



A Publication of the Pleasant Places of Florida

# Communication

#207

New Series

November/December, 2000

Volume 4 Issue 9

*Wow, here we are at the end of another year already! We hope you have enjoyed your Communications. We've certainly enjoyed putting them together for you. Don't forget that we do accept submissions as well as clippings and any news of Holmes you find.*

*Our 25th Annual Fall Gathering was enjoyed by all who attended and for those of you who couldn't, we have a special enclosure. Don't forget to let David McCallister know if you're attending the Wessex Cup XI. The Fourth Birthday Bash is still in the planning stages and we will be sending out info to all resident members as soon as plans are solidified. Any non-resident members who think they might be in the area, let us know so we can get the info out to you, too!*

*The Papers on the Sundial*



CHARLTON HESTON AS SHERLOCK HOLMES

## MAKING SHERLOCK'S CASE

BY KEVIN DELANEY OF WEBGUIDE

"I fear that Mr. Sherlock Holmes may become like one of those popular tenors who, having outlived their time, are still tempted to make repeated farewell bows to their indulgent audiences. This must cease and he must go the way of all flesh, material or imaginary." So wrote Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in his introduction to *The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes* (1927), the final collection of stories starring the sleuth. Doyle's intent notwithstanding, Holmes refused to die, achieving a fame no tenor ever dreamed of.

Latter-day authors have pitted him against Dracula and Jack the Ripper, but it's the ingenuity of Doyle's four original novels and 56 short stories that has kept Holmes alive in the imaginations of young and old. The subject of countless movies, TV series, and stage plays, he's more popular than ever on the Web, where it's easy to imagine him obsessively chasing down clues. Accord- (cont. on page 4)

### In this Issue...

Inspector Lestrade's Evening .....	2
Roster Corrections .....	3
Newsletters Received .....	4
Calendar Sherlockiana .....	5

### PROPOSED SCHEDULE 2001

January 13 ... Sherlock's Sunshine Birthday Bash IV  
February 10 ... Wessex Cup XI, Tampa Bay Downs  
May TBA ... 26th Annual Spring Gathering  
November TBA ... 26th Annual Fall Gathering

## INSPECTOR LESTRADE'S EVENING

by Tom Takach

Inspector Lestrade thanked Mrs. Hudson for the cup of tea that she placed on the table before him. A bitterly cold December evening, he was grateful for *any* source of comfort as he awaited Mr. Holmes's return to his Baker Street rooms. "He and Dr. Watson left at about five-thirty to enjoy a meal at *Simpsons*," said Mrs. Hudson. "Every now and again, Mr. Holmes, for *whatever* baffling reason, decides to eat someone *else's* cooking." Lestrade avoided commenting on this observation by timidly blowing on his steaming cup. He remembered hearing Mr. Holmes complain on any number of occasions that Mrs. Hudson, while a superb cleaning woman, was sometimes suspect in the culinary area. Her kippers alone had nearly done him in on six separate occasions. As the landlady exited the room, the curious inspector surveyed the habitation of the man whose counsel he had grudgingly sought so many times in the past.

Research performed on the stained chemical table had repeatedly proven invaluable to Mr. Holmes, but Lestrade was struck by nothing more than the fact that this table *still* looked better than a similar one in his own meager apartment. Rising from his chair, Lestrade then went over to the fireplace to sneak a peek at Holmes's most recent correspondence. Removing the jackknife, his lips moving as he read the note, Lestrade observed that the great detective's newest client was a chimney sweep whose spelling was as poor as his prospects. There seemed to be little of interest in a man whose cleaning brushes had disappeared from his home during the early morning hours as he slept. Replacing the note, the Inspector then helped himself to one of Holmes' cigars from the nearby coal-scuttle. Inhaling deeply, he rued the fact that he could afford nothing of comparable quality.

