



# The Pleasant Places of Florida

[Suggested in The Five Orange Pips]

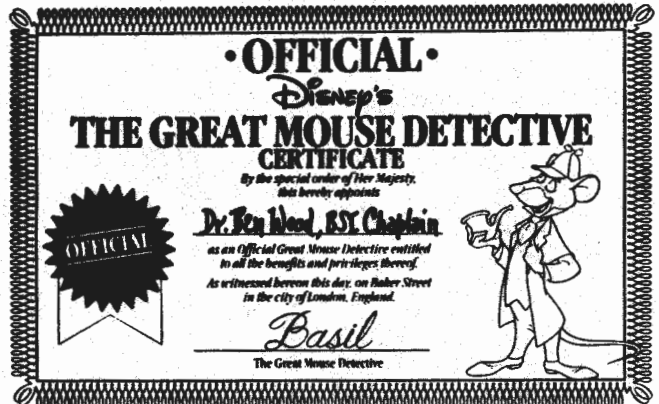
A Corresponding Scion Society of The Baker Steet Irregulars

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## 12th Night Reflections

.... The 11th Annual Spring Gathering at HOLMES Beach was graet success. The highlight of the program was the performance by Dow & Dow, complete with sound effects and scenery! New PPOffer Milt Halpert displayed some of his ingenious S'ian origami... Our newest non-Resident member is SHERLOCK S. HOLMES, Esq., of San Francisco!. Phil Sherman informs this Recorder of "The Game's Afoot" - a Weekend with S.H., Nov. 8-9 in Baltimore. Details from Phil [1 N. Charles St. #1212, Baltimore 21201].

..... Astounding! The PPOFF is SOLD OUT of its 2 recent chapbooks, "Dirty Pool" & "Wolf's Head Stick". First time, and so fast!.... While watching the 4th of July/Statue of Liberty festivities, lo & behold who should appear on the TV screen, but Capt. J. Moriarty, skipper of the carrier, JFK. That rascal shows up everywhere!... Lucy Green reports that Buccaneer Books (Box 168, Cutchogue, NY, 11935) has reprinted Rathbone's "In and Out of Character"... As always my thanks



### TV SAMPLER

July 6-12, 1986  
Sarasota Herald-Tribune

Sherlock Holmes, the master of deduction, will be kept very busy on "Mystery!" starting in February, when he has seven cases to solve. Each one-hour, self-contained mystery will star Jeremy Brett in the title role and Edward Hardwicke as Dr. Watson. This a change from last season, when David Burke had the Watson role. Otherwise, the series picks up where the final "Mystery!" episode ended last year with Holmes reappearing after supposedly having fallen to his death in a struggle with his archenemy, Professor Moriarty. You can't keep a good sleuth down.

to all who have corresponded since #83: Moris Goldberg, Eli Leibow, Mike Carroll, Jack Kerr, Milt Halpert, Peter Blau, John Shaw, David Greeney, Alan Olding, Kyle Richeson, Tom & Ruth Stetak, "Pat" Herst, Helen Swift, Staff Davis, Charles Henry, Jim Suszyski, Elliott Black, Harold Niver, and Al Rosenblatt.. Please forgive any ommissions... Renegade Press (3908 E. 4th St. Long Beach, Calif 90814 is publishing a very artistic S'ian comic book. They plan to publish eevery other month. Subscriptions: \$8.50 per annum..... Sleuthingly yours until #85..... BW.



COMMUNICATION #84

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A Corresponding Scion Society of **THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS**

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[July/August Birthdays: William Gillette - July 24, 1855; Dr. John H. Watson - August 7, 1852; and Frederick Dorr Steele - August 6, 1873.]



# Philatelic Philandering

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



Depicted at left is the recent booklet pane of shells reminding us of Dr. James Mortimer, of Grimpen, of Dartmoor, who describes himself as "A dabbler in science, Mr. Holmes, a picker-up of shells on the shores of the great unknown ocean." (HOUN)

At right, two airpost stamps of France. The 200f issue depicts Bordeaux, where James Windibank's French offices were located at the time of Mary Sutherland's wedding (IDEN). The 500f issue portrays Marseille, from which Holmes had a "rather intricate matter" referred to him. (IDEN) Both stamps were issued in 1950.

