

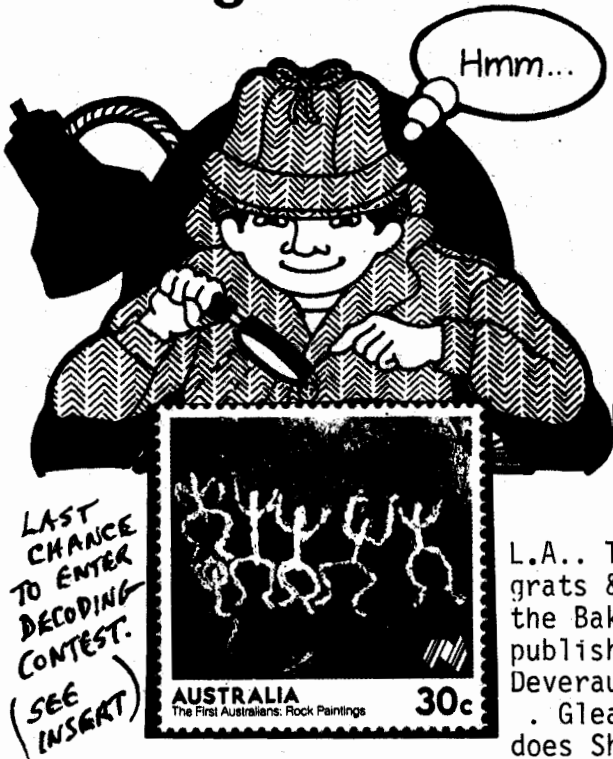


The Pleasant Places of Florida

(Suggested in The Five Orange Pips)

A Corresponding Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars

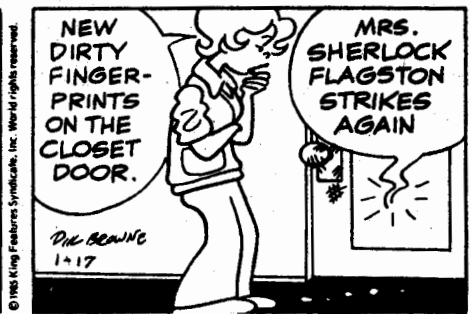
12th Night Reflections



The 10th Annual Gathering at HQ (HOLMES Beach) was a corking good affair. Some 46 of the PPoff faithful signed up for our anniversary event. Dee Snyder, of the Mini-Tonga Society, gave a fine slide/talk on S'ian miniatures. Herman "Pat" Herst shared his fabulous pastiche, "Dirty Pool" from his book, "Stories to Collect Stamps By". All in all it was a most successful gathering..... A Fall Gathering is planned at Mike Carroll's in St.Pete.Details will be forthcoming in due course. From Sean Milks we received "Five Pound Notes" an excellent publication of "The Worthingdon Bank Gang" Write to Sean at 824 98th Ave. N.,Naples, FL 33963. It is \$5 per annum - and darn well worth it!.. Rec'd from Arthur Axelrad "The Dark Lantern" a well done chapbook of the proceedings of The Center for Sherlock Holmes Studies at Cal.State Univ.,Long Beach...Also rec'd Vol.10,No.2 of "The Sherlockian Meddler", the fine publication of the Non-Canonical Calabashes of L.A.. Thanks for the kind mention of the PPoff. ...Our congrats & best wishes to Phil Schreffler, the new Editor of the Baker Street Journal. ...The Speckled Band of Boston has published "The 4th Cab" & "The Best of Cabs". \$7.50@ from J. Deveraux deGozzaldi

Gleaned from the 1985 Farmer's Almanac: Query - "What does Sherlock Mouse do for a living?". Ans:- "He solves Mousereries!" (Squeak! Sort of cheesy, I'd say.)... "Pat" Herst. shared this interesting bit of Holmesian Florida history with us: "HOLMES County... established in 1848. Named for Holmes Creek, the eastern boundary of the county. The creek was named for Holmes Valley, which received its name 'either from an Indian chieftan who have been given the English name of Holmes or else from one Thomas J. Holmes. A raiding party, led by Andrew Jackson, came upon and killed the half-breed Indian known as Holmes. Holmes was one of the so-called 'Red Sticks,' the disaffected Muskogee or Creeks who fled to Florida from Alabama after the Creek War of 1813-14."....If you would like a copy of the Souvenir Program of the Spring Gathering, just send a 22¢ stamp. Offer good while supply lasts.

