

THE DISTRICT MESSENGER
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON
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Ian Gillies, who died on 13 April, was not a Sherlockian. Rather, his specialism was omniscience, and he was dubbed 'Mycroft' by Robert Robinson during the 30 years when he compiled questions for BBC Radio 4's quiz show *Brain of Britain*.

It's a pleasure to welcome a new booklet by the almost legendary Kelvin I Jones. *The Sherlock Holmes Pharmacopoeia* (Oakmagic Books, PO Box 330, Weston-super-Mare BS 23 2WD; £4.50) gives us 44 pages on drugs and poisons in the Canon, setting the references in their historical context. There are diversions into other aspects of the stories, always interesting and often enlightening (though my reading of 'The Man with the Twisted Lip' is that Kate Whitney was Mary Watson's friend; Watson nowhere indicates that he and Isa Whitney were at all close), and the notes occupy a further eight pages. It's a very useful addition to the Sherlockian's reference shelf. I just can't help thinking that the appearance of Oakmagic's booklets suffers by comparison with Kelvin Jones's earlier monographs, published by Magico and his own Sir Hugo Books. With all the sophisticated computer programs available, the presentation of Oakmagic's publications could be drastically improved.

Richard Howe invites offers for a first edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. 'The book is quite sturdy, although it has been reinforced inside in several places with unsightly sticky tape (maybe this can be removed?). One of the picture plates is missing, and possibly a blank end-paper as well.' Contact Mr Howe at <richardh1461@yahoo.com>, or phone him on 07754 459526 or 0207 607 7250.

A reminder of my play *The Great Detective: The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, which, says *CADS* magazine, 'affectionately presents the essence of Doyle and the Holmes-Watson partnership' In fact it's had universally complimentary reviews from Sherlockians and non-Sherlockians alike. The script can be had from the Pyewacket Press (41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE) for £4.00 or \$8.00, post-paid. Please make sterling cheques payable to Roger Johnson and US dollar checks to Jean Upton.

There are recent catalogues from **Nigel Williams Rare Books** (22 & 25 Cecil Court, London WC2N 4HE; e-mail <nwrrarebook@tcp.co.uk>), and **Rupert Books** (58/59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE; <sales@rupert-books.co.uk>). Rupert's catalogue is also online at <www.rupert-books.co.uk>.

The admirable recordings by Douglas Wilmer of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, produced by Philip Porter, will be issued on CD in July by Penguin Audiobooks (80 The Strand, London WC2R 0RL), in three volumes.

There are three forthcoming TV movies of interest. *The Case of the Whitechapel Vampire*, a Hallmark presentation starring Matt Frewer and Kenneth Welsh, has a script by the director Rodney Gibbons, which involves 'zealous monks, an expert on vampire bats, a clairvoyant, Guyanese servants and Scotland Yard detectives' as well as 'bats of various types'. You won't be surprised to know that 'Gibbons's script is not based on any of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's writings.'

A Case of Evil purports to be an early adventure of Sherlock Holmes. 'A young man in his early twenties, rather arrogant, self-assured and eager for publicity, he came into the spotlight by killing England's most wanted man — Professor Moriarty, the man who [*sic*] the police have been after for years with no success. However the young genius had allowed himself to be tricked by this shrewd enemy, being overwhelmed with adoration [*sic*]. The no less clever Professor Moriarty fakes his own death, thus having an unbreakable alibi in order to start a new criminal empire — dealing heroine [*sic*], which he invented ...' There's more. Ye gods, there's more. 'With the help of his brother Mycroft, who was subdued with drugs by the evil Professor in his youth, Holmes starts after the "dead" Moriarty again. With sharp wits and his newfound friend Watson, the doctor-inventor [*sic*], at his side, he finally tracks down Moriarty to fight him one last time. It all ends in a lethal ballet of swordfighting, set in the Big Ben clock room — that was still under construction at that time [*sic*]. Moriarty falls to his death through one of the clock's open faces, dropping down into the Thames ...' Why do I get the impression that someone has seen both *Young Sherlock Holmes* and *Basil the Great Mouse Detective*? For the record, Holmes and Watson are played by James D'Arcy and Roger Morledge. That fine actor Vincent D'Onofrio is a chunky Moriarty, and Richard E Grant is an impossibly willowy Mycroft.

