

**MINISTRY OF HIGHER AND SECONDARY SPECIALIZED
EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

**NUKUS STATE PEDAGOGICAL INSTITUTE NAMED AFTER AJINIYAZ
FACULTY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

Course work

***On the theme:* « THE WORKING CREATION OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE »**

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INTRODUCTION

The actuality of the work is that there appeared opportunity to study several foreign languages with the help of independence. As the president Islam Karimov said: “At present great importance is attached to the study and teaching of foreign languages. No doubt, it happens not without purpose. Today the importance of our people’s perfect knowledge of foreign languages can scarcely be exaggerated as our country aspires to win a decent place in the world community, because our people see their great future as a life in mutual accord and cooperation with their foreign partners.¹ So, we have opportunity to know each language and the literature of that language which we need and go abroad. If you know some foreign language you can translate its masterpieces into your language.

The subject matter of the research is to analyze the role war theme in the American literature.

The object of the work is the books about detective genre and the novels of Arthur Conan Doyle .

The novelty – of the course work is defined by the problems of the detective genre in the world and English literature.

The tasks of this work are follows:

- to light on situation of the English literature ;
- to learn the representatives of the XIX century ;
- to show information about Arthur Conan Doyle
- to analyze some stories of this writer

In this work there were used the following **methods of linguistic analysis**: word’s definitions analysis, contextual-situation and text analysis for revealing its significant place in the enlighteners’ works.

¹ I. Karimov. “Harmoniously developed generation is the basis of progress of Uzbekistan”. Tashkent 1997 p9

The theoretical – value of the work is that a lot of theoretical information about War theme is given which can be used while doing researches in the field of English literature.

The practical value – of the research of the course work and the material can be used for the theoretical courses of The history of English literature and during practical lessons.

The source of literature includes:

- scientific literary books;
- the collection of books of Arthur Conan Doyle
- the literary books of English, Russian and some Uzbek authors;
- different types of dictionaries.

The structure – of this course work consists of Introduction, one chapter, conclusion and literature list used in the course of research.

Introduction – is about the aim of the research, methods used in the course of it, explanation its actuality, novelty, practical and scientific value.

Chapter I consists **of two paragraphs. We've given general information about the development of the English literature in the XX century.**

The artistic peculiarities of the creation of the writer is given in the first paragraph of this chapter.

The working creation of Arthur Conan Doyle **were given in** the second paragraph.

The first paragraph of this chapter is about artistic peculiarities of the creation of Arthur Conan Doyle

Conclusion presents the results of the course of the course work.

Bibliography- gives a wide view of literature used in the course of investigation.

Chapter I The artistic peculiarities of the creation of the writer

1.1. Life of Arthur Conan Doyle

Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle, ([22 May 1859](#) – [7 July 1930](#)) was a [Scottish author](#) most noted for his stories about the [detective Sherlock Holmes](#), which are generally considered a major innovation in the field of [crime fiction](#), and for the adventures of [Professor Challenger](#). He was a prolific writer whose other works include [science fiction](#) stories, [historical novels](#), plays and romances, poetry, and non-fiction.

Life

Arthur Conan Doyle was born on 22 May 1859 [Edinburgh, Scotland](#), to an English father, [Charles Altamont Doyle](#), and an Irish mother, Mary Foley, who had married in 1855. Although he is now referred to as "Conan Doyle", the origin of this compound [surname](#) is uncertain. Conan Doyle's father was an artist, as were his paternal uncles (one of whom was [Richard Doyle](#)), and his paternal grandfather [John Doyle](#).

Conan Doyle was sent to the [Roman Catholic Jesuit](#) preparatory school [Hodder Place, Stonyhurst](#), at the age of eight. He then went on to [Stonyhurst College](#), but by the time he left the school in 1875, he had rejected [Christianity](#) to become an [agnostic](#). His first book was written at the age of six and illustrated by the author. After that there was apparently less written material, but throughout his school years he was known among his fellows as a great story teller.

He would invent a character at the beginning of a term, and keep up a marvelous list of adventures which would hold his character on the stage until vacation arrived. His first published story was during his years as a medical student, and the three guineas he received for it gave him the necessary conviction that he could write things which people would pay for.

