The answer to the AudioGO Casebook competition: the stories not narrated by Dr Watson are, of course ‘The Mazarin Stone’, ‘The Blanched Soldier’ and ‘The Lion’s Mane’. M C Black, Anders Odensten, John Bergquist and Gael Stahl, whose names were picked at random from the correct entries, will each receive a copy of The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes, read unabridged by Derek Jacobi. Thanks again to AudioGO, who have generously donated these prizes! (The full catalogue is on the AudioGO website at www.audigo.co.uk.)

The future of Undershaw, where Conan Doyle wrote The Hound of the Baskervilles and The Return of Sherlock Holmes, is still uncertain. Much will depend on the outcome of the judicial review at the High Court in London on 23 May – the day after Conan Doyle’s 153rd birthday. To follow the progress and to support the campaign of the Undershaw Preservation Trust, check the website at www.saveundershaw.com/.

The Baker Street Babes’ Sherlock Holmes Grand Meet-Up on 21 April will include a Sherlock Holmes Costumed Tour led by Rebecca (a generous benefactor will donate £100 to The Undershaw Preservation Trust for campaign expenses if at least ten people join her – http://anotherbohemiansoul.tumblr.com/post/20364390792/so-ive-been-wanting-to-host-a-costumed-walk-for) and a Flash Mob Freeze in Trafalgar Square at 2.00pm to promote the Undershaw campaign (http://bakerstreetbabes.tumblr.com/post/20593011104/rsvp-for-this-meet-up-at-http-bl-v-sharpj).

You can also support the campaign by buying from the Save Undershaw Shop at www.saveundershawshop.com/index.html.

Michael Procter has discovered the notes for Holmes’s most controversial monograph, which he’s edited and published as an attractive 48-page chapbook, Melancholia in Music: The Posthumous Motets of Orlandus Lassus (Edition Michael Procter, Ringstr. 11, D-76356 Weingarten, Germany; www.Edition-MP.com; EditionMP@aol.com; €8.50 plus postage, also available as a printable pdf file €3.00). Some have dismissed the monograph as fictional, claiming that the subject as named by Watson (‘the Polyphonic Motets of Lassus’) is tautological, or that Holmes could never have heard the motets. Mr Procter shows these ideas to be erroneous and, no less significantly, considers just what it was about these works that commended them to Sherlock Holmes. This is an outstanding contribution to Holmesian scholarship.

Who are PC Pollack, and Dr Ferrier? Who lived in Potter’s Terrace, and who went to Eton? Molly Carr’s new book A Sherlock Holmes Who’s Who (MX Publishing, www.mxpublishing.co.uk; £12.99 / $19.99 / €14.99) is already proving a very valuable source of information about people as well as places, though I’m not sure why some of the former, such as Oscar Meunier and Arthur H Staunton, are banished to ‘Part Three (Props)’, especially as Staunton also appears in ‘Part One (People)’. The information provided for each entry is concise and helpful.

Sherlockian Picture Puzzles: A Monograph on Elliot Keen’s 1905 Illustrations by John Addy (The Musgraves, Anne Jordan, Hallas Lodge, Greenside Lane, Cullingworth, Bradford BD13 5AP; £7.50 UK/£10.00 Europe/$25.00 USA & Canada/ $30.00 or £15.00 elsewhere; prices include postage) will introduce you to a little-known series of splendid non-canonical drawings that appeared in various American newspapers, clearly influenced by Frederic Dor Steel. It will also exercise your brain! After John Addy’s introduction, twelve of the puzzles are reproduced, with answers and notes. The booklet brings to light a hidden treasure.

I loved Dan Andreacchio’s first novel about Sebastian McCabe and Jeff Cody, and I’m delighted to recommend the second, which has a curiously topical touch. Holmes Sweet Holmes (MX Publishing; £10.99 / $18.99 / €12.99) concerns the murder of Peter Gerard, writer, director and star of 221B Bourbon Street, which reimagines Sherlock Holmes as a jazz-playing American in 1920s New Orleans. The film is a hit, but some Sherlockian fundamentalists have sent hate mail. Did an angry Sherlockian break in to St Benignus College and kill Gerard? And how could Gerard be murdered twice? The characters are engaging, the plot is cunning, and the writing is literate and witty. This is classy stuff!

