

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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No. 416 October 2021

As COVID restrictions are being lifted, please check the Society's website for news and updates on activities: www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk.

The Society's **Christmas Card** for 2021 is now available through our website's shop. Its design celebrates the 70th anniversary of the founding of the SHSL, and reproduces the original colourful poster, designed by **Bruce Angrave**, for the famous exhibition of 1951. Each pack contains 10 cards with envelopes for £6.00 plus postage. Do have a look at the other items available in the shop – it's not too soon to be thinking about Christmas gifts! <https://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/product/christmas-card-2021/>

Sharp-eyed viewers of the television quiz programme *University Challenge* will have noticed that its host, **Jeremy Paxman**, was looking particularly dashing in the episode broadcast on 4th October. His Sherlock Holmes-design tie certainly created a bit of a flutter amongst some of our Society members. If you care to match Paxo's sartorial splendour, the tie is available for £19.99 from Frederick Thomas <https://frederickthomas.co.uk/products/navy-tie-with-sherlock-holmes-design-and-signature-floral-design-to-rear>

Joe Page, Gasogene of the **Shaka Sherlockians of Hawaii** says: "We are quite excited that our next guest speaker will be **Nicholas Meyer**, who will be speaking on his latest Sherlock Holmes adventure, **The Return of the Pharaoh**, which is scheduled for release on November 9th. The Zoom meeting is on Saturday, November 13, 2021. The no-cost event will take place at 1 pm Hawaiian Standard Time (HST) which will translate to 11 pm in Great Britain. For any hardy souls interested in the one-hour event, you can sign up at www.shakasherlockian.com website by filling out the brief 'Contact Us' form."

There's still time to register for the Edinburgh Conan Doyle Network Conference, *Conan Doyle and Storytelling*, taking place on 10–11 December 2021 at Birkbeck, University of London, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HX. Currently, this is planned as an in-person event; if COVID restrictions are tightened the event will proceed online. Keynote speakers are Professor Christine Ferguson, University of Stirling and Professor Robert Hampson, Royal Holloway, University of London. This is a free event, but it is necessary to register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/edinburgh-conan-doyle-network-conference-conan-doyle-and-storytelling-tickets-169070054083>

The University of Delaware has an online exhibition titled *Books, Bohemians and Baker Street: A Study in Sherlock in Special Collections*. Drawn from materials in its library's

Special Collection, there are items related to Holmes and his literary history, including a number of ACD holograph items, photographs and rare books.

<https://exhibitions.lib.udel.edu/sherlock/>

The Sherlock Holmes Hotel on Baker Street has been reincarnated (yet again) as the **Holmes Hotel London on Chiltern Street** (which runs behind Baker Street). They're now offering a Holmes-inspired afternoon tea.

<https://www.mylondon.news/whats-on/food-drink-news/sherlock-holmes-afternoon-tea-comes-21821843>

Under Two Flags at St. Christopher's Place in London closed a number of years ago, to the disappointment of many collectors of miniature models. But the good news is, **Jennie Paton** has discovered the **RP World Model Store**, which offers 90mm miniatures of Holmes and Watson, and 54mm miniatures of Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty. https://toy-soldiers.store/index.php?route=information/information&information_id=5

Some of **Glen Miranker's** spectacular collection will soon be on display as *Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects*. The exhibition will be on view at the Grolier Club in New York, from 12th January to 16th April. You can learn more at www.sherlockin221objects.org

COVID delayed the much-anticipated release of the film *The Electrical Life of Louis Wain*, which features Benedict Cumberbatch as the turn-of-the-century artist who suffered from serious mental health issues (Wain's kaleidoscopic paintings from his later years were often used in the 1960s to illustrate what an LSD trip was like). Wain was known as 'the man who drew cats,' and his affectionate caricature of fellow cat-lover, William Gillette, is well known to Sherlockians. The film opened in the United States on 22nd October; it is expected to be released in the UK on 31st December. You can view the trailer here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzDr_tBL-es&t=23s.

The following articles are also of interest:

https://www.tatler.com/article/the-electrical-life-of-louis-wain-high-society-cats-history?utm_source=pocket-newtab-global-en-GB

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2021/jul/11/wh-y-benedict-cumberbatch-fell-for-oddball-artist-and-his-world-of-cats>

Sherlock's on Queen Street in Blackpool is set to open on Friday, 5th November. The live music venue's launch night will feature a special performance from drag act and Britain's Got Talent star Danny Beard.

