

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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Please continue to check the Society's website for regular updates on events and items of interest: www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk. The photo gallery has been updated and is always worth a visit.

Although our annual London Festival had to be cancelled this year, you can still raise a glass to **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**, in commemoration of his birthday on 22nd May.

Do also remember **David Burke**, who will celebrate his 86th birthday on 25th May. During the 'Who's the Best Watson?' debate at the **Museum of London** in 2015 David won by a landslide.

Nick Utechin spotted an item in the *Times of Tunbridge Wells* on 17th April, with a photo of the ACD statue in Crowborough wearing a protective mask. <https://www.timeslocalnews.co.uk/tunbridge-wells-news/even-sherlock-holmes-author-takes-no-chances-with-coronavirus>

Despite the continued lockdown, it is now possible to take a vicarious romp through the world of Sherlock Holmes via the Society's new **Gazetteer**, accessible on our website. The project was initiated by **John Morewood** and progressed with contributions from **Ashley Mayo**, **Elaine McCafferty** and **Nick Utechin**, ably assisted by our webmaster, **Jonny Hough**. Its purpose is to give a visual depiction, along with commentary, of places suggested as locations in the 56 stories and 4 novels. You will be able to plan your visit to the locations that you wish to see once travel becomes possible again. Fifteen stories have been covered so far, and you can search by county or by story. Postcodes are included, as are maps, and you can rate the location after visiting it. For some locations there are links to our Merchandise section on publications relevant to the area. <https://gazetteer.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/>

David R. Parker has been in touch to say, "The episode of *I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again* that you mentioned in the tribute to **Tim Brooke-Taylor** can be found at: <http://www.bennewsam.co.uk/documents/ISIRTA/ISIRTA%20-%20s01e03%20-%201965-10-18%20-%20Workington%20Shillelagh.mp3> "

The Baker Street Irregulars conference, *Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire* at Bear Mountain, New York has been rescheduled to 25-27 June 2021. You can sign up to receive email updates by going to <https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email/>

A **Scintillation of Scions XIII** was another casualty of the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, **Greg Ruby** and **Karen Wilson** have found a solution: "After a few weeks of pouting, we came up with the idea of holding a virtual Scintillation and #SOSatHome was born. We are looking forward to having hundreds of our friends join us at 12 Noon Eastern Standard Time on Saturday, June 13, and we hope you will be one of them. Registration is now open at <https://www.scintillation.org/> and is free to all attendees! We please ask that you share our event details with other Sherlockians that might be interested. When **Jacquelynn Morris** created A Scintillation of Scions back in 2007, she envisioned SOS as a Sherlockian family reunion. Sherlockians, generally, are one big family and with the recent events wouldn't it be nice to get together?"

The Beacon Society and **Carolyn Senter** have announced the winners of the **R. Joel Senter, Sr. Essay Contest**. Congratulations to **Ryder Luneau** who won First Honours in the 4th-6th grade category for his essay, "*The Red-Headed League*" and to **Adriana Zayia** who won First Honours in the 10th-12th grade category for her essay, "*The Greek Interpreter*." An awards ceremony awaits the winners once the public hears the All Clear. Meanwhile, **Denny Dobry**, Head-Light of the Beacon Society, will send Ryder and Adriana their commemorative plaques and cash prizes.

Another stalwart of The Beacon Society, **Steve Mason**, has been developing puzzles for the amusement and edification of his fellow Sherlockians. Steve notes: "All of the past puzzles, including puzzles developed each week for stories from the Canon, are posted on the Beacon Society website at www.beaconsociety.com. You will need Adobe Reader (which is free) on your computer. If you download the puzzle to your computer and use Adobe Reader, you can save as you work on them."

Mark Jones asks: "Are you familiar with the scurrilous card game **Cards Against Humanity**? As a gift to my Sherlockian chums during lockdown, I've pulled together **Cards against Holmanity**, a canonical variant for your amusement and scandalisation. The game is simple: each round, one player asks a question from a black card, and everyone answers with their funniest white card, or you can play it in your splendid isolation. The deck includes 300 questions and 600 answers lifted directly from the sixty stories and can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/CAHolmanity>. Enjoy!"

