



# Baker Street in Baltimore



A newsletter of The Six Napoleons of Baltimore  
Volume 2015, Issue 2, February 18, 2015

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This publication is edited and distributed by James Arva in Harrisburg, PA. All literary contributions are welcome.

## Homage to the Patriarchs

Napoleon #174, Dr. Billie Ross, came to us from *The Maiwand Jezails* of Omaha, Nebraska. When he was here with us he was a department head at *The University of Delaware*. Eventually, he retired to St. Augustine, Florida, where he passed over the Reichenbach, on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

I met Billy when I began attending meetings of *The Six Napoleons*. He had joined a few years before that, which would have placed his entrance upon the *Napoleon* stage at about 1979.



Billy had a unique demeanor about him which could be described as a "casual effervescence", and his gregarious, somewhat-bigger-than-life presence always enlivened the meetings. I was a relatively new Sherlockian, and I quickly realized that Billy was the seasoned and knowledgeable Holmes scholar whom I aspired to become. We quickly became friends, and the time between my arrival amidst the *Napoleons* and Billy's migration to Florida were years when I received great pleasure and benefit from enjoying his fellowship and instruction at the

meetings. He was a profound source of guidance and knowledge to me as I learned about the writings and traditions of the Sherlockian world.

He was generous with himself, and he will always remain in my memory as one of the most colorful personalities with whom I've had the pleasure of working. His ever-radiant and one-of-a-kind sense of humor kept me mindful of Holmes' tongue-in-cheek outlook on life.

Since 1977, Billy had been invested in *The Baker Street Irregulars* as, "The Abergavenny Murders".

Those of us who treasure knowledge and wisdom have a special place in our hearts for those whom we look back upon as having been our teachers ... so ... from this appreciative former student of yours ... with great regret for your passing over the Reichenbach ... but with equally great joy in having known you ... thank you, respected teacher ... and good friend.

## I SEE him everywhere ...

In this 1945 ad, Sherlock Holmes finds Stratford pens to be dependable performers. The photo caption reads, "Basil Rathbone ... always a dependable performer ... famous for his modern interpretation of Sherlock Holmes. Soon to be seen in Universal's 'The House of Fear'."

BASIL RATHBONE ... always a dependable performer ... famous for his modern interpretation of Sherlock Holmes. Soon to be seen in Universal's 'The House of Fear'.



**DEPENDABLE PERFORMERS**

Here is the best clue to the ever-increasing demand for Stratford — dependability!

From its convenient push-button filler down to its velvet-smooth point, the Stratford Conqueror is precision-made for your writing pleasure.

Select your Stratford at any reliable pen counter. You'll agree that never before has so fine a pen been available at so low a price.

Available in four attractive colors — Black, Gray, Dubonnet, and Jade.



*The Conqueror*  
(Illustrated actual size)



obsure alcove of Threadneedle Street, regaling with pitiableness juxtaposed

## Perfesser Mentzel's Remedial Holmes Seminar

A great Baltimore County tradition continues, as Paul Churchill took this over from Phil Sherman (who started it in 1991) and Frank Mentzel took it over from Paul. The course is called "Appreciating Sherlock Holmes" and the course content covers 3 canonical stories, including everything relevant about Holmes that Perfesser Frank can think of, and general informal fun.

It's offered by *The Community College of Baltimore County* as part of the Community Education Life Enrichment Program. No tests. No grades. No papers to submit.

In this session, we're covering *STUD*, *FINA*, and *EMPT*. The course is just 4 classes on Monday nights twice a year in both March and November.

The current location is at *Pikesville Middle School*.

The next class starts Monday, March 2.

Direct any questions to Frank Mentzel (de ol' perfesser)at

[holmesnut@comcast.net](mailto:holmesnut@comcast.net)

## Arr - Could Ya Spare A Copper, Koind Surrr?

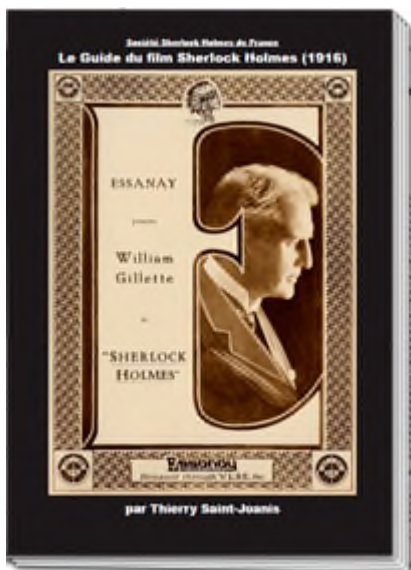
With a shock of bright red hair and a good scar on his upper lip, Hugh Boone takes his place in an

with wit. We will, again, find him plying his trade, but for the benefit of *The Six Napoleons of Baltimore*.

