

THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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FIXED POINT: THE LIFE & DEATH OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is "a dramatic presentation" by David Stuart Davies. In other words, it's a one-act play, and its premiere at the Northern Mus-graves' meeting on 12th January was received enthusiastically. David presents to us an elderly (in fact dying) Watson trying to convey to an unenthusiastic young reporter what sort of man stood behind the mythic figure of Sherlock Holmes. The reporter remains unimpressed, but the audience doesn't: with no sense of undue compression, David presents to us a remarkably complete picture of the true Holmes - and the true Watson as well. This is a limited edition of 150 copies, available at £3 each, including postage, from David at Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER.

News from Michael Cox. THE CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, the final Granada TV series, with Jeremy Brett & Edward Hardwicke, starts transmission on ITV on Thursday 21st February. Meanwhile, Virgin Books has just published a revised edition of Peter Haining's THE TELEVISION SHERLOCK HOLMES as an £11.99 paperback. I haven't seen this new edition, so can't comment on it.

Christopher Roden tells me that the first Convention/Dinner of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society will be held at the Grand Hotel in Birmingham over the weekend of the 25th/26th May. Prices range from £25 for the dinner to £90 for the full weekend. Along with the dinner, it's hoped to include the British premiere of Mark McPherson's one-man play AN EVENING WITH SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE. The West Midlands have many associations with Conan Doyle; it's intended during the weekend to present a plaque commemorating the four months that he spent as a medical assistant in the village of Ruyton-XI-Towns. For full details of the weekend, write to Christopher at Grasmere, 35 Penfold Way, Dodleston, Chester CH4 9ML. Further news from Christopher: Canongate of Edinburgh plans to publish a new edition of THE EXPLOITS OF BRIGADIER GERARD with an introduction by Owen Dudley Edwards; and Oxford University Press has put out a huge anthology edited by Patricia Craig, THE OXFORD BOOK OF ENGLISH DETECTIVE STORIES (£15), including "Silver Blaze".

Thanks to Bernard Davies for the news that The Picture Palace (65 Westow Street, London SE19; phone 081-771 1966) offers beautifully accurate full-sized reproductions of the famous Vanity Fair cartoon by "Spy", "William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes"; mounted and unframed it costs £16, in a handsome "mahogany style" frame it's £37.50. There are only 850 numbered copies, and a good many have already been sold to Japanese enthusiasts.

Barbara Alder kindly sent a copy of SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE ADVENTURE OF THE ANCIENT GODS by Ralph Vaughn (Gryphon Books, PO Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228-0209, USA; \$5). This 40 page brochure is a jolly, though not entirely successful, attempt to introduce Holmes into the world of H.P. Lovecraft. Good fun.

Wai-Ming Chan is after some books: BAKER STREET CHRONOLOGY by E.B. Zeisler (Magico reprint), Michael Druxman's biography of Basil Rathbone, Andrew Jay Peck's THE DATE BEING? and the Sons of the Copper Beeches' 1st collection LEAVES FROM THE COPPER BEECHES. If you can help, please contact Mr Chan at 312 Marlowe Road, Walthamstow, London E17 3HQ. K. Oxley (36 Peterhouse Close, Darlington, County Durham) asks if anyone can help him find a video recording of THE MONOCLED MUTINEER.

Look out for MILLION: THE MAGAZINE OF POPULAR FICTION (bimonthly, £1.95); the first issue contains an article about the dinner party that produced both THE SIGN OF FOUR and THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY.

