



THE NORWEGIAN EXPLORERS
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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

The town of Stillwater, Minnesota, is located fifteen miles northeast of Saint Paul, nestled along the banks of the St. Croix River. Among the many attractions is a bed-and-breakfast establishment called the Rivertown Inn. The house is originally from the 1890s and has been lovingly and gorgeously restored. The rooms are named for and decorated after various authors. The three rooms in the renovated coach house are named for Agatha Christie, Oscar Wilde and Arthur Conan Doyle. A good friend, whom I've known since college days, hosted a dinner and stay for three couples; him and his wife, my sister and brother-in-law, and my wife and me. Karen and I, of course, were assigned the Arthur Conan Doyle room.

The Agatha Christie room is decorated reminiscent of a train car (although, luckily, much larger) to acknowledge her masterpiece, *Murder on the Orient Express*. The Oscar Wilde room had

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A Word from the President

BY TOM GOTTWALT

As you will note from the many articles throughout this issue, our group has been busy since the publication of the previous edition of Explorations. Some notable recent and upcoming events include:

- Our annual January "Baker Street West" event was held at Keiran's Irish Pub where we celebrated the Master's January birthday and heard reports of happenings at the New York weekend and highlights from the Baker Street Irregulars Dinner.
- In January and February our Study Group met and discussed "The Problem of Thor Bridge" and "The Priory School."
- The Red Throated League will perform the Edith Meiser radio play "The Case of the Cadaver in a Roman Toga" on March 14th with an encore performance scheduled for May 16. The March 14th performance will be at the Elmer L. Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota. The May 16th performance will be part of the Northland Antique Radio Club meeting at The Comfort Inn in Plymouth near the intersection of Highway 55 and Interstate 494 (3000 Harbor Lane North, Plymouth). The monthly notices (found on the Explorer's webpage) have further details.
- The Study Group will take up "Shoscombe Old Place," "The Three Garridebs" and "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax" on March 21, April 18 and May 9, respectively.
- Before its summer hiatus the Study Group will take its traditional June non-Canonical detour (June 20th), this time to explore the pastiche *Everybody's Favorite Duck*.

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The Sherlock Holmes Society of London 2020 Dinner

BY JULIE MCKURAS

I've been very lucky that Mike and I have had the opportunity to attend a number of the annual dinners of the London Society. This year we had a special reason to be present at the dinner held in The House of Commons.

Some months ago Nick Utechin, the long-time Society member, author, and editor of their Journal from 1976-2006, casually mentioned to me that the guest speaker for their 2020 dinner would be Scottish crime writer Val McDermid. Had I heard of her? Yes indeed I had. In 2011 I attended Bouchercon in St. Louis with fellow Explorer Gary Thaden. Determined to bid on naming rights at their fund-raising auction, with proceeds going to the St. Louis Public Library, my goal was to win the name in a future Val McDermid book. It was the penultimate item on the block, and British author Mark Billingham conducted the auction. When I realized how quickly the bids were rising my thought was that at least I could help drive the bids up for such a good cause. At one point it became noticeable that mine was the only hand raised and that I was the winner. Ms. McDermid was sitting in front of me and couldn't have been more gracious. When I told her the name wouldn't be mine but my granddaughter, Vivian's, I hoped my seemingly innocent phrase "she's just a baby" might prevent the character from coming to a grizzly end on a Scottish hillside. The story of how Gary Thaden suggested the best way to call home that evening and tell Mike how much money I'd just spent would make a good story in itself.

In the coming months, Ms. McDermid and I exchanged emails and she noted that we wouldn't be disappointed with Vivian's character. We certainly weren't. When the book was published the following year, Ms. McDermid attended Bouchercon in Cleveland and brought a first English edition of *The Vanishing Point* for me. FBI Special Agent Vivian McKuras helps solve a kidnapping which begins at Chicago's O'Hare Airport and ends in England. With that memory in mind, the decision was made to travel to London.

We spent several interesting days as drifters in that great cesspool London, dining with friends and seeing two plays. On Saturday, January 11,

we passed through security and entered Westminster Hall, the oldest part of Parliament. Excited to see a number of friends we've made through the years, we gathered with fellow Explorers Gary and Andy Thaden and many others in the cocktail lounge. It wasn't long before dinner was announced and we found ourselves seated at the head table in the House of Commons dining room. Chairman David Jones opened the evening and dinner was served. After the meal was complete, it was time for presentations. David presented Judi Ellis with the 17th Annual Tony Howlett Award for her years of service to the organization. Then it was time for Val McDermid. Not everyone knows that she performs with The Fun Lovin' Crime Writers band which includes other notable crime writers such as Mark Billingham and Stuart Neville. With those musical bona fides, she surprised Nick Utechin by singing "Happy Birthday" to him, as their website photo caption states, "channeling Marilyn Monroe." She then went on to discuss a number of subjects, such as how all crime writers owe a debt to Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes. Much to the surprise of the audience, she revealed the existence of a newly found manuscript which proves that Holmes was responsible for beginning World War I. The audience showed great enthusiasm for her talk, and David Jones presented both Val and her wife, Jo Sharp, with tokens of the Society's appreciation.



