



Communication

#219

New Series

January/February, 2002

Volume 6 Issue 1

We sadly must report the death of William "Bill" Ward, once a member of The Pleasant Places of Florida. Although we lost track of Bill when he moved to Oklahoma to attend to family matters, we always had fond memories of the fun times arranged by him on our sunny beaches. Please join us in bidding Bill adieu, until we meet again on the other side of the Reichenbach Falls.

We print a few of Bill's sonnets herein, as well as finish up that comic strip that Tom Takach sent in so long ago. We hope you'll enjoy the pictures from the newest Japanese game, *Digital Holmes* as well as some teases from the BBC's 1968 *Hound of the Baskervilles* with Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock. This is ten years after Hammer Films' version and the BBC is negotiating on the cheapest way to ship to other countries. We'll pass on the info as soon as we get it.

The Papers on the Sundial



WILLIAM "BILL" WARD

Deceased November, 2001



Bill was, indeed, an integral member of the PPoF. His PPoF moniker was "Red Indian," because he was half Cherokee by birth. He was a noted Hollywood child star, who appeared in a dozen movies, most notably *Forever Amber* and *Foxes of Harrow*. In his youth, he was a

folk musician and once sang with Judy Collins. While in Florida, he was in Resort Management on St. Petersburg Beach. In 1982, he formed *The Diogenese Club*, a sub-group of the Pleasant Places, designated to a social status. In June, 1982, he became the club Archivist and Librarian. In 1984, Bill received his Investiture in the B.S.I. as "Major Prendergast." In 1988 he became the new Recorder of the Pleasant Places. In 1990, he returned to his ancestral home in Oklahoma. Bill was an accomplished poet, writing his famous "Sonnets by the Major." He also garnered a prodigious collection of Sherlockian audio tapes. We will miss one of the Pleasant Places of Florida's favorite sons.

compiled by Dr. Benton Wood & Wanda Dow

P.P. of F. Calendar

February 16, 2002

Wessex Cup XII

Tampa Bay Downs

Host: David McCallister

April 13

(tentative date)

27th Annual Spring Gathering

Need Host volunteer, preferably in South Pinellas or Sarasota County.

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Cleanliness Among Military Personnel in Afghanistan, An Important Historical Lesson

by Carl Heifetz

A recent article in the St. Petersburg (Florida) Times extolled the virtue of hand washing for the marines currently being stationed in Southern Afghanistan. Apparently, scrupulous attention to cleanliness among these troops has gone a long way in preventing serious intestinal infections. Following this dictum has completely prevented hygiene related illnesses among American service men.

This protective measure was, to some extent, learned by studying the experiences of the Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan several years earlier. As the article points out, "The failure of the Soviets to follow that basic rule of hygiene helps explain why they lost their war in Afghanistan..." No one, not even the cooks, washed their hands. Thus, as any microbiologist would predict, their ranks were decimated by death and debilitation associated with the ingestion of pathogenic bacteria. Of the 620,000 Soviet troops, over 76% were hospitalized; almost 89% of these were due to infections associated with poor hygiene.

It is too bad for the Soviets that they were not as well versed as we are in the writings of Drs.

John H. Watson and Arthur Conan Doyle. Had they done so, they might have anticipated this situation and acted in an appropriate manner. There are at least two references that knowledgeable Sherlockians could have pointed out as warning signs for outbreaks of intestinal infections in Afghanistan, India, and other still-developing areas of the world.

In the "Reminiscences of John H. Watson, M.D., late of the Army Medical Department," we read of the dire misfortunes that befell the good doctor during the British occupation of Afghanistan (2). Not only was he seriously wounded in the shoulder and leg, but, upon reaching India, suffered the serious infection then known as enteric fever (2,3). Further, while serving as a physician in the Boer War, Dr. Doyle, among many other, developed enteric fever. Fortunately for us, and for civilization itself, Dr. Doyle's disease was mild as a result of having previously received a preventative inoculation (4).

This old, retired Private Consulting Microbiologist is certain that most serious infections among military men in history could have easily been prevented by the simple use of hand soap and water. At the time that Drs. Watson and Doyle served in their nation's

military medical service, scientists and physicians were just beginning to understand the association between cleanliness and prevention of surgical wound infections and infections in child birth, as well as intestinal disease (5). It was a long time before the preachings of Dr. Lister were accepted by the medical profession, which could explain the dire experiences of Drs. Watson and Doyle. Fortunately for us, the marines and others who serve in the military in Afghanistan have taken these lessons to heart.

