



# The Pleasant Places of Florida



(Vide "The Five Orange Pips")

# 34.

A Corresponding Scion Society of the BAKER STREET IRREGULARS

## 12th Night Reflections



..... This Recorder is still in a state of euphoria as a result of the S.H.Workshop held at the Center for Continuing Education on the Univ. of Notre Dame campus... A super facility, I might add. Beginning Sunday evening, July 31st, a series of eleven (count 'em - 11) sessions were held ending at noon Thursday, August 4th. Such eminent Sherlockians as Frank Hoffman, Mike Whelan (whose photo scoop of the shed behind 117 Brixton Rd, London (BLUE) caused great excitement), Ely Liebow, Paul Herbert, Mike Crowe, Bob Hahn, and Fred Crosson all gave fascinating talks on a variety of subjects - all orchestrated by the incomparable maestro, John Bennett Shaw, whose S'ian wit and Holmesian erudition resulted in a thoroughly worthwhile week. John's quizzes were surely the work of the devil incarnate leaving many of us 'not-so-expert' Irregulars in a humble state of quietude....

... Interesting items from this Recorder's commonplace notebook: Met a barrister from Canton, Ohio, John Waldeck by name, who told of his adventure at the bottom of Reichenbach Fall in Switzerland. There he bottled up several liters of water, and is willing to share of this "holy water" if you send to him a small phial..... Ted Schulz, of San Rafael, Calif., beat out this Recorder as the one from the greatest distance. We exchanged numerous S'ian ideas & items. Very much impressed by a young Holmesian expert, Andrew Malec, student at the U of Minn. He gave two excellent presentations.... Stafford Davis, of the Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa, Okla., exchanged many items over several Hoosier libations. He promised to visit HQ at HOLMES Beach this winter.... All in all, the whole series of lectures, movies (once the film broke - - doesn't it always - and someone observed: "Moriarty strikes again!"), and slide programs was absolutely superb. As a humble tribute to John Bennett Shaw, and in thanks for his efforts, this Recorder penned this limerick:

There once was a Shaw, named J. B.,  
 Sans peer as a S'ian is he;  
 A man of some girth,  
 Full of Knowledge and mirth,  
 Charmed a most August group at N.D..

I almost forgot.... At the Workshop, Sue Klipsch, of Mequon, Wisc., was making a fabulous piece of Sherlockian needlepoint. We compared notes since this Recorder is just completing a needlepoint project depicting the Pleasant Places.

..... A new 1978 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is available from Doubleday (\$4.95) It contains some excellent artwork. Speaking of Doubleday, the "Encyclopedia

(Continued Page 8.)

# Holmes Beach



Communication #34.  
AUGUST 22, 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

On Aug. 22, 1902, Mr. James Phillimore stepped indoors for his umbrella and was never seen again.  
(The Problem of Thor Bridge)

## CLEARWATER SUN

Sunday, July 31, 1977

# Sherlock Holmes Returns

A straw poll of program directors around the country taken by TV Guide, revealed the most popular series of movies on television was the Sherlock Holmes pictures starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.

"Sherlock Holmes Mystery Theatre" begins on WLCY-TV on Friday at 12:30 a.m. The amazing Holmes and his side-kick, Dr. Watson, will be a regular Friday night feature on TV 10 replacing "Shock Theatre".

The first episode is "Sherlock Holmes Faces Death". The discovery of a secret subterranean crypt enables Holmes to solve a bizarre murder.

Sent in by:  
Paul Lee McClatchy

From July 30, 1977  
St. Pete Evening Independent  
Sent in by George Edwards

Being an avid Sherlock Holmes fan I was very pleased to see that Channel 10 is bringing the Rathbone/Bruce mystery series to local TV even though it is at such an unearthly hour (12:30 a.m.). My question, though, is: Is there a Florida chapter of the Baker Street Irregulars? If so, how does one become a member of this elite organization? Also, having checked the city library with no success, is there any way a nonmember can get the club newsletter, *The Baker Street Journal*? Guy Holloway

Good questions, my dear Holloway. St. Petersburg's resident Irregular and mentor for serious Holmes fans, Rev. Leslie Marshall, died in February so for answers we're going to have to send you to Holmes Beach. (Where else?) We could call for you but if Dr. Benton Wood (recorder) is anything like Rev. Marshall, all he'll tell us outsiders is "Have him contact me." Cryptic group, that. Benton's address is

Calling card sent in  
by Ted Schulz. Thanks.