Sherlock Holmes Society of London; Nick Utechin, Julie McKuras & Val McDermid - two happy speakers and one very happy grandmother! - Photo by Roger Johnson

Nick Utechin spoke at the end of the evening and saluted Ms. McDermid's writing, which is often more graphic than that of Dr. Watson. He discussed another difference; never did Dr. Watson's publishers let the good doctor auction off a character name. He told the story of how Vivian came to appear in *The Vanishing Point* and then asked if we could have a picture of the three of us and for both Val and me to sign his book. It was a wonderful evening. Pictures are available online at www.flickr.com/photos/shsl/albums/72157712835129641.

The following day the SHSL Morning After lunch was held. It's a casual affair at the Centre Page Pub, which is quite close to St. Paul's Cathedral, and a nice close to the weekend as you get to talk to friends. Should you have the opportunity to attend the annual London dinner and Morning After lunch, you'll feel welcomed and have a wonderful time. 🍷

My First Birthday Weekend

BY MICHAEL V. ECKMAN



I attended my first Sherlock Holmes birthday weekend in New York City January 15-19, 2020. One incentive for me to go was that it was the 50th anniversary of my moving from New York, where I had worked for a short time after graduation, as Uncle Sam wanted me for the Army.

My "weekend" began on Thursday morning with The Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox. We both walked and used the subway to visit several sites connected to Morley and his work. One highlight for me was going into the Woolworth Building and seeing the most intricate and attractive interior. Buildings are not made like this anymore. We also stopped at Trinity Church, which was in the news because people took refuge in it on September 11, 2001. But I found that the traditional highlights of the walk are the break for donuts, enjoyed in the food hall of Grand Central Station, and the lunch at McSorley's. McSorley's is an Irish pub near the base of Manhattan (15 East 7th Street) with sawdust on the floor and its menu on a chalk board. The waiter assumed we would all want "half and half," one light ale and one dark ale served at the same time. The appetizer was a

cheese platter with raw onions and a sleeve of saltines. I had corned beef hash served in a way that I had not had it before with gravy and lots of fried onions on the side. One of the past walkers we toasted was Allen Mackler, a founder of the walk (though I was told he used taxis on his "walk").

On Thursday night, I attended the Distinguished Speaker Lecture where Dr. Theodora Goss, World Fantasy and Locus Award-winning author, spoke about Conan Doyle and anthropology in the Holmes stories. This was the only event similar to the speakers at our conferences. Most of the weekend was meeting with Sherlockians and spending time with these very friendly and interesting people.

At noon on Friday, I enjoyed The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon and entertainment at Connolly's Pub and Restaurant. It was my second visit to an Irish pub in two days and I began to see a pattern for the weekend. I enjoyed meeting more Sherlockians, conversation, and entertainment consisting of the reading of a series of letters between Sherlock Holmes and the recently widowed Irene Adler Norton. The correspondence was cut short by Irene's death, which Holmes found suspicious.

Friday night found me at my second major meal of the day when I attended The Gaslight Gala at the Smith Midtown. On both Thursday and Friday, several of the weekend attendees told me that the Gala was more fun than the BSI Dinner and I can believe it. We were promised beastly entertainment and the program was titled "Lions and Horses and Hounds, Oh My!" There were toasts to Watson's bull pup, the blue goose, Toby, the speckled band, the trained cormorant, and the lion and the lion's mane. A version of "Talk to the Animals" was performed with the words modified to refer to animals in the canon. One memorable line was "I never will disparage a horse that draws a carriage." A skit depicted Stapleton trying to purchase a fierce hound at a pet store. He left empty handed after suffering through a series of unacceptable options including a Pekingese. The food was plentiful and served family style with hot potato chips with blue cheese fondue, fried calamari, salmon, and skillet-roasted mac & cheese as my personal favorites. We also left with a bag of swag that included the Explorers "Christmas Annual," an *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, a glossy picture-filled "Sherlock Holmes in India" booklet,

and various other items of ephemera, which Sherlockians, of course, keep forever.

Saturday morning was the merchant's room. Only the book signing was more furious than the selling and buying. With Dick Sveum, I attended the Junior Bloodstain meeting of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner, for those who are fans of both Holmes and P. G. Wodehouse. Unfortunately, I did not get a ticket to the The Baker Street Irregulars Luncheon Reception. I was told that the venue had changed the room, limiting attendance, but I think the BSI just felt enough people from Minnesota were already attending.

Saturday evening was O'Lunney's Irish pub for The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians dinner. We began the evening with The Sherlockian Pledge of Allegiance, which pretty well sums up the spirit of the weekend: "I (state your name), pledge allegiance to Sherlock Holmes, and the deductions by which he stands, one Sherlockian under Doyle, indivisible, with fun and fellowship for all." I chose the Irish Stew and Guinness for my meal. There were toasts, of course, and a quiz. I was lucky enough to match more descriptions of the conveyances that Holmes and Watson may have used to the appropriate pictures than anyone else. My prize was a fine first day cover of Holmes stamps issued by the Royal Mail. There was a promise of a "pin the wound on Watson" game, but that will have to wait until next year.

