



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

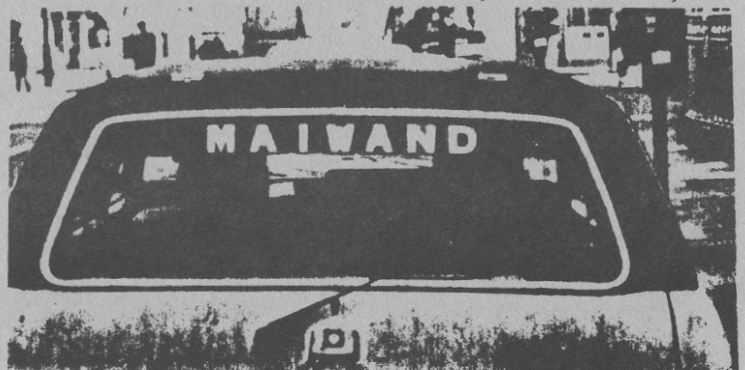
.... The Fall Gathering of the P.P.of F.

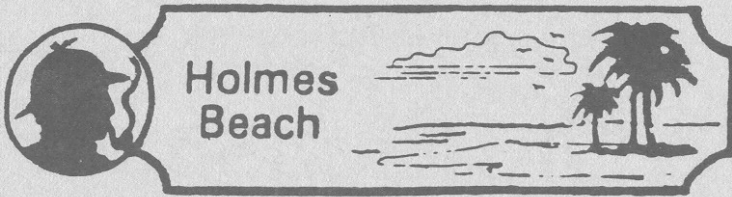
will be hosted by Norma & Morris Rannels, of Clearwater. Details will be mailed to all. The latest, and most talented, artist of the Holmesian scene in STEFANIE HAWKS

[redacted]. An illustration of her work is depicted at left. She has done a number of Sherlockian sketches - all top drawer! Milt Halpert, our PPoff Sherlockian origamist, has reported three comic mags with S'ion stories: Cracked #220, July'86; King-sized Cracked, #20, Summer, '86; and Mad, #623, June'86. Those who might be interested in contributing to The Vincent Starrett Centennial Fund contact Stephen Seftenberg, c/o Chadwell & Kayer Ltd, 8500 Sears Tower, Chicago 60606-6592. As always, this Recorder is grateful to those who have corresponded since #84:



George Edwards, who spotted Dr. Watson's auto in London [see photo, lower right], John Kalajian, Kyle Richeson, Mike Carroll, Bill Ward, Peter Blau, Irving Jaffee, Pattie Brunner, Bob Burr, Ted Schulz, "Pat"Herst, Dave Galerstein, Tom Dunn, Jeff Decker, Dick Warner, Jim Suszynski, Caroline Everett, & Jack Kerr. Thanks one and all! Chronicle Books, of SF, has published a magnificent 9x12 photo essay [128p] "Sherlock Holmes's London" incl. olde prints & newer ones in elegant colour. [\$14.95] For bargain hunters, PPoff will send you one POSTPAID for a mere \$10., while our supply lasts.





COMMUNICATION #85

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

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[On this day, MICHAELMAS, the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, in 1887, marked the start of the Adventure of the Five Orange Pips.]



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

Post your next Sherlockian letter with a couple of the 1978 13c issue [depicted at right] and you'll have a dandy commemoration of the "Dancing

