



A Publication of the Pleasant Places of Florida

# Communication #160

New Series

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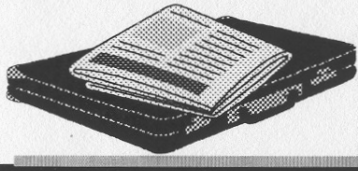
## New Communication Debuts

We are delighted to welcome you to the new Communication. We cannot hope to fill Ben Wood's shoes. Nor will we try.

What we do hope to do is bring you interesting news regarding Sherlockiana. We also hope to involve you, the readers, as well by encouraging you to send us articles, notes, photographs, drawings—anything Holmesian. As Ben has said numerous times, we are, after all, a Corresponding Scion.

Here's a suggestion: Take pen in hand now as you read through this issue and scribble off your comments as you go. Then all you have to do is stick it in an envelope and mail it off. Easy!

Once again, we welcome you and hope you enjoy reading this as much as we've enjoyed putting it together.



*Excerpt from the diary of John H. Watson, M.D.: This morning I was happy to receive my latest copy of The Strand and review my latest epistle entitled **The Five Orange Pips**. It is always a pleasure to see one's name in print; an acceptance of what little literary talent one enjoys in sharing with others. My delight was short-lived, however, when I spotted the alteration my literary agent took upon himself to make, knowing that I hotly disagreed with him. I do not look upon myself as any literary genius, but I take offense when I am edited against my wishes. I can handle the blue pencil better than most, but to change such minute wording simply because of a disagreement! In the course of description, my agent accused me of alliteration for the phrase "pleasant places of Florida." I disagreed that two words would form an alliteration. After all, I had not written anything as atrocious as "the pleasant places of the Pennsylvania plains." I am greatly annoyed at his change of wording. "Charming climate," indeed!*

## Wessex Cup Running Announced

The Sixth Annual running of the Florida Wessex Cup will take place at Florida Downs on February 1, 1997. Start making your plans now to join us to find the answers to these questions:

Will black and red be the colors of the day?

Will you be able to travel to the race at fifty-three and one-half miles per hour?

What is a furze-bush and does it really make an appropriate coat rack?

Had John Straker been alive today, would he have used a laser instead of a cataract knife?

What if the dog were a basenji?

If it had happened today, would Silver Blaze be at the Animal Shelter, guilty of murder and awaiting the final outcome of an appeal to a death sentence?

Fill out the enclosed reservation today!

## A Call for Papers

The new Communication would like to hear from you. If you have anything Holmesian and would like to be published, please send it to us.

Submissions can be stories, pastiches, poems, letters, scholarly analyses of the canon, puzzles, games—you name it, we'll probably publish it. Please limit your contributions to no more than five single-spaced pages. The editors reserve the right to print the submission in installments.

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***Make the new  
Communication truly  
yours by contributing  
articles, stories or  
pictures.***

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We would warn you of certain copyright stipulations in your work and would request that any direct quotes be properly referenced.

We also have the capability of publishing drawings and photographs as well.

Please send your items to The Papers,

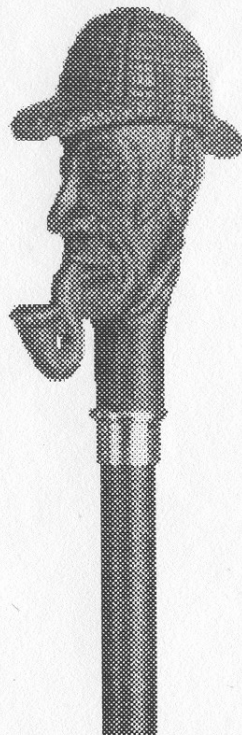
It is doubtful that we will be able to return your submissions so please plan accordingly.

## Holmes Walks Again

Design Toscano offers a Sherlock Holmes walking stick. Their Autumn, 1996 catalogue states, "Practical and stylish, walking sticks were long considered required equipment (and an important fashion accessory) for any proper gentleman or lady venturing out on the street. We're happy to report they're enjoying renewed popularity. Ours come from England, where Cooper manufactures the world's finest!"

