

March 2024



"It's your New York!"

The Rondout Reader

MYSTERY OF THE MOHONK 2 MONSTER

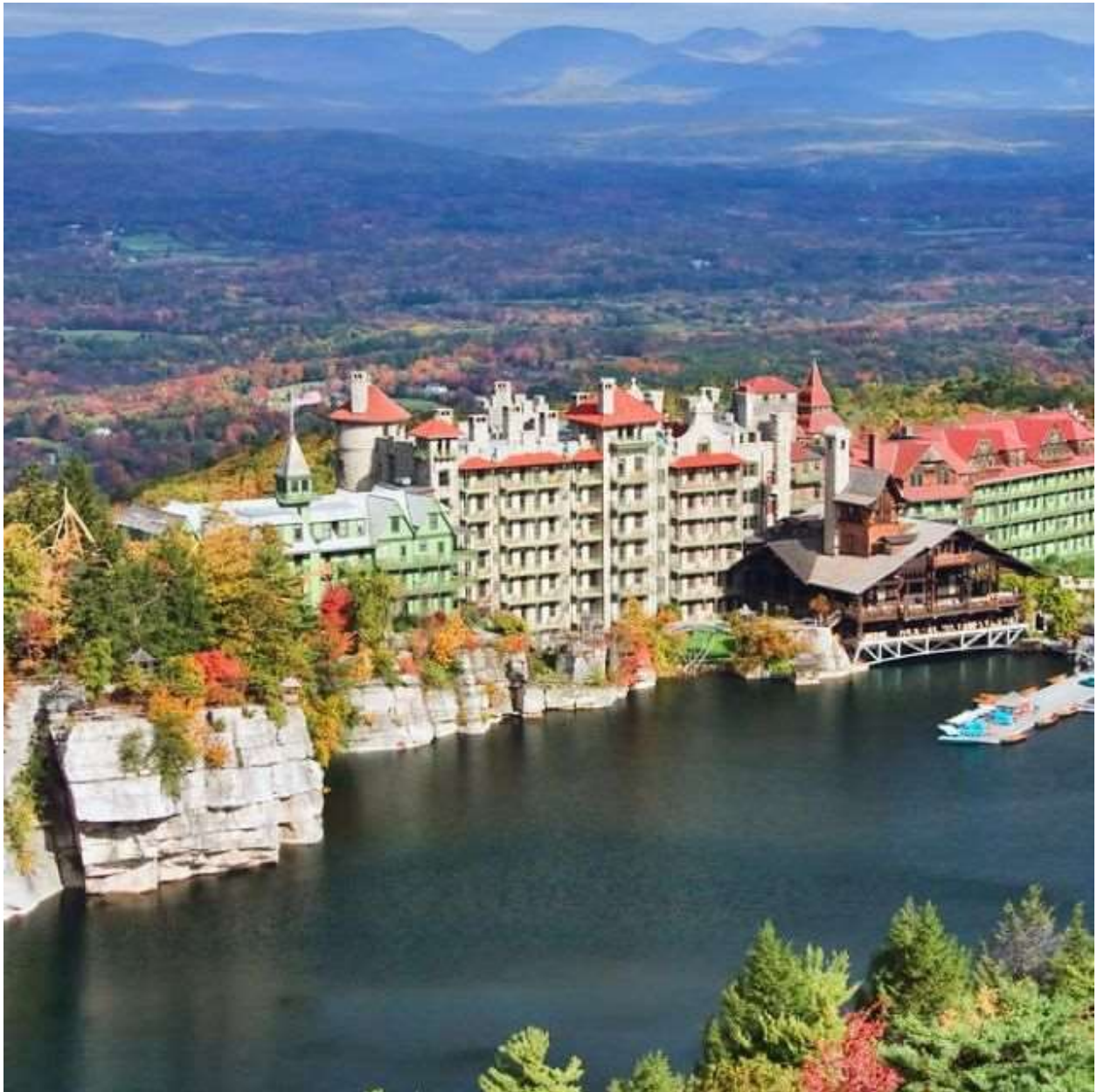


Michael Kucharski

(FILMED ON LOCATION IN TECHNICOLOR & IN BLACK AND WHITE)



Mohonk Mountain House





SASQUATCH COUNTRY

Starring

Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson

Characters created by

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Movie UNIVERSAL Studios Never Made

(With an **All-Sherlock** cast)

