



2009

# Communication No. 294

The Pleasant Places of Florida

## A Short History of the Meetings of the PPOF

I thought it would be interesting to share with you exactly what cases we have covered over the years. While we have been around since 1972, it was some time before the club decided to take on a specific case per meeting. Indeed, for a time we met, as fitting, on an irregular basis. But for quite some time now, the Pleasant Places has been meeting in the Spring and Fall, and with each meeting attempted to cover a particular case. Well, not cover, exactly. We tend to parody, wax poetic, point out errors and other conclusions, report on specific historical facts or give demonstrations, all lovingly, of course. At any rate, I list the cases of the great detective. In bold are cases we have not as yet tackled. There may have been papers or presentations done on them, but they were done before our meetings had specific cases assigned, or during another meeting.

Should anyone care to host the Spring gathering, here's your chance to pick a case and start planning. We actually have a guide for that now (thanks to Mike Bryan).

### A STUDY IN SCARLET

THE SIGN OF FOUR – 2009 Fall  
*ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*  
A Scandal in Bohemia -1988 Spring  
The Red-headed League -2002 Fall  
A Case of Identity -1994 Fall  
The Boscombe Valley Mystery -2003 Fall  
The Five Orange Pips -1993 Spring  
The Man with the Twisted Lip – 2001 Fall  
The Blue Carbuncle -1988 Fall  
The Speckled Band – 1990 Spring  
**The Engineer's Thumb**  
The Noble Bachelor -1991 Spring  
The Beryl Coronet – 1996 Spring  
**The Copper Beeches**  
*MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*  
Silver Blaze – 2002 Spring  
**The Yellow Face**  
The Stock-broker's Clerk – 2008 Fall  
The "Gloria Scott"- 1990 Fall  
The Musgrave Ritual - 2005 Spring

### The Reigate Puzzle

**The Crooked Man**  
**The Resident Patient**  
The Greek Interpreter- 1993 Fall  
The Naval Treaty –2004 Spring  
**The Final Problem**  
*THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*  
The Empty House -1994 Spring  
The Norwood Builder -1999 Spring  
**The Dancing Men**  
The Solitary Cyclist –2003 Spring  
**The Priory School**  
Black Peter -2001 Spring  
Charles Augustus Milverton –1989 Fall  
Six Napoleons –1989 Spring, 2006 Spring  
**Three Students**  
**Golden Pince-Nez**  
Missing Three-Quarter -2000 Fall  
Abbey Grange – 2008 Spring  
**Second Stain**  
**THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES**  
**THE VALLEY OF FEAR**  
*HIS LAST BOW*

The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge - 1995 Fall  
The Cardboard Box -1992 Fall  
The Red Circle -1998 Fall  
**The Bruce-Partington Plans**  
The Dying Detective -1996 Fall  
**Lady Frances Carfax**  
**Devil's Foot**  
His Last Bow –1999 Fall  
*THE CASE BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*  
The Illustrious Client – 2006 Fall  
The Blanched Soldier -1997 Fall  
The Mazarin Stone -1998 Spring  
Three Gables-2007 Fall  
Sussex Vampire -1991 Fall  
**Three Garridebs**  
Thor Bridge – 2005 Fall  
**The Creeping Man**  
The Lion's Mane –2000 Spring  
**The Violed Lodger**  
**Shoscombe Old Place**  
Retired Colourman -1995 Spring  
Spring 2007 Sherlock Holmes as Forensic Scientist

### Electronic Communications: WelcomeHolmes by Carl L. Heifetz

In addition to attending events of the Pleasant Places of Florida, there are many ways that we can discuss Sherlock Holmes by electronic means via e-mail discussion groups. I belong to two such on line organizations, Hounds of the Internet and Welcome Holmes. In this article, I would like to discuss Welcome Holmes, a group that exists under the auspices of the Nashville Scholars.

The group was founded by Jim Hawkins in February, 1999. Melinda Caric is the Discussion Leader and Claudia Ruelke is the Web Designer. They state, "Here we honor Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author and 'teller of tales'. We are following the adventures of Sherlock Holmes, the 'world's first consulting detective.' WelcomeHolmes! is THE place on the web for discussing

all aspects of Sherlock Holmes and being Sherlockian. Here you'll find just how creative the WelcomeHolmes members really are! Art, poetry, our recent pastiche; the list goes on and on!"

