

A new Reichenbach Irregulars conference in summer 2019 at two locations across Swiss alpine heights examining exclusively the sinister aspects of the Canon



## *Dark Deeds in the Canon*

From Friday, 31 May, 2019, until Tuesday, 4 June, 2019 in Meiringen and in Splügen

Switzerland is blessed with an impressive number of Sherlockian sites.<sup>1</sup> In the very early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century already, visitors to Meiringen were reminded not to miss the Reichenbach Falls where Sherlock Holmes freed the world of one of its most hideous scourges, Professor James Moriarty. The magnificent reconstruction of Holmes' sitting room in 221b Baker Street in the Sherlock Holmes Museum which is located in the cellar of the old English Church attracts thousands of people every year. So does the bronze statue of Holmes by John Doubleday located in front of the museum. In short, we not only hear of but see Sherlock in Meiringen everywhere.

### **The legacy of the Napoleon of Crime in Switzerland**

What somehow gets brushed aside is the fact that Holmes spent relatively little time in Meiringen. Accompanied by Watson, he arrived on 3 May 1891 and spent the night at The Englischer Hof. The following day they left for the Reichenbach Falls where Holmes fought the battle of his life. He then took to his heels and went across the Alps to Florence, “*with the certainty that no one in the world knew what had become of me.*” The *Reichenbach and Beyond* conference in 2017 organised by *The Reichenbach Irregulars* provided many hitherto unknown insights into Holmes's escape from the Reichenbach Falls and his crossing of the Alps to Florence as well as other aspects of the ensuing Great Hiatus.<sup>2</sup>

Moriarty, however, remained in Switzerland. “*(D)eep down in that dreadful cauldron of swirling water and seething foam*” of the Reichenbach Falls “*(lies) for all time the most dangerous criminal*”. It is the fact that the legacy of his death to Switzerland is that it has become the burial

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<sup>1</sup> *The Adventures of two British gentlemen in Switzerland* by the Deutsche Sherlock Holmes Gesellschaft, published in 2016, fills almost 500 pages (in English and German) about sights in Switzerland in connection with Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: [www.dshc.de](http://www.dshc.de).

<sup>2</sup> Visit our website to download the reports about the hugely successful 2017 symposium “Reichenbach and Beyond - *The Final Problem* revisited”: [http://www.221b.ch/Past\\_Events\\_Beyond\\_e.html](http://www.221b.ch/Past_Events_Beyond_e.html).

site of the “*the organizer of half that is evil and of nearly all that is undetected*” that explains why we have decided to dedicate our next conference exclusively to the sinister characters in the Canon. *Dark Deeds in the Canon* aims to revisit Napoleons of crime, astute spies, and repellent, worst as well as second most dangerous characters.

Beyond focusing on the sinister aspects of the Canon, which has rarely been done in the past<sup>3</sup>, the conference offers us the unique possibility to combine two Sherlockian venues in Swiss alpine heights.

### The Return to Meiringen and ...



The old part of Meiringen that survived the devastating fire on 25 October 1891

We return to Meiringen for the first time since our 2011 symposium.<sup>4</sup> We hope that top notch papers on dark deeds in the Canon will attract seasoned Sherlockians to return to Meiringen again and be an incentive for those who have never visited it to join us. A visit to the Reichenbach Falls is on the programme. We will examine the escape of Colonel Sebastian Moran and we plan to conduct an Inquest into the death of Moriarty. Finally, we should be some of the first Sherlockians to inspect the state of the planned extension of the permanent exhibition of the Sherlock Holmes museum at the English Church. The Meiringen municipality which runs the museum recently started on an ambitious project that should lead to the doubling of the current space being used for the museum by integrating into it the nave of the former English Church. The museum is currently in the basement.



Hotel Sherlock Holmes, our hotel during our stay in Meiringen

We will spend two nights at the recently refurbished Hotel Sherlock Holmes which is now owned by our host of the 2017 *Reichenbach and Beyond* conference at the Das Panorama Hotel in Hasliberg-Reuti, Mr Panos Perreten. Our return to Meiringen is also explained by the

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<sup>3</sup> See for example the first open meeting in Gelnhausen, Germany, in April 1999 of *The Napoleons of Crime*, led under the guidance of Uwe Sommerlad. The Napoleons of Crime were devoted specifically to the villains in the Canon.

