THE NORWEGIAN EXPLORERS
OF MINNESOTA, INC.

EXPLORATIONS

SUMMER 2022 ISSUE NO. 86

"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."

Contents

Editor's Desk

There are pending changes to the editor position of *Explorations*. Most Explorers already know that there is a close relationship between the Norwegian Explorers and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, founded to publicize and support the Sherlock Holmes Collections housed at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota. One of the prime means to highlight the Collections is through the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections (FOSH) Newsletter. Julie McKuras has been the editor since the September 1999 issue, and she recently announced her retirement from the editorship. Her tenure lasted an astounding 23 years, during which she oversaw 91 issues, writing a high percentage of the articles.

Julie has asked me to take over the duties of FOSH newsletter editor and I accepted. Accord-

(Continued on page 18)

Study Group — "The Blue Carbuncle"

BY KAREN MURDOCK

On March 19, 2022, Mary Loving led a discussion on "The Blue Carbuncle." The discussion was held, as we have been doing for two years, on Zoom, with 21 people participating. Most participants were local Explorers, but there were also Howard Ostrom (from Ocala, Florida), Cynthia Karabush (from Chicago), Janis Robinson (from Knoxville), Bob Sharfman (from Chicago), Marketa (from the Czech Republic), David Hitchcock (from upstate New York), and Louisa Dieck (from Greensburg, Pennsylvania).

Karen Murdock announced that she is giving a Zoom talk on figures of speech on March 23rd at 1:30 P.M. through Minneapolis Public Schools Continuing Education. A lot of her examples will be from the Sherlockian Canon.

For our usual show-and-tell, Mary mentioned a National Geographic book on gems, which showed that blue carbuncles did not exist. Ruth Berman guessed that the blue carbuncle was a sapphire.

Steve Schier is reading *The Ballad of the Anarchist Bandits*, which is about a French gang in the year 1911, of which one member served as Arthur Conan Doyle's chauffeur when Doyle was in France.

Bob Sharfman showed the catalog of the exhibition of Sherlockian materials shown at the Grolier Club in January from the collection of Glen S. Miranker. He said his favorite piece was a poster of the William Gillette play, inscribed by Gillette to Vincent Starrett.

"The Blue Carbuncle" was published in *The Strand Magazine* in January 1892. According to Baring-

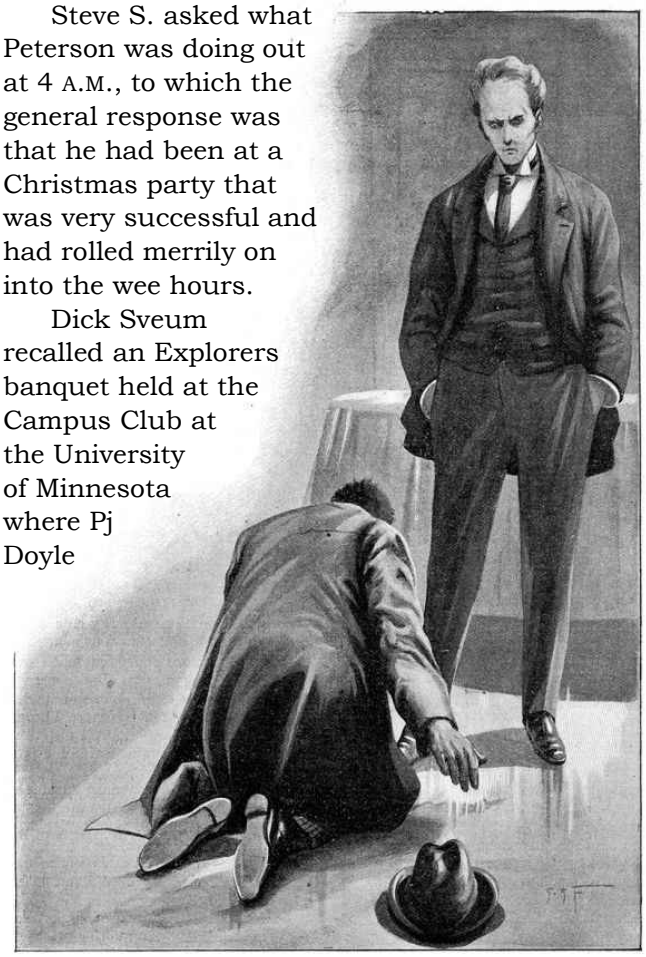
Gould the story took place in 1887. It is one of the early stories in the Canon.

Mary said we have no idea if or how Sherlock Holmes celebrated Christmas. Ruth pointed out that in the Brett/Granada adaptation, the story takes place before Christmas so that Horner can get out of jail in time for Christmas.

Karen Ellery asked what a "commissionaire" was. Steve S. read the definition from The Oxford Holmes. The organization was founded in 1879 to give employment to crippled soldiers. They served as messengers, doormen, gatekeepers, and other fairly easy tasks, and they wore their military uniforms. Bob S. said that commissionaires still exist today.

Steve S. asked what Peterson was doing out at 4 A.M., to which the general response was that he had been at a Christmas party that was very successful and had rolled merrily on into the wee hours.

Dick Sveum recalled an Explorers banquet held at the Campus Club at the University of Minnesota where Pj Doyle



RYDER SE JETA SUBITEMENT AUX GENOUX D'HOLMES.

Illustration by Gastão Simões da Fonseca (1874–1943). Courtesy of The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia. (www.arthur-conan-doyle.com)

passed a hat around and asked what deductions the Explorers could draw from it.

Steve S. said that, at the time the story took place, there were 4 million people in London, but among the homeowners (the only people recorded in city directories) there were only 103 Bakers and only seven "Henry Bakers." So, Holmes's estimation that there were "thousands of Bakers" and "hundreds of Henry Bakers" in the city was a wild exaggeration.

Steve S. asked, "Does a goose have a crop?" (A question which has generated great controversy in the Sherlockian world. See the *Explorations* for Winter 2021 (#82) in which Phil Bergem wrote an article on this subject.)

Karen M. said that she was a major consumer of "chicken grit," crushed granite which can be used by poultry farmers but also by homeowners in Minnesota in the wintertime, who spread it on icy sidewalks to provide traction. Karen E. asked, "Are you sure it's granite — or are you only taking it for granite?"

Mary asked why the Countess would keep the jewel in her room rather than locking it in the hotel safe. Ruth said the Countess did not trust the hotel employees (and quite rightly, too, since James Ryder, upper-attendant at the hotel, is the culprit).

Mary asked how many people thought that Catherine Cusack (maid to the Countess) was the mastermind behind the theft. Almost all Zoomers thought this was the case, since Ryder was not smart enough or daring enough to pull it off. Steve S. opined that "Ryder was just the tool." Steve Miller, however, felt that if Cusack was behind the theft, she would have kept the jewel for herself.

Karen Titrud thought that Ryder and Cusack might have returned the jewel and claimed the reward. However, they would have had to do this through a third party. Karen M. wondered where Ryder fled at the end of the story. David thought it would have been to South Africa, since that country has a lot of diamonds and Ryder obviously liked sparkly gems.

Steve S. wondered if Peterson would receive the reward money. All agreed that he should get most of it because of his honesty, but that Holmes should get something for solving the case. Steve M. thought the story was well structured and "just when you need him to show up, Ryder shows up."

Steve S. pointed out four errors in BLUE (mentioned in The Oxford Holmes):

1. Covent Garden market did not sell geese.
2. There are no white barred-tail geese.
3. Holmes was *compounding* a felony, not commuting one.
4. There is no Amboy River in China.

Mary said that Holmes often lets the guilty party go. Explorers quickly identified ABBE, MILV, DEVI, and IDEN as examples of this tendency. Janis said that Breckinridge, the goose seller, is a fully-developed character and gets a lot of dialogue.

Mary said she remembers when banks offered "Christmas Clubs." Steve M. said these disappeared when people realized that the bank did not offer any interest on these savings.

The reward money offered for the return of the blue carbuncle (£1000) would have an approximate worth in today's dollars of $100,000, given that one pound from the Victorian era had approximately the buying power of $100 today. Mary pointed out that one penny could buy a loaf of bread in Victorian times. This led to various Explorers "of a certain age" reminiscing about penny candy.

Monica Schmidt (a member of The Norwegian Explorers from Iowa) wrote the essay on BLUE for the anthology *About 60*. She said that Holmes's moral code was a balance of justice and compassion.

Ruth B. said that when she was a student at the University of Minnesota, she wrote a radio adaptation of BLUE for KUOM radio.

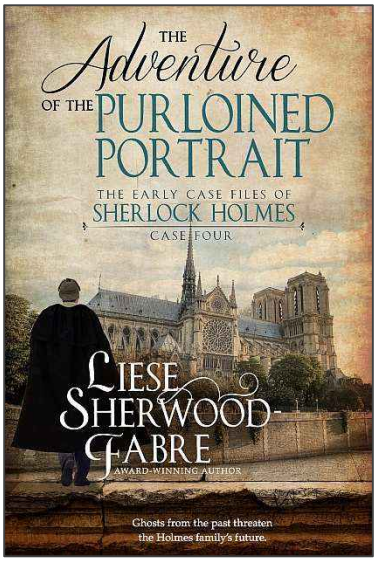
Mary said that this was "a very visual story." Steve S. said that Holmes should warn the Countess about her maid.

We briefly speculated about whether this tale might have influenced subsequent tales by Dorothy Sayers but concluded that "gem theft" stories have been around as long as gems have been around.

Our ratings of the tale were mostly 5s. Erica Madore rated it a little lower, saying there was "no assurance the innocent party will be freed." Bob says he reads the tale every year at Christmas. David had reservations about the "moral ambiguity" of letting guilty parties go free. Cynthia Ali said she liked the story even better after this discussion.

It takes about seven years for the Discussion Group to work its way through all the stories in the Canon. The last such "cycle" we followed the stories in the chronological order in which they were placed by William S. Baring-Gould (who was a son of Minneapolis, before moving to New York). In the cycle which just started, we are going alphabetically, according to the 4-letter abbreviations worked out by Jay Finlay Christ in the early 1950s. The first story, alphabetically, was ABBE. In April we will discuss BOSC and in May BRUC. Our June discussion is always on a non-Canonical tale.

Liese Sherwood-Fabre is a wonderful author who has been kind enough to provide two of her essays to print. She has published three volumes in her *The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes: Essays on Victorian England* series and a number of entertaining pastiches in her *Early Case Files of Sherlock Holmes* series. Case four, *The Adventure of the Purloined Portrait*, was released this past April. In it, the Holmes family travels to Paris where ghosts from Violette's past threaten the family's future. (Previous volumes are *The Adventure of the Murdered Midwife*, *The Murdered Gypsy*, and *The Deceased Scholar*.)



All of the books are available in eBook and paperback formats from **www.barnesandnoble.com** and **www.amazon.com**. More details can be found at **books2read.com/u/mZZjzD**.

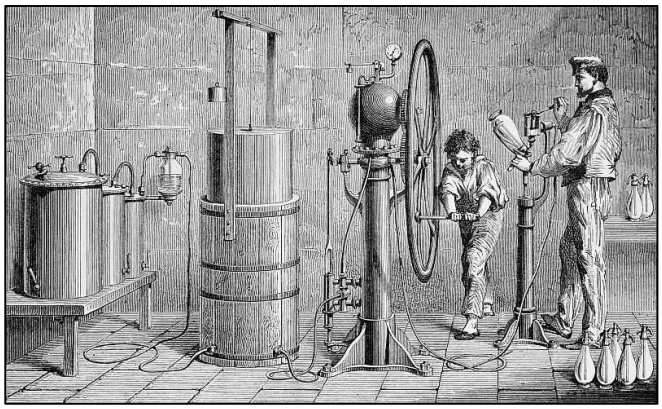
It's a Gas, Gas, Gas

BY LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE

In several cases, Holmes and Watson enjoyed a whiskey and soda, and once they offered a client a brandy and soda — most likely supplied from the "spirit case" (or tantalus) and gasogene in a corner of the apartment at 221B. Both were common items for the well-supplied gentleman, with soda, or seltzer, water having a long history of providing both refreshment and also, at times, medicinal properties.

Some mineral springs create carbonated water on their own. Filtered through porous

layers of rocks and minerals, the water becomes infused with sodium or potassium to give the water its fizz. Ancient populations often considered these as religious sites,[1] and with healing properties. People would come to "take the waters," soaking in or drinking from the springs to cure almost any disease.[2]



Hippocrates was the first to advocate such springs for medical purposes.[3] He argued that disease involved an imbalance of bodily fluids. To restore balance, treatment involved bathing, drinking water, and exercise and massage. Both private and public baths were constructed, and the Romans spread the concept as they conquered Europe. The British town of Bath was originally a Roman structure.

Following the fall of the Roman Empire, "taking the waters" fell out of popularity, only to be rediscovered during the Renaissance. In the late 1500s, the Italians were once again bathing and drinking spring water to relieve various complaints. One compendium listed more than 78 ailments that could be treated in the baths.[4] The interest in such springs spread across Europe, with a mineral spring in Spa, Belgium, giving a name to such facilities.[5]

In the 1700s, water from such springs became commercialized. The most famous of these is Nieder Seltzer, a town outside Frankfurt. Not only did the town supply the name "seltzer" to the water, it also was the first to export it to the U.S. in three-pint stone bottles. These were corked and sealed to maintain the effervescence. Once uncorked, however, all the gas escaped within a day, leaving behind a flat, noticeably saltier water.[6]

Given the limited supply of natural mineral waters, others sought means of carbonating regular water. John Priestly is given credit for inventing carbonated water in 1767 by suspending a bowl of water over a beer vat (which produces carbon dioxide) in Leeds, England. A feasible production process was introduced in 1781 when Thomas Henry in Manchester, England, created the first carbonated water factory.[7]

In addition to commercially produced soda-water, home-made options were also developed — such as the gasogene in Holmes's possession. This particular device consisted of two glass globes covered in wire mesh for protection from broken glass and connected to each other through a tube. Tartaric acid (from grapes) and bicarbonate of soda were mixed in the lower orb, and still water was placed in the upper. Once the gasogene was assembled, water dripped into the lower part to create a chemical reaction between the alkali and the acid, forming a gas, which was forced up the tube and into the water to create carbonated water.[8]

One of the byproducts of such carbonation is carbonic acid, which gives the water a tart taste and kills bacteria, an additional reason for it to be a healthful substitute for often contaminated plain water available prior to chlorination. While many drank seltzer water alone because of the touted medicinal properties (basically, clean water), others also used it for mixing with drinks, such as whiskey or brandy, as mentioned by Holmes. Other drinks were also produced with seltzer or soda water. Beeton's *Book of Household Management* included four drink recipes requiring soda-water (Champagne Cup, anyone?), as well as noting its benefits for the sick.[9]

When Holmes and Watson enjoy their whiskey and soda, they are participating in a ritual that dates far back into history.

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1 sparklingcbd.com/beverage-blog/the-surprising-history-of-carbonated-water

2 www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2016/12/gettin-fizzy-with-it/510470/#main-content

3 facesspa.com/blog/where-the-word-spa-comes-from/

4 ard.bmj.com/content/61/3/273

5 facesspa.com/blog/where-the-word-spa-comes-from/

6 Oliver Oldschool, *The Portfolio* (Philadelphia: Bradford and Inskeep, 1809), 312.

7 www.seltzernation.com/the-history-of-seltzer-water/

8 www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5PW4FvLPfw&t

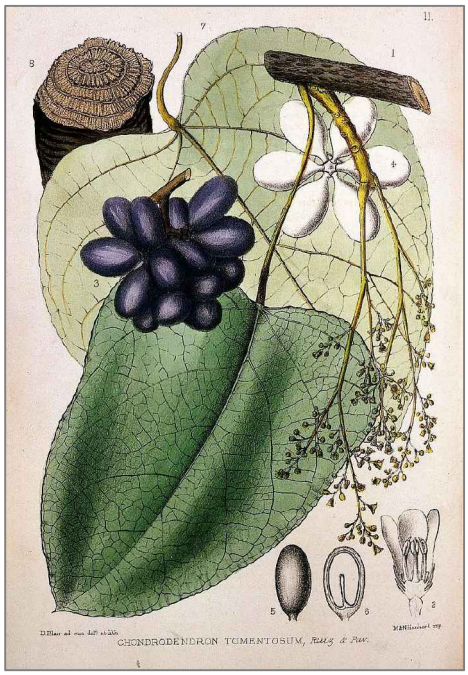
9 Isabella Beeton, *Book of Household Management*. (London: Ward, Lock and Company, 1898).

