



2007

Communication No. 272

The Pleasant Places of Florida

Vol. 11 No.4

From the Papers on the Sundial:

We hope you enjoy this issue. It's amazing how each publication fills up and before we know it, we need to continue things on to the next volume. This time, we found our pages full before we received Donna Vaurio's package with toasts and presentations made at the Spring Gathering, so they will have to wait until next time. However, as a treat, we include her mini-report and a picture of the attending members at the Forensics Lab in Land 'O Lakes. Sounds like a good time (and educational to boot!) was had by all. Thanks, Donna, for arranging it all!

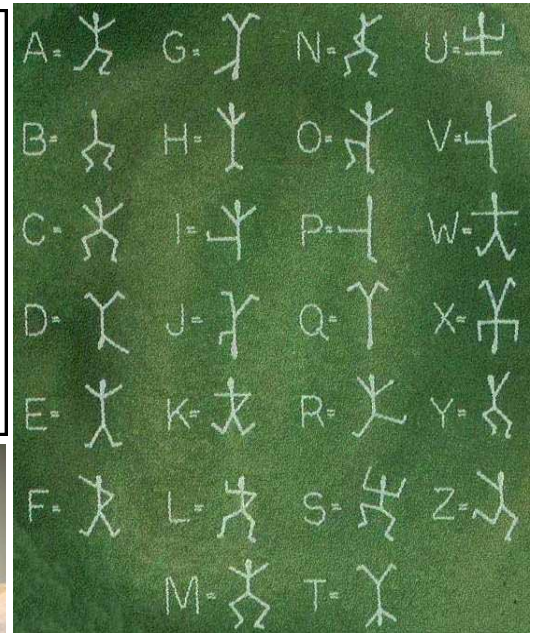


Investigator Cherie Johnson at the Pasco County Forensic Services Lab, PPoF and Bloodstains

As reported by Donna Vaurio

Several members of the Pleasant Places of Florida met on Saturday, May 5, 2007 for their Spring Gathering. They toured the Pasco County Forensic Services Section of the Pasco Sheriff's Office and then dined at Rapsallions Restaurant down the road. The tour of the forensic lab was both fun and informative. Investigator Cherie Johnson was our host and guide. We were pleasantly surprised she had taken the effort to familiarize herself with some of the works in the Canon. Investigator Johnson provided our group with an in depth presentation describing the state-of-the-art techniques in fingerprint analysis, blood splatter analysis, tool mark identification, and crime scene photography. We toured various rooms of the lab and found the room with photographs of various blood spatters spread out on the floor, of particular interest. We were sorry to leave in order to honor our reservations at the restaurant but Investigator Johnson invited us back in the future for some hands on experience.

Our repast at the Rapsallions Restaurant had a Floribbean flavor and all were happy with their menu choices. The appropriate toasts were given and Donna Vaurio and David McAllister gave presentations. Art Walker included a presentation on Dennis Hoey with his toast to Inspector Lestrade.



The Dancing Men Code © 2000 Regina Stinson

THE DANCING MEN by Mike Carroll

A curious past-time (for me)
Was that practiced by Abraham Slaney;
He would send to his dear,
Instead of "in clear,"
Letters written in cryptography

Abe Slaney's remarkable ken
Was to write notes with small dancing men.
It's a tricky device,
And you can, in a trice,
Have the answer, but what to do then?

Unfortunate Abraham Slaney
Was surely somewhat of a zany.
His letters in code
Much ill-fortune would bode;
As for postal box, he hadn't any!

He used the door-sill for a while,
Then left them out on the sundial.
Such curious traffic,
Though choreographic,
The good squire, Hilton Cubitt, did rile.

"Now Watson, here's one for your call!
Does that make any sense?" "Not at all,
My dear Holmes, it's too foolish,
To be risky or ghoulish,
Why it's only a juvenile scrawl!"

I wondered what all this could bode,
As we follow life's sinuous road.
As the old adage says,
"Perspicuity pays,"
We should shun writing letters in code.

