



2012

# Communication No. 309

The Pleasant Places of Florida



## *The 36th Annual Spring Gathering*

There was a great turn-out for the Spring Gathering this year with guest speaker Chris Redmond. Twenty-three



people attended and were treated to presentations by Jeff Dow, Charles Wells, Chris Redmond Mark Levitt, David McCallister and a video brought by Butch & Debbie Turbet. Herewith are the festivities.

The Musgrave Ritual was led by Marilyn Amick, followed by toasts:

A Toast to Professor Presbury by Charles Amick

The dog who did nothing in the nighttime furnished the clue that enabled Holmes to solve the mystery of Silver Blaze. The dog who did something unexpected in the daytime was the clue that Holmes used to solved the problem of the Creeping Man.

Professor Presbury of Camford was at the center of this case. A noted scholar and a sage, he was admired by all. But then it happened, sad to say, the Professor took a fall.

He fell in love with a lovely maid—but he had thrice her years. To hold her love might be quite hard. We understand his fears.

Although engaged to this old man, she eyed some younger boys. If he could but renew his youth, she'd put away such toys.

A serum of cells from anthropoid would make him young again. To bring his youth back to him was surely not a sin!

Now Lowenstein of Prague would furnish such a potion. But black-faced langur, substituted, brought unforeseen emotion.

Anthropoid walks upright; langur creeps, climbs, crawls. The Professor walked upon his hands and clambered up the walls.

He teased his faithful wolfhound Roy, who nearly killed the man! Now monkey business such as this is something we must ban!

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A Toast to Watson by Lynn Wells

He may not have been brilliant but -  
If Holmes needed a comrade upon whose nerve he could rely, who was it?

If Holmes needed a whetstone for his mind, who provided it?  
Who Stimulated Holmes?  
To whom did Holmes like to think out loud?

Who had become one of Holmes' necessary habits, like shag tobacco, his violin and old black pipe?

Who would come whether or not is was convenient? There we have it. It doesn't matter that "Lumbago" comes to his mind as the answer to the puzzle. What matters is that he was there and because of this staltworthiness we are able to read and enjoy each new case.

So let us raise a glass to the man of whom Holmes once said, "I'm lost without my Boswell!" To the good doctor!

Here's to the good doctor who is frequently told to bring his revolver. Here to being a whitstone for Holmes' mind and for being a willing partner in crime! For writing the events so we too could enjoy reading the powers that Holmes does employ. Thanks for being Holmes' Boswell, informing us all, just what Holmes said and what you saw. To the good doctor!

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David McCallister gave a toast to "The Queen."

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Toast to the Dog by Jeff Dow

There once was a wolfhound named Roy:

A laidback and temperate boy.

But when poked by a scholar,

He slipped free of his collar

And his teeth on a throat he did employ.

To the dog who did bark in the night: Roy

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A Wedding Toast (found by) David McCallister

This scrap of paper was found in the pocket of an old tuxedo that was given to Oxfam in Camford. I bought it for ten pence out of the rag bin. I thought it might have some relevance to today's adventure...or not.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Professor Morphy. I want to welcome everyone to the double-wedding breakfast of Alice and Porfessor Presbury, and Edith and Trevor Bennett. We are honored to have so many colleagues and friends here with us today. Especially you, Dr. Watson, and you, Dr. Lowenstein, and you, too, Mr. Holmes.

Thank you Professor for asking me to be your best man, and Alice, it was such an honor to give you away. Likewise, you noticed that Prof. Presbury gave away Edith and I was Bennett's best man. I don't know if that now makes me my own father-ion-law or something, but I'm sure we all wish you every happiness.

Alice, I knew you were destined to be the wife of a distinguished man, every since you were little, playing with Edith and that Liddell girl, and you all took up with the math professor, Charles Dodgson. He was a little strange, but the pictures were good, and he sure could tell a wonderful story—a little dodgy, but you can't ever tell with mathematicians, eh, Mr. Holmes?

And Trevor, I'm sure we will be welcoming you into the ranks of professorships very soon. We all look forward to your exciting treatise on the use of cannula in laboratory research.

Now as you all know, I'm a professor of comparative anatomy, and I can tell you that no anatomy here at Camford



compares with the two lovely brides we have here today: Alice has been described as perfect in body and mind, Edith as a conventional English type - an English rose, if you will. And you might say they are like Snow White and Rose Red. Just no dwarfs or wolves need apply. Ladies, Presbury and Bennett will be as fine as husbands as they have been suitors; no monkeyshines. At least they both have jobs. Ah, tenure is wonderful.

