

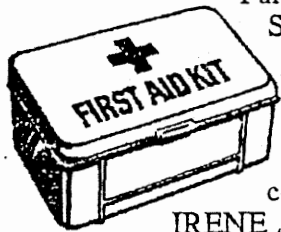
NEW The Medical Bulletin

An Irregular Publication of Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients
A Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars

Series 2, Number 3
Lab Technician - Stan Moskal

Summer, 1992
Editor - Larry Feldman

THE MEDICAL BULLETIN BOARD



Fans of the IRENE ADLER MYSTERY SERIES will be in for a treat this August, as series author Carole Nelson Douglas will be appearing at Boulder's own The Rue Morgue located at 946 Pearl Street by the mall. She'll be there to promote and sign copies of the series third and latest entry

IRENE AT LARGE, in which, I am told, that Irene's "Watson", the ever-proper but always surprising Penelope Huxleigh, finally loses her heart. If you've not tried Ms. Douglas series yet, you owe it to yourself to do so as the books are quite entertaining and completely consistent with what we know and feel about she, who will always be to Sherlock Holmes, *the woman*, as well as a score of other characters both Canonical and historical. It is also worth mentioning that "signings" at The Rue Morgue often "degenerate" into very memorable chat sessions with the author. Ms. Douglas is scheduled to make her appearance on August 22, at 4PM.

THE CRIME SCENE is the newest used book store in our area specializing in detective fiction. This tiny little shop located at 2435 South Broadway, between Wesley and Harvard. Paperbacks are a buck each, arranged carefully by genre and author for easy location of sought after titles. While his "Holmes" selection seems admittedly limited, the proprietor cheerfully solicits "wish lists" and does his best to assist you. The atmosphere of this place is one
CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE BAG

by John Stephenson



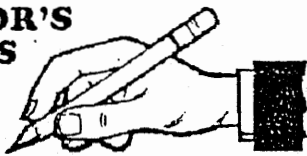
While I should hate to find a venomous serpent at the bottom of Watson's bag, the infamous "Speckled Band" (that's the actual snake, rather than the story, to which I refer) has made an occasional appearance at Sherlockian gatherings that I have attended. Usually, the Swamp Adder's "appearance" consists of an attempt to precisely identify of the type of snake that the evil Dr. Roylott employed in his relentless scheme to remain in control of the Stoner fortune. It is this question that I wish to address.

I will *not* attempt to instruct the reader how to train a snake using a saucer of milk and a whistle. Many snake experts have already gone on record in Sherlockian Scholarship to say that snakes do *not* drink milk, nor respond to whistles in any way. How milk was spilled in the safe where Roylott kept his pet, and the true meaning of the musical note heard by both Stoner sisters in the dead of night, may always remain a mystery.

In "The Speckled Band" Holmes says, "The idea of a snake instantly occurred to me, and when I coupled it with my knowledge that the doctor was furnished with a supply of
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EDITOR'S NOTES

by Larry Feldman



Hey, guess what? We got submissions!

Welcome to the third issue of **THE NEW MEDICAL BULLETIN**. For those new to these pages I should explain that our little newsletter is actually almost a couple of decades old, though, for various reasons, we have decided this year to start a new series with a fresh perspective, editor, and format. Which leads me to ask the following question: How many truly long-time members are still out there? With our twentieth anniversary coming up in a year or two, it is appropriate to look back at the history of our club and the people that made us what we are today (no blame will be assigned!). If you have stories of our clubs beginnings, memorable people and events from "the old days", or even back issues of **THE MEDICAL BULLETIN** that you would be willing to share with our modern readership, please contact me.

Remember the days of **THE LITMUS PAPER** when Ye Editor wrote almost every word included in our paper? Well, those days are gone, at least for this month. First off, we received another submission from Charlie Schlaufman. The thing I like about Charlie is that he is willing to share his own thoughts and musings with us. This leads to the kind of discussions that Sherlockian fellowship is all about. Hey, who says you need to spend hours on research to write an article? As for this article in particular, there is much I could

say, but I'd like to hear what you have to say first. If I get some comments from you, you can look forward to future discussion next issue.

