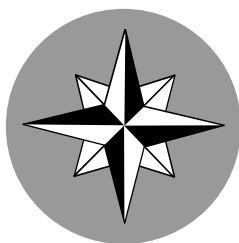




EXPLORATIONS



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since the last issue of *Explorations* was published, I am pleased to report that three new members have joined our scion society. Please join me in welcoming Judith Freeman of New York, NY, and Rachel and Satish Ramadhyani of Minneapolis to the ranks of the Explorers.

"The Illustrious Client" was a well-done and well-attended event held at the Pavek Museum of Radio Broadcasting on April 27. Our thanks go to the members of the Red-Throated League who did another wonderful job of presenting an Edith Meiser radio script. Bob and Lucy Brusic, Jerry Gammell, Karen Ellery, Julie Schramke, Rolf Canton, Lisa Horton, Jamie Hubbs, and

Wade and Mary Manthie, with the able assistance of sound effects personnel Bill Teeple and Adam Brusic and accompanist Morva Klein, succeeded in recreating the golden age of radio.

I was fortunate to visit New York early in May and attend ASH Wednesday, the informal dinner held on the first Wednesday of each month for local Sherlockians. Mike and I weren't the only Minnesotans there that evening. Across the table from me was Bruce Southworth, and we all enjoyed a fine evening with fellow Explorer Peter Crupe and others. Organizing the dinner were Evelyn Herzog, another Ex-

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

2002 Christmas Annual	2
The Worst Gaps in My Library	3
STUD Weekend	4
Book Review	5
Internet Explorations	6
Famous Quotes	7
CDI or Conan Doyle Index	8
Study Group	9
Found but Not Lost	12



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Thank you to those who emailed or called to say you like the new look of EXPLORATIONS.

The Editor's Desk has been blessed with a steady stream of submissions. With this issue we begin publishing winning entries from our annual Sigerson Awards competition, opening with Phil Swiggum's "The Worst Gaps In My Library." We also resume Phil Bergem's recurring feature "Internet Explorations" and inaugurate a new feature, "Found but Not Lost," in which Explorers report on

items of interest encountered in their readings. Pastor Robert Brusic reviews a recent clerical pastiche, and our Treasurer, Mike Eckman, looks at Conan Doyle's finances. As usual, we take a look at recent Explorer and Study Group happenings and highlights events in the wider Sherlockian world attended by Explorers over the past few months.

Please email items for submission in Microsoft Word or plain text format to bergq003@tc.umn.edu. ❖

EXPLORERS' HAPPENINGS

NORWEGIAN EXPLORERS' 2002 CHRISTMAS ANNUAL

Earlier this year, all subscribers to Explorations should have received a separate mailing announcing our plans to publish a 2002 Christmas Annual. The response to date has been enthusiastic! Although I had asked for submitters to let me know their plans by June 1, it's still not too late to submit a piece. Submissions can be in the form of a Sherlockian or Doylean essay, pas-

tiche, poem, drawing, puzzle, quiz or other appropriate piece, preferably with a holiday theme. Please limit submissions to 1,500 words or fewer and get them to me by October 1 at the latest. Electronic submissions preferred; please email to me at bergq003@tc.umn.edu. ❖

John Bergquist

It's still not too late to submit a piece for the 2002 Christmas Annual.

MARK SEPTEMBER 19 ON YOUR CALENDARS. Steve Doyle, B.S.I., will be visiting us from Indianapolis and will be the guest speaker that evening at the combined Norwegian Explorers and Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections meeting. You won't want to miss Steve, who is an engaging speaker and knowledgeable publisher. September 19 at 7 pm at the Elmer L. Andersen Library.

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)
plorer, and Susan Rice. Congratulations to Karen Murdock who attended her first Annual Spring ASH dinner earlier this month. *(Editor's note: My wife, Inez, and I also attended the Annual Spring ASH dinner, as well as the Annual Spring Meeting of Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers. Look for a report in the next issue of EXPLORATIONS.)*

Another item of interest for me this spring was the opportunity to teach a class at the Minnesota Business Academy, located in the old Science Museum building in St. Paul. The focus of this high school English class was the study of heroes, and I was asked to teach an 80-minute class on Holmes. It was a gratifying experience to have the opportunity to discuss both Holmes and Conan Doyle in the context of heroes and their actions, and considering the fact that the class was held right before the lunch break, it went well.

