

# SHERLOCK HOLMES

## Consulting Detective

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221b Baker Street  
St. Marylebone  
London, England

### EDUCATION

1872-1876 Attended an English university, although neither dates nor location is certain. Arguments are made for both Oxford (Christ Church College) and Cambridge (perhaps Sidney Sussex or Caius College)

### PERSONAL

- Born January 6, 1854 (W.S. Baring-Gould. *Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street*. New York: Bramhall House, 1962)
- Son of Siger Holmes and Violet Sherrinford Holmes (Baring-Gould, *above*)
- Brother Mycroft Holmes resides in Pall Mall opposite the Diogenes Club, Whitehall District, London, England. "He is the British Government." (BRUC)\*
- Grandson of a sister of the French artist Émile Jean-Horace Vernet (GREE)
- Rented rooms in Montague Street, London, England (MUSG)
- Main residence at 221B Baker Street, London, England (STUD)
- Retirement in South Downs, Sussex, England (LAST)

\* For a list of the 4-letter abbreviations for Canonical stories see [www.nashvillescholars.net/scholarstoryabbrevs.htm](http://www.nashvillescholars.net/scholarstoryabbrevs.htm)

### EXPERIENCE

- 1880 Formally declared a professional career as the first consulting detective (GLOR)
- 1881 Meets and shares an apartment with Dr. John H. Watson at 221B Baker Street. Dr. Watson shares in many investigations and chronicles many Sherlock Holmes adventures (STUD)
- 1881-1903 Professional practice
- 1891-1894 Hiatus (EMPT)
- 1903 or 1904 Retired; beekeeper in Sussex Downs (LION) (see Vincent Starrett, *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1960, p. 35; also, Baring-Gould, *above*, Appendix I)
- 1904-Present [*Little-known fact*] Professor (Alvarez, M.C. Sherlock Holmes As College Professor, *The Baker Street Journal*. 51, no. 1, 44-48, 2001)
- 1907 Involved with a case (LION)
- 1914 Involved with a case (LAST)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

1. *The Book of Life* (STUD)
2. *Practical Handbook of Bee Culture, with Some Observations upon the Segregation of the Queen* (LAST)
3. *The Whole Art of Detection*, a textbook in preparation (ABBE)

### Monographs

4. *On Secret Writings* (DANC)
5. *Upon the Distinction between the Ashes of the Various Tobaccos* (STUD, SIGN, BOSCO)
6. *On the Typewriter and Its Relation to Crime* (IDEN)
7. *Upon the Tracing of Footsteps* (SIGN)
8. *Upon the Influence of a Trade upon the Form of the Hand* (SIGN)
9. *Of Tattoo Marks* (REDH)
10. *Upon the Dating of Old Documents* (HOUN, GOLD)
11. *On the Polyphonic Motets of Lassus*. Printed for private circulation (BRUC)
12. *Chaldean Roots in the Ancient Cornish Language* (DEVI)
13. *On the Surface Anatomy of the Human Ear*. Two articles in the *Anthropological Journal* (CARD)
14. *Malingering* (DYIN)
15. *Early English Charters*, in progress (3STU)
16. *Upon the Uses of Dogs in the Work of the Detective*, in progress (CREE)

## KNOWLEDGE AND CHARACTERISTICS

- Six feet tall, dark hair, lean build
- Knowledge of chemistry – profound (STUD)
- Literate – enjoys a collection of a variety of books
- Master of disguises: a bookseller (EMPT), a groom (SCAN), a clergyman (SCAN), an opium addict (TWIS), an old Italian priest (FINA), a seaman (SIGN), a plumber (CHAS), an old woman (MAZA)
- Literary knowledge and language proficiency in French and Latin (Harry Shefter (Ed). *Reader's Supplement for the Great Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, New York: Washington Square Press, 1972)
- Well-versed in philosophy
- Expert knowledge of beekeeping (LAST)

- Expert in noticing and observing:
  - able to discern characteristics of physical objects such as a pocket watch (SIGN) or a walking stick (HOUN), as well as animal characteristics such as tracks (e.g., cows, horses), and their features
  - developed a functional test for blood stains (STUD)
  - can identify characteristics revealed by typewritten documents (IDEN)
  - distinguishes different types of shoe prints, footprints, horseshoe prints, and hound dog prints.
  - able to identify different types of bicycle tires and their impressions, track prints revealed by the wheels of carriages
  - knowledgeable in the types of tobacco ashes and can identify the kinds of cigarettes found at a crime scene
- Plays the violin (STUD)
- Musical scholar. (see Oliver Mundy, *Sherlock Holmes and Music*. Cited in Camden House, [www.ignisart.com/camdenhouse/scholars/SHOLMES\\_AND\\_MUSIC.pdf](http://www.ignisart.com/camdenhouse/scholars/SHOLMES_AND_MUSIC.pdf))
- Enjoys attending concerts (REDH)
- Browses in art galleries (HOUN)

#### **ATHLETIC SKILLS**

- Boxer (GLOR, YELL)
- Fencer (GLOR)
- Baritsu (or Bartitsu), a martial art of Japanese wrestling (EMPT)
- Martial art of singlestick: a weapon made of wood, taking the form of a cane (STUD)
- Knowledge of golf clubs (GREE)
- Marksman with pistol (MUSG)

#### **REFERENCES**

- John H. Watson, M.D. 221b Baker Street, London, England. Or c/o Dr. Watson, Paddington district
- Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard, London, England
- Inspector Tobias Gregson of Scotland Yard, London, England
- Inspector Stanley Hopkins of Scotland Yard, London, England
- Inspector MacDonald of Scotland Yard, London, England
- Mrs. Martha Hudson, landlady, cook, and housekeeper, 221b Baker Street, London, England (*Aside: Inquiries for Mrs. Hudson should be confined to my professional activities; tenant queries should be avoided*).

#### **POSTSCRIPT** *It is always 1895*