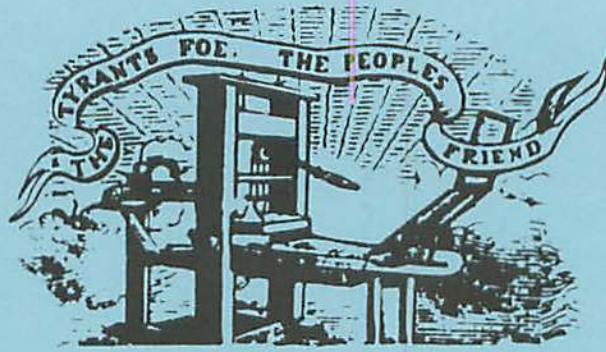


Vol. 6 No. 1



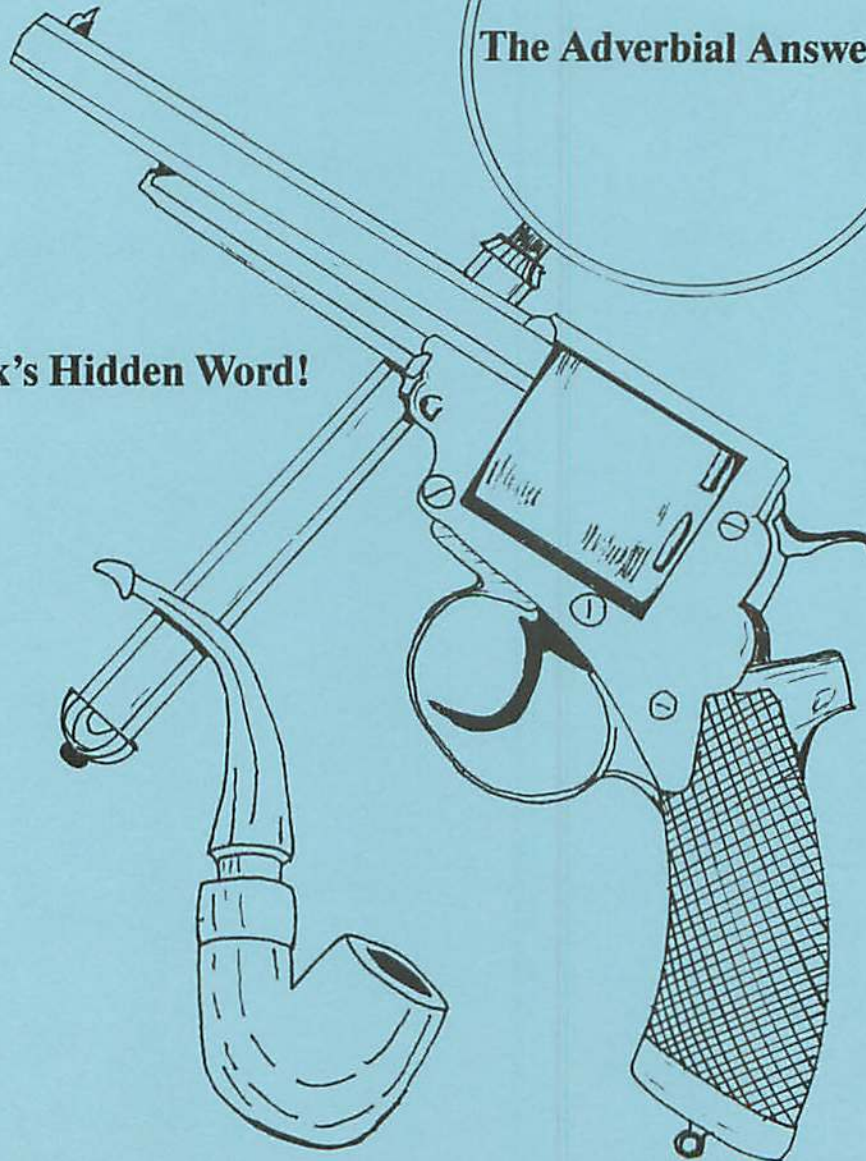
January 1887-1987

VERMISSA DAILY HERALD

The Medicinal Use Of Brandy!

