

The DISTRICT MESSENGER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

Jean Upton, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

e-mail: district.messenger@yahoo.com

No. 380 October 2018

First, I must apologise for the brief pause in publication. As the brilliant **Phil Cornell** has illustrated aptly in the new masthead, I am recovering from knee replacement surgery and can spend only short periods of time at the computer.

Mattias Boström's *From Holmes to Sherlock* will soon have a Japanese edition, translated by Yuichi Hirayama. The book is already available in Swedish (2013), Danish (2014), German (2015), Norwegian (2016), and English (2017). Mattias missed out on the Macavity Award and the Anthony Award at the recent Bouchercon; the respective winners were Martin Edwards for *The Story of Classic Crime in 100 Books* and David Gram for *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*.

2018 was designated the International Year of the Woman, so it's good to see that **The Sons of the Copper Beeches** have invested their first group of female Master Copper Beech-Smiths. Since its inception in Philadelphia in the 1940s, the scion society has, until recently, maintained male-only membership. Congratulations to the ladies who have now joined their ranks: Janice Fisher, Ashley Polasek, Victoria Robinson, Rebecca Romney, and Karen Wilson.

The Baker Street Babes have announced their next Charity Ball, which will take place in New York on Thursday 10th January. **The Daintiest Filly on the Turf** will include "giant hats, muddled cocktails, and a day at the races." They are now seeking donations of items for the auction, which benefits the **Disabled American Veterans Trust**. They say, "If you have any Sherlockian memorabilia, arts, crafts, books.... or literally anything... that you'd like to donate to our auction, please email Lyndsay Faye at lyndsay@bakerstreetbabes.com. We are always looking for wonderful things for our goodie bags and raffles as well, so please feel free to approach us with whatever you may have! It ALL goes to wounded veterans."

It's not too early to be thinking about Christmas. The Society's new Christmas card, which features a period photo of The Royal Exchange, is now available. Also consider our new publication, *Through the Archives*, edited by Jessica Woolf, which provides a profusely illustrated history of the Society, thanks to the contents of its extensive archival collection, housed at Westminster Reference Library. There is also a new SHSL wristwatch and lots of other treats in the online shop. www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/

And here's a nice stocking-filler for someone: **Peter L. Stern's** page on abebooks.com is listing a copy of **Beeton's Christmas Annual** for £75,000. You can read more about it at **I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere** - www.ihearofsherlock.com/

Peter Blau reports that **Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine** now has a website that's well worth exploring. "There's audio and video from the symposium at Columbia University in

2016 that celebrated the 75th anniversary of EQMM, Arthur Vidro's web-only account of the history of the magazine's first issue, Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" report on "We Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" (Feb. 2018), and much more." www.tinyurl.com/yaemcfc

A trailer for the upcoming comedy *Holmes and Watson* (starring **Will Ferrell** and **John C. Reilly**) can be found on YouTube. According to recent reports, the film is due to be shown in theatres in the USA on 21st December, and on 26th December in the UK.

Carolyn Kirk has been in touch to say: "I have a project on the Lego ideas platform based on the 221B Baker Street featured in BBC Sherlock. I am a big fan of all things Sherlock Holmes, and I need people to support the project. Thanks, theLEGObirder." You can see Carolyn's proposal at: ideas.lego.com/projects/ce7e1d5c-80d5-4803-8cd0-af288cfd132a. It's quite impressive!

There's a new Sherlock Holmes themed bar in Ikebukuro, Tokyo. It is decorated in a 19th century style and offers a themed menu and cocktails. You can read more about it at www.animenewsnetwork.com/interest/2018-09-22/visit-221b-baker-street-at-tokyo-new-sherlock-holmes-themed-bar/.136747

Steve Emecz from **MX Publishing** has provided news of two new projects for its authors. *The Sherlock Holmes Weekly* will launch in early 2019 as a weekly release of a new Sherlock Holmes short story on ebook and then audio. The program is open to all Sherlock Holmes MX authors that would like to participate. The project is designed for, but not exclusively restricted to, short stories that have kindly been donated by authors to anthologies. There is no limit to the number of authors and stories that can take part as its a release each week and you can submit as many stories as you like. *The Art of Sherlock Holmes* is the brainchild of MX author **Phil Growick**. Each book will pair up a dozen short story writers with artists who will produce a piece of art linked to the story. For this project, authors should be ready and interested to get involved with social media. Steve says, "In addition to the 'blurb' required for the Weekly project, we would also like a short summary from the author as to why they want to take part. There is no limit to the number of books in the project, but the focus is getting Book One done, as the art will take time to complete. Artists and authors will share the royalties equally." If you would like to participate or need more details, contact steve@mxpublishing.co.uk

Fabienne Courouge and **Hélène Colin** have published their third issue of *La Gazette du 221B* (a "webzine d'études et d'actualités sur l'univers de Sherlock Holmes"). All issues are available to read (in French) at www.gazette221b.com

