

Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



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THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
B003 - DOYLE, OUR CREATOR - JANUARY, 2022



*WELCOME TO TOPIC NUMBER 003... THIS IS A
SPECIAL REPORT TODAY, AS WE WILL PROVIDE A
BIOGRAPHY OF OUR CREATOR, ARTHUR CONAN
DOYLE.*



**ARTHUR IGNATIUS CONAN DOYLE WAS BORN ON
MAY 22, 1859, IN EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND TO AN
STRICT IRISH-CATHOLIC FAMILY.**



*CHARLES ALTAMONT DOYLE, ARTHUR'S FATHER,
WAS WELL-RESPECTED IN THE ART WORLD, BUT
WAS A LIFE-LONG ALCOHOLIC.*



*AT 22, CHARLES MARRIED MARY FOLEY, A
VIVACIOUS AND WELL-EDUCATED YOUNG WOMAN
OF 17.*



MARY DOYLE WAS A LIVELY AND WELL-EDUCATED WOMAN WHO LOVED TO READ... SHE DELIGHTED IN TELLING HER YOUNG SON STORIES OF FANTASY... HER ENTHUSIASM AND ANIMATION DURING THE STORY TELLING SPARKED ARTHUR'S IMAGINATION.





**THERE WAS LITTLE MONEY IN THE FAMILY AND
HIS FATHER'S STRUGGLES CAUSED MASSIVE
STRAINS WITHIN THE HOUSEHOLD.**



AFTER ARTHUR REACHED HIS 9TH BIRTHDAY, THE WEALTHY MEMBERS OF THE DOYLE FAMILY OFFERED TO PAY FOR HIS STUDIES.



HE BID A TEARFUL GOODBYE TO HIS PARENTS AND
WAS SHIPPED OFF TO ATTEND HODDER PLACE,
STONYHURST IN ENGLAND.



THE EXPERIENCE WAS BRUTAL: FELLOW STUDENTS BULLIED HIM, AND ARTHUR DID NOT BELIEVE IN THE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT USED AT THE SCHOOL.



DURING THOSE YEARS, ARTHUR'S ONLY MOMENTS
OF HAPPINESS WERE WHEN HE WROTE TO HIS
MOTHER, A REGULAR HABIT THAT LASTED FOR THE
REST OF HER LIFE...



Langston Road.

Nov 11 1911.

Dearst mam -

I have done five of the
Sherlock Holmes stories of the new Series
they are 1. The Adventure of the Blue
2. The Adventure of the
3. The Adventure of the

*...AND ALSO, WHEN HE PRACTISED SPORTS, MAINLY
CRICKET, AT WHICH HE WAS VERY GOOD.*



OVER TIME, ARTHUR FOUND SOLACE IN HIS FLAIR FOR STORYTELLING, FINDING YOUNGER STUDENTS AN EAGER AUDIENCE.

Once Upon
A Time...





WHEN DOYLE GRADUATED IN 1876, HIS PARENTS EXPECTED HE WOULD STUDY ART, SUCH AS SO MANY OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS.



