

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON**

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News just in: at the Emmy Awards **Benedict Cumberbatch** and **Martin Freeman** won gongs for actor and supporting actor in a mini-series or movie for their performances in *Sherlock*, and **Steven Moffat** picked up the award for writing in a mini-series, movie or dramatic special. The award for best mini-series (or 'serial', as we say in English) went to *Fargo*, in which Martin Freeman starred with Billy Bob Thornton and Allison Tolman. Our boys done good!

In 1900 Samuel L Clemens and his family spent some months in London before returning to their home in Hartford, Connecticut after nine years' absence. Clemens was and is, of course, rather better known as Mark Twain, and it was probably inevitable that a meeting with Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson would be recorded. You can read about it in *Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Twain Papers* by **Roger Riccard** (Irregular Special Press; [www.crime4u.com](http://www.crime4u.com); £8.50). The author's arrival at 221B on 6 January is greeted with pleasure by both Watson and Holmes, especially as the latter has been lamenting the lack of criminal activity. His reason for calling is that some papers have been stolen from his room at the Langham Hotel – the collection of notes and manuscripts that he has been attempting to organise into an autobiography. The suspects include a magazine publisher, a young sprig of the aristocracy, a honeymooning couple, an attractive widow, an actor named Smith, and an old antagonist who claims to have royal blood in his veins. After a witty talk by Mark Twain at Drury Lane Theatre, the investigation takes the detective and the doctor to Bristol – though an unfortunate incident delays Watson at Reading, and he travels on from there in a motor car. Before long, of course, Holmes is able to identify both the culprit and the person on whose orders the theft was committed. It's a very entertaining tale, particularly in the depiction of Mark Twain himself.

Due on 12 September is *A Scandal in Bohemia*, adapted as a graphic novel by the brilliant Czech illustrator **Petr Kopl** and translated (back) into English by Paul & Jana Simpson. Actually there are two adventures here, the other being 'The Speckled Band', and both serve to show Holmes that women can be just as courageous and intelligent as men – much to Watson's satisfaction. The result is a feast for the eye and the imagination. The vivid, exciting text is enhanced by artwork that's by turns deeply atmospheric and devastatingly funny – and often beautiful. This is a thoroughly classy production (MX Publishing; [www.mxpublishing.co.uk](http://www.mxpublishing.co.uk); £9.99). The original won the 2013 Fabula Rasa Czech Award for the best script, best artwork and best comic book. It's easy to see why. Mr Kopl has a website at [www.petrkopl.cz](http://www.petrkopl.cz).

From the same publisher on 24 September comes Volume 1 of *A Study in Terror: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Revolutionary Stories of Fear and the Supernatural*, edited by **Derrick Belanger** (£9.99). The influence of Poe on Conan Doyle wasn't limited to his stories of detection: the tales of mystery and imagination left their mark as well. ACD didn't write very much in that vein, but the best of it can be classed with the best of Poe. Here are eight stories – 'The Terror of Blue John Gap', 'The Horror of the Heights', 'The Captain of the Pole Star', 'J Habakuk Jephson's Statement', 'The Leather Funnel', 'The Silver Mirror', 'Through the Veil' and 'The Parasite' – of which at least the first three and 'The Leather Funnel' are absolutely in the

top rank. They come with three good essays, the most interesting to me being Derrick Belanger's 'Revisions of History: Arthur Conan Doyle and the *Mary Celeste* Mystery', which tells how 'J Habakuk Jephson's Statement', though not his best, became perhaps Conan Doyle's most influential short story. A second volume is due on 19 November.

News from the BSI: Now available from The Baker Street Irregulars Press ([www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)) is *Sherlockian Saturdays At The Pratt* edited by **William Hyder** (\$21.95 plus postage). Inspired by Christopher Morley's memories of walking to 'the old Enoch Pratt free library' to borrow 'a Conan Doyle he had not read', Baltimore area Sherlockians established a *Weekend with Sherlock Holmes* in 1980. Thirty-five years later, the Six Napoleons of Baltimore and the Carlton Club still team up with the Pratt Library to present a symposium on the great detective. During the past decades, a remarkable variety of canonical scholarship has been presented at the annual event *Saturday with Sherlock Holmes*. Bill Hyder has selected papers from the earliest years to the present, on a variety of subject matter. 'The result is a remarkable anthology of traditional Sherlockian scholarship, the like of which is seldom seen today.'

More forthcoming titles: *Sherlock: Chronicles* by **Steve Tribe** (BBC Books; 23 October; £25.00); *The Sherlock Holmes Companion: An Elementary Guide* by **Daniel Smith** (second edition – Aurum; 6 November; £16.99); *The Elementary Sherlock Holmes* by **Matthew Bunson** (Portico; 6 November; £6.99); *Sherlock Holmes: The Golden Years* by **Kim H Krisco** (MX; 12 November; £10.99); *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Devil's Promise* by **David Stuart Davies** (Titan, 21 November, £7.99); *The Real World of Sherlock* by **BJ Rahn** (Amberley Publishing; 28 November; £20.00); *Whitechapel's Sherlock Holmes: The Casebook of Fred Wensley OBE, KPM – Victorian Crime Buster* by **Dick Kirby** (Pen & Sword, 30 Nov, £17.00).

