



Communication

#185

New Series

September/October 1998

Volume 2 Issue 7

As we go to press it is with heavy heart that we inform members of the passing of Wiggins Emeritus, Tom Stix, on the morning of September 9. He died quietly long illness. For sire, let us remind our own favorite form was through the Memorial Fund, 6200 Lake Street, 60053. We would like to pass on something that was written by fellow Sherlockian Warren Randall for all his colleagues who have passed beyond the Reichenbach.



ing of September at home after a those who so de- you that Tom's of paying tribute Julie Stix Memorial Parkview School, Morton Grove, IL

The Papers on the Sundial

Beyond the Reichenbach

Umber thoughts reflect the heavy day that Progress rumbles on, reporting the saddened news. One empty place where once a dreamer sat, Never again to share adventurous views. That Holmes of them consumed so small a share, How little knew we of friends we knew so well. Each life held more than we could be aware, Their interests bound by what we could not tell. Every name presents its own sweet legacies. Remember what you have heard and seen. Recall we must, for those glad memories Are what we've pledged to keep forever green. Call every name! even those who shan't reply. Each friend who lives in us can never die.

Warren Randall

DIOGENES MISCELLANEA

Eight intrepid travelers weaved their way south to meet at the home of members Charles and Marilyn Amick and wax things Holmesian. Those attending were able to enjoy Marilyn's menu of British grub, beginning with high tea and continuing through Welsh rarebit and mushy peas, with fruit, cakes and candies for desert. All was accompanied by various English pints and tea. Other treats in store were a Mycroftian quiz prepared by Charles Amick (which was won by member Wanda Dow), the reading of a 1981 memo from then-Recorder Benton Wood concerning what Diogenese meetings were, discussion of various Sherlockian publications and upcoming events, Spiritualism & Emanuel Swedenborg, a viewing of our hosts' bibliophilic collection and the recitation of a passage in *Hound of the Baskervilles* in teen-speak. Those present also got to vote on the winner of the *Name the Caption* contest (see page 4), with the *Papers* bowing out due to personal conflict.

(cont. page 7)

In this Issue...

Diogenes Report	Front cover
Stopping To Think	Page 2
Tune in the Past	Page 3
Winning Caption	Page 4
Agony Column	Page 5
Roster Update	Page 5

Canonical/Club Calendar

September/October

10/08/1855 - The bark, *Gloria Scott* left Falmouth. (GLOR)
 09/1887 - Equinoctial gales had set in with exceptional violence. (FIVE)
 10/1887 - It was a close rainy day. (RESI)

(cont. page 6)

1998 P.P. of F. CALENDAR

November 7

23rd Annual Fall Gathering
Dunedin

Hosts: Jeff & Wanda Dow
The Red Circle

1999 Proposed Calendar

January 16

Sherlock's Birthday Celebration II

February 13

Wessex Cup

March 6

Diogenes Meeting

May 8

24th Spring Gathering

July 9

Diogenes Meeting

September 11

Diogenes Meeting

November 6

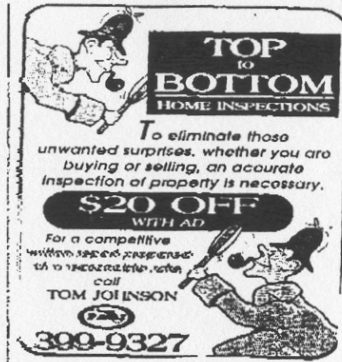
24th Fall Gathering

Anyone wishing to volunteer to host one of the 1999 events, please contact Representative Carl Heifetz. Entertainment is not required for the *Diogenes* meetings, but we would like to see some interesting places. Some past examples of *Diogenes* have been dinner & a brewery tour, lunch and a museum exhibit, lunch at an antiques/tea house, and various meals at local restaurants and member's homes.

He's Everywhere!

The *New York Times* had an article in which the author, Paul Lewis, took the role of Holmes talking to Watson on August 22 titled *Rome, My Dear Watson, Was Not Built in a Day* ... The August 22 edition of the *St.*

Petersburg Times contained a Sherlockian reference in their *Reader's Exchange* column. Usually the column is used to locate items needed, but this day a reader had written in to find a couple of people. The editor commented that they would have to take on the role of Sherlock Holmes and that the reader might find better help at 221-B Baker Street ... Spotted on the video of the movie, *Short Circuit 2*, a robot which has a life of its own picks up a copy of *Hound of the Baskervilles*, flips through it, stops half way and says, "I think the butler did it." When he finishes the book, he says, "Yep. It was the butler all right." ... Ever read Orwell's *Keep the Aspidochelone Flying?* The main character, Gordon Comstock reads *The Adventures of SH* because "Sherlock Holmes was his favourite of all books because he knew it by heart." There are also a few other asides contained in the story ... Spotted on an old American Library Association poster titled *Explore New Worlds - Read* is the original *Star Trek* cast, each holding a book. Chekov is holding one volume of *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes* ...



