



Plugs & Dottles

Official Newsletter of the Nashville Scholars
of the Three Pipe Problem
4th Quarter, 2023
Jim Hawkins & Dean Richardson, Co-editors

- Established 1979
- Meetings on 3rd Saturday of the month
- [Website](#)
- [Facebook page](#)

The Nashville Scholars is pleased to have another college professor join our group. John Besser, adjunct professor in chemistry at Nashville State Community College and former Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Williamson-Maury, will present the story for November.

2nd Annual Christmas Party!

Dave Price has graciously opened his home again this December for the Scholars to gather and celebrate the season. He has a museum-size room full of Sherlockian posters and all kinds of items in addition to an impressive collection of circus-related memorabilia. December 9.

The Fresh Rashers Issue Celebrating 22 Years

Plugs and Dottles celebrates Nashville's other scion society,
The Fresh Rashers of Nashville.

Each of the contributors to this newsletter is a member of
The Fresh Rashers of Nashville.

Fresh rashers, bacon we call it in this country, is mentioned in "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb." However, the Sidney Paget illustration from "The Naval Treaty" seems to represent more closely what happens at a Fresh Rashers meeting (see illustration on page 3). There are no presentations and no presenter; we just meet and greet and enjoy a meal together.

We miss **David Bradley**, one of the original members who faithfully called each member weekly to remind them that the meeting was on for the designated day.

We get a chuckle out of the fact that we have met on a regular basis in six different restaurants in town, and five of them have closed on us, forcing us to find a new locale for our gatherings. For the past few years, that has been **Wendell Smith's Restaurant** on Charlotte Avenue west of downtown.

As the **Fresh Rashers** celebrate 22 years of existence, remember that the **Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem** are celebrating 44 years of scholarship and fellowship. For more on both organizations, please continue to our [3PP History Page](#).



The Ideas Behind The Fresh Rashers of Nashville by Bill Mason

Scion Name

The Fresh Rashers of Nashville

TEXT: “He received us in his quietly genial fashion, ordered fresh rashers and eggs, and joined us in a hearty meal” (ENGR).

RATIONALE: The fresh rashers are “at the call” of Sherlock Holmes; and once called, they take part in “a hearty meal” – a good breakfast.

Theme of the Scion

A Breakfast-Oriented Sherlockian Scion

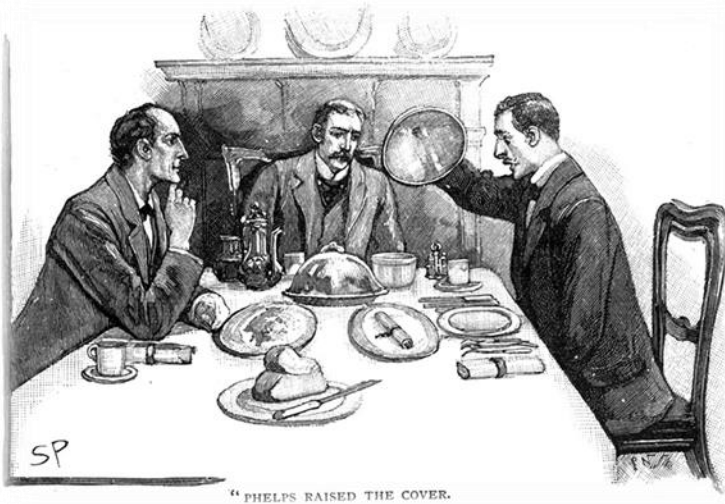
TEXT: “We snatched a hurried breakfast, and so we were all ready for business” (GOLD).

RATIONALE: The perfect text for working people in Nashville.
This will serve as the scion’s motto.

Officers

The Breakfast Ringer	(Presiding Officer)
The Ravenous Cover	(Host)
The Curious Cover	(Quizmaster)
The Dazed Cover	(Convener)
The Fourth Egg	(Correspondent)
The 30-Miler of Surrey	(Recruiter)

All officers’ designations come from breakfast scenes in the canon. With the exception of “The Dazed Cover,” they are found directly herein:



1 *The Naval Treaty* (ill. Sidney Paget)

is a little limited, but she has as good an idea of breakfast as a Scotch-woman.”

FROM NAVA:

“After breakfast, my dear Watson. Remember that I have breathed thirty miles of Surrey air this morning...”

