

*Baker Street Elementary*

Presents  
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



# *Baker Street Elementary*

*The Life and Times in Victorian London*  
*# 054 -- Sherlock Holmes in Disguise -- February, 2022*

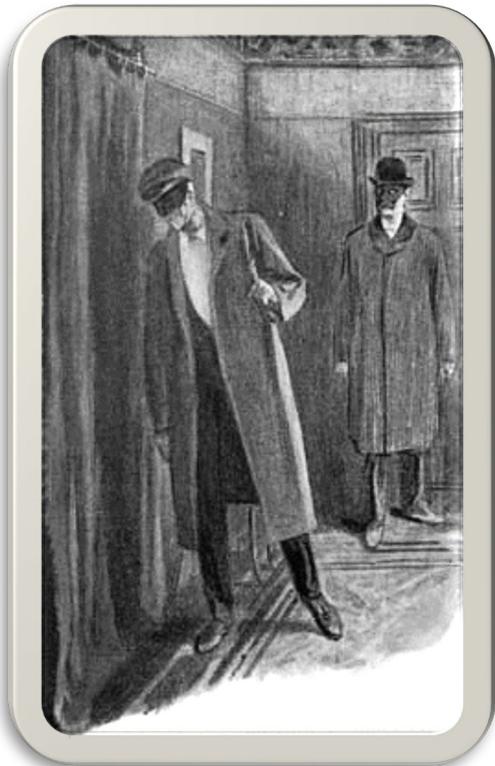




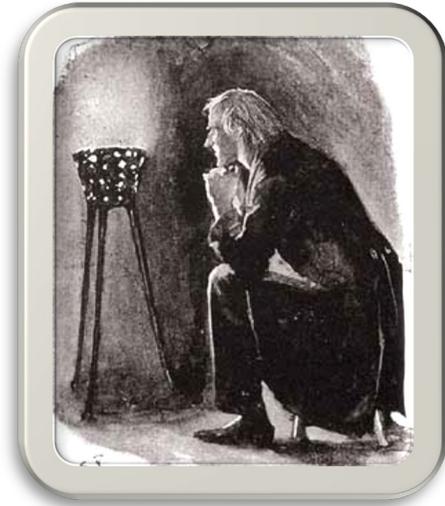
*Welcome to topic # 054...  
Today, Watson and I will  
discuss my use of disguises  
throughout my career...*



*The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia Website lists eleven stories where I used 14 different disguises:*



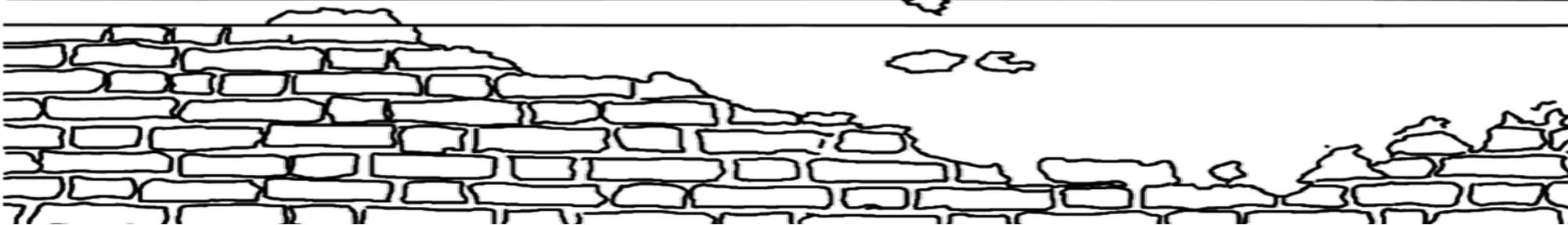
- A sailor in The Sign of the Four
- An asthmatic old master mariner in The Sign of the Four
- A drunken-looking groom in "A Scandal in Bohemia"
- An amiable and simple-minded Nonconformist clergyman in "A Scandal in Bohemia"
- A doddering opium smoker in "The Man with the Twisted Lips"
- A common loafer in "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet"
- A venerable Italian priest in "The Final Problem"
- An elderly book-collector in "The Adventure of the Empty House"



