



The Pleasant Places of Florida



[Suggested in The Five Orange Pips]

A Corresponding Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars



Musings from the Major...



TWELFTH NIGHT REFLECTIONS has appeared here for the past twelve years. In this issue, the operative word would seem to be, appropriately, REFLECTIONS... Reflections upon Ben and Joan Wood's dauntless efforts during the past dozen years...and those of Leslie Marshall before! That's a parlay that even Silver Blaze would be hard-pressed to surpass! Obviously, no one can hope to fill the large shoes (sorry, Ben) left behind. Please be assured that no attempt will be made to replace, only to carry on the tradition! As no one person could possibly try to match the time and efforts of those who have

gone before, some new plans are afoot. Taking our cue from "The Five Orange Pips", we, too, will have five "Pips" to try to keep the "Pleasant Places" pleasant and green.

The first five so designated will be:

- Pip, the first - Ben Wood; Pip, the second - Wanda Butts Dow; Pip, the third - Mike Carroll; Pip, the fourth - Caroline Everett; and, Pip, the fifth - Bill (y'r ob'd'nt s'rv'nt) Ward.

This "Honor" was not voluntary, but some have greatness thrust upon them! Do you feel a draft? The FIVE did!!!!!!!!!!!!!! That doesn't let anyone else off the hook! Far from it! If we are to continue to have a healthy scion, "Britain expects every person to do their part!" All help and suggestions (if accompanied by action) will be greatly appreciated! (CONT'D p.5)



SPRING GATHERING

MAY 20, 21, 22

(see back cover & insert)

Headquarters:



Holmes
Beach



COMMUNICATION # 93

April 20, 1988*

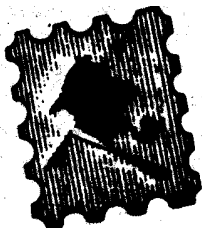
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*(On this day in 1895, The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist wheeled to a successful conclusion.)

Each issue is dedicated with affectionate respect to our founder, Leslie Marshall, BSI; and, our long-time editor and Pip, the first, RECORDER EMERITUS!, The Reverend Dr. Benton Wood, BSI.



Philatelic Philandering

... or Stamping around
with SHERLOCK HOLMES



Ben Wood's column, "Philatelic Philandering", having been "Phingered by Phate" (thanks, John Shaw!), will not appear this issue. Never fear, though! The great Stamper has assured us that he will resume his route next issue. He has not been "Canceled"!

The Postbag

Thanks to correspondents Peter Blau, Bill Cochran, Stephanie Hawks, Kyle Richeson, Sue Vail Webb, Dan Farek, John Fought, James Drival, Tom and Ruthann Stetak, Arnold Korotkin, Mark Aiberstat, Jack Kerr, Dick Warner, Dave Gardner, Wendy Powers, Sean Wright, Judy Wolfsohn, Jim McUsic, Larry DeKay, Dr. William A.S. Sarjeant, Walter L. and Nancy B. Christiansen, Hugh T. Harrington, Milton Halpert, Peter Crupe, John Kalajian, The Rev. Raymond L Holly, and many, many, many others. If I've left you out, mea culpa! Also, numerous, numerous excellent Sherlockian publications. Thanks to one and all.



From Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen



SHEPHERD'S PIE

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4 Tablespoons Cooking Fat | ½-Cup Diced Celery |
| 3 Tablespoons Chopped Onion | 1 Cup Diced Cooked Meat |
| 2 Tablespoons Chopped
Green Pepper | 4 Tablespoons Flour |
| ½-Cup Diced Cooked Carrots | 2 Cups Milk or Meat Stock |



