

MORE THAN A “WASHED-UP HAS-BEEN”:

TEXTUAL ASPECTS OF THE HOLMES ICON

Abstract: This paper focuses on textual exemplars from the Sherlock Holmes stories in support of an argument that these texts are just as important in understanding Holmes as a cultural icon as are the visual exemplars found in printed materials, theater, motion pictures, and television. Following a brief summary of the visual exemplars, the author presents six textual examples from the Holmesian canon to support the central argument of this paper—that the "textual logo" or "emblematic wording" is as much a part of the Holmesian iconography as the essential images. In the end, the author concludes that the idea of Holmes as a cultural icon has moved beyond the bounds of the English-speaking world, i.e. is understood in a global context, and that this understanding is rooted in a robust iconography that includes both textual phrases and visual images.

MORE THAN A "WASHED-UP HAS-BEEN":
TEXTUAL ASPECTS OF THE HOLMES ICON

Timothy J. Johnson

University of Minnesota

"Icon" is a tricky word, a moving target, yet fixed in mind and memory. The musician Bob Dylan, when labeled in this way, responded "I think that's just another word for a washed-up has-been."¹ Actress Elizabeth Taylor said "Don't call me an icon, honey. An icon is something you hang in a Russian church. Call me Dame Elizabeth or call me an aging movie star."² Even Wikipedia, that boon or bane of encyclopedic knowledge, has gotten into the act, defining a cultural icon as "an object or person that is regarded as having a special status as particularly representative of, or important to, or loved by, a particular group of people, a place, or a historical period. Cultural icons may be national, regional or related to a city, or may relate to a specific grouping such as fans of a particular sport, a social group, a political party, or almost any social or cultural grouping." Interestingly, this particular article in Wikipedia is being considered for deletion because "[t]he examples and perspective in this article or section may not represent a worldwide view of the subject."³

Cultural icons are tricky subjects. Yet, like pornography (to borrow from the late U.S. Supreme Court justice, Potter Stewart) we know them when we see them.⁴ Icons point to something beyond themselves. In the case of Sherlock Holmes as a cultural icon, Holmes points to the archetypal detective, the rationality of science, "the most perfect reasoning and observing machine that the world has seen."⁵ The knowing is, in part, in the seeing.

And we have seen plenty of Mr. Sherlock Holmes. It is easy to trace the development of Holmes as a cultural icon through the visual media. Concentrating on the most influential iconographers, we can start with Sidney Paget's illustrations in *The Strand Magazine* to Frederic Dorr Steele's images in *Collier's* and the Limited Editions Club. From Steele it is a very short jump to the actor William Gillette (who was Steele's inspiration for Holmes).⁶ The iconic movement, like its associated technology, speeds from page to stage to film to radio to television over the next several decades. Starting with Gillette, we zoom in on Basil Rathbone and then pan to Jeremy Brett. Along the way we meet others: Tom Baker, John Barrymore, Clive Brook, Michael Caine, Peter Cushing, Ronald Howard, Buster Keaton, Christopher Lee, Raymond Massey, Roger Moore, Leonard Nimoy, Eille Norwood, Douglas Wilmer, and Arthur Wontner (to name but a few).

Our own image of Holmes as a cultural icon is derived from these portrayals. Indeed, we may have a favorite. Even stripped of person, the icon, in its visible form and bared to its essentials—the deerstalker cap, the magnifying glass, the Inverness cape, the pipe—is clearly recognizable. But, for the moment, I want us to put those favorites and essentials aside and look (or more appropriately listen) to another facet of this iconography: the textual references to Holmes, many of them made in passing, but all of them pointing to the durability of an icon that goes beyond image. We may argue that this iconic durability rests primarily with image, especially as we live in a world that relies more and more on image and less on text to communicate information. Yet, it is the central argument of this paper that the "textual logo" or "emblematic wording" is as much a part of the Holmesian iconography as the essential images. It is to this aspect of the Holmesian iconography that we turn for the remainder of this paper.

