



A Publication of the Pleasant Places of Florida

Communication

#189

New Series

January/February 1999

Volume 3 Issue 1

Greetings and welcome to the new year! We hope your holidays were healthy and happy. We begin this year with the conclusion of *A Bauble in Time*, reports on the birthday doings in New York and those in St. Petersburg, Florida. Our insert is a printing of the toasts made during our luncheon - the bottom half is a sign-up sheet for the Wessex Cup. Resident members should have already received forms from *Master of the House*, David McCallister, but in case they've been mislaid, here's another chance. Be quick! The race is set for February 13th and David needs a count by February 8th!!

We are still looking for volunteers to host this year's Gatherings and Diogenes. Don't forget - if you want to host and the date isn't good for you, it can be changed. Contact *Representative* Carl Heifetz if you'd like to host something.

As for us, we're always looking for interesting articles, artwork, (short) pastiches, poetry, etc. to publish. Contact *The Papers* if you have anything. We hope to be doing another *Round-Robin Pastiche* this year, as well as publishing some of the skits previously performed by the Dow Family Players. We're also working with David McCallister to get a compilation of his *The Rest of the Story*s done, and possibly a PPOF Puzzle book. So stay tuned!

The Papers on the Sundial

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The Papers would like to express their extreme gratitude to the **Alpha Inn Goose Club** for providing the means for a sumptuous holiday feast.

1999 Proposed Calendar

February 13

Wessex Cup

March 6

Diogenes Meeting

May 8

24th Spring Gathering

July 10

Diogenes Meeting

September 11

Diogenes Meeting

November 6

24th Fall Gathering

It's time once again to begin a new **ROUND-ROBIN PASTICHE!** Yes, as we begin the new year, let us once again foray into the fickle forest of fiction and felicitate another fortuitous fishy folio. We hereby set up the cattle-call to enlist PPOF writers and dreamers. This time we're going to chance a title first.

The Adventure of the Glorious Scot

What say you? All those "game" please submit a 5-page resume.... no, just kidding. Once you contact us, we'll contact you with the details of what part you have and the desired length of your section. All those interested, please contact your *Papers on the Sundial* by 2/28/98 at _____ or email at _____

The Second Annual Sherlock's Sunshine Celebration

as reported by Jeff Dow

Festivities for Holmes' 145th Birthday got off to a sumptuous start at Leverock's Seafood Restaurant in south St. Petersburg. David McCallister acted as host. With 24 attendees, dinner commenced with a reading of the PPOF Ritual as rewritten by Wanda Dow.

David distributed a quiz on dogs in the canon, which was won by Dave Scott. For his efforts, Dave received a Sherlock Hound video.

Toasts had to wait until after dinner due to the inability of the restaurant to serve alcohol until after 1:00 PM on Sunday. David McCallister compared Holmes to his numerous colleagues. Dave Scott firmly enunciated that, unlike some persons these days, Holmes knew the difference between law and justice. Tom Takach

drew an interesting parallel between Holmes and George Bailey of *It's A Wonderful Life* (indeed, life would be different if Holmes had never been born). Culver Dow commented on Holmes "inspecting" abilities. And the Dow Family Players gave a short musical tribute to Baker Street.

The fete concluded around 1:15 PM. From there, the celebrants retired to the St. Petersburg Little Theatre and a matinee staging of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* adapted and dramatized by Tim Kelly. David McCallister had the rare opportunity to introduce the play, attired in his invernness cape and deerstalker. He also called attention to Holmes' 145th birthday and to the PPOF itself.

The play was a spirited two-act production involving ten

characters. With a wonderful set, all action took place inside Baskerville Hall. While true to the original's tone, there were a few surprises, which to avoid spoiling it for others will not be revealed here.

During the curtain calls, David once again appeared in costume and presented Holmes with a birthday cake. This was followed by a chorus from the audience of *Happy Birthday to You* to the master.

Afterwards, the PPOF members were allowed to meet and take pictures of the cast and photograph the set.

