



COMMUNICATION #88

FEBRUARY/MARCH, 1987

# The Pleasant Places of Florida

(Suggested in The Five Orange Pips)

A Corresponding Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars

## 12th Night Reflections

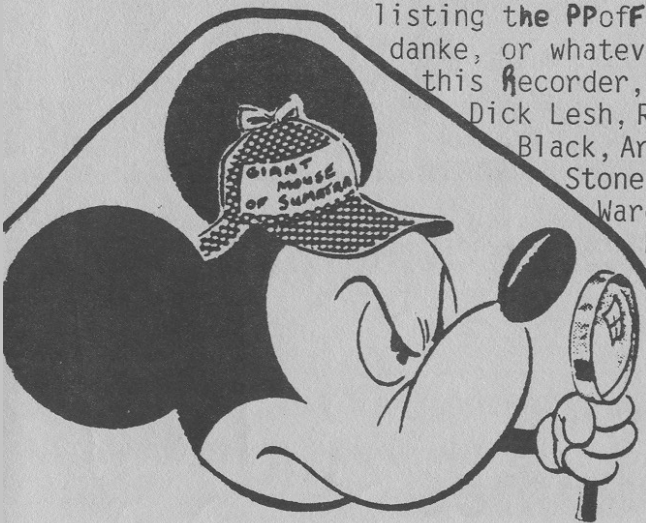
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...In my haste to send out Communication #87, I neglected to report that prior to the BSI Dinner at 24 Fifth Ave., the Irregulars toasted "The Woman" - Edith Meiser, "grande dame" of the theatre & literary world. She appeared in "The Garrick Gaieties" of 1925, "Mexican Hayride" (1941) & "Unsinkable Molly Brown" (1960) among others... truly a fine & talented lady. Kiyoshi Tanaka has put out a fabulous 1987 Sherlockian Calendar - \$10ppd

...A belated thanks

to Mike Carroll for photos of the PPoff's Fall Gathering. This Recorder recently gave a guest-lecture on SH, et al, at Eckerd College, St. Pete. Dr. Reggie Hudson (no less) of the Science Dept. taught an excellent course "The Art of Scientific Deduction" - very Holmesian in reference and content. I'll send you his Course Syllabus for two 22¢ stamps. ... Scott & Sherry Bond's "Final Problem Tour", set for Apr. 22 - May 9, is a winner. (Details: Trade Winds Travel, 21 Sa. 5th St., Phila, PA 19106. Ph: (215) 592-9200) ... Latest British Heritage has a fantastic S'ian spread. The article's only flaw was its sin of omission in not



listing the PPoff among the Scions. ... Merci, gratias, danke, or whatever, to all those who corresponded with this Recorder, and sent in assorted S'ian goodies::: Dick Lesh, Ralph Spitulski, Philip Brogdon, Elliott Black, Arnold Korotkin, Wanda Dow, Bob Burr, Gerald Stone, Stephanie Rapp, Eddie Mitchell, Bill Ward, Ron deWaal, Tom Stix, Jim Duval, Milt Halpert, Caroline Everett, Peter Blau, John Shaw, Kyle Richeson, Virginia Seay & Kate Hawks. Sorry if I missed anyone. 'Til #89 - Keep the Faith, Baby!



*There's nothing Mickey Mouse about Bill Ward's unique "Sonnets by the Major"! Order your copy today!*



COMMUNICATION #88.

MARCH 5, 1987\*

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

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[This very day, in 1881, marked the first appearance of "the Baker Street irregulars", a motley group of mudlarks and street-urchins used by Holmes when his own presence would have been obtrusive.(A Study in Scarlet)]



# Philatelic ... or "Stamping Around"

## Philandering with SHERLOCK HOLMES ....

This time our philatelic phind(or is it filatelic find) re-calls The Last Bow: "Another glass, Watson!" said Holmes, as he extended the bottle of Imperial Tokay... "A remarkable wine, Watson...it is from Franz Joseph's special cellar at the Schöenbrunn Palace."



