

The Wold-Newton Mouse  
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Introduction

In addition to the sixteen odd people assembled within two carriages that witnessed the Dec 13, 1795 meteorite event at Wold-Newton England, there were, I contend, at least sixteen non-human witnesses aboard those same carriages, bathed and enhanced by the same radioactive splendor. The sixteen additional beneficiaries were tiny, about five or six inches tall, were as intelligent as a whole as the average of humanity, and were stowing away aboard the carriages, surreptitiously using a human means of transport, as their race had been doing since before recorded history.

I am speaking here, of intelligent mice.

I am not crazy, I am by turns a writer, literary archeologist, philosopher and cryptozoologist. In the course of my studies I have done my best to also master and adopt the fields of sociology, history, psychology and anthropology. What followed over the course of nearly two decades of research was nothing less than the discovery of an entirely new species of intelligent life here on Earth, coexisting with man since before man was human.

It started, as it nearly always does, with Sherlock Holmes. In researching the Great Detective, especially in regards to the Wold-Newton connection, it becomes important to consider not only stories of the established canon, but to move beyond canon and into the areas of pastiche and crossover. This is standard research among Wold-Newtonians, and should raise no eyebrows. One such pastiche, which I read years ago and then quickly dismissed, was the book *Basil of Baker Street* by Eve Titus, and its four sequels. Surly this was only a children's book, with no basis in reality. The series concerned a mouse named Basil, who with his friend and sidekick Dr. Dawson, traveled the world having adventures and solving crimes. When Basil was not solving crime and adventuring, he lived and learned at the feet of Sherlock Holmes, at 221B Baker Street. I remembered reading the series as a child, it was the series that spurred me to discover the actual works about Sherlock Holmes, and which opened many doors into the world of literature.

But then one day, while browsing through a used book bin at a yard sale, I stumbled across the novel *Ben and Me*, ostensibly by Robert Lawson. The book concerned a mouse named Amos, who lived with and was the secret partner of, Benjamin Franklin. My mind traveled back to Basil, and I thought to myself, surly the two books, both about intelligent mice and their relationship to famous historical figures, must be related in some way, part of one greater contextual whole.

I went back to Basil, and read them again, more closely, and realized that I was seeing was not merely the adventures of a mouse that pretended to be Sherlock Holmes, I was reading the adventures of a mouse that claimed to be "the Sherlock Holmes of the Mouse World." Mouse World is our world, but a world we seldom, if ever, notice. Mouse World has a history parallel with humanity, evolving alongside us, advancing sociologically and technologically alongside us, alternately helping and fearing us.

Mouse society parallels human society, and has spread throughout the world following the same human migration patterns. As I delved deeper into the Mouse World,

I have found evidence that mice came to the New World with Cortez<sup>1</sup>, and aboard the Mayflower with the Pilgrims over a century later<sup>2</sup>. In each case the Old World mice encountered Native American mice, who had followed the human migration through Asia. In *Basil in the Wild West*, it is stated that mice settlers moved west by hitching rides on western bound wagon trains. We see this trend continue in the film *American Tail 3: Fievel Goes West*. In Margery Sharp's *The Rescuers* and its nine sequels, intelligent mice are always finding ways to travel by sneaking aboard human transportation.

Mice live among humans, adopting the dress and mores of the human society they inhabit. Mice also establish mouse towns and mouse cities, even mouse nations, such as Bengistan, located on the east coast of India<sup>3</sup>. The success of mouse society and the breadth of their presence, is all the more remarkable when it is realized that mice do what they do without making extensive use of beasts of burden, and with makeshift technology that often relies on cast-off human rubbish.

The technology of mice often runs along the lines of what I have called, with a specism common to humans, Borrower-technology. *The Borrowers*, a series by Mary Norton, is about a race of mouse-sized humans who use cast-off bits of normal sized human technology, and refit it for their own use. A needle becomes a sword, a spool becomes a base for a table. Intelligent mice, under various economic conditions, utilize various degrees of Borrower-tech, from the occasional recovery of an e-string for a violin to the hitching of rides on human trains.