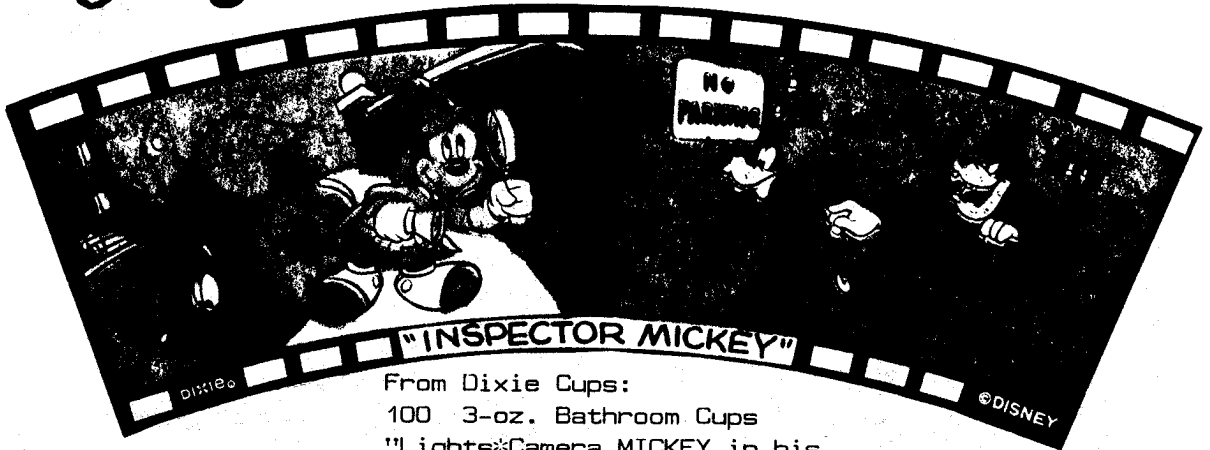
Slowly brown onion, pepper, celery and meat in cooking fat, stirring constantly. Add flour slowly, stirring constantly, until brown. Add remaining ingredients. Heat thoroughly. Pour into shallow, well-oiled baking dish. Cover with layer of well-seasoned mashed potatoes. Dot with butter. Bake in hot oven (400° F.) until well browned. 6 servings.

"COME IF CONVENIENT; IF NOT CONVENIENT,
COME ALL THE SAME."



3.

Agony Column



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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

John Fought and Sue Vail Webb have already VOLUNTEERED their help and support! A Call To Arms is now sent out to the rest of you! We can begin by record attendance at the "SCANDALOUS SPRING GATHERING"! "COME IF CONVENIENT; IF NOT CONVENIENT, COME ALL THE SAME," This is the first of what we hope will become annual weekends chock full of Holmesian camaraderie. What we do from here on will depend upon how much support there is this time.

With that said, I'd like to suggest that you all stop now, and pour a glass of your favorite libation.....Everybody ready?? I believe toasts are now in order to:

Leslie Marshall, our Founder!

to Ben Wood. For all he's done to keep the "Pleasant Places" and the memory green!

And, saving the best for last...to Joan Wood for forbearance...support... love...and, charm!

Joan and Ben, may you have blue skies, fair winds and following seas, always!

I would like to give a personal word of thanks to all of the Sherlockians out there who sent words of encouragement and, in some cases, condolences to me following Ben's announcement in the last communication (#92). Believe me, all were well received!

Now, we must attend to some "housekeeping". It seems that somehow the master list of PP of F investitures has come under the control of Moriarty's minions. All of you currently holding investitures, please communicate with the recorder so that we may make this list available to all. The sooner that is accomplished, the sooner we may confer titles upon those who do not yet possess them. PLEASE DO NOT HOLD THINGS UP! All of the newer members in good standing deserve our consideration.

One last time, I encourage all of you to spend the weekend with us. We will have our regular gathering on Saturday afternoon with our program. Although, the rest of the weekend will not consist of formal functions, there will be a hospitality suite on Friday night, and I'm sure many will gather for dinner on their own. Saturday afternoon, after the gathering, will be for free beach time and Sherlockian informalities, and, again, I'm sure many will gather for dinner. There will be specially priced dinners on both Friday and Saturday nights, and breakfast on Sunday. This is a family spot, and entire families are encouraged to attend. Don't disappoint us! See you there!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sherlock Holmes at 100

Birmingham Post-Herald 9/7/87

"You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive." With those words the immortal Sherlock Holmes made his debut 100 years ago — both to readers and to the astonished Dr. Watson, whose military service in Asia Holmes deduced as they were being introduced. For the next four decades, the English-speaking world demanded as much of the fictional detective's exploits as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was willing to supply — and more.

