



A Parable

*The Cheese-milks asked how the Cheese got there,
And warmly debated the matter
The Orthodox said that it came from the air,
And the Heretics held from the platter.
They argued it long and they argued it strong
And no doubt they are arguing now;
But of all the choice spirits who lived in the cheese
Not one of them thought of a cow*

*A Conan Doyle.
May 23/98*

At left is Peggy Perdue's illustration of ACD's *A Parable* (above), which is also a caricature of Raphael's *The School of Athens* (1509-1511). Peggy explains: "As you may know, *The School of Athens* is a Vatican fresco that depicts philosophers from Ancient Greece. [There is a good reproduction on Wikipedia.] The central figures under the arch are Plato on the left, pointing up ("it came from the air?") and Aristotle on the right, pointing down ("the platter?"). Diogenes is sprawled out on the stairs below them. The setting is based on the 1903 video you sent ... (continued on other side)

A COMMON NEWSLETTER

– with a nod to Micah Clarke –

BRINGING TIDINGS FROM THE ACD SOCIETY

– a community dedicated to studying and enjoying the works of Arthur Conan Doyle –

via Greg Ruby (editor) and Ross Davies (publisher)

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1, JUNE 2021

EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to the first issue of *A Common Newsletter*, the “official” newsletter of The ACD Society – accept any “unofficial” versions at your own risk! Our plans are to issue this 3 times annually to dues paying members of our group.

Many of the items you will be seeing here can be found much earlier on our website at www.acdsociety.com and on our Twitter feed at twitter.com/ACDSociety.

THE PAST

The morning of Jan. 10 saw the inaugural meeting of The Literary Agents virtually with a discussion of “Conan Doyle in 2021 and Beyond!” You can watch a recording of the meeting at <https://business.facebook.com/DoingsofDoyle/videos/215841323519964/>. They also have an attractive lapel pin available for purchase, with details at <https://www.doingsofdoyle.com/p/the-literary-agents.html>.

THE PRESENT

Two of our Doylean Honors committees – “Fiction and Poetry” (chaired by Jay Ganguly) and “Performing and Visual Arts” (chaired by Monica Schmidt) are up and running and accepting nominations. The short and simple

nomination forms for both categories are at acdsociety.com/2021-5-12ACDSnomFP.pdf and acdsociety.com/2021-5-9ACDSnomPVA.pdf. Please do tell Jay and Monica about Doylean works deserving of recognition!

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth UK has produced 2 adult study packs regarding *The Lost World* and Sherlock Holmes. Send them an email at Sherlock.Holmes@portsmouthcc.gov.uk to request your free copies.

The Portsmouth ACD collection also has a online exhibition of *Arthur and George*, based on the 2015 miniseries that starred Martin Clunes. <https://cd.visitportsmouth.co.uk/conandoyle/exhibitions/arthur-and-george-exhibition>.

The Sherlockians of Baltimore have had several ACD related programs recently. Watch Charles Prepolec on ACD's early gothic & horror work, JoAnn Alberstat on Arthur Conan Doyle & The Ghost Ship, along with Mark Jones on Submarines, Subterfuge and Submission: The British Empire on the Brink in Danger! & Other Stories. All three recorded presentations can be found at www.youtube.com/channel/UC6MG6Qe6dC_I-JP6XR14_LDg.

Learn more about Percy Fawcett, possibly an inspiration for Professor Challenger. www.spikeislandcork.ie/percy-fawcett.

THE FUTURE

This would probably be a good time to talk about our lapel pin, except we currently don't have a logo for our society. You can help correct that by submitting a suggested design to us by June 30. Details available at acdsociety.com/2021-2-1-ACDS-logo.pdf.

After reading through the unmitigated bleating on this page, you may be thinking that this reminds you of *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, a monthly newsletter of Sherlockian and Doylean news and gossip published (50 years in 2021!) by the noted Sherlockian, Peter E. Blau. Our postcard format lends nicely to his presentation style and presents us with a goal of still producing these in 2071!

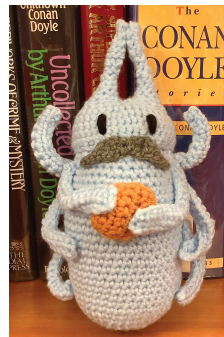
– Greg Ruby

(continued from other side)

PEGGY PERDUE'S ACD-INSPIRED, MITE-SIZED SCHOOL OF ATHENS

... [it was mites under a microscope – *Cheese Mites* (1903), *BFI National Archive*, www.youtube.com/watch?v=wR2DyStgByQ], and the still life that contains the cheese microcosm is an homage to 17th century Dutch paintings that often featured cheese. Raphael it ain't, but it was a good challenge.”

Peggy's mighty artistic genius extends beyond painting and into textiles. Here is her crocheted *Sir Arthur Cheesemite Doyle*:



Peggy's works are making their first appearance here. ACD's *A Parable* first appeared in “*Pen and Pencil*” *A Souvenir of the “Press Bazaar”* ... *For the benefit of the London Hospital* (June 28-29, 1898).

– Ross Davies

