***The Norbury Chronicle***

**newsletter of the Holmesian Studies SIG of American Mensa**

**since '88, Baker Street Irregulars scion since '95**

"Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed." (Mark 4:22)

Issue LV                              Winter '19='20

**THE FANON**

I have spent decades in the Canon (and the deuterocanonical Adrian Conan Doyle stories), but it is also interesting to study the fanon, the non-canonical speculations by fans of Sherlock Holmes that have become nigh unto universally accepted "facts" (as listed at tvtropes). Many are held by those who have not studied the Canon for themselves.

* G is for Geoffrey, Inspector Lestrade's Christian name is generally accepted to be Geoffrey, but as I explained in my book, *Sherlock Holmes and the Mad Doctor*, there would have had to have been generations of Inspector Lestrades.
* H is for Hamish, Dr. Watson's middle name from the initial was suggested Dorothy Sayers from the use of Mary's name James, which Hamish means in Scottish. It's an interesting theory, and has led to taking Watson's Scotch ancestry for granted.
* Siger for Sherlock's father's name comes from Baring-Goald's backforming it from Holmes's pseudonym Sigerson. Probably this too is not true.
* Kim Newman especially has promoted the idea that the Diogenes Club, of which Mycroft Holmes was a member, was the proto-British Secret Service.
* The theory that the Holmeses where landed gentry morphed into the idea that there was a third Holmes brother, the heir, who acquired the name Sherringford.
* Irene Adler Norton also has become much more than the woman who tricked Holmes once and an opera singer. She became a detective herself, a secret agent even, Holmes's maid and/or lover, etc., etc. These seem to contradict the also popular theory that Holmes and/or Watson were homosexual. We prefer the idea that they were simply that rare breed gentlemen, like Mr. Rogers.
* Watson did mention going in search of a wife, but that does not necessarily mean he lost the only wife we know of to death. She may have been kidnapped, amnesiac, visiting a friend, etc., etc.
* Another popular, though unproven, theory is that it was Holmes's discovery of his

mother's affair with his math tutor, Moriarty, and/or Moriarty's news of his parent's death was what drove Sherlock to fight for truth, justice and British way.

I have also been working on my Holmes genealogy, connecting Rupert Rassendyll as his second cousin twice removed, who it is said, he met at the British embassy in Strelsau, Ruritania. (Much of the information came from [Brad Mengel](http://www.pjfarmer.com/secret/contributors/holmes-family-tree.htm), etal.)

Some of the more well documented relatives of Holmes are:

**Quinton Arturo**, second cousin-in-law once removed

**Percy "Scarlet Pimpernel" Blakeney,** great grandfather

**James "007" Bond**, nephew-in-law

**Prof. George Edward Challenger,** great granduncle

**John "Tarzan" Clayton**, second cousin

**Laura "Tomb Raider" Croft**, second great grandniece

**Hugh "Bulldog" Drummond**, second cousin twice removed

**Gideon Fell**, first cousin once removed

**Alexander Charles Lytton "the Phantom" Fleming**, greatnephew-in-law

**Philias Fogg**, brother-in-law

**Arthur "the Fonz" Fonzarelli, Jr.,** second cousin three times removed

**Artemus Gordon**, fourth cousin four times removed

**Barbara "Batgirl" Gordon Grayson,** fourth cousin seven times removed

**Charles "Nightwing" Grayson**, great grandson-in-law

**James W. "Whisperer" Gordon**, fourth cousin six times removed

**John "Jongor" Gordon,** fourth cousin seven times removed

**Raymond "Flash" Gordon**, fourth cousin three times removed

**Richard "the Boy Wonder" Grayson**, great grandson

**Martin Hewitt**, first cousin

**Barnaby Jones**, great grandnephew

**Henry "Indiana" Jones, Jr.,** second cousin twice removed

**Martin "Merlin" Jones**, second great grandnephew

**King Christian, IX, of Denmark**, ninth cousin

**King Edward, IV**, second cousin fifteen times removed

**King Henry, VIII**, eleventh great granduncle

**Michael "Lone Wolf" Lanyard**, second cousin once removed

**Alexander "Lex" Luthor**, nephew-in-law

**David "Daddy Warbucks" Luthor**, nephew-in-law

**Angus MacGyver**, first cousin once removed

**John "the Baron" Mannering**, grandson

**Anthony Blodgett "Monk" Mayfair**, first cousin once removed

**Solar Pons**, first cousin once removed

**Ellery Queen**, first cousin once removed

**Queen Victoria**, seventh cousin twice removed

**Queen Elizabeth I**, first cousin twelve times removed

**Queen Elizabeth II**, ninth cousin once removed

**Bruce "Captain Midnight" Rassendyll,** second cousin twice removed

**John "Renny" Renwick,** fourth cousin

**Richard "Toff" Rollison,** second cousin once removed

**Tsar Nicholas Romanov, II**, ninth cousin once removed

**James Clarke "Doc" Savage**, second cousin once removed

**Alexander "Pink Panther" Sinclair, Jr**., great grandnephew-in-law

**Dennis Neyland Smith**, nephew

**John "Hannibal" Smith**, grandnephew

**Leiko "Black Lotus" Smith**, great grandneice

**Prof. Horatio "Pimpernel" Smith**, grandnephew

**John "Odd John" Wainwright**, nephew-in-law

**Lord Peter Wimsey**, first cousin-in-law three times removed

**MORE FROM WATSON AND HOLMES**

Peter Blau pointed out that I didn't mention in the previous issue that *Watson and* *Holmes* is not a collection of stories exactly. It's a game, better than I expected for coming from Jesus Torres Castro, Space Cowboys, from France and made in China. I guess Holmes and Watson are known and loved worldwide. It's hard for the investigator in me to neglect any of the possible clues, rather that trying to out-do the Great Detective. Perhaps it will take some ingenuity to put together the cases from my scribbled and fragmentary notes.

**“The Suicide of an Hypochondriac”**

after 1891, before 1893

Lestrade: Horatio Wyndham suicide (?), note in blue (not black) ink, Hotel Rodney: reddish sand; Stephen Roberts night clerk, blue cushion found in chest outside window, homeopathic “medicine”, not his hat, Wyndham, Golding & Wulf: Benjamin Hayhurst, Thomas Golding’s missing cushion and expensive watch, Wulf’s too-small hat and “shaving” cut

**“The Sutherland Experiment**

date: 1894

Hypatia Sutherland’s mother, Elizabeth, widow of James the astronomer, missing, asst. Victor Henderson at Brutton Metal Works, Nash & Co. Chemical Supplies: nitro & dynamite, Cheston Transport Agency: mirrors, etc. to Lochend, Scotl., then to Towers Hamlets; Boot & Shoe pub, Prince Edward and new wife Alexandra of Denmark (substandard materials!)

**“The Mysterious Disappearing Prestige”**

last performance of the Grey Dervish at William’s (formerly uncle Maxwell’s) Alderdice Theatre, after James “mentalist Lucius Cavan”, “Smiley the clown” Arrington, asst. Ellie Jagger, contortionist Sun Lynn, juggler Otto Amsel at Red Cow pub; bloody pendulum, trapdoor, white hair; Old McCaskill, stagehand Bill Kerfoot, Paul Irving of *West End News*, missing rabbit

**“The Adventure of St. Margaret’s Bay”**

date: 1886

Insp. Richard Butler of Dover, Darwinist Anthony Holman killed, sister Mrs. Junker, brother-in-law Klaus Junker, Rev. Thomas Landon, scientist Alfred Mills, speleologist Gerard Craven, journalist Edwin Davidson, maid Susan Kent, broken wine bottle and window, empty box (“Man Spy”)

**“The Adventure of the Talking Board”**

date: after 1891 [“Ouija” by Elijah Bond in 1890]

Insp. Bradstreet: womanizer Jefferson Walker of Alabama dead, Helen “Mde. Leblanc” Grave, Alain Dulieu and Alnássur, Henry Mannheim of *Hidden Happenings* magazine, “John Matthews” (Lord Walton, widower of Duchess of Lanchashire), Ann Traynor fka Mrs. Connor of Malbank Hotel (brother George), Miss Margaret Blackwell of Blackwell Textiles; floor switch, earring; dagger not murder weapon; governess Grace Haskin: pregnant daughter Laura drowned, wife died of grief

**“The Curse of Senet Hotep”**

date: winter after 1901?

reporter John Pullman on boy pharaoh at Seagrave Museum, disc. by short Simon Deveraux, Melissa “Mel” Carter dead, nightwatchman Tom Farr; Peter Seagrave, accountant Helen Davis, auctioneer Phil Ingham: collectors Sir Lockwood and William Lennon, maintenance man Peter Logan, Billy Page: closed sarcophagus, Mark Carter, fresh blood on Khopesh sword! Taxidermist B. Lonergan’s fake mummy

**“The Riddle of the Hieroglyphs in the Sand”**

commissioner Arthur Penrose of Cornwall’s daughter Lucy missing, fiancée William Blackmore presumed death, pen and purple ink missing, wax on window, daughter Susan: red-readed rebel, *The Tavern in the Clouds* by Galahad of Avalon, postman Jory Glasson, lighthousekeeper Ben Elliott, Insp. Oliver Tregale, Jacca “the Lad”,

