



# Sherlock Holmes

MARK CAMPBELL



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# Sherlock Holmes

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for Reg Gadney and Peter Haining, both guiding lights



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## Foreword

by Richard Lancelyn Green

The fame of Sherlock Holmes goes beyond the known universe into the galaxies beyond, for the battered tin dispatch box which Watson left in the vaults of his bank and from which from time to time he extracted notes has produced a welter of new cases which show the Great Detective to be equally at home in the past, the present and the future. It is, however, the original cases which Dr Watson chronicled on which his fame rests and to which all readers should first turn. The 'canon' appeals on many levels. It is read by young and old and is uniquely the subject of 'higher criticism' which approaches the texts with all the care (if not the seriousness) which was once bestowed upon sacred books and classical authors. There are journals and societies devoted to Holmes, there are parodies and pastiches, and there have been numerous plays, films and other adaptations. It is a vast field, and yet Holmes remains a citizen of the world and is accessible to all.

This elegantly concise volume will serve as an excellent introduction and may be regarded as the modern equivalent of the old Baedeker Guide. If it leaves the reader anxious to visit Baker Street for the first time, or to revisit it for the umpteenth time, it will have served its purpose. It provides

details of Holmes' creator and offers a critique of the Sherlock Holmes stories; it provides a sampler of the innumerable parodies and pastiches which they have inspired, and it breaks new ground by listing in alphabetical order the large number of actors who have played Sherlock Holmes, with the minor actors alongside the major ones, and the earliest with the latest.

Sherlock Holmes had with him a 'pocket Petrarch' in *The Boscombe Valley Mystery*, and he would be flattered to know that he was being honoured in the same way.

Richard Lancelyn Green  
*March 2001*

*Richard Lancelyn Green was a former chairman of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and one of the foremost world experts on Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes. He edited the 1901 burlesque of William Gillette's play, Sheerluck Jones, Penguin's The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, The Uncollected Sherlock Holmes and Letters to Sherlock Holmes, and the Oxford World Classics Sherlock Holmes titles. With John Michael Gibson he wrote A Bibliography of Arthur Conan Doyle. Following his death in 2004, his extensive collection of Sherlockiana was bequeathed to the City of Portsmouth, where a permanent display was opened in June 2007.*

## Please Continue Your Most Interesting Statement

It's difficult to imagine a world without Sherlock Holmes. But what if Arthur Conan Doyle had had a busier medical practice? Would he have had the time to write? And if he had, and his first major success had come with *Micah Clarke*, would he have even thought to create Holmes? Doyle was never as enamoured of the detective as he was of his historical stories, and it's unlikely the Baker Street sleuth would exist were it not for the doldrums he experienced at his Southsea practice.

Alternatively, what if Doyle was ill and never went to dinner with the editor of *Lippincott's Magazine*? *The Sign of Four* might never have been written and *Micah Clarke* would stand alone as a mildly interesting example of nineteenth century sensationalistic prose, a footnote in academic textbooks. And if neither of these two novels had been published, what would Doyle have written for *The Strand*? Brigadier Gerard a few years before his time? Professor Challenger two decades early? Perhaps we would have got Sherlock Holmes, perhaps not.

But this book is about what we *have* got. Four novels. Fifty-six short stories. The so-called 'sacred texts'. The Penguin editions sit next to me as I write this, in a little pile 11cm high, and I think Doyle would laugh if he knew the reverence people show to them. He was as good as he could be, but he was, when all is said and done, just a jobbing writer. A highly

professional writer, but a jobbing one nonetheless. His Holmes was an entertainment, a diversion, a character he devoted just enough time to, and no more. His real interests lay elsewhere. He loved his romanticised historical fiction, exemplified by *Rodney Stone*. He loved his wives. He loved his country. He cared passionately about social justice and parity between the sexes. He championed the underdog. He believed in fairies.