The table was all laid, and just as I was about to ring Mrs. Hudson entered with the tea and coffee. A few minutes later she brought in three covers, and we all drew up to the table, Holmes ravenous, I curious, and Phelps in the gloomiest state of depression.

“Mrs. Hudson has risen to the occasion,” said Holmes, uncovering a dish of curried chicken. “Her cuisine

FROM STUD:

“I rose somewhat earlier than usual, and found that Sherlock Holmes had not yet finished his breakfast... With the unreasonable petulance of mankind I rang the bell and gave a curt intimation that I was ready.”

FROM VALL:

“My dear Watson, when I have exterminated that fourth egg I shall be ready to put you in touch with the whole situation.”

NOTES:

Since the ringing of the bell is mentioned at two different breakfast scenes, “The Breakfast Ringer” is the natural choice of the presiding officer.

The “Three Covers” were intended for Holmes, Watson, and Phelps, and the designations for the first two (ravenous and curious) are appropriate, for the next two officers – “The Ravenous Cover” and “The Curious Cover.”

However, “gloomy” and “depressed” are not really good designations for a scion officer. So, other adjectives applying in some form to Phelps from this text and that which follows must be considered. Choices include: gloomy, depressed, staring, dancing, mad, shrieking, delighted, limp, exhausted, gasping, dazed and blind. At least three times, he is said to have “ejaculated.” However, “The Ejaculating Cover,” of course, just wouldn’t do. Of these choices, dazed seems to work best – thus, “The Dazed Cover.”

“The Fourth Egg” is the fourth officer following “The Breakfast Ringer,” and “The 30-Miler of Surrey” is surely a more interesting and desirable name than, for instance, “The Curried Chicken” might have been.

By-laws of The Fresh Rashers of Nashville

Name and Purpose: This organization shall be named The Fresh Rashers of Nashville and shall exist as a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars for the co-equal and co-existing purposes of: a) discussing and perpetuating the history and legend of Sherlock Holmes, and b) eating a good breakfast.

Membership: Any Sherlockian who actually desires to eat breakfast at the same table with other members and who makes an effort to do so more than once shall be considered a member. We recognize that these stringent requirements necessarily will mandate a relatively small group. Troublemakers, conspirators, felons, asylum residents, terrorists, sewer-dwellers, fugitives, attorneys or others deemed generally undesirable by consensus of the scion membership may be excluded (though exclusion is not required), although no charter member may be ousted by virtue of being any or all of these.

Meetings: Meetings will occur weekly on mornings at a site to be determined as painlessly and uncontentiously as possible and shall occur when two or more members can manage to get up early enough to attend.

Business: There shall be no agenda and no regular order of business; nor shall there be dues or other burdensome financial obligations on the members.

Officers and Duties: The officers shall be selected by general agreement of the membership and shall serve until they relinquish their respective offices. No bloodshed shall be allowed during the selection process. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

The Breakfast Ringer, who shall function as “the presiding officer,” except that he shall not preside, nor shall he exercise any authority as an officer, except that he shall be charged with the duty of apprehending any member who tries to leave the breakfast eatery without paying his or her tab and shall post any required bail for the same. All other officers shall have the technical title of “Deputy Ringer,” and their rank shall be equally insignificant.

The Ravenous Cover, who shall function as “the host” by cheerfully greeting all arriving members, even if he has had no coffee, and shall loudly demand refills on coffee all around whenever they are not timely in being served.

The Curious Cover, who shall function as “the quizmaster” by asking members questions no more difficult than the state of their health and by encouraging members to bring something Sherlockian to the breakfast table from time to time.

The Dazed Cover, who shall function as “the convener” by announcing where the next breakfast will be and telling everyone who needs to know about it.

The Fourth Egg, who shall stand ready to function as “the correspondent,” archivist, and record keeper of the scion, despite the fact that there are no official correspondence, archives or records to be kept.

The 30-Miler of Surrey, who shall serve as “the recruiter” of new members and as a designated driver when so needed.

