THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London

Roger Johnson, Mole End, 4l Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 137 17th January 1994

We were privileged a couple of weekends ago to be among the unprecedented British contingent that attended the annual Sherlockian festivities in New York. The new investitures awarded by the Baker Street Irregulars included several to DM readers: Catherine Cooke ("The Book of Life"), Geoffrey Stavert ("The Shingle of Southsea"), Francine Swift ("The Wigmore Street Post Office"), T. Michelle Fromkin ("The Missing Three-Quarter"), Peter Crupe ("The Noble Bachelor") and Thom Utecht ("Arthur Charpentier"). Those are the ones I can remember at the moment; see the next issue of **The Baker Street Journal** for a full list. It's available on subscription from P.O. Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331, U.S.A., and it's a must among Holmesian periodicals.

Tom Stix ("Wiggins" of the BSI) attended our Society's annual dinner at the Regent Hotel last Saturday and presented one further investiture, to our President, Tony Howlett ("John Hector McFarlane"). This represents a very graceful tribute, since Tom's own investiture ("Wiggins" is his title as head of the BSI) is "The Norwood Builder". (*An account of the dinner will appear in **The Sherlock Holmes Journal.***) Tony's, Catherine's and Geoffrey's investitures make the number of living British BSIs up to twelve - a Baker Street Dozen. Geoffrey is already being referred to among his friends as "Shingle".

The place in New York to look for Holmesiana is still Otto Penzler's Mysterious Bookshop at 129 West 56th Street, but other sources are the long-established Murder Ink (now under new ownership, we're told) at 2486 Broadway, and the two branches of Foul Play, at 13 8th Avenue and 1456B 2nd Avenue. There are less expected places of interest, though. The Warner Brothers Studio Store on 5th Avenue near Central Park, for instance, has a row of bas-reliefs above the big windows, illustrating the studio's various kinds of movie; "Mystery" is a scene from **Deduce You Say**, with Daffy Duck and Porky Pig as Holmes and Watson. As in London, it pays Holmesians to keep their eyes open.

Anthony Burgess died on the 25th November, best-known as a novelist (A **Clockwork Orange**, et al), he was also a critic, an essayist, and a Sherlock Holmes enthusiast. Even Dame Jean Conan Doyle liked his pastiche "Murder to Music" in the 1989 collection **The Devil's Mode.**

Ian Henry's magnum opus has now appeared. This is **The Return of Sherlock Holmes**, the play by J.E. Harold Terry & Arthur Rose, written for the great Eille Norwood and produced to considerable acclaim in the West End in 1923. Astonishingly, this is the first published edition. There's a four-page introduction by Ernest Dudley, an actor himself, and Norwood's son-in-law. The play is very good, being based essentially on the case of Lady Frances Carfax, but cheerfully incorporating elements from other stories as well; Conan Doyle gave it his enthusiastic approval, and it certainly reads as well as **The Speckled Band** or even Gillette's **Sherlock Holmes.** It does have a large number of characters, though, and a professional production might need the resources of one of the major subsidised theatres. However,

there's plenty of scope here for a good amateur company, and in fact a completely revised acting edition is currently in preparation. As to the book, I agree wholly with the publisher's announcement: "This is a limited edition of 500 numbered copies in a beautifully presented version, of 120 pages, cloth-bound, on high quality paper, with head and tail bands, and in a slip case, and reproducing 20 photographs of the original 1923 production that starred Eille Norwood at the Prince's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, together with advertisements from the original programme. It is of large format to give optimum space for the photographs." This original version of the play will not be available again; the many of us with an interest in dramatic presentations of Holmes and Watson will find it worth the rather high price of £37.50/$61.00, which includes postage, Cheques or US bank checks should be payable to Ian Henry Publications Ltd, and sent to 20 Park Drive, Romford RM1 4LH, England. (*Unless noted otherwise, dollar prices quoted in the DM are in US dollars.*)

Forthcoming from Ian Henry: **The Singular Case of the Duplicate Holmes** by Jan Walker (March), **The Earthquake Machine** by Adrian Mitchelson & Nicholas Utechin (this will be the first British edition, free of the original's numerous misprints), and **Sherlock Holmes Unmasked,** an "expose" by Adrian Mitchelson (this sounds pretty outré...).

The latest book from the amazingly energetic Philip Weller is **Elementary Holmes: A Pocket Reference Guide To The World Of Sherlock Holmes** (Sherlock Publications, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 3RU). The cost including postage (airmail overseas) is: £6.00 UK; £7.00/$14.00 Europe; £7.50/$15.00 rest of world. Postal insurance if required is £3.00/$6.00. The book is just what it claims to be, and it really does fit into the average pocket. The essentials of the Canon and the apocrypha are clearly set out, and there is a sensible suggestion for a basic Holmesian library (which includes an item or two that I lack, and at least one that I'd have replaced with another: Pohl & Hart's **Sherlock Holmes on the Screen** has been more useful to me over the years than Steinbrunner & Michaels' **The Films of Sherlock Holmes**). There's a curious and idiosyncratic glossary, but the greater part of the book is taken up with "The Chronological Elements", and it is the author's careful work in collating the findings of the nine major chronologists that will prove of lasting value. For this section alone, **Elementary Holmes** is worth the price.

The fourth Musgrave Monograph is **I Looked in at Mecca**, in which Anne Jordan discusses Holmes' reasons for visiting Mecca, and tells us what he found there. Copies can be had for UK £3.50, Europe £4.00, USA $6.00. All prices include postage. Cheques should be payable to The Northern Musgraves; dollar payment in US dollar bills, please. (Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 4DN).

An important new publishing venture is Otto Penzler's Sherlock Holmes Library (Otto Penzler Books, 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019, USA), whose first volumes are attractive paperback reprints of pretty well essential, but damned hard to come by, early commentaries: Vincent Starrett's **The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes**, T.S. Blakeney's **Sherlock Holmes: Fact or Fiction?** and **221B: Studies in Sherlock Holmes** edited by Starrett (all $7.95). The Teapot Press (P.O. Box 2048, Scotia, NY 12302, USA) has issued three interesting booklets at about $5.00 each: **Sherlock Holmes Observed: A Field Guide to the Granada TV Series** by Eleri Arden, **Dressing Up Victorian: Inexpensive Turn-of-the-Century Outfits You Don't Have to Sew** by Cheryl Kurd, and **Tea For Two: How to Plan, Give and Enjoy a**

Tea Party.

Something I don't recall seeing mentioned elsewhere is a short-lived series for young adults, in paperback from Random House under the overall title **My Name Is Paris.** We found a copy of #3, **A Scent of Murder** by Elizabeth Howard, published in 1987 and now out of print; a pity, as it all seems to be rather nicely done. ("Paris MacKenzie is a sixteen-year-old from Chicago with an irrepressible personality and a passion for Sherlock Holmes. When she visits her namesake city at the turn of the century, Paris finds all the glamour and romance she ever dreamed of..."). If you can help me with other volumes in the series, will you please let me know?

I couldn' t give a price in the last DM for **The Baker Street Briefs** by S. Tupper Bigelow (Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, c/o George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, Ontario LON 1SO, Canada). Now I can: it's Canada $14.95, USA $12.95, Great Britain £7.50 - plus $3.00 or £1.50 postage. Well worth it, too. I did note in the last DM that publication of Ron De Waal's long-awaited **The Universal Sherlock Holmes** has had to be delayed until (appropriately - it's Arthur Conan Doyle's birthday) the 22nd May. The price will not exceed $100.00 or equivalent, plus postage. We've now seen proof copies, both in spiral-bound format and hard-bound from loose pages, and it all looks very encouraging. (Specify when ordering if you want spiral-bound or loose pages; if the latter, you'll have to arrange for binding, as it won't be done for you.) The British and European agent for the book is Sherlock Publications (address on p. 2); if you live elsewhere, it's probably best to direct enquiries to George Vanderburgh.

Tina Rhea (3-E Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1969, USA) is preparing a biography of the late Michael Harrison, and is interested in stories and articles by or about him, including three of his books: **Battered Caravanserai, There's Glory For You!** and **A Hansom to St James's.** Meanwhile, she's published **The Books of Michael Harrison,** a 48-page monograph, "available for $5 in the US and Canada, or £5 in Great Britain (international money order or five pound note)".

David Stuart Davies is "our man in Baker Street" for the magazine **Scarlet Street,** whose issue #13 features in-depth material on the Rathbone/Bruce **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes,** including interviews with Ida Lupino (Ann Brandon) and Terry Kilburn (Billy). Single copies are available from **Scarlet Street** Inc. (P.O. Box 604, Dept H13, Glen Rock, NJ 07452, USA) at US $5.95 or Canada $6.95. (In Britain, I'd suggest writing for information to David, at Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER.)

The D Case by Carlo Fruttero and Franco Lucentini, in which various famous detectives discuss the mystery of Edwin. Drood, sees its first British publication this month as a large paperback (Chatto & Windus, £10.99). There's a new edition available from Bracken Books of **The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes** by Philip Weller with Christopher Roden. The price I have to hand is £6.99. Next month, Virgin will publish a revised edition of Peter Haining's **The Television Sherlock Holmes** at £14.99. Next month also **Sherlock Holmes and the Railway Maniac** comes from Constable, at £13.99. Meanwhile, new catalogues are available from Post Mortem Books (58 Stanford Avenue, Hassocks, Sussex BN6 8JH; phone 0273 843066), The Black Cat Bookshop (37-39 Silver Arcade, Leicester LE1 5FB; phone 0533 512756) and Gravesend Books (Box 235, Pocono Pines, PA 18350, USA).

A company called Tring Audio Books (Tring International PLC, Triangle Business Park, Wendover Road, Aylebury, Bucks. HP22 5BL) is reissuing the Pickwick Talking Books cassettes, including the fine unabridged reading of

The Speckled Band by Donald Pickering (Watson to Geoffrey Whitehead's Holmes), now available as TAB 021 at about £2.99.

Once again, Steven Emmons has held an exhibition of his Holmesian and other illustrative work at the Chisholm Gallery, 89 5th Avenue, 9th floor, (between 16th & 17th Streets), New York. He sells both original drawings/paintings and prints: one painting was sold for $2500.00 while we were there! Linda Crane said in **The Serpentine Muse:** "It is a delight to see a graphic artist who has the potential to follow Paget and Steele as the third great Sherlockian illustrator... His work deserves the highest praise, from both a Sherlockian and an artistic point of view." Steven Emmons can be contacted at 70A Greenwich Avenue, New York, NY 10011 (212 627-4889). More excellent prints are available from Tom Rieschick (179 Gold Kettle Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878, USA), who has done work on commission for **Mystery** on PBS, which broadcasts Granada's Holmes series. Kevin Gordon (340 West 89th Street, New York, NY 10024-2144, USA) produces "Sherlock Holmes Photo-Artifacts" to order at $95.00 each, plus postage. That's not cheap, but the results are exquisite. He will find a late-19th century portrait photograph that closely matches the canonical description of your chosen character, create the artifact to go with it (letter or whatever, it will look thoroughly authentic), and frame the whole. We're talking the sort of thing that would have made the Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street worth visiting.

Should you find yourself at the upper end of Baker Street, by the way, don't waste your time and money on the Museum. Just across the road is The Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company, where you'll probably find something that you want to buy; or you can have your photo taken with a life-size model of Holmes in a set based on the railway carriage scene from "Silver Blaze". The point is that you don't have to <u>pay</u> to spend time there, even if you only browse. The range of merchandise continually grows, and there's a new catalogue available at £2.00 (The Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company, 230 Baker Street, London NW1 5RT; phone 071-486 1426). Next door at no. 232 is IDA Wines, which stocks a very drinkable <u>vin ordinaire</u> under the name "221 Bin", and glasses with the same logo. A bottle and a couple of glasses would make an inexpensive and thoughtful present, for a friend or for yourself.

William Knoth (W.K. Dolls, 6641 Backlick Road, Suite 206, Springfield, VA 22150, USA) has a range of six 21" tall porcelain dolls under the overall title <u>Holmes & Co.</u>, each in a limited edition of 350. For $500.00 each you can have "Mr Holmes", "Col. Moran" (or the pair for $900.00), "Irene Adler", "Dr Watson" (or the pair...), "Professor Moriarty" or "Inspector Lestrade" (or the pair...) - <u>or</u> you can buy all three pairs for $2500.00! Michael Ricker Pewter (5433 West 38th Avenue, #132, Westminster, CO 80030, USA) is working on a set of figures in a numbered, limited edition, together with a section (in pewter & fibreglass, approx. 15"x 10½"x 8") of Holmes' room. The first figure, Dr Watson, is now available at an inclusive price of $92.00. Order of production will probably be Mrs Hudson, Baker Street Irregular, the consulting room, Inspector Lestrade, Sherlock Holmes.

Hugh S. Scullion writes to correct a misapprehension in the last DM. The lovely little box which is the latest project from Cadds Printing Ltd (59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL) is actually enamelled brass, fired, hand-painted, fired again (and possibly fired yet again before it's complete). This is a numbered, limited edition of 200. The lid bears in full-colour Steele's picture of Holmes gazing into the depths of the Reichenbach; inside the lid is the legend "The Return of Sherlock

Holmes, 1894-1994". The box comes in a silk-lined case, and costs £85.00/$145.00 (dollar checks should be made payable to Mrs Ferrara). Cadds also offer at £170.00 a small wool rug (24"x 27"), fitted with hangers, bearing the design of a black Holmes silhouette on an off-white background.

Maurice Tanner of The Maximum Original Company (180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon. CR0 2LA) reminds me that he offers the Maximum Card Set: five different postcards, bearing a photo of Sir Arthur and a colour picture of Holmes taken from the old John Murray dust-jackets. Each card bears one of the new Sherlock Holmes stamps, and each set is franked with one of five different first-day-of-issue hand-stamps: "Baker Street, London NW1", "221B Baker Street", "Sherlock Holmes Society of London", "Sherlock Holmes Museum" or "London" (please state 1st & 2nd choice). Cost per set is UK £6.99 or overseas £7.99 (cheques payable to Mr Tanner; overseas customers may pay by credit card, which attracts a 20p handling charge, international money order, or sterling cheques). Insurance costs UK 55p or overseas £2.50 extra. Mr Tanner adds, "Ordinary postcards are available at £2.99 for UK and £3.99 overseas inclusive of postage."

Donald Silk has kindly sent a cutting from the Michaelmas issue of **Oxford Today.** The Oxford University Film Foundation has been working on a 20-minute black comedy about Holmes & Watson called **The Severed Hand,** in which talented amateurs combine forces with professionals. "After filming is completed, **The Severed Hand** is expected to be shown in film festivals and bought by television networks for short film slots." George Vanderburgh passes on news of a forthcoming production of Gillette's **Sherlock Holmes,** to run from 18th June to 15th October as a part of the Shaw Festival in Ontario, Canada (another play running during the Festival is Dorothy L. Sayers' **Busman's Honeymoon**). For details contact the Shaw Festival Foundation, Box 774, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario L0S 1J0, Canada (phone 905 468-2153).

Malcolm Payne sends news of the Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment, which now offers Associate Membership, with an annual newsletter for an annual donation of £10.00 or $20.00 "towards the continued maintenance of the Arthur Conan Doyle Memorial, furtherance to the recognition of the works of Sir Arthur, and upkeep of the archive and museum". The members of the Establishment give their work freely, and charge no expenses. Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer at The Conan Doyle Room, The Cross Hotel, Crowborough, East Sussex. Some copies are still available of the Establishment's First Day Cover at £6.75/$15.00 (*this is one of the handsomest of the covers*), and don't forget **Recollections of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**, at UK £5.00, Europe £5.50/$11.00, Canada & USA £6.00/$12.00, elsewhere £6.50/$13.00 (all prices include postage). Sterling cheques should be payable to ACD Memorial Fund, and dollar payments should be in US dollar bills.

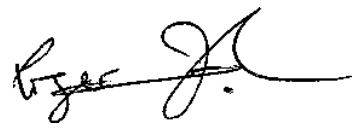
You'll be aware that our own Society, in collaboration with the Arthur Conan Doyle Society, the Dorothy L. Sayers Society, the Northern Musgraves, and possibly others, is planning **Back to Baker Street: the Sherlock Holmes London Festival,** to run from Friday 20th to Monday 30th May. There will be all sorts of events, all London-based and all affordable, and an accompanying handbook. If you don't regularly receive news of the Society's activities ask Helen Dorey for a booking-form (Top Flat, 69 Dartmouth Road, London NW2 4EP).

The 6th annual CCC (Canonical Convocation & Caper) will be held over the weekend 16th - 18th September in Door County, Wisconsin. Cost will be about $150.00 per person, and numbers are strictly limited to 60, "to preserve

the intimacy of the occasion". If you're interested, write to Jane Richardson, 3456 East Exchange Street, Crete, IL 60417, USA. **Sherlock Holmes at Vassar College** is a 4-day mini-course to be held at the famous American university from Sunday evening 10th July to Friday morning 15th July. This extensive course will be taught by Julia Carlson Rosenblatt, ASH, BSI, and the Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt, BSI. For details, write to Maryann Bruno, Vassar College, Conferences & Summer Programs, Box 77, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, USA. Then there's **Sherlock Holmes: Victorian Sleuth to Modern Hero, 1894-1994,** a conference at Bennington College in Vermont, taking place from 23rd to 26th June. Speakers will include Nicholas Meyer, Patrick Campbell, David Skene-Melvin and Philip K. Wilson, among many others. Details from Joseph Cutshall-King, Box 304, North Bennington, VT 05257, USA.

Periodicals of interest received during the Hiatus since DM 136. **The Franco-Midland Hardware Company Interim Report 1993: The Boscombe Valley Contract Reviewed** ("The Stock-broker's Clerk", 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU) (*full of stimulating essays inspired by a case which has attracted surprisingly little attention over the years*). **The Irregular Special Railway Company Newsletter no.** 7 (Antony Richards, 163 Marine Parade, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2RB) (*includes what I think is the first complete illustrated list of sponsored First Day Cancels for Those Stamps*). **Llama Droppings** no. 1 (The Head Llamas, 12 Booth Drive, Laleham, Staines, Middlesex TW18 1PR) (*this is a new society whose specialism is canonical natural history*). The **Midnight Oil** no. 2 (The Nocturnal Journalists of 131 Pitt Street, Cate Pfeifer, 3939 N. Murray Avenue, #402, Milwaukee, WI 53211, USA) (*their specialism is humour*). **The Parallelogram** January 1994 (The Parallel Case of St Louis, Joseph J. Eckrich, 914 Oakmoor, Fenton, MO 63026, USA). **The Petrel Flyer** December 1993 (The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, Len Haffenden, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, BC V7P 3C6, Canada).

The Pleasant Places of Florida Communication nos. 131, 132 & 133 (Dr Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA) (*Ben is the BSI's Chaplain and the authority on Holmesian and Doylean philately*). **The Ritual** no. 12 (The Northern Musgraves/ David Stuart Davies, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER) (*and along with this issue, **The Northern Musgraves Commonplace Book: The First Five Years, 1988-1992,** being a comprehensive index to **The Ritual and The Musgrave Papers,** compiled by Peter Coleman*). **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** December 1993 (Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW, #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA) (*the invaluable source of information in our field*). **The Serpentine Mews** winter 1993 (The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, Evelyn Herzog, 360 West 21st Street, #5A, New York, NY 10011, USA). **The Sherlock Holmes Journal** winter 1993 (The Sherlock Holmes Society of London... but I trust you knew about this one already). **The Soft-Nosed Bullet-In** December 1993 (Von Herder Airguns Ltd, Michael Ross, Bendheide 65, 47906 Kempen 1, Germany) (*it's all in German*). **Stimson & Company Gazette** no. 4 (Stimson & Company, Michael W. McClure, 1415 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62233, USA) (*a Sherlock Holmes society specifically for funeral directors - and people think ordinary Sherlockians are odd!*). **Varieties of Ash** winter 1994 (Susan E. Dahlinger, 758 Third Street, Secaucus, NJ 07094, USA) (*the long-delayed third issue*).



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no. 138 28th February 1994

David Stuart Davies passes on the sad news that Robert Godfrey, the owner of **The Sherlock Holmes Gazette,** died recently after a long illness. He and Elizabeth Wiggins worked hard to make the **Gazette** a practical commercial publication. It is hoped that the **Gazette** will continue; I'll let you know when I do. **Baker Street Miscellanea** is to close after its 76th issue. Donald Pollock, the editor, says that he hasn't enough good material to keep it going, and he doesn't want it simply to decline. Sad. It seems that other journals, linked with active societies, are now claiming the first loyalty of many scholars.

Virgin Publishing Ltd (332 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 5AH) will reissue on the 7th March Peter Haining's **The Television Sherlock Holmes.** This £14.99 paperback is advertised as "now fully revised and updated". It isn't. The updating consists of giving the credits for the six episodes in Granada's forthcoming **The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes** - though the cast of "The Cardboard Box" apparently comprises only Brett and Hardwicke. The revision consists of a new foreword by Jeremy Brett and a new afterword by Michael Cox. Otherwise, the book remains a visually impressive but flawed tribute to Granada's series, not the comprehensive study of Holmes on the small screen that we had hoped for. Peter Cushing's 1968 BBC TV series is still illustrated with pictures from Hammer's 1958 **The Hound of the Baskervilles** (p. 66). Tom Baker's 1982 BBC TV **Hound** is still illustrated with a picture from the Dr Who adventure The **Talons of Weng-Chiang** (p. 83). A cartoon by the female artist Merrily Harpur is still referred to as "his sketch" (p. 180). Worse yet, on page 17, we still read: "After qualifying as an MD, Conan Doyle satisfied his natural bent for adventure by serving as a ship's surgeon on an Arctic whaling cruise. But the harsh conditions and poor pay soon drove him back to dry land. Returning to London in the depths of winter, he spent a memorable night wandering around the fog-bound streets in the vicinity of Regents Park where he had digs." This farrago of inaccuracies and untruths was fully dealt with by Jon Lellenberg in his **Baker Street Miscellanea** review of the first edition! And so it goes on. As a background to the Granada series, this book is attractive, but with all its flaws, it simply is not worth the asking price.

But I'm happy to recommend **Baker Street and Beyond: Essays on Sherlock Holmes** by Lord Donegall, a joint publication by our own Society and Westminster Libraries. Fraser Smyth and Catherine Cooke have gathered together for the first time all Donegall's articles in this series, the first 15 having originally appeared in the short-lived **New Strand,** and the last 4 in **The Sherlock Holmes Journal.** Donegall is best remembered in our field as the editor who made the SHJ what it is today, but he was also a witty and perceptive Holmesian scholar, as this very nice book shows. Tony Howlett has written an affectionate introduction, and there's a superb illustrated section, reproducing in full colour all Donegall's ten Christmas cards, six of them featuring Julian Wolff's Sherlockian maps, specially coloured for the occasion. Send orders to the Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5PS; sterling

or US dollar cheques should be payable to City of Westminster. The inclusive cost is: UK, £16.50; Europe, £17.50; North America, $35.00; Far East/Australia, £19.50.

A recent publication from Magico Magazine is **They Came to Baker Street** by Reginald L. Johnson. The author summarises the facts, and makes sensible deductions, about those who brought their problems to Sherlock Holmes. Nicely produced, to Magico's usual standards. Write for further details to P.O. Box 156, New York, NY 10002, U.S.A.

Elkin Mathews second-hand book shop (16 Stoneham Street, Coggeshall, Essex C06 1TT; phone 0376 561730) a couple of days ago had the first 12 volumes of **The Strand Magazine** in the original blue binding, and in very nice condition, at £115.00 the lot - just under £10.00 a volume.

Provisionally scheduled from Constable (3 The Lanchesters, 162 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 9LR) is **The Adventures of Charlotte Holmes** by H. Bailey (£14.95). In April, Warner (Little, Brown & Co. [UK] Ltd, Brettenham House, Lancaster Place, London WC2E 7EN) will publish a new edition of **The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes** (£5.99). Family Vision Press (Multimedia Communication Inc., 575 Madison Avenue, Suite 1006, New York, NY 10022, USA) has published **The Adventures of Shelly Holmes, case #1: Dead Man's Confession** by Cass Lewis.

There's a new collection of four Solar Pons novellas by Basil Copper recently out in hardback from Fedogan & Bremer (700 Washington Avenue SE, Suite 50, Minneapolis, MN 55414, USA): **The Exploits of Solar Pons** ($24.00). Two of Copper's Pons books are available in the UK: **The Dossier of Solar Pons** and **The Further Adventures of Solar Pons** (Academy Chicago, 425 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611, USA; £6.99 each). Sadly, only the last of August Derleth's original books is in print here: **The Chronicles of Solar Pons** (Robson Books Ltd, 28 Poland Street, London W1V 3DB; £4.99). However, nearly all the Pontine canon is in the two-volume **Solar Pons Omnibus**, still available from Arkham House Publishers Inc., Sauk City, Wisconsin, USA, at about $40.00. Plans are afoot for a small book containing the few remaining pieces. Watch this space.

Dr Watson Books (PO Box 1888, Bow, London E3 5PJ) are doing a special promotion offer on their handsome facsimile of the first book edition of **A Study in Scarlet** (illustrated by Conan Doyle's father): while stocks last, a copy costs £25.00 or $37.50, including postage worldwide. At the other end of the scale, Penguin has launched a "Popular Classics" list, spurred by the success of Wordsworth Classics. All titles cost just £1.00. Forthcoming is **Selected Sherlock Holmes.** Richard Wein sends January's catalogue from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011, USA), whose Pick of the Month is a new edition of Ken Greenwald's **The Lost Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** ($4.98 + shipping and insurance), and including **The Annotated Sherlock Holmes** ($29.95) and **100 Dastardly Little Detective Stories**, featuring many Holmes parodies, ($7.98).

Catherine Cooke points out that guided reading schemes from various publishers include Holmes stories. Oxford Bookworms publish **Sherlock Holmes Short Stories** (£1.60) and **The Hound of the Baskervilles** (£1.90); these feature Paget and other good illustrations. Heinemann Guided Readers publish **The Sign of** Four (£2.00), **The Speckled Band and Other Stories** (£2.10) and **Silver Blaze and Other Stories** (£1.70), while Nelson Readers publish **Three Sherlock Holmes Adventures** (£1.40). These all have nice line drawings. Cassette recordings are available for most of the books at about £5.00 each. The Black Cat Bookshop (37-39 Silver Arcade, Leicester LE1 5FB)

asks me to say that the shop's new Holmes/Doyle catalogue can be had for: UK, £1.00; overseas, £2.00 or DM5 or $6.00, or six IRCs (German or US currency in cash, please).

Geoffrey Stavert passes on issue no. 7 of **Ripperana: the Journal of Ripperology** (16 Costons Avenue, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8RJ). There's interesting material here, but the only piece that strikes me as substantially new is Jon Ogan's summary of David Canter's psychological profile of Jack the Ripper. This 2-8-page A5 magazine looks fuller than it is because the print is double-spaced. I'm left feeling a bit lukewarm; perhaps I'm sated by the amount of Ripperature that's appeared recently. **Ripperana** is a quarterly. A year's subscription in the £6.00 (UK) or £8.00 (overseas). Sterling cheques or money orders should be payable to N.P. Warren; US dollar bills can be accepted.

New at the Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Street, Charing Cross, is a palatable brew called Sherlock Holmes Fine Ale. Just over the road from the Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company in Baker Street is a new shop called At Present, which has some nice gift ideas. We found a lead figure of Holmes, about 2" high and neatly painted, with grey Inverness, green cravat, and brown deerstalker. Fair value at £6.95. The China Ware House Company (14-16 Canton Street, Carnaby Street, London W1V 1LB; phone 071-734 2174), has several items of Holmesian interest. A wooden music-box broadly representing the Sherlock Holmes pub, about 7"x 7"x 5", and made by Pauline Ralph of Devon; when the lid is raised, it plays "Home Sweet Home" (£52.95). The Bossons heads of Holmes, Watson and Moriarty are priced at £13.95 each. The Warwick Models pewter thimbles of Holmes are £12.95. There's also a Baker Street sign fridge magnet.

The first four plays in Radio 4's **The Return of Sherlock Holmes,** with Clive Merrison and Michael Williams, are out now on a double cassette from the BBC Radio Collection (Room A2106, BBC Enterprises Ltd, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT; £7.99); the second and third will follow in March and April. Also due out now is the first cassette of **The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** with Rathbone and Bruce (Simon & Schuster Audioworks, Simon & Schuster Ltd, West Garden Place, London W2 2AQ; £7.99). Granada's **The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes** with Brett and Hardwicke (comprising "The Three Gables", "The Dying Detective", "The Golden Pince-Nez", "The Red Circle", "The Mazarin Stone" and "The Cardboard Box") should begin transmission on ITV about now. David Stuart Davies (Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER; phone 0484 42□957) informs me that Granada will host an evening on the Baker Street set at 6.30 pm on Tuesday the 15th March, primarily for the press. Called **The Making of Sherlock Holmes,** it will feature Edward Hardwicke, June Wyndham Davies and several of the writers. There may be some places available for Holmesians. Check with David!

Alan Saunders (12 Booth Drive, Laleham, Staines, Middlesex TW18 1PR) reminds me that The Head Llamas will hold a Field Trip to Sherman's Animal Emporium (the Natural History Museum, London) on Sunday the 13th March, meeting at the museum's main entrance at 11.30 am. A full day is planned, ending at about 5.30. The only charge will be the museum's entrance fee. Clare Taylor (2 Lynbridge Court, Chapel Street, Tavistock, Devon PL19 8DX) tells me that The Poor Folk On The Moors have struck up a good relationship with the Governor of H.M. Prison, Dartmoor, who has extended to them a provisional invitation to the opening of a museum that is being set up at the prison. More on this when I know more. David Stuart Davies passes on news that the Northern Musgraves' meeting **Mr Holmes & Dr Doyle** (at the George Hotel in Huddersfield, Saturday 26th March; £13.50 per person,

including a 3-course lunch) will feature Catherine Cooke as chief speaker, with John Addy on Joseph Bell, Richard Lancelyn Green and Christopher Roden on their contribution to **The Oxford Sherlock Holmes,** a seminar on that edition, and a performance of a section from David's work in progress **Art in the Blood: An Evening with Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes.** More details can be had from David. (Do remember to enclose a stamped and self-addressed envelope when sending your enquiries.)

Frank Darlington (141 NW 181st Street, Seattle, WA 98177, USA) heads this issue's Agony Column: "Wanted - a London agent to do some occasional trifling on-site research. Ideal billet for a retiree who rebels at stagnation. Will recompense by providing mental exaltation and, as well, any quid pro quo services that I can fulfil from here in the colonies." Michael Connolly (Tirgarve, Allistragh, Armagh, Northern Ireland BT6 8EZ) is next: "Collector requires a copy of **The Tangled Skein by** David Stuart Davies. If anyone has a copy for sale or would consider swapping it for some (i.e. more than one) of a dozen available Holmesian books (mainly pastiches), please contact..." Then comes Allan Smith (1 Wilmington Close, Tudor Grange, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE3 2SF), who wants video recordings of **Murder by Decree** and the Hammer **Hound Of the Baskervilles.** And finally Georgina Ledger (Rose Cottage, Coton, Milwich, Stafford ST18 0ET) : "Wanted: A **Puzzle for Sherlock Holmes** by Robert Newman (paperback), **Disguises in the Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** by Alvin Rodin & Jack Key, **Sherlock and Porlock** by Kelvin T Jones, and **Good Old Index** by W.D. Goodrich."

R.J. Greep, Treasurer of the Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment tells me that he has a few left of the Establishment's First Day Covers from the issue of the Sherlock Holmes stamps, as well as a limited edition of covers celebrating Holmes's 140th birthday on the 6th January. Future plans include covers for the 65th anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, the 135th anniversary of his birth, and the 95th anniversary of his dismissal of W.G. Grace. Fuller details from Mr Greep at The Limes, Bridge Road, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2SL. Don't forget that a donation of £10.00 a year gets you Associate Membership in the Establishment, with a bulky annual newsletter and other privileges. All profits support the Establishment's work.

Recent periodicals of interest. **The Pleasant Places of Florida Communication** no. 134 and 135 (Dr Benton Wood, BSI, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA). (*Particularly good on philatelic matters. *) **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** January 1994 (Peter E. Blau, 390 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA). (*The newsletter.*) **The School Report** no. 16 (The Priory Scholars of Leicester, Horace L. Coates, 21 Butcombe Road, Leicester LE4 0FY). (*This friendly and active group has recently affiliated to the Franco-Midland Hardware Company.*) **The New Baker Street Pillar Box** no. 17 (The Franco-Midland Hardware Company, The Stock-broker's Clerk, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU) (*The highlight of this issue is an article on the Bruce-Partington Submarine by Philip Weller.*)

The Rotary Club of Northampton Becket is planning to step back a century on Sunday the 1st May with a Victorian Extravaganza. Those local to the area and interested in taking part should contact Andrew Metcalfe at Wahroonga, Stoke Park, Towcester, Northants. NN12 7RZ (home phone 0604 862256, work phone 0604 581421).

THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London

Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 139 Easter 1994

1994 is proving a very busy year. Jean and I are currently compiling and editing a collection of essays, **Back to Baker Street**, which will be published in May to support the Society's "Back to Baker Street" festival. A number of classic pieces, long out of print, will be complemented by new essays from some of the Society's most incisive minds; as a bonus there's a brace of new cartoons by the inimitable Jeff Decker, and a jeu d'esprit by Stephen Fry. We hope that, like the festival itself, the book will reflect the vital balance of scholarship and fun within the Society, and that it will prove a valuable handbook for future pilgrims to Holmes' London.

Sir John Gielgud, Holmes on radio in the early 1950s, a memorable Lord Salisbury in **Murder by Decree**, an actor apparently incapable of a bad performance, will celebrate his 90th birthday this month.

