

(Suggested in The Five Orange Pips)

A Corresponding Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars

12th Night Reflections ... The Fall Gathering was a great success, and we thank Norma & Morris Rannels for being such good hosts... Please excuse the several errors that have appeared in our "Quote Puzzle" - I can always "Count" on a certain PPoffer to bring me acropper. ... They say imitation is the highest form of flattery. Our column "Philatelic Philandering" appeared in the Mexborough Lodger's fine newsletter. "The Register" [\$3 per annum from Betty Pierce,

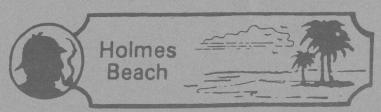
. Another excellent publication rec'd: "The Call of the Hunt" by John Stephenson

... Roy Preece's The Village Bookshelf
has put out a dandy catalogue of S'ian publications...Baker Street Publications[Box 994, Metarie, LA 70004] is putting out two quarterlies: "Slueth Journal" & "Baker Street Gazette".... Chris Redmond's new Welcome to America, Mr.Sherlock Holmes is scheduled for fall release by Simon & Pierre Publ.Ltd.[Box 280, Adelaide St.Stat., Toronto, Ont., M5C 2J4] ... "The Mystery of Edwin Drood", current Broadway hit musical/who dunnit, is directed by Rupert HOLMES, no less. As always, thanks to corresponders since #85: David Greeney, A.VanNostrand, Milt Halpert, George Edwrads, Mike Carroll,

John Stephenson, Phil Brogdon, John Crane, John Kalajian, Robert
Hess, Wanda Dow(nee Butts), Staff Davis, Mike Kraylor, Pattie
Brunner, Ely Liebow, Amy Dykes, Arnie Metanky, Ralph Spitulski,
Mark Alberstat, Jerold Bensky, Arnold Korotkin, Jack Kerr,
Dave Calerstein, John Shaw, Stephanie Hanks, Jim Suszynski,
Tom Stetak, Peter Blau & Richard Smith. Sorry for any
sins of ommission... Speaking of ommissions,
"Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen" feature will be resum-

"Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen" feature will be resumed in the next Communication. Pax.

Holmes: Isay, That new 1987 P.P. OS. F. CALENDAR IS a real corker - rught, watson?
Watson: Right on!, Holmes, old boy. 500,1



COMMUNICATION #86.

NOVEMBER 13, 1986 *

Published Irregularly by The Pleasant Places of Florida

A Corresponding Scion Society of THE BAKER STREET IRREGUL Please direct correspondence to: The Rev'd Dr. Benton Wood, BSI - Recorder

Subscription rates: \$2.21 per annum; \$10 life-time. Current Circulation: 414 [On this day, in 1887, The Camberwell Poisoning Case took place.(FIVE)]



Philatelic Chilandering

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



At the left is depicted the "221-B"[Baker Street] stamp. For \$1 I'll send you one mounted on a handsome presentation card. At right, is depicted the figurehead

A nod to Sherlock had the right idea

Watson vows to bounce back

Holmes, Watson Follow Confidence The Trail Of The 'Hound' is essential

NORTH & NORTHWEST JOURNAL—Wednesday, September 24, 1986

Dr. Watson:

The Complete New Guide to Sherlock Holmes

Michael Hardwick

Michael Hardwick's complete new guide to Sherlock Holmes is his long-awaited definiwish to know can be found in this book; details of the plots, how the legend of Sherlock Holmes was conceived and flourished. Conan Doyle's original models for

Lavishly illustrated with original drawings guide is the perfect way to celebrate the first appearance in print of Sherlock Holmes in 1887 in A Study in Sherlock.

Michael Hardwick is the author of many books about Sherlock Holmes and the Victorian period, and his 'Sherlock Holmes: My Life and Crimes' was an international best

October £10.95 (C) 234 x 156 mm 288 pp 32 b/w illus 297 78963 5

St. Petersburg EVENING INDEPENDENT



Fenner

Independent Action

Is there a chapter of the Baker Street Irregulars in America, or perhaps even in

Florida? I know there is one in England. Could you give me an address? It is a fan club for Sherlock Holmes. Sharon Noel



Membership in the Baker Street Irregulars is limited to 60, one for each of the original stories. Consequently,

Benton Wood

regional groups or "scion societies" have been formed, three of which are in Florida. The central West Coast chapter is the Pleasant Places of Florida from The Five Orange Pips. Recorder is Rev. Dr. Benton Wood,

- are you ready for this? - Holmes Beach 33510.

