



EX ANTE

OUR MISTAKES

We have wandered off course on one of our maps, and not for the first time. A couple of years ago, Richard Helmholz re-oriented us from east to west of the Mississippi River when we were trying to tell our readers where the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit sat for the first time back in 1891. *See Our Mistakes*, 20 Green Bag 2d 117 (2017). This time, careful and kindly reader John Hennigan has noticed a problem with our most recent map, *The Adventure of the Ambulant Doctor*, Green Bag Single Sheet Classic #7 (2018):

In reviewing the walking tours on the maps, and following the routes marked, I wonder if there might be a minor error in the description of the walk from Brook Street around Hanover Square. In the commentary accompanying image number 2, the second sentence, referring to Hanover Square, states “Turning left (north) along the east side of the square. . . .” However, following the route depicted by the dots on the map appears to indicate that Holmes and Watson passed along the *west* side of the square. Which is correct? In other words, is the map or the commentary the accurate path?

Under normal circumstances, Hennigan’s question could present interpretive problems, since most maps of this sort (that is, maps of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes) involve imaginative construction of the words and deeds of fictional characters. The *Ambulant Doctor* map, however, is a report of the results of a survey of Holmes experts. So, the answer is in the data (*see* [www.rossdavies.org/misc/maps-sherlockian/6%20Ambulant%20Doctor%20data%20\(2018\).pdf](http://www.rossdavies.org/misc/maps-sherlockian/6%20Ambulant%20Doctor%20data%20(2018).pdf)), and it is clear: The map is correct and the commentary is not.