Now, Edith and Alice, in the due course of time, I'm sure we will have some future little anatomists or physiologists running about the quad. Alice, I'm sure Edith will welcome a half-brother or sister. And I'll be looking for a grandchild, while Papa Presbury will be looking for a grandchild himself, won't he Edith? Presbury's ready for business, so Trevor, time to get busy. I'm sure there's enough langur to go around. As Lowenstein's other customer, I can see you're taken care of. Say no more, wink, wink, nudge, nudge.

It's late, and I understand that MacPhail will be driving the happy couples off soon to the station to be off honeymooning in Italy, and you know what they say about Venice: what happens in Venice stays in Venice.

So join with me in a toast to the happy couples, Dr's and Mrs's Presbury and Bennett.



Chris Redmond regaled the crowd with "Never A Breath of Scandal!" while Butch and Debbie Turbert shared a five-minute video Sidney Paget montage. Mark Levitt gave a presentation about Sherlock Holmes and the Titanic and Jeff Dow presented several "commercials" from the story.



Chequers  
Holy fries, taste the prize. Chequers new flavor-loaded boxes. Just two bucks at two locations: Camford and Lamberly. New fish-bites. Fresh cod caught right in the Thames. Superb and delicious. Or chicken-bites. Juicy white-meat chicken, directly from the farms of Sussex to you. Top off the box with cheese and fries. Your choice - fish or chicken - just two bucks. Set your sights on fresh, fresh bites. Nothing beats Chequers. Feast on.

Alice and the Prof  
Announcer: Next week on *Alice and the Prof*.  
Professor: Ahh-ahha-ahhhh.  
Alice: Ohh, Professor, you say the sweetest thigns.  
Professor: Ahh-ahha-ahhhh.  
Alice: Now, now, you naughty thing. (Giggles.)  
Professor: Ahh-ahha-ahhhh!  
Alice: Put the stick down. Put it down.  
Professor: Ahh-ahha-ahhhh?  
Alice: Put it down now.  
Professor: Ahh.  
Alice: Now.  
Professor: Ahh-ahha-ahhhh.  
Alice: There's a good boy.  
Professor: Ahh-ahha-ahhhh.

Announcer: *Alice and the Prof*. The new hit series. Next Thursday on Animal Planet.

VitaMeataAnthropoid

A Dorak: Hi friends. A. Dorak here. Are you tired, run-down, lethargic. Do you poop out at parties? Are you unpopular with the younger crowd? Do you feel old before your time? Do you have feelings for a younger mate, but you just can't do anything about it? Do you ask too many questions like me? Well, this is the answer to all your problems—except the questions part. VitameataAnthropoid. It contains vitamins, meat and serum of anthropoid. Yes, with Vitameataanthropoid, you can spoon your way to health. All you do is take one tablespoon after every meal. Mmmmm... It's so tasty, too! Tastes just like...langur breath. Uhh-uhh-uhh. You take one tablespoon after every meal and in no time you'll be climbing up trellises and speed-dating. VitameataAnthropoid. Talk to your doctor today.

Camford Chamber of Commerce

Hello, I'm Leonard Wright-Chastain, director of the Camford Chamber of Commerce. I'm sure by now you've heard many stories about Camford. I'm here to tell you that they are not true. Categoricaly not true. (Pause) Well, the stories about the ape-man climbing the trellises and annoying the dogs—those are true. But just those. (Pause) Well, there is some truth to the stories about people turning into snails. But not a lot of truth. Well, maybe more than a little. All right, all right, it's all true. But that's it. That's all. (Pause) Well, there are those stories about dogs who dressed up like Vikings and stole silverware. But that was just one incident. (Pause) Well, two—five—27. But that's it. Camford is really a lovely town. It really is. (Pause) Except for the exploding cows. And the hordes of owls wearing lederhosen. And the rubber tree fire that's been burning for the last five years. But—well, its all true. All true. But please visit us anyway. We are better than London. (Pause) No, we're not.