The Adverbial Answers!

Sherlock's Hidden Word!



**And More
In This Issue Of
The New Herald!**

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MEN, edited by Jim Harter

WOMEN, edited by Jim Harter

TRANSPORTATION, edited by Jim Harter

GOODS AND MERCHANDISE, edited by William Rowe

VICTORIAN SPOT ILLUSTRATIONS, edited by Carol Grafton

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ABOUT THE COVER

The cover illustration is (C) 1986 by Thomas E. Miller.

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 Scowrers &
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

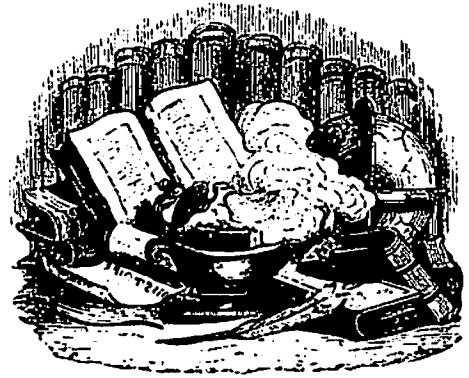
The Bay Area scion (chapter) of the B.S.I., known as "The Scowrers (after a secret society of terrorists in "The Valley of Fear") and Molly Maguires" of San Francisco, was founded in 1944 by bookmen Joseph Henry Jackson and Anthony Boucher. This group meets irregularly (approximately three times a year) for dinner, discussion, the reading of papers and frequent toasts. The 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.

Your interest in Sherlock Holmes is the principal requirement for membership in this group. If you would like to obtain more information regarding membership in The Scowrers & Molly Maguires please send your inquiry, along with a stamped self-addressed envelope, to:

R. de Groat, Harraway
Vermissa Valley Lodge 341
Mount Eden, California 94557

Stanger Perambulates Prevaricates:

Happy 100th anniversary to Mr. Sherlock Holmes and to all his devoted followers everywhere. One hundred years ago the first account of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes came out at the hands of an obscure medical practitioner, whether the author was John H. Watson or a chap named Doyle seems to be a matter of some controversy, and went on to become the most well-known literary figure of all time. (ed. note: read the Herald's Vol. 5 No. 1 for one view on the matter.)



In honour of this event, Smithsonian Magazine has come out with an article that is of particular interest to all Scowers.

By now I expect you have all seen the December issue of Smithsonian and are either delighted (and yes S. Scott, I do mean you!) or appalled at the article. For myself, I have rather mixed feelings. It is not as bad as I feared it could be, but not quite as good as I had hoped for. Of course, I would have liked to have seen more about our own noble Scion, and I did rather hope that we would make the cover. For that matter, so did the photographer (covers pay better). Still, I suppose that you can't really complain about being bounced by the Virgin Mary, and it does put us in the good company of the meerkats (although, I don't expect the Smithsonian will do a poster of us). Nice likeness of my favorite pipe anyway.

Reverting to a magazine of another sort, Boswell, with a little help from Ron, Susan and myself, has come out with another issue of the Herald. His cavernous memory chips, abetted by Ron's frenzied typing are already starting to prepare another issue for later this year, that is later this year Ron, not next week!

However, we are always in need of material for future issues so send your articles, games, quizzes, agonies, classifieds, etc. to:

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

* * * * *

SHERLOCK HOLMES, CONNOISSEUR

OR

BRANDY IN VICTORIAN
MEDICAL THERAPEUTICS

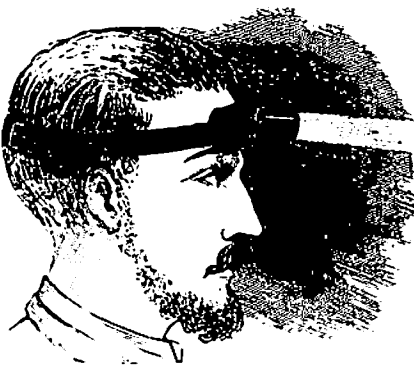
by

Paul Scholten, M.D.



It is well-known that Sherlock Holmes was a connoisseur of wine, spirits and food, and, to a lesser extent, so was Dr. Watson, as shown in the Canon, wherein there are no less than 38 references to alcoholic beverages.