These, the charter members of The Fresh Rashers of Nashville, approve these by-laws and petition for recognition as a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <u>David W. Bradley</u> | Date: March 23, 2001 |
| <u>Billy Fields</u> | Date: March 23, 2001 |
| <u>Jim Hawkins</u> | Date: March 23, 2001 |
| <u>Bill Mason</u> | Date: March 23, 2001 |
| <u>Gael B. Stahl</u> | Date: April 6, 2001 |
| <u>Marino Alvarez</u> | Date: April 6, 2001 |

Bill Mason, BSI, MBt, ASH, has been a member of the Nashville Scholars since 1999 (as The Hydraulic Press) and has been the Bell Ringer (presiding officer) of The Fresh Rashers of Nashville since its founding in 2000. He and his wife Cindy live in Greenbrier, Tennessee.

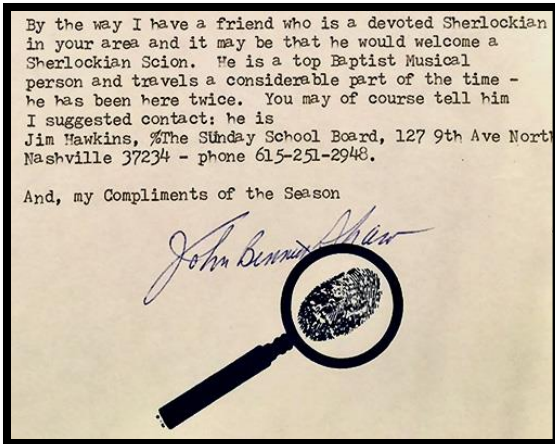


(A personal note from Jim Hawkins)

In my experience, Sherlockian friends are the finest people anywhere, kind and generous, and always ready to share stories about their history with Sherlock Holmes. Because of our common devotion and interest in Sherlock Holmes, there are no strangers in any Sherlockian gathering.

Little did I know what I was getting into when John Bennett Shaw, in 1986, asked me if he could recommend me to the Nashville Scholars. He had been corresponding with Gael Stahl and Vickie Smith. I was sitting in his now-famous library in Santa Fe, and I said, "Sure, go ahead." It changed my life in so many ways.

Here is what Shaw wrote,



“By the way, I have a friend who is a devoted Sherlockian in your area, and it may be that he would welcome a Sherlockian Scion. He is a top Baptist musical person and travels a considerable part of the time. He has been here twice. You may, of course, tell him I suggested contact.”

Holmes as Knight-Errant by David Hayes



What is the Grail? Whom does it serve?

One of the delights of reading the exploits of the master is comparing them with other stories, both real and fictional. When the Nashville Scholars looked at “The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual,” we didn't need Dan Brown to bring to mind those mainstays of British lore, the knight-errant and the Grail.

Locating themes from Templar Grail lore is quite a cottage industry. The connections that can be made from MUSGRAVE to theories explored in *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* and *The Da Vinci Code* are abundant. Did you know that as a Stewart (Stuart) king, Charles I was the designated protector of the Grail mystery? It's those Templar/Freemasons again. But even ignoring this line of reasoning, one is still provided with ample material for discussion.

The execution of Charles I was a turning point in the relationship between the people of Britain, their monarch, and their parliament. Although the monarchy would be reestablished under Charles II, it would never be as powerful. Parliament would exercise ever-greater power, fulfilling a mandate begun centuries earlier at the signing of the Magna Carta.

This connection is the first of three which form the grand structure of the story. It is the common man who through his own efforts rises to a position of equality with those placed in power by circumstance. In MUSGRAVE, Holmes is closer to Brunton in social rank but is his superior because he has integrity; he is not equal to Sir Reginald Musgrave but rises above him because he has applied himself to education and does not take his status in society for granted.



The second connection is the lifestyle of Holmes, which I compared to that of the knight-errant of both British and European lore. The knight-errant moves from place to place, from situation to situation, without visible means of support. Little is known about him—not his place of birth or his parentage, from whence he came and to where he is going. He is driven, however, by the need to right wrongs and add value to a society that without him would surely collapse. He carries with him the knowledge of what has come before and the ability to differentiate between its good and

bad attributes. These characteristics give him an immortality that suggests among other things that should he be needed again, he will return. It seems that every culture has its version of this. Sometime, write a list of similarities between Sherlock Holmes and the Lone Ranger.

