

The District Messenger

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

2nd October 1985

Well, that's the last of the thirteen stories out of the way. Now we've seen "The Final Problem", what shall we talk about?

There's a book due out from Cape in November: THE ORIGINALS: WHO'S REALLY WHO IN FICTION, by William Amos. As well as the better-known characters, Mr Amos's research has uncovered the real names behind people appearing in books by Dorothy L. Sayers, David Lodge, Richard Adams, Malcolm Bradbury, Arnold Bennett, H.G. Wells.... A book for dipping into rather than reading straight through, by the sound of it. The price is £12.95.

Courtesy of the Solar Pons Society of London comes a notice from Rohn Sculptured Porcelain Inc. of 273 N. West Ave., Elmhurst, Illinois 60126, U.S.A. Ed Rohn has designed and made an exceptionally handsome porcelain bust of Sherlock Holmes (I have a coloured photograph which unfortunately won't reproduce here). This is a limited edition of 2210; the busts are 9 inches high, including a solid wooden base, and (I quote) "high-fired, hand decorated, fine porcelain", each individually numbered. A piece for rich collectors, this, as the price is a cool 155 dollars.

More in my price range, and perhaps yours, is the work of Vincent Mattocks. Vincent's main work is producing models for fantasy role-playing games, but he's also adept at all sorts of figures outside this genre, in a variety of materials. I was the first to commission from him a Sherlock Holmes statuette, some 3" high in polystyrene. I now possess Holmes, Watson and Moriarty (though mine is the second Moriarty; Tony Howlett has the first) and am trying to decide whether the next should be Lestrade or Mycroft. Each of these figures is individually made, with small (or large, if you prefer) variations, and consequently unique. The figures are carefully detailed and a bargain at about £6.50 each. Orders, with any special instructions, should be sent to Vincent Mattocks at 166 Ryde Park Road, Rednal, Birmingham B45 8RJ.

I came across a thimble shop recently (honest!), and discovered that a few manufacturers are now making "character thimbles" - miniature and purely ornamental heads, rather like tiny toby jugs upside-down, if you follow me. Francesca Art China of Staffordshire has produced a series which includes Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. I haven't seen Watson, but Holmes looks boyish and just a trifle effeminate. The price is about £5.50. Try your local thimble shop, if you're interested.

That's all the news. Let's complete the list of current editions of the Canon: -

SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES (ed. P. Noakes): Oxford University Press Alpha Books £1.00

THE SPECKLED BAND: Murray English Easy Readers 80p

THE STORY OF MR GEORGE EDALJI: Camille Wolff, Grey House Books £15.00 (limited ed. £18.00)

A STUDY IN SCARLET: Penguin £1.95; Longman Heritage of Literature £1.95; (and THE SIGN OF FOUR) Ulverscroft Large Print £5.00; Webb & Bower dossier edition £10.95

THREE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: Longman New Method Supplementary Readers 85p

THREE SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURES: Collins English Library 70p

THREE SHORT STORIES FROM THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: Longman New Method Supplementary Readers 85p

THE UNCOLLECTED SHERLOCK HOLMES (ed. Richard Lancelyn Green): Penguin £2.50

Curses! THE VALLEY OF FEAR must wait till the next issue...