Written, Produced, & Directed by Kevin Ahearn

JULY 1946

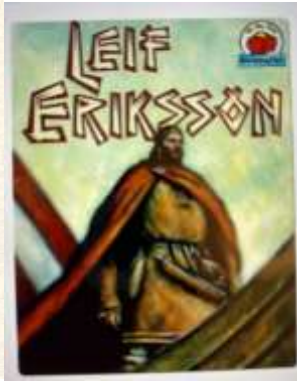
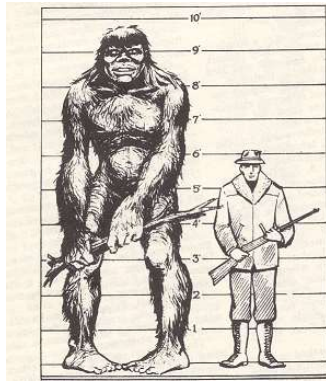
Night-Time @ MOHONK



FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD

'Consulting detectives' should never dream because doctors always do! And my medical expertise can only imagine the 'Catskill creature', this 'SASQUATCH' or as many here are referring to it as 'The MOHONK Monster'!

***If this biped animal exists, it wasn't born last week
or last century, but thousands if not millions of years ago!
First recorded sighting...The Vikings!***



***The beast, here at Mohonk, deep in the wood, coming
closer, coming for me!***



***Its hairy hands grabbing my throat!
I'm dying, doomed...AAARGH!***



'Watson, wake up!

"Oh, Holmes!"

IN MOHONK'S MOST LUXURIOUS SUITE...



"Everything set?"

"Holmes and Watson?"

"Not good enough, soon enough!"



"Like a Tiffany watch!"

"Got our ears on them."

"Give us the word, we're locked in!"



*"Dear old Watson, dream
of the 'monster' much?"*

*"For us to get our minds fully
engaged! And to do that I suggest
We go outside, fill up our bowls,
And smoke to our hearts' content!"*



*"Scared the pajamas off
me! What now?"*

*"Indeed, Holmes. Mohonk is
noted for its charming gazebos
and beautiful views, better to
see this 'monster'!"*



FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD

Looking out from Mohonk Mountain House, I feel like an intrepid English explorer who has discovered a breathtaking new world!

Holmes and I have toured the Empire and have been feted in a collection of castles! And honored like a pair of Round Table Knights!



Plus the heritage and luxury of grand manors! I have to constantly watch my weight, but Holmes, never!



Mohonk Mountain House – An American castle and manor! A certain unique feeling being here up in mountains, and this “Catskills Creature”?



“Nothing beats a good smoke, aye, Watson?”

“Clears the mind as it fills the lungs!”

“It seems to me, that if this “monster” has been with us for ages, that just maybe it has taken up the violin or perhaps football!”

“Don’t lead me on, Holmes! not for a minute do you believe this beast exists!”



“What I believe is irrelevant! but we must be able to prove is that ‘horse of a different color you heard tell about’.”

“Go ahead, astound me, wizard! Imagine not the beast, but what will become of us when we capture ‘Susquatch’! What a movie that would make!”



*"Watson. your sense of
humour constantly
escapes me!"*



*"I only hope that I'm a better
doctor than I am a fortuneteller!
Late breakfast?"*

***In Mohonk's legendary kitchen, but not the one
preparing our "brunch".***



We got there mere minutes later...



*"Oh, Mister Holmes, Dr. Watson, it was terrible!
And just like that, it ran away!"*



*"Disgraceful!
Unacceptable!"*



"The chef/czar!"

"And his boss?"



*"Gentlemen, enough!
Come back for lunch!"*

The Daily **CHRONICLE**

MONSTER at The Mountain House?



"No Comment" says Sherlock Holmes



"Chief?"



*"We have a growing
'Monster' problem!"*

Mohonk's "security" came to its own conclusions!



"Well, Mr. Holmes! This plaster cast proves beyond a doubt this 'monster' exists!"



"This 'monster' does have a big foot, wouldn't you say, Watson?"

"Big foot, indeed! 'BIGFOOT', that could catch on!"



*"You, you absolutely infuriate me, Holmes! You don't believe this 'Monster', this **BIGFOOT** exists! And I cannot wait to prove you wrong!"*



*"You will not be alone, Inspector! There are many
longing for the fall of this overrated, over-exposed
consulting detective. What a misunderstood,
underappreciated movie that would make!"*

And Holmes just stood there, stiff as Roman marble!

It wasn't until we were alone did he speak...



*"We're running out of time, Watson.
The conference starts at noon
tomorrow. The 'chief has called
in the National Guard and they'll
be scores of them combing through
the woods looking for our 'BIGFOOT!*

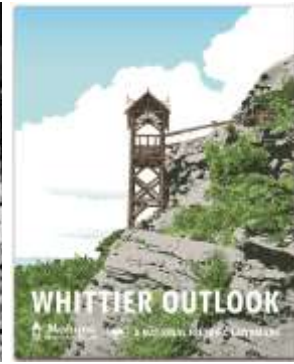
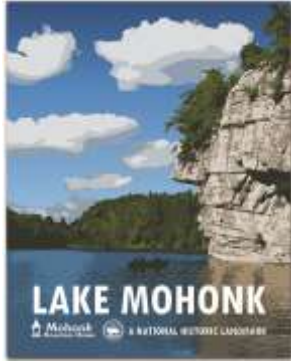
*"Rather than look for a 'monster',
let us research in order to find a motive!"*

But on the way...

