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EXPLORATIONS

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"You may have read of the remarkable explorations of a Norwegian named Sigerson,
but I am sure that it never occurred to you that you were receiving news of your friend."

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Editor's Desk

This is Phil, one half of the Explorations editorial team, writing. The two of us, with Ray taking the lead, have just finished up and sent to the printers the 2018 Explorers' *Christmas Annual*. The theme for this year is "War and Peace," and the essays and pastiches contributed by members are once again fantastic. As usual, the *Christmas Annual* will be given to attendees at our Annual Dinner, scheduled for December 6th. It will also be provided to New York City attendees of the BSI Dinner, the Woman's gathering, and the Gaslight Gala, all on January 11, 2019.

This issue of *Explorations* has articles recounting various Explorers events, such as a *Lost World* movie night, a game night, and a study group. Julie McKuras writes of attending the *Gillette to Brett V* conference in Indiana, and Jeff Falkingham, highlighted in our Summer 2018 issue, reflects on the Tantalus. And, once again, Karen Murdock explores figures of speech in the Sherlock Holmes stories. I enjoy these articles because

they help expand my base of knowledge, and they illustrate what an accomplished writer Conan Doyle truly was.

In previous issues I have mentioned vacations. This past August my wife and I travelled to Ireland, Scotland, and England which, of course, involved Sherlockian connections. In Edinburgh I revisited the various houses where Conan Doyle lived while growing up. The most changed since my last visit was Liberton Bank House. It avoided being razed to make room for a McDonald's restaurant and was instead fully gutted and refurbished as the Dunedin School. They highlight the ACD connection with a quotation from Holmes on the gate ("Education never ends, Watson." REDC) and a tree stump that has been carved to look like a baying hound. Next door is the Arthur Conan Doyle Medical Centre.

We also went on the Edinburgh Book Lovers' Tour conducted by Allan Foster. I had come to know Allan a few years ago when I provided some information on ACD's early life for a book he wrote. He gives a very good and informative tour and focused quite a bit on Conan Doyle, including showing some of the University buildings where Joe Bell taught. If you are in Edinburgh, I highly recommend him. (www.edinburghbooktour.com) and his companion book (*Book Lovers' Edinburgh*, Book Lovers' Press, 2018). Fellow Explorers Sara and Tim Reich went on his tour a few years ago and enjoyed it.

Next, we went to Middlesbrough, a town in the northeast of England where I lived while in my teens. To my surprise, in the May issue of Peter Blau's *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press* he mentioned the Orange Pip Market and a pub called "The Twisted Lip," both located on Baker Street in Middlesbrough. Stopping by I found that

(Continued on page 10)

My Lost World

BY STEVE SCHIER



hen I entered our house on the evening of Sunday, June 24, 2018, my wife asked me where I had gotten the plastic pith helmet that was my latest fashion accessory. I explained the resourceful Karen Ellery had provided them for the Norwegian Explorers attending a remarkable presentation of the 1925 film version of Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*. [Editor's note: Karen Ellery organized a gathering of Explorers to see the film when it was shown at The Heights Theater in Columbia Heights, just north of Minneapolis.] She wondered what the fuss was about, so I explained my long history with the film.

A little over fifty years ago, as an enterprising pre-teen, I became owner of an 8-mm movie camera and projector. My own films didn't amount to much, but I did purchase some short three and fifteen-minute 8-millimeter black and white, silent condensations of earlier films. I had Bela Lugosi in *Dracula* (1931), Boris Karloff in *The Mummy* (1932) and W. C. Fields in *The Bank Dick* (1940) — all still worth seeing today. The best of the lot was a complete version of F.W. Murnau's *Nosferatu* (1922), still the finest of all vampire films. From Blackhawk Films, in Davenport, Iowa, I purchased

single-reel, fifteen-minute highlight versions of D. W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation*, and yes, 1925's *The Lost World*.

After finishing my youthful first read of the Canon, I had yearned for more Doyle. I still remember the sadness with which I read the final paragraph of "Shoscombe Old Place" on the last page of my Doubleday volume of the Canon. I immediately plunged into *The Lost World* and found it a thrilling read. So I bought the film for my little 8-mm projector.

In fifteen minutes, it quickly told the story of arrival and escape, and featured just about all of the animated dinosaur footage. Even forty years later, the quality of the animation impressed me. My short version created a long unfulfilled wish to see the complete film.


This finally happened fifty-plus years later on June 24. Huzzah! I was particularly struck by the early and final sections of the film that were not in my fifteen-minute reel. (The on-screen version we saw was 100 minutes long.) Wallace Beery is striking in his almost feral portrayal of Professor Challenger. That is played to comic effect early in the film when he chases a despised journalist from his lecture hall. The concluding spectacle in which a marauding brontosaurus trashes London before taking to sea was also a revelation to me.



