

The District Messenger

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

1st December 1985

Catherine Cooke has sent me information about three new books of interest. From W.H. Allen comes a new edition (and very welcome too) of that melodramatic masterpiece THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA by Gaston Leroux. A rattling good read, to be sure, but where, you may ask, lies the Sherlockian significance? In the informative introduction by Peter Haining, is the answer, and in two brief essays culled by Mr Haining from Sherlockian journals which suggest that Holmes might have been involved in the mysterious business of the Opera Ghost. The book is a hardback, priced at £9.98. Guinness Books have published (no price given) THE WINE LISTS edited by Robert Joseph, mostly of interest to oenophiles, but containing a list of references in the Canon to wines. The list was supplied, appropriately, by our Hon. Sec. Stanley MacKenzie.

To meatier matters. I've heard nothing yet from Denis Smith on the subject, but Catherine informs me that the fourth in his series of excellent pastiches is now available. The title is THE SECRET OF SHORESWOOD HALL. Please contact Mr Smith for further details; his address is 24 Filgrave, near Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire.

From the Solar Pons Society of London comes news of a new biography of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, published by Frederick Ungar Publishing Co. of 36 Cooper Square, New York, NY 10003, U.S.A., under the unoriginal title ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE. The author is Don Richard Cox, Associate Professor of English at the University of Tennessee. Perhaps "biography" is the wrong word, since the book is as much a study of his work as of his life. The price of ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE is 15.50 dollars.

For game fanatics, Gibsons Games have produced a third set of cases for use with their excellent board game 221B BAKER STREET: THE MASTER DETECTIVE GAME. No price is given for this set of 20 cases, but contact your local games shop or H.P. Gibson & Sons, Greenlea Park, Prince George's Road, London SW19 2RB.

Stephen Farrell has sent me a cutting from an unidentified newspaper to the effect that the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street (a singularly mediocre establishment) is to undergo a face-lift, giving the hotel a main entrance in Baker Street and obliterating the unattractive Ristorante Moriarti (sic).

If you're stuck for a suitably Sherlockian Christmas present for any of your loved ones, Ms C.J. Martin offers a service copying the original STRAND MAGAZINE illustrations in lead pencil or ink in sizes from 8x12 inches upwards. The smallest drawings (8"x12") in pencil are priced at £9 including postage and packing. The illustration (I hope the copier will do justice to it) shows the quality of Ms Martin's drawing to be excellent. Please contact her at Woodlea, Lancaster Lane, Parbold, near Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7AA.

SMALL AD. Can anyone help me, please? I've been trying to get hold of a black & white still showing Holmes & Watson in MURDER BY DECREE and one from THE MASKS OF DEATH, but with no success....

The compliments of the season to you all...