**Sherlock Holmes and the Chilford Ripper**

Type of material: Trade Paperback **Publisher:** Breese Books **Pages:** 150 **Price:** £7.50 **Year:** 2006 **Author:** Roger Jaynes

Review: The events in this book take place in September, 1894, following Holmes' return from the Great Hiatus. A series of murders that mimic those of Jack the Ripper have taken place in a small town near the North Sea coast and Holmes is asked to investigate.

This short novel is a considerable improvement on Mr. Jaynes earlier work, the anthology titled "A Duel with the Devil." It is difficult to find any fault with the narrative. It seems to mimic the Canonical tales quite well and the presentations of both Holmes and Watson are very natural and familiar. The mystery is well developed, complex and believable and the characters are interesting and carefully drawn. Even Inspector Lestrade is portrayed in a sympathetic but reasonable manner.

Readers will not have a great deal of trouble naming the culprit, but the plot advances with enough action and variations to avoid any feelings of boredom or over simplicity. In fact, the roots of the murders are not made clear until very near the end of the tale. Holmes performs his usual tricks and makes a chaotic situation clear with logic and observation. Watson is a bit more perceptive than usual, but is still dazzled by Holmes' efforts.

In summary, this is a satisfying and interesting mystery; a good read and a fairly faithful representation of the Canonical mysteries. It is certainly worth reading and probably will stand up under re-reading at a future date. A good addition to my collection of Sherlockian pastiches.

Reviewed by: Philip K. Jones; March, 2007.

* * *

Sherlock Holmes and the Skull of Death

Type of material: Trade Paperback **Publisher:** 1st Books Library **Year:** 2001 **Author:** Robert E. McClellan

Review: The events surrounding the general acceptance of the Piltdown remains as genuine at the London Geology Conference in 1912 have been described in a number of scholarly works. At least three popular books on the subject have been published in recent years and speculations regarding the perpetrator(s) of that hoax have included most of those involved. Even Sir Arthur Conan Doyle has been accused of knowing complicity in this widely publicized scientific *Cause Célèbre*.

This book purports to contain Watson's notes on the investigation as conducted by Sherlock Holmes into the matter, including the participation of The British Government in the suppression of evidence that might have exposed the fraudulent nature of the finds at the time. First, let me make it clear that Doctor Fu Manchu was NOT involved in this matter. It is also clear that the League of the Scarlet Pimpernel took no interest in the situation. On the other hand, The French Government, The Rothschilds and traitors in the service of the Austro-Hungarian Empire were definitely involved and it is also suspected that agents of the Czar's Cheka may have taken a hand in the matter.

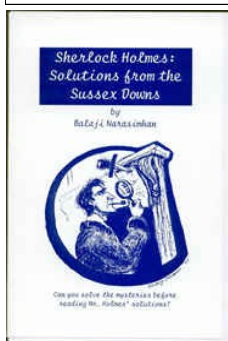
This is truly an intriguing action-adventure tale and a number of familiar Sherlockian apocrypha are included in the narrative. The Holmes/Adler liaison, begun in Montenegro during The Great Hiatus, is confirmed, along with the existence of her son who is well-known to Holmes. The notion of Mycroft as head of covert British Intelligence Services is also confirmed. Watson's fascination with the fairer sex is repeatedly reaffirmed, as is the survival of Professor Moriarty from the Reichenbach affair and the assumption of Mrs.

Hudson's duties by her nephew and his wife. Several other popular Sherlockian myths, such as Holmes' acquaintance with William Gillette, are also included.

The historical participants in the Piltdown finds are dealt with rather harshly. After years of historical investigation, it is clear that the Piltdown remains were 'created' by one or both of two players in the drama, but Mr. McClellan implies that almost all those involved, with the exceptions of Père de Chardin and Sir Arthur were either active participants or were, at best, knowingly complicit in the fraud.

