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VERMISSA DAILY HERALD

REPORTS ON THE STANFORD SHERLOCKIAN SEMINAR



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GOODS AND MERCHANDISE, edited by William Rowe

VICTORIAN SPOT ILLUSTRATIONS, edited by Carol Grafton

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ABOUT THE COVER

The cover photo depicts Hoover tower on the Stanford campus. This photo was taken during the Stanford Sherlockian Seminar (August 1987) by Ronald S. White.

STANGER POSTULATES PONDERS

by
Thomas E. Miller

So we come to the end of another year, one certainly not lacking in matters of Sherlockian interest. This hundredth anniversary of A Study in Scarlet has been commemorated by a number of new books, mostly of a fairly high standard and by a number of other activities, many of which concerned our own scion. The Shaw Seminar at Stanford was perhaps the most important of these, although the running of the Silver Blaze at Bay Meadows was great fun.



Those who attended the Shaw Seminar, (or perhaps Shawless Seminar is more appropriate) don't need to be told how interesting it was. Those who didn't will at least have a chance to see the high quality of material presented, as we are going to try and publish just about all of the papers presented right here in the Herald. The only thing that marred an otherwise perfect seminar was John Bennett Shaw's failure to attend due to illness. Last word, however, is that he is recovering nicely, and, with luck, should be with us the next time we mount a seminar.



There is some alarming news, however. The Pinkertons are growing and advancing on the West Coast. It seems that California Plant Protection, the fourth largest security company, has purchased Pinkertons, the second largest (after Burns), resulting in a company that is the largest in the business, and based on the West Coast! This is ominous; no doubt they have realized that the Scowrers are now operating out of San Francisco and are trying to get closer. I have no doubt, however, that we shall continue to confuse them in our usual fashion. In fact, seeing that I know a number of their operatives personally, I can safely tell all good Scowrers that a more easily confusable bunch has never existed.

STANGER POSTULATES PONDERERS

If 1987 was the hundredth anniversary of the first appearance of the Master, 1988 is the hundredth anniversary of a far less worthy figure. I refer, of course, to Jack the Ripper. Now, Holmes has been called upon to solve the mystery of the Ripper's identity on a number of different occasions; so, for that matter, has Professor Moriarty. Holmes has even been accused of being the Ripper! An accusation based on the somewhat flimsy evidence that the Ripper was described as wearing a deerstalker. Given this recurrent theme in the life of Sherlock Holmes, the editors Stanger deem it only fitting to declare an upcoming issue of the Herald, "The Jack the Ripper Commemorative Issue". Anyone who has any articles, poems, or the like concerning this "worst and basest man who ever lived" send them in.

* * * * *

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A SHERLOCKIAN SEMINAR

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

AUGUST 19-23, 1987

by
Ron White

On August 19th, 1987 eighty four registrants converged upon Stanford University for the Sherlockian Seminar. Their origins ranged from as far afield as Oak Park, Illinois, Bozrah, Connecticut, Brooklyn, New York and Ontario, Canada to the more local folks of Fremont and Stanford, California.

Our spirits had been dampened slightly by the news that John Bennett Shaw was unable to attend due to illness. However, we were looking forward to an interesting and intellectually stimulating seminar. We were not disappointed.

Wednesday, August 19th, was mainly devoted to dormitory check-in and the seminar registration.

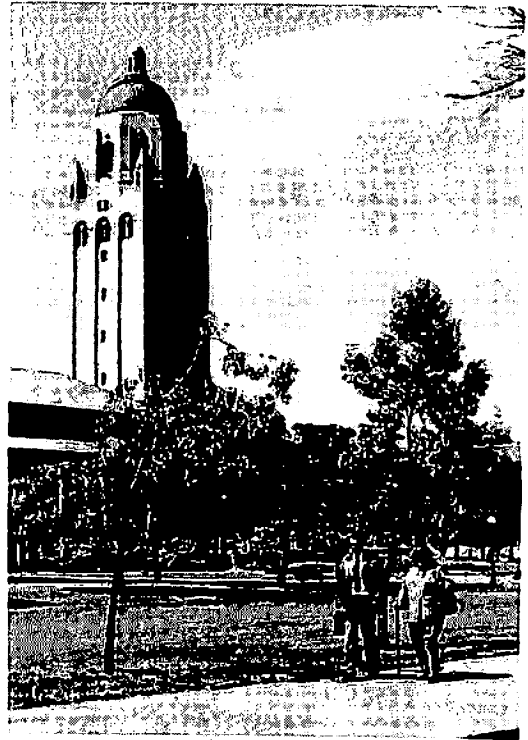
During the registration we also managed to migrate through the dormitory rooms where various people had set up to buy, sell, trade and otherwise exchange Sherlockian merchandise. Items available included the most recent edition of the Vermessa Daily Herald, bound editions of The Strand, various overseas publications (not easily found here) and many other items of interest to the collector.

Eugene Stovall brought his beautifully designed Sherlockian Seminar pins. They were well received and eagerly acquired as were his Scowlers and Molly Maguire pins, depicting Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler. (Gene has recently designed pins for the Tidewaiters portraying Dr. Watson and Professor Moriarty. Look in the Sherlockiana section for more information.)

On Wednesday evening, at 7:30, we gathered at the Rodin Sculpture Garden for a wine and cheese reception. Here we sampled several wines and had a chance to meet with fellow Sherlockians that we had somehow missed during the day.

Thursday morning we arose to a beautiful sunny day. The sprawling Stanford campus greeted us as we began "our days at college".

Those of us that did not stay in the dorms arrived early to be sure of finding a parking place and to locate the classroom.



A SHERLOCKIAN SEMINAR AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

I just looked to see which way the deerstalkers were heading. (I know that "fore an' aft" caps are not that common on the Stanford campus.)

Once we located the proper building and the right stairwell we arrived in the classroom. After claiming a seat I took out my red and white Sherlockian Seminar binder and my red and white Sherlockian Seminar pen and prepared to start the day.

Looking around the classroom I began to remember my years at college. I remembered that a couple of my old professors had invented (or at least finely developed) a sure cure for insomnia - The Lecture. Fortunately, they were not lecturing here (or it could be that I find Sherlock Holmes a bit more interesting than accounting 1A).

Dr. Parker opened the seminar with a few words on what we were about to do and he repeated the fact that John Bennett Shaw would not be with us. But, he informed us, Shaw had prepared a couple of his famous quizzes.

At the mention of Shaw's quizzes I heard a couple of people behind me chuckle. Never having been treated to one of his quizzes I wondered what was in store. -- Now I know. ("Tut, tut," said Holmes. Really now!)

During the day we were treated to several interesting papers including "The Strand Magazine: Mirror of the Century" by Ted Schulz. Ted discussed the history of The Strand and differences between the English and American versions of the magazine. The presentation was accompanied by a slide show depicting the brightly colored American covers versus the traditional blue British covers. Also noted was the eventual passing of The Strand through its acquisition by a magazine titled "For Men Only".

Another interesting paper, "Holmes and Watson: Charisma and the Conductor of Light" by Kenneth Jowitt, followed.

After lunch we headed back to the classroom for Steven Rothman's presentation of "Christopher Morley and Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Enthusiasm". This was followed by Dr. Arthur Cohn's "The Portrayers of Sherlock Holmes in the Movies and on Television". Dr. Cohn distributed guidelines and an evaluation sheet for rating some of the portrayers of Sherlock Holmes. (We have reproduced these sheets in this edition so that you may evaluate the actors that are listed. Dr. Cohn is interested in compiling your responses.)

William Haurert led a discussion of various poetic styles and set the rules for the Sherlockian poetry contest. The winners and honorable mentions are printed elsewhere in this issue.

A SHERLOCKIAN SEMINAR AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

That rounded out a pretty full day. Now we had a while to relax before the evening's banquet. During this break some of us went back to the rooms where so many things were still available for purchase, trade, etc.

At 6:30 pm we convened at the Stanford Faculty Club for cocktails. Dinner followed at 7:30 and a banquet it was. The menu was a collector's item.

Appetizer - Pate-de-fois-gras pie, St. Simon
Orange Sherbert, Openshaw

Entree - Brace of Grouse, Holmes
Oyster Stuffing, Athelney Jones
Perceived Afgan Rice, Watson
Babble of Peas, Gilchrist
Parsley Butter, Abernetty

Dessert - Napoleons Moriarty

Potable - Something choice in a white wine

Coffee in a silver plated pot
Tea, Chequers Inn
Milk sans Trout

I had never really thought about making a pate-de-fois-gras pie, but at dinner it was delicious.

Discussions at each table covered the full spectrum of Sherlockiana, with some emphasis given to what we could expect during the remainder of the seminar. At our table, hints were given about what to expect of the Priory School quiz scheduled for the following morning. It seems that those whom have encountered Shaw's quizzes remember them well.

After dinner we were led in a few Sherlockian songs, including a variation on Stanford's "Come Join Our Band". Following the song fest and a few previews of what was to come we reluctantly departed. Some to rest, some to try to prepare for the morning's quiz.

Friday, August 21: today marked my first experience with a quiz designed by John Bennett Shaw. I had been told that he designed these with the intent that no one should score 100%. But, my score was well below the temperature of that air conditioned room. I have to congratulate those who did well (with a sneaking suspicion that they might have seen J.B.S.'s style before).

Following the Priory school quiz we were treated to Michael Kean's paper "Once More with Feeling: Suggestions for Further research into The Hound of the Baskervilles". followed by Dr. Paul Scholten's "Sherlock Holmes: Connoisseur and Gourmet".