It's a relief after that to note the Tiger Aspect production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* for BBC 1, starring Richard Roxburgh and Ian Hart as Holmes and Watson, with John Nettles as Mortimer and Richard E Grant as Stapleton (**more plausibly cast here than in A Case of Evil**). The script is by Allan Cubitt, whose credits include *Anna Karenina* and *Prime Suspect*, and the Hound is created by members of the *Walking with Dinosaurs* team — so we should at last get a convincing Hound of Hell. The director is David Attwood, and filming is taking place right now, in the Isle of Man, Liverpool and Cumbria (**wot, no Dartmoor?**). Christopher Roden reports one notable departure from the Canon: a séance, as in the 1939 Fox movie. But at least Lestrade is reinstated.

The Times for 19 April carried a good report on the Sherlockian convention in Florence, organised by **Un Studio in Holmes**, in the course of which a splendid bronze bust of the detective by Giancarlo Buratti was unveiled at the Sesto Fiorentino railway station.

(**My apologies, by the way, to those who asked for copies of the article 'Sherlock Holmes and Others' by DW Winkworth from the January issue of The London Railway Record. I'm embarrassed to admit that during the redecoration of my study I mislaid both the article and your enquiries.**)

Issue 48 of *Sherlock* maintains the stylish appearance of issue 47. The cover this time features John Thaw's Morse, posing with his beloved Jaguar, and the long-running TV series is assessed by David Bishop, author of *The Complete Inspector Morse*, published this month by Reynolds & Hearn (**it's remarkable how little John Thaw and Kevin Whately changed during the twelve years the series ran**). Also in this issue — David Stuart Davies writes about Holmes's friendship for Watson; Mark Campbell interviews Ed McBain; Gavin Collinson views *Dr Watson and the Darkwater Hall Mystery*; Mike Ripley welcomes new editions of classic crime fiction; Paul M Chapman assesses the movie *From Hell*; Alan Perry investigates *Rumpole of the Bailey*; Julian Rathbone concludes his Baz Holmes mystery 'The Lion of Draksville'; Roger Forsdyke looks at Victorian prison life; Calum McLeod recommends the crime fiction of Joyce Holms; Rod Murphy finds comedy in the Canon; Paul Chapman examines Philip Marlowe and *The Big Sleep*; Simon Brett gives the ABC of Kinsey Millhone; Pat

Ward reports from the USA, and Bob Byrne from the Internet; William Adamson explains the Raymond Chandler; Moriarty mutters ... and the rest! The magazine is published six times a year, at £3.50 or \$6.00 the issue. A six-issue subscription is £20.00 (Europe £22.00, rest of world £25.00 or \$40.00) from the Admin. Dept, PO Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD. The US representative is Classic Specialties (PO Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219, USA; e-mail <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>).

Peter Blau notes: 'A *Hound it Was* ... is a video compilation produced by Paul Singleton and Maribeau Briggs; it had its world premiere for an enthusiastic audience at the **Footprints of the Hound** conference in Toronto last October, and it was revised and shown again during the birthday festivities in New York in January. Copies of the 65-minute videocassette are available (\$20.00 postpaid, \$23.00 to Canada) from Maribeau Briggs (On-the-Fly Video Productions, 46 East 29th Street, #3-F, New York, NY 10016). The cassette also is available in formats for other countries; Sherlockians should ask about shipping costs <onthefly@peoplepc.com>.'

