

Nineteenth Century British History and English Literature: An Analysis of the Sherlock Holmes Adventures

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It is difficult to pinpoint exactly when the first mystery story was written and to identify which author can be seen as the first 'mystery' writer. Nevertheless, although during the late eighteenth century various books appeared which had elements of mystery and suspense in them (some emanating from the Gothic genre), the genre of the mystery story really took hold in the mid to late nineteenth century. Again, although in Europe and America with authors such as Edgar Allan Poe, more modern style mystery stories began to appear, it is unquestionable that the most important fictional figure to make his debut was Sherlock Holmes, and as a consequence, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle must also be seen as one of the most influential writers in the early period of the genre. The way that Doyle constructed and presented his mystery stories had (and continues to have) a profound effect on the development of the mystery story. As Doyle created his Sherlock Holmes stories, he drew on his own childhood, his experiences of travelling the world, being a doctor, and contemporary recent and current events. Consequently, in the first section of this paper I will give a brief summary of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's family background and life up until the 1890s. In section two, I will then go on to look at some of the major events that occurred in the mid to late nineteenth in relation to British history. Finally, in section three, I will look at a number of Sherlock Holmes' Mysteries in order to provide a short analysis of

what I consider to be some of the more interesting features in their construction.

Section 1: Background to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle was born on May 22nd, 1859. The names given to him by his parents, Charles Doyle and Mary Foley, all had particular meaning. Arthur harked back to the fictional strength of King Arthur, Ignatius represented the Roman Catholic beliefs of his parents and Conan was given in reference to his mother's Irish relations, who in later life would provide important support to Arthur. His parents had married four years previous on July 31st (the feast of St Ignatius), 1855. His father, Charles Altamont Doyle was 23 years old and his mother 19 years old when they married (Lycett, 2008).

Charles Doyle came from a family of artists and it was expected that he too would use his artistic gifts as his profession. His family life was also full and rich with frequent visits from authors such as Walter Scott, William Makepeace Thackeray and Charles Dickens. Whilst his brothers flourished in this environment, Charles failed to grow and instead began to develop a serious inferiority complex which crushed his self confidence. Consequently, instead of pursuing a career as an artist, Charles Doyle moved to Edinburgh's Office of Works, where it was hoped he could put his skills to productive use as a designer and draftsman. Unfortunately, his career did not develop as hoped, but it was in Edinburgh that Charles met his future wife (Lycett, 2008).

Mary Foley's heritage was potentially more distinguished than that of the Doyles. The Foleys were Anglo-Irish and owed their wealth to the Dukes of Devonshire who owned land in County Wexford. Arthur's maternal grandfather, William Foley, married Catherine Pack whose family had married into an illegitimate branch

of the Percy family, headed by the Duke of Northumberland. Although the Pack family were protestants, Catherine, on marrying William Foley converted to Roman Catholicism but this put a serious strain on her relationship with her own family to such an extent that after her husband died in August 1841, Catherine left Kilkenny and moved to Edinburgh with her two daughters, Mary and Catherine (Lycett, 2008).

Catherine Foley found life in Edinburgh difficult and to supplement the income she gained from running an institution which prepared young women to become governesses, she took in a lodger. The lodger which she took in was Charles Doyle and although Charles Doyle didn't stay there long, it was long enough for him to notice Mary Foley, "a bright twelve-year-old, with soulful grey eyes" (Lycett, 2008:13).

Following their marriage, Charles declined further and so the family lived in distressingly reduced circumstances at 11 Picardy Place, Edinburgh. Unfortunately, this state of affairs worsened so much so that Charles began to take to drink which placed an even greater burden on the family's meager resources. Charles' behaviour also became increasingly erratic giving rise to the suspicion of some more deep-seated mental instability. Indeed, Charles' condition deteriorated to the extent that he was unable to attend work and was put on half pay. In order to get money to pay for his drinking binges, Charles even stole from his own children's moneyboxes. In all of this, it was Arthur's mother who provided the family with any sense of stability. It was also at this time, that his mother instilled Arthur with a deep interest in history and literature. Mary encouraged Arthur to read to her from the literary periodical magazine *Revue des deux mondes*. From this reading, Arthur was introduced to the work of Wendell Holmes, the American poet, and later honoured him by borrowing one of his names to give his detective,

Sherlock Holmes (Lycett, 2008).