A SHERLOCKIAN SEMINAR AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Dr. Scholten's paper has been accepted for publication in the Baker Street Miscellanea. A shorter version also has appeared in the Vermissa Daily Herald (Vol. 6 No. 1, January 1987) and was awarded the Dean Dickensheet award for best paper presented to the Scowrers and Molly Maguires during 1986.

During lunch many of those staying in the dorms headed to the cafeteria. Some of us that were not staying on campus, and remembering the cafeterias during our college days, headed off campus to one of the many establishments nearby. I will say that I was told the dorm food was quite good. Maybe I'll stay on campus for lunch next time.

After lunch we watched "An Interview with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle", from Fox Movietone News. That was a perfect lead-in to "Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle: The Early Years", by Ted Schulz.

Later, the medical profession had their day with Holmes. "Sherlock Holmes and Medicine", by Dr. Bruce Parker, started things off. That was followed by "Sherlock Holmes as Psychologist", by Leonard Krasner.

I have to mention that during the week after the seminar I was driving along, listening to KCBS and I heard them referring to Dr. Parker's contention that Doyle took to medicine because it allowed him more time to write. So much for those vicious rumors that Sherlock Holmes is old news.

Now it was dinner time again and off to find another new place to try. As usual we headed out with a few of our fellow Sherlockians and dinner was again spiced with our "scholarly" discussions and a few puns that were too atrocious to repeat here. Why are so many Sherlockians such bad punsters?

Then it was back to Jordan Hall for the movie "Mr. Sherlock Holmes of London" and a panel discussion on collecting Sherlockiana. I can't give a review of the panel because I decided to head home early and study for the morning quiz on "The Three Garridebs". I was determined to at least have a respectable score on this quiz.

Saturday morning came with a beautiful dawn. I know because I was up early to reread the assignment again. I heard a strange sound outside of the house and I quickly headed out the door just in time to see a pair of hot air balloons drifting slowly overhead. I wondered if we had a pair of late arrivals or two people trying to escape the quiz.

Oh well, I will say that I did better on this quiz. But, I won't say that it was a great score. Why is it that the things that I study are not the things that they ask?

Dr. Scholten's paper "Sherlock and the Fair Sex: Women in the Canon" discussed many of the women mentioned in the canon and a

A SHERLOCKIAN SEMINAR AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

woman's place in Victorian times. We have received this paper for publication in a future issue of the Herald.

Somehow this seemed like an apt lead to Marilyn MacGregor's "Dr. Watson's Mistress", which contended that Sherlock Holmes was quite probably a woman and possibly Watson's mistress. "Heresy", we cried. How could anyone accept that point of view?

Later that same day the question of Holmes' gender would receive another blow from Gene Stovall with his well presented paper "The Woman". Alright, Gene's paper was good and added credence to Marilyn MacGregor's contention. So, his research was good enough to win the Dean Dickensheet award. But, was Holmes a woman? With Gene's permission we have printed his paper in this issue. Maybe some one will write a rebuttal.

The seminar ended early on Saturday so that we could prepare for the Scowrers' meeting. We all met again at 3:30 in front of Stern Hall to board a luxury coach, courtesy of Don and Willy Werby. The coach brought us to the door of the Holiday Inn and returned us to Stanford after the meeting.

We arrived at the Holiday Inn well before dinner which allowed time for cocktails and for people to view the full size replica of Holmes' sitting room. This room is complete with all period pieces and is so beautifully done. Don and Willy Werby are in the process of assembling a second room in Orlando, Florida.

It was fun to hear people questioning each other and reciting chapter and verse from the canon to support each item in the room. Of course, I had a copy of the room inventory, complete with a floor plan, compiled by Brian and Charlotte Erickson. In the inventory they had listed each item and citations from the canon justifying each within the room. This inventory shows a lot of work and research. I believe it should be part of every Sherlockian's collection. Once again, see the Sherlockiana section for more information.

Then it was off to dinner and the annual Scowrers' birthday meeting. At the dinner we enjoyed seabass with green peppercorn sauce, following which we toasted to Holmes, Watson, The Woman and others.

The meeting was lively with entertainment by the Sublibrarians and the paper by Eugene Stovall, which I have already mentioned. We also enjoyed being led in a song fest with Sherlockian variations of several well known tunes. There was some talk of compiling a Sherlockian song book. Perhaps we will begin doing that soon.

All too soon it was time to head back to Stanford and prepare for our final day in an all too short seminar.

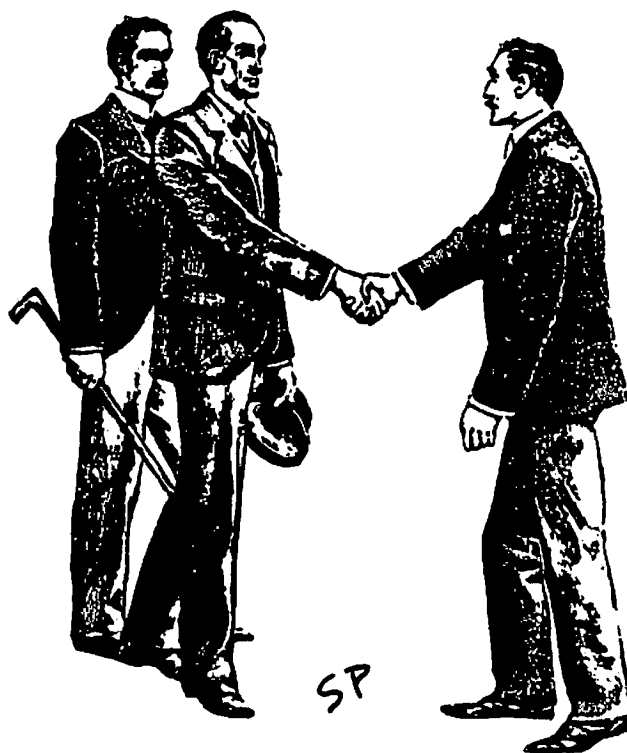
A SHERLOCKIAN SEMINAR AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Sadly, Sunday was a short day. It began with a 9AM brunch. At 10 we headed back to the classroom, one last time, to hear the announcements of the winners of the poetry and literary contests, each of whom read their entry and received their award.

Following the readings the staff of the Herald collected the winning entries for publication. Those entries are reproduced in the next section of this issue.

Dr. Parker then followed with his closing remarks before we reluctantly bid farewell until the next seminar.

* * * * *



The Stanford Sherlockian Seminar
Poetry and Literary Contests

The editors of the Vermessa Daily Herald would like to congratulate all who participated in the Stanford Sherlockian Seminar. Your contributions made this a memorable experience. I know that we are all looking forward to the next one. (I just heard Dr. Parker groan "not this year.")

We also wish to thank the winners of the poetry & literary competitions for their permission to publish the following entries.

Now, for a brief explanation of the contests. The poetry contest was initiated first, with examples of various styles suggested by William Haurert. As you can see by the following entries, these styles ranged from the haiku and limerick to a sonnet. About the only style disallowed was the epic.

Following the winners of the poetry contest, we have reprinted the rules for the literary contest. Poetic entries were allowed here as well. The only restriction was that the same entry could not be submitted to both contests.

Without further ado, we will let the winners speak for themselves.

SPECIAL GRAND PRIZE WINNER

221B REDUX
by
Janice Fisher

Here flock together fierce fans of some note
Who rarely sleep; and so are rarely spry;
How very dear they seem, and how remote
Those mornings when the quizzes meet their eye.
The seminar's afoot for those with ears
Attuned to catch Shaw'a distant view-haloo:
The workshop is itself. For all our fears
Only those things the Canon speaks are true.

A yellow sun swirls past the history door
As day extends upon this palmy street;
A solitary cyclist in the lane.
Ghostly fluorescents fail at twenty feet.
Here, though the dorms explode, we are in heaven,
And it is August 1987.

* * * * *

STANFORD POETRY & LITERARY WINNERS

FIRST PLACE - POETRY

PAINFUL VIGIL
by
Wally Conger

Said Holmes, awaiting the adder,
"Our plight, dear Watson, gets sadder.
"Too much coffee I downed
"tonight at the crown,
"and this wait is killing my bladder."

* * * * *

SECOND PLACE - POETRY

STANFORD CONFERENCE
by
Terri Linn

august evening -
bold bright witty eccentrics
lift glasses to Holmes.

* * * * *

THIRD PLACE - POETRY

MOTHER HOLMES
by
Pj Doyle

When Holmes was a young boy, did he
Swing on the gates of mystery,
Locate foundling pups and kittens,
Scuff black boots, lose woolen mittens,
Scratch his hands and stub his toes
On rocky tors where gorse bush grows,
Set stones and quills and bits of thread
On the window cill beside his bed,
So that waking he could see
All yesterday,s bright prophecy?
With eyes as bright as moire silk,
Thin lips ringed with a mist of milk,
Did he, lifting his china cup
say, "just wait till I grow up!"?

* * * * *

STANFORD POETRY & LITERARY WINNERS

HONORABLE MENTION - POETRY

ABYSS
by
Michael Bush

In the mists, where all
Grows verdant, Moriarty
Holds out for reprieve.

* * * * *

HONORABLE MENTION - POETRY

SOME POETIC LAMENTS FOR
THE LATE PROFESSOR HEIDEGGER
by
Paula Salo

H is for Heidegger
The brave German master
Whose prusit of young Saltire
Led, alas, to disaster.

A LIMERICK

A professor at Priory Prep.
Fearing harm to Saltire, Arthur, yclept
Rode off on his bike
To rescue the tyke
Was bashed, so the Headmaster wept.

