

# **The Character of Sherlock Holmes as a Depiction of the Enlightenment in Victorian Britain**

Katarína Kunderátová

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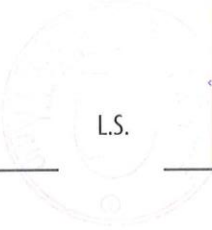
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**Mgr. Libor Marek, Ph.D.**  
děkan



  
**Mgr. Roman Trušník, Ph.D.**  
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## **ABSTRAKT**

Táto bakalárska práca sa venuje myšlienkam osvietenstva prítomným v spoločnosti viktoriánskej Británie, čo má súvislosť s následným rozvojom žánru detektívnej literatúry ako vyobrazenia postupov polície s vedeckým základom. Cieľom tejto bakalárskej práce je predstaviť typické znaky osvietenstva, viktoriánskej spoločnosti ako aj žánru detektívnej literatúry s prihliadnutím na jeho racionálnu stránku. Na základe týchto poznatkov analyzovať postavu Sherlocka Holmesa a preveriť prítomnosť a rozsah myšlienok a hodnôt osvietenstva v jeho postave, ako aj v postave Dr Watsona. Hlavné poviedky a novely použité v analýze sú *Štúdia v šarlátovej*, *Podpis štyroch*, *Pes baskervilský*, *Škandál v Čechách* a *Musgraveovský rituál*.

Kľúčové slová: osvietenstvo, racionalizmus, zhromažďovanie dát, viktoriánska éra, viktoriánska Británia, forenzná veda, detektívna literatúra, dedukcia, Sherlock Holmes

## **ABSTRACT**

This bachelor thesis discusses the ideology of the Enlightenment present in the Victorian Britain, which relates to the evolution of detective fiction as a genre which depicts scientific police procedures. The aim of this bachelor thesis is to present typical features of the Enlightenment, the Victorian society and the genre of detective fiction taking into account mainly the rational aspects. Based on these findings, I analyze the character of Sherlock Holmes and verify the existence and the extent of Enlightenment ideas and values in his character and that of Dr Watson. The main stories and novels used in the analysis are *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Sign of the Four*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *A Scandal in Bohemia* and *The Musgrave ritual*.

Keywords: The Enlightenment, rationalism, data gathering, Victorian era, Victorian Britain, forensic science, detective fiction, deduction, Sherlock Holmes

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I hereby declare that the print version of my bachelor's thesis and the electronic version of my thesis deposited in the IS/STAG system are identical.

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## INTRODUCTION

A person in a checkered cloak, with a pipe and a magnifying glass in his hands - that is a typical image of the detective Sherlock Holmes, an investigator sensitive to every detail and with an extraordinary, perfectly accurate mind able to crack any case. The Sherlock Holmes stories contrast the simplicity and accuracy of his actions based on the all available inputs with the eccentricity of that extraordinary mind. Lying on the floor in order to gather every piece of evidence and disobeying common courtesy and rules in order to pursue and accuse the right suspect, are the common part of the character of Sherlock Holmes. In the analysis of the novels *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Sign of the Four*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and the stories *A Scandal in Bohemia*, *The Musgrave ritual* and some other adventures, the character of Sherlock Holmes personifies the exceptional mind with all its peculiarities.

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to present typical features of the Enlightenment, the Victorian society and the genre of the detective fiction taking into account mainly its rational part; and based on these findings, to analyze the character of Sherlock Holmes and to verify their existence and their extent in his character and that of his partner Dr Watson. The first chapter of the theoretical part discusses the Enlightenment, its evolution throughout the history, the way how the society and the world were perceived, and its core values and ideas present also in the later period. The second chapter describes the situation in Britain during the reign of the Queen Victoria, the growth of the population and development of the society caused by the Industrial Revolution, the new lifestyle of the upper classes and the lower classes, and the vices and undesirable consequences of the rapid development like social problems and the criminality. The third chapter contains the description of the real-life police procedurals and of the importance of the forensic sciences. The description of the evolution of the detective fiction with basic rules of the genre is included in this third chapter. After the theoretical part, the practical part, the analysis follows with two chapters. The first chapter analyses the character of Sherlock Holmes. The chapter projects some of the ideals of the Enlightenment on his character while not omitting the traits not typical for the enlightened rationalism. The second chapter of the analysis demonstrates features of the rationalism and the development of the forensic sciences on the police procedurals and the detective investigation in the fictional world of Sherlock Holmes.

**I. THE ENLIGHTENMENT,  
VICTORIAN BRITAIN AND  
DETECTIVE FICTION**

## 1 THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Human behaviour and its causes concern the society even today. We try to understand why people do what they do, we analyse their actions, what could affect them and what is the cause and the consequence of their actions. We try to understand this because we suppose there are some rules and factors according to which we can explain and predict human's actions. The exploration of the world and one own's universe has always interested the society not only in the real world but also in the fictional world. Through the fictional characters people can experience different situations which they could not have experience under other circumstances. This exploration of everything around people and in them, the more scientific and rational approach to the world around us and the universe appeared in different periods through the years, but the highest interest and concentration of these ideas were present in the period of the Renaissance and the Enlightenment.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century is known for the Industrial Revolution and an intellectual movement called the Enlightenment or The Age of Reason, which represents common beliefs and values of the society typical for that period. The basic ideas of the Enlightenment are present in more centuries and movements from the Ancient Greece and Rome, through the Humanism and the Renaissance and its influence can be seen as well in the next centuries.<sup>1</sup>

It is possible to trace the origins of the Enlightenment back to Ancient Greece. Rational natural order, law, power and use of reason were some of aspects of the Greek culture that had been adopted by the Ancient Romans. The fall of the Western Roman Empire caused that the faith in God and the salvation were present in everyday life, and the influence of the Christian religion persisted through the Middle Ages.<sup>2</sup>

Towards the end of the Medieval Ages new discoveries and inventions emerged, such as the compass, the gunpowder, the printing press, the clock, the colourless glass and lenses in glasses. Inventions like lenses later led to the invention of the photography which was a very helpful tool during the criminal investigation.<sup>3</sup> Medieval times with absolutistic power of a

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<sup>1</sup> Carbonell, Charles-Olivier. *Evropské dějiny Evropy, Od renesance k renesanci?*, trans. PhDr. Alena Lhotová et PhDr. Věra Hrubanová, (Prague: Karolinum, 2003), 96.

<sup>2</sup> Pocock, J. G. A. "Historiography and Enlightenment: A View of Their History", *Modern Intellectual History*, vol 5, no. 1 (2008): 89–90.

<sup>3</sup> Vanderveen, Gabry. review of *Capturing the Criminal Image: From Mug Shots to Surveillance Society*, by Jonathan Finn, *Visual Studies*, vol. 26, no. 2 (2011): 181. <https://booksc.xyz/ireader/30360444>

monarch or the church began to be more pleasant and liveable, inquisition lost its power as a result of more humanist jurisdiction, torture and the death penalty were encountered with the acknowledgement of human rights to life, education and minorities rights.<sup>4</sup> The faith in God's decision about a man's doom or salvation faded when Constantinople fell. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the end of the Medieval Ages and the beginning of the Modern Period was connected via the Renaissance.

The faith in God was gradually replaced with Renaissance Humanism. The Renaissance rediscovered classical culture with concepts of the power of a human mind and reason. A methodology of reasoning as a validation of a human reason had been developed while logics of induction and deduction were the most notable in the sciences.<sup>5</sup> The Renaissance as a re-birth of the society brought other transformations and rediscoveries of the antiquity with resultant studies in physics, chemistry, geography, mathematics and astronomy. Nature started to be perceived more as a machine than as an organism.<sup>6</sup> With bold new claims about the world and cosmos, starting with Nicolaus Copernicus and his theory of heliocentrism, experimental scientific methods were developed to prove and explain how things work. The Renaissance involved a new approach also in arts as a result of which even artists studied anatomy and philosophy, like da Vinci.

Proposals about scientific methods were made also by the English philosopher and statesman, Francis Bacon. He had a great impact on the methods of the information gathering and using. After his career in politics he focused on the philosophy of science. He created a new approach to science with a focus on empirical scientific methods which included data gathering by using senses, analysing and creating experiments based on them.<sup>7</sup> This empirical approach is depicted in the character of Sherlock Holmes, also when he often collects evidence from crime scenes through the thorough examination of the scene, floors and even corpses. Bacon claimed that his new method would "eventually disclose and bring into sight all that is most hidden and secret in the universe".<sup>8</sup> His theories had an impact

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<sup>4</sup> Carbonell, *Evropské dějiny Evropy*, 97.

<sup>5</sup> Duignan, Brian. "Enlightenment, European History", Britannica.com, (accessed February 1, 2020)

<sup>6</sup> Bennabi. Malek, Rashid. Ashma, "The Conditions of the Renaissance", *Islamic Studies*, vol. 37 (1998), 513.

<sup>7</sup> Scalercio, Mauro. "Dominating nature and colonialism. Francis Bacon's view of Europe and the New World", *History of European Ideas*, (2018): 2.

<sup>8</sup> Biography.com Editors, "Francis Bacon Biography", Biography.com, (accessed February 5, 2020)

mainly on the 17<sup>th</sup> century European science which was used even by the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge.

