



# Communication

#210

New Series

March/April, 2001

Volume 5 Issue 2

Okay, in my rush to get out the last Communication, I didn't erase the word "Special" from the issue title. One can argue that every issue of the Communication is "special," but I admit to a goof. You get 6 regular issues which are labeled monthly, and 4 special issues which are labeled by subject matter. I (Wanda) usually do the semi-monthly issues while Jeff does the special ones. Since I wanted to get the last one out in time for late-comers to still get word to the Master of the House if they were coming to Wessex, I didn't have my proofer (Jeff) read it over. My apologies. Oh yeah. And we're back in real time now - 2001. Something ELSE I forgot to change on my master template!

*The Papers on the Sundial*

## Sherlockian Calendar

May 5, 2001

Annual Spring Gathering

11:30am

Cafe' of the Arts, Sarasota

*Black Peter*

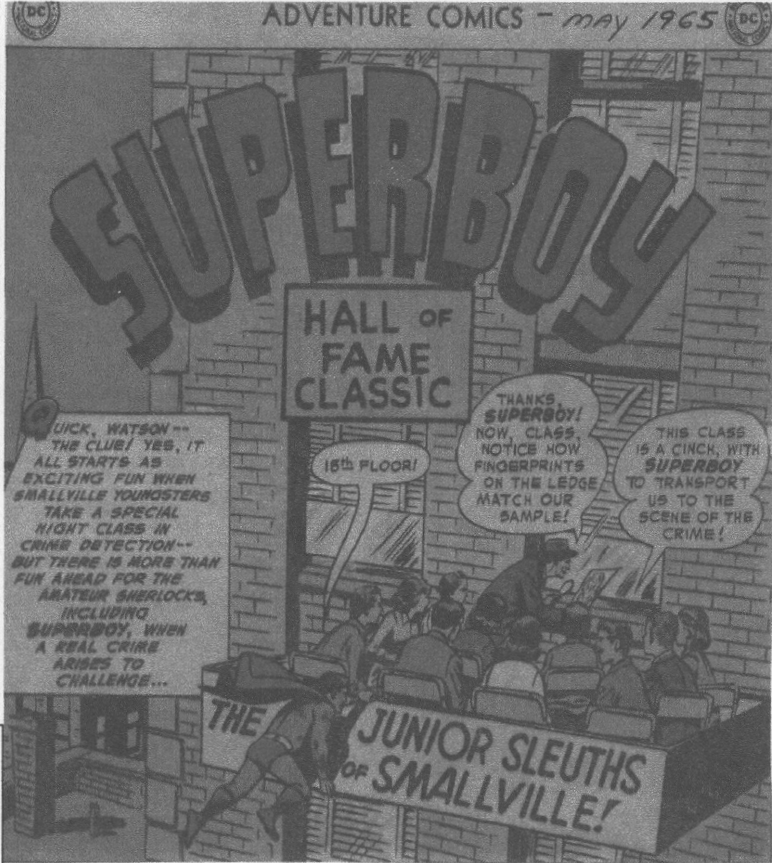
**Date & Place TBA**

Annual Fall Gathering

**February 9, 2002**

Wessex Cup XII

Tampa Bay Downs



May, 1965 Adventure Comic sent in by Tom Takach

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## BLANCHED SOLDIERS OF NOAH 4TH ANNUAL MEETING

Reported by Carl Heifetz

At the very kind invitation of Dr. Marshall Blankenship, I had the privilege and pleasure of attending the 4th Annual Meeting of the "Blanched Soldiers of NOAH" on the evening of Jan. 29, 2001, in the Gold Room at the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida. The "Blanched Soldiers of NOAH" is an organization of dermatologists who meet each year during the annual conference of the *Noah Wooster Dermatological Society*, named in honor of the gentleman who published the first American textbook on Dermatology in the 1840s. The Sherlockian organization was founded by Dr. Ben Smith, BSI. It should be noted that an older Sherlockian organization of dermatologists, the "Sir James Saunders Society," meets annually at the time of the meeting of the *American Academy of Dermatology*. The festivities began with an excellent history of Port wine given by the convener, Marshall Blankenship, MD. Based on his detailed study and obvious knowledge of the subject, one must come to the conclusion that Dr. Blankenship has a great regard for this beverage. No Sherlockian meeting would be complete without toasts. This conference featured toasts to

the leading characters in *The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier*: Godfrey Emsworth, Sir James Saunders, and Sherlock Holmes. Next came discussion of the recertification quizzes concerning the *Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton*. The featured address of this august occasion was delivered by Dr. Ben Smith, BSI, whose topic was: "Where Holmes Went." Although a detailed analysis of the floor plans for Sherlock Holmes' Baker Street suite failed to reveal a definitive location for his lavatory facilities, the 35 attendees were able to learn about the history and development of waste disposal systems during the Victorian era.