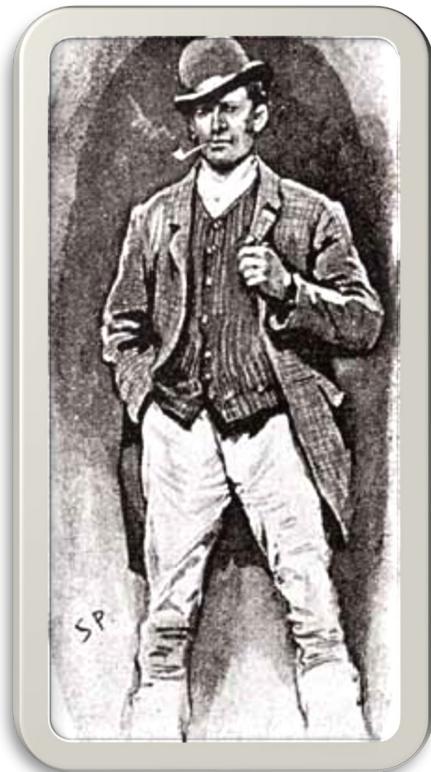
- *An East End familiar known as Captain Basil in "The Adventure of Black Peter"*
- *A plumber with a rising business named Escott in "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton"*
- *An unshaven French ouvrier in "The Adventure of Lady France Carfax"*
- *A workman looking for a job in "The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone"*
- *An old sporting man in "The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone"*
- *An elderly woman in "The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone"*
- *An Irish-American spy named Altamont in "His Last Bow"*



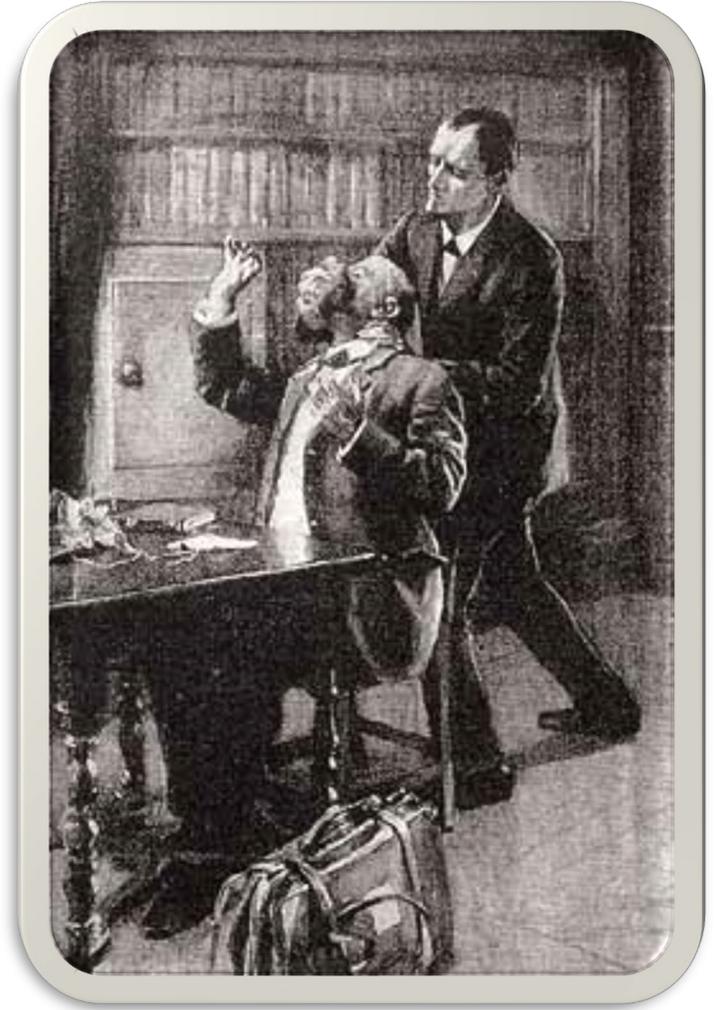
*This list suggests you were able to age yourself; appear sick, drunk, or drugged; adapt another accent; change your sex; and be quite attractive to women.*



*The world also learned from me that you were quite adept at acting and had several places around London where you could change his appearance.*



