



EXPLORATIONS



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It has now been over one year since the July 2007 Sherlockian Conference, held at the University of Minnesota. Immediately following the conference, we received accolades about the quality of our efforts. Since then, at least two of the talks from that conference have gone on to be published: Michael Dirda's "A Case for Langdale Pike" (*Canadian Holmes, Summer 2007*); and Cliff Goldfarb's "Who wrote the Canon?" (*Canadian Holmes, Summer 2008*). These are in addition to Elaine McCafferty's summary of the Conference ("Is Langdale Pike Off the Hook?") that appeared in the Autumn 2007 issue of the *Baker Street Journal*. The Conference Committee has started work on the next one for the summer of

2010. It is a great way for Sherlockians (inexperienced and experienced) to learn, absorb information and observe fellow admirers of Sherlock Holmes.

For those who knew Richard Lancelyn Green, *To Keep the Memory Green*, edited by Steven Rothman and Nicholas Utechin (*The Quartering Press, 2007*) provides a welcome remembrance of a great man. For those who did not have the pleasure of meeting Richard at one of our conferences, this homage gives you a sense of what he meant to the Sherlockian world. In one chapter, R Dixon Smith talks about meeting Richard for the first time in St Paul, Minnesota. In another, Andrew Malec reminisces about his time

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William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes circa 1890

"...we tend to embrace that version [of Holmes] that first captured our imagination."

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As you peruse the pages of this issue of *Explorations*, you may see a certain pattern. Holmes, the master of disguise, appears in many forms. Of late, we find him not only on the printed page, but on stage, via film as well as other incarnations. We share some recent discoveries.

Consider this reminder of what an interesting conversation ensues when you discuss how you and others first encountered the Master. A famous hair dresser to the stars once claimed he could tell the year a woman graduated from high school by her hairstyle and makeup. Similarly, you can often determine the decade of one's birth by how Holmes is first encountered. Be it on the page,

through silent film, radio, 1930s movies or Masterpiece Theatre, we tend to embrace that version that first captured our imagination. Today's young Explorers find their way to Baker Street via electronic options: games, blogs, e-zines – but they do find their way.

Whatever your era of discovery, we are pleased that you remain involved in the Game and a part of the Norwegian Explorers. You are invited to partake of various events noted herein, and encourage you to share your thoughts in *Explorations*. On that note, we welcome Karen Murdock, who challenges us to consider Canonical grammatical twists and turns. Enjoy these games as well!

Pj Doyle, ASH



FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1)

with Richard in Minnesota book collecting and searching through the University of Minnesota's Sherlock Holmes collections. This later essay was based on Andrew's talk at the June 2004 Minnesota conference, "A River Runs by It." (See what else you missed by not attending a conference.)

The Norwegian Explorers Study Group started up again Saturday, September 20th, discussing "The Speckled Band."

The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota holds its annual meeting on Monday, October 26th.

The editor of the 9-volume "The Sherlock Holmes Reference Library" and the 3-volume "The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes, Mr. Leslie S. Klinger will in attendance and will be discussing and signing his new book: *The Annotated Dracula*. Minnesota's Neil Gaimon has contributed an introduction. I am sure Les will be happy to sign his Sherlockian books too. Start researching vampires.

-Gary Thaden

Gthaden@Gmail.Com or 612-377-2029



"THE CASE OF THE ACCOMMODATING VALISE"

On April 19, the Red-Throated League broadcast its annual production of an Edith Meisner radio program of a Sherlock Holmes drama. The day was cool and drizzly, as it often is for these productions, done on the third Saturday in April each year.

The plays are done in the Pavek Museum of Broadcasting in St Louis Park, and each production re-enacts a radio broadcast for the 1930s or 1940s, including commercials (here, the sponsor was Clipper Craft Clothes.)

This year's program was "The Case of the Accommodating Valise," which was not based on a specific story from the Canon, but offered a few instructive points, nevertheless.

Holmes is asked by a railroad official to solve the mystery of how travelers coming by train to London after disembarking from an ocean liner, are victims of theft when small luggage containing their valuables disappears from the platform. He quickly identifies the thieves (a married pair con artists and determined that

their modus operandi is to surreptitiously cover the target bag with a large valise, pick it up and leave without being noticed.

