

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON
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I give such addresses and prices as I have; if I don't provide details of importers or agents, it's because I don't have those details.

Richard Dalby reports the death on 12 September 2002 of **Lloyd Biggle, Jr.**, one of the masters of science-fiction and fantasy, at the age of 79. He also wrote detective stories, and his two Sherlock Holmes novels — *The Quallsford Inheritance* (1986) and *The Glendower Conspiracy* (1990) — are among the best by any writer since Conan Doyle. **Karen Morley**, who died on 8 March aged 93, never appeared in a Sherlock Holmes movie, but in 1932 she was John Barrymore's co-star in the *Arsène Lupin* and played the heroine of the Boris Karloff thriller *The Mask of Fu Manchu* — in which she was overshadowed by Myrna Loy's delicious performance as Fu's daughter. **Sir Paul Getty**, billionaire, philanthropist, art connoisseur and cricket-lover, died on 17 April aged 70. American-born, he took British nationality after receiving his knighthood. Because of the foot & mouth epidemic, our Society was unable to take advantage of Sir Paul's offer of his private ground for the Victorian cricket matches against the P G Wodehouse Society.

Brian Scrivener passes on news of the death of **Carl Hoskisson** in December at the early age of 33. He was a hard-working and by all accounts amiable member of the Friends of Dr Watson (for whom he acted as Practice Receptionist), the Franco-Midland Hardware Company and the Baskerville Hounds. David Sanders reported the death on 9 April of **Ann Skene-Melvin, MBt, ASH**, bookseller, bibliophile, and a founder of the Bootmakers of Toronto.

A *Sherlock Holmes Almanac* was compiled and privately printed by Svend Petersen BSI in 1956. Now a team consisting of Carl William Thiel, Karen Murdock, Frank Darlington, Edwin Christenson BSI and George A Vanderburgh has revised and updated the almanac for publication by the Battered Silicon Dispatch Box (PO Box 204, Shelburne, Ontario L0N 1S0, Canada; \$36.00). It's a full calendar of events in the Sherlockian world. Other new or forthcoming titles from the BSDP include a revised and enlarged edition of Donald Redmond's classic *Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Sources* (\$40.00), *A Baker Street Christmas Stocking* by Bliss Austin, *The Adventures of Shirley Holmes* by Frederic Arnold Kummer & Basil Mitchell [**nothing to do with the recent TV series — these stories date from the 1930s**] and *The Solar Pons Encyclopaedia*.

Reviews suggest that *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon (published on 1 May by David Fickling Books for young adults and by Jonathan Cape for adults) makes effective use of Sherlockian allusion. Ian McEwan says: 'Mark Haddon's portrayal of an emotionally dissociated mind is a superb achievement. He is a wise and bleakly funny writer with rare gifts of empathy.'

Several interesting titles coming in June. *Murder in Baker Street*, a collection of new Sherlock Holmes stories edited by Martin Greenberg and Jon Lellenberg (Robinson, 3 The Lanchesters, 162 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 9ER; £7.99). A new edition of *The Memoirs of Vidocq* (AK Press; £14.00) — Eugène-François Vidocq (1775-1857) could fairly claim to be the first great real-life detective, and his sensationalised ghost-written reminiscences are the prototype

of all detective fiction. The paperback edition of *The Cambridge Companion to Crime Fiction*, edited by Martin Priestman (Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU; £15.95). And finally *Crime in Literature: The Sociology of Deviance and Fiction* (Verso; £40.00, or £19.00 paperback).

In July comes *Victorian Detective Fiction and the Nature of Evidence: The Scientific Investigations of Poe, Dickens and Doyle* by Lawrence Frank (Palgrave Macmillan, Brunel Road, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hants. RG21 6XS; £45.00). Severn House (9-15 High Street, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1DF) has announced publication in August of *Sherlock Holmes and the Rule of Nine*, priced £18.99. I have no more details at present.

There are new catalogues available from **Nigel Williams Rare Books** (22 & 25 Cecil Court, London WC2N 4HE; nwrarebook@tcp.co.uk), and **The Black Cat Bookshop** (90 Charles Street, Leicester L1 1GE; blackcatuk@aol.com) [**the latter is numbered as 'Catalogue Umpteen'!*]

The cover of *Sherlock* issue no. 54 features an excellent photo of David Jason as Detective Inspector Frost, who is the subject of M J Elliott's article on Telly Tecs [**it's interesting to note that Jason is actually the third actor to play Jack Frost**]. Also in this issue — Paul M Chapman writes of Sherlock Holmes and history, and continues his examination of fictional serial killers; Robert Sanderson considers Mickey Spillane's thick-ear PI, Mike Hammer; Gavin Collinson gives the second part of his look at Billy Wilder's *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*; Calum McLeod investigates the novels of Robert Crais; Scott Flinders contributes a Merlin the Magnificent mystery; David Stuart Davies traces Conan Doyle's private life in his fiction; Mike Ripley asks which bestseller is selling best; Jerry Kegley illuminates **The Curious Collectors of Baker Street**; Moriarty mutters ... and more! The magazine is published six times a year, at £3.95 or \$6.50 the issue. A six-issue subscription is £23.70 (rest of world £26.00 or \$40.00) from the Admin. Dept, PO Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD. The US representative is Classic Specialties (PO Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219, USA; sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com).

