

From the Pinellas County website for Consumer Protection at www.co.pinellas.fl.us/bcc/consumer/default.htm

Books

Collecting Sherlockiana: An Essay by John Bennett Shaw, BSI is now available in its second printing for \$6.50 postage paid in the US (air mail outside the US \$8.50) from Robert F. Hanson,

The Sherlock Holmes Almanac, by Svend Petersen, published by George Vanderburgh. Was first published in mimeographed form in 1956 in a limited edition. Now made available in hardcover with new material added to make 388 pages of comprehensive index. \$36 plus \$5 shipping to The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, Canada.

From the Papers on the Sundial:

The month of May brought us some showers, heat, and the 28th Annual Spring Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida. We had a lovely day for it in a sheltered area of Youth Guild Park. The sun was shining and a cool breeze blew in from Clearwater Harbor just blocks away. We were near the newly renamed Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail, which is a bicycle/pedestrian trail running the north/south length of Pinellas County (about 30 miles). Our story was *The Solitary Cyclist*, and the park was chosen to host a wedding reception for Jack Woodley and Violet Smith. We leave it to Carl Heifetz to report on the meeting itself in the next issue of the Communication, but it was interesting to note that as we left, a young woman biked by, followed by a moustached gentleman (no beard) and at the nearby church (circa 1890s) a wedding party was awaiting the exit of the bride and groom!

We hope you enjoy this issue as the summer quickly approached. Happy vacations all!

Florida Writes!



If you're a parent living in Florida, you know all about the state assessments of student learning in reading, writing, math and science. Much of the school year is spent by teachers getting the student ready to take the state tests. For the fourth grade this past school year (2003-03), students were given booklets with covers containing the above picture and title. These were "practice booklets for getting ready." They were to be used with instructional videotapes in order to learn deadline writing in preparation for the Grade 4 State Assessment.

The videotapes starred our old friend Sherlock. (Why they didn't use Dr. Watson to teach writing is beyond me!) At any rate, the titles of the videos containing S.H.'s name were as follows:

- Lesson 3 Sherlock Holmes' Expository Caper
 - A. Beginning to Plan
 - B. Elaborating Hangers to Explain
- Lesson 4 Sherlock Holmes' Expository Caper
 - Elaborating a Hanger with Humor or Poetry
- Lesson 5 Sherlock Holmes' Expository Caper
 - A. Writing Beginnings and Endings
 - B. Revising and Editing
- Lesson 6 Sherlock Holmes' Narrative Mystery
 - Planning for Real-life or Fictional Narrative
- Lesson 7 Sherlock Holmes' Narrative Mystery
 - A. Writing Beginnings and Endings
 - B. Elaborating Story Hangers
- Lesson 8 Sherlock Holmes' Narrative Mystery
 - Revising and Editing

When I queried my daughter about the videos, she even commented that she didn't know why they used Sherlock Holmes. "I mean, it's not like he was a famous writer or anything," she commented.

"Yeah," I said, "They should've used Watson."

"Well, Dr. Watson was in some of them," she replied, "but he didn't do much. Holmes usually figured out what it was that they were looking for."

"You mean like what you needed to use in your writing was a mystery and Sherlock always discovered what you needed?"

"Yeah."

Mystery solved.

Wanda Dow



CALENDAR SHERLOCKIANA

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

July 24-27 - *The Second Annual Sherlock Holmes and ALL THAT JAZZ Weekend* in Davenport, IA. This is taking place during the Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Jazz Festival, so if you're attending, please be sure to let the Senters know at sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com For registration, contact info@bixsociety.org

August 2-3 - *The Silver Blaze* festivities at Saratoga Race Track. Luncheon on the 2nd, brunch & program at Prime Hotel & Conference the 3rd. Contact Lou Lewis,

August 23- PPoF will sponsor a Sherlockian film festival day at the Seminole Campus of St. Petersburg College. Details will follow as they come available.

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

October 16-19 - *Boucheron 2003* in Las Vegas, NV. Contact Deen Kogan, 507 South Eighth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147 or www.bconvegas2003.org

October 24-26 - *Sherlock Holmes Weekend* in Cape May, NJ. Contact 800-275-4278, ext 185 for reservations.

