

Toast to the Three Garridebs  
by Jim Hawkins  
for Will Walsh  
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The phrase from the story:  
"There is a chance for you to make some money, friend Watson,"  
said he (Holmes).

Fraud has been a steady business over the centuries. In these days of Powerball lottery fortunes, sports betting apps, and bitcoin enticements, we see that the dream of instant wealth has always been with us. It sets us to thinking about what we might do for ourselves and others if we had the means.

Poor old Nathan Garrideb was bilked into such a scam. Had it not been for Holmes, he would have lost it all. I mean, who would believe this strange story?

*It was the queerest will that has ever been filed in the State of Kansas. His property was divided into three parts, and I was to have one on condition that I found two Garridebs who would share the remainder. It's five million dollars for each if it is a cent, but we can't lay a finger on it until we all three stand in a row.*

Nathan Garrideb planned to use his five million dollars to enlarge his collections and share them with everyone who might show interest. And his famous quote was, "I will be the Hans Sloane of my age."  
As Holmes explained to him, *there are alternative explanations.*

Let's talk briefly about opium, not the opium of dens--dark, smokey and foul. I'm referring to O.P.M.—*other people's money*. The canon is replete with stories about O.P.M. and how someone is planning to get his/her hands on it.

*The Three Garridebs* story reminds us that if fortune comes our way **requiring nothing more from us than a signature**—BEWARE!

There may not be three Garridebs in the world,  
but there are now three Hans Sloanes:

Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753)

1<sup>st</sup> BSI “Hans Sloane of My Age” (1965)

-John Bennett Shaw-

2<sup>nd</sup> BSI “Hans Sloane of My Age” (2022)

-James Hawkins-

Join me in toasting my new favorite canonical story:

*The Three Garridebs.*