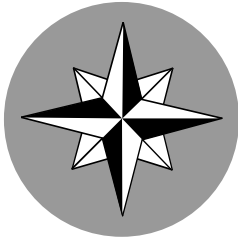




# EXPLORATIONS



## AN EXERCISE IN ARTISTIC DEDUCTION



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One of our great treasures in Minnesota is the Minneapolis Institute of Arts museum (affectionately known as the “MIA”) and who would have known the essence of Sherlock Holmes is sprinkled throughout this immense collection of artwork? Thanks to the investigative work completed by Norwegian Explorer, Bob Brusic, it’s clear that signs of Holmes jump out everywhere. Bob recently became a docent for the MIA and he invited fellow Explorers to join him on a tour he created.

On Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm, we gathered near the information desk on the ground floor in anticipation of evening’s event, that Bob titled, “Doing Some Holmes Work at the MIA - An Exercise in Artistic Deduction.” Twenty-one members had signed up, but we soon filled beyond capacity as other Explorers and friends arrived. Bob welcomed everyone in, and as some members picked up collapsible chairs, we followed him to the second floor for the beginning of the tour.

The MIA has thousands of pieces of art on display, but Bob narrowed our focus to eleven items. These stops on his tour were laced throughout the “seeming endless maze” of the wonderfully enormous building that is the MIA. It is too much to describe every piece Bob highlighted and include his analysis on the relationship to Sherlock Holmes, so I’ll just cover three stops to give you a flavor of what we experienced.

After discussing the first three pieces on the second floor, we proceed to the third floor for the fourth tour stop. We gathered in gallery room 307 around an oil painting entitled “Imaginary Landscape - Italian Harbor Scene.” It was finished in 1746 by Claude Joseph Vernet (1714-1789). Bob mentioned the “art in the blood” quote from GREE and the connection of Holmes to the Vernet family. Bob said that due consideration (and he said this has been verified by Peter Blau), makes the painter of the artwork we laid our

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### FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

Our president, Gary Thaden, recently passed along the sad information that Dr. Bryce Crawford, BSI died on September 16, 2011 at the age of 96. He was one of the five founding members of the Norwegian Explorers and will be missed. Services for Dr. Crawford were held on October 1st. Our next issue of *Explorations* will include more information and articles about him and all that he accomplished during his lifetime.


I hope you all keep warm this autumn as the cooler weather rolls in. While you settle in for an evening read, take a few minutes to enjoy the articles included in this newsletter—all written by your fellow Norwegian Explorers.

And as always, submissions for *Explorations* are welcome. Email them directly to me in plain text or in Word format to: [twinsfan1@earthlink.net](mailto:twinsfan1@earthlink.net)

~Tim Reich

## HOLMES SIGHTINGS

In Stephen Baker's book *Final Jeopardy: Man vs. Machine and the Quest to know Everything*, he gives the history of IBM's development of the *Jeopardy* playing computer Watson. Watson was named after Thomas J. Watson, IBM's founder. Baker notes that "The Watson name was also a nod to the companion and chronicler of Sherlock Holmes, the brilliant fictional sleuth." Baker goes on to explain that "In those stories, of course, Dr. Watson was clearly the lesser of the two intellects. But considering public apprehension about all-knowing machines, maybe it wasn't such a bad idea to name a question-answering computer after an earnest and plodding assistant." As Baker tells the story, Watson the computer was plodding early in its development, taking up to two hours to answer a question. Later in the book, a discussion of job prospects for Watson includes work in the medical field. Watson's developer "recounted a deeply frustrating medical journey – one that a retrained *Jeopardy* computer (Dr. Watson) could have made much easier."



**In fact, Snelling argues, Fleming has produced "the 'livingest' character since Sherlock Holmes."**

O. F. Snelling published *007 James Bond: A Report* in 1964 and as a result it does not include all of the Bond books that Ian Fleming wrote. It does, however, contain several Holmes and Doyle references. In the Author's Note at the beginning of the book, Snelling notes that Ian Fleming was "a sort of Dr. Watson" for Bond. According to Bond's obituary in *You Only Live Twice*, Fleming wrote "high-flown and romanticized caricatures of episodes in the career of an outstanding public servant." Snelling notes that Ian Fleming was also the name of an actor who portrayed Holmes in many pre-war films.

Snelling writes further that Fleming is like Doyle in bringing to life and making a household name of a series character. In fact, Snelling argues, Fleming has produced "the 'livingest' character since Sherlock Holmes." A reader of the Bond books may search them to determine Bond's true ages just "Like a Baker Street Irregular, searching line after line of the Sherlock Holmes stories to establish the exact location of 221B."

Fleming's *The Spy Who Loved Me* is narrated by someone other than Fleming, who is the all-knowing narrator of the other Bond books. Snelling notes that "Fleming wasn't the first popular author to deviate from a well-trying formula, Conan Doyle, it should be remembered, tried something of the sort in *The Valley of Fear*."