Arthur's formal education started in 1866 when he entered a local school in Salisbury Place, Edinburgh run by a Dickensian type headmaster, Patrick Wilson, who enforced discipline with the use of a tawse (a split ended whip). Mary Doyle selected the school as it employed European staff whom she felt would help to broaden Arthur's education. However, in 1868 Arthur was moved to Stonyhurst school, Preston to receive a more Catholic based education. This was partly due to the fact that Mary's uncle, Michael Conan, who was providing support to the family, felt that it would be good for Arthur's future. Stonyhurst was a Jesuit school and conservative in its outlook. In particular, the school sought to counter the materialism of the mid-nineteenth century and growth of Darwinism. Arthur, at least initially, found the separation from his family quite difficult (Lycett, 2008). To compensate he found comfort in telling stories to his fellow pupils, many of whom came from Ireland (one called Patrick Sherlock and two brothers called Moriarty, one of whom was called James and was a brilliant mathematician).

In 1875, Arthur graduated from Stonyhurst and won a place at university. However, before starting university, it was felt that Arthur would benefit from travel abroad. So between 1875 and 1876 Arthur spent a year in the Austrian Alps. It was during this time that his mother began to mention the name of Dr Bryan Waller in her letters. It soon became clear to Arthur that Waller was gaining an increasingly strong influence over his mother in the absence of his father. Charles Doyle was still a slave to alcohol and remained unable to act as head of the Doyle household. Indeed, it was in view of this that a significant factor in Arthur's education was to enable him to become the head of Doyle household in place of his father (Lycett, 2008).

Between 1876 and 1881, Arthur attended the medical school at Edinburgh University. He did not particularly like being in the medical school but as the school's reputation was growing, there were students from many different backgrounds and staff who were experimental. Sir Robert Christison, Professor of *Materia Medica* and Therapeutics, had a huge effect on Arthur, especially in connection with drugs and poisons and forensic medicine (Lycett, 2008). This knowledge he would later use to great effect in his Sherlock Holmes' adventures.

After graduating with honours in 1881, Arthur was unsure what to do next. In 1882 he toyed with the idea of taking a higher degree but eventually decided on going into partnership with an old student colleague, George Budd, in Plymouth. Arthur had misgivings about Budd's ability and reliability and this was born out as very quickly it became apparent that the two were too different to be able to work effectively together. Consequently within a few months Arthur moved to Portsmouth to set up his own practice despite having almost no money. Initially, Arthur's practice did not flourish but in time it did pick up and as a result Arthur was able to take a greater interest in Portsmouth society. In particular, Arthur joined in with the local cricket club (a sport that would remain a passion with him) and the local spiritualist group. In later life, spiritualism would become extremely important to Arthur (Lycett, 2008).

In many ways, 1885 was an important year for Arthur. Firstly, he took in Jack Hawkins as a paying patient but on March 25th, Jack died. During the time that Arthur was caring for him, Jack's sister Louise was a frequent visitor. For some time, Arthur had been feeling that he ought to find a wife, and as he found Louise attractive and also because he felt sorry for her after her brother's death, Arthur proposed to her. On August 1st, 1885 Arthur received his MD from Edinburgh University and then on August 6th, he and Louise got married at St. Oswald's in

Thornton Lonsdale. Unfortunately, in the meantime, on May 26th 1885, Arthur's father, Charles Doyle, was admitted to Montrose Royal Mental Hospital (known as Sunnyside) as his condition had steadily deteriorated. In 1890 Charles was described as being a lunatic and was increasingly isolating himself in his own world. On October 10th, 1893 Charles Doyle finally died at Crichton Royal Institution (where he had been moved just over a year before). 1893 was also a difficult year for Arthur in another way, as his wife Louise was diagnosed with tuberculosis, at this time a still incurable disease and which would later lead to her death on July 4th, 1906 (Lycett, 2008).

Section 2: The mid nineteenth century to the turn of the twentieth century

In this section, I will give a brief summary of the domestic situation of Britain in the mid to late nineteenth century and identify some international events which had an important influence on Arthur Conan Doyle.

