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MEMORIES

THE ADVENTURES OF



SHERLOCK HOLMES

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**M E M O R I E S**

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## SHERLOCK HOLMES

by Jerome F. Collins

Although Edgar Allen Poe developed the detective story, no one did a more effective job in popularizing it than Arthur Conan Doyle in his Sherlock Holmes' stories. Most nostalgia experts consider Holmes the first as well as the greatest of all fictional detectives.

Sherlock Holmes as a literary character was based on the real life figure of Dr. Joseph Bell from Edinburgh University. Arthur Conan Doyle not only gained his medical degree at Edinburgh, but also served as an outpatient clerk to Dr. Bell. John Dickson Carr mentions that Doyle got to know Bell even better when they vacationed together on the island of Arram.<sup>1</sup>

Bell was a perfect model. He was tall and lean and possessed long dextrous fingers much like Holmes. The medical students at Edinburgh were much impressed by Bell's excellent powers of deduction. Dr. Bell would frequently surprise his students by accurately guessing the jobs of incoming patients.

Few literary characters possess the real life qualities of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson. Researchers in this area can easily come away with the impression that Holmes and Watson actually lived. In fact the students of Holmesian literature seem to enjoy applying life-like qualities to both Holmes and Watson.

As Dr. Harry Thurston Peck put it so well:

Sherlock Holmes himself interests us simply as a man. His curiously varied tastes, his fondness for good music and rare books, his disorderly room, his utter boredom when not absorbed in disentangling mysteries--his addiction to cocaine--all these things amuse or interest or pique us until we grow fond of him, and get at last to know him as well as though we too shared his rooms on Baker Street.<sup>2</sup>

Sherlock Holmes was born on January 6, 1854. In the mid 1860's Holmes had a serious illness. Michael Harrison suggests that this pulmonary type illness led to Holmes' use of cocaine.<sup>3</sup> To overcome the effects of this illness Holmes took up rowing, archery and fencing. This physical activity made Holmes a much stronger and more agile person. Holmes would remain physically fit for the rest of his life. His excellent physical condition would be a definite asset in future cases.

Holmes came from a family with only a moderate amount of wealth. Holmes had two brothers, Mycroft and Sherrenford. Mycroft would play a key role in a number of his brother's cases.

To complete his education Sherlock Holmes decided to enter Oxford. To prepare himself for this Holmes hired a tutor. This teacher turned out to be none other than Dr. James Moriarity. A well known mathematician, Moriarity had written The Dynamics of an Asteroid as well as a treatise on the binomial theory written when he was only twenty-one.

Pursuing courses in the area of medicine and other sciences Holmes attended both Oxford and Cambridge. Although he never earned a degree, Holmes became well versed in many areas included chemistry, geology, British law, botany and anatomy. Holmes spoke French fluently and spoke some German, Latin and Greek.

While at Oxford Holmes led a very withdrawn and isolated life. He finally opened up when he entered Cambridge. Considering this change in personality it is unusual that Holmes failed to join the Cambridge Rifles. According to Michael Harrison this decision can be attributed to Holmes' poor eyesight. This can also account for his frequent use of a magnifying glass.<sup>4</sup>

On November 23, 1879 Sherlock Holmes sailed on the Empress Queen for the United States. Holmes arrived on either December 3 or 4 and remained until August 5, 1880. During the time he was here he traveled extensively throughout the United States. During his stay Holmes also played in a number of Shakesperian plays.

While in New York City Sherlock Holmes worked with Wilson Hargreave who was in the employ of Commodore Vanderbilt. Some eighteen years later Holmes and Hargreave worked together on the case of the Dancing Men. Holmes also assisted in the solution of at least four other mysteries while in the United States.

During the time that Sherlock Holmes was in the United States a series of events were taking place half way around the world that would directly affect Holmes' life. On July 27, 1880 the Battle of Maiwand was fought between a combined force of British and Indian troops and the Ghazis of the Amir of Afghanistan. During the battle an army surgeon named John Watson, who was temporarily attached to the Berkshires 66th Foot, was wounded in battle. The bullet shattered his shoulder and grazed the subclavian artery.

After gaining his medical degree from the University of London Watson had hoped for a career as an army surgeon. The severe bullet wound he received in Afghanistan removed all hope of this army career. He thus left the army on a disability pension.

Some six months after Holmes returned from the United States and soon after Watson was released from the hospital the two of them met in A Study in Scarlet and began sharing that almost legendary flat at 221 B Baker Street. The date on this would be either late 1880 or early 1881.

This building was either owned or managed by Martha Hudson. Mrs. Hudson employed a maid and at a later date hired a cook. In addition she also employed a series of pages. The most famous of these pages was Billy who held the position from 1887-1893. Based on services received and the quality of their accomadations Holmes and Watson must have paid a very high rent.

## A STUDY IN SCARLET

Part 1 *Being a Reprint from the Reminiscences of John H. Watson, M.D.,  
Late of the Army Medical Department.*

- 1 Mr. Sherlock Holmes
- 2 The Science of Deduction
- 3 The Lauriston Garden Mystery
- 4 What John Rance Had to Tell
- 5 Our Advertisement Brings a Visitor
- 6 Tobias Gregson Shows What He Can Do
- 7 Light in the Darkness

Part 2 *The Country of the Saints*

- 1 On the Great Alkali Plain
- 2 The Flower of Utah
- 3 John Ferrier Talks with the Prophet
- 4 A Flight for Life
- 5 The Avenging Angels
- 6 A Continuation of the Reminiscences of John Watson, M.D.
- 7 The Conclusion

