



COMMUNICATION NO. 239

28TH FALL GATHERING OF THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA

David McCallister arranged an exciting 28th Fall Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida at the Henry B. Plant Museum at the University of Tampa on Saturday, November 8, 2003. The featured story was "Boscombe Valley Mystery." What do this erstwhile Tampa Hotel and the Boscombe Valley have in common? Think about it. As we were to learn, the points of correspondence were the Victorian ambience of this 19th century tribute to gracious living and the train voyage that brought visitors to this magnificent hotel. Recall the famous scene illustrated by Sydney Paget showing Holmes and Watson in a first class railway carriage, the former's head adorned with his Deerstalker for the first time.

The 22 participants commenced the afternoon with a sumptuous buffet luncheon provided by our host and Master of Ceremonies, David McCallister.

Following the traditional responsive reading of *The Musgrave Ritual*, led by David, several participants regaled us with their entertaining toasts (see texts on page 2-3), enabling us to enjoy copious volumes of wine whilst sharing witticisms.

Then we set down to the serious business of attempting the Mycroft and Watson level quizzes. Following David's explanation of the proper responses, accompanied by chuckles and a few hissing of derision, the winners were determined. Donna Vaurio, a newcomer to our midst, came in 1st place at the novice Watson level challenge; 2nd and 3rd place were earned by Carl Heifetz and Wanda Dow. Given hope by the unfortunate absence of master quiz taker Caroline Everett, Charles Amick and Mike Bryan, finishing 1st and 2nd place, did a creditable job on the Mycroft level examination of Sherlockian expertise.

David made an interesting presentation on his interpretation of the evidence in "Boscombe Valley Mystery" from the point of view of a defense attorney. His lecture was accompanied by a "study aid" showing three items of interest: a lateral view of the skull and maps of "Part of Hertfordshire" and Victoria, Australia.

This formal portion of exciting meeting concluded with a unison reading of Vincent Starrett's *221-B*. We were then escorted on an interesting tour of the Henry B. Plant Museum.



EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS Don't forget to mark your calendar now!!!!

- Jan. 10, 2004: Film Festival at Palm Harbor Library in Palm Harbor (see below for details) Please contact Carl Heifetz if you are coming.
- Feb. 14, 2004: Wessex Cup at Tampa Bay Downs in Oldsmar. See invite from David McCallister.
- June 12, 2004: 29th Spring Gathering at the home of Donna Vaurio in Trinity.

SHERLOCK HOLMES FILM FESTIVAL AT THE PALM HARBOR LIBRARY



Palm Harbor Library

west of US Highway 19 N. **THERE WILL BE NO CHARGE FOR THIS EVENT! IT'S FREE! FREE! FREE!**

Back by popular demand, we will be offering another round of Sherlock Holmes films. The venue this time will be the Palm Harbor Library on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2004, from 1:15 to 4:30 PM. The library is conveniently located on Nebraska Avenue, one block

Arrangements have been made for those of us who wish to get together for an informal lunch prior to this event. We will meet at 12:00 Noon at Tiffany's Restaurant. The restaurant is located on the west side of US Highway 19 N just south of Alderman Road, roughly a mile north of the library.

This time we will study the "Adventure of the Red Headed League." We will compare two versions: the Granada production with Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes versus the 1950s made for TV version with Ronald Howard. We will discuss the films, how they agree or not with the Canon, and who was the better Sherlock Holmes and why. Then we will see a tape "Sherlock Holmes Revisited" that shows a nostalgic look at Holmes and Watson as they take us to the locations of many of their cases.

Since I need to arrange sufficient seating at both venues, I really need to know if you are coming. Please let me (Carl Heifetz) know if you are attending either or both activities by January 5. My phone number is my E-mail address is

Thank you.

