

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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Unfortunately a dose of flu not long after cataract surgery means that this issue is two weeks later than I'd intended.

The title of *The Real Sherlock Holmes: The Hidden Story of Jerome Caminada* by **Angela Buckley** (Pen & Sword; [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk); £19.99) is a deliberate cash-in on the exceptional popularity of the Baker Street sleuth. I hope that doesn't put anyone off, because this is a most interesting popular biography of a great Victorian police detective. Quite how 'hidden' Caminada's story is, I'm not sure, but I suspect that he's less well known than he should be because he lived and worked outside London – and, perhaps, because none of his cases were classic crimes or investigations. The dirty, dangerous city, the criminals, the victims, and above all the man himself – intelligent, dedicated and incorruptible – are important. The parallels with Holmes are superficial (Robert Horridge was certainly a desperate criminal with a personal grudge against Caminada, but he was no Moriarty), and less interesting than the contrast between the career of the gentleman private detective and that of the no less brilliant working class policeman. Caminada is rightly celebrated in his native city, notably at the Greater Manchester Police Museum, one of the best in the UK ([www.visitmanchester.com/what-to-do/museum/MAN-85581\\_greatermanchest](http://www.visitmanchester.com/what-to-do/museum/MAN-85581_greatermanchest)).

*A Chronology of the Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, May 22nd 1859 to July 7th 1930: 2014 Revised and Expanded Edition* by **Brian W Pugh** (MX Publishing; [www.mxpublishing.co.uk](http://www.mxpublishing.co.uk); £14.99) replaces the previous edition as the one essential reference source. Anyone seriously interested in Conan Doyle's life and career should have a copy.

*Sherlock Holmes FAQ: All That's Left to Know about the World's Greatest Private Detective* by **Dave Thompson** (Applause Theater & Cinema Books; [www.applausebooks.com](http://www.applausebooks.com); £13.89) sadly is sensationalist, inaccurate hackwork, consisting largely of lengthy, breathless summaries of the sixty stories. One to avoid, alas.

*Beaten's Christmas Annual, 2013/2014 (The Sound of the Baskervilles)*, David N Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467, USA; <http://soundofthebaskervilles.com/>) contains fifty-four large pages of scholarship, trivia and entertainment. The price, post-paid, is \$18.00 to the UK ('checks, payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles, should be marked "in US funds"') or \$13.00 to US addresses.

**Larry Millett** has a deserved reputation for ingenious, exciting and well-written detective stories, set mainly in Minnesota and featuring Sherlock Holmes – who, gratifyingly, isn't just shoehorned in. Mr Millett is an architectural historian whose books about Minneapolis and St Paul have achieved classic status, and one of his great strengths is his sense of place. His new novel *Strongwood: A Crime Dossier* (University of Minnesota Press; [www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/strongwood](http://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/strongwood); \$24.95) is the account of a murder trial told through contemporary documents. Did Addie Strongwood shoot her former lover in self-defence, or was it refined, deliberate, cold-blooded murder?

Different, and quite delightful, are three booklets from MX Publishing: *A Scandal in Bohemia* (14 April; £6.99), *The Red-Headed League* (14 May; £6.99) and *A Case of Identity* (14 June; £6.99) each have Conan Doyle's original text illustrated with full-colour photographs by **P James Macaluso Jr**. The photos, inspired by Paget's illustrations and the Granada TV series, depict scenes created in Lego – clever and rather charming. (To see more of what Holmesians can do with Lego, check out [www.flickr.com/groups/1351052@N22/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/1351052@N22/). Thanks to Oscar Ross for alerting me to that little gem.)

As in his previous novels, **Tim Symonds** goes to history for the characters and events of *Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Einstein's Daughter* (MX; £8.99), a tale woven around the still unsolved enigma of the great scientist's first child, whose existence was unknown until 1986.

**Amy Thomas** isn't the first to make Irene Adler the focus of a series, but the way she develops the woman's relationship with Sherlock Holmes is particularly appealing. As *The Detective, the Woman and the Silent Hive* (MX; £9.99) opens, Irene brings Holmes a problem: her bees have died, and she wants to know how and why. The mystery, rooted in the detective's past and involving far more than the silence of the bees, is presented alternately from her angle and from his.

*The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes* by **Phil Growick** (MX; 14 May; £10.99), sequel to *The Secret Journal of Dr Watson*, is like a rich plum-pudding, full of diplomacy, intrigue and deception. The earlier book told how Holmes, Watson and Sidney Reilly rescued Tsar Nicholas II and his family from the Bolsheviks. Now we learn what became of them all.

