

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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Shannon Carlisle from the Beacon Society reports that the **Junior Sherlockian Society** celebrated its second birthday on the 9th of August - the 221st day of the year. The JSS invites children and youth to complete online training involving an in-depth study of Sherlock Holmes's character traits, observational skills, capacity for critical thought, and inductive and deductive reasoning. They are given tasks to complete, and upon submission of 'training evidence,' a certificate of completion is granted. Shannon requests: "Please share this announcement with your scion and/or group and encourage children and youth in your area to participate in the training." You can find more information at JuniorSherlockian.com

Peter Blau notes: "*Sherlock Holmes* is a 7-minute track on *The Ascension*, a new album from the power-metal band **Woodlark**." You can listen to the track on YouTube, where the refreshingly intelligent lyrics are provided on screen. I just wish they'd taken the thumb-screws off the lead singer... www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUVEEYSSSqU

Serious collectors will want to be aware that the second part of the auction of the **Otto Penzler Collection of Mystery Fiction** is offered at Heritage Auctions www.ha.com on September 5, in sale number 6212. It includes an interesting selection of Sherlockian and Doylean material.

Edward Bawden, CBE RA (1903–1989) was an English painter, illustrator and graphic artist, known for his prints, book covers, posters, and garden metalwork furniture. He taught at the Royal College of Art, where he had been a student, worked as a commercial artist and served as a war artist in World War Two. Notably for Sherlockians, Bawden produced a series of linocuts for the 1987 **Folio Society** publication of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Bawden was a lifetime resident of Essex, so the **Chelmsford Museum** is marking the 30th anniversary of his death with a comprehensive exhibition of his work, running from 16th November 2019 to 1st March 2020. <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/museums/whats-on/edward-bawden-the-storyteller-exhibition/>

Sherlockians who attended the Edinburgh festival were disappointed to learn that the Sherlock Holmes statue has disappeared yet again. **Lesley Skoyles**, our local correspondent, says: "Unfortunately there have been major ongoing roadworks at Picardy Place and poor Mr Holmes has been removed. As the work shows no signs of coming to an end any time soon, we have no idea when he'll be back in his usual spot."

While visiting Edinburgh, **Heather Owen** discovered the **Oor Wullie Big Bucket Trail**. Since appearing in the *Sunday Post* over 80 years ago, the cartoon character Oor Wullie (Our Willie) has become an integral part of Scottish Heritage. In a survey conducted in 2004 he was voted 'Scotland's Favourite Son', knocking William Wallace, Sean Connery and Robert Burns into 2nd, 3rd and 4th places. Along the same lines as London's Elephant Parade and the Haslemere Hogs, statues of Oor Wullie have been designed by various artists and celebrities for a

national trail throughout Scotland. Local author **Ian Rankin** was invited to design one of the statues. His creation, which (unsurprisingly) depicts Wullie as Sherlock Holmes, is in the University of Edinburgh's Old College Quad. The Wullie sculptures will be auctioned off at the end of the summer to raise funds for charities supporting Scotland's children's hospitals.

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/what-inspired-scotlands-most-famous-detective-its-wulliemental-my-dear-watson/> and <https://www.oorwullie.com/>

Catherine Cooke is set to be one of the speakers for a day-long event organised by the School of Advanced Study of the University of London and the Institute for English Studies. The symposium, *Conan Doyle and London*, will be held on 15th November from 9:15am until 6:30pm at the Senate House. The symposium will explore the relationship between Arthur Conan Doyle and the city most associated with him, looking at familiar areas in his life and fiction, including his interest in spiritualism. Attendance for the day is £35 (standard) and £30 (concession). Advance online registration is required.

<https://www.ies.sas.ac.uk/events/conferences/conan-doyle-and-london>

Many of our members will have fond memories of the late **Tsukasa Kobayashi** and his wife **Akane Higashiyama**, founders of the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club and enthusiastic supporters of our Society. They attended the 1987 and 1988 pilgrimages to Switzerland, and in 1991 their young daughter, **Erika Kobayashi**, accompanied them, charming everyone who met her. Erika is now an accomplished artist and will be exhibiting at a gallery in Whitechapel from 5th September to 21st November. The exhibition is entitled *His Last Bow*, and will include works inspired by her father.

<https://yamamotokeiko.com/exhibitions/erika-kobayashi-his-last-bow>

The ever-resourceful *Shingle of Southsea* (**Paul Thomas Miller**), has created an amusing **Holmes Parody, Pastiche and Drama Adaptation Tolerance Game**, with its own game board. The rules are very much along the same lines as Beer Trek and should provide hours of entertainment for many Sherlockians.

<https://sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin/home/articles/holmes-parody-pastiche-and-drama-adaptation-tolerance-increaser-game>

Are you squeamish about rodents? Then this news won't fill you with joy. As part of its seemingly endless catalogue of revamps of classic animation, **Disney** is intending to produce a live-action version of *The Great Mouse Detective*. I, for one, am immensely curious about how Ratigan will be depicted.

