

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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Do keep visiting our website, which is being updated frequently with news, important information and many items of interest: www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk.

On the 7th of July **Clifford Goldfarb** shared the following: "Today, on the 90th anniversary of the death of Arthur Conan Doyle, the Librarians of the **Arthur Conan Doyle Collection** at the Toronto Reference Library created a virtual Sherlock Holmes escape room, in which you can solve a mystery along with Holmes. You can find it at: <https://forms.gle/YzrQTDCaeZ9vvGXn8> "

Marcus Geisser has reminded us of the first anniversary of **Conan Doyle Lane**, inaugurated in **Feldkirch**, Austria in June 2019. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle attended the Feldkirch Jesuit College, Stella Matutina for a year to improve his German. Today, the building is home to the State Music Conservatory and a concert hall.

Rumours continue to fly regarding when we might see the advent of the *Sherlock Holmes III* film (Robert Downey Jr.) and *Sherlock* Series 5 (Benedict Cumberbatch). I won't report further on either project until there are actual *facts* to share.

We were delighted to learn that Baker Street Babes **Maria Fleischhack** and **Ashley Polasek** served as advisors on *Enola Holmes*, which inspires confidence in the quality of the production. However, just when you thought it was safe to enjoy Sherlock Holmes, news arrived that the Conan Doyle Estate is suing **Netflix**, as well as the author of the Enola Holmes books, **Nancy Springer**. You can find details here: <https://www.denofgeek.com/movies/conan-doyle-estate-sues-netflix-enola-holmes/>

The British Podcast Awards took place on 11th July, where our member **Gyles Brandreth** and his co-presenter **Susie Dent** received the Best Entertainment Podcast award for their informative and witty series about words and language, *Something Rhymes With Purple*. You can access it on a number of internet platforms.

During lockdown, Gyles has been reciting a poem a day on his Twitter account. The Baker Street Irregulars have been well represented: Day 114 (15th July) offered **Christopher Morley's** 'Animal Crackers' and day 118 (19th July) was 'The Laughter of the English' by **Don Marquis**, followed by 'The Tom Cat' on day 121 (22nd July). https://twitter.com/GylesB1?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor

Gary Larson, perpetrator of *The Far Side* cartoon strip, has published his first new cartoons after 25 years of retirement. Larson launched a digital archive in September 2019, and on

8th July 2020 he posted three new creations. An essay explains that he had been newly inspired by experimenting with a digital tablet rather than a pen. He remarks, "I've got my coffee, I've got this cool gizmo, and I've got no deadlines. And - to borrow from Sherlock Holmes - the game is afoot." <https://www.thefarside.com/new-stuff>

Phil Atwell has provided the welcome news that **The Watermill Theatre** in Bagnor, Newbury will re-open with an outdoor performance of a new comedy version of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, performed by three actors on the back lawn of the rural Berkshire theatre. Socially distanced audiences will watch from an arrangement of 20 tables of four people each. The show will run from 29th July to 8th August. <https://www.watermill.org.uk/>

Sherlock's Bar opened in Southsea on 4th July. Our man on the spot, **Paul Thomas Miller**, met the owners Debbie Moorhead and Richard Peckham and reports "The current centrepiece of the bar is an impressive portrait of a deerstalked Basil Rathbone, painted by Debbie's son, artist George Greentree. While there are no immediate plans for Sherlockian activities in the bar, Debbie and Richard have already spoken with local Holmesian Matt Wingett, with a view to holding some Doylean talks in the future. Fingers crossed, this may be the start of a fun focal point for future Holmesian activity in Portsmouth and Southsea." Sherlock's Bar is at 17 Clarendon Road, Southsea, PO5 2LU and is on Facebook or email info@sherlocks-bar.co.uk <https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/business/consumer/southsea-bar-sherlocks-open-first-time-coronavirus-lockdown-measures-are-relaxed-2900824>

And if you're tired of endless repeats on television, you could do worse than view Paul Thomas Miller's rendition of *Meiringen* by Abba Sparva (featuring Brenda the Headless Mannequin as Sherlock Holmes). It is a unique Sherlockian reinterpretation of Abba's *Waterloo*, filmed in the Sherloft. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAaLOpaBWSs&fbclid=IwAR1xhaDbb-mMmhECb9WJzVIujXHIBqRS6093xkjcWoLN7cUfkb3AM_jXbw

Dr. Watson's pub in Baker Street, **Middlesbrough** has undergone an impressive Sherlock Holmes style makeover during lockdown. The attached article states 'Co-owners Sarah Best and her brother-in-law John Paul Spence wanted a "bit of humour" for the men's rest room, which meant Sherlock keeping an eye on the clientele.' Take a look at the gallery to see what they're talking about: <https://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/teesside-news/take-look-baker-street-bar-18568945>

Baskerville Productions launched a Kickstarter campaign on 7th July to produce a new Sherlock Holmes tabletop game. The playing cards feature character portraits of many familiar Sherlockians. You will find full details at <https://www.baskervilleproductions.com/shbsi>

