



The Pleasant Places of Florida

(* - Suggested in *The Five Orange Pips*)

A Corresponding Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars

(P.P. of F. logo courtesy of Sandpiper Resorts, St. Pete Beach, Fla.)

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12th Night Reflections

... On Sat., May 19th, some two dozen of the PPoff faithful gathered at HQ (HOLMES Beach) for the 9th Annual Gathering for what many said was

the best get-together ever. Al Dawson, from Chapel Hill, NC came the greatest distance, and we welcomed Sean Milks, formerly of Hugo's Companions, in Chicago, who now resides in Naples, Fla..... George & Mary Edwards have offered to host a Diogenes Club on Thursday, June 21st. You'll be getting details from them soon by post. One of the latest additions to our ever-growing Mailing List (now 375!) is Bruce HOLMES, from Quebec, Canada. We immediately made him a Non-Resident Member of the PPoff. Speaking of the "Pleasant Places of Florida" there is a move-a-foot to change our name to: The Charming Climates of Florida" in order to be more faithful to the Canon, vide FIVE. The "pleasant places" came from the fertile, somewhat eccentric mind of our dear, late founder Leslie Marshall. Some feel that our title reflects rather nicely the mysterious and often inexplicable character of our Scion. What think ye? Recently this Recorder received a copy of "Sherlock Holmes in Japan" (translated into English) by K. Tsukasa & H. Akane. It is a complete summary of publications by The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club - and they've written quite a bit. A copy may be secured for only \$5.50 (postpaid) from Opuscula Press, 1211 Capri Isles Blvd., #54, Venice, FL 33595. ... Also rec'd Catalog #3 from Sherlock's Bookshop (2520 N. Lincoln Ave. #329, Chicago, ILL 60014) - it's chock full of Holmesian goodies. ... Wanda Butts writes and says it's about time we had our own (PPoff) "Ritual". I thought it was a real pip: "WHEN WAS THE TIME? - September of Ninety-Seven; WHO WAS THE CLIENT? - John Openshaw; FROM WHENCE DID HE COME? - From Horsham and Pendergast; HOW DID HE APPEAR? - With streaming umbrella; long, shining water-proof; golden pince-nez; well-groomed; trimly clad; pale face, eyes heavy; and so on.; WHAT WERE HIS WORDS? - I have come for advice!". As always, my thanks to all who corresponded: Mike Carroll, Jim Duval, Edward Haines, Mike Kean, Howard Lachtman, Alfred Curtis, Sean Wright, Pattie Brunner, Virginia Seay, Dick Lesh, Ray deGrout, Bob Dunning, Donald Yates, Phil Brogdon, Henry Ryan, "Pat" Herst, Caroline Everett, Gary Heiselberg, Elliott Black & Marguerite Wolfsburg. Thanks for the plethora of items which I paste up to put this irregular newsletter

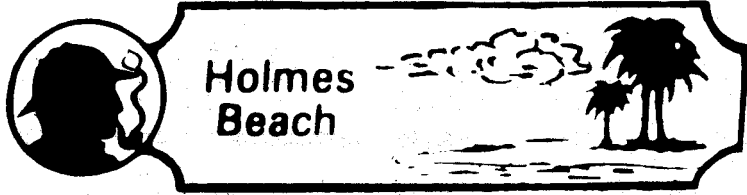


together. I couldn't do it without ya!. Tours, Sherlockian or just otherwise mysterious, seem to be the "in thing" this summer.

In past Communications we've mentioned several. I just got wind of "The Prime Crime Tour" to England. Interested? Contact Judy Peterson, 828 SW 1st Ave., Portland, OREGON 97204. It's on for Aug.30-Sept.17. .. MAGICO MAGAZINE (Box 156, NYC 10002-0156) has a large list of S'ian items...If you haven't sent us your \$2.21 for '84, would appreciate your doing so....

ALL TRACKS LEAD TO THE EDWARDS' (916 58th AVE. S. ST. PETE) THURS., JUNE 21ST. You'll RECEIVE DETAILS (TIME, ETC). BY MAIL SHORTLY.





Communication #70

JUNE 4, 1984*

Published Irregularly by the
Pleasant Places of Florida

A Corresponding Scion Society of

THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS

Please direct correspondence to:

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

"Lubricant for the Wheels" - \$2.21 per annum.