Last October, David R. Godine (Horticultural Hall, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, USA) published **Sherlock in Love** by Sena Jeter Naslund at $21.95. **Kirkus Reviews** called it "one of the very few Holmes pastiches that not only honors the great man's memory, but unleashes his residual mythic power for more ambitious purposes"; for the life of me I can't see why, unless the reviewer's grasp of the nature of Sherlock Holmes was as weak as his grammar. The great love of Holmes's life, we are to believe, is his own half-sister, whose expertise at cross-dressing rivals Irene Adler's. It's clever, but rather pointless. The incidental mystery, involving King Ludwig of Bavaria, is neat. Even less for the purist is **The Sexual Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** by Larry Townsend, a Badboy book from Masquerade Books Inc. (801 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017, USA; $4.95). Don't expect a serious, tasteful homoerotic work like **My Dearest Holmes** - this is out-and-out pornography, but it's well written, by someone thoroughly familiar with the Canon, and the perversion of **A Study in Scarlet**, "The Greek Interpreter" and "The Final Problem" is very clever. On its first appearance in the early 1970s, Lord Donegall called it "wholly filthy". You have been warned.

Just out from Warner Books (Little, Brown & Co. [UK], Brettenham House, Lancaster Place, London WC2E 7EN) is **The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The slogan "Now a Granada Television Series" gives the game away. This slim paperback actually contains the seven stories drawn on for the current TV series, plus a brief, amiable introduction by Charles Viney. There's a good, brooding cover photo of Jeremy Brett, but the book is nothing special, and £5.99 is a lot to ask for it.

Then we have **A Sherlock Holmes Handbook** by Christopher Redmond (Simon & Pierre Publishing Ltd, c/o Dundurn Press Ltd, 2181 Queen Street East, Suite 301, Toronto M4E 1E5, Canada; $29.99). This really is something special. In 250 pages, without apparent strain, Chris Redmond covers the whole Holmes phenomenon with a light but authoritative touch. The Canon, the author, the background, the literary and social impact - it's all here.

This is such an important book that it's worth noting the few errors: "A Case of Identity" has indeed been adapted for radio at least twice by the BBC (p.13); the landlady who promised green peas at 7.30 was not Mrs Hudson but the proprietress of an inn (p.43); as far as I know a portion of the MS of "The Crooked Man" is not on deposit at Marylebone Library, though "The Lion's Mane" is (p.54); Dame Jean Conan Doyle's Christian names are Jean Lena Annette, not Lena Jean, and according to Dame Jean her parents' surname was Conan Doyle, not Doyle (p.72); the "amateur reasoner" did not solve the cases of "The Lost Special" and "The Man With the Watches" (p.82); Ellery Queen's novel **A Study in Terror** was based on the film, not vice versa (p.168); the Gielgud radio series was produced by Harry Alan Towers and not by the BBC (p.170); Jonathan Newth played Colonel Walter in Granada's **Bruce-Partington Plans,** not Geoffrey Bayldon, who was Sidney Johnson (p.176); Wayne & Francine Swift's presentation at **Autumn in Baker Street** 1987 surely covered this Society's Swiss Pilgrimage of that year rather than Sherry Rose-Bond and Scott Bond's trip (p.202); this Society has visited Switzerland in costume in 1968, 1978, 1987, 1988 and 1991 (pp. 202 & 206); John Doubleday's statue of Holmes in Meiringen, unveiled in 1988, was either the first or the second in the world (p.211). That is an astonishingly tiny number of errors in such a densely-packed text. Proof-reading and presentation generally are first-rate, and I thoroughly recommend the book. It's available outside North America from Dundurn Distribution (UK), 73 Lime Walk, Headington, Oxford OX3 7AD, England, for £16.50 plus postage.

Due last month from Macmillan Press Ltd (Brunei Road, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hants. RG21 2XS) was **Sherlock Holmes: the Major Stories, with Contemporary Critical Essays** by Arthur Conan Doyle, edited by J.A. Hodgson (£6.99). Tesco stores currently stock at £2.99 packs of ten "children's classics" in paperback. One includes **The Hound of the Baskervilles** and a selection called **Sherlock Holmes Investigates.** The publisher is Parragon Book Service Ltd, 4 Mulberry Close, Rosslyn Hill, London NW3 5UP. In a remainder shop at 60p Mark Chadderton found an Australian paperback, **The Great Detective and the Case of Captain Blunderbuss's Secret** by Susan Green, illustrated by Stuart Billington (Thomas Nelson Australia); it's based on a children's TV series about 11 year old Alexander Holmes and his dog Watson. Mark also notes that the new "Talking Classics" series from Orbis Publishing, a two-cassette or two-CD pack plus a full-colour magazine for £3.99, will include **The Hound of the Baskervilles.** There's no information as to the reader. The series appears fortnightly and is widely available in newsagents.

In the new catalogue from Counter Productions (PO Box 556, London SE5 0RL) is **Methods of Disguise** by John Sample: "the complete guide to changing your appearance, habits, mannerisms and voice" (£11.95 plus 75p postage). Georgina Ledger and Mark Hunter-Purvis have (separately) found **The Sherlock Holmes Book of Quotations** published in 1993 by Robert Frederick Ltd (Downwood, Claverton Down Road, Bath BA2 6DT) as a miniature hardback (3½"x 2½") at 99p. Mark says there are several different variants of the cover, all coloured Paget illustrations. Mark also found at The Works bookshop in Newcastle a Sherlock Holmes Notepad, from the same publisher at £1.99, with the same quotations and with coloured Paget illustrations.

From Christopher Roden: "To coincide with the first North American Convention of The Arthur Conan Doyle Society, the Society is republishing Conan Doyle's account of his 1914 visit to North America. **Western**

Wanderings was originally published in the **Cornhill Magazine** between January and April 1915, and was issued in an American copyright edition, comprising four booklets. The new edition of **Western Wanderings** is limited to 150 numbered copies and is being issued as a case-bound volume of 80 pages. An 11,000 word introduction by Christopher & Barbara Roden draws on contemporary newspaper reports to provide a commentary on Conan Doyle's 1914 visit. The book is illustrated with six photographs taken during ACD's visit, some of which are published here for the first time. Priced £19.50 (US$33; Cdn$45), including postage and packing, **Western Wanderings** is available from The Arthur Conan Doyle Society at Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG, UK."

New catalogues are out from The Black Cat Bookshop (37-39 Silver Arcade, Leicester LE1 5FB) (UK £1.00; overseas £2.00 or DM5 or $6.00 or 6 IRCs - German or US currency in cash, please), Gravesend Books (Box 235 Pocono Pines, PA 18350, USA) and Sherlock In LA (1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056, USA). Daniela Karger (Quirinstrasse 22, D-53129 Bonn, Germany) wants to sell her collection of German film programmes and stills from Holmes films from the 20s to the 80s. Send Daniela a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you're interested.

Simon & Schuster (West Garden Place, Kendal Street, London W2 2AQ) have issued, at £7.99 each, the first four cassettes in the Rathbone/Bruce radio series **The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes,** written by Denis Green & Anthony Boucher and produced for audio cassette by 221A Baker Street Associates. These are (1) **The Unfortunate Tobacconist/The Paradol Chamber,** (2) **The Viennese Strangler/The Notorious Canary Trainer,** (3) **The April Fool's Day Adventure/The Strange Adventure of the Uneasy Easy Chair** and (4) **The Mystery of the Headless Monk/The Strange Case of the Demon Barber.** Matthew Parker, the Product Executive/Audio at Simon & Schuster, tells me that at present they have no plans to publish the full series of 26 in Britain. If you disagree with that decision, as I hope you will, please write to him. These plays feature ingenious and elegantly written plots, appropriately tied in with the Canon and set in the correct period. The performances by Rathbone, Bruce and the other, mostly unidentified, actors are grandly full-blooded. The commercials for the sponsor, Petri California Wine, have themselves a nostalgic value. The sound quality is very good indeed - astonishing in broadcasts that were done live 50 years ago.

Thanks to Simon & Schuster, I have one spare copy of each cassette. If you would like one, please let me know before the 1st May. I'll draw winners' names from a hat. Don't ask for a specific title, please.

Mark Hunter-Purvis points out that until the end of May, purchasers of the cassette recordings of the BBC Radio **Return of Sherlock Holmes** with Merrison & Williams can collect a voucher from each of the 3 sets and send them in for a free copy of "The Second Stain". After then, that particular play will be included on the last tape of **The Memoirs,** along with "The Final Problem".

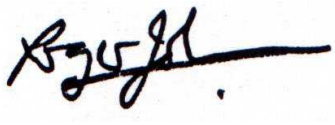
Catherine Cooke sends news of a "staged showcase reading of a new Sherlock Holmes play, **The Adventure at Sir Arthur Sullivan's,** by Tim Heath after Arthur Conan Doyle", which will take place on Sunday the 8th May at 8 pm at the Riverhouse Barn, Manor Road, Walton-on-Thames (box office phone 0932 253354). All tickets are £4.00 each. The play is set at the Royal Opera House, on a train from Waterloo, at Sullivan's house at Weybridge, and at

221B Baker Street. There's music by Sullivan and others. Holmes is played by Miles Richardson, whose father, Ian Richardson, was a memorable Holmes in **The Hound of the Baskervilles** and **The Sign of Four.** More information can be had from Tim Heath at 28A Battersea Rise, London SW11 1EE (071-350 2840).

One of the best and most versatile artists specialising in Sherlock Holmes is Deirdre Keetley. Original art, posters, end of range items and stained glass can be seen at Deirdre's Studio Gallery at 50 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DP, Monday to Friday 10.30 am - 5.30 pm, Saturday 10.30 am - 2.00 pm (other times by appointment: phone 071-837 9947). Deirdre's work can also be seen and purchased at the Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Street, Charing Cross, and at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street. An American artist whose work impressed us when we were in New York in January is Tom Rieschick (179 Gold Kettle Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878, USA); his black & white prints of Jeremy Brett, Basil Rathbone, Edward Hardwicke, Eric Porter and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle are very good value at $10.00 each plus postage. We found in a bargain store hand-painted statuettes, about 5" high, of costumed dogs, with the series title **It's A Dogs Life** (copyright 1992 by PMS); "Basset Hound" wears deerstalker and Inverness, and holds a magnifying glass. The face is more like a beagle's, and the quality is definitely inferior to Robert Harrop's **Country Companions**, but at £2.99 it's quite a bargain.

From Jane Weller: "Amongst the many functions arranged by the Franco-Midland Hardware Company for May, two highlights are: The Wessex Cup Day Meet at Newbury Race-Course on 14 May, with lunch, a seminar on horse racing in the Canon, a re-creation of the SILV race, and a walk along the track of the original Winchester Race-Course; a Military Day at the Berkshires' Regimental Museum in Salisbury on 22 May, with lunch, a seminar on the military in the Canon, a visit to the Maiwand exhibition, and a wreath-laying at the grave of ACD on the anniversary of his birthday. For further details, please send two first class stamps or one US dollar bill to 'The Stock-broker's Clerk', 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 3RU."

Periodicals recently received. **The Torr** no. 4 (The Poor Folk Upon the Moors, Eric Monahan, Highcliff, 14 Silver Bridge Close, Broadsands Park, Paignton, Devon TQ4 7NW) (*Eric has taken over editorship of this lively journal from Stephen Farrell*); **The Baker Street Journal** March 1994 (The Baker Street Irregulars, William R. Cochran, Editor: BSJ, 517 North Vine Street, DuQuoin, IL 62832, USA) (*all correspondence for the Baker Street Irregulars should be addressed to Thomas L. Stix, Jr, "Wiggins", 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648, USA*); **The Pleasant Places of Florida Communication** no. 136 (Dr Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA) (*brief but always fun - but, Ben, Holmes must have been a mere toddler when British postmen wore that kind of outfit!*); **The Petrel Flyer** March 1994 (The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, Len Haffenden, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3C6, Canada) (*the Petrels are taking over the organisation of the International Holmesian Games from the Sound of the Baskervilles; the 6th "Sherlympiad" will take place in Vancouver over the weekend of the 17th-18th September, and no doubt will be as pleasantly silly as its predecessors*).



THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London

Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 140 May Day, 1994

Our Honorary Member Patricia Dalton died on the 6th of April. Patsy became Chairman in 1980, the first woman to be elected to the post; when her husband Pip died the following year, she took on the duties of joint editor of **The Sherlock Holmes Journal** as well. Even during her long illness, she was a great worker for the Society. Her warmth, her good sense, and her wit were famous. She leaves many friends who miss her sorely.

It's less than three weeks now to the beginning of the Society's "Back to Baker Street" festival. I hope we'll be seeing a good number of you at various of the events in London. Even if you can't make it, I urge you to buy a copy of the book **Back to Baker Street;** it's full of meaty reading and will prove a grand memento of Sherlock Holmes' London.

The winners of the draw for copies of the Simon & Schuster **New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** cassettes, from the 1940s Rathbone/Bruce radio series (reviewed in DM 139), are Michael Connolly, R.J. Ellis, Stephen Farrell and Frank Johnson. The tapes will be with you shortly.

Robert Frederick Ltd (Downwood, Claverton Down Road, Bath BA2 6DT) has sent copies for review of **The Sherlock Holmes Notebook** and **The Sherlock Holmes Book of Quotations.** The notebook, approximately 9"x 6½", has 72 pages of attractive antiqued paper, twelve taken up with nicely coloured-in Paget illustrations. The cover features the famous picture of Holmes with dressing-gown and pipe from "The Man with the Twisted Lip". The book is liberally sprinkled with Canonical quotations. It's a striking bargain at £1.99. The same quotations make up the content of the other book, which is a miniature - 3½"x 2½" - and has no interior illustrations. The quotations aren't categorised, but this little item isn't intended as a serious research tool; it's more of an ideal Holmesian stocking-filler. There are four versions of the book, with identical contents but different covers, all coloured-in Pagets featured in the notebook. These too are a bargain at 99p each.

It seems unlikely that Jeremy Brett will do more Sherlock Holmes for Granada. He's still undergoing treatment for the health problems he contracted during filming of **The Memoirs,** but seems happier than he was. It's good to report that even with all the set-backs the series was an immense improvement on its immediate predecessors. Not a bad note to end on. Janet Steele (6 Bergman Walk, Newton Heath, Manchester M40 2EW) asks where she can get photos of Jeremy Brett. I'd suggest Granada Studios Tour and Granada TV, whose addresses will be in her local phone book. If you know of other sources, please write to Janet.

Now that Robert Hardy's excellent Canonical readings for Argo have all been reissued under licence by LFP, they're being reissued all over again, this time by PolyGram, beginning with **The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes.** They're widely available in record and book stores at £7.99.

The third and last double cassette in the Radio 4 **Return of Sherlock**

Holmes series, with Clive Merrison & Michael Williams, is due in May. There are only 12 stories on the tapes, but if you buy the three sets and send in the coupons provided you'll get "The Second Stain" free.

Following the death of Robert Godfrey, **The Sherlock Holmes Gazette** has a new owner, Peter Harkness. The address is now P.O.Box 100, Chichester, W. Sussex PO19 1XR. **Sherlock Holmes and the Railway Maniac** by Barrie Roberts was published by Constable in March at £13.99. In the same month Macmillan Press put out **Sherlock Holmes: The Major Stories with Contemporary Critical Essays,** edited by J.A. Hodgson (£6.99). I've yet to see a copy of either. In September, HarperCollins will issue **The Complete Detective Stories of Conan Doyle** in the Collins Classics series at £9.99. Tony Layton tells me of a 20 page booklet called **Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Featherstone Policeman,** available at £1.50 from Briton Press, 21 Albert Street, Featherstone, West Yorks. Michael Connolly (Tirgarve, Allistragh, Armargh, County Armagh, N. Ireland. BT61 8EZ) has a short but interesting list of Holmesian books. Catalogue #47 is out from Post Mortem Books (58 Stanford Avenue, Hassocks, Sussex. BN6 8JH). Do send a stamped & self-addressed envelope with your enquiry.

The Scowrers & Molly Maguires of San Francisco (V.V. 341, Mount Eden, CA 94557, USA) plan the 3rd International Sherlockian Seminar at Stanford for 3 to 7 August. Seminar & All Events registration is $150 a head. Dormitory accommodation is available at the University at $45 a day, checks payable to The Scowrers & Molly Maguires. **The Northern Musgraves'** meeting "In the Footsteps of a Gigantic Hound" will be held at Granada Studios on 11 June. For £15 each you'll get the meeting proper plus 3-course lunch, coffee and afternoon tea. Cheques payable to The Northern Musgraves should reach David Stuart Davies by 20th May (Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER). The Musgraves' weekend at the Victoria & Albert Hotel in Manchester will be held on the 8 & 9 October and will cost £97 including accommodation. **The Poor Folk Upon the Moors** plan a Grand Summer Auction with Period Entertainment at the Nobody Inn, Doddiscombsleigh, Exeter on 18 June. Details from Clare Taylor, 2 Lynbridge Court, Chapel Street, Tavistock, Devon PL9 8DU. **The Arthur Conan Doyle Society** plans a Micah Clarke Expedition on 3-4 September, costing £45 a head. Details from Philip Weller, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 3RU.

Periodicals received. **The Ritual** #13 (The Northern Musgraves; address above); **The Cormorant's Ring** new series, vol. 1 #1 & #2 (The Trained Cormorants of Long Beach, Jim Coffin, 6570 E. Paseo Alcazaa, Anaheim, CA 92807, USA) (*revived after over 30 years!*); **The Parallelogram,** March 1994 (The Parallel Case of St Louis, Joseph J. Eckrich, BSI, 914 Oakmoor, Fenton, MO 63026, USA); **Le Catalogue de la Franco-Midland #2, Ironmongers Daily Echo & Franco-Midland Branches Advertiser** 11 April 1994, **Billy's Page no. 1** (all from Société Sherlock Holmes de France, Les Quincaillers de la Franco-Midland, Grand dépôt de Paris, 26 avenue de la République, 75011 Paris, France) (*note the new address*); **Communication** #137 (The Pleasant Places of Florida, Dr Benton Wood, BSI, Recorder, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA); **The School Report** #17 (The Priory Scholars, Shona Gordon, 7 Leicester Lane, Desford, Leicester LE9 9JJ); **The Irregular Special Railway Company Newsletter** #8 (Antony Richards, 163 Marine Parade, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2RB); **Llama Droppings** #2 (The Head Llamas, 12 Booth Drive, Laleham, Staines, Middlesex TW18 1PR); **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** March 1994 (Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007 4830, USA) (*<u>the</u> Sherlock Holmes newsletter*).

THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London

Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 141 7th June 1994

Well, the "Back to Baker Street" festival is over. Thanks to the hard work of a lot of dedicated people, it was a roaring success. It was grand to meet old friends again, and to make new friends as well. If you weren't able to be in London, or even if you were, you can still participate by buying a copy of the book **Back to Baker Street,** edited by Jean and me for the Society. Its 100 packed pages contain: an account of the Society's origins by Tony & Freda Howlett; two seminal essays on Baker Street by Bernard Davies; a survey of Conan Doyle's London by Richard Lancelyn Green; glances at Holmes' London by Douglas Warren, David Stuart Davies, Anna Smyth and Roger Matthews; plus stimulating articles on various London topics by Heather Owen, Val Andrews, Catherine Cooke, John Warwick Montgomery, Tony Medawar, Derek Hinrich, Grant Eustace, Shirley Purves, Stephen Farrell, Simon Smyth, John Bennett Shaw, James Cuthbertson, Antony J. Richards, Carol Whitlam, Jon L. Lellenberg, Tim Owen and the editors; as well as some super new illustrations by Jean-Pierre Cagnat and Jeff Decker; and our special treat - a humorous piece by Stephen Fry (yes, the Stephen Fry, as in **Jeeves & Wooster** and **A Bit of Fry & Laurie**). All this for only £10.00! Or, to be exact, the cost including postage is: UK £11.50; Europe £12.50; North America US$21.50; rest of world £14.50 or equivalent. Send your order to Mrs Lynne Godden, Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Kent TN27 8QE, and make cheques payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. HURRY, WHILE STOCKS LAST!

In DM 140 I reviewed **The Sherlock Holmes Notebook** and **The Sherlock Holmes Book of Quotations** (Robert Frederick Ltd, Downwood, Claverton Down Road, Bath BA2 6DT). Unknowingly, I quoted the prices for slightly flawed copies, which the publishers have released to remainder book-shops. The retail prices for perfect copies are £4.99 for the **Notebook** and £2.99 for each variant of the **Book of Quotations.** Ming Books UK (110 Gloucester Avenue, London NW1 8JA) have them at these prices, plus postage, and Ming Books US (1801 J.F.K. Boulevard #1404, Philadelphia, PA 19103, USA) have them at $7.50 and $4.49 respectively, again plus postage. Ming also offer an **Address Book**, a **Birthday Book** and a **Journal** in similar format to the **Notebook.**

Ian Henry Publications Ltd (20 Park Drive, Romford RM1 4LH) have two new Holmesian books out this month. **The Singular Case of the Duplicate Holmes** by Jan Walker (£12.99) is a well-written and jolly mystery in which the great detective must run to earth a rather unpleasant impostor and clear his own good name. Jan Walker has a clever imagination, and doesn't overdo the Victorian flourishes, so that the writing carries conviction (Conan Doyle was never ornate or precious). According to Austin Mitchelson's **The Baker Street Irregular: The Unauthorised Biography of Sherlock Holmes** (£16.99; a joint publication with Players Press Inc., PO Box 1132, Studio City, CA 91614-0132, USA) Holmes didn't have much of a good name anyway. The author has done a very clever debunking job, "proving" Holmes to have been both malicious and incompetent, swindling his clients, airily breaking the law for no good reason, committing appalling crimes under the influence of cocaine, murdering a harmless mathematician... And so it goes

on. The idea isn't new, of course. In an article in **The Listener** over 30 years ago, L.W. Bailey "proved" that Holmes was Jack the Ripper, and Michael Dibdin elaborated on that theme in his controversial novel **The Last Sherlock Holmes Story.** Mr Mitchelson presents us with a Holmes who is not wholly flawed - a point in his favour. Where he falls down, I think, is in his heavy reliance on Baring-Gould's highly suspect "biography" **Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street.** Purists will probably hate this book; I enjoyed it.

I don't know what the purists will make of **Sherlock Holmes: The Major Stories with Contemporary Critical Essays,** edited by John A. Hodgson (Bedford Books of St Martin's Press, 29 Winchester Street, Boston, MA 02116; distributed outside North America by The Macmillan Press Ltd, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hants. RG21 2XS; £6.99) as it refuses to play our game at all. Indeed, the editor quotes with approval the description of our "higher criticism" as "the most tedious pseudo-scholarship in the history of letters". (When you issue that sort of challenge, you should ensure that you don't commit errors like naming Conan Doyle's third son Malcolm Adrian instead of Adrian Malcolm, or nicknaming the young Jean Conan Doyle "Dilly" instead of "Billy".) Actually, it's good to be reminded that Sherlock Holmes has a place in literature as well as in life, though as with much modern lit-crit ("contemporary" here means with us, not with the stories) I find some of these essays pretentious and some impenetrable (I don't remember deconstructing texts when I was at university), but there's also good, sound stuff here, particularly in Audrey Jaffa's indication of the debt "The Man with the Twisted Lip" owes to Mayhew's **London Labour and the London Poor.** The stories are well chosen, and the cost of this attractively presented 452-page paperback is very reasonable. Buy it, and find out how non-Holmesian scholars view the Holmes saga.

A.A. Lumb's brief pastiche **Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Featherstone Policeman** (Briton Press, 21 Albert Street, Featherstone, Pontefract, West Yorkshire WF7 5RX; £1.50 - please make cheques payable to A. Lumb) brings Holmes into a mining dispute in 1893, where he uncovers a political conspiracy. Mr Lumb has recently completed another Holmes story, which he intends to publish shortly. The Arthur Conan Doyle Society (Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG) has published a 20-page, card-covered booklet, **Conan Doyle of Wimpole Street,** containing a lengthy article by Richard Lancelyn Green detailing the previous attempts to have a plaque to ACD sited at 2 Devonshire Place and the discovery that his consulting-room was actually at 2 Upper Wimpole Street, a short introduction by Christopher and Barbara Roden, an afterword by Tony Howlett, pictures by Catherine Cooke and a map of the area. Price including postage is: UK £4.00; rest of world US$7.00/C$9.00 (cheques can be accepted in all three currencies, payable to the society).

The Oxford Sherlock Holmes is currently available from BCA Book Clubs at £49.95 instead of £69.95. Dr Benton Wood, the Chaplain to the BSI, has compiled and published a 52-page spiral-bound book called **Who's Where: A Handy Reference Guide to Persons in the Holmesian Canon, Listed by Adventure** (P.O. Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA; $6.50; add $1.50 for postage overseas). Gravesend Books' new catalogue (Box 235, Pocono Pines, PA 18350, USA) is full of Sherlockian goodies, as always. That excellent magazine CADS has reached its 23rd issue; this one concentrates on Napoleon in crime & detective stories (G.H. Bradley, 9 Vicarage Hill, South Benfleet, Essex SS7 1PA). The Scarecrow Press (Box 4167, Metuchen, NJ 08840, USA) has published **Sherlock Holmes: Screen and Sound Guide** by

Gordon E. Kelley, at $37.50. Peter Blau calls it "splendid".

CSA Telltapes Ltd (101 Chamberlayne Road, London NW10 3ND) has issued **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes episode 2,** a new double cassette on which Edward Hardwicke reads "The Cardboard Box", "The Man with the Twisted Lip" and "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (TTDMC 436; cost about £7.99). The BBC Radio Collection (BBC Enterprises Ltd, Woodlands, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT) has now released **The Return of Sherlock Holmes** volumes 1, 2 & 3 (ZBBC 1495, ZBBC 1496, ZBBC 1497; c. £7.99 each), containing the first twelve cases from the Radio 4 series. If you buy them before the end of July, you can send off for the 13th tale, "The Second Stain"; after that, it will be included on volume 3 of **The Memoirs.** (They should by now have completed recording the first half of **The Casebook** for broadcast later.) The part-work series "Talking Classics" has reached #7: **The Hound of the Baskervilles** read by Peter Egan in an abridged edition. £3.99 gets you a double cassette or CD plus background information in a 16-page colour magazine. It's currently widely available in newsagents, but if you miss it you can order it from Back Issues Dept, TALKING CLASSICS, Orbis Publishing Ltd, Kings Cliffe, Peterborough PE8 6YP (0780 470126).

The Daily Telegraph for the 3rd May had an affectionate obituary of Patsy Dalton, with a photo by Tony Marshall from last year's French jaunt. Thanks to Stephen Farrell, I have a number of photocopies - let me know if you'd like one. An unexpected result was that Patsy featured in **The Oldie,** in "The Obituary Game" - she'd have loved that.

On Saturday next **The Northern Musgraves'** multi-society meeting "Investigating the Footsteps of a Gigantic Hound" will take place at Granada Studios. Douglas Wilmer will be the special guest at their Sherlockian Weekend, "The Neglected Cases", on the 8th/9th October at the Victoria & Albert Hotel, Manchester. Details from Kathryn White, 149 Myrtle Terrace, Cross Roads, Keighley, West Yorks. BD22 9AJ. **The Poor Folk Upon the Moors** will hold a buffet lunch, auction and entertainment on Saturday the 18th June at "The Nobody Inn", Doddiscombsleigh, Devon. A special Baskerville Bitter has been brewed for the occasion by Branscombe's. There may still be places available. Contact Vosper Arthur, Spynishlake, Doddiscombsleigh, Exeter EX6 7PR. **The East Anglian Dancing Men (and Women)** plan a weekend exploration of "Gloria Scott" country in Norfolk over the 18th/19th June. Details from Geoff Budd, c/o The Accommodation & Conference Office, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ. **The Franco-Midland Hardware Company's** Annual Dinner will be held in Birmingham on the 25th June, following an afternoon excursion to Canonical and Conanical sites in the area. Contact The Stock-broker's Clerk, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU. The 6th Annual Holmesian Games will be hosted in Vancouver by **The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia** on the 17th/18th September. As well as classic events like Dr Watson's Remedy Relay and Mrs Hudson's Bake-Off, there's the All-Canon Quiz, and the Victorian Dinner with entertainment. Sunday morning is given over to The Great Debate between the United States of America and the Rest of the World on the motion That Sherlock Holmes Is the Rudest Man Who Ever Lived. Contact International Holmesian Games Committee, c/o Elsa Haffenden, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3C6, Canada.

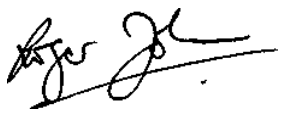
The English Teddy Bear Company (8 Abbey Churchyard, Bath BA1 1LY; phone 0225 311414) has shops at 153 Regent Street, London, 84 High Street, Oxford, 1 King's Parade, Cambridge, and 4 St Peter's Street, Canterbury. You can buy various items for a Teddy Bear's wardrobe, including a Sherlock Holmes outfit (£14.99). Cathy Childs (Sherlock & Co. Ltd, 1510

Lake Drive/Grand Island, FL 32735, USA) is an artist and writer specialising in Sherlock Holmes. She's produced numerous portraits of Brett, Burke & Hardwicke in character, along with others from the Granada series, plus cartoons, T-shirts, bookmarks and a whole range of collectibles. Her own favourite item is her 300-page book of cartoons **The Bits Watson Doesn't Tell Us** ($19.95/£18.15 post paid). Her work has been well featured in **The Sherlock Holmes Gazette,** and can be seen at the Granada Studios Tour and elsewhere.

St Bartholomew's Hospital (West Smithfield, London EC1A 7BE), whose Canonical credentials are impeccable, is still in real danger of being closed down by a lunatic Minister of Health. You can support Bart's by buying a First Day Cover with the Royal Mail's Holmes stamps; £5.00 or £6.00 signed by Jeremy Brett (plus postage). Kevin Jacklin tells me of Holmes on CD-ROM: **The Illustrated Sherlock Holmes** has the complete text plus colour illustrations and atmospheric music (c. £21.00); **Sherlock Holmes on Disc** has the complete illustrated text with Conan Doyle's Medical Casebook (c. £30.00). Try contacting Unica Ltd (061-429 0241) for more information. "Murder On The Menu" will stage "a murder hunt with a difference" in the Victorian splendour of Dyffryn House & Gardens (St Nicholas, Cardiff CF5 5SU) over the weekend of the 28th/29th/30th October. Details from the Events Co-ordinator, Nicola Walby, at Dyffryn House (phone 0222 593328).

Jennie C. Paton (206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458, USA) provides a service to US Sherlockians by loaning video and audio recordings. She's recently added Granada's **Memoirs** series and the new laser-disc recording of **The Private Life,** which has restored some of the missing scenes. (*Can anyone lend a tape of Granada's **The Dying Detective** on VHS standard-play, please? Jennie's also after a full recording of **The Four Oaks Mystery.***) The Folio Society has now issued **Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Novels** in a boxed set, illustrated by Francis Mosley and introduced by Michael Cox. In 1978 Fred Saberhagen brought the sleuth and the vampire together in **The Holmes-Dracula File;** they're back again in **Seance for a Vampire** (Tor Books; $21.95). Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718, USA) has a new list of Sherlockiana for sale. Thomas M. Boykoff (222 Randolph Drive, #303, Madison, WI 53717, USA) is looking for someone to trade British stamps for American ones (or for sports collectors' cards).

Recent periodicals of interest: **The ACD Birthday Newsletter** no. 1, in **A Conan Doyle Research File** (The Conan Doyle [Crowborough] Establishment, "The Conan Doyle Room", The Cross Hotel, Crowborough, East Sussex) (*associate membership is available for a £10.00 annual donation); **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** May 94 (Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA) (*to which I'm indebted for some of the news above*); **The** New **Baker Street Pillar Box** no. 18, and **The Franco-Midland Hardware Company Annual Report 1994: The Empty House Contract** (The Stock-broker's Clerk, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU); **The Soft-Nosed Bullet-In** no. 15 and **The Striking (T)rifles** no. 21 (Von Herder Airguns Ltd, Michael Ross, Bendheide 65, 47906 Kempen 1, Germany); **The Serpentine Muse** vol. 12 no. 4 (The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, Evelyn Herzog, 360 West 21st Street #5A, New York, NY 10011, USA); **The Petrel Flyer** vol. 6 no. 5 & no. 6 (The Stormy Petrels of B.C., Len Haffenden, 1026 West Keith Road, N. Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3C6, Canada).



THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London
Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 142 Independence Day 1994

There will be a full report in **The Sherlock Holmes Journal** of Patsy Dalton's memorial service at St Bride's, Fleet Street, on the 16th June. Enough to say here that Patsy had provided for a happy occasion, when her friends could get together and celebrate her life and work. Particular gratitude is due to Tony Marshall, who made all the arrangements. Thanks, Tony! (The music was glorious!)

Henry Mancini, one of the great Hollywood composers, died early in June. He was responsible for the delightful music in **Basil, the Great Mouse Detective** and **Without a Clue.**

Tony Lumb's **Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Featherstone Policeman**
(Briton Press, 21 Albert Street, Featherstone, Pontefract, West Yorkshire WF7 5EX; £1.50 + 50p postage; make cheques payable to A. Lumb) doesn't quite capture the Watsonian voice, but it tells a most interesting tale, based on fact, of skulduggery and altruism in a mining dispute. We have to overlook the fact that in September 1893, when Mr Lumb has him in Yorkshire, Holmes was actually somewhere between Tibet and southern France.

As those who went on the river cruise during the "Back to Baker Street" festival will know, Antony J. Richards has written and produced a most interesting 28-page **Sherlock Holmes Guide to the Thames, Hammersmith to Gravesend** (Irregular Special Railway Company, 163 Marine Parade, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2RB; £1.50). 50p postage would probably be appreciated. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for information about the ISRC and its other publications. B.W. Pugh points out that the flyer for **Sherlock Holmes: The Major Stories with Contemporary Critical Essays** (Macmillan Press, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hants. RG21 2XS; £6.99), distributed with DM 141, contains an incorrect phone number. It should be 0256 29242. The Black Cat Bookshop (36-39 Silver Arcade, Leicester LE1 5FB; phone 0533 512756) has a summer update to its Holmes/Doyle catalogue no. 4. Send a stamped & self-addressed envelope for a copy; overseas send 2 International Reply Coupons.

