

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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The subscription for postal subscribers who send money rather than stamped & self-addressed envelopes is (for 12 issues) £7.50 in the UK, and £12.00 or US\$21.00 overseas. Please make dollar checks payable to **The Sherlock Holmes Society of London**. Prices went up in March, and I've borne the increase since then. An e-mail subscription costs nothing and pretty much guarantees instantaneous delivery.

As we know, **Undershaw** has been saved from the worst sort of inappropriate 'development'. After long years of neglect, the house at Hindhead, one of only two in England designed in part by a major author for himself, has been bought by the DFN Charitable Foundation, and will become the upper school of Stepping Stones, a school for children with a range of special needs. John Gibson, founder of the **Undershaw Preservation Trust**, submitted a further application to have the building's listed status raised from Grade II to Grade I, but English Heritage turned it down, saying that 'the interest conferred on the building by its association with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is not sufficient to warrant upgrading given its modest architectural quality'. A debatable conclusion, and hardly covered by the media.

The work of the Trust is not done. At University College London on 19 July, in sweltering heat, 113 people donned deerstalker and cape, and carried pipe and magnifying glass to attempt a Guinness World Record for the largest number dressed as Sherlock Holmes in one place. Money raised goes towards the restoration of Conan Doyle's study and his stained glass windows at Undershaw. Fifty or so then went on to Woburn Square, now graced by the **Sherlock Holmes Book Bench**, sponsored by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd and beautifully painted by Colchester artist **Valerie Osment**. The bench is one of fifty in the National Literacy Trust's *Books About Town* summer project, ten of them in Bloomsbury, with Ms Osment's *Around the World in Eighty Days* nearby at Stanford's. (There's a good amount of coverage on the internet, including videos. Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for 'Sherlock Holmes Guinness Record'.)

By coincidence (yes, honestly) 19 July was the 38th birthday of Benedict Cumberbatch – and of course that was the one fact that most of the media latched on to. Not that any of the participants objected to wishing Mr C a happy birthday, mind you.

The events were organised by **Steve Emecz** of MX Publishing, whose book *Project Two, to One, Be: Sherlock Holmes and a House of Light, Shadows and Views* edited by **Carrie Carlson & Lynn Gale** was published the same day (MX; [www.mxpublishing.co.uk](http://www.mxpublishing.co.uk); £9.99). John Gibson has written the introduction, and the foreword is by Laurie R King. There follow nearly 140 pages of essays, long and short, enhanced by photographs and original artwork, some of it, like Riley Stark's cover design, outstanding. Ms Carlson notes: 'Not all of our contributors are professionals in their chosen medium, and many of the writers are non-native English Speakers, and yet they all speak from the heart.' All the royalties from the book go to the Undershaw campaign. Believe me, it's worth while.

*Fan Phenomena: Sherlock Holmes* edited by **Tom Ue & Jonathan Cranfield** (Intellect Books; [www.intellectbooks.com](http://www.intellectbooks.com); £15.50) is the book that resulted from *Sherlock Holmes: Past and Present* at UCL last summer. Most of the contributors spoke at the conference – we have Tom Ue on Holmes and Shakespeare, Jonathan Cranfield on fan culture, Jonathan Barnes on writing audio drama, Luke Kuhns on pastiche, Benjamin Poore on Moriarty. The exceptions are Noel Brown on *Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century*, Russell Merritt on

Sheldon Reynolds' 1954 TV series, and Shane Peacock on writing his *The Boy Sherlock Holmes* novels. There are also interviews with the creators of the *Young Sherlock Holmes Adventures* graphic novels, the co-author of the *Sherlock Holmes: Year One* graphic novels, and the authors of *Steampunk Holmes: Legacy of the Nautilus*, *Dead Man's Land* and *The House of Silk*. It's a rich, varied and most interesting mixture – let down, curiously, by an unnecessarily small sans serif font in the main articles.

