

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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I give such addresses and prices as I have; if I don't provide details of importers or agents, it's because I don't have those details.

Murray Shaw, who died on 18 December, well into his 90s, was for many years an enthusiastic subscriber to the DM. By profession a kitchen designer, in our world he was the author of several pleasant new Holmes stories and, more importantly, of the *Match Wits with Sherlock Holmes* series: eight books that respectfully and engagingly present the Canonical adventures as puzzles for younger readers. Peter Blau notes the death of **Jon V Wilmunen**, whose witty cartoons and parodies enlivened several Sherlockian publications in the 1960s and 70s, on 13 January.

Also from Peter, the news of the death on 25 January of producer, writer and director **Sheldon Reynolds**, most memorably responsible for the pleasant 1954 TV series *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* and its little-seen 1981 follow-up *Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson*. Peter says, 'Sheldon Reynolds was inventive and optimistic, and a delightful raconteur.' Gideon Hill reports that **James Jewell** died on 27 February, just six months after his wife Jeanne. He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Jon Lellenberg, and by his fellow-members of the Philadelphia scion **The Sons of the Copper Beeches**, who will stand on the terrace for him at their meeting on 9 May.

The Master of the Queen's Music, **Malcolm Williamson**, died on 2 March at the age of 71. 'The appointment marked the beginning of the decline of a career that had enjoyed almost two decades of extraordinary success' (*Independent*), but among the works he composed during his tenure was the score for that admirable TV movie *The Masks of Death*. On 5 March, **Lloyd Shirley**, one of Britain's leading television executives, died, also aged 71. Among the series and serials that he helped develop were *Callan*, *Van der Valk*, *Minder*, *The Sweeney*, *The Bill* — and *The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes*. **Mary Campbell** MBt, BSI, ASH, died on 17 March. I met Mary first in Montreal at the 1990 Bimetallic Colloquium, where, as Barbara Roden reminds me, she wore a different Victorian gown every day, and received a special award at the Saturday dinner. She seems to have been a friend and mentor to **The Bootmakers of Toronto** and just about all the Sherlockians in Canada. To the ASH she was 'Mrs Merrilow', and she was invested as 'Brenda Tregennis' BSI in January 2002.

The fifth volume in *The Sherlock Holmes Reference Library*, edited by Leslie S Klinger, is *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, which comes with a thought-provoking introduction by David Stuart Davies (Gasogene Books, PO Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268, USA; \$29.95). Depending on whether or not the editor intends to cover the Doylean apocrypha, the project is now at or past the half-way stage, and we can safely dismiss any doubts about its surpassing Baring-Gould's *Annotated Sherlock Holmes*. Les Klinger has clearly spent many hours trawling the writings about the writings for relevant material (and there's far more now than was available to Baring-Gould), and probably as many hours again sifting it, finding the exact quotation or summarising several pages in one sentence. It's a marvellous job, and the result is surely essential for every serious Holmesian. I spotted just two errors in the notes to *The Return*: Lord Gore-Booth, diplomat, was not the same person as Lord Donegall, journalist, though I think both would have been amused at the thought. And a map at 1 to 500 is actually very large scale, not small.

That's not bad among the hundreds of annotations, not to mention the appendices and the rest, and it's nice in a way to know that Mr Klinger isn't infallible. (*Many now accept the identification of the Grange at Bacton as Ridling Thorpe Manor as original to Philip Weller, who wrote it up in 1997, but Bernard Davies was there first [I was there in 1984 when he announced it, as was Philip]. Leslie Klinger can't be blamed for not knowing that, as Bernard never committed it to paper.*)

