

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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March is almost upon us, but you will have to control your ardour for the Society's first spring meeting this year as it will take place a little later than usual on **6 April 2016**. The focus will be on 'The Abbey Grange,' and members will receive information on bookings in due course. See our website for more information: <http://goo.gl/n8uFSS>.

The dates for our **cricket matches** this year have also been confirmed: **30 April 2016** v Eton College Strawberry XI (2pm) at Eton; and **2 July 2016** v PG Wodehouse Soc (11.30am) at West Wycombe Cricket Ground, Buckinghamshire. Members and guests are all welcome together with picnics (and picnic chairs, tables and rugs). There is no charge for attendance. The July game will be played to the laws of 1895 and period dress is welcomed. Members interested in playing should contact the captain, Peter Horrocks, at peter@minuetter.com. Full details on our website: <http://goo.gl/EOHRyV>.

The dates for our **AGM and May Weekend 2016** have been confirmed for 19 to 22 May. Members will receive details and information on bookings later in the spring. See brief details on our website: <http://goo.gl/F3RnWS>.

If you are in the vicinity of **Stirling University** this Wednesday, 24 February 2016, you may be interested to know that our member Takeshi Shimizu is giving a lecture titled '**Sherlock Holmes, James Bond and British Intelligence in Post-War Japan**': Ian Fleming, author of the James Bond series, wrote "You Only Live Twice" in 1964 after his visit to Japan. Some characters in the novel were, in fact, named after members of the Tokyo Baritsu Chapter - a Sherlock Holmes society in Japan founded in October 1948. What was the role of Tokyo Baritsu Chapter in Post-War Japan? And what of the Information Research Department - a secret department in the British Foreign Office? For further information and to book, see the university's website: <http://goo.gl/K8tisT>.

Our **Annual Dinner** took place at the House of Commons on 9 January 2016. This year's **Tony Howlett Award went to Calvert Markham**. Chairman Elaine McCafferty observed: 'This year's recipient surprised us all recently [during the Tunbridge Wells weekend] with his erudite and detailed knowledge of bankers, financiers and pawnbrokers in the Canon. He recently retired from his role as Hon Treasurer for the Society after 10 very successful years, weathering recessions and keeping us safe.' Calvert was first introduced to the Society when he and his wife, Carole, joined the Baltic Cruise in 2001 at the invitation of our current President. His accounting skills were quickly noted, and in due course he accepted the office of Hon. Treasurer.

Elaine also had the pleasure of awarding **Honorary Membership to Philip Porter**. Elaine said: 'Philip has the distinction of having served as a Chairman of the Society for two terms, a feat only matched by our founding father Tony Howlett. He also took on the truly onerous job of portraying Sherlock Holmes on four Swiss trips and one jaunt round the vineyards and cognac fields of France, a trip which he also organised.' He has also organised excursions and events - notably the 'Back to Baker Street Festival' in 1994 - and through his contacts he introduced the Society to the House of Commons for the Annual Dinner. In his spare time he has been a racing driver, balloon pilot and airship pilot.

As previously reported, our guest of honour for the evening was TV Producer Beryl Vertue, whose name provided a useful excuse for Canonical paronomastics, giving rise to the title of our dinner: 'The Beryl Coronation.' Beryl's daughter, Sue Vertue, was our guest speaker, and Peter Horrocks came up second to raise the toast to Dr. Watson. A report on the evening will appear in our summer journal, and you can view photos of the dinner via our website: <http://goo.gl/25YTb9>.

Sue Vertue has been confirmed as a guest at **SHERLOCKED: The Official Sherlock Convention**. For the second time, this will be held at London's ExCel and will run from 23 to 25 September 2016. Full details and line-up have yet to be announced, but you can find more information and book tickets via the convention's website: <http://goo.gl/vZHCE9>.

We were saddened to learn of the death of our much-loved member, **Lynne Godden**, on 16 January 2016. Lynne was a great lady and will be much missed. Philip Porter writes: 'Lynne Godden was a stalwart of the Society for many years. During my times as Chairman, she was the Merchandise Officer and did an absolutely superb job in that capacity, using her retail expertise greatly to the benefit of the Society. Being equally nutty about cats, whenever we met we exchanged cat tales. Indeed meeting Lynne, and of course Auberon, was always such a pleasure because she was ever cheerful and we all had so much fun. She will be very much missed.' A full obituary for Lynne will appear in our Summer Journal.

Today would have been the 70th birthday of **Alan Rickman**. Film audiences have been mourning his loss following his death on 14 January 2016 from pancreatic cancer. Rickman was a captivating character actor well-known for his work in movies, and he also had a long career on stage. In 1976 he played the title role in William Gillette's *Sherlock Holmes* at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, with David Suchet in the role of Moriarty. *The Birmingham Mail* noted some further details and reviews of Rickman's performance in a recent article: <http://goo.gl/m7ahMV>.

Many of us have, of course, been enjoying the silent film of **William Gillette** in the title role of his play. If you have been wondering what Gillette sounded like, there is a sample of a glass disk recording of his voice from 1936, reading two scenes from the play, available on YouTube (thanks to Trey Narr for the link): <https://goo.gl/F4CNIM>.

The actor **Frank Finlay** passed away on 30 January 2016, aged 89. Finlay had a long and varied career, during which he played several Sherlockian roles, include two turns as Inspector Lestrade: once in *A Study in Terror* (1965) and again in *Murder by Decree* (1979). He also played Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in BBC TV movie *The Other Side* (1992) and was Granada's Professor Coram in 'The Golden Pince-Nez' (1994).