STANFORD POETRY & LITERARY WINNERS

A DIAMONT

Teacher

Bearded, courageous

Riding, persuing, falling

Kidnapping, striking, fleeing

Squat, brutal

Innkeeper

* * * * *

HONORABLE MENTION - POETRY

427 PARK LANE

by

Jennifer Decker

Among the throng stands one who is alone,
His doctor's eye examining the date.
And though his eye is keen - who killed Adair?
Though he knows the method, another knew it better.
Three years have melted into obscurity;
A chasm, ever-widening between
The one, entombed in own chasm deep
And Dr. Watson, whose mentor he had been.

A bump, the doctor turns, amazed at seeing
This figure; wizened, rickety and small.
Its precious books in hand, it snarls and, fleeing,
As Watson watches, a tear begins to fall;
For the figure seems not what it seems at all.
Did Watson sense how soon he would rejoice?
"My dear Watson," said the well-remembered voice...

* * * * *

STANFORD POETRY & LITERARY WINNERS

Following the reprinting of the literary contest rules are the winners of this contest. As you will see, in addition to the styles listed below all types of poetic entries were accepted.

THE LITERARY CONTEST RULES

In each of the two stories under consideration at this Sherlockian Seminar appears a most sympathetic character; one who might well have a tale to tell and whose end is both unfortunate and poignant. I refer to Nathan Garrideb and to the German Master Heidegger. It is time to consider these two and to give each some deserved stature.

In three hundred words or less give a character sketch of one or the other unfortunate person. You may do this in prose, verse, song, music or whatever.

These contributions are to be in one of the following styles:

- * A Biblical Parable
- * A Congressional Hearing
- * A Red Smith style of sports column (He was a BSI)
- * A police report
- * A Sesame Street script
- * A funeral eulogy

STANFORD POETRY & LITERARY WINNERS

FIRST PLACE - LITERARY

A RED SMITH STYLE SPORTS COLUMN by Steve Hecox

The history of sport is replete with stories of dedication, self-sacrifice and exceptional courage. We all remember the 1952 Stanley Cup playoffs in which Canadian's superstar Maurice Richard had to be helped, semi-conscious, back to the bench after scoring an outstanding game winning goal. Likewise, the gallant final lap of the 1984 Olympic Women's Marathon, when Gabriela Anderson-Schiess, battling the paralysis of heat prostration, staggered to the finish.

Add to your memory the German cyclist, Professor Rolf Heidegger.

It was the 1901 edition of the Priory Handicap, the annual horse vs. bicycle race which covers six miles over the treacherous cross-country terrain of the Lower Gill Moor. Ruben Hayes, the Fighting Cock of Chesterfield, headed the equine team and enjoyed the head start.

Heidegger scrambled down the vine from his starting block in the school and soon was in hot pursuit. His cycle worked to perfection as he navigated the gates of the Ragged Shaw slalom. By the time he emerged from the light-green belt which marked the morass, he had the Brit in his sights.

On the Paths and Patches portion of the course, Heidegger made his move. Heart pounding, chest panting and legs pumping, he leaned over the handlebars and forced the pace. After a quick feint to the left, he darted to the right, sprinting for the lead.

The Fighting Cock would have none of it. With a cold-blooded, deliberate slash with a high stick, he sent his young opponent hurtling to the earth.

Bloodied, muddied, but nonetheless undaunted, the German picked himself up and gamely continued the chase. One pedal was bent, one glass was gone from his spectacles. Alas, the blow was too much even for the plucky professor. Still on his machine, still high above saddle, Rolf Heidegger died of a crushed skull.

In an unconscionable display of lax officiating, no foul was called. Hayes was declared the winner. Heidegger's Palmer Tyres team protested and took their case to the court of final appeal-Mr. Sherlock Holmes. On his ruling, Hayes was stripped of his medals and hanged, while Heidegger's name was rightfully engraved on the Holderness Cup.

STANFORD POETRY & LITERARY WINNERS

Sports figures are, whether they like it or not, subject to special scrutiny in our society. Occasionally, that's to the benefit of all concerned. As an example of perseverance, valor, vitality and courage, Professor Heidegger is an example to us all. He deserves a special place in anyone's hall of fame.

* * * * *

SECOND PLACE - LITERARY

A EULOGY FOR NATHAN GARRIDEB

by
K. Biro

I, eulogize Nate Garrideb?
There isn't much to do.
The man has eulogized himself and done it far more true.
His body was the mirror of the life time that he spent.
His posture was well-rounded with a scientific bent,
tall, a bit loose-jointed (as were his collections),
and his peering curiosity took on several directions.

He had periods of interest, if I can coin a phrase,
he lusted after lithics, and skulled the ancient days.
He had a favorite fondness for moths and butterflies.
To say Evans pinned his spirit, well it's just utter lies!

He never lost his humor, those last times I went to see him in
the nursing home in Brixton he called "the old museum". I asked
him, "Were the rumors true? Are you a broken man?" His reply I
will now share with you. I'll quote him, if I can.

"I went to collect the third Garrideb
for a more than worthy wage
and buy my place in history as the Hans Sloane of my age.
Of course, I felt the fool to fail this acquisition,
But when Evans was exposed by Holmes it quite changed my
position."

"You see, I'm something special
And I know I soon will die."
Then he told me what his stond would say when he said his last
good-bye.
"Never was I untrue to life nor my enthusiasm ebb.
Here is where I'll collect myself."

The Final Garrideb

* * * * *

STANFORD POETRY & LITERARY WINNERS

THIRD PLACE - LITERARY

HERR HEIDEGGER

by

Tracy Reynolds Aleksy

Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Heidegger Herr,
Who regretted he had but one life to give,
So that his student, Saltire, should live.

He saw the boy climb down the wall, and
Run across campus (toward the Hall?)
He feared some treachery in store,
But got more than he bargained for.

The lad was heaved upon a horse,
And led through paths past roadside gorse,
The German master dressed in haste,
Bestrode his bike and 'way he raced.

Reuben Hayes, a nasty cur,
Crushed his skull from rocks above,
And left Heidegger there to bleed,
Whilst he fled with all due speed.

To complicate this indignation,
His character suffered assination,
They said he took the boy away,
But Holmes stepped in to save the day.

Holmes couldn't undo what had been done,
But did restore the Duke's young son,
And cleared the Gernab master's name,
Raising him to hero's fame.

So gather round and raise a toast,
To one who gave of himself most,
The German master Heidegger Herr,
And praise his mem'ry everywhere.

* * * * *

STANFORD POETRY & LITERARY WINNERS

FOURTH PLACE - LITERARY

THE THREE GERRIDEBS

by
Ron White

The following is how a police report regarding the case of "The Three Gerridebs" might have appeared in "The London Times".

(26 JUNE 1902)

MILLIONAIRE LEAVES
MONEY TO NAMESAKES

LONDON-

We attempted to interview the well known amateur detective, Sherlock Holmes, regarding a rumor that he refused a knighthood earlier this month. Although he declined comment on this matter he did discuss a most unusual problem that has been brought to his attention.

Mr. Holmes was contacted by a Mr. Nathan Gerrideb of 136 Little Ryder Lane with regards to a matter of inheritance. It would seem that Mr. N. Gerrideb is to be heir to a third part of the estate of the late Mr. Alexander Hamilton Gerrideb of Kansas. The estate is estimated to value at 15 million dollars (USA).

The unusual terms of the will were

explained by Mr. John Gerrideb, also heir to a third part of the estate.

While Mr. John Gerrideb resided in Kansas he became friends with Mr. A. H. Gerrideb. Although there appears to be no relation between the men, save their surname, the latter was delighted to find a namesake and rewrote his will so that the estate could only be divided among three adult males of the name Gerrideb.

Mr. Holmes has been engaged to locate the third heir to the estate.

(27 JUNE 1902)

WILL IS A FRAUD
KILLER EVANS CAUGHT

LONDON-

Today brought a resolution to the unusual case of the Gerridebs. The will, which required that an estate be divided

equally among three adult men with the name of Gerrideb, was declared to be a hoax.

Mr. Sherlock Holmes revealed that John Gerrideb is none other than James Winter alias Killer Evans the escaped criminal from the states. Mr. Holmes inquiry concluded that James Winter devised the hoax to remove Nathan Gerrideb from his lodging while Winter located and removed a counterfeiter's press and plates.

The existence of the press and plates was revealed to Winter by Rodger Prescott the convicted forger and coiner from Chicago. Prescott was later killed by Winter in a fight over cards.

Inspector Lestrade expressed Scotland Yard's gratitude to Mr. Holmes for his assistance in resolving this case.

STANFORD POETRY & LITERARY WINNERS

HONORABLE MENTION - LITERARY

HERR HEIDEGGER'S FUNERAL EULOGY
DELIVERED BY THE DUKE OF HOLDERNESSE

by
Bob Jones

At long last we pay homage to Herr Heidegger, the German master at the Priory School, who gave his life to save my son, Lord Saltire.

Herr Heidegger was a keen sportsman, a successful inventor, and a distinguished scholar.

While a brilliant student at Augsburg University, he became famous as the most rapid cyclist in all of Bavaria. When Palmer Tyres decided to enter the Continental market, they turned to Herr Heidegger. He designed a special tyre with a distinguishing longitudinal tread and used this Palmer tyre with great success.

Herr Heidegger was an eminent scholar. His "Heidegger's Highlights on Homer" will recall his name. He joined the staff of Dr. Thorneycroft Huxtable's Priory School in 1899.

