



Communication

#220

New Series

March/April, 2002

Volume 6 Issue 2

March already? We know we're getting older when the time begins to zip by. Wringing our hands, we apologize that we haven't yet gotten out the publication for our last gathering, nor the birthday dinner, and we have dropped the ball on the current pastiche. (Much head-hanging in disgrace and shame). Hopefully we will catch up, perhaps in some combination publications. For now, our pastiche, *City Ablaze*, is back on course and our papers are sorted and stacked and ready to be inputted for the gathering(s). Be patient.

For those of you who weren't able to join us at Wessex, it was a lovely set-up on a second-level porch-like area, covered, but open-air. Delicious food and warm conversation (which was a good thing since the morning had chilled from a slight drizzle). Our winning Wessex (6th race) horse was Tejano's Son, #3, ridden by Juan G. Rivera. Colors were black and aqua with a yellow triangular stripe. We look forward to the same venue next year! Thanks, David!

The Papers on the Sundial

Sherlockian Calendar

May 4

27th Annual Spring
Gathering

Something is in the works for
the Sarasota area. See
upcoming flyer for details.

November 2

27th Annual Fall Gathering
Need a host. Please contact
Carl Heifetz or Wanda Dow.

FROM SCIENCE NOTEBOOK, Monday 12/24/01 *The Washington Post*

'Baskerville Effect' May Be True

In the Sherlock Holmes story "The Hound of the Baskervilles," Charles Baskerville dies from a heart attack triggered by a frightening encounter with a hound dog. Is it really possible to be scared to death? New research suggests that the answer is yes.

David Phillips, of the University of California at San Diego, and colleagues examined computerized U.S. death certificates of more than 200,000 Americans of Chinese and Japanese descent and of 47,000 whites from 1973 to 1998.

In Mandarin, Cantonese and Japanese, the words "death" and "four" are pronounced nearly identically. As a result, the number four causes anxiety and stress among many Chinese and Japanese. The superstition is so widespread that the number four is omitted in some Chinese and Japanese floor and room numberings, restaurants and telephone numbers. The Chinese air force avoids the number in designating aircraft.

The researchers found there were 13 percent more deaths from heart attacks among Americans of Chinese and Japanese descent on the fourth day of the month than would have been expected. The researchers accounted for any changes in diet, exercise or similar (cont. on page 2)

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HE'S EVERYWHERE

Quite a few ads Sherlockian in the Early Spring 2002 catalog from *Signals Video*. Ian Richardson's *Sherlock Holmes Double Feature VHS tapes of SIGN and HOUN*. \$29.95 #204918; Paddington Station Clock 9" diameter, \$79 #87946; Sherlock Holmes Teapot, ceramic with an appealing scene of H&W at home \$45 #204975; Sherlock Holmes Chess Set, resin, \$399 #205161; *The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* radio programs 1947-48 with John Stanley and Alfred Shirley, 10 CDs \$69.95 #205145 or 10 cassettes \$59.95 #205146; Brett's Holmes are available on VHS: 3GAB, DYIN, GOLD, REDC, MAZA, CARD #46966 \$99.95; SIGN, HOUN, The Master Blackmailer, The Last Vampire, The Eligible Bachelor #49205 \$89.95; SOLI, SPEC, NAVA, SCAN, DANC, BLUE, CROO, COPP, GREE, NORW, RESI, REDH, FINA #49206 \$219.95; and DISA, PROB, BOSCO, ILLU, SHOS, CREE #49208 \$99.95; Sherlock Holmes Magnifying Glass, with Holmes for a handle, #205453 \$64; Sherlock Holmes Paperweight, Holmes waiting to sight the HOUN, bronzed #205452 \$58 Call 24/7 at 1-800-530-2225 ...In the December, 2001 newsletter of the Florida Bibliophile Society, mention is not only made of Sherlock

Holmes but also of our very own Dr. Benton Wood. In an article *On Stamps* from Steve Trussel's web site, topical postage stamp collecting is presented, specifically "Detective Fiction on Stamps." Dr. Ben is listed as "one of the finest examples of Philatelic Topical collecting" and it looks like member Art Walker made sure the PPoF also got a plug.

