From the Archives

The Sydney Passengers:
30 Years of Fun and Friendship

24th May 2015

Erin O’Neill
Origins

• First meeting 9\textsuperscript{th} May 1985
• Founding members present: Jan Chris, Lionel Fredman, William Enerburg
• Also admitted as member: Wendy Stokoe
• Associate Members: Sheila Howell, Jacqueline Fredman
• Meeting held at Jan’s house in Ashfield.
The first meeting of the first acion society in new south wales was held at the residence of [redacted].

Pr et present were:

The meeting was opened with the cry of 

"mooorrrr" (heard),

and conveyed the information in due course to the sherlock holmes society, london and the new york section of the same society, and to the south australia society, adelaide.

It seems more appropriate that the friends of new zealand, known abroad, should be retained for adelaide, if they want it, and we consider the "sydney passenger" (or "south south west") as a name.

Toasts were drunk to the "free, less conventional atmosphere of south australia" (ABEC 857), with cheers, and to the damnation of golly peters, black jack of ballarat (NOSG 100) and other "australian rascals" (LADT or is it CARY 1023).

Future activities were discussed such as film screenings and a report on the conference held at the university of minnesota, september 1984.

There was discussion on the proposal that yelms and yeston, now retired and with ample leisure, would benefit from a history of australia as a gift due to the careless references to convicts after the cessation of transportation to new south wales and tasmania and to colonies after the "inauguration of the commonwealth."

The following were admitted as members:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan Chris</td>
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<td>(02) 791 9173</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Redfern, NSW 2010</td>
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<td>Newcastle NSW 2300</td>
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Dear Lionel,

I was delighted to receive your note yesterday, together with the Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the "Sydney Passengers".

I would like to offer my congratulations to all concerned and wish you all the very best for the future.

I understand that you have already advised the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Baker Street Irregulars and I will take steps to tell Ron de Waal, so that he may include the new Scion in his next Directory.

The only address you mention is that of Jan Chriss - is this address for correspondence? Perhaps you will be good enough to drop me a note advising who the "Office Holders" might be and what are their "offices" - de Waal likes to have information such as this.

Would it be presumptuous to hope that your Members will decide to retain their Membership of the Australian Society?

Once again with best Sherlockian wishes,

Yours truly,

ALAN C. OLDING.
Further Meetings

- Second meeting: 14th September 1985 (two members attending)
- Third meeting: 18th January 1986 (first to be attended by Phil Cornell)
- Fourth meeting: 20th September 1986 at Mortuary Station – first ‘off-site’ meeting
- First non-meeting event: 17th October 1986 ‘Speckled Band’ dramatic reading
The Speckled Band

Sherlock Holmes ~ Jan Chris
Doctor Watson ~ Bob Cooper
Miss Helen Stoner ~ Margaret Baylis
Dr Grimesby Roylott ~ Leo Harper

DIRECTED BY Bob Cooper
PRODUCED BY Jan Chris

ACT ONE: Sherlock Holmes's parlour at 221B Baker Street, one April morning in the year 1893.

ACT TWO: Roylott Manor, Stoke Moran, in Surry, that night.

It was, I recall, the 17th of October in the year of '86, that I made my way to the rooms of the Wesley Central Mission in order to represent the Sydney Passengers at a dramatic reading of the Adventure of the Speckled Band, to be presented that evening to a gathering of the Friday Nighters group.

From the moment the curtain opened and young Sam Bayliss, in the part of Billy, the page, announced the arrival of a client, the power and suspense of Dr Watson's narrative held the audience's attention.

Passenger Jan Chris brought the authority of her knowledge and enthusiasm for the Canon to the role of the world's first consulting detective. Garbed in an Inverness cape and sporting an authentic deerstalker cap, she strode through the part with zest and confidence, straightening steel pokers, examining bell ropes through a magnifying lens, and belabouring deadly serpents with a handsome antique walking stick. Such is the magic of the theatre that the audience swiftly forget they were watching their petals brand Jan and imagine the tall, spare figure of Sherlock Holmes himself upon the stage. Jan's enunciation and projection ensured that every word of Holmes's investigations and deductions were clear to the audience.