With such a promising background as a narrator, his youth passed with little more direct development in that direction. It was not until he was a practicing physician at South sea that he turned seriously and industriously to writing in the unwelcome leisure of a young physician at the outset of his practice. But the half dozen preceding years had produced much experience which was to prove valuable to him as an author.

In the first place, they had brought him into close contact with the man who became the prototype of Sherlock Holmes. This was Dr. Joseph Bell, a distinguished Scotch surgeon and Sir Arthur's professor in the Edinburgh University medical school. Dr. Bell had remarkable powers of observation and deduction, through which he was able to diagnose almost on sight. It was these same abilities, turned to crime, that later produced Sherlock Holmes.

Sir Arthur's family did not have abundant funds, and the young medical student worked as an assistant during his Summers to help defray the cost of his professional medical education. Work in the slums of large cities brought diversified contacts which all proved fodder for the author's imagination later. A trip as surgeon on a whaling ship during one Summer and a trip to Africa as a ship's surgeon after he had taken his medical degree, contributed further broadening.

From 1876 to 1881 he studied [medicine](#) at the [University of Edinburgh](#), including a period working in the town of [Aston](#) (now a district of [Birmingham](#)). While studying, he also began writing short stories; his first published story appeared in [Chambers' Edinburgh Journal](#) before he was 20. Following his term at university, he served as a ship's doctor on a voyage to the [West African](#) coast. He completed his [doctorate](#) on the subject of [tabes dorsalis](#) in 1885.

In 1882, he joined former classmate George Budd as his partner at a medical practice in [Plymouth](#), but their relationship proved difficult, and Conan Doyle soon left to set up an independent practice. Arriving in [Portsmouth](#) in June of that year

with less than £10 to his name, he set up a medical practice at 1 Bush Villas in Elm Grove, [South sea](#).

The practice was initially not very successful; while waiting for patients, he again began writing stories. His first significant work was [A Study in Scarlet](#), which appeared in Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 and featured the first appearance of Sherlock Holmes, who was partially modelled after his former university professor, [Joseph Bell](#). Future short stories featuring Sherlock Holmes were published in the English [Strand Magazine](#). Interestingly, [Rudyard Kipling](#) congratulated Conan Doyle on his success, asking "Could this be my old friend, Dr. Joe?"² Sherlock Holmes, however, was even more closely modeled after the famous [Edgar Allan Poe](#) character, [C. August Dupin](#).

While living in [South sea](#) he played [football](#) for an amateur side (that disbanded in 1894), Portsmouth Association Football Club, as a goal keeper. (This club had no connection with the [Portsmouth F.C.](#) of today, who were founded in 1898.) Conan Doyle was also a keen [cricketer](#), and between 1900 and 1907 he played 10 [first-class](#) matches for the [MCC](#). His highest score was 43 against [London County](#) in 1902. He was an occasional bowler who took just one first-class wicket.

In 1885, he married Louisa (or Louise) Hawkins, known as "Touie", who suffered from [tuberculosis](#) and died on [4 July 1906](#).^[8] He married Jean Leckie in 1907, whom he had first met and fallen in love with in 1897 but had maintained a [platonic relationship](#) with her out of loyalty to his first wife. Conan Doyle had five children, two with his first wife (Mary Louise (born 1889) and Alleyne Kingsley (1892 – 1918)) and three with his second wife ([Jean Lena Annette](#), Denis Percy Stewart ([17 March 1909](#) – [9 March 1955](#)), second husband in 1936 of [Georgian](#)

² Doyle, Arthur Conan. "Fairies Phtographed. An Epoch-Making Event." The Strand Magazine, Dec. 1920.

Princess Nina Mdivani (circa 1910 – [19 February 1987](#)) (former sister-in-law of [Barbara Hutton](#)), and [Adrian Malcolm](#)).

In 1890, Conan Doyle studied the [eye](#) in [Vienna](#); he moved to [London](#) in 1891 to set up a practice as an [ophthalmologist](#). He wrote in his [autobiography](#) that not a single patient crossed his door. This gave him more time for writing, and in November 1891 he wrote to his mother: "I think of slaying Holmes... and winding him up for good and all. He takes my mind from better things." His mother responded, saying, "You may do what you deem fit, but the crowds will not take this lightheartedly."³ In December 1893, he did so in order to dedicate more of his time to more "important" works (his [historical novels](#)).