Snelling sees M, Bond's boss and elder, as "the nearest thing to a sort of Dr. Watson that these books will ever have." It is not the case that M writes down the Bond adventures, but that M appears in almost every story and "is as real and alive as Bond Himself." At the other end of the spectrum, "Ernst Stavro Blofeld is one of the most engaging criminals in sensational fiction. He bids fair to rival villains like Carl Peterson and Professor Moriarty." Carl Peterson is Bulldog Drummond's arch-enemy.

Snelling thinks that "James Bond is set for life, or at least for as long as Ian Fleming cares to keep him going." Like the later Holmes stories, the later Bond stories were criticized because the main character was not quite the same as before. Despite Doyle's efforts, Holmes went on for 40 years and despite Fleming's death, Bond has gone on for almost 60 years. Snelling closes with the observation that "With the obvious exception of Sherlock Holmes, however, whom everybody knows about, very few of [series characters created by other authors] could be brought up in a conversation under almost any circumstances with the complete assurance that anyone present would understand the allusion."

In NOBL, Holmes states, "It is always a joy to meet an American, Mr. Moulton, for I am one of those who believe that the folly of a monarch and the blundering of a minister in far-gone years will not prevent our children from being some day citizens of the same world-wide country under a flag which shall be a quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes." In *A World on Fire: Britain's Crucial Role in the American Civil War*, Amanda Forman notes several times when a quartering

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## HOLMES SIGHTINGS

(Continued from page 2)

of the Union Jack and another flag actually occurred, but the other flag was not always the Stars and Stripes. Holmes's idea of the quartering of the flags was neither original nor unique.

In 1858, a transatlantic telegraph cable was laid. An earlier attempt in 1851 had failed, but "This time, the cable held strong as HMS *Agamemnon* and USS *Niagara* sailed toward their respective destinations flying specially designed flags that incorporated the stars of Old Glory with the stripes of the Union Jack." Unfortunately, the cable worked for only one month.

At the outbreak of the war, there was great feeling in Britain against the North. Forman writes that "Hackney cabs were given miniature Union Jacks crossed with the Confederate Flag." In 1863, James Murray Mason, a Confederate commissioner working in Britain, returned to London and "found Waterloo Station placarded with posters depicting the British Union Jack crossed with the Confederate flag. Hackney cab drivers were displaying the emblems in miniature."

Some Sherlockians may know Ms. Forman as the author of "Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire."

*Hapworth 16, 1924* was the last of J. D. Salinger's works to be published in his lifetime, appeared in the June 19, 1965 edition of *The New Yorker*, and has never been reprinted. The story consists of a long letter by the seven year old Seymour Glass who requests that a long list of books be delivered to him and his younger brother Buddy at the Camp Simon Hapworth at which they were spending the summer. As revealed in other stories Salinger wrote about the Glass family, Seymour was brilliant and became a professor at Columbia at the age of 20. In addition to requests for many other books, Seymour asks for "The complete works, quite in full, of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, with the exception of any books that are not utterly concerned with Sherlock Holmes, such as 'The White Company.'" He continues to write that while swimming at the camp he remembered

Miss Constable, who worked at the main library, and her passion for Goethe's works. Seymour concludes that "At this quiet moment, a thought occurred to me which raised my eyebrows unmercifully! It was suddenly borne in upon me, utterly beyond dispute, that I love Sir Arthur Conan Doyle but do not love the great Goethe! As I darted idly through the water, it became crystal clear that it is far from an established fact that I am even demonstrably fond of the great Goethe, in my heart, while my love for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, via his contributions, is an absolute certainty!"

Paul Scott's Raj Quartet is a series of four novels that cover events involving a large cast of English and Indian characters in India from 1942 to independence in 1947. In the last novel, *A Division of the Spoils*, the character Susan notes that her husband has died and his "missing clothes are like the dog that didn't bark in the night." Guy Perron responds, "Conan Doyle?" Susan, who was born in India, went to school in England, but returned to India adds, "My favorite as a child was *The Speckled Band*. I used to read it by torchlight under the bedclothes at the school Sarah and I went to at home. The Speckled Band reminded me of India. Because of the Snake."

~Mike Eckman



"...my love for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, via his contributions, is an absolute certainty!"

## ARTISTIC DEDUCTION

Tour creator and leader, Bob Brusic, is pictured here discussing Oskar Kokoschka's painting, "Tower Bridge," at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.



(Continued from page 1)

**"I now have a few new favorites to spent time with during future visits (to the MIA)."**

eyes on, Holmes' great-great grandfather. As with every stop during the evening, the members of our group joined in for a lively discussion that included their own thoughts and questions for our guide about the research he uncovered.