On Sunday, June 9, I attended a book-signing event at Once Upon a Crime with British mystery writer Peter Lovesey. In his remarks, he mentioned Sherlock Holmes three times, noting that Holmes was one of

his earliest influences. If you're interested in the chance to meet authors like Lovesey, you might consider joining the email list for Once Upon a Crime. Steve Stilwell and his staff send out email notices of authors who make appearances at the store. They also have a printed notice of upcoming events. They can be reached at OnceUponCrime@aol.com.

Although most of us didn't believe it would happen, it seems that summer has finally arrived. With the upcoming busy months of family vacations, sporting events and maybe even a little relaxation, the Norwegian Explorers organization officially begins our own summer recess. The Study Group will meet next on Sept. 21, marking the end of our "great hiatus." If you're not a member of the Study Group and would like to be included in this monthly discussion of the Canon, please let me know. Until then, enjoy the weather, keep reading, and take care. ❖

Julie McKuras, A.S.H., B.S.I.
Email - Mike9750@aol.com
952-431-1934

THE WORST GAPS IN MY LIBRARY

BY PHIL SWIGGUM



**"Sherlockiana
can be
overwhelming for
newcomers to
the game."**

One of the pleasant diversions of the great game we play is taking a little time off to explore the many literary backwaters that occasionally intersect with the Master Detective in some fashion. These literary backwaters are usually only referred to by footnotes or postscripts and offer the alert reader a chance to gain new perspectives on familiar grounds previously thought to be completely researched or maybe even conceptual dead ends.

Along these lines, during a visit to Special Collections several years ago before the bulk of the JBS (John Bennett Shaw) collection arrived, and by pure happenstance, one of John's letters caught my attention. It was written in the mid 1970's to a fellow Irregular and mentioned the passing of Vincent Starrett, a recent BSI dinner, etc. However, the postscript John wrote to the letter was an eye opener for me. It read,

"P.S. Oh, yes. The worst gaps in my library are three: *Beeton's* (1) and two of the Honce classics. If you should ever hear of *Tales from a Beekman Hill Library* (2) or *Public Papers of a Bibliomaniac* (3) being offered for sale, please let me know."

John's postscript has several points of interest. To see what books have eluded capture by a master collector and, even more importantly, what books a master collector confides to an insider are at the top of his 'wants list' is great information to have, especially for a novice collector. Also, it obviously is a good example of Sherlockian networking between collectors.

The specific books John references are easy to describe but probably well out of reach for most collectors. *Beeton's Christmas Annual* appeared in 1887 and contained the first appearance by Holmes and Watson in *A Study in Scarlet*. It is the BIG BANG of Sherlockiana and you will need to take out a home equity loan in order to buy it, assuming it is available in the marketplace to begin with! Catherine Cooke has described Samuel Beeton and *Beeton's Christmas Annual* in her excellent introduction to Magico's reproduction (4). In Ms. Cooke's own words,

"Beeton founded his annual in 1860 and

edited it until 1865, after which it passed with the other stock to Ward, Lock and Co., who continued to publish it until 1898, a total of 39 issues. Beeton died on June 6, 1877...(It) must surely be one of the rarest books of modern times. A recently quoted estimation of the number of such copies was six, world-wide, with relatively few incomplete ones either, come to that. The British Library's copy was destroyed in bombing raids."

The other reference in John's postscript is to Charles Honce (1896-1975), who was an Associated Press news writer. Many references to him can be found in the BSI Archival Series (5). Honce published several books in limited editions of 100 or so copies in the 1940's and 1950's. The JBS collection does contain copy no. 96 of *Tales from a Beekman Hill Library* with John's bookplate inside, so he did finally capture the volume at some point in time. It is a beautifully prepared and bound book that can be read effortlessly. The pages turn themselves. It contains fifteen of Honce's A.P. articles with each one dated in the early 1950's. Two of the articles are of Sherlockian content and discuss the move of the Sherlock Holmes 1951 British Festival exhibit from London to New York.

