

# THE TWEET SHEET



The occasional newsletter of **The Notorious Canary-Trainers** of Madison, Wisconsin  
A Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars • [communities.madison.com/canary](http://communities.madison.com/canary)

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## CASE STUDIES THROUGH NOVEMBER ANNOUNCED

Here's our case study meeting schedule for the rest of 2006, through November. Cases for June and July previously were announced. We'll provide details about December's event as soon as they are planned and confirmed. Meetings will be at Barnes & Noble West unless otherwise announced (the November meeting likely will be at Booked for Murder).

**June 18** "The Cardboard Box" □ **July 16** "The Engineer's Thumb" □ **August 20** "Crooked Man"  
□ **September 17** "Wisteria Lodge" □ **October 15** "Silver Blaze" □ **November 19** "Beryl Coronet"

Each month we provide on our Web site insights into our next meeting's case study, including links to questions to ask yourself after reading the account. You can check it out at <http://communities.madison.com/canary>



## WELCOME IRENE ADLER TO THE NOTORIOUS CANARY-TRAINERS!

**Joan Penn** has chosen Irene Adler as her Canonical name, becoming the 11<sup>th</sup> Notorious Canary-Trainer to do so. She explains: "I have always liked her for her ability to outguess and one-up Sherlock Holmes. His supreme ego makes him fair game for anyone to try to out-sleuth him. Since Doyle did not shine in his depiction of female characters -- most of them are meek and helpless or downright criminal -- Irene seems to stand alone. And...Irene was my mother's middle name."

The first group of 10 names was announced April 10, and Joan's selection was added to the records May 10. Those who haven't yet selected a Canonical name may do so at anytime, taking the name of a character, place, event or story from the 56 short accounts or four long accounts of the exploits of the Master Detective. Contact Mike McCoy (*Billy the page*) if you have questions or to have your Canonical name added to the records.

Meanwhile, Dr. **Donald S. Schuster** (*Sir James Saunders*) supplements his selection with the explanation he selected that name because Sir James is "the famous Dermatologist in the story, 'The Adventure of the Bleached Soldier'."

"In this tale the patient was thought to have leprosy, but the astute diagnostic skills of Sir James made the correct and obviously less threatening diagnosis of 'ichthyosis', a genetic condition characterized by dry, scaling skin which may be lighter in color. It is not contagious.

"Holmes felt free to ask for consultation from Dr. Saunders because he was 'once able to do him (Saunders) a professional service'. We can only conjecture on what that service was. Perhaps a personal problem or a matter concerning one of Sir James' relatives or patients.

"Watson mentions the 'warm humanity in his eyes' and that he was pleased to bring 'good tidings'.

"The reference to Sir James Saunders is, I believe, based on the real Dermatologist, Sir James Hutchinson, one of the great medical figures of his era. He was born in 1828 and died in 1913. Even today, we refer to some of his discoveries and contributions, namely Hutchinson's teeth, Hutchinson's triad, and Hutchinson's sign. I am proud to be able to take on the name 'Sir James Saunders'."



## ITEMS FROM OUR PAST ADDED TO OUR ARCHIVES

We've recently received several items for our Archives from **Paul Devine**, including copies of two editions of our predecessor newsletter dated in 1982 and 1983. "Notes from a Notorious Card Club" was a joint publication of the Notorious Canary-Trainers and The Bagatelle Card Club of Milwaukee, with **Susan Flaherty** (*Lomax the sublibrarian*) as editor.

We now have two copies of the first issue of 1982 and one copy of the second issue of 1983.

The 1983 issue was a special edition dedicated to John Bennett Shaw on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Articles included were entitled "Quiz in the Manner of John Bennett Shaw" by **Tom Drucker** (Windigate), "The Professor as Murderer" by Daniel P. King, and "Cadogan West" by Paul Devine.

Tom also was the author of "The Return of the Rat" in the 1982 issue, and Paul proposed in another article "An Alternative Dating for the Sign of the Four."

Another item Paul has donated is the printed program from June 8, 1983, for "An Afternoon with the Master" held in Madison. The event was held to commemorate the centenary of "The Adventure of the Speckled Band." Speakers were Tom, "A Hundred Years of Speckled Bands," **Rita Wlodarczyk**, "Secret Societies in the Canon," and Brad Kjell, "Stylometry and Style." The printed program was designed by Susan.

