



A Publication of the Pleasant Places of Florida

Communication #214

New Series

July/August, 2001

Volume 5 Issue 6

Well, the dog days of summer are gone (at least according to the calendar) and fall is just around the corner. We're a little late getting out this issue, but it's here and we hope you think it was worth the wait. Don't forget to send in your reservations for the Fall Gathering to Carl. Time passes too quickly to put it off! Check out the neat comic find sent in by Tom Takach. We'll be running all of it on a continuing basis in future issues. And it's time once again to start off one of our famous round-robin pastiche's; those of you so bitten by the writing bug that you're willing to brave an episode, let it be known! Read on, and enjoy!

The Papers on the Sundial

P.P. of F. Calendar

November 3, 2001

Annual Fall Gathering

Pappas Restaurant

Tarpon Springs

Host: Carl Heifetz

Case: *The Man With The Twisted Lip*

January 19

The Fifth Annual Sunshine Sherlockian Birthday

Bash

Jesse's Dockside

Dunedin, FL

February 9, 2002

Wessex Cup XII

Tampa Bay Downs

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"Sheer enjoyment...Smashingly Stylish Adaptations"
USA TODAY

THE CROWNED MAN

Servants for Colonel James Barclay hear arguing and then blood-curdling screams before finding their employer dead. Holmes is not given much to work with but he still finds the answer.

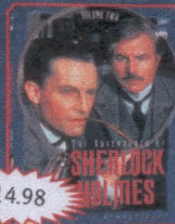
THE SPECKLED BAND

Helen Stoner becomes concerned when she hears a mysterious whistle -- a sound her sister Julia complained about right before her death. Holmes gets one major clue, Julia's last words, "It was a band! A speckled band."

BONUS MATERIAL

- Actor Biographies and Filmographies
- Holmes and Brett Societies
- Photo Gallery
- English Subtitles

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ISBN 0-7886-0306-X



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PRE-ORDER: August 8, 2001 **STREET:** August 28, 2001

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www.mpimedia.com/sherlock

BOOKS

(Wherein we report on anything new we hear about. Anyone wishing to read and report on same is welcome to submit your review for publication)

David Stuart Davis has come out with *Starring Sherlock Holmes*, after revising and confirming his opinions of 25 years ago in *Holmes of the Movies*. A huge amount of material has accumulated since, and *Starring* also brings in lovely illustrations from the Lancelyn Green Collection. From Titan Books, London. £29.99

The Mythopoeic Society says they're going to publish *Sayers on Holmes: Essays and Fiction on Sherlock Holmes* soon. This is a collection of Dorothy Sayers' Sherlockian essays along with her script for Lord Peter Wimsey's section of the 1954 BBC radio centenary tribute to Holmes. Contact Joan Matie Verba,

Magico magazine recently published a collection of the Sherlockian art of Norman Schatell. Get a catalog for \$2 from PO Box 156, New York NY 10002-0156. They'll refund your \$2 on your first order of \$30 or more.

Sherlock In The Trib is a collection of references to things Sherlockian in the *Chicago Tribune* as recorded by staffer

Charles Collins (*A Line O'Type Or Two* 1939 - 1951). Contact Magico (see previous listing) \$29.95 + \$2 for shipping & handling.

Donald Thomas brings us *Sherlock Holmes and the Running Noose* from Macmillan Publishers Ltd.

Philip Pullamn through Nelson Thomas Ltd. submits *Sherlock Holmes and the Limehouse Horror*.

SquareOne Publications has recently released a new book in their line of Classics - *The New Revelation; My Personal Investigation of Spiritualism by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*. The hand-outs say it includes an original intro (doesn't say by whom) which provides an insightful look at Doyle and an afterword that captures Doyle's friendship with Houdini. \$12.95 They have a website at SQUAREONEPUBLISHERS.COM

Published PPOfers

Carl Heifetz has let us know he was published in *The Serpentine Muse*, Vol.17, No. 3, Summer, 2001. The title was **Casting the Canon**. How about the rest of you?