**INSTEAD, DOYLE DECIDED TO PURSUE A MEDICAL
DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.**





*AT MED SCHOOL, DOYLE MET HIS MENTOR,
PROFESSOR DR. JOSEPH BELL...*



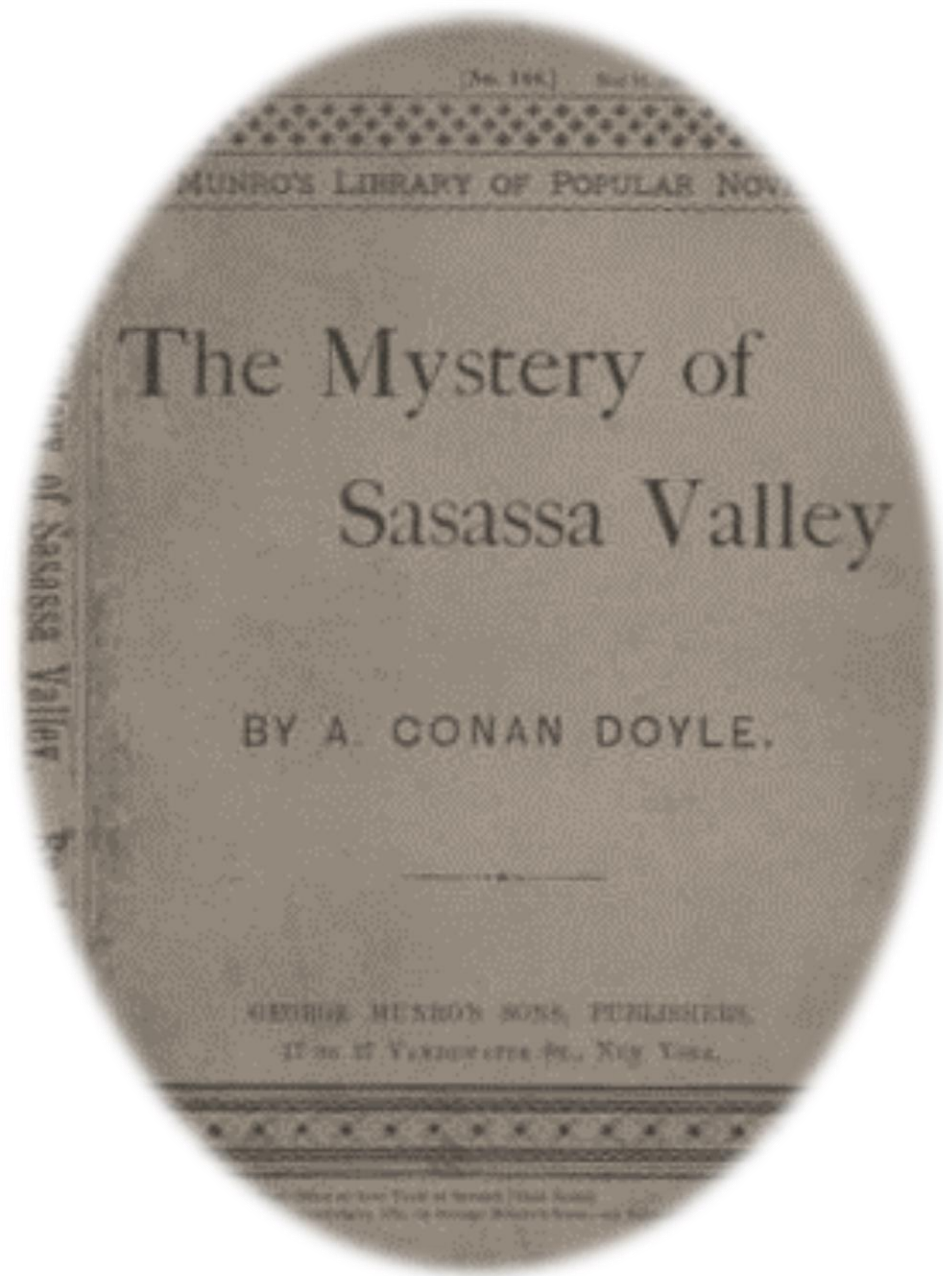
**...WHOSE KEEN POWERS OF OBSERVATION WOULD
LATER INSPIRE DOYLE TO CREATE HIS FAMED
FICTIONAL DETECTIVE CHARACTER.**



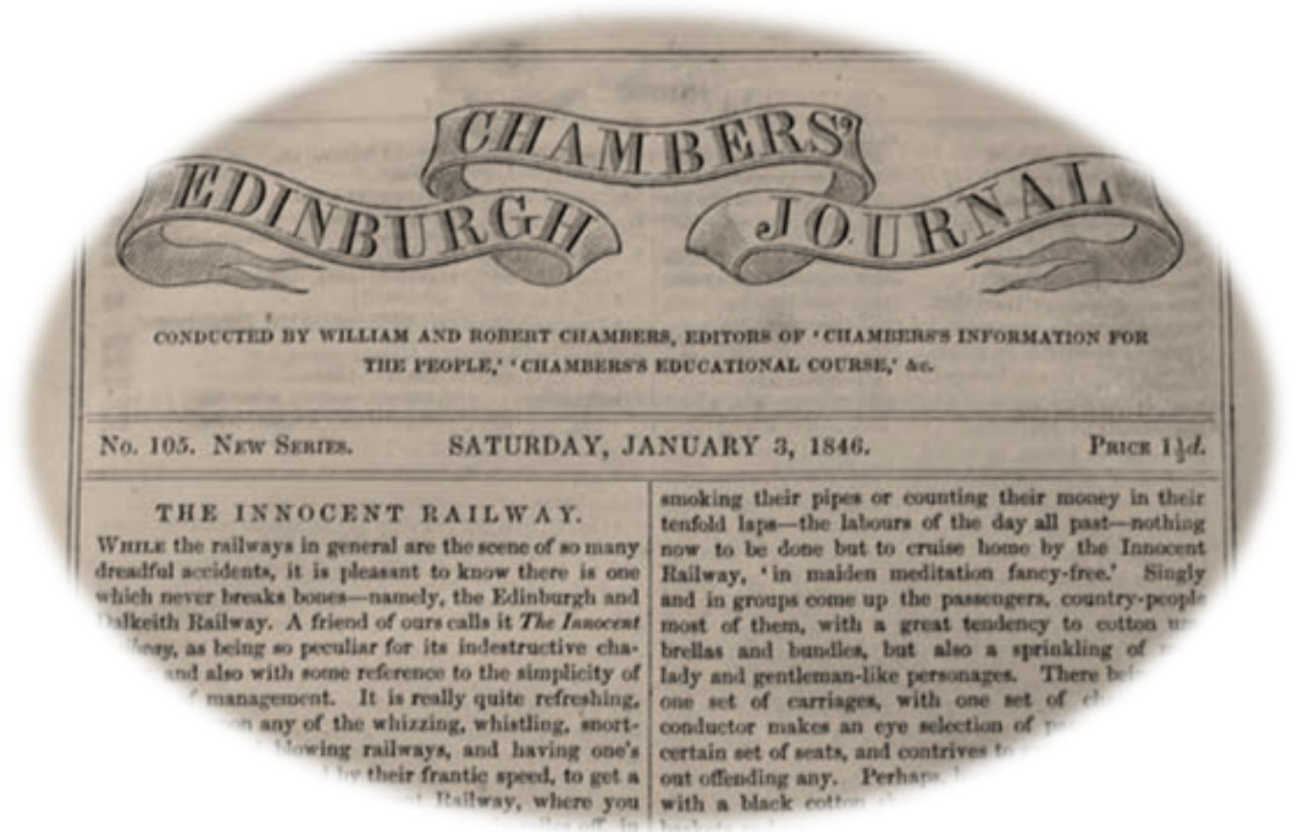
THE YOUNG MEDICAL STUDENT MET A NUMBER OF FUTURE AUTHORS WHO WERE ALSO ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY, INCLUDING JAMES BARRIE AND ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.