If Doyle was still alive and you happened to mention Sherlock Holmes to him, I imagine that he would raise his eyebrows and say, ‘Oh yes, *him*. Now, let’s talk about something interesting.’ Which should make us all the more grateful that we have such a rich legacy to look back on. The stories are (for the most part) beautifully crafted little tales, full of character, incident and revelation. Holmes is not an identikit set of characteristics, as has sometimes been claimed, and Watson is far from boring. Quite simply, they are real people caught up in real dramas. What is more, the bond of friendship between them is utterly believable, utterly *right*. Holmes needs Watson as much as Watson needs Holmes. They are mutually dependent – as all real friendships should be. One tense, intellectual, artistic; the other quiet, stable, sensible. They are like a comfortably married couple – only without the sex. Yes, even though they strolled along arm in arm once, please note their relationship is purely *platonic*; don’t let anyone tell you otherwise.

There have been many attempts to fathom why these stories are so popular. Reading them again in one fell swoop for this guide I was struck by the number of similar themes:

- Holmes and Watson are rarely in danger (neither is ever imprisoned, tied up, kidnapped etc.).
- The good guys are obvious from the start (except, oddly

## YOUR MOST INTERESTING STATEMENT

enough, in the four novels).

- Holmes invariably says, 'I have never seen such a singular case,' or words to that effect.
- The gender of letter writers is always obvious.
- Most of the crimes boil down to relationship problems (usually involving a *ménage à trois*).
- The murders are often hastily covered-up accidents or the result of *crime passionnel*.
- The obvious culprit is always innocent.
- Holmes invariably takes the law into his own hands.
- The criminal, once discovered, normally says, in effect, 'It's a fair cop', and explains all.

These elements are part of a formula that makes the Sherlock Holmes stories so engaging. Familiarity breeds contempt, but it can also equally engender affection. Who but a robot does not feel a warm glow as Holmes stares out of the window at the glowering clouds, Watson glances through a medical journal, and the soft footfall of their next client is heard upon the stair? Who does not feel a strange thrill as the aforesaid client describes the mystery and Holmes interrupts to ask one of his peculiar questions? Ah, you think, he's onto it already. You sit back and let the story unfold around you, safe in the knowledge that the Great Detective is never wrong. (Well, hardly ever.)

Odd, then, that so much controversy rages over such gently absorbing stories. Sherlock Holmes aficionados have been debating for decades the dating of the stories, the precise location of 221B Baker Street, the number of Watson's marriages, the Christian names of the (three?) Moriartys, the cause of Holmes' misogyny, the disappearance of Watson's dog... the list of niggling inconsistencies goes ever on. Papers have been

written, books published, speeches made. And we're still no closer to the truth. Which is, as I've said, that Doyle was a jobbing writer and the internal continuity of stories written over a period of forty years just did not interest him. And why should it?

If you visit Baker Street, you'll find a block of luxury apartments now straddling the famous 221B address, where the former Abbey National building once stood (it covered 215–229). But just down the street is the Sherlock Holmes Museum at the fictional 221B (actually 239). There you can curl up in front of a roaring fire with a deerstalker perched on your head while a young and attractive Mrs Hudson snaps your picture. And opposite you'll find a bright, friendly shop selling Sherlock Holmes memorabilia. You can witness at first hand the genuine props from the Granada TV series, guided by a chap in a grey ulster and deerstalker. It's all so damned... *British*. So whether you're new to the whole business, whether you've only seen a few Basil Rathbone films (and there's nothing wrong with that) or whether you're one of those who play 'The Great Game' and think Sherlock Holmes is real, I hope this short book provides a decent introduction to this quintessentially British phenomenon.

Sixty stories, millions of readers, three centuries of enjoyment.

Cheers, Sir Arthur. Thank goodness you weren't very busy.

## Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Arthur Conan Doyle ('Conan' derived from his great-uncle Michael Conan, a distinguished journalist) was born on 22 May 1859 at 11 Picardy Place, Edinburgh, the son of Charles Altamont Doyle and Mary (née Foley) and the second of ten children, of whom seven survived. Doyle's father was a civil servant and artist, and his grandfather John Doyle was known as the caricaturist 'HB'. His brothers were also creative: Henry became the manager of the National Gallery in Dublin, James wrote *The Chronicle of England* and Richard, better known as 'Dicky Doyle', was a cover designer for *Punch* magazine.

In 1868 Doyle attended the Jesuit preparatory school of Hodder in Lancashire for two years, before spending a further seven at Stonyhurst. It was here that he rejected Catholicism in favour of agnosticism. At 16 he did a further year in a Jesuit school at Feldkirch in the Austrian Tyrol (where he lapped up tales by Edgar Allan Poe) before returning to his birthplace to study medicine at Edinburgh University from 1876 to 1881.

His first published piece, a letter entitled *Gelsemium as a Poison*, appeared in the *British Medical Journal* of 20 September 1879. It detailed the effect of the drug on his own system. His first (uncredited) short story, *The Mystery of Sasassa Valley*, was published in the popular *Chambers Edinburgh Journal* in October that year.

In 1880, Doyle sailed to the Arctic Circle as an unqualified surgeon on the 400-ton Greenland whaling ship *Hope*. A year later he graduated from Edinburgh University as Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery, and attempted to replicate the success of his Arctic journey by cruising the west coast of Africa on the steamship *Mayumba*. But he suffered badly from seasickness and decided it was not the life for him. It was during this time that his father Charles began to receive treatment for alcoholism and epilepsy. (He began as a fee-paying patient and was later committed to an asylum until his death in October 1893.)

Eccentric university colleague George Turnavine Budd engaged Doyle to share his medical practice in Plymouth, but later acrimoniously sacked him. Doyle (along with his brother Innes) sailed to Southsea, a suburb of Portsmouth, and started his own general medical practice at 1 Bush Villas, Elm Grove, in June 1882. Business was quiet, and he turned to writing to keep himself occupied. He joined the Portsmouth Literary and Scientific Society in winter 1883. On 6 August 1885 Doyle married Louise ('Touie') Hawkins, the sister of a patient who had died at his premises the year before. In 1887, *Beeton's Christmas Annual* published his first Sherlock Holmes novel, *A Study in Scarlet*. Two years later his first child was born, Mary Louise, and his historical novel *Micah Clarke* was published. Doyle's second Holmes novel, *The Sign of Four*, appeared in 1890.

After a brief spell in Vienna in 1891, the DoYLES moved to 23 Montague Place, London, where he practised as an oculist at 2 Upper Wimpole Street, just off Harley Street. He received very few patients and decided to write short Sherlock Holmes stories for the new monthly magazine *The Strand*. With the success of these and the publication of his novel *The*

*White Company*, he decided to give up medicine in favour of writing.

Three months later, the Doyles rented a large house at 12 Tennyson Road, South Norwood. Doyle's first son Alleyne Kingsley was born in 1892. A year later Louise, who had earlier contracted tuberculosis, was declared incurably consumptive and went to the Swiss resort of Davos to convalesce. In November 1893, Doyle joined the Society for Psychical Research, the president of which was Arthur J Balfour (who would later become prime minister), but it would be another 23 years before he began proselytising Spiritualism seriously.

Tired of Sherlock Holmes' effect on his 'serious' literary career, Doyle killed him off in *The Final Problem* in December 1893. The following year he went on an American lecture tour with his brother Innes. Doyle and his wife then spent most of 1895 in Europe before moving on to a tour of Egypt. When fighting broke out between the British and the Dervishes he volunteered as a war correspondent for *The Westminster Gazette*, giving a good account of the preparations for the campaign.

In October 1897, he and Louise moved into 'Undershaw', a house he had built in Hindhead, Surrey. Because of its height Hindhead (known as the 'English Riviera') was considered to have clean, healthy air, and Doyle hoped it would aid in Louise's recovery. But that year he met and fell in love with Jean Leckie.

