

Communication

New Series

December, 1997

Volume 1 Issue 9

The Times: Obituaries: AIR COMMANDANT DAME JEAN CONAN DOYLE

November 19 1997

Air Commandant Dame Jean Conan Doyle, DBE, (Lady Bromet), Director of the Women's Royal Air Force, 1963-66, and daughter of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, died yesterday {11/18/97} aged 84. She was born on December 21, 1912.

Dame Jean Conan Doyle shared her father's taste for action and was thankful that she had had time for her own career before she succeeded to the onerous task of administering copyrights on Sir Arthur's works after her brother Adrian's death in 1971.

Sometimes it seemed as if the problems she had protecting Sir Arthur's best-known character, Sherlock Holmes, exhausted even her boundless reserves (see page 3)

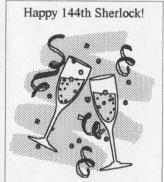
This issue we bring you an investigation by Terry Klasek for which the world is finally ready. Although it is rather long for our little publication, we decided to print it in its entirety rather than in parts so you wouldn't have to wait until the new year to find out his conclusions!

We were saddened to learn of the death of a most gracious lady, Dame Jean. It is a great loss to the world of Sherlockians & Doyleans. We include information culled from <u>The London</u> Times.

All Sherlockian/Victorian jewellery from artist Ingrid has

been returned, but there are still available some items from the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London. Check out the insert ad.

The Papers on the Sundial



January 17, 1998 Cite Grille, Dunedin

In this Issue...

Obituary of Dame Jean Conan Doyle Stanley Hopkins: A Fall from Grace Agony Column Club Roster Update

Sign-up for Sherlock's Sunshine Celebration Sign-up for Diogenes Lunch & Titanic Exhibit Front Cover page 2 page 5 page 3 insert insert

Canonical/Club Calendar December

12/1 PPoF saw Sherlock's Last Case, a play at Ybor City Playhouse. High tea was held at the McCallister's home.1985

The 8th Round Robin Pastiche, Bar's Clue Bungle was published. 1982

12/3 John Horner was accused of stealing the Blue Carbuncle 12/3 Mrs. Oakshott sold 24 geese at 7s.6d.

12/3 Mr. Windigate bought 24 geese at 12 s.

12/3 Capt. Morstan disappeared 12/31 Ben Wood retires from post as Recorder of PPoF 1996

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! JAN. 17, FEB. 14 & MARCH 7!

Stanley Hopkins: A Fall from Grace by Terry A. Klasek

During the many readings of the Sherlockian Canon that I have enjoyed I have been perplexed a great deal by "The Adventure of Black Peter", and one Inspector Stanley Hopkins. I had believed that there could not possibly be anyone as incompetent as Gregson and Lestrade; however, that was prior to my first encountering with Stanley Hopkins!

The first chronological encounter one has with Stanley Hopkins is in "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez" which takes place near the close of November, 1894. His next appearance is in "The Adventure of Black Peter" which takes place in the first week of July, 1895. Between these two stories, there is an interval of approximately eight months. On either side of this interval we are exposed to two very different views of Inspector Stanley Hopkins! The point of my perplexity is: what caused this change, and how did it happen?

In "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez," Watson refers to Hopkins as, "a promising detective, in whose career Holmes has several times shown a very practical interest." Now we compare it to the following quote from "The Adventure of Black Peter," as Watson states "a young police inspector, for whose future Holmes had high hopes." In the former quote Holmes thinks of Hopkins as promising with the positive being taken several times. In the latter quote however, Holmes lumps all hopes for Hopkins in the past tense. Our key is the phrase, "for whose future Holmes had high hopes," and that indicates Holmes had given up all hope of Hopkins rising to the pinnacle of the detective profession. Now we have a total reversal of abilities in about eight months! How? Why?

