



*An Inquiry into:
"The Man with the Twisted Lip"*

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"The Man with the Twisted Lip" was first published in *The Strand Magazine* in February 1892. It is part of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.

The table shows that, once again, our experts in Canon chronology are not unanimous. If the case took place in 1889, as the majority suggests, at the time Sherlock Holmes was 36 years old and Doctor John H. Watson 38.

Main Characters:

Neville St. Clair, well-to-do businessman. "Hugh Boone," Neville's alter ego, a filthy, disfigured beggar. Mrs. Neville St. Clair, Neville's concerned wife. Isa Whitney, hopeless opium addict and Watson's patient. Kate Whitney, Isa's wife and old friend of Mary Watson. Mary Watson, Doctor John H. Watson's wife. Inspector Bradstreet, a Scotland Yarder.

Notable Quotes:

It was difficult to refuse any of Sherlock Holmes' requests, for they were always so exceedingly definite, and put forward with such a quiet air of mastery. I felt, however, that when Whitney was once confined in the cab my mission was practically accomplished; and for the rest, I could not wish anything better than to be associated with my friend in one of those singular adventures which were the normal condition of his existence.

"A trusty comrade is always of use. And a chronicler still more so."

"You have a grand gift of silence, Watson."

"There is nothing so important as trifles."

"I have seen too much not to know that the impression of a woman may be more valuable than the conclusion of an analytical reasoner."

"It is better to learn wisdom late than never to learn it at all."

<i>Chronologist</i>	<i>Date of the Adventure</i>
<i>Canon</i>	<i>June 19, 1889</i>
<i>Baring-Gould</i>	<i>Saturday, June 18, 1887</i>
<i>Bell</i>	<i>Friday, June 14, 1889</i>
<i>Blakeney</i>	<i>Friday, June 21, 1889</i>
<i>Brend</i>	<i>Late June 1889</i>
<i>Christ</i>	<i>Wednesday, June 19, 1889</i>
<i>Dakin</i>	<i>Friday, June 21, 1889</i>
<i>Folsom</i>	<i>Tuesday, probably June 18, 1889</i>
<i>Hall</i>	<i>June 17, 1889</i>
<i>Keefauver</i>	<i>Friday June 21st 1889</i>
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>1889</i>
<i>Zeisler</i>	<i>Friday, June 21, 1889</i>

Please note that Canon chronologists may differ on pivotal dates and comparative periods between cases, thus a simple majority is not necessarily correct. Most Canon scholars settle on a single chronologist's results for their research framework.

A Brief Aside on the Matter of Names

Many often unraveled conjectures have been knitted in an attempt to explain how it could be that Mary, Watson's wife, would refer to her husband as "James" instead of "John." We are, of course, certain that our medico's name *was* John, because it clearly appears as such in STUD's title, and he personally informed us that it was that name that was painted upon the lid of that much-lamented



Courtesy of ITV Granada

missing tin box, which was supposed to have been safely stored at Cox's.

Theoretical explanations range from considering Mary as being addlepat to a point beyond confusion, that her supposed mistake was a symptom of a fractured marriage, to the whole thing having originated from a publisher's misprint.

All of these explanations are highly doubtful.

The best solution to this problem appears to have been presented by the noted Holmesian, Miss Dorothy Sayers, of Lord Peter Wimsey fame. This extraordinary lady conjectured that the "H" in Doctor John H. Watson's

name stood for "Hamish" or James, when Anglicized from the Scots language. She further posited that Mary might not have been overly fond of the name John, because of its association with the unpleasant Major Sholto, preferring on some occasions, to use Watson's middle name.

St. Clair's Income

According to Neville, the first time he tried beggary, he netted 26s 4d in seven hours. After he had turned into a professional mendicant, he claimed that an income of £700 (\approx \$263,000) would have been *below* his average yearly earnings. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that he could afford to invest in various business, buy a house, marry, and have a family.

Neville told Holmes that he had been well educated. However, considering that he had tried and abandoned acting, and that he took up arduously working as a journalist for a measly £2 a week, it is very unlikely that he could have had anything remotely approaching a profession; i.e., he surely was not a lawyer or physician and did not seem to possess any other kind of substantial career.

So what happened to Neville St. Clair after his redemption? Here we venture into unexplored country.

It is not unlikely that, regardless of how good his investments were, a £700 cut in income had to have very severely impacted his earnings and with it his standard of living.

This, of course, leads one to wonder whether St. Clair was—or could have afforded to be—true to his word, or whether pecuniary circumstances moved him to create another highly successful beggar. It must be considered that although disgraceful in the eyes of polite society, being a beggar was by no



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means unlawful. Because his family knew nothing about his life as Boone and had no reason to even remotely suspect that he would engage in anything of that kind, nothing would have prevented him from resuming his customary, extremely gainful schedule, by creating a new persona for his successful professional beggary.

