



2008

Communication No. 279

The Pleasant Places of Florida

Vol. 12 No.1

From the Papers on the Sundial:

Once again we begin a new year and already the Papers are behind. We hope this first newsletter of 2008 was worth the wait. Read on. Enjoy. Submit something for the next one!

Herewith is the toast given by Carl Heifetz at the 2007 Fall Gathering. Apologies for the non-inclusion in last issue.

We have come a long way since the Victorian era. It is no longer necessary to consult the gossip press, as populated by the likes of Langdale Pike, to follow the exploits of the strumpets of our day: Lindsey Lohan, Paris Hilton, Nicole Richie, and Britney Spears. Their names are trumpeted about in all media. You can't avoid them on TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, and on line at Publix.

In Sherlock Holmes' day, adventuresses were more circumspect and intelligent. Although she was in show business, as an opera contralto, there is no evidence that Irene Adler ever appeared inebriated in public, no less under the influence of drugs of abuse. It is highly unlikely that photographs or descriptions of her sexual escapades were ever published. No way! All we are aware of is a photo in which she appeared together during her days of dalliance with the King of Bohemia. Ms. Adler was too intelligent and self-respecting to publicly advertise her affairs. Those were the good old days.

We may never know if Sherlock Holmes had an affair with Ms. Adler in Montenegro that resulted in the birth of Nero Wolfe, as some Sherlockians have day-dreamed. But, I don't think that she would ever have borne children out of wedlock, and I can't believe that Mr. Holmes emotional attachment to her went beyond his cerebral admiration for the way that she thwarted his efforts to obtain the incriminating photograph alluded to above.

Let us lift our glasses and toast this beautiful, intelligent, and talented woman of mystery, The Woman, Ms. Irene Adler.

He's Everywhere....In Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, the amazing Mr. Holmes is mentioned not once, but twice. The first occurs when the protagonist, Sal Paradise, and his crew are ticketed for speeding. When they try to explain at the station that they don't have money to pay it, one cop goes out to the car to check on Sal's aunt, the aunt says, "Don't worry, I'm not a gun moll. If you want to come and search the car, go right ahead. I'm going home with my nephew, and this furniture isn't stolen; it's my niece's, she just had a baby and she's moving to her new house." This flabbergasted Sherlock and he went back in the station house. Several pages later, they run

afoul of the law once again: They wanted to know how old Marylou was, they were trying to whip up a Mann Act idea. But she had her marriage certificate. Then they took me aside alone and wanted to know who was sleeping with Marylou. "Her husband," I said quite simply. They were curious. Something was fishy. They tried some amateur Sherlocking by asking the same questions twice, expecting us to make a slip... Listening to a recent replay of old radio shows on WMNX, we heard reference to the Master in an old Sam Spade adventure. In the case, at one point Sam exits a building and sees a van with tinted windows down the street. He notices several red glowing tips of lit cigars and comes to the correct assumption that he's been set up and there are men waiting to jump him. Of course, he eludes them. At the end of the case, he mentions fingering the men. His secretary brings up the fact that he had said he couldn't see them. How did he I.D. them? Sam replies "Haven't you ever heard of Sherlock Holmes monograph on the distinction between 144 cigar ashes?" His secretary says, "But Sam. Sherlock Holmes is a fictional detective." To which Sam replies, "So?" ... To find out ten things you didn't know about Conan Doyle, go to http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts_and_entertainment/books/article3053665.ece ... If you haven't checked out *Cobwebby Bottles*, an internet newsletter, you can get it by emailing with the word SUBSCRIBE in the title line. Besides a way to encounter new fiction, it's an excellent source of info ...

SHERLOCK HOLMES FILM FESTIVAL

Sponsored by The Pleasant Places of Florida
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars



"It is a capital mistake to theorize before you have all the evidence."
- Sherlock Holmes

Saturday, 29 March 2008 • 10:00 am - 4:30 pm
Seminole Community Library at St. Petersburg College,
Seminole Campus
9200 - 113th Street N. • Seminole, Florida 33772
Program Room C

FEATURED FILMS

- 10:30 am: *"The Case of the Whitechapel Vampire"* (2002)
- 1:15 pm: *"The Musgrave Ritual"* (1986)
- 2:30 pm: *"Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars"* (2007)

ALSO: SHERLOCKIAN EXHIBITS AND TRIVIA!

