

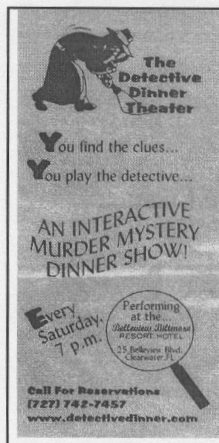


March/April, 2003

Communication No. 231

The Pleasant Places of Florida

Vol.7 No. 3



The Detective Dinner Theater

You find the clues...
You play the detective...

AN INTERACTIVE MURDER MYSTERY DINNER SHOW!

Every Saturday, 7 p.m.

Performing at the...
25 Belvedere Road, Clearwater, FL

Call For Reservations
(727) 742-7457
www.detectivedinner.com

This show is at the Belview Biltmore Resort Hotel in Clearwater, FL and the cost is \$49.94 per person for regular admission. Group rates are only about \$5 less. You can check it out at www.detective-dinner.com

From the Papers on the Sundial:

Here we are in April already! We hope you enjoy this issue of info. Members David McCallister and Carl Heifetz will be busy with their projects coming along this year and we hope you are able to join them as well as attend the 28th Annual Spring Gathering in May. Anything you'd like to discuss about *Solitary Cyclist*, or anything else Sherlockian, is welcome. And don't forget that we're always looking for info and articles for the newsletter. We began as a corresponding society - let's renew and review that passion!

In the meantime, read on!

BOOKS

Auditory - The Darlington Substitution Scandal written by David Stuart Davies and read by David Ian Davies. It's based on a remark Holmes made and the CD also

includes DSD's version of FINA, *The Reichenbach Secret*. One Voice Recordings, 16835 Halper St., Encino, CA 91436 or you can email <ddavies858@aol.com> Edward Hardwicke reads PRIO, REDH, and BLUE on episode 6 of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. It's issued in Canada by Tangled Web and in England by CSA Telltapes.

David Timson gives a good read in *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes VI* from Naxos AudioBooks. This has GLOR, RESI, NOBL and FINA.

We'd like to remind our members that our friends at *Classic Specialties* always

carry a plethora of titles for your reading pleasure. The latest check of their website revealed *Day-by-Day Chronology of Mr. Sherlock Holmes* by William Dorn (\$9.95), *Some Observations of Baritsu* by James Webb (\$10), *Guideposts for a Short Stay in New York City* by Donald Izban (\$10.75), *Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Sources* by Donald Redmond (\$40.50), *A Deep Game: The Travelers' Companion to the London of Sherlock Holmes* by David Hammer (\$22.95), *The Twentieth Century Limited Mystery, The War of the Worlds Mystery* (BSI "Whodunnits") by Philip Schreffler (\$15.95 each), and the first five volumes of Leslie Klinger's *The Sherlock Holmes Reference Library* (\$126.75) among many others. Visit them at <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>

TRIBUTE TO HOLMES... SORT OF

Although it's been out for some time, the film *Shanghai Knights* deserves a mention in the annals of Sherlockiana. The two main characters, John Wayne (Jackie Chan) and Roy Oberson (Owen Wilson) travel to London, England where they foil an attempt by a royal, 10th in line of succession, to assassinate the nine royals in line ahead of him so that he can obtain the throne. Along the way, they encounter a detective from Scotland yard (whom they refer to as "Artie") who has an uncanny knack for reaching conclusions about a person by examining some personal item belonging to that person. At one point, Roy and John appear outside Artie's door in a perfect silhouette of Holmes and Watson on the top glass. When Artie remarks that Roy is dressed ridiculously (in inverness cape and deerstalker), Roy replies, "I thought it was pretty cool." Later when Roy must give a false name, he glances over at a grandfather clock made by the Sherlock Company of Holmes County and comes up with his alias. The inspector manages to get fired due to aiding John & Roy and when they promise to help him get his job back, he admits that he never liked it - what he really wants to do is write. By the end of the story, they're all knighted, and (of course) Artie's full name is Arthur Conan Doyle. He tells the boys that he's going to write full time and he hopes it's okay to use Roy's alias for his main character. Roy says that he'd be honored, but aside to John states, "That's an AWFUL name for a detective!"

