



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](mailto:district.messenger@yahoo.com)

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From **Phil Attwell**: “Stephen Fry was on BBC Radio 4’s *Just a Minute* on 2nd September (series 85 episode 5). He had the subject of Arthur Conan Doyle and did rather well.” For those who are unfamiliar with the programme, *Just a Minute* is a panel game in which the contestants are challenged to speak for *one minute* without hesitation, deviation or repetition, on any subject that is assigned to them. The other panellists can challenge if they feel that any of the rules have been violated. It’s worth listening just to hear the squabbles!

BBC Radio 4 Extra will start transmitting its fifth series of the **Carleton Hobbs/Norman Shelley** plays on 7th October. This includes “The Solitary Cyclist”, “The Bruce-Partington Plans”, “The Three Garridebs”, “The Norwood Builder”, “The Sussex Vampire”, and “The Red-Headed League”. The full schedule’s at: [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01j9gzs/broadcasts/upcoming](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01j9gzs/broadcasts/upcoming)

The **Chicago Silver Blaze** is the oldest still active Sherlockian horse race in the world. This year’s race, to be held on 12th October, marks the event’s 60th annual running and will honour the memory of **Susan Z Diamond**, who organised the event for more than 25 years. If you would like to attend and require more information, contact Philip Cunningham by email at [pjc121@comcast.net](mailto:pjc121@comcast.net)

**Steve Emezc** of MX Publishing has been in contact about an upcoming event, *Sherlock Holmes Meets Shakespeare*. “We will be hosting this very special event at Undershaw (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s former home) on 12th October at 7.30pm UK time (2.30pm EST). Net ticket sales will be donated to both Stepping Stones School and Happy Life Children’s Home. The evening will begin with a short play, *A Scandal In Nova Alba*, with Sherlock Holmes investigating the death of King Duncan. We then have a performance by the amazing Deductionist, **Ben Cardall** followed by live interviews with two Sherlockian authors, **Dan Victor** and **Orlando Pearson**. At the end of the evening there will be a tour of Undershaw – a virtual tour for those online. We’ll be using Zoom to showcase the event online – our video conferencing sponsors who have helped us get both Stepping Stones School and Happy Life Children’s Home connected this year.” Tickets are £15 and available through Eventbrite at: [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sherlock-holmes-meets-shakespeare-tickets-69436152401?ref=enivtefor001&invite=MTczOTI3MjEvcvm9qZXJqb2huc29uQHlhaG9vLmNvLnVrLzA%3D%0A&utm\\_source=eb\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=inviteform\\_alv2&utm\\_term=attend](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sherlock-holmes-meets-shakespeare-tickets-69436152401?ref=enivtefor001&invite=MTczOTI3MjEvcvm9qZXJqb2huc29uQHlhaG9vLmNvLnVrLzA%3D%0A&utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=inviteform_alv2&utm_term=attend)

**Jennie Paton** has discovered an early (1927) two-reel silent film produced by Hal Roach. *Do Detectives Think?* features Oliver Hardy as Sherlock Pinkham (the world’s worst detective) and Stan Laurel as Ferdinand Finkleberry (the world’s second worst). You can view it here: [www.tinyurl.com/y668cvm4](http://www.tinyurl.com/y668cvm4)

**Mattias Boström** notes that Susanne Buck’s *Mörder, Mode, Mitgiftjäger* will be published by Jonas Verlag in October (216 pp., €20.00). At the moment it is only available in German; the

English title would be *Fashion, Felons, Fortune-Hunters*. Its topic is high society in the 1920s, and included amongst the fortune-hunters are the “Marrying Mdivanis”, one of whom was Nina, who married Denis Conan Doyle.

