

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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

MX Publishing have organised a virtual event for **27th March. An Evening With Jeremy Brett's Sherlock Holmes** will feature actors Jonathan Goodwin (Don't Go Into the Cellar Theatre Company) and Luke Barton (Blackeyed Theatre) with panellists including Catherine Cooke, Jay Ganguly, Bonnie MacBird, Maureen Whittaker and Roger Johnson. Steve Emecz says, "We expect to hit the maximum 500 seats for this very special evening very quickly so please register as soon as possible at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LfMXIRIjQkWO0w8tcQTwlQ"

The BSI's conference, *Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire*, has again been postponed because of the uncertainty about coronavirus. The new date for the conference at the Bear Mountain Inn, NY is July 29-31, 2022.

Our friends in **Hungary** have recently updated their interesting website to include a section on upcoming meetings: "We would like to help Sherlock Holmes (or Conan Doyle) societies, clubs, fans and Sherlockian authors in keeping contact. If you send us information on your live or Zoom meetings, we publish the details for free." <http://www.sherlockian-sherlock.com/sherlock-holmes-meeting.php>

Mark Jones reports: "I just wanted to let you know that **Doings of Doyle** has just done its first episode on a Sherlock Holmes story. Episode 11 looks at 'The Adventure of the Devil's Foot' and includes musings on Conan Doyle and Cornwall, toxicologist Sir Robert Christison and the Calabar Bean, John Donne, Africa, Poe, Arthur Machen and candidates for Dr Leon Sterndale." <https://www.doingsofdoyle.com/2021/02/11-adventure-of-devils-foot.html>; Apple podcasts: bit.ly/DODoyle; Shownotes: bit.ly/DOD11sn

The Mystery Writers of America have announced their nominees for this year's Edgar Awards. Included is Nev March's *Murder in Old Bombay*, based on real events in 19th century Bombay; while recovering in hospital from wounds received on the northern frontier, Captain Jim Agnihotri whiles away his time by reading newspapers and the sensational new tales of Sherlock Holmes. Also nominated is James W. Ziskin's "The Twenty-Five Year Engagement" from *In League with Sherlock Holmes*, for best short story. Winners will be announced on 29th April.

The new Netflix series *The Irregulars* will premiere on 26th March. According to publicity, the Irregulars are teenagers who "are the only ones who can stop an impending dark magical threat from destroying London." There will be eight episodes; a trailer is available to view at www.youtube.com/watch?v=1APF6a4m74k

Actor **Simon Hester's** excellent audiobook of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was reviewed by Matthew Elliott in the Summer 2020 issue of **The Sherlock Holmes Journal**. Simon reports that he has now completed *The Adventures* and *The Memoirs*, and it appears that he intends to complete the entire Canon. You can find his recordings at Head Stories Audio: <https://shop.authors-direct.com/collections/head-stories-audio>

Rick Grandia and **John Addy** were the first of our readers to alert us that NASA's SHERLOC and WATSON are investigating on Mars. SHERLOC (Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman & Luminescence for Organics & Chemicals) is mounted on the Mars Rover's robotic arm, and uses cameras, spectrometers, a laser and a magnifying glass to search for signs of past microbial life. SHERLOC is assisted by WATSON (Wide Angle Topographic Sensor for Operations and eNginEering), a camera for taking close-up images of rocks. The Perseverance Rover, launched on 30th July 2020, landed safely on 18th February. NASA is running tests before activating the instruments on the rover

Stephen Fry has spoken in support of a proposal for a dedicated museum in Portsmouth: "A Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle Museum in Portsmouth would be wonderful for the city and surrounding area, and wonderful for the legions of fans around the globe whom it will attract... The Lancelyn Green Collection is the most magnificent archive of Holmesiana ever assembled. The former records office store in Portsmouth would be an ideal location for this fabulous repository." Presently, the collection is divided between several locations and limited space dictates the number of items able to be displayed. You can read more here: https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/politics/stephen-fry-backs-calls-for-new-sherlock-holmes-museum-at-old-records-office-in-portsmouth-3160136?itm_source=parsely-api

Books of Interest

Steve Emecz says: "We're delighted to share the launch of the **Sherlock Holmes Book Club**. Many of our fans have asked if we could set up a subscription service, in particular for the *MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories*. The

book club includes hardcover books, audio codes, PDF books, events, offers and more. At the core, the club includes one volume of the MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories in hardcover per month (RRP \$44.95). Each volume includes 20+ traditional Sherlock Holmes stories. The books build into the largest Sherlock Holmes story collection in the world - already over 500 stories and more than 20 volumes. Fans can choose from a monthly subscription ([subscribe here](#)) or a full year up front for a small discount ([full year here](#)) - both are an ideal gift. So far the collection has raised over \$75,000 for **Stepping Stones School** for children with learning difficulties."

