

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.

The one fixed point in a changing age is our annual **Mini Festival**. A number of virtual events have been planned for **13th – 16th May**, but please be sure to book by 1st May since Zoom limits attendance numbers. Details are on the website.

Our intrepid Merchandising Officer, **Paul Gillings**, reports that the Society's **70th Anniversary Pin Badges** have arrived and are available to order from our online shop:

[70th Anniversary Pin Badge The Sherlock Holmes Society of London](#)

From **Catherine Cooke**: “Bonnie MacBird is doing an author event for Westminster Libraries in May – virtually. This is the link to book: [Featuring A Sherlock Holmes Adventure - The Three Locks by Bonnie Macbird Tickets, Thu 20 May 2021 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)”

Aloha from **Dr. Joseph T. Page, Jr**: “**The Shaka Sherlockians** of Hawaii are making Charter Membership certificates available for attendees at any of their 2020-2021 quarterly one-hour Zoom meetings. The unique certificates are personalized and signed by the Gasogene. They may be emailed (or original mailed without charge) to anyone interested. The next Zoom event will be **May 8, 2021** at 1 pm HST (7 pm EST) and will feature **Steve Mason**, BSI as guest speaker. For more information and to enrol, go to “Contact Us” at www.shakasherlockian.com. Future 2021 meetings are planned for August 14th and November 13th. We are certified by the Baker Street Irregulars as a scion society. Our initial quarterly meeting took place in November 2020 and featured **Peter Blau** as our guest speaker.” (1 pm HST is midnight British Summer time.)

Douglas Kerr brings news of plans for a Conan Doyle conference in London in December: **Edinburgh Conan Doyle Network Conference - ‘Conan Doyle and Storytelling’. 10–11 December 2021, Birkbeck, University of London**. Keynote speakers are Professor Christine Ferguson, University of Stirling and Professor Robert Hampson, Royal Holloway, University of London. Proposals are being invited for 20-minute papers on topics which include:

- Conan Doyle and genre: romance literature, detective fiction, historical fiction, the Gothic, sport, travel, and life-writing etc
- Narrative and the market: Conan Doyle and publishing history and practice
- Late-Victorian and early 20th-century shorter fiction
- Neo-Victorian adaptation: Conan Doyle’s stories in the 20th and 21st centuries
- Conan Doyle and narratology

- Character and action
 - Narrating the Empire: Conan Doyle and colonialism
 - Storytelling and Modernism
 - Conan Doyle’s narrators
 - Stories of Spiritualism and the supernatural
- Please send abstracts of 200–300 words together with a brief biography to: james.machin@birkbeck.ac.uk Deadline for proposals is 31 July 2021.

The **Stills** centre for photography in Edinburgh has an online exhibition, **Photographing Fairies**, which also explores Conan Doyle’s interest in Spirit Photography. You can download the exhibition catalogue, as well as a template and instructions on how to create your own fairy photographs. www.stills.org/exhibitions/photographing-fairies

Congratulations to the **Sound of the Baskervilles**, based in the state of Washington, who are celebrating their 40th year of publishing the newsletter **Ineffable Twaddle**. You can read the latest issue online at: www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/publications

The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will reportedly be open at the Minnesota Historical Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, from 1st October 2021 through 21st March 2022 www.mnhs.org

Spotted by **Oscar Ross** is an article by Olivia Rutigliano, in which she ranks the top 100 portrayals of Sherlock Holmes. I suspect there will be very few who agree with her assessments... <https://crimereads.com/100-sherlock-holmes-ranked/>

Woodbridge in Suffolk is the charming historical town where the late Douglas Wilmer made his home. We recently discovered the delightful **Woodbridge Kitchen Company**, who carry a number of bee-related items that would make appealing gifts for fellow Sherlockians, including ‘Beekeeper’, ‘Bee Design’ and ‘Buttercup and Bee’ oven mitts, aprons, tea towels and trays. For **Sherlock** aficionados, they also stock a tea towel imprinted with the Periodic Table. <http://www.woodbridgekitchencompany.co.uk/>

Prog keyboardists **Clive Nolan** and **Oliver Wakeman** released a new 3CD box set, **Tales By Gaslight**, on 23rd April. You can view an atmospheric trailer video on the link below. The set features remastered versions of *Jabberwocky* and *The Hound Of The Baskervilles* along with *Dark Fables*, which includes previously unreleased pieces, *The Man Called Sherlock* and *221B*. <https://www.loudersound.com/news/clive-nolan-and-oliver-wakeman-announce-ales-by-gaslight-box-set>

Brad Keefauver edits *Timelines*, an online newsletter for members of the **Sherlockian Chronologist Guild**, founded in January 2021. For more information see their website at: <https://bkeefauver5.wixsite.com/sherlockchronoguild>
If you're interested in joining the Guild and wish to receive the newsletter, contact Brad at bkeefauver@gmail.com

Books of Interest

Nick Utechin has five copies left of his book *The Milvertonians of Hampstead*, which publishers Gasogene Books provided for distribution in the UK and Europe. (Transatlantic postal charges would have made buying it from the US cost \$41.00, or nearly £30.00.) Contact Nick directly at highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com. He also has a few copies left of *The Controversy – Was Sherlock Holmes at Oxford or Cambridge?* (published in a limited edition of 100 numbered and signed copies).

