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Sunshine
State
Sherlockian
Scion
Symposium I

May 2-4, 1997
Dolphin Beach Resort
St. Pete Beach
Florida

First Floridian

Symposium A Success

On the weekend of May 2-4, 1997, the Pleasant Places of Florida hosted the first Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium at the Dolphin Beach Resort, St. Pete Beach. The event was planned by the incoming tetrarchs of the PPOF: Carl Heifetz, Wanda and Jeff Dow, and David McCallister; with help from Darrel Gresham, Charles Amick and many others. The fifty plus attendees came from four Florida Scions joined with visitors from Boston, New York, Virginia, Indiana and Illinois. A variety of receptions, lectures, games, bazaars and other functions spread over the

three days.

The lecture program was intended as a showcase for Floridians, and they provided a range of presentations from Higher Criticism to parody. Topics included the origin of the calabash icon, ID of the boxer in 3GAB, police methods, Victoria and Osborne, collecting comics, and Holmes as an ancestor of Mr. Spock. Poetry and a rock opera of HOUN were creative pieces. The whole group participated in Parliamentary Question Time on Canonical political issues; and still managed to take time out for lunch at the 3 Lions Pub, and watch the Kentucky Derby.

Saturday night, the Pleasant Places also hosted their 25th Anniversary featuring the traditional toasts, a look at the history of the scion, and a pastiche radio play. A highlight was the presentation by Tom Stix of the BSI's Two Shilling Award to Dr. Benton Wood, who received honors on his retiring after 20 years as "Recorder" and leader of the scion.

David McCallister
Master of the House

A Word From The Papers About SSSSSS!

No, this is not a special edition dedicated to some new Nazi faction. We're doing a final wrap-up on the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium I. Our event came off very smoothly, with only a few bumps which were easily ironed out during the course of events. ("Oh no! My slide projector bulb burned out!"- We had a replacement) ("We TOLD you you needed to have place cards." "We DO have place cards. They just haven't all been set out, yet.")

As you can see by (cont. page 7)

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**Dr. Benton Wood Receives
Two Shilling Award!**
(see page 4 - Report)

Letters to The Pleasant Places of Florida

Thanks to Jeff & Wanda, David & Carl for an incredible experience that will always be treasured by those lucky enough to be at the symposium. Many Thanks!

Tom Takach

This was my first Sherlockian Symposium. As relatively new to the wonderful world of Sherlock Holmes, I had been a little nervous about attending, but WOW! It was a terrific experience and I had a great time. Even my "tag-along" spouse has been inspired (or convinced it's time) to read the stories.

My thanks to the Pleasant Places of Florida for presenting a great event-filled program, and congratulations on your Scion's 25th anniversary.

Sharon Conway

I'm just back from a business trip immediately following the Symposium, but wanted to add my thanks to those of Sharon Conway and others for the great job done by Carl Heifetz and the rest of PPOF for putting on a great event!!

Bill Serow

(written on a notecard featuring a dog's picture) This is the closest my collection of odd cards comes to a Hound - and I want so to let my note

reflect what I consider the high point of Symposium I to be. Your opera (Roger Baskerville's Lonely Hound From Hell) was one of the most original and entertaining Sherlockian endeavors I have ever seen. No, scratch "one" - it was THE best ever. I shall look for your nomination when the OBIES are announced. The whole weekend was most enjoyable and I appreciated all your efforts toward that end.

Please sign me up for Symposium II immediately.

Virginia Powell

Wow! Was that a great weekend or what?! The whole thing was flawless and thoroughly enjoyable.

Judy Buddle

A symposium should be an educational experience, and the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium was certainly no exception. Here's a sample of the vast wealth of knowledge that I acquired there:

The Hound of the Baskervilles makes an excellent musical, and the Speckled Band a fair rap number.

Don't bet on a horse owned by John Clay in the Kentucky Derby.

When in Parliament, it's more fun to be the Opposition.

You can come up with a lot of things for a Canonical

scavenger hunt just sitting around a cocktail lounge, but you might want to have ziploc storage bags on hand.

When they say "The Pleasant Places of Florida," they really mean "The Pleasant, But Somewhat Humid Places of Florida, Although You Don't Want To Mention This To The Natives As They Will Scoff At You."

Don't lose your room key. Some hotels only have the one.

After rising to toast the Queen, make sure your tie doesn't fall into your salad.

(To possibly be continued... the symposium was one great time!)

