

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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Michael Cox alerts me to the death on 25 June, at the age of seventy-eight, of **Pieter Rogers**, producer of the 1982 Granada TV serial *Young Sherlock: The Mystery of the Manor House*. In the course of his career he was personal assistant to Joseph Losey and aide to George Devine and then to Laurence Olivier before breaking into television. Peter Blau reports the death on 12 May of the prolific and versatile author **Arthur Porges**, whose stories of Stately Holmes began publication in the 1950s.

Naxos AudioBooks (18 High Street, Welwyn, Herts. AL6 9EQ) have released the antepenultimate set in David Timson's recording of the complete Canon: *His Last Bow* — or as Naxos entitles it *Reminiscences of Sherlock Holmes (His Last Bow): The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge and other stories*. 'The Cardboard Box' was correctly reinstated in *The Memoirs*, so the current volume contains just seven stories. What stories they are, though, and what an opportunity for a first-class reader! Mr Timson makes the most of it; his intonation and timing are impeccable. His handling of the humour in 'Wisteria Lodge' is as precise as that of the tragedy of 'The Devil's Foot' and of the sheer excitement of 'The Bruce-Partington Plans'. That last is a favourite of mine, featuring as it does fog, espionage, the London Underground, Brother Mycroft, Inspector Lestrade, and Holmes and Watson on their best form. It lacks only Mrs Hudson. So when I encounter a particularly fine treatment of the story, I rejoice. My one quibble with this set is that, in 'His Last Bow', Von Herling and Von Bork speak to each other in German-accented English, a cliché that has, perhaps, had its day. But that's a minor point. Nicolas Soames's production is immaculate, David Timson provides full and pertinent notes, and the reading is enhanced by incidental music by Mendelssohn. I have no hesitation in recommending this grand six-CD set. And we still have *The Valley of Fear* and *The Casebook* to look forward to!

The Friends of Dr Watson (Nino Cirone, 31 Muswell Hill, Flat 2, London N10 2EB) have published a new monograph, *Gangsters and Gadabouts* by Tim Healey, priced at £6.00, €9.00 or \$12.00, postpaid. Cheques payable to Nino Cirone, please.

The Book People are currently offering the nine-volume Penguin edition of the complete Canon, plus Richard Lancelyn Green's excellent anthology *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, for just £9.99. You can buy on-line at www.thebookpeople.co.uk. Search for 'Sherlock Holmes Collection'.

Next month I hope to review *Holmes of the Raj* by Vithal Rajan, recently published by Writers Workshop (162/92 Lake Gardens, Kolkata 700 045, India) at 300 Rupees or \$6.50 plus postage. Dr Rajan says, 'This book is more about the Raj at the height of its power than about detection. It is deliberately written as an "Orientalist" piece of fiction, tongue in cheek, with Holmes and Watson appropriating to themselves leadership in several fields, from hockey to mathematics.'

Look under 'Sherlock Holmes' on www.amazon.co.uk or, better, on www.amazon.com and you'll find any number of new Holmes stories. As an example: *The Secret Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Paul E Heusinger (Authors To Believe In, c/o Lifevest Publishing Inc., 4901 E Dry Creek Road #170, Centennial, CO 80122, USA; \$14.95). 'These are the adventures of Holmes and Watson deemed too secret to be recorded. Although never written down by Dr John T Watson [*sic*] he did compose them nonetheless; by memorizing them, each one in turn, long enough for a mental telepathy, of sorts, to occur...' I don't think I'll be reviewing this one.

More new and forthcoming titles. *Sherlock Holmes on Screen*, the third, revised edition of Alan Barnes's invaluable reference guide (Reynolds & Hearn, 61A Priory Road, Kew Gardens, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3DH; 28 July; £17.99). *Oscar Slater: The Immortal Case of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* by Thomas Toughill (Sutton Publishing, Phoenix Mill, Thrupp, Stroud, Gloucs. GL5 2BU; 1 August; £10.99). [*Mr Toughill featured in the BBC4 documentary Conan Doyle for the Defence last Christmas.*] *Sherlock Holmes' Guide to Life* — quotations from the Canon (Vince Emery Productions, PO Box 460279, San Francisco, CA 94146, USA; 1 September; £11.50). *Evidence-based Medicine in Sherlock Holmes' Footsteps* by Jorgen Nordenstrom (Blackwell Publishing, 9600 Garsington Road, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2DQ; 31 October; £12.99). *Conan Doyle: Detective* by Peter Costello (Robinson Publishing, 3 The Lanchesters, 162 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 9ER; 12 October; £7.99). [*This may be a new edition of The Real World of Sherlock Holmes.*] *Sherlock in Shanghai: Stories of Crime and Detection* by Cheng Xiaoqing, translated by Timothy C Wong (University of Hawaii Press, 2840 Kolowalu Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, USA; November; £38.50 [paperback £16.95]). [*These tales of Huo Sang and Bao Lang were written in the 1920s, and consciously inspired by the adventures of Holmes and Watson.*] *Narcissism of Empire: Loss, Rage and Revenge in the Novels of Thomas De Quincey, Robert Louis Stevenson, Arthur Conan Doyle, Rudyard Kipling and Isak Dinesen* (Sussex Academic Press, PO Box 2950, Brighton BN2 5SP; December; £55.00 [paperback £17.95]).

