



COMMUNICATION NO. 251

**✎ DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR
CALENDAR NOW!!!!**

30th Spring Gathering of the *Pleasant Places of Florida* on May 28, from 11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the Rose & Crown Restaurant at 12850 Walsingham Rd, Largo, FL. See article for details. Registrations and Checks Due by May 25. Deduce the location of the registration form and send it NOW! Right Away! This Minute!

**MANY MORE BOOKS AVAILABLE
TOO MUCH TO READ OR BUY**

Is there no end to the abundance of Sherlock Holmes books being published? You've gotta be rich or really, really obsessed to buy them all! But, we certainly don't want to miss something truly great that will quickly disappear from availability just when you know you want it. What we need are critiques from working Sherlockians, not the literati who have no concept of what makes for a good Sherlock Holmes pastiche, scholarly treatise, or reference.

We all need help! So, this is what I propose. I ask our members, erudite and experienced Sherlockians all, to check out the new titles and render their opinions. Since I have been afforded the opportunity to edit three issues of the *Communication* each year, please send your critiques to me, and I will put them in.

Thank you.

Now, to my first offering in this regard: *A Slight Trick of the Mind* by Mitch Cullin. At first, the thought of reading a book about an elderly Sherlock Holmes who had problems with his memory, was narcopleptic, and could barely walk, did not appeal to me. So, I decided not to purchase said book, even though it was critically acclaimed. After all, even at 50, in "Final Problem," Sherlock Holmes was mobile, despite his arthritis. Also, the book delves into the inner thoughts of Sherlock Holmes, rather than the outward manifestations of his behavior. I have always preferred detective stories and wiring-diagram science fiction because they are about what people do, not their internal psyche that drives their actions.

See *A Slight Trick of the Mind* Continued on page 3

**The "JEANSTER" - A FRESH NEW LOOK AT
SHERLOCK HOLMES**

Since the first publication of *Study in Scarlet* in 1887, many talented people have contributed interesting and unusual works of art and literature that enhance our appreciation of our favorite detective, Mr. Sherlock Holmes. We can never forget the original "higher criticism" of the "Holy Scriptures" by Monseigneur Knox, the collegial interactive approach by Christopher Morley and his drinking companions as they savored their three-hour lunches, the early antics of the Baker Street Irregulars, the chronological masterpiece by William S. Baring-Gould, the game playing by Vincent Starrett, the Solar Pons pastiches by August Derleth, and the many others who have so led the Sherlockian cause, with distinction, into exciting new directions.

Every once in a while, a talented and inventive young person takes a fresh new look at Sherlock Holmes. I would like to commend Jean Akins as an exciting new entry into the field.

Permit me draw your attention to her delightfully illustrated pastiche: *The Adventure of the Mysterious Dollhouse A Sherlock Holmes pastiche* (© 2005 Jean Akins). You can read this work on line at: <http://www.angelfire.com/tv2/jeanster/SHPics/SH1.html>.

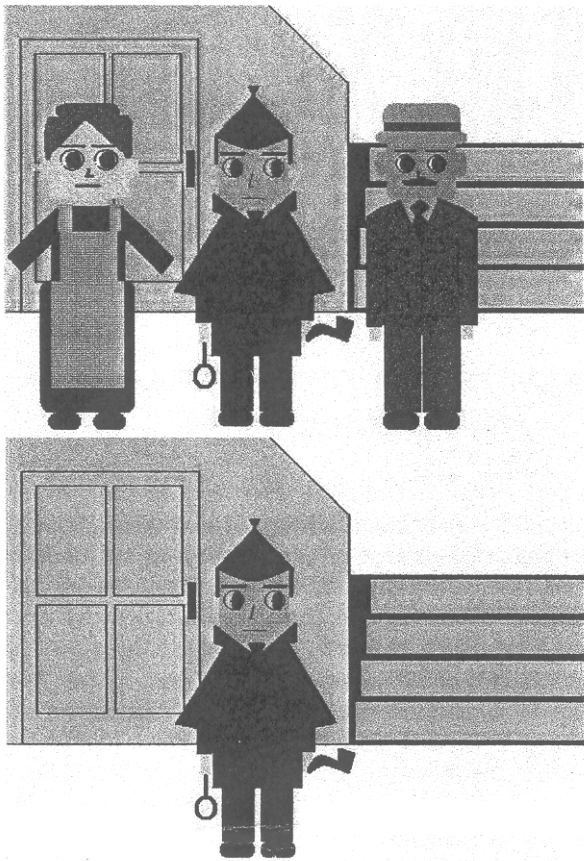
Samples of her unique art work are pictured on page.2.