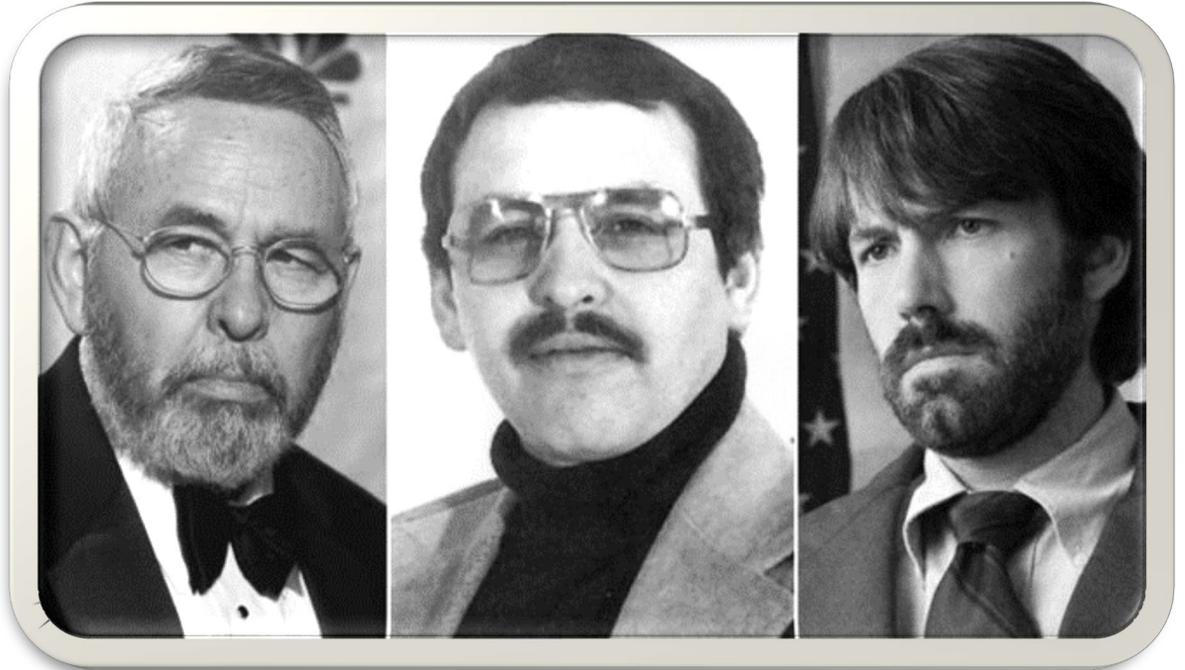
*While the use of disguises  
dates back to the Bible, my  
descriptions indicate your skills  
exhibit that of a true master.*



*As CIA "master of disguise"  
Antonio Mendez remarks, the basis  
for a good disguise is not only  
changing one's appearance...*



*...but also creating a full illusion that misdirects others to keep them from seeing what is before them.*