In the letter that came with his submission, Charlie also comments on the article from issue #1 which discussed the ramifications of Spock's acknowledgement in the movie "Star Trek VI" that he was, indeed, the descendant of the Master Detective.

Dear Honorable Editor,

Enclosed is another submission. I hope you can make use of it.

I really enjoyed your article on the Canon/Star Trek connection. It reminded me of something that I hadn't thought of for years. I went to see the play "Sherlock Holmes" here in Denver at the auditorium theater. I remember Prof. Moriarty was played by Allen Sues; who used to be on "Laugh In". But here's the interesting part--Holmes was played by none other than Leonard Nimoy!

*Very Truly Yours,
Charlie Schlaufman*

I remember seeing that very production on Broadway in my youth. It was my first exposure to the original Gillette play, though it was just before Nimoy joined the company. Thanks for the reminder!

Our second submission was our first crossword puzzle. All the way from Highland Park, Illinois, the letter which accompanied it reveals some of the puzzle's interesting history.

Dear Larry:

*As one of Dr. Watson's newly Neglected Patients, I would like to make a modest contribution to the various analyses of his writings. The enclosed "Sherlockian Smoker's Puzzle" is self-explanatory and you might want to consider publication in **THE NEW MEDICAL BULLETIN**, if you feel that it is appropriate.*

There's a bit of history to the puzzle:

*For some 25 years or so, I've been a member of an organization, the Universal Coterie of Pipe Smokers. It is an extremely loose group of pipe smokers, who send all kinds of questions as well as bits and pieces on smoking to the group's publication editor, Tom Dunn. Over the years, Tom has published **THE PIPE SMOKERS EPHEMERIS**, which includes information on all areas of smoking, including Sherlock Holmes related topics, edited letters, drawings, etc. from members.*

I created this puzzle originally in 1976 and Tom published it in a PSE issue. Since then, I've modified it somewhat and prepared a set of solutions with appropriate quotations taken from the Canon. Rather than ask you to publish the solution, I'll be pleased to send the completed puzzle and the references and citations to any readers if they send me a self-addressed stamped envelope.

*I'm looking forward to receiving future issues of **THE MEDICAL BULLETIN** and perhaps see my little effort in print again.*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

of a business started by gentlemen who are otherwise retired from "real jobs" and are truly in it for the fun rather than profits. Also, the store seems to be a great source for you mystery radio show collectors, as one of the owners is himself an avid collector and is more than willing to share copies upon request. Definitely worth checking out. Store hours are 3PM to 7PM Monday through Thursday, 10AM to 6PM Friday and Saturday.

THE NEGLECTED PATIENTS were well represented at "The Lady Frances Carfax Memorial Walk", the twelve kilometer

volksmarch supported by our scion in conjunction with our sister scions, ST BART'S CHEM-LAB and THE POOR BIBLIOPHILES. In fact, we received the award for the walk's "Largest Pre-registered Group", which will make a nice addition to our club library. The walk took place in The Black Forest, located just north of Colorado Springs, and was sponsored by THE FALCON WANDERERS, who, I am told, do this sort of thing (sponsor planned "walks" just for the sheer joy of it) all the time. A good (though sweaty) time was had by all who participated. Those who completed the walk will receive a special Sherlockian medal commemorating the

event, designed by top numismatist Ed Rochette. I am told these medals are destined to be collectors' items, so I'm glad I've got mine! Special thanks go to Ed and Mary Rochette along with THE FALCON WANDERERS themselves for making this event happen. What's next? Well, I thought I overheard Ed discussing the possibility of a "Solitary Cyclist Bike Trip", so stay tuned.

That's it for this time. For information on our upcoming annual picnic event, please see our info box below.