The astute Sherlockian will recall that in the case of The Veiled Lodger, the two friends enjoyed a cold partridge and a bottle of Montrachet. In The Sign of the Four, it was Beaune for lunch. While investigating The Cardboard Box, they sat for an hour over a bottle of claret, and it was claret that Holmes used to restore himself after his near starvation in The Dying Detective. Our friends enjoyed a glass of port in The Creeping Man as well as Imperial Tokay in The Last Bow. There are a group of old bottles on the sideboard when they interview The Noble Bachelor and Holmes offers whiskey and soda to Athelny Jones in The Sign of the Four. The two have a couple of beers at the Alpha Inn while following The Blue Carbuncle's trail and Holmes is astute enough to spot the beeswing in the wine at The Abby Grange and know the value of the sherry that Hattie Doran's husband had purchased.



Watson refers to comet wine and to Mr. Windebank, a traveler in wine. We hear of Vamberry, the wine merchant and McGinty cracks open a bottle of champagne to properly welcome a new Scowrer. The end of the Gloria Scott occurs after the mutinous crew breaks out the brown sherry and Thaddeus Sholto offers Mary Morstan her choice of chianti or tokay. The careful reader will recall that it was the wine drunk by Hugo Baskerville and his rowdy crew in a long carouse that led to the first appearance of the Hound.

SHERLOCK HOLMES, CONNOISSEUR

All of these references are most interesting; but for this paper we shall concentrate on the place of brandy in the Victorian doctor's armamentarium, and more specifically, on how Watson and Holmes used it.

Distillation is a very ancient and somewhat mysterious art. It is a means of separating mixed liquids of different boiling points, by vaporizing each liquid at a different temperature and then recondensing the vapor. Brandy is what results when the alcohol fraction is separated from the other liquids in wine in this manner.

The Chinese were distilling a spirit from rice and sugar wine as early as 800 BC. The Egyptians practised the art of distillation to make perfumes. The classic Greeks distilled pine resin to produce turpentine. The science of distillation continued under the Romans and the Moors introduced it to the Middle East.

During the Middle Ages, in Europe, distilling was in the hands of the alchemists and the first written word on the subject of distilling grape wine into spirits comes from a noted teacher of alchemy, Arnold Villanova, in the late 1200's. He was so excited by the medical properties of the liquid he produced that he called it "aqua vitae", the water of life.

Around 1400, brandy production became common in the South of France, where it was called by the same name, eau de vie, water of life in French. The best of these eaux de vie were Cognac and Armagnac, produced in regions of those names, just north and east of Bordeaux, respectively. Brandy can be produced by the distillation of any fruit wine, but cognac from grapes is the most typical brandy and the model for the huge California brandy industry. The word brandy, incidentally, comes from the Dutch word, Brandewijn, literally, "burnt wine, which describes the process of production. Other popular brandies come from apple, called calavados in France and applejack in New England, kirschwasser from cherries, framboise from raspberries, poire from pears, slivovitz from plums, and so on.

What is brandy? In common usage, brandy is a spirit of 80 to 86 proof, distilled from wine and stored for some period of time in oak barrels. It contains 40 to 50 percent ethyl alcohol and 50 to 60 percent water. There are small amounts of higher alcohols and other flavor constituents, a number of which come from the oak casks in which it ages. Tannins and tannic acid are two of these. There are numerous trace minerals from the soil, including calcium, iron, sodium and potassium. There are also pectins, fats, purines, dextrose and other sugars. Brandy may also have additives such as caramel for color, vanilla and other flavoring agents and small amounts of added sugar.

SHERLOCK HOLMES, CONNOISSEUR

MEDICAL USES

In small amounts brandy aids digestion, increasing the secretion of gastric juice and speeds up gastric motility. It dilates the blood vessels of the skin, causing flushing and so may aid in lowering the temperature. It also dilates the blood vessels of the heart and thus relieves, and to some extent prevents, painful anginal attacks. William Heberden, the English physician who first described angina pectoris in 1768, advocated the use of cognac brandy for the relief of anginal pain, and it has been in widespread use for this purpose ever since. More recently, studies have shown that in addition to the purely chemical effects of the alcohol, there is also a very valuable and beneficial calming and euphoric effect. Paul Dudley White, the famous Harvard cardiologist who among others, cared for Dwight Eisenhower, said in the late 1950's that the most effective drug for heart patients, after nitrates, was alcohol. Today we would have to place the calcium channel blockers high on this list, but brandy remains a valuable drug for those with heart disease.