After visiting Tissot's painting, "On the Thames" we strolled to the eighth stop on our tour, Claude Monet's "Grainstack, Sun in the Mist." This is an incredible piece that has made its home at the MIA. (And this is where Bob's original planned tour of 10 spots, actually became 11; this was too good to pass by without discussing it.) I asked Bob to recall his comments during the stop. Bob said, "The painting was done in 1891, the same year Holmes went on Hiatus following Reichenbach. I thought, in passing, the coincidence was worth mentioning. Beyond that, sheer speculation caused me to suggest that Holmes might perhaps, just possibly, maybe, have come across Monet sometime during his time in France where the detective admitted that "he spent some months in a research into the coal tar derivatives..." Surely the descendant of a French artist might reasonably be expected to confer with a French artist when in France. Monet, an Impressionist painter, was concerned with color and light while Holmes dealt with coal tar and truth. Isn't it at least a remote possibility that the two met, shared a bottle of fine French wine, and discussed their respective researches? The pastiche for this encounter has yet to be written."

The ninth stop brought us to gallery room 377 and the 1925 Expressionist painting, "Tower Bridge," by the Austrian artist, Oskar

Kokoschka. Bob said, "The bridge itself was constructed in 1894. It took eight years to construct the bridge, so Holmes would not have traveled under it in the Big Chase from SIGN. He very well might have gone across it either by foot or some other conveyance in 1894 (or thereafter), for that was the year of his return following the Great Hiatus. So I can imagine Holmes and Watson enjoying a pipe and a stroll across that fine structure across the Thames in the heart of industrialized London. I found no mention of the Tower Bridge in the canon, though the urban Thames is mentioned in at least 6 adventures and is a real presence in the whole canon." Bob also mentioned he especially enjoyed the group's speculation about where the Agra treasure might have been dumped along the stretch of river.

Being the map guy that I am, I had the MIA Visitors Guide map with me during the tour and I traced the path we took throughout the tour and scribbled notes as fast as I could. Alas, I could not write everything down, and I thank Bob for his help regarding the details of the artwork mentioned and for his comments included in this review.

I make a trip to the MIA at least once a year and I have my favorites from the permanent collection that I never miss (such as the 1850 oil painting, "View of Fort Snelling," by Edward K. Thomas ). Through Bob's delightful tour, I now have a few new favorites to spent time with during future visits.

~Tim Reich



## BOOK REVIEW:

***SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE  
LOCATIONS: A VISITOR'S GUIDE* BY ALLAN FOSTER**

For those travelers among us, both real-world and armchair varieties, with an interest in Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle, there is a wonderful new book for us to enjoy. It is *Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle Locations: A Visitor's Guide* by Allan Foster and I highly recommend it (2011, McFarland & Company, Publishers).

Allan Foster is a Scottish resident with a broad interest in literature and authors. He wrote *The Literary Traveller in Edinburgh* which covers the myriad of writers, their haunts, and local bookstores. He writes with great love, and at times irreverence, for his subject with relevant and interesting stories for each location covered. Allan has also used his extensive knowledge to operate the "Old Town Literary Pub Crawl" a lively and successful narrated tour of the grand City of Edinburgh. By an interesting coincidence I discovered that our esteemed editor, Tim Reich, and his wife, Sara went on Allan's tour while visiting Edinburgh and enjoyed it very much. Allan also conducts specialty tours concentrating on Doyle's connections to the town.

In *Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle Locations* Foster expands the coverage throughout Scotland and England. The first and most extensive section covers Edinburgh, with

added details relating to Joseph Bell, Doyle's professor and the original model for Sherlock Holmes, publishers of Doyle's works, and other subjects associated with Doyle. While London is also covered in great detail, there are numerous other entries for Dartmoor, Plymouth, Cornwall, Hampshire, Crowborough, etc. Most entries have a quote from a Doyle story, such as for Winnats Pass in Derbyshire with an excerpt from "The Terror of Blue John Gap" which was inspired by Blue John Cavern at that location.

The book has a great number of photographs, several maps, a select chronology of Doyle's life, a list of Doyle's residences, and mention of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota.

Foster manages to write in an engaging manner making clear connections between Doyle's writing and actual locations throughout England and Scotland. If you are planning a trip to either country and have an interest in Holmes or Doyle, or just have a passion for the subject, I strongly recommend that you get a copy of this book. I confess that Foster used my input in producing the book, but even without that connection I would still praise it highly. It is available through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) (and affiliates in Canada and the UK).

~Phil Bergem



**"He writes with great love, and at times irreverence, for his subject with relevant and interesting stories for each location covered."**



## SYNTACTIC PARALLELISM

### (OR, WHAT YOUR 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH TEACHER TRIED TO TEACH YOU)

Depending upon your age when you read this, you have probably forgotten most or all of what you learned in 7<sup>th</sup> grade English class. All those lists to learn and things to acquaint yourself with . . . the vocabulary that suddenly got really tough . . . the first Shakespeare play you ever read . . . parts of speech (“both, few, all, many, some, and several” remain in the lumber room of my mind as the only pronouns that take a plural verb)—all these and many others things your English teacher tried to teach you have probably vanished down the memory hole of the years. Because I started junior high school in a suburb of Boston, colonial history was real to us and close to hand; we had to learn the first 20 lines of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s “Courtship of Miles Standish” by heart. (I can still reel those off, though nobody in the past 45 years has ever requested such a recital.) And, somewhere around 7<sup>th</sup> grade, some patient English teacher probably tried to teach you something called parallelism or “parallel structure.”

