Privacy & Security Policy of The Agra Treasurers' Web Site

Our privacy policy is based on two things: *indigence* and *incompetence.*

–INDIGENCE–

AWEB SITE is analogous in many respects to rented real estate: a house, apartment, or building. One rents the site from a landlord, or "host." We at THE AGRA TREASURERS rent our Web site from a host called, rather whimsically, "Go Daddy®". The more monthly "rent" we pay, the more perquisites we receive. Since we choose to pay the minimum rent (in keeping with our philosophy of holding costs down), we receive few perquisites. The Go Daddy Company, our genial host, lets us know how many "hits," or visitors we have had for both the current month and the previous one. (We do keep a permanent record of our own.) And we are given a rough and inaccurate idea of our visitors' origins. For instance, we appear to have a large number of visitors from Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. What attraction our Web site has for the natives there, we do not know. Perhaps the Bakuvians believe that the site's Webmaster, Professor Arbagi, is a fellow-Azerbaijani. (If so, they are wrong — he is of Syrian descent. Both his parents were from Damascus, about 900 miles or 1425 kilometers from Baku as the crow flies.) More likely, this is an error on the part of Go Daddy, which can be corrected by application of more money. For an extra fee, we could be supplied not only with more accurate details on our visitors' origins, but also with such *minutiæ* as how long these visitors from Baku (or London, or Tokyo, two other originators of large numbers of visitors) spend at our site. We prefer to leave our curiosity unsatisfied and thereby keep costs low.

–INCOMPETENCE–

THE SECOND determining factor is incompetence. We cannot sell information about you to anyone because we have no such information and do not know how to gather it. JOANNA COLUMBRO, our original Webmistress, was a professional, who taught Web site design and maintenance at a local institute of higher learning. Professor Columbro died at a tragically young age, leaving the site to MARTIN ARBAGI, a doddering little fellow with a striking resemblance (except in height) to Nathaniel Garrideb. Professor Arbagi had taught little other than Roman and Mediæval History at another local institute of higher learning but now found himself thrown into an alien world of computing machinery and programming. Perhaps the Reader has heard of "cookies": little programs planted upon a visitor's computer, which spy upon the same and relate their findings to the Webmaster of the site at which the unlucky visitor has called. Well, Mr. Arbagi could not "code" (write a program for) a cookie to save his life. Consequently, this site is free from most cookies, keyboard trackers, and other insidious things more sinister Web sites inflict surreptitiously upon their guests. Finally, our Web site is scrutinized monthly by *two* reputable security agencies for malware that may have been implanted by agents of Professor Moriarity and others of their ilk. (NOTE: A few cookies are necessary, or our Web site won't work. Our genial host, GoDaddy, automatically inserts these.)

People who register for HOLMES, DOYLE, & FRIENDS are another matter. We obviously do have quite a bit of data on *you,* such as names, addresses, etc. But no one has yet asked, much less offered to pay for it. Thus, you are safe — for the moment!

–SECURITY–

THE AGRA TREASURERS' Web site is *not* secure. Our monthly rental would increase sharply were we to install the security needed to earn the prized *https* prefix. However, this is superfluous since no commerce takes place at the site. As would-be Victorian British aristocrats, we do not engage in trade.

But you may ask, what of on-line registration for the HOLMES, DOYLE, & FRIENDS conferences? Such sordid business matters are beneath us, and Americans, with their penchant for commerce, handle all of this as our agents through a company named, with characteristic American insouciance and humour, "Pay Pal®". When you click upon one of the registration buttons, you are magically whisked, as though on a flying carpet from *The Arabian Nights,* to Pay Pal's site, one of the most secure in the digital world, where you can complete your transaction in nearly complete safety.

Finally, it may be just as well to repeat what has already been stated on the previous page: our Web site is scrutinized monthly by two reputable security agencies for malware that may have been implanted by agents of Professor Moriarity and others of their ilk.

TWO SHADY CHARACTERS are trying to break into Professor Arbagi's study, probably to insert dubious material into this Web site. Little do they know that their burglary involves over a century and a quarter of time-travel!