



2007

# Communication No. 270

The Pleasant Places of Florida

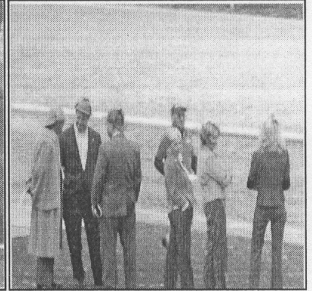
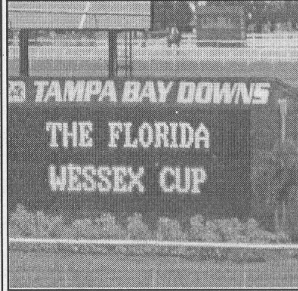
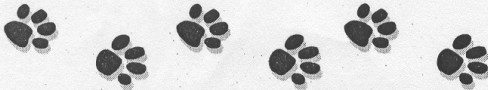
Vol.11 No.2

## From the Papers on the Sundial:

Heads up! Heads up! Mark your calendars for April 21 and May 5!!! We'll be having a film festival in April and our Spring Gathering in May, so find the ads in the enclosed pages and make note! Let Donna know ASAP if you're coming to the Spring Gathering. And NO EXCUSES - you have plenty of time to figure out a presentation, toast or show'n'tell. See you there!

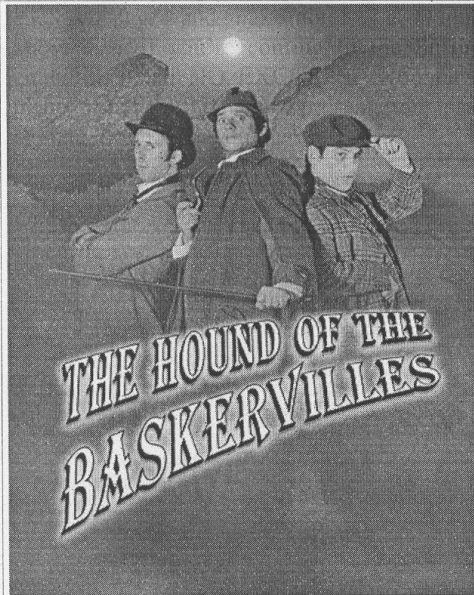
A Limerick by Charles Michael Carroll

Dr. Mortimer looked all around,  
Saw some traces quite near on the ground.  
They were not made by foot  
Or by Baskerville boot;  
They were prints of a gigantic hound!



Left, Tampa Bay Downs welcomes The Wessex Cup February 3rd this year. To the right, PPOF members and guests wait in the winner's circle for a picture with Western Night.

We had a group of 20 joining us for Wessex Cup this year. Due to inclement weather, the horses were moved from the turf to the track, but the race was no less exciting as Kentucky-bred Western Night crossed the finish line first with jockey Mike Allen astride in yellow and purple diamond silks. Winners received \$5 back for their \$2 bet and Equest Racing Stable LLC and trainer Ronald D. Allen claimed a winner. Member Jeff Dow noticed that all the horses in race no.2 (The Wessex) were on lasix, to which David McCallister contemplated whether it should be renamed The Lasix Cup.



AN ANCIENT FAMILY CURSE. A DESOLATE MOOR. A SPECTRAL HOUND AND A DERANGED KILLER ON THE LOOSE. *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* IS THE MOST CELEBRATED HOLMES STORY OF ALL A MASTERPIECE OF MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE. AND LORD IT'S SCARY - REALLY. REALLY SCARY.

SO HAVE OUR ACTORS BITTEN OFF MORE THAN THEY CAN CHEW? WITH A COMPANY OF ONLY THREE AND A CAST OF OVER TWENTY (HELL HOUND NOT INCLUDED) THERE MAY BE SOME DOUBLING UP OF PARTS AND FALSE BEARDS TREMBLE AT THE HELLISH HOWL OF THE HELL HOUND. WONDER AT THE TWISTY-TURNY PLOT AND BE AMAZED BY HOLMES' FINEST POWERS OF DEDUCTION IN THIS REINVIGORATING, TERRIFYING AND FOGGY NEW ADAPTATION. IT'S VERY FOGGY. AND OCCASIONALLY SILLY. BUT MOSTLY FOGGY.