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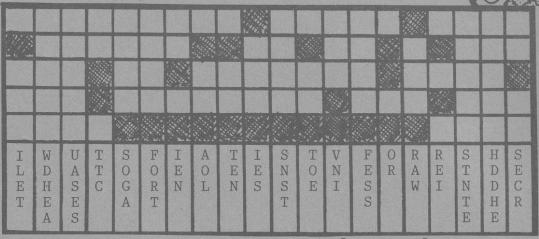
Tonom Waterstones Bookseller's 1987 Catalogue, London.



CJohn Stephenson -535 W. EASTER PL.

Holmes & Co. in fine form

FAST'N' FUN S'IAN PUZZLES





What do they have in common?

DXASI AISAXS YFVX SXZXSXX'M MEQSG PILUH PILX MBTLB IRXSQPIL ZVIJ YSQMFLXS'M TLQZFSR AQVVQISU AIVV GFFGEYIMGX

EQJECIH



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The Three —, Larry, Curly, and Moe	23	18	25	2	14	9	6	
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Slogan; catch phrase	26	10	21	7	28			
Bury the —, reconcile	8	32	30	24	- 1	9	18	
Detective, Sherlock —	19	16	12	27	4	23		
Find fault; gripe	- 24	15	27	3	33	20	5	11
Company with exclusive control of a service	26	16	29	25	3	31	33	13
SOLUTION								
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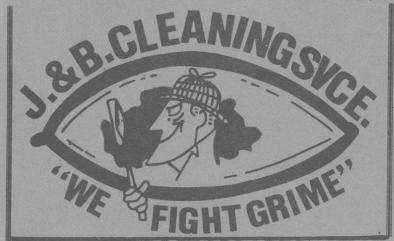


Agony Column

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

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SHERLOCK HOLMES A CENTENARY CELEBRATION ALLEN EYLES

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BOOKS

LETTERS TO SHERLOCK HOLMES. Edited by Richard Lancelyn Green. Penguin, 235 pp., \$6.95.

THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. Edited by Richard Lancelyn Green. Penguin, 272 pp., \$4.95 paper.

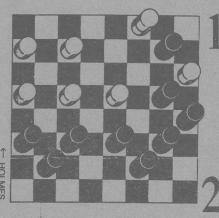
SHERLOCK HOLMES THROUGH TIME AND SPACE. Edited by Isaac Asimov, Martin Harry Greenberg & Charles G. Waugh. Bluejay Books, 355 pp., \$8.95 paper.

SON OF HOLMES. By John T. Lescroart. Donald I. Fine, 223 pp., \$15.95.

Brain Bogglers

BY MICHAEL STUEBEN

Puzzles can be found everywhere. Here are some tricky questions involving such everyday games as checkers, bowling, and Monopoly. Although the questions seem simple, watch out: several traps have been set. The answers



Octogenarians Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty have been reduced to daily skirmishes over the checkerboard in the Baker Street Nursing Home. The bizarre position at the left was arrived at while both contestants were under heavy medication; all their previous moves were legal but of doubtful strategy. At this point, both Holmes and Moriarty recover their wits.

"Well, Holmes, you subaverage dunderhead, you're dead lost this time," says Moriarty. "I've nine kings to your one king and six men."

"My dear professor, you're evidently suffering from the delusions of advanced senility; my position is invincible," says Holmes, who's playing white and has the next turn. Assuming perfect play by both players for the rest of the game, who's right?

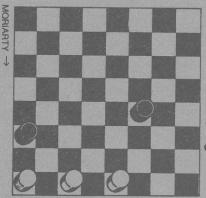
In their next game, Holmes (white) and Moriarty reach the following position, with the professor to move. "I concede, Holmes," says Moriarty. "In this position I can king first, but ultimately, my two pieces won't prevail against your three."