The heroic deeds that led to Herr Heidegger's death are being recorded by Dr. Watson. Evidence of the pluck of this brave man has been furnished by Mr. Sherlock Holmes. Mr. Holmes has deduced that when cycling after the infamous Reuben Hayes who was kidnapping my beloved Arthur, Heidegger timed his sprint to meet Hayes on the morass of Lower Gill Moor, which would ensure that tracks would remain from their encounter, if he didn't survive.

After being struck a mortal blow, he staggered on with his bicycle in order to leave the tracks, which provided the clues which enabled Holmes to solve the mysterious disappearance of my son.

To honour this man who sacrificed his life for one of us, Lower Gill Moor is being renamed Heidegger's Moor.

- end -

* * * * *

STANFORD POETRY & LITERARY WINNERS

HONORABLE MENTION - LITERARY

A LIMERICK
by
Ron White

There once was a man named Sloane
As a collector he's really alone,
Than a Gerrideb (Nathan)
Who's very much shaken
To find press and plates in his home.

* * * * *

HONORABLE MENTION - LITERARY

A PARABLE
by
Arthur Cohn

There was a certain man, a German Master by trade, established in an exclusive school, in proper, God-fearing Victorian England. This Heidegger, for that was his name, longed for the flesh-pots of his native Bohemia. He would often, when his charges were asleep and the dormitories quiet, steal silently out of his room late at night. Bicycling across the fields to meet with a harlot, he would know her and then return to the school before dawn's awakening.

One night, when the last of the other Masters retired later than usual, Heidegger dressed quickly, leaving on his night shirt and off his socks. He bicycled off to his harlot for the evening. In the field, he was surprised to hear voices out of the dark, one of which was that of a newly arrived student. He rode off quickly so as not to be recognized. Suddenly, a heavy club came down on his head, killing him instantly. His body laid in the field for three days (until discovered by a noted detective), while the harlot moved off looking for another client.

* * * * *

1988 DEAN DICKENSHEET AWARD

THE WOMAN

by
Eugene Stovall

Presented to the
Scowrers and Molly Maguires' meeting
August 22, 1987

Early in his career Sherlock Holmes failed to properly handle the commission given him by the King of Bohemia. Irene Adler, who Holmes treats in a most ungentlemanly manner, saves the world's first consulting detective from the King's most certain displeasure. Had it not been for Irene Adler's forbearance with Holmes' clumsy attempt at deception, his career, if not his life, might have been cut short, and we Sherlockians would have been deprived of his genius. It is for this reason when glasses are lifted high at the annual celebration of Sherlock Holmes' birthday in a toast to "the woman", that the toast is meant to honor Irene Adler.



However, this unanimity of feeling and deference to Irene Adler among Sherlockians was shattered when Rex Stout refused to join in the traditional toast and defiantly announced that Watson not Adler was "the woman".(1) Stout declared that evidence from the canon (and a rather dubious method of cracking an imaginary cononical cryptogram) conclusively identified Irene's last name as Watson Rather than Adler.

For the traditionally open and generally liberal Sherlockians, Stout's outlandish assertions went beyond the pale. Stout later recounted, only half in jest, how after publication of his article he required body guards whenever he attended the annual Sherlockian meetings. Julian Wolfe used Stout's methods with different results. According to Wolff, the canonical cryptogram really said: "Stout is nuts!"(2)

Others, however, adopted Stout's thesis. Virginia Johnson suggested in The Adventure of the Misguided Males(3) that Watson and Holmes were married. Kurt Steele modified the view somewhat by proposing in The Truth About Watson(4) a female Watson prior to June, 1887 and a male one thereafter.

On the other hand, Katherine Karlson asserts that the reason Why Watson Wasn't a Woman(5) was that it would have taken her more than ten minutes to dress when summoned by Holmes in the opening

scene of Abby Grange. Elmer Holmes Davis expresses the more traditional view in his well regarded article On the Emotional Geology of Baker Street(6). Davis reveals that 221B's residents could not have had more contradictory natures, though there was a striking resemblance in their treatment of women. Holmes exhibits a mysterious estrangement from the sex, while Watson has amorous affairs on three continents. While Watson has two wives, possibly three, he spent more time with Holmes than at his own home. Holmes, on the other hand, apparently has no sex life at all, preferring his drugs: tobacco, cocaine and morphine. Yet, there is some doubt that Holmes was completely celibate, considering his greeting to Colonel Moran in The Adventure of the Empty House, which we will consider later. Davis tells us that emotional involvement was harmful to Holmes' rational faculties.

Some believe these facts should not distract genuine Sherlockians from the master detective's true contributions to the field of intellectual and moral achievement. To then he is an immortal and to discover feet of clay would destroy his legacy. Thus to some any revelation in this area is viewed as heresy. Yet, by abandoning this field of intense interest and speculation, Sherlockians have permitted malicious critics of civilized behavior to propose genuine obscenities. Such a critic is Samuel Rosenberg whose vulgar book, Naked Is The Best Disguise (7), holds the canon up to be a travesty in which Sherlock Holmes openly disdains and violates those noble and moral values we cherish as necessary for a civilized society. Rosenberg claims, among other things, that the canon enacts a seriocomic travesty of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and proclaims the value of the erotic rites. Furthermore, he claims that the canon is a venue for Victorian readers to enjoy vicariously the uninhibited pursuit of pleasure and passion. Rosenberg describes Doyle as a dionysian who is interested in the mysteries in order to retell tales of secret initiations, orgiastic celebrations and obscene rites.

Rosenberg's well documented attack deserves an answer. If the adventures of Sherlock Holmes are a travesty, we who cheered his triumphs as victories for civilized behavior are left forlorn. We cannot abandon the field to the Rosenbergs by covering up the truth or hiding the facts. As the master has said: "The more outre' and grotesque an incident is, the more carefully it deserves to be examined..."(8). After a careful examination of the canon, I believe the facts are undeniable: it is not Watson, but Sherlock Holmes who is the woman! Before presenting the cononical evidence for my assertion, let me raise a few crucial points from the canon.

A Study in Scarlet examined the threat English women faced from the increasing numbers of foreigners invading English society. Certainly the fate of Lucy Ferrier is sad, but all things considered, the plight of Alice Charpentier and her mother was alarming. Due to economic circumstances, Madame Charpentier was

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forced to take Enoch Drebber in as a boarder subjecting her daughter to his unwanted and savage attentions leaving her with a "babe unborn" (9). Had it not been for Sherlock Holmes, her son, who served his country honorably in Her Majesty's Navy, would have been found guilty of Drebber's murder. The newspapers charge that England was experiencing a political reaction to overseas adventures and advocated closer scrutiny of foreigners such as appears in the next published tale of The Sign Of The Four. Of the next twelve tales, eight of them deal with the plight of women in England who suffer at the hands of men, including Irene Adler, who was subjected to the intimidation and exploitation of the King of Bohemia. At the same time, domestic threats to women were equally appalling. In The Speckled Band, Helen Stoner became a victim of a vicious murder plot undertaken by her stepfather, Dr. Grimesby Roylott, who had already murdered her sister Julia. There was the plight of poor Violet Smith who was abducted and forced into a marriage with Jack Woodley in The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist. Just think of the sufferings of the women in the Hounds of the Baskervilles. Who but "the woman" would be so concerned with the plight of the gentler sex, when most of the men serving in foreign wars had become jaded and accustomed to violence? Chivalry was all but dead. This was the situation that Sherlock Holmes faced. Who but a woman would have been concerned? Who but "the woman" would have been capable?

To arrive at this conclusion, I followed the master's most important injunctions: to unravel a mystery, follow the deductive method. As he says: "You know my methods, follow them. And then when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." This I endeavored to do. At the very beginning, in A Study In Scarlet, I found this statement:

My companion flushed up with pleasure at my words, and the earnest way in which I uttered them. I had already observed that he was as sensitive to flattery on the score of his art as any girl could be of her beauty.

I wondered whether or not Watson was referring to Holmes' vanity or to Holmes, himself. Looking further, I found Holmes saying in The Valley of Fear, "My blushes, Watson." Aha! Only a woman would speak so to a roommate. Holding the idea of roommates in my mind, I was further stimulated in my investigations by Holmes' strange behavior in The Valley of Fear. Watson and Holmes are given a double-bedded room which Watson complains is the best they could get. Yet, there does not seem to be any reason that the Westville Arms cannot provide separate rooms. The community is thriving due to the influx of residents. It would seem that the only public accommodations in the village could satisfy the needs of two guests. I surmised that Watson was not complaining about the room accommodations. Rather, he was disturbed by the lack of twin beds. Being familiar with Holmes' nocturnal habits, Watson was irritated at having his sleep disturbed by Holmes' comings and goings.

I had no doubt that I had begun to find that thread that unravels any mystery. The game was afoot and I was hot on the trail. Now what I searched for was additional references Watson might make to Holmes' sex when they first met. I reasoned that any major revelation surely would be made in A Study In Scarlet. Sure enough, Watson realizes Holmes is a woman and says as much, stating: "You remind me of Edgar Allen Poe's Dupin. I had no idea such individuals existed outside of stories." Watson does not refer to the fact that Dupin is a detective, but to the fact that Auguste Dupin is a woman. Watson knew that Poe's character was based upon a real person, Lucille Aurora Dupin, who lived and wrote as George Sand. Holmes confirms Watson's conclusion but indicates his pique at the comparison, for to Holmes Dupin was an inferior fellow. When Holmes quotes George Sand in The Red Headed League, Holmes acknowledges that both he and Sand have discovered the secret of furthering their work -- a work made possible only because they posed as men.

