



Communication

#176

New Series

November, 1997

Volume 1 Issue 8

This month we find many things to be thankful for - good friends, fellow Sherlockians, talented comrades. We report in this issue on the 22nd Annual Fall Gathering. Don't forget there's a special Christmas issue coming up and we need your submissions. Following closely on the heels of the holidays, a birthday celebration is coming in January and we'd like to see some poetry, limericks and songs from those of you so talented. Please read the registration form, even if you are not able to attend. We have received enough responses to get our next Round-robin pastiche on its way. If everyone meets their deadline, we should be going to press by the end of next February. Did you notice the Holmesian dog and Watsonian cat on page 5? That's Sherlock Bones and Whiskers Watson, used in a library promotion to "clue kids in that reading mystery books is great fun." Tom Takach gives a lesson about Diogenes in this issue. And don't miss the reprint of an article run in a local paper about Carl Heifetz, R.B.W.T.S.A.W.T.T. We'd like to start a new column, inspired by notices seen on the Hounds of the Internet concerning Holmesian references of the day. Check it out on page 6.

The Papers on the Sundial

Canonical Calendar

November

During this month the cases of the Golden Pince-Nez (14th,1894), Sussex Vampire (15th,1896), Dying Detective (19th,1887), and Bruce-Partington Plans (21st,1895) took place. Holmes told Watson the details of the Hound case.

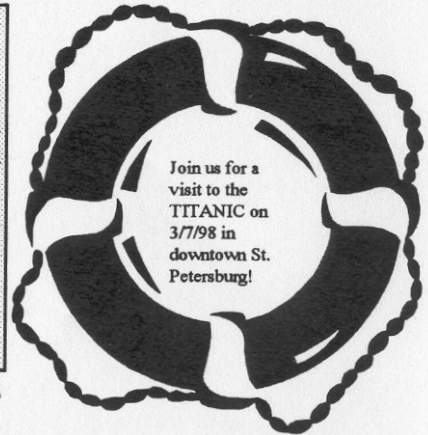
In PPOF News

11/2/76 - Leslie Marshall resigned as Recorder. The New Recorder appointed was Rev. Dr. Benton Wood.

11/10/84 - Queen Elizabeth's Chaplain, Canon Edwyn Young was a special guest at the Ninth Annual Fall Gathering.

VICTORIAN WEATHER REPORT

Days were foggy (SUSS, MILV); In the third week of the month in 1895, "a dense yellow fog settled down upon London" (BRUC), towards the close of the month, it was "a wild tempestuous night,"(PNEZ)and at the end of the month, it was "a raw and foggy night."(HOUN)



Join us for a visit to the TITANIC on 3/7/98 in downtown St. Petersburg!

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THE MAN WITH THE LANTERN

by Tom Takach

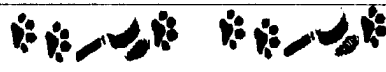
Diogenes - the man who lent his name to the famous club which claimed such illustrious members as Mr. Mycroft Holmes. Who was this man and what, if anything did he have in common with The Master? Let's take a brief look at what we know, or at least, what legend tells us.

In the canon, his name is brought to our attention in "The Greek Interpreter." Fittingly, he was born in the Greek colony of Sinope somewhere around 400 B.C. Little is known of his youth. (something in common with Sherlock already!) We know that, as an adult he was compelled to leave his homeland because of his father's mysterious involvement in a plot to counterfeit the city's coinage. Colonel Lysander Stark's profession, though hardly an admirable one, may at least claim the charm of antiquity. Diogenes spent the remainder of his life alternating his residence between Athens and Corinth. His great desire in life was to search for virtue, whereas Holmes' was to pursue his unique occupation ("My life is spent in one long effort to escape from the commonplaces of existence" REDH). Diogenes lit his lamp in broad

(cont. page 7)

WHAT IS DIOGENES?

Since we're trying to start up Diogenese meetings, it's only fair that we explain a little about it. According to club history, Diogenes meetings were originally started by members who wanted to discuss certain cases in more detail. They were held monthly with someone volunteering at each meeting to host the next one. At some point, quizzes became a staple at our semi-annual gatherings, which turned the tables and began to give each gathering an appointed case of study. The Diogenes meetings slowly faded, only to reappear as an occasional get-together for various social reasons (a local production of a Sherlockian play, for instance). Due to the various locations of local members, we are trying to garner interest in Diogenes meetings to be held in various locations throughout Florida to allow all members to attend more that just the main gatherings, or if you miss a gathering, there will still be the Diogenes. The coming year will be an experiment of sorts to see just how much interest there is in getting together more than twice a year. More Diogenes than listed may happen due to various factors (a visiting Sherlockian, for instance). So, whenever, whatever, see ya!



