



Communication

#179

New Series

January/February, 1998

Volume 2 Issue 1

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DAME JEAN CONAN DOYLE

The service will take place at noon on Thursday, January 29, 1998 at St. Clement Danes, in the Strand, London. For Sherlockians wishing to do something in her memory, her executors have suggested a donation to The Royal National Institute for the Blind (224 Great Portland St., London W1, U.K.)

Dame Jean had weak eyesight from childhood and considerable trouble with her eyes in her final years. She felt strongly that she would like to help others in a similar situation.

Well, here we are at the start of a new year. It's hard to believe that 365 days+ have already passed since The Last Court of Appeals came into power. We have a fun-filled year planned for you, with more get-togethers than usual. We will continue to have our Spring and Fall Gatherings, but there will be several Diogenes social gatherings besides. Don't forget to sign up for our **Wessex Cup** in February. Time is running out! In March we will travel back in time to the **Titanic Exhibit**, and in May member Mike Carroll will be hosting our **Spring Gathering** at his humble abode. We urge you to peruse your newsletter each time you get it to make sure you don't miss out on any upcoming events. Our round-robin pastiche is plotting out fine, with the puzzle recently being sent out for its conclusion. We hope to have it ready for sale by the end of March. We have big plans for several publications this year, so keep an eye out for announcements. So what are you sitting there for? **READ!!**

The Papers on the Sundial



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Canonical/Club Calendar

January

- 6th - John Douglas is murdered
- 7th - Holmes properly lays in a new almanac
- 1854 (6th) - Sherlock Holmes is born
- 1891 - (4th) Holmes crosses Moriarty's path
- 1891 - (23rd) Holmes incommodes Moriarty
- 1901 - James M. Dodd joins the Army
- 1903 - James M. Dodd visits Holmes
- 1895 - James Winter shoots a man over cards in Waterloo

(cont. page 3)

* FEB. 14 - Wessex Cup * MARCH 7 - Titanic Exhibit * MAY 2 - Spring Gathering *

THE AMERICAN FIRM

This is a Scion Society of the BSI which was formed in 1995. The mission of this particular organization is to procure and distribute Large Type Print Sherlock Holmes books to the elderly, "Resident Patients" of adult homes. Membership is open to anyone interested in enjoying and sharing the enjoyment of the Sherlock Holmes stories and helping in the mission. Annual dues are \$5.00, which cover the actual expenses of the operations or events. An additional \$5.00 (minimum) is requested for the "Resident Patient Fund." This is the fund which is used to purchase and distribute the books to the libraries of Adult Homes, Nursing Homes and other Adult Care Programs. Contact Edward S. Smith, Jr.,

USA.

HE'S EVERYWHERE

Jason Rouby sends us a page from the campus newspaper of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock which has a cartoon drawn by Chris Hughes of a fictional paper, "The Daily Duh" which lists *Sherlock Holmes* as a staff writer. Unfortunately this did not copy well, so we have to just tell you about it instead of showing you ... The 12/2 *Telegraph* ran a story about a tough man and a little girl lost in an inhospitable desert. They had begun to prepare themselves

for death when they were rescued by the arrival of a traveller. Sound familiar? Well, it was the Great Victoria Desert of Australia, not the Great Alkali Plain, but it *is* an example of how life imitates art. No mention was made of them having to change their religion as a condition of rescue ... In a radio advertisement for Boda Pipes on WPEK (Greenville, SC) "...including the Peterson, which was the official pipe of Sherlock Holmes." Are you sure? I thought he was the official Commissioner ... In the play, "Camping with Henry & Tom" by Mark St. Germain, Thomas Edison reads a treatise on spirituality by A. C. Doyle. The characters also refer to Doyle as the author of the Sherlock Holmes stories ... Know who the first *Playboy* centerfold was? Seems the first one had only a one-pager of its dressless damsel and the center of the publication wherein one finds the staples, actually contained an article about

