

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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Firstly, a brief report of the Society's Annual Dinner. **Carole Markham** was the recipient of this year's Tony Howlett Award, and **Heather Owen** became our latest Honorary Member. Heather has been co-editor of the *Sherlock Holmes Journal* for an incredible 40 years, so this is very well-deserved. Congratulations to both of them.

At the **Baker Street Irregulars'** Annual Dinner, **Otto Penzler** received the Two-shilling Award. The following new investitures were announced: **Rudy Altergott, Derrick Belanger, Tom Brydges, Fabienne Courouge, Daniel L. Friedman, Chuck Kovacic, Stephen Chahn Lee, Danna A. Mancini, Maxine H. Reneker, Olivia Rutigliano, Jessica Schilling, George H. Schwarz, Robert Sharfman** and **Liese Sherwood-Fabre**. *The Woman* was **Pamela Wampler**, wife of Stephen Doyle. The winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article published in *The Baker Street Journal* was **Eric Scace**. Congratulations to all! A report of the meeting can be found at

<https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/2024/01/27/the-2024-bsi-weekend-report/>

A catalogue of stamps featuring literary detectives has been published online. The entries for Holmes may be accessed at

<https://www.trussel.com/detfic/detect.htm#char>

Sign-ups for the Summer 2024 round of **Holmestice** will take place from 19th March – 3rd April. Holmestice is a twice-yearly gift exchange of fanworks for any Sherlockian universe. Participants sign up by specifying what they are willing to create and what they would like to receive. The moderators then match up the participants, so that each person creates something for someone else. For further information and to sign up at the appropriate time, go to <https://holmestice.dreamwidth.org/>

Sherlock Holmes: The Valley of Fear will be showing at Southwark Playhouse, Borough, from 27th March to 13th April. This adaptation of Conan Doyle's final Holmes novel had its world premiere tour in 2022/23 and has been described by our own *SHJ* as 'truly stunning'. For further information and to book, go to

<https://southwarkplayhouse.co.uk/productions/sherlock-holmes-the-valley-of-fear/>

Paul Spiring has done extensive work to expand the Wikipedia page about **Bertram Fletcher Robinson**, who helped Arthur Conan Doyle with details for the plot and setting of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Easily accessible information about him has previously been mostly sketchy or inaccurate, so this is a very useful resource. The page has been granted 'Good Article' status by Wikipedia and can be accessed at

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bertram_Fletcher_Robinson

Kelvin Jones is regretfully having to sell off a wide selection of his Holmes collection. The items he is hoping to sell are: a set of original cloth cover Strands from SCAN to FINA; his 1908 Sampson Lowe editions of *Memoirs, Sign, Return, and Adventures*; a complete collection of his own Holmesiana in fine condition; many copies of the *SHJ* going back 50 years, Canadian Holmes, and the *BSJ*; a wide selection of paperback editions of the Holmes volumes including, for example, a lovely Oxford edition, collection of the tales, numerous copies of Writings on the Writings, and a complete set of the Murray uniform editions. There will also be quite a number of books by and on Doyle, for example, biographies and a lovely pristine edition of his *The Boer War*; and a collection of books about Victorian criminology, including a lovely, pristine 3 volume copy of the famous Arthur Griffiths' *Mysteries of Police and Crime*. Kelvin can be contacted at sherlocks.irregulars@googlegmail.com

Letters from Bunny, an email subscription covering all of the *Raffles* stories by **E.W. Hornung** will begin, appropriately enough, on the Ides of March. Hornung was ACD's brother-in-law, and Raffles and Bunny are arguably a version of the Holmes and Watson dynamic on the other side of the law. To subscribe, head to <https://lettersfrombunny.substack.com/>

The Alliance of Literary Societies will be holding its 2024 Annual Gathering, including their AGM, from 17th – 19th May at Bowness-On-Windermere. The event is open for booking, and details can be found at