There are a number of textual sources and bibliographies available for the study of Doyle and Holmes.⁷ For the purposes of this paper, I'm using a relatively new and developing bibliographic source, a multi-volume online supplement to Ronald De Waal's *Universal Sherlock Holmes*.⁸ The fifth volume in this series⁹ includes secondary or "passing" references to Doyle or Holmes. According to the compiler, "[a]rticles selected from the general periodical literature include items in which the keywords "Sherlock Holmes" or "Conan Doyle" were found within the body of the text or abstract of the article. Many of these articles contain passing references to either Holmes or Doyle, and may not be substantive in content. Nevertheless, they are included here for the 'completist' who wishes to locate every known reference in the periodical literature to either the famous consulting detective or his literary agent." Here, in these passing, unsubstantial references, we will find the textual logos that contribute to the iconic infrastructure.

Our first example is the phrase "it doesn't take Sherlock Holmes..." or its variant "it doesn't take a Sherlock Holmes..." The phrase takes the whole known image and personage of Holmes as shorthand for some kind of search or investigation, with the implication that one doesn't need to have the super power of Holmes' reasoning to arrive at a solution. It is all much simpler than that. An article in *Modern Healthcare* uses the phrase in tracking a radioactive item that was illegally dumped.¹⁰ Another article on "The Sex Trade in Colonial West Africa" employs the phrase in relation to a "French lady of easy virtue."¹¹ Bob Zelnick, in a *National Review* article, uses a positive variant, "It would take a Sherlock Holmes..." in the same manner when writing about former vice-president Al Gore and his media advisers during the presidential campaign.¹² Another article about free music services on the Internet combined the phrase with other iconic elements when describing a piece of software: "[I]t doesn't take a Sherlock Holmes

to figure out what to do next: click on the magnifying glass and start searching. From that point on, it's elementary..."¹³ Other examples abound across a wide variety of periodicals.¹⁴

"It's elementary" and "Elementary, my dear Watson" (which never appear in the canonical tales, but develop later in the icon) are two additional phrases in the iconic infrastructure. As in the first example, these phrases point to something basic or fundamental that achieves clarity through examination and explanation. They also point to the importance of evidence as a building block to understanding. Bob Albrecht and Paul Davis played with these phrases in an article entitled "Elemental, my dear Holmes, elemental" that dealt with the planet Mars and elements in the human body.¹⁵ A book review on evidence-based medicine employed the phrases, slightly altered, in its title: "It's elementary medicine, my dear Watson."¹⁶ And an article in *The Times* of London reports on the "Elementary Fraud at the Sherlock Holmes Museum."¹⁷

These first examples—taking in the whole persona of Holmes and using a well-known (if not canonically present) expression—are the simply phrased facets of this textual logo. What is surprising to discover are the uses of other phrases that assume some knowledge of the original stories (or where such knowledge is not assumed, the writer provides the context for the phrase or quotation). A prime exemplar, and one that is used quite often (especially, it seems, in a military, legal, or political context) comes from "The Adventure of Silver Blaze" in which we have this exchange between Holmes and Inspector Gregory:

"Is there any other point to which you would 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.

This exchange is sometimes used as an argument from silence, again pointing to the logical nature of Holmes' mind. An article from *Science* states that "[t]he geological record of Earth's climate resembles Arthur Conan Doyle's curious incident of the dog that didn't bark in the night."¹⁸ A work examining the speech-writing processes of Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy notes "Like the dog that did not bark of Sherlock Holmes fame, Kennedy's drafting processes are most significant for what they did not contain..."¹⁹ Similarly, the exchange is used as a way to view a familiar object from a different perspective, again employing logic and reason. This can be seen in an article on the DNA helix²⁰ or, in a more comical vein, in a *USA Today Magazine* article on a new form of pest control.