Literary references to Holmes' sex abound in the canon. In A Study in Scarlet, Enoch Drebber carries Boccaccio's Decameron, which tells the story of Ginevra, a virtuous and loving wife falsely accused of infidelity. Her husband hires a wife killer, but the man believes in Ginevra's innocence and allows her to escape, after which she spends many years living as a man. In The Adventures of the Empty House, at the capture of Colonel Moran, Sherlock Holmes says: "Ah Colonel, . . . , journeys end in lovers' meetings, as the old play says. I don't think I have had the pleasure of seeing you since you favored me with those attentions as I lay on the ledge above Reichenbach Falls." "Journeys end with lovers' meeting" is a quote from Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, where Viola masquerades as a man while serving the interests of her sovereign, Orinio, Duke of Illryia.

One final piece of evidence is provided in The Adventure of the Three Garridebs in which we learn that Holmes refused knighthood in June, 1902. Certainly, Victoria knew the truth of Holmes' identity and avoided a potentially embarrassing situation while still rewarding him for recovering the Bruce-Partington Plans. The queen did not reward Holmes with the customary knighthood; instead, Holmes was awarded an emerald. Victoria died on January 22, 1901 and Edward VII, seeking to rectify a grave oversight, offered Holmes a title as due reward for many services to the Crown. Alas, Holmes demurred. A woman could never be knighted.

Seeking a suitable conclusion to this investigation, I utilized a statement by the literary agent who said that the first six short stories contained a central theme. Piercing their conclusions together, I discovered the secret: The woman is a danger to anyone who threatens the security of women. Sherlock Holmes is like George Sand, for whom the man is nothing while the work is everything, except that she goes with the grace of God. And L.S. are her letters. For a translation of the conanical theme, I turned to Julian Wolff. In A Study In Scarlet, on his way to

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hear Norman Neruda, a great violinist and also a woman, Holmes hums one of her little tunes: "Tra-la-la-lira-lira-lay". Wolff tells us that the tune is actually a misinterpretation of Alfred, Lord Tennyson's poem, The Lady of Shalot:

From the bank and from the river
He flash'd into the crystal mirror,
Tirra lirra' by the river,
sang Sir Lancelot.

Sherlock Holmes worked to recover those days of Camelot when the laws of chivalry stood in defense of a maiden's honor and succored women in distress. So it is that this age will forever be known as the age of Victoria, Queen...and be remembered as the age of Sherlock Holmes, the woman (10).

* * * * *

FOOTNOTES

1. Stout, Rex, "Watson Was A Woman", The Saturday Review of Literature, 1941
2. Wolff, Julian, "That Was No Lady", BSJ
3. Johnson, Virginia, "The Adventure of the Misguided Males", BSJ, 3, Oct. 1948
4. Steele, Kurt, "The Truth About Watson", Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, No. 29, April, 1946.
5. Karlson, Katherine, "Why Watson Wasn't A Woman", BSP(NSI) 1, No. 2, Aug. 1971.
6. Davis, Elmer Holmes, "On The Emotional Geology of Baker Street", 221B Studies in Sherlock Holmes" Vincent Starrett (ed), MacMillian Co., NY, 1940.
7. Rosenberg, Samuel, Naked is the Best Disguise, Penguin, NY, 1974.
8. The Hound of the Baskervilles
9. See: "The Final Outrage of Enoch Drebber", Andrew G. Fusco, BSJ, 20, Sept. 1970.
10. A more literal translation of the conclusions is:
As the woman (A Scandal in Bohemia) who poses a danger for whoso snatches a delusion from a woman (A Case of Identity) like George Sand for whom the man is nothing while the work is everything (The Red Headed League), there goes Sherlock Holmes (The Boscombe Valley Mystery) and L.S. (The Five Orange Pips)

PORTRAYERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES IN
THE MOVIES AND TV

by

Dr. Arthur Cohn

Presented to the Sherlockian
Seminar at Stanford University on
August 20, 1987



Sherlock Holmes retired to bee-keeping in 1903 or 1904 prior to the widespread development of movies. He has since restricted his emergence from retirement only to highly important secret intelligence service activities. Thus, though "the stage lost a fine actor" (SCAN) when Holmes became a specialist in deduction, he has not been available to portray himself in the movies and now TV. We have instead a goodly number of professional actors who have attempted to project the characteristics that make up Holmes' persona.

We all know what these characteristics are. An attempt to list them systematically is attached based in great part on the section on Sherlock Holmes in the Encyclopaedia Sherlockiana compiled by Jack Tracy. Let us try to match up and rate the success of the various actors in portraying these facets of Holmes' persona. Some of them have been so off the mark such as Reginald Owen, Stewart Granger and Roger Moore that the less said, the better. Other portrayers such as Jeremy Brett, Basil Rathbone, and Arthur Wontner have come very close in great part. Because they have been so successful, in part, in making us believe we are actually viewing Holmes himself, it is perhaps even more disappointing when they miss some characteristics, than for the actors who didn't even come close.

Arthur Wontner in appearance is a Sidney Paget (who is said to have known Holmes personally) portrait come to life. Wontner is an older Holmes, apparently approaching retirement. He does not exude nervous energy or much sharp physical movement. He is more successful being contemplative over a three pipe problem, chatting pleasantly with Watson, and in putting his clients at ease and evoking a sense of trust from them. He is less able to exude a feeling of brilliance, of actually deducing, and of mastery; so that in the confrontation scene taken from The Final Problem, Lyn Harding's Moriarty seems to be the more powerful personality.

Jeremy Brett is close enough on physical appearance (though he could be a little taller). He does exude very well Holmes' nervous energy and impatience, his Bohemian soul, his intelligence, and his ability to deduce. He brings to bear

PORTRAYERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE MOVIES AND TV

Holmes' drug addiction (perhaps too much emphasis) and dualness of personality. He is assisted by the realism and production values of the TV series. He lacks Holmes' sense of mastery, behaving more like a brilliant but spoiled overgrown child. While he does have the high, somewhat strident voice, it is used more sarcastically than with a tone of wry irony. Entirely missing is Holmes' "easy courtesy, his past mastery at putting the humble at ease, and his particular ingratiating way and remarkable gentleness and courtesy in his dealings with women".

Basil Rathbone portrayed Holmes in essentially three different media: radio, "A" movies, and "B" movies (plus an extremely short stage run). His voice and crispness of speaking, projecting high-strung command, seem almost ideal. This is a major plus in his movie roles and for radio make the broadcasts a joy to those of us who remember how to listen. His appearance, while differing somewhat from Paget's and Steele's renderings, closely fit Watson's description (though he could be a little taller, and his hair style in some of the Universal series is disconcerting). In the "A" RKO movies, he projects physical energy and mobility, but by the "B" Universal series this actor, who once competitively crossed swords with Errol Flynn, seems very deficient in quickness and nervous energy. He does project well Holmes' intelligence, ability to deduce and command, though not the complete mastery one feels in a still picture of William Gillette. Rathbone's Holmes' attitude towards Watson is a little too testy though Bruce's portrayal seems to invite it. The declining production values and deviation of the plots from the canon work against him. However, his confrontation with Moriarty scenes (abstracted from The Final Problem) are fondly remembered and match well against Wontner's or Brett's.

Other actors such as John Neville, Clive Brooks, and Peter Cushing have portrayed Holmes competently, but you never quite got the feeling you were watching the real article. Ronald Howard's television series had the positive attribute of Watson being portrayed as a competent man of affairs but lowered Holmes into a sidekick useful for his special deductive powers but not the leader, the dominating personality of the series.

Ellie Norwood and William Gillette were both highly esteemed by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Unfortunately, a print of the one movie made by Gillette has not yet been found. Still photos show his verite appearance and masterful mien. (So very much like Steele's rendering of Holmes and the picture of Holmes discovered by Baring-Gould.) Some of Norwood's many films are available but unfortunately they were made prior to talking pictures. Norwood certainly has a special commanding look in his eyes, but the print quality and definition have deteriorated, plus it is hard for us brought up after the silent era, to fully appreciate dramatic stories as opposed to Charlie Chaplin or Buster Keaton's comedies. Last, a mention should be made of George C. Scott who, while only playing a man who thought he was Holmes ("They Might Be Giants"), seemed in the opening scenes to truly have captured

PORTRAYERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE MOVIES AND TV

Holmes in look and attitude. Unfortunately, the movie and Scott's characterization deteriorated later in the story.

Attached is a "score card" listing the various portrayers in the columns and a reference to Holmes' characteristics in the rows. From your previous experience and from viewing today's tapes, please compile your own estimates of the various actors' success in portraying Sherlock Holmes.

A SUMMARY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES' CHARACTERISTICS*

1. APPEARANCE. Tall and Thin, "rather over six feet and so excessively lean he seemed to be considerably taller" (STUD). His face was a narrow one (BERY, GOLD), his forehead large (HOUN), his hair black (DANC), his brows dark and heavy (BRUC, LADY, VALL), his nose thin and hawk-like (REDH, STUD), his lips thin (EMPT) and firm (3GAR). His eyes were gray (HOUN, MAZA, RETI, THOR, 3GAR) and particularly sharp and piercing (BOSC, GREE, RETI, STUD, TWIS), taking on a "far-away introspective look" when he exerted his whole powers (GREE-THOR).

