



A Publication of the Pleasant Places of Florida

Communication

#191

New Series

March/April 1999

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We hope you're paying attention because we've got a lot of great things happening this year! In March, we visited the old stomping grounds of the club in downtown St. Petersburg, where it all began. Our Spring Gathering will include a tour of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department's Forensics Lab! Sign up now and start studying *The Norwood Builder*. In July, we'll be meeting at Heritage Park in Largo for a Diogenal tour of the older homes there, especially of the doctor's office. And in September come join us for a Sherlock Holmes film festival at the Palm Harbor Library. Keep reading!

The Papers on the Sundial

Message received via Carl Helfen to be read at PPOF Birthday Ceremony. Unable to comply. Message listed in Communication. Reply sent per The Representative.

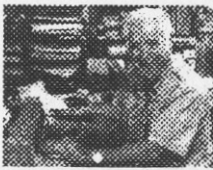
THE SHAWLOCKIANS OF SANTA FE JOIN YOU IN WISHING MISTER SHERLOCK HOLMES MANY HAPPY AND PLEASANT RETURNS STOP WE DRINK A TOAST TO YOU IN TEA OR PERHAPS SOMETHING STRONGER WISHING YOU CONTINUED GOOD WEATHER AND HAPPY TIMES STOP SIGNED SOMEBODY OFFICIAL SPOKESPERSON FOR THE SHAWLOCKIANS A SCION SOCIETY BSI WELL SOMEBODY HAS TO DO IT STOP END MESSAGE



Robert W. Hahn, BSI, aka: *Colonel Ross*, listed in our Exchanges for *The Devon County Chronicle*, died on February 4th of this year. He was well-known as a lecturer and teacher of courses on Sherlock Holmes. He served nine years as *Sir Hugo* in Chicago's *Hugo's Companions*, as well as founding their running of *The Silver Blaze*. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1963 and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1981.

Herman "Pat" Herst, Jr., BSI

It is with great sadness we announce the loss of one of our own. Pat was *the world's most revered stamp dealer, auctioneer and collector and by far its most gar- gulous booster and most prolific authority**. He died on 1/31/99 at the age of 89. We shall miss him. * *The New York Times*



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Holmes returns to Baker Street

LONDON is to have its first statue of the world's most famous detective, Sherlock Holmes, thanks to the company whose offices now stand on the site of his apartment, 221b Baker Street.

Holmes's exploits were chronicled between 1887 - 1927 by author Sir. Arthur Conan Doyle and the address the writer gave his creation is better known than that of the British Prime Minister.

Tourism officials calculate that more than a quarter of a million visitors go to Baker Street each year solely on Holmes's account. More than 2.5 million copies of the Sherlock Holmes stories are printed each year in Europe alone.

The present tenant of 221b, the finance company Abbey National, is sponsoring the 9 ft. statue by renowned British sculptor John

Doubleday, with an unveiling ceremony* scheduled for September 1999. It will stand outside London's Baker Street Underground station on the route to Madame Tussaud's and the London Planetarium, two of the capital's biggest attractions.

Abbey National chairman Lord Tugendhat said: "We still receive and reply to many letters addressed to the super sleuth every day at our Baker Street offices.

ASSOCIATION

"Our commitment to the statue, which was proposed by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, marks an important part of our 150th anniversary and salutes our long association with Sherlock

Holmes."

Sculptor John Doubleday created the figure of Holmes in Meiringen, Switzerland, near the Reichenbach Falls.

Holmes was supposedly killed here by his arch-enemy Moriarty but was reincarnated by Conan Doyle after a public outcry.

Mr. Doubleday has also produced the statue of Charlie Chaplin in London's Leicester Square and the Beatles statue in Liverpool.

Copied from an article in TRAVEL BRITAIN, No. 142 September/October 1998 sent by Milt Halpert.