In a classic Sherlock Holmes tale, the master detective bases his deduction on the fact that a dog didn't bark. That sort of negative inference also can apply when it comes to ridding your home of ants, spiders, roaches, waterbugs, and other insects, as well as mice, bats, and various critters that might take up residence in your residence, maintains Lentek International, Orlando, Fla. The method to control these pests is through electromagnetic and ultrasonic technology with PestContro.²¹

At other times this same exchange is used as a way to point to action, or more often, inaction, with some intimation of criminality or incompetence. Such is the case in a review of a book on the Vietnam War in *Military Review*,²² another review in the *Journal of Cold War Studies* on the C.I.A. and Poland,²³ a report on changes in the personal computer industry,²⁴ and happenings on the U.S. stock market.²⁵ Or yet again, the emblematic text is front and center, as in a *Trends in Parasitology* article "The dog that did not bark: malaria vaccines without antibodies,"²⁶ the *Case Western Reserve Law Review* article, "The dog that rarely barks: Why the courts won't resolve the war powers debate,"²⁷ or the *Ecology Law Quarterly* article "The Dog That Didn't Bark, Imperial Water, I Love L.A., and Other Tales From the California Takings Litigation Front."²⁸

Finally, this exchange has been used to point out absence, or lack of resources, for things that are needed. In "The Schools We Want, the Schools We Deserve" Denis Doyle (no relation) notes that "[i]f technology is not an end in itself, it is a tool of such power that it transforms all that it touches. It provides intellectual leverage—if that is what it is used for. But it is noteworthy that in the world of elementary and secondary education, technology is most conspicuous by its absence (perhaps like the Sherlock Holmes dog that didn't bark)..."²⁹ And, in at least one case, an author (Al Gore) was confused about who wrote the story, Doyle or Holmes. Gore wrote: "... Sherlock Holmes wrote [sic] a famous story in which the key clue was the dog that didn't bark."³⁰ Maybe it was because he was mad at the Bush White House.

There are other canonical phrases that we can add to the textual side of the Holmes icon that come from other tales. In "The Red-Headed League" we have the "three-pipe" problem.

"As a rule," said Holmes, "the more bizarre a thing is the less mysterious it proves to be. It is your commonplace, featureless crimes which are really puzzling, just as a commonplace face is the most difficult to identify. But I must be prompt over this matter."

"What are you going to do, then?" I asked.

"To smoke," he answered. "It is quite a three-pipe problem, and I beg that you won't speak to me for fifty minutes."

References to this kind of problem-solving approach appear in an article in *Earthwatch* on the search for the tomb of Alfred the Great,³¹ "What the World is Reading" in the *Economist*,³² and in an article on Charles Darwin's country estate, Down House, with this delightful description of his "thinking path."

Soon after settling at Downe, Darwin constructed a sand-covered path, known as the sandwalk, that still winds through the shady woods and then returns toward the house along a sunny, hedge-lined field. He strolled it daily, referring to it as 'my thinking path.' Often he would stack a few stones at the path's entrance, and knock one away with his walking stick on completing each circuit. He could anticipate a 'three-flint problem,' just as Sherlock Holmes had 'three-pipe problems,' and then head for home when all the stones were gone....³³

Another popular phrase comes from "A Scandal in Bohemia" (with permutations found in "A Study in Scarlet," "The Valley of Fear" and "The Adventure of the Second Stain"): "It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts." Articles in the *American Journal of Sociology* and the *Southern Review* open with this quote.³⁴ Another article in the *European Journal of Nuclear Medicine* applied this quote to that field of study.³⁵ As with the earlier examples, we see a linking of the Holmes icon with thought, rationality, and science.

