

The Compliments of the Season!

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

Have you booked for **Not The Annual Dinner?** For the first time in our 70-year history, our Society's traditional dinner will not take place in a London venue. However, members can apply to participate in a Virtual Celebration via Zoom. *The Louche Lockdown Libation* will take place on **16th January, 2021 from 7:15 pm - 10:00 pm**. There will be the usual toasts, along with guest speakers Leslie Klinger and Peter Horrocks. Attendees will be treated to a live performance of *The Blue Carbuncle*, with each participating actor Zooming from their own home. The closing date for applications is **Friday 8th January**. The charge for the evening will be **£5.00/US\$7.00** per head, so that the professional actors performing in *The Blue Carbuncle* can receive payment for their time. Early booking is recommended. For more details go to <https://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/not-the-annual-dinner/>

Museums need our support at this difficult time, and **The Museum of London** is no exception. They are currently having a sale which includes the book of the Museum's Sherlock Holmes exhibition at only £10.00 (a saving of £15) and an attractive deerstalker for £23.50 (a saving of £23.50).

<https://museumoflondonshop.co.uk/search?type=product&q=sherlock+holmes>

A number of acquaintances have reported difficulty in receiving *The Baker Street Journal* from the United States. Apparently Covid-19 has caused the U.S. Postal Service to make a number of changes that have wreaked havoc on prompt delivery. In a YouTube video, publisher Steven Doyle provides a detailed explanation, as well as reassurance to subscribers that the problem is being addressed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnX5N37Xdco&feature=youtu.be>

Catherine Cooke has passed on information from **Douglas Kerr**, regarding the *Conan Doyle in Edinburgh* Digital Conference, which was held 24th – 25th September, 2020 through Edinburgh Napier University. Douglas says, "We do not have plans for a print publication. However, the conference papers and subsequent discussions, including the two keynotes by Owen Dudley Edwards and Nicholas

Daly, can be accessed and viewed (in colour!) at the conference website,

[https://edinburgh-conan-doyle.org/events/.](https://edinburgh-conan-doyle.org/events/)"

Bernie Dollery asks whether anyone has an unwanted copy of *The Best Of The Sherlock Holmes Journal - Volume One*. You can contact him at sherlockhomesnorfolk@yahoo.com. Bernie has also started a Facebook group page, primarily aimed at Sherlock Holmes fans in Norfolk and NR postcodes, but open to any Sherlockians. You'll find it at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2931339607152812>

Andrew Gulli, editor of *The Strand Magazine*, advises that the 2021 Sherlockian calendar is available. It is in full colour, printed on thick glossy card stock and features Sherlockian trivia plus artwork by Jeffrey McKeever and Phil Cornell. <https://strandmag.com/product/sherlock-holmes-calendar-2021/> Andrew also provides a link to the online shop which carries hundreds of Sherlockian gifts that were manufactured by the Strand:

<https://strandmag.com/product-category/sherlocks-shop/221b-baker-street-collection/>

Don't Go Into The Cellar theatre company have been touring the U.K. since 2010, performing their own unique brand of Victorian Gothic theatre, including Sherlock Holmes productions. However, since the lockdown was enforced, they have had to cease live theatre performances. It still costs them £1,800 per month to cover insurance, basic wages, website hosting and storage. To stay afloat, they are now performing live broadcasts fortnightly via their Facebook page, as part of their *Sunday Down The Cellar* season. These performances are free to view, but all donations are gratefully received:

<https://www.facebook.com/CellarTheatre/> You can also donate at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/t85qfb-don039t-go-into-the-cellar>

We have recently learned of a new online immersive event called **Sherlock Holmes: An Online Adventure**. Presented by Les Enfants Terribles, *The Case of the Hung Parliament* will begin play on 27th January 2021. Up to six players at a time can interact with live performers to solve the case. Make your own deductions by interviewing suspects, reading reports, searching for hidden clues and researching old facts. Advance booking is required. This could be a good afternoon's entertainment if we go into yet another lockdown. For details go to:

<https://www.sherlockimmersive.com/>

Books of Interest

The Lost World: Manuscript by Arthur Conan Doyle (SP Books, Limited edition copies hand-numbered from 1-1000. Publication date: December 2020, 336pp, 180€ / £150). This limited edition facsimile of the manuscript, now in the Berg Collection at New York Public Library, comes as a very handsome large-format hardback in slipcase, with a series of 21 illustrations by Géo Dupuis, from the original French magazine publication in *Je Sais Tout*. A foreword from **Jon Lellenberg** examines the diverse history of adaptations of *The Lost World*, from the stop motion animation film of 1925 up to the more recent *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*. The publishers are offering members of our Society a **5% discount**, which is valid only until 4th January 2021. Order from the website at <https://www.spbooks.com/112-the-lost-world-9791095457749.html> and claim the discount with the code **SHERLOCKDISCOUNT**.