Current Circulation - 375

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(*- On this very day in 18 and 88 Sir Charles Baskerville died mysteriously in the yew alley of Baskerville Hall, Grimpen, Dartmoore, Devon.)

Philatelic Philandering

.... or "Stamping Around with Sherlock Holmes"

.. a most interesting philatelic article recently appeared in Linn's Stamp News. We have reprinted it on Page 4. The BAKER STREET EMPORIUM is offering several Sherlockian philatelic items, including the new Turks/Caicos issue. Send a SASE to the Pleasant Places of Florida, 4408 Gulf Drive, HOLMES Beach, FL 33510 for the latest price list. You'll receive it post-haste.



From Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen



BACON and EGG PIE

This popular English dish was a favourite of Mycroft Holmes.

- Pastry for 2-crust 9" pie, unbaked.
- 6 rashers of bacon, partly cooked.
- 3 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 6 eggs Salt & pepper to taste
- 1 egg beaten with 2 tablespoons water

Line 9-inch pie with pastry. Arrange bacon on bottom; sprinkle with parsley. Break eggs on top, keeping yolks whole. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cover with top crust, cutting an air hole in top. Brush with egg & water mixture. Bake in a pre-heated hot oven (450° F.) for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to moderate (350°) and bake until crust is nicely browned. Serve hot or cold. When cold, it makes an excellent picnic dish. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Moriarty Re-Elected Council Head

The Horrible Hound

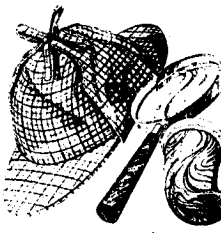


Holmes rakes it in

Watson Still Perplexed By Women's Sexuality

San Francisco Chronicle

Monday, May 7, 1984



Agony Column

Readers are requested to send in items for this Column. Thank you.

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We had them mounted with creamy white weischaum bowls that break in like a dream; and are removable for easy cleaning.

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CONGRATULATIONS
 from the SHERLOCKIAN SCION
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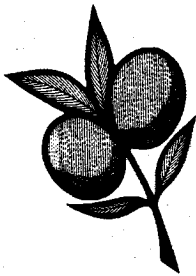
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H. Sherlock Holmes Etched Pipe Case
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Once again Sherlock Holmes comes to TV

By GREGORY JENSEN
United Press International

LONDON — Sir Arthur Conan Doyle might cringe at the news, but television is launching upon the world another reincarnation of fiction's most immortal detective.

"I fear that Mr. Sherlock Holmes," Doyle wrote in 1927 about his creation, "may become like one of those popular tenors who, having outlived their time, are still tempted to make repeated farewell bows to their indulgent audiences."

"This must cease."

Not a chance.

Thirteen new television *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* make another addition to a list of Holmes versions on radio, television, movies and stage which, says one authority, "fills 71 pages of an average-sized book." Jeremy Brett, the latest to don a deerstalker and puff a curved pipe, claims that "I'm the 117th person to play Holmes."

Even so, American television already has snapped up the new British series for showing on Public Broadcasting System's *Mystery*, tentatively scheduled for 1985, and world-wide sales are probable. British viewers are seeing now what makes this Holmes different.

The answer is lushness, lavishness and fidelity.

COSTUMES AND settings are sumptuous and painstaking. To make sure, Producer Michael Cox's Granada TV company built a full block of Baker Street of the 1890s — three-story buildings, horse-drawn hackneys, gas lamps by the firm that still supplies them to Buckingham Palace's kitchens. Close looks show discreet piles of horse manure littering the cobbled, rain-pelted street.

Each of the 13 stories enlists star-name guests — Gayle Hunnicutt as the beautiful Irene in *A Scandal in Bohemia*, American actress Betsy Brantley as the tragic Elsie in *The Dancing Men*.

Above all, the new Holmes is wholly faithful to the stories Doyle actually wrote.

"Are you sticking to the book?" That's what everyone wants to know," Brett said in an interview. "And we are, we are."

"We are avoiding the cliches, and what has been added through the years by both writers and actors," Cox said. Thus Brett's Sherlock rarely wears a deerstalker and smokes a stubby clay pipe more often than the cliché briar.

"The most evident change," Cox said, "is in the portrayal of Dr. Watson."

