## SHERLOCK'S SPOTLIGHT

## A Quarterly Gazette for Young Sherlockians

## Everywhere

Winter 2024
"The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk"

Artwork by
Meghna and Pallavi Shanmugam

Holmes and Watson as Dragons


Your original artwork could be on the cover of our next issue...
See page 2 for more details!

## Welcome to

## SHERLOCK'S SPQTLIGHF

## Volume 5, Number 1

## Winter 2024: "The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk"

Published four times a year by The Beacon Society, a society providing educators with resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life.

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Associate Editors: Carla Coupe and Michael McClure

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- You must have your parent's or guardian's permission to submit the artwork.
- The artwork must be Sherlock Holmes based.

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## Welcome to SHERLOGK'S SPOTLGHT

## Volume 5, Number 1 <br> Winter 2024: "The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk"

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## Highlights from the Head-Light

This issue of Sherlock's Spotlight will find most of our readers in the depths of Winter. Lots of cold temperatures, snow, and rain have kept us all inside lately. Luckily, this issue is packed full of fun and interesting material to keep you entertained!

We kick off with a recap of "The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk." Can you crack the case before Sherlock does? Continue to challenge yourself with all of the puzzles throughout these pages: a maze, kriss kross, brain teaser, and mini mystery. Plenty to keep you thinking!

If you're looking for fun and engaging books to read, we have four new books worth checking out and a book review from the past about a title that was written by two teenagers.

What do gold teeth and venomous snakes have in common? There is an article on each of them in the pages ahead. And we aren't just all about history at Sherlock's Spotlight. Another "Text Me Mystery" has four teens in 2024 helping Holmes and Watson solve a mystery in 1895. The wonders of technology!

This issue of Sherlock's Spotlight marks the beginning of our fifth year of publishing a quarterly gazette for young people who enjoy the Sherlock Holmes stories. If you liked this issue, we have all of our back issues available for free on the Beacon Society's website. Check them out!

## Rob nunn

Head-Light, The Beacon Society

## That's-A-Maze-ing

In "The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk," Sherlock Holmes must help unravel a mystery involving fake employment. Can you and Sherlock find the missing Stock Prices and help him solve the case?

Find the answer on page 23


## Story Profile: <br> "The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk"

## First published in

- The Strand Magazine, March 1893
- Harper's Weekly, March 11, 1893


## When the story takes place

- Saturday, June 15,1889


## Primary Cast of Characters

- HALL PYCROFT, the stockbroker's clerk
- ARTHUR PINNER, gangster who hired Pycroft in order that Beddington could take the job he had just obtained; used the alias HARRY PINNER
- BEDDINGTON, the forger and cracksman; Pinner's partner
- MR. FARQUHAR, an elderly GP from whom Watson bought a practice
- MR. HARRIS, an alias used by Holmes
- MR. PRICE, an alias used by Watson


## Summary

A young clerk, Hall Pycroft, consults Holmes with his suspicions concerning a company that has offered him a very well-paid job.

The Woodhouse \& Coxon company has closed down and Mr Hall Pycroft is now looking for a job in the City. After a couple of weeks of research, the great Mawson \& Williams company accepts his application and hires him. A few days before joining the company, Mr Pycroft is visited by a man called Arthur Pinner who offers him a position in his firm, the Franco-Midland Hardware Company Ltd. He suggests that Mr Pycroft does not go to Mawson \& Williams in exchange of which he will receive three times his usual salary along with a $£ 100$ immediate advance.

However, he must agree not to hand his resignation to Mawson \& Williams and to sign a document certifying
that he is to become the new Sales Manager at FrancoMidland.

Pycroft is sent to Birmingham to meet Pinner's brother and company co-founder, Harry Pinner. When Mr Pycroft arrives at the company's temporary premises two rooms empty except for a table and two chairs he is received by Mr Pinner's brother.

At first, his job consists in looking up every single Parisian hardware store in the phonebook after which he must look for all the furniture stores. When he comes back, he notices that the Pinners brothers have the exact same gold filling, a rather peculiar observation that he decides to share with Sherlock Holmes.

The detective, who has decided to meet the strange characters, goes to Birmingham with Watson, acting as brokers seeking employment.

When the trio arrive at the office on Corporation Street, with Holmes and Watson presented as fellow jobseekers, Pinner is reading a London newspaper and is clearly in shock. As they leave, he attempts suicide, but Watson is able to revive him.