<sup>4</sup> Visit our website to see what we did in May 2011 together with the Deutsche Sherlock Holmes Gesellschaft, the Société Sherlock Holmes de la France, La Société des Etudes holmésiennes de la Suisse Romande on the occasion of the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the struggle between Holmes and Moriarty on 4 May 1891: [http://www.221b.ch/Past\\_Events.html](http://www.221b.ch/Past_Events.html)

fact that in summer 2019 we celebrate 30 years of The Reichenbach Irregulars. We want to do this where we began our journey on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 1989: in Meiringen.

### ... the discovery of Splügen



The centre of Splügen with the Hinterrhein passing by

Whereas Meiringen is well known to many Sherlockians, the second location we will visit is entirely new territory for most of us. It is linked to another dark character in the Canon. The Splügen mountain pass, is located in the Canton of Grisons, along the Swiss Italian border, and it is there where that most repellent man in the Canon, Baron Adelbert Gruner, murdered his wife.



Splügen Pass

We will travel from Meiringen across the Alps to Splügen and we will not only present a series of papers on the circumstances of this notorious murder but we will also actually undertake the first ever Sherlockian excursion to the Splügen Pass itself, which has for generations been known as “the evil pass”.



Hotel Bodenhaus, our hotel during our stay in Splügen

The historic Hotel Bodenhaus, dating back to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, will be our home for two nights. It has entertained personalities such as Albert Einstein, Friedrich Nietzsche, William Turner, Prinz Louis Napoleon Bonaparte and Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen – and perhaps even Gruner himself.

## Crossing the Alps from Meiringen to Splügen



Susten Pass

We will have our own coach for the trip from Meiringen to Splügen and go across the Susten Pass (see picture above) and the Gotthard Pass to mention just a couple of highlights of our trip across the Alps. Although Splügen is located in a remote part of Eastern Switzerland, it is surprisingly well connected to the excellent Swiss rail network. At the end of our weekend, participants will be able to travel directly by private coach from Splügen to the station at Chur from which trains deliver travelers to Zurich Airport via Zurich Main Station in just over 90 minutes. Please see details about travel arrangements further below.

**\*\*\*\*\* *Early booking is highly recommended* \*\*\*\*\***

Participants can choose to come to Meiringen only. However, we hope that many participants will take this unique opportunity and continue the journey to Splügen. Early booking is recommended, as we currently can only guarantee a bus for 40 persons and the historic Hotel Bodenhaus has also limited capacity.

**Programme - as at May 2018 - subject to change**

**Friday, 31 May, 2019**

**Arrival in Meiringen and start of the conference**

*Individual arrival by participants in Meiringen and check in at the **Hotel Sherlock Holmes, Meiringen**. Rooms will be ready from 15.00. For details about train connections to Meiringen see further information below.*

17.00 Welcome by the organizers Marcus Geisser and Michael Meer at the Hotel Sherlock Holmes.

Part I of the conference (see the list of our speakers below).

19.30 Welcome by our host, Panos Perreten, followed by dinner at the Hotel Sherlock Holmes.

Late night-cap for Sherlockian nighthawks at the nearby Sherlock Lounge.

**Saturday, 1 June, 2019**

**Visit to the Reichenbach Falls to reenact the escape of Colonel Sebastien Moran, inquest into the death of Professor James Moriarty and an extended tour of the Sherlock Holmes Museum**

Morning After breakfast, we proceed to the Reichenbach Falls where we first reenact Colonel Sebastien Moran's escape. We then return to Meiringen where we reenact the inquest into the death of Professor Moriarty. This is followed by a

visit to the Sherlock Holmes Museum, accompanied by a presentation about the origins of this museum which is close to 30 years old now. We can view progress on the planned extension of the museum.

Afternoon Free time to visit other sites – perhaps taking the funicular to the Alpen Tower to enjoy breathtaking views at 2245 meters (7365 ft); a hike on the Hasliberg; a walk through the gorge of the Aare or – elementary! – a visit to beautiful Rosenlauri.