Addendum

The Symposium was really fine ... I keep remembering good parts of it that I had forgotten, just because there were so darn many good parts. The Pleasant Places really know how to have a good time, and there was a certain spirit of fun throughout the symposium that is missing at many of the University-type workshops.

Brad Keefauver

I had such a super time there in St. Pete. Everything was so nicely organized and presented. The banquet meal was tasty, the company was tops and the entertainment continued at the maxi-level for keeping us in smiles.

Put my name down for your next event as I want more of that "stuff."

We (The Tropical

Deerstalkers) meet four times a year, usually January (our birthday celebration), April, July and October — the second or third Sunday. It would be so wonderful if any of your members found themselves in our county and would attend our dinner meetings — and maybe, if he/she wished, to be part of the evening's program.

Lee Neuman



SPECIAL THANKS

...goes to the Committee that worked so diligently on the preparations of the Symposium, interviewing and setting up the hotel & banquet facilities, contacting Sherlockians to attend and do presentations, contacting dealers to donate items for prizes, auction and for sale, designing and setting up booklets, menus, sales slips, certificates and all the other paper details, brain-storming and setting up the programs and everything that went into the event. The Pleasant Places of Florida should be proud to have as its members, David McCallister, Carl Heifetz, Darrel Gresham, Jeffery Dow and Wanda Dow.

Sunshine State Sherlockian Symposium I Report by David McCallister

The presentations made at the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium I, May 2, 3, & 4, 1997 at St. Pete Beach, FL were warmly



received and wide ranging. There were offerings from members of three different Florida scions, on topics ranging from history, collecting, and Higher Criticism, to parody and speculative theory, with entertainment and audience participation as well.

The papers and presentations began on Saturday. David McCallister of the Pleasant Places of Florida, provided introductions and announcements, punctuated by news of the predicaments of the no bail/no belle/no bile etc. Bachelor, Lord St. Simon. Over three dozen Sherlockians attended the scholarship portion of the Symposium.



Robert Zuczek of the Salon Pistols of Gainesville and the Pleasant Places of Florida, led off with, "Police Methods in the Victorian Period". His goal was to show that the Victorian police, if not perhaps in Holmes's league, were a well regulated force for order in both the

uniformed and detective branches.



Judy Buddle, of the Pleasant Places of Florida, then made her first appearance with, "Selections from the Diary of Agatha of Appledore Towers", fraught with emotional highs and lows.



Dr. Robert Ennis, of the Tropical Deerstalkers of Miami and the PPOF, then presented his painstaking search for the answer to "The Great Calabash Question," and particularly the first use of this icon. His lecture was accompanied by slides of examples of Canonical pipes and a masterful trip back through stage and screen depictions of the calabash from recent depictions of the Canon by Granada, all sorts of pastiches, back to the Rathbone series and eventually the comic parodies of the Thirties.

Mike Carroll, PPoF, recited his poetry "Sauce for the Goose", a Night-Before-Christmas retelling of BLUE.



David McCallister, of the PPoF, presented the 19th Century history of pugilism familiar to Doyle, under the title, "Boxing the Compass". He proposed candidates for Dixie Stevens of 3 GABLES, drawn from 19th Century photographs of champions, offering Frank Craig as a likely original. The Symposium adjourned for lunch at the Three Lions Pub adjacent to the Dolphin resort, where chances on the

Kentucky Derby were hawked to benefit the BSI's John Watson fund.

In the afternoon, Art Walker, PPoF, displayed his extensive collection of comics as one of the "New Horizons in collecting Sherlockiana". He also unveiled his meticulous model of 221B under construction. In a departure from the lecture format, the group then participated in "Question Time" as the audience was divided into the Government and Opposition in the House of Commons, and was asked to debate pressing items derived from the Canon. Taxation, Royal Scandals, social welfare, and military preparedness were the issues raised from NAVA, SECO, BERY, and BRUC. This chance to participate was seized upon by the crowd to put some pointed matters to each other in a lively but good humored debate.



The final presentation on Saturday was a mock-rock opera by Jeff and Wanda, the Dow Family



Players of the PPoF. "Roger Baskerville's Lonely Hound from Hell" was sung to the tunes of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" by the Beatles with the Dows in all roles, distinguished by headgear. With music ringing in their ears, the participants left for the beach. Sherlockians soon dominated the lounge to watch Silver Charm capture the Kentucky cont. page 4

(cont. from page 3) Derby victory.

The 25th Anniversary Banquet of the Pleasant Places of Florida was held at the Dolphin Beach Resort, St. Petersburg Beach, FL, May 2, 1997.