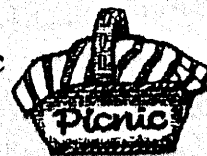


PICNIC CELEBRATION FOR WATSON

Our annual picnic honoring the birthday of Dr. John H. Watson (this year will be his 140th!) will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26th this year in Congress Park. The park is located on 8th and Josephine in Denver, just east of the Botanical Gardens. By car, one enters the park on Josephine between 9th and 10th Avenues, drives across the back of the park under the shadow of Communications Tower (you'll know it when you see it) and parks in the convenient parking area just north of the playground and picnic shelter. It is this sheltered picnic area that has been reserved for the occasion.

Beginning at noon, the party will end at 3PM. The tables and benches at the shelter accommodates up to 50 people, but you still may wish to bring a lawn chairs and/or blankets to contribute to both comfort and atmosphere.

The ever-gracious Nancy Iona has agreed to prepare her renowned picnic lunches. They are once again \$5.00 per person, and must be reserved at least two days in advance by calling her at 744-0696.



This gala event is open to all, proclaims Picnic Co-Chairman Marty Ernsteen. Marty intends for this picnic to generate some new membership, so please feel free to invite friends, acquaintances, and arch rivals.

Those with questions should feel free to call Marty at 758-5656.

creatures from India, I felt I was probably on the right track." But Jack Tracy writes in his *ENCYCLOPEDIA SHERLOCKIANA*, "There is no snake known as the Swamp Adder and the serpent as described fits no known species, Indian or otherwise." While the matters of the milk and the whistle will not be resolved here, I do feel there is a snake that does indeed, otherwise, come close to fitting Watson's description of events.

Reaching again into our "bag" of resources, we find two rather definitive books covering the subject of dangerous reptiles. They are entitled *VENOMOUS ANIMALS OF THE WORLD* and *DANGEROUS TO MAN*, both written by one Roger Caras. In these books, Caras states, "Russell's Viper, or the dreaded ticpalonga, this is the 'Speckled Band' of Sherlock Holmes fame and is one of the most seriously venomous snakes on earth. The species has an enormous range and is found in *India*." Furthermore, the snakes spotted appearance also suggests a match. This would seem to settle things nicely, but in looking further we do see some problems with this identification.

Holmes does indeed state "It is a Swamp Adder!" This could have been a local name for the snake in India, or perhaps a reference made to it in one of Holmes' more obscure readings. Perhaps it was a name for small venomous snakes that has

fallen into disuse since Holmes' day.

Another discrepancy concerns how deadly the "band" really was. Holmes calls the Adder "The deadliest snake in India." Russell's Viper could certainly have rated that title as it is capable of delivering between 150 to 250 milligrams of venom in a single bite. According to Caras, "It probably would take less than 70 milligrams to kill even a very large man." However, Holmes also reports, when the snake turned on its master in the climactic ending of the tale, "He has died within seconds of being bitten." Julia's death seemed to also come within mere minutes. Victims of Russell's Viper usually take between 15 minutes to half an hour to die, and that's assuming the venom is injected directly into a vein. It seems a painful slow death would have been more the order of the day. According to Caras, no venomous creature can kill a man in ten seconds!

Julia Stoner was lying on her bed when she met her fate, so it is possible that the snake would have been able to deliver a bite high in the torso, perhaps even in the neck. This is different from most of the victims that Caras has documented which were generally in the lower leg area. This might explain her relatively quick death.

As for Roylott, another explanation suggests itself. Who can forget Watson's blood curdling description of the moment when "suddenly there broke from the silence of the night the most horrible

cry to which I have ever listened. It swelled up louder and louder, a hoarse yell of pain and fear and anger all mingled in the one dreadful shriek. They say that way down in the village, and even in the distant parsonage, that cry raised the sleepers from their beds." From Watson's words here and the speed at which death occurred, we can deduce that Roylott actually died of a heart attack brought on by the most extreme of emotions, and that Watson was, perhaps, too befuddled by the night's occurrences to recognize this.

So, I present for your inspection, Russell's Viper, the dreaded ticpalonga and the true "speckled band." If you still have doubts on the subject, I invite your probing hand to reach for your own deadly snake of choice, in the bottom of the bag.



