

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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Thanks to the efforts of **Luke Kuhns** and **Valerie Schreiner**, The Sherlock Holmes Society of London now has an **Instagram** account. You can view it here: <https://www.instagram.com/shsoclondon/>

The manuscript of "*The Adventure of the Dancing Men*" will be auctioned on 18th April at Heritage Auctions in Dallas, TX. Listed as Lot No. 47156, it is described as having 53 leaves of text and an autograph title page. There is no reserve, but bidding opens at £250,000. Do I hear everyone rushing for their wallets? You can preview the manuscript here:

<https://historical.ha.com/itm/autographs/arthur-conan-doyle-autograph-manuscript-the-adventure-of-the-dancing-men-signed-three-times/p/6196-46001.s>

If you go down to the NPG you're in for a big surprise. After languishing in storage for decades, the extremely fine Henry Gates portrait of **Arthur Conan Doyle** is finally back on display. It can be found in Room 31 of the National Portrait Gallery, near an arresting self-portrait of Mervyn Peake. The ACD portrait appears to have undergone some cleaning and restoration, as it looks very fresh and bright.

At the SHSL meeting on 22nd March, we were delighted to meet **Paul Miller**, who has founded **The Shingle of Southsea Holmesian Society**. Paul, who has invested himself as "The Entire Canon", has a very entertaining blog, which can be found at shingleofsouthsea.blogspot.co.uk Here's the introductory paragraph: "*This is the official website for The Shingle of Southsea Holmesian Society; a group dedicated to all things Holmesian, based in the Portsmouth and Southsea area in the UK. The current membership is one very sad, self-obsessed and pathetic person, Paul Thomas Miller. I will use this blog to record the minutes of my monthly meetings with myself and any interesting works we produce together on my own.*"

Portsmouth Museum will be opening a new exhibition, **You Don't Know Sherlock Holmes Yet?** on 22nd May, which will include a zone dedicated to children. The Conan Doyle Collection also has new branding, **More Than Just Sherlock**, and has been working with the RNIB to make its collection accessible to blind or partially sighted visitors. A sensory unit with a mini exhibition will be going on tour. It includes panels with audio descriptions and tactile exhibits. You can find more details at: <https://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/conandoyle/our-work/events>

Arthur Conan Doyle was one of the founders and the first president of **Hindhead Golf Club**, which has a tradition of raising money for local charities. This year, both the outgoing and incoming captains have chosen to support Stepping Stones School. The full story, which appeared on 18th March, can be seen here: [http://www.haslemereherald.com/article.cfm?id=126156&headline=Hindhead Golf Club raises £33k for charity§ionIs=news&searchyear=2018r%20charity§ionIs=news&searchyear=2018](http://www.haslemereherald.com/article.cfm?id=126156&headline=Hindhead+Golf+Club+raises+£33k+for+charity§ionIs=news&searchyear=2018r%20charity§ionIs=news&searchyear=2018)

An interesting item from **Catherine Cooke**: "This caught my eye today - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-43210251> Scroll down and you'll see the designs for the **new 10p coins**. Nothing overtly Sherlockian, but the W caught my eye. No doubt it's the Web, or Internet, but turn it upside down, and you have an M sitting in the centre of a web. C is cricket, which ACD played, of

course." Catherine also shares the news that **The Wallace Collection**, which includes paintings by Greuze and the Vernets, is celebrating the 200th birthday of its founder, Sir Richard Wallace. <http://www.wallacecollection.org/blog/2018/01/richard-wallace-200/>

The Self Important Scotland Yarders (The Sherlock Holmes Society of Scotland), which is based in Glasgow, will hold its next meeting on 4th April at 7:30pm in Sloan's Bar, where they will be discussing '*The Adventure of the Creeping Man*'. If you would like to attend or require more details, contact Jacqui McKechnie at J.G.McKechnie@gcu.ac.uk

Robin Rowles, who is a City of London Guide Lecturer, writes to enquire: "Would SHSL members be interested in this talk about hypnotism in Victorian London?"

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-mesmerist-how-hypnotism-came-to-victorian-london-a-talk-by-author-wendy-moore-tickets-42348538619?aff=ebdsorderfbutton> Hypnotism featured in an episode of *Murder Rooms*, was a plot point in *The Woman in Green* and *Sherlock: Many Happy Returns*. And hypnotism is obliquely referenced in '*The Red Circle*.' The talk will be on 14th June from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge.

