



Communication #171

New Series

April/May, 1997

Volume 1 Issue 3

AND NOW A WORD FROM THE PAPERS

Special thanks to all those who have written in, complimented, commented, and submitted. While we cannot respond to everyone individually, we will try to address any queries we have in this column. Thanks, too, for just being there and reading along.

Now might be a good time to go over the things we'll accept for publication. We're always looking for stories on how you became interested in Sherlock Holmes. This issue features a poem by Dave Scott, about his "first time." We also want to know about any and all Sherlockian publications. Many members are unaware of what's out there and how to make contact. Send in info on your favorite publications for our "Word of Mouth" section. Looking for a particular Sherlockian item? Wanting to sell? Send in a free ad to the Agony Column.

So far our resident author seems to be Tom Takach. While we enjoy reading Tom's work, we'd like to see something from the rest of you out there. Pull out that poetry you wrote five years ago. Send in that short story you never submitted anywhere. Get out that paper

you wrote concerning some story's debatable detail. Dust off those cartoons. Submit those puzzles.

As you can see, we'll take just about anything. So come on! The game is afoot and we want to see your toes! (Oh, by the way, if you send us an article from another publication, please be sure to let us know where you got it and the date or volume number of the issue.)

Astute reader Donald Redmond wrote to point out some Americanized errors which were made in Tom Takach's story, *An Evening With Friends At The Alpha Inn*, which we now pass along to those of you who like to get the details right:

According to Mr. Redmond, "Morca" should be Morcar; no pub sells rum by the bottle for consumption on the premises ("the bottle of cheap rum which he had ordered"); "peddler" should be pedlar; "president" of a branch bank should be manager; "Like I wuz sayin" is American, not English; "bird" in English slang refers always to the female; a publican does not pour beer from a pitcher; "buddy" is American slang; "7S. 6D." should be 7s. 6d., and in conversation would be "seven-and-six"; a bad debt would not result in "Several years" imprisonment; and one does not "pre-butter" a "loaf" of bread.

Whew! We wouldn't want to get

into a debate with him about all the inconsistencies in the Canon!

As a further clarification, mention of PPOFers means members of the **Pleasant Places Of Florida**, pronounced P - P - O - F - ers.

Hope you enjoy the issue!

The Papers on the Sundial



Hey! This Communication thing is one great read!

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Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium Update

The Adventure of the Purloined Anthology by Dave Scott

It seems a thousand yesterdays, when I was just fourteen,
I was assigned a book report at school, by Mrs. Green.
She vetoed my first choice, saying, "A comic book? No Way!"
And turned down the idea of that "Bible" by La Vey.

Don Pendleton's Mack Bolan was proposed, and swept aside.
Perhaps a bodice-ripper? No, that too would be denied.
Each new idea was blasted, as too simple or too crude.
I had to think of something ere report cards were reviewed.

Instinctively, the ways of logic exercised my mind,
By process of elimination, authors would I find
Whose works would be acceptable for this damned book report.
I started with a mighty list, and tried to make it short.

My first step was to wash out all the authors still alive.
Death is the test of whose works will or will not long survive.
The author must be English, my "culture" to express.
I learned from watching all those British snobs on PBS.

Now came the difficulty, once my list was down to size,
Of finding one whose works would interest rather than anaesthetize.
Chuck Dickens I passed over as too Gothic and abstruse.
Shakespeare was far too obvious, and worn from over-use.

But after many sleepless nights of strain and mental toil,
I found the school's anthology of Arthur Conan Doyle.
He's dead, and he is British; Mrs. Green cannot protest,
And this "Hound of the Baskervilles" far outstrips all the rest.

My book report brought home an "A," I brought home one thing more,
That Doyle book, I hid it in my room, behind the door.
For Sherlock Holmes had captured me, and now I could not wait
To read the other tales, my appetite to sate.

