



A Publication of the Pleasant Places of Florida

# Communication

#202

New Series

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Volume 4 Issue 5

We've been busy with the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium II and hope you haven't felt neglected. There's an article in this issue on the Symposium, just to give you an idea of what went on. Attendees will receive booklets of all the activities in detail (or as much as we are able to detail), and any of you who are interested will be able to purchase these when they become available. We hope you are having an enjoyable summer. We'll try to keep up the Communications and we'll see you in the fall at Carl's place.

*The Papers on the Sundial*

## SUNSHINE STATE SHERLOCKIAN SYMPOSIUM II

The Symposium got off to a rollicking start on Friday evening, June 9th, with snacks and an open bar. Old friends and new renewed and made new acquaintances. Things really began when Maestro Charles "Mike" Carroll arrived and led the first set of sing-alongs while accompanying the crowd on the piano. A Sherlockian character game was played by several attendees as they were assigned name tags on their back and had to figure out who they were by questioning companions. Once this was done, they had to find their "mate" in the room. This game was won by our own Dorothy Stix. Mistress of Ceremonies, Wanda Dow then led the group in what she called the "Actual Factual Game." Along the same lines as 20

*Questions*, clues were given to ten different Sherlockian characters, and attendees had to figure out who the characters were. Points were awarded according to how many clues the person needed to figure out the character. The top nine scores were given awards on Sunday morning.

Another game played was "Sherlockian Pictionary." Attendees were drafted to come forward and draw clues to sound out character names in the Canon. Eight brave attendees managed correct guesses, with the fastest artist being Rosemary Michaud, getting her clues across to guesser David Scott in 9 seconds!

Wanda then led the group to a rousing karaoke sing-along, followed by David McCallister's stirring Sherlockian *Danny Boy* and Carl Heifetz's bizarre *Roadkill Stew*.  
**(cont. page 2)**

### In this Issue...

Deducing Holmes's City .....	page 2
He's Everywhere .....	page 3
Sherlockians .....	page 3
Sherlockian Newsletters .....	page 4
Calendar Sherlockiana .....	page 7

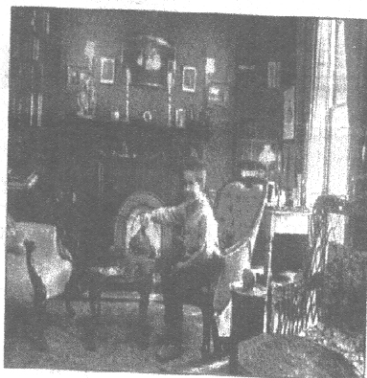
### PROPOSED SCHEDULE 2000

*November 4*  
*25th Annual Fall Gathering*  
Palm Harbor  
Hosts: Carl & Sandie Heifetz  
Case: *The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter*

## DEDUCING HOLMES'S CITY

In an article in the April 3, 2000 issue of *The New York Times*, author Stephen Kendrick (*Holy Clues: The Gospel According to Sherlock Holmes*) takes us on a tour of the great detective's London.

He begins on the dull expanse of modern Baker Street, gently carrying us back in time as he visits the Abbey National Bank, which answers mail to Holmes (40-100 letters per week), and the newly added statue of Holmes, looming over the entrance to Baker Street Station. He visits the Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company at No. 230, the Sherlock Holmes Museum, across the street, and **(cont. on page 6)**



It doesn't take much sleuthing to find a good bit of Sherlock Holmes's city.

BY STEPHEN KENDRICK

**(cont. from page 1)** The following morning, attendees were treated to a bagels & coffee breakfast in Mrs. Hudson's kitchen. Presentations began at 9:00 AM, led by Master of Ceremonies David McCallister. Dr. Robert Ennis gave a lecture & exam on Sherlockian Society Insignias and Pins, followed by a report on the unveiling of the Sherlock Holmes statue in London last year. Robert Zuczek then gave his presentation on *Red Herrings in the Canon*, followed by Charles M. Carroll giving us *Black Peter* in verse. Joe Moran led us in a disturbing discussion about

*Marriage in the Canon* and Judy Buddle wrapped up the morning proceedings by leading us in her rendition of *The Battle of Hattie Doran*.

