

VERMISSA DAILY HERALD

Sherlock Holmes -

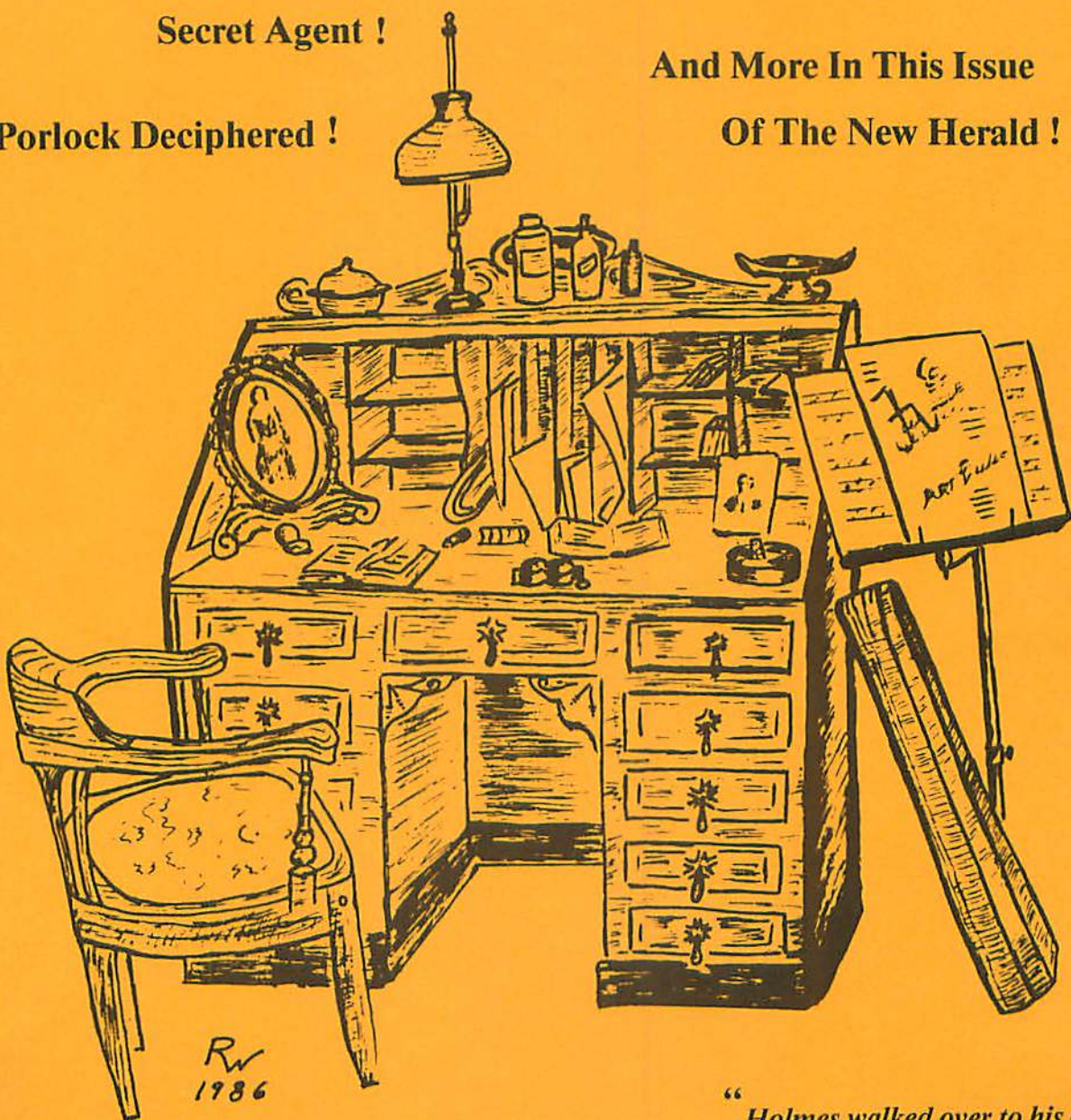
The Adverbial Holmes !

Secret Agent !

And More In This Issue

Porlock Deciphered !

Of The New Herald !



“Holmes walked over to his desk, took out a little triangular piece of gold with three gems on it...”

The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet

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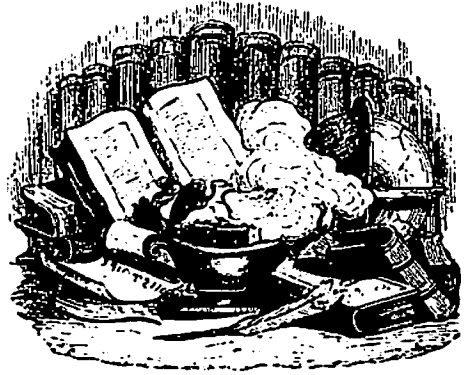
ABOUT THE COVER

The cover illustration represents Sherlock Holmes' desk as seen in the Sherlock Holmes Room (located at the top of the Holiday Inn near Union Square in San Francisco).

The Illustration is (C) 1986 by Ron White.

Stanger Preerastinates Perambulates:

Under the heading of "I see your name everywhere...", anyone watching Comrades on P.B.S. would have seen reference to Soviet television's version of the Canon in the episode "Doctor in Moscow". It seems that the Soviets have recently done a televised version of the complete Sherlock Holmes. It would be



interesting to compare this with the recent British version with Jeremy Brett. I wonder, do the non-canonical cliches which beset most western versions (and which the Brett version is mostly free of) also plague the Soviet version? What does the Russian view of Victorian London look like anyway? All questions to which we may never get an answer. Vladimir Voinovich's book The Anti-Soviet Union does bring out one problem the Soviet adapters had. It seems their version of A Study in Scarlet was returned by the censors as being unacceptable. The Problem? One line, "You have been in Afganistan, I perceive." For some reason or other the Soviet powers-that-be seem to be a bit sensitive about any references to Afganistan. Any wonder why?