The Lyndhurst Hotel, whose design is partially credited to ACD, could have some sections restored as part of a larger renovation scheme. The photo in the attached report shows his original proposed sketch for the building. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-51616230>

Bert Coules, writer for the outstanding BBC Radio 4 *Sherlock Holmes* series, shared some exciting news on 4th May (Reichenbach Day): “Today seems an appropriate date to mention that together with an actor friend, **Tim Marriott**, I've been working on a one-man stage show, *Watson: The Final Problem*. The current situation has rather affected our plans for a theatrical premiere, but working within the lockdown restrictions we're hoping to produce an audio version to go up online. I'll give more details as I have them. You can see an image of Tim as Watson on the production company's site, and if you scroll down and follow the appropriate link there are some more details.” <https://www.smokescreenprods.com/>

Books of Interest

Something of Themselves: Kipling, Kingsley, Conan Doyle and the Anglo-Boer War by Sarah LeFanu (Hurst & Co. Publishers, 2020. 352pp £25.00 hbk) As someone who suffered through ‘progressive education’ in the 1960s (lots of fooling around and no actual learning) I was grateful for the opportunity to finally gain a better understanding of the Boer Wars. The author provides three separate biographies that eventually interweave as each of the subjects pursue their motivations for travelling to South Africa. Rudyard Kipling went as a journalist and Arthur Conan Doyle as a surgeon; their lives are familiar to most of us. However, it was Mary Kingsley, a nurse and pioneer in the treatment of tropical disease, who I found most intriguing. Largely forgotten now, she was well known as an author, traveller and a campaigner for the rights of native Africans. Her efforts to control typhoid led to her own death at the age of thirty-seven. The Mary Kingsley Medal for outstanding achievement in the field of tropical medicine was established in her honour and was issued for the first time in 1905; it continues to be awarded by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

Mrs. Hudson Takes the Stage by Barry S. Brown (MX Publishing, 238 pp pbk. £9.99 /\$14.95) This is the sixth book in Barry Brown's enormously entertaining *Mrs. Hudson of Baker Street* series. In September 1901, following a successful run in New York, *Sherlock Holmes* opens at London's Lyceum Theater. In attendance are Mrs. Hudson, Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes. Before the curtain goes up, however, Holmes is summoned backstage where the wardrobe mistress has been found murdered. The indomitable Mrs. Hudson is immediately on the case. She and her cohorts sort through a range of suspects including actors with ulterior motives, a disgruntled landlord, and members of the anarchist movement. In the course of the investigation Mrs. Hudson receives assistance from Arthur Conan Doyle and provides support to the juvenile actor, Charles Chaplin.

The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols by Nicholas Meyer (Minotaur Books, 2019. 238pp £19.99 hbk) Margery Allingham, creator of Albert Campion, often referred to her “plum pudding” principle of writing: throw every imaginable device at the readers to keep them entertained. Upholding this tradition, Nicholas Meyer gives us murder, spies, kidnapping, veiled threats, forged documents, rumblings of revolution, plus a journey on the Orient Express with a beautiful and mysterious female companion. All of this surrounds *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, a document which appears to detail plans for global domination by the Jews, and used as a tool to fuel prejudice. Although proved early on to be an elaborate hoax, it continued to be distributed and widely believed worldwide. Hitler used it as justification for his attempted annihilation of the Jews. It is an imaginative story which incorporates a real and truly evil plot against mankind. However, I must confess a weariness at the recycling of dialogue and devices from canonical texts.

Conan Doyle's Wide World: Sherlock Holmes and Beyond by Andrew Lycett (Tauris Parke, 2020. 336pp £20.00 hbk) This is an entertaining and illuminating selection of ACD's travel writing. It takes us from his youth on board an arctic whaler, on to later tours throughout North America, Europe, Africa and elsewhere. From devastating first-hand accounts of the Second Boer War to lighter passages involving his great interests in skiing, cricket and photography, the sheer quality of his writing makes these long-ago events seem tangible again. The book includes some wonderfully candid snapshot photographs that convey the sheer energy of the man and his thorough enjoyment of life.

Obituaries

Sheila Holtgrieve died on 1st May. She was an Associate Member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, as well as a long-time and very active member of many scion societies in the United States.

Periodicals Received:

The Bilge Pump – The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star, April and May 2020 (Steve Mason; mason.steve@epa.gov)

The Cri Bar Crier, Vol. 25 No. 4, May 2020 (Criterion Bar Association of Chicago; franklin.saksena@gmail.com)

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press, April 2020 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; blau7103@comcast.net, <http://redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39>)

The Whaling News, May 2020 (The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn, St. Charles, MO; J Andrew Basford; pcairnes26@outlook.com)

Jean Upton