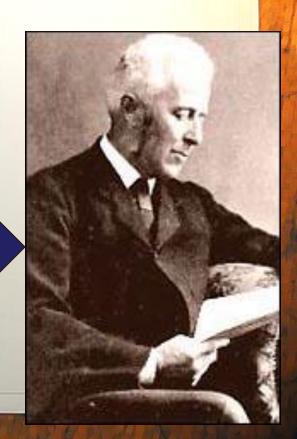


Overview

- British novelist, short story writer, poet, doctor of medicine
- Born in Edinburgh,
 Scotland on May 22, 1859
- Studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh (where he met Dr. Joseph Bell)



As a child...

- His father, a chronic alcoholic, was later committed to an insane asylum
- He had a special bond with his mom:
 - "In my early childhood, as far as I can remember anything at all, the vivid stories she would tell me stand out so clearly ..."
 - "My mother had been so splendid that I could not fail her."

As a teenager...

- His wealthy family members paid for him to go to boarding school
- Athletic: cricket, football/soccer, sailing
- Smart: "He was often found, surrounded by a bevy of totally enraptured younger students, listening to the amazing stories he would make up to amuse them."
 SURPRISE! He decides to go to

medical school

As a doctor...

- Opened his own medical practice, but was moderately successful
- In his down time, he continued writing stories...



As an adult...

- Married Louise "Touie" Hawkins
 - "gentle and amiable"
 - They had 2 children.
 - She died of TB in 1906.
- Married Jean Leckie in 1907 ... after meeting her 1897
 - They had 3 children: Denis, Adrian, & Lena Jean
 - He spoke his last words to her: "You are wonderful."





 Wrote an article about the Boer War, and was knighted in 1902

 Wrote many historical articles and nonfiction works

Death

 Found clutching his chest in the hall of his home in East Sussex, England

• Died of heart attack on July, 7, 1930, aged 71

• Tombstone in New Forest, Hampshire reads:

STEEL TRUE
BLADE STRAIGHT
ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE
KNIGHT
PATRIOT, PHYSICIAN & MAN OF LETTERS

Major works

- Sherlock Holmes: 4 novels & 56 short stories
 - Originally published short stories monthly in the Strand Magazine
 - 1st novel, 1886: A Study in Scarlet, including Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson
 - 1st book of short stories (12): The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, in 1892
 - 2nd collection: The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes, in 1894
 - "The Speckled Band" was written in 1907 and performed as a successful play

Sherlock Holmes

- Most famous fictional detective of all time
- Based on Conan Doyle's medical professor, Dr. Joseph Bell - gifted at observation, logic, deduction, and diagnosis
- Lived at 221B Baker Street, London
- Many readers thought Holmes was REAL!



- Courageous
- Clever
- Attention to details
- Eccentric



Dr. John Watson

- Assistant, sidekick
- Narrator loyal, gentleman, observes
- Average int
- Foil

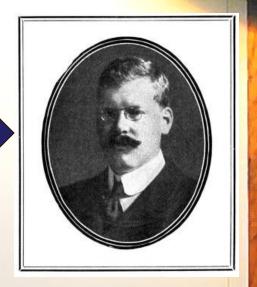


R.L.P. Holmes

- After two novels and 24 short stories, Conan Doyle grew tired of Holmes and wanted to spend his time with more "important" work - so he killed him off in the short story "The Final Problem" in 1893.
- How? In a battle with his nemesis, Professor Moriarty! They both fall to their deaths at the Reichenbach Falls.
 - Readers were OUTRAGED!
 - Wore black armbands
 - Sent death threats to Conan Doyle

But then...

- While vacationing in 1901,
 ACD was playing golf with his friend,
 Bertram Fletcher Robinson.
- Robinson told him of a local legend about Squire Richard Cabell, a monstrously evil man, whose death came at the mouths of a pack of huge, fire-breathing hounds called Black Shucks)...





 Conan Doyle could NOT pass this up... and he didn't really want to invent a new detective, so to his readers' joy, he made Holmes his main character once again.

 Incidentally, he did not bring Holmes back to life (yet), but he see the story at an earlier time in Holmes' life.

Holmes returns!

- Eventually, Conan Doyle did decide to bring back Holmes, and he did so in a story called "The Adventure of the Empty House."
- Apparently, Holmes had faked his own death to fool Moriarty's henchmen.
- ACD went on to write 32 more stories and one more novel before

Weird, but true...

- ACD wrote a book called *The Coming of the Fairies* (1921).
- He was convinced that fairies existed and proved it by adding photographs.
- The photographs were actually faked by two young girls the "fairies" were paper cutouts!

The Cottingley Fairies



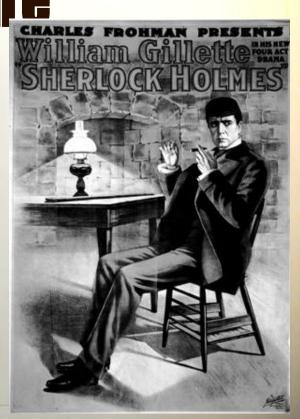


Legacy of Holmes

- "Christopher Clausen asserts confidently that 'few characters in all of literature are as widely known as Sherlock Holmes."
- "221B Baker Street—or the closest thing to it that can be identified in the modern London thoroughfare—is a pilgrimage site for faithful Holmes devotees from

Ranks 9th on the Fictional 100 Most Influential Characters in World Literature

"Each generation" wants to see its own Holmes in action. At least twenty-one plays have been based on aspects of Holmes's life."



Film

"Holmes's life in films is even more spectacular. The Guinness World Records 2000 lists him as the character most often portrayed in film."



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