

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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Several anniversaries have been brought to our attention:

Geraldine Beare reminds us that the 27th of March was the 15th anniversary of Richard Lancelyn Green's untimely death. Newer members might be unaware that Richard's legacy to all Sherlockians is the remarkable collection and exhibition based at Portsmouth. If you would like to learn more about Richard and why he is so sorely missed by many, I can recommend the book, *To Keep the Memory Green*, available from the Society's website at [://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/shop/publications/](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/shop/publications/).

Perhaps inspired by Jack Benny, **The Sound of the Baskervilles**, based in the state of Washington, marked their 39th birthday on the 31st of March. They will celebrate with an anniversary tea on April 6th.

And a 40th anniversary is coming up. As its website records, "**The Bimetallic Question** was founded in May 1979 by two Montreal Sherlockians, David Dowse and Wilfrid de Freitas. They were each looking for others with whom they could share their interest in Holmes, his biographer Watson, their scribe Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and, generally, all things concerning Victorian England."

Last month we asked, "Where in Edinburgh is Conan Doyle's birthplace?" We had quite a number of responses seeking to win an item made from the **Sherlock Holmes Tartan**. I'm pleased to announce that the winners drawn from the deerstalker are **Mark Doyle** and **Sébastien Le Page**. Their prizes, kindly provided by the designer **Tania Henzell**, should reach them shortly. www.sherlockholmestartan.com.

Several years ago, **Paul Nicholls**, a retired Police Dog handler, launched the **K9 Memorial Fund** in order to recognise the important and often dangerous work that the dogs carry out across the country to keep people safe. His efforts were successful, and our Honorary Member **John Doubleday** was commissioned to create the Police Dog memorial. His sculpture, which displays the special bond between a handler and his dogs, will be unveiled on Friday 12th April by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, at Oaklands Park, outside Chelmsford Museum in Essex. You can learn more about the project here <https://www.k9memorialuk.co.uk/> and also view the maquette of the sculpture.

Basil Rathbone's former home at Henley-on-Thames was destroyed by fire on 19th March. Treetops, located on Gillotts Lane, was valued at £5 million and local police believe that the fire was started deliberately. Fortunately, the building was uninhabited at the time.

Malice Domestic has announced this year's Agatha Awards nominees, which includes Margalit Fox's *Conan Doyle for the Defence* (Best Non-fiction). The winners will be announced at the Malice event in Bethesda, MD on 4th May.

Mattias Boström says: "I have started a Sherlockian podcast called *Talk About Sherlock*. There is a new episode on the 22nd of every month. Just me talking for 20-25 minutes on a certain subject. The first episode was about the film *Holmes & Watson*, the second was about the Sherlockian importance of *Micah Clarke*, and the third was about Swedish censorship of Sherlock Holmes silent movies. Next episode, on April 22, will have a theatre theme and will be quite exciting, I think. The podcast can be found where you normally listen to podcasts, e.g. iTunes Podcaster, Spotify, Castbox. Or at its website talkaboutsherlock.libsyn.com."

Otto Penzler, proprietor of The Mysterious Bookshop in New York, has begun to sell his considerable collection through Heritage Auctions. Part One of *The Otto Penzler Collection of Mystery Fiction* was auctioned on 6th March. There are many unique and interesting items and the website includes a short video showing Otto's magnificent library. www.tinyurl.com/y26mknss.

Registration is now open for the *Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences* conference on 8-11 August. This is the ever-popular triennial conference sponsored by the **Norwegian Explorers**, the **University of Minnesota**, and the **Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections**. For more information go to www.norwegianexplorers.org.

The Baker Street Irregulars Press and the **BSI Trust** will hold a Book Fair on 27th April at the Chatham-Summit Quaker Friends Meeting House in Chatham, New Jersey from noon to 4:00 pm. They are offering books from the various BSI Press series, plus used books and other items of Sherlockiana that have been donated to the Trust. For a list of items, email a request to **Denny Dobry** at dendobry@ptd.net. Proceeds from the sale will be used for the maintenance of the BSI Archives held at the Lilly Library at the University of Indiana.

Sherlock Holmes 3 (as the third Robert Downey Jr. film is known) has an official release date of Dec. 25, 2020, according to Warner Bros. However, another report (see details on www.cbr.com/report-sherlock-holmes-3-san-francisco/) indicates a release date of December 2021, with the film set in the Old West of San Francisco.

Harry Price was famously at odds with Conan Doyle over his beliefs in seances and mediums. **The Harry Price Library of Magical Literature**, which was donated to the University of London in 1936, now forms the basis of a new exhibition at the Senate House Library. *Staging Magic: The story behind the illusion* is a celebration of 400 years of the history of magic, including early accounts of tricks and how secrets were revealed. The free exhibition runs until 15th June. <https://london.ac.uk/senate-house-librarys-latest-exhibition-will-put-a-spell-you>

Matt Wingett, who recently made available a lovely facsimile of *Beeton's*, is an accomplished author in his own right. Available now is *Portsmouth: A Literary and Pictorial Tour* (2018; 93 pp, £12.50). This is a meticulously researched and attractively illustrated history of the city's literary associations, including, obviously, Arthur Conan Doyle. Also of interest is *Conan Doyle and the Mysterious World of Light 1887-1920* (2016; 320 pp., £12.99), in which he reprints and comments upon articles by and about Conan Doyle that appeared in *Light* and other magazines and newspapers, with a detailed look at the development of Conan Doyle's approach to Spiritualism and religion. Matt has also produced an attractive poster of the Beeton's cover, which can be ordered in three different sizes. For more information go to www.lifeisamazing.co.uk/.

