



# The Pleasant Places of Florida

(Suggested in The Five Orange Pips)

A Corresponding Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars

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## 12th Night Reflections

....Sorry for the long delay [approx. 3 months] in publishing this Communication, but this Re-

recorder had to get through Lent & early Easter, April in the Caribbean and with family & May catching up. Hopefully am back on track now...Your Recorder did a S'ian bit on WUSF, local PBS TV station, in connection with "Rendezvous with Murder" tours to England....Baskerville Holmes concluded his fabulous basketball career at Memphis State - now the pros? .... Gary O'Hare, of Edmonton, Alberta, tells of "The Sherlock Holmes Pub" up his way. .... Many thanks to all who corresponded since #81 - Elliott Black, Phil Sherman, John Shaw, Helen Swift, Al Rosenblatt, Henry Ryan, Wanda Butts, "Pat" Herst, Dave Galerstein, Norman Rannells, David Greeney[of N.Z.]

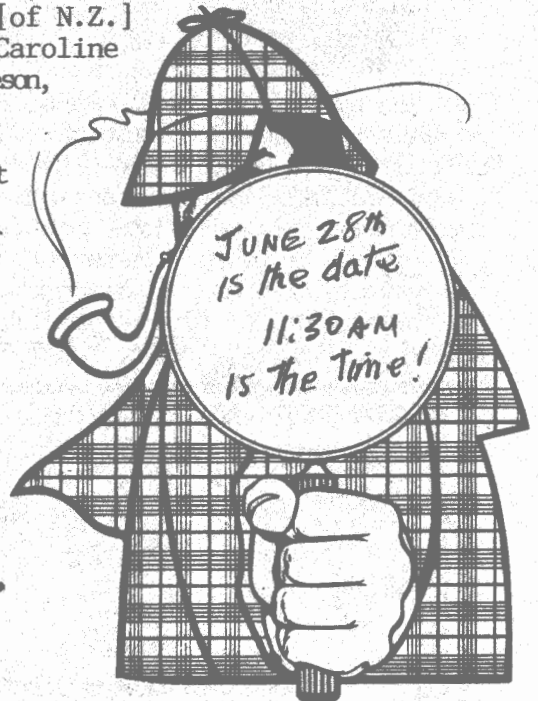
Mike Carroll, Dick Lesh, John Stephenson, Caroline Everett, John Fought, Mike Kaylor, Kyle Richeson, Jim Suszynski, Kioshi Tanaka [who put on a fabulous Sherlockian exhibit in Japan], Mark Alberstat, Mike Kean[who reported that the York School, of Monterey, Calif. where I was Headmaster some 20 yrs ago, staged "Crucifer in Blood", Phil Brogdon, J.M. Bensky, Arthur VanNostrand & Bill Ward. Sorry if I missed anybody. Appreciate all the items sent....

...All PPofers don't forget the SPRING GATHERING at HQ. Let us know if you'll be coming so "Mrs 'Udson" can plan victuals. ... June 1st, PPofers Wanda Butts & Jeff Dow will be "spliced" by this amiable and simple-minded non-conformist clergyman!

## 11th ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING

at HOLMES Beach

SATURDAY, JUNE 28th - 11:30am - 2:00pm.





Holmes  
Beach



COMMUNICATION #82

MAY 31, 1986 \*

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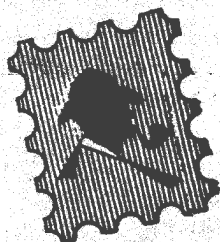
A Corresponding Scion Society of **THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS**

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

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("Twas on this day in 1888, Holmes left London to go to Rome to become  
"exceedingly preoccupied by that little affair of the Vatican cameos..")



## Philatelic Philandering

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



Betty Pierce, of El Paso, has called to this Recorder's attention several Holmesian references to be found in the recent Ameripex '86 booklet pane of 22¢ stamps commemorating Stamp Collecting. Green stamp: a loupe enlarging a fingerprint; the surname "Palmer" [tyre manufacturer]; "1886" - surely a prime S'ian year. Pink stamp: a lens; & reference to Holmes' "The Use of Dogs in the Work of the detective"; and a commonplace book. Tan stamp: Large lens; and reference to Sweden (VALL). Blue stamp: Rubber stamp with monogram "H"; the date May 22 - (SCAN); & Names "ADAMS", "JEEFERSON" & "JACKSON". Can you find others???





From Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen<sup>3</sup>

MRS. WATSON'S SHEPHERD'S PIE

- 1 lb. cooked beef, lamb, or mutton
- 2 onion, chopped    2 carrots, peeled & chopped
- 3 Tblsp butter    1 Tblsp cooking oil
- 1 cup gravy, or 1 Tblsp flour, 1 Tblsp tomato paste, & 1 cup beef bullion
- 2 lbs potatoes, boiled & mashed
- 1 egg yolk, beaten



Dice meat. Cook onions & carrot in 1 Tblsp. butter & the oil over med. heat until they are tender but not brown. Stir in gravy. If you don't have gravy, stir flour into the onions & carrots in the pan & cook slowly for 7 min. Then add tomato paste & bullion & stir and cook 'til gravy thickens. Stir in diced meat. With 1 Tblsp. of butter, grease well a 2-qt shallow ovenproof dish. Spread half the mashed

potatoes in the bottom of the dish. Spoon the meat & gravy over the potatoes and top with a layer of the remaining potatoes. Paint the top of the potatoes with egg yolk. Dot with remaining butter. Bake uncovered in a 350° oven for 30 minutes. The potatoes should be golden brown when done. Serves six.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Holmes:  
Big talent,  
big mouth**

**Holmes Says  
He's Finished**

**Holmes Recovering After 16 Days in Coma**

**Alpine Triumph  
Holmes Prevails**

**Watson named as assistant**

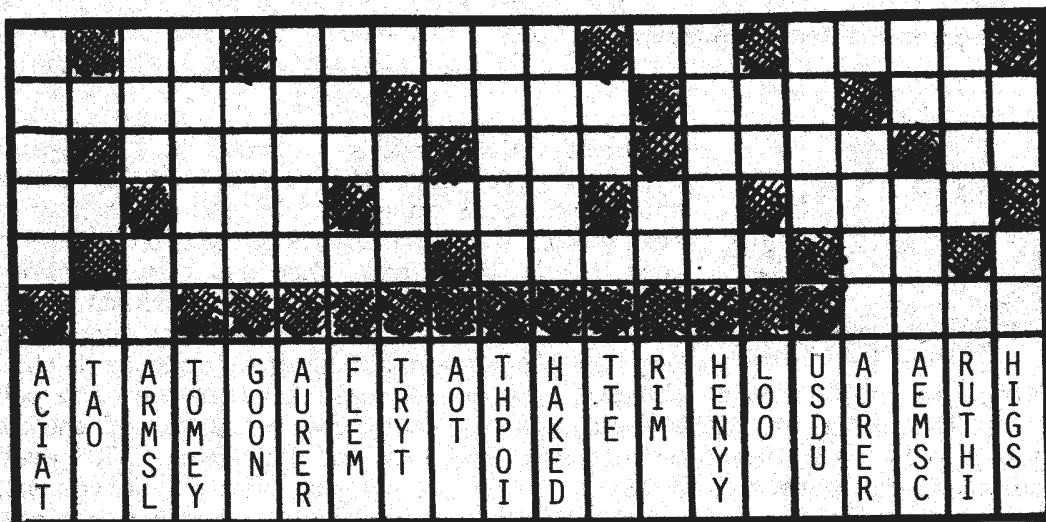
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## FAST 'N' FUN

# S'IAN PUZZLES

## QUOTATION PUZZLE #4

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!



## Mother Goose & Grimm



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# Agony Column

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



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## OLD CARS WEEKLY

April 17, 1986

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LOTTERY

| Jan. 1986       | Lucky No. DC-4 |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Tue 14th        | 759            |
| Wed 15th        | 462            |
| Th 16th         | 068            |
| <b>Fri 17th</b> | <b>221</b>     |
| Sat 18th        | 233            |
| Sun 19th        |                |

*Another BAKER STREET WINNER!*

# Times DIGEST

## Nevada proposes 7 percent solution

Storey County, Nev. — the first in the nation to legalize brothels a decade ago — has now become the first to impose a tax on the rooms rented by prostitutes. The 7 percent tax is similar to the room tax levied at motels and hotels across the nation. It will be up to the prostitutes to pay the 7 percent. They, in turn, can add it to their customers' tabs.

