

A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

By William S. Dorn



The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes
Adventure XXV -- The
Adventure of the Naval Treaty

THE NAVAL TREATY
DATE OF THE ADVENTURE*
(Date when Holmes first visited Percy Phelps)

CLUES:

1. Watson says it was the July which immediately succeeded his marriage (447)
2. Watson was married late in 1888 or early in 1889
3. Phelps says that the treaty had been stolen on May 23 (449)
4. Phelps became delirious on the night of the theft
5. Phelps says he was out of his mind for over nine weeks (454)
6. Phelps's memory returned only three days before Holmes's visit (454, 455)
7. July 1, 1889 was Monday

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. 1 and 2 imply the entire case took place in July 1889
- B. 3, 4 and 5 imply Phelps' memory returned 9 weeks after May 23, that is, on July 25
- C. B and 6 imply Holmes visited Phelps on July 28
- D. A and C imply Holmes visited Phelps on July 28, 1889
- E. D and 7 imply Holmes visited Phelps on Sunday, July 28, 1889

Holmes first visited Phelps on Sunday, July 28, 1889

*The story may contain other clues to the date of the adventure. However, use only the clues shown here. Your only goal should be to use logical reasoning to find a date based on the clues shown here.

THE NAVAL TREATY VOCABULARY WORDS

- verbatim* (447) – **exactly the same words; corresponding word for word**
- gaudy (447) – **excessively showy**
- piquant (447) – **appealingly provocative**
- chevy (447) – **run after, chase**
- wicket (447) – **three stumps that are vertical and are topped by bails; they form the target for the bowler in cricket**
- brain-fever (447, 454, 460) – **meningitis or encephalitis**
- retort (448) – **vessel with glass bulb and long nose; used for distillation, sublimation or decomposition**
- petrel (448) – **small black, gray or white sea bird especially the storm petrel; flies so close to the water that it appears to be walking on the water**
- detached house (449) – **house not sharing a wall with either of its neighbors**
- effusion (449) – **unrestrained outpouring of feeling**
- drawing-room (449) – **living room**
- haggard (449, 465) – **worn and exhausted**
- Triple Alliance (450) – **the Dual Alliance was between Germany and Austria-Hungary; Italy was later added making it the Triple Alliance**
- commissionaire (450, 451, 452, 453, 455, 458, 468) – **former non-commissioned soldiers employed in jobs that require trust, for example, messengers, watchmen, etc.**
- spirit lamp (450, 451) – **lamp fueled by alcohol**
- charing (451) – **cleaning**
- pavement (452) – **sidewalk**
- Paisley (452) – **cloth displaying a swirled pattern of abstract, curved shapes**

- linoleum (452, 457) – **durable, washable material made in sheets and used as a covering for floors**
- list slippers (453) – **cloth slippers**
- whitewash (453) – **a mixture of lime and water**
- hansom (453, 458, 465) – **two-wheeled, one horse carriage seating two with the driver mounted behind and reins going over the roof of the hood; invented by J. A. Hansom, a Yorkshire architect who patented the cab in 1834**
- brokers (454, 458) – **bailiffs, persons licensed to sell items re-possessed for non-payment**
- four-wheeler (454) – **carriage with four wheels**
- Huguenot (455) – **Calvinist French Protestant of the 16th and 17th centuries**
- Coldstream Guards (455) – **oldest regiment of the British army, dating to 1650**
- moss-rose (455, 456) – **type of rose that has large, globular flowers with broad pink petals**
- Providence (455) – **control exercised by a deity; divine direction**
- reverie (456) – **daydreaming**
- asperity (456, 457) – **sharpness of tone**
- abstruse (456) – **difficult to understand**
- slates (456) – **pieces of fine-grained metamorphic rock cut for use as roofing material**
- board schools (456) – **publicly supported schools for free education of youth, administered by a school board (Education Act of 1870)**
- iron-master (457) – **iron manufacturer**
- foxy (458) – **fox-like**
- tartly (458) – **sharply; bitterly**
- bad lot (458) – **not good; troublesome**
- constable (459) – **lowest rank of police officer**
- wry face (460) – **face temporarily twisted in an expression of distaste or displeasure**

- Bertillon (460) – **Alphonse Bertillon (1853 – 1914) French criminal expert who devised a method of identifying people from body measurements**
- savant (460) – **a learned person; a scholar**
- groom (461) – **man or boy employed to take care of horses**
- snick (461) – **click**
- plate (462) – **gold or silver dishes**
- jimmy (464) – **short crowbar with curved ends**
- querulous (464) – **complaining**
- inscrutable (464) – **difficult to fathom or understand**
- taciturn (464) – **inclined to silence**
- cudgelled (465) – **beat with a stick**
- swathed (465) – **heavily wrapped**
- covers (465) – **covered dishes**
- highroad (466) – **main road**
- ejaculated (466, 467) – **suddenly and passionately cried out**
- watercourse (467) – **stream or river**
- didactic (467) – **inclined to teach**
- booty (468) – **loot; stolen goods**
- draught (468) – **drink**
- efficacious (468) – **producing the desired effect**

