



Adult Learning Within Reach

Member Lecture – 25 March 2021

A 'tail' of two Hounds...of the Baskervilles
Rob Miller, media studies consultant

Questions answered post-lecture.

Q1 Was the bishop in the Hammer version in the original book?

I'm fairly certain not – in the novel he is an old and grumpy neighbour who likes to pry with his telescope (as does the Bishop in the Hammer version). The Bishop as cleric gives an additional Hammer touch but also serves as another red herring.

Q2 What is your opinion on Holmes and Watson living together in those times? My impression on reading when young was that the Dr was not a real medical man.

Well, he does on occasion dust down his Doctor's bag as in *The Woman in Green* (film). I take him to be a retired Doctor and now amateur sleuth.

Mrs. Hudson was always a good mirror to reflect on their relationship: 'Those gentlemen!' They were two well-respected, revered private investigators who just happened to be living together as a convenience – Dr. Watson also later marries and the books and films frequently allude to Watson's attraction to younger women. Conan Doyle knew Oscar Wilde well and as such was more of an educated liberal in his outlook, but for me cast Holmes as asexual - not interested in women, more his own ego!

Q3 Was the 1959 version sponsored by the Harris Tweed Association? No tweed in the 1939 version.

Superb observation. Yes, there was more tweed on show than you could shake a stick at! My only response to this is I am aware that Outer Hebrides Harris Tweed was a popular export in the late 1950s!