If you'd like to see a gasogene in action, here's a video: ***www.thisvictorianlife.com/blog/archives/11-2019***

Take Your Breath Away

BY LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE

In "The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire," Sherlock Holmes determined a mother, the accused vampire, was actually sucking a toxin from her child's neck. The boy had been wounded with a poisoned (most likely curare) arrow. His half-brother had stolen the weapon from their father's collection of South American artifacts. Curare had a long history in the Americas, and knowledge of the poison traveled back to Europe almost from its discovery. Its secrets, however, took centuries to uncover, and its medical uses appeared only within the last one hundred years.



Curare, or *Chondrodendron tomentosum*, is a woody vine that grows in the South American jungles. In addition to the primary metabolites produced to make the plant grow, it also creates secondary metabolites, the alkaloid D-tubocuraine, that serves as a defense mechanism. D-tubocuraine is a neurotoxin that causes paralysis when it enters the bloodstream.[10] The paralysis occurs from an interference with the contraction of the muscle cells, beginning with extremities such as the toes, ears, and eyes with a progression to the neck and limbs, and finally, those controlling respiration. Without intervention, death will occur.[11] The rate of fatality depends upon the size of the animal. Birds perish within one to two minutes, small mammals up to ten minutes, and large mammals up to 20 minutes.[12] All the while, the victim is conscious and feeling all that is occurring, but unable to move.[13]

European explorers learned of indigenous use of curare soon after discovering the New World. Warriors attacked Christopher Columbus' crew during a land excursion, and two died very quickly after what appeared to be minor arrow wounds. A brown paste was found on the tips, indicating the weapons carried poison. Conflicts between the English, Spanish, and Portuguese, however, limited additional examinations of the substance until the 1700s when samples were brought to Europe and used in various experiments, including one that found using a bellows to inflate the lungs kept the victim alive until the toxin dissipated.[14]

At the end of the 18th century, Alexander von Humboldt spent five years in South America and studied curare preparation with an indigenous healer. Among the wisdom learned was that curare had no effect when ingested, only becoming effective when it penetrated the skin.[15] As a result curare could be handled without incident if the skin was unbroken. The meat of poisoned animals could even be eaten without harm. Additionally, paralysis could be avoided if the poison was sucked from the wound. The one removing the toxin, however, needed to be free of sores or cuts in the mouth to avoid their own paralysis.[16]

Experimentation into the uses of curare continued into the 19th and 20th centuries. Of

10 sites.evergreen.edu/plantchemeco/curare-a-cure-all-kill-all-plant/

11 www.britannica.com/science/curare

12 web.pdx.edu/~fischerw/proj_pub/humboldt_project/docs/0101-0125/0123c_Gibson_curare.pdf

13 Lawrence Altman, *Who Goes First?* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986), 75.

14 Thandia Ragnavendra, "Neuromuscular blocking drugs: discovery and development," *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 95 (July 2002): 363.

15 www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4237325/#pone.0112026-Gomsu1

16 Lawrence Altman, *Who Goes First?* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986), 75.

particular note was Richard Gill who brought back 25 pounds of curare and botanical samples in the hopes of finding a cure for his own infirmity (possibly multiple sclerosis). He provided them to E. R. Squib and Sons for research. While never finding the answer to Gill's medical issues, researchers did identify its usefulness as a muscle relaxant during surgery. In WWII, a combination of a curare derivative and anesthesia were found to aid operations.[17]

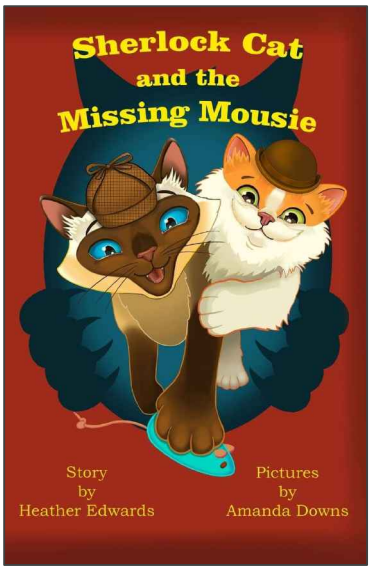
As a native of South America, Mrs. Ferguson — the Sussex Vampire — would have been familiar with curare and how those indigenous to the area sucked the toxin from victims to save their lives. As Holmes noted, this wife imitated yet another woman of Spanish descent. Queen Eleanor sucked venom from the arm of Edward I when he was wounded with a poisoned knife. In the case of Mrs. Ferguson, Holmes recognized both her knowledge and courage. She preferred to put herself in jeopardy not only by drawing out the poison from her son, but also accepting the title of "vampire" rather than upset her husband by exposing the true culprit — the older brother.

New Book Releases

The local independent mystery-bookstore, Once Upon a Crime, has long been a valued institution in the Twin Cities. They have an astounding collection of mystery books in stock, including a good selection of Sherlock Holmes material. In addition to the new releases, you can explore the Annex which has a great selection of quality used books.

In addition to selling books, Devin Abraham, the manager-extraordinaire, hosts numerous book signings each month. Details can be found on the store's website at **onceuponacrimebooks.indielite.org**.

Two recent book signings were of special interest to the Norwegian Explorers. On Saturday, April 2nd, eleven Explorers gathered for brunch at The Lowry along Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis. The joy of meeting face-to-face after extended time apart was evident by the buzz of conversation and exclamations of joy from participants. The reason for the gathering was a pre-book-release gathering of friends before a book-signing at Once Upon a Crime. The book is *Sherlock Cat and the Missing Mousie* (MX Publishing), written by Heather Edwards and illustrated by Amanda Downs, both members of the Nor- wegian Explorers. While written for children, I can attest to it being enjoyable for adults as well. I would estimate that it is written for eight to ten-year olds, although it could be read to younger children.



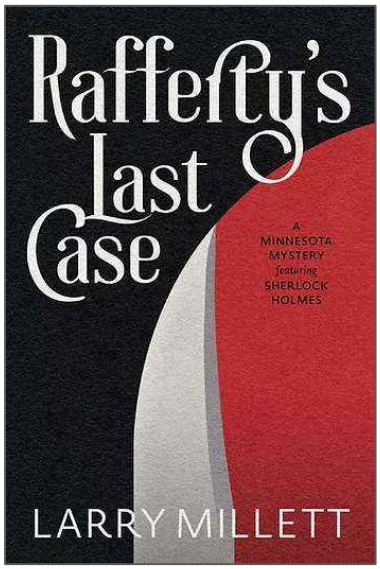
The storyline involves two cats who are owned by a fan of Sherlock Holmes. The cats model themselves after the obsession of their owner, get up to some mild mischief, and work on solving a minor mystery. It is a pleasant tale with wonderful illustrations and a number of "Easter eggs" for adult readers. If you have any budding Sherlockians whom you would like to encourage, this book is a good opportunity.

Amanda Downs, Heather Edwards and Julie McKuras

The second occasion at Once Upon a Crime occurred two weeks later on April 23rd. Larry

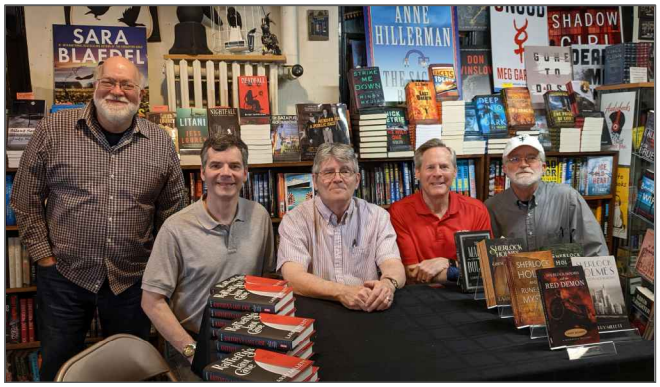
[17] Ragnavendra, 364.

Millett is an author who is well known to the Explorers. He brought Holmes and Watson to Minnesota in a book involving the Hinckley Fire of 1894, the book first being published in 1996. He has followed it up with eight additional books (listed below) introducing a local character, Shadwell Rafferty, a Saint Paul saloon owner and solver of mysteries. This latest release is *Rafferty's Last Case*.



