



Communication No. 252

The Pleasant Places of Florida

Vol.9 No. 4

From the Papers on the Sundial:

A goodly crowd gathered at The Rose & Crown Restaurant in Largo on the 28th of May, and it can be said that the food and festivities were enjoyed by all participants. Within these pages are toasts and a few papers for the rest of you to enjoy. Make note of the upcoming activities and try to keep your calendars open (see page 5). If you'd like to become a Sher-holder, check out the letter on page 4 from Don Hobbs.

30th Spring Gathering

Attendees included The Last Court of Appeals, David McCallister, Carl Heifetz and Jeff & Wanda Dow. Although airborne at the time, LCoA member Mike Bryan was the arranger for the gathering at the Rose & Crown Restaurant in Largo. Also seen were Charles & Marilyn Amick, Madlyn Sanford, David Stoner, Eve & Tom Harris, Elizabeth & Culver Dow, Tom Takach, Caroline Everett, George, Barry & Susan Edwards, Art Walker, Emma Zell and Moira McCallister & date, Brandon.

Toasts

To The Queen by David McCallister

Ben Wood would find us remiss if we did not begin the toasting with the simple toast "the Queen," and the Queen, Victoria that is, does actually appear by reference in *Musgrave Ritual*. It is with her and her government that Reginald had "some legal bother and a considerable sum to pay" to retain the crown, under the complex laws of treasure trove. Here is perhaps her attitude:

Queen Victoria likes her hats
And she likes to be amused
But for reference she like her crowns
With more jewels and less abused.
To the Queen.

To Sherlock Holmes by Madlyn Sanford Who was it?

He who is gone.
Who shall have it?
We who honor him.

Who was the father?

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Who was the shadow?

Dr. John H. Watson.

How was it stepped?

Fifty six short stories and then 4 novels.

What shall we give for it?

All our honor, admiration and respect.

Why should we give it?

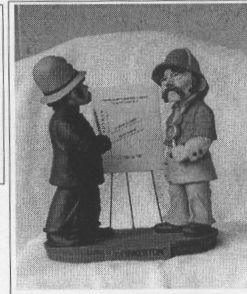
For the sake of the toast.

To John Watson by Charles Amick

John H. Watson, the good doctor who brought us the adventures of Sherlock Holmes, has been obscured by the presentations by the numerous actors who have portrayed him in motion pictures, on the stage, on the radio, and on television in the one hundred years since his first motion picture appearance in 1905.

My personal favorites, who presented Doctor Watson much as he appears in the Canon - with Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes are David Burke and Edward Hardwick. But radio, stage and screen have seen Watsons ranging from Nigel Bruce's bumbling medical man in the series with Basil Rathbone to the brilliant but flawed physician played by Ben Kingsley in *Without A Clue* who invents Sherlock Holmes and then must hire a ham actor to play the part of the great detective that the author's public demands to see.

But the Watson in the sacred writings is the modest, brave, and



Show 'N' Tell Pinkerton statue brought to Spring Gathering by member Art Walker.

determined supporter and partner of Sherlock Holmes. Nothing could conclude a toast better than the first words of Loren D. Estleman's introduction to the Complete Novels and Stories of Sherlock Holmes:

"I submit for your inspection one John H. Watson, medical man, late British Army surgeon, raconteur, journalist, connoisseur of women, Knight of the Battered Tin Dispatch Box, valiant and loyal friend."
To Watson!!

To A.C.Doyle by Art Walker

There once was an agent most spoiled
Who gained from a writer who toiled;
He used his own name
To capture the fame
That agent most wealthy named Doyle.

To Leslie Marshall by Wanda Dow

The English honor their Queen
with a simple toast, yet the simplicity itself denotes the importance and honor it bestows.

Few of us remain, at least in the Sunshine State, who actually knew the man who started it all. But we all know what he left behind, and that is enough.

And so I say these simple words;
To the Founder
To Leslie Marshall.

To Reginald Musgrave by George Edwards

Reginald is quite a nice man. He is a rich, influential man trying to maintain a certain (cont. on page 2)



(cont. from page 1) attitude of being of the "anoined" class - and - being just a real person.