The reasons the finds were not examined critically nor questioned intently are attributed more to greed and politics rather than to the more realistic motives of prior mindset and Victorian gentlemanly scruples in order to feed the author's need to support a more interesting story line. Actually, lip-service is paid to the historical circumstances and viewpoints involved, although the key popular idea of the day that intelligence preceded erect posture is not mentioned. This is certainly a gripping tale and it provides a lot of adventure and amusement. It does not, however, satisfy one's hunger for a good Sherlockian read.

Reviewed by: Philip K. Jones; March, 2007.



A UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO SHERLOCKIAN LITERATURE! FASCINATING, EXTREMELY WELL RESEARCHED!

Mr. Holmes has been retired to the Sussex Downs tending his bees for more than a dozen years. Although he has been in seclusion, he has not been in isolation. As Mr. Holmes, himself, once said, "Scotland Yard feels lonely without me, and it causes an unhealthy excitement among the criminal classes."

Scotland Yard does, in fact, "feel lonely" to such an extent that many of Mr. Holmes's old associates, most also nearing retirement age, have kept in touch with him throughout the years via The Royal Post. A great many of these letters were written with the purpose of seeking his assistance in solving mysteries which were taxing the limits of the official constabulary. Mr. Holmes uses his remarkable reasoning powers to provide solutions by merely using the information contained in the letters he receives, without ever leaving his Sussex cottage. This is a wonderful collection of the purest of "armchair cases." Can you solve these "mysteries by mail" before reading Mr. Holmes's solutions AND can you find the letter in which Mr. Holmes conceals his solution in a cryptic message?! Soft cover, perfect binding, cover art by Nancy Beiman, 116 pages **Limited supply! Only 100 copies printed!** **Title of book:** Sherlock Holmes: Letters from the Sussex Downs, **Author:** Balaji Narasimhan, **Type of book:** Sherlockian Mysteries in Correspondence **Form Item#:** Bk/ **Letter Price:** US\$ 16.95 Visit www.balaji.ind.in/

The Veiled Detective

Type of material: Hard Cover book **Publisher:** Robert Hale Limited **Year:** 2005 **Author:** David Stuart Davies

Review: This book is an alternative presentation of the relationships between Sherlock Holmes, Doctor Watson and Professor Moriarty. It presents a somewhat altered narrative of events chronicled in the Canon as "A Study in Scarlet," "The Greek Interpreter," "The Sign of Four" and "The Final Problem." For the most part, the narratives are supplied naturally from the viewpoints of the characters involved but there are a few uncom- (cont. on page 4)



The Chemical Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Case of Three (PART 1)

Thomas R. Rybolt and Thomas G. Waddell

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA, CHATTANOOGA, TN 37403; *THOMAS-WADDELL@UTC.EDU

THE FOLLOWING STORY IS A CHEMICAL MYSTERY THAT EMPHASIZES SIMPLE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES AND CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF METALS. IT IS THE 13TH IN A SERIES PRESENTING A SCIENTIFIC PROBLEM IN MYSTERY FORMAT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE POPULAR AND BELOVED CHARACTERS SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DR. WATSON (1, 2). THERE IS A BREAK IN THE STORY WHERE THE READER (STUDENTS AND TEACHERS) CAN PONDER AND SOLVE THE MYSTERY. SHERLOCK HOLMES PROVIDES HIS SOLUTION IN THE PARAGRAPHS FOLLOWING THIS BREAK. (WE ARE PRESENTING THIS CASE IN SERIAL FORM)

Chemistry for Everyone

448 Journal of Chemical Education • Vol. 79 No. 4 April 2002 • JChemEd.chem.wisc.edu

The Story

I felt my world shaking and heard a muffled sound, faint and far off. I felt a comfortable darkness slipping away as the shaking grew more intense. Finally, the confusion sharpened to something I could clearly recognize.

“Wake up, Watson.”

I opened my eyes to the faint morning light of my bedroom on a cold winter morning and observed the angular face of the World’s Greatest Consulting Detective peering down at me. His hand on my shoulder was removed and the shaking stopped at the instant I opened my eyes.