*Contact Barbara Herbert at Wayfarer Travel Service, 7140 Miami Avenue #100, Cincinnati, OH 45243, 513-271-4637 or 800-638-5351 or email <sherlock@wayfarertravel.com> for a package deal (plane & hotel) for the statue's unveiling.

One, two, three, Kick!



After the race, Silver Blaze retired and spent the rest of his life as a dance instructor.

The Florida Wessex Cup IX as reported by David McCallister

The Pleasant Places of FLorida held the ninth running of the Florida Wessex Cup on Feb. 13, 1999 at the usual venue, Tampa Bay Downs. On a bright but windy day, with the main attraction the Manatee Stakes (a Derby trial) thirty Five Sherlockians assembled at the Skye Terrace for New York strip or Grilled Salmon (awkwardly indicated by name tags on the shoulder)


and the races. Ours was somewhat early, being third on the program (with the unfortunate misspelling FLorida Wessex Cup). No obvious Sherlockian references featured in the handicapping, so bets were spread about. For the Elvis-minded, Where's Graceland won, paying \$7.40, \$4.40, \$3.20; Market of Marion placed at \$16.40, \$7.80; and Where's Sally showed at \$4.00. A certain lack (cont. page 6)



Agony Column



Now available **SHERLOCK HOLMES LAPEL PIN** in attractive black & gold plastic \$3.50 + \$.50 postage for each pin ordered to Stephen R. Rosenberg,

priced at \$32.95 and the Summer Deer-stalker, in  a light-weight, light colored cotton blend with the appearance of linen, priced at \$27.95. Add \$3.50 for one and \$.50 for each additional to cover shipping. P.O. Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219. Sizes are L and XL.



THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOK OF WINES AND SPIRITS has tales of favorite beverages from 221B Baker Street plus favorite concoctions. \$6.00 (postage paid in USA) from Apple Cheeks Press, P. O. Box 7134, Alexandria, VA 22307

CORRECTION: Past issues of *Communication* listed the "First Church of the Ascension" as the club's meeting place in Holmes Beach. The correct name is the "Church of the Annunciation."

Classic Specialties tells us they have recently commissioned a fiber artist to produce some new products, among them deerstalkers. Next column you see the Formal Deerstalker, in a high glossy satin,

Member Dennis France is seeking copies of four **audio cassette tapes by Carleton Hobbs and Norman Shelley: *The Three Students, The Cardboard Box, The Illustrious Client and A Case of Identity.*** If you can make him copies, or know where he can get them, contact him at

Get a **Periodic Table of the Sherlock Holmes Adventures** from David McCallister. It's 14" x 8.5", printed in 6 colors, available for \$6.00 postpaid. Send your order to David at

Personae Dramatis in ludis Sherlockiensibus by Gary L. Heiselberg is finally available. Providing a list of every name used by Doyle in the Canon, Peter Blau states in the forward, *...as with all good reference works, this book offers as much enjoyment to those who wish to browse as to those who are seeking a particular fact.* Order from George Vanderburgh, *The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box*,

Hardcover is \$28.00 postpaid, paper is \$19.00 postpaid. You can also get it at *Borders Express*, the in-store special order system if you ask for BINC 5808925.

What on Earth has Baker Street Pens available, with figurines of Holmes (AD7022), Watson (AD 7002) or Moriarty (AD7012) for \$39.95 each. Call 1-800-945-2552 to order. T-shirts & Sweatshirts are also available w/S.H. Pub.

ROSTER UPDATE

New: Rosenberg, Stephen F., Insurance Broker, :

Email:

Stock, Carl H. "Sarge"

Vitoff, Kenneth A., Data Conversion Operator for USPS,

Email:

Changes: France, F. Dennis, email:

Halpert, Milton, c/o Lorraine Halpert Baker, Zip code , phone:

Hobbs, Don, email:

Scott, David, email:

Siegrist, Dr. Harry III, Zip Code

Thomas, Daniel F.,

Yuichi, Hirayama, Zip Code

Remove: Hahn, Robert (see article front page)

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

Excerpts from MetroPeople in
Daily News Jan. '99
PAM McALLISTER
Author

Pam McAllister says she isn't that big a fan of mysteries, but she has loved Sherlock Holmes since she was a teen.