In many ways, the period from 1850 to 1870s marked the high point of Britain's power. During the period the Britain's national income grew from £523 million in 1851 to £916 million in 1871 while per capita income in 1860 was £32 in Britain compared to £21 in France and £13 in Germany. Overall, the British economy grew at a rate of about 3% a year. Helping to drive this growth were manufacturing industry (textiles), engineering, shipbuilding and the railways. The Great Exhibition of 1851 demonstrated to the world the self-confidence of the British economy. The exhibits on display came not only from Britain but also from other countries, but this fact demonstrated the extent to which British manufacturing felt sufficiently strong enough to face its rivals on its own home turf. The exhibition was an extraordinarily popular success amongst not only the business community but also with ordinary people. In all about six million people came to see

the fourteen thousand exhibits of machinery, raw materials, manufactured goods and fine arts that were on display (Pugh, 1999). For many of the people who visited the exhibition, the existence of an extensive and growing passenger railway network was vital. Previously, movement on this scale was both unthinkable and impossible, especially as for most the visit to London was at most short term and in many cases only for a day.

During this period, social change was also taking place with the growth of clerical work as opposed to manual labour. As companies, and government, began to grow, so too did the demand for people to fill administrative clerical roles. Whilst conditions were not always amenable, the rise of such jobs did lead to an expansion of the middle class. In general, middle class families could expect an income of between £150 and £1000 a year, though of course there was a wide a range of variation with bankers and financiers being able to command earnings far in excess of these figures while, at the other end of the spectrum, teachers earned much less. As the income for this group increased, certain elements became important to demonstrate membership of the middle class. Firstly, families were expected to regularly attend church, or in some cases, chapel. Secondly, it was important to belong to a professional association. Next, there was a strict division in gender roles with men being the breadwinners through employment whilst women were expected to run the household but not to engage in paid employment. Finally, middle class households were expected to employ at least one domestic servant (Pugh, 1999).

With the expansion of the middle class, there was also a change in the demand for housing both in terms in of design but also in location. Previously, in the early nineteenth century, the most prestigious housing was located in the centre of towns but as the century progressed this changed so that living on the green-

er outskirts of towns became more popular. Consequently, there was a growth in town suburbs. Such a growth could be facilitated by developments in public transportation. As railways reached outwards, it became possible for men to live at some distance from their workplaces but still be able to arrive on time each day for the start of work. The type of housing in the suburbs was also slightly different to that of the town centre. Although, there was still terraced housing, the more sought after types were semi-detached houses and 'villas', which was a catch-all term for a wide range of bigger houses (Yorke, 2005).

Unlike in the Georgian period, Victorians tended to build houses along existing roadways rather than straightening roads out. At the same time, more attention was given to the healthiness of buildings. Damp was a constant problem and various methods were introduced to limit its effects. In particular, houses were raised off the ground so that a common feature of more exclusive housing was to have steps leading up to the front door. In addition to the healthiness of buildings, there was also more attention to safety and privacy. Kitchens were moved to the back of houses and there were constant improvements made to the construction of ovens and fireplaces to reduce the risk of fire. Houses became more inward-looking to increase the sense of individuality and privacy while inside efforts were made to separate domestic staff from the family that employed them. As the period went on, more and more houses had running water and some had both hot and cold running water and gas lighting (Yorke, 2005).

Politically, the period from the 1850s to the turn of the twentieth century, saw great changes partly in response to the changing social and economic conditions in Britain. Although the higher levels of government were still dominated by old aristocratic families at the start of the period, by the turn of the century power was shifting to the wealthy middle class. During this period figures such as Lord

John Russell, Lord Palmerston, Benjamin Disraeli and William Gladstone came to prominence and each in his own way had an enormous effect on the British political landscape (and in some cases, the world political landscape).

Internationally, Britain, partly due to its need to protect its empire and its desire to maintain the balance of power in Europe, was continually drawn into disputes and conflicts around the Mediterranean Sea and central Asia. Significantly, many of these disputes and conflicts pitted Britain against the Russian Empire which was looking to expand southward to attain a warm water port which would allow it to engage in year-round trade more easily.

