

# *Nashville Scholars*

*of the*

## *Three Pipe Problem*

### *Investiture*

*January 25, 2014*

We all know that it takes a great deal to impress Mr. Sherlock Holmes especially when it comes to members of the police force, but one young man caught his eye.

Dr. Watson introduces us to Inspector Stanley Hopkins in “The Adventure of Black Peter” in the following manner:

*“Our visitor was an exceedingly alert man, thirty years of age, dressed in a quiet tweed suit, but retaining the erect bearing of one who was accustomed to official uniform. I recognized him at once as Stanley Hopkins, a young police inspector, for whose future Holmes had high hopes, while he in turn professed the admiration and respect of a pupil for the scientific methods of the famous amateur. Hopkins's brow was clouded, and he sat down with an air of deep dejection.”*

So this young inspector has done what many others have not, gives Holmes some modicum of hope for the future of Scotland Yard’s investigative services.

Of course, Inspector Hopkins cannot do all that the Master can do, but he carries with him a scientific streak which serves him well. Constrained by his oath as a peace officer, Inspector Hopkins cannot take some of the extreme actions which Holmes is often prone to do. But, this young man appreciates the methods employed by the great detective and this flair shows often when we find him in other stories told by the good Dr. Watson including the “Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez” and the “Adventure of Abby Grange”.

While he is not a clone of Holmes, many would consider this young policeman the second best detective we find in the Canon. Some would even describe Inspector Hopkins as a mixture of Holmes and Watson as he exhibits the traits and characteristics of both at times.

In Nashville, we have a man who exhibits these same superlative traits. He brings great insight to our gatherings as he searches for Sherlockian truths.

As we go forward, the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem will address our friend Jeff Steward as:

**“Inspector Stanley Hopkins”**

So today, we welcome him to join our gregarious and eclectic collection of Sherlockians.