The lobby itself contained a life-size black styrofoam sculpture of the hound, replete with glowing red eyes and dripping mouth.

The festivities concluded around 4:00 PM. Members could go home safe in the thought that Holmes' birthday had been appropriately celebrated. Here's to another 145 years.



Agony Column



Christopher Sliwa would like to hear from Sherlockians who would like to **correspond** with a Sherlockian in Poland. Snail mail to Krzysztof Sliwa,

Poland or

e-mail

Rockport Shoes offers a Baskerville collection of men's casual shoes, including a Watson style and a Moriarty style. Mail order available from Marks Athletic, 4028 SW 57th Ave., Miami, FL 33155. 1-800-666-6222.

Sherlock Holmes in Japan (#6) is available in an expanded 97-page edition for \$10.00 postpaid from Keith E. Webb,

The Scroll of the Dead by David Stuart Davies is available from

Calabash Press. Cloth: \$30 (\$40CA, L19) or Paper: \$19.50 (\$23.50CA, L12.50) plus s/h \$3.75 (\$5.30CA, \$7.05/\$4.15 air/surface) Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada.

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine celebrates Sherlock's birthday in it's February issue.

Looking for **Arthur Wontner's The Sign of Four**? Vintage Entertainment is now offering a video for \$13.95 postpaid. Checks to Nothing's New, 23 Bayhill Shopping Center, San Bruno, CA 94066.

How about **John Barrymore's Sherlock Holmes**? A good-quality video has been sighted from Videobrary, Inc. 5812 Wish Ave., Encino, CA 91316 for \$19.95 plus \$4.00 s/h. This is the 1970 restored version.

For you philatelists, you can get a pair of cacheted covers cancelled on October 31st, 1998 with a *Hound of the Baskervilles* pictorial postmark. One honors the 1939 film (£13.99UK, £14.99INTL) and one honors the 1959 film (£11.99UK, £12.99INTL). From Maurice Tanner,

England. You can also send him \$1 for an illustrated flier.

What on Earth, 2451 Enterprise East Pkwy, Twinsburg, OH 44087 offers a **Sherlock Holmes Pub t-shirt** (\$14.95) or **sweatshirt** (\$24.95) from a pub in Sheffield, England. 1-800-945-2552

For Rent: Wooden outhouse, 16x10 ft. Small windows on each side, one towards high road. Includes bed, curtains, shelf, seachest. Apply Mrs. P. Carey, Woodman's Lee, Sussex.

ROSTER UPDATE

New: **Black, Elliott**, Marketing Consultant, *A Wizard, A Sorcerer*, e-mail:

Ostrom, E. Howard, Pari-mutuels, *Straker*, e-mail:

Changes: **Allen, Richard G.**, zip code:

Bryan, Michael, e-mail:

Coppola, Joseph, e-mail:

Walker, Arthur T., e-mail:

Wein, Richard A., BSI, e-mail:

Please check the address on your mailing label to make sure the correct information is being held by the club. Don't forget to change those 813 FL area codes to 727! (see Comm. #184)

A BAUBLE IN SPACE TIME

This is a continuation of the story *A Bauble in Space Time* which was started in COM.#188. If you recall, Mr. Spock is explaining the reason he wishes to change course as it relates to the discovery by his ancestor of the blue carbuncle.

"Yes," replied Spock, "We may have a clue to the location of a rift in space-time itself that will enable us to explore a parallel universe. The fact that the carbuncle is blue and not the red color that it should be could only be accounted for by the possibility that it was created in a universe where the laws of physics may be different from those in our universe. Consider the possibility that the relationship of the circumference of a circle to its diameter is not a constant, π as we know it. Or that there is a different relationship between force and acceleration. Consider even the possibility that electromagnetic waves such as light flow at a different velocity than they do in our universe. I propose that we seek that rift. Then, objects that are red in their home universe would appear as a different color in ours, blue for example."

"Why should it be here and not on Earth where the stone was found?" asked the Captain in a somewhat uncertain tone, realizing that he was now out of his depth.

