



COMMUNICATION NO. 241

EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS

 Don't forget to mark your calendar now!!!!

June 12, 2004: 29th Spring Gathering at the home of Donna Vaurio in Trinity. Deadline June 1.

Fall of 2004: Watch these pages for exciting news of the 29th Fall Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida. David McCallister is pondering some very interesting venues for our amusement and erudition.

GET READY FOR 29TH FALL GATHERING OF THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA

The exciting **29th Spring Gathering** of the storied *Pleasant Places of Florida* will soon be upon us, so don't delay your registration for this entertaining event. For a mere \$6.00 (US that is) you can have a full afternoon of Sherlockian camaraderie, witty commentary, brain-teasing puzzles, a fine lunch, and an overall great time. There will also be a "flea market" for members who wish to sell some of their prized Sherlockian items, and a display of wares designed to augment the treasury of the often pecuniary organization. Just clip, fill and mail the coupon conveniently positioned on the last page of this publication. Please register no later than June 1.

Thanks to the hospitality of **Donna Vaurio**, we will be returning to the Heritage Springs development in beautiful Pasco County. Upon receipt of your form, Donna will supply you with directions to her domicile as well as an assignment. General directions are as follows: Take 611 (East Lake Road) north to Trinity Blvd. and turn right. Turn right at Little Rd/ Robert Trent Jones Pkwy., follow signs to Heritage Springs. You can ask the guard at the gate for a map and directions to Donna's house. Anyone needing more exact directions can phone Donna at _____ or can e-mail her at _____

In honor of David Vaurio's long and distinguished career in the U.S. Navy, we will be focusing on "The Naval Treaty." We will return to the days of inter-European intrigue and unscrupulous dealers in stolen documents. Relive this exciting tale and the excellent surprise ending.

SHERLOCK HOLMES FILM FESTIVAL AT HERITAGE SPRINGS CLUB HOUSE

Thanks to the efforts of member **Donna Vaurio** and the cooperation of the staff of the Heritage Springs Association, 30 residents of Heritage Springs and several visiting members of the *Pleasant Places of Florida*, the local Sherlock Holmes society, enjoyed an afternoon of Sherlock Holmes video entertainment from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturday, April 10..

Executive chef **Stefan Watts** started us off with a mouth watering lunch featuring such "British grub" as "bangers and mash" and authentic fish and chips. Great job, Stefan!

We then withdrew to the club house library to experience the works of the most renowned interpreters of Sherlock Holmes in film or TV. We began with "*The Many Faces of Sherlock Holmes*," a video demonstrating the varied styles of the more renowned actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes over the last 100 years.

Following this, we focused on the classic skills of Basil Rathbone in *The Pearl of Death*, featuring Tampa native Rondo (the Creeper) Hatton and Nigel Bruce as Dr. Watson. This 1944 black and white film was one of 10 B-movies highlighting the team of Rathbone and Bruce produced by Universal Pictures, Inc.

We concluded the day's event with a viewing of a more modern television product, *The Naval Treaty*, starring Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes and David Burke as Dr. Watson. This 1983 color video was produced by Granada Television Limited. As our allotted time was running out, we were unable to see the exciting denouement of this classic case. We invite fans everywhere to read this account of one of Sherlock Holmes' most exciting adventure in any of the many books containing this story, which has never been out of print..

Resident Sherlockians of Heritage Springs, **Dorothy Stix**, **Donna Vaurio**, and **Carl Heifetz**, cordially invited our fellow residents to join our Sherlockian fellowship, the *Pleasant Places of Florida*. Other members of the PPoF in attendance were **Wanda and Jeff Dow**, **Bob Simpson**, **Charles and Marilyn Amick**, **George, Barry**, and **Mary Edwards**, and **David McCallister**.

WHAT CAME OVER SHERLOCK HOLMES?

