

# The DISTRICT MESSENGER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON  
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no. 239 9 Feb 2004

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Our long-time member **L W Bailey** died on 16 June, aged ninety. In his obituary in *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* Richard Lancelyn Green says that Bill Bailey's Sherlockian writings were collected in 2000 as *The Scandal behind the 'Scandal', and other Attacks of Sherlockholmania*. Peter Blau reports that the Revd **Wayne Wall** ('Holy Peters' BSI) died in December. His magnum opus is his book *God and Sherlock Holmes* (1982).

**Dinsdale Landen**, who died on 29 December aged 71, was a brilliant farceur whose comic gifts overshadowed his talent for dramatic rôles. His intelligent Watson matched Robert Powell's Holmes in Michael Hardwick's 1974 BBC radio adaptation of *A Study in Scarlet*. In 1989 he was a waspish Holmes to John Moffatt's Watson in Charles Marowitz's bitter comedy *Sherlock's Last Case*, also on BBC radio. Peter Blau notes that the novelist **Joan Aiken**, who died on 4 January, contributed the article on Arthur Conan Doyle to the partwork encyclopaedia *Man, Myth and Magic*. **Douglas Warren**, a member of our Society for more than fifty years and an authority on roads and plumbing in the Canon, died on 19 January. Our thoughts are with his wife, Ivy.

Comedian, actor and writer **Roy Hudd** was awarded the OBE in the New Year's Honours. He played John Gedgrave in Granada TV's 1994 production of *The Dying Detective* to Jeremy Brett's Holmes, and James Phillimore in *The Singular Inheritance of Miss Gloria Wilson* for BBC Radio in 2002, to Clive Merrison's Holmes. In 1999 he himself was Holmes in *The Newly Discovered Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*, a vulgar funny burlesque for BBC Radio.

At the annual dinner of **The Sherlock Holmes Society of London** on 10 January, Philip Porter announced that Pam Bruxner had been awarded honorary membership — a tribute to her long and devoted service to the Society. Phil also presented the first *Tony Howlett Award*, instituted by Freda Howlett in memory of her husband and co-founder, to Richard Lancelyn Green.

In New York on 16 January, Wiggins announced the following investitures into **The Baker Street Irregulars**: Gideon D Hill ('Jack Prendergast'), Francine Kitts ('Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope'), Nicholas Meyer ('A Fine Morocco Case'), Bernard Oudin ('Our French Gold'), Michael Ross ('Von Bork'), Constantine Rossakis ('St Bartholomew's Hospital'), Doug Wrigglesworth ('The Retired Colourman'). In addition, Paul D Herbert received the *Two-Shilling Award* for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty, and Peter E Blau was presented with the *Dr John H Watson Afghan Campaign Desk*, 'with grateful appreciation of his many contributions as society secretary, Sherlockian ambassador, and record keeper extraordinaire'. Congratulations to all!

The publishing programme of **Black Coat Press** (PO Box 17270, Encino, CA 91416, USA) draws on the great French tradition of fantastic literature. *Shadowmen: Heroes and Villains of French Pulp Fiction* by Jean-Marc and Randy Lofficier (\$19.95) very efficiently whets the appetite for Black Coat's translations from a range of fiction all but unknown to the English language reader. We know the Count of Monte Cristo, Captain Nemo, and the Phantom of the Opera; we have encountered Fantômas or Judex in translation; and through Sherlock Holmes we have met M Lecoq or Arsène Lupin. But what of

Belphégor, Fascinax, Rodolphe le Justicier? There's much Sherlockian relevance here. Harry Dickson, was presented as *Le Sherlock Holmes Américain*. Maurice le Blanc pitted his master-crook Arsène Lupin against Sherlock Holmes in several ingenious stories — though he had to call the detective 'Herlock Sholmès' or 'Holmlock Shears' (Lupin is much to be preferred to the intolerably snobbish A J Raffles). The Lofficiers have obviously had fun linking many of the characters to Philip José Farmer's 'Wold Newton' scenario — which is too complex to go into here!. *Shadowmen* is a handsome volume, well written and full of fascinating information.