ROSTER CHANGES

Tropical Deerstalkers, the only other Florida Scion at present, can now be contacted at

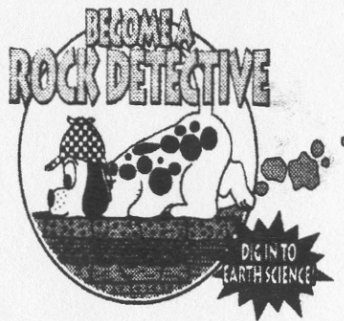
Check your address & make sure we have the correct one!

(cont. from page 1) factors that may have influenced the findings.

"We call this mortality peak 'the Baskerville effect,'" the researchers wrote in the Dec. 22-29 issue of the *British Medical Journal*. "Our findings are consistent with the scientific literature and with a famous nonscientific story. This Baskerville effect exists both in fact and in fiction and suggests that Conan Doyle was not only a great writer but a remarkably intuitive physician as well.

—compiled by Rob Stein

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An ad from educational kits on rocks in a teacher's catalog.

THE HANSOM WHEELS PASTICHE/PARODY CONTEST

Maximum length - 5000 words. Entries may be submitted by mail, fax or e-mail. If by e-mail, format in Word, Wordperfect or as .pdf files and e-mail to:

The Joseph A. Hansom prizes, honoring the English architect who patented the Hansom Cab in 1834 are 1st - \$100, 2nd - \$50 & 3rd - \$50. Cover sheet to include name, address, e-mail address, web site (if available), phone number (Day & eve.) & fax number. Plus statement that work is original and permission for use of copyrighted material has been obtained. Winners announced during the Intergalactic Sherlockian Festival. **You do not have to be present to win.** Deadline is March 15, 2002. Inquiries to G. B. Lane

MEMO FROM BBC

re: CUSHING BBC HOUND

Apologies for the fact that this is a general information sheet as opposed to a personalised reply. I've attempted to send 'personal' messages wherever necessary but these are quite literally adding up to over 500 in a week.

The good news is that, as anticipated, these titles will be available overseas. However, these are limited edition titles and they are available through mail order only - through this office.

1. What formats are available?

The following formats are all available:

DVD (PAL Region 0)

VHS (PAL)

VHS (NTSC)

I've not been able to make a DVD NTSC version available for these initial releases as costs for making the master would have been prohibitive. I was glad to hear so many potential viewers in the States (traditionally the major NTSC market) could use PAL, but for those unable to do so I am ensuring the material is available on VHS on NTSC.

Once again I must stress that these first three titles are limited editions intended to test the water. If it emerges that people want this material we will release similar titles and if/when this occurs these will hopefully be available on DVD (NTSC) with more extras. I can confirm that *Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Count Dracula* each come with illustrated literature, chapterisation and the DVD version has been digitally remastered.

2. Prices

The price for a DVD and the price for

a VHS (PAL) are the same overseas as in the UK. Both cost £19.99 per unit (ie; per DVD, or per VHS).

NTSC VHS copies cost more to produce and consequently these are £25 each.

Postage and packing (P&P) costs vary throughout the world. (See www.bbcworldwide.com/vet/specialinterests/content/How2Buy.asp for prices not listed here).

Canada and the US

P&P for one DVD: £9

P&P for between one DVD and 6 DVD's: £13

P&P for over six DVD's: By arrangement. Please contact me through the main site for details.

P&P for one VHS: £11

P&P for between one VHS and 6 VHS's: £15

P&P for over six VHS's: By arrangement. Please contact me through the main site for details.

Please note, we can organise for goods to be sent out by courier.

This means you get the material quicker, but it is more expensive.