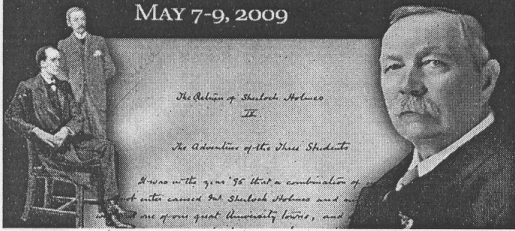
OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS, THE AWARD-WINNING COMPANY PEEPOLYKUS HAS RECEIVED ACCOLADES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD FOR ITS HILARIOUS COLLISION OF VERBAL SURPRISE AND VISUAL INGENUITY. JAVIER MARZAN, JOLIN NICHOLSON AND JASON THORPE NOW TAKE TO THE MOORS FOR THIS FAST PACED AND THRILLING PRODUCTION IN THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL MAKE IT OUT OF GRIMPEN MIRE ALIVE.

Peepolykus are currently on tour with their latest production *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* which is receiving rave reviews (in the U.K.).

NOTE: PLEASE REFRAIN FROM BRINGING MEAT PRODUCTS INTO THE AUDITORIUM.



**SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE  
SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
MAY 7-9, 2009**



The year 2009 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Arthur Conan Doyle. To celebrate his life and works, Harvard's Houghton Library will host a symposium and mount a major exhibition to honor the man whose enduring contributions to the post-Victorian world include the creation of modern detective fiction and the genre's most famous literary character, Sherlock Holmes. The symposium will be held on Thursday, May 7, through Saturday, May 9, 2009, and will coincide with the opening of a major exhibition at Houghton Library. The exhibition, which will run from May 4, through August 15, 2009, will feature rare books, manuscripts, and ephemera from Houghton's collections, the archives of the Baker Street Irregulars, and private collections.

**BOOK REVIEW - THE ART OF DETECTION** by Laurie R. King  
**Type of material:** Hard Cover with dust jacket **Publisher:** Bantam Dell Division of Random House, New York **Year:** 2006

**Reviewed by:** Philip K. Jones, January, 2007.

This book is the fifth in a series by the author about San Francisco Homicide detective, Kate Martinelli. Readers familiar with previous books in the series will be more comfortable with the concept of two lesbians rearing a daughter as well as the mixture of friends and acquaintances accumulated by this family in earlier books in the series.

This book concerns itself with the murder of a prominent Sherlockian who was a founder member of a local scion society as well as a dealer in expensive Sherlockiana. His body is found in an abandoned defense gun emplacement on the Marin County side of the Straits and his house contains a complete replica of the apartment at 221b Baker Street. More importantly, his collection includes a manuscript (type written) of a previously unpublished story about one "Mr. Sigerson," who investigated a similar murder in the 1920s. The manuscript apparently dates to the period and is certainly not from the pen of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Most of the book is concerned with the investigation of the 21st Century murder and the problems of detective Martinelli, however, the complete text of the manuscript is included as Ms. Martinelli reads it. For Sherlockians, this will be the highlight of the book. "Mr. Sigerson" exhibits a dry wit along with a lively curiosity and a broad understanding of human nature that bring to mind the very best elements of the Canon. Without the lens of Dr. Watson's narration translating reality into his Victorian English world view, the Great Detective displays a distinctly clearer image of a "reasoning machine" to the reader.

The detective depicted is both more human and more formidable than the familiar image from the Canon. His understanding of motives and viewpoints is sharper and more clearly depicted but his own motivations remain obscure, other than his intense curiosity. This man could well be the husband of Mary Russell, from the author's other series, or he could be an entirely different avatar of The Master. In any case, he is intense, impressive and in charge. He uses people of all sorts to further his investigation, willing, antagonistic or befuddled. Mr. Sigerson orchestrates the process and achieves his goals skillfully and inevitably.