Carol Russell notes that during January 2003 a **Sherlock Holmes Celebration** will take place at the Frank Lloyd Wright Civic Center Library in Marin County, California. 'An exciting variety of events and displays is in the works, thanks to the efforts of volunteers from various societies (particularly **The Scowlers and Molly Maguires**), local authors, county librarians, and mystery lovers of all ages. A key feature in the unique, world-famous government complex that was the last commission of the man many call "America's Greatest Architect", the library housed in Marin County's Civic Center is the only one designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Holding the Celebration there will help publicise the need to ensure that this spectacular landmark is preserved for future generations. Beautiful in its own right (pun intended!), Marin County lies just over the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco, en route to the wine country and the Pacific coast. Our local hotels, restaurants and glorious natural and historical attractions are worth a visit on their own.' Contact Carol by phone on (001) 415 499 1653, or by e-mail at <carolrussell@ix.netcom.com>.

Our Society's Annual General Meeting on 23 May will be held at a new venue, the Lansdowne Club, just near Berkeley Square, and will be followed by a talk on Sherlock Holmes and Tobacco. The next informal Club Night will be on 7 June, at the Royal Commonwealth Society, 18 Northumberland Avenue — very near the Sherlock Holmes pub. All members, prospective members and guests are welcome. And don't forget the return match against the Gentlemen of the P G Wodehouse Society at West Wycombe on Sunday 14 July.

The Annual Spring Meeting of **The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes** will be held in New York on 1 June (**Spring — with Midsummer on 24 June?**). For information about the always stimulating ASH, contact the Principal Unprincipled Adventuress, Evelyn Herzog, at 360 West 21st Street, #5A, New York, NY 10011, USA. The following day **The Franco-Midland Hardware Company** will be exploring the London connections of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU; e-mail <franco.midland@btinternet.com>).

On 7 June **The Occupants of the Empty House** will meet at Alongi's Restaurant in Du Quoin (Debbie Tinsley, P.O. Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999, USA). **The Sound of the Baskervilles** (David Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8981, USA) will meet at T S McHugh's on 10 June.

The Parallel Case of St Louis will discuss 'The Red-Headed League' at The Big Sleep Bookstore on 17 June (Joseph J Eckrich of 914 Oakmoor Drive, Fenton, MO 63108, USA).

At their meeting on 22 June, **The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem** will discuss 'Charles Augustus Milverton'; they meet at the Sherlock Holmes pub in Nashville on the last Saturday but one each month (Davice Sharpe, 510 Gay Street #1203, Nashville, TN 37219, USA; e-mail <sharpe@bigfoot.com>). **The Illustrious Clients** plan a picnic for the same day — I hope the weather is kind to them (Steven T Doyle, 540 West Sycamore Street, Zionsville, IN 4607777, USA). And **The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn** (Michael E Bragg, PO Box 256, St Charles, MO 63302-0256, USA).

Periodicals received. *Friends of the Library*, Spring 2002 (**University of Minnesota, Friends of the Library**, 499 Wilson Library, 309 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0414, USA). *The Baker Street Journal*, Spring 2002 (Steven Rothman, editor, 220, West Rittenhouse Square, #15-D, Philadelphia, PA 19103, USA; subscriptions, PO Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331, USA; **The Baker Street Irregulars**, Michael Whelan, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278, USA) (**one of the two or three essential Sherlockian journals, this issue features an identification of 'Columbine's New-fangled Banner', thoughts on religion and philosophy in 'The Priory School', a piece on death and resurrection in the Canon, a bibliographical re-examination of 'The Dying Detective', and a great deal more**).