*The appropriate  
disguise is based on  
an understanding of  
the culture...*

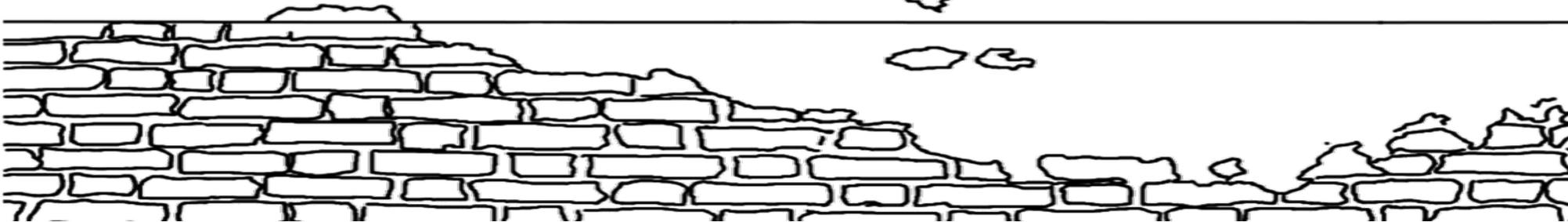




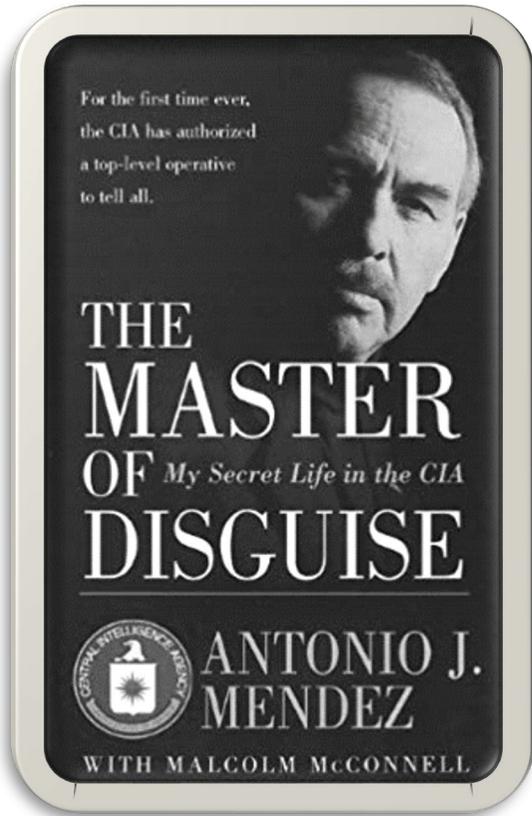
*...creation of a  
backstory, and making  
everything appear  
familiar and in the open.*



*This occurs through an understanding the culture and picking benign characters for the disguise, such the elderly or women.*



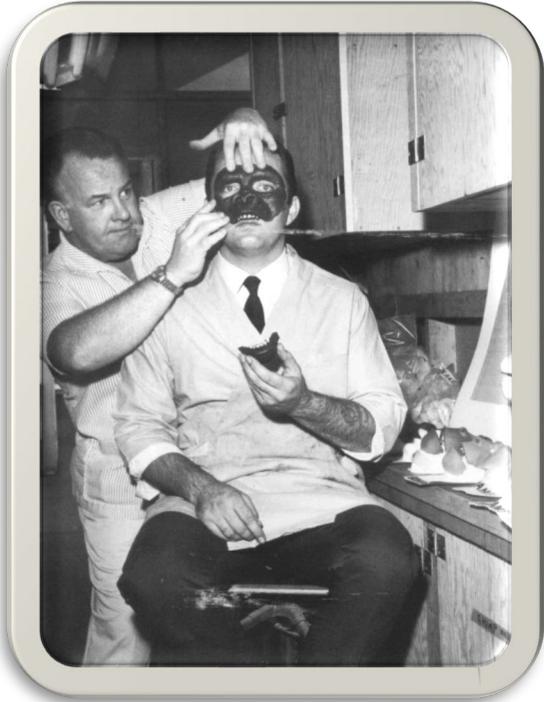




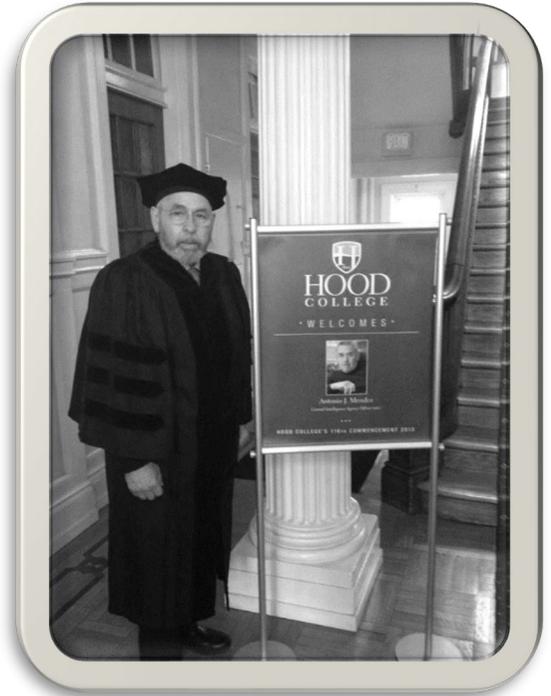
*Given the sensitive nature of the device, he only provides a vague description of the actual disguise.*