In The "Naval Treaty," Sherlock Holmes appears to step far out of character. He delivers a philosophical soliloquy which we would more likely anticipate from a romantic play by Shakespeare than an adventure featuring our favorite detective. More to the point, he



presents his flowery speech right in the middle of an abstruse case, when he should be focusing his mind on the various clues that present themselves to him. In the words attributed to Arthur Conan Doyle, M.D., we have the following description:

He walked past the couch to the open window and held up the drooping stalk of a moss-rose, looking down at the dainty blend of crimson and green. It was a new phase of his character to me, for I had never before seen him show any keen interest in natural objects.

"There is nothing in which deduction is so necessary as in religion," said he, leaning with his back against the shutters. "It can be built up as an exact science by the reasoner. Our highest assurance of the goodness of Providence seems to me to rest in the flowers. All

"What a lovely thing a rose is."

other things, our powers, our desires, our food, are all really necessary for our existence in the first instance. But this

rose is an extra. Its smell and its colour are an embellishment of life, not a condition of it. It is only goodness which gives extras, and so I say again that we have much to hope from the flowers." (Adventure dated as taking place in July of 1888 or 1889; first published in *Strand* issue for Oct-Nov 1893)

Is this the kind of address one would expect to be articulated by the usually single minded, scientifically focused investigator, Mr. Sherlock Holmes? I would welcome the insight of readers of this publication. If you have any explanations why Sherlock Holmes took the time to explore the beauty of nature in the middle of this case, please send them to me for publication in a future *Communication*.



In response to a similar query on a Sherlock Holmes E-mail group, I received the following: **Donald Redmond** comments on the moss rose in the Summer 1959 issue of *Baker Street Miscellanea*: (Published with the kind permission of Mr. Redmond)

Why a moss rose? "The Naval Treaty" was published in October 1893. In June 1893, an article on "Garden Lore" appeared in the "Newbery House Magazine" (a monthly review for churchmen) titled "The Origin of the Moss Rose"

"There is a very pretty German tradition, which is not generally known, which accounts in the following manner for the existence of the moss rose. The legend is to the effect that once upon a time an angel having a mission of love to suffering humanity, came down to earth. He was much grieved at all the sin and misery he saw, and at all the evil things he heard. Being tired, he sought a place wherein to rest, but as it fared with his Master, so it fared with him: there was no room for him, and no one would give him shelter. At last, he lay down under the shade of a rose, and slept till the rising sun awoke him. Before winging his flight heavenwards, he addressed the rose, and said that as it had given him the shelter which man denied, it should receive an enduring token of his power and love. And so, leaf by leaf, and twig by twig, the soft green moss grew round the stem, and there it is to this day, a cradle in which the new-born rose may lie, a proof, as the angel said, of God's power and love."

Donald Redmond concludes: "The publication dates, and the philosophical sentiments credited to Holmes in the case, cannot be a coincidence. They do not fully explain the train of thought, or planning of plot development, by Conan Doyle. Clearly a diversion, akin to magician's patter and distracting motions, was necessary in order for Holmes to covertly accomplish his observation of the window. In "The Reigate Squires," the diversion was a dish of oranges and a carafe of water knocked to the floor; that had been used in June 1893 - such a physically obvious trick could not be used again in October. So the patter and the object in one hand are emphasized, the window itself de-emphasized. The moss rose could have been some other plant - but the pretty legend had been a timely idea."

Les Moskowitz has an excellent web site at: <http://www.bcpl.net/~lmoskowi/holmes.html>

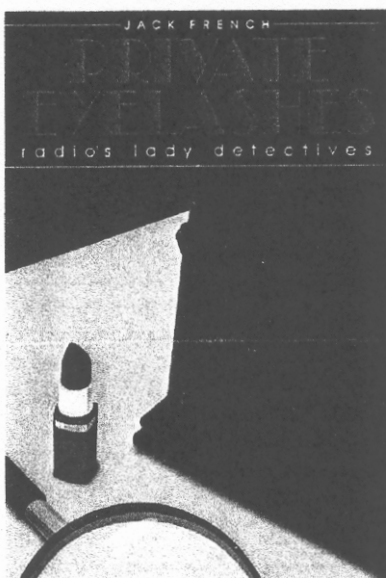
ARE MY DUES DUE? WHEN ARE THEY DUE? HOW MUCH ARE THEY?: You will note a date on the address label for this publication. That is the date when we need your money to keep publishing this *Communication* (the labor is free but stamps and printing costs keep going up). If you see that you need to pay up, 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. Don't risk missing any issues of this terrific publication as well as exciting news of the exploits of the Pleasant Places of Florida!