The third connection is the main theme of the story. The crown of Charles I, symbolizing his authority, was to be held by the Musgrave family until “he who will come” does indeed arrive to claim it. Yet no true king came who was worthy, and it becomes the responsibility of Holmes to discover the crown—or what was left of it—and explain that it is no longer needed. Sir Gawain did not prevail in his search for the Grail until he asked, “What is the Grail and whom does it serve?” Without the emphasis on the meaning of service, even the holiest of things is meaningless. In context, Holmes also taught that it will be the integrity of purpose and personal honesty that makes his country “this blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England” (William Shakespeare, *King Richard II*, Act 2, Scene 1) and keeps it secure. To him, that is something sacred:

What shall we give for it? All that is ours.

Why should we give it? For the sake of the trust

David Hayes has been a member of the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem (as Inspector Baynes of Wisteria Lodge) since July 25, 1998.



ANNOUNCEMENT !!

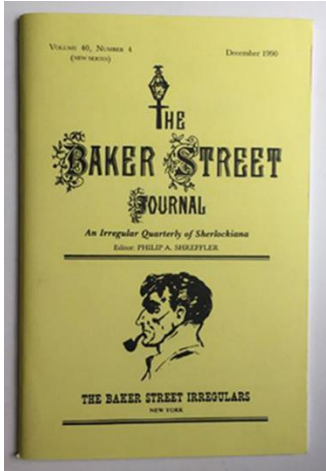
We will meet at Dave Price’s home again this December 9th, 2023. But here’s a new wrinkle: Dave married his friend and assistant, Yadira, in October. We will celebrate the holiday and the wedding in grand style. Plan to attend!



Dave Price and Yadira live in Brentwood, TN 27027 at 1954 Old Hickory Boulevard.

The Gathering begins at 11:00 AM.

Out Soon: The BSI Journal Christmas Annual for 2023



In 1990 the *Baker Street Journal* for December was a single-theme issue, and it was all about John Bennett Shaw. The new annual, also devoted solely to Shaw, and coming thirty-three years after the 1990 issue, will in no way repeat the stories in that edition. Only two of the writers in that first “Shaw Journal” are writing again for the 2023 edition: **Peter Blau** and **Evelyn Herzog**. They were intimate friends of Shaw’s and were as close to him as anyone I know.

Other writers on the team are as amazing as Blau and Herzog. **Patrick Shaw**, John’s son, and Patrick’s wife, **Georgia Shaw**, will write about the John Shaw they knew as father and father-in-law. **Tim Johnson**, curator for The Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, where Shaw’s collection is held, will share stories about John’s incredible treasures. **Jeff Decker**, one of Shaw’s favorite artists, will give us insight into working with “The Sage of Santa Fe.”

Catherine Cooke writes about “The Shaw 100,” Shaw’s list of desirable books for the Sherlockian collector. Ms. Cooke worked for The City of Westminster Libraries 1978–2022. In 2005 she won the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article in the *Baker Street Journal*.

Sherlockian writers **Ray Betzner**, also a Morley-Montgomery award winner, and **Steven Doyle**, publisher of the *Baker Street Journal*, came under the spell of John Bennett Shaw as very young men when they attended different Sherlock Holmes symposiums. **Doyle** was a shy 16-year-old when he sat on the back row of seats at Shaw’s first workshop, the 1977 Notre Dame game-changing symposium. **Betzner** met John at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh in 1980. That event was also the first Shaw symposium “Evy” **Herzog** was able to attend. It is my hope that we have done a good job weaving the stories these people have written into a historic *Baker Street Journal Christmas Annual* for 2023.

Article by Jim Hawkins, BSI, Crew of the Barque Lone Star, editor of the *Christmas Journal 2023*, and co-editor of the Nashville Scholars *Plugs and Dottles*, has been a Nashville Scholar (as Little Jimmy Griggs) since 1988.

Some Very Brief Recollections of a Sherlette by Drew R. Thomas

Once upon a time, there was a troupe of Sherlockians calling themselves “The Sherlettes.” The Sherlettes were created to provide entertainment for Sherlockian dinners held in celebration of the Sherlock Holmes birthday weekend. The Baskerville Bash (hosted by

Maribeau Briggs) and later the Gaslight Gala (hosted by Carol Fish) were two such dinners where the Sherlettes appeared for well over a decade. In addition to the Sherlettes, Sherlockians offered canonical toasts, skits, and short papers or poems.