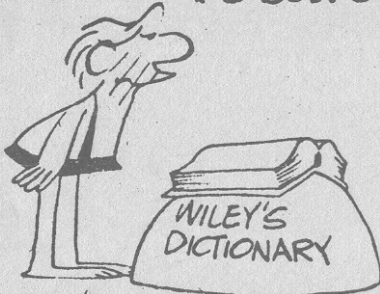


Maiwand Victory Column, Kandahar

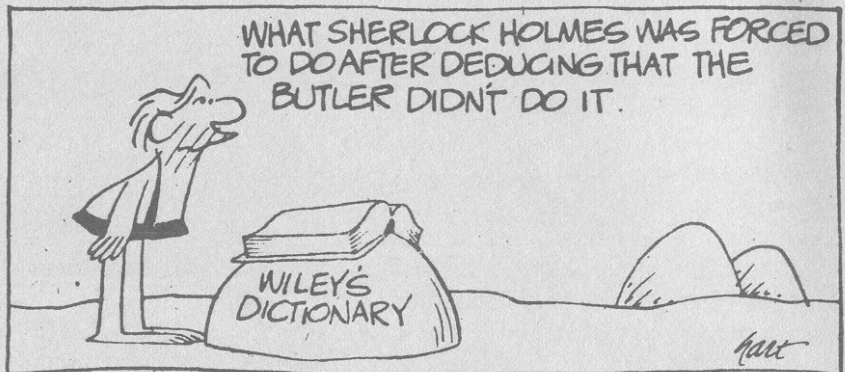
Men" - very Conanical! At left, the Afghanistan[1949] stamp [Scott #359] depicting the rather phallic-like memorial of Maiwand Victory.



B.C. re·solve

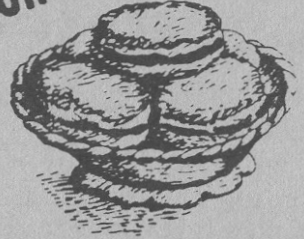


WHAT SHERLOCK HOLMES WAS FORCED TO DO AFTER DEDUCING THAT THE BUTLER DIDN'T DO IT.





From Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen



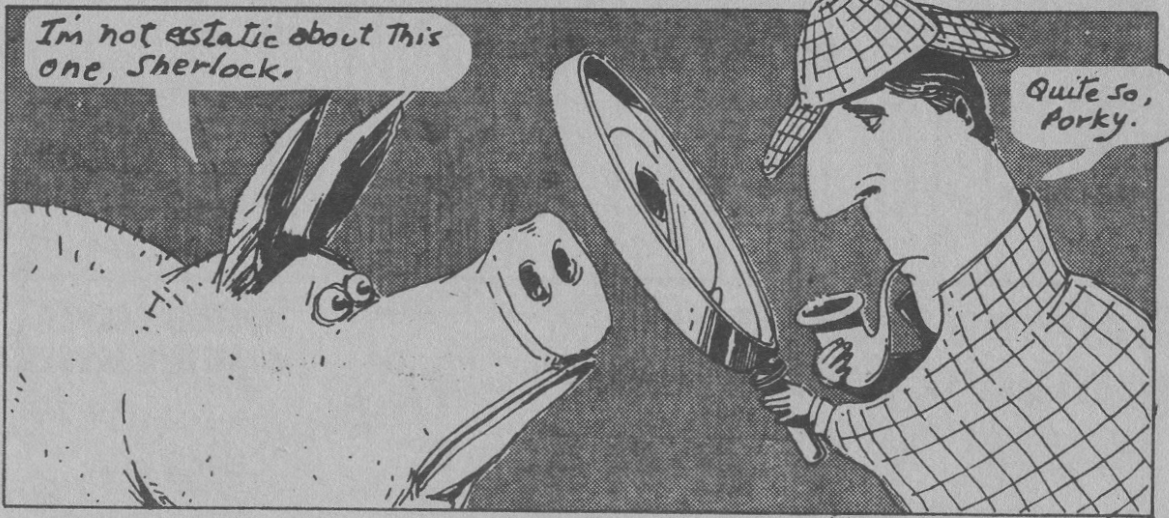
HOLMES BEACH DELIGHT

[This tasty sandwich was served at the 11th Annual Spring Gathering of the P.P.of F.]

- 1½ lbs. baked ham - shredded
- ½ lb. Swiss cheese - shredded
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 t. poppy seed 1 t. Worcestershire sauce
- ½ lb. butter, melted [2 sticks]

Mix together all ingredients; refrigerate for 15 minutes. Spread between 12 split hamburger buns. Wrap in foil. Bake in 300° oven for 20 min. Serves 12. [* May be made up & frozen. Bake in 300° oven for 40 minutes.]

