



The Pleasant Places of Florida

(Suggested in The Five Orange Pips)

A Corresponding Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars

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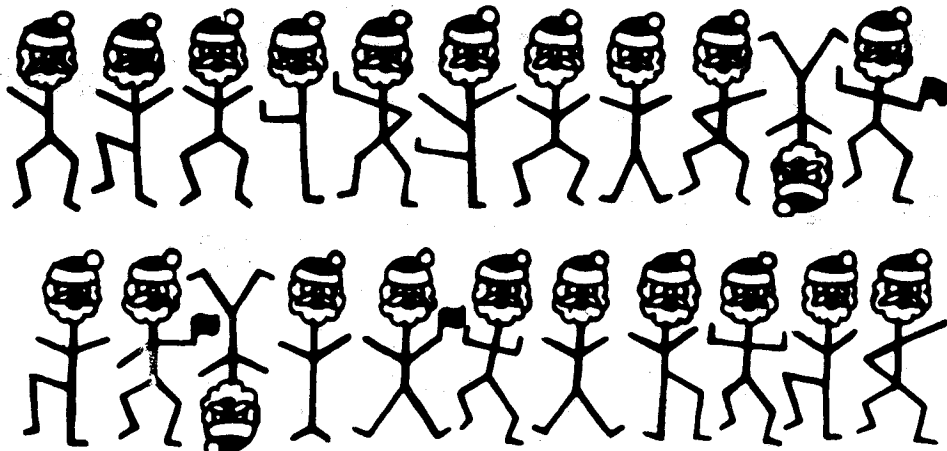
12th Night Reflections

Cheers! ... The P.P.of F. certainly "reveled" on 12th Night (Jan.6th), 1984! ... Marsha Pollak (in her 1895 garb), Bill Ward (replete with trimmed

beard, dbl-breasted suit, and TIE!), and your Recorder (disguised as "an amiable, but simple-minded non-conformist clergyman) all made the trek to the "igloo" (NYC for the BSI/ASH bash. Bill Ward's Investiture (Maj.Prendergast - FIVE) in the B.S.I. was the 'show stopper". We were all so proud of our "Red Indian". Our accommodations at the Penta "suite-ted" us to a "T". We partook of 'Mrs. Hudson's Breakfast' at the Algonquin, the Gillette Luncheon at the Homestead, and then went our segregated ways(after all,Holmes segregated the bees) to the BSI & ASH dinners according to gender. Our Mrs. 'udson (Joan Wood) came along to chaperone the whole affair. Also from the PPoff was "Pat" Herst (Col.Emsworth, V.C.). We received 'good press' (Wall St. Journal & USA Today) and were delighted to find in our hotel rooms a copy of "WHERE" (a what-to-do in the Big A) with meerschaum pipes of H & W depicted on the cover! We may be hosting the Super-Bowl - but our Super-Star is Bill Ward! This Recorder thanks all who sent on Christmas or 12th Night greetings - merci. Rec'd Vol.2 of Carey Cummings' "Biorythmic Holmes". It's available for \$9ppd.

..... We all were pleased to learn that PPoffer Sue Vail Webb performed her maternal duties without a hitch. He may be Ian to you, Sue, but he'll always be Sherlock to us! This Recorder was flattered to provide a page in the Christmas issue (Vol.3, No.2) of the "Grimpen Mire Gazette), edited by Bart Eberman of Hugo's Companions of Chicago. Cal Witt

has a whole passel of "in-trestin'"(Peter Wimsey) Holmesian items, including a "Sherlock Holmes Lives" watch. ... Paulette Green has put out a new catalog of all manner of S'ian books extant & extinct. And Otto Penzler (BSI) is selling off some of his fabulous collection of Holmesian material (he'll send you a listing if you write him at: Mysterious Bookshop, 129 W 56th St.,NYC 10019)Krieger Publishing Co. (Box 9542, Melbourne, FL 32901) asks us to bring to your attention the recently published "Medical Casebook of Dr. A.C.Doyle". G.E.Sundin of SHERLOCK'S BOOKSHOP(2620 N.Halsted St.,Chicago, Ill 60614) sent us Catalog #2 - it's a dandy! As always my thanks to: J.B.Shaw, Peter Blau, Richard Smith, Rattie Brunner, 'Pat' Herst, Tom Dunn, Bob Rapp, Bob Larson, Mike Kean, "Tyke" Niver, Jim Suszynski, Howard Lachtman, Mike Carroll, Gerald Stone, Barbara Brandes, Prof. Wm. Sarjeant, the Gunnings, Roy Bobbin, Jeanette Pyle, & Kyle Richeson for corresponding. Cheers!