WHILE A MEDICAL STUDENT, DOYLE TOOK HIS OWN FIRST STAB AT WRITING, WITH A SHORT STORY CALLED, 'THE MYSTERY OF SASSSA VALLEY.'



IT WAS ACCEPTED IN AN EDINBURGH MAGAZINE
CALLED CHAMBER'S JOURNAL, WHICH HAD
PUBLISHED THOMAS HARDY'S FIRST WORK.

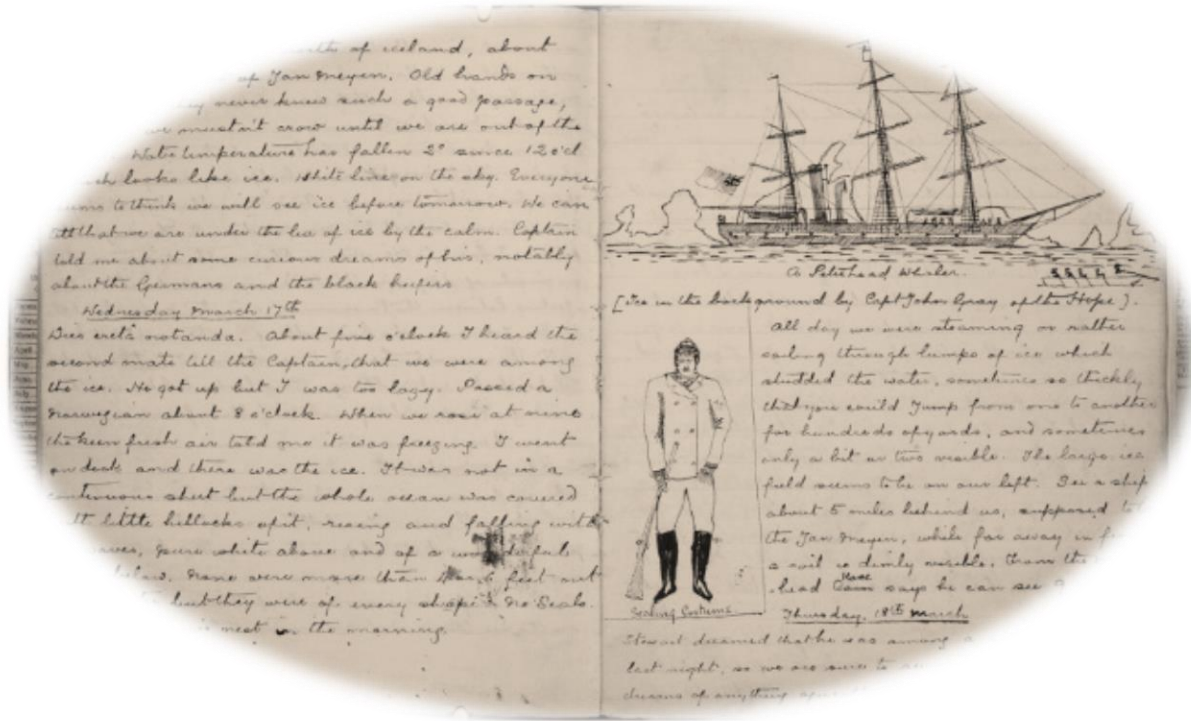




THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A SECOND STORY, 'THE AMERICAN TALE,' WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN LONDON SOCIETY... DOYLE LATER WROTE, "IT WAS IN THIS YEAR THAT I FIRST LEARNED THAT SHILLINGS MIGHT BE EARNED IN OTHER WAYS THAN BY FILLING PHIALS."



CONAN DOYLE WAS TWENTY YEARS OLD AND IN HIS THIRD YEAR OF MEDICAL STUDIES WHEN HE TOOK A SHOP SURGEON'S POST ON A WHALING SHIP.



THE TRIP, TO THE ARCTIC CIRCLE, AWAKENED
DOYLE'S SENSE OF ADVENTURE.