Bert Coules recommends **All Consuming Fire** by Andy Lane, one of the New Doctor Who Adventures (Doctor Who Books, 33-34 Grand Union Centre, 332 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 5AH; £4.99), in which "Holmes and Watson (and Mycroft and Moriarty and Lord John Roxton and Colonel Warburton and the Giant Rat of Sumatra and a good few others) meet a certain time-travelling Doctor (or three)..." Bert says, "It's tremendous fun, written by someone who knows both his Who and his Holmes."

"At the turn of the century a sensational photograph of fairies taken by the young Lady Angelica Cottington was the subject of much controversy. It was authenticated by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and later discredited. However a recently discovered album will force a radical reappraisal of the evidence for the existence of fairies." More on **Lady Cottington's Pressed Fairy Book** by Terry Jones and

Brian Froud (Pavilion Books; forthcoming) as it reaches me.

Gordon E. Kelley's **Sherlock Holmes Screen and Sound Guide** (Scarecrow Press, PO Box 4167, Metuchen, NJ 08840, USA; $37.50) attempts to gather into one manageable volume the principal details of all the film, TV, video, audio and radio adaptations of Sherlock Holmes, as well as the numerous computer games based on the character. The selection is understandably limited to those available in the English language. It's an admirable venture, though Mr Kelley and his publishers are unfortunate in that much of this information is already available in Ronald De Waal's **World Bibliography of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson** and **The International Sherlock Holmes,** while nearly all of it will be included in the long-awaited **Universal Sherlock Holmes,** along with much else beside. Better presented, too. Alas, it has to be said that Mr Kelley's book overflows with errors. Let's examine a few.

The woman in Stoll's **A Scandal in Bohemia** (p.12) was actually renamed Irene Adair. The Creeper in **The Pearl of Death** (p. 33) came from Hoxton, not Oxford. In **Pursuit to Algiers** (p.34) Holmes and Watson assist the Prince of Rovenia, not Ruritania. The diamond in **Terror by Night** (p. 35) is The Star of Rhodesia, not The Star of India. **Sherlock Holmes and the Necklace of Death** (p. 36) was not in fact issued in colour. **Fog** was indeed the working title for **A Study in Terror** (p.36), but it has only ever been shown under the latter title, so why list it under the former? **Murder in Northumberland** (p.39) has never been released, so why list it at all? More detail is available on **Stamp of Greatness** (p.87) and **The Baker Street Boys** (p.110), and should have been included. Jonathan Newth played Colonel Valentine Walter, not Sir James Walter, in Granada's **The Bruce-Partington Plans** (p.117). Clive Brook did not play Holmes on American radio, following William Gillette's 1931 performance in **The Speckled Band** (p.148); Richard Gordon took over immediately, as stated on p. 150. **The Tale of the Giant Rat of Sumatra** by the Firesign Theatre is listed only as a Canadian radio broadcast (p.214), with a note, "No cast names are available", yet **The International Sherlock Holmes,** p.395, has full details... And so it goes on. I haven't even bothered with the mere typos. Scarecrow Press books have an enviable reputation, but a book costing $37.50, with input from Jennie C. Paton, Bill Nadel, Peter Blau and George Vanderburgh, really ought to be better than this!

Lynne Godden (Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8QE) reminds me that she still has a few copies left of the very collectible "Back to Baker Street" souvenirs. The bone china mug, white with gold trim and royal blue & gold lettering, costs: UK £6.50; Europe £7.25; USA $13.00; rest of world £8.55 or equivalent. The leather wine coaster, in burgundy with gold lettering, costs: UK £1.95 (boxed set of 4, £7.50); Europe £2.70 (boxed set £8.25); USA $4.50 (boxed set $13.00); rest of world £3.20 (boxed set £8.75). All prices include postage. Don't forget that Lynne also has copies of the book **Back to Baker Street,** 100 pages of stimulating scholarship and speculation, a snip at: UK £11.50; Europe £12.50; North America US$21.50; rest of world £14.50 or equivalent. All cheques should be payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

On Saturday the 18th June, BBC Radio 2 broadcast a 60 minute documentary called **Missing Movies: A Case for Sherlock Holmes:** "the story behind the missing footage cut from Billy Wilder's 1970 film, **The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes**", narrated by Betty Marsden with contributions from Robert Stephens and others. If you would like a recording, please send me a C60 cassette and the cost of

postage. (Jennie C. Paton also has a copy. North Americans should contact her at 206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458.) A reminder for those interested in classic radio drama, from both sides of the Atlantic: the Oldtime Radio-show Collectors' Association (ORCA) still exists, and has an amazing library of recordings. Drop a line to Barry Hill at 4 Prospect Terrace, Farsley, Leeds LS28 5ES.

Bert Coules sends advance information about BBC Radio 4's **The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes**, with Clive Merrison and Michael Williams. "The Illustrious Client" (Baron Gruner: Michael Feast) will air on Wednesday 21st September at 2.02 pm; "The Blanched Soldier" (the 2nd Mrs Watson: Hannah Gordon) 28th September; "The Mazarin Stone" (Lord Cantlemere: Anthony Bate; Count Sylvius: Nigel Anthony) 5th October; "The Three Gables" (Mrs Maberley: Mary Wimbush; Clarence Gable: John Wells) (*Clarence Gable?!*) 12th October; "The Sussex Vampire" (Bob Ferguson: Michael Troughton; Elisabetta Ferguson: Alexandra Bastedo) 19th October; "The Three Garridebs" (John Garrideb: Lou Hirsch) 26th October. The final 6 episodes will be recorded in October. Leonard Friedman, the violinist, died recently; Bert thinks that "enough unused material exists for him to be billed as the violinist in the final shows as well, which would be nicely fitting."

I've yet to see a copy, but according to the 1994 Music For Pleasure catalogue, Listen For Pleasure has issued a double cassette, **Sherlock Holmes: His Last Bow**, read by Martin Jarvis (LFP7808) (EMI Records Ltd, 1/3 Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 OSY). The Christopher Lee recording of **The Valley of Fear**, originally available on Random Century Audiobooks, has been re-released by Tring Audio Books (Tring International PLC, Triangle Business Park, Wendover Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 5BL). I found it at Andy's Records, at £5.99. (Tring also have available Donald Pickering's recording of **The Speckled Band.**) Peter Blau notes that Simon & Schuster have issued cassette 24 in the **New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** series from the Rathbone/Bruce radio plays. It features "The Accidental Murderess" and "The Blarney Stone".

A plea from Mark Chadderton (Flat 1, 78 Southcote Road, Bournemouth BHl 3SS), who missed the recent BBC2 showing of the 1970 film **The Adventures of Gerard.** If you can provide him with a VHS recording, he will cheerfully pay costs.

Derek Hinrich tells me of a "rather natty epoxy resin" Sherlock Holmes chess set, seen at his local branch of H. Samuel, the jeweller. It was made by Anne Carlton of SAC Limited Studio of Hull, and priced at £77.95. Steven Emmons (70A Greenwich Avenue #206, New York, NY 10011, USA), whose exhibition we visited in January, has produced a limited edition of seven 19" x 40" pencil, ink & watercolour paintings to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Baker Street Irregulars. One of these will set you back $2,550.00. Deirdre Keetley's Studio Gallery now has an exclusive North American distributor: Cleadon Hall Collectibles, 31-A Maple Avenue, Barrie, Ontario L4N 1R7, Canada. Otherwise, Deirdre's wide range of Holmesiana is still available from Studio Gallery, 50 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DP; phone 071-837 9947.

Derek has passed on to me a letter from our associate member, Sr Antonio Iriarte, founder of The Amateur Mendicant Society of Madrid, which has recently published its first annual journal (in Spanish). The AMS, a branch office of the Franco-Midland Hardware Company, was originally called The Spanish Embassy, until someone remarked that the one place you wouldn't find a Spanish Embassy is Spain! For information about this lively group, contact Miguel

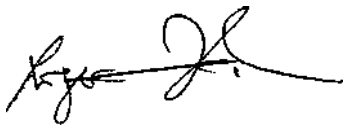
Gonzalez-Pedel, General Margallo 33 (4C), 28020 Madrid, Spain. The FMHC's own next event will be a Victorian Reading Party, forming part of a special Victorian weekend at Osborne House. The FMHC has at least one function each month. Write for details to The Stock-broker's Clerk, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU. (I'm afraid delays have meant this issue is too late to tell you in advance of The Head Llamas' "Moss Roses & Martians" jaunt, which took place yesterday. Hope you had a good time, chaps! For information about the Llamas, contact Catherine *&* Alan Saunders, 12 Booth Drive, Laleham, Staines, Middlesex TW18 1PR.)

Saturday the 16th July sees the Col. Sebastian Moran Memorial Crap Shoot (sic, after years of Trap Shoots), organised by The Brothers Three of Moriarty to celebrate the parole of Col. Moran from his prison sentence, and held at the Albuquerque Press Club, 201 Highland Park Circle SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico. There will be a cash bar. "Those who wish to embarrass themselves by giving toasts, papers or other exhibitions of erudition are asked to contact The Parole Board. Letters and speeches on the theme, 'Why Col. Sebastian Moran Should Be Paroled' are especially solicited, and a prize will be given for the best one." Contact Big Brother John Bennett Shaw, BSI, B3M, Chairman, Morrow Hall, B3M, PO Box 288, Estancia, NM 87016, USA; phone (505) 384-2744 - though it may be too late by the time you get this!

Malcolm Payne sends news that the Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment will hold a memorial ceremony at 10.30 am on Thursday the 7th July at the Conan Doyle Memorial on Terrace Montargis in Crowborough, followed by a "social distraction" in the Conan Doyle Room. "All interested are welcome, and we hope to have some distinguished Doylean scholars present." For information about the Establishment, write to Malcolm c/o The Conan Doyle Room, The Cross Hotel, Crowborough, East Sussex. Pam Bruxner sends an enticing leaflet for Groombridge Place, near Crowborough, now officially open to the public. Groombridge was, of course, the inspiration for Birlstone Manor, but it is also a magnificent 17th century house in its own right. Standard admission charge is £3.00; group tours are available by arrangement. For details contact The Estate Office, Groombridge Place, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9QG.

Collectors of Holmesian miniatures may not know that there's a society just for them. The Mini-Tonga Society can be contacted at Box 770554, Lakewood, OH 44107, USA. Russia's first Sherlock Holmes group is The Ural Holmesian Society, a very active bunch. Contact Alexander Shaburov, U1. Cherepanova 4-334, Ekaterinburg 620034, Russia.

Periodicals received since DM 141: **The Petrel Flyer** vol. 6 no. 7 (The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3C6, Canada) (*includes most interesting accounts of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society's Toronto Convention*); **The Parallelogram** June 1994 (The Parallel Case of St Louis, Joseph J. Eckrich, 914 Oakmoor, Fenton, MO 63026, USA) (*contains the conclusion of Pasquale Accardo & Barbara Whitman's astounding "A Case of Multiple Identities: A Sherlockian Psychosexual Study"*); **The Pleasant Places of Florida Communication** no.138 and no. 139 (Dr Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA) (*always something amusing and interesting*): **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** June 1994 (Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA) (*__the__ Sherlockian newsletter*).



THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London
Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 143 8th August 1994

Some long-awaited items have finally appeared, among them the Summer issue of **The Sherlock Holmes Journal**, excellently produced as always, and containing a variety of stimulating essays, mostly by new contributors. I'm sure Nick Utechin will agree that it's good not to see the same old names each time (and I speak as one of them).

Then there's the Summer issue of **The Sherlock Holmes Gazette**, the first to be edited by Eddie Bissell and published by Peter Harkness. They've scooped our own journal in reporting May's "Back to Baker Street" festival, with an overview by David Stuart Davies and detailed accounts of the plaque to ACD at 2 Upper Wimpole Street and the portrait of him in the restaurant at the Sherlock Holmes pub. The activities of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society, the Franco-Midland Hardware Company, the Poor Folk Upon the Moors and the Northern Musgraves are chronicled. The **Gazette** now has an American correspondent in the person of our own Paula Brown. And there's much more besides. An individual issue costs £1.95; a year's subscription is: UK £14.00; Europe and Eire £18.00 (France 140F); Middle East, USA, Canada, South America (Zone 1) £21.00 (USA $35.00); Australia, New Zealand, Japan (Zone 2) £22.00. The new address for the **Gazette** is 46 Purfield Drive, Wargrave, Berkshire RG10 8AR. The US representative is Classic Specialties, P.O. Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219.

The Arthur Conan Doyle Society may have copies still available of the fascinating booklet **Conan Doyle of Wimpole Street**, at £4.00 or US$7.00 or C$9.00 from Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG. There are none left of our own **Lunch at the Sherlock Holmes**, but you can still buy **Back to Baker Street**, the 100-page anthology edited by Jean and me (£11.50 or $21.50), from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's Merchandising Officer, Lynne Godden, at Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8QE. Lynne also has copies of Pam Bruxner's 52-page **In Beds with Sherlock Holmes**, featuring new essays by Bernard Davies, Simon Smyth, Derek Hinrich, John Hall, John Gilbody, Jonathan McCafferty and Colin Prestige. You may have missed the Society's day exploring "The Three Gables", "The Man with the Watches" and "The Blanched Soldier", but you can make up for it by buying (and reading) the book. It costs £7.00 including postage.

Bob Payton died on the 13th July. He was the man behind the Chicago Rib Shack and the Chicago Pizza Pie Factory, and with Rocco Forte he was responsible for restoring the Criterion Restaurant to its Victorian magnificence, enabling the "Back to Baker Street" festival to be launched there in proper style.

Tom Stix reminds me of the Doctor Watson Fund, which provides financial assistance to Sherlockians (not just Baker Street Irregulars) who can't otherwise afford to attend the January festivities in New York. Watson and his fellow administrators are deliberately anonymous. Donations and requests for assistance can be sent to John H. Watson MD (to whom cheques should be payable), c/o Thomas L. Stix Jr, 34 Pierson Avenue,

Norwood, NJ 07648, USA. (Tom himself is not Dr Watson. He forwards all correspondence unopened.)

The Universal Sherlock Holmes by Ronald B. De Waal, published by George Vanderburgh on behalf of the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, is out at last. It's a huge undertaking, combining the contents of Ron's two previous bibliographies plus much more. It will prove very useful - but, it has to be said, not as useful as those first two volumes. Almost unbelievably there is no index! (and the apparently arbitrary concordance is no substitute). We're told that the bibliography will be updated by regular supplements, and I know that Ron will welcome suggestions (638 12th Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84103). I suggest that the production of an index should be a top priority.

More books. Published this month by Diehard at £4.50 is a play called **Port and Lemon: The Mystery Behind Sherlock Holmes** by John Cargill Thompson. A couple that previously escaped my attention are **The Case of Blind Man's Buff** by David Cobb and J. Dalley, published by Longman as a videoscript for schools at £2.00 (apparently part of a "Sherlock Holmes & Dr Watson" series, but I can find no trace of any others) and **Lady Dither's Ghost: a Musical Version of a Sherlock Holmes Mystery** by Dumont Howard (I.E. Clark; £3.50). Bailliere-Tindal have currently available **Watson's Medical-Surgical Nursing and Related Physiology** at £16.95, but it's probably a different Watson. Peter Blau notes that the Indigo Press in London has published a series of "Little Brown Notebooks" including one called **Scenes from Sherlock Holmes,** a pocket-size hardback, 256 pages, with quotations from the long stories and illustrations by Debra Thompson. It's stocked in the USA by Sterling Publishing Co. (387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016) at $6.95.

Musgrave Monograph no. 5, published shortly by the Northern Musgraves (Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 4DN) will be **140 Different Varieties,** *a* study of tobacco in the Canon by John Hall. The pre-publication price (before August 15th) is: UK and EEC £3.50; rest of Europe £4.00; USA & Canada £4.50/$7.00; rest of world £5.00/$8.00.

Peter Blau notes that "Cheryl Hurd plans to publish a **Victorian Yellow Pages** early next year: it will be a compendium of modern sources for Victoriana ('antimacassars to zithers'), and she would be happy to hear from people who know about Victorian places, shops, events, resources, books, periodicals, etc. Her deadline is September 30th, and her address is: Teapot Press, Box 2048, Scotia, NY 12302, USA."

The industrious George Vanderburgh has more projects forthcoming from his Battered Silicon Dispatch Box: **The Shaw Festival's "Sherlock Holmes"** by William Gillette, with lots of illustrations and commentary essays; the 1st Canadian edition of Vincent Starrett's **Born in a Bookshop; The Curious Incident of the Missing Link: Arthur Conan Doyle and Piltdown Man** by Douglas Elliott; **The Sherlock Holmes Radio Show Companion** by Edith Meiser, Bill Nadel, George Vanderburgh and Ray Stanich; Mark Twain's **A Double-Barrelled Detective Story** with an essay by Cameron Hollyer; Cameron's own **The Curator's Egg and Other Pieces; Sing Along with Sherlock Holmes** volumes 1 and 2 - and much more besides, as well as various "electronic books" and lapel pins. (When shall we see **The Solar Pons Portfolio,** George? And will it be issued as a real book for us old-fashioned types?)

The Pleasant Places of Florida have published yet another of their

round-robin pastiches: **A Case of Hide 'n' Tea** costs inclusive $3.50 from Dr Benton Wood (Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA). Gerit Stenitzer points out that Mark Frost's novel **The List of Seven,** which involves the young Arthur Conan Doyle in the sort of adventure that he'd have considered too outlandish for Sherlock Holmes, is out in paperback from Arrow Books (20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SA) at £4.99. **Lady Cottington's Pressed Fairy Book** by Terry Jones & Brian Froud is due from Pavilion Books on the 13 October, at £12.99.

Gravesend Books (Box 235 Pocono Pines, PA 18350, USA) has just issued Catalogue #31, listing books and other desirables for sale. Nick Utechin reports that Sylvian Hamilton, from whose catalogues many of us have increased our collections, has had to give up trading because of ill health. However, Peter Blau tells us that Gaby Goldscheider is in business again, dealing in Holmesiana and Doyleana; her address is now Deep Dene, Baring Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 8DB, And on the other side of the ocean (and then some) Vincent Brosnan's "Sherlock in LA" has a splendid catalogue #10 available, well worth the asking price of $2.50 (1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056, USA).

Listen for Pleasure (1/3 Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 0SY) is at last following up its recording of abridged texts of the Sherlock Holmes long stories. Just out is **His Last Bow and Other Stories** read by Martin Jarvis (LFP 7808), a double cassette containing "Wisteria Lodge", "The Red Circle", "Lady Frances Carfax" and "His Last Bow". It was a bold move, and a successful one, to go for later stories, rather than the better known earlier ones. Martin Jarvis is one of the most experienced and listenable readers in the business, and a great "voice man" to boot. The production is pretty near impeccable (though someone should have caught and corrected "irrability" in "Lady Frances Carfax"), and the texts are pretty much complete ("His Last Bow" on my review copy lacks the final sentence; the result makes sense, but it's curious nonetheless). Anyway, I'm delighted to welcome Martin Jarvis to the small but distinguished company of readers of the short stories. He's fully the equal of Basil Rathbone, Robert Hardy, John Wood, Donald Pickering and Edward Hardwicke.

Peter Blau notes that Simon & Schuster's cassette series **The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes,** produced by 221A Baker Street Associates from the 1940s radio plays with Rathbone & Bruce, has reached no. 25: "The Night Before Christmas" and "The Darlington Substitution" (the latter features Tom Conway as Holmes). This is the last-but-one cassette in the series. Dove Audio has reissued cassettes of Ben Kingsley's readings from the Canon at discount prices: **A Treasury of Sherlock Holmes** has four stories, and **More Sherlock Holmes** has three. Price is $8.99 each set.

The work of Deirdre Keetley can be seen at her own Studio Gallery (50 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DP; phone 071-837 9947) and at a number of selected outlets such as the Sherlock Holmes public house at 10 Northumberland Street, London WC2, the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street, and the Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company at 230 Baker Street, London NW1 5RT. Deirdre's versatility encompasses everything from stained glass, through bone china, to crystal glassware. The famous "Portrayals of Sherlock Holmes" plate features her own exquisite painting. A recent addition is the range of Sherlock Holmes honey cosmetics.

The American artist Cathy Childs, whose portrait of Jeremy Brett features on the cover of the new **Sherlock Holmes Gazette,** trades as

Sherlock & Co. Ltd (1510 Lake Drive, Grand Island, Florida 32735, USA). She has numerous items of original artwork for sale, as well as prints and other collectibles - T-shirts, stationery, paperweights and so forth. The prints include "Highlights from the **Sherlock Holmes** Series", ten pen-and-ink scenes originally commissioned by Baskervilles Restaurant at Walt Disney World. Cathy's favourite of her own work is **The Bits Watson Doesn't Tell Us**, a large volume of cartoons, some of which have appeared in **The Sherlock Holmes Gazette** and other Sherlockian publications. Write to Cathy for a catalogue, and do remember to enclose postage.

Rafael de Swarte of CoverCraft (who produced the excellent First Day Cover for our Society) has kindly sent a sample of his **Return of Sherlock Holmes Centenary Souvenir Cover**, which is produced to the same superb standards. The main illustration is Paget's picture of Watson and the old book-seller in Park Lane, and there are two smaller reproductions from the same issue of **The Strand.** A pair of last year's Sherlock Holmes stamps is franked with a special 1st April 1994 Park Lane hand-stamp. It's a very attractive item. Only 500 have been produced, and the price is £5.00 each (overseas add £1.00 each for airmail). CoverCraft has a new address: P.O. Box 432, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3SZ. The handstamp was mentioned in the March 25th issue of The **British Postmark Bulletin.** Holger Schott points out that the Royal Mail's current leaflet, advertising its priority services, features a nice photo of the famous Holmesian props ready to be packed and posted to "D. Luvvies & Co., Theatrical Costumiers". Pick up a copy at your local post office.

As I noted in DM 141, our much-missed Patsy Dalton featured in "The Obituary Game", a regular feature in Richard Ingrams' admirable organ **The Oldie.** People who haven't encountered it sometimes ask me what **The Oldie** is like, and the best answer I can come up with is that it's like **Punch** but with jokes, but that's only a part of it. **The Oldie** is humane, perceptive, infuriating, hilarious and frequently politically incorrect. We love it, and I'm happy to report that, despite the premature obit by E.J. Thribb in **Private Eye**, it is still alive, and will continue publication on a monthly basis. A year's subscription costs £20.00, two years' is £36.00, and three years' £50.00. A bargain. Cheques should be payable to Oldie Publications, and orders sent to Oldie Sub., FREEPOST CN2/97, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3HP.

Periodicals received since the last DM, apart from the new issues of **The Sherlock Holmes Journal and The Sherlock Holmes Gazette,** mentioned above: **The Pleasant Places of Florida Communication** #139 and #140 (Dr Benton Wood BSI, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA); **The Petrel Flyer** July/August 1994 (The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, Len Haffenden, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3C6, Canada) (*The Petrels will host the Sherlympiad - the 6th International Holmesian Games - on Saturday & Sunday the 17th/18th September*); **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** July 1994 (Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA) (*Peter goes into more detail than I've done about the good and less good points of **The Universal Sherlock Holmes***).

THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London
Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 144 13th September 1994

Our Honorary Member Peter Cushing died on the 11th August. A couple of years ago I wrote an 80th birthday tribute for **The Sherlock Holmes Journal**, to which I wish only to add that a re-assessment of his performances as Sherlock Holmes is long overdue. Some at least of the BBC TV series from 1968 still exists and should be shown again. I believe it will prove to the doubters that Peter Cushing was a great Holmes. (It's just been brought to my attention, by Bernard Davies, that Michael Carreras died on the 19th April. Among his many contributions to the success of Hammer Films, Carreras was Executive Producer on the 1958 **Hound of the Baskervilles**, with Peter Gushing as Holmes.) Peter Blau reports: "Cay Van Ash died in April. He was a friend of Sax Rohmer for many years, and collaborated with the author's widow on the biography of Rohmer called **Master of Villainy**. Van Ash's novel **Ten Years Beyond Baker Street** (1984) pitted Sherlock Holmes against Fu Manchu, and was well-received."

We were shocked to learn of the death, of a heart attack on the 22nd August, of James O. Duval ("The Battered Tin Dispatch-Box", BSI), a founder of Cox & Company of New England, and a long-time friend of this newsletter. I first met Jim in Montreal in 1990, and again in New York last January, after he'd had to miss the BSI dinner because of jury service. We saw him last in May, at the Back to Baker Street festival in London. He was a nice guy and we liked him very much.

Friends of John Bennett Shaw will be glad to know that he's recovering from his heart attack (the timing was perfect: it hit while he was actually at the hospital). He's on a walking frame, and spending more time in his library. He welcomes letters and cards, but can't promise to reply (1917 Fort Union Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87501, USA).

Geoffrey Stavert has passed on an attractive little volume put out, at £4.50, by Diehard Publishers (3 Spittal Street, Edinburgh EH3 9DY), and containing two one-man plays by John Cargill Thompson: **Port and Lemon: The Mystery Behind Sherlock Holmes** and **The Laird of Samoa**, both performed by John Shedden at the Edinburgh Festival. It's difficult to describe **Port and Lemon** without giving away some of the play's secrets, but it reads well, and, imaginatively produced, as it clearly was, it should play very well indeed. In the aftermath of **Sherlock's Last Case** it must be hard to come up with a fresh twist on the ins and outs of the Baker Street household, but Mr Thompson manages it. There may still be a limited number of signed copies available direct from the author at: Top Flat C, 16 Marchmont Crescent, Edinburgh EH9 1HL. New from Ian Henry Publications Ltd (20 Park Drive, Romford RM1 4LH) is the first British (and the first hardback) edition of **Sherlock Holmes and the Earthquake Machine** by Austin Mitchelson and Nicholas Utechin (£12.99). It's an ingenious tale, well told, of an international conspiracy that threatens to bring down the empires of the world, and can only be foiled by Sherlock Holmes. Besides Winston Churchill, Tsar Nicholas II, the daughter of Irene Adler and - of course - Brother Mycroft, we meet an enemy from the past, now more deadly than ever. And then there is the Earthquake Machine itself... I wonder

now, as I did when the book first appeared nearly 20 years ago, whether the authors were familiar with Ronald Clark's marvellous novel **Queen Victoria's Bomb.** No matter. Messrs Mitchelson and Utechin have given us a rattling good yarn, and I hope it'll be followed in due course by a new edition of their second pastiche, **Hellbirds.**

In the last DM I was only able to give the UK price for Pam Bruxner's **In Beds with Sherlock Holmes.** Copies can be had from the Society's Merchandising Officer, Lynne Godden (Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Kent TN27 8QE), at: UK £7.00; Europe £7.85; USA $13.50; rest of world £8.50. All prices include postage & packing. Lynne also has stocks of the Society's new umbrella: "a large golf umbrella, British made, with straight wooden handle... alternate panels of black and cream, with our motif of deerstalker and pipe ringed by the words 'The Sherlock Holmes Society of London' on each cream panel." Cost, including surface post: UK £21.50; Europe £22.50; USA $39.50; rest of world £22.50. It can be sent airmail to the USA for an extra $8.00.

More books. Instead of the announced selection of Holmes stories, **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** is out in the Penguin Popular Classics series, at £1.00. The Wordsworth Classics volume gives you four books in one for the same price, but the Penguin print is easier on the eye (Penguin Books Ltd, 27 Wrights Lane, London W8 5TZ). Pavilion Books (26 Upper Ground, London SE1 9PD) announce for October, at £17.99, something called **The Complete Sherock Holmes** (sic, according to Whitaker's BookBank) by one M. Bunson. Victor Gollancz (14 Henrietta Street, London WC2E 8QJ) plans for October **Crime Yellow: Gollancz New Crimes 1** (£14.99), including a Holmes story by Robert Richardson. Titles recently published in the USA, and available here from Murder One and other specialist dealers: **The Angel of the Opera** by Sam Siciliano (Otto Penzler Books, 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019, USA; $21.95/£16.99); **The Game Is Afoot: Parodies, Pastiches and Ponderings of Sherlock Holmes** edited by Marvin Kaye (St Martin's Press, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010, USA; $24.95/£18.50); **Irene's Last Waltz** by Carole Nelson Douglas (Forge Books, Tom Docherty Associates, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010, USA; $22.95/£17.50); **Inspector Gingko Tips His Hat to Sherlock Holmes** by Alex Jack (One Peaceful World Press, Box 10, Becket, MA 01223, USA; $12.95/£10.99). Otto Penzler has also published paperback editions of Gavin Brend's **My Dear Holmes: A Study in Sherlock,** and J.E. Holroyd's **17 Steps to 221B.** I'm waiting for a reprint of Holroyd's elusive **Baker Street By-ways.**

New or newish material about the Whitechapel murders: **The Complete History of Jack the Ripper** by Philip Sugden (Robinson Publishing, 7 Kensington Church Court, London W8 4SP; £20.00); **The Diary of Jack the Ripper** edited by Shirley Harrison (Smith Gryphon Ltd, Swallow House, 11-21 Northdown Street, London N1 9BN; £4.99); **Sickert & the Ripper Crimes** by Jean Overton Fuller (Mandrake, PO Box 250, Oxford OX1 1AP; £14.95); **Jack the Ripper: The Mystery Solved** by Paul Harrison (Robert Hale Ltd, Clerkenwell House, 45-47 Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT; £5.99); **Jack the Myth: A New Look at the Ripper** by A.P. Wolf (Hale; £15.99); **The Ripper & the Royals** by Melvyn Fairclough (Gerald Duckworth & Co. Ltd, 48 Hoxton Square, London N1 6PB; £6.99); **The Jack the Ripper A-Z** by Paul Begg et al. (Headline Book Publishing Ltd, 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH; £7.99); **Murder & Madness: The Secret Life of Jack the Ripper** by David Abrahamsen (Robson Books Ltd, Bolsover House, 5-6 Clipstone Street, London W1P 7EB; £7.99); **The True Face of Jack the Ripper** by Melvin Harris (Michael O'Mara Books Ltd, 9 Lion Yard. Tremadoc Road, London SW4 7NQ; £14.99); **Jack the Ripper Revealed** by John Wilding (Constable & Co. Ltd, 3 The Lanchesters, 162 Fulham Palace

Road, London W6 9ER; £6.95). There's no slowing-up, is there?

George Vanderburgh has taken note of the many comments regarding the lack of an index to Ron De Waal's **Universal Sherlock Holmes:** a title/ author index will be available in the first quarter of 1995 as Volume 5 of the set. It will cost an extra £20.00 (US$30.00/Can.$40.00), plus £4.00/$6.00 postage. The "electronic hypertext edition", called **HyperT.U.S.H.,** will be ready shortly, as will a user manual by Doug & Diane Elliott. (George A. Vanderburgh, P.O. Box 204, Shelburne, Ontario LON 1SO, Canada.) **The Solar Pons Portfolio,** mentioned in DM 143, is, I understand, an electronic edition of **The Solar Pons Omnibus** by August Derleth (still in print from Arkham House Inc., Sauk City, Wisconsin, USA, at about $39.00, and well worth it), but George does plan a small book containing three uncollected Pons stories.

Michael Ross tells me that **The Case of Blind Man's Buff,** published by Longman in a Sherlock Holmes & Dr Watson video-script series (DM 143), is one of 8 issued for use in schools, to accompany selected videos from the TV series with Geoffrey Whitehead and Donald Pickering. The others are **The Case of Harry Rigby, Magruder's Millions, The Deadly Tower, The Sitting Target, The Body in the Case, The Perfect Crime** and **The Travelling Killer.** Michael adds that "Jörg Kastner, a fellow member of Von Herder Airguns, has published his first Holmesian novel, in German, some weeks ago: **Dr Watson und der Fall Sherlock Holmes (Dr Watson and the Case Sherlock Holmes)** features Sebastian Moran escaping from prison, a strange Sherlock Holmes making secret business with Professor Moriarty, and Arthur Conan Doyle helping Dr Watson out of some mess. It's fun to read and the first original German pastiche for a long time. The 162pp paperback costs DM 20.00 (plus p&p, I believe) and is available from the publishers, Logos Verlag (Mühlenstr. 20, 66111 Saarbrücken, Germany)."

Hugh Scullion of Cadds Printing Ltd (59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood. London SE27 9EL) has sent a copy of his latest project: a nice 1995 **Sherlock Holmes Calendar,** well illustrated with scenes from Granada's TV series, and reminiscent of the very collectible calendar put out by Granada themselves in 1984. Cost is £5.50 direct from Cadds (cheques payable to Cadds Printing Ltd), or it's available from Murder One, the Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company, and other outlets, or from Classic Specialties in the USA (PO Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219). Mail order from Cadds to the USA is $9.00 (checks payable to Mrs Ferrara). A second batch of the lovely enamel boxes (DM 137) is now available at £100.00/$145.00. Murder One is charging £145.99 each. Anthea Sinclair says, "If anyone has worn out the green strap on their Sherlock Holmes Swiss watch, John Lewis in Oxford Street sells almost identical straps for £9.95" (*I settled for a brown one at £4.95.*)

Following the mention of Gravesend Books catalogue #31 in the last DM, I've had a letter from Enola Stewart, the proprietress: "I assure you that anyone who contacts us because of your notice will be treated with the same professionalism that I have brought to the field for the past 23 years." (Gravesend Books, Box 235, Pocono Pines, PA 18350, USA.) Also recently received is catalogue #48 from Post Mortem Books (58 Stanford Avenue, Hassocks, Sussex BN6 8JH), full of interest, as always. (The catalogue offers a copy of our **Back to Baker Street** in fine condition at £16.00 plus postage. It is still available from the Society's Merchandising Officer at £11.50/$21.50, including postage.)

