

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

e-mail: [rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk)

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The thoroughly deserving recipient of this year's Tony Howlett Award, presented at the annual dinner on 15 January, was our former Treasurer, now one of Spain's outstanding Holmesians, **Maria Hayzen**.

At the **Baker Street Irregulars'** annual dinner the week before, Wiggins awarded investitures to **Vinnie Brosnan** ('That Gap on the Second Shelf'), **Lyndsay Faye** ('Kitty Winter'), **David Houle** ('The British Museum'), **Frank Ferry** ('Dr Leon Sterndale'), **Peggy Perdue** ('Violet Westbury') and **Terence Faherty** ('Sir Charles Baskerville').

Sherlock Holmes sometimes broke the law in the course of an investigation. Fortunately his actions were always justified, and he got away with it. But what if he was wrong? What if he was arrested and convicted? That's what happened to Ellis Parker, whose story is powerfully told in *Master Detective: The Life and Crimes of Ellis Parker, America's Real-Life Sherlock Holmes* by **John Reisinger** (Citadel Press, Kensington Publishing Corp., 850 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022, USA; 2006; \$15.95). As a youngster he played for barn dances in rural Pennsylvania, but when his father's horse and cart were stolen, it was Parker who tracked down the thief and the stolen property. He had found his profession. In 1894 he became the first Detective Chief of Burlington County, and over the next forty years was credited with solving 304 murders and more than 1000 other crimes. The comparison with Holmes is inevitable, but his character and methods put me in mind of another fictional sleuth, Lt Columbo. Mr Reisinger makes a telling point: 'Other detectives made people confess. Ellis Parker made people *want* to confess.' The abduction and murder of Charles A Lindbergh's baby son in 1932, the most sensational crime of the decade, happened in the neighbouring county, where Parker had no jurisdiction. Believing that the wrong man had been convicted, he arranged the illegal arrest of his own suspect. The result was tragic. Ellis Parker died in prison, convicted of kidnapping. Had he lived another week he would have been granted a presidential pardon.

**Molly Carr** takes time out from the exploits of the Watson-Fanshaw Detective Agency to examine the life and character of Sherlock Holmes's biographer. There are good things in *In Search of Doctor Watson: A Sherlockian Investigation* (MX Publishing, 335 Princess Park Manor, Royal Drive, London N11 3GX; [www.mxpublishing.co.uk](http://www.mxpublishing.co.uk) and [www.mxpublishing.com](http://www.mxpublishing.com); £9.99 / €12.99 / \$16.95) including the refutation of Conan Doyle's claims that Watson 'never shows one gleam of humour or makes a single joke'. Here is useful information about medical, military and other matters – though it would be more helpful if it were indexed – and the tone throughout is both perceptive and sensible. (I can't agree, however, that Holmes's attendance at a Sarasate recital proves that he preferred the Spaniard to the Austrian violinist Joachim, thus demonstrating anti-Semitic feelings.) Unfortunately the book cries out for an editor. Edward Hardwicke is confused with David Burke. 'Gaol' is consistently spelt 'goal'. As Vestry Clerk of Clerkenwell, Sidney Paget's father was actually a senior local government officer (the civil vestries became parish councils in 1894). Serpentine Mews in 'A Scandal in Bohemia' is in St John's Wood, not 'near the Serpentine'. Christopher Plummer played Holmes, not Jack the Ripper, in *Murder by Decree... In Search of Doctor Watson* is good, but it could be better.

MX Publishing offers DM readers a £10.00 discount on 'the Dr Watson Collection' (*In Search of Dr Watson, Watson's Afghan Adventure and The Lost Stories of Sherlock Holmes*) with the code 'shswatson' at [www.mxpublishing.co.uk/engine/shop/product/drwatsoncollection](http://www.mxpublishing.co.uk/engine/shop/product/drwatsoncollection).

*Sherlock Alive: Sherlockian Excerpts from VS's 'Books Alive' Column in The Chicago Tribune 1942-1967* by **Vincent Starrett** (The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, PO Box 50, RR #4, Eugenia, Ontario, Canada N0C 1E0; [www.batteredbox.com/index.html](http://www.batteredbox.com/index.html); Cdn\$35.00) is a thick, handsome paperback volume of 503 pages, the fruit of pensive nights and laborious days on the part of **Karen Murdock**, who extracted, edited and

annotated the relevant pieces from twenty-five years of 'Books Alive'. We're familiar – or we should be – with Starrett's book *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* and his sonnet '221B'. Another Holmesian book from that pen is an unexpected and wonderful treat. The hundreds of articles range from illuminating trivia to wise essays. As Susan Rice notes in her introduction, 'This is a bountiful book, first because it gives us some Holmesian musings from the Vincentian pen that few of us now alive have read, but also because it places these jewels and shards into a fine setting.' Highly recommended!

