

World Wide Sherlock - Scott Monty has initiated a project at www.frapp.com/sherlockians to map nearly 300 Sherlockian societies, using a web-based mapping system called Frapp. You can add your society's website to the description or add yourself as an individual, or your favourite Sherlockian site of interest. The Sydney Passengers and the other Australian societies are there and the Captain is presently updating our entry.



Inside Justice Week is organised in England from 18 - 25 November by the Criminal Justice System to give ordinary people a "chance to see behind the scenes of the justice system in England and Wales...events up and down the country offer you the chance to see the inner workings of our police stations, courts, and prisons." You can also explore the system on line at <<http://insidejustice.cjsonline.gov.uk/polls/index.php>>. Of particular interest, there is an online poll where you can vote for the best fictional agent of justice. Currently, Sherlock Holmes is well ahead of the field (and quite justifiably so). Holmes' most serious rivals in the poll are Inspector Morse, James Bond, Rumpole of the Bailey and Miss Marple. Other nominees are a motley bunch comprising Jack Regan (*The Sweeney*), Mr Barrowclough (*Porridge*), Judge John Deed (the title character played by Martin Shaw in the current BBC series), Iris Cope (Honor Blackman in an ITV series, *Probation Officer*; that ran from 1959 - 1962!), and Danger Mouse!

Who is your all-time favourite British justice character?



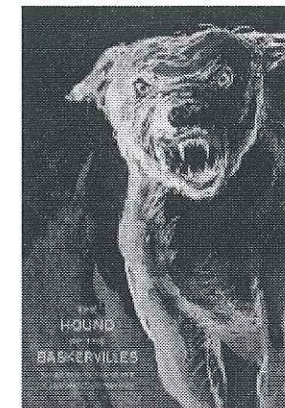
'The' Icon - Sherlock Holmes was among a list of 20 new "icons of England" announced on 1st August for inclusion in the 'ICONS - A portrait of England' website, which aims to stimulate thought and study about England's cultural heritage. To date a total of 33 icons have been approved including Sherlock Holmes, Big Ben, Fish & Chips, Cricket, *Alice in Wonderland*, Robin Hood, Real Ale, the English Pub and *Pride and Prejudice*. The list continues to grow with hundreds of nominations waiting in the wings. At present you can vote on line for 72 of them, giving a thumbs up or down to e.g. the 'Times' crossword, Peter Pan, *My Fair Lady*, *Absolutely Fabulous*, and the sausage roll. You can also add to the list of nominees (e.g. the garden shed, the English weather, that are waiting to join the voting queue. A fun site at www.icons.org.uk

Looking for that perfect Christmas gift for a fellow Passenger? there are some great bargains at our usual friendly purveyors of quality Sherlockian books. Check out the following sites: Breese Books at <http://www.murder-mystery.com/specialbreeseoff.html>; Calabash Press at <http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Calabashsale2006.htm>; Rupert Books at <http://www.geocities.com/rupertbooks/> and Classic Specialties at <http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>



The Curious Incident of the Dogs in the Canon

by Robert Veld



"Is there any point to which you wish to draw my attention?"
 "To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time."
 "The dog did nothing in the night-time."
 "That was the curious incident," remarked Sherlock Holmes.

The above exchange between Sherlock Holmes and Inspector Gregson is one of the most famous and frequently quoted whenever a Sherlockian or Holmesian scholar takes up his or her pen to contribute to the ever-expanding volume that is the study of Sherlock Holmes. The importance of what the dog did, or rather did not do, during the night of Silver Blaze's disappearance proved to be something of profound importance and it gave Sherlock Holmes one of the keys with which to solve the case. In the words of Sherlock Holmes whilst explaining the abduction of the racehorse Silver Blaze:

"Obviously the midnight visitor was someone whom the dog knew well."

Sherlock Holmes was shown to have had a remarkable respect and admiration for the dog and its abilities. While there are several adventures spread throughout the Canon that clearly demonstrate this beyond any doubt, it is perhaps amplified early on in *The Adventure of the Creeping Man* with Holmes commenting to Watson:

"I have serious thoughts of writing a small monograph upon the uses of dogs in the work of the detective."

Here without question is Holmes' admission (in the words of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) that the dog is, and should be looked upon, as having a pivotal role in criminal investigation. In many respects Sherlock Holmes was Conan Doyle's vehicle through which he conveyed many of his thoughts and beliefs on a number of issues pertaining to how a scientific approach could be used to solve a crime.