I took advantage of my time in New York to see "Book of Mormon" and enjoy a few of the sights, including Times Square during a snowfall. I went to the Morgan Library to work with some Mark Twain manuscripts, including "A Double Barreled Detective Story." I visited where I lived while I was in New York. Strangely, Columbia University, where I spent a summer, looked bigger than I remembered. I found that the

nearby Tom's Restaurant, where I went every Saturday for breakfast, was a key site on the Seinfeld TV show tour. My old apartment building on West 74th Street looks much nicer than when I lived there. Subway fares are much higher than the twenty cents they were fifty years ago.

On my next weekend, I would like to extend a day or two and limit the big meals to one a day. Attending other functions on Wednesday evening and Sunday morning would also allow more opportunity for fellowship and fun. 🍷

Baker Street West



On Sunday, January 26th, eighteen Explorers gathered at Kieran's Irish Pub in downtown Minneapolis for our traditional Baker Street West gathering. The purpose of the event is to socialize and to hear members who attended the New York Birthday Weekend festivities to tell others of their experiences. The event was coordinated by Lindsay Hall and she acted as emcee for the evening.



New York Explorers: front row – Julie McKuras, Pj Doyle, Mike McKuras; back row – John Bergquist, Dick Sveum, Ray Riethmeier, Mike Eckman.

Following consumption of drinks and a meal of Irish fare, Mike Eckman started off the presentations. It was Mike's first time at the New York Birthday Weekend. He mentioned his participation in the Christopher Morley Walk, the Distinguished Speaker's Lec-

ture, the Gaslight Gala, and other events. He wrapped up the Sherlockian part of the weekend with The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians dinner at O'Lunney's Irish pub on Saturday night. Mike has kindly written about his experience in more detail and that article can be found immediately preceding this one.

Pj Doyle spoke next. She talked a little about the history of the Adventuresses of Sherlock

Holmes (ASH). Their ASH Wednesday gathering at the start of the festivities, a great opportunity for mingling with old friends and new. They also have the tradition of the ASH Brunch on Sunday to bring a close to the year's gathering. Next, Ray Rithmeier focused on the renewal of friendships. He talked about sitting in the lobby of the Roosevelt Hotel, watching Sherlockians intermingle, and meeting with a number of them himself.

Julie McKuras spoke of being able to attend the Baker Street Journal reception because of her work on the latest BSJ Christmas Annual. She also highlighted the reception at the Mysterious Bookshop and the BSI Dinner. With Dick's assistance, she gave us the list of newly Invested Sherlockians.

Gary and Andy Thaden attended the Sherlock Holmes Society of London dinner on January 11th, the weekend before the New York event and Gary told the group of the event. (Julie and Mike McKuras were also there.) The dinner is held in the Houses of Parliament and you have to go through airport-like security to get in. Following drinks there was the dinner in elegant surroundings. The speaker was Val McDermid, a well-known crime writer. Gary said that the event was great fun, the toasts were short, and the presentations by Val McDermid and Nick Utechin were very good. Gary and Andy continued their time in England visiting with their daughter, son-in-law and new grandson.

Dick Sveum carried on with the New York discussion talking about a dinner on Thursday, the Gillette Luncheon, the Dealer's room, and the fact that Frank Cho did the artwork for the BSI Dinner program again this year and was one of the people who received their investiture (as "The Duke of Balmoral").

We concluded the evening, paid our respective bills, and headed off into the night, looking forward to the next gathering. 🦋

January Study Group – Thor Bridge

BY TOM GOTTWALT



en Explorers gathered on January 18th at the St. Anthony Park Library to discuss "The Problem of Thor Bridge." Attendance may have been off a bit due to a recent snowstorm and cold temperatures. The

group leaders had even considered canceling or postponing the session but in British fashion, we "kept calm and carried on."

The session began with the usual "show and tell" sharing of recent acquisitions of books and other ephemera.

We then dove into the possibilities created by the reference to Watson's battered tin dispatch box chronicled in this tale. Think of all the references to tantalizing stories and possibilities we would have missed had Watson not told us of this trove. Think of all the pastiches that might not exist without it. That tin dispatch box is truly a gift from Watson that keeps on giving.

We discussed many other facets of the story and some recurring themes that appear here, such as why so many women in the stories have tropical or raging passions, or are "hot blooded." (Maybe this is where the band Foreigner drew its inspiration for the song of that name.)



We also touched on the Holmes/Watson relationship and queried if it was, at its core, an abusive one. We pondered whether the messy, undoubtedly smelly rooms, and Holmes's frequent derisiveness were forms of abuse. Was Watson an enabler? Was he just supportive? He must have had his own demons and quirks or may not have been able to abide the relationship. In the end, we concluded the relationship must have been mutually beneficial and symbiotic or it would not have lasted so long. It's a good thing it did last so long, or we would have a lot fewer than 60 stories to read and re-read.

A brief discussion of Holmes's fee scale ensued, and we noted his comment in this story that "My professional charges are upon a fixed scale. I

do not vary them save when I remit them altogether.” Despite this Holmesian assertion, we agreed that he does in fact vary his fees, usually charging wealthier clients far more than less wealthy clients.

