

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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

It's a pleasure to begin the year with lots of awards and honours to report:

At the **Baker Street Irregulars** dinner on 14th January, **Michael Kean** (Wiggins) announced the following new investitures: **Crystal Noll** ('Crystal Palace'); **Mark Jones** ('Peter Jones'); **Karen Wilson** ('Bartholomew Wilson'); **Rob Nunn** ('Elementary'); **Tiffany Knight** ('Knight's Place'); **Heather Holloway** ('Atlanta'); **Laurence Deloison** ('Claridge's Hotel'); **Aaron Rubin** ('The Amethyst Snuff Box'); **Tim Johnson** ('Theophilus Johnson'); **David Humphries** ('Chicago Central'); **Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves** ('Morrison, Morrison, and Dodd'); **Jim Hawkins** ('The Hans Sloane of My Age'); **Janice Weiner** ('Scotland Yard'); **Jonathan Tiemann** ('The Bank of England'). The Two-Shilling Award went to **Marsha Pollak**, and **Russell Merritt** was the recipient of the Morley-Montgomery Award. At the Saturday luncheon a new honour, the Susan Rice Mentorship Award, was presented to **Peter Blau**. The award recognises "commitment to mentoring Sherlockians as a means of keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes."

The new **Arthur Conan Doyle Society** has also established and awarded a number of honours – too numerous to mention here, but a full list can be viewed at <http://www.acdsociety.com/>. One of the awards went to our member, **Bonnie MacBird** (and her team), whose *Modern Major Super Sleuth* was premiered at our online Annual Dinner last year. The production received the award for excellence in the Performing and Visual Arts category. You can view it on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9LWL2Z6LzU&t=1s>.

The **Beacon Society** held its annual meeting on January 5, 2022, where **Steve Mason** was announced as the worthy recipient of [the 2022 Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award](#).

The **Mystery Writers of America** annually presents its Grand Master award, to acknowledge important contributions to the genre, as well as for a body of work that is both significant and of consistent high quality. We're pleased to report that the 2022 Grand Master is **Laurie R. King**, creator of the erudite and amusing *Mary Russell* series.

The Queen's **New Year Honours List** for 2022 included **Vanessa Redgrave**, who has been awarded a DBE (Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to drama. She played the elusive Lola Deveraux in *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution* (1976). **Anthony Horowitz**, author of *The House of Silk* and *Moriarty*, received a CBE (Commander) for services to literature.

Toronto Public Library has been home to the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection since 1971. It is holding a celebratory exhibition, **A Study in Sherlock & His Creator: 50 Years of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection** which runs from 7th February to 16th April 2022. You can find details at <https://nowtoronto.com/events/art-exhibition-a-study-in-sherlock-his-creator-50-years-of-the-arthur-conan-doyle-collection>

There is a campaign underway to save the name and identity of **Barts & the London School of Medicine & Dentistry**. According to information received from **Alistair Rookes**, "Our parent institution, Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), has decided to change our name to QMUL Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, against the wishes of our students, staff and alumni. The decision to erase our identity is an attack not only on medical history, but on a part of the heritage of this country. St Bartholomew's Hospital was founded in 1123, making it the oldest remaining hospital in the country. St Bartholomew's Medical College was, of course, the school of Dr John Watson. We would appreciate any support you could offer by signing this petition: <https://www.bartslondon.com/wearebl>."

Potter and Potter Auction House has provided a direct link to the catalogue for their 26th February auction: <https://auctions.potterauctions.com/mobile/catalog.aspx?auctionid=1127>. The main items of interest to Sherlockians begins with Lot 478, an inscribed copy of August Derleth's *Sign of Fear: A Judge Peck Mystery* continuing up to Lot 517, a collection of Derleth's **Solar Pons** stories. In between, there are many interesting lots including early editions of ACD's books, some foreign editions, a number of versions of *The Hound* (some with rare dust jackets), many bound and/or single issues of **The Strand** magazine, and even a tin tray advertising **The Strand**.

Rosebery's auction house in London will be offering an assortment of seven paintings by **Adrian Conan Doyle** at a sale to be held on 15th February. You can view and place bids here: www.tinyurl.com/uef99d6a

Some good news from **Bert Coules**: New dates have been confirmed for *Watson: The Final Problem* at The Chelsea Theatre. They are: Thursday 31st March, Friday 1st April, Thursday 7th April, Friday 8th April and Saturday 9th April. Details at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/kings-road/the-chelsea-theatre/watson-the-final-problem/e-qjgrjo>

Jim Hawkins advises that **The Nashville Scholars** have a new website: <https://www.nashvillescholars.com>. Jim adds, "If you are on the Members page and want me to change something, please let me know. Our Story Schedule is easily found, so check that out. And we've added a feature called

REPLAY where discussions on the story are provided by the member assigned to the story. Look for the f in the top right of every page. Clicking it will take you to our Facebook page for Nashville Scholars.”

