

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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The sun shone on Plymouth on 9th September when a new plaque to honour **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle** was unveiled at Elliot Terrace. The event was attended by SHSL members including former chairman Shirley Purves, Robert Graham, Geraldine Beare, and Brian Pugh of the Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment. There's a nice article and photograph available to view at: <http://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/creator-sherlock-holmes-takes-place-451698>

Other buildings related to Arthur Conan Doyle have been in the news, thanks to the interest and efforts of **Brice Stratford**. He has identified that ACD designed the 1912 extension of the **Lyndhurst Grand Hotel** in the New Forest. The building is now in danger of demolition by way of a planning application, submitted on 12th September, that intends to create 75 residential units in its place. The application can be viewed online at: https://idoxweb.newforestnpa.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=NFNP_DCAPR_169288

Brice also spotted that **The Rochester Square Spiritualist Church** in north London is under threat. Although there is some uncertainty as to whether ACD designed the building, in 1926 he laid the foundation stone. In its 5th October issue, *Private Eye's* columnist, 'Piloti', featured both buildings in his column, and describes the 'temple' as "a charming, small, late Arts and Crafts hall, with murals and stained glass." Items about the buildings also featured on Classic FM Radio and the 26th September issue of *The Times*.

The SHSL's annual **Richard Lancelyn Green Lecture** will be held on 12th October at the National Liberal Club. Our speaker this year is **Michael Dirda**, a Pulitzer Prize-winning literary journalist and weekly book columnist for *The Washington Post*. Michael was invested in the Baker Street Irregulars as "Langdale Pike" and his book, *On Conan Doyle*, received the 2012 Edgar Award. His topic is *The Rivals of Professor Moriarty*, looking at villainous contemporaries such as Fu Manchu, Dr. Nikola and others, as well as a variety of ladies and gentlemen of a criminal inclination. For more details go to: <http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/richard-lancelyn-green-lecture-2017/>

And thinking of Richard Lancelyn Green, it seems appropriate at this time to call readers' attention to a special book available from the Society's website. *To Keep the Memory Green* celebrates Richard's life and accomplishments; we mustn't forget that the bequest of his collection to Portsmouth Library has been of enormous benefit to Sherlockians around the world. The book is normally £17.50, but is on special offer at £10.

The walking tour company, **Footprints of London**, has announced its fifth annual Literary Walks Festival, taking place throughout October. *Literary Footprints* is described as "an immersive experience in words, quotes, books, poems, authors, publishers – in fact everything literary about London." For the full walks schedule, please visit <http://footprintsoflondon.com/literaryfestival>

Oh, frabjous day! **Simpsons in the Strand** has re-opened, following an extensive refurbishment and renovation. Its new website gives a history of the restaurant, information on the recent work, photos of the splendid dining rooms, and new (quite enticing) menus. Rather charmingly, the website notes that 'Sherlock Holmes was a regular.' <https://www.simpsonsinthestrands.co.uk/>

Starting on 23rd October, **BBC Radio 4 Extra** will begin a run of the 1959 series of Sherlock Holmes radio adventures, with **Carleton Hobbs** as Holmes and **Norman Shelley** as Watson. The series includes: *The Man With the Twisted Lip*; *The Beryl Coronet*; *The Blanched Soldier*; *The Copper Beeches*; *The Noble Bachelor*; *Shoscombe Old Place*. **Andrew Jupp** informs us that transmission "will be 6am, 1pm, 8pm and 1am on Oct 23 and all week, and on the Monday."

The Beacon Society (featured last month) is seeking nominations for its annual **Beacon Award**: "Nominees may be of any profession, but they must have made a significant contribution to exposing young people to the stories of Sherlock Holmes. An applicant may either be nominated by another person or may apply himself/herself. A group or scion society may be nominated. A project(s) must be completed before applying for the Beacon Award. Beacon Award nominations may be submitted all year. The closing date for evaluation during the current review cycle is November 15, 2017. Once the evaluation has been completed, the winner will be notified in December 2017. Nominations made after the deadline will be held for evaluation in 2018."

