



November/December Issue, 2005
 Special Issue - 30th Annual Fall Gathering

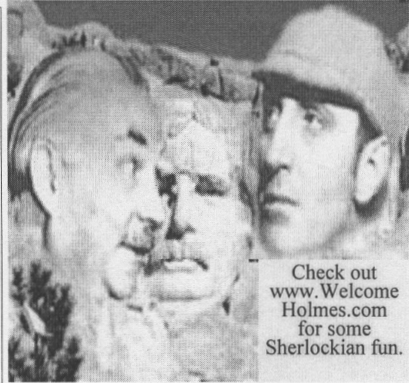
Communication No. 256/257

The Pleasant Places of Florida

Vol.9 No. 8/9

From the Papers on the Sundial:

Here we have a double issue of regular issues! Just as we were finishing up #256, we realized the fall gathering really needed to have an issue of its own dedicated to all the fun had, so you hold in your hands a 13-pager (14 if you count the back page). Don't forget to make your reservations for the upcoming Wessex Cup. Wouldn't your loved ones like a day at the races? What a lovely Christmas present to give! We hope most of you got to see the new Sherlock Holmes. Ironically, *the Papers* did not. For some reason our local PBS could not transmit a signal that night. We thought it was everywhere or we would have called someone to tape it for us. Damn that Moriarty! Now he's even tampering with the air waves!



Check out
www.WelcomeHolmes.com
 for some
 Sherlockian fun.



Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking

Was there ever such a brooding, handsome and strangely sexy Sherlock Holmes as this...? - *London Evening Standard*
 Compelling, brilliant, darkly original... - *Sunday Times*, London

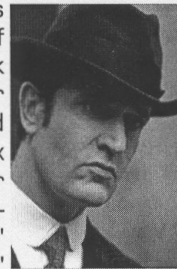
November 1903. Fresh from an opium den in London's East End, Sherlock Holmes relaxes with green tea and a book on beekeeping, paying no heed to Dr. Watson's plea for help with a baffling case. The corpse of a shabbily dressed young woman has been discovered in the mud flats of the Thames at low tide. Police assume she's a prostitute, but Dr. Watson suspects something more and goes to his old friend Holmes, now retired and at very loose ends.

The original screenplay is by Allan Cubitt (*Anna Karenina*, *Prime Suspect 2*), who adapted the classic Holmes mystery *The Hound of the Baskervilles* for **Masterpiece Theatre** in 2003. This time Cubitt concocts his own tale of serial murder set in high society to challenge the wits of the celebrated brain of Baker Street.

Rupert Everett (*Shrek 2*, *An Ideal*

Husband, *My Best Friend's Wedding*) stars as the sleuth who just can't say no to the case, with Ian Hart (*Finding Neverland*, *Hound of the Baskervilles*) as Dr. Watson. The cast also includes Helen McCrory (*Lucky Jim*, *Anna Karenina*) as American psychoanalyst Mrs. Vandeleur, Watson's fiancée and a budding detective herself, along with Neil Dudgeon (*The Mrs. Bradley Mysteries*) as Inspector Lestrade.

At 6 feet 4 inches, actor Rupert Everett is every inch the literary Sherlock Holmes, whom Sir Arthur Conan Doyle placed over six feet. Conan Doyle's other qualifications for Holmes - "piercing" like nose, "prominence and squareness which marked the man of determination" - also check out in the suave and intensely brooding Everett.



"Every generation should be allowed to have a go at Sherlock," opines Simon Cellan Jones, director of this new take on the detective. "He's one of those eternal characters, like Hamlet or Lear, who can bear any number of interpretations."



This is just something of interest for Sherlock fans. We publish 'ebooks' for everyday cellphones that can be downloaded wirelessly. We've found Conan-Doyles' stories suit this format so a number of Sherlock Holmes stories will become available in the UK, Australia, the US and some other countries.

Jamster (of 'crazy frog' infamy) are very keen on the idea and have already made available 'A Case of Identity' for download (We know this isn't the best but 'The Speckled Band', 'Read Headed League' and 'Scandal in Bohemia' are in the works). The average mobile surfer is young so this will introduce Sherlock Holmes to a whole new generation of readers.

Initial indications from Jamster are that 'Case Of Identity' is popular. If your phone can run Java then you can more than likely download the ebook (even Blackberries work but they are very slow devices and not recommended). We don't set pricing, it's set locally.

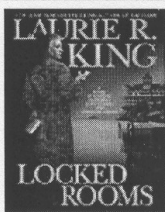
Regards

Colin

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Human side of Holmes

BOOKS: FICTION

by MARY CAMPBELL

For AP Weekly Features

Laurie R. King's crisply written eighth novel about Sherlock Holmes and his wife Mary Russell is one of the best, even though Mary isn't up to par.

Mary, an American, is usually a worthy partner of her famous detective husband.

Here, they arrive in San Francisco in 1924, with Mary almost in a stupor. She has blocked most memories of her childhood, including that her family lived there during the 1906 earthquake.

Mary also feels survivor guilt, sure that she distracted her father, causing the wreck that killed her parents and little brother. Holmes suspects a nefarious cause of the accident -- and he fears continuing danger. He'll investigate and try gently to nudge Mary to her own realization.

One aspect of this book that is especially fun is Holmes' meeting with Dashiell Hammett, a sometime Pinkerton investigator. Hammett helps Holmes.

Also, it's fun when Holmes enlists some juvenile irregulars, just as he had done in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's accounts of his exploits in London.

In this book, Holmes is shown as very human. He ruminates that cases are more congenial if there's no personal element in them. And, as he enumerates to himself what he knows and has figured out, just past the book's halfway mark, he doesn't seem really brilliant.

But he's going to keep investigating until he finds the only thing that fits the facts.

Luzerne County Coroner Dies

Monday, October 3

By Jon Meyer

Luzerne County has lost a well-known personality.

