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WELLPOINT

presents

# ***Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure***

**by Steven Dietz**

based on the original 1899 play by William Gillette and Arthur Conan Doyle

September 16 - October 11, 2008 • IRT Mainstage

## **ENRICHMENT GUIDE**

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Education never ends, Watson.  
It is a series of lessons with the greatest for the last.

—*Sherlock Holmes*

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# Welcome Holmes

by Janet Allen, Artistic Director

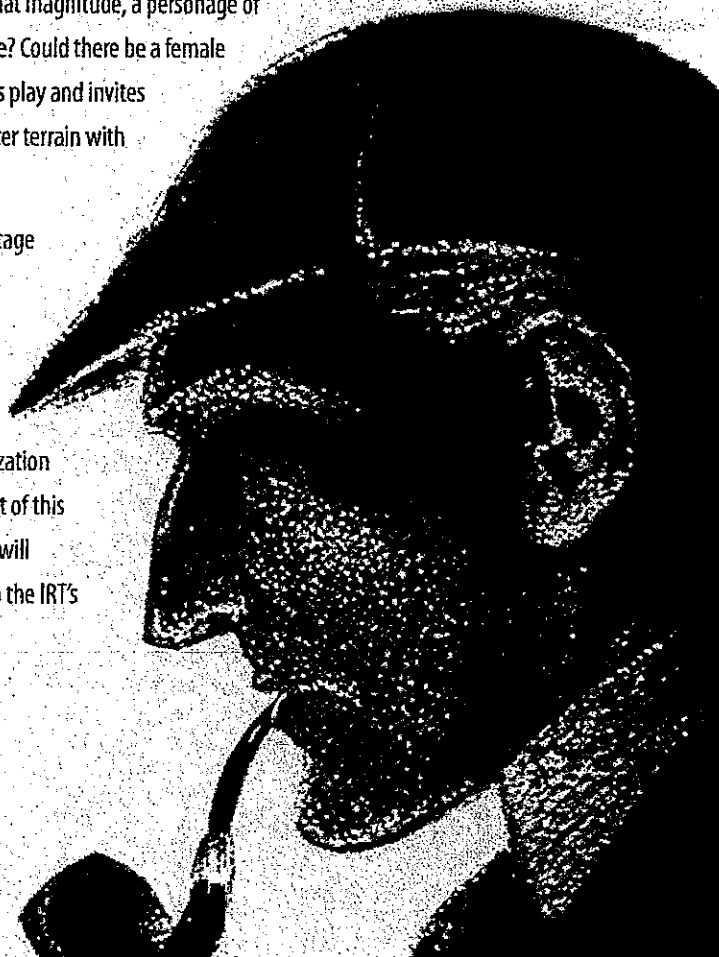
Placing a Sherlock Holmes play at the top of our 37<sup>th</sup> season is all about inviting you back to the theatre after what we hope was a lovely summer filled with outdoor arts and culture activities! It's here to remind you about what you love most about theatre: the opportunity to encounter highly interesting characters, involved in exciting action, on a magnificent set, arrayed in beautiful period costumes, where what unfolds will surprise and delight you. Now that's not too much to ask of us, is it?

It is particularly appealing, too, when the characters are beloved ones enshrined not only in literature, but on film, in television, and on the stage. The list of Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts crosses every demographic—every culture, every age, men and women alike—and has done so since Arthur Conan Doyle first invented Holmes in the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Holmes's fascination is pretty obvious—he's quintessentially smart, quintessentially fearless, quintessentially stylish—so audiences and actors alike thrill to his adventures, noticing the nuance of difference in each interpretation, each characterization.

What American playwright Steven Deitz has capitalized on, then, is that cultural delight we find in the Holmes and Watson duo. But he's brought to it something that we all secretly yearn for, that Conan Doyle himself opted to leave unexplored: the possibility that Holmes's flawless powers of investigation could be compromised by his heart, and by the allures of a woman—that Holmes might, in fact, have *fallen in love*! What would a mind of that magnitude, a personage of that refinement do when faced with the challenges of love? Could there be a female match to the matchless Holmes? This question fuels Deitz's play and invites audiences to re-experience this familiar genre and character terrain with renewed delight.

There's a reason why Holmes ought to be experienced onstage rather than via the medium of film, and it's pretty simple: there's an electric charge that draws us in when we are present in the room with the force of that personality. The chemistry of Holmes and Watson, Deitz's unique exploration of their relationship, his frightening characterization of Moriarty, and finally, the force of Irene Adler in the midst of this male world combine to create a theatrical experience that will recharge us all for the theatrical season ahead. Welcome to the IRT's 37<sup>th</sup> season!

*Czech Illustrator Josef Friedrich created this portrait of Sherlock Holmes.*



# That SINGULAR DETECTIVE

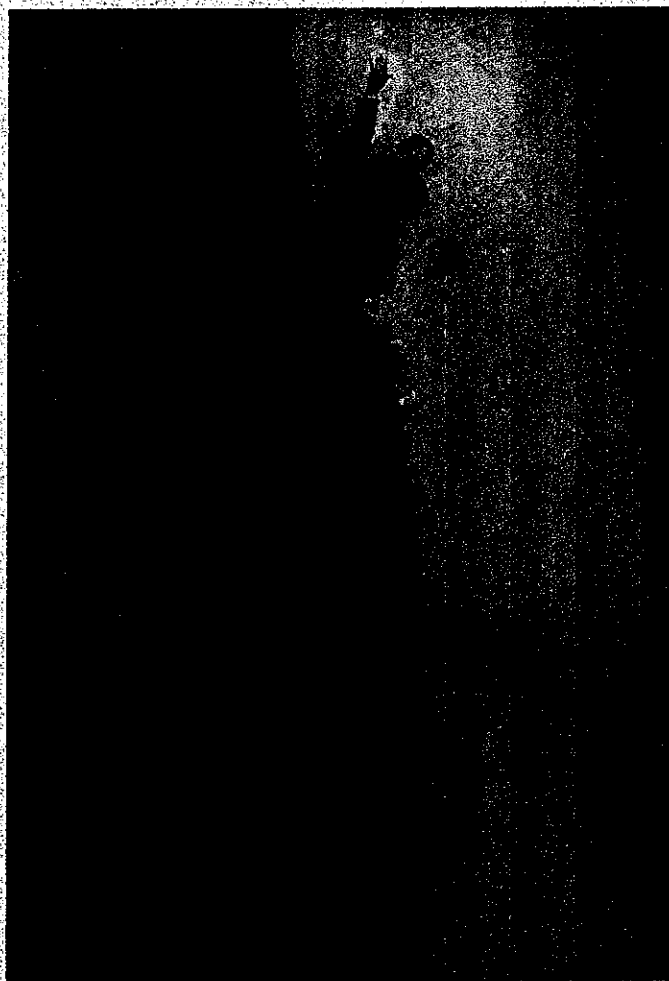
by Peter Amster, Director

*"The game is afoot, Watson!—And it is a dangerous one...."* These words, written over a hundred years ago, still have the power to thrill us with the promise of an adventure guided by a singular intelligence. Sherlock Holmes—the awesome mental powers, masterful disguises, mercurial mood swings, shocking drug dependency, and perplexing awkwardness in matters of the heart—has remained a most enduring and entertaining guide to the darker side of human behavior. His heirs—Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot, Sam Spade, Nick and Nora Charles, and the rest—owe their existence to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's ur-detective.

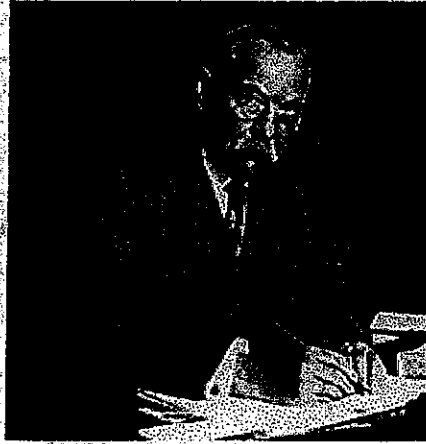
And yet it is not Holmes himself that impels us to return time and again to these stories, but rather the wonderfully complex relationship that exists between him and one John J. Watson: medical man, former British army surgeon, raconteur, valiant and loyal friend, and for almost all of the stories, our dependably reliable story-teller. This friendship resonates with other great literary pairings: Don Quixote and Sancho Panza, Hamlet and Horatio, Henry Higgins and Colonel Pickering. Holmes himself recognized this bond ("I am lost without my Boswell"), knowing that without Watson to tell the stories he would not exist.

