

Vol. 10, No. 1
(New Series)



April 2019

The Vermissa Herald

A Publication of The Scowlers & Molly Maguires of San Francisco





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Published by

The Scowlers & Molly Maguires
San Francisco, California

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The Vermissa Herald

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Stanger's Corner

At long last, we have another issue of The Vermissa Herald, although it is not on the schedule that I optimistically announced last issue. As the old saying goes, the surest way to make the gods laugh is to announce your plans. But, on a serious note, residents of California have experienced an unprecedented series of disasters over the last couple of years. Nearly everyone knows someone affected by one or more of these disasters. Our thoughts are with all those who are still trying to recover some normalcy in their lives.

Although this is minor in the scheme of everything that has happened, I have to say that the archives of the Herald fell victim as well. The plans for doing a retrospective of various events, as the Scowrers celebrate the 75th anniversary of their founding, are on hold as we rebuild the archives. In this I am turning to you, the reader. If you have memories of past special events, I would like to hear from you. Write or email your impressions of those events to your editor at the contact information listed at the end

of this editorial. I would also like to hear your story of how you came into the world of Sherlock Holmes. And, for members of the Scowrers, how did you hear about the society and what brought you into this organization? If you have ever submitted a paper for publication, and it has not yet seen print, please resubmit it.

In this issue of the Herald we have the account of a Sherlockian's first trip to London. *A Sherlockian in London, or, The Wanderings of a Scowrer* offers a one-day stroll through London and at various points there are references from the Canon citing particular locations. This stroll was done without the aid of a Hansome cab. It is interesting how many of the scenes we read about were within easy walking distance of the famous door shown on the cover of this issue.

Bruce Dettman has contributed three book reviews that are included in this issue. Bruce begins with **The Sherlock Holmes Miscellany**, by Roger Johnson and Jean Upton.

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From there he continues on to **Amazing and Extraordinary Facts: Sherlock Holmes** by Nick Utechin and **Arthur and Sherlock** by Michael Sims. The reviews are fairly short and should give you a sense of whether you should include each in your personal reading list and/or Sherlockian reference library. We hope to offer more of Bruce's insightful reviews in future issues.

Finally, we offer the answers to the last issue's *Who? What? Where?* quiz by Cade Deverell, and this issue concludes with a new quiz by Cade, *Who Hired Sherlock Holmes?*

The continued publication of The Vermissa Herald depends on articles contributed by our readers. Please send any submissions, requests or suggestions to:

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— Editor James Stanger



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A Sherlockian's First Visit To London or The Wanderings of a Scowrer

by

Ronald S. White

Adapted for the Herald

from a paper presented before the Scowrers

January 5, 2019

Last summer I made my first trip overseas. As befits a Sherlockian, my first trip was to London, where I spent eight days touring the city, visiting Windsor Castle, the town of Bath and Stonehenge, along with a number of Sherlockian haunts.

Nearly everywhere I turned there was something that I could relate to Sherlock Holmes. Today, however, this presentation will concentrate on one day's journey, what I refer to as my Sherlockian walk through London.

However, before I begin that day I will say that if you have never taken a polar flight at night you have missed a real experience. My friend, Kathy Weeks, and I left San Francisco airport at 7:30 PM on the 4th of July. I was seated on the left side of the plane, where I could look to the west, watching the setting sun. As we

flew north the sun dipped below the horizon, but it never grew completely dark. There were always bands of color. It was deep red along the horizon, fading into yellow above that. Directly above the yellow band was light blue fading into darker blue which disappeared into the near black above. Then, after we crossed the pole, the bands began to brighten and soon I was watching the sunrise from the same window I watched the sunset. What was west as we ascended north toward the pole, now became east as we descended south.

Over the middle of Foxe Basin in Nunavut (what used to be part of Canada's Northwest Territories) I spotted what appeared to be a small island with lights along the side furthest from the sun.

