

Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem

Investiture
January 20, 2018

Inspector Tobias Gregson, a Scotland Yard inspector, was first introduced in *A Study in Scarlet* (1887), and he subsequently appears in "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter" (1893), "The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge" (1908) and "The Adventure of the Red Circle" (1911).

Holmes declares him to be "the smartest of the Scotland Yarders," but given Holmes' opinion of the Scotland Yard detectives, this is not sweeping praise. In one of the stories Watson specifically mentions the callous and cool way in which Gregson behaved.

Watson describes Gregson as tall, "tow-headed", fair-haired, "I'm becoming "fair-haired as I age and become grey".

It has been written that "Of all the Yarders, Gregson comes the closest to meeting Sherlock Holmes on intellectual grounds, while acknowledging Holmes's abilities. He even admits to Holmes that he always feels more confident when he has Holmes's aid in a case. (I feel I would like the challenge of working along with Holmes, although I may see it as somewhat of a competition) Regrettably, he is bound within the confines of the law he serves, and the delay in getting his assistance turns to tragedy in "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter".

He also has some regrettable human flaws, as he says "I have flaws, of which I'm painfully aware, which will at times lead me in the wrong direction". During *A Study in Scarlet* he publicly laughs at Lestrade's incorrect assumptions, even though he is also on the wrong trail.

With us today, is a man of distention for many reasons including his family name. Like his namesake, Gregson, he too is insightful and diligent with a keen desire to learn what he can learn. We can think of him when we read Holmes' words, "My mind," he said, "rebels at stagnation. Give me problems, give me work, give me the most abstruse cryptogram or the most intricate analysis, and I am in my own proper atmosphere. ... That is why I have chosen my own particular profession,—or rather created it, for I am the only one in the world."

Today, we welcome my distant cousin David Fields to our group as Inspector Tobias Gregson along with his pledge to support our to always share the writings of Watson and the the Literary Agents efforts to share Holmes with the world.