

Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem

Investiture ~ May 26, 2001

Sherlock Holmes, the world's first consulting detective, explored a world of crime in the underworld which most of us will never have an opportunity to examine. His cases were filled with intrigue with twists and turns keeping all but himself confused and confounded. Such was the case of the Engineer's Thumb.

The engineer in question was a reputable man by all accounts. His skills were exceptional and his understanding of heavy equipment was apparently well known throughout Victorian London. Unfortunately for him, he chose to be too inquisitive and much too curious. Equally, he was not intuitive enough to sense the danger and the sharp instrument which soon ended his ability for proper handshakes among business associates.

Hydraulic sciences were his specialty. His keen insight into their inner workings proved to be his thumbs downfall. Had he not understood the operational processes of hydraulic presses, he would still be able to use his thumb to signal that all is well.

In Nashville, there is one who is "the Hydraulic Press". A man of high esteem and insight, much like the engineer from the Master's adventure. Like a piece of hydraulic equipment, he is steady and able. He uses his skills and insight daily to advance the cause of Sherlockiana throughout the world. His clever reports are widely published and he is considered an expert on several aspects of the Canon and actively pursues his skills as a writer of writings on the Canon.

Today, we proudly lift up Bill Mason as: "**The Hydraulic Press**" and welcome him to the table as a member in good standing of the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem.