

FROM THE ARCHIVES

THE SYDNEY PASSENGERS:
30 YEARS OF FUN AND FRIENDSHIP

24TH MAY 2015



ERIN O'NEILL



Origins

- **First meeting 9th May 1985**
- **Founding members present: Jan Chris, Lionel Fredman, William Enerburg**
- **Also admitted as member: Wendy Stokoe**
- **Associate Members: Sheila Howell, Jacqueline Fredman**
- **Meeting held at Jan's house in Ashfield.**



Bob Field,
Sydney

The inaugural meeting of the first gion society in New South Wales was held at.....
at the residence ofOR.....

Jan Ehrlich 9 Feb 1985

present were.....
The meeting was opened with the cry of "Gooose" (BOGC 96).

It was decided to name the society the.....and convey this information in due
course to the Sherlock Holmes Society, London and the Baker Street Irregulars, New York.
(It seems more appropriate that the friends of Mary Fraser, known abroad, should be
retained for Adelaide, if they want it, and we consider the Sydney Passengers (QJLR 394),
as a name).

Toasts were drunk to the "freer, less conventional atmosphere of youth Australia"
(ABER 837), with cheers, and to the damnation of Holy Peters, Black Jack of Ballarat
(BOGC 100) and other Australian "rascals" (LADY or is it GARY 1023).
Future activities were discussed such as film screenings and a report on the conference
held at the University of Minnesota, September 1984.

There was discussion on the proposal that Holmes and Watson, now retired and with ample
leisure, would benefit from a history of Australia as a gift due to the careless
references to convicts after the cessation of transportation to New South Wales and
Tasmania and to colonies after the inauguration of the Commonwealth.

copy
P.W. Collins Ed. 10
Byril Pearl
P. 100

A list was administered & the following were
admitted as members.

	Name	Address	Phone
Present	Jan Ehrlich	44 Henry St. Adfield NSW 2151	(02) 797 9173
	William Eustace	16 Myrtle Ave. Adfield 207	Millers (02) 498 4942
	Lived Newman	123 Dawson St. Newcastle NSW 2300	(049) 26 2820
Apologies	Wandy Strahle	3/138 The Boulevard Plymouth Hill.	(02) 560 6470
Records	Sheila Howell	2/406 Florence Rd. Paddington	
	Jequeles Newman	123 Dawson St. Newcastle	



The Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia

President: Alan C. Olding

BOX 13 P.O. STIRLING,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5152
Phone: (08) 339 2283

15th May, 1985.

Dear Lionel,

I was delighted to receive your note yesterday, together with the Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the "Sydney Passengers".

I would like to offer my congratulations to all concerned and wish you all the very best for the future.

I understand that you have already advised the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Baker Street Irregulars and I will take steps to tell Ron de Waal, so that he may include the new Scion in his next Directory.

The only address you mention is that of Jan Chriss - is this address for correspondence? Perhaps you will be good enough to drop me a note advising who the "Office Holders" might be and what are their "offices" - de Waal likes to have information such as this.

Would it be presumptuous to hope that your Members will decide to retain their Membership of the Australian Society?

Once again with best Sherlockian wishes,

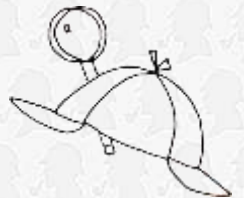
Yours truly,

ALAN C. OLDING.

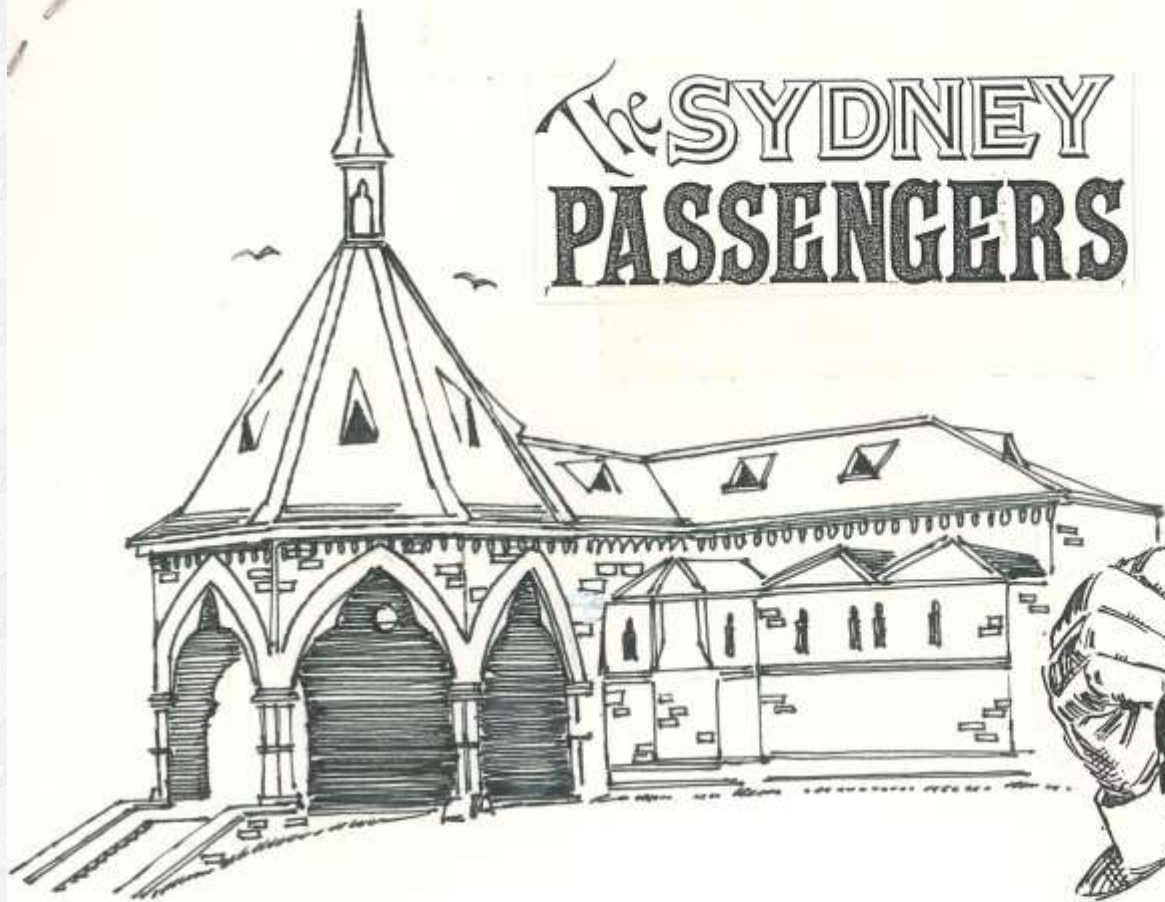


Further Meetings

- **Second meeting: 14th September 1985 (two members attending)**
- **Third meeting: 18th January 1986 (first to be attended by Phil Cornell)**
- **Fourth meeting: 20th September 1986 at Mortuary Station – first ‘off-site’ meeting**
- **First non-meeting event: 17th October 1986 ‘Speckled Band’ dramatic reading**



The SYDNEY PASSENGERS



17 Oct 1986



The SPECKLED BAND

Sherlock Holmes ~ Jan Chris

Doctor Watson ~ Bob Cooper

Miss Helen Stoner ~ Margaret Bayliss

Dr Grimesby Roylott ~ Leo Harper

DIRECTED BY Bob Cooper
PRODUCED BY Jan Chris

ACT ONE: Sherlock Holmes's parlour at
221^b Baker Street, one April
morning in the year 1883.

ACT TWO: Roylott Manor, Stoke Moran,
in Surrey, that night.

It was, I recall, the 17th of October in the year of '86, that I made my way to the rooms of the Wesley Central Mission in order to represent the Sydney Passengers at a dramatic reading of the Adventure of the Speckled Band, "to be presented that evening to a gathering of the Friday Nighters group.

From the moment the curtain opened and young Sam Bayliss, in the part of Billy the page, announced the arrival of a client, the power and suspense of Dr Watson's narrative held the audience's attention.