Brandy is quite useful in obliterating vascular disease because of its peripheral vasodilating effects. In dilating the external vessels, it also gives a feeling of warmth on a cold day, but does not actually warm one. It also makes the brandy drinkers "feel better" and this subjective effect can, in turn, influence one's physiology. Hence its value as a restorative, to bring nervous victims back to normal.

These are currently recognized uses. Going back to Victorian times, we will list some therapeutic indications which are no longer felt to be fully valid, but were entirely true when Watson was in his prime. Brandy was very widely used for the common cold, both as a preventative and as a treatment to relieve the unpleasant symptoms. It is still used for colds but its effectiveness is on rather shaky scientific ground. Brandy was felt to be the prime remedy in cases of snakebite, to cure the toxic effects and also to ease the pain of the bite and injected poisons. It was advocated to restore one to normal after loss of blood, in convalescence and after serious injury, in cases where one felt faint and in actual faintings.

One is reminded of a nineteenth century English music hall skit. A comedian is struck and falls unconscious to the stage. A second comic cries out; "bring the poor man some water, quickly". Whereupon the victim wakes up, raises his head and asks, "can't you make that brandy"?

Cognac was regularly prescribed for feeble digestion, atonic dyspepsia, convalescence from acute fevers, infantile diarrhea, vomiting, neuralgia, migraine headaches, ordinary headaches, colics, cramps and as a stimulant to increase the appetite. It was, and still is, used as a valuable sedative, especially in the aged, and cognac was felt to be the most efficacious of all

SHERLOCK HOLMES, CONNOISSEUR

remedies for influenza. It was advocated for a number of very serious and fatal infections; typhoid, typhus, dysentery, cholera and pneumonia. We now know that it didn't have any great effect on the infecting bacteria, but, as there were no known specific treatments for these diseases at that time, one can reason that at least brandy led to a relatively sedated and comfortable death. Brandy was frequently advocated as a gargle in sore throats; diluted 4 to 1 with water, which at least gave on a nice spirited breath. It was also prescribed to treat delerium tremens, a disease that excessive brandy could well have caused.

In any event, brandy has proven therapeutic value in:

- Stimulating the coronary artery circulation in diseases of the heart.
- Relieving the pain of angina pectoris and obliterative vascular diseases.
- Increasing the stroke volume of the heart.
- Alleviating the discomfort associated with hypertension in general.
- It combats tension, induces sleep, relaxes and is a boon for the elderly.
- It is, possibly, useful as a treatment for the common cold.
- It is a demonstrable fact that moderate drinkers live longer than teetotalers.
- It has been shown that moderate drinkers live longer after a heart attack than those who never drank.
- It can be a life saver in heart disease.

BRANDY IN THE SACRED WRITINGS

- When Julia Stoner is bitten by a deadly snake, in The Speckled Band, Dr. Roylatt poured brandy down her throat; but in vain, for she died.
- Concerning The Hound of the Baskerville, Inspector Lestrade thrust brandy between Henry Baskerville's teeth to restore him after the hound's attack; and later, Henry asks for another mouthful of the brandy. Soon, they have the brandy out again for Mrs. Stapleton, who had been tied up by her cruel husband.
- In The Three Students, Professor Hilton Soames gives a little brandy to his servant, Bannister, when Bannister was upset by the improper viewing of an examination paper.