In "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez", we have Stanley Hopkins seeking aid of Sherlock Holmes the evening of the very day the murder occurred stating, "I can make neither head nor tail of it!" In "The Adventure of Black Peter" Stanley Hopkins comes to Holmes seeking aid no less than a week later!! Now it took Mr. Hopkins a full week to come to the following decision "It's my first big chance, and I'm at my wit's end." To answer a question with a question, I must ask, What wit?? It takes Hopkins six full days longer to arrive at the same solution that he came up with in the previous story. His wit is evidently somewhere else, if he still possessed one! Hence, Stanley Hopkins ran up against the proverbial stone wall in both cases. A little later Holmes remarks to Watson, "Stanley Hopkins' methods do not commend themselves to me. I had hoped for better things from him." Holmes appears to have given up all hope for Hopkins after the dolt arrests poor Neligan for the murder of Captain Peter Carey (as he was the only person to come near the cabin in all the time of the investigation). Hopkins was trying to save face at Neligan's expense.

As we turn our attention more to the investigation of Stanley Hopkins, the words disbelief, incompetent, and stupidity take on an all too real meaning, literally. The obvious problem is that it took Hopkins a full week to realize that he was as lost as a goose in a windstorm. Part of the problem in that area was his pride of past successes (without crediting Holmes for helping), and his lust for prestige and glory for (see page 4)

PUBLISHED PPoFers

Carl Heifetz's paper "True Aetiology of the Skin-Lightening Syndrome in the Adventure of the Blanched Soldier"has been picked up in Keith Skillicorn's Forum on Leprosy. To access it, go to Keith's home page at http://www.webspawner.com/users/LEPROSY and click on *Item 19. The True Aetiology of Leprosy.* It is also on Kris Preacher's website http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/8950/holmes.htm Those of you who missed the Fall Gathering may contact Carl for a copy. Send a business SASE for a hard copy to Carl at

or he can send it over the internet as an ASCII text or encoded WordPerfect document.

Jeff Dow has completed his tome of Fatal Habits: An Appreciation of the Literary Sherlock Holmes which is an explanation of various literary devices used in the canon. The book is available for US\$10 postpaid (airmail US, surface Int'1) or US\$14 (airmail int'1) Make checks payable to Jeff Dow,

USA

(from front page) of patience. "I occasionally feel, as my father did, that if anyone else says 'Sherlock Holmes' to me, I'll scream," she once said. "I know exactly how he felt when he finally pushed him off the Reichenbach Falls."

Jean Lena Annette Conan Doyle was educated at Granville House, Eastbourne. Her father, failing to foresee her future, once protested to her headmistress that it was useless for her to study Caesar's Gallic Wars because it was highly unlikely that she would ever be concerned with military matters.

With two older brothers, she grew up a tomboy, required to take her turn in the cricket nets, and was known as Billy to avoid confusion with her mother, Jean. She was however, the most bookish of Sir Arthur's three children, and the only one permitted to enter his study while he was working. She remembered sitting in a big red leather chair next to the fireplace, listening to the sound of his nib rushing with hardly a pause across page after page.

Her father took her with him on his tours of America, Australia and South Africa. She recalled that he shouted at her only once - for walking noisily across a parquet floor - and then immediately asked her forgiveness.

She was the product of Sir Arthur's second marriage, to Jean Leckie, with whom he had fallen in love as his first wife, Louise, died a long, lingering death from tuberculosis. Sir Arthur behaved impeccably as Louise fought her illness for almost ten years, and it was only a year after her death that he permitted himself to marry Miss Leckie. There is no question that his sense of personal honour, sacrifice and propriety made a profound impression upon his daughter.

Jean was 17 when her father died in 1930, and, after staying on at the family home in Sussex to look after her heartbroken mother, she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1938. She was commissioned into the WAAF in 1940. For a short period during the Battle of Britain, she served at Hawkinge, then a radar station. In 1942, she was appointed WAAF staff officer at HQ No 9 Group in Lancashire, and, in 1943, she served at HQ, Fighter Command, and in 1943-45 was based at HQ RAF, Northern Ireland.

