



Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients medical bulletin

A Scion Society Of The Baker Street Irregulars

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"His medical practice had been so punctuated by scandals that he had practically abandoned the practice the better to apply himself to the scandals."

DR. WATSON'S MAIL (by Mary Holmes)

There really has been mail addressed to Dr. Watson at 6730 South Clarkson, but the abbreviation which amused me most was on an envelope directed to "DR. WATSON'S ETC." It brought a mailing from England, from Father Francis Hertzberg, describing hundreds of Sherlock Holmes' items, both contemporary and antique, guaranteed "condition very good or better unless stated otherwise." Along with pencils, bookmarks, key fobs, books, visiting and cigarette cards, cufflinks, cameos, a clipping service, and deerstalker caps of "best quality Scotch wool", there are copies of STRAND MAGAZINE of 1891-1950, an exact mint facsimile of Beeton's Christmas Annual of 1887 with the first appearance of Sherlock Holmes, and a variety of both English and foreign-language editions of the stories, many of them true collectors' items. Prices run from as little as a dollar for a tobacco handbill showing Sherlock Holmes to \$29 for the facsimile copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual. The deerstalkers are \$15. Father Hertzberg says this is only a selection and free monthly lists will be sent to those who request them. He promises to supply "anything Sherlock Holmes!" The address is Father Francis Hertzberg, Our Lady's, 48 Shalmarsh, HR Bebington, Wirral L632JZ, England.

The Sciologist Press, Box 2579, Chicago, Illinois 60690, sends along a first issue of their new magazine BAKER STREET MISCELLANEA, which promises "the best of the new spiced with a goodly dollop of the old, the rare and the little known". This publication includes, under the heading "Watsoniana", a Mini-Glide-o-Gram in which the clues ask for a Watsonian vice, a Watsonian restorative, a Watsonian publisher, a Watsonian savior, and a Watsonian king "of sorts". The editors offer subscriptions at \$4 per year for 4 issues, or single issues \$1 each. They invite our members to contribute material for future issues.

In an envelope which reproduces the crowned VR inscribed in bullet holes on the wall at 221-B, another Scion Society, "The Adventurers" of Dayton, Ohio, offers a numbered, limited edition of 300 SHERLOCK HOLMES and PROF. JAMES MORIARTY T-shirts, "created by and for Sherlockians", available in Small, Medium and Large. These can be purchased for \$3.95 each + 75¢ postage and insurance, from S & H LTD., of 3854 Milford Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45429.

The Aspen Press, P.O. Box 4119, Boulder, Colo. 80302, sends material on some of their publications, ranging from "a newly-discovered manuscript by John H. Watson" to Sherlockian burlesques of sixty years ago, and a limited edition of 500 copies of WATSON'S REVENGE, "five sketches from PUNCH, in which the Great Detective Takes His Knocks and J. Smith Strikes a Blow for Watsons Everywhere."

DR. WATSON'S MAIL, continued

I will bring this material to pass around at a meeting, as I think you will be more interested in seeing it yourselves than in being told about it. But meantime, if you have questions about any of these items, call me at 798-7947.

And just arrived a long letter from "an ex-military medical man" who is a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. He is Surgeon Captain H.E.B. Curjel R.N. whose cousin in Cortez sent him a copy of Bernard Kelly's article in the POST. Captain Curjel extends his good wishes to our members and adds, "I feel sure that you are all much healthier than a lot of today's over-doctored patients"(!) He has included instructions and photo-stats of some of the playing cards for a Sherlock Holmes card game which he and his friends play and which Dr. Julian Wolff submitted to a Baltimore publisher. It is his adaptation of an English card game called Happy Families. Captain Curjel also makes some interesting comments about THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES on which he is going to speak at the London Society's September meeting. I'll bring his letter along, too.

THE GODFATHER OF LONDON (by Dan Daugherty)

The Return of Moriarty (by John Gardner. G. P. Putnam's Sons, N.Y. \$8.95)

I'd been looking for a copy of this book for some time, but after browsing my way through five bookstores, had found no trace of it. I was beginning to think it as rare as an 1887 Beeton's Christmas Annual, when I finally located it at Hatch's Book Store in Cinderella City. Even then, I bought the only copy on the shelf. I don't think this scarcity is due to any great demand for the book, but, rather, a lack of it. That is unfortunate, for I found it to be as worthy as such bestsellers as The Godfather, by Mario Puzo, and The Seven-Per-Cent Solution, by Nicholas Meyer.

