

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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Paul Miller has kicked off a new project: “Doyle’s Rotary Coffin (see <https://sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin/>) are putting together a no-profit book to be titled *No Holmes Barred*. It aims to be a celebration of fun and variety in Holmesiana. We are currently seeking submissions for content. Pieces can be of any type: short stories, essays, lists, tips, illustrations, mock-adverts, quizzes, guides, poems, comic strips or anything else. They can also be about any type of Holmes you like - any sexuality, time, place, species or any other spin. We’re aiming to get the book published in January 2020, with a *deadline* for submissions of **December 14th 2019**. If you are interested in helping in any way please email me at DoylesRotaryCoffin@outlook.com with an idea of what you would like to submit.”

Our member **MC Black**, of **Detective Walks**, will lead a walk on the evening of **14th November**, following in the footsteps of Sherlock Holmes, John Watson and Arthur Conan Doyle. It will take in some of the obscure byways of Covent Garden as well as the principal thoroughfares of the West End, before finishing at the Sherlock Holmes Public House (near Charing Cross station), where participants may choose to eat supper. The upstairs restaurant at the Pub encompasses the recreation of Holmes’s sitting room, one of the rare survivors from 1951’s Festival of Britain. The walk will start at 18:00 in the Senate House Cloisters (directly beneath the Tower) and last around two hours. The cost of the guided walk is £10. For further information or to book, please contact mcb@detectivewalks.co.uk.

Catherine Cooke advises that there are still places available for the **Conan Doyle and London Symposium** being held on **15th November** at Senate House. The all-day event is a very reasonable £35 (£30 concessions). (A reminder: Participants might wish to continue on to the Sherlock Holmes Society’s annual Film Evening – you can book on the Society’s website.) To reserve a place for the Symposium go to: www.ies.sas.ac.uk/events/conferences/conan-doyle-and-london

Important news has been received from **Cliff Goldfarb**: “I wrote a letter to accompany the current issue of *Magic Door*, suggesting the time is ripe for a **new Arthur Conan Doyle Society**. A copy of the letter has been posted on the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection website at www.acdfriends.org/Chair_Letter_September_2019.pdf (or you can just go to www.acdfriends.org and find the link on the home page). I’ve also linked it on the Friends Facebook page and it has already stimulated a fairly lively discussion, as well as a few private emails. If you agree that this is an important subject, I would appreciate suggestions and recommendations for circulating this more broadly, or finding someone who would take it on as a project.”

Nicko Vaughan has announced a new venture for MX Books: “I wanted to create a place where young and young-at-heart writers could play with Holmes and write narratives which reflected their lifestyles or life choices. So with the help of the lovely Steve

Emecz, MX Publishing grew a new arm: **Orange Pip Books**. Orange Pip was created with the hope of building a collection of well written, quirky, inclusive and alternative books featuring a wide net of characters in interesting and new adventures. It’s also important to reinforce the idea that these alternative narratives are not trying to take away from your love of the traditional Holmes. If you have a novel, collection of short stories, nonfiction or graphic novel you think may suit our readership, then you can contact us at submissions@orangepipbooks.com”

During the Society’s recent excursion to Pegwell Bay in Kent, we paid a visit to **Peter Cushing’s** former home in Whitstable. This inevitably prompted a memory of seeing comedian Alan Davies on the television programme *QI*, in which he recalled a song performed by a local group, The Jellybotties, entitled ‘*Peter Cushing Lives in Whitstable*.’ We tracked down several versions of the song on YouTube, which might help to brighten your day.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDNuW8g2LNM

www.youtube.com/watch?v=deTGYinacYg

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EDhQcw0_6g

www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8oRmJazxlg

On 12th October MX Books held an event at Undershaw, which included a production of **Orlando Park’s** play *A Scandal in Nova Alba*. Orlando says: “Thought you might like to see the YouTube version of the above. The synching is off at the beginning but soon catches up. The evening was a success with a healthy turnout and a good response to the production.” <https://youtu.be/9y-HmoCyF0E>

From **Howard Ostrom**: “Julian Harries is back as Sherlock Holmes in *Sherlock Holmes and the Warlock of Whitechapel* for Common Ground Theatre Company, touring across Suffolk and North Essex this winter from December 12th to January 19th.” www.eadt.co.uk/what-s-on/the-2019-guide-to-pantos-in-suffolk-this-christmas-1-6294263 We’ve seen Julian’s previous productions which are creative, energetic and extremely funny, so can feel secure in giving this one a hearty recommendation.

Some new and forthcoming books of interest:

Newest in the **Artie Conan Doyle Mysteries** is *The Scarlet Phantom* by Robert J. Harris (*Kelpies*, 2019; 240 pp, £6.99 pbk). This time young Artie, along with his stalwart companion Ham and girl scientist Peril, attempts to crack the case of a series of jewel thefts. Along the way they enter the murky world of bogus mediums and spiritualism. Written for young readers, the books are amusing, entertaining and – dare I say it – educational. For *District Messenger* readers, *Kelpies* are offering a 20% discount on all the books in the series. Simply enter the code AD1019 when purchasing from their website discoverkelpies.co.uk.