Holmes and [Moriarty](#) apparently plunged to their deaths together down a waterfall in the story, "[The Final Problem](#)". Public outcry led him to bring the character back; Conan Doyle returned to the story in "The Adventure of the Empty House", with the explanation that only Moriarty had fallen but, since Holmes had other dangerous enemies, he had arranged to be temporarily "dead" also. Holmes ultimately appears in a total of 56 [short stories](#) and four Conan Doyle [novels](#) (he has since appeared in many novels and stories by other authors).

Following the [Boer War](#) in [South Africa](#) at the turn of the 20th century and the condemnation from around the world over the United Kingdom's conduct, Conan Doyle wrote a short pamphlet titled, *The War in South Africa: Its Cause and Conduct*, which justified the UK's role in the Boer war, and was widely translated. Conan Doyle believed that it was this pamphlet that resulted in 1902 in his being [knighted](#) and appointed Deputy-Lieutenant of [Surrey](#). He also in 1900 wrote the longer book, [The Great Boer War](#). During the early years of the 20th century, Sir Arthur twice ran for Parliament as a [Liberal Unionist](#), once in Edinburgh and once

³ Doyle, Arthur Conan. *The Coming of the Fairies*. 1921. Hodder and Stoughton Ltd., 1928. Reprint paperback from Samuel Weiser, Inc., 734 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10003.

in the [Hawick Burghs](#), but although he received a respectable vote he was not elected.

Conan Doyle was involved in the campaign for the reform of the [Congo Free State](#), led by the journalist [E. D. Morel](#) and the diplomat [Roger Casement](#). He wrote [The Crime of the Congo](#) in 1909, a long pamphlet in which he denounced the horrors in that country. He became acquainted with Morel and Casement, taking inspiration from them for two of the main characters in the novel, [The Lost World](#) (1912).

He broke with both when Morel became one of the leaders of the [pacifist](#) movement during the [First World War](#), and when Casement committed [treason](#) against the UK during the [Easter Rising](#) out of conviction for his [Irish nationalist](#) views. Conan Doyle tried, unsuccessfully, to save Casement from the [death penalty](#), arguing that he had been driven mad and was not responsible for his actions.

Conan Doyle was also a fervent advocate of justice, and personally investigated two closed cases, which led to two imprisoned men being released. The first case, in 1906, involved a shy half-British, half-Indian lawyer named [George Edalji](#), who had allegedly penned threatening letters and mutilated animals. Police were set on Edalji's conviction, even though the mutilations continued after their suspect was jailed.

It was partially as a result of this case that the [Court of Criminal Appeal](#) was established in 1907, so not only did Conan Doyle help George Edalji, his work helped establish a way to correct other [miscarriages of justice](#). The story of Conan Doyle and Edalji is told in fictional form in [Julian Barnes'](#) 2005 [novel](#), [Arthur & George](#).

The second case, that of [Oscar Slater](#), a [German Jew](#) and gambling-den operator convicted of bludgeoning an 82-year-old woman in [Glasgow](#) in 1908, excited Conan Doyle's curiosity because of inconsistencies in the prosecution case and a general sense that Slater was framed.

After the death of his wife Louisa in 1906, and the deaths of his son Kingsley, his brother Innes, his two brothers-in-law, and his two nephews shortly after [World War I](#), Conan Doyle sank into depression. He found solace supporting [Spiritualism](#) and its alleged scientific proof of existence beyond the grave.

According to the [History Channel](#) program Houdini: Unlocking the Mystery (which briefly explored the friendship between the two), Conan Doyle became involved with Spiritualism after the deaths of his son and his brother. [Kingsley Doyle](#) died from pneumonia on [28 October 1918](#), which he contracted during his convalescence after being seriously wounded during the 1916 [Battle of the Somme](#). Brigadier-General Innes Doyle died in February 1919, also from pneumonia. Sir Arthur became involved with Spiritualism to the extent that he wrote a [Professor Challenger](#) novel on the subject, *The Land of Mist*.