SHERLOCK HOLMES, CONNOISSEUR

- When stung by The Lion's Mane, Ian Murdoch shouted for brandy and it was only more and more brandy poured down his throat that saves him. Later, a book by J. G. Wood is quoted that relates that another jellyfish victim was only saved by gulping down a whole bottle of brandy.
- Confronted by the evidence in The Blue Carbuncle, James Ryder collapses, but is restored by giving him a dash of brandy.
- Victor Hatherly, the engineer, becomes hysterical when Watson sees him thumbless in consultation; but brandy and water restores color to his bloodless cheeks.
- You will also recall that Holmes and Watson had to pour brandy down Percy Phelps' throat when he almost fainted at the sight of the naval treaty under a covered dish.
- Dr. Thornycroft Huxtable, MA, PhD, headmaster of the Priory School, looks around, and faints from nerves, exhaustion and hunger. Watson then administers brandy as he lies unconscious.
- When the Tiger of San Pedro kills his pursuers at Wisteria Lodge, a brandy and soda is given to John Scott Eccles after Inspector Gregson accuses him of the murder.
- Watson also revived Melas, The Greek Interpreter, in less than an hour with ammonia and brandy, after he had almost been killed by the foul fumes. Earlier, we had noted an empty brandy bottle on the table.
- When the Reigate Squires attack Sherlock, he is so shaken by the Cunninghams' assault that he helps himself to a dash of brandy.
- Holmes gave Watson brandy when he fainted (for the first and last time in his life) when Holmes suddenly appeared three years after his supposed death at Reichenbach Falls.
- Black Peter Carey, the harpooned harpooner, had brandy on the sideboard, but preferred to drink "a man's drink", rum.
- When an old shipmate from the ill-fated Gloria Scott appeared, Squire Trevor had to run into the house for a brandy.
- And Holmes advises Colonel Ross to wash the hair dye off Silver Blaze with "spirits of wine", which is, of course, another name for brandy.

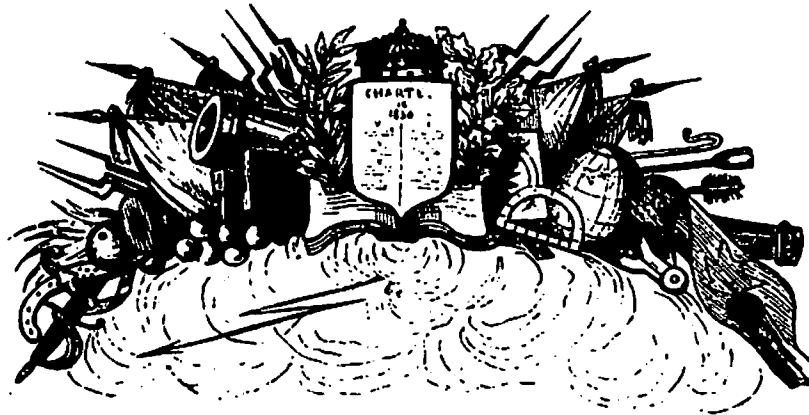
In these cases, the brandy was variously used as a restorative, as a tranquilizer, as a pain reliever and, most commonly, as a means of reviving and strengthening those in nervous shock. On

SHERLOCK HOLMES, CONNOISSEUR

four occasions it was poured down the throats of unconscious persons, a very dangerous act indeed. Not only is this bad medicine but one has a very good chance of pouring the brandy down the trachea into the lungs. If this does not drown the victim on the spot, it will, at least, produce a chemical pneumonia. In several instances, a whole bottle of brandy is administered. This quantity would dull the vital signs of an already injured person and give a good chance of causing vomiting and the liklihood of drowning the overtreated person in his own vomitus.

In summary; it is quite safe to say that Sherlock had, and presumably still has, a fine tast for food and wine, a subject that I will cover more fully in my forthcoming paper; "Sherlock Holmes, Gourmet". Brandy has a long and honorable history in medical therapy and Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson were assiduous in its use, although, at times overenthusiastic in its application.

* * * * *



The Cardboard Box Word Find

By

Sherlock S. Holmes

There are at least twenty-three (23) different references to "The Cardboard Box" in the following puzzle. Words can be found in any direction; horizontal, vertical or diagonally (either forward or reversed). Good luck!