## THE SIGN OF FOUR

- 1 The Science of Deduction
- 2 The Statement of the Case
- 3 In Quest of a Solution
- 4 The Story of the Bald-headed Man
- 5 The Tragedy of Pondicherry Lodge
- 6 Sherlock Holmes Gives a Demonstration
- 7 The Episode of the Barrel
- 8 The Baker Street Irregulars
- 9 A Break in the Chain
- 10 The End of the Islander
- 11 The Great Agra Treasure
- 12 The Strange Story of Jonathan Small

## ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

A Scandal in Bohemia  
The Red-headed League  
A Case of Identity

The Boscombe Valley Mystery  
The Five Orange Pips  
The Man with the Twisted Lip  
The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle  
The Adventure of the Speckled Band  
The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb  
The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor  
The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet  
The Adventure of the Copper Beeches

## MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

Silver Blaze  
The Yellow Face  
The Stock-broker's Clerk  
The "Gloria Scott"  
The Musgrave Ritual  
The Reigate Puzzle  
The Crooked Man  
The Resident Patient  
The Greek Interpreter  
The Naval Treaty  
The Final Problem

## THE OLD TIN BOX

by Jay Finlay Christ

In the vaults of Cox was an old  
tin box  
With Watson's name on its lid.  
What wouldn't we pay for that box  
today  
And the secret notes there hid?  
Old Russian dame, Ricoletti the  
lame,  
The famous aluminium crutch;  
For Alicia, the cutter, the parsley  
in butter,  
What would you give for such?  
Story of Randall, Darlington scandal,  
The coptic patriarchs.  
The opal tiara, the Addleton barrow—  
Dollars? or francs? or marks?  
The tale of the pinch of Victor  
Lynch,  
The furniture warehouse mob,  
The case at the Hague, the murder  
at Prague  
The powderless Margate job.  
The giant rat, the cardinal's hat,  
The Patersons (first name Grice),  
The cormorant's bill, the Hammer-  
ford will—  
We'd take 'em at *any* price.  
The Phillimore fella who sought an  
umbrella,  
The steamer Friesland (Dutch);  
For Col. Carruthers or Atkinson  
brothers  
One *never* could give too much.  
The Vatican case and its cameo face,  
The slithering, unknown worm,  
The Abergavenny were none too  
many—  
Where *is* this Cox's firm?  
Oh, wonderful box in the vaults of  
Cox!  
You come with a touch of salt!  
But I offer two blocks of choicest  
stocks  
For the treasure of Cox's vault.

New York, 1946



A reading of the Sherlock Holmes stories leads one to believe that this was no ordinary apartment. One can only admire the patience of Mrs. Hudson. In the early years Holmes was a frequent user of both morphine and cocaine. Both Holmes and Watson smoked. Holmes used both cigarettes as well as a pipe. Their apartment must have been constantly filled with smoke. In addition Holmes was very untidy in his personal habits.

One can not ignore the unusual working hours of our two detectives as well as all the visitors they had, many of them coming at strange hours. There was always the violin playing, the indoor pistol practice and also the many scientific experiments. There was always that atmosphere of violence and danger that surrounded 221 B Baker Street.

There is little doubt that Holmes and Watson led a very good life. They both went to the opera and enjoyed going to some of London's better restaurants. Aside from this they seemed to enjoy the Bohemian style of life that included many hours spent in reading, arguing, discussing and writing. We also know that Holmes wrote as many as sixteen manuscripts on such topics as tatoos, typewriters and bee keeping.

If we could only return to London in the days of Sherlock Holmes We would travel by carriage through the fog shrouded streets. Gas lights would guide us as we traveled on cobble stones.

Upon reaching 221 B Baker Street we would be ushered upstairs by Mrs. Hudson. We would probably find Holmes meditating in his chair, sitting on the floor or standing by the ever popular fireplace. More than likely Holmes would have a pipe in his mouth. Watson would probably be reading the newspaper and informing Holmes of some sensational crime recently committed in London.

We would find papers, books and manuscripts scattered throughout their flat. There would be Holmes' violin with the case left on the floor. We would also see a variety of pipes set around the room. We would not, however, see the curved meerschaum pipe. Holmes never used one. William Gillette, the famous American actor who originated the role of Sherlock Holmes on the American stage, first used this type of pipe. The perfect balance of the pipe allowed Gillette to smoke the pipe without holding it.

Never would we hear Holmes utter the phrase "Elementary my dear Watson." This phrase was popularized by Basil Rathbone in the movies.

Soon the call comes from Billy or Mrs. Hudson. Holmes and Watson must be off on another case. But wait, Holmes is not wearing his famous cap and cape. We are in error. The deerstalker cap is worn only in the countryside. Sidney Paget, the most famous of all the Holmes illustrators, was very fond of wearing this cap. Thus he frequently dressed Holmes in one.

The Iverness cape is basically a garment worn to protect travelers from railway soot and road mud. One would rarely wear the cape except when traveling by train, dogcart or similar vehicle. Neither of these items of clothes would be worn while walking the streets of London.

### *THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*

The Adventure of the Empty House  
The Adventure of the Norwood Builder  
The Adventure of the Dancing Men  
The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist  
The Adventure of the Priory School  
The Adventure of Black Peter  
The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton  
The Adventure of the Six Napoleons  
The Adventure of the Three Students  
The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez  
The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter  
The Adventure of the Abbey Grange  
The Adventure of the Second Stain

### *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*

- 1 Mr. Sherlock Holmes
- 2 The Curse of the Baskervilles
- 3 The Problem
- 4 Sir Henry Baskerville
- 5 Three Broken Threads
- 6 Baskerville Hall
- 7 The Stapletons of the Merripit House
- 8 First Report of Dr. Watson
- 9 Second Report of Dr. Watson
- 10 Extract from the Diary of Dr. Watson
- 11 The Man on the Tor
- 12 Death on the Moor
- 13 Fixing the Nets
- 14 The Hound of the Baskervilles
- 15 A Retrospection

