



COMMUNICATION NO. 244

EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS

 Don't forget to mark your calendar now!!!!

November 20, 2004: 29th Fall Gathering at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) in Tampa. We will discuss Sherlock Holmes - the world's first forensic scientist and later try our detective skills at a special exhibit "Whodunit? The Science of Solving Crime." See registration form on the inside back page.

Watch for exciting news of the 30th Spring Gathering as well as other exciting events: "The West End Horror" at the Asolo Theater this winter in Sarasota, A Wessex Cup in February, and a repeat of our successful Film Festival.

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POST HOC ERGO PROPTER HOC

Percy Phelps and L'Affaire Dreyfus

Sherlockian Scholarship by David R. McCallister

In IDEN, Sherlock Holmes remarks to Watson; "Life is infinitely stranger than anything which the mind of man can invent". If so, was Doyle clairvoyant when he wrote NAVA a year before the Dreyfus Affair became the Watergate of the 19th century?

There certainly are a number of surprising parallels between the factual scandal and the fictional close call.

The first item is the document in each case (i.e. the "wampeter", to use a term from Kurt Vonnegut to mean the focal object around which the characters and plot revolve). In Dreyfus, it is the "Bordereau", the discarded holographic memorandum that implicated someone in betrayal of military secrets. Doyle, the originator of the term "smoking gun", would have recognized it as such immediately. In NAVA, it is the blue-grey scroll of paper, the eponymous treaty, and its accompanying partially completed copy. Curiously, the Bordereau had twenty six words and the Treaty twenty six articles. The Bordereau was discovered Sept 26, 1894 and the whole business begun almost exactly one year after NAVA was published in the October and November issues of the Strand in 1893.

Around these two objects swirl the characters of each drama. The Bordereau was subjected to much scrutiny. Holmes's forensic hero, Alphonse Bertillon, was a witness whose expertise corroborated Dreyfus guilt. Holmes praises him in NAVA, but despite his anthropometric genius, he had no talent as a graphologist. His testimony was ridiculed at the time as being ludicrously unscientific. In fact, it was recognition of the handwriting in a second document, the Petit Bleu, and in the published facsimile of the Bordereau that finally exonerated Dreyfus.

Second, the actual crime represented by the papers is similar in each case. Dreyfus was accused of passing information regarding the troop strength and deployment: immediately useful information, but time sensitive to a limited duration. The Anglo-Italian Naval Treaty outlined the situation to be obtained in the Mediterranean regarding ship strength and deployment should a certain balance be

(Continued on page 3)

ARE MY DUES DUE? WHEN ARE THEY DUE? HOW MUCH ARE THEY?: You will note a date on the address label for this publication. That is the date when we need your money to keep publishing this *Communication* (the labor is free but stamps and printing costs keep going up). If you see that you need to pay up, please make out a check (cash is OK) to **Wanda Dow**, and send it to Wanda and Jeff Dow at:

For US and Canadian residents, dues are US \$12; for all others, dues are US \$13. Don't risk missing any issues of this terrific publication as well as exciting news of the exploits of the Pleasant Places of Florida!

ART WALKER'S SPECIAL SHERLOCK HOLMES EXHIBIT AT TAMPA LIBRARY

Everyone head on down (or up) to the John Germany Library in downtown Tampa, near the Performing Arts Center, to see an exciting exhibit of **Art Walker's** extensive Sherlock Holmes collection. Art reports that he took a car load of material and filled two 80 inch glass cases in the main lobby with books, comics, figures, Pipes, Royal Doulton, movie posters, life mask of Basil Rathbone, games, journals, play programs, and pictures. The display will be there for the month of September. The Poe garage has an elevated walkway that leads to the library.

Baker Street Dispatch (July, 2004, Vol 14 No 4): **Tom and Janet Biblewski** are offering terrific T-shirts from The Second Annual Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson Bike Tour of Toledo, OH. Riders received their t-shirts to commemorate cycling in the Canon. Sherlock and Watson serve as honorary tour directors. Supplies are limited.

Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson Bike Tour T Shirt Order Form

Yes, I would like to order a Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson T shirt(s) (see logo at right)

number of T-shirt(s) x \$15 each = \$ _____ total

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* Order by August 31, 2004

"There's nothing more dangerous than an invisible lock"
—The Inimitable Sherlock Holmes

(Shirt Front)

(Shirt Back)

MOSI FEATURED AT 29TH FALL GATHERING ON NOVEMBER 20: SEE FORM ON PAGE 5 TO SIGN UP



Whodunit? The Science of Solving Crime"

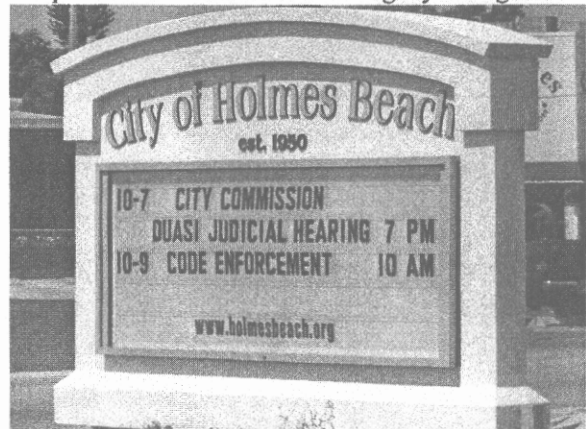
June 12 -November 28, 2004

"Whodunit? The Science of Solving Crime" will give MOSI's guests an exciting, interactive look into the scientific methods and technologies used to solve crimes. As a criminal "detective," you will investigate a crime scene at the Memory Diner, then collect, analyze, and synthesize data at the hands-on crime lab stations to evaluate the guilt or innocence of various suspects.

DNA profiling, fingerprinting, firearm identification, forensic anthropology, pathology, and evidence collection are just a few of the methods and technologies that are examined in "Whodunit?" The stations throughout the exhibit feature activities for guests of all ages, including "Kids Only" activities in each component. The exhibit also includes a video that details how a forensic sculptor can solve the mystery of an unidentified skull by recreating a bust of the victim.

The current popularity of several crime scene TV programs shows that most of us are intrigued by the thought of solving a mystery. "Whodunit?" will give visitors a behind-the-scenes look at the work of forensic professionals and the opportunity to try their hand at being a successful crime scene investigator. "Whodunit? The Science of Solving Crime" was produced by the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History and was funded in part by the National Science Foundation.

Thanks to **Art Walker** for this reminiscence: "Hey friends, here is a picture of Holmes Beach. Thought you might want it."



POST HOC ERGO PROPTER HOC

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Sherlockian Scholarship by **David R. McCallister**

(Continued from page 1)

upset. It too was time sensitive as "the details would be public in a few months".

Third, is the prima facie motivation of the accusers. Dreyfus was suspect initially because of his foreign Jewish origins and family background from Alsace. He is an icon of pro- and anti- Semitism factions even today. In NAVA, even before settling on Phelps as the supposed responsible party, suspicion was thrown on one Charles Gorot because of his foreign French name and Huguenot background. Gorot's family had nevertheless a defender in Phelps, who felt he was "as patriotic as anyone by sympathy and by tradition". Dreyfus, too, ultimately showed himself supremely patriotic by shouting "vive La France" in response to the cheers of "Vive Dreyfus" at his vindication ceremony.

Next, Dreyfus' personal history also parallels Phelps' in that after the initial shock of his trial, Dreyfus was exiled to the fever ridden Devil's Island for some ten years, while Phelps lapsed into brain fever and was "confined" for some ten weeks.

Note that each person had his staunch defenders. Phelps had Anne who believed in him and Holmes to exonerate him. Dreyfus had Lucie and his family and Lt. Col. George Piquart. Perhaps the role of Emile Zola as publicity agent whose famous article "J'Accuse" in the L'Aurore is found in Dr. Watson and his account (admittedly in retrospect rather to instigate renewed investigation) in The Strand.

Lord Holdhurst, the sympathetic, not to mention related, governmental official is a shadow of Alsatian Auguste Scheuer-Kestner, VP of the Senate or Felix Faure, future President of France. Holdhurst was, if you will remember himself a future "Premier" (curious term, when it should surely be "Prime Minister").

Another character in the cast of each drama is the villain: Maj. Ferdinand Walsin-Esterhazy, the avaricious traitor of Dreyfus, finds his counterpart in Joseph Harrison, the bankrupt traitor of NAVA. Not only were both willing to sellout their country's interests, but each was able to at least initially frame another for their crime, and elude capture by flight.