Holmes & Watson by S. C. Roberts, 160pp, hbk, The British Library £10.00. Roberts was the first president of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and his book, first published in 1953, is a milestone in the progress of Sherlockian scholarship. This is a collection of his varied and entertaining writings, and includes his comments on the 1951 Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House. The new edition from the British Library is beautifully presented and includes an introduction from our Society's president emeritus, Guy Marriott. If you don't already have a copy, put it on your Christmas Wish List. Available from www.bl.uk/shop

Island of the Mad by Laurie R. King, 452pp, hbk, Allison & Busby Ltd. £19.99. The popular Mary Russell series began with **The Beekeeper's Apprentice**, published in 1994, chronicling events of 1915. It is now 1925 and Holmes and Mary set off from Sussex on an adventure that leads them from Bedlam to Venice, including encounters with Mussolini's Blackshirts and Cole Porter. Like the other books in the series, this is witty, erudite and entertaining.

Sherlock Holmes is Like: Sixty Comparisons for an Incomparable Character edited by Christopher Redmond, 277pp, pbk, Wildside Press \$14.99 www.wildsidepress.com Chris Redmond's introduction states "The essays in this collection are not an analysis of what Sherlock Holmes is like (brilliant, unsociable, hawk-nosed) but rather case studies of whom he can be said to be like ... the ultimate purpose of the comparison is to shed light on some aspect of the character of Sherlock Holmes, whose complexities are far from exhausted more than 130 years after he was introduced to a curious readership." The various authors introduce comparisons with historical figures, characters from fiction, myth and legends, religious leaders, and even deities.

A Holmes by Any Other Name – The Twistings and Turnings of Sherlock Holmes by Bill Mason, 195pp, pbk, Wildside Press \$12.99. Bill Mason has collected and annotated parody names for Sherlock Holmes from 1891 to the present day. His exhaustive research includes mentions in novels, short stories, jokes, cartoons, puppet shows, radio and television, music, advertisements – and pretty much anything else you can name.

Sherlock Holmes on Screens 1929–1939 by Howard Ostrom, edited and illustrated by Thierry Saint-Joanis, 92pp, hbk, Mycroft's Brother Editions www.mycrofts.net 58 films, 300 photos, 30 Euros. This is Volume 1 of Howard Ostrom's ongoing quest to find every actor who ever played Sherlock Holmes. It is presented in the style of an album with rare photos, images and press clippings. There are many familiar names such as Rathbone, Wontner and Brook, along with less familiar and quite obscure references. This is a fascinating volume to dip in and out of, and we look forward to future volumes.

Have You Eaten Grandma? by Gyles Brandreth, 320pp, hbk, Michael Joseph £9.99. Are you an author who publishes without the benefit of a good editor and/or proofreader? If so, you need this book. It sets out, in an entertaining and conversational style, the basic knowledge that a writer requires in order to avoid the errors that cause readers (and reviewers) irritation and angst.

Obituaries

From Peter Blau: The American playwright Neil Simon died on 26th August. He wrote dozens of plays, more than 20

screenplays, and the scripts for five hit musicals, and was sometimes called the world's most popular playwright. Perhaps best-known for **The Odd Couple** (1965), he won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1991 for **Lost in Yonkers**, and wrote the screenplay for **Murder By Death** (1976); one of the alternative endings for the film included an appearance by Holmes and Watson.

Periodicals Received:

The Baker Street Journal, Summer 2018 (**The Baker Street Journal**, P.O. Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077-1934, USA; email@bakerstreetjournal.com)

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

The Camden House Journal, 5 January – 5 October 2018 (**The Occupants of the Empty House**, William R. Cochran, 614 South Terrace Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901)

Canadian Holmes, Fall 2018 (**The Journal of the Bootmakers of Toronto**, Mark and JoAnn Alberstat, 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3A 2M2, Canada; markalberstat@gmail.com)

The Cri Bar Crier, Vol. 24 No. 1, October 2018 (**Criterion Bar Association of Chicago**; franklin.saksenda@gmail.com)

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, September 2018 (Suite 111, Elmer L Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, 222 21st Avenue S., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, USA)

The Illustrious Clients News, September 2018 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, Indiana 46077, USA; IllustClients@gmail.com)

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

Mayday Mayday, October 2018 (**The Crew of the SS May Day**, Belfast, Oscar Ross; oscarross@hotmail.com)

Memoirs et Documents 2018 (Société D'Études Holmesiennes de la Suisse Romande, Vincent Delay, Ch. De la Chaumiere 1, 1010 Lausanne, Switzerland)

The Moor, October 2018 (**The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden**, Anders Wiggstrom; bhc@telia.com)

The Petrel Flyer, July/August/September 2018 (**The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia**, Fran Martin; franziskah@shaw.ca)

Report from the Unscrupulous Rascals, August 2018 (The Sherlock Holmes Society of Southern Australia, Mark Chellew; mchellew@gmail.com)

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

The Serpentine Muse, Fall 2018 (**The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes**, Susan Z Diamond, 16W603 Third Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106-2327, USA; szdiamond@comcast.net)

The Torr, Autumn 2018 (**The Poor Folk Upon the Moors**, Stephan Arthur; editor.poorfolk@gmail.com)

Jean Upton