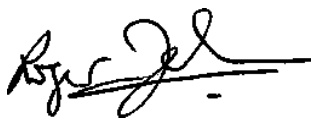
Bert Coules sends news of BBC Radio 4's schedule for **The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes.** The series will be transmitted on Wednesday afternoons at

2.02: "The Illustrious Client" 21 Sept.; "The Blanched Soldier" 28 Sept.; "The Mazarin Stone" 5 Oct.; "The Three Gables" 12 Oct.; "The Sussex Vampire" 19 Oct.; "The Three Garridebs" 26 Oct. Then we must wait till next year for the rest: "Thor Bridge" 1 March; "The Creeping Man" 8 March; "The Lion's Mane" 15 March; "The Veiled Lodger" 22 March; "Shoscombe Old Place" 29 March; "The Retired Colourman" 5 April. In between, the first 8 plays from **The Return of Sherlock Holmes** will be repeated on Sunday evenings at 10.15: "The Empty House" 27 Nov.; "The Norwood Builder" 4 Dec.; "The Dancing Men" 11 Dec.; "The Solitary Cyclist" 18 Dec.; and after a break "The Priory School" 22 Jan.; "Black Peter" 29 Jan.; "Charles Augustus Milverton" 5 Feb.; "The Six Napoleons" 12 Feb. (*Which reminds me: the new British address for ORCA [The Old-time Radio-show Collectors' Association] is Roger Bickerton, Ulverscroft, 3 Park Hedge, Harrogate HG2 8JU. Barry Hill has been enabled to move the world HQ to a temperature & humidity controlled building at Route 1, Box 197, Belpre, OH 45714, USA.*)

Douglas Warren tells of an adult education course at Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge: **Investigating Sherlock Holmes.** Klair Norton MA will run 10 classes on Tuesdays at 2 pm, starting 4 October. Cost is £35.00 (concessions £26.00). Details from The Admissions Office, School of Continuing Studies, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT (phone 021-414 5607).

Our own Society's musical weekend in Cambridge is over, but The Priory Scholars have a Video Afternoon in Leicester on 18 September (details from Horace L. Coates, 21 Butcombe Road, Leicester LE4 0FY); The Poor Folk Upon The Moors host a debate on 24 September at Warland, Totnes: **Who Was the Best Holmes?** (Vosper Arthur, Spynishlake, Doddiscombsleigh, Exeter EX6 7PR); the Northern Musgraves weekend study of **The Neglected Cases** will be held in Manchester on 8 & 9 October (David Stuart Davies, Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER); the Franco-Midland Hardware Company plans "a Holmesian investigation in the Midlands" for 30 October (The Stock-broker's Clerk, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU); and the Irregular Special Railway Company has a rail tour in Sussex on 5 November (Antony J. Richards, 163 Marine Parade, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. SS9 2RB).

Periodicals recently received: **Llama Droppings** no. 3 (The Head Llamas, Alan & Catherine Saunders, 12 Booth Drive, Laleham, Staines, Middlesex TW18 1PR) (*the Llamas have uncovered a fascinating link between Holmes and M.R. James*); **Baker Street Miscellanea** no. 75 (The Sciolist Press, PO Box 225, Winnetka, IL 60093-0225) (*only one more issue to come of this most stimulating journal*); **The Parallelogram** September 1994 (The Parallel Case of St Louis, Joseph J. Eckrich BSI, 914 Oakmoor, Fenton, MO 63026, USA); **Communication** no. 141 (The Pleasant Places of Florida, Dr Benton Wood BSI, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA); **The Cormorant's Ring** August 1994 (The Trained Cormorants of Long Beach, Jim Coffin, 6570 E. Paseo Alcazaa, Anaheim Hills, CA 92807, USA); **The Soft-Nosed Bullet-In** no. 16 (Von Herder Airguns Ltd, Michael Ross, Bendheide 65, 47906 Kempen, Germany); **The School Report** no. 18 (Horace L. Coates, 21 Butcombe Road, Leicester LE1 0FY); **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** August 1994 (Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830) (*from which I learn that the 4th issue of **The Shoso-in Bulletin,** the fine journal of The Men With the Twisted Konjo, is now out*).



THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London
Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 145 18th October 1994

John Bennett Shaw ('The Hans Sloane of My Age', BSI) died on the 2nd October, of a heart attack, just a week before his 81st birthday. He didn't lose consciousness and was not in pain; death itself came suddenly and instantaneously. Much of the December 1990 issue of **The Baker Street Journal** was devoted to John's life and career as a Sherlockian, and a proper tribute should be that long. Briefly though: he was probably the world's greatest and most omnivorous Holmesian collector; he was responsible for starting more Holmes societies than most of us can imagine; he vetted applications to become scions of the Baker Street Irregulars; he had a taste for good food, good drink and bad puns; he was Big Brother in the most stimulating and comfortable way possible, and as such he had hundreds (perhaps thousands) of little brothers and sisters world-wide. He was irreplaceable.

Another long-time supporter of this newsletter died recently, Mr L.T. Archer of Clacton-on-Sea; an elderly gentleman who was unable to attend the Society's meetings often, he was related to George Lusk of the Whitechapel vigilantes ('From Hell. Mr Lusk, Sor...'). Peter Blau reports that Robert Bloch died on the 23rd September; though he'll be forever tagged 'the author of **Psycho**', he made good use in his stories and essays of his knowledge and love of the Holmesian canon.

A reminder: if your envelope bears the message **This is your last envelope** or **Your subscription expires with this issue**, will UK subscribers please send me half a dozen or so more stamped and self-addressed envelopes to renew; European subscribers can send an appropriate number of International Reply Coupons; USA subscribers can send a check for US$10.00 payable to **Jean Upton** for 12 issues; subscribers elsewhere can send US$10.00 as above or 18 IRCs for 12 issues. Thanks.

Crime Yellow: Gollancz New Crimes 1 edited by Maxim Jakubowski (Victor Gollancz, Villiers House, 41/47 Strand, London WC2N 5JE; £14.99) is a meaty, satisfying collection of new crime and detective stories, long and short. Of special interest to us is 'The Woman of Goodwill', a Sherlock Holmes story for Christmas by Robert Richardson. The natural comparison is with 'The Blue Carbuncle'. Mr Richardson's tale is much darker - tragic, even - but encouraging in showing that humanity can rise as well as fall. Like all the stories in the book, 'The Woman of Goodwill' is exceptionally well devised and written. Recommended.

Forthcoming from Ian Henry Publications Ltd (20 Park Drive, Romford RM1 4LH) are the first hardback edition of **Sherlock Holmes and the Hellbirds** by Austin Mitchelson and Nicholas Utechin, and a new Mycroft Holmes adventure, **The Hampstead Poisoning** by Glen Petrie. (Ian Henry has quite a lot of Holmesiana available; send an SSAE for a list. The titles are available in North America from Empire Publishing Services, PO Box 1132, Studio City, CA 91604, USA.) Coincidentally, Shapolsky Publishers in the USA have published this month **The Adventures of Mycroft Holmes: Sherlock Holmes' Brother** by Quinn Fawcett. (*I'll try to have more details for the next DM*). In December Warner Books (Little, Brown & Co. (UK) Ltd, Brettenham House, Lancaster Place, London WC2E 7EN) will

issue Peter Haining's **Sherlock Holmes Compendium** in paperback at £6.99. Peter Blau notes **Lady Brackenstall's Lord and Master**, 'J.C. Charles' latest contribution to adults-only Sherlockiana, providing details of Brackenstall's cruel and humiliating treatment of his beautiful young wife, and of his attentions to the pretty upstairs maid; the eight-page pamphlet costs $5.00 postpaid from The Filmoods Co. (Box 475, Scarsdale, NY 10583).' Seen at 99p in Claude Gill: **Buster Bunny in 'Buster's Big Case'** by Brad Gilchrist, a Tiny Toon Adventure (Book Sales Inc., 110 Enterprise Avenue, Secaucus, NJ 07904, USA). (*For completists or parents of very young children.*)

Penguin Books Ltd (27 Wrights Lane, London W8 5TZ) plan for January **Sherlock Holmes** by Arthur Conan Doyle, in their Puffin Classics series at £3.50. Between May and August next year Wordsworth Editions Ltd (Cumberland House, Crib Street, Ware, Herts. SG12 9ET) will publish their 3-volume edition of the Canon in hardback at £3.99 each volume. Forthcoming at £3.50 from Running Press Miniature Editions (c/o Biblios PDS Ltd, Star Road, Partridge Green, Horsham, Sussex RH13 8LD) is a tiny hardback volume containing 'The Five Orange Pips' and 'The Blue Carbuncle' complete. The big news on this front, though, is that **The Oxford Sherlock Holmes** will be out in paperback at £3.99 a volume in the World's Classics series in November (Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP).

One to add to the Ripper up-date in DM 144: published last month was **The Complete History of Jack the Ripper** by Philip Sugden (Robinson Publishing, 7 Kensington Church Court, London W8 4SP; £20.00)

In November, Hodder Headline Audiobooks (338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH) will issue for the first time in Britain some of the Gielgud/Richardson radio plays, written by John Keir Cross and produced by Harry Alan Towers in the early 1950s. The ads indicate that **The Best of Sherlock Holmes** will be a boxed set of 3 double cassettes, priced at £19.99, which will be issued separately in January at £7.99 each. Recordings previously released in the USA have all been taken off-air; it looks as if these are taken from the masters. Douglas Johnstone points out that on the 28th November HarperCollins Audiobooks (77-85 Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, London W6 8JB) will release **The Sherlock Holmes Collection** read by Basil Rathbone at £7.99. No further details yet, but these will be some, at least, of the fine readings Rathbone did for Caedmon in the 1960s. Douglas also mentions that all three recordings, originally broadcast on LBC, with Edward Petherbridge & David Peart as Holmes & Watson (**A Study in Scarlet**, **Four Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** and **The Valley of Fear**) are available from Murder One and elsewhere. (*They're produced by Independent Radio Drama Productions Ltd, whose address I can't immediately trace. I've yet to see any of these tapes in a shop, which is a pity, as they're very good.*)

Both Gerit Stenitzer and Mark Chadderton have told me of a good 10-page article in issues no. 7 and 8 (July/August and September/October) of **Movie Collector** magazine (PO Box 186, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 IRQ) on the missing bits of Billy Wilder's **The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes**. Apparently there are lots of marvellous stills. Peter Blau (3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA) asks if anyone can help him with a recording of Tony Palmer's film **Testimony** (1987), based on the memoirs of Dmitri Shostakovich. Along with Shostakovich, Stalin, Meyerhold and others, the characters apparently include Sherlock Holmes, played by Rodney Litchfield...

The Occupants of the Full House have passed on information that Pobjoy Mint Ltd (Mint House, Oldfields Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 2NW; order hotline 081-644 6255) has issued the world's first legal tender 'Sherlock Holmes' coins, commissioned by the Government of Gibraltar. They were launched yesterday in the Abbey National in Gibraltar, but 3,000 sets of 8 are available in the UK. Nominally each coin is a crown (25p), but being of sterling silver they're worth rather more: the issue price is £29.95 each, but the first is offered at £19.95. (*The cupro-nickel sample I've seen is very attractive.*)

Seen in a local pharmacy at £1.99 each: a series of plastic toys called 'Playmobil Special' - jointed dolls about 3" high, with appropriate accessories. No. 4501 is a very 1960s-looking Sherlock Holmes figure with separate deerstalker, cape, lens and spats. (Playmobil UK Ltd, 6 Argent Court, Sylvan Way, Southfields Business Park, Basildon, Essex SS15 6TH; Playmobil USA Inc., 11-E Nicholas Court, PO Box 877, Dayton, NJ 0880 , USA; other offices world-wide.)

Steven Emmons (#206, 70A Greenwich Avenue, New York, NY 10011, USA) offers sets of his full-colour 'Scandal in Bohemia' postcard commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Baker Street Irregulars, with a blank message area, at 10 for $13.50. The Northern Musgraves (Kathryn White, 149 Myrtle Terrace, Cross Roads, Keighley, West Yorks. BD22 9AJ) have produced a limited edition, 50 copies each, of three superb black & white prints by Kathryn herself, illustrating **The Hound of the Baskervilles**: 'Baskerville Hall, 'An Enormous Coal Black Hound' and 'A Hound It Was...' Each costs £15.00 including postage (US airmail $30.00), or £40.00 the three (US $80.00). Cheques should be payable to The Northern Musgraves.

(*A note on prices: if I quote a price only in pounds or only in dollars, it's because I have no other information.*)

Following the success of the Sherlock Holmes cartoon exhibition in May, Deirdre Keetley's Studio Gallery (50 Caledonian Road, King's Cross, London N1 9DP; phone 071-837 9947; fax 071-278 2396) has plans for a larger one. More on this as it reaches me. Deirdre' s own meticulous work, in a variety of media, can be seen and purchased at the Sherlock Holmes pub (10 Northumberland Street, London WC2), the Sherlock Holmes Hotel (Baker Street, London W1M 1LB) and elsewhere. Another versatile artist is Cathy Childs (Sherlock & Co. Ltd, 1510 Lake Drive, Grand Island, FL 32735, USA; phone 904 669 6419) who offers a wide range of portraits, caricatures, stationery and other collectibles, as well as her book, a cartoonist's look at **The Bits Watson Doesn't Tell Us** (available direct from Cathy at £18.15; be warned, this isn't a children's book). Write to her for a list, but do send IRCs or stamps to cover postage.

On the 15th October 1894 Arthur Conan Doyle arrived at Union Station, Indianapolis, Indiana, while on a literary speaking tour of the USA. On the 15th October 1994 the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis dedicated a memorial to Sir Arthur in the Great Hall of the station. Information about the project can be had from Donald E. Curtis, 6137 Meridian, West Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46208, USA. The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment and Crowborough Lions are producing a Christmas card in an edition of 500, reproducing a watercolour by Bill Pickering of Windlesham in Victorian winter snow, with carol singers. Price is 25p each or £2.25 for 10; your name and address will be printed on the card, as well as the Establishment's imprint. Cheques should be payable to 'ACD Memorial Fund', and orders sent to Malcolm Payne, 4 Wealden Close, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2ST. The Northern Musgraves also have their own Christmas card, in an

edition of 300: this year's features a nice drawing by Colin Langeveld of Holmes gazing through the frosted window of his Baker Street sitting-room at the night sky on Christmas Eve, 1895. A pack of 5 costs: UK £3.60; Europe £4.60; USA (airmail) $12.00. Cheques should be payable to The Northern Musgraves (dollar checks can be accepted), and orders sent to Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorks. BD16 4DN.

The Shoso-in Bulletin has quickly established itself among the leading international Holmesian journals. No. 4 contains a wealth of admirable articles, serious and light, from America, Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Japan, Spain and Switzerland. (The cover design is a lovely Japanisation of the cover of **The Sherlock Holmes Journal**.) Hirayama Yuichi and Keith Webb have done us proud. **The Shoso-in Bulletin** is available from Hirayama Yuichi BSI, The Men With The Twisted Konjo, 2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181, Japan, for US $10.00 cash. Or it can be had for £6.00 from John Hall, 20 Drury Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4BR (cheques payable to John Hall).

The Northern Musgraves' next meeting will be the Birthday Celebration at the Huddersfield Hotel on the 28th January. The Musgraves plan a 3rd 'Aspects of Holmes' weekend from the 6th to the 8th May 1995, at the Scandic Crown Hotel in Edinburgh. The full package including accommodation and two dinners costs £178.00/$270.00 per person; single room supplement is £10.00/$15.00. Details can be had from David Stuart Davies, Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER. On Sunday the 30th October the Franco-Midland Hardware Company will visit the Black Country Museum in Dudley and the Sherlock Holmes pub in Coseley (The Stock-broker's Clerk, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. P014 3RU). On the 5th & 6th November the Irregular Special Railway Company will have a Golden Pince-Nez Steam Weekend in Kent and Sussex (Dr Antony Richards, 163 Marine Parade, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2RB).

Periodicals of interest received since DM 144. **The Shoso-in Bulletin** no. 4 (see above). **The Musgrave Papers** no. 7 (The Northern Musgraves, Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER) (*solid, chunky, something Holmesians can really get their teeth into*); **The Petrel Flyer** September & October 1994 (The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia. Len Haffenden, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3C6, Canada) (*'The Case of the Five Orange Pimps' in the Sept. issue is hilarious, and the 6th Sherlympiad, reported in the Oct. issue, must have been great fun*); **The New Baker Street Pillar Box** vol. 19 (The Franco-Midland Hardware Company, The Stock-broker's Clerk, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU) (*full of fascinating and scholarly material*); **Communication** no. 142 (The Pleasant Places of Florida, Dr Benton Wood BSI, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA); **Newsletter** no. 10 (The Irregular Special Railway Company, Dr Antony Richards, 163 Marine Parade, Leigh-on-sea, Essex SS9 2RB); **Baker Street Gazette Journal** vol. 13 no. 44 (Baskervilles Restaurant, Grosvenor Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Walt Disney World, Florida); **Sherlockiana** no. 2 1994 (Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark, Bjarne Nielsen BSI, Hestehavevej 30, DK-4572 Nr. Asmindrup, Denmark) (*thanks to Ian Wilkes for these last two*); **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** September 1994 (Peter E. Blau BSI, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA) (*the Sherlockian newsletter*).

THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London
Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 146 20th November 1994

Something a little **recherché** to open our review section. Michael Ross has kindly sent a copy of **Sherlock Holmes: Detektivmodie in vier Aufzügen,** a play by Ferdinand Bonn, originally performed at the Berliner Theater in 1906 and now handsomely reprinted by Michael's own 'Baskerville Bücher' (Bendheide 65, 47906 Kempen, Germany) at DM24 or US$16.00, including postage. (Payments by Eurocheque or in cash, please.) The text is in German, but there's a 16-page summary in English, as well as a nice selection of photos from the original production. If you thought British and American dramatists had taken liberties, get this: Holmes shares rooms with an unemployed piano-teacher named Forbs; their landlady is a Mrs Chease; the comic police inspectors are named Knox and Smallweed... And so it goes. It's fascinating stuff, and Michael is to be congratulated on introducing a new generation to the work of Ferdinand Bonn. In 1995, 'Baskerville Bücher' will publish new editions of Bonn's **Der Hund von Baskerville** and **Die Tanzenden Manchen**, as well as **Ferdinand Bonn & Sherlock Holmes** by Michael Ross, and two listings: **Sherlockiana**, covering German Sherlock Holmes publications, and **Sherlockiana Dramatika**. Those last three have text in German and English. If you write for information, I'm sure an International Reply Coupon will be appreciated.

A pastiche of another kind is **The Beekeeper's Apprentice: or On the Segregation of the Queen** by Laurie R. King (St Martin's Press, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010, USA; $21.95), which investigates the supposition that the elderly Sherlock Holmes had befriended a bright young woman, recognising in her a fellow intellect. It's intelligent and well-written and rather different from the usual run of post-ACD Holmes stories. (*Please note: if I give dollar prices without qualification, the reference is to US dollars.*)

An attractive paperback edition of **The Oxford Sherlock Holmes** is now out in the World's Classics series (Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP; each volume £3.99/US$5.95/Can$6.95). Illustrations by F.D. Steele have replaced the enigmatic cover designs of the hardbacks, and the editors have worked hard to right errors in their introductions and notes ('ophthalmic' is now correctly spelled in **The Adventures...**), though there appears to be a line missing between the end of p. 281 and the start of p. 282 **in The Memoirs**. Owen Dudley Edwards and his team, Richard Lancelyn Green, Christopher Roden and the late W.W. Robson, deserve our thanks. This is as near as we're likely to get to a definitive edition. A pity the paperbacks didn't appear first, so that the revised versions would have been available in the more expensive and durable hardback.

Courage Classics (Running Press, Glen House, 200-208 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LA) have published **Sherlock Holmes Reader**, by Arthur Conan Doyle, containing eight stories, chosen and introduced by Christopher Clausen. There's also a sensible essay by Clausen, taken from his book **The Moral Imagination: Essays on Literature and Ethics**, and a relevant section from Conan Doyle's **Memories and Adventures**. At £4.99 for a nicely produced hardback, it's a bargain - as, by the look of things, are the other Courage

Classics.

The Great Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle, a Puffin Classic, contains eight stories, five from **The Return of Sherlock Holmes** and three from **The Adventures**. (Penguin Books, 27 Wrights Lane, London W8 5TZ; £3.50) It's unclear whether this is a different book from the **Puffin Sherlock Holmes**, announced for January. The Puffin edition of **The Hound of the Baskervilles** was re-issued in September at £2.99. Bloomsbury Books (42 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QT) has issued **The Penguin Complete Sherlock Holmes** in hardback at £4.99 - cheaper than Penguin's paperback. This is the old Doubleday-Doran edition, with the introduction by Christopher Morley.

Sherlock Publications (6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 3RU) continue their busy schedule. **The Company Canon** aims to reprint each canonical story in a definitive, annotated version. **Alphabetically, My Dear Watson** by Philip Weller is a listing of all the named characters in the canon, with a summary of each. **Sherlock Holmes & Air-Guns** by Philip Weller speaks for itself. Non-members of the Franco-Midland Hardware Company can have them at the following prices; **The Company Canon - EMPT** UK £3.50, Europe £4.00/$8.00, world £5.00/$10.00; **The Company Canon - THOR** UK £4.00, Europe £4.50/$9.00, world £5.50/$11.00; **Alphabetically, My Dear Watson** UK £6.00, Europe £6.50/$13.00, world £7.50/$15.00; **Sherlock Holmes & Air-Guns** UK £4.50, Europe ££5.00/$10.00, world £6.00/$12.00. Sterling cheques should be payable to Sherlock Publications; dollar payments in cash - no cheques (or checks). Dr Benton Wood, Chaplain to the BSI, has compiled **Mycroft's Puzzle Book**, available from Ben (Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA) at $7.50 or $10.00 for foreign orders.

I'm delighted to pass on the news that Europe's premier Holmesian dealer is up and running again. After their recent marriage, Paula (formerly Kirby) and Dixon Smith have issued **Rupert Books catalogue no. 11**. There's a good morning's reading just in the catalogue, which can be obtained by writing to Rupert Books, 58/59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE (phone 01954 781861). The Black Cat Bookshop (36-39 Silver Arcade, Leicester LEI 5FB) has issued its 5th Sherlock Holmes & Conan Doyle catalogue, full of familiar and less familiar goodies. Please send (UK) £1.00, or (overseas) $5.00/DM5.00 or 6 IRCs. US and German currency in cash, please.

Other new and forthcoming books. Last month Pavilion Books (26 Upper Ground, London SE1 9PD) published Matthew Bunson's **Encyclopedia of Sherlock Holmes: A Complete Guide to the World of the Great Detective** (£17.99). (*Pavilion have also published Terry Jones & Brian Froud's **Lady Cottington's Pressed Fairy Book**.*) **The Adventures of Mycroft Holmes: Sherlock Holmes' Brother** by Quinn Fawcett came last month from Shapolsky Publishers Inc. (136 W. 22nd Street, New York, NY 10011, USA), available in the UK at £14.99. In February, Pan Books (Cavaye Place, London SW10 9PG) will issue **The Sherlock Holmes IQ Book** by E. Butler, at £4.99. This month Chivers Press (Windsor Bridge Road, Bath BA2 3AX) published **The Hound of the Baskervilles** in large print, at £6.95; Chivers have also put out large print editions of June Thomson's **The Secret Chronicles of Sherlock Holmes** (£11.95) and **The Secret Files of Sherlock Holmes** (£9.45). Prima Publishing (3875 Atherton Road, Rocklin, CA 95765) have issued **Sherlock Holmes Consultant Detective: The Official Strategy Guide** by Bruce Shelley, available here at £18.49.

The Wordsworth Classics 3-volume edition of the canon will appear in hard covers next year, starting with **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** in May

(Wordsworth Editions Ltd, Cumberland House, Crib Street, Ware, Herts. SG12 9ET; £3.99 each volume). (Next month Wordsworth will issue **Sir Nigel** in paperback at £1.00, to be followed in April by **The Lost World**, also £1.00.) In December, the White Eagle Publishing Trust (New Lands, Brewells Lane, Liss, Hants. GU33 7HY) will publish **Arthur Conan Doyle's Book of the Beyond**, edited by Ivan Cooke, a new edition of **The Return of Arthur Conan Doyle** (£7.95).

Some more American books. **The Game Is Afoot: Parodies, Pastiches & Ponderings of Sherlock Holmes** edited by Marvin Kaye (St Martin's Press, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010; $23.95) is the most ambitious thing of its kind since Ellery Queen's **The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes** in 1944. Greenwood has published **Adventures of the Detected Detective: Sherlock Holmes in James Joyce's Finnegan's Wake** (I can't find an address or a price for this one). **Classic Mysteries of Sherlock Holmes** is $18.95 from Longmeadow Press (PO Box 10218, 201 High Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06904). Southern Illinois University Press (PO Box 3697, Carbondale, IL 62902-3697) has published **Whatever Happened to Sherlock Holmes? Detective Fiction, Popular Theology and Society** by Robert S. Paul, at $24.95. From Anchorage Press (PO Box 8067, New Orleans, LA 70182) comes **The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes** by Suzan L. Zeder ($5.50). Jack Tracy's Gaslight Publications (112 East Second, Bloomington, IN 47401) has issued **Myth and Modern Man in Sherlock Holmes: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the Uses of Nostalgia** by David S. Payne ($24.95). Finally (for now) Bruce Eder's **Sherlock Holmes: The Rathbone Casebook** is still listed as in print from Windsong Publishing Inc. (PO Box 2978, Staunton, VA 24401) at $14.95. Has anyone ever seen a copy?

The Autumn 1994 issue of the **Sherlock Holmes Gazette** is just out, with a shop price of £1.95. The cover design, featuring the familiar profile of Peter Cushing, is more tasteful and less bitty than on recent issues. There are full, touching tributes to Cushing (by David Stuart Davies) and John Bennett Shaw (by Paula Brown). A good essay on Holmes' London by Martin Pallant is complemented by a specially commissioned map. There's a nice piece about the new exhibition of Sherlockian cartoons at Deirdre Keetley's Studio Gallery (50 Caledonian Road, King's Cross, London N1; phone 071-837 9947 - the exhibition runs until the 30th November, and features the work of a lot of brilliant cartoonists; some may still be unsold). "Collectors' Corner" begins, with a look at the gasogene and the tantalus. There's a round-up of societies' activities. And there's more besides. A 4-issue subscription is £14.00 (Europe and Eire £18.00/FF140/SF38; Middle East, USA, Canada, South America £21.00/$35.00; Australia, New Zealand, Japan £22.00) from 46 Purfield Drive, Wargrave, Berks. RG10 8AR. The USA representatives are Classic Specialties, PO Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219.

Geoff Bradley's magazine **CADS: Crime And Detective Stories** continues to fascinate. There's usually something specifically Holmesian, but the coverage of the crime/detective genre makes it well worth our attention even when there isn't. No. 24 is just out; the smart typesetting and reproduction is a world away from the magazine's simple beginnings, and the new production format makes it much more manageable. Cost is £4.00 including postage in the UK; ask Geoff about overseas rates. (9 Vicarage Hill, South Benfleet, Essex SS7 1PA.)

The Eastern Angles Theatre Company's Christmas treat this year is **Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Mummy's Tomb** by Julian Harries, running at the Sir John Mills Theatre, Gatacre Road, Ipswich IP1 2LQ (0473 211498) from

Thursday 8th December to Saturday 7th January. Holmes and Watson travel from Suffolk to Egypt, 'to unravel a bizarre mystery involving missing treasure, a kidnapped archaeologist, ancient mummies and the wrath of an ancient deity.' The **East Anglian Daily Times** said of last year's Lord Peter Wimsey play: 'A real Christmas Cracker. To see it is pure enjoyment.' Prices start at £7.00.

Bert Coules sends the latest information from Broadcasting House. The first four stories in the Radio 4 **Return of Sherlock Holmes** will be repeated on Wednesday evenings (not Sunday, as before) at 8.45, from the 30th November to the 21st December; then there'll be a break until the 25th January, when the next four start. The final six stories from **The Casebook** are being recorded for transmission on Wednesday afternoons at 2.02, beginning with 'Thor Bridge' on the 1st March and ending with "The Retired Colourman' on the 5th April. The casting includes: Harriet Walter as Eugenia Ronder, Robin Ellis as Professor Presbury, Charlotte Attenborough as Grace Dunbar, William Hootkins as Neil Gibson, and George Cole as Josiah Amberley. 'Stephen Thorne and John Hartley return as Lestrade and Mycroft in cameo roles in "The Retired Colourman".'

There's no definite news yet of the Radio 4 **His Last Bow** coming out on cassette, but there are other issues to keep us occupied. The big news is that our own Society has produced two cassettes of unabridged readings by our Honorary Member Douglas Wilmer: **'The Speckled Band' and 'The Devil's Foot'** and **'The Musgrave Ritual' and 'Charles Augustus Milverton'.** Copies can be had from the Society's Merchandising Officer, Lynne Godden (Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Kent TN27 8QE) at £5.50 each including postage (Europe £5.75; USA $11.50; rest of world £6.50). Cheques should be payable to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, All involved in the recordings are extremely enthusiastic.

The Edward Petherbridge/David Peart recordings from The Drama Collection should be in the shops as follows: A **Study in Scarlet** (DC513), **Sherlock Holmes: Four Adventures** (DC514), **The Valley of Fear** (DC517). If you can't find them, try contacting Independent Radio Drama Productions, PO Box 518, Manningtree, Essex CO11 1XD; phone 0206 395795. Presumably intended as in-car entertainment is a double cassette from MCI Spoken Word (Music Collection International Ltd, 36-38 Caxton Way, Watford WD1 8UF). **The Return of Sherlock Holmes: 'The Musgrave Ritual' and 'The Second Stain'** (TALKMC 023) contains the soundtracks of the Granada TV films with additional narration. TALKMC 024 is forthcoming; no more details. Next month sees the release of **The Sherlock Holmes Collection,** readings by Basil Rathbone (HarperCollins Audiobooks, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, London W6 8JB; £7.99).

The Sherlock Holmes Gift Pack, launching the 'Golden Days of Radio' series, should be in the shops now. It contains six tapes from Harry Alan Towers' 1954 radio plays with John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson as Holmes and Watson (Hodder Headline Audiobook, 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH; £19.99). The three double-cassettes will be released separately next year at £7.99 each. Philip Attwell sends an ad for The Audio Book Collection (Freepost (BA 1686/1), Bath BA2 3SZ; phone free on 0800 136 919), which appears to be a sort of book club dealing exclusively with Chivers' high-quality, unabridged talking books. One of those on special offer at £9.95 + postage is **Morse's Greatest Mystery and other stories** by Colin Dexter. One of the other stories is an excellent parody-pastiche called 'A Case of Mis-Identity'. Catherine Cooke alerts me to a CD called **The Composer Conducts** (EMI Classics: COM 7 64718 2), digitally remastered recordings by Alan Rawsthorne, John Addinsell,

Arthur Bliss, Malcolm Arnold - and Richard Arnell, who conducts his own **Great Detective Ballet Suite.**

John English Gifts Ltd (6 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly, London SW1Y 6DS; phone 071-437 2082) has a good deal of Sherlock Holmes memorabilia in stock, including a lovely hand-painted chess set at £164.50, a nice nine-inch caricature figurine by Cloudside Studios ('The Detective') at £48.95, the miniature edition of Malcolm Cooper's model of the Sherlock Holmes Pub at £19.95, and the Bosson's wall masks at £21.95 each (*we have seen these cheaper elsewhere in London*).

Smith Gryphon (Swallow House, 11-12 Northdown Street, London N1 9BN) has issued the controversial **The Diary of Jack the Ripper** in paperback at £5.99 (not £4.99 as noted in DM 144). The editor and commentator Shirley Harrison has Colin Wilson's support for this updated edition of her thesis: he says, 'Maybrick is far and away the most likely Ripper candidate so far.' Personally I find the implied coincidence (that the most infamous murderer of Victorian times should himself be the victim in a sensational murder case) rather hard to swallow.

Not quite Sherlockian, but worth considering as a Christmas present for intelligent children (and adults) is **The Mystery of the Russian Ruby: a pop-up whodunnit** by Iain Smyth (Orchard Books, 96 Leonard Street, London EC2A 4RH; £12.99). The ingenious construction of the book is capped by the fact that having once solved (or failed to solve) the case, the reader can substitute a new set of clues, leading to a new solution - there are three in all. Past Times, which now has 38 shops in addition to the mail-order business, stocks an amazing variety of Victoriana, and even a certain amount of Holmesiana, You could have a wholly Victorian Christmas, catered exclusively by Past Times. Write or phone for a catalogue (Past Times, Witney, Oxford OX8 6BH; 0993 779339). Hawkin & Co. (St Margaret, Harleston, Norfolk IP20 OPJ) is a mail-order firm specialising in 'curiosities and oddities, scraps and masks, party toys and stockingfillers, tin toys for collectors'. There are things in Hawkin's catalogue that you've never heard of, and even more things that you didn't know were still made. Lots of ideas for Christmas presents.

Gerit Stenitzer spotted a report in a German newspaper that the conflict continues between the Abbey National, whose HQ covers the address that would be numbered 221 Baker Street and has for 60 years answered Sherlock Holmes' mail, and the proprietor of the Sherlock Holmes Museum, located at 239 Baker Street, who thinks that he should have the right to the number 221B. Catherine Cooke has kindly provided some details. John Aidiniantz has claimed that because Westminster City Council won't renumber the street he's unable to set up a mail-order business which would employ disabled people. 'There is now no home on Baker Street for Sherlock Holmes. He is being kicked out of Baker Street because the council does not want to put his address up in the street legally,' he said; and later: 'But if we cannot have the address we cannot have the mail order business.' The council considers it wrong to allocate a street number for commercial purposes, and Dame Jean Conan Doyle opposes the museum's plan because she does not want to encourage the idea that Holmes is a real person. Grace Riley, a director of the museum, said: 'If he had really existed, Sherlock Holmes would be turning in his grave at the thought of a bunch of money-lenders answering his mail.' The museum has persuaded Nigel Griffiths, MP for an Edinburgh constituency, to draft a private member's bill requiring Parliament to reverse Westminster's decision.

