

# THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London  
*Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE*

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There will be a full report in **The Sherlock Holmes Journal** of Patsy Dalton's memorial service at St Bride's, Fleet Street, on the 16th June. Enough to say here that Patsy had provided for a happy occasion, when her friends could get together and celebrate her life and work. Particular gratitude is due to Tony Marshall, who made all the arrangements. Thanks, Tony! (The music was glorious!)

Henry Mancini, one of the great Hollywood composers, died early in June. He was responsible for the delightful music in **Basil, the Great Mouse Detective** and **Without a Clue**.

Tony Lumb's **Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Featherstone Policeman** (Briton Press, 21 Albert Street, Featherstone, Pontefract, West Yorkshire WF7 5EX; £1.50 + 50p postage; make cheques payable to A. Lumb) doesn't quite capture the Watsonian voice, but it tells a most interesting tale, based on fact, of skulduggery and altruism in a mining dispute. We have to overlook the fact that in September 1893, when Mr Lumb has him in Yorkshire, Holmes was actually somewhere between Tibet and southern France.

As those who went on the river cruise during the "Back to Baker Street" festival will know, Antony J. Richards has written and produced a most interesting 28-page **Sherlock Holmes Guide to the Thames, Hammersmith to Gravesend** (Irregular Special Railway Company, 163 Marine Parade, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2RB; £1.50). 50p postage would probably be appreciated. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for information about the ISRC and its other publications. B.W. Pugh points out that the flyer for **Sherlock Holmes: The Major Stories with Contemporary Critical Essays** (Macmillan Press, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hants. RG21 2XS; £6.99), distributed with DM 141, contains an incorrect phone number. It should be 0256 29242. The Black Cat Bookshop (36-39 Silver Arcade, Leicester LE1 5FB; phone 0533 512756) has a summer update to its Holmes/Doyle catalogue no. 4. Send a stamped & self-addressed envelope for a copy; overseas send 2 International Reply Coupons.

Bert Coules recommends **All Consuming Fire** by Andy Lane, one of the New Doctor Who Adventures (Doctor Who Books, 33-34 Grand Union Centre, 332 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 5AH; £4.99), in which "Holmes and Watson (and Mycroft and Moriarty and Lord John Roxton and Colonel Warburton and the Giant Rat of Sumatra and a good few others) meet a certain time-travelling Doctor (or three)..." Bert says, "It's tremendous fun, written by someone who knows both his Who and his Holmes." "At the turn of the century a sensational photograph of fairies taken by the young Lady Angelica Cottingham was the subject of much controversy. It was authenticated by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and later discredited. However a recently discovered album will force a radical reappraisal of the evidence for the existence of fairies." More on **Lady Cottingham's Pressed Fairy Book** by Terry Jones and Brian Froud (Pavilion Books; forthcoming) as it reaches me.

Gordon E. Kelley's **Sherlock Holmes Screen and Sound Guide** (Scarecrow Press, PO Box 4167, Metuchen, NJ 08840, USA; \$37.50) attempts to gather into one manageable volume the principal details of all the film, TV, video, audio and radio adaptations of Sherlock Holmes, as well as the numerous computer games based on the character. The selection is understandably limited to those available in the English language. It's an admirable venture, though Mr Kelley and his publishers are unfortunate in that much of this information is already available in Ronald De Waal's **World Bibliography of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson** and **The International Sherlock Holmes**, while nearly all of it will be included in the long-awaited **Universal Sherlock Holmes**, along with much else beside. Better presented, too. Alas, it has to be said that Mr Kelley's book overflows with errors. Let's examine a few.

The woman in Stoll's **A Scandal in Bohemia** (p.12) was actually re-named Irene Adair. The Creeper in **The Pearl of Death** (p. 33) came from Hoxton, not Oxford. In **Pursuit to Algiers** (p.34) Holmes and Watson assist the Prince of Rovenia, not Ruritania. The diamond in **Terror by Night** (p. 35) is The Star of Rhodesia, not The Star of India. **Sherlock Holmes and the Necklace of Death** (p. 36) was not in fact issued in colour. **Fog** was indeed the working title for **A Study in Terror** (p.36), but it has only ever been shown under the latter title, so why list it under the former? **Murder in Northumberland** (p.39) has never been released, so why list it at all? More detail is available on **Stamp of Greatness** (p.87) and **The Baker Street Boys** (p.110), and should have been included. Jonathan Newth played Colonel Valentine Walter, not Sir James Walter, in Granada's **The Bruce-Partington Plans** (p.117). Clive Brook did not play Holmes on American radio, following William Gillette's 1931 performance in **The Speckled Band** (p.148); Richard Gordon took over immediately, as stated on p. 150. **The Tale of the Giant Rat of Sumatra** by the Firesign Theatre is listed only as a Canadian radio broadcast (p.214), with a note, "No cast names are available", yet **The International Sherlock Holmes**, p.395, has full details... And so it goes on. I haven't even bothered with the mere typos. Scarecrow Press books have an enviable reputation, but a book costing \$37.50, with input from Jennie C. Paton, Bill Nadel, Peter Blau and George Vanderburgh, really ought to be better than this!