We then turned to the character of Bates and discussed his role and whether his role or character added to the story or not. The consensus was that his presence helped the story.

A discussion of ballistics followed, and we pondered whether the authorities would have known or should have known that the fatal bullet had come from a weapon other than the one found in the bottom of the innocent governess’ wardrobe. We discussed when the science of ballistics came into its own and concluded the answer to whether the authorities fumbled this aspect of the case depends on when the science of ballistics became sufficiently mature and when the event of the case took place. This is a subject requiring some research, which has probably already been documented by some astute Sherlockian scholar.

The question of why Mrs. Gibson used a rock instead of another object came up because the consensus was that it can be difficult to tie a string around a rock when one is in a hurry or extremely agitated.

Finally, we pondered whether this story could really end happily for Grace Dunbar. Though her name was cleared, Mr. Gibson, the “Gold King,” was still a despicable character and likely did not change his stripes after the events of the story. If her affection for him faded, we thought it might be difficult for her to get another governess position given the cloud that might still hang over her or a lack of a favorable reference should Mr. Gibson fail to provide one. Maybe staying with him was really her best option and that, more than love, may be why she stayed.

After some discussion of how to rate the story, we concluded with a poll in which a group consensus of 4.5 on a 5-point scale emerged. 🐾

Pondering a Pistol-Packed “Problem”

BY JEFF FALKINGHAM



ereading “The Problem of Thor Bridge” made me curious about the revolver that Dr. John Watson often carried in his pocket on many of his adventures

with Sherlock Holmes. Research leads me to believe that it was an Adams Mark II or III. First introduced in 1878, these were standard issue for the British Army during Watson’s time as a medic in Afghanistan. While the Army furnished ammunition, officers were required to pay for their own side arms – making it likely the doctor could have kept the gun following his military discharge.



Adams Mark III revolver (Model 1872)

The matching pistols owned by Sen. Gibson were almost certainly Colt .45 Peacemakers, the most popular “six-shooter” of its era – especially in America (the Gold King’s place of origin). From 1872 until the turn of the century, this weapon was standard issue for state and federal law enforcement officers and many branches of the military, including the U.S. Cavalry and the Texas Rangers.



Colt .45

Because of its elongated barrel, the Peacemaker was unusually accurate, even at great distances. Some models came with a wooden shoulder stock, to which the pistol could be

mounted and fired as a rifle. Gun-slingers of the old Wild West preferred a shorter-barreled model that could be drawn from its holster more rapidly. Like dueling pistols, Peacemakers were often sold to collectors in boxed pairs.

As for Sherlock Holmes himself, much evidence points to the snub-nosed Webley RIC as his firearm of choice. The Royal Irish Constabulary first adopted this revolver in 1868. Some suggest that a grateful inspector from Scotland Yard gave the gun to Holmes as a gift. I prefer to believe the Great Detective simply copped one from a crime scene - or confiscated it from a criminal. A later model, known as the British Bull Dog, was popular during the Boer War, which Arthur Conan Doyle wrote about extensively. Trivia buffs know this is the gun used to assassinate U.S. President James Garfield in 1881.



Webley No. 1 RIC

Why did Holmes use Watson's revolver, instead of his own, for the "evidentiary experiment" he conducted at Thor Bridge? There is a logical explanation: The Adams Mark III and the Peacemaker were quite similar in size, shape and weight. The Mark III was 11.25" long and weighed 2.4 pounds; the Colt was 12.5" long and weighed 2.31 pounds. By contrast, Sherlock's snub-nose Webley was 6" long and weighed over 3 lbs. Given these figures, it's unlikely any comparison involving the latter would have held up in court. This is especially vital if the Thor Bridge murder weapon was never actually recovered from the reed-filled pond - a point on which the story's conclusion is oddly ambiguous.

In *A Study in Scarlet* (and many other stories), Sherlock Holmes warns us that "It is a capital mistake to theorize before you have all the evidence." Yet in "Thor Bridge" he does exactly that: He

comes up with his own theory about the victim's death, then conducts an experiment that creates the evidence (a second chip) to support it! This sounds like something Will Ferrell, in his fascination with Americans and their obsession with guns, might have done; but it's not worthy of Basil, Brett or the 'Batch. As far as we know, the so-called "solution" to this "problem" was only a theory in Sherlock's mind. Might that not explain why both Watson and Holmes were so reluctant, for decades, to file a record of this case?

Although Watson reports that "The Problem of Thor Bridge" occurred in October, he doesn't stipulate the year. My assumption that it was decades earlier is based on the fact that there is no discussion between Holmes and the local constabulary about fingerprints, powder burns, blood spatter, ballistics or other forensic evidence - other than rigor mortis - though all were in play by the time the story was published in 1922.

A couple of final thoughts on this tale: Why was Holmes so quick to dismiss the husband as a suspect? The Gold King had both motive and opportunity - and no alibi for the time of the crime. He was home from work by 5 o'clock, dinner was over by 8:30, and the crime was discovered at 11:00. There was "no evidence that he had been outdoors" - but no certainty that he had not. Also, though he initially protested that the accused could not have done the dirty deed, he quickly proposed an "alternative version" explaining exactly how she might have had a hand in it.