The following year, he wrote two relatively unknown short stories for *The Strand* in which Holmes makes off-stage appearances. In *The Man With the Watches* (July 1898), 'a well-known criminal investigator' sends an ingenious solution to the *Daily Gazette*, while in *The Lost Special* (August 1899, later serialised by Universal in 1932) it is implied that Moriarty is the villain

and Sherlock Holmes the ‘amateur reasoner of some celebrity’.

In 1899 Doyle became involved in the Boer War. He sailed to South Africa in February 1900 as part of John Langman’s 50-bed medical unit and worked in appalling conditions in a hospital in Bloemfontein that dealt with enteric fever. He began writing *The History of the Great Boer War* there, and also published a pro-British pamphlet entitled *The War in South Africa: Its Causes and Conduct*. In Doyle’s opinion, it was this pamphlet that led to his knighthood on 9 August 1902.

Having already succumbed to public pressure and written *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in 1901 (a story set before Holmes’ disappearance at the Reichenbach Falls), he finally resurrected Sherlock Holmes properly in September 1903 in a short story called *The Empty House*.

Louise died on 4 July 1906, aged 49. The same year Doyle involved himself in the case of George Edalji, a Parsee barrister whom he claimed had been wrongly accused of maiming animals. The year after, Doyle married Jean Leckie and they moved to ‘Windlesham’, a large house in Crowborough, East Sussex. Three children were born to this marriage: Denis Percy Stewart (1909), Adrian Malcolm (1910) and Jean Lena Annette (1912, known as Billy).

Doyle wrote more Sherlock Holmes short stories and continued campaigning against injustices. He wrote a leaflet attacking the Belgian misrule in the Congo, exposing the suffering of the natives, and investigated the case of the convicted murderer Oscar Slater. In 1909 he became president (for ten years) of the Divorce Law Reform Union. Three years later he wrote *The Lost World*, the first of three novels to feature Professor Challenger.

Aged 55 when the First World War broke out, Doyle

joined the Crowborough Company of the Sixth Royal Sussex Volunteer Regiment, but this was disbanded after a few weeks. On 2 September 1914, the Liberal politician Charles Masterman, head of the War Propaganda Bureau, asked Doyle to attend a secret meeting of Britain's leading writers to discuss ways of best promoting Britain's interests during the war. After this, Doyle went away and wrote the recruiting pamphlet *To Arms!* He then visited the Western Front, and the pamphlet *A Visit to the Three Fronts* resulted in 1916. During the war Doyle also started his six-volume *The British Campaign in France and Flanders*, completed in 1920.

In 1916, Doyle first announced his belief in Spiritualism — he claimed that the year before he had received a communication from his brother-in-law Malcolm who had died at Frameries, Belgium, in 1914. He became a passionate convert and spent the rest of his life writing and lecturing on the subject all around the world. His eldest son Alleyne was wounded at the Somme and died of pneumonia in October 1918.

Doyle believed in the Cottingley Fairies (later admitted to be a hoax), and was friends with sceptic Harry Houdini: they exchanged a series of letters on psychic matters, later published. He opened a psychic bookshop with a library and museum, and set up a psychic press which published several books.

He originally intended the short story *His Last Bow* (1917) to be the final word on the Great Detective, but nevertheless went on to write a further twelve Holmes stories over the next seven years.

By 1925 he was dividing his time between Bignell House near Minstead in the New Forest and his Crowborough abode. Following a lecture tour of Scandinavia and Holland in 1929 he

SHERLOCK HOLMES

developed angina pectoris and suffered a heart attack. Bedridden for several months, he died on 7 July 1930 aged 71. His last book, *The Edge of the Unknown*, had appeared a week earlier. He was buried at Crowborough but his remains were later moved – along with his wife Jean who died on 27 June 1940 – to Minstead Church. His tombstone inscription reads:

*Steel True  
Blade Straight  
Arthur Conan Doyle  
Knight  
Patriot, Physician & Man of Letters*

## The Canon

Notes on the format:

Full title (omitting, if applicable, ‘The Adventure of...’ in other references).

