



November/December 2004

# Communication No. 246

The Pleasant Places of Florida

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**LORD RUTHVEN THE VAMPYRE**  
by John William Polidori,  
Charles Nodier & Eugene Scribe

**THE RETURN OF LORD RUTHVEN**  
by Alexandre Dumas



both adapted by Frank Morlock  
covers by David Rabbitte

Volume 1 includes the original 1819 Polidori tale, an 1816 Lord Byron fragment which inspired it, and the 1820 and 1821 stage adaptations by Nodier and Scribe.

Volume 2 includes an 1851 stage play sequel by Dumas. Both volumes feature new *Lord Ruthven* stories by Frank Morlock, guest-starring Sherlock Holmes, Dracula, Father Brown and Rocambole.

**Baskerville Hall Hotel** (from the website [www.hauntingbreaks.co.uk](http://www.hauntingbreaks.co.uk))

## November 5th Paranormal Investigation/ Fireworks Display

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**, the famous author and spiritualist is known as the "St. Paul" of Spiritualism. As a member of the Society for Psychical Research, he used Baskerville Hall and nearby Hergest Ridge for the creation of one his best known works, "The Hounds of the Baskervilles"

As a family friend of the Baskervilles, Conan Doyle regularly visited the Hall, and created the novel based on the local legend of the Hounds of the Baskervilles, setting the story in Devon to ward off tourists to the estate.

We invite you to an exclusive paranormal investigation inside the hall and estate to experience the surroundings and atmosphere once regularly frequented by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and to investigate why the famous author's creativity and psychic interest was stimulated by this location.


Could it be that a convergence of lines provides energy to allow spiritual manifestations and orbs previously witnessed?

We toured the building and grounds with no knowledge of previous sightings, with our experienced psychic.

Following her tour of the hall and grounds, she asks the following questions:

- Who is The White Lady seen in the rose garden?
- Who is the gentleman who appears on the grand staircase?
- Who is the male presence who wears a well trodden pathway between the adjoining balconies between rooms 3-7?
- What roams the corridor outside the dormitories?

## From the Papers on the Sundial:

Some interesting tidbits have come our way and we pass them on to you within these pages. We were disappointed to not find any photos at the website mentioned  but that's the way it goes. Hope you enjoyed our election issue and that you are now recovering, celebrating, licking wounds, etc. Be of good cheer - whatever the outcome, a few evenings with a good case study written up by Dr. John H. Watson is sure to produce a calming effect. Enjoy your holidays and keep your hearts Holmesian! Look for our special issue out soon! (And don't forget to renew!)

Our psychic felt extremely uneasy and sick whilst visiting this area. All our psychic's experiences during our initial visit were confirmed by the staff of the hall. Previous guests had reported sightings and had sent photographic images of orbs.

### Join us in our investigations

We offer a firework display, paranormal investigation, dinner, wine with dinner and bed and breakfast at the following rates:

Would you dare to spend the night in a haunted room?

**Executive twins or doubles - £170 per person**

**Standard twin or double - £150 per person**

**Dormitory (suitable for groups or singles) - £115 per person**

**Group discounts available**

**We will conduct a complete paranormal investigation of the Hall.**

**Our guests are invited to book in to their rooms, enjoy the firework display, dinner and then start the investigation.**

**We will conduct experiments such as:**

- Locked off area within the haunted corridor, using motion detectors and trigger objects
- Group vigils and seances in active locations
- Group tour of the most active locations
- All the above will be professionally supported by team leaders and psychics
- The use and explanation of the equipment will be given during the introduction to the event
- Feedback on any captured images or experiences will be conducted during a debrief session before bed



**CALENDAR SHERLOCKIANA**

**2005**

**January 7 - Baskerville Bash**, 6:30 pm, upstairs at the elite Manhattan Club, located at 201 W 52nd between 7th Avenue and Broadway, just 'round the corner from Rosie O'Grady's. \$70 per person includes a fabulous buffet dinner, memorable toasts, free souvenir collectibles, an auction and raffle, the Baskerville Bash Radio Hour, a game show, soap opera, mystery, songs and surprises for everyone. Send reservations to Maribeau Briggs,

**February TBA - Annual Florida Wessex Cup** sponsored by The Pleasant Places of Florida at Tampa Bay Downs Racetrack in Oldsmar, FL. Contact David McCallister (see back page)

**February 24-27 - Left Coast Crime 15** in El Paso, TX. Camino Real El Paso \$95 a night, Fee \$150. Write LCC15, 2626 North Mesa, Box 261, El Paso, TX 79902. Check it out at [www.leftcoastcrime2005.com](http://www.leftcoastcrime2005.com)

**March 4-6 - SleuthFest 2005** at the Renaissance Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Go to [www.sleuthfest.com](http://www.sleuthfest.com)

**April 29-May 1 - Malice Domestic XVII** will be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriot Hotel in Arlington, VA. Go to [www.malicedomestic.com](http://www.malicedomestic.com).