TOASTS FROM 28th FALL GATHERING

A tribute to the literary skills of the *Pleasant Places of Florida*
 In alphabetical order by presenter's last name:

To Charles McCarthy by Charles Amick:

I give you Charles McCarthy
 An evil type of guy
 A rotten sneaky blackmailer.
 One has to wonder why
 Edgar Bergen chose his name
 To Christen his small buddy.
 Charley pestered W. C. Fields
 As Charles kept after Turner
 But selfish Charles cared not at all
 For Alice - he thought "Durn her!"
 He wanted Turner's property
 To come to James, his son.
 Charley wasn't malicious
 He teased Fields in good fun.
 While Bergen's friend was wooden,
 This no one can deny
 Charles McCarthy ended just as stiff -
 And that is not a lie.
 So here's to Charley McCarthy
 And the joy to folks he brought
 And here's to Charles McCarthy -
 We toast "Long may he rot!"



To Alice Turner by Mike Bryan

To the comely and virtuous young woman of the violet eyes whose
 wee hand, as a child kept Black Jack, her father, on the new leaf to
 which he had turned, and who captured the heart of young James
 McCarthy, I give you:
 ALICE TURNER

To the Barmaid by Jeff Dow

There was a young barmaid from Bristol,
 Whose lips of young men - well, she kissed all.
 But when dear Jimmy was indicted,
 She made sure he was uninvited.
 To her dockyard husband she was married,
 She made that clear as crystal.
 To the barmaid

The Testimony of Patience Moran by Wanda Dow

(sung to the tune of "Tisket a Tasket")
 A tisket, A tasket
 I had my flower basket
 A - picking flowers in the woods
 And that's where I did see them.
 A-quarreling so mightily,
 The son looked like he struck the "D"
 I ran away and told my mum,
 And soon the younger one had come.
 Her did it, he did it.
 The blood 'twas on his cravat.
 I didn't mean the police to deceive,
 Then Uncle Sebastian had to leave.

To "The Woman" Irene Adler by Barry Edwards

Athena of Olympus
 Helen of Troy
 Venus de Milo
 Mata Hari
 Irene Adler.
 Each the ideal woman for their respective age.
 Amorous, beautiful, brilliant
 All leaving unrequited love in their wake.
 But only one captured the heart, mind, and imagination of the
 Master Himself, Sherlock Holmes.
 To Irene Adler - The Woman

To the Literary Agent, Arthur Conan Doyle by Carl Heifetz

We may never know why John H. Watson, M.D. did not publish
 the narratives of his adventures with Mr. Sherlock Holmes under
 his own name. The answers may lie in Dr. Watson's tin dispatch-
 box, amongst his other important papers in the vaults of Cox & Co.
 Perhaps Dr. Watson's lack of literary background blocked his entry
 into the publishing houses of Britain until Sherlock Holmes' stories
 became ingrained into the public consciousness.

Whatever the rationale for this decision, Dr. Watson could not have
 made a better choice. Dr. Doyle had already established himself as
 an excellent author with his publication of adventure tales dating
 back as far as 1879, a full eight years before the publication of the
 first Sherlockian narrative *Study in Scarlet*. In fact, his writing style
 was so like that of Dr. Watson, that Dr. Doyle was selected to write
 the American perspectives in that work as well as *Valley of Fear*,
 and was the author of two short stories: "His Last Bow" and
 "Mazarin Stone."

With a writing style that combines the best elements of Edgar Allen
 Poe, Jack London, and John H. Watson, Dr. Doyle's published
 works have stood up to the test of time. Many, such as the Prof.
 Challenger trilogy are still being published.

Thus, it is with great gratitude for his promoting the publication of
 Dr. Watson's narratives, for his own excellent literary
 accomplishments, and for a life that should inspire all of us, I
 propose a toast the Literary Agent - Arthur Conan Doyle, M.D.