Mention of The Godfather in connection with The Return of Moriarty is not inappropriate, for in the latter book we see Moriarty as the godfather of

Victorian crime. He is referred to by his men as a "don", and sets a worthy example for the later don, Corleone. The professor controls bands of prostitutes, pickpockets, petty thieves, housebreakers, assassins, "lurkers" (who spy for him), and beefy muscle men (who punish his enemies). He runs whore houses, flop houses, bars and a string of fences who dare not do business with any but him. He has warders from the prisons in his pay, and even some of the men of Scotland Yard. Where Watson only gives us a sketch of Moriarty and his activities, Gardner fills in the details. He does an admirable job of it; and yet, in leaving Sherlock a shadow in the background and bringing the professor up frontstage, Gardner seems to have missed out in capitalizing fully on the Holmes revival now going on. His book is difficult to locate, while piles of Meyer's book, which deals with Holmes directly, can be found in nearly every bookstore in town.

And yet, as a Sherlock Holmes fan, I found Gardner's book the more satisfying of the two. Where Meyer gives us a Moriarty who is nothing more than a harmless old mathematics professor (and only attains the rank "Napoleon of crime" in Holmes' cocaine clouded brain), Gardner gives us a Moriarty whose evil is only matched by his cleverness. While arranging the death of one convict in such a way that the murderess will not even realize she's committed a murder, he is also busy hatching a plot so clever that two other convicts will escape their cells without the authorities ever knowing they're missing. This is the Moriarty we've come to know in the canon. There are instances where the author contradicts the canon, but these are all explained away satisfactorily, save one. That one is in connection with Moriarty's supposed death at Reichenbach Falls.

The book opens with Holmes and Moriarty returning to London at about the same time, the latter arriving in April of 1894. Gardner is immediately faced with two problems. He must explain why Holmes lied to Watson about his enemy's demise at Reichenbach, and also keep the master sleuth out of the way somehow, so his own detective (Inspector Crow of Scotland

Yard) can have the honor of tracking down the professor. Gardner's solution is to hint at some kind of truce between Holmes and Moriarty. The scene at the falls is later explained in such a way that one can accept Sherlock having made such a truce. That he should continue to keep it for the three years that he and Moriarty were away from London is harder to accept. That, once back in Baker Street, and knowing the professor to be back also, he should still maintain this truce is unacceptable. It hardly sounds likely of a man who told Watson, in "The Final Problem", "...I could not sit quiet in my chair, if I thought that such a man as Professor Moriarty were walking the streets of London unchallenged." But I suppose I am being nit-picky with an otherwise excellent book. Perhaps it comes with being a Sherlockian.

The language of the book is that of the criminal classes of Victorian England, and the reader will want to refer to the Glossary often. Four letter words are in evidence, as are some bedroom scenes, but I felt that these were necessary to the realistic portrayal of Moriarty and his minions. One can hardly expect slum-bred criminals to speak in the polite phrases of a Dr. Watson; and it is likely that their leader, for all his refinements, would tend to use some coarse language also. Neither is it surprising that the man who controls the best call girls in London should occasionally make use of their services.

The book covers only one month in the professor's life, and that leaves much room for additional material. In the introduction, Gardner tells us that Moriarty kept a log of his activities in code, and that the code has now been broken. The author and his publishers have decided to release this log in the form of "...a novel, or novels...". I hope that this veiled promise of more to come is fulfilled, and anxiously await the next volume.

THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

by Hugh Greene

THE FURTHER RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

Early Detective Stories Collected and Introduced

by Hugh Greene

COSMOPOLITAN CRIMES

Foreign Rivals of Sherlock Holmes

Early Detective Stories by the Contemporaries of Arthur Conan Doyle

Edited by Hugh Greene

All published by Penguin Books, 95¢

Hugh Greene's definitive collections of detective stories published in the quarter century between Sherlock Holmes' first appearance in Strand Magazine in 1891 and the outbreak of war in 1914 are now out in paperback. These years bracket an era the author describes as a self-contained period with its own character--"With the invention of Sherlock Holmes, Conan Doyle changed the character of the short detective story, and the first world war changed the character of the world in which the stories were set."

