



March/April, 2004

# Communication No. 240

The Pleasant Places of Florida

Vol.8 No. 2



## Sherlock Holmes Appears!

It appears that you can have Mr. Holmes appear at your party or event if you live within a 100-mile radius of Wilmington, Delaware. While Mr. Sherlock Holmes no longer accepts investigative cases – except when the circumstances prove exceptionally intriguing – he remains available for consultation and discussion about the many aspects of his eventful, century-and-a-half-long life.

According to the website, The Criterion Bar Association of Chicago has described John Sherwood's presentation as "certainly the genuine article" and noted Sherlockian scholar Chris Redmond (BSI) has described him as "Sherlock Holmes to the life."

Other scion societies of the Baker Street Irregulars who have arranged for Mr. Holmes to be present at their gatherings are the Stormy Petrels of Maumee Bay, Ohio; the Ribston Pippins of Royal Oak, Michigan; and Watson's Tin Box of Ellicott City, Maryland.

A variety of distinguished events are offered:

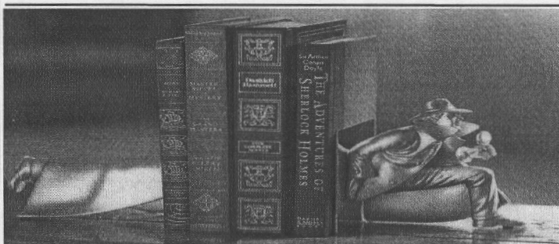
**DINNER WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES** in which your self-catered dinner is hosted by Sherlock Holmes, who will offer toasts, pithy observations and intellectual challenges, while answering any and all questions your guests may have about his eventful life! **SHERLOCK HOLMES SPEAKS:** The sleuth visits your organization to present an entertaining and enlightening speech about problem-solving skills, drawing on examples from his career, both in the grand old days of Victorian London as well as during modern days in the United States! and **"A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA":** Regarded by many as the most entertaining presentation, it features John Sherwood as Dr. John Watson, recollecting his experience with Sherlock Holmes in tracking down "The Woman;" billed as not simply a "reading" but a one-man theatrical presentation of Conan Doyle's classic tale of intrigue and derring-do!

You can visit the website at [www.geocities.com/jcsherwood/BakerStreet.htm](http://www.geocities.com/jcsherwood/BakerStreet.htm) and see for yourself.

## *From the Papers on the Sundial:*

The Papers would once again like to thank the Alpha Inn Goose Club for it's compliments of the season. The gift certificate was turned into a delicious repast!

Moriarty has been up to his old tricks with computer minions and gotten into our club files and corrupted them. It wasn't a virus and your addresses didn't get zapped by some computer scam – just the disk we were using to store things became over-used. Fortunately we've been able to restore most of it. If you hear of anyone complaining about missing an issue, be sure to tell them to write. They may have gotten knocked out of files just like Holmes' left canine!



An item from [sovietski.com/sieglers](http://sovietski.com/sieglers), *Classic Detective Bookends*, 6 1/2 inches tall \$39.95. (see page 2 for other items)



## CALENDAR SHERLOCKIANA

## 2004

**March 18-21** - *Sleuthfest 2004*, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Visit [www.mwa-florida.org/sleuthfest.htm](http://www.mwa-florida.org/sleuthfest.htm)

**March 27 - April 3** - *Murder Ahoy II* is a Readers & Writers Mystery Conference at Sea abroad the new Diamond Princess while doing a 7-night Mexican Riviera Cruise. Call 1-800-289-0348 or visit [www.cimplecruisestravel.com](http://www.cimplecruisestravel.com)

**April 16-18** - The *STUD-Watsonian Weekend*, with the STUD dinner on Friday at the Sheraton Four Points in Schiller Park, IL. Contact Allan Deviss & Susan Diamond,

or email at

**April 16-18** - The Nashville Scholars of The Three-Pipe Problem will host a Canonical Symposium. Contact Jim Hawkins at

**April 17** - The Chicago *Silver Blaze* will see it's 45th annual running at Hawthorne Race Course.

**April 30 - May 2** - *Malice Domestic XVI*, Crystal City, VA at the Sheraton National. Guest of Honor is Dorothy Cannell, Toastmaster: Jan Burke. Lifetime Achievement: Marian Babson Ghost of Honor: Erle Stanley Gardner. \$145 +\$50 for banquet. 703 Kenbrook Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20902. Email <Registrar@malicedomestic.org> or visit the website [www.MaliceDomestic.org](http://www.MaliceDomestic.org)

**May 27-30** *Mayhem in the Midlands*, Sheraton Hotel, Omaha, NE. GOH: William Ken Krueger. Toastmistress: Susan McBride. Registration closes March 15 2004. Jennifer Kirchman, 402-444-4828 or <jkirchmann@omaha.lib.ne.us> Sally Fellows at <sallyfellows1@cox.net> Full details are at <http://www.omaha.lib.ne.us/mayhem/index.htm>. Registration \$75.