Between 1854 and 1856 Britain was involved in the Crimean War against Russia. This was a costly war both financially and in terms of loss of life. It was made worse by that fact that newspaper reporters were on hand to send back up to date reports of how the conflict was progressing. So for the first time, the British public had access to a continual flow of information about how the British army was faring (Rubinstein, 1998). The war was finally concluded with the Treaty of Paris in March 1856 with a victory of sorts for the British in that Russia was nominally prevented from achieving its aim of gaining access to the Mediterranean Sea.

With the conclusion of the war in the Crimea, Britain became involved in a bloody conflict in India. In 1857, native Indian soldiers in the East India Company's army (which was *de facto* the controlling force in India) mutinied after a rumour was spread that grease for lubricating bullets was to be introduced which contained both pig and cow fat (Rubenstein, 1998). This was insulting to both Hindus (due to their reverence of cows) and Muslims (who could not eat pork). Throughout 1857 the mutiny spread and it resulted in the deaths of large numbers of both Europeans and Indians. Nevertheless, by 1858 the British had essentially regained

control though it was not until 1859 that the mutiny was officially ended. As a result of the mutiny, the India Act was passed in 1858 which stripped the East India Company of its role in India and officially gave administrative control to the British government.

During the 1860s and 1870s Britain was concerned by events in Europe caused by the unification of both Italy and Germany. These events were important as they impinged on the balance of power within Europe. Prussia throughout the nineteenth century had been growing in power which was clearly shown in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 to 1871 and the subsequent unification of Germany in January 1871. The rise of Germany as a significant European political power made it a real concern to the British as it was also challenging Britain economically.

In the late 1870s, trouble resurfaced again in the East with Russia sending a mission to the Afghan Amir in 1878 in attempt to allow Russian influence in the area. Although the mission was refused admission, the British were worried by this development as a Russian presence in Afghanistan would threaten its position in northern India. Consequently, the British sent its own mission to the Afghan Amir late in 1878. However, the British mission was also denied entry and was physically stopped as it entered the Khyber Pass. This triggered the Second Anglo-Afghan War. Initially, the war went well for the British in that the Afghan government soon gave up armed resistance to the British forces and signed the Treaty of Gandamak in May 1879. By this treaty, Britain was able to effectively control Afghanistan and so British representatives took up residence in Kabul. However, late in 1879 in an attempt to regain control of their country, the Afghans attacked and killed the British representatives in Kabul. By September 1880, the British finally defeated the Afghan army and forced the Afghan leaders to ac-

cept the conditions of the Treaty of Gandamak, though this time, the British did not install representatives in Kabul. Nevertheless, the British forces did suffer during the conflict, especially at the Battle of Maiwand in July 1880 in which large numbers of soldiers were killed and a retreat to Kandahar was forced. Almost at the same time, Britain became embroiled in troubles in South Africa (Rubinstein, 1998).

Many of these events had a formative effect on Arthur Conan Doyle and he used many of them in his Sherlock Holmes' adventure stories. In the next section of this paper, I will look at a number of these Sherlock Holmes adventures to consider elements in writing of Doyle, such as character development, place and scenery and plot devices.

Section 3: An Analysis of some of the elements in the Sherlock Holmes' Mysteries.

It is unquestionable that the 'person', Sherlock Holmes, has fascinated many generations of people. Much of the fascination lies in his towering strength of intellect and his ability to make deductions based on the slightest scraps of information. But in reality, the 'character' of Sherlock Holmes is almost exclusively presented to us through the eyes, and words, of Dr John Watson – or rather, Arthur Conan Doyle. Consequently, what the real Sherlock Holmes is actually like, must remain a mystery. Nevertheless, certain points can be made about how Doyle developed the character of Sherlock Holmes.

