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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



er usual, the chaos of life (fun chaos for the most part) has interfered with getting this issue out in June or July as hoped. One of those chaotic, but incredibly fun, activities was the triennial Norwegian Explorers conferences held in early August – Dark Places, Wicked Companions & Strange Experiences. It was a wonderful success, with fifteen fantastic presentations on a variety of subjects fitting the conference theme, vendor's tables, the annual meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, a banquet, a performance by the Red Throated League, and all of the camaraderie and conversation one expects from such an event. There were 141 people in attendance, with an additional 29 guests at the banquet. However, as this issue was intended for distribution before the conference, it will not be covered here, but that will happen in the upcoming issue planned for November.

For this issue, I would like to thank Karen Murdock and Jeff Falkingham for their usual generosity in contributing articles. In addition, Gary Thaden and Richard Sveum travelled to Europe. Gary attended the "Dark Deeds in the Canon" conference in Switzerland, sponsored by the Reichenbach Irregulars. Gary has written an article of his and his wife Andy's experiences, and Dick wrote of a hike in Dartmoor that he and his wife, Jen Olson, took while on a trip to England. I thank them both very much as well for their contributions.

One of the annual Twin Cities events that a number of Explorers enjoy is the Antiquarian Bookfair held on the State Fairgrounds in late June. One book I picked up this year was *Sixty Years a Bookman* by Joseph Shaylor (London: Selwyn & Blount, Ltd., 1923). There isn't anything Sherlockian about it, but I've found that I also enjoy books about book collecting and collectors. One part which I thought worthy of mentioning is an ailment that many of us share. Shaylor wrote: "It is said that the bibliomaniac fever generally begins at the bookstall. Of all kinds of human weakness, the craze for buying and collecting old books is the most excusable. In the early phases of this complaint, the book-lover is content to purchase only books which he reads; next, he buys books which he means to read, and, as his stores accumulate, hopes to read; by and by he takes home books in beautiful bindings, or artistic illustrations, or of an early date, and sometimes printed in a language which he cannot read. Once a lover, always a lover, is a true saying, particularly when applied to a lover of old books." As I look at my ever-growing pile of books in the "means to read" and "hopes to read" categories, I know that I suffer from this fever, and know that I am in good company. 

Study Group – “The Abbey Grange”

BY KAREN MURDOCK

Fifteen Explorers met at Saint Anthony Park Library on Saturday, April 20th to discuss “The Adventure of the Abbey Grange.” Steve Miller led the group. Monica Schmidt, head of The Younger Stamfords of Iowa City, was in town for the Twin Cities Film Festival and attended the Explorers discussion.

In Show & Tell Karen Murdock showed a recent cover of *The New Yorker* magazine which showed Robert Mueller (dressed as Sherlock Holmes) smoking a pipe with the head of Donald Trump as the bowl. She passed out a list of some of the best figures of speech in “The Abbey Grange” (including three figures that are really rare in the Canon: asyndeton, metanoia, and anthypophora). She passed out her article “The Oaken Chair and the World’s Longest Bellrope,” which attempted to answer the question of whether an average bellpull could tie a woman to a chair. Steve Schier passed out “A Case of Premeditation” by R. Austin Freeman, which the group will discuss in June. Steve S. said that he had recently seen the old movie “The Lady Vanishes,” in which an investigator puts on a deerstalker hat when he is looking into a mysterious disappearance on a train. Mary Loving showed a commemorative coin with Sherlock Holmes, issued in Great Britain, and a charm bracelet she made featuring items from the BBC’s “Sherlock.” Monica S. said that she recently got a Sherlockian tattoo on her back (which she showed us a picture of so as not to disrobe in the library). She said that she had been a Sherlockian since the age of 10 and that Holmes was one of “only a handful of things that have been consistent throughout my lifetime.”

Karen M. said that she had once led a discussion of “The Final Problem” on Holy Saturday (which is when this discussion of ABBE was held this year). She said that timing seemed singularly appropriate because Holy Saturday occurs after

The Death but before The Resurrection. (But she said it would probably be another 40 years or so before FINA again comes up for discussion at a Norwegian Explorers meeting on Holy Saturday.)

Steve M. said that “The Abbey Grange” starts off “at a racing gallop,” with Watson getting pulled out of bed and hustled onto a train to Kent. He wondered if the story suffered from the lack of the usual “cozy” of Holmes and Watson in a domestic scene at 221B Baker Street. Karen M. said that if all the stories started like that it would become routine and formulaic.



Sherlock Holmes examines the glasses

The group noted several other stories in which Holmes lets the guilty person go free: BLUE, BOSC, CHAS.