The Illustrious Clients News, April 2002 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 540 West Sycamore Street, Zionsville, IN 46077, USA) (**nice obituary of Billy Wilder, account of a possible revivification of The Camford Scholars of Normal/Bloomington ... I'm not making these names up, honest**). *The School Report*, Summer Term 2002 (**The Priory Scholars**, Horace L Coates, 21 Butcombe Road, Leicester LE4 0FY) (**this is issue 49, and the Scholars are planning for their 50th issue; meanwhile, from this most truly local of local British Sherlockian societies we have a piece on the jewels in The Sign of the Four, a comparison of The Sign of the Four and The Picture of Dorian Gray, a look a hookahs, and others relating to the second published chronicle**). *The Camden House Journal*, April and May 2002 (**The Occupants of the Empty House**, Debbie Tinsley, P.O. Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999, USA) (**April's issue celebrates the Occupants' 25th anniversary and contains William Cochrane's suggestion that Sherlock and Mycroft were the children of different mothers; May's has William Gilliland's thesis that Mycroft was Moriarty**).

Mayday Mayday, April 2002 and May 2002 (**The Crew of the SS May Day**, Oscar Ross, 19 Ardcarney Way, Belfast BT5 7RP) (**it's surprising how few non-American Sherlockian newsletters really are newsletters, pure and simple — there's The District Messenger, and, er, er ... well, that's what Mayday Mayday is, and I welcome it**). *3 Pipe Problem Plugs and Dittles*, March/April 2002 (**The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem**, Gael Stahl, 1763 Needmore Road, Old Hickory, TN 37138, USA) (**an affectionate farewell to David Bradley, whom I'd like to have known, and a nice account by Billy Fields of January in New York, where one of the bright spots for me was meeting Billy, Jim Hawkins & Marino Alvarez at the Mysterious Bookshop**). *Ineffable Twaddle* (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8981, USA) (**the first report I've seen of the Left Coast Crime convention, in which the SOB's David Haugen played a major part**).

And *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, April 2002 (Peter E Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA; <pblau@dgsys.com>) (**the great Sherlockian newsletter**).

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When you send stamped & self-addressed envelopes, please get the package weighed. Twice recently I've had to pay excess postage and a 'handling fee'. Thanks.

James Hayzen, who died on 6 June, was a modest, quietly affable man, who will be remembered for his unobtrusive helpfulness and his superb photographs. When he joined our Society in the mid 1970s, Jim already had the distinction of being a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, and his artistry is evident in the many pictures he took to record the Society's activities over the years. Jean and I were unable to attend the funeral last Tuesday, but we join with innumerable other friends in extending our deep sympathy to Jim's wife Mary.

The actress **Signe Hasso** died on 7 June at the age of 92. Her long and notable career, in her native Sweden and in America, included starring rôles in *The House on 92nd Street* and *A Double Life*, as well as the small but telling part of Fraülein Reichenbach in the 1976 TV movie *Sherlock Holmes in New York*. **Charles Ede**, who died on 29 May, was, according to Nicholas Barker in the *Independent*, 'a most unclubbable man', but he founded one of the most remarkable and successful clubs in the country, the Folio Society, which has published so many sensuously beautiful editions of classic books — including, of course, the Canon. Peter Blau notes that the stuntman and actor **Terry Walsh** died on 21 April. Among his many credits, he worked on the 1988 movie *Without a Clue*.

The latest publication from the ever-industrious Eric Monahan is a nice 40-page booklet entitled *A Sherlock Holmes Miscellany*, in which you'll find one clever new adventure for Holmes, one brief and very neat parody, two essays on aspects of 'Silver Blaze', one on 'The Engineer's Thumb', and one on a possible, even probable, inspiration for the character of Holmes — Gaboriau's rather obscure detective M. Méchainet, whose one published chronicle contains several features that Conan Doyle would later incorporate into the first Holmes chronicle. You can obtain *A Sherlock Holmes Miscellany* direct from the author at Highcliff, 14 Silver Bridge Close, Broadsands Park, Paignton, Devon TQ4 7NW. The price, including postage, is: UK £4.85; USA \$9.00; Canada \$13.95.