## SHERLOCK HOLMES

DETECTIVE

FERRETING DONE HERE

Plots for Sale



## Detective Fiction

The reader of detective fiction and the sleuthing bibliatelist can find mutual high adventure in a 1972 Nicaraguan set which honors the fiftieth anniversary of Interpol. Here the world's greatest literary detectives have been assembled, with a brief synopsis of their curricula vitae, their narratives, and their heroes all described on the verso of each stamp. The general title "Los Dose Detectives Mas Famosas de la Ficcon" is repeated throughout, and the name of a specific character with his portrait appears on each of the twelve stamps.

Here the bibliatelist encounters Agatha Christie's celebrated Monsieur Hercule Poirot, whose talents and roles in such celebrated cases as *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* and *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* are cited on the back of the stamp. The immortal Sherlock Holmes emerges in deerstalker and pipe and is described as the most renowned of all detectives. He made his literary debut in 1887 in *A Study in Scarlet* — his prescience and his relationship with Dr. Watson are detailed on the back of this 2-peso stamp.

Note: This article appeared in the *American Philatelist* (6/77). The only Sherlock Holmes stamp is listed in Scott's as C-812, the highest value of this set, having scored highest in poll of favorite detectives. The master, naturally, placed first!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 1977

## Heavenly Hound

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES  
Directed by SIDNEY LANFIELD  
Screenplay by ERNEST PASCAL

There are, of course, gaffers who insist that the one true Sherlock Holmes was William Gillette, who made a career early in this century playing the detective in a drama he devised from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stories. There are also striplings who claim, in their innocence, that Peter Cushing's impersonation of the Great Gumshoe in the 1960s was quite acceptable. But anyone who was around in the 1940s knows that the detective's only authorized dramatic representative was Basil Rathbone.\* With his incisive features and voice, Rathbone was one of the few actors of his time who actually appeared capable of complex deductive reasoning. As for Nigel Bruce's Dr. Watson, he was every bit the equal of Rathbone's Holmes. No one in the history of movies ever did more eloquent slow takes as he struggled to absorb and analyze the new insights and information his partner in criminology constantly threw at him.

Though they quickly fell on evil days—a series of B pictures in which the dynamic duo were ripped out of their natural Edwardian environment and improbably set to chasing Nazi spies during World War II—they never abandoned the expert standards they set in this, the first of their pairings, now re-released along with the great Buster Keaton silent *Sherlock Jr.* and an oddly touching interview with Conan Doyle.

**Delicious Tremors.** On the whole, *Hound* is a quite respectable adaptation of the most evocative of the four full-length Holmes novels. To be sure, the villainous Stapleton, who sets loose the title hound in order to rid himself of the two men who stand between him and the Baskerville fortune, was somewhat softened for celluloid. A romantic interest was added so that Richard Greene, as the last direct heir to the estate, has something to do besides express amazement and gratitude at Holmes' power. It must also be admitted that the movie is more pokily paced in reality than it has been in memory, less spooky and terrifying than it seemed when one was seven or eight and the immortal line, "Mr. Holmes, they were the tracks of a gigantic hound," sent the most delicious tremors shuddering down the corridors of a child's nervous system.

Still, Stapleton's damnable dog,

\*In 1939, when the actor first undertook the role, Holmes was 85 years old, living in quiet retirement on the Sussex Downs, where he kept bees. He did not die until 1957 when he was 103. Thus it is certainly possible—though there is no documentation on the point—that the aged sleuth had casting approval when 20th Century-Fox gave the part to Rathbone, who played it in 14 films and on innumerable radio programs.



BRUCE & RATHBONE IN BASKERVILLES  
Still lots of bite.

trained to kill, roams menacingly over the picturesque moors and prehistoric ruins that the art department enthusiastically ran up on the Fox back lot. Moreover, Director Sidney Lanfield was careful to keep his fog machines rolling, never permitting the sun to rise on this peculiar corner of the British Empire. The result, for viewers of a certain age anyway, is a sort of double-edged nostalgia: not merely for two beloved characterizations but for a whole vanished style of moviemaking, in which menacing shadows lay over every scene and divinely dumb people blandly insisted that the peculiar howl they heard must have been the wind or the call of an exotic bird.

*Hound* is not a great movie, not even a terribly good one. But its reissue is nevertheless one of the happier results of the current revival of interest in Holmes and the period that produced him—the last great fictional man of reason.