A NAPOLEONIC POEM

By Wanda Dow

He smashed six busts of Napoleon
That sharp-featured face of a simian
Though Beppo was one
A second name he had none
Was he also a user of Langurтин?

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

CALENDAR

January 17

Sherlock's Sunshine Celebration

Birthday #144

February 14

Wessex Cup

Tampa Bay Downs

March 7

*Diogenes Meeting
Lunch & Titanic Exhibit
St Petersburg*

May 2

*Spring Gathering at
Mike Carroll's
St. Petersburg
The Mazarin Stone*

July 11

*Diogenes Meeting
Orlando area?*

September 12

*Diogenes Meeting
The Coach & Horses British Pub
& Restaurant
Sarasota*

November 7

*Fall Gathering hosted by the
Dow's in Dunedin*



The **FOURTH OCCASIONAL SHERLOCKIAN CRUISE** is still taking reservations. This trip will cast off on June 20, 1998 from New York to Bermuda. Contact Dorothy Stix at P. O.

for further information.

If you find yourself in the city of Dunedin during the month of November, be sure to check out the display at the **Dunedin Public Library** on Douglas Avenue. Member Wanda Dow has taken up two cases with Sherlockiana, some of

Agony Column

which are publications done by the Pleasant Places.

BAKER STREET set of Christmas ornaments (glass) by Kurt S. Adler, Inc. is available at about \$33 per ornament. Holmes (in green Inverness & Deerstalker w/pipe & walking stick), Watson (red plaid coat, black derby & med. bag) & a Bobby (item GP551) Contact Kurt S. Adler Inc.,

EVE TITUS is selling many of her

own books, newspapers, magazine articles & letters related to *Basil of Baker Street* & other Sherlockiana. Send a SASE for a copy of her sales list. Eve Titus,

METROPOLITAN TORONTO REFERENCE LIBRARY NEWS (9/97) has a 1-pg story on its "Images of Sherlock Holmes" exhibit. Contact Victoria Gill,

, Canada for a free copy.

ROSTER UPDATE

New: **Riddell, Gabriella M.**, Retired English Educator,

Murphy-Fallahee, Mary, Homemaker,

Fallahee, Meaghan, Student,

Changes: **Hobbs, Don**,

Sweeney, Jeff, Accountant, *Jabez Wilson*,



**WANTED
YOUR
CONTRIBUTIONS!**

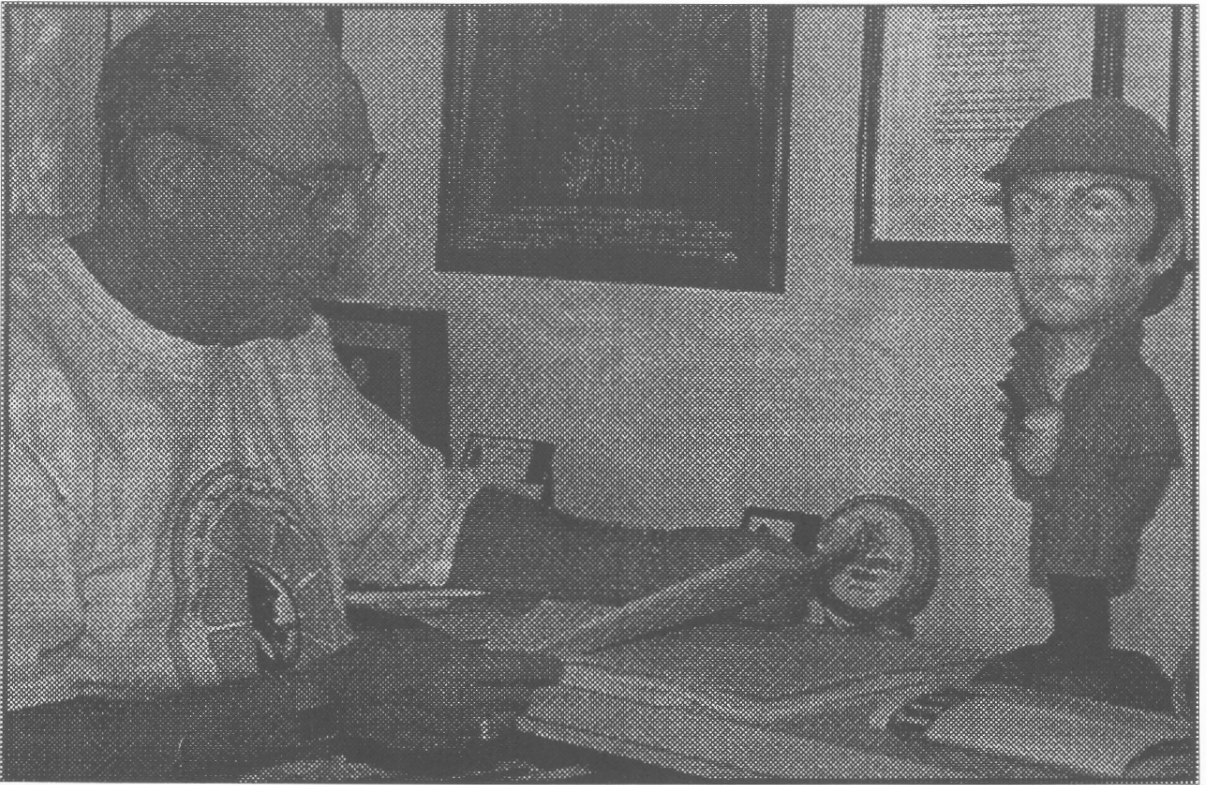
Let us not forget to send in those literary contributions for our special Christmas issue! We need stories, art, poetry, songs, ANYthing! Come on! Send to The Papers, Christmas Issue,

