

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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Nothing's ever straightforward, it seems. See the **Undershaw Preservation Trust** website at www.saveundershaw.com for the latest news in the sorry saga of the house that Conan Doyle built.

The Specsavers Crime Thriller Awards were announced on Monday. **Amanda Abbington** won the Dagger as Best Supporting Actress for her performance as Mary Morstan in *Sherlock*. Good!

The exhibition *Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die* opened at the **Museum of London** on 17 October. Members of the Society's Council attended the launch party the previous evening, along with Catherine Beggs, Richard Doyle, Charles Foley, Jon Lellenberg, Bert Coules, Mark Gatiss, Steven Moffat, Sue Vertue, Louise Brealey, Anthony Horowitz *et al* – though press reports give the impression that the only guest with a Holmes connection was Sir Ian McKellen, who declared the exhibition open. (Natalie Dormer's major rôle in *Elementary* was ignored.) We were privileged to explore the exhibition in the company of **Constantine Rossakis** and **Glen Miranker**, who have lent wonderful manuscripts and original artwork from their collections. It's fascinating!

And **Alex Werner**, who put it together, has compiled a fascinating book. *Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die* (Ebury Press & the Museum of London; www.eburypublishing.co.uk www.museumoflondon.org; £25) opens with David Cannadine's survey of Holmes's profound knowledge of London, and Conan Doyle's rather sketchier acquaintance with the city. John Stokes examines the detective's 'Bohemian soul', as Watson calls it in, er, 'A Scandal in Bohemia'. Alex Werner and Pat Hardy consider Holmes and London in art. Claire Pettit relates Conan Doyle's view of his creation as ephemeral trivia to the increasing influence of ephemera in his world. Nathalie Morris looks at early dramatic presentations of Holmes. The book is sumptuously illustrated with photos, drawings and paintings, most of which feature in the exhibition; and a few unfortunate misspellings ('John Dickinson Carr', 'Nicolas Utechin') don't detract from its appeal and its importance in relating the great detective to the great city that he made his home.

Holmes's relationships with certain specific parts of London are at the core of another very handsome book: *A Sherlock Holmes Monopoly: An Unofficial Guide and Outdoor Activity* by **JP Sperati** (Irregular Special Press; www.baker-street-studios.com/shop/books/a-sherlock-holmes-monopoly/; deluxe full colour edition £18.99). You may think there's no obvious link between the detective and the standard London version of the game, but as you follow Holmes around the locations on the *Monopoly* board, preferably walking in London with the book in your hand, you'll find yourself entranced by the many curious connections that Mr Sperati has uncovered. Splendid photographs contrast the Victorian scene with today's, and as a bonus there's a cleverly devised *Sherlock Holmes Monopoly* treasure hunt, based on the board game, which I fancy will be great fun to play. The book is a winner!

The Elementary Sherlock Holmes: Things You Didn't Know About Literature's Greatest Detective (Portico; www.pavilionbooks.com; 6 November; £9.99) bears no author's name, but it's 'based on *The Sherlock Holmes Encyclopedia*', and according to Amazon it's the work of **Matthew Bunson**, whose *Encyclopedia Sherlockiana* (not to be confused with Jack Tracy's superior *Encyclopaedia Sherlockiana*) was reissued under that name. *The Elementary Sherlock Holmes* is a nice little volume for dipping into, though the mention of 'Mrs Beeton's

Christmas Annual' and the assertion that the Sherlock Holmes Museum's address at 239 Baker Street was officially changed to 221B show that it's not wholly reliable.