Stock played Dr. Watson  
Holmes **honor**  
loses job  
with ballet

**Sherlock  
Holmes**

**Celebration  
Of House  
And Holmes**



From Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen (3)



### BAKEWELL TART

Joe Curley, erstwhile Master Cook\*[cum Black Hat] sent this "very English" dessert receipt\*, which he assured me was very Holmesian. You see it comes from Bakewell, Derbyshire, not far from where the Birlstone murderer was reported (VALL).

[\*- Laugh you not, my dears. My mother, a good & proper Bostonian, always called a "recipe" a receipt. Don't you agree, you Speckled Banders?]

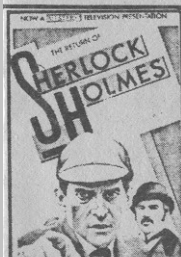
Sugar Paste: 8 oz/200g. soft flour 5oz/125ml. margarine or butter  
pinch salt 2oz/50g. sugar 2oz. raspberry jam fondant colouring

Frangipane: 4oz/100g. Margarine or butter 4oz/100g. caster sugar 2 eggs  
4oz/100gr. ground almonds ½oz/10g. flour

Prepare sugar paste. Line a flan ring with the paste 1/8"/2mm. thick. Pierce the bottom with a fork & spread with the jam.

Prepare the frangipane by beating the butter & sugar until fluffy & almost white. Gradually add beaten eggs & mix thoroughly. Then lightly fold in almonds and flour. Spread frangipane on top of jam. Bake in a moderately hot oven [200-230°C for 30-40 minutes. Leave until completely cold. Brush with hot apricot glaze. Cool. Melt fondant in a double boiler (thin with stock syrup, if necessary). Serve hot or cold. Serves 8. Great with cognac or B&B.

[\*- Joe Curley was Master Cook at Simpsons-in-the Strand. Nuff said!]



#### **The Return Of Sherlock Holmes** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

PNGN

Jeremy Brett will star as Sherlock Holmes in the new 7-part series to air February 5 through March 19 on PBS's "Mystery." This tie-in edition contains *The Six Napoleons*, *Priory School*, *The Musgrave Ritual*, *The Man with the Twisted Lip*, *The Second Stain*, *The Abbey Grange*, and *The Empty House*. Original.

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"Excellent!"  
I (Watson) cried. he (Holmes).

— from *The Crooked Man*. (St. Pete Times - Jan. 6, 1987)

↑ Philip Brogdon's elegant  
calling card. Love that  
Philatelic touch.



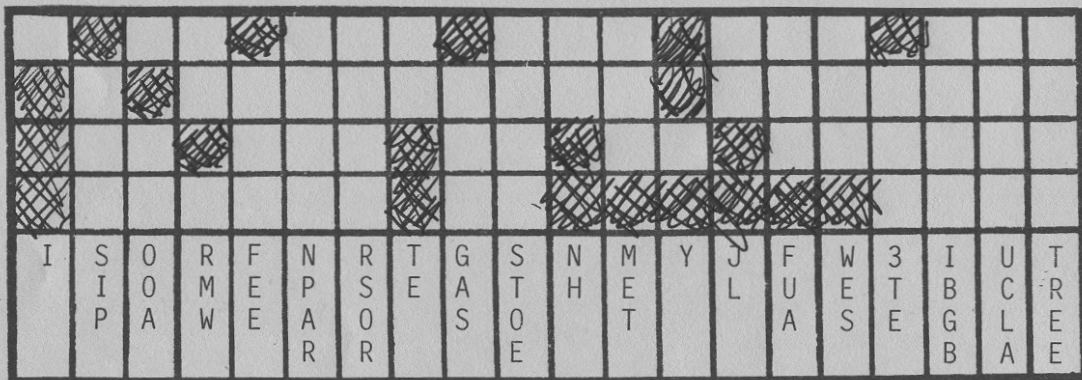
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FAST 'N' FUN

## S'IAN PUZZLES

## QUOTATION PUZZLE #10

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!