UK and USA first publication details (with date and initials of illustrator [see below] in brackets).

*The Case*: A one-sentence résumé.

*Date*: The stated period of time in which the story takes place, occasionally as a flashback (no suppositions allowed).

*Characters*: Italicised ones are not directly encountered in the narrative (they usually feature in reported speech, flashbacks or passing references). Certain characters are revealed as having aliases – to preserve the twist, both names are included.

*Locations*: Ditto

*Recorded Cases*: Direct references to other canonical stories.

*Unrecorded Cases*: Non-canonical tales that are mentioned in passing.

*Holmes*: Character details, personal history, mannerisms etc.

*Watson*: Ditto

*Elementary*: Inspired deductions unrelated to the case in hand.

*Quotable Quote*: Holmes is the speaker unless otherwise stated.

*Disguise*: If any.

*Problems*: Inconsistencies, errors, illogical premises etc.

*Observations:* Background detail.

*Verdict:* Personal opinion about the story's merits, with a mark out of 5.

Illustrators: AB (Alec Ball), WTB (WT Benda), HMB (HM Brock), HCE (Harry C Edwards), HKE (Howard E Elcock), JRF (John Richard Flanagan), DHF (DH Friston), AG (A Gilbert), GH (Gilbert Holiday), WHH (WH Hyde), AIK (Arthur I Keller), GPN (G Patrick Nelson), SP (Sydney Paget), WP (Walter Paget), FDS (Frederic Dorr Steele), JS (Joseph Simpson), AT (Arthur Twidle), FW (Frank Wiles)

## 1) A Study in Scarlet

UK: *Beeton's Christmas Annual* (November 1887, DHF); USA: JB Lippincott & Co (1890)

*The Case:* A man's dead body lies in an empty house, with no evidence of how he died...

*Characters:* Stamford, Inspector Lestrade, Inspector Tobias Gregson, PC John Rance, Mrs Sawyer, Wiggins, Jefferson Hope, terrier dog, *Enoch J Drebber*, *Joseph Stangerson*, *Madame Charpentier*, *Alice Charpentier*, *Arthur Charpentier*, *John Ferrier*, *Lucy Ferrier*, *Brigham Young*, *Cowper*, *Watson's dog*.

*Locations:* Private hotel, Strand; Criterion Bar, Piccadilly Circus; 'The Holborn' restaurant; chemical lab in St Bartholomew's Hospital; 221B Baker Street; 3 Lauriston Gardens, Brixton; 46 Audley Court, Kennington Park Gate; unnamed police station; *Charpentier's Boarding Establishment*, *Torquay Terrace*, *Camberwell*; *Halliday's Private Hotel*, *Little George Street*; *Sierra Blanco*, *North America*; *Salt Lake City and its environs*, *Utah*; *Cleveland, Ohio*; *Euston Station*, *London*.

*Unrecorded Cases:* Von Bischoff of Frankfurt, Mason of

Bradford, the notorious Muller, Lefevre and Leturier of Montpellier, Samson of New Orleans, Van Jansen of Utrecht (in 1834), the Ratcliff Highway murders, Dolsky of Odessa.

