

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

No. 394 December 2019

The Compliments of the Season!

In the course of January's Birthday Activities, do remember to raise a glass to the memory of our own **Douglas Wilmer**, who would have celebrated his 100th birthday on 8th January 2020. January also marks the 20th anniversary of his investiture as "*The Lyceum Theatre*" in *The Baker Street Irregulars*.

Visitors to London for our Annual Dinner might wish to consult the interactive map created by **Thomas Bruce Wheeler** for *The Mapped London of Sherlock Holmes* (Amazon: \$5.99, \$13.99), which identifies 400+ places in London associated with Sherlock Holmes. The book also references a map created by the National Library of Scotland (NLS), which shows the buildings, streets and businesses of Sherlock's 1895 London overlaid on a modern street map. The book and maps are fascinating and valuable tools for those interested in following Holmes's footsteps.

The Beacon Society has reported a busy and productive year:

The **Jan Stauber Grant** allocation has been raised from \$600 to \$750. Applications for the 2020 Grants may be submitted until 31 May 2020.

Carolyn Senter approached the Beacon Society to set up a way in which her late husband Joel's contribution to the Sherlockian world would be remembered. The result was the creation of the **R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Prize Essay Contest**. The contest provides cash awards, and is for students in the 4th to 12th grades (ages 9 to 18). Applications are currently being accepted.

Each year the **Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award** is given to an individual, scion society, or organization that has made a significant contribution to exposing young people to the study of Sherlock Holmes stories. An applicant may either be nominated by another person or may apply himself/herself, and nominations may be submitted all year. The successful candidate for 2019 will be announced at the Beacon Society General Meeting on 18 January 2020 in New York City.

The application process for all of these awards may be found at www.beaconsociety.com

We should mention that **Carolyn Senter**, who ran **Classic Specialties** and the **Sherlockian E-Times** with her late husband Joel, will be closing down the contact addresses: "Over the next weeks and months, I will be ending the Sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com email address and will also be shutting the <http://sherlock-holmes.com/> website. I hope that you will mark your calendars for June 25 and take a moment to remember Joel on his birthday. Depending on your beliefs, it would be nice to toast him, light a candle, have a moment of quiet, or any other way to 'keep his memory green.'"

Matthew Elliott, the mastermind behind our annual Film Evening, brings news that "**Imagination Theatre** has a new website at which many recent episodes of *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* can be downloaded for a very minor charge." The website is here: <https://harrynile.com/>

In October we mentioned **Cliff Goldfarb's** open letter, suggesting the establishment of a new society devoted to Conan Doyle. His ideas prompted an informal discussion at the **Conan Doyle and London** symposium held on 15th November. One of the attendees, Dr. Mark Jones of York University, prepared a report on the symposium which you can read at: <https://www.doingsofdoyle.com/2019/11/conference-report-conan-doyle-and.html>

Ashley Polasek has announced that she is establishing a new publication, *The Conan Doyle Review*, as a "home for scholars across disciplines to publish work on Conan Doyle's life, works, creative afterlives, and cultural legacies in a journal with academic rigor and professional distinction – a journal that welcomes readers who don't necessarily research and write such articles themselves, but would nevertheless be interested in reading them. *The Conan Doyle Review* will sit at the intersection of the academic, Sherlockian, and Doylean worlds."

The first issue is expected to appear in the spring of 2021. Meanwhile, you can find more information on Twitter at [@ACDReview](https://twitter.com/ACDReview) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ACDReview), or questions can be directed to editor@acdreview.org

One of our Japanese members, **Mrs. Kakuko Harada**, has made a very kind offer to fellow Sherlockians who plan to attend the 2020 Olympics. Knowing that many attendees are likely to be unfamiliar with Japan, she is happy to provide advice on places to visit during their stay: "I can be a much better guide than tourist information magazine. So, please let visitors to Hiroshima know, there is a fine adviser in Hiroshima. I will arrange the visitor's tour on his /her demand. I hope I will hear from visitors from all over the world." You can contact her at sunfishkakuko@gmail.com

Denny Dobry has discovered **viaLibri**, a helpful website managed by James A. Hinck. It provides a search engine that will query pretty much every on-line seller's inventory to find rare books and magazines. www.vialibri.net

If your Sherlockian Christmas haul was a bit disappointing, you could treat yourself to some novelty wine glasses that are ostensibly shaped like Sherlock Holmes's pipe. The curved stem acts as a straw, so I can't imagine a true wine-lover using these, but they could be amusing for cocktails or iced drinks. You can get a set of two **Wine Sippo Glasses** from Firebox for £13.99. www.tinyurl.com/y96cvv2x

Books of interest:

Historical Dictionary of Sherlock Holmes by Neil McCaw (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019; 450 pp, £70.00 hbk) Contains a chronology, an introduction, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has over 1,000 cross-referenced entries that examine themes and features of the 60 stories that make up the Sherlock Holmes canon.