Steve M. asked if Lady Brackenstall was an innocent “damsel in distress” or “a female Moriarty” who had plotted the murder of her husband. Opinion was strongly on the side of Lady B. Karen Ellery said that Mary and Sir Eustace had probably never been alone during their courtship and she did not know what a rotter he would turn out to be after they were married.

Mary L. said that from 1857 to 1922 in Great Britain the only legal way for a woman to get a divorce was to prove adultery on the part of her husband plus some other factor (such as incest). Sir Eustace was physically and psychologically abusive

but he was not adulterous, so Mary Fraser Brackenstall could not divorce him.

Karen M. said that irony was a rare figure in the Canon. Irony is a rhetorical device in which there is a gap or incongruity between what a speaker or a writer says and what is generally understood. When Holmes and Watson first meet Lady Brackenstall, she says, “I will tell these gentlemen what occurred. Have they been in the dining-room yet?” Stanley Hopkins says:

“I thought they had better hear your ladyship’s story first.”

Karen M. thought this might be considered irony because the lady is really telling a “story,” a fictional tale, but Hopkins does not suspect this, nor

do the readers, at first. However, since this possible incongruity is only obvious on a second reading, the group concluded that this was not intentional irony. (Can irony be retrospective?)

Karen E. said she suspected the whole story might have been invented by Theresa Wright, the maid, and not by Jack Crocker. After some discussion, the group thought that Theresa might have made up three-quarters of the tale and Jack the rest.

Mary L. asked if anybody had written an article about fireplace pokers in the Canon. They seem to have been rather flimsy, since Grimesby Roylott in SPEC can bend a fire poker into a curve with his hands and the “heavy poker” at the Abbey Grange was “bent into a curve by the concussion” of the blow to Sir Eustace’s head.

Kristi Iverson said that Sir Eustace must have been a psychopath if he set fire to his wife’s dog. Monica S. (who is a mental health counselor, specializing in drug and alcohol disorders) said that this is evidence of “anti-social personality disorder” but that true psychopaths are born. Sociopaths are made. According to the criteria in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*, 5th edition (the handbook of the mental health industry) Sherlock Holmes is neither a psychopath nor a sociopath (despite what he says on the BBC “Sherlock”). However, several Canonical villains (e.g. Charles Augustus Milverton) might fit the criteria.

Stanley Hopkins says that Sir Eustace “was a good-hearted man when he was sober, but a perfect fiend when he was drunk, or rather when he was half drunk, for he seldom really went the whole way. The devil seemed to be in him at such times, and he was capable of anything.”

Karen E. said that Sir Eustace was violent and asked, “Are some people only violent when they drink?” This touched off a deeply-felt discussion about binge drinking, the “Jekyll-and-Hyde” syndrome, and alcohol tolerance. Monica S. said that when a person is in the late stage of alcoholism, the liver is malfunctioning and it requires less alcohol to make the person drunk. Kristi said that in Victorian times gin was known as “Mother’s Ruin” and that alcoholism was prevalent among women as well as men.

Karen M. asked whether Jack Crocker was guilty of a crime in killing Sir Eustace or whether it was simply a matter of self-defense. Steve M. said, “At the very least, it’s manslaughter” and that Jack had employed deadly force and could go

to jail. However, Steve added, “detective fiction is the land of the Higher Law” and that the detective often acts like God in judging guilt or innocence.

In the last line of the story, Sherlock Holmes tells Jack Crocker, “Come back to this lady in a year, and may her future and yours justify us in the judgment which we have pronounced this night!” Karen M. asked why Holmes was making them wait a year. The group agreed that a year would be considered a mandatory mourning period for a woman who had lost her husband and, had Jack and Mary gotten married soon after the death of Sir Eustace, Stanley Hopkins might have felt compelled to reopen the investigation.

In explaining his reasoning in finding Captain Crocker, Sherlock Holmes says, “no one but a sailor could have made the knots with which the cord was fastened to the chair.” Curt Proud questioned this reasoning. He said that, in the Victorian era, a lot of people (farmers, construction workers, stevedores) used ropes and tied knots on a regular basis. Steve M. opined that the sailor’s knots were simply “a shortcut plot device.”

Ratings of the story were very high. Pj Doyle said that ABBE was not in “The Baker Street Dozen” of Doyle’s own favorite Sherlock Holmes stories. But most Explorers rated it between 4 and 5 on a scale of 1 to 5. 🐾

The Problem of Jonathan Small

BY PHILLIP BERGEM



Jonathan Small was a primary character in *The Sign of Four*, although Sherlock Holmes did not discover this fact nor hear his tale until the end of the adventure. In his statement to Holmes, Watson and the police, Small stated that he joined the army, mentioning of his experience “I got into a mess over a girl and could only get out of it by taking the Queen’s shilling and joining the Third Buffs which was just starting for India.” Small was not a very reputable character and even this simple statement, as we shall see, was untrue. The proper name of the Third Buffs at the time was the 3rd (East Kent – The Buffs) Regiment of Foot. The Third Buffs was an actual British Army Regiment and therefore their history is known.