The camera in my cellphone tracks an

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exact location for each photo taken. Upon my return I checked the map on this location. There are no islands shown on the maps of this area, nor any cities at this latitude. I am at a bit of a loss to explain these lights. To my imagination they could be streaks of lava flowing into the sea. Honestly, I cannot say with any certainty that they were not.

We continued on to Reykjavik, Iceland. And, after a five-hour layover, we made the hop to Gatwick airport. I saw my first view of the English countryside as we descended into Gatwick.

From the airport we took the Gatwick Express to Victoria Station and from there the train to our final destination, Hammersmith.

A quote from the canon: *“As to the arrest of John Mitton, the valet, it was a counsel of despair as an alternative to absolute inaction. But no case could be sustained against him. He had visited friends in Hammersmith that night. The alibi was complete.”*

—*The Adventure of the Second Stain.*

Once settled in the hostel in Hammersmith, I could not sleep easily. The weather was considerably warmer than usual, as it was during my entire trip. Most days were in the High 80s to low 90s. It was now near midnight and the air had cooled to the mid 70s. So, I took a late-night stroll.

It is obvious at every turn that you are surrounded by history. I was staying at St. Christopher’s Inn in Hammersmith. The main building appears to be well over a hundred years in age. However, newer constructions are attached. This is not surprising considering that substantial damage was done to many areas during the second world war.

Over the years since the war there have been efforts to preserve and commemorate the histories of the city. If you ever forget the history there are numerous signs to remind you.

The Salutation Pub lies just around the corner from St. Christopher’s Hostel in Hammersmith. Although the building is a bit newer, a sign proudly proclaims, “An old coaching inn has stood on this site since circa 1750.

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It was proud then, as it is now of its traditional beers, travellers fayre and warm welcome.”

My friend stayed in another area of the hostel and served as my guide for a couple of days, until she headed off to Ireland for a study abroad trip. After seeing her off on the Gatwick Express, at almost precisely 5 AM, I devoted the rest of the day to my “Sherlock Holmes Walk.”

I walked the short block from the railway station to the Victoria Tube Station. Immediately outside the station one can enjoy a Cornish Pasty, even at this early hour. Although sorely tempted I was anxious to reach the famous address and begin my walk. So, I entered Victoria Station.

From the canon: *“A brougham was waiting with a very massive driver wrapped in a dark cloak, who, the instant that I had stepped in, whipped up the horse and rattled off to Victoria Station. On my alighting there he turned the carriage, and dashed away again without so much as a look in my*

direction.”

—*The Final Problem*

Each station has distinctive art work to remind you where you are. In Victoria Station, of course you have the silhouette of the young Queen Victoria.

After a short wait in a nearly deserted underground station it was on to Baker Street. However, there is not a direct connection between Victoria Station and the Baker Street station. The first leg was via the Circle line to Westminster station and then the Jubilee line to the Baker Street station.

So, what should I expect at the Baker Street station?

Here I found illustrations from six of the stories, including *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Solitary Cyclist* and *The Speckled Band*. And, what could be more fitting to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first Sherlock Holmes Story? How about 100 silhouettes of Sherlock Holmes adorning the wall? Fifty ceramic tiles were arranged within a square, each emblazoned with two silhouettes of the master detective. Above ground

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a statue of Holmes stands near the entrance to the Baker Street station.

From the station I wandered up the street seeking the famous address, passing reminders of the history of the area. The composer, Eric Coates, stayed at one location, as announced by a round blue plaque upon the wall.

Already, I began to see signs of Holmes. An Inverness and deerstalker for sale in one window. A sale on deerstalkers in another. Nearly directly across the street from these items I found the famous address.

Now as I was standing before the door I recalled another line from the Canon. ***“It was pleasant to Dr. Watson to find himself once more in the untidy room of the first floor in Baker Street which had been the starting-point of so many remarkable adventures.”***

— *The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone*

A brass plaque upon the door announced that visitors seeking Mr. Holmes or Doctor Watson should ring the bell. Hours of availability were 9:30 AM to 5 PM. The price of admission was

6 pounds for adults and 4 pounds for children. It was still just past 6 AM so I did not seek entrance.

