



2008

Communication No. 284

The Pleasant Places of Florida

FALL GATHERING ISSUE

The 33rd Annual Fall Gathering

November 1, 2008 Largo, FL

THE STOCKBROKER'S CLERK

Attendees: Wanda, Jeff & Culver Dow, Carl Heifetz, David McCallister, Mike Bryan, George, Mary, Barry & Susan Edwards, Mary Beth Moody, Joe McNabb, & Bob Kimsel.

Program

Welcome

A voice within bade us enter, and we entered a bare, unfurnished room...

Toasts

Then Sherlock Holmes cocked his eye at me, leaning back on the cushions with a pleased and yet critical face, like a connoisseur who has just taken his first sip of a comet vintage.

The Musgrave Ritual

This took my breath away. I never heard of it.

Repast

You have only got your desserts.

Quizzes

Back I went to my hotel, put my head in a basin of cold water, and tried to think it out.

Presentations

"The paper! Of course!" yelled Holmes in a paroxysm of excitement. "Idiot that I was! I thought so much of our visit that the paper never entered my head for an instant."

Announcements

I trust that you don't consider your connection closed.

Farewells

Good-night, and may you have all the fortune that you deserve.

TOASTS

To Dr. Watson

by Carl Heifetz

As we study the Canonical text of the *Stockbroker's Clerk* for this Sherlockian event, we must marvel at the immense improvement in Dr. Watson's fortunes and health since we first encountered him in 1887.

Consider: When we first met Dr. Watson in Study in Scarlet, an adventure that took place in 1881, we learned that he was in a very sorry state indeed. During the war in Afghanistan, he had been critically wounded. A Jezail bullet had struck him in the shoulder, shattering his bone and grazing his subclavian artery. He also suffered a leg wound, as we discovered later in *Sign of the Four*. To complicate his medical misfortunes, he contracted a case of the dreaded enteric fever. Finally arriving home in England, he was without a psychological support system, no kith nor kin nor psychological counselors, and he thus appeared to have lapsed into a state that might be described in modern terms as post traumatic stress disorder. He wandered aimlessly through the days visiting bars, drinking Beaune at lunch, and overspending his wound pension.

Thanks to a series of salubrious circumstances, Dr. Watson slowly recovered his physical and mental well being. His friendship and shared adventures with Sherlock Holmes lifted Dr. Watson out of his doldrums and brought him back to the adventurous man who had previously sought his fortunes as a military surgeon. This was further enhanced by the love of his understanding wife and his return to medical practice.

Thus, in *Stockbroker's Clerk*, we are happy to find Dr. Watson in very salubrious circumstances. He has such a successful medical practice that he can afford to trade off, as the need arises, with another physician for whom he has provided similar favors. In addition, he has a wife who is so loving and understanding that she freely agrees to support his adventures with Sherlock Holmes.

Thus, it is with a joyful heart that we study the experiences of Dr. Watson as he accompanies Sherlock Holmes on the adventure known as *The Stockbrokers Clerk*. So let us drink a toast to the brave and adventurous man, without whom we would not have these exciting tales that bring us together at gatherings such as this.

Cont. on page 2



To Watson's Neighbor by Wanda Dow
Here two young doctors do abide
Plying their trade, side by side
One sits bored, sad and forlorn
The other has steps, weathered and worn
As favor to favor upon one's absence
Each takes care of the other's patients
One, Busy Watson, Sherlockian foil.
The other, unsuccessful, Dr. A. C. Doyle.

(Cont. from page 1)

To Hall Pycroft by David McCallister
Hall Pycroft, late clerk of Coxon's
Will soon be employed by Mawson's
Unless there's an offer,
Of a job that will top 'er,
By three hundred pounds in a year.

A sharp young man is our Hall,
He rarely misses a call,
With his hundred pounds cashed,
He's to Birmingham dashed,
And spots a tooth as the clue to it all.

Then Hall goes to Holmes with his tale,
And soon there's a journey by rail,
While Pycroft relates,
Holmes & Watson debate,
The solution that cannot fail.

Seems the Beddington brothers are pros,
And they've got their eyes on some dough,
While Hall is away,
Harry nabs the railways,
And pokers the porter who shows.

As our trio arrive then in old Brum,
The mystery has hardly begun,
When Art takes a spin,
On his braces, for grins,
And Hall calls the cops when he's done.