Passenger Jan Chris brought the authority of her knowledge and enthusiasm for the Canon to the rôle of the world's first consulting detective. Garbed in an Inverness cape and sporting an authentic deer-stalker cap, she strode through the part with zest and confidence, straightening steel potes, examining bell ropes through a magnifying lens, and belabouring deadly serpents with a handsome antique walking stick. Such is the magic of the theatre that the audience swiftly forgot they were watching their petite friend Jan, and imagine the tall, spare figure of Sherlock Holmes himself upon the stage. Jan's enunciation and projection ensured that every word of Holmes's investigations and deductions were clear to the audience.

Miss Margaret Bayliss portrayed the hapless Helen Stoner, the client in distress - shivering, "not from the cold but from terror". She easily elicits our sympathy and admiration, and her description of the night of her sister Julia's mysterious demise evokes an uneasy chill.

Sherlock Holmes turns 100



Mr Alan Olding of Adelaide, founder of the Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia . . . 'right seems to triumph in most of the stories,' he says, dismissing Holmes' darker side, the cocaine addiction.

a reopens lership

Mr Sinclair released his own radical taxation plan on Monday, the political component of which was a proposed splitting of responsibility for raising personal income tax from Canberra to the State governments.

The Sinclair plan came only two days after Mr Howard granted faster tax relief under a Coalition government but made no mention of any plan to hand over taxing powers to the States.

By yesterday the Liberal press and Mr Sinclair were seeing the same-over again was any more than an opinion he was expressing.

Mr Sinclair said it could be viable despite some administrative difficulties and likely objection from the State governments.

Mr Howard avoided endorsing the Sinclair plan yesterday.

By BRIAN WOODLEY
HE failed to specify it in any of the four Sherlock Holmes novels or 56 short stories, but Sir Arthur Conan Doyle left the mere hint of a clue — just enough for his more resistant adherents to deduce that fiction's most famous detective turns 100 today.

One academic, though, whether Holmes would have let anyone go to the gallows on the strength of such a tenuous and, well, downright dubious clue.

Twice, according to the bulk, various references are made to the collected stories to 'Twelfth Night, and once Holmes turns down the morning before, "feeling unwell."

The 12th night after Christmas is January 7, and the "unwell" reference has been taken to mean a hangover, sustained by Holmes during the course of celebrating his birthday.

Since January 8 is the great day, and to go one step further, 1887 was the year he first burst into print.

Elementary? Perhaps, though it must be recognised that Holmes, a cocaine addict,

could expect to feel unwell from time to time.

Yet these references are good enough for the thousands around the world, including many in Australia, who are perfectly happy with the date.

Holmes' Antipodean connections are well established in the stories, particularly through the good Dr Watson.

Evidence

References to Watson visiting the Australian goldfields have persuaded some keen sleuths that he was actually released here. Older heads say the evidence points only to a lengthy visit.

One of the short stories, The Clerks' Boat, refers to a group of passengers landing in Sydney.

Two years ago a small group banded together and now goes by the name The Sydney Passengers.

But Collins, Network 10's "Mr Movies", is one of the eight or nine members.

So are the author Cyt Pearl and Professor Lionel Fredman, associate professor of history at the University

Newcastle, who finds his fascination with Holmes not just eccentric but educative, giving valuable entry to the flavour of the Victorian era.

Professor Fredman, 55, embroiled himself as a youngster in the esteemed editions owned by his father. He started never waned.

Conan Doyle is to him "one of the great English authors in his ability to reach people."

The Sydney Passengers meet quarterly, with him shoves, quizzes, the exchange of critical papers and other enthusiasms.

They keep in touch on the telephone, share memorabilia guarded by the Holmes industry and in some cases invest in the more clichéd paraphernalia — deerstalker hats, pipes and magnifying glasses.

Mr Philip Cornell, 32, a commercial artist, joined the group when he was approached at a Holmes film. "I must have laughed at all the right places," he said.

Mr Cornell's fascination, also dating from school days, derives partly from the "reality" of the characters.

Continued — Page 2

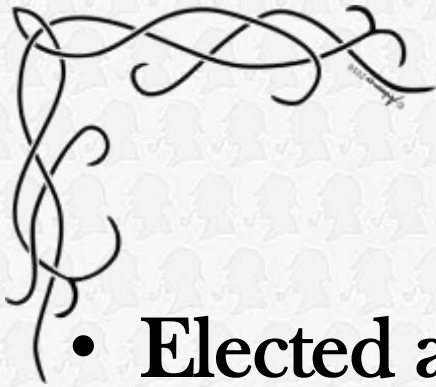
Fans decide Sherlock Holmes is 100 today

From Page 1

"It makes you want to believe they were true. And the atmosphere of gaslit streets, cobblestones and the fog. It was a simpler time when right was right and wrong was wrong."

He keeps a deerstalker hat at work to wear when looking for inspiration.

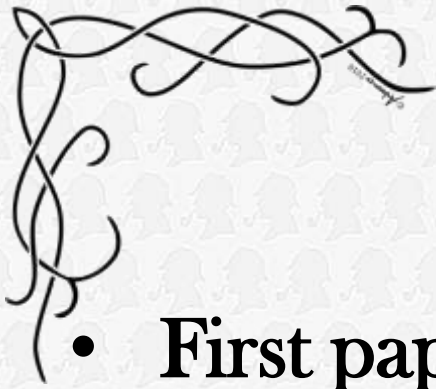
The Holmes habit encour-



Office Bearers

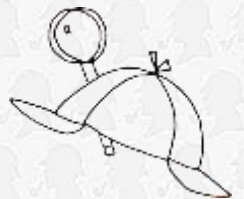
- Elected at 7th February 1987 meeting
- Captain & Log Keeper: Lionel Fredman
- Chief Steward: Jan Chris
- Quartermaster: William Enerburg
- Expedition Artist: Phil Cornell
- Signals Officer: Chris Sequeira
- Bursar: Roger Najor





Firsts

- **First paper read at a meeting 30th May 1987 on ‘Silver Blaze’**
- **First quiz 30th May 1987**
- **First Holmes’ birthday meeting 6th January 1989**





"We will drop into one of the... picture-galleries" HOUR.

Sounding the Bells
Words of Welcome
Apologies
Tabling of Correspondence

Passenger Jan Ovis will propose the principal
Canonical Toast

Entrée

Cold Seafood Platter 'Lion's Mane'

Passenger Erica Vorsay will propose the
second Canonical Toast

Main Course

Roast Chicken 'Wisteria Lodge'

in a mustard, honey, garlic,
five spice marinade.

Vegetable Medley

Gratin Dauphinois



Passenger Kerry Murphy will propose the third
Canonical Toast

Passenger Rosane Dunn will relate an
account of her travels in the
footsteps of Sherlock Holmes
accompanied by a cinematographic
presentation by Passenger James Dunn.

Dessert

Mrs Hudson's Fruit Salad.

Passenger Lynne Lancaster will propose
the penultimate Canonical Toast

Coffee, Mints and Mr Holmes's Pipe

Passenger Martin Rigby-Smith will
propose the final Canonical Toast

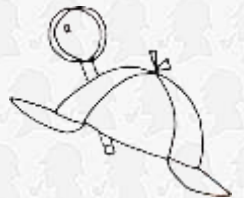
BYO \$3.50 Corkage Fresh Juice \$10.50 per jug
Mineral Water \$3.00 (500ml)

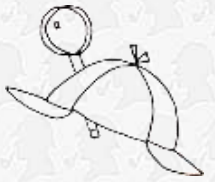
"Our Meal was a merry one" SIGN.



Without a Clue

- 19th January 1989 at Hoyts Entertainment Centre
- Mock protests against the film *Without a Clue*
- Passengers dressed in Victorian costume to protest portrayal of Holmes as a bungler
- The group attended the premiere afterwards
- Attracted some press coverage





17 Jan 1927

GRAHAM & MCFARLANE
Solicitors
Commissioners for Oaths

M.J. GRAHAM
J.H. MCFARLANE

Jameson Chambers,
426 Gresham Buildings,
London, E.C.