Miss Margaret Bayliss portrayed the hapless Helen Stoner, the client in distress, shivering "not from the cold but from terror." She easily elicits our sympathy and admiration, and her description of the night of her sister Julia's mysterious demise evokes an uneasy chill.
Sherlock Holmes turns 100

Mr Alan Olding of Adelaide, founder of the Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia, ... right seems to triumph in most of the stories, he says, dismissing Holmes' darker side, the cocaine addiction.

By BRIAN WOODLEY

He failed to specify in any of the four Sherlock Holmes novels or 56 short stories that the Arthur Conan Doyle left the more hint of a clue—just a hint—for his adoring fans to deduce that Doyle's most famous detective turns 100 today.

One wonders whether Holmes would have let anyone go to his gravesite, or on the strength of such a meandering, well-designed detective film.

When, according to the Daily Telegraph, other references are made in the collected stories to Twelfth Night, and other Holmes stories reference the author's parents only to a mystery plot.

The 10th night after Christmas was January 1, and the "summoned" reference has been taken as a sign that Holmes himself was not designed to be the protagonist of his life. The story, "The Adventure of the Empty House," was set in a country house where Holmes was "clearly visible despite some administrative difficulties and likely objections from the state government."

Mr Sherlock's visit to the States was no more than an option he was considering. "If Sherlock said it could be achieved despite some administrative difficulties and likely objections from the state government."

Mr. Olding's visit to the States was no more than an option he was considering. If Sherlock said it could be achieved despite some administrative difficulties and likely objections from the state government."

Fans decide Sherlock Holmes is 100 today

From Page 1

"It makes you want to believe they were true. And the atmosphere of gaslit streets, cobblestones and the fog. It was a simpler time when right was right and wrong was wrong."

He keeps a deerstalker hat at work to wear when looking for inspiration.

The Holmes habit encour-
Office Bearers

• Elected at 7th February 1987 meeting
• Captain & Log Keeper: Lionel Fredman
• Chief Steward: Jan Chris
• Quartermaster: William Enerburg
• Expedition Artist: Phil Cornell
• Signals Officer: Chris Sequeira
• Bursar: Roger Najor
Firsts

- First paper read at a meeting 30\textsuperscript{th} May 1987 on ‘Silver Blaze’

- First quiz 30\textsuperscript{th} May 1987

- First Holmes’ birthday meeting 6\textsuperscript{th} January 1989
"We will drop into one of the... picture-galleries" noun.

Sounding the Bells
Words of Welcome
Apologies
Tabling of Correspondence

Passenger Jan Chris will propose the principal Canonical Toast

Entrée
Cold Seafood Platter "Lion's Mane"

Passenger Erica Vorsay will propose the second Canonical Toast

Main Course
Roast Chicken "Wisteria Lodge" in a mustard, honey, garlic, five spice marinade.

Vegetable Medley
Gratin Dauphinois

Passenger Kerry Murphy will propose the third Canonical Toast

Passenger Rosane Dunn will relate an account of her travels in the footsteps of Sherlock Holmes accompanied by a cinematographic presentation by Passenger James Dunn.

Dessert
Mrs Hudson's Fruit Salad

Passenger Lynne Lancaster will propose the penultimate Canonical Toast

Coffee, Mints and Mr Holmes's Pipe

Passenger Martin Rigby-Smith will propose the final Canonical Toast

BYO $3.50 Corkage  Fresh Juice $10-50 per jug
Mineral Water $3.00 (500ml)

"Our Meal was a merry one" sign.
Without a Clue

- 19<sup>th</sup> January 1989 at Hoyts Entertainment Centre
- Mock protests against the film *Without a Clue*
- Passengers dressed in Victorian costume to protest portrayal of Holmes as a bungler
- The group attended the premiere afterwards
- Attracted some press coverage
Dear Sir,

As a loyal admirer of Mr. Sherlock Holmes of London, whom his colleague Dr. Watson once described as the best and wisest man (he ever knew), it is with considerable consternation that I have read reports of the forthcoming moving picture "Without a Clue," in which the world's first consulting detective is scandalously depicted as a drunkard, a secter, a bungler and a FIGURE of FUN!

This vile calumny must not be allowed to go unchallenged. It befalls Mr. Holmes's supporters to take up the cudgels on his behalf.

