



# The Pleasant Places of Florida



(Vide "The Five Orange Pips")

# 33.

A Corresponding Scion Society of the BAKER STREET IRREGULARS



## 12th Night Reflections

..... In a little over a fortnight, this Recorder will be aloft winging towards South Bend for John Bennett Shaw's Sherlock Holmes Workshop. A full report of this happening will be given in the next Communication..... We have received a fine response to the mail-out which was made to all existing Scion Societies this past May to exchange publications. Our mailing list is now at 114 - and we are receiving a fine lot of newsletters from other scions - one an outstanding effort by the Eyford Engineers, "The Hydraulic Press", edited by Pat Pierce - it's really "thumbthing"!

....."I can't believe the whole thing!" Several months ago, this Recorder sent Ron DeWaal a "Jefferson 2" to put down on a likely entrant in the inaugural "Hound of the Baskervilles Feature" race at the Cloverleaf greyhound track in Colorado. "A. H. Charly" scampered in first - paid a handsome \$12.60, which was promptly deposited in the Leslie Marshall Memorial Fund. Ron also sent on an eloquent write-up of his Sherlockian activities which appeared in the Ft. Collins Coloradoan (6/14/77). He is presenting some 14 Holmes films this summer at the University.....

..... Heard from Carolyn Dorton, of Sanford, Fla. She was sorry to miss our last Gathering at HQ (HOLMES Beach). She asks if anyone has compiled a list of Holmes material published in paperback?.... By the by, this Recorder has compiled a list of books & other miscellany which comprises the Library of the Pleasant Places. Items may be borrowed for postage. This revives the system Leslie Marshall carried on for many years...(also have PPoff membership list)....Other business: "Lubricant for the Wheels"(\$2.21B) always welcome. Contributions to the Leslie Marshall Memorial Fund are still in order. The new pastiche will automatically be sent to all PPoff members. Extra copies are \$1. There are a few copies of the Bradenton Herald's great write-up of our April Gathering. Submit all requests to the Recorder.....

..... Caroline Everett writes to inform us that Doubleday is publishing an "Encyclopedia Sherlockiana", by Jack Tracy - (saw-buck).....

..... Welcome Helen Swift, new member of PPoff, and Steve Franklin, as non-resident member..... Received "Mycroft's Messenger" from editor Dennis Kluk. It's full of Holmesian items - and - some kind words for PPoff.....

..... Next Communication will tell of our Fall Gathering - in St. Pete.....

# Holmes Beach



Communication #33.  
JULY 15, 1977 \*(see below)

Published irregularly by the  
PLEASANT PLACES of FLORIDA

A Corresponding Scion Society  
of the BAKER ST. IRREGULARS

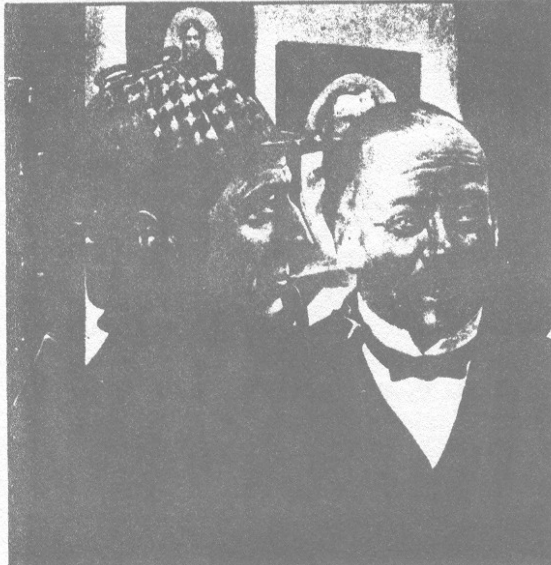
Direct correspondence to:  
Dr. Benton Wood, Recorder

St. Swithin's day if thou dost rain,  
For forty days it will remain;  
St. Swithin's day if thou be fair,  
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.

# Weekend MAGAZINE

Vol. 27 No. 22 - May 28, 1977

## Sherlock Holmes' Great Canadian Adventure



How did the amazing master sleuth uncover a plot to sell Canada to the Americans? Parliamentary, my dear Watson.