Sherlock and Porlock: A Study of Literary Influence in the Sherlock Holmes Stories by Kelvin I Jones (*Cunning Crime Books*, 2019; 188 pp, £7.32 pbk) An extended, completely revised and annotated edition of this renowned book on Conan Doyle’s sources for Sherlock Holmes. **NOTE:** Kelvin is a

prolific author, so I would recommend having a look on Amazon for more of his books. He advises that he has a short run of hardback copies available on request, including *A Study of the Chaldean Roots in the Ancient Cornish Language – The Rare Holmes Monograph*. If you're interested, email mycroft.221@yahoo.com or message Siger Holmes on Facebook.

From the Sherlock Holmes Society's own Shop, two books that had previously sold out are now back in stock:

The Adventure of the Abbey Grange, £30. This widely acclaimed facsimile of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's manuscript of the Adventure of the Abbey Grange was published jointly by the Society and the Fondation Martin Bodmer in Switzerland. Every page of the manuscript has been included and it has been produced to the same size as the original.

Through the Archives compiled by Jessica Woolf, £11. This book traces the history of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London via its ever-growing Archive held at the Westminster Reference Library. Jessica has fashioned a most striking and attractive narrative of the Society from its founding in 1951 to the present day. Both books are available at: www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/shop/

Keep Clear: My Adventures With Asperger's by Tom Cutler (Scribe, 2019; 352pp, £14.99 pbk) Tom Cutler is a bestselling author of a number of humour books, including the Amazon number-one *211 Things a Bright Boy Can Do*. In 2016 he was identified as being on the autism spectrum. This, he says, was the happiest day of his life. The diagnosis enabled him to make sense of many aspects of his life, including obsessions with road-sign designs, magic tricks and Sherlock Holmes. Honest, witty and informative, this is an important and valuable book on many levels. Along with recounting his own experiences, he makes convincing arguments that Sherlock Holmes exhibited "...the Asperger's aloof and seemingly unempathic detachment." If you have a friend or family member who is on the Autism Spectrum, this book will go a long way toward helping to understand the immense effort it requires to try to fit into a 'neurotypical' world. Incidentally, Tom's article *Did Sherlock Holmes have Asperger's Syndrome?* will appear in the Winter issue of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*.

Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Seven edited by Martin Rosenstock (Titan Books, 2019; 528pp. £7.99 pbk) Another in Titan's ongoing series of Holmes pastiches, this is a collection of seven new novellas. Contributors include Lyndsay Faye, James Lovegrove, Andrew Lane, David Stuart Davies, Derrick Belanger, Amy Thomas and Stuart Douglas.

Watson Does Not Lie: A Chronology of Sherlock Holmes and John H Watson by Paul Thomas Miller (Wildside Press, 2019; 184pp. £11.99 pbk) "Too many chronologists resorted to claiming either Watson lied, or could not read his own notes," says Paul Miller. "Such ideas are scandalous. I wanted a chronology built upon the idea of Watson's words as facts. Since I could not find one, I created one." The result is a valuable addition to the chronologies of Bell, Christ, Zeisler and the others, though the strict adherence to the notion that Watson is always truthful will certainly prove controversial.

Fresh from MX Publishing are *The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories: Whatever Remains ... Must Be the Truth*, Parts XVI (432pp), XVII (472pp) and XIII (436pp), edited by David Marcum. Each is priced at £28.99 (hbk), £17.99 (pbk). All royalties from this collection are being donated by the writers for the benefit of the preservation of Undershaw, former home of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, now housing Stepping Stones school.

And due on 21st November from MX are *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (Complete Jim French Imagination Theatre Scripts)*, Volumes I (440pp), II (428pp) and III (362pp), by Jim French, edited by the industrious David Marcum. Each is priced at £26.99 (hbk), £14.99 (pbk). All royalties from this series will also go towards the preservation of Undershaw.

Obituaries

Anthea Sinclair has been in touch to advise us that long-time Society member **Ivy Warren** died recently, within a month of her 99th birthday. Ivy accompanied her husband Douglas, a member since 1951, on the Swiss Pilgrimage of 1968, and joined the Society herself in 1977. After Douglas's death in 2004 Ivy continued her membership for a few more years, and in 2014 her gift of Douglas's photographs of Society activities was a great boost to our archives.

From **Zach Dundas**: "I regret to report that **George Cleve Haynes**, my long-time mentor (and self-declared godfather) died recently (on or about 27 September) at his home in Seattle. He was 73. His contributions to the SHJ and the Society date back decades." Roger Johnson adds: "His connection with the Sherlock Holmes Society of London goes back many years. He was first listed as a member in 1986, but his first article for *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* appeared in the Spring 1963 issue, (three years after his first contribution to *The Baker Street Journal* when he was only 14)."

Periodicals Received

The Baker Street Journal, Autumn 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, October 2019 (Steve Mason; mason.steve@epa.gov)

Canadian Holmes, Fall 2019 (**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. 25 No. 1, October 2019 (**Criterion Bar Association of Chicago**; franklin.saksena@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

The Torr, Autumn 2019 (**The Poor Folk Upon the Moors**, Stephan Arthur; editor.poorfolk@gmail.com)

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

Jean Upton