Bennett & McPhail

Rapper 1: When you got a hound  
Rapper 2: Who just won't heel,  
Rapper 1: Or a terrier  
Rapper 2: Who's gotta steal  
Rapper 1: The steak from your plate—  
Rapper 2: That's what you hate  
Rapper 1: 'Cuz it's down his throat  
Rapper 2: Before you ate.  
Rapper 1 and 2: Uh-huh, uh-huh.  
Rapper 1: Well, you don't need to rap,  
Rapper 2: You don't need to rail  
Rapper 1: You better call now  
Rapper 2: Call Bennet and McPhail.  
Rapper 1: Dog  
Rapper 2: Whisperers  
Rapper 1: Dog  
Rapper 2: Whisperers.  
Rapper 1: They'll set up a date  
Rapper 2: And be on time  
Rapper 1: They'll have your dog trained  
Rapper 2: Or it won't cost a dime.



Rapper 1: Pound  
 Rapper 2: Sovereign  
 Rapper 1: Pound  
 Rapper 2: Sovereign  
 Rapper 1: So pick up the phone  
 Rapper 2: If you want a happy tail  
 Rapper 1: Get down with the best,  
 Rapper 2: Get Bennett and McPhail.  
 Rapper 1: Huchahh-huchahh-huchahh.  
 Rapper 2: Extraordinaire.  
 Rapper 1 and 2: Like breathing air.

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Let Sleeping Dogs Lie  
 Roy, the Noble Canine of CREE  
 by David McCallister

The mystery in the Adventure of the Creeping Man would seem to turn on the serum of langur, “the great black-faced monkey of the Himalayan slopes”. But the real protagonist, and the only character which engages in actual violence, is Roy, the wolfhound. Roy is not really in any trouble, for he has the defense of provocation, if not quite the Stand Your Ground doctrine recently being considered in the Sanford, FL Vigilante case. The standard for dogs regarding provocation is a bit different than that of humans. I once defended a Jack Russell terrier from an accusation of dog-bite when he was on his mistress's bed, behind the closed door of the bedroom, inside a closed, if not locked, house, when the intruder intruded and was met with a sharp dental argument to vacate the premises.

Roy was being provoked quite unmercifully by the simian side of the canon's Jeckell/Hyde split personality: Professor Presbury. The “impassive and still dignified” professor was throwing pebbles in the dog's face, prodding him with a stick, and flicking his hands about only a few inches from the gaping mouth”. We know that Roy slipped his Newfoundland-sized collar, and gave the Professor the comeuppance Holmes would have liked to have inflicted on Professor Moriarty. Although in a rage and described as “savage”, Roy returned “instantly to reason” when he heard Bennett's voice and felt his presence. “Down boy.”

What sort of dog was Roy? Holmes himself describes him as a wolfhound when propounding the question early on of why would Roy endeavor to bite the Professor? Holmes says twice, but it's really been three times- July 2nd, 11th, and 20th, apparently part of the “new details” Bennett imparts at Baker Street. The designation “wolfhound” could be several breeds. If it were not for the location of Camford in the British Isles, we might consider the Borzoi or Russian Wolfhound, or the Caucasian or Georgian shepherds. But in Britain the term wolfhound surely refers to the Irish Wolfhound storied in Celtic legend. A wolfhound was the giant dog slain by Cuchulain, who then took his place guarding the high king. Julius Caesar wrote of the giant hounds of the Celts - Canis Scotici, and they were used in the Coliseum. There's the Welsh story of 13th Century Prince Llewellyn, who went hunting without his dog, a present from King John. He came home to find his dog covered in blood and his infant

son missing. Having slain the dog in an instant rage, he then discovered his son, and a dead wolf, in the room. (Shades of SUSS?) Even Oliver Cromwell, no friend of Ireland, reportedly ordered the breed to be kept in order to suppress wolves. Yet the breed declined. No wonder that it was reserved for royalty, as anyone who keeps one can tell you, they will indeed eat you out of house and home.

It was an Englishman, Capt. George Augustus Graham (1833-1909), of Gloucestershire, who revived the breed starting in 1879, by back crossing it with its near kin, Great Danes, Scottish Deerhounds, and some Mastiff. By 1885, there were enough dogs in enough conformity to found an Irish Wolfhound Club with a breed standard. The Irish wolfhound is one of the tallest breeds, if less massive than some.