Holmes
Beach



COMMUNICATION #68

JANUARY 28, 1984*

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A Corresponding Scion Society of

THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS

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The Rev'd Dr. Benton Wood, BSI - Recorder

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(* - On this day the PPoff gathered to salute Bill Ward on his recent Investiture as "Major Prendergast" in the Baker Street Irregulars.)

B-2 The Bradenton Herald, Wednesday, December 7, 1983

Deaths

James Michael Moriarty Sr.

James Michael Moriarty Sr., 69, of 552 Montego Lane South, Colony Cove, Ellenton, died Monday (Dec. 5, 1983) in Manatee Memorial Hospital.

To Sherlock Holmes: Help!

no match for Holmes

Holmes has it easy

Holmes Should Be No. 1

Is this man Holmes serious?

**Holmes' Price
Going Up Fast**

Cheerio, Watson

From Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen



This Holmesian holiday libation was discovered in Yankee Magazine. It goes well with a Sherlock Holmes birthday cake!

YANKEE • January '84

Twelfth Night Punch

- 4 cups apple cider
- 2 cups pineapple juice
- 2 cups orange juice
- 3 sticks cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon whole cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 3 tablespoons candied ginger
- 1 cup honey
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon peel

Combine the cider and juices in a large kettle. Tie the cinnamon and cloves in a cheesecloth bag and add to the mixture; stir in remaining ingredients and simmer until well seasoned. Add rum if your punch needs more . . . punch. Serve hot. Serves 10.

Agony Column



Learn the Fine Art of Spying


Do you fancy yourself as Big Brother? For a few bucks, there are aids to getting the goods on a favorite target. "How to Get Anything on Anybody," published by Auburn-Wolfe, includes chapters on reading through envelopes with the help of a special chemical, finding hard-to-get telephone numbers, beating a polygraph test and coaxing secrets out of anyone. Just send \$29.95 plus \$4 shipping to P.O. Box 623, Holmes, Pennsylvania 19043. In the electronics department, equipment is available for doing many Orwellian things. Pro Tecc Security Systems in Amherst will hook up a camera that scans a room and is monitored at another site — all for a mere \$500 to \$1,000. Can't afford it? Then Pro Tecc will install a "dummy" camera for \$200 that makes people feel as though they are being watched, even though they aren't. Interested? Just remember, though: The person you are watching may be watching you.

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DANA TRAVEL

Sarasota Herald-Tribune
Sun., Jan. 15, 1984-

Masterpiece Mystery Programme

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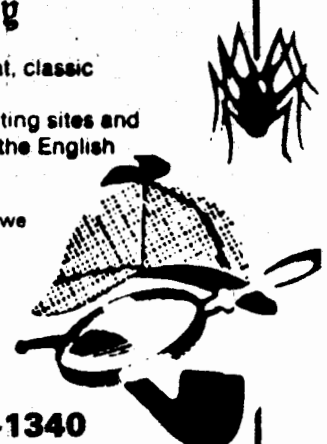
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MEANSWEAR
DEPARTMENT



To a Sherlockian, Coolness to Women Is Elementary Canon

* * *

'Baker Street Irregulars' Bar Them From Annual Event Saluting Bachelor Holmes

By LEE BERTON

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
NEW YORK—The Baker Street Irregulars, named after Sherlock Holmes's ragtag band of street-urchin helpers, will herald their 50th-anniversary banquet at the Regency Hotel here tonight with a predinner toast to "the woman."