FREE ADMISSION • NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED



(Excerpts From)

Destination Outbound Sherlock Holmes in the heart of the Swiss Alps

Every time one visits Switzerland, it takes your breath away. You marvel at the grandness of nature and the sheer beauty of the postcard perfect landscapes. If you are an absolute romantic, scenes from many a Bollywood love story - from Chandni to Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge - pass through the mind and you join a million movie crazy Indian fans who have seen and visited Switzerland many times on celluloid. But for the more adventurous, the freedom of the mountains lies in the heart of the Swiss Alps. And the alpen region comprising Brienz, Meiringen and Hasliberg offers you Swiss Alps galore - vast valleys, massive mountain ranges, rivers and lakes, spectacular waterfalls, quaint Swiss chalets...and even Sherlock Holmes! (The famous fictional detective is the honorary citizen of Meiringen; Why? We will come to that later). One of Switzerland's best-kept secrets, Meiringen remains unspoiled and typically Swiss.



The WWW of hiking trails

Few tourists see Switzerland as anything other than a snow paradise. But even in the summer months the region Meiringen - Hasliberg is a true wanderer's wonder world. It holds expansive alpine pastures, ridges, mountain passes and forest which are a hiker's delight. Despite being well-developed, safe and excellently marked, the mountain, hiking and adventure paths have not lost anything of their original naturalness.

The network offers a total of 100 kms of trails, from easy to expert, with hiking times from half an hour to expansive day tours for experienced hikers. After a delicious breakfast, starting at the Alpen tower at an altitude of 2250 meters, different trails lead through a diverse alpine fauna and flora, ascending up to peaks at an altitude of over 2500 metres or descending to Meiringen at 600 metres. A large variety of cosy mountain restaurants and a network of cable car systems round off the alpine experience.

Bond with Sherlock Holmes

The filming of the James Bond's movie *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* (starring George Lazenby as 007) at Schilthorn made the mountain an instant hit with tourists looking for that dash of excitement in their itinerary. But few tourists know

that the famous Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, was so fascinated by Meiringen's scenic surroundings that he made it the location of the detective's death. You can stay at the strategically located three-star hotel, The Parkhotel du Sauvage, an elegant art-nouveau style hotel built in 1880, where the author wrote 'The Final Problem' in which the famous detective was killed. A stone's throw away from the hotel is the Reichenbach Falls and the cable railway that has a commemorative plaque that reminds tourists that Doyle was so impressed by the wild beauty of this waterfall that he decided to let Holmes fall to his death here after a fight with his arch enemy Professor Moriarty. You can ride the 101-year-old funicular up to the base of the falls and then walk to the platform where the final duel took place. The climb is steep, but the spectacle is worth it.

Meiringen has a town square named after Sherlock Holmes and there is also a Sherlock Holmes Museum situated next to a charming English Church in the midst of stunning Alpine scenery. The museum houses the world's first authentic replica of the detective's front room at 221b Baker Street.

CLERIHUEWS

By C. Mike Carroll

Emile Jean Horace Vernet,
His sister was - or so they say -
The source of Sherlock's keen esprit,
A point with which we can agree.
He should not be judged by the ordinary norms,
For art in the blood takes the strangest forms.

Victoria, Queen of Britain D.G.
But also a Station, you see,
And an Aussie gold colony
Where John Turner meets Charles McCarthy.
But that's not the end of her fame,
To a mountain, a lake, a falls, and a desert
She lent her name.
To a city, a cross and a carriage,
And she's famous also for her marriage.

Albert Edward, consort of Vic,
Wore his clothes both span and spic,
Loaned his name to a gentleman's garment,
A golden chain and a stone monument.
He's famous as a great big Hall,
Where folks can come and see 'im.
And also with his wife the Queen
He's half of a Museum.



