



Communication

#208

New Series

Special End of the Year Clearance Issue, 2000

Volume 4 Issue 10

Let's get it straight right now: we're not trying to sell you anything. We don't want to read stories about letters being sent to a non-existent Coram, Colorado, or Camberwell, Oregon—even if they really do exist. (Hey, our gazeteer is on the fritz and we can't afford a new one.)

We won't take any cheap shots at the election—well, maybe just one. I mean, we are from Florida, and I don't recall any attorney, justice or spinmeister blaming Moriarty for this. Perhaps it is just as well: he'd probably demand a recount.

So here is our final offering for this year—and, by some authorities' accounts—this millennium. And, sorry, but refunds will not be cheerfully given as we will stick to our no return policy.

Happy chads to you.

The Papers on the Sundial

Should Old Acquaintance Be Forgot

Stanley Hopkins shivered, rubbed his hands together, held them in front of the fire in his living room. It was the coldest December that he had remembered, far worse than the winter of 1883 when he was forced to interrupt his studies to work two jobs to help his ailing mother.

He had always wanted to be a policeman—a detective in particular. And he had attained that rank working among colleagues of whom he thought very highly. His job was stressful but he normally found the intellectual exercises a challenge.

But this holiday season had been difficult—each year seemed to be a little more difficult to get through. It wasn't just that his birthday fell on December 28—his 31st this year— being midway between Christmas and New Years. It wasn't just the bitter cold walks through the streets to talk to witnesses. It wasn't just the senseless murder of a child on the day after Christmas. It wasn't just that he was unable to help Cyril Overton earlier that month in his search for his wayward rugby player. It wasn't just that the outcome of that entire incident was beyond belief—the death by consumption of young Mr. Staunton's wife. It was a combination of all those things that had made him wonder why he had indeed chosen this particular life. He was not looking forward to the new year at all.

The death of Mrs. Staunton had affected him more than he wanted to admit. To have died when there was so much before her. And what was Hopkins doing? He had begun to feel like he was dying too.

He was spending **continued on page 7**

In this Issue...

Network Difficulties.....	2
It's Real, It's Popeil.....	4
End of the Year Cases	5

The Network for Those Who Have Everything

LINDA SUE: Hi, and welcome back to the Holmes Shopping Network. This hour we've got some great, great bargains we know you won't want to pass up. First—do we have it?—there we are. First we have a delightful pair of Sherlockian earrings. Actually, these are part of the Baring-Gould Collection. It was designed by Otto von Hoffmeister—you remember him, don't you? He designed those glow-in-the-dark barettes that display the poker-playing dogs. Well, Mr. Hoffmeister has outdone himself this time. Here you see the profile of the Master himself—that's done in hematite. And the curve of his pipe—that's lapis lazuli. And the bowl of the pipe is genuine zircon. Isn't it lovely? The post is a hypo-allergenic silver-plated zinc alloy. The ends are pointed for easy insertion—and they're great if you're ever attacked: you just pull them out of your ears—the backs have a quick-release—and shove them into your attacker's eyes. And here's the great part, the part that makes it a stand-out in the Baring-Gould Collection. On the surface of Mr. Holmes' profile is etched one of the four novels. Yes, you can choose from *Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Valley of Fear*—my personal favorite—*Study in Scarlet* or *Sign of Four*. Next hour we will be featuring a Scanning Electron Microscope—you won't believe the savings—so that you can read it. We're

already up to 280 sold. This is a limited edition, so you better call. Oh, up to 350. This is our biggest seller yet this evening. Oh, look at that, up to 428. Get to your phones because this is a great deal. When we had Mr. Hoffmeister on our show a few months ago—oh, there it is. All 500 are gone. My, my, another great offer from the Baring-Gould Collection. We'll see if we can talk them into another run.

Let's move on to our next item. We want—is she here? Has she arrived? Great, that's great. Let me introduce someone who really needs no introduction. You know her from *Three's Company* and *Step by Step*, I know her as a great friend. Suzanne—Suzanne come on out. Suzanne Sommers.

SUZANNE: Thank you, Linda Sue. How are you?

LINDA SUE: Just fine. What do you have for us?

