



**THE INTELLIGENCE OF SHERLOCK
HOLMES and Other Three-Pipe Problems:
Psychological studies of the Great Detective and
his companion Dr John H Watson**

John Radford

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The names of SHERLOCK HOLMES, the Great Detective, and his invaluable companion DR JOHN H WATSON, are more famous than ever, a century after the last of their sixty adventures appeared in print. More stories featuring them constantly appear, some seeking to emulate the original versions as closely as possible, some freely adapting the characters to suit modern times, modern media and modern audiences. They feature in books (text and graphic), stage plays, films, TV, ballet, opera, poetry, song, and cartoons both animated and strip. A 'deerstalker' hat and a curved pipe are symbols recognised world-wide.

Outside Baker Street Station in London there is a life-size statue of Holmes, and around the corner the Sherlock Holmes Museum regularly has a queue of visitors. Together, they are surely unique for a fictional character. (Holmes himself would be surprised, and if he sought his old lodgings he would find only a dull office block where 221B should be; the Museum is a good half mile away.)

This is the revised second edition of the first book to consider Holmes and Watson from the point of view of modern scientific psychology. Their personalities and abilities are analysed by psychometric methods. Holme's remarkable knowledge and reasoning powers are explicated. And the psychology of their extraordinary hold on the public imagination, unmatched by any other fictional characters, is discussed and explained. They really seem to have taken on a life of their own, akin in many ways to the heroes of legend and folklore.

The author, while recognising that Holmes and Watson are the creations of Arthur Conan Doyle, in this book plays the Sherlock Holmes 'game' of treating them as real people born in the middle of the 19th century in the reign of Queen Victoria, living through the apogee of the 'Empire on which the sun never sets' – literally, as it was world-wide - and on into the 20th century and the Great War of 1914-18. This device allows us to explore both the personalities and behaviour of Holmes and Watson, and the real world in which they 'lived'. In any case, it cannot be denied that whether as fact or as fiction, the Great Detective and his companion and chronicler remain unique, both in what they are (or were) and in their continuing fame and influence.

Some of the many questions discussed are:

Just how intelligent was Holmes? How can we assess his IQ?

Was Watson the loyal but dim-witted bumbler he is often portrayed as?

What really happened when Holmes met Professor Moriarty, 'the Napoleon of Crime', at the Reichenbach Falls?

Did Holmes anticipate the revolutionary theories of Sigmund Freud? Did the two ever meet?

Did Holmes and Watson really live permanently together? Were they secretly gay?

How good a scientific psychologist was Holmes?

Why did Watson suffer from acute depression?

Did Holmes manifest a rare psychiatric disorder?

How can we account for the seemingly ever-growing popularity of Holmes and Watson?

The author, Dr John Radford, is a distinguished psychologist, Emeritus Professor at the University of East London, where he led the development of one of the largest departments of Psychology in the UK. He was the initiator of Psychology as a GCE A-level subject and oversaw its growth to one of the most popular subjects. He is a Chartered Psychologist, and a Fellow and Honorary Life Member of the British Psychological Society (founded in 1902), which gave him its first ever awards both for Distinguished

Contributions to Teaching Psychology, and for Lifetime Achievement in Psychological Education. He is a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute and of the Royal Society of Arts, and a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. The first edition of this book has been translated into Japanese, and various others of his into Finnish, Hebrew, Korean, Portuguese, Serbo-Croat and Romanian.

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