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Stopping To Think by Brad Keefauver

Upon a recent reading of *The Adventure of the Yellow Face* it occurred to me that Grant Munro was definitely not the swiftest of individuals, and I mean that in the literal sense. Upon first seeing the yellow face, he is frozen in his tracks while his mind clanks away at what he's seen: "I stood for five minutes thinking the business over and trying to analyze my impressions." Then later, in the climax of the story: "It was a long ten minutes" before Grant Munro broke the silence, and when his answer came it was one of which I love to think. While Grant Munro's final answer is quite charming, the time he takes (cont. page 7)

WORD OF MOUTH

The Jack-Knife (for Holmesian modelers, craftsmen & collectors). William C. Thomas,

The Log of the Canonical Hams (official pub. SH Wireless Society). Ron Fish, BSH,

Phone:

E-mail:

TUNE INTO THE PAST VIA TAPES OF OLD RADIO SHOWS

By Bill Kelley

Special to the Herald-Tribune

I have a time machine in my automobile, and it's rigged up to my audio cassette deck. All I do is pop in a tape, and I'm transported back 40, 50, even 60 years.

Several months ago, I purchased a bunch of vintage radio shows at a bookstore in my neighborhood. I'd seen the shelves devoted to them countless times, and it was only a whim that prompted me to buy a compilation of programs from the so-called "Golden Age of Radio."

I'm always wary of anyone who waxes nostalgic for the "good old days." But the attraction of vintage radio isn't rooted, like much of the nostalgia genre, in a blind affection for anything old. Dramatic radio was -- and is -- a legitimate art form. At its best, it cannot be duplicated by movies, TV or theater.

In its own way, dramatic radio is theater -- "theater of the mind," to borrow a term coined during radio's heyday. With only dialogue, a fragment of music and sparse sound effects to suggest what was happening, dramatic radio conjured up exotic locales, sinister alleyways or vast, alien vistas with the help of their audiences'



Basil Rathbone played Sherlock Holmes on film and on radio.

imagination plunged into the world of vintage radio recordings because I was facing some long-distance driving, and I wanted something more than FM radio for companionship.

I purchased Anthony Tollin's "The Shadow Chronicles" and a set of eight mid-1940s "Sherlock Holmes" half-hours, starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.

And that's all it took.

Everyone has heard of The Shadow, the cloaked crimefighter who "knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men," who uses Asian mysticism to "cloud men's minds" and outfox criminals. First played on radio by Orson Welles, the character enjoyed a nearly uninterrupted run from 1937 until 1954.

"The Shadow Chronicles" is a bargain - six hour-long tapes, including 10 original episodes

of the show and Tollin's 60-minute documentary, featuring excerpts and interviews. Once this package whets your appetite, you can savor The Shadow mysteries available in various other boxed collections, including one devoted exclusively to episodes starring Welles.

"The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is the crown jewel of radio mysteries, and one of the best dramatic broadcasts ever produced. Rathbone and Bruce were not the first actors to play Holmes and Watson on network radio (they were hired following their second movie, "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," in 1939); by the time they began weekly broadcasts, the series had been running for several years, and its creator, Edith Meiser, had the formula down pat.

The premise was simple but ingenious: Each week, the show's announcer would arrive at the study of Dr Watson, who would invite him in and recount an adventure shared with his friend and colleague, Sherlock Holmes.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote only 60 Holmes adventures, which meant the author's original inventory was depleted early in the show's run. Its producers hired a stable of talented writers (including Leslie Charteris, Anthony Boucher and (cont. page 4)

(cont. from page 3) Denis Green) to expand the Doyle canon and send the detective on typically Holmesian cases.