The 'Professor Moriarty' novels by **Michael Kurland**, which began in 1978 with *The Infernal Device*, are at last being published in the UK, thanks to Titan Books. The third, *The Great Game*, appeared this month, thirteen years after its US publication (Titan; [titanbooks.com](http://titanbooks.com); £7.99). Moriarty is a brilliant mathematician, who has no particular respect for the law and is prepared to use his genius in whatever way is most interesting or most profitable, to fund his research. Sherlock Holmes, of course, is convinced that he's a criminal mastermind, but the two find themselves in an uneasy alliance against a clandestine organisation that seems determined to destroy the governments of Europe and precipitate war. Isaac Asimov said, 'Kurland has made Moriarty more interesting than Doyle ever made Holmes.'

Due from Titan on 22 August is *Sherlock Holmes: The Spirit Box* by **George Mann** (£7.99). In the summer of 1915 Dr Watson mourns his nephew, killed on the Western Front, German airships have brought the war to London, and leaders of Society seem to have gone mad. An army officer urges Britain to surrender – and then hurls himself into the tigers' enclosure at the zoo. A suffragette leader throws herself under a train after renouncing the movement. An MP praises the enemy in a speech to the House before drowning himself in the Thames. The deaths are connected – must be connected – and then there's the enigmatic Spirit Box... George Mann's fantastic mystery carries you along like an express train.

Other recent and forthcoming titles: *Masculinity and the New Imperialism: Rewriting Manhood in British Popular Literature, 1870-1914* by **Bradley Deane** (Cambridge University Press; [www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org); £60.00), *Sherlock Holmes and The Scottish Question* by **Mike Hogan** (MX; 9 September; £8.41), *Sherlock Holmes In Montague Street, Volume 2* by **Arthur Morrison** and **David Marcum** (MX; 10 September; £9.99), *A Scandal In Bohemia: A Sherlock Holmes Graphic Novel*, adapted and illustrated by **Petr Kopl** (MX; 12 September; £9.99), *Sherlock Holmes and The Adventure of The Cold-Served Revenge* by **Petr Macek** (MX; 17 September; £9.99), *The Last Confession of Sherlock Holmes* by **Kieran Lyne** (MX; 19 September; £8.99), *A Study in Terror: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Revolutionary Stories of Fear and the Supernatural, Volume One*, edited by **Derrick Belanger** (MX; 24 September; £9.99), *Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived And Will Never Die* edited by **Alex Werner** (Ebury Press; 9 October; £25.00), *Sherlock: Chronicles* by **Steve Tribe** (BBC Books; 23 October; £25.00), *The Sherlock Holmes Companion: An Elementary Guide* by **Daniel Smith** (2nd edition: Aurum Press; 6 November; n.p.).

**Luigi Pachi** reports that Associazione Delos Books has so far published 40 Holmes pastiches in Italian, by Italian authors (including Enrico Solito, BSI) as e-books, priced from €0.99 to €1.99: [www.delosstore.it/ebook/collane/7/sherlockiana/](http://www.delosstore.it/ebook/collane/7/sherlockiana/). From September Luigi, the series editor, will assist Italy's biggest publisher, Mondadori, to compile a monthly series of Italian translations of Holmes pastiches from other countries. Luigi Pachi has also edited *Sherlock Magazine* since 2003. Details are at [www.delosstore.it/riviste/52/sherlock-magazine](http://www.delosstore.it/riviste/52/sherlock-magazine).

This year's *Baker Street Journal Christmas Annual*, edited by **Elaine & Jonathan McCafferty**, will be a tribute to our distinguished Honorary Member **Douglas Wilmer, BSI**. It will only be available to subscribers to the BSJ, so if you want a copy, go to – [www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com).

If anyone can provide Peter Blau or me with a copy of *Footsteps* by **Anthony Nathan O'Malley**, we'll be most grateful! It's a one-act play, based on *Sherlock Holmes* by William Gillette, and was published in Haslemere by the author in 1949.

The film based on *A Slight Trick of the Mind* by Mitch Cullin has been retitled *Mr Holmes*. **Ian McKellen** plays the ninety-three-year-old Holmes, with Laura Linney as his housekeeper, and a supporting cast that includes Roger Allam, Frances de la Tour, Phil Davis and Hattie Morahan. The screenplay is by Jeffrey Hatcher, and the director is Bill Condon. Filming has been going on at Tilbury, Chatham, Seaford, East Dean, Hailsham and Bloomsbury.