These accounts of London and Continental detectives in the thirty-nine stories by some thirty contemporaries of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle provide a documentary history of detective fiction which puts Sherlock Holmes' adventures in the framework of their actual place and time. In THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, Hugh Greene (who also wrote THE SPY'S BEDSIDE BOOK with his brother, Graham Greene) presents stories in which the detectives have identifiable addresses, and locates them for us on an 1898 map of London to give that reality which several generations of readers have associated with 221-B Baker Street. The theme for THE FURTHER RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was, Greene says, given to him by Sherlock Holmes himself when, on his way to Winchester to investigate the affair of the Copper Beeches, Holmes remarks: "It is my belief, Watson, founded upon my experience, that the lowest and vilest alleys in London do not present a more dreadful record of sin than does the smiling and beautiful countryside." Here we have crime in the counties, in what Greene says seems to him to be a more

DETECTIVES OF THE 1890s, continued

realistic countryside than that of the country house murders so prevalent in the detective stories written between the two world wars. In general this author is critical of "the unreal country house, ye olde English village, world of the English detective story in the years between the wars when Agatha Christie, Margery Allingham, Ngaio Marsh and Dorothy Sayers exercised their monstrous regiment of women." Yet in each of these volumes he has included period stories written by women. In two of them, both by Baroness Orczy, author of THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL, the mysteries are actually solved by women. One, Lady Molly, is a representative of the London police known as "My Lady of Scotland Yard".

Among the stories in the first volume there are two by Clifford Ashdown, along with another published by the same writer under his own name, R. Austin Freeman. Writing as Ashdown, Freeman presented an amateur sleuth called Romney Pringle, whose official profession was that of literary agent. In later stories, published under his real name, Freeman created a team of characters, Dr. Thorndyke and Dr. Jervis, reminiscent in many ways of Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes. Hugh Greene considers Thorndyke and Jervis, though not greater, more realistic than Holmes and Watson. In his opinion, R. Austin Freeman is one of the best detective writers of all time.

In COSMOPOLITAN CRIMES the connecting link between the stories is that they are all "foreign" adventures in the period between 1891 and 1914. Here the detectives and secret agents pursue their villains in France, Switzerland, South Africa, Belgium, the United States, Denmark, Australia and Canada, but whatever the locale, observation and deduction are in the tradition of Baker Street.

THE FURTHER RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is probably the last of his collections of early detective stories, Greene says, since he doubts that there are more

discoveries to be made. His account of his experiences as a collector and his anecdotes about the authors of the stories make good reading, too. For serious Sherlockians, he advises that anyone working on the detective stories written in this period will find there are four indispensable books of reference: VICTORIAN DETECTIVE FICTION by Graham Greene and Dorothy Glover, QUEEN'S QUORUM by Ellery Queen, THE DETECTIVE SHORT STORY by Ellery Queen, and MURDER FOR PLEASURE by Howard Haycraft. Hardcover editions of these three books by Hugh Greene, which were first published between 1971 and 1974, are printed in England by The Bodley Head and in America by Random House.

ALIVE AND WELL

Despite a limited amount of activity during the summer months our scion society is alive and well. Our membership continues to grow and your Medical Board has held a meeting to plan our activities for the next year. Getting the Board together was a task due to vacations, business commitments and other obstacles. Finally we did arrange to meet and the following are a few of the items placed on our agenda.

1. General open meeting October 7, 1975. Bemis Library, Littleton. Program a talk by Mary Ake "Mary and the Sacred Pilgrimage" including her visit to the Reichenbach Falls. Plus a slide presentation of cartoons "The Political and Pornographic Sherlock Holmes" by Ron De Waal.
2. A general meeting in December which will feature talks and a collectors show and tell. All members are encouraged to bring their Sherlockian material to this meeting; it should be interesting to see the range of items collected by our members. Trading, exchanging and individual selling will be in order. In addition, we will have a book display, courtesy of BOOK HOUSE, 5174 S. Broadway, Englewood, CO 80110. The BOOK HOUSE will not be permitted to make sales in the library but will take orders and will reduce all items 5% for our members. Details as to time, place and date will be furnished well before the meeting.

