



# The Pleasant Places of Florida

(Suggested in The Five Orange Pips)

A Corresponding Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars

## 12th Night Reflections

..... Holmesian numismatists arise! - your day has arrived! The Newcastle Mint [Garden Grove, Calif, 92645] is striking a set of 72, no less, commemorative Sherlockian coins, as of March, '86. They plan a 1500 set limit of either gold-plated pewter [at \$20 per] and a pure Ag [at \$30 per coin]. Now 72 times \$30 will run you about.....egads & little fishes!!!. The 72-coin set will commemorate the 60 adventures of the Canon, plus a dozen of "the most memorable characters" - so they say. By the by, their street address is 6512 Belgrave. .... My belated thanks to Susan McGarger. of El Paso, who sent me 2 cans of HOLMES Sardines - one w/hot chillies, and another in Louisiana RED HOT sauce - hot stuff!. That makes 4 varieties I've seen thus far...thanks Susan..... The Six Napoleons, The Carleton Club, The Pillars of the Lyceum[all of Baltimore] along with The Red Circle of Wash.DC, announce the 16th running of the Silver Blaze at Pimlico on May 10th. If you'd like to put down a few bob, just let me know. Haligonian, Mark Alberstat, writes that his Scion is as high as the Bay of Fundy tides having been on radio and TV in Nova Scotia..... Thanks to Diane Cole and John Wood for items sent in, along with JB Shaw, Peter Blau & Chris Redmond. My special thanks to Mike Carroll who was our official "photog" during the BSI weekend. ... Our circulation, like Topsy, just seems to grow, and grow, and grow! So long 'til #82.



[l-r] Your Recorder, Marsha Pollak, Bill Ward, & Mike Carroll assemble the PPOFF troops at the William Gillette Luncheon, at the Homestead, during the BSI weekend in NYC. Joan Wood, of our contingent was manning the camera.



COMMUNICATION #81

FEBRUARY 21, 1986\*

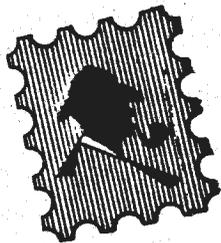
Published Irregularly by **The Pleasant Places of Florida**

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

Please direct correspondence to: The Rev'd Dr. Benton Wood, BSI - Recorder

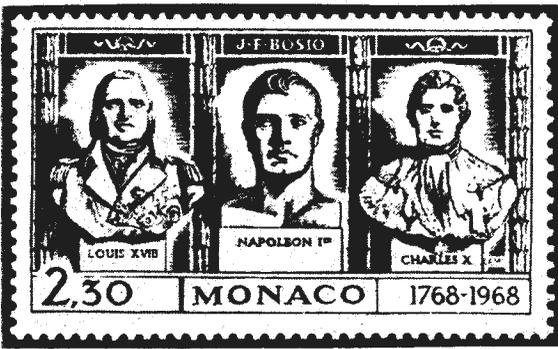
Subscription rates: \$2.21 per annum; \$10 life-time. Current Circulation: 410

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + +  
[\* - On this very day in 1888, Holmes said: "Miss Mary Morstan, Hum! I have no recollections of the name." Thus started "The Sign of Four".



# Philatelic Philandering

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



...The Monaco issue [left] reminds us of Watson's account in The Six Napoleons, "...and hurrying in, found a plaster bust of Napoleon, which stood with several other works of art upon the counter." Also from SIXN, this Paraguay issue [at Right].



"And what became of the bust?" asked Holmes, after a careful study of this philatelic philly. (Thanks to Henry Lauritzen, BSI, for these items.)

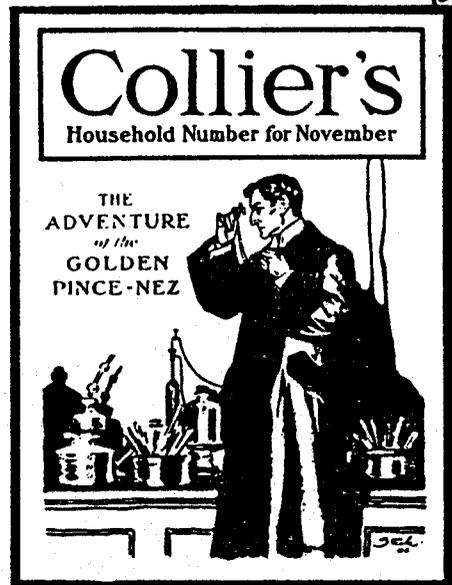
# Irregulars share a pipe & bowl Holmes?