I must confess that I have never watched the animated TV series **Family Guy**, but **John Lockwood** advises that a recent episode featured a Sherlockian theme. There's more information at: http://www.ihearofsherlock.com/2018/03/sherlock-holmes-on-family-guy.html#.Wr52_pch2Uk

Aziz Adams has discovered a Chinese television series (produced in Singapore) called **Sherlock At Work**. **Howard Ostrom** provides a bit more information: "I believe it first aired in China Oct. 26, 2016 although it was posted here July 15, 2017. It is quite an interesting show and thank God for the English subtitles." According to the description: "There is a Sherlock Holmes in every job and trade and may involve the investigation and survey process. The show will feature the elite of each job and trade and introduce the Sherlock Holmes of each trade and industry. The host, Pornsak, will get to experience jobs of these Sherlock Holmes." You can view episode one here: <https://www.bilibili.com/video/av11330744/> episode three: <https://www.bilibili.com/video/av11427414/> and episode four: <https://www.bilibili.com/video/av11439258/> (Sorry, we don't have episode two.)

A couple of television documentaries featuring members of the SHSL have recently been posted on YouTube: **The Real Sherlock Holmes** (2012) can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdBdOFSXzw8>; **Sherlock Holmes Against Conan Doyle** (2018) at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDyHv7LlabY>

Thierry Saint-Joanis, President of The Sherlock Holmes Society of France informs us that a private screening of a new French Holmesian short film took place on 23rd March at the Max Linder Cinéma in Paris. **L'Hypothèse de la Reine Rouge** (2018) by Florian Thomas, stars Vernon Dobtcheff as Holmes and Charles Clément as Arsène Lupin. You can view interviews with the cast (part in French, part in English) at <https://www.facebook.com/LHypotheseDeLaReineRouge/videos/1566872920071350/>

Sherlock Gnomes opened on 23rd March in the United States to less than ecstatic reviews, most of which commented on Jonny Depp's uninspired voice performance. The film opens in the UK on 11th May

Oscar Ross reports: Included in the programme for the **Belfast Film Festival** (12-21 April 2018) is *Hidden People* - a short film (running time 6 minutes), described as 'loosely based on the local myth of the Cottingley Fairies'.

<https://belfastfilmfestival.org/films/programme-3-3>

News from **Orlando Pearson**: "My play, *A Scandal in Nova Alba* - a spine-tingling blend of the sleuth of Baker Street and the Bard of Stratford - is being put on at the **Corner House Theatre**, 116 Douglas Road, Surbiton, KT6 7SB as part of its festival of one act plays. Performance dates are 24, 26, and 28 April and full details of location, times and how to get tickets are under the links below."

<http://www.thech.org/>

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thecornerhouseevents>

Robert Graham provides a reminder that *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Curtain*, starring Robert Powell and Liza Goddard, will be at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford from 18th to 23rd June. For information and to book tickets go to: <http://www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk/production/sherlock-holmes-the-final-curtain>

The Samuel French Bookshop, which closed its original London shop a year ago, has re-opened in the Balcony Bar of the Royal Court Theatre at Sloane Square. Hours are Monday - Saturday, 11:00am - 5:30pm. <https://samuelfrench.co.uk>

Hugh Ashton, author of numerous Sherlock Holmes pastiches, has been in contact to say: "It is with great sadness that I heard of the death of my publisher, editor, and friend, Jo Lowe just before Christmas. As well as losing a friend, I also lost a publisher. **Inknbeans Press** is no more, and I am in the business of republishing my (all too many) volumes of untold adventures. I still have in my possession limited numbers of some of the Inknbeans volumes. Some of the new editions published by j-view Publishing are already available as ebooks and as paperbacks from various sources. I am happy to be contacted directly at publish@j-views.biz regarding these matters, including the direct sale of copies of my work."

Jeff Falkingham's *Murder in Minnesota* was published March 26th by AuthorCentrix of Murrieta, CA. It is a 2-in-1 bundling of the author's *County Courthouse Caper* and its sequel *In Search of the Source*. Both tales find Sherlock Holmes in Minnesota in the late 1800s. Their narrator is an adventurous young frontier lad, which makes the stories appealing for young readers. The book includes upgraded maps and graphics. \$10.99 (soft cover) or \$2.99 (eBook). Details can be found at cccaper.com.