For this region, there is a flat rate of £18 for one unit, £22 for two units, £25 for three units. For quantities above that: prices on request. If you wish to take advantage of this offer, please indicate clearly on your order and, of course, add the additional sum to the amount paid.

3. How can I order these titles?

Payment must be received with the order. Payment must be by credit card or International Money Order. In terms of credit card, we accept only Visa, Master Card or American Express. International Money Orders should be made payable to BBC Worldwide Ltd.

You order with payment by credit

card by visiting www.bbcworldwide.com/vet/specialinterests/content/How2Buy.asp Simply complete the online form and click 'submit'. If you would prefer to submit a hard copy, after completing the form, print it out and send it to: Gavin Collinson, Room A3022, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT, ENGLAND

Please note: do not submit a hard copy and email another request if you are making a single order as these will be treated as two orders.

If you wish to pay by International Money Order, visit www.bbcworldwide.com/vet/specialinterests/content/How2Buy.asp & complete the form, but in the credit card field please indicate that you are enclosing an International Money Order for the appropriate amount. Print off the completed form and send, complete with the cheque, to the above address. Please note when paying by International Money Order, payment must be in pounds sterling.

4. When are these being mailed out?

These are limited edition titles but if units are available they will be mailed out within ten days of receipt of your order. However, turn-around time is usually much swifter. The first overseas mail outs will begin early February. No account will be debited or cheque cashed prior to the commencement of order fulfilment.

5. Details on DVDs in general

If you want to learn about more DVDs in general visit <http://www.the.digitalbits.com/officialfaq.html>

This is not a BBC site and so all the normal disclaimers apply regarding information posted on it not necessarily reflecting the BBC's views. But this is the site many industry figures (cont. on page 4)

SHERLOCK HOLMES' HORSE'S DOG

William Saffire - St. Pete Times 2/8/2002 (excerpts)

"It is my business to know what other people don't know."

So said Sherlock Holmes in Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Adventure of the Red Carbuncle*. That sums up the business of the political pundit.

On occasion, however, it becomes the business of other people to point out that what I know is not so.

Up to now, I have been dealing with mistakes or misjudgments called to my attention, in high dudgeon or low-key instruction, by a few sticklers for precision.

But beware the Baker Street Irregulars. These worldwide worshipers at the shrine of Sherlock Holmes are poised to castigate all who deviate from Conan Doyle scripture. And they now possess a new weapon to enforce the sanctity of their temple: e-mail.

Last month I used as a metaphor the dog that did not bark. Because the Conan Doyle story was titled *Silver Blaze*, I assumed that that was the name of the curiously silent watchdog.

At last count, no fewer than 753 irate Holmes fans had risen to set me straight: "Saffire, butthead," saluted one, "Silver Blaze was the name of the horsenapped racehorse, not the dog at the farm which (sic) didn't bark." Another: "The failure of Silver Blaze to bark can be attributed, primarily, to his being a horse. The dog, alas, goes unnamed."

What a mail pull. Now let's shoot for a myriad: What color was that adventurous carbuncle?

NC. This full biography of William Gillette promises to be a great read. Henry can be reached at 503 McArthur Dr., Rockville, MD 20850-1583.

We also hear that Ted Stankiewicz, after years of research, recently completed a full biography of William Gillette that he hopes to have out soon. Something for Gillette fans to look forward to!

Luke Steven Fullenkamp writes us about his new Sherlock Holmes novel, *Sherlock Holmes and The Ghost of the Flying Dutchman*. "It's a new twist on the Holmes' legend that many readers are finding delightfully different. It's the second book in my Sherlock Holmes' series and is filled with mystery, adventure and romance." It is available through Ingram Books In Print. It's ISBN# is 0-75966-270-3.

Calendar Sherlockiana 2002 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. April 26-28 - The first Intergalactic Sherlockian Festival, (cont. on page 5)

(cont. from page 3) refer to. It is exhaustive, useful and very interesting.

