



# Plugs & Dottles

Official Newsletter of the Nashville Scholars  
of the Three Pipe Problem  
Summer Issue APR-AUG 2019  
Jim Hawkins & Dean Richardson, Co-Editors

- Established 1979
- Meetings on third Saturday of every month (except Dec.)
- Website:  
[nashvillescholars.net](http://nashvillescholars.net)
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This Summer 2019 issue is dedicated to **Joel Senter** of Cincinnati, OH, and Mississippi. He loved being Sherlockian.

## What was Holmes up to in 1979?

*Murder by Decree*, a film about Jack the Ripper, introduces Sherlock Holmes (Christopher Plummer) and Dr. Watson (James Mason) into the plot. Before Jeremy Brett becomes Holmes in the Granada production (1984), this film departs from the Basil Rathbone era. See chapter 83 in *From Holmes to Sherlock* by Mattias Bostrom (Mysterious Press, 2017).



Plummer and Mason as  
Holmes and Watson in  
*Murder by Decree*  
(1979)

## Nashville Scholars 40th Anniversary Year



For almost 20 years now the Nashville Scholars have held their Summer meeting at the home of Gael and SuSun Stahl on Old Hickory Lake. In this our 40th year we repeated our tradition, but with new members. Thank you, kind folks!



Ryan and Kathy Peck

## Dr. Marino Alvarez – Out and About



I was invited by the Bootmakers of Toronto to the Silver Blaze weekend race and meeting on July 13. Donny Zaldin and his wife, Barbara Rusch, served as gracious hosts. On Friday evening, Donny, Barbara, and I were joined by Henry and Nicole Boote for dinner at an Asian restaurant and then a visit to Donny and Barbara's home. A special treat was learning about Barbara's fabulous collection of Queen Victoria clothing and artifacts. Following the races, we met at the North York Central Library. I was privileged along with Canace Lewis to be a special guest. My presentation was titled, "Curse of the Saratoga Race Course, NY: The Graveyard of Champions." --Marino Alvarez (BSI)  
(Dr. Alvarez's notes are shortened here for this newsletter.)

As Scott Monty, host of **I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere**, said, "Nashville Scholars are H.O.T.!"

Four Nashville-resident scholars and two nonresident members were interviewed on the IHOSE podcast, hosted by Scott and his co-host Bert Wolder. Episodes involving Nashville Scholars (click on link to hear):

Episode 134: [Junior Sherlockian Society](#) (Dec - 2017) Shannon Carlisle

Episode 167: [The Art of Chris Schweizer](#) (Apr - 2019) Chris Schweizer

Episode 168: [A Holmes by Any Other Name](#) (May - 2019) Bill Mason

Episode 171: [John Bennett Shaw](#) (June - 2019) Jim Hawkins

Episode 157: [Sherlock Holmes Cyclopedia](#) (Nov - 2018) Howard Ostrom

Episode 148: [Sherlock Holmes Society](#) (July 2018) Roger Johnson and Jean Upton



## Remembering Susan Diamond

Several of our scion have been to the S.T.U.D. Society meetings in Chicago, hosted by Allan Devitt and Susan Diamond. She was active in many Sherlockian groups, including BSI and ASH, and was an active supporter of the Bensenville Community Public Library. Susan died of cancer this past April. You may [leave a word of condolence here](#). And please read this tribute to Susan written by author Lyndsay Faye at the [Baker Street Babes website](#).

**Shannon Carlisle Speaks at Sherlockian Conference**  
"Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences."



(From the conference program)

*Introducing Holmes to children can create some unique challenges. However, the benefits have proven to be . . . singular! In August, Shannon Carlisle will share with us the whimsical little incidents and three-pipe problems that have occurred in her Sherlockian-themed elementary school classroom, 221b Baker Street.*

Shannon's presentation (a summary):

The conference is titled "Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences." To begin my presentation, I shared the definition of *strange* (unusual, extraordinary, or curious) and then continued with:

\* Introducing Sherlock Holmes to children can create some unique challenges. For example, our study of Holmes at the elementary school level is "blood, guts, and weaponry free." Therefore, I avoid the "dark places" and "wicked companions."