**June 11-13** - *A River Runs By It...on the Banks of the Mississippi River* is a summer conference to be held at the University of Minnesota's Elmer L. Andersen Library wherein the influences and confluences of Sir Arthur

Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes will be examined. Cosponsored by the Norwegian Explorers, the ACD Society and the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Contact Julie McKuras,

or

**June 12** - *29th Spring Gathering* of the Pleasant Places of Florida at the home of Donna Vaurio in Trinity. Contact Donna at

**July 22-25** - *All That Jazz* weekend at the Marriott Residence in Davenport, Iowa. Contact Donald Izban,

Also, that same weekend, the *2nd Harrogate Crime-Writing Festival* which is fast becoming one of the top crime fiction events to attend. Offering attendees the chance to mingle with writers from across the globe, it includes interviews with true-crime specialists, industry sessions, late-night cabaret and forensic events. Visit their website at [www.harrogate-festival.org/uk/crime/](http://www.harrogate-festival.org/uk/crime/)

**September 10-12** - *Canonical Convention and Capers*, Door County. Contact Don Izban (see above).

**October 7-10** - *Bouchercon 2004*, 35th Annual World Mystery Convention, Toronto, Canada, Convention Center. GOHs: Lindsey Davis, Jeremiah Healy, Peter Robinson. Toastmistress: Natasha Cooper. Fan Guest of Honor: Gary Warren Niebuhr. Email <almarkco@rogers.com> or check out [www.bouchercon2004.com](http://www.bouchercon2004.com).

**October 22-24** - *BSI's Valley of Fear* Weekend in Jim Thorpe, PA. Still in the planning stages, but you can contact Mary Ann Bradley,

## HE'S EVERYWHERE...

Members please take note of Carl's recent publication. This article was presented at the 1997 Fall Gathering and was also published in *The Holmes & Watson Report*, Vol. 1, No.7, March, 1998. *The Formulary* invites Sherlockian articles concerning Dr. Watson or Victorian Medical Practice. Members receive several interesting publications (*The Formulary*, *Collected Essays from the Dr. John H. Watson Annual Prize Essay Contest*, and *Practice Notes*) for their \$18 per year membership fee. The club also sponsors events such as the Maiwand Luncheon and the Dr. Watson Days & Annual Luncheon, both in the UK. The point is, don't overlook those past presentations and articles just because you've done them already. The Sherlockian world looms large. Submit them elsewhere - and then let us know! ... On May 16, the Stranahan Theater in Toledo, OH is hosting a *Mystery in Music*. "Use your little gray cells to spot missing instruments and find hidden melodies in a concert that will bring out the sleuth in audience members of all ages." The box Office number is 1-800-348-1253 ... The book of the month at the Palm Harbor Library is *Hound of the Baskervilles*. Member Carl Heifetz is the resource person ...



Cap \$65,  
Glass  
\$79.95  
Siegler  
& Co.'s  
Sovietski  
Collection

Also avail-able, Bobby helmets(\$99),  
nightsticks(\$16.96) and whistles  
(\$14.95). [sovietski.com](http://sovietski.com)

## Published PPOfers

**Carl Heifetz**, Regarding the True Aetiology of the Skin-Lightening Syndrome in *The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier*, *The Formulary* (The Journal of the Friends of Dr. Watson), No. 15, December, 2003,