Readers are encouraged to forward on any Holmesian philatelic phinds (or is it filatelic finds?) to this Recorder. Merci. [If you can't join 'em - lick 'em]





3

SINGIN' HINNIES

Dr. Watson passed on this tea-time favourite to Mrs. Hudson. He came upon "Singin' Hinnies" while attached to the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers, in Afghanistan. These cakes originated in Northumberland and are traditionally cooked on a griddle, but a heavy frying

pan will suffice. The curious name comes from the word "hinnie", a local corruption of the word "honey" - a common term of endearment in the north of England. Since the hinnies "squeak" while they cook, they have always been known as Singin' Hinnies. These were quite popular at 221-B - so it's said.

- |                    |                           |                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 2½ cups flour      | 2 teaspoons baking powder | 2 ounces butter |
| ¼ teaspoon salt    | 2 ounces lard             | ¾ cup currants  |
| Approx. ¼ cup milk | Oil                       | Butter          |

Sift the flour, baking powder and salt into a bowl. Rub in the butter and lard with your fingers until the mixture resembles course breadcrumbs. Stir in the currant and add enough milk to make a firm dough.

Roll out the dough on a well-floured surface to about ¼ inch thickness and cut it into rounds about 2¼ inches in diameter.

Grease a heavy frying pan or a griddle with a little oil and warm it over low heat.

Place 3 or 4 of the cakes in the pan and cook them for about 6 minutes on each side until they are well browned.

Remove them from the pan, slice them in half and place a generous dollop of butter in the middle before putting them back together. Keep them warm in the oven until all of the cakes are cooked. Then serve immediately. [Makes 18]



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# VIDEO



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Central Bureau**  
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**SHERLOCK HOLMES: DRESSED TO KILL.** Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce. Notes plates are missing from the Bank of England and the dynamic duo have been called in. B&W (1946). 72 min.

VHS 874431 BETA 87444X

**SHERLOCK HOLMES: TERROR BY NIGHT.** Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce. Holmes and Watson investigate a murder connected with the "Star of Rhodesia" diamond. B&W (1946). 60 min.

VHS 863944 BETA 863936

**SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SECRET WEAPON.** Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce. Another titanic battle of wits between Holmes and the evil Moriarty. B&W (1942). 68 min.

VHS 877961 BETA 877953

**SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE WOMAN IN GREEN.** Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce. A series of brutal murders convince Holmes and Watson that Professor Moriarty is back at work. B&W (1945). 68 min.

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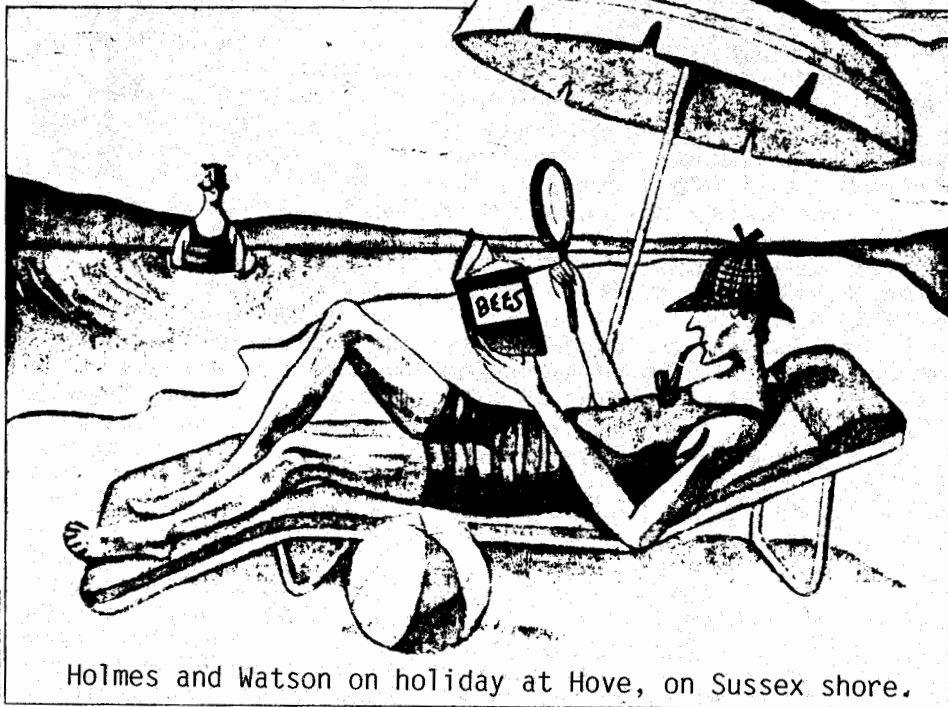
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Holmes and Watson on holiday at Hove, on Sussex shore.