HI & LOIS



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DR. BEAUNE
1-17



Holmes Beach



COMMUNICATION #75.

April 25, 1985*

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.

+ + + + +
(* - On this day in 1891, Holmes is off to Geneva disguised as a "decrepit Italian" priest.)
FINA

Philatelic Philandering

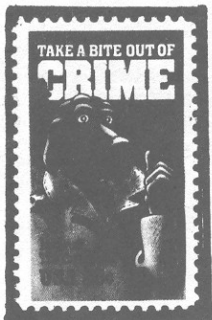
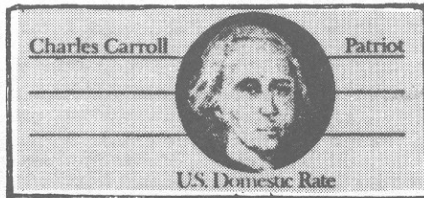
.... or "Stamping Around" with SHERLOCK HOLMES.



The PPoFF recently hit the philatelic scene with a postal card honoring our Charles "Mike" Carroll. Great Britain has released a new issue commemorating Holmes' retirement depicting a Buff Tailed Bumble Bee. A bit ago, McGruff, the Crime Dog (and not very Baskervillian, I must say) is shown taking "a bite out of crime". Do send on to this Recorder any interesting Holmesian philatelic you may happen upon.



SCOTT NO. 1098 Buff Tailed Bumble Bee



From Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen



PAN HAGGERTY

As a bit of a change, Mrs. 'Udson would serve this potato recipe from Northumberland. The name is derived from the Anglo-Saxon "haecan" which means to chop into pieces. Serve with baked ham or cold chicken.

- 3 tablespoons bacon fat or cooking oil
- 4 medium-sized potatoes, peeled & sliced thin
- 2 medium-sized onions, finely chopped
- 1 cup grated Cheddar cheese Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

Melt the fat over low heat in a heavy frying pan and make sure that it covers the entire surface of the pan. Fill the pan with alternate layers of potatoes, onions and cheese, beginning and ending with a layer of potatoes. Season each layer with a little salt & pepper.

Fry gently for about 30 minutes, then broil for 5 to 10 minutes until the top is browned.

Serve straight from the pan. Serves 4-6.

Holmes shows exuberance Holmes Proves His Worth

Agony Column

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

BAKER STREET Emporium

ANASTAS
ONYS FINAL

DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER

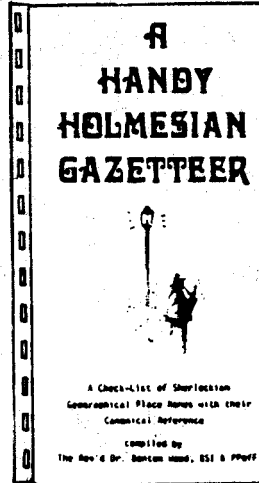
**** 30c

Wednesday, August 24, 1983

Sunny High 80-85. Details page B1

Nab private eye

CHARGE HE FAKED HIS OWN DEATH



Offering # 14.

All items sent POSTPAID.

ITEM A - "A Handy Holmesian Gazetteer". A dandy check-list of Sherlockian place names with Canonical reference. Soon to be a 'collector's item'-only a few copies left...\$5.00

ITEM B - "The Adv. of the Boxing Day Murder". Pastiche by Ppoffer Courtney Andersen. Special --\$1.00

ITEM C - Parks, Sherlock Encyclopedia, Avenal Books edition. New....\$5.00

ITEM D - San Marino set (5) of Detective stamps, incl. Homes. MNH. \$6.50

Order from: **Pleasant Places of Florida**

4408 Gulf Drive
HOLMES Beach, Florida 33510

Sherlock Holmes: My Life and Crimes.

Michael Hardwick. Doubleday. \$16.

In his third original addition to the Holmes saga, Michael Hardwick does what Sherlock's creator, Arthur Conan Doyle, dared do only twice. He lets Sherlock speak for himself — for 208 pages. Doyle's "Adventure of the Blanched Soldier" and "Adventure of the Lion's Mane" were so stilted and boring, the author forevermore let the faithful Watson chronicle the tales. Hardwick, an expert of Sherlockiana who knows better, forged ahead with what is not a totally unsuccessful book, provided you're a candidate for the Baker Street Irregulars.