October 24-26 - *Magna cum Murder* Conference in Muncie, Indiana. Contact E.B. Ball Center, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306 or email

November 7-23 - *The Crucifer of Blood*,

Paul Giovanni's play, will be performed at the Indianapolis Civic Theatre, 1200 West 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN. Visit

www.civictheatre.org

November 8-9 - *From Gillette to Brett, Sherlock Holmes on Stage*, Screen & Radio Symposium, sponsored by Wessex Press/Gasogene Books. Morning film fest, afternoon speaker session, dinner banquet, post-banquet party, & sunday brunch. Noted speakers and special guests, including Nicholas Meyer and Edward Hardwicke. Omni Indianapolis North Hotel, 8181 N. Shadeland Aven., Indianapolis, IN \$99 per person. Pay Wessex Press and send to Steven Doyle, 540 W. Sycamore St., Zionsville, IN 46077.

November 29-January 11 - *The West End Horror - The New Sherlock Holmes Mystery*, by Anthony Dodge and Marcia Milgrom Dodge at Asolo Theatre in Sarasota, FL. Announced at the Spring Gathering as a possible venue for the Fall Gathering, I have since been informed by Asolo that they did not manage to acquire the rights to do this play. Instead, they will be performing another mystery/comedy. (And it's okay to advertise that you're doing something for which you haven't gotten the rights?) They will be forwarding the information on said play to me when it becomes available, but they seem to miss the whole point that our interest lies in the fact that it was Sherlockian. So we are back to....**WHO WOULD LIKE TO HOST THE 28TH ANNUAL FALL GATHERING OF THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA? PLEASE**

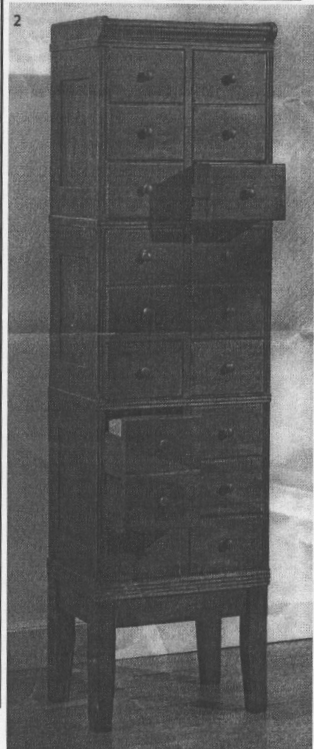
resulting depression. It was probably the wind. (I. Newton of Cambridge, England also asks a question which is answered by T.S. Eliot, treasurer of the Dead Poets Society) ...

SUBMIT YOUR GENIUS!

The *Communication* is looking for interesting communications for a future special issue. Send in your "letters, telegrams, email, etc." Holmesian to Jeff Dow by July 30. For example: Dear Alice,

*I've gone simply ape for you.
Don't make a monkey of me. Meet me
at the arboretum tonight at 10pm.
Bring bananas.*

Prof. Presbury



This classic apothecary cabinet is listed in the *Signals* catalog as the "Sherlock Holmes Apothecary Cabinet" for \$199.95. You can also use it to hold CDs, cassettes, DVDs and videos. Thanks to Doris Ohanesian for bringing it to our attention.

Published PPoFers

Sherlock Holmes, Scientist, Solves A Case of Identity by Carl L. Heifetz Published in *The Hounds Collection Vol. 8*, April 2003, p 13-15.

He's Everywhere

On page 103 of the April, 2003 issue of *Scientific American*, there runs a tongue-in-cheek "Ask The Experts" section wherein the

question "Hey, what was that?" is asked by Miller Huntington of Afteryew, Mississippi and is answered by Irene Adler Holmes, manager of the Mycroft Coffee Shop who explains "Air masses warmed by the sun rise above colder air masses, leaving zones of low pressure. In the Northern Hemisphere, lateral currents of air spiraling counter-clockwise fill the



These stacking toys that were handed out at McDonalds look strangely like *The Dancing Men*.