■ Richard Schickel

TIME, AUGUST 11, 1975

O.A.T. — OF ALL THINGS

# DICK BOTHWELL



**FICTION'S MOST FAMOUS** detective, Sherlock Holmes, still fascinates many. Locally, the Baker Street Irregulars is represented by the Pleasant Places of Florida. Contact Dr. Benton Wood, recorder, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach 33510.

As a longtime admirer of the great sleuth, I'm delighted to report that WLCY (Channel 10) is replacing *Shock Theater* with *Sherlock Holmes Mystery Theater*, beginning tonight at 12:30 a.m.

Great. Aside from the fact that our TV set gets an indifferent signal from Channel 10. Why good programs have to be stuck into the middle of the night is beyond me.

From long observation, I am convinced that there is a secret, evil cartel devoted to scheduling crummy movies at convenient times and putting on shows you would really like to see at 12:30 a.m. Agreed?



ST. ALBAN'S STAMP MISSION

P.O. DRAWER 978

P.P. of F. member, Caroline Everett sent in the excerpt below from the Book of Lists (1977) by Wallechinsky and Wallace. On p.239, Dr. Joseph Bell is listed as one of 10 real people who inspired great characters of fiction. (Fiction?—perhaps literary agents would have been more appropriate) Also on p.471, Dr. Watson's wound (ie, location of) listed under twenty wonderful boners.

## 10 MEMORABLE BOOKS THAT NEVER EXISTED

1. *THE CURIOUS EXPERIENCE OF THE PATTERSON FAMILY ON THE ISLAND OF UFFA*, by JOHN H. WATSON, M.D. (late of the British Army Medical Department)

A Sherlock Holmes exploit mentioned by Dr. Watson but never set down on paper.

# The Adventures of HERLOCK SHOLMES

by Peter Todd, with an introduction by Philip José Farmer

## CONTENTS

Introduction by Philip José Farmer  
 The Adventure of the Diamond Pins  
 The Case of the Biscuit-Tin!  
 The Bound of the Haskervilles!  
 The Freckled Hand!  
 The Sign of Forty-Four!  
 The Death of Sholmes!  
 The Return of Herlock Sholmes  
 The Missing Mother-in-Law!  
 The Adventure of the Brixton Builder!

The Case of the American Millionaire!  
 The Foreign Spy!  
 The Case of the Pipeclay Department!  
 The Case of the Pawnd Pickle-Jar!  
 The Munition Mystery!  
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 The Sham Huns!  
 The Kaiser's Code  
 The Yellow Phiz!



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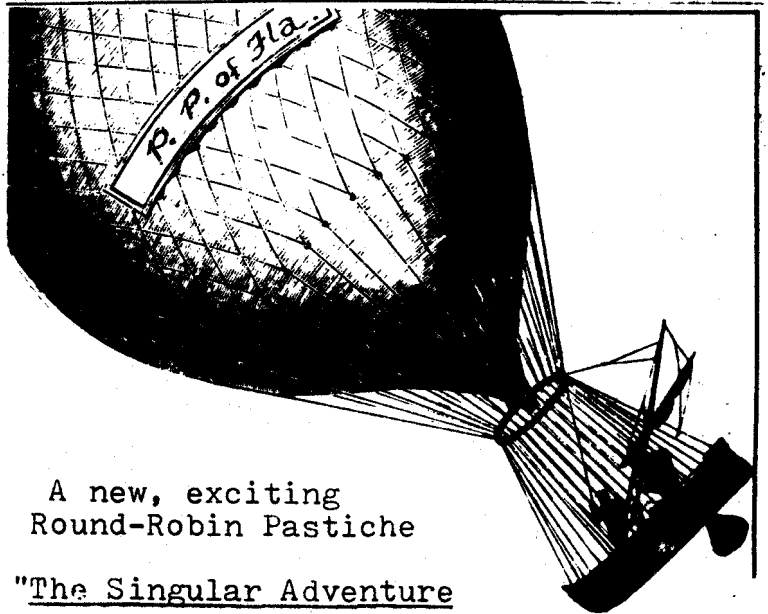
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Airmail Antics  
 Holmes

# Agony Column

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



A new, exciting  
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"The Singular Adventure  
of the Solitary Balloonist"

by P. P. of F. members

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Items still available from THE PLEASANT PLACES of FLORIDA at HOLMES Beach.

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Direct requests to Recorder, Dr. Wood.