In his wake he leaves a number of unanswered questions, at least unanswered in the manuscript or by the author. One feels that Mr. Sigerson has those answers and does not choose to share them. As an example, the sex of his selected pickpocket "guide" is open to question. The existence and identity of his "wife" is also an open question, as are his own opinions of the principal participants in this mystery.

The author uses this double mystery to lay before the reader many of the practical problems faced by members of the homosexual community in attempting to forge normal lives in 21st Century society. Her advocacy is understated but made with impressive pictures of the daily compromises forced by society on those who do not conform to the orientation of the majority. The book is impressive on several levels, but as a Sherlockian pastiche, it is outstanding.

**PLAY REVIEW - Holmes & Watson-** by Lee Eric Shackelford  
**Type of material:** Pamphlet (Two-Act Play) **Publisher:** Gulliver Press **Year:** 2006 **Editions:** Pamphlet

**Reviewed by:** Philip K. Jones, January, 2007.

This play is a work in progress. It was originally produced by the University of Alabama at Birmingham Department of Theatre in 1989. It has been produced several times since then and has been amended by the author.

The author has selected the events narrated in "The Empty House" as a the subject for this play. It is, in essence, a dialogue between Holmes and Watson that takes place upon Holmes' return from "the Great Hiatus." In addition to the events covered in "The Empty House," this play contains the substance of another mystery, the murder of one Benjamin Alexander, an importer.

Reviewing a play without seeing a performance is difficult and cannot be fair to the playwright. The actors, the director and the production can each make an immense difference in the experience of the playgoer. On the other hand, this play is a two-person production, done in four scenes on a single set. The dialogue between the two characters is part of a sequence of events that is extremely familiar to Sherlockians and it leaves little room for interpretation by cast and production personnel.

Imagine a situation where Watson drops his mask of awed observer to the machinations of Holmes and reveals his true feelings. Imagine Watson berating Holmes for his manipulations and his lack of sympathy for others. Imagine Watson complaining of Holmes' unfeeling approach and blatantly superior attitude. Imagine what you would have said to Holmes had you been in Watson's place. (Cont. on page 3)



(Cont. from page 2) Then you will have the essence of "Holmes & Watson."

The elements of the partnership (not a one-sided sycophancy) of Holmes and Watson are revealed, discussed and, to some extent, resolved in this play. It says many things that Sherlockians have longed to say and it touches the heart of the relationship between the Master and his "Boswell." The play is well-polished and its dialog shows the effect of detailed attention. Arguments on both sides are well-stated, pithy and thoughtful. The resolutions reached are reasonable and fitted to the characters. In the hands of a competent director and talented actors it should be a real joy to watch and a source of much satisfaction to Sherlockians.

### HOLMES RE-VISITED

(In which we re-visit a past presentation, in this case, a Holmesian MacBeth skit by The Dow Family Players)

#### MACBETH, REVISITED

**WATSON:** Why hast thou taken so long, Fair Holmes?

**HOLMES:** Beg me come no faster, Watson. Didst I not spy bats wings in Yon Glen? 'Tis witches.

**WATSON:** Hark! That sound!

**HOLMES:** A hound of blood, dear Watson.

**WATSON:** A hound of Hell?

**HOLMES:** Of blood, Watson, for tracking.

**WATSON:** Journey's end, fair traveller. The fog separateth and I can spy MacBeth's Castle.

**HOLMES:** Go ahead, Watson. Attain the Castle. I shall follow anon after I gatherest more inspections along the trail.

**WATSON:** Adieu.

**HOLMES:** (*Pause*) Oh, wicked, wicked crime. Thine enemy is Darkness, stealing from the light, slipping softly away without even the clatter of a knife against the cold, cold stone of hallways. What secrets hast thou, unruly castle? I shall tear from thy vault the inklings of greed. Verily, of power. Run thee not, for my vision is without equal, and my nose without peer.