(1) Key to victory? Clean hands. St. Petersburg Times. Tuesday, December 4, 2001. p 8A.

(2) Doyle, A.C. *Study in Scarlet* In: *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*. Doubleday and Co., Garden City, NY. 1988. p 15.

(3) Doyle, A.C. *The Sign of Four* In: *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*. Doubleday and Co., Garden City, NY. 1988. p 90.

(4) Doyle, A. C. *Memories and Adventures*. Butler and Tanner Ltd., London. 1924. p 179.

(5) deKruif, Paul D. *Microbe Hunters*, Harcourt Brace and Co., New York. 1954. p 92.

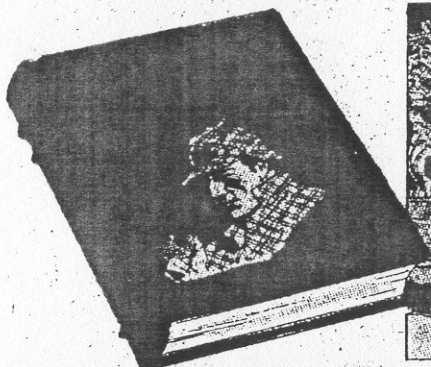


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Remember back in #214 the comic book that Tom Takach sent? Well, here's another installment.



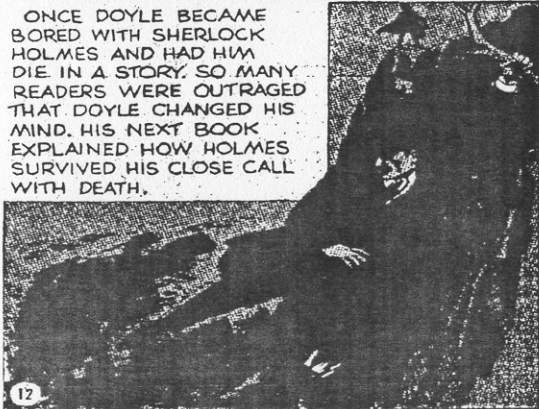
DOYLE WRITES HIS CLASSIC SHERLOCK HOLMES TALE, IN 1901.



IN 1902, DOYLE IS KNIGHTED BECAUSE OF A PAMPHLET HE WROTE DEFENDING ENGLAND.



ONCE DOYLE BECAME BORED WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES AND HAD HIM DIE IN A STORY, SO MANY READERS WERE OUTRAGED THAT DOYLE CHANGED HIS MIND. HIS NEXT BOOK EXPLAINED HOW HOLMES SURVIVED HIS CLOSE CALL WITH DEATH.



DOYLE DIED ON JULY 7, 1930. SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE CHARACTER DOYLE INVENTED, LIVES ON TODAY IN BOOKS.



Special Interest Videos DVD's from BBC Learning

The Hound of the Baskervilles

Graham Evans 1968 / 1hr 40 mins

Colour LIMITED EDITION

Based on the novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



The most celebrated Sherlock Holmes story of them all... elements such as an ancient curse, a desolate moor, a spectral hound, a deranged

killer on the loose and the Great Detective facing one of his greatest challenges make this a classic horror / whodunit.

Sherlock Holmes has been represented onscreen more than any other fictitious character, and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is the most commonly filmed story featuring Doyle's hero. But critics are generally agreed that this adaptation is the most faithful to the original novel and many believe it to be the best overall version.

Certainly, Peter Cushing is excellent as Holmes, a role he had played in the Hammer version of the same tale ten years earlier. The response to his interpretation then had been largely favourable, and again, critics warmed to his performance.

Like Cushing, Nigel Stock was a



veteran of film and television, having featured in hits such as *The Dam Busters*, *Brighton Rock* and *The Great Escape*. His own great escape was to play a credible Watson, escaping the image which had been established by the inestimable character actor, Nigel Bruce, in the Basil Rathbone

movies which ran from 1939 to 1946. Stock had played the good doctor opposite Douglas Wilmer in the early sixties and again he attacked the role with gusto, presenting John H. Watson as a man of action - courageous and loyal, although inevitably, never an intellectual match for his friend and colleague, Sherlock Holmes. Gary Raymond, who had already starred with greats including Richard Burton, Sophia Loren, Peter Sellers, Alastair Sim, Katharine Hepburn and Elizabeth Taylor played Sir Henry Baskerville. Unlike Christopher Lee, who appeared to relish the role in the Hammer version, Raymond makes the character more overwhelmed than underhanded, bringing to mind Richard Greene's incarnation of Sir Henry in Rathbone's first Holmes movie. Gabriella Licudi, an ex-model, made an alluring Beryl Stapleton, with Philip Bond and David Leland both solid as Stapleton and Dr Mortimer, respectively.

