

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.

Zena Walker, who died on 24 August aged 69, played one Sherlockian rôle in her acting career: Mrs Toller in Radio 4's 1978 dramatisation of 'The Copper Beeches', with Barry Foster as Holmes. Tall saturnine **Guy Rolfe** died on 19 October aged 91; he will be remembered for movies such as *The Spider and the Fly* and *Ivanhoe*. He played Sherlock Holmes in *The Case of Marcel Duchamp*, directed by David Rowan, with Raymond Francis as Watson, but the film seems never to have been released. [**If you have evidence to the contrary, please tell me.**]

Devise Sharpe, editor of the newsletter of **The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem**, died on 16 October. We never met, but it was evident from our correspondence and from *Plugs and Dottles* that she was an amiable and intelligent person with a lively sense of humour.

Ken Collier and his wife Sue have managed the *Sherlock Holmes* in Northumberland Street, London, for the past six or so years, and they have ensured that the pub remains a fixed point in a changing age. Ken developed prostate cancer a couple of years ago and lost his battle with the disease on 7 November. He was a nice fellow; Jean and I miss him. Our thoughts are with Sue and her staff at this sad and difficult time.

Colin Prestige, a founder of our Society, died on 12 November, aged 76. Shirley Purves, who knew him better than most, describes him as a keen Sherlockian with a crusty exterior and a heart of gold. He was invested as a Baker Street Irregular in 1961, as 'Captain Jack Crocker'.

The good news is that the surviving founder member, **Freda Howlett**, has accepted the Council's invitation to be the Society's President — the sixth, I think.

If you would like to possess a title with a Baskerville connection, I understand that the **Barony of Pencelli** is still for sale at £40,000. Pencelli Castle in Wales, now an uninhabitable ruin, was built in the eleventh century by the Norman knight, Ralph Baskerville. The lawyers for Mrs Grace Pitchford have confirmed that the title is authentic and that Mrs Pitchford is the legal owner. For more information contact Henmans Solicitors, 6 Oxford Street, Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1TW.

The latest publication from **Baskerville Bücher** is *Sherlock Holmes in Film und Fernsehen: Ein Handbuch*, edited by Michael Ross. This 240-page paperback is, I think, the first thorough German language study of the subject. The contributions cover the silent Holmes movies in Germany, various Baskerville hounds, that curious comedy *Der Mann, Der Sherlock Holmes War*, the TV films with Erich Schellow, the multinational hotch-potch *Sherlock Holmes und das Halsband des Todes* — and five great Holmeses: Rathbone, Cushing, Lee, Richardson and Brett. The book is of interest even to the non-German speaker. The filmography includes details of the actors who dubbed soundtracks into German, and I'll bet Harry Wüstenhagen sounded more convincing in *Das Halsband des Todes* than the American whose voice issues from Christopher Lee's mouth in the English language prints! The book is available from Baskerville Bücher

(Postfach 42 06 70, 50900 Köln, Germany) for 24.90 Euros, plus 2 Euros surface mail outside Germany. E-mail the publisher at info@baskerville.de, or buy through the website at www.baskerville.de. Payment by European bank transfer or PayPal only, please. (The book is also available from www.amazon.de, where you can pay by credit card.)

Last year **Magico** (PO Box 156, New York, NY 10002, USA) published *A Singular Sense of Humor: A Compilation of Stuff and Nonsense by and for Sherlockians* compiled by David H Galerstein and edited by Caroline Bryan. It's full of parody, burlesque, frivolity — well, you get the idea — and it is, understandably, American-biased, with contributions from a whole heap of BSIs, ASH and other witty devotees. Alongside Kate Karlson, Jennie Paton, Thom Utecht and the rest, Shirley Purves speaks out for the misunderstood Hound as only an Englishwoman can. Cartoons by the late Norman Schatell add to the fun. I'm afraid I have no price for this nice 200-page hardback, but if you write to Magico I expect they'll send you a catalogue.

Also published in 2002 was Randal Henly's *Sherlock Holmes Crossword Puzzles*, a collection of thirty-three puzzles, mostly based on a straightforward knowledge of the Canon, but with a sprinkling of appropriately cryptic clues (published by the author, 81 Offington Avenue, Sutton, Dublin 13, Republic of Ireland). The booklet is available from the **Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company** (230 Baker Street, London NW1 5RT; phone 020 7486 1426) priced at £4.50.

Black Coat Press (PO Box 17270, Encino, CA 91416, USA; website www.blackcoatpress.com) was set up for devotees of popular fiction, drawing especially on the great French tradition of crime, fantasy and scientific fiction. One of the first titles is *Shadowmen* by Jean-Marc and Randy Lofficier, a survey of over two dozen ground-breaking French pulp fiction characters, including Arsène Lupin, Fantômas, and the Phantom of the Opera. Due early next year is *The Man in Grey*, an early 'Holmes and the Ripper' thriller by Arnould Galopin, adapted by the Lofficiers. Jean-Marc has a website devoted to French Holmes pastiche at www.coolfrenchcomics.com/sherlockholmes.htm.