By combining two of Conan Doyle's stories ("A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Final Problem") in one play, Steven Dietz has given this friendship fuller expression and range than any one story (or any Sherlock Holmes play) has managed before. And in doing so, he has also created a stage-savvy tale of interlocking mysteries. It's a rip-snorter of a game afoot at IRT this season, and, as the master himself would acknowledge, a most cunning one.

*Sidney Paget was the original illustrator for the Sherlock Holmes stories. This drawing was used for "The Final Problem."*



## SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE



**"It is an old maxim of mine that when you have excluded the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."**

—Sherlock Holmes, "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet"

Scottish physician and writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1859 and educated at a Jesuit preparatory school in Lancashire, England. He studied medicine at Edinburgh University, where he was inspired by the brilliant deductive skills of his mentor, Joseph Bell. While in school, Doyle worked as a ship's doctor and later ran his own practice in Portsmouth, England.

During these years of study and practice, Doyle wrote and submitted several short stories to literary magazines, including the *Edinburgh Journal*, William Makepeace Thackeray's *The Cornhill*, and Charles Dickens's *All the Year Round*. In 1887 Doyle first penned his most famous creation, Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street.

Accompanied by his friend and associate Dr. Watson, Holmes premiered in *Beeton's Christmas Annual* in the short novel *A Study in Scarlet*, which Doyle wrote in a mere three weeks. Holmes stories became a fixture of the *Strand Magazine* in 1891.

Other fictional detectives had appeared before Holmes; *A Study in Scarlet* mentions earlier characters created by Edgar Allan Poe ("The Murders in the Rue Morgue") and Emile Gaboriau ("L'Affaire Lerouge"). But Holmes captured the public imagination like few other literary figures have ever done. Doyle himself, however, quickly became tired of his creation and killed him off in "The Final Problem" in 1893. Popular demand prevailed, and Doyle revived Holmes eight years later in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Ultimately, Doyle wrote a total of four novels and 56 short stories featuring Sherlock Holmes.

From 1899 to 1902, Doyle served as a physician in the Boer War. Upon his return, he wrote *The Great Boer War* (1900) and *The War in South Africa: Its Causes and Conduct* (1902), for which he was knighted.

Although Holmes might be considered the literary icon of empiricism, Doyle was profoundly interested in spiritualism. This irony tinged many of Doyle's mystic beliefs, which included fairies, psychic powers, and communication with the dead. He wrote several books on the subject, including *The Coming of the Fairies* (1921), *The History of Spiritualism* (1926), and *The Edge of the Unknown* (1930), where he argues that his friend Harry Houdini had supernatural powers.

Doyle died on July 7, 1930, from heart disease at his home, in Windlesham, Sussex. The first of many Sherlock Holmes societies was founded in 1934, and such organizations still actively debate the finer points of the detective's work. Whole books have treated Holmes and Watson like actual historical figures, filling in gaps and calculating dates from clues in the stories. More than 70 actors have portrayed Holmes in some 200 films. Steven Dietz's play is only the latest element in our ongoing fascination with Sir Arthur's indelible detective.

—Matthew McMahan

## Russell Metheny Scenic Designer

One October twilight evening, too long ago, I discovered, in a lonely back hall at my grandfather's, a narrow glass bookcase, within which was a very thin red volume entitled *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Excellent find. I swiftly "stole" it. When I got home I devoured every blood-chilling word and image till the dawn broke the trance. I was hooked on Sherlock Holmes. Adapting to the stage any Arthur Conan Doyle Holmes adventure is daunting. But the ideas and images for this *Last Adventure* epic came fast and furious. It was payback time for the "stolen" book that got me into this. Scene after scene, overlapping, jump cutting, appearing, dissolving like fog, became endless scribbles and lines in rapid succession. All this insanity now had to be carefully mapped and storyboarded. But I had designed a film onstage. I now had to translate it all, moment by moment, to the live mechanics of the stage, inventing iconic scenic elements on slip stage, elevator, pallets, gliding walls, scrims, suspended bridge, a hellish gasworks, and more. All this had to be in sync with the action, performance style, and inevitable discoveries in rehearsal and tech. Director Peter Amster took all of this and navigated sharpened, enhanced, and focused this speeding train of an epic into a theatrical event. It is the direction and performance that are the heart of the theatre experience. Giving it up to them is such a kick, and a relief. And I must acknowledge, all this would be a shadow of itself without the ingenuity and support of every single production department of the IRT. Still wondering if my grandfather ever noticed the missing red volume from his complete Sherlock Holmes collection.

## Shannon McKinney Lighting Designer

The world of Sherlock Holmes is a visual feast for a lighting designer. Full of shadowy figures glimpsed through a veil of fog, it's an enticing world of melancholy, love, danger, and intrigue. Sherlock Holmes himself uses the streetlights, the shadows, the general eeriness of London to misdirect friends and foes alike, all the while having fun with the audience. He literally and figuratively keeps us in the dark until he is ready to grandly make his revelations known. I hope that the lighting can capture that sinister mood while having fun with misdirection, creating deep areas of darkness, brilliant shafts of light, tight areas of focus, and expansive romantic worlds of violins, opera divas, and unspoken loves.

## Tracy Dorman Costume Designer

The late 1880s silhouette provides us with a very romanticized version of masculine and feminine types. Menswear throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries changed very little, while women's silhouettes were changing radically each decade. This era was known for the use of the bustle with corset which gives a very artificial feminine shape. Since Irene and Madge are the only women in the play, it was fun to create two different takes on this shape—one that is very severe and almost masculine for Madge, and one that is over the top, dramatically feminine for Irene, who after all is an opera diva. This is a play about disguise and characters constantly masquerading as someone else—things are never quite as they appear.

Each character has a very distinct look that allows us to identify who's who as the chaos grows. At the same time, we're working with archetypal characters, and it is important to acknowledge the audience's familiarity with these characters, while giving them a new interpretation. The color palette is dark and moody and is meant to enhance the mystery. Irene is literally the light within this dark world; she goes from very pale colors into much richer, more dramatic colors as she gains empowerment.



Costume renderings by Tracy Dorman for Irene Adler and Sherlock Holmes.

## Playwright's Note

To be clear: I am no expert on Sherlock Holmes. I'm a writer of plays. I take stories and try to provide a blueprint for how they might be spoken and enacted onstage. But, having been asked to write a few words about the remarkable world which Arthur Conan Doyle invented — a world that I have been traveling in, of late • — I offer these thoughts with humility to the Holmes experts and neophytes alike.

Much of the popularity of Sherlock Holmes, in my opinion, seems to revolve around one simple and enduring fact: it's fun to see someone get *caught*; to see the truth be found out. And only in these Conan Doyle stories, it seems, is the truth so immutable, so resolute, so imminently findable. The truth in Holmes is elusive, but is never subject to debate. How refreshing this is in an age where "truth" is a word that comes in plural form; where, in any 24-hour news cycle, many conflicting "truths" are presented about the exact same issue—leaving us hungry for one person to stand up and say: "Nonsense. All of it. Here's the nub of the matter." Enter Sherlock Holmes.

Though groundbreaking in their day, these are not what we would call "modern" stories—they do not celebrate ambiguity and the gray areas of the human heart. These are proudly and unapologetically archetypal stories—emerging from the formidable shadow of Dickens and Poe—stories in which bad people do bad things and good people suffer and a coolly rational detective, armed with little more than guile and wit, solves the crime.

Then why do they last? Perhaps because we remember the man first, then the stories. Holmes, the man, is as complex as his cases are simple. He is "modern" in the extreme. He craves adventure, solitude, escape, and elation. He is anxious, moody, vain, opinionated, caustic, and empirical. He could wipe the floor with Donald Trump.

What's more, in Conan Doyle's most ingenious device, these stories of detection are built not on the slippery slope of crime—but on the enduring bedrock of friendship. As a playwright whose fundamental task is to make one's characters necessary to each other, Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson are a dream come true. Literature has few rivals for the heady, imperious Holmes and the great-hearted, long-suffering Watson. These men are necessary to each other in the extreme, and their friendship—in all its colors, contradictions, and complexities—is, to my mind, Conan Doyle's singular and lasting achievement.

The stories, then, last the way a friendship lasts: because they are at once familiar and unforgettable. They stay with us through days both remarkable and mundane, adventures grand and forgotten; through love and loss and a thousand wonderful conversations about nothing at all. All that Conan Doyle requires of us is that we take that first step, turn that first page, and enter in.

The game is afoot. Enjoy.

