



An Inquiry into:
“The Adventure of the Three Garridebs”

“The Adventure of the Three Garridebs” was first published in *Collier’s Weekly Magazine* on October 25, 1924. It was published in *The Strand Magazine*, on January 1925. It is part of *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*.

As may be seen in the table below, all our Chronologists

agree that this case took place in 1902. This being the case, then at the time Holmes was 48 years old and Watson 50.

Notable Quotes:

“You’re not hurt, Watson? For God’s sake, say that you are not hurt!”

It was worth a wound—it was worth many wounds—to know the depth of loyalty and love which lay behind that cold mask. The clear, hard eyes were dimmed for a moment, and the firm lips were shaking. For the one and only time I caught a glimpse of a great heart as well as of a great brain. All my years of humble but single-minded service culminated in that moment of revelation.

“By the Lord, it is as well for you. If you had killed Watson, you would not have got out of this room alive.”

<i>The Adventure of the Three Garridebs</i>	
<i>Chronologist</i>	<i>Date of the Adventure</i>
<i>Canon</i>	<i>Thursday, Late June 1902</i>
<i>Baring-Gold</i>	<i>Thursday, June 26, 1902</i>
<i>Bell</i>	<i>Thursday, June 26, 1902</i>
<i>Blakeney</i>	<i>June 1902</i>
<i>Brend</i>	<i>June 1902</i>
<i>Christ</i>	<i>Thursday, June 26, 1902</i>
<i>Dakin</i>	<i>Thursday, June 26, 1902</i>
<i>Folsom</i>	<i>Thursday, June 26, 1902</i>
<i>Hall</i>	<i>June 26, 1902</i>
<i>Keefauver</i>	<i>Thursday, June 19, 1902</i>
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>1902</i>
<i>Zeisler</i>	<i>Thursday, June 26, 1902</i>

The Declined Knighthood



I always wonder whether the fact that Sherlock Holmes accepted France’s *Legion d’Honneur* but declined a British knighthood didn’t have something to do with his family background, on the Vernet side; his Grandmother having been French. As he put it, “Art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms.” The reason behind the refusal may have been a slight by English nobility (possibly even royalty) to some past member or even the entire family. Such a thing would be bitterly remembered in the family chronicles. We should recall that back in our sleuth’s time, families used to have longer generational memories than they do today

when we must pay a database to discover who our great-great-grandparents were.

Then again, perhaps Holmes simply disapproved of Edward VII as monarch. Lest we forget, he was perfectly willing to accept a token of appreciation (albeit a very personal and private one) from “a certain gracious lady.”

Holmes' Pictures

It has always been a matter of heated discussion among Canon students what exactly did John Garrideb's greeting meant: “Your pictures are not unlike you, sir. . . .” What did he mean by “pictures”? Was he referring to *The Strand's* illustrations by Paget and others? Or was he speaking about actual *photographs*? The paradoxical fact exists that although Sherlock Holmes was the premier detective—crime fighter—of his age, Scotland Yard's last court of appeal, no photograph of him seems to exist.



Why would this be? Even if the Great Detective had had an aversion to having someone photograph him, it seems difficult to believe that some photographer—whether from a publication or a freelancer—would not have been able to snap at least one photo of him. Garrideb's comment seems to indicate to me that he probably had run across Holmes' picture in a newspaper or magazine.

Even if this baffling lack of graphics had been due to the efforts of the government (doubtlessly headed by Mycroft), it seems unlikely that they could have been so thorough, to the extent of purging newspaper and magazines' morgues as well as library files.

Come to think about, why is it that we don't have photos of Watson as well? One imagines that somewhere there must be left at least be a few sets of his different wedding pictures.

John Garrideb's Accent

Holmes says of John Garrideb that he thinks “that the fellow is really an American, but he has worn his accent smooth with years of London.” It has been my observation that an adult living in a country not his own will not lose the accent with which he speaks the language. This seems to only take place with children. So the question remains, what was the Great Detective observing here?

Based on my own experience, after living for sometime in a foreign country it is not so much your accent that is modified as is the fact that you pick up certain turns of phrase and idiomatic expressions that may not exist (in this case in American English), but are common in the language of the country in which you now reside. I once spent a few weeks in the Deep South and got into the unfortunate habit of saying “Y'all,” which some residents found shocking because of my Yankee accent.

The Loot and an Observation about Currency



According to John Garrideb (now “Killer” Evans) the counterfeit loot beneath the floor of Alexander Garrideb came to £200,000, a truly enormous fortune by the standards of the time. In today's currency, it would amount to approximately \$80,000,000. Regarding the value of the fictitious property—\$5,000,000 per inheritor—at the rate of exchange then, \$5 (gold) = £1 (also gold) with which he tempted the poor old collector, that would have come to exactly £1,000,000, or about \$400,000,000 today. Certainly

nothing to sneeze at.