On July 8th, several Explorers attended a performance of *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* at Park Square Theatre in Saint Paul. Back row: Roger Sorensen, Pj Doyle, Tom Gottwalt, John Bergquist, Gary Thaden Julie McKuras, Mike McKuras. Front row: Karen Bergem, Maria Gottwalt, Stephanie Boaeuf, Phil Bergem.

The restored version, compiled from eleven different fragments with the help of my old supplier Blackhawk Films, produced a fluid story with color tinting that nicely comported with the twists and turns of the plot. The film also adeptly employed humor in a way that did not detract from the drama and spectacle of the story. A shining example is the surprising marriage of Gladys, the woman whose spurning of journalist Edward Malone produces the expedition, to the ninny Percy Potts.

The fabulous organ accompaniment produced an experience in which film and music bonded to work seamlessly, each complementing the other and in no way distracting from the composite entertainment.

In all, a memorable and satisfying time at the movies, if some fifty plus years overdue. My Lost World is lost no more. 

Exactly, Precisely, Completely

BY KAREN MURDOCK



n the Summer/Autumn 2011 issue of *Explorations*, I talked about syntactic parallelism, also known as parallel structure or **parison**, a matching of phrases which your 7th grade English teacher probably tried to get you to learn.

“pensive nights and laborious days”
(LAST, 978)
[adjective + plural noun]

“mottled with lichens and topped with moss”
(RETI, 1114)
[past participle verb + preposition + botanical noun]

“the folly of a monarch and the blundering of a minister” (NOBL, 299)
[definite article + noun + “of a” + governmental noun]

You may notice, however, that in these examples, the underlined phrases, although good examples of parallel structure, are not EXACTLY equivalent. For example, “folly” and “blundering,” though both nouns, do not have the same number of syllables. Parison in which parallel grammatical elements are more than similar but exactly, pre-

cisely, completely equal has a different name: **isocolon**. Isocolon is parallelism not only of structure but of length, down to the same number of syllables in the matching phrases.

We first encounter isocolon in the first Holmes story, *A Study in Scarlet*, when Sherlock Holmes explains to Doctor Watson what he does for a living. Clients come to him, says Holmes, and

“I listen to their story, they listen to my comments” (STUD, 24)
[subject + verb + prepositional phrase]

As with parison, isocolon can be as simple as two pairs of evenly matched words such as “adjective + noun” combinations:

flaming jaws and blazing eyes (HOUN, 763)
“that world of fresh air and fair play” (MISS, 623)

his tweed suit and cloth cap (HOUN, 740)
eager face and peering eyes (BOSC, 212)
or “verb + adverb” combinations:

He stopped suddenly and stared fixedly (HOUN, 749)

Examples of isocolon of three words can be prepositional phrases, or simple “subject + object” constructions:

panting up hills and rushing down slopes (HOUN, 743)

her lip trembled, her hand quivered (SIGN, 94)
shook his nerves and chilled his heart (STUD, 68)

Between the two, behind the hill (HOUN, 739)

Four-word examples of isocolon include:

“When she is gobbled up she is hardly missed.” (LADY, 943)

rushed at our door and pulled at our bell (BERY, 301)

he sprang from his chair and glanced at his watch (GOLD, 617)

a cracking of whips and a creaking of wheels (STUD, 58)

Her thin hands clenched, and her worn face blanched (WIST, 885)

There are even a few instances in the Canon in which exactly matching phrases have more than four words:

the twitching of his thin hands and the brightness of his dark eyes (DEVI, 956)

I thought of the heavy rains and looked at the gaping roof (HOUN, 739)


his nose on the ground and his tail in the air (SIGN, 119)

a quick step on the stairs, a sharp tap at the door (CREE, 1072)

QUIZ: ISOCOLON IN THE CANON

See if you can identify the stories from which these examples of isocolon occur. No story is used more than once. Choose your answers from: CHAS, DYIN, HOUN, MAZA, NOBL, PRIO, SIGN, SHOS, VALL and WIST.


1. "For him the villain, for me the microbe."
2. "a great brain in London, and a dead man in Sussex"
3. "there is no fiend in hell like Juan Murillo, and no peace in life while his victims still cry for vengeance"
4. "You want to sell them. I want to buy them."
5. the barren waste, the chilling wind, and the darkling sky
6. He was a terrible figure, huge in stature and fierce in manner.
7. "There are the horses, there is the smithy."
8. The staves of the barrel and the wheels of the trolley
9. "what the law had gained the stage had lost"
10. "that I was wrong and that Frank was right"

(Answers are on page 9.) 