**A SHERLOCKIAN
MID-TERM**
by Ellen Reffel



[Editor's Note - Readers who have been with us since our LITMUS PAPER days should already be familiar with the formidable Ms. Reffel, the English teacher that teaches (among many other things) a unit on Sherlock Holmes at Meritt Hutton Junior High in Thornton. Ellen's students are responsible for learning at least one hundred facts and vocabulary words related to Holmes and his world. Well, last spring I had the chance to work with some of her students on one of their assignments, a 50 question word puzzle that even I found quite challenging. In fact, even now, as I look it over, I cannot recall the answers to many of them.

Here is the first half of the assignment along with Ellen's directions. Perhaps you can do better than I. The first person that sends me a list of 25 correct answers will have them published next issue and will receive a prize chosen specially for him or her. Good luck!]

Directions: Each word/phrase/name is related in some way to Sherlock Holmes, one of the people he knew, or Victorian England. Each one has been put into a code for you to break. There are two types of codes:

1. I give you the definition, you figure out the word.
2. I break it down and give you clues to each sound or word.

Examples: 1. a .357/urinates/myself
(Magnum P.I.)
2. expire horribly (Dynasty).

Also, to make things even easier, after each clue I will tell you how many words in the answer and even how many letters are in each word. Example: (2 words, 8/6) would fit (Sherlock Holmes).

1. physician/light bulb measurement/male child (2 words, 2/6)
2. university teacher/a type of eel/conjugate "to be"/English drink (2 words, 9/9)
3. absolutely/a catch/gang slang for policeman (2 words, 8/6)

4. married woman/New York river (2 words, 3/6)
5. the grown female (2 words, 3/5)
6. belonging to me/hobby said with an English accent/gang slang for policeman (2 words, 7/6)
7. investigator/Hawaiian flower ring/like hay/add a "d" sound (2 words, 9/8)
8. British Isle country/grassy area (2 words, 8/4)
9. terrible age/legal age/makes honey/pastry cook/avenue (4 words, 3/1/5/6)
10. the pastry cook/avenue/not standard/add an "s" sound (3 words, 3/5/6/10)
11. home of the "tower" in England (1 word, 6)
12. explosive ingredients (1 word, 9)
13. smoking utensil (1 word, 4)
14. small soprano string instrument (1 word, 6)
15. crack (1 word, 7)
16. bird of prey/proboscis (2 words, 4/4)
17. anorexic (1 word, 4)
18. fat, rhymes with trout (1 word, 5)
19. Hitler's organization with an "R"/sounds like "in"/famous composer/trips (2 words, 11/5)
20. enlarging/window pane (2 words, 10/5)
21. opposite of out/name of a stupid commercial comedian/sound snake makes/cloak (2 words, 9/5)
22. Bambi hunter (1 word, 11)
23. prefix meaning "down"/what you call a "2" when playing cards (1 word, 6)
24. simple (1 word, 10)
25. the contest/conjugate "to be"/one metatarsal (4 words, 3/4/2/5)

ANNOYING MOMENTS FROM THE CANON
by Charlie Schlaufman

After the "hellos" and introductions at most DWNP functions, the conversation inevitably turns to The Canon. A topic often covered is "Best Moments" or "Favorite Stories" from the Sherlock Holmes Saga.

Twisting this around a bit, I thought it might be fun to talk about the parts of the Canon that I have found to be truly annoying. I speak here of parts which I have never understood or seem patently ludicrous and inconsistent with the Saga's usual quality. These incidents have rattled around in the back of my mind for years, like a small rock in my shoe. Perhaps this my chance to cast them out!

1. In "The Mazarin Stone", why on earth does Count Sylvius bring the stone with him when he visits Holmes? We're talking about a crown jewel here, and the only precaution this guy takes is to put it in his "secret pocket". He could have buried it, or hidden it, or put it down a goose's throat, but, no, he's got it right in his pants!

2. In "The Three Gables", I have never gotten over Holmes' shabby treatment of both Steve Dixie and Susan, the Maberley maid. Can you believe Holmes, the true social egalitarian, humiliating Dixie for his racial characteristics?