In conclusion, John's postscript to his letter, probably written as an afterthought, proved to be a marker and guide for me. Sherlockiana can be overwhelming for newcomers to the game and yes, although they won't admit it, probably overwhelming for the experts at times also. ❖

Phil Swiggum

1. *Beeton's Christmas Annual*, London: Ward, Lock, and Co., 1887
2. Charles Honce, *Tales from a Beekman Hill Library*, Mt. Vernon: Golden Eagle Press, 1952
3. Charles Honce, *Public Papers of a Bibliomaniac*, Mt. Vernon: Golden Eagle Press, 1942
4. *Beeton's Christmas Annual*, New York: Magico Magazine, 1987
5. Jon L. Lellenberg, ed., *Irregular Records of the Early 'Forties*, New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 1991

THE STUD WEEKEND

Norwegian Explorers Dick Sveum, John and Steve Bergquist and I traveled to Chicago over the weekend of May 3 - 5 to enjoy the numerous events of the annual STUD/Watsonian weekend. It's not the first time we've enjoyed the occasion, and with the fun and camaraderie of the three days, it won't be the last.

The STUD society, dedicated to the study of "A Study in Scarlet," combined their two big events that were previously held on separate weekends into one weekend this year. The events started off with a pizza party at the home of Studmaster Allan Devitt and Susan Diamond. We were able to greet a great number of Sherlockians, including Explorers Fred Levin of Chicago, Joe Eckrich of Fenton, MO, Gordon Speck of Waterloo, IL., and the newest Explorer, Judith Freeman of New York.

After a late night, the next day began with The Solar Pons/Fortescue Honours Brunch at Shanahan's in Forest Park. During the brunch, degrees were handed out for those who in the past year had successfully completed portions or all of the three-part examination that comprise the Fortescue Scholarship Program. Steve Bergquist received his *Baccalaureatus Scientia in Sherlockiana*, and I received that degree as well as the *Artium Magister in Sherlockiana* and the *Doctorate in Sherlockiana*. (Steve's father, John, had earned all three degrees last year, receiving his ShD. degree at the Fortescue Honours Brunch in July, 2001.) Following the brunch we adjourned to the Centuries and Sleuths Bookstore. Imagine that: a bunch of Sherlockians at a mystery bookstore...

Everyone went their separate ways that afternoon, with some of us going to more bookstores, and meeting at 6 pm for the STUD Annual Dinner. The dinner was held at the Ridgemoor Country Club in Harwood Heights. Roy Pilot was the featured speaker, and he en-



Norwegian Explorer Steve Bergquist became the youngest Sherlockian ever to receive his B.S.S. degree, while Explorers President Julie McKuras received her Sh.D. degree.

tertained us with a talk and slides about one of Conan Doyle's business ventures. As usual, a raffle was held and many of us left with door prizes.

Sunday morning found us at The Watsonian's 43rd Annual Silver Blaze at the Hawthorne Race Course in Cicero. Brunch was held in the Gold Cup Room and emotions ran high as we

looked over the field. It was off to the races beginning at 1 pm. I'm sure that less money was bet on the races than was spent at local bookstores, but some adventurous members of the group came away winners. The fifth race of the day was the Silver Blaze. Immediately after the race, Susan Diamond invited representatives of many of the out-of-town scions to step into the Winner's Circle for the traditional photograph. I've never felt so tall as when I stood next to the jockey!

And then it was time to begin the long drive home, which allowed us the opportunity to review the past days. It was a wonderful time and we all enjoyed the opportunity to visit with old friends and meet new ones. I'm sure next year will find us back in Chicago for another great STUD weekend. ♦

Julie McKuras, A.S.H., B.S.I.



"We all enjoyed the opportunity to visit with old friends and meet new ones."

NIGHT WATCH: A LONG-LOST ADVENTURE IN WHICH SHERLOCK HOLMES MEETS FATHER BROWN

by Stephen Kendrick. New York: Pantheon Books, 2001. Pp. 258. \$23.00 cloth.

Book review by Robert Brusic

"It is altogether satisfying to watch these two truth-seekers work with each other."

"Of making many books there is no end," says the dour observer at the end of the biblical book of Ecclesiastes, thus demonstrating (to his satisfaction, at least) that even books are vanity of vanities, all is vanity. Many observers of Holmesian pastiche are inclined to have a similar opinion with regard to this genre. However, they might be persuaded to overcome their bias when considering Stephen Kendrick's recent "long-lost" adventure of Sherlock Holmes.

For one thing, it is a crackling good mystery that observes all the proprieties. The narrative is set in a church during the long watch of an early Christmas Day. It is really a variation on the locked room puzzle; in this case it might be considered a closed close mystery. Leaders of the world's major religious bodies are called to a secret interfaith Parliament in a London church. They represent the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Buddhist, Jewish, Hindu, and Islamic faiths.

