

## The Reigate Squires Discussion Questions

By Tom Feller

1. Why was Watson not involved in the Netherland-Sumatra Company/Baron Maupertius affair? He was married and practicing medicine.
2. In what other story is Holmes's health damaged to the extent that Watson takes him on a vacation? The Devil's Foot. Does Holmes have "Jessica Fletcher's Disease"?
3. Who is Colonel Hayter? An acquaintance of Watson's from Afghanistan.
4. Where is Reigate? 19 miles south of central London. It appears in the Domesday Book in 1086 as Cherchefelle and under the name of Reigate in the 1190s.
5. Who is Pope? Alexander Pope (1688-1744). His translation of *The Iliad* appeared in instalments from 1715 to 1720 and of *The Odyssey* 1725-1726.
6. What is a Queen Anne house? Queen Anne reigned from 1702 to 1714. Example is Winslow Hall in Winslow, Buckinghamshire.
7. Can you deduce someone's age from their handwriting? No, but you can deduce physical ailments.
8. What two pieces of physical evidence, or rather the lack of them, lead Holmes to believe the Cunninghams are lying? Lack of powder burns on the body and absence of foot prints where the Cunninghams say the murderer crossed the hedge.
9. How would you rate Inspector Forrester's performance? Good-retrieved the piece of paper from the murder victim William Kirwam and verified that he received a letter that day. Bad-took Cunninghams's stories at face value, was too deferential.

### Title Trivia

The story was titled "The Adventure of the Reigate Squire" in the original *Strand* publication in June, 1893. It was changed to "The Reigate Squires" in the first book publications in Great Britain. It was changed to "The Reigate Puzzle" in the June, 1893 edition of *Harper's Weekly*, and the revised title was retained for the original book publications in the United States.