This progress in the sciences and in understanding them, physical and chemistry laws and innovative ideas stroke the society of that world, while the Scientific Revolution involved a change in the conceptual and cultural understanding of knowledge, nature and belief. Ongoing uncertainty in religion and faith encouraged discussions about rationalization, sciences, technical progress, individual rights, culture, politics and some people even started to recognize native Americans beyond the ocean as full-fledged human beings and tried to understand different worlds, cultures and traditions.<sup>9</sup>

The gradual rationalization and the acceptance of new ideas and approaches were typical for the Enlightenment as an intellectual movement which reinforced the idea of progress and democracy with the climax in the French Revolution with the motto “liberty, equality, fraternity”. The Enlightenment alongside the Age of Discovery, dated from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, stimulated new discoveries, inventions and travels abroad. This meant development of the market and cities, especially in the Mediterranean and Black sea area, and communication in terms of learning other languages.<sup>10</sup> A huge amount of information and ideas emerged and had to be processed, verified and distributed throughout the world. However, institutions of that time were not sufficient enough, therefore scientific societies such as the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge and the Académie des Sciences of Paris, which were the most important national scientific societies where natural philosophers could gather, discuss, examine and compare old and new theories and discoveries, were formed. Information and new ideas needed to be shared with the public and as a result scientific papers in more comprehensive terminology were published instead of expensive complicated books only few could read and afford.<sup>11</sup> Even the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes shared some of his ideas in the journals and small works available to anyone who was interested in them.

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<sup>9</sup> Carbonell, *Evropské dějiny Evropy*, 105, 126.

<sup>10</sup> Mancall, C. Peter. “The Age of Discovery”, *Reviews in American History*, vol. 26., no. 1 (1998): 33. Accessed May 2, 2020. [www.jstor.org/stable/30030873](http://www.jstor.org/stable/30030873)

<sup>11</sup> Brookes J. Spencer et al., “Scientific Revolution”, *Britannica.com*, (accessed February 5, 2020)

Knowledge and values were also cultivated in libraries, universities and academies which arranged talks with humanists. These institutions wanted to raise an ideal mindful man, an individual with certain values, free in thinking.<sup>12</sup> Besides these institutions, books and knowledge were brought to lower layers of the society in public libraries and reading clubs. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century there were also social gatherings in salons of the bourgeoisie and later these gatherings spread into cafés and clubs where people could meet, read, discuss and share their ideas.<sup>13</sup> The foundation which laid Francis Bacon were widely accepted also by the society overall. This approach to information and the availability of the information inspired not only the development of sciences but also the spreading one's own ideas in cafes and clubs.

This change in thinking was not instant because common people were not used to think rationally by themselves but rather to believe in the best end and work under the God's or their lord's supervision. When new ideas and different opinions were formed and shared by few brave individuals, more people followed their example and also expressed themselves. Also, religion reformations were important in that period. One such example may be found in Germany where Martin Luther was a leading figure of the Protestants when he nailed his *95 Theses* to a door of a church in 1517. The approach of the society to information and freedom changed through the years. Later, with the formation of the more empirical approach to the information, opinions and new ideas, several essays appeared trying to figure out and describe the ideological change in the society. These Enlightenment thoughts were communicated mainly through *Berlinische Monatsschrift* (Berlin Monthly) in Germany. The reverend Johann Friedrich Zöllner asked in a footnote of one of his essays "What is Enlightenment?"<sup>14</sup> and the most cited answer to this question followed in an essay "Answering the question: What is Enlightenment?" by Immanuel Kant published also in *Berlinische Monatsschrift* (Berlin Monthly):

Enlightenment is man's emergence from his self-imposed nonage. Nonage is the inability to use one's own understanding without another's guidance. This nonage is self-imposed if its cause lies not in lack of understanding but in indecision and lack of courage to use one's own mind without

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<sup>12</sup> Carbonell, *Evropské dějiny Evropy*, 114–116.

<sup>13</sup> Carbonell, *Evropské dějiny Evropy*, 129.

<sup>14</sup> Peck, *Panorama of English Literature*, 92.

another's guidance. Dare to know! (Sapere aude.) "Have the courage to use your own understanding," is therefore the motto of the Enlightenment.<sup>15</sup>

Firstly, Kant explains that laziness and cowardice are the main reasons why people do not think by themselves. Ideas of change were not appreciated and usually shown as dangerous therefore, people had never been permitted to think by themselves and even if they were then, they were used to just follow somebody else. Secondly, he describes a role of a society itself contrary to the role of an individual. As every man has his flaws so does the freedom so much needed for a man's enlightenment. He agrees that people who were not used to this and now possess the power to think by themselves are not educated enough to know how to use this power. If the change in thinking is too quick, it can cause a revenge of previously not thinking public on previously superior ones as it did during violent revolutions.<sup>16</sup> Next he emphasizes the importance of freedom, especially the freedom of speech. Anyone should freely express and publish their own views and ideas but in the same time they should investigate, examine and be interested in other opinions and information. Also, he imposes a task on a ruler of providing as much freedom to his subjects as necessary for them to think and express themselves while still maintaining some barriers so the urge for free thoughts could be cultivated properly.<sup>17</sup>

The Renaissance and the Enlightenment came in different years to different places in different forms but their advancement can be described as "rediscoveries of the antiquity, study of antique ideals which put foundations for their overcoming and improvement in times of the Enlightenment".<sup>18</sup> Also, Britain during the reign of the Queen Victoria promoted the main concepts of that enlightened time, e.g.: belief in oneself, his own thinking and power, freedom, new understanding of nature, use of senses, growing faith in the human capacity to attain knowledge, deduction, trust in reason, confidence in progress, idealistic belief that a man can change the society by discovering and maintaining basic principles and happiness.

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<sup>15</sup> Kant, Immanuel. "Answering the question: What is Enlightenment?", trans. Mary C. Smith, *Berlinische Monatsschrift*, (December 1784), Columbia.edu, (accessed February 1, 2020)

<sup>16</sup> Foucault, Michel. "Kant on Enlightenment and Revolution", *Economy and Society*, vol. 15, no. 1 (1986), 93.

<sup>17</sup> Kant, Immanuel. "Answering the question: What is Enlightenment?"

<sup>18</sup> Carbonell, *Evropské dějiny Evropy*, 106.

## 2 VICTORIAN BRITAIN

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has a long history with some of their numerous rulers more significant and dominant than others. Queen Victoria reigned from 1837 till 1901 and the whole period was named for her – the Victorian era. Several contrasts may be perceived as characteristic for this period. “Industrial wealth with a new kind of urban poverty, religious revival with challenges to faith, and strict prudery with violent amorality”<sup>19</sup> existed side by side. Contrasts of that period are depicted in the growth of the population, the industrial development, the formation of the middle class with new forms of entertainment and in the formation of the poor working class with all the undesired consequences like the higher crime rate.

### 2.1 The state and the society

The British population was growing significantly in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and even more in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Even though the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was an era of progress, times of unemployment and famine were common as a result of poor harvests and wars<sup>20</sup>. Towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century concerns were raised that the population was growing so fast that the food supply would not be enough. Reliable data were needed to confirm the number of people living in the country, so the Census Act was introduced in 1800 and the first British census took place in England, Wales and Scotland in March 1801<sup>21</sup> with a census taking place every 10 years since. In 1831 almost 13 million people were living in England.<sup>22</sup> Overall, the population more than doubled in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, thus in 1801 there were 8.3 million people and 16.8 million in 1851. By the end of next 50 years the population had nearly doubled again to 30.5 million.<sup>23</sup>

It can be argued if the Second Agricultural Revolution was a result or a cause of the population growth, but the Industrial Revolution definitely is connected to this growth. Textiles is considered the leading industry in which the influence of the Industrial Revolution was apparent and notable at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A transition from hand production to new manufacturing using machines was successful also

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<sup>19</sup> Peck, Alexander and Eva. *Panorama of English Literature* (Český Těšín: INFOA, 2002), 130.

<sup>20</sup> Elton, Geoffrey. *The English*. (Oxford: Blackwell, 1995), 174.

<sup>21</sup> Jefferies, Julie. “The UK population: past, present and future”, *Focus on People and Migration* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), 3.

<sup>22</sup> Elton, *The English*, 154.

<sup>23</sup> Jefferies, “The UK population”, 3.



due to new inventions, such as the power loom and tools enabling more efficient and effective spinning and weaving. Beside textiles, agriculture production went through a change. Since such considerable number of people require considerable amount of food, the improvement in agriculture meant new methods and technology but also the productivity of the employees increased.<sup>24</sup>

The development in the agriculture caused changes like less work force needed on the farms. Approximately 1 million adult males were engaged in English agriculture by 1831 with 5.5 ratio of workers per farmer however, the ratio declined to 2.9 by 1901.<sup>25</sup> English farms were large following continental standards and there were differences not only in the size of the land owned but also in the life-style. Majority of the farms and land were owned by the minority of the landlords. With the idea that the greatest fortunes were made in trading rather than making, a new social class – the middle class – started to form. Non-agricultural occupations of males, including any employers and managers, administrators, clerks or shopkeepers and their assistants, increased from approximately 4.5 thousand to almost 8 thousand from 1851 to 1891.<sup>26</sup> An image of the enlightened self-reliant man and the idea of building one's own fortune using wit became very desired, which was possible as a result of the Agricultural Revolution and the Industrial Revolution.

The Industrial Revolution also meant the development in transportation and the growth and the change in the cities, including London. Expansion of roads and railways was significant, which was inevitable since people had to travel to work to London. This meant toll collection to pay for the new transportation infrastructure. Hundreds of thousands of kilometres of railway were approved by the Parliament during the first three years of the Queen Victoria's reign.<sup>27</sup> In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the number of people living in urban areas rose seven times, and conurbations typical for industrial societies began to emerge. London itself was growing disproportionately more than the rest of the country. 2.24 million citizens were living in London in 1841, and by 1891 already 5.64 million lived there, which was almost 20% of the overall population of the whole country.<sup>28</sup> New buildings appeared as well as a new lifestyle and kind of entertainment such as reading and meeting in cafés and clubs. Moreover, a

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<sup>24</sup> Elton, *The English*, 173.

<sup>25</sup> Hoppen, K. Theodore. *The Mid-Victorian Generation 1846-1886*. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2008), 16

<sup>26</sup> Hoppen, *The Mid-Victorian Generation*, 17, 33.