The presence of these clerics lends a certain religious air to the story, to be sure. But these characters and the church in which the story unfolds are not there for doctrinal purposes; rather, they provide the book with a singular setting for dastardly doings. During their long night meeting a priest's mutilated body is found in the church. And nothing thereafter, not even that mutilated body, is as it seems.

One of the shadowy characters who emerges into the light of that Christmas morning is a young curate, Paul Brown. Small, rotund and in his early twenties, Father Brown is an aide to the delegate from the Vatican. This enigmatic and intuitive priest sets up a delightful counterpoint to the more logical Holmes. Each man uses different methods, of course. But both are determined to find the truth.

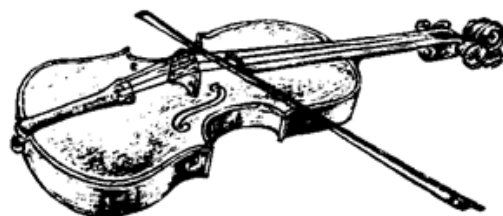
Watson says it well when he notes at the end of the book, "I do not know if in these

long conversations Holmes and Father Brown changed each other's views at all, but these two detectives never stopped looking for, or hoping for at least a glimpse of (for a glimpse is all we are ever given), the promise of truth." (258) It is altogether satisfying to watch these two truth-seekers work with each other, especially when Father Brown discloses a solution to the case that runs deeper and truer than Holmes.

The sturdy Watson, the stalwart Les-trade, and the manipulative Mycroft play significant roles in this long and confusing night watch as well. Things move slowly in the first part of the book, which might cause a certain amount of impatience for the reader. But once things are set up and the players are in place, the burst of action, when it comes, is breathtaking. When Watson crawls out onto the icy parapet of the church's roof in the snowy Christmas dawn, he proves himself both reliable and resourceful. However, even this slippery and exciting denouement, like that mutilated corpse at the beginning, is not quite what it seems.

Reading this book during the holiday season as a Christmas mystery would be most appropriate. But the story is engaging enough to hold one's attention at any time of the year. Watching a clever mystery unfold is always a pleasure. Dogging Holmes and Watson through a long and complex night's work is, in this case, rewarding. Listening in on the provocative encounters between the mature master and the young detective-to-be is to get a crisp glimpse (for a glimpse is all we are given) of the truth that only this kind of fiction can give. ❖

Bob Brusic





**The Internet
provides much
information
about the battle
of Maiwand and
the Second
Afghan War.**

INTERNET EXPLORATIONS BY PHILLIP BERGEM

"He sits motionless, like a spider in the centre of its Web..."

The events of the past year concerning America's war against the Taliban forces in Afghanistan caused me to think about Watson, the battle of Maiwand and the Second Afghan War (perhaps more appropriately known as the Second Anglo-Afghan 1878-1880). I realized how little I knew about the background of this episode in the good doctor's life. Needless to say, the Internet provided me with some information.

In *A Study in Scarlet* we learn that after Watson received his degree from the University of London, he joined the British Army, received additional medical training at Netley and was attached with the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers. He eventually made it to Afghanistan, was attached to the Berkshires and was wounded "at the fatal battle of Maiwand." First I wondered about the regiments Watson was with.

A bit of information on the 5th Regiment of Foot (Northumberland Fusiliers) is at <http://www.regiments.org/milhist/uk/inf/005RNF.htm>. There is also a link to a section describing the Second Afghan War. The site <http://www.firstfusiliers.org.uk/mainframe.htm> also has some history of the Fusiliers.

A good site describing the history of the "Berkshires", properly known as the 66th (The Berkshire) Regiment of Foot, is at <http://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/royalberkshire.php3>. There is a description of the regiment's involvement at Maiwand. On the History (to 1881) page, <http://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/historyto1881.php3>, Doctor Watson is mentioned.

Getting on to the Battle of Maiwand, a page under the Foreign Military Studies Office site, <http://call.army.mil/fms/fmsopubs/issues/maiwand/maiwand.htm>, has a brilliant article written by Colonel Ali Jalali and Lester Grau outlining the history of the Second Afghan War. This Web page has a brief summary of how the war started, pictures of weapons in-

volved and a description of the battle at Maiwand with good use of maps. An even better site is <http://www.btinternet.com/~britishempire/empire/forces/armycampaigns/indiancampaigns/campafghan1878maiwand.htm>. This is a first rate Web page by David Gore with an incredible amount of detail regarding the specific Maiwand excursion. (With the length of the link name, it may be easier to search for "Maiwand Gore" and look for the above-referenced link.) There are hour-to-hour details of the battle, weapons used, and links to other sections of Gore's site that give more detail of the overall war. Another very interesting site that gives a good overview of the Second Afghan War is <http://www.internet-promotions.co.uk/archives/caithness/sgtmcadie.htm>, which tells of Sergeant David MacAdie and his time in Afghanistan.