Join in the discussion at WelcomeHolmes! Every month the discussion leader posts a series of comments and questions concerning a selected story in the Canon. Members can reply to this posting, or address any other issues pertinent to Sherlock Holmes and the 60 tales that come to mind. Or, read the postings by other members and reply with your own take.

For more details, contact their Web Address: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WelcomeHolmes/> Their two web sites are NashvilleScholars.net and WelcomeHolmes.com. You may be asked to sign up for Yahoo.com initially.



### Sherlock Holmes and the Underpants of Death

Type of material: Trade Paperback Publisher: LDB Publishing, Manchester Year: 2009 Author: Chris Wood

This is an anthology of six parodies, five novels and one short story. The humor is definitely modern British and is a mixture of what Americans would recognize as middle-school salacious and British would describe as Public School potty (if not worse). For American readers unfamiliar with modern British slang, much of it is completely impenetrable and that, at least, is a blessing. I was only able to finish the first three pieces and part of the fourth, and those only with great effort. After flogging myself for almost two weeks to complete the book, I surrendered to my cowardly impulses and decided to write a review based on what I had read.

On the basis of the first three pieces, the book is a waste of time unless the reader is 'into' one of the types of humor described above. If you like that sort of thing, then this book is your meat and potatoes, or poison, as the case may be. As must be apparent, I do not enjoy titillation and toilet humor, nor do I have a taste for snicker material or political satire written for adolescents. The book contains a good deal of both items, continuing on and on and...

The stories are, in order of emergence; "Sherlock Holmes and the Underpants of Death," a gross parody of HOUN, "The Mystery of the Hidden Turd," an unmentionable mystery, "The Problem of the Poultry Affair," a paltry effort, "The Adventure of the Lingering Stench," which left a bad taste, "The Experience of the Quickest Client," the lone thankfully short parody, and "The Conundrum of the Missing Motherfucker," a definite Freudian slip. The stories often live up to their titles and are strewn about with strange characters, mostly Holmes and Watson.

Reviewed by: Philip K. Jones, July, 2009.

*He's Everywhere...* Serbian Zoran Zivkovic's novel THE FOURTH CIRCLE a complex, multi-layered, almost science-fictional work which has a complete Sherlockian pastiche, essentially titled 'Sherlock Holmes' Last Case'. Be prepared for the unexpected. An extract can be found at [www.fantasticmetropolis.com/i/lastcase/full/](http://www.fantasticmetropolis.com/i/lastcase/full/) ... Sherlock Holmes jigsaw puzzles are featured in the The Paragon catalogue for Spring 2009. According to the purveyor: "Work with the famous super sleuth Sherlock Holmes and solve two original murder mysteries. First, assemble the challenging 1000-piece puzzles (20" X 22" each). Then read the included Sherlock Holmes story book-

lets and search for visual clues . Solutions included." The puzzles, at \$16.99 each, are *Watson's Inheritance* and *Case of the Fallen Actress*. \$24.99 gets the set of two. A custom black metal channel frame is \$19.99. This is a perfect gift for the Sherlockian who has everything. [www.theparagon.com/category.asp\\_Q\\_c\\_E\\_85\\_A\\_Jigsaw+Puzzles ...](http://www.theparagon.com/category.asp_Q_c_E_85_A_Jigsaw+Puzzles...)

#### CALENDAR SHERLOCKIANA

##### 2009

October 14 - *Pre-Bouchercon Event: Doyle, Bouchercon, Fleming*. Must be an attendee of Convention (see next)

October 15-18 - *The 40th Bouchercon World Mystery Convention*, Indianapolis, IN. [www.bouchercon.com](http://www.bouchercon.com) 2009.com

October 30-Nov. 1 - *BSI Triennial Silver Blaze/Chicago Silver Blaze* at Hawthorn Race Course, Cicero-Stickney, IL. Race on the 31st, brunch Nov. Hotel Oak Brook Doubletree. Email Susan Diamond at

November 7 - *Gasfitters Ball*, Curious Collectors of Baker Street. Contact [ccob-sla@socal.rr.com](mailto:ccob-sla@socal.rr.com)

November 7 - *34th Annual Fall Gathering of The Pleasant Places of Florida*, Heritage Springs Country Club, New Port Richey, FL. Contact Carl Heifetz (see flyer)

##### 2010

February 12-14 - *Wessex Weekend*. Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Florida Wessex Cup. \$140 for festivities: Friday evening social, Saturday breakfast, transportation to and from hotel to racetrack, Florida Wessex Cup, luncheon at track, afternoon presentations, evening banquet, Sunday presentations and brunch. Contact Wanda Dow (see page 3). Hotel Courtyard by Marriott, Tampa/Oldsmar, \$119 per night (+tax). [www.marriott.com/tpaol](http://www.marriott.com/tpaol) Mention Pleasant Places of Florida for special rates.