## MYSTERY WORD

Can you find the six-letter Mystery Word that is hidden in the diagram below in four minutes or less?

My first letter appears in the top half of the diagram, but it does not appear in the lower half.

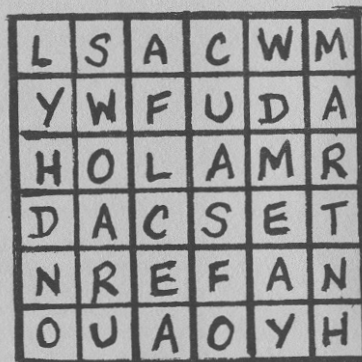
My second letter appears in each row across.

My third letter occurs only once in the diagram.

My fourth letter is above my first.

My fifth letter is the only vowel in a corner.

My last letter occurs at the beginning and at the end of one of the rows across.



Mystery Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Left with nothing but a broken thumb,  
Holmes finally cried (Come, come, old chap!)



# Elementary: he's alive and keeping bees in Sussex

by Charles Oulton

LONDON

AT precisely 9.30pm on Tuesday, Merlyn Rees, the former Labour home secretary will rise to his feet in the members' dining room at the House of Commons and propose a toast to a sharp-nosed man with highly developed powers of observation who first captured the public's imagination 100 years ago.

The object of the toast, were he present to hear it, would have received it phlegmatically. He would probably have taken a draw on his curved pipe and spent the next few minutes contemplating the fact that he would rather be passing a quiet evening at home with his violin. Or if in darker mood, the horrors associated with the name Moriarty.

Sherlock Holmes, the thinking detective, who even today receives 40 letters a week from people asking him to solve crimes, has been entertaining whodunit aficionados since 1887. It was then that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle finally persuaded the publisher Ward, Lock to introduce him to the world, for a paltry £25, in *A Study in Scarlet* which chronicles the murder of American Enoch J Drebbler.

The work, initially called *A Tangled Skein*, appeared in Beeton's Christmas Annual which sold out in a couple of weeks. Less than two years later the story was reissued as a "shilling shocker", a paperback story on its own.

At the Westminster dinner, the first event in the centenary year, 180 members of the Sherlock Holmes Society, including the author's only surviving daughter, Dame Jean Conan Doyle, who is 73, will raise their glasses to the character who inspired four novels and 56 short stories.

On Friday, some 200 members of the Baker Street Irregulars will gather for a dinner in New York, a forerunner of events which will include a horse-race named after Silver Blaze, an animal Holmes rescued from the hands of kidnappers in time to win the Wessex Cup.

There are happenings, too, in Adelaide, where the Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia (60 members) has made the elementary deduction that Holmes was, in fact, sent over there by the British government to head off a republican movement at the time of his supposed death at the Reichenbach Falls. It plans an adaptation of *A Study in Scarlet*, and a dinner.

The Japanese have inscrutably discovered their cultural heritage in Baker Street. Their unlikely love affair with Holmes started at the turn of the century but an official society of Sherlockians was formed only in 1977.

The founder, Dr Tsukasa Kobayashi, has written: "Without doubt, some Japanese read Sherlock Holmes today in an effort to know their cultural heritage. But most, we believe, seek those precious qualities — justice, reason, common sense — that seem to be disappearing from contemporary Japan."

The most significant centenary event, however, will occur in Europe when the foundation stone for a new Sherlock Holmes museum will be laid at Meiringen, a Swiss town at the foot of the Reichenbach Falls, scene of a bitterly contested episode. When Conan Doyle plunged Holmes over the falls in the arms of his arch-enemy, Professor Moriarty, the level of public outrage matched that of the national mourning unleashed by the death of Charles Dickens's Little Nell

42 years earlier.