Something a little *recherché* now — 'Holmesians with a taste for history may like to know that, as they approach the *Sherlock Holmes* pub opposite old Scotland Yard, beneath their feet lies the skeleton of the victim of a royal outrage. He was Joseph Sellis, a valet to Prince Ernest, one of George III's sons. Ernest swore that Sellis tried to assassinate him, was foiled, fled to his room, and cut his throat with a razor. A managed inquest declared Sellis a suicide, and at dead of night on 4 June 1810 he was buried with a stake driven through his heart. Newspapers of the day name the site. A team of beadles was paid £6 16s 6d for the task. One newspaper dared to deduce from the evidence that Sellis was not a suicide. Ernest had its editor jailed. But he confessed his guilt to his aide-de-camp; the confession is in the Royal Archives. What was his motive? That and much else is revealed in a new biography, *Wicked Ernest*, by John Wardroper (Shelfmark Books, 60 St Paul's Road, London N1 2QW; £14.95). Something to think about when you next go to quench your thirst at our favourite pub.

Charles Prepolec tells me that *Curious Incidents: Being a Collection of the Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* has just been

published. The 102-page perfect-bound book contains six new stories by Peter H Wood, James R Stefanie, J R Campbell, Kristin Vichich, Gerry Kelly and Bob Byrne, with illustrations by Philip Cornell. It's available from Mad For A Mystery, Suite D308, 3805 Marlborough Drive NE, Calgary, Alberta T2A 5M4, Canada; the price is: UK/Europe/Australia \$12.00 (surface) or \$14.00 (airmail); USA £10.00 (surface) or \$12.00 (airmail). Check the website at <www.bakerstreetdozen.com/ciorders.html>.

Peter Blau notes that Lloyd Rose BSI is one of the many writers contributing to the ever-expanding list of Doctor Who novels published by BBC Worldwide. Her 2001 title *City of the Dead* has a minor allusion to Sherlock Holmes, and the forthcoming *Camera Obscura* is 'full of Sherlockian references'.

Charles Cowling (Milton Abbey, Blandford, Dorset DT11 0BZ; e-mail <charles.cowling@miltonabbey.co.uk>; phone 01258 880055) invites offers for 16 volumes of *The Strand Magazine*, all (I understand) containing Sherlock Holmes material.

The latest catalogue from **Nigel Williams Rare Books** (22 & 25 Cecil Court, London WC2N 4HE; e-mail <nwrrarebook@tcp.co.uk>) contains some interesting Conan Doyle material, including a first edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* priced at £1,500.

The specialist bookshop **Crime In Store** has moved. As of tomorrow, 24 June, the address is 32 Store Street, London WC1E 7BS. The e-mail address is still <crimebks@aol.com>.

Bill Dorn offers a CD-ROM, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes and Then Some*, containing the full illustrated Canon, plus 'The Man with the Watches' and 'The Lost Special', in searchable PDF format. The price including postage is: USA \$11.45; Canada \$12.45; elsewhere \$14.45 (William S Dorn, 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210, USA).

Bill Barnes tells of *Nicholas Twit*, a new quarterly magazine for children aged 9 to 12. Billed as 'the Schoolboy Sherlock Holmes', Nicholas is a computer whiz, no good at sport, who wants to be a private detective like his hero, Holmes. Besides Nicholas's adventures, there are puzzles and 'Sherlockian Snippets', which, Bill says, are correct and interesting. Volume 1 is out now, with Volume 2 due in September. The cost is Aus\$6.00, NZ\$7.50, £2.50 or US\$4.00. Full details are at <www.twit.biz>.

