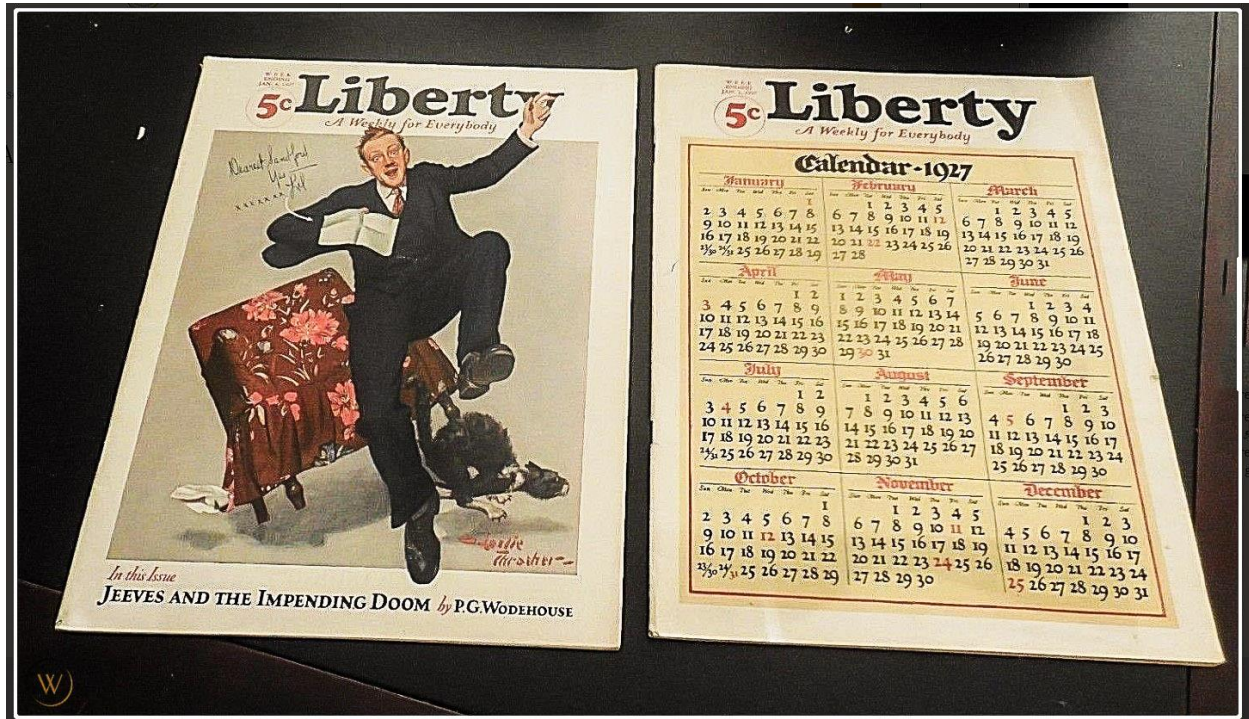


DISCUSSION ON The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger
 July 17, 2021 Nashville Scholars of the 3 Pipe Problem
 Presented by Jim Hawkins ("Little Jimmy Griggs"/VEIL)



Discussion Questions

1. What does Watson mean by the phrase "I was allowed to cooperate with him." What does "to cooperate" with Holmes look like?
2. Why would Conan Doyle use the word "quarry" in describing the contents of Holmes's dispatch cases?
3. "Concerning these latter, I may say that the writers of agonized letters, who beg that the honor of their families or the reputation of famous forebears may not be touched, have nothing to fear."

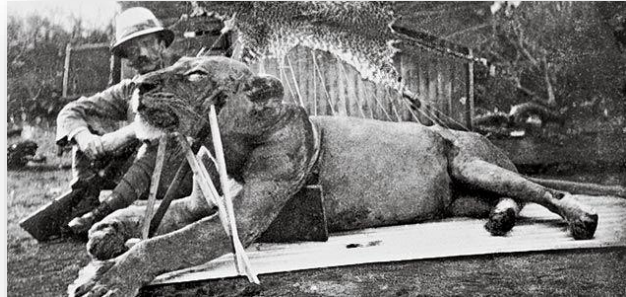
The Agony Aunts of modern periodicals have their immediate forbears in the "Answers to Correspondents" pages of Victorian women's magazines. Generally speaking, in the nineteenth century it was magazines addressed primarily to women that carried columns answering readers' queries, including issues which today we regard as "Agony Aunt" material, i.e. questions dealing with personal dilemmas and emotions. Most of such magazines featured on *Victorian Page* - the *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine*, *New Monthly Belle Assemblée*, *Girl's Own Paper*, *Ladies' Treasury* and *Woman at Home* - carried some answers which would fall into this category. But, as the essay mentioned in the caption above suggests, readers' worries focused on a wider range of issues than affairs of the heart. Feelings of social inadequacy, being bullied by siblings or worries about one's figure or face, are all topics which recur in the columns. However, the only early one which, as far as I know, dealt exclusively with courtship and other deeply emotional issues was the relatively short-running Sam Beeton's "Cupid's Letter-Bag" in the *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine*. More usually such questions were dealt with alongside issues of etiquette, queries about items in the magazine, requests for advice on fashion, health or beauty, or even answers to general knowledge questions. The *Girls' Own Paper*, aimed at young women in their

