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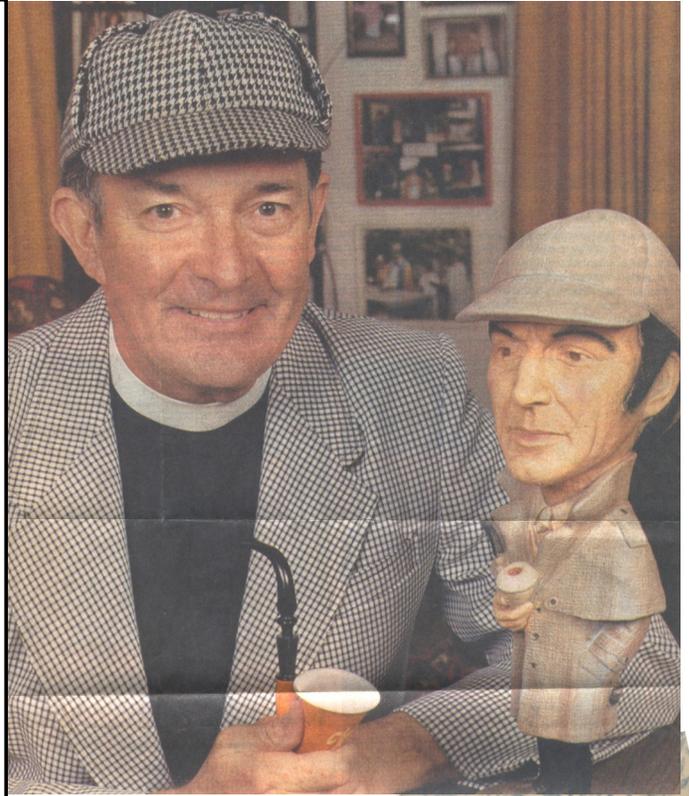
The Pleasant Places of Florida

Vol. 11 No.10

From the Papers on the Sundial:

It is with heavy heart that we report the passing of Dr. Benton Wood, BSI, Recorder Emeritus. After several years of failing health, his wife, Joan, reports that Ben died peacefully on December 8, 2007. Dr. Wood was raised in the Mid-West, graduated from Northwestern University, then embarked on a career as a teacher, chaplain, headmaster and prep school builder. He was in semi-retirement in Holmes Beach, Florida when the club's founder, the Reverend Leslie Marshall, passed away in 1977. Dr. Wood took on the mantle of Recorder for the Pleasant Places of Florida. Headmaster of a church school, he was also appointed Chaplain to the Baker Street Irregulars upon the loss of Rev. Marshall, and conferred with the same investiture, *A Scandal in Bohemia*. As each member of the BSI has a "cover" taken from a character in one of the 60 cases of the canon, Dr. Wood chose Dr. Thornycroft Huxtable, headmaster in the Prioory School tale. Besides his connection with the PPoF, he was well-known for his writings on *The Philatelic and Numismatic Holmes*. In 1997, he was awarded the Two Shilling Award "for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty."

We hope our photo collage will bring back pleasant memories. Let us stand upon the terrace...





FALL GATHERING PRESENTATIONS

GOLD, GLORY AND GOD THE SPANISH CONQUISTADORS

A Presentation by Donna Vaurio

Conquistador is the Spanish word for conqueror. The image of a noble, dressed as an ironclad soldier, atop a boldhearted steed and fearless in battle, is the image perceived by most school children within their studies of the Conquistadors. In actuality, such was not usually the case. The majority of the Conquistadors came from the area of Extremadura, an impoverished region of Spain. Peasants and noblemen upon hard times each sought riches and glory, and became soldiers and explorers to escape their poverty. They went to fight for gold, glory, and God! Some of the intrepid soldiers from Extremadura did find glory such as Hernando DeSoto, who discovered the Mississippi River, Vasco Nunez de Balboa, discoverer of the Pacific Ocean, Hernan Cortes, who claimed Mexico as his prize, Francisco Pizarro, who claimed Peru, and Francisco de Orellana, who discovered the Amazon River.