Next we come to the deus ex machina of each drama. In NAVA, it is obviously Holmes who saves Phelps by his refusal to believe the accepted version, and insistence upon rooting out the true traitor. For Dreyfus, his honor and innocence was upheld by Lt.-Col. Piquart, who himself was persecuted for his refusal to adopt the Army's party line and just let Dreyfus take the rap. He examined the Bordereau and the Petit Bleu, the document forged by third parties and used to further implicate Dreyfus, and continued to demand re-trials. Dreyfus' lawyer, Alsatian Louis Leblois, also stayed by him.

The role of Scotland Yard inspector Forbes was taken by Gen. Mercier, the French Army's official in charge, who, although not initially willing to defy the system, and indeed, was wholeheartedly anti-Dreyfus; was nevertheless ultimately insistent that full disclosure be made and justice done whatever the consequences. In this he is also echoed by Lord Holdhurst who opines that "the boy must take the consequences", intimating he would not influence Holmes either way in discovering the truth.

The parallels are strange, to be sure. It is difficult to believe that NAVA was written before the Dreyfus Affair. Both are now still in the public consciousness; one as historical fact, the other as fiction, unless you believe in the Great Game. Can there be any conclusion except that if life imitates art, and even exceeds it for the outre, then here is an eerie example?

DRESS LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES?

SHERLOCK HOLMES

"The game is afoot."



Exciting News!!

Authentic Sherlock Holmes attire now
available from

TIMELESS COSTUMES

We all know how cool **David McCallister** looks in his Sherlock Holmes outfit that was featured on National Television. Now's your chance to look like Sherlock Holmes, also. Well, you can dress like him anyway. Note this item offered for sale by Timeless Costumes. The complete Sherlock Holmes outfit is \$229.00 - plus \$9.00 for shipping and handling. Too expensive? Tell you what I'm gonna do! There is a 10% discount for orders of 3 or more. For further information, call 1-800-515-5560 or visit their website timelesscostumes@bigstep.com

TOAST WITH WELSH TEA TO HONOR RACHEL HOWELLS



Every Sherlockian Society has developed its own customs over the years. For example, the *Pleasant Places of Florida* has semiannual gatherings at which we toast The Founder, Reverend Leslie Marshall. According to Laura Kuhn a.k.a. Rosenlauri: "Sometimes we toast Rachel Howells in these parts. ..." when discussing Musgrave Ritual. It's Murrough's Welsh Blend: The website is: <http://www.bluemoontea.com/T-WelshBrew.htm>. The teas is available from Blue Moon Tea, a store that carries tea from all over the world: <http://www.bluemoontea.com/>. One side of the box is written in English, the other in Welsh. And, it's a lovely tea: not too strong, but very smooth. Many of the tea companies' names on this web site go back well over 150 years—Holmes and Watson no doubt would have known of them! For the full list: <http://www.bluemoontea.com/catalog.htm>