As with many of these dramas, the plot was not complicated, but the play was enthusiastically produced and presented – including the visible production of sound effects intended for a radio audience. These dramas were created for an audience not used to sitting at the feet of the Master, and, thus (understandably) rely largely on sensational elements of his cases. Where the program departed noticeably, however, was the Nigel Bruce-ish characterization of Watson, who habitually failed to grasp the obvious and, worse yet, myopically dismissed Holmes' deductions as mere lucky guesses.

Despite these script flaws, the production was enjoyable because of both realism of a live "broadcast" and the enthusiasm of the period-costumed cast. My nephew, Andy, whom I am trying to entice in the world of Sherlockiana, enjoyed it thoroughly, as did the entire audience. I commend these plays to those of you who have not yet seen them.

-Michael B Miller



EXPLORERS ON THE MOVE

STUD Weekend in Chicago

Julie McKuras reprised her presentation on Edith Meisner for a rapt audience at the 2008 STUD Dinner and Watsonian Weekend (April 11-13.) Other highlights were the 49th Running of Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, a Sherlockian pizza party hosted by the gracious Susan Diamond and Al Devitt, and the Fortescue Honours Brunch. Others in attendance were Dick Sveum and Pj Doyle.

Special Note: October 30 to November 1, 2009, the 50th SILV will be a combined event with the Baker Street Irregulars. Watch for details and mark you calendars now!



ASH Spring Dinner

Pj Doyle represented the Norwegian Explorers at the Annual Spring Meeting of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, held May 31, at Bill's Gay 90s in New York City.

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On the Air
1930s Style

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE FINAL ADVENTURE

A play by Steven Dietz—Performed at Park Square Theater, St Paul, May 30-June 22, 2008

Watching this play is a bit like taking a trip with Alice through the Looking Glass. There are moments when you think you know where you are. But as soon as you hear a knock on a door, or watch a wheel in the Stepney Gas Chamber turn, you are somewhere else. The play began and ended with a man reading from a newspaper. In the first scene he told us that Holmes had plunged to his death in the company of Professor Moriarty. At the end, the reader informed us that “there is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact.” Between the two press releases, a complex Holmesian pastiche unfolded, causing, nay, requiring the audience to pay close attention.

Watson, after hearing the initial news, stepped into the familiar setting of 221B and led us into the familiar plot of *The Final Problem*. In the course of events, a loud knock at the door. We understandably expected Professor Moriarty to enter and confront Holmes. Instead, it was the bluff and blustery King of Bohemia who shifted the plot in the direction of *Scandal in Bohemia*. That intriguing narrative played out for awhile; but, unexpectedly, we soon found ourselves immersed in the plot of William Gillette’s play, *Sherlock Holmes*.

However, instead of calling for Alice Faulkner, Holmes summoned, and got Irene Adler. To reveal any more of this tightly spun story



would be to uncover the spinning mechanism that carries Dietz’s play along at a brisk pace. It is enough to say that action skipped from Baker Street to the Larabee’s house (here identified as Briony Lodge.) Then it moved to the Stepney Gas Chamber and later it teetered on a perilous perch at Reichenbach Falls. It was a breathtaking ride.

The evening I saw the play, early in its run, pacing seemed a bit awkward and the actors were occasionally unsure of lines. However, James Cada, as Moriarty, was a gripping and fiendish presence, while Steve Hendrickson and Bob Davis credibly performed the roles of the detective and his amanuensis. E J Subkoviak was properly stuffy as the King of

Bohemia, and Virginia Burke interpreted the role of Irene Adler in a capable manner.

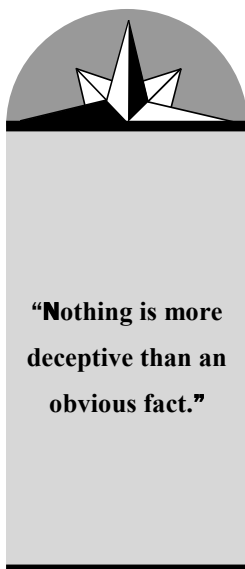
One could question a few plot devices. It seems gratuitous and highly unlikely that Holmes would help himself to a seven percent solution on the verge of his greatest confrontation with Moriarty Again, when loud knocking is heard, Holmes and Watson shrink and cringe by the fireplace, apparently fearing whoever is at the door. That cowering conduct is definitely unbecoming, for this intrepid duo always faced and never fled any foe. On the other hand, the drama possessed a number of fine touches. For example, the dressing gown worn by Holmes was more than impressive. In its color and tailoring it evoked the garment worn by Gillette, as illustrated in *Vanity Fair*. Holmes aficionados might wish to add such a handsome apparel to their Christmas list.