"It is my hypothesis that the location of the possible rift moves with the currents of space. Our

universe has been expanding since it was created in the big bang. Thus, the location of the rift has moved away from the Earth in the same manner that two spots on a balloon move away from each other when the balloon is inflated.

I have calculated the approximate position that it has traveled in the intervening years after the deposition of the blue carbuncle in southern China. We are only 8.36 to 9.47 light years away from that location. If my calculations are correct, and I cannot be precise, I could logically conclude that our journey would take us only 6.39 Star Date cycles away from our current course."

"Yes," replied Captain Kirk with little enthusiasm. "I suppose we are obligated to check it out or I'll never hear the end of it." Turning on the wall communicator, he ordered: "Mr. Sulu, change course to the coordinates that you are about to receive from Mr. Spock."

Then, initiating ship-wide broadcast, Kirk continued: "To all members of the crew of the Enterprise, we are about to embark on a voyage of discovery of immense importance. Although it will delay our visit to the Star Base by seven cycles, I expect your full cooperation. Although I do not anticipate any away missions, I promise that if we do require them, no one will need to wear a red tunic, even if I have to loan them some of my favorite green v-necked shirts."

Joined by Spock, who by now had communicated the new coordinates to Mr. Sulu, the trio relocated to the bridge, to be surrounded at the door of the turbolift by all of the expectant senior staff.

Spock held up the blue carbuncle which shone out like a star, with a cold, brilliant, many pointed radiance.

The Captain turned to the officers and spoke with his voice of command: "The gem displayed in Mr. Spock's hand is the key to a new adventure, a journey into a parallel universe. Who knows what wonders may await us?"

"Can the speech Jim. We've heard this sermon before!" shouted the doctor, his face again red with exasperation. "How in blazes are we goin' to know when we get to your theoretical hole in space anyway?"

"My dear colleagues, you know my methods. Apply them," commanded Mr. Spock. "I have a plan to locate the rift in space, and this gem is the key. Please bear with me for approximately 6.9 cycles. I will inform you when the time is near. You will be fellow observers to a great discovery."

With that, Mr. Spock sat down at the science station. With no further action imminent, the rest of the crew drifted off to their normal positions. Smiling, now that he would be able to

study his technical journals, Mr. Scott, the only crew member not afraid to wear red, returned to the engineering section. Seated next to each other in the bridge, Mr. Sulu and Mr. Chekov took turns glancing longingly at Lieutenant Uhura's thighs, smiling and winking when they caught each other in the act. Beautiful young female yeomen in shorter than required miniskirts took turns bringing Captain Kirk beverages as they each tried to attract his attention. Then, as the daily cycles faded into each other, everyone went about their normal routines taking turns at their duty stations and the few recreational facilities on the sparsely equipped space ship, as required by their very limited budget.

Then, after 6.7 cycles, Mr. Spock returned to the center of the bridge. "Come join me," he commanded over the communicator, "It will begin soon."

All of the members of the bridge staff, including those not on duty, returned. The rest of the crew stopped their work and sat watching over video outlets in their quarters, their duty stations, or the few common areas. Commander Spock stood as tall and straight as a Vulcan holding the blue carbuncle aloft between the graceful thumb and forefinger of his left hand, sparkling in the bright light. Then, to the hushed

astonishment of the onlookers, the stone began to slowly change color.

The bright blue color shifted into green. The whispered voice of Lt. Commander Scott could be heard as he spoke into his hand-held computer. "Shifting from a wave length of 490 nanometers to 540 nanometers," he noted. Then, as the gem began to take on a yellowish cast, he stated "now 600 nanometers." Then the stone turning to orange, he continued his measurements, "620, 630." And finally, the color passed through various shades of orange and stopping at a bright ruby red, corresponding with Mr. Scott's pronouncements: "Now its up to 640 nanometers. The change in wave length has appeared to stop at 660 nanometers. However, there has been no change in frequency of its vibration. That is ver-ra striking. It is indeed a bonny red color, ruby like in hue."