On Saturday *Empire* reported: 'When die-hard Sherlockians - or Holmesians, depending on your taste - hear the name **Nicholas Rowe**, they're bound to think of the Scottish actor's turn as the young Sherlock Holmes in *Young Sherlock Holmes*, the 1985 movie directed by Barry Levinson and written by Christopher Columbus. Most thought his days as Holmes ended then when he was 19, but thanks to an ingenious cameo in next year's *Mr Holmes*, he will return as the great consulting detective at the age of 47... in a rather wonderful fashion. The story of *Mr Holmes*, which director Bill Condon adapted with Jeffrey Hatcher from Mitch Cullin's novel *A Slight Trick Of The Mind*, takes place in 1947 when Holmes is 93, long retired to his Sussex beekeeping and frustrated by his diminishing power of recollection. Within this world, Holmes is as famous as you'd expect, and has had movies made of his life. It's in one of these films, as watched in *Mr Holmes* by Ian McKellen's character, that Nicholas Rowe will appear as Sherlock Holmes. Fictionally. Within a fiction. About a fictional character's life.'

The schedule for the play *Sherlock Holmes - The Scandal of the Scarlet Woman* by **John Goodrum** is: 15-16 Sept - Buxton Opera House (0845 127 2190); 17-19 Sept - Fairfield Halls, Croydon (020 8688 9291); 30 Sept - 4 Oct Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne (01323 412000); 16-17 October - Civic Theatre, Chelmsford (01245 606505); 23-25 October Pomegranate Theatre, Chesterfield (01246 345222). John Goodrum plays Holmes and Karen Henson is Irene Adler. [www.rumpustheatrecompany.co.uk](http://www.rumpustheatrecompany.co.uk).

Tying in with the forthcoming exhibition at the **Museum of London**, *Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die*, comes this from the Museum's Media Officer, Andrew Scott [*\*no, not that Andrew Scott\**] – 'The BFI and the Museum of London have teamed up to enlist the public's help in finding a long lost cinematic treasure. The 1914 silent adaptation of *A Study in Scarlet*, directed by George Pearson and starring James Braxton, is the first British feature-length film based on the consulting detective. It was shot in summer 1914 in west London, at the Worton Hall studios in Isleworth. There were also scenes filmed on location at Cheddar Gorge in Somerset and Southport Sands in Merseyside, which stood in for the Rocky Mountains and the Utah plains. As the museum prepares for the largest temporary exhibition on the super sleuth for over sixty years, which opens on 17 October, the BFI and the Museum of London are launching a call-out to "detectives" across the globe that can help us discover a copy of this lost film, exactly 100 years after it was made. If members of the public know where it is, or have information which you think might help, we are asking them to email [Sherlock.holmes@bfi.org.uk](mailto:Sherlock.holmes@bfi.org.uk) or spread the word on social media using #FindSherlock.'

And, stimulated by the prospect of the exhibition (and perhaps by our Society's 'Stoddart Dinner', marking the 150th anniversary of the little soirée that resulted in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *The Sign of the Four*), the **Langham Hotel** is offering a 'Sherlock Holmes Package', priced from £329 per night based on two people sharing a Grand Room, inclusive of breakfast and two tickets to the exhibition. Or you can upgrade to the Arthur Conan Doyle suite for £599 per night... It all sounds very nice, though the claim that 'The Langham played an important part in the creation of Conan Doyle's most famous character' is stretching the truth rather. Details on the website:

[http://london.langhamhotels.co.uk/media/exclusive\\_sherlock\\_holmes\\_package.htm](http://london.langhamhotels.co.uk/media/exclusive_sherlock_holmes_package.htm).

At <http://footprintsoflondon.com/other-events/literaryfestival> you'll find information about three Sherlock Holmes walks, scheduled for the weekend when the exhibition opens. On 17 October at 2.00pm, **Jen Pedler** will lead a walk through the mews and backstreets of Marylebone following Holmes and Watson's trail in 'The Adventure of the Empty House'. The walk will last about 2 hours and starts on the corner of Cavendish Square, just behind John Lewis (nearest tube Oxford Circus) and finishes at Baker St. On 18 October at 11.00am you can go with our member **Robin Rowles** in search of the Red-Headed League, starting at Blackfriars Underground and ending near Barbican Underground, conveniently close to the Museum of London. And at 2.00pm that same day Robin's 'Sherlock Holmes of London' walk will begin at Cannon Street Station, where Mr. Neville St. Claire was expected to catch the 5.14 train to his wife and family at Lee in Kent. It will finish at Aldgate Underground, where the unfortunate Arthur Cadogan West was found dead on the Underground tracks, with stolen naval plans on his body.