This relationship of thought, rationality, and science with the emblematic text is possibly best seen in another well-known quotation attributed to Holmes, found in both "The Sign of Four" and "The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier": "How often have I said to you that when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth?" A writer in the *Economist* utilized this observation when reporting that a tiny error in the paths of two spacecraft may require "that the laws of gravity need an extra post-Einsteinian tweak."³⁶ Another article, in the journal *Astronomy*, had similar issues with the theory of relativity. In this case, however, the researcher (interested in an 8th-magnitude binary star 2,000 light-years from the Earth) wasn't ready to accept Holmes as gospel.³⁷ Interestingly, this text—"however improbable, must be the truth"—has been used in a number of articles in the fields of physics and astronomy (and discussion on theories related to the beginning and end of the universe),³⁸ with at least one writer calling this method of reasoning "The Sherlock Holmes Strategy."³⁹ A mathematical chemist used this principle in approaching chemical problems.⁴⁰ And at least one article dared to challenge the Holmesian axiom. Jack Cohen and Ian Stewart, writing in the *Lancet*, made this observation:

'Once you have eliminated the impossible, then whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.' So said Sherlock Holmes, and so do prosecutors

argue in criminal cases that hang upon the evidence of DNA fingerprints. The difficulty, which the great fictional detective swept under the carpet, is in deciding what remains....The uncertainties associated with DNA fingerprinting, especially when exaggerated by lawyers, have left juries in a state of mind very different from Sherlock Holmes's certainties. Once you have eliminated the impossible, then whatever remains, however improbable, may well be false—because what you think is impossible might actually be commonplace....⁴¹

It is the commonplace, in the end, that gives such strength to these textual aspects of the Sherlockian icon. I have given you six examples of phrases that show the icon through the text. These logos or emblems, and others like them, are as much a part of the Holmesian iconography as the essential visual images. They are bits and pieces of text from the canonical tales. Yet, in their use, they wind across any number of academic disciplines, thread their way through our public discourse, and are woven into our culture. Combined with the visual elements, they provide us with a robust and well-rounded image or symbol of Holmes.

And, while it may have been, in the beginning, an English-speaking culture that accepted and adopted Holmes in this manner, this is no longer the case. According to anecdotal accounts, Holmes books fly off the shelves in Moscow. One of the largest, if not *the* largest Sherlock Holmes appreciation society is in Japan. We are speaking about a global icon, one that cuts across national barriers and a provincial notion of iconography. At the moment, I have no definitive sense that the textual logo of Holmes, given in the phrases sketched earlier, carries through in translation. But I can deduce, given the number of translations of the stories, the number of non-English films and television programs produced, the number of non-English periodicals, and the relative position of the United Kingdom and United States in the math and science rankings of its elementary and secondary students that “three-pipe problems,” a “curious incident in the night,” and theorizing “before one has data” have found some traction and understanding with readers across the world. And what, to our own understanding, is more

commonplace, and yet more amazing, then to utter a name—Sherlock Holmes—that is both shibboleth and passport. Sherlock Holmes—much more than a “washed-up has-been.” Nothing more need be said.⁴²

Endnotes

¹ "Dylan, Bob" *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*. Ed. Elizabeth Knowles. Oxford University Press, 2004. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press. Univ of Minnesota - Twin Cities. 23 April 2008 <<http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t115.e993>>

² Taylor, Elizabeth" Quoteland.com, Univ. of Minnesota – Twin Cities. 23 April 2008 <http://www.quoteland.com/author.asp?AUTHOR_ID=2109>

³ "Cultural icon." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 22 Apr 2008, 16:14 UTC. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 23 Apr 2008 <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cultural_icon&oldid=207386123>.

⁴ "Potter Stewart." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 14 Apr 2008, 01:41 UTC. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 23 Apr 2008 <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Potter_Stewart&oldid=205463670>. Stewart, in his concurring opinion in *Jacobellis v. Ohio*, 378 U.S. 184 (1964), a case involving pornography, wrote: "I shall not today attempt further to define the kinds of material I understand to be embraced within that shorthand description [hard-core pornography]; and perhaps I could never succeed in intelligibly doing so. But I know it when I see it, and the motion picture involved in this case is not that."

⁵ Doyle, A. C. *A Scandal in Bohemia*.

⁶ Malec, Andrew. *The Other Master: Frederic Dorr Steele*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1984.

⁷ Two that spring readily to mind are: Richard Lancelyn Green and John Michael Gibson: *A Bibliography of A. Conan Doyle*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Soho Bibliographies), 1983, 1984; Ronald B. De Waal, *The Universal Sherlock Holmes*. Toronto: Metropolitan Toronto Library, 1994.

