



Moriarty Sighted at Bookstore, Disappears into Library

For those of you looking for non-fiction roots to Holmesian characters, *The Napoleon of Crime: The Life and Times of Adam Worth, Master Thief* has appeared. A review by Allen Barra appearing in *The St. Petersburg Times* (August 31, 1997) reports that

most of Worth's [legend] was formed in the shadows. In the words of his biographer, British journalist Ben Macintyre, "Worth made a myth of his own life, building a thick smoke screen of wealth and possession to cover a multitude of crimes," crimes that resulted in the theft of cash, jewels and works of art that may have been worth the incredible sum, by Victorian standards, of \$10-million.

Worth brought a class to his profession that few since have approached. Unlike the fictional character he inspired, Sherlock Holmes' great enemy, Professor Moriarty, he disdained violence and became the leading exponent of what Macintyre calls "wing-collar crime." He never disposed of his most famous theft, the Gainsborough portrait of the Duchess of Devonshire, largely because of his affection for it. Worth eventually returned the painting, decades after the theft.

Macintyre's detective work is as exemplary as that of Worth's great nemesis and eventual confidante, William

Pinkerton, of whom it was said, "He made more money out of crime than any of the people he hunted down." (Leaving behind an estate of more than \$16-million, he certainly wound up with more than Worth.) Macintyre cuts through the myth to trace Worth's history from the dives of New York (with such friends and colleagues as Hoge Walsh, Babbon Dooley, Gyp the Blood, Dago Frank and the charming Hell-Cat Maggie, who filed her teeth to points) to London, where for a while he lived the double life of "a Victorian gentleman and master thief who merged the highest moral principles with the lowest criminal cunning."

Look for *The Napoleon of Crime* at bookstores or your local library.

Canonical Calendar

October

Holmes & Watson take up the case of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES.

On October 3rd, Holmes receives letter about the problem at THOR BRIDGE.

The Red-Headed League is Dissolved on October 9, 1890

Dr. Benton Wood appears in a double cameo role in the Manatee Players version of SHERLOCK HOLMES, October 5-13, 1979.

The Adventure of the Red-Headed League, October 29-30
(Baring-Gould)

See page 6



In this Issue...

Judy Buddle sneaks around, page 3

Hounds of the Internet Gathering, report on page 4

Roster Update, page 4

Last Chance to reserve for Fall Gathering, see Insert 1998 PPOF Calendar, page 6

Peter Blau, page 2

Enjoy!

The Papers on the Sundial

Holmes For The Holidays

We're looking for Sherlockian poetry, articles, stories, limericks, puzzles, artwork, songs, etc. pertaining to the holiday season for an upcoming special issue coming in December. Please send *whatever* you've got to the Papers. We know there are a lot of creative people out there. Let's show what we've got!

The Archives Have Arrived

Recorder Emeritus Ben Wood has transferred the PPOF's archives to The Papers on the Sundial. These archives include a complete file of the *Communication*; complete file of the *Bohemian Scandal Sheet*; file copies of all the PPOF publications including the Round Robin pastiches, Wessex Cup Programs, Annual Gatherings; a "morgue" of Sherlockian newspaper clippings; Holmesian clippings; Baring-Gould's two-volume annotated Holmes; and Ron DeWaal's Bibliographies.

If you're doing research and need information, arrangements can be made to either visit us or have copies made for a modest fee. Feel free to contact The Papers on the Sundial at...well, you know where (geez, don't you have this memorized by now?).

Henceforth Dr. Ben Wood is now Archivist Emeritus and Wanda Dow is now Archivist. Got it?

It's Round Robin Time!

We *still* don't have enough members willing to participate in becoming part of the next round-robin pastiche. Come on! You don't have to be the next Nicholas Meyer. You don't even have to come up with a complete story -- just part of one. To repeat the last *Communication*, we need at least *five* people to get one going. Only one member responded. If we can get just two more, the Papers will do their part to make up the rest of the five. Think of the infamy! Contact the Papers @

or e-mail



Pleasant Places Celebrates Sherlock Holmes Birthday!