Desperate in his unsuccessful medical practice, Doyle sold the first Holmes story, "A Study in Scarlet," for a mere 25 pounds. The last appeared in 1927, but the master of observation and logic and the dim-witted but loyal Watson remain popular to this day.

Will James Bond still command such a following by the mid-21st century? Not likely.

Holmes combines in one person two of 19th-century England's ideal types: the scientist and the knight. He is the quintessential man of reason, using the most advanced techniques to analyze bloodstains or to crack secret codes. But his intellect is wholly at the service of the traditional moral order — embodied perfectly in his companion, whom he calls "the one

fixed point in a changing age." The two work to rescue young women, not to seduce them.

Part of the Holmes magic is the flavor of Victorian London — industrious, optimistic and so tranquil that many of its villains must be imported from places such as India and America. The stories seem so real that they have inspired a unique body of whimsical "scholarship" — with aficionados debating whether Holmes attended Oxford or Cambridge, or whether the arch-villain Moriarty survived the fight at the Reichenbach Falls.

That fight, ironically, resulted from Doyle's weariness with his own creation. Feeling that Holmes was distracting him from more important work, such as his novels about medieval England, he had Moriarty and him kill each other. Some readers donned black mourning bands; others wrote indignantly to the author. Nine years later Doyle gave in and brought Holmes back with a story explaining away his apparent death.

Toward the end of his life Doyle suggested that Holmes and Watson would soon vacate the popular stage, to be replaced by "some more astute sleuth with some even less astute comrade." That has not happened yet.

Sherlock Holmes – Immortal Legend

6. *After 100 years, Sherlock Holmes won't die*

Will Holmes' win streak, career all end tonight?

Sarasota Herald-Tribune Come on, Sherlock, Let's Go!

True-believers around the world, brought up to think that the last word in investigatory prowess was Britain's Scotland Yard, may be shocked to learn that "the Yard," having learned of an odd occurrence, gave up without attempting to unlock the truth of it.

An amateur astronomer spotted a "gray-green saucer" hovering over Kensington. Three London policemen, no less, verified the sighting and duly turned in a report on it. But Scotland Yard promptly filed and forgot it, with

the observation that "we have enough trouble solving murders, let alone investigating lights in the sky."

Well, this certainly confirms the suspicions of A. Conan Doyle's fictional Sherlock Holmes that quite frequently the Yard needs the help of brilliant, volunteer assistants.

Elementary, eh, Watson? The top bobbies aren't what they used to be!

If London is consumed by little green men, one of these days, we'll know who deserves the blame. Bad show!

Elementary, Dear Readers

You know my methods, Watson," the world's best-known detective once said to his pleasant but plodding assistant. And while Sherlock Holmes's friend may have heeded the methods, filmmakers often don't. The Baker Street Irregulars, that loyal cadre of Conan Doyle fans, have suffered many affronts ("The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes Smarter Brother," "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution"), but now, just as they have successfully completed Holmes's centennial, they must face the most terrible mutation: Holmes as a nitwit front for a brilliant Watson. In "Sherlock and Me," now being filmed with Michael Caine and Ben Kingsley, Watson is a nonpareil sleuth who writes up his

cases for the Strand (the magazine that ran some original Holmes stories), claiming they're the work of one Sherlock Holmes. Pressured into producing the mastermind, Watson hires an actor. When "Holmes" assumes his role too well, the two must work in concert to foil the dastardly Professor Moriarty. Brace yourselves, Holmesophiles: the director calls this "the Victorian 'Odd Couple'."

NEWSWEEK: FEBRUARY 8, 1988

100 years: Elementary, dear Watson

Par-5s were Watson's downfall

Holmes puts clout in the clouds

PAYING THE PIPER

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the publication of the first Sherlock Holmes story, *A Study in Scarlet*, Dunhill of London has created a limited-edition (250) commemorative hand-fashioned briar calabash-style pipe with a sterling-silver mounting. It comes fitted into an elegant leather-covered bookcase, with a gold-embossed likeness of Conan Doyle's world-renowned detective on the cover and the book title on the spine. The price? Elementary, my dear Watson: a mere \$750—if you're clever enough to sleuth one up. It's a dream of a pipe.