"Crimes" is not so much boring as it is esoteric. One cannot think of an initiate picking up the book and having the slightest inclination to plow through 50 pages before Holmes' defensive ramblings get him into the story. Holmes begins with apologies for everything from Watson's misperception of his attitudes toward women to how he came to err in "The Speckled Band" when he had an adder hear a whistle blow and slither to its cage for a plate of milk.

Then comes the real story: Hardwick has Mycroft Holmes, Sherlock's misanthropic brother, bring the evil genius Morarity and the champion of justice, Sherlock, together for service to Her Majesty's government. With war games afoot in Europe, only Morarity, with his brilliant mathematical mind, can comprehend new theories in electrodynamics, and only Sherlock can thwart Germany's master spies. Be prepared to read new explanations on Morarity's Binomial Theorem and Dynamics of an Asteroid and get used to Sherlock in a perpetual snit.

Authenticity is elementary in Holmes series

By Marilyn Preston

TV critic

Who said you can't go Holmes again? You can if you do it right, and some loyal Conan Doyle fans have gone out of their way to make "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" the most nearly authentic Sherlock Holmes made for the screen, big or little. The seven one-hour puzzles start on the "Mystery!" series at 9 p.m. Thursday on WTTW-Ch. 11.

"It was my idea; I take the blame," says producer Michael Cox, head of drama at Britain's Granada TV, where the series was created. "I've been a fan of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Holmes stories since I was a schoolboy, and it struck me that there hasn't been a respectable version done for a good 20 years."

By respectable Cox means free of cliché, distortion and phony Hollywood razzmatazz that haunts the Holmes legend still.

"What is frequently seen," he says, "is the 1940s movie version, starring Basil Rathbone as Holmes and Nigel Bruce as Dr. Watson. Well, it was enjoyable then, and it's enjoyable now. But it's not particularly accurate."

What is inaccurate, says Cox, or at least misleading, is the popular image we have of Holmes going around London in his deerstalker, puffing on a large, curved pipe and turning to his blumbling compatriot now and again to say, "Elementary, my dear Watson."

Wrong, wrong, wrong. For starters, the deerstalker was only worn by Holmes on country adventures, never in the city. Second, he did smoke pipes, but not of the curved, meerschaum persuasion. Third, contrary to the way Hollywood made it seem, Dr. Watson was not a buffoon but a sensible, down-to-earth colleague. And while Holmes did say "Elementary" and "My dear Watson," according to Doyle, he did not string the two together.

In the TV version, says Cox, who co-developed the original material with John ["Upstairs, Downstairs"] Hawkesworth, they do have a scene in which Dr. Watson says, "Elementary, my dear Holmes," but that was only done as a little joke.

"It seems to me these two characters were entirely dependent on one another," says Cox, who helped compile a 68-page "Baker Street" reference book on Holmes, Watson and their food, clothes, attitudes and personal habits.

"Holmes is a dark, neurotic, lonely, obsessed man only interested in the analysis of certain crimes... the kind of mental character who would have driven himself mad if he didn't have a sensible fellow on the side to keep his feet on the ground, to get him to eat, to remind him to



Jeremy Brett (left) stars as Holmes and David Burke is Dr. Watson in "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," debuting Thursday at 9 p.m. on WTTW-Ch. 11's "Mystery" series.

dress properly, to wean him off his addiction to cocaine.

"And Watson is just a sensible, ordinary doctor... who would have died of boredom if it hadn't been for Holmes."

The two are brought to life in "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" by Jeremy Brett [Holmes] and David Burke [Watson]. Both are marvelous, especially Brett, who, after inhabiting his character for 15 months of filming, describes Holmes as "the most complex, isolated creature—a complete eccentric, a very private man, a very lonely man."

For all those reasons and a few more, the Holmes character has survived nearly 100 years [first publication was in 1897], on stage, on film, on television—and surely will last 100 more. But why does he survive? What does he represent in the culture that keeps on needing to be represented? That's the mystery.

"That's the most difficult question you can ask," says Cox, on the phone from his office in Manchester, England. "I think the appeal is the power of his mind. Beyond that, he has a great sense of honor and natural justice."

Holmes is not there to do the job of the police, Cox says. He steps in to "find solutions to problems, and if he saves someone from disaster and a guilty man goes free," that's okay with him.

"Holmes is interested in the preservation of order," Cox says. "He's a kind of

knight errant, a throwback to the Knights of the Round Table."