6. Details on PAL/NTSC

If you're uncertain whether you need PAL or NTSC the general rule of thumb is that Europe, Australia and New Zealand use PAL whereas the States and Canada use NTSC. However, many systems in the States and Canada can now play PAL without difficulty. If in doubt, please check your individual systems. For a more in-depth explanation of who plays what, please visit <http://www.barrel-of-monkeys.com/graphics/prod/dvdplayer/s/tvideostds.html>

Again, I'm obliged to issue a reminder that this is not a BBC site and so all the normal disclaimers apply regarding information posted on it not necessarily

reflecting the BBC's views.

7. Other stuff

For information about the titles, more about BBC Special Interests and so forth, please visit the main site at www.bbcworldwide.com/vet/specialinterests

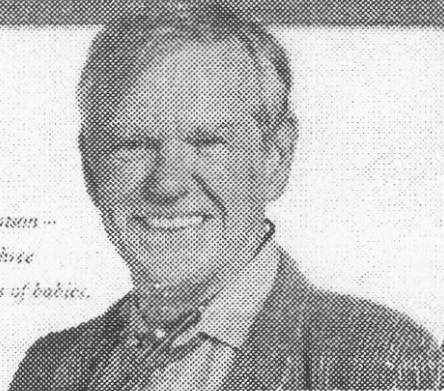
If this email and the site does not contain the information you require please contact me through the site.

All the best,
Gavin Collinson


BOOKS

The Man Who Was Sherlock Holmes by Henry Zecher, excerpts of which appeared in *The Pipe Smoker's Ephemeris* will be published this year by Troy Publishing Company of Chapel Hill,

Both are seen as pillars of trust.
Only one can assess the health of your portfolio.



*Doctor Watson...
delivered three
generations of babies.*



*Kathleen Hastings
Schwab Investment Specialist,
McLean, VA*

(cont. from page 4) hosted by The Hansom Wheels Scion Society of the BSI in Columbia, SC. Friday - Registration, Historical Tour, Welcome & Sherlockian Presentations, Opening Reception & Dinner; Saturday-Sherlockian Presentations, Awards Lunch, Howard Burnham Historic Monologue, Mystery Dinner; Sunday - Merrie Olde English Breakfast, Pastiche/Parody Competition, Awards & Readings. Deadline to register: April 1. \$95 per person. Checks payable to Hansom Wheels, mail to Dr. Joseph A. Plyler,

Hotel:
Hampton Inn Downtown \$94
single, \$101 Double 10% AAA
discount. Refer to code SSF & ask
for Lisa

**May 3 - 5 - *STUD-Watsonian
Weekend*** in Chicago, IL Friday -The
STUD "fun(d)raiser" at the
Diamond-Devitt Home for Canon-
ical Canines and Compulsives.
Saturday- First, Solar Pons/
Fortescue Honours Brunch at Erik's

Delicatessen in Oak Park, followed
by a visit to Centuries and Sleuths
Bookstore in Forest Park; then, that
evening, the gala annual STUD
dinner at Ridgemoor Country Club in
Chicago. Noted Sherlockian and
Doylean Roy Pilot will be the
featured speaker at the dinner. There
will, of course, be the usual STUD
awards, toasts, and door prizes, as
well as a few surprises. Sunday - The
Watsonians will welcome you to the
historic 43rd annual running of the
Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race
Track in Cicero. As most of you
know, the Chicago race is now the
oldest annually held Silver Blaze in
the world. May 5 is also opening day
for Hawthorne's spring meet, so we
should see some outstanding races.
For a very modest tariff, you will
partake of a truly sumptuous buffet
and have a chance to win a few
shillings. Please contact Allan Devitt
& Susan Diamond,

Or

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,

The Pleasant Places of Florida

*Founded: 1972
by Leslie Marshall (dec.)*

Recorder Emeritus: Dr. Benton Wood
<BWSCANnu51@aol.com>

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**

