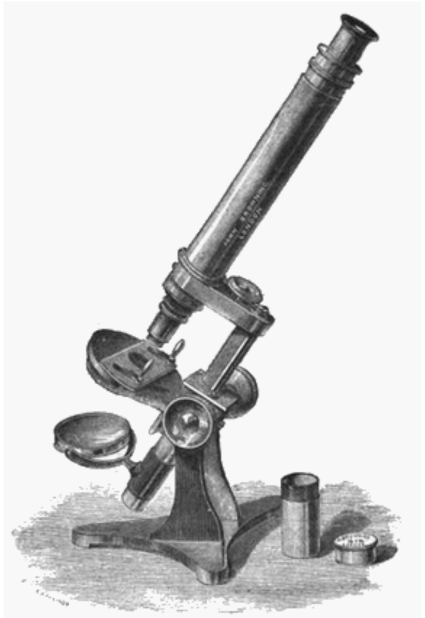
“Whooo,” hoots the owl, would bring this charge against them? They were British heroes.

And what jury would convict them?

Sadly, life imprisonment or transportation of thieves were penalties imposed on poor and lowly convicts.

– Brenda Rossini

Strictly Personal



Where a Canadian Sherlockian goes under the microscope.

Name: David Sanders

Age: 73

Birthplace: Toronto, Ontario.

Occupation: Retired, Lab technician and store clerk.

Current City of occupation: Toronto, Ontario.

Major accomplishment: Being invested as a Master Bootmaker in 1995.

Major goal in life: To learn as much as I can about everything.

A great evening for me: Getting together with friends for dinner.

Currently working on: A directory of historical events for each day of the year.

Three favourite canonical tales: The Speckled Band (read in grade 5, and my first encounter with Holmes), *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, A Scandal in Bohemia.

Favourite Sherlock Movie: The Hammer *Hound* (though didn't like making Beryl into a villain.)

Favourite non-Sherlockian movie: *2001: A Space Odyssey*, saw it 34 times in its 3.5-year world record run in Toronto.

If I could live in any era which would it be? The era of Sherlock Holmes, of course.

First learned of The Bootmakers: Donald Redmond being interviewed on TV Ontario during the showing of two Rathbone movies.

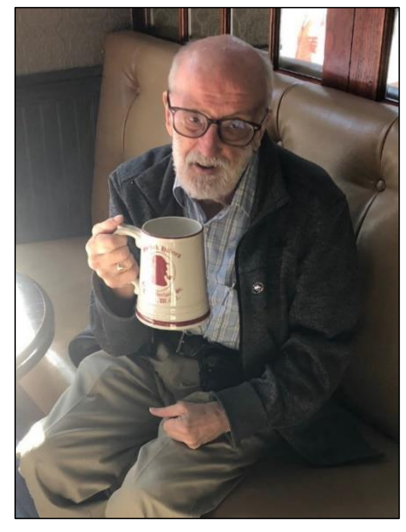
Epitaph: Friends are worth more than gold.

If I could ask Holmes, Watson and Doyle each one question, it would be:

Holmes: Why did you decline an English knighthood but accepted its French equivalent, The Legon of Honour?

Watson: Are you angry that Nigel Bruce made you look like an idiot?

Doyle: Why do you hate Holmes, the most popular character you ever created?



Last words: Not yet, I still have hundreds of books I want to read.

What question would I wish had been asked? How did Sherlock Holmes change your life?

Bootmakers' Diary continued from page 40

Mike then asked Chris Redmond to introduce our next speaker, Roger Johnson. Johnson was the co-editor of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* for 15 years. He was invested in the Baker Street Irregulars in 1991. His wife Jean Upton was invested in 2000.

His topic is *How Fearful Was My Valley*. He began by saying that he will not "play the Game," admitting that Holmes is the fictional creation of Conan Doyle. *The Valley of Fear* has divided readers for many years. He considers the second part of the novel to be the first American hard-boiled detective novel.

Johnson then spent a few minutes talking about the British and Canadian connections to the world of Sherlock Holmes.

Karen Campbell presented the "Wisteria Lodge" quiz. The winners were Bruce Aikin and Markéta Kočí. The quiz prizes will be provided by George Vanderburgh.