The identity of tonight's woman hasn't been disclosed, but if custom prevails, she will be a relative of a Baker Street Irregular or of Holmes's creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Custom also dictates that immediately after the toast to her by the 180 Irregulars in attendance, she will be escorted from the hotel and sent to a nearby restaurant, where she and "the women" of former years will hold their own dinner. For the Irregulars, following what they believe to be the tenets of the ascetic detective himself, admit no women to their annual dinner.

Still a Bachelor?

Sherlockians, as Holmes aficionados call themselves, consider their hero something of a misogynist. Many assert that the fictional detective would still be a bachelor today, perceived to be the 130th anniversary of his birth.

They cite what they call the "canons," drawing on research into the works of Sir Arthur and suggest that the one woman Holmes seems to have had a deep, albeit platonic, affection for is Irene Adler, the Victorian actress who bested him in "A Scandal in Bohemia." Thus, tonight's "woman" is the Irregulars' personification of the revered Miss Adler.

The extent of Holmes's misogyny is still debated. "He was extremely chivalrous to females, helped many of them escape from villains and had a soft spot for women named Violet," says John Bennett Shaw of Santa Fe, N.M., a 70-year-old retired funeral director and oil driller who is a longtime member of the Irregulars. But he suggests that Holmes had a "mild" distaste for women in general.

Mr. Shaw, who claims his collection of 10,000 books on Holmes is the world's largest, can tell you, incidentally, that although Holmes often addressed his confidant, Dr. Watson, as "My dear Watson" and occasionally described his own ingenious deductions as "elementary," he never put them together in the fabled quote: "Elementary, my dear Watson."

Women Not to Be Trusted

Mr. Shaw observes that Holmes once told Dr. Watson that "the most winning woman I ever knew was hanged for poisoning three little children for their insurance money." Others cite a favored Holmes quote in "The Sign of Four," published in 1890: "Women are never to be trusted—not the best of them."

The Irregulars, who sometimes live in an anachronistic Victorian world as if prowling the foggy haunts of their idol, aren't about to come into the 20th century at their annual dinner.

Until the toast to "the woman" is made at a reception before tonight's dinner, her identity will be known only to her and to Julian Wolff, a retired New York physician who is commissioner, or head, of the 250 Irregulars across the U.S.

Last year's "woman," Francine Swift of Chevy Chase, Md., describes herself as a "reasonably committed feminist," and she remembers the 1983 event with apparent ambivalence. "I was never kissed by so many men in my life at one time," she says, recalling the cocktail reception that concluded with the toast.

"But after the glasses were raised, I was, for all intents and purposes, given the bum's rush," she says. "Didn't even have a chance to finish my bourbon when Dr. Wolff's wife, Eleanor, took my arm and led me to the street, where a taxi was waiting to take us to the other dinner."

Mrs. Swift was chosen because her husband, Wayne, a retired electrical engineer, is an honored Irregular. (Like other Irregulars, he has a nickname from a Holmes story. His moniker: "The Giant Rat of Sumatra.") Another past honoree was a Conan Doyle daughter-in-law, Nina.

Excluded from the Irregulars' dinners, women do have the choice of dining with the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes. Evelyn Herzog, a New York legal secretary who founded the group in 1967, when she was in college, says it now has 80 members. And she hopes the Irregulars will someday see the light. "I'm not up to rabble-rousing," she says. "I'd rather quietly try to get the Irregulars to go coed by moral suasion."

The Adventuresses will hold their own dinner tonight not far from the Irregulars' get-together. Afterward, some of the Irregulars, some Adventuresses and some of "the women" will assemble for cocktails and for getting back together, as many of the women are wives of Irregulars.

The Irregulars, in fact, have two women members, but neither attends the annual dinners. Lenore Glen Offord, a mystery writer in Berkeley, Calif., was invested as "The Old Russian Woman" (from "A Study in Scarlet"). Although she joined in 1958, her membership was kept secret until the second woman, Lisa McGaw, was invested in 1982. Miss McGaw, a free-lance editor in Chapel Hill, N.C., is dubbed "Mrs. Hudson," in reference to Holmes's kindly and maternal housekeeper.



Mrs. Offord says she promised when she joined the Irregulars 26 years ago that she would avoid the annual dinner. Anyway, she adds, "I'd feel like a woman going into a man's dressing room."