His book, *The Coming of the Fairies* (1921) shows he was apparently convinced of the veracity of the [Cottingley Fairies](#) photographs, which he reproduced in the book, together with theories about the nature and existence of fairies and spirits.

In his *The History of Spiritualism* (1926) Conan Doyle praised the [psychic](#) phenomena and spirit materialisations produced by [Eusapia Palladino](#) and [Mina "Margery" Crandon](#).

His work on this topic was one of the reasons that one of his short story collections, [The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes](#), was banned in the [Soviet Union](#) in 1929 for supposed [occultism](#). This ban was later lifted. Russian actor [Vasily Livanov](#) later received an [Order of the British Empire](#) for his portrayal of [Sherlock Holmes](#).

Conan Doyle was friends for a time with the American magician [Harry Houdini](#), who himself became a prominent opponent of the Spiritualist movement in the 1920s following the death of his beloved mother.

Although Houdini insisted that Spiritualist mediums employed trickery (and consistently attempted to expose them as frauds), Conan Doyle became convinced

that Houdini himself possessed supernatural powers, a view expressed in Conan Doyle's *The Edge of the Unknown*. Houdini was apparently unable to convince Conan Doyle that his feats were simply magic tricks, leading to a bitter public falling out between the two.

Richard Milner, an [American](#) historian of science, has presented a case that Conan Doyle may have been the perpetrator of the [Piltdown Man](#) hoax of 1912, creating the counterfeit [hominid fossil](#) that fooled the scientific world for over 40 years. Milner says that Conan Doyle had a motive, namely revenge on the scientific establishment for debunking one of his favourite psychics, and that [The Lost World](#) contains several encrypted clues regarding his involvement in the hoax.

[Samuel Rosenberg's](#) 1974 book [Naked is the Best Disguise](#) purports to explain how Conan Doyle left, throughout his writings, open clues that related to hidden and suppressed aspects of his mentality. Conan Doyle was found clutching his chest in the family garden on [7 July 1930](#). He soon died of his [heart attack](#), aged 71, and is buried in the Church Yard at [Minstead](#) in the [New Forest, Hampshire, England](#). His last words were directed toward his wife: "You are wonderful." The epitaph on his gravestone reads.

Undershaw, the home Conan Doyle had built near [Hind head](#), south of London, and lived in for at least a decade, was a hotel and restaurant from 1924 until 2004. It was then bought by a developer, and has been empty since then while conservationists and Conan Doyle fans fight to preserve it was one of the most wonderful things I have ever known. She nursed him right through his illness to the end. fame and the name of the detective became a by-word throughout the

Began Writing in Spare Time

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The beneficiaries were Adolph Beck, a Swede by birth, whose conviction for swindling resulted from mistaken identity, and George Edalji, a young lawyer whose father was an East Indian, whose conviction for maiming animals was apparently brought about through manufactured evidence inspired by the local unpopularity of the victim.

Sir Arthur was first married to Louise Hawkins of Minster worth in 1885.

She died in 1906, leaving a son and a daughter. He was married again to Miss Jean Leckie of Black heath in 1907 and the couple had three children. His son by his first wife was killed in the World War, and it was this tragedy which was

largely responsible for Sir Arthur's almost exclusive interest in spiritism during his later years.

Holmes was a convinced believer in spiritualism. He was one who of those who would not accept Margaret's confession. He responded: Nothing that she could say in that regard would in the least change my opinion, nor would it that of any one else who had become profoundly convinced that there is an occult influence connecting us with an invisible world.

The magician Harry Houdini, a showman continually alert to opportunities for self-promotion, publicly exposed mediumistic trickery in his stage shows and wrote pamphlets opposing fraudulent mediums. Yet some spiritualists claimed that Houdini had genuine spiritualistic powers, refusing to accept Houdini's own statements that only deception was involved in his stage illusions.

1.2. The working creation of Arthur Conan Doyle

Arthur Conan Doyle devoted a whole chapter of his book *The Edge of the Unknown* to a detailed argument that Houdini had genuine psychic power, but wouldn't admit it. Curiously, Doyle and Houdini remained friends, in spite of public clashes over spiritualism. Perhaps they shared an appreciation of the value of public self-promotion.