Sherlock Holmes. We know he likes to be the center of attention, but *this* is ridiculous! ... In the syndicated cartoon "Crabby Road," a November issue pictured the crabby old lady standing in front of her refrigerator holding a platter of food and saying, "I have a great idea for Thanksgiving leftovers. Eat them. It's not that tough, Sherlock." ... On 12/4/97 radio psychiatrist Dr. Joy Browne of WPEK in Greenville, SC advised a caller to work very hard at "Sherlock Holmesing" out the roots of her husband's problem ... "The Speckled Band" Northstar Comic book version has been re-printed as "Cases of Sherlock Holmes" by Avalon/ American Comics Group. "Sherlock Holmes: Return of the Devil" a 2-part comic by M. Powell & S. Makinen from Adventure/Malibu has been re-printed by Tome/ Caliber as a one-shot comic book ... SloaneVision Unlimited, Inc., has acquired all licensing, promotional and advertising rights to Sherlock Holmes ... Dec. '97 issue of U.S. (cont. page 4)

PUBLISHED PPoFers

Remember those Sherlockian Christmas Carols in #178? Well, they were picked up by Fred Porlock and posted at his site, YOXLEY OLD PLACE on the web. Look for it at <http://www.geocities.com/~sherlockian/index.html>.

Appearing at the same website is member Dave Scott's article, *Sherlock Holmes: Visitor to a Small Planet*, which he presented this past year at the SSSSI.

(cont. from front page)

1/7/74 - Leslie Marshall interviewed by *St. Petersburg Times Independent*

1975 - Benton Wood joins PPoF

1/13/78 - Celebration of 124th birthday of Holmes, Green Pepper Restaurant, St. Petersburg, Caroline Everett, host.

1/5/79 - 125th birthday celebration at Island Inn, Treasure Island

1/6/79 - Benton Wood invested BSI

1/4/80 - 126th birthday celebration, Treasure Island, home of Tom & Joy Mitchell

1/18-20/80 - PPoF hosts John Bennett Shaw Sherlock Holmes Workshop in St. Pete Beach at Colonial Inn

1/22/81 - PPoF dedicates Sherlock's Restaurant at the Bilmar Beach Resort in Treasure Island

1/16/82 - PPoF gives a special Holmes program at the Manatee Public Library in Bradenton,

arranged by Mike Bryan

1/6/83 - 129th birthday celebration held at George Edwards' home in St. Petersburg

1/6/84 - Bill Ward invested BSI

1/85 - *A Handy Holmesian Gazeteer* compiled by Ben Wood

1/6/88 - Last issue of Communication by Ben Wood, stepping down as Recorder. New regime: Bill Ward (5th Pip),

Caroline Everett (4th Pip), Mike Carroll (3rd Pip), Wanda Dow (2nd Pip), Ben Wood (1st Pip).

1/28/88 - Diogenes meeting at Bill Ward's home

1/6/91 - *Sherlockian Sing-a-Long* by Mike Carroll & Ben Wood published

Joan Wood honored as "The Woman" at BSI dinner

Bill Ward re-located to Broken Arrow, OK. Ben Wood retakes the reins

1/8/94 - Diogenes at Old Spaghetti Warehouse, arranged by David McCallister

1/94 - PPoF officially recognized by BSI

1/1/97 - New Regime: The Last Court of Appeals - David McCallister, Carl Heifetz, Jeff Dow & Wanda Dow

1/17/98 - 144th birthday Celebration at Cite' Grille in Dunedin, hosts Jeff & Wanda Dow

SHERLOCK'S SUNSHINE CELEBRATION

The Pleasant Places of Florida gathered at the Cite' Grille in downtown Dunedin to celebrate the 144th birthday of Sherlock Holmes on the evening of January 17th. Following the basic format of a regular meeting, members were welcomed by one of the hosts, Wanda Dow, who then proceeded to list a series of events which transpired in the year of 1854,(cont. pg. 6)

ROSTER UPDATE

New: Hess, Joachim L., LTC UAS, ret.,

Changes: Bryan, Mike,

Francis, Thomas J., BSI,

Kalajian, John,

Simpson, Robert L.,

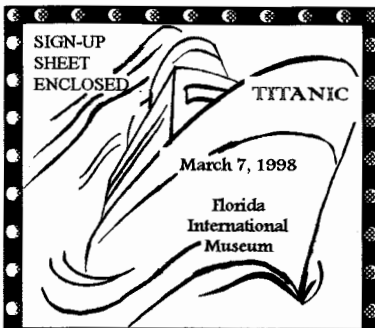
Smith, Frank, Owner, National Legal Video,

Tinsley, Debbie should also include Tinsley, Stan, OEH, Funeral Director

Vitell, Scott, Prof. of Marketing

Zuczek, Robert H.,

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



JOHN H.