The Chemical Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Case of Three (SOLUTION)

Thomas R. Rybolt and Thomas G. Waddell

Chemistry for Everyone 448 Journal of Chemical Education
Vol. 79 No. 4 April 2002 JChemEd.chem.wisc.edu

As we crossed Marylebone Road, Holmes tossed his lab notebook on my lap. I looked down at the open page and saw again the table he had prepared from the masses and water level changes of the three metals.

"What would you do with those numbers?" Holmes asked.

"Hmmm," I said, giving myself some time to think, "You have determined the volume change in cubic centimeters from the water rise when the metal was placed in the cylinder."

"Yes," said Holmes, staring at me, "and?"

"And you have recorded the mass in grams of each of the metal samples," I replied slowly. Holmes had a way of making you feel that even a simple question was a major examination.

"You state the obvious," said Holmes. "But what would you do with the numbers?"

"Well, I'm not sure that I should do anything with them," I sputtered.

"Density," said Holmes, "is a physical property characteristic of each metal or solid substance."

"So different metals have different densities," I said. "You could divide the mass by the volume to determine the unique density of each metal sample."

"Excellent," said Holmes. "Why don't you do so?"

I took a pen and jotted the results in his notebook as I spoke aloud, "Let's see ... the silver is 7.1, the copper is 7.4, and the gold is 5.0. And all are in units of grams per cubic centimeter."

"Your math is correct, and while we were working in our flat, I consulted a reference manual on the properties of metals, minerals, and solids," said Holmes. "Would it surprise you to learn that the density of silver is known to be 10.5 while that of zinc is 7.14 grams per cubic centimeter?" (4).

"Why, that means that Gilmore Gilreath substituted cheap zinc metal pieces in place of the far more valu-

able silver he had promised!" I shouted. "He is guilty. We must have him arrested at once for his attempt on the life of poor Mr. Wickersham."

"Perhaps we should consider all the facts," said Holmes.

"Yes, well, what was the meaning of the chemical tests you performed?" I asked. "I saw the silvery metal disappear in the hydrochloric acid."

"You saw zinc dissolve in hydrochloric acid to produce zinc ions and liberate colorless hydrogen gas. Silver does not thus react, so I knew Mr. Gilreath substituted something in place of silver. The chemical test indicated deception and the physical test of density confirmed the exact nature of the subterfuge. Further, we observed that zinc reacts slowly in sulfuric acid and rapidly in nitric acid."

"So Gilreath is guilty," I said.

"Clearly guilty of fraud and receiving goods without proper payment," said Holmes. "As a clerk in an accounting firm, I am quite sure Mr. Gilreath knew the relative value of silver and zinc. But we must look further, Watson."

"What else is there to know?" I asked.

"Would you also be surprised to learn that the density of gold is well known to be 19.3 grams per cubic centimeter," replied Holmes (4). "Furthermore gold does not react with hydrochloric, sulfuric, or even nitric acid. You saw what happened to the other metals when they were placed in nitric acid. A classic test for gold is its immunity to destruction by nitric acid. However, upon heating in the nitric acid, you observed how the gold solid seem to vanish."

I looked at the notebook before me and saw the density of what I had taken to be gold was only 5.0. "Why did you strike the gold?"

"Gold is extremely malleable," said Holmes. "It can be beaten into thin sheets. And upon consulting my reference, I found that the iron disulfide mineral, FeS₂, more commonly known as pyrite, has a density of 5.0 grams per cubic centimeter. Pyrite is brittle and shatters just as you saw."

"But it looked (cont. on page 4) (cont. from page 3) like gold," I said.



"Perhaps you would be interested to know that the other common name of pyrite is fool's gold—owing to the very property you observed," Holmes said.

"Now the facts are muddling up my theory completely," I said.

"Facts often have a way of doing that," Holmes said. "But we must conclude that Dr. Harold McGinness, the geology professor, is also guilty of fraud. As an expert in minerals he would have had easy access to and certain knowledge of the properties of fool's gold."

"I may have been fooled by fool's gold for real gold and zinc for silver," I admitted, "but I know copper when I see it. I am sure that reddish metal was real copper. At least Mrs. Nellie Sigler is an honest person."

"Then," said Holmes, "you should know that the density of copper is 8.92 grams per cubic centimeter" (4).