After lunch, Rosemary Michaud and Mel Hughes performed *A Tramcar Named Revenge* with able assistance by their draftee, David Scott. David then set up and hosted *Sherlockian Jeopardy(tm)*, with his three contestants, Rosemary Michaud, Ben Vizoskie and Charles Amick, culled from entrants the previous evening. Winner of this game was

Rosemary Michaud. Lee Neuman then led us on a slide show history of *The Diary of Dr. Watson*. The Dow Family Players concluded the day's activities with their rendition of *A Prairie Holmes Companion*.

Saturday evening was the banquet celebrating the 25th anniversary of the first gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida. This was also the club's Spring Gathering for the year 2000, and the case picked was *The Lion's Mane*. Attendees were invited to make mini-presentations, and that they did! **(cont. on page 4)**

### He's Everywhere

In *Darwin's Orchestra, An Almanac of Nature in History and the Arts* by Michael Sims, there are several references to Doyle (pages 72, 110, 120, 200, 263, 333-334, 358-359, 369, 386-388 and 440), including articles on *Silver Blaze*, *Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Speckled Band*. Henry Holt & Co. publishers. Jacket listed \$30 as the price. It was found in the local library ... Bloomsbury Book Auctions, 3 & 4 Hardwick Street, London EC1R 4 RY, England, June 15th sale contained over 75 lots of Sherlock Holmes items, including first editions of *SIGN*, *HOUN*, & *Adventures of S.H.*, original issues of *The Strand*, *Collier's*, *Lippincott's Monthly Magazine* and other periodicals, foreign editions, bibliographical material, cigarette cards and other ephemera ... New from Calabash Press is Ron Weighell's *The Irregular Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*. Cloth US\$30, Paper US\$19.50 (US\$7.05 air postage) P.O. Box 1360, Ashcroft, British Columbia, Canada V0K 1A0 ... Elfed Jones of *Yesterday's News* writes that he can offer *The London Times* and *Pall Mall Gazette* (1880's - 1890's) original issues as read by Sherlock Holmes for £10 each plus airmail postage. Contact him at ..

U.K. ...



If you overhear three gentlemen discussing murder, treachery and deception at lunch one day, don't be alarmed. It's probably just the Sherlock Holmes club.

One of 600 scions in the United States and countless worldwide, the Salon Pistols of Gainesville meet each Friday for Sherlockian lunches. Its three core members, Bob Zuczek, George Schenk and Clyde Ellis, discuss the latest in Holmes collectibles, from statues and watches to new releases in radio, books and television.

It may seem strange that Sherlock Holmes, who's last appearance in a story by creator Arthur Conan Doyle was in 1917, should have any new releases at all. But fans of the character have refused to let Holmes fade away.

"New stuff is coming out every day," said Zuczek, a registered

nurse at the Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in Gainesville. "At least 60 to 80 new stories are written every year. It's never stopped."

Case in point: An Amazon.com search on "Sherlock Holmes" turns up 1,012 books, only 128 of which were written by Doyle. One of the latest is *Holy Clues: The Gospel According to Sherlock Holmes* by minister Stephen Kendrick (Random House). Most are "pastiche" mystery stories, written by a variety of authors, where Sherlock Holmes applies his deductive powers to quandaries like the Kennedy assassination.

Pastiches, however, can offend the sensibilities of traditional Sherlockians like Schenk. **(cont. page 5)**

If any member was able to attend HOLMES!, the new play performed at the Disney Institute Performance Center in Orlando, Florida on May 4 & 5, please contact The Papers on the Sundial. We would love to run a review!