MC Black advises: "Bibliophile Books have a bunch of books by and about ACD on their web-site. https://www.bibliophilebooks.com/epages/Bibliophile.sf/en_GB/?ObjectID=9886&ViewAction=FacetedSearchProducts&SearchString=conan+Doyle&SearchButton= If readers do request free catalogues or buy books, it helps Bibliophile if they are told that the recommendation came from MC Black (Customer Reference 1045)."

From **Steve Emecz of MX Books**: "Due to the closure of one of the UK's main distributors during the COVID19 pandemic, we have an office stock of Sherlock Holmes books - including some incredible dust cover hardbacks and lots of Sherlock Holmes fiction. This is for UK fans only as the books are heavy, so we can't ship internationally. Worth over £100 for just £20, you'll be getting 5-10 books in the package - strictly while stocks last! We also have 50% off all books in our **UK Clearance** section. Please consider adding clearance books to your order to help us spread shipping costs. There are some wonderful hardcovers available."

Desmond Cecil is a long-time member, who took advantage of Lockdown to write his memoir, *The Wandering Civil Servant of Stradivarius*, published by Quartet Books. It focuses on his careers as a professional violinist in Switzerland, a British diplomat around the world, a civil nuclear adviser in post-Soviet pre-Putin Russia, and pro bono worker for various arts charities around Europe. He includes a chapter on Sherlock Holmes, describing his first visit to the Reichenbach Falls and discussions with Adrian Conan Doyle in his Lucens château. Needless to say, Cecil and Holmes are both proud owners (and players) of Stradivari violins. (All royalties from the sale of his book will go to arts charities.) <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Wandering-Civil-Servant-Stradivarius/dp/0704374811>

Alex Prior advises that his new book, *The Lost Case Files of Sherlock Holmes*, is now available: "I wrote the book mostly during the first lockdown, and it is published through Amazon; hard copy (£5.99) and ebook (£2.99), or it is included with Kindle Unlimited. Proceeds support the building of a new residential centre for Scouts and Guides in Bedfordshire." https://www.amazon.co.uk/Lost-Case-Files-Sherlock-Holmes/dp/B08P1CFDH9/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+lost+case+files+of+sherlock+holmes&qid=1611999420&sr=8-1

Obituaries

Helen McCrory died on 16th April, age 52. Married to fellow actor Damian Lewis, she had a highly respected and extensive career in television, stage and film. She played Mrs. Vandeleur in the TV movie *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking* (2004) with Rupert Everett as Sherlock Holmes. More recently she has appeared in *Peaky Blinders* (2013–19), *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* (2010/11) and *His Dark Materials* (2019-20)

Periodicals Received:

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

The Baker Street Journal, Winter 2020 (**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, April 2021 (Steve Mason; mason.steve8080@gmail.com)

Canadian Holmes, Spring 2021 (**The Journal of the Bootmakers of Toronto**, Mark and JoAnn Alberstat, 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3A 2M2, Canada; markalbertstat@gmail.com)

The Illustrious Clients News, March 2021 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, Indiana 46077, USA; IllustClients@gmail.com)

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

The Pontine Dossier Millennium Edition, Winter/Spring 2021 (**The Journal of Solar Pons Scholarship**, Derrick Belanger, Belanger Books, 61 Theresa Ct., Manchester, New Hampshire 03103; derrick@belangerbooks.com)

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

The Serpentine Muse, Winter 2020 (**The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes**, Heather Holloway & Crystal Noll, P.O. Box 1802, Griffin, GA 30224, USA; SerpentineMuseASH@gmail.com)

Sherlockiana, Nr. 1 2021 (**Sherlock Holmes Klubben I Danmark**; Sven Ranild, editor; redaktion@sherlockholmesklubben.dk)

The Torr, Spring 2021 (**The Poor Folk Upon the Moors**, Stephan Arthur; editor.poorfolk@gmail.com)

The Watsonian, Fall 2020 (**The John H Watson Society**); selena@johnwatsonsociety.com)

The Whaling News, March 2021 (**The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn, St. Charles, MO**; J Andrew Basford; pcairnes26@outlook.com)

Jean Upton