Nick Utechin has a short list of Sherlockiana for sale, including items by Christ, Smith, Montgomery and Wolff. Contact him directly, by email only, at highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com and he'll send you details.

Phil Bergem notes the recent publication of *The Illustrated Letters of Richard Doyle to His Father, 1842-1843* edited by Grant F. Scott. As Doylean scholars will know, Richard was the uncle of Arthur. The dust jacket states: the eighteen-year-old Richard 'Dicky' Doyle sent a weekly letter to his father describing his activities in the city of London. Over the course of seventeen months, he wrote and illustrated fifty-three of these letters, which are here collected for the first time. Brimming with wit and invention, they provide a glimpse into the creative, steadily evolving mind of a precocious artist and social commentator.' The book is published by Ohio University Press and the hardcover RRP is £59. See publisher's website for more information: <http://goo.gl/PgFBMf>.

Also now available through the *Baker Street Journal* is *Nerve and Knowledge: Doctors, Medicine and the Sherlockian Canon*, edited by Roberts S. Katz, MD, BSI, and Andrew L. Solberg, MHS, BSI. The nineteen essays in this volume provide an in-depth analysis of all aspects of medicine in the Sherlock Holmes stories. The book takes us from the education of Conan Doyle and Watson, to the ailments that Holmes and Watson might have themselves suffered, to diagnoses that affected characters in the stories, and to public health and science in Holmes's and Watson's era. Members who attended our event at UCL last year will remember a paper given by Catherine Cooke regarding Watson's medical education, and will be delighted to know that her meticulous research for her talk features in an essay for this volume, alongside work by E. J. Wagner, Marina Stajić, Daniel Stashower, *et al*. See the Baker Street Journal website for more details and to purchase: <http://goo.gl/Sqv7HI>.

Greg Freeman has alerted us to the recent publication of *Gender and the Modern Sherlock Holmes: Essays on Film and Television Adaptations Since 2009*, edited by Nadine Farghaly, for which he has written a chapter. The book is published by McFarland and has an RRP of £32.50. See publisher's website for more details: <http://goo.gl/DBP5E7>.

B. J. Rahn has been searching far and wide for a copy of the first volume of Leslie Klinger and Laurie King's *The Grand Game*, which is out of print. Any sightings, or offers of copies for sale, please contact B. J. directly at: bjrahn@crimecritic.com.

Tom Wheeler has been creating an interactive map of Sherlock Holmes's London through Googlemaps, featuring modern day photos of various locations. Use this link to access: <https://goo.gl/Uvp1I7>. When the map comes up, click on the green men to see what happened at that location. Lots of fun.

Member MC Black leads **walking tours through the London streets** mentioned in the Canon. He has a portfolio of routes which is continually being expanded and currently includes:

- * Bloomsbury to Charing Cross,
- * Holborn to Trafalgar Square,
- * St. James's Park to Marble Arch,
- * Oxford Circus to Baker Street (The Empty House walk) and
- * The City of London - Liverpool Street to Saxe-Coburg Square (Saxe-Coburg Square isn't listed in either the Victorian or Current A-Z but MC has discovered the true location of Jabez Wilson's Pawnbroker business and Mr Merryweather's Gold Bullion by putting the clues mentioned in 'The Red Headed League' and Kelly's 1890 Post Office Directory onto the Five Foot to the Mile Ordnance Map). There isn't a schedule; rather he will arrange walks to suit clients. He offers a 20% discount on the usual cost of his Detective Walks to members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London (and other recognised Holmesian and Sherlockian Societies) Contact him at MCB@DetectiveWalks.co.uk or on 01920 467930.

Gary Lovisi has alerted us to the publication of his new chap book, *Happy Birthday, Mr. Holmes* (Gryphon Books, 2016, \$10 + \$3 postage, 28pp, <http://goo.gl/BxTUK7>). It was published for the Baker Street Irregulars meeting in NYC on Jan. 16, 2016. The booklet is limited to only 221 numbered copies signed by the author and Lucille Cali, who did the cover art. The story was originally printed a couple of years ago in *Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine*.

The Beacon Society proudly announces that, once again, grants to U.S. and Canadian teachers, librarians, Sherlockian literary societies are available. The grants, in honor of a wonderful Sherlockian, Jan Stauber, will provide up to \$500 to fund the development of a project that will introduce young people to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stories about his famous fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes. Interested individuals and organisations are invited to apply for the Beacon Society's major funding project. The grant period will be from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. The Beacon Society is a not-for-profit affiliate of the Baker Street Irregulars, the New York City-based group of Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts founded in 1934. More information on the grant, as well as the grant application may be found at the Society's website: <http://goo.gl/gAjkzu>.

Rabbi Sam Gringras has sent word that his reprint of Bliss Austin's *Sherlockian Studies* is still available from Magico Magazine at \$30 + postage and packing. Magico Magazine, PO Box 156, New York, New York 10002.

Best wishes to our Japanese friends in the **Kansai chapter of the JSHC** who are having a special afternoon of Sherlockian events today in commemoration of the 221st *Butsumetsukai Meeting* at Osaka.

And finally: US artist Sienna Morris has produced a piece of art depicting a Brettish Holmes entirely composed of letters and numbers. Can you solve the puzzle? <http://goo.gl/BDsno5>