An acrostic by Huong Nguyen
 Just an average, modest,
 Ordinary citizen of England,
 whom
 His friend would hardly accuse
 of being observant or original
 Nevertheless, in heart, in
 loyalty, in honesty and
 strength of character, he
 remains an ever-chivalrous,
 and quiet,

Hero

(from page 2) Airways in-flight magazine page 45 has an article on the new security measures implemented on U.S. currency with an illustration of Holmes. The artist? Nigel Holmes! ... *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, 12/10/97, quoted a foreign student in an article about foreign students going to school in the U.S. as saying, "But your school system is going down. In Germany, we read the Sherlock Holmes' novel, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, in English in the eighth grade. They're reading it here in the eleventh grade." Hey, we're glad to hear it's being read (cont. page 5)

SHERLOCKIAN HEADLINES FROM THE GUTTER PRESS

by Alan C. Olding, BSI

In Holmes' time the great majority of British newspapers were run on very conservative lines; scandals involving the rich and famous were rarely reported, and if they were, the reporting was as decorous as the circumstances would permit.

In the late twentieth century, we live in the times of the tabloid press. The rich and famous are fair game, and the screaming, attention grabbing headline, the more scandalous the better, is the rule rather than the exception.

In the headlines of today's 'gutter press,' the substance of the matter is frequently submersed by its seamier aspects, every possible insinuation of sexual impropriety emphasized, and scandal hinted at, whether it is there or not ...

Were they to occur to day, I am sure some of Holmes' cases would have provided plenty of scope for the imaginative, modern editor. See if you can recognise some of them from the following headlines:

TRANSVESTITE SAVES ROYAL MARRIAGE

"WHAT, A WOMAN?" CRIES KING (1)

LONDON CABBY MURDERS U.S. TOURISTS

RELIGIOUS SECT IMPLICATED (2)

REDHEADS CAUSE STIR IN CITY

PROMINENT BANKER INVOLVED (3)

ANGEL SOUGHT BY JILTED WOMAN

FLEW OFF ON WEDDING MORN! (4)

SURPRISE PACKET FOR MAIDEN LADY

SUSAN SAYS "WHAT'S THIS EAR?" (5)

SPLIT-LEVEL COFFIN NEARLY FOOLS GREAT DETECTIVE

AUSSIE CON MAN DOES A BUNK (6)

BUTLER SUFFOCATED BY WELSH GIRL'S PASSION

STRANGE RITUAL BLAMED (7)

BARONET BASHED TO DEATH

WOMAN TIED TO CHAIR WITH SILKEN ROPE (8)

ELDERLY ACADEMIC TRIES MONKEY GLANDS

"HIM NO TARZAN," SAYS COLLEAGUE'S DAUGHTER (9)

DETECTIVE SPENDS NIGHT IN GIRL'S ROOM WHILE DANGEROUS PET PUTS PAID TO WICKED STEPFATHER (10)

GRUESOME FIND IN ARISTOCRAT'S INCINERATOR

STRANGE GOINGS-ON IN FAMILY VAULT (11)

(CONT. PAGE 5)



Agony Column



The **FOURTH OCCASIONAL SHERLOCKIAN CRUISE** is still taking reservations. The intrepid 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 Beaune with lunch. To 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.