The Manager, Royalty Theatres January 19th
Colony of N.S.W.

Dear Sirs,

Re: 'Without A Clue'
we act for Mr Sherlock Holmes esquire
and his associate Dr John H. Watson who have
instructed us to communicate with yourselves
their justifiably displeasurable views regarding
your company's new cinematic production entitled
'Without A Clue'

Both of our clients are extremely
concerned about how they have been portrayed
in this piece and we have been instructed to
commence legal proceedings in Her Majesty's
Courts for the serious tort of libel of Mr Holmes.
We are further instructed to seek the remedy
of an injunction from the Chancery Court
to prevent the continuance of this serious and,
with respect, infamous defamation of our most
honourable client.

Mr Holmes is of the well-founded
belief that the film is being supported by agents
of the late nefarious Professor Moriarty and



Further Events

- Reading of Gillette's *Sherlock Holmes* (1989)



- Trip to Ballarat (1990)
- Bill Barnes' first meeting 2nd May 1989
- Robert Veld's paper on *The Strand* illustrations (youngest Passenger to give a talk)



...ment of a book, film, television show or period of
comes obsession, then fanaticism, you've got a
the ridiculous. Photographer ANDREW RANKIN
ome of our wackiest fan clubs in odd meeting places.

ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR FRUITCAKES

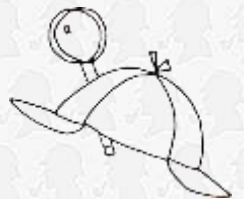


They dress in Victorian costume — including deerstalker hats and liverness capes — and Sherlock Holmes is their hero. They belong to the Australian fan club of fiction's super sleuth. Their name, the Sydney Passengers, comes from author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's one reference to Australia, made in the short story *Gloria Scott*. The 100 or so Passengers meet four times a year, always choosing a venue with a suitably Victorian atmosphere, and attend plays and movies based on Conan Doyle's work. "Sometimes a member does research on a story and he or she will stand up and present the findings in a very pompous style to the rest of us," says the club's leader, Phillip Cornell, 35. "We hold quizzes, video nights and mystery games... the murder parties with a twist, and everyone dresses in



Final Problem Weekend

- 4th-5th May 1991 at Fairmont Hotel, Leura
- Re-enactment of Reichenbach Falls battle at Katoomba Falls
- Sherlockian Charades
- *Study in Scarlet* Egg and Spoon race
- Ricolletti of the Club Foot Three Legged Race
- Tonga's Darts Match



FAIRMONT RESORT



May 4th 85th '91

Sherlock Holmes & Moriarty
CENTENARY

THE SYDNEY
PASSENGERS

BLUE MOUNTAINS

29,800 copies

Gazette

Circulating throughout the whole Blue Mountains (Mt Victoria to Lapstone) Incorporating the Lower Mountains Circle

Price 60c

Wednesday, May 8, 1991

Registered for Australia Post
Publication No. NBH8187

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Vol. 28 No. 19

Sherlock Holmes in trouble again

Katoomba was the scene on Saturday of one of the most exciting duels in the history of the Mountains when Sherlock Holmes and his arch enemy Moriarty grappled in a life and death struggle at the top of the precipitous Katoomba Cascades.

With their hearts in their mouths, about 50 onlookers in Victorian costume watched as their hero and the evil blackguard shifted back and forth across the cliff top, every footstep taking them closer to a watery grave.

For what seemed like an age the two rivals grapsed at each other in desperation lest either should lose his foothold on the surface, made treacherous by moss grown from a million years of spray from the cascading waterfalls.

The re-enactment of the final chapter of the Sherlock Holmes saga of 1890 leaves us no more the wiser as to the outcome of the calabash smoking detective of the prolific Conan Doyle imagination as he fought for his life. And perhaps we shall never know, though the eventual Return Of Sherlock Holmes supposes that by some miracle the famous character lived to fight another day.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Sydney was spending the weekend in the Mountains, staying at the Fairmont Resort, where they enjoyed a sumptuous feast on Saturday evening.

Sunday morning found the Victorian group playing croquet on the lawn with a recognisable Dr. Watson lurking in the shadows!

The party looked splendid in their old time dress and certainly brought a freshness to the Mountains.



Mr. Holmes and Moriarty fighting on the top of the falls.

— Picture by John Falloon, Katoomba.

Gloria Scott Plaque

- Unveiled April 1993 by Dick Hughes
- In courtyard behind Orient Hotel



Sacre bleu, not a clue

A lemon tree, my dear Watson." The wacky French, long-time admirers of the wacky English, have taken up Sherlock Holmes as this year's *objet d'amour*, clutching to their bosom this strange Victorian who, they are convinced, was the philosophical love child of Descartes (all that deductive logic) and maintained a homosexual relationship with the good Dr Watson.

"Holmes is the quintessential Englishman," the head buff, Thierry Saint-Joanis, told the *European* newspaper. "Phlegmatic, an excellent sportsman and so eccentric that he shoots up cocaine when he can't have the excitement of a mystery to solve. He keeps his tobacco in a Persian slipper on the mantelpiece and has a typically English love of dressing up."

This week the Société Sherlock Holmes de France is to take its first



public action by standing in front of the Elysee Palace in full Holmes costume and demanding that their hero be awarded the Legion d'Honneur, as he supposedly was in 1894 by the French Government in *The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez*.

They will also march to the Gare du Nord to demand the luggage Holmes left there in *The Final Problem*. There are also plans to demonstrate in front of the Louvre to find out why only a few of the paintings of Holmes's great uncle (the French painter Horace Vermet, revealed in *The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter*) are on display.

"The press is a valuable institution if you know how to use it" SHERLOCK HOLMES - The Six Napoleons.

Homing in on Sherlock

LAST week we were poking as fun at ze wacky French Sherlock Holmes fans who dress in Victorian garb and hang around spots that the great detective visited in his travels.

We now learn that we have our own chapter of Holmesophiles (where have we been all these years?) called the Sydney Passengers, who are not averse to donning the deerstalkers and making twits of themselves in public.

Like the French, they adhere to "the premise that Holmes was a historic figure, and Conan Doyle functioned as the literary agent of Holmes's faithful chronicler, Dr Watson."



Monday, April 5, 1993

They are not, apparently, as certain that the detective and chronicler were, er, having it off.

The Passengers are no less active than their Gallic counterparts and can be seen this Saturday morning at the Orient Hotel in The Rocks. They plan to unveil a plaque commemorating the 100th anniversary of the publication of the April 1893 issue of *Strand Magazine*, which featured *The Gloria Scott*, the only Holmes adventure in which our colony is mentioned.

"Near this spot," the plaque reads, "the survivors of the convict vessel Gloria Scott first landed at Sydney. Among them was the man who first suggested to Mr Sherlock Holmes that detection should become his line of work, and whose experiences in Australia led to the very first case in which Holmes was ever engaged."

The Sydney Morning Herald

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Holmes and Oz

Stay In Touch errs in stating that *The Gloria Scott* is the only Sherlock Holmes adventure which mentions Australia (April 5).

In *The Sign of the Four*, Dr Watson tells Mary Morstan: "I have seen something of the sort on the side of a hill near Ballarat." The name Ballarat gave Holmes a clue to the identity of the murderer in *The Boscombe Valley Mystery*.

HAVING excited amateur sleuths with the story of the Sydney Passengers — a mob of desperate types so devoted to Sherlock Holmes that they're willing to don the hound's-tooth threads and have photographs taken — we continue our examination of the mildly obsessed.

Last week in Melbourne, members of the Lawrence of Arabia Society held a fundraising function for the Royal Children's Hospital.

Who are these people, we hear you squeal. Well, they are a bunch of Melbourneans.

In *The Abbey Grange*, we read that Mary Fraser (later Lady Bracknell) and her maid, Theresa Wright, left Adelaide in the Australian summer of 1895-96. Adelaide also features in *The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax* when Holmes unmasks the Rev Dr Shlessinger as "Holy Peters, one of the most unscrupulous rascals that Australia has ever evolved — and for a young country it has turned out some very finished types".