⁸ *A Holmes and Doyle Bibliography: Being a Supplement to the Universal Sherlock Holmes*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Libraries, 2006-. This online bibliography, now in ten volumes, may be found at <http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/holmes.phtml>

⁹ <http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/holmes/SuppVol5.pdf>

¹⁰ "Nuclear diaper." *Modern healthcare* 37, no. 32 (2007): 36-36. "The radioactive diaper tipped them off. It sounds like the start of a twisted thriller, but truth is stranger than fiction sometimes, especially at the troubled Martin Luther King Jr.-Harbor Hospital in Los Angeles. The adult diaper, used by an intensive-care patient in a routine test, set off a radiation-detection alarm at a nearby recycling and waste transfer facility in July, alerting the county Public Health Department to the illegal dumping. Tracing the offending diaper back to the hospital didn't take Sherlock Holmes. Whoever disposed of it threw personal patient information into the same trash bag...."

¹¹ "The sex trade in colonial West Africa." *New African*, no. 466 (2007): 80-82. "...It does not take a Sherlock Holmes to spot a French lady of easy virtue when she arrives at Dover. But I doubt whether even the eagle eye of Capt. Nottingham [commissioner of police in the Gold Coast] could discern the difference between a Calabar petty trader and a Calabar prostitute,' argued Blackall...."

¹² Zelnick, Bob. "'For Selfish Purposes.'" *National Review* 52, no. 15 (2000): 48-49. The article deals with U.S. Vice President and presidential candidate Al Gore and his political campaign. It describes the political campaigns of Gore. It compares the 1988 and 2000 presidential campaigns of Gore. It cites the problems faced by Gore as Democratic nominee. "...Common to both Gore's presidential campaigns has been the lack of any figure of authority at the top. Fred Martin, a former Mondale middleweight, was the nominal '88 campaign manager, but his voice was one of many. It would take a Sherlock Holmes to unravel the mystery of which media adviser--if any--was shaping Gore's message at any time and developing spots to drive it home...."

¹³ "Who Needs Napster?" *ON Magazine* 6, no. 3 (2001): 62.

¹⁴ This observation can be made for all of the following examples. In this case, a simple search in the bibliography provided at least a dozen examples.

¹⁵ Albrecht, Bob, and Paul Davis. "Elemental, my dear Holmes, elemental." *Learning and Leading with Technology* 27, no. 8 (2000): 22-27.

¹⁶ Godwin, Marshall. "It's elementary medicine, my dear Watson." *CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association Journal* 177, no. 12 (2007): 1551-1552. The article reviews the book *Evidence-Based Medicine in Sherlock Holmes' Footsteps*, by Jorgen Nordenstorm.

¹⁷ Jenkins, Lin. "Elementary Fraud at the Sherlock Holmes museum; [Final 4 Edition]." *The Times; London (UK)* (1994): 3. "[John A-----], 38, of Belgravia, central London, used false details to obtain mortgages. Each time he applied for money he claimed falsely that he had no outstanding debts on other properties. He netted Pounds 890,000 on the Sherlock Holmes museum building and Pounds 228,000 from a house in Battersea, south London. A further Pounds 100,000 was obtained on a flat in Stockwell, south London, under the name Peter Neville. A----- wrote references claiming that Neville worked for him at his free newspaper distribution firm, Rollerteam Ltd." [excerpt]

¹⁸ Archer, David. "Who Threw That Snowball?" *Science* 302, no. 5646 (2003): 791-792.

¹⁹ Bose, Meena. "Words as signals: Drafting Cold War rhetoric in the Eisenhower and Kennedy Administrations." *Congress & the Presidency* 25, no. 1 (1998): 23.