AUDIO BOOKS FOR FREE! OR CHEAP

If you like to listen to Sherlock Holmes books while you drive, rather than talk radio, or at the beach this summer, instead of inane music, here's a chance to get some listening entertainment at no charge.

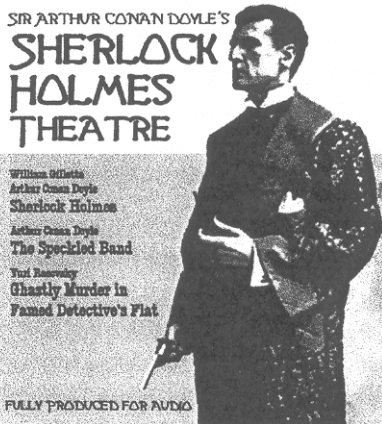
Roberta Davies (Trout In The Milk) on Hounds of the Internet wrote: "The website Audio Books For Free: www.audiobooksforfree.com offers a wide range of MP3 audio books available for free download, including the complete Sherlock Holmes Canon in separate stories or whole-volume form (look under Crime-Mystery/Private Detectives). Or for a very reasonably priced set, click on the CD-MP3 disk logo at the top of the page. They offer the whole Canon on one CD (data CD in MP3 format, not audio CD) for only \$15 US, including postage, to anywhere in the world. Hounds might also be interested in the Raffles collection on CD for the same price."

Samples of art work by "the Jeanster" Jean Akins.



A variety of additional materials, as well as information about the author, may be found on her web site: The Jeanster's Sherlock Holmes Page at <http://www.angelfire.com/tv2/jeanster/SH.html>. These include a new comic book *Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street* and a page of Sherlock Holmes art work.

YET ANOTHER RADIO SHOW

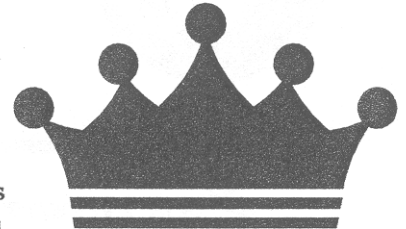


Thanks to David Cisler, a.k.a. Sir Henry Baskerville, for this item that he reported on WelcomeHolmes, a Sherlockian Internet discussion group. "just ran across these in google: "Conan Doyle's only two Holmes plays, *Sherlock Holmes* and *The Speckled Band*, are presented by the Hollywood Theater of the Ear. As well, director/producer Rasovsky speculates that Holmes's retirement would be a financial crisis for Watson in the one-act

comedy *Ghastly Double Murder in Famed Detective's Flat*." for those interested, here's info about the recordings: <http://www.irasov.com/Holmes.htm>. and here's where you can get them... <http://www.blackstoneaudio.com/audiobook.cfm?id=3420>

ROSE & CROWN RESTAURANT SITE OF 30TH SPRING GATHERING ON MAY 28, 2005: DEDUCE LOCATION OF FORM AND SIGN UP NOW

"Whose was it?"
His who is gone"



Thus begins the litany of the Musgrave Ritual. Help us celebrate Sherlock Holmes' (and Bunton's) solution of this riddle as we celebrate the 30th Spring Gathering of the *Pleasant Places of Florida* on May 28 at the Rose & Crown Restaurant.

Thanks to Mike Bryan for making all of the arrangements.

We will dine on a Buffet luncheon including shepherd's pie, fish and chips, baked ziti (vegetarian); coffee, tea, or soda; salad; rolls; dessert. House wine for toasting and soft drinks will be provided. Cost is \$16.00 per person. The address of the restaurant is 12850 Walsingham Rd, Largo, FL. A map and directions will be sent to all registrants.

