



Baker Street in Baltimore

Official Newsletter of the Six Napoleons of Baltimore

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S. GORDDEN LINK – HONORARY NAPOLEON XVII



Seeking Clues – Denys P. Myers, left, decked out as Dr. Huxtable in the Sherlock Holmes story, “Priory School” hunts clues with Gordden Link, posing as Holmes. - Originally published in the February 22, 1964 edition of
The Baltimore Sun

Back in May, when we wrote about Napoleon LXXVII, Denys P. Myers, being involved with the famed Monuments Men unit in World War II, we teased about an upcoming story on Seymour Gordden Link, Honorary Napoleon XVII. Well, you don’t have to wait anymore.

Your editor was able to purchase the above photograph, along with several other Napoleonic pictures, from the online sales of *The Baltimore Sun*’s photo library (another systematic dismantling of the *Sun*’s assets by their out-of-town ownership) back in 2015. I had presumed that it would be fairly easy to learn more about Link – after all, he was an honorary Napoleon. The online gods have not been that kind to Link and there is not much information to be gleaned on the internet.

We were only able to find one biographical mention of Link online – a partial scan of his entry in the 1977 book, *Community Leaders of Virginia, 1976-1977*.

LINK, S. Gordden, Dr.; b Chicago, IL; occ. Writer, Lectr., Col. Writer in Residence; m Dr. Mae M.; *Curr. Comm. Ser.*: Mem., Warren Co. Repub. Ctl. Com. — N. River Magisterial Dist. — Shenandoah Valley Acad. of Lit. — Amos R. Koontz Meml. Foun., Riverton, VA — Koontz Meml. Ctr. for Advanced Studies, Riverton, VA — Am. Legion, Giles B. Cook Post #53 — Warren Heritage Soc. — Tri-State Gun Owners’ Alliance — Poetry Soc. of VA — Alumni Assns. of NY Univ., Harvard Univ., Geo. Peabody Col. for Tchrs.; *Curr. Offices Held*: Chm., Brd. of Trustees, Amos R. Koontz Meml. Foun., Riverton, VA — Pres., Koontz Meml. Ctr. for Advanced Studies, Riverton, VA — Chm., Brd. of Govs., Shenandoah Valley Acad. of Lit. — Dir., Dellbrook-Shenandoah Col. & Conservatory of Music, give progs. to schs., univs. & ser. clbs. in Warren & Frederick Cos. & elsewhere on lecture tours — Nat. Adv. Brd., Am. Security Coun. — Chm., N. River Magisterial Dist.; *Past Comm. Ser.*: Lay Ldr., Fairlington Meth. Ch., Arlington, VA, 1948-50 — Parole Advr., Washington, DC, 1950-53 — Dir., Guid. Prog., Christ Epis. Ch., Washington, DC, 1954-55 — Visitation, DC City Jail, 1952-53 & Lorton Reformatory, VA, 1952-53 & 1958-59 — Spkr. on Marriage Counseling, Washington, DC & No. VA chs. & orgs., 1958-60 — Dir., Marriage Counseling Ctr., Washington, DC, 1957-60 — Pres., Armed Forces Mil. Guid. Assn., Washington, DC, 1956-60 — Pres., Warren Heritage Soc., Front Royal, VA, 1972-73 — Consult., Concern (Warren Co.), 1973-75; *Honors*: U.S.A., Bronze Star Medal, Commend. Medal w/ 2 Oakleaf clusters, European Theatre Medal w/ Battle Star, Spec. Breast Order of Hun Hui w/ Rosette (China), Breast Order of Pau Tang w/ Rosette (China), Army-Navy Air Force Medal First Class (China), Royal Order o/t Lion (Nepal), dates in order, 1945, 1942, 1945, 1943, 1945, 1945, 1946, 1946 — Lola Ridge Meml. Awd. for Poetry of Soc. Significance, 1948, The Poetry Soc. of Am. — Merrill Moore Awd. for Psycho. Writing & Editing, Am. Assn. for Soc. Psych., 1959 — Elected Fellow, A.A.S.P., 1959 — The Jacob Sandler

So, we reached out to Peter E. Blau, Napoleon CXXXI, who shared Link’s data from W. T. Rabe’s 1962 *Sherlockian Who’s Who and What’s What*:

LINK, Dr. S. Gordden (NOTE: first name is "S") (1909-) --- 2230 California St., N.W., Washington, D.C.; director, the Link Psychotherapy Clinic and Counseling Center; exec. sec. Amer. Assn. for Social Psychiatry; RC/Edc (archivist, 51-56; chief investigator, 56-). Specialty: the psychologist S.H.; "On W.'s Discovery of the Words 'Etaoin Shrdl'" on a Study Table in Baker Street," *BSJ*, Vol. II, No. 1, 1952; co-editor with James F. Brewer of a S'ian anthology to be sponsored jointly by RC/Wdc and 6N; non-S'ian: One Small Unwilling Captain: A Study of the Japanese Mind (brochure enlarged from the Reader's Digest -- ED. NOTE: This in itself is a distinguished accomplishment), William Lewis, 1937; *Facts vs. Fancy: A Study of Psychological Warfare*, War Dept. Pamphlet, 1944; *Three Poems for Now*, a book of poetry about the Atomic Age, Univ. Press of Wash., D.C., 1953, rev. 1961.