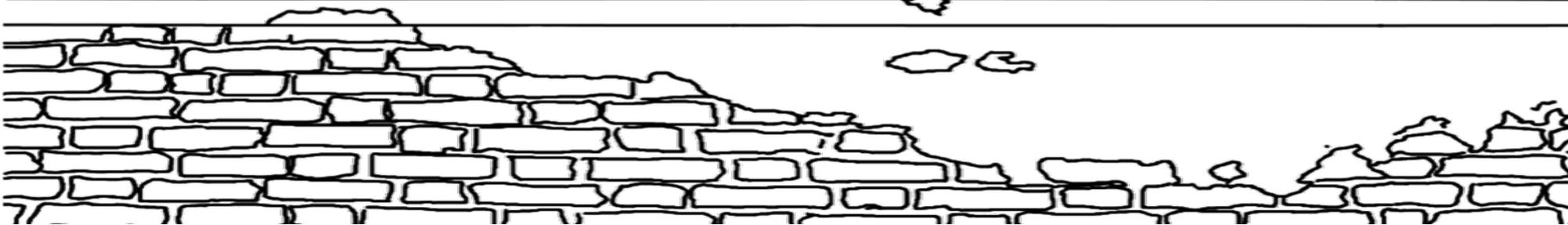
*Developed through a collaboration with a Hollywood makeup artist, the malleable material used to create cinematic science-fiction characters serves in real-life to change the race, ethnicity, and even sex of an individual.*



*Over his career, Mendez worked to create a disguise kit that could be applied quickly in the dark and even carried or stored flat to easily hide or pass on.*



*Mendez's wife, Jonna tells of her own use of the disguise at a briefing in the White House.*

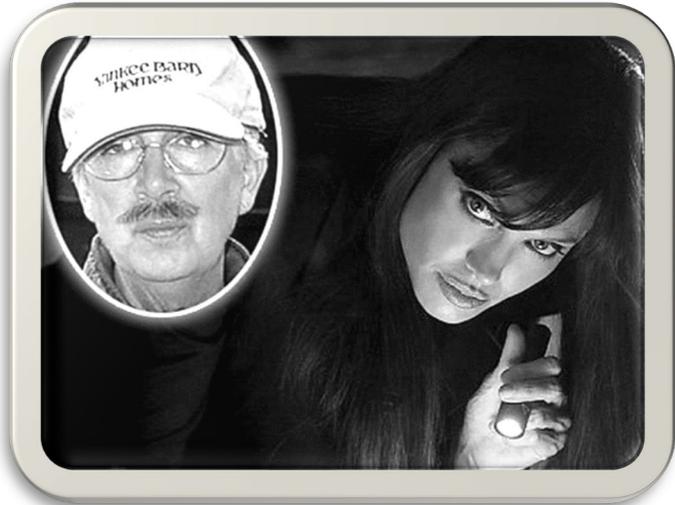


*After entering the Oval Office using a GAMBIT, she removed it—thoroughly fascinating senior President Bush.*

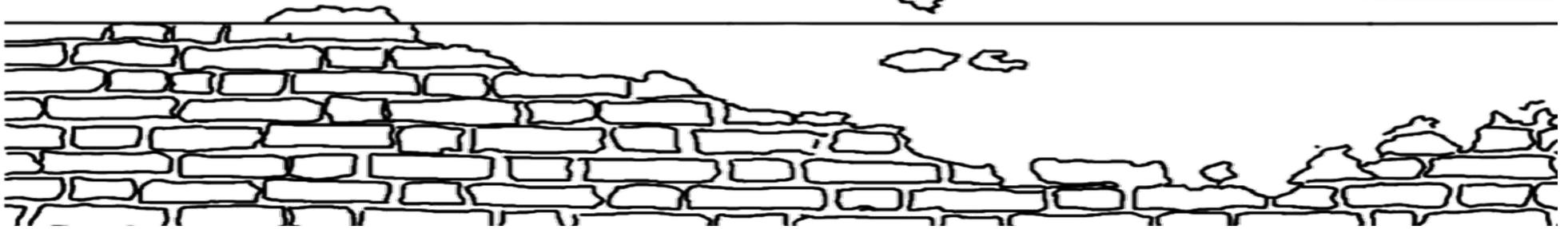


*While the event was photographed, the only copy she was able to obtain had the actual disguise air-brushed out.*





*This technique of changing a person's physical appearance is still considered top secret.*





*Changing a person's physical appearance, however, is only part of the disguise. Mendez notes it is a much larger package...*



*...the gait, the mannerisms, and the attitude — as well as good planning and strong backstory that makes a disguise succeed.*