Accordingly, the Sydney Passengers, the local society devoted to the study of Mr. Holmes and his activities, intend to register their outrage at this monstrous misrepresentation of the Great Man when the film opens at Hoyt's Entertainment Centre on the evening of January 10th, and we call upon like-minded members of the community to join us in defending the master detective's good name.

We may be contacted at Box A 281, Sydney South, 2000.

Indignantly Yours,
The Manager, Hoyts Theatres
January 19th
Colony of N.S.W.

Dear Sirs,

Re: 'Without A Clue'

we act for Mr. Sherlock Holmes Esquire and his associate Dr. John H. Watson, who have instructed us to communicate with yourselves their justifiably displeasurable views regarding your company's new cinematic production entitled 'Without A Clue'.

Both of our clients are extremely concerned about how they have been portrayed in this piece and we have been instructed to commence legal proceedings in Her Majesty's Courts for the serious tort of libel of Mr. Holmes. We are further instructed to seek the remedy of an injunction from the Chancery Court to prevent the continuance of this serious and, with respect, infamous defamation of our most honourable client.

Mr. Holmes is of the well-founded belief that the film is being supported by agents of the late nefarious Professor Moriarty and
Further Events

• Reading of Gillette’s *Sherlock Holmes* (1989)

• Trip to Ballarat (1990)

• Bill Barnes’ first meeting 2\textsuperscript{nd} May 1989

• Robert Veld’s paper on *The Strand* illustrations (youngest Passenger to give a talk)
Elementary, My Dear Fruitcakes

They dress in Victorian costume—including deerstalker hats and tweedness capes—and Sherlock Holmes is their hero. They belong to the Australian fan club of fiction’s super sleuth. Their name, the Sydney Passengers, comes from author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s one reference to Australia, made in the short story Gloria Scott. The 100 or so Passengers meet four times a year, always choosing a venue with a suitably Victorian atmosphere, and attend plays and movies based on Conan Doyle’s work. “Sometimes a member does research on a story and he or she will stand up and present the findings in a very pompous style to the rest of us,” says the club’s leader, Philip Cornell, 35. “We hold quizzes, video nights and a party with a costume ball.”
Final Problem Weekend

- 4\textsuperscript{th}-5\textsuperscript{th} May 1991 at Fairmont Hotel, Leura
- Re-enactment of Reichenbach Falls battle at Katoomba Falls
- Sherlockian Charades
- \textit{Study in Scarlet} Egg and Spoon race
- Ricolletti of the Club Foot Three Legged Race
- Tonga’s Darts Match
Sherlock Holmes in trouble again

Katoomba was the scene on Saturday of one of the most exciting duels in the history of the Mountains when Sherlock Holmes and his arch enemy Moriarty grappled in a life and death struggle at the top of the precipitous Katoomba Cascades.

With their hearts in their mouths, about 50 onlookers in Victorian costume watched as their hero and the evil blackguard shifted back and forth across the cliff top, every footstep taking them closer to a watery grave.

For what seemed like an age the two rivals grasped at each other in desperation lest either should lose his foothold on the surface, made treacherous by moss grown from a million years of spray from the cascading waterfalls.

The re-enactment of the final chapter of the Sherlock Holmes saga of 1890 leaves us no more the wiser as to the outcome of the calabash smoking detective of the prolific Conan Doyle imagination as he fought for his life. And perhaps we shall never know, though the eventual Return Of Sherlock Holmes supposes that by some miracle the famous character lived to fight another day.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Sydney was spending the weekend in the Mountains, staying at the Fairmont Resort, where they enjoyed a sumptuous feast on Saturday evening.

Sunday morning found the Victorian group playing croquet on the lawn with a recognisable Dr. Watson lurking in the shadows!

The party looked splendid in their old time dress and certainly brought a freshness to the Mountains.

Mr. Holmes and Moriarty fighting on the top of the falls.

— Picture by John Falloon, Katoomba.
Gloria Scott Plaque

• Unveiled April 1993 by Dick Hughes
• In courtyard behind Orient Hotel
Sacre bleu, not a clue

A lemon tree, my dear Watson. The wacky French, wac-ker-than-the-others-ness of the wacky French, have taken up Sherlock Holmes as this object of d' amour, clutching to their bosom this strange Victorian who, they say, convinced, was the philosophical love child of Descartes (all that deductive logic) and maintained a homosexual relationship with the good Dr Watson.