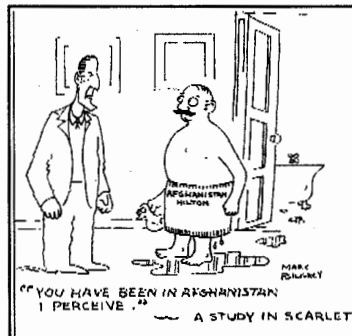
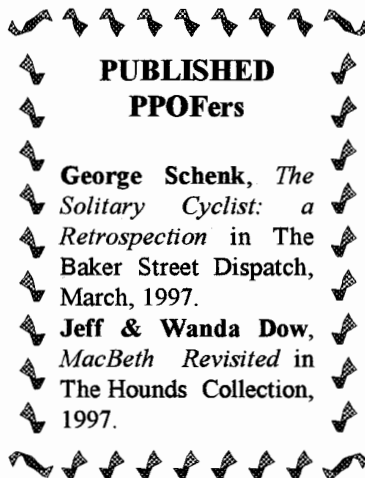
Now twenty-seven years have passed, and still upon my shelf
Resides the Doyle Anthology; I kept it for myself.
I've other tomes of Sherlock Holmes. I should send that one back,
But something makes me hesitate and keep it on the rack.

That book once changed my life, it made me look up and admire
A hero who used brains, not brawn, a consciousness much higher
Than Superman or Sergeant Rook or others of their ilk.
I took to Holmes' philosophy like babies take to milk.

I'll keep that old anthology as long as I may please.
I never could afford the astronomic past due fees!

Once More Into The Oops

Last issue we reported on the
ASH dinner in New York and
mistakenly stated that ASH
stood for "The Auxiliary of
Sherlock Holmes." The correct
name is "Adventuresses of
Sherlock Holmes." We stand
corrected and await twenty
lashes of a hound's wet tongue.



The Young Schoolmaster by Tom Takach

The Yorkshire school had been very lucky to snap him up. The old Wackford Squeers Academy for young boys, Dotheboys Hall, had fallen upon hard times since his predecessor had left in disgrace. Many in the surrounding countryside entertained great expectations that this bright young man could restore the academy to its halcyon days of yore in this great year of 1859. Brunton, a young man just out of college, was already a highly-regarded historian who would surely be an excellent molder of young boys' minds.

As he gazed sternly upon the members of his class on this beautiful April morning, Brunton took the opportunity to offer correction to one of his less promising students. "You will never amount to much if you don't learn to apply yourself he said, releasing the handful of blazing-red hair which he had been twisting with emphasis. The portly youngster dropped the chocolate which he had been caught in the act of wolfing down. "How would you like it, Mr. Jabez Wilson, if I informed your father about this latest incident in a singularly disappointing academic career? If you don't start paying more attention to your studies and less to your gluttonous appetite you will end up doing manual labor somewhere, dear God, maybe even on board a ship. I also wish to see an end to the foul practice you've been engaged in which your classmate Melas has been telling me about. I will not stand for usury in this school. Give Melas back his shoes this instant. Perhaps the

gifted Melas will then tutor you in Greek, a language which seems to be presenting you with as much difficulty as English."

As young Percy Trevelyan asked Jabez if he was okay, noting his twitch and hoping to find a nervous disorder which he could study, a boy in the back of the class laughed uncontrollably. Brunton came up behind the boy and boxed his ears, offering the thin-as-a-rail lad some words of wisdom at the same time. "Lysander Stark, you would do well to focus on your own shortcomings and not those of your peers. I have never met such a secretive, distrustful young man. On top of that, you are far too fond of material things and would do well to concentrate more on the lessons of philanthropy. Put away that half-crown post haste or it will be confiscated just as the other one was last week."

Turning his attention to the pale boy next to Lysander, Brunton offered the following words of encouragement. "My fine lad, you are doing your best. Your essay on the many achievements while in office of the American President William Henry Harrison showed much original thought and genuine feeling. However it is a mystery to me, Mr. Drood, how you can hope to conform to this school's rigorous academic standards unless you take your brimstone-and-treacle each morning with your classmates. Please remain after classes this afternoon and we will fix you up in no time."

The classroom was silent again, all eyes respectfully focused on the schoolmaster. Brunton walked up to the blackboard in front of the classroom with a commanding air. Picking up a textbook from his desk and a piece of chalk, he began writing some names on the blackboard. Upon finishing, he faced the class once more, the passionate fire of a man who warms to his subject burning in his eyes. "Today we will be continuing our discussion of the reign of the Stuart kings of the seventeenth century. We will pick up where we left off last time with Charles I. An interesting sovereign, I hope one day to learn more about him."

the end(?)

The preceding tale takes place within the Baring-Gould chronology.

Letter in TV GUIDE

(Evidently George Plimpton wrote a disparaging article about the accuracy in the *Wishbone* tv series running on PBS)

Thank you for the articles on *Wishbone*. It may seem "ludicrous" to George Plimpton, but to my kids it's a peek at some wonderful literature. It's even encouraged my son to do reports on some great topics, including **Sherlock Holmes** and the Trojan War.