Parallel structure is the arrangement of similarly constructed phrases or sentences in close proximity. The same syntactical forms should balance one another. Nouns should be matched with nouns, main clause with main clause, prepositional phrases with prepositional phrases and so forth. In his annual message to Congress, December 1, 1862, Abraham Lincoln wrote, “The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present.” Two phrases in this sentence match exactly in their parts of speech:

The dogmas of the quiet past

[preposition + definite article + adjective + noun of time]

are inadequate to the stormy present.

[preposition + definite article + adjective + noun of time]

The technical term—in Greek, the language used to name most figures of speech—for parallel structure is **PARISON**. The simplest form of parison is matching two phrases of two words each, as in these Canonical examples of “adjective + noun” combinations:

its blazing eyes and dripping jaws (HOUN, 675)

swirling water and seething foam (FINA, 480)

running brooks and blossoming trees (VALL, 853)

Adding a verb or preposition or adjective can result in 3-word parison:

“tortures the soul and wrings the nerves” (CHAS, 573)

Holmes took his hat and shrugged his shoulders (ABBE, 645)

“mottled with lichens and topped with moss” (RETI, 1114)

Or 4-word parison:

Sherlock Holmes was too irritable for conversation and too restless for sleep. (LADY, 953)

The men had drawn down their hats and turned up their collars. (VALL, 850)

“the importance of sleeves, the suggestiveness of thumb-nails” (IDEN, 196)

Or 5-word parison:

“examined the ears in the box with the eyes of an expert” (CARD, 896)

“the folly of a monarch and the blundering of a minister” (NOBL, 299)

“the roars of the animal and the screams of the woman” (VEIL, 1097)

(Continued on page 7)



“The same syntactical forms should balance one another.”

## PARALLELISM

(Continued from page 6)

Or occasionally parallel structure of even more than five words:

“The long sweep of green water roaring forever down, and the thick flickering curtain of spray hissing forever upward.” (FINA, 478)

Parallel structure is even more elaborate when similar clauses are arranged by threes. This figure is called “tricolon” - but even your 7<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher probably did not try to teach you that!

“Petty thefts, wanton assaults, purposeless outrage” (NORW, 496)

“your lips set, your eyes sparkled, and your hands clenched” (CARD, 889)

his eyes shining, his face set, his limbs quivering (DEVI, 963)

In the Sherlockian Saga, parison occurs as early as the first paragraph of the first story, *A Study in Scarlet*, although the two instances are not exact syntactical matches.

shattered the bone and grazed the subclavian artery

Worn with pain and weak from the prolonged hardships

The last example of parison in the Saga comes in the final story, “The Retired Colourman”:

his straining eyes and his twitching features (RETI, 1118).

### A QUIZ ON PARISON / PARALLELISM

Some sort of parison occurs hundreds of times in the Canon. See if you can identify the stories from which these ten examples of parallel structure are drawn:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. “I am commuting a felony, but it is just possible that I am saving a soul”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. “The lady keeps her room, alters her habits”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. “It is infallibly deadly, and it is horribly contagious”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. “She was brown with the dust and draped with the cobwebs”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. “She is swift in making up her mind and fearless in carrying out her resolutions.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. “the monotonous brick streets, the weary suburban highways”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. “If your heart is as big as your body, and your soul as fine as your face”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. “The brother is dead and the jewels are gone.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. “the face in the cab, the figure against the moon”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. “My horror at his crimes was lost in my admiration at his skill.”

Choose your answers from these stories: (No story is used more than once.)

BLUE	FINA	HOUN	RETI	SIGN
DYIN	GOLD	NOBL	SHOS	VALL

Please see page 11 for the correct answers.

~Karen Murdock, ASH



“...parison occurs as early as the first paragraph of the first story, *A Study in Scarlet*”

## *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*

### A THEATRICAL REVIEW

While motoring through Lenox, Massachusetts during the summer, our family chanced upon a fresh production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. And, fresh it was, from start to finish. The playbill put it this way: "What do you get when you combine a beloved Sherlock Holmes story, three actors playing sixteen characters, a dozen fake beards, a bone-chilling canine curse, and a dash of outrageous cross dressing? (You get) Shakespeare & Company's uproariously funny take on the *The Hound of the Baskervilles*."

My journal observations, which I wrote before laughing myself to sleep that night, put it this way: "The HOUND was a hoot: energetic, slapstick, played for laughs, over the top, and fast with spot on timing. Yet the plot of the canonical story was followed (if a bit bent). I noticed the apparent influence of the small cast multi-character zaniness of *The Thirty-Nine Steps*."