Wholock Revisited

BY RAY RIETHMEIER



fter our previous issue (Summer 2018) featured an article highlighting the connections between Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Who, I felt certain that my favorite Lestrade actor, Colin Jeavons (from the Granada series, who had previously played Moriarty in "The Baker Street Boys"), would provide another link. I did a quick search of **imdb.com** and found that he had appeared as the character Damon in the 1967 story, "The Underwater Menace," with the 2nd Doctor, Patrick Troughton. 

Game Night: Twelve Consulting Detectives at Work

BY STEVE SCHIER



dedicated group of twelve Sherlockians assembled at the home of Steve and Mary Schier on the evening of September 9 to share a meal and fellowship and to tackle one of the many formidable cases of the classic Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective game.

Moderate temperatures and low humidity allowed the revelers to enjoy the back garden and patio before partaking of a sumptuous potluck meal. For hosting, Steve Schier was awarded with a small stuffed "Silver Blaze" horse that he initially mistook for Eeyore.

Three game groups — one with three, one with four and one with five players — each cooperatively sought to solve a case. Two groups worked on the same case but ran into different problems in achieving a solution.

One group did find the murderer but, in the words of Phil Bergem, "more by chance and a minor clue than by brilliant detective work." Karen Murdock noted: "We caught on the correct clue, but I'm pretty sure it would not stand up in a court of law."

The other group working on the same case, Karen Ellery noted, found a challenge in determining whether the murderer could have been at the scene of the crime on time. Both groups found their case quite challenging.

Our group experienced a similar fate. We knew the means of murder immediately and pretty soon thereafter determined the motive. But who did it? Typical of the game, our case gave us six avenues of investigation, five of which would prove to be red herrings. We were at sea until the perspicacious Kristi Iverson found the clue that led us to the killer.

Oh, ours was a grisly path. We encountered two additional murders along the way and a suspicious death by means of an errant golf ball on a golf course. When we checked the solution, we were totally surprised at the identity of the perpetrator of the two murders we had discovered along the way. It turned out that the key clue to those murders lay with the gossip columnist Langdale Pike.

I think our prejudices got the best of us regarding Langdale. He shows up only once in the

canon, in the unimpressive story of “The Three Gables.” I, for one, tended to dismiss him as useful in the game. My prejudices, it turned out, were quite unfounded.

The game provides some humor along the way. We found a “Phillip Marlowe” in our *London Directory* and a notice in the *London Times* of a shooting contest between said Marlowe and a certain Sebastian Moran. No doubt Raymond Chandler was in attendance. Let’s hope Marlowe won that one!

Karen Murdock spoke for many regarding her game experience, despite its challenges: “I would do it again.” 🐾

Gillette to Brett V

BY JULIE MCKURAS



he fifth Gillette to Brett Conference was held October 5th and 6th in Bloomington, Indiana, at Indiana University’s Memorial Student Union. We had the opportunity to learn from eight entertaining speakers, view two Sherlockian films, view wonderful exhibits at the Lilly Library, and wine and dine with old and new friends.

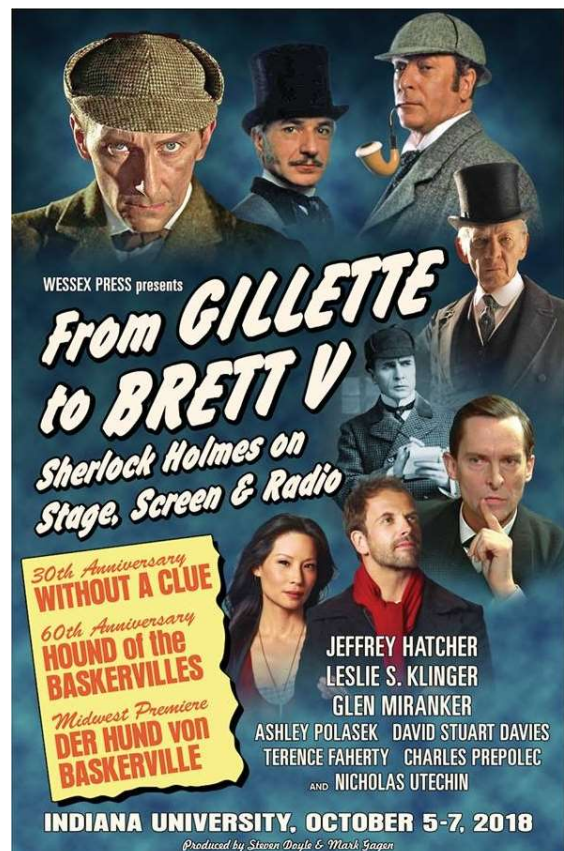
The conference began unofficially on Friday afternoon, October 5th. A buffet lunch was sponsored by the Baker Street Irregulars, and the crowd was welcomed by Michael Whelan, “Wiggins” of the BSI. Next up was one of the librarians from the Lilly (I’m sorry I don’t have her name) who enthusiastically told the group what we would be seeing after lunch. Her enthusiasm was well founded; we made the short walk to the library and many spent the afternoon perusing a vast number of items on exhibit. That evening we convened in the IU Cinema to view “Without a Clue” starring Ben Kingsley and Michael Caine. This was the 30th anniversary of the movie, and it was much funnier than I remembered. Following the film, we returned to the Student Union and a reception.