She was the postwar WRAF's administrative officer at HQ, Technical Training Command, from May 1962, having been deputy director of the WRAF at the Air Ministry for two years. She was appointed to a directorship of the WRAF in 1963.

She was sometimes compared to Joyce Grenfell for the way that she tackled her duties with cheerful good humour, resilience and optimism. An undoubted workaholic, she often worked long into the night and admitted she had turned down several proposals of marriage because of her commitment to the people who worked for her.

It was, however, as a doughty champion of her father's good name that she became best known to the public. The copyright on her father's works ran out in Britain on the 50th anniversary of (see page 6)

ROSTER UPDATE

New: Murphy-Fallahee, Mary, Fallahee, Meaghan.

Changes: Jackson-Whitworth,

Please check the address on your mailing label to make sure the correct information is being held by the club.



(from page 2) solving this, his biggest case, unassisted. His next major setback was of his detail work. Yep, you guessed it, there wasn't any detail work!

In the case of the supposed lack of footprints outside of Peter Carey's hut Hopkins appeared to be looking for some obvious and deep, deep impressions in the ground or possibly on the cabin floor. Dumbo -er-**Hopkins** expected any footprints present to be blatantly obvious at the merest glance, which adds laziness to his. now impressive, list of (dis)credits. When Holmes chastisingly corrects Bozo - er- Hopkins in the fact that he did not see any footprints, Hopkins, in his most innocent manner, flatly states that there were no footprints of any kind with an obstinate air of finality. This curious incident produces from Holmes his most famous quote about the Metropolitan Police in the story. He vouchsafes, "My good Hopkins, I have investigated many crimes, but I have never yet seen one which was committed by a flying creature. As long as the criminal remains upon two legs so must there some be indentation, some abrasion, some

detected by the scientific searcher. It is about this totally botched incredible that this blood-besplattered room con-tained no trace which could have aided us."

Hopkins has the nerve to tell Holmes that he knows Holmes' methods, and however, the main quest at hand is to applied them; however, that did not discover how and why Stanley seem to help him either!

Another lapse in conscious reasoning and behavior was Hopkins' energetic has been an enigma to myself and move to arrest the unfortunate John Hopley Neligan who. naturally enough, happens to be the wrong man. The arresting of the wrong person, usually the first available suspect, seems to have been a favourite pastime par for me I promptly ended up on the of the Scotland Yarders. Further, when wrong scent. My first working summoned by Holmes to Baker Street hypothesis was that Stanley Hopkins to be in on the conclusion of the case, Hopkins, in a somewhat cocky and arrogant tone, tells Holmes that, "I could not imagine a more complete case." Now this statement tells us a great deal about Hopkins' imagination. This, of course, is the total lack of one. Hopkins does not even stop to think how a frail, and sickly, young man could have hurled a 50 pound harpoon totally through the 250 pound torso of it was back to square one for me Captain Peter Carey, and impaled him into the wall. The entire head of the harpoon was deeply embedded in the wall after transversing the depth of a large body. Obviously, Hopkins was operating with the brain of a six-year sense that Hopkins I did not perform old, but that did not help him either.

Now to be fair Stanley Hopkins DID make a few correct statements during theories, but with the same result. the events of this story. Those NUTS! assuredly true statements were the times he called himself "A FOOL" each time Holmes vouchsafed some true deductive reasoning built upon facts to Hopkins. I could go on and on about all the inconsistencies, errors in judgment, spurious deductions, and

investigation. I could also remark about the incredible methods of The Scotland Yarders (always a familiar punching bag in Sherlockian circles), Hopkins became the Bozo he turned out to be in only eight months. This others.

I was now determined to solve this enigma once and for all. Utilizing the master's methods I started off in hot pursuit of the truth. However, as is was spending far too much time in the company of Sir Thomas of Collins and all the nefarious gang down at The Bobbie's Helmet Pub. I soon discovered this was erroneous after a very long talk with Sir Thomas of Collins, himself. I was able to confirm that old Stanley Hopkins was no more a frequenter of the premises than any other Scotland Yarder. So without collecting \$200.00!

