



A Publication of the Pleasant Places of Florida

Communication #174

New Series

September/October, 1997

Volume 1 Issue 6

We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. There's lot of news this issue, one of the main announcement's being the 22ND FALL GATHERING OF THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA. The insert in this issue will be YOUR ONLY ANNOUNCEMENT. If you want to attend, fill it out and send it in. Another exciting bit of news is a gathering in Orlando of the *Hounds of the Internet*. Hound or not, you are all invited. Arranged by PPOF member Dave Scott (who is also a Hound), attendees will be allowed to actually go into the 221B Baker Street replication that is at Baskerville's Restaurant. Dinner includes a Mystery Dinner Theater musical production. Member Carl Heifetz will be having a September sale of things Sherlockian at his home. Check out the announcement inside. And the Pleasant Places is starting up another infamous Round Robin Pastiche. We hope many of you will be able to join us in some or all of these endeavors. The game is afoot!

The Papers on the Sundial



Top 10 Reasons For Errors Last Issue

10. We hired a guy named Gennaro but instead of a blue pencil he kept drawing red circles all over it.
9. Lady Frances Carfax said she'd handle it, then disappeared on us.
8. Mortimer Tregennis left it with his family to proof.
7. The dog ate our dictionary in the nighttime.
6. Mr. Melas said it just didn't translate well from the Greek.
5. Hilton Soames assigned three of his students to proofread it but they were too busy studying to do it well.
4. Moriarty's minions were at work.
3. John Openshaw had the corrected copy in his pocket.
2. The red-headed guy we hired wasn't very good at copying.
1. To see if you were paying attention.

Canonical Calendar

September

- 12th (1995)
Death of Jeremy Brett
- 13th (1997)
Sherlockian Flea Market
- 18th(1852)
Another date for J.H. Watson's Birth
(8/7/52 or 53 is other)
- 27th(1997)
Hounds gathering at Baskerville's
Restaurant

In this Issue...

Fall Gathering Reservation Form	
Poetry	2
Round Robin Sign-up	2
Spermaceti News	3
Doyle NY Times Interview	4
Sherlockian Flea Market	5
Baskerville Restaurant	6
1998 Calendar	6
Purloined Patience	6
Agonies	7

THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE or SHERLOCK HOLMES AT BAT by Tom Takach

A three pipe problem was presented to the master,
He had mere hours in which to thwart disaster.
Vincent Spaulding wanted to *learn*, but he didn't care about money,
Something that immediately struck Sherlock as being rather funny.
With Watson in tow he made his way to Saxe-Coburg-square,
Certain that the solution to the mystery would present itself there.
Using his walking stick, the pavement Sherlock did vigorously tap,
Not failing to check a pair of trouser knees *not* covering artificial kneecaps.
The data was gathered, the plans were all made,
Four men during a late night vigil in a bank vault stayed.
A hole did appear in the solid stone floor,
And the fourth smartest man in London looked around to make sure,
That the gold he coveted was laid by in store
John Clay jumped out of the hole, revolver in hand,
Delighted after his tunnelling to finally be able to stand.
Knocking his weapon to the ground, Holmes did spoil his fun,
"Goodbye Mr. Spaulding," another Sherlockian Home Run.

It's Round Robin Time!

Anyone interested in becoming part of the next Round Robin pastiche, please contact *The Papers*. We're looking for five writers who are willing to be a part of the next great PPOF experiment in confused yet competent writing. So come on! Join the list and become a published author, just like the well-known scribes responsible for *The Case of the Foreign Cabman*, *The Adventure of the Lost £s*, *The Adventure of the Second Stein*, *the Adventure of the Solitary Balloonist*, *The Curious Affair of the Witche's Brougham*, *The Adventure of the Florid Ians*, *The Case of the*

Three Merry Debs, *The Adventure of the Bar's Clue Bungle*, *The Adventure of the Pale Ontologist*, *The Adventure of The Doc-Croakers' Dirk*, *The Sound of the Basket Hills*, *A Case of Hide 'n' Tea* and *The Bourbon Bullion Bafflement*.

Pleasant Places Celebrates Sherlock Holmes Birthday!