Next door was the entrance to the Sherlock Holmes Museum and Souvenirs. On that door was a posting that would have been found in the area in 1888, regarding Jack-the-Ripper.

The door next to that led to Hudson’s Teas, Lunches and Dinners. At this time it was still at least three hours before any of these establishments opened. So, I turned to walk the length of Baker Street, unsure of where I would wander after that.

One of the first intersections I came upon was Dorset Street, recalling one of the scenes of the Ripper murders. However, this is not the same street. The Dorset Street in the Ripper murders is located in the Spitalfields district. This is in the Marylebone district. So, I continued on my way, crossing Blandford Street, George Street and Portman Square.

Baker Street became Orchard Street and I turned to the right and soon found myself in front of Hyde Park.

And from the canon: ***“Quite so. And***

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she was afterwards seen walking into Hyde Park in company with Flora Millar, a woman who is now in custody, and who had already made a disturbance at Mr. Doran's house that morning."

—*The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor*

Greeting me at this entrance to the park was the Marble Arch. This arch was designed by James Nash in 1827 to be the entrance to Buckingham Palace. The Palace was enlarged and the arch was moved to its present location in 1851. A detail from the gate bears the image of St. George and the dragon. And, of course, a history of the arch is inscribed close by.

The gate also stands very near the site of the Tyburn Tree.

From the canon: *"It was twilight of a lovely spring evening, and even Little Ryder Street, one of the smaller offshoots from the Edgware Road, within a stone-cast of old Tyburn Tree of evil memory, looked golden and wonderful in the slanting rays of the setting sun."*

— *The Three Garridebs*

The Tyburn "Tree" was actually a gallows designed to hang several felons at a time. One account stated that they were able to execute twenty-four people in a single operation. It was in operation from approximately 1571 to 1783. A nearby stone marker marks its approximate location.

From Hyde Park I followed Park Street to the Wellington Arch. And, from the arch I followed Constitution Hill to the front of Buckingham Palace and the Victoria Monument. All around the palace grounds are statues commemorating various people and events, The Duke of Wellington, those who fell in the battles of the first world war, and so many other conflicts. The most imposing monument is to Queen Victoria. It rises to a height of eighty two feet and spans across one hundred and four feet. The gross weight is estimated at 2,300 tons.

This monument was first proposed shortly after the death of Queen Victoria on January 22, 1901. The first meeting regarding the design was in February, 1901. It was dedicated in 1911 and finally completed in 1924. Victoria is seated

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near the center of the fountain with a column to her back, which rises above her and is topped with the Winged Victory, clad in gold. The enthroned figure of the Queen is in the same white marble as most of the fountain. From this vantage point Victoria stares down the mall with Buckingham Palace to her back. On the other side of the pylon is a statue titled Motherhood, facing Buckingham Palace.

The overall monument to Victoria is considerably larger than just the fountain. The Canada Gates stand as an entrance to St. James Park and the monument area. They were also planned as part of the memorial and bear the emblems of the (at that time) nine Canadian provinces. Gates similar in design, but smaller, were also contributed by Australia and New Zealand.

To the side of the mall is the Jubilee Walkway. This was originally called the “Silver Jubilee Walkway” when it was dedicated for Queen Elizabeth’s Silver Jubilee in 1977. In 2002, upon the Queen’s Golden Jubilee, the word “Silver” was dropped from the

markers.

The Jubilee Walkway is not just one short pathway. It is actually a series of walking loops throughout the city. The shortest loop is the City loop and is under 1.5 miles in length. While the longest loop is the Western Loop with a length of about 6 miles. In total the five loops comprising the Jubilee Walkway take in approximately 15 miles.

Along this section of the walkway you encounter many monuments to individuals and to conflicts. Near Queen Victoria’s Monument is a monument to the fallen infantrymen of the first world war. A little further along the way is the monument to the those who fell in the Boer War.