Not a month goes by without several volumes of new Sherlock Holmes stories and an apparently unlimited number online, and most (to put it kindly) are not good. However, I look forward to reading *Moriarty*, by **Anthony Horowitz** (Orion; www.orionbooks.co.uk; £19.99), and meanwhile there's *Young Sherlock: Stone Cold*, the seventh in the splendid series by **Andrew Lane** (Macmillan Children's Books; www.panmacmillan.com; £12.99). After exotic adventures in China and decidedly weird ones in Ireland, Sherlock is packed off to Oxford to study logic under Mycroft's friend Charles Dodgson. He also attends an anatomy lecture and learns that body parts are being stolen from the pathology laboratories. Unable to resist investigating, Sherlock is soon grateful for the courage and resourcefulness of his chum Mattie Arnatt. The mystery is ingenious, the adventure thrilling, and, just as we see Sherlock Holmes develop from a boy to the man we know, we also meet the young Reginald Musgrave, and learn something about Mortimer Maberley. Like its predecessors, *Stone Cold* is a cracker. [*The series used to be called *Young Sherlock Holmes*, but it's all been rebranded. Gosh, I wonder why...*]

A Biased Judgement: The Sherlock Holmes Diaries, 1897 by **Geri Schear** (MX Publishing; www.mxpublishing.co.uk; £10.99) starts with a vicious attack on Holmes, and the action builds towards an attack on the Queen herself and civilisation as we know it. Moriarty is dead, but someone has revived his gang – does the name Porlock sound familiar? My problem (apart from Americanisms like 'Go visit') is with an essential element of the story, indicated in the title. Sherlock Holmes falls in love and marries. Lady Beatrice is a strong, attractive character – but Sherlock Holmes in love? What ineffable twaddle! Nevertheless, the book is exciting and well written.

More to my taste is *Sherlock Holmes - The Golden Years: Five New Post-Retirement Adventures* by **Kim H Krisco** (MX; £10.99, even though, in these linked tales, the detective shows disconcerting signs of romantic affection for a woman – and, almost inevitably, *the* woman. I'm happy to accept that Holmes was rather more active after leaving Baker Street than we're given to understand in 'The Lion's Mane' and 'His Last Bow', and that Watson took part in his late exploits. These adventures take them to the Scottish Highlands, the USA and South Africa, and involve, among others, GK Chesterton, Harry Houdini, Theodore Roosevelt, Leander Starr Jameson and Arthur Conan Doyle, as well as a worthy successor to Moriarty, one Ciaran Malastier.

Julie Cohen, the SHJ's resident cartoonist, is one of fourteen contributors, along with familiar names like James Lovegrove and Guy Adams, to *Two Hundred and Twenty-One Baker Streets* edited by **David Thomas Moore** (Abaddon Books; www.abaddonbooks.com; £7.99). Each story reimagines Sherlock Holmes in a different way, and much more radically than *Sherlock* or even *Elementary*. Julie's 'The Adventure of the Speckled Bandana' has Holmes as a New York gumshoe in the 1970s. In 'A Scandal in Hobohemia' by Jamie Wyman, Sanford Haus is the owner of a seedy travelling carnival in 1930s America. The third great title is 'A Study in Scarborough' by Guy Adams, in which Holmes and Watson are actors, former stars of a comedy series on BBC radio, in which they played detectives named Holmes and Watson. The book is a mixed bag, and won't be to everyone's taste, but the stories sparkle with imagination.

The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Devil's Promise by **David Stuart Davies** is due from Titan on 21 November (<http://titanbooks.com>; £7.99). Meanwhile, let me recommend David's little book of ghost stories, *The Halloween Mask and Other Strange*

Tales (The History Press; www.thehistorypress.co.uk; £6.99) as most appropriate reading for the season.

Received too late for review this time are an important collection of essays by two of Canada's leading Sherlockian scholars: *Investigating Sherlock Holmes: Solved and Unsolved Mysteries* by **Hartley R Nathan & Clifford S Goldfarb** (Mosaic Press; www.mosaic-press.com; £14.95); and the latest amazing chronicle of Detective-Inspector LeBrock: *Grandville Noël* by **Bryan Talbot** (Jonathan Cape; www.capecthronicnovels.co.uk; £16.99). More of both next time.

Talking of graphic novels, the launch party for the English edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, adapted and illustrated by **Petr Kopl** (MX; 12 December; £9.99) will be held at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street, on 22 November at 3.00pm. Tickets are available at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-hound-of-the-baskervilles-sherlock-holmes-graphic-novel-launch-tickets-13748352693. I expect this to be at least as brilliant as *A Scandal in Bohemia* (see DM 345).