Holmes concludes that the story of the brothers is a fabrication and that there is only one 'Pinner'; lacking enough men to make their attempt to deceive Pycroft convincing, Pinner had attempted to pose as his brother to make up the numbers in the hope that Pycroft would dismiss the similarities between them as a family resemblance. He further deduces that the whole point of the exercise was to obtain an example of Pycroft's handwriting so that a 'fake' Pycroft may be employed at Mawsons (hence why they asked him to not officially resign his post). Mawsons was keeping a vast stock of valuable securities, and 'Pycroft' was to be a safebreaker.

Steve Mason, ASH, BSI

## Sherlockian Kriss Kross

There are many, MANY, roads and streets throughout the 60 Sherlock Holmes stories. Here are the names of 16 of them. See if you can place their names in the proper place in the puzzle.

Answer on page 24


A Wonderful Artistic Interpretation of Sherlock Holmes in Zentangle

With permission by Francine Kitts, ASH, BSI


# Entertainment Resources for Younger Sherlockians: Comics, Books, \& Graphic Novels 

These two new series don't feature Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson, but young Arthur Conan Doyle.


## The Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall

Written by Ali Standish
Published by HarperCollins
Recommended for: ages 8-12 (grades 3-7)

This reimagining of Arthur Conan Doyle's childhood begins in September 1868 in Edinburgh. Young Arthur is keenly aware that his family is having trouble making ends meet, and he is considering leaving school to help support them. The day after he suggests this to his Mam, though, a letter arrives informing him that he has been accepted at Baskerville Hall, an exclusive school, and the term is just about to begin. The letter is signed by the headmaster,
Professor Challenger.
The students at his new school include his roommate, Jimmie Moriarty, a girl from America named Irene, and a snobby boy called Sebastian Moran. The teachers will also be familiar names: Dr. J.H. Watson teaches Anatomy, while Brigadier Etienne Gerard teaches equestrian arts. Deputy Headmistress Hudson keeps students in line with assistance from her domesticated wolf, Toby.

The wolf is only one of many strange things about Baskerville Hall. There are mysteries all around, from unexplained noises to secret societies. Professor Challenger pilots an airship, a mysterious stranger in green appears in the woods, and a professor's electrical experiments are even stranger than they seem.

Historical fact blends with science fiction and fantasy elements to create an exciting adventure. Solving one mystery leaves Arthur and his friends with unanswered questions that set the stage for the next book, currently scheduled for release in November 2024. In the back matter, a brief biography and some photos and drawings give more information about Arthur Conan Doyle's life.


## Artie Conan Doyle Mysteries: The Gravediggers' Club

## Artie Conan Doyle Mysteries: The Vanishing Dragon

## Artie Conan Doyle Mysteries: The Scarlet Phantom

Written by Robert J. Harris
Published by Kelpies
Recommended for: ages 9-13 (Grades 4-8)

Twelve-year-old Artie Conan Doyle is in search of adventure. In the first book of the series, he and his friend Edward "Ham" Hamilton are exploring the graveyard around Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh, examining the graves late at night. Artie is convinced that the lodger his mother has recently taken in is up to something suspicious, perhaps illegal. Why else would he have a list of graveyards in his pocket, and why is he out in the middle of the night?


The second book features famous magician John Henry Anderson (based on the real "Great Wizard of the North") coming out of retirement to perform a new spectacular illusion, but he has been experiencing a run of bad luck. A local medium - whose tricks Anderson exposed in the past - claims there is a curse on him. He asks Artie and Ham to help him figure out who is really behind the "accidents" that have been affecting his show.


In The Scarlet Phantom, Artie and Ham take on an invisible thief who is about to attempt a major robbery. Of course, an invisible thief is impossible, so who is really behind this crime spree? Artie's contact in the police, the quickly rising Inspector McCorkle, secretly enlists his help.

In this series, the young sleuths face very real dangers, including a determined would-be assassin with a gun and a fierce (enormous) hound. Throughout, Artie acts as Sherlock Holmes, with Ham as his faithful (and usually hungry) companion. The stories draw on both the Holmes Canon (such as The Sign of Four, "The Red-Headed League," "The Speckled Band," and more) as well as historical figures and incidents.