Two days previous to the book signing, on April 21st at 7:00 P.M., there was an online Crowdcast event with Larry being interviewed by Tim Johnson. The event was hosted by SubText Books, another wonderful Independent bookstore located in St. Paul (**subtextbooks.com**). The interview was streamed online, with 40 participants including a number of familiar names from across the country.

Tim is a good moderator and interviewer, and the friendship between the two was evident. Tim asked Larry about the origins of Rafferty, and they talked about some of the earlier Sherlockian novels. One of the topics was Rafferty's sidekick, George Washington Thomas, a Black man who co-owned the saloon and plays a significant role in the book. Thomas was based on people who lived in a real-life Black community in post-Civil War St. Paul, a glimpse into Minnesota history of which most area residents are unaware. Throughout the series of Sherlockian books Larry used his extensive knowledge of St. Paul's architecture and history to paint vivid pictures.



Phil Bergem, Ray Riethmeier, Larry Millett, Tom Gottwalt and Dick Sveum. Photo by Devin Abraham

The book is set in 1928, shortly after Prohibition began, and Holmes and Watson hear of Rafferty's murder and come to the area to solve the mystery and track down the killer through a series of thrilling twists and turns, with Wash Thomas playing a significant role. Millett's vivid description of St. Paul allows the city to become a character in the story.

The following Saturday Larry was at Once Upon a Crime to sign books. It was nice to see fellow Explorers again, with Devin helpful as always. It was a casual atmosphere with Larry talking with people who were there and answering questions.

The following is a list of Larry Millett's Sherlock Holmes novels. He has also written several short stories involving Holmes and Rafferty, such as "The Adventure of the American Drifter," and some with Rafferty on his own (*e.g.*, "The Mystery of the Jeweled Cross"). He does have plans to publish more Rafferty novellas or short stories in the near future.

- *Sherlock Holmes and the Red Demon* (New York: Viking, 1996)
- *Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders* (New York: Viking, 1998)
- *Sherlock Holmes and the Rune Stone Mystery* (New York: Viking, 1999)
- *Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Alliance* (New York: Viking, 2001)
- *The Disappearance of Sherlock Holmes* (New York: Viking, 2002)
- *The Magic Bullet* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011)
- *Strongwood: A Crime Dossier* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014)
- *Sherlock Holmes and the Eisendorf Enigma* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2017)
- *Rafferty's Last Case* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2022)

The earlier Viking books have been reprinted by the University of Minnesota Press and are all

currently available. Larry's website is **www.larrymillett.com**.

A History of the Metropolitan Police Force

BY PHILLIP BERGEM

In Britain, efforts to reduce crime and prosecute criminals for their crimes was long the responsibility of appointed sheriffs, night watchmen, and parish constables. As watchmen and constables were typically unpaid, the useful effect varied considerably across the kingdom. Constables could alert members of the public if they saw criminal activity ("raising a hue and cry") and could apprehend criminals in the act, but they seldom investigated crimes after the fact. As the population of London grew, criminal activity also increased. Eventually, in 1749, Henry Fielding, the chief magistrate at the Bow Street Magistrates' Court, founded the group known colloquially as the Bow Street Runners. Originally consisting of six men, they were paid, at first out of reward money, to serve writs and arrest offenders on behalf of the court. This group is recognized as the first official police force with a mandate for detective work in England. After the usefulness of this group was seen they received financial support of the government and their number increased. Their duties also increased to include foot patrols in an effort to reduce highway robberies.

There was strong public concern toward government regulated police groups. The concern was a combination of fear over the loss of some hard-earned liberties, fear of military law enforcement on British soil, and seeing the actions of Cardinal Richelieu and Joseph Fouché in France and the police-state tactics they used to enforce governmental power.[18]

The visible success of the Bow Street Runners tempered some of these fears. The City of Glasgow had been working since 1779, with occasional, temporary success, to establish a police force. These efforts all failed due to the lack of the legal authority to raise funds though local taxes to support the endeavor. Eventually Acts of Parliament in 1800 allowed the official establishment of the City of Glasgow Police and the Belfast Borough Police.

In the late 1700s and early 1800s several bills were discussed at Parliament to address policing in London, but none were successful. Following some brutal murders along the Ratcliffe highway in 1811 and a rise in crime following the end of the Napoleonic Wars and demobilization of soldiers, several committees were formed in 1812 and 1816 to investigate improvements to policing in London.

Robert Peel entered politics in 1809 at the age of 21. He was Chief Secretary for Ireland from 1812 to 1818. Ireland turned out to be a testing ground for some police reform. Among the measures implemented were reducing the involvement of armed troops and appointing salaried constables. He was Home Secretary from 1822 to 1827 and from 1828 to 1830. While in that position he implemented a total reform of Criminal Law in England, consolidating a number of penalties to increase efficiency, abolishing the death penalty for more than one hundred offenses, and reformed the jail system. He also turned his eye on the police system.

"Peel moved the appointment of a Select Committee to study the police. The 1828 Committee was the fourth such Committee since 1803, and the first to accomplish anything. Their Report was issued on July 27, 1828. ... It discovered nothing new about the causes of crime. What was new was the Committee's proposed solution: an Office of Police under the Home Secretary, with police responsibility for the whole metropolitan area."[19]

The Metropolitan Police

The Metropolitan Police Act of 1829 received Royal assent on June 19, 1829. It established the Metropolitan Police Force, supplanting various distinct parish police and watchmen groups in the area around London, and absorbing the Bow Street officers over the next ten years. The original Metropolitan Police District consisted of the parishes with any part within

[18] Modern policing in Paris started in 1667 with the establishment of the Police Prefecture (*Préfecture de Police*). It was disbanded during the French Revolution and reestablished in 1800. Much of their mandate was to protect the crown and government officials. The police often had a reputation for spying and corruption. The crime-fighting abilities expanded greatly when, in 1812, Eugène François Vidocq formed the Sûreté, the criminal investigative division of the Prefecture.

[19] Lyman, 150.

a seven-mile radius from Charing Cross in central London, excepting the City of London.[20]

The first officers took to the streets on September 29, 1829. Special attention was taken to distinguish them from red-uniformed military forces. They wore a blue single-breasted swallowtail coat, 8 gilt buttons down front (each with the Royal Crown and the words "Police Force"), a 4-inch Leather Stock (a collar, similar to those worn in the military) fastened at the back with brass clasp, blue trousers (white in summer), strapped-over boots and a black leather top hat.[21] The top hats were reinforced with canes to allow them to be stood on to climb or peer over walls as necessary. Other equipment consisted of a wooden rattle used to call for assistance (it was replaced by a whistle in 1884) and a wooden truncheon. Although officers were unarmed, flintlock pistols were available when needed, being replaced by revolvers as they became available. Police officers traditionally did not carry firearms, although they were available at times to officers trained in their use, with the authorization of the senior officer. Most officers did not choose to use firearms, although many constables and inspectors serving in the outer areas of the Metropolitan District were more likely to do so. Fewer and fewer officers were given authorization through the 1890s, and such general permission was fully withdrawn in 1936. In the modern police force there are several divisions which are armed, including the Ministry of Defence Police, Civil Nuclear Constabulary, groups that protect the Royal Family and Parliament, and a few police groups in Northern Ireland.

For many years police constables and sergeants were required to wear their uniforms at all times, both on duty and off. From 1830 until 1968 they wore a duty armband, with blue and white vertical stripes, on the left forearm to indicate when they were on duty and removed it at the end of their shift.

In 1839 another Metropolitan Police Act expanded the District to encompass a 15-mile radius from Charing Cross, and the Thames River Police were incorporated into the Metropolitan Police as the Thames Division.[22] In 1842 the Detective Branch was formed, with 2 Inspectors and 6 Sergeants, following the dissolution of the Bow Street investigators. The detectives did not wear standard police uniforms but were instead in plain clothes.

Between 1863 and 1864 the top hat was replaced by the custodian helmets that are now so familiar. The swallowtail coats were also replaced with tunics, and they ceased using white trousers in summer. The tunic had eight white buttons down front and two at the rear.