Mrs. 'Udson [aka, Joan Wood] advises you make two for each person!



NIGEL STOCK

LONDON, June 23 (Reuters) — The British actor Nigel Stock, best known for his role as Dr. Watson in the BBC television series "Sherlock Holmes," was found dead of natural causes on Sunday at his home in north London,

his agent said today. He was 66 years old.

The actor's career spanned more than 50 years, mostly in theater, television and radio.

Nearly two decades after his performance alongside Peter Cushing's Sherlock Holmes, Mr. Stock's last role

marked a return to the famous detective story. In Steven Spielberg's film "Young Sherlock Holmes," Mr. Stock plays an old eccentric who introduces Holmes to the art of snooping.

Mr. Stock is survived by his wife and three children.

④ FAST 'N' FUN

S'IAN PUZZLES

QUOTATION PUZZLE #7



Unscramble & fill in this Canonical Quotation using the letters below, The letters are, however, in their proper column. The four boxes in the lower-right designate the source of the quote. Go get 'em!

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Holmes makes a magic debut

'Hungry' Holmes gets ready

HOLMES SOLVES ANOTHER MYSTERY

Watson Struggles

Holmes seeks revenge

TV PREVIEW

Sleuth heaven: Six weeks of Holmes

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- 191** The Speckled Band & Mystery of the 2nd Stain

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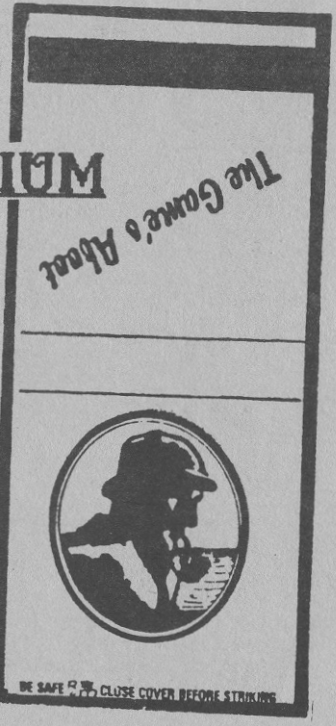
The Pleasant Places of Florida