Nicholas Meyer has been on tour promoting *The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols*. On 24 October he was interviewed on KPFA radio in Berkeley, California. You can hear the programme at www.kpfa.org/episode/bookwaves-october-24-2019

Philip Porter advises that he still has a limited number of copies available of *Stage Whispers*, Douglas Wilmer's immensely entertaining memoirs. You can choose a standard 'classic' edition or a deluxe 'limited' edition of the book. https://porterpress.co.uk/search?type=article%2Cpage%2Cproduct&q=douglas*+wilmer*

Villains, Victims and Violets: Agency and Feminism in the Original Sherlock Holmes Canon edited by Resa Haile and Tamara R. Bower (BrownWalker Press, 2019; 338 pp., £32.95 pbk.) "To understand Holmes' world is to gaze unsparingly into the lives of its women: the villains and what drives them astray; the victims Holmes races to rescue; and the Violets, who make up the strongest characters from Holmes' unforgettable cases. The authors pull back the curtain on their private spaces, revealing their 'proper' place in a man's world at the dusk of the 19th century and the dawn of the 20th."

Anthony Richards, proprietor of Breese Books, has provided details of two new publications, available at www.baker-street-studios.com

A Sherlock Holmes Alphabet of Cases Volume 3 (K to O) by Roger Riccard (Irregular Special Press, 2019; 249 pp., £8.99 pbk.) This is the third volume of short stories in Riccard's 'Alphabet' series. The action involves a plot against Kaiser Wilhelm II, strange goings-on at Trinity College in Dublin, the disappearance of a vessel at sea, John Philip Sousa, and a mystery involving the Japanese art of origami.

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Crippen by Donald MacLachlan (Irregular Special Press, 2019; 163 pp., £8.99 pbk.) Described as 'the crime of the century,' MacLachlan tells the tale of Crippen's crimes and his thwarted escape to America.

Nicholas Utechin has requested a clarification concerning his publication, *The Controversy: Was Sherlock Holmes at Oxford or Cambridge?* The 40-page booklet (favourably reviewed in the Winter SHJ) is in a limited edition of 100 copies, and its price of £10 includes postage. If you'd like a copy, contact Nick at highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com.)

Obituaries:

Tony Britton died on 22 December 2019, aged 95. He made his professional stage debut at the age of 18 in Weston-Super-Mare, but this career was interrupted when he joined the army to do his bit in WWII. Resuming his stage career after the war, he took on a number of Shakespearean roles. As recently as 2013 he appeared as the Earl of Gloucester in a production of *King Lear* at the Old Vic in London, directed by Sir Jonathan Miller. Throughout his long and distinguished career he appeared in a number of popular TV sitcoms as well as retaining a presence on stage and screen. In 1992 *Music For Pleasure* released his fine abridged readings of *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Sign of Four*.

Claudine Auger died on 18 December 2019 aged 78. She is best remembered as Domino Derval, James Bond's love interest in *Thunderball* (1965). Born in Paris, she studied to become a comic actress, won numerous beauty contests, and at 18 appeared as a ballerina in Jean Cocteau's fantasy, *Testament of Orpheus*. Claudine appeared in *Le Masque de Fer/The Man in the Iron Mask* (1962), and the following year featured in the Italian fantasy film *Kali Yug: Goddess of Vengeance*, alongside Klaus Kinski and the former Tarzan actor Lex Barker. One of her last roles was that of Isadora Klein in the Sherlock Holmes television episode "*The Three Gables*" (1994) with Jeremy Brett.

Nicky Henson died on 16 December 2019 aged 74, after a long illness. His career spanned more than five decades in revue, musicals, television, films and radio, including work with the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Also a musician, he formed a pop group called the Wombats and wrote songs for Cliff Richard and the Shadows. From 1968 to 1975 he was married to Una Stubbs (*Sherlock's* Mrs. Hudson), and he played Dr. Watson in *The Unopened Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* on BBC Radio 5 in 1993, with Simon Callow as Holmes.

Gahan Wilson died on 21 November 2019 aged 89. His bizarre and often ghoulish cartoons graced the pages of many prominent publications including *Playboy*, *The New Yorker* and *National Lampoon*. Amidst his oeuvre were a number of Sherlock Holmes cartoons, including his famous caricature of Isaac Asimov with the ghost of Holmes looming menacingly over the back of his armchair.

Periodicals Received:

The Beacon Society Quarterly Newsletter, Vol. 3, No. 4, December 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, December 2019 (Steve Mason; mason.steve@epa.gov)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sherlockiana, Nr. 4 2019 (Sherlock Holmes Klubben I Danmark; Sven Ranild, editor; redaktion@sherlockholmesklubben.dk)

Studies of the Nippon Sherlock Holmes Club, December 2019, (The Sherlock Holmes Research Committee Japan; Yoshida Akira shandjhw@way.ocn.ne.jp)

The Watsonian, Fall 2019 (The John H Watson Society); selena@johnwatsonsociety.com)

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

Jean Upton