As is well known, it was Dr. Joseph Bell, a lecturer and one-time mentor to Doyle, who impressed on him the importance of observation, deduction and the practical application of science. It was Dr. Joseph Bell who was one of the first to solve a murder in England using scientific methods, this being the murder of Elizabeth Chantrelle by her husband Eugene in 1878. Eugene was later hung for his crime and it's likely that he would have got away with it had Bell not investigated the matter. The fact that Conan Doyle felt compelled to take what he had himself observed and learnt from his mentor and to demonstrate it as an effective tool for solving crimes by way of a fictional detective is in itself remarkable, if not visionary. In Dr. Joseph Bell, Conan Doyle saw a truly remarkable man whom he publicly acknowledged as his inspiration for his fictional creation.

In a time before fingerprints were used to identify wrongdoers (first established in England in about 1901 but not accepted in a criminal court until some years later) and having few established true crime solving techniques, the police force of the late 1800's was still very much in its infancy. Relying on ear measurements and photographs of suspects who often distorted their

faces to render the pictures useless for building up databases of potential criminals, deductive reasoning and a scientific approach to crime was seriously lacking. The creation of Sherlock Holmes in 1887 would give the world one of its very first demonstrations of how science could be applied to the solving of crime.

There may forever be an argument by academics as to whether the Sherlock Holmes stories themselves ever influenced the real-life police forces of their day. There is definitely some evidence of note to suggest that they did in fact play their part in what could perhaps be deemed “influencing” the course of history. For example, in 1906 Dr J. Bercher produced ‘L’Oeuvre de Conan-Doyle et la police scientifique au vingtieme siecle’¹ with a preface by Dr R. A. Reiss, Professeur de Police Scientifique a l’Universite de Lausanne. In 1908 Alfred Lichtenstein had written ‘Der Kriminalroman. Eine literarische und forensisch-medizinische Studie mit Anhang: Sherlock Holmes zum Fall Hau’² published in Munich.

Some of the points mentioned above could also be further emphasised by comments that Conan Doyle himself made. The first example is an excerpt from the preface that he wrote to the 1929 John Murray edition of the complete long stories:

Having endured a severe course of training in medical diagnosis, I felt that if the same austere methods of observation and reasoning were applied to the problems of crime some more scientific system could be constructed. On the whole, taking the series of books, my view has been justified, as I understand that in several countries some change has been made on account of these stories.

In May 1930, two months prior to his death (but released after he died in June 1930) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle made a recording for His Master’s Voice. An excerpt from it again backs the possibility that the Sherlock Holmes stories influenced the real life investigation of crime around the world:

I thought that I would try my hand at writing a story where the hero would treat crime as Dr Bell treated disease, and where science would take the place of chance. The result was Sherlock Holmes, and I confess that the result has surprised me very much, for I learn that many schools of detection in France, in Egypt, in China and elsewhere have admittedly founded their system upon that of Holmes.

All of that aside, however, there is something contained within the Sherlock Holmes Canon that is (as we now know today) an undeniable truth. Unfortunately, it is a truth that remained largely unrealised by the police forces of the world right up until near the end of the original publication of the Sherlock Holmes stories – *the importance of the dog*.

“I would rather have Toby’s help than that of the whole detective force of London.”

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was, as we know from his immaculately researched historical works, a person who enthusiastically studied history. He was also somebody who participated at one time or another in hunting game. There can be no doubt that Doyle himself understood dogs’ abilities very well otherwise they would not have played such key roles in some of his written works.

¹ ‘The work of Conan Doyle and the scientific police of the 20th century’.

² ‘The Crime Novel. A literary and forensic medical study with appendix. Sherlock Holmes on the Hau case’. (This was a sensational case in Germany in which Carl Hau was convicted in 1907 of murdering his mother-in-law, largely based on circumstantial evidence.)