2. PHYSICAL TRAITS. Seldom a man who took exercise for its own sake (YELL), still he was "always in training" (SOLI), a good runner (HOUN), and possessed of a strength with which, Watson said, one would hardly credit him (STUD). "I am exceptionally strong in the fingers," he declared (BERY), and had a "grasp of iron" (LAST) which he put to use in straightening the poker bent by Dr. Grimesby Roylott (SPEC). Watson asserted that few men were capable of greater muscular effort (YELL). He had too "an abnormally acute set of senses" (BLAN) and an "extraordinary delicacy of touch" (STUD).

3. DUAL NATURE OF CHARACTER. The most pronounced of Sherlock Holmes' traits was the "dual nature" of his personality (BOSC, BRUC, DEVI, MUSG, PRIO, REDH, REIG, RETI). "Nothing could exceed his energy when the working fit was upon him; but now and again a reaction would seize him, and for days on end he would lie upon the sofa in the sitting room, hardly uttering a word or moving a muscle from morning to night."

4. NERVOUS RESTLESSNESS. Watson made constant reference to his restlessness (REDH, SIGN, THOR) and impatience (BRUC, EMPT, STUD, 3STU, VALL, YELL), his nervousness (ILLU, LADY, SIGN) and excitability (DANC, NORW, REIG, STOC, THOR), his eager nature (BERY, ENGR, HOUN, PRIO, SCAN).

5. SHARPNESS OF MIND. He had curious gifts of instinct and observation (VEIL) based upon "a kind of intuition (STUD-SIGN, THOR). The three qualities necessary to the ideal detective that he possessed were the power of observation, the power of deduction, and a wide range of exact knowledge (SIGN). Observation: Holmes possessed "extraordinary powers" of observation (SCAN-CARD, IDEN, STUD), and his deductions were

PORTRAYERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE MOVIES AND TV

raised, said Watson, upon the solid basis of "minute and laborious" examinations of the evidence (ABBE). Deduction: Having acquired his first-hand evidence and collected the other facts of the case, Watson said Holmes preferred to withdraw to "seclusion and solitude" for "those hours of intense mental concentration during which he weighed every particle of evidence, constructed alternative theories, balanced one against the other, and made up his mind as to which points were essential and which immaterial" (HOUN). Knowledge: He had "a passion for definite and exact knowledge (STUD)". "I hold a vast store of out-of-the-way knowledge without scientific system, but very available for the needs of my work. My mind is like a crowded box-room with packets of all sorts stowed away therein - so many that I may well have but a vague perception of what was there" (LION).

*The listing is based in great part on the section on Sherlock Holmes in the Encyclopaedia Sherlockiana compiled by Jack Tracey.

6. BOHEMIAN NATURE. "Holmes is one of the most untidy men that ever drove a fellow-lodger to distraction" (MUSG, EMPT, MAZA), an almost studied Bohemian who engaged in indoor pistol practice, who had "a horror of destroying documents", and who kept "his cigars in the coal-scuttle, his tobacco in the toe end of a Persian slipper, and his unanswered correspondence transfixed by a jack-knife into the very centre of his wooden mantelpiece" (MUSG). "His incredible untidiness, his addiction to music at strange hours, his occasional revolver practice within doors, his weird and malodorous scientific experiments, and the atmosphere of violence and danger which hung around him made him the very worst tenant in London" (DYIN). He craved seclusion and solitude (HOUN), and "without his scrapbooks, his chemicals, and his homely untidiness, he was an uncomfortable man" (3STU).

7. RELATIONSHIP WITH WATSON. Sharpness: One of Holmes' "most obvious weaknesses" was his impatience with "less alert intelligences than his own" (BLUE), and he could be openly contemptuous of his mental inferiors (BOSC, CARD, SIGN, STUD) and those of whom he disapproved (MAZA, THOR). His behaviour was most often particularly annoying to Watson (COPP, HOUN, MUSG, SIGN, VALL). Kindness: But harshness was foreign to his nature, said Watson (SOLI), who made mention of Holmes' kindness (REDC) and the "somewhat sinister cheerfulness" that characterized his lighter and more imp-like moments. Intimacy: The only intimacy he permitted himself was that which he shared with Watson (EMPT, FINA, ILLU, YELL), yet even here he seldom permitted his feelings to show (BRUC, DEVI, EMPT, 3GAR). "I was nearer him than anyone else, and yet I was always conscious of the gap between", the doctor wrote (ILLU). Only once did Holmes' mask fall away completely, and "for the one and only time I caught a glimpse of a great heart as well as of a great brain" (3GAR). "And they chatted in intimate conversation for a few minutes, recalling once again the days of the past" (LAST).

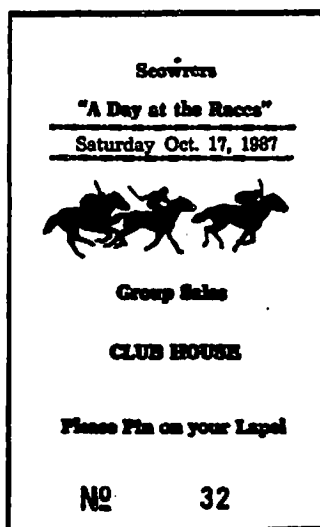
THE RUNNING OF THE SILVER BLAZE

or
Some Annotations on the
"Handy Guide to the Turf"
by
Ron White

Saturday, October 17, 1987, a date that will live in history (or infamy if you were on the wrong side of the wagers). 45 Sherlockians decended upon Bay Meadows. With my "Handy Guide to the Turf" tucked neatly in my pocket I was confident that the most difficult part of the day would be finding the clubhouse.

Once I was directed to a parking space Tom Miller, Susan Warner and I climbed out of the Honda and began to thread our way between the cars and barriers to the racetrack. My five foot six inch frame had some small difficulty seeing past the trucks and vans, so following Tom Miller I began to feel like Watson following Holmes through the alleys and forgotten streets in "The Adventure of The Empty House".

When at last we came to the gate and presented our passes I saw the rows of stands selling "tout sheets". Confidently I strode past them. After all, I had a friend that used to own a race-horse and he had already given me some tips. Then it dawned, he used to own a horse. If he had it down pat wouldn't he still be owning horses? Oh well, I'll worry about that later.



After passing the tout sheets we stopped at a booth to pick up our program. "Let's see, the sixth race is the "Silver Blaze". Good, that means we have time to enjoy the luncheon and chat with the other Sherlockians."

We passed through the grandstand and on to the clubhouse. There our hands were stamped and we were pointed towards the dining area where we saw a row of tables



Photo: left to right
Ed Truman- owner, Gary Stevens-jockey
Dr. Arthur Cohn, Bodymaster Bob Steele
Brother Harraway (Ray DeGroat)
Photo by Ron White

PORTRAYERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE MOVIES AND TV

8. MASTERFULNESS. Professionally, Holmes "stood alone in Europe, both in his gifts and in his experience" (VALL). For this reason he refused the commonplace (SPEC). "I am the last court of appeal", he boasted (FIVE, MUSG). Described as unworldly and capricious in his choice of cases (BLAC), he declared that "the status of my client is a matter of less moment to me than the interest of his case" (NOBL). "To the man who loves art for its own sake, it is frequently in its least important and lowliest manifestations that the keenest pleasure is to be derived" (COPP). "Education never ends, Watson. It is a series of lessons with the greatest for the last" (REDC). He refused to act if not in his client's complete confidence (ILLU, SECO, THOR), and accordingly, the records of many cases, Watson wrote years after his retirement, "involve the secrets of private families to an extent which would mean consternation in many exalted quarters if it were thought possible that they might find their way into print" (THOR).

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Dr. Cohn is still in the process of compiling results of this survey. If you did not do so at the Stanford seminar please fill out the attached form (or a facsimile) with your rating for each of the named actors and return it to: Dr. Arthur Cohn, 816 Mesa Court, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

PORTRAYER

CHARACTERISTICS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
J. Brett											
P. Cushing											
R. Howard											
J. Longdon											
J. Neville											
E. Norwood											
B. Rathbone											
G. Scott											
C. Stephens											
A. Wontner											

Rate on a scale of 1 to 10

THE RUNNING OF THE SILVER BLAZE

and deerstalkers adorning various heads and chairs. (I trust this is the place.)

We bid hello to our fellow Sherlockians, some of whom were adorned with the aforementioned deerstalkers and others dressed in Victorian style, then secured a table and approached the buffet. (Hm, salads, saffron rice, chicken, roast beef, various vegetables, desert, etc., actually quite an appetizing spread.) Once again, we had our hands stamped so we could come and go through the buffet.

Back at our table we spied Dr. Parker displaying the prize to be given to the winner of the "Silver Blaze". It was beautiful. A leather strap about 5" wide and 2' long, set with 4 brass rings each of which contained a wedgewood style cameo portrait. The first two were, of course, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, followed by Colonel Ross and Inspector Gregory. The strap was set with a ring at one end and designed to be hung on the wall.

Well now, it was down to business. How do you pick a horse? It seems everyone had their own method. I saw one person that had sat down with a tout sheet and a pocket computer. Upon closer inspection I found that the computer was designed specifically for picking race horses. (Enter jockey's weight, number of wins in the last year, condition of the track, number of legs on the horse (if less than four do not bet, etc.)

I decided that the pocket computer was too complicated (besides, I didn't have one) so I talked with a couple of other people. One person told me he never bet on a jockey that wore black, another said purple was a bad color.

Then, of course, there was a "numerologist". He said that betting on colors was superstitious, his method was "proven". You add the numerical value of the jockey's name and the numerical value of the horse's name, divide by the total value of the month, day and year, then if that number matches the number the horse is wearing you have a sure winner.