We first meet Sherlock Holmes in *A Study in Scarlet*, first published in 1887 (Doyle 2003), when Dr John Watson has returned from the war in Afghanistan and is looking for a place to lodge in London. Holmes is described as being extremely

striking even to the casual observer. In appearance "... he was rather over six feet, and so excessively lean that he seemed to be considerably taller. His eyes sharp and piercing ... and his thin hawk-like nose gave his whole expression an air of alertness and decision. His chin, too, had the prominence and squareness which mark the man of determination. His hands were invariably blotted with ink and stained with chemicals, yet he was possessed of extraordinary delicacy of touch" (Doyle, 2003). This description creates a very powerful image of the person of Sherlock Holmes and directs us to consider aspects of his personality. Clearly, Holmes is singleminded and capable of periods of intense activity without any consideration for his physical wellbeing. In *The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist* (1904, 2003) we are told that Holmes hates being distracted from any problem he is dealing with at any given time and either ignores interruptions or is reticent. Amongst the other quirks Holmes has are that he admires brevity in speech in others. This is evidenced when, in *The Adventure of the Copper Beeches* (1892, 2003), Violet Hunter impresses Holmes with her succinct explanation of the reason for her visit to Baker Street. Despite this, in general, Holmes has no interest in women once they have ceased to be clients, as is shown at the end of the same story where Holmes takes no interest in what ultimately happens to Miss Hunter (P. 518). Holmes also undertakes chemical research in the rooms that he has at Baker Street regardless of whether Watson is with him or not. In terms of personality, Holmes can be cold and impersonal, especially when involved in solving a case, though he occasionally shows a softer and deeper feeling of understanding. This is shown in *The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist* (1904, 2003) when Holmes offers to help Mr Robert Carruthers in recognition of his, not altogether selfless, attempts to protect and defend Miss Violet Smith should he be taken to trial (Doyle 2003:852). Despite his pride in his own abilities and his assertion that logic is paramount (Doyle 2003:493), he is also aware of his own fallibility. This is shown in many stories and Holmes is willing to admit that

he has misjudged or miscalculated when it is clear that he is mistaken. From the above description, it is clear that Doyle took care to create a rounded character for his detective and continued to develop him as his stories progressed. However, it has to be said that in the later stories, much of Holmes' character and personality is revealed through his actions rather than further detailed explanation and examination.

Although in many of the presentations of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes the character of Dr Watson is shown to be bumbling and somewhat dimwitted, in reading the actual stories, this is clearly not the case. At the very least, Watson is man of great courage, as is shown in his experiences prior to meeting Sherlock Holmes in *A Study in Scarlet* (1887, 2003) and not a little intelligence, though this may be more at the level of an ordinary person rather than an intellect like Holmes. It is also clear that Watson has a far more rounded education, and in many ways, a much wider general knowledge than Holmes. Nevertheless, Watson tells us that he, himself, graduated from the University of London as a Doctor of Medicine in 1878 and then, after completing a training course at Netley in Hampshire (based on the real Army Hospital built in 1856), became an Army surgeon. At the start of the second Afghan War, Watson was sent out first to India and then to 'Candahar' (Kandahar). He was wounded in the Battle of Maiwand and though he survived, he succumbed to enteric fever, which almost killed him. Consequently, he was then sent back to Britain with his health 'irretrievably ruined' (2003:4).

Unlike with Holmes, Doyle does not provide us with any clear description of the appearance of Watson and his personality has to be constructed from the tone and opinions given as he recounts the adventures of Sherlock Holmes. This is obviously because Doyle used Watson's voice to present his Holmes' stories. De-

spite this, I think a number of observations can be made about the personality of Watson. In the first place, Watson, even though he has experienced the horrors of war and has been close to death, does have weaknesses. The first of these is that he has pride in his ability to write and is easily wounded when Holmes criticizes the accounts that he produces. This is shown in *The Adventure of the Copper Beeches* when after Holmes has told him that he has 'erred' in focusing on the 'sensational' rather than confining himself to analysis of the 'cause and effect', he responds "'It seems to me that I have done you full justice in the matter," I remarked with some coldness" (2003:492). Secondly, Watson is easily influenced by the presence of women and this can affect his judgment (and this has led to speculation and debate as to how many wives Watson had. Following *The Sign of Four* (1890, 2003), Watson marries Mary Morstan but by the time of *The Adventure of the Norwood Builder* (1903, 2003) he is a bachelor again). Set against this, Watson is shown to be an outdoors kind of man. He enjoys the countryside both for the pleasures of exercise (walking, shooting and fishing) but also for its beauty. But perhaps above all, Watson is capable of great friendship and loyalty towards people that he respects, and above all, he holds Sherlock Holmes in the highest regard. As a result, Watson often feels it necessary to act as a kind of buffer between Holmes and 'real' people by commenting on Holmes' behaviour and attitude and sometimes almost interpreting for Holmes the feelings of ordinary people. Watson also tries to emulate Holmes' ability to use observation to make deductions and can explain to many of the visitors who come to Baker Street how Holmes is able to say things about them without being told. However, Watson is not of the same calibre and feels chagrined when Holmes upbraids him for his shortcomings, "... but it did not elicit that word of curt praise which I had hoped for and should have valued. On the contrary, his austere face was even more severe than usual as he commented upon the things that I had done and the things that I had not" (2003:840).

