

# The Pleasant Places of Florida

(Suggested in "The Five Orange Pips")

#53

A Corresponding Scion Society of the BAKER STREET IRREGULARS

## 12th Night Reflections

Happy 12th Night! May you 'Revel' in the Master's 127th. It's hard to believe that this Communication #53 marks four years since #29, which inaugurated this new format. Tempus fugit! .... Unhappily this Recorder, an amiable but simple-minded non-conformist clergyman, is also an impecunious one and is unable to attend this year's BSI Dinner in NYC, January 11th. Perhaps next year. .... The Fall Gathering of the P.P. of F. was a corking good affair, featuring a moving S'ian performance by our Paul Singleton. Pat Herst & George Tullis joined us from the hinterlands of the "Pleasant Places". .... Another PPoff young thespian, Sue Vail, is now attending FSU in Tallahassee, reports their Drama School put on an excellent version of "Crucifer of Blood". ... The next gathering of the PPoff will be the ceremonial Opening of Sherlock's Restaurant on Treasure Island. Manager Rick Walter will be sending us all an Invitation to this gala event. Don't miss the fun! .... This past fall, I was listening to the Notre Dame-Navy game on Mutual radio, and was pleasantly surprised to here that Navy's fullback was none other than Sherlock, and that one of the Irish's lineman was Holmes, and a reserve back was Moriarty! .... This Recorder thanks all who sent in items or communication to HQ - HOLMES Beach, especially Tom Hamer, Mike Crowe, Ron DeWaal, Marsha Pollak, Paul Herbert, Andy Peck, Bob Thomalen, Bob Katims, John Fought, Mike Carroll, Peter Blau, Philip Sherman, Caroline Everett, John Shaw, and Ted Schulz. Please forgive any errors of omission. ... The Dec/Jan issue of British Heritage had a fine article on Doyle with many references & Illustrations of the Master. ... Rec'd two fine S'ian catalogues from England - Gaby Goldscheider's No.21(29 Temple Rd,Windsor. Berkshire,England),and Hopes & Dixon, No.7(Buckingham House,Hyde St.,Winchester. Hampshire England). Both are worth a 31¢ airmail stamp to get. ... Don't forget to mark you calendar for Ted Schulz's S'ian Workshop at Stanford Univ., July 19-23, 1981.(Details: 180 Mt.Lassen Dr.,San Rafeal,CA 94903). .... 3 Bells & a Tinkle for Gaslight Publication's Winter/Spring Catalogue 1981 (112 E. 2nd, Bloomington, Indiana 47401). Superb items & articles. Don't miss this one! .... Non-Resident PPFers Harold & Teddi Niver did a S'ian bit for ABC's Sunday World News, Nov.16th... .. Our thanks to "The Scandal Sheet" for their mention of our Scion. .... The recent annual meeting of The Geological Society of America (Nov.17-20) held at Atlanta, had on its agenda the "Friends of Sherlock Holmes". .... As per usual the postage to send out this Communication was provided by St. Alban's Stamp Mission. You may request details on its work from the Recorder. ....

The latest offering (#3) of the Baker Street Emporium may be found on Page 4. ... In the offing - A booklet of Limericks written by PPoff members & friends at the recent Fall Gathering. You will be informed when it is "off the press" - it will be great fun. Be seein' y'all at the Grand Opening of Sherlock's soon! .....

## The Gang's all going to....

send in their \$2.21B for 1981! You will continue to receive each COMMUNICATION as it is published, AND if you remit your "lubricant for the wheels" by the Ides of March (15th), you will receive a FREE copy of the forthcoming PPoff publication - "Limericks & Songs".





Holmes  
Beach



COMMUNICATION No.53

JAN. 6, 1981\*

Published irregularly by the  
PLEASANT PLACES of FLORIDA

A Corresponding Scion Society of

**THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS**

Please direct correspondence to:  
The Rev. Benton Wood, BSI - Recorder

+ + + + +  
(\*- Note: The 127th Anniversary of the  
Master's nascency. Elementary, my dear  
Watson!)



**Philatelic  
Philandering**

... or "Stamping Around  
with Sherlock Holmes"

This is a new feature  
in our Communication, keep-  
ing 'green' the memory of

the Master. It is also  
a continuing tribute to  
our late PPoff Founder,  
Leslie Marshall, who had  
a great interest in the  
world of philately. Be-  
ing the Director of the  
nation's oldest & larg-  
est Stamp Mission (St.



