

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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The Society has responded to a message of greeting from Tomoka Sakihara, director of business planning and marketing for Kobe Ijinkan in Japan. In Kitano-cho on the edge of the port of Kobe about twenty western-style houses remain of the hundred built a century ago by European and American merchants. The English House is actually a hundred years old this year, which ties in nicely with the 120th anniversary of *A Study in Scarlet*, so a re-creation of the Baker Street sitting-room will be opened in the English House on 7 October. For more about the Ijinkan area of Kobe, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kitano-cho%C5%8D>.

This is a remarkable year for Holmesian and Doylean studies. In the next DM I'll review the two major new biographical works, *Arthur Conan Doyle: A Life in Letters*, edited by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower and Charles Foley (HarperPress, Westerhill Road, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow G64 0QT; 17 September, £25.00), and *Conan Doyle: The Man Who Created Sherlock Holmes* by Andrew Lycett (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, Orion House, 5 Upper St Martin's Lane, London WC2H 9EA; 6 September, £20.00). Meanwhile you can win a copy of *A Life in Letters* by answering a question that's posted on our Society's website at [www.sherlockholmes.org.uk](http://www.sherlockholmes.org.uk) and at Westminster Libraries' Sherlock Holmes Collection site [www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries/special/sherlock.cfm](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries/special/sherlock.cfm). You can send answers to [arthurconandoyle@harpercollins.co.uk](mailto:arthurconandoyle@harpercollins.co.uk).

Andrew Lycett will be speaking about his book at Daunt Books at 83 Marylebone High Street at 7.00pm on 13 September (phone 020 7224 2295 or e-mail [talks@dauntbooks.co.uk](mailto:talks@dauntbooks.co.uk) for tickets). Then he'll be at various literary festivals: Henley on 21 September, Ilkley on 4 October, Cheltenham on 7 October, Lichfield on 12 October, Beverly on 13 October, Guildford on 18 October. On 25 October he'll be at Toronto Public Library, on 7 November at the British Library, on 20 November at the Authors Club, and on 21 November at the National Liberal Club, where he'll give the Richard Lancelyn Green Lecture to our own Society.

Talking of which — Judi Ellis (13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU) is accepting orders now for *To Keep the Memory Green: Reflections on the Life of Richard Lancelyn Green, 1953-2004*, edited by Steven Rothman & Nicholas Utechin (The Quartering Press, 1 October). This joint publication by **The Sherlock Holmes Society of London** and **The Baker Street Irregulars** features contributions by June Lancelyn Green, Douglas Wilmer, Owen Dudley Edwards, Doug Wrigglesworth, Christopher Frayling, Marina Stajic, John Michael Gibson and others. The regular edition costs £17.50 postpaid within the UK, £20.00 or €30.00 to Europe, and £22.50 or \$45.00 elsewhere. The limited edition (signed by Nick Utechin, Steve Rothman, Douglas Wilmer, Michael Whelan and Guy Marriott) is: £40.00 postpaid within the UK, £42.00 or €63.00 to Europe, and £45.00 or \$90.00 elsewhere. (The book will also be available from The Baker Street Irregulars, 2 Dettling Road, Maynard, MA 01754, USA; [email@bakerstreetjournal.com](mailto:email@bakerstreetjournal.com).)

The title of *Ladies, Ladies: The Women in the Life of Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Patricia Guy & Katherine Karlson (Aventine Press, 1023 4th Avenue #204, San Diego, CA 92101, USA; \$11.95) indicates immediately to the cognoscenti that this delightful slim volume owes its being to **The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes** — though it's not an official ASH publication, nor is it as thin a book as I've implied. The 136 pages contain stimulating articles by notable Adventuresses, including M E Rich, Mickey Fromkin, Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves and Evelyn Herzog, along with some of