The roots of the Regiment date back to 1572 when Queen Elizabeth sent three hundred militia men from London to assist Protestant rebels in the Netherlands. They saw action around Europe and the American Colonies over the next two hundred years. In 1751 they were designated the Third Infantry and acquired the nickname “the Buffs” due to their uniform color. The addition of “East Kent” occurred in 1782. They were a prominent Regiment, afterwards serving in the West Indies, the Napoleonic Wars, Australia and the Crimean War. They retained the name of the 3rd (East Kent) Regiment of Foot until the Childers Reforms of 1881 when their name was changed to The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). It served in several military campaigns, including World Wars One and Two, before being absorbed by another Regiment in 1961.

The Indian Mutiny, also known as the Indian Rebellion of 1857, the Sepoy Rebellion or, in India and Pakistan, the First War of Independence, started on May 10, 1857 at the Meerut Cantonment, 40 miles northeast of Delhi. It quickly spread across the armies of the East India Company and the British Army in India.

The problem with Small’s story is that on May 10th, the Buffs were stationed on Corfu, an island off the west coast of Greece. They did not arrive in Calcutta until December 29, 1858. This was well after the main activity of rebel fighting ended on June 20, 1858, and even after those rebels not involved in murder were granted amnesty on November 1, 1858. If Jonathan Small had been with the Buffs, he could not have been in India when the Rebellion started, or at Agra when it protected civilians during the summer of 1857.

A question that cannot be answered is why Small lied to Holmes, Watson and the police. Was he so embarrassed by his behavior that he did not want his real Regiment to be known? Was the story of how the treasure was acquired a fabrication and he came about it by another means that he wished to remain secret? As Holmes believed Small’s statement as given, we shall never know.

A valuable resource for this article was *Historical Records of The Buffs – 1704-1914 (Part Two)* by Captain C.R.B. Knight (London: The Medici Society, Ltd., 1935). For Explorers in Minnesota who wish to read further, a copy can be found in the Ames Library of South Asia, located in Wilson Library, University of Minnesota. 🐾

A Holmes Presentation for Students

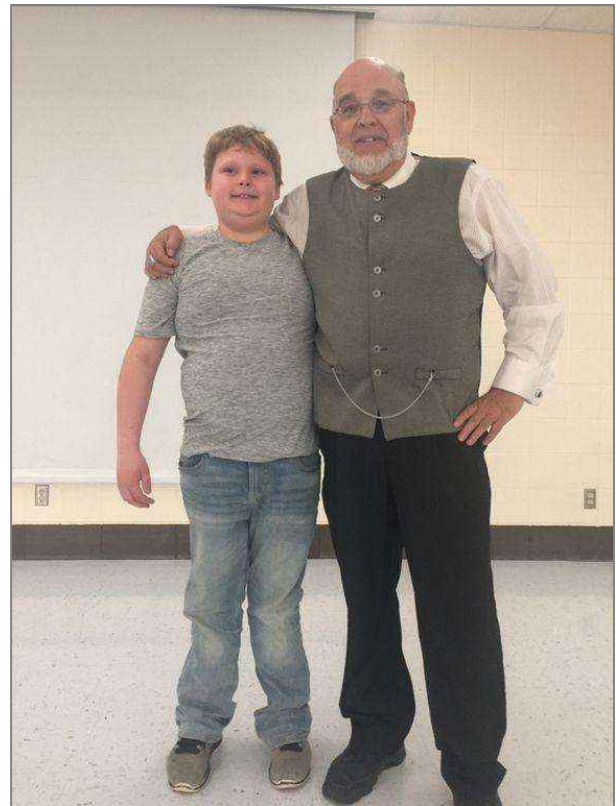
BY JEFF FALKINGHAM



At the end of April, for National School Library Week, I performed my “Elementary, My Dear Watson!” multimedia program for more than 250 middle school students (grades 4, 5 and 6) in Crookston, Minnesota. An account of the event appeared on the front page of the *Crookston Times*. The article read:

Fourth through sixth-graders at Highland Elementary School on April 26 were treated to a performance by Minnesota author and visual storyteller Jeff Falkingham, who portrayed Dr. John Watson. Teacher Kari Heppner portrayed Sherlock Holmes.