Alban's), this Recorder has noted a recent revival and  
interest in Holmesian stamps and related philatelic  
items. This column will try to keep abreast of this in-  
terest. .... First, the three Sherlockian stamps extant  
are pictured here. Above, a Nicaraguan airmail, issued

in 1972 (Sc# C-812), on the occa-  
sion of the 50th Anniversary of  
INTERPOL. At bottom right, San  
Marino (#953) came out in 1979, &  
finally, in 1980, Comoro Islands  
(Sc.#unknown) depicted the Master and his lit-  
erary agent, Dr. Doyle.... On the U.S. scene,  
the lastest S'ian item commemorates Holmes' retirement in  
Sussex where he is keeping bees. (at left). It is an emboss-  
ed 15¢ envelope (Sc#U-599). More items shall be depicted and  
described in future Communications. This is just a start!



**From Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen**

(Readers are requested to submit their  
Sherlockian recipes for this column.)



MRS. HUDSON'S PECAN PIE

(Georgia does not have a monopoly on  
pecans. This tasty dessert comes from  
the Pleasant Places direct to BakerSt.)

- 1/2 c. melted butter      1 c. sugar
- 1 c. light corn syrup    4 eggs, beaten
- 1/4 tsp. salt      1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 9" pastry shell    1 c. chopped pecans

Combine butter, sugar & corn syrup;  
cook over low heat, stirring constant-  
ly, until sugar is dissolved. Cool.  
Add eggs, vanilla & salt; blend well.

Pour filling into pastry shell, & top  
with pecans. Bake at 325° for 50-55  
minutes. Yield: one 9-inch pie.

(P.S.- one of Dr.Watson's favorites!)





36 Independent-Journal,

Saturday, October 25, 1980

### Sherlock Holmes

Vallecito Middle School in Terra Linda will be present a student-written version of a story about Sherlock Holmes tonight at 7 in the school auditorium.

"Thirty Days to Riches or Billy the Kidnapped" was written as a television script by the students and includes many innovative features. Film sequences are used in the production, and Sherlock Holmes is played by a girl.

The students are attempting to get a tape of the production played on local television.



-Sarasota Herald-Tribune

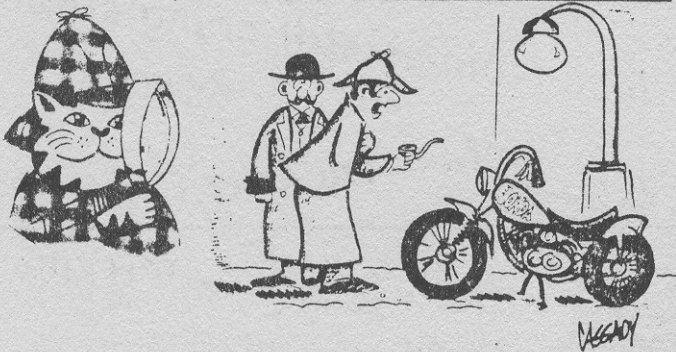
Mon., Oct. 13, 1980

### Holmes Collection On Display

A "mysterious" display is afoot at the Manatee County Central Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd. W., Bradenton.

It's the Sherlock Holmes collection of Michael G. Bryan. It includes a display of books, comics, and journals.

Additional clues include pictures, pipe, and a Baker Street bookmark. The display will be on display through October.



"MY LORD WATSON!—IT'S THE HONDA OF THE BASKERVILLES."

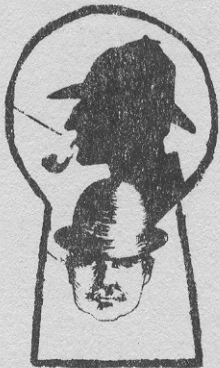
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**M55382. IN WASHINGTON.** Featuring Marjorie Lord, George Zucco, and Henry Daniell. When an English courier is mysteriously killed en route to America, Holmes discovers both the murderers and the location and retrieval of important microfilm.

**M55390. FACES DEATH.** Featuring Hillary Brooke & Milburn Stone. Holmes and Watson try to unravel the mystery behind apparent "ghosts" in an old English mansion, tying a strange ritualistic chant to the fact that the main floor of the house is a giant chessboard!

**M55404. THE SPIDER WOMAN.** Featuring Gale Sondergaard. This one has it all. . . the death of Sherlock Holmes, his reappearance in disguise, several setbacks at the hand of an evil woman, a series of horrible murders. . . and Holmes in front of a firing squad led by Watson!

**M55412. THE PEARL OF DEATH.** Featuring Evelyn Ankers and Miles Mander. Instead of matching wits with calculating master criminals, Holmes goes up against a mindless killing machine. . . The Creeper!