Now if I were a good efficient Scotland Yarder I would rush right out, and arrest the first likely looking suspect. Since I had slightly more in that manner. However, I did closely examine several equally good

Then one day as I was leaving a mental hygiene therapy session the answer almost bowled me over like a thunderclap as it hit me. It must have been some form of new disease! Stanley Hopkins' conclusions most certainly were not normal, and his trifling displacement which can be other lapses in conscious reasoning mind (what there was of it) must have



taking reservations.

The FOURTH OCCASIONAL

SHERLOCKIAN CRUISE is still

cruise committee has chosen the June

20, 1998 sailing of the Zenith to

Hamilton and St. George. Special

prices are being offered for Sherlockians and their friends, from

\$998 to \$2247. (Check out the

Celebrity Cruises brochure) All rates

are per person, based on double

occupancy and do NOT include

airfare to NY, port charges of \$140

per person, gratuities, liquor, shag

tobacco or Beaunne with lunch. To

The intrepid

Agony Column

reserve, send \$200 per person (check or credit card) to Cruise Committee c/o Dorothy Stix at

Or you can tell the Committee of your interest and they'll put you on their mailing list for updates and brochures.

Spilsbury Puzzle Company has Sherlock Holmes and the Time Machine game on sale for \$29.88 (A2225). Also still available is The Original 221B Baker Street game at \$16.95 (A6288) Call for mailing costs. 1-800-772-1760



Bits & Pieces offers Sherlock Holmes Mystery Jigsaws, any 2 or more \$8.95 each, or all four for \$29.95. http://www.Bits_and_Pieces.com or call 1-800-JIGSAWS.

The Daily Planet has a Walking stick with Holmes' head (56644) \$72, a Sherlockian chess set (56632)\$528 or the chess pieces only (56631) \$484, deerstalkers (52184)\$32, London Bobby's whistles (36354)\$14, & Bobby hats (47463) \$198. Call 1-800-324-5950.

been altered for the worse by some forgiven source. It was the only possible solution to fit the evidence so perfectly. I new that I had finally hit upon the right course. Now it was on to the next level of the investigation.

In "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez" Watson recognizes a young Stanley Hopkins, and that implies to us that Hopkins probably had not been on the force for any length of time. It also implies the extreme youth of Hopkins in probably his very first job at a very impressionable young age. Moreover, all of Hopkins life was centered around Scotland Yard. It is quite easy to believe that most of his free time was spent within this new circle of friends. Additionally, it is a time honoured rule that all new officers would accompany the more seasoned officers to properly observe "correct procedure," and unfortunately he did. The two "most successful" officers. who had but one brain between them, were Inspectors Gregson

Lestrade. It appears that the youthful and impressionable Stanley Hopkins spent almost all of his working days in the company of Gregson and Lestrade, who we shall refer to, if we refer to them at all, as Tweedle-dumb and Tweedle-dumber. Having made this discovery I knew that Stanley Hopkins was doomed before he ever started out on his first solo case.

My goal was racing towards me as I eagerly pressed on with the hunt. I knew that a disease was the answer, but it now remained for me to track down the one true disease to finally solve this enigma. Then I would be able to once more enjoy this story without that nagging feeling in the back of my mind that something was just not right.

Since I had ruled out the drink in earlier investigations I felt certain that I could rule out all diseases and sicknesses related to alcoholic roots and causes. It had, I felt, to be some type of disease that affected the brain, and the mind's ability to reason in a rational and analytical

manner. Hence it must have been some type of mental sickness or disease. I also believed that the answer would be found within Stanley Hopkins' sphere and place of work. A meticulous investigation was instituted by myself through the records at Scotland Yard. I concentrated especially on the personal files of Gregson, Lestrade, and Hopkins as well as all of their cases. It was an exhausting experience, but it well worth it.