Lynne Godden (Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8QE) reminds me that she still has a few copies left of the very collectible "Back to Baker Street" souvenirs. The bone china mug, white with gold trim and royal blue & gold lettering, costs: UK £6.50; Europe £7.25; USA \$13.00; rest of world £8.55 or equivalent. The leather wine coaster, in burgundy with gold lettering, costs: UK £1.95 (boxed set of 4, £7.50); Europe £2.70 (boxed set £8.25); USA \$4.50 (boxed set \$13.00); rest of world £3.20 (boxed set £8.75). All prices include postage. Don't forget that Lynne also has copies of the book **Back to Baker Street**, 100 pages of stimulating scholarship and speculation, a snip at: UK £11.50; Europe £12.50; North America US\$21.50; rest of world £14.50 or equivalent. All cheques should be payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

On Saturday the 18th June, BBC Radio 2 broadcast a 60 minute documentary called **Missing Movies: A Case for Sherlock Holmes**: "the story behind the missing footage cut from Billy Wilder's 1970 film, **The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes**", narrated by Betty Marsden with contributions from Robert Stephens and others. If you would like a recording, please send me a C60 cassette and the cost of postage. (Jennie C. Paton also has a copy. North Americans should contact her at 206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458.) A reminder for those

interested in classic radio drama, from both sides of the Atlantic: the Oldtime Radio-show Collectors' Association (ORCA) still exists, and has an amazing library of recordings. Drop a line to Barry Hill at 4 Prospect Terrace, Farsley, Leeds LS28 5ES.

Bert Coules sends advance information about BBC Radio 4's **The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes**, with Clive Merrison and Michael Williams. "The Illustrious Client" (Baron Gruner: Michael Feast) will air on Wednesday 21st September at 2.02 pm; "The Blanched Soldier" (the 2nd Mrs Watson: Hannah Gordon) 28th September; "The Mazarin Stone" (Lord Cantlemere: Anthony Bate; Count Sylvius: Nigel Anthony) 5th October; "The Three Gables" (Mrs Maberley: Mary Wimbush; Clarence Gable: John Wells) (\*Clarence Gable?!\*) 12th October; "The Sussex Vampire" (Bob Ferguson: Michael Troughton; Elisabetta Ferguson: Alexandra Bastedo) 19th October; "The Three Garridebs" (John Garrideb: Lou Hirsch) 26th October. The final 6 episodes will be recorded in October. Leonard Friedman, the violinist, died recently; Bert thinks that "enough unused material exists for him to be billed as the violinist in the final shows as well, which would be nicely fitting."

I've yet to see a copy, but according to the 1994 Music For Pleasure catalogue, Listen For Pleasure has issued a double cassette, **Sherlock Holmes: His Last Bow**, read by Martin Jarvis (LFP7808) (EMI Records Ltd, 1/3 Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 0SY). The Christopher Lee recording of **The Valley of Fear**, originally available on Random Century Audiobooks, has been re-released by Tring Audio Books (Tring International PLC, Triangle Business Park, Wendover Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 5BL). I found it at Andy's Records, at £5.99. (Tring also have available Donald Pickering's recording of **The Speckled Band**.) Peter Blau notes that Simon & Schuster have issued cassette 24 in the **New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** series from the Rathbone/Bruce radio plays. It features "The Accidental Murderess" and "The Blarney Stone".

A plea from Mark Chadderton (Flat 1, 78 Southcote Road, Bournemouth BH1 3SS), who missed the recent BBC2 showing of the 1970 film **The Adventures of Gerard**. If you can provide him with a VHS recording, he will cheerfully pay costs.