Books of Interest

George Vanderburgh (The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box) advises that he has updated the electronic version of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* (e-SHJ) and it is now ready for purchase and distribution. The original was released in 2003, including all issues up to Summer 2002, along with supplementary material and comprehensive Index by our member, **Geraldine Beare**. The new version / supplement continues from Winter 2002 up to Summer 2019. Ordering and payment details are as follows: **For new purchasers**, the Price is £110 / US \$150 via Paypal. The folder will be sent via We Transfer. **For previous purchasers** the price is £40 / US \$55.00 and the folder will be sent by We Transfer. For more details and to place an order you can contact George at: george.vanderburgh@gmail.com

Two new titles have been published by the Baker Street Irregulars Press: *A Masterpiece of Villainy* is the new addition to the Manuscript Series (244 pp., \$39.95), edited by **Ross E. Davies**. It offers a facsimile of the manuscript of “*The Norwood Builder*”, with an annotated transcription and scholarly commentary on the manuscript and various aspects of the story. *Referring to My Notes: Music and the Sherlockian Canon*, edited by **Alexander Katz** and **Karen Wilson** (173 pp., \$39.95), in the Professions Series, explores what Nicholas Meyer calls “the possibilities suggested by Doyle when he so blithely made Holmes a violinist and an opera devotee.” The scholarship extends to discussion of musicians who have been members of the BSI, and some of the Sherlockian musicals performed on stage. Both books can be ordered at www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books

Gasogene Books has several new offerings: *The Sherlock Holmes Review: Anthology Volume Two* 1988-1990 (131 pp., \$34.95) is a reprint of the second volume of **Steven Doyle's** periodical, called by one critic “the last great Sherlockian journal.” *The Sherlock Holmes Review: 2021 Sherlockian Annual* (118 pp, \$24.95) is a welcome revival that demonstrates Steve’s continuing ability to find authors who have interesting things to say about many aspects of Sherlockiana. *The Finest Assorted Collection: Essays on Collecting Sherlock Holmes*, edited by **Peter Eckrich** and **Rob Nunn** (232 pp, \$26.95) is a selection of essays by individuals who accumulate a wide variety of Sherlockiana and enjoy sharing their pursuits. Dan Andriacco’s *The Sword of Death* (105 pp., \$18.95), a traditional pastiche in which Holmes and Watson investigate a case involving a headless corpse and complicated family relationships. www.gasogenebooks.com

David Stuart Davies' ninth Holmes novel is now available: *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes – Revenge from the Grave* (Titan Books, 320 pp, pbk, £7.99) “When Professor Moriarty plunged over the Reichenbach Falls the world believed that Sherlock Holmes was also dead. Three years later Holmes has returned – but so, too, has a deadly threat. With Moriarty’s criminal empire very much alive, Holmes and Watson are forced to ask themselves if their greatest foe really did perish...” David wishes to assure readers that, yes, Moriarty really *is* dead!

Obituaries

Barry Cryer died on 25th January, age 86. As a versatile writer, comedian, radio show panellist, chat show guest and occasional actor, Barry’s influence on British television and radio comedy (for more than 60 years) is immeasurable. As a young man he received his baptism of fire by performing as the bottom of the bill at the notorious Windmill Theatre in London. The experience made it clear that he preferred writing to stand-up comedy; he went on to provide material for pretty much every British comedian you could name, plus some trans-Atlantic icons such as Jack Benny and George Burns. He will be especially remembered for his regular participation on the hilarious BBC radio show *I’m Sorry I Haven’t a Clue*, launched as ‘an antidote to panel games’ in 1972. Barry was guest of honour at our 2001 Annual Dinner and, with his son Bob, was author of *Mrs. Hudson’s Diaries*, which was adapted for BBC Radio in 2018. A good friend to many members of our Society, he will be sorely missed.

Actor and voice coach **Valentine Palmer** died on 10th January, age 86. He appeared in nearly 100 TV series, including *Doctor Who* (“*Day of the Daleks*”) and played leading roles in a number of West End musicals. For many years he was Chairman at the Players Theatre, a favourite abode of many of our members. An accomplished writer, in 2012 he was commissioned to write a biography of his great-uncle, Charles Herbert Lightoller (played by Kenneth More in *A Night to Remember*) – the only senior officer to survive the sinking of the Titanic. He also published a novel, *Sherlock Holmes and the Great Titanic Mystery* in 2019.

Periodicals Received:

The Beacon Society Quarterly Newsletter, Vol. 6, No. 1, January 2022 (**The Beacon Society**, Carla Coupe "Headlight"; Headlight_BeaconSociety@yahoo.com, www.beaconsociety.com)

Canadian Holmes, Winter 2021/2022 (**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, February 2022 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen; terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)

The Poor Folk Upon the Moors Newsletter, January 2022, Stephan Arthur; editor.poorfolk@gmail.com)

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press, January 2022 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA: blau7103@comcast.net)

Sherlock’s Spotlight, Winter 2022 (**The Beacon Society**; Steve Mason, editor; mason.steve8080@gmail.com)

Timeline, January 2022, (The Official Newsletter of the **Sherlockian Chronologist Guild**; Brad Keefauver bkeefauver@gmail.com)

The Whaling News, January 2022 (**The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn, St. Charles, MO**; J Andrew Basford; pcairnes26@outlook.com)

Jean Upton