The cocktail hour preceding the event was highlighted by Jeff Dow's taking portrait photographs of the over fifty assembled diners in their Victorian and Canonical finery. This was the first costume event ever held by the PPoF, and showed the sartorial ingenuity of the members and guests.

The Master of Ceremonies was David McCallister, who first introduced the Rev. Dr. Benton Wood and Tom Stix, to began the traditional program by reciting the Sherlock Holmes Prayer and the Musgrave Ritual. Ben and Tom are the much beloved retired Recorder of the PPoF, and Wiggins of the BSI, respectively. The toasts that followed were given by Joan Wood: the Queen; Judy Buddle: the Master; Mike Carroll; the Founder of the PPoF, Leslie Marshall; and Caroline Everett: The Woman. While the courses were served, the Dow Family Players, Wanda and Jeff, delighted the diners with versions of SPEC in the styles of popular authors, and in rap.

One highlight of the program was the 25th Anniversary of the PPoF Commemorations. Benton Wood told us of the original Five Orange Pips, and Leslie Marshall's development of the idiosyncratic name for the scion. The highlights of events included the 1980 J.B. Shaw Weekend held in St. Pete Beach, and Tom and Dorothy Stix's attendance at the inaugural Florida Wessex Cup in 1991. Ben recalled the many publications and round robin pastiches produced by the scion members; and its newsletter The Communication having at one point the second largest circulation in all Sherlockiana.



Then came the surprise of the evening: Ben Wood himself was honored for his long tenure as Recorder of the PPoF and for his development of the scion and efforts in keeping green the memory of the Master in Florida. Carl Heifetz presented Ben with a laudatory letter from Sherlock Holmes himself sent via the Sherlock Holmes Museum of London. This accompanied a Commonplace Book with bound letters

of reminiscences by PPoFers and many others in appreciation of Ben's Sherlockian work. Mike Carroll then led the chorus of diners in a parody of Gilbert and Sullivan's "When I was a Lad" directed at Ben's achievements. This was capped by a moving personal tribute to Benton Wood by Tom Stix. He then presented Ben, on behalf of Mike Whelan and the BSI, the Baker Street Irregulars' highest honor for a lifetime of Sherlockian achievement and evangelism: the Two Shilling award.



The final entertainment of the evening was the presentation of the radio-play, "The Golf Stroker's Quirk" by Joel Senter. The troupe of PPoFers was led



T. Takach, C. Amick, J. Buddle, M. Carroll, M. Bryan
M. Amick & J. Sweeney

by Charles Amick as the bibulous announcer Charles Cartell, and starred Tom Takach as Holmes, Mike Carroll as Watson, Judy Buddle as Mrs. Hudson, Marilyn Amick, and Jeff Sweeney in various roles, with Mike Bryan on the sound effects.

The results of the silent auction for Sherlockiana, and the winners of the Kentucky Derby draw were given. Dorothy Stix then closed the evening with a recitation of Starrett's "221B".



The Sunday program began with Ms. Lee Neuman of the Tropical Deerstalkers treating the audience to a slide show tour of Victoria's reign and especially Osborne house: "A Summer Visit with the Queen". Judy Buddle recited two poems anent the Speckled Band and its eponymous "Remarkable Snake" In the final presentation of the Symposium, David Scott, PPoF and lately (Cont. page 7)



Program Speakers at SSSS I

ROBERT ZUCZEK

Police Methods in the Victorian Period

Bob is a Founder and Member of the Salon Pistols of Gainesville and writes for their newsletter, *The Jezail Bullet*. He is a member of the Pleasant Places Florida and several other scions. He is an avid collector.

ART WALKER

New Horizons in Collecting Sherlockiana

Art is a member of the Pleasant Places of Florida. He is a bibliophile particularly interested in Florida history and Boys Adventure. Art has presented a general course on Sherlockian interests in the Adult Learning program of the Univ. of South Florida.

DR. ROBERT ENNIS

The Great Calabash Question

Dr. Ennis is a member of the Tropical Deerstalkers. He has been a Sherlockian since childhood, and has had articles published in the BSJ. An admirer of John Bennet Shaw, Dr. Ennis attended the Santa Fe conference held in his honor.

DAVID SCOTT

Sherlock Holmes: Visitor to a Small Planet

Although from the Atlantic coast, David is a member of the Pleasant Places of Florida. He has been a member and President of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star in Austin Texas. He has been interested in Sherlock Holmes since giving a book report on HOUN in the 8th grade. David has written pastiches as well as Higher Criticism.