Doyle also took trouble to develop a sense of place in his adventures of Sherlock Holmes. Some of the stories used real places, especially in and around London and southern England, while other stories had fictitious settings but which drew very often from Doyle's own experiences of the places he saw and visited.

In *The Adventure of the Copper Beeches* (1892, 2003), the story starts with a very atmospheric description of London, "It was a cold morning of the early spring and .. a thick fog rolled down between the lines of dun-coloured houses, and the opposing windows loomed like dark, shapeless blurs through the heavy yellow wreaths" (2003:493). Perhaps this is a stereotypical depiction of London towards the end of the nineteenth century, but it does help to create a strong sense of time and place. The dun colour suggests gloominess whilst the fog creates a claustrophobic, isolated and enclosed feeling. This is important in developing the mystery in the story that Miss Violet Hunter becomes caught up in. The place where she finally chooses to go to work as a governess (a job which both isolated women from wider society whilst at the same confined them largely to the house in which they worked), the eponymous 'The Copper Beeches', is set outside of Winchester and is described by Jephro Rucastle as "the dearest old country-house" (2003:498) but when Miss Hunter actually sees it, she says, "it is beautifully situated but it is not beautiful in itself, for it is a large square block of a house, whitewashed, but all stained and streaked with damp and bad weather ..." (2003:504). The duplicity in Mr Rucastle's description of the Copper Beeches is reflected in the duplicity of his reasons for employing Miss Hunter, so that a home in the countryside, instead of being a place of safety and security, becomes one of unease and danger. Doyle further challenges our ideas of places of safety and danger as Watson describes a conversation that he and Holmes have as they journey down to Winchester. Watson comments that the rural scenery looks

beautiful because of the peacefulness and calm it exudes, and so concludes that life in the small villages must be idyllic. Holmes, on the other hand, takes the opposite view and replies, "... I look ... and the only thought which comes to me is a feeling of their isolation and of the impunity with which crime may be committed there ... It is my belief, Watson ... that the lowest and vilest alleys in London do not present a more dreadful record of sin than does the smiling and beautiful countryside." (2003:502). Unfortunately, as the story progresses, it is Holmes' view rather than Watson's that is born out.

Doyle also drew on his own experiences to create the places in which some of his mysteries took place, with perhaps the most famous setting being 221b Baker Street. Doyle had relatives who lived in London and whom he visited on various occasions. Consequently he had a working knowledge of the layout of the city and many of the city's streets and locations are referenced in his stories. (However, it is unlikely that the site of the present Sherlock Holmes Museum is where 221b Baker Street would have been as at the time when Doyle wrote his stories, Baker Street did not extend that far.) Doyle was familiar with Sussex and also with Barton Manor at Pagham. Barton Manor was originally constructed in the seventh century but later modified and extended. In *The Musgrave Ritual* (1893, 2003), the main events of the story take place at the Manor House of Hurlstone, western Sussex, which is described as being "perhaps the oldest inhabited building in the county ..." and "is built in the shape of an L, the long arm being the more modern portion, and the shorter the ancient nucleus from which the other has developed. Over the low, heavy-lintelled door, in the centre of this old part, is chiselled the date, 1607, but experts are agreed that the beams and stonework are really much older than this ... and the old one [wing] was used now as a storehouse and a cellar ..." (2003:615).

