

THE  
SOLAR PONS  
SOCIETY OF LONDON

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON: GRAPEVINE

22, Wisteria Lodge, Lupin Drive, Chelmsford, Essex.

6th August 1984

All books this time, unless something else turns up before I've finished typing this.

The industrious Mr Kelvin I. Jones has sent me a list of his currently available Sherlockian monographs. In short supply are the following: The Carfax Syndrome, being a study of vampirism in the canon (Magico Magazine 1984), 18 pages, red card covers, A5 size, price £1.00 including postage & packing; Upon the Tracing of Footsteps, by Sherlock Holmes edited by Kelvin I. Jones (Magico 1983; the title page says "London 1878"), 9 pages, green card covers, A5 size, price £1.75 including postage and packing; Thank You, Watson - the Matches (Kelvin Jones 1981), 40 pages, yellow card covers, A5 size, 75 pence including postage and packing. This last brochure, the first thorough guide to the smoking habits of Sherlock Holmes, is in very short supply indeed.

Forthcoming are: A Study in Streetnames, a biographical investigation into the origins of Canonical names, especially in TWIS (this -will be a new edition of a monograph published by Mr Jones a couple of years ago); Sherlock and Porlock, a study in the literary influences of the Holmes stories, a hardcover book of approximately 60 pages on quality paper with an introduction by Edward D. Hoch, due out in October 1984 in a 500 copy edition; Sherlock Holmes and the Criminologists, the background to SFUD and the formative influences.

If you are interested in these books, please write to Mr Jones at 18 Ross Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 2DF, and he will forward information about the forthcoming items when it is available. For those books available now, please write to the same address and make cheques payable to K. I. Jones.

Less prolific but no less in quality is Mr Denis O. Smith, whose third Sherlockian pastiche is now available from him at Diogenes Publications, 24 Filgrave, near Newport Pagnell, Bucks MK16 9ST. The title is The Adventure of the Zodiac Plate, and the price is £2.50 plus postage and packing. Please make cheques or P.O. s payable to Diogenes Publications. (The Adventure of the Purple Hand and The Adventure of the Unseen Traveller may be still available. I recommend them strongly.)

Due on the 26th October from Picador is the paperback edition of the surprise bestseller The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco. Eco, an Italian professor of semiotics, has written a dazzling historical detective story, in which mysterious deaths at a 14th century Italian monastery are investigated by the English friar, Brother William, of Baskerville, and his chronicler Adso of Melk. The price for this big (some 500 pages) book is a not-unreasonable £2.95.

(I'm going to put in a plug here for my current favourite detective stories, whose new paperback editions claim that the tales are "in the best selling tradition of The Name of the Rose". This dubious statement derives entirely from the fact that the stories centre around the mediaeval abbey at Shrewsbury in the 12th century, where one of the monks, Brother Cadfael is a detective worthy of Holmes himself. The author, Ellis Peters, is well-known for her detective stories; she is equally respected as the historical novelist Edith Pargetter, so you may be sure that the history and the detection are both right. There are currently nine chronicles of Brother Cadfael, with a tenth due shortly. At present, the first three are available in Futura paperback editions at £1.95 each. The titles are A Morbid Taste for Bones, One Corpse Too Many and Monk's Hood. All are highly recommended.)

I've been asked for publication details of the Webb & Bower "dossier edition of A Study in Scarlet, since members have found it difficult to obtain. It was published in March 1983 at £10.95. The ISBN is 0906671590. The publisher's address is: Webb & Bower, 9 Colleton Crescent, Exeter EX2 4BY (telephone Exeter 35362/33733).