Forthcoming dates for Roger Llewellyn as Holmes in *Sherlock Holmes — The Last Act!* by David Stuart Davies: 6 July **Stables Theatre, Hastings** (01424 423221); 13 July **National Film Theatre, London** (020 7928 3232); 24 July **Church Stretton Arts Festival** (send s.a.e. to Gerald Bolton, 13 Oaks Road, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 7AX); 13 Sept **Swan Theatre, Worcester** (01905 27322); 18 Sept **Civic Arts, Doncaster** (01302 342349); 22 Sept **Nuffield Theatre, Southampton** (023 80 671771); 5 Oct **Quay Theatre, Sudbury** (01787 374745); 15 Oct **Town Hall, Hartlepool** (01429 890000); 26 Oct **Muni Arts Centre, Pontypridd** (01443 485934); 1 Nov **Charles Cryer Studio, Carshalton** (020 8770 4950); 9 Nov **Campus West Theatre, Welwyn Garden City** (01707 357000); 15-16 Nov **Old Town Hall, Hemel Hempstead** (01442 228091); 7 Dec **Norden Farm Centre, Maidenhead** (01628 788997). In January and February 2003 Roger will be at the **Kavinoky Theater, Buffalo, NY** for five weeks!

Issue 41 of Geoff Bradley's excellent magazine *CADS* is full of interest as always. There's no specifically Sherlockian content in this issue, but no one who takes pleasure in crime & detective fiction can fail to enjoy it. (G H Bradley, 9 Vicarage Hill, South Benfleet, Essex SS7 1PA).

I picked up *Crime Time* no. 26 at Murder One recently, specifically because it's 'The Sherlock Holmes Issue', with contributions by David Stuart Davies, Mark Campbell, Kim Newman. David Pirie and others, as well as Natasha Cooper's 'Confessions of a Holmes-Hater'. The rest of the 208-page annual is impressive too. A four-issue subscription costs £20.00 from *Crime Time* Subscriptions, 18 Coleswood Road, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 1EQ. There's a website at <www.crimetime.co.uk>.

Sherlock Holmes — The Last Act! won't be the only Sherlockian event at the NFT. Also on 13 July, as part of the **Crime Scene 2002** convention, B J Rahn will lead a Sherlock Holmes Walk at 11.30 am, the Sherlock Awards will be presented at 1.30, David Stuart Davies will talk about *Holmes on Audio* at 2.30, David Pirie and others involved will discuss the *Murder Rooms* series at 4.00, and Gavin Collinson will give a talk on *Holmes and his Habit* at 9.00. On 14 July at 2.45 there'll be a discussion on *The Modernity of Sherlock Holmes*, and at 4.00 the 1921 silent film *The Hound of the Baskervilles* with Eille Norwood will be screened.

On 5 August there will be a preview of *Sherlock*, 'a brand new film reinventing the Holmes legend'. From 2 to 31 August all fourteen Rathbone/Bruce movies will be shown twice, twelve of them in restored prints. Over the Sundays that month, all fifteen of the silent shorts in the 1921 series *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* with Eille Norwood will be shown, and over the first three Thursdays four of the BBC TV films with Douglas Wilmer and two with Peter Cushing. Finally, on 26 August there'll be the two John Cleese parodies, *Elementary, My Dear Watson* and *The Strange Case of the End of Civilisation as We Know It*. Booking and other information is on the website at <www.bfi.org.uk/nft>, or phone 020 7928 3232.

Catherine Cooke passes on news of **Capital Offences**, a London-wide promotion of crime fiction. There's a long series of events, mostly panel discussions, mostly based at public libraries, planned for July, August and September. At 6.30 pm on 4 July at Marylebone Library, June Thomson, David Stuart Davies, Joan Lock and Catherine Cooke will answer the question *Is Sherlock Holmes Still Relevant in an Era of Forensics?* Mike Ripley will be in the chair. Admission is free, but tickets are limited to fifty. Contact Linda Tobey on 020 7641 1033. The Sherlock Holmes Collection will be open to the public from 2.00 to 6.00 that day; contact Catherine Cooke on 020 7641 1206.

Did anyone record the BBC Schools broadcast at 3.50 am on 7 June? The programme, in the Drama Workshop series for 9-11 year-olds, was part one of *Climbing in the Dark: Sherlock Holmes and the Screaming Tower*. Presumably there have been subsequent episodes at similar ungodly hours.