OLD TIME RADIO

Many of us Sherlockians are fans of old time radio. Several have extensive collections of audiotapes and CDS featuring the U.S. broadcasts of Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, or the more recent complete Canonical presentation by BBC Radio. Some massive collections extend throughout the various genre of broadcasts from the "golden age" of radio drama. There is certainly no dearth of information available on this topic.

In an E-mail message, Mike Bryan says: "In case you haven't run across it, there's a web site that offers free old time radio programs in mp3 format that you can listen to online. It's <http://www.radiolovers.com/>. Their project is still in progress, and I don't think they've got to Holmes yet, but they will. In the meantime, they have lots of other good stuff, including Charlie Chan, Cloak and Dagger, Ellery Queen, and a bunch more.



Further on this subject, I received the following advertising blurb regarding a new book entitled *Private Eyelashes*. They also provided the following description:

Radio's Lady Detectives Private Eyelashes: Radio's Lady Detectives by Jack French. Jack French's opus to radio lady crimefighters! Coming quick as a sock in the kisser!

Just \$18.95 + \$2 postage (if you're not in the USA, add \$5 for postage) by Visa, Mastercard or Paypal.

"I'd like to point out that my book discusses three lady detective shows with a definite Sherlockian connection," the author, Jack French states. "Most Sherlockians are aware of "Meet Miss Sherlock", the CBS show that had two short runs, summer of 46 and fall of 47." Other radio shows included are "Candy Matson, YUkon 2-8209," and "The Lady in Blue."

The queen of Sherlockian radio, Edith Meiser, is the subject of at least two interesting booklet. One, titled "Edith Meiser and Her Adventures with Sherlock Holmes," is published by Sherlock Holmes Collection at the University of Minnesota. There is an extensive list of scripts of her radio programs which may be purchased from them. For information, you may contact the Library at the following address:

Sherlock Holmes Collections
Special Collections and Rare Books
Minnesota Library Access Center
222 21st Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455

(Continued on page 4)

The other booklet, entitled "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," is provided by "Radio Spirits" with the purchase of their cassettes of radio shows derived from the Smithsonian collection. They are on the web at <radiospirits.com>.

A further very interesting book related to radio Sherlock Holmes is *The Lost Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, written by Ken Greenwald. Published in 1989 by Mallard Press, the stories are based on the original radio plays by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher.



SHERLOCK IN THE NEWS PAPERS

Over 75 years after the publication of the last Sherlock Holmes adventure by Dr. John H. Watson, critics still refer to his adventures when assessing the merits of modern crime stories, on TV or in print.

Mr. Eric Deggans, the TV critic for the *St. Petersburg Times*, compared the complexity of today's TV detectives, such as Robert Goren ("Law & Order: Criminal Intent"), with the simpler whodunits of the older programs such as "Barnaby Jones" and "Murder She Wrote." In the March 22 issue, He notes that: "Like a new-school Sherlock Holmes, Goren laid out how one partner killed the girl and used his programming skills to set up a gang of electronic thieves (by giving them a spyware program to skim money from ATMs) and another software designer." He further states that, unlike classical mysteries such as Agatha Crisitie's, the new programs do not follow the rules laid out for whodunits in that "they are too complicated to be solved by the viewer with the evidence they have at hand, violating a primary principle of mystery writers." Fortunately for us, the Sherlock Holmes stories emerged before the self-appointed experts decided how a mystery should be written. In his day, Sherlock Holmes' mysteries were as advanced in "forensics" and science as are the complex cases in today's literature. The whole point was that Sherlock Holmes was a genius, capable of connecting clues that were obscure to ordinary intelligences as those possessed by Dr. Watson, various police inspectors, and the reading public. In my opinion, Mr. Deggan's initial concept is correct. The modern eccentric detectives such as Goren and Monk display the genius of Sherlock Holmes in their ability to see beyond the obvious clues that would prevent the general public from easily solving the crimes.