<sup>27</sup> Hibbert, Christopher. *London, The Biography of a City*. (Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1969), 166, 210.

<sup>28</sup> Hoppen, *The Mid-Victorian Generation*, 56, 50.

change in thinking of the society began. London grew into a diverse city with new church, chapels, theatres, pubs and later also social clubs, sometimes right next to each other. In 1815, the first club called *United Service* was built, and as a result the Golden Era of Clubs began, with the centre of the London club life placed on Pall Mall street with splendid buildings built in Italian style.<sup>29</sup>

However, despite this progress and growth, poverty was not unusual. As the quality of products increased, so did prices.<sup>30</sup> The loss of the American colonies and gaining new ones in Canada, Australia and in the Caribbean area as well as the Napoleonic Wars caused not only higher costs. For the first time it became more common that women and children began supporting and securing their own families without a male breadwinner.<sup>31</sup> They usually worked manually in manufactories, but some women were highly requested also as housemaids. Only 6.7 to 20 percent of households in certain areas employed servants in 1851. Every second to every sixth household employed a servant by the end of 1881.<sup>32</sup> Servants are a common part of households also in the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Work opportunities like these lead to the urbanization caused by the growth of industry. The urbanization pushed people from rural areas to cities, which were not ready for such quick and big changes. Slums with very poor people emerged in crowded cities adding disorder and social problems. For instance sex outside of marriage, alcohol and drug addiction, gambling and aggression in public quarrels were a common part of the life.<sup>33</sup> Almost 10% of the population lived in 'rookeries', extremely poor parts of the cities, beyond the reach of law or manners of the civilization.<sup>34</sup> People often lacked food and suitable housing, and unemployment was high in these areas. There are mentions of the poor city areas in the Sherlock Holmes stories as well. Street Arabs, who are mentioned in the stories, represented a very common presence of poor children running around in the streets of London. Employers could afford to lower salaries, because lot of people wanted a job and if workers were not satisfied with the working conditions, they could not complain because they were easily replaceable. The oppression and exploitation of employees was partially ended due to

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<sup>29</sup> Hibbert, *London*, 162.

<sup>30</sup> Hoppen, *The Mid-Victorian Generation*, 39–40.

<sup>31</sup> Elton, *The English*, 174, 175.

<sup>32</sup> Hoppen, *The Mid-Victorian Generation*, 35, 58.

<sup>33</sup> Hibbert, *London*, 193–202.

<sup>34</sup> Hoppen, *The Mid-Victorian Generation*, 60

new labour laws from 1820s and 1830s which protected women and children. However, class inequality remained present and in addition, it was growing even more in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century until the formation of unions and the desire for better conditions in the Victorian Era.<sup>35</sup>

The consequences of the rapid development and changes were both, desirable and undesirable. New inventions, development in the industry and the transportation opposed the growing poverty and social problems. However, people, both poorer and richer, still wanted to enjoy their lives.

## 2.2 Culture and lifestyle

Victorian society was often characterized by the pleasure of the body, mind and the spirit reached by different ways in different social classes. On the other hand, the freedom in one's actions, the wide range of pleasures and the immense amount of the new information caused chaos in lives of many people alongside the social problems.

The tight and conservative approach from of the Restoration period was long forgotten and shifted to an extravagant freedom and active lifestyle combined with courtesy and politeness. Many people also abandoned their efforts to reach a certain amount of influence in politics. The norm was to lead a civilized and decent life,<sup>36</sup> or at least make it appear to be so in public. Even the Queen supported traditional values, such as hard work and sense of duty. A new feeling of national pride was connected to the Britain's status as the first urban and industrialized society. The living standards in the Victorian era rose and the focus shifted also to education. Based on reforms in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, new universities and primary schools were built. Furthermore, self-help books became widely available for the general public, including the working class.<sup>37</sup> Also some journals like *Solicitor's Journal* or *Telegram* stressed "the need for constant self-improvement, not only in technical skills but in character as well".<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Peck, *Panorama of English Literature*, 108, 130.

<sup>36</sup> Elton, *The English*, 196, 186.

<sup>37</sup> Peck, *Panorama of English Literature*, 128.

<sup>38</sup> *Victorian Periodicals and Victorian Society*, ed. J.D. Vann et R.T. VanArsdel (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1994), 13.

This century was characterized by social gatherings in clubs and cafés. Clubs started to be oriented to groups of people with a specific background, for example gentlemen who had travelled abroad gathered and discussed their journeys in *The Traveller's Club*.<sup>39</sup> One of the basic traits of a true English gentleman was considered travelling to other countries, meeting new people and cultures, especially in Europe.<sup>40</sup> This meeting new people and cultures was accompanied also by learning and using foreign languages. The character of Sherlock Holmes is not the only person in the fictional and the real world of that time who used foreign languages in his work. Enlightenment beliefs in knowledge through gathering information from different sources such as through travelling continued. The study of science and using senses for deduction meant the foundation of the Detection Club in 1930, which still exists today.<sup>41</sup>

From pubs with no decoration, only offering beer and spirits in shabby streets, through more cultivated upstairs rooms where representatives of unions and trade and craft societies discussed politics and music halls, to the sport events like fox hunting, horse racing, cricket or football, all of those being representations of the pleasure and spending free time.<sup>42</sup> Groups and societies were formed, in which people with the same hobbies, interests and occupation gathered and discussed various topics. Identity questions started echoing through the society itself because people also had to place themselves into a social role according to the hobbies, occupation and class. Awakening of consciousness in terms of need for information, thinking about different concepts and challenging them with one's own ideas, brought chaos to the society. There were lot of different views and people started to feel need for structure in this maze of ideas. People needed the ideas to be proposed clearly and separately in black and white, as they were in books and journals.

Gradually, reading became one of the many pleasures of that time. The interest in reading rose overall and later, the English novel developed as a separate genre inspired by political fiction as well as by the Enlightenment ideas such as natural desire for thinking and exploring human nature in daily life.<sup>43</sup> During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, public press like *The Times* and *Observer* appeared and more serious journals and magazines were published more often and

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<sup>39</sup> Hibbert, *London*, 163.

<sup>40</sup> Elton, *The English*, 199.

<sup>41</sup> Scaggs, John, *Crime Fiction*, (London: Routledge, 2005), 27.

<sup>42</sup> Hoppen, *The Mid-Victorian Generation*, 351–361

<sup>43</sup> Peck, *Panorama of English Literature*, 88, 92.

in bigger numbers alongside pamphlets.<sup>44</sup> In addition, circulation of periodicals and newspapers is believed to be larger and more influential than books in this era.<sup>45</sup> Also science and its development were communicated through specialist periodicals which were particularly popular. Besides very detailed professional information, journals provided an introduction to the most discussed issues for people who were interested, but not so educated in a particular topic. Since they covered a wide range of topics, they had a great number of readers. This is also one of the elements of the Victorian age and the Enlightenment. The lust for knowledge replaced belief in predestination from God.<sup>46</sup>

Besides the common print, two influential works were published during the Queen Victoria's reign, Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* and Marx and Engels' *Communist Manifesto*. Human existence and nature were put under the pressure and crisis of belief also with the publication of *On the Origin of Species*. The Enlightenment ideology was born from the doubts and the need for a rational explanation. More and more people started to think about and believe that not everything is just God's decision, and that they are not predestined, but they possess the power to form their own destiny. Quick growth, changes and development brought various new ideas, for example free trade and preserving one's freedom resulting in the fear of centralization. Lack of centralization, order and norms granting a vote to a man caused also administrative confusion in London, while there was no administrative authority, only the Metropolitan Police from 1829 to 1855.<sup>47</sup> This attitude, that only a man himself can change his own destiny, escalated. *Communist Manifesto* encouraged also the working class to change their own destiny and the ideas of the development and the progress of the society tended to change to the ones with a socialist nature during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Social problems bothered especially the working class and were desired to be improved. People had enough reforms and free trade brought just a little of quick expected advantages. There was no more need for inventing new things but for finally improving the already existing ones. That also meant the rise of the Labour party and the unions.

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<sup>44</sup> Elton, *The English*, 186.

<sup>45</sup> Preview, In *Victorian Periodicals and Victorian Society*

<sup>46</sup> *Victorian Periodicals and Victorian Society*, 81–96.

<sup>47</sup> Hoppen, *The Mid-Victorian Generation*, 51–55.

Alexander Peck, English teacher from Brisbane, Australia, claims that *On the Origin of Species* caused the Victorian historians' interest in the studying of the human existence.<sup>48</sup> Therefore, their works based on enthusiastic rediscoveries of human's history, especially the Middle Ages, were more thorough and accurate which supported the enlightened rationalization and accurate data gathering. Geoffrey Elton, British political and constitutional historian, claims the opposite. He states that historians did not follow the archives and wrote about common beliefs. He also claims that such a big change in society caused nostalgia and some social problems were so pressing that it led historians to idealize other eras, especially the Middle Ages, in which there was a certain simplicity in life.<sup>49</sup> Furthermore, anti-patriotic ideas, for instance shame at social problems in the country rather than the pride in the country's development started to interest some intellectuals from the upper classes. The magazine *Gazette of Bankruptcy*, even though it was published only for one year, proves there were problems in the "perfect mid-Victorian prosperity".<sup>50</sup>

Also, in contrast to the pretences of morality and propriety, many sought to have a good time based on the trinity of sex, alcohol and gambling. While these were mainly men escaping their rigid family life, a few women also began to enjoy increased independence. As anything in excess can be harmful, so this trinity was. Some sources discussed problems with alcohol drinking in the Victorian age. There were attempts to bring reforms proposing "teetotal regime"<sup>51</sup> and several teetotal societies and periodicals appeared even if drinking hard alcohol was not so common as drinking beer.<sup>52</sup> Concerning sex criminality, as described by Ian Ward, professor of Law at Newcastle University, common problems connected with sex were crimes such as assaults or prostitution, as well as increases in venereal diseases and unwanted pregnancies, all of which worried England and its women.<sup>53</sup>

Oxford: Hart, 2014

Overall, the British society enjoyed the improvement in the lifestyle, wider variety of the entertainment and the consequences of the industrial development. There were so many opportunities in the lives of Victorians that they sometimes did not know how to enjoy it

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<sup>48</sup> Peck, *Panorama of English Literature*, 130.

