

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.

Peter Blau notes that **Kay Walsh**, who died on 16 April (see DM 252), played Mrs Hudson in various instalments of Sheldon Reynolds' sadly little-seen 1979 TV series *Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson*, with Geoffrey Whitehead and Donald Pickering as Holmes and Watson. Also from Peter: **Sylvian Hamilton**, a notable specialist Sherlockian dealer (and subscriber to this newsletter) in the 1980s and early 1990s, died on 28 February; her mediaeval detective novels, beginning with *The Bone Pedlar*, are highly regarded. **Edgar B Smith** ('Moore Agar', BSI), who was distinguished both as a Sherlockian and a dermatologist, died on 12 May.

**Norman Bird**, who died on 22 April aged eighty, was an impeccable supporting actor in all media. On BBC1 in 1973 he played Inspector Street in N F Simpson's surreal comedy *Elementary, My Dear Watson*, with John Cleese and William Rushton as Holmes and Watson. His other Sherlockian performances were all on BBC Radio 4: he was Arthur Frankland in Bert Coules's 1988 dramatisation of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, with Roger Rees and Crawford Logan; opposite Clive Merrison and Michael Williams he was Dr Huxtable in Michael Bakewell's 1993 *The Priory School* and Peterson in Bert Coules's 1995 *The Retired Colourman*. Alexis Barquin alerted me to the death on 8 June, three days short of his seventy-third birthday, of **Ed Bishop**, one of Britain's most notable resident American actors. In 1968 he played Joseph Stangerson in BBC TV's *A Study in Scarlet* with Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock, and twenty-one years later played Enoch Drebbler in Bert Coules's BBC Radio production with Clive Merrison and Michael Williams. Later in the radio series he was an unnamed Agent in 1994's *His Last Bow*. **Jonathan Adams**, actor and artist, died on 13 June aged seventy-four. In 1985 he played Jonas Oldacre in Granada TV's *The Norwood Builder*, with Jeremy Brett and David Burke (and Rosalie Crutchley perfect as Mrs Lexington), and in 1993 appeared as Mr McFarlane in Bert Coules's Radio 4 adaptation of the same story, with Merrison and Williams. In 1995, he was Josiah Barnes in Radio 4's *Shoscombe Old Place*, scripted by Michael Bakewell.

Dr Robert Hume has drawn on the most authoritative sources — Jessie M Saxby and Ely M Liebow — and distilled the essentials of Joe Bell's life and career into the eighty engrossing pages of *Dr Joseph Bell: The Original Sherlock Holmes* (Stone Publishing House, 17 Stone House, North Foreland Street, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 3NT; 7 July; £4.99). Interestingly, he opens with an anecdote that has been told over the years of various scientists, and was first recorded of Bell by Harold Emery Jones in 1904 (see the Urban Legends Reference Pages at [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com)). The book is well researched and written, and will surely prove an excellent introduction to Dr Bell for young readers. Mind you, I'd always understood that Victorian Edinburgh was called 'Auld Reekie' (spelled here 'Aulde Reakie') because it was smoky, not because it was — as it undoubtedly was — smelly!

Leslie S Klinger and his publishers have put us yet deeper in their debt with the seventh volume in the Sherlock Holmes Reference

Library, *The Valley of Fear* (Gasogene Books, PO Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268, USA; \$19.95). The standards of scholarship and of production were established with the first volume, *The Adventures*, back in 1998, and they have never faltered. *The Valley of Fear* is a rich novel — Christopher Redmond suggests that its two strands make it a masterpiece twice over — but it is scandalously underrated and sadly neglected. Well, this volume, along with the BSI's admirable *Murderland* (see DM 251) are helping to set that situation right. Julia Carlson Rosenblatt contributes an admirable introduction about Conan Doyle's Scowlers and the real-life Molly Maguires. She comes as close as anyone can, I suspect, to the reason for the book's lack of popularity: 'I tend to blame Part Two, which makes us uncomfortable. It takes us into disquieting, lawless territory. When the rule of law breaks down, we lack the reassurance that Holmes can make everything better.' Leslie Klinger's scholarship is no less perceptive and thorough, and is expressed with concision: his summary of the research into Moriarty's Greuze, for example, is exemplary. As always, he notes any significant variations between the texts of different editions of the book, which differ more in this case than with any other volume in the Holmes Canon. American terms and language are more accurate, unsurprisingly, in the American texts, but some expressions were toned down by the American editors, even to the extent of referring simply to 'the mine police' rather than the Coal and Iron Police. Besides the extensive bibliography, this volume has two appendices: a survey of the speculations about the enigmatic Fred Porlock, and the bridging material that preceded some instalments in *The Strand Magazine*, with a fragment from the manuscript that was omitted from published texts. It's a wonderful project, excellently carried out. Highest recommendation.

**Charles Hall** (12 Paisley Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 7JW) has a special offer on two of his booklets: *Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Edinburgh* (£1.80), and *On Stage Sherlock Holmes* (£2.50). Prices include postage, and you get two free caricature postcards with each order.