Miss McGaw was invested in recognition of her running a luncheon in New York for the past 20 years in honor of the late William Gillette, the American actor who played Holmes on the stage and radio more than 1,300 times from 1899 until 1935. The luncheon will be held today, and Miss McGaw will dine with the Adventuresses tonight. "Men must have their fun, and once women are admitted to the Irregulars' dinner, its character might change," Miss McGaw suggests.

The Irregulars tonight will toast, in addition to Irene Adler, Mary Morstan, Dr. Watson's first or second wife, depending on which Sherlockian you believe, and Mrs. Hudson, among other characters in Conan Doyle's 56 short stories and four books about Holmes. A special toast will be to "the master," as Irregulars refer to Holmes.

After investiture of new members, each of whom will receive a Victorian shilling, Irregulars will read scholarly papers on Holmes, the Victorian period and the history of their group. Some of the papers will also appear in the Irregulars' quarterly publication, the Baker Street Journal.

The Adventuresses, meantime, will do something of a takeoff on the Irregulars' fete. Last year, an Adventuress narrated a parody of Conan Doyle entitled "The Adventure of the Five Puce Map Tacks."

Will the twain ever meet at a unified dinner? Christopher Morley, the late author who founded the Irregulars, would probably turn over in his grave, but Paul Martin, a Marshall, Minn., internist who has been invited to tonight's dinner and will probably be invested as an Irregular, believes it will happen. "Over the next few years, because of the increasing scholarship of women in the canons, I expect the Irregulars' dinner will be open to them," he says. "But the ladies do have a separate but equal dinner, and we're trying to downplay the exclusion of women right now."

The last word of the Baker Street master on the general subject: "Love is an emotional thing and whatever is emotional is opposed to that true cold reason which I place above all things. I should never marry myself lest I bias my judgment."

USA TODAY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1984

COVER STORY

Sherlockians bid Holmes a happy 130th

Regency Hotel on Park Avenue for the 50th anniversary dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars, the oldest and most famous of the USA's nearly 50 Sherlock Holmes fan clubs.

Presidents Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry Truman were honorary members. Current members include Isaac Asimov, who'll give a speech tonight.

Jack Tracy, a veteran Irregular and author of *The Encyclopedia Sherlockiana*, describes the annual event as "glorious chaos," awash with toasts, verse and impromptu speeches.

Beforehand, many will have spent part of the day stalking hotel lobbies and other favorite haunts in search of fellow Sherlockians. And, says Carol Brener, owner of the Murder Ink bookstore, they should have no trouble finding one another. Many who come to her Upper West Side shop are dressed in familiar Sherlockian garb, a deerstalker cap and Inverness cape — though her all-time favorite was a Texan with a 10-gallon deerstalker.

Why the fanaticism?

It's elementary, says Dr. Julian Wolff, commissioner of the Irregulars. Holmes "represents a time when things were simple. When women were women, and men were men. When Victoria was on the throne and the Empire was right. When there was a triumph of law and order and the criminals were always caught."

The Baker Street Irregulars take their name from the band of street urchins who hung around Holmes' Baker Street lodgings and on whom Holmes often called for help. Other groups, such as the Speckled Band (Boston), the Copper Beeches (Philadelphia), the Illustrious Clients (Indianapolis), the Norwegian Explorers (Minneapolis) and the Inverness Capers (Ohio) are named for titles of or references in the four novellas and 56 short stories by Doyle that constitute what Sherlockians refer to as "the Canon."

"My greatest discovery — after the stories themselves — was finding other enthusiasts," notes Evelyn Herzog, co-founder of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, a female fan club established because the Irregulars traditionally excluded woman, in acknowledgement of Holmes' misogyny. (The Irregulars have admitted some women to their ranks, but none to their dinners.)

After their own dinner, many Adventuresses will meet with Irregulars to celebrate. "They're delightful kindred spirits," notes Herzog, "even when they are engaging in a little mild one-upmanship."

One-upmanship, a favorite Sherlockian pastime, most often takes the form of mock-erudite articles and books by Irregulars. As author Christopher Morley, the founder of the Baker Street Irregulars, once put it: "Never has so much been written by so many for so few."