Finally, I found someone that sounded like he had a good idea. He said that you assume that everyone at the track knows more than you, so you play the odds. Bet on the favorite to win. But, remember that there is always a chance for the longshot. Cover yourself; if the odds rise past 25 to 1 bet on the longshot to place.

That did sound pretty good. Here it was, 15 minutes to the fifth race. I decided to try one bet on the longshot and ignore the favorite. I took a look at the TV screens over head. (Ah, 40 to 1 on number 7, Takapow.)

THE RUNNING OF THE SILVER BLAZE

I really did not want to go down to the betting booths and wait in line. Instead, I found they had automated betting machines in the dining area. So, I placed my two dollars into the machine, punched a couple of buttons and out came my ticket.

The only mistake I made was that I forgot that the odds keep changing right up to race time. Oh well, he was still going off at a healthy 25 to 1.

POST TIME:

"And they're off." Number 7, Takapow, took a good jump out of the gate, he was in first position going into the turn. (Great, I'll make a bundle!) A quarter of the way through the turn he dropped to second. (Still alright, I can still come out ahead.) Halfway through the turn he drops to third. (Okay, so I'll break even.) Still in third coming out of the turn. (Just don't fade now.) Coming into the stretch--he fades. Fourth, fifth, sixth (What's he doing--standing still??), seventh, and he ends the race a length and a half behind the seventh horse. (No wonder he was a longshot.)

Well, I was told it would not work every time. Now let's look at the sixth race (The Silver Blaze). Others in the group started looking at the names to find which seemed the most Sherlockian. The only one I saw was number 6, Steady Party. That sounded like a perfect description of Watson, a few people agreed.

Would I bet on Steady Party? No, I'd stay with my system, besides, Watson could never come in first in a race.

What's this? Number 9, Tactical, azure blue silks and the jockey was wearing a black scorpion. Let's see, I am a Scorpio, we were coming up on the cusp of Scorpio in a few days... Why not? But, was he a longshot?

After looking at the boards I saw that he was not the biggest longshot, but the odds were still a respectable 30 to 1. Quickly, I placed my two dollars in the machine, then joined the Bodymaster, Brother Harraway and Dr. Cohn, ready to take pictures of the award being presented to my winning selection.

This time I was able to watch the race from trackside, next to the winner's circle. I won't give you a description of the race except to say that number 9 started out third and ended up fifth. (Better, but still out of the money.)

THE RUNNING OF THE SILVER BLAZE

AND THE WINNER...

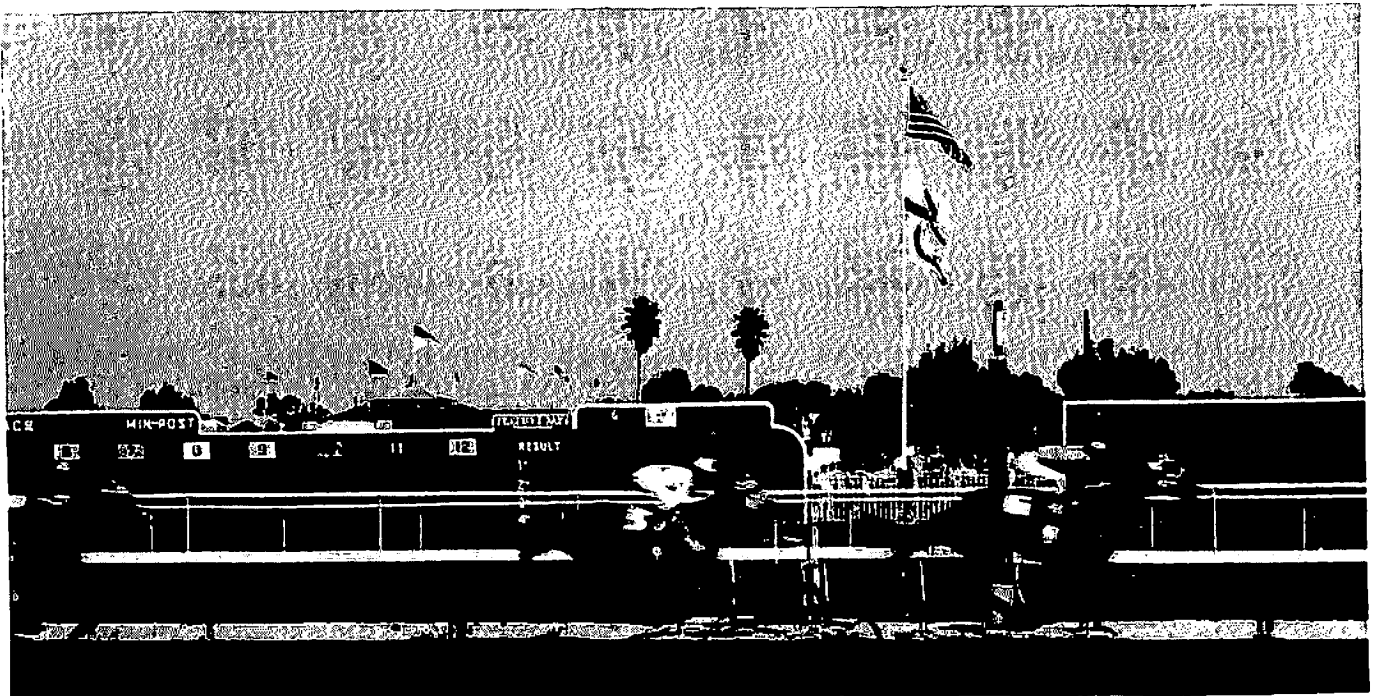
Steady Party ran a strong race all the way, beginning in fourth and coming up steadily to win the race by two lengths over number 3, Kind Expression.

Congratulations to all of you that bet on "Watson". Congratulations to Ed Truman, the owner of Steady Party and Gary Stevens, the jockey for a well run "Silver Blaze".

As for me... Just wait until next year. Those longshots will come in. I'll win a bundle. I'll put together an eight horse parley. I'll...

(Uh, Bruce, can we do it again soon?)

* * * * *



THE FINISH OF THE SILVER BLAZE: Steady Party comes in first followed by Kind Expression
Photo by Ron White

STANGER REVIEWS
by
Thomas E. Miller

<< J'incline a penser...commencai-je. Et moi donc! >> coupa
brutalement Sherlock Holmes.

J'ai beau me compter parmi les mortels les plus indulgents de la
terre, le sens ironique de cette interruption me fut desagreable.

Now surely all good Scowrers will instantly recognize the above
quotation. No? Then how about the following:

-J'incline a penser...dis-je.

-Laissez-moi ce soin, coupa Sherlock Holmes avec impatience.

Je crois etre au nombre des mortels les plus indulgents, mais
j'avoue que cette interuption sardonique me piqua.

Any identifications yet? I could, perhaps include...

>> Man konnte denken...<<, fing ich an.

But that one even buffalos me. Perhaps a return to place of
origin...

"I am inclined to think..." said I.

"I should do so," Sherlock Holmes remarked impatiently.

I believe that I am one of the most long-suffering of mortals;
but I'll admit that I was annoyed at the sardonic interruption.

These are, of course, the opening lines the The Valley of Fear,
or, if you like, La vallee de la peur, or even, Das Tal der
Furcht. The first quotation comes from the translation by Robert
Latour in a Le Livre de Poche edition, the second is by Maurice
Bernard Endrebe in a Presses Pocket edition, and the last by Nino
Erne, "ein Ullstein Buch".

Translations, and the collecting of translations, can be of
extraordinary interest. It is, of course, impossible to exactly
render the meaning of a phrase in one language into another.
Attempts to do so vary in their effectiveness. (For example, the
translation of the works of Edgar Allan Poe into French by
Baudelaire are said to be superior to the opriginal. The
translations of Jules Verne by Mercier Lewis are so
excruciatingly bad as to be pathetic; they remain the standard
translations.) Of the above two French translations of Valley, I
find that the Endrebe translation seems to capture Watson's
original meaning a bit better, at least in most parts. In
others, the Latour comes closer. I can only commend the reading

STANGER REVIEWS

of translations of the Canon as a very amusing way to work on a foreign language, while getting a rather different outlook on Holmes and Watson.

Reviewing a pipe is something that could be considered a bit recherche in a publication of this nature. However, Peterson's has recently released their Sherlock Holmes commemorative, and I think that calls for some notice. Those of you who have read my "Three Pipe Problem" in the first issue of the new Herald will remember that I expressed my firm belief that the Peterson's System full bent had a better claim to being Holmes' pipe than the calabash. Apparently, Peterson's must have read my article. Their commemorative is a full bent Peterson's System with a flared bowl, somewhat suggesting a calabash, or possibly a blunderbus. It is quite as pleasing in shape as the Tinderbos Sherlock Holmes Commemorative of a few years ago, and rather less expensive. Speaking from the point of view of a confirmed self-poisoner by means of a pipe, it is a superb smoker. For a Sherlockian who smokes pipes, or the dedicated collector of all things Sherlockian, it is a must. It is also about \$125.00, which may limit its appeal to those among us who are both.

One last review to get the season of the Ripper off right. Holmes has confronted the Ripper in two movies and a number of novels. In my view, the best of these, and the one most in tune with the facts of the case is The Mycroft Memoranda by Ray Walsh. While his conclusion as to the Ripper's identity is certainly surprising and could even be taken as fictional, at least it avoids the fairy tales concerning Masonic conspiracies, murderous Royals or the inane suggestion that Holmes did it.