Lestrade then ambled over to the window to gaze upon the bustling nighttime scene that was Baker Street. Silently cursing the fact that

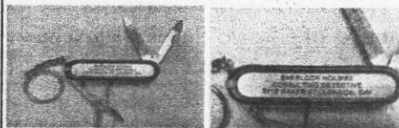
he was forced to work all hours of the day to protect the ungrateful citizens of this grimy metropolis, he threw his cigar down at the street below in disgust. The glowing tip was extinguished with a brief hiss as it landed in the snow piled up on the sidewalk. Across the street, Lestrade espied an old woman that was struggling with a veritable mountain of Christmas packages. A brightly wrapped green one on the very top of the pile fell off. Then another; and still another. Tempted to offer assistance and therefore raising himself to his full height from his vantage point of leaning out of the window, Lestrade cracked his head sharply against the top of the window casement. Impressively emulating the moves of the great Russian ballerina Natasha Fatale, Lestrade spun around in circles, the back of his throbbing head clasped in both hands. Cleverly finding the small puddle of oil on the floor where Holmes had been cleaning his gun earlier that afternoon, Lestrade then did an almost perfect backflip as he crashed, headfirst, to the floor. Raising himself by reaching for the table above, he then scalded his fingers, which almost instinctively found the inside of his still full teacup. By this time peppering the air with a rich medley of distinctively non-Christmas-themed phrases, he crawled back over to the open bow window.

Drawing himself up to his full height and scowling out of the window, 'twas a cheery sight that greeted his softening gaze. Where he had last seen a frazzled elderly lady dropping all of her parcels, he now saw a half dozen street urchins marching single file in front of the smiling woman, a package in each pair of hands and a Christmas carol on each set of lips. "Helping her carry those tokens of affection all the way to her house" Lestrade mused to himself. "Mr. Holmes has(cont. on page 3)

smoke more than anybody I know, excepting possibly those human chimneys, Dr. Watson and Mr. Holmes!" A broad grin pasted on his face, Lestrade briefly misplaced that expression after slipping on the threadbare carpeting at the top of the steps and tumbling down all seventeen of them. Brushing off his overcoat as he left Mrs. Hudson's establishment, the good inspector began humming *Silent Night* to himself as he lightheartedly strolled down the gas lit street.



Victorian blue. Timelines based on Zeisler & Christ chronologies. Also has dates from the lives of Doyle, Paget, Steele, Gillette & others. \$11.95 postpaid.



Three blades: knife, nail file & scissors. Only 100 available. \$4.95 plus s/h \$1.00 US. Colorado residents add \$0.17 sales tax.

The Sherlock Store, Wm. S. Dorn,  
Proprietor, 2045 S. Monroe St.,  
Denver CO 80210-3734

Correction: Dow, Culver, Elizabeth, Jeff & Wanda email address should be

\*\*\*\*\*  
 ★ "My name is Doctor John H. Watson. The story I am about to tell you tonight is not for the faint of heart, for it deals  
 ★ with a series of the most depraved, grotesque crimes ever committed. And they began, I well remember, the night before  
 ★ Halloween in the year 1890 ..." Thus begins Imagination Theater's *The Further Adventures of Sherlock*  
 ★ *Holmes*. With John Gilbert as Holmes and Lawrence Albert as Dr. Watson, you can now purchase  
 ★ these dramatic radio plays. From TransMedia, 719 Battery Street, San Francisco, CA 94111. 1-800-  
 ★ 229-7234. Call or write for a free catalog or e-mail at <kristin8@transmediasf.com>  
 ★\*\*\*\*\*



## GETAWAY IN FORT MYERS

**\$ 75-**

**a person +tax  
(double occupancy)**

**Extra Nights  
\$49 a room**

## DINNER TRAIN THEATER

**5 course Dinner, Murder Mystery,  
Train Ride, and Hotel stay**

**FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS**

**941-275-8487 or 1-800-SEM-GULF**

## News "Birds of Bush"

**WWW.SEMGULF.COM**



**Florida's only Dinner Train**

### Sherlockian Newsletters

Newsletters received since last publication are:

**The Camden House Journal**, is a regular publication of the Empty House scion. Vol.22 No.10 contains *The Missing Beryl* by The Rev. Raymond L. Holly. Vol. 22 No. 11 contains *Through the Golden Pince-Nez* by Gordon R. Speck, BSI. Send mail to

**The Sherlockian Times** is the catalog of Classic Specialties. The Fall Catalog 2000/2001 is selling over a dozen new Sherlockian books, various magazines and numerous items of Sherlockiana. Write them at PO Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219.

