

THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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no. 112 27th August 1991

Henry T. Folsom's chronological study *THROUGH THE YEARS AT BAKER STREET* (see DM 111) is now available in the UK from the Franco-Midland Hardware Company. Copies are available at £16.50 each (including postage) from "The Stock-Broker's Clerk", 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 3RU. Please make cheques payable to Sherlock Publications and allow 21 days for delivery. This is cheaper and much more convenient than ordering a copy direct from America.

Forthcoming books. In September, Penguin will publish as a part of the Penguin English Series *SIMPLY STORIES LEVEL 2: THE MYSTERY OF BOSCOMBE POOL* (£1.50). Also in September comes *CONSTABLE CRIME OMNIBUS 2*, a big paperback containing the 1st three of M.J. Trow's Inspector Lestrade novels (Constable, £7.99), while in October comes the latest, *LESTRADE & THE MAGPIE* (Constable, £12.99). In November, Oxford University Press will have *DETECTIVE STORIES FROM 'THE STRAND'* edited by Jack Adrian (£14.95). For Ripperologists there's *THE WOMEN OF WHITECHAPEL*, a novel by Paul West (Serpent's Tail, £14.99). From the Five Miles Press in September comes a children's book *SHERLOCK Q. JONES' CASEBOOK OF PUZZLES, RIDDLES & MUDDLES* (£2.95). And in November, Virgin will publish *THE FILMS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (no further details at present). Finally, one I missed before: the Running Press issued in April a "miniature edition" of *SHERLOCK HOLMES: TWO COMPLETE ADVENTURES* (£3.25).

The 2nd issue of *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES GAZETTE* is now available, as full of fascinating information as the 1st - there's a day-by-day account of the Society's Swiss Pilgrimage and much more besides, all handsomely presented. UK subscription is £12.50 p.a., and overseas subscription has been rationalised at £18 p.a., provided payment is made in sterling (Theme Publications, 45 Bowlease Coveaway, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 6PL). If you have £140 to spare, by the way, you may care to consider a weekend based at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street, involving an introductory talk by Stanley MacKenzie (and a rare chance to see some of the MacKenzie Collection), a visit to the Black Museum, tea at the Langham Hotel, Sunday lunch at the Brambletye Hotel - and more. It's all happening on the weekend of the 4th-6th October. (Sherlock Holmes Hotel, Baker Street, London W1M 1LB; phone 071-486 6161.) Deirdre Keetley of Studio Gallery Decorative Editions is preparing an exhibition to be mounted at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel; among the many images which will be displayed is "The Librarian", a portrait of our own Catherine Cooke.

Dawn Healy tells me of a new regional society, as yet un-named, to be based in the southwest of England. Interested parties from Plymouth, Camelford, Exeter, Tavistock & elsewhere will meet at noon on Sunday the 1st September at the Bank Pub in Plymouth. If you are interested, either go along to this inaugural meeting or write to Dawn at 1 Warleigh Avenue, Keyham, Plymouth PL2 1NW (phone 0752 556125). And while on the subject of regional societies, the 4th issue of *THE MUSGRAVE PAPERS* is now available; the fullest yet, it runs to 100 pages and is packed with scholarship and wit. Non-Musgraves may buy copies at £5.75 each from David Stuart Davies (Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER).

Roger Matthews reminds me of the fine products of Phoenix Model Developments Ltd (Earls Barton, Northampton NN6 0NA), whose delightful range of 1/32 scale Victorian figures & accessories includes a tableau of "Holmes & Watson at home" - this one costs £13.95, but other items vary in price. These charming figures were mentioned some time ago in the DM, but many readers may not have come across them. The indefatigable Mark Chadderton sends news of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, a new game for computer buffs that needs a CDTV (a sort of combination of Amiga computer plus a CD player; they were officially launched last month and they cost about £600). The game, from Online Entertainment, cost £29.99. Information about this and other Holmesian computer games can be found in the July issue of *YOUR AMIGA* magazine, whose cover features a portrait of Peter Cushing as Holmes. Also from Mark, a Spanish magazine, *CAMBIO* 16, has been giving away nicely-produced books containing Spanish translations of some of the Holmes stories.