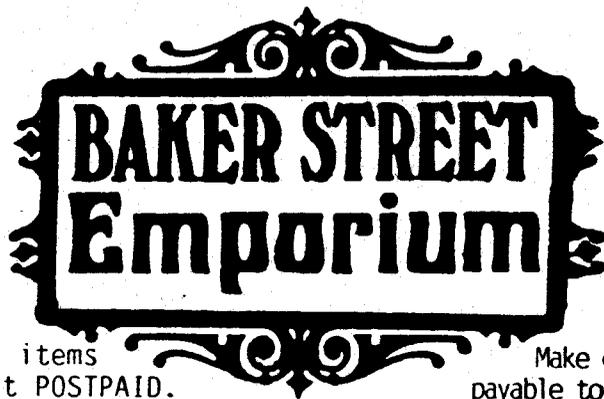


# Agony Column

(Readers are asked to submit items for this Column. Thank you.)



Wow!



All items sent POSTPAID.

Make cheques payable to PPoff.

Order from: **Pleasant Places of Florida**

## OFFERING # 21

ITEM A - Lo-Ball Glasses (11oz) Set of 4. Only a few left. Shipped w/TLC -\$15.

ITEM B - PPoff's latest chapbook. "DIRTY POOL", by "Pat" Herst - a numismatic/philatelic S'ian thriller and "PHILATELIC PHILANDERING", by Dr. Ben Wood. Both under 1 cover. A double-dip treat! ..... \$3.50

ITEM C - PPoff Matchclips. Light up your life! A batch of 16 - 8 different colours. A super souvenir or hand-out. .... \$3.00

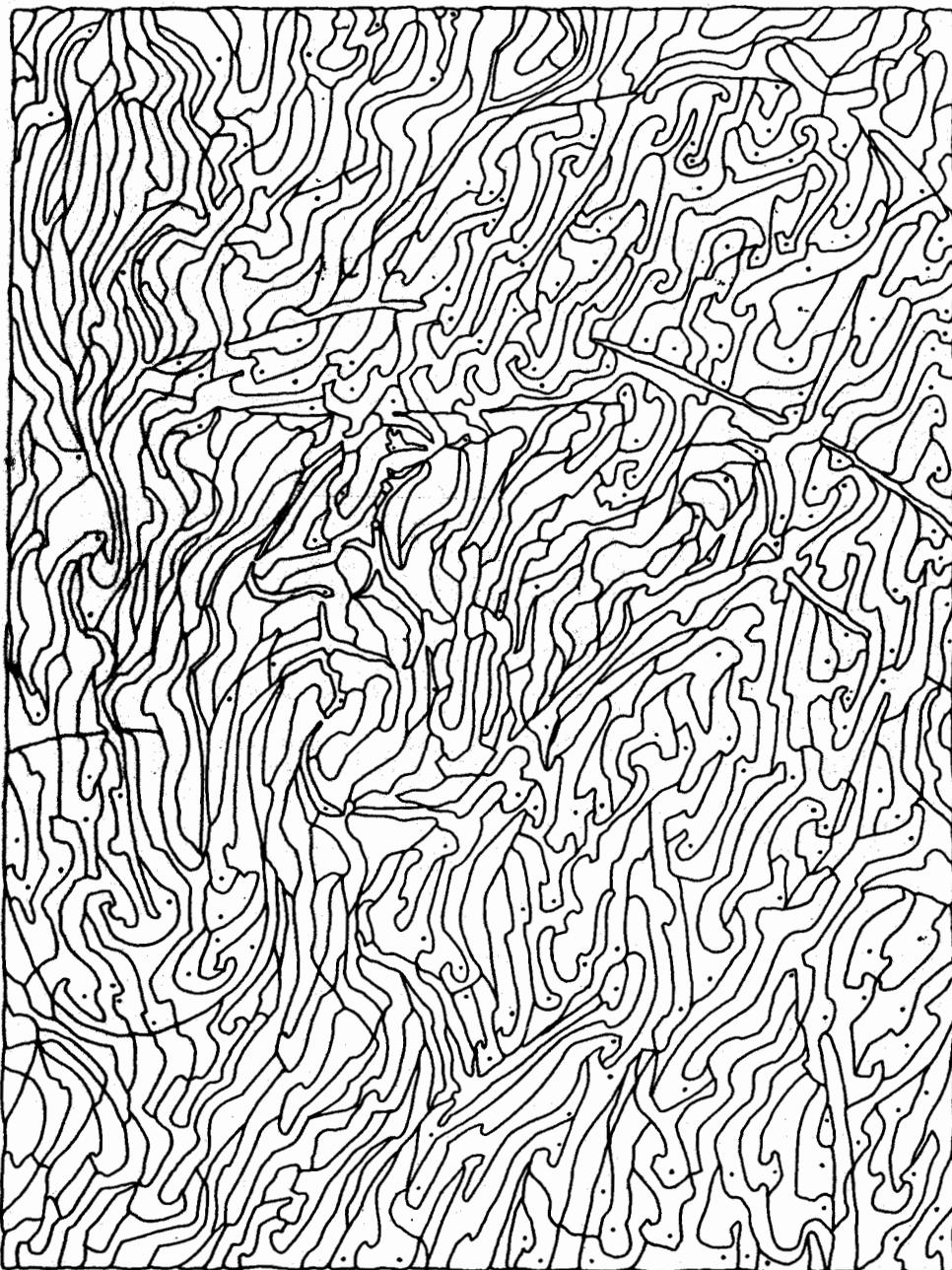
ITEM D - PPoff ball-point pens. BSI Chaplain's hand-out at the BSI Dinner, Jan. 11, '86. A gen-u-ine Collector's Item. Set of 3.. \$2.00