**The District Messenger** is the newsletter of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and they report on all things Sherlockian that come their way, from meetings, newsletters, items for sale or desired. Contact Roger Johnson,

**The Baker Street Dispatch** is Ohio's only newsletter for Holmes devotees. Vol. 10 No. 5 contains articles on 3GAB, and reviews *The Doctor and The Detective: A Bio of ACD*, *The 221 B Baker Street Restaurant in Michigan*, *Pipes & Tobacco Magazine*, *S.H. and the Alice in Wonderland Murders*, *Granada's 3GAB* and *S.H. and The Frightened Golfer*. Contact Editors Biblewski at

**The Whaling News** is a publication of the *Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn*. Vol. 12 No. 10 contains *His Master's Violin: The Doyle Talking-Machine* by David Harton and *The Literary Agent Accused of Murder?* No. 11 contains *Suicide Disguised As Murder: A Munchausen-related Event at Thor Bridge* by Diane Maginn. Contact Michael Bragg, Editor, PO

Now you can have a set of water glasses just like those used at the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium II. 5 1/2" tall, 3" in diameter. Black logo and print on clear glass. Set of four glasses US\$25.00. Includes shipping in US. All others additional US\$5. Send orders to Wanda Dow,



Let everyone know you're a member of the Pleasant Places. Get a 2 1/2" square window decal. Black on clear. US\$2.00 to Wanda Dow,



Includes shipping.

(cont from page 1) -ing to **SHERLOCK HOLMES INTERNATIONAL** [evo. org/sherlock-/international], one of several major portals, "On any given day, approximately 150 new Web pages mentions Sherlock Holmes!"

Most of the stories are now in the public domain, so they're free for the reading online (though the aforementioned *Case Book* is still under copyright). *Sherlockian.net* [www.sherlockian.net] can link you to all the available e-text adventures, as well as to the many other works of the investigator's prolific creator. It also serves as a gateway to the far-flung domains of avid Sherlockians, from scholarly researchers to collectibles dealers.

In addition to his world-class deductive-reasoning skills, Holmes was also a master of the aphorism. "There is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact," he cautions in *The Boscombe Valley Mystery*. *The Sherlockian Connection* [www.bcpl.net/~Imoskowi/holmes.html] collects many of the most memorable quotes, including one that bears repeating in this age of information overload: "There comes a time when for every addition of knowledge you forget something that you knew before. It is of the highest importance, therefore, not to have useless facts elbowing out the useful ones."

Article sent in by PPoFer Tom Takach.



## Calendar Sherlockiana

### 2001 Events

**January 4-7** - New York BSI celebration

**January 13** - Sherlock's Sunshine Birthday Bash. Arrangements are in the process of being made.

**February 10** - Florida Wessex Cup XI. See flyer.

**March 23-25** - *Step Back in Time* conference (romance, history & crime) will include a workshop on criminology. Send a SASE to Virginia Romance Writers, 13 Woodlawn Terrace, Fredericksburg, VA 22405 <www.geocities.com/SoHo/Museum/2164>

**May 4-6** - *Malice Domestic XIII* at the Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA. Ghost of Honor: Rex Stout. Contact MD13 at

to

be put on the mailing list.

**August** - A 12-day cruise to the Baltic for *The Sherlock Holmes Society of London Golden Jubilee*. Details available from Arena Travel, Freepost 1H 1037, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 7BR, England or <holmes@arena travel>

**October 27 - 29** - *Magna Cum Murder VII Weekend* at Ball State University in Muncie, IN. Contact Kathryn Kennison, Ball State U., Muncie, IN 47306 for info on one of the midwest's finest mystery author conferences.