The walking stick sells for \$68.95 plus \$5.95 shipping. If you absolutely cannot wait, the product number is CP-0049.

You can write to Toscano at 17 East Toscano Street, Arlington Heights, IL, 60005. Their toll free number is 1-800-525-1233.



## Attention! Published P.P.o.F.ers!

For those of you who have proudly published, let us know who, what, where and when. Don't forget to tell us how to get copies. If you've been published, you deserve a pat on the back with some extra publicity and it always helps to

let other members know where they can get more, **more MORE** Holmesian writings. Or maybe even try to submit some of their own. So toot your own horn - you know the tune. You know where to write us.

## Who are these guys?

As you probably read in the last newsletter, Ben Wood is stepping down after 20 years as Recorder of the PPoF. You may be wondering just who this Last Court of Appeals is.

For anyone who has

the founding members of the PPoF, an original Pip. Fourteen years later she met and married Jeff, who gallantly joined and remains at her side. Together they will be the editors of the

renewing membership, or want to correspond about the club but not necessarily for the Communication, or if you just can't remember who to send anything to, Carl's your man. He'll

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From "The Five Orange Pips":

"When he was sober he used to be fond of playing backgammon and draughts with me, and he would make me his *representative both with the servants and with the tradespeople*, so that by the time that I was sixteen I was quite *master of the house*."

"Put the papers on the sundial," I read, peeping over his shoulder."

Thus the new club officer titles.

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come to any of our Gatherings, the tall guy in glasses who M.C.s and relishes passing out really nasty trivia contests is David McCallister. He will continue to do this job, as well as arranging the Wessex Cup and handling programs for the club. If a gathering is taking place and you have something to present, David is the person to contact. Master of the House,

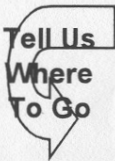
Wanda Dow was one of

Communication as well as other publications of the club. If you have something to submit, drop these guys a line. The Papers on the Sundial,

Carl Heifetz is the newest member of the group, but his enthusiasm and organization weighs heavily on his side. Carl's job is to handle all the Scion correspondence and memberships. If you're

sort through it and get it to the right place. Representative both with the Servants and with the Tradespeople,

We really don't mean to thoroughly confuse you, but one person just couldn't fill Ben's shoes. Besides, shouldn't Sherlockians embrace challenges?



With the debut of the new communication, we would like to hear from you. Tell us what you would like to see in the newsletter. Would you like more fiction? More puzzles? How about a reader's forum where you exchange ideas about matters Holmsonian? We'll try to accommodate as best we can.. Write to The Papers,

## No Dummy, Sherlock

Remember Sherlock's bust in *The Empty House*? Well, this was not so unique an idea for its time.

"Dummy boards" were used as a type of home security in the 1800s. A flat board was cut into an outline of a person, with details usually painted on. The dummy board was then placed near a wall so it would cast a shadow in the candlelight. Sometimes just a dummy board face was placed behind curtains in a window. The whole idea come from the Netherlands to Britain in the late 1700s. Men, women, children, servants in uniform and even dogs were depicted on these decoys.

Of course, Sherlock wanted to have the illusion that he was home, and he figured the villainous Colonel was wise to the dummy board, it having been around for a while. So he commissioned a 3-dimensional "dummy board face" and convinced poor Mrs. Hudson to keep it moving.

## You see, Watson, but you do not observe

With the end of the calendar year behind us, many of you have received renewal notices for PPoF membership. There has been some confusion over this as we are trying some new ideas.

The renewal form states that "Newsletters will cease after 3/97 unless you renew or **have made other arrangements with the Court**" (emphasis added).

If you exchange Newsletters with the PPoF or provide some other service, please simply let us know. The transition of responsibility is not always without traps (just ask Bill Clinton), and if we have goofed, please inform us (as politely as possible, however).

## 'Tis the Season

This is quite a busy season for Sherlockians. We have just passed the time during which *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle* took place, the Master's birthday is January 6, and the first week of February is National Crime Prevention Week.