He's also a devoted cocaine user, as you'll see in the first episode. "A Scandal in Bohemia," a delightful misadventure in which Holmes actually is bested by a beautiful woman named Irena Adler [Gayle Hunnicutt].

"How can you risk such damage?" says the good doctor, needling his friend about his unfortunate addiction.

"I can't tell you how it [cocaine] clarifies and stimulates the mind," Holmes tells Watson, voicing an opinion that is safe on PBS but never would make it past the network censors these days. "My mind rebels at stagnation!"

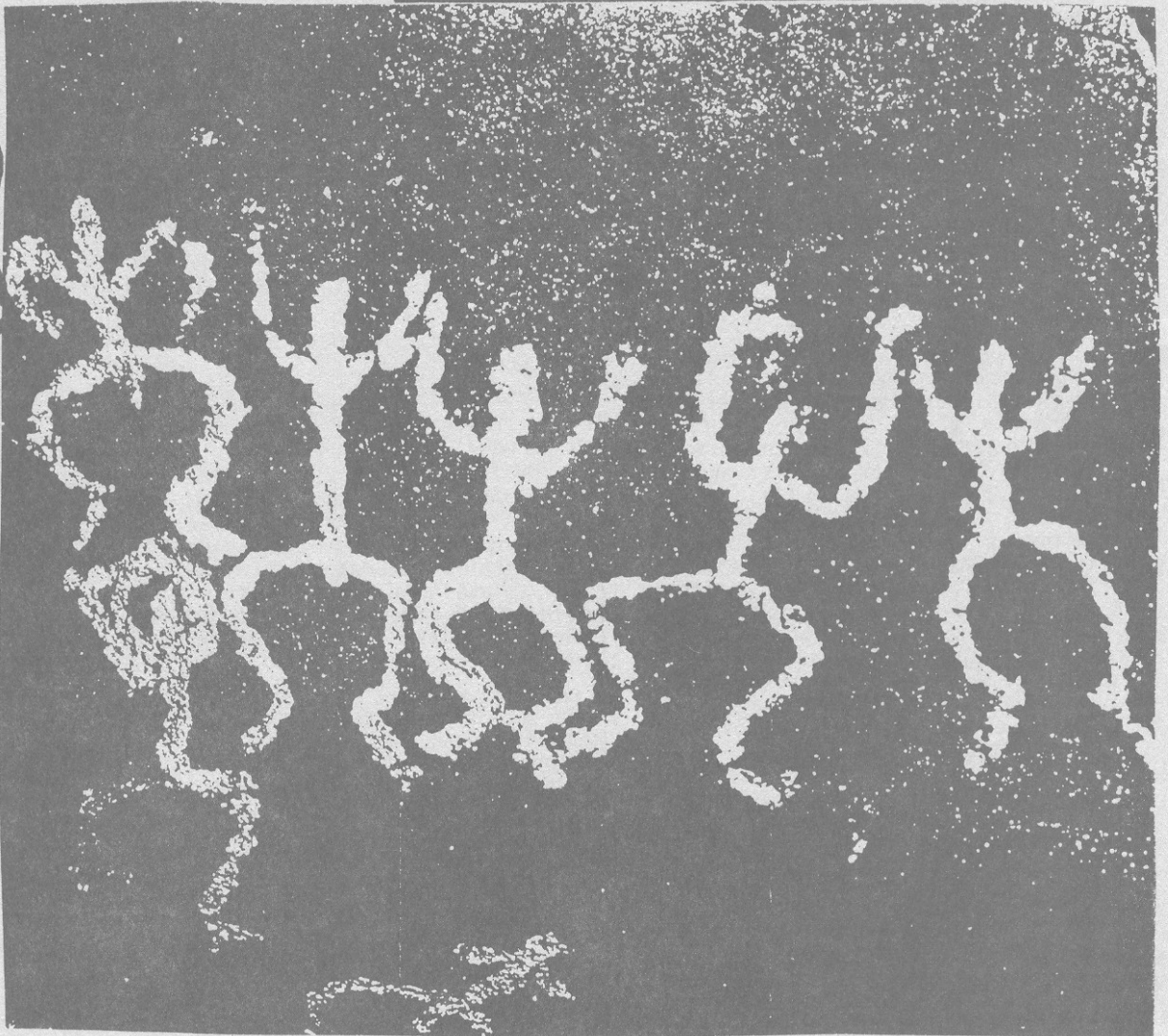
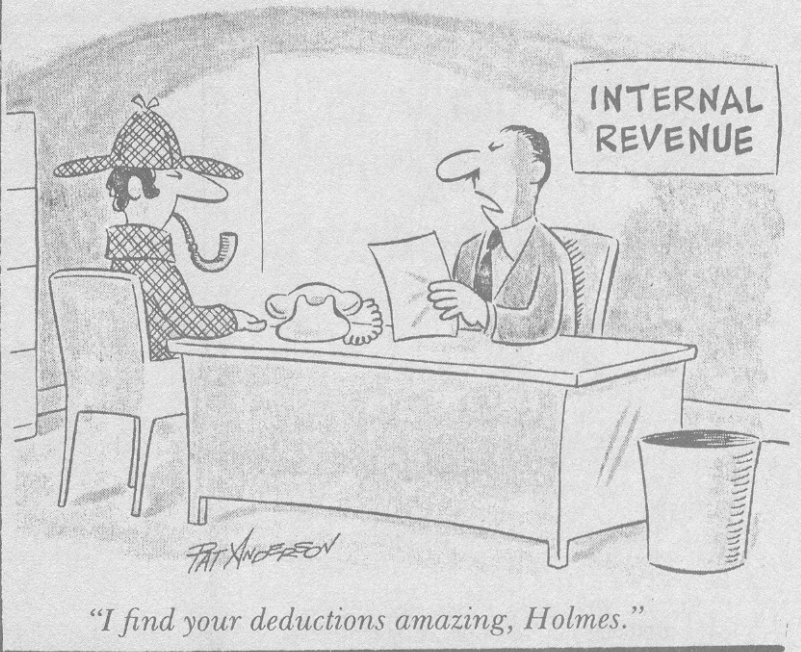
Holmes' mind is put to good use in the three episodes I have seen, and so will yours if you care to play along with the clues, innuendo, blind alleys and brilliant logic. Indeed, it's the richness of his methods, Holmes' powers of induction and deduction, that Cox really wanted to capture in the 13 episodes he helped produce. [We can expect the rest on PBS next year].