\* However, in our Sherlockian studies, we embrace the "strange experiences"--- the whimsical little incidents AND three-pipe problems. The experiences are truly unusual, extraordinary, and/or curious.

\*And, I will describe the following:

\_\_\_ **Holmes Sweet Holmes:** the physical environment and routines in 221b Baker Street of Moore Elementary

\_\_\_ **The Game Is Afoot:** Sherlockian training

\_\_\_ **Whimsical Incidents and 3-Pipe Problems:** pastiches and the Canon for children

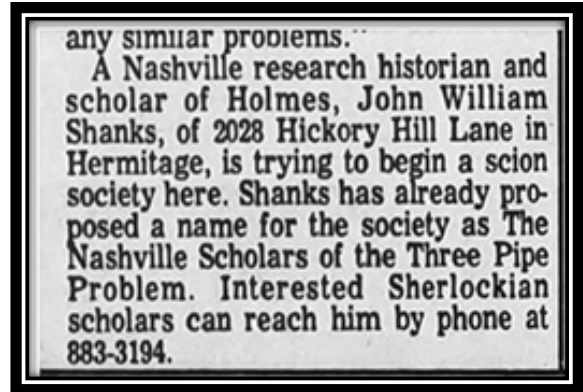
\_\_\_ **Bonny Things:** productive citizenship

\_\_\_ **The Sherlock Holmes Museum for the Young**

**Curious and Observant Mind:** Sherlockian research

\_\_\_ **Consulting Others:** guests

\_\_\_ **Junior Sherlockian Society**



Ken Beck's article in The Tennessean for January 4, 1979 caught the eyes of several literary people who later became Nashville Scholars.



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AUG 29 - SEP 14, 2019

MAINSTAGE

## Nashville Scholars Who Were Professors Together at TN State University



**Richard Renfro**

**Marino Alvarez**

### Notes by Professor Richard Renfro

To set the stage, I preceded Marino in the Nashville academic scene by eleven years, arriving at the higher education institution that became The University of Tennessee at Nashville in 1971. It was later joined with Tennessee State University in July 1979. That being said, I was a full, tenured professor and assistant dean in the College of Education working primarily with the newly formed Doctoral programs by the time he arrived with a West Virginia doctorate in August of 1980. In a department that came to be known as Teaching and Learning I found “home” in the Curriculum and Instruction component, and Marino became a member of the Special Education and Reading area. It has been mentioned that “he brought sunshine, light, rigor, scholarship, happiness and a sense of self-worth” to that segment of the department. Who am I to bring forth any opposing viewpoints? In 1989, after having spent a score of years in higher education administration, I joyfully escaped back to the classroom, working, once again, directly with students.

Well-deserved institutional accolades arrived during “The Marino Years” at Tennessee State University.” These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- \* Twice voted the “Most Inspiring Teacher” in a student election sponsored by the TSU Student Teacher Education Association.
- \* Sole institutional faculty member to receive both the Teacher-of-the-Year” Award and the “Distinguished Researcher of the Year” Award in the same year.
- \* First (and I believe only) faculty member to receive Professor Emeritus status.
- \* Recipient of the President’s Award for Distinguished Service to Tennessee State University.

**In light of or in spite of the preceding, I always urged TSU’s students to enroll in one or more of Marino’s classes and/or attempt to coerce him to become a doctoral committee member or chair. “When you know him as I know him you will think of him as I think of him.”**

Thanks for the opportunity of constructing this blurb – it was a privilege. (Dick Renfro / 16 Aug 2019)



**Highlighting David Marcum**, Nashville Scholars’ “Engineer’s Thumb.” He is indeed a civil engineer, but he has edited forty-five books now, the [MX books](#), nine for [Belanger Books](#), four Imagination Theatre script books, all of the Solar Pons re-issues, the Thorndyke reissues (so far), and a couple of others. And he already has agreements to do nine for next year. [See his output on Amazon.](#)

He writes a blog featured on MX Publishing called *17 Step Program*. Visit his blog and find out about this fascinating writer, editor, engineer, Sherlockian, and Nashville Scholar. [Go to Marcum’s Blog.](#)



Hawkins, Mason, and Alvarez were present for the Norwegian Explorers' August event.