SUZANNE: Only the most revolutionary exerciser in history. This is the Grimesby Roylott 3500. How do you think he got so strong that he could bend fireplace pokers? He worked out on this. The Roymaster 3500 is the pinnacle of exercise technology. The first time I tried it, my deltoids burned, my abs burned—everything burned. And only after ten minutes. Roylott is a genius. See how compact it is? And it folds down to the size of a **continued on page 3**

continued from page 2 keyboard so you can take it with you everywhere. Imagine taking that trip through the valley of the Rhone and then unfolding the Roymaster 3500 in your room and burning some more calories. It's so simple to operate, even you could do it, Linda Sue.

LINDA SUE: I don't know, Suzanne. It looks pretty complicated.

SUZANNE: Nonsense. Just push this button. And then this one.

LINDA SUE: It just—it just unfolds. Look at that.

SUZANNE: This is a fine piece of equipment. Not too many people know this, but even though Royslott built this, he licensed it to Moran Enterprises to build.

LINDA SUE: Moran Enterprises—didn't they build the voting machines in Florida?

SUZANNE: Right you are. And this Roymaster 3500 is every bit as good.

LINDA SUE: Look at that. We're up to 300 sold already. Another great buy. We have a caller. Hi, how are you?

CALLER: I'm fine, Linda Sue. I just love your show.

LINDA SUE: Well, aren't you sweet. Thank you.

CALLER: This Roymaster 3500 is fantastic. I bought the 2500 four years ago and I loved it. I can bench press both my kids now.

SUZANNE: The 2500 is a great machine. Royslott used that as his basis and refined it to perfection in the 3500.

CALLER: Well, at \$850 I just better get two. My sister-in-law in Boise could stand to firm up some.

LINDA SUE: Those New Year's Resolutions are just about upon us. You can't go wrong.

SUZANNE: I know where my pumpkin pie is going this holiday season, so you can bet I'll be spending a lot of time on this machine.

CALLER: Better let me have three, Linda Sue. You never know when you might want to get away for the weekend, so I'll just keep one in my suitcase for a quick getaway. Thanks a lot.

LINDA SUE: Thank you. Bye-bye. Wasn't she sweet?

SUZANNE: And strong I bet.

LINDA SUE: Didn't say how big her kids were though. But we've just gone past 500 in sales. Be honest, Suzanne, do you use anything other than the Roymaster? You must.

SUZANNE: Nothing touches my body but the Roymaster—ohh, can I say that? I guess I can.

LINDA SUE: Are you kidding?

SUZANNE: I owe all this to the Roymaster 3500.

LINDA SUE: Well, that's just amazing.

SUZANNE: And at four easy installment payments, you just cannot go wrong with this. This is a fabulous machine.

LINDA SUE: Come on, you guys out there need to get **continued on page 6**

Sterndale's Homeopathic Medicines Year End Blow-Out

We're overstocked from the holidays and you won't believe the bargains we have. Never again will these prices be repeated. We must be insane to be offering these prices.

Glyconated Beef Liver Pills, three packages for \$2.00

Rolled Honey Tabs, buy one carton at \$14, get the second free.

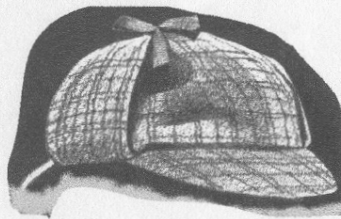
Fen-phen-phooie—we're giving this stuff away, can you believe it?

Langurтин, once every nine days—Lowenstein Labs miracle drug now in OTC form.

Sterndale's Homeopathic Medicines, 229 Selden Avenue, Camberwell Oregon.

Popeil Presents...

The Pocket Sherlock



Has this ever happened to you? You're in a strange town and the local constables are baffled by a string of bizarre robberies and murders. What do you do? Well, if you have the Popeil Pocket Sherlock you can do it all. Push a button and it's a fingerprint analyzer. Push another button and it brings up InterPol's database of known criminals. Push another button, submit your information and you'll be

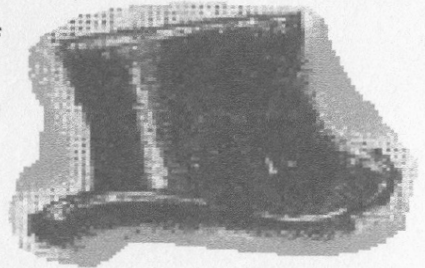
granted a search warrant. Amazing, you say? Unheard of, you say? Well, at \$29.95, it's a bargain at twice the price. And there's more.

With the patented GPS Coordinatizer, you'll know where you are every second of the day. Have a suspect that keeps giving you the slip? Just give him one of the Sherlock's breath-mints—they look and taste just like Tic-Tacs—and you can track him for up to 1500 miles. Even Toby couldn't do that. Amazing. But that's not all.