LEE NEUMAN

A Summer Visit to Osborne House

Ms. Neuman is a member of the Tropical Deerstalkers. A long time resident of Miami, she read the Canon in the picturesque Lemon City Library housed in a converted railway station. She has visited England with the Sherlock Holmes Society of London on their 1995 outing to Southsea.

DAVID McCALLISTER

Boxing the Compass

David began his Sherlockian career in Atlanta, GA with the Confederates of Wisteria Lodge. He is now a member of the Pleasant Places of Florida and is the Founder of the Baker Street Bar Association. He has published articles in the BSJ, BSM, BSD Wheelwritings, Quarterly Statement, and Serpentine Muse.

MIKE CARROLL

Sauce for the Goose

Mike is a member of the Pleasant Places of Florida and frequently called on for toasts and presentations. A retired professor of music, he has collaborated on a Sherlockian songbook.

JUDY BUDDLE

Several Pages From Agatha's Diary, That Snake Story & The Remarkable Snake

Although introduced to Holmes back in 1960, the great detective and Judy didn't become an item until about 1986. That was also about the time she started showing up at meetings of The Pleasant Places of Florida. Judy has worked with the Florida Department of Labor (Jobs & Benefits Office, Sarasota) for nearly twenty-five years, making her obvious nom de Sherlock, "Miss Stoper." She has also taught high school English and theatre arts. She is currently Chapter President of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and with her family enjoys taking part in Civil War Re-enactments.

THE DOW FAMILY PLAYERS

Roger Baskerville's Lonely Hound From Hell, Holmes Sans Doyle

Wanda was introduced to Sherlock Holmes through her horror film interests back in 1971. A friend insisted that she read HOUND and she was hooked. After consuming the Canon in two weeks, she noticed a newspaper articles about a local man who happened to be the chaplain of the BSI, Leslie Marshall. The rest, they say, is history. Jeff's first introduction to Holmes was as a teenager when he read several condensed versions of the adventures. After he met Wanda Butts--a veritable pip of a woman--he began attending meetings of The PPoF, and grew more interested in Watson's roommate. Jeff & Wanda were married by Dr. Ben Wood, and are currently co-editors of the PPoF Communication and 1/2 of the Last Court of Appeals.

Devotion to Holmes is elementary to his fans

■ A Palm Harbor couple is among the detective's aficionados paying homage at a symposium.

By EILEEN SCHULTE
Times Correspondent

ST. PETE BEACH — The floor-length curtains cloaked the crowd in darkness, thick and ominous, inside the Surf Room at the Dolphin Beach Resort. The question before the assembled participants of the first Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium was provocative.

Was Sherlock Holmes related to Spock?

Never wondered about that, you say? They have.

In his khakis and button-down shirt, David Scott vowed "to boldly deduce what no one's deduced before." Scott, one of the presenters, tried to convince two dozen skeptical armchair detectives that Holmes was indeed a Vulcan.

Both "treasure logic above all else," both were tall, both enjoyed playfully outsmarting

doctors and neither had a romantic bone in his body.

A sticky wicket, but to the Sherlockians, it was elementary. Beam me up, my dear Watson. The theory simply cannot be: Holmes had red blood, and Spock had green.

With a snicker and a wave of his hand, one audience member seemed to speak for the others, and proclaimed, "None of us believes it." Then they light-heartedly dismissed Scott's discourse and all but booed him from the podium.

It was serious fun for Sherlockians, everyday folks who just happen to be obsessed with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stories of the fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes. About 55 enthusiasts from across Florida and the United States gathered for a three-day symposium this weekend to share theories, ideas and, most of all, the company of fellow Sherlockians.

According to Carl Heifetz of Palm Harbor, a lot of Holmes groupies have adopted the Sherlock Holmes and *Star Trek* worlds as their own, sharing an



Photo courtesy of Wanda Dow

Carl and Sandie Heifetz of Palm Harbor were among the Holmes devotees at the gathering. "The more seriously you take it, the more fun it is," Carl Heifetz says. Says Sandie Heifetz: "Just call me his long-suffering wife."