—Steven Dietz

# Victorian London

In his *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens writes, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." And although Dickens was applying these words specifically to an 18<sup>th</sup> century London and France, a Londoner in the 19<sup>th</sup> century could very well feel their resonance. Victorian London was a city literally split by contradictions. Opulent wealth shared the streets with wretched poverty. While the city bore witness to many miraculous technological innovations, it also suffered rampant over-population, filth, and disease. As the rich grew richer, the poor grew poorer. And while the West End rose in wealth and distinction, the East End harbored the dregs of society.

London grew exponentially during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, making it the largest city in the world from 1831 to 1925. The population surged from 1 million in 1800 to 6 million by 1900. This rapid growth was initially inspired by the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, which created a plethora of jobs in the urban parts of the city. The development of London's first railways in 1836 made the city more accessible to travelers and workers alike.

Unfortunately, London was hardly able or equipped to handle its unprecedented growth. The city swelled with migrants and paupers, the streets became clogged by horse buggies and carriages, and the rivers became rank with waste. In fact, the smell had become so bad that Parliament officially declared itself out-of-session during the "Great Stink" of 1858. Sanitation became one of the city's topmost priorities, and Parliament hired Joseph Bazalgette, a civil engineer, to develop an extensive underground sewage system. When the sewage system was finally completed around the mid 1860s, the death toll dropped dramatically and the city's epidemic of disease finally subsided. Bazalgette's system is still in use today.

The increase in population also resulted in an increase in crime. Mob violence, highwaymen, and smugglers had become rampant during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This led to the development of the Metropolitan Police Force in 1829, commonly referred to as Scotland Yard. Though crime diminished considerably, criminals still lurked in the dark alleys of the city. In 1888—incidentally, the same year the first Sherlock Holmes novel was published—London saw the emergence of the world's most famous serial killer, "Jack the Ripper," who was never caught or identified by the London police.

Also during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were extensive innovations in transportation and communication. The city's first underground railway opened in 1863. Telegraphy became available. The first telephone exchange opened in 1879. And by 1890 the mail, or "post," was accessible to virtually every home in the city.

And amongst the residents of Victorian London, there was Sherlock Holmes, whose wily episodes and exciting adventures reached every corner of the city. "It is a hobby of mine to have an exact knowledge of London," said Holmes, and through his penchant for the imperceptible, the rich, and the complex details of the city, we can discover a London that is far more colorful and complex than that in any history book.

—Matthew McMahan



## Holmes's Only Vice

Believe it or not, the world's greatest detective was known to use cocaine and opium habitually throughout the Sherlock Holmes canon. In *The Sign of the Four*, Watson reports that he has witnessed Holmes inject himself with cocaine up to "three times a day for many months" to relieve himself of the "dull routine of existence."

While for us, cocaine abuse of this nature would be considered pathologically criminal, in Holmes's time, drugs were not understood as well as they are today. In fact, drugs were not outlawed until the first few decades of the 20th century. Cocaine itself was not banned until World War I, when rumors swelled that Germans were selling cocaine to British troops.

Before this, medicines including opiates and stimulants were readily available to everyone without prescription. Oftentimes, opium would be used to relieve severe pain, coughing, or diarrhea. Sigmund Freud used cocaine to treat his family for a variety of ailments, and even wrote the essay "Über Coca" to promote its effects.

Not long after, however, many of cocaine's advocates (including Freud) started recanting their support after evidence of its dangers became apparent: dangers including addiction, paranoia, heart attacks, infections, and hallucinations.

Though Holmes's drug abuse was profound, in "The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter" Watson says that he had ably "weaned him from that drug mania which had threatened once to check his remarkable career." However, Watson also admits that Holmes's addiction could never be cured outright: "I was well aware that the fiend was not dead, but sleeping; ...and that the sleep was a light one."

—Matthew McMahan

# ***Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure***

## **Text Elucidations**

### **Page**

#### **11 London**

London is the largest urban area in Great Britain and the capital of England and the United Kingdom. Following London's growth in the 18th century, it became the world's largest city from about 1831 to 1925. This growth was aided from 1836 by London's first railways, which put countryside towns within easy reach of the city. By 1900 Greater London had a population of over 6 million inhabitants spread over more than one hundred square miles.

#### **11 bloodhound of Baker Street**

A nickname for the famous detective Sherlock Holmes who lived at 221B Baker Street, London, an address that does not actually exist. In the period during which the Sherlock Holmes stories are set, street numbers in Baker Street only went up to 100, which was presumably why Conan Doyle chose the fictional number. The real Baker Street is a street in the Marylebone district of the City of Westminster in London. It was originally a high class residential address, but now is mainly occupied by commercial premises.

*"We met next day as he had arranged, and inspected the rooms at No. 221B, Baker Street, of which he had spoken at our meeting. They consisted of a couple of comfortable bed-rooms and a single large airy sitting-room, cheerfully furnished, and illuminated by two broad windows."*

—Arthur Conan Doyle, *A Study in Scarlet*, 1887

#### **12 are you Doctor Watson**

Dr. John H. Watson is the friend, confidant, and biographer of Sherlock Holmes. Various sources give Watson's birth date as August 7, 1852, and his full name as Dr. John Hamish Watson. He is a physician of some experience (as was Conan Doyle). Watson served in the British Army Medical Corps (attached to the 66th Foot) in Afghanistan, but was discharged following an injury received in the line of duty during the Battle of Maiwand. Watson gives two separate locations for the Jezail bullet wound he received while serving in the British Army. In *A Study in Scarlet*, he states, "I was struck on the shoulder by a Jezail bullet, which shattered the bone and grazed the subclavian artery." However, in *The Sign of the Four*, Watson informs us that he "sat nursing my wounded leg. I had had a Jezail bullet through it some time before, and though it did not prevent me from walking it ached wearily at every change of the weather."

#### **12 soprano**

A soprano is a female singer with a high voice range, from approximately middle C to two octaves above or even higher in operatic music.

#### **12 aria**

A self-contained solo in an opera.

#### **12 phonograph**

The phonograph was the most common device for playing recorded sound from the 1870s through the 1980s. The phonograph was invented by Thomas Edison in 1877 for recording telephone messages. By the 1880s, wax cylinders were mass marketed. These had sound recordings in the grooves on the outside of hollow cylinders of slightly soft wax. These cylinders could easily be removed and replaced on the mandrel of the machine that played them. Early cylinder records would commonly wear out after they were played a few dozen times. The buyer could then either bring the worn cylinders

back to the dealer to be traded in as partial credit for purchase of new recordings, or have their surface shaved smooth so new recordings could be made on them

**12 wedlock suits you**

Holmes is referring to Watson's recent marriage. Watson's first wife is Mary Morstan, who was first introduced as the client in *The Sign of the Four* (1890), where she and Dr. Watson tentatively become attracted to each other. Only when the case is resolved does Watson propose to her. She is described as blond with pale skin. At the time she hires Holmes she has been making a living as a Governess.

**12 stethoscope**

The stethoscope is an acoustic medical device for listening to internal sounds in a human or animal body.

**13 iodoform**

A pale yellow, crystalline, volatile substance, iodoform has a penetrating odor (in older chemistry texts, the smell is sometimes referred to as the smell of hospitals) and, analogous to chloroform, a sweetish taste. It was used in medicine as a healing and antiseptic dressing for wounds and sores around the beginning of the 20th century, though this use is now superseded by better antiseptics.

**14 waistcoat  
vest**

**14 yesterday's boutonniere in today's lapel**

Jacket lapels are the decorative reverse on the face of formal jackets, most commonly found on men's clothing. Often, a lapel pin or boutonniere is worn on the lapel of formal jackets. Holmes is mocking Watson's apparent fashion faux pas as well as making a point about Holmes's aptitude at observing outstanding, peculiar details.

**14 Mrs. Hudson**

Mrs. Hudson is the landlady of the fictional house at 221B Baker Street. She wants the home to be clean and tidy and often fights with Sherlock Holmes about this. Other than one mention of her "queenly tread," she is given no physical description or first name, although she has been identified with Martha in "His Last Bow."

**14 Moroccan leather**

Made from sheepskin, Moroccan leather is dyed red on the grain side and then tanned by hand to bring up the grain in a bird's-eye pattern. It probably originated with the Arabs in North Africa.

**14 morphine**

Morphine is a highly potent opiate analgesic drug and is the principal active agent in opium. Morphine acts directly on the Central Nervous System to relieve pain. It is highly addictive when compared to other substances; tolerance, physical, and psychological dependencies develop very rapidly. In 1852, the development of the hypodermic needle allowed for direct systemic administration. This invention had a great impact on the practice and theory of both medicine in general and pharmacology; it also made morphine both six times stronger and more addictive.

