



Ineffable Twaddle

"It is my business to know what other people don't know."

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

A monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars • Since March 31, 1980



Volume 44 Issue 7 ■ July 2025

Story & Meeting Content for 2025 SOB Meetings:

★ *We continue our 5-year Cycle with 3 more stories on the theme of, "Victorian Medicine" with ... RESI, DEVI & CREE ★*

- July 13 John H. Watson Picnic, In-person
Seahurst Park, Burien, WA
- July 20 The Resident Patient
via Zoom *↗ Two events in July!!*
- Aug. 17 The Devil's Foot
In-person meeting, Discussion & Quiz
by Webmaster Shannon Wallace!
- Sept. 21 The Creeping Man
via Zoom

★ *We move forward in our 5-year Cycle—with the first 2 of 4 stories on the theme, "Leisure and Entertainment"—with the first two in 2025... VEIL, SCAN ★*

- Oct. 19 The Veiled Lodger
In-person meeting
- Nov. 16 A Scandal in Bohemia
via Zoom, Discussion & Quiz
by SOB Naching T. Kassa!

★ *We'll interrupt our regular study with the Annual Return to our Christmas favorite... ★*



*This 4th of July,
may freedom &
peace reach
everyone
in the World!*



Please note that we are continuing with our pattern of rotating our meetings—with Zoom meetings occurring in odd-numbered months and In-person meetings occurring in even-numbered months—with **MOST** meetings & events occurring on the 3rd Sunday the month.

Story & Meeting Content for SOB Meetings (Dec. 2025 to Feb. 2026):

- December 21 The Blue Carbuncle
In-person meeting
- ★ *We wrap-up our study of the 3rd & 4th stories on the theme, "Leisure and Entertainment"—with these two in 2026...MISS, SUSS ★*
- January 18, 2026 The Missing Three Quarters
via Zoom
- February 15, 2026 The Sussex Vampire
In-person meeting

Says Program Chair SOB Sunny Even ...on our multi-story theme of, "Victorian Era Medicine"



Like Mr. Blessington, Victorians with sufficient financial means traditionally sought private medical treatment in their own homes. **"The Adventure of the Resident Patient"** begs the

question, what were Late Victorian hospitals like?

Prior to Holmes's time, hospitals catered mostly to the destitute and poor, as a last resort. Most young professionals like Percy Trevelyan would have got their start working in these grim places, until they built up sufficient capital and private patients to make a go on their own.

In both Britain and America, accelerated urbanization and the incidence of urban diseases (cholera, typhoid, etc.) drove the necessity for more and newer hospitals, better understanding of disease pathologies, and increased specialization in ...

Continued on Page 2

Join Us for Two (2) SOB's Summer Events!

★ In-Person, Sunday, July 13, 2025 is...

Our 28th Dr. John H. Watson Picnic at Seahurst Park in Burien, WA

See further details on Page 4

★ Via Zoom, Sunday, July 20, 2025 is...

Our monthly Canonical study...on The Resident Patient

Says Program Chair SOB Sunny Even...

Continued from Page 1

...treatments. However, the risk of cross-infection in hospitals remained high so people still avoided hospitals as far as possible. As an example, mortality following simple amputations in hospitals averaged 40% mid-century.

The development of effective sanitation and aseptic medical techniques, in addition to the growth of modern nursing practices, began to change this. In Britain, Dr. Joseph Lister pioneered antiseptic surgery and preventive healthcare. He is said to have revolutionized the craft of surgery in the same sense John Hunter revolutionized the science of surgery a century earlier. Figures like William Halsted in the U.S. followed in his footsteps, fostering the conversion to aseptic surgery. Following the Crimea War and the U.S. Civil War, training of nurses by reformers such as Florence Nightingale and Clara Barton noticeably improved post-operative outcomes and overall patient care. As medicine underwent a scientific revolution, so too did hospitals, transforming from places the penniless went to die, to institutions of science providing treatments to diseases previously incurable. ★

*“ ‘SH: What do you say to a ramble through London?’ ...
JW: I was weary of our little sitting-room and gladly acquiesced.”*

