

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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Barbara Roisman Cooper has provided news of a major new project - *Searching for Sherlock: The Game's Afoot*. The UCLA Film & Television Archive and the Baker Street Irregulars are mounting a world-wide search for missing Sherlock Holmes films. More than 200 films are missing or lost, or are in need of restoration or preservation. Such lost films include the 1914 British production of *A Study in Scarlet*; most of the Danish series, beginning in 1908, produced by Nordisk films; the 1913 Holmes parody directed by Alice Guy Blaché and many more. Archives and organisations around the world are being contacted for assistance with the search. Actor Robert Downey, Jr. is the Honorary Project Chair. If you require further information about the project or know where the Archive might direct an enquiry (or if you think you know where a film might be found) please contact the *Searching for Sherlock: The Game's Afoot* project coordinator, Barbara Roisman Cooper at peninc1@aol.com

Photos of our Society's weekend festival in May, *A Capital Return*, are now posted on our website's Gallery. Do also take the time to have a look at past activities and the fascinating material dating back to the Society's inception in the 1950s.

Brush up your DIY skills. Here's your chance to wake up in Irene Adler's bedroom (or Mrs. Hudson's stairwell). **Arwel Wyn Jones**, the production designer for the BBC's *Sherlock* television series, has provided information in *The Hollywood Reporter* on sources for the now-iconic wallpapers he used in dressing the sets. www.tinyurl.com/y5q7s7am

The release of the new **Sherlock Holmes 50p coin** triggered a feeding-frenzy amongst collectors, accompanied by much wailing and gnashing of teeth over the cost to procure one of the coins. However, if you fancy a trip to Wales, you can now get one as part of the Royal Mint's *Striking Your Own Coin* experience. From June 28th, for a limited time, visitors arriving to take a tour of the Royal Mint can add on the cost of £6.90 to strike their own Sherlock Holmes 50p coin. Tours are limited to one a day and customers can strike one coin per person. Ring the Royal Mint on 0333 241 2223 for more information or go to www.royalmint.com/the-royal-mint-experience/strike-your-own-coin/

Randall Stock brings information of a new initiative from the **Baker Street Irregulars**. "Free for *all* Sherlockians: get notified by email when we [schedule an event](#), publish a [new book](#) or an [issue of the Baker Street Journal](#), or have other news. We expect to send about 12 messages per year, so you won't be getting a lot of email but you will be kept updated on BSI news." This service is free and available to anyone (not just invested BSIs). You can sign up at <https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email/>

The San Diego Comic-Con, to be held 18-21 July, will include the Great SherlockDCC Scavenger Hunt, sponsored by the

Baker Street Babes. For more information and to book tickets go to www.sherlockedccparty.tumblr.com

If you are (or have been) in the teaching profession, **Rob Nunn** has started a new professional Sherlockian society, the Priory Teacher's Association. Contact him at robertanunn@gmail.com or at 13 West Pickett's Crossing, Edwardsville, IL 62025.

News is emerging regarding the new film based on the **Enola Holmes Mysteries** by Nancy Springer. Joining Millie Bobby Brown (Enola Holmes) is Henry Cavill (*Superman*) who has been cast to play Sherlock Holmes. Helena Bonham Carter has reportedly been cast to play their mother. The film is intended for release in 2020.

The Park Theatre in London is offering *Whodunnit (Unrehearsed)*, a murder mystery spoof, from 15th to 27th July. Including narration by Ian McKellen, Judi Dench and Miriam Margolyes, a different celebrity is drafted in each night to take the part (unrehearsed) of The Inspector. The hapless individual will be fed his or her lines through an earpiece. Some of those already in the line-up are Gillian Anderson, Damian Lewis and Joanna Lumley, and more guests will be announced. All guests are donating their time in this fundraising effort to keep the Park Theatre accessible to all. For more information and to book a ticket go to www.parktheatre.co.uk/whats-on/whodunnit-unrehearsed?utm_source=WOS&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=WhoWOSeshot

Thomas Moore's two-person farce, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, is touring throughout the UK. Its next performance will be at the Ventnor Fringe on the Isle of Wight, 24-27 July. For tickets and a full list of dates and venues go to www.thehoundofthebaskervilles.co.uk

And *The Hound of the Baskervilles* gets more walkies in Douglas Maxwell's new 'gothic classic' dramatisation, which will be at the Northern Stage in Newcastle upon Tyne, 11 - 23 September. There's more information at www.northernstage.co.uk

Many Sherlockians love nothing more than a good scholarly wrangle. Amongst countless topics, the question of where Sherlock Holmes went to college has been debated for decades, with Oxford and Cambridge being the obvious (but not the only) candidates. In 2011, during the Society's visit to Oxford, Nicholas Utechin and Guy Marriot (alumni respectively of Oxford and Cambridge) presented their arguments in an entertaining and informative debate. Nick discusses the evidence from all sources in a new 40-page booklet, *The Controversy*, produced in a limited edition of 100 copies, available at £10.00. For more details contact Nick at highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com.