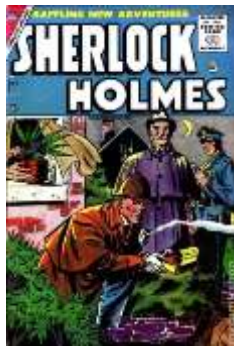


"Oh, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson!"

"Gentlemen, I'm Lamont Cranston!"



"Pleasure to know you!" "Haven't we met in another medium?"

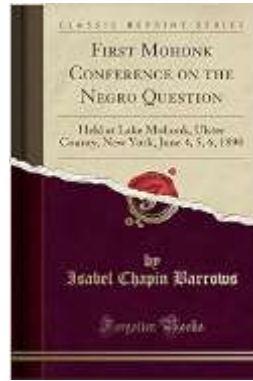


"Not yet, can't wait!"

"Should you go to the city, look us up!"



***The Mohonk Library was hardly that of London's!
Yet Holmes took to it like a duck to the Thames!***



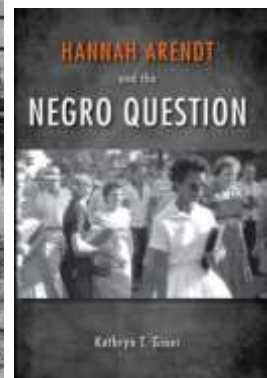
“Our purpose is to help to bring about a clearer understanding of the interrelationship of all life on earth, emphasizing the need for sustainable use of all the earth’s resources, including the human community, and to support the development of practical means to do so.”

“Mohonk Quakers – No wonder King George was impressed! But did they take on any sticky issues?”



“Head on! In 1890 – The Negro Question!”

“They had an answer?”



“Albion Tourgée set the tone, a Civil War a novelist, lawyer and Civil War veteran “condemned the South’s ‘slaveholder mentality,’ and Northern ‘do-gooders’ for their blindness and for their assumptions that blacks would be better off becoming ‘white at heart’.”

“Rich, altruistic White People wanting others who aren’t to become just like them and are insulted, hurt, and in total disbelief when they encounter resistance!”



:"Albert Smiley became a member of the Board of Indian Commissioners in Lake Mohonk Friends of the Indian Conference between 1883 and 1916."

"Not a good time for the Natives! US policy called for cultural genocide and dispossession!"



"Quakers of the 19th century, concerned themselves with the social, economic and political conditions of those deemed inferior and uncivilized"

"Quakerism seemed to favor U.S. imperialism and Anglo-Saxon superiority. U.S. Indian boarding school system stole Native children and stripped them of aspects of their identities."



"Terrible times for those Americans here first!"

"Indeed! Rich white people usurping a native culture! Where in the world did that concept come from?"

"Ha! Finally, Watson. That was funny!"

While on the newest medium...



“Upstate New York – Is there a “monster” at Mohonk Mountain House? We have two reporters at the scene...”



“A single “monster” or the first of a full tribe? An invasion!”

“We’ll soon have the answer, with Sherlock Holmes on the case!”





FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD

Holmes is losing his mind! Does he think we're back in London a century ago? He hires a Mohonk carriage and off we go...



"Why the 'monster', Watson? Who benefits from this creature's wrath? Is this nature's doing or a hoax directed at Mohonk?"

"Indians! Mohonk's actions inadvertently led to disaster! What a cunning source of revenge this could be!"

"Then if this Sasquatch is real, we catch and cage it! But if it doesn't exist, how do we discover its true identity?"

"As if we know anything about these American aborigines! 'Returning to those thrilling days of yesteryear' to meet Crazy Horse?"

***Mohonk's 'resident Indian' was Chief Iron Eyes,
a Warranawankong fullblood and renown naturalist
whom I've never heard of. For just a moment, fear shot
through me – What was Colonel Custer thinking as he...***



***Holmes gave the driver a "ten-spot"
and asked him and the horses to wait...***



***"Good afternoon, Chief Iron Eyes!
May we speak with you?"***

From inside the cabin, noises...then...



"I'm Iron Eyes, what do you want?"

(Shameless plug)



“Great Scott! Do you mean to tell me that you’ve never been to the very heart of the Rondout?”



