

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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No. 370 November 2017

2017 has been a significant year for anniversaries:

A Study in Scarlet appeared 130 years ago in Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887.

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes was first published in book form 125 years ago

'*His Last Bow*' appeared in *The Strand* 100 years ago.

The Sherlock Holmes pub opened on 7th December 1957 and celebrates its 60th anniversary.

Dame Jean Conan Doyle died 20 years ago on 18th November 1997

And 30 years ago, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London visited Granada Studios in Manchester on 18th December 1987, for a special preview of *The Sign of Four* and a tour of the Baker Street set. On that day, filming was in progress for *Wisteria Lodge*, so members had the opportunity to meet Jeremy Brett, Edward Hardwicke, Rosalie Williams and Freddie Jones, along with the series' original producer, Michael Cox. Photos of this visit are on the SHSL website gallery.

Marcus Geisser has provided the following report on recent activities in Switzerland: 'The 2017 Reichenbach Irregulars conference "*Reichenbach and Beyond – The Final Problem Revisited*" attracted almost 70 Sherlockians from across the globe and offered an exciting program with distinguished speakers and dramatic excursions. Find out more in the report written by Marsha Pollak, accompanied by pictures taken by Hiroko Nakashima and enjoy the illustrations drawn by Jean-Paul Cabot. Enrico Solito's travel diary traces the alpine excursion from Meiringen to Florence, following Sherlock Holmes' footsteps (and making some detours to some remarkable sites of this wonderful part of Europe). And David Richards delivers a very personal account of what turned out to be his very first encounter with Sherlockians from all over the world: http://www.221b.ch/Past_Events_Beyond_e.html. PS: The Reichenbach Irregulars are informing us that they plan a new conference in early summer 2019 to celebrate their 30th anniversary. Again, the location will be in alpine heights.'

London's much beloved **Cinema Museum** is under threat, as its landlords have put the building and its surrounding site up for sale. Located in Kennington, near Elephant and Castle, the building was originally the workhouse where **Charlie Chaplin** stayed as a child. The museum houses a collection of artefacts, memorabilia and equipment that spans the history of cinema from the 1890s to the present day. **Mark Gatiss** (*Sherlock's* Mycroft) is lending his support for a **Save the Cinema Museum Benefit** on 15th December, 7:30 - 10:00, where he will be interviewed by writer and broadcaster **Matthew Sweet** in between showing clips of his favourite films. For tickets go to <https://billetto.co.uk/e/mark-gatiss-film-night-tickets-244607>. The Cinema Museum is located at 2 Dugard Way, Renfrew Road, London SE11 4TH. For more information about its exhibitions and events, go to www.cinemamuseum.org

On 30th November another member of the BBC *Sherlock* team, Real SFX, received a Royal Television Society Award for best special effects.

Several months ago I mentioned the **Pusheen Detective** soft toy - a plump, cheerful cat dressed in deerstalker and cloak. There is now a Pusheen Detective hanging ornament, made from moulded resin, and just the right size for the Christmas tree. You'll find it on Amazon.

An interesting painting by the Victorian artist **Edward George Handel Lucas** went to auction on 21st November at Bonhams in Knightsbridge. The attractive watercolour depicted Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's writing shed and original gravesite at Windlesham. The painting sold to an online bidder for £1,400 plus commission. It may be viewed at <http://www.bonhams.com/auctions/24260/lot/67/>. According to contemporary reports, Conan Doyle was found clutching his chest in the hall of Windlesham Manor, in Crowborough, East Sussex, on 7 July 1930 and died of a heart attack at the age of 71. Preferring a spiritualist service, he was first buried on 11 July 1930 in Windlesham's rose garden, but was later moved to All Saints Church, Minstead.