A recently compiled Holmes bibliography lists 13,000 titles, which Holmes buffs claim is more than has been written about any other fictional character — though true Sherlockians are not supposed to acknowledge that Holmes was fictional.

Many Sherlockians are doctors, lawyers, professors and writers who have turned their talents to analyzing Holmes' well-known eccentricities.

A Sherlockian dentist, for instance, once extracted from the Canon every reference to Holmes' diet and concluded that the detective had pyorrhea, a gum disease, which may have caused his irritability.

And, though it is a touchy subject among Sherlockians, several have written about Holmes' celebrated cocaine habit, including Tracy, who wrote *Subcutaneously, My Dear Watson*.

But the greatest heresy was a paper in the 1940s by mystery writer Rex Stout "proving" that Holmes' companion Dr. Watson was a woman.

These fans of Baker Street are as droll as the great detective they love

By Barbara Palmer
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — John Bennett Shaw was 10 years old when he acquired his first Sherlock Holmes mystery, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Today, at 70, Shaw is widely acknowledged to have the world's finest collection of Holmes memorabilia.

"My wife thinks I'm crazy, but I've set out to collect everything there is," boasts Shaw, whose hobby now takes up a large part of his Santa Fe, N.M., home, including the freezer, where Shaw keeps a chocolate statue of the famous fictional detective created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Like dozens of other avid Sherlock Holmes fans, Shaw is in New York today to celebrate the date many believe to have been Holmes' birthday. (Today would have been his 130th.)

After an informal breakfast at the Algonquin Hotel, and a William Gillett Luncheon (named for the actor who first portrayed Holmes) at the Old Homestead in Lower Manhattan, nearly 180 "Sherlockians" will gather tonight at the

"Sherlockiana thrives on outrageous overspeculation. The tongue is placed gently in the cheek," notes Tracy, whose 1977 *Encyclopedia* was successful enough to enable him to retire from his job as a television producer in Indianapolis and start Gaslight Publications, which specializes in Doyle's works.

Sherlockian one-upmanship has also inspired outrageous antics. Many of the 60 members of the Santa Fe club, the Brothers Three of Moriarty, celebrate the birthday of Holmes' nemesis, Professor Moriarty, each Halloween by singing "Unhappy Birthday, You Bastard" as they march to the Moriarty Memorial Manure Pile they established in Moriarty, N.M. "The townspeople think we're odd, but we wanted something that couldn't be vandalized," explains Shaw.

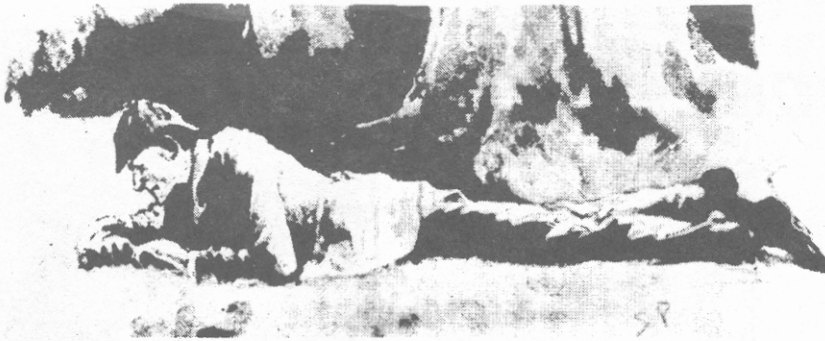
"The first time out there I was really nervous," adds Mitch Cullin, a 15-year-old member who discovered Sherlock Holmes by watching Basil Rathbone movies on television.

Thanks largely to younger members like Cullin, who has written an epic screenplay of Holmes' life, the ranks of Holmes fans appear to be growing.

"I used to think the interest would quiet down and I would have some spare time, but it doesn't," says Shaw, who conducts Holmes seminars across the USA.

"I've never met anyone who's read Sherlock Holmes and didn't get hooked on him," says Michael Senuta, an Akron, Ohio, member of the Inverness Capers. "He's physically and mentally superior to any other detective. But best of all, Holmes is human. He has faults. That's why adults stay with him."