Please see **HOLMES** Page 7

Sherlockian Scavenger Hunt

Entrants were given a list of all the cases in the Canon and had to find some kind of reference to as many of them as they could. (ie; lunch was at The Three Lions Pub. If you knew which cases mentioned a lion, you would have covered three at once. FYI: There were more than three stories in the Canon which mentioned lions.) Imagination and knowledge of the Canon were mandatory. Winner of the Scavenger Hunt was Melanie Hughes, from the *Wigmore Street Post Office*, who came up with 34 original references to the Canon. For her efforts (and those of her co-horts who donated to her), Melanie won the Sherlock Holmes thimble on display from Gimbels of Maine. This thimble was advertised in the March '97 issue of the *Communication*.

Holmes

from Page 1

interest in writing, collecting and reading.

"The more seriously you take it, the more fun it is," Heifetz said.

The Plant Potters from Tampa came. So did the Salon Pistols from Gainesville and the Wigmore Street Post Office e-mail group from Jacksonville.

It was all part of a celebration marking the 25th anniversary of the Pleasant Places of Florida, a group of Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts based, fittingly, in Holmes Beach. (At least one of the Holmes mysteries had a local connection. Part of *The Five Orange Pips* takes place in Florida.)

There were a play, poetry readings, a scavenger hunt, puzzles and a banquet that in part honored Benton Wood, who led the Pleasant Places of Florida for 20 years.

"I have my own life most of the year," Wanda Dow, full-time mom and event organizer, said with a laugh. But at least for this weekend, she and husband Jeff, an urban planner for Dunedin, focus only on Holmes.

Mrs. Dow, 43, is a founding member of the Pleasant Places of Florida. She read *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in high school and has been a devoted Sherlockian ever since.

"Why does anyone have any

kind of hobby?" she said. "I like it because, to me, it's tongue-in-cheek. It's a romantic interest in the past. Times were simpler then."

Heifetz, 62, also with Pleasant Places, is a semiretired microbiologist. He was there with his wife, Sandie, 58.

"Just call me his long-suffering wife," she laughed. "I have no interest. I have never read a Sherlock Holmes book — and I'm a voracious reader."

But her husband, sitting next to her wearing a deerstalker hat and suspenders, is obsessed.

"He has a 12-foot-long display unit filled with statues, books, videos and memorabilia," she said with a sigh, looking affectionately at her freckle-faced husband.

"I think it's funny that he's so obsessed with it," she said. "We just moved, and he didn't want to. But I told him, 'Look, you can have a (Holmes) display in the living room.' That sold him on it."

Interest in Sherlock Holmes is growing. "There's a web site called Hounds of the Internet where more than 500 people post e-mail," Heifetz said.

There was a rampant rumor that Sherlock Holmes himself was at the symposium. "We're looking for him, but I think he's in disguise," said Heifetz, laughing.

"If you see a tall person who's 140 years old, that's him."

cont. from page 1

the letters we received (see pg.2), a good time was had by all. Or least those who didn't have a good time had not complained to us by the time we went to print.

We've had several comments like "Sign me up for next year," and "Wait until next year..." As two of the five members of the symposium committee, we would just like to reiterate that which everyone seems to wish to ignore - WE ARE NOT DOING THIS YEARLY! Our hopes are that we've started the ball rolling in having a similar event held BY OTHER FLORIDA SCIONS so we can meet and engage in social Sherlockian silliness on a semi-regular basis. Kapeesh? So to the Salon Pistols, the Tropical Deerstalkers, the Plant Plotters, the Wiggins Street Post Office and others, we offer the challenge, if you want to call it that, of putting on the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium II. We will also offer helping hands, since we've been through all this, as well as probably having members who will volunteer to make presentations.

What say you?

JEFFERY & WANDA DOW

(cont. from page 4) of Texas, rocked the audience and provoked much thought as well as derision, with his back-to-the-future theory of the paternal Sherlockian ancestry of Star Trek's Mr. Spock and the consequent Vulcan origins of Holmes in, "Visitor to a Small Planet."



Photos of David McCallister, Mike Carroll, Judy Buddle & the radio players were taken by Jeff Dow. All others were taken by Tom Takach.

Special request: Anyone who took photos at the SSSSSI, please notify us so we can make arrangements for copies to be made. Thanks.

Special Thanks to Snoop Sisters, Calabash Press, Robert C. Hess, Sandie Heifetz, Barbara Jolley, Ingrid Gilbert, Gimbels Country Store, Holmes & Watson Report, Blackbird Mysteries, Murder by the Book, The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, Holmes by Hall, Mysteries By Mail, Soda Creek Press, Stephanie Hawks, The Sherlock Holmes Museum, J.B. Edwards, The Pleasant Places of Florida, Dolphin Beach Resort, Three Lions Pub & the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention & Visitors Bureau.

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