"He's a real free spirit. When he wants to sleep, he sleeps. When he gets engrossed in a mystery, he throws himself into it. But in the middle of it, if he wants to go to the opera, he goes to the opera."

With Dick Riley, McAllister recently co-wrote *The Bedside, Bathtub & Armchair Companion to Sherlock Holmes*. While researching the book, McAllister said, she uncovered a world of facts and fans.

"I was surprised to learn that the largest Sherlockian literary society is in Japan, with 1,200 members," she said. "There's a club for funeral directors and one for dermatologists.

"One person, who said he's known as the Sherlock Holmes of India, wrote that the society he started has 300 people, most of them police officers and detectives. According to the man who wrote, they have saved at least 26 different people from the gallows," McAllister said.

Her own favorite Sherlock Holmes story is *The Adventure of the Second Stain*. She said, "It's a very funny story. As a modern-day feminist, I think it's a delightful one for women."

ARTICLE SENT IN BY MILT HALPERT



PHOTO BY ROBERT SPENCER

Discussion Groups

Thursday, November 12
7:00 - 8:00 PM

Another Scandal in Bohemia!



Sherlock Holmes at Borders Bohemia? Nothing is elementary about this. The games a foot (sic) as members of the Long Island Cave Dwellers & the Baker Street Irregulars participate in a discussion of Holmes's adventures. Join this singular event at his Baker Street digs located in our Poets Corner for this particular evening.

Ed. Note: The same flyer (above) listed a Nov. 15 musician as *PILTDOWN MAN!*

Milt Halpert also reports that the book *OPIUM* by Martin Booth contains a reference to Holmes & Doyle ala TWIS on pages 214 & 215.

Border's
Book-
store
Flyer
from
Bohemia,
NY sent
in by
O t t o
Schultz.

COMICS BUYERS GUIDE #1311 January 1, 1999

CLASSIF

JAN 6 1854 Happy 145th Birthday to the Foggy Night Detective, Mr. Sherlock Holmes of 221B Baker Street. Moriarty never stood a chance.

Ad placed by Tom Takach

Sherlock complicates case against Microsoft

Jason Rouby sent in the above headline with the comments: *If Bill Gates has retained Mr. Sherlock Holmes, the Justice Department is in trouble. Can't you just hear Holmes telling Gates, "Mr. Gates, I am a poor man," as he folds and pockets his check for a retainer!*

For Bookworms Who Want to Talk About It

is the title of a newspaper article sent to us by Milt Halpert from the 1/22/99 *New York Times*. In it, writer Bruce Shenitz tells about various literary societies who gather to discuss the writings of their favorite authors. Interestingly, rather than list Arthur Conan Doyle, the article lists Sherlock Holmes.

It states *Mr. Samuel Pickwick might have felt quite at home at a meeting of the jovial Dickens Fellowship, and the Sherlock*



H o l m e s enthusiasts delight in arch wordplay and tongue-in-cheek scholarship.

O n e Sherlockian might have been speaking for all the literary society members when she said, "We're eccentric, but we're harmless."

Under the heading "Sherlock Holmes Groups," the following is stated: *The many groups of Sherlockians, as they call themselves, are ultimately descended from the Baker Street Irregulars, the club founded by the novelist and essayist Christopher Morley in 1934. There are several in New York City and its suburbs. One group, the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, developed out of a 1968 picketing of the annual BSI*

dinner to protest its men-only policy. Women have since been admitted to the Irregulars, and there are a couple of men in the Adventuresses.

The different clubs often hold joint events, like a spring reading.

The Victorian detective continues to fascinate because the stories by his creator, Sir. Arthur Conan Doyle, "Don't pall on rereading," said the Adventuresses co-founder, Evelyn A. Herzog. As much as the stories themselves, Sherlockians seem to enjoy one another's company, along with pseudo-scholarly wordplay and ritual.