A B B E S R O U H T B B M O U K R S S
J S C C A R D B O A R D L N L N O I I
E G H A L O U O R E O N M I I O A S Q
A A H E T O U X R W W R O I V T V E N
L U O E E N B R E S N W N T E I U E A
O O N E N Q A S C V B O O T R U E R S
U I E S S R E T S I S R G O P U I P N
S E Y D B N Y T E R U I R L O M H J K
Y D D R J H G W A L A L A U O I E S W
U H E I U O P S A R A H P H L S A V R
M W W R E S D B A R H N H O I P R E S
O Y U R R T F S H D D U H E N R S Y U
T O V A W A T H O U D B R O W N E R A
I O E N I W T R A S V E E L L O U O A
V E N G H D U I O P S L I E U M N O P
E G K I O P O L I V E F E C C E E R E
E A M A Y D A Y O U Y A C H E H E S N
C A N A Y A R O L I A S E C T Y E R U
R E N C R O Y D O N Y T H E R G B R E

A list of words for this puzzle will be in the next issue of the Herald. Good luck!

* * * * *

YOU TWO OUGHT TO
KNOW EACH OTHER

by

Phyllis P. White



I have often wondered how it happened that Irene Adler and Godfrey Norton met and fell in love. Now I have formed a conjecture which I should like to present for your consideration. The role of cupid may have been played by one of the greatest opera stars of that era.

It does not seem impossible that the Englishman Godfrey Norton could have had American relatives. The American Nortons that I have in mind were a New England couple (both descended from Thomas Mayhew, governor and owner of Martha's Vineyard) and their six daughters. One of the daughters, Wilhemina, had a beautiful voice and the family moved to Boston so that she could be trained at the New England Conservatory.

Wilhelmina died and her place at the conservatory was taken by the youngest daughter, Lillian. The results were sensational.

A few years later Lillian Norton was launched on a brilliant international career. It did no harm that, as in the case of Irene Adler, in addition to her other qualifications she was a beauty. When it became evident that her performances would not be restricted to church services and concerts, but would include appearing in theaters, her family was dismayed. This would mean dragging the Norton family name into disgrace. To appease the family she dropped the family name and took the one that she made famous - Lillian Nordica.



She was in London singing at Covent Garden and Drury Lane at the time when the events recounted in "A Scandal in Bohemia" were taking place. The management that she was under during the first part of her stay was in financial difficulty and not paying salaries. It would have been quite natural for her to seek the advice of a family member who lived in London and was versed in English law. If satisfied with his services she would have recommended him to others in her profession.

YOU TWO OUGHT TO KNOW EACH OTHER

As Lillian Nordica had not sung in Warsaw it might seem less probable that she was acquainted with Irene Adler, however that is easily accounted for. Two of Miss Nordica's colleagues at Covent Gardens and Drury Lane were from Warsaw, The brothers Mieczislaw. They too adopted stage names and became legendary as Jean and Edward de Reszke.

I do not suggest that Miss Nordica gave active encouragement to this romance. She may have simply made the introductions. I am mindful that only a few years earlier Miss Nordica had endured a short and unhappy marriage. Her husband forced her to give up her career and did such unpleasant things as burning her costumes and scores and ridiculing her when she tried to sing privately. Fortunately, after eighteen months of this, he attempted to cross the English Channel by balloon and was never seen again.

Lillian Nordica returned to the stage. Irene Adler remained in retirement. I am sure that was of her own volition. No matter how much she loved her husband, he would not have been able to forbid her anything.

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A pictorial souvenir with biographies of some
of the most famous singers of the day.

Unverangliche Stimmen Kleins Sangerlexikon

by K.J. Kutsch & Leo Riemans Bern, Franke - 1962

The American Singer - A Hundred Years of Success in Opera

by Oscar Thompson New York, Dial - 1937

* * * * *

THE ADVERBIAL ANSWERS

by

Donald A. Yates, B.S.I.

Here is a list of the answers for "The Adverbial Holmes", seen in the last issue of the Herald. Some questions have more than one correct answer. However, you should not use the same answer in more than one question.