A RAG-BAG OF SINGULAR HAPPENINGS

REDC

Here's the Editor's "Ragbag"...Selected from items in the order received.

If you haven't already, you should subscribe to The Baker Street Journal: Fordham Univ. Press, Journals Dept., Univ. Box L, Bronx, NY 10458-5172... \$15 per yr./Baker Street Miscellanea: The Sciolist Press, P.O. Box 2579, Chi., IL 60690...\$11 per year/"most int'r'stin'", The Edgar Wallace Society newsletter, "The Crimson Circle"...Mr. John A Hogan, Organizer, 7 Devonshire Close, Amersham, Bucks, HP6 5JG...write for info/The Stetaks send news of a parade at the fifty year Superman anniv. in Cleveland, 6/16-19, theme of parade is legends & Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers of Cleveland will have a Sherlock Holmes float...all are invited to participate...The Stetaks, 15529 Diagonal Road, Nickle Plate, LaGrange, OH 44050/Bowling Green State U. Popular Press has good catalog, Spring '88...several books of interest to Sherlockians...Bowling Green, OH 43403/Dercum Press has pretty good series of detective audio tapes incl. Doyle...P.O. Box 1425, West Chester, PA, 19380, (215) 647-8799, "Karen", (say you saw it here)/"The Not So Pvt. Eye", Andy Jaysnovitch has several Holmes video tapes from the 1954 TV series w/Ronald Howard, \$29.95 + \$3 (ph) ea.,...6 Dana Estates Drive, Parlin NJ 08859, really good quality for the age/Recorded Books, Inc. has unabridged narration of STUD, HOUN, VALL, Adventures, SIGN & Memoirs on audio cassette for rental and sale...6306 Aaron Ln., Clinton, MD 20735, 800-638-1304 between 9&5/Metacom, Inc. has radio show cassettes, both Rathbone & Gielgud, 1401-B West River Road No., Minneapolis, MN 55411, 800-328-0108/ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING ITEMS IN YEARS!!! From Psylogic Systems...The Canon avail on Floppy disk for your computer (MS-DOS); version for Macintosh is underway...Write Bob Stek, P.S., P.O. Box 315, Tolland, CT 06084...An Electronic Holmes Companion/FROM PETER BLAU.....Music from Brett's TV for Granada will be available frm Varese Sarabande Records in the U.S....13006 Saticoy St., No. Hollywood, CA 91605, postpd. \$9.98 for record or cassette, \$15.98 for CD/Winter '88 issue of The Armchair Detective launches "Report from 221B Baker Street, continuing feature by Sherry Rose-Bond and Scott Bond, 129 W. 56th St., NY, NY 10019, quarterly at \$20 the year...SUPERB publication!/Dawn Williams (Schweinfurt American Elementary School, APO New York, 09033) is offering her Holmes and Doyle Collections...write for list/the Rex Stout Journal is avail frm John McAleer, Mount Independence, 121 Follen Road, Lexington, MA 02173 @ \$7.50 per yr. (two issues)...Thanks, Peter.
Please let us know what types of info you would like to see in these pages.
If you don't, you are at my mercy!

We've lost quite a few "perks" with Ben. It will take more "Oil to lubricate the wheels", or we'll have fewer communications. If anyone knows of a sponser who would be interested, please notify the Recorder.

"Maybe you collect yourself, Sir."
EMPT

REMARKABLE illustrator Stephanie K. Hawks offers superb Sherlockian items including prints, stationery and post cards. Order "The Moss Rose" @ \$7 per each print; "Baskerville Sojourn" @ \$9 per each print; "Dis-Chord at 221B" @ \$4.50 per each print; Stationery @ \$7 per 25 sheets; and, Post Cards @ \$3.75/6, \$7/12. Write S.K. Hawks, P.O. Box 9486, Knoxville, TN, 37940-9486. DON'T MISS OUT. ORDER TODAY!