Evening Dinner at the Hotel Sherlock Holmes.

After dinner, we will watch a new documentary *Sherlockians in Switzerland*, based on some existing and some hitherto lesser known footage. This documentary retraces the history of Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts visiting Switzerland, integrating also some of the highlights of 30 years of *The Reichenbach Irregulars*.

Late night-cap for the Sherlockian nighthawks at the nearby Sherlock Lounge.

### Sunday, 2 June, 2019

**Part two of the conference in the morning, followed by crossing the Alps along a spectacular route in a private postal coach to reach Splügen later in the day**

Morning After breakfast, part II of the conference (see list of our speakers below).

By 12.30, the Meiringen part of the *Dark Deeds in the Canon* conference comes to a close.

12.30 After a light lunch at the Hotel Sherlock Holmes, the alpine crossing to Splügen by private postal coach commences. The journey takes us over the Susten Pass, St. Gotthard Pass, through the valley of the Leventina and then up the valley of Mesolcina through the San Bernardino tunnel to Splügen.<sup>5</sup> This alpine crossing (including a couple of breaks to enjoy the view) takes approximately 4 hours.

Evening Arrival at the Hotel Bodenhäuser and welcome by our hosts, Angela Löschl-Burkhardt and Willibald Löschl, the owners of the historic Hotel Bodenhäuser. After dinner at our hotel, we are going to watch sequences of film adaptations of *The Illustrious Client*.

### Monday, 3 June, 2019

**Part III of the conference; a guided tour of the village of Splügen and an excursion to the nearby Splügen Pass by coach**

Day Part III of the conference, focusing exclusively on Baron Gruner and *The Illustrious Client*.

Tour of the historic village of Splügen.

Excursion by postal coach to the Splügen Pass and examination of possible sites of the murder of Baroness Gruner.

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<sup>5</sup> It is possible that due to weather conditions (late snow!) we may have to opt for a different route that will take us across the Brünig Pass, along Lake Lucerne, through the Gotthard tunnel, along the valleys the Leventina and Mesolcina and through the San Bernardino tunnel to Splügen.

Evening        Dinner at the Hotel Bodenhause. The evening program is still being worked out.

## **Tuesday, 4 June, 2019 – Departure from Splügen, end of the conference**

Morning        After an early breakfast, we depart at 7.30 by private postal coach directly to Chur railway station. We plan to be at Chur railway station in time for participants to take the 9.09 train to Zurich which arrives at Zurich Main Station at 10.23. For those who need to go to the airport, from Zurich Main Station the next train to Zurich Airport leaves at 10.33 to arrive at Zurich Airport at 10.42. See also *Departure from Splügen* below.

### **Conference speakers**

We have already secured a number of excellent speakers. Most of them have confirmed, others accepted.

**Catherine Cooke** (accepted) is the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's Joint Honorary Secretary (Meetings) and an invested member of the BSI and ASH. She received the SHSLs Tony Howlett Award for 2014 and the Tony and Freda Howlett Literary Award for 2017. She won the BSI Morley-Montgomery Award for 2005. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals and won the BIC/cilip RFID Innovation in Libraries Award for 2009. When not managing and developing the IT systems of Westminster Libraries, she manages the Sherlock Holmes Collection at Westminster Reference Library. Catherine proposes to talk about who may have been the original inspiration for Baron Gruner.

**David Jones** (confirmed), is a retired head teacher and lives in the picturesque village of Groton, Suffolk, in the Eastern part of the UK. He is well known to many members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London because he has served as its Membership Secretary since 2019. David is a regular contributor to *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* and gave the first public reading of a Sherlock Holmes Story - "The Speckled Band" - in Welsh! We are delighted to have David as a speaker at one of our conferences for the first time. Although he has not yet confirmed the exact title of his paper, we are convinced that he will captivate his audience as he did when impersonated Sherlock Holmes on the Society's most recent pilgrimage to Switzerland, "The Immortal Sherlock Holmes", in 2012, a rare privilege for outstanding members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

**Mitch (Masamichi) Higurashi** (confirmed) lives in Japan. Mitch is a founding member of the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club and a BSI. He is one of the most prominent and productive Sherlockians of Japan. He is a freelance translator of literature and can look back over a career spanning more than forty years. Mitch has published more than 170 books, of which six dozen (!) are Holmes and Doyle related works, including two complete sets of the canon for adults, for example. His BSI investiture being 'Baron Gruner', it is not surprising that the paper that he proposes to deliver at our conference is going to concentrate on Baron Gruner and his knowledge of Japan and China.