Also highly recommended is *The Grand Game: A Celebration of Sherlockian Scholarship. Volume One: 1902-1959*, edited by **Laurie R King** and **Leslie S Klinger** (The Baker Street Irregulars, Michael H Kean, 3040 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953-2837, USA; [www.bakerstreetjournal.com/](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/); \$39.95 plus postage in USA, \$49.95 plus postage elsewhere). The last such comprehensive anthology, *The Baker Street Reader* in 1984, was only half the size of the new book – and this is only volume one. Sixty-seven essays, mostly American, because far more has been published there, begin with Ronald Knox's 'Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes' and take in Early Criticism, Textual Criticism, Higher Criticism, Radical Criticism (Rex Stout's 'Watson Was a Woman' and Julian Wolff's rebuttal), and *Midrash* – which, as Laurie King explains, is 'a homiletic approach to Biblical interpretation'. (This section includes A A Milne's 'Watson Speaks Out' and James Montgomery's 'Art in the Blood' *inter alia*. Don't worry. It does make sense.) Here are familiar names like Paul Gore-Booth, Dorothy L Sayers and Bernard Davies, alongside near-unknowns such as Pope R Hill, J W Sovine and Leon S Holstein, and a couple of people best known in other fields – Zazu Pitts and Franklin D Roosevelt. *The Grand Game* is a treasure house, full of good things.

'Sometime during the evening of Monday, 13 March 1911, a 23-year-old Probationary Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, sat down in his room and began reading a paper to 16 members of that college's literary club...' The young man was Ronald Knox, one of four remarkable brothers, and his paper is regarded by many as the very basis of our Great Game. *The Baker Street Journal Christmas Annual 2010* is *From Piff-Pouff to Backnecke: Ronald Knox and 100 Years of 'Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes'* by **Nicholas Utechin** (The Baker Street Irregulars; US \$11.00 postpaid; elsewhere \$12.00 postpaid). To mark the centenary, our Society will visit Oxford in September, and prospective pilgrims would do well to read Nick Utechin's little book before then – but note that more information came to light while it was being printed, so there'll be a follow-up in the Spring 2011 BSJ!

Two more admirable books from the BSI, *Italy and Sherlock Holmes*, edited by **Enrico Solito** and **Gianluca Salvatori** (\$39.95 plus postage) and *Bohemian Souls: A Facsimile of the Original Manuscript of 'A Scandal in Bohemia' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, with Annotations and Commentary*, edited by **Otto Penzler** (\$35.00 plus postage) must await review till the next issue, as must *Watson's Afghan Adventure* by Kieran McMullen (MX Publishing; £9.99) and *Ronald Knox and Sherlock Holmes: The Origins of Sherlockian Studies*, edited by Michael Crowe (Gasogene Books, Wessex Press, PO Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268, USA; \$32.95).

For the first time, the handbook of one of our Society's jaunts was published after the event. *Surrey with a Fringe: The Handbook of the Surrey & Hampshire Weekend, 10 to 12 September 2010*, edited by **Jonathan McCafferty** (The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, Bob Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU; [www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk); UK £10.00; Europe £12.00 / €15.00; elsewhere £14.00 / €28.00) includes an account of our investigation of 'The Solitary Cyclist' and 'The Crooked Man' by David Jones, alongside 'Solitary Locations' by Catherine Cooke, 'Teddy' by Anna Smyth, articles on G F Watts

(dubbed 'England's Michelangelo'), the Spike at Guildford Workhouse, Brooklands, the old Imperial Theatre, and Freeman Wills Crofts, classic essays by Bernard Davies and Geoffrey Stavert, an amusing contrast between the issues of *The Strand Magazine* and *Collier's* that carried the first appearance of 'The Solitary Cyclist', and a typically dazzling poem by Auberon Redfearn, 'Teddy and Tweety'. It's very nicely produced, with splendid illustrations, though I can't help wishing that most of the photos were larger.

