



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE e-mail: rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk

no. 257 13 November 2005

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I give such addresses and prices as I have; if I don't provide details of importers or agents, it's because I don't have those details.

Bruce Stewart died recently aged eighty. His more than two hundred plays and scripts included *The Boscombe Valley Mystery* for the 1968 BBC TV series with Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock — an appropriate story for a writer who had been a radio star in Australia before coming to Britain in 1954. **Roger Brierley** (d. 23 September, aged seventy) is probably best known as Sir Roderick Glossop in the ITV series *Jeeves & Wooster*, but he also played Neville Chamberlain, Oswald Mosley, Jinnah, the head Cyberman — and Sherlock's father in *Young Sherlock Holmes*. **John McCabe** (d. 27 September, aged eighty-four) was invested into the Baker Street Irregulars in 1966 as 'Those Chaldean Roots... of the Great Celtic Speech'. A Shakespearean scholar, he became friend and biographer of Laurel & Hardy and founded the international L&H society, the Sons of the Desert, in emulation of the BSI. **Ronald Pearsall** (d. 27 September, aged seventy-seven) was an authority on the Victorian era: his books covered spiritualism, popular music, the art world, wit and humour, sexuality, pornography, crime and much else. His 1977 *Conan Doyle: A Biographical Solution* is a serviceable life, and his 1989 novel *Sherlock Holmes Investigates the Murder in Euston Square* is a serious look at a real crime.

The acting career of **Mary Wimbush**, (d. 31 October, aged eighty-one) encompassed all media — she was outstanding as Bertie's Aunt Agatha in *Jeeves & Wooster* — but she was happiest on radio and will be remembered as Julia Pargetter in *The Archers*. In 1996 she played Mary Maberly in *The Three Gables* with Clive Merrison and Michael Williams on BBC Radio 4. Her marriage in 1946 to Howard Marion-Crawford ended in divorce in 1954. **Alfred Shaughnessy** (d. 2 November, aged eighty-nine) was grandson to the first Baron Shaughnessy, great-great nephew to President James Polk of the USA, and stepson to Sir Piers Legh, Equerry to both Edward VIII and George VI. It was the ideal background for the script editor and principal writer of *Upstairs, Downstairs*. His scripts for other series included *The Crooked Man* in Granada's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, with Jeremy Brett and David Burke. **John Fowles** (d. 5 November, aged seventy-nine) is probably most famous for his novels *The Collector* and *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. Born in Essex, he seems to have hated the eastern counties as much as he detested his middle class upbringing, but he found his home in the west country and wrote an enthusiastic foreword to the 1974 edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

CRW Publishing (69 Gloucester Crescent, London NW1 7EG; <www.crw-publishing.co.uk>) has published a very handsome set of the Canon in six cloth-bound volumes, three containing two books each, all featuring afterwords by David Stuart Davies. The texts appear to be good; they're certainly clear, and the presentation is excellent. At £5.99 each this is a bargain not to be missed.

Equally desirable is *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* (CRW Publishing, £25.00), a splendid big cloth-bound volume containing the whole Canon, with a good selection of the *Strand Magazine* illustrations and a foreword by David Stuart Davies. My only adverse criticisms are that no artists but Sidney Paget are credited, though at least six illustrated the stories after his death in 1908 (and one of Josef Friedrich's pictures has replaced Paget's in 'A Scandal in Bohemia'), and that some illustrations are rather grey and fuzzy. Those niggles aside, this is a lovely book.

The League of Heroes by Xavier Mauméjean has been adapted into English by Manuella Chevalier and published by Black Coat Press (Hollywood Comics.com, LLC, PO Box 17270, Encino, CA 91416, USA; <www.blackcoatpress.com>) at \$20.95. Since Alan Moore and Stan Lee are among those acknowledged, along with Jules Verne, HG Wells, JM Barrie, Conan Doyle and Edgar Rice Burroughs, I take it there's a very conscious influence here from *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*. This book is certainly extraordinary. Captain Hook is one of the Heroes, and Peter Pan is the principal villain! A proper review follows in DM 258. Due next month from Black Coat is *Sherlock Holmes: The Grand Horizontals, and Other Plays* by Frank J Morlock — and there's more to come.

The Highways and Byways of Sherlock Holmes by Peter Riley (P & D Riley, 12 Bridgeway East, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 6LD; £4.99) is an attractive 40-page pictorial introduction, with lots of archive photos and good basic background, mainly topographical. There are brief sketches of Joseph Bell, Charles Peace, and ten actors, but curiously not of Arthur Conan Doyle. And it seems odd to feature Edward Woodward, Roger Moore and Robert Powell, while omitting Ian Richardson, Arthur Wontner and Eille Norwood!

Thierry Saint-Joanis sends news of a new French translation of the Canon, published in September by Omnibus. And now I'm eagerly awaiting the latest project from **La Société Sherlock Holmes de France** — *Encyclopédie Sherlockiana SSHF* !