At one point Watson had a diverting bit of repartee. While looking for Irene Adler in the card catalogue, he could not find her among the As between “Actinium and Adversity” but rather under I between “Incandescence and Irritability.” Catalogued by her given name rather than surname is a nice touch. It is also a bit of romantic foreshadowing. Later, the roaring spill of Reichenbach with frothing spume had an impressive, almost vertiginous effect. The impact was muted a bit when a platform was necessarily rolled into the billowing mist. But, the final confrontation between Holmes and Moriarty was not compromised.

When I first saw this play in Milwaukee two, I expressed hope of seeing it performed locally. The Park Square production, accompanied by a number of public events, is a wish come true. While flawed, the play rockets along and satisfies in many ways. By interweaving three narratives, Dietz produced a delightful stage piece. As a bonus, those who paid close attention doubtless noticed passing references from other cases, including, the rose reflection from *The Naval Treaty*.

The play is a witty, bouncy vehicle that allowed us travel London and the continent in 1893. The company of old friends and their nemesis took us on a hazardous but delightful journey. And, in the end, we may have learned a life lesson: “nothing is more deceptive than an obvious fact.”

Robert Brusica



EXPLORERS ON THE MOVE

(continued from page 2)

A Study in Scarlet Expedition to the Country of the Saints

The Baker Street Irregulars hosted a weekend in Salt Lake City over the Labor Day weekend (August 29 to September 1) in honor of Conan Doyle's visit to Utah in 1923. Copies of the papers presented are available in book form, for \$21.95 plus shipping. Contact Mike Homer at mhomer@sautah.com.



A Study in Scarlet by George Hutchinson

Newberry Library in Chicago

Julie McKuras has been invited by The Hounds of the Baskerville to make a presentation (*I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere...*) on October 4, as part of a symposium to discuss the Newberry's Frederick Kittle Collection of Doyleana, and demonstrate that collection's utility in the study of Doyle and Victorian literature.



University of Regina—Saskatchewan

Tim Johnson and Dick Sveum will speak at "Re-Examining Arthur Conan Doyle: An International Symposium" November 7 and 8, at the University of Regina. John-

MORE AND MORE HOLMESIAN DRAMA...

son presents "More than a Washed-Up Has-Been: Textual Aspects of the Holmes Icon." Sveum will present "Re-Examining a Duet with an Occasional Chorus."



Sherlock 's Excellent Adventure

Word comes from Cory Berkley, of British Columbia, that the Creekside Theatre in Lake Country BC staged James Barry's pantomime play this spring. Narrated by Holmes, the drama encourages audience participation throughout. At the end of the production, the audience is asked to deduce how the case is to be solved.



Holmes Inspires Art Festival Winner

Nicholas Willette, created a one-act play, which premiered at the Northern Writes New Play Festival in Bangor. *Elementary* will be staged on October 15 at the Center Theatre Dover-Foxcroft, Maine.



International Mystery Writers' Festival

Edgar Award winner Stuart Kaminsky's play, *The Final Toast*, was staged at the June 2008 IMW festival in Kentucky. Kaminsky's play casts Holmes as detective and target. In addition to Dr Watson, the detective enlists the help of an 11-year-old street urchin named Charles Chaplin.



William Gillette on YouTube

You can now enjoy sound clips of William Gillette as Holmes (in 2 parts) on YouTube. Photos and clippings accompany the audio. Here are the links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38HgyzMThOw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfHaVFKSYGE&feature=related>



"On the stage he
was natural,
simple, affecting.
'Twas only when
he was off, he was
acting."

Oliver Goldsmith

SHARING THE FIGURES

Near the end of April 2002, I read *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, for perhaps the seventh or eighth time. Near the beginning of the case, I came across: “All afternoon and into the evening he [Holmes] sat lost in tobacco and thought.”

This stopped me dead in my reading. As often as I had read HOUN, I had not noticed the odd phrasing of this line. I was sure that this was some sort of figure of speech. But what was it? I HAD to know. It turned out to be something called zeugma, which is a construction in which a word (usually a verb) governs two or more other words but has a different meaning when applied to each of the words. In the case of “tobacco and thought” the verb “lost” applies to both words, but in a different way—one sense is physical, the other metaphorical.