In view of my idea that Stanley Hopkins' disease was one that came upon him in a work-related manner, this disease also probably came upon the hapless young lad from his almost constant association and exposure to his friends namely, Inspector's Gregson and Lestrade. Hence, the disease had to be one of a highly communicable nature, and one which would increase in severity by a prolonged and repeated exposure and association. I sat pondering this three-pipe problem when out of (see page 6)

(cont from page 5)the blue the answer just came to me. I scurried to the file room once again like a roach running from a can of Raid!

Now I had all of the evidence, and each piece of the puzzle fit perfectly into place. It was as plain as a pikestaff that Inspector Stanley

Hopkins did, in fact, have A.I.D.S.! Yes siree, Bob, from his close association of a very prolonged nature Stanley Hopkins had contracted that most dreaded and commonly running rampant disease of The Metropolitan Police Department, and Scotland Yard, in particular, namely: Acquired Idiotic Detective Syndrome!!! Yep, he was a goner! This disease affected all of Scotland Yard, but Stanley Hopkins had the most pronounced case, and the most cancerous. It just ate away his thinking processes to less than Lestrade. If he had opted for private practice he might have had a mediocre career.

The initials S.H. regarding Sherlock Holmes have come to mean "hat's off gentlemen, a genius." The same initials applied to Stanley Hopkins mean, "hat's back on gentlemen, an idiot!" So there you have it, the truth.

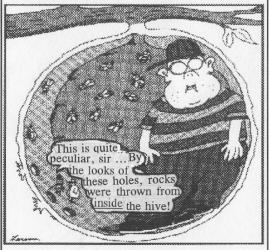
(from page 3) his death, in 1980 (though it has lately been revived under EU rules); but under American law the estate was entitled to 70 years' copyright from the date of each publication.

She realised that this was

books and major market. She American-based agent and a

enough to enable her to preserve the true character of Sherlock Holmes, since all films depended on the American acquired an

The Far Side by Gary Larson



Artist G. Larson Medium: Ink on paper. Title: It Was Late and I Was Tired

Does this mean that after a period of time bees take after their owners?

> group of experts in her father's works to read new manuscripts and keep an eve out for any unauthorised endeavours.

In 1988, she unexpectedly withdrew permission from an acknowledged expert Holmes, Michael Hardwick, who had been publishing new adventures about the detective.

saying that she wished people to read her father's original works instead.

In Britain, although she had no legal powers after the copyright ended. she frequently reprimanded writers and film-

> makers who she felt had not been true to the spirit of her father's works, and her name became very familiar to the readers of the letters columns in national newspapers.

She took particular exception to the bizarre 1976 film The Seven Per Cent Solution, which had Nicol Williamson as Holmes seeking psychiatric counselling from Professor Freud. She was also infuriated by posters featuring two nude girls used to advertise a film version of Brigadier Gerard, which she said would have horrified her father. whose "pronounced sense of chivalry towards women was well known".

She saw considerable merit, however, in Jeremy Brett's performance as Holmes in The Secret of Sherlock Holmes at the Wyndhams Theatre and later in the television series he made. She wrote to the actor saying that he had correctly discerned that the secret of playing (see page 7)



(from page 6)

Holmes was to recognise his cold, unemotional centre.

Somewhat sacreligiously, she admitted late in life that she admired other characters whom her father had created, such as Brigadier Gerard and Professor Challenger, every bit as much as Holmes, if not more. She always said that her father's name mattered far more to her than any of the characters he created, and it was her sense of loyalty to him - rather than to the characters - that made her take her role so seriously.

Her father's portrait dominated the drawing room of her home in Chelsea and one of her most treasured possessions was her father's copy of the Holmes adventure A Study in Scarlet. In 1955, she had the sensitive task of overseeing the transfer of the

remains of both her parents from the grounds of their Sussex home to Minstead churchyard in the New Forest, where her father had written *The White Company*.

She shared her father's belief in spiritualism, and, although she claimed to have once made contact with him through a medium, she resisted the temptation to do so again. "Life is for living," she explained. "My father taught me that you've got to stand on your own two feet."