*Holmes*: Is said by Stamford to be ‘well up’ in anatomy, a ‘first-class’ chemist with ‘a passion for definite and exact knowledge’. He is cold-bloodedly scientific: he beats corpses with a stick to observe bruising and dabbles with poisons. Has just discovered a re-agent precipitated by haemoglobin that will revolutionise the detection of bloodstains. Admits to long periods of sulking. Plays the violin very well (and uses it to express his mood swings) and is sensitive to flattery. Is quiet and regular in his habits, goes to bed before ten and is out before Watson rises in the morning. Over six-feet tall, lean, sharp-eyed, square-jawed and hawk-nosed. Claims to be ignorant of the workings of the solar system and hasn’t heard of Thomas Carlyle (1795–1881). A boxer, swordsman and single-stick expert. (This last is a stick fitted with a handguard and used in fencing.) Has an immense knowledge of nineteenth century crime cases and has written a magazine article called ‘The Book of Life’, illustrating the deductive process through observation. Calls himself the world’s only consulting detective and refers disdainfully to Scotland Yard in the same breath as Edgar Allan Poe and Emile Gaboriau’s fictional detectives, Dupin and Lecoq. He keeps a tape-measure and a large magnifying glass in his pocket and chatters to himself as he looks for clues. Has written a monograph on cigar ash. He thinks music affects us because, according to Darwin, it predates language. Outdoors he wears an ulster (a long loose overcoat) and a cravat. When commenting on Lestrade and Gregson, he quotes French poet and critic Nicolas Boileau-Despréaux (1636–1711): ‘An idiot always finds an even bigger idiot to admire him.’

*Watson:* In 1878, he took a Doctor of Medicine degree at the University of London, went on an army surgeons' course at Netley and then joined the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers in Kandahar, Afghanistan. He received a shoulder wound from a Jezail bullet at the Battle of Maiwand (July 1880), suffered enteric fever at Peshawar, and was sent back to Portsmouth. He spends some time in London but is running out of money. He suffers from war fatigue, gets up in the small hours and is extremely lazy. At this early stage he doesn't suspect Holmes of drug-taking. The bull pup he mentions and that is never seen again *may* be the bull terrier that is humanely put down by Holmes.

*Elementary:* Holmes deduces that Watson comes from Afghanistan, and that the messenger is a retired Marine sergeant.

*Quotable Quote:* 'There's the scarlet thread of murder running though the colourless skein of life, and our duty is to unravel it...'

*Problems:* Holmes' revolutionary bloodstain test is never referred to again. Utah and the Rio Grande are incorrectly sited. Jefferson Hope would be unlikely to return to 221B Baker Street after his accomplice had previously visited it. Holmes claims never to have heard of Thomas Carlyle, yet quotes from his *Frederick the Great* ('They say that genius is an infinite capacity for taking pains').

*Observations:* Inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Dynamiter* (1885), Doyle worked on this story (originally called *A Tangled Skein*) from March to April 1886 at Southsea, Hants. He based his detective on Dr Joseph Bell, a teacher of medicine during his time at Edinburgh University. An admirer of Poe's Auguste Dupin and Gaboriau's Monsieur Lecoq, he toyed with the idea of calling his detective Sherrinford Holmes

before settling on the name we are familiar with. ‘Sherlock’ was possibly based on prominent violinist Alfred Sherlock, while American medical pioneer Oliver Wendell Holmes may have inspired the surname. ‘Ormond Sacker’ became ‘John H Watson’ (a Dr James Watson was already known to Doyle). After touting the manuscript to various publishers, he was eventually paid the flat fee of £25 by Ward, Lock & Co, publishers of *Beeton’s Christmas Annual*, founded 27 years earlier by Samuel Orchart Beeton (husband of famous cook Isabella). Doyle wrote the story without visiting America; his information about Mormonism was gleaned in part from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and various newspaper articles. He copied Gaboriau’s device of splitting a novel in two, with a solved crime followed by an adventure novella. There was no Lauriston Gardens in London, but Lauriston Place in Edinburgh was the road nearest to the house in which Doyle lived. Some have claimed that the story was based on the real-life case of the disappearance of a German baker, Urban Napoleon Stanger, on 12 November 1881 in London’s East End. The Baker Street Irregulars are only referred to as ‘street Arabs’.

The Latin quotation that closes the book is from *Satires* Book I:1:67 by lyric poet Horace (65–8 BC) and is translated thus: ‘The crowd hiss me, but I applaud myself at home, as soon as I contemplate the money in my chest.’