“What the devil is going on, Holmes? It’s barely light.”

“We have a prospective client, Watson, on her way to visit us even as we speak,” said Holmes.

“At this time in the morning?” I asked.

“Time is urgent and I believe you will find this case of considerable interest. In addition, your medical knowledge could prove of some use. However, if you prefer to sleep the day away, I suppose you could make that choice.”

Holmes’s tone made it clear that a return to my deep slumber would be the wrong choice. I sat up in bed and swung my feet to the floor. “Give me a minute to pull myself together and I’ll join you.”

“Excellent, my good fellow!” Holmes declared as he turned and walked out of my room, pulling the door closed behind him.

I dressed quickly and joined him in the living area of our flat.

“Holmes, I don’t know how you can rise so early,” I said.

“You were still out when I came in last night after midnight.”

“London’s criminal element prefers the darker

hours to do their work, Watson. Fortunately, I do not always require the regular amounts of sleep you seem to crave. However, I do observe that you stayed up late enough to lose a significant amount of money at cards last night.”

“And how do you conclude that?” I asked.

“Your pockets are turned inside out as if you were searching for a few additional coins and the nail on your right thumb is freshly chewed down to the quick. I have observed that you usually hold cards in your left hand, which would account for nail-biting the right preferentially. Indeed, I believe that if I could make a few careful measurements comparing your left and right thumb lengths and your tooth compression factor, I could estimate the amount of money you lost.”

“Well, that will not be necessary,” I said, a bit put off by Holmes’s causal analysis of my loss. “Suffice it to say I should have left the club three hours earlier than I did. My luck ran out too soon. But what is this case that has alerted us so early?”

Holmes looked down at his hands and with a roguish grin replied, “I was engaged in a bit of late-night surveillance when I saw our friend Sergeant Phelps and a couple of bobbies rush past. Of course, they didn’t recognize me because I was in disguise. By the way, sometime I should tell you of how Sir Robert Peel reorganized the London police force more than fifty years ago. Our calling a policeman a bobby is in reference to his name Robert, as you may know. And I have developed some of my own thoughts on the optimal organizational structure of a modern police force.”

“I am sure that would be quite fascinating,” I said, “but what about the case?”

“Ah, yes,” he said. “I followed Phelps and the bobbies to a nearby clock maker’s house and shop on the corner of Wigmore and Welbeck Streets.”

“Why, that’s not more than four blocks from Baker Street!” I exclaimed.

“You know your London streets, Watson,” said (cont. on page 4) (cont. from page 3) Holmes with a bit of sarcasm. “In any case,



this clock maker had been struck on the head and knocked unconscious. They know that it was exactly at three o'clock in the morning because as he fell forward he knocked a clock off his bench and it broke, thus fixing the time of the evil act. His wife reported that particular clock was his most accurate. It always remained on the corner of his bench and was used to set other clocks to the correct time. I was hoping that later today you might go 'round to St. Bartholomew's Hospital where they have him and see if he has recovered enough to talk. He was going in and out of consciousness during the night. He was dizzy and disoriented. They don't know if he saw anything or not—or even if he'll remember anything, owing to the blow to his head. Perhaps there is some aspect of his medical treatment that could be improved."

"I'll certainly go there and see how he is and if there is anything I can do," I replied.

"Good, Watson, I knew I could count on you," said Holmes. "His name is Mr. William Wickersham and his wife, Mary Wickersham, is on her way here. She is the prospective client, whom we expect shortly."

TO BE CONTINUED

(cont. from page 2) fortable lapses to an over-all view by the author.

It is certainly ingenious and it presents a plausible alternate explanation of the reactions of the Canonical characters as well as the events involved, given the assumptions made. It is a dark piece, with the reader being asked to take a less rosy view of Victorian life than that presented in the more familiar versions of these tales. Both Holmes and Watson appear to have darker sides along with other, familiar characters. The influence of Professor Moriarty is followed in some detail and the warts on both Holmes and Watson are shown in similar detail.