"Holmes is the quintessential Englishman," the head buff, Thierry St-Jean, told the European newspaper "Plebiscito, an excellent reporter and so economic that he shows up conducive when he can't be for the excitement of a mystery to solve. He keeps his tobacco in a pocket watch on the mantelshelf and has a typically English love of dressing up." This week the Societies Sherlock Holmes in France is to take its first public action by standing in front of the statue of Sherlock Holmes and demanding that his hero be awarded the Legion d'Honneur, as he has been in the United States by the Societies Sherlock Holmists, who are not so keen on dressing up but the detractors and making twists of themselves in public.

Like the French, they adhere to the premise that Holmes was a historic figure, and Conan Doyle was one of the literary agents of Holmes's faithful chronicler, Dr Watson.

Homing in on Sherlock

LAST week we were poking around in the attic of Sherlock Holmes fanatics who dress in Victorian garb and hang around spots where the great detective visited in his travels. We now learn that we have our own chapter of Holmophiles (where have we been all these years?) called the Sydney Pincers, that are not so keen on dressing up but the detractors and making twists of themselves in public.

They are not, apparently, as certain that the detective and chronicler were, even, having it off.

The passengers are no less active than their Galactic counterparts and can be seen this Saturday morning at the Orient Hotel in The Rocks. They plan to unveil a plaque commemorating the 100th anniversary of the publication of the April 1893 issue of Strand Magazine, which featured The Gloria Scott, the only Holmes adventure in which our colony is mentioned.

"Near this spot," the plaque reads, "the survivors of the convict vessel Gloria Scott first landed in Sydney. Among them was the man who first suggested to Mr Sherlock Holmes that detection should become his line of work, and whose experiences in Australia led to the very first case in which Holmes was ever involved."

Sleuth society unveils Sherlock's vital Aussie link

A group of local Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts, called Trevaory, arrived in Sydney and made a fortune on the Australian goldfields.

Upon his return to England, Treavin suggested to Sherlock Holmes that he should become a detective.

Phillip Cornell, organiser of the event, has a rare 1893 copy of the September edition of the Strand Magazine with the first version of the story.

He told Inside Sydney: "If that man [Treavin] had not arrived safe in Sydney, then Sherlock Holmes would never have become a detective."

The plaque reads: "Near this spot the survivors of the convict vessel Gloria Scott first landed in Sydney. Among them was the man who first suggested to Sherlock Holmes that detection should become his line of work."

Sydney Passengers (from left) Christopher Sequeira, Lynne Lancaster, Sally Cornell, Jennie Leigh, David Worland and Phillip Cornell.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Homes and Oz

Stay In Touch err in stating that The Gloria Scott is the only Sherlock Holmes adventure which mentions Australia. The Adventure of the Speckled Band, written in 1892, was penned by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, at the time the Australian colony had turned out some very fine finished types. I am reminded that the late Cyril Percy Smith, member of the Australian Sherlock Holmes Society, made the interesting suggestion that Sherlock Holmes visited Darwin some time between the so-called Final Problem of 1891 and The Empty House of 1894. The Empty House, which marks the return of Sherlock Holmes, centres on the shooting of the Honourable Robert Adair, a distant relative of the Australian paragon, that Robert, who was found dead in a locked room, after crossing paths with the ruthless Colonel Sebastian Moran, the right-hand man of the late Professor Moriarty, and the second most dangerous man in London. However, since Dick the only man I know whose father claimed to have witnessed the inquest (Phillip Cornell), he has the advantage of verifying his facts with a surviving relative. Dick is a keen family, journalist Robert Adair, is perhaps more likely that Dr Watson was in Darwin. The good doctor's handwriting was notoriously illegible (not uncommon in a medical man), a decided disadvantage in a chronicler, and he once, in The Signs of Four, had the means of escaping from July to September within the course of a single day, and absconds to the grotesque business at Warrigal Lodge to the year 1892, when Sherlock Holmes was missing, believed dead in Switzerland. Dick Hughes, Vaucluse.