For breed division purposes, dogs are most often classified by function. Wolfhounds are hunters and sight-hounds. Sighthounds pursue prey, sometimes wolves, boar, or deer; run it down, and kill. They are also used in the sport of coursing -usually hares, sometimes just lures. In this they are distinct from scent hounds, Bloodhounds and Sleuth-hounds mentioned by Watson. These are exemplified by Pompey the Draghound of MISS, and Toby of SIGN. Toby was half-spaniel and half-lurcher, a somewhat smaller, less distinct breed. Sighthounds also include salukis -one of the oldest breeds, greyhounds and whippets. Taxonomically, they have doliocephalic skulls.

If CREE, published in 1923, but occurring some 20 years earlier, may be considered on the cutting edge of medicine, with Lowenstein dealing with invigorating anthropoid and simian sera, then the wolfhound, Roy was also an example in the vanguard of animal husbandry. As a trophy-dog of a wealthy suburban professor, Roy exhibits the best traditions of his breed, ancient and modern. His name, Roy, is the Irish translation of the French Roi (as used in names such as Fitzroy -eg. SILV), or Rex, ie. king. An Icelandic saga says of Irish Wolfhounds: “He will bark at thine enemies, but never at thy friends, and he will see by each man's face whether he be ill or well disposed to thee, and he will lay down his life for thee.” Roy was a good doggie. Not a sleuth-hound, but perhaps another of Holmes' “institutions” for detecting, the family dog.

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David McCallister also presented his terrible trivia for the tenacious, won by Charles Amick (Mycroft Level) and Mark Levitt (Watson Level). Lynn Wells provided attendees with a word search. We include them this issue.

Mycroft Level

1. When did Watson receive permission to publish this adventure? Some twenty years ago.
2. Name four of Holmes's “institutions”? Violin, shag tobacco, old black pipe, index books
3. What monograph does Holmes consider writing? On the uses of dogs in the work of the detective.
4. To what previous adventure does Holmes refer? COPP
5. What is Holmes looking for in the tangled skein of this adventure? A loose end.
6. What is Prof Presbury's area of expertise? Physiology



7. What is Prof. Morphy's area of expertise? Comparative anatomy
8. To whom is Mr. Bennett engaged; Prof Presbury? Edith Presbury. Alice Morphy
9. Where did Prof. Presbury go on his trip abroad? Prague
10. From what district in London did the Professor's special letters come from? London, E.C.
11. What was Bennett looking for when he found the Professor's wooden box? A canula
12. On what dates did Roy attack Prof. Presbury? July 2, 11, 20
13. What malady does Watson suggest as the cause of Prof. Presbury's creeping? Lumbago
14. For what two items does Holmes praise the Chequers? Port, Linen
15. What excuse does Holmes plan to use to visit Prof. Presbury? He had asked for help.
16. Who is A. Dorak, and who visited him? Agent in London for Lowenstein. Mercer.
17. How was Roy able to make his last attack? Slipped the Newfoundland collar
18. What did Coachman MacPhail observe about the relations of Roy and the Professor? The dog would get him sooner or later.
19. What, and in what order, does Holmes suggest the proper investigator observe? Always look at the hands first, Watson. Then cuffs, trouser-knees, and boots.
20. How was Roy aware of the change in Professor Presbury? Smell

#### Watson Level

1. When did this adventure begin? Sunday evening, early Sept., 1903.
2. What did Holmes telegram to Watson say? Come at once if convenient; if inconvenient, come all the same.
3. What types of dogs does Watson think Holmes is thinking about at the beginning of the adventure? Bloodhounds, sleuth-hounds
4. According to Holmes, what do dogs reflect? Family life
5. What breed is Roy? Wolfhound
6. Prof. Presbury was at what university? Camford
7. At the time of this adventure, how old is Prof. Presbury? 61
8. What is his family situation? Widowed, one daughter, Edith
9. To whom is Prof. Presbury engaged? Alice Morphy
10. How are letters for the Professors eyes only distinguished? A cross under the stamp
11. What souvenir did Prof. Presbury bring back from his Continental tour? A wooden box
12. How many times had Roy attacked the Professor prior to Holmes' involvement? Three

13. At what inn in Camford do Holmes and Watson stay? The Chequers
14. What is the "motto of the firm"? We can but try
15. What is the compound that the motto recalls? The Busy Bee and Excelsior
16. Who is Lowenstein? Creator of Lagur serum.
17. Where was Roy banished, and who watched him? The stables; The Coachman, Mac Phail
18. Who or what was the "source of evil" in this adventure? Lowenstein; untimely love affair
19. How many "clients" took the rejuvenation serum in England, and who was their contact? Two. A. Dorak.
20. What does Holmes suggest he and Watson do at the end of the adventure? Take tea at the Chequers.