And I cannot believe Holmes would say anything to Susan as condescending as "It's a wicked thing to tell fibs." This sounds more like his evil twin!

3. In "The Engineer's Thumb", I have never been able to comprehend the Fuller's earth/hydraulic press/coinmaking connection. Do you need a press as big as a room to make phony coins? Wouldn't it be easier and more profitable to make folding money instead? And what is "Fuller's earth" anyway?

4. Finally, I have never been able to understand how, after listening to John Openshaw's terrifying story in "The Five Orange Pips", Holmes could send him out alone, with no protection other than a warning. It seemed obvious to me, after hearing what had happened to his father and his uncle, that Openshaw was in great danger. Holmes must have expected it to, since, on hearing of Openshaw's death, his first words are "I feared as much." So, why did he send him out on that rainy night?

If you have any comments that you would like to make on my observations or any "annoying Canonical moments" that you would like to share, please send them to me in care of this newsletter. Larry says that he will print all comments of interest in the next issue.

EDITOR'S NOTES -
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Best regards,
Bob Levi

Thanks for thinking of us, Bob, and welcome to the **NEGLECTED PATIENTS**. If you come across any other materials from the PSE that you and Tom Dunn think might be of interest to our readership, and that you wouldn't mind sharing, please feel free to send it along.

And speaking of puzzles, we also have an interesting and challenging "pop quiz" given to 7th graders as part of their first exposure to The Saga. This comes by way of English

teacher Ellen Reffel, and it is surprisingly difficult. Also, we have another fine installment of John Stephenson's column, "The Bottom Of The Bag". Finally, due to popular demand, (well, no one asked me *not* to do it) we have the second installment of Ye Editor's own "The Three Canons". All in all, an issue to remember.

And speaking of "remembering", remember to address all letters of comment and submissions to:

The Medical Bulletin
c/o Larry Feldman,
533 Jackson Street,
Denver, CO 80206



AN INTRODUCTION TO:
 A SHERLOCKIAN SMOKER'S PUZZLE
 by Bob Levy

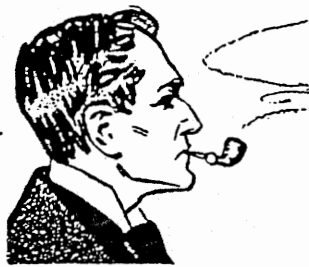


One Hundred years ago, smoking the "evil weed" was not as socially reprehensible as it is today. Throughout Dr. Watson's writings of the various problems confronting Mr. Sherlock Holmes, references to the use of tobacco appear frequently. In some of the writings, one finds cigars, cigarettes and tobacco (both smoking and chewing) playing an important role as substantial clues or important aspects of certain cases. On other occasions, smoking provides background or else gives the Master the opportunity to contemplate a situation.

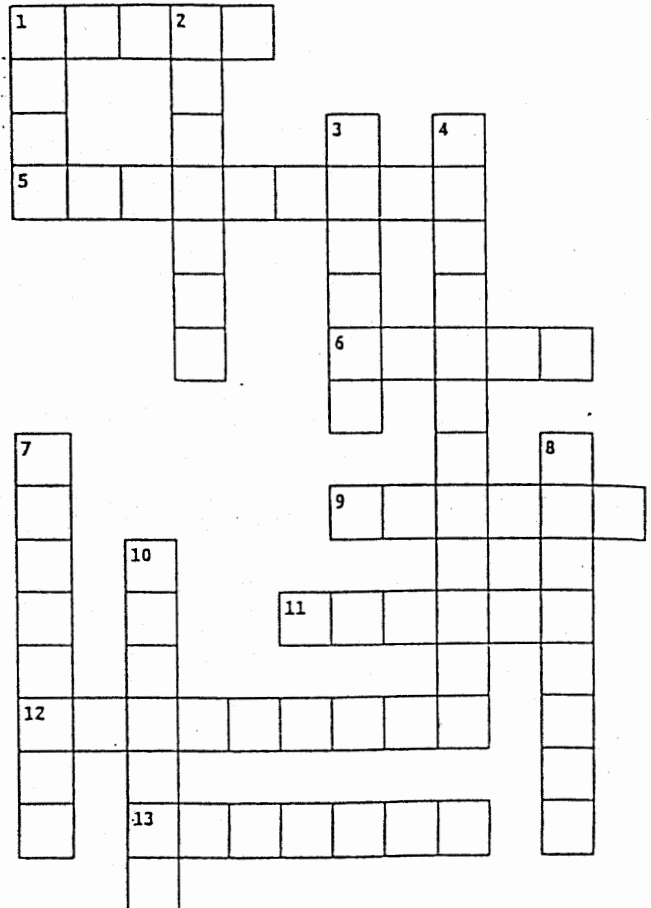
Being a pipe smoker for over 35 years, I have a rather enthusiastic interest in tobacco and its uses. Therefore, I have devised the enclosed British-style crossword puzzle which focuses on some of the numerous passages in Watson's writings associated with tobacco and smoking.