Doyle was a credulous dupe for various kinds of nonsense. He not only believed in spiritualism and all of the phenomena of the seance room, but he also believed in fairies.

In 1917, two teenage girls in Yorkshire produced photographs they had taken of fairies in their garden. Elsie Wright (age 16) and her cousin Frances Griffiths (age 10) used a simple camera and were said to be lacking any knowledge of photography or photographic trickery. The girls said they could not photograph the fairies when anyone else was watching. No one else could photograph the fairies. There was only one independent witness, Geoffrey L. Hodson, a Theosophist writer, who claimed to see the fairies, and confirmed the girls' observations "in all details".

Arthur Conan Doyle not only accepted these photos as genuine, he even wrote two pamphlets and a book attesting the genuineness of these photos, and including much additional fairy lore. His book, *The Coming of the Fairies*, is still in print, and some people still believe the photos are authentic.

Doyle's books make very interesting reading even today. Doyle's belief in spiritualism, convinced many people that the creator of Sherlock Holmes was not as bright as his fictional creation. Some thought Conan Doyle crazy, but he defended the reality of fairies with all the evidence he could find. He counters the arguments of the disbelievers eloquently and at great length. In fact, his arguments sound surprisingly similar in every respect to present-day books touting the idea

that alien beings visit us in UFOs. Robert Schaeffer wrote a clever article drawing these parallels beautifully.

Over the years the mystery persisted. Only a few die-hards believed the photos were of real fairies, but the mystery of the details of how (and why) they were made continued to fascinate serious students of hoaxes, frauds and deceptions. When the girls (as adults) were interviewed, their responses were evasive. In a BBC broadcast interview in 1975 Elsie said: "I've told you that they're photographs of figments of our imagination and that's what I'm sticking to."⁴

In 1977 Fred Gettings stumbled on important evidence while working on a study of early nineteenth-century book illustrations. He found drawings by Claude A. Shepperson in a 1915 children's book which the girls could easily have possessed, and which were, without a doubt, the models for the fairies which appeared in the photos.

A curious fact is that in this book, a compilation of short stories and poems for children by various authors, there's a story, "Bimbashi Joyce" by Arthur Conan Doyle! Surely he received a copy from the publisher. If Doyle had noticed this picture, and if he had the sort of perceptiveness he attributed to Sherlock Holmes, he might have concluded that the Cottingley photographs were fakes.

But, maybe not. Believers are good at seeing what they believe, and not seeing things that challenge their beliefs. Or perhaps the close match of drawing and photos is a supernatural psychic coincidence. Elsie and Frances and Mr. Hodson were still living in 1977, and continued to stick to their story, affirming the genuineness of the fairies and the photos. Then, in 1982 the girls admitted, in interviews with Joe Cooper, that they had faked the first four of the photos.

⁴ Gardner, Edward L. Fairies, The Cottingley Photographs and their Sequel. The Theosophical Publishing House Ltd. 1945. Still in print in 1974.

As many had suspected all along, the girls had used paper cutouts of fairy drawings. No great photographic skills were required, though the photos do show good artistic composition. Elsie had artistic skill, and had even worked for a few months in a photographer's shop retouching photographs.

But the girls probably did no retouching on these photos. The simplest of means, just cut-out drawings of fairies stuck on the shrubbery, was all that was required to dupe gullible and predisposed minds like those of Arthur Conan Doyle, Geoffrey Hodson, and Edward Gardner.

Many of the copies of these photos which have been circulated have been suspected of having been "improved" by retouching. This certainly may be true of the photos being prepared for publication in books, the desire being for the clearest possible result on the printed page.

However, those who say the pictures are "too good" to have been taken by teenage amateur photographers, are showing an unwarranted prejudice, not consistent with the facts revealed by analysis of the original photos. Some have claimed to see a slight "blurring" of the fairy images, when, in fact, the fairies are more sharply defined than the girl's images

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any one else who had become profoundly convinced that there is an occult influence connecting us with an invisible world.