By Jack Batten and Michael Bliss

The story that follows relates the adventure in Canada in the early part of 1891 of the celebrated English detective, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, as it was recorded by his close

Submitted by Donald Redmond, of Kingston, Ontario. Copy of story may be borrowed from Recorder.



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## LESLIE'S CLOSET

# HELP!

This Recorder needs Vol. I, No. 4 (Oct. '46) of BSJ to photocopy then return. Also anxious to obtain back copies of BSJ.

associate, Dr. John Watson. That fact is remarkable enough, but what is more astounding is that the tale has never before seen print. Indeed, its manuscript was uncovered, after almost a century of obscurity, only this year by a young history scholar who was researching a book on the personal life of Sir John A. Macdonald. He happened across the manuscript, mysteriously filed in a sealed envelope marked "Patronage - Essex South" in box 429 of the Macdonald papers, apparently one of so many similar envelopes that previous researchers had not bothered to open it. Accompanying the manuscript was a letter addressed to Macdonald from Dr. Watson, dated April 21, 1891, in which Watson explained, *inter alia*, that, "I intend to make no effort to publish this story of Holmes' service to yourself in February of this year inasmuch as I am sensitive to its great and potentially harmful political implications for you and for your country. However, as I have been in the custom of documenting Holmes' many adventures, I have done so in this case even if it is only for your eyes. Perhaps you will wish to preserve it among your papers for the eyes of future generations. After all, you above all others know that I am not putting too high a gloss on the matter to say that this document records the historic occasion when Sherlock Holmes saved Canada from annexation to the United States."

# EXTRA!

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# SHE J. B. AT



# Agony Column

(Readers are asked to submit items for this Column. Thank you.)

Coming Soon!



Drifting your way . . . .

"The Singular Adventure of the Solitary Balloonist"

Another exciting round-robin pastiche by members of the Pleasant Places of Fla.!

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From: Linn's Stamp News (7/4/77)

The Miami Herald  
Friday, April 1, 1977

What next?

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# The Daily News

EXTRA!

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# RLOCK HOLMES JOINS SHAW & IRREGULARS NOTRE DAME DU LAC!

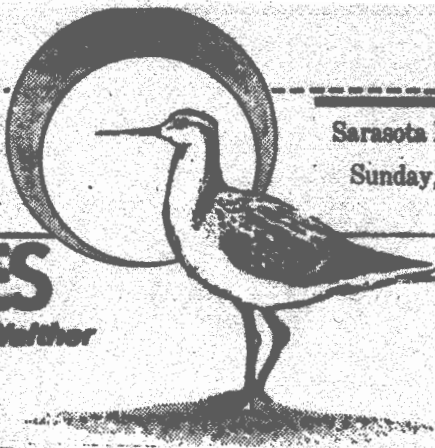
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FINAL EDITION

Sarasota Herald-Tribune  
Sunday, May 22, 1977-

# TIDE LINES

By Alice Walther



## Sea Pork

In "The Red-Headed League," Sherlock Holmes says, "... for strange effects and extraordinary combinations we must go to life itself, which is always far more daring than any effort of the imagination."

A beachside ramble will give eloquent testimony to the astuteness of that remark, especially on a day when stray masses of the colonial tunicates called "sea pork" lie drying on the shore.

Sea pork demonstrates "strange effects and extraordinary combinations" in several ways. Let's begin with its appearance, which is of large pink, shiny, gelatin-like, irregular masses fastened to old cockle, sea pen and other shells and usually festooned with ragged seaweed. At first glance one might think them sponges; they have even been surmised to be ambergris or jellyfish. Sponges and jellyfish are primitive animals low on the tree of life. Surprise Number One: those pinkish or grayish blobs belong instead to the chordates, the same group to which the vertebrates belong — that's high on the scale of life.

Another extraordinary combination is that the colony consists of individuals possessing a "test" or "tunic" of a substance akin to cellulose. Now cellulose is the supportive stuff of plants, not animals. There have been situations in the past when science was hard put to determine whether a living thing was plant or animal. A scientist often needs to be as much a detective as was Sherlock Holmes.