There are new catalogues from **Nigel Williams Rare Books** (25 Cecil Court, London WC2N 4HE; nwrarebook@tcp.co.uk) and **Janus Books** (PO Box 40787, Tucson, AZ 85717, USA; http://janusbooks.com/unusual_SH.html).

Big things have happened within the past few weeks. The exhibition *Conan Doyle and Joseph Bell, the Real Sherlock Holmes* opened at the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (Surgeons' Hall, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh) on 5 July. It's open 10.00am - 4.00pm till 14 September. Charles Foley, Sir Arthur's great-nephew, visited the exhibition and met Dr Bell's great-grandson. While in Edinburgh, Charles also presented the manuscript of 'The Illustrious Client' to the National Library of Scotland, to whom it was bequeathed by Dame Jean Conan Doyle. [*Thanks to Dennis Collins for a report from The Dundee Courier.*]

On 15 July, Norman Lamb MP unveiled a Blue Plaque at the Hill House hotel at Happisburgh in Norfolk, commemorating Arthur Conan Doyle's visits there when it was owned by a member of the Cubitt family. Out of those visits came 'The Dancing Men'. The plaque was organised and sponsored by the *Eastern Daily Press* in conjunction with the Norwich School of Art & Design. Finally, an application for 'listed building consent' to convert Undershaw, the house that Conan Doyle had built for himself and his first wife and children at Hindhead, into apartments was withdrawn after protests by the Victorian Society, supported by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, the Baker Street Irregulars, the Arthur Conan Doyle Society and other interested groups. Conan Doyle's years at Undershaw (1897 - 1906) were among the most productive and significant of his life. Undershaw is the only surviving residence to retain important features installed by Conan Doyle himself, and the aim now is to get its listing upgraded to Grade I.

To the list of notable Holmesian chronologists can now be added the Swiss scholar **Vincent Delay**. Our Society would like to publish his

chronology in English (the fairly brief original is in French) but needs the services of a competent translator. If you're interested, please contact me.

The Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company (230 Baker Street, London NW1 5RT; phone 020 7486 1426) is running what amounts to a closing-down sale, as Marcelle and Justin expect to be out of the premises before the end of August.

Bob Byrne, whose website www.holmesonscreen.com is a must for the Sherlockian film fan, has learned that the National Film & Television Archive of the British Film Institute has copies on non-flammable stock of all forty-seven of Eille Norwood's Sherlock Holmes films, made by Stoll between 1921 and 1922. There are no plans to make them commercially available, but they can be viewed by students, academics and researchers at the Archive.

Andrew Baldwin notes that the 1954 television films with Ronald Howard and H Marion Crawford as Holmes and Watson are currently being shown on Sky's Bonanza channel (channel 165) at 10.00am and 7.00pm daily.

As promised, *Sherlock* has returned. Its title is now *Sherlock Magazine*, David Stuart Davies is back in the editor's chair, and the focus is once more on Sherlock Holmes [*hurrah!*]. Issue 67 features Paul Chapman on Holmes and the softer emotions; Richard Valley on *Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror*; M J Elliott on Mr Holmes and Dr Who; Mark Valentine on villains in the Canon; Matthew Booth on Holmes and justice; David Stuart Davies on the Reichenbach business; a grand new story by M J Elliott — and much besides. The presentation is glossy, colourful and professional. A single issue costs £3.95. A six-issue subscription is £23.70 UK; £35.00 Europe; £46.00 or \$70.00 rest of world; from Atlas Publishing Ltd, Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hants. BH25 6QJ (subs@sherlockholmes.com). The website is at www.sherlockholmes.com.

M J Elliott tells me that Murder One in London now stocks volumes 1 - 11 of *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* on CD. This is the American radio series from Imagination Theatre, to which Matthew Booth, John Hall and Matthew Elliott all contribute. The productions, very reminiscent of the great radio series of the 1940s, are also accessible at www.jimfrenchproductions.com. [*The third season of Bert Coules' similarly titled series, starring Clive Merrison and Andrew Sachs, will be broadcast next year by BBC Radio 4.*]

On 7 September Hodder & Stoughton Audio Books will release *The Sherlock Holmes Collection*, an eight-CD set of the radio plays by John Keir Cross, with John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson as Holmes and Watson (130 Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 4SB; £24.99).