The Detective Department and CID

Detective work was slow to be absorbed into the Metropolitan Police. "After the establishment of the Metropolitan Police, Bow Street officers continued to investigate crime, although many of their patrolling functions were absorbed by the Met between 1829 and 1836."[23] Poor performance by the Met with some murder investigations showed the need for change. The result was the Detective Department, formed in 1842. The group of specialists also provided assistance to police departments throughout England. By one account, there were a total of sixty-nine detectives in the Detective Department while it existed from 1842 until 1878.[24]

In 1877 there was a trial of three senior Scotland Yard detectives on corruption charges. As a result of the scandal, the Detective Branch was reorganized the following year and renamed the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). Strong efforts were made to regain public and political trust.

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[20] The City of London resisted, citing liberties they had held since the Magna Carta in 1215. The City had been patrolled by day and night City Watchmen. The London City Police was formed in 1832, with further authority provided by a Parliamentary Act in 1839. Now named the City of London Police, they remain a separate organization from the Metropolitan Police.

[21] Metropolitan Police Historical Timeline.

[22] The Marine Police was formed in 1798 by a magistrate and a justice of the peace who convinced the West India Committee to fund a one-year trial to protect the West Indian trade passing through the Port of London. It was successful, and an Act of Parliament was passed in 1800 forming the government-funded Thames River Police. This predated the Metropolitan Police Force.

[23] Griffin, 12.

[24] Griffin, 94.

From 1881 to 1885 the Irish Republican Brotherhood enacted a bombing campaign in and around London to force the British Government to allow Irish Home Rule. To conduct specialized counter-terrorism investigation, the Special Irish Branch was formed within the CID in 1883. In 1887 the word "Irish" was dropped changing the group's name to Special Branch. Their mandate increased as well, working to track anarchists, Bolsheviks, suffragettes, and other threats to the public and government. Although technically part of the Metropolitan Police, they worked wherever in Britain they were needed and answered to the Home Office instead of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner.[25]

The original Metropolitan Police headquarters were at 4, Whitehall Place with the A Division police station located across Great Scotland Yard. The name of the street came to be associated with the organization. (Note from the contemporary map (1875) that it was located very close to the bank of Cox & Co. where Watson would later store his tin dispatch box.) The name comes from the understanding that, from approximately 1000 to 1540, the kings of Scotland had a palace in this vicinity that they used when they visited London.

The Force eventually outgrew the space available at Whitehall Place and Great Scotland Yard. In 1890 it moved to a new location on Victoria Embankment adjacent to the Thames. The new site was called New Scotland Yard, a name which has stuck through two subsequent moves in 1967 and 2016.

In 1883 the Metropolitan Police hired its first woman in the position of Matron. (By 1889 there were fourteen matrons on the force.) Their job was to help with searching women and to guard women and children. The Women's Police Volunteers was established in 1914. The WPV was allowed to patrol the streets of London to assist women and children in need, especially war refugees, but they were not considered part of the official police force. The first woman appointed as a police officer was Edith Smith, hired as a constable with the Grantham Borough Police in August 1915. It was not until 1919 that the Metropolitan Police recruited women to be police officers in the Women Police Patrols, initially without arresting authority, although that was given in 1923.

Staffing

On June 1, 1830,[26] the Metropolitan District consisted of 17 Divisions with staff in the positions of Superintendents, Inspectors, Sergeants, and Constables. (By 1868 there were 26 Divisions.[27])

As an example of the staffing level in 1830, Division D (Marylebone) had one Superintendent, four Inspectors, 18 Sergeants and 147 Constables for a total of 170 men. The total size of the Force was 3,314 men serving a population of 1,212,491.

Ideally, a Division was divided into Sub-divisions, Sections (8 Sections in a Division), and Beats (8 Beats in a Section).

The Detective Branch originally had 3 inspectors, 9 sergeants and 6 constables. The numbers increased until by 1895, CID had 472 officers. The positions in this branch were Superintendent of detectives, Detective chief inspector (after 1867), Detective inspector, and Detective sergeant (first-class and second-class).

[25] Griffin, 34.
[26] Lee, 236–238.
[27] Griffin, 116 (fn. 123).

Wages[28]

In 1830 wages were as follows: Superintendents – £200/yr., Inspectors – £100/yr., Sergeants – 22s. 6d./week [£58 10s./yr.], and Constables – 19s./week. [£49 8s./yr.]

By 1900 a constable's pay started at 25s. 6d./week and rose annually by 1 shilling a week to a maximum of 33s. 6d./week.

In the CID in 1842, detective inspectors made £200/yr (£84 more than regular inspectors). Detective sergeants made £73/yr (£10 more than a normal sergeant's salary).

By the late 1870s, detective second-class sergeants earned £123, detective first-class sergeants £163, detective inspectors £225, detective chief inspectors £276, and the superintendent of detectives was paid £550.

The location of D Division Police Station that served Marylebone, including Baker Street. (1895 map)

The following is an informative excerpt from *Dickens's Dictionary of London 1888*:

Police.— The police force of London comprises the Metropolitan Police and the City Police. The latter have jurisdiction in the City of London proper, covering about 1 square mile, and consisting of about 900 men. The Metropolitan Police District extends to a radius of about 15 miles from Charing ✠[29] and covers more than 700 square miles. The force in the beginning of 1888 consisted of 13,346 men, distributed into 23 divisions, not including 760 men doing duty in the five Dockyards. Each sergeant and constable bears the letter of his division and number on his collar, which should be taken down if any complaint is to be preferred. Within a reasonable distance of nearly every house in any populous district there is, besides the local police-station, a fixed police point, at which a constable may always be found from 9 A.M. to 1 A.M. If the constable at the fixed point be called away on special duty, his place is taken by the first patrol who arrives at the vacant post. Every householder should learn where is the nearest police-station and fixed point. If police assistance be required on some special occasion, such as a party, personal or written application should be made to the superintendent of the division on which the ground is situated. Such duty is done by men in their own time, and from 5s. to 10s. is generally given to the person interested.

D or Marylebone Division. George Draper, Supt., Marylebone Lane — Inspectors, 23; sergeants, 40; constables, 467. Total 531.

Total strength of all ranks, including superintendents, 14,106.

Fixed Points (Police).— The undermentioned places are appointed as fixed points where a police constable is to be permanently stationed from 9 A.M. to 1 A.M.

In the event of any person springing a rattle, or persistently ringing a bell in the street or in an area, the police will at once proceed to the spot and render assistance.

...

D or Marylebone Division. [These are the two closest fixed points to Mrs. Hudson's rooms.] ... Marylebone-rd, corner of Up. Baker-st ... Portman-sq, corner of Baker-st.

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[28] Griffin, 124.

[29] **Charing Cross** is a position rather than a place, and is, in fact, the triangular piece of roadway where Parliament-st runs into the S. side of Trafalgar-sq. It is the titular centre of London, the point from which distances are measured. [Cabs had defined rates related to a four-mile circle centered on Charing Cross.]

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Study Group — "The Boscombe Valley Mystery"

BY KAREN MURDOCK

The Discussion Group met through Zoom on April 16, 2022, with Steve Miller leading the group. Those present were Cynthia Ali, Bob Brusic, Tram Chamberlain, Philip Ehrensaft, Susan Fitch, Karen Ellery, David Hitchcock (from upstate New York), Margaret Lebien, Mary Loving, Erica Madore, Steve Miller, Rodolfo Molina, Karen Murdock, Steve Schier, and Karen Titrud.

Today is Holy Saturday for Christians, the day after the execution of Jesus, but before the disciples learned that Jesus had risen from the dead. Karen Murdock said she recalled once leading a discussion of FINA on Holy Saturday; she thought that was the most appropriate story to discuss on Holy Saturday. Bob Brusic said EMPT would also be an appropriate tale.

Steve Schier said he watched the Jeremy Brett version of BOSC. He said some changes were made to the filmed version from the original short story in order to make the production cheaper and more photogenic. Bob said he listened to the Clive Merrison-Michael Williams radio play based on BOSC. He thought the relationship between Holmes and Watson was quite touching in this production.

Steve M. said BOSC was first published in *The Strand* in October 1891. The full name of the story is "The Boscombe Valley Mystery." This is the only one of the 60 Sherlock Holmes stories that has the word "Mystery" in its title.

Steve M. wondered what kind of wife Mary Morstan was — she allows her husband to dash away on a trip with Sherlock Holmes on the spur of the moment with no warning. Karen M. said that Mary frames it as a trip which will be for Watson's own good. Mary Watson says, "You have been looking a little pale lately. I think that the change would do you good." Karen Ellery said Mary probably wanted some time alone so she wanted to get rid of Watson but leave him with the impression that the trip was his idea. "Any wife would know how to do this," said Karen.