THE SECRET OF SHERLOCK HOLMES by Gary Boothe is a new book which recounts one of the most challenging and interesting cases of Holmes' illustrious career. The attractively bound softcover follows the tradition of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and accurately depicts the life and times of the maser sleuth. A

glossary with Victorian terms and historical notes is included. The book is available for \$13.00 from Gary F. Boothe,

Scott & Sherry Rose Bond are planning an 11-day "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" tour in London and the Sherlockian countryside for July, 1998. Contact them at

The **Sherlock Holmes Society of Melbourne** is a new group up and running the view halloo. Write Dr. Mike Duke, 3 Gullies St., Hampton Vic. 3188, Australia or try Email: mmgduke@netspace.net.au.

Le Petit Soldier Shop features hand-painted figures, including Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson. Contact them at 528 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130 or 504-523-7741.

The Game's Afoot Playing Cards is a set of playing cards featuring Paget's illustrations for face cards and quotes from the Canon on each numbered card. \$15.00 includes

shipping & handling from Spradlin & Assoc., P. O. Box 863, Lapeer, MI 48446 Phone: 810-664-8406 Fax: 810-667-6719

The Floor Plans of Baker Street by Edward Smith, Jr. is available postpaid \$7.50 USA/CAN, \$9.50 Other Countries. Order from Edward S. Smith, Jr.,

Also available is **The American Firm Challenges** (quizzes based on Canon) \$10.00 USA/CAN, \$12.00 Other Countries

Interested in all things English, Scottish, Welsh & Irish? Subscribe to **British Heritage**. A one year subscription (bi-monthly) is \$25.90 (US) \$31.90 (CAN) \$49.90 (Foreign)(All quotes are US funds) Call 800-829-3340 (US/CAN) or 904-446-6914 (Foreign). Keep an eye out for the June/July '98 issue. There will be an article on Doyle and his interest in folk-tales about Dartmoor. You'll need to subscribe by March 31 to get the June/July issue. They're on the internet at: www.thehistorynet.com/britishheritage

(FROM PAGE 4)

BLOODSUCKER BUSY IN SUSSEX

EX-RUGBY STAR INVOLVED (12)

YANKEE MAGNATE'S MISTRESS CHARGED WITH MURDER

DETECTIVE OFFERED HUGE FEE TO CLEAR HER (13)

NICOTINE HABIT TRAPS RUSSIAN TERRORISTS

SAD ECHOS FROM THE SALT MINES (14)

NATIONAL TREASURE PAWNED TO PAY PRIVATE DEBTS

BANKER'S DAUGHTERS' AFFAIR WITH BAD BARONET (15)

Answers can be found on page 7.

(from page 4) at all!....In an article by *LA Times* writer David Colker (Cyburbia) titled "Elementary, dear surf-ers," he lists several websites devoted to Holmes. He lists as "amazingly comprehensive" <http://www.cscmu.edu/afs/andrew.cmu.edu/usr18/mset/www/holmes.html>, "most extensive" as <http://watserv1.uwaterloo.ca/~credmond/sh.ml> and "most interesting" as <http://pw2.netcom.com/~lklinger/Chrotabl.htm>.

SEE ENCLOSED
SIGN-UP SHEET



Wessex Cup
February 14, 1998
Tampa Bay Downs

1998 P.P. of F. Calendar

February 14

8th Annual Wessex Cup
Tampa Bay Downs

Contact: David McCallister

March 7

Diogenes

Lunch & Titanic Exhibit

St. Petersburg

Contact: Carl Heifetz

May 2

Spring Gathering

St. Petersburg

Host: Mike Carroll

The Mazarin Stone

July 11

Diogenes

Orlando area

September 12

Diogenes

*The Coach & Horses British Pub &
Restaurant*

Sarasota

Hosts: Charles & Marilyn Amick

November 7

Fall Gathering

Dunedin

Hosts: Jeff & Wanda Dow

The Red Circle

ELEMENTARY

By Terry Klasek

If I live to be old in my bones,
there'll be nobody like Sherlock Holmes;
A master's brain that lives for the problem's sake,
and couldn't care less about a steak;
An eye keen to observe all that's inept,
and in deductions he's usually correct;
His wants are little, his needs be few,
but he's loyal, courageous and true;
To his words, "Amazing!" say my lips and face,
to which he pshawes saying, "O, commonplace."
Fools like me make these poems fine,
but only Holmes can solve the crime!