Still, the opposition has to be applauded, as do the British, for going to the source for their Sherlockian films. Would that American T.V. would do the same. Consider the upcoming T.V. movie, The Return of Sherlock Holmes. In this, Holmes is to found in modern times preserved in ice, and defrosted to fight crime once again. This seems rather reminiscent of an Irwin Allen fiasco of some years back, The Return of Captain Nemo, in which Nemo is found in hibernation aboard the Nautilus and defrosted to work for the U.S. government. This, of course, being completely contrary to Nemo's actual character, he being a rather fervent anarchist. The Nautilus was portrayed by a worked over Sea View from Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea, ever seen a submarine blush?

If The Return of Sherlock Holmes lives up to these high standards, we may be in for the biggest insult to the Master since The Last Sherlock Holmes Story. Prophecy: the Holmesicle in this upcoming epic will wear deerstalker and Inverness and smoke a calabash. He will persist in wearing these and other Victorian clothing. A great deal of "humour" will be generated by this.

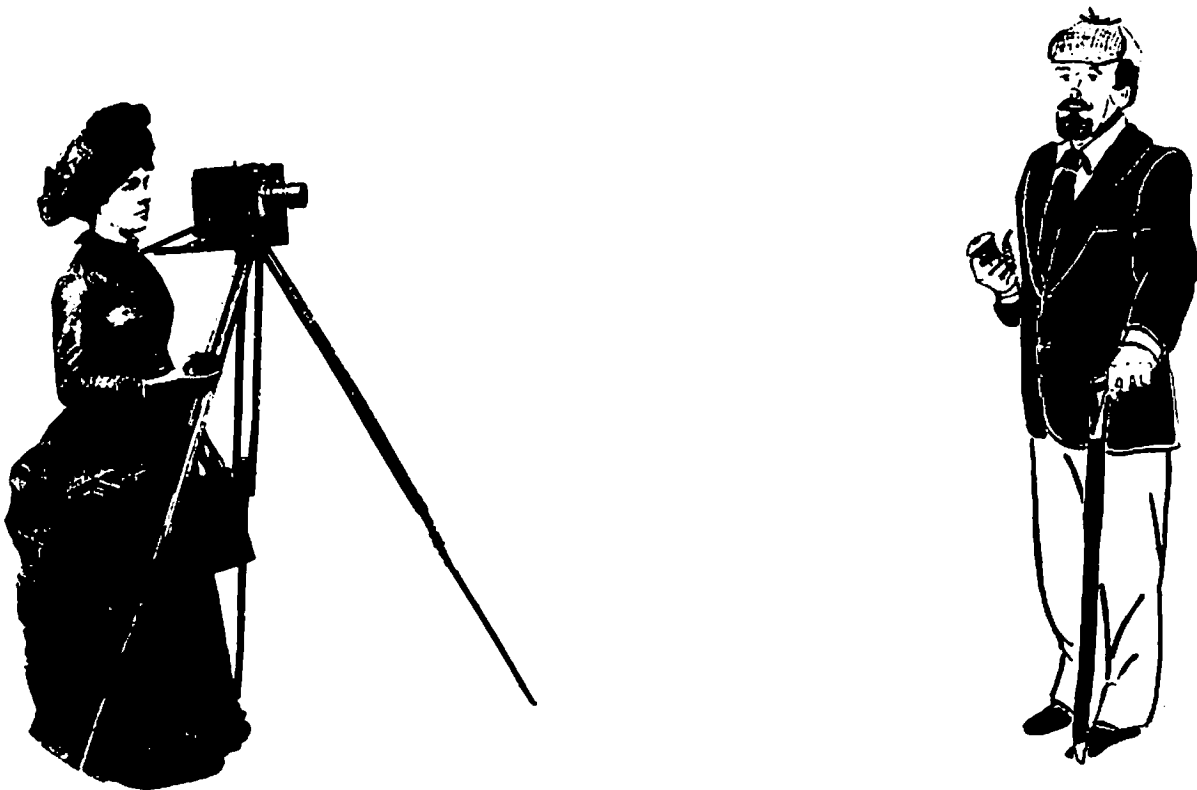
The question that springs to mind is, of course, why? Why bring Holmes to the present when his adventures in the past have barely been touched? Why try and pull the very embodiment of the Victorian period into the present to begin with? It didn't work with Nemo, it didn't work for Hammer Films when they tried it

STANGER PROGRASINATES PERAMBULATES.

with Dracula. It is to be hoped that I am wrong and that it will work with Sherlock Holmes.

Reverting from this sorry topic, Welcome to the second issue of the new and improved Vermissa Daily Herald. Surprised to see it out so soon? You and me both. My partners in crime, Ron White and Susan Warner, recently adopted a computer named Boswell into their family. (To paraphrase Holmes, "We must have our Boswell".) They rattled the new issue off so fast that I hardly said go, before it was gone. Further, we've already got enough material for a third issue. However, new material is welcome, and needed for future issues. We would not mind working with a little bit of a backlog of material, it might help get the Herald out even faster. Contributions, as before, should be sent to:

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A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

Sherlock Holmes, the greatest detective and perhaps the best and wisest man whom the English-speaking world has ever known, was born in 1854. He practiced as a private enquiry agent in London (chiefly at the immortal address of 221B Baker Street) from 1877 to 1891, when he was believed to have perished in the act of destroying the arch-criminal Professor Moriarty. In the third year he returned from the dead and resumed active practice until his retirement in 1903. Since that time he has devoted himself to beekeeping in the Sussex Downs (emerging from retirement to save the British Empire in 1914), and may, since his obituary has never been published, be still alive at an advanced age.

The world-famous accounts of his cases, from "A Study in Scarlet" (1887) to "The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes" (1927), were written chiefly by his friend and associate Dr. John Hamish Watson (two accounts are by Holmes himself and two by questionable hands). Watson's skillful literary agent was his fellow physician Arthur Conan Doyle, himself a writer of some reputation, especially as a historical novelist. The assertion by the agent's sons that their father "wrote" the cases and even that he "created" the character of Holmes is patently absurd.