In *The Sign of the Four*, first published in 1890, Sherlock Holmes (in only his second published adventure) is shown utilising a “tracking” dog named Toby. The fact that he remarks to Watson that he would rather have Toby’s help than that of the whole detective force of London is interesting in that it hints at the dog having been used previously, and one could conclude from the glowing praise, very successfully. This is the first instance in which Sherlock Holmes is shown to use such a “tracking” dog³

Only three years after the publication of *A Study in Scarlet* in 1887 a dog played a key role in helping to solve a criminal investigation. It does certainly seem that, at least to Doyle, the use of a dog to track a human suspect would be highly effective and should be a commonplace practice. Chapters 7 (‘The Episode of the Barrel’) and 8 (‘The Baker Street Irregulars’) of *The Sign of the Four* detail the account of Holmes and Watson being led by Toby upon the creosote trail left by Jonathon Small and Tonga. It is told in a truly believable manner and could further indicate that Conan Doyle himself had either seen such a demonstration first hand or had a detailed knowledge of how it would (in real-life) play out:

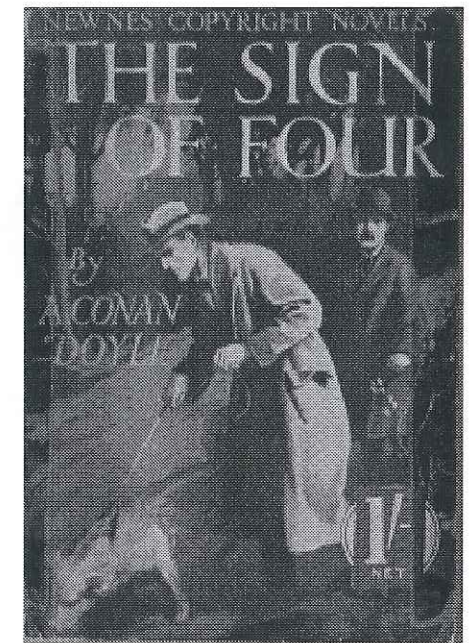
The creature instantly broke in to a succession of high, tremulous yelps, and, with his nose on the ground, and his tail in the air, pattered off upon the trail at a pace which strained his leash and kept us at the top of our speed.

To further add weight to his knowledge of “tracking” dogs, Conan Doyle then succeeds by showing Holmes’ use of Toby not to be infallible:

“What now?” I asked. “Toby has lost his character for infallibility.”

“He acted according to his lights,” said Holmes, lifting him from the barrel and walking him out of the timber-yard. “If you consider how much creosote is carted about London in one day, it is no great wonder that our trail should have been crossed. It is much used now, especially for the seasoning of wood. Poor Toby is not to blame.”

If proof were needed that Conan Doyle knew of and understood the effectiveness of a tracking dog as well as its shortcomings it is right here. Could the failed attempts at using bloodhounds in the Jack the Ripper murders in 1888 have been a trigger for the creation of Toby? *The Sign of the Four* (in terms of its writing) was started some time after August 30, 1889 and completed by late September, 1889, less than 12 months after the last Ripper victim. The story gave Doyle the perfect opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of the dog, and given that the demonstrations of the two bloodhounds in Hyde Park in October 1888 received much publicity in the papers at the time, there can be no doubt that he knew about them.



Unacknowledged illustration, early Newnes edition of SIGN

³ The other occasion that Sherlock Holmes is noted as having enlisted the abilities of a dog to track an individual was during *The Adventure of the Missing Three Quarter* that was first published in 1904. A short cross beagle/foxhound type called Pompey (a draghound) was the canine in this instance.

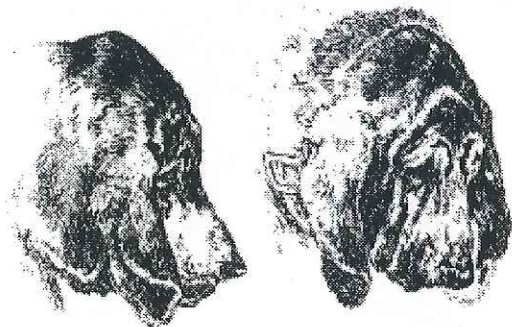
"We feel that London is no place for Police dogs."

The early use of dogs by the law enforcement bodies that adopted them was primarily for the guarding and patrolling of major facilities, assisting in the apprehension of criminals and the controlling and dispersion of crowds. They also served as a highly successful deterrent to people who would commonly attack police. Utilising the dog's remarkable scent tracking abilities by law enforcement agencies would go unrealised until the very beginning of the 1900's.

As far as I have been able to discover the very first recorded instance of any dogs being used in any form of (what could be deemed) official police work was in France. Here they were used to guard dock installations. This was in St. Malo in the early part of the 14th century. This continued until 1770 when unfortunately, a naval officer was killed by one or more of the dogs. Their use in this role was abolished following this incident.