I also wondered if Watson would have received any medals. I found that there were two medals issued by the British for service during the Second Afghanistan War. Gore's site has a section that shows and describes the two medals of the war (<http://www.btinternet.com/~britishempire/...seeabove.../campafghan1878medals.htm>). One is the *Kabul to Kandahar Star*. Watson would not have received this as it was only issued to troops who participated in the 318 mile march from August 8 - 31, 1880 to relieve the besieged garrison at Kandahar. This followed the Maiwand defeat on July 27 - 28. The other medal, one that Watson would have received, was the *Afghanistan War Medal*. This was issued to all participants and had six clasps or bars issued for action in specific campaigns. These were for action at Ali Musjid (Nov. 20-21, 1878), Peiwar Kotal (Dec. 2, 1878), Charasia (actually 'Charasiah' Oct. 6, 1879), Kabul (Dec. 11-23, 1879), Ahmed Khel (April 19, 1880) and Kandahar (Aug. 5 - Sept. 1, 1880). Watson does not indicate if he was in any of these other conflicts, and Maiwand, being a defeat, did not warrant a clasp.

(Continued on page 7)

FAMOUS QUOTES — OR ARE THEY?

BY PHILLIP BERGEM

There are quotes that are easily and famously identified with people or characters. The following is a list of quotes that were never made by the people to whom we commonly attribute them. Some you may know, some may come as a surprise. I start off with two by our famous detective and then move on to others.

"Elementary, my dear Watson." – Sherlock Holmes. *Although, in the Canon, Holmes does say "elementary" and "my dear Watson," they are never put together. According to Christopher Redmond, the phrase's first use is tentatively traced to the 1929 film The Return of Sherlock Holmes with Clive Brook playing Holmes. Basil Rathbone, portraying Holmes, uses the phrase several times, but that doesn't count, does it?*

"Quick, Watson, the needle!" – Sherlock Holmes. *This phrase also never occurs in the Writings.*

"Play it again, Sam." – Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart). *The line, as commonly known, is never said in the movie Casablanca. Ilsa Lazlo (Ingrid Bergman) says "Play it, Sam. Play 'As Time Goes By.'" Rick also says "If she can stand it, I can. Play it!" The only actor who used "Play it again, Sam" was Woody Allen in his movie of the same name, because he knew it was a popular misquote.*

"Me Tarzan, you Jane." – Tarzan/ Lord Greystoke. *In the books by Edgar Rice Burroughs Tarzan never says it. He was actually intelligent and multilingual, although at the time he first met Jane, he only knew the language of the apes. The phrase is used in the movies, but, as with Watson, the movies were not kind to Tarzan.*

"Beam me up, Scotty." – Captain Kirk (William Shatner – who, by the way, co-wrote a novel involving Conan Doyle and Houdini.) *Kirk did say "Scotty, beam me up" (once, in the fourth episode), "Beam us up, Mr. Scott" and "Enterprise, beam us up." However, once again it was never said in the manner commonly believed.*

"You dirty rat." – James Cagney. *While this is used by every impressionist of Cagney, he never said it in any of his 70+ movies.*

References [An eclectic mix!]

Orel, Harold, *Critical Essays on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*. New York: G.K. Hall & Co, 1992. p. 139.

Redmond, Christopher, *A Sherlock Holmes Handbook*. Toronto: Simon & Pierre, 1993. p. 167, 213-214.

Uncle John's Giant 10th Anniversary Bathroom Reader. Ashland, OR: Bathroom Readers' Press, 1997. p. 363-364. ♦

INTERNET EXPLORATIONS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 6)

John Gannon gives a thorough description of British military decorations issued during Queen Victoria's reign at <http://www.heliograph.com/trmgs/trmgs3/medals.shtml>. Another good picture of the Afghanistan War Medal is at <http://www.randolphcaldecott.org.uk/afghan.htm>.

If you want to order a miniature replica of the Afghan War Medal (only the Kabul clasp is available), the site is <http://www.worcmadals.com/>. Type 'Afghanistan' and 'Kabul' into the Shop Search function. The medal is available for £12 (\$17±) and the Kabul clasp for £4 (\$6±). Authentic medals can be found for sale for upwards of £150 (\$220).