Beth Gallego

## A FUN BOOK REVIEW FROM THE PAST

Originally printed in Baker Street Miscellanea, No. 46, Summer, 1986, by Betsy Rosenblatt


The Sherlock Holmes ABC Book
by Andy \& Bill Paton
Simon and Pierre, 1985; 63pp.
There have been so many spoofs and spin-offs from the original Sherlock Holmes Canon that they have become almost uncountable. One, though, that is worth noting is The Sherlock Holmes ABC Book, written by Andy and Will Paton to introduce young people to the Great Detective. It is a storehouse of information, quotes, and little bits of "trivia".

The authors seem to have gone to great lengths in research to give us all the words from A (Irene Adler) to Z (Zoo). The authors, still teenagers themselves, have worked together on the book since Andy wrote something similar for a $6^{\text {th }}$ grade report.

The book, with all of the tidbits of information in it, would be an excellent introduction to Sherlockiana, but even an expert can enjoy it because of all the little "extras" that make it so much fun. For example, "A", Irene Adler, with the quote "To Sherlock Holmes she was always the woman." (SCAN), "F", Footsteps, with the quote "There is no branch of detective science which is so important and so neglected as the art of footsteps." (STUD), and "I", Inverness, with the quote "The clothes are commonplace, save only the overcoat, which is full of suggestive touches." (VALL).

The writing is delightful, and each entry is accompanied by an original canonical drawing, including many by Sidney Paget. Every letter entry is followed by at least one quote from the works that explains the title a little better. Even the cover has a Paget drawing with a quote under it from "The Musgrave Ritual" proclaiming "It's a curious collection."

Reading this book will urge anyone to read more about the great detective and his trusty associate Watson.

Betsy Rosenblatt, ASH, BSI

## BRAIN-TEASER: A SPECIAL NUMBER

Holmes and I were sitting by the fire in our sitting room. Holmes opened an envelope from his daily mail, chuckled lightly, and turned to me.
"My nemesis, Moriarty, has sent me another puzzler to try and distract me from solving any significant cases. Watson, see if you can solve the riddle."

Holmes handed me a sheet paper, upon which was written:
"There is a 10 -digit number where the $1^{\text {st }}$ digit is equal to the number of zeros ( 0 ) in the number; the $2^{\text {nd }}$ digit is equal to the number of ones (1) in the number; the $3^{\text {rd }}$ digit is equal to the number of twos (2) present; continue this until you reach the $10^{\text {th }}$ digit, which will represent the number of nines (9) there are in the number. Can you figure out what this 10 digit number can be?"


## THE TOOTH "BADLY STUFFED WITH GOLD"

Now that you've sunk your teeth into the latest issue of Sherlock's Spotlight, consider the pivotal point in our story, "The Stock-Broker's Clerk." After Mr. Hall Pycroft accepted Arthur Pinner's offer to become a business manager he was supposed to meet Arthur's brother, Harry, in Birmingham. Upon meeting "Harry," Pycroft noticed that Harry's "second tooth upon the left-hand side had been very badly stuffed with gold."

Pycroft had, previously, noticed brother Arthur's "tooth was stuffed in this very identical fashion. The glint of the gold in each case caught my eye, you see." From these observations, Pycroft determined there was no doubt that both Pinners were really the same man. He told Sherlock Holmes, "Of course you expect two brothers to be alike, but not that they should have the same tooth stuffed in the same way."

Chronologists place the date of the "The StockBroker's Clerk" to 1889. Today, the use of gold fillings to repair damaged teeth is not unusual but, how long have dentists used gold as tooth fillings throughout history?

Dr. Anjali Singh wrote, "The use of gold in dentistry dates back to several thousands of years though its use as dental filling material was not one of them. Gold was used as a replacement for missing teeth or as bands to hold the teeth together which is dated back to Etruscans during the year 201." (1)
"Amalgam which is a liquid mercury and metal alloy mixture used to fill cavities caused by tooth decay has origins dating back to the Tang dynasty in 659 AD. The composition of the earliest dental amalgam was published during the Ming dynasty in 1505 where the composition consists of ' 100 shares of mercury, 45 shares of silver and 900 shares of tin.'" (2)

According to the website, Intelligentdental.com, gold leaf was first used to fill teeth in 1483 by Giovanni d'Arcoli, one of the most prominent surgeons in Italy. (3)