**Jon Lellenberg** (confirmed) lives in Santa Fe, USA. Jon has been a regular speaker at past Reichenbach Irregulars conferences. He has co-edited with Daniel Stashower two superb publications that shed new light into the life of Arthur Conan Doyle: *Arthur Conan Doyle: A Life in Letters* (with Charles Foley) and more recently *'Dangerous Work': Diary of an Arctic Adventure*. As an alumnus of the U.S. National Senior Intelligence Course, Jon will shed light

on Sherlock Holmes's clandestine intelligence activities in the 1890s and first years of the twentieth century, some of which are related to Switzerland's status as a neutral nation.

**Guy Marriott** (confirmed) lives in Spain. He has a degree in Economics and Law from Cambridge University and qualified as an English Solicitor. He spent many years working in intellectual property law in the music and entertainment industries. He has been married to Elizabeth for over 40 years, and they have two adult children. In addition to Sherlock Holmes, his other interests include traveling to remote islands and the history and preservation of all types of passenger transport - train, bus, tram, etc. He has served as Chairman and more recently as President, of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and is an invested BSI. He is also a Patron of the London Transport Museum and a Vice-President of the London Bus Museum. Guy will address the issues which arise from Holmes' comments in *The Illustrious Client* about Baron Gruner: "*Who could possibly have read what happened at Prague and have any doubts as to the man's guilt! It was a purely technical legal point and the suspicious death of a witness that saved him! I am as sure that he killed his wife when the so called 'accident' happened in the Splügen Pass as if I had seen him do it.*"

**Julie McKuras** (confirmed), ASH, BSI, is from Apple Valley, Minnesota, USA. Julie is the past president of the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota. She serves on the board of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota and has edited their quarterly newsletter since 1999, and has co-chaired a number of conferences held by the Norwegian Explorers and The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. With Susan Vizoskie, ASH, BSI, she co-edited *Sherlockian Heresies* in 2010. Julie and Sonia Fetherston, BSI were the co-editors of *The Baker Street Journal Christmas Annual* for 2017, "A Woman of Mystery." After her debut at the Reichenbach Irregulars 2014 *Alpine Adventures - Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland* conference in Davos, we are delighted to have Julie back as a speaker. At our 2019 conference Julie will put her focus on Dark Deeds in the Canon involving women.

**Marcus Geisser** (confirmed), originally from Switzerland and a globe trotter for almost 20 years thanks to his career as a humanitarian practitioner, has recently settled in London, UK. A founding member of The Reichenbach Irregulars, its President for the first decade, a BSI since 2001 ('Rosenlauri') and recent contributor (e.g. "Start her up, Watson' - Horsepower in the Canon" to the 2017 BSI volume *Mobile Holmes*), Marcus has also been the chief architect and co-organiser of the highly successful 2014 and 2017 Reichenbach Irregulars conferences in Davos and Hasliberg Reuti respectively. For our 2019 conference, Marcus will attempt to provide a holistic view of sinister characters in the Canon from a particular combination of perspectives: "Of rats, snakes and spiders - a zoological interpretation of dark deeds in the Canon (with some geographical deviations)".

**Marina Stajic** (confirmed), Ph.D., FABFT, ASH, BSI, from New York, USA, worked as the Director of the Forensic Toxicology Laboratory at the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, City of New York, for almost 30 years. It is not surprising that her favorite topic is the forceful administration of poisons. Her BSI investiture as 'Curare' reflects her dabbling with poisons a good deal. Her ASH *nom d'aventure* is Lady Frances Carfax, not because she is a beautiful woman, still in fresh middle age, but rather because of her daily exposure to chloroform and her close relationship to coffins. Marina has been a regular contributor to past Reichenbach Irregulars conferences and we are delighted that she is going to present a new paper for us entitled "Upon vitriol and vitriolage generally, with some observations upon the segregation of a vitrioleuse".