Conan Doyle's desire to kill off the character — with a sang-froid worthy of a modern day soap-writer, he brought him back three years later for a record sum from a New York magazine — is treated sympathetically by Dame Jean Conan Doyle who was 17 when her father died in 1930.

She said: "I was a very booky person and was put in charge of keeping my father's library dusted. I spent a great deal of time with him and we were very close. I do know that, although Holmes wasn't my father's favourite character, he was very fond of him because they both shared a strong sense of humour."

Even if Holmes was not Conan Doyle's favourite, he is certainly his most enduring creation. There have been at least 200 film and television versions of the stories — even this year's Disney film for Christmas, *Basil the Mouse Detective*, is a cartoon Holmes — and at least 40 major plays. The actors who have played Holmes include William Gillette, Basil Rathbone, Peter Cushing, Christopher Plummer and Jeremy Brett.

A Holmes-like sense of humour, often baffling to some of her correspondents, is an essential part of the job for Sue Brown, who has played a role as Holmes's secretary for the last four years.

The 40 letters a week that are still delivered to the address Holmes shared with Dr Watson at 221B Baker Street actually drop on the mat at the headquarters of the Abbey National building society. Each one is faithfully answered. To each correspondent, Brown writes: "Mr Holmes thanks you for your letter. At the moment, he is in retirement in Sussex keeping bees."

Captain William Michell, secretary of the 800-strong

Sherlock Holmes Society in Britain, has his leg pulled when he strides, complete with Sherlockian deer stalker, through the countryside near his home in Somerset.

"I've been hooked on Conan Doyle since I was a boy and travelled with Sherlock Holmes stories in my kit bag when I went to sea," he said. "I cannot say what the menu will be for Tuesday's dinner — it's a state secret until the night."

The guest of honour, Merlyn Rees, chosen because of Holmes's obvious connections with the Home Office, admits he will be spending much of the time before Tuesday reading up on Sherlock Holmes.

"I can see why so many people are gripped by him," he said. "There are a lot of similarities between his Victorian England and the present day. There was drink, a crime wave, and even Holmes took drugs. All the politicians in those days said they would change everything overnight. It does sometimes occur to me what BFs we politicians are."



# Bradenton Reader Knew His Rats

Sainted Sleuth, Still

on the Case

NEW YORK - Any number of people - well, at least five - have written noting that I was wrong when writing that John Ehrlichman once proposed to let John Mitchell "twist slowly in the wind."

The man for whom this medieval destiny was proposed was not John Mitchell, then attorney general of the United States, but Patrick Gray, then the acting director of the FBI.

What Ehrlichman actually said about Gray, according to pertinent pages of official manuscript volunteered by Barry Garfinkel of New York City, was, "Well, I think we ought to let him hang there, let him twist slowly, slowly in the wind."

Ehrlichman, incidentally, was one of President Nixon's chief White House factotums when he committed the partially memorable utterance, which I now regret having mentioned since the correction requires this long-winded, space-consuming and dull identification of so many political has-beens.

While wallowing in ashes (sackcloth would look fancier than my regular wardrobe), let me thank all those readers who are writing about the Giant Rat of Sumatra.

In a recent list of the 125 most publicized things that could get you, I included "Giant Rat of Borneo." Battalions of Sherlock Holmes addicts instantly dropped their hypodermics and attacked me with letters saying, in effect, "Can't even get the elementary things right, can you, old chap? Obviously you meant the Giant Rat of Sumatra."

Allan Drew of Bradenton, Fla., urges me to look up Baring-Gould's annotated Sherlock Holmes to see an illustration of the Sumatran rodent he assumes I had in mind.

How do these people know what I had in mind when putting "Giant Rat of Borneo" on the list? As a newspaper columnist, I am licensed to write with absolutely nothing in mind.

