



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

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The Society held its AGM on 16th May, at which the winner of the 2019 Tony and Freda Howlett Literary Award was announced. Congratulations to **Brian Pugh**, whose revised and expanded edition of *A Chronology of the Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: May 22nd 1859 to July 7th 1930* is this year's choice. Brian's work is a formidable example of scholarly research and an invaluable resource.

The 22nd of May was ACD's 160th birthday. **David Burke** (Jeremy Brett's first Watson) celebrated his 85th birthday on 25th May. Terri Haugen of The Sound of the Baskervilles in Washington state, sends word that long-time member **Ed Funk, MD** will be 95 on 13th June. Felicitations!

If you plan to attend the Society's annual **Cricket Match** on Sunday 23rd June, please check the website before setting out. Rain has caused the match to be cancelled on several occasions. **The Poor Folk Upon the Moors** will hold their annual Henry Drew Memorial croquet match on Sunday, 23rd June. The day begins with breakfast at The Twisted Oak in Ide (near Exeter). The match is played 12 noon to 16:30 at Pines Gardens, with a break for a classic Devon cream tea. The cost for the day's events is £19. If you would like to attend, contact **Judith Marshall** no later than **9th June** at "The Mill House", Craze Lowman, Tiverton, Devon EX16 7DG.

Andrea Stabler (from Chicago) is participating in the Wonder Woman Marathon on 9th June in Gurnee, Illinois. All funds raised in support of Andrea completing the course go to the **Beacon Society**, in memory of **Susan Z. Diamond-Devitt**, who died on 25th April. If you would like to support Andrea and the Beacon Society go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/susandiamondbeaconsocietymemorialrun

Sherlock: The Game Is Now is an immersive experience escape game in central London, which is proving to be very popular. There is now a fully-themed bar, The Mind Palace, where the newest game is *The Case of the Poisoned Chalice*. On the 12th of June they will be screening Sherlock's third episode, *The Great Game* in the bar. Tickets are free with special pizza and drink offers also available. More information is available by emailing info@thegameisnow.com, or ring them on 07701 384464. www.thegameisnow.com/mind-palace

Geraldine Beare and **Oscar Ross** have alerted us that **Talking Pictures TV** (Freeview Channel 81) will be broadcasting the 1970s series *The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes*. The first episode, *A Message from the Deep*, featuring John Neville as R Austin Freeman's famous Doctor Thorndyke, will air on Sunday 9th June at 9:00pm. The series will continue throughout the month of June. Each episode features a new story and a different cast, all based on Sir Hugh Greene's original anthology, first broadcast in 1971-73. Learn more on the website, and also sign up to

Talking Pictures' newsletter to receive regular updates. <https://talkingpicturestv.co.uk/>

Howard Ostrom says: "It looks like a **Moriarty** TV show might be in pre-production. We will have to keep an eye out for this." Lucy Rawlings is cast as Charlotte Holmes, with Charlene Aldridge as Jane Watson. There's more on IMDB: www.imdb.com/title/tt9612244/?fbclid=IwAR2nwD3Bzc9B57Eh1cKQh_XhUVoyBQDZoi95qTpjnbYQ33_W1opgq9iuov4

Ales Kolodrubec reports: "There are two new articles on the website of the Czech Society of Sherlock Holmes. The first at <https://spolecnost-sh.webnode.cz/l/a5-vzkriseni-sherlocka-holmese/> deals with our meeting in Brno on 27th April to commemorate the return of Sherlock Holmes from the Great Hiatus. This year's guest was Mr. Jaroslav Lukeš, an actor living in Brno. He played Dr. Watson in five radio adaptations of SH stories. The second article commemorates the 160th Anniversary of the birth of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle at <https://spolecnost-sh.webnode.cz/l/a160-vyroci-narozeni-sira-arthur-conan-doylea/>." These are in Czech, but Google Chrome has an option to translate into English.

Yuichi Hirayama tells us that the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club has begun a new website, *The Writings about the Writings in Japan*. It offers English language abstracts of monographs that have been published in their annual journal, *The World of Sherlock Holmes*. www.holmesjapan.jp/english/writingsindex.html

Mattias Boström says: "The Royal Library in Stockholm have just released on Internet a film clip with Conan Doyle arriving in Stockholm on October 27, 1929. It's approximately 40 seconds, showing Conan Doyle and his wife Jean, their friends and traveling companions Ashton Johnson and his wife, and a Spiritualist welcome committee (also including ACD's Swedish publisher). You can watch it here: www.filmarkivet.se/movies/veckorevy-1929-10-28/

From **Andrew Parker**: "*The Times* of 17th January 2019 had an interesting Legal Notice on page 55. It concerns a High Court application 'for a declaration of presumed death of **Mr John James Phillimore**', whose last known address was in Coventry. I wonder if he remembered his umbrella? If anyone would like a copy of this item, let me know. My email address is Andrewparker753@icloud.com"

Andrew Malec has spotted a collection of **Oscar Slater** letters being offered for sale by Christian White/Modern First Editions. There are 69 letters from Slater plus additional documents, including a note from ACD to Leslie Reade. The lot is priced at £6,500 and you can find details at www.modernfirsteditions.com/product/oscarslaterlett790725029.html