This creed is the firm belief of most rational men, but in particular, it is the devout doctrine of:

THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS

-Anthony Boucher
1911-1968
Founding Bodymaster
The Scowrsers &
Molly Maguires

WHO ARE THE IRREGULARS ?

The original Baker Street Irregulars were a band of street urchins employed by Sherlock Holmes as assistants. Their namesakes today are an informal association of admirers of Holmes, devoted to the enjoyment and study of the Holmesian Canon, to happy conviviality, and to the publication of a quarterly journal of *Holmesiana* and so many other books and pamphlets that it has been remarked, "Never has so much been written by so many for so few."

The present Irregulars came into being in 1934, under the tutelage of the late Christopher Morley, who was the organization's first and only Gasogene (or chairman), ably abetted by bookman Vincent Starrett and news analyst Elmer Davis. The original group of seven members has spread until there are at least a score of scion societies in the United States - with such names as "The Speckled Band" (Boston), "The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic)" (Chicago), "The Brothers Three" (Moriarty, New Mexico) - and many loosely affiliated groups abroad, notably in London, Tokyo and Copenhagen.

Irregulars come from all branches of life and range from librarians to astronauts.

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA IRREGULARS

The Bay Area scion (chapter) of the B.S.I., known as "The Scowrers" (after a secret society of terrorists in "The Valley of Fear"), was founded in 1944 by bookmen Joseph Henry Jackson and Anthony Boucher. This group meets irregularly (approximately three times a year) for dinner, discussion, the reading of papers and frequent toasts. As befitting a cosmopolitan city, San Francisco has a wholly-integral "auxiliary" known as "The Molly Maguires". The joint membership includes such diverse occupations as journalist, bank vice-president, travel planner, broker, photographer, writer, and numerous doctors, lawyers, teachers, office workers and domestic scientists.

If you would like to obtain information regarding membership in The Scowrers & Molly Maguires please send your inquiry, along with a stamped self-addressed envelope, to:

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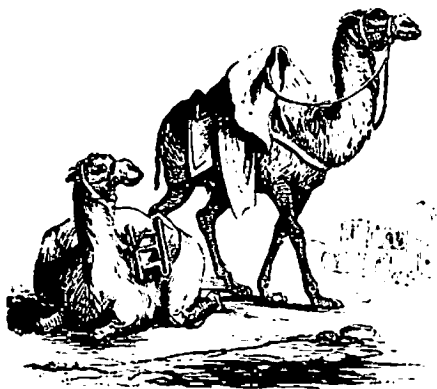
SHERLOCK HOLMES OF HER MAJESTY'S
SECRET SERVICE

by

Eugene Stovall



While Sherlock Holmes doubtlessly aided many a poor unfortunate of humble station, the Master Detective performed his most illustrious and secret service for Her Royal Highness, Queen Victoria. Holmes saved the conservative government from the embarrassment of exposure, if not from the turmoil of resignations of cabinet ministers when he recovered an incriminating letter in The Adventure of the Second Stain. Holmes prevented an extremely controversial agreement between England and Italy from becoming public in The Adventure of the Naval Treaty. And in The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans, no less a personage than his highly placed brother, Mycroft, pressed Sherlock into service when the top secret submarine plans were stolen. Mycroft Holmes was the chief of Her Majesty's secret service. In many instances, according to Sherlock, when carrying out the wishes of the Queen, Mycroft actually was the British government.[1] Victoria used her secret service as a personal instrument of royal power. Through her agents she could directly control the affairs of state during a time when the authority of the crown had been eclipsed by the rule of parliament. And she had no better agent then Sherlock Holmes.



The highly respected and well loved Sherlockian, Edgar Smith, awakens nostalgic memories of the romantic, civilized Victorian Age when he describes an England nestled in a snug illusion of gaslit comfort, of perfect dignity and grace.[2] We remember a world of poise and balance, a people who are gentile and well-mannered, a society represented by Currier and Ives. But Queen Victoria held another view: one which saw the brutal forces of anarchy and barbarism reaching out to envelope English society in its evil clutches.

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Although royal government entered its twilight period long before Victoria ascended the throne, she was determined to exert her royal prerogatives and resist the approaching darkness of the twentieth century.

While landed aristocracy and wealthy nobility, which composed the conservative party, held power in parliament, Victoria retained her influence. She charged the nobility with the duty of holding off modernism, liberalism and socialism. In addition, to them fell the responsibility of maintaining Britain's greatness by exerting her influence over European affairs and extending her colonial boundaries. Benjamin Disraeli, lord of Beaconsfield and conservative party prime minister, faithfully demonstrated his loyalty to the Queen in all his actions, particularly in foreign affairs. He utilized military and diplomatic resources to obtain for Victoria the title, Empress of India. And he obtained the funds from the banking house of Rothschild to secure financial control of the Suez Canal and political control of Egypt. This control ultimately secured for England the rich diamond and gold mines of South Africa. Disraeli's feats guaranteed Victoria's position at the pinnacle of international power and wealth. But the liberal party, fighting for political and social reforms, wrested control of parliament from the conservative party and Disraeli, forcing Victoria, on more than one occasion, to invite the leader of the liberal party, William Gladstone, to form the government. Victoria saw danger in Gladstone's liberal reform movement and personally disliked Gladstone as prime minister. She believed that Gladstone's obstinacy and arrogance blinded him to the realities of international politics and the frailties of human nature. The Queen watched aghast as Gladstone dismantled the imperial agencies by which pressure was exerted on Russia and Germany, as he permitted British influence in Afghanistan to lapse, and, worse yet, as he passed the European initiative over to a Germany bearing the fiercely nationalistic image of Otto Von Bismark.[3] Gladstone's domestic policies also gave Victoria cause for concern. She despised the morals of London society which had become hospitable to libertine social practices, radical political theories and degenerate scientific experiments. Anarchy not only threatened the crown, but laid siege to English society and culture as well. Barbarism penetrated England's shores and poised itself to strike at the heart of British civilization. Victoria had recourse only to a secret service--a shadow government.[4] And the most outstanding member of Her Majesty's secret service was the Master Detective, Sherlock Holmes.