I confess, though, that giant Borneo rats do not figure in my nightmares as the other 124 items on that list (radon, eating lead paint, dioxin, etc.) do. Maybe what I meant was "Giant Rat of



St. James's Square

GOURMET / MAY 1986



THE LONDON LIBRARY

MARK D. SLAMERS

Though each new member is inducted with a tour of the building and given a thorough explanation of the library's operation by a member of the staff, there are times when even veteran members need help, just as Dr. Watson had to call upon his friend, the sub-librarian Lomax, for assistance. In these circumstances (as in all others, in our experience) the staff excels. They are uniquely friendly, courteous, patient, and oracular, none more so than Mr. Matthews, who is often seen in the issue hall helping a member track down a piece of arcane material.

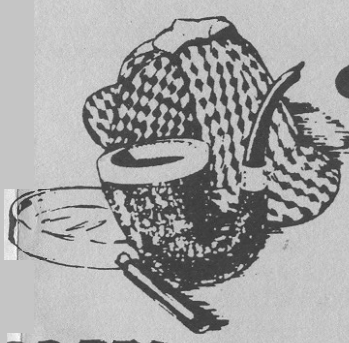
In "The Adventure of the Illustrious Client," set in 1902 and published in the *Strand Magazine* in 1925, Dr. Watson is charged by Sherlock Holmes to become an expert on Chinese pottery in twenty-four hours. At first perplexed by this assignment, Dr. Watson says, "Finally I drove to the London Library in St. James'[s] Square, put the matter to my friend Lomax, the sub-librarian, and departed to my rooms with a goodly volume under my arm."

Baltimore," a beast I encountered while walking through the Lexington Market one night in 1948, which looked big enough to kick a horse to death.

In any case, I regret having mentioned the thing and beg Sherlock Holmes addicts to drop their pens and get back to solving the mystery of whether Holmes really died in the famous struggle with Professor Moynihan at Niagara Falls.

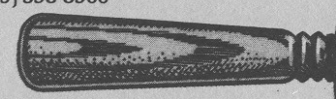
"It's Elementary!"





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## THE BAKER STREET EMPORIUM

The Pleasant Places of Florida

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(INSERT)

# ON THE HOLMES FRONT

By Marilyn Stasio

**I**t was raining in London, that icy, needle-thin rain that slashes at the back of the neck and cuts through unlined raincoats. No one at the Diogenes Club even looked up when two gentlemen slipped into the library and removed their rain-soaked outerwear before the fire.

Without sparing a glance for the semicomatose club members slumped behind their newspapers, the two friends—for the eager light in the eyes of the stouter man declared the warmth of their relationship—settled themselves in adjoining armchairs by a window and lit their pipes. Tapping his mustache with the stem of his pipe, the benign-faced one spoke.

W: Don't be annoyed, Holmes. That is, I mean to say—Hollis. I called you as soon as I'd gotten the news.

H: Never mind, Doctor *Watley*. There's nothing to be done about it now. Let's just hope this series will be the last. (stares glumly out the window at the rain, which is now torrential)

W: Come now, my friend, look on the bright side. (rifles through his leather case, drawing out a sheaf of documents) They are doing some awfully good cases, some of your most brilliant ones, I should say.

H: (bending his hawklike nose over a sheet) Hmm, *The Adventure of the Empty House*. I should have guessed they would begin with your lurid account of my "death" at the Reichenbach Falls. (a glance at his disconcerted companion)

W: (covering his emotion by referring to another paper) Well, now, look here—they're finishing the series with *The Adventure of the Six Napoleons*. You always liked that one.



H: So I did. (a pause, and then a sudden snap of that well-shaped head) See here, Doctor. Surely you must have guessed what has been bothering me all along. Why I have not observed the re-playing of my adventures, despite your blasted enthusiasm.

W: (a weary sigh) Ah, it's that Jeremy Brett business again, I assume.

H: Precisely. The gall of that man, that *actor*, trying to pass himself off as Sherlock Holmes. (an imperious wave of the hand at the club waiter advancing to replenish their brandies) And now people are calling him the greatest Holmes of the decade, perhaps the greatest ever.