In The Secret Journal of Dr Watson (MX Publishing; £10.99 / $18.95 / €12.99) Phil Growick tells of Holmes and Watson’s most dangerous mission. In 1918, at the personal request of King George, they risk their lives to save those of the King’s cousins, the deposed Tsar Nicholas II and his family. On their journey deep into a Russia torn by violent revolution, they discover that friend and foe alike have their own agendas; even their most trustworthy helper, a Colonel in the secret police, is not what he seems. More dangerous even than the Reds and the Whites are the unknowns who want the Romanovs and their rescuers dead. The drama is exotic but the characters and events exude authenticity, and despite the occasional stylistic infelicity (notably the consistent use of ‘shall’ for ‘will’), the narrative carries you along like an express train.

Sherlock Holmes and the Dead Boer at Scotney Castle by Tim Symonds (MX Publishing; £11.99 / £18.95 / €13.99) also involves political conspiracy, but in quite different circumstances. In 1904 the invitation to speak to the exclusive Kipling League at a Sussex country house has unexpected consequences for Holmes and Watson. Holmes suspects that the lecture was arranged to provide an alibi for the murder at nearby Undershaw, but uncovering the truth stretches his powers to the limit as the killers have learned more from him than he supposed – and the Kipling League’s schemes, like those of Baron Maupertuis, are colossal. It’s an engrossing tale, well told.

In Sherlock Holmes & the Mayfair Murders by David Britland (Breese Books, www.breesebooks.com; £7.50 / $18.50 / €12.50) three young women have been slaughtered in a highly respectable part of London. There are fears that Jack the Ripper is back and has turned his attention to the West End, but rather than consult Sherlock Holmes the police turn to the specious Dr Karl Schermann. Holmes solves a sly theft and exposes a counterfeiting racket – and then another girl is murdered. Holmes triumphs in the end, but only after he’s revealed the true nature of Dr Schermann.

The novels of Larry Millett, dealing with Holmes and Watson’s exploits in the USA, haven’t been published here despite their deserved popularity in America. Fortunately they’re being reprinted by the University of Minnesota Press (www.upress.umn.edu) and are easily available from Amazon and other sources. In Sherlock Holmes and the Rune Stone Mystery, Holmes’s investigation, on behalf of the King of Sweden, of a reported Viking inscription unearthed in rural Minnesota involves him and Watson in theft and murder. (The authenticity of the Kensington Rune Stone and other alleged Viking artefacts is still debated.) The Disappearance of Sherlock Holmes sees Holmes in pursuit of Abe Slaney, who has returned, apparently from the dead, to abduct Elsie Cubitt, and is masquerading as the detective. The chase takes Holmes and Watson to Chicago, Slaney’s home territory. In both cases, the assistance of the smiling sherlockian genius loci is outstanding.

Opening at random The Iron Mausoleum: A Case of Sherlock Holmes and the Titanic by Stephen Lees (no publisher named; £6.99 from Amazon) I found Holmes telling Watson that Charlie Peace was an art faker and a con artist. ‘When the Titanic struck the iceberg, the master had taken them into his ship and sold them as pearls…’ The film is a hit, but uncovering the truth stretches his powers to the limit as the killers have learned more from him than he supposed – and the Kipling League’s schemes, like those of Baron Maupertuis, are colossal. It’s an engrossing tale, well told.

David Britland's novel Sherlock Holmes & the Mayfair Murders is still available in the UK, USA and Europe. The audiobook version, read by Stephen Thorne, was released in 2017. The novel follows Holmes and Watson as they investigate the murder of a young woman in Mayfair, London, and uncover a web of intrigue and danger. The story is set in the early 20th century and features the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson as they work together to solve the mystery. The novel is a thrilling mystery that fans of the classic detective will enjoy.
and photographs by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, edited by Leslie S Klinger ($19.95) and the CD Starring Speaks: The Lost Recordings – recordings of Vincent Starrett ($12.95). They’ll be reviewed in the next issue, as probably, will two new titles from MX: Sherlock Holmes & the Whitechapel Vampire by Dean Turnbullock ($10.99 / $18.95 / $12.99) and The Detective and the Woman by Amy Thomas (the first novel from the Baker Street Babes; £9.99).

An unabridged reading by the remarkably versatile David Ian Davies of Daniel Ward’s thriller Sherlock Holmes: The Way of All Flesh is now available from www.audible.co.uk, Amazon, and other sources.


In The Pathology Museum at St Bartholomew’s Hospital on 27 June Alistair Duncan will give a lecture entitled ‘A Study in Bart’s: Sherlock Holmes, John Watson and England’s Great Hospital’. Tickets are available free at http://sherlocksoociety.eventbrize.co.uk/

The Oldham Coliseum’s production of The Hound of the Baskervilles by Clive Francis is currently touring. It’ll be at the Theatre Royal, Windsor from 30 April to 5 May (01753 853888; www.theroyalwindsor.co.uk). The production is highly recommended by David Jones.