Visitors to Belfast will be interested in an exhibition at the Andrews Gallery at **Titanic Belfast**, open until 31 August: *The Art of Jonathan Barry*. 'The artist and illustrator, who specialises in painting famous scenes from literature, will be showcasing the largest exhibition of his career, including his collection of *Titanic* oil paintings depicting the dramatic and heroic events of the fateful night of the sinking of *Titanic* in 1912. Also on display will be the paintings from some of the 70 books that Jonathan has illustrated, including his iconic Sherlock Holmes images, popular Narnia painting and scenes from Gothic classics such as *Dracula* and *The War of the Worlds*.' Admission is free. [www.titanicbelfast.com/The-Experience/Upcoming-Events/The-Art-of-Jonathan-Barry-Exhibition.aspx](http://www.titanicbelfast.com/The-Experience/Upcoming-Events/The-Art-of-Jonathan-Barry-Exhibition.aspx). (Thanks to Oscar Ross.)

You'll soon be able to listen to thirty-five statues across London and Manchester. The *Talking Statues Speak Their Minds* project runs for a year from 19 August, enabling people with smartphones to hear what certain famous statues have to say. The thoughts of the statue of Sherlock Holmes at Baker Street station were written by **Anthony Horowitz**, and are spoken by **Ed Stoppard**. Others will include Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens (the voice of Daniel Roche), Isaac Newton at the British Library (Simon Russell Beale), the Unknown Soldier at Paddington Station (Patrick Stewart), and Dr Johnson's cat Hodge in Gough Square (Nicholas Parsons).

At 2.00pm on 16 August, at **The Society Club** bookshop in Soho, **Hugh Ashton**, author of ten volumes of Sherlock Holmes stories, will speak about the pleasures and problems of creating new exploits for the detective. In DM 342 I observed: 'Mr Ashton is one of the few writers whose work really does help to fill that void we feel when we've read all sixty original stories.' The Society Club is at 12 Ingestre Place, London W1F 0JF, and admission is free. If you intend to go, Mr Ashton would like to hear from you at [hughashton@gmail.com](mailto:hughashton@gmail.com).

Jonathan Hopson recommends GladFest, the annual literary festival at **Gladstone's Library** – visited by the Society last October. This year's festival, held 5-7 September, will include discussions with Robert McCrum about his Observer column on the 100 best novels in English. Pleasingly, his list includes *The Sign of Four*. Details are online at [www.gladstoneslibrary.org/static/gladstones/uploads/documents/public/robert-mccrum-spotlight.pdf](http://www.gladstoneslibrary.org/static/gladstones/uploads/documents/public/robert-mccrum-spotlight.pdf).

On 26-27 September the bi-annual British Crime Historians Symposium will be held at the Foresight Centre, University of Liverpool. [\*I think they mean 'biennial'.\*] Scholars are invited to submit panels or proposals related to any aspect of the criminal justice system in the British Isles and former colonies. See [www.liv.ac.uk/law-and-social-justice/conferences/bch/](http://www.liv.ac.uk/law-and-social-justice/conferences/bch/).

Looking further ahead, Geraldine Beare reports that on 11 March 2015 at **Dillington House**, Ilminster there'll be a day course called 'Whodunnit!' *The Rise and Rise of the British Detective Novel*, covering among others *The Moonstone*, *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, *The Nine Tailors*, *A Fatal Inversion*, and *The Private Patient*. The cost for the day, including morning coffee, lunch and tea, is £50.00. For details phone 01460 258613 or e-mail [dillington@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:dillington@somerset.gov.uk).

At [www.paintedempires.co.uk/](http://www.paintedempires.co.uk/) you'll find the website of *Painted Empires*, 'a connoisseur miniatures painting service for the discerning gamer and collector of model soldiers and other miniature figures'. The artist is our member **Paul Chapman**, who notes: 'Figures to be painted will usually be supplied by the client. However, Painted Empires can source and supply models, but this will involve additional costs.'