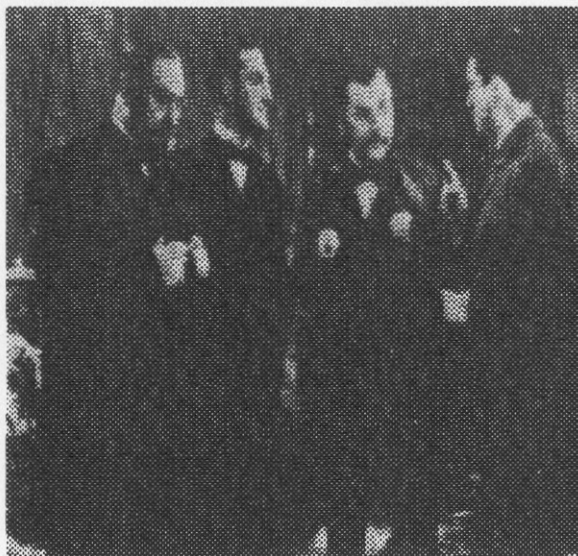
The result: Rathbone and Bruce were in 213 live broadcasts from 1939 to 1946. Tragically, only one-quarter of the shows have been preserved, but Simon & Schuster Audio has remastered them superbly, with wraparound commentaries by announcers (notably Harry Bartell), actors and technical personnel from the original broadcasts, who share their memories of the series.

Equally well-known (and available) are long-running series starring movie comedy teams, such as Abbott & Costello. Major screen stars, including Humphrey Bogart and Gary Cooper, routinely crossed over from motion pictures to weekly radio, and back again, with no damage to their careers -- a practice deemed unthinkable with the arrival of TV.

A warning: It won't take long for you to get hooked on classic radio, and to empty your local bookstore's shelves of the collections in your area of interest.

After that, your only alternative is to order by mail. The best mail-order source I've found is Radio Spirits Inc., a clearinghouse for all the major labels. To request a free catalog, dial its toll-free number: 1-800-723-4648.

- - -Speaking of radio, alert reader Carl Heifetz sent in an article which appeared in the St. Petersburg Times on August 10 concerning PPOfer David Stoner. David and a friend, Patrick Chouinard, have formed a club, *Nostalgia Fans of Pinellas*, to share their collections of memorabilia with others interested in the same. Anyone interested in old radio shows should contact David. He's in the *Roster*. Plans are being made to take the club's collections to retirement and nursing homes.



“Let’s see if I have that straight. One with black olives and mushrooms only, two with extra cheese, one with pineapple, and hold the anchovies on all four, right?”

Winning entry sent in by Jason Rouby

We thought you might like to see the other captions sent in, all good:

Sent in by Tom Takach

Sir Henry: *I'm sorry Dr. Mortimer, Dr. Watson. I did NOT say Simon Says 'Grasp your lapels'.*

Sir Henry to Dr. Watson: *If you think an experience of women which extends over many nations and three separate continents is impressive, listen to this....*

Sir. Henry to Holmes: *There is no devil in Hell, Mr. Holmes and there is no man upon earth who can prevent me from going to the home of my own people. Um ... by the by, have all the back taxes been paid on the sinister old pile?*

Sir Henry to Holmes: *To be frank,*

cont. page 6



Agony Column



Sherlock Holmes, The Detective Magazine is currently offering subscriptions at \$40US, with an increased publishing frequency of 6 times a year. Send to Sherlock Holmes - the Detective Magazine, P.O.Box 100 Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 8HD, U.K.

You can now subscribe to **The Strand Magazine** for \$24.95 US/Can to P. O. Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48021-1418 USA Email: <strandmag@worldnet.att.net> Fax: (248) 874-1046.

The Game's Afloat 1998 is a symposium sponsored by *The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn* on October 30 - November 1. Speakers include Terence Faherty, Brad Keefauver, BSI, Rosemary Michaud, Roy Pilot, BSI and John Smithkey III. Cost is \$65.00, Banquet \$35.00. Contact Cathy Kelleher,

Any members with any info on other

Sherlockian publications besides ours, please contact **Don Hobbs**. He is working on a bibliography of scion publications. Guess that's why we call him *The Maniac Collector*. You can e-mail him at <djhobbs@hcs-is.com> or snail mail him at 2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028.

Gaby Goldscheider, Deep Dene, Baring Rd., Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 8DB ENGLAND, Catalogue No. 41 contains over 250 items on SH and ACD.

Sherlock in L.A.'s latest catalogue is said to be a real collector's item! Contact Vinnie Brosnan, 1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056 or call 760-630-2013.