A Quiz on “The Resident Patient” by: SOB Charlie Cook



RIP: 5/1936 —5/2025

1. Watson considered “A Study in Scarlet” and “The Adventure of the Gloria Scott” examples of what?
2. Name the doctor who visited 221B and provide his address in London!
3. What was the subject of the doctor’s monograph and how was he rewarded for it while at King’s College?
4. Name the resident patient of the title!
5. What reason did the Russian nobleman give for consulting the doctor?
6. What tragic event happened in the patient’s room, and who was the investigating policeman?
7. What statistic did the policeman mention to Holmes?
8. What type of cigars were found in the patient’s room?
9. What deductions did Holmes make from the cigars?
10. Give the patient’s real name and the names of the three men who broke into his room!
11. By what name were these three men (above) collectively known?
12. Name the ill-fated steamer mentioned at the end of the story, and what was its significance.



Answers may be found on Page 7



SOB Kris Hambrick's Sherlock on Screen: "The Resident Patient"

It is with something of a sense of nostalgia that I return this month to the Granada series and Jeremy Brett's Holmes for the case of "[The Resident Patient](#)." For one thing, certain moments of this episode are firmly lodged in my adolescent brain for some reason, particularly the part where the elderly Russian grunts "vod-ka!" (I also have a weird thing for the name "Percy Trevelyan," I just think it sounds cool.) But I'm also nostalgic for a quality of television presentation that was rare even when it aired, so I'd like to take the time to appreciate the things this series did well. At this distance and with so many accolades, I think the specific things this series does well can become overlooked.

This episode aired as part of the second set of the first series, and thus features all of the delights of the early shows: a lean and beautiful Brett, a chummy James Burke as Dr. Watson, obsessive attention to detail in terms of sets and props and cinematography that places this show as something more than a weekly soap. It also has several charming domestic touches that do not intersect with the plot, but offer us glimpses into the shared life of Holmes and Watson: Watson attempting (and failing) to impress Holmes by "reading his thoughts," Mrs. Hudson complimenting a model ship Watson is working on, Watson getting irritated by Holmes playing his violin in his ear while attempting to write but ultimately taking Holmes' suggestion for a story title.

But the scene that sets this episode apart, not just in terms of Granada but I would venture most Holmesian media, is a silent scene of fully two and a half minutes in which Holmes investigates Mr. Blessington's bedroom. Brett himself was quite proud of this scene, citing a 1955 French movie as reference, because during the course of this segment, he examines the scene, crawls on the floor, collects cigar ash, and does it all without explaining to the audience or anyone else what he is doing. He doesn't need to. This is the Holmes described in Doyle's stories, with his tweezers and magnifying glass, and it is going to take *whatever* time it takes.



While I love a lot of modern Holmes films, I can't help but contrast this with newer "investigation" scenes which almost invariably contain either voice over or text on the screen delineating the clues found, as if the audience is going to be in some sort of confusion or suffer boredom unless every moment is literally spelled out. It always makes me feel like the producers think I'm either stupid or careless, and it leaves nothing for the viewer to contribute. While this type of scene wasn't common even in the 80s, it's satisfying to encounter a version of Holmes that gives us at least as much credit as it does Watson.



On July 13, Be at Seahurst Park for the Watson Picnic!

Please join us for our 28th Dr. John H. Watson Picnic
on Sunday, July 13 at Seahurst Park in Burien, WA!

THERE WILL BE NO STORY TO STUDY, but Vice-President Kashena Konecki
has a mysterious and thought-provoking game in the works!

Join us at *this* our annual celebration of all things “Dr. Watson”!

We will meet, of course, in the **south shelter at Seahurst Park in Burien, WA**—a gorgeous site, nestled in a residential area, right on the Sound! The Park is centrally located, as Burien is west of I-5 from Exit 154, which puts it midway between Seattle and Tacoma.

FUN BEGINS AT 9 A.M. WITH TREATS & COFFEE, AND RUNS TO 3 P.M.!

All are encouraged to contribute to our lunch buffet
(entrees, salads, sides, snacks, desserts & beverages)!