The solutions for the puzzle clues along with appropriate citations and references can be obtained by sending a self-addressed envelope (9" by 12") to: Bob Levi, 1900 Green Bay Rd, Apt D, Highland Park, IL 60035.

A SHERLOCKIAN
 SMOKER'S
 PUZZLE



Created by Bob Levi, 1976 & 1992



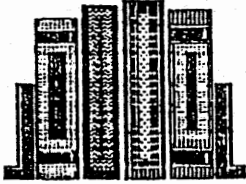
ACROSS

1. Tobacco "always" smoked by Watson.
5. Tobacco mixture smoked by Mr. Grant Munro.
6. Monograph written by Holmes: "Upon the Distinction Between the _____ of the Various Tobaccos."
9. Pipe smoked by Mr. Thaddeus Sholto.
11. Street where Watson's and Holmes' tobacconist, Bradley's, was located.
12. One of Holmes' pipes.
13. Maker of Egyptian cigarettes smoked by Professor Coram.

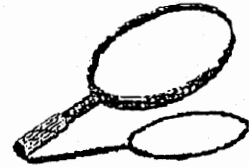
DOWN

1. Tobacco smoked by Holmes.
2. Where Holmes kept his tobacco: "in the toe of a slipper."
3. Cigar smoked by the murderer of Charles McCarthy.
4. Cigar smoked by the murderer of Enoch J. Drebber.
7. Souvenir sent to Holmes by the King of Bohemia "in return for my assistance in the case of the Irene Adler papers."
8. Opium derivative added to tobacco by Isa Whitney.
10. Brand of tobacco smoked by Watson in his bachelor days.

THE THREE CANONS



by Larry Feldman



Chapter 3 - Reasonable Changes

In our last chapter, we looked at some differences between the American (Doubleday), the English (Murray), and the original Strand (Avenal reprint) editions of the Sherlockian Canons. The reasons behind these changes seemed obscure, and were perhaps due to errors or ill thought out attempts to improve the details of the text. In this chapter, we will look at some differences in canonical text that represent clear cut attempts to change the canon for a specific reason that even Watson would be able to deduce. For example....

Ettie Shafter in "The Valley of Fear" began her life as "Swedish" in the Strand and English Versions, but became "German" in the American Version of the story.

The American Version -
Doubleday, The Complete
Sherlock Holmes, 1930.

"The Valley of Fear" was originally published in 1914. It seems likely that war time anti-German sentiment brought about the early change in Effie's nationality. This was later corrected in the American editions.

The English Version - Murray,
Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Long
Stories, 1966.

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THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES

"I thank you," said McMurdo, and shaking hands with his new acquaintance he plodded, gripsack in hand, up the path which led to the dwelling house, at the door of which he gave a resounding knock.

It was opened at once by someone very different from what he had expected. It was a woman, young and singularly beautiful. She was of the German type, blonde and fair-haired, with the piquant contrast of a pair of beautiful dark eyes with which she surveyed the stranger with surprise and a pleasing embarrassment which brought a wave of colour over her pale face. Framed in the bright light of the open doorway, it seemed to McMurdo that he had never seen a more beautiful picture; the more attractive for its contrast with the sordid and gloomy surroundings. A lovely violet growing upon one of those black slag-heaps of the mines would not have seemed more surprising. So entranced was he that he stood staring without a word, and it was she who broke the silence.