[redacted] (*This coincides eerily with the publication of a scathing report on the museum in **Baker Street Miscellanea** no. 76.*)

The Baker Street Irregulars will hold their annual dinner on Friday 6th January. I wish we could be there - maybe in 1996. It'll be the usual packed weekend, including that admirable feature, 'the annual reception for all Sherlockians and their friends' held at 24 Fifth Avenue on the afternoon of 7th January. Tickets are $35.00 per person (checks payable to the Baker Street Irregulars) from Donald Novorsky, 5182 Mahoning NW, Warren, OH 44483, USA. Our Society's dinner on Saturday 14th January will be followed by a 'morning after' meeting at the Museum Tavern, jointly hosted by the Northern Musgraves.

The Franco-Midland Hardware Company's AGM and Christmas Social will be held in Winchester on Saturday 3rd December ('The Stock-broker's Clerk', 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. P014 3RU). The Priory Scholars will celebrate in Leicester the next day (Horace L. Coates, 21 Butcombe Road, Leicester LE4 OFY). The Poor Folk Upon the Moors will hold their AGM and Christmas Dinner at the Two Bridges Hotel, Princetown, Dartmoor, on Saturday 10th December (Clare Taylor, 2 Lynbridge Court, Chapel Street, Tavistock, Devon PL19 8DX). The FMHC has plans for the 7th January, too: 'Disjecta Membra V will be a coach excursion from London to 'Birlstone Manor'.

Periodicals recently received: **Baker Street Miscellanea** no. 76 (211 Church Road, Winnetka, IL 60093, USA) (*The final issue of one of the great Sherlockian journals. It's good to note that the British were there to the end. Thanks are due Don Pollock and his merry band for their hard work in putting BSM together for 76 issues.*); **The Torr** no. 5 (The Poor Folk Upon The Moors, Clare Taylor, 2 Lynbridge Court, Chapel Street, Tavistock, Devon PL19 8DX) (*I love the cover design, incorporating a photo of Dartmoor.*); **Communication** no. 143 (The Pleasant Places of Florida, Dr Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA); **The School Report** no. 19 (The Priory Scholars of Leicester, Horace L. Coates, 21 Butcombe Road, Leicester LE4 OFY); **The Army Medical Corps Gazette (of the Franco-Midland Health Dpt.)** no. 1, **Ironmongers Daily Echo and Franco-Midland Branches Advertiser** nos, 2, 3 and 4, and **The Ladies Standard Magazine** April 1894 (all from la Société Sherlock Holmes de France, Les Quincailliers de la Franco-Midland, 26 Avenue de la République, Paris XI, France) (*All in French, of course, and delightfully imaginative.*); **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** October 1994 (Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830) (*Peter sensibly reminds us that The **Baker Street Journal** is a must for all Sherlockians. An annual sub in the USA is $17.50, and elsewhere $20.00, from **The Baker Street Journal**, PO Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331, USA.*)

The Compliments of the Season to all!

THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London
Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 147 23rd January 1995

A happy and prosperous New Year to all! Let's hope that 1995 proves less traumatic than 1994 was.

Since the last DM several more deaths have come to my notice. James Hill, who directed **A Study in Terror**, with John Neville and Donald Houston, died in October, as did Heinz Rühmann, who was Dr Watson in **Der Mann, der Sherlock Holmes War** in 1937. In November we lost two giants in the mystery field. Michael Innes, whose real name was J.I.M. Stewart, was the doyen of the academic detective story; his Appleby novels contain many Holmesian touches. Julian Symons wrote several Holmesian tales, most of which don't feature Holmes directly (the best is probably A **Three Pipe Problem**). He was also responsible for a superb history of the genre, **Bloody Murder**, aka **Mortal Consequences.** He served as President of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society, and introduced the facsimile MS edition of "The Dying Detective".

Also in November, John J. Waldeck and Irving L. Jaffee died. I first met John in Switzerland in 1978 and last met him in London during the 1994 'Back to Baker Street' festival. I never met Irving Jaffee, but enjoyed his books **Elementary, My Dear Watson** and **Beyond Baker Street.** Herman Beerman died on New Year's Day. As a dermatologist, his BSI investiture was 'Sir James Saunders', and he founded the Sir James Saunders Society for Sherlockian dermatologists. He was known to invite people up 'to see his itchings'!

Kevin Jacklin reminds me that those with computers have access to other Holmesians, through 'The Hounds of the Internet' and Sherlocktron. Also that 'most of the texts of the Canon are available through on-line connections to various libraries, but a company in California is experimenting with making Doyle's works more easily readable through Windows software'. If you're connected to the Internet and would like details, send a message to jacklink@cix.compulink.co.uk. Heather Stevens points out that Able-Labels can be provided with a pictorial design to accompany your name and address. No. 15m, a profile of Sherlock Holmes, is popular. 500 black on white, 19 x 40 mm, cost £5.75 including postage from Steepleprint Ltd, Earls Barton, Northampton NN6 OLS - or phone 01604 810781 for an order form.

John Aidiniantz, former proprietor of the Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street (he passed the business on to his mother a month or so ago), has been found guilty of 8 charges of obtaining property by deception and sentenced to three years imprisonment plus £30,000 costs. (His solicitor was sentenced to two years.) One of the properties is that which houses the museum, and among his creditors is Abbey National PLC. He has said he intends to appeal. Last month the last five Ministry of Defence staff finally left the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, ending 400 years of history. It was from an office at the Arsenal that the Bruce-Partington plans were stolen.

Cadds Printing Ltd (59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL)

has produced a very attractive pair of posters, under licence from Granada TV. Each is a full-colour photograph, A3 size (approx. 16"x 11½"). One shows Jeremy Brett, finger to lips outside 221B Baker Street; the other shows him looking over the horse Silver Blaze. The posters should be available from the usual dealers, including Classic Specialties, and can also be had by post from Cadds at: UK £3.50 each or £6.00 the pair; USA $7.00 each or $13.00 both (dollar checks payable to Mrs Ferrara); elsewhere £4.00 each or £7.00 both - cheques must be drawn on British banks.

Our own Society has a good selection of merchandise available from Lynne Godden (Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8QE). Besides the books (**The Light Is Dark Enough, The Tri-Metallic Question, Hound & Horse, Sunday in Sussex, France in the Blood, Back to Baker Street** and **In Beds with Sherlock Holmes**) and back issues of **The Sherlock Holmes Journal,** there are Society ties and scarves, the Society umbrella, and of course the marvellous new cassettes of unabridged readings by Douglas Wilmer. (Be warned, by the way, that in order to fit full-length readings onto the two cassettes it's been necessary to use thin recording tape, so don't try playing them on a machine of modest quality.)

All interested in the translation of mystery tales to the screen will find much to fascinate them in **It's a Print! Detective Fiction from Page to Screen,** edited by William Reynolds and Elizabeth Trembley (Bowling Green State University Popular Press, Bowling Green, OH 43403, USA; no price to hand). Pride of place is naturally given to Sherlock Holmes: Ms Trembley writes about 'the achievement of Granada Television's Sherlock Holmes films', and Michael Cox contributes his own notes on the planning and execution of the Granada series (it's not emphasised, but one appreciates more and more how much the series owes to Michael Cox, and how erratic its success has been without his involvement). The other essays are all worth reading, covering as they do screen adaptations of Agatha Christie, Dashiell Hammett, Colin Dexter, Patricia Highsmith and Thomas Harris among others (though Kathleen Gregory Klein does her powerful case against the de-feminisation of V.I. Warshawski no favours with her psycho-sociological jargon). Strongly recommended.

Due soon from Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library and the Battered Silicon Dispatch Box is the invaluable index volume to **The Universal Sherlock Holmes,** available like the other four volumes cerlox-bound or unbound. It costs (including postage): Can.$46.00; US$36.00; UK £24.00. New from the same source is **The Unpublished Solar Pons** by August Derleth. George Vanderburgh has edited and produced a 106-page hardback containing three hitherto unknown adventures of 'The Sherlock Holmes of Praed Street' plus a fragment previously published only in **The Pontine Dossier** nearly 20 years ago. The stories are not top-notch Pons, but they are unmistakably the real thing. There are enthusiastic introductions by the President of the August Derleth Society and the Lord Warden of the Pontine Marshes. The book is nice value at: Can. $23.00; US$18.00; UK £12.00. Prices include postage. Cheques should be payable to George A. Vanderburgh, and sent to him at P.O. Box 204, 420 Owen Sound Street, Shelburne, Ontario L0N 1S0, Canada (fax 519 925-3482). (The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box has issued a catalogue for 1995, containing a great deal of interest - notably the 'electronic books' that are George's specialism, which include the Solar Pens canon and all the Sherlockian parodies of J.K. Bangs.)

Tony Lumb's second Holmes pastiche is **Sherlock Holmes and the White Lady of Featherstone,** a nicely produced 32-page booklet, with a striking cover

photograph. It's available from Briton Press (21 Albert Street, Featherstone, Pontefract, West Yorkshire WF7 SEX) at £2.00 + 80p postage. Once more the author makes good use of his knowledge of industrial Yorkshire and its social history. On a rare holiday in 1904, Holmes and Watson find themselves plunged into the investigation of a diamond robbery and two associated murders in the little town, and for once Holmes's impeccable logic doesn't lead him immediately to the correct solution. It's a clever tale, well told.

Maria Hayzen sends the following review of **La pequena complicacion domestica de las tres segundas manchas:** 'This publication, in Spanish, written by Manuel Diez-Alegria with illustrations by Jose Luis Errazquin has 113 pages in A4 format. It is the second issue by the "Amateur Mendicant Society" established in Madrid in 1993 in their Monograph series and is based on the story of "The Second Stain". This book can be obtained at the cost of 1,300 pesetas, by International Money Order or 10 US dollars, in cash. Please address your orders to: Miguel Gonzalez-Pedel, Calle San Vidal, 15(3B), 28017 Madrid, Spain.' (Please note that this is the correct address for the Society.)

The 5th Musgrave Monograph is **140 Different Varieties: A Review of Tobacco in the Canon** by John Hall. John is the author of **I Remember the Date Very Well,** and this new brochure is as conscientious and stimulating as we should expect from a major Holmes scholar. Production is well up to the Northern Musgraves' high standards. Cost including postage is: UK £4.00; Europe £4.50; USA $7.00. Cheques should be payable to The Northern Musgraves and sent to Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 4DN. US dollar checks are welcome.

There are several new catalogues available, all offering desirable Holmesiana. Forbes Gibb (29 Falkland Street, Hyndland, Glasgow G12 9QZ, Scotland; phone 041-339 3752) has **Gibb's Household Number for December,** otherwise 'Catalogue Adler'. Please send a self-addressed envelope together with a 38p stamp (UK) or two International Reply Coupons (overseas). Neal Smith's Black Orchid Books have their January 1995 catalogue (26 Eastfield, Ashton Keynes, Wilts. SN6 1PR; phone 0285 860726 - this is a new address). Michael Connolly (Tirgarve, Allistragh, Armagh BT61 8EZ, Northern Ireland) has a brief but interesting list. Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a copy. Jack Tracy's Gaslight Publications (now at 3888 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 221B, Las Vegas, NV 89102, USA) have their Spring 1995 catalogue of books old and new. The latter include **Our Blazonings** by W.W. Higgins, a study of Canonical heraldry (March; $18.95), and **Myth and Modern Man in Sherlock Holmes: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the Uses of Nostalgia** by David S. Payne (out now; $24.95). Finally Tim O'Connor (The Baker Street Pages, 6015 West Route 115, Herscher, IL 60941, USA) has **Professor Presbury's Required Reading.**

From Penguin Books as Puffin Classics (27 Wrights Lane, London W8 5TZ): **The Hound of the Baskervilles** (November 1994; £2.99); **Extraordinary Cases of Sherlock Holmes** (this month; £3.50); **Great Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (March; £3.50) and **Mysterious Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (April; £3.99). From Dover (Constable & Co. Ltd, 3 The Lanchesters, 162 Fulham Palace Road; London W6 9ER), as a Dover Thrift Edition: **The Hound of the Baskervilles** (January; 95p). From Pan Books (Cavaye Place, London SW10 9PG); **The Sherlock Holmes IQ Book by** E. Butler & M. Pirie (February; £4.99).

From Ian Henry Publications Ltd (20 Park Drive, Romford RM1 4LH): **Sherlock**

Holmes and the Hellbirds by Austin Mitchelson & Nicholas Utechin (March; £14.99). From Warner (Little, Brown & Co. (UK) Ltd, Brettenham House, Lancaster Place, London WC2E 7EN): a new edition of **The Sherlock Holmes Compendium** edited by Peter Haining (December 1994; £6.99). From Pavilion Books (26 Upper Ground, London SE1 9PD): **Encyclopedia of Sherlock Holmes: a complete guide to the world of the Great Detective** by Matthew Bunson (October 1994; £17.99) (*I have yet to see a copy of this one. Though it's published in the USA by Macmillan at $25.00 as **Encyclopedia Sherlockiana**, this is not a reprint of Jack Tracy's classic.*) From Dr Benton Wood (Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222): a revised and updated edition of Ben's book **The Philatelic and Numismatic Holmes** ($10.00 post-paid within the USA).

From Peter E. Blau: DAW Books plan for February **Sherlock Holmes in Orbit**, a paperback anthology of new science-fiction pastiches, edited by Mike Resnick and Martin H. Greenberg. 'David L. Hammer's **The 22nd Man: In re Sherlock Holmes, German Agent** (1989) led to **The Quest: Being the Search for the Treasure of Sherlock Holmes, the 22nd Man**, allegedly by Angus Maclaren (1994), and now David offers **My Dear Watson: Being the Annals of Sherlock Holmes** (Gasogene Press, 1995; $12.95). The annals are the treasure sought in the previous book: thirteen accounts of hitherto-unreported cases. $18.70 postpaid from the publisher (Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52004, USA).' Otto Penzler's Sherlock Holmes Library (Otto Penzler Books, 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019) has recently reprinted, in paperback with nice Frederic Dorr Steele covers: **Baker Street By-ways** by James Edward Holroyd and **Holmes and Watson: A Miscellany** by S.C. Roberts (both $8.00).

The Arthur Conan Doyle Society plans for March the first manuscript facsimile of a non-Holmes story by Conan Doyle: **A Regimental Scandal** is made available by the kindness of its owner Wilfrid M. de Freitas. The facsimile will be issued in an edition of 150 copies, with an introduction by Richard Lancelyn Green and a foreword by Dame Jean Conan Doyle. Cost including postage is: UK £26.65; US$49.25; Can.$64.35 (please enquire about other rates). In late May the ACDS will publish a previously unknown Conan Doyle story, whose only appearance to date was in 1884, anonymously. The book will be edited by Barbara & Christopher Roden, with an afterword by Owen Dudley Edwards. The latest issue of the society's journal ACD has an in-depth article by Owen on **The Angels of Darkness** and the origins of A **Study in Scarlet.** Copies are available to non-members for £10.00. (Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG.)

The February issue of **Book and Magazine Collector** (43-45 St Mary's Road, Ealing, London W5 5RQ; £2.10) is in the shops. The lead article is a good account by Richard Dalby of 'The Historical Fiction of Arthur Conan Doyle'. Marvel Comics (13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX) have begun a new magazine called **Hammer Horror.** The launch issue, a 'Collectors' Special', is still available at £2.99. It contains well illustrated coverage of all the classic Hammer Horrors including the 1959 **Hound of the Baskervilles.**

You'll find enclosed a flyer for **The Sherlock Holmes Video,** produced by Countryside TV Productions. It comes with our hearty commendation as an excellent, affectionate and knowledgeable documentary. Holmes and Watson (Martin Hesp and Tad Mandziej) look back over their lives, as real people and as the creations of Arthur Conan Doyle. The location shooting covers London, the Broads, Dartmoor and other places in England, as well as Meiringen and the Reichenbach Falls. Forget that disappointing **40 Minutes** that Tim Pigott-Smith fronted for BBC TV back in 1987 - this is the real

thing. And it's available in NTSC as well as PAL. (*Note to Function Secretaries of Holmesian groups, particularly The Poor Folk Upon the Moors: Martin Hesp & Tad Mandziej would be happy to address a meeting or answer questions about the making of the video.*) Messrs Hesp & Mandziej will sign the video sleeves for purchasers ordering direct from Countryside, if asked.

Americans should look out for what promises to be another good documentary, to be broadcast on the A&E channel coast to coast in a series called **Biography.** A couple of weeks ago a dozen members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London dined at the Sherlock Holmes public house in Northumberland Street, in the distinguished company of John H. Watson, MD - portrayed for the occasion by David Burke. The viewer will easily spot Tony Howlett, Pam Bruxner and Shirley Purves. As soon as we have a transmission date I'll pass it on.

Craig Bowlsby's well received play **The Hound of London** is now out on video in North America, with Patrick Macnee as Holmes. (*He acts well, but doesn't in all honesty look the part - which could be said of a number of actors who have played Holmes.*) It costs $18.00 from Intrepid Productions, PO Box 514, 250 H Street, Blaine, Washington 98230, USA. A review in **Westender** called it 'a must-see for Holmes fanatics', and it is actually well produced and good fun.

The Sherlock Holmes Audio Collection (HarperCollins AudioBooks, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith. London W6 8JB; £7.99) gives us four of the five classic readings that Basil Rathbone did for Caedmon in the 1960s: 'The Final Problem', 'The Red-headed League', 'A Scandal in Bohemia' and 'Silver Blaze'. 'The Final Problem' at 24 minutes is quite heavily cut because it was originally paired with an equally abridged "Speckled Band', but the others are more nearly complete. The reading, of course, is superb. It's good to have these recordings available again. **The Sherlock Holmes Gift Pack** (Hodder Headline Audiobooks, 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH; £19.99) is in the shops now. It contains twelve of the 1954 radio plays with John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson as Holmes and Watson: 'The Blackmailer', 'A Scandal in Bohemia', 'Silver Blaze', 'The Speckled Band', 'The Mystery of the Second Stain', 'The Traitor', 'The Rare Disease', 'The Norwood Builder', 'The Solitary Bicyclist', 'The Six Napoleons', 'The Red-Headed League' and 'A Case of Identity'. These are the titles used on American radio, and these recordings are taken from American radio. Sound quality is very good, and the scripts, production and acting are excellent. These recordings have never been issued in Britain before. (The three 2-cassette packs are also sold separately at £7.99 each. A fourth and final volume will be released in April.)

The BBC Radio Collection (BBC Enterprises Ltd, Woodlands, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT) issues the first volume of **His Last Bow,** from the Radio 4 series with Clive Merrison and Michael Williams, this month, at £7.99. Volume 2 follows in February. David Stuart Davies tells me of a recording, by unnamed actors, of **The Hound of the Baskervilles** (Telling Tales, Unit One, Mill Lane, Trading Estate, Purley Way, Croydon CR0 4AA). In September, Redback Audiobooks (I can't find an address for them at present) will release **Treasury of Sherlock Holmes**, a 4-cassette pack of readings by Ben Kingsley.

Andrew Cartwright (37 Horace Street, St Mary's Gardens, Hurst Hill, Coseley, West Midlands WV14 9HU) is very keen to get hold of video recordings of the fourteen Rathbone/Bruce Holmes movies. If you can

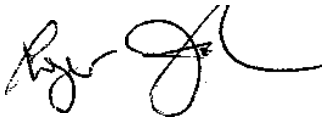
provide him with copies will you please contact him direct? Thanks.

Next Saturday, the 27th January, the Northern Musgraves hold their Birthday Celebration at the Huddersfield Hotel (David Stuart Davies, Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER). (*The May meeting, **Aspects of Holmes III: A Study in Scotland**, will be based at the Scandic Crown Hotel in Edinburgh from the 6th - 8th May. The special guest will be Jeremy Brett.*) The Baskerville Hounds will be out on the 11th February investigating the site of Baskerville Hall ('The Kennel Maid', 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RD), On the 25th February the Irregular Special Railway Company, together with the Franco-Midland Hardware Company, will visit the North Woolwich Station Museum, the London Transport Museum and Brick Lane Music Hall, which should give them all an appetite for the ISRC's annual dinner (Antony J. Richards, 163 Marine Parade, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2RB). The following day the Franco-Midland will join the Head Llamas for a visit to the Science Museum in South Kensington (Alan and Catherine Saunders, 12 Booth Drive, Laleham, Staines, Middlesex TW18 1PR).

Peter Blau points out that the 14th annual Sherlock Holmes/Conan Doyle Symposium will be held at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, 24th - 26th March. Details from Greg Sullivan, 2800 North River Road, Yellow Springs, OH 45387, USA, Tim Richards of the Sherlock Holmes Society of Western Australia reports that there is now a Sherlock Holmes pub in the Ramses Hilton Hotel in Cairo. (*And why not?*)

Periodicals recently received. **Communication** no. 144 and no. 145 (The Pleasant Places of Florida, Dr Benton Wood BSI, PO Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA). **The Petrel Flyer** vol. 6 no. 11 (The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, 10276 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3C6, Canada). (*Full of interest. This issue's high point, I think, is 'Aspects of Bolivia: Holmesian Reflections on a Journey to the Interior of South America' by Hichimes Lagg.*) **The Soft-Nosed Bulletin** no. 17 (Von Herder Airguns Ltd, Michael Ross, Bendheide 65, 47906 Kempen, Germany. (*I do wish my German was as good as these people's English!*) **The Ritual** no. 14 (The Northern Musgraves, David Stuart Davies, Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER). (*Articles, reviews and so much else. It runs to 72 pages! If that's a newsletter, what is **The District Messenger**?*)

The Irregular Special Railway Company Newsletter no. 11 and **The Sherlock Holmes Railway Journal** vol. 2 (The Irregular Special Railway Company, Antony J. Richards, 163 Marine Parade; Leigh-on-sea, Essex SS9 2RB) . (*More articles, old and new, with the joint theme of Sherlock Holmes and railways. Long may it flourish!*) **The New Baker Street Pillar Box** no. 20 and **Interim Report 1994: The Empty House Contract Reviewed** (The Franco-Midland Hardware Company, 'The Stock-broker's Clerk', 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU). (*The FMHC continues to encourage study and investigation of the Canon, but sensibly recognises that many people can appreciate good Holmesian scholarship without wishing to emulate it. The Company now admits 'annual package subscribers' as well as 'Directors'.*) And finally, **The Sherlock Holmes Journal** vol. 22 no. 1 (The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, Cdr G.S. Stavert, 3 Outram Road, Southsea, Hants. PO5 1QP). (*But I trust you were all aware of this anyway.*)



THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London
Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 148 26th February 1995

Some news that didn't make its way into the last DM. Among those invested at the Baker Street Irregulars' dinner on the 6th January were Kathryn White ("The Musgrave Ritual") and David Stuart Davies ("Sir Ralph Musgrave"). Bob Katz received the Two-Shilling Award.

I omitted to note the death last month of Peter Cook, who was, as Barry Took observed, a nice man and a very funny man, but the worst Sherlock Holmes ever (in **The Hound of the Baskervilles**, 1978). He redeemed himself with a lovely cameo in **Without a Clue** (1988), as the editor of **The Strand Magazine.** Steven Emmons, whose superb paintings and prints were a feature of the festivities in New York, also died last month. So did Arthur H. Lewis, a stalwart of the Sons of the Copper Beeches of Philadelphia, who featured largely in his fine detective story **Copper Beeches;** he also wrote the classic **Lament for the Molly Maguires.**

I couldn't give a price last time for **It's a Print! Detective Fiction from Page to Screen** (Bowling Green University Popular Press, 1994). Now I can. It's $18.95 paperback, or $46.95 hardback. Recommended. Philip J. Attwell sends notice of a couple of graphic novels: **The Lost World** (Millennium Comics; about £3.10) and **Sherlock Holmes: The Soul of the Dragon** (Northstar Comics; £6.20). One I missed earlier is **Sherlock Holmes in Orbit,** a collection of science-fiction tales published last February by DAW Books of New York at $5.50.

In November Chivers Press Ltd (Windsor Bridge Road, Bath BA2 SAX) published **The Hound of the Baskervilles** in large print at £6.95. From Penguin Books, as Puffin Classics (27 Wrights Lane, London W8 5TZ) come: **Extraordinary Cases of Sherlock Holmes** (January; £3.50), **Great Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (March; £3.50), **Mysterious Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (April; £3.50). Also from Penguin, as a Level 3 Penguin Reader (Bath Road, Harmondsworth, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 0DA): **Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Boscombe Pool** (March; £1.70). Other school textbooks are **Three Sherlock Holmes Adventures** (Nelson ELT, 100 Avenue Road, London NW3 3HF; February, £1.45), and **Sherlock Holmes and the Jewel and other short plays** (Sangam Books Ltd, 57 London Fruit Exchange, Brushfield Street, London E1 6EP; January, £3.25). In May, Wordsworth Editions Ltd (Cumberland House, Crib Street, Ware, Herts. SG12 9ET) will publish **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** in hardback at £3.99, containing A **Study in Scarlet, The Sign of Four, The Adventures** and **The Memoirs. The Return of Sherlock Holmes** (also including **The Hound of the Baskervilles**) follows in June, and **The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes** (everything else) in August.

This month sees **Sherlock Holmes and the Houdini Birthright** by Val Andrews (Breese Books, 164 Kensington Park Road, London W11 2ER; £5.99). Next month there's the first hardback edition of **Sherlock Holmes and the Hellbirds** by Austin Mitchelson and Nicholas Utechin (Ian Henry Publications Ltd (20 Park Drive, Romford RM1 4LH; £14.99), as well as **The Sherlock Holmes IQ Book** by Eamonn Butler and Pirie Madsen (Pan Books Ltd, Cavaye Place, London SW10 9PB; £3.99). Peter Blau notes that **Evolution,** a

Doctor Who adventure by John Peel (Virgin Publishing Ltd, 332 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 5AH; 1994, £4.99) involves the Doctor and Sarah Jane with Arthur Conan Doyle, Rudyard Kipling and the Hound of the Baskervilles.

The Sherlock Holmes Encyclopedia by Matthew E. Bunson (Pavilion Books Ltd, 26 Upper Ground, London SE1 9PD; 6th April, £19.99) was first published in America as **The Encyclopedia Sherlockiana.** The change makes nonsense of Mr Bunson's reference to "the brilliant work of the same name by Jack Tracy". This new book is not a replacement for Tracy's **Encyclopaedia Sherlockiana,** but rather a complement to it, as it covers (or makes a pretty good try at covering) the whole phenomenon of Sherlock Holmes, including stage, film, TV and radio, scholarship, parody and pastiche. Jack Tracy is a perfectionist, and his proof-reading is impeccable. That can't be said of Mr Bunson and his publishers: typos and minor errors are rife. The funniest compares Lord Mount-James to an undertaker's mule instead of a mute (p.173)! Others, more or less random: Jephro Rucastle's chin, described as hairy rather than heavy (p.217); the notice that "The Red Haired League is Dissolved" (p.209); the publication of "A Scandal in Bohemia" in **The Strand Magazine** in July 1881 (p.253); the apparent founding by me of The Solar Pond Society of London (p.323) (*need I explain that it's actually the Solar Pons Society of London?*)...

There's at least one less trivial error: John Bennett Shaw was not a founder of the Baker Street Irregulars, as the jacket proclaims, nor even an early member (p.20). The list of Sherlockian societies is a grand idea, but the arrangement is very unhelpful. Well, enough carping. Matthew Bunson has worked hard to produce **The Sherlock Holmes Encyclopedia,** and for all its flaws the result is a valuable reference tool, deserving John Bennett Shaw's enthusiastic foreword. I shall make frequent use of it, and I'm sure that others will too.

Another important addition to Holmesian scholarship is June Thomson's **Holmes and Watson: a Study in Friendship** (Constable & Co. Ltd, 3 The Lanchesters, 162 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 9ER; 20th March, £15.99). Two of Miss Thomson's three volumes of pastiches have included as appendices scholarly essays on aspects of the Baker Street establishment. Now we find that she has been working away at the first comprehensive biographical survey of the detective and the doctor in years (I except John Hall's **I Remember the Date Very Well,** which is essentially chronological). Like the classic works of Blakeney, Brend, Starrett and others, June Thomson's book is aimed at the general reader; like theirs, it must quickly be recognised as an admirable contribution to the Higher Scholarship. The publisher describes the book as a "fictional biography"; I prefer to reserve the term for works like Baring-Gould's **Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street,** which contain as much invention as investigation. **Holmes and Watson: a Study in Friendship** is a prime example of scholarship lightly worn. Fascinating, readable and highly recommended.

Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Edinburgh by Charles Hall and Peter Blythe (Charles Hall, 12 Paisley Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 7JW; £4.95 + 50p postage) is both a light-hearted survey of the numerous appearances of Holmes in plays at the Edinburgh Festival in the 1980s and 1990s and a look at his creator's connections with the city (including the different ways in which Edinburgh remembers its famous son - Quiz Night at the Conan Doyle pub must be quite an experience). Charles Hall's own inimitable cartoons and caricatures add to the fun, and anyone interested in Conan Doyle, Edinburgh or Sherlock Holmes on stage will find this

nicely produced little book worth while.

Ian Henry Publications Ltd (20 Park Drive, Romford RM1 4LH) have a new catalogue out. Forthcoming, besides **Sherlock Holmes and the Hellbirds,** are Ernest Dudley's acting edition of **The Return of Sherlock Holmes,** Glen Petrie's new Mycroft Holmes novel **The Hampstead Poisonings,** and Patricia Guy's **Bacchus in Baker Street,** a study of drink and drinking in the Canon. (*Ian notes that the Canadian bookshop Sleuth of Baker Street has moved to 1600 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4G 3B7.*)

Both volumes of the BBC Radio 4 production **His Last Bow,** with Clive Merrison and Michael Williams, are out now. (BBC Enterprises, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT; ZBBC 1603 and ZBBC 1607; £7.99 each.) Alas, the copy of volume 1 sent to me, although it's all labelled correctly, actually contains recordings from **The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes,** but I can tell you that the plays featured on the two cassettes in volume 2 are well up to the standard set by **A Study in Scarlet** back in 1989. "The Dying Detective" is particularly interesting, as Edward Petherbridge is allowed to play Culverton Smith as a rather admirable character, driven to murder by his nephew's callous greed; it makes for a more complex interplay of personalities than the original, and is, I think, justified. The script is credited to one Robert Forrest, a name new to me. Either Bert Coules is using a pseudonym or Robert Forrest is making good use of Bert's sometimes daring techniques. Performances, production and all are first rate. The first part of **The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes** is now being broadcast, so we haven't long to go before this brave project is complete.

The Sherlock Holmes Gift Pack reviewed in DM 147 (Hodder Headline Audiobooks, 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH; £19.99) is actually entitled **The Best of Sherlock Holmes.** These three double-cassettes featuring John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson are available separately at £7.99 each, and a final volume will be released in April. **The Treasury of Sherlock Holmes,** a 4-cassette pack of readings by Ben Kingsley, is due for release in September by Redback Audiobooks at £9.99 (Pickwick House, The Waterfront, Elstree Road, Elstree, Borehamwood, Herts. WD6 3BS).

The excellent **Sherlock Holmes Video** reviewed in DM 147 (Countryside TV Productions, Chargot Manor, Luxborough, Watchet, Somerset TA23 0SL; £12.99 + £1.00 postage) is currently available overseas by post in NTSC format at £14.99 + £5.00. However, it will soon be available direct from Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219. A. Stobie reminds me that Buster Keaton's classic silent comedy **Sherlock Junior** (some distance from Conan Doyle, but wonderful anyway) is out on video from Virgin Vision at £6.99. Jonathan Timby (4 Wenlock Close, Giltbrook, Nottingham NG16 2WF) asks if anyone can provide him with a video recording of **The Triumph of Sherlock Holmes.**

Demand for our Society's tapes of unabridged readings by Douglas Wilmer has, it seems, been heavier than expected. Those who have not yet received their orders are asked to be patient. The tapes are well worth the wait, believe me! (They cost £5.50 each. Orders should be sent to Mrs E.M. Godden, Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8QE.) New from the Society is a version of the umbrella with a crook handle in solid chestnut. Cost is: UK £24.50; Europe £25.50; USA (surface) $45.00; elsewhere (surface) £25.50. Cheques should be payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

Hallmark Cards have produced a birthday card with a "secret message" and a magnifying-glass to find and decode it. Sherlock Holmes is on the front,

holding the glass, and for the impatient the message is spelled out on the back. We found it at £1.10. We've had a flyer advertising **The Game's Afoot Playing Cards** (Spradlin & Associates, P.O. Box 863, Lapeer, MI 48446, USA; $12.00 + $3.30 per order). Each number card has a quotation from the Canon, and each court card bears a Paget illustration (this information sits rather oddly with the King of Spades shown, which clearly bears an illustration by F.D. Steele).

Malcolm Payne, Curator of the Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment, tells of a forthcoming centenary history of the Crowborough Beacon Golf Club, of which Sir Arthur and Lady Conan Doyle were leading members. Price is likely to be about £10.00 plus postage. The Establishment is researching "the noisy electric monorail" that ACD erected at Undershaw c. 1898. Does anyone have any information? The Establishment has lost the use of the room at the Crowborough Cross Inn, but the Town Council has promised space in the proposed Town Museum. Malcolm can be contacted at 4 Wealden Close, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2ST (phone 01892 663021). If you want a postal reply, please enclose a stamp or IRCs. The Establishment still offers Associate Membership for an annual donation of £10.00 or US$20.00 (currency) /US$24.00 (check) or equivalent.

The Poor Folk Upon the Moors have a new Secretary, Shelley Philipson (4 Dolvin Road, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9EA; phone 01822 615707); her husband Mike has taken on the role of Social Secretary. The Poor Folk's next meeting will be a debate on April 8th at the Dartmouth Inn, Totnes, and the event of the season is the "Appledore Towers" summer ball on June 10th at the Lord Haldon Hotel, Dunchideock, Exeter.