Saturday was the official beginning of the symposium. After registration, a quick trip (but not the last) to the vendors room, and a welcome from chairs Steve Doyle and Mark Gagen, our first speaker was up. Nick Utechin spoke about illustrator Sidney Paget and how he came to produce the well-known images we have come to associate

with Holmes. He then conducted a survey of the audience. Looking at photos of 23 actors who have portrayed the great detective on stage and screen up to 1980, he asked us to vote yay or nay as to whether their appearance mirrored Paget’s influence on how we imagine Holmes. The answer was a resounding yay.

Next up was Ashley Polasek and her presentation on technology and the influence on how we see Holmes and his deductive processes. She questioned whether flaws in productions were due to Canonical ignorance or laziness of the producers, or if it was the available technology of the day. After defining the necessary terms, she moved into her “Study in Technology” where she explored three film adaptations and the pros and cons of the different filming techniques.

Glen Miranker took the podium to introduce 1929’s silent film “Der Hund von Baskerville.” This German film was rediscovered two years ago and restored. It was only the second time the film had been seen since 1929, and it was entertaining although not entirely faithful to the original story. It had a wild-eyed villain and a fairly non-threatening hound, but everyone enjoyed the opportunity to see this previously long-lost film.



Leslie Klinger introduced his own recorded interview of Rob Doherty, one of the producers and writers of “Elementary.” We learned a bit of his background, including his work on the television program “Medium.” He told us about how he and fellow producer Carl Beverly came upon the idea of the series, the casting, his own personal knowledge of the Canon, and the great achievement of producing 141 episodes.

Moving from screen to radio, author Terence Faherty spoke about Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce and their turns as Holmes and Watson on radio. With a nod to Edith Meiser, the founder of the detecting duo on radio, he played a number of sound clips. As he closed his presentation, he noted that the two actors and their performances have survived on record, cassette, and CD.

Next up was Charles Prepolec and his discussion of the actor Peter Cushing. After noting his biography and early television work, Charles talked about the history of Hammer films and their “Hound of the Baskervilles.” Charles had the opportunity to meet Cushing and showed a real admiration for this work, and he reminded us of the frequent pairing of Cushing with fellow actor Christopher Lee.

David Stuart Davies moved on to another Holmes’ portrayer. Admitting he’s felt very fortunate to interview so many actors — Cushing, Wilmer, Cumberbatch, and Merrison to name a few — he turned his attention to Jeremy Brett. He described Brett as a “lovely man” with a deep appreciation for the role of Holmes. As Brett described Holmes, “I think I’ve made a friend for life.” David played three different recordings of his interviews, starting with Cushing and followed by two with Brett, one in 1988 and the other in 1994, done over the telephone. The six intervening years showed a consistent love of the role but also his deteriorating health. As Brett said, “Don’t worry about me” despite the fact that he was “a little tired, a little weary.” Brett closed by saying he was looking forward to the next generation of actors who would take the role.

Last, but not least on the agenda, was Jeffrey Hatcher, who gave a wonderful talk about his own journey with Sherlock Holmes. He discussed his two plays which have been produced at the Park Square Theatre, as well as his new play. The Indiana Repertory Theatre currently has Hatcher’s “Holmes and Watson” and many of the attendees at the conference were able to see it the following day in Indianapolis.

After the Saturday evening banquet, the conference closed with the showing of the 1959 “Hound of the Baskervilles” starring Peter Cushing. Our audience was well prepared after hearing Charles Prepolec’s informative talk about the movie, as he described it, a “blood and bosoms” production by Hammer Films, featuring a South African Sir Henry Baskerville, a hound masked with rabbit fur so it would appear more frightening, and a tarantula. No, I don’t remember a tarantula in the Canon, but it was entertaining.