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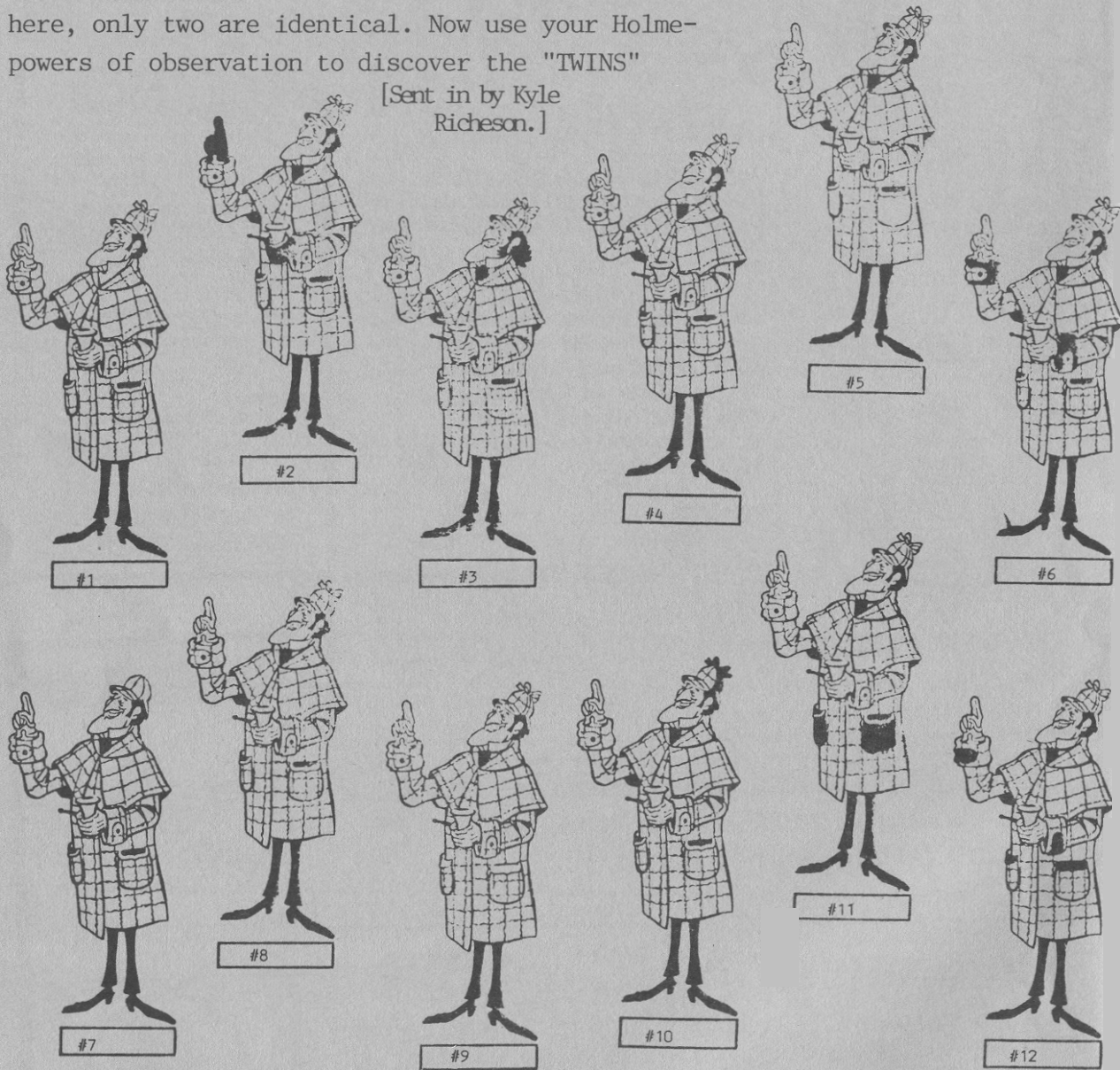


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6

FIND the TWINS - Of the 12 Sherlocks pictured here, only two are identical. Now use your Holme-powers of observation to discover the "TWINS"

[Sent in by Kyle Richeson.]



Money helps Holmes' concentration
Britons To Scrap 'Carbuncle' Plans
Wiggins phones agent as mystery continues

Sleuth mouse finds secret to Disney success

By HOWARD LACHTMAN
The Stockton Record

REVIEW

After fizzling last summer with a pair of gothic clunkers ("Return to Oz" and "The Black Cauldron"), Walt Disney Pictures is back on track with "The Great Mouse Detective," one of its best and brightest animated features in years.

Although intended for small fry, the adventures of Basil Mouse and Dr. Dawson also should be a pleasant surprise for adults with a fondness for quality animation, spritely characters and tongue-in-cheek mysteries. In fact, the audience of parents and children I sat with at the Regency Cinemas had the film a resounding burst of applause when it ended, an obvious clue to the film's crowd-pleasing capabilities.

Popularized in the "Basil of Baker Street" series by California author Eve Titus, Basil and Dawson are the Holmes and Watson of the mouse world. They reside in the walls at 221-B Baker Street, where they sometimes creep out to catch fleeting glimpses of the

THE GREAT MOUSE DETECTIVE. ★★½. Rated G. Playing at the Regency Cinemas, North Pacific Ave. and Hammer Lane. An exuberant and imaginative delight, filled with the old Walt Disney magic. The game's afoot as supersleuth Basil Mouse investigates the mysterious kidnapping of a master toymaker and matches wits with his old rival, the villainous Professor Ratigan.

great Sherlock himself and borrow Toby, the master's infallible bloodhound, to track down evil-doers.

"The Great Mouse Detective" begins one foggy, gaslit night in the year 1897. A kindly old toymaker named Flaversham is abducted by a batty agent sent by sinister Professor Ratigan, "the Napoleon of crime." Newly landed in London, stout and stalwart Dr. Dawson rescues the toymaker's tearful daughter and takes her to seek professional help from Basil, the most eminent

investigator in the mouse kingdom.

