

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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As COVID restrictions are being lifted, we cautiously await the possibility of in-person events in the near future. Check the Society's website for news and updates: www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk.

Congratulations to actor **Jonathan Pryce**, who has been honoured with a knighthood in the Queen's birthday honours. Pryce played Sherlock Holmes in the made-for-TV film *Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars* (2007)

Some last-minute news just in from our member, author & dramatist **Grant Eustace**: "I've just been told that **Second Holmes** is getting another airing, from Friday 25 June, on Radio 4 Extra. Not that the station has informed me – chance would be a fine thing – but someone who had an eagle eye out for Radio Times listings. I thought I'd better pass it on since it's very unusual to get any sort of lead time." **Second Holmes** is a series of six 30-minute plays, first broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 1983, written by Grant and produced by Paul Mayhew-Archer. The first instalment, 'The Case of the Grandfather's Client', will be broadcast on Friday 25th June at 8.30am, and repeated at 12.30pm and 7.30pm.

On Saturday 26th June at 8:00pm, MX Publishing will host *An Evening with Jeremy Brett's Sherlock Holmes* performed by **Jonathan Goodwin**. If you attended the first "Evening" in March, you'll have enjoyed Jonathan's wonderful reincarnation of the much-missed J.B. He will be performing two new Sherlock Holmes stories by Tony Reynolds: *The Adventure of the Giant Rat of Sumatra* and *The Medium*. You can purchase access to the event on <https://www.facebook.com/events/2873838226163225> for £4.99. Proceeds go to Cellar Theatre. All attendees will get a free mystery Sherlock Holmes audiobook.

Routes from the Reichenbach is a special worldwide Zoom event presented jointly by the **Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland** and **The Red Circle of Washington** on Saturday 10th July at 1:00pm ET. Three noted Sherlockians will each advocate a different route that Holmes might have taken from the falls to Florence. A panel discussion will follow with questions from the audience, a "Final Problem" quiz, and a vote to determine which route the participants think is the most likely one. Zoom registration is available beginning 20th June. The event is free and all are welcome. For information and to join the meeting, please contact reichenbachirregulars@gmail.com or go to the Red Circle website, www.redcircledc.org.

The National Archives are offering a series of interesting online events, which includes *Arthur Conan Doyle and the Case of the Indian Lawyer* on 16th July 2:00pm BST. "Author Shrabani Basu follows the trail of Arthur Conan Doyle as he wears the hat of Sherlock Holmes and uncovers

the dark secrets lying in the English countryside. It is the only case that Conan Doyle investigates personally." This is, of course, the case of George Edalji, addressed in Basu's critically acclaimed *The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer* <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/arthur-conan-doyle-and-the-case-of-the-indian-lawyer-tickets-158125945961?aff=wowp>

And if you want more on the same subject, John Hillman produces the **Travels Through Time** podcast, which he describes as "a mixture of serious history and a playful parlour game." Shrabani Basu, author of *The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer: Arthur Conan Doyle, George Edalji, and the Case of the Foreigner in the English Village* was interviewed by Peter Moore. "By 1907 George was free, released early amid unease about his conviction, yet still with the crime against his name. So stood events at the beginning of 1907, the year we travel back to, where we meet George and Arthur, allied in a quest to correct a clear miscarriage of justice." <https://www.ttpodcast.com/season-4/shrabani-basu-arthur-conan-doyle-podcast>

The appearance of the **International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition** at the Minnesota Historical Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, has been postponed. However, it will be at the Science Museum of Oklahoma from 1st May to 6th September www.sciencemuseumok.org. It is also scheduled to appear at the Frost Science Center in Miami, Florida from 14th May to 5th September 2022.

Big Finish have produced a new audiobook, *Sherlock Holmes: The Seamstress of Peckham Rye*, starring Nicholas Briggs and Richard Earl. It's due for release in July, but you can place your order now on the Big Finish website <https://www.bigfinish.com/>

If you want a satisfying project for a lazy summer day, Empress Mills have introduced their **Queen Bee Fabric Range** by Lewis & Irene. There's a collection of 15 designs including a regal Queen bee, beehives, honeycombs and summer florals with busy honey bees. These could make a splendid waistcoat for your favourite Sherlockian... <https://www.empressmills.co.uk/fabrics/quilting-fabrics/quilting-fabrics-by-brand/lewis-and-irene/queen-bee-fabric>

Mike McClure presides over Stimson & Co., a society for Sherlockian funeral directors. He is building up an archive of the final resting places of notable Sherlockians from around the world, and is asking for contributors to provide photographs of gravesites accompanied by a brief biography of the individual. If you can offer assistance to Mike see www.baskervilleproductions.com/sherlockianplots

