

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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This is **Sherlock Holmes Week**, whose main aim is to raise public awareness of the Save Undershaw campaign. The first battle has been won but much remains to do. See [www.saveundershaw.com/](http://www.saveundershaw.com/), and note the competition to choose the best contribution to the book *Sherlock's Home: The Empty House*, published by MX Publishing, ([www.mxpublishing.co.uk/engine/shop/index.html](http://www.mxpublishing.co.uk/engine/shop/index.html) - if you haven't got a copy then buy one! proceeds go to the Save Undershaw campaign). Secondary aims of Sherlock Holmes Week are to spread the word about Holmes and Conan Doyle, to increase communication between Holmesians, and to have fun. To see what's going on this week check [www.sherlockholmesweek.com/index.html](http://www.sherlockholmesweek.com/index.html) and <http://mxpublishing.tumblr.com/post/28042646401/dozens-of-events-worldwide-for-sherlock-holmes-week>. There are events in, I think, eight different countries, culminating in the third Great Sherlock Holmes Debate on Saturday 4 August.

AudioGO rounds off its complete recording of the Sherlock Holmes canon, with the four long stories, *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Sign of the Four*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Valley of Fear*, all superbly read by **Derek Jacobi** ([www.audiogo.com/uk](http://www.audiogo.com/uk), £15.00 each but reduced prices are available). It's a pleasure to be reminded just how good Conan Doyle's narrative and dialogue *sounds*. It's more formal than today's norm, but never stuffy or pretentious. Sir Derek is one of our great vocal actors. Every character is distinct, with no straining for effect, and he knows just when to let the words do the work. This complete Sherlock Holmes is a magnificent achievement, ranking with David Timson's wonderful readings for Naxos, and it confirms my opinion that *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is the greatest of the long stories, but *The Valley of Fear* is inarguably the best.

The death of Jack Stapleton, alias Vandeleur, alias Baskerville, is presumed, not stated as fact. In *The Baskerville Inheritance* by **Teresa Collard** (Collard, £7.99 - available from [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)) we learn that he did not perish in the Grimpen Mire, and that he still intends to destroy his cousin Sir Henry Baskerville. But Sherlock Holmes faces another challenge: the arrest of his brother Mycroft for treason proves to be just one move in a deadly plot to overthrow the Queen and place her grandson the Kaiser on the British throne. The trail takes Holmes and Watson to the heart of Government, to the Diogenes Club, to a rather more sinister establishment, the Hanover Club, and to Dartmoor Prison, where the two investigations intersect. Not only must Holmes foil the now insane Stapleton: he has to defeat a still more dangerous foe, one Professor James Moriarty. *The Baskerville Inheritance* is a real page-turner. It grabs your interest from the first page and keeps you absorbed to the very last.

*Sherlock Holmes: The Army of Dr Moreau* by **Guy Adams** (Titan Books, [www.titanbooks.com](http://www.titanbooks.com); £7.99) is likewise well written, with obvious knowledge and affection. Few of Conan Doyle's contemporaries are still read for pure pleasure, but among them, surely, is H G Wells. The title of this new novel tells us that its main influence is *The Island of Dr Moreau*, Wells's tale of a megalomaniac attempt by surgery to create human beings from living animals. What Wells didn't say was that Moreau was working under the auspices of the British government, and that Mycroft Holmes knew it. As in *The*

*Breath of God*, Mr Adams draws on more than one source. Sherlock Holmes's investigation into a series of literally bestial killings is variously helped or hindered by Professor Challenger, Professor Lindenbrook (*Journey to the Centre of the Earth*), Mr Cavor (*The First Men in the Moon*) and Abner Perry (*At the Earth's Core*). The result is a rich plum-pudding of good scary fun.

Things are rather less fantastical in *Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Poisoned Lilly* by **Roger Riccard** (The Irregular Special Press, [www.crime4u.com](http://www.crime4u.com); £7.50). Lillian Fields, under the stage name of Loraine Fontaine, is a beautiful and successful actress- and she has an unknown and deadly enemy. Fortunately she also has a good friend in Mary Watson, who justifies Holmes's comment: 'I think she is one of the most charming young ladies I ever met and might have been most useful in such work as we have been doing. She had a decided genius that way' - which should please readers who regret that Mrs Watson disappears so quickly from the canon. In Mr Riccard's clever plot Holmes and Watson encounter Henry Irving and Leo Dryden backstage at the Lyceum Theatre, visit Bart's Hospital and the National Rose Society at St Albans, and meet the female detective Loveday Brooke at Scotland Yard.