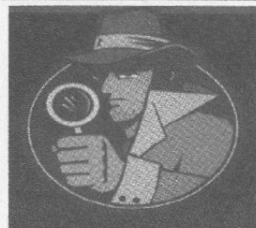
### WEBSITES

[www.chez.com/mycroft/English-index.htm](http://www.chez.com/mycroft/English-index.htm)  
[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk)  
[www.parkcity.ne.jp/~hirayama/index.htm](http://www.parkcity.ne.jp/~hirayama/index.htm)  
[www.nigelwilliams.com](http://www.nigelwilliams.com)  
[www.westminster.gov.uk/el/librarch/index.html](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/el/librarch/index.html)  
[www.geocities.com/sherlockbrasil/](http://www.geocities.com/sherlockbrasil/)

### Wessex Cup XI

by David McCallister

The eleventh running of the Florida Wessex Cup was held at Tampa Bay Downs on February 10, 2001. This year the race was dedicated to the memory of the

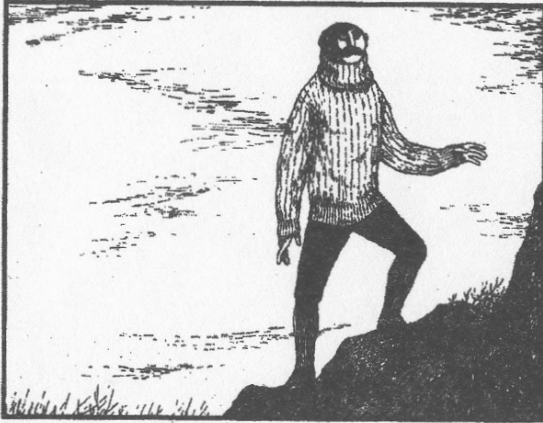


Looks more like Sam Spade than Holmes, but this picture appears on a brochure titled *Safety Awareness* from Publix Super Markets.

late Wayne B. Swift. Mr. Swift died just after attending this year's January Birthday festivities in New York. He had been the author of the *2000 BSI Christmas Annual: A History of the Silver Blaze Races*.

There were about twenty-two Sherlockians in attendance. The Florida Wessex Cup was the sixth race on the program, a claiming race for \$9,000.00. Quite a few punters bet on No. 7: Blue Steel, the canonical choice. To the delighted Sherlockians, and against all tradition, this horse actually won.

The group presenting the trophy to the owner and jockey Mary Doser included Ben Wood, Art Walker, Gerry Hynes, Mike Bryan, and David McCallister. Cold River placed and Lazorator showed, for \$12, \$4.80 and \$2.40 respectively. Caroline Everett had a good year, handicapping one horse by his French ancestry. This is the last year that the (cont. on page 6)



Hamish was a beautiful young man who liked being out of doors.

—from *The Lost Lions*, by Edward Gorey

From *A Gorey Year Calendar*, March 1, 2001  
Could this be young John?

### HE'S EVERYWHERE...

*When We Were Orphans* by Kazuo Ishiguro references his character, Christopher Banks as learning from Sherlock Holmes, among others. He even becomes a private detective in London and makes mention of several "cases" in Holmesian fashion which are never explained.

The Sackler Gallery, (part of the Smithsonian on the Mall) had an exhibit in March of *India Through the Lens: 1840-1911*. Besides having photos of the Andaman islanders and Agra, an alert Hound of the Internet noticed that one of the photographers was Henry Charles Baskerville Tanner and another was John Forbes Watson.

Crowborough, East Sussex will be unveiling a life-size statue of Sir. Arthur Conan Doyle on April 14 (sculpted by David Cornell.)