She served as honorary ADC to the Queen from 1963 to 1966, a role she carried out with such discretion that the first most of her friends knew of it was when she made reference to it in her entry in *Who's Who*. She was appointed OBE in 1948 and advanced to DBE in 1963.

She married Air Vice-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Bromet in 1965 when she was 52 and he 73, but out of deference to her father she reverted to the Conan Doyle name following Sir Geoffrey's death in 1983. They had no children.

HE'S EVERYWHERE1

On a PBS presentation titled "As Time Goes By" recently, actor Geoffrey Palmer was putting together a model ship, and not making much progress. He was given a magnifying glass, but was reluctant to use it because he didn't want to admit needing it to see. The giver then stated "Go on. Sherlock Holmes used one!" As a further connection, the actress aslo starring in the series is Judi Dench, who palys Queen Victoria in a current film and who is also married to the BBC's current Watson, Michael Williams.

A NIGHT IN THE LONESOME OCTOBER

I heartedly recommend this book for all readers, especially admirers of the Master. Not only do we learn of a new skill possessed by the Master, but we are treated to a unique insight into his character and a reverent tribute to his Also, the book offers greatness. another (perhaps better) answer to the question of what Holmes was doing during the Ripper affair. It is pleasant to read an answer which does not libelous comments involve Inspector Jones, members of the Royal Family, their friends, or their physicians.

Mike Miller



FOR SALE SHERLOCK BOXES

Boxes made from stiff card stock, come pre-folded. Just pop open into box form. Manilla color. 2" square. Limited number available. First come, first serve. \$1.00 to Wanda Dow,



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The *Pleasant Places of Florida* offers for sale to the Sherlockian connoisseur, many valuable and desirable items for sale and immediate shipment. Many of these goods are in very limited supply, so order right away to avoid serious disappointment. To all items listed, add \$0.50 per item shipping charges in the United States of America; add \$2.00 per item for extra national distribution. Please make checks or money orders (cash also accepted), in US dollars. to: Carl L. Heifetz.

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	Description	Price
Souvenirs of the Su	ınshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium:	
Souvenir miniature	flashlights with key ring, orange with logo	\$2.00
Limited Edition "Su	nshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium I' Program Books	\$2.00
Sherlock Holmes M	Iuseum, London England	
Beautiful color illust	trated catalog	\$5.00
Sidney Paget Colour Prints*: 8¼ X 11¾" VERY LIMITED SUPPLIES PLEASE LIST ALTERNATIVE SELECTIONS	-The driver pointed with his whip - 'Baskerville Hall', said he -Holmes gazed at it, and then passed on -There stood a patriarch among oaks -His eyes bent upon the glow of the fire -Holmes gave me a sketch of the events -He laid his hand upon the glossy neckA Reverie (several narratives) -There's our man Watson! Come along.	\$7.50 each
Douglas West colour prints*: 12¼ X 17½"	-The arrival LAST TWO IN STOCK	\$7.50 each
	with Holidays Holmesian (1996) LABLE, LIMITED ED.	\$5.00

^{*} These prints are colourized versions of those that appeared in *The Strand* See *The Original Illustrated 'Strand' Sherlock Holmes* for samples.

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	s Sunshine Celebration has been set for January 17, 1998 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at
	rille in Dunedin. Although we'd like to honor the Master by our appearance as well as
	um, we realise that this IS Florida, so black tie is optional. Price will be \$22.00 per
, –	honor dear Sherlock, please compose a limerick, poem or song. Mail it in or bring it with
	dinner. You will not be forced to perform, but items received will be combined to form a
PPoF pub	lication. If you wish to attend, please fill out the form below and mail to Wanda Dow,
20	We have a choice of an interior side room which will
	or a covered exterior room if we have a bigger crowd. You must register BEFORE
	· 20, 1997. Please keep in mind that holiday mails are backlogged. Give your registration ime to get to its destiination.
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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

