

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

Grapevine Service: 25th. April 1984

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This is by way of an interim updating.

I trust you all watched "A Scandal in Bohemia" on ITV last night. A very promising start to the series. Jeremy Brett & David Burke seem admirably suited to their roles, though Brett's reported opinion of Holmes and the reasons why his interpretation is "different" have a very familiar ring to one who remembers the TV performances of Douglas Wilmer, Peter Cushing and Christopher Plummer!

The information in the last newsletter about newly available Argo cassettes is correct: there are now no fewer than four 2-volume cassettes, all read by Robert Hardy. To recap, they are:

Four Sherlock Holmes Stories	(3Stu, Gree, Suss, Chas)	- SAY 2
More Sherlock Holmes Stories	(Dyin, Shos, Musg, Croo)	- SAY 98
Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes	(Yell, Stoc, Glor, Fina)	- SAY 108
Return of Sherlock Holmes	(Empt, Soli, RedC, Maza)	- SAY 109

There is another recorded sound item of interest. You may know that that very funny writer Alan Coren has used his fondness for and knowledge of the Canon in numerous parodies, not least in his delightful "Arthur" stories for children, four of which recount young Arthur's adventures with Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. These four - Arthur & The Great Detective, Arthur & The Bellybutton Diamond, Arthur & The Purple Panic and Arthur vs The Rest - are all available in Puffin paperbacks, and Arthur & The Bellybutton Diamond has now been recorded by the Talking Tape Company, read by Tom Baker. Mr Baker made an undistinguished Holmes but has proved one of the most prolific and successful readers in the business. The number is TIG/KO 5.

Michael Hardwick, whose name will be well known to you all, and whose Prisoner of the Devil was probably the finest novel-length Holmesian pastiche yet, has two books forthcoming. On the 27th of September, Collins will publish Sherlock Holmes: My Life & Crimes at £9.95. This profusely illustrated book is to be produced by the Rainbird company, which is itself a guarantee of excellent presentation. And in February 1985, from Weidenfeld, comes The Private Life of Dr Watson, a novel for which no price has yet been set.

Remember, you read it here first!