Last year I greatly enjoyed *The Amateur Executioner*, the first collaboration between **Dan Andriacco** and **Kieran McMullen**. It's a pleasure now to welcome Enoch Hale's second case, *The Poisoned Penman* (MX; 15 May; £7.99), which begins in 1922 with the unexpected death of Langdale Pike, poisoned while taking tea with Hale. Pike's specialism, you'll remember from 'The Three Gables', was society gossip, but he seemed to have something more important on his mind. Hale's investigation, helped by a clever advertising copywriter named Dorothy L Sayers, brings him into contact again with TS Eliot and Winston Churchill, and introduces him to GK Chesterton, Horatio Bottomley and Rudolph Valentino. Not unsurprisingly, both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes have an important part to play.

In contrast to the deeply researched social history of her novel *Barefoot on Baker Street*, **Charlotte Anne Walters** has written a witty quintet of short stories, updating five cases from the canon, in *Charlie Milverton and Other Sherlock Holmes Stories* (MX; £7.99) – the others being 'The Premier Bachelor', 'The Leaping Man', 'A Question of Identity' and 'Abbey Strange'. Perhaps she was inspired by *Sherlock*, but her approach and style – and indeed the set-up – are rather different. The stories are clever and good fun.

**John Heywood** is a new name to me, and a welcome one. The seven stories in *The Investigations of Sherlock Holmes* (MX; 28 April; £8.99) are among the best I've come across. Character, place and plotting ring true, and Mr Heywood is one of the few who can capture the authentic Watson style – a deceptively difficult feat.

*Sir Arthur Conan Doyle & Harry Houdini in The Adventure of the Spook House* (Freedom's Hammer; <http://freedomshammer.com/>; £8.95) by **C Michael Forsyth** is an adventure story with depth, full of atmosphere, suspense, ingenuity and a real feeling for place, period and personality. Mr Forsyth brings the two men and their troubled friendship to life in this fictional investigation of murder in a haunted house. Intensive research, a good ear for the patterns and rhythms of speech, and an easy literate style make for a cracking good read.

In 1910, the engagement is announced between the daughter of Mr & Mrs Godfrey Norton and the son of Mr Seumas Doyle – and Holmes and Watson are invited to attend Miss Irene Adler's farewell recital. That's the start of *Sherlock Holmes and the Affair of the Contentious Contralto*, the new short novel by **Fiona-Jane Brown** (MX; £7.99), in which old rivalries are set aside and old hatreds lead to madness and murder.

More new and forthcoming books. *The New Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes* by **Martin Edwards**, introduced by **David Stuart Davies** (Richmond eBooks; £1.99 as Kindle on Amazon.co.uk). *Sherlock: Every Canon Reference You May Have Missed in BBC's Series 1-3* by **Valerie Estell Frankel** (LitCrit Press; £6.99 on Amazon.co.uk). *Sherlock Holmes*

and *The Adventure of The Winged Ghost* by **Evan Muller** (MX; £2.49 as Kindle on Amazon.co.uk). *Sherlock Holmes & the Body Snatchers* by **Dean P Turnbloom** (MX; £10.99). *The Final Tales of Sherlock Holmes (volume one): Sherlock Holmes and the Musical Murders* by **John A Little** (MX; £7.99). *The Cotswolds Werewolf and other stories of Sherlock Holmes* by **Peter K Andersson** (MX; £9.99). *Sherlock Holmes and the Escape Artist* by **Fred Thursfield** (MX; £8.99). *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Modern Cinderella* by **Thomas Owen** (CreateSpace; £3.70 on Amazon.co.uk). *The Widow of Dartmoor* by **Warwick Downing** (MX; 21 April; £9.99). *A Bedside Book of Early Sherlockian Parodies and Pastiches* by **Charles Press** (MX; 28 April 2014; £12.99). *Sherlock Holmes and the King of Clubs* by **Steve Hayes & David Whitehead** (Robert Hale; [www.halebooks.com](http://www.halebooks.com); 30 April; £19.99). *Fan Phenomena: Sherlock Holmes* edited by **Tom Ue & Jonathan Cranfield** (Intellect Books; [www.intellectbooks.co.uk](http://www.intellectbooks.co.uk); May; £15.50).

