***The Norbury Chronicle***

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

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

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**Sig News**

**W**e have submitted our info to [*The Sherlockian Who's Who*](http://www.sh-whoswho.com/index.php?refsociety=298). Please check it out and tell us if it actually took and your experience there.

**The Curse of Sherlock Holmes**

**W**e came upon Basil Rathbone's description of what he called the curse of Sherlock Holmes. It was not exactly a curse upon Sherlock Holmes, but the typecasting of an actor who has played the part of the Great Detective. Jeremy Britt is alleged to have cursed Holmes for not being able to play any other role, for having become Sherlock Holmes.

**I**t made us wonder about the other actors who have played him. Those who played Holmes more often likely would have gotten a stronger dose of "the curse" [see **bold** below]. On the other hand playing Holmes may have been too much for the one-timers. Perhaps Holmes, "The Immortal Detective", aggravatedthe effect by also playing the actors who played him through the years, taking to the now ubiquitous deerstalker cap, Meerschaumpipe and magnifying glass that William Gillette popularized. Is it not a noteworthy fact that the first Sherlock Holmes in the film "Sherlock Holmes Baffled" (1900) before Holmes "retired" was played by "Anonymous"?

2013 **Igor Petrenko** gets Holmes curse

2012 **Ross K. Fold, Jonny Lee Miller** get Holmes curse

2011 Robert Downy, Jr. gets Holmes curse

**2010 Benedict Cumberbach, Vincent Aubert, Ben Syder** get Holmes curse

**2009 Ian Buchanan, Louis Macleod** get Holmes curse

**2008 Christopher Bevins** gets Holmes curse

**2007 Jonathan Pryce** gets Holmes curse

**2005 Eugenio Monclava, Ted Rooney** get Holmes curse

**2004 Rupert Everett** gets Holmes curse

**2002 Richard Roxburgh, James D'Arcy** get Holmes curse

**2001 Joaquim de Almeida, Eric Legrand, Hervé Ganim** get Holmes curse

**2000 Matt Fewer** gets Holmes curse

**1999 Jason Gray-Stanford** gets Holmes curse

**1997 Rhéal Guévremont** gets Holmes curse

**1996 Bill Barretta, Francesco J. Basilio** get Holmes curse

**1995 Jeff Benett** gets Holmes curse

**1994 Patrick Macnee, Fan Ai Li** get Holmes curse

**1993 Jim Cummins, Anthony Higgins, Radoslav Brzobohatý** get Holmes curse

**1992 Richard E. Grant** gets Holmes curse

**1991 Charlton Heston, Rupert Frazier, Jeremy Irons, Juan Manuel Montesino** get Holmes curse

**1990 Edward Woodward, Reece Dinsdale** get Holmes curse

**1989 Maurice LaMarche, Brian Bedford** get Holmes curse

**1988 Brent Spiner, Rodney Litchfield, Michael Caine** get Holmes curse

**1987 Michael Pennington** gets Holmes curse

**1986 James Downey** gets Holmes curse

**1985 Jeremy Brent, Nicholas Rowe, Ian Richardson** get Holmes curse

**1984 Taichirô Hirokawa, Fat Chung, Peter Evans, Guy Rolfe** get Holmes curse

**1983 Roger Ostime, Peter Toole, Ian