“Dark Shadow, Wicked Companions, Strange Experiences”



This event was held next to the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis/St. Paul) campus at the Graduate Minneapolis Hotel. Bill Mason was the keynote speaker for the banquet on Saturday night. Jim Hawkins was asked by Julie McKuras to lift a toast in honor of John Bennett Shaw, whose entire collection of Sherlockian books, films, posters, programs, etc. are now housed in the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the university. From the Collection website, I quote:

*The Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota Library constitute the world's largest gathering of material related to Sherlock Holmes and his creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The Collections consist of over 60,000 items including books, journals, and a wide variety of other forms through which the transformation of the Holmes character from the printed page to a cultural icon can be traced.*

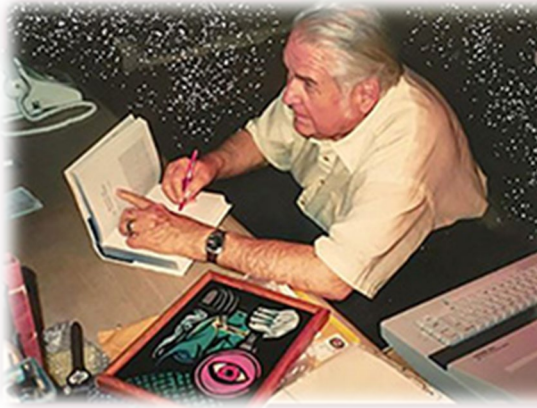
(Dr. Alvarez was a speaker at the previous Norwegian Explorers convocation, in 2016.)



Mason posed the question that Sherlock Holmes might ask were he to attend a meeting like this one: “What Have You Done to Me?” He then traced the history of Holmes fandom, bringing lots of laughter pointing out how ridiculous are some of the paths that Sherlockians have followed. He jokingly suggested that we reached the bottom with the recent film, *Holmes and Watson* (2018), with Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly. Nashville Scholars can take pride in having such a popular speaker in our midst.

**A Toast to the Sage of Santa Fe,  
the Johnny Appleseed of Sherlockian Scions,  
the Hans Sloane of His Age**

**JOHN BENNETT SHAW**



The Sherlockian stars came together for me in 1984. My wife presented me with Baring-Gould's *Annotated Sherlock Holmes* for my 40th birthday. Before long I found I was more interested in the stories *about* the stories than I was in reading every story in the canon. I kept seeing references to a man from New Mexico who traveled to New York City every January just to be with some nutty guys calling themselves the **Baker Street Irregulars**. Turns out they weren't nuts, but they were highly IRREGULAR!

I kept hearing this John Bennett Shaw guy being interviewed on NPR at this gathering, and I laughed at his quips and quotes about Sherlock Holmes and how he was still alive because no one had ever produced a death certificate, and how people should vote for Sherlock Holmes because you couldn't trust politicians, and on and on. I got really interested in this wacky world of Holmes. Sounded like a lot more fun than Hemingway.

The very next year I took a job in Nashville that would put me in Santa Fe every summer for two weeks. Here was my chance to meet John Bennett Shaw! Having read up on him, I knew **or hoped** he wasn't dangerous. It turns out **he was**.

He set me on a course that now, at age 75, I am still pursuing. John became my mentor, my encourager, my friend and inspiration for my Holmes passion. Now, after a long hiatus from Sherlockian circles, I have put together a John Bennett Shaw Facebook page and website. It's like John said of his books: **I can't help myself!**

Everyone has a John Shaw story, and everyone is dying to tell theirs. 126 Shaw fans have now signed onto the *Friends of John Bennett Shaw* site, sending letters, photos, stories, and programs of events they attended, especially the Sherlock Holmes Weekends he hosted during the '70s and '80s. Stories from the *Baker Street Journal* and lots of information from the John Bennett Shaw Collections here at the University are included. I am astounded at all I've learned about Mr. Shaw!

