

Gael Bernard Stahl

Canonical Name: The Final Problem

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1. How did you become interested in Sherlock Holmes?

I saw a copy of the stories illustrated by Sidney Paget at a bookstore in Knoxville while traveling about 1977 or so. I read *Scandal in Bohemia* and *The Three Pipe Problem*, began reading stories to Susan whenever it was a rainy day - by the fire place - and soon was addicted to Doyle's Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. I got an Annotated canon by Baring Gould and in January 1979, I joined a large group answering an ad in the newspaper to start a Nashville scion. I traveled from March 1979 to April 1981 and on my return I renewed the scion's meetings that had lapsed while I was gone. The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem have been fun ever since.

2. What is your favorite story or stories?

The Red-Headed League of course, *Scandal in Bohemia*, *Study in Scarlet* where Holmes meets Watson and they rent 221B Baker Street and begin to solve cases. My favorite novel is the *Valley of Fear*.

3. Who are your favorite characters other than Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson?

Mycroft Holmes, the Scotland Yarders, Mrs. Hudson, Neville St. Clair and his wife.

4. What do you enjoy about our monthly meetings?

Discussions' about the stories. Sometimes, the quizzes. The companionship of the gathered Problems.

Biographical Sketch

Grew up in Plainville, Kansas, attended Sacred Heart Grade School, then 13 years of seminary schooling, was ordained a Franciscan priest. I worked in Southside Chicago parish two years and in Nashville four years. I've lived in African American neighborhoods since 1967. Took a leave of absence in 1973.. Susan moved in with me. Together 40 years ever since. Worked as admissions officer and recruiter at Tennessee State University 1973-79, traveled in France, Germany, and United States 1979-81, wrote a book about our stay in France and returned to Nashville to do short term jobs until 1983. From 1983 to 2013, I was a writer and editor of *Tennessee Town and City*, a newspaper published by the Tennessee Municipal League. I

I first attended Sherlockian conferences at William and Mary and University of Indiana in 1987 and since then many conferences at Dayton, Ohio, Chicago, Door County in Wisconsin, and individual conferences at Carbondale, Ill., BSI banquet in NY City, Minneapolis, Indiana,

half a dozen symposiums in Indianapolis and Chattanooga, and have been in constant contact with Sherlockians around the country. I've attended the BSI celebrations in January about six times.

For many years I edited the Three Pipe Problems Plugs and Dottles, one of the better Sherlockian monthly newsletters in the country. I've led at least one or two quizzes and or discussions at our meetings over many years. Since 1981 I've not missed more than one or two meetings in 32 years, if that many. I've 'shown' many valuable items at our meetings including first edition Strands, Collier magazines with Steele Sherlockian artwork on the covers, and the facsimile Study in Scarlet published on its centennial in 1987.