Sherlockian trifles

I am reluctant to take issue with my friend Dick Hughes (Letters, April 10) on so trifling a matter (although as Sherlock Holmes himself said "there is nothing so important as trifles") after he so succinctly summarised Australia's links with the Sherlock Holmes saga, but I must point out that according to Dr Watson's account of The Adventure of the Speckled Band, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Ronald Adair, rather than Robert, was found dead in a locked room, after crossing paths with the ruthless Colonel Sebastian Moran, the right-hand man of the late Professor Moriarty, and the second most dangerous man in London.
1995

• First annual calendar
• First *Log*, in newsletter form
• Second follows in same format
• ‘The Sydney Pageant’ national Sherlock Holmes meeting, held April 1995
SYDNEY, Last night- From our Special Correspondent. The meeting of the Sherlock Holmes Appreciation Society was the scene of incredible violence tonight as the speaker, a certain Professor MORIARTY, was hounded from the stage. Several women were placed in the care of waiting ambulance-men as several gentlemen in the crowd responded to the exasperated chairman's pleas for help in ejecting the erstwhile speaker. It is believed several men injured their fists in the ejection of the malefactor. Order was finally restored at 11 pm. The Town Hall authorities are advised of the fracas. Further details in tomorrow's issue.
The SYDNEY PAGEANT
The National Sherlock Holmes Meeting
EASTER '95
Passengers’ Follies

- Performances by talented Passengers including the Fabulous Moriarty Brothers
Late 1990s Meetings

• Visit to Rookwood Necropolis
• Moriarty’s Unhappy Birthday Party
• Tour of Fort Denison
• Visit to Justice & Police Museum
• Evening Tour of Queen Victoria Building
• Premiere of *The Merry Wives of Watson*
The Sydney Passengers

presents

‘The Merry Wives of Watson’

World Premier:
Sunday 19th April 1998

‘The Gables’ Restaurant, Sydney Australia
Captain, My Captain

- 8th December 1996, Lachlan’s Restaurant Old Government House
- Captain Lionel Fredman resigns his post to take up duties at the Admiralty
- Bill Barnes is promoted to Captain
Honorary Passengers

• First Able Seaman is actor Edward Hardwicke (1997)
• Michael Cox, Producer of Granada series (1999)
• Ian Richardson, actor (2002)
Normandie
France
22nd August.

Dear Mr. McNamara,

Firstly, I would like to apologise for this belated response to your very kind letter. My Wife and I are based in France, and as we are both actors, we travel around a lot, and the mail follows us! Consequently, it sometimes takes a while to catch up, but I can always be reached through my Agent.

I was thrilled and amazed by all that you sent. Amazed that you know my birthday – I try to forget these things – and thrilled by Phil Cornell’s cartoon, and all those messages.

I would be delighted to be made an Honorary Member of The Sydney Passengers. Please thank everyone for the kind messages, and, in particular, Mr. Cornell for his wonderful cartoon.

I’m afraid that the enclosed photograph is the only one I have at the moment.

Thank you again for your kindness.

Best wishes

[Signature]
Dear Mr. Barnes,

Thank you very much for your nice letter and for sending me the “Sydney Passengers” magazine, which I thought excellent.

I would be delighted to give you an interview while I am in Sydney -- one of my favourite places, by the way -- and as we have a full two weeks there (27th May - 10th June) there should be plenty of time. I would also be very happy to be counted as an Able Seaman. I have currently run out of photographs but I will bring some with me and will give you one “on the day”. I imagine you will be able to make contact at the Theatre Royal.

With my best wishes,

yours sincerely,

Ian Richardson
Passengers’ Log

• First Log in current form published October 1997
Montpellier Award

• First Carole Dukes Montpellier Award, 10th January 1999, awarded to Phil Cornell

• Named for the late Carole Dukes, a Passenger always keen to foster research into the canon

• The award has been given every year since to 12 individual recipients (some multiple winners)

• Rosane has won four times, Arthur & Phil three times each, Rob & Erin twice each
Sherlock Holmes and his colleague Dr Watson are alive and well and living somewhere in England, according to Bill Barnes, the president of the Sydney Sherlock Holmes society, the Sydney Passengers. Holmes whiteaway his hours tending bees in the country while his biographer and closest friend, John H. Watson, is spending a quiet but nevertheless fulfilling retirement with (possibly) his fifth wife.

"Obviously, they were such prominent individuals that there is no way that there would not have been obituaries published in The Times on their deaths," Bill said.