14

### **cocaine**

Cocaine is a crystalline tropane alkaloid obtained from the leaves of the coca plant. It is both a stimulant of the Central Nervous System and an appetite suppressant. The initial signs of stimulation are hyperactivity, restlessness, increased blood pressure, increased heart rate, and euphoria. Side effects can include twitching, paranoia, and impotence. In 1879, doctors began to prescribe cocaine to treat morphine addiction. In 1890, when Conan Doyle opened *The Sign of the Four* with a scene of Holmes injecting himself with the drug, cocaine or cocaine derivatives were used in throat lozenges, gargles, wines, sherries, and ports. It was thought to be perfectly harmless. As more was learned about cocaine and its dangers, Conan Doyle recognized that Holmes would have to change his ways. In 1904's "The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter," Dr. Watson states: "For years I had gradually weaned him from that drug mania which had threatened once to check his remarkable career. Now I knew that under ordinary conditions he no longer craved for this artificial stimulus, but I was well aware that the fiend was not dead, but sleeping." Conan Doyle understood that addictions are never truly conquered, but instead managed.

14

### **seven percent solution**

7% cocaine, 93% saline

15

### **the Continent**

The term "the Continent," used predominantly in the European isles and peninsulas, means mainland Europe.

15

### **Professor Moriarty**

Professor James Moriarty is a fictional character who is the best-known nemesis of Sherlock Holmes. Professor Moriarty first appeared in Conan Doyle's tale "The Final Problem," in which Holmes, on the verge of delivering a fatal blow to Moriarty's criminal organization, is forced to flee to the Continent to escape Moriarty's retribution. Moriarty is something of a Mafia godfather; he protects nearly all of the criminals of England in exchange for their obedience and a share in their profits.

"He is a man of good birth and excellent education, endowed by nature with a phenomenal mathematical faculty. At the age of twenty-one he wrote *A Treatise on the Binomial Theorem*, which has had a European vogue. On the strength of it he won the mathematical chair at one of our smaller universities, and had, to all appearances, a most brilliant career before him. But the man had hereditary tendencies of the most diabolical kind. A criminal strain ran in his blood, which, instead of being modified, was increased and rendered infinitely more dangerous by his extraordinary mental powers. Dark rumours gathered round him in the University town, and eventually he was compelled to resign his chair and come down to London...."

■ —"The Final Problem," 1893

■

15

### **from Hammersmith to Blackwall**

Hammersmith is an urban centre in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham in West London. Blackwall is an area of the East End of London, situated in the borough of Tower Hamlets on the north bank of the Thames River. Here, Holmes is referencing Moriarty's vast control and influence over all of London.

- 15 he is the Napoleon of crime**  
 Napoleon (1769 –1821) was a French military and political leader who had significant impact on modern European history. In the first decade of the 19th century, he turned the armies of France against almost every major European power, dominating continental Europe through a lengthy streak of military victories. Arthur Conan Doyle lifted the phrase from a real Scotland Yard inspector who was referring to Adam Worth, a true-life (though non-violent) model for Moriarty.
- 15 treatise on the dynamics of an asteroid**  
*The Dynamics of An Asteroid* is a fictional book by Professor James Moriarty. It is described by Conan Doyle in *The Valley of Fear* (written in 1914, but set in 1888) when Sherlock Holmes, speaking of Professor Moriarty, states: "*Is he not the celebrated author of The Dynamics of an Asteroid, a book which ascends to such rarefied heights of pure mathematics that it is said that there was no man in the scientific press capable of criticizing it.*"
- 16 the dock**  
 the section of a courtroom where the accused sits during a trial
- 16 coal chute**  
 Chutes are commonly used in buildings to allow the rapid transport of items from one location to another, such as laundry chutes in hotels and homes or mail chutes in office buildings. Such chutes are commonly used in fiction as a means for the protagonist to escape quickly. In the days when buildings were heated with coal, the coal chute went from the alley, where coal was delivered, to a coal room near the furnace.
- 16 I should be lost without my Boswell**  
 James Boswell (1740-1795) was a lawyer, diarist, and author born in Edinburgh, Scotland. Boswell is best known as Samuel Johnson's biographer. Watson is narrator and biographer in all but four Sherlock Holmes tales.
- 18 House of Ormstein, hereditary kings of Bohemia**  
 Actually, the Habsburg Emperors were the Kings of Bohemia. Doyle chose to create an imaginary king in an existing country.
- 18 Bohemia**  
 Bohemia is a historical region in central Europe, occupying the western two-thirds of the traditional Czech lands, currently the Czech Republic. Bohemia was a part of the Holy Roman Empire, later a part of the Austrian Empire. It was dissolved in 1918 with the fall of Austria-Hungary.
- 18 Egria**  
 Properly known as Eger, Egria is a town in Bohemia (population 23,665 in 1900), located in the center of a German district distinguished from the surrounding Czech population by language, manners, and customs. Beside its historic sights and its thermal baths, Eger is famous for its red and white wines.
- 18 Cassel-Felstein**  
 Fictional
- 19 Saxe-Meiningen**  
 Saxe-Meiningen was a small state, covering about 423 square miles. It was the most liberal German state and, unlike its neighbors, permitted a free press and criticism of the ruler. Established in the 17th century, the Saxe-Meiningen line lasted, without much distinction, until the end of the monarchies in 1918.

- 19 King of Scandinavia**  
Scandinavia is a historical and geographical region centred on the Scandinavian Peninsula in Northern Europe that includes Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. Political Scandinavism paralleled the 19th-century unification movements of Germany and Italy, but the Scandinavian state-building project was not successful, and Scandinavia was never actually unified under one King.
- 19 Carpathian region**  
Carpathia is bordered by Romania to the south, Hungary to the southwest, Slovakia to the west, and Poland to the northwest. It is thickly forested and largely agricultural. The majority of the population is Ukrainian, with Hungarian, Russian, and Slovak minorities.
- 20 Abyssinian cats**  
The Abyssinian is a breed of domesticated cat believed to originate from one Egyptian female kitten called Zula that was taken from a port in Alexandria, Egypt, by a British soldier and brought to England.
- 20 private seal**  
A seal can mean a wax seal bearing an impressed figure, or an embossed figure in paper, with the purpose of authenticating a document. The term can also mean any device for making such impressions or embossments, essentially being a mold that has the mirror image of the figure in counter-relief, such as mounted on rings known as signet rings.
- 21 Actinium**  
Actinium is a silvery, radioactive, metallic element. Because of its intense radioactivity, actinium glows in the dark with a pale blue light. The chemical behavior of actinium is similar to that of the rare earth element lanthanum.
- 21 Aerodynamics**  
Aerodynamics is a branch of dynamics concerned with studying the motion of air, particularly when it interacts with a moving object.
- 21 Sussex, New Jersey**  
Sussex County is the northernmost county in the state of New Jersey, part of the New York metropolitan area.
- 21 La Scala**  
The *Teatro alla Scala* (or La Scala, as it is known), in Milan, Italy, is one of the world's most famous opera houses. Inaugurated in 1778, La Scala hosted the first production of many famous operas and had a special relationship with Giuseppe Verdi.
- 22 Contessa in Figaro**  
*The Marriage of Figaro* is an opera buffa (comic opera) composed in 1786 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, with Italian libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte, based on a stage comedy by Pierre Beaumarchais. It is now regarded as a cornerstone of the standard operatic repertoire. In *The Marriage of Figaro*, Rosina, wife of Count Almaviva, is distraught because of the Count's unfaithfulness.
- 22 Marguerite in Faust**  
*Faust* is an opera by Charles Gounod to a French libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré from Carré's play *Faust et Marguerite*, in turn loosely based on Goethe's *Faust, Part 1*. It debuted in Paris in 1859. Faust falls in love with Marguerite, and she bears his child. She is imprisoned for infanticide. Faust, aided by Méphistophélès (Satan), gets the key to her cell, but she refuses to leave with them. She prays to the Lord for forgiveness and dies, ascending to heaven.