From **The Sound of the Baskervilles**, who celebrate their twenty-first anniversary in March, comes *Beaten's Christmas Annual 2010* (Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8981, USA; \$13.00 postpaid in USA, \$18.00 postpaid elsewhere – dollar checks, payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles, should be marked 'In US funds'). Topics in these sixty pages include arsenic, Jack the Ripper, J M Stoddart's commissioning of *The Sign of the Four*, the Sherlockian stories of Edward D Hoch, and the parentage of Reginald Jeeves. Here too are parody, pastiche, games and reminiscence. Very enjoyable!

I can't do justice to them, but I welcome the latest volume of *The World of Holmes* from **The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club** and the book *Holmes Seichi Jyunrei no Tabi* by the eminent scholar **Saburoh Hiraga**. Both are available from Mr Hiraga (3-6-24 Ueno-higashi, Toyonaka-shi, Osaka, 560-0013, Japan; [IJB04100@nifty.ne.jp](mailto:IJB04100@nifty.ne.jp)).

Thanks to Paul Spiring and Brian Pugh, we know much more about **Bertram Fletcher Robinson** (see [www.bfronline.biz/](http://www.bfronline.biz/)) than we did a few years ago. At his death in 1907 he left a set of notes, which, as he requested, were developed by **Max Pemberton** into a novel, published in 1908. Now *Wheels of Anarchy: The Story of an Assassin*, edited by Hugh Cooke and Paul Spiring, has been reprinted in facsimile by MX Publishing (£14.99 / €17.99 / \$24.95). Robinson or Pemberton may have discussed the story with their friend Conan Doyle, but the narrator, Bruce Ingersoll, is no Sherlock Holmes. Like the heroes of those other unputdownable Edwardian thrillers *The Riddle of the Sands* and *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, he's an ordinary, decent, educated man with an adventurous streak. The peril he faces is extraordinary and strikingly modern – international terrorism. It's a gripping tale, grippingly told.

**Hugo Koch** has kindly sent four copies of his latest booklet, subtitled *Psychoanalytic Hypothesis of Overdeterminism in Literary Productions: Prolegomenon to a de novo Inquiry into the Origins of the Name 'Sherlock Holmes'*. They are free to the first four applicants within the UK (a 'large letter' stamp would be appreciated).

The case of George Edalji is examined in a new book, *Outrage: The Edalji Five and the Shadow of Sherlock Holmes* by **Roger Oldfield**, former head of history at Great Wyrley High School (Vanguard Press, Pegasus Elliot MacKenzie Publishers Ltd, Sheraton House, Castle Park, Cambridge CB3 0AX; £14.99).

At [www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times11-1.htm](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-1.htm) is the January issue of *The Sherlockian E-Times*, the catalogue-magazine of **Classic Specialties** (PO Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH, 45219, USA; [sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com](mailto:sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com)).

**Calabash Press** (PO Box 1360, Ashcroft, British Columbia, Canada V0K 1A0; [www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Calabash](http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Calabash)) currently offers eighteen Holmesian and Doylean titles at less than half price, including **Arthur M Alexander's** excellent *Hot on the Scent: A Visitor's Guide to the London of Sherlock Holmes* (now \$10.00) and *Out of the Shadows: The Untold Story of Arthur Conan Doyle's First Family* by **Georgina Doyle** (hardback \$20.00, paperback \$10.00). Not to be missed!

At <http://stephengaspar.blogspot.com/> you can read the first chapter of **Stephen Gaspar's** new Sherlock Holmes novel *Cold Hearted Murder*.

Congratulations to **Steven Doyle**, whose *Sherlock Holmes for Dummies* has been nominated for an Edgar Award by the MWA.

'**Don't Go Into The Cellar!**' is a Birmingham-based theatre company who specialise in sensational and spooky drama, often staged in unusual venues ([www.dontgotothecellar.com](http://www.dontgotothecellar.com)). On 12 March they'll perform *The Singular Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* at The Bear & Ragged Staff in Cumnor, Oxfordshire. Tickets cost £10.00 and can be booked by phone at 01865 862329. (The 'singular adventures' are *The Stonor Case* and *The Crown Diamond* – presumably abridged.)

Earlier this month there was a special screening in Clapham of the *Sherlock* episode *The Great Game*, followed by a question & answer session with **Steven Moffat** and **Mark Gatiss**. Our member Rakshita Patel has written a full report, which you'll find at [\[street.org.uk/2011/01/sherlock-screening-and-qa-with-the-creators/\]\(http://street.org.uk/2011/01/sherlock-screening-and-qa-with-the-creators/\). The Baker Street Supper Club at <http://baker-street.org.uk> is worth a look.](http://baker-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Back in DM 304, I recommended the DVD documentary *The Man Who Murdered Sherlock Holmes* (also favourably reviewed in the Winter SHJ). The producers are offering copies to members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London at £7.99, post-paid – a generous saving of £5.00 on the regular price. Send orders, and cheques payable to Electric Theatre Co., to 6 Rochester Road, London NW1 9JH.