Three new titles are available from the **Baker Street Irregulars Press**: *The Staunton Tragedy*, the latest in the Manuscript Series (216 pp, hdbk \$39.95) is edited by Michael F. Whelan. This is a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Missing Three-Quarter", with annotated transcription and scholarly commentary. *Corporals, Colonels, and Commissionaires*, from the Professions series, is edited by Michael J. Quigley and Marsha Pollak (256 pp, hdbk \$39.95); with contributions from a number of scholars, this examines many aspects of military life in the Canon. "A *Quiet Air of Mastery*", edited by Leslie S. Klinger (144 pp, pbk \$25.95), is a collection of reminiscences and anecdotes in appreciation of Michael F. Whelan, "Wiggins" of the BSI for 23 years. All three books (and many others!) can be ordered at www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/the-bsi-press

Obituaries

Lawrence Ferlinghetti died on 22nd February, age 101. Booklovers everywhere will mourn the passing of the founder of City Lights bookshop in San Francisco, where signs invited visitors to "Pick up a book, sit down, and read". From the shop's website: "Ferlinghetti was instrumental in democratizing American literature by creating (with Peter D. Martin) the country's first all-paperback bookstore in 1953, jumpstarting a movement to make diverse and inexpensive quality books widely available. He envisioned the bookstore as a 'Literary Meeting Place,' where writers and readers could congregate to share ideas about poetry, fiction, politics, and the arts. Two years later, in 1955, he launched City Lights Publishers, which became a seminal force in shaping American literature." In 1957 he published Alan Ginsberg's seminal poem *Howl*, but all copies were seized and Ferlinghetti was arrested on obscenity charges. The American Civil Liberties Union successfully defended the poem at a trial that lasted months. The verdict set an important precedent for reducing censorship and heralded a new freedom for writers and publishers around the world.

Frank Mills died on 11th February, age 93. Best known for his television work, he played Betty Turpin's husband Billy Williams in *Coronation Street* from 1995 to 1997. He also appeared in an impressive inventory of TV dramas including *Rumpole of the Bailey*, *Minder*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Foyle's War*, *Campion* and *Dixon of Dock Green*. He is particularly memorable as Peterson, the Commissionaire in Granada's production of 'The Blue Carbuncle' (1984).

Trevor Peacock died on 8th March, age 89. Best known for his role as Jim Trott in *The Vicar of Dibley*, he had a long and distinguished career, not least as an accomplished Shakespearean actor. We of a certain age will recall the song *Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely Daughter*, immortalised by Herman's Hermits and written by Peacock, who also wrote the lyrics for a stage musical based on the Andy Capp cartoon strip. Amongst his many roles, he played Sidney Prince in the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *Sherlock Holmes* in 1974.

Ronald Pickup died on 24th February, age 80. He was a highly respected actor, active in television, film, and theatre. His recent screen roles included Norman in *The Best/Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* (2011/2015) and the Archbishop of Canterbury in *The Crown* (2016). In 1967 he appeared in the National Theatre Company's production of *As You Like It* (1967) at the Old Vic with Jeremy Brett, Robert Stephens and Derek Jacobi. He appeared as Barrymore in Granada's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1988) and as Sir John Starr in *Murder Rooms* (2001). On radio, he played Sherlock Holmes, with Norman Rodway as Dr Watson and Andrew Sachs as Sigmund Freud, in *The Singular Case of Sherlock H. and Sigmund F.* first broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on 27th December 1988. He was also the voice of the Narrator in the BBC's Clive Merrison / Michael Williams *Valley of Fear* (1997), adapted by Bert Coules.

Periodicals Received:

Baker Street in Baltimore, January – February 2021 (**The Six Napoleons of Baltimore**, Greg Ruby, SixNapoleonsOfBaltimore@gmail.com)

The Bilge Pump – The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star, March 2021 (Steve Mason; mason.steve8080@gmail.com)

The Cri Bar Crier, Vol. 26 No. 3, March 2021 (**Criterion Bar Association of Chicago**; franklin.saksena@gmail.com)

Ineffable Twaddle, March 2021 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen; terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)

The Moor, March 2021 (**The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden**, Anders Wiggstrom; bhc@telia.com)

Plugs and Dottles, January-March 2021 (**The Nashville Scholars**, Jim Hawkins and Dean Richardson; seniorhawk@gmail.com)

Report from the Unscrupulous Rascals, February 2021 (The Sherlock Holmes Society of Southern Australia, Mark Chellew; mchellew@gmail.com)

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press, February 2021 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; blau7103@comcast.net)

The Tankerville Times, Winter 2021, (**The Tankerville Club**, Cincinnati, Ohio; Dan Andriacco tankervilleclub@gmail.com)

Jean Upton