There's a lot of television drama available on video from Acorn Media UK Ltd (10 Smith's Yard, Summerley Street, London SW18 4HR), including the two *Sherlock Holmes: The Golden Years* films with Christopher Lee and Patrick Macnee — though if the running times in the new catalogue are accurate the films have been heavily cut. There's a website at www.acornmediauk.com. Douglas Johnstone adds a couple of titles to the list of Holmes movies available on DVD. He's bought the Matt Frewer *Hound of the Baskervilles* (£6.99) and *Murder by Decree* (£12.99) from Bensonworld (Freepost [LON 12770], Unit 9, Iron Bridge Close, London NW10 0UR), who don't charge postage on DVD order. They have a website at www.bensonworld.co.uk.

You may know that Peter Blau has produced a useful alphabetical list of invested **Baker Street Irregulars**, the BSI's Two-Shilling Awards, *The Women*, and the currently active **Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes**, which he will supply free of charge by e-mail from pblau@dgsys.com, or by post for \$1.25 from 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA. You can also access it on Willis Frick's *Sherlocktron* home page, at <http://members.cox.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>, where you'll also find Peter's list of 810 Sherlock Holmes societies, with contact details for 431 active societies. Now Al Gregory has reversed the BSI list with an alphabetical list of investitures; it's available from Al by

e-mail only, from grimpen@nac.net. It makes interesting, if rather esoteric, reading.

Visitors to Walt Disney World at Orlando in Florida may not know about **Sherlock's of Celebration**, the English tea rooms in the Disney community of Celebration. It's run by Tony David, a Londoner who worked for years in Baker Street, across the road from the Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company, and his wife June, and it offers Sherlockian souvenirs as well as genuine tea — both the drink and the meal. You'll find it at 725 Bloom Street, Celebration, FL 34747, USA.

On a recent visit to the little cathedral city of Ely, John Hoath spotted the name 'Capital & Counties Bank' clearly visible above the windows of what's now a Clinton Cards shop. The Capital & Counties, later absorbed into Lloyds, were Sherlock Holmes's bankers. There aren't many places where the name is still displayed.

Our Malaysian correspondent Aziz Bin Adam has sent a review from a Malaysian paper of the recently released computer game *The Mystery of the Mummy*. The critics seem agreed that it's complex but unintelligent.

The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, due in cinemas this summer, is based on the successful series of comic books (or graphic novels if you prefer). There are numerous Sherlockian allusions, though I understand that Holmes himself doesn't appear. Look out also for the action comedy *Shanghai Knights*, currently on release, in which Jackie Chan is an unlikely original for Sherlock Holmes.

Phil Attwell passes on news of *Holmes and Watson*, a film set in the present day and written by James Robinson, writer of *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*. 'The heir to the Holmes legacy will be portrayed as a twentysomething playboy who uses his talents mainly to pick up girls — until he is unwittingly drawn back into the family detective business by a young, sexy Dr Jane Watson.'

M C Black sends a piece from the Daily Telegraph of 26 April, noting a discovery by Douglas Blunden of Sheringham Golf Club in north Norfolk. Arthur Conan Doyle played golf at Sheringham, and so, we now know, did a Mr C Moriarty. However, Mr Moriarty's name doesn't appear in the records until 1901, eight years after the publication of 'The Final Problem'.

Charles Marowitz's iconoclastic spoof *Sherlock's Last Case* will be produced by Nipissing Stage Co. in Ontario, from 17 June to 12 July (205-101 Worthington Street E, North Bay, ON P1B 1G5, Canada; phone 705-472-2782; e-mail nsc@resultsmedia.on.ca). From 18 June to 20 July, the Apple Tree Theatre in Highland Park, Illinois, will house the world premiere of a new adaptation of *The Sign of the Four* (595 Elm Place, Suite 210, Highland Park; phone 847-432-4335 (e-mail appletreetheatre@yahoo.com). By coincidence, Dennis Rosa's play *Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of Four* will be produced by American Theatre Works, Inc. at the Dorset Theatre in Vermont from 26 June to 12 July (American Theatre Works, PO Box 510, Dorset, Vermont 05251, USA; phone 802-867-2223).