The magician Harry Houdini, a showman continually alert to opportunities for self-promotion, publicly exposed mediumistic trickery in his stage shows and wrote pamphlets opposing fraudulent mediums. Yet some spiritualists claimed that Houdini had genuine spiritualistic powers, refusing to accept Houdini's own statements that only deception was involved in his stage illusions.

Arthur Conan Doyle devoted a whole chapter of his book *The Edge of the Unknown* to a detailed argument that Houdini had genuine psychic power, but wouldn't admit it. Curiously, Doyle and Houdini remained friends, in spite of public clashes over spiritualism. Perhaps they shared an appreciation of the value of public self-promotion.

Doyle was a credulous dupe for various kinds of nonsense. He not only believed in spiritualism and all of the phenomena of the seance room, but he also believed in fairies.

In 1917, two teenage girls in Yorkshire produced photographs they had taken of fairies in their garden. Elsie Wright (age 16) and her cousin Frances Griffiths (age 10) used a simple camera and were said to be lacking any knowledge of photography or photographic trickery.

The girls said they could not photograph the fairies when anyone else was watching. No one else could photograph the fairies. There was only one independent witness, Geoffrey L. Hodson, a Theosophist writer, who claimed to see the fairies, and confirmed the girls' observations "in all details".

Arthur Conan Doyle not only accepted these photos as genuine, he even wrote two pamphlets and a book attesting the genuineness of these photos, and including much additional fairy lore. His book, *The Coming of the Fairies*, is still in print, and some people still believe the photos are authentic. Doyle's books make very interesting reading even today. Doyle's belief in spiritualism, convinced many

people that the creator of Sherlock Holmes was not as bright as his fictional creation.

Some thought Conan Doyle crazy, but he defended the reality of fairies with all the evidence he could find. He counters the arguments of the disbelievers eloquently and at great length. In fact, his arguments sound surprisingly similar in every respect to present-day books touting the idea that alien beings visit us in UFOs. Robert Sheaffer wrote a clever article drawing these parallels beautifully.

Over the years the mystery persisted. Only a few die-hards believed the photos were of real fairies, but the mystery of the details of how (and why) they were made continued to fascinate serious students of hoaxes, frauds and deceptions. When the girls (as adults) were interviewed, their responses were evasive. In a BBC broadcast interview in 1975 Elsie said: "I've told you that they're photographs of figments of our imagination and that's what I'm sticking to."⁵

In 1977 Fred Gettings stumbled on important evidence while working on a study of early nineteenth-century book illustrations. He found drawings by Claude A. Shepperson in a 1915 children's book which the girls could easily have possessed, and which were, without a doubt, the models for the fairies which appeared in the photos. A curious fact is that in this book, a compilation of short stories and poems for children by various authors, there's a story, "Bimbashi Joyce" by Arthur Conan Doyle! Surely he received a copy from the publisher. If Doyle had noticed this picture, and if he had the sort of perceptiveness he attributed to Sherlock Holmes, he might have concluded that the Cottingley photographs were fakes. But, maybe not. Believers are good at seeing what they believe, and not seeing things that challenge their beliefs. Or perhaps the close match of drawing and photos is a supernatural psychic coincidence.

⁵ Gardner, Edward L. Fairies, The Cottingley Photographs and their Sequel. The Theosophical Publishing House Ltd. 1945. Still in print in 1974.

Elsie and Frances and Mr. Hodson were still living in 1977, and continued to stick to their story, affirming the genuineness of the fairies and the photos. Then, in 1982 the girls admitted, in interviews with Joe Cooper, that they had faked the first four of the photos.

As many had suspected all along, the girls had used paper cutouts of fairy drawings. No great photographic skills were required, though the photos do show good artistic composition. Elsie had artistic skill, and had even worked for a few months in a photographer's shop retouching photographs. But the girls probably did no retouching on these photos. The simplest of means, just cut-out drawings of fairies stuck on the shrubbery, was all that was required to dupe gullible and predisposed minds like those of Arthur Conan Doyle, Geoffrey Hodson, and Edward Gardner. Many of the copies of these photos which have been circulated have been suspected of having been "improved" by retouching. This certainly may be true of the photos being prepared for publication in books, the desire being for the clearest possible result on the printed page. However, those who say the pictures are "too good" to have been taken by teenage amateur photographers, are showing an unwarranted prejudice, not consistent with the facts revealed by analysis of the original photos. Some have claimed to see a slight "blurring" of the fairy images, when, in fact, the fairies are more sharply defined than the girl's images