♦

Phillip Bergem



Many oft-repeated "quotations" were never made by the people to whom we commonly attribute them.



“Sir Arthur could not afford not to write the later stories.”

THE CDI OR CONAN DOYLE INDEX

Using the amount that Arthur Conan Doyle was paid for the various stories and converting them into an amount per 1000 words, we can calculate the Conan Doyle Index or CDI. Comparing the CDI to the CPI will show us how the increase in Conan Doyle's compensation exceeded the cost of living increases.

Doyle was paid £25 for STUD, or about \$2,300 today. The later Holmes stories earned Sir Arthur £100 per 1000 words. In addition, the American publisher paid Doyle \$45,000 for The Return. The table below shows the total that Doyle was paid for stories through the Return.

Conan Doyle's Compensation per 1000 words

Year		Dollars	Pounds	Words	Exchange	\$/1000 words
1887	STUD	0	25	43,533	4.85	2.79
1889	SIGN	0	100	43,126	4.87	11.29
1891	Adventures 1-6	0	210	50,811	4.86	20.09
1891	Adventures 7-12	0	300	53,725	4.86	27.14
1892	Memoirs	0	1,000	96,421	4.87	50.51
1901	HOUN	0	5,925	59,250	4.87	487.00
1903	Return	45,000	11,247	112,467	4.86	886.12

The above table considers only the initial payment for each of the stories and does not consider income from other outlets or later publications of the same stories.

If we assign STUD's \$2.79 per 1000 words an index value of 100, we can calculate the index and the implied annual increase expressed as a rate.

Conan Doyle Index and “Inflation” Rate

Year		Index	Annual Increase	US CPI	British CPI
1887	STUD	100		75	61
1889	SIGN	405	101.4%	74	60
1891	Adventures 1-6	721	63.9%	72	64
1891	Adventures 7-12	974	76.7%	72	64
1892	Memoirs	1,813	78.5%	72	64
1901	HOUN	17,485	44.6%	68	63
1903	Return	31,815	43.4%	70	64

As the above table shows, Conan Doyle's income from the Holmes stories increased by an annual rate of 43.4% between 1887 and 1903. Over the same period, the cost of living in the US decreased slightly and the cost of living in Britain increased slightly. Sir Arthur could afford to improve his standard of living. The table also shows why Sir Arthur could not afford *not* to write the later stories. ❖

Mike Eckman

SHERLOCK HOLMES STUDY GROUP



**Conan Doyle
apparently failed
to anticipate that
the flawed hero
was easier to
love.**

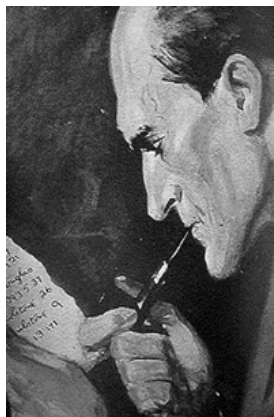
THE YELLOW FACE

March 16th, 2002, was the date that the Sherlock Holmes Study Group reviewed the Arthur Conan Doyle short story "The Adventure of the Yellow Face." The group met for the first time at the Black Bear Crossings Coffeehouse on Como Avenue, in St. Paul. Members enjoyed sipping various concoctions and munching on pastries as the story was discussed.

Karen Murdock enthusiastically led the discussion and contributed several materials to the "show and tell" section of the meeting.

In some Sherlock Holmes stories, Dr. Watson seems to be insensitive to minorities. Those insensitivities were not edited out by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, for some reason, before those stories were published. That fact was in the minds of most readers of this story from the moment they read the story's title. This story, however, was very sensitive in its treatment of a sometimes difficult topic: that of a racially mixed marriage that produced a child. The man who had hired Sherlock Holmes, Mr. Grant Munro, was judged in a good light by Holmes and Watson for fully accepting his wife's black child. Munro's wife, coming from the American South in the post-civil war era, expected Munro to react in a very different manner. She was pleasantly surprised. Group members seemed to feel that Dr. Watson handled this "sensitive" topic quite well this time. Some of us wondered if Dr. Watson's experiences had increased his "human understanding" over the years. We are not sure in what year events of the story took place, probably sometime between 1882 and 1888. It was also noted that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was known to be a friend to many people of color.