W: See for yourself, why don't you? (places a photograph by his elbow)

H: Good God—the man is laughing!

W: Hmm, so he is. Well, he is a classical actor, don't you know. Well-trained chappie, too. Played more than thirty Shakespearean roles with the National Theatre of Great Britain. Orlando in *As You Like It*, Berowne in *Love's Labour's Lost*—that sort of thing.

(ON PBS—STARTING FEB. 8)

H: (sniffing) Romantic roles, I notice.

W: Also made a bit of a splash for himself on Broadway. Solid drama, too—*The Deputy*, *Conduct Unbecoming*. Did some Ibsen and Turgenev, too, I hear. Quite top-drawer, by all accounts.

H: (smiles grimly) And I hear that one of his greatest successes was *Dracula*!

W: So that's it, is it? Should have known. But look here, the fellow practically says that Holmes is his greatest, most demanding role. Calls it "a dangerous role."

H: Indeed! He also says that playing my life ruined other actors' careers.

W: (chokes on his brandy) Come, come, Holmes—er, Hollis. Let me remind you that this Brett chap has won you countless new admirers. They say the ladies, in particular, are taken with certain . . . ahem! . . . *physical* characteristics. The human side, they say.

H: My dear fellow, don't you think I can read? (brandishes a stack of newspaper clippings) I believe the word most often used is "sexy." (throws papers to the floor)

W: Oh, I say. That is a bit thick. (Retrieving a clipping, he starts to read.) "Sensually moody" . . . "piercing eyes" . . . "catlike" . . . Good gracious.

H: Exactly. Plus, of course, the usual rubbish about my supposed arrogance. I believe the phrase used by your Mr. Brett was "cold fish."

W: Said that, did he? Tsk, tsk.

(A club attendant appears with a small portable television set that he proceeds to set up on the window seat. He selects a channel, adjusts the antenna, and respectfully withdraws.)

W: Holmes! Surely this can't be. . .

H: Precisely. And if you had only utilized your powers of deduction, you would have realized that this is the first night of the new series, and that the Diogenes Club gets the best reception in the city.

W: Elementary, of course. ■

Marilyn Stasio is a New York-based freelance writer. *Mystery!* is presented by WGBH Boston and funded by Mobil.

# Aha! The Crime of the Century! (Sarasota Herald-Ex. 17/86)

Everyone loves a good mystery, and it is not surprising that the Iran-contras caper continues to hold our fascination as one of the most bungled cloak-and-dagger crimes of our lifetime.

"What do you make of it all?" I asked Sherlock Holmes in his federal house in Georgetown.

"It's very interesting, my dear Watson," Holmes replied, tamping down on his pipe. "The president promised he would get to the bottom of this, and we know less now than we did when he said it."

"Do you believe the president is happy that we can't get to the bottom of it?"

"He appears to be extremely happy."

"Why is that?"

"Because he saved Don Regan's job. Don is like a son to the president and is very good at shoveling up after the circus elephants go by."

"Holmes, what did Secretary of State George Shultz know and when did he know it?"

"That's the most interesting thing, Watson. For a secretary of state, Shultz didn't know anything at all. He didn't even know when Nancy's dog did doo-doo on the White House lawn. According to him no one on the president's staff spoke to him, and they only made decisions *after* he left the room. Scratch Shultz as a suspect."

"If it wasn't Shultz, could it have been Bill Casey?"

Holmes puffed on his pipe. "Casey has an iron-clad alibi. He was home laundering money for Angola when the overcharges for Iranian arms were being washed in Switzerland. Besides, as CIA director, why would Casey know anything about what was going on in Iran?"

"By jove, Holmes, this is getting more difficult than I thought. What about the Marine chap, Colonel North?"