In the 15th century in England, Parish Constables took dogs with them on night patrols perhaps more for the company than for any other purpose. This practice appears to have continued into the 19th century with police officers often taking their own pet dogs with them. In the 1890's a fox terrier called 'Topper', who was kept at London's Hyde Park Police Station, was made available to officers who wished to take him on patrol with them.

In England the first officially recognised attempt to use dogs in police work was short lived and never proceeded beyond demonstrations. At 7am on October 8th 1888 in Regents Park two bloodhounds named Barnaby and Burgho, in the company of Sir Charles Warren, demonstrated their abilities to track individuals. There are conflicting stories concerning their use and success (or lack of, depending on the source) and the dogs were never put into action on the trail of the man that history would come to remember as Jack the Ripper.



Burgho

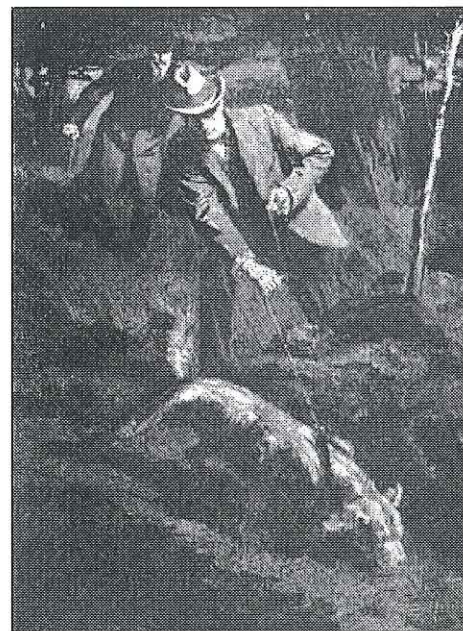
Barnaby

Following this, the next significant record of the use of dogs was to control and combat street gangs in Paris in 1895. As a result of their success in Paris the German police utilised dogs in this same role in the following year. It is quite possible that it is to a Prussian (German) Police Inspector named Franz Laufer that the Police forces of the modern day owe

a great deal. In 1897 following several attacks on police at night whilst on patrol Inspector Laufer (who had absolutely no experience with dogs at all) began pushing for the introduction of some dogs to accompany officers. He also believed that the dogs could be used to track escaping criminals from crime scenes.

Finally, in 1901, Inspector Laufer was successful and Caesar (a Great Dane) entered police service. Soon other dogs followed and it was not long before the Inspector's beliefs were justified. Following some kind of incident, one of the dogs succeeded in tracking a criminal for over two miles! Following this triumph the Inspector, along with his still new four-legged recruits, were rewarded with some much-needed publicity. While I could not confirm it absolutely, this may have been the first successful tracking of a criminal by a dog officially attached to a police force.

Around this time serious attention was also being paid to the dog by other police forces on the Continent with Belgium and France beginning to integrate dogs into their force structures. However, the emphasis was still on the guarding and patrolling of infrastructure as well as



F.H. Townsend's illustration for the 1903 Newnes Edition of SIGN

police officer protection. The Police Forces of the UK were well behind the efforts being made on the continent. It was not until the early years of the Twentieth Century that a Colonel Richardson (who was himself a competent dog trainer) lobbied the Metropolitan Police to introduce dogs into its force structure. In 1906 some officials from the Metropolitan Police force arrived in France to see first hand the effectiveness of their dogs. However, they were unimpressed and their report to the Commissioner left no doubt as to their thoughts on the whole matter:

"The dogs are useful but their expertise has been exaggerated. We feel that London is no place for Police dogs."

It would take the work of another individual, a Mr Geddes, who was the Chief Goods Manager for Hull Docks in Yorkshire that would ultimately lead to the UK getting its first official Police dogs. In the same year that the Metropolitan Police sent their people to France to assess Police dogs, Mr Geddes was in Belgium where he witnessed the Ghent Police dogs in action and

immediately believed that they would be highly effective in helping patrol and police the Hull docks. Upon his return to the UK he met with Superintendent J Dobie of the North Eastern Railway Police, who was responsible for the security of the docks at Hull.

In November 1907 both men visited Ghent to gather information on the police dog section, which by this stage now numbered a total of 40 dogs. In early 1908 the Hull docks would see their first ever dog patrols and this would also mark the point in history when the first official police dogs would enter service anywhere in the UK. At about this time the 'Penny Pictorial' magazine reported on the introduction of the dogs and one particular sentence best sums up the English attitude towards them:

"In a novel experiment by the North Eastern Railway Police, dogs are to be used as detectives on the docks at Hull."

