

Short Review: “League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, The” (2003) by Dr. John L. Flynn



League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, The (2003). 20th Century Fox, color, 110 min. Director: Stephen Norrington. Writers: Alan Moore and Kevin O’Neill (comic book), etc. Cast: Sean Connery, Naseeruddin Shah, Peta Wilson, and Tony Curran.

What a collection of characters from 19th century literature! Allan Quartermain (Connery), the great white hunter and adventurer; the lovely Mina Harker (Wilson), vampire; Captain Nemo (Shah), without a giant squid to fight; the Invisible Man (Curran), and others vs. the Phantom who, with his crowd of nameless flunkies, dares to start World War One a couple of decades earlier, in the 19th century. The two-dimensional League members, who were often three-dimensional in their novels, work better in Alan Moore’s comic book than in this film. The special effects were so bad that the fight sequences are blurred and too fast for the viewer to follow. An expensive waste of talent, considering the likes of Connery and Wilson.

Copyright 2012 by John L. Flynn, Ph.D.