Oscar Ross has shared news from Jacqui McKechnie of the **Self Important Scotland Yarders**: 'It is with deep joy that I announce the next two events of the Society. The first of these is a discussion on '*The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone*' from *The Case-book of Sherlock Holmes*. This event will take place on December 6th in the South Side of Glasgow in Edgehill House, Ground Floor Flat, 21 Camphill Avenue, G41 3AU from 7:30pm. There will be mince pies and mulled wine for those of you who enjoy partaking in such comestibles. There may be a Christmas tree if I can get it put up in time. Our second event is in honour of Sherlock's birthday and will take place in Sloan's on January 8th from 7:30pm. More details on this to follow, but if you can offer any entertainment for this then please let me know.' If you're interested in attending, Jacqui can be contacted by email at J.G.McKechnie@gcu.ac.uk

It looks like the Sherlock Holmes statue in Edinburgh is going to be removed, yet again, to enable construction work on the extension of the new tram system. Edinburgh City Council has been engaging the public in trying to find a new, permanent location for the statue. See the full story at: http://www.thenational.scot/news/15661045.Edinburgh_asks_public_for_help_solving_Sherlock_Holmes_puzzle/

The Sherlock Holmes statue in London has also been in the news. As part of an awareness campaign, Hands On London put bright red coats over Sherlock Holmes at Baker Street station, Amy Winehouse at Camden Market, and Kinder Transport at Liverpool Street station. The organisers wanted to encourage the public to donate coats between 13 and 24 November as part of the 2017 Wrap Up London campaign. They will be passed on by Hands On London to the homeless, elderly, families in need, and refugee charities. The campaign is in its seventh year. Last year, 23,000 garments were donated. Read more at <https://www.campaignlive.co.uk/article/amy-winehouse-sherlock-holmes-statues-wrapped-red-coats-wrap-london/1449542#47TpHAQAsGIZzcOo.99>

The collection of eminent Sherlockian, **Daniel Posnansky**, will be going to auction on 19th December 2017. The rather breathtaking catalogue speaks for itself, and may be viewed at: <http://www.profilesinhistory.com/flipbooks/A98Sherlock/mobile/index.html#p=1>

Forbes Gibb has been in touch: 'My first Doyle and Sherlock Holmes catalogue has been released, which focuses on the original writings of ACD. It can be downloaded from baskervillebooks.co.uk, and images of all the books are available there as well. I've started on the next catalogue, which will focus on the "Writings on the writings", which will be released in 2018. The one after that will probably be pastiches and parodies. A bit of work, but most enjoyable!'

Oscar Ross brings news that the *Sherlock Gnomes* film release date has been announced as 23rd March 2018. See the trailer at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=comz38kRsb0>

Eureka Entertainment is about to release *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* on Blu-ray, for the first time in the UK. The release date is 22 January 2018 and will be available for £15.99. According to the press release, features will include: 'Glorious 1080p presentation; Uncompressed PCM soundtrack; Optional English subtitles for the deaf and hard-of-hearing; A new video interview with film scholar Neil Sinyard; *The Missing Cases* (50 mins): A presentation of the film's deleted sequences, using script excerpts, production stills and surviving film footage. Includes the film's *Original Prologue, The Curious Case of the Upside Down Room, The Adventure of the Dumbfound Detective* and *The Dreadful Business of the Naked Honeymooners*; Deleted Epilogue Scene (audio only); *Christopher Lee: Mr. Holmes, Mr. Wilder* - an archival interview with Christopher Lee about his experience working with Billy Wilder; Interview with editor Ernest Walter; Original theatrical trailer; PLUS: A collectors booklet featuring a new essay by Philip Kemp; the words of Billy Wilder; and rare archival imagery.'

About Being a Sherlockian edited by Christopher Redmond, \$14.99, paperback, Wildside Press. This is a collection of essays from 60 contributors in the Sherlockian community on the varied ways in which we all enjoy Sherlock Holmes, from cosplay to collecting, meetings, writings, and everything in between. <http://wildsidepress.com/about-being-a-sherlockian-edited-by-christopher-redmond-paperback/>

'Brainy is the new sexy!' So said Irene Adler in *Sherlock*, and it possibly accounts for the plethora of Sherlock Holmes related quiz and puzzle books that have recently appeared. *Sherlock: The Puzzle Book* by Christopher Maslanka and Steve Tribe, BBC Books, £12.99 (pbk) is a tie-in with the television series. It is described as offering '*fiendish brainteasers themed around the detective's cases.*' I've not yet seen a copy, but it has received good reviews on Amazon, and apparently has content directly related to the TV series.