In 1891, Victoria, determined to recover the European initiative from Germany, directed the conservative government, which had ousted the liberals, to initiate a bold diplomatic maneuver-- a grand maneuver requiring the full involvement of her majesty's secret service. The initiative was nothing less than a proposed military alliance between Russia and France. Since Victoria was personally acquainted with Sherlock Holmes and his exploits, she entrusted the mission to his direction. The Queen was certain

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that the German foreign office would intervene once they became aware of her plans; she needed her best agent in the field. After all, the master of Europe controlled the wealth of the world. Thus during those three years known as "the Great Hiatus", when Holmes supposedly died at the hands of his archenemy professor Moriarty at Reichenbach Fall, he was actually engaged in the diplomatic ploy of the century. Watson recalls, in The Final Problem, that during the winter of 1890, and the spring of 1891, the newspapers often commented on Holmes' supremely important assignment with the French government. Watson had received two notes from Holmes stating that his stay in France was likely to be a long one.[5] Holmes prepared in France because the Queen's initiative needed protection not only from German agents but also from French radicals. A recent assassination attempt against the tsar resulted in the hanging of the would be assassins, one of whom was the older brother of Lenin. Some years the German kaiser would smuggle Lenin into Russia initiating a grand maneuver of his own.[6] At the time, however, the tsar believed French democratic politics to be responsible for the revolutionary fervor in Russia as well as for the attempt on his life. And so he viewed any initiative from France with suspicion. Yet, during the next three years, the British foreign office and her majesty's secret service accomplished all Victoria had intended. Victoria's granddaughter married Nicholas II, who became the next tsar. In 1891, Russia entered an informal entente with France, and, in 1893, Russia and France signed a formal military alliance promising military assistance to each other in case either was attacked by Germany. Thus did Victoria guarantee the security of her empire.[7]

Close scrutiny of the canon reveals that whatever methods Holmes used in protecting the Queen's initiative, he learned at Reichenbach fall. In his note to Watson, in The Final Problem, Holmes admits that Moriarty tutored him in methods of avoiding capture by local police and keeping informed of secret service agents.[8] As a matter of fact, Holmes confesses a high opinion of Moriarty's abilities and often availed himself of Moriarty's talents and organization. The Russian adventure was not the first occasion that the two masterminds worked together. In The Valley of Fear, we learned that on many occasions Porlock, a member of Moriarty's organization, often provides Holmes with information. Shinwell Johnson, an ex-convict, acted as Holmes' agent in the huge criminal underworld of London, undoubtedly with Moriarty's forbearance. However, "Porky", as Johnson was known, never dealt with cases which came before a court of law. Porky worked with Holmes strictly on secret service assignments as was the situation in The Adventure of the Illustrious Client. The shadow government respected Moriarty's genius. It believed Moriarty had the mental ability to make or mar the destiny of nations.[9] The shadow government protected Moriarty for its own purposes. Holmes, as one of its paladins, chides Watson in The Valley of Fear for demeaning Moriarty, saying: In calling Moriarty a criminal you are uttering libel in the eyes of the law...".[10] So Moriarty and Holmes meet at Reichenbach fall to begin their

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great Russian adventure, An adventure that will determine the political destiny of the civilized world. This historic meeting is also attended by Colonel Sebastian Moran, veteran of her majesty's Indian army and more recently, chief of staff in Moriarty's organization. Moran is the author of Himalayan and Tibetan survival journals; his services will be invaluable in the grand maneuver.[11]

Three of the smartest men in London meet at Reichenbach fall and, as far as the rest of the world is concerned, disappear in a hostile encounter. Holmes and Moriarty engage in a fearful struggle, Meeting their deaths at the bottom of the abyss; Moran is swept up in Holmes' trap which supposedly sends Moriarty's entire gang to prison.[12] In reality, however, the three met, planned their strategy, and made their separate ways into Tibet where they began Victoria's grand maneuver. Moran, the survival expert, concluded arrangements for Holmes and Moriarty's long sojourn and then returned to England; Moriarty infiltrated a network of seasoned agents and operatives into Russia; and Holmes personally directed their activities from inside Tibet on camelback.[13] Sherlock communicates with Mycroft through regular diplomatic channels, but he communicates with Moran via dispatches to newspapers cryptically describing the remarkable explorations of a Norwegian named Sigerson.[14] There are no details of Holmes activities, but it is clear that he kept the radicals as well as the German agents very busy. Some insight into Holmes strategy might be gained by reviewing the activities of a certain French army captain, Albert Dreyfus, who was responsible for the massive emigration of Ashkenazi Jews from Russia and eastern Europe into Germany, France and, eventually, into the United States. To hide this aspect of France's involvement, Dreyfus was arrested, tried for treason and exiled to Devil's Island. But, the liberation of so many Jews from Russia must have given Queen Victoria some satisfaction since it settled her great debt to Benjamin Disraeli. How much Holmes benefited from this encounter with German intelligence can be judged from the great advantage Holmes enjoyed over his adversary, the German spy, Von Bork, in His Last Bow.

A note of dissent is registered by Edger Smith to this interpretation of Sherlock Holmes' Three year disappearance into Tibet. Smith asserts that no European, Norwegian or otherwise, entered the forbidden city of Lhasa before the British army's invasion of Tibet in 1903. He cites historical records which show that in 1891 the only Europeans to come within 150 miles of the Holy city are two englishmen, Captain Bower and Dr. Thorold, and one englishwoman, Miss Taylor. Smith concludes that since Holmes was neither a soldier nor a woman the Tibetan trip must have been a figment.[15] One reply to Smith is a reminder that the Master Detective was also a master of disguise. On at least one occasion, in The Adventure of the Mazarine Stone, Holmes masqueraded as a woman. For that matter, Moriarty disguised himself as an old woman in A Study in Scarlet. But there is a better reply to Smith's charge of a Tibetan figment.