The **BFI** has announced its two-year project to restore all of the 1920s silent **Stoll** Sherlock Holmes film series starring **Eille Norwood**, currently held at the BFI Master Film Store in Warwickshire. The project launch marks 100 years since the first serial was originally screened. Support for the digital restoration project has been made possible through **Iron Mountain's Living Legacy Initiative**, to preserve and make accessible cultural and historical information and artifacts. Work is being undertaken by experts at the BFI National Archive and is expected to be completed by 2023, to coincide with the centenary of the release of the final serial and feature adaptation of *The Sign of Four* (1923).

The news headline '**Hound Kept in Garage**' sounds like a case of animal cruelty. It was, in fact, a report on how a rare film poster was discovered. A lady from Cannock had found a collection of posters in a relative's property years ago and forgotten she had them, until she and her son decided to clear out the garage where they had been put, rolled up, for over 10 years. Thought to be from the first UK release of Hammer's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1959) starring Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee, the it was consigned to auction. Despite an 8 inch tear to the bottom left edge and some small nicks and holes around the edges, the 2ft 6in x 3ft 4in (76cm x 1.02m) poster sold for £1800 on 16th February.

Cliff Goldfarb reports that **The Annual Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture** of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library will be on Saturday 25th September at 2:00 p.m. EDT. The speaker is Jeffery Hatcher, American playwright, who will present *Arthur Conan Doyle as Playwright*. The lecture will be on ZOOM and is free. Registration will open on 23rd August. Details are on the website at <http://www.acdfriends.org/events.html>

Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville* will be at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester from Friday 30th July to Sunday 22nd August. For more information and to book tickets go to <https://www.mercurytheatre.co.uk/event/baskerville/>

Bert Coules's one-man play *Watson: The Final Problem* had its world premiere at the Brighton Fringe Arts Festival and is now on tour!

The Feathers Hotel, 25 Bull Ring, Ludlow SY8 1AA, 7th July at 2.30pm, and 8th July at 7.30pm
<https://ludlow.ssboxoffice.com/events/watson-the-final-problem/>

The Alma Tavern, 18-20 Alma Vale Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2HY, 22nd, 23rd and 24th July at 8.00pm
<https://www.ents24.com/bristol-events/alma-tavern/watson-the-final-problem/6262702>

The Quay Theatre, Quay Lane, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2AN, 25th July at 7.00pm
<https://quaysudbury.com/event/watson-final-problem-sun-2021-07-25-1900>

Leconfield On Top, Market Square, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 0AH, 22nd September at 8.00pm
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/petworth/leconfield-on-top/watson-the-final-problem-by-bert-coules-and-tim-marriot/e-zjpryq>

Books of Interest

Our Antipodean friend, author **Cenarth Fox**, has just published *A Plum Jewel*, the third in his WW2 spy thriller series. Actress-turned-spy Louise Wellesley (aka Plum) is in

France and needs help in finding a traitor in the SOE headquarters in Baker Street. Having already endured capture and torture, she needs to escape from France and get back to England to expose the mole. This means a dangerous journey on the Freedom Trail to Spain, across the Pyrenees. Plum is introduced to a woman who gives her several tips, and spots a clue in someone using greaseproof paper. Only when the traitor is exposed does Plum discover that her helper is the daughter of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who related how Oscar Slater wrote messages to him on greaseproof paper. (Fox Plays, 240pp pbk. £10.99) www.cenfoxbooks.com
www.foxplays.com

Obituaries

We were very sorry to hear from Minoru Harada that his wife, **Kakuko Harada** died on 27th March from COVID-19. Amongst our enthusiastic Japanese members, the Haradas attended our Annual Dinner on several occasions.

Periodicals Received:

The Baker Street Journal, Spring 2021 (**The Baker Street Journal**, P.O. Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077-1934, USA; email@bakerstreetjournal.com)

The Beacon Society Quarterly Newsletter, Vol. 5, No. 2, June 2021 (**The Beacon Society**, Denny Dobry, "Headlight"; denobry@ptd.net, www.beaconsociety.com)

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

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

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

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

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

Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge, Summer 2021 (The Sherlock Holmes Society of India; shseditors@yahoo.in, shseditors@gmail.com)

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

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

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

Timeline, June 2021, (The Official Newsletter of the **Sherlockian Chronologist Guild**; Brad Keefauver; bkeefauver@gmail.com)

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

Jean Upton