Information about the other donations from Paul will be highlighted in future issues of the Tweet Sheet. And thanks to Paul for his submissions!



## WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL VISITS BOOKED FOR MURDER

Our sometimes meeting location, Booked for Murder, was spotlighted in the May 4 Wisconsin State Journal, in a feature entitled "This Bookstore Is For The Little Sleuth In All Of Us". Here's how it began:

"There's a crime scene on University Avenue where the only thing missing is the yellow police tape. Booked for Murder, a store that specializes in crime fiction, brings the popular genre to an audience of readers who can't wait to discover the culprit.

"Catering to a following second perhaps only to science fiction, co-owner Terri Bischoff, said it's no mystery why such novels constantly top the best-seller lists.

"Mystery and science fiction readers tend to be almost rabid in their reading', Bischoff said. 'When they find an author, when they like a book, they're going to read every book that author has written. They're very dedicated that way'.

"By specializing in crime fiction, Booked for Murder offers its customers a stream of literature that leaves them wanting more. Bischoff said the enterprise is all about engaging the interests of repeat customers...."

For the rest of the story, check out a copy at a public library or go to the Wisconsin State Journal archives at <http://www.madison.com/archives>. Then click on the link to the May 4 edition and scroll through the list to find the story.

Once there, to see the photo which accompanied the article, click on the option at the top of the article entitled "Virtual newsprint edition available." If you don't have the required free Adobe Acrobat Reader, you'll find instructions there about how to download and install it.



## WORLD MYSTERY CONVENTION HERE HIS FALL

We talked briefly at our April meeting about "Bouchercon: A Prairie Plot," coming to Madison Sept. 28-Oct. 1. It's the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual World Mystery Convention. The event has its own Web site at <http://www.bouchercon.com/> Click there and you'll find all the information you'll need to decide whether to attend. (Note that they are expecting they will have to close registrations before the conference.) The registration fee is \$185. The 2007 event will be in Alaska and 2008 in Baltimore.

Tom Drucker (*Windigate*) also reports he has a tape of a presentation he and two other members of the Notorious Canary-Trainers (Susan Flaherty and Diane Balmer) gave the last time Bouchercon visited Madison. He's willing to loan it to any members of the Notorious Canary-Trainers interested in hearing it. The topic was the public face of Sherlock Holmes. Their participation as panelists "did give us a chance to meet some of the visiting Sherlockians who came to the session," he adds. You can reach Tom at [druckert@uww.edu](mailto:druckert@uww.edu), if interested in hearing the tape.



## 'HOLMES AND WATSON' IN CHICAGO THROUGH JUNE 4

The City Lit Theater in Chicago now is offering its world premiere adaptation of "Holmes and Watson." It opened April 21 and closes June 4.

The theater describes this offering this way: "The world's greatest detective makes his City Lit debut in two of his grandest adventures re-imagined as psychological drama: A Scandal in Bohemia, in which he faces Irene Adler, the adventuress he will always know as 'the woman', and The Final Problem, which pits him against his very doppelganger: 'the Napoleon of crime', Professor Moriarty."

Here's how City Lit describes itself: "City Lit was founded in 1979 and incorporated in 1980....At the time it was the only theatre in the nation devoted to stage adaptations of literary material, a form that has since become quite popular. Over 26 seasons, City Lit has explored fiction, non-fiction, poetry, biography, essays, and drama in performance, and presented a wide array of voices, from classic writers such as Henry James, Edith Wharton, Oliver Goldsmith, Mark Twain, Colette, and P. G. Wodehouse to such contemporary writers as Alice Walker, W.P. Kinsella, Lynda Barry, Raymond Carver, Edward Albee and Ruth Praver Jhabvala."

Tom Drucker (*Windigate*) advises: "I've been to plenty of City Lit productions about Jeeves and Wooster, so I can attest to the quality of what they do (if not always the lavish character of their sets)."