The "experiment" as the 'Penny Pictorial' called it proved to be successful. By late November of that very same year the Hartlepool docks received dogs, with the Tyne dock and the Middlesbrough docks following suit soon after. Dogs from Hull would eventually find their way into other railway companies' police forces around the country.

Following the success of these dogs in patrolling the docks it was the military that would next take an interest in the work being done at Hull. However, by the time World War I began, the Germans had already been fully appreciative and aware of the dog's abilities as a security mechanism. At the start of the conflict, Germany already had 6,000 fully trained guard dogs while the British Army had one.

After the war it was again the Germans who continued to show the way with their Police dog training programs. In 1920 a specialized dog training school was established in Greeheide (Germany) to train dogs in obedience, tracking and searching. For the first time a police force

would learn to specifically use the tracking abilities of a dog as well as exploring more in depth its other, as yet, fully unrealised traits. It would be a turning point that would eventually change the face of policing around the world.

"I am not retained by the Police to supply their deficiencies."

In England it was not until the late 1920's that other "non-railway" and "non-dock" police forces began taking an interest in the dog and its abilities. It took until 1934 for the Home Office to begin investigating and assessing them for use by the Metropolitan Police. In 1938 the Metropolitan Police were given two Labradors that began patrolling on the streets of Brixton and Southwark and it was also about this time that many of the already established German techniques began being adopted by the English. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle had used Sherlock Holmes and Toby to demonstrate the tracking of suspects in 1890.

Exactly why it took until 1938 for the first official police dog training school to be established for the training of tracking hounds for the Metropolitan Police is truly remarkable when the history and use of dogs is considered. Primarily it is the bloodhound breed of dog of which the most history is written (and survives) in relation to tracking both animal and human. This breed is recognised as the best of all tracking dogs and has a remarkable ability to follow a cold scent.

Exactly how long the bloodhound has been in existence and for how long humans have utilised its tracking abilities is unknown. It is one of Britain's oldest dog breeds and this also serves as a bad reflection upon the police forces of the UK given their (the bloodhound's) extensive use both in animal hunting and (attempted) human tracking throughout history. Noblemen had used them to hunt wild boar and deer in Britain for centuries but with the extinction of boar in Britain the breed appeared to lose favour once the quarry shifted to rabbits and foxes. Draghounds of one kind or another continue to be used to this day for the hunting of game.

While I did find a reference to bloodhounds being used to track humans as early as 1220, I could find no further information to support this. Medieval records however do indicate that

these dogs were used to track Robert the Bruce and William Wallace (about 1307). Perhaps the most remarkable record is an account written by the 17th century scientist Robert Boyle (1672-91, but a man clearly ahead of his time) of tests conducted concerning the bloodhound's man-tracking abilities.

"Hist!" cried Holmes, and I heard the sharp click of a cocking pistol. "Look out! It's coming!"

"Footprints?"

"Footprints."

"A man's or a woman's?"

Dr. Mortimer looked strangely at us for an instant, and his voice sank almost to a whisper as he answered:

"Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound!"

With these closing words, the first instalment of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* as it was first published in the Strand



Sidney Paget's famous illustration for *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

Magazine,⁴ drew to a close leaving readers to wait a whole month for the next number. It is without doubt one of the finest Sherlock Holmes stories and is regarded by many as one of the world's greatest detective stories.

With *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Conan Doyle brings his detailed knowledge of dogs masterfully into play. Despite the fact that the Hound does not make an appearance until the story's end, the entire tale is exceptionally constructed around it and its abilities. Abilities intended as a tool for murder by the evil genius Stapleton. The three key dog traits exploited by Stapleton in his master plan to eventually lay claim to the Baskerville estate are based around the dog's scent-tracking ability, its sheer ferocity and its great strength. Pound for pound a dog is a much stronger creature than a full-grown man and an aggressive animal is indeed a very dangerous one. It was very much a dog's superior strength and ferocity that led the Ancient Greeks and Romans to form frontline units of "war dogs" within their military forces - and they were very effective.