"A likely suspect," Holmes said, "but you forget one thing. He took the Fifth Amendment. You can't

**Art Buchwald**



*solution in kitchen?*

accuse a man of a crime if he takes the Fifth. We have to eliminate Admiral Poindexter on that count as well."

"Too bad. I was hoping North and Poindexter could give us a clue."

"Watson, we must ask ourselves who had to most to gain from the Iranians getting arms, and the contras getting money."

"Imelda Marcos?"

"No, that's another case. The ones who had the most to gain in this whole affair were the press."

"You don't believe the press was behind the whole thing, do you, Holmes?"

"I don't but Pat Buchanan does."

"Well fiddledeedee on him. He's just attacking the press so he will get his name in the newspapers. If you want to know what I think, I see the hand of Richard Nixon in this whole thing. I say we find the smoking gun and make him resign all over again."

"Watson, I would like to think Richard Nixon was to blame, but except for the 18½-minute gap on the tapes we have no evidence. It's true he does keep calling President Reagan, which indicates he feels guilty about *something*. But until

Nixon gets up and declares he is not a crook we cannot consider him a suspect."

"You're probably right, Holmes. I suppose the thing that bothers me the most is while laws were broken everyone involved has been called a national hero."

"Perhaps I may have a clue, Watson. As you know, the key to the mystery is the secret numbered bank account in Switzerland. What do they give you, Watson, when you open a numbered Swiss bank account?"

Depending on the size, Holmes, Tupperware, a coffee pot, a Cuisinart, a toaster, an orange juice squeezer, and if you put in more than \$30 million, a microwave oven."

"Precisely, Watson. Whoever opened that account in Switzerland was given one of those items and it is now in his possession. If we find it we'll know who committed one of the most amateurish crimes of the century."

"By jove, Holmes, you're right. Let's have a look-see. You go to George Bush's kitchen and I'll go to Bob McFarlane's - and then we'll go together to see what they're cooking upstairs at the White House."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

**THE NAME OF THE ROSE** - (R: Sex, nudity, adult theme) Sean Connery and F. Murray Abraham ("Amadeus") play medieval monks trying to solve a series of grisly murders in an Italian monastery. Directed by "Quest for Fire's" Jean-Jacques Annaud. *Gulf Gate* - 1, 4, 7, 9:45.

There's grisly business afoot in "The Name of the Rose," and it's happening in the 14th century in a monastery in Italy. The movie is a murder mystery couched in a theological debate about intellectual freedom.

Monks are mysteriously turning up dead with blackened tongues and smudged fingers. Their deaths seem to be linked to the secret library and the labyrinth in the imposing medieval tower that dominates the walled city of clerics.

Called upon to solve the mystery of the dead Benedictines is Brother William of Baskerville, a Franciscan known for his superior use of logic. In the realm of fictional sleuths, William is the ancestor of Sherlock Holmes and even says to his young assistant Adso (Christian Slater) that a particular piece of deduction is "elementary."

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune)  
JAN. 23, 1987

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so here's my \$10 "Lifetime Lubricant".





# A Sherlockian Breakfast Marks Holmes's 100th

By HERBERT MITGANG

Mrs. Hudson was hostess at a breakfast the other morning in the Oak Room of the Algonquin Hotel. Only an ill-read civilian who doesn't know what's Watson in the world of detective fiction would not instantly recognize the name of the housekeeper for the brilliant loner who lived on Baker Street, at No. 221B, in London.

From several corners of the real world — Japan, Sweden, England and a score of American cities and hamlets — a few hundred Sherlockians rallied in New York under the auspices of the Baker Street Irregulars. They came to celebrate the companionability of the imagination, to debate the latest interpretations of the stories and to observe a joyous fictional event: the centenary of Sherlock Holmes, who was introduced to the world in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's first tale of murder, "A Study in Scarlet," which appeared in Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887.