Travelman Publishing has installed 3 vending machines in the South Kensington Underground Station offering short stories in a map-fold format (£1). Holmes is, of course, available.

### DIOGENES DOINGS

by David R. McCallister

On April first, the PPOF held a Diogenes Club event at the Tampa Museum of Art to view the exhibit on show: "The Defining Moment, Victorian Narrative Paintings from the Forbes Collection," and a dramatic visitation from HRH Prince Albert and HM Queen Victoria. There was a picnic in the park next the museum. Quiz sheets on the Sherlockian references in the paintings were handed out.

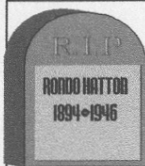
After perusing the exhibit, the royal pair arrived, played by Maureen Patrick and Michael Norton, on loan from

the "Victorians Undressed" series at the Henry B. Plant Museum across the river. They were very well dressed for the parts: the Prince sporting long sideburns and a Chesterfield coat (suddenly popular at the Oscars, we note); the Queen in a hoop skirt. And they were well prepared on their subjects. The Prince expounded on the glories of the Crystal Palace and the Queen on art developing culture, with personal examples from Balmoral. The Queen stressed the uplifting and instructional value of the exhibit, while the Prince emphasized the need

for government patronage of the arts and his own privy purse.

Taking a risk on audience questions, the pair did rather well extemporaneously, answering diplomatically regarding the unpleasant situation obtaining in the American Civil War, the insidious introduction of French ideas of abstract art, and the proper rearing of children to be seen and not heard (a compliment to the Dow Family).

The exhibit itself had many fine examples of Victorian style with many canonical allusions. "Til Death do us Part" might have been a photo snapped at Hattie Doran's wedding. "Trust Me" was right up Milver- (cont. page 4)



### IN MEMORIAM

Flowers were sent in the name of the PPofF to the gravesite of Rondo Hatton on the occasion of the anniversary of his birthday, April 22, 1894. Rondo Hatton was born in Hagerstown MD, and moved to Tampa as a baby with his family. He was a member of the American Expeditionary force in WWI and was gassed in France. From this exposure, it is surmised that he developed acromegaly, a disease that caused his facial features to become grossly distorted.

He was a reporter for the *Tampa Tribune* in 1943 when he was spotted by a Hollywood scout in town in the days when movies were shot here. He was persuaded to move to California and appeared first in the Basil Rathbone series' "Pearl of Death" in 1944 as the murderous servant to Gail Sondergaard: "The Hoxton Creeper". He reprised this role as Mario in "Spider Woman Strikes Back" in 1946, again paired with Ms. Sondergaard.

He made several other movies using the Creeper persona, being billed as the horror actor who needed no makeup. He died of a sudden heart attack, perhaps related to his disease, Feb 2, 1946. Despite his disfigurement, he was universally known for his cheerful personality. His horror-movie career was just taking off when he died, or he might have been in the pantheon with Karloff, Lugosi, et al. He is still a "cult" figure to fans of the horror genre.

Rondo Hatton is buried in the American Legion Cemetery located at Dale Mabry Hwy. and Kennedy Blvd. in Tampa. Fans of his have begun a tradition of the annual observance of his birthday. The PPofF is happy to join in this remembrance of a local figure who in his own way, contributed to the Sherlockian legend.

### BOOKS

*Elementary, My Dear Watson* is listed as a "carefully researched and highly readable piece of work." Author Bevis Colmer discusses a number of themes and topics which run throughout the Canon. Mr. Colmer writes, "The information is taken ONLY (his emphasis) from the 66 (sic)

stories by Dr./Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, written between 1887-1921." Published by Minerva Press, 6th Floor, Canberra House, 315-317 Regent Street, London, W1R 7YB England. Paperback, 416 pages, £16.99. Mr. Colmer mentions that there is a Minerva Office in Miami.

*The Scottish Ploy* is the

(cont. from page 3) ton's alley. Watson would have recognized the painting "To the Queen" of two military men raising their canteens in an arid colonial wasteland. The quiz making these sorts of matches was won by the combined efforts of the Dow clan.

This outing was the sort of field trip provided by serendipity, for which the Diogenes was designed. Next up may be a viewing of the movie "From Hell", a Jack-the-Ripper horror adventure movie due out in June.

