



The Return of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure XXXVI – The Adventure of the Three Students

Wipe those muddy shoes before you come in to read our next story, *The Adventure of the Three Students*! Some questions and comments to ponder:

Given the fact that no harm was ultimately done, doesn't Watson go way, way overboard with his discretion disclaimers? Put another way, was the "scandal" in this story really all that "painful?"

Some prominent scholars contend that 3STU was a hoax perpetrated by Soames and Gilchrist. One even claimed that Watson was in on the joke, which was designed to help Holmes overcome depression and boredom — a combination which could lead to further cocaine abuse. What do you think?

Holmes pretended to study the "curious pieces of medieval domestic architecture" to gain entry to two of the students' rooms. What architectural features distinguish medieval interiors?

Attention African historians! If we accept Baring Gould's chronology, and this story took place in early April 1895, what might the next four years (pre-Boer War) hold for the guilty man?

Holmes correctly deduced the Faber Company pencil shavings. Faber is still around, and many of us regularly use their products. With all the attention paid to the German firm, however, it's easy to overlook the fact that England was also a major producer of pencils.



Next time you're in the Keswick area, stop in at the Cumberland Pencil Museum, celebrating the considerable local pencil industry — in business for 450 years, since the days of Queen Elizabeth I. Don't want to travel all the way to the Lake District? Then pop a videotape of Granada's "Lady Frances Carfax" into your VCR; that episode was filmed a stone's throw from the Cumberland Pencil Museum.

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