**Bryan Stone** (confirmed), originally from the UK, has been a Swiss citizen for many years. He lives not far away from Basle, which Holmes and Watson passed through when travelling to Meiringen. A few years ago, Bryan, chair of the church board of the Anglican church of Basel for many years, published a book on *Basle and the Church in England*. Brian has spent his professional career in the international railway business and it is therefore not surprising that his knowledge of period time tables reaching back to the very beginning of railways remains unrivalled. After his debut at the Reichenbach and Beyond 2017 conference, Bryan joins us once more, providing us insights into the significance of the Splügen Pass for travelers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and why the Splügen Pass deserves its reputation as “the evil pass”.

**Rainer Zahn** (confirmed), lives in the historic Southern German town of Heidelberg, famous for its university, of course. Recently retired from the University of Heidelberg where he worked as a psychologist for the Centre for Student Counseling and Further Education, he has now more time for one of his many passions: English literature in general, and Arthur Conan Doyle and Robert Louis Stevenson in particular. Rainer was a member of The Reichenbach Irregulars in its heyday in the 1990s and we are delighted that he has reconnected with us. His paper entitled "Some remarks upon the relationship of Conan Doyle and Robert Louis Stevenson, and the parallels between 'Treasure Island' and 'The Sign of Four'" is going to be his debut as speaker at a Reichenbach Irregulars conference.

We are also in discussion with other potential speakers, amongst others **Peter Horrocks**, past Sherlock Holmes Society of London Chairman and, more importantly for our conference, Professor Moriarty on past Sherlock Holmes Society of London’s pilgrimages to Switzerland. We welcome any further suggestions for speakers.

## Accommodation & conference venues

### *Meiringen*

The Hotel Sherlock Holmes was opened 40 years ago by local hotelier, Hans Peter Thoeni who is well known to participants in the Sherlock Homes Society of London pilgrimages to Switzerland. None of these epic pilgrimages could have been possible without local hosts like him.

Today, this recently refurbished 3 star hotel is owned by Panos Perreten. He is well known to *The Reichenbach Irregulars* as he was the very welcoming and caring host of our *Reichenbach and Beyond* conference at the Das Panorama Hotel in Hasliberg-Reuti in autumn 2017, an establishment he owns as well. Panos most definitely has earned the ‘Peter Steiler the Elder award’, should the Meiringen Tourist Board ever decide to institute it. The Hotel Sherlock Holmes has 50 rooms, a restaurant, a bar, a heated indoor pool and a sauna on the top floor with a lovely view overlooking Meiringen.

Das Hotel Sherlock Holmes  
Alpbachallee 3  
3860 Meiringen / Switzerland  
phone + 41 33 972 98 89  
[www.sherlock.ch](http://www.sherlock.ch)  
[info@sherlock.ch](mailto:info@sherlock.ch)



As per our program, participants who want a nightcap after dinner will be able to visit the Sherlock Lounge, which is situated just next to the Hotel Sherlock Holmes. It is owned by Hans Peter Thoeni, the founder and original owner of Hotel Sherlock Holmes.

Sherlock Lounge  
Alpbachstrasse 11 / 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
3860 Meiringen / Switzerland  
<http://sherlock-lounge.ch>

### *Splügen*

Our hosts in Splügen, Angela Löschl-Burkhardt and Willibald Löschl, who purchased the historic Hotel Bodenhäus in 2000, allow us to step back into an important part of Swiss history. In their words, “ *at the foot of the Splügen and San Bernardino alpine passes, lies the characteristic village of Splügen, being for centuries the connecting route to Italy. Since its establishment in 1722, the Hotel Bodenhäus is an important part of Splügen. The imposing and striking building served originally as storage room for transit goods, housing the post station and offered, in those days, accommodation and board for travellers. Thanks to careful renovations over the last few years, Bodenhäus has recovered its original character and offers pleasure and active relaxation in an historical atmosphere.*”

The Hotel Bodenhäus is a 3 star hotel and offers the unique combination of modern comfort and a historic ambiance in 26 comfortable rooms with all the usual amenities. There is also a heated indoor pool.