Just as Sherlock Holmes had used Toby to track down Jonathon Small in *The Sign of the Four*; here Stapleton utilises the very same ability to attempt the murder of Sir Henry Baskerville. The two points of extreme interest here surround the theft of two of Sir Henry's boots and the death of Seldon, the escaped convict. In the first instance (concerning the boots) it is a brand new and never-worn tan boot that is stolen only to be returned and an old black one taken in its place. The new boot did not possess Sir Henry's scent and thus was useless for the purpose intended by Stapleton as a scent-indicator for the hound, hence the necessary theft of the older, worn black boot.

The very same principal applies in the case of Seldon. The charitable donation of Sir Henry's old clothes was directly responsible for his death. In much the same way as Toby initially fails in *The Sign of the Four* because he follows the wrong creosote trail, courtesy of cross contamination from another source, so too does the Hound fail to get his man. A dog has shortcomings when on the hunt (as also indicated by Holmes in SIGN) and it does not distinguish between its intended quarry in any other way except its scent. In this instance the scent was initiated by Stapleton using Sir Henry's old black boot and the hound tracked that scent to the next "thing" bearing that scent. In this case it was Seldon wearing Sir Henry's old clothes.

Such an astute and detailed knowledge of how a dog functions was, from the day *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was conceived, crucial to the very content and success of the story. Given that it was published between 1901 and 1902 and was widely read throughout Europe as well as the rest of the world, there is no reason to doubt that it could have inspired and further influenced the thinking towards dogs by Police Forces, particularly in Germany where (as already discussed) most of the pioneering work was being done with Police dogs.

The Hound of the Baskervilles is an excellent mystery story that contains the factual fundamental requirement for a dog to track a human being - the human's scent - and it could not have been made any more obvious.

⁴ August 1901



A less frightening depiction of the hound for a later Newnes edition

"But surely, Holmes, this has been explored," said I. "Bloodhounds-sleuth bounds"

While *The Adventure of the Creeping Man* may be considered one of the weaker stories, it is of paramount importance for something else that it contains: Sherlock Holmes' ultimate words concerning the importance of the dog:

"I have serious thoughts of writing a small monograph upon the uses of dogs in the work of the detective."

"But surely, Holmes, this has been explored," said I. "Bloodhounds-sleuth-hounds-"

"No, no, Watson; that side of the matter is, of course, obvious."

This first section of speech between Holmes and Watson is of importance because of *exactly* what they are discussing and it is here that some points of interest need to be explored. It is in fact what *Watson* says that is of paramount importance.

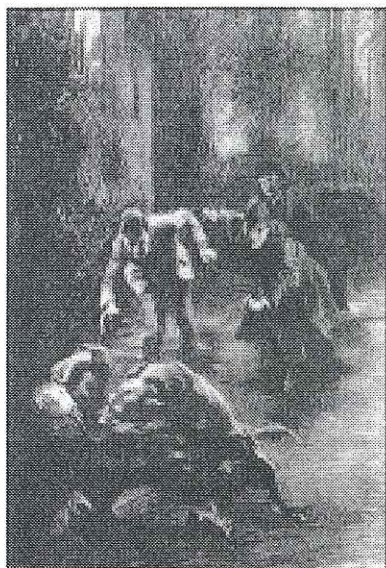
This story was published in 1923 and Germany had had its dog training facility for about three years (though it must be remembered that their training of dogs was already well advanced) so what *Watson* has said is perfectly true and the abilities of dogs for crime solving purposes have been explored. However, where the situation becomes interesting is that the fictional time of events is noted as 1902! If Conan Doyle has set these events in the year 1902, consideration needs to be given to what work in 1902, or prior to this year, had been done on sleuth-hounds, if any, and why weren't the real-life police forces of the UK using them by this time?

While it is very likely that the English police may have enlisted the assistance of draghound/bloodhound owners and their animals from time to time, officially or unofficially to assist in tracking suspects, it still begs the question: why did it take until 1938 for a dog's abilities to be "officially" recognised and acknowledged by the Metropolitan Police?

From a real-life time line perspective, was Conan Doyle trying to remind the English police forces of the work being done in Germany, even as early as 1901 by Inspector Laufer? Also, from the fictional time line point of view, was Conan Doyle trying to remind the police forces of his own country that Germany was now using dogs in their criminal investigations and we (England) have known of their usefulness and had this knowledge prior to 1902? Certainly the recorded history of the English would show this to be true, especially as far as the bloodhound is concerned.