NEW SHERLOCKIAN COMPUTER GAME ANNOUNCED

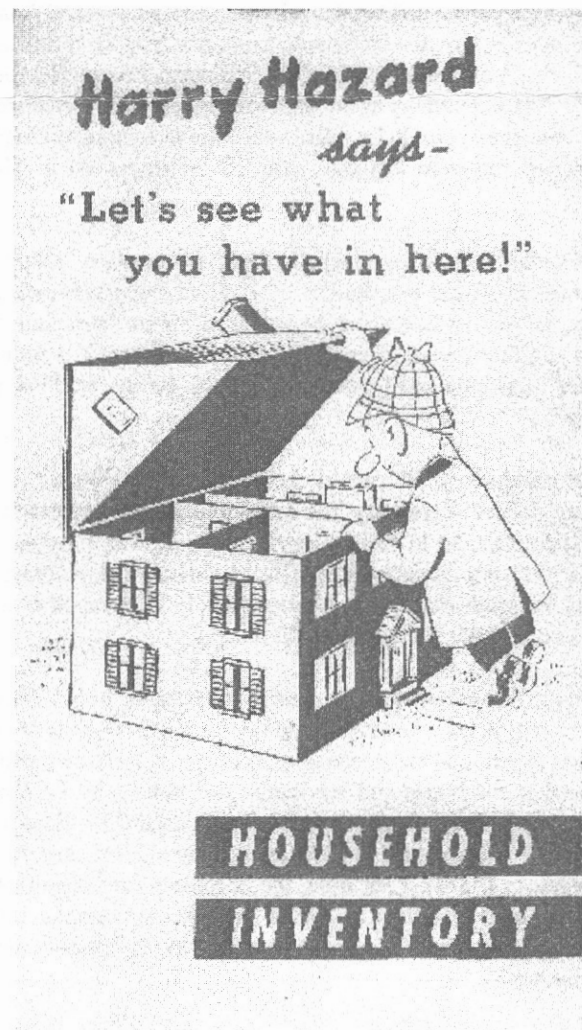
Do you like computer games, especially those involving Sherlock Holmes? Well, keep your eye out for this one. According to an E-mail message from The Littlest Sherlockian a.k.a. Margot: "For the gaming Hounds, Ubisoft has announced that it will be releasing a Sherlock Holmes computer game in North America, titled *The Case of the Silver Earring*. It is a PC title only, and is currently still in development at Frogwares Studio in Ukraine. Frogwares also developed a previous Sherlock Holmes title in 2002, *The Mystery of the Mummy*. The worldwide launch is scheduled for September. Several screen shots and a trailer have already been issued, and a demo is reportedly not far behind."

Check out the official website for more details: <http://www.frogwares.com.ua/sherlock&watson/index.htm>.

According to the promos: A new original story, "Silver Earring" has been written by a true Sherlock Holmes fan for you! Play as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson investigate with Insp. Lestrade, Mycroft Holmes, Wiggins, and Mrs. Hudson's able assistance. Investigate! There are 5 graphically rich levels of the game with 40 different 19th century London locations, more than 40 witnesses, and 3 hours of dialogue.

MYSTERIOUS BOOKLET SURFACES IN PALM HARBOR LIBRARY

Where did it come from? No one knows. Appearing out of nowhere, with not a person claiming to know how it got there, was a yellow household inventory booklet featuring the cartoon visage of a figure dressed like Sherlock Holmes, on the break room table. Inside are pages to list the contents of each room in the house. Each page is topped off with a Sherlockian cartoon figure pictured in the appropriateroom location, pen in hand and writing on the list. On the back cover of the item is printed in script "American Insurance Group" over which is superimposed the number (a date?) 1846. Rubber stamped is the name "John S. Hause Agency," General Insurance, Phone Gladstone 6-4131, 206 Tyrrell St., Clinton, Mich. Based on the telephone number and lack of ZIP, I would deduce that this item was distributed many years ago, before the use of ZIP codes, area codes, and all number dialing. My tentative hypothesis is that this item had been cast aside by the owner (only the first page was filled in) and was mixed in with some books that were donated to the library. Further investigation is needed to locate both the Advanced Insurance Group and the John S. Hause Agency. I have been unable to find either company on the Internet.



BOOKS, BOOKS, AND MORE BOOKS

I'm certain that Christopher Morley never foresaw the how many books featuring Sherlock Holmes would appear when he said "Never have so many written so much for so few." Obviously, the few have turned into many as have the number of books concerning The Master. Space only permits the listing of a few. Please send reviews on Sherlockian writings, if you feel so inclined, for publication in this newsletter.

Ms. Holmes of Baker Street, The Truth About Sherlock by C. Alan Bradley, William A.S. Sarjeant

Introduction Barbara Roden

"Sherlock Holmes strides into our imagination, deerstalker hat jauntily set on his head, pipe protruding from his mouth, and a formidable intellect from which he painstakingly masters the mysteries he investigates. Yet the qualities that set Holmes apart as a masterful sleuth are rather commonplace—perhaps even universal—in any woman. In a deep investigation of the literature of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, C. Alan Bradley and William A.S. Sarjeant uncover the surprising truth about Sherlock Holmes."

