

~~THE~~ THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA - SCION OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS  
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Office of the Recorder,

- Headquarters Holmes Beach, Florida

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General Communication #24, March '76

1. Although ~~we~~ at least twice the Chronioler "concealed" the time of the Case he was privileged to record (does anyone know of more than two?) there is no necessity to disguise the fact that this month our Scion is celebrating its fourth birthday, and coincidentally, began its researches with four members.

We now number fifty, a new member Miss Frances Van Antwerp, bringing us up to the half-century mark. Perhaps that should be our membership limit? A hearty welcome is extended this valuable addition to our Auxiliants.

2. And speaking of time, it is nearing the period for holding our next meeting. Early in May seems good, but let your Recorder have your suggestions; also as to program.

3. You will find enclosed a copy of the prestigious MUSGRAVE RITUAL. It is the perpetual rule of the New York "headquarters" group to repeat this, standing, at the opening of their annual meetings. It's proposed we do likewise, so please either memorize these few lines, or if preferred bring the sheet to the meeting. J

4. There is a vast congeries of ephemera upon which to report here. As one Paul Siemer wrote in the St Louis Post Dispatch, Feb. 29, as kindly supplied by member John Bennett Shaw (owner of the world's largest collection of Sherlockiana) "Thirty new books have been published since 1974 about the Nemesis of Crime; 100 Holmes' films have been produced recently; thousands of articles have appeared on magazines and newspapers." He might have added that everything in "specialties" from bumper stickers to sweat shirts, to Snoopies and tobacco tins, now are on the market.

5. We had hoped to include with this Communication a copy of the 'Round-Robin Pastiche "The Case of the Lost L's" as being worked on by five members. Unfortunately one of the workees Dick Post became seriously ill shortly after the Case reached him, but he is greatly improved in health, and at least we should have the Pastiche for public reading at our next meeting.

6. And speaking of the "Lost L's," quite a few of the membership have overlooked it is a year or more since they assisted in decreasing the deficit.

7. Leading out from #4 above, we report seriatim on documents received bearing in a multitude of manners upon the life and work of the Founder of the Science of Deduction, albeit a private practitioner: (a) Founder, again, one J. Hay, of the firm of Wracke & Ruin, Inc., titillates in the "Elletry Queen Magazine for Feb., with a "Story for Which the World Is Now Prepared" (we excuse the split infinitive) The "Giant Rat of Sumatra" seems to have been overlooked in this accolade. (b) List of Sherlockiana available from Fr. F. Hertzberg, 48 Shalmarsh, Hr. Bebington, Wirral, Cheshire, Eng., L63; 2jz; (c) Guide to the famed William Gillette Castle, State Park, nr. Hartford, Conn.; (d) extraordinary group of miscellanea compiled by Member Don Redmond, Kingston, Ont., including rare account of the Master's "investigation of the death of Cardinal Tosca;"

8. A unique branch-off from the Science founded by Mr Sherlock Holmes is reported by *See* ~~advised~~ *advised* Auxiliant Helen Ayers. She learned that some some history buffs in order to obtain factual data having been studying the Great Detective's methods; Auxiliant Caroline Everett, (b.) St Petersburg Reference Librarian still is adding to the remarkable list ~~she~~ compiled for us of Sherlockian books available to the public; also list of records. See her document under this reference number. Our Auxiliants are putting some of our <sup>members</sup> to shame when it comes to documenting references of late to the Benefactor of the Race. Member ~~Petit~~ <sup>mal</sup> submits an intriguing 3-pages, q.v., under #8-c. (d) Again, surely one of the most extraordinary 3-line ads ever published in an Agony Column (you know who was devoted to them!) appeared in the N.Y. Post Valentine's Day, Auxiliant Ulan spotted it @Auxiliant

IRENE A: To Me You Are  
Always the Woman  
S.H.

We are nearing the end of this rather long communication, with yet many more documents to report. To those requesting any of the above, first come first serviced, we'll include one or more additional items.

You are reminded that the definitive ANNOTATED, as loaned by Member Reesor is available on application to the Recorder. Also DeWaal's notable "Bibliography of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson." Postage \$1.00 in each case.

ADDENDA: As we go to press member Bill Ward astonished your Recorder by delivering no less than 97 3x5 cards of S.H. refs. in every manner of medium. His "trading-post" idea will be considered at next meeting. Member Carroll just reported extraordinary study of the Literary & Publisher's Agent by Brown Univ. - More later.

*Reshe Marshall*  
RECORDER