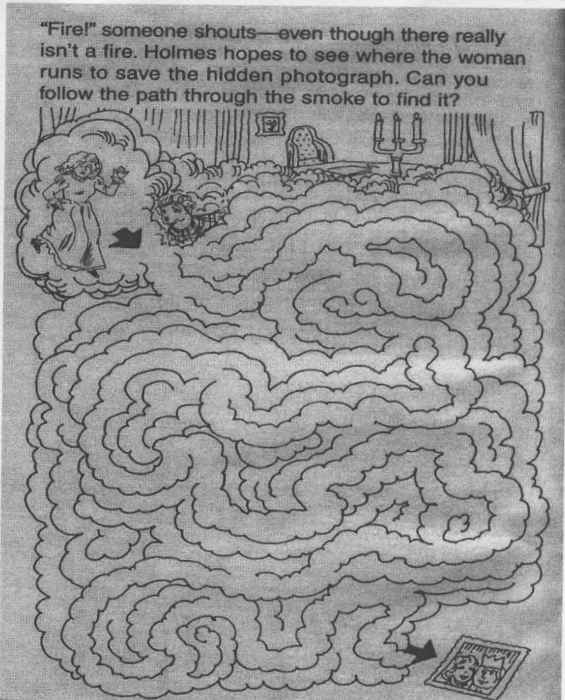
Check out the chart to see tons of other cool poses you can stack your NakNak figure in.

Name these poses and more at www.naknak.com. **NakNak**

Go to www.naknak.com for more stacking tips!

SOME POETRY BY MIKE CARROLL
THE LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURNS

Of Napoleons we have but six,
That leaves us now in quite a fix.
Of orange pips the quantity five
Is the goal to which we must strive.
The missing three-quarter, once found,
Will put us on firmly set ground.
Of threes we have several fables,
Of Garridebs, students and gables.
The second stain gives a good clue,
To a solution we cannot pooh-pooh.
And so at the end of our list
We find just a sole cyclist.
It's time to say finally, "Hear,hear!"
And - like Lady Carfax - disappear.



A page from the Wishbone Activity Book *Sniffin' for a Mystery!*

A CLERIHEW

BY MIKE CARROLL

Emile Jean Horace Vernet,
His sister was - or so they say -
The source of Sherlock's keen *esprit*,
A point with which we can agree.
He should not be judged by the ordinary norms,
For art in the blood takes the strangest forms.



SHERLOCKIAN FILM FESTIVAL SPONSORED BY THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23RD, 2003

Come help us spread the word that Holmes isn't just for scions anymore! We will be hosting a Sherlockian film festival at the Seminole Campus of St. Petersburg College and are looking for club members to come join in the fun! There will be box lunches available by reservation. Times and Cost will be posted as we figure that out! Let us know if you can attend and/or help!

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email _____

Return your application and payment to Mike Bryan,

The Seminole Campus of St. Petersburg Campus is located at 9200 113th Street North, Seminole.

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,

(Master of Ceremonies at most gatherings, host of the annual Wessex Cup)

Carl Heifetz, Representative (both with the Servants and with the Tradespeople),

(Correspondent & Communication)

Wanda & Jeff Dow, The Papers on the Sundial,

(Communications, Bookkeeping)

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 Wanda Dow. Make all checks payable to Wanda Dow. US\$12.00 (US/CAN) or US\$13.00 (INTL)

PLEASE NOTE ABOVE INFORMATION! ALL CHECKS FOR RENEWAL SHOULD NOW BE MADE OUT TO WANDA DOW. CHECKS MADE OUT TO THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA WILL BE RETURNED. WE NO LONGER HAVE A CLUB ACCOUNT AT THE BANK AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CASH SUCH CHECKS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

MORE CLERIHEWS

BY MIKE CARROLL

Victoria, Queen of Britain D.G.

But also a Station, you see,

And an Aussie gold colony

Where John Turner met Charles McCarthy.

But that's not the end of her fame,

To a mountain, a lake, a falls, and a desert she lent her name.

To a city, a cross and a carriage,

And she's famous also for her marriage.

Albert Edward, consort of Vic,

Wore his clothes both span and spic,

Loaned his name to a gentleman's garment,

A golden chain and a stone monument.

He's famous as a great big Hall,

Where folks can come and see 'im.

And also with his wife the Queen

He's half of a Museum.