If you act now, we'll include the Pocket Watson. A push of the button and you'll have access to thousands of diseases and their symptoms. Another button will provide you access to hundreds of women's phone numbers—the fairer sex indeed!

At \$29.95 for these you know they won't last long. So send \$29.95 plus \$5.95 shipping and handling to

The Pocket Sherlock
12937Culverton Parkway
Coram, Colorado, 80909.



End of the Year Cases

If we look at the dates the cases in the Canon took place, we find that sixteen occurred during the last quarter of the year. If we extend that time-frame out another month to include September (the last third of the year), we add another twelve cases. Thus, 27% and 47% of the cases occurred in the last one-quarter or one-third of the year, respectively. Just looking at the dates, according to Baring-Gould, of those adventures taking place during October, November or December leads to the following list:

CASE	DATES
The Musgrave Ritual	October 2, 1879
The Resident Patient	October 7, 1886
The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor	October 8, 1886
The Adventure of the Second Stain	October 12-15, 1886
A Case of Identity	October 18-19, 1887
The Red-Headed League	October 29-30, 1887
The Adventure of the Dying Detective	November 19, 1887
The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle	December 27, 1887
The Hound of the Baskervilles	September 25-October 20, 1888
The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet	December 19-20, 1890
The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez	November 14-15, 1894
The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans	November 21-23, 1895
The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger	October, 1896
The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire	November 19-21, 1896
The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter	December 8-10, 1896
The Problem of Thor Bridge	October 4-5, 1900

Holmes was certainly busy during October of 1886, handling three separate cases in two weeks. And again in 1887 he had his hands full with two cases in as many weeks.

In examining these cases and their dates, can we infer any symbolism in them? The latter part of the year, encompassing autumn and the first part **continued on page 6**

continued from page 5 of winter, often connotes coldness, depression and death. One would think that “The Final Problem” might be appropriate here, but it takes place in April and May. (One would presume that the Reichenbach Falls might be far too cold during late autumn and both combatants would have succumbed to hypothermia.) Seven cases involve some type of death (eight, if you include the goose in BLUE), and two involve attempted murder. The remaining are a combination of blackmail, missing persons or papers and theft or attempted theft.

Certainly, given Holmes’ occupation, one does not expect happy tales regardless of the time of year. But it is interesting to note that over half involve death or near death incidents.

One final note concerns “The Problem of Thor Bridge,” occurring in October of 1900. This is the only case to use the word “problem” in the title. Most of the others use “adventure” or have no appellation at all. (The one exception is “The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax.”) Why was Thor Bridge a problem and not an adventure? The plot is no more speedy or climactic than, say, “The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans.”

This story is only one of two that take place in 1900, the first being “The Adventure of the Six Napoleons.” Just last year we saw the hype surrounding the “turn of the millenium.” No doubt there was much ballyhoo about the changing calendar at the end of the 1800s (although I’m sure there was no Y1.9K problem) Not to read too much into this, but could Napoleon represent the past—only to be smashed onto the pavement in search for a stolen jewel? (Indeed, the busts could have been of anyone—Beethoven, Mozart—popular enough at the time to be memorialized in plaster.) The bridge to the future represented by the story taking place in October then has a problem. How will we get there? What will we find? To what will we clutch as we leave the past behind us?

The answer may be found in the title to the first case to occur in 1901: “The Adventure of the Priory School.” Is it education that will be our salvation? Is it knowledge that will carry us into the glorious future of not only a new decade but a new century as well?

PRIOR takes place in May, and we are well into Spring, the rebirth. We have left the cold doubts of the end of the year behind and have embraced the learning necessary to create an abundant and wonderful future.

<p>continued from page 3 your hands on a Roy as well. I can think of more than a few chunky guys here in the studio who could benefit from a Roymaster 3500. SUZANNE: And kids love it too. It’s so easy for them to operate it.</p>	<p>LINDA SUE: Thank you, Suzanne. SUZANNE: My pleasure, Linda Sue. LINDA SUE: Next up is Connie Stevens with her “Violet’s Jewelry Collection.” Delightful, delovely, demerville. Stay Tuned.</p>
---	---

continued from page 1 so much time on his cases but only rarely did he feel he was making progress. He had consulted with Mr. Holmes on numerous occasions and the detective was always more than helpful, more than cordial. But in the end, Stanley always felt that it was Holmes who solved the cases. Certainly he could not take away Holmes' credit for solving that nasty business with the harpooner or the murder of Willoughby-Smith. But there was that gray area regarding the hansom cab murders and the theft of Sarasate's violin and the missing pottery from the London Museum. Hadn't he done background work? Hadn't he thoroughly investigated the witnesses? Hadn't he followed suspects until his feet were worn with blisters? Hadn't he solved those—even if he did consult with Holmes?