For these and other important dates, you can consult the *Calendrical Canon with Holidays Holmesian*, edited by Carl Heifetz. Please contact Carl or the newsletter editors for more information.

## Fashion Tip

Any female Sherlockians out there contemplating how to make a bustle? Comfort was not an issue in the 1880s. At that time, most bustles were made of large steel cages which were tied to the waist under the dress. Forget about leaning back in a chair! Fortunately, designers soon discovered how to make a bustle that would fold up so the wearer could lean back. For those wishing extra padding on those not-so-comfortable Victorian chairs, bustles were made of a soft material, such as horsehair, that acted more or less like a lumpy pillow.

Nowadays, try netting or quilting.

## Late-breaking Celebratory News

The Salon Pistols will be gathering on January 10, 1996 to honor The Master's Birthday. This gathering for dinner will take place at the Sovereign Restaurant in Gainesville, Florida. Those wishing more information can contact George Schenk at [redacted], or Clyde Ellis at [redacted].

The party is afoot.

## Regular Feature Proposed

As we've already said several times, the Communication would like to feature its readers, well, communicating. Toward that end, we would like to start a regular feature on how people became interested in things Holmesian. Did you discover The Master as a child and the interest stayed with you? Did a teacher introduce you to Holmes and Watson? Did a long lost love have a mysterious flair? Observing minds want to know.

Send your submissions to The Papers, [redacted].

## For He's a Jolly Good Fellow

Holmes sat in his chair, perusing the morning *Times*. Outside the snow fell silently on the quiet streets below. At times, Holmes would sigh at some article, or click his tongue over a feature. I could almost hear him mutter, "Those Scotland Yard detectives...."

I was engrossed in a ?? novel, nearly finished, and felt compelled to complete the tome. After an hour or so, Holmes stood and stretched. He walked over to the window and stared down at the streets. Millions of people, I could almost hear him say, and all I ask is one.

Finally, he quit the window and went over to the table on which his chemicals and flasks were strewn. He lit a fire in one of the burners and began boiling a concoction. Fetid fumes began circulating through the apartment, almost driving me out.

At lunch, Holmes barely touched the chicken that Mrs. Hudson had prepared. He sat, slumped in his chair, and toyed with his potatoes.

The afternoon was no different. My friend went through his index cards, reorganized his newspaper clippings and sat in his chair, fingers drumming against the arm. Even an hour at the violin failed to rouse him.

Finally, he marched to the fireplace, took the hypodermic from the mantle and sat down.

There was a knock at the door.

Holmes was greeted by a woman in a brown coat, with a muff and a matching hat.

"Mr. Holmes," she said, entering the room, "I—I have a problem."

"Please come in," my friend said.

The woman sat down, glanced round the room nervously.

Holmes put the hypodermic box back up on the mantle and sat down opposite our guest.

"Now tell me what the matter is," he said in his most charming voice.

"I was referred to you by a—by a gentleman," she said, glancing at me.

It was a simple problem, one that even I could deduce. But just watching Holmes' face as he listened to her story, I knew that I had given him the best birthday present of all.

## Word of Mouth

Just to let you know about other publications out there - and there are THOUSANDS of them! - we will try to include here other club newsletter information. Let us know who *you* subscribe to and like. Be sure to send us addresses and subscription costs, as well as whether or not you know if they will send out a free publication "on spec." And for those out there who are wondering if someone will, it doesn't hurt to ask.

**The Accursed "JEZAIL BULLET"**, published by George Schenk, [redacted] in connection to *The Salon Pistols of Gainesville, FL*, some of whom are *PPoFers*. Subscription is \$5.00 per year

**The Whaling News**, a publication of the *Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn*, [redacted] Ask about a free copy as a "Code P" (Prospective new member). Or buy a Corresponding Membership @ \$7.00 (code C)

**The Baker Street Journal**, P. O. Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331 \$18.95 for a one year subscription.

**Plugs & Dottles**, published by *The Iascarian Press*, Robert C. Burr, BSI, Editor-In-Chief, [redacted] \$10.00 per calendar year, but write and ask Bob if he will send you a sample issue.

