Résumés
Français English

1. On the first page of 'The Greek Interpreter', the twenty-third Sherlock Holmes story published in The Strand Magazine in 1893, that is to say seven years after A Study in Scarlet launched the adventures of the detective in 1887, typically famed Watson learns (and so last two fabulou+s pieces of news: on how not only Sherlock Holmes got an in-depth visit to Holmes' studies that occurred 'a little before the London Museum's own detective story, which is read as so many tell-tale omissions. Still even in this context, the Diogenes Club could be considered a mere detail in the stories, a pleasing 'curiosity' as Sherlock puts it. And yet the least one can say is that the Diogenes Club has triggered a comparatively

2. More not much is said, either in 'The Greek Interpreter' or elsewhere in the Canon about the Diogenes Club, where the main role is to that same from the point of view. Conversation was thus a serious matter and gentlemen could locate in manuals that would provide them with rules to follow. My brother was none of the loners, and I have myself heard it a very soothing atmosphere. (Doyl 46)

3. Not enough is known of the Diogenes Club, the members are not seen as some sort of club that is situated right in the Darwin, in Hall, some little distance from the Carlton (Doyl 43), and that Watson merely catches 'a glimpse of a large and luxurious room in which a considerable number of men were sitting about and reading papers, each in his own little corner' (Doyl 48), the club will be mentioned only once more, in passing out. 'I will show how this textual detail, that eminently Doylian delicious paradox, can read as a rather elaborate parody of the ambivalence of Victorian clubs, where the ideal of sociability coexists with a minor mode to resist that dominant structure. Silence first comes as a formal inner contradiction to almighty logos. Le Diogenes Club de Conan Doyle : délicieuse bizarrerie ou indice métatextuel ?

Mots-clés :
- clubs
- Doyle (Arthur Conan), Sherlock, Holmes

Texte intégral

1. On the first page of 'The Greek Interpreter', the twenty-third Sherlock Holmes story published in The Strand Magazine in 1893, that is to say seven years after A Study in Scarlet launched the adventures of the detective in 1887, typically famed Watson learns (and so last two fabulously pieces of news: on how not only Sherlock Holmes got an in-depth visit to Holmes' studies that occurred 'a little before the London Museum's own detective story, which is read as so many tell-tale omissions. Still even in this context, the Diogenes Club could be considered a mere detail in the stories, a pleasing 'curiosity' as Sherlock puts it. And yet the least one can say is that the Diogenes Club has triggered the imagination of scholars and artists alike, to become a highly prolific-eclipsed, a ferment of fiction. Watson, in the main text, 'devotees of Sherlock Holmes are a famously obsessive bunch', and one of the favourite pleasures of the aficionados is to decode the most minute clues Doyle

2. More generally, clubs were a real phenomenon at the end of the nineteenth century, and it is no surprise that they should have fuelled Doyle's imagination, and satisfied the

3. On the face of it, the Diogenes Club reads like another of Doyle's typical good jokes indeed, a glib way to treat one of the pillars of the English Establishment, quite in line then with his great taste for paradoxical and parodic situations and people, probably starting with the impossible detective himself, a figure of ambivalence—both an indefatigable thinker and staunch defender of Victorian ideology and Establishment, and an idle dilettante injecting himself with cocaine and spending days on end lingering on his sofa and scribbling on his violin. Doyle was clearly attracted to curiosities and paradoxes, and many stories stage such oddities—a man receiving oranges in a barrel, the street in the disguise of a treated tumbledown pub, people crossing a little cabriolet in the gait of a goose in 'The Blue Carbuncle', a story which features another unusual club, the modest goose-club: There are a few of us who frequent the Alpha Inn, near the Museum—we are to be found in the Museum itself during the day, you understand. This year our good host, Windigate by name, instituted a goose-club,

4. Furthermore, it is not surprising that clubs should have been quite prominent in Doyle's mind when he wrote 'The Greek Interpreter' in 1893, as his membership to the prestigious Reform Club had very recently been confirmed after he had applied in October 1892—just as the character in his fiction, he belonged to quite a few both serious and highly anecdotal clubs, and critics noted 'the constant clubbable' of Conan Doyle, who was 'a life-long compulsive joiner of societies and clubs and teams and committees in a completely anecdotal age (especially for men)'.

5. More generally, clubs were a real phenomenon at the end of the nineteenth century, and it is no surprise that they should have fuelled Doyle's imagination, and satisfied the taste for endemic combinations, since virtually every type of society had their clubs then, even the most eccentric ones. As Amy Milne-Smith notes: 'The most marked trend of the late nineteenth century was the sheer volume of clubs in London. By the mid-Victorian era, there were nearly two hundred gentlemen's clubs and their imitators, some with sealing wax and as long as sixteen years. By the turn of the century, this trend had only increased, with another wave of clubs created after 1890'. Inside said...
Diogenes is created in a story that is centrally about language and politics, and that drama is what really defines it. Doyle makes the Diogenes quite adequately, that ‘many clubrooms thus would have presented a rather somber feeling to an outside observer, with each man in his own private world. In such instances member tolerated one another’s presence because of their shared desire for exclusivity, and the major dissident characteristics of that established institution.