This Hound was laced with impressive sound effects: the shoosh of steam in a Turkish Bath, the blood-curdling yowl of the hound, a raging storm on the moor, a pantomime game of billiards in which invisible balls clicked solidly. The production we saw contained a certain amount of improvisation and even audience participation. For example, our family sat in the first row next to the eighteen-inch-high thrust stage. At one point the three of us were commandeered into pulling Watson and Sir Henry out of the Grimpen Mire. That is, we were urged to grab on to an extended shepherd's staff and pull for all we were worth. And it actually worked! We succeeded in freeing the pantomimically ensnared pair.

The actor, Jonathan Croy, was good old Watson throughout the show. However, in the rest of the action Josh Aaron McCabe alternately played a cool-headed Holmes, a malign Stapleton, a blind Barrymore, a sobbing Mrs. Barrymore, and a vampy Cecilia (the hot-blooded, fan-snapping wife of Stapleton). The third member of the cast,

Ryan Winkles, portrayed Sir Henry Baskerville and several other characters. A definite highlight occurred when Josh/Cecilia in the form of a life-sized dummy danced a torrid tango at the end of act 1 with (I am pretty sure) Josh/Stapleton. The audience, including me, was so tied up in stitches that it was hard to tell. The quick changes and fast-paced action made for a stunning and hilarious production, with overtones of the Marx Brothers in their goofiest moments. My notes record that "It's a HOUND filtered through the lens of the Mad Hatter's Tea Party."

Act 2 began with a madcap reprise of act 1, the audience giving vocal approval to the rapid compression of the plot so far. Here and elsewhere throughout the play Watson, with his trusty revolver, fired more shots than Wyatt Earp at the O.K. Corral (another impressive sound effect). But the show-stopper (one that *really* stopped the show) was an exchange between Holmes and Watson (spoiler alert):

"Watson, I have received word that Stapleton was head of a school where the whole student body suspiciously died of food poisoning."

"Really, Holmes, what kind of school was it?"

"Elementary, my dear Watson."

No one saw that coming, and the audience howled for about two minutes, causing even the cast to stop and heave in silent laughter. By this time the three actors (or was it six? or ten?) had the audience in the palm of their hands. And so it was that Stapleton uproariously sank into the mire, an action soon followed by Cecilia dancing another wild tango (live this time) with Sir

(Continued on page 9)



**"The quick changes and fast-paced action made for a stunning and hilarious production"**



## PLAY REVIEW

(Continued from page 8)

Henry and, as I recall with Watson as well, something even Nigel Bruce would never have attempted.

I realize that it all sounds rather farcical and ridiculous – and it was. Well, the playbill said as much: "This madcap adventure is great for Sherlock Holmes novices, and will be only mildly offensive to hardcore purists...we hope. It's a truly hilarious romp that takes one of the most popular British detective stories ever written and turns it inside out." I might add that the kinetic – even frenetic – energy on the stage made Robert Downey, Jr. look positively wooden by comparison.

This kind of production, of course, requires a suspension of the canonical, although the lineaments of the original story were certainly discernible. Moreover, this kind of parodic outing shows just how enjoyably stretchable the basic narrative can be, especially in the hands of very capable actors.. For me, it was a cool production on a hot night. During one of the dog days of summer this fast-paced Hound sent shivers up my spine. It was a romp on the moor with a hardy hound, and it provoked howls of delight .

~Bob Brusic



"For me, it was  
a cool  
production on a  
hot night."

## SKYPE UNITES OUR STUDY GROUP MEMBERS

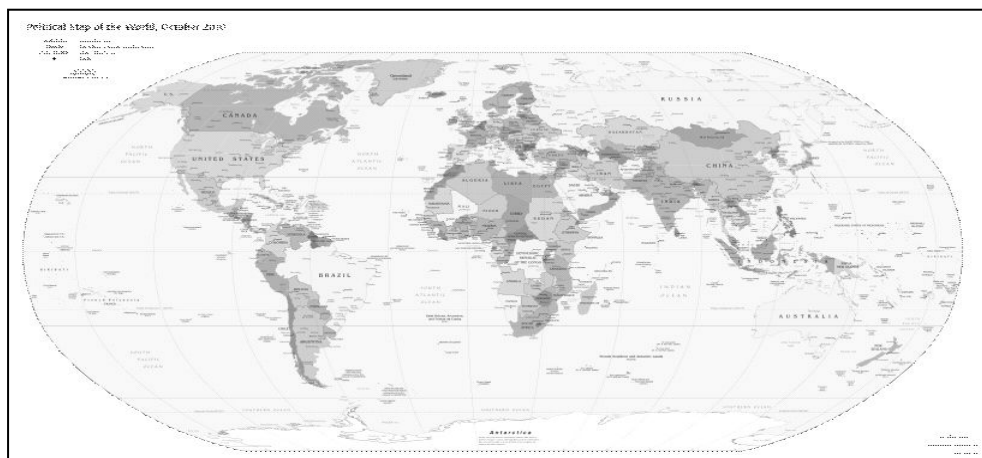
Our world keeps getting smaller and smaller and communication becomes easier and easier. This is true for Sherlockian society discussion groups who gather in libraries located in and around St. Paul, Minnesota, but who now have face-to-face conversations, during the meeting, with one Norwegian Explorer living in Vienna, Austria.

Soren Eversoll has been a regular participant during our study group meetings the last couple years. When his family moved to Austria this summer, he asked about joining our meeting via Skype. (Skype allows live video

chats through the internet.) This September John Bergquist was able connect through his phone with Soren. We were able to see and hear Soren and he was able to see and hear us during the meeting. It worked perfect.

It's wonderful that we can still benefit from Soren's knowledge and enthusiasm for all things Sherlockian and I hope he enjoys the conversations as well. (...even if it is actually 9:00 p.m. for him when our 2:00 p.m. CST meetings begin!)

~Tim Reich



## THE 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

Although there are always good reasons to visit London, it was difficult to pick which of the two events planned by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London to attend. (Surprisingly, we weren't invited to the Royal Wedding in April, so that eliminated one other option for visiting England this year.) Although we didn't want to miss either of the events, one celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the society and the other a September expedition to Oxford, occasionally life makes the choice for you. In our case my husband's schedule made the Oxford trip impossible, so in May we were off to England for the London Mini-Festival Weekend, held the 19<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The mini-festival began on May 19<sup>th</sup> with a traditional afternoon tea at the House of Lords, sponsored by The Right Honourable Lord MacGregor. After clearing security we gathered at the Cholmondeley Room and the Terrace. We were greeted by Lord MacGregor and Society Chairman Jonathan McCafferty and had the opportunity to mingle on the terrace overlooking the Thames River, all the while keeping a sharp eye out for any sightings of the "Aurora." Everyone enjoyed the tea and we were lucky to sit with Mrs. Georgina Doyle, author of *Out of the Shadows*, who was an honored guest at our 2004 conference. When the afternoon tea concluded we walked to The Savage Club, housed in the National Liberal Club on Whitehall Place. After drinks and dinner the Annual General Meeting was held. Business was conducted, books were sold, future expeditions discussed, awards bestowed, and Three Minute Problems were presented.

Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> was the Jubilee Dinner at the House of Lords. We were fortunate that the dinner organizers had included an optional tour of the building. Our well-versed guide took us to the House of Lords, Central Lobby, House of Commons, St. Stephen's Hall and Westminster Hall and gave the background of the different portions of the building. Workers were busy preparing Westminster Hall for the upcoming visit of President Barack Obama. After our tour we had cocktails overlooking the Thames and were then greeted by Chairman McCafferty and Baroness Ruth Rendell of Babergh, our event sponsor. The traditional toasts were given and

the Guest of Honour, Mrs. Alfreda Howlett spoke of the society's founding and her appreciation of how the group has grown and prospered. Les Klinger, the featured speaker of the evening, discussed his various Sherlockian adventures encountered over the years.

On Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, our group boarded a riverboat for a journey down the Thames River. It was a beautiful day and we saw many of the traditional sights associated with London on our short voyage to Greenwich. After our arrival, we walked to the site of our luncheon, the Bar Du Musée. This was followed by a guided walking tour of the city and our day in Greenwich concluded at the Trafalgar Club where we listened to a presentation of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

The final day of the mini-festival weekend began with a luncheon at Simpson's on the Strand. We then boarded a 1965 double-decker bus and saw the same sights that Mr. Holmes once viewed, although now somewhat updated. Our bus tour concluded with a stop at Cavendish Square and we were led by Roger Johnson on a walking excursion of the same mews that Holmes and Watson traveled to the Empty House. We ended the day and the mini-festival weekend with a tea at The Sherlock Holmes Hotel.

It was a lovely weekend, complete with friends and well-planned events. Mike and I did a number of additional tourist visits—Westminster Abbey, Harrods, The Victoria and Albert Museum, as well as a lot of shopping, a play, and visiting with some of Mike's previous business associates...and did I fail to mention that we had cocktails at The Savoy Hotel? And who should pass us on the stairs leading down to the bar but Sir Paul McCartney? I'll have whiplash for the rest of my life. We happened to be in front of Buckingham Palace when the Presidential Motorcade arrived, which was quite an interesting experience in itself.

It was a great visit celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and we were fortunate to have additional adventures during the week. We look forward to more celebrations for this illustrious group.

~Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI



**"It was a lovely weekend, complete with friends and well-planned events."**

## STUDY GROUP MEETING REVIEWS

### *Sherlock Homes (the play)*

**Discussion leader:** Karen Murdock

**Date:** June 18, 2011

**Location:** Arlington Hills Library

I think all nine of us in attendance were wide-eyed as we entered the newly remodeled basement lounge at the Arlington Hills Library. This classic Carnegie library is nestled in one of St. Paul's East Side neighborhoods and I was impressed with the upgrade to the meeting room. (Spending money on libraries is an excellent use of money in my opinion.)