Spain was a Catholic country and the king mandated that all inhabitants discovered during exploration of the new world be converted to Catholicism. Catholic priests and friars traveled with the troops for this purpose. The natives were considered to be heathens; savage and pagan. The crown also mandated that settlements be built first so that the areas discovered could be claimed in the name of the king. The troops had no idea how to build with the materials available in the new lands and homes were built without roofs to keep out the rains, fortified walls to keep out insects, or doors that could keep out snakes and other vermin. Finding recognizable food for

survival was no less of a burden. The settlers began to confiscate (steal), from the Indians and felt it completely justified for their survival. The troops subdued and captured the natives and wealth was derived from the number of slaves acquired. The Conquistadors showed no mercy to the Indians. They were brutal in their contacts with them and killed them in multitudes. They practiced what is today referred to as germ warfare, by giving them blankets that had been used by victims of smallpox. Smallpox decimated Indian civilizations and the "brave" Conquistadors were able to take over the lands and riches.

Sherlock Holmes said that Isadora Klein was pure Spanish, with the real blood of the masterful Conquistadors and that her people were leaders in Pernambuco for generations. Pernambuco was in the area of, and of a similar demographic, as Extremadura. It was conquered by the Dutch in 1410 and was recovered and lost several times over the century. It seems more likely that Isadora received her Spanish blood from Conquistadors in Pernambuco, New Spain, in Peru. It is also a likely place for her to have met the German sugar king, Klein.

To say that one had the characteristics or Conquistador blood is to say that one had the genes for abusiveness, brutality, oppression, and exploitation. Perhaps that is a suitable description of Isadora Klein.



A TOAST!

Host David McCallister pulled a trick out of his hat (actually he pulled several slips of paper) by having attendees draw names of to whom they would toast, and we had to come up with something on the spot! Herein lie the results gathered (Those left blank were not turned in or emailed):

A Toast to The Master by Jeff Dow

Called in by Maberley of Three Gables
Who was offered hard cash for her house and tables
She didn't follow his warning
And found herself chloroforming
His knowledge was ever most able.
To the most prescient man we have even known, I give you
Sherlock Holmes.

A Toast to The Doctor by William Carroll

A Toast to The Woman by Carl Heifetz

A Toast to The Queen by Marilyn Amick

To the Queen!

A Toast to the Literary Agent by Judy Buddle

From the Doctor's pen, To the pages of the Strand. He
brought the Master from Baker Street To our lives.

A Toast to the Founder by Wanda Dow

To Leslie Marshall, without whom we would not be here.

A Toast to Isadora Klein by Donna Vaurio

Sherlock Holmes referred to her as *la belle dame sans merci*,
the beautiful woman without mercy. She has had at least one
man beat senseless to lessen his ardor. She marries well, her
first husband a sugar king, her next of nobility. To Isadora
Klein!

A Toast to Mary Maberley by Dr. Charles Carroll

A Toast to Douglas Maberly by Charles Amick

What a magnificent creature
A young and handsome guy
But he's no longer with us
And here's the reason why
As attaché in far-off Rome
Pneumonia caused his death
But really was a broken heart
That took his final breath.
For posthumous revenge he left
A manuscript, you see
So Widow Klein at least paid for
His mother's cruise by sea!
So here's to Dougl's Maberley
His writing was the key
That enabled Holmes to solve
The Three Gables mystery.
A Toast to Sutro by Elizabeth Dow
He was a good attorney.
A Toast to Steve Dixie by Culver Dow
That enormous boxer with a flat nose
Known as "Black Steve" to some of his bros
He threatened Holmes with his oversized fist
Needless to say he was kinda pissed
But further in the story he soon relented
By offering to help Holmes
Steve repented.

Watson Level Quiz

Prepared by David McCallister

1. What is the name of the bruiser who threatened Holmes at the outset of the adventure?
2. What was the area Holmes was warned to stay away from?
3. What weapon did Watson have ready to use in Holmes' defense?
4. Name three members of the Maberley family.
5. Where did Douglas Maberley die?
6. Who was Mrs. Maberley's lawyer?
7. What kind of trees were behind Mrs. Maberley's house?
8. What did Mrs. Maberley consider to be the rarest articles in her house?
9. Where did Holmes opine that people buried treasure "nowadays"?
10. Who owned Three Gables before Mrs. Maberley?
11. What remedy does Holmes suggest for Susan?
12. What did Holmes try to bribe Susan with?
13. Who eventually did tell Holmes about Isadora Klein?
14. How did the burglars subdue Mrs. Maberley.
15. Who was to have been on watch over Three Gables on Holmes' advice?
16. Where does Holmes suggest Mrs. Maberley might travel?
17. Where did widow Klein live?
18. Who are "good hounds who run silent"?
19. How much does it cost to go around the world in first-class style?
20. Finish this adage: "You can't play with edged tools forever without..."