May 14-16 - *Dayton Symposium: Investigating the American*. Contact [chipsworth@fuse.net](mailto:chipsworth@fuse.net)



**WHO ARE THESE GUYS?** Okay, okay, these aren't your father's Holmes & Watson, but let's hold our opinions until we see the film. After all, who'd have thunk Downey could have pulled off playing a white man playing a black man? Check out <http://www.slashfilm.com/2009/05/18/guy-richies-sherlock-holmes-movie-trailer/> for some action-packed trailers.



Mark your calendars now for the  
20th Anniversary of the Wessex  
Cup.

**Join us for Wessex Weekend!**  
February 12-14, 2010

**Friday Evening**

7-10pm - Social Gathering  
Snacks, Sodas, Water  
Open Bar, Pay as you Go, or  
Glow, or... whatever. You pay for  
the booze!

**Saturday**

8am Breakfast  
11am - 3pm Wessex Cup  
Includes transportation to and  
from racetrack, entrance to  
track, program, buffet luncheon.  
Bets are on your own!  
4-6pm Presentations  
7pm - 10pm Banquet

**Sunday**

8am - noon  
Breakfast & presentations  
Noon - 1pm  
Closing ceremonies



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813-925-8887

**BARITSU?**

By Wanda Dow

*"When I reached the end I stood at bay. He drew no weapon, but he rushed at me and threw his long arms around me. He knew that his own game was up and was only anxious to revenge himself upon me. We tottered together upon the brink of the fall. I have some knowledge, however, of baritsu, or the Japanese system of wrestling, which has more than once been very useful to me."* ©

If you were to try a search for the art of baritsu, you would fail, save for the question of whether or not you meant to search for 'bartitsu' perhaps? The answer is unequivocally yes.

Whether it was an error on the part of Doyle or Watson or the printer, bartitsu is the proper term of the self-defense method mentioned by Holmes. This method was developed by an Englishman ahead of his time, Edward William Barton-Wright, in 1898. A British Engineer, Barton-right lived for three years in Japan, becoming a student of judo and jujutsu (a.k.a. jujitsu). Just as many far-seeing martial artists of the future (Bruce Lee) and past (Hua Yuan Ja), Barton-Wright realized that combining various arts would utilize the strengths in all and provide self-defense for the average "unarmed society."

He was among the first Europeans known to have studied the Japanese arts and teach them in Europe. He formed a Bartitsu (a combination of his name *Bart* and *ju-jutsu*) Club in which both men and women could study various kinds of self defense, including hand-to-hand, jujutsu, Vigny cane fighting, boxing and Savate. The idea was to become proficient enough in each to be able to defend against all. This is similar to today's cross-training methods for fighters and the military service. Barton-Wright also had an unusual (for the time) pedagogical system whereby students were first required to attend private training sessions before being allowed into class groups.

He brought over several trainers from Japan to teach judo and jujutsu, Pierre Vigny himself to instruct in his la canne (stick fighting) style, a wrestler and those knowledgeable in fencing techniques. Practice was expanded to breathing exercises and boxing. Membership was allowed only after submission to review by a committee. During this time, Barton-Wright wrote articles for *Pearson's Magazine*. He was, unfortunately, a poor promoter, and the fame of his associates quickly eclipsed Bartitsu. Doors closed on the club in 1903.

Many of his employees, however, went on to open their own successful gyms in London. The Bartitsu Club was one of the first schools to offer classes to women, which was continued by instructors Yukio Tano and Sadakazu Uyenishi. Their student, Edith M. Garrud established her own jujutsu dojo and also taught to members of the militant Suffragette movement.

In 2006, Bartitsu finally began to re-emerge. You can learn more at [www.bartitsu.org](http://www.bartitsu.org).

**The Pleasant Places of Florida**

*(founded in 1972)*

Rev. Leslie Marshall, B.S.I. 1972-1977  
Dr. Benton Wood, B.S.I. 1977 - 1988  
Bill Ward, B.S.I. 1988 - 1999  
Dr. Benton Wood, B. S.I. 1999 -1996  
The Last Court of Appeals 1997 - present

For the Record:

**THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS**

David McCallister, Master of the House,

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)

(Master of

**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)**

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