"But you told me that zinc is 7.14 and I calculated Mrs. Sigler's metal to be 7.4 so it is not zinc or copper."

"Rather, a combination of the two," said Holmes. "I suggest you review the classic story of how the Greek mathematician and inventor Archimedes used the density of metals to determine that the king's crown had been made with some of the gold replaced with silver. Look here, Watson."

Holmes took his notebook and rapidly scribbled some equations. "Consider this formula and its solution," he said, as he handed me the notebook.

I examined his work and realized he was saying that 85% of the metal was the cheaper zinc and only 15% was the more expensive copper metal. So Nellie Sigler had also cheated the clock maker, although not nearly as severely as the other two.

I looked up at Holmes. He must have known the question on my mind because he immediately said, "As a worker in an electroplating factory, Mrs. Sigler would have had the means to use electrolysis to plate out copper from a solution of ions onto the surface of the zinc pieces. An examination of her factory's equipment and

chemicals and a check of her whereabouts of late should strengthen this conclusion. What you saw was copper but only a thin layer of it. The outer layer of copper did not react with the hydrochloric or sulfuric acid. However, it and the under-lying zinc were quickly consumed with the nitric acid."

"Then what was that strange brown gas produced as the metal disappeared?" I asked.

Sherlock Holmes took up the notebook and wrote this single chemical equation (5, 6):
$$\text{Cu(s)} + 4\text{HNO}_3(\text{aq}) \longrightarrow \text{Cu(NO}_3)_2(\text{aq}) + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} + 2\text{NO}_2(\text{g})$$

"Nitrogen dioxide is a toxic gas and that's why I allowed it to flow up the chimney," said Holmes. "Nitric acid is a powerful oxidizing agent and so it converted the outer copper layer from a metal to copper ions in solution 1 and also the inner zinc from metal to ions. Both reactions liberate the brown NO₂ gas."

"But if all three cheated Mr. Wickersham, who struck him on the head?" I asked.

"Consider that the clock maker was slumped over his workbench and was struck on the back, left side of his head. Therefore whoever hit him must have been left handed to hit him on the left side of the head from behind."

"What about the wife?" I asked.

"You observed that Mrs. Wickersham is right handed, and if she had intended to kill her husband, I doubt she would have run out to alert the bobbies without making sure the job was done."

"But that leaves both Sigler and McGinness as possibilities, since your examination of their signatures indicated both are left handed," I said.

"However, since Mr. Wickersham did not turn around to face his assailant, he must not have heard her. Dr. McGinness, the geology professor who was nicknamed Rock because of his size, would surely have caused the old wooden floors to creak and make a warning sound. At three o'clock in the morning, you can be sure Mr. Wickersham would have noticed such a sound and turned around. As the assailant ran out, the door slammed shut, and Mrs. Wickersham came downstairs.

"So it was Mrs. Cont. on page 5) (cont. from page 4) Nellie Sigler," I exclaimed. "Since she was clearly not as



strong as McGinness, (the blow to Mr. Wickersham's head was not of sufficient force to kill him."

"And since all three cheated him of the money he was due, if one could try to kill him, then we have to consider the possibility of the others also. That is why we must get to the hospital. We must warn the staff of the possible danger of action by Mrs. Sigler, Dr. McGinness, or Mr. Gilreath. Then we must alert Sergeant Phelps to the need to arrest Mrs. Sigler for attempted murder and fraud and to arrest McGinness and Gilreath for fraud alone."

"What alerted you that all three were involved in this devious activity?" I asked.

"Mrs. Wickersham reported that her husband was gone all afternoon on the day after he claimed he was cheated," replied Holmes. "Apparently he knew as much about metals as he did about clocks. In any case, a visit to any one of the three would require at most two hours, but a visit to all three would consume a large part of the day. At that point, I was concerned we might be dealing with an extremely complex case. In addition, Mr. Wickersham's handmade clocks are quite expensive and a factory worker, a clerk, or a college professor would normally not have the resources to afford one. But I see we are nearing St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Let's hope we have arrived in time."