The Friends of Dr Watson have announced the Dr Watson 2003 Essay Competition. Once again entries can be submitted under two separate headings. The first is 'Discuss Watson's relationship with Scotland Yard and the regular police force', and the second 'Write a short pastiche on Holmes's passing reference to a case in "The Adventure of the Second Stain": "You remember the woman at Margate whom I suspected for the same reason. No powder on her nose — that proved to be the correct solution."' The competition is not restricted to members of the Friends. For full details, contact Brian Scrivener, 94 Reigate Avenue, Sutton, Surrey SM1 3JJ (e-mail TheFormulary@aol.com). The closing date is 30 June 2003.

Bill Barnes reports that **The Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia**, like the Red-Headed League, is dissolved. However, its founder Alan Olding BSI has accepted honorary membership in **The Sydney Passengers**, which is now known in full as **The Sydney Passengers: The Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia**.

The annual general meeting of **The Sherlock Holmes Society of London** at the Lansdowne Club on 28 May will be followed by a session of Three-Minute Problems (Bob Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU).

On 16 May, **The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn** will consider 'The Crooked Man' (ask Michael E Bragg for information at PO Box 256, St Charles, MO 63302-0256, USA — or check the website at www.harpooners.org). 'The Lion's Mane' will be the subject of discussion at the meeting of **The Notorious Canary Trainers** on 18 May (Thom Boykoff, 222 Randolph Drive, #303, Madison, WI 53717, USA). On 22 May **The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment** will mark Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 144th birthday (Brian Pugh, 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN; e-mail brian.w.pugh@tesco.net).

The Glades of the New Forest will visit the Pitt-Rivers Museum and 'some Holmesian colleges' in Oxford on 7 June (Jane and Philip Weller, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3 RU; e-mail fmhc@acd-221b.info). On 15 June **The Notorious Canary-Trainers** will look into the case of 'The Veiled Lodger' (Thom Boykoff, 222 Randolph Drive, #303, Madison, WI 53717, USA). **The Poor Folk The Moors** will visit Silver Blaze country for a Dartmoor picnic on 21 June (Vosper Arthur, Spynishlake, Doddiscombsleigh, Exeter EX6 7PR; e-mail Cherry@arthurc.fsnet.co.uk). On the same day, but an ocean away, **The Illustrious Clients** will also enjoy a picnic (Steven Doyle at 540 W Sycamore Street, Zionsville, IN 4607, USA). A week later **The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn** will discuss 'The Speckled Band' (Michael E Bragg, PO Box 256, St Charles, MO 63302-0256, USA).

Periodicals received. *The Baker Street Journal*, Spring 2003 (Steven Rothman, 220, West Rittenhouse Square, #15-D, Philadelphia, PA 19103, USA; subscriptions, PO Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331, USA; correspondence for **The Baker Street Irregulars** should go to Michael Whelan, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278, USA) [**the original and still one of the indispensable Sherlockian periodicals; the outstanding essay in this issue is Jens Byskov Jensen's study of Holmes's musical tastes**]. *Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections*, March 2003 (**Sherlock Holmes Collections**, Suite 111, Elmer L Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, 222 21st Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA) [**articles on an early parodist, W H Auden's views on the detective story, and the silent comedy A Black Sherlock Holmes (starring Bill Robinson's brother Sam)**]. *Ineffable Twaddle*, May 2003 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8981, USA). *The Whaling News*, March and April 2003 (**The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn**, Michael E Bragg, PO Box 256, St Charles, MO 63302-0256, USA).

The Camden House Journal, May 2003 (**The Occupants of the Empty House**, Debbie Tinsley, PO Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999, USA) [**a delightful piece of spoof scholarship on Professor Moriarty by Robbie Burr**]. *3 Pipe Problem Plugs and Dottles*, March and April 2003 (**The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem**, Kay Blocker & Davice Sharpe, 110 Gay Street, Apt 1108, Nashville, TN 37219, USA; e-mail dgsharpe@rocketmail.com) [**revived after a short hiatus under new editorship, and as friendly and approachable as ever**]. *The Illustrious Clients News*, March 2003 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 540 W Sycamore Street, Zionsville, IN, 46077, USA) [**yes, it does say March, but I think that should read April; anyway, it's full of interest, especially on the subject of Conan Doyle's visit to Indianapolis in 1923**]. *Practice Notes*, March 2003 (**The Friends of Dr Watson**, Brian Scrivener, 94 Reigate Avenue, Sutton, Surrey SM1 3JJ) [**an intriguing essay by Dr Tim Healey asking whether Watson was colour blind**]. *Quivers on the Web*, April 2003 (**221B**, Philip Weller, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3 RU; 221b@acd-221b.info) [**the electronic newsletter of the Franco-Midland Hardware Company's International Sherlock Holmes Study Group**].

And of course the great Sherlockian newsletter *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, April 2003 (Peter E Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA; pblau@dgsys.com).

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