Hotel Bodenhäus  
7435 Splügen  
phone +41 81 650 90 90  
[info@hotel-bodenhaus.ch](mailto:info@hotel-bodenhaus.ch)  
[www.hotel-bodenhaus.ch/en](http://www.hotel-bodenhaus.ch/en)

### **Prices**

We have made every effort to keep the prices as reasonable as possible. For example, we have found sponsors amongst our participants to cover some of the cost of the hire of the coach from Meiringen to Splügen.

The programme consists of two parts: Meiringen and Splügen. Attending only the Meiringen part of the programme is of course possible. But we hope that many will take this unique opportunity to continue the journey to Splügen, too, a truly magical place where time seems to have stand still ... not only since 1895, but since 1495!

As with past Reichenbach Irregulars conferences, participants are asked to book their rooms at the hotels directly with the hotel, announcing themselves as being part of our conference as we have reserved a certain number of rooms and have special price arrangements. As in the past, you will be asked to pay for the hotel accommodation in advance. Cancellation fees apply.

Please note that drinks, water, coffee, tea etc. are not included and will have to be paid for separately by the participants.

There will be two additional fees to cover other expenses for other parts of our programme, one for the Meiringen part, the other for the Splügen part. These will have to be paid to the

organisers, Marcus Geisser and Michael Meer, in cash in Swiss francs upon arrival, not in advance. Please see details below.

### *Meiringen*

For *1 double room* (2 persons, two single beds or a double bed: please mention your requirements when you do your booking), at the Hotel Sherlock Homes, with bathroom or shower and toilet ensuite, hair dryer, telephone, TV and W-LAN, *the price is Swiss Francs 520.- (or Swiss Francs 260.- for each person)*. This covers per person the cost of two nights stay, including two breakfasts, and two 4 course dinners, including taxes, as well as the use of the indoor swimming pool and sauna. Drinks, coffee, water etc. are not included. Please note that neither the hotel nor the organisers can organise for you to share a double room with another single traveller. You have to make your own arrangements if you wish to share with someone else.

For *1 single room* (1 person), at the Hotel Sherlock Homes, with bathroom or shower and toilet ensuite, hair dryer, telephone, TV and W-LAN, *the price is Swiss Francs 340.-*. This includes for 1 person two nights stay, including two breakfasts, and two 4 course dinners, including taxes, as well as the use of the indoor swimming pool and sauna. Drinks, coffee, water etc. are not included.

Please note that the Hotel Sherlock Holmes will ask you to pay in advance. The cancellation fees are as follows:

28 days before arrival - no charges apply

27 to 14 days before arrival - 25 % of the total amount

13 to 7 days before arrival - 50 % of the total amount

6 to 2 days before arrival - 75 % of the total amount

2 days or less before arrival - 100 % of the total amount

An *additional fee per person* to be paid in cash in Swiss Francs to the organisers upon arrival is *Swiss Francs 45.-* and it includes: 1 entry to the Sherlock Holmes Museum, 1 return ticket to the Reichenbach Falls Funicular, 1 return ticket for the bus to the Reichenbach Falls Funicular station and a small administration fee to cover unexpected expenses. For those who leave us in Meiringen but want to join us for Sunday lunch an additional CHF 17.50 is required.

### *Splügen*

For *1 double room* (2 persons, two single beds or a double bed: please mention your requirements when you do your booking) at the Hotel Bodenhau, with bathroom or shower and toilette ensuite, telephone, TV and WiFi, *the price is Swiss Francs 440.- (or Swiss Francs 220 per person)*. This includes per person two nights stay, two breakfasts, two 4 course dinners and a welcome drink, as well as the use of the heated indoor pool and sauna. A tax of Swiss Francs 3.50 per person per night will be charged upon arrival. Drinks, coffee, water etc. are not included. Please note that neither the hotel nor the organisers can organise for you to share a double room with another single traveller. You have to make your own arrangements if you wish to share with someone else.