Further, Mr. Gibson told the sergeant that "the moment the alarm was given he had rushed down with others from the house." This is contradicted by Miss Dunbar, who said that "when the alarm came that the poor creature had met her death, I ran out of the house with the others." And did she see Mr. Gibson? "Yes, he had just returned from the bridge." Very suspicious, no? Not one of Doyle's finest works - in fact, one of the weaker stories in the Canon, in my opinion. 🐾

Not to Mention Praeteritio

BY KAREN MURDOCK



raeteritio (also known as paralipsis) is a rhetorical figure in which the speaker or writer invokes a subject by denying that it should be invoked. It is like irony,

only sneakier. This figure is typically used to distance the speaker from unfair claims, while still bringing them up (“I don’t want to raise the subject of the recent allegations that my opponent is a tax evader, an elevator groper, and a Texas Aggie fan.”) The most common construction of praeteritio in English speech is the phrase “not to mention.” (“She is a talented tuba player, not to mention the richest woman in Arkansas”).

Arthur Quinn’s description of praeteritio is one of the funniest passages in his lively little book *Figures of Speech: 60 Ways to Turn a Phrase*:

We use a harmless form of praeteritio when we introduce material with phrases like “not to mention” or “to say nothing of.” These are innocence itself compared to the frequent use of praeteritio in matters of public dispute. If I were to declare any figure inherently disreputable (which, of course, I will not), this would be the one. Neither will I mention that the only American president who repeatedly used the praeteritio was also the only one who had to resign. I will not mention it, despite its obvious relevance to our present discussion, because anything that might be interpreted as a political statement would be entirely inappropriate in a book such as this.

QUIZ: PRAETERITIO in the Canon

Praeteritio is such a rare figure in the Sherlockian Canon that I have only found six examples of it (oddly, two of these are found in one story, “The Illustrious Client”).

Here is a short quiz, listing all six examples. See if you can name the stories in which they appear:

1. “You will have barren work, to say nothing of incurring some danger.”
2. “... and there was the known affection of the Colonel for his wife, to weigh against it, to say nothing of the tragic intrusion of this other man”
3. I need not say that my eyes had hardly glanced over the paragraph before I had sprung into a hansom and was on my way to Baker Street
4. “No, sir. By that day you will be the business manager of the Franco-Midland Hardware Company, Limited, with a hundred and thirty-four branches in the towns and villages of France, not counting one in Brussels and one in San Remo.”
5. “... and I received in exchange twopence, a glass of half-and-half, two fills of shag tobacco, and as

much information as I could desire about Miss Adler, to say nothing of half a dozen other people in the neighbourhood in whom I was not in the least interested, but whose biographies I was compelled to listen to.”

6. I was horrified, for I had heard nothing of his illness. I need not say that I rushed for my coat and my hat. 🐾

(Answers are on page 12.)



Sherlock Holmes in Films and on Television

BY PHILLIP BERGEM



The *Guinness Book of World Records* has written in past issues that the most portrayed literary human character in film & TV. In 2012 they stated that he has been depicted on screen 254 times and played by over 75 actors.

(www.guinnessworldrecords.com/news/2012/5/sherlock-holmes-awarded-title-for-most-portrayed-literary-human-character-in-film-tv-41743) The article goes on to claim that Dracula, whom they categorize as “non-human,” was portrayed in 272 films. As with most things Sherlockian, it’s not quite that simple.

A question can be raised as to what constitutes a Sherlock Holmes film. Is it only serious adaptations, or do parodies and comedies count? How about if the character is nameless, but has Sherlockian characteristics or a deerstalker and magnifying lens? How about television programs where an established character takes on the Sherlockian traits?

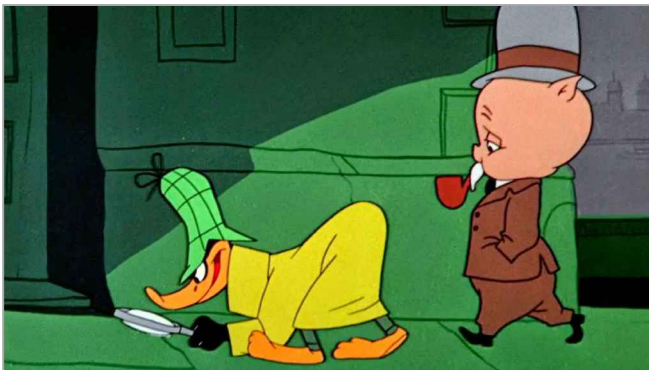
Years ago, I developed a comprehensive list of Sherlockian appearances in films and television. The latest released version can be found at www.sherlocktron.com. I have continued to update the list, and my current version has over 1400 entries. Granted, in the case of television productions the numbers include each individual episode (the Jonny Lee Miller “Elementary” series accounts for 154 separate entries), but it does illustrate how popular Sherlock Holmes is in the entertainment world.