I have just solved;

- 1.) The Hound of the Baskervilles, said Holmes doggedly.
- 2.) A Study in Scarlet, said Holmes Feverishly.
or The Dying Detective
- 3.) The Adventure of the Empty House, said Holmes vacantly.
- 4.) The Sussex Vampire, said Holmes bitinglly.
or The Speckled Band
- 5.) The Dying Detective, said Holmes gravely.
or The Musgrave Ritual
- 6.) The Man With the Twisted Lip, said Holmes sneeringly.
- 7.) The Final Problem, said Holmes definitively.
or His Last Bow
- 8.) The Missing Three Quarter, said Holmes.
or The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax
- 9.) The Golden Pince Nez, said Holmes spectacularly.
- 10.) The Three Gables, said Holmes loftily.
- 11.) Silver Blaze, said Holmes heatedly.
or The Devils Foot or The Red Headed League
- 12.) The Reigate Puzzle, said Holmes enigmatically.
or The Musgrave Ritual
- 13.) The Resident Patient, said Holmes patiently.
or The Dying Detective
- 14.) His Last Bow, said Holmes archly.
or Thor Bridge
- 15.) The Norwood Builder, said Holmes constructively.

Hope you had some fun with this puzzle. Watch for more fun in future issues of the Herald.

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

In the last issue of the Herald we said that if there was enough interest we would begin a "trading post" in the Herald. Well, it seems there is quite a bit of interest in the idea so we will begin the trading post in the next issue.

Remember, these classifieds are free to all Scowers and Molly Maguires in good standing. They are available for buying, selling or trading any Sherlockiana or Victoriana. The only restriction is that each classified be limited to a maximum of three items.

As always, send those classifieds to:

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

* * *



JUST OUT: A new edition of "How to Train Your Canary". Contact Mr. Wilson.

* * *

WANTED: One ambitious cat. Have a large rodent problem. Contact the sailor from Sumatra.

* * *

FOR SALE: One trained cormorant. Please, no politicians. Contact the Old Lighthouse Keeper.

* * *

TO JAMES STANGER: If not a weekly how about a monthly?
R.W.

* * *

TO R.W.: After due consideration, absolutely not!
- James Stanger

* * *

SHERLOCKIANA

"I hear of Sherlock everywhere..."

(The Greek Interpreter)

Once again we offer a special thank you to Ted Schulz and the Tide-waiters for the use of their calendar of events.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 6, 1987: "Happy birthday, dear Sherlock" on your 133rd.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

There may still be time to look for the December 1986 issue of The Smithsonian Magazine. It contains a major article (by our good friend Fred Strebeigh, of New Haven) on the celebration of the Sherlock Holmes Centennial throughout the United States. Of special interest to all Scowrrers is the photo of those of us that gathered together in Union Square on a cool October afternoon. Sorry folks, we didn't make the cover, nor did it end up as a full page spread, but we are in there. Included with the article are a number of good pictures of Don & Willy Werby's reconstruction of Sherlock's sitting room. For more comments on the Smithsonian article read Stanger's column earlier in this issue.

By the way, if you are reading this and you have not been to see Sherlock's reading room, you really should. It is beautifully done and well worth the trip to the top of the Holiday Inn (near Union Square). Also, if you are not attending one of the many birthday celebrations you might consider stopping by the room and toasting to the Master. You will likely find a kindred spirit sitting by the fireplace and perhaps, we can discuss the finer points of the Master's work.

* * * * *

March 13, 14 & 15, 1987: Sherlockon II, a second Holmes-coming, at the New Torrance Marriott Hotel, 3635 Fashion Way, in Torrance, just south of LA, near LAX. A special Guest of Honor will be our own Phyllis White. Other participants will include John Ball (creator of Virgil Tibbs), Fred Saberhagen (author of the greatly under-rated Holmes-Dracula File), Professor Arthur Axelrad, etc.

More information from Ray or Ted, or write to:

SHERLOCKON II
P.O. Box 1226
Lawndale, CA 90260

SHERLOCKIANA

Sunday, August 16th thru Saturday August 22nd: The Shaw Seminar at Stanford, celebrating the centennial of the publication of A Study in Scarlet, in Mrs. Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887.

Start planning now to join the band of kinspirits at Stanford next August. To add your name to the mailing list, drop a line to:

"Shaw Seminar at Stanford"
C/O Bruce R. Parker, MD, BSI
Stanford Medical Center, S-058
Stanford, CA 94305

If you have any additions or corrections to our calendar of events please send them to Editor Stanger and they will appear in the next issue of the Herald.