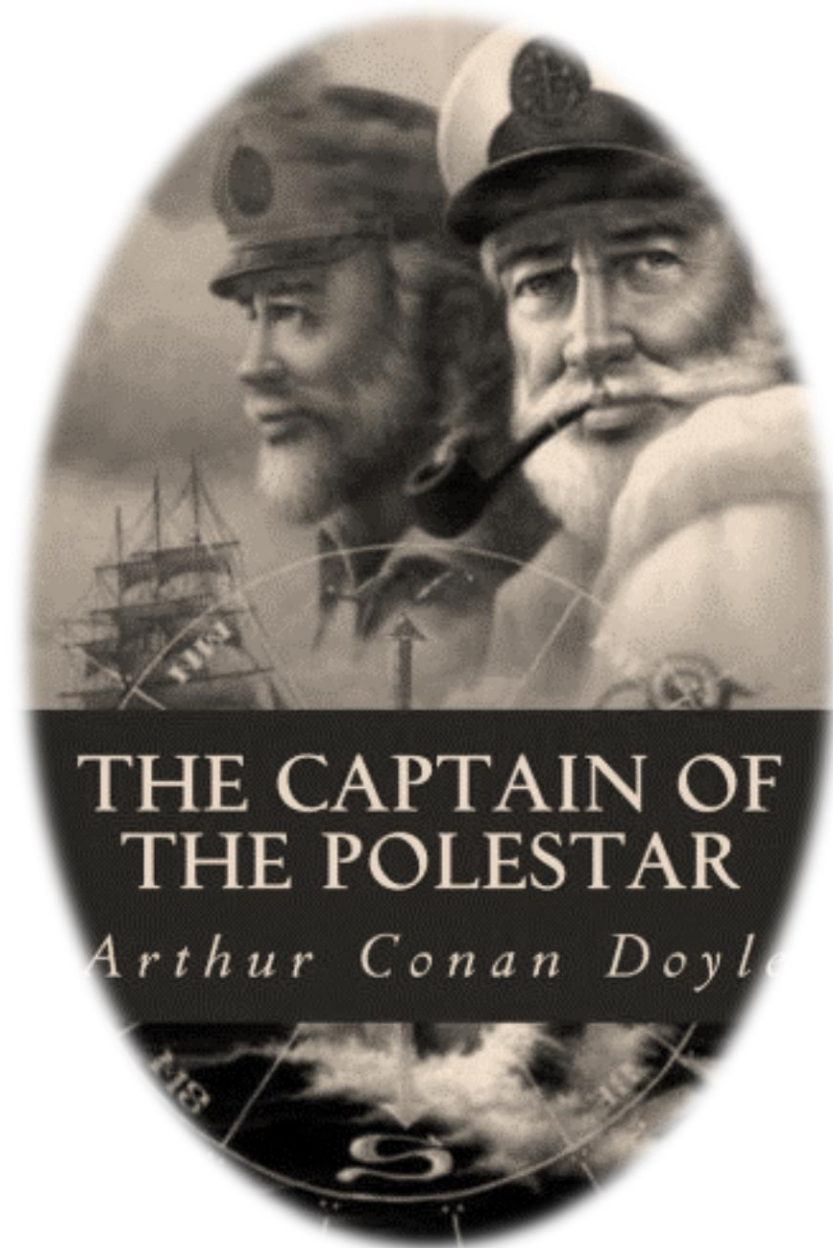




THE YOUNG MEDICAL STUDENT WAS APPALLED BY THE BRUTALITY OF SEAL AND WHALE HUNTS... "I WENT ON BOARD THE WHALER A BIG STRAGGLING YOUTH" HE SAID, "I CAME OFF A POWERFUL, WELL-GROWN MAN".



THIS ADVENTURE WAS INCORPORATED INTO A
STORY, CAPTAIN OF THE POLE-STAR.



*WITHOUT MUCH ENTHUSIASM, CONAN DOYLE
RETURNED TO HIS STUDIES IN THE AUTUMN OF
1880.*



A YEAR LATER, HE OBTAINED HIS 'BACHELOR OF MEDICINE' AND 'MASTER OF SURGERY' DEGREE.



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Medical School





icensed to kill

*Conan Doyle's gleeful reaction
to graduating.*

**HE DREW A HUMOROUS SKETCH OF HIMSELF
RECEIVING HIS DIPLOMA, WITH THE CAPTION:
'LICENSED TO KILL'.**



WHILE AT THE UNIVERSITY, DOYLE BECAME INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN SPIRITUALISM, WHICH HE WOULD LATER ENDORSE THROUGH A SERIES OF WRITTEN WORKS.



DOYLE'S FIRST PAYING JOB AS A DOCTOR TOOK THE FORM OF A MEDICAL OFFICER'S POSITION ABOARD THE STEAMSHIP MAYUMBA, TRAVELLING FROM LIVERPOOL TO AFRICA.