The Floor Plans of Baker Street - Residence of Sherlock Holmes by Edward S. Smith, Jr., 46pp, pbk, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Available on Amazon. Originally published in 1996 with limited distribution, this is the second edition with some additional research and a different cover.

The Vanishing Dragon by Robert J. Harris, 192pp, pbk, Kelpies, £6.99 / \$9.95. This is the second in the series of *The Artie Conan Doyle Mysteries* in which the schoolboys Artie and sidekick Ham get embroiled in mysterious goings-on in Edinburgh. This time, they're involved with The Great Wizard of the North, a magician who wants to present his most spectacular illusion before retiring from the stage. A series of dangerous mishaps, a bogus medium, and the theft of his mechanical dragon conspire to make it impossible for The Wizard to achieve his dream. It's entertainingly written, and should appeal to young readers.

House of the Doomed - An Adventure of Sherlock Holmes by Dan Andriacco, 127pp, pbk, Gasogene Books, \$19.95. Shortly after the death of Queen Victoria, a young woman in Surrey is threatened by an apparent vendetta. Much of the action takes place near Haslemere, an area popular with writers and artists, including of course ACD.

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes - Illustrated and Enhanced by N.R. Reekie, 352pp, hbk with dj, with over 300 visuals, £24.95. This is a very handsome A4 size book produced in a limited edition of 500, signed and numbered by the artist. The stories are accompanied by period photographs and reproductions of relevant documents, along with N.R. Reekie's own impressive pen and ink pointillist artwork. It is an imaginative presentation that would make a nice addition to the collection of The Sherlockian Who Has Everything. You will find the book listed on Ebay.

The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories, Parts IX (1879 - 1895) and X (1896 - 1916), David Marcum, editor, 368 & 406 pp, hbk with dj, £28.99 /\$44.95 each. These two new volumes, compiled and edited by the seemingly tireless David Marcum, contain between them 37 new Holmes adventures. The authors of the stories included in these books have contributed their royalties to the continuing restoration and maintenance of Undershaw and Stepping Stones School.

Bonnie MacBird's *Unquiet Spirits* will be published by HarperCollins in paperback and ebook (£8.99) and audiobook on 5 April 2018.

OBITUARIES:

Karen Anderson died on 18th March age 85. An author dealing mainly with science fiction, she was the widow of Poul Anderson and collaborated with him on a number of novels. Along with her own novels, Karen wrote poetry and published fanzines in the science fiction genre. However, her Sherlockian pedigree was of the highest form: In 1950, while still in high school in the Washington DC area, she co-founded "The Red Circle Society" and in 2000 was invested in the BSI as "Emilia Lucca".

Paul David Herbert died on 16th February age 79. He was a member of the SHSL and many scion societies in the United States, and was invested in the BSI as "Mr. Leverton, of Pinkerton's". For 20 years he presided over the Dr. John H. Watson fund, which offers financial assistance for Sherlockians who might otherwise be unable to attend the Birthday festivities in New York.

Ernest Hecht died on 13th February age 88. Originally from Czechoslovakia, he was a British publisher and philanthropist. He founded Souvenir Press Ltd in 1951, the last remaining independently owned major publishing house in Great Britain. *The Bookseller* described him as "one of a number of émigrés who changed the face of British publishing after the Second World War." During the BBC Radio 4's "Last Word" tribute, his friend Barb Jungr recalled that he began to produce a Sherlock Holmes newsletter when he was ten years old.

Periodicals received:

The Bilge Pump - The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the **Barque Lone Star**, March 2018 (Steve Mason; mason.steve@epa.gov)

Ineffable Twaddle, March & April 2018 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen; terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)

Scuttlebutt from the Spermacti Press, February 2018 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; blau7103@comcast.net)

The Sherlockian E-Times, March 2018 (Carolyn & Joel Senter, Clifton Avenue, OH 45219; sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com)

Sherlockiana, Nr. 1 2018 (**Sherlock Holmes Klubben I Danmark**; Sven Ranild, editor; redaktion@sherlockholmesklubben.dk)

Jean Upton