Take Note Theatre will be producing *Sherlock Holmes and the Invisible Thing* by Greg Freeman at the Rudolf Steiner Theatre in London from 17th July to 18th August. "Holmes and Watson are called to investigate a murder seemingly committed by an invisible perpetrator. As they probe into the mysterious lakeside drowning, something startling emerges..." Rudolf Steiner Theatre, 35 Park Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6XT (just off Baker Street). For tickets ring the Box Office on 0333 666 3366 or go to www.thesherlockplay.co.uk

I and many other members of the Society were friends of the late Richard Lancelyn Green, so I provide the following information with some trepidation: Emmy nominee Alan Tudyk (*Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*) will lead the cast of the world premiere of *Mysterious Circumstances* at Los Angeles' Geffen Playhouse this summer. Tudyk stars as **Richard Lancelyn Green** and Sherlock Holmes. "Based on a true story, **Michael Mitnick's** new play is an ode to Sherlock Holmes, and a meditation on the line between love and obsession. Inspired by *The New Yorker* article "Mysterious Circumstances: The Strange Death of a Sherlock Holmes Fanatic" by **David Grann**, the play tells the story of Richard Lancelyn Green, the world's foremost scholar on Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. When he is found dead in his London apartment, with multiple suspects and competing motives at play, Green's death raises questions that may be answered only by Holmes himself." Performances are scheduled through July 14. Previews begin June 11, with an opening night on June 19. www.geffenplayhouse.org/

Sherlock Unlocked: Little-known Facts About the World's Greatest Detective by Daniel Smith. *Michael O'Mara*. 2019. 192pp. £9.99 (hbk). Readers might already be familiar with the author through *The Sherlock Holmes Companion* and *How to Think Like Sherlock*. In *Sherlock Unlocked* he provides over a hundred brief essays on aspects of the character, the stories, and their creator. It's an attractive little volume that would be a nice gift for someone who is new to our Game.

Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers: Volume 4, January-June 1894. Edited and Annotated by Mattias Boström, Mark Alberstat, Leah Guinn and Matt Laffey. *Gasogene Books*, Indianapolis. 2019. 202 pp. \$34.95 (pbk) Boström and colleagues have continued to track SH and ACD items from over 350 worldwide newspapers.

Sherlock Holmes Cyclopedia Volume 2: Sherlock Holmes on Screens 1940-1959 by Howard Ostrom & Thierry Saint-Joanis. *Mycroft's Brother Editions*, www.mycrofts.net. 2019. 172pp. €30.00/\$35.00 (hbk) The second in this fascinating series: information is again presented in a scrapbook format. We're now up to the Rathbone years, but this book is full of unexpected surprises.

The Art of Sherlock Holmes: West Palm Beach Edition conceived and curated by Phil Growick. *MX Publishing*. 2019. 252pp. £39.99/\$49.95 (hbk) Phil Growick has commissioned an illustration each from artists in his home city of West Palm Beach, Florida for fifteen new Sherlock Holmes stories from a variety of authors. Quality prints of the artwork are available from the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd at \$35.00 each: <https://shop.conandoyleestate.com/> (members of the Society can apply the promo code "shsl" for a 20% discount). A share of the proceeds from the book and the prints goes to Stepping Stones School at Undershaw and charities in West Palm Beach and Nairobi.

Obituaries

The popular British comedian **Freddie Starr** died on 9th May, age 76. He had a long and versatile career on stage and television and was renowned for his vast range of impressions, including Elvis Presley, Mick Jagger and Adolf Hitler. Unfortunately, he is possibly best known for the headline concocted in 1986 by *The Sun* newspaper: "Freddie Starr Ate My Hamster". The comedian was accused of putting the live pet of a friend between two pieces of bread and devouring it. The story was a complete fabrication, devised by the disgraced late PR man Max Clifford. It would be nicer to recall that Starr once played Sherlock Holmes. According to **Peter Blau**: "A British 30-minute variety show broadcast by Anglia (ITV) on July 29, 1994; the program included a 5-minute 'Sherlock Holmes' skit. Cast: Freddie Starr (Holmes), Brian Murphy (Moriarty). References (held): Evening Herald, July 29, 1994; Canadian Holmes, winter 1994, p. 51."

Periodicals Received:

The Baker Street Journal, Spring 2019 (**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, May 2019 (Steve Mason; mason.steve@epa.gov)

The Cri Bar Crier, Vol. 24 No. 4, April 2019 (**Criterion Bar Association of Chicago**; franklin.saksena@gmail.com)

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, March 2019 (Suite 111, Elmer L Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, 222 21st Avenue S., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, USA)

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

Ineffable Twaddle, June 2019 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen; terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)

Mayday Mayday, May 2019 (**The Crew of the SS May Day, Belfast**, Oscar Ross; oscarross@hotmail.com)

The Moor, April 2019 (**The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden**, Anders Wiggstrom; bhc@telia.com)

Report from the Unscrupulous Rascals, May 2019 (**The Sherlock Holmes Society of Southern Australia**, Mark Chellew; mchellew@gmail.com)

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press, May 2019 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; blau7103@comcast.net)

The Serpentine Muse, Spring 2019 (**The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes**, Heather Holloway & Crystal Noll, P.O. Box 1802, Griffin, GA 30224, USA; SerpentineMuseASH@gmail.com)

The Tankerville Times, Spring 2019, (**The Tankerville Club**, Cincinnati, Ohio; Dan Andriacco; tankervilleclub@gmail.com)

The Whaling News, May 2019 (**The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn, St. Charles, MO**; J Andrew Basford; pcairnes26@outlook.com)

Jean Upton