twenties as well as girls, in contrast, divided its readers' letters and the answers into sections covering topics like education, housekeeping and music. Here most "Agony Aunt" questions appeared in "Miscellaneous".

4. *But the most terrible human tragedies were often involved in those cases which brought him the fewest personal opportunities, and it is one of these which I now desire to record. In telling it, I have made a slight change of name and place, but otherwise the facts are as stated.*

One forenoon—it was late in 1896—I received a hurried note from Holmes asking for my attendance.

**In 1898, two lions attacked dozens of people before Lt. Col. Patterson killed the cats. (The Field Museum, #Z93658)
(Show book by Patterson)**



5. What's up with this caustic statement?

"Mrs. Merrilow does not object to tobacco, Watson, if you wish to indulge your filthy habits."

6. The Billy Graham approach? "You will understand, Mrs. Merrilow, that if I come to Mrs. Ronder *I should prefer to have a witness.* You will make her understand that before we arrive."

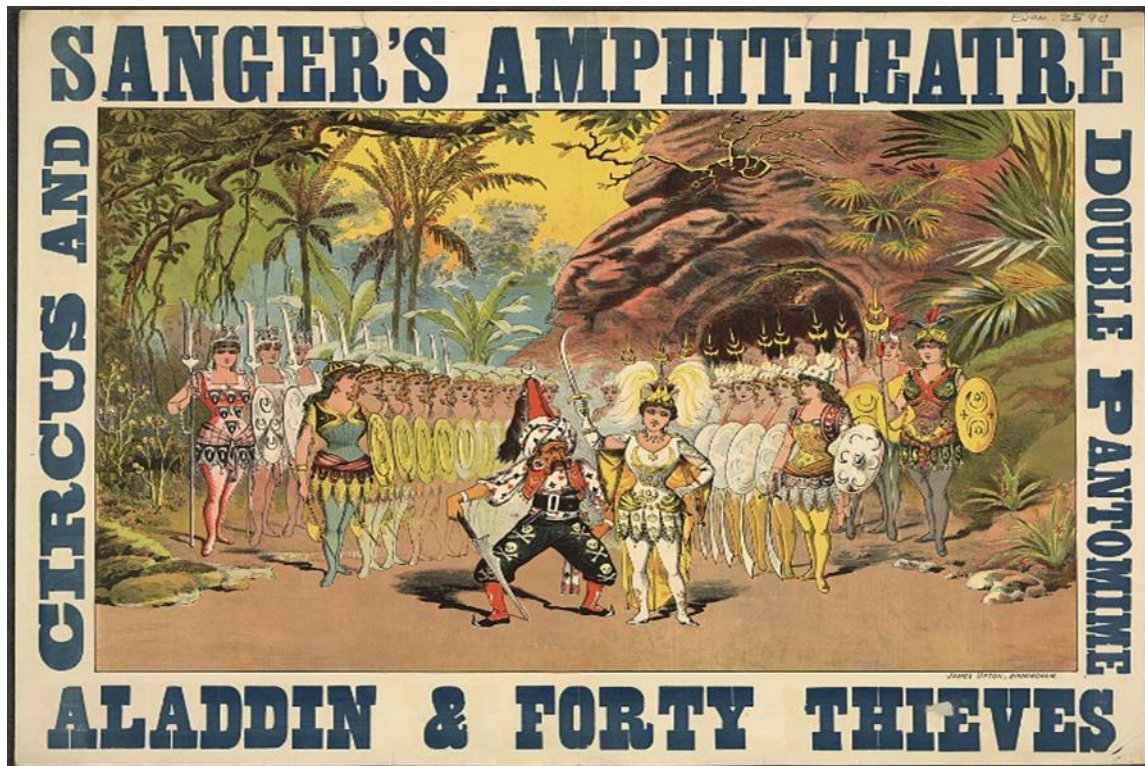
7. Video on Reconstructed Faces (Smithsonian Magazine, FEB 2007)

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/faces-of-war-145799854/>

OR: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/videos/category/history/about-face/>

8. Holmes describes Mrs. Merrilow's walk as: *Our visitor had no sooner waddled out of the room—no other verb can describe Mrs. Merrilow's method of progression...* **who might he have had in mind?**

9. Wombwell - In 1810 he founded the Wombwell's Travelling Menagerie and began to tour the [fairs](#) of Britain. By 1839 it totaled fifteen wagons, and was accompanied by a [brass band](#).