A correction to DM 111: Michael Cox was the first to point out that THE MASTER BLACKMAILER (Jeremy Paul's adaptation of "Charles Augustus Milverton" - scheduled for showing at Christmas) - will in fact feature Edward Hardwicke as Watson and not, as I carelessly wrote, David Burke.

In DM 110, I announced a competition. What I neglected to mention was the closing date. Other things have come up besides, so let's take it from the top. Thanks to Stephen Farrell, Derek Hinrich, Jean Upton, Barbara Alder & John Bennett Shaw, there are now three (3 - count 'em! - 3) prizes; 1) a nice copy of the John Murray Uniform Edition of THE MEMOIRS OP SHERLOCK HOLMES plus a first edition (paperback) of Basil Copper's THE SECRET FILES OP SOLAR PONS; 2) a very nice copy of the Pinnacle paperback edition of August Derleth's THE MEMOIRS OP SOLAR PONS (this one's extremely difficult to get hold of in any edition, as any reputable dealer will tell you) plus Alvin Sapinsley's jolly romp SHERLOCK HOLMES IN NEW YORK, "novelised by D R Bensen 3) two brochures by Kelvin I. Jones: THE CARFAX SYNDROME, BEING A STUDY IN VAMPIRISM IN THE CANON and UPON THE TRACING OP FOOTSTEPS ("by Sherlock Holmes, edited by Kelvin I. Jones"). All these items are in very nice condition. The aim of the competition is to help Stephen's favourite charity, the Donkey Sanctuary, consequently there's an entry fee of £1 (this entitles you to as many entries as you wish) payable to "The Donkey Sanctuary". The closing date will be November 15th, which should give everyone a fighting chance.

As to the competition itself, all you have to do is answer the following questions:

In which canonical story is Cardinal Tosca mentioned?

Why was Holmes wasting his time in trying to warm his hands by the gasogene?

3. What beside his stethoscope did Watson conceal in his top hat? (Wild speculation is encouraged.)

Holmes actually attempted this curious feat in one of the less successful pastiches!

Sara Lyford-Smith (8 Highfield Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 5DP) is engaged in raising funds to help a friend with spinal injuries; to do so she is selling many of her Holmesian books. If you're interested, please drop her a line.

Anvil story cassettes (4 Reed's Corner, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 2RR), who still have on their list the four grand cassettes, each containing two of Michael & Mollie Hardwick's canonical adaptations featuring Robert Hardy & Nigel Stock (ANV 641, ANV 642, ANV 643, ANY 644 £3.99 each), have just released FAVOURITE MUSIC OP SHERLOCK HOLMES (£4.99). This rather speculative collection includes music by Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, Offenbach (guess which piece) and Beethoven, among others - but no Wagner. It should be very pleasant listening.

Joseph J. Eckrich (7793 Keswick Place, St Louis, Missouri 63119, USA) asks if anyone can help him build up his collection of Holmesian bookplates - not the commercially produced ones, but those designed by or for Holmesian collectors.

And, getting back for a moment to THE MUSGRAVE PAPERS, Kathryn White points out that for an annual subscription of £10 you can join the Northern Musgraves and receive not only a copy of the journal but also two newsletters, the forthcoming Musgrave Monograph and all the other benefits of membership. The Membership Secretary is John Addy, 23 East Street, Lightcliffe, Halifax HX3 8TU.

Prom Peter E. Blau: Murder Ink (one of the specialist bookshops in our field) has moved to 2486 Broadway, New York, NY 10025, USA. Peter also notes that there are two major British bookshops that can supply overseas customers with just about anything in print; if you open an account and pay with a cheque in your own currency or authorise a charge against a credit card such as Visa or Mastercard, you incur no bank surcharges s W. G. Foyle (119-125 Charing Cross Road, London WC2, England) and Blackwell's (Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BQ, England). Collectors may find this information useful.