"In the 'Blue Carbuncle,' for instance," says Cox [referring to the seventh episode in the series], "Holmes is given a Christmas goose with a precious stone lodged in its mouth and a hat, and from the hat he is able to deduce the entire personality of the man who wore it, including details about his wife and his financial debts."

I can hardly wait.

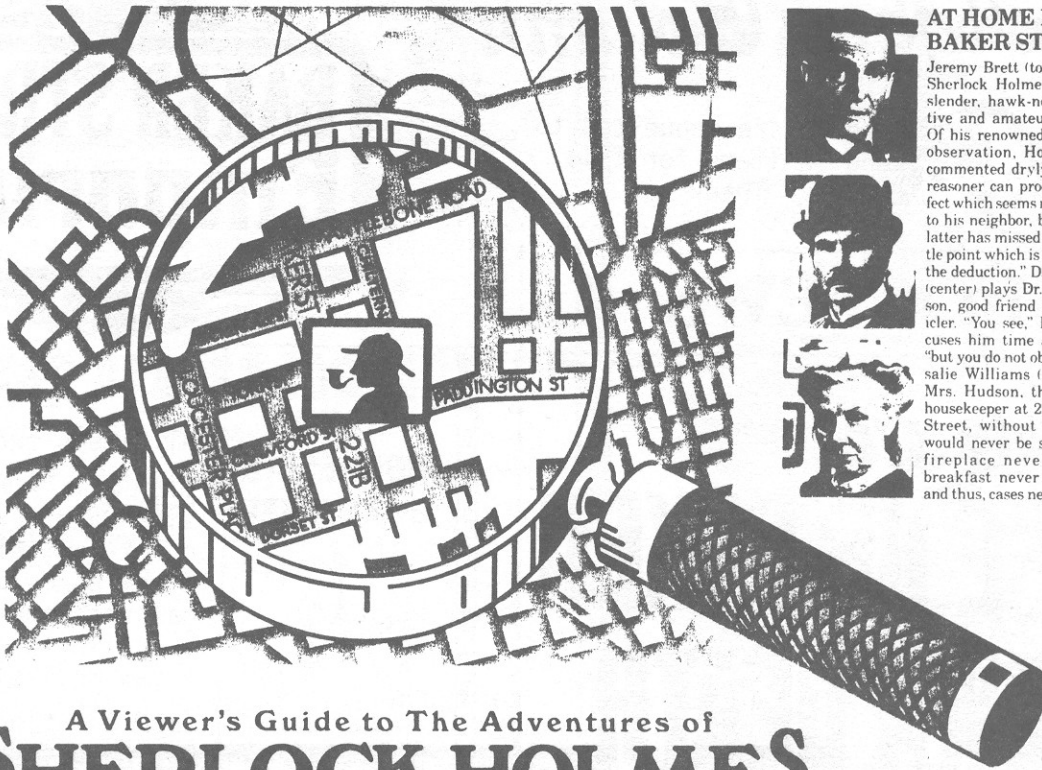
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Hmmmmmm!!
Unusual!
Very unusual...