As the name implies, The Sherlettes was comprised primarily of women. But until later years, when one or two males joined due to gentle prodding from some of the women, I was the sole male.

At one early dinner, when the hostess requested that attendees kindly allow The Sherlettes to go to the buffet first, I stood.

A woman at my table asked, “Are you a Sherlette?”

I said, “I’m the token male.”

She responded, “I love it!”

Among those who contributed songs were Jane Hinkley, who choreographed and rehearsed us, and Warren Randall, who wrote songs, skits, and even short musicals (e.g., “The HMS Sign-of-Four”).

One song that Jane wrote was called “Leprosy” (cf. “The Blanched Soldier”). To the tune of “Yesterday” by Paul McCartney and The Beatles, a wisp of the song went, “Leprosy. All my skin is falling off of me. I’m not half the man I used to be. . . .”

I wish I could remember the names of all the Sherlettes. Elyse Locurto’s name is prominent in my mind as she was one of the most talented and performed for so many years with us.

Susan Diamond wanted to take us to Chicago to perform there, but that didn’t pan out. Alan Devitt and I did a duet and repeated it a few times at later dinners. I also performed duets with Maribeau. And Jane had me do a solo one year!

My word, I miss The Sherlettes!

Drew R. Thomas is a member of The Nashville Scholars of the Three-Pipe Problem (“A Conductor of Light,” 2018). Drew teamed with Cynthia Wein to emcee The Gaslight Gala for seven years, introducing presenters who included our own Billy Fields (who acted as Auctioneer for years and raised significant funds for Sherlockian causes) and Jim Hawkins (who captivated audiences with his powerful singing voice).



My Most Valued Book
***The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* by Vincent Starrett**
by Jim Hawkins (BSI, 2022)

One of the benefits of working as a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines for 16 years was to have the opportunity to visit some of the finest used and rare bookstores across the United States. One special place was Salt Lake City, the home of **Sam Wellers Books**. Upon finishing up the day’s flight in Salt Lake City, I immediately made a beeline to Wellers to look for treasures. The Wellers were a prominent Mormon family in Salt Lake, operating their bookstore in the downtown area since the 1930s. Gustav and Margaret Weller emigrated from Germany in 1925 and opened Zion Bookstore, catering mainly to the religious community. Gustav turned the bookstore business over to his sons in 1943 when he opted to become a farmer in Marion, UT. As Sam matured into the business and became one of the leading booksellers in the Valley, the store came to be known locally as Sam’s Books.

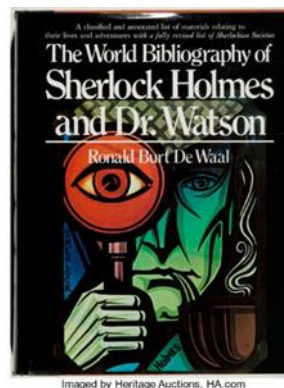
(Enter the Sherlockian connection)

Ronald Burt de Waal, born in Salt Lake City in 1932 to another prominent Mormon family, grew up buying books from Sam Weller. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Utah in 1955 and his Master of Arts from the University of Denver, CO, a few years later. De Waal became a specialist in bibliography, first at Westminster College in Salt Lake City and then at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. He was an avid fan of the Sherlock Holmes canon; his other passion was ballroom dancing. Subsequently, he became known as “The Holmes and Dance Man,” receiving his BSI investiture as “Lomax, the Sub-Librarian” in 1969 and the Two-Shilling Award in 1984. Through his involvement with the Baker Street Irregulars, de Waal became acquainted with John Bennett Shaw.

John Bennett Shaw was given his BSI investiture of “The Hans Sloane of My Age” in 1965 for good reason. In the 1750s, the Irish scientist and doctor Hans Sloane gave his collection of 71,000 volumes to the British government as the core of the British Library. In the 1960s, Shaw had one of the largest collections of Sherlockian books and ephemera anywhere. After he moved to Santa Fe in 1970, he began to absorb everything Sherlockian within reach of the postal service and the telephone company. He literally had the largest private Sherlockian/Doylean collection in the world, so it was natural for De Waal to begin his *World Bibliography on Sherlock Holmes* with Shaw’s enormous collection.

