

The DISTRICT MESSENGER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition opened at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, New Jersey, on 3rd November and will run through 27th May 2019. According to **Peter Blau**, "It's a spectacular exhibition, and it has been welcomed with enthusiasm everywhere it has been in the US and overseas; there are no future venues scheduled for the exhibition, and it's nice indeed (for travelers from afar) that it will be open during the Sherlockian birthday festivities in January." You can find more information at www.lsc.org.

Stanfords Map and Travel Bookshop is moving. Edward Stanford originally opened in 1853 with map shops in The Strand and then in Cockspur Street. In 1901 the business moved to Long Acre, near Covent Garden. They will open their new premises at 7 Mercer Walk in January. In *The Hound of the Baskervilles* Holmes obtained his map of Dartmoor from Stanfords. If you're interested in a bit of time travel, they still sell reprints of vintage maps.

Andrew Gulli, proprietor of *The Strand Magazine*, has been in touch to say: "Our 2019 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is full color and printed on thick glossy card stock and features artwork by Jeffrey McKeever and Phil Cornell as well as Sherlockian trivia and much, much more. <https://strandmag.com/product/sherlock-holmes-calendar-2019/>. Also, here's a link to our online shop which carries hundreds of Sherlockian gifts that were manufactured by the Strand." <https://strandmag.com/product-category/sherlocks-shop/221b-baker-street-collection/>

Steve Mason provides news on behalf of **The Beacon Society**, which encourages young people to discover Sherlock Holmes: "We know many of you are making plans, and checking them twice (good advice for me sometimes), to attend the 2019 BSI Weekend in New York. It's a great time for us to catch up with old friends. We will be holding our Beacon Society Annual General Meeting at 9:30 AM on January 12th, 2019, in the York Suite in the Roosevelt Hotel, 45 E. 45th Street, New York City. All are welcome to attend, and we hope to see you there. The Headlight, Denny Dobry, will have new announcements, including changes in the Board, a few minor procedural changes, and ways for us to honor a few special Sherlockian friends." For more information on the activities of the society, go to: www.beaconsociety.com

Many long-time members of the SHSL will remember **Derek Hinrich** with great affection. His nephew, **Roger Emerson** has been in touch to say: "Jessie Hinrich (Derek's widow) has showed me the five hard copy volumes of *The Universal Sherlock Holmes*, a joint reference work by Ronald De Waal and George Vanderburgh dated 1994-5, which she's thinking of letting go. My brief research on the internet shows one hard copy for sale at close to £200 on Amazon - but, more to the point perhaps, the University of Minnesota says it has a

web version available as a reference for \$80 (<https://www.lib.umn.edu/scrbm/ush/intro>), plus bound hard copies for sale at \$310 including postage. Do you know anyone at the Sherlock Holmes Society who would be interested in buying Derek's copy? It looks to be in good condition, and it includes a personal letter to Sherlockian Friends from Ronald De Waal. Nothing as high as the University is asking, but would £100 or thereabouts tempt anyone?" If you're interested, you can contact Roger Emerson directly at gofet@gmail.com. **Roger Johnson** (co-editor of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*) adds: "The publisher in Canada is asking \$200.00 for the set, plus postage. That's the spiral-bound edition, like the one on Amazon - and, I presume, Derek's. Actually, there's another set on Amazon, bound in hard covers and priced at £413.42 plus £2.88 postage."

According to msn.com, the long-anticipated film *Sherlock Gnomes* was one of the "Biggest Movie Flops of 2018". Its predecessor, *Gnomeo and Juliet*, achieved \$193 million in sales. However, *Sherlock Gnomes*, with a reported budget of \$59 million, earned only \$43 million.

A couple of weeks ago a few SHSL members were lucky enough to get tickets for the live recording of *Mrs Hudson's Radio Show*, based on Barry and Bob Cryer's popular book, *Mrs Hudson's Diaries*. The father-and-son writing team appear as various characters in the two episodes, with Patricia Hodge as Mrs. Hudson and Miriam Margolyes as her friend Mrs Brayley. Episode One: *Rare Medium* will be broadcast on Sunday 2nd December on BBC Radio 4 at 19:15, and repeated on Friday 7th December BBC Radio 4 Extra at 7:30, 17:30 and 22:00 and on Saturday 8th at 5:30. Episode Two: *Wild Geese* will be broadcast on Sunday 9th December on BBC Radio 4 at 19:15, and repeated on Friday 14th December BBC Radio 4 Extra at 7:30, 17:30 and 22:00, and Saturday 14th December at 5:30. for full details go to <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0001dkw>.

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at Toronto Public Library has announced that the upcoming Cameron Hollyer Lecture 2019 will take place on Saturday 6th April at 2:00pm. The topic is *In Sherlock's Footsteps* and the speaker will be **Martin Edwards**, who is well known within the Sherlockian and crime-writing communities. Admission is free.