This famous scene – which took place regularly near the infamous *Bar of Gold* – will be recreated at our March meeting, complete with a battered billycock into which the toss of the occasional bob or two will keep our services afloat. Examples of these services are ... the snail-mailing of announcements and newsletters to those members who are not quite in the digital way ... and to contribute to expenses for the annual Saturday at *The Pratt* ... and to invite widows of *Napoleons* to the Christmas meeting as our guests, etc.

## Franco-Midland Hardware Company, Limited - Ironmongers

This is the title of a bulletin that was recently published by the *Société Sherlock Holmes de France* to celebrate the world premier screening of the restored version of the 1916 film, "Sherlock Holmes", on January 31<sup>st</sup> of this year at the *Cinémathèque Française* in Paris.



It is "*Le Guide du film Sherlock Holmes (1916) avec William Gillette*", written by Thierry Saint-Joanis in collaboration with Bernard Oudin, Alexis Barquin, and Stephen Amaseanu. It is comprised of 68 pages, a colour cover, black-and-white interior, and 120 photos, and costs 20 Euros.

This book is full of information and anecdotes and provides answers to many questions that have arisen since the demise of silent cinema in the 1930's.

The study of the film is completed with an authoritative article on William Gillette by the internationally respected Holmesian expert, Bernard Oudin, author of the best-selling "*Enquête sur Sherlock Holmes*".

You may check things out on the organization's website at [www.sshf.com](http://www.sshf.com) and you may order a copy by visiting their shop at [www.sshf.com/boutique.php](http://www.sshf.com/boutique.php). If you have questions, they may be posed at [sshf@sshf.php](mailto:sshf@sshf.php).

We are privy to this info thanks to Harker Emeritus Bill Hyder.

## Watson's Tin Box of Ellicott City

One of their monthly meetings is coming up Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 "precisely" (*sic*). The place is the usual – *Houlihan's* at 8240 Gateway Overlook Drive, Columbia/Elkridge, MD.



Deadline for reservations is at noon, Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at [Gasogene@outlook.com](mailto:Gasogene@outlook.com). The case *dujour* is, "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez", from, "The Return of Sherlock Holmes".

Jacquelynn Morris will be sharing her research on the poison that Anna used in the adventure.

## WTB's next will be ...

... at the same venue on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, and the story will be either, "The Adventure of Black Peter", or, "The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter", to be announced by the *WTB* later.

## How many inspectors ARE there in the Canon?

According to Frank Mentzel's latest issue of his "Appreciating Sherlock Holmes" newsletter ... **WOULD YOU BELIEVE 23?**

Here is Frank's list:

**Algar** - CARD  
**Bardle** - LION  
**Barton** - TWIS  
**Baynes** - WIST  
**Bradstreet** - TWIS, BLUE, ENGR  
**Sam Brown** - SIGN  
**Forrester** - REIG  
**Gregory** - SILV  
**Gregson** - STUD, GREE, WIST, REDC  
**Hill** - SIXN  
**Hopkins** - BLAC, GOLD, MISS, ABBE  
**Jones** - REDH  
**Laner** - RESI  
**Lestrade** - 3GAR, BOSC, BRUC, CARD, CHAS, EMPT, HOUN, LADY, NOBL, NORW, SECO, SIXN, STUD  
**Leverton** - REDC  
**MacDonald** - VALL  
**Mackinnon** - RETI  
**Martin** - DANC  
**Merivale** - SHOS  
**Montgomery** - CARD  
**Morton** - DYIN  
**Patterson** - FINA  
**Youghal** - MAZA

## A recurring announcement

Again ... I'd like to remind all of *The Napoleons* that they should contact me if they would like to attend meetings but are prevented in doing so by a simple problem of transportation availability. Include in any request situations involving the transportation of walkers or folding wheelchairs.

On the other side of the have-and-have-not equation ... if you would be willing to provide transportation for someone who is on your way to *Squire's* or close to it, please let me know of your availability.

I remember a *Napoleon* whose trip over the Reichenbach has past these 20 years or so whom we discovered had treasured his *Six Napoleons* meetings so zealously that he was paying 50-dollar cab rides to attend.