



The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure LIII – The Adventure of the Three Garridebs

It could be a comedy, or it could be a tragedy, or it could simply be the next story we peruse: The Adventure of the Three Garridebs. My weekly questions and comments as we begin the weekend:

Holmes refused the king's offer of a knighthood. Do you think he would have accepted a title had one been offered by Queen Victoria, during her reign?

Nathan Garrideb is a caricature of the eccentric Englishman. Is this particular caricature affectionate or ridiculous?

Wasn't Evans' "fatal flaw" simply that he's not a Brit?

Notice all the bird imagery? How come it's there; what does it add to this story?

Alexander Hamilton Garrideb was supposed to be an American with a fabulous bequest. The "Alexander Hamilton" part of his name was chosen after the man who was the United States Secretary of the Treasury under President George Washington. The name helped lend credibility to Evans' story.



But people sometimes forget that Alexander Hamilton — the brilliant man who championed the systematic refunding and retirement of the US national debt — had insufficient funds to cover his own personal liabilities when he died. After his death, Hamilton’s friends charitably chipped in about \$80,000 to pay off his obligations. Most of Hamilton’s own property ended up being sold off at auction to settle other bills and to provide for his impoverished widow and children. Biographer Robert A. Hendrickson notes that for Hamilton’s family “it was a mortifying sort of bankruptcy.” A far cry from A. H. Garrideb’s mythic millions.

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