

Communication No. 123

FEBRUARY-1993



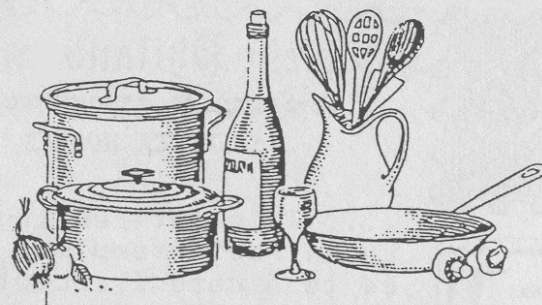
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A Corresponding Scion of
The Baker Street Irregulars



Direct Correspondence to:
Dr. Benton Wood, Recorder



From Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen

by Joan Wood

BRUNTON'S BRUNCH CASSEROLE

(This hearty mid-day repast will "warm the cockles of your heart", so says Martha H.)

- 6 hard-boiled eggs, sliced
- Salt & pepper
- 1 lb. hot bulk sausage
- 1½ c. sour cream
- ½ c. dry bread crumbs
- 1½ c. Cheddar cheese, grated

Place eggs in buttered casserole and season to taste. Cook sausage, drain, & sprinkle over eggs. Pour sour cream over sausage. Combine crumbs and cheese. Sprinkle over casserole.

Place in 350° oven to heat thoroughly, and then brown top under broiler. Serves 6.

• BAKER STREET •

PUZZLE

by TOM BULLIMORE

HOLMES went to visit Watson in hospital after he had injured his foot. "Great Scot, Holmes, I'm glad you're here!" cried Watson. "I dropped my wallet on the floor. A passing nurse grabbed it and she disappeared into that room across the way."

"MRS. H'S HANDBOOK OF COOKERY & NEEDLE POINT" \$7.50 (JOAN WOOD) POSTPAID. SPECIAL OFFER!

"Has anyone entered or left the room since then, Watson?" asked Holmes. "Not a soul," replied Watson. "Then I shall investigate," said Holmes. He found four nurses, Smith, Jones, Brown and Black. Holmes went straight to Nurse Jones and asked her to return the wallet. How did Holmes know that she was the guilty party?

(ANSWER ON PAGE 2.)

SCANning the Scion Scene

...the Recorder's Ruminations

..... Last call before Post Time! If you have not yet signed up for the "WESSEX CUP" (Sat. Feb. 6th), best you call David McCallister (813) 973-3761 PDQ. I still have a couple of the "Wessex Cup II" souvenir packets left for only \$5. These include color photo of the 1992 Race, a Track Program, and a PPoff Souvenir Programme... We had quite a PPoff contingent at the Baker Street Irregular weekend in NYC in January. In addition to your Recorder & "THE Woman", David McCallister and Chuck & Marilyn Amick were also on hand. No snows nor freezing temps were appreciated by us all! .. Dave's & my 'hand-outs' available: 4 stamps.. We welcome Carl Heifetz, of Palm Harbor, as a new Resident Member. He wrote a dandy article on Sherlock's 139th birthday, which appeared in the St. Pete Times... Any PPoffers interested in participating in the WEDU Mar. '93 Membership Drive (on the Mystery shift) please contact Dave McCallister. The Spring Gathering is slated to be held at Laura Henderson's pippy orange grove in Nokomis in May. Details later..

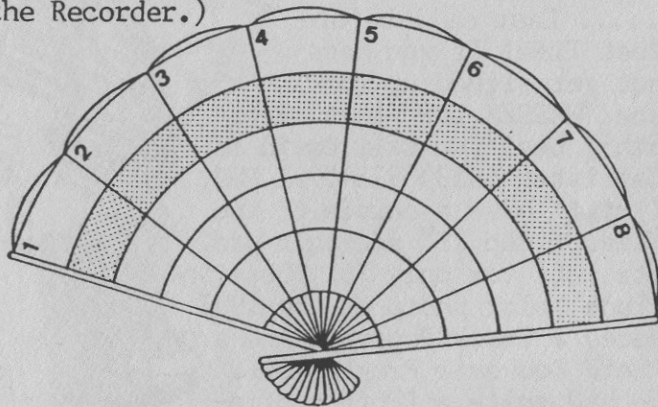
Current Scion Stats:

Resident Members: 60
Non-Res. Members: 58
Honorary Members: 11
Scion Exchanges: 23
Circulation of the "Communication": 152



Sherlockian FAN-tastic Puzzle

Place the 5-letter answers to the clues into the Fan to discover the Mystery Answer in the shaded area. (Answers available from the Recorder.)