This answered my immediate question, but set in motion a train of thought. What other figures of speech appear in the Sherlockian Saga. From that day as I read the Sherlock Holmes stories, I noticed such things as similes and repeated words. They seemed common. Consulting my library books, I listed some two dozen common rhetorical devices. I stuck the list on my office wall office, read through the Canon, noted some occurrences of these figures of speech, and wrote a paper (“Lost in Tobacco and Zeugma: Some Devices of Classical Rhetoric in the Sherlockian Canon,” *Canadian Holmes*, Volume 27, no. 4 (2004).

I couldn’t let go and grew more interested in the subject and began to underline figures of speech I as I read the Canon. I noticed figures I had not been aware of when I started this pursuit. I modified my list and kept underlining. I put the project down for months at a time, but always returned. At long last, in the spring of 2007 I completed what I think is the first complete list of Canonical figures of speech.

My list includes 35 figures of speech. Some are quite common in the Canon (simile, metaphor, alliteration, litotes, antithesis). Some are so rare that they occur fewer than half a dozen times in the Saga (zeugma, irony, hyperbole, hendiadys). Some are known to all who graduated junior high school. Some are known only to those who have taken graduate school courses in rhetoric.

In upcoming issues of *Explorations*, I will write columns dealing with different figures of speech. I will write a bit about each, then

(knowing how Sherlockians love quizzes!) will provide a short quiz, asking you to identify the story from which examples are drawn.

I start with a figure that everyone knows (and that Watson uses masterfully):

As Playful as a Simile

Metaphors and similes are probably the best known figures of speech. A simile is a figure of speech in which two essentially unlike things (or actions or feelings) are compared, usually in a phrase introduced by “like” or “as.” In simile, two things are compared and are said to be alike in some way. Similes give us a mental picture of something by comparing it to something else. This figure is common in both poetry and prose:

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.

—Matthew 23:27

My love is like a red red rose

—Robert Burns

A remarkably handsome man when he is in the full tide of sermonizing, and his face is lit up with animation, but he is as homely as a singed cat when he isn’t doing anything.

—Mark Twain, on Henry Ward Beecher, in a letter to the *San Francisco Alta California*, February 18, 1867

Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.

—Muhammad Ali, on his boxing style

I love smooth words, like gold-enameled fish. Which circle slowly with a silken swish

—Elinor Wylie, “Pretty Words,” in *Collected Poems*, 1932

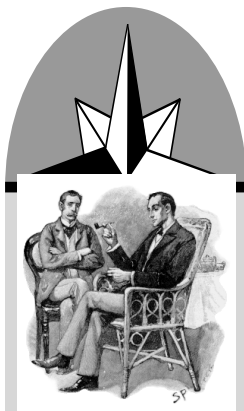
His eyes were like a flame of fire.

—Revelation 1:14

Duluth! the word fell upon my ear with a peculiar and indescribable charm, like the gentle murmur of a low fountain stealing forth in the midst of roses

—James Proctor Knott, in speech on proposed railroad line in U.S House of Representatives, January 21, 1871

(continued on page 16)



Sydney Paget

“All afternoon
and into the
evening he sat
lost in tobacco
and thought.”

2008 NORWEGIAN EXPLORERS SIGERSON AWARDS AND/OR 2008 CHRISTMAS ANNUAL



2008 Awards Notice

This dual entry form can be used to submit entries for the Norwegian Explorers Sigerson Awards and/or the 2008 Christmas Annual. The **Christmas Annual will be distributed to attendees at our annual dinner as well as to those attending the Baker Street Irregulars Annual Dinner and the Gaslight Gala during the Sherlock Holmes Birthday weekend in New York.** The Sigerson Awards will be presented at the Norwegian Explorers' annual dinner.

The overall theme of the Annual is "The Non-English Sherlock Holmes." We encourage submissions to have a topic related to the theme, but other items will be considered for inclusion. Possible topics could be foreign translations of the Canon, "writings about the writings" in non-English languages, Holmes's cases (recorded or unrecorded) that took him to foreign shores, non-English Holmes films or television programs, Sherlockian societies in non-English-speaking countries, or other related topics.

