

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

Jean Upton, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

e-mail: district.messenger@yahoo.com

No. 418 December 2021

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

As announced at the annual Film Evening, this year's recipient of the Tony & Freda Howlett Literary Award is **Maureen Whittaker** for her admirable book *Jeremy Brett: Playing a Part*. In 2015 Maureen organised the siting and dedication of a memorial bench, near the bandstand on Clapham Common – just a brief stroll from Jeremy's former flat. Her next project was to chronicle his extraordinary career, with particular reference to Sherlock Holmes. The result is this outstanding book.

Here's your chance to follow in the footsteps of Holmes and Watson as they investigate the strange case of the stolen Blue Carbuncle – without leaving your own home! *Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle at Christmas* is a virtual tour that will be conducted on Sunday the 19th and Monday the 27th December, by London Walks' Sherlock Holmes expert, **Richard Burnip** – a long-time member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. The tour follows Holmes and Watson's progress through London and also looks at how Arthur Conan Doyle came to write the story. Because this is a virtual tour, made possible by Zoom, you will need to book in advance at www.walks.com/our-walks/conan-doyle-sherlock-holmes-at-christmas/

Sherlock Holmes Meets Count Dracula ("A case Holmes can really sink his teeth into!") by Common Ground Theatre is touring East Anglia at a variety of venues and dates until 23rd January 2022. "Lady Emilia Adwater engages the services of Sherlock Holmes to investigate the disappearance of her head butler and other domestic staff in her neighbourhood, down in deepest Suffolk. The disappearances coincide with the arrival there of the mysterious Count Dracula who has moved into nearby Carhorn Abbey. Dr. Watson, masquerading as a life insurance rep. is sent to assess the situation, and on his return to Baker Street starts behaving rather strangely..." Common Ground Theatre is renowned for its witty comedies and clever musical numbers – highly recommended! www.commongroundtc.co.uk/xmas-show-2021-22

If, like Watson in the forementioned production, you happen to find yourself in Suffolk, Bury St. Edmunds offers **Baskerville's Bar**, a vegan coffee shop which also serves intriguing cocktails. They have menus for daytime and evening meals and snacks. www.baskervilles.uk

Bert Coules' play, *Watson – The Final Problem* now has a tour schedule running from 1st February to 5th March 2022, which you can view at www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/watson-the-final-problem-3/ Venues include Eastbourne, London, Trafford and Lichfield.

Planning further ahead, *Spontaneous Sherlock* will be performed at the Sundial Theatre in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, on 12th March. "*Spontaneous Sherlock* is an award-winning, entirely improvised Sherlock Holmes comedy play based on an audience suggestion of a title. Performed by some of the UK's most critically-acclaimed comedy improvisers, with live Victorian musical accompaniment. Previous titles performed include *Sherlock Holmes and the Moriarty-Tea Party*; *Sherlock Holmes and the Awkward Tinder Date*; *Sherlock Holmes and the Rise of the Silver Surfer*; *Sherlock Holmes and the Trip to IKEA Where People Have Died*." www.sundial-theatre.co.uk

The Poor Folk Upon The Moors held their AGM on 20 November at the NoBody Inn, Doddiscombsleigh, Devon. The new committee was duly elected and **Stephan Arthur**, son of the late President, Vosper Arthur, was unanimously elected Chairman. If you are interested in the activities of the Poor Folk or wish to join, please email editor.poorfolk@gmail.com or mike.menhenitt@btinternet.com

We are always glad to hear of new fledgling societies and have recently received correspondence from a group in **Cape Fear, North Carolina**. You can learn about their activities at www.SherlockHolmesSociety.com and sign up to join in their upcoming Zoom meetings.

Charles Hall is continuing a clearance of his remaining stock of Sherlock Holmes collectibles. These include resin-cast medallions, miniature novelty figures and numerous stage plays in mint condition. He says, "As a special deal I am selling my remaining books post-free," but this would apply only within the UK. Charles's prices are extremely reasonable (£3-£4.50 for medallions/paperweights, £2-£3.00 for figures, £1-£2.00 for plays) and are of excellent quality. Contact him at 12 Paisley Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 7JW; 0131 2585629.

Andrew Gulli, proprietor of *The Strand Magazine*, advises that his annual Sherlock Holmes calendar is now ready to order. The calendar is full colour and printed on thick glossy card stock and features artwork by Jeffrey McKeever, Sidney Paget, and Frederic Dorr Steele.