"We are now at the gateway to the rift in space time between our universe and the parallel universe. As I hypothesized, in its proper environment the carbuncle would show the expected ruby red color that is characteristic with its crystal structure," blandly stated Commander Spock.

"What in blazes does it mean, Spock!" yelled the now energized and enthusiastic Dr. McCoy. "This is fantastic. Good goin' Spock!"

"Yes, Mr. Spock," spoke the Captain in his customary

measured tones as bespeaks a starship commander. "But what does this mean?"

Seeing comprehension dawning on the face of Mr. Scott, the Vulcan nodded affirmatively, allowing the chief engineer to demonstrate his scientific acumen. "This has been a ver-ra interestin' demonstration," he stated in his Scottish brogue. "Ver-ra interesin' indeed. As we approached the hole between universes, the stone responded by changin' color. The wave length went through the visible spectrum from its original blue to its current red color. However, according to my instruments, the frequency of vibration remained unchanged. The conclusion is unbelievable. Let's review the facts: The velocity of light is equal to its frequency multiplied by its wave length. The color of an object derives from the wavelength that it emits. Since the frequency remained unchanged, the change in wavelength could only result from differences in the velocity of light itself. Amazin'."

"Yes," said Spock. "What is more fascinating is the fact that the blue carbuncle was so easily found on the banks of a river in ancient China."

The Captain looked up to the taller Vulcan and asked, hesitatingly, "Do you mean what I think you mean? Could the jewel have been planted by superior beings until it came

within reach of a man who tore its secret out of it."

As the three comrades - Spock, Kirk and Bones - stood together looking out into the gap in space in the direction of the parallel universe, a shimmer of pale blue light made its appearance on the view screen. Slowly, they perceived it taking the shape of a radiant ball slowly spinning and appearing larger as it came closer. The ball seemed to fluctuate in an eerie way. Although the volume of the sphere did not alter, and neither did the width, the proportional relationship between these dimensions were constantly shifting in ways that only Spock could actually discern.

"Fascinating. I believe that they have noted our arrival," said Mr. Spock blandly.

"Yes, Spock, the adventure has just begun," responded Dr. McCoy.

"To boldly go forward into another frontier," continued Captain Kirk. "Red alert. Full thrusters forward towards the object. Shields up. Open hailing frequencies," he ordered as Sulu, Chekov, and Uhura efficiently obeyed his commands, and the Enterprise slowly drifted into the rift between universes.

With apologies to Arthur Conan Doyle, MD and Mr. Gene Roddenberry for the material stolen, with love and respect, from their great bodies of work. The foregoing was meant as an expression of my devotion to their skills and my gratitude for the gifts that they have provided us by the worlds that they have created with the power of their minds.

The Next Generation

by Wanda Dow

On November 18, 1998, it was career day at my children's elementary school. I volunteered to speak to my son's third-grade class, not about my career, but about my hobby.

I opened with some background on Arthur Conan Doyle and the characters he created, then went on to explain how Holmes and Watson, in time, took on a life of their own.

I told them of Doyle's attempt to "kill off" Holmes at Reichenbach, and about the public outcry and mourning that followed. I went on to explain the formation of the Baker Street Irregulars and the expansion of that club into hundreds of scions all over the world.

The children were fascinated. Most of them knew

Sherlock Holmes from shows such as *Wishbone*. Some had seen the old Rathbone/Bruce films.

I was scheduled for fifteen minutes. I stayed for forty-five as hands continued to be raised to ask questions or just make a statement as to how they knew about Sherlock Holmes. It was one of the most enjoyable mornings I've ever had, and I'd highly recommend it to anyone else.

What a promise of a bright tomorrow! Future Sherlockians!



Unfortunately, after young Jacky was sent away, the Ferguson's realized they had a problem with their other child.

IT'S MADNESS!

Prepare yourself for a Holmesian world gone MAD in our next issue of *COMMUNICATION*. Have a little insanity you've been wanting to unleash on an unsuspecting world? Join us! Submit your **INSANE** article, poem, advertisement or artwork to *The Papers on the Sundial*,

by 3/1/99. Email us by 3/5/99.