Mark your calendar for January 17, 1998 to celebrate the birthday of the Master. Your Last Court of Appeals is checking out various elegant dining places to reserve in order to preserve the memory of the great detective by celebrating his birthday. It will be an evening of fine dining and grand company. Anyone who is interested in joining us in formal attire for an extravagant evening of Holmes, please notify Wanda Dow,

Additional information will follow in future newsletters as decisions are made.

PUBLISHED PPOFers

Previously reported in this column was the *Dows Langurtin* ad as being in the June *BSJ*. Alas, due to over-crowding, they have been pushed to the Sept. issue. **Bob Zuczek, Clyde Ellis & George Schenk** can be found in every issue of *The Jezail Bullet*, the Gainesville scion newsletter they do.

George Schenk's, The Norwood Builder: a Retrospection, a video review was in the June **Baker Street Dispatch** and *Poirot's TV Heroines: Virginia in The Chocolate Box*, was in England's **Christie Chronicle #17**, both for whom he regularly

cont. page 3

cont. from page 2

Tom Takach's artwork reported to be in *The Formidable Scrapbook of Baker Street* is not original, he informs us. He contributed a card with a sign stating "Welcome To The Holmes Family Town," including such stores as "Sherlock's Pet Store" and "Watson's Tobacco Shop." An incorrect page number led to the mistake. Also in the same issue, **Carl Heifetz's** pastiche "The Missing Stradivarius" appeared. **Tom** was published recently in *The Shoso-in Bulletin*, an international Sherlockian magazine with "The Book," a Batman story with Doylean/Sherlockian references.

Robert Ennis, "The Great Calabash Question" presented at the SSSSI was printed in the June issue of *The Baker Street Journal*.



The Spermaceti Press sends us the following news items:

Books: The Final Problems: Sherlock Holmes Mystery Trivia by Cort Reynolds is \$11.25 postpaid from Mr. Reynolds,

..Redmond's Delicate Question (thought-provoking questions on every case in the Canon) \$2.00 postpaid from Chris Redmond,

Canada...L'Univers De Sherlock Holmes (the Louvre des Antiquaires exhibit booklet) is available from George A. Vanderburgh,

Canada \$30.00 postpaid...Sherlock Holmes And Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Edinburgh by Hall & Blythe discusses Sherlockian & Doylean plays, speeches & lectures. £5.95 surface to Charles Hall,

Scotland, GB (\$ pymts in currency only).... The Meteorological Holmes: A Monograph on Weather & Forecasting in the Time of Sherlock Holmes \$16.95 from Pinchin Lane Press, 4685 Geeting Road, Westminster, MD 21158...The Moriarty Principle: An Irregular Look at Sherlock Holmes by Rolf J. Caton \$23.95 Galde Press, Box 460, Lakesville, MN 55044.....

Deaths: **Brian Keith** (6/24/97) was in an episode of "Murder She Wrote" titled "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes" wherein he attended a costume party dressed as Holmes and was possibly the intended victim of a murderer....**Robert Mitchum** (7/1/97) as Jake Spanner, Private Eye (TV film) gave his name to a car-rental clerk as "Holmes. Mycroft Holmes."**Charles Kuralt** (7/4/97) recorded a "Newsnote" for CBS radio in 1984 as follows: "Tomorrow is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's birthday, and lucky for us, too." He ended with "Sherlock Holmes is an inspiration, a triumph of the mind in art, and we continue to follow his trail — always in admiration, always a dozen paces behind."

The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club will celebrate its 21st anniversary on March 21, 1998 in Kamakura and March 22 in Tokyo. Details available from Mitch Higurashi,

Japan (fax
or e-mail:

....The running of The Silver Blaze at Meadowlands (NY) will be 9/20/97. Stephen Stix,

...The American

cont. page 4

NEW YORK TIMES - MARCH 26, 1929

The following is excerpted from the published transcript of a filmed interview Sir. Arthur Conan Doyle made at his home near Crowborough, England.

"There are two things that people always want to ask me: one of them is how I ever came to write the Sherlock Holmes stories and the other is about how I came to have psychic experiences and to take so much interest in that question.

