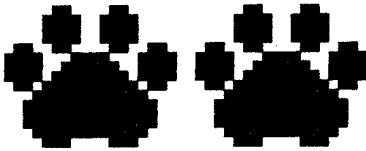




COMMUNICATION NO. 235

FIRST ANNUAL PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL

Hound of the Baskervilles Featured



"Mr. Holmes, they were the footsteps of a gigantic hound!" With these words, uttered by Dr. Mortimer at the conclusion of Chapter 2, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson were drawn into an adventure that many have considered the greatest mystery story ever written: *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. These words brought chills to the spines of the attendees at the FIRST ANNUAL PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL that took place on August 23, 2003 at the beautiful new Seminole Community Library.

13 members of the *Pleasant Places of Florida* were joined by 9 guests, drawn to this momentous occasion by wonderful publicity in the *St. Petersburg Times*. We were privileged to experience two excellent examples of cinematic treatments of this epic story as well as a wonderful film that demonstrated and critiqued all of the many attempts to present this tale.

First shown was the 1939 20th Century Fox first class production starring Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes, Richard Greene as Henry Baskerville, and Wendy Barrie as Beryl Stapleton. Among many well-known character actors playing supporting roles was Nigel Bruce as Dr. Watson. Originally intended to launch the career of the 19-year-old Greene as a leading man, the portrayals of Rathbone and Bruce set the stage for an entire series of Sherlock Holmes movies featuring these actors, establishing them as the prototypical Holmes and Watson for several generations.

The 1959 Hammer Studio version followed. Known for producing eerie Gothic horror films featuring Dracula, Frankenstein's monster, etc., they attempted with some success to infuse these effects into *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Although somewhat successful in this regard, the arbitrary addition of a poisonous spider scene and a seance detracted from the flow of the film. On the other hand, their depiction of the really bad guy, Hugo Baskerville, was excellent. Sherlock Holmes was well played by Peter Cushing, with credible performances by Andre' Morell and Christopher Lee as Dr. Watson and Jack Stapleton, respectively. (Continued on page 2)

BASKERVILLE BASH PLANS ANNOUNCED

It is only September, fully four months before the annual Sherlockian Weekend in the "Big Apple," but it is never too early to plan ahead for the highly acclaimed Baskerville Bash. This item was sent out over cyber space by Judith Freeman, editor of *POUND NOTES*, the Newsletter of the B.B.C. (August 2003 Volume 5):

"Initially we were going to keep the theme of this year's **BASKERVILLE BASH** as a surprise. But, as it has occasionally been said, even the best laid plans of mice and men do often go astray. And since one of the mice has let the cat out of the bag, we might as well fess up to the fact that the objective of this year's **BASKERVILLE BASH** is to come as close as possible to replicating an old fashioned English Music Hall.

"I read somewhere that food, drink and song were the major components of the English Music Hall, that the atmosphere was enthusiastic, rowdy and slightly bawdy. Gee, it sounds like the Bashes of the past, and here I was about to tell you how this year, in honor of the Master's 150th birthday, we were planning something different. Well, come to think of it, there's nothing wrong with rowdy.

"We will rendezvous at 6:30 PM, on January 16, 2004, at the Manhattan Club, 201 West 52nd Street (between 7th & Broadway), New York, NY. The Manhattan Club is wheelchair accessible.

"Please make your check, \$70.00 per person, payable to Maribeu Briggs Shrawder and mail it to P.J. Perry, 346 East 87th Street, Apt. 4-A, New York, NY 10128-4844. Please include your E-mail address so we can acknowledge receipt of your check. We would also appreciate it if you would let us know the name of your scion or organizational affiliation."

HOUNDS REPEAT ON PBS

And for those who just can't get enough of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*: A TV version will be shown on PBS on Sunday, October 26, 2003. This is a repeat of the initial presentation from January 19. Details may be found on the Internet at the following URL: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/hound/>. Check local papers for show times.

**BIG MEETING NEWS ON BACK PAGE
READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!**

ARE MY DUES DUE? WHEN ARE THEY DUE? HOW MUCH ARE THEY?: You will note a date on the address label for this publication. That is the date when we need your money to keep publishing this *Communication* (the labor is free but stamps and printing costs keep going up). If you see that you need to pay up, please make out a check (cash is OK) to **Wanda Dow**, and send it to Wanda and Jeff Dow at:

For US and Canadian residents, dues are US \$12; for all others, dues are US \$13.

(Continued from page 1)

Finally, we were treated to *A Hound It Was: Projecting the Baskerville Curse*. Produced by **Maribeau Brigs** and **Paul Singleton**, BSI, this is a documentary film on all of the film and video versions of the *Hound of the Baskervilles* including Russian, German, and animated versions, with film clips and critical commentary.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to **Mike Bryan**, The Unopened Newspaper and Director of the Seminole library, for putting together this great afternoon's entertainment. The participants were very pleased with this activity, and as a result, we are planning a reprise in January in lieu of a Sherlock Holmes birthday party. Please let us know if there are any special films that you would like to experience on that occasion.