This year's annual will include a lead article written by "The Maniac Collector," Don Hobbs of Flower Mound, Texas. For decades Don has pursued foreign editions of the Canon and has acquired an amazing assortment, which he will highlight in his article.

Suggested Categories for the Awards and for the Annual:

1. Article, pastiche or essay (1500 word maximum); 2. Poem (40 word maximum); 3. Cartoon or drawing; 4. Joke; 5. Illustration; 6. Quiz

Categories for Sigerson Award Only

1. Sherlockian or Doylean review
2. Other (needlepoint, sculpture, photo)

Rules for Contest Entry

1. Must be a member of The Norwegian Explorers (local and corresponding)
 2. Submit entries to John Bergquist, 3665 Ashbury Rd., Eagan, MN 55122. Please also send electronic versions Microsoft Word preferred) to john.bergquist@gmail.com (Entries must be received by October 31, 2008)
 1. All entries must be the original work of the contestant
 2. Winning entries not included in the Christmas Annual may be published in *Explorations*, but contestant retains all rights
 3. Entries returned only if return postage provided by contestant
 4. Multiple entries may be submitted for each category
 5. The Norwegian Explorers accept no responsibility for safety of original entry; copies may be submitted
- Judges selected by the Norwegian Explorers.
Decision of judges is final

Winners of the Sigerson Award announced at Annual Meeting, Dec. 6, 2008. Absentees notified by mail. Send stamped, self-addressed envelope for winners list.

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Submission for Christmas Annual _____

Sigerson Awards _____ (check one or both)



HOLMES ON FILM

Guy Ritchie & Robert Downey, Jr

British director Guy Ritchie is in production to bring a gritty adaptation of Holmes to the screen. He is expected to dump the deerstalker and pipe and introduce filmgoers to an action hero detective for this Warner Brothers film.

The Tony Peckham script is based on an upcoming Holmes comic book by Lionel Wigram. Wigram is also a producer on the movie, set for a 2010 release.

Holmes and Watson are expected to trade their emphasis on Victorian adventure-sonae, with utilizing his bare-boxer and swordsman.

In mid-July Robert Downey, Jr. signed on to portray the Master Detective. Following his recent blockbuster, "Iron Man", he is expected to bring extra attention to the project. Expect to see some hints of former portrayals spent hours watching re-runs of the Brett series as well as Basil Rathbone films.

As of August, Watson had not been cast, but British hardman Jason Statham is rumored to be on a short list for the role.

Filming begins in October in London, with some stage scenes slated for New York City.



(Note: Photos used with permission of M Morgan Photography.)

Sacha Baron Cohen & Will Ferrell

Sacha Baron Cohen and Will Ferrell are also set to play Holmes and Watson – this time in a big-screen Hollywood comedy. Etan Cohen (of "Tropic Thunder") is writing the screenplay (unfinished as of August 2008) for the as-yet untitled project. Baron Cohen and Ferrell previously played rival race car drivers in the 2006 box-office hit, "Talladega Nights."

Baron Cohen is perhaps best known for his role in "Borat—Cultural Learnings of America for Make benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan." He received the Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Comedy for his performance, as well as an Academy Award nomination for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Ferrell first appeared on "Saturday Night



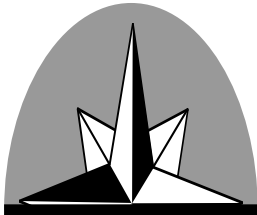
Lives" but has successfully crossed over to motion pictures.

"Just the idea of Sacha and Will as Sherlock Holmes and Watson makes us laugh," said Matt Tolmach of Columbia Pictures. "They are two of the funniest and most talented guys on the planet, and having them take on these two iconic characters is frankly hilarious."

When Guy Ritchie was asked by MoviesOnline if there is a race between the two upcoming films, he commented, "They don't even have a script yet, so we're hoping not. Don't expect a Hollywood cat fight."



"Expect to see some hints of former portrayals as Downey spent hours and hours watching re-runs of the Brett series as well as Basil Rathbone films."



AT THE MOVIES (continued)

The Duchess

In September 2008, movie goers will be treated to "The Duchess," a chronicle of the life of 18th century aristocrat Georgiana Spencer, Duchess of Devonshire. While beauty and charisma made her name, extravagant tastes and an appetite for gambling and love made her infamous. Still, she was the darling of the common people.

Trapped in a triangle with her husband and his live-in mistress, Georgiana falls in love with Charles Grey, an ambitious young politician, and their affair threatens to erupt into scandal.