Penetrating the Disguise

It appears obvious that, regardless of his considerable expertise in the art of disguise, Holmes was unable to penetrate Neville's "Boone" persona in the Bow Street cell; otherwise, everything would have been revealed right then and there.

This leads one to wonder what the tipoff was for the Great Detective, during his overnight deductive session in the company of sleeping Watson and an ounce of shag tobacco. What, precisely, inspired him to conclude that Neville St. Clair and the beggar Boone were one and the same?

The most plausible explanation probably lies in the fact that he is Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street and we are not.



Courtesy of ITV Granada

A Strategic Question



Courtesy of ITV Granada

Neville St. Clair was earning well over £700 a year, and did not have to share with his wife the reasons behind whatever expense he might have had. In fact, she seems to have known absolutely nothing about his affairs.

One must wonder, therefore, if he went to work every day why he would have been willing to put himself in the hands of the rascally Lascar. Why not rent a room in some ramshackle, out of the way place instead? Back then as now, there were many such places where one could come and go as needed without anyone noticing (or wanting to notice) who he was and what he was involved in. Let us remember that Saucy Jack was able to gambol about in the East End without any of the numerous Whitechapel residents taking

any interest.

What else happened in 1889:

Empire

Great Seal of the United Kingdom is affixed to the charter of the British South Africa Company. Company is assigned trading and other rights over a vast territory, with the express reservation to the Crown to take over at any time the works and buildings of the Company.

Transvaal claimed to be "encircled" by Rhodes' concessions in East Africa. Rhodesia established.

Colonel Woodehouse defeats Dervish horde in Sudan. General Grenfell, commanding British troops on the Nile attacks and defeats Dervish troops, with 500 killed and wounded, and as many taken prisoner.

The Canadian Pacific Railway is completed from coast to coast.

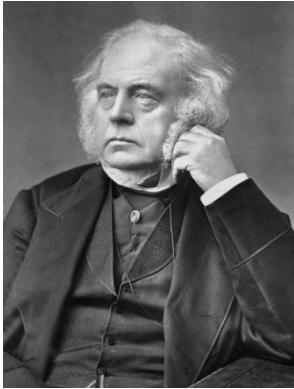
At Cairo, Henry Stanley ends his three-year African expedition. He is knighted upon his return to England, writes *In Darkest Africa*.

Britain

Great London Dockers' Strike; the "Dockers' Tanner"; growth of unskilled workers' unions; New Unionism; Gasworkers' Union formed. Strike is finally arbitrated in the workers' favor by the popular Catholic Cardinal Henry Manning.

Parnell vindicated as all charges are revealed as false. *The London Times* apologizes.

Clissold Park, Stoke Newington, opens.



Technical Education Act: County Councils to levy 1d for technical and manual education.

Establishment of telephone company.

◀ John Bright, orator and politician, leading spirit in the Anti-Corn Law League, dies.

Board of Agriculture becomes government department with minister.

Metropolitan Board of Works replaced by London County Council.

Clissold Park, Stoke Newington, opens.

General Booth publishes *Survey of London Life and Labour*.

Early used of photographs in newspaper: *Illustrated London News* runs Cambridge and Oxford boat crews competition.

Woolwich Ferry starts.

White Hart Inn, Borough High Street, one of the last coaching inns, demolished.

Act to prevent cruelty to children.

Board of Agriculture becomes government department with minister.

World

Japan's Meiji constitution. Arinori Mori, minister of education assassinated by Shinto fanatic.



Wall Street Journal begins publishing.

◀ Italy takes Somalia and Ethiopia. Yohannes IV (Kasa) Emperor of Ethiopia dies in battle. Later, with Treaty of Acciali, Ethiopia is made an Italian protectorate.

Moulin Rouge opens in Paris.

North and South Dakota, Montana and Washington admitted as U.S.A. states.

U.S.A. Senate, in secret session, passes resolution declaring against European control of the Panama Canal.

Congress of French Revolutionary Labor Party at Bordeaux.

President Harrison, of the U.S.A., closes Bering Sea to all nations; issues proclamation prohibiting the killing of fur animals within Alaska without a special government permit.

Crown Prince Archduke Rudolph of Austria-Hungary and Baroness Maria Vetsera are found dead at the hunting lodge of Mayerling, outside Vienna, allegedly a murder-suicide. (In 1983, former Austrian empress Zita claimed it was an assassination by two conspirators when Rudolph refused to take part in a plot to oust his father Emperor Franz Josef.)

Ivory Coast is declared a protectorate of France.



Part of Oklahoma Indian lands open to homesteading.

Portuguese under Pinto try to extend influence in Zambesi Valley; Anglo-Portuguese dispute.

End of Portuguese Empire in Brazil; republic proclaimed and Dom Pedro, the emperor, exiled.

◀ Abdication of King Milan of Serbia; accession of Alexander.