Derek Hinrich tells me of a "rather natty epoxy resin" Sherlock Holmes chess set, seen at his local branch of H. Samuel, the jeweller. It was made by Anne Carlton of SAC Limited Studio of Hull, and priced at £77.95. Steven Emmons (70A Greenwich Avenue #206, New York, NY 10011, USA), whose exhibition we visited in January, has produced a limited edition of seven 19" x 40" pencil, ink & watercolour paintings to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Baker Street Irregulars. One of these will set you back \$2,550.00. Deirdre Keetley's Studio Gallery now has an exclusive North American distributor: Cleadon Hall Collectibles, 31-A Maple Avenue, Barrie, Ontario L4N 1R7, Canada. Otherwise, Deirdre's wide range of Holmesiana is still available from Studio Gallery, 50 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DP; phone 071-837 9947.

Derek has passed on to me a letter from our associate member, Sr Antonio Iriarte, founder of The Amateur Mendicant Society of Madrid, which has recently published its first annual journal (in Spanish). The AMS, a branch office of the Franco-Midland Hardware Company, was originally called The Spanish Embassy, until someone remarked that the one place you wouldn't find a Spanish Embassy is Spain! For information about this lively group, contact Miguel Gonzalez-Pedel, General Margallo 33 (4C), 28020 Madrid, Spain. The FMHC's own next event will be a Victorian Reading Party, forming part of a special Victorian


weekend at Osborne House. The FMHC has at least one function each month. Write for details to The Stock-broker's Clerk, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU. (I'm afraid delays have meant this issue is too late to tell you in advance of The Head Llamas' "Moss Roses & Martians" jaunt, which took place yesterday. Hope you had a good time, chaps! For information about the Llamas, contact Catherine & Alan Saunders, 12 Booth Drive, Laleham, Staines, Middlesex TW18 1PR.)

Saturday the 16th July sees the Col. Sebastian Moran Memorial Crap Shoot (sic, after years of Trap Shoots), organised by The Brothers Three of Moriarty to celebrate the parole of Col. Moran from his prison sentence, and held at the Albuquerque Press Club, 201 Highland Park Circle SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico. There will be a cash bar. "Those who wish to embarrass themselves by giving toasts, papers or other exhibitions of erudition are asked to contact The Parole Board. Letters and speeches on the theme, 'Why Col. Sebastian Moran Should Be Paroled' are especially solicited, and a prize will be given for the best one." Contact Big Brother John Bennett Shaw, BSI, B3M, Chairman, Morrow Hall, B3M, PO Box 288, Estancia, NM 87016, USA; phone (505) 384-2744 - though it may be too late by the time you get this!

Malcolm Payne sends news that the Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment will hold a memorial ceremony at 10.30 am on Thursday the 7th July at the Conan Doyle Memorial on Terrace Montargis in Crowborough, followed by a "social distraction" in the Conan Doyle Room. "All interested are welcome, and we hope to have some distinguished Doylean scholars present." For information about the Establishment, write to Malcolm c/o The Conan Doyle Room, The Cross Hotel, Crowborough, East Sussex. Pam Bruxner sends an enticing leaflet for Groombridge Place, near Crowborough, now officially open to the public. Groombridge was, of course, the inspiration for Birlstone Manor, but it is also a magnificent 17th century house in its own right. Standard admission charge is £3.00; group tours are available by arrangement. For details contact The Estate Office, Groombridge Place, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9QG.

Collectors of Holmesian miniatures may not know that there's a society just for them. The Mini-Tonga Society can be contacted at Box 770554, Lakewood, OH 44107, USA. Russia's first Sherlock Holmes group is The Ural Holmesian Society, a very active bunch. Contact Alexander Shaburov, U1. Cherepanova 4-334, Ekaterinburg 620034, Russia.

Periodicals received since DM 141: **The Petrel Flyer** vol. 6 no. 7 (The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3C6, Canada) (\*includes most interesting accounts of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society's Toronto Convention\*); **The Parallelogram** June 1994 (The Parallel Case of St Louis, Joseph J. Eckrich, 914 Oakmoor, Fenton, MO 63026, USA) (\*contains the conclusion of Pasquale Accardo & Barbara Whitman's astounding "A Case of Multiple Identities: A Sherlockian Psychosexual Study"\*); **The Pleasant Places of Florida Communication** no.138 and no. 139 (Dr Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA) (\*always something amusing and interesting\*); **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** June 1994 (Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA) (\*the Sherlockian newsletter\*).

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