City Lit is located at 1020 W. Bryn Mawr inside the historic Edgewater Presbyterian Church building at the corner of Bryn Mawr and Kenmore (one block west of Sheridan Road). For more play information, go to <http://www.citylist.org>



## VISIT LONDON, OXFORD IN AUGUST ON 'MYSTERY' TOUR

A "London and Oxford: Mystery and Crime Writers" travel and study tour is being offered by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Continuing Education Aug. 8-21, 2006. It's the same event we learned about it at our April meeting in leaflets provided by our host, Booked for Murder.

Those taking the trip, according to UW-SP, will explore "the world of British mystery and crime. In London, listen to British crime writers talk about their craft, enjoy an evening at the theatre with the group, and explore the city in your leisure time. In Oxford, spend an afternoon on your own and then listen to and mingle with British mystery and crime writers for an entire weekend. This is a rare opportunity to meet, talk to, and find out more about British crime writers."

It includes attendance at the 13th annual "Mystery and Crime Weekend" at St. Hilda's College, Oxford University, and a talk on the female sleuth. For more details, pick up a leaflet at Booked for Murder or go to [http://www.uwsp.edu/conted/programs/study\\_tours/](http://www.uwsp.edu/conted/programs/study_tours/)



## CHECK OUT QUOTES OF NOTE FROM RECENT CASE STUDIES

Some "quotes of note" from April's case study, "The Stock-broker's Clerk":

*"The public not unnaturally goes on the principle that he who would heal others must himself be whole, and looks askance at the curative powers of the man whose own case is beyond the reach of his drugs."* John Watson

*"I am afraid that I rather give myself away when I explain," said he. "Results without causes are much more impressive."* Sherlock Holmes

*"I sent in my testimonial and application, but without the least hope of getting it. Back came an answer by return, saying that if I would appear next Monday I might take over my new duties at once, provided that my appearance was satisfactory. No one knows how these things are worked. Some people say that the manager just plunges his hand into the heap and takes the first that comes."* Hall Pycroft

*"Human nature is a strange mixture, Watson. You see that even a villain and murderer can inspire such affection that his brother turns to suicide when he learns that his neck is forfeited."* Sherlock Holmes

And from "The Naval Treaty," our May study:

*"There is nothing in which deduction is so necessary as in religion," said he, leaning with his back against the shutters. "It can be built up as an exact science by the reasoner. Our highest assurance of the goodness of Providence seems to me to rest in the flowers. All other things, our powers, our desires, our food, are all really necessary for our existence in the first instance. But this rose is an extra. Its smell and its color are an embellishment of life, not a condition of it. It is only goodness which gives extras, and so I say again that we have much to hope from the flowers."* Sherlock Holmes.

*"You suspect some one?" "I suspect myself." "What!" "Of coming to conclusions too rapidly."* Annie Harrison in an exchange with Sherlock Holmes

*"Look at those big, isolated clumps of building rising up above the slates, like brick islands in a lead-colored sea." "The board-schools." "Light-houses, my boy! Beacons of the future! Capsules with hundreds of bright little seeds in each, out of which will spring the wise, better England of the future."* Sherlock Holmes in an interchange with Watson.

*"Standing on the rug between us, with his slight, tall figure, his sharp features, thoughtful face, and curling hair prematurely tinged with gray, he seemed to represent that not too common type, a nobleman who is in truth noble."* The description of Lord Holdhurst.



## BRIEF NOTES VIA WIRE AND WIRELESS

The April issue of **Scuttlebutt** from Spermaceti Press, written by Peter Blau, now is available online at <http://members.cox.net/sherlock1/most.txt> It's a monthly issue about all things Sherlockian. For earlier issues, go to <http://members.cox.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm>

Ever wonder whether the **original accounts of the cases** from the Canon still exist and, if so, who owns them? Here's the link to an online list, based on what's currently known, thanks to the Sherlocktron Web site): <http://members.cox.net/sherlock1/mslist>

Never able to find a Bobbie when you need one? If you're interested in **British Police history** from a retired British police officer who has a strong interest in Sherlock Holmes, check out this Web site at <http://www.constabulary.com/>

To nominate items for publication, send them to [mikemccoy1852@yahoo.com](mailto:mikemccoy1852@yahoo.com) or Tweet Sheet Editor, One Hiawatha Circle, Madison, WI 53711. This and future editions of this publication will be posted in our Web site archives. For information: Thom Boykoff 608/833-3369 □ Mike McCoy 608/274-1638