Lori Yarborough
Ithaca NY

???????????????

Don't forget to share the story of YOUR first encounter with the Master.

Endangered Species

Last month we printed the new Endangered Species Postage Stamps which have a lot of Canonical references. The reader who sent in the most references would win a prize. Before revealing our winner, we give you the following complete list.

FERRET - 5

Boscombe Valley Mystery - A lean ferret-like man, furtive and sly-looking, was waiting for us upon the platform.

Cardboard Box - Holmes had sent on a wire, so that Lestrade, as wiry, as dapper, and as ferret-like as ever, was waiting for us at the station.

Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax - She is a tall, pale woman, with ferret eyes.

Norwood Builder - He was a strange little ferret-like man, with white eyelashes, and when I looked up at him I found his keen gray eyes fixed upon me with an amused expression.

Study in Scarlet - Lestrade, lean and ferret-like as ever, was standing by the doorway, and greeted my companion and myself.

PARROT - 0 SEAL - 9

Black Peter - He was a most daring and successful seal and whale fisher.

Greek Interpreter - "I am glad to meet you, sir," said he, putting out a broad, fat hand like the flipper of a seal.

Noble Bachelor - He broke the seal and glanced over the contents.

Norwood Builder - It was the simplest thing in the world for him to take a wax impression from the seal, to moisten it in as much blood as he could get from a pin-prick, and to put the mark upon the wall during the night, either with his own hand or with that of his housekeeper. If you examine among those documents which he took with him into his retreat, I will lay you a wager that you find the seal with the thumb-mark upon it.

Scandal in Bohemia - "My private note-paper." "Stolen." "My own seal." "Imitated."

Second Stain - There is a seal of red wax stamped with a crouching lion.

Study in Scarlet - He had to seal his mouth on the

subject, however, for to express an unorthodox opinion was a dangerous matter in those days in the Land of the Saints.

Wisteria Lodge - The oval seal is undoubtedly a plain sleeve-link - what else is of such a shape?

CROCODILE - 2

Dancing Men - It was a lady's hand-bag which stood upon the study table - a trim little handbag of crocodile-skin and silver.

Sign of Four - A crocodile took me just as I was halfway across and nipped off my right leg as clean as a surgeon could have done it, just above the knee.

OCELOT - 0 BUTTERFLY - 2

Hound of the Baskervilles - A tin box for botanical specimens hung over his shoulder and he carried a green butterfly net in one of his hands.

Three Gables - He was not a society butterfly but a strong, proud man who gave and expected all.

TOAD - 0 PELICAN - 0 CONDOR - 0 TROUT - 3

Noble Bachelor - Circumstantial evidence is occasionally very convincing, as when you find a trout in the milk, to quote Thoreau's example.

Shoscombe Old Place - Well, sir, I've heard that there are trout in the mill-stream and pike in the Hall Lake.

-My companion seemed to have no further plans for the day, and we did actually use our fishing tackle in the mill-stream, with the result that we had a dish of trout for our supper.

SNAKE - 9

Crooked Man - Snake-catcher is what I call them, and Teddy is amazing quick on cobras.

Five Orange Pips - I have felt like one of those poor rabbits when the snake is writhing towards it.

Scandal in Bohemia - He slipped an emerald snake ring from his finger and held it out upon the palm of his

Endangered (cont. from

hand.

Sign of Four - I took him in hand, though he was as venomous as a young snake, and after a couple of months I got him all right and able to walk.

Speckled Band - "It is a swamp adder!" cried Holmes; "the deadliest snake in India."

-The idea of a snake instantly occurred to me, and when I coupled it with my knowledge that the doctor was furnished with a supply of creatures from India, I felt that I was probably on the right track.

-Of course he must recall the snake before the morning light revealed it to the victim.

Valley of Fear - That ring with the rough nugget on it was above it, and the twisted snake ring on the third finger.

- There's the nugget and there's the snake, but the wedding ring is gone.

CARIBOU - 1

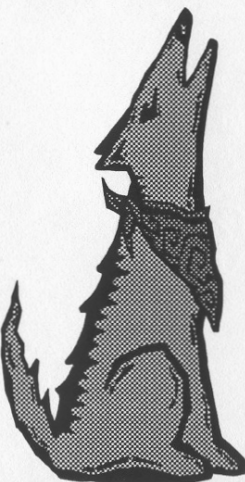
Valley of Fear - It was the worst enemy I had among them all - one who has been after me like a hungry wolf after a caribou all these years.