Gasogene's other new book is *My Dear Holmes: Being the Continuing Annals of Sherlock Holmes* by David L Hammer (\$12.95). Most of the thirteen stories in this slim volume purport to be among the cases that Watson merely tantalisingly referred to. They are often cleverly plotted, and it's very interesting to know that one derives from a personal reminiscence of the late Michael Harrison. In that respect this third collection is an improvement upon the second, but Mr Hammer's style still doesn't ring true to me. The fact that a word or a phrase was current in Victorian England doesn't in itself make it appropriate in a Sherlock Holmes story. I was brought up short by Watson's breakfast references to 'shirred eggs', and, having checked various Victorian and modern British sources, finally found the phrase in a modern American dictionary. No doubt Mr Hammer will say that Mrs Beeton gives a recipe, but I've never come across the phrase in a British book of whatever age. David Hammer is the author of a series of insightful and chatty guides to Holmes's world, and I know he can do better than this.

Both books can be ordered from the publisher. Postage for one book, is \$3.95 within the US or \$5.95 elsewhere; plus 75¢ for each additional book. Checks and money orders should be payable to Gasogene Books.

Eric Monahan's latest booklet is less handsomely but more amiably presented. The first three tales in *Sherlock Holmes in To Err is Human, or All's Well that Ends Well* range from neat parody to outright burlesque — it's an engaging idea that Holmes and Watson's first few years together were spent in poverty at 221A Baker Street before they could afford to move upstairs into 221B! But 'The Disappearance of James Phillimore' and 'The Case of the Fourth Victim' are rather more serious, though I'm sure that Holmes should have realised how the trick was done in the former adventure. The Watsonian or Doylean style is deceptively easy to imitate; the difficult thing is to imitate it well, but Eric Monahan does better than most, and he always has a good tale to tell. The booklet is available, postpaid, for £5.80 or \$10.95 (£4.80 or \$9.95 to members of **The Poor Folk Upon The Moors**) from Highcliff, 14 Silver Bridge Close, Broadsands Park, Paignton, Devon TQ4 7NW.

In *Finding Sherlock's London* Thomas B Wheeler lists an astonishing 200 Sherlockian sites, both by adventure and by the nearest Underground station, identified, as Mr Wheeler says, 'with humble detective skills, a 1902 London street map, and a large magnifying glass'. The 80-page large-format (11" x 8½") book, ring-bound for practicality, is essentially a gazetteer, to take along on a tour of Holmes's London — a pilgrimage of several days. Every location has the appropriate, accurate information from the Canon, but for full detail and exegesis you should have Arthur M Alexander's *Hot on the Scent* to hand. *Finding Sherlock's London* is an excellent traveller's tool. It's available from Thomas B Wheeler (6875 Honey Locust Cove, Memphis, TN 38119, USA; e-mail londonsecrets@london.com) for \$15.00 postpaid, or \$20.00 outside the US. Credit cards accepted.

Cenarth Fox has sent copies of the first two issues (June and December 2002) of his magazine *Nicholas Twit: The Schoolboy Sherlock Holmes*, which comes well recommended by our good friend Bill Barnes of **The Sydney Passengers**. Nick Twit's use of Holmes's techniques makes perfect sense in these tales of 21st century Australia; it all reminds me of Terrance Dicks' excellent *Baker Street Irregulars* novels, which can

only be good. And there are puzzles and Sherlockian Snippets to keep the reader, of whatever age, engaged. There's a website at www.twit.biz. The magazines are available in the UK from an agent in Horsham, but I have no address. Meanwhile, you can contact Cenarth Fox at Fox Plays, PO Box 2078, Richmond South, 3121 Victoria, Australia (e-mail editor@twit.biz).