Doctor George Hudock started as county coroner in 1969, was elected to office nine straight terms, and brought wisdom and wit to an often disturbing job. He passed away Sunday.

Hudock dealt with death day after day but had a dry sense of humor. He even dressed as Sherlock Holmes for a meeting about a murder case in 1991.

Monday staff in Hudock's office answered call after call. People were calling to offer sympathy, saying how much 76-year-old Hudock will be missed.

"It's very difficult. I've worked with him for 21 years," said staff member Mary Wallace.

Wallace got to see the kindness behind a very private man in a very public job. "It's a family in here in this office and it's different than other offices. Doctor Hudock respected each one of us and treated us all equal and that made it very enjoyable," she said.

"Over 30 years in the coroner's office, we've had a lot of hard days. This is probably the hardest," said Chief Deputy Coroner Bill Lisman. He has been with Doctor Hudock for 30 years, investigating some of the state's most gruesome murders, always learning from the expert.

"The doctor was an amazing encyclopedia of information. Before the days of computers he would have been the closest thing to it," Lisman added.

In an office where it's tough to dwell on the tasks at hand, Hudock knew when to soften up.

"He was such a compassionate, caring man, all that detachment would go out the door when he'd sit down with a family who had lost a loved one," said Lisman. "It's hard when you have to ask a person about their loved one. No one is ever prepared for death."



EXCERPTS FROM AN INTERVIEW OF
RUPERT EVERETT

from the PBS website

British actor Rupert Everett seems to have found his perfect role in *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking*. His performance has been described as "excellent," "arresting," and "especially convincing"; London's *Sunday Times* found Everett's Holmes "a compelling, brilliant, darkly original character, much closer to the original stories than to deerstalkers and meerschaums and Basil Rathbone. Everett was dangerously cerebral and on the edge. He had the uncomfortable feeling of being a man both out of time and place, awkward in his own skin, placating demons with the distraction of crime. It was all done with minimal business and dramatic movement, just a steady intensity."

The multitalented Everett -- actor on stage (*Another Country*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*), film (*An Ideal Husband*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *My Best Friend's Wedding*) and television (he recently wrapped up a guest stint on ABC's *Boston Legal*) -- also writes seriously. His two novels -- *Hello, Darling, Are You Working?* and *The Hairdressers of St. Tropez* will be followed by an autobiography due to be published in 2006. He speaks three languages, has performed as a singer and worked as a model, and plays the piano. He was the voice of Prince Charming in *Shrek 2* and also does a voiceover in the new *Chronicles of Narnia*, opening in December 2005.

While in New York on a press junket for *Sherlock Holmes*, Everett chatted with Masterpiece Theatre:

Did you read Arthur Conan Doyle and *Sherlock Holmes* stories when you were young?

A little bit. Not an enormous amount. I knew a few of them; you obviously can't *not* know about them. They're such stock stories -- particularly for the English -- but even for Russian people. You know, they make films about Sherlock Holmes in Russia, in Russian. He's English, it all takes place in England... Even through Communist times they made Sherlock Holmes films.

There seems to be a consensus that, at least physically, you are perfect for the role of Holmes. Had you ever entertained the notion that you'd like to play Holmes someday?

No, never. When this came along I thought, 'Oh, that's a really fun idea.' But it wasn't something I had ever thought about.

What was your reaction when you were offered the role?

I explained what I wanted to do with the part... I wanted it to have psychological development... I think one of the problems with stories like this is you spend

a lot of time telling people about train times and when so-and-so was here and when this happened and when that happened... It can leave very little time actually, practically speaking, for psychological development of the characters... I very much liked the idea of the story -- being involved with class and wealth and sexual perversion -- all that was great.

How did you approach such an iconic role?

I think it's fun playing a part that lots of other people have played, in a way. You know, everybody's done Sherlock Holmes -- lots of weird freaks apart from just me.

How much of the Holmes that we see is your interpretation and how much is the director's or the screenwriters'?

I think it's almost all theirs. It's a pretty obvious role, really. We talked a lot about it beforehand. It went on for a long time before we did the actual shoot, just getting the script together and all that kind of stuff... It's difficult being involved in the creation of something, actually... It is a great role. It's lovely and great to have done it... I don't know that I'd want to make a career out of Sherlock Holmes though.

When you do a period piece, do you make accommodations? Were people different one hundred years ago than they are now?

I've always wondered. Yes, I think they were different and -- they must have been, mustn't they? I always ask that question when I go to a place like Versailles -- you wonder what they were doing... I guess they were regular people; they just didn't have all the same issues. I think we're very much more blunted than they probably were. As every year goes by we're more and more dull. I think we've been dulled by capitalism. We're just blobs now -- we're so worried about how we can keep paying the lease on the car, the mortgage, the lease on the toaster and all that. You can't really think about much else. If you lose that, you lose the whole lot. So I think someone like Sherlock Holmes -- privileged -- he wasn't rich but he didn't have to worry in terms of survival. I guess he was a different kind of person in a way. He's a different kind of character anyway. He's a criminal and a crime fighter, that's the thing that's interesting about him in a way -- equally affectionate toward a murderer or toward the victim... He doesn't really seem to have a judgmental side to him, I think that's what's interesting. He's more of a scientist... Yeah, he's observing the whole thing in a way, and that's how he's so successful at it.



NEW BOOKS COMING UP....

The Science of Sherlock Holmes by E. J. Wagner from John Wiley & Sons. Due out in March. The author has a website at [http://home.att.net/~ejwager/~\\$SH%20book%completed](http://home.att.net/~ejwager/~$SH%20book%completed)

Holmes on the Range by Steven Hockensmith from Minotaur. Due out in February.