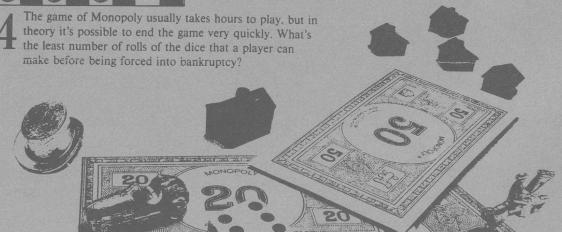
"Agreed," says Holmes. "But I'll offer you a side bet. I wager that you'll never king the first piece you move."

"That's insane, Holmes. If you play the game out fairly and quickly, you can't stop me from kinging that first piece. I accept your stupid bet."

As usual, Moriarty lost. Can you determine how Holmes won the bet? (Assume American tournament rules, in which one must capture an opponent's piece whenever possible.)

Here's a good bet to try at the local bowling alley. What's the lowest possible score when five strikes and five spares are rolled in any order? (Assume that any bonus balls thrown at an eleventh or twelfth set of pins aren't counted as spares or strikes.)





SHERLOCK HOLMES

10 Northumberland St., WC2 phone 930-2644

Forget about echoes of 221B Baker St.; this cozy pub sits in a narrow alley just off Northumberland Avenue, less than a block from the Thames and only a short walk south of Trafalgar Square. Still, the ties to Holmesian memorabilia are strong; there's a Baker Street museum and restaurant ("Mrs. Hudson's Pantry") upstairs.

The green front with gold trim includes glass etchings of Holmes himself, Dr. Watson, and two renderings of Arthur Conan Doyle on the facade. Inside, the theme remains strong, though purists may be put off by the commercial clutch of Holmesy knickknacks—T-shirts, deerstalker hats, tote bags and even ashtrays—that are for sale at inflated tourist prices. Still, the oval bar is well tended and the pub itself very friendly and well run.

The lunchtime food counter offers typical basic fare, and what's most surprising is the preponderance of local citizens who frequent the premises. This is a fine place to meet workers from nearby Whitehall, and there is, of course, the great attraction—that Conan Doyle himself used to frequent this pub in the days when it was called the "Northumberland Arms" (he mentions it in "The Hound of the Baskervilles").

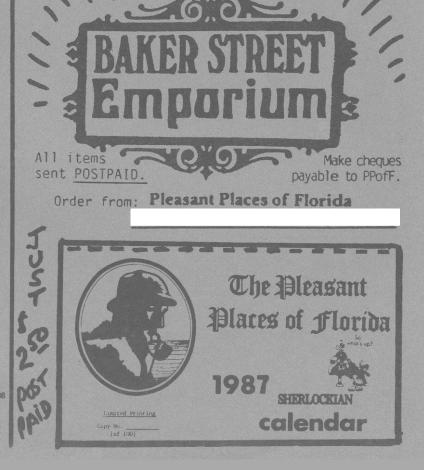
The upstairs restaurant is not terribly distinguished; the smart and congenial main-floor pub is the real attraction. Remember, though, not too much talk of crimes planned or perpetrated. The clientele also includes quite a few policemen from nearby Scotland Yard.

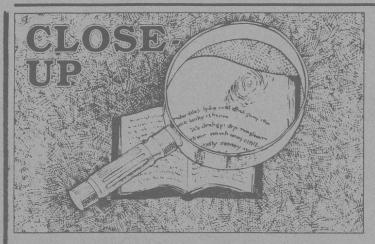
DAILY NEWS MAGAZINE . NEW YORK . MARCH 16, 1986

by Stephen Birnbaum



The Sherlock Holmes is not far from Scotland Yard.





John H. Watson, M.D.

orn in 1852, John H. Watson was the second son of a respectable family. The older brother inherited the family fortune, squandering it shamelessly before his early death. John had more ambition; he pursued medical studies at the University of London and received his degree in 1878—an early age even then. His colleagues were surprised when the promising young physician entered military service. (A love affair that went bad may be the explanation; Watson always had a weakness for attractive women.)