An application form, guidelines and other details about the Beacon Award may be obtained at the society's website, <http://www.beaconsociety.com/the-beacon-award.html>

A poster for the 1940 film *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* starring Basil Rathbone recently sold at auction for £15,600. It was part of a cache of vintage posters that were discovered in amazingly good condition, despite having been used as carpet underlay. You can read the full story here: https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2017/sep/19/classic-film-posters-used-as-carpet-underlay-sold-for-72000?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Gmail

Thanks to **Oscar Ross** for forwarding details of an event on Tuesday 31st October at **Pollok House** (a National Trust for Scotland property) located in Pollok Country Park, Glasgow: *Acclaimed actor Jonathan Goodwin stars in The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes. The show features the great detective recounting highlights of his crime-busting career. It also includes autobiographical snippets concerning his life and times, the adversaries he has faced and mysteries he has solved. This show is an affectionate one-man homage to the world's greatest detective that includes quick costume changes, humour and audience participation. Tickets cost £15 for adults and £12 for concessions. Book tickets online at: https://www.nts.org.uk/Event/20011556127/thesingularexploitsofsherlockholmes*

This is the touring production by the **Don't Go Into the Cellar** theatre company, whose other dates and venues are: 5th Oct. Lingfield, 6th Oct. Trowbridge, 7th Oct. Oldham, 30th Oct. Edinburgh. For full details of venues and to book tickets go to www.dontgotothecellar.com.

Martin Edwards' new book, *The Story of Classic Crime in 100 Books* unearths the fascinating story behind crime fiction. Starting with Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1902), he makes his way through the first half of the 20th century, as far as Julian Symons's *The 31st of February* (1950). The author has not attempted to choose the 'best' books, but those that best reflect the development of the genre. There are 24 thematic chapters, illustrating the chronological evolution of crime fiction. Many familiar authors are highlighted, but the more obscure and lesser-known are not neglected. Each book has an introduction, including information about the author, the plot and its theme. As one would expect from the British Library, the production quality is high. The dust jacket is a colourful, attractive illustration in the classic 1920s/30s style so beloved of railway posters of that era. Additionally, there are 16 pages of beautifully reproduced colour illustrations of book jackets and maps relating to some of the stories. This is an enjoyable book to dip in and out of at one's leisure, and would be a recommended choice of gift for fans of this genre. *The Story of Classic Crime in 100 Books* is hardback, 288 pages, 46 colour illustrations, £25, ISBN 978 0 7123 5696 1. It is available from bookshops as well as from the British Library Shop (tel: 020 7412 7735) and online www.bl.uk/shop

I often wish that **David Marcum** could bottle some of his energy and send it off to me. Not only has he been editing the mammoth MX anthologies of Sherlock Holmes stories, he has now written a series of **Solar Pons** adventures. The character was created by **August Derleth**, who, after being told firmly by Conan Doyle that there would be no more Sherlock Holmes stories, decided to write more of his own. Of course, Derleth was prevented from using the name, and so Solar Pons was born. David has launched a Kickstarter at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1306925656/new-solar-pons-book-sherlock-holmes-of-praed-stree> for his twelve new tales, *The Papers of Solar Pons*. For more information you can also go to Dave's irregular blog, "A Seventeen Step Program" in which he tells more about Solar Pons: <http://17stepprogram.blogspot.com/2017/09/solar-pons-sherlock-holmes-of-praed.html>

Luigi Siviero provides the intriguing news that he has written a book about Sherlock Holmes in comics. He has indexed and discussed a wide range of comics published in the USA, UK, France, Italy, Japan and other countries. It sounds fascinating, but at the moment *Sherlock Holmes - Lavventura Nei Fumetti* is available only in Italian. You can find more details at the publisher's website: <http://www.progloedizioni.com/sherlock-holmes-l%E2%80%99avventura-nei-fumetti>