Peter Blau notes that the memoirs of **Frederic H Sonnenschmidt BSI** will be published next year by Pearson/Prentice Hall as *Tastes and Tales of a Chef: Stories and Recipes* (\$16.00). Fritz Sonnenschmidt is the co-author of the excellent *Dining with Sherlock Holmes: A Baker Street Cook Book*, and his BSI investiture is 'Simpson's'! Peter says that he 'does not neglect Sherlock Holmes in his stories.'

There's a new catalogue, with some Sherlockiana and Doyleana, from **Nigel Williams Rare Books** (25 Cecil Court, London WC2N 4HE; nwrarebook@tcp.co.uk).

Charles Hall (12 Paisley Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 7JW) has just cast a model of the Hound of the Baskervilles (with Sherlock Holmes doll in its mouth!) in an edition of twenty, at £35.00 plus £4.00 postage. His other new product is a pair of miniatures of Charlie Chaplin as Holmes and Watson, in resin, with an antiqued ivory finish. They're caricatures, but the facial likeness is exact. No price for these yet, I'm afraid.

The lead article in *Sherlock* issue no. 57 is 'Dalglish in View', in which Alan Perry surveys Commander Dalglish's television career, and the cover illustration is a moody still of Martin Shaw in the recent *Death in Holy Orders*. Also in this issue — Paul M Chapman looks at Holmes and the underworld, and opens the files on Jack the Ripper; Robert Sanderson considers Holmes's place in science fiction; M J Elliott views the black & white movies featuring Philip Marlowe; David Stuart Davies contributes a new Johnny One Eye story; Calum

McCloud reads the novels of Clare Francis; Martin Edwards inspects Andrew Taylor's DI Richard Thornhill, and takes us through fifty years of the Crime Writers' Association; Gavin Collinson appreciates Ian Richardson; John Hall gives Mrs Hudson her due; Patricia Guy illuminates **The Assorted and Stradivarius of Verona** ... and there's material from Pat Ward, Roger Forsdyke, Bob Byrne, Chris Senior, Moriarty and me. The magazine is published six times a year by Atlas Publishing Ltd, at £3.95 or \$6.50 the issue. A six-issue subscription is £23.70 (rest of world £26.00 or \$40.00) from Atlas Publishing Ltd, Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hants. BH25 6QJ. The US representative is Classic Specialties (PO Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219, USA; sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com). Check the website at www.sherlockholmes.com.

A reminder that from 1 to 6 December, at 8.00 pm with a 4.00 pm matinée on Saturday, Roger Llewellyn will stage David Stuart Davies's play *Sherlock Holmes — The Last Act!* at the **Jermyn Street Theatre**, in Jermyn Street, near Piccadilly Circus. The box office phone number is 020 7287 2875. After more than four years it remains a fresh and exciting production.

From 10 to 13 December at 8.00 pm, at the **Third Floor Arts Centre** (Norris Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth) Anyone Can Play will present *A Study in Scarlet* by Jason Brown. Tickets are £6.00 (£5.00 concessions); The box office number is 023 9283 7373.

BBC 2 is currently showing Granada's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* on Saturdays, as part of its 'Watching the Detectives' slot, and the complete Brett series is available on DVD until 31 December from *Radio Times*, PO Box 190, Peterborough PE2 6UW, priced at £144.99 postpaid. That's a saving of £10.00.

The Beeb is broadcasting its own Sherlock Holmes plays on the radio. The digital channel BBC7 continues the Merrison-Williams series with *The Hound of the Baskervilles* part 1 at 10.00 am (repeated at 11.00 pm) on Sunday 30 November, and part 2 on Sunday 7 December. [*Thanks to Philip Attwell for keeping me up to date with the media.*]

According to a PA bulletin forwarded by Takeshi Shimizu, a recent poll voted DI Jack Frost (played by David Jason) the nation's favourite TV detective, with Inspector Morse (John Thaw) second and Sherlock Holmes (Jeremy Brett) third. [*I'm delighted to see *Jonathan Creek* (Alan Davies) ranked fourth, but shocked that *Hercule Poirot* (David Suchet) doesn't feature in the top twenty.*]

Nathan Garrideb hoped to be recognised as the Hans Sloane of his age. Sir Hans Sloane died 250 years ago, when his collections were bought for the nation, and an act of Parliament established the British Museum to house them. **The British Library** held a study day and commemoration on Monday 24 November.

Kevin Jacklin has spotted a two-handed card game, *Bakerstreet*, made by the German firm of Ravensburger and available from games shops in the UK and the USA. He also notes that *Murder by Decree* is at last out on DVD on both sides of the Atlantic. The Region 1 disc (North America) contains the whole shooting script as an extra. *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* is on DVD in Region 1 only, with lots of exciting extras — which we in Britain can't see without a multi-region DVD player and a TV set that can cope with NTSC ... Grrr!

