

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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It's nice to start the new year on a positive note! Congratulations are in order for the following:

The latest issue of *The Serpentine Muse* provides the newest investitures in *The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes* (ASH). They are: **Taylor Blumenberg** - 'A Shade of Anxiety'; **Dana Cameron** - 'The British Museum'; **Elizabeth Crowens** - 'A Collector of Obscure Volumes'; **Heather Holloway** - 'A Small Saucer of Milk'; **Crystal Noll** - 'Crystal Palace'; **Maggie Schpak** - 'Spanish Diamonds'

**Evelyn Herzog** edited *The Serpentine Muse* for its first 20 years of publication, followed by **Marilynne McKay** and **Susan Diamond** who co-edited for 22 years. The *Muse* has now been turned over to the capable hands of co-editors **Crystal Noll** and **Heather Holloway**. If you are interested in submitting an article you can contact them at [SerpentineMuseASH@gmail.com](mailto:SerpentineMuseASH@gmail.com).

On 10th January **The Baker Street Babes** held their fundraising ball and auction entitled **The Daintiest Filly on the Turf**, at which \$4,675 was raised for the Disabled American Veterans Trust. More than \$41,000 has been raised over the seven years that these events have been held. Thanks should be given to its main organiser, **Lyndsay Faye**, who has announced that she now feels the need to stand down. We await news as to whether someone else will volunteer to take up the baton for 2020.

At the **Baker Street Irregulars** dinner on 11th January, **Michael Whelan** (Wiggins) announced the following new investitures: **Alexander Katz** - 'Sarasate'; **John Knud-Hansen** - 'The Rascally Lascar'; **Bridgette Latella** - 'Holmes's Alpenstock'; **Michelle Lopez** - 'Attenta, Pericolo'; **Ira Brad Matetsky** - 'The Final Problem'; **Terry McCammon** - 'Young Stamford'; **Michael McSwiggin** - 'The Seven-per-Cent Solution'; **Greg D. Ruby** - 'Bulldog Pin with Ruby Eyes'; **Monica Schmidt** - 'Julia Stoner'. **Mike Whelan** also announced his retirement as Wiggins; he will hand over to **Michael Kean** in 2020.

**The Sherlock Holmes Society of London** held its dinner on 19th January, at which former President, **Guy Marriott**, was awarded Honorary Membership, and Treasurer, **Ashley Mayo**, received the Tony Howlett Award

**Nick Utechin** would like to tell those who kindly bought his book *The Complete Paget Portfolio* (Gasogene Books, 2018) that some text with background historical information did not make it into the final version of the volume. He would be happy to send that text as a Word Doc if they write to him at [highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com](mailto:highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com)

From **Marcus Geisser**: 'On 22 May 2019 we celebrate the 160th anniversary of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The German Sherlock Holmes Club (<https://dshc.de>) and the Austrian town of Feldkirch, where Sir Arthur spent a couple of

semesters at the Jesuit college of Stella Matutina, have organized a weekend about Sir Arthur's first adventure abroad that took him to Feldkirch, a charming medieval town in the Western part of Austria. It is at the Stella Matutina where he made his first literary attempts by writing his own *Feldkirch Gazette*. The weekend (Thursday, 23 May, until Sunday, 26 May) features the inauguration of the Arthur Conan Doyle Alley as well as a re-enactment of one of Sir Arthur's nearby hiking excursions, immortalized in his short story *A Pastoral Horror*. See <https://dshc.de/dshg-jahresreise-2019/#> for further details or contact the DSHC directly at ([info@sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de](mailto:info@sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de)). Local mathematician, college professor and Feldkirch's literary historian **Philipp Schöbi** will deliver a keynote speech on Sir Arthur's local exploits. Philipp is the author of the excellent volume about the Literary Feldkirch, published in 2018: *Das Literarische Feldkirch - Die Montfortstadt als Schauplatz der Literatur*, Bucher Verlag, Hohenems, [www.bucherverlag.com](http://www.bucherverlag.com). It contains the most complete account about Sir Arthur's stay in Feldkirch.'

**Aleš 'aleSH' Kolodrubec** reports that on January 19th the Annual Meeting of the Czech Society of Sherlock Holmes held 'a special toast at Noon to the Immortals - Mr. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson.' Aleš adds, 'Please convey our best wishes to the members of the renowned Sherlock Holmes Society of London on the occasion of the Annual Meeting 2019. This Autumn we commemorate the 20th anniversary of our Society and in January 2020 we will have a 20th Annual Meeting & Toast to the Immortals. Canonically yours, from Scandalous Bohemia.'

An email received from Russia: 'Hello! My name's **Evgeny**. I live in Volgograd, Russia. I am an English teacher. In 2011 I became self-employed and advertised for private students. My school is called "Dr Watson". Occasionally I make interesting events in Volgograd dedicated to English literature, poet Alexander Pushkin and the history of chess. I have always wanted to open a Sherlock Holmes fan club in my city and make events dedicated to Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. I wonder if you could help me with that. It's difficult for me to do it on my own.' You can email Evgeny at [pushkinist79@mail.ru](mailto:pushkinist79@mail.ru) to share advice.

From bookseller **Forbes Gibb**: 'Please find attached my latest Sherlock Holmes catalogue which contains "Writings on the writings" as well as works discussing Doyle and his contributions to other fields at [www.baskervillebooks.co.uk](http://www.baskervillebooks.co.uk) Pastiches and parodies next!'