From Peter Blau: 'The BBC announced (via Twitter at 2:21 pm on July 2) that shooting will begin in January on a *Sherlock* special, and that shooting for the next season will begin later next year; the special is likely to air at Christmas in 2015, with the next season starting the following year. Scott Monty had details on the BBC's tweeting at his *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere* website – [www.tinyurl.com/pzok5pt](http://www.tinyurl.com/pzok5pt).'

Also from Peter: 'The colorful **Gold Bubble Sherlock Holmes Collection** received lots of publicity this month. The California company, inspired by the BBC's *Sherlock* television series, used the wallpaper, the mind palace, the front door of 221B, and the iconic Belstaff Milford coat for themes. There are images at the company's web-site at [www.goldbubbleclothing.com](http://www.goldbubbleclothing.com), and more publicity photographs at [www.images.google.com](http://www.images.google.com); search for [gold bubble sherlock].'

And one more: 'A new Sherlockian society for numismatists and coin collectors will hold an organizational meeting in Rosemont, Ill. (near Chicago), on Aug. 9, during the American Numismatic Association's World Fair of Money. Details available from **Greg Ruby** [greg@gregrubyconsulting.com](mailto:greg@gregrubyconsulting.com).'

The purpose of **The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State** is to commemorate the life and work of Christopher Morley. It publishes a twice-yearly newsletter, *Hoboken Nights*, and holds an annual Morley birthday lunch in May. A subscription of \$15.00 a year per household, payable to Harrison & Linda Hunt, gets you two issues of the newsletter and invitations to Club activities (Harrison & Linda Hunt, 113 North Street, Catskill, NY 12414, USA; [Hobokenfreestate@mhcable.com](mailto:Hobokenfreestate@mhcable.com)).

Congratulations to our members **Johanna Rieke** and **Bryan Stone**, who met on the Society's pilgrimage to Switzerland in 2012 and were married earlier this year!

Nick Utechin advised me of the death on 4 July of the artist and writer **Val Biro**, at the age of ninety-two. Though best known for his children's books about a vintage car called Gumdrop, Biro was also a prolific and very successful illustrator of other people's work. He did a nice set of black and white drawings for *The Sherlock Holmes Cookbook* by Fanny Cradock, and covers for both *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.

Periodicals received. *The Alfalfa Gazette*, August 2014 (**Friends of the Soldier Named Murray**, Jody Baker, [josiabaker@bkhcw.com](mailto:josiabaker@bkhcw.com)). *The Bilge Pump*, July 2014 (**The Crew of the Barque Lone Star**, Steve Mason, <http://barquelonestar.com>). *Canadian Holmes*, Summer 2014 (**The Bootmakers of Toronto**, Mark & JoAnn Alberstat, 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3A 2M2, Canada). *Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections*, June 2014 (Suite 111, Elmer L Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, 222 21st Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA). *Gaslight Gazette*, July 1904 [\*sic\*] (**The Survivors of the Gloria Scott**, David J Milner, 6 Crowndale Drive, Taylors, South Carolina 29687, USA). *Hoboken Nights*, December 2013 and May 2014 (**The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State**, Harrison & Linda Hunt; [Hobokenfreestate@mhcable.com](mailto:Hobokenfreestate@mhcable.com)). *The Passengers' Log*, 22 May 2014 (**The Sydney Passengers**, Erin O'Neill; [erin.index@gmail.com](mailto:erin.index@gmail.com)). *Prescott's Press*, Summer 2014 (**The Three Garridebs**, Warren Randall, 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720-1346, USA). *Sherlockian E-Times*, July 2014 (**Classic Specialties**, Carolyn & Joel Senter, [www.sherlock-holmes.com](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com)). *Sherlockiana*, no. 2-3 2014 (**Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark**, Svend Ranild, [sr@ranild.dk](mailto:sr@ranild.dk)).

And *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, June 2014 (Peter E Blau; <http://redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39>).

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