



Dear ACD
Society

Let's not forget

POST
FRITH

BY AIR MAIL
par avion

Royal Mail®

This space may be used for communication.

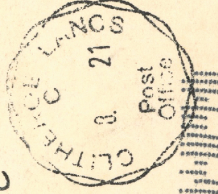
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Stonyhurst. The boy who is trained
as a Jesuit.' Sadly aborted, the
novel would have ended with
the University facing the Cathedral,
representing the two forces of
the future.' *MJJ*

The Address only to be written here

The ACD Society
6600 Barnaby Street, N.W.
Washington DC
20015
U.S.A.



PRESTON M.C.



Post
Office

AN UNWRITTEN RELIGIOUS NOVEL

Some gems of Doylean scholarship fit in small settings. We recently received just such a treasure from Mark Jones, co-host of *Doings of Doyle*. Please shift your gaze to the left, read Mark's postcard, and then rejoin this narrative ... Mark's handwriting is nearly as clear as ACD's, but just to be sure we are all on the same page (or card), here is a transcription of his message:

Let's not forget the formative influence of S. College on ACD's life & work, observe this find from his Commonplace book c. 1911: 'I should begin a religious novel with some chapter about Stonyhurst. The boy who is trained as a Jesuit.' Sadly aborted, the novel would have ended with 'the University facing the Cathedral, representing the two forces of the future.'

We asked Mark to tell us more about his research, and about his unorthodox postal approach to scholarly publication. He replied:

The idea came after a fruitful morning searching the British Library's ACD manuscript holdings. His Commonplace book (BL Add MS 88924/8/4) contains miscellaneous jottings circa 1910-17 that chart his passing interests. Amid musings on human ancestry, the sub-division of the atom, and the history of Byzantium are tantalising story notes: 'the man who could intimate a shell coming'; 'a sermon delivered in Westminster Abbey on Jan 1st 2000'; and a young man realising the world is 'a manufactory of souls.' Most intriguing to me were pages on a religious novel, interspersed with (sometimes skeptical) thoughts on spiritualism, written at this pivotal moment for ACD. A postcard from my collection was duly defaced and forwarded to the Clitheroe Post Office — the nearest main PO to Stonyhurst — with the request that it should be posted from there to obtain the local postmark.

Mark's work here is enlightening, thought-provoking, handsome, and a perfect fit for a common newsletter. Surely our readers would welcome more work of such high quality, character, beauty, and compactness!

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 Ross Davies (editor pro tem, and publisher)

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2, OCTOBER 2021

EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to issue #2 of *A Common Newsletter*, the ink-on-paper news outlet of The ACD Society. Much exciting Doyleaniasm has been, is, and will be happening. Here are some highlights:

THE PAST

NASA's Earth Observatory *Image of the Day* for July 13, 2021 begins, "Canaima National Park has inspired many books and movies. After he created the Sherlock Holmes character, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote *The Lost World*, describing an adventurous ascent of a plateau in the Amazon Basin similar to those found in Canaima."

Also in July Montblanc introduced its "Conan Doyle" collection. The nib of the fountain pen features an "[e]ngraving of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and flying dinosaurs," presumably in honor of *The Lost World* and its creator. *Courtesy of Montblanc.*



The City of Portsmouth's Conan Doyle Collection presented a series of lectures in honor of Neil McCaw: *Arthur Conan Doyle and the Case of the Parsee Lawyer*, by Shrabani Basu (May 27); *Early Sherlock Holmes Fandom from 1890s-1930s*,

by Katharine Brombley (June 3); *Arthur Conan Doyle, money, and the centenary of the Casebook*, by Alistair Duncan (June 10); and *The Glamorous American – William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes*, by S.E. Dahlinger (June 17).

On August 14, David Leal asked The Tankerville Club, *Arthur Conan Doyle and Spiritualism: Gullible Dupe or Scientific Investigator?*

Paul Chapman and Mark Jones of *Doings of Doyle* interviewed Shrabani Basu about her new book, *The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer* (July 20), as well as posting shows about *Uncle Jeremy's Household* (August 30), and two stories from *The Exploits of Brigadier Gerard* (June 29).

On September 25, Jeffrey Hatcher delivered the Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture – *The Adventure of the Occasional Playwright: Conan Doyle Onstage* – to The Friends of the ACD Collection, Toronto Public Library.

THE PRESENT

There is still time to nominate your favorite works for Doylean Honors (for details, see the "You're Invited!" announcement in this issue). **The deadline is November 1.** Nomination forms are available on our website: www.acdsociety.com.

The cover of the current issue of *Canadian Holmes* features Peggy Perdue's Sir Arthur Conan Doll. You must see it to appreciate it, so subscribe!

THE FUTURE

The Edinburgh Conan Doyle Project and the Birkbeck Centre for Nineteenth Century Studies will host a conference – "Conan Doyle and Storytelling" – on December 11-12 at Birkbeck, University of London.



YOU'RE INVITED!

FIRST DOYLEAN HONORS CEREMONY
THE MYSTERIOUS BOOKSHOP

Our big news is that the first annual Doylean Honors ceremony will be held on January 13, 2022, at 11:15 a.m., at Otto Penzler's The Mysterious Bookshop, 58 Warren Street, in NYC.



We will be presenting Doylean Honors in the categories of "Fiction and Poetry," "Performing and Visual Arts," "Scholarly Writing," and "Lifetime Service." **Each ACD Society member who attends the event and presents this postcard (i.e., their own copy of this issue of *A Common Newsletter*) will**

receive a special party favor – a Sherlock Holmes bobblehead doll. We will post more details on our website (www.acdsociety.com) as they become available. We hope to see you there!

This part in green applies only to the original print edition, not to e-versions (such as this one), images, or duplicates.