The Veni Vidi Company’s production of The Hound of the Baskervilles by Simon Williams, presented as a 1930s radio broadcast, returns to Theatre Technis (26 Crowndale Road, London NW1 1TT) from 30 April to 12 May. Tickets from 07938 995 825 or www.venividitheatre.com. I saw this production last year and was greatly impressed.

Cardiff Players’ production of The Hound of the Baskervilles by Tim Kelly will be at the Mike Barlow YMCA Theatre (The Walk, Cardiff CF24 3AG) from 9 to 11 May. Tickets are available from 01622 865989 or cardiffplayers@hotmail.com.

Sell a Door Theatre Company’s production of The Hound of the Baskervilles by Tim Kelly will be at the Greenwich Theatre 2 to 8 July (020 8858 7755; http://ticketing.greenwichtheatre.org.uk/Default.aspx).

And the Peepolykus production of The Hound of the Baskervilles by John Nicholson and Steve Canny has been recorded, with the original cast, before an audience and will be broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in May.

The Lenfilms production of The Hound of the Baskervilles, with Vasily Livanov and Vitaly Solomin will be released on Region 2 DVD by Mr Bongo (www.mrbongo.com). (Thanks to Robin Rowles.)

Dave Marsh is looking to raise $55,000 investment to launch the classic Sherlock Holmes, Consulting Detective game in a form that can be played on mobile devices. If you’re interested and have money to invest, see www.kickstarter.com/projects/1920171553/sherlock-holmes-consulting-detective-adventure-mys.

Michael Cox notes that Catherine Manoukian has recorded a CD called Chopin on Violin for Marquis Classics (www.marquisclassics.com), though it doesn’t include the F minor Nocturne, which was Guy Warrack’s candidate for ‘that little thing of Chopin’s’ that Norman-Neruda played.

At www.beachyhead.org.uk/latest/2012/01/did-sherlock-holmes-retire-near-beachy-head/ you’ll find an article about Holmes’s chosen area of retirement and a link to a map of the Sherlock Holmes Walk.

Last month it was announced that after 244 years the Encyclopaedia Britannica will no longer be published in print. Future editions will be available on-line only. Despite the name, the Britannica has been an American institution since 1901.

Interested in meeting other Scandalomaniacs to talk Sherlock in the north of England? Come along to an informal lunchtime social gathering of Scandalomaniacs in a Victorian hostelry in Leeds on Saturday 12 May. Join David Stuart Davies, Kathryn White and their Good Comrades Matthew Booth, Paul Chapman, Teresa Dudley and John Hall to help shape a Bohemian future. Fun, scholarship, and conviviality guaranteed. For more details, contact Kathryn and David at: overdale@btinternet.com or check the website at www.scandalomaniacs.co.uk.

If you search the web for The Poor Folk Upon the Moors you’re likely to find an inactive website. The up-to-date and active www.poorfolk.co.uk is the one to go to. And there’s another change. After nine years, Reggie Musgrave has stepped down as Editor of The Torr, the post now occupied by Stephan Arthur (stephan.arthur@gmx.ch).

The Sydney94 also have a new editor. Erin O’Neill has taken over the reins of The Passengers’ Log from Rosane McNamara, who now supervises the layout.

Following the success of the two Great Sherlock Holmes Debates, the third, 4August, will be part of the first Sherlock Holmes Week, 31 July to 5 August. The Holmesian world has evolved rapidly with the emergence of virtual societies and the rise of lively, intelligent groups inspired originally by BBC TV’s Sherlock and Guy Ritchie’s films. Sherlock Holmes Week will be an opportunity for Holmesians throughout the world to boost our image and our numbers – and have fun. See the website at www.sherlockholmesweek.com/index.html.


Our colleague and friend Pamela Bruxner died on 28 March, aged seventy-seven. From 1988 to 2005, while serving as the Society’s Meetings Secretary, Pam also edited nine of our Expedition Handbooks and wrote two plays for us. In 1998 she was invested into the Baker Street Irregulars as ‘The British Government’, in 2003 she became an Honorary Member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and in 2006 she was the third recipient of the Tony Howlett Award. Pam was a fixed point in a changing age.

As an actor, Richard Carpenter played Arthur Holder to Douglas Wilmer’s Holmes in The Beryl Coronet on BBC TV in 1964. As a writer, he created two adventures for BBC TV’s The Baker Street Boys in 1983. His dream of casting Bernard Archard as the elderly Holmes was not to be fulfilled. Richard Carpenter died on 26 February, aged eighty-two.

Periodicals received.


And Seattleblatt from the Spermaceti Press, March 2012 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; blau7103@comcast.net).

Roger Johnson