

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)

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Two of the teams that will race in our first Wessex Cup. Silks and other accoutrements by Peggy MacFarlane.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Our big news is that we will be at Otto Penzler's The Mysterious Bookshop, 58 Warren St., in NYC on January 5, 2023, at 11:15 a.m., for two splendid events: the second annual Doylean Honors ceremony and the inaugural running of our Wessex Cup. Details here: www.acdsociety.com.

THE PAST

November brought news about Bignell Wood, ACD's huge country home in Hampshire (not to be confused with Bignell House, an even huger place in Oxfordshire). It's for sale for £2.95 million.

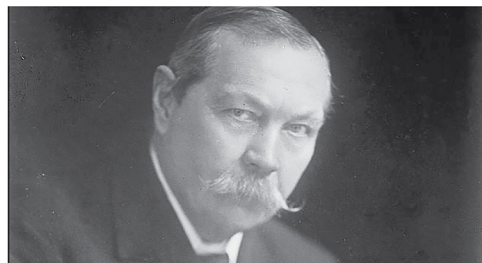
August 1929, however, brought even weightier news about Bignell Wood: Much of it had gone up in smoke in a fire that started in the thatch roof.

But ACD and his sons Denis and Adrian “dashed several times into their burning house to-day and succeeded in rescuing valuable documents and books from the flames,” according to a front page story in the August 15 *Derby Daily Telegraph*. Thank goodness! (In case of fire, save books or save house? Easy choice.)

Jermyn Street Theatre's well-reviewed adaptation of *The Poison Belt* (directed by Becca Chadder) ran July 21-30 in London.

In September, Paul Chapman and Mark Jones had Douglas Kerr (editor of Edinburgh University Press's “New Critical Editions” of ACD's works), on *Doings of Doyle* (www.doingsofdoyle.com) for a wide-ranging discussion centered on Kerr's new annotated edition of *Memories and Adventures* (a Doylean Honors winner).

In “The Times Daily Quiz” for November 9, the fifteenth question — “Who is this British writer and physician?” — was accompanied by this familiar photograph:



THE FUTURE

The Literary Agents “Ride Again” at 10:30 a.m. on January 6, 2023. Register for free at www.doingsofdoyle.com/p/the-literary-agents.html.

(continued from other side)

... established inhabitant, may actually possess more insights into the environment than a temporary visitor convalescing.

If we rely upon Hardcastle's description of Armitage as “young” during the harrowing occurrences of this tale, occurring the year before the doctor's death in February 1908, then Armitage is managing an agrarian livelihood during the post-1815 agricultural depression in Great Britain and other congruent declines in the living standard available to “his station in life.” Here, Doyle's narrator enacts his own class aspirations through an assessment of the straitened opportunities available to a member of the working class.

Doyle's narrator does not even afford Armitage the dignity of being first named before being positioned as a representative for an entire tier of society. Hardcastle makes a mordant observation about the collective “countrymen” before introducing any individual characteristics about Armitage. Through the framing device of the beleaguered Dr. Hardcastle, Doyle foregrounds a social and economic perspective associated with a mobile, salaried profession, one positioned with greater social capacity and currency than Armitage can access.

— Tamar Zeffren ©2022

Tamar's commentary continues in the annotations for manuscript page 3 at the BJK website, www.acdsociety.com/bjk/a/bjga.html. Jennifer Behrens, Bob Katz, and John Knud-Hansen also contribute new commentary. Don't miss it!

— Margie Deck and Nancy Holder