6

# "Happy birthday to you, Sherrinford Holmes," said Ormond Sacker from his chair by the fire

By GREGORY JENSEN

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

THE ANN ARBOR NEWS • THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1986

LONDON — Sherlock Holmes is exactly 100 years old this spring, yet so far his birthday is passing virtually unnoticed.

"No, I'm afraid I know of no commemorations at all," said Stanley MacKenzie, one of the foremost collectors of material about the world's most famous detective.

Holmes was created in 1886. Arthur Conan Doyle's notebooks, in his own handwriting, show that he wrote "A Study in Scarlet" in March and April that year.

"I don't think anyone really thought about this being the centenary," said MacKenzie. "It is true he wrote it in 1886, but it was a long wait."

Doyle, in fact, waited 18 months for "A Study in Scarlet" to appear in print. His editor complained "the market is flooded at present with cheap fiction."

Then came the reason that "next year, no doubt, we'll be doing something" to celebrate a Holmes anniversary, MacKenzie said. "Because of this."

Unlocking a glass-fronted bookcase, he reverently withdrew a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, which finally contained "A Study in Scarlet" — the first Sherlock Holmes appearance in print.

"Only about 12 copies of this exist," MacKenzie said. "And it's very rare to find one like this with the original cover still on it."

That rarity, however, is typical of the material this small, reserved

enthusiast has amassed in 40 years of collecting. His "Sherlock Holmes Reference Collection" is all but unmatched.

"I have all the first editions, of course," MacKenzie said — not only first editions of Holmes books but original copies of the magazines in which Doyle's stories first appeared.

"I think my collection is the largest in Europe. I don't know of anyone anywhere who has this range of first editions." One or two American collections top his in sheer volume, he said, "but I've got the cornerstones."

MacKenzie, a theater stage manager "in my 70s" and honorary secretary of the Sherlock Holmes Society, hides his collection in an elegant, Edwardian-era apartment on a quiet West London street. His top-floor apartment is far from a reconstruction of those famed rooms at (fictional) 221B Baker Street, and is hardly a Sherlock shrine.

Instead MacKenzie scatters his vast collection so that Holmes doesn't take over completely. This means he repeatedly darts into adjoining rooms to bring out more treasures to explain — letters in Doyle's hand, mementos of actors who most famously played Holmes, the July 1891 issue of The Strand magazine with the first Sherlock story it printed.

"It's a popular misconception that all 60 of the Holmes stories, plus the four book-length stories,

appeared in The Strand," he said. "That's only true of all but two."

Only an expert determined to be precise would make such a point. Only a fanatic would collect, as MacKenzie has, 700 issues of The Strand, both those with Holmes material and those without. Only some 40 issues still elude him.

Another thing MacKenzie doesn't own is Doyle's 1886 notebook. One of its scribbled pages outlines Doyle's original thoughts on a "sleepy eyed young man — philosopher — collector of rare violins" called Sherrinford Holmes. Doyle's first name for Dr. Watson was Ormond Sacker.

Doyle sold the entire "Study in Scarlet" copyright for 25 pounds, a sum that horrifies modern Holmesians but one that is the equivalent of \$1,200 today. MacKenzie's collection has inflated in value by about the same proportion.

His treasury of Holmes theater material is all-embracing. Posters, programs, a few stage props, even a silver case engraved with Doyle's signature that he gave to an actor who played Holmes at 1,000 performances.