Explorers will recognize the noble title as the BSI investiture of Julie McKuras, a gracious hostess and clever Sherlockian.

[We are assured that both Julie and her illustrious husband, Mike, remain devoted to one another and not a breath of scandal is expected in the ranks of the Explorers.]

Keira Knightley is cast as Georgiana, with Ralph Fiennes as the Duke, Hayley Atwell as the mistress and Dominic Cooper as Grey.



Gene Wilder Film Fest

Rachel Goodrich, of Stamford, Connecticut, reports that her local theatre, The Avon Theatre Film Center, will present an Autumn film series designed and hosted by Gene Wilder. "Wilder's Picks," includes his favorite motion pictures ("Key Largo" and "Soldier of Fortune.") The final film will be "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother," starring Wilder himself, who also wrote and directed the film where sibling rivalry hits a new level of absurdity.



Science Fiction

Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Banshee (2009) – sci-fi filming in Lithuania. London is plagued by a series of male deaths by heart failure.

Russian Holmes

Central Partnership, Russia's largest independent film producer and distributor, is embarking on the biggest ever TV series production. It is a \$16 million, 32-episode series based on Sherlock Holmes.



Satyajit Ray

Films of Satyajit Ray, hailed as the greatest filmmaker of India, are now available on DVD, including his 1967 film "Chiryakhana." ("The Zoo")

Centered around activities of a colony located in an Indian village, it is the of a retired judge who is murdered. The police detective assigned to the case is a close acquaintance of the judge.

The film appeals to Sherlockians as the detective spares no Holmesian tricks in his work. For example, the easy chair in the detective's room has the aura of Baker Street. In another scene, he sniffs a rose and passes it onto his companion to enjoy the fragrance.



Wessex Press/Gasogene Books

You can now view the promotional movie for Gasogene's volume, "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes: The 75th Anniversary Edition." The case bound, dust-jacketed edition features a facsimile of the 1933 first edition, with commentary and scholarly appreciations, edited by Ray Betzner, BSI.

You can view the promo at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpkaTM554HI>



DVD Miscellanea

- BBC Holmes Collection, featuring Peter Cushing, Richard Roxburgh, Rupert Everett and Douglas Henshall.
- *Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century*, from DiC Kid's Network. Animated Holmes in 2103 and 2104.
- Season 4 of the *House* television series is out on DVD. See the Spring 2008 *Explorations* article from Mike Eckman for a comparison of Holmes and House.
- Though not on DVD, the writers of the television series *Lost* have created a Sherlockian pastiche, "The Adventure of the Missing Stocking" is available online at http://www.themorningnews.org/archives/spoofs_satire/the_adventure_of_the_missing_stocking



"...beauty and charisma made her name, her extravagant tastes and appetite for gambling and love made her infamous."

HOLMES AND THURSDAY NEXT

In *Thursday Next: First Among Sequels*, the Holmes stories are referred to as “closed books, unavailable to enter...” (168) For those of us who have read them, this may come as a surprise until we realized that the entry spoken of is to actually go into the book, experience the settings, and possibly interact with the characters.

Thursday Next is a jurisdiction agent and a member of the Council of Genres, which governs fiction and the free trade of ideas and characters between genres in the BookWorld. The Council is alarmed by the news that Holmes is murdered at the end of *The Memoirs* and this puts four volumes of the series at risk of spontaneously unraveling unless something can be done.

First Among Sequels is the fifth book in the *Thursday Next* series by Jasper Fforde. The first four are *The Eyre Affair*, *Lost in a Good Book*, *The Well of Lost Plots* and *Something Rotten. The Great Samuel Pepys Fiasco* is referred to often throughout *First Among Sequels*, but is listed as no longer available. Thursday is an Outlander (human who is able to enter the BookWorld. Most other agents she works with are fictional characters. Of course, she has a full life in the real world that includes Uncle Mycroft.

