



Baker Street in Baltimore

Official Newsletter of the Six Napoleons of Baltimore

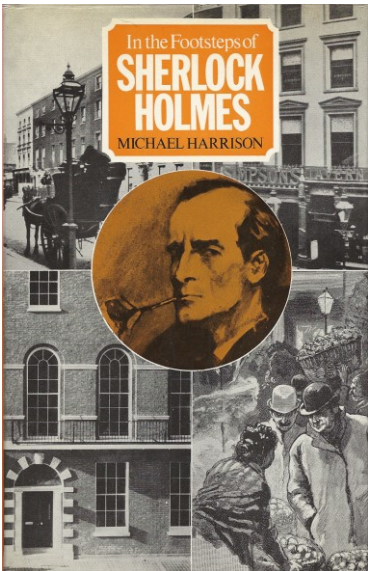
Editor: Greg D. Ruby – SixNapoleonsOfBaltimore@gmail.com

Volume 2017: Issue 8 - August 2017

FOR CONAN DOYLE FANS

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.

By Michael Harrison. 284 pages. Illustrated. Frederick Fell. \$5.



THREE subjects are thrown together in this book: London and its surrounding counties as they were during *Sherlock Holmes's* years as a detective (1881 to 1914), the everyday life of the period, and *Holmes's* personality and career as seen in the light of the first two.

Mr. Harrison describes many streets and buildings that figured in

the detective's adventures (as well as many that did not) and tells how they look today. His sidelights on Victorian and Edwardian life – transportation, housing, food, clothing, prices, social structure – are fascinating and often surprising. For example, despite the era's reputation for respectability, there was an astonishing degree of lawlessness. Gangs of "roughs" abounded, boys and men of the "lower orders" were always ready to bait any toff who ventured out of the fashionable parts of town, and Irish rebels periodically set off dynamite in public places.

Did He Split His Fees?

As a student of *Holmes's* character, Mr. Harrison admits himself a beginner. His first effort is creditable, but cursory and sometimes controversial. He is, to this reviewer's knowledge, the first to propose the interesting theory that *Holmes* may have split his fees with *Dr. Watson*. But he places *Holmes* among the "lesser bourgeoisie," which is

somewhat lower in the Victorian social scale than is generally believed.

The book is written in a rambling, long-winded style, but a conscientious reading will yield much of value not only to Holmesians but to those interested in London and Victorian life.

William Hyder

*The preceding book review was published in the June 5, 1960 edition of **The Baltimore Sun**. Its author would become a member of the Six Napoleons on August 20, 1962.*

IS THIS O. TOLBERT HEWITT, HONORARY NAPOLEON X???



Click on the above picture and you can watch the November 11, 1953 episode of *Kraft Theatre*. The episode is titled *A Long Time Till Dawn* and stars James Dean and was written by Rod Serling.

According to the movie database imdb.com, this drama also features O. Tolbert Hewitt as a "Mr. Gilchrist," who is never mentioned. The gentleman above (17:25) is referred to as "David." Could this be our Honorary Napoleon X?

MORE NAPOLEONS ON THE BIG AND LITTLE SCREENS

Your Editor has made a leap of faith that Honorary Napoleon X, O. Tolbert Hewitt, is an actor. A search of the back issues of *The Baltimore Sun* has a few references to an actor named O. Tolbert Hewitt and several make references to his performances at the Hilltop Theatre over the years of 1948 through 1953. In some of the earliest reports of our group in the Society Reports of the *Baker Street Journal*, Napoleon I, Allen Robertson recommends readers to see performances at the Hilltop Theatre.

The February 9, 1956 edition of Syracuse's *The Post Standard* published a brief death notice:

ACTOR DIES

NEW YORK, Feb. 8. (AP) Owen Tolbert-Hewitt, 58, an actor in the Broadway hit "No Time For Sergeants," died today. He entered a hospital a week ago.

This got your Editor to thinking (always a dangerous thing) if there are other Napoleons that have graced the screens? It is amazing what you can find, at times, in Napoleon CXXXI Peter E. Blau's *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press* newsletters.