Come join us on Saturday, January 17, 1998 to raise your glass in salute to the Master for living so long! We are currently planning this to be a sit-down dinner, black tie optional, between the hours of 7pm to 10pm. Please let Wanda Dow know immediately if you will be interested. Dinner reservations will be \$25.00 per person, possibly less if we get enough people. It will be in Pinellas County.

Miscellany from Peter Blau

Lestrade and the Devil's Own, by M.J. Trow (London: Constable, 1996) has a grabber of an opening: it's 1913 and Superintendent Sholto Lestrade is being sentenced to hang for the crime of murder. Well, of course he didn't do it, and the novel (Trow's sixteenth in his series about Lestrade) explains how he got to be framed and exonerated.

Steven T. Doyle, editor and publisher of *The Sherlock Holmes Review*, has decided to stop publishing the magazine at the end of 1997.

Brad Hicks is holding a mail-auction of nearly 300 books and journals from his Sherlockian collection; the deadline for bids is Nov. 1; a detailed list is available from Mr. Hicks at

The Problem of Watson's Sneakers by Judy Buddle

In an era and place (Florida) where sneakers are the standard public footwear, it may give us pause to recall this is a very recent phenomenon in popular fashion. At one time, one hundred or so years ago, one's "high tops" were one's leather street wear.

Let us return to that scene in "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton" when Holmes, preparing to burglarize Appledore Towers, asks Watson: "Have you a pair of silent shoes?"

To which Watson replies: "I have rubber-soled tennis shoes."

Now, one cannot help but ponder these lines. When did Watson get these tennis shoes and for what purpose? There is nothing mentioned in the Canon that Watson was particularly athletic after surviving the Battle of Maiwand and its attendant injury and illness. Prior to military duty, he evidently played cricket and rugby—but he never mentions any interest in tennis.

These shoes must have stayed in the back of Watson's armoire (no closets in Victorian houses, remember), because Holmes did not seem to know of their existence. If he had, the conversation would have been more like: "Watson, wear your tennis shoes, as they are more silent than your street shoes." This tends to make us think that Watson did not purchase these shoes to jog up and down Baker Street (or through the park) to get into shape for that upcoming dash across Hampstead Heath.

But the biggest problem occurs just a couple of paragraphs beyond the above-noted conversation:

"Holmes and I put on our dress-clothes, so that we might appear to be two theatre-goers homeward bound."

As there is no mention of Watson sitting down on some convenient curb to change from his dress shoes to his tennis shoes (à la Fred Rogers), one can only assume that he was already wearing the latter. Would Holmes have permitted this? Not only would Watson be committing a fashion faux-pas, but I should imagine that someone walking down the street in dressclothes—and sneakers—would certainly attract unwanted attention. Furthermore, "it was bitterly cold and the wind seemed to blow through us..." Watson also states that "our great-coats [were] buttoned up." A lightweight pair of canvas and rubber tennis shoes would have left his toes positively numb.

Of course, athletic footwear would have been a godsend when the situation called for a fast getaway, a leap over the wall, and a two-mile run—and indeed it did. Watson even came close to losing one of those shoes when one of his pursuers grabbed him by the ankle; fortunately, they remained tightly laced.

The following morning, Lestrade attempted to enlist Holmes in solving the Milverton murder case. "We have their footmarks..." he said. Could he tell that one man was wearing tennis shoes by those footmarks? (Today, sneaker tread marks are studied, catalogued, and compared to footprints left at the scene of a crime.) Did any of those eye-witnesses to the gallant Holmes-Watson flight mention to Lestrade the next day that one of the suspects was oddly decked out in dress clothes and tennis shoes?

And beyond this adventure, what *did* Watson do with those shoes? He never mentions them again. Holmes never mentions them again. Did Watson simply contemplate—but never follow-through—the study of tennis? Did those shoes simply disappear back into the far corner of his room?

These are questions for which we have no answers.



A Gathering of Hounds

Report by Dave Scott

Saturday, Sept. 27th, a group of mystery fans gathered in Orlando, Florida for an evening of good cheer and -- murder! The meeting was originally proposed on the Hounds of the Internet, but word quickly spread to the Nero Wolfe mailing list and the "Pleasant Places of Florida" Sherlockian Society. A total of 17 made it to the Grosvenor Hotel in the Disney World complex.