* * * * *

MISCELLANY & REVIEWS

In this issue we have a couple of special offerings for all you collectors of Sherlockiana.

The first offering is from The Churchills "Professional Muggers" of Somerset, California. The Churchills produce hand-made stoneware mugs that are caricatures of faces. They have produced a caricature of the Master (with pipe) wich I understand is currently selling for \$14.50 per mug (pardon the pun). They also make customized caricature mugs from photos (these custom mugs run \$35.00 each). If you wish to send an order the address is:

The Churchills
"Professional Muggers"
P.O. Box 327
Somerset, CA 95684

Add 10% for shipping and handling and make checks and money orders payable to Joseph Churchill. You may wish to call before ordering since prices are subject to change. The phone number is: (916) 644-1496

* * * * *

This second offering concerns an ad placed here in the Herald for a two record set of Sherlock Holmes radio shows, starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce. I am sure that you have all seen advertisements for many of the old radio shows and are well aware that those recordings have preserved all of the scratchy, tinny characteristics of old time radio. This special offering has none of the familiar hiss and scratches, the sound is clean and clear.

SHERLOCKIANA

Just as if two of our favorite actors were recording anew on modern equipment.

There have been only 3,000 of these albums produced, each serially numbered. The first 1,000 are on a gold vinyl, 1,001 to 3,000 are on a scarlet vinyl.

Special note:

For each order received, using the enclosed order form, a contribution will be made to the Dean Dickensheet Fund, C/O The Scowrers & Molly Maguires of San Francisco.

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STANGER REVIEWS

The Name of the Rose

Given the extraordinary number of pastiches written about Sherlock Holmes, it is rather strange that the single finest, most thoughtful, and most philosophic of all Sherlockian takeoffs doesn't even mention Holmes. Indeed, it takes place during the European Middle Ages in a Milieu as different as can be from the Victorian world of Holmes. I am referring, of course, to Umberto Eco's superlative novel, The Name of the Rose, a book which is, at one and the same time, a Sherlockian pastiche, a mystery, a meditation on the heresies of the Middle Ages (and on the nature of heresy itself), and considerably more besides.

Eco's novel has recently been made into a film starring Sean Connery as Brother William of Baskerville, a Franciscan monk with a rather pronounced resemblance to someone we all know very well (and I don't mean James Bond)!

The film describes itself as a palimpsest on Umberto Eco's novel, and the description is quite apt. It is a simplified and sweetened version of the events in the book. Simplified, in that it would be impossible to capture the complexities and subtleties of the original work on film. Sweetened, in adherence to the cinemas long standing desire for a happy, or at least bittersweet, ending. Even so, the film is excellent, masterful in its set design, perfect in its depiction of characters, with Connery's William dominating.

The Film is a must-see, and for those of you who have not attempted the book, by all means do so. It is deep and difficult, made deliberately so for the first hundred pages, but richly repays the effort.

* * * * *

SHERLOCKIANA

Sherlock Holmes: A Centenary Celebration

While I am quite certain that Shirley Dickensheet will be presenting this book with the other "Disjecta Membra", I still feel it is worthy of being listed here. Not because it is one of the ultimate works of Sherlockian scholarship, it is not, but for what it attempts, it succeeds quite well. Essentially it is an album in commemoration of one hundred years of Holmes. It is very well illustrated, with rare photographs from many of the Holmes films, and the commentary is quite interesting. I do have my disagreements with Allen Eyles on some of his opinions, he praises Wilders' (to me, throughly disappointing film) The Private life of Sherlock Holmes, to the hilt, while looking askance at Peter Cushing's portrayal of Holmes (which I consider to be one of the very best and truest to the Canon). Still, such things work out to simply being a matter of taste. I will not say the book is a must have, but it is well worth picking up.

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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 ARTWORK: The outside of the album has a special Victorian look with Holmes and Watson profiles. It is printed on high-grade Linen Bond in Black, White, and Gold colors. Inside the album is a specially commissioned Large Commemorative Center Illustration by famous artist Alfredo Alcalá.

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