The afternoon will feature quizzes on the Musgrave Ritual, learned and not so learned discussions, songs, toasts, and other celebratory activities. Don't miss it.

Page through this issue of the *Communication*, find the form, and send t in NOW!

Can you believe that this will be the 30th Spring Gathering of this famous Sherlockian Society? What an event! Let's all try to get together for a big time of Sherlockian celebration, study, and merriment.

LES KLINGER WINS EDGAR AWARD

Laura Kuhn wrote: "From the Arts, Briefly column: "Who Got It""T. Jefferson Parker's "California Girl" (William Morrow) won the Edgar Allan Poe Award for the best novel published in 2004 when the Mystery Writers of America presented its annual accolades. "The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Short Stories" (W. W. Norton), edited by Leslie S. Klinger, won the Edgar for best critical or biographical work of the year. Among other Edgar winners were "Country of Origin" (W. W. Norton) by Don Lee, chosen best first novel by an American author; "The Confession" (Hard Case Crime) by Domenic Stansberry, best paperback original; and "Conviction:Solving the Moxley Murder: A Reporter and a Detective's 20-Year Search for Justice" (Regan Books) by Leonard Levitt, best fact crime." See <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/30/arts/30arts.html?ex=1115524800&en=43e85ff0e5e82d7e&ei=5070>.

**ANOTHER GREAT
SHERLOCKIAN
PUBLICATION
DISAPPEARS**

Holmes & Watson Report ceases publication! In the January/February *Communication*, I regretfully announced that the *Shoso-In Bulletin* had ceased publication. Now, it is my unfortunate duty to ring the death knell for another highly regarded Sherlockian journal, *The Holmes & Watson Report*. I lift my glass to Brad Keefauver and his cohorts for six years of spirited and scholarly Sherlockian entertainment. To all who mourn the loss of the *Holmes & Watson Report*, may I suggest turning your attention to another eminently interesting high quality publication, *Baker Street West 1*. Subscriptions to this semi-annual publication may be obtained from Jerry Kegley at 9338 Sophia Ave., North Hills, CA 91343. It costs \$11.00 per year or \$6.00 per issue. Checks should be made payable to *Baker Street West 1*.



Obviously, I had to have it. This photo now proudly decorates the wall of my Sherlock Holmes collection.

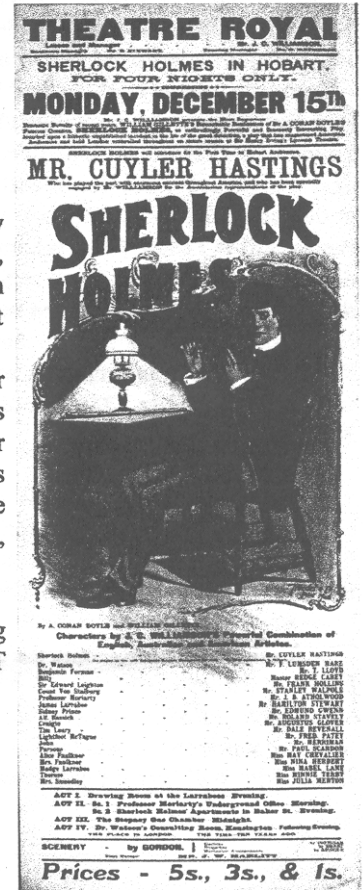
This item, and many others, may be observed at Bill Sargent's web site: www.photosarge.com under "Florida Home and Swamp" section: Thomas Edisons's laboratory at Ft. Meyers, Florida.