Pleasant Places of Florida members who attended this event were: **Marilyn and Charles Amick, Julie McConnell** and guest **Pat Bartell**, **David McCallister, Bob Simpson, Caroline Everet, Carl Heifetz**, and **Barry and George Edward**. We were very pleased to meet and host the following visitors and hope that they will join our Club: **Edward and Beverly Gramkowski, Madlyn Sanford, Rosemarie and Thomas Ferguson, John Slonina, Tina Nickell, Ruth Jay, Valentina Tsoneva**, and **Donald and Joan Leeman**.



Palm Harbor Library

PHIL's Book Club (Palm Harbor Community Library) will feature a discussion of the *Hound of the Baskervilles* on Monday, Feb. 9 at 11 AM and 7 PM. **Carl Heifetz** will have the opportunity to introduce this topic. All are welcome; no pre-registration is required. The library is on Nebraska Avenue, just west of US 19 on the left side. Mark your calendars now!

CHANGE IN JOBS

After 8 years, **Wanda and Jeffery Dow** and I have agreed to switch some responsibilities in the *Pleasant Places of Florida* work assignments. From hence forth, the Dows will take over the financial aspects of our Club. Please make **ALL DUES CHECKS**

OUT TO WANDA DOW, and not *Pleasant Places of Florida*, and mail them to Wanda and Jeff Dow at:

And, for better or for worse and *quid pro quo*, I will be responsible for three issues of the *Communications* every year. I hope that you will enjoy them as much as you have enjoyed the issues published by the Dow Family. As was the case with Wanda and Jeff, I really value the input of the members. Please send me articles, poems, pastiches, sightings, etc. Send items to me at:

or e-mail Please keep me informed of your personal exploits: papers published, presentation, etc.



SHERLOCKIAN ITEMS FOR SALE

All items sent postpaid

Item I ... "All My Life"

An autobiography by Leslie Marshall, BSI., Founder of the PPOF, and BSI's 1st Chaplain. 46 p. Spiral Bound.---\$5.00

Item II... "Philatelic & Numismatic Holmes" - a handy reference guide to Sherlockian Stamps & Coins. Colour illustrated...\$15.00

Item III...2003 SHERLOCKIAN CALENDAR. Noting Holmesian Red-Letter Days---\$2.50

An amiable and simple-minded clergyman (SCAN)

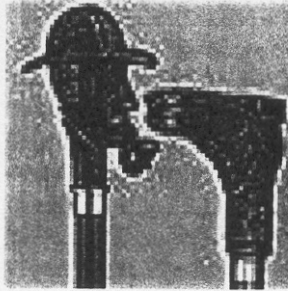
Send Orders to:
The Rev'd Dr. Benton Wood, BSI

Thanks to **Bill Mason** for pointing out the location of this cartoon on the Internet The address is: <http://www.comicspage.com/broomhilda>



THANKS TO DORIS OHANESIAN

for an item of interest: Gentlemen's walking sticks, including Sherlockian items, are available from the 2003 Holiday Smithsonian Catalogue. These beautiful sticks, handcrafted in Europe, sell for \$98.00 each (\$82.00 to Smithsonian members). Find them on line at www.smithsoniancatalogue.org.



SHERLOCKIAN ITEMS AVAILABLE

A wide variety of Sherlockiana may be found on **Sherlocktron**. This valuable resource is operated by **Willis G. Frick**, 513 Via Presa, San Clemente, CA 92672 who can be reached during West Coast business hours at (949) 368-6914 (Voice) FAX (949) 368-5139 or by E-mail to sherlock1@cox.net. The URL for his website is <http://members.cox.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>. There is also a listing of purveyors of Sherlockiana as well as Sherlock Holmes societies around the world. This is a wonderful site to behold.

SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCES ARE EVERYWHERE

Noted in the *St. Petersburg Times* for Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2003 (Floridian Section) was **John Freeman's** critique of a book entitled *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by **Mark Hadden**. Unlike Dr. Watson's story *Silver Blaze*, from which the title was lifted, this is a novel concerning an autistic savant's ability to solve a mystery regarding the murder of a neighbor's dog by a garden tool. According to the critical review, "the *Curious Incident* depicts how investigating this petty crime forces our hero to participate in the world around him."