Uprising in the island of Crete. Turkish authorities expelled and public archives destroyed. Turkey calls up 80,000 reservists, but promises to inquire into legitimate grievances.

Russian jurors to be nominated by government.

King Ferdinand II of Portugal dies at age 73.

Stanley's expedition reaches Bagamoyo in Indian Ocean.

Aristocratic "Land Captains" replace elected JPs in Russia.

Father Damien, worker among lepers in Molokai, Hawaii, dies of the disease.

Influenza reaches Europe and America from Siberia.

General Boulanger, former French War Minister leaves country, addresses manifesto to his party that he left the country to avoid arrest, French Chambers authorize the Senate to try Boulanger and others in absentia, for high treason. The general and his staff are found guilty and condemned to life imprisonment.

Jefferson Davis dies in Mississippi.

Paris Exhibition: proof of industrial development in France. Continental monarchies abstain from all official representation. English and American ambassadors attend. Eiffel Tower built for the event is dedicated in a ceremony presided over by Gustave Eiffel, the designer, and attended by French Prime Minister Pierre Tirard. At 985 feet high, taller than the Great Pyramid, the Eiffel Tower becomes highest structure on Earth.

Lectures at Dorpat University to be in Russian; German forbidden in schools.

Brunner-Mond Salt Union formed; combine of 64 firms.

Private tolls abolished on French Canals.

New York World's Nellie Bly (Liz Cochrane) begins world trip to beat Jules Verne's Phileas Fogg (*Around the World in 80 Days*). Takes 72 days.

The Pemberton Medicine Company (later the Coca-Cola Company), is incorporated in Atlanta, Georgia.

Work on Panama Canal stopped; French company bankrupt, U.S.A. takes over, finishes canal.

Johnstown flood kills more than 6,000, losses climb to \$40,000,000.

Civil war in Haiti ends. General Légitime defeated by General Hippolyte, who becomes president.

Bismarck introduces Old Age Insurance in Germany.

Erection of Tacoma Building in Chicago. First skyscraper, 13 storeys high.

Mirza Ghulam Ahmad establishes the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, a reform sect of Islam.

Conference at Berlin guarantees an autonomous government to the Samoan Islands under the joint control of the United States, Great Britain, and Germany.

Art

Sir James Barrie's *A Window in Thrums*, sketches of Scottish village life.



Robert Browning publishes *Asolando*, a poem. Dies later in the year.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle writes *The Sign of the Four*.

◀ Jerome K. Jerome publishes stories, *Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow*, *Three Men in a Boat*.

Mark Twain publishes *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*.

Robert Louis Stevenson publishes *Master of Ballantrae*.

William Butler Yeats publishes *The Wanderings of Oisín*.

Paul Bourget publishes *Le Disciple*, a psychological novel.

Gerhart J. Hauptmann publishes *Vor Sonnenaufgang*, German realistic play.

Sudermann publishes *Die Ehre*, a German play.

Dvorak presents *Symphony No. 4 in G Major*.



Gilbert and Sullivan present *The Gondoliers*.

Renoir paints *Girls Picking Flowers*.

Seurat paints *The Side Show*.

◀ Van Gogh paints *Man with a Pipe* (self-portrait), *The Olive Grove*, and *Starry Night*.

Cézanne paints *Harlequin*.

Tchaikovsky introduces *The Sleeping Princess* ballet.

Richard Strauss introduces *Tod und Verklärung*, tone poem.

Science and Technology

Hollerith's punched-card system widely used in industry.

First ship-to-shore wireless message is received in the U.S., at San Francisco.

The first General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) defines the length of a meter as the distance between two lines on a standard bar of an alloy of platinum with ten percent iridium, measured at the melting point of ice.

Eastman's Kodak camera comes into production, using photographic film.

Astronomical Society of Pacific holds first meeting in San Francisco, California.

Ferdinand von Zeppelin patents his "Navigable Balloon."

The first jukebox makes its debut at the Palais Royale Saloon in San Francisco, California. For a nickel, one can listen to a few minutes of music through a tube of an Edison tinfoil phonograph.

In Potsdam, Germany, Ernst von Rebeur-Paschwitz makes the first known recordings of a distant earthquake, taken place in Tokyo, Japan, an hour earlier.

The brassiere is invented.

First dishwashing machine marketed in Chicago.



Mering and Minkowski show that the pancreas prevents diabetes.

William Gray patents coin-operated telephone.

◀ Daniel Stover and William Hance patent bicycle with back pedal brake.

First linotype machine in use.

Thomas Edison shows his first motion picture.

Aspirin patented in Germany by Bayer Laboratories, first introduced in powder form.

Panhard and Levassor begin using Daimler's engines in French cars, using modern layout.

Next week's case: SPEC

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..."

If you would like to join the Hounds of the Internet, email us at CourageousMurray@aol.com.

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