The students learned about Sherlock Holmes author Arthur Conan Doyle, the many faces of Holmes, the science behind Holmes’ investigations, and the elements that go into a good story. 🐾



Among the Highland students who attended Falkingham’s presentation was his nephew, Lennon Prudhomme, pictured on the left with Falkingham.

Photo by Chris Trostad (Highland Elementary School Principal)

Study Group: *The Devil's Foot*

BY KAREN MURDOCK



In a cold and windy May Saturday (the 18th) ten Explorers met in the Saint Anthony Park Library. The story under discussion was "The Devil's Foot." Mary Loving led the group.

In the "Show & Tell" section, Kristi Iverson showed a bottle of "Devil's Claw Root Extract," an herbal supplement. She said she takes it and it works well to alleviate her arthritis. Mary showed a "Detective Pikachu" stuffed figure with a deer-stalker hat, which she bought at Target. Karen Murdock said that Monday, May 20 was "Victoria Day," the birthday of Queen Victoria, still celebrated in some parts of the old British Empire. Victoria was born in 1819 so this year is her Bicentennial. Karen showed a British penny from the year 1900 with Queen Victoria on it. She passed out magnets showing a younger Queen Victoria. Karen also showed an ad for "Host Defense" herbal supplements featuring extracts from various mushrooms. One of these mushrooms is "Lion's Mane." Kit Gordon showed a detailed map of Cornwall, which she said is her favorite place in the whole world. Steve Miller showed two Sherlockian movies dubbed into Turkish. Jeff Falkingham showed a write-up he got in *The Crookston Daily Times* when he gave a talk about Arthur Conan Doyle to 257 kids in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades in Crookston.

Steve Schier pointed out that *Jamaica Inn*, a novel by Daphne DuMaurier, was also set in Cornwall and featured "wreckers" who robbed ships (the basis of a recent BBC mini-series). Mary said that Arthur Conan Doyle himself ranked "The Devil's Foot" in his top ten Sherlock Holmes stories. Bob Brusick asked if the two Tregennis brothers who were carted off to the insane asylum, Owen and George, were permanently brain damaged from exposure to the poisonous fumes of *Radix pedis diaboli*. Mary asked why the story was set in Cornwall. The

group agreed that this was because Cornwall was remote, somewhat foreign (some inhabitants spoke Cornish, a Celtic language), and not entirely law-abiding. Bob asked if Holmes's experiment using himself and Watson as subjects was justified. The group strongly opined that the experiment was unjustified.

Karen said that there might have been a racist assumption that anything from "the Ubangi country" in the depths of Africa had to be dangerous and even deadly. In anthropological actuality, African tribes, like tribes all over the world, sought plants that had healing properties, not harmful ones. A large American pharmaceutical firm used to pay anthropologists to bring back samples of plants that tribes used for various purposes. The firm wanted to isolate active ingredients for possible use in healing drugs.

Steve S. said that Sherlock Holmes, possibly due to his near-breakdown from overwork, was not at his best in this story. He missed obvious things like interviewing the servants and following the money. But Steve M. said that "one of the charms of Holmes is that he's not perfect" and did not solve all his cases.

Kristi asked why the sister, Brenda, was killed. Did Mortimer intend this? Steve S. said no; Mortimer had never used the root so he did not know how deadly it was or what dosage to use. Mortimer was also rather dim because he might have been overcome by the fumes when he threw the dried root into the fire.



Steve S. said that Sterndale's waiting for Brenda had a parallel in the life of ACD. Doyle had to wait until his first wife died before he could marry Jean, with whom he had fallen in love. The difference is that Doyle did everything he could to save the life of Touie.

Mary asked whether it was right for Holmes to let Sterndale go. Steve M. said that Sterndale was guilty of premeditated murder in the death of Mortimer Tregennis. However, the group generally agreed that Mortimer could never have been found guilty of the death of his sister and that Mortimer, in the language of

the Old West, “needed killin’” and Sterndale accomplished this end.

Bob said that Sterndale was an echo of Jefferson Hope in *STUD*; both were seeking revenge and justice. Steve M. said that revenge tales are common in the Canon and if the revenge is justified Holmes lets the guilty party go free (ABBE, BOSC, VEIL, CHAS).