<sup>49</sup> Elton, *The English*, 213.

<sup>50</sup> *Victorian Periodicals and Victorian Society*, 14.

<sup>51</sup> *Victorian Periodicals and Victorian Society*, 100–110

<sup>52</sup> Hoppen, *The Mid-Victorian Generation*, 232–41

<sup>53</sup> Ward, Ian. Preview. In *Sex, Crime and Literature in Victorian England*. (Oxford: Hart, 2014)

properly. That led not only to the confusion in the society and their lives, but also to the enjoyment of excessive pleasures and to the higher crime rates.

### 2.3 Crime in Victorian Britain

At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there was no official police force which would control the crime in the country. The formation of the official police force and its procedures was slow, and the crimes occurred more often alongside the scandals over the police work in the following years.

Not only poverty, but also riots and public quarrels were common in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The *Riot Act* from 1715 enabled military support for cities in order to suppress the riots. Also, British parliament passed more laws regulating crime than usually.<sup>54</sup> General concern about freedom and unnecessary costs determined resistance to any kind of police force present at that time in Europe. The word ‘police’ was not common until the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>55</sup>

Therefore, jurisdiction was executed by local judges called magistrates<sup>56</sup> however, order was not guaranteed at all. Citizens were often robbed in the streets, on the way from the work or from a fair, which usually took place in the countryside. When rural crime reached its highest peak in the 1840s and crimes of violence formed between a tenth and a fifth of rural offences,<sup>57</sup> order become to be maintained by special guards with or without horses, which were established as a result of the effort of a magistrate Henry Fielding and his brother, John Fielding. When Henry started his work as a magistrate, he did not plan any reforms and he refused to accept bribes, as was usual in that time. His attempt to establish a permanent police force was not entirely vain. Some constables, later known as the Bow Street Runners, joined the horse guards and, as thief-takers their main source of livelihood was capturing criminals.<sup>58</sup> The crime rates were high, and the government used all its available sources to fight with the crime. Rewards for providing information or capturing criminals were relatively generous, which then led to corruption. For instance, there was the case of a real-

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<sup>54</sup> Elton, *The English*, 210, 177.

<sup>55</sup> Hibbert, *London*, 184.

<sup>56</sup> Elton, *The English*, 180.

<sup>57</sup> Hoppen, *The mid-Victorian generation*, 20.

<sup>58</sup> Hibbert, *London*, 182–5.

life criminal Jonathan Wild. He is also portrayed in the politico-satirical novel *The Life of Jonathan Wild the Great* (1743) which shows that with great power comes great vice.<sup>59</sup>

Jonathan Wild started his criminal career as a pimp and information gathered thanks to his contacts in the underground were used as blackmailing material. Those who refused to work for Wild were captured and given to justice. Even he himself used a nickname the *Thief-Taker General*. Wild became rich and powerful and is considered the criminal mastermind of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>60</sup> He gained public affection as an honourable citizen helping to restore the order in the city by turning in other criminals. Even the *Newgate Calendar*, which was popular at that time, spread flattering stories about him.<sup>61</sup> Jonathan Wild was not the only man standing outside the law. Jack Sheppard, a notorious thief, won public affection as a result of his frequent escapes from the prison in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Sheppard was actually caught because of Wild.<sup>62</sup> Another criminal, Charley Peace, inspired many romantic novels, being a cat burglar and murderer. He was referred to as a master of disguise and he often used his housebreaking tools hidden inside an old violin case.<sup>63</sup> Peace even earned a place in an exposition in the Madame Tussauds museum and his tools are displayed in the Crime Museum at New Scotland Yard headquarters.

Constantly rising crime rates in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, which were connected to the changes in the society caused by the Industrial Revolution, resulted in the formation of the official police force. The most frequent crimes were connected to the property, which we can see also in the nature of crimes in most of the Sherlock Holmes stories. Characteristic ideas of the Enlightenment, for instance the belief that the power of reason would lead to the truth which was essential for the development of scientific rationalism and law, and the improvement of human life and society, were often discussed.<sup>64</sup> The official police force started to be successful in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Metropolitan Police Act from 1828 caused that the London Metropolitan Police Force was established in 1829 by Sir Robert Peel. The first headquarters was located in the Scotland Yard street, according to

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<sup>59</sup> Peck, *Panorama of English Literature*, 96.

<sup>60</sup> Hibbert, *London*, 184.

<sup>61</sup> Elton, *The English*, 177.

<sup>62</sup> Fido, Martin. *The World of Sherlock Holmes: The Facts and Fiction Behind the World's Greatest Detective* (London: Carlton, 1998), 93.

<sup>63</sup> Blanco, Juan Ignacio. *Charles Frederick Peace*, Murderpedia.org, (accessed December 11, 2019)

<sup>64</sup> Scaggs, *Crime Fiction*, 18.



which the police force in London was named. A new bigger building was needed for the growing police force, so the construction of the New Scotland Yard started in 1887. The first scandal appeared in 1888, when remains of a woman body were thrown into the foundations of this building.<sup>65</sup>

The fall of the 1888 was striking also because of several brutal murders in the Whitechapel district. A death of a prostitute was not extraordinary in that time, but some of the deaths were. At least five prostitutes were killed, and their bodies were mutilated in an unusual way. Letters with speculations about victims and the time and place of the murders had been sent to the Scotland Yard by the murderer later known as the Leather Apron or the infamous Jack the Ripper who still remains unidentified today.<sup>66</sup>

The Jack the Ripper murders were not the only problem of the police. The society questioned the credibility of the police as a result of scandals, unresolved cases and wrong accusations of suspects, for example the murders in Ratcliff Highway from 1811, when two sleeping families were slaughtered, caused public panic because the investigation took longer than expected; in 1872 in the murder case from Great Coram Street, Scotland Yard arrested a wrong suspect despite obvious evidence he could not be the culprit; and in 1877 three of the officers were sentenced to community service because they accepted bribes from the local fraud.<sup>67</sup> Also, the first Arthur Conan Doyle's novel, *A Study in Scarlet*, was published in 1887. The image of an unprofessional detective who consulted and helped the official police force did not add the credibility to the Scotland Yard at all.

There was no official police force at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century but efforts to lower the crime rates resulted in the formation of the official police force. However, the procedures were far from perfect and many crimes remained unsolved. The need for the improvement created several detectives in the fictional world as the ideals of the success of the police work. The real scientific approach with the development of the forensic science was still waiting for its coming into the real-life police work.

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<sup>65</sup> Fido, *The World of Sherlock Holmes*, 91.

<sup>66</sup> McMullen, Marion. "Ripper Murders Remain a Mystery; NOSTALGIA Notorious Serial Killer Jack the Ripper Was at Large and Taunting the Police 125 Years Ago as He Went on a Killing Spree. Marion McMullen Looks Back on the Infamous Murders", *The Birmingham Post (England)*, 3 October, 2013, <https://www.questia.com/article/1G1-344533654/ripper-murders-remain-a-mystery-nostalgia-notorious>

<sup>67</sup> Fido, *The World of Sherlock Holmes*, 88.

### 3 THE BEGINNINGS OF DETECTIVE INVESTIGATION

Crime was becoming a major societal problem. The official police forces were still in the beginnings and lot of improvement was needed including paying more attention to the evidence and the development of the forensic science. Building the police forces in order to discover and prevent crime put the crime in the role of the source of fun.<sup>68</sup> Fictional detectives were usually more successful than the real ones and the genre of the detective fiction was born.

#### 3.1 Forensic science in criminal investigation

The first definition of a detective can be found in the *Oxford Dictionary of English* from 1856 as “a person, especially a police officer, whose job is to examine crimes and catch criminals” or “a person employed by somebody to find out information about somebody/something”.<sup>69</sup> Originally this was short for a detective policeman, used in the sense of serving to detect. The word started to be used when a group of officers were selected to find some problematic criminals who were hidden very well. Twenty years later, the word was still being used offensively. A private detective was understood as someone who finds sensitive and private information for advocates or tabloids, or as someone who protects people operating on the edge of the law. Several detectives were then hired to solve the Jack the Ripper murders, and detectives started to be perceived in a better light. However, the procedure was still not perfect. Detectives and the police were criticized for not paying enough attention to protection of clues at the crime scene. At the beginning of the Jack the Ripper murders, the police even washed the blood stains from the road with water instead of the investigation of its position and amount.<sup>70</sup>

Not only bribery and violent murders but also counterfeit, forgery and poisons were not unusual in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The founder of the Pinkerton's National Detective Agency, Allan Pinkerton, born in Scotland, was also familiar with these crimes common in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. When he was collecting some wood for barrels which he was making, he came across a band of counterfeiters. Pinkerton informed the local sheriff and later was appointed as the first police detective in Chicago and the Pinkerton's National Detective Agency was founded in

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<sup>68</sup> Elton, *The English*, 214.

<sup>69</sup> Oxford Learner's Dictionary, s.w. „detective,“ accessed December 15, 2019, <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/detective?q=detective>

<sup>70</sup> Fido, *The World of Sherlock Holmes*, 87–8.

1850. Pinkertons are given credit for assets to crime solving due to the development of the first criminal database with a collection of mug shots<sup>71</sup> which were a result of the Enlightenment beliefs in proper data accumulation and its usage. Disguise was one of famous police practices which Pinkertons mastered as well. There was a wide collection of various costumes in their headquarters.<sup>72</sup> Methods for revealing criminals were different. Besides dressing as someone else and trying to penetrate criminal groups in order to gain information and catch a criminal, other methodologies were used.