I am reminded that the late Cyril Pearl, an eminent Sherlockian, made the interesting suggestion that Sherlock Holmes visited Darwin some time between the so-called *Final Problem* of 1891 and *The Empty House* of 1894. *The Empty House*, which marks the return of Sherlock Holmes, centres on the shooting of the Honourable Robert Adair, a distant relative of the Australian journalist Robin Adair, now living in retirement north of Sydney.

There is also a direct reference to Australia in *The Empty House*: "The Honourable Robert Adair was the second son of the Earl of Maynooth, at that time Governor of one of the Australian colonies."

Dick Hughes,

Vaucluse.

April 5

Saturday, April 10, 1993

Sherlockian trifles

I am reluctant to take issue with my friend Dick Hughes (Letters, April 10) on so trifling a matter (although as Sherlock Holmes himself said "there is nothing so important as trifles") after he has so succinctly summarised Australia's links with the Sherlock Holmes saga, but I must point out that according to Dr Watson's account of *The Empty House*, it was the honourable Ronald Adair, rather than Robert, who was found dead in a locked room, after crossing paths with the ruthless Colonel Sebastian Moran, the right-hand man of the late Professor Moriarty, and the "second most dangerous man in London".

However, since Dick (the only man I know whose father claimed to have actually met Sherlock Holmes) has had the advantage of verifying his facts with a surviving member of the Adair family, journalist Robin Adair, it is perhaps more likely that Dr Watson was in error. The good doctor's handwriting was notoriously illegible (not uncommon in a medical man, but a decided disadvantage in a chronicler), and he once, in *The Sign of the Four*, has the month inexplicably change from July to September within the course of a single day, and ascribes the grotesque business at *Winnery Lodge* to the year 1892, when Sherlock Holmes was missing, believed dead in Switzerland.

Philip Cornell,

April 12

Neutral Bay.

INSIDE SYDNEY

EDITED BY SUSAN BORHAM

Sleuth society unveils Sherlock's vital Aussie link

A group of local Sherlock Holmes aficionados called the Sydney Passengers will descend on the Orient Hotel at The Rocks this morning to unveil a plaque to commemorate the 100th anniversary of a Sherlock Holmes adventure which contains a reference to Sydney.

Twenty-five members, dressed as characters from the book, will meet at the hotel — overlooking the harbour on the corner of Argyle and George streets — to dedicate the plaque highlighting the link between Sydney and the Holmes adventure *Gloria Scott*.

The story, set in 1875, is an account of Sherlock Holmes's first case.

It traces Holmes's investigation into the aftermath of a mutiny on board the *Gloria Scott* — which was sailing for Sydney when it came across a passenger vessel also bound for Sydney.

One of the characters on the *Gloria Scott*, named Trevor, arrived in Sydney and made a fortune on the Australian goldfields.

Upon his return to England, Trevor suggested to Sherlock Holmes that he should become a detective.

Phillip Cornell, organiser of the event, has a rare 1893 copy of the *Strand Magazine* in which the first version of the story appeared.

He told *Inside Sydney*: "If that man [Trevor] had not arrived safely in Sydney, then Sherlock Holmes would never have become a detective."

The plaque reads: "Near this spot the survivors of the convict vessel *Gloria Scott* first landed at Sydney. Amongst them the man who first suggested to Sherlock Holmes, that detection should become his line of work..."

The Sydney Passengers — founded in 1985 — derive their name from the seafaring maritime mystery.

Now numbering 120 members, they share a love for Sherlock Holmes and a desire to keep his memory alive. The late Cyril Pearl, author of the landmark account of the city's bygone era *Wild Men Of Sydney*, was one of the first members.

After this morning's ceremony, dishes at the celebratory luncheon will be named after characters portrayed in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's various Sherlock Holmes mysteries.

"This is the first such commemoration in Australia," Cornell noted.

"We picked a place in The Rocks because that is where the characters would have landed."

□ ROSA MAIOLO



Sydney Passengers (from left) Christopher Sequeira, Lynne Lancaster, Sally Cornell, Jennie Leigh, David Worland and Phillip Cornell.

Picture by JAMES ACCOX

1995

- First annual calendar
- First *Log*, in newsletter form
- Second follows in same format
- ‘The Sydney Pageant’ national Sherlock Holmes meeting, held April 1995



June '95



SYDNEY, Last night - From our Special Correspondent - The meeting of the Sherlock Holmes Appreciation Society was the scene of incredible violence tonight as the speaker, a certain Professor MORIARTY, was hounded from the stage. Several women were placed in the care of waiting ambulance-men as several gentlemen in the crowd responded to the exasperated chairman's pleas for help in ejecting the erstwhile speaker. It is believed several men injured their fists in the ejection of the malefactor. Order was finally restored at 11 pm. The Town Hall authorities are advised of the fracas. Further details in tomorrow's issue.

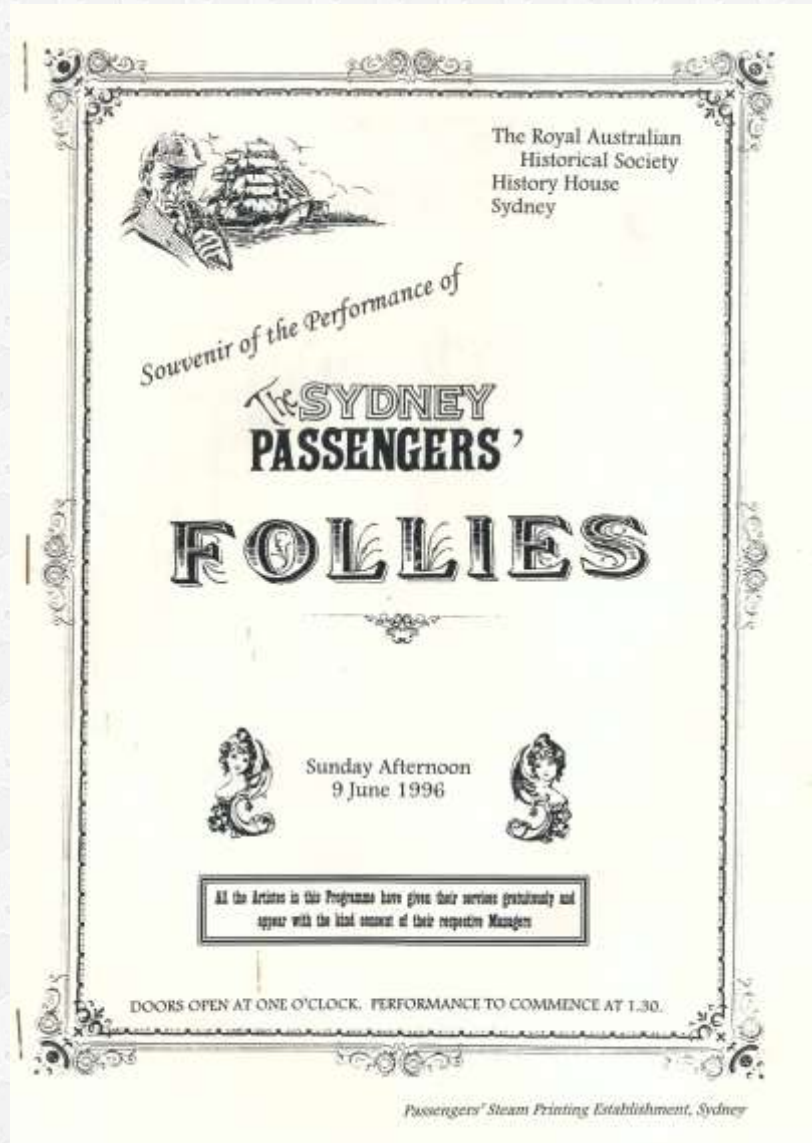


The **SIDNEY**
PAGEANT
The National Sherlock Holmes Meeting
EASTER '95



Passengers' Follies

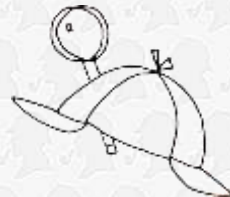
- Performances by talented Passengers including the Fabulous Moriarty Brothers