And later in the year – *Young Sherlock Holmes 7: Stone Cold* by **Andrew Lane** (Macmillan Children's Books; <http://www.panmacmillan.com>; 11 September; £12.99). *Sherlock Holmes's London: The Museum of London* by **Alex Werner** (Ebury Press; [www.eburypublishing.co.uk](http://www.eburypublishing.co.uk); 2 October; £25.00). *Sherlock: Chronicles* by **Steve Tribe** (BBC Books; [www.eburypublishing.co.uk](http://www.eburypublishing.co.uk); 23 October; £25.00). *Moriarty* by **Anthony Horowitz** (Orion; [www.orionbooks.co.uk](http://www.orionbooks.co.uk); 23 October; £18.99).

At [www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times14-3.html](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times14-3.html) you'll find the March issue of *The Sherlockian E-Times*, newsletter-catalogue of **Classic Specialties** of Cincinnati.

Our member **Guy Marshall** is in the unenviable position of having to sell his Sherlock Holmes collection, which includes at least 500 books, plus booklets and pamphlets, lots of cassettes, CD and videos, and various other memorabilia (he's in the process of drawing up a catalogue). Prospective purchasers can contact Guy at 7 College Street, St Albans AL3 4PW (phone 01727 865039 or e-mail [Guymarshall31@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Guymarshall31@yahoo.co.uk)).

Jonathan Hopson reports that **Poulton Hall** (home of the Lancelyn Green family) is opening its gardens over the Easter weekend and again on Sunday 8th June: [www.poultonhall.co.uk](http://www.poultonhall.co.uk). Even without the Holmesian connection – both Richard Lancelyn Green and his father Roger were notable scholars – the gardens are well worth a visit.

Word too from Sarah Obermuller-Bennett of an exhibition at **Sidmouth Museum** (Hope Cottage, Church Street, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8LY): *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Devon Adventures in Sidmouth and Beyond*. It runs until 1 November, Mon: 13.00-16.00, Tue - Sat: 10.00-16.00, and admission is free. [www.devonmuseums.net/Sidmouth-Museum/Devon-Museums](http://www.devonmuseums.net/Sidmouth-Museum/Devon-Museums).

You'll probably know by now that Arthur Conan Doyle's house **Undershaw** at Hindhead in Surrey, has been bought by the DFN Charitable Foundation, which will transform it and an outstanding existing school, Stepping Stones, into the upper and junior units of 'the Schools at Undershaw'. The aim is to create a 'gold standard' special needs school for children and young adults with mild learning and physical difficulties.

Oscar Ross sends news that Queen's University Belfast School of Education's Open Learning Spring Programme includes five weekly sessions taught by **Alex Kane**: *The Ideal of Holmes: The Many Representations of Sherlock* starts on Monday 12 May at 7pm. See [www.qub.ac.uk/home/StudyatQueens/FileStore/Fileupload,440954.en.pdf](http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/StudyatQueens/FileStore/Fileupload,440954.en.pdf). Details are on page 41.

**The Leeds Teaching Hospitals Charitable Foundation** is attempting to set a world record for the largest gathering of people dressed as Sherlock Holmes; the challenge will be held at Temple Newsam in Leeds on 31 August to help raise funds for a new Yorkshire Brain Research Centre. Details are at [www.sherlockworldrecord.com](http://www.sherlockworldrecord.com), where you can also enter a raffle to win signed memorabilia from the *Sherlock* television series. Thanks for this and much else to the Baker Street Babes, whose website is at <http://bakerstreetbabes.com/>.

On 6 March, World Book Day, the **Park Plaza Sherlock Holmes Hotel** in Baker Street launched the new Watson's Lounge Bookshop, in partnership with MX Publishing; a dedicated online Sherlock Holmes themed bookstore: [www.parkplazasherlockholmesbooks.com](http://www.parkplazasherlockholmesbooks.com). A further partnership, with the National Literacy Trust, means that those purchasing items from the bookshop are also helping to raise literacy among the UK's most disadvantaged communities, with 10% of all proceeds generated from the bookstore going to the charity. (For information about the Hotel, please visit [www.parkplaza.com/sherlockholmes](http://www.parkplaza.com/sherlockholmes).)

On 23 April the Hotel will host *No Police Like Holmes: A Sherlock Holmes Theme Night*, which will feature prizes for the best Victorian costumes, a Sherlockian quiz, Sherlock Holmes cocktail and canapés, special guests including (live by satellite from America) **Dan Andriacco**, and more. All proceeds go to the National Literacy Trust. Information and booking are at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/no-police-like-holmes-a-sherlock-holmes-theme-night-tickets-10961828123](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/no-police-like-holmes-a-sherlock-holmes-theme-night-tickets-10961828123). And there'll be another event at the Hotel on 22 May, an ACD birthday celebration with a special theatre performance from the **Don't Go Into The Cellar** team.

