

THE CON -- FIDENCE GAME
"the free, less conventional attitude" [ABBE]
Scott Monty, IHOSE

Sherlockians descended on Atlanta this weekend to celebrate 221B Con.

Hundreds of Holmes fans of all types, ages, and predilections gathered to celebrate everything they love about Holmes.

From panel discussions to performances, there was a bit of everything, so the newest convert to the most curmudgeonly dyed-in-the-wool aficionado could find something to occupy themselves.

Even the Baker Street Journal — that "one fixed point in a changing age" — got into the act, tweeting quotes of relevance with the #221bcon hashtag throughout the weekend.

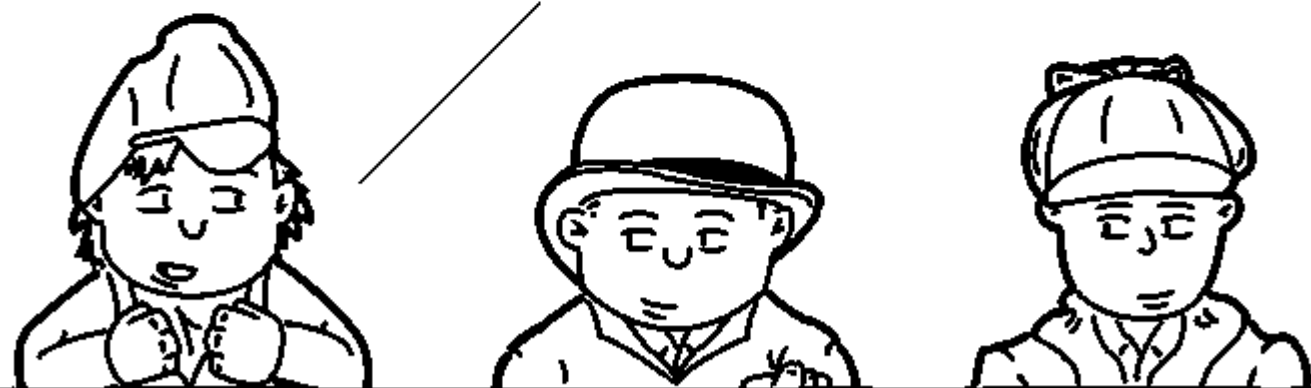
Did it help drive interest in subscriptions?

The jury is out, but we hope some of the newer attendees took notice.

Even our friends at Baker Street Elementary got into the act — in terms of producing a relevant comic strip and by being on the ground at the event.

Without further ado...

MY PARENTS WENT TO AN INTERESTING
EVENT LAST WEEK, CALLED "BARD-CON,"
WHICH CELEBRATED THE LIFE AND WORKS
OF THE GREAT WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

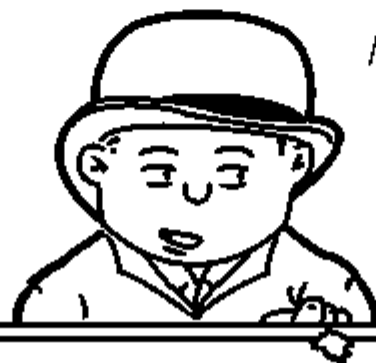


AND WHAT PRAY TELL, DOES ONE DO AT SUCH AN EVENT?

PANEL DISCUSSIONS, DISPLAY, VENDOR TABLES, AND EVEN COSTUMED PARTICIPANTS...



EVIDENTLY, THERE WAS A SPOT OF CONTROVERSY WHEN A SPEAKER SUGGESTED THE PLAYS, POEMS, AND SONNETS WERE CREATED BY A "GHOST WRITER," AND SHAKESPEARE WAS BASCIALLY THE "LITERARY AGENT," WHO WAS ABLE TO HAVE THE WORKS PUBLISHED AS WELL AS HAVING THEM PUT TO STAGE...



SOUNDS LIKE FUN...
WE SHOULD VISIT
ONE OF THESE 'CONS'...

ACTUALLY, THERE IS
ONE NEXT WEEKEND,
APTLY NAMED 'TELL-
TALE-CON'...