Conan Doyle did his best to provide us with further discussion material. The original story referred to the "Yellow Face." Later versions referred to a "Chalky White Face." We



After a break for the summer, the Study Group will resume monthly meetings in September.

don't know the reasons for this. In this story, Sherlock Holmes makes the statement that "Pipes are occasionally of extraordinary interest," adding, "Nothing has more individuality save, perhaps, watches and bootlaces." The group pulled out the lenses and examined these words in detail. Nobody could produce any record of a monograph by Holmes on "The individuality of bootlaces." Possible signs of bootlace individuality were offered up, but these were all speculation.

This story was presented by Watson as one of Sherlock Holmes's failures. Holmes clearly thought, at one point, that Mrs. Munro's former husband had returned, not having died of Yellow Fever. He violated his first rule of "never jumping to any conclusions." The group concluded that Conan Doyle was trying to make Holmes look like a "failed superhero" in this story. Further evidence of this is the rare mention, here, of Holmes's cocaine use. Never mind that "he only turned to the drug as a protest against the monotony of existence when cases were scanty and the papers uninteresting." Surely, life gets uninteresting for real superheroes, too, but they don't use drugs, do they? Conan Doyle seems to be subtly making that point. Speculation was offered of Doyle's motives for doing this, possibly to make it easier for the public to accept a possible Holmes death (impossible!). Conan Doyle apparently failed to anticipate that the flawed hero was easier to love, too; or maybe he did.

This story is shorter than most of the Holmes stories. Many elements of the typical Holmes story are missing, and the mystery does not create much tension. However, the tale rounds out the Canon in many good ways.

Charles Clifford

(Continued on page 10)

SHERLOCK HOLMES STUDY GROUP (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 9)

THE STOCKBROKER'S CLERK

On April 20, fifteen Norwegian Explorers met to talk about "The Stockbroker's Clerk." We met in the upstairs library of The University Club in Saint Paul, high atop Summit Hill. John Bergquist, a member of the University Club, was our host and discussion leader.

John asked the first question of the group: how did the "Pinner" (Beddington) brothers find out about Hall Pycroft and his new job in the first place? Steve Miller suggested that the brothers had gotten into the office of Mawson's and had read Pycroft's correspondence with the firm. Wade Manthie thought it peculiar that Mawson's hired Pycroft without actually seeing him in person. Phil Bergem thought it most likely that the Beddington brothers had someone on the "inside" at Mawson's, perhaps even a lowly mail sorter, to feed them information. Julia W. believed that the Beddingtons acquired information from hanging out at a pub near Mawson's and listening to other clerks talking about the latest happenings at the firm.

The group agreed that Holmes was very slow on the uptake in this case. He should have gone to Mawson & Williams to try to prevent a crime rather than trotting off to Birmingham. Karen Murdock, however, pointed out that Holmes "learned his lesson" from STOC and in future cases of the sort—notably REDH and 3GAR—he went to the scene of the crime and was in time to prevent the crooks from carrying out their intended activities.

John said that he often enjoys minor characters in the Canon and that he has a fondness for Hall Pycroft, especially his colorful Cockney slang and the fact that he knows when he is in over his head and seeks help from Sherlock Holmes. Dick Sveum said that Hall Pycroft was rising above his class and was "more a yuppie than a Cockney."

John wondered why the London Beddington brother did not talk to Pycroft in London and the Birmingham Beddington in Bir-

mingham. If they had worked it that way, the give-away clue of the badly stuffed gold tooth would never have come up. But, said John, "there's plenty of blame to go around here" in the flaw-filled story of STOC—we can blame ACD, Holmes, the dim manager at Mawson's, stupid criminals. . .

Karen wondered why "Pinner" showed up in Birmingham at all the night of the robbery at Mawson's. Why wasn't he taking it on the lam with his brother? Steve said that Pinner was "minding Pycroft" and making sure that the stockbroker's clerk stayed away from London. "The plan" of the Beddington brothers also might have called for them to rendezvous in Birmingham.

Dick thought that Pinner's attempted suicide was not psychologically convincing. Julie McKuras said, "It was a cry for help."

Karen raised the question of wages. Hall Pycroft was attracted by "Pinner's" job offer because it would have meant a huge increase in his salary. But whenever a character in the Canon is offered to be paid more (or less) than his/her usual worth in the market, it is a sign that there's dirty business afoot.

Karen wondered how on earth the London Beddington brother had managed to pull off the role of a stockbroker's clerk for a week. How many of us could walk into somebody else's job and do a credible job of it for a whole week?