Lord

George Sanger (1825-1911) "Gentleman George"

The Sanger brothers took their show to the International Fair in London, 1951.



In 1848, the three brothers took their show to [Stepney Fair](#).^[9] Here, he renewed an acquaintance with a woman he knew from his childhood called [Ellen Chapman](#). She was a lion tamer employed by [George Wombwell](#),^[10] known professionally as Madame Pauline de Vere.^[11] They married on 1 December 1850 in [Sheffield](#).^[11]

10. Abbas Parva, policed by the Berkshire Constabulary. Berkshire Constabulary is a former Home Office police force which was responsible for policing the county of Berkshire in Southern England. Berkshire Constabulary was merged with four other adjacent police forces in 1968 to form the Thames Valley Constabulary, later known as Thames Valley Police.

11. North African lions. <https://youtu.be/kzMUYF2FFZU>



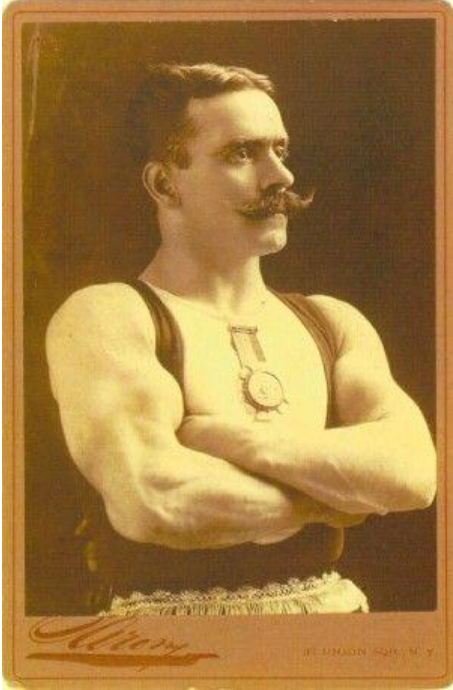
12. Most interesting line of thinking on Holmes' part.

*"Well, we were both worried. It was so deucedly difficult to reconstruct the affair. **Look at it from the lion's point of view.** He is liberated. What does he do? He takes half a dozen bounds forward, which brings him to Ronder. Ronder turns to fly—the claw-marks were on the back of his head—but the lion strikes him down. Then, instead of bounding on and escaping, he returns to the woman, who was close to the cage, and he knocks her over and chews her face up. Then, again, those cries of hers would seem to imply that her husband had in some way failed her. What could the poor devil have done to help her? You see the difficulty?"*



13. After discussing the possibilities for a time, Holmes says, *"However, our speculations are futile until we have all the facts. There is a cold partridge on the sideboard, Watson, and a bottle of Montrachet. (Pronounced mon-ra-shay) Let us renew our energies before we make a fresh call upon them."* A Chardonnay white wine, very expensive. This **1982 Lafite Rothschild - 750 ml goes for \$4,349.00.**

14. **A COVID-like existence.** *From keeping beasts in a cage, the woman seemed, by some retribution of fate, to have become herself a beast in a cage. Another pandemic example: "It is usually wiser to tell the truth."*



15. The woman rose and took from a drawer the photograph of a man. He was clearly a professional acrobat, a man of magnificent physique, taken with his huge arms folded across his swollen chest and a smile breaking from under his heavy moustache—the self-satisfied smile of the man of many conquests. “**That is Leonardo,**” she said.

(Quote) *The best men all left us, and the show began to go downhill. It was only Leonardo and I who kept it up— with **little Jimmy Griggs, the clown.** Poor devil, he had not much to be funny about, but he did what he could to hold things together.*

16. **Pig-faced husband.** *It was a dreadful face—a human pig, or rather a human wild boar, for it was formidable in its bestiality. One could imagine that vile mouth champing and foaming in its rage, and one could conceive those small, vicious eyes darting pure malignancy as they looked forth upon the world. Ruffian, bully, beast—it was all written on that heavy-jowled face.*



17. Why did the lion turn on Eugenia Ronder, his feeder and friend? Lots of conjecture here, right?

Some strange instinct had told the creature in one instant that a human being had been slain. As I slipped the bars it bounded out and was on me in an instant. (VEIL)