Hannah McNally was one of the finalists in the Folio Society's 2019 competition to illustrate *The Selected Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*. Her art deco-inspired artwork for the book cover and three of the stories is now available on a variety of merchandise at www.society6.com/abeyance

Frederic Dorr Steele: Forgotten Master is the title of a nine-minute video at the GoFundMe website www.bit.ly/FDSteele. Steele died on 6th July 1944 and his ashes were interred in the family plot in Menands, NY. However, there is no stone to mark his resting place. The campaign has already achieved its target for a memorial to the artist, whose illustrations in *Collier's Magazine* were as important and iconic to American readers as Sidney Paget's *Strand* illustrations were to the British public.

Although the headline of the attached story would have you believe that missing **Peter Cushing** TV episodes were found, we received information directly from **Tony Earnshaw** to clarify that what was discovered were promotional trailers, and not full episodes. The search continues... <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/opinion/columnists/sherlock-holmes-fans-overjoyed-lost-peter-cushing-episodes-uncovered-tony-earnshaw-2902351>

Christie's is offering the manuscript of *The Land of Mist* in an online public auction that opened on 9th July and closes on 30th July www.tinyurl.com/ybp7g8tw. Estimate is £50,000 - £80,000, with a starting bid of £35,000.

The manuscript of *'The Greek Interpreter'* was in an online Sotheby's auction that opened on July 6 and closed on 21st July www.tinyurl.com/y76zzrso. The estimate was \$350k-\$450k; the lot did not reach its reserve and remained unsold.

Sad news from Minneapolis: **Uncle Hugo's** and **Uncle Edgar's**, the beloved science-fiction/mystery bookstores owned by Don and Elizabeth Blyly, were set on fire on 30th May during the recent demonstrations, and burned to the ground. You can read their report of the incident on their website www.unclehugo.com/prod/index.shtml. The photos are heart-breaking.

Books of Interest

We have received the pleasing news that our member, **Johanna Stone**, has had her six German language books taken under contract by MX Publishing for English publication. Writing as Johanna M. Rieke, the first to appear is *Sherlock Holmes and the Cornwall Affair*. David Marcum has already provided a review which you can read here: <https://mxpublishing.com/blogs/news/sherlock-book-launch-and-review-sherlock-holmes-and-the-cornwall-affair>

Riviera Gold by Laurie King (Allison & Busby, 352pp hbk, £19.99). The latest in the highly entertaining Mary Russell series brings us to Summer 1925 on the Riviera, complete with millionaires, yachts, Monte Carlo and the lure of the casino. Apart from the mystery at hand, we learn a great deal about Mrs. Hudson's intriguing earlier life, including her long-time association with Lillie Langtry, and why she has

been so inexplicably tolerant of Holmes's aggravating behaviour for so many years.

Obituaries

We have only recently learned of the death of **Neil McCaw** on 23rd March, age 50. According to the Winchester University Press, "Neil had a long struggle with cancer in the 1990s and from that he recovered to become a major figure in the Faculty of Arts and in the University. He inspired everyone who knew him with his learning, wit, energy, scholarly judgement, moral integrity and social commitment. Neil pioneered the Winchester University Press Preface Series, the first title of which was Tom Masters' epic poem *Silence* and the most recent title Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Adventure of the Creeping Man*, edited and annotated by Neil McCaw. A great deal of the best of the Winchester University Press has been Neil's work." Neil was also the author of *The Historical Dictionary of Sherlock Holmes*, published earlier this year by Rowman & Littlefield.

Actor **Graham Reid** has died, age 50. He was found in his home on 1st May, having succumbed to pneumonia. Using the stage name Graham Martin, he starred in West End hit productions such as *Blood Brothers* and *Starlight Express*. He played Sherlock Holmes in Tim Churchill's dramatization of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in 2018.

Julian Curry died on 27th June, age 82. A fine actor with a long and distinguished career, he is probably best known for playing the pompous Claude Erskine-Brown in *Rumpole of the Bailey*. He played Albert Shlessinger/Henry Peters in 'The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax' from Granada TV's *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* Series 5, first shown in 1991. In 1987 he played Sherlock Holmes in an Oz Kettle Limescale Remover commercial, with Michael Sharvell-Martin as his Dr. Watson. You can view it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHQ5YKbLTBs>

Periodicals Received

Baker Street in Baltimore, June 2020 (**The Six Napoleons of Baltimore**, Greg Ruby, SixNapoleonsOfBaltimore@gmail.com)

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

The Illustrious Clients News, June 2020 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, Indiana 46077, USA; IllustClients@gmail.com)

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

Sherlockiana, Nr. 2 - 3 2020 (**Sherlock Holmes Klubben I Danmark**; Sven Ranild, editor; redaktion@sherlockholmesklubben.dk)

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

Jean Upton