Most members of the discussion group ranked this tale highly. Beverly Proud said it really made her understand some of the motivations of Sherlock Holmes. Jeff ranked it low; he said he thought Holmes missed too many clues. Bob also ranked it low because, “I like mercy but I prefer justice.” Karen ranked it high but said that a weakness of the tale was that Mortimer Tregennis was not an interesting villain, just “a thin, dark, spectacled man, with a stoop which gave the impression of actual, physical deformity. . . . strangely reticent, a sad-faced, introspective man.” Some of the Canon’s villains (Moriarty, Moran, Charles Augustus Milverton, Baron Gruner, John Clay) are really interesting, worthy of an adversary like Sherlock Holmes. Mortimer Tregennis is not. 🐾

Sherlock Holmes: The First Fandom

BY JEFF FALKINGHAM

“You may marry him, murder him, or do anything you like to him.”



With that terse telegram in 1896, Arthur Conan Doyle gave free rein to use Sherlock Holmes, without restriction – not only to William Gillette, but also to the entire world. And boy, have we ever done so!

That was the gist of “Sherlock Holmes: The First Fandom” – a sold-out presentation at the Alexander Ramsey House in St. Paul on May 30th. Actually, there were two sold-out presentations that evening – on the heels of a similarly sold-out double-header earlier this winter. All were produced by the Minnesota Historical Society, and featured Allison Swanson in the role of ‘interpreter.’

Ms. Swanson, who performs regularly at the nearby James J. Hill House, proved to be an enthusiastic, entertaining and extremely knowledgeable speaker. She noted that the word ‘fans’ was first used to describe ‘fanatics’ who supported baseball teams in the mid-1800s – a precursor to

today’s fascination with fantasy sports leagues. Other modern ‘fandoms’ involve devoted followers of James T. Kirk, Harry Potter and, most recently, various characters from *Game of Thrones* – all fictional figures, by the way!

The FIRST such fandom, though, was created by Arthur Conan Doyle. It was suggested that this phenomenon did not start immediately upon the introduction of Sherlock Holmes in *A Study in Scarlet*, or even *Sign of Four*. Rather, it began when Doyle decided to write a series of short stories, the pacing of which was more suitable to his style of writing – and his readers. Thus, the ‘first fandom’ really took off with the publication of the *Adventures and Memoirs* anthologies.

Ms. Swanson’s knowledge of Holmes is quite thorough. She recognized the contributions of not only Gillette, but also Sydney Paget, Basil Rathbone, Jeremy Brett and many others, including W.S. Baring-Gould, Ronald Knox and Vincent Starrett. She talked about parodies and pastiches, from J.M. Barrie to P.G. Wodehouse to Samuel Clemens to local author Larry Millett and even Kareem-Abdul Jabbar and the Beatles’ John Lennon.

She showed photos of Holmes statues, from London to Sweden to Japan and points in between. She talked about fan clubs and study groups, including the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, the Baker Street Irregulars, Adventuresses, Norwegian Explorers, The Game, Doyalists vs. Watsonians, and the Rare Books Collection at the U of M.

She pointed out Sherlock’s popularity on film, noting that, from London in 1895, Holmes has gone on to fight everyone from Nazis in Europe in the 1940s to drug dealers in New York in 2019. She emphasized the irony in this dichotomy: Holmes and Watson first became popular because they were seen, in the original stories, as ‘ageless, invincible, unchanging.’ They have continued to survive, and thrive, for over 130 years because they have been re-imagined in so many ways!

Furthermore, she said, it’s all alright, because Holmes and Watson belong to us, their readers and their fans. They are ours. We own them. Doyle gave them to us, to do with them whatever we like. He said so in his note to Gillette!

The fabulous setting contributed to the ambience of the evening: the massive gray stone exterior of the Ramsey House; the expansive front porch; huge wooden doors and interior staircase;

a pianist in the parlor; hors d'oeuvres in the library (I didn't hear anyone complain because they came from Kowalski's instead of Forepaugh's), beer and wine in the kitchen (two drink tickets included with admission seemed to loosen up the audience, which laughed heartily at several points during the engaging performance); and, of course, the impressive Great Room, with its twin fireplaces, draperies and other period furnishings.

I'm not sure I learned anything I didn't already know about Holmes and Doyle, but the speaker's unique approach brought a new perspective to familiar territory. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many other people being fascinated by the 'fandom' of Sherlock Holmes!

By the way, my Minnesota Historical Society membership produced a 20% discount on the \$26 registration fee. Money well spent! That's all good news. Here's the bad news: Despite the popularity of this presentation, it sounds as if the Historical Society is replacing it with something else in the upcoming 2019-2020 season. If you were unable to get a ticket, you missed a fine show. 🐼

Four Sigersons in Switzerland

BY GARY THADEN

“**I**t was on the third of May that we reached the little village of Meiringen. . . .” Actually, it was the 31st of May, 2019, in which the Reichenbach Irregulars led forty-six Sherlockians (including four Norwegian Explorers) on a five-day trip to two gorgeous Canonical locations of Switzerland.