_____ or e-mail _____

HE'S EVERYWHERE!

This is a new column we would like to start, inspired by postings on the Hounds of the Internet. Any time you see something Sherlockian, please send in an explanation of what you saw. For instance....*Used in an ad campaign to interest children in mystery books, the Library Association has a bloodhound wearing a deerstalker named Sherlock Bones and his assistant, a cat in a trenchcoat and bowler named Whiskers Watson...* Things spotted this past month were ...On the 11/29 viewing of the tv series *Frasier*, Dr. F. Crane's father, a retired cop, appeared at a costume party dressed as Sherlock Holmes. Having difficulty finding the costume, his younger son was going to have him dress as Lord Peter Wimsey, but he refused. A secret was to be kept

See EVERYWHERE pg. 6



MAN'S FASCINATION WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES IS NO MYSTERY

BY MARTHA SANDERS, SUNCOAST NEWS STAFF

Saturday, September 27, 1997 Volume 41, Number 4, East Lake, Oldsmar

The entrance way to _____ in Lansbrook has a more distinguished address posted near the doorbell on a small, tasteful placard. The meaning behind the 221-B Baker Street location to East Lake resident Carl Heifetz is, well, elementary.

Heifetz is an avowed member of the "Sherlockian world," composed of thousands of people across the globe who share a fascination with the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author and creator of one of the most well known detectives in literature, Sherlock Holmes. The Baker Street address was home to the detective brought to life through countless mystery stories and films.

Heifetz is one of the four leaders of the Pleasant Places of Florida, a Sherlock Holmes fan club said to be the oldest, with about 60 regular members, and largest group of its type in the state dedicated to keeping the memory of the master detective alive. Pleasant Places of Florida is an off-shoot of the Baker Street Irregulars, the Sherlock Holmes organization that has been meeting in New York City for more than 60 years. The Sunshine State organization derived its name from a reference to Florida as being "a pleasant place" to be found in the

Sherlock Holmes mystery "The Five Orange Pips." A pip is a seed.

A tour through this Holmes fan's spacious home reveals that what started out as a simple hobby has taken on more than simple fascination. An entire portion of the living room of the home Heifetz shares with his wife, Sandie, is chock full of Sherlock Holmes' memorabilia and books.

The couple, originally from Maryland, lived in Michigan for several years before moving to Florida a few years ago. Heifetz, 62, a retired microbiologist, said he admires Holmes for his logical reasoning.

"As a scientist, I admire the fact he solves crimes using science," Heifetz said Wednesday. The East Lake resident loves to immerse himself in the adventure that unfolds in a good Sherlock Holmes mystery.

"There is always a vigil that takes place with Holmes and Dr. Watson," he said, referring to Holmes' loyal physician sidekick. Their modus operandi is waiting at the scene of the crime for the criminal to return.

While growing up in Maryland, Heifetz said, he watched the early black and white Sherlock Holmes movies that starred Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce as Holmes and Watson. But he did not get hooked on the detective with the trademark "deer stalker" cap and the ever-present pipe until 10 years ago.

