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THE SOLAR PONS SOCIETY OF LONDON

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON: Grapevine

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Two books have just been published which should interest Sherlockians. One is a paperback edition of Owen Dudley Edwards's The Quest for Sherlock Holmes, a biography of Arthur Conan Doyle which appeared in hardcover last year and received good reviews - as in the SHJ for Summer 1983. The publisher is Penguin and the price £4.95. Admittedly the book is handsomely produced, large and well illustrated - but am I the only person who remembers when paperback books cost 2/6d? For those who, like me, enjoy William Rushton's bizarre sense of humour, he has just had his first novel published. It's called W.G. Grace's Last Case and is set during the Great Hiatus, thus freeing Dr Watson to accompany Dr Grace. Other characters include Dr Jekyll (and Mr Hyde), Oscar Wilde, La Goulue, Buffalo Bill Cody, Jules Verne. . . there's a fleeting glimpse of the senior Lord Greystoke. . . and the whole thing takes place (mostly) in a London recently devastated by The War of the Worlds. . . The publisher is Methuen and the price £7.95,

Some 18 months ago Webb & Bower published a crime dossier based on A Study in Scarlet, giving the whole story in the form of "original" documents - notes from Holmes to Watson, Scotland Yard records, etc - with actual clues, such as Lucy Ferrier's wedding ring. This new and beautifully produced item of Sherlockiana will be followed on the 29th September by The Hound of the Baskervilles from the same publisher. The price will be £9.95.

Through the courtesy of The Solar Pons Society of London I have been able to arrange for Grapevine subscribers to take advantage of a special offer. The full price of The Baker Street Reader, previewed in the last newsletter, is £25. However, orders submitted through me will be subject to a 20% discount, bringing the price down to £20. This is an important contribution to Sherlockian scholarship, so I have arranged for a review copy to be sent to me, (A similar discount offer will be available to other members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, but is not likely to take effect until the Winter issue of the SHJ is distributed. The Solar Pons Society's offer - and yours - is available now,) Cash with order, please.

Finally, news of a film, being made at the moment. Peter Cushing is playing Holmes (surprisingly, for only the second time on film) with the excellent John Mills as Dr Watson. Plainly this will show the pair in old age and will be rather different from most cinema interpretations. Any information on title, theme, etc will be very welcome. (I just hope it's not based on Marcel D'Agneau's awful The Curse of the Nibelung, a novel so monumentally bad that it should be read by all would-be pasticheurs as an example of How Not To Do It.)

Finally (again) a Small Ad. Mr E.G. Jones requires the following bound volumes of The Strand Magazine; no 54 (containing "His Last Bow"), 65 ("The Creeping Man") and 72 ("The Blanched Soldier"). Offers directly to Mr Jones, please, at 32 Holmesley Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 1PJ.