La maledizione dei Baskervilles
22 e 24 marzo 2002
Sesto Fiorentino, Firenze - Italy

Uno Studio in Holmes

WEBSITES

www.bakerstreetjournal.com

Yes, it's true. The *Baker Street Journal* is not on line. It's a portion of the real thing, however and not meant to eliminate the print medium. Visitors can peruse the table of contents, an article or two and subscription info. You can also renew ONLINE.

www.dianepublishingcentral.com is listing a bulk lot of illustrated collections (Paget) at a discount for large buyers.

www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk the official website of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London is always good for a peruse. You can check out the Golden Jubilee Cruise itinerary by following the signs.

Member and Comic Collector Tom Takach sent these photocopies of a story he recently found in a December 19, 1968 issue of *Treasure Chest*. We've included the first 2 pages and hope to continue next time.



SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

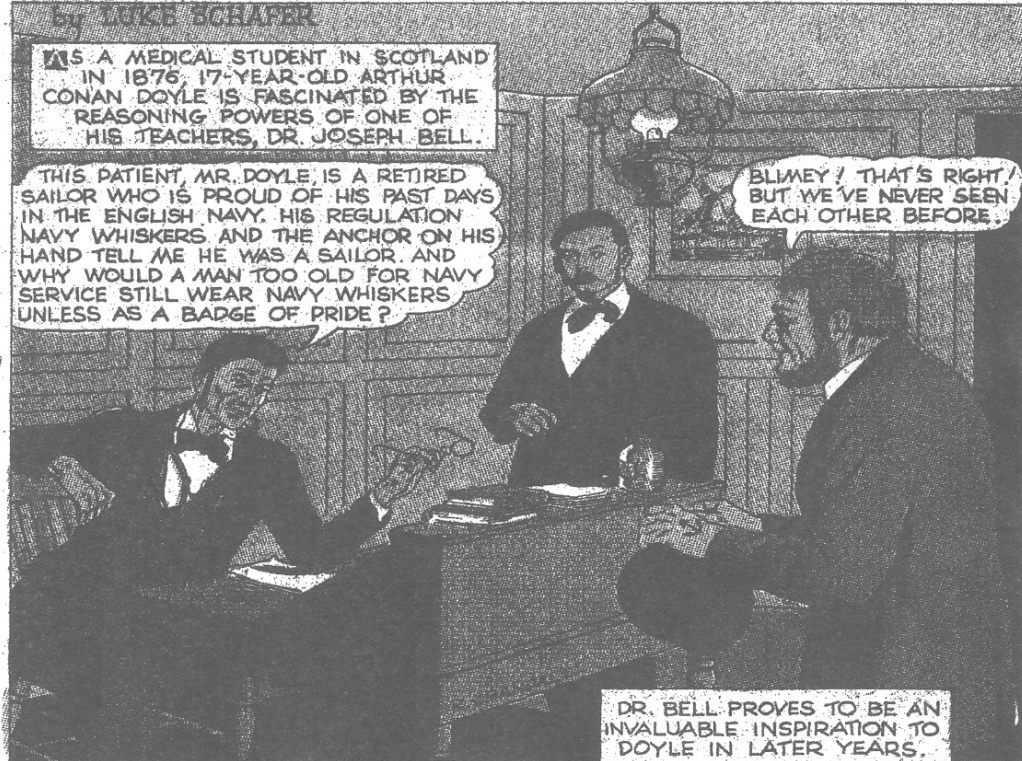
The Man Who Created SHERLOCK HOLMES

By MIKE SCHAPIRO

AS A MEDICAL STUDENT IN SCOTLAND IN 1876, 17-YEAR-OLD ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE IS FASCINATED BY THE REASONING POWERS OF ONE OF HIS TEACHERS, DR. JOSEPH BELL.

