
◆ The Medical Bulletin ◆

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MEMORIES OF
THE COURTSHIP,
ENGAGEMENT,
AND MARRIAGE
OF H. M. QUEEN
VICTORIA OF
ENGLAND TO
PRINCE ALBERT
OF SAXE-
COBURG-GOTHA.



by Dame Beryl A. Sykes-Windsor

It is 1901, and Queen Victoria lay dying at Osborne House, the members of her family gathered around her. Blind and silent, she appeared unaware of those who were there watching. Her favorite grandson, the Kaiser Wilhelm was beside her, his arm supporting her on one side. Her physician, Sir James Reid, was administering oxygen on the other. Perhaps, in the inner recesses of consciousness, she was recalling events of long ago, as she slowly sank into oblivion.

Her mind went back through the years, as always, to thoughts of her beloved Albert, their courtship, engagement, and marriage.

She remembered the woods in spring at Osborne, carpeted in primroses, and Albert's dear face under the green lamp. There was Albert victorious with his first stag at Balmoral, and Albert, so handsome in his magnificent blue and silver uniform.

It was 1839, and Queen Victoria was at Windsor waiting for the arrival of her first cousins from Germany, Prince Albert and Prince Ernst of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. She was looking forward to seeing them again for they had not visited England for more than three years.

King Leopold of the Belgians, was the uncle of Queen Victoria and the Coburg princes. He and their other relatives took for granted that Victoria and Albert would marry.

This made Victoria angry and resentful and she informed Uncle Leopold that she did not desire to marry and it would be at least two or three years before she would even consider it. She did not know if she would have the special love for Albert necessary for marital happiness or if she would care for him as a cousin or brother. In any case, there was no breach of promise - for she had promised nothing.

Prince Albert, on the other hand, was upset that his own father and Uncle Leopold were so ambitious as to want him to marry into the English royal family. Albert also knew that Victoria was rather short-tempered, given to tantrums, proud and imperious. Albert was discouraged and disappointed and had quietly decided he would not have anything to do with this affair.

After a rough, wet and very dangerous crossing, the dear cousins arrived at Windsor. Victoria found Ernst to be quite handsome, and Albert friendly, and of striking beauty. He was also fascinating and remarkably unaffected.

The Queen was aware that something unusual had happened to her. She felt a mature love for Prince Albert. She wrote in her Journal, "My heart is quite going."

The cousins rode during the daytime with Ernst as chaperon. In the evenings, they danced and played music. Prince Ernst and Albert played Mozart and Haydn. After three days of these pursuits, those

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Larry Feldman - Ye Editor
Priscilla Licht - The Solitary
Typist

Mark Langston &
Beryl A. Sykes-Windsor
Proofreaders Extraordinaire
Dr John H Watson -
Guiding Light & Inspiration

Memories of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert

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close to both the Queen and Prince Albert could not believe how quickly a mutual love had grown between them.

Ernst came down with jaundice and had to stay in bed. Victoria enjoyed having no chaperon and she and Albert rode for hours in Windsor Great Park, sometimes close enough to hold hands.

After that, the Queen advised Lord Melbourne she no longer wished to wait two or three years before marrying. They worked out the details and decided that Albert would be made a Field-Marshal and known as Royal Highness.

The Queen sent a message to Prince Albert to come to her private retreat known as the Blue Closet.

When Albert received this he knew that this was the moment of truth and that his fate had been decided. However, it could not be denied that a deep and passionate love had grown during the last few days between Victoria and Albert.

When Albert responded to the message, Victoria told him he must be aware of the reason she asked him to come and she would be "too happy" if he did what she asked. They stood with their arms around each other and kissed over and over again. Albert was very kind and affectionate to her. Victoria said "He is perfection, perfection in every way, in beauty, in everything. I adore him. It was the happiness moment of my life."

They spent four more wonderful weeks walking, riding or in the Blue Closet. The evenings were spent dancing and singing.

In November, 1839, Victoria and Albert parted and Albert returned to Saxe-Coburg. After that there were many passionate love letters written between

Windsor and Saxe-Coburg.

Queen Victoria advised her Privy Council of her wish to marry Prince Albert. There was absolutely no enthusiasm, and they wondered why the Queen of the richest, and most powerful country in the world should not have a husband of a much higher status than the younger son of an impoverished German Duke of a minor principality.

Victoria was determined and the wedding was set for February 10, 1840, at the Chapel Royal, St James Palace.