As per a trend of recent years, our June discussion group tackled a related work outside the Canon. This time we dove into "Sherlock Holmes" (the play) by William Gillette, first produced in 1899.

William Gillette was famous for his portrayal of Holmes and he influenced the public perception of the image of Holmes. Explorer, Mary Loving shared with us some old play reviews she located online supporting this. Our leader for the day, Karen Murdock, said she believed Gillette's play was a good conversion for people to become interested in Sherlock Holmes and we can make the argument Gillette kept Holmes "alive." Many members in the room were in agreement; as the play started when the Holmes stories were still being produced and one can take the argument even further to suggest the play is why we have the second half of the Canon. We also wondered if Gillette increased the popularity of Holmes by introducing romance. These theories have been brought up before by other Sherlockians, but it was nice to revisit them.

In addition to the normal handful of questions sent out with our Study Group notice, Karen created a question list titled, "From Which Stories Are the Following Drawn." The list included twelve characters, objects, or events that were mentioned in the play. This helped facilitate our discussion. See if you can think of the stories from these two references included on Karen's list: "The use of a fake fire alarm to reveal a hiding place," and "Holmes's trying to escape from life's boredom."

We also discussed how the play was different than the stories. We enjoyed the complex murder attempt on Holmes. But, why not just shoot him? It was noted that Billy is not mentioned by name in the Canon until after



William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes

this play – leading to suggestions that Doyle adopted Billy into the stories from the play. Some thought it was odd that Alice shows up and all they can do is put her in a closet that doesn't lock. But we thought she redeemed herself at the end of the play. We saw Alice, less as a crook, and more as an avenger. People even predicted she would convert to a life on the straight & narrow. There was also the feeling in our group that Holmes was almost too smug in this play and that everyone else is shown as an idiot.

At the end of the meeting John Bergquist set up his iPad and we watched YouTube – 2 clips each about seven minutes that featured picture stills and the audio of William Gillette's voice late in his career. It was a pleasure to still back and enjoy the montage and finish our discussion.

If you're interested in reading the play, it can be found in a variety of locations. One of the books it is included in is Jack Tracy's, *The Published Apocrypha*. The text of the play can also be found on The Diogenes Club website (<http://www.diogenes-club.com/sherlockplay.htm>). For further reading, our own Norwegian Explorer, Andrew Malec's, 1983 pamphlet "Molding the Image: William Gillette as Sherlock Homes," is also a great source of information - if you can lay your hands on it. The University of Minnesota's Sherlock Holmes Collections is a good place to start.

~Tim Reich



**"we can make  
the argument  
Gillette kept  
Holmes "alive."**

### ANSWERS TO QUIZ

(from page 7)

1. BLUE, 257
2. SHOS, 1108
3. DYIN, 933
4. GOLD, 619
5. NOBL, 292
6. RETI, 1114
7. VALL, 827
8. SIGN, 114
9. HOUN, 730
10. FINA, 471

(Page numbers  
from Doubleday.)

## STUDY GROUP MEETING REVIEWS

### *Three Students*

**Discussion leader: Kristi Iverson**

**Date: September 17, 2011**

**Location: St. Anthony Park Library**

On the fine, warm, late (very late) summer Saturday afternoon of September 17, fourteen Norwegian Explorers met to resume the discussion group meetings (no meetings were held in July or August). Ken Reinartz and Sharon Hogenson attended for the first time. (Ken had met discussion group leader Kristi Iverson at the "Saints and Sinners" book club in the downtown Saint Paul library, a group of mystery book lovers). John Bergquist set up a link via Skype so that Soren Eversoll, our youngest member, who moved to Vienna, Austria over the summer, could participate.

In our traditional "Show and Tell" session at the start of the meeting, John passed around the book *So Painful a Scandal*. This book, which John edited, was published by the Baker Street Irregulars as part of the "BSI Manuscript Series." It includes a reproduction of the manuscript of 3STU and essays on the story. Steve Miller passed around a copy of a 1937 German movie based on "The Hound of the Baskervilles," which he recently acquired on DVD. I passed out copies of my article "Do You Write Like Arthur Conan Doyle?" which was published in the latest issue of *The Serpentine Muse*.

Kristi opened the discussion by saying that of the two greatest universities in England, only Cambridge has a "Saint Luke's" college. I said this was evidence that 3STU did *not* take place at Cambridge, since Watson said he was deliberately altering some details in the telling of the tale, "to avoid such terms as would serve to limit the events to any particular place, or give a clue as to the people involved."

It is somewhat unusual that an Indian student should be studying in England at so early a date. But, it was mentioned that the Indian, Daulat Ras, served as a foil to the tall, blond, Englishman Gilchrist—but it was Gilchrist who turned out to be the bad guy, playing against the expectations of Victorian readers, who would have expected the foreigner to be the culprit.