THIS PATIENT, MR. DOYLE, IS A RETIRED SAILOR WHO IS PROUD OF HIS PAST DAYS IN THE ENGLISH NAVY. HIS REGULATION NAVY WHISKERS AND THE ANCHOR ON HIS HAND TELL ME HE WAS A SAILOR. AND WHY WOULD A MAN TOO OLD FOR NAVY SERVICE STILL WEAR NAVY WHISKERS UNLESS AS A BADGE OF PRIDE?

BLIMEY! THAT'S RIGHT, BUT WE'VE NEVER SEEN EACH OTHER BEFORE.



DR. BELL PROVES TO BE AN INVALUABLE INSPIRATION TO DOYLE IN LATER YEARS.

DOYLE SETS UP HIS MEDICAL PRACTICE IN ENGLAND. ONE DAY, HE IS CALLED ON BY HIS NEIGHBOR, DR. PIKE, WHO TRIED TO HELP DOYLE GET STARTED.

I'M GOING TO VISIT A VERY SICK BOY IN A WATER-FRONT LODGING HOUSE. WHY NOT COME ALONG?

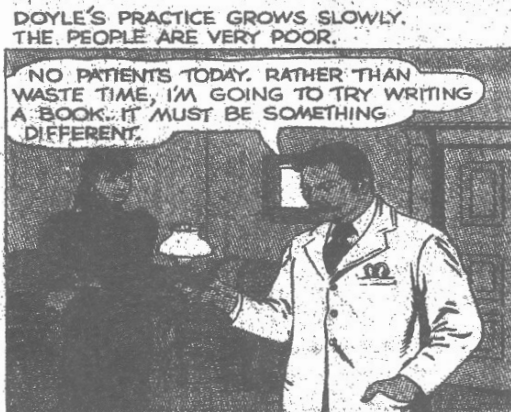
CERTAINLY, DR. PIKE. I'LL GET MY HAT AND BAG.



LATER...

I'M SORRY, BUT HE HAS A FATAL BRAIN DISEASE. THERE IS NO CURE, BUT HE MAY LIVE LIKE THIS FOR YEARS.





HE'S EVERYWHERE...

Time Magazine's cover story of June 25, 2001 is on "How the Universe Will End." In discussing the concept of "dark energy," the magazine reported on two groups of astrophysicists measuring how quickly the expansion of the universe was slowing down. But the results suggested that the universe's expansion was not slowing down at all. "In the end," the article by Michael D. Lemonick says, "both teams adopted Sherlock Holmes' attitude: once you have eliminated the impossible, whatever is left, no matter how improbable, has got to be true. The universe was indeed speeding up, suggesting that some sort of powerful antigravity force was at work, forcing the galaxies to fly apart even as ordinary gravity was trying to draw them together."

On page 267 of the paperback edition of *The Trigger* by Arthur C. Clarke and Michael Kube-McDowell, a character says, "Hmmm. Doesn't sound like you'd need Sherlock Holmes to draw you a picture."

In the September 2001 issue of *The Atlantic Monthly*, in an article entitled "Suitably Attired," William Hamilton wrote, "Fashions, however, change—or anyway they used to. With sighs of relief, women climbed out of the Spanish galleons of nineteenth-century bustles and whalebone corsets

into one new look after another. Men demurred. Perhaps because the suit and tie of 1896 were ahead of their time, and photographically promoted, and internationally significant, and as flattering as gift wrap on a wide variety of masculine figures, they stayed a la mode. Human males have a tendency to dress defensively. Unlike women, they dress not so much to look fabulous as to look acceptable. Even so, the old horseback-bred suit and tie should have had it by 1950: by then the future had become a vivid popular fantasy. Men seemed certain to appear eventually in sleek synthetic jumpsuits with magic belts they would use to teleport around the universe, taking an occasional pill to satisfy their dietary needs. Futuristic tales of 1950 did not picture men of 2000 wearing more or less what Sherlock Holmes did."