Susan Rice may have penned the most poignant lines about Shaw when, after receiving her first letter from him, she wrote, "John's letter puzzled me the first time I read it. It was quite a long letter, and he told me things about his kids and Santa Fe and some recent Sherlockian activities and some other Sherlockians he'd heard from — remember this is a letter to a stranger. At the time I thought he was daft, but I came to understand that this sort of approach was typical for the generous Shaw. He simply opened his life and welcomed me in" (*The Sage of Santa Fe: Adventures and Public Life of John Bennett Shaw*, written and compiled by Susan Rice and Vinnie Brosnan [Sherlock in L. A. Press, 2013]).

Briefly, I quote three of Shaw's friends.

**Peter Blau.** He and John helped rescue a band of protesting college girls off the icy streets of New York City in 1968. They wanted to be included in the BSI, and they weren't going to take NO for an answer. I checked out this historic bit of trivia with Peter and Evelyn "Evy" Herzog. **It was true!**

In a toast this past October to John, Peter had this to say, "*I never knew Sherlock Holmes, of course. So, I want to toast someone I did know and who deserves to be remembered: John Bennett Shaw. I like to say that he taught me everything I needed to know about being a Sherlockian.*" (continued on next page)

Then there were these two gentlemen who told me Shaw had influenced their lives when they were teenagers: Steven Doyle and Ray Betzner.

Steven Doyle encountered John Shaw at the first Sherlock Holmes Workshop, the 1977 weeklong Norte Dame conference.

(Web link: “Inspired for a Lifetime” <https://www.johnbennettshaw.com/friends> )

He says, *“I was a teenager in South Bend, Indiana, and attended this conference. I distinctly remember John Bennett Shaw, who took pity on the shy, intimidated boy in the back row during a break, coming back and striking up a conversation about Sherlock Holmes. Not talking at me, or down to me, but instead with me about our mutual love of the Great Detective. It was a foundational experience for me, and every conference I’ve ever put on (be it Sherlock Holmes Review or “From Gillette to Brett”) has its origin with this epic weekend.”*

*I can say with certainty that my 30-plus years Sherlockian publishing career has its roots in the early encouragement of John Bennett Shaw.*

Ray Betzner’s letter to John, written as the introduction to the reprint of *The Shaw 100*, two years after John died, brings me to tears every time I read it. He writes,

*“(Dear John,) I remember one of these workshops well. I was still new to the movement and too impossibly shy to introduce myself to anyone. I had sat in the shadows watching you move about, . . . working the room like a Chicago politician.*

*“And now, here you were, towering over me. ‘Are you doing anything after dinner?’*

*“I looked up from my seat to see you there, a rotund man with your two constant companions: a cocktail in your left hand and a packet of paraphernalia in your right. ‘A few of us are getting together for drinks in my room. Come join us.’ I followed you up. Your lovely wife, Dorothy, was already there, as were a few others. I sat on the floor of your suite and luxuriated in the camaraderie. The bad puns, the gossip, the spontaneous book reviews, all this and more made me feel as if I was at home among friends.”*

(Web link “A Final Letter to John Bennett Shaw”: <https://www.johnbennettshaw.com/friends> )

So, I toast John Bennett Shaw, “the Sage of Santa Fe,” the “Hans Sloane of His Age,” the “Johnny Appleseed of Sherlockian Scions,” the MAN behind one of the world’s largest private Sherlockian collections ever.

---- Jim Hawkins, UMN, Minneapolis (August 9, 2019)



### The Young Sherlock Holmes Poster

In 1985 Stephen Spielberg released a film that he had asked John Shaw to advise him on concerning its canonical correctness. Shaw had some reservations about some of the magical elements but told Stephen that a descent Sherlockian film could be made from the screenplay, if care were taken.