For *1 single room*, (1 person) at the Hotel Bodenhau, with bathroom or shower and toilette ensuite, telephone, TV and W-LAN *the price is Swiss Francs 240.-*. This includes for 1 person two nights stay, two breakfasts, two 4 course dinners, a welcome drink and use of the heated

indoor pool and sauna. A tax of Swiss Francs 3.50 per night will be charged upon arrival. Drinks, coffee, water etc. are not included.

Please note that the Hotel Bodenhaus will ask you to pay in advance. The cancellation fees are as follows:

- 28 days before arrival - no charges apply
- 27 to 14 days before arrival - 25% of the total amount
- 13 to 7 days before arrival - 50% of the total amount
- 6 to 2 days before arrival - 50% of the total amount
- 2 days or less before arrival - 100% of the total amount

The *additional fee per person* to be paid in cash in Swiss Francs to the organisers upon arrival amounts to approximately *Swiss Francs 110.-* (+ / - 10 % depending on the final number of participants for the bus rides) and includes: on Sunday the coach trip from Meiringen to Splügen and a light lunch at the Hotel Sherlock Holmes before our departure, on Monday the coach trip from Splügen to the Splügen Pass and back to Splügen, and on Tuesday the coach trip from Splügen to Chur, and a small administrative fee to cover unexpected expenses by the organisers.

### Summary of total costs in Swiss Francs

	Per person in a double room	Per person in single room
Accommodation in Meiringen for 2 nights plus dinner in Meiringen as stated to be paid in advance when booking the room	260.-	340.-
Additional fee for the Meiringen part of the programme as stated to be paid in cash in Swiss Francs in Meiringen (exclusive light lunch on Sunday at Swiss Francs 17.50, to be booked separately)	45.-	45.-
<b>Subtotal for the stay in Meiringen</b>	<b>305.-</b>	<b>385.-</b>
Accommodation in Splügen for 2 nights plus dinner as stated to be paid in advance when booking the room	220.-	240.-
Additional fee for the Splügen part of the programme as stated to be paid in cash in Splügen, accept a tolerance of approximately + / - 10 % depending on the final number of participants for the bus transfers	110.-	110.-
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>Approx. Swiss Francs 630.-</b>	<b>Approx. Swiss Francs 730.-</b>

### Access to Meiringen

#### *By car*

Meiringen and the Hotel Sherlock Holmes are easily reachable by car. Please consult the hotel website for detailed directions. The hotel offers a limited number of parking spaces. Please inform the hotel management when you make your booking if you need a car parking space. Charges may apply.

### *By public transportation*

The Swiss Federal Railways has an excellent up to date website in English that quotes timetables and prices: <http://www.sbb.ch/en/home.html>

Please check the timetable when you organise your journey to Meiringen.

For those who arrive from abroad, the closest airport is Zurich Airport from where you have hourly connections to Meiringen, usually via Zurich Main Station and Lucerne. There are also direct trains from Zurich Airport to Lucerne and you have to change only once at Lucerne. The trip takes about 2½ hours. Zurich is also the closest airport for Splügen. See details below for how we facilitate the trip back from Splügen to Zurich and on to Zurich Airport.

The Hotel Sherlock Holmes is within walking distance from the Meiringen train station (10 minutes). There are taxis available at the station but you may have to call them by phone. Or inform the Hotel Sherlock Holmes of your arrival time when you book your room and ask them to organise a pick up. Charges may apply.

### **Departure from Splügen at the end of the Conference**

On Tuesday morning, after an early breakfast, we depart at 7.30 am by private postal coach which will take us directly to Chur railway station. We plan to be at Chur railway station in time for those who want to take the 9.09 train to Zurich.

- Departure from Chur at 09.09 am.
- Arrival at Zurich Main Station at 10.23 am.

Tickets must be purchased individually and this can be done in advance online, which we recommend in order to save time. See <http://www.sbb.ch/en/home.html> for more information.

For those who want to travel then directly on to Zurich Airport:

- Departure from Zurich Main Station at 10.33 am.
- Arrival at Zurich Airport at 10.42 am.

If you are travelling from Chur direct to Zurich Airport we advise you to buy a ticket from Chur via Zurich to Zurich Airport. See <http://www.sbb.ch/en/home.html> for more details. We advise you to buy your ticket in advance online in order to save time.