"My wife's aunt gave me a Sherlock Holmes book, and then I went out and got the whole set and read them over and over," he admitted. After that he began scouring used book stores for more tomes on the Victorian-era detective.

Pleasant Places of Florida meets in the spring and in the fall. Meetings revolve around a particular story, and members are quizzed on the story line. Some members even present detailed treatises they have written on a

particular book.

"It gets to be a very scholarly discussion," he said. Most of these "Sherlockians" are from Pinellas and Hillsborough counties, with some members living as far north as Orlando, and as far south as Sarasota. There is a separate Miami Sherlock Holmes contingency.

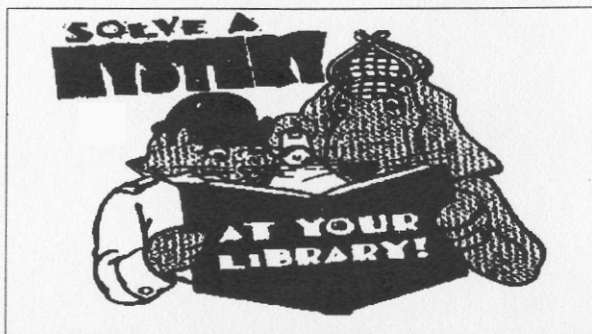
In 1987, which coincidentally was the year Heifetz became interested in the imaginary sleuth, Sherlock Holmes' stories celebrated their 100th anniversary. In May, the Pleasant Places of Florida group held its 25th year anniversary symposium.

For computer hackers, there is an e-mail news-group titled "the Hounds of the Internet," with an international membership. Heifetz and Sandie will travel this weekend to the Grosvenor Resort in Orlando to meet for the Hounds' next meeting.

Heifetz currently is planning the fall Pleasant Places of Florida group meeting, which will take place at his home, Nov. 1 from noon to 4 p.m. Those interested in attending are asked to be well-versed on the adventure, "The Blanched Soldier."

In the spirit of the occasion, members bring items to the meetings that go along with the stories' theme. Blanched soldier?

"We're trying to find a place that sells white face paint," Heifetz said, with a gleam in his eye. Anyone interested in attending the Nov. 1 luncheon event, which costs \$7, can contact Heifetz at



FALL GATHERING, 1997

The 22nd Annual Fall Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida was held in Palm Harbor at the home of Carl and Sandie Heifetz. Besides our gracious hosts, attendees were Jeff & Wanda Dow, David McCallister, Ben & Joan Wood, Art Walker, Gerry Hynes, Michael Bryan, Bill Serow, Caroline Everett, Juliana McConnell, Bob Zuczek, Gabriella Riddell, Charles & Marilyn Amick, Dave & Thelma Scott, Mike Carroll, Darrel & Shirley Gresham, Tom Takach, David Stoner, Doris Suttlehan, George Schenk, Bob Larson, Reggie Hudson, Mary Murphy-Fallahee, George Fallahee, Meaghan Fallahee, Jeff Sweeney, and the Rev. Dr. E. Cara Cushing. Wow! What a turn-out!

There were many items Sherlockian for sale and perusal. A delicious repast was presented by Sandie Heifetz. David McCallister did his usual fine job as Master of Ceremonies, as well as presenting his paper, "The Three James and Jonathons," which was an investigation into the true identity of Sir James Saunders. Member Dave Stoner presented "Sherlock Holmes on Old Time Radio," treating us with varied excerpts from old radio shows. Host Carl Heifetz enthralled us with his paper, "Regarding the True Aetiology of the Skin-Lightening Syndrome in The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier." Winding up the entertainment portion of the program, those wild and crazy Dow Family Players presented yet another in their bizarre series of entertainment, this time doing a SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE parody of various skits based on the case of the day, "The Blanched Soldier" titled "Live! From Palm Harbor! It's Saturday Afternoon!" Toasts were handled admirably by Bill Serow (to The Woman), Art Walker (to The Master), Ben Wood (to The Founder, Leslie Marshall) and Charles Amick (to The Queen).

Winners of the trivia contests were Marilyn Amick & Cara Cushing (tied for 1st place), Gabriella Riddell (2nd) and Wanda Dow (3rd) for the Watson questions, and Bob Zuczek (1st), Tom Takach (2nd) and Reggie Hudson (3rd) for the Mycroft questions. Door prizes were won by Meaghan Fallahee (white face paint), Gerry Hynes (bleach), Caroline Everett (a plastic fish with a white belly), Thelma Scott (a chess game), Reggie Hudson (a window through which Gilchrist is looking), Darrel Gresham (a bowler), and Mary Murphy-Fallahee (a brass key). For an explanation of these items, read THE BLANCHED SOLDIER. The winner of the Saints contest was David Scott.