On 26 November MX will publish volumes 1 & 2 of *The Papers of Sherlock Holmes* by **David Marcov** as a single hardback, at £17.99. Other new and forthcoming titles include: *The Angel of Mons: A World War I Legend* by **Jerred Metz**, a novel featuring Conan Doyle and his family (Singing Bone Press; <http://singingbonepress.com/>; £11.71 on Amazon); *Tales of the Great Detectives* edited by **Philip Purser-Hallard** (Obverse Books; <http://obversebooks.co.uk/product/tales-of-the-great-detectives-ebook/>; £6.99); *Detective Fiction and the Ghost Story: The Haunted Text* by **Michael Cook** (Palgrave Macmillan; <http://www.palgrave.com>; £55.00); *Mysteries and Conspiracies: Detective Stories and the Making of Modern Societies* by **Luc Boltanski** (Polity Press; www.polity.co.uk; £18.99) *After Sherlock Holmes: The Evolution of British and American Detective Stories 1891-1914* by **LeRoy Panek** (McFarland; 30 December; www.mcfarlandbooks.com; £24.86); *The Final Page of Baker Street: The exploits of Mr. Sherlock Holmes, Dr John H Watson, and Master Raymond Chandler* by **Daniel D Victor** (MX; 1 December; £8.99); *Sherlock Holmes Plays the Game* by **LFE Coombs** (MX; 2 December; £9.99); and *Sherlock Holmes and John Watson: The Day They Met (50 New Ways the World's Most Legendary Partnership Might Have Begun)* by **Wendy C Fries** (MX; 26 January; £6.99). [*Thanks to Vincent Delay for information.*]

On 30 December **Nicholas Briggs & Richard Earl** return as the detective and the doctor in a new four-part audiodrama by **Jonathan Barnes**: *The Judgement of Sherlock Holmes* (Big Finish; www.bigfinish.com; pre-order CD £25.00; pre-order Digital £20.00). 'Our knowledge of the life and career of Mr Sherlock Holmes is necessarily partial and inexact. Riddled with lacunae and ambiguities, its parameters are defined chiefly by what his friend and colleague, Dr John Watson, saw fit to record. One era in particular – those enigmatic years in which, believed dead at the Reichenbach Falls, the Great Detective roved the world incognito – has been shrouded in obscurity and doubt, the particulars of that time too terrible and too strange to be set down in full. At least, that is, until now...'

sherlockaudiobook has released a splendid new unabridged reading of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by **Robert Maskell**, available for download from at www.sherlockaudiobook.co.uk/, for £5.60 (or 60p per story), or at www.sherlockaudiobook.com for \$8.99 (or 99¢ per story). Each month there's one story for free download. Right now it's 'The Red-Headed League'.

Oscar Ross notes that season 3 of *Elementary* will begin in the UK on Sky Living, at 9.00pm on 11 November, though in the US the first episode is broadcast tonight, on CBS. There's a newcomer to the cast, **Ophelia Lovibond**, who, according to *Variety*, 'is set to play Kitty Winter, the new protégé to Jonny Lee Miller's Sherlock Holmes. The character immediately becomes rivals with her predecessor, Joan Watson (Lucy Liu). Kitty's reasons for undertaking Holmes' partnership are nebulous, and her new arrangement with Holmes will have ongoing repercussions for his relationship with Joan.'

Potted Sherlock, which attracted enthusiastic reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe, will be at the Vaudeville Theatre in the Strand from 8 December to 11 January. **Dan Clarkson, Jefferson Turner** and **Lizzie Wort** present *All 60 Sherlock Holmes Stories In Just 80 Elementary Minutes!* There's full information at www.pottedsherlock.com or at www.nimaxtheatres.com/vaudeville-theatre/potted_sherlock, and you can book online or phone the box office at 0844 482 9675.

In 2015 **Chapterhouse Theatre Company** will tour the UK and Ireland with an open-air production of *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*. No details yet, but keep an eye on www.chapterhouse.org/show5.html.