To Lestrade by David McCallister

Friend, Sherlockians, Pleasant Placers
 I come to praise Lestrade, not to belabor him.
 Imbecile? He was a practical man.
 Fog and moonshine? He earned his fee. He exercised his with
 Holmes to engage him at Alice Turner's request. He searched the
 pool and was making enquiries as per procedure. He made
 Holmes' reservations at the Inn, accompanied him to Herford and
 got him into James McCarthy on his own pass. He called for
 Holmes with a carriage, drove him to Hatherly and to Boscombe
 Pool, and provided material inside information, to boot. He was not
 local aid, useless and biased. He winks at Watson, a small jest, and
 is snubbed. He demands results he can put to a jury. What is his
 reward - sent off on a wild goose chase for a left-handed gentleman
 with a game leg. No wonder Lestrade reused to make himself a
 laughing stock. And, what if he had thought better and promptly
 turned up the biggest landowner around, Mr. John Turner, with his

(Continued from page 2)

boots and Indian cigar - and probably a half dozen other local squires as well. Would that have discommoded Mr. Holmes? No, for all his pains he is cut loose with "nous verrons", "work our own method", and an airy "I've given you a chance." I think Holmes would be well to remember that old English French saying, "Honi Soi Qui Mal Y Pense", or the American one, Be nice to folks on your way up, you'll see them again on the way down.

To Alice Turner by David McCallister

There was a violet-eyed daughter named Alice,
Who lived in a country-side palace,
Her lover accused,
She got Holmes to excuse,
And prove her Dad did the act with real malice.

To Sherlock Holmes by David McCallister

Sherlock's sixth case is setting the pace
Boscomb Pool is the murdering place.
If not the son,
Then who was the one?
Can Holmes save the accused from his fate?

Indian cheroots, square toed boots,
The significant cry of A RAT,
The gold thief confesses, his martyrdom stresses,
Holmes scores on another at bat.

To James McCarthy by Donna Vaurio

When young James went walking,
he carried with him his gun.
Soon after, police were talking
'bout the horrible deed he'd done.

Seems James met his father
and hit him in the head.
With denials he need not bother,
his dear old dad was dead.

Then to his rescue came Sherlock Holmes,
the greatest detective ever.
Known for his cases in Watson's tomes
and lauded for deductions so clever.

With Sherlock Holmes on the trail
and following the scent,
James knew he would not fail
to prove him innocent.

Young James is free today,
acquitted at Assizes.
Thanks to Sherlock Holmes,
he continues with the life he prizes.

To James McCarthy,
An innocent man!!

To Dr. Watson - A Thoroughly Reliable Friend by Art Walker
A most singular friend indeed
Is one who answers a need;
When requested by the master,
He responded all the faster.

With "It will do you good", from the wife,
He returned to this former life.

On the 11:15 the two friends did travel,
For the purpose of a crime to unravel.

As a sounding board for the master's ponderings,
The doctor accompanied many his wanderings.

"It is really very good of you to come," said he,
"It makes a considerable difference to me."

With those words from fictional history,
The friend is no longer a mystery.

I present to you, the most singular - Dr. Watson

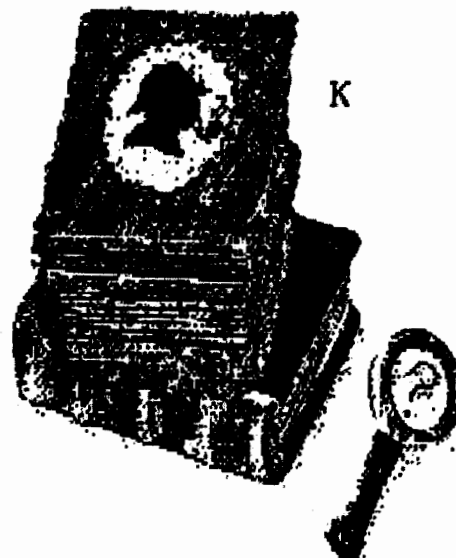
Thanks to **Caroline Everett** for bringing this nice item to our attention. According to Caroline, this is from one of the more than 500 catalogues she receives each year. Thanks for your contribution to our economy.

**Celebration
Fantastic**

One Party Place
South Whitley, IN
46787-0305

1-800-CELEBRATE! (1-800-235-3272)

CelebrationFantastic.com



**K Sherlock Stacking Books Imoges by Richard
(15"H x 2"W) EA227 \$229 ☆**

Dear Fellow Sherlockians, please help me!
I desperately need to locate Mr. Holmes as I have received a warning from the KKK. I received a package in the mail with the following return address:

Capt. James Calhoun
Bark lone Star
pier 6
Savannah, GA
31410, US



Enclosed therein was a package labeled "Creepy Peeps" containing the most horrifying warning possible: five orange colored marshmallow Peeps. Pasted on the side of the container were the letters "KKK"

What is the meaning of this? I have never been a member of the Confederates or any other Atlanta-based Sherlockian Club. Further, I don't have a sundial or papers to put on it. Please, find Mr. Holmes.