BSI WEEKEND '99

David R. McCallister

Every year's and everyone's experience of a BSI Birthday Weekend is unique, of course, but the 1999 events were unusually well attended and enjoyable. Starting on Thursday, the Christopher Morley Walk led by Alien Mackler had a small but loyal contingent which visited the usual haunts of the Gotham Bookstore, The Woolworth Tower, St. Paul's and McSorley's. The weather was very clear albeit cold and the Woolworth Tower's new management was willing to let us have a really good look from the top. Being a bit acrophobic, I looked out the door while others leaned over the rails.

The BSI's 2nd Distinguished Sherlockian Lecture featured Owen Dudley Edwards, a biographer of ACD who nevertheless gave a quite Watsonian oriented talk noting his kinship to Boswell, Plate and Biblical biographers.

Friday morning, I again braved the cold to stand outside NBC studios during the Today Show with a "Happy 145th Birthday Sherlock Holmes" sign. Matt Lauer came out at 8:30 and as he didn't have a hat on, I proffered a spare deerstalker and he was kind enough to don it on the air and mention the occasion. My parents in Florida and my inlaws in Chicago were able to see my 15 seconds of fame.

Friday also featured the Martha Hudson breakfast at the newly refurbished Algonquin, and the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's. There were 120 for lunch -the largest ever. The entertainment featured clever Sherlockian tableaux vivant explained by PBS' Sister Wendy. PPOF's Paul Singleton is always a player at the lunch.

Friday night saw myself and my sister at the 3rd Baskerville Bash, again with a record crowd. The venue at La Belie Epoch is wonderful and the food grand, but the entertainment is the thing -Hugo the Hound MC's the evening and we were regaled by the Grimpen Mire Choir and the Shirlettes. Brad Keefauver confessed to his seventeen steps Sherlockian addiction. The auctions were lively; for artworks and a carved box that I intend to win one of these years.

Saturday continued the fun with the notorious "Hawkers room" where everything from first editions to Shirley-Lock Angelica dolls was for sale. Ed Smith's The American Firm, a scion which donates large print editions to nursing homes, met for lunch at Rosie O'Grady's; after which some went to the Mysterious Bookshop before the BSI Reception for all comers at the National Arts Club. Both the decor and the catering are exceptional at the National Arts Club. There were the traditional poetic wrapup of the BSI dinner, at which apparently Gov. Pataki was a guest of the recently elevated to Appellate Court Al Rosenblatt, and June Kinnie, among others, was invested, and the auction and draw, again for original artwork.

An informal dinner group of some two dozen was put together for Keene's Chophouse, and a late night smoker turned ceildhi was hosted by Dr. Marina Stajick. Another informal group of about 50 met at the Landmark Tavern for brunch on Sunday, at which point I had to head back to LaGuardia and Florida.

The wonderful thing about this weekend is the people you meet and the friendships renewed year after year. The British, French, Japanese, and even New Zealanders that attend are all welcome along with those of us from scions all over the US. IF Y2K can top '99, it'll really be something.

Submission Deadlines

Mad March Special Issue &

March/April Issue: 3/1/99

May/June Issue & Father's Day

Special Issue: 5/1/99

July/August Issue: 7/1/99

September/October Issue & Puzzles

Special Issue: 9/4/99

*November/December Issue & Endings
& Beginnings Special Issue: 10/30/99*

THE SECOND ANNUAL SHERLOCK'S SUNSHINE CELEBRATION

To Holmes on His 145th

Here's to Holmes, the Master of mystery,
The finest detective in all of our history.

Dupin was a bungler. LeCoq was a bore.
Poirot's too effete. Lord Peter, a snore.

Vance, somewhat smug. Marlowe, too rough.
Queen's a has-been. Spade, just too tough.

Miss Marple's too cozy. Wolfe, just too fat.
Nick is a lush, and Nora, too flat.

Fr. Brown is too prissy. Campion's a sissy.
Thorndyke's just brain, and Van Dusen, too vain.