Derek Hinrich tells me that Stage Right is currently putting on *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* at **The Theatre** in Leatherhead, Surrey (formerly the Thorndike Theatre — *sic transit*). Both plays run until 19 April. Call the box office for details on 01372 365141, or check the website at www.the-theatre.org. On Saturday 12 April Roger Llewellyn will be at the **Palace Theatre** in Redditch with *Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!* by David Stuart Davies. The box office number is 01572 65203. From 17 to 26 April, TOADS Theatre Company will present Paul Giovanni's *The Crucifer of Blood* at the **Little Theatre** in Torquay. Box office 01803 299330; website www.toadstheatre.co.uk. *The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes* by David Belke will be performed at the **Vagabond Theatre** in Cornwall, Ontario, on 24, 25 & 26 April, and at **Aultsville Theatre** at St Lawrence College on 1, 2 & 3 May. You can e-mail info@vagabondtheatrecornwall.com, but I have no phone number. Website www.vagabondtheatrecornwall.com. From 8 to 18 May in the **Drama Lab Theatre** at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, CA, you can see *Sherlock Holmes and the Giant Rat of Sumatra* by Kelly and Sharkey. Phone 714-432-5880. Website www.occtickets.com.

There's a lot of Sherlockiana available on DVD. On 14 April the entire Granada TV series with Jeremy Brett is being released as a 23-disc set by Cinema Club (78 Dean Street, London W1V 5HA). Look out also for *Terror by Night*, *The House of Fear*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon*, *Pursuit to Algiers*, *Dressed to Kill* and *The Woman in Green* (all with Rathbone & Bruce); *Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes* with Ian Richardson; and the cartoon features *The Sign of Four*, *The Valley of Fear* and *The Baskerville Curse*, with the voice of Peter O'Toole, apparently talking in his sleep.

Bert Coules' dramatisation of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* with Clive Merrison & Michael Williams was released on CD in 2001 in the BBC Radio Collection (BBC Worldwide, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT); *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Valley of Fear* will follow on 5 May.

BBC Worldwide will shortly issue its first MP3 release, the complete *Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* on two discs. In the USA a company called Worldtainment has already released the entire Holmes Canon on MP3, each volume priced at \$14.95. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Sign of Four* make up one volume; *A Study in Scarlet* and *His Last Bow* another; while *The Valley of Fear* is paired with 'The Leather Funnel'. In the same series are *The Lost World* coupled with 'The Poison Belt', and *The Detection of Sherlock Holmes* by Patrick Horgan. Mr Horgan, English-born of Irish parents, has played Sherlock Holmes many times in his distinguished acting career, and he is the reader throughout this tremendous project. You can find out more from the publisher's website at www.worldtainment.com.

Until 12 July, the Newberry Library (60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610, USA; website www.newberry.org) houses an exhibition entitled *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle — Beyond Sherlock Holmes*, all exhibits being from the collection of Fred Kittle.

The *Sherlock Holmes* pub in London is already taking bookings for its Christmas Murder Mystery dinners. (Jean and I attended the first one, which was great fun, and the meal, as always was excellent.) Phone 020 8289 9595 for details. (**The pub is a shrine that all Sherlockians should visit, of course, and its history is inextricable from that of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. You'll find it in Northumberland Street, just by Charing Cross Station and Trafalgar Square.**)

Peter Blau reports that the Eastman company found a second print of Albert Parker's silent *Sherlock Holmes* starring John Barrymore. 'A new and better version of the film' has been created, which had its world premiere in Rochester, NY, on 12 January. (**I wonder if people outside the USA will be permitted to see this print. We've never officially been allowed to see the first restored version ...**)

Something really big for the autumn: a symposium, *From Gillette to Brett: Sherlock Holmes on Stage, Screen and Radio*, will be held at the Omni Indianapolis North Hotel (8181 N Shadeland Avenue,

Indianapolis, IN) on 8 & 9 November. Confirmed speakers include Gordon Kelley (author of *Sherlock Holmes: Screen & Sound Guide*), David Stuart Davies (*Starring Sherlock Holmes*); Chris Gullo (Peter Cushing' biographer); Paul Herbert (Sherlockian scholar) and Susan Dahlinger (William Gillette's biographer). Special guests are **Edward Hardwicke** and **Nicholas Meyer**. The cost, excluding accommodation, is \$99.00. Send checks, payable to Wessex Press, to Steven Doyle, 540 W Sycamore Street, Zionsville, IN 46077, USA.