**LAST CHANCE
TO ENTER CONTEST!**

WIN A PRIZE! Decode the "Dancing Men" message which appeared on a recent Australian stamp. So far this Recorder has received only one answer. Are going to let Dick Lesh win unchallenged? Contest entries must be received by MAY 20th.



AT HOME IN BAKER STREET

Jeremy Brett (top) portrays Sherlock Holmes, the tall, slender, hawk-nosed detective and amateur violinist. Of his renowned powers of observation, Holmes once commented dryly that "the reasoner can produce an effect which seems remarkable to his neighbor, because the latter has missed the one little point which is the basis of the deduction." David Burke (center) plays Dr. John Watson, good friend and chronicler. "You see," Holmes accuses him time and again, "but you do not observe." Rosalie Williams (bottom) is Mrs. Hudson, the faithful housekeeper at 221B Baker Street, without whom tea would never be served, the fireplace never tended, breakfast never cleared—and thus, cases never solved!

A Viewer's Guide to The Adventures of
SHERLOCK HOLMES

"It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts."

—"A Scandal in Bohemia"



ONE A Scandal in Bohemia

To Sherlock Holmes, Irene Adler is always *the* woman. She stole the heart of the King of Bohemia—and now she threatens to blackmail him. Will she?



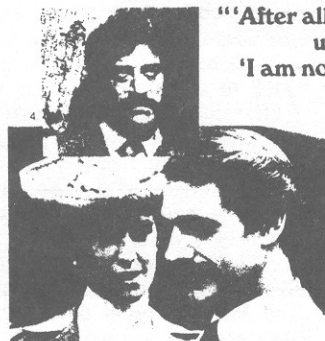
TWO The Speckled Band

"Don't you dare to meddle with my affairs," says the treacherous Dr. Grimesby Roylott of Stoke Moran. His step-daughter fears for her safety.



THREE The Dancing Men

Are they a child's drawings? Or do they bear a darker message? The frightened Elsie Cubitt thinks they do. Her husband is desperate to decode their meaning.



FOUR The Naval Treaty

Percy Phelps is distraught over the theft of a secret treaty; its loss could ruin his career. His fiancée and her brother want to help—or do they?



FIVE The Solitary Cyclist

Miss Violet Smith's happiness is disturbed—first by a visit from Woodley, the odious companion of her employer, and then by the mysterious man who follows her as she cycles through the countryside. Can Holmes prevent further unhappiness?



"Holmes chuckled and rubbed his hands. 'This case certainly presents some features of its own.'"

—"The Solitary Cyclist"



"After all, Watson," said Holmes, reaching up his hand for his clay pipe, 'I am not retained by the police to supply their deficiencies.'"

—"The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"



SIX The Crooked Man

A man is found dead and his wife is suspected of murder. Who is the strange crooked man who holds the key to the mystery? And what of the unusual footprints Holmes discovers outside the French windows?



SEVEN The Blue Carbuncle

A priceless jewel has been stolen from the Christmas goose in which it was hidden. Who's the culprit? And whose goose is cooked?

1 Wolf Kahler and Gayle Hunnicutt as the King of Bohemia and Irene Adler 2 Jeremy Kemp as Dr. Grimesby Roylott and 3 Rosalyn Landor as Helen Stoner 3 Betsy Brantley and Tenniel Evans as Elsie and Hilton Cubitt 4 Gareth Thomas (top) as Joseph Harrison, and Alison Skilbeck and David Gwillim as Annie Harrison and Percy Phelps 5 Michael Siberry as Woodley and Barbara Wilshere as Violet Smith 6 Lisa Danely as Nancy Barclay 7 Frank Middlemass as Henry Baker and Frank Mills as Peterson