*A Study in Scarlet* was published as a ‘shilling shocker’ by Ward, Lock & Co, with naïve illustrations by Doyle’s father Charles (who gave Holmes a beard). Later editions featured illustrations by George Hutchinson. The book was presented free with *The Windsor Magazine* in December 1895, illustrated by James Greig.

*Verdict*: A disappointing debut for the Great Detective, this is

essentially a padded short story (most of Part 2 being redundant) in which Holmes appears only briefly. But he is clearly a tremendous creation – a dynamic character far superior to the romanticised melodrama in which he finds himself, he springs fully formed (if oddly hale and hearty) from the page. 4/5

## 2) The Sign of Four

UK and USA: *Lippincott's Monthly Magazine* (February 1890)

*The Case:* A mysterious benefactor, who has been sending an orphan a pearl every year, at last promises to reveal his true identity...

*Date:* See 'Problems'.

*Characters:* Inspector Athelney Jones, Mary Morstan, Mrs Cecil Forrester, Thaddeus and Bartholomew Sholto, Williams and McMurdo, Mrs Bernstone, Lal Rao, Jonathan Small, Sherman, Mordecai Smith, Mrs Smith, Jim and Jack Smith, Wiggins, Mrs Hudson, Tonga, *Captain Arthur Morstan, Major John Sholto, Sergeant John Holder, Abel White, Mahomet Singh, Abdullah Kahn, Dost Akbar, Achmet, Dr Somerton.*

*Locations:* 221B Baker Street; Lyceum Theatre, London; house near Cold Harbour Lane; Pondicherry Lodge, Upper Norwood; 3 Pinchin Lane, Lambeth; Broderick & Nelson's timber yard, Nine Elms; Smith's Wharf, Lambeth; Mrs Cecil Forrester's house, Camberwell; Westminster Stairs; Jacobson's Yard, SE1; Plumstead Marshes, SE18; *Indigo plantation, Muttra, India; Agra Fort, India; Hope Town, Blair Island, Andaman Islands, Indian Ocean.*

*Recorded Case:* *A Study in Scarlet.*

*Unrecorded Cases:* Riga in 1857 and St Louis in 1871 (both concerning wills), Mrs Cecil Forrester's 'domestic complication', a woman who poisoned three children for their insur-

ance money, parallel cases in India and Senegambia, the Bishopsgate jewel case.

*Holmes*: Is described as a young man. Has been taking a seven per cent solution of morphine or cocaine three times a day for many months. He objects to Watson's romanticism in *A Study in Scarlet*. Smokes a briar-root pipe. Thinks French detective François le Villard is deficient in exact knowledge. Has written several monographs – *Upon the Distinction Between the Ashes of the Various Tobaccos* and others on the tracing of footsteps and the influences of a trade upon the form of the hand. Has an 'extraordinary genius for minutiae', according to Watson. He is egotistical and vain. Thinks of clients as 'units' and doesn't get emotionally involved. He carries a revolver if he thinks the situation calls for it. Keeps a 'double lens' and a tape-measure on his person. He once took part in amateur boxing. He is now familiar (cf. *A Study in Scarlet*) with the writings of Jean Paul (Friedrich) Richter (1763–1825) and Thomas Carlyle. Idleness exhausts him, but smoking helps him think. Considers William Winwood Reade's *The Martyrdom of Man* (1872) one of the most remarkable books ever written. Is interested in miracle plays, medieval pottery, Stradivarius violins, Ceylon Buddhism and futuristic warships. Thinks women are untrustworthy, dislikes love because it is emotional, and would never marry because it would cloud his judgement. Has never shot at anyone before. Quotes Goethe when referring to Athelney Jones ('We are used to the fact that people make fun of the things they don't understand') and later to himself ('It is too bad that nature made you just a human, since there was material to make a worthy man and a jester').

*Watson*: Has not got over his Afghan experience yet. He has an older brother, his father has been dead many years and he has known women of many nations. Has a weak bank balance.