



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

Jean Upton, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

e-mail: district.messenger@yahoo.com

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'Baker Street was like an oven...' states Watson in the opening of *The Cardboard Box*, where he 'yearned for the glades of the New Forest or the shingle of Southsea.'

If the height of summer is causing you to echo Watson's sentiments, a cooling visit to the New Forest would enable you to visit Arthur Conan Doyle's grave at All Saints Church, Minstead.

Meanwhile, *The Shingle of Southsea* (Paul Thomas Miller), the perpetrator of **Doyle's Rotary Coffin**, has embarked on a new quest: "Even in good Holmes adaptations there can be some cheesy dialogue. In the straight-to-DVD Holmes adaptations it can be hard to escape the bad lines. Either way, there's something especially enjoyable about poorly written lines. Whether it's an awkward simile, a clumsy piece of exposition or an unsubtle hint, they bring a special joy. It is the DRC's goal to collate [a list](#) of as many of these poor lines as possible. And then enjoy them." For more details go to: <https://sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin/home/articles/cheesiest-holmes-lines>

The Cottingley Fairies appear to have cousins near York. **The Northwood Trail**, 'England's Fairy Sanctuary,' is a woodland attraction within 100 acres of forest land. It includes a museum, playground, café, and an imaginative fairy trail. It looks to be an entertaining day out for any age:

<https://www.northwoodtrail.co.uk/>

Mattias Boström provides a psychological means of keeping cool with episode 07 of his podcast, in which he muses on Christmas Cards: "From the late 1970s to the early 1990s a series of anonymous Christmas greetings were being sent to Sherlockians all over the world. Mattias Boström (author of the award-winning nonfiction book "From Holmes to Sherlock") tells the story about them – and about the person who sent them." <https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/id/10609145>

Filming has started on the **Enola Holmes** film, set to be released in 2020. On 22nd July, while walking along Brick Lane, we happened to turn into Fournier Street (near Spitalfields Market), only to discover that it had been transformed into a slightly seedy Victorian street in the East End of London. Crew members informed us that location filming would begin the following day. Spare a thought for the actors who will be in full Victorian dress during this warm weather!

Marcus Geisser has provided a report on the latest adventure organized by **The Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland**. **Dark Deeds in the Canon**, which took place 23rd to 26th May. The event included the first ever Sherlockian excursion to the Splügen Pass, where Baron Gruner famously murdered his wife. This is the link to the report by Richard Olken: <http://www.221b.ch/PDF/Dark%20Deeds%20in%20the%20Canon%20-%20A%20Tale%20of%20Two%20Villages.pdf>

If you're on your holidays in the United States, why not take the opportunity to visit the former home of actor **William Gillette**? Gillette Castle and its surrounding grounds is located within the Seven Sister Hills along the Connecticut River. The Friends of Gillette Castle State Park (all volunteers) work closely with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to promote and care for the Castle and park. Events are held throughout the year, and on Saturday, 7th September, there will be a 100th Anniversary Gala celebrating the Castle's history. Even if you can't get to Connecticut, you can still participate in preserving this wonderful memorial to a great Sherlockian by becoming a Friend. For details on membership go to:

<https://www.gillettecastlefriends.org/membership>

Howard Benson has discovered a delightful short film from the BBC Archives featuring a charming interview with the Society's former president, Lord Gore-Booth. Access it at: <https://www.facebook.com/BBCArchive/videos/vb.100865096953196/1229866257173072/?type=2&theater>

Nominees for this year's **Macavity Awards** have been announced, and there are some familiar names on the list. Nominated for Best Nonfiction are *Conan Doyle for the Defense: The True Story of a Sensational British Murder, a Quest for Justice, and the World's Most Famous Detective Writer* by Margalit Fox (Random House) and *Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s* by Leslie S. Klinger (Pegasus Books). Nominated for the **Sue Feder Memorial Award for Best Historical Mystery** is *Island of the Mad* by Laurie R. King (Bantam). Congratulations and good luck to everyone. The winners will be announced at the opening ceremonies of Bouchercon in Dallas, Texas on 31st October.

Forbes Gibb, who trades as **Baskerville Books**, advises that his latest Sherlock Holmes catalogue is now available, which contains "Pastiches, parodies, homages, cameos, and impersonations of the Great Detective". You can find this and other of his catalogues at <https://www.baskervillebooks.co.uk/>

Randall Stock has provided news of two auctions held in mid-July of Conan Doyle manuscripts: "At Christie's, both ACD manuscripts sold above their high estimates. This included an unpublished chapter from *The Land of Mist* (a Professor Challenger novel) and a poem about Shakespeare. Details and photos at: <http://www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2019.htm> The other auction offered a leaf from the *Hound*, but it did not meet the reserve and went unsold. Details and photos at: <http://www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/hound-baskervilles-h31-2019.htm>

Portsmouth's '**Summer of Sherlock**' is offering a number of events running from the end of July through August: <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/whats-on/summer-of-sherlock>