'Suppose,' thought Warren Randall, 'Wiggins, on his irregular routine of going, seeing and hearing everything, fell under the influence of Dr Seuss. What would he then report to Sherlock Holmes?' The result is *And to Think that I Saw It on Mulbaker Street*, a nice 36-page booklet wittily illustrated by Laurie Manifold. It's available from Warren (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720-1346, USA) for \$10.00, which includes postage to any address. Make checks payable to Warren Randall.

There are Sherlockian references in the introduction to the new facsimile of *The Golliwogg's Circus* by Florence Kate Upton (The Original Golliwogg Company, 5 Southbrook Mews, London SE12 8LG; £25.00) — not surprisingly, as it's written by the artist's distant cousin, Jean Upton BSI ASH! The Golliwogg, beloved of many thousands since the 1890s, is kind, brave, resourceful, and lovable. Without moralising, the adventures of the Golliwogg and the Dutch Dolls promote an ideal of integration. (The original toys are still together, and can be seen in the Museum of Childhood at Bethnal Green.) Florence Upton, illustrator and portrait artist, became a colleague of Arthur Conan Doyle in the Spiritualist movement before her early death in 1922.

Stephen Clarkson has compiled *The Baker Street Journal Christmas Annual 2003: 'The Strength and Activity of Youth' — The Junior Sherlockian Movement*. It's a look back to the 1960s and 70s when some of today's leading Sherlockians were eager youngsters. Among those featured are Kate Karlson, Chris Redmond, Susan Dahlinger, Paul Singleton, Susan Rice and our own Nick Utechin. The 64-page booklet costs \$11.00 within the USA or \$12.00 elsewhere, from The Baker Street Journal, PO Box 465, Hanover, PA 1731, USA (website: [www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)).

The 21st *Beaten's Christmas Annual* is available from **The Sound of the Baskervilles** (David Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8981, USA) at \$5.00 or \$6.00 Canadian. The website is at [www.thesoundofthebaskervilles.com](http://www.thesoundofthebaskervilles.com).

New from Calabash Press (PO Box 1360, Ashcroft, British Columbia V0K 1A0, Canada; website [www.ash-tree.bc.ca/calabash.html](http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/calabash.html)): *Violets & Vitriol*, Holmesian and Doylean writing by women, edited by Susan Dahlinger (Cdn\$30.00 / US\$23.00 / £15.00); *The Questionable Parentage Of Basil Grant* a parody by R. Bostoun Cromer (D. K. Broster and M. Croom Brown) (Cdn\$10.00 / US\$7.50 / £5.00), and *I Am Inclined to Think... : Musings on Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle* by Barbara Roden (Cdn\$13.00 / US\$10.00 / £7.50).

New catalogues are available from **Black Cat Bookshop** (90 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1GE; [blackcatuk@aol.com](mailto:blackcatuk@aol.com)) [*\*Holmesiana and Doyleana\**], **Nigel Williams Rare Books** (25 Cecil Court, London WC2N 4HE; [nwrarebook@tcp.co.uk](mailto:nwrarebook@tcp.co.uk)) [*\*first editions and other desirables, priced accordingly\**], and **Sherlock Holmes Museet Antikvariatet** (Egebjergvej 206, 4500 Nykøbing Sj., Denmark;

[sherlock@sherlockiana.net](mailto:sherlock@sherlockiana.net) [*\*Holmesiana and Doyleana, mainly in English\**].

