

The Waterloo Station Gazette

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of Austin

Volume 4, Number 11

November 2007



Above: Illustration by A. Gilbert from "The Problem of Thor Bridge."

Our Next Meeting: November 12, 2007 at Nan King Restaurant

Our meeting locations may be in a state of flux for the next two or three months, so let me lead off the newsletter with the nitty-gritty. Our November meeting will be held at the following location:

Topic: "The Problem of Thor Bridge"
Date: Monday, November 12, 2007
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Nan King Chinese Restaurant
13450 North Highway 183, Suite 118
Austin, Texas 78750
Phone: 512-331-1858

Canon Fodder

*Notes from Last Month's Meeting...
and other items of interest*

by Earl Richards

Well, here's something you haven't seen in quite awhile: a new issue of *The Waterloo Station Gazette*. You can thank (or blame) Dave Baron for this issue.

Several months back, at one of our monthly meetings, when I was first contemplating taking over the administration of our website, I posed the question to the group: "Which would you rather have: a newsletter or a website?"

To this rather naïve question, Dave immediately and resoundingly answered, "Yes!"

In addition, Dave recently made a generous donation to "the newsletter fund." I guess his reasoning was that a "newsletter fund" implies a newsletter.

I think Dave is running circles around me logically.

Anyway, here's a newsletter, courtesy of Dave.

On October 8th, the Sherlock Holmes Society of Austin had an excellent turnout and an interesting discussion of the story "The Resident Patient". We met at the Nan King Chinese restaurant, which has proven to be a good meeting place. However, it is a little far north to be called a central location.

Be sure to join us for our next meeting where we will discuss future meeting locations.

At the October meeting, Sarah Ann gave a report on the state of the society's finances. Many thanks to the society members who made generous contributions to help get our past website bill paid and our finances back in good shape. Sarah Ann reports that we now have a healthy bank account and our bills are paid.

I'm very pleased to announce that on October 20th, I put online the new version of our website. Now that we are maintaining the website on our own, the cost to our



society will be reduced considerably. In the future, our only expense will be the fee associated with registering our domain name. That cost should only be about \$15 a year.

I hope you will spend some time taking a look at the new website. It's found at the same domain name:

www.sherlockholmessocietyaustin.org

At the present, I don't think it is as visually attractive as the web pages that were designed by Linda Bingham, who had hosted and managed our website for the last couple of years. But, I do believe that I will be able to improve the looks given a bit more time.

Still, I see three big benefits that I believe the new website will give us:

1. As already discussed, the cost to the society will be minimal. We no longer will be paying for design, administration or hosting. We will only be paying for domain registration.
2. In my opinion, the most important thing our website should offer is an accurate and up-to-date calendar of upcoming meetings. Now that the website is online, keeping the calendar page current will be my main priority. If you notice me slipping in that job, potch me upside the head.

3. We can actually add some sophisticated and interesting content to the website, now that we are running it ourselves. For example, I would like to see the society have its own annotated Canon available at our site. (I've put up an example story with, as of now, one annotation.) We certainly come up with interesting points in our monthly discussions, many of which aren't referenced by Baring-Gould, Klinger, or the Oxford annotations. So there is plenty of original work we can add to Sherlockian studies. In addition, I've implemented a Wiki on our website. (More details on that in the following article.)

Anyway, let me know what you think of our new website.

Our New Wiki

by Earl Richards

If you take a look at our newly designed website, you will see at the bottom of the page a row of links to other pages—things like “Calendar” or “Newsletter” or “Contact Us”. Those are common links found on sites around the World Wide Web. But there is also a link to a thing called a “Wiki” and I would like to talk about it in this article.

Some of you may be familiar with the term, while others may not be. I have high hopes that this wiki will be an exciting new addition to our website.

The most famous wiki in the world is the online encyclopedia called Wikipedia, at www.wikipedia.com. I suspect nearly all of the members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of Austin have used it at some point or another. What makes it famous is the huge expanse of entries it contains. What makes it (at times) infamous is the ability of people to edit or create entries on their own.

And that is what a wiki is. It is a website representing a collaborative effort in which the content, using a simple web browser, is created and edited by a group of privileged users.

The pages of our main website (the HTML pages) will be quite static. The calendar should change once a month, and there will be additions to the newsletter and annotations page, but not frequently. However, the wiki is designed to allow users to immediately, with their browser, edit or create the content of the webpage in the wiki.

The syntax for wiki pages is much simpler than HTML markup, so editing is fairly easy if your needs aren't too complex.

So here are some ideas for our wiki:

1. At our October meeting, Carolyn passed around a list she had started of her Sherlockian

collection. I liked this idea so much, I've decided to do the same, but on a wiki page. You can too!

2. I've started a wiki page called "History of the Sherlock Holmes Society of Austin." I suppose that I am an appropriate person to write the section on some of our recent history: the creation of the newsletter and the new website, for example. But some of our longer-tenured members could contribute their recollections about the society's early years. Sarah Ann, for example, would be the right person to write about our application to be recognized as an official scion society. And so on. Remember it is *our* history. Share your stories and analysis via the wiki.
3. And we can also put a bit of ourselves in the wiki. For example, I've created a page called "Earl Richards" which I will personalize with my own Sherlockian interests. Each of you can do the same.

These are just a few of the things we can do with our wiki. I'm sure you will think of more!

When you make contributions to the wiki, keep in mind that we want to put the face of our society on these pages. Our wiki is not going to be Wikipedia. We don't want to be a collection of facts. Put your own views and opinion in the pages. We want to be original. That's what visitors will find interesting.



Upcoming Schedule and Events

Monday, November 12, 2007, 6:30 p.m. – Monthly Meeting. Location at Nan King Chinese Restaurant, 13450 North Highway 183, Suite 118, Austin, Texas. Discussion topic: "The Problem of Thor Bridge."

Monday, December 10, 2007, 6:30 p.m. – Monthly Meeting. Location at La Madeleine, 9828 Great Hills Trail, Suite 650, Austin, Texas. Discussion topic: "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle."

Monday, January 14, 2008, 6:30 p.m. – Monthly Meeting. Location to be announced. Discussion topic: "The Master's Birthday."

SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS



The Sherlock Holmes Society of Austin meets monthly (typically, on the 2nd Monday) to discuss Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson and their adventures.

If you are interested in joining us, please check out our web page at:

www.sherlockholmessocietyaustin.org

or call Sarah Ann, at (512) 331-1820 for further information.

Newsletter submissions or suggestions can be sent to: earlrichards.library2004@zoemail.net

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From "The Problem of Thor Bridge." (Illustration by A. Gilbert)

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