We know from his words that he has a monumental ancestry. He wants to live up to that.

Yet Reginald is a warm and human man. Even though he was outraged at Brunton's perfidy, Reginald still allowed Brunton a week to make excuses for leaving Hurlstone Manor.

All in all, Reginald Musgrave was a full man. He was country squire, an MP and a manager.

Let us toast Reginald Musgrave.

To Brunton the Butler by Caroline Everett

Who figured out the Ritual?

Brunton the Butler.

What was Brunton huntin'?

The unknown treasure.

Who helped him?

Rachel the Welsh housemaid.

Why did she do so?

Spurned love and revenge.

What did Brunton find in the trunk?

The ancient crown of England.

What did he give for it?

His life.

Here's to that Don Juan of Butlers, the Scoundrel Brunton!

**To Rachel Howells by Donna Vaurio, MIA
(read by Carl Heifetz)**

Poor, dear Rachel, she was cursed.

Always second, never first.

Along came Brunton and gave her a whirl.

Then Rachel found she wasn't the only girl.

Just like Johnny in a well-known song,

He was her man but was doing her wrong.

Still she helped him search for the treasure,

And the steps of the Ritual they did measure.

He passed up gold for her to grab,

She got a grip, and dropped the slab.

Because he dallied and wouldn't wed,

Dear Rachel thought him better dead.

So now to Rachel we raise a toast.

She left one less cad around to boast.

To Rachel!

To Rachel Howells by Emma Zell

I could find no better toast than the words of William Congreve in *The Mourning Bride* (1697), Act III, Scene 8:

Heaven has no rage like love to hatred turned,

Nor hell a fury like a woman scorned.

To Rachel!

(cont. on page 3)

The Italian Secretary: A Further Adventure of Sherlock Holmes

Type of material: Hardcover book

Publisher: Carroll & Graf, New York

Year: 2005

Author: Caleb Carr

Review: Any author who dares to assume that his readers have an attention span that exceeds fifteen or twenty seconds has succeeded in capturing my attention no matter what the subject pursued. Caleb Carr treats English as if it is tool for the conveyance of precise information and not as if it were a bludgeon to be used to beat the reader into submission. His prose is elegant and precise, with slang terms used to emphasize characterization and to provide particular flavors and tones to conversation.

The narrator is Dr. Watson, not the familiar narrator of most of the Canonical tales, but rather this Dr. Watson is clearly the man who wrote those tales. This is not the hopeless naïf he depicted himself to be, this Watson is bright and thoughtful and a good foil for the genius of Holmes. Yet, under all, he remains the true Victorian gentleman in the best sense of that overworked phrase. He does not comprehend the hubris that constitutes true evil, the sense of self that will not recognize any will but its own. In this, he remains unable to understand Holmes who is well aware of that form of darkness of the soul.

This tale is one that Watson never meant to be published, rather it is a record of events that deserve preservation but are prejudicial to *The Crown*. It is also a tale of ghosts and murder, with a particularly Holmesian explanation for apparent supernatural events. Even Mycroft is unable to cope and has called Holmes and Watson to investigate murders at Holyrood House, the official residence of Her majesty in Edinburgh. High politics, historical mystery, human greed, departmental machinations and the character of Her Majesty are all combined to present a complex and satisfying new Sherlock Holmes mystery. This story revives the feeling of reading the Canon more than any pastiche I have read (3,000+ and counting), a truly remarkable feat.

Reviewed by: Philip K. Jones; May, 2005.

"Did you read the books we sent you? I thought you'd be an expert on Sherlock Holmes by now."

"Mr Holmes is a great detective," Guido replied.