I took John a poster of the film, one I had gotten at the opening of the movie in Norman, OK. He was thrilled, and quipped, “Spielberg never gave me a damn thing from that show. I’m glad to have this.”

The poster adorned the wall of the Shaw Collection at the University of Minnesota when the library was dedicated in 1995, one year after Shaw’s death.

## Our Man with the Movies

Derek Martin has loved classic films, especially suspenseful ones, since he was a child. At Derek's sixth birthday party, his father borrowed a projector to screen 1931's *Dracula* starring Bela Lugosi. Derek is now 48 and collecting original classic film posters including gothic horror and Sherlock Holmes is another of his passions.



Derek has more than forty-five posters from the films of Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee, who are most famous for their starring roles in British Hammer and Amicus films from the '50s through the '70s. Both starred in Hammer Films' 1959 *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, the first adaptation of the novel to be filmed in color. Peter Cushing played Sherlock Holmes and Christopher Lee played Sir Henry Baskerville. Peter Cushing also played Sherlock Holmes in a 1960s British television series. Christopher Lee played Sherlock Holmes and Mycroft Holmes in other films as well. For example, Christopher Lee starred in 1962's *Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace* (*El Collar de la Muerte*). Derek's one-sheet posters from these two films are among his favorites.



In 2010, Derek was exhibiting some of his posters at a Nashville science fiction convention when Nashville Scholars Tom and Anita Feller told him about this local group dedicated to all things Sherlockian. Derek has been a regular attendee at meetings ever since and occasionally presents his collection of Sherlock Holmes film posters along with other classic posters of the actors who've portrayed Sherlock Holmes, including Jeremy Brett and Basil Rathbone. Derek had not read the canon before joining the Scholars, and he said that one of the best experiences of his forties has been reading the Holmes stories for the first time with them. Derek also screens a classic Sherlock Holmes film at his home for the Nashville Scholars about once a year. This past spring, the Scholars were treated to a screening of the recently discovered and restored 1929 German film *Der Hund von Baskerville*. It was the last Sherlock Holmes adaptation of the silent film era.

At the July meeting of the Nashville Scholars, held at Gayle Stahl's home, Derek presented a program on Sherlock Holmes in animation. He included clips from a wide variety of cartoons: "Private Eye Popeye" (1954); *It's a Mystery*, *Charlie Brown* (1974, with Snoopy wearing a



deerstalker); “Sherlock Pink” (1976, a Pink Panther cartoon); “The Ghost of Sherlock Holmes” from *Scoobie-Doo* (1970s TV series); *The Sign of the Four* (1984, with the voice of Peter O’Toole); *Sherlock Hound* (1984-85, a Japanese TV series); *The Great Mouse Detective* (1986); “Elementary, My Dear Turtle” from *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* (1993, the TV series); *Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century* (a 1999-2001 TV series); *Veggie Tales: Sheerluck Holmes and the Golden Ruler* (2005); *Tom and Jerry Meet Sherlock Holmes* (2010); “Trials of the Demon” from *Batman: The Brave and the Bold* (2009, TV series); and *Sherlock Gnomes* (2018).

Derek leads two film groups dedicated to the appreciation of classic cinema. One is geared toward horror/suspense films and the other toward older drama and arthouse films. Some film screenings take place at Derek’s home, which seats about 20 where members enjoy a potluck dinner and discussion. Derek also works with local theaters such as Hermitage’s Full Moon Cineplex to present classic films to larger gatherings. This past June, about 75 members and guests attended his screening of Alfred Hitchcock’s *The Man Who Knew Too Much* in tribute to Doris Day, who recently passed. On Saturday, October 5, 2019, Derek has rented Lebanon’s Capitol Theatre for a 75th anniversary screening of the film noir classic *Double Indemnity* at 6:00 p.m. and Hitchcock’s *The Birds* at 8:00 p.m. Derek invites anyone reading this newsletter to attend as his guest. If you would like further information email or call him.