Jeremy Brett is recovering well from a recent severe illness and will not be able to attend **Aspects of Holmes III: A Study in Scotland**, the Northern Musgraves summer weekend on the 6th - 8th May. Even so, a good time is promised (details from David Stuart Davies, Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER). On March 19th the Franco-Midland Hardware Company will be in Manchester investigating the possibility of Holmes attending Manchester University - as Roger Dobson suggested a few years ago ("The Stock-broker's Clerk", 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU). On March 26th the Priory Scholars have a case study day on "The Crooked Man" (Horace L. Coates, 21 Butcombe Road, Leicester LE4 0FY).

Periodicals received: **Communication** no. 146 (The Pleasant Places of Florida, Dr Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA); **The School Report** no. 20 (The Priory Scholars of Leicester, Horace L. Coates, 21 Butcombe Road, Leicester LE4 0FY); **The Devon County Chronicle** vol. XXX no. 4 (The Merripit House Guests, Robert W. Hahn, 2707 South 7th Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081, USA); **The Petrel Flyer** vol. 7 no. 1 (The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3C6, Canada); **The Baker Street Journal** vol. 44 no. 4 (P.O. Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331, USA); **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** Jan. 95 and Feb. 95 (Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA), **The Parallelogram,** Jan. 1995 (The Parallel Case of St Louis, Joseph J. Eckrich, 914 Oakmoor, Fenton, MO 63026, USA).

This issue was complete when we learned from David Stuart Davies of the death of Stanley MacKenzie, a sad loss to our Society and the BSI.

THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London
Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 149 4th April 1995

Stanley MacKenzie died on the 25th February, as I noted in DM 148. He was an early member of our Society, serving as joint hon. secretary in the early 1980s. In 1967 he was invested into the Baker Street Irregulars as "The Man with the Twisted Lip". Stanley was a man of the theatre (he acted as deputy stage manager for the RSC's production of **Sherlock Holmes** in 1974) and a collector to rival the late John Bennett Shaw. For 13 years he and I co-operated on the Society's annual film evening. He was polite, helpful, encouraging and infinitely knowledgeable. I miss him very much. (Francine & Wayne Swift tell us that Stanley MacKenzie's collection will be auctioned at Sotheby's in London on 13 July. The catalogue will be ready in June.)

Congratulations to **Andrew Jay Peck** ("Inspector Baynes, Surrey Constabulary", BSI), inducted on 31 March as US Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Last week Constable & Co. Ltd (3 The Lanchesters, 162 Fulham Palace Road. London W6 9ER) put out **The Hound of the Baskervilles** as a Dover Thrift Edition at 95p. The type is clean and legible, the text seems to be free of errors, and all things considered it's a nice edition at a very good price. Bowling Green University Popular Press (Bowling-Green, OH 43403, USA) has published **In The Beginning: First Novels in Mystery Series** edited by Mary Jean DeMarr (hardback $39.95, paperback $17.95). This is another collection of essays exploring specific aspects of crime and detective stories, though it's less directly relevant to us than **It's a Print!** (reviewed in DM 147) as the Holmes canon is not one of those considered. Nevertheless, lovers of the genre will find it well worth while.

Dr Benton Wood, BSI & PPofF (Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA) has revised his book **Philatelic & Numismatic Holmes: A Handy Reference Guide to Sherlockian Stamps & Coins.** This new edition has full-colour illustrations (mostly) and covers all sorts of canonical connections. Price is $10.00 in the USA, $15.00 elsewhere, including postage (unless stated otherwise, dollar references in the DM are to US currency).

Ernest Dudley's revised acting edition of **The Return of Sherlock Holmes** appears today from Ian Henry Publications Ltd (20 Park Drive, Romford RM1 4LH) at £5.95 (+ 45p If ordered direct from the publisher). Ernest Dudley has retained the essence of the play written by Harold Terry & Arthur Rose for Eille Norwood (reviewed in DM 137), but has tightened it considerably, reducing the number of characters, and making it an attractive proposition for a competent amateur theatre company - or a professional one, for that matter. Certainly I'd very much like to see a production of **The Return of Sherlock Holmes.** Ian Henry also stocks a number of relevant American publications, including Jack Tracy's **Subcutaneously, My Dear Watson: Sherlock Holmes and the Cocaine Habit** (£10.00), Jon L, Lellenberg's **Nova 57 Minor: The Waxing & Waning of the 61st Adventure of Sherlock Holmes** (£20.00), **Schlock Homes: The Complete Bagel Street Saga** by Robert L. Fish (£26.00) and Michael Harrison's **A**

Study in Surmise: The Making of Sherlock Holmes (£20.00). Prices exclude postage.

Malcolm Payne tells me that **The History of the Crowborough Beacon Golf Club**, containing much about ACD, is now available from the Secretary, Crowborough Beacon Golf Club, Beacon Road, Crowborough, East Sussex (phone 01892 661511). Price is £11.00, which does include postage.

The spring issue of **The Sherlock Holmes Gazette** is out, with a shop price of £1.95. The attractive cover bears an excellent drawing by Tom Rieschick of Jeremy Brett & Edward Hardwicke. David Stuart Davies reports on the BSI dinner in January and the associated New York festivities; there is an interview with Otto Penzler by Tim Yarro; John Hall responds to last issue's dismissive comments about "scholars"; Robert Coffen contributes a curious apocryphal tale; "Collector's Corner" looks at teddy bears and dolls - all this and more! Subscriptions or correspondence should be addressed to 46 Purfield Drive, Wargrave, Berks. RG10 8AR. The American representative is Classic Specialties of PO Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219, USA.

More books. Anchorage Press (Kenyon-Deane Ltd, 10 Station Road Industrial Estate, Colwall, Malvern, Worcs. WR13 6RN) has published **The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes: A Play Based upon the Stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle** (£5.00). Val Andrews' new novel **Sherlock Holmes and the Houdini Birthright** is out from Breese Books Ltd (164 Kensington Park Road, London W11 2ER; £5.99) (*I've heard that Val' s long-awaited **Silver Vengeance** has been published by Magico, of PO Box 156, New York, NY 10002, USA, but have no further details.*) Bounty Books (Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 6RB) have issued **Sherlock Holmes - Illustrated Short Stories** at £4.99. Michael Coren's **The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle** is due in November from Bloomsbury Publishing Ltd (2 Soho Square. London W1V 5DE), price £20.00.

Sherlock Publications (6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU) have a catalogue of publications available. Send two 1st class stamps (in UK) or two International Reply Coupons or one US dollar bill if you want a copy.

Jack Tracy (Gaslight Publications, 2309 Wilmington Way, Las Vegas, NV 89102-5989, USA) says, "You will be happy to know that we have just signed a world-wide distribution agreement with Empire Publishing, a British-owned organisation with a major centre in Los Angeles, and that all Gaslight's works will soon be available from any bookstore through British distribution sources. It will no longer be necessary for individuals or stores to write all the way to the States for any of our titles."

Catherine Cooke (**The Sherlock Holmes Collection**, Marylebone Library, Marylebone Road. London NW1 5PS; phone 0171-798 1205; fax 0171-798 1019) tells me that she can now accept enquiries over the Internet. The e-mail address is: c.cooke@bbcnc.org.uk.

Bob Ellis sends a catalogue from Conquistador (158 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY; phone 0181-659 9714): **Thriller Picture Library, Classics Illustrated**, and numerous other comics, including various interpretations of Sherlock Holmes. The catalogue is free, but the comics come pretty expensive! Geoff Bradley's magazine **CADS** (Crime And Detective Stories) has reached its quarter-century. The 25th issue features material on Rex Stout, Sara Paretsky, Freeman Wills Crofts, and

a vast range of other writers, books and characters. Information from G.H. Bradley, 9 Vicarage Hill, South Benfleet, Essex SS7 1PA.

More good news from Malcolm Payne: since leaving the Cross Hotel, the **Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment** has been offered accommodation for its collection in the Victorian dairy at **Groombridge Place.** The house was well known to ACD, and is generally recognised as the "real" Birlstone Manor. The owner, Andrew de Candole, opens the gardens and wooded estate on weekends and bank holidays in April and May, daily except Thursday and Friday from June to September, and the first two weekends in October. Regular events are planned, and special events can be accommodated. For details, contact The Estate Office, Groombridge Place, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9QG; phone/fax 01892 863999. Malcolm Payne acts as contact for The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment, at 4 Wealden Close, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2ST; phone 01892 653021. The Establishment offers associate membership, with various privileges, for a minimum annual donation of £10.00.

At 1.00 pm on Saturday 22 April Philip Weller will be at Southampton Civic Centre to give an illustrated talk on Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes and their connections with Hampshire. Admission is free.

Catherine Cooke reports that there is now a **Holmes Restaurant** in Baker Street - that's Baker Street, Weybridge! (Holmes Restaurant, 20 Baker Street, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8AU; phone 01932 851333.) The menu looks tempting.

Bob Ellis passes on some publicity from our member Rachel Powell for **Sherlock Holmes Country Tours,** who offer a two-day break in Holmesian and Doylean Sussex based at Deans Place, Alfriston. The cost is £220.00. (Rachel Powell, Sherlock Holmes Country Tours, 2A Cockshut Road, Lewes, East Sussex; phone 01273 473683; fax 01273 771146.) Peter Padwick & Christine Ball's **Mystery, Suspense & Slaughter Weekends** come impressively recommended. They're taking place at hotels throughout England, at prices from £84.00 to £129.00. For details ring 0181-367 6793.

In a joke & novelty shop in Colchester we recently found a Taiwanese-made **Sherlock Holmes Pipe** for £1.20, a full-sized plastic "calabash", surprisingly convincing from a short distance. It would do well as a theatrical prop. The importers are R.H. Smith & Sons, Lincs. DR21 2HX.

Lynda Henderson, responding to "Collectors' Corner" in the spring issue of **The Sherlock Holmes Gazette,** tells of Dean's Replica Bears, limited edition teddy bears made by Dean's Rag Book Co. Ltd of Pontypool, Gwent. The range includes a very handsome **Mycroft,** who stands 16" tall and is copied (in a limited edition of 500) from a wartime original bought at Christie's in 1993, Despite the name, his costume is actually Sherlockian rather than Mycroftian!

I learn from Peter Blau that Bert Coules (Fairway, Sandling Road, Saltwood, Hythe, Kent CT21 4QJ) is offering copies of his scripts from the BBC Radio 4 Merrison/Williams series. Those available are: "A Scandal in Bohemia", "The Boscombe Valley Mystery", "The Blue Carbuncle", "The Noble Bachelor" "Silver Blaze", "The Crooked Man", "The Final Problem", "The Empty House", "The Norwood Builder", "The Dancing Men", "The Solitary Cyclist", "Charles Augustus Milverton", "The Six Napoleons", "The Second Stain", "Wisteria Lodge", "The Bruce-Partington Plans", "The Devil's Foot", "His Last Bow" "The Illustrious Client", "The Mazarin

Stone", "The Sussex Vampire", "Thor Bridge", "The Lion's Mane" and "The Retired Colourman" (each £12.00 or £14.00 airmail; or Bert will take US dollar currency: $19.00 or $22.00; or dollar checks: $28.86 or $30.02). In addition, **A Study in Scarlet, The Sign of the Four** and **The Hound of the Baskervilles** (the last broadcast with Roger Rees and Crawford Logan) each cost double.

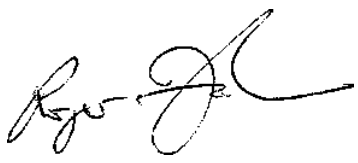
I remarked in DM 148 that the first part of **The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes** was currently being broadcast. Wrong! It was, of course, the second part, and it's now concluded. Thanks to Bert Coules. Clive Merrison & Michael Williams have played Holmes & Watson in all 56 of the short stories. Let's hope they're given the chance to complete the set with **The Hound of the Baskervilles** and **The Valley of Fear.** A repeat of **The Return** is currently being broadcast on Radio 4 on Wednesday evenings.

Back in Sussex for the moment, those resident in or near that lovely county will be interested to know of **The Lion's Maners,** "The Sussex Sherlock Holmes Study Group". The Membership Secretary is Russell Markham (6 Crede Lane, Bosham, Chichester, W. Sussex PO10 8TR; phone 01243 572475), and the Meetings Secretary is Melvyn Stinson (Downsview, Southease, Lewes, E. Sussex BN7 3HX; phone 01273 472523).

The Northern Musgraves' next meeting will be **Aspects of Holmes III: Study in Scotland,** held in Edinburgh over the weekend of the 6th - 8th May (details from David Stuart Davies, Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4SR). On the weekend of the 14th - 17th April the Baskerville Hounds and the Grimpen Post Office have their **Easter Pack Meet** on Dartmoor ("The Kennel Maid", 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU.) The Franco-Midland Hardware Company's **Works Outing** will be an investigation of "Thor Bridge", based on Portsmouth over the weekend 28th - 30th April.

Periodicals received. **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press,** March 1995 (Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA) (*the invaluable international newsletter*); **The Hurlstone Chronicle** vol. 5 no. 3 (The Shadows of the Elm, PO Drawer G, Corrales, NM 87048-0178, USA) (*an exceptionally lively young group in the wilds of New Mexico*); **Ironmongers Daily Echo** 20 & 22 February 1895 (sic) (La Société Sherlock Holmes de France, Thierry Saint-Joanis, 25 avenue de la République, Paris XI, France) (*one of the most delightfully designed news-sheets I've come across*).

To continue: **Communication** no. 147 & no. 148 (The Pleasant Places of Florida, Dr Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222) (*light-hearted fun, always strong on Sherlockian philately: see the note about Ben Wood's new book on p.1 above*); **The Cormorant's Ring** vol. 2 no. 1 'The Trained Cormorants of Long Beach, Jim Coffin, 6570 E. Paseo Alcazaa, Anaheim Hills, CA 92807, USA) '*contains a fascinating apocryphal snippet from 1906*); **Irregular Special Railway Company Newsletter** no. 12 (The Irregular Special Railway Company, Dr Antony Richards. 163 Marine Parade, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2RB) (*Antony can be contacted directly at PO Box 221, Cambridge CBS 8XT*).



THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London
Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 150 23rd May 1995

We have lost two great actors this month. Sir Michael Hordern, who died on the 2nd May aged 83, had a wonderful gift for comedy, but was also the finest King Lear of our time. His was the narrator's voice, as the adult Watson in **Young Sherlock Holmes.** Eric Porter, who was only 67 when he died on the 16th May, will be best remembered as Soames Forsyte, but he too was a formidable classical actor; like Hordern, he was an outstanding Lear under Jonathan Miller's direction. We shall remember him as the best Moriarty ever, opposite Jeremy Brett's Holmes in Granada's **The Final Problem.**

Has anyone seen or heard anything of Stephen ("Grüner") Farrell since Christmas? Please contact me if you have.

In **The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes** (Anchorage Press Inc., Cressrelles Publishing Co. Ltd, 10 Station Road Industrial Estate, Colwall, Malvern, Worcs. WR13 6RN; £5.00) Susan Zeder presents a rather surreal account of the relationship between the detective and his creator. The play opens with Holmes, Watson and Conan Doyle (as Colonel Moran) enacting the events of "The Empty House". It concludes with the three playing out "The Final Problem" (Conan Doyle is now Moriarty - I hope you're following this), having taken in "The Speckled Band" (guess who is Roylott...). The moving force in all this is Conan Doyle's daughter Mary; it's she, not he, who thinks that Holmes takes his mind from better things, and encourages him to kill his creation, It's an ingenious play, aimed at children, though I see no reason why it shouldn't work for adults, except for the Americanisms that masquerade as British English. The dislocation of chronology is rather disconcerting too. (The proof-reading is rotten.)

Val Andrews' latest novel, **Sherlock Holmes and the Houdini Birthright** Breese Books Ltd, 164 Kensington Park Road, London W11 2ER; £5.99), is a clever story, as we've come to expect from Mr Andrews, but the book is not one of his best. It opens with an elderly Holmes and Watson assisting Harry Houdini to expose a fraudulent medium for the benefit of Sir Arthur and Lady Conan Doyle, a gesture which the couple find offensive. A few years later Holmes is called upon to investigate the magician's death, a case which takes him to the United States, Canada and Hungary. Unfortunately, the two parts of the story sit very uneasily together, and the idea of Houdini at the centre of a Ruritanian romance is hard to swallow (though Mr Andrews states that the clues presented are authentic). The basis of the final revelation was handled better in the author's earlier novel **Sherlock Holmes and the Wood Green Empire Mystery;** as it's presented here, it seems rather insulting to Rabbi and Mrs Weiss, Houdini's parents. I should add that the narrative kept me reading to the end, to find out what happened next. Val Andrews is offering inscribed copies at £6.50 including postage ($12 US airmail), if ordered direct from him at 1 George Court, 67 Willoughby Lane, London N17 0QZ.

In Pursuit of Lewis Carroll by Raphael Shaberman (Greenwich Exchange, 50 Langton Way, Blackheath, London SE3 7TJ; £14.95) is something different

again. The author, a noted Carroll authority who has the right balance of scholarship and fantastical humour, offers new information and deductions in the form of conversations between himself and Sherlock Holmes (it was W.S. Baring-Gould who claimed that Holmes had known Dodgson at Christ Church, Oxford). It's a very convenient and effective way of presenting what amounts to a detective story, but not a solemn one (it would be a different matter if we were investigating the Ripper murders - or perhaps that's not a good example, as one of the book's revelations is that Lewis Carroll actually did take an interest in that case). This is not pastiche in the usual sense of the word, and Mr Shaberman is not tied to imitating the Doyle/Watson style, which helps. There's a number of unfamiliar and intriguing illustrations, including one by ACD's father Charles Doyle, for an 1877 "Alice" parody. It's all quite fascinating.

Une bibliographie des oeuvres d'Arthur Conan Doyle traduites en périodiques 1894-1914 by Jean-Luc Buard, with numerous illustrations, is available at 60 FF + 15 FF from Xavier Legrand-Ferroniere, 38 avenue du Marechal-Joffre, 92190 Meudon, France. Published last September was the 2nd edition of John Cooper and Barry Pike's **Detective Fiction: A Collector's Guide** (Scolar Press, Gower House, Croft Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 3HR; £39.50). In February Nelson ELT published **Three Sherlock Holmes Adventures** by Arthur Conan Doyle, as a Nelson Graded Reader (100 Avenue Road, London NW3 3HF; £1.45). In March Penguin issued **Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Boscombe Pool** as a Penguin Reader, Level 3 (Bath Road, Harmondsworth, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 0DA; £1.70), This month Wordsworth began publication in hardback of their three-volume edition of the canon, with **The Adventures** at £3.99 (Cumberland House, Crib Street, Ware. Herts. SG12 9ET), From Wordsworth in April came **The Lost World** at £1.00. Alan Sutton published the same title in February at £5.99, and an edition edited by Ian Duncan comes from Oxford University Press this month at £4.99.

Also this month Studio Editions publish **The Complete Illustrated Sherlock Holmes** at £5.99. From Hearthstone Publications in June comes **Best Sherlock Holmes Stories** by Arthur Conan Doyle, in hardback at £22.00 and paperback at £9.50. Hearthstone plan **The Collected Brigadier Gerard Stories** for the same month at the same price. **The Complete Brigadier Gerard Stories,** edited by Owen Dudley Edwards, was published by Canongate in April at £4.99. Last December Rosemary Jann's **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: Detecting Social Order** was published by Twayne Publishers at £10.95 hardback and £6.95 paperback.

The next Musgrave Monograph, in the autumn, will be **The Misadventure of the Sherlock Holmes Pilot,** in which Richard Lancelyn Green examines the circumstances surrounding the pilot for what would have been the first Sherlock Holmes TV series, **The Man Who Disappeared,** drawing on Denis Conan Doyle's correspondence. Information from the Northern Musgraves, Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER. **The Blood-Stone Tragedy** is a Conan Doyle story, published anonymously in 1884 and never since reprinted. Now the Arthur Conan Doyle Society offers a hardbound edition, edited and introduced by Christopher and Barbara Roden, with an afterword by Owen Dudley Edwards, at £13.50 or US$23.00 or Can$30.00 plus postage (per book - UK £1.65; Europe £2.50; N. America £4.25/US$7.25/Can$9.35; elsewhere £4.90/US$8.35/Can$10.80). Orders with full payment should be sent to the Society at Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG.

Colin Huggett (Y Bwthyn, Dob, Tregarth, Gwynedd LL57 4PW, Wales) has a

number of Holmesian books for sale. Send him a stamped, self-addressed envelope for details. Catalogues are available from: Gravesend Books (Box 235, Pocono Pines, PA 18350, USA); Sherlock in LA (1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056, USA) (*Catalogue no. 11 contains essays about: Edgar W. Smith and Michael Harrison, as well as the expected list of books for sale*); The Black Cat Bookshop (36-39 Silver Arcade, Leicester LE1 5FB

The April issue of **Physics World** featured a pastiche, "Sherlock Holmes investigates the EPR paradox" by Colin Jack (it's to do with quantum theory); the cover has a nice photo of Peter Gushing and Nigel Stock.

From One Tree Publishing last December came **The Hound of the Baskervilles: A FCE Set Text Photocopiable Resource Pack** (£10.00) by Graham Palmer (no, I don't know what it is either). In June Penguin Audiobooks will issue a 2-cassette pack of **The Hound of the Baskervilles** at £7.99. An abridged reading of **The Sign of Four** is available as a Heinemann Guided Reader for £6.00. Oxford University Press, in its Bookworms series, has released recordings of **The Hound of the Baskervilles** (£7.25) and **Sherlock Holmes Short Stories** (£5.05).

Peter Blau asks if anyone recorded the episode of the TV comedy series **Get Up, Stand Up** (Channel 4) that featured Malcolm Frederick as a black Sherlock Holmes. Please let me know if you can help.

The charity MENCAP will host a Midsummer's Evening in Baker Street at the Granada Studios Tour in Manchester on Saturday 24th June. There'll be a champagne reception, formal dinner, auction of Holmesian and other memorabilia, dancing and cabaret. Tickets are £60.00 (all profits to MENCAP). B&B accommodation at the Victoria & Albert Hotel can be had at the special rate of £50.00 single or £70.00 double. Tickets and further details from Mrs Hannah Ramuz, Corporate Events Dept, MENCAP, 123 Golden Lane. London EC1Y ORT. Shirley Purves reminds me that Ngaio Marsh's centenary fell on 23rd April this year. Dame Ngaio created Detective Inspector Roderick Alleyn, and is generally regarded as the last detective-story writer of the Golden Age. Tributes of various sorts have been held in New Zealand, England and the USA. Bouchercon 26, the 1995 World Mystery Convention, will take place at the Royal Centre Complex in Nottingham, 28th September - 1st October. Guests of Honour will be James Elroy and Colin Dexter. Details can be had from Conference Nottingham, The Business Information Centre, 309 Haydn Road, Nottingham NG5 IDG (phone 0115-985 6545; fax 0115-985 6612).

The auction of the Stanley Mackenzie Collection at Sotheby's in London has been put back to Monday 24th July, as more Holmes material (not from the collection) will also be included. Viewing will be on the previous Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and possibly on the Sunday. Catalogues will be ready in late June. For details, call Peter Selley on 0171-408 5295. (Thanks to Jane Weller for information.)

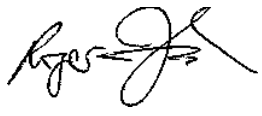
A 1996 Sherlock Holmes calendar is now available from Cadds Printing Ltd (59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL) at £6.00 (UK). Each month features a full-colour still from the Granada TV series. Cadds have a lot of other nice things for sale, including postcards, a stationery set, a ceramic tile printed with the Dorr Steele picture of Holmes at Reichenbach. The prize item is the limited edition Enamel Battersea Box, hand-painted with the same picture; the legend inside says "The Return of Sherlock Holmes 1894-1994", It's beautiful and it costs £100.00. Write for full details, including overseas prices. Francine Swift sends a photo of a "character coat hanger" from Scupell Industries (14 Industrial Lane,

Johnston, RI 02919, USA). It depicts a bloodhound's head wearing a deerstalker and smoking a calabash pipe, and sells at $14.00. Other animals are available, including a corgi.

Our own Society has a range of merchandise available, including books, journals, the excellent Douglas Wilmer cassettes, ties, scarves and umbrellas. The latest addition is a limited reprint of Margaret Bird's 1983 Oxford handbook **A Study in Dark Blue** (UK £11.50; Europe £12.50; USA $23.50; elsewhere £14.50 - all prices include postage). Orders and enquiries should go to Lynne Godden, Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8QE.

Our Society's next meeting will be the trip to Berkshire on Sunday 9th July. Meanwhile, the Irregular Special Railway Company will visit Cambridge on 3rd June, in conjunction with the East Anglian Dancing Men & Women (details from Antony Richards, 163 Marine Parade, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2RB, or Geoff Budd, c/o School of English & American Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich). On the 10th June the Poor Folk Upon the Moors will hold a Summer Ball at the Lord Haldon Hotel, Dunchideock, near Exeter (Mike Philipson, 4 Dolvin Road, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9EA). Over the weekend 9th-11th June the Franco-Midland Hardware Company and the Priory Scholars will be in the Peak District ("The Stock-broker's Clerk", 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU, or Horace L. Coates, 21 Butcombe Road, Leicester LE4 0FY). The Head Llamas will explore the Windsor area on the 25th June (Catherine & Alan Saunders, 12 Booth Drive, Laleham, Staines, Middlesex TW18 1PR).

Periodicals received. **The Ritual** no. 15 (The Northern Musgraves, David Stuart Davies, Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER) (*no longer a newsletter, it's now more accurately called a bi-annual review*); **The Torr** no. 6 (The Poor Folk Upon the Moors, Eric Monahan, Highcliff, 14 Silver Bridge Close, Broadsands Park, Paignton, Devon TQ4 7NW) (*The Poor Folk's new Secretary is Shelley Philipson, 4 Dolvin Road, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9EA*). **Ironmongers Daily Echo and Franco-Midland Branches Advertiser** 28 March 1895 (sic), and **The Army Medical Corps Gazette of the Franco-Midland Health Dpt** 29 March 1895 (sic) (La Société Sherlock Holmes de France, 26 avenue de la République, 75011 Paris, France) (*beautifully produced broadsheets*). **The Petrel Flyer** vol. 7 nos. 2 and 3 (The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, Len Haffenden, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3C6, Canada) (*the Petrels will once more host the Annual Sherlympiad on the 16th and 17th September*). **Communication** no. 149 (The Pleasant Places of Florida, Dr Benton Wood BSI, Bo 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA). **Canadian Holmes** vol. 13 no. 3 (The Bootmakers of Toronto, Trevor Raymond, 4 Lyons Court, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 1P1, Canada) (*many thanks to Garth Hazlett for a copy of this excellent journal*). **The Hurlstone Chronicle** vol. 5 no. 4 (The Shadows of the Elm, P.O. Drawer G, Corrales, NM 87048-0178, USA). **The Parallelogram** April 1995 (The Parallel Case of St. Louis, Joseph J. Eckrich BSI, 914 Oakmoor, Fenton, MO 63026, USA), **The Log of the Canonical Hams** July - December 1993 (sic) (Sherlock Holmes Wireless Society, Ron Fish, P.O. Box 404, Pomona, NY 10970-0404, USA) (*this is a new address for Ron and his new wife Carol*). **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** April 1995 (Peter E, Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA) (*the indispensable Sherlockian newsletter*).



THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London
Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 151 29th June 1995

The Best Sherlock Holmes Stories, chosen by the author (Hearthstone Publications, The Coach House, Munslow, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 9ET) is an excellent introductory volume. In 1927 **The Strand Magazine** asked its readers to name the 12 best Holmes stories; there was a prize for the list closest to Conan Doyle's own choice. This new volume, like **The Baker Street Dozen** of a few years ago, presents ACD's selection along with his essay "How I Made My List". He regretted that two favourite tales from **The Casebook** were excluded, as the series was not yet in book form; this volume includes them with the original "twelve best" in a plain, strong and attractive book. The paperback is £9.50, and a limited hardback edition £22.00. Hearthstone have issued **The Collected Brigadier Gerard Stories** in a similar edition.

Pastiche-haters had better skip the next few paragraphs, as both big and small presses have been publishing quite a few lately. Big House Books (63 Wellington Road, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 5EZ) is a small publisher, whose proprietor, Eddie Maguire, has written a brief tale involving Holmes and Watson with ancestors of our own late President, Lord Gore-Booth at their home, Lissadell House in County Sligo. **The Irish Professor** is nicely devised, and the production is good quality amateur. The story does no violence to our received image of Holmes and Watson, but it is let down by some occasionally clumsy writing and some very cavalier punctuation. (It's good enough that I wish I'd had the chance to proof-read it.) The booklet is very reasonably priced at £2.00 including postage, from Big House Books; cheques should be payable to Eddie Maguire. It's already selling well at Lissadell.

Sherlock Holmes in Canterbury by Miles Elward (Wynne Howard Publications, 10 Betula Close, Kenley, Surrey CR8 5ET) is more substantial and more solidly produced. The three stories present Holmes and Watson with just the sort of problems that ACD himself concocted - murder, theft, mysteries from the past - and the writing is generally sound. The worst fault is this generation's carelessness with punctuation. Mostly this is just irritating, but now and then it actually changes the author's meaning. Towards the end of "The Missing Cleric", for instance, because of a missing comma Holmes apparently offers the astonishing instruction: 'Have no compunction about shooting Watson. He is a most dangerous creature.'! The price of this nice little book is £4.50 (+ 70p postage from the publisher); there is a special price of £4.00 post-free if you mention your membership of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

Something old and something new from Ian Henry Publications Ltd (20 Park Drive, Romford RM1 4LH). **Sherlock Holmes and the Hellbirds** by Austin Mitchelson & Nicholas Utechin (£13.99), delayed from March to June, was worth the wait. First published nearly 20 years ago, this second novel by Michelson and Utechin throws the aging Holmes and Watson into the thick of the Kaiser's war, by way of an apparently motiveless death in rural Essex, and the sinister legend of the hell birds. The style is closer than

most to the true Watson, and if the story sometimes smacks more of Buchan than Conan Doyle, well, there's no harm in it. Readers of **Sherlock Holmes and the Earthquake Machine** will expect high adventure along with the detection, and they won't be disappointed. Glen Petrie's **The Hampstead Poisonings** (£15.55) is the third "Mycroft Holmes adventure", and a jolly good read it is too, though it has to be said that this isn't quite the Mycroft that we know from the Canon. The case occurs in the early '80s, however, when Mycroft is only 35 and presumably a little less sedentary than he becomes later (and we have to accept, incidentally, that the Holmes brothers are in frequent contact and that Mycroft and Watson met shortly after the detective and the doctor moved into Baker Street). It's a complex legal case, made more so by diplomatic considerations. The characters include a Russian princess and her black Cockney servant, a pimp, Prince Albert Edward, the young Edward Marshall Hall, a dubious hero of Rorke's Drift, and a cast of, well, dozens. The result is just a little like one of M. J. Trow's Inspector Lestrade novels, but without the slapstick. I enjoyed it very much.

The writer who begins a new Sherlock Holmes novel by referring (in character as the narrator, Henry Vernier) to "the ridiculous fictional creation of John Watson" and "Watson's foolish stories", and saying, "I cannot forgive him for parading so distorted, so petty, a rendering of my cousin before the public for all those years," - such a writer had better have something pretty damn' good to put in the place of Watson's accounts. Sam Siciliano, in **The Angel of the Opera** (Robert Hale Ltd, Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT; £16.99) does a surprisingly good job. It's no easy thing to tell a familiar story and make it unfamiliar. The trouble is that in pitting Holmes against: Erik, the Ghost of the Paris Opera, he presents us with a character who is just <u>too</u> different from the one we know. And it is hard to forgive this Holmes's denigration of that admirable friend and human being John H. Watson, MD.

A rather less usual publication is **The Hound of the Baskervilles: An FCE set text (1994/95) Photocopiable Resource Pack** by Graham Palmer (One Tree Publishing, 73 Queens Road, Royston, Herts. SG7 8AN; £10.00), "the first of a series of Resource Packs for UCLES' FCE set texts, developed with the non-literature specialist in mind who otherwise might feel intimidated by handling a whole novel". FCE is new to me, but to judge by the level of the questions and exercises in this spiral-bound volume it's aimed at people for whom English is a second language - and there could hardly be a better introduction to English literature than the works of Arthur Conan Doyle. This pack may not be of immediate practical use to most of us, but less obviously Graham Palmer's incisive analysis and consideration of this, the greatest of the Sherlock Holmes stories, has much to teach us about <u>why</u> **The Hound of the Baskervilles** is such a masterpiece.

I've received most interesting new works from two Continental societies. Miguel Gonzalez Pedel of the Amateur Mendicant Society (c/o Antonio Iriarte, Barbara de Braganza 4 (5o), 28004, Madrid, Spain) has sent a copy of Sr Iriarte's **Algunas Leguas Al Norte De Oporto; ¿La Verdad Sobre El Norah Creina?,** the society's 3rd monograph. The title translates as **Some Leagues to the North of Oporto: The truth about the Norah Creina?,** and fortunately for me, the author has provided a summary in English. Sr Iriarte discusses the dating of the Brook Street Mystery and the Worthingdon Bank robbery; and the identity of the **Norah Creina** and the origins of the name. Much sound reasoning leads him to the conclusion that the bank robbers were in fact Fenian rebels. This is grand scholarship!

Uwe Sommerlad has likewise provided an English summary of his new book **Schellow Holmes: Erich Schellow zum Achtzigsten** (Von Herder Airguns Ltd, c/o Michael Ross Verlag, "Baskerville Bücher", Bendheide 65, 47906 Kempen, Germany; DM15,-. SFrl5,-. ÖS115,-). The series of six plays broadcast in 1967 by WDR, with Erich Schellow as Holmes, has been rather unfairly forgotten, as the very good selection of stills indicates. It's of particular interest to British Holmesians as the scripts were all adapted from those for the 1955 BBC plays with Douglas Wilmer and Nigel Stock. (The shooting schedule seems to have been no less punishing than for the British series.) It's an engrossing story, well told and handsomely presented.