On Thursday 8th August, **Lantern Light Theatre Company** will present *Miss Sherlock Holmes – A Triple Bill* at the Round Tower in Portsmouth. “Three short Sherlock Holmes stage plays - written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his contemporaries: *The Crown Diamond* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; *The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes* by William Gillette; *Christmas Eve* by S.C. Roberts. Set in contemporary Baker Street, join Lantern Light Theatre Company as we delve into the dark underworld of London's devious crime scene with Miss Sherlock Holmes and her loyal companion Dr. Jane Watson.” Tickets are free, but places are limited, so advance reservations are recommended. For details and tickets go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/miss-sherlock-holmes-a-triple-bill-tickets-65106370908>

Gillette Castle – A History by Erik Ofgang (Arcadia Publishing/The History Press, 2017; 144 pp, PB £3.98 on Amazon) I stumbled upon this book entirely by accident. It has apparently had so little publicity that you won't even find a review on Amazon. The author is a senior writer for Connecticut Magazine and has done a considerable amount of research on his local landmark. Very sensibly, this included consultation with local Sherlockians Tyke and Teddie Niver, who regularly impersonate Mr. and Mrs. Gillette for events held at the Castle. The book covers Gillette's career and how his success made it possible to purchase the 184-acre estate where he built his own version of a medieval-style castle. There are plenty of photographs, plus an epilogue that describes the discovery and restoration of Gillette's long-lost film.

More Rivals of Sherlock Holmes – Stories from the Golden Age of Gaslight Crime edited by Nick Rennison (No Exit Press, 2019; 384 pp, £9.99 PB) This is the second anthology edited by Rennison, which focuses on detective fiction from 1890 to 1914. There are 15 stories by authors including (among others) B. Fletcher Robinson, Baroness Orczy, R. Austin Freeman, E. W. Hornung and Ernest Bramah.

Upon the Chaldean Roots of the Ancient Cornish Language (With Observations on the Early Tin Trade in West Cornwall) by Sherlock Holmes (edited and annotated by Kelvin I. Jones) (Cunning Crime Books, 2019; 82pp, £4.81 PB, 99p Kindle, available through Amazon) Long-time Sherlockians will doubtless be familiar with the work of Kelvin Jones. This is a reprint of his book that was first published in 1998, which includes ‘some additional observations regarding the toxicology of the Devil's Foot.’ As one expects from Kelvin, it is well-researched and entertaining.

Sherlock Holmes' 'The Art of Detection' – Ten Monographs on the Detection of Crime by Kelvin I Jones (Cunning Crime Books, 2019; 395 pp, £12.14 PB, available through Amazon) This is a foray through ‘Ten Monographs on the Detection of Crime by the World's Most Famous Private Consulting Detective.’ The topics include Tattoos, Scene of Crime Investigation, Handwriting, Malingering and Shamming, Tracing of Footsteps, Disguise and Deception, Paper Traces, The Importance of Bloodstains, Wounds Caused by Firearms, and Poisons. Kelvin Jones contributes ‘Extensive Notes, Observations and Introductions Concerning the Great Detective,’ while Dr. Watson provides a foreword to Tattoos and an introduction to Scene of Crime Investigations.

The Sherlock Holmes Escape Book – The Adventure of the London Waterworks by Ormond Sacker (Ammonite Press, 2019; 128 pp, £9.99 PB) If you are anticipating a buttocks-

numbing journey to your holiday destination, this book will certainly help to while away the hours. It's the first in a new series of puzzle books inspired by the current trend for ‘Escape Rooms’, in which participants are locked in rooms and must solve a series of puzzles to enable their escape. Here, the book becomes the locked room and the pages become the path. The book is very nicely produced with plenty of helpful illustrations. Its clever design incorporates a ‘code wheel’ in the front cover, which is put to use throughout the escape exercise. There are puzzles, mazes, brain-teasers, riddles, references to the original Sherlock Holmes stories and mathematical problems that provide the code to guide you along the correct path – plus some red herrings. In some cases, if you get it wrong the first time, you receive a second chance to redeem yourself. If you really get stuck, there are hints provided to help you get back on track. And fret not – the solutions are given at the back of the book.

Obituaries

Freddie Jones died on 9th July at the age of 91. His prolific acting career took off in 1960 and throughout his life he appeared in a spectacularly long list of major films and television programmes, including the role of the sadistic Bytes, the sideshow proprietor, in *The Elephant Man*. His Sherlockian credentials include the role of Chester Cragwitch in the 1985 film *Young Sherlock Holmes*. He also has the distinction of appearing as two different characters in the Granada TV series with Jeremy Brett: Inspector Baynes in *Wisteria Lodge* (1988) and a pedlar in *The Last Vampyre* (1993). His son, Toby, has maintained the Holmes connection, playing Culverton Smith in *Sherlock*. Members of the Society had the opportunity to meet Freddie Jones during their visit to Granada Studios in December 1987, when *Wisteria Lodge* was being filmed. You can view photos of the excursion on the Society's website gallery.

Sad news has been shared by **Emma Smit** regarding one of our members from Holland, **Jacques (Sjaak) Zonneveld**. “After a beautiful Easter week in Sjaak's beloved London, he passed away the 7th of May. Wednesday the 15th of May was the funeral. Gone from us our dear, dear partner, cousin and friend in his 81st year of life.”

Periodicals Received

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

The Illustrious Clients News, June and August 2019 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, Indiana 46077, USA; IllustClients@gmail.com)

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

The Passengers' Log, May 2019 (**The Sydney Passengers**, Erin O'Neill, editor; erin.index@gmail.com)

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

Jean Upton