Late 1990s Meetings

- Visit to Rookwood Necropolis
- Moriarty's Unhappy Birthday Party
- Tour of Fort Denison
- Visit to Justice & Police Museum
- Evening Tour of Queen Victoria Building
- Premiere of *The Merry Wives of Watson*



The Sydney Passengers

presents

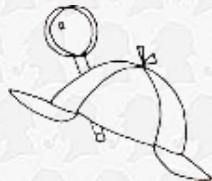
'The Merry Wives of Watson'



World Premier:

Sunday 19th April 1998

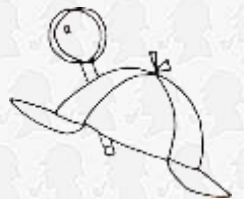
'The Gables' Restaurant, Sydney Australia





Captain, My Captain

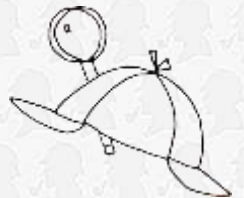
- **8th December 1996, Lachlan's Restaurant Old Government House**
- **Captain Lionel Fredman resigns his post to take up duties at the Admiralty**
- **Bill Barnes is promoted to Captain**





Honorary Passengers

- **First Able Seaman is actor Edward Hardwicke (1997)**
- **Michael Cox, Producer of Granada series (1999)**
- **Ian Richardson, actor (2002)**
- **Roger Johnson, Sherlock Holmes Society of London (2003)**



Normandie
France

22nd August.

Dear Mr. McNamara.

Firstly, I would like to apologise for this belated response to your very kind letter. My Wife and I are based in France, and as we are both actors, We travel around alot, and the mail follows us! Consequently, it sometimes takes a while to catch up, but I can always be reached through my Agent.

I was thrilled and amazed by all that you sent. Amazed that you know my birthday - I try to forget these things - and thrilled by Phil Cornell's cartoon, and all those messages.

I would be delighted to be made an Honorary Member of The Sydney Passengers. Please thank everyone for the kind messages, and, in particular, Mr. Cornell for his wonderful cartoon.

I'm afraid that the enclosed photograph is the only one I have at the moment.

Thankyou again for your

kindness.

Best wishes

Edward Hardwicke





c/o London Management,
2-4, Noel St.,
London W1F 8GB

February 27, 2002

Dear Mr. Barnes,

Thank you very much for your nice letter and for sending me the "Sydney Passengers" magazine, which I thought excellent.

I would be delighted to give you an interview while I am in Sydney -- one of my favourite places, by the way -- and as we have a full two weeks there (27th May - 10th June) there should be plenty of time. I would also be very happy to be counted as an Able Seaman. I have currently run out of photographs but I will bring some with me and will give you one "on the day". I imagine you will be able to make contact at the Theatre Royal.

With my best wishes,

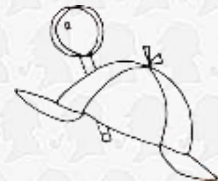
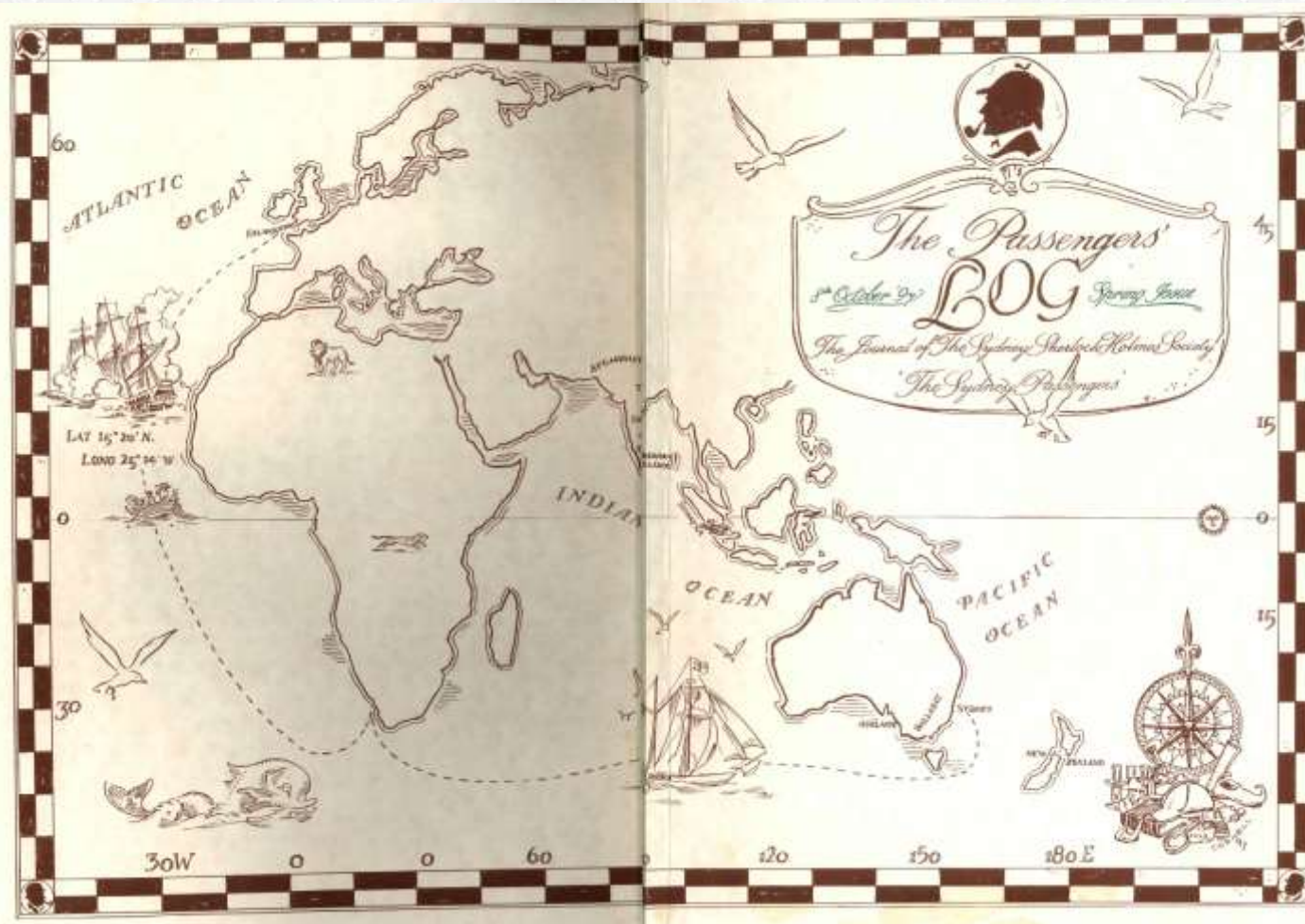
yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Ian Richardson

Passengers' Log

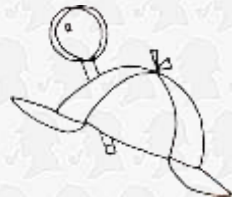
- First *Log* in current form published October 1997





Montpellier Award

- **First Carole Dukes Montpellier Award, 10th January 1999, awarded to Phil Cornell**
- **Named for the late Carole Dukes, a Passenger always keen to foster research into the canon**
- **The award has been given every year since to 12 individual recipients (some multiple winners)**
- **Rosane has won four times, Arthur & Phil three times each, Rob & Erin twice each**



The write stuff

Sherlock Holmes and his colleague Dr Watson are alive and well and living somewhere in England, according to Bill Barnes, the president of the Sydney Sherlock Holmes society, the Sydney Passengers. Holmes whiles away his hours tending bees in the country while his biographer and closest friend, John H. Watson, is spending a quiet but nevertheless fulfilling retirement with (possibly) his fifth wife.

"Obviously, they were such prominent individuals that there is no way that there would not have been obituaries published in *The Times* on their deaths," Bill said.