**M55420. THE SCARLET CLAW.** Featuring Gerald Hamer, Paul Cavanaugh and Arthur Hohl. Often considered the finest of all the Universal Holmes films, this one finds the detective in Canada, tracking down a hound-like creature in the French Village of La Morte Rouge (The Red Death).

**M55439. THE HOUSE OF FEAR.** Featuring Aubrey Mather and Paul Cavanaugh. Based on "The 5 Orange Pips," the plot centers around a fraternal men's organization whose members are killed off one at a time immediately following their receipt of an envelope filled with orange pips.

**M55447. PURSUIT TO ALGIERS.** Featuring Marjorie Riordan, Rosalind Ivan, and Gerald Hamer. Sherlock guards the safe passage aboard a ship bound for Algiers of a young heir to a European monarchy, and encounters a world-class jewel thief along the way. Good surprise ending.

**M55455. TERROR BY NIGHT.** Featuring Alan Mowbray, Renee Godfrey and Leland Hodgson. Holmes does battle with Colonel Sebastian Moran, Moriarity's top lieutenant, on a train to Scotland as he attempts to protect the disaster-laden Star of Rhodesia diamond.

**M55463. DRESSED TO KILL.** The final Holmes picture with Rathbone and Bruce, also featuring Patricia Morison, Edmond Breon and Frederic Worlock. Once again, Holmes is up against a woman . . . and a collection of odd music boxes! The clue is contained in the odd melody played by the music boxes.

**M55471. THE WOMAN IN GREEN.** Featuring Hillary Brooke, Henry Daniell and Eve Amber. In which Holmes confronts Moriarity in his Baker Street dwellings, courts a mysterious woman (!) and becomes hypnotized to the point of suicide over a case he could not solve.

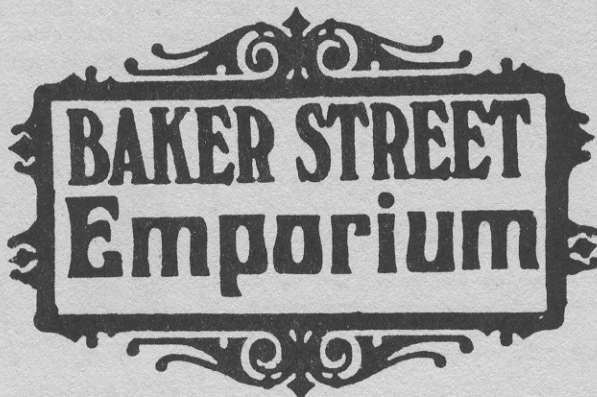
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**HOLMESIAN HEADLINES**

*Public's love of Sherlock Holmes still going strong  
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*oh, No! → Holmes endorses Carter*



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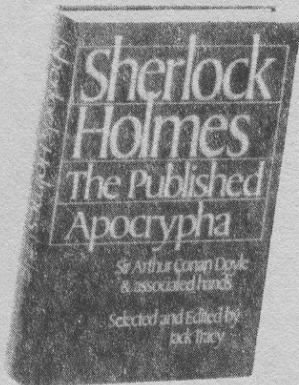
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  - ITEM #14. - Reprint of "A Taxing Mystery" by Chas.VanDevander, St. Pete Times - 9/29/80. and a copy of The Clayton Ritual.
  - ITEM #15. - Reprint of Punch's (July 9, '80)"The Great Trollope Mystery"
  - ITEM #16. - Reprint of Chicago Sun Times(9/17/80) article, "It's Not Elementary", with Sherlockian Quiz.
- (ITEMS #14, 15 & 16 available for two(2) 15¢ stamps each)



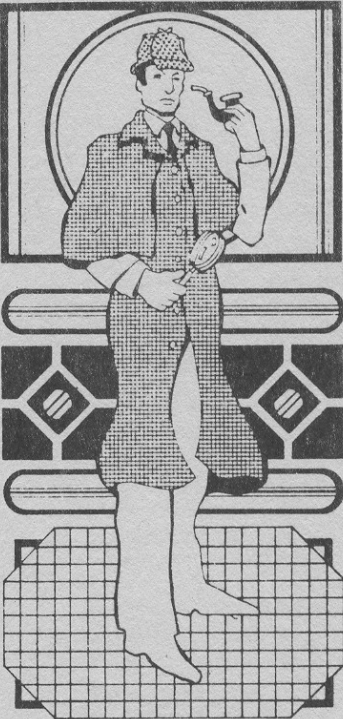
# Agony Column

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



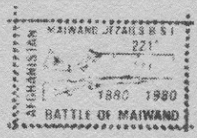
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# MYSTERY SOCIETIES Partners in crime

by Joan Stephenson Graf

TRAVEL & LEISURE/NOVEMBER 1980

**M**yystery stories have appealed to Presidents (Lincoln and Kennedy) and psychiatrists (Freud and Jung), poets (Auden and Eliot) and playwrights (Miller and Shaw)—and a generous sampling of the rest of the human race. The genre is so popular, in fact, that several bookstores dealing exclusively in mystery fiction have sprung up in the last decade, such as Murder Ink and the Mysterious Bookshop in New York, Whodunit in Philadelphia, the Scene of the Crime in California and the Moonstone in Washington, D.C.