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*Thanks for photo sent in by Harold Niver!*

*Baker Street Miscellanea*, a Sciolist Press publication, is sponsored by the Advisory Council on Popular Culture, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago. Subscription rates: \$4.00 per year domestic mail, \$6.00 per year overseas. Single back issues @ \$1.50. **Box 2979 Chicago Illinois 60690**

# campaigns for pioneer air stamp

# 'Elementary, my dear Watson'

Can you find the enduring characters in Sherlock Holmes's investigations among the letters in this puzzle?

Read them forward, backward, up, down or diagonally. As you find each, circle it, then check the list below.

G U T H O P E P K E C N O S D U H S R M S B  
 N S E O S N O Y L I A W A H S N E P O G E R  
 I Y T L C R R S H O R N U M T N A R G P S O  
 H E H D T I E H T S E W H S O E M I P E L S  
 S N E E P O N E D R Y I A J A Y R O M P I S  
 U T R R G A R R I D E B Y N C G C A R F A X  
 C I E A C C U L A N O E B R O W O O D L E Y  
 O H S H O L T O B B N D O R A S F A L D E R  
 L W A D A I R C R L K F K E L E G H E A T R  
 S T W R R V U K E S T A D I S T E E B L E Y  
 E P R I L J O H N H W A T S O N M D R G L S  
 B H I L A E T O O O R O O S R Y U N I G T U  
 A E G E L A S L T T R R N Y O L M N G A S T  
 S L H N P A M M S I M T B O L D A C R E A H  
 T P T W I E M E C O R A O A T L R K S M C E  
 I S I T S S L S R C S E H N D R K S A E U R  
 A T M F I Y T I N K A K N M O T E P C L R L  
 N R S O P B A E E O H R U E R Y R V U A L A  
 M E N R M R U R M A H S T R A K E R L S O N  
 O V E C T U V C N O G T E H N D E I X I D D  
 R E D Y R I R U E R H K A M Y E L R E B M A  
 A L A P L E K P A B A A E N N O S E L C C E  
 N Y M L I R C V H B A R M W O Y H P R O M N  
 G A E R O V E R T Y T T O E N J M Y A R A O  
 E N R B E P O H N O S R E F F E J E N A P X  
 L E Y S M A S O N T B N O S R E H P C M A I  
 F O W L E R E T N U H O L D E R N E S S E D

You should have found these names:

- |                      |                          |                          |                    |                        |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Abdullah Khan     | 15. Col. Sebastian Moran | 31. Gregson              | 44. Lal Rao        | 60. Norton             | 75. Soames         |
| 2. Adair             | 16. Coram                | 32. Griggs               | 45. Lestrade       | 61. Oldacre            | 76. Stark          |
| 3. Amberley          | 17. Cubitt               | 33. Hayes                | 46. Lucas          | 62. Openshaw           | 77. Stoner         |
| 4. Angel             | 18. Cushing              | 34. Henry Baskerville    | 47. Lucca          | 63. Phelps             | 78. Straker        |
| 5. Athelney Jones    | 19. Damery               | 35. Holder               | 48. Lyons          | 64. Porter             | 79. Sutherland     |
| 6. Baker             | 20. Dixey                | 36. Holderness           | 49. Mahomet Singh  | 65. Professor Moriarty | 80. Theresa Wright |
| 7. Barnicot          | 21. Dixon                | 37. Hope                 | 50. Marker         | 66. Pycroft            | 81. Trevelyan      |
| 8. Bates             | 22. Dodd                 | 38. Hunter               | 51. Mason          | 67. Ras                | 82. Trevor         |
| 9. Beppo             | 23. Doran                | 39. Irene Adler          | 52. McPherson      | 68. Reginald Musgrave  | 83. Turner         |
| 10. Bork             | 24. Dost Akbar           | 40. Jefferson Hope       | 53. Melas          | 69. Ross               | 84. West           |
| 11. Brown            | 25. Eccles               | 41. John H. Watson, M.D. | 54. Merton         | 70. Rucastle           | 85. Whitney        |
| 12. Carey            | 26. Falder               | 42. Jonathon Small       | 55. Milverton      | 71. Ryder              | 86. Woodley        |
| 13. Carfax           | 27. Ferrer               | 43. Kirwan               | 56. Morphy         | 72. Sherlock Holmes    |                    |
| 14. Charles McCarthy | 28. Fowler               |                          | 57. Mrs. Hudson    | 73. Sholto             |                    |
|                      | 29. Garrideb             |                          | 58. Murphy         | 74. Smith              |                    |
|                      | 30. Grant Munro          |                          | 59. Mycroft Holmes |                        |                    |

Robert L. Liddil  
Cicero, Ind.

Sent in by Caroline Everett - Thanks.