Organizers Dave and Thelma Scott (De Land, FL) arrived at Moriarty's Pub in the hotel early enough to get a Killian's Irish Red under their belts before greeting the hordes. Those present were: Paul & Sharon Conway (Miami, FL), Jeff & Wanda Dow (Dunedin, FL), Carl & Sandie Heifetz (Palm Harbor, FL), David McCallister (Wesley Chapel, FL), Shawn & Sandy O'Reilly (Reading, PA -- honeymooning in

Continued on page 5

The hound of the Baskervilles
by Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle
11-28 June
The Post Theatre
Fulham Broadway

FOR BOOKING DETAILS
0171 381 6151

Visit our site now! It's free!
Includes production notes, photos,
audio, images, production tips & more!

ROSTER UPDATE

Additions:

Herzog, Evelyn, Legal Secretary, *Violet Hunter*,

Paton, Jennie C.,

Brooks, David, Fingerprint Identification,

E-mail:

Rued, Linda, President of Plant Plotters,

Orlando. Congratulations!), Virginia Powell & daughter Helen (Maitland, FL), Brett & Brenda Sands (Ft. Myers, FL), Art Walker & Gerry Hynes (Tampa, FL) and of course, hosts Dave & Thelma Scott. Regrettably, our good friend Bill Serow of Tallahassee, who had planned to attend, was called back to the office. You missed a good one, Bill -- see you next time for sure! Under the watchful gaze of a full-length portrait of the evil Professor, we renewed old acquaintances and struck up new ones. The group was treated to a dazzling demonstration of Montenegrin-rules billiards by Gerry Hynes.

The real business of the evening began when Connie Gay of Dreamland Productions took the group into the full-sized replica of Sherlock Holmes' sitting room. It was a great privilege to be allowed inside - normal humans have to stare through the glass. We had a fine time snapping pictures, examining clues with Holmes' lens, checking the coal-scuttle for cigars, and so on. We were reliably informed that the furniture was acquired from Mrs. Hudson's heirs, and that the dust is 100% authentic. Not long after we returned to Moriarty's Pub, the call came for us to be seated in Baskerville's Restaurant next door. We were escorted to our tables by one of the Grosvenor's ever-courteous staff, who told us "You may help yourselves to the Prime Rib Buffet," and was promptly trampled under seventeen pairs of feet (not really -- Thelma stepped around him).

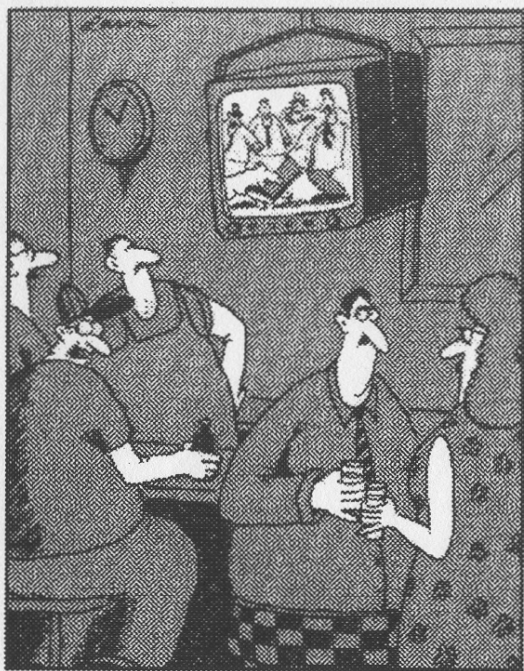
In the midst of dinner, a lady in a deerstalker greeted the crowd with the news that she was Mrs. Shirley Holmes, wife of you-know-who. Her famous husband was enjoying the Disney attractions, so she would lead us to the solution of a mystery. We were warned to observe everything as the evening progressed. She then gave the floor to the evening's entertainment, a pair of lounge singers named Rose and Bud, and their piano player, "Doc" Watson. The astute among us had already noticed Rose arguing with a bulky fellow, who went and sulked in a corner while she sang.