Due in late summer (probably) from **Black Coat Press** (PO Box 17270, Encino, CA 91416, USA; [www.blackcoatpress.com](http://www.blackcoatpress.com)) is *Sherlock Holmes: The Grand Horizontals, and Other Plays* by Frank J Morlock, in which Holmes crosses the paths of Fantômas, Father Brown and Teddy Roosevelt.

The **Calabash Press / Ash-Tree Press** summer sale continues until 30 June, so there's still time to bag a bargain. Check the available titles at [www.ash-tree.bc.ca](http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca).

There's a new catalogue out from **The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box** (PO Box 204, Shelburne, Ontario L0N 1S0, Canada), much of it Sherlockian, but not all by a long way. Forthcoming, among much else, are Tim Johnson's update to *The Universal Sherlock Holmes* and *The Solar Pons Encyclopaedia*. The range of material on CD-ROM includes *The Sherlock Holmes Journal 1952-2002*. The catalogue is also the website at <[batteredbox.com](http://batteredbox.com)>. **Gryphon Books** (PO Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228-0209, USA) also have a new catalogue, mostly non-Sherlockian.

There's always a Sherlockian bargain or two in the catalogues from **Bibliophile Books** (5 Thomas Road, London E14 7BN; website [www.bibliophilebooks.com](http://www.bibliophilebooks.com)). And Philip Attwell notes that the June magazine from **The Book People** (Parc, Menai, Bangor LL57 4FB; [www.thebookpeople.co.uk](http://www.thebookpeople.co.uk)) offers Penguin's nine volumes of the Canon plus Richard Green's *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* for £9.99 plus £3.50 postage. The new catalogue from **Nigel**

**Williams Rare Books** (25 Cecil Court, London WC2N 4HE; 020 7836 7757; <nwrrarebook@tcp.co.uk>) has much of interest.

Penguin Books (80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL) celebrate their seventieth anniversary with the release of seventy 'Pocket Penguins', of which no. 68 is Jonathan Coe's *9th & 13th* (£1.50) — three short stories and an engaging account of his obsession with Billy Wilder's film *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*.

Two distinguished Sherlockians have new novels out, each the novel-length debut for the author's own detective. *Death of a Collector* by John Hall (Authors OnLine, 40 Castle Street, Hertford SG14 1HR; £9.99) winner of the recent *Sherlock* magazine Crime Writers Competition, introduces the aristocratic 1920s sleuth Freddie Darnborough. *Forests of the Night* by David Stuart Davies (Robert Hale, Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT; 30 June; £16.99) is the first 'Johnny One-Eye' novel, set against the grimier background of wartime London. Both books are well worth seeking out.

The English Literature sale at **Sotheby's** (34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA; phone 020 7293 5000; [www.sothebys.com](http://www.sothebys.com)) features some very important Sherlockians, including Richard Lancelyn Green's first edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and some lovely paintings by Richard Doyle.

Amanda Field tells me that Portsmouth Museums & Library have appointed Dr Neil McCaw of University College, Winchester as curator of the Richard Lancelyn Green Collection. He has appointed a part-time cataloguer, and Amanda herself will be helping out on a voluntary basis.

*The Healing Touch* is the title of an exhibition running until 27 November at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, to celebrate the quincentenary of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh. Dr Joseph Bell is among the medical notables featured.

**David Hernandez** is a young Sherlockian in Mexico who is looking for e-mail correspondents (he uses his local internet café). He writes good English, and is obviously intelligent and enthusiastic. You can write to him at <david\_111953@yahoo.com>.

The Society's Swiss Pilgrims returned a couple of days ago. There's a good illustrated report in English on their adventures at [www.swissinfo.org/sen/swissinfo.html?siteSect=108&sid=5891396&cKey=1119455975000](http://www.swissinfo.org/sen/swissinfo.html?siteSect=108&sid=5891396&cKey=1119455975000). Thanks to Laura Kuhn for the link.

Thanks to Michael Cox for information about the newly restored DVD release by Granada Ventures of the now-classic Granada TV *Sherlock Holmes* series. The new edition, which is reportedly vastly superior to the Cinema Club DVDs, comes as two separate multi-disc sets or as one 16-disc collection. David Stuart Davies adds that MPI (who did the superb remastering of the Rathbone movies) plan to restore the first couple of series for release in America, with commentaries on some of the films.

An unconfirmed report says that Walden Media [*\*who they?\**] has bought Julie Golden's script *Sherlock's Secretary*, about a present-day occupant of 221B Baker Street who 'decides to take on a case from one of the many letters sent from all over the world asking the great detective for help in solving real life crimes'.

Andrew Baldwin notes that Choices Direct offers a three-DVD boxed set of *The Classic Sherlock Holmes vol. 1* for £8.49 post-free. The stars include Raymond Massey, Arthur Wontner and Ronald Howard. The Massey film is *The Speckled Band*, and one Wontner should be *Silver Blaze*, but I've no information about the others. It's not a bad price, though. Go to [www.choicesdirect.co.uk](http://www.choicesdirect.co.uk).