**World of Books**



San Francisco Chronicle  
July 21, 1977  
**The Holmes File**

**Lenore Glen Offord**

**F**OR SEVERAL YEARS past we have been happily treated to amplifications of the Holmes saga, presenting Dr. Watson as the point-of-view character — with, of course, the Master as hero.

Now, at last, we hear from the man himself, in a volume of memoirs: "I, Sherlock Holmes," an autobiographical script kept in the British Museum, by the author's request, for 60 years from the date of its writing in 1915. This splendid legacy to the world has been "edited" by one of our great Sherlockian scholars, Michael Harrison.

Holmes tells candidly why he dislikes women in general; and why he has never married. There are equally candid observations about Watson's personality, and a sub-acid chapter on Mary Morstan Watson. The Master's various disguises and his favorite "altera persona" are vividly dealt with.

It is clear, however, that to Holmes his greatest glory lay in his assistance to crowned heads and his involvement in international politics. One reminiscence after another is decorated with lofty names, and much is divulged about subjects to which Watson could only allude with tantalizing brevity. Perhaps the most delightful of these episodes concerns the favor done for Queen Victoria, with the report of an interview which left Holmes wondering if the lady was entirely grateful...

Harrison has included a fine section

of photographs, a bibliography and an index, adding to the joy that all Sherlockian students must feel in reading this book (Dutton; \$12.50).

★ ★ ★

**T**HOSE dedicated commentators on the mystery, Otto Penzler, Chris Steinbrunner and Marvin Lachman (with associates Charles Shibuk and Francis M. Nevins) have compiled a fine reference book titled "Detectionary," which as you might guess is a biographical dictionary of leading characters in detective and mystery fiction — not only the detectives themselves, but the most famous villains and rogues. The gentlemen have made a nice selection of motion picture titles, with brief descriptions, and have included more than 100 illustrations, most of them from films both historical and recent.

There's a section headed "Cases," which includes some famous ones and some that seem whimsically chosen, and there is an index that lists categories.

One of the advantages of such a book is its value for reference scholars. Even a greater one is that it's fun to read, being the kind of text in which one can browse endlessly, perhaps getting indignant with the compilers for omitting one's favorites, or determining to look up detective fiction of past years, and finding new horizons in the mystery world (Overlook Press; 15).

**Sarasota Herald-Tribune**  
**BOOKS**

**Exit Sherlock Holmes**

By Robert Lee Hall. Scribner's. 223 pages. \$7.95.

**I**T'S time for somebody to write a novel explaining how Dr. John Watson, Sherlock Holmes' sidekick, ever got a chance to doctor.

Judging from the mounds of newly discovered manuscripts he left behind for posterity, Watson just had to have spent his days and most of his nights scribbling steadily away about the adventures he and his detective friend had but which A. Conan Doyle failed to record.

Nicholas Meyer got the vogue under way with his "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" and followed that good Sherlock adventure up with the not so good "The West End Horror."

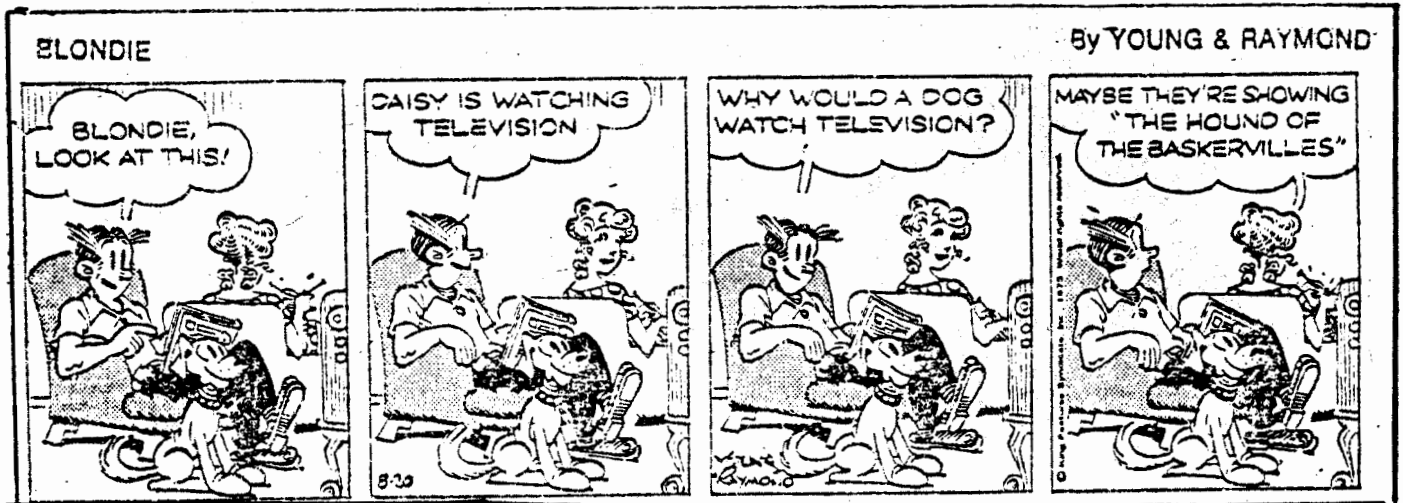
Now Robert Lee Hall has gotten into the act with "Exit Sherlock Holmes," one of 32 previously unknown manuscripts left behind by the prolific Watson in "a battered tin dispatch box."