ALIVE AND WELL, continued

3. Another issue of The Medical Bulletin in December outlining details for our Annual Meeting, to be held in January. This meeting will also be the occasion of an election of officers. We hope to have more articles from our members to put in the Bulletin. Why not send us yours now.
4. A film festival to be held either at our Annual Meeting or soon thereafter. Details later.
5. Plans are also being made for at least three additional meetings to be held during 1976. One of our general meetings will be in honor of Dr. Watson and we will also have a general meeting in honor of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Watson's literary agent.
6. A discussion was held and decision made to initiate an award to be presented by our society to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Holmesian world. The nature of the award and its qualifications will be finalized and announced in a future Medical Bulletin.

A CLASS ON SHERLOCK HOLMES

One of our members, Dr. William S. Dorn of Denver University will be conducting a credit course on Sherlock Holmes this December. The class will be held in the General Classroom Building 131 at D.U. The sessions are scheduled each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the period December 2-18 at 10:00 a.m. to noon. In addition to Conan Doyle's works Dr. Dorn will discuss Edgar Allen Poe, Austin Freeman, Nicholas Meyers' "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" and others. Those wishing to take the course for credit will have to register and pay the appropriate fees. However, Dr. Dorn has graciously extended an invitation to any of the Neglected Patients to sit in as auditors at

any or all sessions without cost. Please call Mary Holmes at 798-7947 or Dr. Dorn at D.U., 753-1964 - Ext. 3529, for further information. Next Spring Dr. Dorn will attempt to schedule a mini evening course on Sherlock Holmes especially for those Neglected Patients who could not attend the daytime course.

ANNUAL DUES

After much discussion your Medical Board has decided to hold dues at the current rate of \$3 per year. This is in spite of rising costs for all items, in particular postal charges. We have had quite a few inquiries from out-of-state Sherlockians as to how they could receive our Medical Bulletin and other announcements. The Board feels that we should not become too involved in special mailings, etc. so all individuals wishing to receive our publications must become members and pay the \$3 annual dues. Dues become payable in September and extend through August. Individuals joining during the year must pay the full year's dues, but will be sent a copy of all back issues for that year to date. Please send in your dues now so that we can prepare an updated membership roster prior to the annual meeting in January, 1976. Send your checks to our Wielder of the Scalpel: Dr. W. P. Blake, 2410 Eighth Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631. Please include the following: Your title, first name, middle initial, last name, street address, state, ZIP code and telephone number.

BULLETIN FORMAT

As you have no doubt noticed, we have a new masthead for the Medical Bulletin. The fine art work was done by one of our members, Terry Teis. Terry is also working on a new wallet sized membership card to be issued later this year. The masthead is still too crowded, no fault of Terry's, so we will continue to make changes until we hit on an ideal format. Our objective is actually a clean letterhead type of composition that can also be used for the Medical Bulletin as well as general personal and business correspondence.

HOLMES AWAY FROM HOME: HIGHLIGHTS OF A
SHERLOCKIAN TRIP TO EUROPE - SUMMER 1974

by Ronald Burt De Waal

When I arrived in London, I naturally went directly to "221B" Baker Street. Of course, Holmes was not at home, but his new secretary, Leslie Whitson, whose office is in the Abbey National Building Society, spoke to me at length about the numerous letters still being written to the Master Detective. Because Holmes spends most of his time on the Sussex bee farm and rarely visits his Baker Street flat, Miss Whitson has been authorized to answer his correspondence. She let me look through two large file boxes of letters, and explained that other letters were stored elsewhere in the building.

They are the most fascinating group of letters imaginable. Some were obviously written, often humorously, by crackpots. Others, from people in various parts of the world, are urgent and legitimate pleas for help. If only the Master were young enough to assist these poor wretched souls, but at 120, it's about all he can do to look after his bees! We should be grateful he is still alive and available for an occasional interview--if one is lucky enough to locate his bee farm!

Before leaving, I urged Miss Whitson to have the Abbey officials turn these priceless letters over to the Marylebone District Library. They should become part of the Library's Sherlock Holmes collection. I hope she will act upon my suggestion. I further hope some enterprising Sherlockian--perhaps with the assistance of Holmes--will then select and edit the letters for publication. Had I access to them, I would undertake the project myself.