Admirers of Conan Doyle's second greatest literary creation will welcome *The Adventures of Brigadier Gerard*, the second collection of the bold Frenchman's heroic and often ludicrous deeds, read superbly by **Rupert Degas** (Naxos AudioBooks, 2nd Floor, 40A High Street, Welwyn, Herts. AL6 9EQ). The genius of these stories is in the balance between Etienne Gerard's absurd un-selfconscious vanity, and the admirable courage with which he triumphs over danger in the service of his beloved Emperor Napoleon. These seven tales include 'How the Brigadier Slew the Fox', one of the best things Conan Doyle ever wrote.

Several guided walks of Holmes's London are available. From 16 April to 19 November **Brit Movie Tours** will run a 'three-hour luxury air-conditioned mini coach Sherlock Holmes Tour' of locations from the books and from the recent film and television series. Full details are at <http://britmovietours.com/bookings/sherlock-holmes-london-tour/> – or contact Lewis Swan at [info@britmovietours.com](mailto:info@britmovietours.com) (07894 454003).

Peter Blau reports the death on 29 November, aged eighty, of **Robert J Mangler**, an eminent lawyer and devoted Sherlockian who in 1960 was responsible for reviving Chicago's two leading Sherlock Holmes societies, Hugo's Companions and The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic). [\*The '(sic)' is actually part of the name.\*] In 1962 he was invested into the Baker Street Irregulars as 'Sir Hugo Baskerville'.

Periodicals received. *The Baker Street Journal*, Winter 2010 (Steven Rothman, 220, West Rittenhouse Square, #15-D, Philadelphia, PA 19103, USA; subscriptions, PO Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331, USA). *The Camden House Journal*, December 2010 and January 2011 (**The Occupants of the Empty House**, Debbie Tinsley, PO Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999, USA). *Communication*, no. 302 (**The Pleasant Places of Florida**, Wanda & Jeff Dow, 1737 Santa Anna Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698, USA). *The Formulary*, December 2010 (**The Friends of Dr Watson**, Nino Cirone, Highcroft Cottage, 14 Totteridge Common, Totteridge, London N20 8NL). *Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections*, December 2010 (Suite 111, Elmer L Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, 222 21st Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA). *The Illustrious Clients News*, December 2010 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, IN 46077, USA). *Ineffable Twaddle*, January 2011 & February 2011 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 9832-8981, USA). *Mayday Mayday*, January 2011 and *C-Extra*, 17 December 2010 (**The Crew of the SS May Day**, Oscar Ross, 19 Ardcarne Way, Belfast BT5 7RP). *The Morning Echo*, Twelfth Night Special Number 2010 (**The Elementary Victorians**, Steve Duke, PO Box 340, Reservoir, Victoria 3073, Australia). *The Morning Post*, December 2010 (**The Noble Bachelors of St Louis**, Randy Getz, 7456 Cornell Avenue, University City, MO 63130, USA). *The Petrel Flyer*, Jan/Feb 2011 (**The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia**, Len Haffenden, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada V7P 3C6). *QuinCahier*, Été 1910 (**La Société Sherlock Holmes de France**, Thierry Saint-Joanis, 15 rue Grande, 03370 Saint-Sauvier, France). *The Scion*, Winter 2010 (**The Musgraves**, Anne Jordan, Hallas Lodge, Greenside Lane, Cullingworth, Bradford BD13 5AP). *The Serpentine Muse*, Winter 2010 (**The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes**, Evelyn Herzog, 301 Warren Ave, #203, Baltimore, MD 21203, USA). *Sherlockiana*, Nr 3/4 2010 (**Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark**, Bjarne Rother Jensen, Højbovvangen 24, 9200 Aalborg SV, Denmark). *The Torr*, Autumn 2010 (**The Poor Folk Upon The Moors**, Reggie Musgrave, Drummond Cottage, Old Tavern Yard, Westbourne, Chichester, West Sussex PO10 8TA). *West End Journal*, December 2010 (**Japan Sherlock Holmes Club**, Saburoh Hiraga, 3-6-24 Ueno-higashi, Toyonaka-shi, Osaka, 560-0013, Japan).

And *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, December 2010 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; [blau7103@comcast.net](mailto:blau7103@comcast.net)).

Roger Johnson