On the next page is a puzzle handed out. The meeting was adjourned after a reading by Charles Wells of 221B.

#### **CALENDAR SHERLOCKIANA 2012**

**May 18-20** - 26th Annual Sherlock Holmes/ACD Symposium. "Cheetahs and Adders and Hounds, Oh My." Dayton, OH. Contact Cathy Gill at [chipsworth@fuse.net](mailto:chipsworth@fuse.net)

**May 26** - The Sherlock Holmes Society of London vs Eton College in Victorian Cricket.

**June 9** - A Scintillation of Scions V, Watson's Tin Box. Contact Jacquelynn Morris [www.watsonstinbox.org](http://www.watsonstinbox.org)

**June 24** - The Sherlock Holmes Society of London vs The P G Wodehouse Society. Annual Victorian Cricket Match held at West Wycombe ground.

**August 4** - Silver Blaze. Saratoga Springs, NY. The Baker Street Irregulars. Contact Lou & Candace Lewis [www.silverblazeny.homestead.com](http://www.silverblazeny.homestead.com)

**August 31-Sept. 3** - Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen. Los Angeles, CA. Contact Michael Kean [bakerstreetjournal.com/losangeles2012.html](http://bakerstreetjournal.com/losangeles2012.html)

**September 9-16** - The Sherlock Holmes Society of London Swiss Pilgrimage, Interlaken & Meiringen, Switzerland.

**October 4-7** - Bouchercon XLIII, Cleveland, OH. [2013.bouchercon2012.com/](http://2013.bouchercon2012.com/)

**October 12-14** - Uno Studio in Holmes (25th Anniversary) -The No Fog Countries Meeting II Contact Enrico Solito [www.unostudioinholmes.org](http://www.unostudioinholmes.org)

**January 9-13** - Sherlock Holmes Birthday Weekend (extended) NY, NY

**May 3-5** - Malice Domestic XXV Bethesda, MD [www.malicedomestic.org](http://www.malicedomestic.org)

**September 19-22** - Bouchercon XLIV Albany, NY [bcon2013.com](http://bcon2013.com)



## The Creeping Man

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| T | P | R | O | F | E | S | S | O | R | P | R | E | S | B | U | R | Y | O |
| T | R | R | H | P | A | R | G | O | N | O | M | H | W | O | S | I | T | H |
| E | A | W | O | O | D | E | N | B | O | X | Y | O | X | H | A | B | I | T |
| N | G | A | L | F | G | C | Y | R | A | I | D | L | E | E | S | A | N | I |
| N | U | T | M | A | E | K | V | O | O | N | A | M | L | M | E | K | B | D |
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PROFESSOR  
PRESBURY  
TIN BOX  
WATSON  
MONOGRAPH  
ROY  
LETTER  
TREVOR BENNETT  
DIARY  
EDITH  
LUMBAGO  
PROFESSOR  
MORPHY  
MERCER  
ALICE

LANGUR  
JACK  
HABIT  
DORAK  
WOLF HOUND  
LOWENSTEIN  
AGE  
SINISTER  
ECMARK  
WOODEN BOX  
CHAINED  
BAKER STREET  
PHYSIOLOGIST  
PRAGUE  
FORTNIGHT

STABLE  
CRAWLING  
WINDOW  
HYPODERMIC  
LONDON  
DATES  
CAMFORD  
BOHEMIA  
MACPHAIL  
KNUCKLES  
IVY  
COLLAR  
SYRINGE  
HOLMES

**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 - 1989  
Dr. Benton Wood, B. S.I. 1989 -1996  
The Last Court of Appeals 1997 - present

For the Record:

**THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS**

**David McCallister**, *Master of the House*,  
most gatherings, host of the annual Wessex Cup)

(Master of Ceremonies at

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

(Communications,

**Wanda & Jeff Dow**, *The Papers on the Sundial*,  
Website and Bookkeeping)

(Film Festivals and

**Mike Bryan**, *The Unopened Newspaper*,  
The Marshall Wood Fund)

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The Pleasant Places of Florida

U.S.A.