*AFTER HIS STINT ON THE MAYUMBA, DOYLE
SETTLED IN PLYMOUTH, ENGLAND FOR A TIME...
AFTER THAT DEBACLE, AND ON THE VERGE OF
BANKRUPTCY, CONAN DOYLE LEFT FOR
PORTSMOUTH, TO OPEN HIS FIRST PRACTICE.*



*HE SPENT THE NEXT FEW YEARS STRUGGLING TO
BALANCE HIS BURGEONING MEDICAL CAREER WITH
HIS EFFORTS TO GAIN RECOGNITION AS AN
AUTHOR.*



DOYLE WOULD LATER GIVE UP MEDICINE
ALTOGETHER, IN ORDER TO DEVOTE ALL OF HIS
ATTENTION TO HIS WRITING AND HIS FAITH.



IN AUGUST OF 1885, HE MARRIED A YOUNG WOMAN CALLED LOUISA HAWKINS, THE SISTER OF ONE OF HIS PATIENTS... DOYLE DESCRIBED HER IN HIS MEMOIRS AS HAVING BEEN "GENTLE AND AMIABLE."





**THE COUPLE MOVED TO UPPER WIMPOLE STREET
AND HAD TWO CHILDREN, A DAUGHTER AND A
SON.**





*IN 1893, LOUISA WAS DIAGNOSED WITH
TUBERCULOSIS.*





WHILE LOUISA WAS AILING, DOYLE DEVELOPED A
PLATONIC AFFECTION FOR A YOUNG WOMAN
NAMED JEAN LECKIE.



LOUISA ULTIMATELY DIED OF TUBERCULOSIS IN DOYLE'S ARMS, IN 1906... THE FOLLOWING YEAR, DOYLE WOULD REMARRY TO JEAN LECKIE, WITH WHOM HE WOULD HAVE TWO SONS AND A DAUGHTER.