(cont. from page 2) Besides our toasts from Joan Wood (The Queen), Judy Buddle (The Master), Bob Ennis (The Doctor), Ben Wood (The Founder), Mike Carroll (The Collector), Dorothy Stix (The Woman) and David McCallister (The Lost Scions of Florida), there were presentations from Caroline Everett, Gordon Shriver, Joe Moran, Rosemary Michaud, David McCallister, Ben Vizoskie, a duo presentation by Edwin & Maureen Van der Flaes, and a group effort by June & Ross Kinnee, Dorothy Stix and Sue Vizoskie. (Forgive me if I left anyone out, but I'm still organizing my papers from the Symposium.)

David McCallister grilled us with his Watson and Mycroft level quizzes and everyone was treated to a live radio presentation of *The Florid Ians*, a PPOF pastiche adapted by David Stoner and Mike Bryan and performed by Mike Bryan, David Stoner, Mike Carroll, Charles Amick, Judy Buddle, Jeff Dow, Wanda Dow, Culver Dow and David McCallister.

Sunday morning wound up the activities for the weekend with a breakfast at poolside with a final presentation by David McCallister, *The Virus*, *The Viking* and *The Villain*. Awards and Certificates of Attendance were handed out and everyone went home with a happy heart.

If you did not receive a certificate or award because you could not join us on Sunday morning, please be patient. Everything is being held pending completion of the Symposium booklets and will be mailed with the booklets. Booklets will be sent to all attendees and sponsors.

### Sherlockian Newsletters

Received since last publication were:

*The Tropical Deerstalkers* newsletter which announced their meeting June 25th and an article on pastiches of Sherlock Holmes. Gasogene & newsletter editor is Dr. Robert Ennis,

*The Camden House Journal*, a regular publication of The Occupants of the Empty House. This issue gives us an interesting view of *The World of Victor Hatherly - Hydraulic Engineer*, by Jack Crelling. Mail should be sent to

An invitation was made to "Distant Friends" to contribute to their discussion of what should be the theme for this year's *The Beeman's Christmas Annual*.

*Reichenbach Cliff-Notes* was received, calling itself the "Official News Organ of the Reichenbach Cliff-Divers." With articles on Mycroft Holmes receiving a "Destroyer of Britain" award, Pussy Galore's Genealogy connection to Kitty Winter, Sherlockian lapel-pin body piercings and more, you decide if you want to pursue this. You'll have to contact an entity known only as Blondin, who can occasionally be found on the Baker Street E-regulars internet list.

*The Baker Street Dispatch*, a newsletter for Devotees of Sherlock Holmes, reports this time 'round on *Red Circle*, *Victorian Gardening*, *The Adventures of a Non-english Canonical Book Collector* (Don Hobbs) and book reviews on *Sherlock Holmes and the Rune Stone Mystery* by Larry Millett (Laura Kuhn) and the Checkerbee Checklist: Detective Mysteries (George Schenk) Joel & Carolyn Senter, P.O. Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219

*The District Messenger*, is the newsletter of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. This newsletter reports on various publications and events worldwide. Contact Roger Johnson,

England.

(cont. on page 6)

(cont. from page 3) "I'm a purist. I seldom read a pastiche," said Schenk, a retired chemistry professor. "I do like the movies, though - the Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce ones."

Both Schenk and Zuczek had a boyhood interest in Sherlock Holmes that blossomed into a full-fledged obsession. Before retiring in 1994, Schenk used Sherlockian puzzles as a break during his analytical chemistry lectures. Zuczek's interest was drawn by collectibles. What began with a few comic books has grown to take over an entire room of his northwest Gainesville home.

"My wife put me on a Sherlock budget," he said. "One day she came in and said, 'How much money is in this room?' I told her, 'You could buy a new Porsche Boxster - and go to Germany to get it.'"

Schenk is a more modest collector, focusing on the movies and books. He does, however, own a first edition 1902 *Hound of the Baskervilles* that his wife bought for him at an antique auction. Both Schenk and Zuczek love Doyle's original 60 stories - reverentially referred to as the Canon - and attribute Holmes' lasting popularity to Doyle's revolutionary style.