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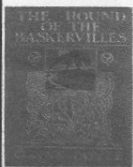
newest in a series of stories featuring Mycroft Holmes. This time around he must help stop the evil Brotherhood from embarrassing the British Government and throwing all of Europe into conflict and chaos. As reviewed by Richard Saxe in *The Baker Street Dispatch* (Jan. 2001), "the description of the era could have been written by Sir. Arthur himself." \$24.95, Tom Doherty Associates.

*The Quotable Sherlock Holmes* by Watson with help from Gerard Van Der Leun is a nicely packaged paper-back with witty observations concerning quotes from the Canon, accompanied by many Sidney Paget drawings. Available from The Mysterious Press, NY. (cont. page 5)

(cont. from page 4) *Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Dozen* by Val Andrews (Breeze Books Ltd.) is a good volume to pick up when you need a Holmes fix fast. Some of these “Baker’s dozen” cases turn out to be elementary, but enjoyable nonetheless. Check out additional pastiches at [www.sherlockholmes.co.uk/main1.htm](http://www.sherlockholmes.co.uk/main1.htm)

*Conned Again, Watson: Cautionary Tales of Logic, Math and Probability* by Colin Bruce (Perseus Books \$24) has Holmes and Watson thwarting criminals and con men with the aid of statistics and game theory in amusing stories penned by Bruce, a physicist.

**The Hound of the Baskervilles**  
Hunting the Dartmoor Legend



Originally written as a partwork in *The Strand Magazine*, and intended as an entertainment, the original story is nonetheless based on Sir

Arthur Conan Doyle’s experience of his visits to Dartmoor in the early twentieth century. Few other works of fiction have fomented so much controversy with accusations that Conan Doyle stole the story from a friend - even that he murdered the story’s real author!

At last, here is a serious study of an important fictional masterpiece, linking the influences of the moorland landscape, its history and people, to one of the finest and most popular stories in the English language. Even for those who know Dartmoor well, the (cont. page 6)

Front Gate of Dartmoor Prison →



### **PUBLISHED PPOfers**

*The Annotated Casey at the Bat*, A Collection of Ballads about the Mighty Casey, edited by Martin Gardner, although published in 1995, was recently discovered by our very own **Dr. Charles "Mike" Carroll** as containing a mention of his *Sherlock at the Bat*, which he has previously performed at gatherings. It is from Dover Pub., Mineola, NY.

From the book: "*Sherlock at the Bat* by Charles Michael Carroll, came to me by way of Dana Richards. "The outlook wasn't brilliant down in Baker Street that day. /Both Sherlock Holmes and Watson found their lives had turned blase'." Sherlock strikes out in his effort to retrieve from Irene Adler the letters and photos that compromised the King of Bohemia. The poem's 32 stanzas appeared in *Wheelwrights* (January 1991), a periodical published by a Sherlockian society in Peoria, IL." The next paragraph refers to Garrison Keillor. Such company you keep, Mike!

*Moriarty: An Encounter of the First Kind or Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* by **Carl Heifetz** was published in *The Holmes and Watson Report*, January, 2001, pages 16-21.

*Tracking with Aniseed and its Other Uses* by **Carl Heifetz** was published in *The Holmes and Watson Report*, 3/2001, pgs 26-32.

### **NEWSLETTERS RECEIVED**

**The District Messenger**, Nos. 208 & 209, The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London reports on books, plays, catalogues, videos and even other Sherlockian newsletters. Send 12 Int'l Reply Coupons or US\$13 to Roger Johnson,

**The Whaling News**, Vol.13 No.1, A publication of the Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn contains the HSU programs and calendar for the year as well as the article *Lawrence Phillips Cleared of Theft Charges: Area Man Finds ring in Ted Drewes Concrete* by Shelly Michalski, PhD. Vol.13 No.2 contains *Laughter; The Best Medicine (SUSS)* by J. Thomas Crammond. Contact is Michael Bragg,

**The Baker Street Dispatch**, Vol.11 No. 1 reports on *The Adventure of the Creeping Man* and *The Scottish Ploy*, a book by Quinn Fawcett which takes Mycroft as its protagonist. Vol. 11 No. 2 reports on *Lion's Mane*, the Study in Scarlet Dinner, Sherlock Holmes/A. C. Doyle Symposium and Medical Detectives. Authors, informants & poets are encouraged to submit to

**T.U.C.O.P.S.** Winter/Summer, 2001 contains a lovely tribute to Cameron Hollyer by Ron DeWaal, as well as the continuing piece on William Gillette and a multitude of pipe/tobacco articles, poems, etc.