Richardson** get Holmes curse

**1982 Guy Henry, Tom Baker, Paul Guers, Peter Lawford** get Holmes curse

**1981 Frank Ganella** gets Holmes curse

**1980 Geoffrey Whitehead, Keith McConnell** get Holmes curse

**1979** Vasil Livianovgets Holmes curse

**1978 Jeremy Clyde** gets Holmes curse

**1977 Christopher Plummer, Peter Cook** get Holmes curse

**1976 Nicol Williamson, Roger Moore** get Holmes curse

**1974 Raymond Gérôme, Rolf Becker** get Holmes curse

**1973 Henri Verlojeux, John Cleese** get Holmes curse

**1972 John Rutland, Stewart Granger** ges Holmes curse

**1971 Radovan Lukavský** gets Holmes curse

**1970 Robert Stephans** gets Holmes curse

**1969 Peter Jeffrey** gets Holmes curse

**1968 Peter Cushing, Nando Gazzolo** get Holmes curse

**1967 Eric Schellow, Jacque François** get Holmes curse

**1965 Jerome Raphael, John Neville, Paul Frees** get Holmes curse

**1964 Douglas Wilmer** gets Holmes curse

**1962 Christopher Lee** gets Holmes curse

**1959 Peter Cushing** gets Holmes curse

**1957 Jalmari Rinne** gets Holmes curse

**1955 Ronald Howard, Wolf Ackva** get Holmes curse

**1954 Ernst Fritz Fürbinger** gets Holmes curse

**1951 Alan Wheatley, Andrew Osborn, John Longden** get Holmes curse

**1949 Alan Napier** gets Holmes curse

**1939 Basil Rathbone** gets Holmes curse

**1937 Bruno Güttner, Siegfried Schürenberg, Louis Hector** get Holmes curse

**1933 Martin Fric, Reginald Owen** get Holmes curse

**1932 Robert Rendel** gets Holmes curse

**1931 Raymond Massey, Arthur Wonter** get Holmes curse

**1929 Carlyle Blackwell, Clive Brook** get Holmes curse

1923 Eman Fiala gets Holmes curse

**1921 Eille Norwood** gets Holmes curse

**1920 Willy Kaiser-Heyl** gets Holmes curse

**1918 Ferdinand Bonn** gets Holmes curse

**1917 Hugo Flink** gets Holmes curse

**1916 William Gillette,** H. A. Saintsbury get Holmes curse

**1915 Hector Dion, Eugen Burg** get Holmes curse

**1913 Harry Benham** gets Holmes curse

**1912 George Tréville** gets Holmes curse

**1911 Mack Sennett, Einar Zangenberg, Alwin Neuß, Lauritz Olsen** get Holmes curse

**1910 Otto Lagoni** gets Holmes curse

**1908 Viggo Larsen** gets Holmes curse

**1905 Gilbert "Broncho Billy" Anderson** gets Holmes curse

**New Investigations**

**A**fter our listing of cases in issue 39, “Frank Open” (Paul E. Blau) directed us to Philip K. Jones's treasure of a list at http://sherlock-holmes.es/database.php. It doesn't give a lot of information on each title, just where published, some of the characters, perhaps a canonical reference, but there are many we had not investigated as yet. My own list does not include the parodies or mere homages as his does, but we did discover some of *The Punishment of Sherlock* *Holmes*, etc., punchlines, reminiscent of the groaner, "The Great Dormitory Mystery" by Sharon N. Faber in *Sherlock Holmes through Time and Space*'s "Alimentary, my were-Datsun."*.* It is rather easy to deduce the rest of the storyfrom the "lunch pines".