[Items offered by the B.S. Emporium support the P.P. of F. - we appreciate your Order. Thanks.]

**PICTURE MAZE**

by Jessica Clerk

To solve, simply blacken in with a pencil or pen all of the shapes below that contain a dot. We think you'll like what you see when you've finished. Solution is on page 91.



Dr. Julian Wolff, BSI Commissionaire Emeritus, strikes a determined Churchillian pose!



Baskerville Holmes

A distant relative?

# Sherlock Holmes Gets a Peak Of His Own

By Michael Hardwick

**M**AP-MAKERS will need to look to their revisions. From October 5, 1984 that hitherto nameless feature which stands where 36° 12' 26" N and 96° 02' 56" W intersect, in the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 17, Township 20 N, Range 12 E of the Indian Meridian in Osage County, Oklahoma, has been officially Holmes Peak.

The United States Board on Geographic Names convened on that day and declared it so, and a Holmes Peak Preservation Society is already vigilant against any neglect.

The naming marked the culmination of a dogged struggle against legislative and ecclesiastical bureaucracy. A Tulsa gentleman, Dick Warner, who holds the office of Head Sherpa in an esoteric society named the Afghanistan Perceivers ("You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive."—Sherlock Holmes, upon first meeting Dr. John H. Watson), noted that while the Moon had its Sherlock Crater there was no place like Holmes on Earth.

He found a candidate a mere two kilometres south-east of Tulsa's city limits. It seemed to have everything: elevation (314 meters above sea level), a certain unspoiled grandeur, historical associations of not too dogmatic a kind, and a rich variety of flora and fauna, the latter including reported sightings of the unicorn and yeti. What it did not possess was a name.

So it was that, on July 27 this past year, your correspondent was able to share in the ceremonial dedication of Holmes Peak. The date coincided remarkably with the 105th anniversary of the Battle of Maiwand, in the second Afghan War, at which Dr. Watson assorted viands lay ready. Seating had been rudely improvised from bales of hay.

An ensemble of brass instruments played. Bagpipes droned and drums clamored. Voices were upraised in a semblance of "God Save the Queen." It was almost unbearably moving.