Not exactly Holmesian, but Doyle's creepy story, *Lot 249* has been adapted to stage and a group calling themselves Anyone Can Play will be producing it around Halloween at Portsmouth Arts Centre. Write to Jason Brown at Anyone Can Play, 100 Waverly Rd., Southsea, Hants. PO5 2PS. Maybe you can grab a souvenir!

On July 30, the *St. Petersburg Times* ran an article about the typecasting

Hollywood gives its animal actors - *Hollywood typecasting gets catty* by Christy Lemire. The norm is that cats are evil and dogs are good. Amazingly, there was no mention of *Hound of the Baskervilles*. This was corrected by David McCallister who wrote a letter to the editor (8/6/01), which is re-printed here:

Don't neglect this bad dog

Christy Lemire's theory of evil cat-dog typecasting by Hollywood and cultural stereotypes neglected to mention the all-time bad dog, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *Hound of the Baskervilles*. Doyle's slueth Sherlock Holmes met the nasty pooch in 1901 as serialized in *Strand* magazine just 100 years ago. Since then, any play, movie and pastiche versions have been made. The Hound is almost as much an icon as Holmes himself, to the point where skits and commercials and even cartoons have but to have swirling fog, the caped detective with a calabash pipe and the howl of the Hound to evoke the vision of the canine nemesis. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was picked as one of the *New York Times* "Great Books of the Century." There is an annual banquet honoring the famous Hound, "The Baskerville Bash," held in New York on Jan. 6, the birthday of Sherlock Holmes, and attended by Sherlockians from around the world. Sometimes a bad dog is good box office.

THE TIME HAS COME . . .

The walrus may have wanted to talk about sealing wax and strings, but we have more important matters to discuss. 'Tis time once again to begin anew with a pastiche extraordinaire from the pens of the Pleasant Places of Florida. I present to you the first installment. Those wishing to participate, contact Wanda Dow for your placement!

City Ablaze: A New Pastiche from The Pleasant Places of Florida

It was a withering hot August day as Dr. John H. Watson sat in the window seat at 221B squinting out at the good citizens of the great city of London. Everyone moved about in slow motion as if any attempt in speed would increase the already rising mercury. Even the horses pulling the few hansoms on the street took their time and their drivers were too overcome with the heat to whip them into creating a breeze for their passengers.

He could not decide if he should close the window and draw the drapes against the sun or leave it open in the hopes of catching any vestige of a waft of air. He also was considering the propriety of the removal of as many articles of clothing as possible in an attempt to decrease his own temperature when a light tap sounded at the door.

"Come in!" he called, stepping away from the window.

Mrs. Hudson entered, hat in one hand and fan in another.

"Oh, Dr. Watson!" she panted, "I don't think I've ever experienced the heat quite like this. There's no relief to be

found! I've prepared some cold meats for your dinner this evening if you wouldn't mind fetching them yourself from the kitchen. I must go to the aid of my dear friend Molly Umstead who's with a fever on top of all this heat, poor dear. Her husband just sent a boy 'round to ask for my help in tending her as he's been up for nearly forty-eight hours, changing the cloths on her forehead and such. I hope you don't mind..."

"Of course not, dear lady," Watson assured her. "Is there anything I can do? Would you like me to see her?"

"That's very nice of you," Mrs. Hudson shook her head. "but her doctor has said there is nothing that can be done but that she get through the fever on her own."

"Very well," Watson sighed, taking out a handkerchief to wipe his face, "But please send for me if you need any assistance. I shall be happy to help."

"Thank you sir," Mrs. Hudson smiled. "I'll just be going then." She hesitated at the door, as if debating about something, then turned back to him. "If you don't mind my suggesting it, doctor, but the heat is something fierce. You might consider taking a book and

candle down to the cellar and spending a few hours there. It's a bit musty and dark, but it's cooler. I must confess I've made several trips there this morning myself."