But one of the most memorable stars of the production is the setting. It was the first time a film crew actually shot the story at the Dartmoor locations which Doyle had envisaged, although the 1921 silent, directed by Maurice Elvey, came close.

This is not merely of significance to purists and pedants; its importance is as vast as the expansive moor itself. Even good versions, such as Terence Fisher's 1958 effort and Sidney Lanfield's 1939 attempt, are let down by a negligence in their portrayal of the setting. The action is crippled and the atmosphere constricted by the studio-bound constraints. Here, however, action and atmosphere are heightened as both the actors and director Graham Evans fully exploit the luxury of shooting in the ideal setting.

The meaning and magnitude of the moor in the story cannot be overstated. Indeed, in 'real life' it was this grim, forbidding place that first inspired Doyle to write the novel, and the sinister sense of menace that it holds is well captured by Evans and his crew.

Reading the book one is struck by the evocative nature of Doyle's prose concerning the locale, a quality which is here brought to the screen to form a dark, deathly backdrop to the murderous mystery which Holmes must unravel. As with Thomas Hardy's *Return of the Native*, in which Egdon Heath has such a pervasive presence in the narrative, it could be argued that the moor and its environs form a real character in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Certainly, it has a personality which this production uses to atmospheric effect.

The setting is just one of a number of elements which cast and crew worked assiduously on, aiming for a production which was as near perfect as possible. Everybody from Cushing - who was famously (or notoriously) evangelical in his quest to do right by Doyle - to the costume designer, BBC stalwart Betty Aldiss, stretched themselves to provide a piece of television which is authentic Holmes, thrilling drama, and atmospheric horror.

Recent critics have rediscovered this version and been fulsome in their praise which makes this release timely in two ways. For aside from its renaissance amongst critics it is the centenary of the most famous Sherlock Holmes story of all time. Although serialization commenced in *The Strand* in 1901, the last section was published in the same magazine in 1902, the year which also saw the full novel published for the first time.

Therefore, releasing the 1968 version



of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* on video and DVD for the very time is in part a celebration: not simply of a piece of great television, but a great work which has lasted 100 years, and on the evidence of this version, will endure for many more centuries to come.

Taken from the BBC.WORLDWIDE.COM website.

Calendar Sherlockiana etal

2002

February 16 - Wessex Cup XII, the Pleasant Places of Florida's answer to *Silver Blaze* will be held at Tampa Bay Downs in Oldsmar. Contact host, David McCallister at

February 16 - AZ Murder Goes...Western 9am-5pm, Ramada Valley Ho Resort, Scottsdale, AZ 85351. Bill Crider, Loren D. Estleman, Joe R. Lansdale, Elmore Leonard & Navajo Code Talker Samuel Smith. \$60 Call 888-560-9919 or email <karen@poisonedpen.com>

March 3-5 - Malice Domestic XIV at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA GOH: Edward Marston (Keith Miles). Toastmasters: Marty & Annette Meyers. Ghost: G.K. Chesterton. Lifetime Achievement: Tony Hillerman \$125 until 1/4/02, then \$135. Add \$50 if you want to go to the Agatha Awards Dinner. Write Malice,

March 15-17 - Sluethfest will be at the Hilton in Deerfield-Boca Raton, FL \$165 email

March 21-24 - LCC12 is having Laurie King as one of it's GOH. Doubletree Hotel, Jantzen Beach, Portland, OR. Also GOH: Steven Saylor, G.M.Ford as Toastmaster, Fan GOH, Don Herron, Publisher GOH Dennis McMillan. Cost was \$90 through 11/15, but we don't

know what it is now. Contact

April 13 - is the tentative date for The Pleasant Places of Florida's 27th Annual Spring Gathering. Host, and therefore time & place, not yet set. If you would like to make arrangements for this, contact Carl Heifetz or Wanda Dow.

June 14-16 -Bloody Words will be held at the Delta Chelsea Hotel in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. GOH: Peter Robinson, Int'l Guest: Walter Mosley. Go to <www.bloodywords.com> to find out more info.