So Hall is not left holding the bag,
A hundred grand was the swag,
But his net is the c-note,
And he's got my vote,
As the sharpest young man in the mag.

To Sgt. Tuson by Culver Dow
A Sergeant he was, though not a Pepper
The halls of Mawson's he combs
For he caught his crook, right to the letter
He got his culprit before did Holmes.

To Constable Pollock by Mike Bryan
A toast to Constable Pollock, estimable aid to Sergeant Tuson, who, after desperate resistance, succeeded in the arrest of Beddington, forger and cracks-

TRIVIA QUIZES

Watson Level

1. Was Watson married at the time of this adventure?
2. Had Watson bought the better medical practice?
3. What magazine was Watson reading when Holmes dropped by?
4. From what disease did Watson's predecessor suffer?
5. What item of Watson's clothing is scorched?
6. After it was explained, what was Holmes' reasoning?
7. Of what class is Hall Pycroft?
8. What was Pycroft's previous billet?
9. What kind of recommendation did Pycroft get from his previous employer?
10. What was Pycroft's salary at Coxon's?
11. What was Pycroft's salary at Mawson & Williams?
12. What was Arthur Pinner's position?
13. How many stocks did Pinner test Pycroft on?
14. What was Pinner's firm?
15. What was Pycroft's salary at the new firm?
16. What flanked 126B Corporation St., Birmingham?
17. What was to be Pycroft's eventual duties?
18. What was Pycroft's first assignment?
19. What clued Pycroft in to the deception?
20. With what did Pinner try to hang himself?
21. What paper had Pinner been reading?
22. What mouldings had Bennington made?
23. How much loot had been stolen?
24. What rank was Tuson ?
25. What does Holmes observe is a strange mixture?

Mycroft Level

1. In what district was Watson's medical practice at this time?
2. From whom had he purchased it?
3. By how much had the income from the practice been reduced?
4. From what malady had Watson recently suffered?
5. Where were shopman's hieroglyphics placed?
6. Holmes says, "Results without causes are. ..." what?
7. Cockneys produce what two types of men?
8. Where does Pycroft say Coxon & Woodhouse are located?
9. What caused the fall of Coxon & Woodhouse?
10. Assuming that Pycroft was able to save a pound a week at Coxon's, how long had he been out of work?
11. Where was Mawson & Williams located?
12. Where was Pycroft staying ?
13. What three stocks did Pinner test Pycroft on?

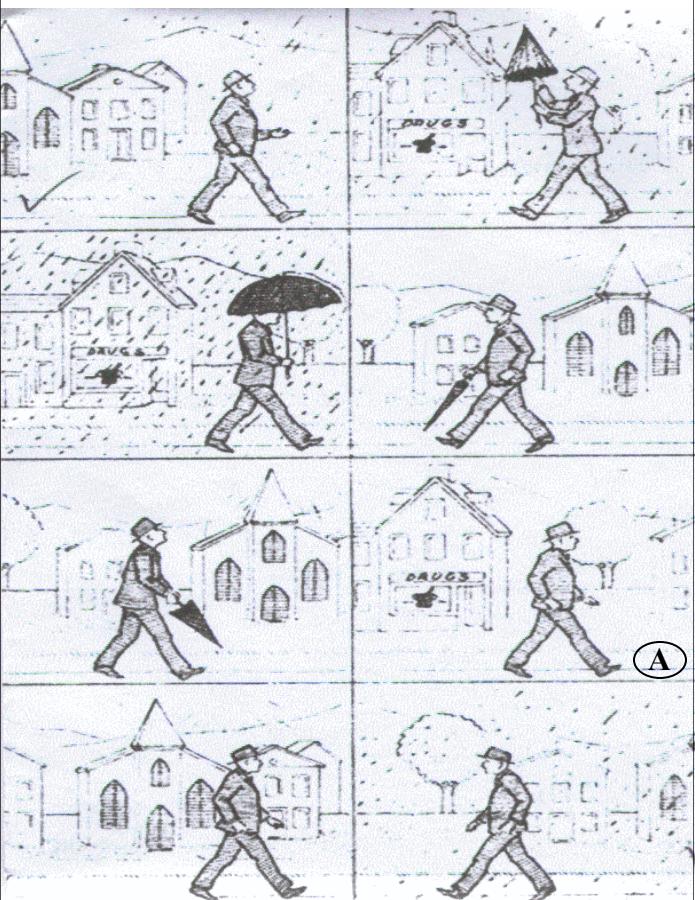


(cont. from page 2)