Jim French Productions Inc. has released a new CD, *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, vol. 8*, comprising *The Singular Affair of Madame Planchette* by Jim French and *The Ripper Inheritance* by our own M J Elliott. These are from the excellent Seattle-based **Imagination Theatre** radio productions, authorised by the Estate of Dame Jean Conan Doyle. Check the website for details at [www.harrynle.com](http://www.harrynle.com). [*\*John Hall and Matthew Booth also contribute scripts to the series.\**]

The remarkable vocal versatility of David Ian Davies, including his many Sherlockian recordings, can now be heard on-line at

<[audible.co.uk](http://audible.co.uk)> as well as at [www.onevoicerecordings.com](http://www.onevoicerecordings.com) and [www.spokennetwork.com](http://www.spokennetwork.com) — which also offers the fine recordings by the One Act Players.

**Classic Specialties** (PO Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219, USA; <[sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com](mailto:sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com)>) offer a couple of seriously esoteric collectors' items. 'The original "Curse of the Baskervilles" historical document' (\$46.50) is 'heavily aged by hand' and 'printed from a master which was entirely hand-written using an old-fashioned dip-pen in an historically accurate 18<sup>th</sup> century script'. But even that's outclassed by 'Sherlock Holmes's (as portrayed by Basil Rathbone) official British passport' (\$125.00), 'authentically reproduced from vintage British passports from the World War II era', with Basil Rathbone's photograph and a signature 'compiled from Mr Rathbone's own handwriting', and visas representing the countries visited in the Universal movies. [*\*rather worryingly the online catalogue refers to Paramount Pictures!\**]

Brian Pugh reports that the Summer 2005 issue of *This England* features a four-page article on 'The Hampshire Home of Arthur Conan Doyle'.

Periodicals received. *The Baker Street Picayune* vol. I no. 2 (**Le Cercle de Sherlock Holmes**, Jens Byskov Jensen, 5316 Wingate Drive, Apt B, New Orleans, LA 70122, USA). *The Camden House Journal*, April 2005 and May 2005 (**The Occupants of the Empty House**, Debbie Tinsley, PO Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999, USA). *The Arthur Conan Doyle Birthday Newsletter and Research File XII (The Conan Doyle [Crowborough] Establishment*, Brian W Pugh, 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN). *The Confederate Chronicles*, 25 April 2005 (**The Confederates of Wisteria Lodge**, Kent Ross, 6875 Fielder, Rex, GA 30273, USA). *The Illustrious Clients News*, June 2005 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, IN 46077, USA). *Ineffable Twaddle*, June 2005 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 9832-8981, USA). *The Magic Door*, Spring 2005, and *Arthur Conan Doyle in Canada* by Doug Wrigglesworth (Occasional Paper no. 1) (**The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection**, Doug Wrigglesworth, 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, Ontario, Canada L9N 1H4) [*\*Victoria Gill, Cameron Hollyer's successor as Curator of the Collection, is retiring after fifteen years' hard but no doubt rewarding work\*.*]

*Mayday Mayday*, June 2005, and *Chronicler*, June 2005 (**The Crew of the SS May Day**, Oscar Ross, 19 Ardcaran Way, Belfast BT5 7RP). *Prescott's Press*, June 2005 (**The Three Garridebs**, Warren Randall, 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720-1346, USA). *The School Report*, Summer Term 2005 (**The Priory Scholars**, Horace L Coates, 21 Butcombe Road, Leicester LE4 0FY). *The Scion*, Autumn 2004 (**The Musgraves**, Anne Jordan, Hallas Lodge, Greenside Lane, Cullingworth, Bradford BD13 5AP) [*\*yes, the date is correct — for some reason issue 2 reached me before issue 1; well, it's really good to see the Musgraves producing entertaining and informative publications again\*.*] **3 Pipe Problem Plugs and Dottles**, April 2005 (**The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem**, Kay Blocker, 5017 Maywood Drive, Nashville, TN 37211, USA <[pkblocker@comcast.net](mailto:pkblocker@comcast.net)>) [*\*I hadn't noticed it before, but April actually is the date on this issue. Hm...\**] *The Vermissa Herald*, April 2005 (**The Scowlers & Molly Maguires of San Francisco**, Carol Russell, c/o Marilyn MacGregor, 1515 Shasta Drive #4210, Davis, CA 95616-6692, U S A) [*\*this is the first issue of the New Series; unfortunately there's no address given for the editor, so I've given that of the Bodymaster, our good friend Marilyn MacGregor\*.*] *The Whaling News*, April and May 2005 (**The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn**, Michael E Bragg, PO Box 256, St Charles, MO 63302-0256, USA).

And the great Sherlockian newsletter *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, May 2005 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; <[blau7103@comcast.net](mailto:blau7103@comcast.net)>).

The first hundred issues of *The District Messenger* (1 December 1982 - 23 July 1990) are now available in (non-searchable) PDF format on CD-ROM, cased and labelled, for £6.00 or \$15.00,

including postage and packing. Please make sterling cheques payable to me and US dollar checks to Jean Upton.

*Roger Johnson*