September 27-29 - Mid Atlantic Mystery 2002, The Ninth Annual Mystery Book Fair & Convention where you can meet outstanding mystery authors, fans, editors and even agents. Special guests are Jonathan Gash and Lisa Scottoline. \$140 pays for admission to facilities, panels (including a "How To Do It" seminar), private preview of book room, Friday night dinner & reception, Saturday breakfast & Sunday "wind-up." Send to MAM2002, c/o Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. 8th St., Philadelphia, PA 19147

October 17-20 - Bouchercon 33 will be at the Renaissance Austin Hotel in Austin, TX. GOH: Mary Willis Walker. Toastmaster: Sparkle Hayter. Fan GOH: Bill Crider. Contact 2002 Boucheron,

Some of the
SONNETS BY THE MAJOR



Come, now with me...
and join a gentl'r
time...

More civiliz'd, and of a
slower pace...

(Although dear London burst her
seams with crime,
For those who search'd, there was a
sweeter face.)

Victoria, the Queen; Edward, her son...
They rul'd an empire stretch'd around
the world!

An empire that ne'er saw the setting
sun!

On ev'ry continent her flag unfurl'd.
On Baker Street, 221-B, a pair
Of lodger's shar'd their digs. A couple,
odd,

Mis-match'd, but, also, complements
so rare.

They fit together as peas in a pod.
From that strange marriage came the
gift of joy

To "ev'ry man who still is half a boy!"

To old P.P. of F. let's raise our glass,
And toast the one's who've kept us in
the sun.

To Wanda.. Leslie.. Tom & Pat,
enmasse.. To Mike & Marsha..
Ben & ev'ryone..

To George & Mary .. Helen.. Sue &
Jane .. To Barry .. Andy .. John &
Caroline ..

The Gunnings .. George & Helen T.
enchain With Joan. (To those left
out, the fault is mine!)

To all there were, and to all the ones to
come .. You've left a challenge
difficult to meet.

You've etch'd a record.. left a rule of
thumb .. And, given those ahead
a balance sheet.

The legacy that come from the first five
Will keep the Master's flame and fame
alive.

Dear Sherlockian,

I want to thank the Sherlockians for their support of my first book *The Hidden Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* which was published last year. It can now be purchased through Barnes & Noble (Barnesandnoble.com), the Mysterious Bookshop, New York City, NY (Mysteriousbookshop.com), and in Walden & Borders Book Stores (distributed by Ingram Book Company), and through Omnibus Enterprises, Ltd, 12907 E. 36th Terr., Independence, MO 64055. The purchase price is \$25.00 plus S & H. Omnibus has a \$5.00 S & H charge.

The new book, *The Hidden Adventures of Sherlock Holmes II*, has just been published and can be purchased through Omnibus for \$25.00 plus \$5.00 S & H (or its equivalent in your currency).

The Hidden Adventures of Sherlock Holmes II contains two short stories and a novel. In the novel, *The Stolen Treasure of the Knights of Malta*, Sherlock is engaged by the Knights of Malta to locate and recover the wealth of the Order stolen by Napoleon and his forces on his way to invade Egypt. Admiral Horatio Nelson and the British Navy were in hot pursuit and engaged the French fleet at Abu Qir Bay near Alexandria, Egypt, on August 1st and 2nd, 1798. The French fleet suffered a devastating defeat and its flagship *L'Orient*, believed to be carrying the Knights' treasure, blew up killing most of the 1100 crew. The adventure takes the duo to Egypt and into the battle of Fort Qayt. The story contains the history of Islam.

In the short story, *The Mysterious Key*, an adult orphaned daughter comes to Sherlock for help concerning a key which her father always wore around his neck. In *Wart's Dilemma*, Watson's old school chum comes to Sherlock and Watson for help, as valuable art work is disappearing from a old college in Cambridge where he serves on the governing body.

Should you want to purchase both books, I will give you a special price of \$20.00 per book and the S & H would be \$5.00 for both for a total cost of \$45.00 or a savings of 25%. On the cover of both books is a portrait of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson painted by my wife Kerstin. It finds them in their middle forties and a little more rounded than the earlier depictions. I have had a wristwatch made up with these portraits on the face with a black leather band. Should you want one of these limited edition wristwatches, the price is \$25.00 plus \$5.00 S & H, but if combined with the purchase of one or two books, I will absorb the S & H charge on the wristwatch. Satisfaction is guaranteed. The copies will be signed and dated unless otherwise directed. Should you want an inscription, please place it with your order.

Thanks for your consideration. I hope that you will enjoy this new book as much as I have in writing it.