<https://www.lancs.live/news/lancashire-news/blackpools-brand-new-three-floor-21641916>

Books of Interest

Holmes & Watson Country: Travels in Search of Solutions by **Bernard Davies** (The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, 197pp pbk, £22.00) The original two-volume edition in hardcover has been out of print for years and is difficult to obtain. This second edition is published as a single volume in paperback, making it more accessible for those who missed it the first time around. Roger Johnson and Leslie Klinger have updated their original introductory notes and Bernard's precisely researched essays are essential reading.

<https://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/product/holmes-and-watson-country-travels-in-search-of-solutions/>

Louis Wain's Cats by **Chris Beetles**, foreword by **Benedict Cumberbatch** (Canongate Books, 256pp hbk £30). The first edition of this lavishly illustrated biography, published in 2011, has long since sold out. The new edition has a new cover — and Benedict Cumberbatch's introduction. Gallery-owner Beetles is *the* acknowledged expert on the artist and provided practical assistance to Cumberbatch, who had to learn how to imitate Wain's drawing techniques for the forementioned film. Available from:

<https://www.chrisbeetles.com/book/214/louis-wain-s-cats-2021-edition>

J. Lawrence Matthews shares the happy news that his new book, **One Must Tell the Bees: Abraham Lincoln and the Final Education of Sherlock Holmes**, is the recipient of The Coffee Pot Book Club 'Highly Recommended' Award. "*One Must Tell the Bees* is the untold story of Sherlock Holmes's journey from the streets of London to the White House of Abraham Lincoln and, in company with a freed slave named after the dead President, their breath-taking pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth. It is the very first case of the man who would become known to the world as Sherlock Holmes, and as readers will discover, it will haunt him until his very last." (East Dean Press, 490pp pbk, available on Amazon).

The Case of Death and Honey by **Neil Gaiman / The Creeping Man** by **Arthur Conan Doyle** (Areté Editions, illustrated by Gary Gianni). For the discerning collector, these are rather beautiful fine-press editions of Gaiman's pastiche and ACD's classic, which inspired Gaiman's tale. The books have been produced in several different formats and in different price categories. You can learn more on the publisher's website www.arete-editions.com, which has information and images of each of the editions. Marcelo Anciano from Arété explains: "Each book has been letter-pressed in three passes using hot metal type. Usual books can be offset litho-printed in a few hours; these books take weeks, if not months to print and make, hence the price. I've attempted to show the difference in short films on our FB page:" <https://www.facebook.com/AreteEditions/>

The Return of the Pharaoh by **Nicholas Meyer** (Minotaur, 267pp, \$25.99/£18.84 on Amazon) Due for release on 14th December in the UK, Meyer's latest pastiche is set in 1910. Watson has taken his wife to Egypt, hoping that the climate will relieve her consumption. He encounters Holmes who is traveling in disguise while in pursuit of a missing nobleman. Howard Carter (who discovers an unknown tomb) is there to

assist, but there's peril along the way. www.nicholas-meyer.com

Obituaries

Leslie Bricusse died on 19th October, age 90. His prolific song-writing career spanned 60 years, and included hits from **Doctor Dolittle**, **Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory**, and iconic James Bond theme songs. His **Sherlock Holmes: The Musical** had an ill-fated start at the Cambridge Theatre in London's West End. Plagued by public transport strikes and extremely hot weather (very few London theatres had air conditioning!) it had an embarrassingly short run from 24th April to 8th July 1989. There were audible sighs of relief from cast members when the closing notices went up; Bricusse regularly locked horns with its star, Ron Moody, who habitually strayed from the script and engaged in banter with the orchestra and audience. Fellow actors waiting impatiently for their cues were not amused. (NOTE: The late and greatly missed Roger Llewellyn played Inspector Lestrade in this production.) In 2013, Bricusse collaborated with the Morphic Graffiti theatre company to revise the show, presenting it within a Music Hall setting at Hoxton Hall in London - itself a Victorian grade II listed Music Hall Theatre. The streamlined (and greatly improved) version was retitled **The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes** and opened to critical acclaim.

Periodicals Received:

The Baker Street Journal, Summer 2021 (**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, October 2021 (Steve Mason; mason.steve8080@gmail.com)

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

The Cri Bar Crier, Vol. 27 No. 1, October 2021 (**Criterion Bar Association of Chicago**; franklin.saksena@gmail.com)

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

The Magic Door, Summer 2021 (**Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection**, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4W 2G8; www.acdfriends.org)

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

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

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

Jean Upton