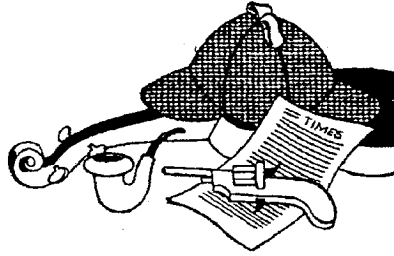


# The Cri Bar Crier



Newsletter of the Criterion Bar Association of Chicago  
[www.criterionbar.org](http://www.criterionbar.org)

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Volume 22, No. 4

May 2017

## ***Stamford at the Bar***

Greetings to all Sherlockians!

A few notes on Professor Moriarty follow:

His appellation as the Napoleon of Crime was probably based on the master criminal Adam Worth 1844-1902 (1,2). He had stolen a Gainsborough portrait of the Duchess of Devonshire in 1876 (photo) from the art gallery of Agnew. It was worth 40,000 pounds. There is an allusion to this portrait in the Valley of Fear story, in which an expensive painting of La Jeune Fille a l'Agneau is seen in Moriarty's house. Here Doyle changes the artist from Gainsborough to Grueze and L'Agneau is a subtle referral to Agnew. Also Holmes mentions that the portrait sold for 40,000 pounds.



Adam Worth masterminded a large network of thieves and forgers that spanned the US and Europe. In 1869 he tunneled into the Boylston Bank (Boston) to steal \$200,000 ( Cf Red headed league story). He was a master of disguises. For example disguised as an ostrich feather buyer he befriended a man who was to transport some diamonds from S. Africa to England, got duplicate keys to the man's safe, stole the diamonds worth \$500,000 and sent them back to England in a parcel of ostrich feathers. (1880)

Unlike the fictional Moriarty, he avoided violence and murder. His meticulous planning of robberies won the admiration of his life-long adversary William Pinkerton. Sir Robert Anderson (CID) said he was the Napoleon of the Criminal world. None other could hold a candle to him

### References

1. David Hammer: Cases of Identity, Gasogene books, Indianapolis, 2006 pp 68-79
2. Ben Macintyre: The Napoleon of Crime. The life and times of Adam Worth, master thief. Harper Collins, UK 1997

Franklin Saksena M.D.B.S.I.

## ***Recap of Our Last Meeting***

Thirty friends of Sherlock Holmes met March 25 at the Via Veneto Restaurant. Toasts were made by Dino Argyropoulos (to Edwards McMurdo Douglas), Barbara Wells (to the Valley of Fear story), Don Izben (to Scotland Yard), Susan Diamond (to the friendship of Watson and Holmes, and of Dr. Watson's talent as a lyricist, sung by Alan Devitt) and Brenda Rossini (to Moriarity). Some of these toasts are reprinted in this Crier.

The mail-in crossword was won by Susan Diamond, Brenda Rossini, Dino Argyropoulos and Phil Cunningham.

Brenda's quiz on the Valley of Fear: *blood, coal, tears and sweat* (24 points) won by Jim Goehmann (10 points), Susan Diamond (9 points) and Franklin Saksena (6 points).

The *Crime and Puzzlement* picture quiz: "Dead man's Curvature" was won by Jim Goehmann, Brenda Rossini and Dr. Shapiro.

Winners of the quiz and puzzle were allowed to choose from the prize table.

In his Program "The Valley of Fear: The Chicago Connections Revisited, Tom Joyce took us through the life and career of James McPharland, the real Birdie Edwards. He emigrated to Chicago in 1867 and worked as a laborer and teamster in the slaughterhouses, before becoming a private policeman in a saloon. After fire wiped him out in 1871 he joined the Pinkerton's and worked to catch railroad workers who were cheating. In 1872, the railroads, wanting to control the flow of coal to New York City, hired the Pinkerton's to go undercover in the Pennsylvania coal fields. McPharland, already working with the railroad, changed his name to McKenna and was sent to Pottsville, PA, the real Valley of Fear. There he infiltrated the Molly McGuires for 2.5 years. Much of the story in the Valley of Fear really happened and many place names are real. In 1876 word leaked that he was an agent and he escaped to Philadelphia.