"No obituaries have ever appeared so we can only assume that they are still alive."

As the world's first and most prominent consulting detective and the most famous literary character on the planet, it is not surprising that the brilliant Victorian detective has inspired the formation of more than 500 societies around the world, dedicated to reliving his adventures.

The largest and most active Australian version, The Sydney Passengers, was formed in 1985 by a professor at Newcastle University with only three members. It has since grown to include a membership of more than 100.

Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth and Toowoomba also boast their own Shelockian groups.

"All the societies around the world take their names from something mentioned in the *Canon*, the group of 56 short stories and four long stories by Arthur Conan Doyle," Bill said.

"The sole reference in Dr Watson's writings to Sydney occurs in *The Adventure of the Gloria Scott*, where the survivors of a mutiny aboard that ship are rescued at sea by a passenger ship, bound for Sydney."

Society members meet about seven times a year, many of them donning deer stalkers and capes, along with other appropriate 1890s garb to capture the essence of the period in which their hero roamed, solving some of the most puzzling mysteries in the annals of crime.

Along with quizzes and competitions, the presentation of some quite scholarly papers on aspects of the famous detective's life and work and the play acting of various Holmes mysteries, much energy is devoted to explaining the inconsistencies that appear in the *Canon*.

"Conan Doyle was quite inconsistent and we spend a lot of time discussing these inconsistencies and trying to develop theories to explain them," Bill said.

"For example, Watson has a war wound, but sometimes it is in his leg and sometimes it is in his shoulder."

The appeal of Holmes is easily explained, Bill believes, by the fact that all the stories are wonderful reads that keep you engrossed from the first page to the last.

"The Victorian period itself is also a fascinating one – it was a time of great innovations, a time when Jack The Ripper was operating, but for anyone who wasn't wealthy, it was also an extremely difficult time to live," Bill said.

"Holmes was dedicated to helping the underdog – he took on many cases just because the mystery was challenging, not because the client could afford to pay."

As president of the Passengers, Bill feels it is his duty to set the record straight on various misconceptions about his hero.

"In recent years, there has been some suggestion of a homosexual aspect to Holmes and Watson's relationship, but there is absolutely no proof of that in any of the stories," Bill said.

"Their relationship was a very Victorian one – two men sharing quarters and a close, but totally platonic friendship."

As to the phrase most associated with the famous detective, "elementary my dear Watson," Bill almost shudders at its mention:

"He never said that. He certainly used the term elementary and did refer to Watson as "my dear friend" but he never used that famous phrase – it is in fact a line from an early Holmes play."

And the calabash pipe?

"Holmes smoked a briar, a clay or cherrywood pipe. The calabash was first used by the American actor, William Gillette in his famous stage play in the early 1900s because it didn't hide his mouth on stage."

Unlike many literary societies which have a predominantly female membership, the Dylan Thomas Society stands alone as a bastion of masculinity and a beacon to male devotees of the brilliant Welsh bard.

Society president Dr Will Christie has his own intriguing theory about why this might be the case.

"I think a lot of men like the sound of their own voices and they especially like the way their voices sound in their heads when they read Thomas's poetry aloud," he said.

"It is perfect for the male baritone voice – my own included."

Dr Christie, an English lecturer at Sydney University, stumbled upon Dylan Thomas quite by accident as a teenager.

On an excursion to the Mitchell Library, he gravitated to a volume of collected Thomas poems, and from the second his eyes skimmed the first one, was completely addicted.

"I was utterly mesmerised by his writing – I just kept thinking, what is this stuff, it is amazing!" Dr Christie said.

Thomas, it seems, has that effect on many people, as anyone who has ever been exposed to a reading of his works will attest.

Who, having heard them,

are among quotes his The At was forme organised weekend i now has a out of that It meet events on the Poet, v poet's wor which has profile per the ilk of I

strong preoccupation with sex and death in much of his best work – the sheer beauty, perfection and resonance of Thomas' language is enough to win over even the most sceptical about poetry.

"Quite simply, his poems sound so lovely," Dr Christie said.

"Thomas believed that if God existed it was in sound."

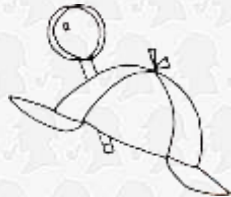
Thomas is unique among 20th Century poets, in that he has always attracted a strong, grassroots following, something which Dr Christie attributes to the beauty and vitality of Thomas's language and its themes.



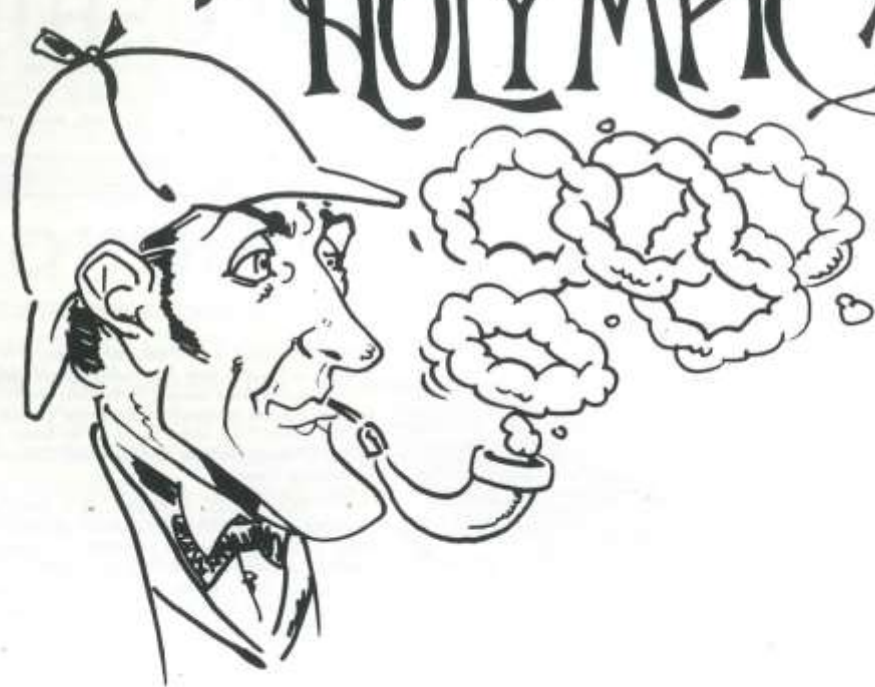


Sherlock Holympics

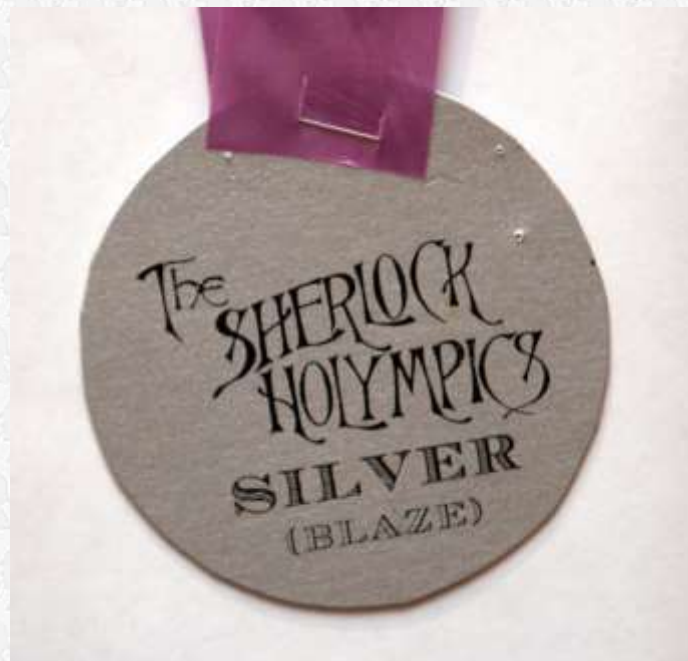
- Held August 2000
- Deerstalker Discus
- Speckled Band Snake Whacking
- Lounging and Idling
- The Great Agra Treasure Hunt
- Dr Watson's Remedy Relay