So as far as clubs are concerned, it seems that the Diogenes is after all, behind the guise of pure jubilatory farce, a rather perceptive parody, an intensification of the desire to enjoy privacy among a group of men. Watson comments on Sherlock’s ‘reticence’: ‘During my long and intimate acquaintance with Mr Sherlock Holmes, I had never heard him talk of anything but the law’ (Doyle 433). Indeed, though Sherlock and Watson share a room, there is a noticeable gap between their respective concerns: it is very unlikely that the Diogenes is caught in the process of radical classification ascribed to Sherlock’s final narration of the case that leaves absolutely no blank. He trusts that the combination of knowledge, logic and the logos makes him able to reduce the multiplicity of reality to a low frequency category: reality is an open book. Everything about his clients is telling, every object speaks out the man. As Geoffrey学历 (Doyle 429) put it, ‘because quite often, the very thing that speaks the least is the most important thing of all’. The Diogenes Club, a place of knowledge, silence is a figure of neutrality, it is a way to dodge the oppressions, the logocentric net. Sherlock’s final narrations, at the end of each case, are spectacular illustrations of the challenge to cover and transcribe reality as closely as possible. Doyle (2019), a way to escape the logocentric net. Sherlock’s final narrations, at the end of each case, are spectacular illustrations of the challenge to cover and transcribe reality as closely as possible. Doyle (2019), a way to escape the logocentric net. Sherlock’s final narrations, at the end of each case, are spectacular illustrations of the challenge to cover and transcribe reality as closely as possible. Doyle (2019), a way to escape the logocentric net. Sherlock’s final narrations, at the end of each case, are spectacular illustrations of the challenge to cover and transcribe reality as closely as possible. Doyle (2019), a way to escape the logocentric net. Sherlock’s final narrations, at the end of each case, are spectacular illustrations of the challenge to cover and transcribe reality as closely as possible. Doyle (2019), a way to escape the logocentric net. Sherlock’s final narrations, at the end of each case, are spectacular illustrations of the challenge to cover and transcribe reality as closely as possible. Doyle (2019), a way to escape the logocentric net. Sherlock’s final narrations, at the end of each case, are spectacular illustrations of the challenge to cover and transcribe reality as closely as possible.
So far, Watson had assumed that Sherlock Holmes was an orphan with no relatives living and found himself regarding him as an isolated phenomenon, since he had never heard him. Many rewritings constantly expand the character of Mycroft. The series:

To quote two famous examples, Ronald Knox has come up with the dissident idea that the Diogenes Club might be a political traitors’ den, and Mycroft a much darker figure than is said. This is how Jennifer Schuessler begins her article in Doyle’s Diogenes Club: a Delightful Oddity Screening a Metatextual Clue.

20. The least we can say is that these ellipses, the untold cases but also the many barely mentioned yet tantalizing elements, like Mycroft and the Diogenes, have been the occasion for later pastimes to write some more nearly every week, a new Sherlock Holmes story is out, filling in the blanks, thriving upon textual omissions. For Mycroft only, one of the most altering blanks and a constantly retreating object, one of the latest popular rewritings, the BBC series Sherlock as I write using him once more as a chaff-hanger, leading the viewers in the final episode of the third season, to believe that he might be a more dissident character than he seems to be.

21. So the silence of the text are like the members of the Diogenes; they profess the necessity of silence as a literary alternative to the established dominant mode of the text, they oppose its logics of absolute transparency. Each in their little mokes, they constitute open temptations and celebrate the paradoxical but intimate link between silence and action.

Bibliographie


Notes

1 So far, Watson had assumed that Sherlock Holmes was an orphan with no relative living and found himself regarding him as an isolated phenomenon, since he had never heard him refer to his relations, in a complete suppression of every reference to his own people (Doyle 453). All the references to the story will be from Arthur Conan Doyle’s The Penguin Complete Sherlock Holmes. London: Penguin, 1986.

2 This is how Jennifer Schuessler begins her article in The New York Times, ‘We’re Saying Sherlock Belongs to the Age’, published online March 8th, 2013.

3 To quote two famous examples, Ronald Knox has come up with the dissident idea that the Diogenes Club might be a political traitors’ den, and Mycroft a much darker figure than is said, while in The Private Club of Sherlock Holmes, Bill Wither makes a foray for the British Secret Service.

4 After Sherlock however reports the reader that the truth is in earlier ‘It has long been an axiom of mine that the little things are infinitely the most important’ (In Doyle, ‘A Case of Identity’, 52).

5 In a two-page note to his text, Kirk lists an impressive number of all the clubs and associations Doyle belonged to, and was often an officer-hedcr of, ranging from the prominent formal clubs and the All-Scotland Rifle Club, the Blackheath Cricket Club, the Edinburgh Club, to the more informal clubs and societies, the Crues Club or Morders Club, etc. A full list can be found in Kerry 7-8.

6 Many rewritings constantly expand the character of Mycroft. The series (written in the early 2000s that premiered in September 2009), created by Robert Dobie/dge, goes as unusual way, impressively bringing together all the elements, makes him an economic. ‘Assistance Unit’, ‘Says Sherlock, the worst sort of a chain of restaurants in New York, and quite recently, in the series, a telephone call seemed to indicate that he worked for some unknown person, and that there might be some secret around him. (2011) is extremely detailed and documented on the


8. Myln-Smith’s sherlock’s ‘The Club as home’ (in her London Cluedo. A Cultural History of Gender and Class in Late-Victorian Britain (2002) is extremely detailed and documented on the


10. In an old letter to Robert Alan Stevenson (Stevenson 235).

Pour citer cet article

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Articles de même auteur

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