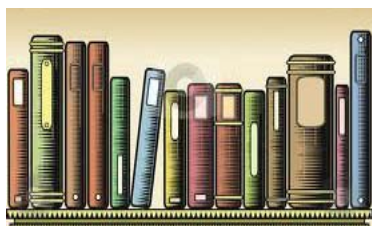
*Haugens will bring morning coffee and sweets at 9 a.m., and
the table cloths, paper plates, napkins, drinks cups, and plastic utensils.*

And, “Bear” Berwald will be there with his BBQ grill!

If you are bringing something that requires a special serving piece, please bring that with you.



****NEW THIS YEAR****



*If you are looking to prune your Sherlockian collection or to spruce it up,
at this Watson Picnic, we'll have an extra area designated for the brows-
ing & sharing of Sherlockian books, games, DVDs, and other items, etc.*

—**LIKE A “SWAP MEET,” NOT A RAFFLE.**

Bring your pruned items, take home some new things!

Leave an item, take an item!

VP Kashena thought this was a good way to get a few more items you may not need in your collection into wider circulation. All left overs will be added to our raffle trove going forward!

You may want to keep your **best** item(s) for December, though, because she is proposing a “white elephant” event at the Jollification, where you’ll bring it wrapped for a fun exchange.

All of this is, of course, optional!

Details for GETTING TO SEAHURST PARK in Burien, WA

- From I-5, take **Highway 518 westbound** (*Exit 154, near South Center Mall, where I-5 meets I-405*).
- When you get into Burien, Highway 518 **turns into S. W. 148th Street**.
- As you continue west-bound, look for and turn right onto **Ambaum Blvd. S.W.**
- Proceed to **S. W. 144th Street** (the 2nd light) and turn left.
- Go 3 short blocks to **13th Avenue S.W.** and turn right, which will take you right into the park —**if you hit the water, you’ve gone too far!**

We will be in the south picnic shelter, on your left as you look at the Sound!



Welcome to “Sherlock Throughout the Year”

By: SOB Margaret Nelson



Ed. Note: *A hearty SOB welcome to our newest regular columnist, long-time member Margaret Nelson, who will help us share a closer connection to the daily lives of Holmes & Watson.*

What adventures were Sherlock and Watson experiencing at any point during their very busy years together?

Some clues come out of **The Daily Sherlock Holmes: A Year of Quotes From The Case-Book of The World's Greatest Detective by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**, edited by Levi Stahl and Stacey Shintani (University of Chicago Press, October 15, 2019).

Here are the entries, in chronological order, which mention the month of **July**, along with the stories cited.

From: “The Sign of Four”, 1890—

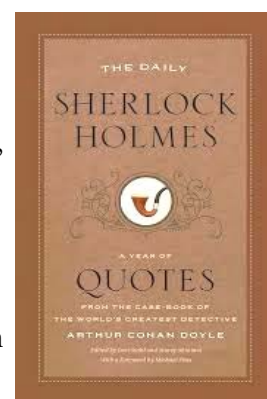
Miss Morstan: “This morning I received this letter, which you will perhaps read for yourself.”
“Thank you,” said Holmes. “The envelope, too, please.”

“Postmark, London, S.W. Date, **July 7**. Hum! Man’s thumb-mark on corner—probably postman. Best quality paper. Envelopes at sixpence a packet. Particular man in his stationery. No address. ‘Be at the third pillar from the left outside the Lyceum Theatre tonight at seven o’clock. If you are distrustful bring two friends. You are a wronged woman and shall have justice. Do not bring police. If you do, all will be in vain, Your unknown friend.’”

“Well, really, this is a pretty mystery! What do you intend to do, Miss Morstan?”

From “The Adventure of Black Peter,” 1904—“During the first week of **July**, my friend had been absent so often and so long from our lodgings that I knew he had something on hand. The fact that several rough-looking men called during that time and inquired for Captain Basil made me understand that Holmes was working somewhere under one of the numerous disguises and names with which he concealed his own formidable identity.” ☆

Stay tuned in the months to come, as Margaret shares these petite bon mots!



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know!