### *THE VALLEY OF FEAR*

#### *Part 1 The Tragedy of Birlstone*

- 1 The Warning
- 2 Sherlock Holmes Discourses

- 3 The Tragedy of Birlstone
- 4 Darkness
- 5 The People of the Drama
- 6 A Dawning Light
- 7 The Solution

#### *Part 2 The Scowlers*

- 1 The Man
- 2 The Bodymaster
- 3 Lodge 341, Vermissa
- 4 The Valley of Fear
- 5 The Darkest Hour
- 6 Danger
- 7 The Trapping of Birdy Edwards

Epilogue

### *HIS LAST BOW*

The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge

- 1 *The Singular Experience of Mr. John Scott Eccles*
- 2 *The Tiger of San Pedro*

The Adventure of the Cardboard Box  
The Adventure of the Red Circle  
The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans  
The Adventure of the Dying Detective  
The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax  
The Adventure of the Devil's Foot  
His Last Bow

### *THE CASE BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*

The Adventure of the Illustrious Client  
The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier  
The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone  
The Adventure of the Three Gables  
The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire  
The Adventure of the Three Garridebs  
The Problem of Thor Bridge  
The Adventure of the Creeping Man  
The Adventure of the Lion's Mane  
The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger  
The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place  
The Adventure of the Retired Colourman

In attempting to recreate London in the days of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson one can do no better than by reading the poem "221: B" by Vincent Starrett.

Here dwell together still two men of note  
 Who never lived and so can never die;  
 How very near they seem, yet how remote  
 That age before the world went awry  
 But still the game's afoot for those with ear  
 attuned to catch the distant view-halloo;  
 England is England yet, for all our fears-  
 Only those things the heart believes are true.

A yellow fog swirls past the window pane  
 As night descends upon this fabled street;  
 A lonely hansom splashes through the rain,  
 The ghostly gas lamps fail at twenty feet.  
 Here, though the world explode, these two survive,  
 And it is always eighteen ninety-five.<sup>5</sup>

In 1888 Dr. Watson met Mary Morstan, the orphaned daughter of a former captain in the Indian army. Miss. Morstan was twenty-seven years old at the time of their meeting. She had been educated at Edinburgh and was at that time the governess for the children of Mrs. Cecil Forrester. The wedding took place in the spring of 1889.

Shortly before the wedding Watson purchased a practice in Paddington from an elderly doctor, who because of illness had let his medical practice slide. After almost a decade together Watson moved from 221 B Baker Street. It was only obvious that Watson's connections with Holmes greatly decreased after the marriage. Still there are many situations mentioned in the Sherlock Holmes stories of Watson dropping in at the end of the day or on a light day caused by some canceled appointments.

Mary Watson was liked by all even Sherlock Holmes. She never complained when her husband was detained by Holmes or even when he took off in the middle of the night or on a weekend trip to assist Holmes on a case.

In 1894 tragedy struck with the death of Mary Watson. Soon after Watson back with Holmes. In 1902 Watson moved once more to his own room in Queen Anne Street off Harley Street. These were considered extremely fashionable quarters. In 1903 Watson remarried. Very little is mentioned of his second wife aside from the fact that she was not as patient and understanding as his first wife. It also appears that Holmes was not very fond of her.

According to Michael Harrison Watson also had a third wife. In 1884 he supposedly moved to America and established a practice in San Francisco. In 1886 Watson married Miss Constance Adams. Soon after Watson and his new bride returned to London where he established a new practice in Paddington. Harrison make little mention, however, of what happened to Watson's other two wives.<sup>6</sup>



One of the most important events in the life of Sherlock Holmes would be his presumed death at the Reichebach Falls in The Final Problem. Although he had not actually witnessed the death of Holmes, Watson assumed that his friend had met his death at the hands of Dr. Moriarity.

With the death of Holmes, Watson moved from 221 B Baker Street and established a new residence and practice in Kensington.

After his presumed death the flat on Baker Street was rented and kept in tact by Mycroft Holmes, who was aware of the fact that Holmes was still alive. Neither Mrs. Hudson nor Watson were informed that Holmes had survived the incident at the Reichenbach Falls.

We now move ahead some three years to that eventful day in early April, 1894. Dr. Watson was attempting to solve the murder of Ronald Adair, when an old book collector confronted him in his flat in Kensington. Momentarily turning his head, Watson turned back to see his old friend Sherlock Holmes. The shock was too great for Watson who immediately fainted.

After reviving Watson, Holmes explained his whereabouts for the last three years. It was only Moriarity who had died on that fateful day. As he explained it to Watson, it was his knowledge of Baritsu or Japanese wrestling that allowed him to break away from Moriarity's grip. Even before Moriarity's body hit the rocks and water below Holmes realized that this would be his opportunity to go into seclusion with the rest of the world thinking he was dead. Thinking that Holmes was dead Moriarity's confederates would take greater liberties with the law. Operating in this fashion, Holmes felt that he would have a better chance of destroying the remainder of Moriarity's gang.

Having fled from the scene of his fight with the master of crime, Holmes traveled throughout the world incognito as a Norwegian named Sorgesom. Traveling in this disguise he spent two years in Tibet and then spent the last year of his exile in Persia, Mecca, Khartoun and in the South of France. Hearing the news of the Park Lane Mystery and discovering that only one of his enemies remained in London, Holmes decided that it was time to return to London. Explanation completed, Holmes and Watson set out into the night in their attempt to solve The Adventure of the Empty House. Before the night was over Colonel Sebastian Moran, the late Dr. Moriarity's chief of staff, had been captured. With his arrest the murders of Ronald Adair, Mrs. Stewart of Lauder and others had been solved. The destruction of Dr. James Moriarity's infamous gang was finally complete. Beginning with this case the years 1894-1901 would represent the busiest time in the career of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson.