Atop a 124 foot column that surmounts a series of steps rising from the mall, is a statue of The Duke of York, the second son of King George III.

As mentioned in the Canon, ***“No. I’m sorry, but I have already overstayed my time. We shall expect you early tomorrow, and when you get that signal book through the little door on the Duke of York’s steps you***

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can put a triumphant finis to your record in England. What! Tokay!" He indicated a heavily sealed dust-covered bottle which stood with two high glasses upon a salver."

— *His Last Bow*

As alluded in the quotation, there is a door at the top of the steps to the Duke of York statue. The door leads to a spiral staircase within the column. The staircase ascends to a small platform beneath the statue. As you ascend the stair there are a number of small viewing ports. However, you must descend by the same stairs. Not my idea of a great meeting place. No escape from anyone shadowing your movements. Due to disrepair the stairs have been closed to the public for several decades.

Fredrick, the Duke of York commemorated here, may be the Duke of York remembered in the old drinking rhyme.

Oh, The grand old Duke of York,

He had ten thousand men;

He marched them up to the

top of the hill,

And he marched them

down again.

And when they were up,

they were up,

And when they were down,

they were down,

And when they were only half-

way up,

They were neither up nor down

Sometimes added is:

Oh, a-hunting we will go,

A-hunting we will go,

We'll catch a fox,

and put him in a box,

And then we'll let him go.

The first two verses may refer to the battles won and lost by the Duke during the Flanders campaign. The last verse may refer to the treaty he signed returning all the ships and men that were captured from the French during the war.

Although the Duke died owing large debts, many soldiers formerly

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under his command loved the Duke for reforms he brought to the military. Each contributed the equivalent of a day's pay to build this memorial. His detractors made the comment that his statue was on such a high column so that his creditors would not seize it and melt it down for the cash.

As I crossed by Waterloo Place I came upon a statue to John, First Lord Lawrence, Ruler of the Punjab during the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857.

And another quote, ***“My first thought was that these fellows were in league with the rebels, and that this was the beginning of an assault. If our door were in the hands of the Sepoys the place must fall.”***

—*The Sign of Four*

For another perspective I would highly recommend a film by the name of, “The Black Prince.” It was released in 2017 and features the relationship between Queen Victoria and Maharajah Duleep Singh, the last King of Punjab. Lord Lawrence is also portrayed in this film.

Another statue commemorates Colin Campbell, Lord Clyde, who served in the war of 1812, the Crimean war, the Opium Wars and became Aide de Camp to queen Victoria in 1842.

Not all the statues commemorate wars or military personnel. The centerpiece of one monument is to the fallen of the Crimean War. However, the two figures flanking it are Florence Nightingale and Sidney Herbert. Both instrumental in establishing the Red Cross.

While the actual location of the Diogenes Club may not be known, Gentlemen's clubs do still exist. I came across the Athenaeum Gentleman's Club as I continued down Waterloo Place. The main reason it drew my attention was for the neo-classical architecture and the gold covered statue of Athena standing on the upper story.

Another nearby massive building houses the Queen's Household Cavalry Museum.

And another quote, ***“He had not the cavalry stride, yet he wore his hat on one side, as is shown by the***

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lighter skin of that side of his brow. His weight is against his being a sapper. He is in the artillery."

— *The Greek Interpreter*

From here I continued up the mall to Trafalgar Square.

"He hailed me at half-past nine in Trafalgar Square. He said that he was a detective, and he offered me two guineas if I would do exactly what he wanted all day and ask no questions. I was glad enough to agree."

— *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

At a height of one hundred sixty nine feet and three inches Lord Nelson's Column towers above the square. You may find the height of the monument listed in some publications as "185 feet." However, the full height was accurately measured when the statue was cleaned and refurbished in 2006.

In a panoramic view of the square you see the National gallery on the left, with the Fourth Plinth near the entrance. The center of the Square features the Trafalgar Square fountain. St. Martin in the Fields church stands near the far edge of the square. The Admiral Nelson

monument dominates in front of them all.

