

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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On 8th December, Lawrence's of Crewkerne auctioned a holograph letter from Arthur Conan Doyle, which had an original catalogue estimate of £700 - 900, and may be seen at: [www.lawrences.co.uk/Catalogues/fs081217/lot2248.html](http://www.lawrences.co.uk/Catalogues/fs081217/lot2248.html) A post-auction report on Lawrence's website stated: 'A charming 1893 letter by Sherlock Holmes' creator, Arthur Conan Doyle, to a Miss Ruby Paulson expressed regret that 'Sherlock has become very lazy...' but noted nonetheless that the eminent detective had judged intuitively that the girl's father would be about 45 years of age, that the girl's hair was brown, that she was a clever girl 'with a turn for everything except mathematics'. Offered with its envelope, the informal letter with its kindly and avuncular tone attracted many bids before being bought for £9000.' Well, at least we know someone got something nice for Christmas!

Howard Ostrom has discovered that 'you don't need to go to just N.Y.C. or London for a Sherlock Holmes Birthday Celebration. Riga, Latvia has a big January bash every year too!' The full story is here: <https://riga.lv//ru/news/v-denj-rozhdenija-sherloka-holmsa-otkroetsja-muzei-velikogo-syshika?12600> but for those of us who don't speak Latvian, Howard provided a rough translation, indicating that on January 6, 2018, Riga will open a mini-museum consisting of recreations of the sitting rooms of Latvia's most popular TV Holmes - Vasily Livanov and Benedict Cumberbatch - on the ground floor of the Riga hotel "Pullman" at Jekaba 24. There will be a live orchestra, a costume parade, photo opportunities, games, a contest for the best costume of a four-legged friend, and other activities at the National Museum of Art (K.Valdemāra 10a). A more detailed holiday program will soon appear on the official page of the event - [holmes.lv](http://holmes.lv), and on their facebook page: [www.facebook.com/SherlockHolmesBirthdayRiga/](http://www.facebook.com/SherlockHolmesBirthdayRiga/)

Welcome news has come from the Toronto Public Library to announce that Jessie Amaolo will be re-joining the Special Collections team as the Services Specialist for the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, effective 25 December 2017 (although she did get Christmas day off!). Jessie served as Acting Curator during Peggy Perdue's leave of absence.

Back in September we reported on the Lyndhurst Park Hotel, which has an extension built in 1912 that was designed by Arthur Conan Doyle. The building was under threat of demolition for redevelopment, but planning permission has now been refused. You can read the full story here: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-42238559](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-42238559)

Andrew Gulli, Managing Editor of *The Strand Magazine* has asked: 'Would it be possible to let your followers know about our Sherlock Holmes calendar? Here's a link to the calendar and some of our exclusive gifts for Sherlock Holmes fans.' <https://strandmag.com/product-category/holiday-gift-center>

Jennie Paton reports that Burger King in the United States is giving away *Sherlock Gnomes* toys with its kids meals. I haven't found any indication whether the offer will be available in the UK. [www.bk.com/menu/kids\\_meals](http://www.bk.com/menu/kids_meals)

Tania Henzell has designed a Sherlock Holmes Tartan, which will soon be available in a variety of clothing and decorative items. More information on the tartan can be seen at: [www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2017/12/sherlock-holmes-tartan-its-elementary/](http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2017/12/sherlock-holmes-tartan-its-elementary/) If you're interested in purchasing the tartan items, you can email Tania at [info@tattimole.co.uk](mailto:info@tattimole.co.uk)

Phil Atwell reports: 'There was a programme on BBC Radio 4 on 7th December at 11.30 am that may be of interest to some of you. *Howzat For Hollywood*, presented by Jim Carter, profiles the Hollywood Cricket Club. Nigel Bruce, Basil Rathbone and Boris Karloff all played and their roles are discussed. There is Sherlockian, PG Wodehouse and SH film content. You can find it on the BBC i-player. It's a repeat from 3rd June this year.'