Kindest regards,

William C. Paxton

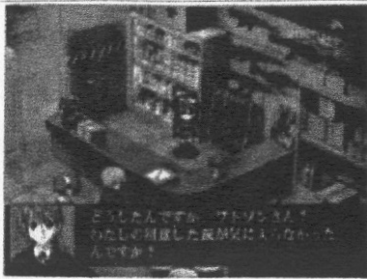
HE'S EVERYWHERE...

Previously mentioned were some Sherlockian puzzles from *Bits & Pieces*. You can call at 1-800-44-7297. Member Caroline Everett sez when she bought hers, they were \$23.90 including postage ... Bear & Company, PO Box 4385, Gettysburg, PA 17325 has a new Sherlock bear called *Detective Duke*. He's 16" high w/magnifying glass, cloak & cap. There's also a kid's detective outfit available in sz. 4-6. 1-800-596-4577

DIGITAL HOLMES

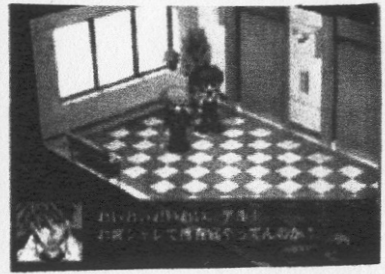
Found on the internet by *Hounds of the Internet* member Maureen O'Brien, here's an English description of a Japanese game. We thought you might find it interesting anyway. To check it out on your own, you can go to <http://www.sonyweb.com/news/1100/019.html>

What could be more exciting than Digital Watson? How about some *Digital Holmes*? It is truly elementary. Elementary, my dear Watson. As far as Arc System is concerned, it is exactly that. *Digital Holmes* is the new strategy game from Arc System Works, but there is a catch. It's only going to be available in Japan. Classified by ASW as a tactical Talk Strategy title, *Holmes* brings the old English detective era into the next generation where it meets head on with the futuristic stylings of today. In modern day London, you are Hugh Ibuka Holmes. As a direct descendent of Master Sherlock Holmes, your mission is clear. Basically, you must talk your way out of trouble and find the missing pieces to solve a particularly special case. But as it's probably obvious, this is no ordinary adventure game. From the information given by ASW, you have a mere 48 hours, or two days (cont. on page 7)



(cont. from page 6) depending on your breakdown preference, to find out who or what has done you wrong. However, as the classification might suggest, you must speak to any and everyone you can. There are no magic spells, no materia,

no fancy battle schemes of tradition. Reminiscent of the mid-80s when *Breakin'* and *Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo* were terrorizing the television, the battles that do take place are not violent. As you are talking to an "opponent," instead of a life

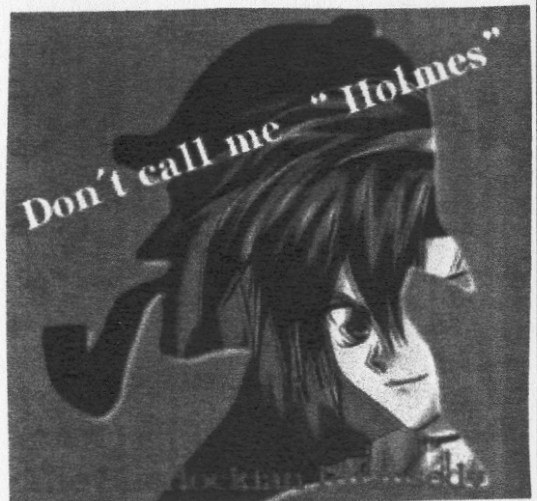


gauge that you would normally deplete to best your foe, you will have to fend off his or her tension and trustworthiness gauges to "win." Some of you may be upset that you will miss out on the talk show fund, and some could care less. If you

want to catch all the action, you will have to have an import PS2 handy and about 6800 yen in early 2001.

According to Ms. O'Brien, the game appears to have built up something of a Japanese cult following over the last year, which has only been increased by some sort of network version of the game which is available here at <http://dh.gamers.dream.ne.jp/>.

Meanwhile, over on Arc System's site over in Japan for the game, there are apparently multiple stories about the characters (to keep the kids coming back). One of them is called *The Sherlockian Rhapsody* with some interesting art for it. (see right) http://kti.arcsy.co.jp/dh/sr/sr_bn.htm



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,

<drmccallister@webtv.net>

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!** To continue your membership, send US\$12.00 (US/CAN) or US\$13.00 (INTL) to Carl Heifetz,

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THIS IS THE EXPIRATION DATE OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP.**

**Pleasant Places of Florida
The Papers On The Sundial**