After flying into Zurich, Switzerland on May 31st, my wife and I took the train from the Zurich Airport to the Zurich train station, transferred to the Zurich to Lucerne train, transferred to the Lucerne to Brünig-Hasliberg train, then a twelve minute bus ride to Hasliberg-Reuti where the Hotel Panorama is located and the site of the first part of our conference. The Hotel is on the side of a mountain and overlooks the town of Meiringen (pop. 4600) almost dead center in Switzerland.

The conference started at 5 pm that day with an introduction by one of our two hosts, Marcus Geiser, and talks by Peggy Purdue (on how Doyle

created villains using widely held phobias) and Julie McKuras (on the 43 stories in which a woman drives the story). Later, a cocktail party was held on the deck overlooking the valley below. Picture this: It is sunny and 70 degrees, you have a glass of white wine in your hand, you look out over the town of Meiringen below and you can see Reichenbach Falls in the opposite mountain range, with hang gliders floating over the valley. Truly a thing of beauty. During the cocktail party and the dinner that followed we met many of our fellow travelers. They came from Denmark, Sardinia, Japan, the United States, England, France and Switzerland. And, we had a news film crew from the Italian section of Switzerland with us throughout our trip. It was led by producer, reporter and fellow Sherlockian Brigitte Latella, BSI, and filmographer Alain Pasquali. A summary video, in three languages, can be found at www.rsi.ch/g/11944661. A piece ran on Swiss TV on the evening of Saturday, June 1st.



Mike McKuras, Julie McKuras, Andy Thaden and Gary Thaden, with the Reichenbach Falls in the background. Photo provided by Gary Thaden

On Saturday, June 1st we started with one the most extensive breakfasts possible, that was only matched by the breakfasts at our next hotel. Our first Sherlockian event was bus ride down the mountain to the town of Meiringen, the Sherlock Holmes Museum (www.sherlockholmes.ch/en/Welcome) and Reichenbach Falls. The Museum has been updated recently and now includes displays in the lower level and the first floor. Many of us visited a nearby bakery to see the Sherlockian themed treats. Then back to the bus for a five-minute ride to the base of the Reichenbach funicular (www.grimselwelt.ch/en/transport-lift/reichenbachfall) and a ride up to the famous falls. Norwegian Explorers will note the 1957 plaque jointly erected by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota and the Sherlock Holmes Society of London commemorating the culminating event of Sherlock Holmes career when he vanquished James Moriarty, sits at the loading area for the funicular. At the top of the funicular, in a prime viewing spot of the falls (see accompanying picture), and after listening to various audio recording to the confrontation between Holmes and Moriarty put together by our hosts, we walked up to the top of the falls (the equivalent of ten stories), across the bridge over the falls, then up to the restaurant for lunch and a presentation by our other co-host, Michael Meer, on the lamentable death of ... James Moriarty. A bus took us back to Meiringen where we took a cable car up the mountain to our hotel and had a respite on the terrace overlooking the valley below, with a glass of Swiss beer. That evening we ate a group dinner including Raclette, a delicious Swiss cheese, with a surprise birthday cake, a presentation on Irene Adler and Sherlock Holmes by Richard Olken, and a history of the Reichenbach Irregulars from Marcus Geiser.

On Sunday, June 2nd we checked out of our hotel since we would not be leaving until after lunch. In the morning we were entertained by presentations by Jon Lellenberg (on Switzerland's involvement in modern espionage), Marsha Pollock (on Moriarty in the movies over the years), Michael Meer (on the Swiss detective novel, especially those by Carl A. Loosli), and Bryan Stone (on the history of the Splügen Pass). Before we left for Hotel Bodenhause (in Splügen) we took a group picture on the terrace, which, in Switzerland, means there were majestic mountains in the background. We were scheduled to take the southern route to Splügen (in the south eastern corner of Switzerland, just across the border from

Italy), but snow the week before necessitated that we go north to Lucerne, almost to Zurich, then south to Splügen (pop. 400), about a three-hour trip. We had a relaxing early evening respite, a group trip to the Hotel Bodenhause wine cellar (www.hotel-bodenhaus.ch/en) and a group dinner at the hotel.


On Monday, June 3rd, here were presentations by Guy Marriott (a theory on how a court case could take place in Prague for a murder that took place in Switzerland) and Mariana Stajic (on the use of vitriol) in the morning, before we all loaded on a special narrow, shorter bus to take us up the mountain switchbacks to Splügen Pass and crossed over to border to Italy. We stopped in the Italian village of Montespluga for a picnic lunch. Montespluga consists of three streets, a couple of hotels, a small shop and is sometimes snowed in and cut off from both countries in the winter. We returned via the same switchbacks. Just before Splügen we stopped and looked a possible site of Baron Gruner's murder of his wife.