David Hitchcock (who is clean shaven) said he always feels his face after he has shaved to make sure he has not missed any place. He wondered why Watson did not do that but relied on looking in the mirror. Karen M. guessed that Watson deliberately did a sloppy job of shaving — just to see if Sherlock Holmes would notice (he did). Karen E. said Watson's beard might be very fine in texture and the stubble he missed did not feel bristly.

Steve M. mentioned the description of Alice Turner as "one of the most lovely young women that I have ever seen in my life" makes it sound as though she is one of the best looking females in the Canon. Karen M. said Watson describes *all* women as being very good looking. Karen E. said it put her in mind of a song from *Finian's Rainbow*: "When I'm Not Near the Girl I Love, I Love the Girl I'm Near."

Karen M. stated one of the reasons she likes this story is that it takes place *out* of London,

in the countryside in the west of England. Steve S. said he also liked the foreign setting of the back-story — in Australia in the days of the gold rush.

Mary observed the Paget picture of Watson reading a novel is the only illustration Paget ever made of Watson *alone*.

Steve S. said a footnote in the Oxford Holmes says that Lestrade should not be investigating this case; he was based in Scotland Yard in London. In the Brett version, the Lestrade role is taken by a local constable.[30] Bob expressed that in this story, Holmes and Lestrade are competitors, not collaborators.

Steve M. (who is a lawyer) pointed out that there is "very little direct evidence against young McCarthy." It is a murder case with no eyewitnesses. All Holmes had to do was provide evidence that there was somebody else at the scene of the crime (which he did by gathering up the ash from Turner's cigar) to make the point that there was reasonable doubt of young McCarthy's guilt.

Illustration by Josef Friedrich. (www.arthur-conan-doyle.com)

David H. wondered if it was legal for a young woman to marry at age 16. Bob said the original age for marriage in England was 14. Karen E. said that in 1823 the legal age for marriage in England was 12 for girls, 14 for boys. Steve M. said the lovers in *Romeo and Juliet* were quite young. The romance of Alice and James is between two very young people.

Margaret Lebien said nothing was made of the butt of the gun that young McCarthy dropped. That would have made an ideal murder weapon. Karen E. mentioned that a skull can be crushed with one blow without breaking the skin.

Steve M. noted that Holmes takes a long time to get to the scene of the crime — but when he does show up, he solves the crime very quickly. Mary said there was no reason Holmes could not have gone to the crime scene the evening he arrived. In June in England it would still be light outdoors at 10 P.M.

Karen M. said that 29 is a very low barometric pressure, so Holmes misinterprets this as predicting clear weather ahead. It ought to have been raining and perhaps blowing a gale. A barometric reading below 29.80 is considered low, and low pressure is associated with rainstorms. David pointed out that rain would have washed away the cigar ash, which was one of the important clues Holmes picks up.

Bob observed that this is another case where Holmes lets the guilty party get away (like ABBE, BLUE, CHAS, CROO). David said Holmes is leaving the punishment to "divine justice." Karen T. pointed out that Holmes told Lestrade all the clues he would need to solve the case. Margaret wondered what would have happened if John Turner had been in good health. She said this case reminded her of STUD, where the guilty party dropped dead the day after making his confession. Karen E. asked if there was any famous fictional detective who did *not* let the guilty party get away sometimes. Brusic said Colombo never let anyone off. Steve M. said Father Brown often let the guilty party go free (Bob added that the guilty person first had to confess his sins).

Karen M. said that Watson must have changed a *lot* of the details of the actual case when he published this account in *The Strand*. He did not want Lestrade to go out and arrest John Turner.

Steve S. remarked that the backstory about the stagecoach robbery was based on actual robberies in Australia in the 1860s. David said "The Empire" was part of the consciousness of

[30] Eds.: See the accompanying article on the Metropolitan Police in this issue. If Lestrade was a Detective Inspector with the CID....

all English men and women in the Victorian Era. Reports of violent robberies anywhere in The Empire would have been reported in the London press. Tram said that all the Bushrangers used a multitude of aliases. Steve M. noted that "the guilty secret from the distant past" is a common motif in the Canon.

David thought this was "one of the best Watson stories" and that we learn a lot about both Watson and Holmes in this early tale.

Member of the BSI gave BOSC a rating of 3 on a scale of 1 to 5, in a poll taken in 1996. Most members of this group rated it between 3.5 and 5. Karen E. liked that this was "one of the stories where you see Holmes drinking tea." Mary criticized the "lack of any action at Baker Street." Erica thought that BOSC was "the condensed version of *A Study in Scarlet*" and that, as in STUD, "there's a woman underlying it all." Steve S. said Doyle is "establishing some key traits" of Holmes and Watson in this early story. Susan Fitch rated this story a 5 but said she is "more interested in the characters than the plot."

The discussion meeting in May was announced to be about BRUC. Mary said that in June we will discuss *Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman* by E. W. Hornung, which is a collection of eight short stories.

There Was a Dog?

BY BOB SHARFMAN

Looking back, I cannot recall the exact sequence by which I came into contact with the stories of the Canon. What I do remember is watching Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and reading a story with a snake. After that — and many years — it's all a blur.

"The Adventure of Silver Blaze" came somewhere in the middle of my reading, and what I remember about my first reading that story was that it involved a racehorse and possibly the most remembered denouement in the history of mystery writing. To wit:

> "Is there any point to which you would wish to draw my attention?"
>
> "To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time."
>
> "The dog did nothing in the night-time."
>
> "That was the curious incident."[31]

But now that I am a more mature Sherlockian and have become one of "the many who write so much for so few" I have these queries. What dog? Whose dog? And after these simple thoughts (for a quiz no doubt), what was the dog's name? Every dog has a name, so what was the name of the dog who did not bark?

I have pondered ("pondered" is thinking while wearing a clean shirt) this question … gently … for some time. And then came the eureka moment. Let me explain.

At a recent dinner party I attended, a couple was asked a common enough question: "How did you two meet?" Their answer was something more than common: "We were both reading Homer and met at a party where we started comparing notes. The rest is history."

Wow. I was impressed, especially when the husband added, "I learned Greek so I read it in the original language."

I recalled how *The Odyssey* affected me when I read it in my dog-eared edition of *CliffsNotes* which, I may add, was in addition the story of *The Odyssey* in *Classic Comics*. (One has to be of a certain age to have read *Classic Comics* — although nobody I knew ever admitted to reading those wonderful "penny dreadfuls" of high-born literature.) But I digress.

Being currently consumed with all things Sherlockian, I had to recall the story of Odysseus and his dog. It was a short story.

Odysseus returns home only to by unrecognized by his friends. His dog, in very poor health, and surrounded by trash and garbage, wags his tail in recognition of his master. Odysseus walks by without any sign of recognition except for a tear in his eye. The dog then dies. That's it. A very small part of a very big story. What has this to do with Holmes? I am sure you all see the connection. *The dog did not bark.* Now you can see *and* observe — the dog's name was Argos.

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[31] The author set forth this excerpt in a brief to the Supreme Court of the United States (Windstar v. U.S., 518 U.S. 839, 116 S.Ct. 2432, 135 L.Ed.2d 964 (1996)) in support of the statement that the government had three opportunities to object to the accounting treatment of a merger but never issued a word of objection. The agencies did not bark and therefore thought the accounting was proper.

Could this be the basis for the great denouement at the end of "The Adventure of the Silver Blaze?" The curious incident of the dog — he did not bark. We all know that line. But do we now know where Arthur Conan Doyle (yes, I know it's *really* Dr. John H. Watson) got this idea?

I say yes. The Jesuits who taught Arthur Conan Doyle certainly taught Latin and Greek to their students. What better story assignment to give their students than *The Odyssey*? I say that is where the idea of the "dog that did not bark" came from. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Now for the important part… trivia. According to my late (and much missed) friend, Bill Goodrich's Good Old Index, there are fifty-six references to dogs in the Canon. They are: dog, bulldog, bloodhound, cur, fox hound, hell hound, hound, old hounds, Irish setter, Newfoundland pet, and terrier. Few had names. I remember Toby (VALL), Carlo (COPP), and Pompey[32] (MISS); and now I add to my diminishing memory, Argos, the dog who did not bark. So there you have it. Problem solved. *Cum grano salis*

William Jerome Burns: "America's Sherlock"?