Given these assumptions, the resulting book is entertaining, if not so pleasant as the Canonical version of these events. On the other hand, one feels there is a more realistic view of the world presented here. It is a disturbing experience and one that should produce serious thought among Sherlockians. Some of the glaring, internal contradictions in the Canon are explained in this book and supplanted with doubts about the nature of the principal characters in the Canon.

Most of the actions and opinions presented are,

as I said, plausible. There do, however, remain several elements in the portrait presented of Mycroft that are not adequately explained or even integrated into the narrative. This failure by the author is a distinct defect in the effort and it detracted from the credibility of the rest of the material.

In short, this is a well constructed alternative view of the basic events of the Sherlockian Canon. It presents a different view of Holmes' career and his relationship with "his Boswell" and "the Professor." It is mostly internally self-consistent, if dark and unsettling to Sherlockians. It is pretty well thought out but lacks a few pence in the pound.

Reviewed by: Philip K. Jones, April, 2007.

CALENDAR SHERLOCKIANA

June 9 - The Bootmakers of Toronto celebrate their 35th anniversary with a 1-day symposium at the Metro Reference Library in Toronto, Canada. Contact Dave Drennan at

July 6-8 - *Victorian Secrets & Edwardian Enigmas: A Sherlock Holmes Conference* held by The Norwegian Explorers of Minneapolis, The Friends of Sherlock Holmes Collection & The U. of Minnesota's Special Collections & Rare Books. Conference, presentations, luncheon and banquet. Contact \$95 registration

September 27-30 - *Bouchercon38* Anchorage, AK. Visit www.bouchercon2007.com

2008

July 6-8—*Victorian Secrets and Edwardian Enigmas: A Sherlock Holmes Conference* begins early Friday Afternoon with presentations throughout the weekend, luncheon & banquet Saturday. Registration is \$95 for all presentations, the Norwegian Explorer Omnibus & keepsakes. Luncheon & banquet prices separate. Get on the mailing list by contacting NorwegianExplorers@gmail.com (Sponsored by The Norwegian Explorers of MN, Friends of Sherlock Holmes Collections & the U of MN's Special Collections & Rare Books.

October 9-12 - *Bouchercon 39 Charmed to Death* in Baltimore, MD at the Wyndham (410-385-6605). Guests of Honor Laura Lippman & John Harvey with Toastmaster Mark Billingham. See bouchercon2008.blog.spot.com

Searching for Sherlock

Holmes fan collects mementos of literary detective

By NANCY DE GENNARO degennaro@dnj.com



DNJ photo by Aaron Thompson Robert "Bob" Glenn is seated in front of a collection of framed Sherlock Holmes prints that hang on the wall of the library in his Murfreesboro home. He is also wearing a Sherlock Holmes tie, a gift from his family.

These days, mystery dramas such as "CSI: Miami," along with reality series like "Forensic Files," top the list of most-watched television shows.

But long before these shows were ever conceived, there was Sherlock Holmes, a literary character conceived by British author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

"We wouldn't have these kinds of (Cont. on page 5)



From *The Star Phoenix*, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, byline: David Staples, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

Playwrights and theatrical agents are outraged and astonished that an American theatre producer from Kent, Ohio, engaged in the serial plagiarism of a number of well-known Canadian plays.

Since 1999, Jack L. Herman has been acquiring the scripts of Canadian plays, putting his own name on them, claiming copyright over them, and sometimes staging his own productions at his amateur theatre company.

The plagiarized works include at least three prominent plays: *Suddenly Shakespeare* written in 1988 by Selody; *The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes* written in 1992 by Belke; and *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* by playwright Peter Colley.

Herman's versions of the plays had similar titles, *Suddenly Shakespeare*, *The Unexpected Return of Sherlock Holmes*, and *Before Midnight!* The scripts are almost word-for-word the same as the original plays.

Herman was only caught in September when a Sherlock Holmes fan noticed the similarities between Belke's play and the plot description of Herman's *Unexpected Return*, which was being performed by a Los Angeles theatre company. The Holmes fan, Peter Blau of Bethesda, Md., contacted Belke, who then worked with his agent, Dale Harney, to uncover Herman's plagiarism by comparing scripts from the two plays.

