



# Communication No. 229

## BBC HOUND SUGGESTIONS

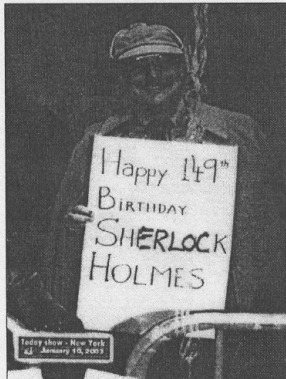
Dear Fellow Sherlockians,

I understand that the BBC producers of the recent TV version of Doyle's great story wanted to pep it up and make it more modern than previous showings. I can also understand that by leaving out characters such as Laura Lyons, they could save a lot of money. But, if they really wanted to be "with it" and more modern, they could have exploited the adulterous relationship between she and Stapleton.

We could have a sexual scene between her and an unidentifiable male. At first, we could be led to believe that the man was Sir Charles, and that was why she could have wanted to meet with him at his home - perhaps to shake him down for money. Only at the end, while she is being interviewed by Holmes and Watson do we revisit the scene as a flashback showing the man to be Stapleton. Then, when Holmes reveals that her lover is actually married to his "sister" Beryl, she goes nuts and reveals all - that Stapleton put her up to luring Sir Charles out so that Stapleton could knock him off, and with the money take off with Laura to a great new life in Florida. Also, since few holds are barred in modern TV, we could also see poor Beryl abused by Stapleton. This would make us hate him more. Then, the Hound could attack Stapleton and deposit him in the bog to die.

On second thought, maybe this version should be saved for the Fx network.

G. Norton, Esquire aka Carl L. Heifetz  
Private Consulting Microbiologist



David McCallister on *The Today Show* in New York, 2003.

## From the Papers on the Sundial:

As you can see, changes are a-happening! After several years, we just thought it was time to shake things up a bit and try a new format. We'll still be bringing the same news and reviews, but we thought we'd change the look just a bit.

We'd really like to encourage our writers out there

to send any any articles, poetry, songs, theories, etc. Artwork is accepted, too. We can scan!

So here we go into a new year. Let us hear from you if you like or dislike the changes. We're still playing around with it and willing to make more changes!

**Special thanks to The Alpha Inn Goose Club for sending The Papers a B&N certificate. It was used post haste! what with one of us being "some poor bibliophile" and all.**

## 2004 CALENDRIAL CALENDAR

The last time this publication was done was way back in 1997, so it's time for a new one. **CALLING ALL WRITERS! CALLING ALL SHERLOCKIANS! CALLING ALL PPOfers!**

If you recall, the idea is this: Recommend a Sherlock Holmes story that should be studied on a particular occasion, and write up your rationale for your recommendation. For instance, *Yellow Face* was recommended last time by Bob Zuczek to be read on Martin Luther King Day. Bob then wrote two paragraphs explaining why this should be done, comparing the idea of racial tolerance between the two.

If two or more good suggestions for a story-event connection is received, all will be used. There are never too many occasions to study the Canon. Final date for submission is Dec. 1, 2003.

We hope to sell this item for Christmas presents and at the Sherlockian weekend in 2004.

In the mean time, here are some holidays for your consideration:

**January** - New Year's Day, MLK Jr. Day, Epiphany, Inauguration Day, Australia Day, Super Bowl Sunday, Tu B'Shevat

**February** - Groundhog Day, Ash Wednesday, Valentine's Day, President's Day, Black History Month, Chinese/Lunar New Year, Boy Scout Day, National Dental Month, National Heart Month

**March** - St. Patrick's Day, First Day of Spring, Palm Sunday, Passover, Good Friday, Easter, Purim, National Nutrition Month, National Women's History Month, National Poison Prevention Week, Save Your Vision Week

**April** - April Fool's Day/All Fool's Day, Daylight Savings Time Begins, Tax Returns Due, Administrative Professionals Day, Earth Day, Arbor Day, Cancer Control Month

**May** - Armed Forces Day, Sea Turtles nesting period begins, May Day, National Day of Prayer, Nurse's Day, Shavou'ot, Victoria Day, National Teachers Day, Cinco de Mayo, Ascension Day, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, National Physical (cont. on back page)



excerpts from TV's  
**Damaged Detectives  
 are Sherlock's  
 Children**



There is an eccentric new generation of crime fighters in prime time - brilliant, obsessed and, if not dysfunctional, then at the very least damaged. They are modern descendants of the detective story's greatest hero, Sherlock Holmes. Mentioned are William L. Petersen's Gil Grissom (*C.S.I.*), Vincent D'Onofrio's Robert Goren (*Law & Order: Criminal Intent*), Jill Hennessy's Jordan Cavanaugh (*Crossing Jordan*) and Tony Shalhoub's Adrian Monk on (*Monk*).

Like Holmes, they spend their lives solving puzzles. And when the game is afoot, they delight in putting the pieces together. But take away their puzzles and they are left alone with their demons. Though they may not use a 7% solution of cocaine to ward off the ennui, they're still lost in what another detective, Raymond Chandler, once called "a darkness more than night."

"Holmes only needed the drugs when he wasn't working," said Mr. Shalhoub. "When Holmes was engaged in a case, his brain was on fire and he was doing what he was born to do. The same is true for Monk. When he latches onto some important detail in a case, he's free of all his phobias and neuroses and at least for that moment is at peace."

Monk seems to be plagued, by every neurosis and phobia known to man, including fears of germs, heights, crowds and milk. Andy Breckman, an executive producer of

the show and its head writer, admitted that he did more than borrow a detail or two from Conan Doyle in fleshing out the show's detective hero. "It's almost as if I used a Xerox machine," he said. In fact, he states that all three of the show's main characters are lifted straight out of Doyle: Monk; his nurse, Sharona (Bitty Schram), who is his Watson; and Captain Stottlemeyer of the San Francisco Police Department (played to exasperated perfection by Ted Levine), who is their Lestrade of Scotland Yard.

"Monk is like Holmes," Mr. Breckman said, "in that he is the most gifted guy around and the most troubled. He's just not happy out in the world. Everything is just in such disarray that he can't deal with it."

What's most important, according to Mr. Shalhoub, is that Monk, in his apartment or out solving crimes, remains fundamentally alone." As totally dependent as he is, Monk pretty much exists by himself," he said.

None of those neo-Holmeses are sympathetic in the conventional sense. And they go beyond the traditional "hard-boiled" detectives of pulp fiction to a more extreme state of existential isolation. Mr. Shalhoub acknowledged that this was not only rare for television, but also risky. "What intrigued me so much about Monk was this idea of

creating a character who was really annoying, who was really irritating and got on your nerves," he said. "I worried about whether audiences would sit still for this kind of character. But now I've come to embrace it."

10/13/2002 *The New York Times*

The Papers would like to remind members that *Non omnia possumus omnes\**, so if you have any poetry, short articles, cartoons, jokes, etc, please share!

#### Address changes

McCallister, David - from [redacted]

Heifetz, Carl - from [redacted]

Bill Serow - to [redacted]

#### New Members

Vaurio, Donna, [redacted]

#### HE'S EVERYWHERE

In an article in *Reader's Digest*, January 2003, titled "Crime Seen," Skip Palenik, a Chicago-area forensic microscopist is said to be "considered the best of the Holmesian challenge of deduction." ... on December 11th, 2003, Christopher Lee (cont. on page 4)

Philip K. Jones, 23336 Greencrest, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080, is looking for copies of the 'Foreign Cabman', the 'Lost L's', the '3 Merry Debs' and the 'Pale Ontologist' He'd also like a copy of "Tribute to Leslie Marshall" If anyone wants to sell theirs or can check on how much making a copy would be, please contact Philip.

#### Published PPOfers

Carl L. Heifetz, *Toast to Murray, Watson's Courageous and Faithful Orderly*, in *The Formulary* (The Journal for the Friends of Dr. Watson), 13:45-6, Dec. 2002.  
 David McCallister, *The Four Doctors: James, James, James and Jonathan*, in *The Formulary*, pgs 16-17, Dec. 2002.

\*We cannot do all things (Virgil)



## THE GAME'S STILL AFOOT WITH HOLMES

by John H. Fund

The big budget remake of the classic mystery "The Hound of the Baskervilles" airing this Sunday on PBS's "Masterpiece Theatre" gives proof that Sherlock Holmes remains one of the most recognizable and enduring fictional characters ever created. His exploits have even spawned a group of devotees who gather in cities all over the world every January to celebrate the birthday of "the world's greatest consulting detective."

The biggest meeting is always in New York, and features more than 200 Sherlockians from as far away as Japan and Switzerland (their international Web site is [www.sh-whoswho.com](http://www.sh-whoswho.com)). They come together for five days of scholarship, sleuthing and socializing.

Holmes hobbyists take their passion seriously. Learned papers address unresolved questions in the "canon," or the 60 original Sherlock Holmes stories published between 1887 and 1927. Induction into the 69 year-old Baker Street Irregulars, whose members have included Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman, is open only to those who have contributed significantly to the understanding of Holmes and the Victorian age he "lived in." Indeed, an amusing conceit of some Sherlockians is that Holmes and his detecting partner Dr. John H. Watson actually lived. In their view, the man credited with their creation, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, was in reality Watson's opportunistic literary agent, who unfairly took credit for chronicling Holmes's adventures.

Those who don't yet qualify for admission to the Baker Street Irregulars dinner hold a rowdier New York event on the same evening called the Baskerville Bash. This year's affair featured a takeoff on Groucho Marx's "You Bet Your Life" with appearances by such costumed characters from the canon as "The King of Bohemia," interspersed with reports from CNN -- the "Canonical News Network."

Outside of their festivities, Sherlockians only rarely sport the distinctive deerstalker hat, cape and meerschaum pipe that Holmes favored. **David McAllister of Tampa, Fla.**, did don his outfit for a walking tour of Manhattan last week and was stopped by a young black man. The fellow told the astonished Mr. McAllister that his real name was Sherlock Holmes, and he whipped out a driver's license to prove it. "Holmes fans know no boundaries, internationally or culturally," Mr. McAllister observes.

Membership in Holmes societies was overwhelmingly male until recently, but there's now a large female contingent in groups such as The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes. Mia Stampe, a physicist from Denmark, says that women are completely welcome among Holmes devotees, and that she received

respectful comments this year about her paper on the "dynamics of the asteroid," a topic that fascinated Prof. Moriarty, the criminal mastermind who bedeviled Holmes. "You don't have to be eccentric to be in these groups, but it helps," she admits.

Some Holmesians even earn part of their living from their hobby. Thierry Saint-Joanis, a French journalist, has taught university courses on investigative journalism based on Holmes's methods. Charles Foley, a member of the Conan Doyle clan, helps manage the family estate. Bill Nadel writes liner notes for CD collections of classic radio plays based on the Holmes stories. He and other fans are looking forward to Sunday's PBS broadcast, in which Holmes demystifies the legend of a hellish Dartmoor hound.

However, reviews from those who have seen the show when it aired in Britain are mixed. Charles Prepolec praises the authentic sets, costumes and atmosphere but says the classic chemistry between Holmes and Watson is often missing. In one scene in the adaptation, a cocaine-obsessed Holmes yells "Don't be an idiot, Watson!" before retreating into his room and abruptly closing the door. That's something Holmesians agree lies outside the spirit of the canon.

More to the liking of many fans is "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery," an

interactive exhibit that is traveling to museums all over the U.S. and is now at the Berkshire Museum. Patrons are invited to wander through eight "chapters" of a murder mystery set in Holmes's London. At each stop, whether it be an elegant séance room or a hidden opium den, participants encounter clues (and a few red herrings) through displays, audio recordings, written texts and even smells. After an hour of sleuthing, the curious can knock on a door of a Victorian study to meet with Allen Meyer, an actor who portrays Holmes. He then helps them deduce the solution by mentally walking them back through the story line.

"The case is far from elementary," Mr. Meyer says. "Less than 15% of sleuths solve it. One fellow got very angry when he was stumped. He said he was a detective and should have been able to figure it out. Ironically, children often do best."

The enduring popularity of Conan Doyle's stories is only partly explained by readers who want to tackle one of Holmes's "three-pipe problems" and solve it. The tales remain beloved because they speak to the desire of many of us for rationality, (cont. page 4)

**MUCCIO INVESTIGATIONS**

Sent in by Doris Chevalier

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(cont. from page 3) justice and fair play. There is also nostalgia for the virtues of a simpler age that the Holmes stories embody. Vincent Starrett, a member of the Baker Street Irregulars, summed up that part of the appeal of Holmes and Watson in a 1930s poem called "221b":

*Here dwell together still two men of note  
Who never lived and so can never die:  
How very near they seem, yet how remote  
That age before the world went all awry . . .  
Here, though the world explode, these two  
survive,  
And it is always eighteen ninety-five.*

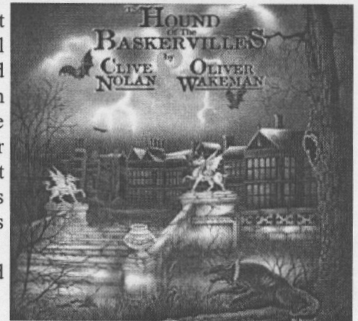
Mr. Fund is a columnist for [OpinionJournal.com](http://OpinionJournal.com) and has enjoyed Sherlock Holmes since age eight. Article from an issue of *The Wall Street Journal*

(cont. from page 2) was invested as a Chevalier of the French Academie des Arts et des Lettres. You may recall Mr. Lee has played both Sherlock and Mycroft as well as Henry Baskerville ... speaking of those Baskervilles, Verglass Music will release a progressive rock music concept album by Clive Nolan and Oliver Wakeman who previously did *Jabberwocky*. (It is 65 minutes in a highly structured form, with music and lyrics linked by a particular form.) There are 14 tracks featuring various vocalists, with Robert Powell's (as Watson) narrative bridging and augmenting the musicians' efforts. The songs are musical interpretations of various events in the story and some instrumentals are included to provide atmosphere. Sherlock Holmes fans who are also fans of Yes and Rick Wakeman should rush out and buy it immediately. Sherlock Holmes fans that enjoy rock music may be familiar with Jeff Wayne's *War of the Worlds*, which is

### Tropical Deerstalkers Report Leon Sterndale


On Sunday, January 19th, 2003, after a hearty brunch at John Martin's Pub, thirty-five of the members of the Tropical Deerstalkers celebrated the 149th Birthday of the Master Detective by attending the matinee performance of "Sherlock's Last Case." The play, by Charles Marowitz, was performed at the Actor's Playhouse at the Miracle Mile. Many of the members came in costume - Black Peter, the Noble Bachelor and Lady Francis Carfax were all there, along with Sherlock, Watson, Moriarty and of course Gypsies! Picking up where the famous stories ended, the play centers on a death threat against Sherlock Holmes by the supposed son of his late nemesis, Professor Moriarty. Oddly enough, however, Holmes is warned of the plot by Moriarty's daughter, to whom Holmes (who turns out to be quite a ladies' man) is strongly attracted. The plot then twists and turns until Holmes finds himself imprisoned in a dank cellar, trapped not by young Moriarty but, to his shocked surprise, by the good Dr. Watson - who, it turns out, has long been bitterly resentful of his second class status as Holmes' lackey. After Holmes demise, Watson comes into his own, or seems to, until a number of imposters turn up claiming to be the real Sherlock Holmes. In sorting all this out the play mixes humour and suspense in equal amounts, leading to a stunning final twist which will surely catch audiences by complete, and breath-stopping surprise. The Deerstalkers had the opportunity to meet with the cast after the play and compare costumes and congratulate them on a fine performance! A great time was had by all! If you haven't seen it yet, don't miss "Sherlock's Last Case!" The play runs through Feb. 9th. Call the theatre at 305-444-9293 for tickets.

similarly structured. If you like that particular album, then this one will appeal to you. Production is very good and musicianship is excellent, but this is not an album for the casual listener. It is more rock opera than rock 'n roll and your reviewer found it best to listen to it all at one sitting or on a car journey. Some tracks work better than others, the finale is particularly good, nice and atmospheric! Want to visit a beautiful & jam-packed site? Go to [www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk)



### CALENDAR SHERLOCKIAN

- February 14 thru June 14** - *The Diamond Murder Mystery Weekends* at The Island House Hotel, 102 Madison Street, Port Clinton, OH 43452. 800-233-7307
- May 24** - 28th Annual Spring Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida in Dunedin, FL at the home of The Dow Family Players. Case: *The Solitary Cyclist*
- June 18 thru July 20** - The play, *Sign of Four* at Appletree Theatre in Highland Park, IL. Box Office is at 595 Elm Place, Highland Park, IL 60035, 847-437-4335 or [www.appletree.theatre.com](http://www.appletree.theatre.com)
- September 12-14** - *Reunion of the Canonical, Convocation and Caper* in Ephraim, Wisconsin. Details not available at Press time.
- October 11-13** - *Gaslight and Fog* weekend, at the Nevele Grande Hotel in Ellenville, NY. Contact Ron Fish, Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919, 845-361-4320 or [www.gaslightfog.org](http://www.gaslightfog.org)

**"Come, Watson, come!  
The game is afoot."** 

This bumper sticker is available from Karen J. Murdock at 1212 Yalo Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414-3123 for \$2 each and a self-addressed, stamped, business sized envelope. Or you can get 3 for \$5. It is white print on a green background.



St.Petersburg Times,2/4/03

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



Congratulations to member Elizabeth Dow, age 9, who recently completed work on her Science Sleuth badge for Girl Scouts.

WESSEX XIII

Over 30 people braved the chilly weather to enjoy the fine dining of the Clubhouse at Tampa Bay Downs, then try their luck at the Florida Wessex Cup and other races. This year we were the fifth race and our winner was (perhaps appropriately) named Pent Up Fantasy, ridden by Jesus Castanon. Colors were listed as "Lt. Blue, Red 'NF' White Yolk, Lt. Blue and White Sleeves." Lucky number 7 in this our 13th Wessex Cup! David McCallister handed out a "Triskadecaphilia" quiz to review the appearance of "luck" in the canon.

BOOKS

Hounded by the Baskervilles is a new paperback out from Pocket Books by Mercer Warriner. Sabrina, the teenage witch, summons Sherlock Holmes to help her out. We haven't seen it, but these usually run \$5.95.

The Camden House Cookbook 2 - Recipes from the Empty House

is now available on CD-ROM. You can get it from the Occupants at OEH - Cookbook, c/o Stan Tinsley,

CD ROM \$15.00 + \$2.50 postage; Book \$22.10 + \$1.90 postage domestic.

Dr. Mortimer and the Carved Head Mystery, the 3rd in the Gerard Williams's series should

now be out from Constable, 3 The Lan- chesters, 162 Fulham Palace Rd., London W6 9ER.

Sherlock Holmes' Last Case by Robert D'Artagnan (Xlibris \$19.94PB) has Holmes and Freud, but not in the 7% sense.

The Outstanding My- steries of Sherlock

Holmes by Gerard Kelly is said to make a good go of it. (The Battered Silicon Dis- patch Box,

Canada \$34.00) or you can go to <www.bakerstreet books.co.uk> to see about getting a signed copy, occasionally for less!

28TH ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING OF THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA SATURDAY, MAY 28, 11:30AM - 2:30PM

Everybody sing now! Shall we gather by the Dow's House, in Dunedin, the family player's Dow House? Shall we gather by the Dow's House and celebrate the Master just once more?

Come celebrate Sherlock at Hammock Park in Dunedin, near The Pinellas Trail. This will be an outside gathering, but the Dow House is just down the street in case of inclement weather. The case for this gathering will be The Solitary Cyclist. So study up for David McCallister's quizzes, and get those legs pumping towards Dunedin! When we hear from you, we'll send along directions and maybe give you an assignment! Cost is \$6 per person to cover lunch.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City,State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I've got a paper to present on \_\_\_\_\_

I want to toast \_\_\_\_\_

I have a show'n'tell.

(cont. from front page) Fitness & Sports Month, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, National Safe Boating Week  
**June** - D-Day, Flag Day, Father's Day, First Day of Summer, Juneteenth, Philippines Independence Day, St. Baptiste Day, World Environment Day, Gay & Lesbian Pride Day, Honor America Days, National Flag Week, National Rose Month, National Dairy Month

**July** - Independence Day, Bastille Day, Canada Day, Parent's Day

**August** - Friendship Day, Assumption Day, National Aviation Day, Women's Equality Day

**September** - Labor Day, First Day of Autumn, Grandparents Day, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Patriot Day, World Peace Day, Native American Day, National Hispanic Heritage Month

**October** - Columbus Day, Daylight Savings Time ends, Sweetest Day, Child Health Day, Leif Erikson Day, Mother-in-Law Day, National Children's Day, Thanksgiving (Canada), United Nations Day, Halloween

**November** - Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, All Saint's Day, All Soul's Day, Election Day, Remembrance Day, Guy Fawkes Day, Aviation Month, Good Nutrition Month

**December** - First Day of Winter, Christmas Day, Kwanzaa Begins, Hanukkah/Chanukkah, New Year's Eve, AIDS Awareness Day, Boxing Day, Forefather's Day, Human Rights Day, Wright Brothers Day.

**The Pleasant Places of Florida**      *founded in 1972*  
*by Leslie Marshall, B.S.I. (dec.)*

**Recorder Emeritus: Dr. Benton Wood, B.S.I.**

For the Record:      **THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS**  
David McCallister, Master of the House,  
Carl Heifetz, Representative (both with the Servants and with the Tradespeople),

Wanda & Jeff Dow, The Papers on the Sundial,

Please make note of the date after your name on the mailing label. This is the expiration date of your club membership. You will not receive further Communications after this date unless you renew. Renewals should be sent, with any updates, to Carl Heifetz. US\$12.00 (US/CAN) or US\$13.00 (INTL)

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