**November 1-4** - *Bouchercon World Mystery Convention*. Hyatt

Regency Crystal City Washington, D.C. The granddaddy of all mystery conventions, Bouchercon offers four days of varied programming including a pre-convention Halloween party, Nick and Nora Charles Martini Happy Hour, gala Anthony Awards Banquet and guided mystery tours of Washington, among other special events. Cost: \$135 (thru 9/1) <bouchercon 2001.com> or Bouchercon 2001, P.O. Box 11700, Washington, DC 20008.

### **PUBLICATIONS GALORE!**

*Sherlock Holmes at the Varieties* by Val Andrews. Breese Books.

*Sherlock Holmes and the Midnight Bell*, a collection of 5 stories by David James. Ian Henry Publications.

*The Teddy Bear's Ribbon and Other Tales*, by E. R. Nye. Halvon Press.

*The Hidden Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by William C. Paxton. Omnibus Enterprises Ltd.

*The Sherlock Holmes Book of Magic* by Jeff Brown. Piccadilly Books.

*A Sherlock Holmes Handbook* (new edition) by Chris Redmond. University of Toronto Press.

*The Flying Scotsman* (Mycroft Holmes) by Quinn Fawcett Tor Books.

*Detective Fiction and the Rise of Forensic Science* by Ronald

R. Thomas. Cambridge University Press.

*Sherlock Holmes and the Devil's Grail* by Barrie Roberts. Allison & Busby c/o Biblios Pub. Dist. Svs Ltd.

*Holmes and Watson* by June Thomson. Allison & Busby

*Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* by R. & L. Machin. Folen Ltd.

*Sherlock Holmes: The Missing Years - His Exploits in India and Tibet as Faithfully Recorded by Hurree Chunder Mookerjee, CIE, FRS, FRGS, Rai Bahadur* by Jamyang Horbu. John Murray Pub.

*Arthur Conan Doyle: A Bibliography* by Richard Lacelyn Green & John Michael Gibson (the 200 edition). Post Mortem Books.

*Sherlock Holmes and the Crosby Murder* by Barrie Roberts. Constable & Co.

*The Charters Affair, Being a Reminiscence of Dr. John H. Watson* by James R. Stefanie. iUniverse Ingram Book.

### **Follow the Yellow Brick Road to the 2000 Shoso-in Bulletin!**

Vol. 10 is now available US\$12 plus postage \$3.75 1-877-233-3823 or order from *Classic Specialties*, PO Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219

**Attention writers!** Now accepting articles for Bulletin #11, due in September, 2002. Contact Yuichi Hirayama via the above address, or e-mail him at

# Florida Wessex Cup XI of the Pleasant Places of Florida

Come one! Come all! Please fill in the reservation form below if you are planning on attending the eleventh Florida Wessex Cup. On Saturday, February 10, join us in the Skye Terrace Dining Room for a panoramic view of the racetrack as we bet and bite. Your choice of a 10 oz. New York Strip Steak or Grilled Salmon w/Lemon Butter, plus Clubhouse admission, racing program, PPoF program, tax and gratuity is included in the \$17 per person price. Parking, additional tips, wagering, and drinks are on your own. Everyone is welcome, even non- or neo-Sherlockians.

Reservations must be received by David McCallister,  
NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1.

Count me in for the Florida Wessex Cup XI.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 10oz. New York Strip

\_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Salmon w/Lemon Butter

I understand that you'll be sending me details on how and when to get there.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations.

I've also enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a donation to the Marshall/Wood Fund.

**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,

**Mike Bryan**, The Unopened Newspaper,

**If you see a red check here , this is your LAST COMMUNICATION! To  
continue your membership, send US\$12.00 (US/CAN) or US\$13.00 (INTL) to Carl  
Heifetz,**

**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**