Now, theater and television producers pay MacKenzie consultant's fees to ensure their Holmesian details are authentic. He is so steeped in Sherlock lore he is more than ready to discourse on everything from the origin of the deerstalker hat to pipes.

"The stories say he smoked briar pipes, a cherrywood pipe, a black clay pipe, but never the curved meerschaum," he said, fingering an outsized briar that marked the Holmes actor's 1,200th performance.

"That was introduced by Gillette, really, in the first stage version," MacKenzie said. "He was concerned about sight lines, about a straight pipe obscuring his features. So he adopted this curved pipe," considered a Sherlock Holmes trademark ever since.

# It's elementary

## And it's no mystery (to some) that Sherlock Holmes was a real sleuth

By HARRISON FLETCHER  
The New Mexican Staff

To 30 people who gathered in the Tesuque bar where royalty has been known to dawdle, Sherlock Holmes lives.

And now an Albuquerque dentist has supplied them with what he says is proof that the great detective at least lived at one time.

Steve Wagner unveiled a life-mask of Arthur Conan Doyle's famed crime-solver during the semi-annual meeting of the local Sherlockian society, the Brothers Three of Moriarty, at Rancho Encantado Thursday. To him, it's the 100 percent solution to a mystery that hounds Holmes buffs.

"It just looks like what Holmes looks like," Wagner said, referring to written descriptions of his hero. "It just fits."

Wagner claims the mold was discovered 10 years ago in an antique shop in Bury St. Edmunds, England, by his father Arthur, who was visiting the village. The mask had been found earlier in a theater that had been closed and used as a storage area for a brewery, he said.

Wagner, also a forensic anthropologist, said he has

researched the mask, which he thinks sports several characteristics of the 19th century hero, who is commonly held to have been a fictional character.

The face in the mask has callouses on its chin and on the right side of the lip — marks that Wagner suggests could have been produced by playing the violin and smoking a pipe, both well-known characteristics of Holmes.

And imbedded inside the mask is a Swiss coin dating to the 1880s, he claims.

Wagner theorizes the mask was the same one used to cast a wax bust of Holmes that was featured in the novel *The Empty House* and was used to ensnare arch-villain Col. Sebastian Moran. "I feel this was used to cast the bust that was used to catch Moran," he suggested.

Local Holmes expert John Bennett Shaw agreed, gleefully. "For people who don't really believe that Holmes existed, this is sort of proof," he said.

"I think it's a matter of choice. Wouldn't you rather want to think that he lived rather than Richard Nixon or Ronald Reagan?"

Some Holmes fanatics say he's still alive, in fact. Living on

a bee farm in Sussex. How do they know? Well, for one, the Times of London never published his obituary.

Shaw, thought to have the largest collection of Holmes stories and memorabilia in the world, is one of the founders of the society that each year meets to pay homage to bad guys Moran and Holmes' nemesis Professor James Moriarty. The event honoring the evil professor is held, of course, in Moriarty, N.M.

Most of the group sported deer-stalker caps resembling that of the sleuth and toasted his memory, exchanged bits of information and discussed favorite adventures. The event drew Holmes fans from all around the state, as well as from Colorado and Texas. And each year they go on a sporting trap shoot, in which they take shots at, er, rat traps with air rifles (Holmes buffs know that Holmes' faked bust was shot with an air rifle in *The Empty House*).

Although most society members freely admit they are little unstable, they admit it's all in fun.

"This is just a different world," said Raymond Bonda of Albuquerque.

If you admired Jeremy Brett and Eric Porter as Sherlock Holmes and his archenemy, Professor Moriarty, on PBS, you will rejoice in this six-episode series, "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (USA Network at 10), in repeats.

### Jots & Tittles FROM THE TV WORLD

● — Fame While rehearsing for the "Sherlock Holmes" play, Denny and Chris — playing the two sleuths — get out to see who's sabotaging the school. In stereo. (R) (30 min.)

**The Great Mouse Detective:** Let's hope Sherlock doesn't take a can of Raid to the skirting board at 221 B, because the title character is cohabiting with him. So sez this animated Disney feature, formerly titled "Basil of Baker Street".