BY JEFF FALKINGHAM

William Burns (1861–1932) was the son of an Ohio police commissioner who felt that his boy's quick wit and gift for gab would make him an excellent attorney. William wanted to be an actor. By fate, or chance, he became a detective. It turned out to be the best of both worlds.

Burns grew up to become one of the most powerful men in America, head of the U.S. Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Along the way, Burns "had widespread influence on national developments in law enforcement."[33] These included significant expansion of the role of the U.S. Secret Service. At the same time, Burns practiced investigative techniques that led to his downfall.

As a youth, Will spent so much time hanging out at the local police precinct that he became its mascot. As such, he was familiar with standard procedure of the time: When a crime occurred, police rounded up the "usual suspects" and browbeat them until one caved and confessed. If a gang was involved, all one had to do was find the weakest link and get him to "spill the beans" on the others. Bargaining, bribing, bluffing, and bullying were common, the "rights" of a suspect often ignored. Burns relied on this strategy throughout his career.

That career began as a part-time private investigator looking into suspected election fraud. Based on that experience, the amateur detective landed a job with the Furlong Detective Agency. It was Thomas Furlong who taught Burns another lesson that he relied on throughout the years: "A detective must be an actor, able to naturally assume any role without rehearsal."[34] The goal, based on the assumption that all criminals are liars, was to "deceive the deceiver." With his early interest in acting, this came naturally to Burns. His success as an insurance fraud investigator led to him being hired, at the age of 28, by the U.S. government.

When Burns joined the Treasury Department in 1889, its Secret Service Division was involved exclusively in investigating forgery. By cracking counterfeit rings in New York and Pennsylvania, Burns put the Treasury Department on the map. By 1898, the Secret Service was tracking spies in the Spanish-American War — a role that expanded in World War I, and again during the Red Scare that followed. The 1901 McKinley assassination led to the Secret Service being assigned to provide full-time protection to the President. In 1903, the Service was asked to help the Interior Department investigate high-ranking officials involved in a federal land-grab in Oregon; in 1905, it was "boodlers" (grafters) in San Francisco. Burns was a hero in both cases.

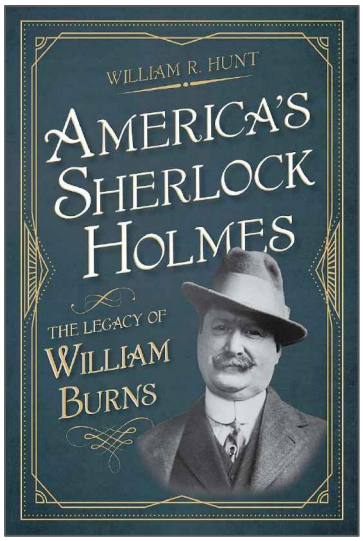
By the time a bombing of the *L.A. Times* in 1910 took twenty-one lives, Burns had abandoned his $7-a-day civil servant job to start his own agency. His success in capturing the L.A. bombers, followed by headline-grabbing cases against vice lords in Seattle, stock market fraud in New York, the justice system in Georgia, and

[32] Pompey was a "draghound," not recognized as a separate breed but instead an indication of their sporting purpose and not included in Goodrich's list.

[33] William R. Hunt, *America's Sherlock Holmes: The Legacy of William Burns* (Guilford, CT: Lyons Press., 2019), 28.

[34] Ibid., 8

others enabled Burns to establish branch offices that blanketed the country. When the Justice Department decided to merge the Secret Service and the Bureau of Investigation, Burns became the agency's first director.



Priorities of the new bureau included suppressing radical Bolsheviks, enforcing Prohibition laws, solving labor disputes, and investigating anti-trust violations. Burns chose *not* to divest himself of his private agency, believing he could run two organizations simultaneously. His illegal use of both federal officers and his own agents to enforce state laws — coupled with his reputation for wiretapping, office break-ins, jury tampering, and other aggressions — led to his dismissal. In 1924, he was replaced, amid scandal, by his top assistant, J. Edgar Hoover.

Biographer W. R. Hunt, an ardent admirer, doesn't dispute a *N.Y. Times* obit stating that Burns was "not often scrupulous, or even subtle."[35] He also admits that comparison to Sherlock Holmes isn't accurate. While the fictional detective believed "It is a capital mistake to theorize before you have all the evidence" (STUD), Burns "loved to theorize — the sooner the better — *then* find evidence to prove his theory."[36]

Hunt's book is a painstakingly researched historical account of the tangled web of crime, radicalism, and party politics that engulfed America in the early 20th century. Its lengthy background stories in chapters on legislative oversight hearings alone involve a cast of seemingly thousands. If you're looking for a highly detailed, well-documented history lesson, this is the book for you. If you want an intriguing American detective story with Sherlockian overtones, look elsewhere.[37]

Side notes

Hated arch-rival of the Burns Detective Agency was the older and more famous Pinkerton Agency. Noting that the American detective in Arthur Conan Doyle's *Red Circle* was a Pinkerton man, and that detective Birdy Edwards, who spied on the Scowers in *Valley of Fear,* was inspired by a Pinkerton detective who infiltrated the Molly McGuires (an Irish-American activist group prone to violence), Hunt says that Burns actually "courted" Doyle, in hopes of getting the author to refer to Burns as the "Sherlock Holmes of America." In fact, Doyle did exactly that, during a 1914 visit to New York. Burns had earlier called on Doyle during a visit to London. When Doyle's ship docked near Ellis Island, Burns was there to meet him. The two men and their families watched a Yankees baseball game and visited Coney Island together. Burns also took Doyle to the Sing Sing and Tombs prisons — where Doyle reportedly quipped "This would be just the place for suffragettes."

While Burns never made it into one of Doyle's Sherlockian tales in the *Strand Magazine*, he was not ignored by other publications. In 1910–1911, ten straight issues of *McClure's Monthly* featured stories about Burns. Earlier, thanks to a campaign by *San Francisco Examiner* publisher William Randolph Hearst to mock reformers in the Oregon land and San Francisco boodler cases, lanky prosecutor Francis J. Heney and portly detective Burns allegedly served as the models for a series of vicious political cartoons. Originally drawn by Bud Fisher and taken over by Al Smith, the ensuing "Mutt and Jeff" comic strip survived for seven decades, appearing in up to 350 newspapers.

Study Group — Raffles

BY KAREN MURDOCK

The June Discussion Group meeting of The Norwegian Explorers was held on Zoom, with Mary Loving as the Study Group leader. Those present were: Cynthia Ali, Phil Bergem, Ruth Berman, Bob Brusic, Tram Chamberlain, Susan Dahlinger (from North Jersey), Karen Ellery, Susan Fitch

[35] Ibid., ix
[36] Ibid., 253
[37] I'd suggest Kate Winsler Dawson's *American Sherlock: Murder, Forensics, and the Birth of CSI,* (New York: Putnam, 1920). My in-depth review of Dawson's book appears in the 2021 issue of *The Norwegian Explorers Christmas Annual,* pp. 44–51. It also can be found on my website, **cccaper.com**, under the NEWS button on the menu.

(from Montreal), Peter German (from Vancouver), Tom Gottwalt, David Hitchcock (a.k.a. Atrium Laptop, from upstate New York), Margaret LeBien, Mary Loving (discussion leader), Max Magee (from Madison, WI), Steve Miller, Karen Murdock, J. C. Remont (from France), Bob Sharfman, Dick Sveum, Karen Titrud, Doug Vaughan, Linda Waite. The book under discussion was *Raffles, The Amateur Cracksman*, by E. W. Hornung (1866–1921), first published in 1899.

Mary opened by pointing out that Hornung was Arthur Conan Doyle's brother-in-law. It was Doyle who suggested to fellow writer Hornung that a public-school thief would make a good series. The British public (during this period when Doyle was not publishing any Sherlock Holmes tales) was hungry for a character that was interesting and daring.

Dick Sveum announced that the traveling International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will open at the Minnesota Historical Museum in St. Paul on October 22. There are plans for a seminar to be held that day at the U of M. The Grolier Club display of Glen Miranker Sherlockiana will come to the Lilly Library at Indiana University. It will probably come to Minneapolis in March 2023.