In 1966, De Waal and Shaw began their most important collaboration on *The Universal Sherlock Holmes*, a bibliography and catalog of practically every Sherlock Holmes book in print, many of which were in Shaw’s library. According to Shaw, in his foreword to *The Universal Sherlock Holmes* (1993),

“Twenty-seven years ago at a Baker Street Irregulars’ dinner on West 23rd Street in New York City, I met a young man who said, ‘I am Ron De Waal, and I plan to compile a world bibliography on Sherlock Holmes.’ I thought, ‘He is mildly insane,’ and then, ‘Good heavens, I hope he does it.’ The outcome of this chance meeting led De Waal to spend ninety-seven days (and by ‘day,’ I mean a full twelve hours) in my library working on his bibliographical project.



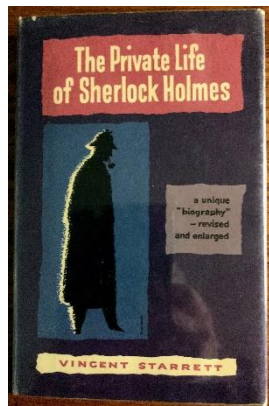
He visited several times when I lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and then many times in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Further, there have been countless letters and phone calls. It seems we are a good pair: I am a blotter-type collector, and he is obsessed with listing and describing it all.

Ronald De Waal and his prodigious and ambitious literary project are a success — for him, a triumph; for me, a justification for being a one-subject collector. It is De Waal who made my efforts worthwhile.”¹

Sadly, John Shaw lived only one more year after writing this foreword to the book he and De Waal worked on at John and Dorothy’s home in Santa Fe. In several photos of Shaw at his desk, *The Universal Sherlock Holmes* can be seen.

¹ De Waal, Ronald B., *The Universal Sherlock Holmes*, Toronto: Metropolitan Toronto Library, 1994. Foreword by John Bennett Shaw. Illustrated by Betty and George Wells. George Vanderburgh, editor.

(Now to my collection and the wrap-up of this story.)



I retired from Southwest Airlines in June 2017. Ronald de Waal died the following year, just when I was discovering his books at Weller’s and his connection to Shaw. My last sojourn to Sam Weller’s Books was in the early spring of 2018. De Waal, having been ill for several months, had given most of his Sherlockian books to the Wellers to sell for him. On my final visit to the bookstore, I came across one of my favorite rare books, *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* by Vincent Starrett, not the original from 1933 (now practically impossible to find or purchase), but the 1960 edition published by the University of Chicago Press, with inclusions that make it especially valuable to me. Inside this book was the *Advance Information* letter sent out by the University of Chicago on May 3, 1960.

Vincent Starrett autographed this book two times! Once for “Pat, with all my love. Vincent 29 March 60” as a prepublication gift and again on the half-title page, simply “Vincent Starrett.”

After my retirement, I fulfilled a promise I had made almost 20 years before—that of building a website to honor and remember John Bennett Shaw. Knowing that De Waal spent so many hours in the Shaw homes, both in Tulsa and in Santa Fe, coupled with the knowledge that this book was owned and read and handled by De Waal himself, made this book even more valuable and meaningful to me.

Conan Doyle and the Not Quite Supernatural

by Dean Richardson

Conan Doyle’s fascination with the supernatural and fantastic is evident in both his ghost and terror tales and his nonfiction, especially his efforts on behalf of spiritualism. And at times throughout his life, he dressed his non-supernatural stories with Gothic trappings, including several tales involving his Great Detective.

“The Speckled Band” features a young woman living in fear of her stepfather, an old dark house, shadow-haunted halls, eerie music in the night, and a mysterious death in a seemingly inaccessible room. Another old dark house features in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, along with a family curse and an apparently demon dog. The discovery of the dead or mad occupants of the room in “The Devil’s Foot” is the stuff of nightmares. The scene in “**The Creeping Man**” of the title character with his “thick and horny” knuckles squatting on all fours and then scaling the ivy on the side of his house like a great ape to taunt his chained wolfhound is uncanny. And the baby with a wound on his neck and the mother with blood on her lips evoke *Dracula* in



The Professor got out some atrocious word at me and landed on down the staircase.