"No obituaries have ever appeared so we can only assume that they are still alive."

As the world's first and most prominent consulting detective and the most famous literary character on the planet, it is not surprising that the brilliant Victorian detective has inspired the formation of more than 300 societies around the world, dedicated to reliving his adventures.

The largest and most active Australian version, The Sydney Passengers, was formed in 1985 by a professor at Newcastle University with only three members. It has since grown to include a membership of more than 100, Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth and Toowoomba also boast their own Shelockian groups.

"All the societies around the world take their names from something mentioned in the Canon, the group of 56 short stories and four long stories by Arthur Conan Doyle," Bill said.

"The sole reference in Dr Watson's writings to Sydney occurs in The Adventure of the Gloria Scott, where the survivors of a mutiny aboard that ship are rescued at sea by a passenger ship, bound for Sydney."

Society members meet about seven times a year, many of them donning deer stalkers and capes, along with other appropriate 1890s garb to capture the essence of the period in which their hero roamed, solving some of the most puzzling mysteries in the annals of crime.

Along with quizzes and competitions, the presentation of some quite scholarly papers on aspects of the famous detective's life and work and the play acting of various Holmes mysteries, much energy is devoted to explaining the inconsistencies that appear in the Canon.

"Conan Doyle was quite inconsistent and we spend a lot of time discussing these inconsistencies and trying to develop theories to explain them," Bill said.

"For example, Watson has a war wound, but sometimes it is in his leg and sometimes it is in his shoulder."

The appeal of Holmes is easily explained, Bill believes, by the fact that all the stories are wonderful reads that keep you engrossed from the first page to the last.

"The Victorian period itself is also a fascinating one - it was a time of great innovations, a time when Jack The Ripper was operating, but for anyone who wasn't wealthy, it was also an extremely difficult time to live," Bill said.

"Holmes was dedicated to helping the underdog - he took on many cases just because the mystery was challenging, not because the client could afford to pay."

As president of the Passengers, Bill feels it is his duty to set the record straight on various misconceptions about his hero.

"In recent years, there has been some suggestion of a homosexual aspect to Holmes and Watson's relationship, but there is absolutely no proof of that in any of the stories," Bill said.

"Their relationship was a very Victorian one - two men sharing quarters and a close, but totally platonic friendship."

As to the phrase most associated with the famous detective, "elementary my dear Watson," Bill almost shudders at its mention.

"He never said that. He certainly used the term elementary and did refer to Watson as "my dear friend" but he never used that famous phrase - it is in fact a line from an early Holmes play."

And the calabash pipe?

"Holmes smoked a briar, a clay or cherrywood pipe. The calabash was first used by the American actor, William Gillette in his famous stage play in the early 1900s because it didn't hide his mouth on stage."

Unlike many literary societies which have a predominantly female membership, the Dylan Thomas Society stands alone as a bastion of masculinity and a beacon to male devotees of the brilliant Welsh bard.

Society president Dr Will Christie has his own intriguing theory about why this might be the case:

"I think a lot of men like the sound of their own voices and they especially like the way their voices sound in their heads when they read Thomas's poetry aloud," he said.

"It is perfect for the male baritone voice - my own included."

Dr Christie, an English lecturer at Sydney University, stumbled upon Dylan Thomas quite by accident as a teenager.

On an excursion to the Mitchell Library, he gravitated to a volume of collected Thomas poems, and from the second his eyes skimmed the first one, was completely addicted.

"I was utterly mesmerised by his writing - I just kept thinking, what is this stuff, it is amazing! Dr Christie said.

Thomas, it seems, has that effect on many people, as anyone who has ever been exposed to a reading of his works will attest.

Who, having heard them,
Sherlock Holympics

- Held August 2000
- Deerstalker Discus
- Speckled Band Snake Whacking
- Lounging and Idling
- The Great Agra Treasure Hunt
- Dr Watson’s Remedy Relay
The SHERLOCK HOLYMPICS

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

The SHERLOCK HOLYMPICS
SILVER
(BLAZE)

The SHERLOCK HOLYMPICS

Silver
(BLAZE)
Hound’s Hundredth

• A hundred years since publication of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*
First Class Passengers

- First awarded January 2003
- First Life Members: Admiral Lionel Fredman and Alan Olding (Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia)
- Current First Class Passengers: Bill Barnes, Jan Chris, Phil Cornell, Bert Gray, Jon Holliday, Rosane McNamara
Vale SHSA

- Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia was dissolved December 2002
- Sydney Passengers offer to incorporate SHSA name with their own so it could continue, and membership to SHSA members
- Documents were inherited dating back to 1978
- Alan Olding becomes First Class Passenger
CHRISTMAS 2002, SILVER JUBILEE, AND FINAL EDITION

As your President and Editor, it is with considerable regret that I have
to tell you of my decision to follow the example of the Redheaded
League of old, and declare the Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia
thereby dissolved.