CALENDAR SHERLOCKIANA

2005

November

1-5 - *Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror* performed by the Pioneer Theatre Company in Salt Lake City, UT

4-5 - *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Holmes* performed on My Old Kentucky Dinner Train, 602 N. 3rd., Bardstown, KY (502) 348-7500

4-6 - *Sherlock Holmes Weekend* in Cape May, NJ

6 - *14th Annual Gasfitter's Ball* at the South Pasadena Woman's Club with the theme of Victoria's Pillar of Empire. Curious Collectors of Baker Street, 9338 Sophia Ave., North Hills, CA 91343 818-893-1501

10 - *No Schick, Sherlock* performed at the Summit Lake Winery, Holt's Summit, MO (573) 896-9966

11-12 - *No Schick, Sherlock* performed at the Holy-Field Vineyard, 18807 158th St., Basehor, KS (913) 724-946311-13 - *Sherlock Holmes Festival* in Tyron, NC www.sherlockholmesfestival.com or 1-800-440-7848

19 - *No Schick, Sherlock* performed at the Pheasant Hollow Winery, 14931 State Hwy. 37, Whittington, IL (618) 629-2302

19 - *Pub Quiz Night* for the Sherlock Holmes Society of London at The Old Dr. Butler's Head pub in London.

26 - *No Schick, Sherlock* performed at the Collver Family Winery in Barry, IL (217) 335-3379

2006

January

6 - *Victorian Dinner with The Illustrious Clients* Email at IllustClients@aol.com

8-9 - *Annual Dinner, Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and The Morning After*. The House of Commons dining room, guest speaker Mark Gatiss.

12-13 - BSI Weekend in New York, New York.

28 - *16th Annual Wessex Cup* sponsored by Pleasant Places of Florida at Tampa Bay Downs in Oldsmar, Florida. \$18.95 per person, includes full buffet. Contact David McCallister (see ad).

March

4-25 - *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure* performed by the Arizona Theatre Company, in Tucson, AZ Contact Jennifer Spencer 602-256-6899 x6202 or jspencer@arizonatheatre.org

30-31 - *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure* performed by the Arizona Theatre Company, in Phoenix, AZ Contact Jennifer Spencer 602-256-6899 x6202 or jspencer@arizonatheatre.org

March 31-April 2 - The Annual *STUD-Watsonian Weekend* in Chicago at the Sheraton Four Points hotel in Schiller Park, IL with featured speaker, Leslie Klinger. Includes the historic 47th Annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course. Contact szdiamond@comcast.net

April

TBA - *London Mini-Festival: Another Capital Idea, Watson* The Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

(cont. on page 5)

HE'S EVERYWHERE.... "I had bumped into Peter Guillam. Peter had played Watson to George's Sherlock Holmes in the long search for the Circus traitor, who turned out to be our Head of Operations, Bill Haydon." Author John LeCarre mentions the master once again in his book, *The Secret Pilgrim* ... those interested in Leslie Klinger's *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes* can check out the website at www.annotatedsherlockholmes.com ... the last instalment of *Basket Case Investigations*, Cenarth Fox's *Nicholas Twit, The Schoolboy Sherlock Holmes* is out (www.twit.biz) \$7US ... if you want to celebrate the (belated-October 4th) 145th birthday of Sidney Paget, go to ebay and search for Sherlock Holmes + Paget. There's a 32-page booklet by Goode Press of *SCAN* with all Paget's illustrations colored (is this a good thing?). Also has bio info and photos ... it took 5 years of research by members of 'the international Bartitsu Society' to publish *The Bartitsu compendium, volume I: History and the Canonical Syllabus*. This book by Tony Wolf states that the eclectic martial art was founded by E. W. Barton-Wright in 1891. You can pay \$25 for your copy through www.lulu.com ... Cenarth Fox has a play, *The Real Sherlock Holmes*, in which Doyle, his mother and Holmes are unseen presences at the unveiling in 1999 of the London statue of Holmes. The event, of course, prompts reminiscence, conversation and arguments between the three. It's touring now in Australia ... speaking of plays, Canadian Sherlockians could go see *The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes* by David Belke at the Myfield Dinner Theatre in Edmonton Alberta this past October, Pendletonians traveled to the Salford Playhouse to see *Mrs. H of Baker Street* by Peter Tong, and in November, Tim Evers presents his one-man play *The Demons of Sherlock Holmes* at The Bayou Theatre at the U of Houston in Clear Lake, and Roger Llewellyn with *Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!* is at the Friends' Meeting House in Pickering and at the Lakeside Theatre at the University of Essex at Colchester ... Imagination Theatre broadcast its 500th radio play in October. It was written by founder, Jim French and MJ Elliott. Titled *The Third Gate*, it included Sherlock Holmes and AJ Raffles. You can get it on cd from www.harrynile.com ... Sherlockian cartoonist Gayle Puhl is selling a 2006 calendar. It's titled "If Watson Wrote for TV" and most of the cartoons connect an incident in Holmes's life with a well-known television show. \$12 US plus postage from uhlreader@yahoo.com ... Did you know that a red lamp in Victorian England had nothing to do with the red-light district; it was the sign of a doctor's house. In fact, Arthur Conan Doyle himself wrote a book of medical short stories titled *Round the Red Lamp*. Perhaps Watson's way with the ladies led the way to the other connection? ...



(cont. from page 4)

APRIL

1-16 - *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure* performed by the Arizona Theatre Company, in Phoenix, AZ Contact Jennifer Spencer 602-256-6899 x6202 or jspencer@arizonatheatre.org

21-23 - *Malice Domestic XVIII* at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA. www.malicedomestic.org

22-23 - *Springtime in Baker Street* in Tarrytown, NY. Details TBA

May

Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire's Literary Festival. The afternoon with an Edwardian slant will feature Sherlock Holmes. Contact Neil Scott at

20 - 31st Annual Spring Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida, High Tea in Orlando at the Grand Floridian Hotel. Contact Madlyn Sanford to make your reservations by February at tstimpson@tampabay.rr.com More details to follow. Get a discount to stay in a Disney Park hotel as well!

