

SHERLOCK HOLMES HUNT – THE ANSWERS

Each team receives:

- A coat
- An envelope from Moriarty

Contents of the envelope:

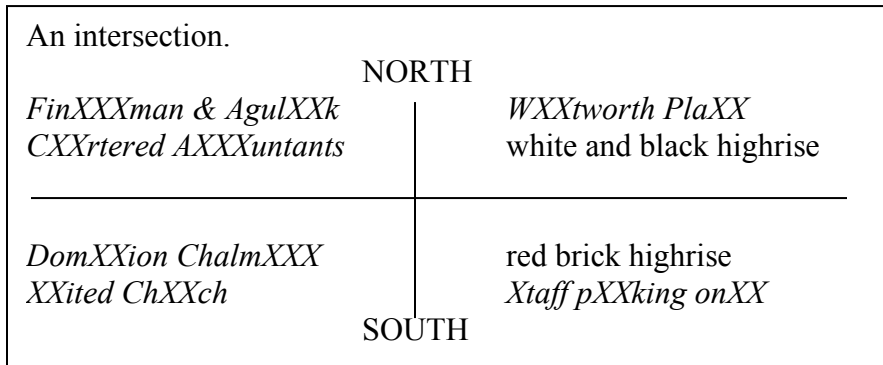
- A letter from Moriarty to his minions (plain to see)
- A rebus (plain to see)
- A short phrase preceded by a number between 1 and 5, inclusive (written on the inside of the envelope in pen, on a diagonal seam on the side with the flap)

Contents of the coat:

- Five walnuts (front right pocket)
- A rolled-up musical score (front left pocket)
- A packet of green leaves (breast pocket, or, on coats with no breast pocket, inside left pocket)
- Four slips of paper (inside left pocket, inside right pocket, pinned to the inside of the right sleeve, pinned underneath the back of the collar)

Location of the letter:

- Each content of the coat indicates a location in downtown Ottawa:
- When the walnuts are cracked open, one proves to contain a note reading “**ELGIN SPORTS *Lifestyles*, 250 Albert Street**”
 - When played, the musical score is recognizable as *The Star Spangled Banner*, the national anthem of the United States, leading the players to the **American Embassy at 490 Sussex Drive**.
 - The green leaves are oregano, indicating **Oregano’s Pasta Market at 74 George Street**
 - The inside left pocket note reads:



The italicized words indicate the lettering that can be seen on buildings on a particular corner of an intersection, with some letters X’d out. The non-italicized words indicate landmarks that can be seen on a particular corner of that intersection: **Lisgar St. at O’Connor St.**

- The inside right pocket note reads:

BEcAuSe THIs MESSAGe IS oF A MosT DeLICATE nATuRE, i
 HAVE deCiDed TO Put IT iNTO cOdE. shOULD tHAt INtERFErINg
 BUSybodY SHERLoCK HOIMES cOmE ACROSS IT, he wILL
 UNdERSTAnD NoTHING WHATsOEvER oF ItS cONTEntS. YOU,
 hoWEVeR, CAN Read It USING BAcON`S CIPHer.

Bacon’s cipher (attributed to Sir Francis Bacon) is as follows:

a	AAAAA	g	AABBA	n	ABBAA	t	BAABA
b	AAAAB	h	AABBB	o	ABBAB	u-v	BAABB
c	AAABA	i-j	ABAAA	p	ABBBA	w	BABAA
d	AAABB	k	ABAAB	q	ABBBB	x	BABAB
e	AABAA	l	ABABA	r	BAAAA	y	BABBA
f	AABAB	m	ABABB	s	BAAAB	z	BABBB

(source: Wikipedia)

In this case, capital letters are A’s and small letters are B’s. Dividing the letters of the message into 5-letter chunks, ignoring punctuation, the message becomes:

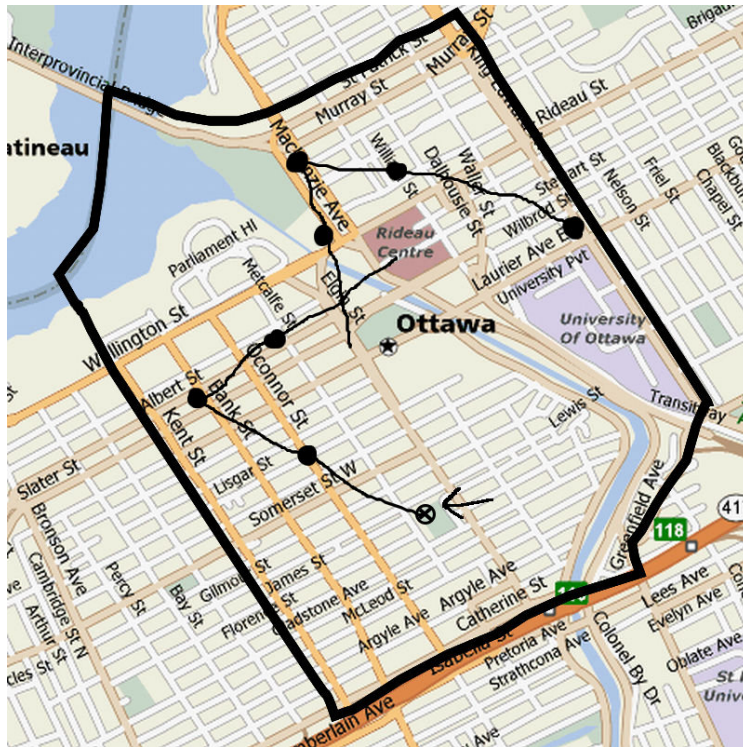
AABAB ABAAA BAAAA AABAA BAAAB BAABA AAAAA BAABA
 ABAAA ABBAB ABBAA ABBAA BAABB ABABB AAAAB AABAA
 BAAAA BAABA ABBBB BAAAA AABAA AABAA ABABA AAAAA
 BAABB BAAAA ABAAA AABAA BAAAA AAAAA BAABA ABAAB
 ABAAA ABBAA AABBA AABAA AAABB BABAA AAAAA BAAAA
 AAABB

or,

fire station number three laurier at king edward

- The note pinned inside the right sleeve reads: “Whales on the ceiling!” This refers to the **World Exchange Plaza at 111 Albert Street**, where 3-D whales sculptures do indeed hang from the ceiling.
- The note pinned underneath the back of the collar reads: “The temporary residence of the woman in yellow. She carries her jacket, and her eyes show the way.” The woman in yellow is a sculpture in the set of sculptures nearby the main box office doors of the National Arts Centre that depicts several youths walking on a wooden beam shaped like a “Y”. The woman in question holds a jacket in her hand, and she is looking across Rideau Street at the **Fairmont Chateau Laurier at 1 Rideau Street**, where one can obtain temporary residence.

When these seven locations are marked on the provided map, they, along with the existing marking for Jack Purcell Park, form a capital M (Moriarty’s signature and return address, as given on the envelope) missing the middle point:



When the best-fit “lines” are drawn in with a ruler (ie not by hand in a paint program...), the missing dot should be where the two top-lines of the M intersect: **National Arts Centre, 53 Elgin Street at Confederation Square.**

How the letter is hidden:

The rebus in the envelope depicts two public figures in Victorian costume wearing “HELLO My Name is...” badges equalling a Sherlock Holmes book:



These celebrities are Gloria Estefan and Scott Bakula. Gloria + Scott = Gloria Scott, or “The Gloria Scott”, a Sherlock Holmes story from *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*.

In this story, Holmes describes how he cracked a hidden-message code being used in letters by his friend's father's old comrade:

"And then in an instant the key of the riddle was in my hands, and I saw that every third word, beginning with the first, would give a message..."

– “The Gloria Scott”, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

When combined in their numbered order, the phrases written on the inside of the envelope make a message that can be deciphered through this code. Each team had one fifth of this message; the other four parts were available through consultation with other teams. The message read as follows, with “/”s indicating where the message was split between teams:

Ha! Forgot to follow instructions?/ Pinocchio, your little wooden nose/is growing. One day your team will/ understand. Is/ Moriarty's eye false? It's glass!

Underlining every third word, beginning with the first:

Ha! Forgot to follow instructions?/ Pinocchio, your little wooden nose/is growing. One day your team will/ understand. Is/ Moriarty's eye false? It's glass!

The secret message is therefore:

HA FOLLOW YOUR NOSE ONE TEAM IS FALSE

The contents of the envelope are permeated with the scent of microwave popcorn. If teams visited the National Arts Centre, they'd find the false team, David and Susan Kriger, waiting for them with a bag of popcorn.

To obtain the letter, teams had simply to approach this team and ask them for it.