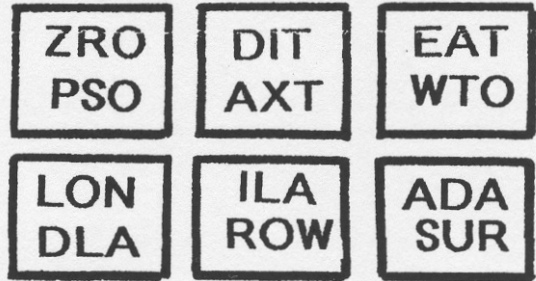
And the *St. Petersburg Times* for Friday, Aug. 22, 2003 carried an obituary by **Bill Adair** entitled "a rare bird." The author states "**Roxie Laybourne** liked fast cars, stiff drinks, and hard science. The ornithologist died recently at 92, having made air travel safer. "What has this to do with Sherlock Holmes?" one might ask. Well, just as Sherlock Holmes kept careful records of the minutiae that he used to solve crimes, for example his monograph on 140 types of tobacco ash, Ms. Laybourne kept extensive records regarding the identification of birds based on feather samples and other evidences. Working for the Smithsonian as an expert on birds, she also served the air plane industry by deducting which birds had been the cause of problems by, for example, being sucked into the engines of jet aircraft. This knowledge enabled airplane designers to reformat engines or remove dangerous birds from the vicinity of airports. She was also, like Sherlock Holmes, a free spirit. According to the article, "Roxie trapped rabbits and cooked them in the dorm" and "She was the first student at Meridith to wear blue jeans." Further evidence for her connection to our great detective is the fact that one the girls she mentored was named Lorenzo Baskerville.

Thanks to Recorder Emeritus **Ben Wood** for this item that originally appeared in Communication No. 146, Feb. 1995. Enjoy!



BITS & PIECES

Can you identify the six characters from **SILVER BLAZE** below?



HOW TO JOIN SHERLOCK HOLMES DISCUSSIONS ON THE INTERNET

There are several sites on the Internet that enable discussions among Sherlockians.

Regina Stimson sent me information regarding an available chat room or message board available to AOL members. According to Regina, "AOL members can get to our chat room or message board by using Keyword: Mystery Fiction and checking the appropriate links. This link takes members to the message board; Holmes, Sherlock." She states they discuss all levels of fiction, and that it is a very friendly group.

A very well-known Sherlockian on-line discussion group is the **Hounds of the Internet**, a corresponding scion of the Baker Street Irregulars. To subscribe to the Hounds of the Internet, send a message to the following E-mail address: LISTSERV@LISTSERV.KENT.EDU. Leave the subject line blank. Send this message from the E-mail address at which you wish to receive postings from the Hounds of the Internet: subscribe HOUNDS-L. You will receive a detailed response regarding this Listserver based discussion group. For further information, access the following web site: <http://www.bcpl.net/~lmoskowi/hounds.html>.

Another excellent on-line discussion group is **WelcomeHolmes** that is run by the Nashville Scholars Sherlock Holmes Club. Just go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WelcomeHolmes/> to access their web site for information and links to join their discussions.

Finally, we come to the news group **alt.fan.holmes**. To get signed up, you need to create a new account on your server, and then, you can subscribe to **alt.fan.holmes**. This process is too complicated to describe in a few words, and varies between E-mail programs. I suggest using of your "Help" menu, phoning your service provider, or inviting a computer literate friend over for cocktails.



COMMUNICATION NO. 235

The Pleasant Places of Florida

FALL GATHERING: David McCallister has arranged an exciting Fall Gathering at the Henry B. Plant Museum at the University of Tampa on Saturday, November 8, 2003. Commencing at noon, the featured story will be "Boscombe Valley Mystery." What do this erstwhile Tampa Hotel and the Boscombe Valley have in Common? Think about it. I'm sure that David will address this important issue. Watch your mail for his exciting announcement. Lunch will be either picnic or boxed.

PLEASE SAVE Saturday, June 12, 2004 for the **SPRING GATHERING** of the *Pleasant Places of Florida!* Donna Vaurio has kindly offered her home in Heritage Springs as the locale. Any suggestions for the story and special theme will be gratefully accepted.

Remember *The Strand Magazine*? As you probably are aware, it's back. *Strand Magazine* editor Andrew F. Gull, announced, via E-mail that "This October the *Strand Magazine* will release our third holiday issue, which will be packed with short stories, articles, interviews and book reviews. We will have new fiction by Ray Bradbury, Sir John Mortimer, and Ruth Rendell. We will also have a brilliant pastiche by Martin Edwards. And interviews with John Mortimer and Joss Ackland. Our article section will have a profile of Tommy and Tuppence, and look at the Vampire stories of Bram Stoker and Sheridan Lefanu Our book and audio book section has been expanded to include reviews of more Sherlockian Pastiches. You can visit our site at www.strandmag.com. The postal address is:

The Strand Magazine/Shopmysteries.com
PO BOX 1418
Birmingham, MI 48012
Telephone: 800-300-6652
UK Telephone, 0800-961-280

Andrew also announced "the opening of The Sherlock Holmes Shop, where we have the latest Sherlock Holmes Pastiches, Posters, Calendars, Note Cards etc, all at great prices. We have outlined below some our feature books that are on sale, but we have hundreds of more books. And if you can't find what you are looking for give us a call or drop us an e-mail and we guarantee that we can find it for you. The shop is on line at www.shopmysteries.com/sherlock.htm.

For a complete listing of purveyors of Sherlockiana, see Page 3 article about Willis Frick's Sherlocktron.