In the universe that Thursday travels through as a Jurisdiction agent, books are scattered like stars, but “clumped together in genres, attracted by the gravitational tug of their mutual plotlines.” (80) In most cases, an agent can bookjump into a novel to correct a problem, but some books remain outside the influence of the Council of Genres. “*Pilgrim’s Progress* and the Sherlock Holmes series are good examples,” Thursday explains, “We know roughly where they are, due to the literary influence they exert on similar books, but we still haven’t figured out a way in.” (80)

The inability to enter the series becomes important when it is reported that “We’ve got a Major Narrative Flexation brewing in

The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes.” (167) A review of the text shows that it has been modified. On the final page Watson “discovers that Holmes has apparently fallen to his death – and the book ends twenty-nine pages before it was meant to.” (168) Since Holmes’ death is where the *Memoirs* actually end, it is probable that the Narrative Flexation is brewing in *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*. Nevertheless, several Jurisdiction agents, but not Thursday, are assigned to try and enter the Holmes series through Conan Doyle’s other works.

Since Thursday is not directly involved in the Holmes problem and she has her own concerns with someone trying to kill her, we only learn of any progression the Holmes problem from others. At one point, the suggestion is made that “With a well-positioned Textual Sieve, we could was a serial killer loose in the BookWorld.” (361) Needless to say, the book ends with a cliffhanger to allow for the next installment of the *Thursday Next* series scheduled for July 2009 and tentatively titled *One of Our Thursdays is Missing*. The paperback of *First Among Sequels* will be published in Autumn 2008.

For more information on *Thursday Next*, go to <http://www.jasperfforde.com>.

Mike Eckman



ANSWERS TO CANONICAL QUIZ

(page numbers from *Doubleday*)

1. TWIS, 230
2. BLUE, 251
3. ILLU, 991
4. STUD, 71
5. FIVE, 218
6. FINA, 471
7. GLOR, 381
8. 3GAB, 1025
9. SIGN, 121
10. BRUC, 916



“...she has a full life in the real world that includes Uncle Mycroft..”

SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE PRINTED PAGE

Holmes & Bond

Mike Eckman observes that in Ian Fleming's "From Russia With Love," Russians discuss their opinions of various countries' intelligence services, agreeing that they respect the British who are not natural conspirators, but play the game very well. General Vozdvisshensky tries to explain this seeming contradiction. "Of course, most of their strength lies in the myth - in the myth of Scotland Yard, of Sherlock Holmes, of the Secret Service. We certainly have nothing to fear from these Gentlemen. But this myth is a hindrance which it would be good to set aside."

In order to destroy the myth, the Russians decide to kill James Bond.



Norwegian Explorers Omnibus

Copies are available of the 2007 Omnibus, with reprints of *The Crowded Box Room*, *Cultivating Sherlock Holmes*, *Sherlock Holmes: Master Detective*, *Exploring Sherlock Holmes* and *Cultivating Sherlock Holmes*. Contact pbergem@att.net for details.



A Slight Trick of the Mind

Mitch Cullin's 2005 novel is now available on audio CD. Narrator Simon Jones does an excellent job of keeping the three interlocking stories straight. The "mysteries" within are stories of a grieving young wife, a missing Japanese father and a character study of Holmes himself.



Sherlock Holmes and the Yuletide Mystery

At Christmas time, a man comes to Baker Street with a compelling story. Not *The Blue Carbuncle*, but a holiday novel from Val Andrews. As might be expected from this author, the ensuing gathering of seeming strangers in Sussex challenges not only Holmes and Watson, but the reader as well.



Case of the Missing Marquess

Nancy Springer introduces a new heroine, Enola Holmes in this young adult novel. Enola is the younger sister of Holmes, who has lived a peaceful life until her mother goes missing. When her famous brother suggests that mother planned to disappear, the determined girl takes the case herself. Disguising herself, she runs off to London and begins a fast-paced parental search.

There are two other novels in the series, with a fourth due in September. Fans of Nancy Drew and the Master Detective will enjoy the series.



Canadian Nominee

Finalists for the Canadian Children's Literature Awards include *"Eye of the Crow: The Boy Sherlock Holmes."* Presented by the Canadian Children's Book Centre, the winner of the \$20,000 prize will be announced at a ceremony in October.



The Quintessential Sherlock Holmes

John Christ reports from Western Carolina University that a fellow faculty member has published a five-story collection of novellas based on Holmes.

The Quintessential Sherlock Holmes follows Boyer's debut novel, *The Giant Rat of Sumatra* (1976) that was hailed by the late John Bennett Shaw as "the best and most authentic modern Sherlock Holmes tale yet written."

Boyer is well known for his Doc Adams mystery series (a New England oral surgeon,) the first of which was honored as Edgar Allen Poe Award for best novel presented by the Mystery Writers of America.