It's a fun film as long as you go with an open mind and don't take anything too seriously. It's pretty corny with all the name-dropping that occurs and the final conclusion of Roy and John maybe heading out to Hollywood to make those new-fangled motion pictures.

The Deerstalkers of Welshpool have commissioned a plate to mark the Royal Society of Chemistry's award of an honorary fellowship to Sherlock Holmes. You can see it at www.pipedreamcrafts.co.uk. Click on 'previous work' and 'commemorative.'





CALENDAR SHERLOCKIANA

March 7-9 - Although too late at press



time for anyone to attend, we felt that being one of the most popular events of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, the *Sherlock Holmes Weekend* in Cape May, NJ deserves a mention.

Their ad reads:

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson return to Cape May for their semi-annual visit and help solve the mystery of "The Society of Shadow Men." The weekend begins with a Friday evening gathering that sets the stage for the suspense and intrigue to come. On Saturday, participants search for clues, compare notes with other detectives, and can even win prizes for Victorian costume and trivia contests. The weekend concludes with a hearty Sunday brunch as Holmes unlocks the mystery and winners and prizes are announced. Overnite accommodations start at \$238 which includes 2 breakfasts and a \$75 certificate for your choice of restaurants. Contact 800-275-4278, ext 185 for reservations. (see October 24-46)

April 9 - July 12 - *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Beyond Sherlock Holmes* is an exhibit at Chicago's Newberry Library that will celebrate the "fascinating life and prolific works of one of Victorian England's best-selling authors." It's free and open to the public. You can visit the Newberry Library's exhibit Web site at www.newberry.org/nl/programs/L3pDoyle.html On **April 12**, Richard Lancelyn Green from the S.H. Society of London will present a free public lecture, "*Doyle and Holmes*."

May 2-4 The *STUD Sherlockian Society* & *The Watsonians* are combining forces in Chicago for a gala weekend. On

Friday, the annual *STUD* dinner at the Sheraton Four Points in Schiller Park, on Saturday the Solar Pons/Fortescue Honours Brunch at Walker Brothers Pancake House in Winnetka followed by a visit to the nearby Scotland Yard Bookstore and that evening the annual *STUD* "fun(d)-raiser" party at the Diamond-Devitt Home for Canonical Canines and Compulsives, and on Sunday, the historic 44th annual running of the Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Track in Cicero. The Chicago race is now the oldest annually held Silver Blaze in the world. Before the race, you can enjoy a sumptuous buffet at the exclusive Turf Club, strategically located at the finish line. Contact Allan Devitt & Susan Diamond at

May 24 - 28th Annual Spring Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida in Hammock Park in Dunedin, FL. Hosts: The Dows. Case: *The Solitary Cyclist*

June 18 thru July 20 - The play, *Sign of Four* at Appletree Theatre in Highland Park, IL. Box Office is at 595 Elm Place, Highland Park, IL 60035, 847-437-4335 or www.appletree.theatre.com

September 12-14 - *Reunion of the Canonical, Convocation and Caper* in Ephraim, Wisconsin. Details not available at Press time.