And from the Canon, "*Sherlock Holmes leaned back in his chair and laughed heartily.*

"Have you dragged the basin of Trafalgar Square fountain?" he asked."

— *The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor*

The Fourth Plinth project has been a recent event. This plinth stands near the entrance to the National Gallery and was originally designed to hold an equestrian statue of William IV. However, funding was never allocated. For a period of over 150 years the plinth remained vacant. Since 1999 this plinth has been host to a number of more temporary exhibits, as determined first by The Fourth Plinth Project (1999-2001) and then the Fourth Plinth Commission (2005 to present).

The Fourth Plinth currently features a work titled, "The Invisible Enemy Should Not Exist." Unveiled on March 28, 2018, this work is the most recent addition to

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Trafalgar Square. It is a reproduction of an iconic Assyrian piece that was destroyed during the Iraq war. The original stood at the gates of Nineveh from about 700 BCE until 2015 CE, when it was destroyed.

While there are statues everywhere, after all the National gallery is right behind Trafalgar Square. One unexpected statue is to George Washington. It is a life-size statue and was presented to the British people by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1921.

Near the north-east corner of Trafalgar Square sits the St. Martin in the Fields church. A church has stood on the site of since the early 1200s and archeological evidence suggests possible religious structures dating back to the Roman era, or even earlier. The present structure was designed by John Gibbs and dates to 1724.

From here I wandered over to nearby Covent Garden Station and The Covent Garden Market.

And again, from the Canon: ***“By the way, it is not eight o’clock, and a Wagner night at Covent***

Garden! If we hurry, we might be in time for the second act.”

***— The Adventure of the
the Red Circle***

And another quote, ***“We passed across Holborn, down Endell Street, and so through a zigzag of slums to Covent Garden Market. One of the largest stalls bore the name of Breckinridge upon it, and the proprietor a horsey-looking man, with a sharp face and trim side-whiskers was helping a boy to put up the shutters.”***

***— The Adventure of the
Blue Carbuncle***

Covent Garden Market officially dates back to 1670, when Charles the 2nd issued a grant for the market to the Earl of Bedford. The Bedford family held the estate until 1918.

The market place is also celebrated as the origin of the Punch Puppet Show, now, more commonly referred to as the Punch and Judy Show. There is another plaque that states, “Near this spot Punch’s Puppet Show was first performed in England and witnessed by Samuel Pepys 1662.”

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St. Paul's church (not to be confused with St. Paul's Cathedral) stands to one side of the market. It was finished in 1633.

If you would like to see a Hansom cab or other historic modes of transportation **The London Transport Museum** is also on the grounds.

Speaking of the grounds some people refer to the paving stones in these streets as "cobblestones." They are not. Cobblestone is typically unfinished stone cemented into place. The stones used here are called **Sett**. It is quarried stone that is roughly finished into blocks or brick shapes.

There are many historic pubs in London and Covent Garden has its share. There are many fine beers in these pubs. Just don't go in expecting a good wine with your dinner. If the many excellent beers are not to your taste I would recommend trying one of the many hard ciders or ginger beers available.

From Covent Garden I wandered on to Waterloo Bridge.

"We were fortunate enough to catch

an early train at Waterloo, and in a little under an hour we found ourselves among the fir-woods and the heather of Woking."

— *The Naval Treaty*

Just past the bridge, along the Thames, I came to Cleopatra's Needle, which, like so many things, is misnamed. It was actually erected by Thothmes III (pronounced: Thut Mo sis) around 1500 BCE and moved to Alexandria during the Greek Dynasty. This was presented to the British people in 1819 by the Viceroy of Egypt, Mohammad Ali.

Returning along the other side of the street I came across the Savoy Place and the statue of Michael Faraday. The cornerstone of this building was laid by Queen Victoria in March 1886 and the building was completed in 1889.