<https://strandmag.com/product/sherlock-holmes-calendar-2022/> View the full catalogue of gift items at <https://strandmag.com/product-category/sherlocks-shop/221b-baker-street-collection/>

The single manuscript page from *The Hound of the Baskervilles* which sold at Heritage Auctions on 6th November, went for \$423,000 (including the buyer's premium). This is reported to be the second-highest auction price for any Canonical manuscript. Randall Stock provides a detailed history and description of the page at www.tinyurl.com/yu7jrjhh

Brad Keefauver is planning a Zoom celebration of Sherlock Holmes's 168th birthday for those who won't be journeying to New York for the annual festivities. You can join the Montague Street Incorrigibles at the Dangling Prussian pub on 14th January by registering at: <https://sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com/2021/11/a-virtual-pub-night-to-celebrate.html>

The PG Wodehouse Society (UK) has launched an Essay Prize to mark the 140th anniversary of the birth of Wodehouse this year and forms part of next year's celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the literary society (to which many of our own Society members belong). The Prize of £1,000, for the winning adult entry and £250 for the winning junior entry will be awarded by a distinguished panel of judges including our member **Stephen Fry**, who is a Patron of the PG Wodehouse Society (UK). Entry is free and open to all, regardless of whether entrants are members of any of the societies around the world that promote the work of Wodehouse. Chairman of the UK Society, **Tim Andrew**, asks essayists to focus on Wodehouse's novels, stories, plays and journalism - not his life and background. Entries must be submitted by 1 September 2022. For more details go to: www.pgwodehousesociety.org.uk/essayprize

Books of Interest

The Baker Street Classics Sherlock Holmes from **Baker Street Press** is a new uniform set of all of the nine Canonical books in hardback, with colourful dust-jackets featuring the artwork from the old John Murray Uniform Edition. The books are £14.99 each or £125.00 for the full set. <https://ccsbooks.co.uk/product-category/baker-street-classics-sherlock-holmes/>

Antony Richards, proprietor of Baker Street Studios, has announced the release of the final part of *Sherlock Holmes Alphabet of Cases, Volume 5* by **Roger Riccard**, which covers the letters U-Z. Antony has a number of other books on the topics of Sherlock Holmes, Inspector Morse, Jack the Ripper and true crime, all available on Amazon. <http://www.baker-street-studios.com/>

The Sherlock Holmes Review (1986-1996) was called "the last great Sherlock Holmes periodical". Following omnibus reprints of Volumes 1 and 2, Gasogene Books has begun a new series with *The Sherlock Holmes Review: 2021 Sherlockian Annual* (\$24.95), edited as before by **Steven Doyle**. Contributors include Nicholas Meyer, Leslie Klinger, Paul Chapman, Ray Betzner,

Fabienne Courouge and Bruce Harris. Especially appealing is Steve Doyle's tribute to Michael Cox. <https://wessexpress.com/html/shreview2021.html>

Enola Holmes has entered the world of graphic novels with the announcement of *Mycroft's Dangerous Game* from **Legendary Comics**. Developed from a story by **Nancy Springer**, it is written by Mickey George with artwork by Giorgia Sposito and colours by Enrico Eren Angiolini. Picking up where the first film left off, it will tell the story of Enola, Lord Tewkesbury and a young boy on the streets named Shag, trying to track down Enola's brother, Mycroft, who has been abducted by a group of anarchists. The graphic novel will be available on 23 August 2022.

Obituaries

Stephen Sondheim died on 26 November, age 91. Revered for his many accomplishments in the world of musical theatre, he wrote "*The Madame's Song*" (also known as "*I Never Do Anything Twice*") performed by Régine in the film of *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*.

Periodicals Received:

Baker Street in Baltimore, May – December 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, December 2021 (Steve Mason; mason.steve8080@gmail.com)

For the Sake of the Trust, Fall 2021 (**The Baker Street Irregulars Trust Newsletter**; www.bsitrust.org)

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

Mayday Mayday, November 2021 (**The Crew of the SS May Day, Belfast**, Oscar Ross; oscarross@hotmail.com)

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

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

Sherlockiana, Nr. 4 2021 (**Sherlock Holmes Klubben I Danmark**; Sven Ranild, editor; redaktion@sherlockholmesklubben.dk)

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

The Compliments of the Season!

Jean Upton