The SHERLOCK HOLYMPICS



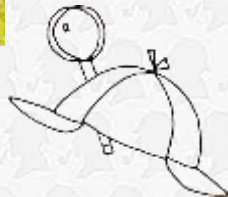
**SOUVENIR
PROGRAMME**





Hound's Hundredth

- A hundred years since publication of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*





HISTORIC



BISHOPTHORPE MANOR

GOULBURN NSW



Bedroom Suite



The Great Hall



Dining Room



Study Suite



Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours faithfully,
The Secretary



Bill of Sale



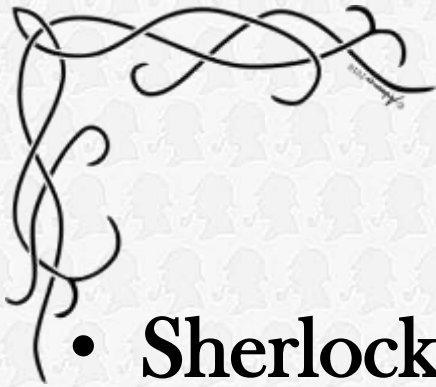
The HOUND'S HUNDREDTH



First Class Passengers

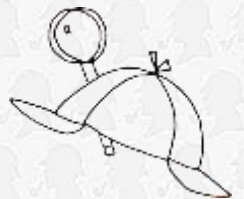
- **First awarded January 2003**
- **First Life Members: Admiral Lionel Fredman and Alan Olding (Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia)**
- **Current First Class Passengers: Bill Barnes, Jan Chris, Phil Cornell, Bert Gray, Jon Holliday, Rosane McNamara**





Vale SHSA

- **Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia was dissolved December 2002**
- **Sydney Passengers offer to incorporate SHSA name with their own so it could continue, and membership to SHSA members**
- **Documents were inherited dating back to 1978**
- **Alan Olding becomes First Class Passenger**





NEWS



FROM THE DIGGINGS.

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 4, DECEMBER, 2002

e-mail:sherlock1@picknowl.com.au

Phone:(08)8388 4874

Newsletter Of The Sherlock Holmes Society Of Australia

(P.O. Box 13, Stirling, South Australia, 5152)

CHRISTMAS 2002. SILVER JUBILEE. AND FINAL EDITION

As your President and Editor, it is with considerable regret that I have to tell you of my decision to follow the example of the Redheaded League of old, and declare the Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia 'herby dissolved'.

As members will know, I have carried the Society single-handedly for the past 25 years, and I am sorry to say that advancing age and encroaching ill-health have forced this decision upon me.

I am eternally grateful to the many faithful members for their support, but unfortunately, in these frantically busy times, it does not seem that we have anyone with sufficient leisure time to spare to take over the running of the Society.

I must also record my gratitude to my dear wife, Olive, who, although not a Sherlockian, has given me unflagging support over the past quarter-century.

Olive and I value the many friendships which we have made, and we hope to be able to keep in touch with our Sherlockian friends well into the future.

Thank you all again for your support over the years.

Yours very truly,

Alan Olding
Alan Olding

Compliments of the Season

SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF ADELAIDE (THE INVESTIGATOR STRAIGHTS)

Minutes of the fourth meeting, held at the Angas Hotel, Angas St, Adelaide, on Tuesday, 18th April, 1978.

PRESENT: K. Bannister, Miss T. Galloway, G. Galloway, Mrs. G. Hart, N. Hart, P. Hollows, Mrs. K. Moore, Mrs. O. Olding, A. Olding, Mrs. C. Quinn-Young, Mrs. A. Quintal, R. Rasmus.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. Maitland, Miss M. Taylor, Mr. H. Bahlin.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING were taken as read.

MATTERS ARISING: The price of letter-heads was discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE: From Hotel Australia - re cost of room.

From Michael Somerset.

OCCASIONALLY CAUGHT OUT, BUT RARELY STUMPED:

Nigel and Genny Hart presented a paper illustrating the apparent connection between many names in the Canon, and cricketers of the late 19th and early 20th century. Genny presented an action packed version of Doyle's poem commemorating his dismissal of the great W.G. Grace, a feat which has been described as a career in itself. Claudia Quinn-Young read a poem from 'Punch'

HOW YOU SEE IT, HOW YOU DON'T: Bob Rasmus showed us his version of 'Kim's Game', to prove that, in common with Dr. Watson, we see, but do not observe. There was a tie between Olive Olding and Kym Bannister for first place, which was decided, on a 'count back' in Mrs. Olding's favour.

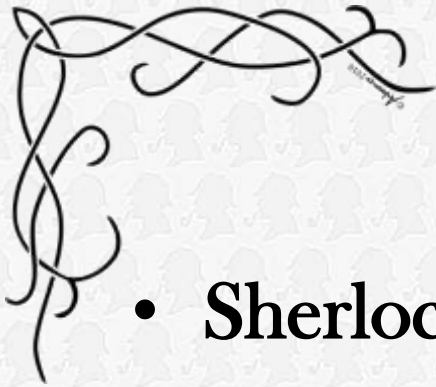
OTHER BUSINESS: Marie Taylor's suggestion that we should attempt the dramatization of a Holmes Adventure was received with approbation, and Bob Rasmus offered to supply a script.

V.L. DICHTORY: Mrs Moore read Vincent Starretta '221b'.

TOAST: The President proposed 'The Immortal Memory'

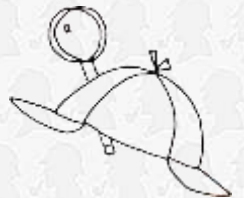
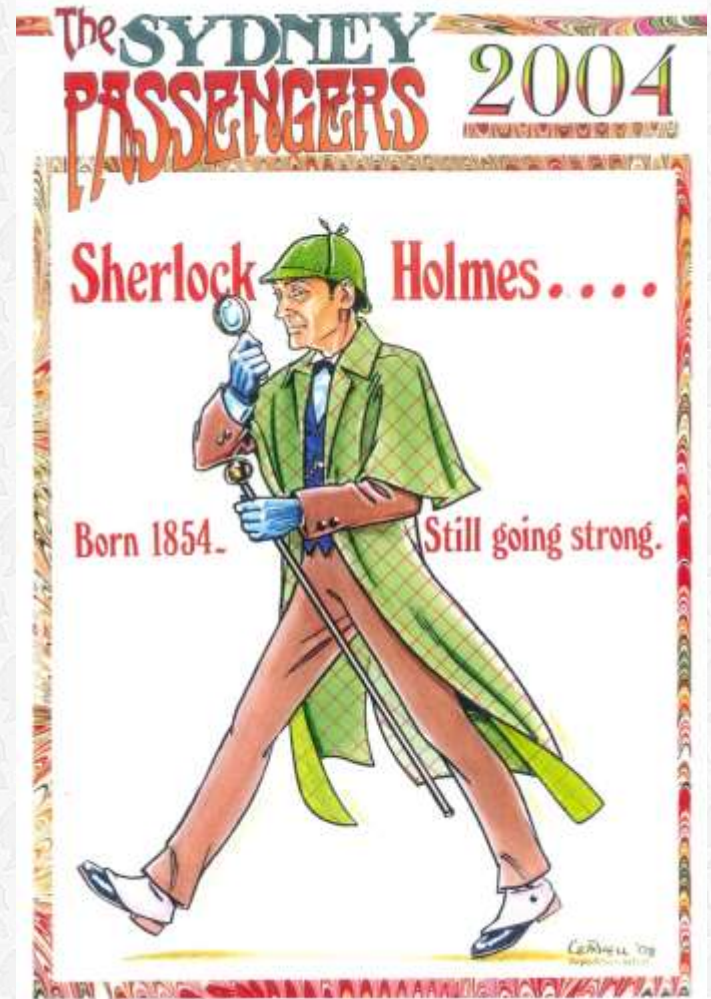
NEXT MEETING : The Annual General Meeting and Memorial Dinner will be held at the Angas Hotel on Tuesday, 9th May, at 7.45 p.m.