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After his return to London, Sherlock Holmes meets Colonel Moran once again in The Adventure of the Empty House. His first words to Moran are: "Ah Colonel, ... 'journeys end in lovers' meetings' as the old play says." [16] Such a strange greeting even if the two have shared high adventure upon the international stage. The quote "journeys end with lovers meeting" is taken from Twelfth Night where Shakespeare's heroine, Viola, masquerades as a man in order to serve the interest of her sovereign. [17]

So, in response to Smith's charge of the Tibetan figment, we must remind him of the Master's injunction: "...when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth..." [18] Thus, in that party of three entering Tibet in 1891, The soldier must have been Colonel Moran, The doctor was Professor Moriarty and Sherlock Holmes was the Woman!



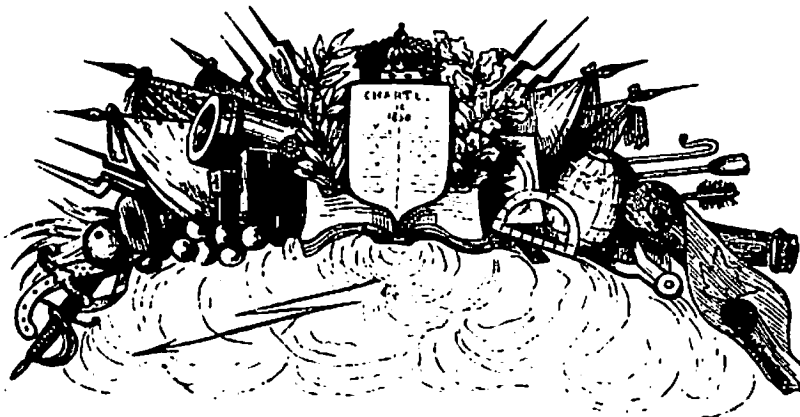
SHERLOCK HOLMES OF HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE

FOOTNOTES:

1. "The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans" in The Annotated Sherlock Holmes, Wm. S. Baring-Gould (ed.), Clarkson N. Potter, inc. N.Y., 2nd edition, 1967, p. 433, Vol. II
2. "What is it that we Love in Sherlock Holmes?", Edgar W. Smith, in op. cit., p.103, Vol. I
3. Popular indignation over Gladstone's foreign policies, which led to a weak response to the Sudanese uprising under Mahdi, the fall of Khartoum and the death of General Charles Gordon (the very popular governor of the Egyptian Sudan), contributed to the downfall of the Gladstone government in 1885.
4. This shadow government may be what Christopher Morley had in mind when he founded the Grillparzer Sittenpolizei Verein, which was a forerunner of the Baker Street Irregulars.
5. "The Final Problem", in op. cit., p.301, vol. II
6. That Kaiser Wilhelm would have been directly responsible for the overthrow and the eventual murder of the Tsar and his entire family; ending monarchical government not only in Russia but throughout Europe, is an indication of his bitterness over Victoria's grand maneuver.
7. And so were the alliances formed, setting the stage for the bloodiest war in European history.
8. op. cit., p. 316, vol. II
9. "The Valley of Fear", in op. cit., p. 472, Vol. I
10. ibid.
11. Colonel Moran authored: Heavy Game of the Western Himalayas (1881) and Three Months in the Jungle (1884); see: "The Adventure of the Empty House", op. cit., p. 346, vol.II.
12. "The Final Problem", op. cit., p. 317, Vol. II
13. Ogden Nash summarizes a dilemma that has long puzzled Sherlockians: " The one-L lama, he's a priest. The two-L llama, he's a beast." The answer is plain. Transportation in that part of the world was primitive. Moran's preparations included transportation by camel. The experience was so unique that Holmes could not resist mentioning it. See: "You May Have Read of the Remarkable Explorations of a Norwegian Named Sigerson..." op. cit., p. 320, vol. II
14. op. cit., p. 337, vol. II

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15. op. cit., p. 321, vol. II
16. op. cit., pp. 342-343, vol. II
17. "Twelfth Night; or, What You Will", in the Globe Illustrated Shakespeare, Howard Staunton (ed), Greenwich House, New York, 1983, p. 983
18. This is the Master's most important injunction. it appears twice in The Sign of the four, as well as in The adventure of the Beryl Coronet, The Bruce-Partington Plans, and The Blanched Soldier.



As a source of out-of-print British books, I can definitely recommend Richard Dalby. His service is fast, his prices reasonable, and he has managed to track down several books that I had long ago given up any hope of finding. I can also recommend his own monograph, The Bram Stoker Bibliography, an extremely useful book for those interested in Stoker and the Dracula story. Mr. Dalby can be reached at the following address.

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THE ADVERBIAL HOLMES

BY

Donald A. Yates, B.S.I.

Fill in the blanks with titles from the cases of Sherlock Holmes.
Here is one example:

I have just solved (The Valley of Fear), said Holmes deeply.

- 1.) I have just solved _____ , said Holmes doggedly.
- 2.) I have just solved _____ , said Holmes vacantly.
- 3.) I have just solved _____ , said Holmes bitingly.
- 4.) I have just solved _____ , said Holmes feverishly.
- 5.) I have just solved _____ , said Holmes gravely.
- 6.) I have just solved _____ , said Holmes sneeringly.
- 7.) I have just solved _____ , said Holmes definitively.
- 8.) I have just solved _____ , said Holmes absently.
- 9.) I have just solved _____ , said Holmes spectacularly.
- 10.) I have just solved _____ , said Holmes loftily.
- 11.) I have just solved _____ , said Holmes heatedly.
- 12.) I have just solved _____ , said Holmes enigmatically.
- 13.) I have just solved _____ , said Holmes patiently.
- 14.) I have just solved _____ , said Holmes archly.
- 15.) I have just solved _____ , said Holmes constructively.