Just arrived in the post is a bumper collection of items from Carlton Publishing, including: *The Sherlock Holmes Puzzle Case*, (£14.99) a small boxed game described as '*A challenging card game inspired by the world's greatest detective - solve the cases before time runs out!*' The game contains a Rules & Solutions Book, 120 Case Cards, Detective's Notebook and an egg timer; there's a quartet of similarly themed books, *Sherlock Holmes's Rudimentary Puzzles, Sherlock Holmes's Fiendish Puzzles, Sherlock Holmes's Cunning Puzzles* and *Sherlock Holmes's Elementary Puzzles* (£7.99 each). These are attractively illustrated hardcover books, with riddles and puzzles (many of them already familiar) that have been adapted to include Sherlockian elements; two slightly larger hardcover books along the same vein are *The Sherlock Holmes Puzzle Collection: The Lost Cases* (£14.99) which has '*Over 140 cerebral challenges*' and *The Sherlock Holmes Complete Puzzle Collection* (£20.00) containing '*Over 200 devilishly difficult mysteries*', and contains the puzzles from the former book, plus some additions. These are also nicely produced. However, I should point out that there appears to be a great deal of overlap in the content of all of the puzzle books - not immediately evident, since the titles of the puzzles are not listed in the same order in each book. I've only had time for a cursory glance at all of these, but reviews on Amazon should help to guide your decision as to what would appeal to your own taste.

Barry S Brown informs us of the release by MX Publishing of *Mrs. Hudson's Olympic Triumph*, the fifth book in his series that purports to show Mrs. Hudson as the detective agency's true sage and director. In this adventure, Mrs. Hudson, Holmes and Watson attend the 1896 Olympiad in Athens to engage in undercover work involving the Dowager Empress of Germany and her mother, Queen Victoria. They have ten days to recover a stolen letter, solve a double murder, and resolve the issue of the sale of faked artefacts. This and other books in the series are available in paper and e-book from Amazon.

Lee Ann Borgia, who is located in New Jersey, has been in contact to tell us about her work: 'I make miniature books in 1:12 scale and have made three slideshow videos on YouTube of my versions of the Sherlock Holmes tales I have available. These contain information about each book from *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes, The Return of Sherlock Holmes, His Last Bow* and *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBV8w-6A8qYTAHZ4pAi81A> ' If you're interested in purchasing her books, they can be found at: <http://stores.ebay.com/Miniature-Books-by-Lee-Ann>

Obituaries:

Actor **Keith Barron** died on 15th November, age 83. He had a varied career in stage, film, radio and TV productions. Barron appeared in numerous popular TV programmes such as *Coronation Street, Doctor Who* and *A Touch of Frost*. In 1993 he played Rob Ferguson in *The Last Vampyre*, Granada Television's distinctly odd interpretation of *The Sussex Vampire*.

Camera operator **Mark Milsome** died on 20th November, age 54. It is reported that he was filming a stunt during a night shoot in Ghana for *The Forgiving Earth*. He worked on many major films and well-known television series, including *Sherlock*. Highly respected in the industry, he will be badly missed by friends and colleagues.

Director **Anthony Harvey** died on 23rd November, age 87. He is probably best known for directing *The Lion in Winter*, starring Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn and *They Might Be Giants*, in which George C. Scott played a man who believed he was Sherlock Holmes, assisted by his psychiatrist, Dr. Mildred Watson, played by Joanne Woodward.

Periodicals received:

The Bilge Pump – The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star, November 2017 (Steve Mason; mason.steve@epa.gov)

Ineffable Twaddle, November 2017 (*The Sound of the Baskervilles*, Terri Haugen; terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)

Mayday Mayday, November 2017 (*The Crew of the SS May Day, Belfast*, Oscar Ross; oscarross@hotmail.com)

The Passengers' Log, October 2017 (*The Sydney Passengers*, Erin O'Neill, editor; erin.index@gmail.com)

The Petrel Flyer, July/August/September 2017 Round-up (*The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia*, Fran Martin; franziskah@shaw.ca)

Plugs and Dottles, October/November/December 2017 (*The Nashville Scholars*, Jim Hawkins and Dean Richardson; seniorhawk@gmail.com)

The Sherlockian E-Times, November 2017 (Carolyn & Joel Senter, Clifton Avenue, OH 45219; sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com)

The Watsonian, Fall 2017 (The John H Watson Society); selena@johnwatsonociety.com)

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