October

20-22 - *ACD at Thirty-Five* presented by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, The Bootmakers of Toronto and (CONT. ON PAGE 6)

September 29, 2005 *Clearwater Gazette & Beach Views*

**SHERLOCKIANS GATHER FOR FILM FESTIVAL**

Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts from Florida's west coast gathered at the Clearwater Main Library on September 10 to celebrate the world's most famous fictional detective. Co-sponsors of the day-long Sherlock Holmes Film Festival were the City of Clearwater Public Library System and the Pleasant Places of Florida. Posing for a photo at the event are Pleasant Places of Florida members (seated l-r) Susan Edwards, Wanda Dow, (standing l-r) George Edwards, Mike Bryan, Jeffery Dow, Carl Heifetz and reference librarian David Stoner. The day featured vintage films, episodes of a rare French-produced TV show from the 1950s and trivia games. A Holmesian Workshop, Wessex Cup race, Sherlockian Scion Symposium and Sherlock Sunshine Birthday Bash are some of the other events previously sponsored by the Pleasant Places of Florida, which is a division of the Baker Street Irregulars.

PHOTO BY SANDI FAHY

The Pleasant Places of Florida would like to thank David Stoner for arranging the film festival.

FROM THE CATALOG OF:

Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.

CHEM 113 Chemistry and Crime: From Sherlock Holmes to Modern Forensic Science (Not offered 2005-2006; to be offered 2006-2007)

In this course, designed for students who do not plan to major in the natural sciences, we use a case-oriented approach to explore selected topics of forensic science. These include: (1) the scientific and technological foundation for the examination of physical, chemical, and biological items of evidence, and (2) the scope of expert qualifications and testimony, the legal status of scientific techniques, and the admissibility of the results in evidence. The analysis of trace evidence, including glass, soil, gunpowder residues and bullet fragments, and inorganic and heavy metal poisons are discussed through an understanding of the basic concepts of chemistry and analytical chemistry. Forensic toxicology and pharmacology are applied to the analysis of alcohol, poisons, and drugs based upon the principles of organic chemistry and biochemistry. The characterization of blood and other body fluids necessitate an understanding of serology and molecular genetics. The cases which stimulate the exploration of these areas include: the John and Robert Kennedy assassinations, the Jeffrey MacDonald case (Fatal Vision), the Wayne Williams case, the deaths of celebrities Marilyn Monroe, John Belushi, and Janis Joplin, the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin, the Lindberg baby kidnapping, the Tylenol poisonings, and the identity of Anastasia. An interactive laboratory program provides an appreciation of scientific experimentation in general and the work of a crime lab in particular. It includes an analysis of evidence collected at various crime scenes and provides an opportunity to learn forensic techniques such as chromatography (for ink, drug, and fire accelerant analysis), spectroscopy (for alcohol and drug analysis), and electrophoresis (for DNA fingerprinting). This course is designed for the non-science major who does not intend to pursue a career in the natural sciences. Format: lecture, three hours per week; laboratory, four hours per week. Evaluation will be based on problem sets and/or quizzes, hour tests, a final exam, and laboratory performance.

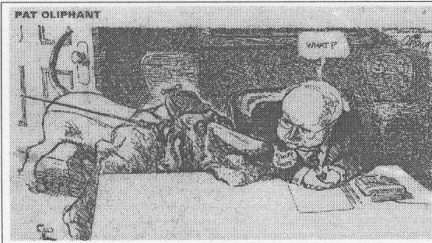


(CONT. FROM PAGE 5) The Arthur Conan Doyle Society.

Contact

November

TBA - 31st Annual Fall Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida.



'A MR. FITZGERALD TO SEE YOU, MR. CHENEY.'
Political cartoon with Holmesian reference, *St Pete Times*, October, 2005

ARE YOU GAME?

With the announcement of a new Sherlockian PC game from Frogwares, I decided to do a little research on just how many games are out there based on the master. I was pleasantly surprised to find that as early as 1985 there have been Sherlockian games. I'm not talking puzzles here. I mean interactive games. So here we go with a little review ...

***Sherlock Holmes: Another Bow* 1985**

Developed & Published by Bantam Imagic, this is the debut of Holmes in a graphically enhanced interactive fiction title. Although lacking in puzzles, it was well-liked for its lengthy writing and skillful storytelling.

Holmes has his mystery aboard a steamship and this entails conversations with supporting characters, solving the big mystery by solving 6 smaller cases along the way.

***Sherlock Holmes: The Vatican Cameos* 1986**

Developed & Published by Ellicott Creek, this game ditched the graphic enhancements for a full text-based interface. It was still ahead of its time by using characters that moved around of their own free will. Storytelling is not as well done as *Another Bow* and the interface limits the number of understood verbs, but still a good play.

***Sherlock Holmes: Consulting Detective* 1991** Developed & Published by ICOM Simulations, Inc. This game took a huge leap in the world of graphics. This game featured a then-shocking 90 minutes of video with real actors (to that date not seen). Unfortunately, it was completely linear and unplayable. Worth more as a museum piece than a true playable mystery. Note: There were 3 volumes, each with 3 cases, and a new version of the original set has been release in interactive DVD.

***The Lost Files of Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Serrated Scalpel* 1992** Developed by Mythos Software. Published by Electronic Arts. Mythos was an obscure developer and in this case, this was a good thing, except for maybe the bulky title. This one raised the bar for mystery games as well as the entire adventure genre. The plot is well-written, and the story told well with a massive amount of dialogue and Holmes-Watson banter. An actress is murdered in a robbery gone wrong; is it the Ripper? A new serial-killer? The killer & motive is revealed 60% into the game, but there are many more layers to peel off the mystery

onion after that. 12 years later it is still considered by adventure gamers in the top 20 games.

