

Degler! is published for apa L by a very confused Andy Porter at 24 East 82nd street, New York, New York, 10028. New York in 67! doompublishation 204:21 June 1966

Alan Shaw!

Politics!

John Boardman!

LUPOFF'S BOOK WEEK:

A STUDY IN SCARLET by Arthur Conan Doyle, 1887  
THE SIGN OF FOUR by Arthur Conan Doyle, 1889.

These two short novels were the first Sherlock Holmes stories, and I suppose I ought to have started with them rather than The Hound (reviewed in Degler! 136 -ed). (Ought one to start with Tik-Tok in Oz? Skylark Three? President Fu Manchu?) Taken from the start, the Holmes stories are indeed far more impressive than they are poked up in the middle, and it would not surprise me to find myself picking up the collected canon from time to time and knocking off another of the sixty stories every so often, until such time as I've read them all.

A Study In Scarlet introduces Holmes and Watson, and as pleasant a pair as ever reputed to be they are. The murders they solve are relatively ordinary ones, a matter of revenge for wrongs done long before and far away from the fogs and cobbles of Holmesian London. In fact, almost half the story takes place in Utah (in flashback) and is rather ordinary Western.

It is Holmes's powerful personality, his marvelously entertaining deductive method, that makes the book worthwhile.

Similarly The Sign of Four, although possessed of a bit more atmosphere and complexity than Scarlet, derives its appeal from Holmes, undeniably one of the greatest of all fictional characters.

Doyle had something.

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Ah yes, and that filled up half of the page very nicely. I have a much longer review waiting for mastering, and it will be in Degler! 136 which will be the last non-live issue of Degler! before I get back to the live format. I've not yet recieved my copy of apa L, for which I must no doubt thank the Post Office. And thus, there'll be no mailing comments here.

George Locke was in town tonight; I had dinner with him and Dick and Pat at The Cave, a most pleasurable encounter. George has been gafia, although I suspect that his recent exposure to apa L may have jarred him a bit from the dusty corner that he's been in for the past several years.

According to my untrustworthy calendar, this issue of Degler! will be in the apa L at the LASFS meeting that I'll be attending. I'll be gunning for Dwain, and you'll be able to recognize me accordingly,

I'm using an Old Town master for this issue; Alan Shaw tells me that they may give better results than the Ditto Brand that I'm using now. We shall See, as they say...

Well, well, the end of the page. This has certainly been an easy issue to turn out, although Dick's old review (which won't be in Algol, by the way) helped considerably. By the way, Jock Root will also be at the WesterCon; that's 9 NYFanoclasts in attendance... Keep your knees loose, I'll see you at the parties.

*-andy Porter*