Herman almost immediately admitted to plagiarizing Belke's play and paid a \$2,500 out-of-court settlement. He says he only plagiarized to help his small Ohio theatre company survive.

(Cont. from page 4) series if we didn't have Sherlock Holmes," said local Sherlockian aficionado Robert "Bob" Glenn. "Sherlock Holmes was the first serialized detective. He was the first to use science to solve crimes."

Glenn first became entrenched in Sherlock Holmes while in college, reading the four novels and 56 short stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle "to relax." Early on, he was hooked on the way the stories incorporated detail and good detective work.

"Part of the reason there's a real intense interest (in Sherlock Holmes) is you can participate in the solving of these mysteries. ... Everything the reader sees and knows, (Holmes) sees. Nothing is hidden. It's laid out in front of you," Glenn said. "So it makes it fun for the readers."

From those college days, Glenn's attraction to the beloved detective grew and he began accumulating memorabilia related to the Sherlock Holmes character, from hand-carved smoke pipes to Christmas ornaments and even special edition literary collections.

"When you're a fan, you're a

fan," said Glenn, vice president of Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment and Academic Services at MTSU. "Sherlock Holmes is peculiar in that regard, that people who are fans of Sherlock Holmes are extremely loyal and extremely enthusiastic."

People are so enthusiastic, in fact, they've formed groups across the globe to study the particulars of this literary character and his detective work, Glenn said.

Today there are more than 400 Sherlockian fan groups — known collectively as "scion societies" of the Baker Street Irregulars — in the United States, and more than 800 worldwide. (The original Irregulars were a group of street urchins who helped Holmes out by providing information, for a price, in the stories.)

"These are groups of people who try to apply the method of the detective to the actual stories themselves," Glenn said. "For serious readers there are the annotated versions, and it gives them greater detail about all kinds of facts ... and adds to the understanding and enjoyment."

Even Glenn's wife, Laurie Glenn,

has become interested in the Sherlock Holmes character, she said.

"I've read some of the stories and I've participated in the Sherlock Holmes group. It was fun," Laurie said.

While Laurie still doesn't share quite as much enthusiasm as her husband does for Holmes, she is supportive of her husband's super-sleuthing when it comes to finding Sherlockian memorabilia.

Laurie, a former schoolteacher, also welcomed her husband's class lectures regarding the forensic techniques of Holmes. And she said the "stories are great for older kids."

While Glenn has never delved too deeply in the scholarly study of Sherlockian techniques, he continues to lecture about the great sleuth fairly regularly.

"When I talk to kids, I tell them being a detective is learning how to see, learning how to pay attention," Glenn said.

What makes the study of the Sherlock stories so interesting is the fact that Doyle came to dislike his Holmes character because "he felt Sherlock Holmes stories overshadowed his more serious work," Glenn said.

"He became increasingly careless with details. He was careless about details, about dates, about names. So there's lots of what appears to be contradictions," Glenn explained.

In one story, Dr. John H. Watson, Sherlock's faithful sidekick, was wounded in the shoulder, and later in another story it referred to a wound in his leg. In other stories, Doyle has Watson's wife call him by the name James. But Sherlockians, being faithful followers, know "there must be an explanation." After all, the "H" in Watson's name could be for Hamish, which is a Scottish variation of the name James, Glenn pointed out.

"So they engage in discussions why these contradictions occur," Glenn said. "There's all kinds of quirky, quarky theories about all kinds of things in the stories."

Doyle even attempted to kill off Sherlock in the sto- (cont. on page 6)



(cont. from page 5) ry, "The Final Problem," much to the chagrin of fans, Glenn noted. A scene has Holmes fighting with his arch enemy, Professor Moriarty, and the two fall to their deaths at the edge of Reichenbach Falls, located in Switzerland.