Back in June we reported on *Searching for Sherlock*, the world-wide search for missing Sherlock Holmes films. The story got picked up by the **Los Angeles Times**, who interviewed some Sherlockians of note. You can read the resulting articles here: <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/movies/story/2019-09-04/sherlock-holmes-ucla-robert-downey-jr>  
<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/movies/story/2019-09-04/best-sherlock-holmes-movies-tv-shows>

Our former cricket opponents, The PG Wodehouse Society, have shared some extremely satisfying news: Nearly half a century after his death, **PG Wodehouse** has finally been commemorated with a stone laid in the South Quire Aisle at Westminster Abbey. The memorial was dedicated at a special Service on Friday 20 September 2019.

**St. Mary’s Church** in Ingleton is a small rural church in Yorkshire with Sherlockian connections. **Todd Sherlock** was the vicar in the 1870’s. His father was killed by lightning in 1876 and the church was built in his memory. **Mary Doyle** lived in nearby Masongill, and was known to the Sherlocks. Arthur Conan Doyle married his first wife, Louisa, in the adjacent St Oswald’s Church, where Todd was also a part time vicar. Having suffered badly from severe winter weather, St. Mary’s Church is in urgent need of funds to replace its deteriorating roof, and has launched a crowdfunding appeal with a target of £65,000. You can view a film about the church and make a donation at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/church-roof-project-for-the>

It’s not too early to start thinking about Christmas, and the Society’s seasonal cards are now available for purchase. The image is an attractive view of Electric Avenue in Brixton, from a photo taken in 1895. You will also discover a new feature of our online shop - the ability to purchase a gift membership for someone you know who might enjoy our interesting pastime. The Society’s latest publication, *A Study in Postcards* by **Sarah Obermuller-Bennett** is now available for £6. Sarah has been collecting classic postcards with a Holmesian theme for many years and presents gems from her collection, providing fascinating background research for each example. <http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/shop/>

One of the postcards featured in Sarah’s book is **Louis Wain’s** caricature of William Gillette in character as Sherlock Holmes – but depicted as a cat. Both Gillette and Wain were cat lovers, and a new film about the life of Louis Wain has just begun filming in and around London, with **Benedict Cumberbatch** in the title role and **Claire Foy** playing his wife. The artist died in 1939, and his original artwork is much sought after. Chris Beetles gallery in Ryder Street, London has an extensive collection of Wain’s work, which was visited by Cumberbatch in order to get a first-hand feeling for the artist’s style. <https://www.chrisbeetles.com/>

The **Struts and Frets Theatre Company** will be performing its unique steampunk circus production of *A Scandal in Bohemia* from 28th October to 2nd November at **The Actors Centre**, 1a Tower Street, London WC2H 9NP. Tickets are £12/£10. This is an all-female production, with six women playing all of the characters, plus guest appearances from Punch and Judy. The show comes highly recommended by Roger Johnson, who saw it at the Camden People's Theatre earlier this year. <https://www.actorscentre.co.uk/theatre/sherlock-holmes-in-a-scandal-in-bohemia>

The **Phoenix Players** of Southsea are offering *A Double Helping of Sherlock* – “Two one-act plays based on the writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, adapted for the stage by Daniel McCrohon and Valerie Bird.” The show runs from Wednesday 30th October to Saturday 2nd November (including a Saturday matinee) at Trinity Theatre in Portsmouth. <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bookit/a-double-helping-of-sherlock/2019-11-01/d-wnvoqacmwxp>

The **Real Sherlock Holmes Walking Tour of Edinburgh** has just published the fourth edition of the *Hansom Times*, their official newsletter. If you would like to subscribe, email your request to: [enquiries@realsherlockholmes.com](mailto:enquiries@realsherlockholmes.com)

From **Max Magee**: “Some of your members might wish to participate in a project that I began this past month. I'm serializing *The Hound of the Baskervilles* into monthly instalments that correspond to the monthly issues of *The Strand Magazine* from August 1901 to April 1902, when it was originally published. Last month, I sent out the first 11 pages (Chapter I and II) in PDF format, with the original Sidney Paget illustrations, typesetting, and pagination. If anyone wants to subscribe, please send me an email request, and I'll immediately send the August issue, then subsequent issues as they are published. It's never too late to join, but I felt it would be nice to get people started at the same time so we can all discuss each portion of the story as it is revealed.” [maxpmagee@gmail.com](mailto:maxpmagee@gmail.com)