Dorothy Belle Pollack's witty verse. There are also contributions from well-known male Sherlockians Grant Eustace, Enrico Solito and Philip Shreffler, and some from names new to me — Edmund D Cane, Rita D Scribner, Mike Brosnan, and, er, Mlle Vernet. The essays are good-natured, often incisive, and necessarily wide-ranging, since the ladies of the Canon match Dr Watson's 'women on three different continents' (one of whom, if we are to believe Marilyn MacGregor, shared the rooms at 221B — and I'm not talking about Mrs Hudson, whose case is separately examined by Catherine Cooke). There are snippets of relevant information about clothing, food and drink, Italians in America, and *the* woman on the screen (in the 1921 Stoll production of *A Scandal in Bohemia* she was renamed Irene Adair, but 'sexy' isn't how I'd describe Joan Beverly's performance). And I love the way in which the book is illustrated, not with pictures but with contemporary Music Hall songs, including of course 'The Ghost of Sherlock Holmes' and the less familiar 'Sherlock Holmes, DT'. All profits from *Ladies, Ladies* will be divided between the Doctor Watson Fund and the British Music Hall Society.

Like James McLevy's in Edinburgh, Allan Pinkerton's accounts in *The Pinkerton Casebook: Adventures of the Original Private Eye* (edited by Bruce Durie: Mercat Press, 10 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AL; £9.99) are surely recast for dramatic effect by a ghost-writer — or more likely several, given the volume of work published under Pinkerton's name between 1874, after his recovery from a stroke, until *Thirty Years a Detective* in 1884, the year of his death. But what a career he had! From poverty and radicalism in Glasgow to strike-breaking in the USA, taking in the foiling of an attempt on President Lincoln's life, the founding of the American Secret Service during the Civil War, and the establishment of the world's most successful private detective agency, this American Secret Service during the Civil War, and the establishment of the world's most successful private detective agency, this fascinating collection shows us a world that's both familiar and unfamiliar. Here, unmistakably, is the America of Dashiell Hammett — not surprisingly, as Hammett had been a Pinkerton operative — and so that of all subsequent tough but intelligent private eyes of fiction, though the style is both more florid and more stilted (McLevy, oddly enough, is closer to the lean, literate prose of Hammett). There's less in common with the world of Sherlock Holmes — except that the best of the novels, *The Valley of Fear*, was inspired by the exploits of a Pinkerton agent, James McParlan, in infiltrating and breaking the Mollie Maguires. But you won't find that story in this book. Perhaps Mercat Press might consider reprinting Pinkerton's book *The Mollie Maguires and the Detectives*?

Ian McQueen, author of that excellent book *Sherlock Holmes Detected: The Problems of the Long Stories*, has for sale a first edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, which he says is 'about as pristine as you will find'. If you're interested, please drop him a line at 55 Albany, Manor Road, Bournemouth BH1 3EJ (phone 01202 292058). Current dealers' catalogues suggest that you should be thinking in terms of £500 or so.

Jeff Falkingham's 2001 novel *Sherlock Holmes and the County Courthouse Caper* 'tells the story of Browns Valley's frontier days, from the town's founding in the 1860s to the Traverse County Seat War in 1887'. This year the town was devastated by floods, and Beaver's Pond Press has published a special limited edition of the book to raise money for the relief fund. Copies are available for a donation of \$17.00 or more plus \$3.00 shipping (more, presumably,

to non-US addresses) from BV Flood Relief, PO Box 307, Browns Valley, MN 56219, USA.

Michael Mallory reports that 'The Singularity Society of London', his new Amelia Watson story (I enjoyed his books *The Adventures of the Second Mrs Watson* and *Murder in the Bath*) is available as an Amazon Short for 49¢. Go to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and enter the name Michael Mallory.

Fans of the Devil Doctor will be interested to know that artist and writer Michael McQuary is 'reinventing' Dr Fu Manchu! Take a look at [www.michaelmcquary.com](http://www.michaelmcquary.com) — there's some remarkable and curious artwork there. Mr M aims to bring pulp fiction art into a new age and is working on a book of new Fu Manchu stories.