Mary kicked off the Raffles discussion by asking about similarities between the Sherlock Holmes stories and the Raffles stories. Karen M. said that, from a structural literary point of view, it is important that the narrator is NOT the protagonist. When Sherlock Holmes narrates his own stories (as he does in two of the tales), he has to hide things from the reader. She said that the Watson-narrator is fairly intelligent but the Bunny-narrator is really stupid. Karen E. said that Bunny is weak-willed and completely under the control of Raffles. Tom said that one trait that Raffles shares with Sherlock Holmes is supreme self-assuredness.

Max recommended the "Raffles Redux" website (**www.rafflesredux.com**), which has a great deal of information on the character, including a version of the stories with annotations.

Karen E. said that the "fag system" in English public schools, where younger students completed errands and tasks for older students, trained public school boys to interact with their servants. They learned how to manage the staff they would have when they were wealthy estate-owning gentlemen.

Max suggested the spiritual connection of Raffles to the Cary Grant character in the movie *To Catch a Thief*. Karen E. showed a book from the Franklin Mint mystery series, a nicely-crafted volume called *Raffles: Further Adventures*.

Max thought that everyone besides Raffles is presented as being stupid. The stories have a humorous slapstick quality to them. Steve said the reason that Raffles and Bunny need to go on stealing things is that they lead a lavish lifestyle. Max also thought Raffles was "a proto-Batman figure," even to the masks they wore. He said that cricket was a popular game that drew in a lot of readers. Raffles was considered a "gentleman" and an amateur because he was not paid for his cricket playing.

Mary said that in cricket, "Bunny" was a pejorative term for a poor batsman. Karen M. said that cricket, like baseball, has a defensive as well as an offensive side. Major League Baseball has plenty of shortstops hitting about .238 who are, despite these modest batting skills, kept in the lineup because they are great glove men and dangerous base stealers.

Ruth said that the American humorist John Kendrick Bangs (1862–1922) wrote humorous pastiches with both Raffles and Sherlock Holmes.

Doyle and Hornung sometimes borrowed plots from one another. Both authors had sons who died in World War I. Dick recommended *The Old Offenders*, a book of Hornung stories which were collected with an introduction by Doyle.

Max mentioned the many slang terms and colloquialisms make the Raffles stories hard to read (although they have been annotated). He said "Raffles is abusive to Bunny," especially in the later stories.

Karen E. said some mystery writers age better than others. Two of the great "Golden Age" (between the two World Wars) mystery authors were Margery Allingham (1904–1966) and Dorothy L. Sayers (1893–1957). Both were tremendously popular during their lifetimes. However, Karen said she finds Sayers endlessly re-readable and Allingham not at all so. Tram said the Sayers stories are filled with literary allusions and even long un-translated passages in French; she thought Sayers demanded a lot of her readers.

The group had the consensus that although the Raffles stories are still in print, he has certainly not aged as well as Sherlock Holmes.

Max pointed out that Raffles has a sense of fair play. He never robs someone who is hosting him.

Bob B. said there is a satiric edge to the Raffles stories. They are based on the assumption that the people being robbed deserved to be robbed. Steve M. said the character "The Saint" (Simon Templar), created by the English-Chinese mystery author Leslie Charteris (1907-1993) was also a charming anti-hero who stole only from people who deserved to be stolen from.

Mary asked if there were any "gentlemen thieves" (or, at least, gentlemen malefactors) in the Sherlock Holmes stories. The Explorers immediately came up with several examples: Baron Gruner in ILLU, John Clay in REDH, Valentine Walter in BRUC, Sir George Burnwell in BERY, James Wilder in PRIO. Steve pointed out that, in CHAS, *Holmes and Watson* are the gentlemen thieves.

None of the Explorers thought much of the relationship between Raffles and Bunny. Several called it exploitative. Several pointed out the rather creepy homoerotic overtones. Mary thought Raffles was "cold blooded" toward Bunny. Max went so far as to say he thought that Raffles was a sociopath. He said that homosexuality was a crime at the time and could not be spoken of, but he thought that Raffles and Bunny had "a toxic relationship."

Our ratings of the book (on a scale of 0 to 5) fell mostly in the 2-3 range. The stories were praised for their charm and skillful writing but criticized for their casual racism and classism and the dysfunctional relationship between the two central characters.

Next meeting of the group will be September 17. The story for discussion will be CARD.

Call for Papers — 2022 Norwegian Explorers Christmas Annual

Submissions are being accepted for this year's Norwegian Explorers *Christmas Annual*. With the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes coming to Saint Paul in the Fall of 2022, we decided to make this year's *Christmas Annual* use "**International Holmes**" as its theme. Sherlock Holmes has achieved international fame and is known throughout the world. In the sixty Canonical tales, Holmes traveled to such locations as Chicago in the west and as far as Tibet in the east. His travels are even more widespread in pastiches, including several visits to Minnesota. There are Sherlockian groups and scion societies located worldwide: in Australia, Japan, India, throughout Europe, Canada, and the United States. We are looking for contributions that address the many international aspects of Sherlock Holmes. This could be an expansion or analysis of travel conducted in the Canon or in one of the "unwritten tales," a new pastiche, or consideration of how Holmes's travel may have affected world history. Truly, the world is open to your speculation. We expect that there is much that can fit our "International Holmes" theme, but we will also consider submissions that fall outside of the topic. We look forward to seeing where your creativity takes you….

Suggested Categories for Submissions (2500 word maximum):

1. Article or essay
2. Poem
3. Cartoon
4. Sherlockian or Doylean review
5. Joke
6. Illustration / Artwork
7. Quiz / Puzzle
8. Pastiche

Entries must be received no later than **October 7, 2022**.

Please submit electronic versions of papers to: **ray@PULPlications.com** (Microsoft Word preferred), with "ATTN: CHRISTMAS ANNUAL" as the subject line. You should receive a reply e-mail within two days from one of the editors, Ray Riethmeier or Phil Bergem, acknowledging the successful receipt of your submission. Contact either Ray or Phil if you need more details.

(Editor's Desk – continued from page 1)

ingly, I am stepping back from my position as primary editor of *Explorations*. Luckily for members, the talented Lindsay Hall has agreed to take over the duty of main editor. Ray Riethmeier and I will remain in support roles and have absolute confidence in Lindsay and the future of *Explorations*.

One of the most difficult tasks for an editor is coming up with good content. We are extremely grateful to Karen Murdock for her continued contributions of Study Group summaries. We also appreciate the articles from Jeff Falkingham, Bob Sharfman and Liese Sherwood-Fabre in this issue.

If any member has any articles to contribute, or subjects they would like to see covered, please let us know.

You can become a member of FOSH and receive the quarterly newsletter. Details are here:

www.lib.umn.edu/collections/special/holmes/become-friend-holmes

In closing, my time as editor has been fun, I've appreciated the support of members, and extreme thanks to Lindsay Hall. Best wishes! ~ Phil

Other Editor's Desk

I want to extend my deepest thanks to Phil for the outstanding job he has done as the primary editor of *Explorations* for the last seven years. He has been gracious enough to list me as co-editor on most of those issues, but let me assure you that Phil has done all the hard work. Since he took over the task, he has kept to his commitment to publish 2–3 issues per year, and our members have been graced with a newsletter that shines as an example within the Sherlockian community.

Because Phil and I had developed a solid working relationship with the Norwegian Explorers *Christmas Annual*, for which I serve as primary editor (and which we intend to continue editing together for the foreseeable future), he asked me to join him as co-editor of *Explorations*, with our roles reversed. Here he took the lead, and it has been a pleasure for me to participate in my own small way. Any credit for the high standards displayed in *Explorations* during the last seven years are all appropriately assigned to Phil.

I'll look forward to lending my assistance to Lindsay Hall as she takes over as editor, but from now on Phil's and my contributions will be from the background (or to contribute articles). Now that Phil is stepping back from *Explorations*, we both felt that Lindsay should have the opportunity to shape the newsletter as she best sees fit. Best wishes to both Phil and Lindsay! ~ Ray.

Parting Words and Trifles

Here we repeat a few highlights from Tom Gottwalt's monthly notices:

- The play *Holmes and Watson* will be at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul July 12 – August 21.
- The *International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes* will be at the Minnesota History Center from October 20, 2022, to April 6, 2023. This is the premier exhibition that has been written of previously in *Explorations*, with many items on loan from the Sherlock Holmes Collections. *Highly recommended!* Future details will be distributed with Tom's notices.

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