Conclusion

Shortly following their marriage, the Conan Doyles moved to Crow borough in Sussex, and it was at Windlesham that they were to live for their remaining years. However, Conan Doyle's name was to be in the forefront of the public's mind for some time to come. In 1910 he became involved in a second case of injustice—this time that of Oscar Slater, a German Jew, wrongfully accused of murder. The case was long and protracted, with Slater serving an eighteen-year term of imprisonment until finally, in 1927, he was released and awarded J6,000 compensation. Conan Doyle described Slater as 'not a very desirable member of society', but he nevertheless pursued the case as vigorously as that of Edalji. At the very end, there was disagreement between Conan Doyle and Slater over the money which ACD had expended in Slater's causes—a disagreement which was never settled.

Conan Doyle was to introduce another famous character into the world of literature with the appearance of Professor Challenger in *The Lost World*, a tale of pre-history alive and surviving on a remote South-American plateau. Challenger was to have further adventures, including *The Poison Belt* which appeared in the following year.

The impending war in Germany was much in Conan Doyle's mind at this time, and it was during this period that he began to advocate the need for a channel tunnel—a dream that took some three-quarters of a century to realize.

With the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, Conan Doyle was instrumental in forming the local volunteer force which was shortly to be re-formed as an official body. ACD served as a private in the Crowborough Company of the Sixth Royal Sussex Volunteer Regiment. In 1915 he began writing his six-volume history of *The British Campaign in France and Flanders*, which was completed in 1920. Once more, in the role of a war journalist, Conan Doyle visited the battle

fronts of the British, French and Italians, where he was to meet and talk with Haig and other generals.

By 1916, Conan Doyle's explorations into psychic matters had convinced him that he should devote the final years of his life to the advancement of Spiritualism. He began to write extensively on the subject, and to travel the world with his family promoting his beliefs. From those who had lost loved ones during the First World War he found a ready acceptance for his arguments, but his beliefs were to bring him into conflict with many people during the course of the final thirteen years of his life.

Spiritualism became Conan Doyle's religion and his driving force, taking him to Australia, America, Canada, and South Africa for lecture tours which he recorded in various biographical studies. He was careful in his testing of mediums but, not unnaturally, those cases where he was deceived have been seized upon by critics to justify what they regard as his credulity. Credulity was a charge also to be levelled at Conan Doyle when, in 1922, he declared the famous Cottingley Fairy photographs to be genuine. This latter case has been frequently documented, and the photographs are famous the world over.

Following a tour of Scandinavia and Holland in 1929, Conan Doyle returned to England exhausted, and suffered a heart attack. He remained weak and ill for several months and died at home on 7 July 1930.

Conan Doyle's contribution to the literature of the English language was immense. His major historical novels, *The White Company*, *Sir Nigel*, *Micah Clarke*, *Uncle Bernac*, *The Refugees*, and *The Great Shadow* are perhaps less well known today than the remarkable number of short stories, written chiefly for the popular magazines of his time: *Tales of Adventure* and *Medical Life*, *Tales of the Ring and Camp*, *Tales of Pirates and Blue Water* and tales of horror and the supernatural. His major fictional creations, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Professor Challenger*, and *Brigadier Gerard* have collections of stories of their own,

collections which will continue to be read and enjoyed the world over for many years to come.

Above all, perhaps, Conan Doyle should be remembered for his energy and variety of talents. He was a fine sportsman—at cricket he once captured the wicket of the great W.G. Grace, a feat which inspired him to write a poem on the subject; he played football, rugby, golf, and was sufficiently innovative to introduce cross-country skiing into Switzerland. He wrote to the newspapers on all manner of topics, was always a strong campaigner for the underdog, and had a keen interest in photography, which enabled him to contribute authoritative articles to the *British Journal of Photography*.

Whenever we read the adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, Professor Challenger, Brigadier Gerard, or his many other creations, we encounter Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

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