

Sherlockian Theatrical Society



A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

Number 38

July 28, 2024

**"221A: A Recently Discovered Episode of the Long Running
Radio Series "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"**

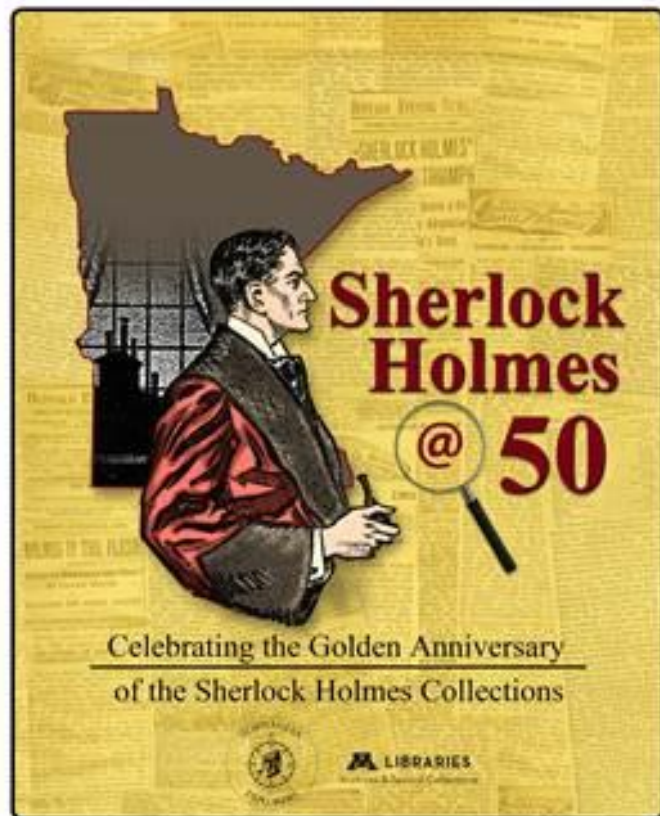
By Jeffery Hatcher (from an idea by Don Shelby)

Minneapolis, MN

Several Uncritics traveled to Minnesota to attend the tri-annual conference sponsored by The Norwegian Explorer's of Minnesota in conjunction with the University of Minnesota. The title of this year's conference was Sherlock Holmes @ 50. This being the 50th year of the Sherlock Holmes Collection at the university. During each conference, The Red-Throated League of Minnesota, a subgroup of the Norwegian Explorers, stage a radio-play which is usually the final event of the weekend. This year, we were treated to a lost episode of the radio series 'The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes'.

The play opens in the sitting room of 221B Baker Street or maybe it was 221A

Baker Street. The audience gets to decide which address depending on who they believe at the end of the play. It is 1937, 50 years after the publication of the first Sherlock Holmes adventures in the 1887 Beeton's Christmas Annual. Sherlock Holmes (Don Shelby), Dr. Watson (Jeffery Hatcher), and Harry Bartell (Paul Agustin) are reminiscing about the first meeting at Bartholomew's Hospital in 1881. However, before the



audience hears the three different tales of that fateful meeting and since this is a radio play, we must first hear from the sponsors, Petri Wine. We learn it looks wet in the glass.

First we hear of Dr. Watson's recollection. Stamford (John Clemo) and Dr. Watson 2 (Peter Cavanaugh) meet Holmes 2 (Tom Gottwalt) and we hear the account of that meeting we are familiar with. After all, this is the account that Dr. Watson wrote. These new actors exit stage left and the original Holmes, Watson and Bartell re-enter the stage. Next up we hear Stamford's version with a new set of actors going back to that 1881 meeting at Bart's but not before another word from Petri Wine, which can be served cold, right out of the refrigerator.

Enter Holmes 3 (Soren Eversoll), Watson 3 (Paul Agustin), and Stamford 2 (David Harnois) who tell us a completely different version of the meeting. In this version we are told that Holmes is something of a twit and it brother Mycroft who is pulling strings for a clueless Sherlock. This ensemble exits stage left and the original actors reappear. Before they resume they take a nostalgic trip down memory lane and Petri Wine once again exalts it's virtue as America premiere wine.

Now it is Sherlock's turn to tell us what really happened on that fateful 1881 day at Bart's. It is time for yet another group of actors to move the audience back in time. Mrs. Hudson (Karen Ellery), Mycroft (John Clemo), and Holmes 4 (David Harnois) reveal that he is not a twit and is 100% aware of Mycroft's attempted manipulation of the Bart's meeting and reveals his brothers intent to rent 221A in order to keep tabs on 221B. Mrs. Hudson is also complicit. It turns out that Dr. Watson was more 'twitable' and used his poetic licensing to chronical the study Sherlockian have come to know and love.

Directed by Karen Ellery with sound effects by Kate Agustin and Heather Edwards, the audience was thoroughly entertained and it was a perfect ending to a marvelous conference. As a nonjudgmental society, I must say it is too bad we must wait another 3 years to witness the Red-Throated League of Minnesota's next performance. And now a word from our sponsors...

As a reminder, The Sherlockian Theatrical Society is a non-judgmental society. It is our belief that any play about Sherlock Holmes is worth attending. We love Sherlock Holmes and we love live theater, so nothing will deter us off of our chosen path.

Break a leg!!!

Flower Mound, TX
July 29, 2024