SHERLOCK

An acrostic by Huong Nguyen

Surely never surpassed in brilliance, in genius,
He is the consummate detective, the epitome. Largely self-
Educated in hemoglobin, tobacco ash, plaster of paris, the agony
column, and innumerable histories of sensational crime, this
acute

Reasoner yet

Loves wry humor, good friendship, strong smoke, fine dining, and
the truly

Outre to complement the recherche. He is the product of art in the
blood — and theatre, and music, and philosophy . . .

Case after case he pursues to relieve the commonplace dullness of
existence, whether his client be a scandalous

King or a beautiful young Violet.

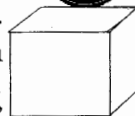
HEADLINE ANSWERS

1. A Scandal in Bohemia 2. A Study
in Scarlet 3. The Redheaded League
4. A case of Identity 5. The
Cardboard Box 6. The Dis-
appearance of Lady Frances Carfax
7. The Musgrave Ritual 8. The
Abbey Grange 9. The Creeping Man
10. The Speckled Band 11.
Shoscombe Old Place 12. The
Sussex Vampire 13. The Problem of
Thor Bridge 14. The Golden Pince
Nez 15. The Beryl Coronet.

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. \$1.50 ppd. to
Wanda Dow,



Come join us on Saturday, March 7th, 1998, at 11:30 a.m. for a pleasant lunch in downtown St. Petersburg. At 1:00 p.m. embark on a journey into the unfathomable world of the **TITANIC**. The **TITANIC** was the largest moving object on the Earth and a technological accomplishment of mankind filled with the latest modern conveniences. She was thought to be unsinkable. Glimpse the grandeur that was once part of the Edwardian era from more than 300 objects recovered from the wreck site. See how a sequence of human events contributed to the tragedy. And hear the chilling stories of the expedition that found her. **TITANIC The Exhibition** is at the Florida International Museum at 100 Second Street North, downtown St. Petersburg (Exit 10 off I-275). Book your passage today. Cost is \$12.45 per person for the exhibit. Lunch is "dutch treat" and will be at a restaurant within walking distance to the museum. Make checks payable to **CARL HEIFETZ** & mail to Carl Heifetz,

____ Yes! I want to have lunch and travel back through time with other PPoF members to examine the **TITANIC**. I understand that you will notify me of the eating establishment at which we will meet at 11:30 a.m. I also understand that should we not have 20 or more people going, I may have to pay an additional fee for entry into the exhibit.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I enclose \$ _____ made payable to Carl Heifetz,



Eighth Annual Wessex Cup of the

PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA

Saturday, February 14, 1998 at 11:30 a.m.

Come join us for the Eighth Annual running of the Wessex Cup, sponsored by The Pleasant Places of Florida. This year's choice of dinner will be NY Strip Steak. (Please let David know well ahead of time if a substitution needs to be made due to dietary restrictions.)

As with every previous year, we will meet at the Tampa Bay Downs Clubhouse at 11:30 a.m. Our race is scheduled to be number four. When you send in your registration, David will forward a map and tickets to you, so be sure to make your reservation early enough to have these sent to you. It would be VERY helpful if you register no later than 2/1/98.

Please sign me/us up at \$15.00 per person.

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Phone _____

Make checks payable to:
DAVID MCCALLISTER
Mail to: David McCallister,

Details & map will be forwarded when
payment is received.





MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

If you have a red check on the back page, your club membership is up for renewal. Please check the information below to insure that you are listed in the club records as you wish to be listed.

Return this section to CARL HEIFETZ,
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CARL
**HEIFETZ (NOT the PPoF!!! We don't have a bank account
under the club name due to costs!)**. Membership is \$10.00
US/CAN and \$12.00 INT'L.

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.

**PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE DATE AFTER YOUR NAME ON THE MAILING LABEL.
THIS IS THE EXPIRATION DATE OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP.**

Pleasant Places of Florida
The Papers On The Sundial