## A WEEKEND IN TORONTO

WITH  
 SIR  
 ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE  
 AND  
 SHERLOCK HOLMES

A seminar sponsored by The Bootmakers of Toronto, Canada's national Sherlockian society, a literary fellowship devoted to Sherlock Holmes; his place in the genre of criminous literature; and the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Trinity College, University of Toronto  
 Thursday, June 19 to Sunday, June 22, 1986.





\*As related in "The Case of the Baker Street Irregular," by John Watson, M.D., as edited by Andrew Hinkle and Richard Kennedy, 1981.

Richard Kennedy, pawnpusher, is a mental health consultant and free-lance writer. He lives in Columbus, Ohio.

# THE ROYAL GAME

BY JOHN WATSON, M.D.  
AS EDITED BY RICHARD KENNEDY

**M**y good friend and companion, Sherlock Holmes, has often shied away from games, considering them a waste of time. It was with no small surprise, then, that I watched him take up a chess game at Simpson's, defeat Sebastian Moran — and do so with an announced checkmate in seven moves.

"Was that the first game of chess you ever played?" I asked Holmes later that afternoon, hoping to uncover more of the mystery that shrouded his encounter with the evil Moran.\*

"Certainly, Watson," came the studied reply. "It was one of the first games I have ever *played*, although I must confess to having contested several before that."

I could hardly follow his line of reasoning. "Are not the two the same?" I queried. "Can you not for once explain yourself clearly, Holmes?" The annoyance in my voice was perhaps misplaced, but I had gone a considerable bit of time without an explanation, and the prospect of spending yet another afternoon with a living, breathing enigma was not attractive.

Holmes' voice was slow and placating, his smile thin. "From your noble exploits on behalf of Her Majesty, you no doubt are

aware of the variation of chess called *t'abiyat*, are you not?"

I assured him that, indeed, I was. In some portions of the Empire, the royal game is played as it is here in Britain, with one adjustment to the rules. Prior to joining in combat, each player may use as many moves as he deems necessary to assemble his pieces in a battle formation, providing the pieces are arranged upon his own side of the board. When each contestant is satisfied, the play then continues, with moves alternating as usual.

"Very good," said Holmes. "When my brother Mycroft noticed my apparent interest in the chessic goings on at the Diogenes Club — and here I do point out that I have said 'apparent,' for I had merely ascertained the moves of the different pieces from a quick observation, and had accorded them scant further attention — he set before me the challenge of one game.

"Mycroft," he continued, is considered to be quite an accomplished chessplayer, often capable of play far too subtle for most commentators to follow. In this regard, his two-game match with Howard Staunton is as yet only slightly understood, and hardly appreciated. In any event, to make our game more level, he offered me the odds of *t'abiyat*."

With that, Holmes wandered out of the room, and appeared to immerse himself in



studying the chemicals and rhetorts in his corner laboratory. It was quite some time before I realized that the conversation, at least as far as Holmes' portion of it was concerned, had been concluded. Within me, intrigue melded with umbrage as I propelled myself in his footsteps, seeking to conclude my own portion of the story.

"Holmes!" I sputtered. "The game, man. What was the outcome of the game?"

Looking up with a confused expression, Holmes took a minute to disengage himself from his calculations and re-establish the nature of our previous conversation. One could have mistakenly presumed that I was calling upon my friend to remember an instance ten years past, rather than a scant ten minutes ago.

"Oh, that," he mused. "Isn't it obvious, Watson? I immediately named my first 16 moves and then announced a mate in two. My brother conceded defeat without a piece having been moved.

"Mycroft, at times," he mumbled, delving again into his reagents, "appears to have a very wry sense of humor . . ."

"And the game before that," I persisted. "What of it?"

Holmes set down a rhetort and smiled. "Very good, Watson. There *had* been an earlier game. An appropriate deduction!"

"You would scarcely have entered such a challenge, mismatch as it was, without at least essaying an effort on even terms, and assessing its results," I replied. While I could not match my friend in his application of a system of logic and deduction, there are many things a simple army doctor knows about human behavior.

Holmes continued his recollections. "I believe Mycroft first challenged me on level terms, and without thinking I announced my strategy. 'I shall merely copy your own moves,' I said, 'and shall use your own brilliance against you.'"