Kelvin Jones has been in contact with news of three new titles: *The Baskerville Papers* - The murder of a publisher of erotic books points to a criminal conspiracy, which appears to be confirmed when Sir Henry Baskerville's wife, the former Beryl Stapleton, disappears. However, even more savage murders take place before the case is solved. *Sherlock Holmes and the Whitechapel Women* - A controversial and often disturbing account of how Holmes discovered the identity of Jack The Ripper. Based on journals of Dr and Mrs Watson and confidential papers from Scotland Yard, the novel shows a view of Victorian England which peels away the layers of respectability. *Sherlock Holmes: The Plagues of London* - In December 1988 Queen Victoria's personal physician is found dead in a train carriage, and another mysterious death soon

follows. A note to Scotland Yard, purporting to be from Jack the Ripper, claims responsibility - but Holmes is not convinced. All three books are in paperback and available on Amazon

Father J Michael Venditti, who serves in New Jersey, managed to find time in his busy schedule to write *A Reader's Companion to Sherlock Holmes*. Long-time Sherlockians are unlikely to find anything new - but this is fine, because Father Venditti's intention is for the book to serve as encouragement to new readers. He provides a concise biography of Conan Doyle as well as commentary on each story. Published by Dorrance Publishing Co., it is a 150-page hardcover (ISBN 978-1-4809-3616-4) \$22. Visit www.dorrancebookstore.com.

Canadian author **Stephen Gaspar** has alerted us to his new book, *Cold-Hearted Murder*. In the summer of 1901 London is shocked when murder victims are ritualistically mutilated. Reminiscent of *A Study in Scarlet*, Holmes finds links to the great Klondike Gold Rush. Paperback, available on Amazon.

Richard Kellogg tells us that: "*Barry Baskerville's Marvelous Memory*, written by Richard Kellogg and illustrated in color by Gary Kato, has been released by Airship 27. This is the fifth entry in a series of mysteries for children. The hero is a precocious youngster who dreams of becoming a great detective just like Sherlock Holmes. The book shows children how to use close observations, repetition, and mnemonic techniques to enhance their memorization skills. Barry shows his classmates how to remember the colors of the rainbow, the planets in our solar system, and other facts relating to astronomy. Barry even uses his remarkable memory to prevent his parents from being swindled by dishonest salespeople." This, and the other books in the series, are available on Amazon

Obituaries:

We've just received news from Antipodean friends that **Steve Duke**, who ran **The Elementary Victorians** in Australia, died approximately two weeks ago. We extend condolences to his friends and family.

Hugh Heffner's death on 27 September at the age of 91 has, perhaps understandably, generated mixed reactions. He founded *Playboy* magazine and its associated empire, with predominant emphasis on attractive young ladies in minimal attire. However, from its first issue (Dec. 1953), *Playboy* published Sherlockian content, including stories, illustrations, and cartoons (such as the ribald classic by Gahan Wilson of Holmes in disguise as a woman). The website, **I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere**, provides more details at: <http://www.ihearofsherlock.com/>

Periodicals received:

The Gaslight Gazette, Summer 2017 (**The Fresh Rashers of Estero Islands (Florida)** dmycroft@bellsouth.net)

The Illustrious Clients News, September 2017 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, Indiana 46077, USA; IllustClients@gmail.com)

Ineffable Twaddle, September 2017 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen; terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)

Mayday Mayday, September 2017 (**The Crew of the SS May Day**, Belfast, Oscar Ross; oscarross@hotmail.com)

The Sherlockian E-Times, September 2017 (Carolyn & Joel Senter, Clifton Avenue, OH 45219; sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com)

The Torr, Autumn 2017 (**The Poor Folk Upon the Moors**, Stephan Arthur; editor.poorfolk@gmail.com)

Jean Upton