These were also very profitable years for Holmes. He had already worked for several of the crowned heads of Europe. The largest sum of money he received was six thousand pounds from the Duke of Holderness in The Priory School Case.

There are two other indications of Holmes' wealth. First, he purchased Watson's medical practice for a considerable price when he returned after the incident at the Reichenbach Falls. Secondly, Holmes had enough money to retire in luxury to his bee keeping in Crowborough Sussex.



Holmes retired sometime between 1904 and 1907. His retirement home, Windlesham, was a villa with a commanding view of the English Channel. It was located near a little cove as well as the Village of Fulworth. We also know that he hired housekeeper. There is a strong possibility that it was none other than Mrs. Hudson.

In addition to raising bees, Holmes also wrote A Practical Handbook of Bee Culture With Some Observations Upon the Segregation of the Queen.

Only once did Holmes come out of retirement. Once more he and Watson joined forces in His Last Bow. Much effort and time was put into their confrontation with Von Bork, the devoted agent of the German Kaiser. With the conclusion of this case Holmes returned permanently to his retirement villa. On July 7, 1930 Holmes died at the age of seventy-six.

Fortunately Dr. John Watson had wisely chronicled the exploits of Sherlock Holmes. Some sixty cases have been compiled in book form. But what of the other cases that Watson referred to in his writings. Mention is made of at least fifty-five cases that were never written down by Dr. Watson.

According to Michael and Mollie Hardwick:

Somewhere in the vaults of the bank of Cox and Company, at Charing Cross, there is a travel worn and battered tin box (dispatch) with my name painted upon the lid. It is crammed with papers nearly all of which are records of problems which Mr. Sherlock Holmes had at various times to examine.

If studying the life of Sherlock Holmes seems very foolish and unrealistic let me direct you to the writing of Vincent Starrett.

If there be one person yet living who questions the reality of these wraith let him write to the Central Post Office, London and ask how many letters have been received in the last half century addressed to Mr. Sherlock Holmes at no. 221 B Baker Street - a man (cynics will tell you) who never lived and a house that never existed. But the house in Baker Street still stands. It will continue to as long as the cold London fog rolls in with the Winter and mischief is planned and thwarted and books are written and read.<sup>8</sup>

Let us now return to London in the late nineteenth century, the London of Arthur Conan Doyle. As mentioned earlier, Doyle graduated from Edinburgh University. It was here that he met Dr. Joseph Bell, his model for Sherlock Holmes. Dr. John Watson was patterned after Dr. James Watson from Southsea, a leading member of the Portsmouth Literary and Scientific Society.

After his graduation from medical school Doyle entered general practice. Upon the completion of additional study he became an eye specialist. Failing to achieve success as a doctor, Doyle turned to writing. In 1891 the historical novel, The White Company, was

published. This was followed by Sir Nigel in 1906. In addition there were two other short novels and a play. In 1902 he was knighted for his work with the Langman hospital in Bloemfontein. He also acquired an interest in both judicial and tariff reform and also later in life spiritualism. His interest in military history led him to write A History of the Boer War and the monumental The British Campaigns in Europe.

His greatest literary recognition, however, came to him through his writing of the Sherlock Holmes stories. A Study in Scarlet appeared in Beetons Christmas Annual for 1887. The second story The Sign of the Four appeared soon after in Lippincotts Magazine. In 1891 the editors of Strand Magazine agreed to print six of the Sherlock Holmes stories. The first of these A Scandal in Bohemia appeared in June, 1891. Doyle was paid 35 pounds for each one of these first six stories. The success of these stories and the popularity of Sherlock Holmes led the Strand Magazine to accept six more Holmes stories.

The original choice for illustrator for the Holmes stories was Walter Paget. By mistake the letter was delivered to Sidney Paget, Walter's brother.

Ironically Sidney frequently used Brother Walter as his model for Sherlock Holmes. Sidney Paget continued as the illustrator during Doyle's most productive period. This relationship continued until Paget's death in 1908. After this there were no regular illustrators. Ironically it was Doyle's father, a well known illustrator in his own right, who occasionally served as the artist for some of the Sherlock Holmes' stories.

It was Doyle's intention that the six short stories he wrote in 1891 would be the last Sherlock Holmes stories. Pressure from his mother and other family members and friends caused Doyle to continue writing for two more years.

Early in 1893 Doyle and his wife Touie vacationed in Switzerland and viewed the Reichenbach Falls. Doyle had finally discovered a way of disposing of Sherlock Holmes. As Doyle said, "All is very well down here. I am in the middle of the last Sherlock Holmes story, after which the gentleman vanishes, never to return. I am weary of his name."<sup>9</sup>

Having discovered the site of the crime Doyle had Holmes killed off in The Adventures of the Final Problem. It was Professor Moriarity, who had hid behind the black rock, that pushed Holmes over the Reichenbach Falls.

When Holmes died in the December issue of the Strand Magazine Arthur Conan Doyle was out of England. Thus he was not aware of the public outcry that arose with the death of Sherlock Holmes. Soon Doyle was inundated with thousands of letters of protest. It was not unusual to see young men wearing black bands of mourning around their hats as they walked the streets of London.

By 1897 Arthur Conan Doyle was changing. The name Sherlock Holmes was not quite as repugnant as before. In addition the expense of running his house had greatly increased. Thus towards the end of 1897 Doyle wrote his first full length play, Sherlock Holmes. Eventually the play was given to William Gillette.

While on a golfing holiday in March of 1901 Arthur Conan Doyle.

BEETON'S CHRISTMAS ANNUAL

# A STUDY IN SCARLET



By A. CONAN DOYLE

Containing also  
Two Original  
DRAWING ROOM PLAYS.