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“But please, as you enter into this unique experience, do not tell anyone that Dr. Watson or I had any influence on your life-changing decision!”



THE TIMES SASQUATCH VS. SHERLOCK



Mystery of The Mohonk MONSTER



HOLMES NAMES THE CREATURE BIGFOOT!



*"Oh, Mum, Father! Holmes, Watson and **BIGFOOT**?"*



*"Shameless!"
"But it sells newspapers!"*



"Chief, I'm Sherlock Holmes with my friend, Dr. Watson."



"Holmes, I've heard of you! Not the doctor. Thanks, but I don't want a check-up!"

*"We've come to talk about Indians and this '**BIGFOOT**'!"*

"Ah, the 'Mohonk Monster'! Care for a cup of tea?"



*"Excellent, Chief, **EXCELLENT!**"*

FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD

We went inside and sat facing the Warranawankong Chief and it was like a Wellsian trip through time and I imagined his ancestors ravaging up and down the Rondout!



"You gentlemen don't mind if I smoke, do you?"



"Only if you don't mind us joining you."

Iron Eyes then chided our English ignorance. The fiercest Indians America ever saw came before the horse and the gun, lived right here in New York!





*Back in those days, Mohonk Consultations and the Bureau of Indian Affairs believed the best way to solve the Indian problem, and the Negro problem was to turn Black and Red people into White people! – the **OREO** Solution!”*



*“Do you believe this creature exists or that a Black or Red man is using **BIGFOOT**’ for revenge against Mohonk?”*

*“Neither! **BIGFOOT**’ is a myth until I touch him and if a Black or Red is out for revenge, there’d be bodies, very dead bodies!”*



“Thank you, Iron Eyes, you may have helped solve this mystery!”



*"And thank you, Doctor!
Now I will remember you!"*



*"And I, you, Chief! You will call
me when you need a check-up, okay?"*

IN MOHONK'S MOST LUXURIOUS SUITE...



*"They're a born comedy
duo and don't even know it!"*

*"Plus Mohonk, a mystery and
a 'monster' – **FRANCHISE!**"*

***We returned to our room and Holmes
began detailing the problem at hand when
there was a knock at the door.***



"It's open. Come in!"

FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD

I stood straight up, expecting a break, but...



"Hello, who's this?"

"That's very nice, Steven."

"We don't sign autographs!"



*"Hi, Mr. Holmes, Dr. Watson!
I'm Steven, your #1 fan!"*

*"That's okay. I just wanted to
tell you that when I grow up, I'm going
to write a Sherlock Holmes mystery!"*

***And with that, the little boy was gone, hopefully,
his dream as well. Only I write Sherlock Holmes!***



***What? Suddenly Holmes lit up like a blood
hound picking up a scent. Then he gave me the
'shut up' signal as he searched the room until...***



"Outside for a smoke, Watson?"



"Indeed, a deep bowl!"

From coast to coast...

TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



MOHONK'S "MONSTER" TRUE OR FALSE?



Does Sherlock Holmes Know for Sure?



FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD
***Mohonk's "Chief" held an "Emergency Meeting"
and didn't invite us. One of the participants
filled me in completely!***



"Members of the Board, Mohonk Mountain House faces a crisis like none in its history. Beyond wars, depression and recessions, but we may not survive the 'Mohonk Monster'!"



"A good idea went completely out of control once you invited Sherlock Holmes and his Doctor lackey!"



"The 'Monster' sparked momentary interest, but When Holmes came here, World Media came after him!"



"We totally underestimated the power of the media— newspapers, radio and this fledgling television!"

"Swept up in 'Monster' mania! Sherlock Holmes became the cherry atop the sundae!"



"Ad we speak, nearly 200 fully armed National Guardsmen are searching the woods!"

"They'll force the 'Monster' closer and closer to...us!"



That's when we burst in!



"The 'Monster' may already be here!" "Or at Mohonk all along!"

***The "Emergency Meeting" reacted as if
Holmes and I had come to steal the silverware!***



*"How dare you proclaim your own
BIGFOOT to be a hoax without a
scintilla of evidence!"*



*"Mohonk would never stoop to such a tactic!
You know who this **BIGFOOT** is? Do you
where it is?"*



*"Mohonk is very beautiful and very large resort,
but it's possible that the 'monster' is in this very room!"*

***Across the pond, a messenger arrived from Piccadilly
with precious cargo...***



It traveled quickly through the corridors of power...



"For Princess Elizabeth?"

"Immediately!"



***"Oh, Thank you, **THANK YOU!**
Finally a story I can believe!"***

Strand Magazine

THE GAME IS BIGFOOT!



MYSTERY OF THE MOHONK MONSTER

FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD



To be continued!