At last the great day came, and Queen Victoria wore a white satin dress trimmed with orange blossoms and Honiton lace. Her wreath was of orange blossoms on a Honiton lace veil and she wore a Turkish diamond necklace and earrings and Albert's diamond and sapphire brooch.

They were married by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York, and the Bishop of London. Queen Victoria promise to love, honor and obey Prince Albert.

They returned to Windsor after the wedding. Queen Victoria said "I never, never, spent such an evening. My dearest dear sat on a footstool by my side and his excessive love and affection gave me feelings of heavenly love and happiness, I never would have hoped to have felt before. Really-how can I ever be thankful enough to have such a husband!"

Prince Albert had written to Queen Victoria and said "How is it that I have deserved so much love, so much affection?" and he concluded by

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"...it could not be denied that a deep and passionate love had grown during the last few days between Victoria and Albert."



Memories of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

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saying "In body and soul, ever your slave, your loyal Albert."

On the 22nd of January, 1901, the Queen's life gently slipped away and she died in the presence of her family at Osborne House, Isle of Wight.

The Queen wanted a white funeral.

She was dressed in white with her wedding lace in her coffin, and Queen Alexandra came and placed white flowers all around her. Mementoes of Prince Albert, their children, and others were placed in the coffin. A photograph of John Brown was placed in her left hand and a lock of his hair wrapped in tissue paper in her right hand. This was known only to the Queen's physician and her dressers. The Queen was buried beside Prince Albert in the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore, Windsor.

On her tomb was a statue of herself carved years ago by Baron Carlo Marochetti in white marble, matching the one of the Prince Consort.

Above the door of the Mausoleum were these words by Queen Victoria, in Latin. "Farewell best beloved. Here at last I shall rest with thee. With thee in Christ I shall rise again."

After the burial it started to snow. The Queen had her white funeral.



"This was known only to the Queen's physician and her dressers."

Queen Victoria and Sherlock Holmes

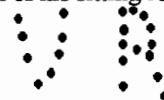
by Larry Feldman

Why should the life of Queen Victoria be of interest to the Sherlockian? For a quick and concise answer to this question, our hand makes its way to our worn and well-used copy of Jack Tracy's **Encyclopedia Sherlockiana** (published by Doubleday & Company Inc., 1977), a volume that no serious student of the Master Detective should ever be without.

Tracy remarks that Holmes "was born during the reign of Victoria and spent all but the last two years of his active practice in the Victorian Era." So it is Victoria's England that is the background for most of the Canonical Holmes.

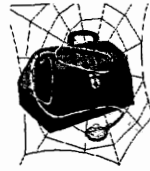
Tracy also reminds us of "The Bruce-Partington Plans." It is in this case that Queen Victoria's presence is most keenly felt. First, we are told that the concern for the theft of the plans came to the Cabinet "from the very highest quarter." Tracy implies that, at this time, that can mean none other than Queen Victoria herself. Next, at the conclusion of the case, Holmes spends the day at Windsor, and presumably must have spent some time with Her Majesty. In fact, he returned with a gift of an emerald tie pin, whom Holmes explained he received from "a certain gracious lady."

Was Holmes impressed by his visit? Enough so that (as is told in "The Musgrave Ritual") Holmes chose to "take pistol practice" within his apartment, making the letters "V.R." (Victoria Regina) in bullet-pocks on the wall of his sitting room.



**FROM THE
CHIEF
SURGEON'S
BLACK BAG**

**Submitted by
Mark G. Langston**



It's time for another report. My initial submission earlier this year being so lengthy and inclusive, I find less to discuss.

We had two seminars this fall. On October 23, yours humbly gave a talk on the life and non-Sherlockian works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.. Lunch followed at Racine's.

Our own Dame Beryl Sykes- Windsor reprised her talk on Queen Victoria and the royal family on Nov. 20. Thanks must be expressed to Terry Teis for dropping by and loaning his overhead projector and screen.

Both events took place at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall at 955 Bannock St. Thanks are due to Staff Surgeon Dennis Masel for setting up the use of the Museum Room at the Hall, and to the Hall's kitchen staff for preparing luncheon on the latter occasion.

Our Annual Guy Fawkes Night took place Monday, Nov. 8. The festivities ended early due to technical difficulties.

On Wed. evening Oct. 27th, four Patients (Bill Dorn, Fran and Dennis Hogarth, and myself) had dinner at Dixon's Downtown Grill with B.S. I member Peter Blau and 11 of His "Practical But Limited Geologists." A fine meal was followed by toasts and conversation.