In 1879 McPharland married and relocated to Chicago. After his wife died, he was appointed the superintendent of the Denver Office of the Pinkerton's. There he investigated various cases of workers' fraud and, through operatives, pursued Butch Cassidy. In 1903 he began losing his eyesight, contracted frostbite in his toes, and put on weight. One of his last cases was a mine explosion that killed the governor of Idaho. He got someone to turn state's evidence against the miners' union, but was blamed by Clarence Darrow (for the defense) for lying. He retired in 1916 and died in 1919 of effects of diabetes. He is buried in Denver.

*The Valley of Fear* is based on a story that Charles Pinkerton told to Arthur Conan Doyle.

## ***Join us on May 20***

**PLEASE JOIN** the Criterion Bar Association for a meeting at the Great Escape Restaurant. See the reservation form at the end of the Crier.

**Please let us know by May13** if you will be joining us, so that we may accurately notify the restaurant of our expected numbers.

The Program will be "Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes and Race" by Ron Levitsky

In "The Reigate Squire," Sherlock Holmes states, "I make a point of never having any prejudices." Was this true? Or, like many of his contemporaries, was Holmes affected by race and racism? If so, what does that say about his creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle? The speaker will offer some thoughts regarding how issues of race helped to shape Doyle's life, his writings, and his most famous creation.

Ron Levitsky was born and raised in the Chicagoland area. He is a retired middle school social studies teacher. He continues his interest in history and government by working on educational curriculum dealing with the Armenian and Greek Genocides, as well as serving as a trustee on his township and library boards. He has published four mystery novels, and his short stories have appeared in literary and mystery magazines, as well as anthologies. He lives with his wife, Dr. Connie Blade, their two dogs and cat.

### ***I had seen little of Holmes lately***

Our mailing list now includes many whom we have not seen at a meeting for some time. If you wish to keep in contact with the Criterion Bar Association, we will be happy to keep you on, but, if you are one whose "home-centered interests ...[are] sufficient to absorb all [your] attention," you can be removed from the mailing list, by contacting the Solitary Typist at [rjgoehmann@aol.com](mailto:rjgoehmann@aol.com).

### ***Call for Programs and Quizes***

The Criterion Bar Association is seeking Sherlockians willing to give a program, help with a presentation or to write a quiz. Any of these would qualify you for membership in the Cri Bar. If you have a program, quiz or would like to help, please contact Franklin Saksena ([franklin.saksena@gmail.com](mailto:franklin.saksena@gmail.com)) or Brenda Rossini ([agrrtiq@aol.com](mailto:agrrtiq@aol.com)).

### ***Toasts... Toasts... Toasts***

Toasting at Sherlockian dinners is a long and valued tradition. To celebrate our toasts and toasters we hereby print the toasts from our last meeting.

#### ***A Toast to the Protagonist of *The Valley of Fear****

*by Dino Argyropoulos*

A Birdy told me...

Of a tough guy from Chicago, a Pink,  
who went into deep cover,  
to bust a gang of thugs.

He succeeded.

But, the short arm of the law  
couldn't stay the gang's revenge.

And, eventually, the long arm of Moriarty,  
nudged him to a watery demise.

Raise your glass, then, and toast  
a brave and resourceful cop,

I give you, Edwards/McMurdo/Douglas.

## **A Toast to Scotland Yard**

*by Donald B. Izban, BSI*

Of all the world's celebrated law enforcement places,  
Headquartering the profession's foremost sleuthing aces,  
    Scotland Yard beats out all the rest,  
    And is probably rated the best,  
Because, thanks to Sherlock Holmes, it has solved the most cases

## **A Toast to Moriarty**

*by Brenda Rossini*

Wet grass, moss and mud  
My sodden fingers...*clenching over*

Watson's off-*stumbling over*  
rocks AND narrative.

While my air gun man cowers silent  
behind the coal black rock.

Both mine asteroids and HIS fiddle music echo with the waterfall.

Into its incalculable depth,  
fat salmon, heedless, thrust past.

In the twilight we pirouette our final duet.  
And tumble into the enveloping foam.

A half human shout.  
And the, the abyss.

To Moriarty.

