

# The District Messenger

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

28th April 1986

Some of you will already be aware that there exists a SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOK CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN. It was founded last year by Gaby Goldscheider, who is probably the most eminent and most knowledgeable dealer in Sherlockiana in this country (at least). The Club offers a wide range of books, magazines and ephemera, at prices ranging from 25p to over £250; there is a bulletin, containing useful information about books, libraries, bookdealers, members' wants and so forth, and in Ms Goldscheider's Kensington flat she has established a Sherlock Holmes Centre, where members may call and where eventually social gatherings will take place. The annual subscription is £7.50 (U.K.), £10.00 (Europe), \$15.00 (U.S. & Canada) or £15.00 (Australia & Japan). Please send subs or requests for further information to Ms Goldscheider at 29 Temple Road, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1HP (phone Windsor 61517).

Catherine Cooke tells me that the Webb & Bower "dossier" edition of THE VALLEY OF FEAR has been postponed to mid-1987. This will complete their publication of the four long stories. Also that on the 23rd October this year Ward Lock will publish THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CENTENARY BOOK by Graham Noun. No further details at present.

The Peter Haining Book Factory (would that we were all as energetic and successful as Mr H!) is preparing a history of Sherlock Holmes on television, a field only sketchily covered to date.

The CATALOGUE OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION at Marylebone Library has just been published. Catherine Cooke, who tends the Collection with such admirable care, says, "This is a complete listing of all books, pamphlets and periodicals in the Collection to December '85 (plus a few late entries from '86). Other aspects of the Collection are described. An introduction sketches the history of the Collection, including the 1951 Festival of Britain. Priced at £5 from the Collection; please add 50p p+p (U.K. & Europe) or £2.00 (elsewhere) if ordering by post. I shall try to bring a couple to the meeting on the 8th May. If any DM subscribers want copies and would like to send me a cheque for a fiver beforehand, or order a copy by telephone (01-798 1028/9), I can bring them to the meeting." Write to Catherine at Marylebone Library, Marylebone Road, London N.W.1.

Stanley Shaw's funny and exciting novel SHERLOCK HOLMES AT THE 1902 FIFTH TEST will appear in paperback from Star Books at £1.95 on the 8th May.

The soundtrack music from YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES is now available on record, with the composer, Bruce Broughton, conducting the Sinfonia of London. The number is MCF 3311.

Grant Healy has written to Jim Black, Radio 4 Editor: Planning & Presentation, to ask what plans the BBC has for celebrating the centenary of the first Sherlock Holmes story next year. The reply was "At present we have no plans I am afraid... however your letter has prompted us to consider the possibility." Holmes, this is amazing! Especially considering the Sherlockian mileage (as Grant puts it) previously clocked up by the BBC. May I urge you all to stop what you're doing RIGHT NOW, pick up a pen or whatever and write to Mr Black? Thank you. This has been a public announcement on behalf of the Sherlockian Party.

Vince Mattocks of 166 Ryde Park, Rednal, Birmingham B45 8RJ reports that he has now seen the GREAT BRITAIN & THE EMPIRE 54mm figures (Holmes, Watson, Lestrade, Moriarty, etc) mentioned in the last DM and is favourably impressed. Vince himself is now selling them painted in matt colours at £4.50 each plus 50p p+p.

Tyburn Productions have replied belatedly but handsomely to my enquiry about THE ABBOT'S CRY, the forthcoming follow-up to THE MASKS OF DEATH, with Peter Cushing & John Mills. The film should be completed by the autumn, but is not likely to be shown before early 1987. Further details will be available nearer completion date.

Tyburn have also kindly lent me some material to illustrate my talk on SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE SCREEN at Marylebone Library on Thursday the 15th May. As with the other events in this Sherlockian Mini-Festival (a film show presented by Stanley MacKenzie on Tuesday the 20th and a tour of Holmes's Marylebone led by Bernard Davies on Thursday the 22nd) this will start at 6.30. Please arrive at 5 pm or earlier to get a good look at the Sherlock Holmes Collection. Admission is free.