From here I wandered along the Victoria Embankment past Somerset House, up Surrey Street, across Strand and past King's College. I continued up King's Way and Southampton Row to Russell Square. After making a left turn and passing Russell Square, I found

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myself on Montague Place and another quote from the Cannon. *“This note I had this morning marks my zero-point, I fancy. Read it!” He tossed a crumpled letter across to me.*

It was dated from Montague Place upon the preceding evening, and ran thus:”

— *The Adventure of the Copper Beeches*

From here it was a very short walk to The British Museum.

“When I first came up to London I had rooms in Montague Street, just round the corner from the British Museum, and there I waited, filling in my too abundant leisure time by studying all those branches of science which might make me more efficient.”

— *Sherlock Holmes, The Musgrave Ritual*

I spent over five hours at the museum and I could write another paper just covering part of what I saw there. However, it was nearing time to dine and what better place to finish my Sherlock Holmes walk than, diner at

The Sherlock Holmes!

So, a return down Southhampton Row, back near The Waterloo Bridge and just around the corner I found The Sherlock Holmes.

Downstairs is the bar with decorations befitting the modern era. Dining is upstairs where you will find artifacts from the Victorian era and portraits of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Since I do not drink beer and a decent wine selection was lacking, I contented myself with another favorite beverage, Crabbie’s Original alcoholic Ginger Beer. Dinner was grilled chicken wrapped in Prosciutto and served on a bed of risotto with cream sauce. Quite excellent!

After dinner I decided, “what better way to conclude than with a view of the famous sitting room.” Located next to the dining area is the room itself.

From the viewing area you see the Jack-knifed correspondence upon the fireplace mantel, with the Persian slipper to one side of the fireplace. (I am sure the toe is stuffed with Holmes’ own unique blend.) The bees-wax bust sits next to the window, with

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a bullet hole neatly showing in the forehead. The violin carelessly tossed upon a chair, the legs of the chair resting on the bear-skin rug in front of the fireplace. Visages of Charles Gordon, Henry Ward Beecher and “a most gracious lady” are hung upon one wall, nestled among shelves of books and journals. The gasogene and microscope sit to one corner. Newspapers and a scrapbook cover the settee. Two walking sticks lean against the wall. Well-smoked pipes, remains of cigars and dottles of tobacco litter a small table. And there I see it, tucked under the edge of the table, nearly invisible, a tin dispatch box with the lettering across proclaiming, “John H Watson M.D.”

The notes and reminiscences of how many unpublished stories could be found within the confines of such a box? Such is the stuff of dreams.

Speaking of dreams, the sun was beginning to near the western horizon signaling it was time to board the train at the Waterloo Station, disembark at Hammersmith and create a few dreams of my own. After all, there is time for more wanderings tomorrow.

Oh, what!?

The Move London 10K Relay will be going on during the R.A.F. 100th Anniversary flyover? And the route of the run is from Tower Bridge, past the Globe Theatre and The Golden Hinde to The London Eye, across the Thames to Westminster Abbey, back down and around the Tower of London and return crossing Tower Bridge? Well, I was planning to see those sights anyway and it should leave time to visit the Shard and a few other places. Tomorrow will be another busy day.

* * *



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Book Reviews

by

Bruce Dettman

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MISCELLANY

By Roger Johnson & Jean Upton

The History Press 2002

So much has been written on Sherlock Holmes -- undoubtedly more than about any other fictional character -- that one may wonder why anyone would consider producing yet another overview of the world's most famous consulting detective. And yet in **THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MISCELLANY** the husband and wife writing team of Roger Johnson and Jean Upton have produced something quite distinct, refreshingly entertaining and uniquely executed. While much of the information found in these profusely illustrated pages may perhaps be sought out elsewhere, this handsome little primer delivers the goods in a compact, attractive and impressively researched fashion which will unquestionably appeal to Sherlockians