*The London of Sherlock Holmes* by **John Christopher** (Amberley Publishing, [www.amberley-books.com](http://www.amberley-books.com), £14.99) is a handsome and splendidly illustrated book. The text is pithy, if shallow and with several persistent misspellings ('Mary Morston', 'Sydney Paget', 'Cadogen West'). Still, that could be forgiven if it weren't for the numerous careless errors. Baron von Herling wasn't 'an alias for Sherlock Holmes'. Holmes did use an outdated term when he spoke of going to Doctors' Commons, but that institution was in Knightbridge Street in the City, not in Lambeth. In 'Silver Blaze', Holmes and Watson don't return from Dartmoor to Victoria Station: they're coming back from Winchester races. The Sherlock Holmes Museum wasn't 'granted a change' of address 'to the out-of-sequence 221B number in 1990'. Its address is still 239 Baker Street - the '221B' on the door being the name of a company set up for the purpose. (It's a pity Mr Christopher didn't consult the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.) This is an attractive book, but *caveat lector*.

*How Sherlock Holmes Deduced 'Break the Case Clues' on the BTK Killer, the Son of Sam, Unabomber and Anthrax Cases: With Analysis on the Mad Bomber and the Unsolved LI Gilgo Beach Murders* (iUniverse, [www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com), \$13.95) - it's a very long title for a book that isn't very long but is quite fascinating. The author, **Tom Walker**, is both a retired NYPD Captain of Detectives and a long-time Sherlockian who won \$32,000 answering questions on Holmes on a TV quiz show. The cases covered here - not in gruesome medical detail - are not, with the exception of 'Son of Sam', ones that he was directly involved in during his police career. Mr Walker says: 'Let me study the clues on paper - the letters sent, the information on the bomb, the return addresses on the envelopes, the telephone conversations that might have been taped, the clues found at the scene by the assigned detectives, etc.' If that makes him a Mycroft, remember that Mycroft was even more brilliant than Sherlock. These accounts demonstrate the value of what you might call armchair detection - and who'd have suspected a connection between *Portrait of Jennie* and the 'Anthrax Killer'?

*Raffles: The Complete Innings* collects into one e-book the several stories written by **Richard Foreman** and continuing the exploits of the 'gentleman thief'. If you enjoy E W Hornung's original tales then

you'll probably like these, especially as Holmes and Watson play a significant part. (Endeavour Press, [www.endeavourpress.com](http://www.endeavourpress.com), £5.99).

*Sherlock Holmes and the Giessbach Fall* by **Helmi Sigg** is available in both German and English in one volume from Agentur Helmi Sigg at <http://agentur.helmisigg.ch/node/22> (sfr22 plus postage).

In the next issue I'll review *Doctoring the Novel: Medicine and Quackery from Shelley to Doyle* by **Sylvia A Pamboukian** (Ohio University Press, [www.ohioswallow.com](http://www.ohioswallow.com), \$39.96) and *The Autobiography of Sherlock Holmes* edited by **Don Libey** (Campbell & Lewis, [www.libeybooks.com](http://www.libeybooks.com), \$15.00). A few others too, probably.

But I don't expect to review *Hemlock Bones: A Stud in Scarlet* by **Sarah Masters**, one of the Clandestine Classics e-books from Total-e-Bound ([www.total-e-bound.com](http://www.total-e-bound.com)). Yes, this is basically *A Study in Scarlet* with added gay sex, and it was originally announced under that title.

Also new or forthcoming:

*The Real Sherlock Holmes: The mysterious methods and curious history of a true mental specialist* by **Joe Riggs** (MX Publishing).

*Mycroft Holmes and Murder at the Diogenes Club* by **David Dickinson** (Endeavour Press).

*Holmes and Watson* by **June Thomson** (Allison & Busby) [*\*a welcome reprint of a classic study\**].

*Anomalous: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes featuring Jack Johnson and Alphonse Capone* by **Samuel Williams Jr** (MX Publishing, 1 August).

*The Lost Casebooks of Sherlock Holmes: Three Volumes of Detection and Suspense* by **Donald Thomas** (Pegasus Books, 1 August).

*The Untold Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by **Luke Benjamin Kuhns** (MX, 2 August).

*Sherlock Holmes: Tales From The Stranger's Room - Volume 2* edited by **David Ruffle** (MX, 2 August).

*56 Sherlock Holmes Stories in 56 Days* by **Charlotte Anne Walters** (MX, 3 August).

*Sherlock Holmes and The Element of Surprise: The Wormwood Scrubs Enigma* by **J. Andrew Taylor** (MX, 4 August).

*The Philosophy of Sherlock Holmes* by **Philip Tallon** and **David Baggett** (University Press of Kentucky, 21 August).

*Official Sherlock 2013 Calendar* (Danilo Promotions Limited, 31 August).

*Solve the Famous Hound of the Baskervilles Mystery - Sherlock Holmes* by **Arthur Conan Doyle** and **Deborah Kespert** (Carlton Publishing Group, 4 September).

*Sherlock: The Hounds of Baskerville* (Scholastic Readers) by **Paul Shipton** (Mary Glasgow Magazines, 6 September).

*The Hound of The Baskervilles: A Sherlock Holmes Play* by **Simon Corble** (MX, 12 September).