In some instances there will be more than one acceptable answer. See how many you can come up with. The answers to these will be printed in the next issue of the Vermissa Daily Herald (yes folks, we have already started work on another issue).

PORLOCK'S CIPHER DECODED

by

Ron White

In A Study in Scarlet we see Dr. Watson reading a magazine article. "From a drop of water", states the author, "a logician could infer the possibility of an Atlantic or a Niagara without having seen or heard of one or the other." The article is, of course, "The Book of Life", and the author is Sherlock Holmes. This is the reader's first introduction to Holmes' science of deductive reasoning. Watson's to the article is the exclamation "what ineffable twaddle!". In the article Holmes proceeds to demonstrate repeatedly, the observation that seeming trifles allow one to deduce facts that would seem impossible to the untrained observer.



We have seen Holmes reconstruct events to the point where more than once those persons involved swore that Holmes must have witnessed the events as they occurred. We have seen that when we have the most meager pieces to a riddle, there may still be enough to deduce the proper solution. It is with this in mind that I turned my attention to a situation that introduced Holmes and Watson to one of their most bizarre cases. I refer to Fred Porlock and his cipher.



When I started to piece together clues that were presented in the beginning of The Valley of Fear I, of course, had to let them lead where they would. I must admit that at first I was unprepared for the conclusions, but as we have heard Holmes state: "when you eliminate the impossible whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth". After my study of the evidence I had to conclude that either Porlock's cipher, or Fred Porlock himself, was a fake. I will now present the steps of reasoning, and I think that in the end, you will agree that Porlock's cipher can not stand as it was written.

PORLOCK'S CIPHER DECODED

In the beginning of The Valley of Fear, we are informed that this is the third communication that Holmes has received from Porlock, and that in an earlier letter Holmes was defied to ever trace him among the millions of London residents. I doubt if Holmes would have been content to sit back and accept the messages at face value. I am confident that in a more relaxed moment he was able to put together the pieces and come up with the most probable origins of the messages. Unfortunately, we are unable to learn the contents of these first communications. But, there seems to be enough information in the third missive to solve the riddle.

When we are first presented with the cipher it appears to be very clever and, at least to Watson, unsolvable. We, like Holmes, eagerly await the means to decode the message, only to be informed that the information can no longer be of value and that no key will be forthcoming. We then watch as Holmes uses his superior intellect to gain all the keys he needs from the cipher itself. We are so enthralled with the solving of the cipher that we overlook several things.

First, the message ostensibly came from a spy within Moriarty's organization -- one very close to Moriarty, himself. If so, the code should have been designed to render the contents indecipherable to anyone within the organization. However, there remains a very important question: why are the two most important words left uncoded? We are informed that this is because the two words, "Douglas" and "Birlstone", could not be found in the text used to code the message. The problem with accepting this explanation is that these two words would have instantly alerted Moriarty, or anyone connected with the situation, the probable contents of the message.

534 C2 13 127 36 31 4

17 21 41 Douglas 109

293 5 37 Birlstone 26

Birlstone 9 47 171

*" There is danger
may come very soon
one Douglas rich country
now at Birlstone
house Birlstone
confidence is pressing "*

Porlock's Cipher

The Message

It would have been easy for "Porlock" to have encoded these words, possibly by using the first letter of selected words in the text. He could have then used a designator to say that these

PORLOCK'S CIPHER DECODED

particular numbers referred to letters, instead of words. Such a designator could have been as simple as placing an "L" in front of each number that stood for a letter, or by placing dots between the numbers that were used to spell out the words.

Holmes states that it would be a poor message, indeed, if it carried the keys to its own cipher. Why then are the page number and column number included with the message and not sent later with the book title? This, combined with the two uncoded words, gives Holmes just enough clues to solve the cipher in relatively short order, although he only attempts the solution after he receives an uncoded message saying that the first can no longer be of any use, so no key will be coming.

534 C2 13 127 36 31 4 17 21 41
L36 L41 L256 L15 L27 L37 L21
109 293 5 37 L22 L127 L19 L27
L21 L13 L41 L71 L53 26 L22 L127
L19 L27 L21 L13 L41 L71 L53 9
47 171

Encoding "Douglas" & "Birlstone"

Dear Mr. Holmes,

I will go no further in this matter. It is too dangerous - he suspects me. I can see that he suspects me. He came to me quite unexpectedly after I had actually addressed this envelope with the intention of sending you the key to the cipher. I was able to cover it up. If he had seen it, it would have gone hard with me. But I read suspicion in his eyes. Please burn the cipher message, which can now be of no use to you.

Fred Porlock

The uncoded second message

All of the above inconsistencies indicate that Porlock's cipher is a fake. However, a question remains: if it is a fake, why is it that Holmes appears not to notice? Here, there seems to be two distinct possibilities. The first, is that the cipher that we see is not the cipher that Holmes received, but a creation of "the agent", Arthur Conan Doyle. If so, then it may be that what Holmes did receive was considerably more complex and in the time he took to solve the cipher he inadvertently allowed the shooting to occur. After all, it took Holmes a considerably longer time to solve a relatively simple substitution code in The Adventure of the Dancing Men.

The alternative is that this is indeed the cipher as it was received by Holmes. If the cipher is correct then we may infer several things about the person that wrote it. First, that he established a link with Holmes for his own purposes. Second, he claims to be highly placed in Moriarty's organization. Third, he seems to be well acquainted with Holmes and his methods; both the

PORLOCK'S CIPHER DECODED

construction of the code and the selection of the coding book are among the indications for this last deduction.

We can accept that this code was meant to be solved by Holmes and that the second message was sent as a challenge for Holmes to decode the first. After all, if one felt in danger of being discovered as a spy, why would that person take the time to write a lengthy uncoded note instead of just ending the communication? The only logical reason would be to stimulate a particular response its recipient. In this case, the only possible reactions are to have Holmes attempt a rescue or to have him attempt to solve the message on his own (Holmes' own statement that the message was sent to prevent him from attempting a rescue can not be accepted since the act of sending this uncoded message would have placed Porlock in even more grave danger). It has been previously stated that Porlock considered himself untraceable so a rescue seems very unlikely. Stimulating Holmes to solve the code is the only explanation left.