From the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the importance of certain police procedurals was significant. The value of possessions and property decreased while life, health and labour power were given more precise economic value. This granted attention and prestige to the medical professions and these people were perceived as experts in the evaluating the value of life, health and work power.<sup>73</sup> The rapid development of natural sciences during the 19<sup>th</sup> century made the century ideal for the application of science to criminal investigation. The first theories were made by Cesare Lombroso, Italian criminologist, who argued that criminals had the skulls and other bodily characteristics of apes. According to his theory criminals should be identified by visible physical defects like a prominent forehead, high cheekbones and protruding jaws.<sup>74</sup> This is also mentioned by Holmes, and Doyle's works were even used as a manual for the real police in Egypt. Doyle spurned the theory during his journey to Egypt when after a face control a young policeman told him that Sir Doyle showed traces of criminal tendencies.<sup>75</sup>

Later this new science, called criminalistics, was defined by Hans Gross, Austrian criminal jurist and criminologist, as a science in the "field that concerned itself broadly with the nature of crime as a social problem, penal treatment, punishment, rehabilitation, and police administration."<sup>76</sup> Even though Gross was trained only in law, he continued studying chemistry, physics, photography, microscopy, botany and zoology and eventually, and he successfully tested many of his theories. These beginnings were quite distant from recent

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<sup>71</sup> Pinkerton.com editors, "Our History", Pinkerton.com, (accessed January 25, 2020)

<sup>72</sup> Fido, *The World of Sherlock Holmes*, 96

<sup>73</sup> Crowther, M.A., and White, B.M. "Medicine, Property and the Law in Britain 1800-1914", *The Historical Journal*, vol. 31, no. 4 (1988), 854–5.

<sup>74</sup> Hoppen, *The Mid-Victorian Generation*, 60.

<sup>75</sup> Fido, *The World of Sherlock Holmes*, 100–101.

<sup>76</sup> Block, B. Eugene. *Science vs. Crime: The Evolution of the Police Lab* (San Francisco: Cragmont Publications, 1979), 11.

advanced techniques, but they were the first steps on the road of progress in the forensic science which includes for example, bullets examination under the microscope, distinguishing bloodspots from other stains, methods of identifying offenders and fingerprints.<sup>77</sup> However, the fingerprinting was accepted as an exact science in crime detection not sooner than in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the identification of bloodspots was not considered as a benefit of criminal investigation until the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>78</sup> More scientific approach which is also mentioned in the fictional Sherlock Holmes stories is the search for a reagent which should show if the blood was present.

### 3.2 Detective fiction as a genre

Even if stories of some criminal investigation were common also in the past, the development of the official police forces helped the genre of the detective fiction to be formed. The evolution of the genre meant the proposition of the ideal detective character and the basic rules of the stories. Later, the importance of certain police procedurals was significant as well, and subgenres focusing on some aspects of the detective fiction emerged.

The popularity of detective fiction, also called crime fiction as long as this genre focuses on a crime and its investigation, began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, it has very ancient origin. Already in the stories of Herodotus and the myths of Hercules there are thieves who falsify evidence in order to mislead their pursuer and the crime is being investigated.<sup>79</sup> A theme of a crime is present in many works throughout the time, for example in the already mentioned Herodotus stories and also in Shakespeare's *Hamlet* where revenge originating in the desire to restore the social order derived from changes in the society during the Enlightenment, was a common element.<sup>80</sup> Later, the genre of the Gothic novel, which contained elements of a horror story and a return of the past into the present in the form of a hidden secret, also represented a clash of the Enlightenment and Romanticism when the existential nature of humankind and belief in God are questioned.<sup>81</sup> Until the development of official police organisations the detective fiction as a genre had to wait, but many different stories had some common characteristics, e.g.: the character of the ideal detective.

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<sup>77</sup> Block, *Science vs. Crime*, 12.

<sup>78</sup> Block, *Science vs. Crime*, 41, 83.

<sup>79</sup> Scaggs, *Crime Fiction*, 8.

<sup>80</sup> Rea, Kenneth Grahame. "Western Theatre", Britannica.com, (accessed March 14, 2020)

<sup>81</sup> Block, *Science vs. Crime*, 15.

Characters of the fictional detectives were sometimes based on the real people. Eugène-François Vidocq was a French criminal who used his experience with the crime and helped to form a predecessor of the French National Police called Sûreté in 1812. His life and career inspired writers as Honoré de Balzac and Émile Gaboriau as a result of which a fictional character of Monsieur Lecoq was created.<sup>82</sup> Another model of a detective was C. Auguste Dupin created in 1841 by Edgar Allan Poe in *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* which is identified as the first detective story. Both literary detectives, Lecoq and Dupin, inspired the creation of the character of Sherlock Holmes. The faith in the power of reason and scientific rationalism replaced religious faith and represented a way to a better human society.<sup>83</sup> Therefore, some elements of the stories included characters of detectives with the same qualities. A prototype of the character and methods of a detective based on Poe's Dupin are, for example, a detective perceived as a reasoning and observing machine with analytical thinking and an undeniable use of deduction while explaining further every logical step in this process so the other characters and the reader could understand something that initially appeared as impossible. The character of the detective is usually not a part of any professional police force but is a master of disguise and a man of action although he is reclusive and not involved in any romantic relationship in order to avoid distraction during the crime solving and to avoid unnecessary scandals, but is still eccentric for the period. A story usually begins with a demonstration of detective's method for the detective's companion who is often a narrator and records their adventures. The companion embodies the social and ideological norms of that period and is a foil for the detective genius. A villain who is worthy of the analytical detective genius is also usually one of elements in the story.<sup>84</sup>

The traditional elements and central characteristics of the detective story itself are a seemingly perfect crime covered in mystery, a closed circle of suspect from which police wrongly accuse one, a demonstration of the powers of the superior mind of the detective, and an unexpected revelation of the culprit with uncovering the hidden past.<sup>85</sup> Although, as John Scaggs, lecturer in the Department of English at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick, Ireland, mentions, after the revelation of the criminal's identity rarely a punishment is described.<sup>86</sup> It is enough for readers to know that the guilty one will be or is captured because

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<sup>82</sup> Fido, *The World of Sherlock Holmes*, 107.

<sup>83</sup> Scaggs, *Crime Fiction*, 18.

<sup>84</sup> Scaggs, *Crime Fiction*, 20–47.

<sup>85</sup> Luebering, J. E. "Detective Story", Britannica.com, (accessed March 17, 2020)

<sup>86</sup> Scaggs, *Crime Fiction*, 44.

when a criminal is arrested a punishment follows and that is sufficient as a re-affirmation of the socioeconomic order. Additionally, participation of a reader in the process of detection is desired for any detective story. However, some stories shared too big mystery while the reader did not have the access to the same information as the detective and was not able to anticipate or to follow the chronological chain of cause and effect. For this reason, when Anthony Berkeley founded the Detection Club in 1930, the members had to take the Detection Club Oath to follow the fair play with the reader. The Detection Club Oath introduced several rules, for example the criminal must be someone previously mentioned in the story, all supernatural forces are forbidden, not more than one secret room or passage is allowable, twin brothers and doubles must not appear unless the reader has been fully prepared for them, the detective must not himself commit the crime and the companion of the detective must not conceal any thoughts which pass through his mind.<sup>87</sup> Similar rules are mentioned in S.S. Van Dine's *Twenty Rules for Writing Detective Stories* from 1928. He identifies the detective story as a kind of "a game" or "a sporting event".<sup>88</sup>

Between World War I and World War II there was an era called the Golden Age of Detective Fiction when the genre of the detective fiction was very popular and mystery novels of that period shared similar patterns and style, for example whodunnit, London-based crime fiction, crime fiction in the countryside and the locked-room mystery. Herodotus's story of King Rhampsinitus and the thief or the story of Daniel and the Priests of Bel is often identified as the first locked-room mystery in which a crime is committed in a room which seems to be impossible to either enter or exit.<sup>89</sup> The Golden Age of detective fiction introduced fictional detectives like Albert Campion by Margery Allingham, Lord Peter Wimsey by Dorothy L. Sayers, and Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple by Agatha Christie who is also considered the Queen of Crime.<sup>90</sup>

Similar characteristics in the stories divided the stories to subgenres. A police procedural is also a subgenre of detective fiction which realistically depicts activities of a police force and a process of investigation of a crime or often more than one crime simultaneously. The

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<sup>87</sup> Knox, Ronald A. "Detective Story Decalogue", excerpt *Best Detective Stories First Edition*, (London: Faber and Faber, 1939), University of Missouri–St. Louis.edu, (accessed March 17, 2020)

<sup>88</sup> Van Dine S. S. "Twenty Rules for Writing Detective Stories", *The American Magazine*, (September 1928), Speed City Sisters in Crime.org, (accessed March 17, 2020)

<sup>89</sup> Scaggs, *Crime Fiction*, 8.

<sup>90</sup> Fido, *The World of Sherlock Holmes*, 114.

identity of the criminal can be revealed gradually throughout the story, but it also can be revealed at the beginning while the focus of this type of a detective story is police procedurals like interrogations, gathering of evidence, forensics and autopsies. This approach is the closest one to the concept of the Enlightenment and the use of senses, logic, rationality and the use of specific scientific methods while gathering the evidence. *The Moonstone* written in 1868 by Wilkie Collins is considered the first police procedural and the character of Sergeant Cuff was based upon a real-life detective from the Scotland Yard. After World War II the popularity of the genre grew because of several American dramatizations of actual crimes.<sup>91</sup>

Overall, people are interested in sensations, which is also crime, and in the unrevealing the truth. More scientific and accurate methods in the real-life police work were depicted also in the fictional world, while people could admire the intelligence and the successes of their detective heroes. One of these famous detective heroes was Sherlock Holmes. The strange connection of the cold rationalism and his mysterious eccentricity made him the most memorable fictional detective.