Page 217, *The Constant Gardener* by John LeCarre



HE'S EVERYWHERE... Magico, PO Box 1546, NY,NY 10002 has printed an attractive 56-page chapbook by Bud Livingston, *Some More Trifling Monographs* for \$11.95 (postage included)...*Arthur & George*, a novel by Julian Barnes about the Edalji case is due out in July from Random House ... Leslie S. Klinger has won the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Allen Poe award for the best critical or biographical work of 2004 for his new annotated Holmes. We add, "Here! Here!" ... BBC Scotland is preparing a bio tv documentary about Doyle ... You can now visit *The Musgraves* scion at <the.musgraves@amseve.com> ... We've learned that you can now get the first 100 issues of *The District Messenger* in PDF format on CD-ROM for \$15.00. Email <rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk> for further info... *Rupert Books* who bill themselves as "Specialists in Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes and Jack the Ripper is having a big sale. Visit their websit at <www.rupert-books.co.uk>



Home of Holmes: The stage set for Ed. Lange's "Sherlock's Legacy", produced this spring by the New York State Theatre Institute in Troy, shows how Holmes apparently lived in retirement. Photo by Tim Raab/Northern Photo. (May 11, 2005)

(cont. from page 2)

Winner of the Watson level quiz was David Stoner with top honors from the Mycroft level quiz going to Tom Takach. Quizzes were maniacally prepared, as usual, by David McCallister. Prizes were donated by David Stoner, Carl Heifetz and Jeff Dow.

A King & Queen were chosen by the staff of Rose & Crown as to the winning home-made crowns - Eve & Tom Harris.

There were Show & Tell items brought by Eve & Tom Harris, Arthur Walker and Tom Takach. A lively discussion was held as to why Reginald Musgrave so quickly fired Brunton after twenty years service, especially after he discovered that the paper the butler was studying was nothing important, and after saying what an asset Brunton had been during all his years of service. Was he jealous of this Don Juan's talents? Was he jealous of Brunton's taste of companions? No conclusions were made, but theories abounded!

The Ritual in *Musgrave Ritual* was lead by Tom Takach and *221B* was read by Tom Harris.

A small skit was performed by some of the Dow Family Players:

Prompter: There has been some discussion as to the mental capacity, or lack thereof, of members of the Musgrave family. We know that Reginald evidently

passed his testing with the Ritual. We herewith present his brther, Dwight, and sister, Twigg, and their answers tot he Ritual, which is why you never hear of them again.

Prompter: Whose was it?
Dwight: Uh, the dude who left.
Twigg: Noooo! It's mine!
Prompter: Who shall have it?
Dwight: Can I have it?
Twigg: No!
Prompter: What was the month?
Dwight: Uhhhhhhh - February?
Twigg: It was June. Or July. I'm not sure.
Prompter: Where was the sun?
Dwight: (*sarcastically*) In the sky.
Twigg: No, it's 93 million miles away!
Prompter: (*sighing*) Where was the shadow?
Dwight: Oh! On the radio. You know, solving crimes?
Twigg: Attached to my feet. You know, like Peter Pan.
Prompter: How was it stepped?
Dwight: Like this! (*breaks into a silly dance*)
Twigg: With a hey nanny nah and a ha cha cha!
Prompter: What shall we give for it?
Dwight: Ummm (*digging in pocket*) I got a quarter!
Twigg: I'll give you *fifty* cents!
Prompter: Why should we give it?
Dwight: That's all I have, dude.

Twigg: Because I said so.
Prompter: Get out!
 PROMPTER.....WANDA DOW
 DWIGHT MUSGRAVE.....CULVER DOW
 TWIGGY MUSGRAVE.....ELIZABETH DOW

BENZ, ANYONE?

I have been trying to locate a picture of a 100-horsepower Benz limousine that might be similar to the one depicted in "His Last Bow" as belonging to Baron Von Herling. Using Google Advanced search, I did a search for 1914 Benz limousine. What I got were mostly web sites featuring Match Box cars. The latest Benz limousines were 1909 and 1910 models. For example, there is a 1910 Benz Limousine from "Matchbox Yesteryears" at this web site: http://www.toycarcollector.com/matchbox_yesteryears.htm. And several others, 1909 and 1910, were at "Matchbox Memories" at this web site: <http://www.matchboxmemories.com/Models/Models%20of%20Yesteryear.htm> Interestingly enough, there were two stamps honoring Benz limousines at a Japanese web site featuring (cont. on page 5)



Greetings Sherlockian Friends,

The 2005 Great Whimsical Sherlockian Tour of Oklahoma and Texas will take place in August when a group of hardy, or maybe foolish, Sherlockians will undertake a four-day, 2000-mile drive to some of the most famous and some of the most obscure (and some never-heard-of) Sherlockian sites in these two states.