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Contact Derek at [DerekDM11@yahoo.com](mailto:DerekDM11@yahoo.com)  
or 615-202-4756.



SEPTEMBER MEETING IS SHAPING UP...

William Schwartz will be sharing a book by a friend of his, B. J. Rahn, titled *The Real World of Sherlock Holmes* (<http://www.crimecritic.com>)



**“Red Republicans”: A Historical Reference from “The Adventure of the Six Napoleons”**  
**Trivia Which Is Not So Trivial**  
**David Hayes - Nashville Scholars’ The Missing Tree**

As Sherlock Holmes's investigation of the destruction of the statues of “Napoleon the First” progresses, he arrives at the business owned by Mr. Morse Hudson (apparently no relation to Holmes' landlady). Hudson describes the destruction of the statutes as “a Nihilist plot,” stating that “no one but an Anarchist would go about breaking statues,” finally referring to them collectively as "red republicans." To paraphrase an evil spirit in the Bible, "Nihilists I know, Anarchists I know, but what is a red republican?"  
(continued on p. 10)

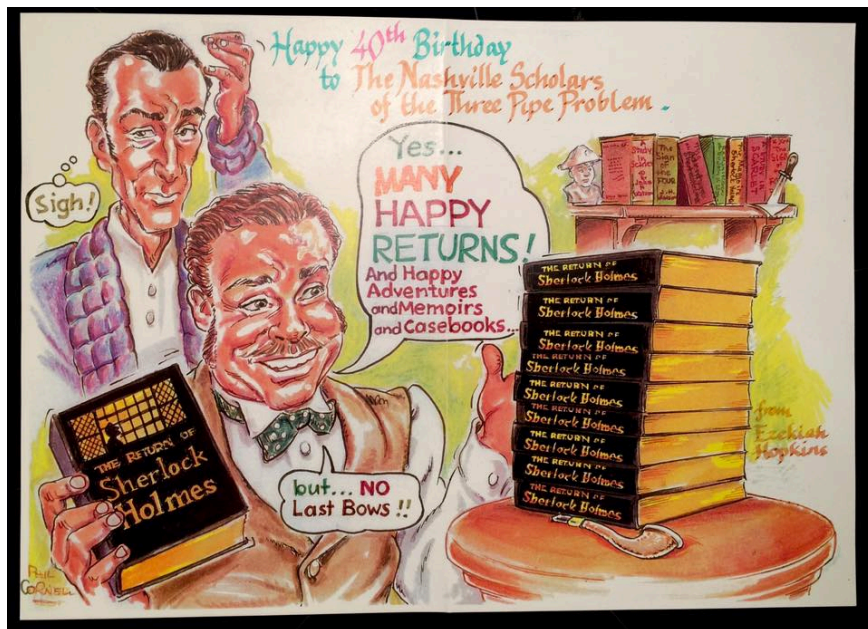
Well, it turns out that the term "red republican" arose during the Revolution of 1848 in Paris. The color red was a reference to communism, which, in this case, was the desire of its membership to partition the property of the country among its people. Students of history will recall that there were so many revolts throughout Europe in 1848 (Sicily, France, Germany, Italy, Austrian Empire with some lower-key activity in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Denmark) that they are often collectively referred to as "the 48." This gets complex in Paris, which seems to be in a constant state of uprising (when it isn't fighting a war, France is fighting within).

When we think about French Revolutions, we recall two, one because of the guillotine (revolution(s) of 1789-1799), and one because there was great music (the revolution of 1832). Now, thanks to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, we know three.

Thank you, faithful readers, for supplying the stories that we so enjoy putting together for you several times each year into the Plugs and Dottles, the newsletter of the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem, now in our 40th year.

Dean Richardson & Jim Hawkins

Co-editors



Thank YOU, Phil Cornell (Sydney Passengers)

Our Australian "Red-Headed League" Sherlockian Illustrator