Of all the slueths that work for their clients,
From crudest of crude, to the best of the giants,

Holmes is the one we read, whole and in parts,
The one that has captured our heads and our hearts,

And his birthdays we fete, with laughter, not tears,
So let's raise a glass to his 145 years.

David McCallister



These are the
toasts made at the
Pleasant Places of
Florida's Second
Annual
Sherlockian
Sunshine

Celebration of the Master's birthday,
No. 145.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
☆ In a time when our own country is ☆
☆ struggling with issues of law and ☆
☆ justice, I salute a man who knew ☆
☆ the difference, and who would ☆
☆ rather play tricks with the law ☆
☆ than with his conscience -- ☆
☆ Sherlock Holmes. ☆
☆ David Scott ☆
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

To Sherlock Homes!

A Master Detective,
He was very cool,
And quite inspective.

Culver Dow

THE GAME'S AHOOF!

Sherlockians! Join us for the 1999 Pleasant Places of Florida's
FLORIDA WESSEX CUP IX

Tampa Bay Downs - Saturday February 13th, 1999 - 12:30 PM

The track is now a turf track and the menu has been upgraded.

Choice of 10 oz. NY Strip Steak or Grilled Salmon w/lemon butter.

The price remains the same - \$15 per person!

The fun remains the feature!

Last year had a Valentine's theme, this year will be "Lucky 13." In addition to the usual track program, we will have our own program and souvenirs. Drinks and Wagers are up to you. Tickets will be mailed to you upon receipt of payment and reservation. (see form on reverse)

A COMPARISON

Since The Master's birthday follows so closely upon the heels of the Christmas season, it seems appropriate to note a few of the striking parallels between him and a gentleman who is a perpetual holiday guest in so many folks' homes, Mr. George Bailey. Both men truly had a *Wonderful Life*. For example, had neither man been born

..... Cab drivers would not have fared so handsomely, whether we're talking about John Clayton picking up a half-sovereign, or Ernie Bishop staying married and not being reduced to living in a shack.

..... The bloom would not have been preserved on a fair violet, be it Violet Hunter going to *The Copper Beeches*, or Violet Bick going to New York.

..... A most worthy girl named Mary, whether Morstan or Hatch, would never have hooked up with her ideal mate.

..... A brother named Mycroft would not have been able to save the lives of countless British sailors by recovering *The Bruce Partington Plans*, and a brother named Harry Bailey would not have saved the lives of every man on a troop transport ship.

..... Most importantly, evil would have gone unchecked, with Bedford Falls becoming Pottersville and London becoming something even worse than Euro-Disney, MoriartyLand.

..... So let us proffer a birthday toast to the man whom George Bailey and so many others have taken inspiration from, Mr. Sherlock Holmes!

Tom Takach

A 50's STYLE SHU-WOP TOAST

(throughout background) Ba-bum-ba-bum-bum Ba-bum Doo-wop-doo-wop

A-a-as I-ee-I walked down Ba-a-ker Street

There was a ma-a-an I wanted to meet.

He was famous in London, in Europe and more

Oh look! There is the door!

2-2-1-B.

The Dow Family Players

Please make checks payable and send to:
David R. McCallister,

Reservation
deadline: Monday, Feb.
8th - when the
guarantee is set.

PPOF - FLA WESSEX CUP IX - FEB 13, 1999

Please make reservations for _____ @ \$15.00 per reservation.

Enclosed is a total of \$ _____

Meal Choices: _____ New York Strip _____ Grilled Salmon

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Zip _____

Phone: () _____

The Pleasant Places of Florida
Recorder Emeritus: *Dr. Benton Wood*

Founded: 1972
by Leslie Marshall (dec.)

For the record: **THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS**
David McCallister, Master of the House,

Jeff & Wanda Dow, The Papers on the Sundial,

Carl L. Helfetz, 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.



Wessex Cup
February 13,
1999

Tampa Bay
Downs
Contact David
McCallister

Pleasant Places of Florida
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