1  
FOOD FOR POWDER.

By R. ANDRÉ

2  
THE FOUR LEAVED SHAMROCK

By C. J. HAMILTON

With ENGRAVINGS

By D. H. FRISTON

MATT STRETCH,

AND  
R. ANDRÉ

WARD·LOCK·&·CO  
LONDON·NEW·YORK  
AND·MELBOURNE·

developed the idea behind the Hound of the Baskervilles. It was at the Royal Links Hotel at Dartmoor along the North Sea that Fletcher Robinson told Doyle the legends of Dartmoor and the story of a spectacular hound. With its rocky wasteland, bogs and dense fog, Dartmoor was a perfect setting for the Hound of the Baskerville.

According to Doyle the Hound of the Baskerville did not mark the return of Sherlock Holmes as it was written before Holmes' death. Oddly enough Doyle had not even planned on using Holmes when he wrote the preliminary notes for the story. The Public was so anxious for the return of Sherlock Holmes that they waited in line at the printers for the first installment. With this first chapter the circulation of the Strand Magazine was increased by thirty thousand copies.

Some ten years after his last short story Arthur Conan Doyle finally brought Sherlock Holmes back to life again in The Empty House. This was followed soon after with The Norwood Builder, Dancing Man and The Solitary Cyclist. Sherlock Holmes was finally back.

On September 18, 1907 Arthur Conan Doyle, by now a widower, married Jean Leckie. To satisfy his wife, Doyle wrote two new Holmes' stories Wisteria Lodge and The Bruce Partington Plans.

As a result of a conversation with William J. Burns of the Burns' Detective Agency, Doyle became very interested in the Molly Maguires of Pennsylvania. This became the basis of his last and according to John Dickson Carr, his best detective novel, The Valley of Fear.<sup>10</sup>

In 1917 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote his final Sherlock Holmes story His Last Bow with its setting during the First World War. For the last time Sherlock Holmes had come out of retirement to solve a crime. Some thirteen years later on July 7, 1930 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle died. On this same date the greatest of all detectives, Sherlock Holmes had passed on to eternity.

Part of the popularity of Sherlock Holmes can be attributed to the success of Holmes in so many different medias. As it was so aptly put:

Sherlock Holmes grew larger than the pages of the book that held him - he turned up on the stage, in the movies, clubs were devoted to collecting information about him. He and Watson are familiar all over the world. It is probable that no other detective and his biographer will ever take their place.<sup>11</sup>

Soon after Arthur Conan Doyle began writing Sherlock Holmes' the great detective was appearing on the stage. The first author of a Holmes' play appears to have been Charles Rogers whose Sherlock Holmes was produced in Glasgow, Scotland in May of 1894. In this first of many plays John Webb played Holmes and St. John Hammond was Watson.

Doyle wrote one of the next Holmes' play in 1897. The five act play was sent to Charles Frohman in New York City. Frohman

A NEW ADVENTURE OF  
**SHERLOCK HOLMES**



For  
**CHRISTMAS  
PRESENTS,**  
Nothing  
Better  
than  
**FRY'S**  
Chocolates  
in every box.

**THE  
STRAND  
MAGAZINE**

**GRAND CHRISTMAS  
DOUBLE NUMBER**

**Geo. &  
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**DEC.  
1913**

**1/6**



then turned it over to William Gillette who rewrote the play. On November 6, 1899 Sherlock Holmes opened at the Garrick Theater in New York City and ran for 230 performances.<sup>14</sup> It then went on the road for a year. Following on this it went on the road. It then went to London for a very successful season at Sir Henry Irving's Lyceum. The timing was perfect for Arthur Conan Doyle. This was the year that Doyle wrote The Hound of the Baskerville. The play was brought back to London in 1905. It was also revived in the United States during these years.

Charlie Chaplin toured for three years in Sherlock Holmes as Billy with H. A. Saintsbury as Sherlock Holmes. When William Gillette came to London late in 1905 to star as Holmes, Chaplin was once again hired to play the role of Billy.

In 1929 Gillette was coaxed out of retirement to give a farewell tour in Sherlock Holmes. The responses were so positive that Gillette continued the tour through three seasons until 1932.

Gillette was also the first Sherlock Holmes on the radio in 1930. He even played Holmes on the Lux Radio Theater in 1935. From his earliest days on the stage till his final days on the radio William Gillette played the role of Sherlock Holmes for thirty-six years.

In 1910 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote a play based on the Speckled Band. It was produced at the Adelphi Theater with H. A. Saintsbury as Holmes.

Doyle's next production on the London stage was entitled The Crown Diamond; An Evening With Sherlock Holmes. The play was presented in 1921 at the Coliseum Theater. Dennis Nulson-Terry played Holmes.

The most recent revival of Sherlock Holmes on the stage was The Crucifer of Blood which premiered in Buffalo, New York at the Studio Arena Theater in January of 1978. The play was written and directed by Paul Giovanni and starred Paxton Whitehead as Holmes and Timothy Landfield as Watson. After a successful one month run in Buffalo, the play moved to New York City where it is still enjoying a successful run on Broadway.

The first actor to play Sherlock Holmes on the screen was Viggo Larson who acted in six films, which he also directed for Nordisk, a Danish film company, in 1908 and 1909.