*The Newspapers* is ‘An Irregular Journal of Sherlockiana’ edited by Greg Ruby of **The Sherlockians of Baltimore**. Although we have only recently learned of this publication, it has been active since 2017. The current issue (No. 3 - 2019) is a whopping 184 pages, and absolutely packed with items of interest from its 21 contributors. If you're interested in obtaining a copy, issues are available at \$20.00 each plus postage from Greg Ruby, BSI at [Greg@fourthgarrideb.com](mailto:Greg@fourthgarrideb.com).

#### Some new and forthcoming books of interest:

*Sherlock Holmes is Everywhere!* edited by **David Marcum**, **Sonia Fetherston** & **Derrick Belanger** (Belanger Books, 29 August; £16.99 pbk).

*Cut to Baker Street: The On-Screen Adventures of Holmes and Watson* by **Nicko Vaughan** (MX Publishing, 10 October; £12.99 pbk)

*Sherlockian Musings: Thoughts on the Sherlock Holmes Stories* by **Sheldon Goldfarb** (MX Publishing, 17 October; £11.99)

*The Devil's Due (A Sherlock Holmes Adventure)* by **Bonnie MacBird** (HarperCollins, 10 October; £14.99 hbk).

*The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories Part XVI: Whatever Remains . . . Must Be the Truth (1881-1890)* edited

by **David Marcum** (MX, 31 October; £28.99 hbk, £17.99 pbk) *Part XVII* and *Part XVIII* will be published on the same day.

*The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols: Adapted from the Journals of John H. Watson, M.D.* by **Nicholas Meyer** (Minotaur Books, 1 November; £21.08 hbk).

*The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: Part 1 - 1881-1891 (Complete Jim French Imagination Theatre Scripts)* by **Jim French** and **David Marcum** (MX Publishing, 21 November; £14.99 pbk, £26.99 hbk). *Part II* and *Part III* will be published on the same day.

*Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Legacy* by **Mark Mower** (MX Publishing, 21 November; £8.99 pbk).

*Being Sherlock: A Sherlockian's Stroll Through the Best Sherlock Holmes Stories* by **Ashley D Polasek** (The Lyons Press, 1 December; £21.86 hbk).

#### Obituaries

**Hal Prince** died on July 31, age 91. He had a long career as a producer and director of an impressive list of Broadway successes, including directing the musical *Baker Street* in 1964. He also purchased the rights to James Goldman's play *They Might Be Giants* and was the producer for its brief run in London in 1961. A later production intended for New York with George C. Scott and Colleen Dewhurst never materialised, because he felt it couldn't be done properly. When the screen rights were purchased by Universal for the 1971 film with Scott and Joanne Woodward in the leads, Prince managed to recover his losses from the ill-fated London stage production.

**Jeremy Kemp** died on July 19, age 84. He was one of the original four drivers in the first two series of Z Cars (1962-3) but left the series because he reportedly hated wearing the police uniform. However, he is best known to Sherlockians as the splendidly menacing Dr. Grimesby Roylott in *"The Speckled Band"* (1984), in which he convincingly bent a poker to threaten Jeremy Brett's Sherlock Holmes. He also played the villainous Baron Karl von Leinsdorf in *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution* (1976) with Nicol Williamson as Holmes.

#### Periodicals Received

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

*The Petrel Flyer*, April/May/June 2019 (**The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia**, Fran Martin; [franziskah@shaw.ca](mailto:franziskah@shaw.ca))

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

*Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, August 2019 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; [blau7103@comcast.net](mailto:blau7103@comcast.net))

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

Jean Upton