The tour will leave Dallas on August 4 and head 263 miles east to Watson, Oklahoma to visit the school where, 30 years ago, the Afghanistan Perceivers placed a plaque that read "Elementary, Watson." The tour then heads north to Tulsa where they hope to have the opportunity to climb Holmes Peak, one of the greatest monuments on the planet to the master detective. The next stop will be Baker, Oklahoma, after a journey of a mere 371 miles. The goal is to photograph a street in Baker because every Sherlockian should have a photograph of a Baker street.

The next, and probably most challenging, stop will be Sherlock, Texas. This seems to be only a railroad crossing but we will have a ceremony to erect a commemorative plaque celebrating the tour. That will be followed by a testing, 500-mile leg south to Fort Davis, Texas, where the travelers will be the guests of honor at The Sherlock Holmes Outpost. The tour returns to Dallas on the following day, Sunday August 7.

We have the chance to film the entire trek. Professional videographer Rick Gold plans on following the group and producing a Sherlockian documentary. The cost of this would be \$3200. We have divided the total into 100 "Sher(s)"-here is your chance to become a "Sher-holder" so to speak for just \$32 per.

The 2005 GWSTOOT is offering the opportunity to be a part of the film as an executive producer. This is not a request for money....yet...we just need to know who would want a Sher or Sher(s). 45 Sher(s) have already been spoken for.

If we do not sell the remaining 55 Sher(s) the tour will go on but would not be filmed. Only after all 100 Sher(s) would payment be requested.

The completed documentary would be shopped to cable television networks and Independent Film Festivals. Each Sher-holder will get a copy of the documentary and it would be ready for sale at the Birthday Celebration Weekend in January. Any profit will be shared equally among the Sher-holders.

Best regards,
Don Hobbs
Tour Director

Don sent an email, but did not include who to notify, so we're going out on a limb here and saying contact Don at



"He's a disgrace to his badge," he'd say. "If there's a problem he can't solve with fists or guns, then that's a problem don't get solved at all. The man's all muscle, no method."

That last bit was considered by Gustav to be the ultimate insult to a lawman's skills. He'd made a study on

"method" after stumbling upon accounts of one Sherlock Holmes of London, England. This Holmes fellow's sort of a gentleman layabout turned sleuth who solves crimes by means my brother describes as "observation and cogitation." Driving cattle's a true test for nerves and muscle, but you might as well deposit your brain in a bank before you hit the trail, for you won't be needing it until you get back. My brother being a man with little learning but much smarts, I believe drovering had become a kind of mental torture for him. His mind was dying of thirst, and this Sherlock Holmes was a cool drink of

water.

Whatever the explanation for it, my brother's fascination with Holmes drove him to snatch up every detective magazine he could lay hands on. Nick Carter, King Brady, Old Cap Collier, even Madge the Society Detective - we've read about them all. It didn't take long for Gustav to turn sour on these American crimebusters, though. All muscle, no method, he said. But we were stuck with them, as a yarn about Holmes is harder to find than a Mormon in a warehouse. Gustav's only managed to rustle up two Holmes tales so far: one called "A Study in Scarlet," the other "The Red-Headed League." We end every day the same way, in the bed we share in the storeroom at the back of the shack, me reading out the story of Old Red's choice. I say a quiet prayer before we turn in that he won't ask to hear about Holmes, as I've read those two stories so many times the words are practically tattooed on my eyeballs.

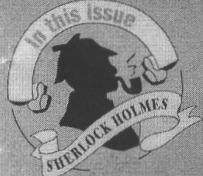
Sent in by member Tom Takach: excerpt from Feb. '05 issue of *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*



LEADERSHIP

August 27, 2009

...with a human touch



WISDOM
FROM THE WORLD'S FIRST
CONSULTING DETECTIVE

See page 13

THIS LEADERSHIP BOOKLET WAS SENT IN BY MEMBER GEORGE EDWARDS. IT IS A PERIODICAL PRINTED AT CALDWELL, NJ (ISSN 0886-8123). WE REPRINT THE PERTINENT SECTIONS HERE.