"When (Holmes is killed in the story), Arthur Conan Doyle is deluged by mail," said Glenn, noting that people even wore black arm bands to honor the memory of the fallen Holmes. "(Fans) wanted more. People were still in love with the character."

So Doyle knew he must bring Holmes back — somehow. He did ask for "an astronomical sum" to continue writing more Sherlock stories, which he hoped would thwart any encouragement for him to write more of them. But he received the pay he asked for, so the Holmes saga continued.

Doyle first wrote a series of stories that took place prior to the incident at Reichenbach Falls. But, that only caused the clamor for more stories to become even louder, Glenn said. Eventually, Doyle was forced to bring Holmes back to life, which he did in the story, "The Adventure of the Empty House."

"You'll have to read the story yourself to see how it's done," Glenn quipped.

Truth revealed

When you think of Sherlock Holmes, there are some iconic images or phrases that may come to mind.

But some of these images have come about because of Hollywood and are not necessarily true to the literary character, said Robert "Bob" Glenn, a Sherlockian aficionado.

"I've been known to cry out in theaters when they have a left-handed Sherlock Holmes or they have Dr. Watson doing something he'd never do," Glenn said.

- The famous deerstalker cap: Sherlock only wore the cap in three of the stories, but Hollywood put him in the iconic hat quite often.

"Holmes only wore one when he was on a case in rural areas where the cap would fit in quite naturally," Glenn explained. "In town he always wore fashionable hats and bowlers. But again, because of the effect of the stage and movies, we have come to think that he wore one all the time."

- Curved pipe: Sherlock is seen in many films smoking a curved pipe.

"Sherlock Holmes most often smoked a straight-stemmed clay or wooden pipe. The Calabash pipe that has become associated with Holmes was never used by him in any of the stories. It was William Gillette, the stage actor, who first started using the curved Calabash (which has a meerschaum bowl) because it has a better balance. He could speak his lines with a Calabash pipe in his mouth, but could not do so with a straight stemmed pipe. Gillette portrayed Holmes in a career that lasted almost 50 years. Consequently, when other actors were called upon to play Holmes,

they followed Gillette's lead and we have since come to associate the Calabash pipe with Sherlock Holmes," Glenn said. "But in the stories, he actually smoked a straight-stem pipe. But because actors found it much easier to speak lines while their teeth clenched a curved pipe rather than a straight-stem version, the image eventually became synonymous with the character."

- Newfangled Sherlock: Occasionally, Sherlock is portrayed in more modern times. But in actuality, the stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle were set in the 19th century.

- "Elementary, my dear Watson": Sherlock spoke a variation of this quote, but not this exact quote that has become iconic in its usage.

"It was also the films that consistently portrayed Watson as dim-witted and a bit of a buffoon. Watson was highly educated and intelligent, he simply did not have the skills Holmes did for observing the small details," Glenn clarified. "The Watson character was a device Doyle used to allow the reader to see and hear how Holmes was doing his work. Because Watson didn't understand, Holmes would have to explain his deductions and solutions. This allows the reader to see how he accomplished things."

COPIED FROM TN NEWS ARTICLE.

HE'S EVERYWHERE ... Sad to say, the USA is not the only country with illiterate politicians. Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture Media & Sport in the U.K gave a puzzling response to recent requests for Conan Doyle's house Undershaw to be listed Grade 1. Besides stating that ACD doesn't occupy a high enough place in the nation's literary consciousness, in a letter to *The Guardian* she said "The building most closely associated with Sherlock Holmes is 221B Baker Street. I would be only too pleased to consider that building Grade 1 should such a request come forward." Besides an online petition for British voters to sign, anyone can contact Ms. Jowell via the government website at www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/our_ministers/tessajowell.htm ... In a reprint of a February 1997 *Scientific American* Article, the following paragraph appears: "Just as with Archimedes' sand grains in his time, there will always be colossal numbers that transcend prevailing tools. Nevertheless, these numbers can still be imagined and studied. In particular, it is often helpful to envision statistical or biological scenarios. For instance, the number 10 to the three-millionth power begins to make some intuitive sense if we ask how long it would take a laboratory parrot, pecking randomly and tirelessly at a keyboard, with a talon occasionally pumping the shift key, say, to render by accident that great detective epic, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. To witness a perfectly spelled manuscript, one would expect to watch the bird for approximately $10^{3,000,000}$ years. The probable age of the universe is more like a paltry 10^{10} years." ... In *You Can't Take it With You*, a 1946 Pulit- (cont. on page 7)