ISBN: 0-88864-415-9; Price: CND\$ 34.95, USD\$ 34.95, euro 19.5

Subject: Literature/Criticism/Interpretation; Web site: www.uap.ualberta.ca

The Singular Adventures of Mr Sherlock Holmes, by Alan Stockwell

"This is a collection of new short stories presented in the classic manner. These bizarre adventures are written in authentic style as though it were Dr Watson offering a further selection of exploits from his famous tin box." Recommended by noted Sherlockians David Stuart Davies Roger Johnson

Published by UPSO Ltd; Paperback 245 pages ISBN 1-84375-010-4

USA \$12.95 UK £7.99; web site www.mrsherlockholmes.co.uk

No Ordinary Terror, by J. Brooks Van Syke

"In this elegant and meticulously researched Edwardian detective story, J. Brooks Van Dyke brings to life the stylized fashions and customs of the time and weaves across them a story of treason, medicine, and murder. Set during the first stirrings of the political ferment that would lead to World War I, the plot leads the reader from Professor Davies' medical discovery to a mysterious death that makes him the target of anarchists, Scotland Yard, and the Crown. But Professor Davies has friends, the noted amateur detectives Richard and Emma Watson, twin children of Dr. John H. Watson of Sherlock Holmes fame. Follow them as they explore dangerous leads into aristocratic mansions and London's filthiest slums. Their cause is mighty: nothing less than the saving of their friend and even England."

ISBN 1-930754-51-5; \$15.95 US; Durban House Publishing; Web site at www.JBrooksVanDyke.com; Available now at your favorite bookseller or online at www.barnesandnoble.com, www.amazon.com, www.borders.com and other fine retailers.

Appetite for Murder: A Mystery Lover's Cookbook, by Kathy Borich

"Off to England for supper with Sherlock Holmes, morning tea with Miss Marple, or a pub crawl with Chief Inspector Morse. Guaranteed to whet your Appetite for Murder, this tantalizing slant on cooking and crime is cooked up especially for mystery lovers. For more information, contact their website www.virtualbook.com

29TH ANNUAL FALL GATHERING OF THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2004 at 11:00 AM RESPONSE DEADLINE NOVEMBER 1

Come celebrate Sherlock Holmes, the world's first forensic scientist, at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) in Tampa. We will discuss how Sherlock Holmes revolutionized the science of detection, and later try our own detective skills at a special exhibit "Whodunit? The Science of Solving Crime." So study up for David McCallister's quizzes. When we hear from you, we'll send along directions and maybe give you an assignment! We will meet and dine in the MOSI picnic area (brown bag it or encourage the merchants in their cafeteria). Wine and soft drinks will be provided. Cost is \$10.00 per person to cover beverages and a discount ticket to the exhibit.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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E-mail _____

I've got a paper to present on _____

I want to toast _____

I have a show'n'tell _____

Please make checks payable to Carl Heifetz, and send to _____

My E-mail is _____

and phone is _____

SHERLOCK HOLMES RADIO SHOWS ON THE WEB

Thanks to member John Dean for bringing this item to our notice, yet another way that we can enjoy our favorite detective: "I would also suggest your attention to the web sit 'Live365.com' which has a nearly continuous broadcast of Sherlock Holmes radio broadcasts from various sources on their 'Sherlock Holmes Radio' button. I frequently listen while working at my desk - not that the Master is not worthy of my full attention."

"Keen Eyed Watson"

Rev. Dr. Benton Wood (PLUGS & DOTTLES #187, April 1994). While Holmes and Watson were enjoying a rare holiday in the Highlands, they began to reminisce about cases the Master had recently brought to a successful conclusion.

"I must say, Holmes," Watson began, "I've got to hand it to you for the quick manner in which you apprehended Glenn, the glabrous, globose, albeit glamorous, Gloucester glove pilferer."

"'Twas nothing, old friend," replied Holmes, "compared to your astute powers of observation at the Masquerade Ball when you picked out the good guise from the bad."



*The Pleasant Places of
Florida*
c/o Carl L. Heifetz



The Pleasant Places of Florida

founded in 1972

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

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

For the Record:

THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS

David McCallister, Master of the House,

<Mystery1881@aol.com> (Master of Ceremonies at most gatherings, host of the annual Wessex Cup)

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

<microdoc@gte.net> (Correspondent & Communication)

Wanda & Jeff Dow, The Papers on the Sundial,

(Communications, Bookkeeping)

Please make note of the date 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.