***The Lost Files of Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Rose Tattoo* 1996** Developed by Mythos Software. Published by Electronic Arts. Commercially, adventure games began to decline around 1995. Mythos outdid themselves with more than 50 locations and more than 90 characters, full voice-acting, incredibly detailed backgrounds, background narrative, descriptions, details, details, details. Unfortunately, too many details to handle. With so many places and people to visit, the gamers turned away from the fantastic & compelling story, unable to wade through it all.

***The Mystery of the Mummy* 2003** Developed by Frogwares. Published by The Adventure Company. So where is Holmes in the title? A big mistake for the little company that picked up the torch. Without a clue that this was a first-person Sherlock adventure, Holmes fans/collectors were not buying. Not a bad game, it became a victim of the high standards set by the *Lost Files*. Storytelling and plot development became lost beneath the large array of puzzles and the length of the game was definitely lacking.

***Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Silver Earring* 2004** Frogwares learned their lesson. We know it's Holmesian, we have better characterization of "the big three" (Holmes, Watson, Lestrade) and although the narrative isn't as tight as it could be, it's enticing enough to motivate you to continue in the game. There are a few reported "huh?" moments, however.

High "wow" factor on the background graphics, but the 3-d objects and characters are a little rough. Odd choices in some scenes where you watch the back of Holmes' head as he talks to other characters or a group of people are crammed into a corner of an empty room. Other minuses are cross-eyed characters, poor lip-synching, gliding vs. walking and stiff movement. Turn off the typo-ed subtitles and just listen to the voice-acting for your clues. Turn the music down to enjoy the ambience it can add. You control Holmes and Watson at different times in the game and you can't leave one location until you've accomplished everything you need to, and the cursor can be deceiving in highlighting hotspots which can be frustrating when you can't find that one tiny clue you need to proceed. All that said, the cons are really few and far between. so it's worth a perusal.

Sherlock Holmes: The Awaken was announced by Frogwares recently with a possible 2006 release date. My only info on it is that it uses a 3D engine like the *80 Days* game (as in "Around the World in") and will feature a darker story than previous titles.



CAPTIONS CONTEST



Got a funny caption for the picture? Send it in on a postcard to Papers, or email We'll publish in the March/April issue.

A large gathering took place in the newly acquired Barry Edwards estate on Saturday, October 28th at eleven o'clock. The weather was windy but pleasant, and we dined outside amongst the greenery, lakeside, joined by the occasional aninga, grey heron, alligator and jumping fish.

A round of croquet was won by Mrs. Harris, a guest of Art Walker. Also available was lawn bowling.

The Edwards clan outdid themselves, with Mary providing everything home-made, including the bread and soups! Champagne (or apple juice) toasts were followed by finger sandwiches too numerous to list, hot tomato soup, and hot tea. Then came to scones with three types of jellies, cream and butter, gingerbread or shortbread cookies, a Sherlockian cake, trifle, and numerous deserts and pastries. It was a Mount Everest of high tea! Kudos and bravos to all the Edwards for pitching in and providing not only excellent eats and location, but wonderful service and gracious hosting.

David McCallister as Master of Ceremony followed our usual program by welcoming everyone, followed by toasts, the Musgrave Ritual and handing out his excellent quizzes as we took repast. This was followed by presentations, announcements, a reading of not only 221B by Starrett but another poem by Hardwick. We then lingered over farewells, reticent to leave the lovely setting. The following are toasts and presentations performed which were passed on to this reporter (THOSE WHO DID NOT PROVIDE COPIES, PLEASE MAIL THEM TO WANDA DOW OR CARL HEIFETZ FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NEXT COMMUNICATION):

A Toast to the Master by Charles Amick

We know from numerous statements in the writings of Dr. Watson that Sherlock Holmes often neglected regular meals, especially when involved in a difficult case. On occasion however, he happily indulged in one of Mrs. Hudson's excellent breakfasts. Indeed, Holmes said she had as good an idea of breakfast as a scotchwoman as he served her curried chicken, ham and eggs, coffee and tea to Watson and Percy Phelps at the conclusion of the case of *The Naval Treaty*. Holmes was ravenous, said Watson and he thoroughly enjoyed the breakfast, finishing it before giving an explanation of the solution of the case to the eager Percy Phelps.

I was asked to present a toast to the master, but I insist he deserves far more than toast. Shall we say a great English breakfast with ham, bacon, sausage and eggs, kippers and kidneys, fried tomatoes, baked beans and possibly kedgeree! Toast indeed! To the master!

A Toast to the Doctor by Culver Dow

To Watson, who sees, but does not observe and yet he himself is luminous. Which would explain why Holmes took him on all those stake-outs because they wouldn't need a lantern. To Watson!

A Toast to Irene Adler by Caroline Everett, as read by Susan Edwards (we missed you, Caroline!)

No gibe, no sneer was heard or seen,
When Sherlock spoke of the fair Irene.
By only one woman was Sherlock undone.
Irene was the clever, the confident one.
But was he down-hearted she reined in his plan?
As Dr. Watson has told us in SCAN?
No!

'She was the woman he admired the most.
So it's to THE WOMAN we offer our toast.
The Woman!

A Toast to Mrs. Hudson by Donna Vaurio (forgive me if I'm wrong - there was no name on the paper)

Dr. Watson once described Mrs. Hudson as a long-suffering woman with the worst tenant in London. He goes on to say, however, that she was paid a princely sum for her endurance and that she may well have been able to pay for her house from it. In addition, over the years, we are introduced to the appearance of a maid, a cook and a pageboy named Billy. If this is suffering, sign me up! We laud Mrs. Hudson not for her tribulations, but for her genuine care and affection for her eccentric tenant. To Mrs. Hudson!

A Toast to the Literary Agent Arthur Conan Doyle, MD (greeted by gasps, the shaking of lowered heads, and murmurings of "Shocking!" "Let's not listen.") by Carl L. Heifetz.