**April 29-May 1 - 2005 STUD-Watsonian Weekend** includes dinner on the 29th with speaker Henry Zewcher (Talk & slideshow on Wm. Gillette), viewing of the Chicago Silver Blaze race from a private sky box with a short program before, and the Fortescue Honours Brunch on Sunday. contact

**May 20-22 - Holmes Under the Arch II** is a symposium planned by The Parallel Case of St. Louis. The theme will be *The Sign of Four*. Write to Barbar Roscoe, or email

**June TBA - Making a Bee-Line for Switzerland** The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will visit Meiringen and other parts of Switzerland, including the Museum in Lucen, concluding with the traditional enactment at Reichenbach. contact Judi Ellis at

**June 11-13 - An Excellent Voyage: Twenty Years on the Hotspur** celebrated by The Sydney Passengers. Contact Bill Barnes, Captain of the Passengers about the activities at



**Actor Gary Sinise (CSI: New York)** In a recent interview: "What makes CSI such a powerful TV franchise?" "The stylishness of the show; the writing, the cast and the Sherlock Holmes element. As a kid, I was a Holmes fan. I wanted to know what makes the puzzle work. People are fascinated by the small details."

**ANY TAKERS?**

Our good friends, Joel and Carolyn Senter are thinking about retiring from *Classic Specialties*, which was their retirement business. Pursuant to this end, they are wondering if there might be any energetic and devoted folks out there in Sherlock Holmes Land who would be interested in negotiating to buy their little enterprise and carry on the work that they began over 16 years ago. They have a well recognized web site, other domain names, inventory, an extensive mailing list, ISBN numbers, contacts throughout the Sherlockian world and lots of "good will!" Anyone interested should contact them by mail at PO Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219, by phone at 877-233-3823, by fax at 513-281-5797 or on line at [www.sherlock-holmes.com](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com).

**THE BOOK NOOK**

**WATSON HAS TWINS!** Or at least he does in the book *No Ordinary Terror* by J. Brooks Van Dyke. Durban House Publishers produced this first in a series of mysteries introducing Dr. Emma Watson and Richard Watson, twins of Dr. John H. Watson. Richard is the hot-tempered, spontaneous bohemian artist, ex-rugby star with a photographic memory; Emma is a religious, zealous suffragette, a methodical thinker, prominent diagnostician, famous and well respected in British medical circles (where she has exceeded her father in the medical community).

**THE VEILED DETECTIVE RETURNS!** Well, the same veiled detective actually. The book by David Stuart Davies which was sold out with the printer indicating that there were no plans for a second printing has finally been negotiated into a new printing!

BOTH OF THESE ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM CLASSIC SPECIALTIES. SEE ADDRESSES ON LEFT.

Issue No. 14 of the *Shoso-In Bulletin* will be the final issue. We salute Mel Hughes and Dr. Hirayama for their many years of producing a Sherlockian journal consistent with learned essays, humorous anecdotes, short mysteries and poetry. They provided a vehicle through which everyone connected to the world of 221B could air their views, thoughts and talents. Thank you!



Posted on Sun, Aug. 22, 2004

**FICTIONAL DETECTIVE'S FANS  
HOLMES, SWEET HOLMES****ALL FANS THE WORLD OVER SHARE THEIR PASSION FOR THE FICTIONAL DETECTIVE SHERLOCK  
HOLMES. TROPICAL DEERSTALKERS IS ONE SUCH GROUP****Special to The Herald  
BY EILEEN SOLER**

It's elementary, my dear. the Tropical Deerstalkers, the South Florida chapter of the Sherlockian Baker Street Irregulars, are indubitably a cerebral, entertaining group. "We have exciting fun together, like literary Trekkies. It's a passion," said Debbie Turbert, director of outpatient services at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital, during a recent meeting at the Grand Palms Hotel Spa & Golf Resort in Pembroke Pines.

Sherlockians are fans of the four novels and 56 short stories about the famed Victorian-era detective Sherlock Holmes, written from 1887 to 1928 by Scottish physician Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Doyle died in 1930, but his fans, known as Sherlockians, persisted by forming groups. One such organization, founded in New York in 1934, was the Baker Street Irregulars, whose membership consisted only of people able to complete a Sherlock Holmes trivia crossword puzzle.

Dr. Robert Ennis of Weston, an orthopedic surgeon and the president of the 75-member Tropical Deerstalkers, said more than 700 Sherlockian groups, called scion societies or "offspring," now exist worldwide. The United States has about 140 scions, with the Tropical Deerstalkers one of only two in Florida, he said.

"We come from all different professions, like writers, doctors, lawyers and law enforcement officers," said Ennis, who sported a deerstalker cap much like the one worn by Sherlock Holmes in renderings found on the pages of Doyle's books.

Ennis said members do not join but are invited. Some groups have definite personalities, such as a scion made up entirely of undertakers, another that is called upon to

assist police with cold case investigations, and yet another dedicated to philanthropy.

Members have four things in common: They enjoy mysteries, are natural observers and sleuths, are Doyle fans and Victorian era buffs.

In fact, Ennis is not referred to as the president of the group, but the "gasogene" (also spelled gazogene). During Victorian times, the gasogene was a gadget used to force gases into water to create seltzer. The group's vice president, Francis Turbert, is called the "Tantalus," which was a cabinet used in upper-class homes at the turn of the 20th century to keep alcoholic beverages safe from thieving visitors and servants.

"So, now you have it. Our president is full of gas and I am the keeper of the spirit," said Turbert, a Pembroke Pines registered nurse and husband of Debbie Turbert.

Members abide by two important rules: They regard Sherlock Holmes as a real person, born Jan. 6, 1854, and they maintain the illusion that Doyle was merely the literary agent for the diaries of Holmes' loyal assistant, Dr. Watson, through whom the stories are told.

Ennis said meetings of the group, established in 1979, take place every three months at places revealed as the meeting dates draw close.

Meetings open with grand toasts to characters from Doyle stories.

After a discussion about a certain Holmes text or a character analysis, guest speakers talk on mystery and intrigue. Past guests have included a code buster, a gemologist, and a DNA expert.

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<http://www.miami.com>

**HE'S EVERYWHERE...**

Over in the UK, you can catch the duo *Lip Service* in their parody, *Move Over, Moriarty* on November 4 at The Rose Theatre, Ormskirk, November 5 & 6 at Chester Gateway and November 9 -13 at Greenwich Theatre ...Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells (near Crowborough) is putting on Brian Clemens's thriller *Holmes and the Ripper* on November 16- 20th ...Actor John Elnaugh is looking for investors to stage a major musical of *The Baskerville Beast* ...Has anyone out there read John LeCarre'? After reading 2 of his books, editor Jeff Dow wonders if LeCarre' has a personal pact to mention Holmes in all his works. In *The Honourable Schoolboy*, we find the quote: "Consider the clues, Watson" Craw resumed, after another pause for meditation, while Luke tugged at his arm and the rain came on still faster. "...Notice the dome there? Study it carefully, sir. Scratch marks. Not, alas, the footprints of a gigantic hound, but the..." then in *Smiley's People*, we find "So what's your game, George? Sherlock Holmes dogging his poor old Moriarty?..." Interested in touring India? Want to combine it with your interest in Holmes? Then visit the website [www.sherlockholmesinindia](http://www.sherlockholmesinindia) to find out about a planned pilgrimage to India and the Andaman Islands ...Anyone read *The Final Solution: A Story of Detection* by Michael Chabon? We hear there is an unnamed retired detective who takes on a murder case in a remote village, era 1940s. Hmmm ...spotted in Prague old town are a pipe shop called Baker Street and a Tobacconist called Sherlock Holmes, both with appropriate Sherlockian signs ...order *Dubious and Questionable Memories: A History of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes* online at [www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com) or send \$11.00 (\$12.00 international) to *The Baker Street Journal* at PO Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331 USA.



**This Just In!...This Just In!...This Just In!...This Just In!...This Just In!**  
**THE 15TH ANNUAL FLORIDA WESSEX CUP**

will be

**January 29th**

at

**Tampa Bay Downs.**

*Clubhouse, Second Floor, Stadium Seating, Programs and Lunch,*  
all included for \$17.95 per person.

Track Opens at 11:00am, First race at 12:30 pm.

Contact: David McCallister,

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.**

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