John wondered what would be the future of Hall Pycroft. Phil said, flatly, "He's done for in the City," that he would never be able to land a decent job in London and should migrate to Australia, or perhaps to Wall Street.

Karen said that a problem in STOC which she had never seen satisfactorily explained was that of Watson's front steps. Holmes deduces that Watson got hold of a better doctor's practice than his neighbor's because Watson's steps are worn three inches deeper than his. Three inches? How can this possibly be? Some discussion of time and foot traffic and the relative hardness of various materials

(Continued on page 11)



"The group agreed that Holmes was very slow on the uptake in this case."



**Dr. Philip Hench
had "the
collection mania
in its most acute
form." (ILLU)**

FOUND BUT NOT LOST

In this issue we begin this new feature, in which Explorers report on items of interest encountered in their readings. Thanks to Paul Martin for the suggestion!

Contest: "Author and Opus"

Is it conceivable that some of your favorite writers may have indulged in writing a medical tome or two? Medically alter a renowned author's name; then create a medical book title that relates to the new name.

Arthur Clonan Doyle:
The Coming Genetic Deluge

— from *Diversion*, March 2002, p118

Submitted by Dr. C. Paul Martin, B.S.I.

I Hear of Norwegian Explorers Everywhere

Clue 60 down in the *New York Times* Sunday Crossword for January 27, 2002, was "Medicine Nobelst Philip Showalter ____". Needless to say, the answer is five letters.

(Ed. note: If you're still stumped, the next two items may give you a clue.)

Submitted by Mike Eckman ♦

The Philip S. Hench Walter Reed Yellow Fever Collection Website

He has the collection mania in its most acute form (ILLU).

Editor's note: Norwegian Explorers cherish the legacy of Dr. Philip Hench and his immense collection of Sherlockiana, which now is a central component of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. It appears that Dr. Hench collected in more than one area...

(From a press release by Joan Echtenkamp Klein of the University of Virginia:

April 10, 2002: The opening of The Philip S. Hench Walter Reed Yellow Fever Collection Website [yellowfever.lib.virginia.edu] marks the completion of a two-year project at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. The project ... provides worldwide access via the Web to 5,500 original documents, photographs, and artifacts in the Health Sciences Library's ar-

chive on Walter Reed and yellow fever, [which] was a deadly scourge that had a devastating effect on lives and economies throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In 1900, Walter Reed, M.D., and his fellow members of the United States Army Yellow Fever Commission made the discovery that a mosquito was responsible for the transmission of yellow fever Philip S. Hench, M.D., awarded the Nobel Prize for his discovery of cortisone, was fascinated by the story of Walter Reed and the Yellow Fever Commission and made it his life's work to collect everything available relevant to this public health story The extensive archive that Hench compiled was given to the University of Virginia after his untimely death ... and is the cornerstone collection in the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library's archive.

Writing about the new Website, Paul Lombardo, Ph.D., J.D., [of] the University of Virginia School of Medicine, observed, "This is truly an incredible piece of work... it is spectacular, and a model for making documents available to scholars on the Web."

Submitted by Tim Johnson and Dick Sveum

The Holmes-Yellow Fever Connection

Was Dr. Hench drawn to the study of yellow fever because of Holmes? In YELL, Effie Munro told her husband that her first husband and child had died in a yellow fever epidemic in Atlanta, and in HOUN, we are told that "[Rodger Baskerville] made England too hot to hold him, fled to Central America, and died there in 1876 of yellow fever." (Ed.)

And, Was Hench Following in the Footsteps of Holmes in His Discovery of Cortisone?

"Cortisone, the latest wonder drug, may soon be produced cheaply and synthetically from a coal tar derivative. What seems to have been forgotten by an ungrateful world is that it was Sherlock Holmes's experiments in the early 1890s which made this discovery possible. In 'The Empty House' Holmes tells how he conducted such experiments in the south of France."

Nathan Bengis, as quoted in the "Line O'Type or Two" column of the *Chicago Tribune*, May 14, 1951, spotted by John Bergquist in *Sherlock in the Trib*, John Nieminski and Ely Liebow, New York, 2000. ♦



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**“YOU MAY HAVE
READ OF THE
REMARKABLE
EXPLORATIONS
OF A NORWEGIAN
NAMED
SIGERSON, BUT
I AM SURE IT
NEVER
OCCURRED TO
YOU THAT YOU
WERE RECEIVING
NEWS OF YOUR
FRIEND.”**