## ***The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Running of the Silver Blaze***

The 58<sup>th</sup> annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze will take place on October 14, 2017 at Hawthorne Race Course. Cost of \$59 per person includes seating in the private sky box at the finish line, buffet lunch, program for the day's races and open bar. There will also be a named race and a photograph at the finish line. The Chicago Silver Blaze is the oldest annual running Silver Blaze race in the world. The request for reservations will go out in September. If you are interested please contact Susan Diamond at [szdiamond@comcast.net](mailto:szdiamond@comcast.net).

## Sherlockian Calendar 2016-17

Date	Meeting	Details
Last Wed. of each month	The South Downers at Carlos Restaurant, Chicago Heights	Contact Kenn Czarnecki, 708 429 0886, <a href="mailto:kenngcz@yahoo.com">kenngcz@yahoo.com</a> , or Jack Levitt, 708 798-1994, <a href="mailto:blevitt@comcast.net">blevitt@comcast.net</a>
May 9	Scotland Yarders Winnetka Library	Seminar with Tom Joyce Contact Janice Weiner, 773 764-8338 or <a href="mailto:jlweiner@sbcglobal.net">jlweiner@sbcglobal.net</a>
May 20	Criterion Bar Association at Great Escape	Contact Franklin Saksena, <a href="mailto:franklin.saksena@gmail.com">franklin.saksena@gmail.com</a>
June 10	Seminar at the Newberry Library	"Sherlock Holmes and the Popular Imagination" 10am – 4 pm Led by Elzbieta Froeller-Pituch Cost: \$120 <a href="https://www.newberry.org/S17Sherlock">https://www.newberry.org/S17Sherlock</a>
June 25	Meeting of the Sub-Librarians Scion meeting in Chicago during the ALA Conference	Contact Marsha Pollak <a href="mailto:mpollak@icloud.com">mpollak@icloud.com</a>
June 27	The Torist International TBD	6 pm "Horseracing in the Canon" Contact Brenda Rossini <a href="mailto:agrirtig@aol.com">agrirtig@aol.com</a>
Sept 12	Scotland Yarders	Contact Janice Weiner, 773 764-8338 or <a href="mailto:jlweiner@sbcglobal.net">jlweiner@sbcglobal.net</a>
Sept. 27	The Torists	Contact Brenda Rossini <a href="mailto:agrirtig@aol.com">agrirtig@aol.com</a>
Oct 7	Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium Newberry Library	9 am Free, no reservations required Not yet posted on Newberry Library web site
Oct 14	58 <sup>th</sup> Running of the Silver Blaze at Hawthorn Race Course	Contact Susan Diamond <a href="mailto:szdiamond@comcast.net">szdiamond@comcast.net</a>
Nov 18	Scotland Yarders	Contact Janice Weiner, 773 764-8338 or <a href="mailto:jlweiner@sbcglobal.net">jlweiner@sbcglobal.net</a>
Dec. 27	The Torists TBD	Contact Brenda Rossini <a href="mailto:agrirtig@aol.com">agrirtig@aol.com</a>

# Registration for the May Meeting

**Date:**

May 20, 2017

**Location:**

The Great Escape, 9540 Irving Park Road, Schiller Park, IL 60176. 847 671-7171.  
There is ample free parking.

**Time:**

Cash bar and social hour: 6 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

**Menu:**

Broasted half chicken  
BBQ rib / broasted chicken combo  
Fish – Tilapia baked with parmesan cheese  
12 oz NY strip steak with bordelaise sauce  
soup, salad, potato, vegetable, bread, butter  
coffee, ice cream sundae

If you have any special dietary requirements, please contact Claudine Kastner, [claud221b@aol.com](mailto:claud221b@aol.com) or Brenda Rossini, [agrrtig@aol.com](mailto:agrrtig@aol.com).

**Program:** “Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes and Race” by Ron Levitsky

**The Tariff:**

\$30.00 per person, all inclusive. Make checks to The Criterion Bar Association. Please send your check to: Claudine Kastner, 810 Burning Bush Lane, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056-1957.  
**Please send your reservation by May 13, so we can accurately notify the restaurant.**

**Return the bottom portion with your check.**

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\_\_\_\_\_ Broasted half chicken \_\_\_\_\_ BBQ Ribs/chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Fish \_\_\_\_\_ New York Steak

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ number of attendees, payable to The Criterion Bar Association.

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_