"Well, first of all, about the Sherlock Holmes stories: They came about in this way. I was a young doctor at the time and had, of course, a scientific training and I used occasionally to read detective stories. It annoyed me how in the old-fashioned detective stories the detective always seemed to get at his results either by some sort of lucky chance or route or else it was quite unexplained how he got there. He got there, but he never gave an explanation. Well, that didn't seem to be quite playing the game. It seemed to me that he was bound to give the reasons why he came to his conclusions.

"At once I began to think about this - I began to think of turning scientific methods, as it were, into the work of detection, and I used as a student to have as an old professor - his name was Bell - who was extremely quick at deductive work. He would look at a patient - he would hardly allow a patient to open his mouth, but he would make his diagnosis of the disease: also very often of the patient's nationality and occupation and other points entirely by his power of observation, so naturally, I thought to myself: 'Well, if a scientific man like Bell were to come into the detective business he wouldn't do these things by chance, he'd get the thing by building it up scientifically.

"So, having once conceived that line of thought you can well imagine that I had, as it were, a new idea of the detective, and one which it interested me to work out. I thought of a hundred little dodges, as you might say, a hundred little touches by which he could build up his conclusions, and I began to write stories on those lines. At first I think they attracted very little attention, but after a time when I began to write short ventures coming out month after month in the Strand Magazine, people began to recognize that it was different from the old detective, that there was something there which was new, they began to buy the magazine and it prospered. So, I may say, did I. We both came along together and from that time Sherlock Holmes fairly took root. I have written a good deal more about him than I ever intended to do, but my hand has rather been forced by kind friends who wanted to know more, and so it is that this monstrous growth has come out of what was really a comparatively small seed.

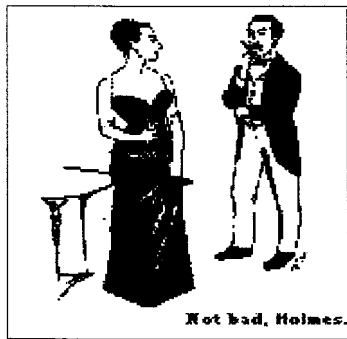
Cont. page 5

Chemical Society's "peg" poster with Sherlockian "A capital mistake" maxim is still available as item HS07 from ACS Education Products, Dept. 1195, Box 2537, Kearneysville, WV 25430 for \$7.00. 1-800-209-0423.

If you like to receive information such as this, subscribe to The Spermaceti Press, Peter E. Blau,

STILLER HAS GREAT TASTE!

Jerry Stiller, one half of the comedy duo Stiller & Meara and TV-father of character George Costanza on SEINFELD was interviewed recently in the September issue of *VANITY FAIR*. In their back-page feature, "The Proust Questionnaire, he responded that his "favorite fictional character" is/are Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson.



"But the curious thing is how many people there are in the world who are thoroughly convinced that he is a living human being. I get letters addressed to him. I get letters asking for his autograph. I get letters addressed to his rather stupid friend Watson. I have even had ladies writing to say that they would be very glad to act as his housekeeper. One of them, when she heard that he had turned to the occupation of keeping bees, wrote saying that she was expert at segregating the queen - whatever that may mean — and that she was evidently predestined to be the housekeeper of Sherlock Holmes. I don't know that there is anything more I can say with advantage about him."

To read the complete interview, look up the NYTimes article, or check out NAVAL SIGNALS No.46, A Newsletter For Altamont's Agents.

PRE-HOLIDAY SALE AND SHERLOCKIAN FLEA MARKET

Looking for just the right Christmas gift for that Sherlockian you love? Have something Holmesian you want to sell yourself? Then come to the flea market on September 13, 1-5pm at the home of Carl Heifetz, From Tarpon Springs & all points North, turn East from US19 on Tarpon Avenue, then South on East Lake Road, turn West at Lansbrook Entrance - Straight on Lansbrook Pkwy. for 1.2 Miles to 6th Left (Highgate), Right on Siena. From the South, 275 take the Bayside Bridge which turns into McMullen-Booth Road, which turns into East Lake Road (see above). From Tampa and all points East, exit on SR60 to Clearwater, north on McMullen-Booth. Contact Carl, or phone/FAX or Email for more directions.