**"A 'Corny' Conclusion"** by William Ballew: "[He was] arrested…for a salt and buttery with intent to kill."

**"A Bird in the Hand"** by Robert C. Burr: "No, Watson, just out of gas."

**"A Brief Course in Economics"** by Rosemary Michaud: "Counterfeiting is a cellar's market."

**"A Brilliant Diagnosis"** by Robert C. Burr: "[He had] come down with the Asian flue."

**"A Canine Left/Leaves behind in the Strand"** by Robert C. Burr: "He was creating a bottomless pit."

**"A Canonical Chuckle"** by Alan C. Olding: "[He] pulled the wrong knob and got stout."

**"A Case of Identity"** by Carolyn Low: "[He was] not a chicken friar"

**"A Change in Habiliments"**: "[He picked up] his dear stoker cap and in-furnace cape."

**"A Fine Cup of Tea"** by Robert C. Burr: "The Koala tea of Moozy is not strained."

**"A Fishy Story"** by Robert C. Burr: "There, but for the glaze of cod, go I."

**"A Goon and His Gal"** by Frank Darlington: "Sam 'n Janet Evening"

**"A Lesson in Boating"** by Robert C. Burr: "[You can't] have your kayak and heat it too."

**"A Pilfering in New Orleans"** by Darlington, Frank: "The Adventure of the Burial Cornet"

**"A Real Parisian Fashion"** by Robert C. Burr: "[We found] the hutch back of Notre Dame."

**"A Short, Short Christmas Story"** by Robert C. Burr: "She should name him Sandy Claws."

**"A Simple Case of Detailing"** by Robert C. Burr: "It was bound to a cur."

**"A Tent Joke"** by Don Dillistone: "[We should] seek out a dog in a pup-tent."

**"A Tibetan Housewife's Lament"** by Robert C. Burr: "Oh, my baking yak!"

**"A Truly Cannon(ical) Tale"** by Robert C. Burr: "[It'd be hard to] find another man of his calibre."

**"A Violin End"** by Jack Kavanagh: "He is bloody, but unbowed."

**"Addendum to 'The Adventure of the Crooked Man'"** by Alan C. Olding: "A stoat's stoatally different."

**"All the Prints That Fit the News"** by Robert C. Burr: "These are the *Times*that dry men's soles."

**"Amour du Derrière"** by Robert C. Burr: "She left all who loved her behind."

**"An Abbey Jest"** by Ann Margaret Lewis: "[He was] a dead ringer for his brother."

**"An Archeological Find"** by Philip K. Jones: "The Mas are in stone."

**[WARNING: You will find further PUNishment in future issues.]**

**Porlock's Puzzles**

**T**his time, since they're so easy, rather than encrypting a canonical quote, we'll give titles and backstory to some punchlines from our own soon-to-be-published *Reignbeau's Rhymes and Riddles*. This issue we will again use a key phase to generate a simple one-to-one substitution cipher. To give enough cipher text to do a frequency count, we'll do several with the same substitution. [At least that's a plausible excuse for several more punishments, eh?]

**"A Disturbance at the Zoo"**

Holmes and I were taking a leisurely summer stroll throughRegency Park, when it was disturbed by an ungodly moaning sound.

"I say, Holmes. That sounds like nothing I have ever heard before! What do you think it is?"

"I would say, it is too soon to say, but I do believe it is coming from the direction of the Zoological Gardens. Let us investigate further."

We proceeded in said direction as did other curious, yet wary, park visitors and even residents of nearby Albany Street. By the time the crowd reached the zoo we overheard countless speculations of varying plausibility, everything from a foghorn to a seasick crocodile.

When the crowd finally reached the wildebeest is was obvious that the animal was suffering from an inflammatory lung condition.

**JSU ICQ STP ICQLKCMT.**

**"The Case of the Baker Street Burglary"**

Lestrade called us in because, as was not all that unusual, this case baffled himand besides we were close handy. He had done admirably well this time in reducing the number of suspects in the theft to just two. He could not however determine which of the two had stolen the piesof which there were no trace. Only the baker himself and his young assistant had access to the bakery before opening and yet after the pies had been baked. They gave completely contradictory accounts of what had occurred.

Repeating their stories again us it seemed to me equally implausible that the baker had not baked the pies or that the assistant had disposed of them all without leaving a clue.

**KCU STG T ATEF KN RMUG TCP JSU KJSUD T RTEF KN AMUG.**

**"The Farmer's Market Fracas"**

Mrs. Hudsoncame home from her early morning shopping earlier than expected and very upset. I tried to calm her, while Holmes gently coaxed the details of the incident from her.

"It was just awful. It was, Mr. Holmes. Just awful. I'm still shaking from the experience." she said and then paused to catch her breath.

"Pray, continue," Holmes said.

"These hooliganscame rushing into the market from all directions at once. Dressed in rags they were, with handkerchiefsover their faces. They overturnedcarts and knocked down the piles of fruits and vegetables scattering them everywhere. It was only after they as quickly disappeared that the merchants discovered that their cash boxes were still secure. They couldn't have gotten much in any case since the market had only just opened."

"There, there, Mrs. Hudson. We'll go to the market for you." I said, as Holmes nodded to me in agreement.

We found the market still in great disarray, those merchants were busy setting their stall right again and double checking their inventory. Holmes quickly found a trail of clues to follow amongst the remnant debris and pursued it.

**KCU KN JSUL GAMRRUP JSU HUTCG.**