The speech between Holmes and Watson also moves into other areas concerning dogs and it is worth noting in order to further establish the complete understanding that Holmes, or rather Doyle, had of these animals:

"My line of thoughts about dogs is analogous. A dog reflects the family life. Whoever saw a frisky dog in a gloomy family, or a sad dog in a happy one? Snarling people have snarling dogs, dangerous people have dangerous ones. And their passing moods may reflect the passing moods of others."



Howard Elcock's 1923 *Strand* illustration of *The Creeping Man* being attacked by his own dog

Certainly Doyle is a master at using words effectively for the narrative's sake and creativity and embellishment may sometimes come into play for the purpose of the story but this is definitely not the case here. Today we know the above passage of speech to be true to the letter, and this further illustrates my point that Conan Doyle knew beyond any doubt the importance of the dog.

"He thought it was his mistress and he found it was a stranger. Dogs don't make mistakes."

It is April 1927 and the *Strand Magazine* is released featuring what will be the final tale of Sherlock Holmes written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place*. In his final published adventure Sherlock Holmes will utilise the abilities of a dog once again to ultimately solve the case.

In this instance Sherlock Holmes uses a recently disposed of family pet, a Shoscombe spaniel, to confirm his suspicions regarding the possible substitution of Lady Beatrice. Holmes releases the dog after which, through sheer excitement, it runs towards what it considers its mistress only to react aggressively upon realising that "she" is not who she is supposed to be. Sherlock Holmes' suspicions were correct in that somebody had been masquerading as Lady Beatrice. In the words of Sherlock Holmes:

"He thought it was his mistress and he found it was a stranger. Dogs don't make mistakes."

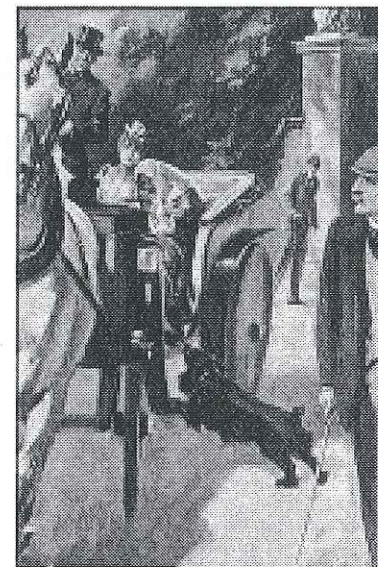
It would still be another eleven years before the Metropolitan Police received their first official patrol dogs and England established its own police dog training facility to train dogs and their handlers in the art of tracking and searching.

'Patriot, Physician and Man of Letters'

It is perhaps an almost unimaginable thing in this, the 21st century, to think of a world without working police and military dogs. Since 1920 dogs have become an integral part of modern police forces and the military in relation to everything from tracking and crowd control to drug and bomb searching. These police and military service dogs are so highly regarded by most of their employing services that service and bravery medals are often awarded to animals that display remarkable feats of service. It must also be noted that in civilian service the abilities and role performed by "seeing eye" or "guide dogs", as they may be better known, is truly remarkable.

Why it took until 1920 for the first official police dog training facility to be established to train dogs and their handlers in the art of tracking and searching would seem most ridiculous when the facts as dictated by history are laid out for all to see. It is perhaps even more incomprehensible, considering the records of human/bloodhound relations, particularly in the UK, that it took London's Metropolitan Police until 1938 before they commissioned their first two dogs into official service.

Humans and dogs have been working side by side for centuries and perhaps a trained tracking dog could have caught Jack the Ripper. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle died in 1930 and what he had already quite plainly illustrated in print with *The Sign of the Four* (1890), *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1901-1902) and *The Missing Three-Quarter* (1904) would take the police forces



Frank Wiles' 1927 *Strand* illustration for *Shoscombe Old Place*



Frederic Dorr Steele's illustration of Holmes and bloodhound Pompey in *The Missing Three-Quarter*

of his own country at least another eight years after his death to begin putting into official practice.

It would perhaps be more fitting that the words to end this paper are not mine but rather those of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle:

"It is all very well to sneer at the paper detective, but a principle is a principle, whether in fiction or in fact. Many of the great lessons of life are to be learned in the pages of the novelist."

Note: Writings pertaining to the history of the use of dogs in police work could easily fill volumes. However, as my research for this article has shown me, some of what is written is very lacking in detail and, depending on the country of origin, claims to historical achievements (in regards to the utilisation of dogs in various policing duties) appear to be thrown about with little regard for historical integrity. Wherever possible I have therefore endeavoured to only include information drawn from official law enforcement sources or from individual authors or organizations with a link or affiliation to those bodies.