Gael Stahl has received a flyer for *Eye of the Crow* by 'acclaimed author' Shane Peacock (Tundra Books, 11 September; Cdn\$24.99). The strapline is, 'The Boy Sherlock Holmes — His 1st Case.' See [www.tundrabooks.com](http://www.tundrabooks.com).

Ian McQueen has kindly sent a copy of 'The Mysterious Case of the Viennese Poste Restante', a fascinating and unexpected historical investigation by Keith Brandon, in the form of a conversation between Holmes and Watson. It's taken from the Autumn 2006 issue of *Austria*, the journal of the Austrian Philatelic Society (Andy Taylor, 10 Eastfields, Stokeley, North Yorks. TS9 5EJ).

From 30 August 2007 to 30 September 2008 the **Swiss Post Office** offers a set of stamps designed by the British artist James Peel, representing Switzerland as seen by classic English writers. CHF0.85 is the Mönch and Mary Shelley's Frankenstein; CHF1.00 is Lauterbrunnen and Wordsworth's 'At Staubach Falls'; CHF1.30 is Lac Lemán and Byron's 'The Prisoner of Chillon'; and CHF1.80 is Reichenbachfall and 'The Final Problem'.

Peter Steiler the Younger (Ferdinand Salverda) offers members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London a 20% reduction (room, bed & breakfast, or half-board) and a free room upgrade if possible, at the Parkhotel du Sauvage (Englischer Hof), CH-3860 Meiringen, Switzerland. Accommodation must be booked in advance, by letter, phone (0041 33 971 4141), or e-mail ([info@sauvage.ch](mailto:info@sauvage.ch)).

The Malvern Theatre Players are putting on Simon Williams' play *The Hound of the Baskervilles* at the **Festival Theatre** (Malvern Theatres, Grange Road, Great Malvern, Worcs. WR14 3HB; 01684 892277) from 5 to 8 September. There's more information at [www.malvern-theatres.co.uk](http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk).

Illyria's open-air production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is reaching the end of its tour. Dates for September are: 1 **Weston Park**, Shifnal (01952 852100); 2, **Rufford Old Hall**, Ormskirk (01704 821254); 5 **Fulham Palace**, London (020 7736 3233); 6 **Cockington Court**, Torquay (01803 606035); 7 **Chepstow Castle** (01291 625981); 8 **Lyme Park**, Disley (0870 428 8934). See also [www.illyria.uk.com](http://www.illyria.uk.com).

*Sherlock Stock and Barrel* by Cenarth Fox is playing at **Clayton Auditorium**, Cooke Street, Clayton, Victoria, Australia (phone 0500 842 538) on 6, 7 and 8 September. Rather different from Cen's earlier play *The Real Sherlock Holmes*, this one offers '25 Sherlockian stories in a laughter-filled night of comedy', '5 actors play 73 roles', and 'sparkling songs'. The play is available to tour and will be on sale as a DVD. See [www.foxplays.com](http://www.foxplays.com).

New York choreographer Merete Muentner informs me of another musical, *Sherlock Holmes – The Early Years*, to be staged at **The Theater at St Clements** as part of the New York Musical Theatre Festival 2007, on September 24, 25 & 30, and October 3, 5 & 6. 'Thrilling adventures abound in this mysteriously-romantic comedy complete with dancing bobbies!' Interestingly, it's an Anglo-American venture, with the book by Kate Ferguson & Robert Hudson, and lyrics by Susannah Pearse — all Londoners. Music is by New Yorker Jared M Dembowski. Check the website at [www.nymf.org/Show-117.html](http://www.nymf.org/Show-117.html).