On Saturday Dec. 11th several Patients helped stage a radio play in partnership with the Radio Historical Association of Colorado. The play, "The Iron Box", was adapted by Dennis and Fran Hogarth from the original

Anthony Boucher-Denis Green Script. The play was originally aired December 31, 1945 as an episode of the classic Basil Rathbone-Nigel Bruce radio series.

We can't claim to be as polished or as skilled as the original cast and crew, but we all had a lot of fun.

We began with a casting session at the home of Larry, "Dr. Watson" Weide, and proceeded on to four rehearsals. One took place at the home of our director John Licht, and the other three at the Church of the Master on 17th Ave.

The play featured a much larger cast and several new faces, among the veterans of our earlier effort, "The Final Problem." We worked separately on our voice characterizations, then met to work out problems in staging as well as music and sound effects synchronization. Each rehearsal was better than the last, but I felt that everything really came together in the actual production and performance. Everyone put all their effort into that.

Featured players among our Patients were: Dame Beryl Sykes-Windsor, Charlene Schnelker, Ernie and Nancy Witte, John and Priscilla Licht, Dennis Masel, John Price, Carolann Shetter, and myself. On sound effects were Francie Masel and Dennis Hogarth. Fred Bantin worked on sound and Joanne Bantin coordinated everything.

As part of the script, Dennis Hogarth wrote the commercials. Instead of the Arctic Ice Company, our sponsor this time was Colonel Moran's Bromo-Cyanide, a take-off on the original series sponsor Grove's Bromo Quinine.

We staged our production at the Country Buffet Restaurant, 7200 W Alameda, near Villa Italia shopping center. The Buffet provided a delicious dinner and we

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had a gratifying audience of 140 persons.

The Chief Surgeon usually devotes part of his column to discussion of recent Holmesian books. I have a different plan. As part of the background work for the talk I gave on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, I read several of his non-Sherlockian works and enjoyed them. I borrowed most of these works from the Denver Public Library. Our own club library, kept and maintained by Charlene Schnelker, has a number of title. If you are interested, give her a call.

A new biography of Doyle has been released by Saint Martin's Press: Teller of Tales, by Daniel Stashower. The same publisher will also release an American edition of Martin Booth's The Doctor, The Detective, and Arthur Conan Doyle.

To get a taste of Doyle's own writing, start with Memories and Adventures, his autobiography. It reads like a novel. Through The Magic Door is a delightful book. In it Doyle describes his favorite authors and books -- fiction and non-fiction.

Doyle's non-Sherlockian fiction is well worth reading. The White Company is probably his best known historical novel, and it is a grand romp during the time of the Hundred Years's War and the Black Prince. Round The Red Lamp is a collection of short stories, most of them with a medical theme. A red lamp was once used to mark a doctor's office.

I picked up The Tragedy Of The Korosko at Abracadabra Books on South Broadway. This book is not readily available as it's out of print, but I obtained my copy, illustrated by Sidney Paget, at a reasonable price. It describes the adventures of a group of travelers abducted by desert tribes-

men during the Mahdi's Revolt in the 1890's.

Doyle's Brigadier Gerard stories are immensely enjoyable: they are humorous, rather boastful tales of one of Napoleon's officers.

Doyle wrote two series, The Exploits of Brigadier Gerard, and The Adventures of Gerard. He did a great deal of research to have backgrounds and facts straight. These are available in a modestly priced paperback edition obtainable at the Tattered Cover Bookstore. The edition is titled, The Complete Brigadier Gerard.

By the time this column appears in print the holidays will be behind us. I trust they were satisfactory for everyone.

Your Board is working hard to ensure that everyone enjoys the events for 2000. But we can't do it alone. Volunteers are always necessary and very much welcomed.

Mark G.
Langston
Chief Surgeon



A Quiz

By Mark Langston

[The Sherlockian Quiz is one of the great traditions of the BSI and their scion societies. When I used to live in New York and would attend meetings of The Montague Street Lodgers of Brooklyn as well as the Priory Scholars (of Manhattan), every meeting consisted of a quiz, the answers over which were hotly debated. In the spirit of this tradition, our Chief Surgeon brings you a quiz designed to test both your knowledge of the Canon specifically, and the history of the Sherlock Holmes phenomenon in general. I will warn you that this quiz is designed to be more challenging than the ones we usually see around the DWNP. Regular attendees of our seminar series will find themselves at a great advantage. The answers are on page 8. Good luck, and let me know how you do! - Ye Editor]

