

## THE WHOLE TOOTH

### *"Holmes smiled and rubbed his hands" [WIST]*

*Sherlock Holmes was no stranger to the dentist's chair.*

*He was able to draw inferences by observing teeth.*

*He lamented the great unobservant public "could hardly tell a weaver by his tooth," indicating he of course could.*

*In "The Stockbroker's Clerk," he observed the tooth stuffed badly with gold in both of the Pinner "brothers" that gave away the ruse.*

*Holmes was careful about dental hygiene: as he and Watson prepared for an overnight visit at Stoke Moran in "The Speckled Band," he suggested Watson bring his revolver. "*

*That and a tooth-brush are, I think, all we need."*

*And of course, he must have visited a dentist after his altercation with Matthews, "who knocked out my left canine in the waiting-room at Charing Cross."*

# THE WHOLE TOOTH

## "Holmes smiled and rubbed his hands" [WIST]

*That would have been some years before Holmes's 1891 confrontation with Professor Moriarty, as the reference was in Holmes's index in "The Empty House," after his return to London.*

*The visit to the dentist Matthews caused likely resulted in the dentist taking an impression of Holmes's mouth in order to reset the tooth or replace it with an apparatus.*

*While Holmes was in the chair, he must have remarked on the quickness of the setting of the preparation and immediately determined he could apply it to his own work.*

*Recall in **The Sign of Four** (dated by chronologists as taking place in 1888), he demonstrated his familiarity with casts of footprints:*

*"Here is my monograph upon the tracing of footsteps, with some remarks upon the uses of plaster of Paris as a preserver of impresses."*

*It's quite likely Holmes got the dentist's formulation and adapted it for his own purposes.*

*However, there's no indication Holmes considered teeth as unique as footprints or fingerprints in his practice though.*

*Had he done so, his work on "The Norwood Builder" would have been more conclusive, as there would have been distinctive human teeth left behind in the ashes.*

*Meanwhile, at **Baker Street Elementary**, there's another impression that's been left regarding teeth..*

**I HAD A TOOT' FALL OU' DURING BREAKFAS'  
'DIS MORNING**

**PUT IT UNDER  
YOUR PILLOW  
TONIGHT...**



**LEGEND HAS IT, A FAIRY WILL TAKE  
THE TOOTH AND LEAVE A TOOTH  
FEE, NORMALLY A HA'PENNY...**



**SO WHO HERE BELIEVES IN FAIRIES ??**

**VAMPIRES, YES...  
FAIRIES, NO...**



**THE WORLD IS BIG ENOUGH FOR  
US. NO FAIRIES NEED APPLY...**

**DO YOU BELIEVE IN  
FAIRIES, IGNATIUS?**



**I THINK WE SHOULD KEEP AN OPEN  
MIND ABOUT EVERYTHING...**



'DIS IS CREEPY... WHA' IF 'DE FAIRY  
'DAKES ALL MY 'DEETH WHILE I SLEEP ?

LESS TIME  
BRUSHING...  
GO TO  
SLEEP...

YOU'LL HAVE  
MORE BARK  
THAN BITE...