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HONOURS

Special congratulations from all in the Pleasant Place of Florida to our good friend Ronald De Waal. Ron was awarded the Colorado Library Association Literary Award for 1987. As you all must know, Ron is the Bibliographer Extraordinaire. In 1974, he received the John H. Jenkins Award for Bibliography for his 1974 work "The World Bibliography of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson: A Classified and Annotated List of Materials Relating to Their Lives and Adventures." His companion work "The International Sherlock Holmes: A Companion Volume to The World Bibliography of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson" was published in 1980. In 1984, he was presented with the Baker Street Irregulars' highest award, the Two Shilling Award. Ron, you richly deserve them all!

Congratulations, too, to our recent guest, Kyle Richeson, on her editorship of the first two editions of the official newsletter of the "Voices of the Whispering Knights", "The Pikestaff". This organ of the scion society of the "Praed Street Irregulars" has been most kind to The Pleasant Places. It also features fine artwork by our favorite illustrator, Stephanie Hawks. A nice salute too to Frances Nygaard and our own Mike Bryan.

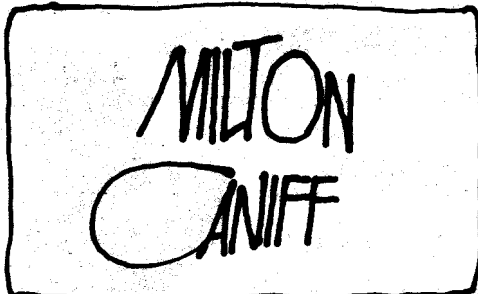
A tip of the deerstalker to William R. Cochran for receiving his canonical investiture this past January in New York. Welcome, Bill!

"Stand with me here upon the terrace..."

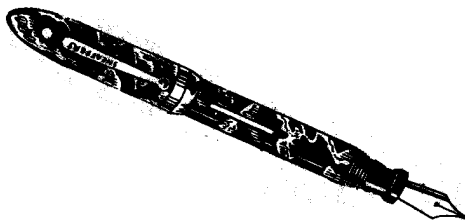
MILTON A. CANIFF

February 28, 1907 - April 3, 1988

Mr. Caniff was the creator of the comic strips "Terry and the Pirates" and "Steve Canyon". In a 1985 "Steve Canyon" comic strip, Canyon was portrayed as Holmes, and Caniff portrayed himself as "Dr. Milton Watson". It was the first time in 50 years that he had portrayed himself as a character in a strip.



From the Archives...



BUY-LAWS OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS - Elmer Davis

(1) An annual meeting shall be held on January 6th, or thereabouts, at which the Canonical toasts shall be drunk;¹ after which the members shall drink at will.

(2) The current round shall be bought by any member who fails to identify, by title of story and context, any quotation from the Sacred Writings submitted by any other member.

Qualification A.--If two or more members fail to so identify, a round shall be bought by each of those so failing.

Qualification B.--If the submitter of the quotation, upon challenge, fails to identify it correctly, he shall buy the round.

Special meetings may be called at any time or any place by any one of three members, two of whom shall constitute a quorum.

Qualification A.--If said two are of opposite sexes, they shall use care in selecting the place of meeting, to avoid misinterpretation (or interpretation either, for that matter).

Qualification B.--If two such persons of opposite sexes be clients of the Personal Column of The Saturday Review of Literature the foregoing does not apply; such persons being presumed to let their consciences be their guides.

(4) All other business shall be left for the monthly meeting.

(5) There shall be no monthly meeting.

¹(1) To "THE Woman," (2) to "Mrs. Hudson," (3) to "Mycroft," and (4) to "Dr. Watson's Second Wife."



"An occasional week-end visit was the most that I ever saw of him." (LION)

May
20-22, 1988

Attenta!

Spring
Gathering!

One hundred years! May 20-22, 1888

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" THIS ADMIRABLE BEACH EXTENDS FOR SOME MILES IN EACH DIRECTION..." (LION)

" 'I WILL COME WITH PLEASURE,' SAID I. 'I DO NOT KNOW HOW I COULD SPEND MY TIME BETTER.' (LION)

A Scandalous Weekend!!!