Looking at roots in America?

In Britain Diary

Merry Christmas, Mr Holmes

IMET Sherlock Holmes's secretary recently, who tells me the world's most famous detective is still receiving regular correspondence from all over the world, even though 'he is now retired, and is living in Sussex, keeping bees'. Susan Brown, 29, who took over her duties at the beginning of this year, told me she deals with a varied postbag addressed to Sherlock Holmes: a wedding invitation from California; fan letters from a whole classroom in Seattle; an outraged report from a dedicated Canadian reader, who complains that his local library keeps filing Conan Doyle's books about the detective under fiction instead of biography; a real 'mystery' to solve from a Brussels reader; Christmas cards, of course, and around January 6, birthday cards and the occasional gift - 'Mr Holmes is 130 next month'. 'Everyone gets a letter on special stationery, a leaflet about the "immortal Sherlock Holmes", and a postcard,' explained Sue, the fourth 'secretary' to be appointed in fifteen years by the Abbey National Building Society, whose building occupies the famous address, 221B Baker Street, identified in Doyle's books as Holmes's address. When the Society took over the site in the 1930s, it automatically inherited the detective's correspondence, and finally, good-naturedly, it decided to appoint a permanent secretary from its employees. Alas, the original building was torn down for redevelopment, but its specially sand-blasted, stamped bricks are selling well at £2 each to personal callers at the new building; the money goes to charity. A Texan building developer actually bought 500 so as to put one each in the fireplaces of a new housing estate. Next in the pipeline: bottled water from the artesian well in the basement of 221B, once the source of the entire building's own water supply, Sue informed me. The detective's 'sitting room' which used to be on show in the old building, can now be seen at the Sherlock Holmes Public House, Northumberland Avenue, near Trafalgar Square, London WC2.

● Very cheeky: just a hound's sniff away from 221B, and right inside the Baker Street Underground station (past the ticket collectors) is a pub, bearing the name of Holmes's 'intellectual equal and arch enemy', Professor Moriarty. However, small, Victorian-style Moriarty's pays due homage to Holmes.

● It seems villains cash in on fame—Moriarty's Wine Bar, underneath The Mitre pub, is decorated in Victorian style with mementoes of Sherlock Holmes's perennial foe. Open every evening (reasonable snacks and a dish of the day) at Lancaster Mews, Lancaster Gate, London W2. Tel. 01-723 3610.

Holmes in a hamburg

The world's leading repository of Sherlockiana is not, as one might suppose, in London's lamplit Marylebone; it is, or shortly will be, on the Mississippi river in Minneapolis, in the library of the University of Minnesota. The library already has the Mary Kahler and Philip S. Hench Collection of Arthur Conan Doyle material, the largest Sherlockian library in an American institution. Now it has an agreement to acquire for about \$200,000 the largest known Sherlockian collection anywhere.

The collector is Mr John Bennett Shaw of Santa Fe, New Mexico, a member of the select Baker Street Irregulars named after the urchins Holmes employed as agents. Mr Shaw has lectured on his speciality to many different audiences, including the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. His hoard, which the library will inherit on his death, contains 9,000 books, including first editions and a four-volume set in English that belonged to Alexandra, the last Russian czarina. There are translations in 43 languages and versions in braille and even shorthand. Not least, along with piles of artifacts and 19,000 newspaper cuttings, there is a scale model of the Holmes rooms at 221B Baker Street.

There are 75 Sherlockian clubs in the United States, including, in Minnesota, the Norwegian Explorers, so called to commemorate the disguise Holmes assumed after apparently falling to his death by the hand of Professor Moriarty at the Reichenbach Falls. (By happy chance there are also many Norwegian-Americans in Minnesota.) The vast literature on the subject includes a theory, contributed by President Franklin Roosevelt, that Holmes was, in fact, born in America. And although there may be a good replica of the Baker Street sitting room in The Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Street near Charing Cross, there is an even better one (some say) in the Holiday Inn in Union Square in San Francisco. Are Americans laying claim to this man who has long been the essence of English urbanity, intolerance and snobbery? The matter needs investigation.



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