Get it from Tom Dunn,

**The Camden House Journal**, April, 2001 contains *The Bruce-Partinton Submarine, A Question of Historicity* by Samuel Smith as well as a request for recipes from Sherlockians (see ad page 7).

(cont. from page 2) track will host groups in the Skye Terrace Restaurant. Next year (February 9, 2002), we will be situated in a separate private group room which should allow for more fun and games.

(cont. from page 5) book will bring new insight and renewed interest into their future exploration of the moor. By Philip Weller. Available from Halsgrove House, Lower Moor Way, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6SS UK. Or visit their website [www.halsgrove.com](http://www.halsgrove.com)

### **PAST MEMBER OFFERS BACK ISSUES**

Trisha Stanton, C.H.S., B3M, tells us that she has back issues of the *Communication* in her personal archives from about 1980 or so that she would be glad to send to anyone interested. Contact her at

Incidentally, Trisha has started a scion called the Sloane Rangers of Las Cruces and is currently serving as "Tonto." Good for you!

## Calendar Sherlockiana

### 2001 Events

**May 4-6 - *Malice Domestic XIII*** at the Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA. Ghost of Honor: Rex Stout. Contact MD13 at

to be put on the mailing list.

**May 5 - 26th Annual Spring Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida** will take place at the Cafe of the Arts in Sarasota, Florida. Contact Wanda Dow,

**May 12 - Black-tie grand gourmet dinner** honoring the centennial of *HOUN* at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY is \$120. Contact Albert & Julia Rosenblatt,

**June 10 - The Sherlock Holmes Society of London** will be having a cricket match in Victorian costume, played to 1895 rules at the private cricket ground of Sir Paul Getty in Buckinghamshire.

**June 28 - Yale University's 20th annual Sherlock Holmes Lecture** held at 8pm, the Davies Auditorium, Becton Center, 15 Prospect St on campus. Prof. Murray Briggs will discuss the ways in which Holmes illustrated Doyle's attitudes toward society and a Rathbone/Bruce film will be shown.

**June 29 - July 1 - 2001: A new Sherlockian Odyssey: A Journey Through Shaw 100** in

Minneapolis. Contact Julie McKuras,

**July 27-29 - *Watsonian Symposium*** in Chicago, Illinois.

**August 25 - Starts 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 19-21 - *Footprints of the Hound*** conference sponsored by The Bootmakers of Toronto, The Toronto Public Library, The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection and The Arthur Conan Doyle Society. Brochure available from Doug Wrigglesworth,

**October 26-28 - Centenary Celebration of the publication of *HOUN*** coincides with the 30th Anniversary of The ACD Collection at the Toronto Metropolitan Library.

**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 con-

ventions, Bouchercon offers four days of varied programming including a pre-convention Halloween party, Nick and Nora Charles Martini Happy Hour, gala Anthony Awards Banquet and guided mystery tours of Washington, among other special events. Cost: \$135 (thru 9/1) <bouchercon 2001.com> or Bouchercon 2001, P.O. Box 11700, Washington, DC 20008.

### 2002 Events

**February 9 - The Wessex Cup XII** will be held in a private group room at Tampa Bay Downs Race Track, sponsored by The Pleasant Places of Florida.

### ROSTER CHANGES

**Thomas, Daniel F., BSI** is now at

**Wood, Dr. Benton, BSI** now has an email address. Contact him at

### Camden House Cookbook

Send your favorite recipe(s) to Janet Bensley, Camden House Cookbook,

with your name, address, photo (head shot) & category (Appetizer, Soup, Salad & Veg., Bread, Main Dish, Dessert, Beverage). Don't forget to include your Canonical Name as well. Or you can e-mail to: cci@norcom2000.com Electronic photos would be TIFF or JPEG (sic). Attachments may be in Word 97 or WordPerfect 8.

**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**