Several months later I returned late one evening to our flat at 221B Baker

Street to find that a lovely new clock had been placed upon our mantle. Holmes was hunched in a corner chair reviewing some chemical journals, but looked up as I entered.

"Where did you get this magnificent time-piece, Holmes?" I asked.

"Why, from Mr. Wickersham, of course," said Holmes. "I'm sure you recall his case. You know that his wife told us he loves to bargain. It was he who insisted a hand-crafted clock should be made for us in place of any consulting fee. Naturally, I accepted."

"I've been reviewing my notes on that case," I said. "I've been trying to think of a suitable title to chronicle that chemical adventure. I briefly considered *The Night That Time Stopped*, because of the breakage of the clock, but it didn't have the right ring to it."

"Let's see," replied Holmes, "that was the case where the victim was struck at three o'clock in the morning, and we confronted three suspects who had made payments to Mr. Wickersham with three different false metals. I used three acids to do chemical tests and determined three densities of the three false solids."

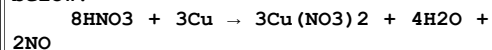
"Yes, I know all that, but what should I call it?" I asked.

"I am confident that given time you will think of something suitably descriptive," stated Holmes with a smile. "Why don't you sleep on the matter?"

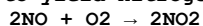
Note

1. Holmes's equation is a simplification of the chemistry

that actually involves two steps (6). The reduction of nitric acid by copper yields nitrogen monoxide as shown below.



However, the nitrogen monoxide reacts instantly with oxygen in the air to yield nitrogen dioxide.



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4. *CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*, 42nd ed.; Hodgman, C. D.; Weast, R. C.; Selby, S. M., Eds.; CRC: Cleveland, OH, 1960.
5. Grant, G. J.; Meyer, G. M. *Laboratory Manual for General Chemistry*, 5th ed.; Sheffield: Salem, WI, 1996; p 33.
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THE MYCROFT HOLMES
SOCIETY OF SYRACUSE

The Game is definitely afoot at the Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse and has been since 1971. Our meetings are lively discussions of the Sherlock Holmes stories with lots of show and tell from our various collections. We have parties to celebrate important and unimportant events, anniversaries and just plain stuff. We do not need a reason to celebrate.

In December we have our annual goose dinner to celebrate the holidays and Henry Bakers good fortune at recovering his lost goose. In February we celebrate Mycroft's birthday with a bash that knocks him off his rails.

Membership is open to anyone who is interested in Sherlock Holmes and is willing to supply us with self addressed stamped envelopes for meeting notices or an email address. For additional information contact Carol Cavalluzzi, Corresponding Secretary, cacavall@library.syr.edu or Joe Coppola, Archivist, coppolj@morrisville.edu

So come and visit us in Syracuse, where all friends of Sherlock Holmes are welcome.

Mysteriously yours,
The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse



Sherlockian Tales

Author: David McGowan **Publisher:** www.lulu.com **Year:** 2007 **Editions:** Trade Paperback (print to order) **Review:** Philip Jones

These tales have been published before, in two separate volumes under the same title. The first five were printed in Volume 1 and the final four in Volume 2.

“The Adventure of the Egyptian Affair” is a novella and is probably the most interesting of the lot. It is quite involved, with several twists and a fascinating villain. It tells the Untold Tale of Morgan, the poisoner and it also includes many of the Sherlockian mainstay characters; Wiggins, Mary Watson, Inspector Athelney Jones and the long-suffering Anstruther, Watson’s Locum. “The Adventure of the Weymouth Moneylender” demonstrates the place of coincidence in Sherlockian tales and takes Holmes and Watson on a semi-vacation to the South of England, where Holmes helps the local police and disappoints a mother. “The Adventure of the Oxford Cameos” finds a corpse delivered to 221b Baker Street with a bag full of old building stone. This gives Holmes a chance to use his knowledge of cracksman’s techniques and to paraphrase Cicero.

“The Adventure of the Myreside Case” provides an example of the more unpleasant side of human nature. Holmes

and Watson investigate a death three years in the making. In “The Adventure of the Compulsive Eater,” Holmes gets to unravel some really bizarre behavior on the part of both a father and a son. “The Adventure of the Distressed Diva” provides Holmes with clues to a long-forgotten mystery and gives Watson an opportunity to meet the newest Music Hall sensation, up close and personal, as it were.