I decided that it would be best to split the list into divisions. These divisions, and present number of entries in each, are:

Movie Films - Serious Portrayals (Canonical and Pastiches)	186
Movie Films - Derivations and Associations	47
Movie Films - Parodies and Comedies	110
Television Movies and Shows - Serious Portrayals (Canonical and Pastiches)	424
Television Movies and Shows - Derivations and Associations	165
Television Movies and Shows - Parodies and Comedies	65
Animation, Puppets, Muppets and Miscellaneous (Film and Television)	406

Any way you care to count these, there are many more than 254 screen appearances, even allowing for those released since 2012.

Derivations I consider to be where the character doing the detective work is not Sherlock Holmes but is instead a descendant or alternate canonical character. An example is Sherlock's grand-niece, Shirley Holmes, from the Canadian television series. Associations are where someone takes on the characteristics of Sherlock Holmes, or incorporates one or more of the icons (deerstalker, cape, magnifying lens or pipe) to indicate that they are going to do detective work. Examples include Abbott and Costello in Sherlockian outfits in the movie *Who Done It?* and the *Doctor Who* episode, "The Snowmen," where the Doctor (Matt Smith) is similarly outfitted.




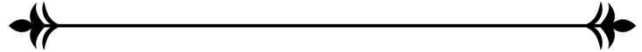
From Deduce, You Say (Warner Brothers, 1956)

It was fascinating to see how many entries were in the animation category. I realized that for cartoons, many presumably written for the younger audience, or kids shows, writers have decided that using a deerstalker and lens can be short-hand for the character acting like a detective. In many cultures, this has had the effect of having people grow up associating the deerstalker,

lens, etc. with detective work, even if they do not actually know of Sherlock Holmes.


From my list I have counted 128 actors who have portrayed Holmes directly in a serious way, many more than the 75 counted by Guinness. But this count is subjective. Do you count George C. Scott as Justin Playfair in *The Might Be Giants*? I did, and some may disagree.

The extensive list of film and television portrayals of Sherlock Holmes is a good indication of how pervasive Sherlock Holmes is in society. 



Holmes and the Internet

BY MELISSA AHO

 was searching for a Sherlock Holmes book online a few months ago and I had an odd thought: "What websites would Holmes use if the Internet was around in 1895?" What resources can you use to search for data from 1895? Here are some websites that I believe Holmes would certainly have bookmarked.

Free and subscription-based websites, but for the public

Need to find a fine silt, sand, or what about the peatland classes of Scotland? The best places to look are the UK Soil Observatory www.ukso.org and Scotland Soils soils.environment.gov.scot.

Maps! Not everyone has a hackney carriage driver's Knowledge of London, so make sure you have a good map at your side. Holmes would certainly use Old Maps Online www.oldmapsonline.org, Map Images from the National Library of Scotland maps.nls.uk, (detailed maps of London are at maps.nls.uk/os/london-1890s/index.html) and Layers of London www.layersoflondon.org.

Need to find a newspaper article at midnight? Well the only thing to do is to get a subscription to The British Newspaper Archive where you have hundreds of British newspapers at your fingertips and some even dating back to the 1700s! www.british-newspaperarchive.co.uk.

No need to find Mycroft when you need a letter from a diplomat in India or documents from the Foreign Office, with the British Online Archives

who knows if you will find any submarine plans **microform.digital/boa**.

Need to catch a quick train? Look no further than the Bradshaw's Railway Guide from 1887 **hdl.handle.net/2027/umn.319510022004750** or Bradshaw's Handbook for Tourists in Great Britain & Ireland 1866 **hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015065192919**.

Looking for a royal suspect? Sorry, I mean "person of interest?" Look for your person of interest in the Burke's Peerage (established in 1826) which is the definitive guide to heraldry and genealogies of the peerage, royalty, historical families, and other prominent families in the United Kingdom, but also the Commonwealth, Europe, Latin American, Africa, the Middle East, and even the United States (including the Presidents) **www.burkes-peerage.com**.

The Publications and Records site from Parliament allows you to read questions, notes, and reports from both the House of Lords and the House of Commons going back to 1800. If one were to look at say March 24, 1939 in the House of Commons one might see the phrase "That still remains to be done by Sherlock Holmes, who, I presume, will speak later." What Holmes was doing at Parliament during a discussion on a Wheat Amendment Bill is anyone's guess, but you can find it all right here **www.parliament.uk/business/publications**.

Other places that might interest Holmes would include The National Archives **www.nationalarchives.gov.uk**, The British Library **www.bl.uk**, and the British Museum **www.britishmuseum.org**.

Finally, when leaving 221B, Holmes, Watson, and even Mycroft, would have needed a hat and gloves, this is Victorian England after all, but where to buy them? Lock & Co. Hatters has been around since the 1676 and with Royal Warrants from HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and HRH Prince Charles, I am sure no Holmes brother or good doctor would be without **www.lockhatters.co.uk**. As for finding gloves to go along with that hat, well the place to purchase is from Dents. Dents has been in operations since 1777, owns the world's largest private collection of gloves in the world (including ones

worn by Queen Victoria), and have a Royal Warrant from HRH Prince Charles. Their website can be found here: **www.dentsgloves.com**.