The enthusiasm of some mystery buffs extends beyond a good read, however, and they have banded together to perpetrate societies devoted to their favorite authors and characters. Each group has a different modus operandi, ranging from scholarly pursuits to outrageous regalia.

## Sherlockian Societies

The **Baker Street Irregulars** is a loosely organized literary society devoted to the study of Sherlock Holmes. The group, which was named for the band of street urchins who provided Holmes with information about the London underworld, is the parent society of the more than 100 "scion societies" of Holmes aficionados throughout the United States.

Although there are no formal membership requirements for the Irregulars, all members have a thorough command of the Conan Doyle stories, known to Sherlockians as the Canon. They publish *The Baker Street Journal*, which has scholarly articles and other items of interest to members.

The Irregulars organize two main events each year. The Silver Blaze Handicap (named after a racehorse in one of the stories) is run at the Belmont Track in New York and is open to everyone. The annual dinner meeting (on the master's birthday in January) is an exclusively male affair with ritual toasts and traditions. Only "investitured" members who have received the Irregular Shilling for service and demonstrated interest in the society over a period of years may attend.

Since neophyte Sherlockians (particularly women) have little opportunity to penetrate this inner circle, the Irregulars refer interested people to one of the many scion societies located throughout the United States and in England, Denmark and the Netherlands. Contact Dr. Julian Wolff, Commissionaire, the Baker Street Irregulars, 33 Riverside Dr., New York, N.Y. 10023.



Only one woman is permitted to attend the annual dinner of the Irregulars—and then only to accept the traditional pre-dinner toast to Irene Adler, known to Sherlockians as the woman who succeeded in outfoxing Holmes in "A Scandal in Bohemia." In 1968, a group of women picketed the dinner and subsequently founded **The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes**, a scion society specifically for women.

The Adventuresses claim an interesting cross section of members, including a forensic pathologist, a former assistant district attorney, artists and writers. They hold two major annual affairs: the January dinner honoring Holmes' birthday (open to both sexes) and the spring dinner meeting in homage to Irene Adler (for women only). Members also produce *The Serpentine Muse*, a quarterly newsletter. To join the Adventuresses, write to Evelyn A. Herzog, 235 W. 15th St., New York, N.Y. 10011.

## More Sherlockian Scions and Others

The **Red Circle of Washington** (Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Rd. NW, Apt. 19, Washington, D.C. 20007) cosponsors a Silver Blaze Handicap at Baltimore's Pimlico Race Course. The Circle's other events include a costume evening requiring Victorian, Edwardian or Sherlockian attire.

The **Scowlers and Molly Maguires** (c/o Harroway, Vermissa Valley Lodge No. 341, Mount Eden, Calif. 94557) is the oldest coed scion in the country. It holds dinner meetings, "irregular luncheons" and occasional theater parties for Sherlockian plays or movies in the San Francisco area. The **Friends of Irene Adler** (c/o Daniel Posnansky, Box 294, Cambridge, Mass. 02138) is another coed society, which holds an annual Christmas Goose Dinner at Harvard.

The **Non-Canonical Calibashes of Los Angeles** (send self-addressed, stamped envelope to Sean Wright, 5542 Romaine St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90038) celebrates Holmes' birthday in January and sponsors such events as a Silver Blaze race at Santa Anita, a Dr. Watson Picnic and a Gasfitters Ball.

The **Brothers Three of Moriarty** (c/o John Bennett Shaw, 1917 Fort Union Dr., Santa Fe, N. Mex. 87501) is a tongue-in-cheek society whose members prefer villains to heroes and honor Holmes' archrival, Professor Moriarty. On the Thursday nearest to Halloween, they convene in the Frontier Saloon in Moriarty, New Mexico, to celebrate the professor's birthday. The Colonel Moran Trap Shoot (named after Moriarty's lieutenant) is held in the summer.

— and, don't forget — The Pleasant Places of Fla. (ed.)