

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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Congratulations are in order for **Tim Johnson**, who has now been curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota for 20 years. In the December 2018 issue of the *Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections* newsletter, Tim reported on the details of moving the late **Allen Mackler's** 221B Baker Street Sitting Room to its new location in the Elmer L. Andersen Library.

And more congratulations for the **Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem**, who celebrated their 40th anniversary on 19th February.

Last month we reported that *Radio Times* was running an online poll to identify the top ten favourite Sherlock Holmes depictions on screen. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Benedict Cumberbatch came in at number one, with Jeremy Brett hot on his heels. Much to our delight, Douglas Wilmer and Vasily Livanov also made the top ten, thanks to readers who chose to ignore *Radio Times'* original suggestions and submitted their own write-in votes. You can view the results at: <https://www.radiotimes.com/news/2019-01-29/which-sherlock-got-your-vote/>

As for choosing one's own favourite Holmes, **Paul Thomas Miller** (*The Shingle of Southsea*) endorses the philosophy that 'All Holmes is Good Holmes,' and consequently founded *Doyle's Rotary Coffin*, "A society formed for the sole purpose of whole-heartedly and contrarily enjoying stupid Holmesiana regardless of how canonical others consider it to be." You can learn more (and even print off your own membership card) here: <https://sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin/what>

Moving on from his coffin, *where in Edinburgh is Arthur Conan Doyle's birthplace?* Provide me with the answer before the vernal equinox (by email or post, shown above), and you will be entered into a **competition** to win either a bow tie or a scarf in the **Sherlock Holmes Tartan**. **Tania Henzell**, who designed and produced the tartan, has kindly donated the prizes. Some members of the Society met her last year at Undershaw, and she looks forward to seeing more of us at future events. You can learn more about the tartan at <https://www.sherlockholmestartan.com/>

With the approach of Spring, a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of Cricket. On Sunday 23 June 2019, the Society's **Annual Cricket Match** with **The Gold Bats** of the P.G. Wodehouse Society will be held at the very picturesque ground at West Wycombe, starting at 11:30. You will find details on the Society's website, and our team *always* welcomes players! <http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/might-i-trouble-you-for-a-match-cricket-vs-the-gold-bats/>

While we're on the subject of sport, this spring's Six Nations Rugby Tournament has a number of canonical references, spotted by **Elaine McCafferty**: "The Wales rugby squad includes **Jonah Holmes** and **Ross Moriarty**; the Irish squad includes **Jack Conan**; the Scottish squad at the moment does not include the following, as he had a hand fracture, **Hamish**

Watson (which does answer a question); the French squad includes **Jefferson Poirot**, combining US avengers with Belgian rivals. The English squad does not really help, but then, Holmes did not have many cases in Polynesia."

After more than a year of extensive roadworks, Baker Street reopened to two-way traffic on Sunday 24th February, "as it was in Holmes's day," notes **Catherine Cooke**.

Catherine also spotted news of a companion for the Giant Rat of Sumatra; a giant bee discovered in Indonesia. **Megachile pluto**, or Wallace's giant bee, is one of the rarest insects in the world. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-47311186>

Peter Blau has provided a link to a 42-minute video from journalist **Martin Hesp** who accompanied the SHSL to Switzerland in 2012 <https://player.fm/series/adventures-in-rural-journalism/switzerland-the-sherlock-holmes-society-visit-and-martin-returns-to-vitznau>

If you're thinking of travelling to Switzerland in the near future, **Vincent Delay's** news will be of interest: "Conan Doyle's portrait by **Sidney Paget** is now on display at the **Hermitage Museum in Lausanne**, during the exhibition which runs from February 1st to June 2nd, 2019: https://www.fondation-hermitage.ch/expositions/actuelle/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=278&cHash=657be210e790bf2ab16c9ea353d45cea#.XFRjUOSWYAg It is not catalogued with the exhibition proper, as its display was decided on a kind of impulse between me and people I know at the Hermitage. It is hung in a 19th century 'salon', part of a permanent display, where visitors can relax in armchairs. Of course, it will go back to the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Lucens as soon as the exhibition on Victorian English paintings at the Hermitage ends. It is only the second time that this portrait has been exhibited outside its own museum (the first was the Sherlock Holmes exhibition at the Museum of London in 2014-2015)."

Starting on 29th April and running through to the middle of June, **Devil's Drum Productions** will present a new play, *Life After Sherlock*, 'The extended memoirs of Dr. Watson,' by Mike Grogan. For a full list of their tour dates and venues go to <https://www.devilsdrumproductions.co.uk/life-after-sherlock/>

Last month we noted the nicely produced (and very affordable) facsimile of *Beeton's Christmas Annual*, published by **Life is Amazing** (<https://www.lifeisamazing.co.uk/product/beetons-christmas-annual-1887-facsimile-edition-a-study-in-scarlet-by-a-conan-doyle>). In a recent attempt to post a review on Amazon, it was disconcerting to discover that they lump together *all* reviews for *any* version of *A Study in Scarlet*, regardless of publisher or special features. Both Roger Johnson and I attempted to point out this anomaly in our submitted reviews, but neither has appeared on Amazon. Life is Amazing has also made several attempts to get this problem recognized by Amazon, but has received no response or acknowledgment.