- 22      **St. John's Wood**  
St John's Wood is a district of north London in the City of Westminster, near Regent's Park. It is home to some of the most expensive properties in the world.
- 22      **Swiss Alps**  
The Alps is one of the great mountain ranges of Europe, stretching from Austria and Slovenia in the east through Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Germany to France in the west.
- 23      **Church of St. Monica**  
St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church, also known as the Parish of Hoxton, is situated in the Hackney Deanery. The church was built in 1864. Hoxton is an area in the borough of Hackney, immediately north of the financial district of the City of London.
- 24      **livery man**  
one who manages the care, feeding, and stabling of horses
- 27      **The "Baker Street irregulars"**  
A group of street urchins who helped Holmes out from time to time. The head of the group was called Wiggins. Holmes paid them a shilling a day (plus expenses), with a guinea prize (worth one pound and one shilling) for a vital clue. They first appeared in Sherlock Holmes's first novel, *A Study In Scarlet* (1886).
- 28      **what must be a Paganini caprice**  
Niccolò Paganini wrote his 24 Caprices for Solo Violin between 1802 and 1817; they were published in 1819 as his Opus 1. They have an étude-esque structure, with each caprice studying individual skills (double stopped trills, extremely fast switching of positions and strings, etc.) The caprices are considered among the most difficult pieces written for the solo violin, requiring many highly advanced techniques such as parallel octaves and rapid shifting covering many intervals, extremely fast scales and arpeggios including minor scales in thirds and tenths, left hand pizzicato, high positions, and quick string crossing.
- 30      **Labyrinths**  
In Greek mythology, the Labyrinth was an elaborate structure designed and built by the legendary artificer Daedalus for King Minos of Crete at Knossos. Its function was to hold the Minotaur, a creature that was half man and half bull and was eventually killed by the Athenian hero Theseus. Daedalus had made the Labyrinth so cunningly that he himself could barely escape it after he built it. The term *labyrinth* is often used interchangeably with *maze*.
- 30      **Laplanders**  
Lapland is a region of extreme northern Europe including northern Norway, Sweden, and Finland and the Kola Peninsula of northwest Russia. It is largely within the Arctic Circle.
- 30      **Larcenists**  
Persons who engages in the unlawful taking and removing of another's personal property with the intent of permanently depriving the owner; thieves.
- 31      **horse groom**  
A groom is an employee who is responsible for some or all aspects of the welfare of a stable owner's horses and/or the care of the stables themselves.

**33 I'm a gun 'n' cudgels man**

A cudgel is a short, thick stick used as a weapon. Sid is boasting of his role as Moriarty's thug and his proficiency with blunt weapons.

**34 oxbow**

An oxbow is a U-shaped piece of wood that fits under and around the neck of an ox, with its upper ends attached to the bar of the yoke

**36 Antwerp**

Antwerp is a city in Belgium and the capital of the Antwerp Province in Flanders, one of Belgium's three regions. Antwerp has long been an important city in the nations of the Benelux both economically and culturally. It is located on the right bank of the River Scheldt, which is linked to the North Sea.

**37 Hall of Records**

In the late 1800s, the County of London was created and controlled by the newly formed London County Council which took over many of the duties of its predecessor, the Metropolitan Board of Works. It was the records of these bodies and similar groups such as the London School Board and Metropolitan Asylums Board that would form the nucleus of the London County Record offices holdings that were based at County Hall on the south bank of the River Thames. Now known as the London Metropolitan Archives, the LMA's extensive holdings are of local, regional, and national importance. With the earliest record dating from 1067, the archive charts the development of the capital into a modern day major world city.

**37 Obliquity**

In this context, obliquity is the deviation from a vertical or horizontal line, plane, position, or direction.

**38 elliptic**

Of, relating to, or having the shape of an ellipse.

**38 like a primer**

A primer is a textbook formerly used in primary education to teach the alphabet and other basic concepts. Primarily, it is used to teach children how to read.

**39 bull-dog revolver**

The Bulldog is a relatively inexpensive yet serviceable, no-frills, snubnosed revolver. It is a defensive weapon and can be concealed easily because of its small size, as well as the fact that it has no sharp edges to contend with when carrying the weapon in a holster or a pocket.

**ACT II**

**43 Inspector Lestrade**

Inspector Lestrade is a fictional character, a Scotland Yard detective appearing in several of the Sherlock Holmes stories. In *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Holmes comments to Dr. Watson that Lestrade "is the best of the professionals, I think," meaning the professional detectives employed by Scotland Yard as opposed to himself. Lestrade is described as "a lean, ferret-like man, furtive and sly-looking," in "The Boscombe Valley Mystery." Lestrade is frequently exasperated by Holmes's unconventional methods. "I am a practical man," he says in "The Boscombe Valley Mystery." However, in time he does come to appreciate and respect the unofficial detective's record of success. "We're not jealous of you down at Scotland Yard," he says in "The Adventure of the Six Napoleons." "No, sir, we are damned proud of you."



- 43 Scotland Yard**  
Scotland Yard is the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police Service, responsible for policing Greater London (excluding the central City of London). Its name derives from the headquarters' original location on Great Scotland Yard, a street of Whitehall. Founded in 1829, Scotland Yard was called "New Scotland Yard" when moved in 1890 to the Victoria Embankment. By this time, the Metropolitan Police had grown from its initial 1,000 officers to about 13,000, necessitating more administrative staff and a bigger headquarters.
- 43 valise**  
a small piece of luggage that can be carried by hand, used to hold clothing, toilet articles, etc.
- 43 five thousand pounds**  
According to the Bank of England, five thousand pounds in 1890 would equal around 463,068 pounds in 2007, or \$905,113.
- 46 Stepney Gas Works**  
Stepney is a London borough located in the East End of London, a district immediately to the east of, and entirely outside, the medieval walled City of London, and north of the River Thames. The high levels of poverty in the East End have, throughout history, resulted in a corresponding incidence of crime. Notable crimes in the area include the Ratcliff Highway murders (1813); the killings committed by the London Burkers (1831); and the notorious serial killings of prostitutes by Jack the Ripper (1888).
- 46 and record my final adventure in your books**  
Dr. Watson is the biographer and narrator of all four novels and 52 of the 56 original short stories in the Sherlock Holmes series; of the remaining four, two are narrated by Holmes, and two are in the third person.
- 47 flywheel**  
A flywheel is a rotating disc used as a storage device for kinetic energy. The flywheel has been used since ancient times, the most common example being the potter's wheel. In the Industrial Revolution, Scottish inventor James Watt contributed to the development of the flywheel in the steam engine, and his contemporary James Pickard used a flywheel combined with a crank to transform reciprocating action into rotary motion.
- 51 cad**  
A cad is an ill-bred man, especially one who behaves in a dishonorable or irresponsible way toward women
- 54 Cleopatra ... "Fino a domani"**  
Cleopatra VII (69-30 BCE) was a ruler of Egypt. As Pharaoh, she consummated a liaison with Julius Caesar that solidified her grip on the throne. After Caesar's assassination, she aligned with Mark Antony, with whom she produced twins. Cleopatra is a leading role in several operas, including those by Handel, Barber, Cimarosa, Graun, Hasse, and Mattheson. None of these has an aria entitled "Fino a domani," which seems to be a fictional creation of the playwright.
- 58 Canterbury**  
Canterbury is a city in eastern Kent in the southeast region of England.

- 58       Dover**  
Dover is a town and major ferry port in the county of Kent, England. It faces France across the narrowest part of the English Channel. Its strategic position has been evident throughout its history: archaeological finds have revealed that the area has always been a focus for peoples entering and leaving Britain, and this continues to this day.
- 59       Folkestone**  
Folkestone is a resort town on the south coast of Kent, England, traditionally known as "The Garden Coast." Situated at the foot of the North Downs, the town has stunning views of the surrounding countryside as well as the coast of France.
- 59       cross the channel by boat to Dieppe**  
The English Channel is an arm of the Atlantic Ocean that separates the island of Great Britain from northern France and joins the North Sea to the Atlantic. Dieppe is a town and commune in the Seine-Maritime department and Haute-Normandie region of France. Dieppe has a ferry port, directly linked with the town of Newhaven, situated at the mouth of the river Ouse in East Sussex, England.
- 59       Brussels**  
Brussels is the largest city in Belgium, which neighbors France on the northeastern side.
- 59       Luxembourg**  
Luxembourg is a small landlocked country in western Europe, bordered by Belgium, France, and Germany.
- 59       Switzerland**  
Switzerland is a landlocked country in western Europe, bordered by Germany, France, Italy, Austria, and Liechtenstein. The Alps comprise about 60 percent of the country's total area. Among the high peaks of the Swiss Alps, the highest is the Dufourspitze at 15,203 feet.
- 61       valley of the Rhone**  
The Rhone is one of the major rivers of Europe, running through Switzerland and France. Before railroads and highways, the Rhone was an important inland trade and transportation route, connecting the cities of Arles, Avignon, Valence, Vienne, and Lyon to the Mediterranean ports of Fos, Marseille, and Sète. The Rhone is infamous for its strong current when the river is high.
- 61       Meiringen**  
Meiringen is a municipality in the district of Oberhasli in the canton of Bern in Switzerland. A museum dedicated to Holmes is located in the basement of the deconsecrated English Church, located in what has now been named Conan Doyle Place.
- 62       Reichenbach Falls**  
The Reichenbach Falls near Meiringen, Switzerland, have a total drop of 820 feet. At 295 feet, the Upper Reichenbach Falls is one of the highest cataracts in the Alps.
- 62       brier**  
The wood of the white heath tree (known as briar root wood, *bruyère*, or French brier), *Erica arborea*, grown in France and Corsica, is used for making tobacco pipes.
- 62       amber stem**  
Amber is a fossil resin that, in prehistoric times, exuded from various now-extinct coniferous trees. It is usually a yellow or yellow-brown color. Amber is used in the arts and in the manufacture of jewelry, cigarette holders, and pipestems.