Boyer credits Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for his literary inspiration. "Sherlock Holmes is and remains the greatest consulting detective the world has ever known. I thought that since I was going to give it my best to become an author, I had better select the ideal author as my example and mentor."



"Of course, most of their strength lies in the myth - in the myth of Scotland Yard, of Sherlock Holmes, of the Secret Service."



TWIS by S Paget



“...make-up artistry,
something Holmes
should have spotted
instantly.”

SHARING THE FIGURES

(continued from page 5)

I have found 287 similes and another 20 figures that function as similes without the classic “like” or “as” construction. This averages one simile every three to four pages, which makes this one of the most common figures in the Canon.

“You are as thin as a lath and as brown as a nut”
(STUD, Doubleday16)

“He had long quivering fingers as agile and restless as the antennae of an insect.” (HOUN, 672)

“...his face was all crinkled and puckered like a withered apple” (CROO, 418)

“...the [. . .] voice of the red-bearded Duke, which boomed out like a dinner-gong (PRIO, 544)

QUIZ (answers on page 9)

Here are 10 similes. Name the stories in which they appear. (No story is used more than once.)

1. Folk who were in grief came to my wife like birds to a light-house.
2. the breath of the passers-by blew out into smoke like so many pistol shots
3. “Well, sir,” said she in a voice like the wind from an iceberg.
4. As the sun rose slowly above the eastern horizon, the caps of the great mountains lit up one after the other, like lamps at a festival, until they were all ruddy and glowing.
5. the wind cried and sobbed like a child in the chimney
6. “He sits motionless, like a spider in the centre of its web”
7. It was strange among so many sad and weary faces to see one which was full of energy and resolution. The sight of it was to me like a fire in a snow-storm.
8. She entered with ungainly struggle like some huge awkward chicken, torn, squawking, out of its coop.
9. “See how that one little cloud floats like a pink feather from some gigantic flamingo.”
10. “As to the Admiralty—it is buzzing like an overturned bee-hive.”

Karen Murdock

HOLMES SIGHTINGS

Panorama of a Presidency: George W Bush and the Rise and Fall of Political Capital (published by M E Sharpe)

Explorer Steve Schier begins the preface to his forthcoming book with a Sherlockian reference. “Analyzing a contemporary presidency is no easy task. One is confronted with mountains of information and opinion through which one must trudge. Too much information, a common affliction nowadays, is as problematic as too little. In my research and efforts, I have been guided by the advice of Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes: “It is of the highest importance in the art of detection to be able to recognize out of a number of facts which are incidental and which vital. Otherwise your energy and attention must be dissipated instead of being concentrated.” (REIG)

Look for Schier’s book and judge his success in identifying and analyzing the vital facts of the George W Bush presidency.



The Economist

Mike Eckman spotted Holmes in the January 24 issue of *The Economist*. (“Somewhere Over the Rainbow”)

“On the other hand, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of conflicts resolved. During this decade, civil wars have come to an end or have been restrained in Aceh, Angola, Burundi, Congo, Liberia, Nepal, Timor-Leste and Sierra Leone. These places then drop out of the news. As Sherlock Holmes remarked of the curious incident of the dog at night (‘The dog did nothing in the night time...That was the curious incident’) events that do not happen can be as revealing as those that do.”



Michael Chabon

Noted for his Wonder Boys children’s books and the best-selling *The Yiddish Policeman’s Union* is an avowed fan of Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

In an essay on Holmes, Chabon writes, “And yet there is a degree to which, just as all criticism is in essence Sherlockian, all literature, highbrow or low, from the *Aeneid* onward, is fan fiction...Through parody and pastiche, allusion and homage, retelling and reimagining the stories that were told before us and that we have come of age loving – amateurs – we proceed, seeking out the blank places in the map that our favorite writers...have left for us, hoping to pass on to our own readers...the pleasure that we ourselves have taken in the stuff we love: to get in on the game. All novels are sequels; influence is bliss.



The Norwegian Explorers

Suite 111

Elmer L. Andersen Library

University of Minnesota

222 21st Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55455

Pj Doyle, ASH

Editor, Explorations

4242 Stevens Avenue South

Minneapolis MN 55409

Phone: 612-824-1964

Fax: 651-209-7775

Email: pj_doyle@msn.com

“YOU MA 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.”