We have one Napoleon who was an extra in Barry Levinson's *Liberty Heights*. Another Napoleon was one of the zombies in the 1978 film *Dawn of the Dead* AND had his personal car filmed in the parking lot at the airport in the 1970 film *Airport*.

When you attend your next Six Napoleons meeting, look around the room and attempt to figure out who are the movie stars. Both "stars" have been at a meeting in the last 12 months.

BEACON SOCIETY NEWS



Today, August 21, the Beacon Society will be announcing the results of their current election for officers, and if current voting trends and polls continue, Denny Dobry, Napoleon CCLIV, will be elected as the group's next Head Light by a few votes. Dobry is running unopposed...

The Beacon Society is a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, and serves as a conduit to other Sherlockian groups, providing teachers with local resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to students in the classroom. A few years back the Beacon Society honored Watson's Tin Box for their program with Howard County middle schools. Annually, the Beacon Society awards several thousands of dollars in grants to worthwhile programs to educate youngsters about Holmes.

It seems that Denny is following in the footsteps of the late Steve Clarkson, Napoleon XLVII Gasogene XII and Harker I. Those of you that knew Clarkson probably remember him serving as an advisor to a few "junior" Sherlockian groups. Starting in the late 1960's, the BSI's Commissionaire, Julian Wolff, had asked Clarkson to correspond with youngsters that had reached out to the BSI. In the early 2000's, Clarkson compiled a BSI Christmas Annual on the Junior Sherlockian movement of the 1970's.

Those of us who know Denny are confident that the Beacon Society will be in fine hands over his upcoming 3-year term as their Head Light (Gasogene / leader). Denny has been active with many Sherlockian groups, often assisting behind the scenes and serves as the Gasogene of the White Rose Irregulars. In addition, Denny volunteered many years with the Boy Scouts and also assisted with Little League Baseball.

Congratulations Denny!

En Garde!

by Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD

www.liesesherwoodfabre.com

Number 29 of a continuing series



Shortly after moving into 221B with Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson provides a list of his flat mate's characteristics. Among them is his expertise as a swordsman¹ and later, Holmes notes that fencing and boxing were his athletic tastes during his two years at college.²

At the time of Holmes' studies in 1874 (when the case of the Gloria Scott occurred), fencing was still taught in colleges and special schools because of its role in dueling. The shift to being only a sport, instead of determining a question of honor between two men, was not completed until 1890.³

Fencing and swordplay date back to the Egyptians. A bas-relief in a temple built in 1190 BC depicts a competition using sticks with bronze plates at the end.⁴ Some combatants are shown wearing protective masks. Four centuries later, the sport appeared in the Greek Olympic games and was introduced into the Roman camps about a hundred years after that.⁵ While tournaments might have been popular, its actual purpose served as a form of military training by developing soldiers' discipline and skills.⁶ Sword fights continued through the centuries as a way of settling disputes. During the age of chivalry, loyalty, bravery and truth were also determined by combat between knights.⁷

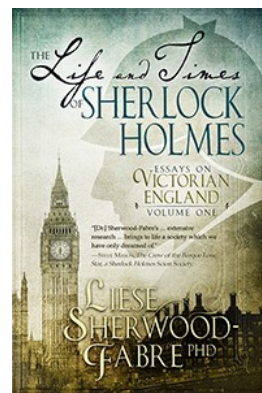
In the late 1400s, swordsmanship exploded across Europe, the epicenters being in Germany and France. Fencing guilds and academies taught the use of the rapier, and the French

Fencing Academy formalized the positions used as the Prime, Seconde, Tierce, Quatre and lunge. A romantic view of swordsmanship developed, emphasizing it as an art and as a means of defending one's honor through dueling. A man's masculinity was determined in part by how many duels he had been involved in.⁸

Dueling declined sharply in the mid-nineteenth century, and fencing moved to being a sport. The first Olympic games in 1896 included fencing with the foil (a flexible, light—under one pound—sword with a rectangular cross section) and the sabre (a weapon thirty-five inches long, stiffer than the foil with an "I" or "V" cross section). The épée (the stiffest sword with a triangular cross section and a "V" shaped groove in the middle) was included in the 1900 games. The 1924 Olympics included women's foil competition, but women's épée was not introduced until 1996.⁹

Because fencing with the foil had been taught in schools and most were skilled in its use, it became the first weapon used in sporting competitions. A judge and four witnesses determined the victor in a "blank duel," or match. They would count the number of hits by the foil's button end as well as the manner and relative speed of the strikes.¹⁰

While not specified in the canon, given his participation in the sport during college, Sherlock was mostly likely as formidable an opponent with this weapon as with his fists.



Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD's first two years of these essays (numbers 1 - 24) are now out in book form as: *The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes* and can be purchased at

<https://www.amazon.com/Life-Times-Sherlock-Holmes-Victorian/dp/0998411205>

¹ Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* (Kindle Location 556).

² Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* (Kindle Location 16307).

³ http://www.fencing.com/NewTFC/Fencing_History.html

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ <https://www.olympic.org/fencing-equipment-and-history>

⁷ http://www.fencing.com/NewTFC/Fencing_History.html

⁸ Ibid

⁹ <http://www.swordsmen101.com/historyoffencing.html>

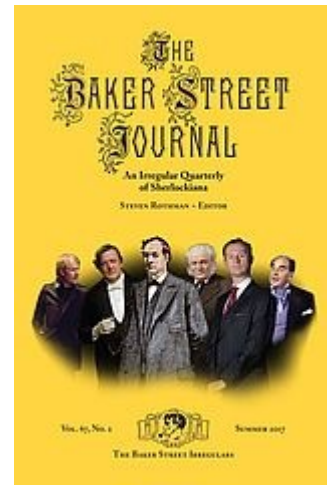
¹⁰ http://www.fencing.com/NewTFC/Fencing_History.html



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- August 28** - *Watson's Tin Box Meeting* – Columbia
- September 2** – *Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes Meeting* – Chatham, NJ
- September 13** – *Six Napoleons of Baltimore Meeting* – Squire's
- September 22** – *Red Circle of Washington Meeting* - Bethesda
- September 23** - *Regency Irregulars Meeting* – Phoenixville
- September 25** - *Watson's Tin Box Meeting* – Columbia
- October 2** – *Appreciating Sherlock Holmes classes* (1st of 4 consecutive Mondays) - Pikesville
- October 7** – *Sherlockians of Baltimore Luncheon* – Chiapparelli's
- October 16** – *Rochester Row Meeting* – Pittsford, NY
- October 27** – *Sons of the Copper Beeches Meeting* – Philadelphia
- October 28** – *Diogenes Club of Washington, DC Meeting*
- October 28** – *Denizens of the Bar of Gold Meeting* – Cambridge
- October 30** – *Watson's Tin Box Meeting* – Columbia
- November 4** – *White Rose Irregulars Meeting* – Harrisburg
- November 11** – *Sherlockian Saturday at the Pratt Library*
- November 18** – *Regency Irregulars Meeting* – Phoenixville
- November 27** – *Watson's Tin Box Meeting* – Columbia
- December 7** – *Six Napoleons of Baltimore Meeting* – Squire's
- December 18** – *Watson's Tin Box Meeting* – Columbia
- January 10 – 14, 2018** – *Sherlock Holmes Weekend* – New York

SUMMER ISSUE OF BAKER STREET JOURNAL FEATURES NAPOLEONS



Earlier this week, I was happy to see that the summer issue of *The Baker Street Journal* in my mailbox. As always, the issue is compiled by Editor Steven Rothman, Napoleon CXCIX (CIC would be so much simpler) and features the *Art in the Blood* cartoon by Scott Bond, Napoleons CXCI.

In addition, Marshall "Mike" Berdan, Napoleon CC, has an article *The Making of Mycroft* that is worth your time to read.



ELEMENTARY SEASON 5 DVD TO BE RELEASED AUGUST 29

Our membership is somewhat divided on their opinions of the CBS television series *Elementary* that stars Jonny Lee Miller as Holmes and Lucy Liu as Watson.

The DVD set for season 5 will be available starting August 29.

CBS renewed the show for a sixth season, but only ordered 13 episodes. Expect to see new shows as a replacement for a failed series after CBS broadcasts the Super Bowl in February.