Watson smiled, "Why thank you, Mrs. Hudson. I could think of no better escape myself."

With her conscience cleared, she exited.

Watson went to the desk drawer and pulled out a candle and matches, then picked up the book that was by his chair and started out the door when he thought better of it and stopped. He went back to close the window and write a quick note to Holmes, who had gone out much earlier in the day. Before he headed down the stairs, he stuffed the book and candles in his pockets and picked up one of the light chairs in the hallway. Just as he headed towards the kitchen, there was a knock at the door.

He sighed. He could continue to the cellar and pretend he had not heard the caller, but in all good conscience he could not. He set down the chair and went to the door.

On the step (cont. page 7)

Calendar Sherlockiana

2001 Events

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 Wriggles-worth,

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 conventions, 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

January 19 - *The Fifth Annual Sunshine State Sherlockian Bash* of the Pleasant Places of Florida will hopefully be staged once again at Jesse's Dockside Restaurant in Dunedin, Florida. Contact Wanda Dow,

February 9 - *Wessex Cup XII* of the Pleasant Places of Florida will be at Tampa Bay Downs. Contact David McCallister,

ROSTER CHANGES

Julie McConnell

(cont. from page 6) stood an elderly gentleman, tall of stature with an air of superiority about him. His shockingly white hair was thick and brushed back, and his aquiline face possessed two of the sharpest, bluest eyes Watson had ever seen. With him was a young lady, dressed in beiges, a veiled hat pulled over her light brown hair and

covering her face. For a moment, the three of them stood staring at each other.

Watson finally broke the silence by clearing his throat. "I'm sorry, but if you've come to see Mr. Holmes, he is unavailable at this time." He glanced behind them and could see that a carriage awaited the two.

"On the contrary," the man replied, smiling as he extended his hand, "it is you, Dr. Watson, for whom we have called."

Watson took the hand, frowning. "I...?" he said, then started at the slight pin prick he felt on his palm. He stared down at his hand, watching it as it loomed farther and farther away from his arm.

The man stepped forward and deftly caught the good doctor as he collapsed in the doorway. Quickly he drug Watson to the awaiting carriage as the woman stepped in, left an envelope on the table, and exited, closing the door quietly behind her.

In seconds, the carriage was gone, the only witness to the doctor's disappearance, a lone chair sitting in the middle of the foyer. -end of part one-

If you are interested in completing our next round-robin pastiche, please contact Wanda Dow. If you are brave enough to write the conclusion, please let her know. Deadline to contact is September 30. Parts will be assigned as soon as possible.

26th Annual Fall Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida

What is the connection between the events described by Dr. Watson in TWIS and Tarpon Springs, Florida? The answer to this conundrum and many other Sherlockian queries may be found at the 26th Annual Fall Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida on **November 3, 2001**. We gather for libations at 11:30 am at Pappas' Restaurant on 10 W. Dodecanese Blvd. in Tarpon Springs, Florida. Lunch (order off the menu) and activities will begin at **noon**.

Our case this time is **The Man With The Twisted Lip**. Please be sure to review it and prepare yourself for David McCallister's Watson and Mycroft quizzes!

Cost is \$5 per person to cover the costs of programme and wine for toasts. Lunch will be from the menu. You may also enclose a donation to the Marshall/Wood Fund 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. Already planned is a Twisted Lip contest, as well as a musical number by the Dow Family Players.

As a side note, some of us will be taking a sponge boat diving exhibition after lunch to try and find the type of sponge Holmes used to wash off Hugh Boone's face!

Count me in for the **26th Annual Fall Gathering!** I'll be there at 11:30 am, ready to digest a delicious repast and facts on **The Man with the Twisted Lip!**

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.

Make checks payable to The Pleasant Places of Florida.

Deadline: October 15, 2001. Mail reservations to: **Carl Heifetz,**

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**