June 6/weekender/12



8.

## The EDINBURGH SHERLOCK HOLMES

*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* was published on 14th October 1892 with the dedication: "To My Old Teacher Joseph Bell, M.D., of 2 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh", acknowledging to a wider public Conan Doyle's debt to the "Edinburgh Professor" as the original model for Sherlock Holmes.

When the Sherlock Holmes stories first appeared in *The Strand Magazine* in 1891 no one, naturally enough, made any connection between Holmes and Dr Bell. Doyle, however, took the earliest opportunity of drawing people's attention in that direction. Interviewed for the *Bookman* in May 1882, he told Raymond Blathway:

"Sherlock Holmes is the literary embodiment, if I may so express it, of my memory of a professor of medicine at Edinburgh University, who would sit in the patients' waiting-room with a face like a Red Indian and diagnose the people as they came in, before even they had opened their mouths. He would tell them their symptoms, he would give them details of their lives, and he would hardly ever make a mistake. His great faculty of deduction was at times highly dramatic 'Ah!' he would say to another man, 'you are a soldier, a non-commissioned officer, and you have served in Bermuda'. Now how did I know that, gentlemen? He came into the room without taking his hat off, as he would go into an orderly room. He was a soldier. A slight authoritative air, combined with his age, shows he was an N.C.O. A slight rash on his forehead tells me he was in Bermuda, and subject to a certain rash known only there'. So I got the idea for Sherlock Holmes. Sherlock is utterly inhuman, no heart, but with a beautifully logical intellect".

All through this period Doyle regularly corresponded with his mentor and sent him a complimentary copy of *The White Company*. He also took pains to acknowledge directly Bell's influence on the development of Holmes, although he had not as yet mentioned him publicly:

"It is most certainly to you that I owe Sherlock Holmes, and though in the stories I have the advantage of being able to place him in all sorts of dramatic positions, I do not think that his analytical work is in the least an exaggeration of some of the effects which I have seen you produce in the out-patient ward."

Bell recalled for the *Pall Mall Gazette* that he had on one occasion deduced that a patient was Irish and that he had walked across the links: "Conan Doyle could not see how I knew that, absurdly simple as it was. On a showery day, such as that had been, the reddish clay at bare parts of the links adheres to the boots, and a tiny part is bound to remain. There is no such clay anywhere else round the town for two miles. Well, that and one or two similar instances excited Doyle's keenest interest, and set him experimenting himself in the same direction - which, of course, was just what I wanted, with him and all my other scholars".

However ready as he was to acknowledge the Edinburgh Professor, Doyle was less sure, even at times totally wrong, about the origins of the detective's names. Among the very many sources for Sherlock one of the strongest contenders was a cricketer named Shacklock (Doyle was a keen cricketer) whom Doyle played against in 1890. The same Shacklock had a brother, Mycroft, and there is a record of a match between Derbyshire and Lancashire on 22 May 1884 when the names Shacklock, Mycroft and Watson all appear! There is considerably more authority for the origin of Holmes, almost certainly a tribute to the American essayist Oliver Wendell Holmes whose *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table* Doyle admired and whose literary style he tried to emulate in a series of essays. Oliver Wendell Holmes received an honorary degree from the University of Edinburgh in 1886.

Of the many possible progenitors of Dr Watson perhaps the likeliest was Dr David George Thomson whom Doyle first met in Edinburgh and with whom he remained close friends. Thomson was three years older, taking his degree in 1878 (as did Watson), whereupon he joined Dr Bell at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary as a house surgeon. He and Doyle were keen amateur cricketers and they were both members of the Hospital Club in Norwich where Thomson became superintendent in 1886. On one occasion Doyle is reported to have asked Thomson "What do you think of Dr Watson?"

"I think he's a bit of an ass", said Thomson.

"I'm sorry you think that", said Conan Doyle.

"I rather modelled him on you".

From: FESTIVAL '86, the Souvenir Programme of the Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Pitlochry, Perthshire, Scotland. This summer season the Pitlochry Theatre put on "Crucifer of Blood", with Brian Ralph playing Holmes.  
[Next Communication: "The American Sherlock Holmes"]