I am puzzled, however, by the counterfeiters' choice of denomination: £100. Considering the value of the currency back then, £100 would be about \$40,000 today. Victorian banknotes were issued for values of £5, £10, £50, and £100. Travel guides of the time suggested that "for ordinary use gold is preferable," and advised tourists to "take down in a pocket-book the number of each note, as there is a bare possibility of its being in this way traced and recovered if lost or stolen." The latter would seem to indicate that there wasn't very much paper in circulation back then; at least in the higher denominations.

Since 1969, in the U.S., the \$100 note has maintained its spot as the largest paper denomination. Previously, the mint produced bills ranging from \$500 to \$10,000, but these were discontinued. The point is, regardless of how good the counterfeited notes were, why risk the additional attention that would naturally be given to a high-denomination note? During the Second World War, in an attempt to destabilize the British currency, Germany produced hundreds of thousands £5 notes. These were absolutely perfect; so much so, that England had to issue new, very different-looking £5 after the war. Why £5? The thinking was that a £5 would not be too closely examined as would be one of higher value.

Watson's Injury

There is no question in my mind that Holmes was not exaggerating. Had Watson's wound been serious or fatal, John Garrideb would have found himself learning how to play the accordion in Hades.

What else happened in 1902:

Empire



First celebration of Empire Day (renamed "Commonwealth Day" in 1959).

First meeting of the Committee of Imperial Defence in London.

◀ Joseph Chamberlain advocates return to Protection and Imperial Preference.

Anglo-German fleet seizes Venezuelan fleet to recover debts and reparations.

Peace of Vereeniging, ends Boer War.

Britain

Salisbury resigns, succeeded as PM by Arthur Balfour.

Anglo-Japanese Treaty, for mutual defense and to maintain *status quo* in Far East, recognizes the independence of China and Korea.



Sir Giles Gilbert Scott designs Liverpool Cathedral.

◀ Institution of the Order of Merit by King Edward for distinguished service to the state; limited to 24 holders at one time.

Education Act abolishes School Board system. Local control goes to town and county councils.

Secondary Education authorized out of rates.

British Academy granted Royal Charter.

Esperanto introduced to England.

Establishment of Metropolitan Water Board, supplying London.

Boer War casualties: 5,774 British and 4,000 Boers killed.

Arthur Conan Doyle is knighted.

World

Franco-Italian secret treaty; Italy to remain neutral if France were attacked by a third power.

Failure of second Belgian General Strike.

Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria, and Italy) renewed to 1914.



Italian designs on Tripoli conditionally approved by France and Austria.

Russo-Japanese Convention, Russia agrees to evacuate Manchuria in 18 months.

Leon Trotsky escapes from Siberia, settles in London.

Martinique volcanic eruption destroys town of St. Pierre.

◀ F.A. Krupp takes over Germania shipbuilding yard at Kiel; great armaments firm develops.

Coal strike in U.S.A.

National bankruptcy declared in Portugal.

French work day reduced to 9 1/2 hours.

U.S.A. acquires perpetual control over Panama Canal. Control is held until 1977, when President Jimmy Carter turned the canal over to Panama, which assumed final control in 1999.

Public Health Act in France improves artisan living conditions.

White settlement of Kenya begins.

Aswan Dam opened.

St. Pierre, Martinique, destroyed by earthquake.

Abdul Hamid gives Germany concessions to build railway to Baghdad; rail system to stretch from Hamburg to the Persian Gulf.

Tientsin Sanitary Police established; first Chinese public health measure.

Art



Conan Doyle publishes *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Kipling publishes *Just So Stories*.

◀ Arthur Edward Woodley Mason publishes *The Four Feathers*.

Beatrix Potter publishes *Peter Rabbit*.

Enrico Caruso makes his first gramophone record—154 recordings in all.

Elgar composes the first of his *Pomp and Circumstance* marches.

Monet, *Waterloo Bridge*.

Gauguin, *Riders by the Sea*.

Gauguin paints *The Call*.

Debussy composes *Pelléas et Mélisandé*.

Picasso paints *Nude, Back View*.

Elgar composes *Coronation Ode*.

Science and Technology

Wireless telegraphy applied to ships.

Oliver Heaviside, English physicist, reveals the existence of an atmospheric layer which aids the conduction of radio waves.

Trans-Pacific Cable laid.

Completion of Aswan Dam in Egypt.

Next week's case: ILLU

Respectfully submitted,

Murray, the Courageous Orderly

(a.k.a. Alexander E. Braun)

"I should have fallen into the hands of the murderous Ghazis had it not been for the devotion and courage shown by Murray, my orderly..."

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