²⁰ Seeman, Nadrian C. "DNA Nanotechnology: Novel DNA Constructions." *Annual Review of Biophysics & Biomolecular Structure* 27, no. 1 (1998): 225. "We are all familiar with DNA as the substance that functions as genetic material for living cells. Its double-helical structure has become one of the cultural icons representing contemporary civilization in much the same way that we associate previous societies with the Pyramids of Egypt, the Colosseum of Rome, or the Great Wall of China. It is often useful to look at such a familiar object from the contrary viewpoint expressed by Sherlock Holmes in *Silver Blaze* (8), when he remarked to the inspector on the 'curious incident of the dog in the nighttime.' When the inspector replied, 'The dog did nothing in the night-time,' Holmes replied, 'That was the curious incident.' A similarly curious feature of DNA is its lack of branches: Insofar as we know, the helix axis of genomic DNA is topologically linear...."

²¹ "Don't Bug Me." *USA Today Magazine* 128, no. 2660 (2000): 77.

²² Cate, Alan C. "Book Reviews." *Military Review* 77, no. 3 (1997): 97. Reviews the book *Dereliction of Duty: Johnson, McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Lies that Led to Vietnam*, by H.R. McMaster. "The best-known incident in the Sherlock Holmes series occurs when, at a crime scene, the great detective calls Dr. Watson's attention to the curious incident of the dog in the night. 'The dog did nothing,' replies his puzzled colleague. 'That,' says Holmes, 'was the curious incident.' The behavior of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) was similarly curious when the United States mired itself in Vietnam. This is the mystery author H.R. McMaster seeks to solve...."

²³ Davies, Richard T. "The CIA and the Polish Crisis of 1980-1981." *Journal of Cold War Studies* 6, no. 3 (2004): 120-123. Reviews Douglas J. MacEachin, *U.S. Intelligence and the Confrontation in Poland, 1980-81*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002. "...In Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's story "Silver Blaze," about a case solved by Sherlock Holmes, one of the principal clues is 'the curious incident of the dog in the night-time.' The tip-off was that a watchdog 'did nothing in the night-time' when it could have been expected to bark and alert the staff of a racing stable as a prize racehorse was stolen. This image of a dog that failed to bark resurfaced in 1981 when, as MacEachin writes, 'for more than six weeks prior to the imposition of martial law, the U.S. government had been notably silent on all aspects relating to a possible military crackdown in Poland' (p.211)...."

²⁴ Delfino, Erik. "Looking for the grails." *Online* 22, no. 1 (1998): 39. Presents information on the changes which have taken place in the personal computer (PC) industry. "Every year at this time, the folks at ONLINE ask us to take a look at the year just past, and to take a peek forward at what may be in the year to come. As I was pondering this task, I found myself recalling some lines from Conan Doyle: "Is there any other point to which you would wish to draw my attention?" "To the curious incident of the dog in the nighttime." "The dog did nothing in the nighttime." "That was the curious incident," remarked Sherlock Holmes. (from *Silver Blaze*) At first I couldn't think what this had to do with computers. Then it came to me-what I was really hearing was this: "Think of the curious developments in the PC industry in the last year." "But there haven't been any developments in the PC industry in the last year." "That's what's so curious."

²⁵ Farrell, Christopher. "The Making of an Equity Culture." *Business Week Online* (2003): N.PAG. Focuses on the economic condition of the U.S. stock market in 2003. "...Here we go again. For three years, people have been arguing over whether the stock market is overvalued or not. The pessimists believe the recent stock market rally is unsustainable and that the bulls are running on fumes. The optimists point out that stocks are attractive relative to bonds, and that the recent economic data are largely pointing to an economy turning upward. It all reminds me of the Sherlock Holmes dialogue about the dog that didn't bark in the short story *Silver Blaze*: 'Is there any point to which you would 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. Well, the curious incident in the stock market is what didn't happen: Individual investors haven't fled the market in a panic, despite the searing economic and business trauma of the past three years...."

²⁶ Heppner, D. Gray, Robert J. Schwenk, David Arnot, *et al.* "The dog that did not bark: malaria vaccines without antibodies." *Trends in Parasitology* 23, no. 7 (2007): 293-296.

²⁷ Entin, Jonathan L. "The dog that rarely barks: Why the courts won't resolve the war powers debate." *Case Western Reserve Law Review* 47, no. 4 (1997): 1305. Argues that the judiciary does not play a large role in resolving debates over the respective role of Congress and the president in matters of war powers and foreign affairs. Reasons why the judicial role in war powers debate is modest; Procedural and jurisdictional obstacles to litigating over war powers and foreign affairs. The title of the article notes "With apologies to Sherlock Holmes. Cf Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Silver Blaze, in *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* 335, 349 (1930) ('a dog was kept in the stables, and yet, though someone had been in and had fetched out a horse, he had not barked enough to arouse the two lads in the loft')."

²⁸ Frank, Richard. "The Dog That Didn't Bark, Imperial Water, I Love L.A., and Other Tales From the California Takings Litigation Front." *Ecology Law Quarterly* 34, no. 2 (2007): 517-531. "...In one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous mysteries, Sherlock Holmes takes note of a dog that didn't bark at the scene of the crime, and then correctly infers from that silence the identity of the criminal perpetrator. So, too, an important inference can be drawn, from the relative dearth of Nollan/Dolan-related takings litigation in California in the years following the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *Nollan v. California Coastal Commission* and *Dolan v. City of Tigard*....Just as Sherlock Holmes deduced much from the dog that didn't bark, so perhaps should observers take note of the relative silence when it comes to recent Nollan/Dolan litigation in California...."

²⁹ Doyle, Denis P. "The schools we want, the schools we deserve: American education in retrospect and prospect." *Phi Delta Kappa Fastbacks*, no. 469 (2000): 7-62.

³⁰ Gore, Al. "The Politics of Fear." *Social Research* 71, no. 4 (2004): 779-798. Examines how terrorism was used by the administration of U.S. President George W. Bush in relation to their political agenda. "... Sherlock Holmes wrote [sic] a famous story in which the key clue was the dog that didn't bark. The White House hasn't even growled about who forged the document that got into the hands of the president of the United States and was used on national television..." William Safire made a similar mistake: he thought the name of the dog was "Silver Blaze."

³¹ "Search for England's first king." *Earthwatch: The Journal of Earthwatch Institute* 17, no. 1 (1998): 111. Discusses the Earthwatch project lead by Dr. Eric Klingelhofer, and Kenneth Qualmann. "Winchester, England-- You are about to enter on a search for a quarry as elusive and as sought-after as the Holy Grail itself. Whether you just read this story or take the plunge and join this project, you'll be diving into a mystery so sunk in the distant past and so riven with historical complexities that it would have left Sherlock Holmes declaring it a "three-pipe mystery," for the number of pipes he would have to smoke to work his way through it. It is the search for the tomb of Alfred the Great, the first King of England."

³² "What the world is reading." *Economist* (1997): 4/5p. Looks at the bestselling non-fiction in America and in Great Britain as of June 21, 1997. "For Sherlock Holmes it would have posed a three-pipe problem: What makes readers of newspapers so different from readers of books?..."

³³ Milner, Richard. "Keeping up Down House." *Natural History* 105, no. 8 (1996): 54. Describes naturalist Charles Darwin's country estate Down House outside London, England, where he stayed after his voyage aboard the HMS Beagle. Writing the scientific classic "The Origin of Species"; Description of the estate; Purchase and restoration of the estate.

³⁴ Anderson, Elijah. "The Ideologically Driven Critique." *American Journal of Sociology* 107, no. 6 (2002): 1533-1550. Responds to sociologist Loic Wacquant's review and criticisms of the author's book entitled *Code of the Street: Decency, Violence and the Moral Life of the Inner City*. Chatman, Seymour. "Whatever happened to literary theory?" *Southern Review* 34, no. 2 (1998): 367.