**BEAUTIFUL
SHERLOCK
HOLMES POSTER
AVAILABLE FOR
DOWNLOAD**

Thanks to Laura Kuhn, a truly wonderful source of material, for bringing this to our attention on The Hounds of the Internet

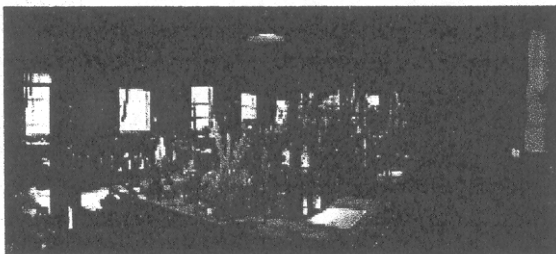
"Found this while looking for something else this morning—it's a 1902 poster for the production of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" at the Theatre Royal in Hobart, Tasmania:

<http://images.statelibrary.tas.gov.au/Fullimage.asp?ID=AUTAS001125295147>"



**SHERLOCK HOLMES CHEMISTRY
LABORATORY DETECTED**

"This was a lofty chamber, lined and littered with countless bottles. Broad, low tables were scattered about, which bristled with retorts, test-tubes, and little Bunsen lamps." This is the chemistry lab at St. Barts, so lovingly described by Dr. John H. Watson, in which he met Sherlock Holmes for the very first time.



Imagine my amazement when I saw a photograph of this very same facility at Tarpon Springs Arts and Crafts Festival on April 10, 2005. "How in the world," I thought, "had the artist retrieved this picture of a long-ago laboratory?"

Well, although it could pass for the chemistry laboratory where Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes first met, it is really Thomas Edison's Laboratory in Ft. Meyers, Florida. The timing is right, however. The laboratory does date to the same Victorian era.

A Slight Trick of the Mind Continued from page 1

But, the situation changed when I received a free copy to review for myself. Thanks guys, you did me a favor! Now that I didn't have to put out money for it, I thought that the least I could do was give it a read.

To my surprise, I enjoyed the book very much. I highly recommend it. Although, unlike the Canon, it is a work of fiction, the author's version of a 93-year old Sherlock Holmes seems quite possible. We follow Sherlock Holmes' interpersonal relation in three different time frames: the present, as he introduces his young "apprentice" in the art of beekeeping, the recent past, with his voyage to Japan where his host attempts to use him to find his missing father, and his days of active practice, where he encounters and develops a fondness during a brief encounter with a woman that he is trailing. I was particularly impressed with the author's ability to weave these disparate plot lines into a text that makes sense and even rings true as Sherlock Holmes weaves past and current events.

30TH ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING OF THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA

SATURDAY, Saturday May 28 at 11:00 AM RESPONSE DEADLINE May 26

Come celebrate Sherlock Holmes, and his masterful solution to the "Musgrave Ritual." What better place to study how Sherlock Holmes used his knowledge of mathematics to locate the "ancient crown of the kings of England" than at a restaurant appropriately named Rose & Crown? We will dine on a Buffet luncheon including shepherd's pie, fish and chips, baked ziti (vegetarian), coffee, tea, or soda; salad; rolls; dessert. House wine for toasting and soft drinks will be provided. Cost is \$16.00 per person. The address of the restaurant is 12850 Walsingham Rd, Largo, FL. A map and directions will be sent to all registrants. Please cut along the dotted line and fill in the form below. Send it with your check for \$16.00 per person (plus some for the Marshall/Wood Fund* if you are so inclined), made out to Carl Heifetz and sent to: Carl Heifetz,

*The Marshall/Wood fund was established to purchase youth editions of Sherlock Holmes stories to be donated to children's libraries to help "keep green the memory of the master." The fund is administered by Mike Bryan, Director of the Seminole Library.

Yes! Yes! Yes! I must attend the 30th Spring Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida on May 28 at the Rose & Crown Restaurant. I filled out the form below and have enclosed my check for \$16 per person to cover luncheon (and have added a few bucks for the Marshall/Wood fund) as well..

Name(s)

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone E-mail

I've got a paper to present on

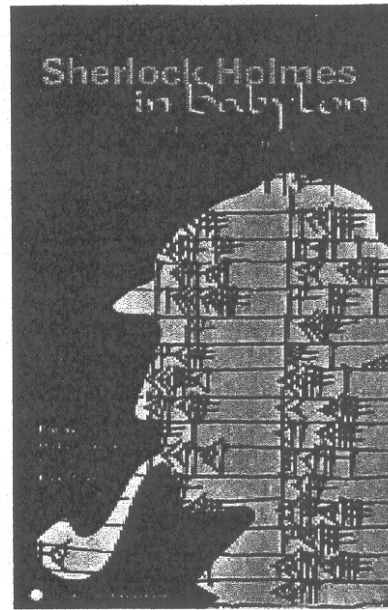
I want to toast

I have a show'n'tell

Enclosed is my check for \$ for participants and \$ for the Marshall/Wood fund. For a total of \$.