Presented by Ben Wood to our hosts in appreciation was a set of two PPOF glasses. Many thanks to Carl & Sandie Heifetz for graciously lending their home to our group for the gathering.

EVERYWHERE cont. from pg. 3 during the show about one of the characters, which of course led to various Sherlockian quotes. Upon questioning his father if he knew what was going on and continuing to get negative answers, Frasier Crane stated, "Holmes, you amaze me." Later when the father DID find out the secret and the person it was about was angry, Crane stated, "But he's a master of deduction! He would've figured it out eventually!"...The same night on JAG, the hero picked up a cigar butt and started to make some pretentious comments about its origin, whereupon his sidekick referred to him as Sherlock ... Renowned guitarist & bluegrass

virtuoso DOC WATSON received a National Medal of Arts on 9/29/97. You might have spotted his album "Elementary Doctor Watson"... the 1998 Wishbone calendar is out with two Sherlockian portraits: "The Slobbery Hound" for February and "A Dogged Expose" for October ... Biker Sherlock won 2 gold medals and 1 silver medal in the X games. Real name: Michael Sherlock ... Playmate of the Month 2/76 is quoted in the 11/97 issue of Playboy. Her name? LAURA LYONS ... Spotted at Sears: Red silk boxer shorts showing Mickey Mouse in Sherlockian costume ... And who is the person who oversees school construction funds for Florida? JOHN WATSON.

Cont. from page 2

Figure of Diogenes: marble (about 21" high), heavily restored, now in the Villa Albani
Photograph: Mansell Collection



daylight so that he could find a good, or virtuous man. Once asked where he had found good men, he replied "men nowhere, but in Sparta boys." This might be likened to Holmes' low opinion of the Scotland Yard detectives of his acquaintance and his more glowing admiration of his own Baker Street Irregulars ("He [Gregson] and Lestrade are the pick of a bad lot" STUD and "if the launch is above water they will find her" SIGN).

Diogenes tried to do away with all things which he felt made man unhappy; the "externals" with which man too frequently occupied himself. He was against wealth, marriage, & even citizenship for this reason. Asked when was the right time to marry, he said "for young men, not yet; for old men, never." Instead of saying where he came from, a tremendous source of pride among Greeks, he replied that he was a citizen of the universe, thereby coining the word cosmopolitan. It is certain that Holmes felt considerably more pride in being an Englishman when he received "...a remarkably fine emerald tie pin.....from a certain

gracious lady." BRUC

Diogenes was a beggar who lived in a cistern. He felt that self sufficiency was the greatest good. He once tossed away the drinking cup he carried in his knapsack after seeing a child drinking out of his hands. Thought Diogenes, "a child has triumphed over me in plainness of living." He looked both to the animals and to any group of humans that came within his sphere of knowledge to determine what was natural behavior for man in general. Defending Oedipus, who unknowingly married his mother, Diogenes said "domestic fowl do not object to that, nor do dogs or any ass, or the Persians who pass for the elite of Asia." He was a member of the Cynic school of philosophy, which went in for scathing denunciations of most anything you can think of - politics, religion, science, customs. Yet, he offered no solutions to any of the problems he enumerated. Holmes had his moments, both negative and positive, with regard to these subjects. As we see in STUD, "But the solar system!" I protested. "What the deuce is it to me?" And also in NAVA, "Our highest assurance of the goodness of Providence seems to me to rest in the flowers." Holmes also knew the bible well enough to come very close to knowing precisely where the story of Bathsheba was to be found in CROO.

The term Cynic, a Greek word meaning dog-like, was first given to Diogenes' group by critics. He then turned it around and tried to give it a positive spin, saying "I

wag my tail to those who give me anything, bark at those who don't, and clamp my teeth in rogues."

Both Diogenes and Holmes could display an acerbic wit with little difficulty. In NOBL, Holmes cuts Lestrade to the quick by suggesting that he would have as much luck dragging Trafalgar Square fountain as the Serpentine for Lady St. Simon's body. In answering an athlete's boast that he was Greece's fastest runner, Diogenes said, "but not faster than a rabbit or a deer, and they, the swiftest of animals are also the most cowardly."