Speaking of Douglas Wilmer, I'm delighted to report that the four superb unabridged readings he recorded for our Society have been licensed for general release to Penguin Audiobooks this month, as a 2-cassette pack, **Four Great Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (27 Wrights Lane, London W8 5TZ; £7.99). Penguin also have **The Hound of the Baskervilles** read by Freddie Jones (£7.99), which I hope to review shortly.

Published last month were an abridged edition of Michael Dibdin's **The Last Sherlock Holmes Story,** in Oxford University Press's "Oxford Bookworms" series (£1.60), and **The** New **Windmill Book of Sherlock Holmes Short Stories** by Arthur Conan Doyle (Heinemann Educational; £4.50), In April Allison & Busby (179 King's Cross Road, London WC1X 9BZ) issued **The Fu-Manchu Omnibus** by Sax Rohmer - the first three novels in one big, meaty book for £8.99.

Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes Catalogue no. 13 is out now from Rupert Books (58/59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE). Ming Books has issued a similarly substantial catalogue of **Crime Fiction including Sherlock Holmes, Doyle & Sherlockiana, Thrillers, Mysteries and True Crime** (Ming House, 1 Penrose Avenue, Carpenders Park, Watford WD1 5AE) (*wasn't Ming one of Rupert's chums in Nutwood?*). Do send a stamped & self-addressed envelope when you request a catalogue, and please mention **The District Messenger.**

We found at Lawley's **Padlock Holmes,** a Lakeland Bear from Peter Fagan's Colour Box Miniatures (Orchard Estate, Lauder, Berwickshire). "The Lakeland Bear characters have been created by Wendy Phillips and recreated in plush by the Dean's Ragbook Company. These bears are the originals for the Colour Box figurines..." This endearing little figure stands some 3½" tall, wears deerstalker, country tweeds and clogs, and carries a magnifying lens. He costs about £19.00.

Over the weekend 13th-15th October, the University of Minnesota hosts **Sherlock Holmes & John Bennett Shaw: The Detective & the Collector,** being a memorial conference on "The Victorian World and the Master Detective" and the dedication of the John Bennett Shaw Library. Among the many participants will be Richard Lancelyn Green, Derham Groves, Jennie C. Paton, Stefanie Kate Hawks, Enola Stewart, Thomas L. Stix Jr, and of course Dorothy Rowe Shaw. Full registration fee is $10.00; meals are extra. Arrange your own accommodation. Closing date is the 2nd October. (Registrar 2207, University of Minnesota, Professional Development, 235 Nolte Centre, 315 Pillsbury Drive SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0139, USA. Fax 612 626-1632.) (*Wish we could be there. The Library is Big Brother's lasting gift to his friends.*)

From Peter Blau: Edwin Blum, co-scriptwriter of Rathbone's **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes,** died on 2nd May.

A reminder that the Stanley MacKenzie Collection will be auctioned at

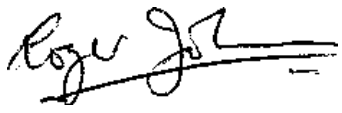
Sotheby's in Bond Street, London on Monday 24th July. For details call Peter Selley on 0171-408 5295.

Can anyone help George Vanderburgh with copies of **The Chronicles of Addington Peace** by Bertram Fletcher Robinson and **The Slaves of Paris** by Emile Gaboriau? If so, please contact him at PO Box 204, 420 Owen Sound Street, Shelburne, Ontario LON 1SO, Canada.

This Saturday, the 1st July, at Groombridge Place, Dame Jean Conan Doyle will unveil a plaque commemorating her father, Groombridge is the "real" Birlstone Manor, and now houses the collection of the Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment. Saturday and Sunday will be devoted to Conan Doyle, and all who have an interest are invited to attend. More information can be had from the Establishment's Curator, Malcolm Payne, 4 Wealden Close, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2ST.

Our Society's coach-trip to Holmesian Berkshire will depart (and return) on Sunday the 9th July. On the previous day the Franco-Midland Hardware Company's Annual Dinner and Excursion will take place in Windsor (details from "The Stock-broker's Clerk", 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU). The Baskerville Hounds have arranged their Summer Pack Meet on Dartmoor over the weekend 21st-23rd July ("The Kennel Maid", 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU)„ The Northern Musgraves will hold a Garden Party at Stonyhurst on Saturday 22nd July (Christine Fell, 136 Savick Way, Beechwood Park, Lea, Preston, Lanes. PR2 1XA). There'll be an ACD Weekend run jointly by the Franco-Midland Hardware Company and the East Anglian Dancing Men (& Women) (Geoff Budd, The School of English & American Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ), The River Dart Cruise of the Poor Folk Upon the Moors will take place on Saturday 19th August (Mike Philipson, 4 Dolvin Road, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9EA). The same day, the Irregular Special Railway Company's Canonical Monopoly takes them to railway and other locations in London (Dr Antony Richards, 163 Marine Parade, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2RB). The Reichenbach Irregulars plan a weekend meeting in Bad Mergentheim, 22nd - 24th September (Klaus Wörner, Törkelgasse 9, 97980 Bad Mergentheim, Germany).

Periodicals received. **The Baker Street Journal** March 1995 (PO Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331, USA) (*late for unavoidable reasons but still a must for all serious Holmesians; it's published by the Baker Street Irregulars, but is available to all*); **The New Baker Street Pillar Box** no. 22 (The Franco-Midland Hardware Company, address above) (*always a good deal of stimulating and opinionated scholarship*); **Communication** no, 150 & no. 151 (The Pleasant Places of Florida, Dr Benton Wood BSI, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA) (*no. 151? now there's a coincidence!*); **The Parallelogram** no. 20 (The Parallel Case of St Louis, Joseph J. Eckrich BSI, 914 Oakmoor, Fenton, MO 63026, USA) (*lively as ever*); **The Soft-Nosed Bullet-In** May 1995 (Von Herder Airguns Ltd, Michael Ross, Bendheide 65, 47906 Kempen, Germany) (*a special brief issue, mainly concerned with **Schellow Holmes***); **The School Report** no. 21 (The Priory Scholars of Leicester, Horace L. Coates, 21 Butcombe Road, Leicester LE4 0FY) (*particularly interesting observations on "The Crooked Man"*); **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** May 1995 (Peter E, Blau BSI, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA) (*the invaluable newsletter*).



THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London
Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 152 29th July 1995

There's rather a lot been happening since the last DM came out. On the 1st July at Groombridge place, the collection of the Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment was opened and a memorial unveiled by Georgina, the widow of Brigadier John Doyle. Malcolm Payne reports: "Dame Jean attended and was pleased to meet many old friends, visit the new home of the collection, and see something of the wonderful grounds." A great deal of thought and work has gone into the project, and it shows. A visit to Groombridge (the "real" Birlstone Manor) is a must. Meanwhile, an "unveiling ephemera pack" is available for £1.50, including postage, from the Establishment's Treasurer Richard Greep (The Limes, Bridge Road, Crowborough, East Sussex).

Then on Monday the 24th came "the biggest thing for years", the auction at Sotheby's in Bond Street of the Stanley MacKenzie Collection. There had been a couple of important auctions in New York, but nothing like it in London since the Paget collection was sold 15 years ago. The star item, **Beeton's Christmas Annual, 1887** went to an anonymous collector in Chicago for £20,700. Dealers, mostly American, were prominent, so no doubt we can expect to see individual items turning up in their catalogues. For ordinary Holmesians the problem was that, although we could certainly have afforded to buy any of a very large number of individual items, those items were lumped together in lots of up to 400. Bidding on a couple of lots didn't quite reach the estimates, but most doubled, trebled, quadrupled... One or two reached over ten times the estimate. We just sat back and watched the new holes appear in the ceiling as the prices shot through. It could have been very disheartening to see one of the world's great collections broken up, if it weren't for the knowledge that it's all providing necessary support for Stanley's widow.

There was good coverage in **The Times, The Daily Telegraph, The Guardian, The Independent and The Daily Express.** I can provide photocopies for the cost of postage. If you know of any other newspaper or magazine reports, we'd be very grateful for copies. Likewise we'd be grateful for copies of any radio or TV coverage (we have the report from ZDF German TV).

On the afternoon of the 24th, a new shop opened in London. **Sherlock Holmes In The Arches** is a new enterprise by Deirdre Keetley's Studio Gallery, principally to sell her own Holmesian work and that of other artists - Charles Hall, David English, Hugh Scullion and others. The shop is small, but crammed with "gifts, souvenirs, collectables, Victoriana and Royal items". It's also very conveniently situated at no. 6 The Arches under Charing Cross Station (just by Trafalgar Square and accessible from Villiers Street and Craven Street). It's directly opposite the Players' Theatre and about 50 yards from the Sherlock Holmes Public House. Opening hours are: Monday Friday 11.00 - 6.00, Saturday 11.00 - 3.00. You could visit the shop, go for a drink and a meal at the Sherlock Holmes pub, and round off the day with Victorian Music Hall at the Players' Theatre.

The restaurant at **The Sherlock Holmes** (10-11 Northumberland Street, London WC2N 5DA; phone 0171-930 2644) is justly renowned for its food and service, and the pub's selection of drinks and snacks lives up to it (we're rather fond of the exclusive Sherlock Holmes Ale). The pub houses a wonderful collection of memorabilia, much of it gathered together for the seminal 1951 exhibition at Abbey House; the star attraction is the Baker Street sitting-room, the first and one of the best. (The books on the shelves include the appropriate **Whitaker's** and **Bradshaw;** you must go to the museum at 239 Baker Street to be told that Holmes read books like **Dolly's Golden Slippers.)**

The Players' Theatre (The Arches, Villiers Street, London WC2 6NG; phone 0171-839 1134) is a club, but one that welcomes visitors. It has been presenting Victorian Music Hall nightly for nearly 60 years and is still going strong, with artistes such as Ian Wallace, Pat Lancaster, Michael Kilgarriff, Barry Cryer, Julia Sutton, Bernard Cribbins and Sheila Bernette. The Loyal Toast is still to "Her Great and Glorious Majesty, Queen Victoria!" Go on - treat yourself 1

Hugh Scullion's **Cadds Printing Ltd** (59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL; phone 0181-761 4927) has a whole range of Holmesiana, some available from Sherlock Holmes In The Arches and all available by post. The latest addition is "laser printed letterheadings including our scanned images for £20.00 plus VAT, i.e. £23.50, for 100 copies". There's a choice of 8 pictorial images (or "we can scan your supplied image or logo for an additional £7.50"), and 14 different fonts in various sizes. The sample I've seen is simple and tasteful. Contact Cadds for full details. Also new is a Sherlock Holmes serviette: "sold in packs of 25 for £3.00, enhances any dining table" (again, the design is clear and elegant; the serviettes were used at the opening of Deirdre's shop).

Cadds' future plans include a 1996 diary, "an adult cartoon (and Sidney Paget re-captioned) loose leaf album in a folder so that the images can be framed", and "a Sidney Paget booklet, all the original illustrations from the first edition **Hound of the Baskervilles** with commentary about the drawings by me (*i.e. Mr Scullion*). This will be priced at £2.50 including postage, and the size will be A5 with a full 20 pages." Other Cadds Holmesiana, available now, include "Sherlock Holmes Enamel Battersea Box" at £100.00, "1996 Granada Television's Sherlock Holmes Calendar" at £6.00, "First Day Covers" at £5.00, and much else besides.

New from our own Society is the book **Fetlocks, Femurs and Phalanges,** edited by Pam Bruxner and handsomely produced by Bob Ellis, to accompany the recent trip to Berkshire, in search of Shoscombe Old Place and Eyford, Another masterly essay by Bernard Davies takes up nearly half the 60 pages, and there are briefer contributions from other Holmesian luminaries. The book can be had from the Merchandising Officer, Lynne Godden (Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Kent TN27 8QE) at: UK £8.50; USA $17.50; Europe £10.00; elsewhere £11.00 or equivalent.

The Society has also produced ballpoint pens (UK £2.50; USA $5.25; Europe £2.85; elsewhere £3.35) and leather bookmarks (UK £1.30; USA $3.50; Europe £1.80; elsewhere £2.25). All prices include postage. There's quite a range of stuff available; write to Lynne for details. (*Please remember to enclose a stamped & self-addressed envelope or IRC when you writs to any organisation mentioned in the DM.*)

There's now a society for collectors of Sherlock Holmes lapel pins, called, appropriately, The Sherlock Holmes Lapel Pin Society. Information can be had from Ralph Hall, 2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218, USA. They have, of course, created their own lapel pin, designed by the inimitable Jeff Decker.

Recommended by Carol Fish: **In the Dead of Winter: A Myrl Adler Norton Mystery** by Abbey Pen Baker (St Martin's Press, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010, USA; $19.95). A new addition to the literature of the Whitechapel murders is **The Lodger: The Arrest and Escape of Jack the Ripper** by Stewart Evans & Paul Gainey (Century; 3rd August; £15.99).

Penguin Books (27 Wrights Lane. London W8 5TZ) are celebrating their 60th anniversary with "Penguin 60s" - 60 small books each priced at 60p, Among them is **The Man with the Twisted Lip and The Adventure of the Devil's Foot** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. It's an attractive little souvenir volume. Penguin Audiobooks (same address) have issued their abridged reading by Freddie Jones of **The Hound of the Baskervilles** (£7.99). I've only just managed to find a copy in the shops and haven't yet listened to it. The Douglas Wilmer recordings should be out now from Penguin, but Lynne Godden still has copies of the Society's original and exclusive editions.

The second **Return of Sherlock Holmes** double cassette from MCI Spoken Word is in the shops. TALK MC024 features the soundtracks of Granada's "The Man with the Twisted Lip" and "The Priory School", with linking narration (MCI Ltd, 36-38 Caxton Way, Watford WD1 8UF).

Booksellers (apart from those regularly mentioned in the DM) who specialise in Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes include: **Ergo Books** (Elliott Greenfield, 46 Lisburne Road, London NW3 2NR; phone 0171-482 4431) (*visitors by appointment*); **Anne's Bookstall** (Unit 1, Indoor Market Hall, Daniel Owen Precinct, Mold, Clwyd CH7 1AZ, Wales); **Baskerville Books** (Richard Lancelyn Green, 39 Scarsdale Villas, London W8 6PU; phone 0171-937 5728) (*postal business only*); **Conan Doyle Books** (J. M. Gibson, 6 Sharon Close, Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey KT23 3LB; phone 01372 453147) (*postal business only*); **Emporium Books** (Captain Keith A. Hockney, 53 High Street, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 1LT; phone 01983 852514); **Harrington Brothers** (253 King's Road. London SW3 5EL; phone 0171-352 5689).

Nigel Williams has opened a second-hand bookshop at 22 Cecil Court, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (phone 0171-836 7757). The principal specialism is P.G. Wodehouse, but there is also an extensive stock of Doyleana and Holmesiana, including much extremely desirable material, some of it quite unfamiliar to me. Prices reflect the rarity of the books and the West End location.

Gravesend Books (Box 235, Pocono Pines, PA 18350, USA; phone 717 646 3317) have issued Catalogue 32, containing more from the library of Dr Julian Wolff, much on Rathbone and Starret, and a great variety of other books and magazines.

A reminder. If your envelope bears the mysterious legend: **THIS IS YOUR LAST ENVELOPE or YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES WITH THIS ISSUE,** please send me a dozen or so stamped & self-addressed envelopes to renew. Overseas readers can send 12 IRCs, or £5.00 or US$10.00 for the next 12 issues. Dollar checks should be payable to Jean Upton.

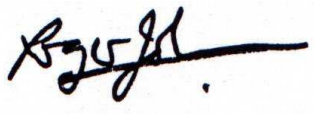
From Peter Blau. **Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective,** the good documentary broadcast in the **Biography** series on A&E Cable in the USA last May, is now out on videocassette at $23.90 (in the USA - and the system isn't compatible with ours). "Copies of the handsome 15-page menu" from the grand Sherlockian dinner at the Culinary Institute of America in May "are available ($18.95 postpaid) from Al and Julie Rosenblatt, 300 Freedom Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569."

"M.J. Trow's **Lestrade and the Kiss of Horus** (London: Constable, 1995; 235pp, £15.99) is the fifteenth in his splendid series about Sholto Lestrade, who in 1923 is an ex-Detective Chief Superintendent, but still involved in the work of Scotland Yard, investigating the death of Lord Carnarvon (which turns out to have been deliberate murder, and only one of many in Egypt and in London). As usual, the book is full of puns and bravado and fun."

"Jennie Paton has reported some nice news from Ken Greenwald and 221A Baker Street Associates: he now is working with the Brilliant Cassettes to make 16 new high-quality cassettes with 32 of the old Sherlock Holmes radio programmes with Tom Conway and Nigel Bruce; the introductions will be recorded this summer, and the cassettes likely will be released in 1996."

Our Society's next event is **Echoes of 1895: A Victorian Weekend,** to be based in Southsea from the 8th to the 10th September, and taking in a visit to Queen Victoria's Osborne House. On the 5th & 6th August, the Franco-Midland Hardware Company and the East Anglian Dancing Men (& Women) will hold an **ACD Weekend** in East Anglia (details from Geoff Budd, The School of English & American Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ; or The Stock-broker's Clerk, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU). For the 19th August, the Irregular Special Railway Company plans a **Sherlock Holmes Monopoly Trail** around the traditional "Monopoly" locations in London (Dr Antony Richards, 163 Marine Parade, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. SS9 2RB), (*Antony is preparing a 100-page book to accompany this frolic. Sounds interesting!*) On the same day the Poor Folk Upon The Moors will be taking **A Scenic Cruise on the River Dart** (Mike Philipson, 4 Dolvin Road, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9DA). The Franco-Midland Hardware Company will be going to Belgium for the weekend 8th - 10th September (The Stock-broker's Clerk, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU) .

Periodicals received. **Irregular Special Railway Company Newsletter** no. 13 (Dr Antony Richards, 163 Marine Parade. Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2RB) (*Bernard Davies has been nominated as the ISRC's second Honorary Member. Hear, hear! say I*). **The Cormorant's Ring** vol. 2 no. 2 (The Trained Cormorants of Long Beach, Jim Coffin, 6570 E. Paseo Alcazaa, Anaheim Hills, CA 92807, USA) (*features an encouraging account of working with young offenders through the works of Conan Doyle*). **3 Pipe Problem Plugs & Dottles** July/August 1995 (The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem, Gael Stahl, 1763 Needmore Road, Old Hickory, TN 37138, USA) (*thanks to Billy Fields for providing a copy of this lively and intelligent publication*). **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** June 1995 (Peter E. Blau BSI, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA) (*the indispensible Holmesian newsletter*).



THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London
Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 153 31st, August 1995

Ida Lupino, the lovely maiden in distress in the classic Fox film, **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes**, opposite Rathbone and Bruce, died on the 3rd August. A fine actress, and a pioneer as a female director in Hollywood, she came of a distinguished British theatrical family. Her relations included Stanley Lupino, Lupino Lane and Lauri Lupino Lane. (*Thanks to Gerit Stenitzer for information.*)

This is a good year for Holmesian scholarship. First there was June Thomson's excellent **Holmes and Watson: A Study in Friendship** (Constable; £15.99); now we have **Unexplored Possibilities: Some Notes on the Life, Habits and Character of Dr John H. Watson** by John Hall (Tai Xu Press, 20 Drury Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4BR; £8.95). John's chronology **I Remember the Date Very Well** (1993; Ian Henry Publications; £6.25) established him as a scholar to be reckoned with, and this new book, the first attempt at a comprehensive survey of Watson's life and career, consolidates his position. His picture of the good doctor is based firmly upon the Canon, while drawing upon the researches of earlier writers, all of them scrupulously acknowledged. The observation is sound, and the deductions sensible: I found it heartening that there is nothing controversial in the conclusions offered. All right - almost nothing: I don't think John has proved his case for Watson's middle name being Hector, but mostly he has used Occam's Razor with great care, distinguishing between the certain, the probable, the possible and the fictional. His explanation for Holmes's custody of Watson's cheque-book does no violence to the character of either and is so obviously right that I wonder why I didn't think of it. **Unexplored Possibilities** consists of 110 A4 pages, cerlox bound (I think that's the right term: it's the same format as **The Universal Sherlock Holmes**), and is available from Murder One in London and Classic Specialties in Cincinnati (or direct from the author/publisher at the above address, post-paid, cheques payable to John Hall).

Running Press (Glen House, 200-208 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LA) has published a very nice new edition, completely reset, of **Sherlock Holmes: Two Complete Adventures**, being "The Five Orange Pips" and "The Blue Carbuncle" in a miniature hardback: 188 pages, 2" square. The excellent new illustrations are uncredited, which is a pity. The book would cost £3.50 (add £1.00 if ordering direct from Running Press).

As mentioned in DM 152, Cadds Printing Ltd (59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL) has published a 20-page A5 booklet, **The Complete Set of Illustrations from The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sidney Paget**, with a brief but entertainingly personal commentary by Hugh Scullion. Unfortunately the pictures themselves are much less sharp than they should be (the result of being scanned and reproduced by computer?), but it's an interesting little item, and at £2.50 including postage won't break your bank balance. By the time you get this, Cadds' portfolio of 32 captioned cartoons (based on Paget and Steele originals) in a wallet-style 4-page

cover should be available at £20.00. I'm not terribly impressed by the standard of the artwork that I've seen for this project, nor do I find the new captions very funny, but humour is subjective after all. (*Cadds does lots of nice artistic things for Holmesians. Write for a catalogue, and do enclose postage. And do, please, mention **The District Messenger** when you make enquiries or send orders.*)

Solar Pons lives! After August Derleth died in 1971, Basil Copper was authorised to write more adventures of "the Sherlock Holmes of Praed Street", and no-one else, surely, could have captured the flavour so authentically. After numerous unforeseeable problems, Copper's complete Pontine oeuvre of 6 volumes is being published in a uniform edition by Fedogan & Bremer (603 Washington Avenue SE, 177, Minneapolis, MN 55414-2950, USA), with text restored to the author's original. **The Recollections of Solar Pons** will appear in October in an edition of 1900 copies at $25.00 (plus a signed limited edition of 100 at $75.00). It contains three previously unpublished stories plus one, "The Adventure of the Singular Sandwich", which suffered severe editorial alteration on its original appearance. There are fine illustrations by Stefanie Kate Hawks. Copper's preferred length is the novella: the shortest of his Pons tales is noticeably longer than the longest of August Derleth's, but the style and the substance are as close to Derleth's as we'll see. (*The Solar Pons canon is scandalously little-known in Britain, but the original tales are still, fortunately, available in **The Solar Pons Omnibus** by August Derleth, published by Arkham House Publishers Inc. of Sauk City, Wisconsin, at about $40.00.*)

Due on the 14th September is Laurie R. King's **A Monstrous Regiment of Women** - a sequel to **The Beekeeper's Apprentice** (St Martin's Press, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010, USA; $22.95). Again we meet the very personable Mary Russell, a character who really does make a fit partner for the retired Sherlock Holmes. Again the style is acceptably Edwardian without being stilted, and the author clearly knows both her Conan Doyle and her English (and American) social history. This is a complex tale, involving spiritualism, socialism and theology, murder, kidnapping and London fog. It's neatly constructed and well told - though the last sentence will boggle many a Holmesian's mind, as it boggled mine. Sherlock Holmes married? Never! (The author will be in England September to December, Ask St Martin's Press for details.)

Barbara & Christopher Roden are following up the deserved success of their Ash Tree Press imprint (ghost stories) with the Calabash Press (Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG), whose first publication will be a new edition of David Stuart Davies's **The Tangled Skein** (15th October; £14.95). Christopher says, "Calabash Press will not be concentrating on pastiche... our main series, to be launched in the spring of next year, will be 'The Case Files of Sherlock Holmes', a series which will look at individual cases through the eyes of various invited contributors. The first 'Case File' is to be 'The Musgrave Ritual'..." (*I've long regretted that Magico's "Reflections on..." series never made it beyond one volume, and this project looks set to fill the gap. Good news all round.*)

Dixon Smith of Rupert Books sends information about **The Botanical Holmes: A Monograph on Plants in the Time of Sherlock Holmes**, vol. 6 in Donald Girard Jewell's Sherlock Holmes Natural History Series. Rupert don't plan to stock this one, but it's available from Pinchin Lane Press (4685 Geeting Road, Westminster, MD 21158, USA) at $16.95 + postage, It's a

limited edition of 100. Other new titles: **Sherlock Holmes and the Devil's Grail** by Barrie Roberts (Constable; July; £14.99); **The New Windmill Book of Sherlock Holmes Short Stories** by Arthur Conan Doyle (Heinemann; May; £4.50); **A Study in Surmise** by Michael Harrison (Gaslight Pubs.; July; £20.00); **Subcutaneously, My Dear Watson: Sherlock Holmes & the Cocaine Habit** by Jack Tracy & Jim Berkey (Gaslight; July; £10.00); **Nova 57 Minor: The Waxing & Waning of the 61st Adventure of Sherlock Holmes** by Jon L. Lellenberg (Gaslight; July; £20.00); **Myth & Modern Man in Sherlock Holmes: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the Uses of Nostalgia** by David S. Payne (Gaslight; July; £26.00). (*This new availability of Gaslight's titles is Good News!*)

Forbes Gibb (29 Falkland Street, Hyndland, Glasgow G12 9QZ) has a new list of detective fiction available. **Catalogue Dexter** can be had for 2 first class stamps or 2 International Reply Coupons. The same applies to his next Sherlock Holmes catalogue, due in November. **Catalogue 6060** from Ergo Books (46 Lisburne Road, London NW3 2NR) has 150 Holmesian & Doylean items. Some are pretty rare, and the prices reflect this.

(*Richard Lancelyn Green writes to say that despite the listing in DM 152 he is not now and never has been a book-dealer.*)

A reminder that the John Bennett Shaw Library will be dedicated during the course of a weekend of scholarship and frivolity at the Holiday Inn Metrodome in Minneapolis, from the 13th to 15th October. The overall title is **Sherlock Holmes & John Bennett Shaw: The Detective & the Collector;** there may still be places, though it's unlikely. Details from Registrar 2207, University of Minnesota, Professional Development, 235 Nolte Center, 315 Pillsbury Drive SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0139 (fax 612-626 1632).

(*It's been said that "Unfortunately, there will be no great Holmesian or Doylean scholars involved in the learned presentations at the conference, with the singular exception of Mr Richard Lancelyn Green." That statement manages to insult Derham Groves, Jennie C. Paton, Enola Stewart and Stefanie K. Hawks, as well as the organisers and John's beloved Baker Street Irregulars. Besides, it misses the important point that those invited are people who knew and loved John, and who share his view that scholarship is less important than friendship and a simple love of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle.*)

Graham Sudbury has found some interesting information in the new **Merriam-Webster's Encyclopedia of Literature:** "The other Holmes novels include **The Mystery of Cloomber** (1889), **The Sign of Four** (1890), **The Doings of Raffles Haw** (1892), **The Hound of the Baskervilles** (1902), and **The Valley of Fear** (1915)." (*If you can't trust Webster's, who can you trust?*)

Kevin Jacklin tells me that **West End Adventures,** the 4th supplement to the **Sherlock Holmes: Consulting Detective** is now out from Chessex of Berkeley, California, at $25.00. It should soon be available from hobby games shops here, "or try mail-order from Esdevium Games in Aldershot (01252 311443)." Philip J. Attwell points out that the autumn catalogue from Past Times (Witney, Oxford OX8 6BH; phone 01993 770441) features a nice Sherlock Holmes chess set at £84.95 (board: £39.95; pieces & board £110.00). (*Past Times shops are always fun to browse in; there should be one within reasonably easy reach of you.*)

Philip also discovered two recent pieces in The Times. On the 19th August we learned that a new species of pterodactyl has been found in Brazil, and

named **Arthurdactylus Conan-doylei.** The property pages on the 16th state that Crowsley Park House near Henley-on-Thames (for sale through Knight Frank & Rutley) was sold in 1845 "to Henry Baskerville, a keen plantsman whose name was borrowed by his neighbour Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, for his classic Sherlock Holmes novel." (*News to me - and to you, I expect.*)

Gerit Stenitzer points out that David Burke (Granada's first Dr Watson) is currently starring at the Fortune Theatre in London in Stephen Mallatratt's marvellous play **The Woman in Black,** adapted from Susan Hill's ghost story.

Comic book fans will probably be attending the UK Comic Art Convention in London on the 29th September. A principal speaker will be Paul S. Newman, "King of the Comic Book Writers", whose thousands of scripts include many for Sherlock Holmes. Mr Newman may have an evening free to chat to a group of Sherlockians over the first 3 days of October. He can be contacted at 10622 Green Mountain Circle, Columbia, MD 21044, USA (phone 410-992 4509).

Re last month's auction of the Stanley MacKenzie Collection, Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Blvd, Brightwaters, NY 11718, USA) says, "I would be interested in hearing from anyone who was successful on lots no. 165 -no. 193, if they have items from those lots to sell or trade. I am especially interested in the bookplates offered in lot no. 193."

From Peter Blau: "The manuscript of 'The Three Garridebs' (22 leaves, signed twice by Arthur Conan Doyle) went to auction at the Superior Galleries in Beverly Hills on June 24, and was sold to a private collector for $97,750 (including the 15% buyer's premium)."

Over the weekend 8th-10th September, our Society will visit Southsea, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight. It promises to be one of the highlights of this year of '95. Over the same weekend, the Franco-Midland Hardware Company will go to Belgium (details from The Stockbroker's Clerk, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU). On the 17th, the Priory Scholars of Leicester are invited to show their least favourite video clips (Horace L. Coates, 21 Butcombe Road; Leicester LE4 0FY).

Periodicals received. The summer issue of **The Sherlock Holmes Journal** and the excellent **Back to Baker Street** supplement (*thanks to Anthea Sinclair & Richard Green for the supplement, and to Nick Utechin & Heather Owen for the SHJ*). **The Pleasant Places of Florida Communication** no. 1.52 (Dr Benton Wood BSI, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA) (*I must try Joan Wood's recipe for Yorkshire pudding*). **The New Baker Street Pillar Box** no. 23 (The Franco-Midland Hardware Company, The Stock-broker's Clerk, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU) (controversial as usual; June Thomson contributes an exceptionally interesting piece about the chronology in her book **Holmes and Watson,** but on the other hand to announce the formation of a Liverpool subsidiary of the FMHC with "At last! It has finally been revealed that there is Holmesian scholarly interest North of Leicester!" is a crass insult to the likes of George Welch and John Hall - to name but two northern scholars. Rich, even by FMHC standards*). **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** July 1995 (Peter E. Blau BSI, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830) (*the indispensible Sherlockian newsletter*).

THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London
Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 154 30th September 1995

Jeremy Brett died on the 12th September, not of a broken heart, but of an overworked heart. He had come to terms with his precarious condition, and knew that his only chance of cardiac stability was a heart transplant, an option he had considered and rejected. The cardiomyopathy was not correctly diagnosed until comparatively late, but it was this rather than his manic-depression that made his later performances as Sherlock Holmes so uneven, though the tabloids made the most of the latter. Jeremy Brett played Holmes in 41 television productions and one stage play. For more than three-quarters of the time he was a great Sherlock Holmes. In Pace Requiescat.

The next issue of **The Sherlock Holmes Gazette** will be a Jeremy Brett memorial issue. Look out for it.

Admirers of John Doubleday's famous statue of Holmes in Meiringen, Switzerland, will be pleased to learn that the sculptor has been persuaded to produce a miniature version in cold-cast bronze on a mahogany base. The height of the statuette, without the base, is 6½" (160mm), and the price is a maximum of £77.55 including VAT (plus postage of £4.45 = total £82.00). It's available from Albert Kunz, 20 Highfield Road, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6QZ (phone 01689 836256). Cheques should be payable to A. Kunz; they won't be cashed until the statuettes are sent out.

As mentioned in the last DM, Calabash Press (Barbara & Christopher Roden, Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG) will issue its first publication on 15th October, **The Tangled Skein** by David Stuart Davies, whose first, very limited edition is no longer obtainable. What starts as a direct sequel to **The Hound of the Baskervilles** rapidly becomes even darker and stranger, as Holmes and Watson find themselves facing the lord of the un-dead, Count Dracula. Instead of slotting Conan Doyle's characters into Bram Stoker's plot, David has created a completely new story as a sort of alternative, taking place in London and on Dartmoor. The result is a rattling good tale, excellently told. (Movie fans might enjoy spotting the allusions to **A Study in Terror, The Brides of Dracula** and a Rathbone film that I can't for the moment place.) The book is produced to the Rodens' invariable high standards, with an attractively Victorian type-face and atmospheric illustrations by Kathryn White and Paul Lowe. You can reserve copies from Calabash at £14.95 (US$24.50; Cdn$33.00).

Eddie Maguire (63 Wellington Road, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 5EZ) has imported copies of a booklet called **The Old Age of Holmes,** being a facsimile of a rare early parody that appeared in **The Cincinnati Commercial Gazette** on 2nd December 1894. Paul D. Herbert, who found it, has written an interesting introduction, pointing out the curious links between this spoof and "His Last Bow", published 23 years later. An oddity of more than historical interest, and worth the £2.65 asked.

Andrew Butler has produced a nice illustrated A4 booklet, **The Tragical Misty Row Tour,** resulting from the Cardboard Boxers' investigation of the murder

of Mary Browner (née Gushing) and Alec Fairbairn. This summary of Holmesian Liverpool and New Brighton costs £2.00 (UK) or US$5.00 (cash) from 64 Frith Road, Croydon CRO 1TA. Philip Weller's **Sherlock Holmes and Air-Guns** was delayed by printing difficulties but has now appeared as a nicely illustrated 40-page A4 booklet. The author's professional expertise makes this probably the most important Holmesian monograph he has written. Details of price can be had from Sherlock Publications, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 3RU.