Please make checks payable to Carl Heifetz, and send to My E-mail is

and phone is



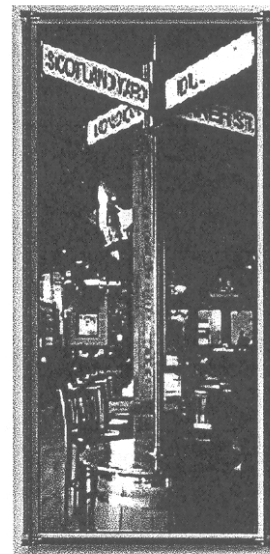
DO YOU LIKE MATH?

Thanks to May Blunder (a.k.a. Karen Murdock) for this item: "May Blunder (who has not taken math since high school) came across this book while she was looking for something else". She reports that "A book entitled Sherlock Holmes in Babylon and Other Tales of Mathematical History was published recently by the Mathematical Association of America. A review can be found online at: http://www.maa.org/reviews/holmesbabylon.html

Publication Data: Sherlock Holmes in Babylon and Other Tales of Mathematical History, ed. by Marlow Anderson, Victor Katz, and Robin Wilson. The Mathematical Association of America, 2004. Hardcover, pp. \$49.95 (\$39.95 to MAA members). ISBN:0-88385-546-1.

SHERLOCK HOLMES DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

Would you look for a Sherlock Holmes restaurant in Texas? Well, there are some. Thanks to Karen Murdock for yet another interesting find. She wrote: "Hospitality USA Investment Group, operator of Sherlock Holmes-themed pub concepts, is rolling out a new menu that tries to more closely emphasize the theme of the great fictional detective and the Victorian London he inhabited."



The restaurants, located in Houston, Sugar Land, San Antonio, and Addison, Texas, go under such names as 221 B. BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL, SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB, SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL, and SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUBLIC HOUSE & GRILL. A future site is AUSTIN, TX. According to the web site:

"if you are interested in bringing the spirit of the British to your city, contact us via e-mail at

Long live the Queen!!" Another new eatery, the Sherlock Holmes Outpost, is being opened by Bob and

Amy Bauer. An article from the Desert-Mountain Times for Feb. 24, may be found on www.HolmesOnScreen.com.

SHERLOCK HOLMES A SCOTTISH TREASURE

Thanks to **Laura Kuhn** (a.k.a. Rosenluai) for this item on Hounds of the Internet: From *The Scotsman* (19 March):

SCOTLAND is to be urged to exploit Sherlock Holmes as a national cultural icon in an effort to promote Scottish writing worldwide. The chairman of Scotland's cultural commission will next week single out Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective as a prime example of "Scottish rationalism."

James Boyle will outline his vision of how Scotland can promote its arts and culture around the world in a lecture at the Scottish Parliament.

He said Scotland's "incredibly lively" literary scene was where the country could make a wider impact.

Mr Boyle said: "I think we should retake Sherlock Holmes. You look at the worldwide web and you will find that all the web businesses based round Sherlock Holmes are in London, they're in Illinois, they are in Switzerland."

Sherlock Holmes is a product of Scottish mind, born in Scotland, trained in Scotland.

More information and details at this web site:
<http://news.scotsman.com/entertainment.cfm?id=295602005>

SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE WILD FRONTIER - Special Offer from author

I received the following letter from the author, Magda Jozsa. I pass it on for your review:

Hi, my name is Magda Jozsa. I'm the author of *Sherlock Holmes on the Wild Frontier*, a new Sherlock Holmes book just released.

I'm writing to you to tell you about the double bonus I'm offering to Sherlock Holmes society members who purchase my book. If your members are anything like me, they can't get enough of Holmes, or read enough Holmes stories.