The admirable website of the **Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club** continues to develop and to delight. <http://sherlockian-sherlock.com> is the home page. Newly added are the pages of jokes, created (in English!) by the Club's founder, **Zsófia Marincsák**, alias SherlockExtra. You'll find them at <http://www.sherlockian-sherlock.com/sherlock-holmes-funny-joke.php>.

If when you're visiting the Great Cesspool there are no meetings of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, you needn't be at a loose end. At <http://londonsherlockians.tumblr.com/> you can discover the **London Sherlockians**, 'a group of London-based Sherlock Holmes fans. We host fan meetings on a fortnightly basis (look for details on our schedule page) and occasionally host viewing parties. Everyone is welcome to join us!'

From 2.00 to 5.30pm on 22 November, at the Union Chapel in Islington, the **London Sherlockians** and the **Baker Street Babes** will host *The London Sherlockian Tea Party*, 'an afternoon of tea drinking, raffles, games and general Sherlockian shenanigans'. Unfortunately that's the same afternoon as the launch party at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel! (Check out the Babes at <http://bakerstreetbabes.tumblr.com/>.)

Philip Howard, who died on 5 October aged eighty, accompanied our Society to the Reichenbach during the first Swiss Pilgrimage in 1968, and he was Guest of Honour at the Annual Dinner in 1983. He was a former Literary Editor of The Times, whose obituary noted: 'He had a passion for esoteric vocabulary, and his column on language, *Lost Words*, was for many years a feature of The Times's Saturday edition.'

Aleš Kolodrubec advises me of the death on 7 October of author, dramatist and dedicated Holmesian, **Rudolph Čechura**, a co-founder in 2000 of the Czech Society of Sherlock Holmes, and a member of our own Society since 1967 – and occasional contributor to the SHJ.

With the death of our Honorary Member **Sir Sydney Chapman** on 9 October, at the age of seventy-eight, the Society has lost a good friend. As Conservative MP for Chipping Barnet from 1979 to 2005, he happily sponsored many of our Annual Dinners at the House of Commons. He was the only qualified architect in the House.

Pilgrims to Switzerland in 1978 will remember with affection the tall, distinguished figure of **Donald Redmond**, in character as Inspector Merivale. For decades he indexed *The Baker Street Journal*, and his BSI investiture, awarded in 1969, was 'Good Old Index'. His books *Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Sources* and *Sherlock Holmes Among the Pirates: Copyright and Conan Doyle in America 1890-1930* are major contributions to the literature. In his native Canada he was one of the first to be made a Master Bootmaker by the Bootmakers of Toronto Master Bootmakers. Donald Redmond died on 22 October, aged ninety.

A copy of *The Baker Street Chronicle*, issue 14, autumn 2014 (www.baker-street-chronicle.de) has been added to the Sherlock Holmes collection at Westminster Reference Library, 35, St. Martin's Street.

Periodicals received. *The Bilge Pump*, October 2014 (**The Crew of the Barque Lone Star**, Steve Mason, <http://barquelonestar.com>). *Canadian Holmes*, Fall 2014 (**The Bootmakers of Toronto**, Mark & JoAnn Alberstat, <http://www.torontobootmakers.com>). *Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections*, September 2014 (Suite 111, Elmer L Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, 222 21st Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA). *Gaslight Gazette*, October 1904 [*sic*] (**The Survivors of the Gloria Scott**, David J Milner, 6 Crowndale Drive, Taylors, South Carolina 29687, USA). *The Petrel Flyer*, September 2014 and October 2014 (**The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia**, Krista Lee Munro, www.thestormypetrels.com). *Proceedings of the Sherlock Holmes Society of The Hague* plus supplements, October 2014 (The Society, Jacques Zonneveld, Vlierboomstraat 464, 2564 JL Den Haag, Holland). *Sherlockian E-Times*, October 2014 (**Classic Specialties**, Carolyn & Joel Senter, www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times14-10.html).

And *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, September 2014 (Peter E Blau; <http://redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39>).

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