As in so many Sherlock Holmes tales, we questioned whether any actual crime took place. We pointed out that cheating on a test would certainly have been a crime in the eyes of the college authorities and entering a room without permission might have involved breaking and entering. One member said that Gilchrist should be forgiven since this was his first offense and he is both young and contrite.

I liked the out-of-London aspect of this case. Sherlock Holmes is in Oxford (or Cambridge) on some completely non-criminal investigation and just happens to fall into a situation in which he can exercise his powers of deduction. It reminded me of the 1980s mystery TV show "Murder She Wrote," in which the scriptwriters had to constantly send the heroine out of town on one excuse or another so that the small town of Cabot Cove, Maine, would not be the setting for dozens and dozens of murders. We identified REIG and DEVI as other tales in which Holmes is out of town and just happens to be pulled into mysteries happening around him.

One Explorer was troubled by Soames, who said to Holmes, "Your discretion is as well known as your powers." How could Soames know about Holmes's discretion? If word of it had leaked out, this would be proof that Holmes was not discreet.

We thought the whole "pencil" thing was a red herring in the story. I however, defended this piece since it showed that Holmes's clues did not always pan out. It is like "police procedural" novels which show how things work. In real investigations, clues often lead to no results. But we did say that the clue about the height of the students was important because only the tallest of the suspects could have seen into the room. Yet, it was suggested that Greek-English dictionaries are so thick that any of the suspects could have stood upon a dictionary to see into Soames's room.

We proposed that it was unlikely Soames would have kept his door locked, since "sporting the oak" was at odds with the custom both of Oxford and of Cambridge at the time. And finally, we wondered where the traditional "porter" in the entryway was during these events.

~Karen Murdock, ASH



"...we questioned whether any actual crime took place."

## 2011 Norwegian Explorers Sigerson Awards and/or 2011 Christmas Annual

This dual entry form can be used to submit entries for the Norwegian Explorers Sigerson Awards and/or the 2011 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 theme of this year's Christmas Annual is: **Treasures**

Anything related to Sherlock Holmes and the broad theme of "Treasures" is fair game. If you are a local Explorer, you might consider visiting The Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota for inspiration. You could write about a prized piece, or group of items, in the collection. You could feature little-known pieces from the library; or highlight the treasures from a particular contributor. If you cannot visit the U of M, you might consider submitting an article describing a cherished item, or gift, from your own collection and the story behind it or why you enjoy it.

Some other topics in this year's theme for you to consider might be: Original research about jewels or treasures mentioned in the Canon. A pastiche where Holmes, Watson, or other characters solve a mystery involving vast riches. An illustration or poem that features a precious item from the Canon. Describe what you think was the most prized item that a Canonical character owned and why. Speculate about Canonical characters who obtained (or lost) a valuable item and how the outcome of their lives' would have been altered if events had played out differently. Pay tribute to one of the "treasures" of the Sherlockian stage and screen. Or maybe share what you admire about the collecting spirit that many Sherlockians have and why our treasures add to our enjoyment of Holmes. We look forward to seeing what you come up with!

### **Suggested Categories for the Awards and for the Annual:**

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Article or essay (1500 word maximum) | 5. Joke                   |
| 2. Poem                                 | 6. Illustration / Artwork |
| 3. Cartoon                              | 7. Quiz                   |
| 4. Sherlockian or Doylean review        | 8. Pastiche               |

### **Rules for Contest Entry**

1. You must be a member of The Norwegian Explorers (local or corresponding). If you are not yet a member, a link to our membership form is located on our website: [www.norwegianexplorers.org](http://www.norwegianexplorers.org)
2. Submit electronic versions of papers to: [twinsfan1@earthlink.net](mailto:twinsfan1@earthlink.net) - (Microsoft Word preferred). Please make sure you receive a reply e-mail within two days from Tim Reich acknowledging we have successfully received your submission. Mail the entry form (below) to Tim Reich, 6809 Pillsbury Ave., Richfield, MN 55423. Mailing a hard copy of your entry is not required, but you may do so if you wish.
3. Entries must be received by November 10, 2011.
4. All entries must be the original work of the contestant.
5. Winning entries not included in the Christmas Annual may be published in *Explorations*, but contestant retains all rights.
6. Hard copy entries will be returned only if return postage is provided by contestant.
7. Multiple entries may be submitted for each category.
8. The Norwegian Explorers accept no responsibility for the safety of a submitted original illustration or cartoon; copies may be submitted.
9. Judges will be selected by the Norwegian Explorers. Decision of the judges is final.
10. Winners of the Sigerson Award will be announced at the Annual Meeting in December. Absentees will be notified by email.

### **Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Submission for Christmas Annual \_\_\_\_\_ Sigerson Awards \_\_\_\_\_ (check one or both)

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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. ”