October 11-13 - *Gaslight and Fog* weekend, at the Nevele Grande Hotel in Ellenville, NY. Contact Ron Fish, Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919, 845-361-4320 or www.gaslightfog.org

October 24-26 - *Sherlock Holmes Weekend* all over again in Cape May, NJ.

and for Sherlockians: www.gfy.ku.dk/~ams/sh/books.html ... In movie news, we've heard of a film titled *Holmes & Watson* by New Line Cinema. The idea was pitched by Darkness Falls producers William Sherak and Jason Shuman. Set in modern-day London, Holmes will be a ladies' man who uses his family's keen sense of intuition to pick up women at swanky clubs. But the playboy will be unwittingly drawn back into the family detective business by a young, sexy Dr. Jane Watson. Combining their respective skills as their great-great-grandfathers had, the two investigators find themselves in grave danger as they unravel a complex mystery involving the murder of Watson's best friend. *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* scribe James Robinson is attached to pen the script Then there's *221bCause* starring Britney Spears. *The Sun* paper of London reports that Ms. Spears has been signed up to star in a movie as a female Sherlock Holmes. The film will be set in the present day and "features a disgraced junkie cop who turns detective trying to save the US President's kidnapped young son." Produced by Aurora-media Pictures, & Spears's own production company, Britney Spears Productions. The address, 221b Baker Street, is a travel agency where Britney, a New Yorker, works. She notices letters arriving for Sherlock Holmes and begins to answer them as the detective. This leads her back to New York trying to trace the President's son. The film will probably be ready for release in 2004 to tie in

HE'S EVERYWHERE

In February, a Customs & Excise dog at Newcasatle Airport in England tracked down £36,000 in a passenger's suitcase. The dog is one of several who've been trained to detect the ink and dye on bank

notes. His name? Sherlock Holmes ... *The Adeventuresses of Sherlock Holmes* have a website you can visit at www.ash-nyc.com ...speaking of websites, Mia Stampe has set up one for reviews of Holmes books, films, etc., by



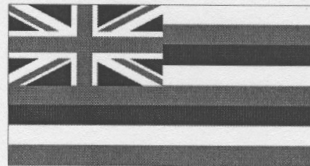
with the Presidential elections. Can't wait we hear of a great restaurant in Troy, NY called Holmes & Watson. It features menu items named after the characters & canon. You can check out the menu at www.trytroy.org/holmes/ Click on the menu to view ... 5 bicycling Sherlockians started a new international scion society recently called *The Elusive Bicyclists*. Their aim is "keeping green the memory of the Master and the enjoyment of bicycling. They welcome other bicycling enthusiasts who are Sherlockians. The website is www.gis.net/~olken/Elusive.htm ... remember the mention of the PPoF trying to do a school project? Well, the Hansom Wheels welcomes us to copy their lead. You can go to www.ash-nyc.com/OutreachProject.HansomWheels.htm for an article on it ... Listed on the Sarasota (FL) Asolo theater's schedule for the 2003-04 season is *The West End Horror: The New Sherlock Holmes Mystery* by Anthony Dodge and Marcia Milgrom Dodge. Tickets go on sale October 1...

The North American Jules Verne Society will be holding its annual meeting in Tampa at the Rocky Point Holiday Inn, May 10th. There will be two informal dinners -on the 9th at the Rusty Pelican on Courtney Campbell; 10th not set yet. On Saturday (10th) in the AM there will be presentations, including David McCallister's on J.V. and Doyle, and one titled "Verne, Doyle, and Vanishing Diamonds" (should cover BLUE) by Rick Walter. They will be visiting JV Park- better known as Ballast Point park, and also the Dali Museum (Dali liked Verne). All are welcome to the dinners and presentations. For more info contact David McCallister (see back page).

"A FLAG WHICH SHALL BE A QUARTERING OF THE UNION JACK WITH THE STARS AND STRIPES."

When Holmes spoke of such a flag in LAST, did he later visit Hawaii and leave the thought with King Kamehameha? If you go to the website (to view in color):

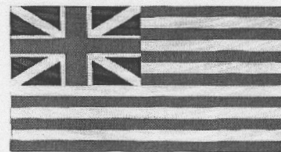
<http://www.50states.com/flag/hiflag.htm>



it is interesting to note the similarity. Stamp collectors will know that a stamp issued 23rd February 1976 also provides an attractive illustration.