³⁵ Carrió, Ignasi. "Highlights of the annual meeting of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine: Glasgow 1997: The Flowering of Science and Art of Nuclear Medicine in Europe." *European journal of nuclear medicine* 24, no. 12 (1997): 1527. "...One of the great Scottish writers, Arthur Conan Doyle, wrote in *The Valley of Fear* (1914) something that seems to apply to nuclear medicine: Watson: The temptation to form premature theories upon insufficient data is the bane of our profession. Holmes: Brilliant Watson, you are scintillating this morning!..."

³⁶ "A space oddity." *Economist* 349, no. 8087 (1998): 81-82.

³⁷ Naeye, Robert. "Was Einstein wrong?" *Astronomy* 23, no. 11 (1995): 54. Discusses the mystery of the DI Herculis, a 8th-magnitude binary star 2,000 light-years from the Earth, which refuses to conform to general relativity. Albert's Einstein's concept of relativity; Testing of general relativity with the DI Herculis; Relativity and

binary pulsar; Possible explanations for DI Herculis' behavior; Implications of DI Herculis' behavior for general physics. "...Like a modern-day Sherlock Holmes, Villanova University astronomer Edward Guinan is trying to solve a mystery. The fictional supersleuth employed ingenious deduction to unravel the most perplexing of mysteries from the most subtle of clues. In the end, he always got his man. If only Guinan could be so lucky. His case remains unsolved after 18 frustrating years of investigation....Despite his inability to find a solution, Guinan can't quite bring himself to accept the old Holmesian adage, 'When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.'..."

³⁸ Lemonick, Michael D. "The End (Cover story)." *Time Europe* 157, no. 25 (2001): 46. Linde, Andrei.

"Inflationary cosmology and creation of matter in the universe." *AIP Conference Proceedings* 555, no. 1 (2001): 3.

³⁹ Franklin, Allan. "William Wilson and the Absorption of Beta Rays." *Physics in Perspective* 4, no. 1 (2002): 40.

"In the first decade of the 20th century, physicists believed that the particles emitted in radioactive decay were monoenergetic and that such monoenergetic electrons would be absorbed exponentially in passing through matter. Conversely, they also believed that if electrons followed an exponential absorption law then they were monoenergetic. William Wilson showed conclusively that this view was wrong. After Wilson's work, physicists changed the experimental technique they used to investigate the phenomena. Instead of using absorption to measure the decay energy, they now used magnetic spectroscopy with various detectors as their standard method. Although Wilson's work changed the entire practice of the field and showed that the accepted view on electron absorption was wrong, references to it soon disappeared. Perhaps more surprisingly, after 1912 Wilson himself no longer published work on particles and disappeared from the physics literature completely." Includes a passing reference to Holmes. "...Wilson's results were credible....He had eliminated plausible alternative explanations of his result, and was left with the conclusion that it was correct. This is an example of what we might call the Sherlock Holmes strategy. As Holmes remarked to Watson in *The Sign of Four*, 'How often have I said to you that when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbably, must be the truth....'"

⁴⁰ Balaban, Alexandru T. "Mathematical Chemistry: (3,g)-Cages with Girth g, Topological Indices, and Other Graph-Theoretical Problems." *Fundamenta Informaticae* 64, no. 1/4 (2005): 1-16. This essay contains personal views about mathematical chemistry -- mainly with nonnumerical and non-quantumflavor, including a reference to Doyle and Holmes. "Mathematical Chemistry (or the Sherlock Holmes Approach to Chemistry). Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created the well-known character of Sherlock Holmes, whose method consisted in the following principle that he stated repeatedly: 'when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbably, must contain the truth.' This principle was applied in all the above graph-theoretical approaches to chemical problems."

⁴¹ Cohen, Jack, and Ian Stewart. "Beyond all reasonable DNA." *Lancet* 345, no. 8965 (1995): 1586.

Opinion. Comments on the alternative explanations needed to prove the validity of DNA fingerprinting.

⁴² My appreciation and thanks to Lucy Brusica, John Bergquist, Kris Kiesling, Julie McKuras, Dick Sveum, and Gary Thaden, who read a draft of this paper and offered helpful comments.