G. Norton, Esquire
In hiding in Trinity, Florida
PS - The website on the package is www.marshmallowpeeps.com

David McCallister recently published a poem entitled "The New Charon," under the nom de plume J. Clay, Esq. It appeared in "The Holmes & Watson Report" for Sept. 2003, Vol. 7, Issue 4, p 6.
Pleasant Places of Florida members are invited to inform Wanda Dow or Carl Heifetz so that we may honor their published contributions to our cause.

TheShoso-in Bulletin to End Publication

Hirayama Yuichi, BSI has announced the latest issue of *TheShoso-in Bulletin*, an international Sherlockian Magazine vol.13. Its price is US \$13 plus postage from The Classic Specialties, <http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/> e-mail; sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com

If you contributed to SIB before, you can purchase at members special price, \$10 including postage from our editor, **Mel Hughes**. Please send her your check payable to Mel Hughes. Anyone who contributed to vol.13, will receive a free copy. Please wait for awhile. If you need another copy for your friend, it is \$10, as above.

The next issue, vol.14 will be the last publication of SIB.

CALABASH PRESS WEB-SITE OVERHAULED

Christopher Roden announced that after many months of its needing to be done, the Calabash Press web-site has just undergone complete overhaul. "Please visit www.ash-tree.bc.ca/calabash.html

for details of a number of special offers. I hope you'll find the pages a little better organized, easier to navigate, and faster to download."
Check it out.

The Adventure of the Dead Rabbits Society is a soft-cover book by **Philip J. Carraher**: Publisher: 1st Books Library, Year: 2001; ISBN. According to a review by : **Philip K. Jones**, August 2003: "It is certainly worth reading even if it may offend canonical sensibilities. The characterization of Holmes is good and the deductions are sound." According to Mr. Jones, "the short novel presented is a good, solid mystery with a surprisingly Holmes-like protagonist. Much of the tale includes thought and comments by Holmes which seem very realistic. There are the typical Holmesian deductions and samples of logic that clarify obscure situations, the usual baffled police and scheming villain and a host of interesting characters. It has a strong taste of Holmes, despite the New York location and the American characters. Holmes as Simon Hawke is believable and convincing, which is a pleasant surprise and the mystery is well thought-out and cleverly solved."

GROOMBRIDGE PLACE

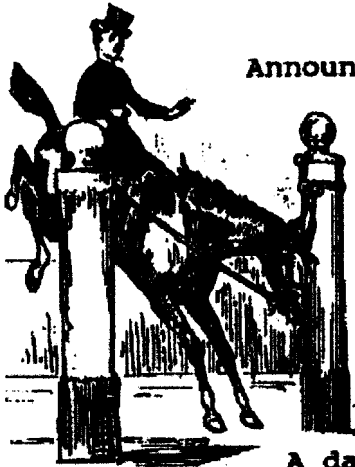
Thanks to our Recorder Emeritus, **Ben Wood**, for passing on this information that he obtained from his son. Ben's son is "on assignment" at the U.S. Embassy."

According to the photos and descriptions in their excellent website, www.groombridge.co.uk, the beautiful village in the Weald of Kent that is well worth visiting. The descriptions provided therein are a tribute to their Sherlockian knowledge and well-worth duplicating.

Especially noteworthy are two items described as being associated with our beloved Literary Agent, Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle: The Drunken Garden and The Conan Doyle Museum.

The Drunken Garden: According to their description, "This was a favourite of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle., a regular visitor to Groombridge Place from his home in Crowborough, four miles distant. One of his world famous Sherlock Holmes mysteries, the Valley of fear, is set at Groombridge Place, although the house is named 'Birlestone Manor' in the Book. Conan Doyle described the setting with unmistakable accuracy, showing how well he knew the house and its gardens. In the story, a revealing conversation between two suspects was overheard by Holmes' colleague Dr. Watson, as he walked in the garden one evening."