Open Book Theatre is presenting a version of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, adapted for children and young people, on Friday 22nd February in London at Idea Store Chrisp Street at 2:00pm and at Idea Store Canary Wharf at 4:30 pm. (Idea Store = public library.) More details are available at:

<http://www.towerhamletsarts.org.uk/?guide=events&cat=33&cid=68804>

**David Stuart Davies** reports that the premiere of his new play, *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Reckoning* will take place at: Assembly Roxy, 2 Roxburgh Place, Edinburgh EH8 9SU. The play will run from 25-27 Feb & 1-3 March 2019. Details are on the Society's website at <http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/sherlock-holmes-the-final-reckoning/>.

The remarkable **Robert Lloyd Parry** will be giving a dramatic reading of *The Creeping Man* at Heffers Bookshop in Cambridge on Tuesday March 19th, 6:30 – 8:00PM. Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the door. For more information: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sherlock-holmes-the-adventure-of-the-creeping-man-with-nunkie-theatre-tickets-53048860570>

Another new play, *Sherlock Holmes and the Vampyres of London*, will run from 6–13th April at Coulsdon Community Centre, Croydon. For details and tickets go to: <https://insidecroydon.com/2019/01/01/sherlock-holmes-and-the-vampyres-of-london-apr-6-13/>

**Don't Go Into the Cellar** was established in 2010, and remains the UK's only touring theatre company that specialises in Victorian and Edwardian-style stage shows. They are now taking bookings for 2019/20 and new shows for the coming season include: *Strictly Sherlock Holmes* (includes adaptations of *The Sussex Vampire*, *The Creeping Man* and *The Devil's Foot*); *Lovecraft After Dark*; *Prince of Darkness - The Last Act of Edgar Allan Poe*; *The Talking Dead*; *Edward Lear's Stuff and Nonsense*. Details of the shows can be found on their website [www.dontgointothecellar.com](http://www.dontgointothecellar.com). If you are an event organiser, do consider booking them. We saw *The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes* and it was excellent.

From **Geraldine Beare**: 'Each year the **Royal Mint** produces coins to celebrate people and events. This year we have D-Day, the birth of Queen Victoria, Wedgwood, Samuel Pepys - and our very own Sherlock Holmes. Take a look at their website [royalmint.com](http://royalmint.com) and click on the strapline concerning the 2019 Annual Sets Monumental Stories in Miniature.' The set, including the Sherlock Holmes coin designed by Stephen Raw, costs £55.00. There is no option to enable the purchase of the single coin.

**Matt Wingett** has produced a new facsimile of *Beeton's Christmas Annual* for the very reasonable price of £15. You can learn more and order a copy at his website: <https://www.lifeisamazing.co.uk/restoration-of-a-study-in-scarlet-cover-for-upcoming-facsimile-edition>

New from Hackney Books is *Sherlock Holmes – The Blue Carbuncle* by Arthur Conan Doyle. Hackney Books releases three stories / books each week and are into their second year of providing this service 'All Free All The Time.' <http://www.hackneybooks.co.uk>

#### Obituaries

**David L. Hammer**, BSI ('Major-General Stoner') died on 27th December at the age of 89. He was a prominent attorney and a major contributor to Sherlockian scholarship with travel guides including *The Game is Afoot*, *For the Sake of the Game* and *The Worth of the Game*. For a full appreciation of David's life go to: <https://www.ihearofsherlock.com/>

**Windsor Davies** died on 17th January at the age of 88. A versatile actor who specialised in comedy, he was best known as Sergeant-Major 'Shut Up' Williams in the popular TV series *It Ain't Half Hot Mum*. Oscar Ross says: 'As far as I know, his only Sherlock Holmes connection was an appearance in *The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes* series - see here: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0204034/>. I stand to be corrected, of course.'

**Dame June Whitfield** died on 29th December at age 93. Oscar Ross states: 'While it's for *Absolutely Fabulous* and *Terry & June* that the wider public may best remember June for, many Holmesians will have a special place in their hearts for her role as Mrs Hudson (and other females) in *The Newly Discovered Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* series (BBC Radio 2, 1999), when she played alongside her long-time comedy partner Roy Hudd.'

**Peter Calamai** died on 22 January, age 75. He was one of Canada's most distinguished journalists as well as a serious book collector and an active Sherlockian. Amongst his many achievements, Peter was a Master Bootmaker and a Baker Street Irregular ('The *Leeds Mercury*'). The Bootmakers of Toronto also awarded him the Emerald Tie Pin for his long years of service, and he was co-editor (with Mark Alberstat) of *Canada and Sherlock Holmes*, part of the BSI International Series.

#### Periodicals Received:

*The Bilge Pump – The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star*, January 2019 (Steve Mason; [mason.steve@epa.gov](mailto:mason.steve@epa.gov))

*The Cri Bar Crier*, Vol. 24 No. 2, January 2019 (**Criterion Bar Association of Chicago**; [franklin.saksenda@gmail.com](mailto:franklin.saksenda@gmail.com))

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

*The Illustrious Clients News*, January 2019 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, Indiana 46077, USA; [IllustClients@gmail.com](mailto:IllustClients@gmail.com))

*Ineffable Twaddle*, January 2019 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen; [terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com](mailto:terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com))

*The Moor*, December 2018 (**The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden**, Anders Wiggstrom; [bhc@telia.com](mailto:bhc@telia.com))

*The Passengers' Log*, October 2018 (**The Sydney Passengers**, Erin O'Neill, editor; [erin.index@gmail.com](mailto:erin.index@gmail.com))

*Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, December 2018 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; [blau7103@comcast.net](mailto:blau7103@comcast.net))

*The Serpentine Muse*, Winter 2018 (**The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes**, Heather Holloway & Crystal Noll, P.O. Box 1802, Griffin, GA 30224, USA; [SerpentineMuseASH@gmail.com](mailto:SerpentineMuseASH@gmail.com))

*The Watsonian*, Fall 2018 (**The John H Watson Society**; [selena@johnwatsonsociety.com](mailto:selena@johnwatsonsociety.com))

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