



# Communication No. 297

The Pleasant Places of Florida

### Sherlock Holmes and the Giant's Hand

Type of material: Softcover book Publisher: Breese Books Ltd., London. Year: 2004 Author: Matthew Booth

This is a collection of three cases about Untold Tales. All are novella-length and all are more complicated than the usual short story of this genre. The author is careful about his backgrounds and his time placements, so obvious errors are in short supply.

The first case presented, "The Adventure of the Giant's Hand," is ostensibly the single tale, cited in "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez" as 'the Addleton tragedy.' Due to misinterpretations of the Canonical text, writers have treated this citation as two tales, using the final part of the citation, "...the singular contents of the ancient British barrow..." to create a separate tale altogether. This tale properly combines both elements into one tale, so that accounts for two of the citations resolved. The introduction of the case by Inspector Hopkins brings in another citation, this from "The Adventure of the Abbey Grange," where Holmes says "Hopkins has called me in seven times, and on each occasion his summons has been entirely justified..." GOLD, BLAC and MISS are three. Determining which of those other four unresolved references is this one will require further study.

The second tale, "The Adventure of the York Place Prophecy," is an odd inclusion. If it had actually happened, I expect Holmes would have treated it much as the author shows him acting in this tale. On the other hand, the story is not all that believable, as if it were the one cited in "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb" as "...that of Colonel Warburton's madness." It stretches credibility in several ways. Finally, there is a citation in "The Adventure of the Empty House," about "...Merridew of abominable memory..." which may also apply to this case.

The final tale in the collection, "The Adventure of the Hollow Bank," is that cited in "The Adventure of the Six Napoleons" as "...the dreadful business of the Abernetty family..." It is a dreadful business, but it is not a baffling mystery and the thirty five pages devoted to it seem to be too much information on the matter.

This collection is mildly interesting, with the first tale being the best of the lot. Among other things, Holmes and Watson are asked to join in a round of Bridge at one point, long before Bid Whist was converted into Bridge by the use of bidding conventions called 'Bridges.' The author's Holmes and Watson seem to be good reproductions of the originals, but the stories are somewhat 'draggy' and the narratives have little life.

Reviewed by: Philip K. Jones, February, 2010



### Hound of the Baskervilles

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### Sherlock Holmes, Conan Doyle and The Bookman

Edited and Annotated by S.E. Dahlinger and Leslie S. Klinger

Wessex Press/Gasogene Books is proud to announce the publication of this landmark volume, *Sherlock Holmes, Conan Doyle & The Bookman*. *The Bookman* was a heavily illustrated monthly journal which appeared from 1895 to 1933, and was one of the finest literary magazines of the 20th Century. For the Sherlockian, much of the delight found in the American edition of *The Bookman* comes from the amazing amount of material dealing with Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle — articles, reviews, letters, and chatty commentary — it all found its way into its pages.

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### SOUND IT OUT

Can you sound out these Sherlockian cases?  
ASK AND A LIMBO HE, ME, AH  
THUS, I ENOUGH OR  
THIN A VAULT TREE TEA  
THUMB MUSK CRAVE RID YOU ALL  
THE ALL LOAF ACE

**HE'S EVERYWHERE...** *Time* January 11 issue had a review of the film *Sherlock Holmes* by Mary Pols ... *Smithsonian* January issue contains *Sherlock Holmes' London* by Joshua Hammer ... Local St. Petersburg, Florida movie theater, The Beach Theater, took advantage of the recent Sherlockian interest to run Rathbone/Bruce's *Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* at their free kid's matinee shows two consecutive Saturdays in January ... a new audio book is available: a new release of Conan Doyle's *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. This edition is read by Simon Prebble and is from Tantor Media Inc., ISBN: 1400115175. It is available from Amazon... Last year the BSI celebrated the 150th birthday of Doyle with a symposium at Harvard. You can now purchase the 14 papers delivered that weekend as *Papers at an Exhibition - Arthur Conan Doyle: A Sesquicentennial Assessment* from Michael Kean, 3040 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93955-2837 for \$35.00 ... Check out [www.thefrenchartilleryofficer.com](http://www.thefrenchartilleryofficer.com). It's Lawrence Fishchman's version of the notorious Dreyfus case involving Holmes & Watson ... *Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine* Vol. 3 is now available from Wildside Press ... There is now a Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle collection (The Richard and Joshua Green Sherlock Holmes Collection) at Birmingham Southern College in Birmingham, AL ... Sponsor Ian Young as he runs April 25 in the London Marathon to raise money for *Sparks* dressed as Sherlock Holmes. He's hoping to break the world record for Fastest Iconic Book Character. [www.justgiving.com/Ian-Young0](http://www.justgiving.com/Ian-Young0) ... Cameo Auctioneers offered costumes worn by Jeremy Brett and Michael Caine as Holmes and Nigel Bruce in *Hound* on March 9 ... Go to <http://undershawhelp.blogspot.com> to see what's going on with Doyle's house at Hindhead ...