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<sup>91</sup> World Heritage Encyclopedia, "Police Procedural", Project Gutenberg Self-Publishing Press, (accessed March 14, 2020)

## **II. ANALYSIS**



## 4 A COLD REASONING MACHINE OR A GUESSING HUMAN WITH EMPATHY?

Sherlock Holmes is often imagined as the ideal of a detective with slightly different but always successful methods. His mind is exceptional, and he often does better than the official police. Is he and his work really the ideal of the pure reasoning and rational Enlightenment or does his mind hide something different what cannot be seen at the first sight?

### 4.1 Enlightenment reason with a hint of Romantic emotion

We cannot deny Holmes's rational approach from the Enlightenment but the potential of using the extraordinary power of the mind is not always rational. Sometimes even rational thoughts and actions are based on the irrational emotions and passions, which are not the sign of the pure Enlightenment but rather of the Romanticism and the more modern literature.

An image of an eccentric sleuth detective who serves the truth via his own deduction abilities, the power of reason and evidence gathered by using acute senses is imagined when the character of Sherlock Holmes is introduced. Arthur Conan Doyle describes Sherlock Holmes in his *Memories and Adventures* from 1924 as “a calculating machine, and anything you add to that simply weakens the effect”<sup>92</sup> and earlier in an interview he says:

I had been reading some detective stories and it struck me what nonsense they were, to put it mildly, because for getting the solution of the mystery, the authors always depended on some coincidence. This struck me as not a fair way of playing the game. [...] Then I began to think, suppose my old professor at Edinburgh were in the place of one of these lucky detectives, he would have worked out the process of effect from cause just as logically as he would have diagnosed a disease, instead of having something given to him by mere luck, which, as I said just now, does not happen in real life.<sup>93</sup>

Doyle's intention was to portray the detective as a rational individual with remarkable powers of deduction which can be noticed also in the words of Watson calling Holmes “an automaton – a calculating machine”.<sup>94</sup> However, this Enlightenment picture of a person of

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<sup>92</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. *Memories and Adventures*, (London: Hodder&Stoughton, 1924), chap. 11, Project Gutenberg of Australia eBook

<sup>93</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “A Gaudy Death: Conan Doyle Tells the True Story of Sherlock Holmes”, *Tit-Bits*, (December 15, 1900), ArthurConanDoyle.com, (accessed March 30)

<sup>94</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “The Sign of the Four”, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 72.

reason and science is not consistent through all the Sherlock Holmes stories. Also, Jackie Shead, an independent scholar and lecturer, argues that despite the usage of the term deduction, more accurate term for Holmes's reasoning would be abduction<sup>95</sup> and the difference between the two is demonstrated by the example with beans:

<b>Deduction</b>	<b>Abduction</b>
<i>Rule:</i> All the beans from this bag are white.	All the beans from this bag are white.
<i>Case:</i> These beans are from this bag.	These beans are white.
<i>Result:</i> These beans are white.	These beans are from this bag.

In *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle* we can see Holmes using abduction when he concludes, based on a dusty hat, that a wife no longer loves her husband.<sup>96</sup> It is noticed then that abduction entails an element of guesswork because the possibility of the beans and the dust coming from a different place is not considered and the result is only a good fitting theory.<sup>97</sup> Holmes describes his reasoning methods as a “train of events” and while “most people, if you describe a train of events to them, will tell you what the result would be” he puts himself as one of a “few people, who if you told them a result, would be able to evolve from their own inner consciousness what the steps were which led up to that result”.<sup>98</sup>

Doyle emphasizes through the words of Holmes that he “never guess[es]”,<sup>99</sup> that “it is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data”<sup>100</sup> and he requires data by crying “Data! data! data! I can’t make bricks without clay”.<sup>101</sup> However, when Watson asks about some details of Holmes’s reasoning, Holmes admits that one of the claims “was a more daring shot, though [he has] no doubt that [he] was right”<sup>102</sup> and later Holmes admits to form “provisional theories”, but he apologizes for this by stating that it is “a bad habit” and that “human nature is weak”.<sup>103</sup> It is also questionable how much of a precise scientific data is in a “medical type” and “*the air of a military man*”<sup>104</sup> (emphasis added) when Holmes

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<sup>95</sup> Shead, Jackie. “Do We Know His Methods? Ratiocination in the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle”, *A Journal of Detection*, vol. 36, no. 1 (2018), 32.

<sup>96</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 202.

<sup>97</sup> Shead, “Do We Know His Methods?”, 31–32.

<sup>98</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “A Study in Scarlet”, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 60.

<sup>99</sup> Doyle, “The Sign of the Four”, 69.

<sup>100</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “A Scandal in Bohemia”, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 124.

<sup>101</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 268.

<sup>102</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 20.

<sup>103</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire”, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 902.

<sup>104</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 13.

explains to Watson how he knew about Watson's staying in Afghanistan. Although Holmes relies more on the reasoning and senses when he encourages Watson to touch a dead body<sup>105</sup> and when he examines the dead body with his fingers "flying here, there, and everywhere, feeling, pressing, unbuttoning, examining",<sup>106</sup> he still leaves his mind open to any "working hypothesis".<sup>107</sup> Even while preferring facts to the guesswork Holmes suggests omitting some of the variables when he reviews Watson's *A Study in Scarlet*. Watson says: "but the romance was there. [...] I could not tamper with the facts," and Holmes continues: "some facts should be suppressed, or, at least, a just sense of proportion should be observed in treating them".<sup>108</sup> The truly enlightened Victorian person has to leave his mind open to acquire as much information as possible in order to propose some theories based on the rules built upon these information.

Another feature of the Enlightenment present in the Sherlock Holmes stories is the so called "theory of everything". The notion of the nature as a machine drives experiments and discoveries of a certain set of rules and the aim is to explain the whole universe in a specific and perfect set of guidelines. These guidelines should be easily applied on anything by anyone as the boldly titled article "The Book of Life" of Holmes in *A Study in Scarlet* argues.<sup>109</sup> Holmes lived in a Darwinian world rejecting teleological speculations and finding purpose of the preservation of life everywhere in the great chain of life.<sup>110</sup> The article claims that "one trained to observation and analysis", and therefore known of certain universal rules "that all united should fail to enlighten the competent enquirer in any case is almost inconceivable", could even "from a drop of water [...] infer the possibility of an Atlantic or a Niagara without having seen or heard of one or the other".<sup>111</sup> Holmes suggests the universally applicable rules on anything by anyone by encouraging Watson in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*: "You know my methods. Apply them!"<sup>112</sup>

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<sup>105</sup> Doyle, "The Sign of the Four", 84.

<sup>106</sup> Doyle, "A Study in Scarlet", 17.

<sup>107</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. "The Man with the Twisted Lip", *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 191.

<sup>108</sup> Doyle, "The Sign of the Four", 67–68.

<sup>109</sup> Doyle, "A Study in Scarlet", 12.

<sup>110</sup> Frank, Lawrence. *Victorian Detective Fiction and the Nature of Evidence: The Scientific Investigations of Poe, Dickens and Doyle* (New York: PALGRAVE MACMILLAN, 2003), 143.

<sup>111</sup> Doyle, "A Study in Scarlet", 12.

<sup>112</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. "The Hound of the Baskervilles", *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 586.

However, if the rules really are accessible to anyone and are easily universally applicable, then the fact that the official police force in these stories is sometimes not able to solve a crime even if they apply and follow a fixed set of techniques and procedural, should not be present in the stories. Therefore, universal rules are not so universal as they seem at the beginning, and even Holmes in *A Study in Scarlet* admits: “I have a kind of intuition that way,”<sup>113</sup> and explains that “most people, if you describe a train of events to them, will tell you what the result would be, [but there are] few people, who if you told them a result, would be able to evolve from their own inner consciousness what the steps were which led up to that result”.<sup>114</sup> In that case the rules might be obvious in retrospect, but not anyone could have arrived at them beforehand, as it is in the story of Columbus’ egg when nobody was able to stand an egg on its tip until Columbus flattened its tip by beating it down on the table and showed everyone how that could have been done.<sup>115</sup> With this the detective work can be compared to the work of an artist where creativity and a particular way of thinking is required. Also, Holmes likens his “Science of Deduction and Analysis” to arts in *A Study in Scarlet*: “like all other arts, the Science of Deduction and Analysis”.<sup>116</sup> Even if this is typical for all fictional detectives at general because of the nature of their work, it still contradicts the pure reason of “mere machines”<sup>117</sup> from the Enlightenment ideals.

The Enlightenment encouraged and celebrated the power of human reason, rationality, and precise science, but besides the progress it contained also potential for destructiveness.<sup>118</sup> Even in the character of Sherlock Holmes there is a possibility of the dark side pointed out by the Watson’s remark while watching Holmes during an examination of a crime scene: “I could not but think what a terrible criminal he would have made had he turned his energy and sagacity against the law, instead of exerting them in its defense”.<sup>119</sup> Several examples of rationality’s dark side can be found in *A Study in Scarlet* such as the loss of sight of values like the value of life<sup>120</sup> in order to acquire “definite and exact knowledge”.<sup>121</sup> At the

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<sup>113</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 13.

<sup>114</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 60.

<sup>115</sup> Benzoni, Girolamo. *History of the New World*, trans. W. H. Smyth (London: Hakluyt Society: 1857), 17.

<sup>116</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 12.

<sup>117</sup> Sevik, Greg. “Enlightenment, Counter-Enlightenment: Detection, Reason, and Genius in Tales of Edgar Allan Poe and Arthur Conan Doyle”, *A Journal of Detection*, vol. 31, no. 2 (2013), 27.