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* As a source of out-of-print books, I can definitely *
* recommend Richard Dalby, His service is fast, his *
* prices reasonable and he has managed to track down *
* several book I had long ago given up any hope of *
* finding. I can also recommend his own monograph, *
* The Bram Stoker Bibliography. An extremely useful *
* book for those interested in Stoker and the *
* Dracula story. Mr. Dalby can be reached at the *
* following address: *
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*           4 WESTBOURNE PARK *
*           SCARBOROUGH *
*           NORTH YORKSHIRE *
*           YO124AT *
*           ENGLAND *
* *
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A*G*O*N*I*E*S



POSTERS WANTED

At a previous meeting of the Scowrers a member displayed a set of wanted posters regarding the Molly Maguires. If this set is still available please contact Ron White c/o the Herald. I would like to purchase a set and we would also like to use them to illustrate an article regarding the true story of Molly Maguires.

* * *

ROOMS FOR RENT

A walk-up flat of rooms has recently been vacated by a long term tenant. Rooms are in good shape except for a few bullet holes on one wall and some chemical stains in one corner. Looking for a quiet tenant with regular habits. Non-smoker preferred. Contact Mrs. Hudson 221-A Baker Street

* * *

TO: BODYMASTER MCGINTY

I hear the Pinkerton agents are in town. Beware of imposters. - John McMurdo

* * *

TO: JOHN W.

I always knew you were spending too much time with Mr. Holmes. Now I know why. You'll have to choose. It's her or me. - Mary

* * *

TO: R.W.

I think you made a "Tactical" error in the sixth race.

- Stanger

* * *

TO: STANGER

Ouch! That's bad. I hope you said that with a "Kind Expression". - R.W.

* * *

TO: STREET URCHINS

Street Urchins' union is now being formed to demand better pay and working conditions. We are tired of irregular hours and irregular pay. Contact Wiggins for further details.

* * *

RIPPER WANTED

We are looking for articles, pastiches, songs, etc., dealing with Jack-The-Ripper. They are needed to help prepare a "Ripper" commemorative issue of the Herald. If your submission is not original please identify the source. Contact Stanger care of the Vermisa Daily Herald.

* * *

TO: MCMURDO

I heard it too. I understand they sent Birdy Edwards. Have you ever seen him? - McGinty

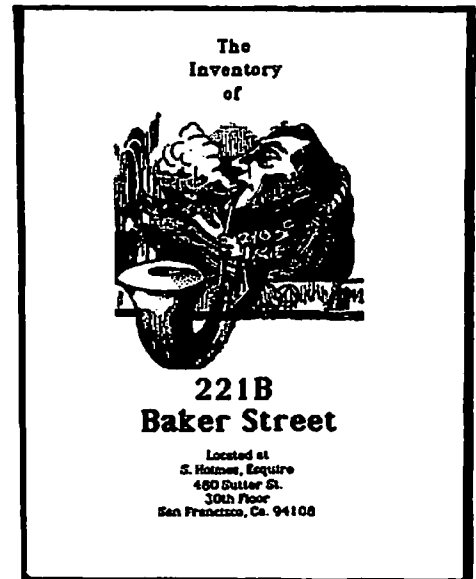
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S H E R L O C K I A N A

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ROOM INVENTORY

At long last, the room inventory is ready. Brian and Charlotte Erickson did a lot of work and research to finally compile this inventory. They presented the finished version at the Stanford Seminar and the Scowrers' dinner. It is well done with a complete floor plan, quotes from the canon and black and white photos of the room.

If you have not acquired a copy yet it is available from Brian and Charlotte at the meetings or by mail. At the meetings the price is \$5.00 per copy. If you order by mail please add \$1.00 for each copy to cover postage and handling.



For mail orders please make checks payable to Brian Erickson at the following address:

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ROOM INVENTORY
Brian and Charlotte Erickson
571 Kingsley Ave
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Part of the proceeds help support the Persian Slipper Club and the Vermissa Daily Herald.

Speaking of the room inventory; during the course of their work Brian and Charlotte came up with a list of additional items that should be incorporated into the room. Sherlockian artifacts that we are looking for are:

Burgling kit, emerald tie-pin, pin knives, Boxer revolver cartridges, small black & white ivory box, trench coat, boxing gloves, Watson's revolver, Holmes revolver, dinner table bell, tape measure, Watson's pocket watch, a double lens and a top hat.

These should, of course, be period pieces (late 1800's to early 1900's). If you know the location of any of these, or wish to contribute an item, please contact the Ericksons at the above address.

Also available from Charlotte Erickson is a listing of Sherlockian comic books. The list includes not only those comics featuring Holmes, but also parodies and references to Holmes.

S H E R L O C K I A N A

This list is also a great addition and guide to the collector. it is available for \$2.00 at the meetings or by mail at the same address. Once again, if you are requesting the list by mail please add \$1.00 per copy for postage and handling.

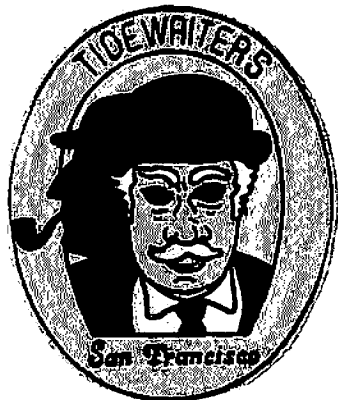
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TIDEWAITERS PINS

Eugene Stovall has done it again. He has designed a beautiful pair of pins for the Tidewaiters of San Francisco. The pins depict Dr. John H. Watson and Professor Moriarty. They are shown here full size. I only wish we could show the beautiful coloring as well.

Gene's Centennial Celebration pins have sold out and the remaining pins from the Stanford Seminar are in short supply. Those remaining are still available at the original issue price of \$5.00 each. However, the declining exchange rate has forced an increase in the price of these new pins. They are \$7.00 each, which I still consider a bargain.

Eugene Stovall can be contacted at the Scowrer's meetings or at the following address:



Eugene Stovall
OLYMPIC PIN COLLECTORS
3387 Jordan Road
Oakland, CA 94602



* * *

THE 1988 DEAN DICKENSHEET AWARD

Congratulations to Eugene Stovall, This year's winner of the Dean Dickensheet award. His award winning paper, "The Woman", was judged to be the best paper presented at a Scowrers meeting during 1987.

The paper is reproduced in this issue. Perhaps one of you would care to present a paper refuting his premise.

The previous winners of this award are:

1985 Pamela Clark "Some Reflections on Trevor Hall and the Early Life of Sherlock Holmes". Published in the Herald, Vol. 5 No. 1 and also in Vol. 35 No. 3 of The Baker Street Journal

S H E R L O C K I A N A

- 1986 Poul and Karen Anderson. Their contributions are too numerous to cite a single presentation.
- 1987 Dr. Paul Scholten "Sherlock Holmes, Connoisseur, or, Brandy in Victorian Medical Therapeutics". Published in the Herald Vol. 6 No. 1.
- 1987 A special presentation was awarded to Ray de Groat for his 20 years of very active service as Brother Harraway, the Scowrers' society secretary.

* * *

DISJECTA MEMBRA

THE SILVER BLAZE II

In what we hope will be an annual tradition, another running of the Silver Blaze has been set for Saturday, October 22, 1988. So, mark your calendars now. The last running was a great success and a lot of fun. For a fuller description see "The Running of the Silver Blaze" in this issue.

* * *

JOINT MEETING SCHEDULED

A joint meeting has been scheduled for June 1990 for the Scowrers and The Practical, but limited, Geologist. It should be great fun and as Ted said "not soon enough, darn.it!"

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Brian and Charlotte Erickson. Their daughter, Alexandra Corinne, was born on Christmas day and attended her first Scowrers meeting at the ripe old age of two weeks.

* * *

COMING SOON IN THE HERALD

We have a special announcement. We have just secured permission to publish "Desperation on Baker Street" by Coral Gaggini. This short story originally appeared in Galileo magazine in 1979. Coral has been kind enough to send a copy of the original manuscript so those of you that have the Galileo publication may find slight differences. The story is fairly long and we will begin a serialization in our next issue.

S H E R L O C K I A N A

We also have Dr. Scholten's "Sherlock Holmes and the Fair Sex" ready for publication. This is another of the fine papers presented at the Stanford Seminar.

Another recent development is the discovery that Mrs. Martha Hudson kept a diary. Susan Warner has been at work deciphering a few of the faded entries and is preparing to present them at a Scowrers' meeting. When she is finished we hope to publish these in the Herald.

As we have mentioned, we have some of the papers from the Stanford Seminar and are hoping to receive others for publication in future issues of the Herald. If you have a paper that you would like considered for publication please send a copy to editor Stanger at the address listed below.

As you can see, we have begun to incorporate photos into the Herald. If you have illustrations, photos or even slides that you wish to include with your article we will attempt to accomodate them. We do our own half-tones and work with our printer to chieve the best results. Hopefully, with each successive issue the reproductions will improve.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE VERMISSA DAILY HERALD

The Vermissa Daily Herald is the official publication of the Scowrers and Molly Maguires. It is published twice each year. Paid subscriptions include postage and handling. Members may choose to pick up their issues at the Scowrers' meeting to avoid damage by the post office.

Subscription Rates:

Members of the Scowrers and Molly Maguires: \$5.00 for one year.

Non-members: \$7.50 for one year.

Single issues and available back issues are \$3.00 each plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. Please make checks payable to Thomas E. Miller at the following address:

Editor James Stanger
C/O Thomas E. Miller
965 Spencer Way
Los Altos, CA 94022

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