'The peasants say it is the Hound of the Baskervilles calling for its prey...' Phil also brings the good news that Bitterns are booming again. They were thought to be extinct in the 1870s, and were threatened with extinction again in the late 1990s. However, conservationists report that their numbers are at a healthy high, according to this link: [Bittern numbers in UK at record high, says RSPB | Environment ...](http://www.rspb.org.uk/Environment/record-high-says-rspb/)

The National Science and Media Museum at Bradford has a temporary exhibition entitled *Fake News*, running until 28 January 2018. It includes a number of historical examples, with part of the exhibition focusing on the story of the Cottingley Fairies. [www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/whats-on/fake-news](http://www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/whats-on/fake-news)

*Sherlock Holmes and the Hooded Lance* will be performed by Common Ground Theatre Company at The New Wolsey Studio, St George's Street, Ipswich IP1 3NF, running from Monday 8th to Saturday 13th January. Tickets are £13, and there are matinees on Friday and Saturday. For more information go to [www.wolseytheatre.co.uk](http://www.wolseytheatre.co.uk)

A reminder that Simon Williams' adaptation of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* will be performed at The Mill at Sonning Theatre in Reading from 1st February to 17th March 2018. For tickets and directions go to [www.millatsonning.com/shows/the-hound-of-the-baskervilles](http://www.millatsonning.com/shows/the-hound-of-the-baskervilles)

We are in receipt of interesting news from Bernard Hornung: 'By way of introduction, my great-great-uncle Ernest William Hornung married Constance Doyle, and became a brother-in-law to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Willie Hornung inverted the Sherlock Holmes plot by creating Raffles the Gentleman Thief, and his sidekick Bunny Manders. The launch of *Writing From the Jaws of Death: The First World War Diaries of E W Hornung*, will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday 8 February 2018, at the Cavalry & Guards Club. Places may be booked by clicking on the Eventbrite link below. I am raising funds to pay for a First World War Memorial to the Portuguese. Coincidentally, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle had an estate in Sintra. I would be so grateful if you could help me to publicise this event, for what I am sure will be an interesting evening.' Tickets for the event are £20. [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/writing-from-the-jaws-of-death-the-first-](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/writing-from-the-jaws-of-death-the-first-)

[world-war-diaries-of-ew-hornung-tickets-41074812871?utm\\_campaign=new\\_event\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eb\\_email&utm\\_term=viewmyevent\\_button](http://world-war-diaries-of-ew-hornung-tickets-41074812871?utm_campaign=new_event_email&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb_email&utm_term=viewmyevent_button)

**Victorian Policing** by Gaynor Haliday, £12.99, pbk, Pen & Sword. The author became fascinated with the history of the early police forces when researching the life of her great-great-grandfather, Thomas Bottomley, who was one of the longest-serving constables in Bradford. Handwritten watch committee minutes, historical newspapers and police records reveal an account of how and why the various police forces were set up. Victorian bobbies came from a wide range of backgrounds, but they had little education or training to handle the roles demanded of them, the issues and crimes they had to deal with, and the hostility they encountered. This book could prove to be a useful tool for authors writing about the period in question.

**Imagination Theatre's Sherlock Holmes** edited by David Marcum, £26.99/\$34.95, hbk, MX Publishing. This is a collection of fifteen scripts from *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* radio series, broadcast in the United States. All sixteen authors (including SHSL member Matthew Elliott) have donated their royalties to Stepping Stones School at Undershaw <http://steppingstones.org.uk/> [www.mxpublishing.co.uk](http://www.mxpublishing.co.uk) (UK) [www.mxpublishing.com](http://www.mxpublishing.com) (USA)

**A Murder to Die For** by Stevyn Colgan, £8.99, pbk, Unbound. The author is a former police officer who is one of the fact-finding 'elves' for the award-winning TV programme *QI*. Although this is not a Sherlock Holmes story, there are some sly references. For example, the map showing the village of Nasely, where the murders take place, includes Sherrinford Road, Ormond Road and Sacker Street. Fans of classic crime-writer Agnes Crabbe have descended upon the quiet village (the author's former home) for their annual convention. There is friction between the leaders of the various appreciation groups and fan clubs (replete with hissy-fits), enthusiastic cosplay (including cross-dressing) and disastrous amateur detecting. Anyone who has attended a fan convention will appreciate the knowing humour in the descriptions, and if you hate the name your parents gave you, you'll have enormous sympathy for one of the main characters. If you enjoy the sheer barminess of *Midsomer Murders*, this book will appeal.