Posted in India, Watson served first with the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers, then with the Berkshire regiment on the Afghan frontier. Afghanistan was at the time a hotbed of resistance to British colonialism, and in July of 1880, the Berkshires were routed in the battle of Maiwand—one of the worst defeats ever suffered by British arms. Watson was struck in the shoulder by a Jezail bullet, and only the brave actions of his orderly. Murray, saved his life. Further weakened by fever, he was discharged from the service on half pay and

SMERLOCK HEMLOCK,
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returned to London.

There he idled away several months before realizing that his small income was rapidly being depleted. A decision to seek cheaper lodgings coincided with a chance meeting with young Stamford, an old acquaintance from medical school, who knew of a fellow looking for a roommate. Stamford introduced Watson to Sherlock Holmes – and the next day, the pair laid down the rent for a three-room second-story apartment at 221B Baker Street.

His new accommodations allowed Watson to live within his income, and he adopted a routine of arising late in the day. His health still prevented active pursuits, and he began to turn to writing. His earliest efforts are believed to have been adventure stories based on his Indian experiences. The publishers were unimpressed, and the manuscripts have not survived. Meanwhile, Watson became more and more aware of his roommate's extraordinary capabilities as a private detective. Holmes used the sitting room of their apartment as his office. and Watson was naturally drawn into several of the cases. Eventually, his health improved to the point that he was able to participate actively.

But his early lack of success had not dimmed his ambitions as a writer. Watson recognized that fictionalized accounts of Holmes' cases might find an audience – he had read Poe and Gaboriau, and sensed the rising popularity of detective stories. With Holmes' permission, he wrote up one of the early cases, altering such details as necessary to protect confidentiality. A friend who shared his combination of medical training and literary ambition offered to help find a publisher. Thus, with the help of A. Conan Doyle, Watson saw his first story published in 1887. A Study in Scarlet sold for 25 pounds

-hardly a princely sum, even accounting for inflation.

Watson's fortunes took another important turn the next year. One of Holmes' clients, a beautiful young woman named Mary Morstan, stole the good doctor's heart. Watson proposed. Mary accepted, and a disappointed Holmes found himself in sole occupation of the famous rooms. Watson moved to Paddington and set up a medical practice. At this period in his life, he was a handsome, brown-haired man with a moustache, athletic if a bit burly in build.

Watson continued to accompany his old friend on cases whenever his obligations to family and friends permitted, and he continued to write. In 1891, he placed a story in *The Strand Magazine*, an ambitious new periodical; the public went wild over "A Scandal in Bohemia," and Watson's fame was insured.

Ironically, the rise of Watson's star coincided with personal tragedy. Mary had died of a tragic illness, and Holmes had apparently died in a struggle with Moriarty, his old nemesis, at the Reichenbach Falls. Partly to assuage his grief. Watson wrote prolifically, and with increasing success. He took an interest in curious criminal cases, perhaps in a search for new material to fill the void left by the loss of Holmes. It was in the course of one of these investigations that he discovered that Holmes still lived—a shock that caused him, for the first time in his life, to faint.

Watson again took up lodging with Holmes in the old apartment, remaining there for another nine years. They fell easily into their old way of life, and this period saw some of their most intriguing cases together. In 1903, Watson remarried and returned to medical practice. As before, he kept in touch with Holmes and continued to publish fictional versions of their cases. Eventually, both men accepted the dictates of age and withdrew into pleasant retirement, from which they returned to aid the British cause in World War I.

While Watson's intelligence was no match for the famous detective's, that is hardly ground for the common opinion that he was a buffoon. His self-portrayal as a slow-witted plodder is obviously a literary device to heighten the reader's appreciation of Holmes' feats of detection. The self-mockery betrays no little wit, and the perceptive reader will detect a man of broad education and strong native ability behind the comic mask. He undoubtedly smiled more than once while eashing his royalty checks.

FROM: VOI.T Nº 7 OF "CRIME TIMES" - WALDEN BOOKS MYSTERY CLUB NEWSLETTER.