**WATSON:** (*entering*) Talking to yourself again, Holmes?

**HOLMES:** Ohhh, I---prithree, Lady MacBeth approaches.

**L. MACBETH:** Pray, weary travelers, be you Holmes and Watson?

**WATSON:** Watson and Holmes.

**L. MACBETH:** I shall summon the servants to take you to your quarters.

**HOLMES:** Is the crime long past?

**L. MACBETH:** The eve before last.

**HOLMES:** And not a sheet touched save for the disposition of kindly King Duncan, as I requested?

**L. MACBETH:** As you have ordered.

**HOLMES:** Then I shall snoopest about, firstly, before reclining for the evening. Come, Watson.

**L. MACBETH:** Pray, allow fair Watson to remain with me. 'Tis such a dark and rank night, the very souls of hell are a-prowl.

**HOLMES:** Very well.

**L. MACBETH:** Up the stairs and to the left.

**HOLMES exits.**

**L. MACBETH:** May I offer you a repast, Watson?

**WATSON:** I am called John, Lady MacBeth. What callest thyself?

**L. MACBETH:** Lady MacBeth.

**WATSON:** Yes, well...a delectably delicious repast wouldst hitst the spot.

**L. MACBETH:** Relieved am I that you and your friend have arrived. Ere these past three days have been a torment to both mind and body. My fair husband MacBeth has hardly slept so keenly wrought are his nerves. And mine own vexations have left me without appetite.

**WATSON:** You must sup then, Lady MacBeth.

**L. MACBETH:** Three-day old mutton and blood-pudding hardly make pretensions upon mine stomach.

**WATSON:** I--I see what thy meanest. Tell me, fair Lady, of the curious hound.

**L. MACBETH:** The speckled one?

**WATSON:** Perhaps. We saw him not upon our approach, rather, we heard his mournful song.

**L. MACBETH:** Aye, 'tis the same.

**WATSON:** Prithee, ist the kindly King's pet, calling for his late master's soul?

**L. MACBETH:** To whom he calls, I know not, but 'tis true he was the King's most precious, Spot, by name.

**WATSON:** For his coat. T'was a sad song he sang.

**L. MACBETH:** Ohh, tired, tired heart to have witnessed so much tragedy, such bloodshed upon the floors of our fair castle. But wait, Holmes has returned.

**HOLMES:** (*entering*) What ho, Watson?

**WATSON:** Ho, what, Holmes?

**HOLMES:** No farmers here Watson. Only deceivers and murderers.

**L. MACBETH:** The servants--just as we had suspected---

**HOLMES:** No, Lady MacBeth, you.

**LADY MACBETH:** I?

**WATSON:** Egad, and odds bodkins, Holmes. How can you---

**L. MACBETH:** I grow faint. The weight of suspicion has cast me into a pit of light headedness.

**HOLMES:** Prithee, listen, Lady MacBeth, before swooning. Upon inspection of thy servants' food I detected traces of a sleeping draught that brought slumber to their eyes. The bedchamber showed no signs of struggle, hence the perpetrator was known by fair Duncan. Upon questioning Lord MacBeth, his brow dripped with sweat as a dish-rag wouldst with water.

**L. MACBETH:** Oh, dear lord, my husband a murderer? He confessed, did he?



**HOLMES:** Confess he did not. But his demeanor was not that of a murderer. Upon alighting your castle, I heard the King's truest friend crying for vengeance.

**WATSON:** Thou didst?

**HOLMES:** The hound, Watson. See how even as we speak, he enters to confirm the murderer. He, the only witness to the tragedy.

**L. MACBETH:** Out! Damned Spot!

**HOLMES:** 'Tis too late, sad Lady. Already the hound has spied a drop of dried blood on your left instep. Yon MacBeth killed King Duncan, with the king's own dagger, and thou, Lady MacBeth, smeared blood upon thy sleeping servants.

**L. MACBETH:** I shall not stand for this in mine own castle.

**HOLMES:** That it is no longer, Lady. The guards await your exit, and the table, I see, awaits my repast!

*Lady MacBeth exits as Holmes picks up a mutton leg to eat.*

**WATSON:** But for what purpose, Holmes, a life ruined, nay, three?

**HOLMES:** King Duncan hast proclaimed that his eldest son Malcolm shall succeed him. MacBeth, being King Duncan's cousin, hast hopes of being the heir-apparent. I givest you weapon, murderer and motive.