In “The Adventure of Wychwood Manor,” Holmes is called to unravel a classic ‘locked room’ mystery and Watson sparks his insight. “The Adventure of the Five Pound Notes” has Mycroft requesting Sherlock’s services on behalf of the Bank of England. Watson cited this case in SUSS, when he spoke of “Victor Lynch, the forger (LYNC).” The final tale, “The Adventure of the Anxious Lord,” introduces Holmes to the woman of his heart, unfortunately already married to another.

Taken as a group, these are a reasonably satisfying set of Sherlockian tales. Fault may be found with any of them, but the same is true of many of the tales in the Canon. Dates are scrambled, characters painted in varying shades with too dull and too vivid appearing in the same tale and some mysteries are complex, others absurdly simple. These were amusing with some interesting characters and fascinating problems. It is hard to beat that in any anthology.

CALENDAR SHERLOCKIANA

2008

March 6 - *The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes*, a play, will be on tour for two weeks in the U.K., opening in Guildford, England and ending at a festival in Edinburgh.

March 7-9 - *Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium*, Holiday Inn, Miamisburg, OH.

March 29 - Sherlockian Film Festival, Seminole Library. Pleasant Places of Florida. See flyer Front Page.

April 11 - 13 - Tentative date for the fifth annual *Gathering of Southern Sherlockians*. Contact Kent Ross at

April 11 - 13 - *STUD/Watsonian Weekend* Friday - Dinner, Sheraton Four Points, Schiller Park, IL; Saturday - The 49th Annual Running of the Chicago Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course; Pizza Party that evening; Sunday - The Fortescue Honours Brunch at the Sheraton. For further info, please contact Susan Diamond at

April 23 - 26 - Thistles Musical Theatre Company stages *The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes* (aka *Sherlock Holmes: The musical*) at The Kenneth More Theatre, Oakfield Road, Ilford, Essex.

May 7 - 9 - The Houghton Library at Harvard University will hold a symposium to honor Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Go to http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/houghton/doyle_symposium.html to check it out.

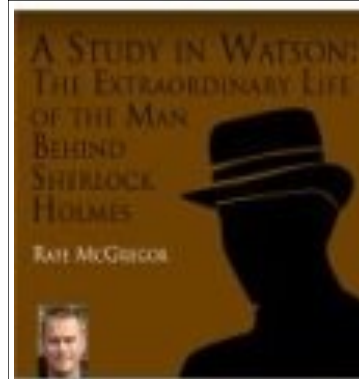
July 6-8—*Victorian Secrets and Edwardian Enigmas: A Sherlock Holmes Conference* begins early Friday afternoon with presentations throughout the weekend, luncheon & banquet

Saturday. Registration is \$95 for all presentations, the Norwegian Explorer Omnibus & keepsakes. Luncheon & banquet prices separate. Get on the mailing list by contacting

(Sponsored by The Norwegian Explorers of MN, Friends of Sherlock Holmes Collections & the U of MN’s Special Collections & Rare Books.)

October 9-12 - *Bouchercon 39 Charmed to Death* in Baltimore, MD at the Wyndham. Guests of Honor Laura Lippman & John Harvey with Toastmaster Mark Billingham. See bouchercon2008.blog.spot.com

November 7 - 9 —*Re-examining Conan Doyle: Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium*, University of Regina, Regina, SK, Canada. Contact Dr. Nils Claesson, Dpet. Of English, University of Regina, Regina, SK S4S 0A2, Canada or www.uregina.ca/hri/Conferences/conan_doyle_2008.shtml

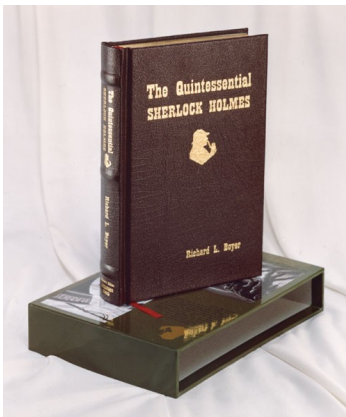


A Study in Watson: The Extraordinary Life of the Man Behind Sherlock Holmes by Rafe McGregor can be downloaded for \$.49 from www.amazon.com/shorts



It is with great pleasure, and not a little pride, that Alexander Books has completed what may well be the most welcome book for fans and collectors of the Greatest Detective to appear in the 21st Century.

