

We're very pleased to report that *Mystery Scene* won the Anthony Award for Best Fan Publication at the recent Bouchercon World Mystery Convention. As we end our second year as publishers, it's nice to know that we're moving in the right direction. But stay tuned, there's much more to come!

Arrivals & Departures



Ron Miller and Mary Welk.

We're delighted to welcome Ron Miller, the noted TV critic, to *Mystery Scene*. I'm sure some of you have seen his excellent book, *Mystery! A Celebration*, about the long-running PBS program. Ron will begin a regular column next time out; here he offers ten ready-for-prime-time 'tecs.

We bid a fond farewell to Mary Welk, our Small Press expert, with this issue. Mary brought penetrating intelligence, eclectic tastes and a high regard for scrappy independent publishers to her work at *Mystery Scene*. We wish her all the best as she moves on to new

challenges. (See the review of Mary's latest novel, *The Scarecrow Murders*, on page 74.)

The Writing Mind

It's always interesting to hear how writers influence one another. In Tony Hillerman's case it was not only John Steinbeck's books that impressed but also the process revealed in Steinbeck's manuscripts which are housed at the University of Georgia. As he says in our interview this issue, Steinbeck was "a hell of a writer—and the amount of crossing out he did!"

We also chat with Deborah Crombie whose flavorful British police novels belie her Texan roots, Kirk Russell whose California Fish & Game officers put a new spin on law enforcement and Max Allan Collins on following up his *Road to Perdition* success. Martin Edwards and H.R.F. Keating return to champion, respectively, mystery-novelist-of-manners Sarah Caudwell and espionage writer Anthony Price. And, just in time for your winter movie rentals, two West Coast film festivals offer a list of *noir* delights.

Holiday Guidance

From a librarian action figure to Holmesian



Kate & Brian celebrating at the Bouchercon Awards Banquet.

ornaments to hot sauce, our Holiday Gift Guides offer something for everyone. (Hint to Brian: I like that Gold Bug pendant!)

A Favor

Please take a moment and fill out our Reader Survey in this issue. Knowing more about our readers will help us get better bookstore and newsstand distribution as well as bill-paying advertising. You can also download the survey from our website.

As an inducement, everyone who answers is entered in our Literary Loot Give-Away. It's not necessary to include your name and address with your survey—just send a separate postcard marked "Literary Loot."

Happy Holidays!

KATE STINE
Editor-in-chief

Mystery Scene

AD RATE INFORMATION & CLOSING DATES

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