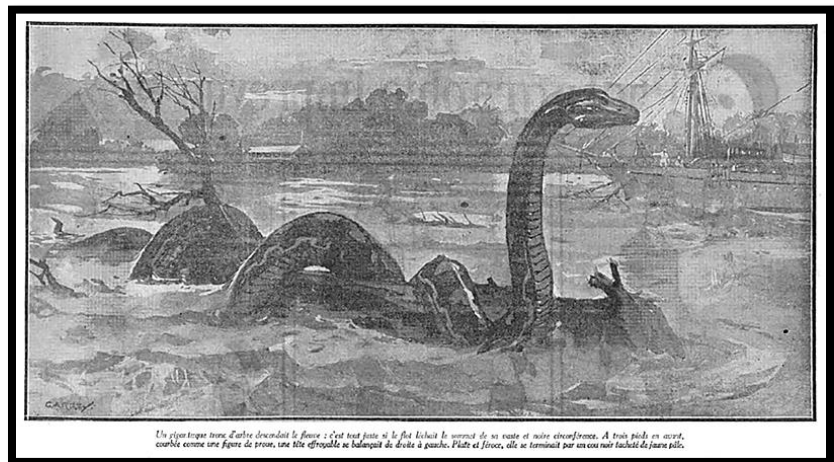
“The Sussex Vampire.” No spoilers here, but the explanation in each case is rational (even if some of the details are debatable).

The strong influence of Edgar Allen Poe is evident in ACD’s noncanonical story, “The New Catacomb.” Set in Italy like several of Poe’s tales, it describes rivalry, madness, and revenge with a descent into a secret, dark, dank maze of passages lined with skeletons and mummified corpses resulting in a trap for the unsuspecting victim. Shades of “The Cask of Amontillado.”

Occasionally Conan Doyle explored the fringes of knowledge of the natural world, either through exaggeration (a large black jaguar escapes its cage in a private home and kills its owner in “The Brazilian Cat”; a huge python seizes victims by night in “The Fiend of the Cooperage,” illustration below) or speculation (a pilot flies to a record height and sees strange jellyfish-like creatures in “The Horror of the Heights”). Science fantasy might best describe that last mentioned story as well as the accounts of the survival of prehistoric creatures in “The Terror of Blue John Gap” and, most famously, *The Lost World*.

Once ACD attempted to explain (fictionally) an historical mystery, the disappearance of the crew and passengers of the *Mary Celeste* in “J. Habakuk Jephson’s Statement” (1888). I wonder whether that might have sparked a later story, “The Lost Special” (1898), in which an entire train disappears from a closely

watched section of railroad tracks. This story falls into a subgenre known as “the impossible crime” story, under which can be placed a subset, “the locked room mystery.” Poe may not have invented this type (see J. Sheridan le Fanu’s “A Passage in the Secret History of an Irish Countess” [1838]), but he perfected it in “The Murders in the Rue Morgue”



(1841). Wilkie Collins (best known for *The Moonstone* and *The Woman in White*) employed a locked room in “A Very Strange Bed” (1852), and Israel Zangwill wrote an ingenious novel with the device, *The Big Bow Mystery*, in 1892, the same year that Conan Doyle published “The Speckled Band,” which also could be described as a locked room mystery. (In the 20th century, the master of this form was John Dickson Carr.)

Conan Doyle saw the value of the supernatural and the fantastic, whether employed directly or suggested atmospherically. While Sherlock Holmes might declare that “no ghosts need apply,” occasionally Dr. Watson’s literary agent would at least consider their résumés.

Dean Richardson (Shinwell Johnson in “The Illustrious Client”) coedits *Plugs & Dottles* with the illustrious Jim Hawkins. He’s been a Nashville Scholar since 1998 and a (semi) Fresh Rasher since 2015 or thereabouts.

The Nashville Scholars send thanks and Godspeed to **Jean Upton**, who is retiring as editor of *The District Messenger*, the newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. She followed her husband, **Roger Johnson**, who held the position for 32 years (350 issues!). Roger and Jean are dear friends of all the members of our Nashville Scholars. **Well done** to both of you!



Marino Alvarez with Jean and Roger in London

Taking the reins as editor is **Paul Thomas Miller**, author of *Finding Sherlock Holmes*, a detailed look at every place in England mentioned in the 60 stories of the canon.

In 2024 Sherlock Holmes will be 170!

Happy Holidays, Everyone!