I’m not sure what “social psychiatry” is, but I’m positive that a Six Napoleons meeting of the early 1960s would have been an excellent resource for study in that area.

That entry mentions that Link was co-editor of a Sherlockian anthology that was sponsored jointly by the Red Circle of Washington and the Six Napoleons. *Anybody familiar with what this anthology is, or if it was ever published?* By the way, Link's co-editor listed was James F. Brewer, aka Napoleon IX, but that's another story for another issue.

For our last grasp at learning about Link, we turn to *Irregular Proceedings of the Mid 'Forties* by Jon Lellenberg, aka Honorary Napoleon XLIV, for this segment about the defunct scion of **The Blanched Soldiers of the Pentagon**:

*From references to him, Dr. Bolduan, first name unknown, appears to have been in military service in Washington, D.C., during the war, but nothing more is known about his Sherlockian connections. He did not organize a Washington chapter of the BSI, though he could have been associated with a shadowy scion society which did come into being there during the war years, The Blanched Soldiers of the Pentagon, in which another doctor played a key role. In the very scant information available about The Blanched Soldiers, we do not find the names of well-known Irregulars like Captain Haycraft, Major Leavitt, and Colonel Winterich. W. T. Rabe's **Sherlockian Who's Who & What's What**, the principal source of data about The Blanched Soldiers, reveals only that that scion society was founded during the war, "exact date withheld," by "Link and Fitz Brewer." Little else is recorded there or elsewhere, for, according to Rabe, "all other information has been classified TOP SECRET with a COSMIC rating."*

Fitz Brewer, however, is an easy identification. Although we do not know more about his role in *The Blanched Soldiers*, this was James Fitzgerald Brewer, born 1916, a history professor who settled in Baltimore after the war, joined *The Six Napoleons* there, served as one of its Gasogenes, and became "Josiah Brown" in the BSI in 1979. For his individual entry in *Who's Who & What's What*, he listed as his specialty "the Canon, the whole Canon, and nothing but the Canon," and his Baker Street Journal obituary in 1987 called him "a faithful protagonist of orthodoxy and purity of the Canon."

"Link" was the other doctor alluded to above: Dr. S. Gorden Link, a distinguished psychiatrist, born 1909, who after the war was director of the Link Psychotherapy and Counseling Center in Washington, D.C. Author of a number of psychological works, Sherlockian and otherwise, Dr. Link was also an active member of *The Six Napoleons*, and of *The Red Circle of Washington* during its first brief period of life in the 'Fifties. He died in 1986.

Link had quite the interesting bio and it is a shame there isn't more information about him available.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 27 – Watson's Tin Box meeting – Columbia

September 8 – Red Circle of Washington, DC – Bethesda

September 12 – Six Napoleons of Baltimore meeting – Squire's

September 22 – Regency Irregulars of Phoenixville meeting

September 24 – Watson's Tin Box meeting – Columbia

October 5-7 – Gillette to Brett V conference - Indianapolis

October 13 – Sherlockians of Baltimore luncheon – Sabatino's

October 20 – Diogenes Club of Washington meeting

October 26 - Sons of the Copper Beeches meeting – Philly

October 27 – Denizens of the Bar of Gold meeting – Cambridge

October 29 – Watson's Tin Box meeting – Columbia

November 3 – White Rose Irregulars meeting – Harrisburg

November 10 – Saturday with Sherlock Holmes – Pratt Library

November 26 – Watson's Tin Box meeting – Columbia

December 12 – Six Napoleons of Baltimore meeting – Squire's

December 17 – Watson's Tin Box meeting – Columbia

December 21 – Holmes & Watson opens – a theater near you

January 9-13, 2019 – Sherlock Holmes Weekend – New York



I Can See Clearly Now

by Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

www.liesesherwoodfabre.com

Number 41 of a continuing series



While the image of Sherlock Holmes has been tied to the magnifying glass, only ten percent of the stories actually include a reference to the use of lenses. He used a magnifying glass or lens in six of the stories in the canon (*A Study in Scarlet*, "The Adventure of the Red-Headed League," "A Case of Identity," "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet," "The Adventure of the Norwood Building," and "The Adventure of Black Peter") and a microscope at the end of "The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place."