- 62 clay pipe**  
Clay pipes are almost always made from a very fine white clay. Proponents claim that, unlike other materials, a well-made clay pipe gives a "pure" smoke, with no flavor addition from the pipe bowl. In addition to aficionados, reproductions of historical clay styles are used by some re-enactors.
- 62 cherry pipe**  
a pipe made of wood from cherry trees
- 62 Monograph**  
A monograph is a scholarly book or a treatise on a single subject or a group of related subjects, usually written by one person. It is a one-time publication that is complete in itself. It may refer to a detailed, well-documented work on a limited subject or a person. In Conan Doyle's stories, Sherlock Holmes repeatedly refers to the monographs he has written on such varied topics as the distinction between varieties of tobacco ash, the tracing of footsteps, and the influence of a trade upon the form of a hand.
- 63 Stradivarius violin**  
Antonio Stradivari (1644–1737) was an Italian *luthier*, a crafter of stringed instruments such as violins, cellos, guitars, and harps. Stradivari is generally considered the most significant artisan in this field. The Latinized form of his surname, *Stradivarius*, as well as the colloquial, "Strad," is often used to refer to his instruments. Stradivari's instruments are regarded as amongst the finest bowed stringed instruments ever created, are highly prized, and are still played by professionals today. It is generally believed that there are fewer than 700 genuine instruments extant, very few of which are unaccounted for. Holmes is described as having owned a Stradivarius, with detail given as to how he purchased the instrument for 55 shillings in the story "The Adventure of the Cardboard Box."
- 63 Buddhism**  
Buddhism is a religion and philosophy with between 230 and 500 million adherents worldwide, the vast majority living in Asia. Buddhism is based on the teachings of Gautama Buddha who lived circa the fifth century BCE in ancient India. His teachings are oriented toward the attainment of a kind of awakening, also called liberation, or Nirvana (state of being free from both suffering and the cycle of rebirth).
- 63 Ceylon**  
Sri Lanka (known as Ceylon before 1972) is an island nation in South Asia, located off the southern coast of India, and a center of Buddhist religion and culture from ancient times.
- 65 Inuit**  
Inuit is a general term for a group of culturally similar indigenous peoples inhabiting the Arctic regions of Alaska, Greenland, and Canada.
- 65 Phrenology**  
Phrenology is a defunct field of study, once considered a science, by which the personality traits of a person were determined by "reading" bumps and fissures in the skull. Developed by German physician Franz Joseph Gall around 1800, the discipline was very popular in the 19th century.

# The Illustrious Clients

The community of Sherlock Holmes aficionados extends over several continents and many countries. Perhaps surprisingly, the city of Indianapolis, far from London, is featured in this tale.

In 1894, Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, visited Indianapolis on a lecture tour. He snapped some photographs from the top of the not-yet-completed Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, had dinner with famous poet James Whitcomb Riley, delivered his speech, and departed the next day. In 1923, Sir Arthur returned to Indianapolis and was a guest at the Claypool Hotel at the corner of Washington and Illinois Street. In correspondence, he made observations on some of the shortcomings of large cities in nearby states; he described Indianapolis as "an old friend." The original manuscript for the introduction to his book *Through the Magic Door* was written on stationery of the Claypool Hotel. Four years after Doyle's visit, the Indiana Theatre would be constructed mere yards away from the Claypool Hotel.

In 1934, columnist and editor Christopher Morley founded the Baker Street Irregulars, still the largest and best-known Holmes club in the United States. It is the parent organization of many local clubs founded since. In 1945, 13-year-old Jerry Williamson of Indianapolis enjoyed a double feature at the Indiana Theatre: the latest Abbott and Costello film (the reason he was in attendance) and *House of Fear*, a Basil Rathbone film that was Jerry's introduction to the world of Sherlock Holmes. The next year, Jerry founded the Illustrious Clients, a local Sherlock society. After thriving for fifteen years or so, the group became inactive. In 1977, following a Sherlock Holmes symposium at the University of Notre Dame, Michael Whelan (president of the Baker Street Irregulars) and historian William Lutzholz formed a Holmes club in Indianapolis and revived the name "The Illustrious Clients." This club survives and thrives to the present, with a large, active membership, with nine meetings each year and membership open to anyone at least sixteen and interested in Sherlock Holmes.

In 1994, Wessex Press, now Wessex/Gasogene Press, one of the leading Sherlockian publishing interests in the world, was founded in Indianapolis. That same year, the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis erected a permanent marker at Union Station to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of Arthur Conan Doyle's first visit to Indianapolis. It was the first permanent tribute to Doyle in North America.

Today, the Lilly Library at Indiana University owns Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's original autograph manuscript of the Holmes tale "The Adventure of the Red Circle." A Sherlockian symposium is held in Indianapolis every few years with an impressive line-up of figures from the world of stage and screen and noted scholars lecturing on related topics. *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure* by Steven Dietz is the IRT's third Holmes production. In 1990 the company produced *Sherlock's Last Case* by Charles Marowitz. In 1982 the IRT produced the world premiere of *Operetta, My Dear Watson*, a musical by Tom Haas that featured songs by Gilbert and Sullivan. The show must go on; the game is afoot.

—Meredith L. Granger

*Meredith L. Granger has been a member of the Illustrious Clients for 19 years, half of those serving as vice president. On various stages around the country he has portrayed Holmes, Watson, Dr. Joseph Bell (Doyle's mentor and model for Holmes), and Moriarty. Meredith can be heard hosting classical music programs for the Fine Arts Society of Indianapolis over WICR 88.7 FM. Our thanks to him for this special guest article.*

# SHERLOCK HOLMES AND HIS PEERS

While Sherlock Holmes may be the most famous detective in all of literature, he certainly was not the first. Holmes belongs to a bevy of great sleuths, both professional and amateur, whose tradition spans from the mid-1800s through today. Edgar Allen Poe's "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" is considered by many to be the first detective story; it inspired many mysteries to follow, including Wilkie Collins's *The Moonstone* (1968) and Charles Dickens's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (1870). Here are some other notable detectives in the mystery fiction canon:

## C. Auguste Dupin

Created by Edgar Allen Poe

Introduced in "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" (1841)

Appeared in three short stories

Credited as the first true mystery detective, Dupin established the groundwork on which many literary detectives are based. His method of deduction was based on what Poe terms "ratiocination," the combination of scientific logic with artistic imagination. As Sherlock Holmes's stories are told by Dr. Watson, Dupin's stories are narrated by a close personal friend; like Holmes, Dupin reveals the final solution first before offering the reasoning behind it. Perhaps in ironic homage to Dupin, in *A Study in Scarlet*, Holmes calls Dupin "a very inferior fellow ... very showy and superficial."

## Monsieur Lecoq

created by Émile Gaboriau

introduced in *The Lerouge Affair* (1866)

appeared in five novels and one short story

Émile Gaboriau has often been dubbed the founding father of the modern detective novel. His Monsieur Lecoq is an agent of the French Sureté, the civil police force in France. He solves his cases by gathering several minute clues and then drawing logical conclusions that amaze his colleagues. He too was considered to be a major influence on Holmes, who calls him "a miserable bungler" in *A Study in Scarlet*.

## Hercule Poirot

created by Agatha Christie

introduced in *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (1920)

appeared in 33 novels and 54 short stories

A retired Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot uses the primary strategy of unraveling the psychology of both victim and murderer through cunning conversation with suspects. It was his maxim that "in the long run, either through a lie, or through truth, people were bound to give themselves away" (*After the Funeral*, 1953). When Christie's last Poirot novel, *Curtain*, was published in 1975, Poirot was the first fictional character to be given an obituary in the *New York Times*.

### **Miss Jane Marple**

created by Agatha Christie

introduced in *Murder at the Vicarage* (1930)

appeared in 12 novels

Miss Jane Marple is an elderly spinster who often acts as an amateur detective. Though she appears as an innocuous and easily confused old woman, her outstanding understanding of human nature and sharp wit allow Miss Marple to solve mysteries that stump the local police in her small English village.