Basil makes a dramatic entrance in a Fu Manchu costume and plays his diminutive detective role with just the right mixture of self-absorbed eccentricity and quick-thinking courage. In no time at all, the game is afoot, and our heroes arrive in time for a battle royal amid the dolls, music boxes and windup figures of a darkened toy shop. The sequence is filled with the kind of exuberant spirit and imaginative visual magic that gives the film its charm.

Even less inspired segments have their little delights. Inside a seedy dockside den, for example, a disguised Basil and Dawson hardly notice a tap-dancing octopus who is part of the amateur (and unpopular) stage show.

Dripping with phony charm that hardly masks his lethal intent, the flamboyant and egotistical evil genius of Ratigan is brought to life in splendid fashion by the voice of Vincent Price. Armchair detectives may wonder why the odious Ratigan (who

can't stand being called a rat) shows such an interest in clockwork gears and toy soldier clothes. They may also wonder and worry whether Basil and Dawson will be able to escape the Rube Goldberg death trap that Ratigan has devised.

Tied and bound to a mousetrap, the doctor and the detective have to listen to Ratigan's mocking song of farewell, knowing that its end will set in motion a variety of carefully calculated weapons aimed directly at them. Can a discouraged Basil outwit the trap and escape in time to save his queen and empire from doom?

As befits so "mouseterious" a plot, Disney artists have worked up a grand cliffhanging climax, set high atop Big Ben amid a menacing confusion of clock gears and wheels. Time is quickly running out as hero and villain face off to solve their final problem. On the edge of our chairs, we await the outcome of this titanic duel, secure in the knowledge that Basil is indeed the best "small Sherlock Holmes" the movies have ever delivered.

Sherlock's brother is no dummy at this game

By Charles H. Goren and Omar Sharif

Both vulnerable. West deals.

North

♠A Q 8 4

♥J 9 7 5

♦Void

♣K Q 7 6 3

West

♠9 6 5

♥A Q 6

♦A K J 9 6 3

♣J

East

♠K 10 7 2

♥10 4 3 2

♦Q 7 5 2

♣4

South

♥J 3

♠K 8

♦10 8 4

♣A 10 9 8 5 2

The bidding:

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 1♠ | Dble. | 2♦ | 4♣ |
| Pass | 5♣ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

Opening lead: King of ♦

"A strange phenomenon, Watson," remarked Holmes. "If the finesse were going to succeed, there was no need to take it!"

The Great Detective and his colleague, Dr. John Watson, had spent the evening with Holmes' brother, Mycroft, at the club playing a few rubbers of bridge. The hand that caused this comment occurred when the two brothers were pitted against Watson and Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard, who had completed the foursome.

After Watson opened the bidding with one diamond, Sherlock entered the fray with a takeout double. Lestrade tried a mild bit of preemption, but Mycroft had too good a hand. His jump to four clubs was invitational, and Sherlock felt that his void in diamonds and fine club fit entitled him to proceed to game.

Watson made the textbook lead of the king of diamonds, and Mycroft

summed up the hand in an instant. The threat to the contract was that East held the king of spades and West the ace-queen of hearts, in which case the defense could come to a spade trick and two hearts.

Not giving the defenders any time to signal what they held, Mycroft ruffed the opening lead in dummy and immediately cashed the ace of spades and continued with a low spade. Imagine Inspector Lestrade's predicament. It was hard to believe Mycroft would play that way if he had a doubleton spade; so he played low. Declarer's jack won, and he quickly claimed his contract.

Note that Mycroft's play could not cost. If West did indeed hold the king of spades, he would make a spade trick, but the king of hearts would be safe from attack. Later, declarer would discard one of his hearts on the queen of spades to secure his game.

