



Communication

#223

New Series

July/August, 2002

Volume 6 Issue 5

We hope you've been having an enjoyable summer. As Fall approaches, we turn our thoughts to ways to increase our membership. Perhaps we should take a hint from the Occupants of the Empty House who tell us they recently had a member design a poster and displayed it in a local bookstore. Any ideas submitted by PPof members would be appreciated. A letter was received inquiring, nay, demanding the identity of the poets of issue 221. Well, unless otherwise identified, all poetry is attributed to The Paper on the Sundial who does the special issues, with the exception of The Papers poem which was contributed by both Papers. So if you've been paying attention to past issues, you'll figure out who the guilty party is. Hope you enjoy this one.

The Papers on the Sundial

SHERLOCK'S TAKE ON MARRIAGE

Holmes, Watson and Lestrade were sitting at 221B, enjoying a cigar after an excellent meal by Mrs. Hudson. Nostalgic for the past, the good doctor began to extol on the virtues of a good marriage.

"I do miss those days," he sighed.

Lestrade commented smugly, "Do you mean to tell me, sir, that had you to choose between a wife and a mistress, you would choose the former?"

"Most certainly," Watson replied. "I enjoyed every moment I shared with my sweet

Mary, building a solid foundation for, what we hoped would be, an enduring relationship."

"Fah!" Lestrade snorted. "Give me a mistress any day! Nowhere else would you find the mystery! The passion!"

The threesome sat in silence for a moment before the doctor turned to Holmes.

"What about you, Holmes?" Watson insisted on inquiring. "Which would you choose?"

Holmes took a few puffs on his cigar before responding. "Well Watson, I would have to

say that I would take both."

"What?!" Watson huffed in shock while Lestrade merely laughed.

"Good for you, my friend!" the inspector chortled.

"In the name of all that's decent, Holmes, why ever would you do that?!" Watson asked.

"I would, of course, let it be known to both of them that the other existed," Holmes explained. "The wife would assume, then, that I was with the mistress, and the mistress would assume that I was with the wife."

"And you would be?"

"Why, in the lab, getting some work done!" Holmes concluded.

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Sherlockian Calendar

November 2

27th Annual Fall Gathering

Hosts: Dorothy Stix & Carl Heifetz

New Port Richey, FL

Case: *The Red-Headed League*

HE'S EVERYWHERE

The Strand Magazine offers a catalog of products as well as their publication. You can visit them at <www.strandmag.com> ... The summer catalog for *Radio Spirits* ("Bringing Back The Golden Age of Radio") advertises many Sherlockian items. You can visit them at <www.radiospirits.com> ... You can now own that film by Paul Singleton & Maribeau Briggs, *Oh What A Hound It Was*. Contact Maribeau for a VHS format tape for \$20 (includes shipping) at

If you're outside the continental U.S., contact her first to square out the additional costs of shipping ... In the March/April issue of *BOOK*, a literary magazine, Sherlock was listed as #6 in an article about "The 100 Best Characters Since 1900." The panel of 56 judges included writers, journalists, professors, actors and editors. For those of you upset that he wasn't #1, he did, at least, come out on top of all the other detectives who made the list. The next highest was Philip Marlowe at #25 ... Got £1,500 you don't know what to do with? You can buy a first edition of *Hound* from Nigel Williams Rare Books, 22 & 25 Cecil Court, London WC2N 4HE UK ... We've heard good things about a cd-rom, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes and Then Some*.

It contains a fully illustrated Canon, plus *The Man With The Watches* and *The Lost Special* in searchable PDF format. US \$11.45 (includes postage) from Bill Dorn,

... Nicholas Meyer's *The West End Horror* has been put into play form by Anthony Dodge and Marcia Mildrom Dodge and was performed at Bay Street Theatre in Sag Harbor, NY in July. Website is <www.baystreet.org> ... Roger Llewellyn is portraying Holmes in David Stuart Davies' *Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!* in various theaters in the UK through December and will be at the Kavinoky Theatre in Buffalo, NY for 5 weeks in January & February, 2003 ...

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AN AD FOR THE SHERLOCK MICROBIAL I.D. SYSTEM FROM MIDI

Sherlockian Clerihews

by Charles M. Carroll

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES
Sir Charles and Henry Baskerville
Were scions of a family ill -
Suited to be good; what's worse
They suffered from a kind of
curse.

Sir Hugo Baskerville, the First,
Was certainly by far the worst.
He met his end in manner fell,
His gorge torn out by Hound of
Hell.

Jack Stapleton of Merripit House,
A Baskerville really, a bit of a
louse;
His plan, to inherit Baskerville
Hall
Was checked when into the
Grimpen Mire he did fall.

James Mortimer, M.R.C.S.
He said to Holmes, "I must
confess
"Your dolichocephalic skull
"To me is quite phenomenal."
* * *

Miss Violet Smith came to
Holmes in a hurry;
She lived out at Farnham, on the
borders of Surrey;
She played the piano, was quite
good at whist,
We know her as the solitary
cyclist.
* * *

LOOK FOR MORE
ON PAGE FOUR

2022-2003 Calendar Sherlockiana

September 27-29 - Mid Atlantic Mystery 2002, The Ninth Annual Mystery Book Fair & Convention is 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,

October 25-27 - Magna Cum Murder IX Mystery Convention in Muncie, IN at the E.B. Ball Center Call 765-285-8975 or email

November 1-3 Sherlock Holmes Weekend in Cape May, NJ with the mystery, *Sherlock Homes and the Eye of Venus* includes a tour of the town's Victorian homes. Contact Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204 or call (800) 275-4278.

November 2 - 27th Annual Fall

Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida at the home of Dorothy Stix, Trinity, FL. Case for study: *The Red-Headed League*. Contact Carl Heifetz,

November 2 - Gasfitters Ball (the ball where Holmes & Watson fraternize with the lower class) presented by the South Pasadena Woman's Club. Contact Jerry Kegley,

or call

January, 2003 - A Sherlock Holmes Celebration is being planned to take place at the Frank Lloyd Wight Civic Center Library in Marin County, CA. Contact Carol Russell by email at

They promise "an exciting variety of events and displays" mainly thanks to the efforts of volunteers from various societies (*The Scowers and Molly Maquires* to name two).

PUBLISHED PPOFERS

Carl Heifetz has an article, *Keep Digging Until You Find It*, in Vol. 6, Issue 3 of the *Holmes & Watson Report* in July, 2002. Look for it on pages 27-31.

Don't forget to inform us if you have anything published. In fact, don't forget to send us anything Sherlockian for print. No novels, please, but original poetry, puzzles, papers, etc. are welcome!

Seen on a bumper sticker in Pinellas County (School Board Position):

Now's the time for

HOLMES

THE BAKER STREET DISPATCH

is still calling all writers for submissions of book & video reviews, tidbits, Calendar of Events, essays, poetry, etc. about the Canon or Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Send to BSD,



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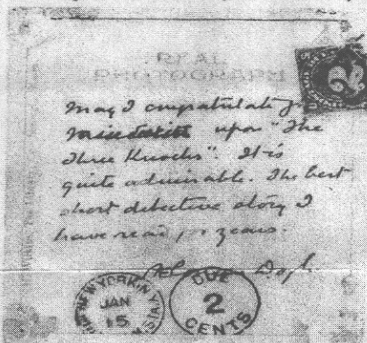
www.interimhealthcare.com

Ad sent in by alert PPOfer, Carl Heifetz.

\$25 to the first reader who tells us

who wrote "**THE THREE KNOCKS**"

Paul R. Reynolds, the well-known literary agent of New York City, was kind enough to send us the photograph of this most provocative postcard written by A. Conan Doyle:



Now, any detective story that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle considered the best he had read for years seemed an absolute "natural" for reprint in EQMM. So we promptly set out to identify the author of "The Three Knocks"—and so far all our inquiries have ended in a cul-de-sac. When we reported our failure to Mr. Reynolds, he came up with an excellent suggestion: Why not put it up to the readers of EQMM and award a prize to the first one who correctly names the author?

All entries must be postmarked no later than February 1, 1953. The contest is open to everyone except employees of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, Mercury Publications, Inc., and their families.

So—who wrote "**THE THREE KNOCKS**"?

ELLERY QUEEN'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE · 570 Lexington Avenue · N. Y. 22, N. Y.

TOM TAKACH SENT THIS REPRINT FROM A FEBRUARY, 1953 ELLERY QUEEN'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE CONTEST. UNFORTUNATELY THERE WAS NO ANSWER PROVIDED.

THE SIGN OF THE FOUR
Abdullah Khan, Mahomet Singh,
Dost Akbar, they pledged
everything.
Mahomet Singh, Dost Akbar, too,
With Abdul Khan, Achmet they
slew.
Dost Akbar, Singh and Abdul
Khan,
All thought they had a treasure
won.
But fate dealt them an awful jolt,
oh!
Which leads us to the brothers
Sholto.
Thaddeus Sholto's brother

Bartholomew
Was cut down by Tonga, a thorn
from his blow-gun flew
Into Bart's ear. It did him no
good, it was merely a dodge.
All this took place at Pondicherry
Lodge.
Jonathan Small
Wanted it all;
When he couldn't keep the gems,
He threw the lot into the Thames.
Captain Morstan's daughter
Mary
Found herself in a quandary.

Ended happy beyond measure,
Though she lost the Agra
treasure.

Birdy Edwards, alias John
(“Jack”) McMurdo,
A Pinkerton man, never second
nor third; no.
He vanquished the Scowrers,
he won every time,
But was finally done in by the
Napoleon of Crime.

Colonel Elias Openshaw,
A member of the Klan;
His family kept his secret.
They died to the last man.

Charles Augustus Milverton
Had a very silver tongue;
Though he wasn't very young,
Holmes thought him a really
bad 'un.

Count Silvius, known as
Negretto
Could have danced a demure
minuetto;
But his plans for the Mazarin
stone went down the hole
When Holmes deceived him
with the Hoffman barcarolle.

**CORRECTIONS TO
ADDRESS BOOK**
Tropical Deerstalkers,

David McCallister,

Dorothy Stix,

Bob Zuczek,

PUBLICATIONS

The Castle Rouge by Carole Nelson is to be released in August. It's a suspense featuring Holmes, Adler and Jack the Ripper.

A Sherlock Holmes Miscellany by Eric Monahan is a 40-pager containing a new adventure as well as a parody, and several essays. Get it direct from the author at Highcliff,

UK £4.85;

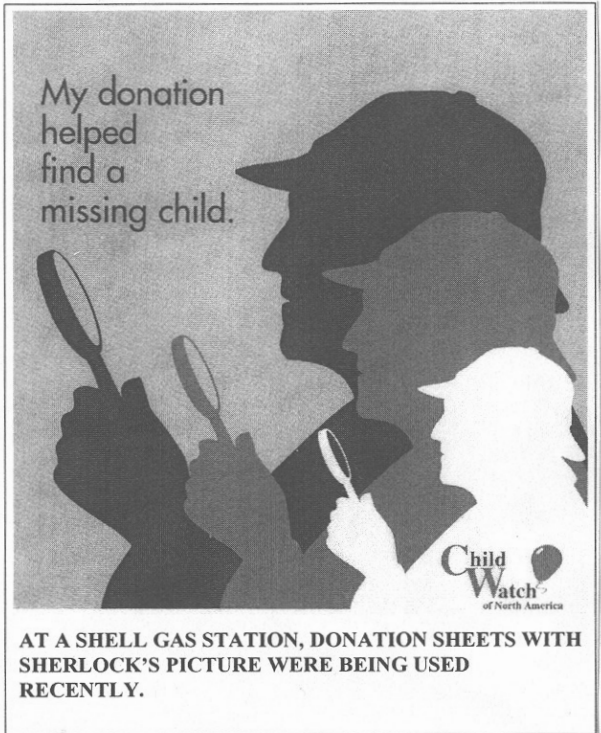
US\$9; Canada \$13.95 (includes postage)

Curious Incidents: Being a Collection of the Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes contains stories by various authors. Available from Made For A Mystery, Suite D308, 3805 Marlborough Drive NE, Calgary, Alberta T2A 5M4 Canada. US\$10 (surface) \$12 (air). Check the website at <www.bakerstreetdozen.com/ciorders.html>

Nicholas Twit is a new quarterly magazine for ages 9-12. Nicholas is billed as "the schoolboy Sherlock Holmes." He's a computer whiz, not good in sports, and wants to be a private detective like his hero, Sherlock. The magazine contains adventures, puzzles and 'Sherlockian snippets.' Volume 1 out now, #2 coming in September. US\$4 Get details at <www.twit.bizz>

Seventeen Steps to Slimness: A Sherlockian Diet Manual by Susan Z. Diamond got a good review in the July issue of *Baker Street Dispatch*. You can get it from Classic Specialties, P.O. Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 or write the publisher at The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, Box 122, Sauk City, WI 53583-0122

Occupants of the Empty House are offering past issues of *Beeman's Christmas Annuals* for sale, 1986 - 2001 (1997 not available), plus the Camden House Cookbook #2, OEH pins, 25th Anniversary Mugs and Book Bags. Send inquiries to Stan Tinsley,



My donation helped find a missing child.

Child Watch of North America

AT A SHELL GAS STATION, DONATION SHEETS WITH SHERLOCK'S PICTURE WERE BEING USED RECENTLY.

IT'S TO LAUGH...

"You really must come into the outside world more often, Mycroft," said Sherlock. "The world is such a bizarre place. Why just yesterday a young woman pedaled up to me on a bicycle, jumped off, took off all her clothing and said, 'Take what you want!'"

"What did you do?" asked Mycroft.

"I took the bike," Sherlock replied.

"Excellent choice," agreed his brother. "The clothing would probably not have fit."

"Look at this glass and tell me what you see, Holmes," said Watson. "An optimist sees a glass half full. A pessimist sees it half empty. Which are you, old friend? What do you see?"

Holmes studied the glass for a moment. "I see, Watson, that you have a glass twice as big as needed to hold your liquor."

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**