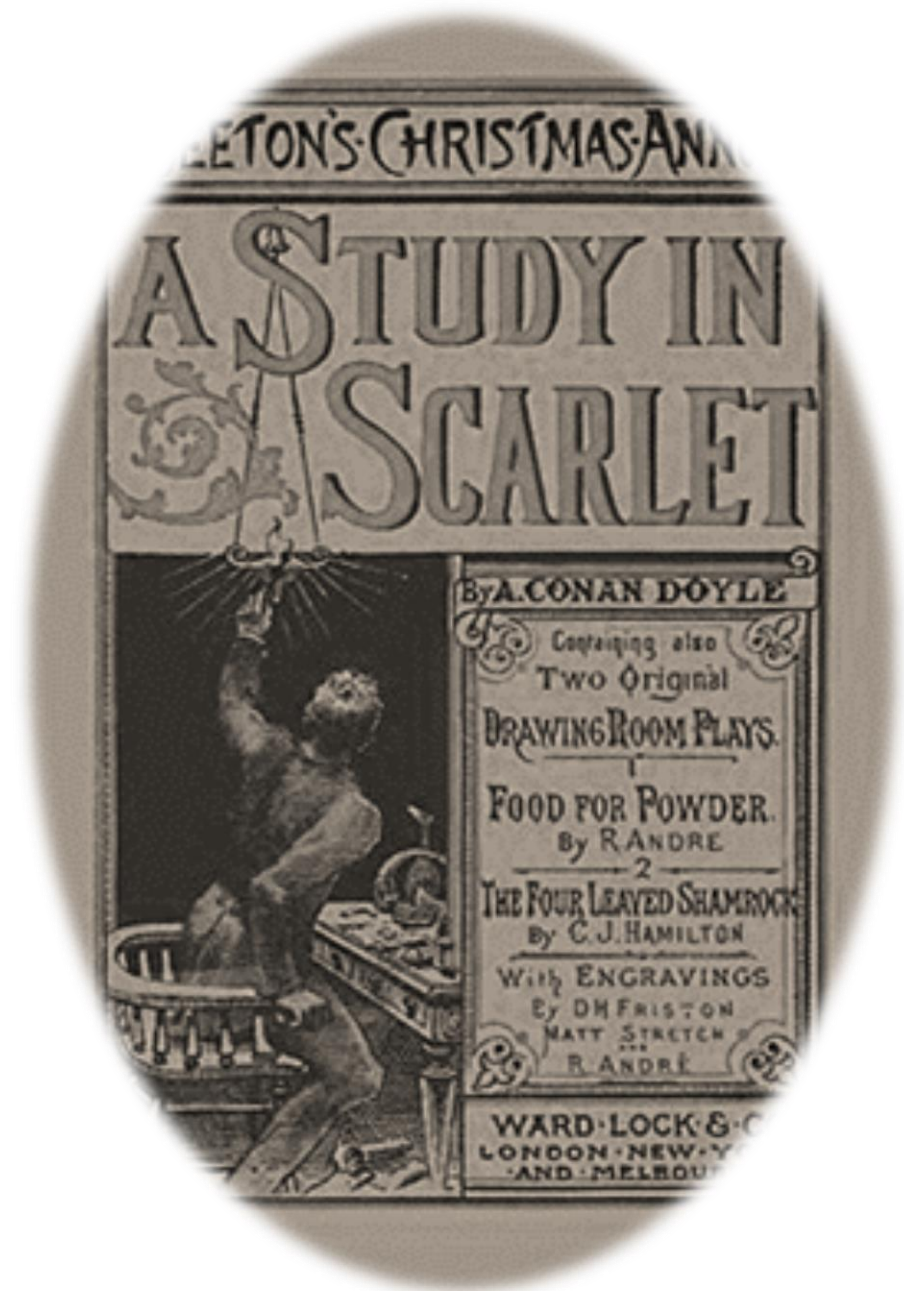


IN 1886, NEWLY MARRIED TO LOUISA, AND STILL STRUGGLING TO MAKE IT AS AN AUTHOR, DOYLE STARTED WRITING THE MYSTERY NOVEL A TANGLED SKEIN. IT'S TWO MAIN CHARACTERS WERE CALLED SHERIDAN HOPE AND ORMOND SACKER.



*'A Tangled Skein -' A Study in scarlet.
The terrified woman rushing up to the cabman. The two going in
back of a policeman. John Reves had been 7 years in the force
to back with them.*

TWO YEARS LATER, THE NOVEL WAS RENAMED A STUDY IN SCARLET AND PUBLISHED IN BEETON'S CHRISTMAS ANNUAL.



A STUDY IN SCARLET, WHICH FIRST INTRODUCED THE WILDLY POPULAR CHARACTERS OF YOU AND I, FINALLY EARNED DOYLE THE RECOGNITION HE HAD SO DESIRED.



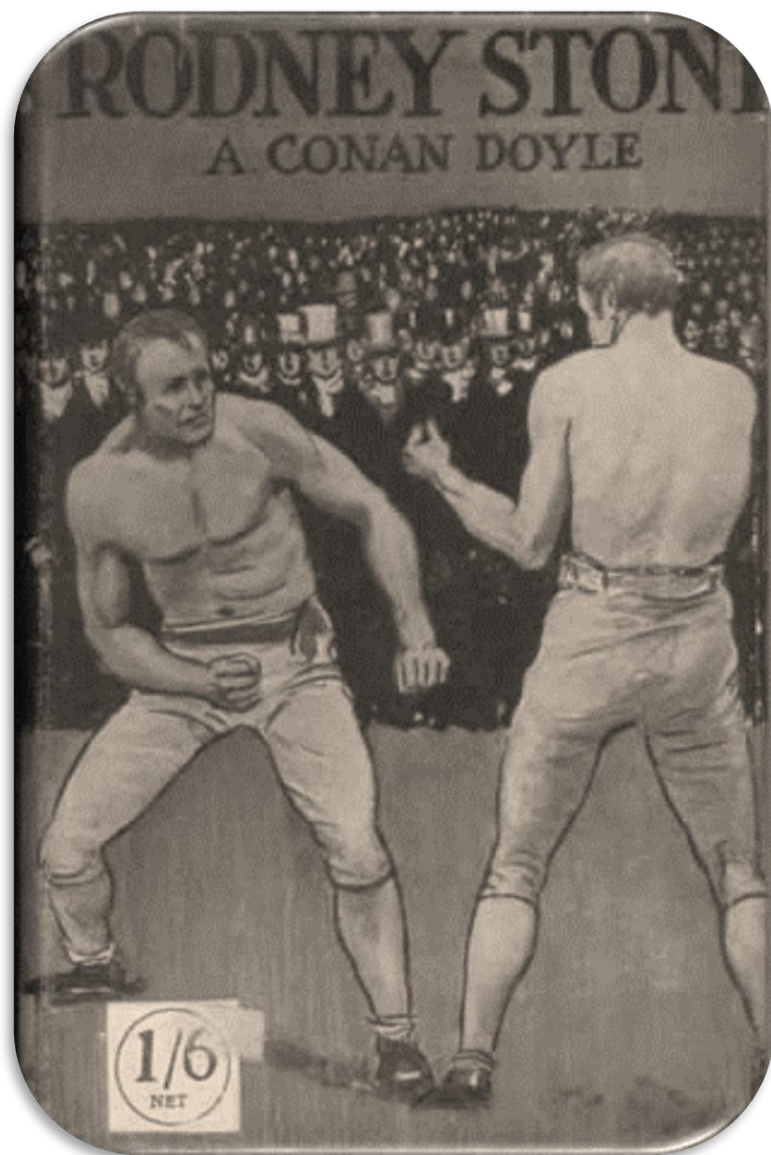


IT WAS THE FIRST OF 60 STORIES THAT DOYLE WOULD PEN ABOUT US OVER THE COURSE OF HIS WRITING CAREER.



UPON ACHIEVING SUCCESS AS A WRITER, DOYLE DECIDED TO RETIRE FROM MEDICINE.





THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD, HE ADDITIONALLY PRODUCED A HANDFUL OF HISTORICAL NOVELS INCLUDING ONE ABOUT THE NAPOLEONIC ERA CALLED THE GREAT SHADOW IN 1892, AND HIS MOST FAMOUS HISTORICAL NOVEL, RODNEY STONE, IN 1896.