**WATSON:** Well done, Holmes.

**HOLMES:** Nay, Watson. *(He holds up the mutton)* 'Tis only medium well.

the end

**HE'S EVERYWHERE ...** L. Frank James has written *An Opened Grave: Sherlock Holmes Investigates His Ultimate Case* in which the Master searches for the truth of "the Master," that is, J.C. himself. Holmes travels in time & space to ancient Jerusalem to find out about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and, we are told, James achieves the considerable feat of treating a serious subject seriously within a story that's both thrilling and funny. There are arguments both for and against Christianity and the author has been likened to C.S. Lewis and G. K. Chesterton. Available from The Salt Works, Publishers Design Group Inc, Roseville, CA 95678, for \$14.95 ... the Mini-Tonga Society has recently updated its website. Go to <http://hometown.aol.com/minitongasociety/mini1.htm> ... We've received notice from the University of Minnesota Foundation that a Gift for the Pleasant Places of Florida was made by Carl Heifetz. Thank you Carl! ... It must be the year of the Hound rather than the pig. Not only is Peepolykus (see front story) performing it's version, but a version as dramatized by Clive Francis is making the rounds in the UK at the Mercury in Colchester, the Theatres Royal in Windsor & Brighton, Arts in Guildford, Civic in Darlington, Clwyd Theatr Cymru in Mold, and the Greenwich &: Royal in Nottingham in Peter Egan & Philip Franks as Holmes & Watson. So when are the Dow Family Players revising *Rodger Baskerville's Lonely Hound from Hell?* ...

**THE CANON** by Charles Michael Carroll

Our story gets off to its start  
In the chemical lab at St. Bart;  
With London its hub  
The Diogenes Club,  
And the moor that is known as Dart.

Sherlock Holmes: "I will say, by your leave,  
"What the evidence makes me believe.  
"From what I have seen  
"I think you have been  
"In Afghanistan; so I perceive."

"I think on most things, we agree.  
For the rest, well, for that we shall see.  
Mrs. Hudson will care  
For our common welfare;  
We shall live at two-twenty-one-B."

**CALENDAR SHERLOCKIANA**

**March 9-11** - *Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium* Holiday Inn, Miamisburg, OH. Contact Cathy Gill,

**April 14-15** - *Third Annual Gathering of Southern Sherlockians* Sheraton House, Chattanooga, TN. Visit [www.nashvillescholars.net](http://www.nashvillescholars.net)

**April 21** - Mike Bryan has arranged another Sherlock Holmes film festival at one of the local libraries. See flyer for details

**April 27-29** - *STUD/Watsonian Weekend*. Friday-Dinner, Saturday-Silver Blaze & pizza party, Sunday-Fortescue Brunch. Contact Allan T. Devitt/Susan Z. Diamond at

**May 4-6** - *Malice Domestic XIX* Central City Marriott, Arlington, VA Visit [www.malicedomestic.org](http://www.malicedomestic.org)

**May 5** - PPOF Spring Gathering at 10AM at the Pasco County Forensics Lab. Donna Vaurio will be sending out directions. Lunch will be at RapsCALLIONS Restaurant on US 41 just south of the lab. \$5 per attendee requested for donation to the Marshall/Wood Fund. See flyer.

**July 6-8** - *Victorian Secrets & Edwardian Enigmas: A Sherlock Holmes Conference* held by The Norwegian Explorers of Minneapolis, The Friends of Sherlock Holmes Collection & The UofMinnesota's Special Collections & Rare Books. Conference, presentations, luncheon and banquet. Contact \$95 registration