A book titled, Dental Medicine, published in 1530, described a procedure to remove the area of decay by using either a chisel, small knife or file and then preserving the remainder of the tooth by filling the cavity with strips of thin gold leaves or foil. This procedure was used for several centuries but was time consuming, tedious and expensive for average patients. Only the wealthiest people could afford having their teeth repaired with gold as the filling had to be added layer by layer. (4)

It wasn't until the 19th century when Robert Arthur, a dentist in the United States, invented a cohesive gold foil method that made the filling of cavities easier with the help of metal in a soft malleable form. Another dentist, A. J. Watts, obtained a patent for a procedure that softened gold in such a way that it could be bonded into a solid mass by using pressure from an electromagnetic mallet. (5)

One patient, W. H. Trueman, described the procedure to fill four teeth with gold by a dentist named M. H. Webb. "[For] two days I was in the chair, my mouth dammed from 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. I did not get out and Webb was at me all the time except fifteen minutes for lunch. I went hungry, not even a sip of water as we were both anxious that there should be no mishap. Another day he worked on me from three to five hours and finished about ten o'clock Sunday morning, altogether six days to fill four teeth." (6) Ouch.

In 1907, dentist William H. Taggart of Chicago developed a "lost wax" procedure where wax was inserted into the cavity, then removed with a string and a mold was made around the wax. The wax then was melted and removed leaving a void which could be filled by melted gold. When the gold solidified, it could then be inserted back into the cavity and cemented in place. Though the completed filling is
called a gold crown, it's actually a combination of gold, copper, and other metals.

Dental fillings have improved over time. "Modern alternatives include tooth-colored materials like glass ionomer, porcelain, and composites, which ensure a more natural-looking result. However, today in the 21st century digital technology is revolutionizing dentistry. The use of oral scanners, data processing, and digital manufacturing can produce perfect dental restorations." (7)

Can you think of other characters in the Canon who had distinctive teeth?

In The Sign of Four, Dr. Watson described Thaddeus Sholto as having, "a too visible line of yellow and irregular teeth, which he strove feebly to conceal by constantly passing his hand over the lower part of his face."

In The Yellow Face, Holmes returned to Baker Street and found a brier pipe with an amber mouthpiece, left behind by a potential client. From his observations of the pipe, Holmes said, "Pipes are occasionally of extraordinary interest. Nothing has more individuality, save perhaps watches and bootlaces. The indications here, however, are neither very marked nor very important. The owner is obviously a muscular man, left-handed, with an excellent set of teeth, careless in his habits, and with no need to practise economy." After describing how the man lit his pipe by gas lamp, Holmes added, "Then he has bitten through his amber. It takes a muscular, energetic fellow, and one with a good set of teeth, to do that."

And who can forget the unpublished tale of "The Dundas separation case," in "A Case of Identity," where Holmes described a husband who was a teetotaler who "had drifted into the habit of winding up every meal by taking out his false teeth and hurling them at his wife."

1) Dr. Anjali Singh, "History and Evolution of Dental Filling Materials from Prehistoric to Modern Era," https://www.medboundtimes.com/dentistry/history-and-evolution-of-dental-filling-materials-from-prehistoric-to-modern-era
2) Dr. Anjali Singh, "History and Evolution of Dental Filling Materials from Prehistoric to Modern Era,"
3) http://www.intelligentdental.com/2011/08/16/the-history-of-gold-dental-castings/
4) J. A. Donaldson, The Use of Gold in Dentistry, An Historical Overview, Part I, https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/BF03216551.pdf
5) J. A. Donaldson, The Use of Gold in Dentistry
6) J. A. Donaldson, The Use of Gold in Dentistry
7) Dr. Pragya Pandey BDS, MDS, (Associate Professor in the Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, King George's Medical University)

## Slithering Assassins

In "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," Sherlock Holmes identifies the culprit behind Julia Stoner's death as a swamp adder, "the deadliest snake in India."

An adder is a dark snake with a black zigzag pattern on its back. While the serpent in the story is fictitious, England is home to one venomous adder (Vipera berus), and this particular snake has killed two people since 1950.

More than 3000 species of snakes exist in the world, and they are found on all continents except Antarctica. Of these, about 600 are venomous, and 200 of them have bites that are likely to result in illness or death.