Holmes' face showed chagrin.

"The result was a draw," I hazarded. "Checkmate in five moves, Watson, which Mycroft announced without a moment's wait."

This hardly seemed logical to me, but by moving around the test tubes and beakers on his table, Holmes turned all my objections moot. The play had been unusual, but mirrored, until the mate.

"A pity," Holmes mused, again drifting off into his research, "that I had not faced two equally skilled opponents, both of

Moran's mettle. Then, an even match would have been a guarantee — even for you, Watson."

I have never known how to adequately respond to Holmes' bittersweet remarks, being on one hand an admonition and, on the other, a friendly acclamation. Here, again, I was torn by feelings of pique and accomplishment. By pushing the issue, I was able to keep Holmes from disappearing.

"But Holmes, do you mean to say that I could carry off a drawn match against two masters of chess, regardless of their ability? I fear you overestimate me!"

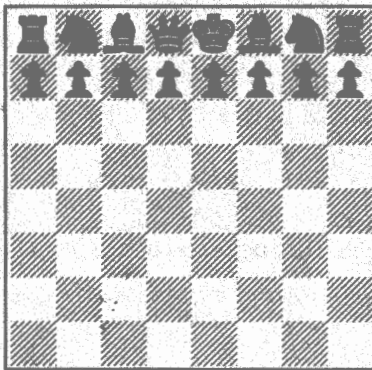
"That was hardly the problem Mr. Staunton, chess master that he was, had when he played his match with Mycroft," returned Holmes, apparently on a tangent. "Rather, he was supreme in his underestimation of my brother. A foolish attitude, one born of insufferable pride.

"No sooner than the stipulations of their match had been agreed upon, than Mycroft declared a drawn match and collected his share of the purse.

"While the champion protested mightily, Mycroft left the explanations up to the arbiter, and was safely ensconced in the environs of the Diogenes Club by the time the master relented and stormed out of the divan."

I stormed out of the room — this time Holmes had gone too far! To declare a forced checkmate, as I had seen him do against Moran, was spectacle enough. To declare a forced win, from the start, without even moving a piece, was astounding. But to declare a forced drawn match without a move having been played!

Certainly there was an anthrax epidemic somewhere I needed to attend to . . .



Editor's Note: We can assume that, in recording this tale, Dr. Watson has maintained his usual enthusiasm for the exploits of Sherlock Holmes, as well as this commitment to represent events more or less as they actually happened. Being only a casual player, however, Watson gives the reader little clue as to how some of the prodigious feats Holmes refers to were actually accomplished.

The reader may wish to try to duplicate the efforts of the brothers Holmes, specifically:

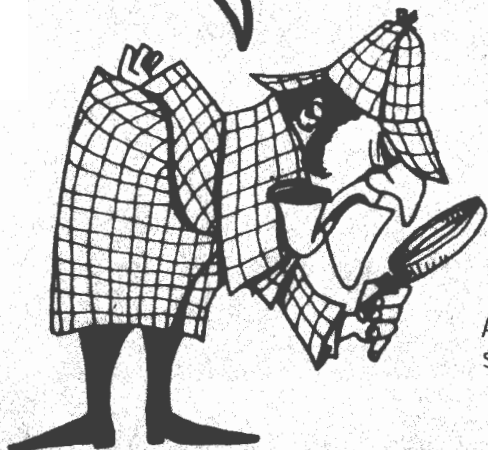
(I.) With 16 moves by the White pieces (restricted to the White side of the board — the first four ranks), construct a position whereby, after any move by Black, White can force a mate-in-two, as Holmes announced against Mycroft. Several different orders of moves are possible; the important thing is the position of the White pieces when it is Black's turn to make his first move. Use the diagram at the right to show us the position before Holmes announced mate. Then give us 16 moves by White that would produce this position.

(II.) Construct a game in which each move by Black is the same as the preceding move by White, and in which White administers checkmate in five moves, as Mycroft demonstrated to his brother.

(III.) What match rules would allow someone to play two games against an opponent and be assured of an even score? ☐

8.

"Egads and little fishes, Watson! A veritable plethora of bargains - and all for the benefit of the P.P.of F. Could you ask for anything more?"



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