Their manager, Mr. Charles Chaplin (no relation to the Little Tramp) was seated with some of our group, and seemed to be worried a bit. In between songs, Rose and Bud introduced several people in the audience, including Shawn and Sandy (our honeymooners) and Bud's boisterous sister Maggie. As the show went on, we noticed all sorts of heated conversations at various tables.

Without giving too much plot away, I can only report that the electrocution of Rose and the poisoning of Maggie got the crowd's attention, as did the disappearance of Maggie's body. As promised, Shirley Holmes came back to review the evidence with us (and take the pistol away from the three people struggling over it). We were challenged to choose our favorite candidate for the electric chair; out of our group, 13 of 17 displayed detective astuteness (or good guessing). (Ed. Note: All the PPOF members deduced the correct villain.)

With the murderer hauled away to durance vile, a final serenade from the cast wrapped up the evening. An excellent time was had by all, and profuse thanks are due to Jeff and Connie Gay of Dreamland Productions, the wonderful cast of Murderwatch Mystery Theatre, and the staff of the Grosvenor Hotel. (Ed. note - And special thanks to Dave & Thelma Scott for arranging all of this for us!)

**Don't forget to send in your reservation to Carl Heifetz, R.B.W.T.S.A.W.T.T. for the
Fall Gathering on November 1. Deadline is October 15! Fill out the enclosed insert
NOW if you are going to attend!!!**



Hey Stapleton! Is that your dog biting the Prince?

**SHERLOCKIAN
FLEA MARKET
COMPARED
TO
ADVENTURE
OF THE SIX
NAPOLEONS!**

In the words of the great detective Sherlock Holmes upon piecing together the shattered remains of the stolen object, "It was a bust!"



Missing Communications

Last month we sent out the call to members on behalf of James Hubbs, Collections Specialist for the Sherlock Holmes Collections for back issues of the Communication. Special thanks go to member Caroline Everett who was willing to donate her collection to the Holmes Collection started by the great Sherlockian John Bennett Shaw at the University of Minnesota. The PPoF will now be as complete as possible. Still missing is issue #5, which may be impossible to recover since it does not exist in the club archives.

1998 P.P.O.F.
(Proposed)
CALENDAR

January 17
Birthday Bash
somewhere in Pinellas
County

February 7
Wessex Cup
(alt. date Feb.14)

March 7
Diogenes Meeting
Lunch & Titanic Exhibit

May 2
Spring Gathering at
Mike Carroll's
The Mazarin Stone

July 11
Diogenes Meeting

September 12
Diogenes Meeting
The Coach & Horses
British Pub &
Restaurant, Sarasota

November 7
Fall Gathering
Dunedin

Volunteers needed to host
Diogenes. Contact The
Papers!!

It has long been a subject of dismay among Holmesians that no suitable commemoration of the Master exists in London. A project is now under way to erect a statue of Holmes outside Baker Street Station. A maquette of the statue has already been made by the sculptor, John Doubleday, showing Holmes in a dignified and thoughtful pose, with cape, pipe and deerstalker. For the statue to be finished and in place by the millennium will cost 100,000 pounds. Donations, large or small, will therefore be gratefully received! If any PPOFer wants to give, please make donations payable to "The Sherlock Holmes Statue Company Ltd" and send to the treasurer: Elaine Hamill, 16 Kirton Close, Chiswick, London W4 5VV (See front cover for maquette of proposed statue.)



Agony Column



The **FOURTH OCCASIONAL SHERLOCKIAN CRUISE** from New York to Bermuda will cast off on June 20, 1998. Anyone interested please contact Dorothy Stix at

Players Wanted to participate in period re-enactment of 1890's Baseball. Men, Women & Children. Baseball played by 1890's rules. Period Uniforms will be worn. Traditional music and activities of the 1890's. Teams will be based on actual town baseball clubs from Pinellas County. Opening Game played at Heritage Village Museum in February 1998. Contact Dunedin Museum 736-1176.

Sherlockian Bookplates are wanted by Robert C. Littlewood, Publisher, The Littlewood Press, P. O. Box 7, Central Park, Victoria 3145, Australia. Mr. L. is assisting Dr. Derham Groves BSI in the writing of a study dealing with Sherlockian Ex

Libris or Bookplates. This illustrated study will be published in March 1998. If you or someone you know has a bookplate, please send to Mr. L. Any Sherlockian book-plates sent to assist with the project will be matched by way of exchange with a Sherlockian bookplate signed by the artist and dispatched by return post.