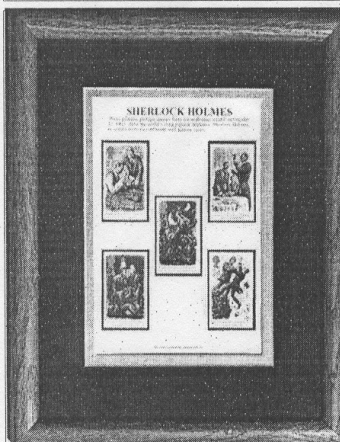
**September 27-30** - *Bouchercon38* Anchorage, AK. Visit [www.bouchercon2007.com](http://www.bouchercon2007.com)

**2008**

**October 9-12** - *Bouchercon 39 Charmed to Death* in Baltimore, MD at the Wyndham (410-385-6605). Guests of Honor Laura Lippman & John Harvey with Toastmaster Mark Billingham. See [bouchercon2008.blog.spot.com](http://bouchercon2008.blog.spot.com)



Notecard stationary discovered by David McCallister, 2004 Leap Year Publishing, LLC, Methuen, MA 01844



#### LAST MINUTE TREASURES

lastminutetreasures.com

In 1893, Writer Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) decided to kill off his best loved character, Detective Sherlock Holmes, causing a storm of public protest. Holmes, and his faithful companion, Dr. Watson, had become household names. Eventually, Doyle relented and restored his detective back to life, as he wrote four more popular Holmes books before his own death in 1930. Since then, Holmes and Watson have continued to flourish in films, plays, and other productions. Conan Doyle's ice-cold detective, with his endearingly human

foibles and weaknesses has proved to be immortal.

In 1993, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of this event, Great Britain paid tribute to the master detective Sherlock Holmes with an issue of five detailed 24 pence postage stamps, each showing a scene from one of Arthur Conan Doyle's books. This exclusive limited edition collectible contains the entire set of five uncirculated postage stamps highlighted by a double acid-free mat and placed in a 10" x 12" hardwood frame. The five stamps portray scenes from "The Reigate Squire", "The Hound of the Baskervilles", "The Six Napoleons", "The Greek Interpreter", and "The Final Problem". Each is individually numbered and limited to just 2,500 pieces worldwide. Comes with a Certificate of Authenticity.

ITEM # EO-HOLMES Direct Wholesale: \$49.95 Suggested Retail: \$100.00 PO Box 878, Georgetown, TX 78627

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF DR. WATSON TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

by Carl L. Heifetz

Published in *The Friends of Dr. Watson 2006 Essay & Pastiche Competition* (tied for 2nd place)

There can be no dispute regarding the fact that Sherlock Holmes was the world's leading proponent of the application of scientific technology to the solution of criminal cases. In fact, several books and articles support this assertion.<sup>1-3</sup> Further, there is no dispute that, until fairly recently, the Sherlockian Canon represented the most complete compilation of examples of scientific criminal investigation.<sup>4</sup>

How then, one would ask, did Dr. Watson make a significant contribution to the development of forensic science? After all, he was not the scientist. Sherlock Holmes was the scientist. Watson didn't develop a blood test, Sherlock Holmes did that. But, had it not been for the writings of the good doctor, the world would have been deprived of this important contribution to the literature of scientific crime investigation. Perhaps an analogy will help support my assertion. Centuries ago, a normal sized Hebrew youth slew a gigantic Philistine by bopping him with a well slung stone to the forehead. That might have been big news at the time, but who would have known about it today if the anonymous author of the famous biblical account had not inked the narrative on a roll of parchment. The same example that has been stated about the Hebrew Canon may also be proposed for the Sherlockian Canon. Who would have known about the scientific propensities of the world's first consulting detective had his exploits not been publicized by his faithful sidekick, Dr. Watson. Think of what the scientific world would have been deprived of had Dr. Watson not been on the job.