(cont. from page 6) zer Prize winning play by George Kaufman and Moss Hart, the following exchange takes place:

Alice: No, he's vice-president of Kirby & Co. Mr. Anthony Kirby, Jr.

Essie: The boss's son?

Penny: Well!

Alice: The boss's son. Just like the movies.

Essie: That explains the new dresses.

Ed: And not being home to dinner for three weeks.

Alice: Why, Sherlock Holmes!

If you go to www.ramblehouse.com, you can find *The Secret Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Gary Lovisi, with an afterword by Richard Lupoff. \$18 for the paperback plus postage. . . . While you're on the net, don't forget to check out www.sherlock-holmes.com/e-times14.htm for Classic Specialties catalog. . . . Got some extra cash? In June the manuscript of *The Three Gables* will be auctioned at

Sotheby's in NY. The estimate is \$350,000-\$500,000. . . If you'd like a good read about Sidney Paget's life, check out www.artintheblood.com. . . Oh good grief! Now we've heard there are plans to exhume Harry Houdini, following claims that he was murdered by peeved spiritualists, with the support of ACD! . . . *Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Banshee* is filming in Vilnius, Lithuania, based on a book by Tim Cox, screenplay by Brook Durham & Jacob Eskendar. . . "I was fascinated to learn that she'd actually had a phone conversation with the Professor, a shadowy figure whom I imagined as a kind of cyber-Moriarty..." from *The Art of Scam-Baiting*, an article in the June, 2007 issue of *The Atlantic* magazine ...

Master of the House, David McCallister made an appearance in Savannah, Georgia at The Annual Literary Gala and Luncheon of the Live Oak Public Libraries Foundation to chat with Sherlock Holmes, as arranged by his American scheduler, Mr. John C. Sherwood. This year's event was in two "chapters" - *A Mysterious Evening* and *A History of the Mystery*. Mr. Holmes was there to view the donors bricks places in front of the library (see insert below) and the Holmes and Doyle materials on display on the 2nd floor .

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

March 2007
Volume 11 Number 1

Sherlock Holmes

C O L L E C T I O N S



"Your merits should be publicly recognized" (STUD)

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By Timothy Johnson

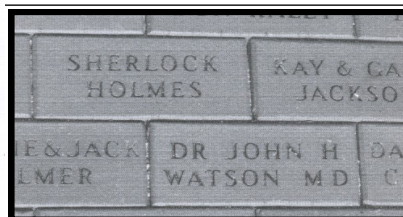
"F" or the book-reading public, when one mentions "Savannah," John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* probably springs to mind. For residents of Savannah, Georgia, this Southern gothic novel is referred to simply as "The Book." Most everyone in Savannah seems to know something about "The Book." However, there is another book associated with this wonderful southern city, one that is still in the making, and one not as widely known. This book is being written by the good people connected with the Live Oak Public Libraries and its Foundation. It was our privilege, representing the Holmes Collections and the University of Minnesota, to play a part in writing the latest chapter. Most of the action in this little mystery took place at the Bull Street Library, home of the Foundation.

Continued on page 6



David McCallister, Robert and Myrtle Robinson in Savannah's Bull Street Library

Photo courtesy of Timothy Johnson



DOG EAT DOUG by Brian Anderson



For the Record:

THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS

David McCallister, Master of the House,
Ceremonies at most gatherings, host of the annual Wessex Cup)
Wanda & Jeff Dow, The Papers on the Sundial,
(Communications and Bookkeeping)

(Master of

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)