Bryan Talbot, creator of Holmes-influenced anthropomorphic graphic novels, has been busy: "I'm currently posting annotations on my *Grandville* series, free to view, on my website below. These include pointing out all the references to Holmes." <http://www.bryan-talbot.com/>

During the birthday festivities in New York, **Nicholas Meyer** announced the discovery of another missing manuscript, *The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols*, which will be published later this year. Rather happily, it coincides with the 45th anniversary of *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*.

Des MacHale, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at University College Cork, and his co-author, Yvonne Cohen who is a mathematics and history graduate of the same university, sound like the perfect pair to have written *New Light on George Boole*, published by Cork University Press (492pp HB, €19.91). Des shares the following: "One of its chapters is devoted to the claim that Boole was the inspiration for Professor James Moriarty. We have thoroughly researched this claim (not ours originally) and have also given the evidence for other claimants." <https://www.corkuniversitypress.com/New-Light-on-George-Boole-p/9781782052906.htm>

Canon Law: Lawyers, Law, and the Sherlockian Canon, edited by **William A. Walsh and Donny Zaldin** (Baker Street Irregulars 2018; 216 pp HB, \$39.95). The second title in the Professions Series, this offers a wide-ranging look at many of the legal aspects of the world of Sherlock Holmes, including a transcript of what might have happened if he were to have been tried for some of his infringements of the law. <https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/>

Deadly Harpoon, edited by **Glen Miranker** (Baker Street Irregulars 2018; 184 pp HB, \$39.95). A continuation of the BSI **Manuscript Series**, this is a facsimile of the manuscript of "Black Peter", with an annotated transcript, plus commentary on the manuscript, the story, and the social history of the time. www.bakerstreetirregulars.com

Thomas Wheeler has been in touch with news of his latest project: "*The Mapped London of Sherlock Holmes* (Amazon, \$5.99/£4.04 Kindle, \$13.95/£9.80 paperback) is the culmination of a thirty-year effort to identify all of the places in London associated with the great detective and allow readers to electronically "visit" these places. The primary power of the book is its interactive map. You can preview the map on <http://www.sherlockslondon.com>. It shows the location of over 400 Sherlockian London sites plus several 'In Sherlock and Watson's footsteps' walking tours. A mouse-click on one of the map's marked sites will open an illustrated text box with an explanation of what happened there, and in which of the sixty adventures it was mentioned. The map also allows the reader to open street-level and aerial photographs of that place in modern London. Enjoy; the game is afoot."

Obituaries

Jan Chris, Chief Steward of the **Sydney Passengers**, died on 22nd January. The Passengers' Captain **Bill Barnes** says, "Jan was one of our founding members in 1985 and you could count the meetings she had missed since then on the fingers of one hand. Her presence will be missed."

Carol Channing died on 15th January, aged 97. She began her stage career at the age of 19 in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, and in 1964 achieved international fame as Dolly Levi in *Hello, Dolly!* Throughout her long and active career, which included film and television appearances, she received numerous nominations and awards, including the Tony, the Oscar and the

Golden Globe. However, one of her achievements tends to get overlooked. In 1954 she originated the role of Mehitabel the cat (with Eddie Bracken as Archy the cockroach) in the Broadway musical *Archy & Mehitabel*, based on the writings of early BSI **Don Marquis**. She reprised the role in the 1970 animated film, *Shinbone Alley*, adapted by Mel Brooks and Joe Darion.

Albert Finney died on 8th February, aged 82. He began his career with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and soon made his mark in films starting with *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*, followed shortly by the title role of *Tom Jones*. Although he never played Sherlock Holmes, he was Poirot in *Murder on the Orient Express*, and had an uncredited part in *Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother*, as the bemused gent in the audience of Gambetti's atrocious opera. His many awards include two BAFTAs and three Golden Globes. In 2001 he received the BAFTA Fellowship. He declined a knighthood in 2000.

Periodicals Received:

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

The Beacon Society Quarterly Newsletter, Vol. 3, No.1, February 2019 (**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, February 2019 (Steve Mason; mason.steve@epa.gov)

Canadian Holmes, Winter 2018/2019 (**The Journal of the Bootmakers of Toronto**, Mark and JoAnn Alberstat, 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3A 2M2, Canada; markalberstat@gmail.com)

The Cri Bar Crier, Vol. 24 No. 3, February 2019 (**Criterion Bar Association of Chicago**; franklin.saksena@gmail.com)

Mayday Mayday, February 2019 (**The Crew of the SS May Day**, Belfast, Oscar Ross; oscarross@hotmail.com)

Ineffable Twaddle, February & March 2019 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen; terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)

The Moor, February 2019 (**The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden**, Anders Wiggstrom; bhc@telia.com)

The Petrel Flyer, October/November/December 2018 (**The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia**, Fran Martin; franziskah@shaw.ca)

Report from the Unscrupulous Rascals, February 2019 (The Sherlock Holmes Society of Southern Australia, Mark Chellew; mchellew@gmail.com)

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press, January 2019 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; blau7103@comcast.net)

The Tankerville Times, Winter 2019, (**The Tankerville Club**, Cincinnati, Ohio; Dan Andriacco; tankervilleclub@gmail.com)

The Whaling News, January 2019 (**The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn**, St. Charles, MO; J Andrew Basford; pcairnes26@outlook.com)

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