Naxos AudioBooks (18 High Street, Welwyn, Herts. AL6 9EQ) have released *The Return of Sherlock Holmes I*, read, like their previous eight volumes, by David Timson. In 'The Empty House', 'The Norwood Builder', 'The Six Napoleons' and 'The Three Students' Mr Timson demonstrates again that he is one of our great vocal actors, defining each character with apparent ease and without descending into caricature. Listening to his Horace Harker, his Sebastian Moran, or his Hilton Soames, for instance, you feel that you would recognise them instantly if you met them. His Holmes has exactly the right quality, quizzical and slightly acerbic, and his Watson is sensible and thoroughly likeable. The readings are paced splendidly, for which the producer Nicolas Soames must take credit, and they are enhanced by atmospheric music from the Naxos catalogue, in this case string quartets by A W Foote. On three CDs or three cassettes, these recordings are about as good as they come.

In *Sherlock* no. 58 Alan Perry considers Harry Potter as a detective; Paul M Chapman looks further at Holmes and the Ripper; Calum McCloud reads Kathy Reichs; M J Elliott views the later Philip Marlowe movies; Robert Sanderson considers the mysterious Mr Quin, and examines the Holmes-Spock connection; Alanna Knight contributes a new Faro story; Martin Edwards writes about writing; Gavin Collinson compares the BBC and Granada 'Blue Carbuncles' ... 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](mailto:sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com)). Check the website at [www.sherlockholmes.com](http://www.sherlockholmes.com).

BBC 7's recent series of ten of Michael Hardwick's classic radio plays with Carleton Hobbs & Norman Shelley as Holmes and Watson will be repeated in early April with introductions by Nicholas Utechin, and a second series will follow. These clean, clear recordings had apparently lain forgotten for years in the files at Broadcasting House! [*\*Thanks to Phil Attwell and Nick Utechin for keeping me up to date on this.\**]

Roy Simmons sends news that *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Tim Kelly will be produced by the Wanstead Players on 19, 20 & 21 February at **The Kenneth More Theatre** in Ilford (box office 020 8553 4466; website [www.kenneth-more-theatre.co.uk](http://www.kenneth-more-theatre.co.uk)).

Our New York member Mia Albright will present a performed reading of her play *The Strange Case of the Missing Dr Watson* at the Victoria pub near Paddington Station, London, at 7.00pm on 21 May. There'll be no advance booking and formal charge, but donations will be appreciated. Should be fun! For more details, you can e-mail Mia at [mialbright@hotmail.com](mailto:mialbright@hotmail.com).

Tim Evers of Houston, Texas, is trying to arrange to tour his one-man play *The Demons of Sherlock Holmes*, which explores the effect of Holmes's cocaine addiction. Tim has connections in Leeds and hopes to perform the play in Britain as well as in America. If you can help, contact him at [TheatreBahHumbug@aol.com](mailto:TheatreBahHumbug@aol.com).

I haven't yet had the chance to check Anthony Mann's website at [www.geocities.com/anthonydpmann](http://www.geocities.com/anthonydpmann), but we're promised news of another film of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, to be directed in and around Kingston, Ontario, by Stephen L Heron. Mr Mann himself is writer and producer, and plays Sherlock Holmes.

Michael Ross tells me that Polyband of Munich has released a DVD of Granada's *The Sign of Four*, containing both the English and the German soundtracks and with better picture and sound quality than the British and American DVDs. It is available from Baskerville Bücher (Postfach 42 06 70, 50900 Köln, Germany; website at [www.baskerville.de](http://www.baskerville.de)) for 18.95 plus postage — 4.00 to Europe.

London Horror Tours (PO Box 42031, London E5 9XT; e-mail [pope-de-locksley@hotmail.com](mailto:pope-de-locksley@hotmail.com)) offers a Sherlock Holmes walk starting at 6.00pm on Mondays from Baker Street Station, and at 2.00pm on Saturdays from the Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company. There's a website at [www.londonhorrortours.co.uk](http://www.londonhorrortours.co.uk).

The **STUD-Watsonian Weekend** will be held 16-18 April, with the annual STUD dinner on Friday, the 45th running of the Chicago 'Silver Blaze' at Hawthorne Race Course and the 'fun(d)raiser' pizza party on Saturday, and the Fortescue Honours Brunch on Sunday. For details contact Allan Devitt and Susan Diamond at 16W603 Third Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106-2327, USA. Or e-mail [szdiamond@comcast.net](mailto:szdiamond@comcast.net).