As we prepare for the festive season, it's worth taking a look at an online article by Baker Street Babe **Kristina Manente**. As well as providing details of her research, in *Cooking Sherlock Holmes' Favorite Foods* Kristina includes photos illustrating how she went about preparing a canonical meal. <https://www.syfy.com/syfywire/cooking-sherlock-holmes-favorite-foods>

The Bristol Improv Theatre is offering *The Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes*, running from 11th to 18th January 2019. "No script, Sherlock! Veterans of the Edinburgh and Perth Fringe take you on a thrilling improvised romp through the underworld of Victorian Britain, packed with shady villains, red herrings and the brilliant deductions of London's great detective. Light your (imaginary) pipe as a completely spontaneous and exceedingly engrossing mystery tale unfolds before you, with rollicking plot twists and hilarious characters." <https://visitbristol.co.uk/whats-on/the-adventures-of-the-improvised-sherlock-holmes-at-the-bristol-improv-theatre-p2593703>

The Complete Paget Portfolio: Every Sherlock Holmes Illustration by Sidney Paget Reproduced Directly from The Strand Magazine, Including the Surviving Original Artwork by Nicholas Utechin, Gasogene Books, 274pp, pbk, \$46.95. The title pretty much tells you what you need to know! Its publishers have provided good, clear reproductions throughout, and 22 of the 27 known surviving original drawings accompany their *Strand* engravings. It's an added bonus to see three portraits of Holmes that remained unpublished in Paget's lifetime. If you're a fan of Paget's work, drop some heavy hints to your Significant Other, or simply treat yourself for Christmas.

A Study in Sherlock: Watson's Notebook by Raymond G Farney, Outskirts Press, 716pp, hbk, £36.95. The author provides comprehensive notes on every aspect of each case, including details such as dates, duration, locations, weather and payment received.

The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories, Part XI: Some Untold Cases (1880-1891) edited by David Marcum, MX Publishing, 440pp, pbk £17.99/hbk £28.99; and *Part XII: Some Untold Cases (1894-1902)*, 454pp, pbk £17.99/hbk £28.99. David Marcum has assembled 32 more tales by Sherlockian authors, including radio scripts by the late Jim French and Charteris & Green. Royalties from all the books in this series are donated toward the maintenance of Undershaw, which is now the home of Stepping Stones School.

The Gestalt Shift in Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes Stories, by Michael J Crowe, 240 pp, (Palgrave Macmillan: New York and London), 240 pp., \$85.00. I have not yet seen a copy of this book, but according to the publicity blurb: "Professor Crowe (Univ. of Notre Dame) presents the thesis that the great majority of Doyle's sixty Holmes stories display a structure that has the form of a Gestalt shift, that at one point in the story Holmes reveals a structure (previously invisible) that solves the case. Crowe bases his analysis on the idea of Gestalt shift as presented in Thomas Kuhn's famous *Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (1962), which book has now sold over 1.4 million copies and is widely recognized as the most important book on the nature of change in scientific thought published in the last seventy years. Bradley Schaefer states that Crowe's book 'provides a structure for most of the plots, and it explains why the author [Doyle] was able to write so much better than almost all other imitators. It also provides a structure for understanding many of the better books and movies in the mystery genre.'" I've discovered that Amazon offers a 'Look Inside' feature for this book, so you can get a taste of what it offers.

A Study in Sherbet: A Sherlock Holmes Parody by Stephen Marsh (AG Books) is a mad joke-filled comedy, available on Amazon.co.uk as a 37-page Kindle edition, price £1.99. Why is there a sudden shortage of sugar in England, and what does Professor Moriarty have to do with it?

Obituaries

We were very sorry to learn of the death on the 29th August of Vice-Admiral **Sir Barry Wilson**, who in 2016 married Georgina, the widow of Arthur Conan Doyle's nephew Brigadier John Doyle. Our thoughts are with Lady Wilson and her step-children, Catherine Beggs and Richard Doyle.

The versatile actor **George A. Cooper** died on 16 November, age 93. He is probably best remembered for his recurring roles in *Grange Hill* and *Coronation Street*, but he also appeared in the 1968 BBC versions of *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Greek Interpreter* as Inspector Gregson.

Periodicals Received:

The Baker Street Journal, Autumn 2018 (**The Baker Street Journal**, P.O. Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077-1934, USA; email@bakerstreetjournal.com)

The Beacon Society Quarterly Newsletter, Vol. 2, No.3, November 2018 (**The Beacon Society**, Denny Dobry, "Headlight"; denobry@ptd.net, www.beaconsociety.com)

The Bilge Pump – The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star, November 2018 (Steve Mason; mason.steve@epa.gov)

Bootmakers News for 2018, (**The Bootmakers of Toronto**, Mike Ranieri; mrnanieri@rogers.com)

Deutschen Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft, November 2018; newsletter@sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de

The Illustrious Clients News, November 2018 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, Indiana 46077, USA; IllustClients@gmail.com)

Ineffable Twaddle, November & December 2018 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen; terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)

Mayday Mayday, November 2018 (**The Crew of the SS May Day**, Belfast, Oscar Ross; oscarross@hotmail.com)

Plugs and Dottles, October/November/December 2018 (**The Nashville Scholars**, Jim Hawkins and Dean Richardson; seniorhawk@gmail.com)

Report from the Unscrupulous Rascals, November 2018 (The Sherlock Holmes Society of Southern Australia, Mark Chelley; mchelley@gmail.com)

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press, October 2018 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; blau7103@comcast.net)

The Whaling News, November 2018 (**The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn, St. Charles, MO**; J Andrew Basford; pcairnes26@outlook.com)

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