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my incredible adventure in the Cavern. I use the adjective with a very definite meaning for I have had an experience since which has shocked me almost as much as the other. I have said that I was looking round for someone who could advise me. There is a Doctor Mark Johnson who practices some few miles away, to whom I had a note of recommendation from Professor Sanderson. To him I drove, when I was strong enough to get about, and I recounted to him my whole strange experience. He listened intently and then carefully examined me, paying special attention to my reflexes and to the pupils of my eyes. When he had finished he refused to discuss my adventure, saying that it was entirely beyond him, but he gave me the card of a Mr. Picton at Castleton, with the advice that I should instantly go to him and tell him the story exactly as I had done it to him. He was, according to Dr. Johnson, the very man who was preeminently suited to help me. I went on to the station therefore and made my way to the little town which is some ten miles away. Mr. Picton appeared to be a man of importance as his brass plate was displayed upon the door of a considerable building on the outskirts of the town. I was about to ring his bell when some misgiving came into my mind, and, crossing to a neighbouring shop, I asked the man behind the counter if he could tell me anything of Mr. Picton. "Why" said he "he is the best mad doctor in Derbyshire and yonder is his asylum". You can imagine that it was not long before I had shaken the dust of Castleton from my feet, and returned to the Farm, cursing all unimaginative pedants who cannot conceive that there may be things in creation which have never yet chanced to come across their mole's vision. After all, now that I am cooler, I can afford to admit that I have been no more sympathetic to Armitage than Dr. Johnson has been to me.

ON MAD-DOCTORS, DR. HARDCASTLE, AND CHARLES ALTAMONT DOYLE

With our page 12 debut of Arthur Conan Doyle's manuscript text of "The Terror of Blue John Gap," Doylean scholar Anna Brindisi Behrens joins the project with an insightful piece, "On Mad-Doctors, Dr. Hardcastle, and Charles Altamont Doyle." She examines the predicament of our Dr. Hardcastle as he has moved from his original position of unbeliever

coffing at the gullibility of the superstitious locals to a frantic man who has proof of an actual monster in the mine. However, the doctor to whom he confides his experience assumes that not only has he swallowed a fish story, but that he is certifiably insane. What would such a pronouncement mean to a Victorian? ... (continued on other side)

A COMMON NEWSLETTER

— with a nod to Micah Clarke —

BRINGING TIDINGS FROM THE ACD SOCIETY

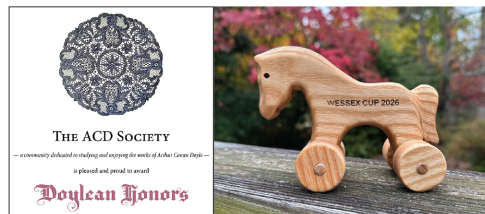
— a community dedicated to studying and enjoying the works of Arthur Conan Doyle —

via Ross Davies (editor pro tem, and publisher)

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 3, NOVEMBER 2025

NOMINATIONS: SEND BY NOV. 30!

Members of the ACD Society have until November 30 to nominate for Doylean Honors their favorite works that were first performed/posted/published in 2024-2025. There are four categories: Visual Arts, Scholarly Writing, Performing Arts, and Fiction & Poetry. Forms are here: acdsociety.com/Honors/Honors.html.



HONORS & RACES: ATTEND JAN. 8!

All are welcome to attend the fifth annual Doylean Honors ceremony and fourth running of the Wessex Cup on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 11:15 a.m. at Otto Penzler's The Mysterious Bookshop. The eight stables for the 2026 Wessex Cup — each with its own Ukrainian pony (it's our first season featuring tiny Huculs) — will soon be available to Doyleans interested in frittering a pittance for a morning of equestrian fun. Watch our website and the usual social media for news.

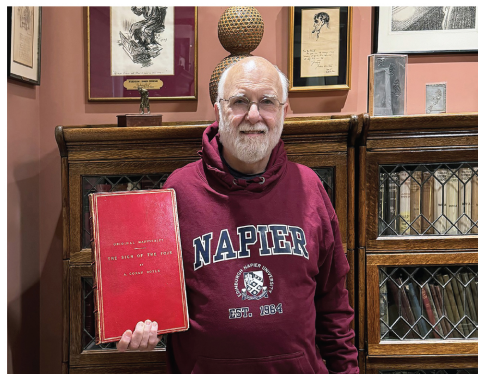
THE SIGN ACROSS THE SEA

We have a note and a photo from Douglas Kerr, editor of the *Edinburgh Edition* of ACD's works:

In the over-fished waters of Holmesiana, some leviathans still swim. One such was the original manuscript of *The Sign of the Four*, a virtually mythic beast, which many pursuers would gladly have given an arm and a leg to capture. Which crafty and courageous harpooner could hunt it down? In the end it was Glen Miranker who proved equal to taking up the role of Patrick Cairns (the harpooner in 'The Adventure of Black Peter'), and after years of 'long pursuit and vain assay', he succeeded in landing this whopper.

But at Edinburgh Napier University in far-off Scotland, Glen's success had come to the attention of Professor Anne Schwan, who had a particular interest in the document. She is the scholar editing a volume comprising *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Sign of the Four* (or should that be *The Sign of Four*?) for the *Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle*. One feature of these volumes is a critical apparatus that collates and compares in detail the different versions of a Conan Doyle text: the manuscript, if available, the serial installments in periodicals like the *Strand Magazine*, and the different book versions. Access to the precious manuscript was essential. She could get it transcribed, return it to its owner, and use the transcription for her critical apparatus.

But could Glen be persuaded to part with his hard-won prize, even in the cause of scholarship? What could tempt him to let it out of his sight even for a short while? The answer seemed obvious. Offer him a bribe.



It worked. Glen is wearing his bribe (and holding his trophy) in the photograph. We hope he will still be wearing it when he sets sail on his next voyage.

In related business, Glen and Cathy Miranker are hard at work now on a book that will include the manuscript (facsimile and transcript) and essays by several Sherlockian scholars.

(continued from other side)

Behrens reveals a world of insane asylums, and the tragedy of Doyle's father. She discusses how it affected Doyle's life and works, and his efforts to better his father's twilight existence. Find her good work at acdsociety.com/bjg/12/bjg12a.html.

— Margie Deck and Nancy Holder



TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

If there is a **red mark** in the box, you should **renew now for 2026**, because your membership is about to expire. If there is a **green mark**, **you're all set** — your membership is already in good standing for 2026. To renew (or start) your membership in the ACD Society, please go to www.acdsociety.com. Questions? Please ask: acdsocy@gmail.com.



Thank you for
supporting the
ACD Society!



"I suppose most
people would
subscribe ..."