From the very beginning of the Sherlockian chronicles, we can see that Dr. Watson was obsessed with the use of science in the solution of criminal cases and proclaiming this assertion to the public at large whenever the opportunity presented itself. From the very origin of the Sherlockian saga, in *Study in Scarlet*, we see Watson remarkably focused on the scientific aspects of Sherlock Holmes' career. Did Watson really need to point out the content of his conversation with Stamford. Did he really need to proclaim the fact that Sherlock Holmes beats subjects in the dissecting room with a stick "to verify how far bruises may be produced after death." This is quickly followed by a long discourse upon the Sherlock Holmes test for blood. Later, in the very next chapter, Watson provided us with a list entitled "Sherlock Holmes - his limits." This tabulation reads like a syllabus for a modern college program in forensic science. Watson was far ahead of his time. Then in Chapter 3, we are treated to Watson's description of the appropriately careful *in situ* examination of the corpse before sending it on to the morgue. Following this, Watson carefully describes how Holmes examined the room with minuscule care, utilizing a tape measure and magnifying glass to assist (cont. on page 6)

# SHERLOCK HOLMES FILM FESTIVAL

Sponsored by The Pleasant Places of Florida • A Scion Society  
of the Baker Street Irregulars



"It is a capital mistake to theorize  
before you have all the evidence."  
- Sherlock Holmes

Saturday, 21 April 2007 • 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Seminole Community Library at St. Petersburg College,  
Seminole Campus  
9200 - 113th Street N. • Seminole, Florida 33772  
Program Room C

**FREE ADMISSION • NO REGISTRATION  
REQUIRED**

## FEATURED FILMS:

*"The Scarlet Claw"* (1944) at 10:30 am

Animated Featurette and Television Program at 1:00 pm

*"The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes"* (1970) at 2:30 pm

**ALSO:** Sherlockian Exhibits, Trivia, and Quizzes!

(cont. from page 5) his observations. Watson then describes how the result of his examination, which had amused the police, provided a description of the murderer and the sequence of events leading to its final commission of the crime. Then, in Chapter 3, we are treated to Sherlock Holmes' careful analysis of boot prints and, as revealed in Chapter 4, the rut made by the carriage as it arrived at and left the scene of the poisoning of Stangerson. Further, in Chapter 3, Holmes chastised the police for not assuring the integrity of the murder scene, a primary objective in appropriate crime scene investigation.

These few examples, from *Study in Scarlet*, serve as a brief introduction to what will eventually become a textbook in forensic science presented within the vehicle of interesting mysteries. Perhaps another author than Watson would have neglected the scientific aspects of the cases, focusing on the action and adventure. An incomplete list of Sherlock Holmes' other important contributions to scientific crime detection would include the use of dogs to track chemical trails, characterization of tobacco ash and identification of cigarettes and cigars, identifying and preserving foot prints with plaster of Paris, and tracing peoples comings and goings based on the use of splashes of mud on their clothing.

One might assert that Watson was only discussing the cases in which he was involved, and that the scientific aspects were merely an incidental part of the discourse. Then why is it that Watson included laboratory experiments that Holmes performed having nothing to do with the case under discussion? Simply put, Watson went out of his way to insert as many references to Holmes' application of scientific technology as possible. Why? To promote their utilization by the "official police."

Let's look at some examples in which Watson refers to methods of scientific criminology having nothing to do with the case under his review at the time. At the beginning of "The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place," Watson encounters Holmes peering through a low-power microscope. Seeing Watson, Holmes declares "It is glue, Watson." According to Watson's account, he laughed and queried "Does anything depend on it?" To which Holmes responded

that it proves that the cap found at a murder scene was worn by a picture-framer who habitually handles glue." Then, referring to a prior case, Holmes stated "Since I ran down the coiner by the zinc and copper filings in the seam of his cuff they have begun to realize the importance of the microscope."

Then, we have the experiment involving litmus paper in "The Naval Treaty." Alluding to an unreported case, Watson reveals how the diagnosis of murder relied on whether litmus paper changed color. According to Holmes, "If this paper remains blue, all is well. If it turns red, it means a man's life." Those of us with scientific backgrounds cry out for further explanation. But, regardless, it provides another hint from Watson concerning Mr. Holmes' scientific approach to criminal investigation.

And in "Copper Beeches," Holmes told Watson that "I had better postpone my analysis of the acetone." What was that all about? Was he analyzing samples to see the source of a poisonous dose of a lot of acetone, or was he determining if a mysterious death was caused by slow starvation, in which ketone bodies would appear in the urine? We may never know. However, it is interesting to note that Watson insisted on inserting this irrelevant material into his discourse.