**A Very Irregular Newsletter**, Bruce D. Atkin, [redacted] Lots of info of what's happening in the Sherlockian world - free. Be nice. Send postage (currently \$.55).

**Llama Droppings**, The Newsletter of 'The Head Llamas', a Branch Office of 'The Franco-Midland Hardward Company', [redacted], ENGLAND. If you write, include 2 international Reply Coupons, available at the Post Office.

**The Wigmore Street Post Office**, c/o Donald H. Meyers, [redacted]

**The Baker Street West 1**,. A collaboration of the Curious Collectors of Baker Street and the Tigers of San Pedro. Jerry Kegley, Editor, [redacted] Published three times a year; \$9.00 per year subscription. Checks payable to BSW1.

**The Baker Street Dispatch**, Ohio's only newsletter devoted solely to the study and enjoyment of Sherlock Holmes; adventures. Thomas and Janet Biblewski, Editors, [redacted] Published six times a year. \$8.50 per year; Canadian subscriptions are \$10.00 per year.

If any of you write to any of the above, let them know where you heard about them.

# Scion to Host Symposium

The Pleasant Places of Florida will be hosting the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium I on May 2nd through the 4th, 1997, at the Dolphin Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach, Florida. We encourage members to attend one or all events. We also hope you plan to stay at the hotel since we need at least 20 room reservations to acquire our meeting rooms. (Details in enclosed flyer.)

We want to include both individual and group or scion activities. We invite each scion to make a display illustrating your Sherlockian activities. Members with items for display, either for the PPOF or individually, please contact David McCallister, \_\_\_\_\_, or Carl Heifetz, \_\_\_\_\_.

We highly encourage you to make a presentation! Pleasant Places is filled with talented people. Help us show off! You don't have to give an academic dissertation. Poetry, plays, pastiches, slides, videos, songs, and all manner of silliness will be accepted. If you want to help out and don't have a particular paper in mind, we need game show hosts and announcers. Let David and Carl know.

If you or anyone you know might want to set up a vendor table, contact David or Carl.

We are also looking for sponsors and advertisers for our symposium program book. Please contact Carl with any suggestions.

## Wanted: Want Ads

Have you memorized all of Basil Rathbone's movies? Is the third copy of Baring-Gould's edition taking up too much room? Is your clay pipe collection just too darn large? Or maybe you have the opposite problem. Haven't had any luck finding that Sherlock Holmes comic book? Don't know where to get a deerstalker cap?

Sounds like what you need is your very own Agony column. The Communication will be offering a Classified Section for people wanting to sell or trade their Holmesian memorabilia (perish the thought), or just trying to locate an item.

Send your advertisement with a maximum of 30 words to The Papers, \_\_\_\_\_.

Please include your address, brief description of the item(s) and the price, if you are selling. At present, we are not charging for ads, but donations are always welcome.

Also, the Communication cannot be responsible for the condition or description of the items for sale. The ad we see is the ad we print.

Recorder Emeritus, Dr. Ben Wood, has a Sales List of a few choice Sherlockian Items. Write him requesting List: \_\_\_\_\_.

Fall Gathering Packet, 1996. Includes program, trivia contests (3 levels), Reprint of *Readers Digest* article on Doyle, *A Victorian Christmas Classic* by C. Heifetz, & an excerpt from the diary of J.H. Watson explaining "Pleasant Places". Case study: *The Dying Detective* \$1.25 W. Dow, \_\_\_\_\_ Limited supply. Proceeds to PPOF

Diogenes July '96 Packet. Includes ads for Super Simian Serum & Langurтин, Canon dog quotes puzzler, *Some Facts on Roy*. Case study: *The Creeping Man* \$.75 W. Dow, \_\_\_\_\_ Limited supply. Proceeds to PPOF

Still available! Bee pins (2 left) & Sundial pins.. Handcrafted wood by Wanda Dow. \$2.50 each. \_\_\_\_\_ Proceeds to PPOF



ANNOUNCING!