The Metropolitan Police Crime Museum (the famous 'Black Museum') was reopened on 14 July after refurbishment. One of the new exhibits is *The Lighter Side of My Official Life* by Sir Robert Anderson, head of the CID at the time of the Whitechapel murders of 1888. This copy had belonged to ex-Superintendent Donald Swanson, who had charge of the investigation from 1 September to 6 October. His handwritten notes in the book enlarge on many of Anderson's references, notably naming the chief suspect as Aaron Kosminski. This is not actually news, though, as the 'Swanson marginalia' have been known for some twenty years. You'll find a good account in, for example, *The Jack the Ripper A to Z* by Paul Begg, Martin Fido and Keith Skinner (Headline, 1991). [*The Black Museum is not open to the public.*]

Goode Press, who published a lovely limited edition of *A Scandal in Bohemia* for Sidney Paget's 145th birthday, will mark his 146th with an online version, including all Paget's illustrations in full colour. The 'cyber-chapbook' is a cost-free, advertisement-free gift to the Sherlockian community, accessible at www.sidneypaget.com from 4 October. All rights and copyrights are reserved by Goode Press.

Bob Byrne is preparing the first annual edition of *The Solar Pons Gazette*, to be available at www.solarpons.com. This is excellent news for admirers of 'the Sherlock Holmes of Praed Street', especially as the last issue of *The Pontine Dossier*, journal of **The Praed Street Irregulars**, was published in 1977!

Simon Hall of **The Baker Street Fellowship** informs me that the Fellowship now has a website, at <http://221bbakerstreet.com> [*that's a suffix I haven't encountered before*].

Publications received. *The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection Lancelyn Green Bequest Newsletter*, Spring/Summer 2006 (Stephen Baily, Head of Culture, Portsmouth City Council, Civic Offices, Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth PO1 2AD; the website is at www.conandoylecollection.co.uk;

e-mail lancelyngreencollection@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) [*the introductory exhibition at Portsmouth City Museum runs till 24 September*].

Bohemian Newsletter no. 65 (České společnost Sherlocka Holmese, Aleš Kolodrubec, Milešovská 1, 130 00 Praha 3, Czech Republic). *The Camden House Journal*, June 2006 (**The Occupants of the Empty House**, Debbie Tinsley, PO Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999, USA). *Communication*, 'Special Spin Issue 2006' and July/August 2006 (**The Pleasant Places of Florida**, Wanda & Jeff Dow, 1737 Santa Anna Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698, USA). *The Confederate Chronicles*, July 18, 2006 (**The Confederates of Wisteria Lodge**, Kent Ross, 6875 Fielder, Rex, GA 30273, USA). *Explorations*, Spring 2006 (**The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota**, John Bergquist, 3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122, USA). *For the Sake of the Trust, For the Sake of the Trust*, Spring 2006 (**The Baker Street Irregulars Trust**, Julie McKuras, 13512 Granada Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124, USA) [*this is the Trust that administers the BSI Archives*]. *The Illustrious Clients News*, July 2006 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, IN 46077, USA). *Ineffable Twaddle*, July 2006 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 9832-8981, USA).

The Magic Door, Spring 2006 (**The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection**, Doug Wrigglesworth, 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, Ontario, Canada L9N 1H4) [*a Board of four has taken over editorial responsibilities from Peter Wood*]. *The Parallelogram*, June 2006 (**The Parallel Case of St Louis**, Joseph J Eckrich, 914 Oakmoor Drive, Fenton, MO 63026-7008, USA). *Practice Notes*, June 2006 (**The Friends of Dr Watson**, Nino Cirone, 31 Muswell Avenue, Flat 2, London N10 2EB). *Prescott's Press*, June 2006 (**The Three Garridebs**, Warren Randall, 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720-1346, USA). *Quivers on the Web*, July 2006 (**221B**, Philip Weller, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 6RU). *The Serpentine Muse*, Summer 2006 (**The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes**, Evelyn Herzog, 301 Warren Ave, #203, Baltimore, MD 21203, USA). *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*, summer 2006 [*but I trust you already knew about this*]. *Sherlockiana*, nr. 2-3, 2006 (**Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark**, Mia Stampe Lagergaard, Nivågade 3, 2. th., 2200 København n., Denmark). **3 Pipe Problem Plugs and Dottles**, April-June 2006 and July 2006 (**The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem**, Kay Blocker, 5017 Maywood Drive, Nashville, TN 37211, USA pkblocker@comcast.net).

And *Scuttlebutt from the Spermacti Press*, June 2006 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; blau7103@comcast.net).

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