1. What initials were on the wall of Holmes' and Watson's sitting room, and in what form?
2. Name one of the unlucky doctors who took over Watson's patients when Holmes needed him.
3. Who was the first actor to play Homes on stage?
4. Dr Mortimer left his cane at Baker Street. Who left a pipe with an amber stem? It had been repaired with silver bands. Which story was this in?
5. What tipped off Hall Pycroft that Arthur and Harry Pinner were the same man?
6. Who were the Four of the Sign of Four?
7. Who was Holmes' other landlady?
8.
 - a. What was Stapleton's real full name?
 - b. What name did he use as a schoolmaster?
9. Who would succeed to the Baskerville estate after Sir Henry? What was his occupation?
10. Name the occupancy of these homes:
 - a. Merripit House
 - b. Appledore Towers
 - c. Pondicherry Lodge
 - d. The Copper Beeches
 - e. Cheeseman's, Lamberly



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Continued from the previous page.

- f. Three Gables
- g. Tredannick Wartha
- h. Vernon Lodge

11. This Fellow was in an unpublished case. He had no luck with foot or wife.

12. What is the response to this line from "The Musgrave Ritual".
What was the month?"

13. What portraits were on the wall of 221 B? Which was unframed?

14. Who knocked out Holmes's left canine tooth and where did this take place?

15. What was unusual about the bed used by both Stoner Sisters?

16. In which case did the Worthingdon Bank Gang figure?

17. What was Holmes' first clue to the real solution of the murder of Sir Eustace Brakenstall?

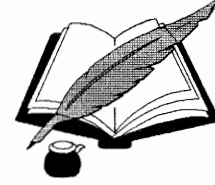
18. A Sherlockian Pastiche almost became part of the canon. Who actually wrote this story and what was it's title?

19. Who was the Sherlock Holmes of Praed Street and who was his partner?

20. Give the significance of the names Sherrinford Holmes, and Ormond Sacker, and the title A Tangled Skein.



Editor's Notes



I've got two things to say.

1) Just finished reading A Letter for Mary, the third novel in the series by Laurie R. King, featuring Mary Russell Holmes, the Master Detective's apprentice turned partner turned wife. The novel was excellent, including an adequate mystery, great characters including Mycroft Holmes, Inspector Lestrade, as well as the Master Detective himself, and a surprising chapter which will be of interest to all Lord Peter Wimsey fans. The fact that half of the work of the main character turns out to be on a red herring seemed annoying at first, since it seemed to reduce her to Watson status, rather than the full partner that she is supposed to be. This development, however, sits better with me over time. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes are developing into a team reminiscent of Nick and Nora Charles, without compromising the feel of a Canonical story. The developing relationship of "Holmes and Russell" continues to interest and charm us.