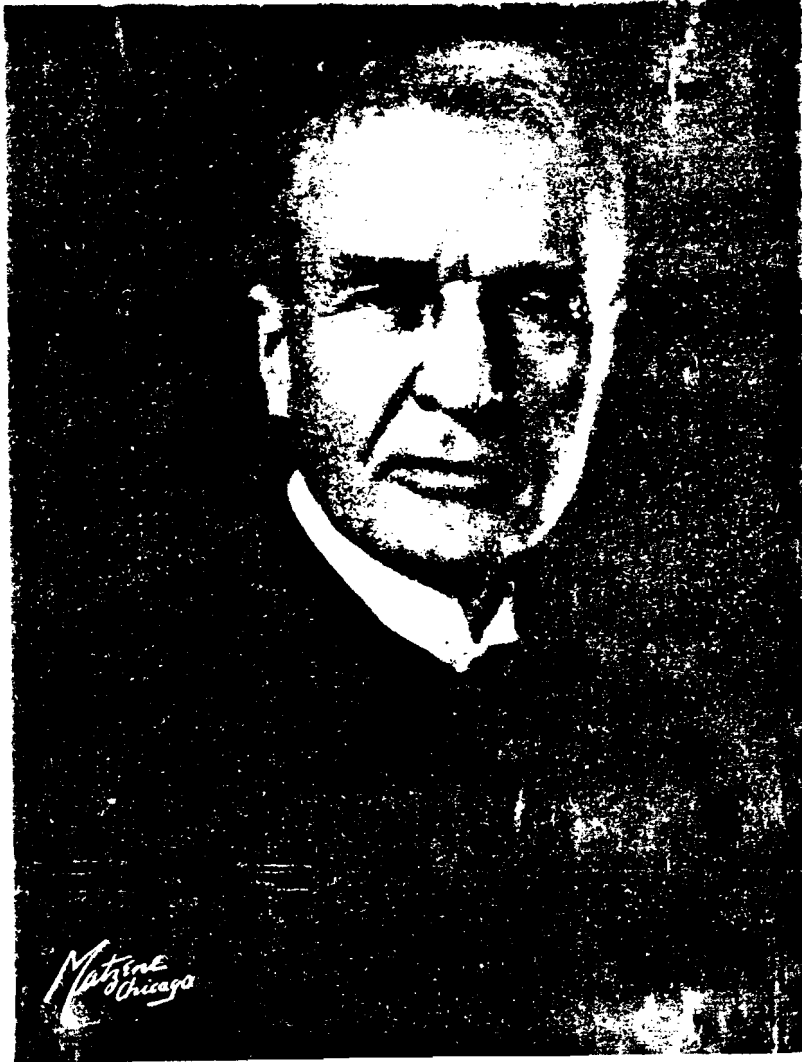
The actor who holds the record for the most Sherlock Holmes films was Eille Norwood, who played Holmes in forty-seven silent films in the 1920's. The experts feel that Norwood was one of the top two or three Sherlock Holmes on the screen.

One of the last silent Sherlock Holmes films was Moriarity. Filmed in 1922, it starred John Barrymore as Holmes and Roland Young as Watson. One of the first sound films was the Speckled Band (1931) starring Raymond Massey as Holmes.

The year 1931 also marked the debut of Arthur Wontner as Sherlock Holmes. Vincent Starrett felt that Wontner was the finest actor to play Sherlock Holmes on the screen.<sup>12</sup>

In 1939 The Hound of the Baskerville and The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes marked the debut of Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce as Holmes and Watson. The success of these two films for





William Gillette, c. 1928



PAXTON WHITEHEAD Sherlock Holmes

Twentieth Century Fox led to a long term contract for Rathbone and Bruce with Universal Pictures. The contract led to twelve Sherlock Holmes' films starring these two well known actors.

The best modern portrayal of Sherlock Holmes was carried out by Peter Cushing. Not only did he play the part on the screen, but also on television. In 1968 Cushing replaced Douglas Wilmer as the television version of Sherlock Holmes. Nigel Stock played Watson in both the 1968 series as well as the 1965 series. Many critics have included Cushing along with Norwood and Wontner as the top three Sherlock Holmes' on the screen. Due to the many reruns that have been shown, Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce are the most familiar Holmes and Watson on television.

In common with many literary heroes Sherlock Holmes has been the subject of numerous comic strips. The most well known newspapers carrying the strip would have been the London Evening Standard, the Washington Post and the French newspaper France Soir.

In 1929 Edith Meiser, a former actress turned radio writer, attempted to persuade the different radio networks to produce a radio show based on the exploits of Sherlock Holmes. Finally in 1930 she was able to sell a series to NBC adapted from the original Arthur Conan Doyle. For the next two decades Sherlock Holmes was never off the air for more than three consecutive years.

To initiate the role of Holmes NBC selected the famed actor and expert on Sherlock Holmes, William Gillette. Later in the year Clive Brooks took over the role. Dr. John Watson was played by Leigh Lovell, who retained the role until 1935.

From 1931-1935 Richard Gordon played the role of Sherlock Holmes. Although the show remained under the sponsorship of George Washington Coffee the show moved from Monday night to Wednesday night. In 1933 the show moved to Sunday and remained there until 1935.

In 1935 Louis Hector and Harold West took over the roles of Holmes and Watson. The show remained on the NBC Blue Network through May of 1935. It then moved to the Mutual Network under the sponsorship of Household Finance in February, 1936. At this point Richard Gordon returned as Holmes, with Harold West remaining as Watson. It continued as a Saturday evening show until October, 1936, when it returned NBC Blue as a Thursday evening sustaining show. The series continued until December 24, 1936. At this point Sherlock Holmes left the air for the next three years.

The year 1939 marked the debut of Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce as radio's Holmes and Watson. Their success with these roles in the movies brought them their roles on the radio show. The show premiered on Monday evening October 2, 1939 under the sponsorship of Bromo Quinine. The show moved to Sunday evening beginning in September, 1940.

Jim Harmon in The Great Radio Heroes talks of listening to Sherlock Holmes every Sunday evening at 9:30. Harmon recalls the announcer traveling to Baker Street to visit with Dr. Watson. The question "What tale have you for us tonight, Dr. Watson?" always led into the show. The show that Harmon remembers the most was The Hound of the Baskerville that was serialized over a period of eight weeks.<sup>12</sup>

It went to Mutual as a Friday night show for the Petri Wine Company on May 7, 1943. On October 4, 1943 the Sherlock Holmes show moved once more to Monday where it stayed until May 27, 1946, the end of the series.