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1. In what year did Bill Barnes become Captain of the Sydney Passengers?
2. In 1888 trials were conducted to see whether bloodhounds Barnaby and Burgho could catch which notorious murderer?
3. Which famous Australian poet was in Bloemfontein during the Boer War at the same time as Conan Doyle?
4. What word is used by Australians to attract attention out of doors?
5. Which dog did Holmes use for tracking in *The Missing Three-Quarter*?

Mere Trifles

All answers can be found in this issue of the Log

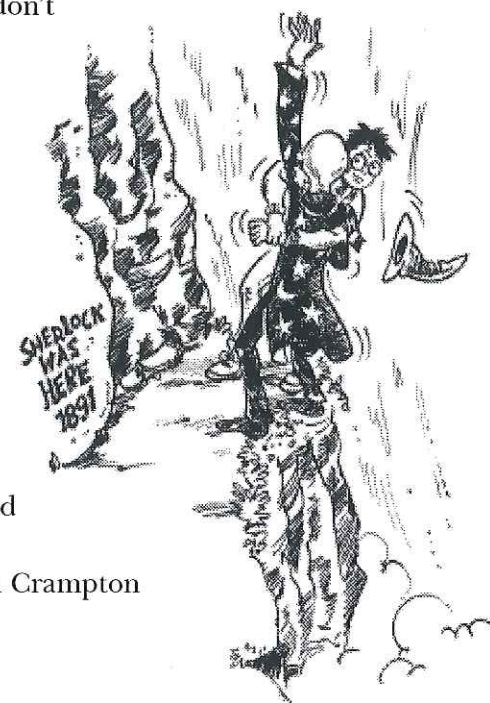
Answers on page 36

SIGHTINGS

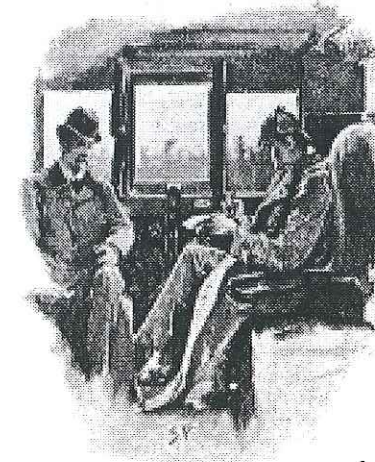
Harry heading for a fall? Authors Stephen King and J.K. Rowling were taking part in a charity book reading in New York recently and during a media session King pleaded with Rowling not to kill off Harry Potter in her final book, saying "I don't want him to go over the Reichenbach Falls."

Fifty "greatest sidekicks" – a list with a clearly American focus, was published recently by 'Entertainment Weekly'. The top ten greatest sidekicks were deemed to be:

1. Ed McMahon - Johnny Carson's long-time announcer
2. Robin - accomplice to Batman
3. George Costanza – the funny one on *Seinfeld*
4. Chewbacca - shaggy companion to *Star Wars* team
5. Ethel Mertz - friend and neighbour to (*I Love*) Lucy
6. Dr. Watson (6th position!)
7. Samwise Gamgee – long-suffering and much-travelled companion to Frodo Baggins
8. Ed Norton – bowling partner to Honeymooner Ralph Crampton
9. Tattoo – the shorter of the two on *Fantasy Island*
10. Dwight Schrute – *The Office* (American version)



Go on line to go on line – If you've dreamed of one day travelling the British rail network in deerstalker and cape with Bradshaw (or its modern equivalent, the monthly 'National Rail Timetable') in hand – you've missed the boat, so to speak, for this British institution is about to be abolished. The latest Timetable comprises 2,830 pages with details of 700,000 trains, and costs a mere £12 but it will be abandoned owing to the increasing popularity of on-line and call-centre information. Thirty British MPs have signed a parliamentary motion demanding that the printed timetable be retained.



Falling into Line – CyberSignals has reported previously that Abbey's Bookshop in Sydney has all their Sherlockian stock in a separate section on their shelves under a "Holmesiana" label. Very convenient if you're looking for a particular book or just for browsing. Now Dymocks Bookshop in George St, Sydney has finally recognised the value of their Arthur Conan Doyle stock (including publications like the *Klinger Annotated Sherlock Holmes*) by shelving it in their "Classics" section.