Corn snakes use their scales to dig into bark and climb trees, the paradise tree snake "flies" by flinging its body into the air and catching airflow, the African black mamba snake can travel up to 12 mph , and the king cobra can go months between feedings.

Most snakes inject their venom into their victim's bloodstream through a bite and involves the following parts:

- Venom glands in the head produce and store the toxin
- Special muscles near the glands squeeze the venom out
- Ducts transport the venom from the glands to the fangs
- The fangs are special teeth with tubes that inject the venom into the victim

Venomous snakes are identified by their eye pupils (round for nonvenomous; elliptical for venomous); a pointed snout; a broad, bulbous, triangular head and skinny neck; and a colorful patternalthough the African black mamba is one color.

Those bitten by a venomous snake can now receive anti-venom shots that will prevent serious illness or death. These were first developed in 1895.

They are made by injecting diluted venom into horses and sheep. The animals' blood is collected and filtered to collect antibodies that can be injected into a person following a snake bite.


I

Unfortunately for Julia Stoner, no antivenom yet existed. The story was written in 1892 (three years before anti-venom was developed).

Thanks to Sherlock Holmes's quick actions, however, the speckle-banded snake was stopped, and her twin sister Helen saved from certain death.

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD, BSI


## Sherlock Holmes Mini-Mystery

## Can you help Sherlock Holmes solve the mystery from the clues provided?

Inspector Lestrade asks Holmes to assist in a kidnapping mystery. A wealthy Texan and his wife are visiting London when they receive a ransom note. Their daughter has been kidnapped and is being held at an undisclosed location. The couple must provide $\$ 10,000$ for the release of their child. However, if they can determine the location of their child using the names listed in the note, they can recover the child without payment.

Holmes looks at the list, and is able to determine the location of the child within a few minutes. Can you decipher where the child is being held?

THURROCK, UK
ECUADOR
ITALY
YORK, UK
FALMOUTH, UK
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

TINTAGEL, UK
NICARAGUA
NANTWICH, UK
BIRMINGHAM, UK
GHANA
OTTAWA, CANADA
ELMBRIDGE, UK

## Text Me Mystery Presents

## Ann Kimbrough

## Text Me Mystery Presents LICHTSOUT

by Ann Kimbrough


Sherlock Holmes has entered the chat.
Dr. Watson has entered the chat.
Cheese has entered the chat.


Sherlock has tested me with riddles all day, and I have failed miserably!


Can you try your hand in the hopes you may solve one?


SHERLOCK IS ON A RIDDLE BINGE. CAN YOU HELP?
 DEFINITION: A CLEVER QUESTION, REQUIRING BRAIN POWER TO FIGURE OUT.

ON THE CHAIN

Sherlock's texting group is with teenagers:


They offer a modern-day way of looking at old problems.




## The Junior Sherlockian Society

Unlocking a young person's understanding and appreciation of Sherlock Holmes


During the online training, Junior Sherlockians-in-Training complete tasks to explore, experience, and extend their understanding and appreciation of the great detective.

Upon completion of the tasks and submission of "training evidence", a certificate of completion is granted.

Explore
Complete TWO TASKS to be introduced to the great detective.


Experience Read or listen to TWO stories written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.


Begin your Sherlockian training
At https://www.beaconsociety.com/junior-sherlockian-society.html


## Puzzle Answers

THAT'S-A-MAZE-ING


## Sherlockian Kriss Kross

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|  | Y |  | T | U | R | P | E | Y |  |  | A | U | D | L | E | Y |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | O |  |  |  | N |  | E |  |  |  |  |
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## Brain-Teaser

The 10 digit number would be:
6,210,001,000
$6=6$ zeros
2 = 2 ones
$1=1$ two
$0=0$ fours
$0=0$ fives
$1=1$ six
$0=0$ sevens
$0=0$ eights
$0=0$ nines

## Mini-Mystery

Holmes determines the location of the kidnapped child is embedded in the location names, by looking at the first 2 letters of each location. The child is being held at:

THURROCK, UK<br>ECUADOR<br>ITALY<br>YORK, UK<br>FALMOUTH, UK<br>U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS<br>TINTAGEL, UK<br>NICARAGUA<br>NANTWICH, UK<br>BIRMINGHAM, UK<br>GHANA<br>OTTAWA, CANADA<br>ELMBRIDGE, UK

## "The City of Austin in a big hotel."