By 1946 Basil Rathbone had greatly tired of the role of Sherlock Holmes and had moved on to the Tales of Fatima. Tom Conway was brought in to play the part of Holmes with Nigel Bruce remaining as Watson. The show ran on Saturday for ABC and then moved to Monday in January, 1947. The show was sponsored by the Senler Company.

In 1947 the show moved to the Mutual Network. It was initially heard on Sunday night until January, 1949 when it moved to Monday evening. The new sponsor was Trimount clothing. In this series John Stanley played Holmes, while Watson was played by Alfred Shirley, Ian Martin and finally George Seldon.

In 1949 Sherlock Holmes returned to to ABC with Petri Wine returning as the sponsor. The show was heard on Wednesday evenings beginning on September 21, 1949. Ben Wright played Holmes, while Eric Snowden played Watson. The series ended March 8, 1950.

In 1955 NBC carried a sustained version of Sherlock Holmes on Sunday evening from January 2 through June 5. Produced for the BBC in London, it starred Sir John Gielgud as Holmes and Ralph Richardson as Watson. Orson Welles played Moriarity in this series. As an interesting note Orson Welles had also played the part of Sherlock Holmes on The Mercury Theatre on the Air's version of "The Immortal Sherlock Holmes" aired on September 25, 1938. Louis Hector, who had played Holmes in the 1935-36 series had played Moriarity in most of the earlier runs.

In 1974 the CBS Mystery Theater helped bring drama back to network radio. Himan Brown, the man responsible for such shows as Inner Sanctum, Joyce Jordan, Barry Craig and many other shows was the creator of the show. On occasion the Mystery Theater will dramatize one of the Sherlock Holmes stories. Such shows as the "Sign of the Four", "The Speckled Band", "The Hound of the Baskerville" and others have already been done. Kevin McCarty plays Holmes and Court Benson does an excellent job as Watson. Ian Martin, who played Watson in the 1949 series, has played some of the smaller parts and also has done some of the radio adaptations for the CBS Mystery Theater shows.

Sherlock Holmes as a radio program is the holder of many records. It had the longest run of any radio detective show - twenty-three years. It also had the greatest number of revivals - 4 and holds the distinction of having the greatest number of actors to play the lead role in a radio program - eleven. It was also on five different networks, with seven different sponsors.

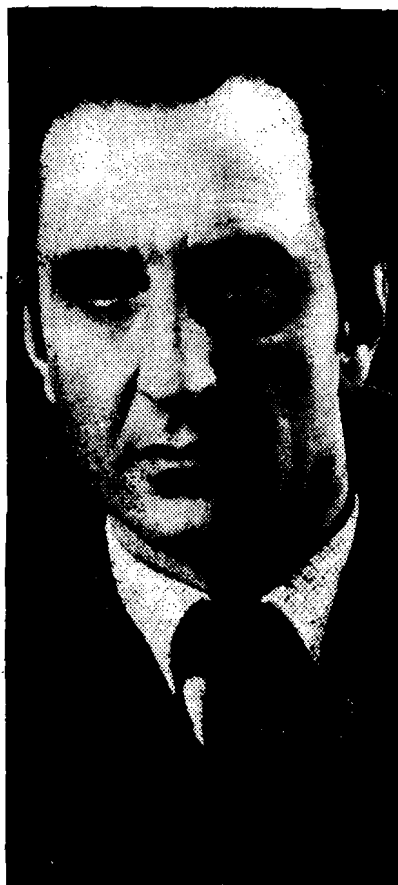
In the early shows Dr. Watson would always begin each show by inviting announcer Joseph Bell into his study, where there always was a cup of George Washington coffee, "to ward off the cold," and a blazing fire. A commercial for the coffee would always be woven into the introduction. As the years went by Knox Manning, Owen Babbe and Harry Bartell all played the part of the announcer.

# THE WOMAN IN GREEN

Starring **BASIL RATHBONE**  
as **SHERLOCK HOLMES**

## *The Cast*

Holmes..... Basil Rathbone  
Watson..... Nigel Bruce  
Lydia..... Hillary Brooke  
Moranity..... Henry Daniell  
Fenwick..... Paul Cavanagh  
Inspector Gregson..... Matthew Boulton  
Maude..... Eve Amber  
Onslow..... Frederic Worlock  
Williams..... Tom Bryson  
Crandon..... Sally Shepherd  
Mrs. Hudson..... Mary Gordon



Basil Rathbone, the "Sherlock Holmes" of screen and radio, co-stars with Nigel Bruce in Universal's "The Woman in Green," which deals with the activities and apprehension of a notorious blackmail-murder syndicate.

*Basil Rathbone  
as "Sherlock Holmes."*



Nigel Bruce, known on the screen and radio as "Dr. Watson," is co-starred with Basil Rathbone in Universal's new detective story, "The Woman in Green."

*Nigel Bruce as Dr. Watson.*

# THE CRUCIFER OF BLOOD



STUDIO ARENA THEATRE



The Crucifer of Blood premiered in Buffalo, New York at the Studio Arena Theater on January 6, 1978 starring Paxton Whitehead.

As was mentioned earlier Edith Meiser was the creator and initial writer for the Sherlock Holmes series. Her early stories followed the original Arthur Conan Doyle stories very closely. As Miss. Meiser ran out of the original stories she used incidents from these original stories as starting points for new episodes. It was not unusual for her to begin a story with the phrase, "suggested by an incident in ..." or to begin a story by making reference to a story that was taken from that tin dispatch box that contained all of Watson's papers.