The next meeting of **The Illustrious Clients** is at the Milano Inn in Indianapolis on 21 February (Steven T Doyle, 540 W Sycamore Street, Zionsville, IN 46077, USA). On the same day **The Crew of the SS May Day** watch Roger Llewellyn in *Sherlock Holmes — The Last Act!* (Oscar Ross, 19 Ardcaran Way, Belfast BT5 7RP). **The Northern Musgraves** hold their Birthday Party on 28 February at the Huddersfield Hotel in Huddersfield. Contact John Hall (20 Drury Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4BR) who says they welcome non-members, prospective members and lapsed members. **Colonel Sebastian Moran's Secret Gun Club** meets every leap year on 29 February. This year the Mongoose Hunt in the Forest Preserve at Wilmette (firearms aren't needed) is followed by a repast at Hackney's restaurant in Glenview (Elliott Black, 2511 Windsor Lane, Northbrook, IL 60062-7040, USA).

Periodicals received. *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*, Winter 2003 [*\*there's timing — it arrived this morning!\**]. **The Passengers' Log**, 8th October 2003 (**The Sydney Passengers**, Rosane McNamara, 4/2a Merlin Street, Neutral Bay, NSW 2089, Australia). **The Formulary**, December 2003, and **The Collected Essays: The Dr John H Watson Annual Prize Essay Competition**, 2003 (**The Friends of Dr Watson**, Brian Scrivener, 94 Reigate Avenue, Sutton, Surrey SM1 3JJ). **The Crier**, Winter 2003-2004 (**The Criterion Bar Association**, Brenda Rossini, 550 Sheridan Road, Winnetka, IL 60093, USA). **Canadian Holmes**, Christmas (Winter) 2003 (**The Bootmakers of Toronto**, Trevor Raymond, 4 Lyons Court, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 1P1, Canada). **The Parallelogram**, December 2003 (**The Parallel Case of St Louis**, Joseph J Eckrich, 914 Oakmoor, Fenton, MO 63026, USA). **The Camden House Journal**, January 2004 (**The Occupants of the Empty House**, Debbie Tinsley, PO Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999, USA). **The Whaling News**, November and December 2003 (**The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn**, Michael E Bragg, PO Box 256, St Charles, MO 63302-0256, USA). **The Illustrious Clients News**, December 2003, and February 2004 (**The Illustrious Clients.. Communication**, 'Special End-of-the-Year Issue 2003', and January/February 2004 (**The Pleasant Places of Florida**, Wanda & Jeff Dow, 1737 Santa Anna Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698, USA).

**Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections**, December 2003 (Suite 111, Elmer L Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, 222 21st Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA). **3 Pipe Problem Plugs and Dottles**, January 2004 (**The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem**, Kay Blocker, [pkblocker@comcast.net](mailto:pkblocker@comcast.net)). **The Serpentine Muse**, Winter 2003 (**The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes**, Evelyn Herzog, 360 West 21st Street, #5A, New York, NY 10011, USA). **Mayday Mayday**, January 2004, and February 2004 (**The Crew of the SS May Day**, Oscar Ross, 19 Ardcaran Way, Belfast BT5 7RP). **The Baker Street Journal**, Winter 2003 (Steven Rothman, 220, West Rittenhouse Square, #15-D, Philadelphia, PA 19103, USA; subscriptions, PO Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331, USA; correspondence for **The Baker Street Irregulars** should go to Michael Whelan, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278, USA). **The Magic Door**, Winter 2003 (**Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection**, Doug Wrigglesworth, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON, Canada M4W 2G8). **Interim Newsletter**, January 2004 (**The Conan Doyle [Crowborough] Establishment**, Brian W Pugh, 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN). **Ineffable Twaddle**, February 2004 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 9832-8981, USA).

And *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, December 2003, and January 2004 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; [pblau@dgsys.com](mailto:pblau@dgsys.com)).

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