

THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London

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I should correct a misapprehension. The **DM** is available for the cost of postage, and as a newsletter it's best sent overseas by airmail: surface mail would render the news stale before delivery! Now, one International Reply Coupon will pay for one standard surface mail posting. It costs half as much again to buy one airmail posting, so three IRCs will get you two issues of the DM sent by airmail - not the other way around! I understand that IRCs are quite a bit more expensive in some countries (e.g. the USA) than they are here; fortunately Jean has a US bank account, so I can accept payment in US dollars - cash or check. Checks should be made payable to Jean Upton, not to me or to **The District Messenger**. \$10.00 will get you 12 issues. (If, in a moment of aberration, I've told you that you'll get 10 issues for \$10.00, please accept my apologies and let me know so that I can correct your record. Thanks.)

News from Bert Coules. The first 4 episodes of **The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes** will be repeated on Sundays at 10.15 pm: "Silver Blaze" 24th January; "The Yellow Face" 31st January; "The Stockbroker's Clerk" 7th February; "The Gloria Scott" 14th February. Then **The Return** will start transmission on Wednesday 24th February with "The Empty House". After the first seven episodes there'll be a break. No dates are yet known for the rest of the series. Further from Bert: on Saturday 9th January at 2.30 pm Radio 4 has Denny Martin Flinn's 90 minute dramatisation of Nick Meyer's **The Seven Per-Cent Solution**, with Simon Callow as Holmes, Ian Hogg as Watson, Karl Johnson as Freud & David King as Moriarty. Should be interesting, to say the least. CSA Tell Tapes have released a double cassette of **Classic Tales of Murder**, read by Brian Cox; authors include Arthur Conan Doyle, Jack London, Sapper & Arnold Bennett.

Stephen Farrell can provide good copies of the 1965 classic **A Study In Terror**, with John Neville & Donald Houston on European format VHS (I can vouch for the quality). TV showings of the film over the past decade have been horrendously butchered - this is the full cinema version. Please send £20 to Stephen at 19 McLeod Road, Abbey Wood, London SE2 0BP.

Geoffrey Stavert has sent a flyer from a company called Mail Order Galore (29 Beethoven Street, London W10 4LG) offers the double video pack of Granada's **The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes** at £19.99, post-free within the UK (postage £4 to Europe, £6 elsewhere). The price is reasonable, but the set is widely available in video shops. Also from Geoffrey, news of the BBC's new magazine **Homes & Antiques**, which offers a free small ad service for those who want to buy or sell a collectable priced at under £500.

The big news as far as I'm concerned is that the long-awaited Musgrave Monograph no. 3 is at last out. This is **Ready When You Are, Mr Rathbone: A Review of the Universal Holmes Films** by that splendid writer Roger Johnson. All right, let's not muck about. It really is a very nice little book indeed, well up to professional production standards and splendidly illustrated. It is at least the fullest survey to date of Rathbone's

Universal series. Copies are available to members of the Northern Musgraves for £5 or US\$10.00, and to non-Musgraves for £6 or US\$12 (dollar payments in cash, please) from David Stuart Davies at Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER. Prices include postage.

Ian Henry Publications (20 Park Drive, Romford RM1 4LH) has a new catalogue of Sherlock Holmes material, including a new pastiche, **Sherlock Holmes and the Somerset Hunt** by Rosemary Michaud (£11.95), which I hope to review soon, and a new edition at last of Michael & Mollie Hardwick's witty "novelisation" **The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes** (£11.95). Fraser Smyth may still have copies of volumes 3, 4, 5 & 6 of **The Strand Magazine** in the original binding, condition fair, for which offers are invited (32 Cirencester Road, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8EY). More books. Last month Philip Pullman's play **Sherlock Holmes** was published by Nelson in their Dramascript Extra Series at £3.50. In October, Ravette published **Baker Street Puzzles** by Tom Bullimore (£2.99). And one I missed at the time: Martin A. Kayman's **From Bow Street to Baker Street: Mystery, Detection and Narrative**, published last December by Macmillan Press (£40.00). Neal Smith's Black Orchid Books (Unit 8, Castle Court, Castle Street, Shrewsbury; phone 0743 362653) have issued a very tempting list of Holmesiana & Doyleana. Sherlock & Co. (695 36th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121, USA) also have a new catalogue.

Joseph J. Eckrich (7793 Keswick Place, St Louis, Missouri 63119, USA) is selling his collection. He intends to issue regular, possibly monthly, lists, each available for a US dollar bill or an IRC (overseas) or an SSAE (within the USA). He's offering runs of **The Baker Street Journal** (old & new series to 1984, with all 5 Christmas annuals and the Gillette supplement), **The Sherlock Holmes Journal** (complete to vol. 17 #4), **Baker Street Miscellanea** (the first 52 issues), and volumes of **The Strand Magazine** in various bindings complete to 1922. Each run is offered as a set, and realistic bids are invited. (*While we're on the small ads, can anyone help me out with a recording of Michael Hardwick's BBC radio adaptation of "The Illustrious Client", with Hobbs & Shelley, please?*)

From Francine Swift: **The Baker Street Journal** has a new address: subscriptions should now be sent to: P.O. Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331, USA. The Sub remains the same: US\$20.00 for 4 issues sent surface mail. Dollar checks are preferred, but Visa or Mastercard can be used. Recently received magazines of interest include **Prescott's Press** no. 12 (Warren Randall, PO Box 610 Levittown, NY 11756, USA); **The Parish Magazine** no. 7 (The Arthur Conan Doyle Society, Ashcroft, 2 Abbotsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG); **The Franco-Midland Hardware Company Interim Report 1992: The Wisteria Lodge Contract Reviewed** (The Stock-Broker's Clerk, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU); **The School Report** no. 10 (The Priory Scholars, Ken Savery, 12 Links Road, Kibworth, Leics. LE8 0LD); **The Irregular Special Railway Company Newsletter** no. 3 (Antony Richards, 163 Marine Parade, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2RB.

No more space! A Merry Christmas To All Our Readers!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ryszard J.', written in a cursive style.