1. Grace Dunbar's barrister. (THOR)
2. Track of an animal. (LION)
3. Foreign Office clerk. (NAVA)
4. Ferrier's murderer. (STUD)
5. Dogs (SIGN) and WIGHT (FIVE).
6. Briony Lodge lock type. (SCAN)
7. Boarding house owner. (VALL)
8. Harris (IDEN) or Heather (ENGR).

Holmesian Headlines

[Humorous, haunting, heinous, hackneyed, histrionic, hypothetical, heuristic and hilarious.]



Baker Street Puzzle:
Nurse Jones was the only female

Holmes has bright outlook

(NEVER BETTER!)

Longevity Will Be Tough for Holmes

(HE'LL HANDLE IT!)

HYDRAULIC ENGINEER IS REALLY THUMBTHING!

(LET'S NOT PRESS THIS TOO FAR!)

Watson ready to rebound

(ANOTHER ADVENTURE, JOHN?)

The Game Is Still Afoot

(YES, BUT IS IT THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT?)

HOLMES FOILS ROYLOTT

(SHERLOCK'S QUITE A FENCER, YOU KNOW.)

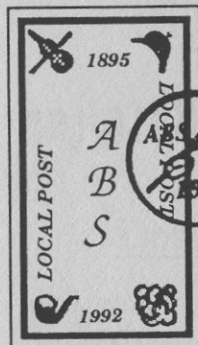
Moriarty to conduct his own symphony

(SOUNDS BASS TO ME.)



Philatelic Philandering

... or Stamping around with
SHERLOCK HOLMES



.... This interesting S'ian Local Post stamp was affixed to a card I recently received. It bore an enigmatic signature which I could not decipher. Can any one help me?

"Sarasate plays at .. St. James's Hall this afternoon," (Holmes) remarked. "What do you think, Watson?" .. "A sandwich and a cup of coffee .. then off to violin land, where all is sweetness, and delicacy, and harmony.." [REDH]. This Spanish stamp (Sc# 2028) was issued in 1977.



Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Backward Pawn
'Have you read *Time's Arrow* by Martin Amis?' Sherlock Holmes tapped his pipe idly on the mantelpiece as he posed the question to Dr Watson.

'Of course not,' replied the doctor, somewhat tetchily, 'Martin Amis hasn't even been born yet.'

'That's just the point,' said Holmes in animated fashion. 'You see, in his yet-to-be-written latest novel, Amis *fil*s examines the concept of time travelling backwards. He even has a chess game running backwards.'

'And I suppose,' said Watson, 'that you are about to tell me that the position on this very board,' he gesticulated towards the chess table that stood in the middle of the floor, 'carries the position of which he has yet to write.'

'You see,' said Holmes, 'time can travel backwards. For you have demonstrated yourself to be already aware of what I am about to tell you.'

'But that's absurd, Holmes,' Watson remonstrated. 'In this position, Black is checkmated. The game is over. There is nothing more to be said.'

'Nothing?' asked Holmes with a quizzical smile.

Watson looked more closely at the position, then said, with a hint of triumph in his voice, 'Nothing, that is, except that the position is illegal. That bishop could never have moved to f1 to give check.'

'Unless,' said Holmes, 'it was a discovered check.'

'But nothing could have moved out of the way,' protested Watson.

'Except the pawn, presently standing on b6, which did so by making an *en passant* capture,' said Holmes.

'You mean a black pawn was on b5, having moved there from b7, and White's pawn captured from a5.'

'No,' said Holmes patiently, 'from c5.'

'How can you possibly know that?' asked Watson.

'Take the game back another move,' said the detective. 'You still have the problem of the check from the bishop on f1. Before Black played b7-b5 +, White must have discovered check with c4-c5.'

'Brilliant,' said Watson. 'Er, is that it?'

But Holmes was in full flood: 'Which raises the question of Black's previous move. His king must have moved from b6 to a6, fleeing a double check which can only have been delivered through another *en passant* capture, of a black pawn on c5 by a white pawn from b5.'

'Quite,' said Watson, bemusedly.

'Which poses the problem of how the bishop came to give check on g1. It must have been a discovery by a piece no longer on the board. And the only move on which it can have left the board was when Black moved his King to a6.'

'So the discovery was with a knight from c5 to a6. And it captured a black knight which had just moved there from b8, there being no other possible previous move.'

'That's as far as we can go,' said Holmes as Watson waited expectantly. 'White's pawns were on b5 and c4 and he had a knight on c5; Black's king was on b6, he had pawns on a7, b7 and c7, and a knight on b8. Play then went 1... Na6 2.Nxa6 + c5 3.bxc6 + Kxa6 4.c5 + b5 + 5.cxb6 mate.'

'I like simple adventure stories that go forwards,' said Watson. 'Like *Emil* and the *Detectives*.'

'You know what they say, doctor,' said Holmes. 'Amis is as good as Emil.'