If I may be forgiven, I would like to wax Doylean rather than Sherlockian, and talk about Dr. Doyle as the author of our beloved Sherlock Holmes adventures.

I would like to point out that he was probably a very frustrated man. Seeing himself as another Sir Walter Scott, the author of the great historical novel, *Ivanhoe*,



Dr. Doyle immersed himself in the history and lore of ages past. He studied and recorded thousands of bits of information to provide proper historical validity to his epoch works. And, what he wrote reached some minor degree of success but without much acclaim. Had his career depended on such works as Micah Clark and White Company, his name would probably just be a footnote in the discussion of literature of the Victorian era.

And yet, it was Sherlock Holmes for which Dr. Doyle's fortune and reputation rested. Imagine, if you will, receiving acclaim and vast sums of money for works of literature that he could dash off in days, rather than months, with very little effort and no research.

He tried to shift gears and produce other works of literature, and finally did with publication of "The Final Problem." We owe thanks indeed to his friendship with Fletcher Robinson, that led to the publication of *Hound of the Baskervilles*, and the reawakening of the Sherlockian spirit within Dr. Doyle's psyche. Finally, after a long wait, Dr. Doyle's nimble pen quickly responded to the public's need for their favorite literary character.

I am certain that Dr. Doyle was always disappointed by this turn of event, but we must all thank him for overcoming his distaste for his best known character and rewarding all of us with his literary contributions.

Let's drink a toast to Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle who made possible our mutual obsession with Sherlock Holmes.

A Toast to Grace Dunbar by Judy Buddle

Grace was lovely and smart and upright
Moral compassing Gibson's bold might.
Sex harassment? No dice!
She made Neil play nice,
But his wife sought her death on that night.

WATSON LEVEL QUIZ

- 1 Where does Watson store the records of Holmes's cases?
- 2 What item was James Phillimore attempting to get when he disappeared?
- 3 By what two titles or offices was Neil Gibson known?
- 4 In what county was Thor Place?
- 5 On what day of the month does Mr. Gibson write to Holmes?
- 6 To what American figure does Watson compare Neil Gibson?
- 7 On what are Holmes's professional fees based?
- 8 What was Mrs. Gibson's native country?
- 9 Where was the chip in the parapet of Thor Bridge?
- 10 How far from the body was the chip?
- 11 What was the name of the local policeman?
- 12 Whose revolver did Holmes use in his experiment?
- 13 Where was Grace Dunbar's note found?
- 14 Who saw Grace Dunbar at her meeting with Mrs. Dunbar?
- 15 When did Grace Dunbar say she would be at the

bridge?

- 16 Who found Mrs. Gibson's body?
- 17 Who was Grace Dunbar's lawyer?
- 18 Holmes hopes to give the lawyer a case that will do what?
- 19 What does Holmes feel is a not unlikely future for Neil Gibson and Grace Dunbar?
- 20 For what two reasons does Grace Dunbar stay at Thor Place after Neil Gibson tries to force his attentions on her?

Mycroft Level Quiz

- 1 What is written on the lid of Watson's tin dispatch box?
- 2 Isadora Persano was well known as what two things?
- 3 How long had Neil Gibson had his estate in Hampshire?
- 4 At what court is Miss Grace Dunbar to be tried?
- 5 From what hotel does Neil Gibson write to Holmes?
- 6 Who told Marlow Bates that Mr. Gibson intended to visit Holmes?
- 7 Where was the non-murder weapon found?
- 8 What two inducements does Gibson offer Holmes to take the case?
- 9 What was Mrs. Gibson's father's position and where?
- 10 In what style was Thor Place built?
- 11 How big was the chip in the parapet of Thor Bridge?
- 12 Whom did Sgt. Coventry suspect?
- 13 How much twine did Holmes ask for in preparation for his experiment?
- 14 Where did Grace Dunbar leave her note for Mrs. Gibson?
- 15 What parts of the Thor Place estate are on the path from Coventry's cottage to the bridge?
- 16 By what time was dinner over?
- 17 When was Mrs. Gibson's body found?
- 18 Why was the non-murder weapon pistol's location inconsistent with the other factors in the cases?
- 19 What was Joyce Cummings' reputation?
- 21 Where do Holmes and Watson spend the nights of the 4th and 5th of October?

A Couple of Comments on That Worm by Judy Buddle

Isadora Persano, I hear,
Was mentally fragile, it's clear.
The story's in Cox
'Bout the worm in the box
That left the guy crazy with fear.

* * *

A worm that's to science unknown
Found itself in a curious home.
A matchbox? What's more, a
Deranged Isadora
Persano was mentally blown.



The Dow Family Players then did a reading of a mad-lib inter-active mystery. Upon arriving, guests were requested to fill in the blanks of a list requesting specific items as well as submit names of attendees as victims. The following is the mystery with the provided dialogue underlined:

THE MYSTERY OF EDWARDS MANOR

It was a balmy day at Lord Barry Edwards' estate. He was giving his yearly costume party and this year the theme was the graveyard. The past year had been difficult for Lord Barry. His great aunt had died, leaving a considerable sum to the Lord. However, relatives, known and unknown had come out of the woodwork and Lord Barry had spent considerable time and money to discover who was true and who was false. But now, he thought that he had weeded out all but his true friends and family and this party was to be a celebration of that. But this year was to be very different from the past. This year there was an underlying theme, and that theme was...murder!

The afternoon began lightly enough: Everyone was enjoying a light luncheon of Bloody Marys and Harvey Wallbangers. Lord Barry always had the finest chefs brought in for his parties. This year it was Chef Finger Lickin' from Hungary.

Suddenly, there was a scream. The maid ran in, hysterical. To bring her to her senses, one of the guests slapped her ankle. It did the trick.