Carl will have souvenir flashlights on sale from the Symposium at \$2.00 each. There are still some beautiful color illustrated catalogs left from the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London for \$5.00 each, as well as Sidney Paget Color Prints, (8 1/4 x 11 3/4"), all at \$7.50 each. Also available are a few Douglas West color prints (12 1/4 x 17 1/2") at \$7.50 each. There are postal cards of the Sherlock Holmes Museum and Mrs. Hudson's dining hall for \$.80 each and the last few copies of the Calendrical Canon with Holidays Holmesian at \$5.00 per copy. Wanda Dow will be there with Sherlockian & Victorian jewelry for sale, all \$2.00 off the advertised price. These items are what is left of the stock advertised in Communication #172. Don't miss out! If you were curious before but don't like to buy items unseen, COME & SEE! Save on postage, too.

ROSTER UPDATE

The front page of the Roster should read "A Corresponding Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars"

New: **Hudson, Reggie**, Physical Scientist, "a dabbler in science", **Hudson, Dorothy**, HomeMaker, **Julia Stoner**, **Ian Hudson**, student, *The Hound*,

McConnell, Juliana Eileen, Student,

Rogersen, David, Physical Therapist, *Col. Sebastian Moran, Her Majesty's Indian Army*,

Singleton, Paul, Actor,

Changes: Keefauver, Brad,

Scott, David M. E-mail should be

Hounds Gathering

On September 27, 1997 there will be a gathering of the *Hounds of the Internet* in Baskerville's Restaurant at the Grosvenor Hotel in Orlando. PPOFers are cordially invited to attend. The address is 1850 Hotel Plaza Blvd., Disney World Village Complex, Orlando, FL. Mystery Dinner Theater will be presenting "Murderwatch" in which a doomed actor mingles with the guests. If you collar the murderer, you can win prizes and be enshrined in Baskerville's Detective Hall of Fame. Special arrangements have been made to allow us INTO the hotel's replica of 221B! We will meet around 7:00PM at Moriarty's Irish Pub to get acquainted. At 8:00PM we can go to 221B and at 8:45PM fill our plates and get ready for the 9:00PM show. Cost is \$28.00 per person for dinner (all you can eat buffet) and theater. Drinks & extras are pay as you go. If you are interested, contact David Scott IMMEDIATELY to let him know

your name(s), phone number and how many people you're bringing. (Sorry - no children allowed) phone: or Email:

Send your check payable to David M. Scott to

.PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY 9/19/97!!

Read any good books lately?

If you've read any good Sherlockian books lately, why not let us know? We welcome all reviews, good or bad, on books connected to the Master, old or new. Just because it's been sitting on your shelf or in a used book store for the past few years doesn't mean EVERYone's read it. Perhaps you have a favorite pastiche that you love to talk about. Send in your reviews to *The Papers*. We'll get the word (or warning) out!

Missing Communications

James Hubbs, Collections Specialist for the Sherlock Holmes Collections is in need of original or copies of Back Communications to complete the PPOF collection. He needs #5, 27, 29 - 31, and 130 - 168. Anyone willing to part with their originals- or copy them, notify *The Papers*.

1998 P.P.O.F. (Proposed) CALENDAR

January 17

Birthday Bash

February 7

Wessex Cup

(alt. date Feb. 14)

March ?

Diogenes Meeting

May 2

Spring Gathering at

Mike Carroll's

The Mazarin Stone

July ?

Diogenes Meeting

September?

Diogenes Meeting

November 7

Fall Gathering

Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Purloined Patience

A new Sherlockian musical has opened in Washington, D.C. Author Nick Olcott has taken an actual incident in Victorian history (ie: the pirated American productions of Gilbert & Sullivan's "Patience" in 1881) and brought in Holmes to solve the case. The music? Gilbert & Sullivan songs from a variety of shows, inserted in appropriate places. Holmes sings "Things Are Seldom What They Seem" to an unknowing Watson, and later re-works "I Am The Very Model of A Modern Major-General" to "I Am The Very Model of a Crack Victorian Supersleuth." The Washington Post states that Olcott treats Holmes satirically but with respect. Tim Brierley as Holmes rattles off convoluted deductions, expounding on everything from cigar ash to musical scores. Ralph Cosham is a dancing Watson and Tom Howley sulks and sings sweetly as Lestrade. Hmmm... can we interest you guys in a musical *Hound*?