Mindi Dickstein's review of Joseph Gangemi's book *Inamorata*, in the *St. Petersburg Times* of April 13, is titled "Suspense That Hints of Sherlock." The plot or concept bears little resemblance to a typical Sherlockian adventure. It looks like a winner based on the reviewer's words: "Sparely written, *Inamorata* nonetheless delivers a richness of time, place, plot and character that is the perfect recipe for what is commonly termed a "page turner."

SHERLOCK HOLMES ACCESSORIES FOR SALE

No house is complete without a Sherlock Holmes collection. To respond to this directive, a multitude of Sherlockian items have been made available to the demanding public.

Thanks to Joseph A. Coppola, B.S.I. for this informative report: "The latest Sieglers&Co's Sovietski Collection, billed as Historically inspired products with a sense of adventure (sovietski.com), has on page 28 a 'Sherlock Holmes' cap and magnifying glass items #151699 \$65.00 and #151631 \$79.00 respectively. Those of you who wish to continue to accessorize can also obtain a British Bobby Helmet, nightstick and whistle."

You may also enjoy visiting this website: <www..stilllifewithtea.com> There is a photo of a number of Sherlock Holmes teapots and an article which gives the proper tea to drink with each story.

And, on the subject of moss roses, there is a whole set of tea accessories featuring this lovely flower that so inspired a Sherlock Holmes religious experience. A search of the Internet for "moss rose china" provides an extensive list of purveyors of a wide variety of moss rose-decorated teas sets and dishes. According to one such site: "Moss Rose china was made by many firms from 1808 to 1900. It has a typical moss rose pictured as the design. The plant is not as popular now as it was in Victorian gardens, so the fuzz-covered bud is unfamiliar to most collectors. The dishes were usually decorated with pink and green flowers.

The Shed Antiques has a very extensive collection of moss rose items including: Moss Rose Teapot, Moss Rose Pitcher Empire (Pottery Ironstone), Moss Rose covered sugar bowl Opaque China, Moss Rose Creamer, Burgess and Campbell Moss Rose Plate, Pair of moss rose mini oil lamps,
http://search.netscape.com/ns/boomframe.jsp?query=shed+antiques&page=1&offset=0&result_



The Shed Antiques

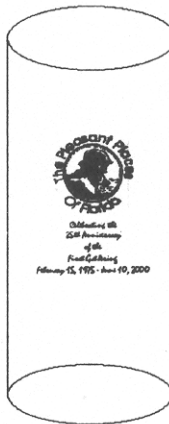
And the *Pleasant Places of Florida* offers several fine products for sale by mail order or at the Spring Gathering. Money derived from these sales will strictly be applied to covering the costs of printing and mailing the Communication and informational membership materials. Order these items from Wanda Dow,

RODGER BASKERVILLE'S LONELY HOUND FROM HELL is now available in published form. With an introduction by Thomas Stix, Jr., a full color cover, complete lyrics and a re-creation of the original program, you can put on your Sgt. Pepper's album and sing along (with different words, of course). There is also a "Word from the Authors" included in the publication, signed by both perpetrators. So live the nightmare. For just \$6.00 (ppd US/CAN), \$8.00 (ppd INT'L), you can receive this publication of the Pleasant Places of Florida.

The Pleasant Places of Florida



proudly presents it's very own pin design! These 1/2 inch enamel pins feature our club logo in black and gold silhouette, with the Sunshine State on Sherlock's lapel reflecting the orange glow of the sunset. The outer circle is done in blue, matching the waves behind Sherlock, with the club name printed in gold. Order now from Wanda Dow, 1737 Santa Anna Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698. US\$12.00 postage paid (US & Canada); US\$13.00 overseas.



Now you can have a set of water glasses just like those used at the *Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium II*. 5 1/2 inches tall, 3 inches in diameter. Black logo and print on clear glass. Set of 4 glasses for US\$25.00. Includes shipping in US. All others additional US\$5..