<https://allianceofliterarysocieties.wordpress.com/agm-weekend/>

A new Holmes TV series, *Sherlock & Daughter*, is being developed by **The CW Network**, starring David Thewlis as Holmes. The series promises to take Holmes out of his comfort zone, working with a girl who may be his daughter to solve a global conspiracy, and find out for sure whether they are related. Further information can be found at

<https://www.tvinsider.com/1122771/sherlock-holmes-daughter-david-thewlis-cw-series/>

The Great Murder Mystery have brought back their immersive Sherlock Holmes experience, and the show will be opening in March. 'Enter a many-layered immersive world. Journey from crime-soaked London to desolate Devonshire. Watch theatre, music, and fine dining bring Holmes' greatest case – **The Hound Of The Baskervilles** - to life around you.' For further information and to book, go to

<https://murdermystery.thelostestate.com/>

The paperback edition of *The Men Who Were Sherlock Holmes* is being launched at an event on 23rd May. The book reveals the key roles of Joseph Bell and Henry Littlejohn, whose powers of deduction inspired Conan Doyle, in the investigation of the murder of army officer Cecil Hambrough. For further information and to book tickets for the event, go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/book-launch-the-men-who-were-sherlock-holmes-a-true-life-victorian-murder-mystery-tickets-841449767907?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

The team organising the Society's trip to India have now confirmed that there is more than enough interest in the trip for it to go ahead. The trip will be arranged by India travel specialists TransIndus, and destinations will include Kolkata, Lucknow, Delhi, Shimla and, naturally, Agra. Further details are available on the Society website

<https://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/sherlock-holmes-in-india-2025/> and queries can be directed to the team at india@sherlock-holmes.org.uk

Award-winning comedy troupe Calf 2 Cow will be putting on **Sherlock and Watson: A Murder in the Garden** at Arundells, Salisbury, on Thursday 27th June. This brand-new adaption is an outrageous comedy full of slapstick, multi-rolling and pumped full of live music and rock n roll. The show is billed as suitable for ages 12 and up. For more information and to book tickets, go to

<https://arundells.org/events/sherlockandwatson/>

The Londonist have produced an online map of *Sherlock Holmes' London*. The map shows many important locations from the canon, along with Sherlockian things to see. The map can be accessed at https://assets.londonist.com/uploads/2024/02/sherlock-holmes-map-londonist-time-machine.jpg?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Lee Sherman, an antique dealer in St Albans, is wanting to sell an Elkington silver galleried salver of exceptional quality. The salver was presented to Dr Joseph Bell in April 1862 by the Glasgow Infirmary as a token of gratitude for his enlightening pathological demonstrations. The salver measures 31cm in diameter and boasts impeccable craftsmanship by Elkington & Co., featuring exquisite engraving. Some of the inscription shows slight signs of wear, but the rest of the engraved design and hallmarking on the underside are crisp, indicating its manufacture in 1857. Supported by three ornate feet, the salver weighs approximately 735g. The asking price is £5,500. Mr Sherman is offering this to members before putting it on the open market, so he says he would appreciate a prompt response if the piece is of interest. You can contact him at lee@theartofquality.co.uk

Editor's Alternative Reading Recommendation

I highly recommend this cosy story set in the time after Holmes and Watson have retired. It centres around Watson deciding to keep chickens and features possibly my favourite line ever written in a fanfiction – 'You come to my house, you steal my lover, and now you eat my bees.'

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/28600773>

Books of Interest:

The Murder of Mr Ma by **John Shen Yen Nee** and **SJ Rozan** is due to be released by its American publisher on 2nd April and should shortly be announced by its UK publisher. The book blends traditional gong'an crime fiction with the most iconic aspects of the Sherlock Holmes canon as two unlikely allies race through the cobbled streets of 1920s London in search of a killer targeting Chinese immigrants.

Periodicals Received:

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press, February 2024 (Peter Blau; <https://redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39>)

Timelines, February 2024 (Brad Keefauver; bkeefauver@gmail.com)

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