From Baker Street it is a short walk to the Marylebone Library. In the company of Nick Utechin, I spent several hours examining the Library's collection of Holmesiana. The collection was started in 1951 during the Festival of Britain, but unlike the Toronto Central Library's collection,

it has not flourished. The collection contains some important items, shelved in an attractive bookcase donated by members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

British Holmesians and the library staff should take a greater interest in developing the Library's Sherlock Holmes collection. In London there should be a collection at least equal to the one in Toronto.

British collectors of Holmesiana do not seem as voracious as many American collectors. A few good collections do exist, like those of Stanley MacKenzie (who may have the largest Holmes collection in England), Lord Donegall, and Nicholas Utechin. Undoubtedly there are others.

I myself penetrated several London bookstores and purchased valuable items for my collection, including first editions of all the Canonical books, except A Study in Scarlet; Portuguese pastiches, published between 1909 and 1913, featuring Sherlock Holmes and Harry Taxon (Dr. Watson); a set of thirty Spanish translations, published in Literatura Sensacional (Barcelona, 1908-1909); and other rarities, such as the script for a French radio dramatization (undated) of The Hound of the Baskervilles, a copy of Ouida Rathbone's playscript Sherlock Holmes (performed in 1953), and another playscript, dated 1911, entitled Cinderella, or The Adventure of the Single Slipper in which Holmes and Watson are called in by the Prince to find Cinderella after her midnight disappearance. (All these, and many other items from my collection, will be exhibited in the Colorado State University Library in January and February, 1975, to highlight a Sherlock Holmes Symposium during February 3-5.)

I also visited the Sherlock Holmes Hotel, which isn't very Sherlockian, and the Sherlock Holmes Pub, which is delightfully Sherlockian. In the June, 1971, issue of The Spectator (p. 897-898) Benny Green suggested some amusing ways in which the hotel could become more Holmesian:

When a man walks into a hotel named 'The Sherlock Holmes', the last thing he wants is conventional politeness and efficiency. When he asks for his room

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number it is feeble and ridiculous to give it to him. Instead he should be given a cryptogram, some fingerprint dust and a packet of spyglass lenses and left to work it out for himself. The diminutive pageboy who carries his bags should, in one of the remoter corridors of the building, suddenly reveal himself as the Bavarian light-heavyweight wrestling champion. While the customer sleeps, all the number-plates on all the doors should be switched around. On the foyer carpets should be plainly visible the foot-prints of a great hound, a fog should be pumped through into every corner of the premises. Tape recordings of clip-clopping horses' hooves should be left running outside every bedroom window, and it hardly needs to be said that all staff members should be dressed in the period style...

And then on leaving the hotel, each guest should be required first to pass a rigorous examination on the contents of the hotel and umbrella stand, giving the age, occupation, nationality, height, weight and political opinions of the owners of every sunshade, shooting stick, walking stick, parasol and cricket bat. I guarantee that a hotel run on these lines would be opening branches in every major city in Britain before the end of the 1970s.

The pub is a complete contrast to the non-Holmesian hotel. Its walls are covered with original Sherlockian illustrations, cartoons, and other tantalizing items. Even Sherlock Holmes T-shirts are sold here. The main attraction, of course, is the replica of the 221B sitting room. The room includes all the familiar objects, lovingly assembled and displayed. What a treat to gaze upon "Holmes' and Watson's room" while savoring one of the pub's fine meals.

Two other Holmesian restaurants--both on Baker Street--have closed. They were the My Dear Watson coffee house

and the Deerstalker. (In the United States there are four Sherlock Holmes restaurants: three in Philadelphia named Dr. Watson's Pub and one in Chicago called The Baker Street Pub.)

I saw my first Sherlock Holmes play, the critically acclaimed revival, by the Royal Shakespeare Company, of William Gillette's play Sherlock Holmes. The play was so successful in London (it appeared at the Aldwych Theatre from January 1 to August 10) that it has been brought to this country for an extended engagement. It opened at the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater on October 7, and will move to New York's Broadhurst Theater on November 6, marking the 75th anniversary of the play's initial bow. It is a completely captivating production, with exquisite sets and superb performances by the entire cast, particularly by John Wood, who portrays Holmes, and Philip Locke, who is the evil Moriarty. I look forward to seeing the play again when I attend The Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner in New York on January 10.