Steve Mason has been in touch with the following: 'The Crew of the Barque Lone Star was founded as a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars in April, 1970. Through the years, the society has been home for many authors of fiction, Sherlockian criticism, and other non-fiction pieces of work. So, as we approach our 50th anniversary of existence, it just seemed appropriate to have our present members develop a Sherlock pastiche. The theme for this book was borrowed from two sources... First, presently there is an opera being developed, based on a fairy tale solved by the world's consulting detective. Second, one of the foremost Sherlockians in the country, Gayle Puhl, has authored two volumes of short stories where Sherlock Holmes solves beloved fairy tales, folk tales, nursery rhymes, and other children's stories. When approached, several members of our society enjoyed the idea of trying their own skill at the same type of pastiche. So the stories included in this volume are all from the fertile minds of crew members of the Barque Lone Star. The stories authored by our members comprise the first half of the volume. The original tales comprise the second half of the book. You can download an e-book version of the book on our website [www.dfw-sherlock.org](http://www.dfw-sherlock.org) and click on Society Pastiche on the left side. There are three formats available: Kindle.mobi, Nook.epub, and Adobe.pdf. I hope you enjoy the book.'

Allan Smith from Perth, Australia would like to share news of his latest book: 'This strikes me as a classic case of coals to Newcastle, an Antipodean hawking his wares about Sherlock to a Londoner. However, on the basis we share a common interest, here goes. The purpose of this communication is to let you and your members know about my new novel set in 1890s London and linked to Sherlock Holmes. The ISBN is 978-0-244-92323-5, the title is *The Sherlock He Knew*, available through Amazon, Lulu and elsewhere. It's not about Sherlock as such, but his name and character plays a large part in it, there's a lot of crime and detection, and Conan Doyle and his wife make appearances. If your members like the Doyle stories, I'm pretty confident they'll enjoy this book.'

Stephen Gaspar also wishes to call attention to his new book, *The Canadian Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, which is available on Amazon. 428pp, pbk, CreativeSpace.

#### Obituaries:

Paul Annett died on 11th December at the age of 80. He was a director, producer and writer of a remarkable list of popular films and television programmes spanning five decades. Sherlockians will remember him as the director of some of Granada's finest episodes, starring Jeremy Brett: *A Scandal in Bohemia*, *The Solitary Cyclist*, and *The Copper Beeches*

#### Periodicals received:

*The Illustrious Clients News*, December 2017 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, Indiana 46077, USA; [IllustClients@gmail.com](mailto:IllustClients@gmail.com))

*The Baker Street Journal*, Autumn 2017 (**The Baker Street Journal**, P.O. Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077-1934, USA; [email@bakerstreetjournal.com](mailto:email@bakerstreetjournal.com))

*The Bilge Pump* – The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star, December 2017 (Steve Mason; [mason.steve@epa.gov](mailto:mason.steve@epa.gov))

*Ineffable Twaddle*, December 2017 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen; [terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com](mailto:terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com))

*The Moor*, December 2017 (**The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden**, Anders Wiggstrom; [bhc@telia.com](mailto:bhc@telia.com))

*The Petrel Flyer*, Winter 2017 (**The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia**, Fran Martin; [fran@shaw.ca](mailto:fran@shaw.ca))

*Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge*, December 2017 (The Sherlock Holmes Society of India; [shseditors@yahoo.in](mailto:shseditors@yahoo.in), [shseditors@gmail.com](mailto:shseditors@gmail.com))

*Report from the Unscrupulous Rascals*, November 2017 (The Sherlock Holmes Society of Southern Australia, Mark Chellew; [mchellew@gmail.com](mailto:mchellew@gmail.com))

*Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, November 2017 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; [blau7103@comcast.net](mailto:blau7103@comcast.net))

*The Serpentine Muse*, Winter 2017 (**The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes**, Susan Z Diamond, 16W603 Third Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106-2327, USA; [szdiamond@comcast.net](mailto:szdiamond@comcast.net))

*Sherlockiana*, Nr. 4 2017 (Sherlock Holmes Klubben I Danmark; Sven Ranild, editor; [redaktion@sherlockholmesklubben.dk](mailto:redaktion@sherlockholmesklubben.dk))

*The Sherlockian E-Times*, December 2017 (Carolyn & Joel Senter, Clifton Avenue, OH 45219; [sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com](mailto:sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com))

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