We now see that the code has been carefully constructed by someone well acquainted with Holmes methods. We can also observe that this same person is not afraid of retaliation from Moriarty. We can also judge from Holmes lack of curiosity about Porlock, and his lack of concern when Porlock announces himself to be in danger, that it is likely that Holmes already knows Porlock's true identity.

There is only one person that I know that fits the description: only one person that knows Holmes so thoroughly, who has inside information on Moriarty's organization and is not afraid of retaliation. That person is none other than Moriarty, himself.

If Moriarty is Fred Porlock, who would he establish such a link with Holmes? One obvious answer would be bravado, telling Holmes that such and such would occur and that he could do nothing about it. But, this would be unlike the Moriarty that we have seen in other parts of the Canon. That "other" Moriarty prefers to control situations without ever making his presence known.

How then would Moriarty benefit from such a link with Holmes? By using that link for controlling his own organization. If someone in the organization is behind in his dues, or not pulling his weight, how better to eliminate the "problem" than by discreetly dropping a line advising Holmes of his next job, or a past indiscretion. A loose end needs tidying up, so let the police handle it. Give just enough information to Holmes and he will see that it is taken care of. Moriarty would, of course, be far enough removed that no one could point a finger at him. Such action would save Moriarty the time and expense of other actions. It would also insure that others would value his protection.

Why would Holmes accept such information at face value? I am sure that he would not. Holmes would take each message and not only happily accept the criminals deposited into his hands, but he

PORLOCK'S CIPHER DECODED

would also glean each message for additional clues that would eventually tighten the noose around Moriarty's neck -- or at least help destroy his organization. All in all a most ironic situation.

AUTHORS ADDENDUM:

During the presentation of this paper a question was raised which I think should be answered here. "Why would Moriarty blow the whistle on this particular case, was he not well paid for his help; is there no 'honor among thieves'?"

"Honor" is an interesting word. Each person has their own meaning for the word, their own "code of honor". Moriarty had his sense of honor. He was paid for a job that was eventually carried out on his terms. It would seem that while Moriarty was paid for the job Ted Baldwin had ideas of his own.

It is very doubtful that Ted Baldwin hired Moriarty's organization himself. The Professor would have realized that a person who cared so little for their own safety would have been a danger to anyone associated with him. Therefore, it becomes likely that Baldwin was either a messenger delivering the money to Moriarty, or that he went to England to make sure that the deed was carried out.

It may be He grew tired of the length of time Moriarty was taking or his rage, when he saw Douglas in Tunbridge Wells, got the better of him. He then tracked Douglas through Moriarty's organization or he made inquiries of his own. In either case, the use of a shotgun in a house filled with people makes it obvious that this attempt was not arranged by Moriarty. By dropping a line to Holmes, Moriarty would hope to keep Baldwin from making the attempt on his own. If, by some chance, Baldwin succeeded in his attempt, he would be forced to flee England as quickly as possible. Even if Baldwin were captured, he would have never met the Professor himself so there could be no "finger pointing". It would, however, force Moriarty to "remove" the people that Ted Baldwin did meet. Either way Moriarty would keep his organization as distant as possible from the events.



A*G*O*N*I*E*S

In addition to the usual items that you will see in this section, there has been a suggestion that we add a "trading post" where members may advertise for books or other Sherlockiana and Victoriana that they wish to find or trade. If the interest is there we will begin the trading post in the next issue.

Classifieds will be free to all Scowriers & Molly Maguires in good standing. All that we ask is that each classified be limited to a maximum of three items and that the classified be received at least 30 days prior to the publication of the Herald. (We are trying for a January '87 issue so send those classifieds in now.)

As usual, send all submissions to:

Editor James Stanger
C/O Thomas E Miller
965 Spencer Way
Los Altos, CA 94022



LOST: One large dog. Glows in the dark. If found FEED FIRST then leave message at Baskerville Hall.

* * *

TO THE DOCTOR: New edition available. Guide to the Honeybee. Contact The Old Bookseller.

* * *

TO S.H.: He suspects me. I can see that he does. Moving to new quarters. Will advise. Porlock

* * *

TO THE PROFESSOR: These notes too shall pass. Send money. Archie S.

* * *

WANTED: Companion for a solitary cyclist. Contact Miss Violet Smith. Please no false beards.

* * *

TO THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE: Due to the unfortunate happenings to one John Clay meetings will be postponed (for about 20 years).-Archie

* * *

FOR SALE: One coffin. Extra deep. Fits two. Nearly new. Used for only a short time. Contact Lady Frances Carfax.

* * *

SHERLOCKIANA

"I hear of Sherlock everywhere..."

(The Greek Interpreter)

In future issues this section will contain schedules of upcoming events, new releases of books, movies, video tapes, etc. In short, anything Sherlockian. We need your help in finding these items. If you see anything Sherlockian, send us a note so that we can mention it in the next issue.

A special thank you to Ted Schulz and the Tide-waiters for their calendar of events and the three book reviews included here.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 11 & 12, 1986: Saturday and Sunday

Marin Book Fair. Tax deductible admission: \$5.00 (to benefit the Dominican College Library) good for both days. Over 80 booksellers, including Parker and Schulz Associates, who will be offering Sherlockiana, Victoriana, History of science and medicine, Heritage Press, Strand magazines, etc. (Sounds like a good time to fatten those Sherlockian libraries.)