Agony Column



The **FOURTH OCCASIONAL SHERLOCKIAN CRUISE** from New York to Bermuda will cast off on June 20, 1998. Anyone interested please contact Dorothy Stix at

dinner! Not invited to the BSI Dinner? You can still hobnob with renowned Sherlockians and have a great time in the Big Apple. Contact The Baskerville Bash Committee, c/o Maribeau Briggs,

the late Sherlock Holmes. Anyone with knowledge of such a person, please contact Dr. John H. Watson, London.

Fairy Tale: A True Story is a Paramount film due for release in October. It stars Harvey Keitel as Houdini and Peter O'Toole as Conan Doyle.

Chicken Soup For The Soul is a new line of greeting cards out featuring quotes from notable folks, among them, Christopher Morley.

The **Second Annual Baskerville Bash** will be held Jan. 9, 1998 at La Belle Epoque in NY, NY. Limited Seating - last year was SOLD OUT. \$43.00 per person. This is the fun

Sherlockian Calendars, Christmas & Note Cards are available from William S. Dorn,

Calendars list events from the Canon based on dates from Watson primarily determined by E.B. Zeisler. Visit the web site at <http://members.aol.com/Holmespage>.

Missing. Young Swiss lad. Possibly a part-time messenger at Englischer Hof, Meiringen. Last seen at Reichenbach Falls in the company of

After the sinking of the TITANIC and the harsh criticism in the American press, defense of the British Captain and crew came from across the Atlantic from the pen of Arthur Conan Doyle. The exhibit of historical artifacts found of this tragedy will be on exhibit from 11/15/97 to 5/15/97 at the Florida International Museum in St. Petersburg. This might be a nice Diogenes Meeting for a Saturday afternoon with coffee & snacks afterwards. Anyone interested in going as a group, please contact Carl Heifetz. Group rates are possible with a group of 20 or more. See enclosed flyer.

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.

The Camden House Journal,
Irregular Special Railway Company Newsletter, Antony J. Richards,

The Parallelogram, (The Parallel Case of St. Louis) Joseph J. Eckrich BSI,

The Torr, (The Poor Folk Upon the Moors) Eric Monahan, Highcliff,

Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis Newsletter, Mark Gagen, Lomax (Editor),
Email Complimentary copy available or \$6.00 a year for
newsletter only (\$10.00 single membership, \$16.00 couple membership includes newsletter)

Mark Your Calendars! Fall Gathering! Mark Your Calendars! Fall Gathering!

The Fall Gathering of the PPOF has been set for November 1, 1997 from noon to four p.m. The setting will be Palm Harbor at the residence of the host, The Representative With Both the Servants and the Tradespeople, Carl Heifetz. The adventure is "The Blanched Soldier." In recognition of "All Saint's Day," Carl requests each person to bring in an item or items that would provide a clue or clues to a Sherlock Holmes adventure in which the name of a saint is used. An example would be a wedding veil as a clue for the adventure *Scandal in Bohemia* in which St. Monica is mentioned (church of). Carl will provide a list ahead of time of stories and Saints to those who will be attending. There will be a sale of items Sherlockian and Victorian. Do your Christmas shopping early! Bring items for display or sale! Newsletter exchanges will be available for perusal or borrowing. The Dow Family Players have been committed (but promise to escape in time to perform at the Gathering). Lunch will be \$7.00 per person. If you intend to come, please fill out the registration coupon below and get it back to Carl NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 15, 1997. Registrants will receive driving directions and the list of Saints. Contact Carl at _____ . Telephone: _____

; phone/FAX: _____

Email: _____

Yes! I definitely want to attend the Fall Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida! Count me in and send me directions and the list of Saints.

Name(s)

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip Code

Phone

_____ I will be bringing items for sale.

_____ I will be bringing items for display.

_____ I am interested in making a presentation. It will be _____

Make checks payable to and mail to Carl Heifetz,

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