Mrs Hudson has decorated Holmes and Watson's sitting-room for Christmas at the **Sherlock Holmes** in London. The pub provides excellent food and drink, in the bar and in the restaurant. (10-11 Northumberland Street, London WC2N 5DB; phone 020 7930 2644; e-mail sherlock.wc2n@laurelpubco.com).

Past Times (Witney, Oxfordshire OX29 7DX; website www.past-times.com) offers all sorts of things to help celebrate Christmas in Victorian style. **Hawkin's Bazaar** (St Margaret, Harleston, Norfolk IP20 0HN; website www.hawkin.com) is a marvellous source of toys and games that you didn't know were still made. Both companies have mouth-watering catalogues.

The true Sherlockian should visit **The Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company** (230 Baker Street, London NW1 5RT; phone 020 7846 1426; website www.sherlockholmes1.com). They're taking orders for their new 'Sherlock Bear', made in a limited edition of 500 by Merrythought, one of the world's most distinguished teddy bear companies. Sherlock costs £80.00, and he's quite magnificent.

Vasili Livanov, a great Sherlock Holmes in the Russian TV series of

the the early 1980s, has accepted honorary membership in **The Franco-Midland Hardware Company** and **The Baskerville Hounds**.

If you live in Sussex and you'd like to be in at the start of a new Holmes group, contact Brian Pugh at 20 Clare Road, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1PN (e-mail Brian.W.Pugh@tesco.net). He's looking to set up **Sherlock's Bee-Keepers: The Sussex Sherlock Holmes Society**.

Our Society's next meeting is the annual dinner at the House of Commons on Saturday 10 January. The guest of honour is the Chairman of the Detection Club, Simon Brett, and the supporting speaker is Michael Whelan, head of **The Baker Street Irregulars** — whose own dinner will be held at the Union League Club in New York on Friday 16 January (for information about the BSI, contact Mike at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278, USA).

The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn (Michael Bragg, PO Box 256, St Charles MO 63302-0256, USA) discuss 'The Resident Patient' at their meeting on 28 November, and 'The Blue Carbuncle' on 20 December. The annual dinner of **The Crew of the SS May Day** is at the Ulster Reform Club on 4 December (Oscar Ross, 19 Ardcarney Way, Belfast BT5 7RP). **The Occupants of the Empty House** meet at Alongi's Restaurant in Du Quoin on 5 December (Debbie Tinsley, PO Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999, USA). The AGM and Christmas lunch of **The Franco-Midland Hardware Company** (hosted by **The Priory Scholars**) is at the Cricketers in Leicester on 7 December (6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU). **The Sound of the Baskervilles** meet at T S McHugh's on 8 December and hold the Will Crakes Memorial Jollification on 13 December (David Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NE, Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8981, USA). **The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem** have a party on 13 December (Gael Stahl, 1763 Needmore Road, Old Hickory, TN 37138, USA). **The Parallel Case of St Louis** discuss 'The Noble Bachelor' at The Big Sleep on 15 December (Joe Eckrich, 914 Oakmoor, Fenton, MO 63026, USA).

6 January sees the Grand Opening of an exhibition, *Happy Birthday, Mr Holmes*, at the Czech Police Museum in Prague, jointly sponsored by **The Czech Society of Sherlock Holmes** (Česka společnost Sherlocka Holmese, Ales M. Kolodrubec, Milesovska 1, 130 00 Praha 3, Czech Republic). The exhibition runs till 15 February. **The Pleasant Places of Florida** plan a film festival in Seminole for Holmes's 150th birthday (Carl Heifetz, 1220 Winding Willow Drive, Trinity, FL 34655, USA).

Periodicals received. **3 Pipe Problem Plugs and Dottles**, November 2003 (**The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem**, Kay Blocker e-mail pkblocker@comcast.net — sorry, I've no terrestrial address). *The Whaling News*, September and October 2003 (**The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn**, Michael Bragg, PO Box 256, St Charles MO 63302-0256, USA) PO Box 256, St Charles MO 63302-0256, USA). *The Camden House Journal*, October and November 2003 (**The Occupants of the Empty House**, Debbie Tinsley, PO Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999, USA). *Mayday Mayday*, November 2003 (**The Crew of the SS May Day**, Oscar Ross, 19 Ardcarney Way, Belfast BT5 7RP). *Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections*, September 2003 (**Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections**, Suite 111, Elmer L Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, 222 21st Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA). *Communication*, November/December 2003 (**The Pleasant Places of Florida**, Wanda & Jeff Dow, 1737 Santa Anna Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698, USA). *Sherlock Holmes-Kurier*, Herbst 2003 (**Von Herder Airguns Ltd**, Uwe Sommerlad, Rödelheimer Landstrasse 32, 60487 Frankfurt a. M., Germany). *FMHC Mamo*, interim issue (**The Franco-Midland Hardware Company**, Philip Weller, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU). *The Parallelogram*, October 2003 (**The Parallel Case of St Louis**, Joe Eckrich, 914 Oakmoor, Fenton, MO 63026, USA).

And of course *Scuttlebutt from the Spermacti Press*, October 2003 (Peter Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; e-mail pblau@dgsys.com). [*Note Peter's new address.*]

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