Doyle himself described Watson merely as "unostentatious," but in succeeding versions, Cox said, he "has become the comic relief, a blimpish English clown puffing through his moustache and saying things like 'Good gracious, Holmes.'"

DAVID BURKE'S new Watson is anything but a buffoon. Burke underplays him as Sherlock's sheet anchor, quiet and intelligently reserved.



UPI

Jeremy Brett (left) is the latest reincarnation of fiction's most immortal detective and David Burke plays Dr. Watson in *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.

Only seven of the 13 Holmes stories have been filmed so far. The other six won't be seen in Britain until 1985. But from *The Solitary Cyclist* to *The Final Problem*, they should satisfy even the amazing number of people who believe Sherlock Holmes to be an actual, living genius.

Sue Brown is proof of how widespread those people are. She is Sherlock's secretary, answering 20 letters a week on average, "80 percent of them from the United States," written to Holmes at 221b Baker Street.

"They ask anything and everything," Mrs. Brown, 29, said in an interview. "Can Mr. Holmes help with missing pets, or stolen money, or missing persons? There were quite a lot of requests for his help during the Watergate business."

"But mostly they ask incredibly detailed questions about the books. What kind of pipe did he smoke, where his hats were made — tiny detailed questions."

Mrs. Brown has become a Holmes expert since she was appointed "secretary to Sherlock Holmes" by the Abbey National Building Society, occupant of that stretch of Baker Street which includes the mythic 221b.

"We try to keep the legend going," she said. "We answer every letter, and say that since Mr. Holmes is now 130 and retired to Sussex to keep bees, he regrettably cannot help with this particular problem."

Mrs. Brown's employer recently stamped "221b" on bricks rescued from a rebuilding program and sells them for charity for \$3.50 each. "We've sold about 3,000 so far," Mrs. Brown said, 500 of them to a Texas builder who put one in the fireplace of each house he built.



Elementary, My Dear Madelyn

It was all so *mysterious!* When Madelyn Cain (above) began playing Irene Adler on CBS's *Whiz Kids*, some rather curious misses arrived. "Finally, you've been discovered," said one. "Now we know where you are," said another. Says Cain: "I knew some fans are a little strange, but . . ."

Finally, a less enigmatic letter revealed all: "Irene Adler" was a character in the Sherlock Holmes story "A Scandal in Bohemia," and some Holmesian scholars believe she was the only woman the great detective ever loved. Cain says even the production office "had no idea of the connection."