⇒ **SOB Maffie Rafferty sent this update:** CBS’ **Watson is Popular, But There’s Another Sherlock Holmes TV Show That’s Been A Quiet Success, and I hope more people start watching it: It is “Sherlock & Daughter”** on the CW. The new spin on the Arthur Conan Doyle detective premiered on the CW Network on April 16 and, in its most recent week, achieved its highest ratings of the season, growing almost 20% since its premiere. ♦ “**Sherlock & Daughter**” follows Holmes on a sinister case that appears to have him beaten. Unable to investigate without endangering his closest friends, the legendary detective is at a loss for once until he meets the young Amelia Rojas in the aftermath of the mysterious murder of her mother. Together, they set

out to solve the case and find definitive proof that Amelia is, indeed, the daughter of Sherlock Holmes. **Source:** <https://www.cinema blend.com/television/cbs-watson-popular-another-sherlock-holmes-tv-show-quiet-success-sherlock-and-daughter>

Adds PFL David: *A success critically and in terms of ratings in the U.S., “Sherlock & Daughter” has received a nomination for a Golden Nymph Award for best global fiction series at the upcoming Monte-Carlo Television Festival.*

⇒ **SOB Bill Seil (Member #1) sent this local news:** **University Book Store Gets a New Operator – Barnes & Noble:** Just a few months after the store marked its 125th anniversary in January – and its 100th anniversary at the current location on University Way ...

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Things to See, Buy, Do & Know!

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...Northeast (in Seattle) – management confirmed (recently) that Barnes & Noble will soon assume operation of the bookstore's trade books department (basically: all non-textbooks for the general reading public). ♦ The setup will be somewhat unique: The bookselling giant will run operations under the name and umbrella of the University Book Store, but retain profits derived from the trade books department. The apparel and textbooks department, as well as Boon Boona Coffee, will remain unchanged run by the University Book Store management team.

- ⇒ **Thanks to George Lenex for this squib:** “**The Game is On**” ringtone from the *Sherlock* TV series is available for FREE from the free app, Zedge.
- ⇒ **Margaret Nelson reminds us: Worldwide Doyle 2025 Lectures, Next Event is July 3:** The Portsmouth Library and Archives has been hosting a series of online talks related to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. ♦ The Library and Archives are the home to [The Conan Doyle Collection Lancelyn Green Bequest](#), an unrivaled collection of books, photographs, objects, documents, and memorabilia chronicling the life of Conan Doyle and beyond, coming from the estate of Richard Lancelyn Green. ♦ **The July 3 lecture** will be given by **The Stormy Petrels’ President Sheldon Goldfarb** on the topic “*Conan Doyle, Misquoter*” ♦ Register for the July 3 lecture at this link: [Worldwide Doyle 2025 Lectures in June and July - I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere](#) to watch it for free via Zoom.
- ⇒ **PFL David Surfs the Web for You!**
 - **Why CBS Is Delaying Watson Season 2:** Instead of joining shows like Dick Wolf's new *CIA* series and fellow 2024-2025 freshman hit *Matlock* in [CBS’ 2025-2026 TV lineup](#) this fall, *Watson* will once again premiere in midseason, which presumably means early 2026. CBS said that there was truly a lack of room on the schedule.
 - **Rotten Tomatoes doesn't rank Benedict Cumberbatch as the best modern-day Sherlock Holmes:** Guess who is number one? [Rotten Tomatoes doesn't rank Benedict Cumberbatch as the best modern-day Sherlock Holmes](#). ↗