Mice mirror us in many ways, adopting many of humanities most positive and negative aspects. Mice worldwide communicate in a common language, but also have languages specific to the area in which they live. Mice also seem to be able to communicate with other animals, using some sort of world-wide animal language mostly unknown to, but learnable by humans.<sup>4</sup> Some humans have learned to communicate in the written language of mice, known as Mouskrit.<sup>5</sup> Some mice have learned to write and communicate in human languages. Amos, the mouse from *Ben and Me*, appears to have written his manuscript in English.

So imagine if you will, a gigantic mouse society, living contemporaneously with humanity, literally under our feet, going forth into the world hunted daily by enemies such as cats, owls and other birds of prey, snakes and traps set by humans. Think of this self-same race establishing religions, cities, farms, trading routes, shipping routes, empires, economic systems and armies of war. Think of the impossible odds they must endure merely to survive, then imagine the triumphs of their history, a history that allows them to exist at all.

In exploring the mouse world we are going to start with one of the most famous and central, Basil, the Great Mouse Detective, and from there, examine all mouse history.

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<sup>1</sup> **Basil in Mexico; Titus, Eve, 1976**

<sup>2</sup> **Mouse on the Mayflower; Rankin-Bass Productions, 1968**

<sup>3</sup> **Basil and the Pygmy Cats; Titus, Eve, 1971**

<sup>4</sup> **See: Doctor Doolittle; Hugh Lofting, 1920**

<sup>5</sup> **Baker Street Journal, Vol. 10 #2 page 91-95 "Message From the Mouser"; Eve Titus; 1960**

## Chapter One: Basil of Baker Street

Any attempt to document the life of Basil, famous among mice but almost as well known among humans, as “the Sherlock Holmes of the Mouse World” has to rely on the series of five translations of the works of Dr. David Q. Dawson, rendered by Eve Titus between the years 1957 and 1980, plus the ten additional mouse books concerning Basil’s cousin Anatole, (series geared to younger children) and the article she wrote in the April 1960 *Baker Street Journal*. The Disney movie, *The Great Mouse Detective*, is an unreliable text, but at least some tidbits of information may be gleaned from it.

According to Eve Titus, she was one of many humans who had mastered the written language of mice, which she calls Mouskrit.<sup>6</sup> Dr. Dawson sought out those he thought could do a worthy translation, and placed the manuscripts in her hands. The books had already been published to great acclaim in the Mouse World, because when Ms. Titus translated the first book in 1955, the book had already been read by mice and translated into Spanish language mouse books by 1894.<sup>7</sup> There is some evidence that Titus not only translated but redacted the material, in an attempt to make the material more suitable for children. In her article for the *Baker Street Journal* she alludes to Basil being a ladies mouse, a sexuality notably absent from the novels she wrote for children.

In addition to being a detective Basil was also an archeologist and musopologist. (Mus from the Latin for mouse, a musopologist being the mouse equivalent of a human anthropologist.) Though Dawson refers to Basil as an amateur Basil is credited with discovering the Adorable Snow Mouse, a sort of Neanderthal “missing link” in mouse evolution, he discovered the ruins of an ancient Greek mouse city in the Indian Ocean, discovered Rockhenge, a mouse scale Stonehenge, and is expert enough on ancient Mexican mouse artifacts to detect real from fakes with a cursory examination.

Basil uses his understanding of history to make some astounding claims about intelligent mice, including the claim that one day, in the not so far future, that man and mouse will together explore the stars. Media set in the future will have to be rethought out in order to include this valuable insight.

Mice have a long history, ancient and parallel to humanities. Along the way Mice have learn to both co-exist with man, literally running beneath our feet and living unseen among us, and also establishing towns, cities and kingdoms apart from humans. The technology mice employ can follow ours, or we can follow them. In *Ben and Me* the inventions, discoveries and achievements of Ben Franklin are presented as a collaboration between Franklin and Amos, his mouse friend and partner. Franklin, always a visionary, must have had a similar insight to Basils over 100 years later, the future of both species lies in working together.