### **Perry Mason**

created by Erle Stanley Gardner

introduced in *The Case Of The Velvet Claws* (1933)

appeared in over 80 novels

Perry Mason is a lawyer whose clients are typically charged with murder. Mason usually exonerates his clients by finding the real murderer in the process. The character was also very popular on television, appearing in one of television's most successful and longest running lawyer series from 1957 to 1966, and in more than 25 made-for-TV movies from 1985 to 1993.

### **Philip Marlowe**

created by Raymond Chandler

introduced in *The Big Sleep* (1939)

appears in seven novels

Philip Marlow is the pre-eminent figure in a genre known as hardboiled crime fiction, which features a tough, unfiltered presentation of crime and violence. He is an alcoholic, hard-nosed, and wise-cracking private eye who is not afraid to fight his way through sticky situations. Marlowe was most famously played by Humphrey Bogart in the movie *The Big Sleep* in 1946.

—Matthew McMahan

## ***From the Detective's Mouth: On forensic science, its influences and myths***

*Dr. John Goodpaster is a professor of forensic and investigative sciences at Indiana University–Purdue University–Indianapolis. He has a Masters degree in forensic science and a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Michigan State University. He previously served as a forensic explosives chemist with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in Beltsville, Maryland. Here Dr. Goodpaster talks about the field of forensic science, its influences, developments, and myths.*

### **IRT: What is your definition of forensic science?**

JG: Well, the generally accepted definition is any science applied to the law. So, it is a science, like chemistry, but applied to questions that are legally relevant, involving both criminal and civil law.

### **In your opinion, what would you pinpoint as the top innovation in the field?**

Well, obviously DNA was huge. DNA technology came out in the 1980s but continues to revolutionize the way in which we investigate crime. The biggest and most obvious power behind DNA is that it can individualize. It can say, "That person's blood is that person's blood, to the exclusion of all other people." The ability to say that with confidence is huge. And, when you think about DNA, it's all over. Your whole body is full of it. So whenever you leave anything like blood, hair, or anything behind, you're leaving DNA behind.

### **As we understand it today, how old is the practice of forensic science?**

In my opinion, I would put it back in the late 1800s. That's when you first saw people trying to individualize evidence. One thing they tried to do—the precursor to fingerprints—was to use the actual physical dimensions of a person to keep track of them. That faded out rather quickly, as you can imagine, because of fingerprint technology. The field of fingerprints came along and people realized taking someone's fingerprints is a great way to find them later because the fingerprint doesn't change and it's very complex. That was all developing in the late 1800s.

### **What are some steps a young person can take to become a forensic scientist?**

First, he or she needs really solid skills in the areas of math and science. Most forensic scientists are chemists and biologists, so those two fields would definitely be good to look into. But, just about any area of science can lead into the field. Getting a college degree is pretty much required, and I would even recommend going on to get a graduate degree. There are many places you can go to get a degree in forensic science, including IUPUI, which is the only school in the state of Indiana offering such a degree.

### **What influence do you think Sherlock Holmes has had on the field?**

Oh, he's great. I've read Sherlock Holmes, and he's been the inspiration for I think almost every fictional scientific detective since, especially in the area of trace evidence,

finding really small bits of materials and drawing conclusions from that. Ironically, some of the things written about in Sherlock Holmes predated the reality. In one of his books, he talks about a chemical experiment that tested whether or not a red substance was blood. At the time, they weren't able to do that, but now we can.

**Were there any literary influences or people on TV you looked up to as a budding forensic scientist?**

Well, I remember watching *Quincy M.E.*, a show about a forensic pathologist. I always liked that. But honestly, back then, that was it. I graduated high school in '91. There wasn't any *CSI* on TV. So the influence for me was much subtler, as opposed to seeing it every week.

**Are there any prevalent myths you'd like to debunk?**

Oh, yes! Because in a TV show they only have 45 minutes to portray certain things, everything happens at a real fast pace. A real investigation is much longer, much more drawn out. For example, a DNA analysis may take up to two weeks before you can get a result. In an explosive case, sometimes you can get one done in a day, and other times it may take months. Same thing with hair/fiber exams. The process can take weeks. Second are the resources. The resources you see on TV are far and above what you actually find in real state forensic laboratories. The government simply doesn't have the budget that CBS does. A real lab can't afford the kinds of fancy equipment on those shows, which is too bad.

**How do you feel about the portrayal of forensics on shows such as "CSI" and "Law and Order"? Are they influencing the field?**

I understand how they have to distort reality for the sake of entertainment. But then I think the effects can be somewhat serious. The good thing is that these shows get people really interested in science and forensics as a career. But there's also what they call the "CSI effect," where the general public gets impressions of what forensic science is like based on TV. So now, if a person sits on a jury, they are filled with certain expectations of what an actual criminal investigation is like and what kind of evidence they will see. They end up expecting physical evidence of all kinds, and the reality is that, in most cases, there is no physical evidence. And if a prosecutor doesn't bring forth any sort of physical evidence to the stand, the jury will think that there is no way the prosecutor can prove his or her case. It can go the other way, too. The general public sort of tends to think the people on TV are almost superhuman, and that, if there is a forensic scientist testifying in the trial, they too are infallible. Both defense and prosecution attorneys are concerned about those effects.

**Have you ever experienced the same kind of epiphany that you see on TV?**

You definitely have some of those "aha" moments, when you're sifting through evidence and you find that single human hair that you know is from the suspect. That's the nice thing about being a forensic scientist. You are always the first person to find out an answer because you are the person who generates the answer.

—Matthew McMahan



# Resources

## The Original Stories

The original Sherlock Holmes stories and novels are available in most book stores.

At the library, they are filed under 823 Doyle.

On line, the stories are available at:

The Baker Street Connection <http://www.citsoft.com/holmes3.html>

Mysterynet.com <http://www.mysterynet.com/holmes/sherlock-holmes-stories.shtml>

Sherlockian.net <http://www.sherlockian.net/canon/index.html>

In 1927, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle selected what he regarded as his best Sherlock Holmes short stories for *Strand Magazine* of London. He set them down in descending order of merit with his all-time favorite listed as number one.

1. "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"
2. "The Redheaded League"
3. "The Adventure of the Dancing Men"
4. "The Final Problem"
5. "A Scandal in Bohemia"
6. "The Adventure of the Empty House"
7. "The Five Orange Pips"
8. "The Adventure of the Second Stain"
9. "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot"
10. "The Adventure of the Priory School"
11. "The Musgrave Ritual"
12. "The Reigate Squires"

## Other Books

***The Complete Guide to Sherlock Holmes* by Michael Hardwick**

Articles on Doyle, Holmes, and Watson, as well as a Who's Who of Characters; synopses of and quotes from the stories.

***The Bedside, Bathtub, & Armchair Companion to Sherlock Holmes*  
by Dick Riley & Pam McAllister**

With more than 200 illustrations, this book includes articles on the many illustrators of Holmes, Victorian life, Doyle, London, fictional detectives, actors who have played Holmes, Holmes societies, capsules of each story, and much more.

***The Doctor and the Detective* by Martin Booth**

A biography of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

***The Sherlock Holmes Scrapbook* edited by Peter Haining**

Articles, newspaper cuttings, letters, memoirs, anecdotes, pictures, drawings, and photographs.

***The Mystery Lovers' Book of Quotations* by Jane Horning**

More than 1,500 quotes from the great mystery writers, arranged by author and cross-indexed by theme.

***The Craft of Crime* by John C. Carr**

Conversations with a dozen top writers of crime fiction.

***The Murder Book* by Tage La Cour & Harald Mogensen**

A richly illustrated history of crime fiction, from Edgar Allen Poe to Ian Fleming.

***Encyclopedia of Mystery and Detection***

**edited by Chris Steinbrunner & Otto Penzler**

600 articles on authors and their detectives as well as films, pulp magazines, and related genres such as gothic romance and adventure stories.

## Films

**Basil Rathbone** starred as Sherlock Holmes in 14 films in the 1930s and 1940s, including *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Voice of Terror*, and *The Secret Weapon*.

**Jeremy Brett** played Sherlock Holmes in 41 episodes of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" produced by the British television company Granada Television between 1984 and 1994 and shown in the United States on PBS.

## Other Websites

### **Sherlock Holmes International**

<http://www.sherlock-holmes.org/english.htm>

- Websites for Sherlock
- Multimedia Holmes
- Sherlock and the Written Word
- Sherlock's Fans
- Sherlockian Places to Visit
- Sherlockian Items for Sale

### **221 B Baker Street**

<http://221bakerstreet.org/>

- Stories
- Pictures
- Other links
- What's new

### **Sherlocktron**

<http://members.cox.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>

- Sherlockian societies
- Sherlockian publications
- Sherlockian merchandise and dealers
- Manuscripts of canonical stories with their present locations
- Members of the Baker Street Irregulars and Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes

### **The Diogenes Club**

<http://www.diogenes-club.com/>

- The Library (texts)
- The Strangers' Room (links)
- The Gallery (graphics)
- The Secretary's Office (characters and Sherlockians)

# Discusssion Questions

## Before the Show:

What other mystery plays or movies have you seen? What elements of the mystery genre establish mood, tone, and atmosphere? What do you believe are the key ingredients of an engaging detective mystery?

As with the plays of Shakespeare, some Victorian words are no longer part of our everyday vocabulary. Before seeing *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*, review the meanings of these words:

fortnight  
dullard  
malignant  
insidious  
malevolence  
tawdry  
latent  
rake  
dubious  
incommoded  
imminent  
nab  
monograph  
paragon  
derivation

## After the Show:

The differences between men and women have been a point of discussion, research, and commentary for centuries. In the play, Sherlock Holmes makes the following statements:

“Women are naturally secretive.”

“She has—in the irrational manner of women in love—chosen to forgive you completely.”

“She is a woman, Watson. And therefore: She will never forget who has wronged her.”

Irene Adler says:

“And you must understand this: A woman may be courted and wed, captured and won ... but she can, Mr. Holmes, never be *solved*.”

Are these statements true? Or are they dated and sexist? How has Irene Adler been portrayed in the play? Is she a prototype of today's modern woman? Discuss the relevance of gender issues in today's society and political climate. What kind of gender bias comments have you heard or read about Senator Hillary Clinton and/or Vice Presidential Nominee Sarah Palin? Discuss how far women have come since the Victorian period. What still needs to evolve for women in today's world?

Although murder is a horrifying crime in reality, it makes for very popular entertainment in fiction and drama. Why do you suppose we are fascinated by detective mysteries in all formats. Is it our desire to have a hero? Do we need the cause revealed so we can come to an understanding of the actions and thereby have peace of mind? What do you think?

Many actors have played Sherlock Holmes through the years. Discuss what makes Holmes an attractive role for actors. Read one or two of the many Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stories of Sherlock Holmes and make a list of Sherlock's characteristics. What makes this particular character so appealing after all of these years?

Often in books, plays, and films, the protagonist has a sidekick (confidant), a love interest, and a nemesis (antagonist). What characteristics does each of these archetypes embody? What is it about Dr. Watson, Irene Adler, and Professor Moriarty that create a balance for Sherlock Holmes? What draws him to them even though he knows they might threaten his comfort zone?

The relationship between Sherlock and Watson is a constant throughout the series of stories and novels. Why is Watson necessary to Holmes? Is Holmes necessary to Watson? Why or why not?

There are several lines in the play about truths and secrets.

“A man’s secrets belong only to himself—and, of course, his God.”

“On the contrary, the truth is always out in the open.”

“I’m afraid, Miss Adler ... that when one has excluded the impossible ... whatever remains ... however improbable ... must be the truth.”

In the revealing of truths and secrets, which has the most impact in a given situation? Can both secrets and truth be used for both good and harm? Are we more aware of the use and unveiling of secrets and truths because it is a presidential election year?

Discuss the role of disguise in the play. Are disguises freeing or restrictive to the character in the play? When, if ever, do we see the true selves of the characters? Are there times in your life when you find you are wearing a disguise literally and figuratively? Are disguises freeing or restrictive in our lives?

There is a campaign to give “R” ratings to films that include smoking.

See this website: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,218998,00.html>

Discuss the choice to include smoking in a work of art. Does depicting an activity always promote that activity? What about issues of historical accuracy? When if ever should censorship be imposed upon artworks?

Holmes says, “ Oh, you see, Watson — but you do not *observe*. The distinction is clear.” What is the difference between seeing and observing?

## Activities

In groups, discuss those areas of knowledge each participant feels is his/her area of particular expertise. Once you have this list of your combined knowledge, create a mystery story that makes use of each group member's area of expertise. Each of you might have to do a little additional research to find the necessary tidbit to make your dialogue believability. (Example: If your group has the detective discover a plant on the bottom of the victim's shoe, then the expert on plants needs to research what type of plant you want discovered and why it is that particular plant, and then share the plant's properties with the readers or listeners.) Your group will have to decide from whose point of view you are telling the story. Also, remember the basic elements of a good story are character, setting, conflict, and resolution. Try improvisation to help move along your dialogue and to maintain or capture your characters' voices. Or your group might make your detective mystery a radio drama. All the above parameters apply but you have the added element of dramatizing sound and making a recording live or otherwise.

Even in this century letters are sent to 221B Baker Street, London. Are there any unsolved mysteries in your school? Write a letter to Sherlock Holmes asking for his help with the case.

Compare and contrast Sherlock Holmes and another literary or cinematic detective of your choosing.

How often have you been to a movie or a play and seen the words "adapted for the screen or stage by..."? How often have you read a novel, short story, or an article and thought that it would make a good play or stage or screen? What was it about that piece that you believed made it a story the public would want to see? Try your hand at adapting a portion of one of the many Sherlock Holmes short stories. What do you need to keep to help move the story along and what can be deleted? Take into account the challenge of reworking the necessary points of exposition into dialogue. Add some staging notes about the set, costumes, and lighting. Why not have some friends read it aloud?

Readers like the detective characters in mysteries such as Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys, Nero Wolf, Easy Rawlins, Jim Chee, Jane Tennison, Kinsey Millhone, Jessica Fletcher, and of course Sherlock Holmes. Try your hand at creating a contemporary detective of your liking. To develop a full character, ask and answer questions: Where and when does your character live? What are his or her likes and dislikes? How did he/she get into this line of work? What are his or her dreams, nightmares, and aspirations? Family history? Often writers will give their detective character a significant personal obstacle, vice, or quirk: Sherlock Holmes uses drugs, Jane Tennison is an alcoholic, Jim Chee has bad luck in love, and Nero Wolf has numerous eccentricities. Perhaps your character could have a foible.

Observe a painting from a writer's point of view. Some choices could be Van Gogh's *The Potato Eaters*, Edward Hopper's *Nighthawks*, Renoir's *Le Moulin de la Galette*, or George Seurat's *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*. Write a paragraph describing the atmosphere and the setting. Use sensory imagery such as smells and sounds of the location. What emotions are in the air? What might be the time of day? Set the scene for your readers and pull them into your world. Use the painting as a detective uses clues to create a story for what is happening in the painting.



## Catch Phrase Matching Game

Sherlock Holmes created some well-known catch phrases such as:

"The game is afoot, Watson!"

"Elementary, my dear Watson."

"When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, *however improbable*, must be the truth."

Match these other famous catch phrases with who said them.

For bonus points, find out when or where the phrases were first used.

- |     |   |                           |
|-----|---|---------------------------|
| 1.  | "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country"                              | a. Charlie Brown          |
| 2.  | "One small step for man... one giant leap for mankind"  | b. Maya Angelou           |
| 3.  | "Good Grief"  | c. Albert Einstein        |
| 4.  | "All great achievements require time"   | d. Dr. Seuss              |
| 5.  | "Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't."                        | e. Mahatma Gandhi         |
| 6.  | "Good night, and good luck"   | f. William Shakespeare    |
| 7.  | "Imagination is more important than knowledge."   | g. Margaret Thatcher      |
| 8.  | "I never thought I'd land in pictures with a face like mine."   | h. Martin Luther King Jr. |
| 9.  | "All that glitters is not gold"   | i. Edward R. Murrow       |
| 10. | "An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind"   | j. John F. Kennedy        |
| 11. | "Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter won't mind." | k. Audrey Hepburn         |
| 12. | "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."   | l. Neil Armstrong         |

## The Word's Afoot!

Greetings, Gumshoes! Often, literary criminals and detectives will leave behind clues in the form of anagrams, words or phrases formed by rearranging the letters of another word or phrase. For example, "Angel" is an anagram of "glean." Can you decode these anagrams? Read the clues and rearrange the letters to discover the hidden message!

1. It's our canny leading author.
2. Moderately Neat My Answer
3. Shockers Made for Novel Sleuth
4. So! Pay for terrorism.
5. I'll make a wise phrase.

## **Answers to Catch Phrases:**

12-h, 11-d, 10-e, 9-f, 8-k, 7-c, 6-l, 5-g, 4-b, 3-a, 2-l, 1-j

## **Answers to Anagrams:**

1. Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle
2. Elementary, Dear Watson
3. Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
4. Professor Moriarty
5. William Shakespeare