Not to overlook Solar Pons, I also paid a visit to his apartment at 7B Praed Street, which is within walking distance of "221B" Baker Street. Like Holmes, he was away at the time, though I was able to talk to a pretty girl who temporarily occupied the flat. I asked if she knew when Solar Pons and Dr. Parker might return. She denied knowing them or their whereabouts! It was obvious she had been carefully instructed by Pons to feign ignorance about their existence. Finally, I asked her to at least give him my calling card upon his return and, with that, said a hurried goodb.

I think it would be fitting for Luther Norr to occupy 7B Praed Street whenever Pons and Parker are away on a case, which apparently is most of the time. Luther is already listed in the Los Angeles telephone directory under the name "Solar Pons." Maybe he should simply move into the Praed Street apartment!

It was a special pleasure and honor to have visited with Michael Harrison, James Edward Holroyd, Stanley MacKenzie, and Nicholas R. Utechin--all eminent Holmesian authors and scholars. I only regret not meeting others in London.

My trip to Switzerland did not include any of the fanfare that accompanied the Sherlock Holmes Society's Swiss Tour in 1968, and thus went unnoticed in the press. Some of you will recall that about thirty members of the Society, faithfully attired in late Victorian costume, made a grand and well-publicized pilgrimage to Holmesian and Doyleian sites in Switzerland between April 27 and May 4. Among the places visited were the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Museum in Lucens, the Reichenbach Falls in Meiringen--where the Sherlockians unveiled a memorial stone and watched Lord Paul Gore-Booth and Charles Scholefield reenact Holmes' and Moriarty's death struggle--and Arosa--where another plaque was unveiled--this one commemorating the literary agent's pioneer ski crossing from Arosa on March 23, 1894 (Conan Doyle was the first person to ski in Switzerland).

My first stop was Vevey. I had planned to remain long enough to visit Lord Donegall, distinguished editor of The Sherlock Holmes Journal. I ended up staying several days in this beautiful city on Lake Lemán. Meeting Lord Donegall was one of the highlights of my trip. He is less reserved and more amiable than I thought his title might imply. We visited the Chateau de Lucens, which, until Adrian Conan Doyle's death in 1970, was known as the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Museum. The chateau was closed to the public, but Lord Donegall talked the new caretaker into letting us go inside. We saw the Sherlock Holmes Room (almost an exact replica of the 221B sitting room), while listening to a tape recording of Adrian describing many of the room's articles. He mistakenly called one item an alpinestock instead of an ice ax. Holmes did not use an ice ax. Why an ice ax was in the room and not an alpinestock, I don't know.

The room is absolutely marvelous--larger and more authentic looking than the 221B room at the Sherlock Holmes Pub. I was so spellbound by what I saw that I could have stepped into the room and remained there forever, comfortably waiting for

Holmes and Watson to appear. Yes, it is that kind of room--a warm, inviting room filled with a large assortment of intriguing objects. When you actually see a room like this, you gain an even better understanding of why so many people continue to enjoy Sherlock Holmes. The room exudes good-fellowship, security, and at the same time, impending adventure. As Adrian's final words faded, I took one last look, knowing that this might be the closest I would ever come to Holmes and Watson.

Happily, I soon encountered another treasure Conan Doyle's library! This remarkable collection consists of first editions of the books he wrote, along with the books he read and used in his research. Unfortunately, a large number of them had been stored elsewhere in Switzerland by Adrian's widow, Anna Conan Doyle; and as she was in Canada, it was not possible to obtain permission to see these other books. Perhaps another time.

The chateau itself is a marvelous 12th century castle that would be a fantastic place to live! If it were mine, I would have as my sitting room, not the huge room with its massive fireplace that dominates the main floor, but the much smaller one in the cellar where Holmes and Watson reside, at least in spirit.

A Swiss art dealer named Pierre Koller acquired the chateau for about \$900,000 and reopened it this fall. The Sherlock Holmes Room will remain there as a tourist attraction. The fate of the library has not been decided. Ideally, a Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Museum would be founded in London where the Sherlock Holmes Room could be recreated, using these same objects, and where all of Doyle's books and manuscript material could be housed. (His manuscripts and letters are still in the hands of a certain New York antiquarian book dealer--that's another story!) I hope this possibility has already occurred to Anna Conan Doyle and that perhaps now she will be less concerned about copyright (that's another story yet!) and more concerned about keeping her father-in-law's manuscripts, papers, and books together in some museum or library, preferably in London (Why not donate them all to the Marylebone Library?)