Hall's book has an interesting beginning and an interesting ending. Unfortunately, to get from one to the other the reader has to plow through a vast arid stretch that has little to recommend it. What makes this portion dreary, perhaps, is that Holmes doesn't appear in it. The action depends entirely upon Watson, and as nice a chap as he is he's not terribly exciting.

After a brief early appearance by Holmes, in which he tells Watson that the evil Moriarty is back and meaner than ever, the great detective disappears and Watson spends page after trying page looking for him. When he finally finds him, the action picks up and the book ends in a rousing finale in which Holmes and Moriarty once again do battle.

Sunday, July 10, 1977-

**Phil Thomas**  
AP Books Editor



-----  
12th NIGHT REFLECTIONS (Cont. from page 1.)

Sherlockiana", by Jack Tracy has been delayed. Probably out Nov. or Dec...

.... Available from the PPOFF Library: "Adv. of Herlock Sholmes" by Peter Todd (Mysterious Press, Box 334 East Station, Yonkers, NY 10704-\$10). Also interesting booklet, "Holmes & Watson Solve the ALMOST Perfect Crime - Life Insurance". Also: "I, Sherlock Holmes", "Exit, S.H." & "Woman in Red - Son of S.H.".....

.... Received from Bob Hahn a menu & write-up of "Sherlock's", a new restaurant in Toronto, Canada..... Thanks to Jim Suszynski, non-resident member, who sent in an interesting article, "Elementary, Dear Watson - of John Barrymore & Sherlock Holmes" by Robert Pohle, in Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.....

..... Have been in correspondence with Ken Johnson W6NKE and Dave Galerstein WA2PXM who head up the unique SHERLOCK HOLMES WIRELESS SOCIETY. S'ian "hams" conduct their meetings over the air waves from Maine to California. Want to get details? Contact Ken Johnson (20554 Hartland St. #6, Canoga Park, CA 91306. Dave's handle is the Speckled Short Wave Band!.....73, boys!.....

..... WELCOME as resident Member: George C. Edwards, of St. Pete, and non-resident members: Pat Pierce of Del Mar, Calif., Stafford Davis of Tulsa, Okla., and Svend Petersen, BSI, of Altamonte Springs, Florida.....

.... Received word and a plethora of material from dutiful PPOFF member, Caroline Everett.... Member Paul Lee McClatchy reports he is off this fall to the Univ. of Indiana to study astronomy - we wish him well! From the Pleasant Places to Astronomy at IU is just going from one celestial abode to another!....

..... Have you noticed??? - - All PPOFF mail goes out adorned with unusual & colorful postage. All this is provided by the St. Alban's Stamp Mission - we are most grateful. If you would like to know more about the Stamp Mission and its work (which accepts philatelic material as a tax-deductible contribution) send a 13¢ stamp to St. Alban's Stamp Mission, P.O. Drawer 978, Anna Maria, FL, 33501. They'll really appreciate your interest and support.....

From Boy's Life Magazine: Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson were traveling through the English countryside on a train. As the train passed a herd of sheep, Dr. Watson said to his friend, "Quite a large herd, eh, Holmes?" "Exactly 2,389 in number," replied Holmes sleepily. "Good heavens!" said Watson. "Surely you didn't count them all!" "Of course not!" answered Holmes. "I simply counted the legs and divided by four!" .....



"I say, Woodstock. I do believe these tracks are leading directly to TOM & JOY MITCHELL's on Treasure Island."

Next Gathering: Sat. Oct. 22nd  
Mark your calendar!

Complete details of the October Gathering will be sent at a later date.