To uncover the daring combinations of nature it is important to trace an animal's existence from the beginning. Often revolutionary changes occur with growth; unless you witnessed the transformations you might conclude there were two separate animals.

The fertilized tunicate egg results in a larva. Therein lies a mystery. It's a small creature, one-fourth inch, but it looks like a frog tadpole. Of immense significance is the fact that for its longitudinal axis it has a rod of cartilage known as a notochord. This rod is the forerunner of the vertebrae. Backboned animals have in their embryology a stage in which the notochord actually exists as predecessor of the embryo vertebrae.

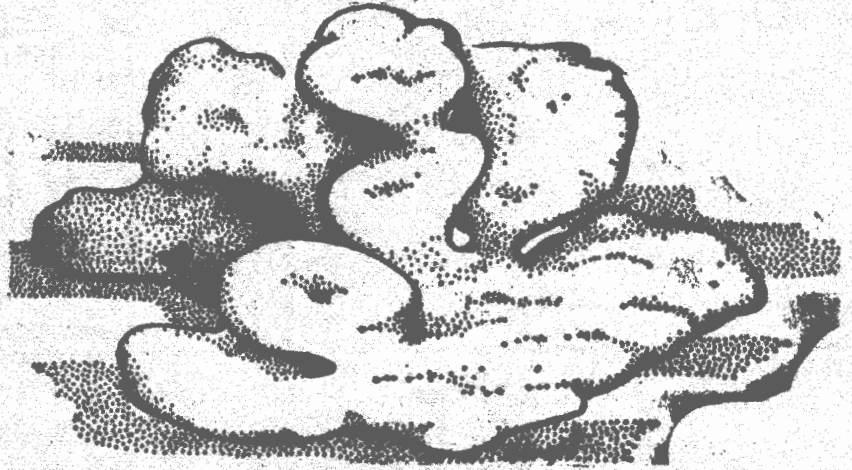
The larva also has a dorsal neural tube in its tail, as well as a sac with gill slits like the vertebrate fishes. BUT, and the BUT needs to be capitalized, after swimming around briefly; the larva attaches itself and proceeds to lose those distinctive advanced structures. It

changes retrogressively. It reverts back to become a simple, primitive adult.

Adults are sessile (attached) and have the cellulose-like tunic. Linking the tunic is a mantle with muscle fibers and blood vessels. At the end opposite attachment there are two siphons, one where water enters and the other where it's ejected. One nerve ganglion exists, instead of a whole nervous system. No sense organs are present and none is needed. Microscopic food finds its way into an esophagus, stomach and intestine. There is a tubular heart, and for unknown reasons blood flow is reversed and for a time flows backward. Each tunicate is both male and female.

Sea squirts are solitary tunicates. They're shaped like bags with two openings and when touched are likely to squirt out quite a bit of seawater. Look for them on underwater posts and rocks.

Sea pork is a mat of individuals all side-by-side and sharing the protection of the shiny matrix covering them. It may be flat and thick or folded; it may be quite small but then again



it might be a piece weighing as much as 40 pounds. Imagine how many individuals comprise such a sizeable chunk! Count the little red spots. Hundreds? Thousands? Most of those have been produced by asexual budding, perhaps, but they spawn and then a turbulent sea may break them up to appear on shore.

Other residents of the old shells are present too; sea pork usually has the company of small kinds of snails, tiny crustaceans, tulip shell egg cases, and odd little creatures whose shape and agility will excite your curiosity.

When next you come upon the rubbery and shapeless hunks of pink sea pork, scan one carefully for the reddish dots that will reveal the animals. Other colors may be bluish or greenish.

The Holmesian method of solving mysteries was by deductive thinking, which is drawing a conclusion by reasoning. Mankind wasn't around all those millions of years ago when evolutionary changes were occurring in animals like the tunicates. Now science must put two and two together by deductive reasoning. It does seem logical to conclude that the tunicates were marching forward like good soldiers in the army of animals advancing toward a backbone and spinal cord. All of a sudden the tunicates reversed the order and started marching backward. So it seems, anyway, Sherlock.