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OTHERWISE KNOWN AS

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A Wessex Cup Full of Firsts

Races Set for January 5

Mysterious Bookshop Hosts

Sixteen of the Finest Stables

NEW YORK — The first (we think) running in this city of the Wessex Cup is set to take place in the world-famous Mysterious Bookshop (Otto Penzler, proprietor), at 58 Warren Street, on a Thursday, next January 5, 2023.

Elimination heats will start at 11:15 a.m., with the championship race set for 11:45. There will be much speed and excitement.

It will be an event of many firsts:

- The first wind-up Wessex Cup. (The horses are wind-up toys. They will run on a Victorian-era course covered in green felt.)
- The first Wessex Cup held in a prestigious bookshop. (Yes, Ray Betzner, this is a Doylean-Sherlockian event that really will be “born in a bookshop”!)
- The first in which every official entrant will receive a genuine Wessex Cup.
- And so on and so on.



The 16 stables eligible to compete will be for sale (cheap) on the ACD Society’s website (www.acdsociety.com) later this fall. The date will be announced on Twitter and Facebook. ACD Society members will get first dibs for a limited time before the sale opens to the public.

Stables will consist of:

- A trusty wind-up steed.
- A cheerful jockey dressed in silks (in stable-specific colors) designed and executed — and perhaps even accessorized — by Equine Outfitter Extraordinaire Peggy MacFarlane.
- An exclusive, ink-on-paper edition of this pink periodical, filled with sure-to-be-historically-significant data, including a list of stable owners in the first running of this Wessex Cup.
- One or two other items for which the world (or at least the organizer) is not yet prepared.
- All in a nifty package.