Nonetheless, the history of optics suggests these tools serve as a fitting symbol for the detective.

References to magnifying devices, most likely using water, date back to 424 BC. The Roman invention of glass in the first century included experimentation with different shapes. They discovered that those with a convex shape (thicker in the middle) would enlarge an object held near it and could also be used to burn objects by concentrating light. The term "lens" derives from the Latin word of "lentil" because the shape resembles that of the lentil bean.¹

While the interest and use of lenses languished in Europe following the fall of the Roman Empire, the Arab mathematician Ibn al-Haytham completed a seven-volume work on optics (written from 1011-1021). Considered the first true researcher, Ibn al-Haytham followed the scientific method of testing hypotheses through experimentation five hundred years before the approach re-appeared in Renaissance Europe. His investigations with light, vision, mirrors and magnifying lenses were later translated into

Latin in the 12th or 13th century and influenced a resurgence in the interest of lenses in Europe at that time.²

Convex lenses appeared as eyeglasses (consisting of two lenses with handles riveted together) in Italy in the late 1200s and in Roger Bacon's magnifying glasses in 1250.³ He created these lenses for additional study of light, mirrors, reflection and refraction inspired by the writings of Ibn al-Haytham.⁴

In the 1590s, Dutch spectacle makers Hans and Zacharias Jansen arranged several lenses in a tube and discovered they could increase the magnification beyond that of a single lens, but it was considered more of a novelty than anything with practical applications. Anton van Leeuwenhoek, however, saw the potential and made and used the first true microscope. He also developed techniques to grind and polish lenses to reach a power of 270x magnification.⁵

By the Victorian era, the lenses for magnifying glasses and microscopes were well-made and very precise.⁶ Dr. Robert Ing, a forensic scientist, has concluded Holmes most likely used a "10 power silver and chrome magnifying glass"—a much more powerful instrument than the 2x-6x typically available today. His microscope was most likely "a brass tripod base monocular optical microscope probably manufactured by Powell & Lealand" based on the instrument's popularity at the time. While Holmes might be considered ill-equipped by current forensic lab standards, such equipment was considered state-of-the-art⁷ and served him well in his pursuits.

The image of Sherlock Holmes and his magnifying glass serves as an appropriate symbol for the detective. Given its roots in the scientific method, the lens represents his disciplined approach to collecting and following facts to their final conclusion.

Check out Liese Sherwood-Fabre's website at

<https://liesesherwoodfabre.com/>

Liese will have a vendor table at *From Gillette to Brett V* in October. If you are planning to attend, drop by and say hello to her!

¹ <http://www.history-of-the-microscope.org/invention-of-glass-lenses-and-the-history-of-the-light-microscope.php>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_al-Haytham

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnifying_glass

⁴ <https://targetstudy.com/knowledge/invention/23/magnifying-glass.html>

⁵ <http://www.history-of-the-microscope.org/history-of-the-microscope-who-invented-the-microscope.php>

⁶ <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/sherlock-holmes-and-the-tools-of-deduction-10556242/>

⁷ <http://www.drroberting.com/articles/holmes.pdf>

RED CIRCLE TO HAVE RARE SATURDAY LUNCHEON MEETING



Our friends in the nation's capital, the Red Circle will have their next gathering as a luncheon on Saturday, September 8 at the Bethesda Hyatt Regency. Drinks at Noon, meeting at 1 p.m. Cost is \$42 and RSVP by 9/5 to Peter Blau.



Monica Schmidt, ASH, is the president of The Younger Stamfords of Iowa City. She is a member of multiple Sherlockian scions and societies in the Midwest, including The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) and The Norwegian Explorers. Monica was introduced to Holmes through a children's edition of *The Mysteries of Sherlock Holmes* and the 1987 TV movie *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*. When not engaging in Sherlockian events or attending film festivals, Monica works as a licensed mental health counselor specializing in the treatment of substance abuse and is a member of the film critic staff for Cedar Rapids radio station KCCK.

Monica will present on **You Have Been on eBay, I Perceive: The Pathology of Sherlockian Collecting**. This could be a case study about Napoleon CCXLVI, Frank Mentzel. Then again, maybe not.

ANDY CAPP

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In the Footsteps of Holmes and Watson - From London to the Reichenbach



We are looking forward to Postulant David Richards' presentation at our September 12 dinner meeting. David and his wife had the good fortune to visit the falls at Reichenbach last year.

In the photo on the left, that is Sir and Lady Paul Gore-

Booth, dressed as Holmes and Irene Adler, departing London to fly to Zurich in 1968 for a Sherlock Holmes Society of London visit to the Falls. Gore-Booth was President of the SHSL from 1967-1979 and was the Head of Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service at the time of the visit to Switzerland. He was also Honorary Napoleon XXVII.