Stanley could not say definitively if indeed he had solved the cases. Holmes was insightful, bringing parts of Stanley's investigation together—strings and connections that the young Scotland Yarder had not seen. Whenever Stanley left Holmes' apartment, he always asked himself, Why didn't I see those very same things? It all seems so transparent now.

His apparent depression had become visible, had alarmed his colleagues at the Yard. Lestrade had spoken to the other chiefs and they had gently encouraged Stanley to take some time off. Now would be a particularly good time, it being Christmas and all, they had said. And now he sat in front of the fire, warming his hands, feeling even more depressed.

His mail lay on the table—two pieces, neither of which had looked very friendly—and Stanley reached for it. He sliced open the first: the payment for his groceries was now due. He sighed, picked up the second one and opened it.

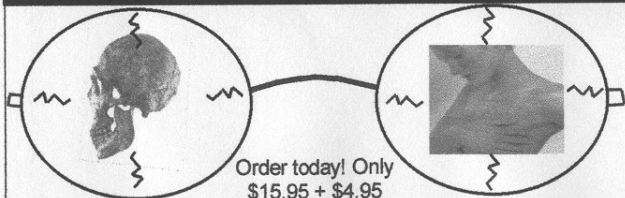
"My dear Stanley," it read. "Compliments of the Season. I do hope this finds you well. Holmes spoke very highly of you and your methods just the other day. As you know, it is rare that he gives

such a compliment—particularly to those from Scotland Yard—and I thought you might like to know, especially after the incident with Peter Carey." It was signed, "John Watson."

Stanley smiled, held the letter in front of him. He read it again.

Perhaps 1897 would not be such a bad year after all.

Doctor Watson's X-Ray Glasses



Order today! Only
\$15.95 + \$4.95
Shipping/Handling

Order today from
**Doctor Watson's Emporia of Really
Neat Things**
8721 McMurdo Lane
Pycroft, Wisconsin 54403

STAPLETON'S KENNELS



End of the Year Special
Board one large
phosphorescent dog for a
week, get a second small
dog boarded free.
45786 Phelps Parkway
Garrideb, TN 37801

27th Annual Fall Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida

Come one! Come all! Please fill in the reservation form below if you are planning on attending the 27th Annual Fall Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida on November 2. We gather at 11:30 AM at the residence of Dorothy Stix, _____ of the Trinity Development in Pasco County. Directions & a map will be sent to registrants. Lunch at noon. (Thanks to Dorothy Stix & Carl Heifetz!)

Our case this time is *The Red-Headed League*. Please be sure to review it and prepare yourself for David McCallister's Watson and Mycroft quizzes!

You won't have to use the money lending services of Mr. Jabez Wilson since the cost is a paltry \$8 per person to cover the costs of the illustrated programme, delicious lunch engineered by our hostess with the mostest, Dorothy Stix, BSI, and wine for toasts. You may also enclose a donation to the Marshall/Wood Fund (to supply Sherlock Holmes books to library youth rooms) in the same check if you so desire. We are requesting volunteers for additional presentations as well as toasts. Please mark the appropriate lines on your reservation form.

Count me in for the **27th Annual Fall Gathering!** I'll be there at 11:30 AM, ready to digest a delicious repast and facts on **The Red-Headed League!**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone/E-mail _____

_____ I am willing to volunteer for a toast. (Even if you don't, you may be assigned one.)

_____ I desire to make a presentation on _____

I understand that you'll be sending me details on how to get to the meeting place and will let me know if I have an assigned toast.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ reservations.

I've also enclosed \$ _____ as a donation to the Marshall/Wood Fund.

Mail reservations to: **Carl Heifetz**,
checks payable to Pleasant Places of Florida.)

(Make

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,

If you see a red check here , this is your LAST COMMUNICATION! To continue your membership, send US\$12.00 (US/CAN) or US\$13.00 (INTL) to Carl Heifetz,

**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**