THE NAVAL TREATY OPEN QUESTIONS

1. What were the seven clues to which Holmes referred on Page 456?

- (1) ten weeks and no treaty appears (460)**
- (2) the bell rang (451)**
- (3) it was 9:45 pm (452)**
- (4) there was no water in hall even though it rained (453, 458)**
- (5) Joseph was quickly displaced from his room (454)**
- (6) Percy did not take his draught on the night of the attempted burglary (468)**
- (7) the policeman on street saw no one pass except Mrs. Tangey (452)**

2. According to the policeman's statement (page 452), he saw Mrs. Tangey leave by the side door but did not see Joseph Harrison's cab. Why did he not see the cab? And why did Mrs. Tangey not leave by the front door? What is the connection between these two events?

Joseph bribed Mrs. Tangey to warn him when Percy left the room. She purposely did not bring tea to Percy in order to lure him from his room. When Percy passed her as she hid, she took the Treaty, ran to the side door, and gave it to Joseph. She then left. The bell was rung by accident.

3. Why would a treaty between Britain and Italy be written in French (page 450)?

French was the language of diplomacy.

4. Why didn't Lord Holdhurst have a copy of the treaty typed rather than copied by hand?

Perhaps Percy couldn't type and Lord Holdhurst did not trust any of the typists.

THE NAVAL TREATY SIMPLE QUIZ*

1. Percy Phelps nickname when he was in school was
 - a. Froggy
 - b. Buster
 - c. Tadpole
 - d. none of the above

2. The naval treaty had been stolen by
 - a. Joseph Harrison
 - b. Mrs. Tangey
 - c. Charles Gorot
 - d. none of the above

3. When Sherlock Holmes returned the naval treaty to Percy Phelps, Holmes put it
 - a. on Phelps's desk
 - b. on a breakfast plate under a cover
 - c. in Phelps's coat pocket
 - d. none of the above

* The Simple Quiz is designed to determine if the student has read the story. Anyone who has read the story through should have no trouble in completing this quiz. The Intermediate and Advanced Quizzes are more challenging.

THE NAVAL TREATY INTERMEDIATE QUIZ[#]

1. Where did Holmes keep his tobacco?
 - a. in a coal scuttle
 - b. in a Persian slipper
 - c. on the mantle
 - d. none of the above

2. Where was Percy Phelps staying?
 - a. Briarbrae
 - b. Brixton
 - c. Greenwich
 - d. none of the above

3. Where were Lord Holdhurst's chambers?
 - a. Whitehall
 - b. Kensington Palace
 - c. Downing Street
 - d. none of the above

4. What had Percy Phelps ordered from the commissionaire?
 - a. coffee
 - b. tea
 - c. cigarettes
 - d. none of the above

[#] The Intermediate Quiz is designed to test whether the student has read the story with reasonable attention to detail. The Simple Quiz is an easier test while the Advanced Quiz is much more challenging.

THE NAVAL TREATY & ADVANCED QUIZ

1. How many separate articles were contained in the Naval Treaty?
 - a. 11
 - b. 13
 - c. 26
 - d. none of the above

2. Holmes said that his name had only appeared in how many cases out of his last 53 cases?
 - a. 1
 - b. 4
 - c. 7
 - d. none of the above

3. How many bedrooms would Joseph Harrison have had to pass in approaching Percy Phelps' room from inside the house?
 - a. 4
 - b. 6
 - c. 7
 - d. none of the above

4. What was the trade of the father of Annie and Joseph Harrison?
 - a. green grocer
 - b. iron master
 - c. solicitor
 - d. none of the above

& The Advanced Quiz is designed for aficionados of the Canon. The questions are quite challenging. The Intermediate and Simple Quizzes are designed for the more casual reader of the stories.

ANSWERS TO QUIZZES

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Silver Blaze				
Simple	c	b	d	xx
Intermediate	c	a	a	b
Advanced	c	c	b	a
The Yellow Face				
Simple	b	c	c	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	a
Advanced	c	b	b	c
Stock-Broker's Clerk				
Simple	a	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	c	a	a
Advanced	a	a	b	b
'Gloria Scott'				
Simple	b	b	a	xx
Intermediate	b	a	b	c
Advanced	c	c	a	c
Musgrave Ritual				
Simple	b	d	a	xx
Intermediate	b	a	a	c
Advanced	a	b	c	a
Reigate Puzzle				
Simple	c	b	b	xx
Intermediate	a	c	b	c
Advanced	b	a	c	b
Crooked Man				
Simple	b	b	a	c
Intermediate	b	a	c	c
Advanced	c	d	a	b
Resident Patient				
Simple	c	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	a	b	d
Advanced	b	c	c	a

Answers to Quizzes

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Greek Interpreter				
Simple	b	c	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	c	a	b	b
Naval Treaty				
Simple	c	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	a	c	a
Advanced	c	b	c	b
Final Problem				
Simple	c	b	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	c	a
Advanced	a	a	b	b