



Friends of Gillette Castle State Park

Memorable Dates in William Gillette and Sherlock Holmes History
Organized by John C. Sherwood

MARCH 2021

The text **in boldface type** highlights the answer to this month's trivia questions.

March 7, 1922 - Goldwyn Pictures releases a silent film called "Sherlock Holmes," based on William Gillette's original film version (1916). Scripted by Earle Browne, the rewrite stars **John Barrymore** and Roland Young as Holmes and Watson.

March 24, 1905 - A curtain-raiser by William Gillette, "**The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes**," premieres during a benefit production at New York City's Metropolitan Opera House. The play, subtitled "A fantasy in about one-tenth of an act," features five characters, including Holmes (who never speaks), his page Billy and a "madwoman" played by Ethel Barrymore in the initial production. The play is staged again during the year but, ultimately, there are only four known performances of the play with Gillette as Holmes.

March 26, 1945 – A memorial exhibit opens at the Morton Galleries on New York City's West 59th Street and features the works of **Frederic Dorr Steele**, who had died July 5, 1944. Many of Steele's popular illustrations had been for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories when they were published in Collier's magazine, beginning in 1903. At the time, Steele modeled his concept of Holmes on William Gillette's physical appearance, based on photographs of stage performances. The two men finally met in 1929.