"Arthur Conan Doyle invented the modern detective story," Zuczek said. "Before that, there were thrillers, but there was no chance to solve them. They were intended to keep you guessing until

the last second. Doyle designed his stories to give the reader a chance to solve the mystery as they read. To this day, his is the modern format for the mystery novel."

The Gainesville club began when Ellis called a Sherlockian store in Cincinnati to order some Holmes postage stamps. The proprietor told him he'd just sold to someone else in Gainesville, and put Ellis in touch with Zuczek. The club name was chosen, Zuczek said, as an example of the rich detail that makes Sherlock Holmes stories worthy of study.

"In some of the stories, you'll have Sherlock Holmes doing indoor target practice. Well, how would he do that, since the guns they shot produced noxious gases that would kill you inside your house? It seems like a contradiction. But if you research it, you'll find that people at that time would indeed practice indoors with what was called a salon pistol. It was a single-shot .22 caliber designed for indoor practice. So it wasn't that unusual. Of course, it did shoot up your walls."

It's a rare reader who had the inclination to delve so far into such details, which might explain why local

membership peaked at four several years ago. One member moved to North Dakota, but the proud three keep up their weekly lunch meetings and circulate a newsletter to about 20 national members from New York to Massachusetts. The entire club gathers here each year for a Sherlockian dinner and readings.

As members of several other Holmes clubs, the three also attend gatherings around the country, like the Sunshine State Sherlockian Symposium (*sic*) in St. Petersburg in June, where aficionados debate Holmes minutia while showing off their double-brimmed Deerstalker hats.

"Dressing up isn't frowned upon," Schenk said. "I got a complete Sherlock Holmes outfit as a retirement present."

Expect some frowning at this year's symposium, however, when Zuczek unveils his controversial new theory that Sherlock Holmes was - gasp - wrong.

"After a while, Arthur Conan Doyle began to hate Sherlock Holmes. What no one knows is, why?" Zuczek explained. "I think that he wrote in clues for the reader to solve the mystery, then had Sherlock Holmes solve it wrong. But nobody got it. For 115 years, nobody has ever gotten it. Holmes fans try to explain away all the discrepancies and take his explanation at face value.

"That's my theory, anyway. I expect it will raise a lot of eyebrows." (cont. page 6)

(cont. from page 5) The three Sherlockians may recruit some new members at the conference, but they suspect that there may be some more Holmes fans right here in Gainesville.

"There must be a lot of Sherlockians here, because somebody is getting rid of some rare collector's items at used book stores," Zuczek said. "We're talking things that a regular reader would never have."

If there is another collector out there, who better to track him down than the Sherlockians? And if not, well, there's another mystery.

Story by Alison Clark  
The Gainesville Sun 5/17/00

(cont. from page 2) No. 109 which is one of the few 3-story red brick flats dating from 1900 which may have been what 221-B looked like in Doyle's day.

He goes from there to Oxford Street to the Wallace Collection to view the Vernets, then east to Regent, which curves to Piccadilly Circus. Holmes was attacked (ILLU) in front of the Cafe Royale here, and a little farther on was the Criterion Bar. Just past the Circus, still on Regent, you'll find Pall Mall and somewhere in there is/was the Diogenes Club.

Turn east and you continue to Charing Cross Road, where Holmes caught a spy, Watson banked (and kept his box of notes), urgent messages were sent and the most incidents in the Holmes saga

are recorded.

Charing Cross becomes Tottenham Court Road and if you make a right onto Great Russell Street, you're at The British Museum. Across the street is the Museum Tavern (BLUE). Around the corner is Montague Street (Holmes' home before Baker Street) and south on Shaftesbury, then Neal Street takes you to Covent Garden. Stroll south to Simpson's on the Strand, still there, still elegant, still Victorian.

Kendricks also goes to the Sherlock Holmes Public House and Restaurant, which is on Northumberland Street, near Old Scotland Yard and the Turkish baths and in what was the Northumberland Arms (HOUN).

It is a pleasant visit and a good complimentary article in the Travel Section to one by Scott Norvell about the New London.