"I thought it was father," said she with a pleasing little touch of a German accent. "Did you come to see him? He is down town. I expect him back every minute."

at the door of which he gave a resounding knock. It was opened at once by someone very different from what he had expected.

It was a woman, young and singularly beautiful. She was of the Swedish type, blonde and fair-haired, with the piquant contrast of a pair of beautiful dark eyes, with which she surveyed the stranger with surprise and a pleasing embarrassment which brought a wave of colour over her pale face. Framed in the bright light of the open doorway, it seemed to McMurdo that he had never seen a more beautiful picture, the more attractive for its contrast with the sordid and gloomy surroundings. A lovely violet growing upon one of those black slagheaps of the mines would not have seemed more surprising. So entranced was he that he stood staring without a word, and it was she who broke the silence.

"I thought it was father," said she, with a pleasing little touch of a Swedish accent. "Did you come to

The Strand Version - Avenal Books
The Illustrated Sherlock Holmes
Treasury, 1984. Page 123.

"You are mad, Elise!" he shouted, struggling to break away from her. 'You will be the ruin of us. He has seen too much. Let me pass, I say!' He dashed her to one side, and, rushing to the window, cut at me with his heavy weapon. I had let myself go, and was hanging by the hands to the sill, when his blow fell. I was conscious of a dull pain, my grip loosened, and I fell into the garden below.

"I was shaken, but not hurt by the fall; so I picked myself up, and rushed off among the bushes as hard as I could run, for I

Someone must have noticed that if the Engineer were hanging as described in the Strand and in Doubleday (and as drawn by Paget at right) that he would have lost every finger on his hand *except* his thumb!



"HE CUT AT ME."

This was corrected in the Murray edition, where Hatherly had his hand "across" the window sill. See below.

"Fritz! Fritz!" she cried in English, 'remember your promise after the last time. You said it should not be again. He will be silent! Oh, he will be silent!'

"You are mad, Elise!" he shouted, struggling to break away from her. 'You will be the ruin of us. He has seen too much. Let me pass, I say!' He dashed her to one side, and, rushing to the window, cut at me with his heavy weapon. I had let myself go, and was hanging with my fingers in the window slot and my hands across the sill, when his blow fell. I was conscious of a dull pain, my grip loosened, and I fell into the garden below.

"I was shaken, but not hurt by the fall; so I picked myself up, and rushed off among the bushes as hard as I could run, for I understood that I was far from being out

Why did...

18. The Reigate Squires

IT was some time before the health of my friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, recovered from the strain caused by his immense exertions in the spring of '87. The whole question of the Netherland-Sumatra Company and of the colossal schemes of Baron Maupertuis is too recent in the minds of the public, and too intimately concerned with politics and finance, to be a fitting subject for this series of sketches. It led, however, in an indirect

The English Version -
Murray. Page 417

...become...

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THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES

THE REIGATE PUZZLE

It was some time before the health of my friend Mr. Sherlock Holmes recovered from the strain caused by his immense exertions in the spring of '87. The whole question of the Netherland-Sumatra Company and of the colossal schemes of Baron Maupertuis are too recent in the minds of the public, and are too intimately concerned with politics and finance to be fitting subjects for this series of sketches. They led, however, in an indirect fashion to a singular and complex problem which

The American
Version -
Doubleday,
Page 398

...in America?

Clearly, the publishers felt that the American public would relate better to the word "puzzle" in the title than the *very* English term, "squire".

Incidentally, this gives us the quickest way to check if a particular version of the "Complete Holmes" is taken from the American or English text. Just check the table of contents for the title of this story!

Next issue, in Chapter 4, we will see the changes in the different versions of the Canon that resulted when one of Doyle's stories is considered too immoral and sexual for the general public.