# THE SUNSHINE STATE SHERLOCKIAN SCION SYMPOSIUM I

presented by

## The Pleasant Places of Florida

The year 1997 marks the 25th Anniversary of the founding of The Pleasant Places of Florida. To not only acknowledge this momentous occasion, but to promote goodwill and recognition of other Florida scions, there will be a weekend of celebration in May, bringing together the many diverse members of the Pleasant Places as well as members of other Sherlockian societies. This event will be held from May 2 - 4, 1997 at the Dolphin Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach, Florida. The tentative program is as follows: Friday, May 2 - a Welcome Reception from 7-9pm with finger foods and a cash bar. There will be light entertainment. Basically we want to get together to greet old friends and introduce ourselves to new. Saturday, May 3 - Continental breakfast provided in Hospitality Room from 8 - 10am, Bazaar (flea market, vendors, displays) 8am - 1pm, Symposium (presentations, videos, games, Kentucky Derby Sweepstakes) 9am - noon & 2 - 5pm, lunch break noon - 2pm on your own or join us across the street at the Three Lions Pub, Scavenger/Treasure Hunt papers handed out at 5pm, Cocktails (cash bar) 7pm, Banquet (Victorian/Canonical/Black Tie) 8-10pm (rituals & toasts a la PPOF, 25th Anniversary commemoration, and various entertainments). Sunday, May 4 - Continental breakfast provided in Hospitality Room from 8 - 9am, Symposium 9-11am (treasure hunt items due, dissertations, presentations & one last game), Lunch poolside (dutch treat) 11am - noon (certificates of attendance & recognition handed out, prizes awarded, farewell).

<b>No. attending Banquet</b>	_____ @ \$25.00 each	\$ _____
<b>No. attending Symposium</b>	_____ @ \$25.00 each	\$ _____
<b>No. Vendor Tables</b>	_____ @ \$15.00 each	\$ _____
<b>No. Scion Tables</b>	_____ @ \$0.00 each	\$ _____

**Grand Total for Marvelous Weekend** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

I or my scion wish to participate in the program in the following ways (please indicate below):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Make checks payable to Carl Heifetz. Mail to Carl Heifetz, \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel rooms have been set aside at the special rate of \$60.00 per night. Please request a hotel reservation card when making your reservation for the Symposium.



As you by now know, The Pleasant Places of Florida is hosting the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium I. At the dinner Saturday evening, we would like to honor Ben with a small presentation. One of the best things we can do is give thanks and share some of our memories of the club under Ben's tutelage: how you heard about the PPOF, your first meeting, any humorous stories you'd care to relate, and any thanks you'd like to give. Don't worry. We're not going to trot you out and make you perform in front of everyone. What we were thinking was something in the

form of a scrapbook, a memory book for Ben, if you will. We'd like to let this be a surprise presentation, so try to avoid mentioning it to Ben, himself. Please send something. A poem, comments on past meetings, reminiscences, pictures - even just a thank you note (but we're hoping for more) would be great. Everything will be compiled into a scrapbook. Original items will be used - not copied over. If you send pictures, make sure you have copies. Please note that nothing will be returned.

Send along any memories you have to: P.P.O.F. Memory Book, Wanda Dow, \_\_\_\_\_



## A NEW CHANT (NOT BY THE BENEDECTINE MONKS)

For years the Pleasant Places of Florida has utilized a chant at their semi-annual gatherings based on a passage from "The Musgrave Ritual." Since the scion takes its name from "The Five Orange Pips," Wanda Dow has adapted a chant based on the latter. This was once used at a gathering many years ago and was recently uncovered. Would this be more appropriate, or should be stay with the original form "The Musgrave Ritual"? Let us know.

When was the time? September, 1887.

Who was the client? John Openshaw.

How did he look? A streaming umbrella

A long shining waterproof

A golden pince-nez, well-groomed,

trimly clad, his face pale, his

eyes heavy, and so on.

From where did he come? From Horsham &

Prendergast.

What were his words? "I have come for advice."

IF YOU SEE A RED CHECK HERE: , THIS IS YOUR LAST COMMUNICATION! USE  
THE RENEWAL FORM INSIDE TO CONTINUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

Pleasant Places of Florida  
The Papers On The Sundial