14. How many branches did the Franco-Midland Hardware Co., Ltd. have?
15. What were the names of the Pinner brothers?
16. Who had supposedly recommended Pycroft?
17. What was the address of the F-M H Co. Ltd.?
18. What was Pycrofts' second assignment?
19. What were Holmes' and Watson's fake names?
20. What was the Pinners real name?
21. What was the murder weapon?
22. What type of securities were stolen?
23. When do the clerks leave Mawson's on Saturdays?
24. What rank was Pollack?

Officer David McCallister included this puzzle along with the trivia this meeting:

Before his abrupt and untimely disappearance along with his umbrella, Mr. Phillimore routinely walked about town. One day, he left his flat on High Street and walked east, intending to visit his barber shop. After his haircut, he went back home. The eight panels below follow points of his journey, but are not in proper sequence. Study them carefully and see if you can put them in the correct logical order and time sequence. The first panel is marked as A.



Officer Carl Heifetz brought the following information to pass out to members:

The Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program

The Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program was designed by the late Robert W. Hahn, BSI, for the edification and delight of those Sherlockians who have a scholarly interest in the Canon. The program is administered by the Watsonians, a Chicago based scion of the Baker Street Irregulars, whose primary mission is to foster an increased appreciation of Dr. John H. Watson and his writings. In conjunction with the STUD Sherlockian Society, the Watsonians co-sponsor the STUD/Watsonian Weekend. The weekend's events include the annual STUD dinner, the oldest annually running Silver Blaze in the world, and the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Brunch which recognizes those Sherlockians who have earned one or more degrees in the Fortescue Scholarship program during the past year.

The Honours Program is a three-part endeavor, beginning with the Elementary Tripos. Successful completion of this examination earns the applicant the B.S.S. degree-Baccalaureatus Scientia in Sherlockiana. The B.S.S. degree holder may then apply for the Advanced Tripos Examination. Successful completion of this examination results in the A.M.S. degree-Artium Magister in Sherlockiana. A.M.S. degree holders may either prepare a paper on any aspect of the Sacred Writings or complete a third examination. Upon approval of the paper by the Scholarship Board or successful completion of the examination, the applicant is granted his or her Doctorate in Sherlockiana-the Sh.D. degree. The Board members are: Susan Z. Diamond, ASH, BSI, Chairperson Allan T. Devitt; Alfred A. Levin, BSI; and Marilynne McKay, ASH, BSI.

In each instance the successful candidate receives a handsome certificate attesting to his or her right to use the initials for the degree granted. The Tripos questions are not inordinately difficult, nor is the scoring rigid or pedantic. Each Tripos is an open-book examination. The primary purpose of the program is to encourage increased familiarity with the Canon. Also there is no charge to participate in the program.

We encourage you to join this elite group of Sherlockian scholars. Please send your application to: Susan Z. Diamond, ASH, BSI; President, The Watsonians;



Up And Coming at the PPoF

After the Fall Gathering, Officers held a meeting discussing the future of the Pleasant Places.

Papers on the Sundial mentioned having trouble getting out the newsletters due to lack of submissions. Future issues will list a subject matter, requesting submissions and guidelines. Issues have deleted the Volume and Issue numbers in favor of just a Communication number. In this way, as renewals are done, 10 issues will be added to each renewal. Although The Papers will make the best effort to get out ten issues per year, if they are unable to do so, subscriptions will fall due on the 10th issue rather than the end of the year (for that subscriber).

The Unopened Newspaper suggested an info page to be passed on to any member wishing to assist setting up a meeting. In this way, the member will know what is expected and who to contact in case of needed assistance. A listing will also be made available to make members more aware of the Marshall Wood Fund activities.

Master of the House noted that 2009 marks the 19th annual Wessex Cup. It was suggested a special celebration be planned to mark the 20th anniversary in 2010. To that end, officers will be gathering information for a possible Wessex Weekend in 2010.

Representative will comb the internet and Sherlockian world for short articles and information for submission to the Communication. Suggestions were made for movie and webpage reviews.