As members will know, I have carried the Society single-handedly
for the past 25 years, and I am sorry to say that advancing age
and encroaching ill-health have forced this decision upon me.

I am eternally grateful to the many faithful members for their
support, but unfortunately, in these frantically busy times, it does
not seem that we have anyone with sufficient leisure time to spare
to take over the running of the Society.

I must also record my gratitude to my dear wife, Olive, who, although
not a Sherlockian, has given me unflagging support over the past quarter-
century.

Olive and I value the many friendships which we have made, and we
hope to be able to keep in touch with our Sherlockian friends well into
the future.

Thank you all again for your support over the years.

Yours very truly,

Alan Olding

Compliments of the Season
2000s

- Sherlock Holmes on Trial
- Taronga Zoo visit
- Dramatic reading of Roger Johnson’s *The Great Detective*
- Sherlock Holmes Sesquicentenary
- Maritime Museum visit
- Croquet match at Strathfield croquet club
- 100 years of ‘The Priory School’
The Great Detective

The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes

a play by

Able Seaman Roger Johnson

Presented by

The Sydney Passengers
An Excellent Voyage

• Passengers 20th Anniversary
  (14th-15th May 2005)
Ten Years of the *Log*

- Ten years of the *Passengers’ Log* celebrated October 2007
Social Media

- **Passengers Facebook group established December 2007**
- **Members can post news and events from the Sherlockian and Passengers’ world**
• Death of founding member & first Captain, Lionel Fredman, 29th April 2008

“STAND WITH ME HERE UPON THE TERRACE…”

As some Passengers might already have learned by email, Professor Lionel Fredman, the Passengers’ founder, original ‘Captain’ and Honorary ‘Admiral’ sadly passed away on April 29th.

Lionel and his late wife Jacquie regularly made the trip down from Newcastle for Passengers meetings in our early days.

Lionel’s health had been failing for some time, though he retained a keen interest in the Passengers’ activities.

His going was peaceful and he was privately cremated.

The Captain has sent a card of condolence on behalf of the Passengers to Lionel’s daughter Antonia and spoken to her about the deep sense of loss felt among the Passengers who knew Lionel. Antonia mentioned that Lionel owned a Sherlock Holmes Toby Jug which he particularly treasured. She has kindly donated it to the Society and it will be used in some way to commemorate Lionel’s unique contribution to the Sydney Passengers.

Sadly we must also report the death over Easter of Passenger Peter Ryan.

Peter, a Librarian with the City of Sydney Library, had been a Passenger since the early nineties. He was also active in the Genebian Theatre, and many Passengers will remember that when the Genebian presented the Sherlock Holmes play “The Crucifer of Blood” (based on The Sign of Four) some years ago, Peter splendidly portrayed Doctor Watson.
BSI

• Bill Barnes appointed BSI, January 2009

• Rosane McNamara appointed BSI, January 2013

• Other Passenger BSIs (inc. overseas Passengers): Peter Calamai, Joe Eckrich, Doug Elliott, Sonia Fetherston, David Greeney, Yuichi Hirayama, Don Hobbs, Roger Johnson, Leslie Klinger, Guy Marriott, Chris Redmond, Enrico Solito, Doug Wrigglesworth
Late 2000s

- Passengers’ first Film Festival, August 2008
- Visit by author David Stuart Davies
- Arthur Conan Doyle sesquicentenary
- Passengers’ 25th Anniversary May 2010
Passengers’ Archives

- Listing currently being undertaken
- Detailed cataloguing to follow
- Acquisition of archival quality storage boxes/polyester sleeves
- Selected digitisation to easily make content available on request
- Donations welcome, particularly any old meeting notices