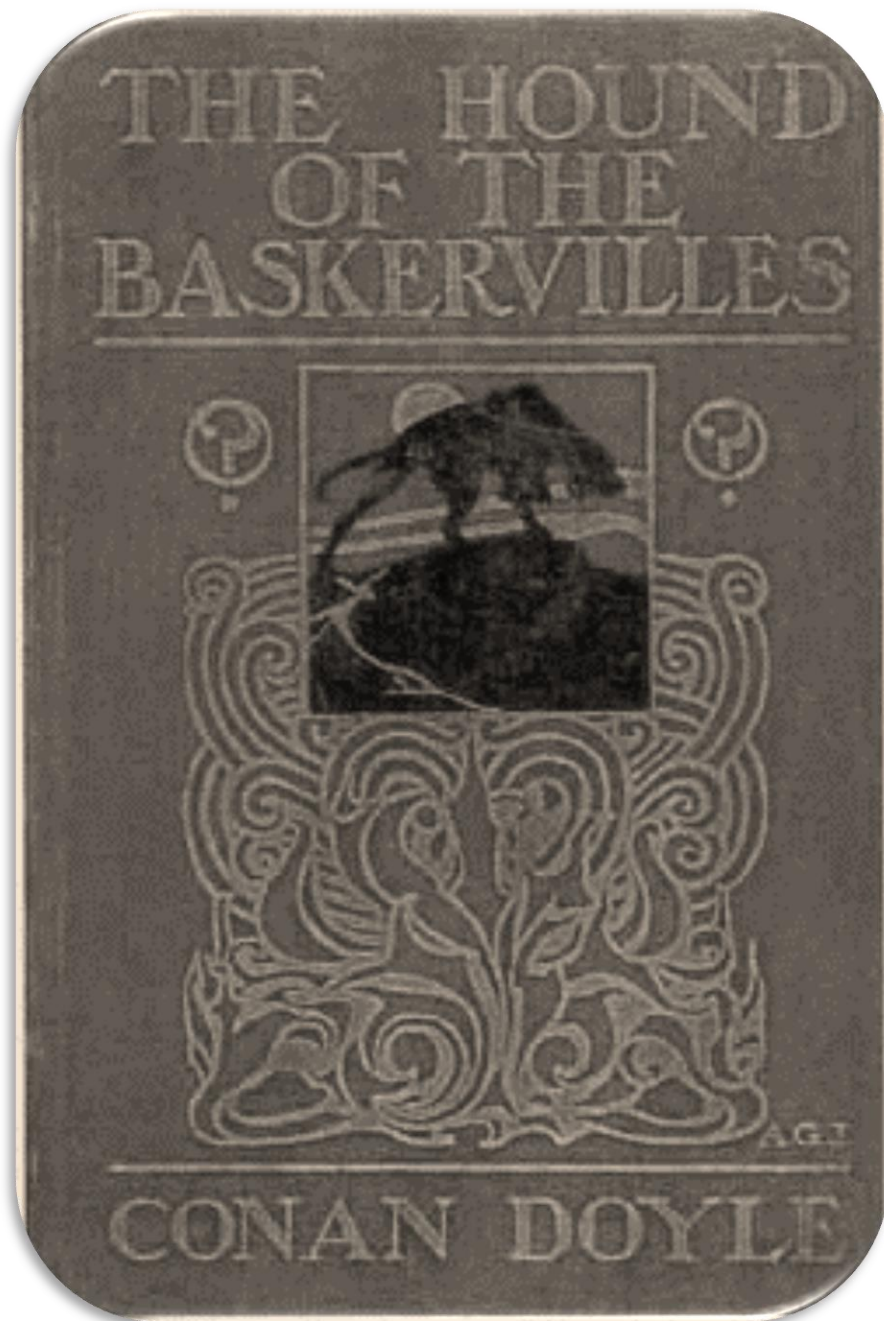




*THE PROLIFIC AUTHOR ALSO COMPOSED FOUR OF
HIS MOST POPULAR SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOKS
DURING THE 1890S AND EARLY 1900S...*



THE SIGN OF FOUR (1890), THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1892), THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1894) AND THE HOUND OF BASKERVILLES, PUBLISHED IN 1901.



**IN 1893, TO DOYLE'S READERS' DISDAIN, HE HAD
ATTEMPTED TO KILL YOU OFF IN ORDER TO FOCUS
MORE ON WRITING ABOUT SPIRITUALISM AND HIS
HISTORICAL NOVELS.**