Edith Meiser continued writing the Sherlock Holmes scripts through the late 1940's. In 1943 she was assisted by Leslie Charteris, the author of the Saint, who did his Sherlock Holmes writing under the name Bruce Taylor. By 1945 much of the writing was being done by the team of Denis Green and Anthony Boucher. After the departure of Basil Rathbone, Max Ehrlich, Howard Merrill and Leonard Lee wrote the later shows.

The producer throughout much of the Sherlock Holmes series was Edna Best. Basil Loughrane, Joseph Bell, Tom McNight and Glenhall Taylor all took their turn as director of the show. Sound effects were handled by Bill Hoffman. The musical director for the show was Graham Harris. The very popular theme was "March of the Ancestors" which was based on a theme from Ruddigore by Gilbert and Sullivan.

Sherlock Holmes reached its greatest height in popularity in the early 1940's when its ratings hovered around ten. The success of the show at this time can be traced to the success of Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce in the Sherlock Holmes films. In 1933, with Richard Gordon and Leigh Lovell in the starring roles Sherlock Holmes made it into the top ten listings.

The best way to conclude our study our study of Sherlock Holmes on the radio would be to quote from John Dunning:

But even after seventy years, the character of Holmes is what really turns the trick. He was truly a hero of the mind, a man who had no truck with invaders of unrefined concentration, including a woman. In the end, that was what pushed those weekly visits to foggy, shrouded Baker Street among the high points of radio.<sup>13</sup>

What literary figure, what fictional detective could ever compare with Sherlock Holmes. A success in both short stories and novels; a success on both the stage and in the movies; a success on both radio and television; even a success in the comic strips. Sherlock Holmes will live forever.

<sup>14</sup> Subsequent research has led to a correction of material mentioned on page nine. Sherlock Holmes did open at the Garrick Theater on November 6, 1899. The premier of the show, however, took place at the Star Theater in Buffalo, New York on October 23, 1899.

## THE SHERLOCK HOLMES QUIZ

1. Sherlock Holmes, the show based on Conan Doyle's master of deductive reasoning was probably the only program in radio history to eventually feature two English knights as lead actors. What were their names and who played which role?
2. The first Holmes radio show hit the airways in 1930. Who played Holmes in those very early days?
3. You must remember who played the most famous Holmes and Watson team.
4. One of the men who played the Falcon in movies also played Holmes. Which one?
5. Besides Doyle, Holmes had some pretty classy writers working for him. We've listed eight for the radio. Only four are right. Pick them out.  
(a) Edith Meiser (b) Rex Stout (c) Dashiell Hammett  
(d) Leslie Charteris (e) Raymond Chandler (f) Anthony Boucher (g) Mickey Spillane (h) Max Ehrlich

### Answers

1. Sherlock Holmes-Sir John Gielgud: Dr. Watson-Sir Ralph Richardson.
2. Clive Brook.
3. Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.
4. Tom Conway
5. a, d, f and h are right. (Meiser was chief writer for years. Charteris wrote under the pseudonym of Bruce Taylor.

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William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes, 1899

William Gillette played Sherlock Holmes in London.

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 Sole Lessee and Manager ... CHARLES PRO

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 BY A. CONAN DOYLE  
 AND WILLIAM GILLETTE  
 ENTITLED

## SHERLOCK HOLMES

BEING A FIFTEENTH UNPUBLISHED EPISODE  
 IN THE LIFE OF THE GREAT DETECTIVE  
 AND SHOWING HIS CONNECTION WITH THE

### STRANGE CASE OF MISS FAULKNER

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DOCTOR WATSON	KENNETH RIVINGTON
JOHN FORBES	EUGENE MAYBEE
SIR EDWARD LEIGHTON	REGINALD DANCE
COUNT VON STAHLBERG	FREDERICK MORRIS
PROFESSOR MURPHY	GEORGE SUMNER
JAMES LARRABEE	FRANCIS CARLYLE
SIDNEY PRINCE	QUINTON McPHERSON
ALFRED BASAICH	WILLIAM H. DAY
JIM CRAIGIE	CHRIS WALTER
THOMAS LEAVY	HENRY WALTER
"LIGHTFOOT" McYAGUE	WALTER DUNN
JOHN PARSONS	THOMAS QUINTON
BILLY	CHARLES CHAPLIN
ALICE FAULKNER	DR OLIA WEBSTER
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SECOND ACT—Scene 1—PROFESSOR MURPHY'S CONSULTING OFFICE—MORNING

Scene 2—SHERLOCK HOLMES' APARTMENT

Scene 3—THE STONEY GAS CHAMBER—MIDDNIGHT

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 MUSICAL DIRECTOR—JOHN CROOK



7



William Gillette

MR. WILLIAM GILLETTE

1905

Stereoscope Co.  
PHOTO BY N. H.

### Footnotes

1. John Dickson Carr, The Life of Arthur Conan Doyle, New York: Vintage Books, p.20.
2. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, New York: Harper and Row Publishers, p. 3.
3. Michael Harrison, The World of Sherlock Holmes, New York: E. P. Dutton and Co. Inc., p. 42.
4. Harrison, op. cit., p. 61.
5. Vincent Starrett, The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes, New York: Pinnacle Books, p. 58.
6. Harrison, op. cit., p. 121.
7. Hardwick, Michael and Mollie, The Sherlock Holmes Companion, New York: Bramhall House, p. 198.
8. Starrett, op. cit., p. 180.
9. Carr, op. cit., p. 115.
- <sup>1</sup>  
10. Ibid., p. 212.
11. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, op. cit., p. 4.
12. Peter Haining, ed., The Sherlock Holmes Scrapbook, New York: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., p. 108.
13. John Dunning, Time in Yesterday, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall Inc., p. 150.
14. Joseph Van Why, Nook Farm, Hartford, Connecticut: The Stowe-Day Foundation, p. 32.

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