Thanks to the kindness of Hugo Koch, I have three extra copies of his new booklet, *The Adventure of the Sudden Death of Cardinal Tosca*, published for the quatercentenary of the Gunpowder Plot. They are free to the first three applicants within the UK.

There's always a Sherlockian bargain or two in the catalogues from **Bibliophile Books** (5 Thomas Road, London E14 7BN; website <www.bibliophilebooks.com>). There's a new catalogue from **Nigel**

Williams Rare Books (25 Cecil Court, London WC2N 4HE; 020 7836 7757; <nwrrarebook@tcp.co.uk>).

Bjarne Nielsen's publications under the Pinkerton/Sherlock Holmes Museet name (Egebjergvej 206, Strandhuse, DK-4500 Nykøbing Sjælland, Denmark) include works in both Danish and English. Check the website at <www.sherlockiana.net>.

A reminder that enquiries about the **Lancelyn Green Bequest** can be e-mailed to <lancelyngreencollection@portsmouthcc.gov.uk>. The excellent French DVD set of Granada TV's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, the full thirteen films plus extras, is not released by TMC, as I said in DM 256, but by **Elysées Editions** (43 bis rue Henri Barbusse, 92000 Nanterre, France). Details on the website at <www.series-tv.fr>.

William Gillette's play *Sherlock Holmes* was broadcast by BBC radio in 1953, with Carleton Hobbs and Norman Shelley. If any recording exists, I should dearly love to hear it! Meanwhile we can enjoy Orson Welles's abridged version recorded in 1938 by the Mercury Theatre on the Air, and now there are two more productions from America, both featuring distinguished British actors. Oasis Audio (289 South Main Place, Carol Stream, IL 60188-2425, USA) offers an adaptation by Peggy Webber for California Artists Radio Theatre, starring David Warner and Samantha Eggart. The recording is supplemented by Conan Doyle's tale *Selecting a Ghost*, read by Ian Whitcomb and others. *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes Theatre* from Blackstone Audiobooks (<www.BlackstoneAudio.com>) has Gillette's play and Conan Doyle's *The Speckled Band*, both unabridged, and a one-act comedy by Yuri Raskovsky, *Ghastly Double Murder in Famed Detective's Flat*. Martin Jarvis is Holmes, with Rosalind Ayres and Kristoffer Tabori. I prefer the Blackstone recording because it's complete, but both sets are highly entertaining (though the American actors' British accents are variable).

A correction: the radio play featuring the barrister detective Anthony Rathe is the work of Matthew Booth and not his 'Mystery Men' colleague Matthew Elliott! However, it was Matthew Elliott who sent me notice of **The First Annual Imagination Theatre Radio Script Competition**. Scripts can be in any genre, but must be no longer than twenty-three pages; the closing date is 19 February and there's a \$10.00 entrance fee. First prize is \$150.00 plus production and a year's subscription to *Scr(i)pt Magazine*. Complete information is at <www.jimfrenchproductions.com>

The latest issue of *ThrillerUK* features an article by Philip Wood: 'The Myths and Realities of the Sherlock Holmes Stories'. The magazine costs £3.95 plus 55p postage from 130 Sackville Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 7AA. Make cheques payable to T Fountain. There's a website at <www.thrilleruk.fsnet.co.uk>.

Phillip Gold of **221Books** (760 E Carlisle Road, Westlake Village, CA 91361, USA; <phillipgold_221books@yahoo.com>) is selling an set of four attractive Sherlockian greeting cards illustrated by Lynette Yenko, price \$2.00 plus 50¢ postage (free postage on two or more sets). Check the website at <www.221books.com>

Colin Mummery reports that CellSpark (Norra Ljunggatan 11B, 252-28 Helsingborg, Sweden; <sales@cellspark.com>) publishes ebooks for mobile phones. Jamster has released *A Case of Identity*, which is proving more popular in the UK than *Crazy Frog Karaoke*.

The Times for 10 October notes that *Underground Ernie* is a forthcoming series for the BBC children's TV channel CBeebies, about animated London Underground trains and their supervisor (voiced by Gary Lineker). Each train takes its name from one of the Tube lines — and 'Bakerloo' is a Sherlock Holmes type.

The Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company (230 Baker Street, London NW1 5RT; phone 020 7486 1426) has lots of good Sherlockian stuff. Current special offers include: posters reduced from £4.00 each to £2.50; mugs at £2.50 each or five for £10.00; and Christmas tree decorations reduced from £9.99 to £6.99.

The Edinburgh Evening News of 24 October notes that developers are close to raising the funds needed to restore Arthur Conan Doyle's only surviving childhood home, Liberton Bank House, for

You should be able to access the current issue of the newsletter at <www.portsmouthand.co.uk/history/213.htm> as a PDF file.