From Vevey I journeyed to the picturesque town of Meiringen and checked in at the

HOLMES AWAY FROM HOME, continued

"Englischer Hof," which is really the hotel du Sauvage. It is a marvelously quaint hotel, with pleasant rooms and excellent meals. I immediately began questioning the elderly proprietress about Holmes' and Watson's stay at the hotel on May 3, 1891. I asked about Peter Steiler, then manager of the hotel, and also asked if I could look at the hotel register for that day to see the signatures of Holmes and Watson. The proprietress seemed puzzled and even distressed at my persistent inquiries. I pursued the matter no further!

As it was almost nightfall when I reached Meiringen, I postponed visiting Reichenbach Falls until morning, and, instead, spent the rest of the evening wandering around town. I was delighted to discover a motel named after the Master. Hans-Peter Thoeni was on the verge of opening his new motel when the party of Sherlockians arrived there in 1968. He capitalized on the event by calling it the Sherlock Holmes Motel. Not only does the motel bear Holmes' name, but each of the twenty-one rooms is named after one of the Canonical characters; e.g., Sherlock Holmes (No. 11), Irene Adler (No. 12), Dr. J. H. Watson (No. 15), and Prof. Moriarty (No. 23).

The following morning I hurried off to the Reichenbach Falls for the final adventure of my trip (it could have been the "final" adventure of my life!). Except for the description by Watson in "The Final Problem" and by Holmes in "The Empty House," and Sidney Paget's magnificent illustrations, I was unfamiliar with the terrain. A funicular railway runs part way up one side of the falls, but I decided to go on foot, just as Holmes and Watson had done. After a short hike I found myself peering over a guardrail into the falls both above and below me. The railing marks the place where Gore-Booth and Scholefield reenacted the death struggle. I soon realized, however, I was on the wrong side and that the epoch encounter had occurred on the opposite side of the falls. From where I stood, a path on the far side was not visible. I knew

one must exist, though, so I continued up the path to the top of the falls and discovered another, narrower path leading back down the other side. My excitement and feelings of expectation grew as I made my way down this path which, at one point, circled back to the falls and then ended abruptly. There I stood on the very spot where Holmes and Moriarty had stood on that fateful day in May of 1891! I cautiously leaned out (there was no guardrail) and looked at the chasm below. Only through a miracle could anyone survive such a fall. (Some Sherlockians insist that Moriarty did survive his plunge and, like Holmes, is alive to this day.)

The path and rock wall above are almost exactly as Holmes described them. One possible exception is the path which, even when wet, is too rocky for footprints. Holmes need not have worried about leaving his tracks or reversing his boots! It may be true, of course, that the path was less rocky in 1891.

The cliff above the path is almost sheer and in one or two places, actually an overhang. In spite of this, I was determined to duplicate the Master's feat by climbing to the ledge where he lay unseen by Watson. I began inching my way up the rock wall on which, as Holmes explained, there were few footholds. Somehow I finally reached the ledge, and then crouched there for several minutes to regain my composure. I could feel Holmes' reassuring presence, as well as the sinister presence of Moriarty below. It was exhilarating and terrifying.

You will recall that soon after Watson had left for the second time, one of Moriarty's confederates (later identified as Col. Sebastian Moran) began hurling rocks down at Holmes. To escape, he scrambled and then fell, "torn and bleeding," back onto the path, whereupon he "took to his heels and did ten miles over the mountains in the darkness"--a remarkable achievement for even the most extraordinary of men. I did not descend quite as rapidly and so avoided the same mishap.

Because of the difficulties I encountered in scaling the cliff, it is obvious that Holmes was a competent rock climber. This should lend support to the claims of some that Holmes climbed Mount Everest during

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his Great Hiatus, making him, not Hillary and Tenzing, the first person to conquer the world's highest mountain!

Perhaps a group of Sherlockians could plan a hundredth anniversary celebration at the Reichenbach Falls on May 4, 1991. I would like to participate in such an historic event. There could be an

authentic reenactment of the entire sequence of events, beginning with Holmes' and Watson departure from the "Englischer Hof" and ending in Holmes flight from Moran. A dummy dressed as Moriarty obviously would be needed for the actual plunge into the Reichenbach, unless, that is, some Sherlockian is "dying" to prove, once and for all, whether the Professor could have survived such a fall!

