

Sherlock Doesn't Live Here Anymore

I once wrote a letter to Sherlock Holmes at 221B Baker Street in London, England and was quite surprised by the reply that I received. At the time I was the President of the Young Men's Advertising & Sales Club in Toronto and was always on the lookout for guest speakers to come to our meetings. I wrote the letter to Sherlock thinking that I would read my letter to the club members at the next meeting to show the lengths that I would go to find suitable guest speakers.

If, by some rare circumstance, I should receive a reply I assumed that it would be someone looking after Sherlock memorabilia who would write and tell me that Sherlock Holmes was far too busy to fit in another speech, or that Sherlock didn't like to travel outside of England, something like that. In that case I could read the reply to the members.

I did receive a reply to my letter by the person who was in charge of the Sherlock Holmes museum on Baker Street in London. I couldn't believe the reply. The letter pointed out to me that Sherlock Holmes was a fictional character and not a real person. Apparently, Sherlock Holmes can only be found in the pages of fictional novels. That really blew me away. Sherlock Holmes is a fictional character? He doesn't go around the country solving cases and giving speeches? What am I going to find out next? That there is no Santa Claus.

Some time after writing my letter there was an article in Readers Digest about Sherlock Holmes admirers who refuse to separate fact from fiction. They still treat Sherlock as if he is a living being. One of the lines in the article states, *"A letter was received from the President of a Toronto club inviting Holmes to be a speaker at a dinner"*.

The next time I'm trying to find a guest speaker I will be damn sure to find out if it is a real person, not someone from the pages of a work of fiction. There is a meeting coming up next month and I have to find a speaker. Does anyone have the address for James Bond?



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YMASC President 1970 - 1971