"Who you are in the world is not immensely important," Ms. Herzog said. "It's how funny you are, how witty you are, how good you are at making up songs in short order. It's a nice step away from the real world."

In another section titled **Reading Great Books Is Your Obsession, You Are Not Alone**, the paper lists under Sherlock Holmes: *Priory Scholars, William Nadel,*

Montague Street Lodgers of Brooklyn, Thom Utecht,

There are many other societies devoted to Sherlock Holmes in the New York metropolitan area. For a complete list, including groups like the Adventuresses, there is the Sherlocktron Web site at <http://members.home.net>

Get Ready for the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium II!

That's right! It's happening again! The Last Court of Appeals is proud to announce that once again we will be hosting a weekend symposium for fellow Sherlockians in the year 2000. So start training now for those quizzes and get your mind in gear for an entire weekend of Sherlockian shenanigans! Keep an eye out for more information to be posted in future *Communications*.

Addendum: Anyone interested in making a presentation at the symposium, please contact your Representative, Carl Heifetz at

or email at

Don't forget to sign up now for the Spring Gathering, May 8th. This is your ONLY chance!

(cont. from page 2) of direction seemed to be the winning combination. David and Thelma Scott, aided by George and Barry Edwards, Jennie Paton, Charles Amick, and David McCallister made the trophy presentation.

<p>Submission Deadlines <i>May/June Issue & Father's Day</i> <i>Special Issue: 5/1/99</i> <i>July/August Issue: 7/1/99</i> <i>September/October Issue & Puzzles</i> <i>Special Issue: 9/4/99</i> <i>November/December Issue & Endings</i> <i>& Beginnings Special Issue: 10/30/99</i></p>
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Diogenes Leslie Marshall Walk

An intrepid nine members set out on March 6 to seek out the past. Twenty-seven years ago, the building at 419 5th Street South was the Swedenborgian Church of the New Jerusalem. The building still stands, but as the Bible Holiness Church of God in Christ. Where once it was a shaded building in the middle of a residential block, it is now the very last building on Fifth Street South before I375. The garage apartment, once occupied by founder Leslie Marshall is still being used, but it seems a lot smaller now.

A walk through the neighborhood revealed once fine buildings now in disrepair. The old YMCA still stands, a testament to time. The time travelers followed in Leslie's footsteps, north by 4th and by 3rd and by 2nd and by 1st and by Central and to 1st, then east by 4th. There stood St. Petersburg's open air post office, a building now listed on the National Historical Register as the first Open Air Post Office. The determined nine circled around to view P. O. Box 386, used for those beginning years as the mailing address of the Pleasant Places of Florida. There at the front they waited. But a further tour of the building was not to be. Although specifically requesting for the post office building at First Avenue and Fourth Street, those gallant few discovered that the tour guide was awaiting them at the main building on First Avenue and 31st Street. The travelers, after some discussion, declined the offer of touring another facility and concluded that they now knew the power behind the mighty postal service - it was Moriarty and his minions! Chagrined, but comforted to be with like minds and hearts, the nine went forward, undaunted to dine at the Tamarind Tree and discuss Sherlock Holmes, Scotch Whiskey, Ale, the Pleasant Places of Florida and a young lad who would only eat cheese, peas and chocolate pudding. The food was good, the company sublime and the conversation much enjoyed. Another

PUBLISHED PPOfers

Dave Scott, and Wanda & Jeff Dow took part in a round robin pastiche with *Hounds of the Internet* in 1998. The pastiche, *The Adventure of the Missing Stone*, will be published in the upcoming "Best of Hounds."

Wanda Dow will also have her song, *He's My Brother* published in "Best of Hounds."