University of Minnesota Library Databases


If Holmes was visiting Minneapolis on a case and needed to use the UMN Library databases, what resources would he find? After becoming a Friend of the Library and sitting down with a cup of tea at a computer in Walter Library or perhaps McGrath Library, he would be able to access these useful databases:

The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography covers individuals from the Romans to 2016 that have shaped British history and culture.

British Online Archives is also available via the UMN databases.

Empire Online, which includes original documents for many different Empires, such as the British, but also others where the sun did set, including the French, German, Portuguese, etc., going back to 1492.

East India Company database is a collection of India Office Records from 1599 to 1947 and includes council meeting minutes, diaries, correspondence, and other documents.

And finally, The Making of the Modern World covers original documents, full text books, primary sources, grey literature, private correspondences, flyers, publications, ephemera, and other documents from around the world (1460-1850) relating to economics (including banking, transportation, manufacturing, finance, etc.). 



(Editor's Desk – continued from page 1)

drapery on the walls, statuary and other "Bohemian" touches. The Conan Doyle room did not have the same degree of relevant decorations; a framed picture of the author, books by and about him on a shelf near the gas fireplace, and a large map of London covering one wall. The wallpaper was the John Roche London map from 1746, well before Holmes and Watson's time, but interesting to me nevertheless.

Given that two of the rooms were for Conan Doyle and Wilde, my friend used the Langham din-

ner to set the theme. (This is where Joseph Marshall Stoddart, editor for *Lippincott's Magazine*, had a dinner with Conan Doyle and Wilde on August 30, 1889, and commissioned *The Sign of the Four* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. These appeared in the February and July 1890 issues respectively.) I was able to share some photos I took of the Langham Hotel that I took on a recent trip to London.

All of us took the opportunity to dress up in costume. My wife and I rented our costumes from the Theatrical Costume Company in Minneapolis. Karen had a lovely looking Victorian dress. My outfit was very nice, but my attempt to look like Conan Doyle had me looking more like the Monopoly man. (I found out that he's named "Rich Uncle Pennybags.") The other couples were also dressed appropriately, with my sister and brother-in-law renting their costumes from the Guthrie rental service.

It was a fun time together, with good food and conversation, and an example of how Sherlock Holmes can crop up in ways we don't expect. 🐾

Whitaker's World



nce more we dig into the pages of *Whitaker's Almanack*, or, more specifically, *An*

Almanack For the Year of Our Lord 1888. This issue we examine the page for the Registration of Births and Deaths.

England and Wales started Civil Registration of births, marriages and deaths on July 1, 1837. It started in Scotland in 1855. Of relevance to Sir Robert Norberton from Shoscombe Old Place, is the rule that a death must be registered within five days or risk a forty shilling (£2) penalty.

Registration of Births and Deaths. AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION.

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BIRTHS.—When a birth takes place, personal information of it must be given to the registrar, and the register signed in his presence, by one of the following persons:—1. The father or mother of the child. If they fail, 2. The occupier of the house in which the birth happened; 3. A person present at the birth; or, 4. The person having charge of the child. The duty of attending to the registration thereof rests firstly on the parents. One of them must, within 42 days of the birth, give to the registrar by word of mouth the information needed to enable him to register, and must sign the register in his presence. If they fail to do this without reasonable cause, they will become liable to a penalty of forty shillings. In case of their failure, one of the other persons above named must give personal information and sign the register within the same period. If at the end of 42 days no one has given information and signed the register, the registrar may write to any one of the above-mentioned persons, requiring him or her to come to him for that purpose, at a stated time and place. Any person who fails to comply with this requisition will become liable to a penalty of forty shillings. Not only will liability to a penalty be avoided, but the registration of a birth will be free of charge when it takes place within 42 days, unless either of the persons above named sends to the registrar a written request to come and register at his or her residence, or at the house where the child was born, when the registrar on so attending to register may claim a fee of one shilling. *After three months a birth cannot be registered except in the presence of the Superintendent Registrar, and on payment of fees to him and the registrar.* After twelve months a birth can be registered only on the Registrar-General's express authority, and on payment of further fees. It is important to persons of all classes to be able to prove their age and the place of their birth. The only legal proof of these is afforded by the civil registers, which the law now requires to be made as above described. Registration of birth in no respect lessens the importance and sanctity of the rite of baptism, or absolves churchmen from the duty of having their children baptized. The child's baptismal name may be inserted in the birth register within twelve months after the registration of the birth.