Sunday saw many of the attendees ready for the trip to Indianapolis to see the play, while others headed for home. The weekend went by too quickly, and we all hope to see many of the old and new friends at our own “Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences” Aug. 9–11, 2019. 🐞

Like a Beetle on a Card: Discussion Group dissects BLAC

BY KAREN MURDOCK



The Discussion Group met for our annual “Halloween tea party” at Karen Ellery’s house in Northeast Minneapolis on October 20th. In addition to admiring Karen’s enormous variety of Halloween decorations and eating her scrumptious homemade treats, we also discussed “Black Peter.” Kristi Iverson passed out background information and led the discussion.

In our “Show & Tell” period, Karen Murdock passed out copies of her article “Pip! Pip! Another Ribston-Pippin,” which has to do with apple imagery in the Canon and a striking metaphor that Doyle borrowed from Dickens. Phil Bergem went to Great Britain this past summer. He showed us some “shingle of Southsea” he had gathered on the beach. He went to Forest Row (a real place) and stayed at the Brambletye Hotel (a real place which is mentioned in the story, and one which proudly advertises its connection to Sherlock Holmes). The Sherlock Holmes Society of London ran a tour of the area and published a booklet, “Helping Out Hopeless Hopkins.” Arthur Conan Doyle lived about 5 miles southeast of where BLAC takes place and knew the area well. Mary Loving is now a member of the Hansom Clock Club, having found such a clock at a flea market. [Editor’s note: *The Hansom Clock Club was founded by Don Hobbs and Brad Keefauver. Fellow Explorer, Tim*

Reich, is another member.] She also purchased a used copy of a book about the 1980s Granada Sherlock Holmes television series and found that a full-page photo of Jeremy Brett had been signed by Brett! Pete Cavanaugh showed “Case Files” and facsimiles of Holmes stories from *The Strand Magazine* that were reprinted by Stanford University. Jeff Falkingham showed off his golf shirt and pointed out that this is related to “Black Peter” because Stanley Hopkins says, “I find that young Neligan arrived at the Brambletye Hotel on the very day of the crime. He came on the pretence of playing golf.”

Discussion started on the relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Stanley Hopkins. Hopkins is an admirer and acolyte of Holmes, and calls him in on several interesting cases. The admiration is apparently not mutual, for Holmes is sarcastic toward the younger detective. Kristi said that Holmes “treats Hopkins just like he treats Watson” — badly! But Hopkins takes it all in stride and, at the end of the case, he tells Holmes, “I understand now, what I should never have forgotten, that I am the pupil and you are the master.” Steve Miller said that in “The Lost World,” Professor Challenger tries to kill Malone and that “Doyle was into ‘tough love.’”

Kristi wondered why Hopkins would assume that Black Peter would have a tobacco pouch even though he (Black Peter) did not, himself, smoke. The group agreed that attitudes toward tobacco have changed enormously in the past century and that it used to be common to keep cigarettes or cigars to hand out to guests, even by hosts and hostesses who did not smoke. Bob Brusic said he has been watching past episodes of “The Saint” and has calculated that Roger Moore smokes an average of four cigarettes per episode.

Alcoholism is a recurring theme in the Canon. Alcohol consumption in Holmes’s time was much higher than it is today (for non-alcoholics). ACD’s father was an alcoholic. Peter Carey was apparently an alcoholic but did not get into legal trouble even though “when he had the fit on him he was a perfect fiend. He has been known to drive his wife

and daughter out of doors in the middle of the night and flog them through the park until the whole village outside the gates was aroused by their screams.” This behavior was apparently not illegal.

Kristi wondered about the blood spattered about the cabin; Hopkins says, “the floor and walls were like a slaughter-house.” If Black Peter died immediately from the harpoon, his heart should have stopped beating and there should have been no blood spatter. Perhaps the harpoon hit an artery but not the heart (and not the lungs,

because Carey gave a loud yell when he was harpooned). Perhaps it took him some time to die, and he thrashed about trying to dislodge that harpoon, thereby spattering blood all over the place. Mary opined that Patrick Cairns did not throw the harpoon but ran it into Peter Carey.

Amanda Champlin asked why Black Peter would keep a tantalus in his cabin, where no servants ever entered, since the point of a tantalus is to keep the liquor safe from pilfering. Phil said

the tantalus (which is just mentioned in this one story) might have been left over from Black Peter’s days as a ship captain, helping to keep bottles from sliding and safe from other crewmembers.