*The operation must  
set up the deception.*



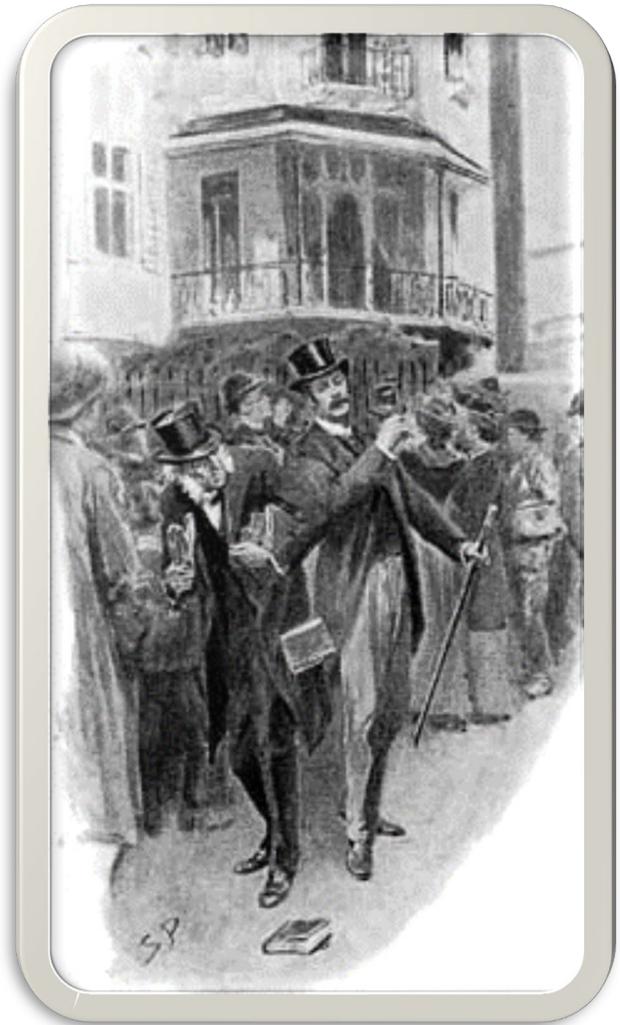
*You had a clear understanding of the "whole package" required to pull off a successful ruse one hundred years before Mendez.*



*On more than one occasion, I described how you were able to create a completely different persona...*



*...based on the character  
you portrayed — a priest,  
a bookseller, or an Irish-  
American spy.*



*This transformation was complete enough to pass inspection by me, your closest friend, or to win the heart of Charles Milverton's housemaid.*



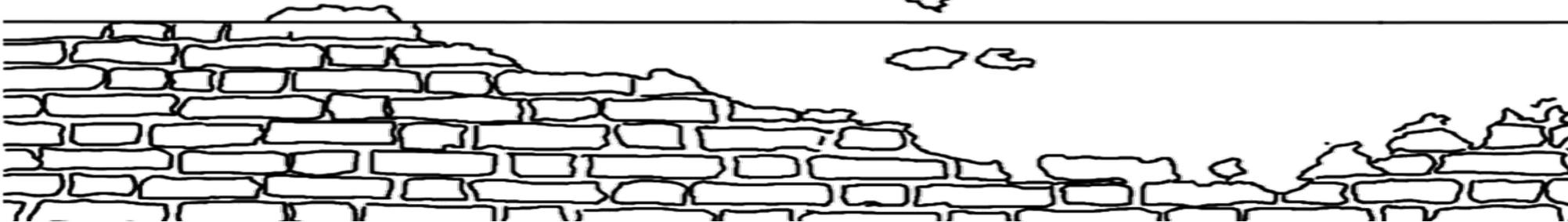


*I could so completely  
submerge my own  
personality to become the  
young plumber Escott...*





*...I was not beyond proposing marriage when I would have never harbored the thought.*



*I was such a master of disguise, I actually fooled myself.*



*So we have completed  
topic # 054 in our  
series...*

*Yes, but we'll be back  
with another topic  
soon...*



## Original Source Material for this topic:

- 1) [https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/index.php/Sherlock\\_Holmes#Disguises](https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/index.php/Sherlock_Holmes#Disguises)
- 2) <https://www.spymuseum.org/multimedia/spycast/episode/the-secret-history-of-disguises/>
- 3) <https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/csi-studies/studies/vol46no1/article09.html>
- 4) Antonio Mendez, *The Master of Disguise*, New York: William Morrow and Company, 1999, page 119.



*Baker Street Elementary*

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY

LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE

RUSTY MASON &

STEVE MASON