Many years in the writing and making, **THE QUINTESSENTIAL SHERLOCK HOLMES** is a deluxe leather-bound edition of five original tales and stories in the tradition of A. Conan Doyle. Its 500 pages are filled with tight prose, enticing plots and marvelous, custom-commissioned lithographic illustrations in the mold of Steele and Paget as they appeared 140 years ago in periodicals such as *Blackwood's Magazine* and *The Strand*.



This volume is designed for collectors by collectors, and is fully bound with genuine quality-grained leather over its entire cover and spine, with additional raised hubs on the spine. It is Smythe-sewn, ensuring durability and ease of opening, and a life of many generations. The title and spine are stamped with gold, and the page ends gilt edged. The paper is the highest quality archival paper, and a red satin ribbon will mark your place conveniently. A sturdy deluxe illustrated slipcase is also provided.

The Wilton Water Horror

(setting: South England, 1884)

This 96-page novella in Three Parts begins in the Midlands, where Holmes and Watson corner a mass-murderer in the flat of his latest victim, slaying her with a butcher knife. Watson ably dispatches him with his Webley, but alas, it is apparent through most of the story that Holmes is shaken and depressed. Watson, seeking a means of respite and peace to counterbalance this state of mind, hires a cargo/passenger craft to take them on a fortnight trip along England's famed Kennet and Avon canal from Bristol and Bath all the way to Reading, eventually to arrive in London. However, from the start, the passengers (and the reader as well) are taken on an increasingly frightening and mysterious journey as their hired canal craft, *The Grebe*, undergoes continual danger and subterfuge. The evil and danger escalate continually until the violent and macabre finish.

The Adventure of Zolnay, the Aerialist

(taking place in 1890)

Gregor Zolnay, visits Holmes and Watson in hopes of assistance to his grievously-ill wife, who has fallen from the high trapeze onto the ring floor forty feet below. The reasons for her fall are unexplained...and suspicious. The more Holmes investigates the circus people and the friends of Zolnay, the more he is convinced that foul-play is involved. A real-life British personage is unknowingly at the crux of this diabolical murder, and his deplorable condition only adds to the pathos.

The Giant Rat of Sumatra

(taking place in 1894)

This full-length novel was first published in 1976. Since then, it has been in print continuously throughout the globe, in English, Swedish, German, and French. The late, great John Bennett Shaw called the Giant Rat, "The best, the most genuine Sherlock Holmes story yet published."

The Adventure of Bell Rock Light

(as experienced by Holmes and Watson in 1902)

Bell Rock Light, a wave-swept lighthouse twelve miles off the coast of Arbroath, Scotland, and built by Robert Louis Stevenson's grandfather, is the setting for this, the ultimate "sealed room" mystery. One of the three light keepers is found dead, murdered in the top room of the tower. He appears to

have been poisoned, but how...and why?

The Adventure of the Eyrie Cliff

(during the Great War in 1917)

During the darkest days of the Great War, Watson finds himself treating the wounded and dying soldiers as they are carried or staggering out from the hospital trains that dispatch their grisly cargo at all of London's busy railway stations. After collapsing in surgery from exhaustion and depression, Watson is relieved, even overjoyed, at an unexpected telegram from Holmes, who needs his assistance! This WWI spy story is an enticing read.

Released in December, 2007, THE QUINTESSENTIAL SHERLOCK HOLMES is available for \$75 plus s&h: Alexander Books,65 Macedonia Road,Alexander NC 28701 800-472-0438 tollfree in U.S. and Canada 828-252-9515 from overseas fax 828-255-8719



The Madness of Sherlock Holmes

By Phil Gardiner
\$23.95 (plus P&P)

Sherlock Holmes is probably the most famous detective in the world. The tales of his exploits have been seen in magazines, books, television

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