Finally, being able to adapt oneself to one's surroundings was characteristic of both men. In order to enjoy life to the fullest no matter where he found himself, Diogenes trained by rolling in hot sands in the summertime and hugging snow-covered statues in the winter. We know that Holmes looked upon his work as an art. In order to practice that art most successfully, he displayed a great ability to adapt to any environment via the medium of disguise. His roles are too numerous to list, some favorites including Captain Basil (BLAC), Escott the plumber (CHAS), and a venerable Italian priest (FINA).

And so ends our brief look at a Greek Cynic who went the way of all mortal flesh and an English giant who sips tea still on the Sussex downs.

All information pertaining to DIOGENES in this article was obtained from ASPECTS OF ANTIQUITY by M.I. Finley (published 1968). Canonical quotes and references are from Doubleday's THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES and Jack Tracy's THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA SHERLOCKIANA.

Come join us on Saturday, March 7th, 1998, at 11:30 a.m. for a pleasant lunch in downtown St. Petersburg. At 1:00 p.m. embark on a journey into the unfathomable world of the **TITANIC**. The **TITANIC** was the largest moving object on the Earth and a technological accomplishment of mankind filled with the latest modern conveniences. She was thought to be unsinkable. Glimpse the grandeur that was once part of the Edwardian era from more than 300 objects recovered from the wreck site. See how a sequence of human events contributed to the tragedy. And hear the chilling stories of the expedition that found her. **TITANIC** *The Exhibition* is at the Florida International Museum at 100 Second Street North, downtown St. Petersburg (Exit 10 off I-275). Book your passage today. Cost is \$12.45 per person for the exhibit. Lunch is "dutch treat" and will be at a restaurant within walking distance to the museum. Make checks payable to **CARL HEIFETZ** & mail to Carl Heifetz,

_____ Yes! I want to have lunch and travel back through time with other PPOF members to examine the **TITANIC**. I understand that you will notify me of the eating establishment at which we will meet at 11:30 a.m. I also understand that should we not have 20 or more people going, I may have to pay an additional fee for entry into the exhibit.

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

I enclose \$ _____ made payable to Carl Heifetz, 3693 Siena Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!! CUT THIS OUT AND KEEP!!!

_____ I have sent in my reservation for Sherlock's Sunshine Celebration to be held on January 17, 1998 at 7:00PM at the Cite Grille in Dunedin. (Wanda Dow,

_____ I have sent in my reservation for the Diogenes lunch & TITANIC meeting on March 7, 1998 at 11:30 am in St. Petersburg. (Carl Heifetz,

_____ I have made note that the 8th Annual Wessex Cup is to be held on February 14, 1998.

Sherlock's Sunshine Celebration has been set for January 17, 1998 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Cite Grille in Dunedin. Although we'd like to honor the Master by our appearance as well as our decorum, we realise that this IS Florida, so black tie is optional. Price will be \$22.00 per person. To honor dear Sherlock, please compose a limerick, poem or song. Mail it in or bring it with you to the dinner. You will not be forced to perform, but items received will be combined to form a PPoF publication. If you wish to attend, please fill out the form below and mail to Wanda Dow, We have a choice of an interior side room which will seat 20, or a covered exterior room if we have a bigger crowd. You must register BEFORE December 20, 1997. Please keep in mind that holiday mails are backlogged. Give your registration plenty of time to get to its destination.

Yes, I definitely want to celebrate the birthday of the Master in January. Count me in and send me directions. Enclosed is my check for \$_____.

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone _____

My choice of meal is (circle) Chicken Salmon NY Strip Vegetarian

_____ 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 payment & response to Wanda Dow, _____

"Your fatal habit of looking at everything from the point of view of a story instead of as a scientific exercise had ruined what might have been an instructive and even classical series of demonstrations." Sherlock Holmes to Dr. John H. Watson in "The Adventure of the abbey Grange."
The PPoF is pleased to announce the publication of FATAL HABITS: AN APPRECIATION OF THE LITERARY SHERLOCK HOLMES (199 pgs) by Jeffery F. Dow. Using copious examples from every story in the canon, the book explains the use of numerous literary devices such as atmosphere, flashbacks, dialogue, humor, plot and peripateia. The result is a better understanding of why the canon is so enjoyable to read, and what makes a good story in general. The book is US\$10 post paid (US\$10 Int'l SURFACE US\$15 Int'l AIR) and can be ordered from The Papers on the Sundial,
USA Make checks payable to Jeffery F. Dow.

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. Helfetz, 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