LEADERSHIP LESSONS

from the world's first consulting detective

SHERLOCK HOLMES is among the best-known characters in literature. The first story to feature the adventures of "the world's first consulting detective" was *A Study In Scarlet*, appearing in *Beeton's Christmas Annual* for 1887. (It was "recorded" by his companion Dr. Watson and brought to the world through the graces of author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.) From this beginning sprang the far-flung empire of "Sherlockiana" that persists to this day. Doyle's original Sherlock Holmes stories are now called *The Canon* and include 56 short stories and four novels. Embodied therein is wisdom aplenty for readers and leaders. One of the quotes most often associated with Holmes appears in several forms in several stories, but is most succinctly stated as "Eliminate all other factors and the one which remains must be the truth."

He also said, "Here is my lens. You know my methods."

Here's a collection of additional wisdom from Sherlock Holmes, particularly appropriate for leaders:

- We can but try (the motto of the firm).
- It may be that you are not yourself luminous, but you are a conductor of light. Some people without possessing genius have a remarkable power of stimulating it.
- Work is the best antidote to sorrow.
- The work is its own reward.
- It is stupidity rather than courage to refuse to recognize danger when it is close upon you.
- Life is infinitely stranger than anything the mind of man could invent.
- You do occasionally find a carrion crow among the eagles.
- Everything comes in circles....The old wheel turns, and the same spoke comes up. It's all been done before and will be again.
- Breadth of view is one of the essentials of our profession. The interplay of ideas and the oblique uses of knowledge are often of extraordinary interest.
- Nothing clears up a case so much as stating it to another person.
- There is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact.
- There is nothing so unnatural as the commonplace.
- They say that genius is an infinite capacity for taking pains. It is a very bad definition, but it does apply.
- It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts.
- To let the brain work without sufficient material is like racing an engine. It racks itself to pieces.
- It is, of course, a trifle, but there is nothing so important as trifles.
- Things must be done decently and in order.
- You know that a conjurer gets no credit when once he has explained his tricks; and if I show you too much of my method of working, you will come to the

conclusion that I am a very ordinary individual after all.

- Let us see in the future how high you can rise.

WHAT HOLMES NEVER SAID

"ELEMENTARY MY DEAR WATSON" never appears in the original stories. Some Sherlockians trace it to the 1929 film *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*.

And while we're at it: The deerstalker cap, like the one in silhouette on the cover of this issue, is also never mentioned in the stories. Holmes was, however, pictured wearing one by Sidney Paget, the original illustrator.

And finally: The curved pipe is not definitively described in the stories. Again, Sherlockian scholars trace it to actor William Gillette, who made his fame and fortune portraying Holmes. Gillette, they say, wanted a pipe that wouldn't interfere with his articulation and his famous profile.

WELL, WE ALL KNEW HOLMES WAS A LEADER IN HIS FIELD. GUESS OTHER COMPANIES THINK SO, TOO!

(cont. from page 3) Postage Stamps: www41.tok2.com/home/fwkf8336/jidousya/ji44bentu.htm.

In every case, models later than 1910, including the year 1914, were identified as Mercedes-Benz, whereas the one in the story was clearly identified as a Benz. Thus, we have one clew, that the Benz described by the unknown author of "His Final Bow" must have been made no later than 1910. But which of the models illustrated was the powerful 100-horsepower automobile that took up the entire road at Van Bork's home? Once that has been established, I can obtain a scale model of this car for my collection of Sherlockian artifacts.

G. Norton, Esquire aka Carl L. Heifetz
Private Consulting Microbiologist

CALENDAR SHERLOCKIANA 2005

(being a listing of Sherlockian events worldwide)
July

23 - The Maiwand Luncheon of *The Friends of Dr. Watson* held at the Rajdoot Tandoori Restaurant in Paddington Street. Contact

September

10 - Holmes Film Festival at the Clearwater Library, Main Branch, sponsored by *Pleasant Places of Florida*. 10AM, lunch break w/discussion at Cafe.

October

TBA - 30th Annual Fall Gathering of the *Pleasant Places of Florida* in St. Petersburg, FL

The Pleasant Places of Florida

*founded in 1972
by Leslle 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.