PANTHER - 0 PLOVER - 1

Priory School - Except these, the plover and the curlew are the only inhabitants until you come to the Chesterfield high road.

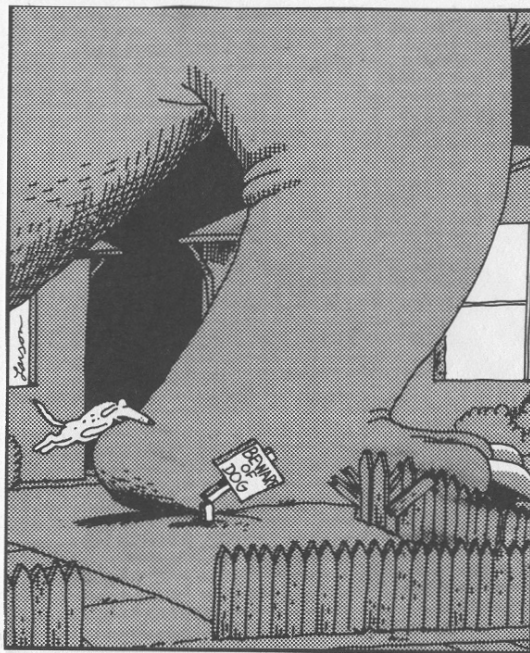
MANATEE - 0

The winner is the PPOF since ABSOLUTELY NO ONE sent in a try. You may now kick your own backside because if you had sent in even one measly Canonical reference, you would have won. The prize will be retained for a future contest.



THE FAR SIDE

by Gary Larson



Toby vs. Godzilla

CRYPTOGRAM PLUS

After decoding the following cryptogram, submit your answer plus the Adventure in which the phrase exists. **WARNING!** This may be a trick! (Hint: It is not a complete quote.)(Hint again: H = N)

ABZ EHLEIZHA TO ABZ ITR

Deadline for decoding is May 25, 1997. Winner will receive the prize not won on the last contest. (You'll just have to wait until someone wins something to find out what it is - so there!)

Sunshine State Sherlockain Scion Symposium I Update

Proposed schedule to be held at the Dolphin Beach Resort, St. Pete Beach, Florida:

Friday Night

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Early registration in the lobby.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Join us in the Cypress Room for a Cash Bar Get-Together with Videos, a Sherlockian sing-along and the Name Game.

Saturday

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Free Continental Breakfast in Hospitality Room

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Registration in the Lobby

8:00 a.m. - noon

Dealers/Display Room open at the entrance of the Surf Room.

9:00 a.m. - noon

Presentations in the Surf Room by Clyde Ennis, Robert Zuczek and Art Walker

noon - 2:00 p.m.

Lunch on your own or with us at *Three Lions Pub* (across the street).

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Having satiated your physical appetite, return to partake in Question Time, see the rock musical *Rodger Baskerville's Lonely Hound From Hell* performed by The Dow Family Players, try your luck in the Silver Blaze Derby Sweepstakes, and hear presentations by Lenore Neuman and Susan Rose.

7:00 p.m. until ...

A Victorian/Canonical/Suit & Tie Banquet in the Royal Dolphin Room with open Cash Bar. Join us for Tenderloin Beef Brochette with Madeira Sauce or Chicken Marsala. Partake of the PPoF rituals and toasts. Have a Victorian photo taken. Be there for the 25th Anniversary commemoration of the oldest Florida Sherlockian Scion. Relax and digest as you enjoy a radio play, an encore presentation of *Holmes Sans Doyle* by The Dow Family Players, hear Carina sing, and other Holmesian entertainments.

Sunday

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Free Continental Breakfast in the Hospitality Room.

9:00 a.m. - noon

Return to the Surf Room for final dissertations by David McCallister, Mike Carroll and Dave Scott, and presentation of awards, then lunch at poolside (dutch treat), and a late check-out.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT! Reservations for the Banquet are CLOSED. The Symposium will continue to be open at the original price of \$25.00 (payable to Carl Heifetz) but there is a limited number of Symposium packets available.



Agony Column



The Oxford Winter Catalog is now listing the Nine Volume set of the Oxford Sherlock Holmes for \$39.95! This usually goes for \$99.95! You can order by phone and charge card. 1-800-230-3242. Tell them Book number 725, ISBN number 2123297. Freight charges \$5.00.