Showsaku Mashimo reports: 'Sherlock Holmes is returning to Japanese TV, this time as a puppet. **Koki Mitani**, the popular playwright and director, has adapted the detective stories into a 20-episode TV series for NHK-G. The show targets juvenile audiences around 10 to 15 years old. This time as a high school drama, in which Watson and Holmes, both aged 15, play the central roles. Mitani said *This Holmes series is not so much a mystery as an exciting and thrilling adventure story, There won't be any murder, but there will be other wrong doing, like jealousy, extramarital affairs and fraud. I want to write about the dark side of humanity properly, because for some young viewers, the show may offer their glimpses at it.* Each episode is slated to have guest stars voicing characters.' The first three episodes aired last month. A second round of previews will be broadcast in August.

Forty or so years ago the actor **Jerome Willis** could have made a good Sherlock Holmes. In the early 1990s he was an authoritative though physically improbable Mycroft to Christopher Lee's Sherlock in both *Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady* and *Incident at Victoria Falls*. He died on 11 January, aged eighty-five.

I'm sorry I never had any contact with **Peter A Ruber**, who died on 6 March, aged seventy-three. His short-lived journal *The Baker Street Gasogene* is considered a classic, and his splendid tribute to Vincent Starrett, *The Last Bookman*, certainly is. In the 1960s he published several of August Derleth's Solar Pons stories, and from 1997 to 2007 was editor at Arkham House publishers. In 1964 he received his investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars as 'Camden House'.

**Kate O'Mara**, who had a good line in vamps and bitches, will be remembered for her rôles in *Dynasty*, *Howard's Way* and *The Brothers*, and as the Rani in *Doctor Who*, but, as *The Independent* said, 'she was indefatigable in her constant stage triumphs', and in 1987 she and Peter Woodward founded the British Actors Theatre Company. In 1974 she played Liza Moriarty in the original production of *Sherlock's Last Case*, and in 1979 she took over from Susan Hampshire as Irene St Clair in *The Crucifer of Blood* at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket. She died on 30 March, aged seventy-four.

Periodicals received. *The Bilge Pump*, March 2014 (**The Crew of the Barque Lone Star**, Steve Mason, <http://barquelonestar.com>). *Gaslight Gazette*, March 1904 [\*sic\*] and April 1904 [\*sic\*] (**The Survivors of the Gloria Scott**, David J Milner, 6 Crowndale Drive, Taylors, South Carolina 29687, USA). *Irregular Newsletter*, March 2014 (**The Conan Doyle [Crowborough] Establishment**, Brian Pugh, 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN). *Mayday Mayday*, March 2014 (**The Crew of the SS May Day**, Oscar Ross, 19 Ardarn Way, Belfast BT5 7RP). *The Moor: Magasin för Sherlockianer*, Mars 2014 (**The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden**, Anders Wiggström, Byggmästarvägen 29, 168 32 Bromma, Sweden). *The Passengers' Log*, 6 January 2014 (**The Sydney Passengers**, Erin O'Neill, 24 Karuah Street, Strathfield, NSW 2135, Australia). *The Petrel Flyer*, Spring 2014 (**The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia**, Len Haffenden, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada V7P 3C6). *Proceedings of the Sherlock Holmes Society of The Hague*, March 2014 (The Society, Jacques Zonneveld, Vlierboomstraat 464, 2564 JL Den Haag, Holland). *The Serpentine Muse*, Spring 2014 (**The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes**, Evelyn Herzog, 301 Warren Ave, #203, Baltimore, MD 21203, USA). *Sherlockian Violin Society Newsletter*, March 2014 (The Society, [www.sherlockianviolinsociety.com](http://www.sherlockianviolinsociety.com)). *Sherlockiana*, no. 1 2014 (**Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark**, Svend Ranild, [sr@ranild.dk](mailto:sr@ranild.dk)). *The Torr*, Spring 2014 (**The Poor Folk Upon The Moors**, Stephan Arthur, Camelot, Hombergstrasse 9, CH-4433 Ramlinsburg, Switzerland).

And *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, March 2014 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; [blau7103@comcast.net](mailto:blau7103@comcast.net)).

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