Baskerville Bücher (Michael Ross Verlag, Bendheide 65, 47906 Kempen, Germany) has published a 2nd, expanded edition of his centenary bibliography **Sherlockiana 1894-1994: Eine Bibliographic deutsch-sprachiger Sherlock-Holmes-Veröffentlichungen.** The text, including Peter Neugebauer's introduction, is in both German and English. Price is: DM58; SFr58; OS435; £26.00 (recommended); US$44.00 (recommended). Baskerville publications are available from Michael Ross or from Rupert Books and other specialist booksellers. (*Michael asks if anyone knows the whereabouts of Denis O. Smith, author of **The Adventure of the Unseen Traveller** and four other well received Holmes stories in the mid-1980s. Please contact Michael if you can help.*)

Our local Asda store has copies of **Sherlock Holmes: The Short Stories** (Parragon Book Service Ltd, Unit 13-17, Avonbridge Trading Estate, Atlantic Road, Avonmouth, Bristol BS11 9QD). It's a good, solid paperback, and a considerable bargain at £1.99. Ian Wilkes reminds me that the Gaslight Publications listed in DM 153 (including Michael Harrison's **A Study in Surmise** and Jon L. Lellenberg's **Nova 57 Minor)** are distributed in Britain by Ian Henry Publications Ltd, 20 Park Drive, Romford RM1 4LH.

There are very appetising catalogues of Holmesiana & Doyleana newly available from Rupert Books (58/59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE) (*includes Val Andrews' **Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silver Vengeance**, as by "W. Lane" at £15.00; published by Magico in 1993, but only now on sale, apparently*), Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Blvd, Brightwaters, NY 11718, USA) and Harrington Bros Antiquarian Booksellers (The Chelsea Antique Market, 253 King's Road, London SW3 5EL) (*prices go up to £4850.00*). Tim Clarke (Little Meadow, Kings Lane, Chipperfield, Herts. WD4 9EN; phone 01923 263745) has some Holmesiana for sale; contact him for details.

The Sherlock Holmes Joke Portfolio is now available from Cadds Printing Ltd (59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood. London SE27 9EL) at £20.00. Send a stamped & self-addressed envelope to Cadds for a copy of their 1996 catalogue; it's full of interest. Geoff Bradley's fine magazine **CADS** (that's Crime And Detective Stories) has reached its 26th issue. There's nothing of specific Holmesian relevance in this issue, but no lover of crime & detective fiction should be without **CADS.** (Details from Geoff at 9 Vicarage Hill, South Benfleet, Essex SS7 1PA.)

Christmas isn't that far off now. If you haven't yet treated yourself or a friend to a copy of **The Sherlock Holmes Video**, this would be a suitable occasion. The video, an affectionate and knowledgeable documentary, was very favourably reviewed in DM 147 (and in many other publications). It costs £12.99 (+ £1.00 postage in UK) for the PAL version; US$30.00 or 3000 Yen for NTSC (+ $5.30 shipping). Orders to Countryside TV Productions, Chargot Manor, Luxborough, Watchet, Somerset, TA23 0SL. Another Christmas present worth considering is membership of the celebrated Players' Theatre Club, London's classic Victorian Music Hall for more than 50 years. The theatre is situated under Charing Cross Station, opposite Sherlock Holmes

In The Arches and very close to The Sherlock Holmes Public House. Membership information can be had from The Players' Theatre, The Arches, Villiers Street, Strand, London WC2N 6NG (phone 0171-976 1308; fax 0171-839 8069). This year's pantomime, starting on 6th December, is J.R. Planché's **The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood.**

Don't forget that our own Society has a good deal of Holmesiana for sale, including 9 excellent books, back issues of **The Sherlock Holmes Journal**, SHSL umbrellas, and the new bow-tie (all available from the Merchandising Officer, Lynne Godden, Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8QE.

Sherlock Holmes: Tales of Intrigue is a two-cassette pack comprising "The Crooked Man", "The Greek Interpreter" and "The Naval Treaty" read by Edward Hardwicke. It's available from Tangled Web Audio (P.O. Box 700, Greenhurst, NY 14742-0700, USA) at the rather high price of $16.95 plus $5.00 postage (there are discounts for quantity). Wynne Howard Publishing (10 Betula Close, Kenley, Surrey CR8 SET), who issued Miles Elward's **Sherlock Holmes in Canterbury** (see DM 151), has imported six audio cassettes of stories from **The Adventures.** The twist is that these are in French! **Un Scandale en Bohème, L'Association des Hommes Roux, Un Cas d'Identité, Le Mystère de la Vallée de Boscombe, L'Aventure des Cinq Pepins d'Orange** and **L'Homme à la Lèvre Retroussee** cost £8.95 each (+70p postage). There is a special price of £8.00 post-free to members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. (*Teachers may be interested in the special rates for schools.*)

ORCA, the Old-Time Radio Show Collectors' Association, is a wonderful source of information about (and recordings of) British, American and other radio shows, including the numerous Sherlock Holmes series. Enquiries should go to Maggie Monk at 9 The Gateways, Lowry Park, Swinton, Manchester M27 6LA. Another organisation that you may find interesting is the Oscar Wilde Society (14 Syke Ings, Richings Park, Iver, Bucks. SL0 9ET).

Philip Weller reminds me that the connection between Arthur Conan Doyle and Crowsley Park (see DM 153) had been noted as long ago as 1977 in Roger Robinson's essay "The Hound: Dartmoor or Oxfordshire?" in **The Sherlock Holmes Journal** vol. 13 no. 2. He adds, "The claim that ACD was a neighbour of the Baskervilles at Crowsley Park is, of course, an exaggeration, since, as Robinson correctly points out, ACD was only a visitor at the nearby Blackmoor's Farm." (*The Links Hotel at Cromer is where ACD and Fletcher Robinson were staying in 1931 when **The Hound of the Baskervilles** took shape. It's still an hotel, offering special winter breaks between 29th October and 28th March, including a Murder & Mystery Weekend. Details from FREEPOST IH3651, West Runton, Cromer, Norfolk NR27 9BR; phone 01263 838383; fax 01263 838264.*)

From 7th December to 30th March the Croydon Clocktower Museum and Galleries will stage a major exhibition called **The Sherlock Holmes Experience.** It's easy to forget that Norwood, where ACD used to live, is now a part of the Borough of Croydon, and the Borough is doing its former resident proud. "The displays will be a blend of three dimensional theatrical scenic work and props, along with special effects, lighting and sound, to blur the division between the reality of Conan Doyle's Victorian London and the fictional world of the sleuth. The sets include the scene of the crime, an inspector's office at Scotland Yard, a mortuary, Holmes' study and chemistry corner, Conan Doyle's study in Norwood." Admission will be £3.50 (concessions £1.75). Croydon Clocktower is in Katharine Street, Croydon CR9 1ET (phone 0181-253 1030; fax 0181-253 1003).

Our Society's next meeting will be the Annual Film Evening, at the Museum of London on Wednesday 25th October. This, the first arranged and presented by David Stuart Davies, will feature a tribute to Stanley MacKenzie. Over the weekend of the 13th-15th October the Baskerville Hounds' Annual Pack Meet will be based upon Ashburton in Devon (details from "The Kennel Maid", 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU). The Poor Folk Upon the Moors will hold a Social Pub Lunch on Saturday 14th October, at The Riverside Inn, Bovey Tracey, Devon (Shelley Philipson, 4 Dolvin Road, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9EA). On the same day, the Northern Musgraves' annual film meeting will be held at the Granada Studios Tour in Manchester under the title "Sherlock Holmes: Out of Time and Place" (The Northern Musgraves, Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER). The Glades of the New Forest and the Franco-Midland Hardware Company will hold a Historical Ramble in Southampton on Sunday 22nd October (details from Jane Weller, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU - or "The Stock-broker's Clerk" at the same address).

Periodicals received: **The Soft-Nosed Bullet-In** no. 18 (Von Herder Airguns Ltd, Michael Ross, Bendheide 65, 47906 Kempen, Germany) (*includes the full English text of Heinz Schulte's address "German Humour? The Bitter Revenge of Mycroft Holmes*). **The Parallelogram** vol. 4 no. 20 (The Parallel Case of St Louis, Joseph J. Eckrich BSI, 914 Oakmoor, Fenton, MO 63026, USA) (*full of news and opinion*). **The Pleasant Places of Florida Communication** no. 153 & no. 154 (Dr Benton Wood BSI, Box 740 Ellenton, FL 34222, USA (*one of the most pleasantly light-hearted Holmesian publications I know*). **The School Report** no. 22 (The Priory Scholars of Leicester, Horace L, Coates, 21 Butcombe Road, Leicester LE4 0FY) (*features a brief, perceptive look at descriptions of Canonical villains, by Ken Savary*). **Irregular Special Railway Company Newsletter** no. 14 (Dr Antony Richards, 163 Marine Parade, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2RB) (*unlike most, this really is a newsletter, full of interest*).

More periodicals: **Annual Report 1995: The Thor Bridge Contract** (The Franco-Midland Hardware Company, "The Stock-broker's Clerk", 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU) (*the highlight is Philip Weller's geographical investigation, expanded from his essay in our Society's anthology **The Tri-Metallic Question***). **Prescott's Press** new series no. 20, December 1993 (sic) (Warren Randall, PO Box 610. Levittown, NY 11756-0710, USA) (*fiction, non-fiction and humour*). **The Musgrave Papers** no. 8 (The Northern Musgraves, Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER) (*the humour, contributed by the likes of Barry Took, Gahan Wilson, Jeff Decker and Auberon Redfearn, is balanced by sound scholarship from the likes of Paul M. Chapman, Grant Eustace and Christopher Roden*). **The Shoso-in Bulletin** vol. 5 (The Men with the Twisted Konjo, Dr Hirayama Yuichi BSI, 2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181, Japan) (*another superb collection of Holmesian scholarship, drawn from all over the world; it's available in the UK from John Hall, 20 Drury Avenue, Horsforth. Leeds L18 4BR, at £7.60 including postage; the USA distributor is Jennie C. Paton, 206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458, and the cost is $12.00; both Jennie and John have some back issues*). **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** August 1995 (Peter E, Blau BSI, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA).

THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London
Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 155 All Hallows' Eve 1995

Too quickly after the death of Jeremy Brett came the news that David Healy died on the 25th October, aged 64. An American resident in England, he was equally at ease playing Britons and Americans. By an ironic coincidence, his one venture into Holmesiana is newly reissued on video. This is **The Sign of Four,** in which Healy was Watson to Ian Richardson's splendid Holmes.

Gerit Stenitzer reports that both this and Richardson's other Holmes movie, **The Hound of the Baskervilles** (with the late Donald Churchill as Watson), can be had from Virgin at £6.99 each. Brian Pugh adds that the classic silent version of **The Lost World,** with Wallace Beery as Challenger, is on sale at about £6.00 at Virgin, and that Volume 1 bookshops stock all three. Check out your local video store.

Jessica McMahon wants to obtain video recordings of Granada's **The Second Stain** and **The Priory School.** If you can sell or lend copies to her, please write to me in the first instance. Thanks.

Published this last week was Patricia Guy's **Bacchus at Baker Street: Observations on the Bibulous Preferences of Mr Sherlock Holmes and His Contemporaries** (Ian Henry Publications Ltd, 20 Park Lane, Romford RM1 4LH; £9.95). Ms Guy speculates with expert authority on the wines, beers and spirits mentioned or implied in the Holmesian Canon, setting the references firmly in their historical context. She goes into fascinating detail on the different kinds of drink, native and imported, good and bad, strong and weak. She also provides recipes, some of them very tempting, for Victorian mixed drinks, for medicinal brews, and for domestic tipples. I only drink the stuff, and for the most part I'm happy to take Ms Guy's expertise on trust. If she says that the Chianti kept by Thaddeus Sholto was Frescobaldo di Nipozzano, then it was. This is admirable material in a nicely produced paperback format. Some stray typos should have been caught, though. Joseph Stangerson's name is given throughout as "Strangerson", and the Scowrers become "Scowsers" - which raises the possibility that they travelled from Ireland by way of Liverpool. Recommended, nonetheless.

I'm not quite sure what to make of **Artists in Crime: An Illustrated Survey of Crime Fiction First Edition Dust Wrappers 1920-1970** by John Cooper and B.A. Pike (Scolar Press, Gower House, Croft Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 3HR; phone 01252 331551), It's an offshoot of the authors' near-definitive **Detective Fiction: The Collector's Guide,** but its subject is really very specialist. Yes, I did find it extremely interesting, but for the very high price of £49.50 the publishers should have been able to print the illustrations in colour throughout, instead of restricting the colour to just 12 pages. The only direct Holmesian relevance, by the way, is in Joseph Abbey's cover to the first edition of **The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes** (shown in black & white). Collectors of crime and detective fiction will enjoy this book, but they may want to request it through their local

library rather than buying it. **Artists in Crime** is due for publication in December.

The Bookstore at our local branch of Debenham's has had copies of **The Penguin Complete Sherlock Holmes** reduced from £4.99 to £2.50. This is the Bloomsbury Books hardback, not the Penguin paperback, and the text is that of the standard Doubleday edition, so even at £4.99 it's a considerable bargain.

Michael Connolly has a new booklist available, featuring hardbacks, paperbacks, journals and magazines. The new edition of David Stuart Davies's **The Tangled Skein** tops the list, at £14.95 plus postage. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Michael at Tirgarve, Allistragh, Armagh, BT61 8EZ, Northern Ireland. There's also a new catalogue from The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, including the first volumes in the Vincent Starrett Memorial Library, August Derleth's **Collected Poems**, Peter H. Wood's splendid Holmesian mystery **The Winged Wheel**, a very welcome English translation of Zeus Weinstein's **Sherlock Holmes: The Truth about Ludwig II**, a new edition of **The Martyrdom of Man -** and much, much more. Send an SSAE or two International Reply Coupons to George A. Vanderburgh, P.O. Box 204, 420 Owen Sound Street, Shelburne, Ontario LON 1SO, Canada.

John Hoath sends an extract from the 1995 catalogue of the French publisher Librio ("Le livre à 10F"). Featured are five Holmes collections beginning with **Sherlock Holmes 1: La bande mouchetée, et trois autre récits**, and concluding with **Sherlock Holmes 5: Les six Napoléons, et trois autre récits.** Unfortunately I have no address for the publisher.

Philip Weller points out that Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson actually stayed at the Royal Links Hotel in Cromer, not at the Links Hotel in West Runton (see DM 154). Since the destruction of the former by fire some 50 years ago, the Doylean connection has come, erroneously, to be associated with the latter. Well, the Links is still a nice place to stay, in a delightful part of the country, near sites with genuine Doylean and Holmesian connections.

Some of the early Talking Classics recordings have been repackaged, without the informative magazine, as Classics On Tape, and can now be found in various bargain bookshops at about £1.99. Among them is Peter Egan's rather disappointing abridged reading of **The Hound of the Baskervilles.** The publisher is Blitz Editions, trading as Bookmark Ltd, Desford Road, Enderby, Leicester LE9 5AD.

Philip Attwell brought back a lot of information from the Bouchercon Festival in Nottingham. Enyd Williams, director of the Radio 4 series with Clive Merrison and Michael Williams, said that the BBC does intend to complete the Canon. **The Hound of the Baskervilles** and **The Valley of Fear** will probably be produced in about 18 months' time. (*Bert Coules deserves the opportunity to finish the project that he began six years ago with **A Study in Scarlet.***) **The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes** should be released on cassette in three stages, vol.1 in February, vol.2 in March and vol.3 in April. Starting in May, each series may be issued as a boxed set (*no suggestion yet of releasing **A Study in Scarlet** or **The Sign of the Four** on cassette, apparently*). Finally, on this subject, sets of postcards are available, featuring original **Strand Magazine** illustrations to **The Return, His Last Bow** and **The Casebook.** Each set costs £3.50 from Sherlock Holmes Postcards, Room 6069A, Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA.

Cheques should be payable to British Broadcasting Corporation. State how many sets you require, and enclose an A5 self-addressed envelope, bearing a 36p stamp.

Emilys (11 Flying Horse Walk, Nottingham NG1 2HN; phone 0115-955 9191) deals in limited edition and specialist Teddy Bears. Among the shop's latest is a "special Sherlock Holmes Bear". Tom Speirs tells me of a venture in Hereford called "Pigmania", producing hand-made ceramic pigs in a wide variety of characters and costumes (you can guess what "Lolita", "Biggles" and "J.R. Hartley" are like, for instance). Yes, there is a Sherlock Holmes pig, so new that he isn't even in the catalogue yet. Contact John Brett at Pigmania for details (Unit 5, Capuchin Yard, Church Street, Hereford HR1 2LB; phone 01432 277923; fax 01432 353375).

I've mentioned Past Times before, and have no compunction about doing so again. There's a decent amount of Holmesiana available in their 54 shops and by mail order, including Philip Weller & Christopher Roden's book **The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes**, the handsome Sherlock Holmes chess set, and the highly recommended **Sherlock Holmes Video.** You could furnish a delightful Victorian Christmas almost entirely from Past Times. Catalogues can be had from Past Times, Witney, Oxford OX8 6BH (phone 01993 770441; fax 01993 700749). Another wonderful source of Christmas presents is Hawkin & Co. of St Margaret, Harleston, Norfolk IP20 0PJ (phone 01986 782536; fax 01986 782468). Hawkin's sell all sorts of things that you didn't know were still made, and much that you didn't know was made in the first place. Forget the computer - show your kids what fun <u>real</u> toys are!

Jonathan Timby sends an ad for a Murder Mystery "Baskervillainy" Weekend at the Manor House Hotel at Moretonhampstead (base for our Society's Dartmoor expedition in 1992). "The ghastly deed will take place on the weekend of November 10/11/12, 1995." More details can be had by phoning the hotel on 01647 440355. (*Prominent in the ad is the claim, "As featured in the original Basil Rathbone's film 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' back in the 1940s." WRONG! The Rathbone film was made entirely at Fox Studios in Hollywood. The hotel featured in the 1931 Gainsborough production, with Robert Rendel as Holmes and Fred Lloyd as Watson, seen at the Society's Film Evening in 1993.*)

Catherine Cooke passes on information from the Ironbridge Gorge Museum (also known as Blists Hill Open Air Museum), which plans a Literary Evening for Saturday 27th July 1996, specifically featuring Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes. It looks like great fun. The Museum provides a unique insight into life in industrial Victorian England. More on this as it reaches me.

Our Society's Christmas card reproduces a watercolour by Douglas West showing Holmes, Watson and Lestrade meeting at Coombe Tracey. A pack of ten costs £5.50 (UK); £6.00 (Europe); $13.50 (USA); £7.00 (elsewhere) cheques should be payable to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and orders sent no later than the 30th November to Captain W.R. Michell R.N. (retd), 5 Old Farm Place, Hinton St George, Somerset TA17 8TW. The Northern Musgraves' card features a seasonally snowy scene with Holmes and Watson. The artist is Paul Lowe, who illustrated the new edition of **The Tangled Skein.** A pack of five costs £4.00 (UK); £5.00 (Europe); $15.00 (USA). Cheques should be payable to The Northern Musgraves, and orders sent to Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 4DN.

Philip Attwell notes that a Jeremy Brett tribute has been offered by ITV for networking, but no details are yet available.

As promised, the new issue of **The Sherlock Holmes Gazette** features 18 pages of tributes to Jeremy Brett, by David Stuart Davies, Michael Cox, Elizabeth Wiggins, Jean Upton and others. I think they bring us closer to Brett the man than any of the obits I read in the national newspapers. (*David and Michael remind me that Jeremy's last broadcast was a radio appeal on behalf of manic depressives. The Manic Depression Fellowship would welcome donations in his memory [8-10 High Street, Kingston-upon-Thames KT1 1EY].*) Elsewhere in the **Gazette** are articles and columns about the Sherlock Holmes Collection at Marylebone Library, the Calabash Press, Arthur Wontner and his Holmes films, the sale of the Stanley MacKenzie Collection, Dorothy L. Sayers, and more. Look for it in the shops, or buy direct from 46 Purfield Drive, Wargrave, Berks. RG10 8AR (US representative is Classic Specialties, P.O. Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219, U.S.A.).

Our Society's next meeting will be at Over-Seas House on the 22nd November, when Patrick Halling will speak on the subject of "Holmes and the Violin". The only other meeting I know of in the coming month is the Baskerville Hounds/Franco-Midland Hardware Company's "Dr Watson Day", for which bookings have closed.

Periodicals received: **The Cormorant's Ring** vol.2 no.3 (The Trained Cormorants of Long Beach, Jim Coffin, 6570 E. Paseo Alcazaa, Anaheim Hills, CA 92807, U.S.A.) (*lively and interesting - but please, Don Hardenbrook, the saint's name was Pancras, not Pancreas!*). **The New Baker Street Pillar Box** no.24 (The Franco-Midland Hardware Company, "The Stock-broker's Clerk", 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU) (*this issue's highlight for me is Antonio Iriarte's masterly "Some Leagues to the North of Oporto: The Truth about the **Norah Creina**?"*). **The Torr** no. 7 (The Poor Folk Upon The Moors, Eric Monahan, Highcliff, 14 Silver Bridge Close, Broadsands Park, Paignton, Devon TQ4 7NW) (*lots of good stuff, including a very welcome new essay by Stephen Farrell, whose friends are relieved to know that he's alive and well*). **The Baker Street Journal** vol.45 no.2 (P.O. Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331, U.S.A.) (*Leslie Klinger's essay conclusively proves that Irene Adler was <u>not</u> the one referred to in "The Five Orange Pips" who once beat Sherlock Holmes - which is odd, because Eric Monahan's piece in **The Torr** conclusively proves that she <u>was</u>! The BSJ is published by the Baker Street Irregulars, but is available to all Holmesians and Sherlockians*). **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** September 1995 (Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, U.S.A.) (*Peter recommends **Escapade** by Walter Satterthwait (St Martin's Press; $22.95), as an exciting and enjoyable mystery featuring Harry Houdini and Arthur Conan Doyle; he notes that Wessex Press has bought David L. Hammer's Gasogene Press, whose address is now The Gasogene Press, Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268, U.S.A.*).

Please forgive me if I haven't replied directly to your letter or note. This has been an exceptionally busy and stressful year. Thanks for your help and support.

THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London
Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

no. 156 4th December 1995

Sir Robert Stephens died on the 12th November. We who treasure that wonderful idiosyncratic film **The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes** were put in our place by the obituaries, all of which dismissed it as a resounding flop. Stephens flourished mainly in the theatre, and he did actually play Sherlock Holmes on stage, in Toronto in 1976, in the RSC production of William Gillette's play. Like his friend Jeremy Brett, he really hit his stride in the last ten years of his life, especially as Falstaff and Lear. He was knighted last January.

Lady Stephens was among the many friends and family who attended Jeremy Brett's memorial service last Wednesday at St Martin-in-the-Fields. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, the Northern Musgraves, the BSI, the ASH, the Arthur Conan Doyle Society, the Société Sherlock Holmes de France, the Poor Folk Upon The Moors, and other groups were represented at the service, which was organised by Granada Television. Reports appeared in **The Times** and the **Daily Telegraph** the next day.

Philip Attwell notes that plans to broadcast a tribute to Brett have been dropped, though BBC TV showed **The Private Life** last night in tribute to Robert Stephens. (*Last week's late film was the Hammer **Hound of the Baskervilles;** the **Radio Times** claimed that "Holmes scholars" regard it as the definitive version! I'd suggest that the BBC's own 1968 production, with Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock, more nearly fits that description. There's no sign of any of that flawed but fascinating series being re-broadcast or issued on video. However, I'm assured that some of the 1965 series, with Stock and Douglas Wilmer, will appear on video starting early next year. Hurrah!*)

Philip also notes that last weekend's **Children in Need** show on BBC1 included a Holmes mystery: "The Affair of the Bamboozled Hooter", also featured in the "Smell-o-vision" booklet sold in aid of the appeal.

John Hall follows his study of John H. Watson with **The Dynamics of a Falling Star; Some Notes on the Late Professor Moriarty** (Tai Xu Press, 20 Drury Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4BR), a 32-page A4 booklet in which he collates just about all that's known on the subject, along with his own sound deductions and speculations. The result is the nearest we're likely to get to a definitive study (though he misses the point that the "Brothers Three of Moriarty" are specifically the Professor, the Colonel and the Station Master; the "Moriarty" in question is the small town in New Mexico, nominal HQ of this unlikely society). The booklet will be available from John "early next year, at £4.50 including post in Britain", cheques payable to John Hall; "to the USA etc., $10.00 or equivalent including post, cash only."

Out now, and a good Christmas present for friends with a sense of fun, is a little parody by David Stuart Davies: **The Annals of Skelington Bones, Spook Detective: The Case of the Phantom Paperhanger of Bughare Hall** (Thumbprints,

Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER; UK £2.75; USA $6.00 airmail). The Davies humour pervades this 16-page A5 booklet, and Kathryn White's illustrations fit perfectly. (*A more solid work is due from David next spring, when Calabash Press publish **Bending the Willow: Jeremy Brett and Sherlock Holmes**, a full-blown book drawing on his interviews with JB and others, illustrated with previously unpublished photographs. More details in the next DM.*)

The Arthur Conan Doyle Society (Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG; e-mail c_broden@cix.compulink.co.uk) can offer copies of Michael Coren's new biography **Conan Doyle** at a saving on the £18.99 published price: UK £15.99; overseas surface mail £16.99 / US$27.00 / Cdn$37.50; N. America airmail £18.99 / US$30.50 / Cdn$42.00; Europe airmail £16.99; elsewhere airmail £19.50 / US$31.50.

John Moule of the Priory Scholars put me on to a little book called **Location Cornwall** by David Clarke & Alison Poole (Bossiney Books, Land's End Cottage, St Teath, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 3JH; £2.95), giving illustrated information about TV and film location shooting in Cornwall. Granada's **The Devil's Foot** features strongly. **The Sherlock Holmes Quiz Book** by M.J. Grieve appeared in August, at £9.99, from Owlhouse Publications (no address to hand).

The Poor Folk Upon The Moors have issued the first Charles Merriman Monograph: **The Joint Investigation** by Brian P. Gallimore. Only 50 copies have been printed of this essay, in which a Crime Scene Manager with the Devon & Cornwall Police imagines how the Baskerville case might have proceeded had the authorities of a century ago had the scientific aids of today. No price is given, and the monograph may not be for sale to non-members (Shelley Philipson, 4 Dolvin Road, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9EA).

Mark Chadderton has found **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: Detecting Social Order** by Rosemary Jann (Twayne Publishers; £6.95) (*see also DM 150*). The Pleasant Places of Florida offer a **Sherlockian Calendar, Noting Red-Letter Days: 1996** (Dr Ben Wood BSI, P.O. Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA; $2.50 in US, foreign orders [in cash] US$4.00 or £3.00). At Murder One we found **The Mystery of the Yellow Hands**, the first "Baker Street Mystery" by Jake & Luke Thoene (Moorings, Nashville, Tennessee; $5.99), featuring Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Brigade: Danny Wiggins, Duff Bernard and Peachy Carnehan (that name will be familiar to readers of "The Man Who Would Be King").

The excellent book and poster that were produced for the John Bennett Shaw Conference in October are now available from: Shaw Conference Publications, 466 Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, 309 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA. The poster costs $16.70 and the book, **Sherlock Holmes: The Detective and the Collector**, $38.00. Both prices include postage (MN State residents should add the appropriate tax). The book, beautifully produced and well illustrated, includes essays by major scholars such as Nils Nordberg, J Randolph Cox, David Hammer, Bill Nadel, Jennie C Paton, Derham Groves, Peter E Blau and Thomas L Stix Jr. Checks payable to University of Minnesota.

This year's **Rupert Annual**, the 75th anniversary edition (Pedigree Books Ltd, The Old Rectory, Matford Lane, Exeter EX2 4PS; £5.50), includes "Rupert and the Pharaoh's Treasure", which involves the little bear with Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson - and H.G. Wells's time-machine! At his local Tesco store, Phil Attwell has found the big Parragon paperback edition of the Holmes Canon in two volumes at £1.99 each (Parragon Book Service Ltd, Unit 13-17,

Avonbridge Trading Estate, Atlantic Road, Avonmouth, Bristol BS11 9QD).

Ian Wilkes notes that Librio, whose nice French language edition of the Canon was mentioned in DM 155, is at 27 rue Cassette, 75006 Paris, France; phone 33 (1) 44 39 34 79. The contact is Jaques Sadoul. There are very tempting new catalogues of Holmesiana and Doyleana out from the Black Cat Bookshop (36-39 Silver Arcade, Leicester LE1 5FB) and Gravesend Books (Box 235, Pocono Pines, PA 18350, USA).

The Biography documentary on Sherlock Holmes, featuring David Burke, was recently shown on the Sky History Channel. Brian W. Pugh may be able to provide video-tape copies, adverts and all; price as yet unknown (20 Clare Road, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1PN).

I've heard from Tangled Web Audio, whose 2-cassette pack **Sherlock Holmes: Tales of Intrigue**, read by Edward Hardwicke, was mentioned in DM 154. They've also released **Sherlock Holmes: Tales of Suspense**, also read by Hardwicke and including "The Sussex Vampire", "The Creeping Man" and "The Speckled Band" (he recorded that one before, in 1987 for Marks & Spencer). The price of each set is US$16.95 + airmail postage ($5.00 for 1 item, $4.00 for 2-5, etc.). Orders should go to Box 700, Greenhurst, NY 14742-0700, USA; the letter, however, came from 401 Queen Street South, Hamilton, Ontario L8P 3T8, Canada. IMPORTANT NOTE: we recently found **Tales of Intrigue** at Murder One in London at £8.99!

Malcolm Payne notes that Crowborough Town Council and Crowborough Chamber of Commerce plan a Sherlock Holmes Festival next year. The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment is not entirely happy, partly because publicity to date has conveyed inaccurate information, partly because a longer period of planning seems to be needed, and partly, I suspect, because the town's connection is not with Holmes but with his creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Information can be had from the Festival Secretary, The Sherlock Holmes Festival, The Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1DA (phone 01892 665464). (*Malcolm also asks me to say that he has been out of circulation due to illness since early July, and that the Establishment can be contacted via Richard Greep; phone 01892 655534.*)

The Sherlock Holmes Experience is a major exhibition opening on the 7th December at Croydon Clocktower (Katharine Street, Croydon CR9 1ET; phone 0181-253 1030; fax 0181-253 1003), and running until the 10th March. Norwood, Conan Doyle's one-time home, is now within Croydon.

The Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company (230 Baker Street, London NW1 5RT; phone 0171-486 1426) has a new catalogue out; £3.00 is asked. The shop is well worth a visit when you're in upper Baker Street. Further south are two other nice establishments: the Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Street and the shop, Sherlock Holmes In The Arches, a few yards away. The shop has a remarkable range of goodies in a very intimate space. It's open from 11.00 to 3.00, and sometimes beyond. (These shops, as well as Past Times and others, stock **The Sherlock Holmes Video**; this excellent documentary can also be bought direct from Countryside TV Productions, Chargot Manor, Luxborough, Watchet, Somerset TA23 0SL; price £12.99 + £1.00 in the UK.)

Sherlock is one of Priscilla Hillman's Cherished Teddies figurines from Enesco Corporation of Itasca, Illinois. A seated figure, about 3" high, with deerstalker, cape, pipe, lens and book entitled "A Sherlock Holmes Mystery", he's very attractive, and not outrageously priced at £15.99. (*He comes, however, with a really nauseating Certificate of Adoption.*) More expensive,

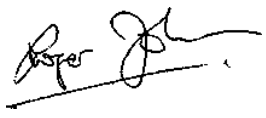
and extremely desirable, are the maquettes in cold-cast bronze on a mahogany base of John Doubleday's famous statue of Sherlock Holmes in Meiringen; copies can be ordered from Albert Kunz (20 Highfield Road, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6QZ) at a maximum cost of £82.00 including postage.

(*Someone's sent me a photocopy of an anonymously produced burlesque: **The New Baker Street Pillory Block: The Drawn-and-Quartered Journal of the Franco-American Hardcheese Company.** It appears to be American in origin, and it's quite disgracefully funny. Well, "good parody is an entirely valid form of literary criticism", as the editor of a well-known Holmesian journal recently observed.*)

Godfrey Hunt tells of the formation of a new society: The Retired Colourmen of Essex, whose aim is to promote the study of the Canon in its relation to the County of Essex. Membership is by invitation only, but it imposes a duty of study, research and publication of the results. Information can be had from Godfrey at 21 Mount Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 8PS.

Our Society's next meeting, of course, will be the Annual Dinner at the House of Commons on Saturday the 6th January, followed by a social gathering next day at the Plough in Museum Street. Also on the 6th, the Franco-Midland Hardware Company will make its "Disjecta Membra" excursion from Birmingham (details from The Stock-broker's Clerk, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU). The following weekend will see the usual festivities in New York. Alas, we can't be there this time, but hope to make it in January 1997. On the 28th, the Glades of the New Forest will meet in Hill Head to discuss the location of Lord Backwater's estate (Jane Weller, address as above).

David Stuart Davies asks me to say that the autumn issue of **The Ritual** should be posted this week. Its 54 pages will contain a good deal of exclusive material about Jeremy Brett, including comments from Edward Hardwicke, David Burke, Rosalie Williams, Michael Cox, June Wyndham Davies and Jeremy Paul; there'll also be a transcription of the phone message from JB that we heard at the Musgraves' weekend in Edinburgh. Non-Musgraves can order copies from Anne Jordan (Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorks. BD16 4DN) at: UK £5.50; elsewhere $10.00 airmail. David adds that on the 16th March there will be a Jeremy Brett Luncheon at the Café Royal in London; people who worked with JB "will attend as schedules permit". More details as they reach me.

Periodicals received: **The Parallelogram** November 1995 (The Parallel Case of St Louis, Joseph J. Eckrich BSI, 914 Oakmoor, Fenton, MO 63026, USA); **Communication** no. 155 (The Pleasant Places of Florida, Dr Benton Wood BSI, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA); **The Petrel Flyer** vol.7 no.6 (The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, Len Haffenden, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, B.C., V7P 3C6, Canada) (*features a report on the 7th Annual Holmesian Games, and a piece on the amusements of Victorian children*); **The School Report** no.23 (The Priory Scholars of Leicester, Horace L. Coates, 21 Butcombe Road, Leicester LE4 0FY); and as always, the indispensible **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press**, October 1995 and November 1995 (Peter E. Blau BSI, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA).

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