*Sherlock Holmes & Frankenstein's Diary* by **Barry Grant** (Severn House, 27 September).

*Sherlock Holmes and the Swedish Enigma* by **Barry Grant** (Severn House, 27 September).

*Young Sherlock Holmes 5: Snake Bite* by **Andrew Lane** (Macmillan Children's Books, 27 September).

Dotted around London are eighty-three large figures of the bizarre monocular Olympic mascots, Wenlock and Mandeville. Just inside Regents Park, at the top of Baker Street, is **Sherlock Wenlock** – weirder even than the Sherlock Holmes elephant of a few years ago.

At Gillette Castle State Park, East Haddam, Connecticut, on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at 1.30pm and 3.00pm until 12 August, the **East Haddam Stage Company**, directed by Kandie Carle, perform *The Speckled Band*, using Edith Meiser's 1930 radio script. William Gillette himself played Holmes in the original production – the first Sherlock Holmes drama ever broadcast. Entrance is free. For more details check [www.ehsco.org](http://www.ehsco.org).

At the auction of **Mary Jakeman's** collection on 10 July, her first US edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, signed by Arthur Conan Doyle, sold for £8,900 – nearly ten times the guide price. Mary Jakeman worked as a maid for the Conan Doyles at Windlesham. The remaining lots fetched a total of over £8,600.

Sally Thomas reports that on 9 July **Jeremy Brett's** name was entered in the Book of Remembrance at the Actors' Church – St Paul's, Covent Garden. She adds: 'He is where he would want to be, surrounded by those with whom he shared so much.'

**Maxwell Stewart** of London, Ontario seeks additional finance for his film *Sherlock Holmes and the Consulting Detective*. See the fund-raising page at [www.indiegogo.com/sherlockholmescd](http://www.indiegogo.com/sherlockholmescd).

The summer issue of *Festival Times*, newsletter of the **Festival of Britain Society** ([www.festivalofbritain.org](http://www.festivalofbritain.org)), features an article about the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition of 1951.

Gary Lovisi reminds me that we haven't recently mentioned *Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine*, edited by Marvin Kaye. As he says, it's 'a nice magazine with good articles, fine crime stories and enjoyable Holmes pastiches'. You can buy individual issues on the website at [www.wildsidemagazines.com](http://www.wildsidemagazines.com) - and US readers can take out a subscription

[www.kentnews.co.uk/home/the\\_changing\\_face\\_of\\_sherlock\\_holmes\\_and\\_dr\\_watson\\_1\\_1411686#](http://www.kentnews.co.uk/home/the_changing_face_of_sherlock_holmes_and_dr_watson_1_1411686#) is where you can read an interview with **David Burke** on 'The Changing Face of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson', published in *Kent News* on 18 June.

**Yuri Rasovsky**, who died on 18 January aged sixty-seven, was a giant in American radio and audio drama, as writer, director, producer and actor. He twice directed William Gillette's play *Sherlock Holmes*, in 1977 for National Radio Theater and in 2004 for Hollywood Theater of the Ear. The latter, starring Martin Jarvis, is available, along with *The Speckled Band*, on CD from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). It's brilliant.

**James Grout**, who died on 24 June aged eighty-four, will be remembered as Chief Superintendent Strange in *Inspector Morse*, but his long career on stage, screen and radio encompassed many rôles, including Dr Watson to Geoffrey Palmer's Holmes in *The Mask of Moriarty* at the Haymarket Theatre, Leicester in 1987.

**Eric Sykes** was loved and respected as a writer and – despite almost total deafness for several decades and increasing blindness – performer of comedy. He also appeared to good effect in dramatic productions such as the creepy 2001 film *The Others*, and, as Horace Harker, in Granada TV's 1986 *The Six Napoleons*. Eric Sykes died on 4 July aged eighty-nine.

Periodical received. *The Baker Street Journal*, Summer 2012 (Steven Rothman, 220, West Rittenhouse Square, #15-D, Philadelphia, PA 19103, USA; subscriptions, PO Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077, USA). *The Camden House Journal*, June 2012 and July 2012 (**The Occupants of the Empty House**, Debbie Tinsley, PO Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999, USA). *Canadian Holmes*, Summer 2012 (**The Bootmakers of Toronto**, Mark & JoAnn Alberstat, 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3A 2M2, Canada). *Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections*, June 2012 (Suite 111, Elmer L Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, 222 21st Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA). *The Illustrious Clients News*, July 2012 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, IN 46077, USA). *Ironmongers Daily News*, er, daily! (**La Société Sherlock Holmes de France**, Thierry Saint-Joanis, [www.sshf.com/inscription-sshf.php](http://www.sshf.com/inscription-sshf.php)). *The Magic Door*, Summer 2012 (**The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection**, Doug Wrigglesworth, 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, Ontario, Canada L9N 1H4).

And *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, June 2012 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; [blau7103@comcast.net](mailto:blau7103@comcast.net)).

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