

# The District Messenger

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

1st June 1985

Firstly a little Society information. ZDF Television, of West Germany, are working on a two part documentary about Sherlock Holmes. Part 1 will cover the man and his world, and part 2 the Sherlockian Phenomenon - which is where we come in. Catherine Cooke has agreed to arrange a (very) special Society meeting on Sunday the 21st of July, the time and place to be settled, though it will be somewhere in London and probably out of doors. Will anyone who's interested in taking part - there will not be the usual charge, of course - please contact Catherine at Marylebone Public Library, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5ET. The telephone number is 01-798 1028; if there's no reply, try Catherine's home number, 01-879 0332.

News at last of the remaining 6 programmes in Granada's ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES! (Gosh!) Our good friends Scott and Sherry Bond, from Philadelphia, PA, have actually visited the Baker Street set at the Granada studios in Manchester (magnificent is the verdict), and met the producer Michael Cox and other interesting people. They report that the series is to be resumed in July - so watch your TV TIMES.

Further news from Scott & Sherry: Michael Cox has relinquished the post of producer, and for future series will be executive producer. More dramatically, David Burke has now left the series to join the RSC, where he's currently appearing (or will be shortly; I haven't got their programme to hand) in a play called THE PHILISTINES. The part of Dr Watson will be played in future by that fine actor Edward Hardwicke - son of Sir Cedric, for those who didn't know.

STOP PRESS. I've just had a phone call from Mimi Langley (thank you, Mimi), who tells me that the remainder of the first series of THE ADVENTURES will start on Tuesday the 2nd of July.

A final piece of news from Scott and Sherry: there is now a Sherlock Holmes toy theatre on the market, available from Pollock's Toyshop in Covent Garden - and possibly elsewhere.

David Stuart Davies reminds me that the Webb & Bower "dossier" editions of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES and THE SIGN OF FOUR are now available, priced at £9.95 each. The first of these dossiers is still in print: this is A STUDY IN SCARLET, priced at £10.95.

Also from David, a reminder that a new pastiche is now available - not a pastiche of Dr Watson, this time, but of a well-known living American author. The book is called PULP-TIME, and is described as "an apocryphal tale of H. P. Lovecraft and his friends, as if narrated by Frank Belknap Long, Jr.". The friends include Long himself and other members of the New York-based amateur press society The Kalem Club, Harry Houdini, Hart Crane - and of course Sherlock Holmes. It's a curious little tale, probably of most interest to those like me who are Lovecraft fans as well as Sherlockians. The actual author is P. H. Cannon. Frank Belknap Long has contributed a foreword, and there's an afterword by Robert Bloch. The publisher is Weirdbook Press of Buffalo, NY, and the book may be had at £4.50 from Andromeda Bookshop, 84 Suffolk Street, Birmingham B1 1TA (021-643 1999). Members of the British Fantasy Society can get it at (I think) £3.50 from the BFS.

You already know about TEN YEARS BEYOND BAKER STREET by Cay Van Ash, SHERLOCK HOLMES AT THE 1902 FIFTH TEST by Stanley Shaw, THE ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE by M. J. Trow, REFLECTIONS ON THE NAME OF THE ROSE by Umberto Eco, and the forthcoming paperback edition of W. G. GRACE'S LAST CASE by William Rushton. So there's no point in my mentioning them again.

I hope to see some of you, at least, in the Peak District in a couple of weeks' time.