Dr. Dawson credits mice with discovering the beneficial effects of penicillin long before humans. And the discovery of cheese is credited to a legendary Bedouin mousewife. Both these discoveries were transmitted to humans during instances of

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<sup>6</sup> **Baker Street Journal, Vol. 10 #2 page 91-95 “Message From the Mouser”; Eve Titus; 1960**

<sup>7</sup> **Basil in Mexico; Titus, Eve, 1976**

limited contact. Humans have developed technology borrowed by mice, such as firearms and clothing.

It's obvious in reading these tales that the mice we are reading about are related to the common mouse in the same way humans are related to monkeys. Most authors don't bother to differentiate between species, calling a mouse a mouse and not worrying, in the context of their stories, about non-intelligent mice. Intelligent mice walk on two legs, but can run faster on four if need be. They have larger brains, (including a larger forward brain pan and other anatomical similarities to human brains.) Their hands have opposable digits roughly equivalent to our thumbs, and their vocal apparatus and tongues are capable of a wider variety of phonemes than their unintelligent mouse cousins. Intelligent mice live as long as humans, barring accidents or disease easily reaching eighty years of age. They breed faster than humans, Amos comes from a family of 26 children, and the hero Anatole has eight children, but that might be too small a sampling from which to draw a conclusion.

In looking at Basil we see a remarkable individual who has all the abilities of Sherlock Holmes and then some, an extraordinary scientist, adventurer and hero. If, as we suspect, Holmes gained some of his abilities from his parent's exposure to the Wold-Newton meteorite, might we suppose that Basil's parents were similarly exposed? It is common in the adventures of Basil for Basil and Dawson to hitch a ride in a cab piloted by humans to travel about London. It is also probable that Basil's parents traveled the same way, and it is probable that a good number of mice were traveling in the four carriages that we know for sure were present at the Wold-Newton event.

From this exposure a raft of heroes, villains, adventurers and detectives were sprung. In the floorboards of the carriages, a similar genetic explosion must have occurred. In addition to Basil, there is his arch-nemesis Padraic Ratigan, whose parents were also affected by the same radiations, but whose jealousy of Basil kept him constantly in opposition to our hero. Other mice descended from those present in the carriages include Dangermouse, Gerald "Jerry" Mouse, Mickey Mouse, Miss Bianca & Bernard, Anatole, Ignatz, the Brain (but not Pinky), Monterey Jack, Ralph S. Mouse, Sniffles, Speedy Gonzalez, Topo Gigio, the Frisby family, Inspector Mouse, Bat-Fink, Mighty Mouse, Hermux Tantamoq, Stuart Little, Glory Mouse, Angelina Ballerina, Chuck E Cheese, DJ Dangermouse, Fievel Mousekewitz, Gadget Hackwrench, Geronimo Stilton, Poppy & Ragweed, Timothy Q. Mouse, Vera, Fatmouse, the Deptford Mice, the mice from *Maus*, and countless others.

In placing these stories and adventures into the historical timeline, we see that mouse history is every bit as weird and interesting as human history. We see that mice enjoyed and endured many great and terrible ordeals in their history, such as the French revolution, Elizabethan England, the American Revolution, WWII, etc.

In truth we have opened a fresh and splendid new vein in Wold-Newtonian research. There is a wealth of unexplored territory and research to be done. Hundreds of unanswered questions, deep delving into mouse history to be considered, even interviews with modern day mouse historians to be conducted. (I met one at the downtown Providence Library and he was a wealth of information, though he has yet consented to sit down for a full interview.)

Where do Aesop and Dr. Doolittle fit in? What of mice like Gerald in *The Green Mile* or Algernon in *Flowers for Algernon*, are they intelligent mice or normal mice? Can “normal” mice be made into intelligent mice as suggested by *Pinky and the Brain* and *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*? Are there intelligent versions of other animals, such as rats, bats, cats and dogs?

It has been suggested that a dog at the Wold-Newtonian event was the ancestor of Old Yeller. What about the horses pulling the carriages, could they be the ancestors of such amazing horses as Secretariat, Mr. Ed, Trigger, Silver, Champion, Pokey, and Quick Draw McGraw?

As we can see, there is a lot of work to be done.