MAID: Young Mistress Sadie Sassy! She's dead!

The party hurried to the Young Mistress's room, sadly to see that it was true. Doctor Proc Tologist bent over the body.

DOCTOR: Did Sadie Sassy use cocaine?

MAID: Why yes! Why do you ask?

DOCTOR: That seems to be the cause of death. She choked while using her 7% solution!

GUEST: How unfortunate.

MAID: That's a cold-hearted reaction to have! .

GUEST: You know all about cold hearts, don't you my dear?

DOCTOR: I suggest that everyone go back to the party. Lord Barry and ..I will take care of this for now and inform the authorities.

Lord Edwards decided that his guests needed a diversion, so he arranged for everyone to sniff snuff. All was going well until ...

MAID (screams): It's Lady Lucretia Lynch! She's dead!

LORD BARRY: How could this happen?

DOCTOR: I've just come from the scene. It's true. It seems she snuffed herself out. I've called the authorities and put the body in the library with Young Sadie.

As the crowd gathered together, shaken from the day's events, they noticed another person was missing.

LORD BARRY: Has anyone seen Sir Ben Gay?

MAID: The last time I saw him, he was playing with his dingo, sir.

GUEST: Playing with his dingo?

MAID: Yes. He takes it everywhere with him. It's a family

pet. Been with him for ages. I'll go check on him.

GUEST: I'm surprised to see the famous musician Clef McTrebel III here, Lord Barry. I thought he was a recluse.

LORD BARRY: Actually, he's my outlaw-inlaw.

GUEST: Really? Well maybe you can convince him to play something on his digereedo for us later.

MAID: (screams) It's horrible!

DOCTOR: What, my dear?

MAID: Sir Ben Gay, sir. He's been eaten by his own dingo!

GUEST: That's preposterous!

DOCTOR: Well, it seems to be true.

GUEST: Seems?

DOCTOR: There are dingo teeth marks all over the body, but I think Sir Ben Gay was actually poisoned and then flavored with dingo dibbles to entice the dingo to take a few nips.

GUEST: Why would anyone kill Sir Ben Gay?

MAID: He did have quite a mouth on him, sir, if you don't mind me saying so.

GUEST: But no one took the man seriously. They knew the inbreeding of his family had affected his brain. He came dressed as a tree today for God's sake!

LORD BARRY: Well he did own quite a bit of property .

GUEST: How did you know that?

MAID: It adjoins the Edwards estate.

DOCTOR: Enough talking! Lord Barry - let's go move the body to the library .

GUEST: And call the authorities?

DOCTOR: Er...right.

And thus the uneasy crowd sat down to their luncheon. As they awaited their service. ...

MAID (screams)

GUEST: Will someone please stop her from doing that?

MAID: It's awful! Chef Finger Lickin'!

GUEST: Don't tell me. He's dead.

MAID: Why, yes!

GUEST: Did he get the meal prepared first?

MAID: Oh you awful man!

DOCTOR: I've just gone to the kitchen. It seems Chef Lickin' has died a horrible death.

LORD BARRY: But how?

DOCTOR: He was pureed in his own picante sauce. I've take the liberty of putting the bowl in the library.

GUEST: Getting a bit crowded in there, isn't it?

DOCTOR: Perhaps you could entice your outlaw-inlaw to play a little Herman Glockenspiel on his digereedo to sooth your guests?

MAID (screams)

GUEST: Who's dead now?

MAID: Clef McTrebel III!

DOCTOR: She's right. His digereedo was shoved straight though his heart.

GUEST: That's it. I'm outta here.

DOCTOR: No wait! You must stay until the authorities get here.

GUEST: What for?



DOCTOR: Because we're all suspects!

It is now up to you to solve this mystery. We'll give you a few minutes to create your solution and write it down, then we will choose the best answer. Keep these questions in mind: Did the maid actually find the bodies or did she create them? How could the doctor make such quick diagnosis? And how was he so quickly on the scene? Why is the guest so cynical? What connections do these people have with Lord Barry? And what about Lord Barry himself? Is he above suspicion?

Cast: Wanda Dow – the Narrator Jeff Dow – the doctor
Culver Dow – the guest Elizabeth Dow – the maid
Lord Barry Edwards – himself.

Victims & their props:

Sir Ben Gay (bedroom slippers) – David McCallister
Lady Lucretia Lynch (boa) – Judy Buddle
Sadie Sassy (a hand puppet) – George Edwards
Chef Finger Lickin' (wooden spoon) – Connor McCallister
Clef McTreble III (baton) – Charles Amick

(Now, several theories were presented at the gathering, but no one presented any reasoning behind it, so we are opening this up to all members. Do you have a theory? Send it in and we'll print it in the first Communication of the new year. Suggested murderers at the gathering were – the Narrator, Lord Barry, the Maid, Sir Ben Gay (the victim was presented with a prop of bedroom slippers, so it was presumed he would be very quiet in his stalking).)

Sherlock Holmes Crosses a Thor Bridge to Scientific Inspiration by Carl L. Heifetz (previously published in *Holmes & Watson Report*, Sept. 1999)

The 20th century has been characterized by virtually boundless scientific advances. From obtaining an enhanced understanding of subatomic particles to a study of the vast reaches of space, scientists have used the methods so diligently developed during the Victorian era to methodically answer mankind's deepest quest for knowledge of our universe. Biologists and chemists have applied these principles to systematically decipher the genetic code and develop newer and better drugs to fight the ever expanding spectrum of infectious diseases. There can be no doubt that these approaches were utilized by Sherlock Holmes when he developed the "Sherlock Holmes test" for specifically identifying human blood¹. And, there is ample evidence that Mr. Holmes also applied these very same precepts of scientific investigation to solve many of the cases that have been previously explored in this light.^{2,3,4,5} The steps that make up the "method of scientists" may be summarized as follows: (1) Clearly state the PROBLEM in its simplest form. (2) Gather all of the DATA that you can find on the subject. (3) Be very diligent to OBSERVE everything no matter how unrelated it may appear at the time. (4) Read and master all of the available KNOWLEDGE on the subject to see what data has previously been reported. (5) Sift through all of the data, current and reported, and attempt to DEDUCE A TENTATIVE HYPOTHESIS and WORKING MODEL that reasonably fits all of the available information. (6) List further needed information, observations, and experiments

that may refute or support your hypotheses. Seek EXPERIMENTAL PROOF and ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS and determine if the results fit or point to a reformulation of the hypothesis. (7) With all data in hand, PUBLISH your observations, results, hypotheses, and conclusions in an appropriate format for others to read, challenge, and confirm.