Latest issue of **T.U.C.O.P.S.** (Spring-Autumn '98) contains the first part of many by Henry Zecher on **William Gillette: The Man Who Was Sherlock Holmes**. Get your

subscription now from Tom Dunn,

EXIT SHERLOCK HOLMES, an original play by Colin R. Grimes will open October 9th at the Performance Space Orlando, 1707A N. Mills Avenue and will run Fridays & Saturdays through October 31st. The show starts at 8pm and admission is \$12.00. Call 407-896-5717 for reservations. For more info, contact The Baker Street Players, Colin Grimes, Artistic Director, 1460 Lowrie Avenue, Orlando, FL 32805.

~~~~~  
~ Don't forget the next ~  
~ issue is a Special ~  
~ Halloween Edition! ~  
~ Sharpen your pencil ~  
~ and send in a ~  
~ submission! ~  
~~~~~

ROSTER UPDATE

Changes: Blau, Peter, e-mail

Hobbs, Donald, e-mail

Lies, Ronald E.,

Singleton, Paul,

Walker, Connie, (area code) 850

Walker, Richard, (area code) 850, e-mail

Wood, Benton & Joan,

Removal: Hawkins, Robert E., Notice received from Mr. Hawkins' estate of his departure from this world on June 4, 1998.

Stix, Thomas, (see front page)

Please check the address on your mailing label to make sure the correct information is being held by the club.

(cont. from front page)

09/1888 - Watson & Holmes accompany Miss Morstan. (SIGN)
10/13/1889 - First Report of Dr. Watson. (HOUN)
10/16/1889 - Watson feels impending danger. (HOUN)
10/17/1889 - Watson takes a walk in the evening on the sodden moor. (HOUN)
10/18/1889 - The swift events at Baskerville Hall begin to move swiftly towards their terrible conclusion. (HOUN)
10/09/1890 - The Red-Headed League is dissolved. (REDH)
10/1901 - The last remaining leaves are whirled from the solitary plane tree in the yard behind 221B. (THOR)
10/03/1901 - J. Neil Gibson writes to Sherlock Holmes. (THOR)
09/03/1902 - Holmes & Watson take a Turkish bath. (ILLU)
09/1903 - Holmes writes Watson, "Come at once if convenient - if inconvenient come all the same." (CREE)



09/03/1903 - The last outbreak at the Presbury house takes place. (CREE)
09/04/1903 - Mr. Bennett is aware of a dull muffled sound coming from the hall passage at Presbury house. (CREE)
09/05/1903 - Miss Presbury sees her father's face at her window on the 2nd floor. (CREE)
09/1977 - *Adventure of the Solitary Balloonist* is published.
10/22/1977 - Second Annual Fall Gathering held at the Treasure Island home of Tom & Joy Mitchell.
09/08/78 - Informal Gathering at the Island Inn on St. Pete Beach to say farewell to thespian member Andy Peck.
10/1979 - Dr. Benton Wood has dual cameo role in Manatee Players *Sherlock Holmes*.
10/13/79 - Fourth Fall Gathering held at the St. Petersburg home of Mike Carroll.
10/1986 - Eleventh Fall Gathering held at the Clearwater home of Norma & Morris Rannels.
10/1995 - *The Calendrical Canon with Holmesian Holidays* edited by Carl Heifetz published.
09/1996 - *The Bourbon Bullion Bafflement* round robin pastiche published.
09/13/97 - Sherlock Holmes Flea Market held at the Palm Harbor home of Carl Heifetz.
10/1997 - PPOF archives transferred from Dr. Benton Wood to Wanda Dow.
09/12/98 - Diogenes Meeting held at the Sarasota home of Charles & Marilyn Amick.

(cont. from page 4)

Mr. Holmes, you weren't my first choice, but the brilliant Lestrade is on holiday in the South of France.

Sent in by Jason Rouby:

All together chaps: 'On the first day of Christmas ...'

Watson and Lestrade against Gregson and me, cut for high card to deal. Agreed?

Mr. Holmes, Dr. Watson, Dr. Trevelyan and I are agreed, your fixation with the name Violet is becoming a serious obsession.

Doctor Watson, if we have told you once we have told you a thousand times — your pawky sense of humor is not appreciated. Knock it off!

Sent in by Culver Dow (age 8)

Watson, what is that bug on your shoulder? Ha! Made you look!

Look at this huge loogie I picked!

I've got a finger and I'm not afraid to use it!

I invite you to pull my finger.

If you two would lose weight, you wouldn't have any trouble getting your jackets to fit.