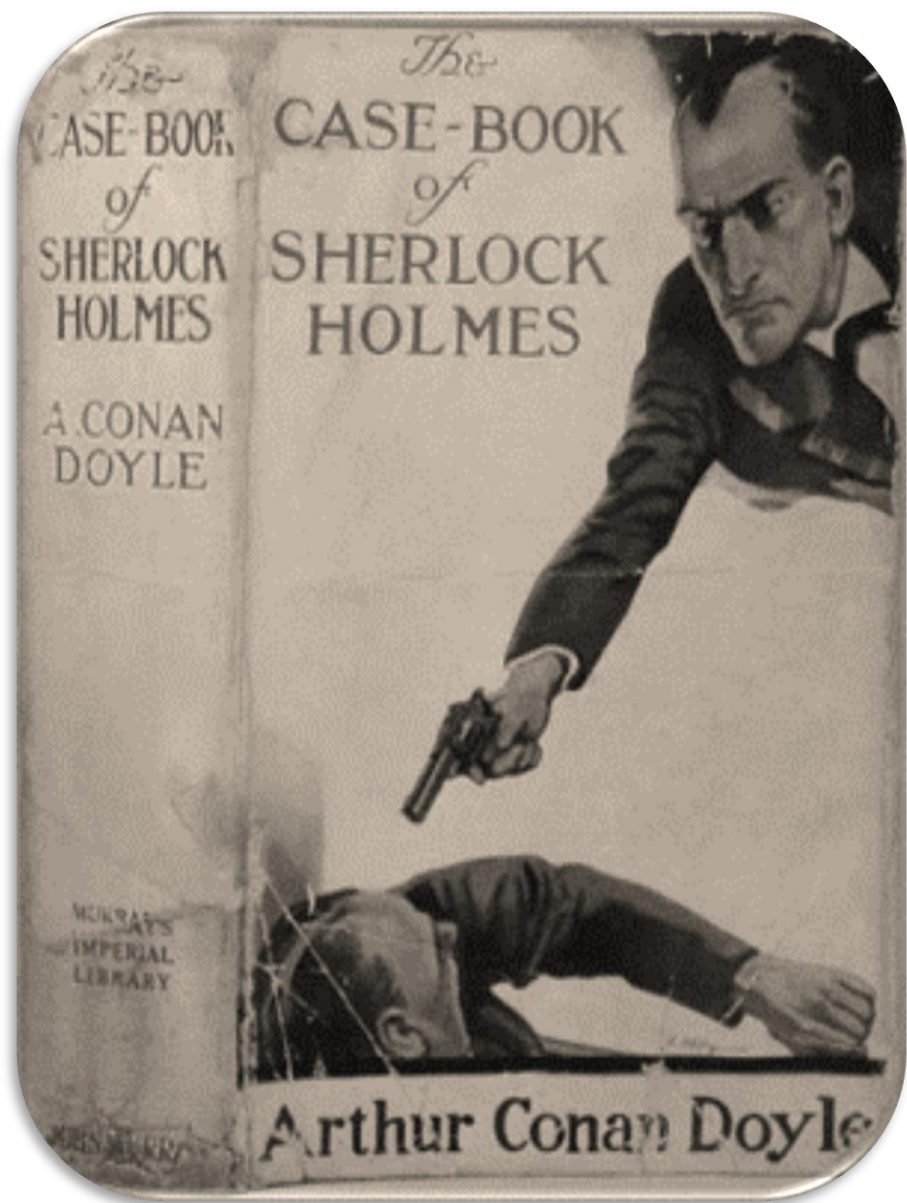


IN 1901, HOWEVER, DOYLE REINTRODUCED YOU IN
THE HOUND OF BASKERVILLES AND LATER...



...BROUGHT YOU BACK TO LIFE IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE EMPTY HOUSE' SO YOU COULD EARN DOYLE THE MONEY TO FUND HIS MISSIONARY WORK.





IN 1928, DOYLE'S FINAL TWELVE STORIES ABOUT US WERE PUBLISHED IN A COMPILATION ENTITLED THE CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.





HAVING RECENTLY BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH ANGINA PECTORIS, DOYLE STUBBORNLY IGNORED HIS DOCTOR'S WARNINGS, AND IN THE FALL OF 1929, EMBARKED ON A TOUR THROUGH THE NETHERLANDS.





HE RETURNED HOME WITH CHEST PAINS SO SEVERE
THAT HE NEEDED TO BE CARRIED ON SHORE OFF
THE PASSENGER SHIP.





RISING ONE LAST TIME ON JULY 7, 1930, DOYLE
COLLAPSED AND DIED IN HIS GARDEN WHILE
CLUTCHING HIS HEART WITH ONE HAND AND
HOLDING A FLOWER IN THE OTHER.





HIS LAST WORDS BEFORE DEPARTING FOR "THE GREATEST AND MOST GLORIOUS ADVENTURE OF ALL," WERE ADDRESSED TO HIS WIFE. HE WHISPERED, "YOU ARE WONDERFUL."



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # B003 IN OUR SERIES...

STARTING IN TOPIC # B004, WE WILL PROVIDE SUMMARIES OF ALL 60 OF OUR ADVENTURES.



ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS TOPIC:

- ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE. [HTTP://WWW.ARTHURCONANDOYLE.COM/BIOGRAPHY.HTML](http://www.arthurconandoyle.com/biography.html)
- [HTTPS://WWW.BIOGRAPHY.COM/PEOPLE/ARTHUR-CONAN-DOYLE-9278600](https://www.biography.com/people/arthur-conan-doyle-9278600)



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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY
LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE
RUSTY MASON &
STEVE MASON