Hawaii was once an independent kingdom (1810 - 1893). The flag was designed at the request of King Kamehameha I. It has eight stripes of white, red and blue that represent the eight main islands. The flag of Great Britain is emblazoned in the upper left corner to honor Hawaii's friendship with the British.

However, we colonials also had such a flag.



It was the first flag of the colonists to have any resemblance to the present Stars and Stripes. It was first flown by ships of the Colonial Fleet on the Delaware River. On December 3, 1775 it was raised aboard Capt. Esek Hopkin's flagship *Alfred* by John Paul Jones, then a navy lieutenant. Later the flag was raised on the liberty pole at Prospect Hill, which was near George Washington's headquarters in Cambridge, MA. It was the unofficial national flag on July 4, 1776, Independence Day; and it remained the unofficial national flag and ensign of the Navy until June 14, 1777 when the Continental Congress authorized the Stars and Stripes.

Was Holmes, harkening back to another war? Probably not. He was speaking in terms of the United States and Britian being allies and the flag being a symbol of brotherhood. Hmm... maybe it's time to bring it out again?



The Calendrical Canon with Holidays Holmesian for 2004

Just as many religious traditions dictate, Sherlockians are devoted to reading and re-reading the "Holy Scriptures" or "Canon" of our cult. This is a practice that has survived since the time that a young divinity student, later to be a Monseigneur, named Ronald Knox subjected the "Canon" to the "higher criticism" that biblical scholars apply to the Holy Bible. His "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes," first presented in 1911 at the Gryphon Club of Trinity College, Oxford University, set the stage for literally thousands of scholarly works to follow.

But in what order should we read and study Dr. Watson's accounts of the adventures of his friend Mr. Sherlock Holmes? Should we read them as they appear in the Doubleday Complete Sherlock Holmes, as do the members of the Hounds of the Internet, saving "Blue Carbuncle" for Christmas week as suggested by Christopher Morley? Or, should we read them in the seemingly haphazard order suggested by the leaders of the internet discussion group WelcomeHolmes. Or, should we read them in the chronological order suggested by Mr. W. S. Baring-Gould in the Annotated Sherlock Holmes?

In 1996, the Pleasant Places of Florida approached this important problem from a different perspective in their successful and popular booklet entitled *The Calendrical Canon with Holidays Holmesian*. It contained both long treatises and short paragraphs that justified the order of our scholarly study based on events throughout the year that suggest the specific Sherlock Holmes account appropriate for the occasion. After all, if "Blue Carbuncle" should be studied during the Christmas season, shouldn't "The Final Problem," marked by the death of Sherlock Holmes, suggest Good Friday? And then, of course, the resurrection of Sherlock Holmes in "The Adventure of the Empty House" would be appropriately associated with Easter.

Also, this publication provided an outlet for members of the Pleasant Places of Florida to exercise their writing skills and imaginations to prepare items for insertion therein. After all, for the first three years of its existence, the Pleasant Places of Florida was a "corresponding society" held together by people writing to each other about Sherlock Holmes. These "writings on the writings" were then circulated amongst the membership. This tradition lives on in our famous "round robin pastiches."

Well, let's do it again! We are inviting all members to provide their opinions on the events upon which stories should be perused. For each story-event combination, please submit a treatise explaining your choice. Treatises can be any length, from brief



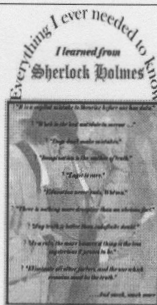
Tom Takach sent in this clip from a *TV GUIDE* issued October 29, 1966. It was contained in a short article concerning how other countries handled their network blunders rather than the usual "Please Stand By." A reprint edition is available at Barnes & Noble.



paragraphs to an entire page. Remember, most of the stories are short enough that several can be read on the same day, so don't worry about duplication. Also, they can stand reading several times during the year. So, please don't hold back. An excellent list of Sherlockian events to mark may be found in Ben Wood's Annual Sherlockian Calendar. Chases Events is another good source of dates

to commemorate..