Nick Utechin seems busier than ever after vacating the editor's chair at the SHJ. He's recorded four Sherlock Holmes stories on CD for Antony Richards' Baker Street Studios (Endeavour House, 170 Woodland Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4DX). Jolly good they are too! The company had its origins in the now-dormant **Irregular**

**Special Railway Company**, and most of its recordings have railway connection. In *The Norwood Builder* it's the fact that Jonas Oldacre drafted his will on a suburban train. *The Pullman Blackmailer* and *The Pullman Recluse* by Richard Stannoy are out-and-out railway stories, based on murder mysteries devised by Antony Richards for the Irregular Special Players. The exception is *A Death at the Cricket* by Eddie Maguire, in which Holmes and Watson are briefly reunited with Young Stamford. The three non-canonical tales are neatly plotted and well written. I need hardly say that all four are very well read. Nick is a radio presenter of many years' experience, and it shows. He's an engaging storyteller with a pleasing voice. The CDs cost £4.00, €8.00 or \$10.00 each, post-paid There's a website at [www.baker-street-studios.com](http://www.baker-street-studios.com).

Charles Hall (12 Paisley Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 7JW) offers Sherlockian postcards and Christmas cards, with bright colourful cartoon illustrations by Ian M Fraser. £5.50 will get you 5 different Christmas cards with envelopes, 3 different Christmas postcards, and 6 different postcards. For £6.50 you get 10 Christmas cards. Prices include postage.

In 1993 **Peter Tuddenham** played Inspector Martin in Granada TV's *The Dancing Men* — a waste of his authentic East Anglian accent, as the story was relocated from Norfolk to Derbyshire. Best known as the voice of the computers in *Blake's 7*, though his finest hour was as the voice of Old Tom in Peter Hall's Akenfield, he died on 9 July aged eighty-eight. **John Gardner**, who died on 3 August aged eighty, said, 'I feel I'm probably going to be remembered as the "guy who took over from Fleming", but the James Bond novels were really a minor part of his considerable output. *The Return of Moriarty* and *The Revenge of Moriarty* were well received in the mid-1970s, but he didn't complete the third volume, provisionally called *The Redemption of Moriarty*, till just before his death. In 1988 he was invested into the Baker Street Irregulars as 'Moriarty'. **Melville Shavelson** began his career writing gags for Bob Hope, and went on to become a prolific writer-director-producer. He wrote a good script for the TV movie *The Great Houdinis*, and Paul Michael Glaser was well cast as Harry Houdini, but Peter Cushing was quite wrong as Arthur Conan Doyle. Mel Shavelson died on 8 August aged ninety. **W F Deedes** — Lord Deedes — was a Fleet Street legend. The only Briton to have been editor of a national newspaper and a Cabinet minister, he gained a secondary fame through his friendship with Denis Thatcher and the spoof 'Dear Bill' letters in *Private Eye*. In 1992 he was the amiable and erudite Guest of Honour at our Society's 40th anniversary dinner. He died on 18 August aged 94, and his last unfinished piece for the Daily Telegraph had a Holmesian twist. The antiquarian bookseller **Madeleine B Stern** died on 25 August aged ninety-five. Her major contribution to Sherlockian scholarship is her 1953 book *Sherlock Holmes: Rare Book Collector*.

Periodicals received. *The Camden House Journal*, August 2007 (**The Occupants of the Empty House**, Debbie Tinsley, PO Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999, USA). *The Illustrious Clients News*, August 2007 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, IN 46077, USA). *Ineffable Twaddle*, August 2007 and September 2007 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 9832-8981, USA). *Irregular Newsletter*, August 2007 (**The Conan Doyle [Crowborough] Establishment**, Brian Pugh, 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN). *Mayday Mayday* and *The Look Out*, September 2007 (**The Crew of the SS May Day**, Oscar Ross, 19 Ardarn Way, Belfast BT5 7RP). *Musgraves Matters* no. 2 (**The Musgraves**, Rafe McGregor, 62 Willow Park Road, Wilberfoss, York YO41 5PS; [musgravesmatters@aol.com](mailto:musgravesmatters@aol.com)). *The School Report*, Autumn 2007 (**The Priory Scholars**, Horace L Coates, 21 Butcombe Road, Leicester LE4 0FY).

And *Scuttlebutt from the Spermacti Press*, July 2007 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; [blau7103@comcast.net](mailto:blau7103@comcast.net)).

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