XI, XXI, XV, VI = pg. 11, port, Wednesday, midday: France (Lucy Penroe and William Blackmore marry)

**“The Adventure of the Book of the Dead”**

date: cloudy Monday, before 1901

Raymond Stanton dead reading *De legibus libri ex mortuis* by Torres de Castro (1236), to be auctioned at Suthering & Co., Andrew Holmwood from Carfax, Susan Cooper of British Museum and “fanatic/ lunatic” Sir Roderick Carmichael, 2nd marquess of Linchester (syphilis), printer Amadeo Sinclair, Dr. Renfield, editor Adam McRory; maid Mia Frowler, butler Arthur Seward, George Armour of Old Books Bookshop, fragment of fake telegram! Daughter Jane expected, Stanton paid to rent “gullible” Sinclair’s *Necronomicon* (Count of La Jara struck by lightning c. 1795)*,* supposedly from Krip’s *The Olde Book Shop on Manchester Sq.,* at meeting w/o Carmichael or Holmwood, daughter Jane, Dr. Stephen Jay Dawkins (Jane Standon and George Armour marry),

**“The Adventure of the Burnt Stone”**

date: early 1896

Insp. Stanley Hopkins, Louis Ponsonby, related to Baron de Coubertin on mother’s side, found with shattered skull and burned body and rifle on Olympic training grounds, had stopped smoking (?), Sir Alan Coggins, Dr. Harrison, Gordon Williamson, Ben Turner, runner Charles Stuart-Forbes not at rifle range but with nurse Mrs. Harrison: missing painkillers, coach Frederick “Bullet” Richardson’s hidden flask, equipment manager Dave Atkins’s cigarette case and matches missing, cook Norma Peterson; bare right foot! Shoe with folded sock inside, handkerchief with blood, black ink and tobacco found in armory, but missing suicide note (dying of lung disease, TB?)

**TIGER HUNTING**

While expanding my *Gazetteer* notes I came across not only Ruritania but San Pedro again in *The Dictionary of Fictional Places* by Alberto Manguel and Gianni Guaralupi. Some, such as Julian Wolff, have been led astray by the green and yellow colors of the San Pedro flag and the name Pedro into proposing that ''the Tiger of San Pedro'' refers to Brazil's Pedro de Aleântara exiled in 1889, who died in 1891. Charles Higden proposed José Santos Zelaya of Nicaragua, who died in 1909. Evan Wilson suggested Rafael Zaldívar of El Salvador exiled in 1885. Klasa Lithner had Justo Rufino Barrios also exiled in 1885. David McCallister goes so far as to state that no such ruler as Don Murillo ever existed in Latin America, and no actual rulers who could possibly have fit his description were deposed or fled in the appropriate time frame.

Murillo is a popular subject, referred to in **"The Adventure of the Hanging *Tyrant" by M. J. Elliott,*** *The Labyrinth of Death and Sherlock Holmes* and *the Miskatonic Monstrosities by James Lovegrove,* "The Case of the Previous Tenant" by Ian Edginton, "The Two Footmen" by Michael Gilbert, "The Case of the Devil’s Door" by James Goss, "The Flat-Top Desk"by Alan Stockwell.

The voodoo connection, deleted in some re-writes, however always made me think of Haiti, especially since visiting there in the '70's. Cindy Stevens also made the connection to Hispaniola and Rick Lai notes that the Martin Hewitt adventure chronicled by Arthur Morrison in ''The Red Triangle'' (1903) has "the Tiger of Haiti''. Bliss Austin's search in the British Library for *Eckermann's Voodooism and the Negroid Religion* proved futile because he should have been looking for it in the original German "Voodooismus und die Neger-Religionen" or in the unabridged *Conversations with Eckermann: Being Appreciations and Criticisms on Many Subjects* by Johann Peter Eckermann, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Frederic Jacob Soret.

My own current conjecture is that San Pedro refers not to a fictional location at all, but to Murillo's hometown of San Pedro on Ambergris Caye, British Honduras (now Belize, aka Isla Bonita or "Beautiful Island" popularized by Madonna, noted for its Secret Beach). By about 1890, most commerce in British Honduras was controlled by a clique of Scottish and German merchants, thus furthering British Honduras's dependence on Britain. The embassy referred to would now be the Belize High Commission, 45 Crawford Place, Marylebone, London. San Pedro Day is celebrated annually on June 27.