ANSWERS

1. Steve Dixie. 2. Harrow. 3. A poker. 4. Mortimer, Mary, and Douglas. 5. Rome. 6. Sutro. 7. Melancholy, half-grown pines. 8. Her Crown Derby tea service. 9. The post-Office Bank. 10. Retired sea captain, Ferguson 11. Paregoric is the stuff. 12. Ten pounds- a tenner. 13. Langdale Pike. 14. Chloroform, struck her. 15. Sutro, a gray old gentleman. 16. Cairo, Madiara, the Riviera. 17. Grosvenor Square. 18. Barney and Susan Stockdale. 19. £5,000. 20. "cutting those dainty hands."



Mycroft level Quiz

Prepared by David McCallister

1. Where was young Perkins killed?
2. What was Steve Dixie's alibi (where, doing what) for that event?
3. What gang did Barney Stockdale belong to?
4. What justified the name of Mrs. Maberley's house?
5. Beds of what flowers were at the house?
6. What was the cause of Douglas Maberley's death?
7. What was the name of the house agent who enquired about the sale of 3 Gables.
8. What items did Holmes enquire that Mrs. Maberley might own?
9. What labels did Douglas' luggage have?
10. Where will Susan suggest she would see Mr. Holmes?
11. By what multiple did Susan suggest Barney's employer could out-bid him?
12. Who is Langdale Pike, and where may he be found?
13. What was the name of the Scotland Yard inspector on the case?
14. What was the number of the page Mrs. Maberley was able to rescue?
15. Why was the grammar queer in the paper?
16. Of what extraction was Isadora Klein? Where had her family been leaders for generations? Who had she married?
17. To whom was Isadora Klein then currently engaged?
18. How many copies of Douglas' book were there?
19. How much does it cost to go around the world in first-class style?
20. How much profit would Mrs. Maberley have received from the sale of her house?

ANSWERS

1. Outside the Holborn Bar. 2. He was training at the Bull Ring, Birmingham. 3. Spencer John Gang.
4. 3 small projections above the upper windows. 5. Geraniums 6. Pneumonia. 7. Haines-Johnson Auctioneer and Valuer. 8. Raphael, 1st folio Shakespeare. 9. Milano, Lucerne. 10. In hell. 11. X100.
12. Holmes' human book of reference upon all matters of social scandal; in the bow window of a St. James's Street Club. 13. Not given. 14. 245. 15. It mixes persons. The "he" suddenly changed to "my."
16. Spanish. Pernambuco. The aged German sugar king, Klein. 17. The young Duke of Lomond. 18. Two. 19. £5,000. 20. £500



Les Belle Dames Latinas, Sans Saccharine

Presentation by David R. McCallister

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and Dr. Watson, fair-minded Britons though they be, tend to stereotype people by their ethnic background. Perhaps none more so than the Mediterranean's: Greeks, Italians, and Iberians. He has remarks, if not slurs, about them and especially the women, in RETI, REDC, and SIXN. But three Latin American women really stand out: Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Gibson, and Mrs. Klein. The Queens of Tea, Gold and Sugar, respectively. Ms. Isadora Klein especially, is a woman of superlatives, and the apotheosis of the Latin ladies of the Canon. She was "the celebrated beauty," with "the" even italicized in the original. A claim possibly disputed by Lola Montez, Lily Langtry, Sara Burnhardt (a pair of semi-Gallic Frenchwomen), perhaps even La Belle Otero (who was Basque rather than truly Spanish), And what of Irene Adler-Norton, or Violet DeMer-ville?

Perhaps we should decide upon a date or at least a decade. In our own time, there have been several "the" celebrated beauties, of course, ranging from Sophia Loren to Twiggy. In Grenada's version of 3GAB, Isadora is played by Claudine Auger, a Miss France, 1958, and James Bond's conquest in Thunderball. Surely this was brilliant casting. Of course, in due time, Catherine Zeta-Jones would be my choice. If, this Welsh girl (cont. on page 6)





(cont. from page 5) (remember the fiery Rachel in MUSG) can so effectively play a "pure" Spaniard in the Zorro movies, and the wicked female in The Phantom, she can do Isadora. I can't wait.