These timings are taken from the current timetable. Please check the timings as we get closer to the actual date of travel. They may change slightly as sometimes happens with train time tables.

### **Reservation of your hotel rooms**

Early booking is appreciated, but in any case no later than 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 (but it is possible that our programme is sold out before then). The current planning figure is 40 participants (due to the size of the bus that takes us from Meiringen to Splügen and the number of rooms available at the Hotel Bodenhuis in Splügen). Once this figure is reached, we will run a waiting list.

For your reservation for both hotels, please mark “Reichenbach Irregulars 2019 conference” in the subject line and kindly send a copy of your reservation email to the hotels to the organisers, [marcusgeisser@gmail.com](mailto:marcusgeisser@gmail.com) and [michael.meer@gmx.net](mailto:michael.meer@gmx.net).

*For the Hotel Sherlock Homes*, please send your reservation to [info@sherlock.ch](mailto:info@sherlock.ch) (copied to Marcus and Michael as above). Payment in advance will be required and the hotel will let you know how this can be done. For prices, cancellation fees and all other details see **Prices** above.

*For the Hotel Bodenhau*, please send your reservation to [info@hotel-bodenhaus.ch](mailto:info@hotel-bodenhaus.ch) (copied to Marcus and Michael as above) Payment in advance will be required and the hotel will let you know how this can be done. For prices as well as cancellation fees and all other details see **Prices** above.

Please state the following information when you submit your room reservation request:

- First name and family name of each participant.
- Your address, email address, and phone number.
- For the hotel booking for the Hotel Sherlock Holmes in Meiringen the approximate time of arrival in Meiringen. The rooms are ready after 15.00.
- Any dietary restrictions or any other special requirements due to health grounds or other reasons.
- Please mark “Reichenbach Irregulars 2019 conference” in the subject line and kindly send a copy of your reservation to the organisers, [marcusgeisser@gmail.com](mailto:marcusgeisser@gmail.com) and [michael.meer@gmx.net](mailto:michael.meer@gmx.net).

As mentioned above, additional fees for both parts of the program, Meiringen and Splügen, will have to be paid in cash in Swiss Francs to the organizers. See **Prices** for more details.

### **Trips by coach from Meiringen to Splügen on Sunday; Splügen to Splügen Pass and back to Splügen on Monday; Splügen to Chur on Tuesday**

The itinerary on Sunday from Meiringen to Splügen will depend on weather conditions. Our preferred route is over the Susten Pass and the Gotthard Pass. If the weather is bad we might have to divert and go over the Brünig Pass, along Lake Lucerne and through the Gotthard tunnel instead. Either way the whole trip takes about 4 hours, including a couple of comfort breaks. The weather conditions will also determine whether we can go to the Splügen Pass on Monday. The road from Splügen to Chur is open all year round.

**IMPORTANT:** For all coach trips for the Splügen part of the programme, please note that only confirmed participants will be admitted on any of these bus trips. Last minute bookings or requests to join “on the spot” are not possible and will unfortunately not be accepted. If you want to travel to Splügen on your own, go to the Splügen Pass on your own and then depart from Splügen on your own, just let us know when you do your booking, so that we can adjust the additional fee that covers the costs incurred by these bus journeys. If you are coming to Splügen but do not inform us in advance that you do not want to be on these coaches, we will assume that you join the coach tours as per programme and will charge you the full fee as per our programme, even if you decide not to take the bus when meet in Meiringen. That will be too late. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Contact**

We from *The Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland* do not pretend to be professional tour organisers. Undoubtedly, we have forgotten this or that in this programme. Please get in touch with us if you have any questions. Or visit our website [www.221b.ch](http://www.221b.ch) where you will find the most updated version of this programme.

Most importantly, we hope you join us and we are certain that you enjoy what we think is going to be an unforgettable adventure in truly alpine heights looking at the *Dark Deeds in the Canon*.

Best wishes,

Marcus Geisser, RBI, BSI, [marcusgeisser@gmail.com](mailto:marcusgeisser@gmail.com)

Michael A. Meer, RBI, BSI, [michael.meer@gmx.net](mailto:michael.meer@gmx.net)