These examples, and many more that could be cited, serve to demonstrate that Dr. Watson was focused on those aspects that demonstrated how Mr. Holmes pioneered that use of scientific investigation in the resolution of criminal problems. He cited many examples where they were not relevant to the case at hand, to include them among his many examples, and he lovingly described the scientific aspects of Mr. Holmes' cases whenever he could. Thanks to Dr. Watson, we have a compilation of thorough and interesting demonstrations of the activities of a scientist who turns his mind to crime detection. There is no doubt in my mind that Dr. Watson, through his exciting narratives, intended to educate the police and the public at large with the proper use of technology in the pursuit of justice.

1. Gerber, S.M., Ed. *Chemistry and Crime*, 1983, American Chemical Society, Washington D.C.
2. Wagner, E. J. *The Science of Sherlock Holmes*, John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, N. J. 3.
- Heifetz, C. L. *Sherlock Holmes: The Education of the World's First Forensic Scientist, The Hounds Collection Vol. 10*, May 2005, 66-72. 4.
- The Complete Sherlock Holmes* by Arthur Conan Doyle, with a preface by Christopher Morley, Doubleday and Company, Garden City, New York, single volume, 1988.



PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA

SPRING GATHERING

MAY 5, 2007 10:00A.M.

PASCO COUNTY FORENSIC LAB

LAND O'LAKES, FLORIDA

"We approached the case, you remember, with an absolutely blank mind, which is always an advantage. We had formed no theories. We were simply there to observe and to draw inferences from our observations." (CARD)

Case: The Adventure of the Cardboard Box

We will meet at the Pasco County Forensic Lab in Land O'Lakes, Florida at 10:00a.m. This is a brand new forensic lab and is state of the art. The Chief of Forensics, Charles May, will be our guide and will try to join us for lunch following the tour. Lunch will be down the road at Rapsallions Restaurant.

The only fee for this event is a \$5.00 donation to the Marshall/Wood Fund. You will be paying for your own meal at the restaurant. I will e-mail or snail mail directions to you when I receive your reservation and check.

I would like volunteers to discuss cases, over lunch, where "forensic" studies play a part in the cases.

e.g. The use of footprints, shoe prints, horseshoe prints, carriage wheel tracks, and bicycle tracks, tobacco ashes and cigarette butts, typewritten letters, gunpowder residue and fingerprints to name a few.

-----

Send reservation form and \$5.00 check to Donna Vaurio, [redacted]

For further info e-mail: [redacted] or call [redacted]

Name e-mail address/snail mail address (e-mail preferred) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people in party \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to report on the use of a "forensic study" of / in the case of \_\_\_\_\_



The dictionary defines a rapsallion as "a ne'er-do-well", mostly applied to pirates and scoundrels and the like. Here at Rapsallions the restaurant, we define it as "a great place for a really short vacation". Rapsallions was started by James and Shael Morgan who are dedicated Parrotheads (Jimmy Buffett fans to those who are not familiar with the term).

Rapsallions is located on beautiful Bell Lake at 4422 Land O Lakes Blvd. in Land O Lakes, Florida. There are three island-themed dining areas with a fantastic view of the lake. Billy Peoples' Bar (The Old Parrothead) offers a full menu as well as a full drink list.

James and Shael, also known as "Captain" and "First Mate", had a vision of a restaurant with great Caribbean-influenced food and a tropical atmosphere. We sincerely hope that you enjoy immersing yourself in the Rapsallions experience! ARRRRRGH ME MATIES!

**The Pleasant Places of Florida**

*founded in 1972  
by Leslie Marshall, B.S.I. (dec.)*

**Recorder Emeritus: Dr. Benton Wood, B.S.I.**

For the Record:

**THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS**

David McCallister, Master of the House,

(Master of Ceremonies at most gatherings, host of the annual Wessex Cup)

Wanda & Jeff Dow, The Papers on the Sundial,

(Communications and 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)

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The Pleasant Places of Florida