Karen M. asked why, if Carey could cash in some of Neligan’s stock certificates, could Patrick Cairns not have done the same thing? Steve said that Cairns looked too much like a sailor, or perhaps Neligan had signed over some of the certificates to Carey.

Phil pointed out that some details of this story are autobiographical. Doyle, while still at the University of Edinburgh, served as a doctor on a sealing/whaling ship that sailed north of the Arctic Circle.

Karen M. said she had once visited Peter Blau at his home in Bethesda, Maryland. Peter’s BSI investiture is “Black Peter,” and he has a genuine harpoon hung up on his wall (which had to be shipped home under the guise of athletic equipment).

Kristi wondered why Holmes and Watson, who had a few hours to kill, chose to go walking in the



woods. Holmes says, “Let us walk in these beautiful woods, Watson, and give a few hours to the birds and the flowers.” Phil thought this showed “his true romanticism.” Karen M. thought he was just being ironic and had no real interest in nature. Steve said that the countryside did seem to relax Holmes (in REIG and DEVI). It was also healthier in the country. London was very polluted at the time, as were many American cities. Jeff pointed out that Holmes, by rambling about, took the lay of the land and could decide where best to lay an ambush to capture the visitor they expected to break into the cabin at night.

Karen M. asked what the outcome of the case would be for Patrick Cairns, who confessed before three witnesses to having killed Peter Carey. Could his defense attorney enter a plea of self defense? Steve said the fact that Black Peter’s knife was still in its sheath would tell against Cairns, and that he would probably be convicted of “voluntary manslaughter,” which would carry a penalty of 10 to 15 years in prison.

The Next Study Group will be on November 17 at Saint Anthony Park Library, discussing “The Norwood Builder.”

The Tale of the Tantalus

BY JEFF FALKINGHAM



tantalus — know what that is? I admit, I had to look it up in a dictionary the first time I ran across it in one of Dr. Watson’s stories. As perhaps many of you already know, a tantalus is a wood and metal rack used for storing and displaying decorative decanters of wine, whisky and brandy. Popular in the Victorian era, it had a unique hidden feature: It could be *locked*! This kept its owner’s servants from sampling the contents. Today, most of us don’t have servants — but some of us do have teenagers around the house. Not that your *own* little darlings would ever raid your liquor cabinet! But you never know about those darn neighbor kids, right?

The tantalus got its name from ancient mythology. According to the *World Book Encyclopedia*, Tantalus was a son of Zeus, the Greek god of sky and weather. As punishment for betraying the gods’ secrets, Tantalus was obliged to stand in a river up to his chin, under branches of fruit. Whenever he tried to eat or drink, the fruit or water withdrew, and a rock continually threatened to

fall on him. You can see how this might apply to servants tempted by the master’s booze, and where the word “tantalizing” originated!

This discussion of the tantalus was prompted by my recent visit to the new 221B Baker Street “sitting room” at the U of M’s Andersen Library. [Editor’s note: *The Allan Mackler 221B Sitting Room, originally at his home in Osseo, and then in a fourth-floor conference room at the University of Minnesota Wilson Library, has a new location in Andersen Library. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held following the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections Annual meeting held on October 23rd.*] If you go, and look to the far left of the fireplace, you’ll see a tantalus. Made me wonder: Surely Holmes and Watson didn’t suspect Mrs. Hudson of tipping a toddy or two now and then? And neither Billy (the street urchin turned houseboy) nor any other infrequent visitors were left alone long enough to be tempted (or “tantalized” as it were). *Why*, then, the tantalus?

Turns out that the tantalus provided a clue (a clue of “some significance” according to Holmes) in Watson’s tale about the case of “Black Peter” — a retired sea captain harpooned to death in his cabin. From an observation that a tantalus of whisky and brandy in the cabin had not been unlocked, and the fact that Black Peter instead chose



*The tantalus in the Allan Mackler room.
Photo by Mary Loving.*

to share a bottle of *rum* with his visitor on the night he was killed, Holmes deduced that the killer was a seafaring man, not a landsman.

“How many landsmen are there who would drink rum when they could get these other spirits?” Holmes reasoned. As a result, the young “golfer” the police had arrested for the crime was set free, after Holmes (under false pretenses) lured

the real killer to 221B Baker Street. Thus, a *locked* tantalus was the key to *unlocking* the mystery of Black Peter's death!

The tale of "Black Peter" is only one example of Holmes using so-called "negative" evidence to break a case. Perhaps the most famous example of this can be found in "The Adventure of Silver Blaze." Here, in the original "curious incident of the dog in the night-time," it was something that was missing, something that did *not* happen, that was key to solving the crime.

