



Courtesy of Dartmouth College Library

“THE TERROR OF BLUE JOHN GAP”: A SERIALIZED AND ANNOTATED MANUSCRIPT

We are happy to report that the kind people at the Dartmouth College Library have given us permission to publish a gem from their Rauner Special Collections Library — the autograph manuscript of one of ACD’s finest forays into horror and the supernatural, *The Terror of Blue John Gap*. We plan to serialize the MS in this newsletter. Over the next few years, we will print sharp images of each page, with accompanying

commentary by experts on ACD and the topics he writes about. Here, for example, are a few thoughts from Paul M. Chapman of *Doings of Doyle* about the front cover (reproduced above) of the bound MS:

Arthur Conan Doyle could be careless in the treatment of his manuscripts (unlike, for example, Dennis Wheatley, who dignified some of his manuscripts with Sangorski & Sutcliffe fine bindings), and it is interesting ... (*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 Ross Davies (editor pro tem, and publisher)

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3, DECEMBER 2021

EDITOR'S NOTES

This is the third and last issue of *A Common Newsletter* for 2021. We'll be back in '22. There's more Doylean news on our website at www.acdsociety.com and on Twitter @ACDSociety.

We have a few pieces of big news of our own this time around. First, we have a logo. Designed by Brian Belanger of Belanger Books, it will be appearing on our website, Twitter account, and other places. Thank you, Brian!

Second, one of those "other places" is the certificate each honoree will receive at our first "Doylean Honors" ceremony. It'll be at 11:15 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 13 at The Mysterious Bookshop. Please come! Admission is free and all are welcome. Details on our website and in ACN1:2.

Third, there is our serialization of *The Terror of Blue John Gap*, which begins in this issue.

THE PAST

At 18:30 on Oct. 4, Arthur Conan Doyle placed 12th out of 13 at the Wolverhampton Racecourse.

The Edinburgh Conan Doyle Project and the Birkbeck Centre for Nineteenth Century Studies co-hosted a conference — "Conan Doyle and Storytelling" — on Dec. 10-11. Recordings are (or soon will be) at edinburgh-conan-doyle.org.

The Oct. 13, 1912 *New York Times* reviewed ACD's *The Lost World*. The *Times* republished the review on Oct. 13, 2021. Both hold up well (the book and the review, that is). The review was accompanied by this portrait of ACD. If you find it on our website, try clicking.



THE FUTURE

On Jan. 9, Ashley Polasek will be presiding on a panel — "Arthur Conan Doyle's Afterlives" — at the MLA Annual Convention in Washington, DC.

A bit of ACD-designed architecture now has a brighter future. The advertisement below is from the 1912 *Royal Automobile Club Year Book*. It says the Grand Hotel was "Recently Renovated and Enlarged." Those renovations and enlargements had been designed by ACD earlier in that year. The "Glasshayes House" entry in *The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia* tells the full story of ACD's work on this. Alas, in recent years, the

LYNDHURST, NEW FOREST.

Grand Hotel,

At the entrance to the village overlooking the well-known Bolton's Bench.

Recently Renovated and Enlarged, Spacious Lounge on the South side, opening into the beautifully-timbered garden, for which the hotel is renowned. Croquet and Tennis Lawns. Golf Links adjoining. Good Chef and Cellar. Up-to-date Garage with private lock-ups. The Hotel is lighted by electricity, and heated during the winter months by a modern hot-water apparatus. Hunting Centre. Stables. Headquarters R.A.C. and Hampshire A.C.



Telegrams: "Grand." Phone No. 23. Tariff sent on application. **Manageress: Miss Ryland.**

hotel (closed since 2014) has been in danger of demolition. But on Nov. 16 the BBC reported that under a new redevelopment plan, the "historic elements" of the hotel (i.e., the ACD parts) will be "retained and reinstated to their former glory."

The Literary Agents — the Rick's Cafe of the Doylean-Sherlockian world — will Zoom their annual meeting on Jan. 16. Register here: www.doingsofdoyle.com/p/the-literary-agents.html.

(continued from other side)

"THE TERROR OF BLUE JOHN GAP"

... to see that he chose to bind *The Terror of Blue John Gap* in vellum, which he also did with some Sherlock Holmes manuscripts, including *The Abbey Grange*, *The Dying Detective*, and *The Lion's Mane*. Sadly, he was more cavalier with *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, which was dismantled and distributed piecemeal during its original promotional drive. Other manuscripts, such as *How the Brigadier Rode to Minsk*, remain entire, but unbound.

Like the vellum-bound Holmes titles *Blue John Gap's* contents are hand-noted obliquely in the top left corner of the front board, above Doyle's preferred authorial inscription: A. Conan Doyle.

Thank you, Paul! By the way, Chapman and his *Doings of Doyle* partner Mark Jones presented a show about *Blue John Gap* just a few months ago.

We are also exceedingly pleased to report that Margie Deck and Nancy Holder have agreed to be "Joint Commissioners" (they might also answer to "editors") of this project. Look for details on our website as Margie and Nancy figure them out.

p.s. If your membership in the ACD Society expires at the end of 2021, please consider renewing for another year (or two)!