The late **John Bennett Shaw** was every Sherlockian's big brother, and **Jim Hawkins** has done a splendid job of compiling a fascinating website dedicated to John. Tributes and stories from those who knew him, along with many photos and illustrations, capture the generosity and enormous character of the man to whom so many owe so much. www.johnbennettshaw.com.

The Baker Street Journal 2018 Christmas Annual – The Exhibitionists: Sherlock Holmes in London 1951 and New York 1952 by Mattias Bostrom and Nicholas Utechin (The Baker Street Irregulars). This booklet tells the fascinating story of how the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition for the 1951 Festival of Britain came to be assembled, and its further adventures when it journeyed to the United States. The Christmas Annuals are only available to BSJ subscribers, so you might want to consider taking out a subscription. The 2019 Annual will be a tribute to the late **William S. Baring-Gould** and *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*. For more information or to subscribe go to: www.bakerstreetirregulars.com

Sherlock's World by Ann K. McClellan (University of Iowa Press, 286 pp, PBK \$40.00) The author examines the hit series and the fan fiction it inspires. Using *Sherlock* to trace the changing face of fan fiction studies, the book explores how far fans are willing to go to change the Sherlockian canon while still reinforcing its power and status as the source text. McClellan investigates the boundaries between canon, genre, character, and reality. This could be a useful resource for those who study or write fan fiction: www.uiowa.edu/books/9781609386160/sherlock%E2%80%99s-world.

Phil Cornell provides information on a new book, *Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Was Not*, compiled & edited by fellow Sydney Passenger, Chris Sequeira. A selection of pastiches by many well-known Sherlockians pairs Holmes with other literary and historical Doctors (instead of Watson). The publisher is IFWG Publishing Australia, and the scheduled date of publication is 14 June 2019. Pre-order price from Amazon.uk is £12.99. There's more detail here: <https://ifwgpublishing.com/>.

Obituaries

From Vincent Delay: "We have learned that, sadly, **François-Michel Zavez** passed away on Monday, March 25th, 2019. He was a truly enthusiastic Holmesian, for a very long time, and has attended the Sherlock Holmes Society of London annual dinner. François-Michel was a veterinary doctor and, besides, interested in everything that is interesting (as many of us Holmesians are). His mother is also a devoted Holmesian herself and went with him at numerous events. To her and his father go our thoughts. François-Michel was 48 years old."

Marjorie Weinman Sharmat died on 12th March age 90. She was the author of over 130 books for children, but was best known for her **Nate the Great** series, the first of which appeared in 1972. Nate is a boy detective who wears a deerstalker hat, loves pancakes and always catches his culprit, usually with the help of his dog, Sludge. (The hat was added by the illustrator Marc Simont, who drew the first 20 "Nate" books.)

Peter Tork died on 21st February 2019, age 77. Undoubtedly best known as a member of the made-for-tv group The Monkees, Peter was actually a highly accomplished musician. As a teenager he earned his chops in the clubs and coffee houses of New York (garnering the respect of many notable professionals of the time, including Pete Seeger) before heading out to Los Angeles. He had a long-standing interest in eastern philosophies as well as Sherlock Holmes. A perceptive and caring individual, Peter helped me to reconstruct and add to my Sherlockian book collection when I moved to Los Angeles in 1979. He was especially complimentary of Jeremy Brett's portrayal of Holmes, stating "Brett is the greatest ever as far as I'm concerned. He's the only actor who approached Sherlock Holmes' true insanity. He brings a brand of his own insanity to the part, which to me makes all kinds of sense."

From Peter Blau: "**William Morgan Sheppard** died on January 6th, age 86 He began his acting career with the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1958, performed on screen and television, and voiced characters in video games. He played Jim Craig in the Royal Shakespeare Company's tour of Gillette's *Sherlock Holmes* in Washington and New York in 1975, and appeared in two episodes of the Geoffrey Whitehead television series in 1979 (as the Man in the Morgue in *The Case of Harry Crocker* and as Mischkin in *Four Minus Four Is One*)."

Canadian-born actor **Shane Rimmer**, best known as the voice of Scott Tracy in *Thunderbirds*, died on the 29th March age 89. His many roles in a long and prolific career included Lysander Stark in the entertaining 1987 TV movie *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, and an impressive Jefferson Hope in Bert Coules' 1989 BBC Radio dramatisation of *A Study in Scarlet*.

Periodicals Received:

The Hansom Times, March 2019 (The official newsletter of **The Real Sherlock Holmes Walking Tour of Edinburgh**, enquiries@realsherlockholmes.com)

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

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

Sherlockiana, Nr. 1 2019 (**Sherlock Holmes Klubben I Danmark**; Sven Ranild, editor; redaktion@sherlockholmesklubben.dk)

The Torr, Spring 2019 (**The Poor Folk Upon the Moors**, Stephan Arthur; editor.poorfolk@gmail.com)

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

Jean Upton