(cont. from page 4) The Whaling News, a newsletter of the Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn, contains an interesting article by Catherine Riedesel, *Which Red Circle?* in which she discusses what organization The Red Circle actually was. If you recall, our own David McCallister addressed such a problem at the PPOF gathering of REDC. The Harpooners can be found at

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### Calendar Sherlockiana

**September 7-10 - Bouchercon.**

Adam's Mark Hotel, Denver, Colorado. "High Crimes." The oldest and largest annual convention of mystery fans, authors, publishers, book dealers, agents and others. Named for the late author and *NY Times* critic Anthony Boucher. Three-track panel programming, special events, films, book dealers room, signings, reading, cocktail party. Attendees vote for the Anthony Awards, which are announced at the Anthony Banquet. Guest of Honor: Elmore Leonard; Lifetime Achievement: Jane Langton; Toastmaster: Val McDermid; Fan Guest of Honor: Steve Stilwell. **Registration:** \$100 (will increase later) **Information:** Rebecca Bates, Bouchercon 2000, PO Box 17910, Boulder CO 80308-0910, 303-444-8410, [RWBates560@aol.com](mailto:RWBates560@aol.com) <http://www.bouchercon2000.com>

**October 13-15 - The Mid Atlantic Mystery Book Fair & Convention.** Wyndham Franklin Plaza, Philadelphia, PA. Registration fee is \$125. Friday night Dinner and Reception; a Book Room Private Preview and Sunday "Toast to a Special Guest" Lunch; panels and workshops. Those in the mystery community who would like to be a panel participant are invited to send picture, bio and any suggestions to: Deen Kogan, Mid Atlantic Mystery c/o

**November 4 - 25th Annual Fall Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida.** Contact Carl Heifetz,

### 2001 Events

**August** - A 12-day cruise to the Baltic for *The Sherlock Holmes Society of London Golden Jubilee*. Details available from Arena Travel, Freepost 1H 1037, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 7BR, England or <holmes@arena travel>

**October 27 - 29 - Magna Cum Murder VII Weekend** at Ball State University in Muncie, IN. Contact Kathryn Kennison, Ball State U., Muncie, IN 47306 for info on one of the midwest's finest mystery author conferences.

**November 1-4 - Bouchercon**

*World Mystery Convention.* Hyatt Regency Crystal City Washington, D.C. The granddaddy of all mystery conventions, Bouchercon offers four days of varied programming featuring an international array of writers, publishers, critics, booksellers, fans, etc. Author signings, book dealers room, pre-convention Halloween party, Nick and Nora Charles Martini Happy Hour, gala Anthony Awards Banquet among other special events. American Guest of Honor: Sue Grafton; International Guest of Honor: Peter Lovesey; Toastmaster: Michael Connelly; Fan Guests of Honor: Lew and Nancy Buckingham. <[info@bouchercon2001.com](mailto:info@bouchercon2001.com)> or Bouchercon 2001, P.O. Box 11700, Washington, DC 20008. Also, you can download the registration form at <http://www.bouchercon2001.com>

### **S.H. DVD**

For those collectors who must have everything, Holmes is finally hitting the DVD aisles at your local video stores! The point of DVD is the enhanced image and sound quality, plus the inclusion of extras. A nice boxed set by Focus Entertainment includes *Dressed to Kill*, *Terror By Night*, *The Woman in Green* and *Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon*. It is advertised as a "restored version" and features a nice copy of the Conan Doyle Movietone interview footage as well as 30 episodes of the Rathbone/Bruce radio plays. Image Entertainment has released Ian Richardson's *Hound*, but it contains no extras. They will also be releasing Richardson's *Sign of Four*. Also spotted is *7% Solution* (not re-mastered) and *They Might Be Giants* (restored version). Coming up will be the Granada series and *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*. To find DVDs online, a company recommended for price & speed is [DVDexpress.com](http://DVDexpress.com).

**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,

**Mike Bryan**, The Unopened Newspaper,

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