CLOSE: the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.



2000s

- Sherlock Holmes on Trial
- Taronga Zoo visit
- Dramatic reading of Roger Johnson's *The Great Detective*
- Sherlock Holmes Sesquicentenary
- Maritime Museum visit
- Croquet match at Strathfield croquet club
- 100 years of 'The Priory School'



The Great Detective

The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes

a play by



Able Seaman Roger Johnson

Presented by

The Sydney Passengers



CONSULTING DETECTIVE
ACCUSED OF MURDERING
PROFESSOR MORIARTY

The members of The Sydney Passengers are invited to form a JURY to examine the serious accusations made by Colonel Moriarty to the effect that, in the year of our Lord 1891, at the Heichenloch Falls in Switzerland, Mr Sherlock Holmes did feloniously and with malice aforethought

SHERLOCK HOLMES
ON TRIAL!

SIGNALS

April 2001

WANTED



FOR MURDER

TIME TO RENEW

Passengers who have not yet paid their Membership Dues for 2001 are reminded that our membership year commences on 1st March. To avoid missing out on the exciting activities planned for the year, please forward a cheque or money order for:-
\$25 (Individual),
\$50 (Household) or
\$10 (General-including The Log) to The Sydney Passengers, 19 Malvern Avenue, Manly NSW 2095.

For further details, see the circular and Membership Form included with the last issue of The Log.



An Excellent Voyage

- Passengers 20th Anniversary
(14th-15th May 2005)



The Rocks, Sydney - 14th & 15th May 2005

Official Program

From the Admiralty

To "Captain" Barnes and all Passengers of the 'Hotspur':
My very best wishes to you all for a wonderful weekend ashore in Sydney Cove. Unfortunately my duties at the Admiralty prevent me from joining you but I am with you in spirit. - "Admiral" Fredman

Passengers' Notice Board

Accommodation - Passengers staying overnight in the Russell Hotel will have the opportunity to check in between 1pm and 2pm this afternoon.

Notes - please remember that, if you are joining us for the luncheon on the 'Hotspur' tomorrow, you must wear non-slip shoes (no high heels).

If you have any enquiries - see me or any member of the crew.

- The "Captain"

Ship's Manifest

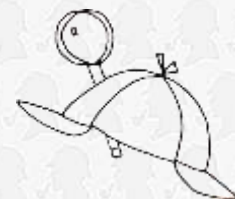
The following 'Excellent Voyage' souvenirs are available for sale or can be ordered:

Mouse Pad	\$15
Mug	\$17
T-shirt	\$50

To purchase or place an order, see Mrs Hudson.

Ten Years of the *Log*

- Ten years of the *Passengers' Log* celebrated October 2007

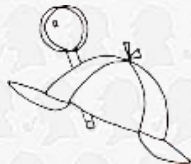




Social Media




- Passengers Facebook group established December 2007
- Members can post news and events from the Sherlockian and Passengers' world



Lionel Fredman

- Death of founding member & first Captain, Lionel Fredman, 29th April 2008



"STAND WITH ME HERE UPON THE TERRACE..."

AS SOME PASSENGERS MIGHT ALREADY HAVE LEARNED BY EMAIL, PROFESSOR LIONEL FREDMAN, THE PASSENGERS' FOUNDER, ORIGINAL 'CAPTAIN' AND HONORARY 'ADMIRAL' SADLY PASSED AWAY ON APRIL 29TH.

LIONEL AND HIS LATE WIFE JACQUIE REGULARLY MADE THE TRIP DOWN FROM NEWCASTLE FOR PASSENGERS MEETINGS IN OUR EARLY DAYS.

LIONEL'S HEALTH HAD BEEN FAILING FOR SOME TIME, THOUGH HE RETAINED A KEEN INTEREST IN THE PASSENGERS' ACTIVITIES.

HIS GOING WAS PEACEFUL AND HE WAS PRIVATELY CREMATED.

THE CAPTAIN HAS SENT A CARD OF CONDOLENCE ON BEHALF OF THE PASSENGERS TO LIONEL'S DAUGHTER ANTONIA AND SPOKEN TO HER ABOUT THE DEEP SENSE OF LOSS FELT AMONG THE PASSENGERS WHO KNEW LIONEL. ANTONIA MENTIONED THAT LIONEL OWNED A SHERLOCK HOLMES TOBY JUG WHICH HE PARTICULARLY TREASURED. SHE HAS KINDLY DONATED IT TO THE SOCIETY AND IT WILL BE USED IN SOME WAY TO COMMEMORATE LIONEL'S UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SYDNEY PASSENGERS.

SADLY WE MUST ALSO REPORT THE DEATH OVER EASTER OF PASSENGER PETER RYAN.

PETER, A LIBRARIAN WITH THE CITY OF SYDNEY LIBRARY, HAD BEEN A PASSENGER SINCE THE EARLY NINETIES. HE WAS ALSO ACTIVE IN THE GENESIAN THEATRE, AND MANY PASSENGERS WILL REMEMBER THAT WHEN THE GENESIAN PRESENTED THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PLAY "THE CRUCIFER OF BLOOD" (BASED ON THE SIGN OF FOUR) SOME YEARS AGO, PETER SPLENDIDLY PORTRAYED DOCTOR WATSON.

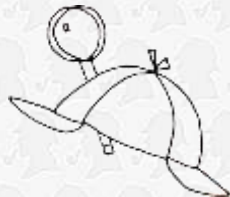
BSI



- **Bill Barnes appointed BSI, January 2009**

- **Rosane McNamara appointed BSI, January 2013**

- **Other Passenger BSIs (inc. overseas Passengers): Peter Calamai, Joe Eckrich, Doug Elliott, Sonia Fetherston, David Greeney, Yuichi Hirayama, Don Hobbs, Roger Johnson, Leslie Klinger, Guy Marriott, Chris Redmond, Enrico Solito, Doug Wrigglesworth**





Late 2000s

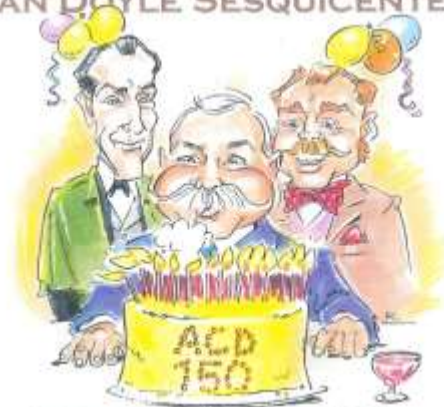
IF A CROSS APPEARS HERE WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED YOUR 2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.



MAY 2009

COME ALONG AND JOIN THE SYDNEY PASSENGERS
TO CELEBRATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BIRTH OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE.

CONAN DOYLE SESQUICENTENARY

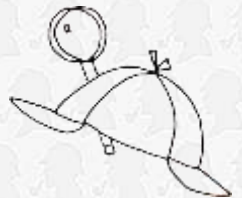


WHEN: SUNDAY, MAY 24TH AT 12.30 P.M.
WHERE: THE HERO OF WATERLOO HOTEL
18 LOWER FORT STREET
(CNR WINDMILL STREET)
THE ROCKS.

WE WILL HAVE TALKS AND DISCUSSION ON
SIR ARTHUR'S VISIT TO SYDNEY IN 1920
DOCTOR DOYLE AND DOCTOR WATSON
SIR ARTHUR AND SPIRITUALISM
HIS LITERARY LEGACY

R.S.V.P. TO BILL BARNES BY MAY 20TH
ON 02) 99773688
OR EMAIL bbarnes@ozemail.com.au

- Passengers' first Film Festival, August 2008
- Visit by author David Stuart Davies
- Arthur Conan Doyle sesquicentenary
- Passengers' 25th Anniversary May 2010





Passengers' Archives

- Listing currently being undertaken
- Detailed cataloguing to follow
- Acquisition of archival quality storage boxes/polyester sleeves
- Selected digitisation to easily make content available on request
- Donations welcome, particularly any old meeting notices