These two cases illustrate why Holmes, by his own admittance, agonized over what he calls "trifles" — and why he regularly chides Watson: "You see, but you do not observe." Sherlock's success lies in the fact that he not only observes the tiniest details (such as a locked tantalus), he also finds *meaning* in them! This is the science of Sherlock Holmes — and the genius of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 🐾

Whitaker's World

By PHILLIP BERGEM



he book *An Almanack For the Year of Our Lord 1888*, more commonly known as *Whitaker's Almanack*, has an astounding amount of information. From it, many details about life in the late 1800s can be gleaned. In this issue we will look at medical fees. What was Doctor Watson typically able to charge patients when he did actually practice his profession between cases? On the same page there is also a list of city populations. We can use this to see how London compared to other large British cities and others throughout the world in population and death rates. According to the chart, London was a safer or healthier place to live than most other large cities, a fact I would not

630 Medical Fees.—Population.—Birth and Death Rates.			
Medical Fees.		Population, Births, and Deaths.	
<p>UNLIKE those in most other businesses or professions, the charges made by medical men are assessed upon a sliding scale. All engaged in the profession are supposed to be equal in point of skill, and therefore entitled to charge alike, the tariff depending chiefly upon the residence of doctor or patient. A medical man living in the eastern suburbs of London will perhaps charge but half a crown or three and sixpence if waited upon by a patient, but, when he removes to the neighbourhood of Manchester Square, the fee charged for the first visit will be two guineas, and one guinea for each second or subsequent visit.</p> <p>Patients are charged according to their supposed incomes, the income being indicated by the rental of the houses in which they reside. The following are the charges usually made by general practitioners:—</p>		<p>Population of 31 large towns in the United Kingdom, and of 26 foreign cities, from the latest returns issued by the Registrar-General, with the rate per thousand of births and deaths for one year ending October 1, 1887.</p>	
RENTALS.		Rate per 1,000.	
		BIRTHS.	DEATHS.
£10 to £25.		In 31 Towns.	
£25 to £50.		POPULATION.	
£50 to £100.			
Ordinary Visit	2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d.	10,379,849	31'7
Night Visit	Double an Ordinary Visit.		23'4
Mileage beyond two miles from Home ..	1s. 6d.	London	4,215,192
Detention per hour ..	2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d.	Brighton	118,186
Letters of Advice	Same charges as for an ordinary visit	Portsmouth	137,917
Attendance on servants	2s. 6d.	Norwich	92,848
Midwifery	21s.	Plymouth	77,127
		Bristol	223,695
		Wolverhampton ..	80,847
		Birmingham	441,995
		Leicester	143,153
		Nottingham	224,230
		Derby	94,006
		Birkenhead	97,703
		Liverpool	592,991
		Bolton	112,354
		Manchester	377,529
		Salford	218,658
		Oldham	134,158
		Blackburn	116,844
		Preston	102,283
		Huddersfield	90,034
		Halifax	79,207
		Bradford	224,507
		Leeds	345,080
		Sheffield	316,288
		Hull	196,855
		Sunderland	129,684
		Newcastle	157,048
		Cardiff	104,580
		Edinburgh	258,629
		Glasgow	524,039
		Dublin	353,082
		Calcutta	433,219
		Bombay	773,196
		Madras	398,777
		Paris	2,260,945
		Brussels	450,708
		Amsterdam	378,969
		Rotterdam	190,521
		The Hague	143,626
		Copenhagen	290,000
		Stockholm	216,807
		Christiania	134,000
		St. Petersburg	928,016
		Berlin	1,385,991
		Hamburg (State) ..	529,091
		Dresden	254,088
		Breslau	308,105
		Munich	269,000
		Vienna	790,381
		Prague	294,170
		Buda Pest	432,672
		Venice	147,349
		Cairo	374,838
		Alexandria	231,396
		New York	1,429,697
		Brooklyn	745,108
		Philadelphia	993,801

Special visits—i.e., of which due notice has not been given before the practitioner starts on his daily round, are charged at the rate of a visit and a half. Patients calling upon the doctor are charged at the same rate as if visited by him.

When the ordinary medical attendant is called upon to meet another in consultation, he is entitled to charge double his ordinary fee. When he himself is called in, in consultation, he is entitled to the minimum fee of 21s.

When more members of one family are ill at the same time, half a fee is charged for each beyond the first.

In midwifery cases the fee generally covers all charges for visits, &c., if all goes well, but if the illness be protracted, or if any special operation has to be performed, there is an extra charge.

If attendance on servants is paid for by employer, or if he send for the doctor, the charge is the same as to himself.