Finally, I would like to consider some of the plot themes that Doyle used in his Sherlock Holmes mysteries, in particular greed and coincidence. Greed is a theme that comes through strongly and the allure of money being used to manipulate people. This theme features strongly in *The Adventure of the Copper Beeches* (1892, 2003) where Miss Hunter is convinced to take up the position of governess due to the generosity of the salary that she has been offered. The salary is offered on the condition that she must cut her hair. Although, she at first baulks at such a request, over the next few days, the prospect of relative wealth proves too alluring and so she agrees. Similarly, in *The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist* (1904, 2003) Miss Smith agrees to take up a similar position for Mr Carruthers due to the salary that he offers her (in fact, almost the same amount £120 as opposed to £100 and despite the ten years difference between the two stories, the salary was still considered generous) as, since the death of her father, she and her mother have been living almost in poverty. Money is also used in *The Adventure of the Norwood Builder* (1903, 2003) to implicate Mr Mcfarlane as a murderer. However, here, the allure of money covers a far stronger, and potentially more dangerous, motive revenge on someone that was once loved but is now hated (Mr John Mcfarlane's mother). Greed also brings about the downfall and death of Brunton the butler in *The Musgrave Ritual* (1893, 2003).

A second theme that runs through many of Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories is that of chance and coincidence. In life, chance and coincidence can have a significant influence on success or failure, prosperity or poverty and love or loneliness. In *The Adventure of the Copper Beeches* (1892, 2003), as Miss Hunter unpacks after her arrival, by chance she comes across some cut hair of the same colour as her own. This chance occurrence adds to the suspense and mystery as to why Jephro Rucastle has been so anxious to engage her. Later, it transpires that Miss Hunter has exactly the same colour hair and build as Mr Rucastle's daughter,

Alice, from whom he is trying to keep a controlling interest over the money left to her by her mother, his first wife. Later in the story, coincidentally, the Rucastles will be out of the house at the time that Holmes and Watson have agreed to come and meet Miss Hunter. This allows them to make the discovery of the plot that Mr Rucastle has hatched to force his daughter to part with her money. In *The Musgrave Ritual* (1893, 2003), chance again plays an important part in developing the story. It is only because Reginald Musgrave has been kept awake after drinking some 'café noir' that he discovers the greed of his butler, Brunton. Coincidence also plays a role in the story in that as a child Reginald Musgrave was required to calculate the height of all the major trees on the estate and so is able to supply both Brunton and Holmes with the necessary 'sixty-four feet' height of the missing tree which enables them to crack the meaning of the 'Musgrave Ritual'. Finally, in *The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist* (1904, 2003), it is only because Miss Smith happens to see the advertisement asking the whereabouts of relatives of John Smith in *the Times* that she goes to meet the solicitors concerned and thereby begins her adventure with Mr Robert Carruthers and Mr Jack Woodley. In this case, although Miss Smith is seemingly forced into marriage with the ruffian Jack Woodley, ultimately this proves not to be the case and she inherits a large fortune from her uncle, Ralph Smith.

To conclude, I have given a brief summary of the early life of Arthur Conan Doyle and presented some of the hardships he suffered and the sacrifices that his relatives made in order for him to gain a sufficient level of education to engage in a profession. It was strangely through this profession that Doyle was able to succeed as a writer. I have also outlined some significant events that took place during the mid to late nineteenth century and suggested that Doyle's knowledge of them influenced the stories he later wrote. Finally, I have given a brief analysis of the some recurrent themes in the adventures of Sherlock Holmes and indicat-

ed how they help to develop those stories.

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論文要旨

19世紀のイギリス史とイギリス文学： シャーロック・ホームズの冒険の分析

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概要

本論文では、最初にサー・アーサー・コナン・ドイルの若い頃から中年頃までの人生の概要を述べる。特に、彼が医者になるための十分な教育を得るために、親族がどれほどの犠牲を払ったか、そして、その後どのようにしてドイルが小説家として成功したかについて考察する。その後、19世紀の半ばから後半までに起こった重要な出来事（1851年ロンドン万国博覧会、第二次アフガン戦争など）について述べ、これらの出来事についての知識が、彼が書いた小説にどのような影響を及ぼしたかについて俯瞰する。

最後に、ドイルの「シャーロック・ホームズの冒険」シリーズに度々登場するテーマを簡単に分析し、それらがどのようにストーリー展開に影響しているかについて論ずる。

キーワード：

イギリス史、イギリス文学、サー・アーサー・コナン・ドイル、シャーロック・ホームズ、ミステリーストーリーの分析