The Most Curious Case of the Dog in the Night-Time by Kelvin I. Jones (Cunning Crime Books, 132pp pbk, £8.92 on Amazon). In this biographical investigation, Kelvin applies his forensic and investigative skills as to why Conan Doyle so hated his fictional detective, the author's relationship with Jean Leckie, and his subsequent use of Jean and her psychic friend in his mission to change the world through Spiritualism.

The Uncanny Worlds of Conan Doyle by Kelvin I. Jones (Cunning Crime Books, 453pp pbk, £12.12 on Amazon). Kelvin examines how the author's obsession with psychic experiments and belief in the afterlife affected both his private and public lives. Conan Doyle incurred extensive debts through his campaign tours and increasingly expensive lifestyle, all the while enduring growing hostility from the media. Jones describes Doyle as "a weary and wounded warrior, whose reckless but brave struggle against the odds seemed at times to be of heroic proportions."

Congratulations to **Jeff Falkingham**, who has received his third Sigerson Award (for creative writing) from the **Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota**. His winning essay, 'Secret to Sherlock's Golf Game is a Foot Fixation,' is featured in the Explorers' *Christmas Annual* for 2020, with a 'Games are Afoot' theme. For a limited time, non-Explorers can read the essay by clicking the NEWS button on the menu bar of Jeff's secure website, www.cccaper.com.

There's an attractive new paperback edition of **MURDER in Minnesota! Two Sherlockian Tales**, containing both of Jeff's popular pastiches (Falkingham Frontier Fantasies, ISBN 979-8-69580-776-9, \$10.99; £8.25 from Amazon.co.uk). Or they're available separately as eBooks from the same publisher: ***Sherlock Holmes and the County Courthouse Caper*** (ISIN B08JP77KBV, \$3.49). ***Sherlock Holmes: In Search of the Source*** (ISIN B08JYHXWFH, \$3.49). Jeff says: "BEST way to find them is to use the Links on the BOOKS page of my www.cccaper.com website."

Anthony Richards, proprietor of Breese Books and Baker Street Studios Ltd., has announced the publication of a new book in the continuing series, ***Sherlock Holmes Alphabet of Cases (P to T)*** by Roger Riccard (Irregular Special Press, 190pp pbk, £8.99). Breese Books has also republished (and revised) many older books which have been out of print for some time, including offerings from Val Andrews and John Hall. Fill the gaps on your bookshelf by going to: <http://www.baker-street-studios.com/>

Obituaries

John le Carré (David John Moore Cornwell) died on 12 December, age 89. A British author of espionage novels, he worked for both the Security Service (MI5) and the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) during the 1950s and '60s. Le Carré wrote the introduction for ***The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes, Vol. 1*** (2005) and his own creation, George Smiley, has been described as the Sherlock Holmes of the spook world.

Dame Barbara Windsor died on 10 December, age 83, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's. Best known as the bubbly blonde in the ***Carry On*** series of films, and latterly as the formidable matriarch Peggy Mitchell in the television soap ***EastEnders***, she will be familiar to Sherlockians as the unfortunate Annie Chapman in ***A Study in Terror*** (1965).

Periodicals Received

Baker Street in Baltimore, November 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, December 2020 (Steve Mason; mason.steve8080@gmail.com)

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

The Moor, December 2020 (**The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden**, Anders Wiggstrom; bhc@telia.com)

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press, November 2020 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; blau7103@comcast.net)

Sherlockiana, Nr. 4 2020 (**Sherlock Holmes Klubben I Danmark**; Sven Ranild, editor; redaktion@sherlockholmesklubben.dk)

The Tankerville Times, December 2020, (**The Tankerville Club**, Cincinnati, Ohio; Dan Andriacco tankervilleclub@gmail.com)

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

Jean Upton