Certificates of health are to be charged for as visits, except where special investigation is needed, as in certificates for lunacy, insurance offices, &c., when the charge may be from half a guinea to two guineas.

Vaccination is usually charged for according to the number of visits required.

Medical bills are usually rendered once or twice a year, and contain but one amount—"Attendance and medicine," from date to date, so much—and the patient has no means of checking the correctness of the charge; but as medical men, like all others, are liable to err, there can be no reason why they should not render detailed accounts of their charges.

It will be observed that some of the populations given in this table differ from those shown elsewhere, in consequence of the different areas taken.


WHITAKER'S ALMANACK, 1888.

have guessed. Perhaps it was because of the fees the doctors were charging. 🐾


Answers to the Isocolon Quiz on page 4 (page numbers from Doubleday):

1. DYIN, 937; 2. VALL, 779; 3. WIST, 885; 4. CHAS, 580; 5. HOUN, 701; 6. SHOS, 1110; 7. PRIO, 552; 8. SIGN, 122; 9. MAZA, 1016; 10. NOBL, 299 🐾

Roots of “Seeing but not observing”

here was an original tweet from Sonia Fetherston. (Watson: “You spoke just now of observation and deduction. Surely the one to some extent implies the other.” Holmes: “Why, hardly.” SIGN)

Doug Tipton replied pointing out that the Biblical verse Isaiah 42:20 has a meaning close to “you see, but you do not observe.” SCAN


Chris Redmond retweeted the comment adding, “In all these years, I never knew it was a biblical quotation! KJV: ‘Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not.’” (Quotation comes from the King James Version of the Bible.) 

(Editor’s Desk — continued from page 1)


pub and another one nearby called “Sherlock’s.” Obligatory photos were taken. Middlesbrough also has the house in which E. W. Hornung grew up, having been born in Middlesbrough. (Hornung was ACD’s brother-in-law.)

From there we went south to Portsmouth Library to visit the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection (Richard Lancelyn Green Bequest), over to Birling Gap to explore the vicinity around Holmes’s retirement spot, and stayed the night at the Brambletye Hotel in Forest Row, a place mentioned in “Black Peter.” The next day it was on to Oxford where I saw their copy of the 1887 *Beeton’s Christmas Annual*, and we visited Nick Utechin, a prominent British Holmesian, and his wife Annie.

The next day it was on to London for a few days, where I took several Sherlockian walks. I saw obvious signs of a continued public interest in Sherlock Holmes. When I walked by the Sherlock Holmes Museum on Baker Street just before they opened, there was a line of people waiting to get in. When I passed by the Sherlock Holmes statue outside the Tube station, there were usually people taking selfies, and I had company when I stopped by Speedy’s Sandwich Bar & Cafe to take some photos. I also visited St. Bart’s Hospital. On the wall next to the spot where Cumberbatch’s

Sherlock faked his death for Freeman’s Watson, there was a significant amount of related graffiti: “I believe in Sherlock,” “#SherlockLives,” “I am Sherlocked” (or Sherloved), etc. While I don’t condone the graffiti, it was interesting to note the displays of passion for the television series. 

Parting Words and Trifles


n October 20th Rhonda Gilliland and Julie McKuras were at Once Upon a Crime Mystery Bookstore for the release of *Cooked to Death Vol. III: Hell for the Holidays*. The book was edited by Rhonda and both she and Julie have stories in it.

One of the highlights of the Explorers’ 2016 Conference (THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES) was Bill Mason reciting a long list of parody names derived from that of Sherlock Holmes. He has expanded, researched, and compiled his list into a book, which also includes lists of parody names for Watson and Moriarty, and a full index. *A Holmes By Any Other Name: The Twistings and Turnings of “Sherlock Holmes”* is now available from Wildside Press and at Amazon.

The latest version of Phil Bergem’s list of Sherlockian appearances in films and on television is available and can be found on **www.sherlocktron.com**. There are now more than 1300 entries.

The Norwegian Explorers Annual Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 6th at the Minneapolis Golf Club (2001 Flag Avenue South, Minneapolis). Details and payment information (mailed check or PayPal) can be found at **www.norwegianexplorers.org/2018_dinner.html**.

The next New York Birthday Weekend will be held January 9–13, 2019. Feel free to contact Phil Bergem if you have any interest in learning details of how to attend frugally. (Address is given below.)

The next Triennial Conference, DARK PLACES, WICKED COMPANIONS, AND STRANGE EXPERIENCES, will be held August 9–11, 2019 at the Graduate Minneapolis hotel (formerly the Commons Hotel, where it was held last time). Details will become available after December 1st. 

The Norwegian Explorers

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