<https://wegotthiscovered.com/movies/great-mouse-detective-live-action-movie-development-disney/>

Information from the **Baker Street Irregulars**: "Registration and reservations are now open for the BSI's conference to be held Friday November 8, 2019 through Sunday November 10, 2019 at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. **"Building an**

Archive: A Celebration of the Arrival of the BSI Archive at the Lilly Library" will feature more than 20 leading Sherlockian collectors, librarians, book sellers, authors and publishers. It will also include the opening of a unique and special exhibition, "The History of the BSI Through 221 Objects" at the Lilly Library. This conference is open to all Sherlockians, but space is limited so [register now](#). The deadline for our receiving registrations is September 27, 2019."

Oscar Ross brings some disturbing news: "The Sherlock Holmes Public House in Northumberland Street, London is one of 2,700 pubs which will change hands if its owner Greene King, the UK's biggest brewer, completes a sale to Hong King's richest family. The price is said to be £2.7bn."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-49400232>

Peter Blau has spotted a more cheerful reference to the pub in *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life*, the autobiography of Monty Python's **Eric Idle**: "Thanks to Humph I was now a professional scriptwriter as *I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again* paid me three guineas a minute for my material, and we would congregate on Sunday nights at the Playhouse, the BBC's Radio Comedy theatre, where the recordings took place before a large and wildly overenthusiastic crowd, after which we'd all hang out with the cast at the Sherlock Holmes Pub." The Playhouse, located on Northumberland Avenue, is no longer used by the BBC, but is still an active theatre.

The Blue Orange Theatre in Birmingham will present *The Hound of the Baskervilles* from 2nd to 14th September. "This inventive and hilarious comedy mystery features two fearless actors playing every role in this fast paced farce. Follow Sherlock Holmes and his incomparable sidekick Dr. Jane Watson on their journey from the streets of London to the Devonshire Moors as they attempt to solve the mystery of... *The Hound of the Baskervilles!* Arthur Conan Doyle's classic mystery is brilliantly brought to life on stage in this acclaimed production. *Please note that this production includes more sexual references and innuendo than you can shake a sausage at and is not suitable for those under the age of 16 or those of a sensitive disposition.*" <https://blueorangetheatre.co.uk/>

Kelvin I Jones, the veteran Sherlockian author, is planning to publish a revised, updated and expanded edition of his book on all aspects of Holmes's affair with tobacco. He is now inviting all Sherlockians to write a new Holmes tale (which must contain references to smoking) for the forthcoming edition entitled *The Sherlock Holmes Ultimate Smoking Companion*. Kelvin adds, "Alternatively, contributors may suggest to the editor theories relating to the Canon regarding the canonical consumption of the deadly weed, however bizarre. As implied by the title, 'smoking' may include inhalation of other substances, e.g. opium. Please check, though, before composing your article to avoid duplication of material. Stories must adhere to the spirit and narrative methodology of the canonical originals. In other words, no monsters, UFOs, real vampires, etc. Mysteries must have a rational explanation and fit within known chronology. Approved submissions must reach the editor by September 30th." For more details on submission, copyright, publication, etc. please contact Kelvin directly at Mycroft.221@yahoo.com

The Charles Hall Scrapbook by Charles Hall (Charles Hall Productions, 12 Paisley Terrace, Edinburgh, Scotland EH8 7JW, 2019; 40pp, £4.50 plus postage, PB) Only 100 copies available. Charles Hall will be known to collectors as the creator of many unusual high-quality collectibles, such as miniatures of Laurel

and Hardy dressed as Holmes and Watson. This booklet is effectively a retrospective of his work, including military memorabilia as well as Sherlockian items. Charles is running a special offer: If you purchase this book along with **Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in Edinburgh** you can have both for £7.00 plus postage.

Obituaries

June Lancelyn Green, who died on 12th August, aged 93, joined the Society in 1969. Her husband Roger was one of the first members, and their son Richard would become a great Holmes-Doyle scholar and an outstanding Chairman of the Society. June herself was a notable presence on three of the Swiss jaunts, and in 2003 she was our hostess at the family seat, Poulton Hall, and at the Liverpool Athenaeum. She was wise, witty and charming. In 2008 she was awarded the MBE for her services to the community.

Lesley Skoyles has informed us that the Society's long-time member, **Theo Skeat**, died on 1st August at the age of 82. She co-wrote Sherlock Holmes/Rupert of Hentzau stories under the name of "An English Gentleman", as well as using the pseudonym "The Resident Patient". Lesley adds: "Theo was very active in many Science Fiction and media fandoms for many years. She was extremely well known and much loved within whichever fandom she chose to participate."

Periodicals Received

The Baker Street Journal, Summer 2019 (**The Baker Street Journal**, P.O. Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077-1934, USA; email@bakerstreetjournal.com)

The Beacon Society Quarterly Newsletter, Vol. 3, No.3, August 2019 (**The Beacon Society**, Denny Dobry, "Headlight"; denobry@ptd.net, www.beaconsociety.com)

The Bilge Pump – The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star, August 2019 (Steve Mason; mason.steve@epa.gov)

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

Plugs and Dottles, April – August 2019 (**The Nashville Scholars**, Jim Hawkins and Dean Richardson; seniorhawk@gmail.com)

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

Sherlockiana, Nr. 2-3 2019 (**Sherlock Holmes Klubben I Danmark**; Sven Ranild, editor; redaktion@sherlockholmesklubben.dk)

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

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

Jean Upton