Another important aspect that experienced scientists bring to bear on their researches is a healthy dose of skepticism. An excellent example of this attribute may be found in the annals of Arthur Conan Doyle, M.D., the physician who has been credited by some as the author of several of the accounts of Sherlock Holmes' adventures. However you may feel about this, it is worthy to note that Dr. Doyle deserves credit as one of the few people that were rightly skeptical of the tuberculosis cure proposed by the eminent German physician Robert Koch⁶.

Occasionally, by a fortuitous coupling of experience and imagination, an especially inspired researcher has been capable of astounding his colleagues by leaping beyond the limits of the available evidence to reach new levels of understanding. This was very likely the situation that led to Prof. Moriarty's ability to fathom the "Dynamics of an Asteroid," and his struggles with the scientific establishment that led him away from the halls of academe to turn his genius to a life of crime⁷. Similarly, it was clearly this ability that led Prof. Dr. Paul Ehrlich to devise the specific receptor theory of biochemical interactions - combining his knowledge of antigen-antibody interaction with his interest in the specific colouration of biological cells by a variety of coal tar derivatives⁸.

Sherlock Holmes demonstrated his propensities in both of these areas - skepticism and creative genius - in the investigation published by Dr. John H. Watson, M.D., as "The Problem of Thor Bridge"⁹. The case appeared to be cut and dried. The evidence against Miss Dunbar, as a murderess, fulfilled the trite mantra of means, motive, and opportunity that continuously repeat themselves in fictional crime accounts. A note in the hand of the victim, the murdered wife of the "Gold King" Neil Gibson, clearly indicated that Miss Dunbar lured her to the murder site where she was shot in the temple. There was no pistol at that location, but a likely murder weapon was found hidden in Miss Dunbar's wardrobe. And, after all, here was a beautiful young woman living with a wealthy man who was obviously tired of his wife and attendant to her. This seemed good enough for the official police, as well, and also loomed as a possibility to Sherlock Holmes on first glance. However, the ever skeptical scientific detective was not satisfied. He smelled a rat and suspected a frame-up. The convenient location of the "murder weapon" in Miss Dunbar's wardrobe and the



incriminating note clutched in the hand of the victim seemed too pat. Sherlock Holmes insisted, as usual, on a very careful evaluation of the crime scene. There he made a remarkable discovery. There was a fresh chip mark on the ledge of the bridge, one that had not been seen prior to the fatal event, and one that took a great deal of force to produce. This was a fact that only a genius like Sherlock Holmes could insert into the chain of events leading to the death of Mrs. Gibson. As with all great discoveries, the whole thing seemed obviously simple once Mr. Holmes made his demonstration, showing that the rapid flight of a heavy revolver, assisted by a rope attached to a rock, would make a similar chip when hitting the same ledge on its way into the water. Finding the original revolver, rope, and rock in the water below the bridge was evidence enough of how the death of Mrs. Gibson took place, as a well planned suicide by a very jealous woman who intended to take revenge on the young lady who had attracted the attention of her husband.

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 6 Rodin, A. E. and Key, J. D. Chap. 2 Medical Writings in: Medical Casebook of Doctor Arthur Conan Doyle, Robert E. Krieger Publishing Company, Inc., Malabar, FL 32950, 1984, p 105-9.
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 8 Heifetz, C. L. 1995 Sherlock Holmes and the Magic Bullet. The Whitechapel Gazette (spring 1995 issue no.6) and Reprinted in The Hounds Collection (Volume I, first edition, April, 1996)
 9 Doyle, A. C. "The Problem of Thor Bridge" In: The Complete Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle, with a preface by Christopher Morley, Doubleday and Company, Garden City, New York, single volume, 1988.



George Edwards is ready for tea.



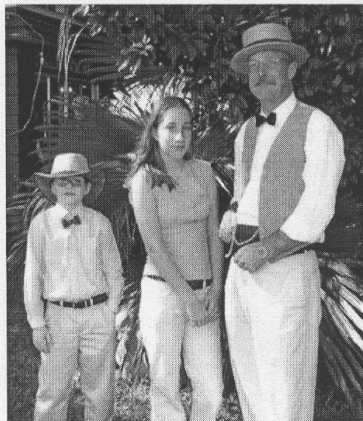
Lady Judith Buddle has a cuppa.



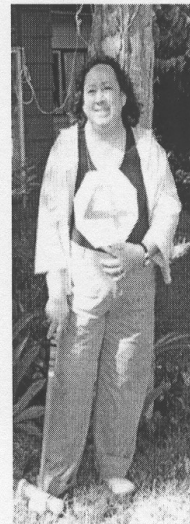
A dapper Art Walker joined in.



Charles & Marilyn Amick enjoyed our repast.



The McCallister Clan was a handsome lot.



Wanda Dow loses gracefully at croquet while dressed as Sign of Four

Clockwise starting at right, Jeff "Resident Patient" Dow, Elizabeth "Sussex Vampire" Dow and Culver "Study in Scarlett" Dow; our gracious host, Barry Edwards; The Dow Family Players performing *The Mystery of the Edwards Estate*.



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Contact: David McCallister,



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