The all-male Baker Street Irregulars, with a 270-strong national membership, were recognizable by their regalia (neckties decorated with Holmes symbols and deerstalkers). They are led by Wiggins, who is Thomas L. Stix Jr., a New York broker. A decidedly independent all-female group, called the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, with 85 members, was also represented. Their leader is Evelyn Herzog, a New York legal secretary who calls herself the Principal Unprincipled Adventuress. All Sherlockians take a name from a Holmes character or case.

## A Feeling of Nostalgia in Japan

Kiyoshi Tanaka, a civil engineer from Yokohama, Japan, said: "We have 650 members in the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club in five branches — Tokyo, Sendai, Niigata, Osaka and Yokohama. I founded the Baritsu Society, one of the branches of the club. Holmes used baritsu — like judo — in the story 'The Adventure of the

Empty House.' Last year we had an exhibition of books and movies in Tokyo and 25,000 people showed up."

"One reason the Japanese are interested in Holmes is that in school we studied about Victorian England through the Holmes stories," he said. "We find the stories appealing because the Japanese traditional life style today is similar to Victorian London. The stories give us a feeling of nostalgia. We do not separate men and women in our club, whose ages range from 9 to 80."

The youngest future Sherlockian present at the breakfast, Ivy Pochoda, who said she was "going on 10," was accompanied by Sarah Montague, a New York book editor originally from Britain who is a full-fledged member of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes. Miss Pochoda said, "The reason I like Sherlock Holmes is because he can figure things out that other people overlook," as scholarly an interpretation as any heard from the Irregulars or Adventuresses.

The Pentagon was represented in the person of Jon L. Lellenberg, a civilian who is director of the Northern Region, European and NATO Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for International Security Policy. He belongs to the Sherlockian group in Washington, called the Red Circle, which has a hundred members.

Yes, he said, the Pentagon could certainly use Holmes's problem-solving mind.

But why wasn't Mr. Lellenberg wearing a deerstalker like a proper Sherlockian? "Because I'm much closer to Dr. Watson — he was not too brilliant," he said. "Holmes was more of an ideal. I had a call from Norwegian radio this morning. They asked me, 'How has Holmes helped you in your defense work for Northern Europe?' I told them, 'He helps me to escape from my work.' That's the wonderful thing about the Red Circle — you can flip over from your

daily chores and turn to something without international security problems. Holmes and Watson help me to recharge my batteries and keep my NATO activities in perspective."

## World's Biggest Collection

From Sante Fe, N.M., came John Bennett Shaw, secretary of the Irregulars, who said he has the country's biggest collector of Sherlockiana (12,000 books). His club in New Mexico is called the Brothers Three Moriarty.

"The club is named after the three Moriarty brothers in the Holmes stories," Mr. Shaw said, pointing to his pin. "Our club insignia is three J's — all three were named James — with the middle one being a crooked J because Professor Moriarty was the crooked brother."

Ake Rummquist, a Stockholm publisher who brings out the Sherlock Holmes books in Sweden, said he attended the Irregulars' affairs about every other year. His wife, Ingrid, said she wasn't a Holmes follower. Looking around at the Holmesians in deerstalkers at her table, she quickly added, "I maintain a passive but sympathetic attitude."

Mr. Rummquist said that Scandinavian Sherlockians hold two horse races in the town of Aalborg in northern Denmark every year. The winner receives a sterling silver plate inscribed with Holmesian symbols. The races are named "Silver Blaze" and the "Moriarty," after the story and character.

The chaplain of the Irregulars, Dr. Ben Wood, is an Episcopal priest from Holmes Beach, Fla. "We call our branch the Pleasant Places of Florida," Dr. Wood said. "The name is derived from the reference in the story 'The Five Orange Pips.'"

Prof. Philip A. Shreffler of the St. Louis Community College, the editor of the Baker Street Journal, a publication for American Sherlockians, said: "Our approach is historical as well as literary. There's a passion about our treatment of Sherlock Holmes. To Sherlockians, Holmes and Watson are real people. There has to be a faith. Faith, above all, should be fun. Which is why we're here."