Hackney Books, who are now in their second year of existence, release three stories or books each week that are free to download (“All Free All The Time”). Their latest offering is *The Beryl Coronet*, which you can find here: www.hackneybooks.co.uk

70 Years by Gas Lamp: The Illustrious Clients’ Sixth Casebook, edited by Mary Ann Bradley, Louise Haskett, and Melanie Hoffman (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2018; 257 pp., \$21.95). Another quality publication from Wessex Press, this delightful production celebrates the 70th anniversary of the society’s first published casebook:

www.wessexpress.com/html/70years.html

The Cambridge Companion to Sherlock Holmes edited by Janice M. Allan and Christopher Pittard (Cambridge University Press, 2019; 261pp, £14.99 PB / £49.99 HB). According to the publisher’s blurb: “This Companion explores Holmes’ popularity and his complex relationship to the late-Victorian and modernist periods; on one hand bearing the imprint of a range of Victorian anxieties and preoccupations, while on the other shaping popular conceptions of criminality, deviance, and the powers of the detective. This collection explores these questions in three parts. ‘Contexts’ explores late-Victorian culture, from the emergence of detective fiction to ideas of evolution, gender, and Englishness. ‘Case Studies’ reads selected Holmes adventures in the context of empire, visual culture, and the gothic. Finally, ‘Holmesian Afterlives’ investigates the relationship between Holmes and literary theory, film and theatre adaptations, new Holmesian novels, and the fandom that now surrounds him.” www.cambridge.org

Elementary Art: 100 Years of Sherlock Holmes by William S Major (Hawthorne: Silver Screen Collectibles, 2017; 167 pp., \$24.99 PB) This nicely produced offering provides full-colour reproductions of photographs, posters, lobby cards, and programmes, in English and other languages, for a wide range of Sherlock Holmes films, plus Sherlockian artwork used in advertising for other films. The reproduction quality is excellent and it’s also worth taking a look at the publisher’s website. <http://www.silverscreencollectibles.com/>

The Adventures of Maud West, Lady Detective by Susannah Stapleton (Picador, 2019; 320pp, £20.00 HB). The author is an historical researcher, and her narrative of how she went about gathering information on her subject is a masterclass in the art of research. Chapters are interspersed with self-publicising articles written by Maud West herself, which, as the author indicates, should be taken with the proverbial grain of salt. Rather satisfyingly, Susannah Stapleton had the opportunity to meet her subject’s grandson to present him with her research and tie up a few loose ends. Highly entertaining.

Obituaries

H Vosper Arthur, a proud Devonian and a member of the Society for nearly 40 years, died on 28th June, just three days after celebrating his 101st birthday lunch with family and friends at his favourite pub, the Nobody Inn. Many of us first encountered him as “Jefferson Hope’s accomplice” on the 1988 Swiss trip. His attire, full army uniform and a monocle, indicated a man of truly individual character (the monocle was an everyday accessory). Vosper was also generous, enthusiastic and sociable. He joined The Poor Folk Upon the Moors early on, and became their first Treasurer. From 2006 until his death he was their notably active President. Our thoughts are with his wife Cherry and his son Stephan.

From Peter Blau: Martin Fido died on 2nd April. He was a professor, teaching writing at Boston University, and an author who wrote about true crime in *Murder Guide to London* (1986) and went on to become an expert in the crimes and world of Jack the Ripper. He also wrote *The World of Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective and His Era*, which was updated for a second edition as *Sherlock: The Facts and Fiction Behind the World’s Greatest Detective*. (The British edition is called *The World of Sherlock Holmes: The Facts and Fiction Behind the World’s Greatest Detective*.)

Paul Darrow died on 3rd June, age 78. Best known for his role as Kerr Avon in *Blake’s 7*, he had a long and varied career. Roger Johnson notes: “Paul Darrow played Conan Doyle, with an upper-class English accent, in *Science Fiction: Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Missing Link*. It was introduced by Tom Baker and Reece Dinsdale was Sherlock Holmes. It is accessible at www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJqeY0MBq0Y. By sad coincidence, the episode of *The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes* in which he appeared is *A Message From the Deep Sea*, which was shown recently on Talking Pictures TV. John Neville plays Dr Thorndyke.” Big Finish Productions, with whom Paul Darrow was associated since 2004, have provided an affectionate tribute at www.bigfinish.com/news/v/paul-darrow-1941-2019

Stephen Thorne died on 26th May, age 84. Like Paul Darrow he’ll be best remembered for his work on a science-fiction series, in his case *Doctor Who*, but he also played Lestrade in the BBC Radio 4 series with Clive Merrison, and last year he recorded *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* as an audiobook for Dreamscape Media.

William Simons died on 21 June, age 78. According to Oscar Ross: “He is best known for his role of PC Alf Ventress in the ITV police series *Heartbeat* (I am a BIG fan!) but he also had a long career in the acting profession and enjoyed many other TV roles. Series 15 Episode 4 of *Heartbeat* was called ‘Mastermind’, with the legendary actor George Cole making a guest appearance as ‘The Prof’, the inept leader of an incompetent gang of elderly crooks. It includes a scene where one of the local police constables makes a quip about Professor Moriarty and ‘The Prof’ pretends to have never heard of him. There was a follow-up to this, in Series 18, Episode 2 called ‘England Expects’ (but unfortunately no SH references in that).”

Periodicals Received:

The Bilge Pump – The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star, June 2019 (Steve Mason; mason.steve@epa.gov)

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

Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge, June 2019 (The Sherlock Holmes Society of India; shseditors@yahoo.in, shseditors@gmail.com)

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

Jean Upton