

THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA - SCION OF THE BAKER STREET
IRREGULARS

Office of the Recorder:

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GENERAL COMMUNICATION #25 - MAY, 1976

1. First, your Recorder must express his thanks for the numerous kind inquiries and best wishes as to his recent indisposition. There's considerable improvement.
 2. The membership will have received Dr. Wood's remarkable announcement and invitation to meet May 29 at headquarters on Holmes Beach. Unless you've already done so, please inform him on the card provided whether you can be present. It will be a unique occasion - the 1st meeting ever held in the world near the shore where undoubtedly Mr. Holmes and Dr. Watson stood prophetically watching the surf surge in, as the Master "pointed to the moonlit sea... there's an east wind coming, Watson..." (HB.'14)
 3. In Communic.#24 attention was called to a serious study by Brown Univ. on the Sacred Writings with reference to their application to our daily problems, personal & national. By coincidence a few days later the press headlined a remarkable statement by George Gallup, dean of the pollsters, head of the Amer. Institute of Public Opinion, Princeton, who explained in an interview his work had been inspired by a statement made by the great private detective, Sherlock Holmes - "You can never foresee what one man can do, but you can say with precision what an average number will be up to." The source of this asseveration escapes us - can anyone point to it?
 4. Leading out from the above, it occurs to your Recorder that our Scion might take the lead in similar researching, that is putting our knowledge of the Canon to practical as well as eclectic use. For example: the incident at Thor Bridge - try that experiment sometime should the press insist a certain method in a suicide was unfathomable. Or/and, recall even perhaps as a suggestion to a bemused lawofficer how the Founder of the Science of Deduction apprehended Jefferson Hope. Then there's the perennial question: What is there about Dr. Watson's Chronicles that has an attraction, world-wide, for so great a number? As a hint, see Chris Morley's Introduction to the Memorial Edition. And how many of us lately have used the Science, bequeathed to us in the Saga, in any of our daily experiences? Dr. Gallup gives that science credit.
 5. Perhaps the most remarkable of the additions to the now vast library of Sherlockiana is John Gardner's "The Return of Moriarty." Aside from its evident subject matter, it is the most extraordinary revelation of the London underworld surely ever penned. Perhaps, instead of launching into a review enough is said if we ever it must be rated PG ("Parental Guidance," if those letters are unfamiliar) Publisher, Putnam, New York.
- Member Antwerp, BSä, joins too the talented group among us. Her woodcut of Mr. Holmes is most unusual, and she is offering the BSJ an article. Member Siegrist's discovery of a poodle wearing a deerstalker to advertise "Top Choice" hamburger shows to what degree of profanation can descend.
7. A headline reporting \$78,000 for a Stradivarius leads Member Maxfield to wonder what the Master's fiddle might be worth, and where, by the way, is it? Another research job. Of course the same might apply to the Persian Slipper, and the mantlepiece photo of The Woman. The July issue of E-Go Collector's Series, a slick magazine, is entirely devoted to the Nemesis of Crime. Nearly 70 pages of picture and text, fairly breathtaking. The Reader's Digest for April, condensing Burnham's "Dictionary of Misinformation," features the much cogitated alleged "Elementary, my dear Watson."
 8. Quite a few other cogent clippings and general miscellanea have come to the Recorder's desk, a selection of which, including documents supporting the above items, will be sent on request. Hope you will be able to make the May 29th gathering at HOLMES Beach!

Leslie Marshall, Recorder