

THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA

Corresponding Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars

Recorder's Office,

, Hdqrs. Holmes Beach

General Communication #15, Sept., 1974

1. We welcome to ^{our}midst Stanfield D. Hill, Esq.,
Please add him to your address list, and as a long-time Sherlockian, he'll be happy to hear from you all, collectively and "singularly."
2. This document is a Quiz, submitted anonymously, but somewhere in print. If you can answer correctly without research item #11 "What outdoor pastime did he pursue indoors," you pass with honors. (*You know who.)
3. The Aspen Press, Box 4119, Boulder, Col., 80302, offers a chap book with "All about Kycroft Holmes" as its theme. Order direct they say. - Price not mentioned.
4. A cartoon of the Master depicts him in a fog, not of his natural habitat's kind, but of a "aerosol deodorant." What next!?
5. Toronto's "Financial Post" for March 9, this year, heads a piece extolling a new book "Intensive Inquiries," A. Andrews, Irwin Press, \$11.25, "I say Holmes, you should see how the Yard does things now."
6. It's not too generally known but the Nemesis of Crime undoubtedly was an expert Typist. The first practical machine had come off Chris. Sholes' assembly line in 1862, so Mr Holmes had had plenty of time to practice. As Irregular Svend Petersen points out in his "Testamentary Opacity of S.H.," further particulars are to be found in "A Case of Identity."
7. Drake Publisher, Inc., 181 Park Ave., So, NYC, 10016, reports a "newly discovered" ms. of J. Hamish Watson, M.D. Naturally, Drake isn't telling all it knows, but further particulars can be had from them, plus \$6.95.
8. An intriguing review in The New Yorker, June 24, treats of Rosenberg's already much published "work" - "Naked is the Best Disguise, or The Life and Death of Sherlock Holmes." If ~~your~~ Recorder may be permitted an opinion, he thinks it would have been just as well if the author had maintained his own "disguise."
9. It would pretty well fill all the space we have, to list the number of references to the Benefactor of the Race in the PBS's "Masterpiece Theater" series televising Dorothy Sayer's detective Lord Peter Winsy. The plots seem unnecessarily complicated to one used to the Canon's pelucidness.
10. Bernice Bede Osol's syndicated feature "This Week in Astrology" carried her concept of the Founder of the Science of Deduction when prognosticating affairs for July 14-July 20. She avers that those born in that week "will need to dig to get at underlying facts and motives."
11. In reviewing a number of books dealing with Mr Holmes' career, Leon Metz of the El Paso Times prefaces his critique with an account of the affairs of the Hexborough Hotel Lodgers, local Scion of the BSI. In the course of this rather lengthy dissertation he states the group always meets on July 7 anniversary #122 of J. Hamish Watson, M.D. Can anyone verify this birthdate -1852?
12. A two-page spread in "The Collegian," ^{Colo. State U.} ~~REKSYKX~~, for May 15 is headed "Sherlock Holmes Still a Living Legend After 87 years." Profusely illustrated with pics. of noted S.H. impersonators, the article deals at some length with Member Dr. De Waal's interest in Sherlockian affairs.
13. The Recorder's corresp. with WEDU TV, St Petersburg-Tampa in re its televising of "Conan Doyle," 4th of a series of famous Edwardians in its Masterpiece Theater productions. Local BSI members were sent advance sheets, etc. Member Tom Reese is electronics engineer there.
14. "Elementary? Hardly, Watson" headlined The Sunday News N.Y., Feb. 17, in reviewing the Royal Shakespeare Company's play about the Master Detective, whose violin bow is shown typically at the knee.

(continued)

15. The Wall Street Journal reported late in July that publishers of Watson's Chronicles can't explain a strong revival in their demands, necessitating additional printings. The N.Y. Times followed suit. Well, if any statement deserves the observation "elementary" that's certainly one of them.
16. Illustrated by the Master mounting a four-wheeler at 221B, the publisher's blurb in re Meyer's "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" isn't too conservative concerning what it chooses to call "a masterful adventure." This pushes the book still further away from realities, for as a writer in the current Baker Street Journal asseverates, Holmes wasn't out adventuring, but dealing with the "solution" of criminal cases.
17. Correspondence with one Rev. Wm. Garrison in re his National Enquirer article July 8 in which he assumes that the "Creator of Sherlock Holmes Hated Him." As a gentleman of the cloth he intended no blasphemy, of course.
18. As might be expected "The Untouchables," now on re-run, and perhaps one of the most popular of all stage FBI-TV-ers, makes references from time to time especially, August 8, to the Nemesis of Crime.
19. Member Goldstone kindly zeroxed for us Scribner's unusual catalogue of "Original mss. of works concerning Mr. Holmes' career" As some idea of the respect and value attached to these works it might be mentioned that #159, "An Inquiry Into the Nature of the Ashes of Various Tobaccos" is held at \$100.
20. One of the most unusual items coming to our attention is a lengthy bridge game described move by move in which, as heading says, "Holmes Takes a Hand," by Paul Boardman, bridge expert and columnist. It seems to be based on the book "Sherlock Holmes, Bridge Detective," F. Thomas, publisher, 7520 Franklin Ave., Los Angeles, 90046, 122 pp., \$4.00.
21. "Cracked Magazine," N.Y., Nov. '74, couldn't resist including the Benefactor of the Race, and makes a super-pun when including him in full regalia, as an ~~Income Tax Consultant advises clients as to proper DEDUCTIONS.~~ This monthly may not be as "cracked" as it claims.
22. Still the important references to Mr Holmes come to The Pleasant Places of Florida. An entire page in the syndicated Sunday Magazine Parade Sept. 1 carries, pictures and all, a knowing article dealing with the Reichenbach Falls episode. The plaque set there many years ago was illustrated, though Sherlockians would have seen it already in the Baker Street Journal for Dec., 1962, and perhaps in Rabes' "Sherlockian Who's Who and What's What."
23. Last but not least in our current Record is the piece, kindly extracted from TV Guide (July 27) by Member Butts for us, retailing just once more - but at least introducing the Master to millions, how one A.C. Doyle "didn't like the Sherlock Holmes 'stories.'"

24

First come first served for the documents attesting above items. Please try not to detain more than one week. They eventually should be returned to the Recorder for filing with our Archivists; Curator; Librarian, Member Hall, BSA.

Leslie Marshall
Leslie Marshall
Recorder