For everyone who buys my book, there is a bonus offer in the back. The purchaser sends me an email, and in return I email them an additional short Sherlock story. That is for everyone. The special bonus I'm offering to members is that if they email me for their bonus story and mention which society they belong to, I will send them TWO short Sherlock stories instead of one.

I would appreciate you letting your members know about this special offer. The book is available from amazon.com.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,
Magda Jozsa

SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON COSTUMED VISIT TO SWITZERLAND ANNOUNCED

We have been invited, via e-mail on April 30, 2005 from **Peter Horrocks** to join the Sherlock Holmes Society of London on their fabled costumed expedition to Switzerland.

"On behalf of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London may I draw your attention to (or maybe remind you of) the forthcoming Society costumed visit to Switzerland between June 15 and 23 this year. Canonically entitled "Making a Beeline for Switzerland", the trip will take in Berne, Lausanne, Lucens, Vevey, Zermatt, Naters, Leukerbad and Meiringen. Overseas visitors can join the trip in Zurich. It has been arranged in conjunction with Switzerland Tourism (on whose website at www.myswitzerland.com/sherlockholmes a full itinerary can be found) and promises to be a truly superb and unforgettable venture with hospitality being provided by the Government of Switzerland, Her Majesty's Ambassador in Berne and civic dignitaries at all the cities and towns visited. Each participant will be playing a character from the stories and many of the (sometimes remarkable) incidents and events in the itinerary have been carefully scripted in advance to maximize the enjoyment and fun. Amongst the highlights, we shall be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the formulation of the Theory of Relativity with Professor Einstein in Berne, inspecting Victorian hotels by the shores of Lake Geneva from the comfort of a lake steamer, visiting the Holmes Museum at Lucens, attending a debate at the University of Lausanne and commemorating Edward Wymper's first ascent, in 1865, of the Matterhorn in Zermatt. Sherlock Holmes will demonstrate the technique of segregating of the Queen Bee at Switzerland's largest bee farm and sign copies of his famous handbook on bee culture. At Leukerbad breakfast will be enjoyed in the hot spa on floating wooden trays before a dastardly crime is solved by Holmes. All the time the footsteps of Holmes will be dogged by the sinister figure of Professor Moriarty, intent on revenging the destruction of his criminal empire and the celebrated struggle at the Reichenbach Falls will be duly re-enacted in Meiringen.

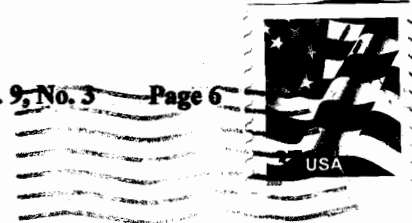
There are still places available for a few further participants (including representatives of TV and the press) and international participants would be particularly welcomed. If you are interested in taking part in this potentially life-changing pilgrimage please contact Bob Ellis at shsl221b@aol.com for further information."

HOW DO YOU TAKE YOUR SHERLOCK ?

In times past, all of the communication regarding Sherlock Holmes was by mail, literary publication, or personal contact at meetings. As you may have noticed in this *Communication*, I get a lot of my information from the Internet. Although this may not be the ideal way to discuss our Sherlockian interests, it does provide a rapid means of distributing information and discussing the stories. Most noteworthy are two email list servers - Hounds of the Internet and WelcomeHolmes. Check them out when you get the chance.



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



**THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA
THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS**

CARL L. HEIFETZ

REPRESENTATIVE BOTH WITH THE SERVANTS AND WITH THE TRADESPEOPLE

Correspondent and Communication

JEFF & WANDA DOW

THE PAPERS ON THE SUNDIAL

Communications, Bookkeeping

DAVID MCCALLISTER

MASTER OF THE HOUSE

Master of Ceremonies, Quizzmaster, Florida Wessex Cup

MICHAEL BRYAN

THE UNOPENED NEWSPAPER

Educational, Marshall/Wood Book Fund, Film Festivals

DR. BENTON WOOD, BSI

RECORDER EMERTUS

Guiding Light, Counselor, Advisor

Please note the date on the mailing label. This is the expiration date of your club membership. Please send your dues renewal to Wanda Dow. Make check out to Wanda Dow. Dues are \$12.00 US and Canada and \$13.00 elsewhere.