We returned to the lovely Hotel Bodenhause, walked around the town, went on a tour of a local history museum arranged by our hosts (where we saw a headboard with the initials SH) and dressed for a scrumptious group dinner at the hotel. After dinner we ended the conference with presentations by Mitch Higurashi (on Watson's knowledge of Japanese and Chinese pottery), Catherine Cook (was actor Dion Bourcicault a prototype for Baron Gruner?), and Michael Meer treated us to a couple short film extracts and a 45-minute episode from the BBC in 1965 on Baron Gruner.

The next morning our bus was back, and we headed for Chur (pop. 35,000 and a charming city) for our train connections. Some were headed to other European countries for more vacation time, some to Zurich, and some were headed home. For me, going to two rural places in Switzerland laid out the beauty of that country. I will always remember this trip for the exquisiteness of Switzerland and the friends, new and old, I met. "Prost!"



Answers to the Symploce Quiz on page 10 (page numbers from Doubleday):

1. HOUN, 696; 2. ILLU, 986; 3. LAST, 971; 4. CHAS, 580; 5. DEVI, 968; 6. SILV, 343; 7. GOLD, 618; 8. DYIN, 936; 9. STUD, 21; 10. DANC, 518. 

Dartmoor National Park and The Hound of the Baskervilles Trails

BY RICHARD SVEUM, MD



In May 31, 2019 I first set foot upon the Moor. As part our England trip that included visits to Cornwall and Cambridge, we squeezed in a Sherlockian adventure. Jennifer drove our rental car from Plymouth to Princetown and our first stop was the Old Duchy Hotel, where ACD stayed in 1901, now the National Park Visitor Centre. Thanks to Philip Weller and The Franco-Midland Hardware Company, there is a fine display of Arthur Conan Doyle's desk and a mannequin of Sherlock Holmes in the visitor center. I spoke to the naturalist for advice hiking the THOTB Trails on the Moors, mapped on their pamphlet for the next day. We drove through the park, watchful of grazing sheep and wild Dartmoor ponies to Lewtrenchard Manor in nearby Okehampton, Devon. The Jacobean manor was once the home of Sabine Baring-Gould and now is a luxury hotel with restaurant graced with family portraits and a library. The Lewtrenchard Manor is a possible location for Baskerville Hall but it is, without doubt, the location for Holmes' visit in Laurie King's *The Moor* (1998). Sabine Baring-Gould was the grandfather of Minnesota born William Baring-Gould, author of *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes* (1967).

On June 1 we returned to the park and the hamlet of Two Bridges and started our first hike. Wistman's Woods is long famous for its twisted



Dick Sveum on Dartmoor. Photo by Jen Olson

dwarf oaks covered in mosses and lichen where legend has hell hounds that hunt with the devil at night live. I did not hear a "bittern booming" but Jennifer heard and saw some cuckoo birds flying into the woods. It was too challenging to navigate the rocks and trees of the woods so we headed out to the open moor and spotted the silhouette of a man on the tor. We walked up to the tor and dis-



Dick Sveum at Nun's Cross Farmhouse.

Photo by Jen Olson

covered a Dartmoor pony and climbed the impressive granite peak for a panoramic view of the landscape. We then hiked back to the car and returned to Princetown, passing the gray sinister Princetown Prison, parking at the visitor center. In the footsteps of Arthur Conan Doyle, we hiked the 6-mile trail to Nun's Cross and Nun's Cross Farmhouse (Stapleton's Merripit House), the 19th century farm close to Fox Tor Mire (Grimpen Mire). On the return to the car we passed the White-works with the closed tin mine visited by ACD and Fletcher Robinson in April 1901.

A Dartmoor visit is a must for any Norwegian Explorer who wants to get a full appreciation of the setting of THOTB, feeling the atmosphere and mood that affected ACD's writing of the novel.

For those interested in reading more that THOTB, consider:

King, Laurie R., *The Moor*, St. Martin Press, 1998.

Weller, Philip, *The Hound of the Baskervilles: Hunting the Dartmoor Legend.*, Devon Books, 2001.

Frayling, Christopher, *Nightmare: The Birth of Horror*, BBC Books, 1996. 

Beginnings and Ends: Symploce in the Canon

BY KAREN MURDOCK



ord repetition abounds in the Sherlock Holmes stories. Anaphora is the repetition of a word or words at the beginnings of successive sentences or clauses.

"Give me problems, **give me** work, **give me** the most abstruse cryptogram."