The AMERICAN SHERLOCK HOLMES

There is a precedent for an American such as Paul Giovanni dramatising Conan Doyle's *The Sign of Four*. For the first stage Sherlock Holmes was an American actor, William Gillette, who presented *Sherlock Holmes* in 1899, a four-act play he had written from two of Conan Doyle's short stories. Indeed, according to an article in the *Strand Magazine* of December 1901, we really owe the successful development of the stage Holmes (and, by extension, the whole Holmesian film and television industry) to the well-attested inventiveness of that rare animal, the American Reporter. In 1898, seemingly out of the blue, a reporter on an obscure newspaper published in the American West wrote that Conan Doyle had stated, "should anyone ever dramatise Sherlock Holmes it would be William Gillette". Which merits ten out of ten for invention since Conan Doyle was probably unaware of Gillette's existence at that time.

By all accounts Gillette was a remarkable man and was already a celebrated actor when he and the impresario Charles Frohman brought his latest success, *Secret Service*, to London in 1898.

"As a stage detective he is a marvel of vividness, of directness, of economy of effort, of dramatic force, of perfect self-poise of instant command of resources, of inescapable convictions."

Conan Doyle had already tried to capitalise on Sherlock Holmes, some four years after killing off the great detective at the Reichenbach Falls, by writing a five-act play. However, the project quickly foundered on the jagged ego of England's leading actor-manager, Herbert Beerbohm Tree, to whom Doyle sent his script. Tree suggested "minor alterations" to make Holmes more compatible with his own stage presence – he wanted to play Holmes with a beard, for example, so as to be able to play Moriarty also. Doyle began to have doubts about the whole idea.

This, then, was the position when Gillette and Frohman became involved. Gillette thought Doyle's version unstageable and at one point doubted whether anything could be done to stage Sherlock Holmes convincingly. With Frohman's encouragement, or persistence, Gillette persevered, however, and came up with a script, "The Strange Case of Miss Faulkner", which was re-worked from two of Conan Doyle's original stories, "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Final Problem". He sought permission from Doyle to inject some "love interest" between Holmes and Miss Faulkner and received a reply which obviously came from a pessimistic Conan Doyle, that "he might marry the detective or murder him, or do anything he pleased with him". Some of the changes Gillette can be credited with are Holmes's engagement to Miss Faulkner, the introduction of Billy, the page at Baker Street (and when *Sherlock Holmes* was revived in 1905 on tour, Billy was played by Charles Chaplin in his first major role), and the invention of the legendary phrase, "Elementary, my dear Watson".

Sherlock Holmes opened at the Star Theatre in Buffalo on 23rd October 1899, reaching New York at the beginning of November where it ran until the following June. William Gillette was Sherlock Holmes, playing the part 1300 times on stage, on radio and in a silent movie. He toured the play until 1935 when he was in his 70s, but for Conan Doyle and many others the William Gillette who arrived in Liverpool in August 1901 at the height of his powers was the very incarnation of Sherlock Holmes. Conan Doyle's first experience of meeting Gillette is recorded in John Dickson Carr's biography *The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*.

"At the railway station, some distance from Undershaw, he waited in the two-horse landau. He had never seen William Gillette even in a photograph. He knew nothing about Gillette except the latter's high reputation as an actor. The London train, its green-painted carriages then numbered for first and second class, clattered to a stop. And out of it, in a long grey cape, stepped the living image of Sherlock Holmes. Not even Sidney Paget had done it so well in a drawing. The clear-cut features, the deep-set eyes looked out under a deerstalker cap; even Gillette's age, the middle forties, was right. Conan Doyle, in the landau, contemplated him open-mouthed. It is not recorded that the horses shied; but this was the general effect".

Few authors could have been so pleased with an impersonation of the major character they have created. (Ian Fleming, for example, creator of the only modern rival to Holmes, wanted Cary Grant rather than Sean Connery to play James Bond in *Dr No*!)

From: FESTIVAL '86,

the Souvenir Programme of
the Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Pitlochry,
Perthshire, Scotland. This summer season, "Crucifer
of Blood", with Brian Ralph as Holmes, was staged.

["Edinburgh Sherlock Holmes" appeared in Communication ⁸⁴]