TV GUIDE MARCH 17, 1984



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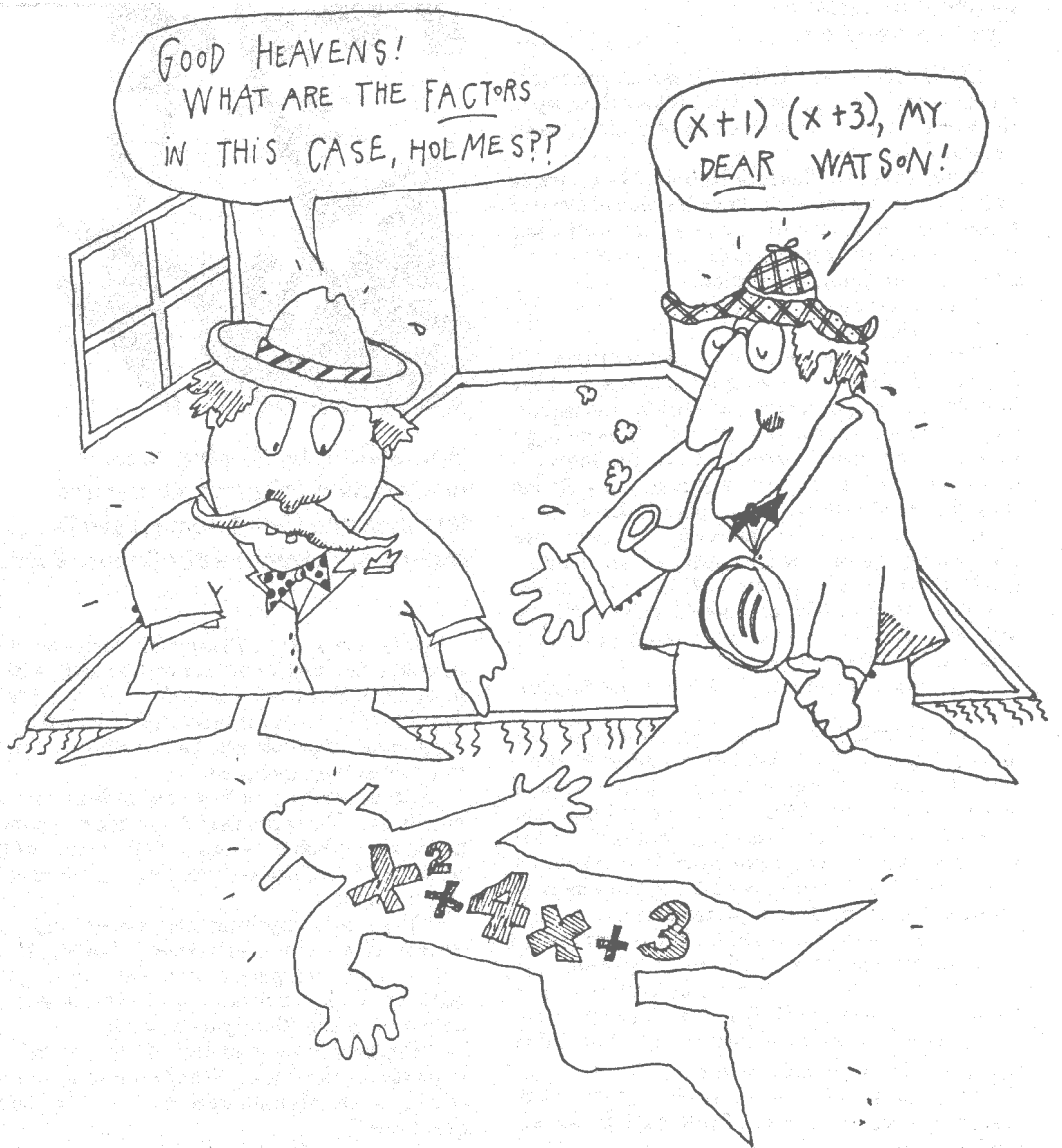
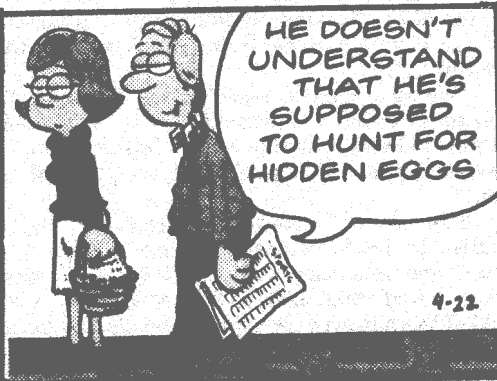
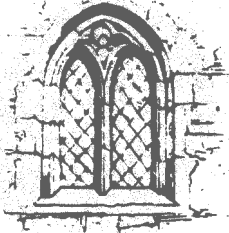
THE OXFORD WORLD OF MYSTERY
Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie

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Phantoms honor detective Sherlock Holmes

LINN'S STAMP NEWS MAY 14, 1984

Sherlock Holmes to my knowledge, has been honored philatelically only three times. His likeness appears on stamps from Nicaragua, San Marino, and the Comoro Islands.

After the stories of this famous detective written by Ar-

Cinderella Scene

By Jim Czyl

thur Conan Doyle first appeared in July 1891 in the British magazine *The Strand*, readers waited outside the magazine's offices to get each new episode just to find out what adventure Sherlock Holmes would be involved in next.

His popularity has not diminished. Today, there are fan clubs all over the world patterning their names from groups and societies mentioned in the stories. The most familiar of these is the Baker Street Irregulars.

With the immense interest in this famous fictional detective, it is really surprising that there is such a sparsity of cinderella related Sherlock Holmes stamps. Two different phantom issues are known to me.

The first was produced approximately 25 years ago by Julian Wolff. A stamp from the "Republic of Bohemia" was included with a greeting card he sent to friends and fellow Sherlockians.

The card was designed to resemble a philatelic publication entitled *United Nations Philatelic Chronicle* dated April 1, 1997.