SHERLOCK SHOPPING AT WINN DIXIE?

Thanks to David Stoner for this terrific item. It is well documented that people have seen Elvis pumping gas in Ypsilanti, Michigan. But how many have seen Sherlock Holmes getting his own groceries? Mrs Hudson must have been out that day; Dr. Watson was too busy with his practice to accommodate the great detective. I wonder if grouse, pheasant, or woodcock are available.

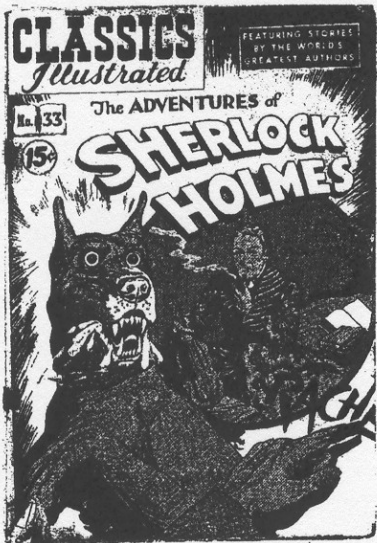


SHERLOCK SHOPPING ?

NEWS FROM THE COMIC BOOK AND GAMING CONVENTION

Roving reporter Tom Takach for brings us this information all the way from Orlando. According to Tom: "If it's March, it must mean that MEEACON (Comic Book and Gaming Convention) of 3-days duration in Orlando has just concluded." A sampling of his "detective goodies" are pictured below:

"Vintage Holmes Comic"



"A 1949 issue of *True Comics* which includes a story of "Frances First Detective Eugene Francois Vidocq."

[If we recall Dr. Watson's words in *STUD* (page 25 in *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*): Sherlock Holmes sniffed sardonically. "Leqq was a miserable bungler," he said, in an angry voice. He has only one thing to recommend him, and that was his energy. The book made me positively ill. .. I could have done it in 24 hours. Leqq took six months or so. It might be made a textbook for detectives to teach them what to avoid.Ed.]"



EARLY PUBLICATIONS OF WANDA BUTTS REPORTED


Frequent sleuth Caroline Everett who reports on a new book she just bought - *The Alternative Sherlock Holmes, Pastiches, Parodies and Copies*. This "very scholarly" tome was edited by Peter Ridgway Watt and Joseph Green and published by Ashgate. Among the listing of Sherlockian scholarship, we find the following very noteworthy item from a precocious, very young Sherlockian now known to all of us as **Wanda Dow**:

"In 1973 Wanda Butts (we all know who that is) published a collection of eight short stories, *The Baby of Baker S: Some Other Cases That Might Have Been*.

- The Case of the Baker Street Baby
- The Case of the Innocent Gila Monster
- The Case of the Great Switch
- The Ankle Drownings
- The Case of the Haunted House
- The Case of the Coded Skeleton
- Webster's Code
- The Case of the Mad Heiress"

Way to go, Wanda. Are copies of your book still available for purchase? I'm sure that the stories are interesting, well constructed and worthy of our attention.

ADDITIONAL SHERLOCKIAN NECESSITIES AVAILABLE FROM OUR RECORDER EMERITUS



SHERLOCKIAN ITEMS FOR SALE

All items sent postpaid

Item I ..."All My Life"
An autobiography by Leslie Marshall, BSI., Founder of the PPoFF, 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

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

An amiable and simple-minded clergyman (SCAN)



The Pleasant Places of Florida
c/o Carl L. Heifetz

COMMUNICATION NO. 241

29TH ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING OF THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 11:30AM - 2:30PM

RESPONSE DEADLINE JUNE 1.

Come celebrate Sherlock at the home of Donna Vaurio in Trinity (a.k.a. New Port Richey) The case for this gathering will be *The Naval Treaty*. So study up for David McCallister's quizzes, and sail on up to Trinity! 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 E-mail

I've got a paper to present on _____

I want to toast _____

I have a show'n'tell.

Make checks payable to Donna Vaurio, and send to
and phone is

. Her E-mail is