BOOK WORLD/JANUARY 19, 1986

(Washington Post)



Mystery! The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes II"  
Premieres 2/6 at 9:00 PM

Beginning Feb. 6, PBS will run a new series of 6 Adventures, with Jeremy Brett as The Master. The S.H.II series will include Greek Interpreter, Resident Patient,

Norwood Builder, Copper Beeches, Red-Headed League, and The Final Problem. Tampa's Channel 3 - Thursdays. Don't miss them. The game's afoot!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1986

# The Case of The 132nd Birthday

## Celebrating Sherlock In Irregular Style

By Paula Span  
 Washington Post Staff Writer

NEW YORK, Jan. 10—And what, exactly, went on tonight behind the closed doors of the Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner at the Regency Hotel to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 132nd birthday?

Well, John Bennett Shaw of Santa Fe, N.M., planned to present "an artifact, a life mask of Sherlock Holmes made in Grenoble, France, probably in 1894, irrefutable proof that Sherlock Holmes was alive, at least then."

And Isaac Asimov, the whiskey author, was going to sing, as he does every year, Sherlock Holmes songs, set to tunes like "Good Night Irene" and "Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms."

There would be papers delivered. "Learned and humorous papers," said writer Christian Steinbrunner. "More humorous than learned." (In the past, for instance, a Sherlockian—as these people are called—presented evidence that Dr. Watson's war wound, which Arthur Conan Doyle absent-mindedly placed on the good doctor's arm in

one story and on his leg in the next, could have been a double wound caused by the *same* bullet, provided Watson was in a rather odd position when struck.)

"And many, many, many toasts," Steinbrunner added.

This was the crowning event of a full weekend for the Irregulars, who had convened, many in deerstalker caps, from all over the United States. It began Friday morning with the Martha Hudson Breakfast at the Algonquin Hotel—an occasion named for Holmes and Watson's landlady at 221b Baker Street. Then came a reception at the Mysterious Book Shop on the West Side, and this dinner for nearly 200 men.

The Irregulars have admitted only two women in the 52 years since Christopher Morley hosted the first banquet, "and both of them are smart enough not to come," said Shaw. But female Sherlock Holmes buffs, calling themselves the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, were holding their own birthday dinner at a chop house across town, and most of the offshoot Sherlockian societies around the country, like The Red Circle of Washington, are coed. Asimov, who pointed out a bit defensively that except for this dinner, the Irregulars and the Adventuresses mingled throughout the weekend, noted that "Sherlock Holmes was a woman hater."

"It's really a boy's game that grown men still play," confessed H. Paul Jeffers, a writer who in one of his mysteries had Holmes collaborate with Theodore Roosevelt to solve a crime.

How does one become an Irregular? "You cannot join; you are chosen," explained New York attorney

Andrew Peck, "for service to the cause." Peck's service is editing "The Commonplace Book," one of 16 Sherlockian journals published in the United States. "Commissionaire" Julian Wolff, the retired physician who runs the organization with autocratic panache, presents new members with a shilling—the wages Holmes gave to the street urchins who were the Irregulars in the Conan Doyle stories.

Besides the shilling, the Irregulars received a name from the canon. Asimov is The Remarkable Worm Unknown to Science. Wayne Swift, a Chevy Chase computer engineer and one of several tuxedoed Washingtonians in attendance, is The Giant Rat of the Sumatra.

"Everything Holmes did was for the right motive," said Swift, trying to explain the enduring fascination with the great detective. "Holmes cheated like hell. He was a real snob and socked it to the lower classes. But there was an essential justice and decency that appeals to everyone."

The Irregulars, almost to a man, had seen the Steven Spielberg production "Young Sherlock Holmes," and debate among them as to the movie's merits was spirited. Jon Welenberg of Alexandria, a Pentagon official and editor of the quarterly "Baker Street Miscellanea," enjoyed the film, though he found it "not wholly canonical."

"'E.T. Meets Moriarty,'" sniffed David Skene-Melvin of Toronto.

"'Indiana Holmes and the Temple of Doom,'" added Peck.

But Shaw, who each year at this season repairs to a saloon in Moriarty, N.M., to drink Holmes' health, had the most Irregular perspective.

"An elegant work of fiction," he pronounced it, "about a real person."