The Conan Doyle Museum: "By the entrance to the formal gardens is a former dairy, now the Conan Doyle Museum, converted to replicate the author's study and housing an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia connected with his life and work. Sir Arthur Conan, celebrated creator of the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes lived at Crowborough, 4 miles from Groombridge, for over 30 years. He was a frequent visitor to Groombridge Place in the late nineteenth century."



Announcing the 14th ANNUAL Pleasant Places of Florida's
FLORIDA WESSEX CUP XIV



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2004

A day of racing and Sherlockian fun and fellowship

-- SAME TRACK CONDITIONS AS LAST YEAR --
we will be dining inside, but not at the Skye Terrace

*** The CLUBHOUSE - 2nd Floor ***

FULL BUFFET:

Herb Roasted Chicken, Sirloin Beef tips over rice, Fresh Fruit Tray, Pasta Salad with Dressings, Macaroni and Cheese, Vegetable, Sheet Cake, Rolls, Iced Tea & Coffee, tax and gratuity.

And Including:

Clubhouse Admission, Racing Program & Souvenir PPOF Program.

There will be tables and seating for the lunch
and stadium seating for races.

As usual, Parking, tips, wagering, and drinks on your own.

\$17.00 per person

RESERVATIONS BY FEB 10, 2002 ARE NECESSARY

A RESERVATION FORM WILL BE INSERTED IN THE NEXT COMMUNICATION
Out of town visitors, spouses, children, Non- or Neo-Sherlockians,
All Are Welcome

Any further inquiries to David R. McCallister

RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve ____ spaces for the Florida Wessex Cup XIV:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

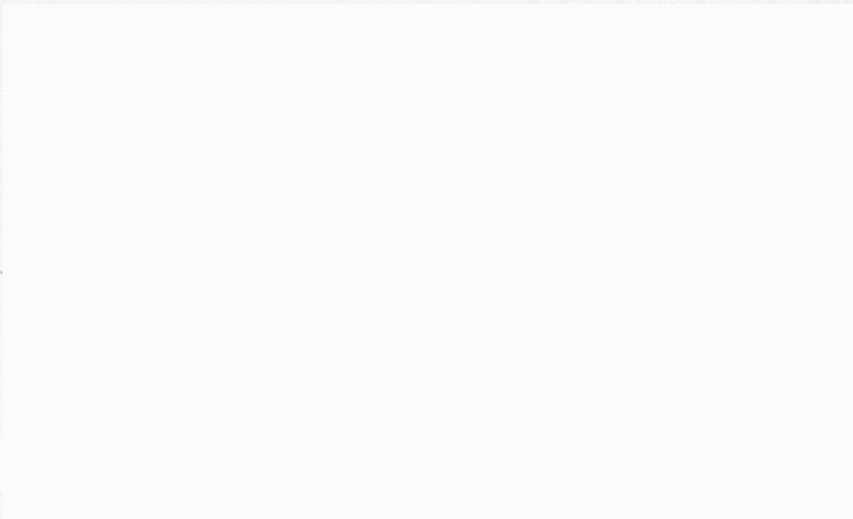
Phone/E-mail: () _____
I understand that you will be sending tickets & map about Feb 10.
Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ reservations
I've also enclosed \$ _____ for the Marshall/Wood Fund.

Please make checks out to David R. McCallister
Send to:



COMMUNICATION NO. 239

The Pleasant Places of Florida



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.

LIVE THEATER AT HENRY B. PLANT MUSEUM

The Upstairs Downstairs performances at the Tampa Bay Hotel are available Sunday Afternoons at 2:00 PM September through May (excepting Nov. 16 through Jan. 4). Featured are "theatrical, single character vignettes that bring turn-of-the century Tampa Bay Hotel staff members and guests to life." Group presentations are available on request. For further information on live theater at the Henry B. Plant Museum, you are invited to call the Curator of Education at 813-258-7304