Information about the Sherlock Exhibition at the Museum is at <http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/london-wall/whats-on/exhibitions-displays/sherlock-holmes/> - including details of the official associated events, such as an interview with Anthony Horowitz on 27 October; *Late London: Sherlock's City*, an evening event on 21 November; and the Museum's own *Sherlock Holmes Walking Tour*, every Saturday from 18 October to 20 December.

You've got less than four weeks more to enjoy the *Books About Town* Book Benches. (If you haven't yet discovered it, seek out the Sherlock Holmes Book Bench, sponsored by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd and painted by **Valerie Osment**. It's in the garden at Woburn Square, Bloomsbury – close to Holmes's original London rooms in Montague Street.) All fifty Book Benches will be sold at public auction on 7 October 2014 in the Purcell Room at Southbank Centre as part of the London Literature Festival, with all profits going to the work of the **National Literacy Trust**. The auction will be led by a Sotheby's auctioneer and attended by artists who participated in *Books about Town*. Tickets are £25 and can be reserved by email to [Lisa.Rootes@literacytrust.org.uk](mailto:Lisa.Rootes@literacytrust.org.uk). If you are unable to attend, you can register to bid online live during the auction and/or place a sealed bid beforehand at <http://www.booksabouttown.org.uk/auction>.

News from **Rafe McGregor**: 'One of the courses I'm running at the Centre for Lifelong Learning (University of York) this year is entitled *Sherlock Holmes Decathlon* – "Ten weeks, ten short stories, ten literary investigations into the Great Detective and the master of mystery behind him. Which are the top ten stories? Is Conan Doyle's own list accurate? Does the quality tail off in the Casebook? Beginning with Edgar Allan Poe's influence on Doyle and concluding with his most illustrious successor, Agatha Christie, we will trace the career of Sherlock Holmes from his obscure origins in Gothic fiction to his current status as an international cultural icon." More information and the requisite links can be found on my blog at: [www.writingandphilosophy.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.writingandphilosophy.blogspot.co.uk).'

At [www.EverythingSherlockHolmes.com](http://www.EverythingSherlockHolmes.com) you'll find what's described as 'a single destination for everything related to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's legendary sleuth: films, TV series, e-books, radio plays, games and merchandise', where 'subscribers can read or listen to stories and novels, watch beautifully restored films and television shows, and then discuss them with a community of other experts and enthusiasts. The site even provides an international Sherlock Holmes events calendar and its own exclusive web series. EverythingSherlockHolmes serves as a gateway for the millions who love the well-known character, but haven't experienced his rich history. It provides instant and total access to the most extensive source of digital Sherlock Holmes content available. Fans may select from several free registration options, or choose the premium 'Deerstalker'/#TeamESHolmes membership, which includes a continuously updated and comprehensive database of vintage video, audio and literary material – encompassing everything Sherlock. EverythingSherlockHolmes is an affiliate of Pacific Media Digital Services (PMDS), a Los Angeles-based media company, working with The Film Detective, a classic film restoration and distribution company, and other content owners is creating a unique Sherlock Holmes experience.'

Wessex Press, organiser of the celebrated *From Gillette to Brett* conferences, report that **Michael A Hoey** died on 17 August, aged seventy-nine. 'Michael was the son of British actor Dennis Hoey, who played Inspector Lestrade opposite Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce in the Universal Pictures Sherlock Holmes series of the 1940s. Michael Hoey himself had a successful career in Hollywood, and for Sherlockians, it was a delight to learn he was one of us. Wessex Press had the privilege of hosting Michael as a Special Guest at two *From Gillette to Brett* conferences, where his fellowship made him a favorite with everyone in attendance. He was scheduled to appear yet again next month at *From Gillette to Brett IV*, where his book *The Drury Lane Mystery*, published by Wessex Press, will debut. Michael Hoey was also the author of *Elvis, Sherlock, and Me: How I Survived Growing Up in Hollywood*.' He and I corresponded briefly when his book *Sherlock Holmes and the Fabulous Faces: The Universal Pictures Repertory Company* was published. See my enthusiastic review in DM 316.

Periodicals received. *The Baker Street Bugle*, August 2014 (**The Deerstalkers of Welshpool**, Roy Upton-Holder, Baskerville, 146 Little Henfaes Drive, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7BA [ruptonholder@onetel.com](mailto:ruptonholder@onetel.com)). [*\*Thanks to Oscar Ross for providing this issue. [www.sherlockholmeswelshpool.com](http://www.sherlockholmeswelshpool.com) is the Deerstalkers' website.\**] *The Bilge Pump*, August 2014 (**The Crew of the Barque Lone Star**, Steve Mason, <http://barquelonestar.com>). *Gaslight Gazette*, August 1904 [*\*sic\**] (**The Survivors of the Gloria Scott**, David J Milner, 6 Crowndale Drive, Taylors, South Carolina 29687, USA). *The Magic Door*, Summer 2014 (**The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection**, Doug Wrigglesworth, 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, Ontario, Canada L9N 1H4).

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

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