DEATHS.—When a death takes place, personal information of it must be given to the registrar, and the register signed in his presence, by one of the following persons:—1. The nearest relatives of the deceased present at the death, or in attendance during the last illness. If they fail, 2. Some other relative of the deceased in the same (registrar's) sub-district. In default of any relatives, 3. A person present at the death; or, the occupier of the house in which the death happened. If all the above named fail, 4. An inmate of the house, or, the person causing the body to be buried. Relatives present or in attendance are first required to attend to the registration. One of them must, within five days of the death, give to the registrar by word of mouth the information needed, and must sign the register; or must within the same time send him written notice of the death, accompanied by a certificate of the cause of death, signed by a registered medical practitioner, if any such attended the deceased. The written notice will

be useless without a legal medical certificate. If notice is sent, information must nevertheless be given and the register signed within fourteen days from the death. If relatives present or in attendance fail without reasonable cause to carry out these provisions, they will become liable to a penalty of forty shillings. In case of their failure, one of the other persons above named must give personal information and sign the register in their stead. It is advisable that every death should be registered and a certificate of registry be obtained from the registrar before the funeral. This certificate should be delivered to the clergyman or other person who performs the funeral or religious service. The penalty for not delivering this certificate is forty shillings. If at the end of fourteen days, one of the persons above mentioned has not attended to the registration, the registrar may by written application require any one of them to come to him and do so, at a stated time and place. Any person failing to attend on this application will be liable to a penalty of forty shillings. Whenever the deceased has been attended by a registered medical practitioner, a certificate of the cause of death, signed by him, must be delivered to the registrar. Any person receiving such a certificate from the practitioner and not so delivering it, will incur a penalty of forty shillings. The registration of a death is free of charge when it takes place within the above-mentioned periods, unless on request it is effected at an informant's house, or at the house where the death happened, when a fee of one shilling will be payable to the registrar. After twelve months a death can be registered only on the Registrar-General's express authority, and on payment of fees.

CORONERS' INQUESTS are held in all cases of violent and unnatural deaths, such as the case of a person slain or drowned, or dying suddenly, and of any person dying in prison. Sudden deaths are not understood where persons die of fevers, apoplexy, or some other visitation of God, and Coroners do not obtrude into the houses of persons for the purpose of holding inquests, but are sent for by the peace officers, to whom it is the duty of those in whose houses violent or unnatural deaths occur, to make immediate communication, whilst the body is fresh, and, if possible, whilst it remains in the same situation as when the death occurred. Inquests are not to be held on Sunday. When the Coroner receives due notice of a violent death, casualty, or misadventure, he issues his warrant or precept to summon a jury to appear at a particular time and place for the purpose of instituting the inquiry, when, how, and by what means the deceased came by his death. The jury must consist of at least twelve lawful and honest men, "*probi et legales homines*," and the number is immaterial provided twelve agree. The jury is usually summoned from the householders residing in the neighbourhood in which the death took place. Any person summoned as a juror is bound to attend, or, failing to attend, is liable to be fined in any sum not exceeding forty shillings. The exemptions of persons from serving on juries contained in Jury Acts do not apply to Coroners' inquests.

VACCINATION.

The parent of every child born in England must, within 3 months after the birth, or the per-

WHITAKER'S ALMANACK, 1888.

O 3

Coroners' Inquests are a subject Holmes and Watson would both have been very familiar with. Coroners are involved or mentioned in BOSC, FIVE, SPEC, HOUN, SECO, THOR VEIL and SHOS.

"*Probi et legales homines*," found in the article, is Latin for "law-abiding people," and is a legal term for good and lawful men; persons competent in point of law to serve on juries. 🐾

(Word from the President – continued from page 1)

- Also in June, “Holmes and Watson” will begin its June 12 – July 26 run at the Park Square Theatre.
- Our gap in summer activities will be nicely filled in July with the Twin Cities Antiquarian and Rare Book Fair (July 10 & 11, University of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Avenue, St. Paul – note the change in weekend and location).
- Finally, another Robert Downey, Jr. Holmes movie will be coming out in December 2021. Other activities of interest are mentioned in the Parting Words section below.

As always, you can keep up with these and other items of interest in the monthly Notices to Norwegian Explorers members that I send out by email. It’s a great time to be a Sherlockian and a Norwegian Explorer. Thank you for your membership and please spread the word to others. We’re always looking for new members. 🐾

Parting Words and Trifles

The Parallel Case in St. Louis is sponsoring a conference, **Holmes in the Heartland**, this upcoming summer, July 24 – 25. Details can be found at parallelcasestl.wixsite.com/home/holmes-in-the-heartland.

- **Plan ahead, October 2021** - We are thrilled to announce that The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes is coming to Minnesota. This premiere exhibition has been covered in *Explorations* by Tim Johnson and Julie McKuras several times. A number of items from the Sherlock Holmes Collections are on loan with the exhibition. The tour started in Portland, Oregon in 2013 and it has circulated throughout the United States

as well as to Edmonton, Canada and Sydney, Australia. This is a must-see for any fan of Sherlock Holmes and more details will be available later. It is presently at the South Carolina State Museum until April 19th. It will be at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul from October 1, 2021 to March 21, 2022. 🐾

Answers to the Praeteritio Quiz on page 8 (page numbers from Doubleday):

1. ILLU, 988; 2. CROO, 417; 3. ILLU, 993; 4. STOC, 366; 5. SCAN, 168; 6. DYIN, 932.



“Le Violon” woodcut by Félix Vallotton (1865-1925). While not truly a Sherlockian illustration, it does evoke thoughts of Sherlock Holmes relaxing in the study at 221B

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