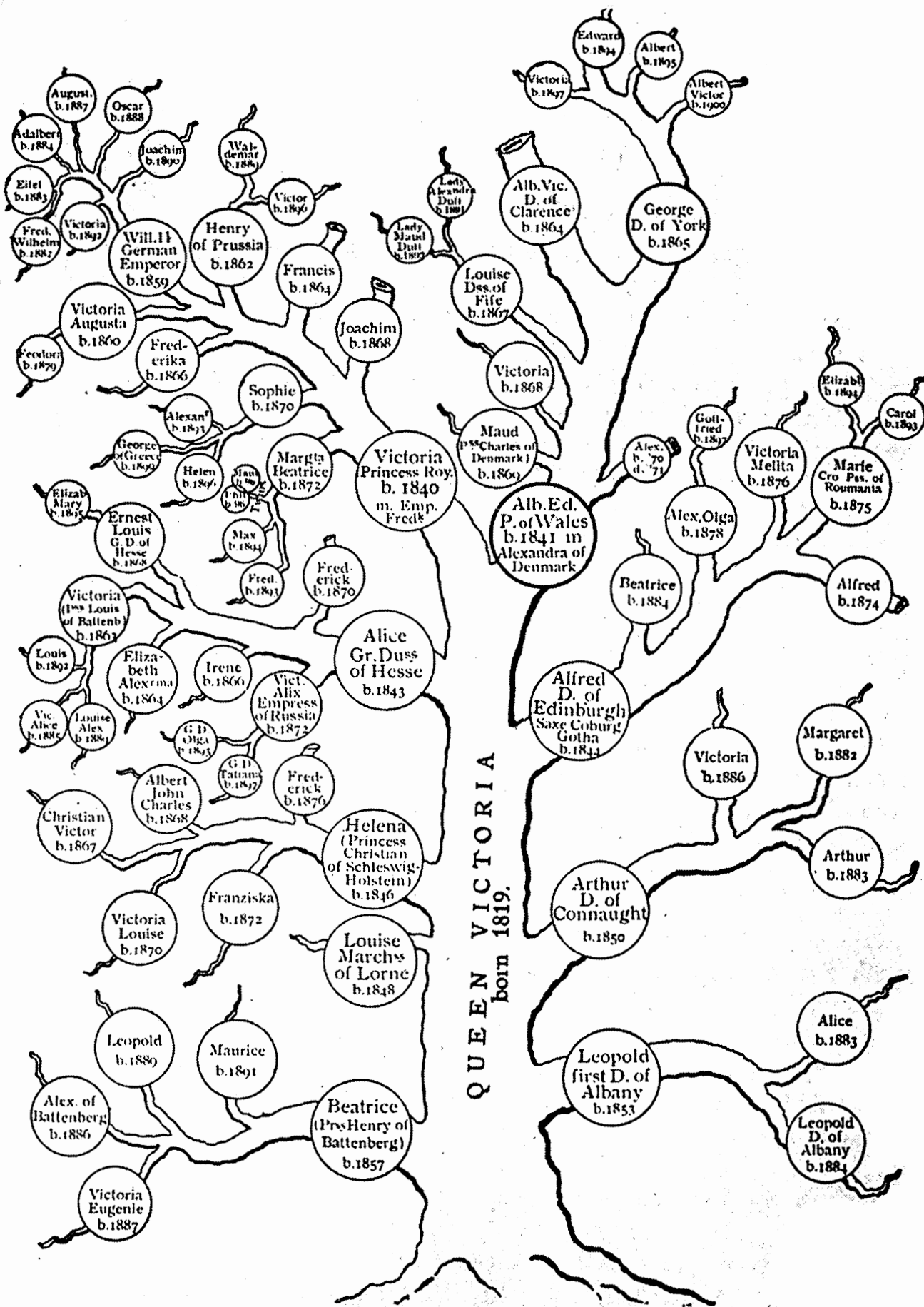
2) Don't forget to write! I'm always interested in your thoughts, opinions, or essays on anything related to the Great Detective. What was the last Sherlockian book you read? Movie you saw? Article you read? Anything you would like to comment on or recommend to your fellow Holmesian Scholars? Any question you would like to put to me or the readership? Send me a letter or E-Mail. You'll be glad you did.

All letters, comments and submissions should be addressed to:
The Medical Bulletin
c/o Larry Feldman
533 Jackson Street
Denver, CO 80206
Larry7639@aol.com



Answer Key to "A Quiz" by Mark Langston

1. "a patriotic V.R. done in bullet-pocks"
2. Dr. Anstruther or Dr. Jackson
3. William Gillette
4. Mr Grant Munro, the story was "The Yellow Face".
5. He noticed the same tooth "Badly stuffed with gold in both men's mouths.
6. Jonathan Small, Mahomet Singh, Dost Akbar, and Abdullah Kahn.
7. Mrs. Turner, "A Scandal in Bohemia"
8. a. Rodger Baskerville (Jr?)
b. Vanderleur
9. James Desmond, a distant cousin and an elderly clergyman in Westmoreland.
10. a. The Stapletons
b. Charles Augustus Milverton
c. The Shoitos
d. Jephro Rucastle and Family
e. Robert Ferguson
f. Mrs. Mary Maberly
g. The Tregennis Family
- h. Baron Adelbert Grunner
11. Ricoletti
12. "The Sixth from the first" (These lines do not appear in the American editions.)
13. Henry Ward Beecher and General Charles George "Chinese" Gordon. Beecher's was unframed.
14. Mathews, in the waiting room at Charring Cross Station.
15. It was clamped to the floor.
16. "The Resident Patient"
17. Though three wine glasses had been used, only one contained beeswing.
18. Arthur Whitaker wrote this story, variously title "The Adventure of the Sheffield Banker" or "The Case of the Man who was Wanted."
19. Solar Pons and Dr. Lyndon Parker were the main characters of a series of pastiches written by August Derleth.
20. These were the names Sir Arthur Conan Doyle used originally for Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, A Tangled Skein was Doyle's working title for what became A Study in Scarlet.



The Family Tree of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.