I question the Spanish connection, anyway, since Penambuco is really Recife, and has been held by the Portuguese since 1532, when the colonial Captaincy was established by the Crown. And, the Conquistadores were mostly Andalusians, rather than Portuguese. Ok, there was a Dutch incursion in Penambuco in 1630-54. This, of course, was after the treaty of Tordesillas, 1494, which divided the whole world into Spanish and Portuguese moieties, (approximately along the 50th Meridian) later modified by the Treaty of Saragossa in 1529. Phillip II of Spain, Widower of Mary Tudor, annexed Portugal in 1580, which became independent again in 1640. Portugal was allied to Britain by 1808 during the Napoleonic Wars. At least there is a long-standing connection to sugar in the region. Perhaps Klein knew Neil Gibson, the Gold King, and Isadora was gal-pals with Maria Pinto, formerly of Manaos. These two, along with Big Bob Ferguson's unnamed Peruvian spouse and her maid, Dolores, do not set a pretty picture of fiery Iberian femininity. All these adventures are published within four years- 1922 to 1926, and took place in or about 1896-1903. Did Doyle have something for Latins?



Ms. Klein is one of the relatively few female villains in the Sherlockian Canon. Irene Adler may have defeated Holmes, and Mrs. Ferguson of YELL may have foiled him for a while in Norbury, but they were Anglos with American connections. None really had the nerve to threaten Holmes with bodily injury. This alone puts her on the level of Moran and Moriarty. It may be argued that Ms. Klein was indeed protecting her future, but that in-

cluded a "past" involving the beating of Douglas Maberley; and, it has been suggested, possibly also young Perkins. Mrs. Gibson did herself in, in revenge; and Mrs. Ferguson, albeit somewhat dramatic, was trying to help her child. Therefore there is somewhat of a range of motivation amid the stereotypical fiery-ness of the South Americans. If they are varied in morals and temperament, they are at least some of the most vivid characters in the Canon. For Watson, South America must have been a land of adventure, possibly one of the three continents of whose women he had experience.

Doyle, himself was not through with the place; after all, he sent Professor Challenger into the The Lost World. Was Challenger looking for a wife in the mesas and lianas of Venezuela, too? If he had met Mrs. Ferguson, Gibson, or Klein, in England, they might have been challenging enough.

First picture: Claudine Auger. (Website: www.bond-girls.net) Next three portraits: Catherine Zeta-Jones. (Website: randomchic.com)



CALENDAR SHERLOCKIANA

2008

February 16 - *The 18th Annual Wessex Cup* at Tampa Bay Downs. Contact David McCallister (see last page)

March 7-9 - *Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium*, Holiday Inn, Miamisburg, OH.

March 29 - Tentative Date for *Sherlockian Film Festival*, Seminole Library. Pleasant Places of Florida. More info to follow.

April 11 - 13 - Tentative date for the fifth annual *Gathering of Southern Sherlockians*. Contact Kent Ross at

April 11 - 13 - *STUD/Watsonian Weekend* Friday - Dinner, Sheraton Four Points, Schiller Park, IL; Saturday - The 49th Annual Running of the Chicago Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course; Pizza Party that evening; Sunday - The Fortescue Honours Brunch at the Sheraton. For further info, please contact Susan Diamond at szdiamond@comcast.net

July 6-8—*Victorian Secrets and Edwardian Enigmas: A Sherlock Holmes Conference* begins early Friday afternoon with presentations throughout the weekend, luncheon & banquet Saturday. Registration is \$95 for all presentations, the Norwegian Explorer Omnibus & keepsakes. Luncheon & banquet prices separate. Get on the mailing list by contacting NorwegianExplorers@gmail.com (Sponsored by The Norwegian Explorers of MN, Friends of Sherlock Holmes Collections & the U of MN's Special Collections & Rare Books.)

October 9-12 - *Bouchercon 39 Charmed to Death* in Baltimore, MD at the Wyndham Guests of Honor Laura Lippman & John Harvey with Toastmaster Mark Billingham. See bouchercon2008.blog.spot.com

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 issue number on your mailing label. This is the final issue number of your club membership. You will not receive further Communications after this number 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)