### Calendar Sherlockiana

**16 April - 2 May** *The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes*, a play by Susan Zeder at the Paul V. Glavin Playhouse, Arizona State University. [www.tinyurl.com/ycemmnt](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycemmnt)

**17 April** - *Sherlock Holmes Film Festival* sponsored by The Pleasant Places of Florida, 1-4:30pm at the Clearwater Library, FL. See flyer on page 3.

**23-25 April** *STUD/Watsonian Weekend* Friday Dinner & Sunday brunch at Sheraton Four Points, 51st running of Chicago Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course

**30 April - 2 May** *Malice Domestic XXII* Arlington, VA [www.malice-domestic.org](http://www.malice-domestic.org)

**14-16 May** Dayton Symposium *Investigating the American Canon* Contact

**13-14 October** *The Friends of Arthur Conan Doyle Collection Symposium* in Toronto.

**14-17 October** *Buchercon XLI* San Francisco, CA [www.bcon2010.com](http://www.bcon2010.com)

### Wessex Weekend 2010

'Twas bitter cold at the races that day. We had a small but satisfying turn-out for the weekend and race. Sorry more members couldn't attend. Friday night was a small social gathering and a hand-out of packets and puzzles. We'll be including some of the puzzles in this and future issues of the *Communication*. Saturday we had breakfast presentations, then it was on to the races. The Florida Wessex Cup was race No. 3 this year, the winner, No. 3, R Betty Graybull. Back to the hotel for afternoon presentations, a break, then the banquet. Sunday Breakfast was a wrap-up and fond farewells. Presentors were David McCallister, Susan Diamond & Allan Devitt, Wanda Dow, Butch Bernier, and the Dow Family Players, who presented *The Complete Sherlock Holmes Abridged* at the Banquet.

It is our great pleasure to announce the seventh annual combined STUD/Watsonian Weekend April 23-25, 2010. The festivities are as follows:

**Friday, April 23**—The weekend's events begin with the eighteenth annual STUD dinner at the Sheraton Four Points in Schiller Park, IL. This hotel has been the site of numerous STUD dinners and has proven to be a superb venue in terms of both food and service. This year our program will feature long-time local Sherlockians Paul and Debbe Cox with friends in a musical tribute to Sherlock Holmes. The dinner will also feature the traditional STUD toasts and awards, as well as a lavish assortment of door prizes. **Please note the festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. to allow for coping with traffic.**

**Saturday, April 24**—Join us for the 51<sup>st</sup> annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze (also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the race), sponsored by the Watsonians. The race is **the oldest still active annual Silver Blaze in the world**. Once again, we'll be at Hawthorne Race Course in a private sky box at the finish line and will have the traditional toasts prior to the race. The Silver Blaze will also be the first event of the racing year for The Turf Builders of Baker Street, the scion society for Sherlockians who know what to do with their wound pensions. **Please note that we have no way of knowing which race will be the Silver Blaze until that day; so plan accordingly.**

**Sunday, April 25**—The Fortescue Honours Brunch concludes the weekend. To participate in the Watsonians' Fortescue Scholarship Program—a series of three examinations (open book) testing your knowledge of matters Canonical and Sherlockian, contact Susan. Bill can be contacted at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ and Susan can be contacted at \_\_\_\_\_

The official hotel for the weekend is the Sheraton Four Points, 10249 W. Irving Park Road, Schiller Park, IL 60176, phone 847 671-6000, fax 847 671-0371. (We recommend this hotel because your room is only a short waddle from the dinner.) The Four Points has complimentary O'Hare shuttle service and free parking. To obtain the special rate of \$79.00 (plus tax) per night, be sure to mention that you will be attending the STUD Sherlockian Society dinner on Friday night.

Sign up now for a memorable weekend. **Space is limited and early registration is highly recommended.** We look forward to seeing you for a weekend of Sherlockian fellowship, fun, and frivolity.

Canonically yours,

Bill Sawisch  
STUDMaster

Susan Diamond  
President, The Watsonians

**ANSWERS TO SOUND IT OUT:** A Scandal in Bohemia, The Sign of Four, The Naval Treaty, The Musgrave Ritual, The Yellow Face



# **Sherlock Holmes Film Festival**

**Clearwater Public Library, Main branch**

**Saturday, April 17, 2010, 1:00 - 4:30pm**

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For the record, The Last Court of Appeals consists of **David McCallister**, known as Master of the House (Master of Ceremonies, host of annual Wessex Cup),  
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**Carl Heifetz**, known as  
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