(SIGN, Doubleday 89-90)

Gone was the coarse brown tint! **Gone**, too, was the horrid scar (TWIS, 242)

"She hated me, Mr. Holmes. **She hated me** with all the fervour of her tropical nature."

(THOR, 1066)

Epistrophe is the repetition of words at the ends of successive sentences or clauses.

"You hope to place me **in the dock**. I tell you that I will never stand **in the dock**."

(FINA, 473)

"I suppose you might say she was **handsome**. Perhaps some would say she was very **handsome**."

(SECO, 662)

"you must stay **where you are all day**. Let nothing prevent you from staying **where you are all day**."

(NAVA, 462)

Both these schemes serve to emphasize the repeated words. The combination of anaphora and epistrophe is another figure called **symploce** (sim-PLO-see **or** sim-PLO-kee). Symploce repeats words at both the beginnings and the ends of sentences or clauses.

If anaphora serves to emphasize words and epistrophe serves to emphasize words, symploce does that doubly. Whereas anaphora and epistrophe are sometimes not noticed by the reader, especially in very long sentences, symploce is impossible to overlook. You know you are encoun-

tering a figurative use of language when you encounter symploce, even if you do not know the name for it.

I was born an American; I will live an American; I shall die an American.

(Daniel Webster, speech, July 17, 1850)

"Money!" cried the squire. "Have you heard the story? **What** were these villains after **but money? What** do they care for **but money?** For **what** would they risk their rascal carcasses **but money?**"

(Robert Louis Stephenson, *Treasure Island*, 1883)

But beyond that, we remember today that all our gentle heroes of Vietnam have given us a lesson in something more: a lesson in living love. Yes, for all of them, those who came back and those who did not, **their love** for their families **lives**. **Their love** for their buddies on the battlefields and friends back home **lives**. **Their love** of their country **lives**.

(Ronald Reagan, address at the Vietnams Veterans' Memorial, November 11, 1988)

The Canon contains some two dozen examples. As with other figures of repetition, symploce can be shared between two speakers:

WATSON: "**What** will he **do?**"

HOLMES: "**What** I should **do**."

WATSON: "**What** would you **do**, then?"

(FINA, 476)

WATSON: "**It** can still be **done**."

HOLMES: "**It** has been **done**."

(RETI, 1116)

QUIZ: SYMPLOCE IN THE CANON

See if you can identify the stories in which these examples of symploce occur. No story is used more than once. Choose your answers from these stories: CHAS, DANC, DEVI, DYIN, GOLD, HOUN, ILLU, LAST, SILV, STUD.

1. ... **the loss of the** new brown **boot, the loss of the** old black **boot**.
2. "**She** dotes upon **him; she** is obsessed by **him**."
3. "**You** yacht against **them, you** hunt with **them**..."
4. "**You will** ruin no more lives as you have ruined **mine. You will** wring no more hearts as you wrung **mine**."

5. **"For years Brenda waited. For years I waited."**
6. **"I only saw it because I was looking for it."**
7. **"You spoke with her. You recognized her."**
8. **"You won't fail me. You never did fail me."**
9. **Knowledge of Literature — Nil. Knowledge of Philosophy — Nil. Knowledge of Astronomy — Nil.**
10. **"I anticipated it. I came in the hope of preventing it."**

(Answers are on page 8.)

Parting Words and Trifles

The next issue will have a fuller account of August's conference. There were several things that came out of the conference that are worth mentioning at this time.

The Norwegian Explorers have a new pin with a new logo. The new design was developed by Amanda Downs Champlin as part of developing the logo for the conference. The pin is available from Explorers' President, Tom Gottwalt at: **NorwegianExplorers@gmail.com** or **tgottwal@tcfbank.com**. The cost is \$13 including postage. The new pin design is:



We will have them available at the Annual Dinner if you wish to save the \$3 postage cost.

We also produced a book for conference attendees which still has some copies available. It is *The Best of Friends* which contains fifty essays from the *Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections*

newsletter edited by Julie McKuras. Among the fifty essays are the Sigerson Award winners. The book price is \$25 with an additional \$3 for postage within the US. Orders can be sent to me (Phil Bergem, 3829 172nd Ave NW, Andover, MN 55304-1820) with a check payable to the Norwegian Explorers.



Advertisement found in Collier's magazine, August 27, 1904.

The Norwegian Explorers

Room 15G
Elmer L. Andersen Library
University of Minnesota
222 21st Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455



Edited by
Phillip Bergem
pgbergem@gmail.com

Online presence:

norwegianexplorers@gmail.com
www.norwegianexplorers.org
www.facebook.com/NEofMN
Twitter: @NEofMN