Hakon Holm Publishing (Borgmester Nielsens Vej 24, 3700 Rønne, Denmark; e-mail <mail@mr-holmes.com>) offers sets of stickers depicting thirty-two of Nis Jessen's superb illustrations for Hakon Holm's magnificent edition of *A Study in Scarlet*. Find details of the stickers and the book at <www.mr-holmes.com>.

use as a school for children with special needs. Plans include a literary garden, inspired by Ian Hamilton Finlay's 'Little Sparta'.

Tim Evers is currently presenting his one-man play *The Demons of Sherlock Holmes* at **The Bayou Theatre** at the University of Houston/Clear Lake (281-283-2560), Thursday to Sunday, until 26 November. Roger Llewellyn brings *Sherlock Holmes — The Last Act!* to the **Friends' Meeting House** in Pickering (01751 472827) on 18 November, and on 30 November he's at the **Lakeside Theatre** at the University of Essex at Colchester (01206 873261; <arts@essex.ac.uk>). *Sherlock Holmes: The Athenaeum Ghoul* by Carl Miller is at **South Holland Centre**, Spalding (01775 764777) on 15 & 16 November, and at **The Northcott Theatre**, Exeter (01392 493493) from 21 to 26 November.

The Christmas production of The Bovingdon Players, written and directed by John & Brenda Bugg, is *Sherlock, Follow that Sleigh!* Holmes and Watson are engaged by Marie Lloyd to track down the abductor of Father Christmas... It looks like great fun! *Sherlock, Follow that Sleigh!* is at **Bovingdon Memorial Hall** (box office 01442 831599) from 30 November to 3 December. Visiting Sherlockians are assured of a warm welcome; make yourselves known at the door. (Bovingdon is in Hertfordshire, near Hemel Hempstead, in case you were wondering.)

The Players' Theatre season of Victorian Music Hall is running at **The Venue** in Leicester Place, off Leicester Square on Sundays at 4.00 pm. Doors open at 3.30 pm, and there's no need to book. Two hours of variety, comedy and song for £15.00. Phone 020 7839 1134 or check the website at <www.playerstheatre.co.uk>.

Allan Devitt and Susan Diamond send notice that the 2006 annual **STUD-Watsonian Weekend** will be held from 31 March to 2 April in the Chicago area. Featured speaker at the STUD dinner at the Sheraton Four Points will be Leslie S Klinger. The weekend will also encompass the 47th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and much else beside. Get details from Allan & Susan at 16W603 3rd Ave, Bensenville, IL 60106-2327, USA; e-mail <szdiamond@comcast.net>

Periodicals received. *The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection Lancelyn Green Bequest Newsletter*, Autumn 2005 (Stephen Baily, Head of Culture, Portsmouth City Council, Civic Offices, Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth PO1 2AD). *The Baker Street Journal*, Autumn 2005 (Steven Rothman, 220, West Rittenhouse Square, #15-D, Philadelphia, PA 19103, USA; subscriptions, PO Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331, USA; correspondence for **The Baker Street Irregulars** should go to Michael Whelan, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278, USA). *The Baker Street Picayune* vol. I no. 3 (**Le Cercle de Sherlock Holmes**, Jens Byskov Jensen, 5316 Wingate Drive, Apt B, New Orleans, LA 70122, USA). *The Camden House Journal*, October 2005 (**The Occupants of the Empty House**, Debbie Tinsley, PO Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999, USA). *Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections*, September 2005 (Suite 111, Elmer L Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, 222 21st Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA). *The Illustrious Clients News*, October 2005 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, IN 46077, USA). *Ineffable Twaddle*, November 2005 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 9832-8981, USA). *Irregular Newsletter*, September 2005 (**The Conan Doyle [Crowborough] Establishment**, Brian Pugh, 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN). *Mayday Mayday*, October 2005, and *C-Extra*, 12 October 2005 (**The Crew of the SS May Day**, Oscar Ross, 19 Ardarn Way, Belfast BT5 7RP). *The Parallelogram*, May-July-September 2005 (**The Parallel Case of**

St Louis, Joseph J Eckrich, 914 Oakmoor, Fenton, MO 63026, USA). *Quivers on the Web*, September 2005 (**221B**, Philip Weller, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 6RU). *3 Pipe Problem Plugs and Dottles*, October 2005 (**The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem**, Kay Blocker, 5017 Maywood Drive, Nashville, TN 37211, USA <pkblocker@comcast.net>). *The Torr*, Autumn 2005 (**The Poor Folk Upon The Moors**, Reggie Musgrave, Drummond Cottage, Old Tavern Yard, Westbourne, Chichester, West Sussex PO10 8TA). *The Vermissa Herald*, April 2005 (**The Scowrers & Molly Maguires of San Francisco**, Carol Russell, 314 Laurel Court, Cloverdale, CA 95425, USA). *The*

Whaling News, September and October 2005 (**The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn**, Michael E Bragg, PO Box 256, St Charles, MO 63302-0256, USA).

And of course *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, October 2005 and September 2005 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; <blau7103@comcast.net>).

Roger Johnson