- **Howard Ostrom’s “A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers”** now has more than 10,000 entries (with more than 25,000 images), covering stage, screen, radio, television, the Internet, and much more; the new list will be available on-line later this year at www.np1h.co.uk/a-z-index.html. Howard decided at the end of 2024 to add new modern entries only for screen and television (there just is too much new material on stage, television, and the Internet), but he'll continue to pursue older entries that turn up as more and more resources are digitized and made available on-line.
- **Confirmed Upcoming Sherlock Holmes Movies and TV Shows:** Sherlock Holmes isn't just the most famous fictional detective; he's one of the most famous fictional characters, period. He's appeared in dozens of TV series and film adaptations, turning Holmes and his partner in crime, Dr. John Watson, into timeless icons. Here is every Sherlock Holmes movie and TV show currently in production, including those trapped in production hell: [Confirmed Upcoming Sherlock Holmes Movies and TV Shows](#)
- **Top Actors Who Played Sherlock:** And while there have been hundreds of different actors to play Sherlock Holmes either on stage or over the airwaves, this list is strictly focusing on all the Sherlocks from live-action movies and TV shows. Ever wondered who was the best Sherlock? Well, now's your chance to weigh in. You get 29 actors listed: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/tv/news/top-actors-who-played-sherlock/ss-AA1FmdUr?ocid=msedgntp&pc=U531&cvid=c6dfbfd9371d4eee91347182c9b804b1&ei=12#image=8>
- **The Origins of Sherlock Holmes Day:** *Sherlock Holmes Day is celebrated on May 22nd and, marks the birthday of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*, the brilliant mind behind the world's most famous detective. What began as a niche celebration among mystery lovers has grown into a global event, with fans donning deerstalker hats and reenacting Holmes's legendary cases. This day isn't just about dressing up or reading stories—it's a tribute to the enduring influence of Sherlock Holmes on both literature and science. Across the world, libraries, museums, and forensic labs use this day to honor how Holmes's methods still inspire real investigations. The sense of excitement and curiosity that fills...

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Things to See, Buy, Do & Know!

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⇒ PFL David Surfs the Web for You!

...the air on Sherlock Holmes Day perfectly mirrors the relentless pursuit of truth in both fiction and reality. For more: [Sherlock Holmes Day and the Science of Deduction: How Fiction Inspired Forensics](#)

- **Want to see Rathbone & Bruce series in color go to:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55W63tu_pp0&list=PLo SH 6rEkH3M5o6_Q9eec3TnwfgAs WSGIi. You start on “The Hound of the Baskervilles,” but there is a listing of the 12 others you can see by just clicking on them. Only “The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes” is missing.

⇒ From the London Society's Ed., Dr. Holly Turner:

- **A new adaptation is in the works, called “True Sherlock.”** This will be a TV adaptation of Nicholas Sercombe's book series The Unexpurgated Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. The series is set to star Oli Higginson as Holmes and Will Kemp as Moriarty, and will be exploring the origins of both characters, as well as Watson and Mrs. Hudson. **It will consist of four feature length episodes with shooting scheduled to begin in January 2026.** Further information is available at: <https://worldscreen.com/tvdrama/harry-king-televisiondeveloping-true-sherlock>
- There is **an article that talks about the film “Mr. Holmes”** and why it deserves to be better known: <https://www.cbr.com/forgotten-sherlock-holmes-film/>
- **A radio production of The Beekeeper's Apprenticeship** has been made available on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZQJdjMZQwk&ab_channel=Radioplayhouse

⇒ From Peter Blau's *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*:

- **Sherlock Holmes and the Real Thing** by Nicholas Meyer's (\$26.96) is (perhaps) the last in his long series of Sherlockian novels (his The Seven-Per-Cent Solution was published in 1974), and he has been writing Sherlockian stories for many years more than Conan Doyle. It's a well-told tale of chicanery and forgery and murder in the world of fine art; the author confesses that he has been a forger since he began the series, and of course he has ➡

- been thoroughly successful at it. His website's at: www.nicholas-meyer.com
- **The ACD Society's “The Terror of Blue John Gap Project”** (presided over by SOBs Margie Deck and Nancy Holder, BSI) has reached page 10 of the manuscript of the story, halfway through the manuscript, and the Project's a fine demonstration of making scholarship available on-line; you can explore the results at www.acd-society.com/bjg10.html.
- The CBS-TV series “Watson” has been renewed for a second season. *If you had trouble recording and watching episodes when the preceding sports programs ran long*, the entire series is conveniently available online at: www.cbs.com/shows/watson.
- **Benedict Cumberbatch Reads Sherlock Holmes' Rediscovered Railway Mysteries** (an audiobook with 4 new stories by John Taylor), released by BBC Audio in 2015, is available free at YouTube at: www.tinyurl.com/3xasesht. Many are now listening to audiobooks at YouTube and more Sherlockian recordings can be found there.

Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 2: “The Resident Patient”

1. Scylla and Charybdis. (*The phrase “between Scylla and Charybdis” is often used to describe a situation where someone is caught between two equally perilous choices, where avoiding one danger inevitably leads to another.*)
2. Doctor Percy Trevelyan; 403 Brook Street.
3. Obscure nervous lesions; the Bruce Pinkerton Prize and a medal.
4. Mr. Blessington.
5. He had been for some years a victim of cataleptic attacks.
6. Blessington apparently hanged himself; Inspector Lanner.
7. That suicide is most common at about 5 in the morning.
8. One was from Havana and four were imported by the Dutch from their East India colonies.
9. Two were smoked from a holder; two were not; two had ends cut by a not-very-sharp knife and two had ends that were bitten off.
10. Sutton; Biddle, Hayward and Moffat.
11. The Worthingdon Bank Gang.
12. The “*Norah Creina*”; it was believed that the murderers were on board when it sank. ★



The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

A monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles

A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980

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The Sound of the Baskervilles is a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, serving the greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, U.S.A., and has met monthly since March 31, 1980.

\$25 per year brings Members the monthly newsletter "Ineffable Twaddle", a copy of Beaten's Christmas Annual, and the incalculable benefits of association with a group of certifiable Holmes aficionados.

Meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary. Traditional events scheduled through the year may include: "The Master's Dinner" celebrating Holmes' birthday, "The Annual Wreath Throw" commemorating Holmes' loss at Reichenbach Falls (May), "The Dr. John H. Watson Picnic" (July), and "The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification" (December).

Other activities—films, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.

To join, send your check for dues—\$25 for individuals, \$35 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left. ←

For our Bridge-

Source: Seattle Times, June 28, 2025;

https://replica.seattletimes.com/popovers/dynamic_article_popover.aspx?artguid=7f00d220-a17c-46dc-a5d8-f25b757f39af&appcode=SEATTL&eguid=cefac553-2a00-4471-8092-f929bb4ae7d9&pnum=95#

Playing Aficionados—Spied by PFL David, with assist from SOB Bill Seil

Bridge | Steve Becker

SHERLOCK HOLMES

West dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A K 6
♥ 7 6 3 2
♦ A J 10 5 4
♣ 3

WEST

♠ Q 10 8 2
♥ A K 5
♦ K 9 8 7 3
♣ 4

EAST

♠ J 9 7 3
♥ J 10 9 8
♦ Q 6
♣ Q 5 2

SOUTH

♠ 5 4
♥ Q 4
♦ 2
♣ A K J 10 9 8 7 6

The bidding:

West North East South

1 ♦ Pass 1 ♥ 5 ♣

Opening lead — king of hearts.

"Your recent behavior has been quite astonishing, Holmes. You have been remarkably careless of late."

"Watson, my dear fellow," the great detective replied, "what on earth are you talking about?"

"Your casual manner at bridge last night. In particular, that five-club hand where West led the K-A and another heart, which you ruffed. All that remained was to resolve how to play the trump suit, but instead you fiddled around with the diamonds and spades."

"It was all quite necessary," Holmes countered. "In order to play my trumps properly, I had to obtain a count of the other suits. Of course, I already knew how the spades were distributed." "Spades? But Holmes, the opponents had bid diamonds and hearts, not spades."

"Spades were not mentioned by either opponent, so that suit had to be divided 4-4. And while East had to have four hearts for his bid, the diamond distribution was uncertain. In order to learn how many West had, I led a diamond to the ace, ruffed a diamond, led a

spade to the king and ruffed another diamond. When East showed out, I knew West had started with precisely five diamonds, four spades, three hearts and hence one club."

"But West's singleton club could have been the queen," Watson protested. "He had, after all, opened the bidding."

"The singleton queen was not very likely. East needed six points for his heart response, and these were known not to include the A-K of hearts or the king of diamonds. And if East had the Q-J of spades, this would mean that West had opened with 12 points, two of which would be a singleton queen — surely unlikely. So, when I led a spade to the ace and took the club finesse, it was almost certain to succeed, my dear Watson."

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