<sup>118</sup> Horkheimer, Max and Adorno, W. Theodor. eds., *Dialectic of Enlightenment: Philosophical Fragments* (Stanford: Stanford University, 2002)

<sup>119</sup> Doyle, “The Sign of the Four”, 83.

<sup>120</sup> Sevik, “Enlightenment, Counter-Enlightenment”, 23.

<sup>121</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 8.

beginning of the stories, Holmes and Watson's mutual acquaintance describes Holmes to Watson as the following:

I could imagine his giving a friend a little pinch of the latest vegetable alkaloid, not out of malevolence, you understand, but simply out of a spirit of inquiry in order to have an accurate idea of the effects. To do him justice, I think that he would take it himself with the same readiness. He appears to have a passion for definite and exact knowledge. [He even] beat[s] subjects in the dissecting rooms with a stick [...] to verify how far bruises may be produced after death.<sup>122</sup>

When Watson meets Holmes, he notices that Holmes's hand "was all mottled over with similar pieces of plaster and discoloured with strong acids".<sup>123</sup> Later in the novel, Holmes gives a pill with poison dissolved in milk to Watson's dog to prove that there really is a poison in the pill.<sup>124</sup> The common problems of the Victorian society included not only addiction to alcohol but also the drug addiction which is portrayed also in the stories. Holmes has also other vices like using drugs, lying and deceiving suspects and sometimes obsession with the science and crime. The drug use is mentioned in *The Sign of the Four* as the following:

Sherlock Holmes took his bottle from the corner of the mantelpiece and his hypodermic syringe from its neat morocco case. With his long, white, nervous fingers he adjusted the delicate needle, and rolled back his left shirt-cuff. For some little time his eyes rested thoughtfully upon the sinewy forearm and wrist all dotted and scarred with innumerable puncture-marks. Finally he thrust the sharp point home, pressed down the tiny piston, and sank back into the velvet-lined arm-chair with a long sigh of satisfaction.<sup>125</sup>

Watson also remarks that it was like that "three times a day for many months" and it can be observed it also from the "innumerable puncture-marks".<sup>126</sup> In *A Study in Scarlet* Holmes even uses sarcasm in order to mock the police and puts a false advertisement in the newspaper in order to attract a potential suspect which supports the failures of the Scotland Yard also in the reality. When Holmes and Watson wait for the potential suspect, Holmes asks Watson to "clean and load"<sup>127</sup> his old service revolver, just in case. The use of guns is

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<sup>122</sup> Doyle, "A Study in Scarlet", 8.

<sup>123</sup> Doyle, "A Study in Scarlet", 9.

<sup>124</sup> Doyle, "A Study in Scarlet", 31.

<sup>125</sup> Doyle, "The Sign of the Four", 67.

<sup>126</sup> Doyle, "The Sign of the Four", 67.

<sup>127</sup> Doyle, "A Study in Scarlet", 23.

also mentioned in *The Sign of the Four* when Holmes and Watson are about to accompany Ms Morstan to an encounter with a stranger, and Holmes “took his revolver from his drawer and slipped it into his pocket.”<sup>128</sup>

In these examples it can be seen that the seemingly rational has often its origin in the irrational, especially in need, desire, pleasure and fear. One could explain and plan rationally but what motivates him or her is usually the irrational. Also “the Enlightenment commands that we *be rational* (logical, adherent to the rules) but also requires that we *be reasonable* (critical, willing to re-evaluate the rules)”.<sup>129</sup> What is reasonable and what is not depends on the motivation and on the person who defends his own interests and rules, which are not necessarily same as the interests and rules of another person. It can be seen when Watson finds out that Holmes “was ignorant of the Copernican Theory and of the composition of the Solar System”.<sup>130</sup> It seems to be an essential piece of the common knowledge to Watson, but Holmes argues that his mind has to be occupied only by knowledge which helps him with his work in words: “What the deuce is it to me? You say that we go round the sun. If we went round the moon it would not make a pennyworth of difference to me or to my work”.<sup>131</sup> A plain man of reason, as Holmes is often described as, would not be ignorant to facts like these.

Holmes relies on his intuition and creativity rather than only on the pure data and evidence. Nonetheless, spurs of emotions in his actions may be noticed, for example, when he is outraged when he finds out that a father obstructs his daughter in a romantic relationship in order to retain her allowance, Holmes even “took two swift steps to the whip”.<sup>132</sup> Another example is when Holmes believes that an evidence is underneath a floor but when he does not find what he seeks he utters “a bitter snarl of anger and disappointment”.<sup>133</sup> The best examples of Holmes’s emotions is the character of Irene Adler whom Holmes himself describes as “the daintiest thing under a bonnet on this planet” and “a lovely woman, with a

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<sup>128</sup> Doyle, “The Sign of the Four”, 73.

<sup>129</sup> Sevik, “Enlightenment, Counter-Enlightenment”, 29.

<sup>130</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 11.

<sup>131</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 11.

<sup>132</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “A Case of Identity”, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 158.

<sup>133</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “The Adventure of the Second Stain”, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 576.

face that a man might die for”,<sup>134</sup> and when Watson is shot, even though the injury is just superficial, he describes Holmes’s care as the following:

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.<sup>135</sup>

Holmes’s own interests are portrayed also in the way he is choosing his cases. He chooses them “not on the basis of their objective importance but rather for their potential to amuse, challenge and reward him”.<sup>136</sup> It is clear that Holmes enjoys his successes. His pride is reflected in *A Study in Scarlet* when he shows excitement from the founding of a re-agent which is precipitated only by haemoglobin, the which was a great progress in the beginnings of the forensic science. In *A Study in Scarlet* when Watson remarks: “I had already observed that he was as sensitive to flattery on the score of his art as any girl could be of her beauty”,<sup>137</sup> and again in *Adventure of the Six Napoleons* when Holmes presented a piece of evidence to Lestrade and Watson and they applauded him, Watson observes that “it was at such moments that for an instant he ceased to be a reasoning machine, and betrayed his human love for admiration and applause”.<sup>138</sup>

Besides the pride, Holmes really enjoys his work and sometimes he even gets lost in his passion for it. Many times he is described by animal features, for example in *A Study in Scarlet* when he examines the crime scene as “a pure-blooded well-trained foxhound as it dashes backwards and forwards through the covert, whining in its eagerness, until it comes across the lost scent”<sup>139</sup> and when he ceased the suspect “like so many staghounds”.<sup>140</sup> In *The Sign of the Four* Holmes is described to have “beady eyes gleaming and deep-set like those of a bird. So swift, silent, and furtive were his movements, like those of a trained bloodhound” and then Holmes “broke out into a loud crow of delight”.<sup>141</sup> In *The Adventure of the*

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<sup>134</sup> Doyle, “A Scandal in Bohemia”, 128.

<sup>135</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “The Adventure of the Three Garridebs”, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 915.

<sup>136</sup> Sevik, “Enlightenment, Counter-Enlightenment”, 29.

<sup>137</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 20.

<sup>138</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “The Adventure of the Six Napoleons”, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 515.

<sup>139</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 18.

<sup>140</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 33.

<sup>141</sup> Doyle, “The Sign of the Four”, 83.

*Priory School* even Holmes himself says “two old hounds like Watson and myself”.<sup>142</sup> Beside this animal-like excitement, Holmes has sometimes “such a dreamy, vacant expression in his eyes”.<sup>143</sup> Watson noticed in *A Study in Scarlet* while examining the body, again, that:

[Holmes’s] eyes wore the same far-away expression [and] so engrossed was he with his occupation that he appeared to have forgotten our presence, for he chattered away to himself under his breath the whole time, keeping up a running fire of exclamations, groans, whistles, and little cries suggestive of encouragement and of hope.<sup>144</sup>

Holmes’s passion for crime is depicted also in *The Reigate Puzzle* when he was ill, but as soon as he started solving a crime “his cheek was tinged with color, and his eyes as bright as before his illness. He sprang to his feet with all his old energy”.<sup>145</sup> Clearly, the character of Sherlock Holmes represents the pure reason of the Enlightenment but at the same time the eccentricity of the Romanticism.

Holmes appears the very model of an Enlightenment rationalist – designing chemistry experiments and developing his “Science of Deduction”. On the other hand, Holmes’s moodiness, messy “bohemian” lifestyle, improvisations on the violin, and dabbling in hard drugs all paint a portrait of him as a typical romantic hero – a rebellious, solitary genius.<sup>146</sup>

Even if Holmes leads a quite organized life, his manners seem eccentric for the period. The character of Sherlock Holmes and his eccentricity are introduced in *A Study in Scarlet*, for example when Watson talks about Holmes’s knowledge and ignorance about some facts that “any civilized human being in this nineteenth century should not be aware [of it] appeared to be to me such an extraordinary fact”<sup>147</sup> and again about his skills which are “very remarkable, but as eccentric as all his other accomplishments”.<sup>148</sup> Watson also says Holmes “was none the less in his personal habits one of the most untidy men that ever drove a fellow-lodger to distraction”<sup>149</sup> and continues with Holmes’s habits as the following:

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<sup>142</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “The Adventure of the Priory School”, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 472.

<sup>143</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 10.

<sup>144</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 17–18.

<sup>145</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “The Reigate Puzzle”, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 343.

<sup>146</sup> Sevik, “Enlightenment, Counter-Enlightenment”, 23

<sup>147</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 11.

<sup>148</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 12.

<sup>149</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual”, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 329.