On 25 April **The Sons of the Copper Beeches** will discuss 'The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge' (get details from Gideon Hill, 644 Bridle Road, Glenside, PA 19038-2004, USA). **The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn** (website www.harpooners.org) look at 'The Solitary Cyclist' on 26 April (Michael Bragg, PO Box 256, St Charles, MO 63302-0256, USA). **The Notorious Canary-Trainers** consider 'The Creeping Man' on 27 April (Thom Boykoff of 222 Randolph Drive, #303, Madison, WI 53717, USA; phone 608 833-3369).

The annual **STUD-Watsonian Weekend** takes place in the Chicago area 2 - 4 May, starting with the STUD dinner at the Sheraton Four Points in Schiller Park on Friday; Saturday sees the Fortescue Honours Brunch and the pizza party fun(d)-raiser; and the weekend concludes with the 44th running of the Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course (Susan Diamond and Allan Devitt, 16W603 3rd Ave., Bensenville, IL 60106-2327, USA; e-mail szdiamond@atbi.com). **The Diogenes Club of the Monterey Peninsula** meets on 10 May (Michael H Kean of 2040 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953, USA; e-mail mkean@ctb.com). **The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn** examine 'The Crooked Man' on 16 May; and **The Notorious Canary Trainers** discuss 'The Lion's Mane' on 18 May.

Periodicals received. *The Serpentine Muse*, Spring 2003 (**The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes**, Evelyn Herzog, 360 West 21st Street, Apt 5A, New York, NY 10011, USA). *The Illustrious Clients News*, March 2003 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 540 W Sycamore Street, Zionsville, IN, 46077, USA). *The Passengers' Log*, January 6 2003 (*Summer issue*) (**The Sydney Passengers**, Rosane McNamara, 4/2a Merlin Street, Neutral Bay, NSW 2089, Australia). *The School Report*, Spring Term 2003 (**The Priory Scholars**, Horace L Coates, 21 Butcombe Road, Leicester LE4 0FY). *Mayday Mayday*, March 2003 (incorporating *The Chronicler*) and April 2003 (**The Crew of the SS May Day**, Oscar Ross, 19 Ardcarney Way, Belfast BT5 7RP).

Ineffable Twaddle, April 2003 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8981, USA). *Canadian Holmes*, Lady Day (Spring) 2003 (**The Bootmakers of Toronto**, Trevor Raymond, 4 Lyons Court, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 1P1, Canada). *Sherlockiana*, nr. 1, 2003 (**Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark**, Mia Stampe, Hellebækgade 19, 3.tv., 2200 Kbh. N, Denmark). *The Antipodean Holmesian Society Newsletter*, December 2002, February 2003 and March 2003 (**The Antipodean Holmesian Society**, Ted Nye, 51 Irvine Road, The Cove, Dunedin, New Zealand). *The Torr*, Spring 2003 (**The Poor Folk upon the Moors**, Reggie Musgrave, Drummond Cottage, Old Tavern Yard, Westbourne, Chichester, West Sussex PO10 8TA). *The Parallelogram*, March 2003 (**The Parallel Case of St Louis**, Joseph J Eckrich, 914 Oakmoor, Fenton, MO 63026, USA).

The Camden House Journal, March 2003, April 2003 and *The Beeman's Christmas Annual*, 2002 (**The Occupants of the Empty House**, Stan Tinsley, PO Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999, USA) (**the final edition of the Annual marks the Occupants' silver jubilee and is dedicated to Fr 'Vic' Holly, composer of the inspiring Sherlockian Prayer**). *Communication*, Special Science Fiction Issue and March-April 2003 (**The Pleasant Places of Florida**, Wanda & Jeff Dow, 1737 Santa Anna Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698, USA) (**the special issues are always fun; this SF one combines imagination and humour**).

And of course *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, February and March 2003 (Peter E Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA; pblau@dgsys.com).

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