(cont. page 7)

Submission Deadlines

Halloween Special Issue

Postmark by 10/2/98

E-Mail by 10/8/98

November/December Issue

Postmark by 11/2/98

E-Mail by 11/9/98

Christmas Special Issue

Postmark by 12/1/98

E-Mail by 12/6/98

January/February Issue

Postmark by 1/9/99

E-Mail by 1/15/99

Mad March Special Issue

Postmark by 2/15/99

E-Mail by 2/26/99

March/April Issue

Postmark by 3/1/99

E-Mail by 3/5/99

May/June Issue

Postmark by 5/1/99

E-Mail by 5/8/99

Father's Day Special Issue

Postmark by 6/1/99

E-Mail by 6/6/99

July/August Issue

Postmark by 7/1/99

E-Mail by 7/8/99

September/October Issue

Postmark by 9/4/99

E-Mail by 9/8/99

Thanksgiving Special Issue

Postmark by 11/2/99

E-Mail by 11/5/99

November/December Issue

Postmark by 10/30/99

E-Mail by 11/5/99

Endings & Beginnings Special Issue

Postmark by 12/15/99

E-Mail by 12/20/99

(cont. from page 6)

I say, if you're cold, just ask me to turn up the heat.

Congrats to Jason. Your prize is in the mail!

(cont. from page 7) Many thanks to the Amicks for their more than generous hospitality. Should any out there wish to host a *Diogenes* meeting, please contact Carl Heifetz or Wanda Dow.

(cont. from page 2) to get there seems inordinately long. What was going through his head for ten whole minutes? Was it:

a.) An incredible long series of "What the ...?"s repeated over and over.

b.) "She loves me, she loves me not, she loves me ..." with an imaginary flower.

c.) What are the boys at the hops exchange going to think?

d.) D'oh! Now how do I get out of this without Dr. Watson writing about how much of a dolt I am in *Strand Magazine*?

e.) The price on foreign hops won't stay high for long. I should wait to buy.

f.) Effie is crushing the bones in my hand; I'd better think of something soon!

g.) Does this mean I get to have an inter-racial affair in order for us to have a second child?

h.) That old Scotch woman is scaring me. We're firing her tomorrow.

i.) I wonder what else Effie's been storing in her bosom besides that large locket? Time for a search, I think.

j.) Does this mean I have to send a swamp adder through the vent just so I can keep the four thousand five hundred pounds?

k.) All of the above.

Having analyzed Grant Munro's second period of thought, let's return to the first: "*I stood for five minutes thinking the business over and trying to analyze my impressions.*" What was he thinking then?

a.) My God, it's that five hundred pound canary I've heard so much about!

b.) He must be a deserter from the army -- I've always heard they were yellah.

c.) Mama was right, your face will stick if you make a face long enough ... and it turns yellow, too.

d.) I wonder if the other windows have colored glass in them, too?

e.) I'd better pick up some lemons on the way home tomorrow.

f.) Since I'm a fine, intelligent man with many friends in the Asian community, I've got the good sense not to make judgements based on racial slurs.

g.) I wonder if that's what happens when you hold it and don't urinate for a few months at a time.

h.) The price on foreign hops won't stay high for long. I should wait to buy.

i.) I wonder what else Effie's been storing in her bosom besides that large locket? Time for a search, I think.

Further studies & comments on Canonical characters would be appreciated.

'Tis time once again for the Annual Fall Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida. This 23rd such meeting will be held at the home of Jeff & Wanda Dow, your *Papers on the Sundial*. The case to be studied is The Red Circle. Study it well.

If you are attending, please fill in and cut out the below form and send it in with your payment of \$5.00 per person for a delicious repast of Italian food. Upon receipt of payment, our hosts will send a confirmation and a map to their home. Please remit payment by October 31st. A draft notice...er, I mean, a request may also accompany your confirmation to make a toast to a certain Canonical character. We hope to see you there!

CUT OUT AND MAIL IN WITH REMITTANCE TO
WANDA DOW,
YOU WILL BE MAILED A MAP.



Name (s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone/E-mail _____

I enclose \$ _____ to pay for _____ lunches at the Fall Gathering.

I will be bringing items for display/sale.

I want to make a presentation on _____

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.

**PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE DATE AFTER YOUR NAME ON THE MAILING LABEL.
THIS IS THE EXPIRATION DATE OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP.**

PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA
THE PAPERS ON THE SUNDIAL