**SHERLOCK HOLMES FILM FESTIVAL**

by Donna Vaurio

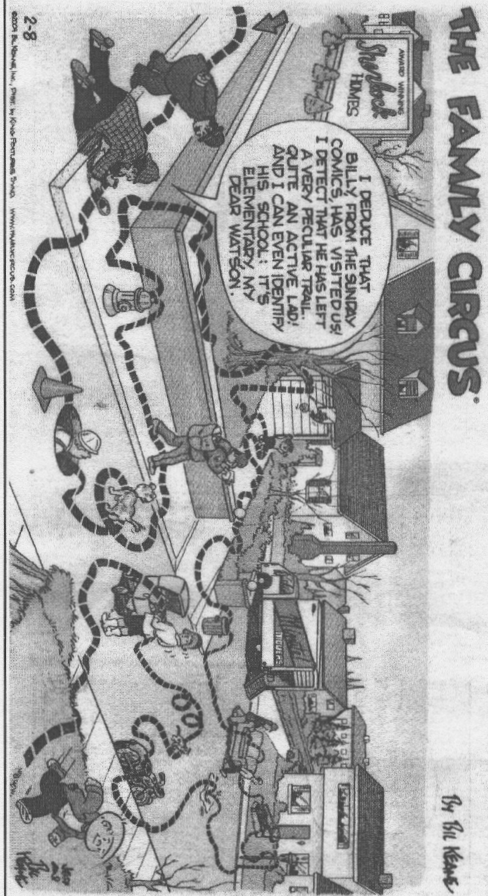
On Saturday, January 10, 2004, The Pleasant Places of Florida, A Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars, held a film festival at the Palm Harbor Library in Palm Harbor, FL. It was great fun for the members as well as for non-members of the public who came to enjoy it with us.

We featured a comparison of two versions of 'The Red Headed League.' One with Ronald Howard as Sherlock, and H. Marion Crawford as Dr. Watson, and one with Jeremy Brett as Sherlock, and David Burke as Dr. Watson.

The viewings were followed by a lively discussion of how closely each film followed Dr Watson's record of the case and also which actor portrayed Sherlock Holmes most accurately. Of course, we had to keep in mind that one was written while having to keep a half hour time slot in mind, and the other had a whole hour to do the portrayal. The discussion ended, however, with the judgment that, at least in The Case of The Red Headed League, the Jeremy Brett version followed the record more closely. As far as the best Sherlock, discussion followed as to whether Sherlock is studiously contemplative or flamboyantly so. Once again, the Jeremy Brett portrayal won as the most believable Sherlock. Who's to say who will be the winner in the next case of the Master Detective, besides the members of The Pleasant Places of Florida, that is!

I know we're all looking forward to the next film festival. Next time, bring a friend!!

[Editors note: The film festival was preceded by a Dutch treat luncheon at Tiffany's Restaurant in Palm Harbor. The following members of The Pleasant Places of Florida were in attendance: Robert L. Simpson, Madlin Sanford & guest, Charles Amick, Wanda, Jeff, Elizabeth, and Culver Dow, Barry, George, and Susan Edwards, Donna Vaurio, Caroline Everett, and Mike Bryan.]



**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** by Bil Keane in *The St. Petersburg Times*, February 8, 2004

**MARK YOUR CLENDARS FOR APRIL 10TH!**

Sherlock Holmes Film Festival

1:00-4:00pm

The Card Room at Heritage Springs Country Club

11345 Robert Trent Jones Parkway

Trinity, FL 34655

(727)372-5411

Call Donna Vaurio to have lunch at the club beforehand or just let her know that you're coming to the film festival. The film festival is FREE! FREE! FREE! Donna can be reached at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ or email her at \_\_\_\_\_. If you call and get her voice mail, be sure to leave your phone number.

Lunch prices start at \$5.95 and there will be a special offer of bangers & mash or beer-battered fish & chips. You MUST let Donna know by April 5th if you want one of the special items so Chef Stefan prepares enough! Rumor has it that Chef Stefan is also trying to get some English ale.

As of this date, films to be shown will be *Pearl of Death* and another as-yet unchosen classic.

**29TH ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING OF THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 11:30AM - 2:30PM**

Come celebrate Sherlock at the home of Donna vaurio in Trinity (aka New Port Richey) The case for this gathering will be *The Naval Treaty*. So study up for David McCallister's quizzes, and sail on up to Trinity! 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.

Make checks payable to Donna Vaurio, and send to  
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**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 & Communication)

Wanda & Jeff Dow, The Papers on the Sundial,

(Communications, Bookkeeping)

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 Wanda Dow. Make all checks payable to Wanda Dow. US\$12.00 (US/CAN) or US\$13.00 (INTL)

**PLEASE NOTE ABOVE INFORMATION! ALL CHECKS FOR RENEWAL SHOULD NOW BE MADE OUT TO WANDA DOW. CHECKS MADE OUT TO THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA WILL BE RETURNED. WE NO LONGER HAVE A CLUB ACCOUNT AT THE BANK AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CASH SUCH CHECKS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

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