A list of books, journals and miscellanea

Courtesy of Peter E. Blau, BSI, "Black Peter" of the Red Circle, Washington, D.C.

Some first editions: THE SHERLOCK HOLMES QUIZBOOK, by Albert J. Menendez; Drake, \$7.95. SHERLOCK HOLMES'S WAR OF THE WORLDS, by Manly W. Wellman and Wade Wellman; Warner paperback, \$1.25. BASIL RATHBONE: HIS LIFE AND HIS FILMS, by Michael B. Cruxman; A. S. Barnes \$10.00. Announced for publication: THE REVENGE OF MORIARTY, by John Gardner; Putnam. BASIL IN MEXICO, by Eve Titus; McGraw-Hill.

From the Pontine Press (Box 261, Culver City, CA 90230): HOLMESIAN CLERICHEWS, by D. Mart Dakin; \$5.00. THE NON-CANONICAL SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Luther Norris; \$5.00. VINCENT STARRETT: IN MEMORIAM, by Michael Murphy; \$5.00. From the Aspen Press (Box 4119, Boulder CO 80302): THE ADVENTURES OF PICKLOCK HOLES, by R. C. Lehmann; \$10.00 (cloth), \$5.00 (pap)

Some new American editions: THE PUBLIC LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Michael Pointer; Drake \$7.95. A THREE-PIPE PROBLEM, by Julian Symons; Harper & Row, \$6.95. THE WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Michael Harrison; Dutton, \$7.95. Announced: SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Trevor Hall; St. Martin's Press.

Some paperback reprints: THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, by John Dickson Carr; Viking \$2.45. THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Vincent Starrett; Pinnacle, \$1.95. SHERLOCK HOLMES IN PORTRAIT AND PROFILE, by Walter Klinefelter; Schocken Books, \$3.95. NAKED IS THE BEST DISGUISE, by Sam Rosenberg; Penguin, \$2.25. THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION, by Nicholas Meyer; Ballantine, \$1.95. REGARDING SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURES OF SOLAR PONS, THE CHRONICLES OF SOLAR PONS, THE MEMOIRS OF SOLAR PONS, THE CASEBOOK OF SOLAR PONS, THE REMINISCENCES OF SOLAR PONS, THE RETURN OF SOLAR PONS, all by August Derleth; Pinnacle, 6 vols \$8.00 (possibly boxed). Announced: THE MEMOIRS OF SCHLOCK HOMES, by Robert L. Fish; Equinox/Avon.

The Canon: A STUDY IN SCARLET (introduction by Ed McBain), THE SIGN OF THE FOUR (P. G. Wodehouse), ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Ellery Queen), MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Joe Gore), THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (Don Pendleton), THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Nicholas Meyer); Ballantine, 6 vols., \$7.50 (boxed). Announced: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, in facsimile; A&W Visual Library. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES and THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, in facsimile; Schocken Books.

Some journals: THE BAKER STREET JOURNAL; quarterly, \$10.00 a year, from the Fordham University Press, University Box L, Bronx, NY 10458. BAKER STREET MISCELLANEA; quarterly, \$4.00 a year, from the Sciolist Press, Box 2579, Chicago, IL 60690. THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: NEWSLETTER; quarterly, \$2.00/yr. from Mary Ellen Couchon, 52 W. 56th St. #3F, NY,

Some miscellaneous items: THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CALENDAR, by Albert J. Menendez; Drake, \$3. TWO SIDES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, a two-sided jigsaw puzzle; International Polygonics, \$5.00. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MEDALLION, minted in silver with portrait and commemorative inscription \$15.00 (numbered and limited edition of 100), \$12.00 (regular edition), from the Ostlers-SBNJ, 68' Crest Rd., Middletown, NJ 07748. THE 221B RECOGNITION PIN; \$5.00, from Robert W. Hahn, 409 South Ahrends Ave., Lombard, IL 60148. ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #1 and two LP records, each with two of the 1945 radio broadcasts starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce; \$12.65 (both), \$6.50 (one only), from Elbereth LP's and Tapes, Box 773, Glendale CA 91209. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SCRAPBOOK, by Peter Haining; Clarkson N. Potter, now remaindered at \$4.98.