[He keeps] his cigars in the coal-scuttle, his tobacco in the toe end of a Persian slipper, and his unanswered correspondence transfixed by a jack-knife into the very centre of his wooden mantelpiece [and that] in one of his queer humors, would sit in an arm-chair with his hairtrigger and a hundred Boxer cartridges, and proceed to adorn the opposite wall with a patriotic V. R. done in bullet-pocks.<sup>150</sup>

Not only the character of Sherlock Holmes but also the character of Watson, who serves as a foil to Holmes, is a representation of the Romanticism. In *The Sign of the Four*, Watson presents his work, a small brochure about Watson and Holmes adventure with the title *A Study in Scarlet*, to Holmes who criticizes it as the following: “I cannot congratulate you upon it. Detection is, or ought to be, an exact science and should be treated in the same cold and unemotional manner. You have attempted to tinge it with romanticism”.<sup>151</sup> Later in *The Sign of the Four* Watson, after the visit of Ms Morstan, remarks that she is a very attractive woman. He often thinks about her in a romantic manner, not suppressing his emotions like Holmes does when he refers to Ms Morstan as “a client [who is] a mere unit, a factor in a problem”.<sup>152</sup> Watson’s emotions are present also in *A Scandal in Bohemia* when he “was seized with a keen desire to see Holmes again”.<sup>153</sup>

The character of Watson is also a characteristic element in the story, as he is a companion who embodies the social and ideological norms of that period. He personifies the positive qualities of a Victorian middle-class gentleman like honesty and loyalty,<sup>154</sup> for instance when he thinks of Ms Morstan as the following:

My sympathies and my love went out to her, even as my hand had in the garden. [...] She was weak and helpless, shaken in mind and nerve. It was to take her at a disadvantage to obtrude love upon her at such a time. Worse still, she was rich. If Holmes’s researches were successful, she would be an heiress. Was it fair, was it honourable, that a half-pay surgeon should take such advantage of an intimacy which chance had brought about? Might she not look upon me as a mere vulgar fortune-seeker? I could not bear to risk that such a thought should cross her mind.<sup>155</sup>

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<sup>150</sup> Doyle, “The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual”, 329.

<sup>151</sup> Doyle, “The Sign of the Four”, 67.

<sup>152</sup> Doyle, “The Sign of the Four”, 72.

<sup>153</sup> Doyle, “A Scandal in Bohemia”, 123.

<sup>154</sup> Scaggs, *Crime Fiction*, 48.

<sup>155</sup> Doyle, “The Sign of the Four”, 86.

It is said that Sherlock Holmes stories are “a bridge between late Romanticism, which was marked by ebullient individualism and the quest for an organic theology, and literary modernism, which felt itself disentangled from a theological moral agenda”.<sup>156</sup> People in the Victorian era needed to find something else than the belief in God and the search for the truth through science is one of themes presented in that period in the Realism and also in the Sherlock Holmes stories.

## 4.2 Features of detective investigation

Not only Holmes himself is an interesting example of the Enlightenment in the Victorian Britain, but also his profession of a consulting detective and the overall police work serve as a depiction of the real-life struggles during the criminal investigation.

A fictional detective investigation includes a detective outside the professional police force, able of superior analytical thinking and deduction. Sherlock Holmes in *The Sign of the Four* admits that he “created” the profession because he is “the only unofficial consulting detective”<sup>157</sup> and during the seemingly perfect crimes, his extraordinary mind skills are presented when the police needs his help. The stories are not based only on the fictional literary world. The detective, his adventures and his action are based also on the real world. Doyle admits that “the idea of the detective was suggested by a professor under whom [he] had worked at Edinburgh”.<sup>158</sup> Moreover, the depiction of Holmes’s methods, police procedurals and forensic science are the main part of the stories. Some people with the credit for the major advances in the field of criminology were even inspired by Sherlock Holmes.<sup>159</sup> He was a pioneer in many procedurals and theories.

The most famous theory is about the importance of footprints. Holmes presents to Watson his “monograph upon the tracing of footsteps”<sup>160</sup> and immediately demonstrates it by unrevealing Watsons errands at the post-office because the same type of soil which Watson has on the shoes cannot be found anywhere else.

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<sup>156</sup> Radford, Andrew. “Victorian Detective Fiction”, *Literature Compass*, vol. 5 (2008), 1188.

<sup>157</sup> Doyle, “The Sign of the Four”, 67.

<sup>158</sup> Doyle, “A Gaudy Death”

<sup>159</sup> Block, *Science vs. Crime*, 145.

<sup>160</sup> Doyle, “The Sign of the Four”, 68.

You have a little reddish mould adhering to your instep. Just opposite the Seymour Street Office they have taken up the pavement and thrown up some earth which lies in such a way that it is difficult to avoid treading in it in entering. The earth is of this peculiar reddish tint which is found, as far as I know, nowhere else in the neighbourhood.<sup>161</sup>

Holmes also criticizes the police, not directly, for destroying the evidence on the ground.<sup>162</sup> Later he is pleasingly surprised by an inspector who collected boots from suspects in order to compare impressions of marks upon the ground and says: “My dear Inspector, you surpass yourself!”<sup>163</sup> There is some footprint evidence in almost all of the stories and *The Boscombe Valley Mystery* is solved almost entirely on the footprint evidence.<sup>164</sup>

Holmes, as a detective, is a man of science based not only on the collection of data but also on the analysis of data which is central to the worldview of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>165</sup> He gathers data from all possible sources even if they are not entirely convenient. While the police question a man in his work, Holmes with Watson take a cab through “long succession of dingy streets and dreary by-ways. In the dingiest and dreariest of them [their] driver suddenly came to a stand” and it “was not an attractive locality. The narrow passage led [them] into a quadrangle paved with flags and lined by sordid dwellings. [They] picked the way among groups of dirty children, and through lines of discoloured linen”.<sup>166</sup> Holmes also uses street Arabs as a source of his information and calls them “the Baker Street division of the detective police force”.<sup>167</sup> They are described as “the dirtiest and most ragged street Arabs [who can] go everywhere and hear everything”,<sup>168</sup> while the poor were commonly present in the streets of the Victorian London.

The “scientific approach rooted in a Victorian faith in the [...] cataloguing of data”<sup>169</sup> encourages Holmes to do the same. “He had a horror of destroying documents, especially those which were connected with his past cases”,<sup>170</sup> and he had an entire box full of the records of his early work. Holmes also collected different works which could help him in his

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<sup>161</sup> Doyle, “The Sign of the Four”, 68.

<sup>162</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 16.

<sup>163</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “The Adventure of Silver Blaze”, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 286.

<sup>164</sup> Doyle, “The Boscombe Valley Mystery”, 161-171.

<sup>165</sup> Scaggs, *Crime Fiction*, 41.

<sup>166</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 20.

<sup>167</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 26.

<sup>168</sup> Doyle, “A Study in Scarlet”, 26.

<sup>169</sup> Scaggs, *Crime Fiction*, 40.

<sup>170</sup> Doyle, “The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual”, 329.

work, for example a bulky gazetteer which “is the first volume of a gazetteer which is now being published”.<sup>171</sup> Also, besides his monograph upon the tracing of footsteps, Holmes is the author of “a curious little work upon the influence of a trade upon the form of the hand [and] ‘Upon the Distinction between the Ashes of the Various Tabaccoes’”. (sic)<sup>172</sup> Not only did he use all the available information, as a proper detective would, but also he presented his own findings which could be helpful in the police work.

Another police procedural which Holmes is very familiar with is disguise. On several occasions Holmes changes his clothes and appearance in order to pursue a suspect. Watson describes Holmes’s “amazing powers in use of disguises” and he describes Holmes in one of his disguises as a “drunken-looking groom, ill-kempt and side-whiskered, with an inflamed face and disreputable clothes”.<sup>173</sup> A boy in another story says: “Yesterday he was out as a workman looking for a job. To-day he was an old woman”<sup>174</sup>

Besides the police procedurals, the nature of the crimes in Sherlock Holmes stories is interesting as well. “In two of the first twelve Holmes stories, no crime at all is committed, and those crimes that do occur are targeted significantly at physical and concrete forms of property and wealth, such as bank deposits, coins, and jewels”.<sup>175</sup> Despite the shift in the economic value of life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the most common cases which are desired to be solved are crimes concerning property. However, all the crimes in the Holmes stories violate the dominant bourgeois ideology of respectable Victorian England, while culprits are usually respectable people who gone bad or aristocratic villains.<sup>176</sup>

It may be concluded that even though Sherlock Holmes presents in a certain way the Victorian Enlightenment himself, the better presentation of it are the police procedurals during the crime investigation.

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<sup>171</sup> Doyle, “The Sign of the Four”, 94.

<sup>172</sup> Doyle, “The Sign of the Four”, 68.

<sup>173</sup> Doyle, “A Scandal in Bohemia”, 127.

<sup>174</sup> Doyle, Arthur Conan. “The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone”, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, 879.

<sup>175</sup> Scaggs, *Crime Fiction*, 43.

<sup>176</sup> Scaggs, *Crime Fiction*, 44.

## CONCLUSION

The portrayal of the rational character of Sherlock Holmes, and to a lesser extent, Watson, alongside all other irrational features combined in order to create the unforgettable detective are the essential elements of the Sherlock Holmes stories. The aim of this bachelor thesis was to present typical features of the Enlightenment, the Victorian society and the genre of detective fiction taking into account mainly its rational aspects. Based on these findings, there was an attempt to analyze the character of Sherlock Holmes and to verify the existence and extent of attitudes and practices of the Enlightenment in his character. The aim of the work can be considered to be achieved. The Enlightenment, the Victorian society and the detective investigation in the real world and in the fictional world were described in the theoretical part of the thesis while both features typical for the Victorian Enlightenment and features not typical for that period were depicted in the character of Sherlock Holmes and in his profession. Besides typical rational manners, the irrational peculiarities of the character are also shown, for example his emotions, eccentric habits, and his somewhat peculiar desire and passion for exact knowledge. It may be concluded that the character of Sherlock Holmes is not a pure depiction of logic and reason of the Enlightenment in Victorian Britain, as his origins can also be observed in the irrational segments of human nature.

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