The lead article in this simulated publication was a "A Ramble in Bohemia," which recounts all the known facts about the stamp.

The first paragraph reads, "After a series of successful revolutions that freed the iron curtain satellites, the new gov-



This cinderella stamp from the "Republic of Bohemia" commemorates Sherlock Holmes' services to the great House of Ormstein. These services are detailed in *The Scandal in Bohemia*.

ernments issued numerous commemorative stamps; too many, according to conservative philatelists.

"None of these aroused as much interest as the Sherlock Holmes stamp issued by the Republic of Bohemia in 1988."

The stamp features a silhouette of Holmes and a heraldic lion. The value is 2½ (?), and from statements contained in the story, this value indicated it was for use on foreign mail.

"Bohemia" appears at the bottom of the stamp, and the inscription "1888 Sherlock Holmes 1988" is shown next to the heraldic lion.

Also included in the design, adjacent to the value, is a bee. This bee was meant to act as a symbol of Holmes' retirement.

The stamp was issued to commemorate the centennial of the important services rendered by Sherlock Holmes to the great House of Ormstein.

The services he provided can be found in the adventure titled *The Scandal in Bohemia*.

The original cards and stamps have long since been absorbed into collections of Sherlock Holmes memorabilia, and these cards and stamps have been reprinted.

The stamp is now called a reprinted proof. Its color is black and it was released imperforate. These reprints were produced by Magico Magazine of New York, and are used as premiums when purchasing their publications.

The second item was issued by the Maiwand Jezails, scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, located in Grand Island, Neb.

This society's contribution to the cinderella world was a sheet of four labels which have the appearance of being stamps from Afghanistan.

The sheet commemorated the centenary of the Battle of Maiwand, in which Dr. Watson was wounded by a bullet from a Jezail rifle.

One could say that this bullet was the major factor that brought Holmes and Watson together, "and hence to the world." The facts of this adventure are recounted in *A Study in Scarlet*.

The design of the label features an Afghan Jezail rifle above a Martini-Henry British rifle over the dates 1880-1980.

Inscriptions around three sides of the label read "AFGHANISTAN/MAIWAND JEZAILS B.S.I./BATTLE OF MAIWAND."

What can be construed as a value — "221B" — is located above the barrel of the Afghan rifle.

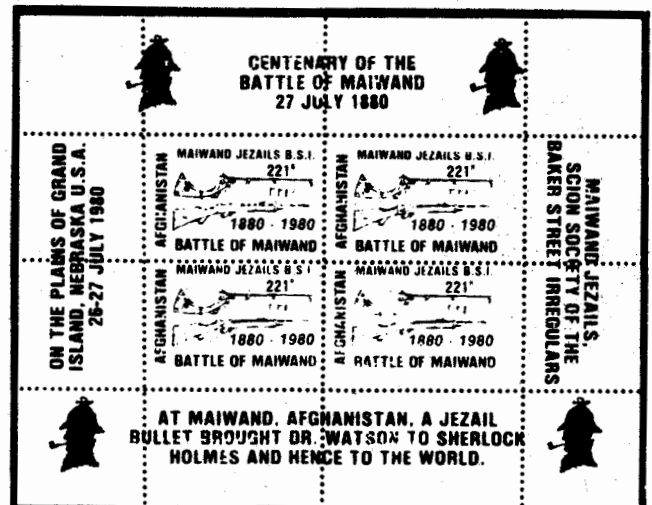
The sheets are printed in blue and can be found perforated 12 and imperforate. The sheet also has descriptive marginal inscriptions at the top, bottom and sides, as well as silhouettes of Sherlock Holmes.

A few other Sherlockian cinderella items are known, but these are modern local stamps issued by various posts in the United States and not phantom stamps.

The local posts which have issued stamps in honor of Sherlock Holmes are: Fabain's Phantom Post, Fireside Local Post, and Mystery Local Post.

The Local Post Collectors Society exists for collectors interested in modern U.S. local post stamps.

For information about the society, send a stamped addressed envelope to LPCS, c/o John Howell, Box 669, Littlerock, Calif. 93543. ■



This souvenir sheet of four stamps marks the Battle of Maiwand, where Dr. Watson was wounded by a bullet from a Jezail rifle. This bullet wound was the major factor that brought Watson and Sherlock Holmes together.