We would like to have this booklet available to offer by the 2003 Christmas season. Please make sure that your entry has been sent by November 1 to give us enough time to edit, organize, illustrate, and publish them. Please send all items to: Carl Heifetz,



T-Shirts available from our friends at Classic Specialties, PO Box 19058 Cincinnati, OH 45219. \$13.99 + \$5.25 Shipping (US).

<sherlock@sherock-holmes.com>

From 1987 to 1997 *The Sherlock Holmes Review* sponsored five memorable Sherlockian symposia. After the magazine's retirement, they never planned on doing another, but over the years demand has grown for a comeback. So, like Sherlock Holmes, they have returned from the Reichenbach! Now under the auspices of Wessex Press/Gasogene Books, their Sherlockian book publishing venture, they are pleased to announce... **FROM GILLETTE TO BRETT SHERLOCK HOLMES ON STAGE, SCREEN & RADIO** on November 8 & 9, 2003 at the Omni Indianapolis North Hotel, 8181 N. Shadeland Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana. The stellar line up includes: Gordon Kelly, Sherlockian Radio Expert; David Stuart Davies, Sherlockian Film Author and editor of *Sherlock* magazine; Chris Gullo, Peter Cushing Biographer; Paul Herbert, Sherlockian Scholar; Sue Dahlinger, William Gillette Biographer; And Special Guests, NICHOLAS MEYER, Author of *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution* and Noted Film Director; EDWARD HARDWICKE, Dr. Watson of the Jeremy Brett television series. The cost is \$99 per person and includes admission to the morning Film Fest, the afternoon Speaker Sessions, the evening Dinner Banquet, and invitations to the post-banquet party and Sunday Brunch. Vendors will be on hand with rare Sherlockian treasures. (Vendors interested in space rates and availability contact Steven Doyle at address below, or by email to:

SPACE IS LIMITED AND DEMAND IS STRONG! REGISTER TODAY! Send your check payable to "Wessex Press" to: Steven Doyle, A confirmation packet will be sent to all registrants which will include information on special discount room rates, maps, and complete schedule of events. Speakers subject to change without notice. All speakers have confirmed at this time.

**28TH ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING OF THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA
SATURDAY, MAY 28, 11:30AM - 2:30PM**

Everybody sing now! *Shall we gather by the Dow's House, in Dunedin, the family player's Dow House? Shall we gather by the Dow's House and celebrate the Master just once more?*

Come celebrate Sherlock at Hammock Park in Dunedin, near The Pinellas Trail. This will be an outside gathering, but the Dow House is just down the street in case of inclement weather. The case for this gathering will be *The Solitary Cyclist*. So study up for David McCallister's quizzes, and get those legs pumping towards Dunedin! When we hear from you, we'll send along directions and maybe give you an assignment! Cost is \$6 per person to cover lunch.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

☐

I've got a paper to present on _____

☐

I want to toast _____

☐

I have a show'n'tell.

Return your application and payment to Wanda Dow, _____
be made to Wanda Dow.

Payment should

The Pleasant Places of Florida

founded in 1972

by Leslie Marshall, B.S.I. (dec.)

Recorder Emeritus: Dr. Benton Wood, B.S.I.

For the Record:

THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS

David McCallister, Master of the House,

(Master of Ceremonies at most gatherings, host of the annual Wessex Cup)

Carl Heifetz, Representative (both with the Servants and with the Tradespeople),

(Correspondent and Treasurer. Send your money and questions to Carl. If he doesn't know

the answer, he'll find it!)

Wanda & Jeff Dow, The Papers on the Sundial,

(Authors of the Communications, Publishers of the same plus various printed matter of the club)

Please make note of the date after your name on the mailing label. This is the expiration date of your club membership. You will not receive further Communications after this date unless you renew. Renewals should be sent, with any updates, to Carl Heifetz. US\$12.00 (US/CAN) or US\$13.00 (INTL)