CG

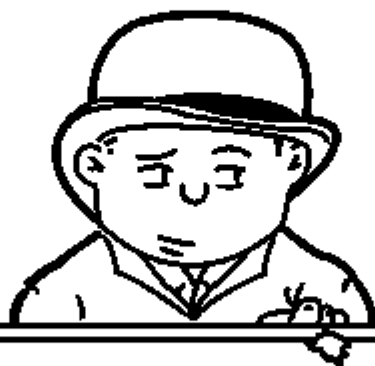
**AN ENTIRE CONVENTION BASED
ON EDGAR ALLAN POE... I COULD
DRESS UP AS A 'RAVEN...'**



ONE OF THE POPULAR EVENTS WILL BE STAGING CLUES TO A MURDER THROUGHOUT THE VENUE, AND ATTENDEES WILL USE THE SKILLS OF MASTER DETECTIVE DUPIN TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY...



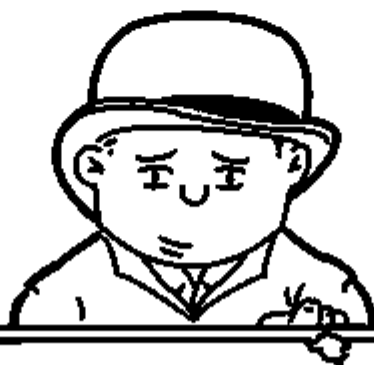
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SUCH TRIVIALITIES... THERE ARE LEAST THREE ISSUES TO THIS CRAZINESS...



**FIRST, PEOPLE SHOULD STAND ON
FIRM GROUND, AND NOT FALL INTO
THE TRAPS OF POE'S FANTASIES,
WHICH HAVE NO BASIS IN REALITY.**

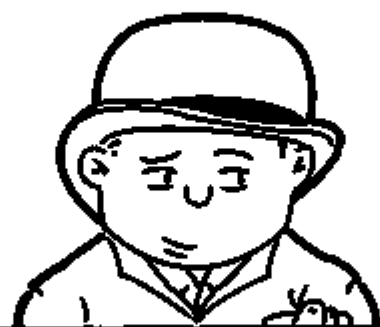


SECOND, IT IS WRONG TO INFLATE THE ABILITIES OF DUPIN, WHO WAS AN INFERIOR FELLOW... HE MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ANALYZE CLUES ABOVE THE AVERAGE POLICE OFFICER ON THE BEAT, BUT HE WAS NOT SUCH THE PHENOMENON AS POE MADE HIM OUT TO BE.



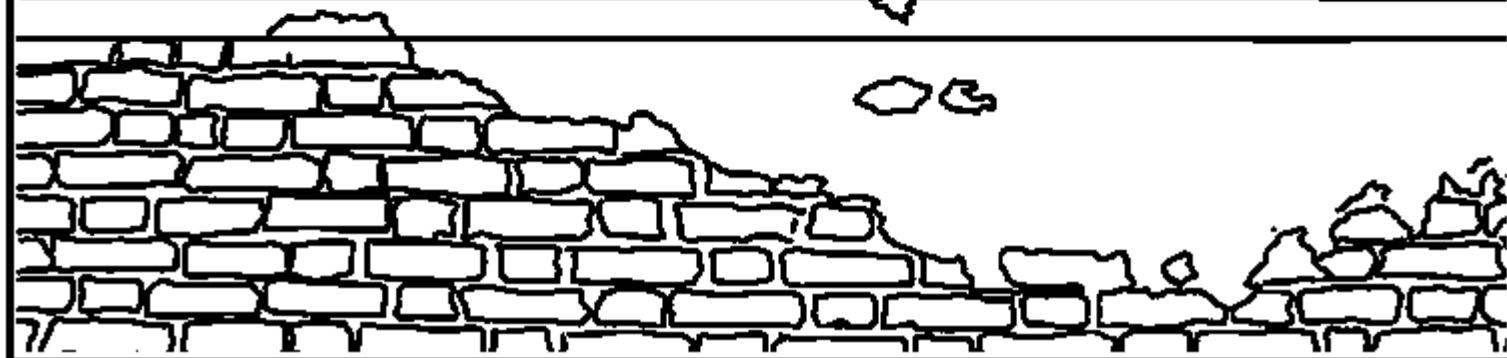
OR

**THIRD, I CANNOT SUPPORT A GROUP OF PEOPLE,
EVEN FANATICS, "PLAYING A GAME" TO
SIMULATE THE ACTIONS OF A FICTIONAL
CHARACTER.**



**C'MON HOLMES... WE SHOULD
GO AND HAVE A GOOD TIME...**

I LIKE PLAYING GAMES...



**OK, BUT I WILL PLAY 'DUPIN' AND SHOW
EVERYONE THE RIGHT WAY TO SOLVE A
CRIME... AND WATSON, YOU SHALL PLAY THE
UNNAMED ASSISTANT...**

**... AND I SHALL
PLAY 'THE RAVEN...'**