<p>Speaking of Round Robin Pastiches, we've only had one brave soul step forward to volunteer for our next one, <i>The Adventure of the Glorious Scot</i>. Where are the rest of you? Contact The Papers!</p>

<p><u>1999 Proposed Calendar</u> <u>May 8</u> <i>24th Spring Gathering</i> <i>Tour of Forensics Lab</i> <i>Pinellas County Sheriff's Office</i> <i>Luncheon at Primo's Pasta & Ribs</i> <u>July 10</u> <i>Diogenes Meeting</i> <i>Heritage Park, Largo</i> <i>B.Y.O. Bag Lunch</i> <u>September 18</u> <i>Diogenes Meeting</i> <i>Sherlockian Film Festival</i> <i>Palm Harbor Library</i> <u>November 6</u> <i>24th Fall Gathering</i> TBA</p>

Holmes

Sherlock fans mark 50 years of following "the Master."

is where the heart is

touts the headline of an interesting article sent our way by Clyde Ellis. It is by Minneapolis(?) *Star Tribune* Staff Writer Mary Jane Smetanka and tells of the formation of the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota.

Fifty-one years ago, Smetanka writes, five University of Minnesota professors gathered for lunch at the Campus Club in Coffman Memorial Union. They were an eclectic group: E.W. McDiarmid, the university's top librarian (pictured on the right), chemistry professors Bryce Crawford (pictured on the left) and Wallace Armstrong, E.W. Ziebarth, professor of speech and theater, and Theodore Blegen, dean of the graduate school.

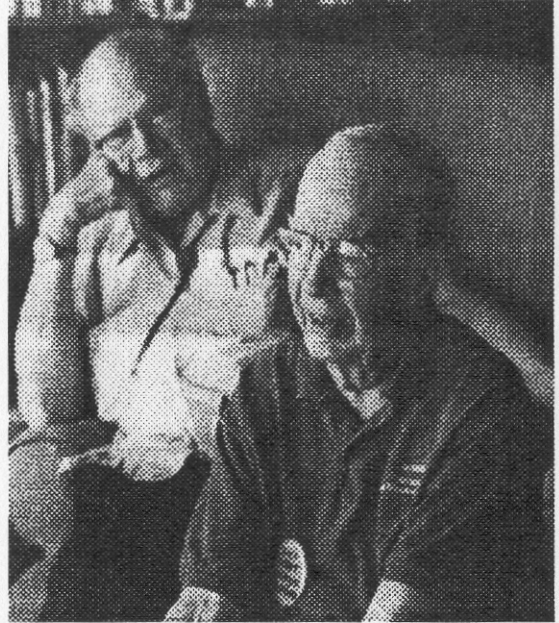
No one remembers exactly what was eaten or what was said, except on one topic: Sherlock Holmes. Out of that lunch was born the Norwegian Explorers, who took their name from the identity Holmes assumed after he supposedly tumbled to his death off the Reichenbach Falls with the evil Dr. Moriarty. (*You may have read of the remarkable explorations of a Norwegian named Sigerson.*)

Largely because of McDiarmid's work, University Libraries hold the world's largest collection of Holmes memorabilia, from copies of the magazine that printed the first story, to deerstalker hats and dollhouse-sized replicas of 221B Baker Street.

Smetanka goes on to explain how to "play the game", with various quotes from Crawford. "Even Dickens didn't write as well as Watson did."

"Any time you give any of us a chance to talk about Mr. Holmes, it's like asking Hubert H. Humphrey to give a speech," said Crawford. "...there are very few characters who are as alive as Holmes and Watson, very few books that bring alive the glories and amusing aspects of the Victorian period as they do."

While Crawford is a witty link to the Explorer's past, McDiarmid is known as its heart and soul. Even though the group began naming presidents when it incorporated in the 1980s, "Mac" is still *The Sigerson*. The group now seems to draw mostly professionals. Two Nobel Prize winners have been members, and there's a heavy contingent of medical people and representatives of the university. "I go back to the argument that here is the type of philosophy and objectives that we think mirrors the best in America," McDiarmid said, "We ...could almost have a religion or cult here. Besides, they're darn interesting and fun stories."



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.

**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*