WANTED: Agent to clear up singular tragedy. Apply Atkinson Brothers, Trincomalee.

LOST: "Penang lawyer," fine, thick wood with broad, engraved silver band under bulbous head. Notify Mr. James Mortimer, M.R.C.S., Grimpen, Dartmoor, Devon.

WANTED: Ostler helpers. Duties include rubbing down horses. Pay set at twopence, a glass of half-and-half and two fills of shag tobacco. Apply at mews in lane by garden wall behind Briony Lodge

MISSING: Rakish young worker with a goatee beard. Smokes a clay pipe. Walks with swagger. Tall. Thin. Grey eyes. Owner of rising plumbing business. Goes by the name of Escott. Please notify the housemaid at Milverton House, Hampstead of any information pertaining to said gentleman. All is forgiven.

WANTED: ACTORS to partake in "practical joke." Must supply own costumes: 2 loafers, 2 guardsmen, 1 scissors grinder, several better-dressed people. Apply Sherlock Holmes, 221B Baker Street, London.

FEELING RHEUMATIC AND OLD? Take the alternative medicine. Get a fresh starting point. Cleanse your system. Try our Turkish Baths. Recommended by Dr. John H. Watson. (As an added bonus, we re-fasten your boots with an elaborate double bow.)

Word of Mouth

Just to let you know about other publications out there - and there are THOUSANDS of them! - we will try to include here other club newsletter information. Let us know who *you* subscribe to and like. Be sure to send us addresses and subscription costs, as well as whether or not you know if they will send out a free publication "on spec." And for those out there who are wondering if someone will, it doesn't hurt to ask.

Camden House Journal, Monthly Newsletter from "The Occupants of the Empty House,"

\$12.00 annually

The Holmes & Watson Report, Brad Keefauver,

, six

issues per year \$14.00 North America, \$20.00 other countries, back issues \$3.00

Parallelogram, Joseph J. Eckrich, BSI,

, five issues per volume,

\$7.00 US, \$8.00 Canada, \$9.00 overseas. From The Parallel Case of St. Louis

The Pipe Smoker's Ephemeris, Tom Dunn,

(Not

a Sherlockian publication per se, but contains references & items Holmesian)

Altamonte's Agents, Thomas Dandrew,

The Devon County Chronicle, Robert Hahn,

The Confederate Chronicles, Bill & Mary Leonard,

S.H.I.E.N., Gerry O'Hara,

Canada (e-mail:

BIG SALE OF SHERLOCKIAN ITEMS ! GREAT VALUES !

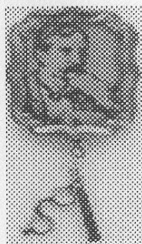
The *Pleasant Places of Florida* offers for sale to the Sherlockian connoisseur, many valuable and desirable items for sale and immediate shipment, as a result of its highly successful weekend (2-4 May) *Sunshine State Sherlockian Symposium I*. Many of these goods are in very limited supply, so order right away to avoid serious disappointment. All items listed include shipping charges in the United States of America. Add \$1.00 per item for extra national distribution. Please make checks or money orders (cash also accepted), in US dollars to: Carl L. Heifetz.

Send all orders to: Carl L. Heifetz,

Please include name, address, telephone number, Email address (if available)

Description		No.	Price
Souvenirs of the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium:			
Souvenir T-shirts, orange on white, bearing symposium logos on front and back, size extra large		5	\$10.00
Souvenir miniature flashlights with key ring, orange with logo		many	\$2.00
Sherlock Holmes Museum, London England			
Deerstalker Hat, wool, beige with purple and green hounds tooth, size extra large		1	\$27.00
Beautiful color illustrated catalog		14	\$5.00
Sidney Paget Color Prints: 8¼ X 11¼" See <i>Original Illustrated Sherlock Holmes</i> for pictures	-The driver pointed with his whip - 'Baskerville Hall', said he	1	\$7.50
	-Holmes gazed at it, and then passed on	each	
	-There stood a patriarch among oaks		
	-We strolled about together		
	-His eyes bent upon the glow of the fire		
	-Holmes was working hard over a chemical investigation		
	-Professor Moriarty stood before me		
	-He laid his hand upon the glossy neck.	3	
	-Come, Watson, come!' he cried. 'The game is afoot.	2	
	-Holmes gave me a list of events	each	
Douglas West colour prints 12¼ X 17½"	-A Reverie (several narratives)	4	
	-There's our man Watson! Come along.	4	
	-The beginning of another adventure	2	\$7.50
	-The welcoming inn	1	
	-The arrival	3	
-SH Museum & Mrs Hudson's dining hall		11	
<i>Calendrical Canon with Holidays Holmesian</i> (1996) - Last available		3	\$5.00