Holmes Study Retreat presented by the University of Chicago at Alpine Valley Resort in East Troy, Wisconsin on October 31 - November 2, 1997. Registration costs are \$160 (\$180 after 10/21/97) excluding room & board. Nightly room rate is \$66-\$71 plus tax. A Friday evening reception and Saturday evening dinner is included in registration. Lectures and discussions on "*Sherlock Holmes: Fact or Fiction*," "*Watson: Comrade, Chronicler & Creator*," and "*Holmes: Somewhere Between Mycroft & Moriarty?*" Website <http://www.cygnesis.com/holmes> for

more info, or phone the U. of Chicago Graham School of Gen. Studies 773-702-1722. Fax: 773-702-6814 Address: 835 Kimbark Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637.

1998 Philatelic & Numismatic Holmes is now available from Dr. Ben Wood, replete with latest stamps in vivid color (\$12.50). Also available is the 1998 Sherlockian Calendar with red-letter days (\$2.50) Make checks payable to Ben Wood,

Books-a-Bazillion can be found in the Gravesend Books Catalogue. The Catalogue features books, records and autograph material not only from Doyle, but also Basil Rathbone, Julian Symons and Julian Wolf. Hundreds of items, including paperbacks and foreign language items. Gravesend Books, Box 235, Pocono Pines, PA, 18350. Subscriptions are \$10.00.

About Those Books....

Member Richard Walker responded to our request for book reviews with the following:

"I have read the recent books by Laurie R. King (her Mary Russell series) and by Carole Nelson Douglas (her Irene Adler series) and both are excellent. The Mary Russell books pick up just after the Master's retirement. Mary, a *very outspoken* girl of about 15 years meets the detective while he is studying bees, leaves him speechless and ultimately assists him with investigations. The Irene books have plots that weave into and out of scenes that appear in the original Doyle mysteries, complimenting the original stories — although usually to the detriment of the Master's skills. Both, as in the original Doyle stories, leave you wanting *much more*. Anyone wishing titles, ISBN identifiers, or other information can reach me via e-mail at

Any other book reviewers out there? Anyone wishing to debate or agree with Mr. Walker? Let us hear from you!

Mark Your Calendars! Fall Gathering! Mark Your Calendars! Fall Gathering!

The Fall Gathering of the PPOF has been set for November 1, 1997 from noon to four p.m. at the home of Carl Heifetz. Please read "The Blanched Soldier" and bring in an item or items that will provide a clue or clues to a Sherlock Holmes adventure in which the name of a saint is used (i.e., a wedding veil for *Scandal in Bohemia* - St. Monica (church of)). There will be items for sale & display. Newsletter exchanges available for perusal or borrowing. If you intend to come, please fill out the registration coupon below and get it back to Carl with your payment of \$7.00 per person NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 15, 1997. Registrants will receive driving directions and the list of Saints. Contact Carl at _____; Telephone: _____; phone/FAX: _____; Email: _____

**Yes! I definitely want to attend the Fall Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida!
Count me in and send me directions and the list of Saints.**

Name(s)

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip Code

Phone

_____ I will be bringing items for sale.

_____ I will be bringing items for display.

I am interested in making a presentation on _____

Make checks payable to and mail to Carl Heifetz,

_____ *Yes, I am interested in celebrating the birthday of the Master in January.*

_____ *Not only do I want to celebrate, I want to make a presentation on _____*

_____ *I also want to make a toast to _____*

_____ *I would be willing to make a toast to the character of your choice.*

**Mail your response to The Papers, c/o Wanda Dow,
or e-mail**

The Pleasant Places of Florida

*Founded: 1972
by Leslie Marshall (dec.)*

Recorder Emeritus: Dr. Benton Wood

For the record:

THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS

David McCallister, Master of the House,

Jeff & Wanda Dow, The Papers on the Sundial,

Carl L. Heifetz, Representative both with the Servants and with the Tradespeople,

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