Hours: Sat. noon to 8 PM, Sun. 10 AM to 4 PM

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December 10, 1986: Wednesday

Tide-waiters and Praed Street Irregulars meet at 7:30 PM at the Fort Mason Officers Club. Toasts to our Holmes and to Solar Pons, as well as a round the table reading of "The Adventure of the Unique Dickensians" - Christmas dinner at the home of Ebenezer Snawley! "You know my opinion of collectors. They are all a trifle mad..." - Solar Pons

Dinner (optional) in accordance with Tide-waiters' custom at 6PM. Dinner reservations to Ted Schulz, 17 Mt. Lassen Dr., San Rafael, CA 94903 or phone (415) 479-6554

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S H E R L O C K I A N A

January 6, 1987: Tuesday

Happy Birthday for the 133rd time to the Master Detective. The birthday meeting for the Scowrers will be on the weekend, members will receive notice from brother Harraway. Other celebrations will be held in New York, London, Tokyo, etc. If you can not attend any of those, I can not think of a better way to spend the Master's birthday than with a toast at the S. Holmes, Esq. (at the top of the Holiday Inn near Union Square in San Francisco). Who knows, you just might meet some other Sherlockians there.

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March 13, 14 & 15, 1987: Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Sherlockon 2 (a second Holmes-coming) to be held at the new Torrance Marriott Hotel, about 10 miles from LAX. Organized and sponsored by The Blustering Gales from the South-West. Details from Scowrer Paula Salo, 4421 Pacific Coast Hwy., # E-112, Torrance, CA 90505 or Phone (213) 378-7947 or (213) 679-4741.

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May 16, 1987: Saturday

CIA dinner at Hyde Park, NY, to celebrate the centennial of the publication of A Study in Scarlet in Mrs. Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887. Cost: \$50.00 (black tie) Dinner reservations with cheque to Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt, Box 221B, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569.

As most Sherlockians will be staying at The Beekman Arms, Rhinebeck, NY 12572, and its capacity is limited, Judge Rosenblatt suggests that you make reservations NOW!
(914) 876-7077

* * * * *

August 16 thru 23, 1987: Sunday thru Saturday

Sherlockian Centennial seminar at Stanford University, with John Bennett Shaw. Richard Lancelyn Green will also be a participant. We hope to have guests from the UK, Scandinavia and Japan. If you would care to host an international visitor before or after the seminar please contact Ted Schulz (415) 479-6554.

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SHERLOCKIANA

BOOK REVIEWS & MISCELLANY

Sherlock Slept Here, Howard Lachtman (Santa Barbara, Capra Press, 1985). A careful and complete discussion of ACD's four visits to America (in 1894, 1914, 1922 and 1923) based on extensive research of contemporary sources. Howard's writing style is informal and engaging, and won the highest praise from Dame Jean Conan Doyle. Her enthusiastic letter of praise will appear in the next issue of Baker Street Miscellanea. I cannot extol this well researched and worthwhile volume too highly, because it is dedicated (in part): "...with appreciation to Ted Schulz of the Scowlers".

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Sherlock Holmes Saved Golf, Colonel Bob Jones (Monterey, Angle Press, 1986). Soldier, gentleman, sportsman and Sherlockian, Bob Jones has again combined his love for, and knowledge of the history of golf with his affection and respect for our Holmes. He has given the world a charming and exciting sequel to his Sherlock Holmes, The Golfer (Monterey, Angel Press, 1981). If this is not the true story of Holmes' "lost years" (following the tragic incident at Reichenbach Falls), it is a delightful and instructive speculation. Those who have met Bob's gracious wife will be touched by his dedication, which reads in part: "For my roommate at the Sherlock Holmes Seminar, Stanford University, July 1981, Mary Anne Jones, 4 June 1919 - 28 February 1982."

Bob is a true amateur, and so this volume is not available in book trade channels. It may be available to Sherlockians (and golfers) directly from Bob at: Box 582, Pebble Beach, CA 93953. I suggest that you send Bob \$10.00, a modest amount for a limited edition. I know that Bob would be pleased to inscribe it to you, at your request.

I would be remiss if I didn't comment on Julius Steuckert's 21 attractive pen and ink sketches. And if I may digress: Elizabeth Partridge, Holmes' fascinating golf protege and frequent partner, is based on the great British champion Cecil Leitch. I hold an unpublished Frederic Dorr Steele sketch of Cecil Leitch, to which Steele appended these lines:

"The rain is raining cats and dogs
The gale howls o'er the lea
But Cecil's in her golfing togs
My word! And what cares she?"

* * * * *

A Scandle in Bulimia, John Ruyle (Berkeley, The Pequod Press, 1986) The twelfth adventure of Emeryville's own defective detective, Turlock Loams, beautifully and assiduously printed from hand-set type at John's own Pequod Press - yes and carefully

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hand-sewn too. The return of the wicked Coronor Sandals, and an amusing, passing reference to our own lovely Laura, "who terrorized the city of Denver in the early fifties." Delightfully funny, and replete with Sherlockian allusions - even the series title ("The Crows Foot Edition") relates to the much sought after Doubleday, Doran set of 1930 ("The Crowborough Edition"). A few numbered copies of this superb limited edition may yet be available from John at: The Pequod Press, 521 Vincente Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707 for only \$13.50 postpaid.

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In the September 1986 issue of "Discover" magazine, "Brain Bogglers" referred to octogenarians Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty at "the Baker Street Nursing Home". Now really! While at 133 Holmes might be flattered to be considered an octogenarian, I doubt if he would be flattered to be considered the same age as Professor Moriarty (who is some years his senior). As far as being in a nursing Home... We know that although he is no longer in active service, royal bee jelly has kept kept him young and spry enough to still follow the odd inquiry.

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And now for our final item for this issue. At the June 7th meeting of the Scowrers we had a very special guest. Fred Strebeigh, a writer for "Smithsonian" magazine, was out here doing research for a article on Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockian societies in America. In addition to meeting with some of our local Sherlockians, he was seen in the Sherlock Holmes room taking a number of pictures with editor James Stanger (aka Thomas E. Miller). We are definitely looking forward to seeing the article. It is currently scheduled for the December 1986 issue.

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That is all for this issue. The next issue of the new Herald will be out in January 1987 (we hope). So, send your comments, suggestion, illustrations, articles, classifieds and any other contributions to editor Stanger. If you would like your artwork (or other contribution) returned just let us know and we will make every effort to return it in its original condition.

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