A new Sherlock Holmes play is running until 7 July at **Bay Street Theatre** in Sag Harbor, NY. This is *The West End Horror* by Anthony Dodge & Marcia Milgrom Dodge. This theatrical adaptation of Nicholas Meyer's highly theatrical novel (the client is Bernard Shaw, and the suspects include Bram Stoker, Oscar Wilde and Henry Irving) should make for a great evening out. Contact the box office on 631 725 9500 or check the website at <www.baystreet.org>.

An exhibition called *Honoring William Gillette* opened last weekend at the East Haddam Historical Society Museum at 264 Town Street, East Haddam, Connecticut. The date was chosen to celebrate the re-opening of Gillette Castle State Park after a three-year renovation programme. Gillette, of course, was the actor-dramatist who defined Sherlock Holmes for several generations of theatregoers, and both the exhibition at the museum and the displays at the castle reflect the fact.

Our Society's next meeting will be the informal Club Night at the Royal Commonwealth Society at 18 Northumberland Avenue (a stone's throw from the *Sherlock Holmes* pub) at 6.00 pm on 5 July. Just turn up, have a drink, a bite and a chat. On 14 July, of course, there's the return match against the Gentlemen of the P G Wodehouse Society at West Wycombe Cricket Club, played to the laws of 1895.

The Crew of the SS Mayday plan a Baker Street Barbecue on 30 June. Get details of the Crew from Oscar Ross, 19 Ardcarney Way,

Belfast BT5 7RP (e-mail: <oscarross@hotmail.com>). **The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment** will hold the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Memorial Ceremony in Crowborough on 7 July (Brian Pugh, 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN). **The Poor Folk Upon The Moors** plan a pilgrimage to Plymouth on 12 July (Vosper Arthur, Spynishlake, Doddiscombsleigh, Exeter EX6 7PR).

The annual *Maiwand Luncheon* of **The Friends of Dr Watson** will take place on 27 July at the Caravan Serai Afghan Restaurant in Paddington Street, just off Baker Street (Richard Stacpoole-Ryding, 14 Western Close, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 4SZ). On the same day **The Sydney Passengers** will meet to discuss 'Lady Frances Carfax' (Bill Barnes, 19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia). 'The Six Napoleons' will be the topic at the 20 July meeting of **The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem** (Davice Sharpe, 510 Gay Street #1203, Nashville, TN 37219, USA; e-mail <sharpe@bigfoot.com>).

Looking ahead a bit, **The Crew of the SS May Day** plans to visit London on Tuesday 10 September. As the Crew is based in Belfast, this will mean a very long day, but it should be a rewarding one. And on 14 September **The Cimbrian Friends of Baker Street** invite fellow-Sherlockians to meet in Aalborg, Denmark, for a day of music, movies, discoveries and dinner (Jens Byskov Jensen, Ananasvej 94, 9000 Aalborg, Denmark; e-mail <byskovjensen@yahoo.dk>).

Periodicals received. *Communication* #221 (Special Poetry Issue) and #222 (May/June 2002) (**The Pleasant Places of Florida**, Jeff & Wanda Dow, 173777 Santa Anna Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698, USA). *The Camden House Journal*, June 2002 (**The Occupants of the Empty House**, Debbie Tinsley, P.O. Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999, USA). *The Serpentine Muse*, Summer 2002 (**The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes**, Susan Z Diamond, 16W603 Third Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106-2327, USA — subscriptions to Evelyn Herzog, 360 West 21st Street, #5A, New York, NY 10011, USA). *The Parallelogram*, May 2002 *The Parallelogram*, March 2002 (**The Parallel Case of St Louis**, Joseph J Eckrich, 914 Oakmoor Drive, Fenton, MO 63108, USA). *The Illustrious Clients News*, June 2002 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 540 West Sycamore Street, Zionsville, IN 46077, USA). *The Petrel Flyer*, May/June 2002 (**The Stormy Petrels**, Len Haffenden, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3C6, Canada). *Ineffable Twaddle*, June 2002 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8981, USA).

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