everywhere. Some of the many areas in the life and career of the Baker Street sleuth which are covered within these pages include Holmes on the stage, in films and on television, the illustrators of the tales, biographical material on Conan Doyle, a bevy of inquiries (Was Sherlock Holmes a cocaine addict?, How many times was Watson married?, What sort of pipe did Holmes smoke?) plus information on the various parodies and pastiches, background on the many scion societies and fascinating glimpses of the world of Sherlockian collecting. In short, this is a simply marvelous and wonderfully handy cornucopia of material on the great detective and an immensely valuable reference tool both for the fledgling neophyte as well as those already versed in the annals of Mr. Sherlock Holmes of 221B Baker Street. No doubt it will be accepted and coveted as a standard reference tool for years to come. Top marks.

* * *

Book Reviews

AMAZING & EXTRAORINARY FACTS: SHERLOCK HOLMES

by Nick Utechin

David and Charles Publishers

This is quite simply one of the best introductions to the character and world of Sherlock Holmes ever penned.

A small and attractive volume, the author, a noted Sherlockian and recognized authority on the subject, packs a staggering amount of information into the text providing colorful descriptions of all facets of one of the world's best known and beloved fictional characters. The reader not only will learn about the creation of Holmes and

Dr. Watson by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle -- their unique relationship, their cases and lives -- but will be introduced to the myriad of actors who have taken up the challenge of playing Holmes on the stage, screen and television, the world-wide impact of the character on readers and his on-going influence and continued popularity.

For those already familiar with Holmes as well as neophytes just discovering the character, Mr. Utechin has produced an amazingly thorough as well as highly entertaining primer which should please and satisfy anyone interested in the world's first consulting detective.

* * *



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ARTHUR AND SHERLOCK

by Michael Sims

Bloomsbury, 2017

Not a full biography of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle per se, but rather the retracing of his early years as he struggled in his professional capacity as a fledgling physician, dealt with family issues – particularly his relationship with his alcoholic artist father Charles whose wonton excesses and declining health imposed an increasing financial burden on the young man -- and slowly assumed success as a full-time author.

Arthur emerges as spirited and adventure-seeking but also a highly responsible figure who we learn tangled verbally and physically with his mother's "friend," liked to read Brett Harte, regularly ate pig brain sausage and once hid under a table from a tax collector. He enjoyed

sports and twice served as the medical man on a whaling ship.

Sims paints an engrossing portrait of the young and aspiring Arthur whose climb to the ranks of established authorhood was a long one fraught with much disappointment, setbacks and frustrating hurdles. The evolution of the character that would ultimately become Sherlock Holmes is described in detail, some of it admittedly supposition, and Sims provides the book with a bit of padding as he chronicles the origins of the detective novel and its nascent practitioners around the globe.

Some faults aside, this is still an entertaining and recommended read for both those just entering into the Sherlockian universe and old hands already versed in Baker Street lore.

* * *



Questions Answered

Answers to last issues's

Who? What? Where?

by Cade Deverell

1. An auto communication device is a Carfax.
2. Hafiz steps on a banana peel results in a Persian slipper.
3. A Fairy Godmother calls her staff "Maiwand."
4. Ollie egged on his partner by saying "Morstan."
5. Some scullery workers are called Scowrers.
6. Advice to the designer of a shapeless blouse would be to "Dartmoor."
7. A fall hunter is a deer stalker.
8. What's your favorite film, Dad? Hud, son.
9. A swap meet offer might be "Lestrade."
10. A Scot refers to his plot as "Mycroft."

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A Closing Quiz

Who Hired Sherlock Holmes?

by Cade Deverell

Holmes' clients were an eclectic lot. They included a.....

1. Banker
2. Pawnbroker
3. Future Doctor's wife
4. Lord
5. Governess
6. Suicidal woman
7. Engineer
8. King
9. Physician
10. Typist
11. Stable owner
12. Landlady
13. Foreign office clerk
14. Solicitor
15. Norfolk squire

One point for the person who consulted Holmes.

One point for the title Watson gave to their story.