Karen Gold presented her song for Wisteria Lodge, *The Tiger of San Pedro*, sung to the tune of T-Bone Walker's *Stormy Monday*.

Mark Hanson gave the wrap-up for the story. He read his entry from Chris Redmond's book *About Sixty*, which told why this is the best story in the Sherlockian Canon.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

... it is a page from some private diary.
— The Five Orange Pips

Saturday, February 26, 2022 - *The Valley of Fear*

Just past 1 p.m. Mike Ranieri called the 77 attendees to order.

He began by announcing that long time Bootmaker Ed Van der Flaes had died. This was followed by a moving tribute by Doug Wrigglesworth.

Hartley Nathan gave praise to Mike Whelan, for many years president of the Baker Street Irregulars, who died in late 2021.

Donny Zaldin then spoke of the connection both had with the Bootmakers and Irregulars.

Mike then announced that the Gallery at the entrance to the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library had opened a display on Sherlock Holmes which would run untill April 16.

He then gave an update on the Jubilee@221B conference, celebrating the 50 years of the Bootmakers existence, to be held in September in conjunction with the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection.

Mike then introduced Scott McQuaid and Alexandria Tan. They are two actors who, because theatres have been closed by Covid, have been doing pop-up plays on the internet. Some of these involve Holmes and Watson in different places in time and space and are written by McQuaid.

This was followed by a video highlighting the runners up for the Warren Carlton Award.

After an introduction by Mike, Daniel Friedman related in "Buried Treasures in the Sign of the Four" that there was good evidence that Robert Louis Stevenson based Long John Silver on a real person, an acquaintance who had lost a foot due to illness; and that Doyle had likely used Long John as the basis for one-legged Jonathan Small.

There was then a short video promoting *Canadian Holmes*, which comes to Bootmakers with their membership in print or electronic form.

Karen Campbell was unable to make the meeting so Mike administered her quiz, the winners being Sue Dalinger, Russell Merritt, and David Warren. Prizes were donated by George Vanderburgh.

Jim Ballinger sang his original song about *The Valley of Fear*.

The meeting then concluded with a reminder that the next meeting would be about "The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge" on Saturday, April 2.

- David Sanders M.Bt

Saturday, April 2, 2022

The Bootmakers of Toronto met on Zoom on Saturday, April 2, 2022, to consider "The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge."

There were 70 people in attendance, including a first-time visitor from Egypt.

Mike Ranieri called the meeting to order at 1:04 P.M.

Mike made a number of announcements:

The Toronto Reference Library display, *A Study in Sherlock and His Creator*, will be open until April 16th.

The 50th Anniversary Conference for the Bootmakers and the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection will be called *Jubilee @ 221B: 50 Years of the Bootmakers of Toronto and the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection*. It will be held on the weekend of Friday, September 23 to Sunday, September 25, 2022.

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

The main speaker will be Nicholas Meyer, author of *The Seven Percent Solution* and *The West End Horror.*

Mike then asked Roger Johnson to introduce our special guest speaker David Stuart Davies. Davies did not have prepared speech but did an interview with questions from the audience. Among the topics he discussed were:

The plays and books he had written.

Holmes on the screen – movie and television adaptations; he said that updated versions of Holmes like *Enola Holmes* and the Benedict Cumberbatch's *Sherlock* series were enjoyable.

He told about interviewing Jeremy Brett. The publicist gave him 10 minutes, but Brett gave him over an hour. He would like to republish his biography of Jeremy Brett, *Bending the Willow*.

Davies told the story about how his first book about Sherlock Holmes came to be published. In his senior year at university, he wanted to do his thesis on Conan Doyle, but was told he was not important enough of a writer. On his own he did a project on Sherlock Holmes on film. He sent it to a publisher, and it was accepted.

He has stories in two new books, *Sherlock Holmes: Revenge from the Grave*, which was just released and *A Detective's Life*, set to be released in September. They will be available through amazon.com.

…Continued on page 38

Return Postage Guaranteed
The Bootmakers of Toronto
2045 Lake Shore Blvd. West
Suite 3303
Etobicoke, ON
M8V 2Z6
Canada