Tentative Dates: February 14 - 19th Annual Wessex Cup, Tampa Bay Downs
 April - Film Festival, Seminole Library
 May or June - 34th Annual Spring Gathering



David McCallister discusses trivia as Jeff Dow looks on.

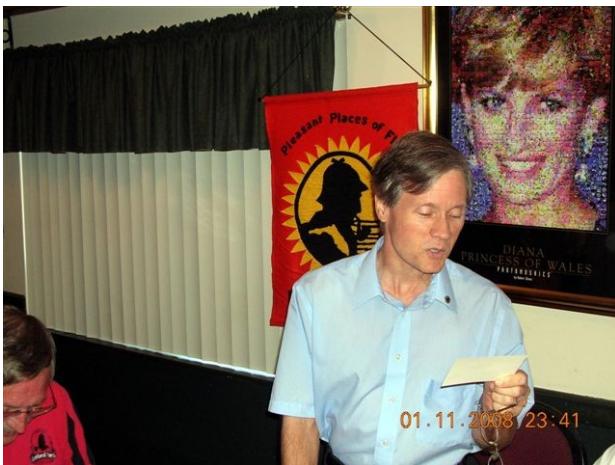


Newby Joe McNabb toasts a character in the case.

Culver Dow listens to a toast

Members try to figure out the mystery of Mr. Phillimore.





Harris & Price get toasted by Jeff Dow as Princess Di looks on.



01.11.2008 23:40

Mike Bryan toasts Constable Pollock.



Caroline Everett can't escape a birthday!



Members enjoy cake at the 33rd Fall Gathering.

- A. Mr. Phillimore starts out as usual, without his umbrella. The sun is shining as he passes the chemist's.
- B. The sun is still out when he passes the church.
- C. It starts to rain.
- D. Mr. Phillimore turns around and goes back for his umbrella.
- E. He gets the umbrella, then starts out for the barber shop again. It is raining as he passes the chemist's.
- F. It stops raining. The sun comes out and Mr. Phillimore closes his umbrella. He is passing the church.
- G. On his way home, after getting his hair cut, it is still not raining as he passes the church.
- H. When he reaches the chemist's, it has started to rain again, so he opens his umbrella.

C	H
E	G
F	A
B	D

WATSON LEVEL 1. YES 2. YES 3. BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL 4. ST. VITUS'S DANCE 5. SLIPPERS 6. IT WAS SIMPLICITY ITSELF 7. COXNEY & WOODHOUSE 9. RIPPING GOOD 10. £ 3 WEEKLY 11. £ 4 WEEKLY 12. FINANCIAL AGENT 13. THREE 14. FRANCO-MIDLAND HARDWARE CO., LTD. 15. £500 YEAR 16. TWO BUSINESSES DOWN AN ALLEY 17. DEPOT IN PARIS 18. TO COPY DOWN ALL THE HARDWARE SHOPS 19. PINNER'S TOOTH 20. SUSPENDERS 21. EVENING STANDARD 22. LOCKS 23. £100,000 PLUS SCRIPS 24. SGT. 25. HUMAN NATURE
MYCROFT LEVEL 1. PADDINGTON 2. OLD FARGUHAR 3. £ 900 4. A SEVERE CHILL 5. NEAR IN INSTEP OF THE SLIPPER'S SOLE 6. ARE MUCH MORE IMPRESSIVE 7. CRACK VOLUNTEER REGIMENTS, ATHLETES & SPORTSMEN 8. DRAPER GARDENS 9. VENEZUELAN LOAN 10. 35 WEEKS (£ 2 A WEEK = £ 70 DIVIDED BY 2) 11. LOMBARD STREET 12. POTTER'S TERRACE 13. AYRESHIRES, NEW ZEALAND CONSOLIDATED & BRITISH BROKEN HILLS 14. 134 15. ARTHUR & HARRY 16. PARKER 17. 126B CORPORATION STREET 18. FURNITURE 19. HARRIS & PRICE 20. BEDDINGTON 21. POKER 22. AMERICAN RAILWAY BONDS 23. NOON 24. CONSTABLE 25. BEDDINGTON

For the Record:

THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS

David McCallister, Master of the House,

(Master of

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

Carl Heifetz, Representative (both with the Servants and with the Tradespeople),

(Correspondent)

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)