Victorian-Style Jewelry - (Pay Wanda Dow. Includes Shipping)



Watson, pince nez



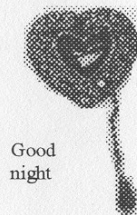
Bohemia



H & W, horse



Mycroft



Good
night

**Barrett of
same quality
as pictured
above.**

Heart-shaped Cloth Pins

Three Roses, cloth	8.00
Bluish gemstone w/metal heart	10.00
Red gemstone w/polished stone heart	10.00
Red gemstone w/key attached to chain	12.00

Hair Barretts, Cloth

Fall colors w/purple gemstone & beaded chains	12.00
Pink rose w/opal-like gem & gold Cupid	12.00
Pink & white roses w/silver trumpet angel	12.00
4 white roses & cyclopedies	12.00
Blue colors w/lavender beaded stripes & gemstone	10.00
2 pink, 2 white roses w/gold scissors	12.00
White faux carved ivory w/gold chain	12.00
2 pink, 1 white rose w/pink gemstone	12.00
2 pink, 1 white rose, angel wings, 221B sewn in gold cording	12.00
1 white rose, angel riding in heart, 221B sewn in gold cording	12.00
Pink gemstone w/golden pince nez	12.00
Blue gemstone & star w/V.R. "shot" in gemstones	12.00
1 white, 1 pink rose, cyclopedies & V.R. in red gemstones	12.00

Pewter & glass pins

Gold, angel wing holding 2 buds, 1 lg & 2 sm pink glass beads	27.00
Silver, angel wing holding 2 buds, 1 lg & 2 sm red glass beads	27.00
Gold sunflowers dripping 1 sunflwr, 2 leaves & 2 glass dewdrops	22.00

Pewter & crystal "safety pin" with bee, flowers & heart

26.00

**Pewter & glass "Y" necklace w/pink glass & roses
matching earrings (pierced)**

32.00

14.00

**Pewter & antique German glass "Y" necklace, w/angel, teal
matching earrings (pierced)**

37.00

14.00

Pewter, glass pierced earrings

Sunflower w/glass dew drops	14.00
Angel riding heart w/pink & white glass (1 set ea. silver, gold)	12.00 ea.
Angel riding dolphin w/teal & pink glass	12.00
Heart w/red, white, blue gemstones & red glass bead	17.00
Silver flower w/flowered glass beads (white, pink, green)	17.00
Folded angel wings w/blue glass with pink flowers, silver	17.00
Folded angel wings w/pink glass with pink flowers, gold	17.00

Hat pins

Silver cupid w/teal flat glass bead	17.00
Red glass heart w/lg clear & red flat glass bead	17.00
Very lg clear w/black stripe balloon bead, pewter horse (2)	19.00 ea.
Cupid w/pink flat glass bead with pink flower (1 silver, 1 gold)	17.00 ea.
Large pink flat glass w/silver rose	19.00 ea.
Large smoke & silver flat glass w/silver daisy	17.00
Pink glass bead w/pink rose, pewter horse, pink & white "pole" glass	19.00
Pewter bee w/clear, white & red glass bead	17.00
Pewter bee w/clear, gold & black twisted glass	17.00

Portrait Barrett, Paget "BLUE", Holmes & Watson, Goose, Carbuncle

20.00

Portrait Pins (see left)- "Good night Mr. Holmes"

20.00

Dr. Watson, pince nez	14.00
King of Bohemia	17.00
Mycroft	17.00
Holmes & Watson, horse	20.00

The Pleasant Places of Florida

*Founded: 1972
by Leslie Marshall (dec.)*

Recorder Emeritus: Dr. Benton Wood

For the record:

THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS

David McCallister, Master of the House,

Jeff & Wanda Dow, The Papers on the Sundial,

Carl L. Heifetz, Representative both with the Servants and with the Tradespeople,

IF YOU SEE A RED CHECK HERE: . THIS IS YOUR LAST COMMUNICATION! USE
THE RENEWAL FORM INSIDE TO CONTINUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

Pleasant Places of Florida
The Papers On The Sundial

