

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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no. 321 15 April 2012

The answer to the AudioGO *Casebook* competition: the stories not narrated by Dr Watson are, of course 'The Mazarin Stone', 'The Blanched Soldier' and 'The Lion's Mane'. M C Black, Anders Odensten, John Bergquist and Gael Stahl, whose names were picked at random from the correct entries, will each receive a copy of *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*, read unabridged by **Derek Jacobi**. Thanks again to AudioGO, who have generously donated these prizes! (The full catalogue is on the AudioGO website at [www.audiogo.co.uk](http://www.audiogo.co.uk).)

The future of **Undershaw**, where Conan Doyle wrote *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, is still uncertain. Much will depend on the outcome of the judicial review at the High Court in London on 23 May – the day after Conan Doyle's 153rd birthday. To follow the progress and to support the campaign of the Undershaw Preservation Trust, check the website at [www.saveundershaw.com/](http://www.saveundershaw.com/).

The Baker Street Babes' **Sherlock Holmes Grand Meet-Up** on 21 April will include a **Sherlock Holmes Costumed Tour** led by Rebecca (a generous benefactor will donate £100 to The Undershaw Preservation Trust for campaign expenses if at least ten people join her – <http://anotherbohemiansoul.tumblr.com/post/20364390792/so-ive-been-wanting-to-host-a-costumed-walk-for>) and a Flash Mob Freeze in Trafalgar Square at 2.00pm to promote the Undershaw campaign (<http://bakerstreetbabes.tumblr.com/post/20593011104/rsvp-for-this-meet-up-at-http-bit-ly-shapril>).

You can also support the campaign by buying from the **Save Undershaw Shop** at [www.saveundershawshop.com/index.html](http://www.saveundershawshop.com/index.html).

**Michael Procter** has discovered the notes for Holmes's most controversial monograph, which he's edited and published as an attractive 48-page chapbook, *Melancholia in Music: The Posthumous Motets of Orlandus Lassus* (Edition Michael Procter, Ringstr. 11, D-76356 Weingarten, Germany; [www.Edition-MP.com](http://www.Edition-MP.com); [EditionMP@aol.com](mailto:EditionMP@aol.com); €8.50 plus postage, also available as a printable pdf file €3.00). Some have dismissed the monograph as fictional, claiming that the subject as named by Watson ('the Polyphonic Motets of Lassus') is tautologous, or that Holmes could never have heard the motets. Mr Procter shows these ideas to be erroneous and, no less significantly, considers just what it was about these works that commended them to Sherlock Holmes. This is an outstanding contribution to Holmesian scholarship.

Who were PC Pollack, and Dr Ferrier? Who lived in Potter's Terrace, and who went to Eton? **Molly Carr's** new book *A Sherlock Holmes Who's Who* (MX Publishing, [www.mxpublishing.co.uk](http://www.mxpublishing.co.uk); £12.99 / \$19.99 / €14.99) is already proving a very valuable source of information about places as well as people, though I'm not sure why some of the former, such as Oscar Meunier and Arthur H Staunton, are banished to 'Part Three (Props)', especially as Staunton also appears in 'Part One (People)'. The information provided for each entry is concise and helpful.

*Sherlockian Picture Puzzles: A Monograph on Eliot Keen's 1905 Illustrations* by **John Addy** (The Musgraves, Anne Jordan, Hallas Lodge, Greenside Lane, Cullingworth, Bradford BD13 5AP; £7.50 UK/£10.00 Europe/\$25.00 USA & Canada/ \$30.00 or £15.00 elsewhere; prices include postage) will introduce you to a little-known series of splendid non-canonical drawings that appeared in various American newspapers, clearly influenced by Frederic Dorr Steele. It will also exercise your brain! After John Addy's introduction, twelve of the puzzles are reproduced, with answers and notes. The booklet brings to light a hidden treasure.

I loved **Dan Andriacco's** first novel about Sebastian McCabe and Jeff Cody, and I'm delighted to recommend the second, which has a curiously topical touch. *Holmes Sweet Holmes* (MX Publishing; £10.99 / \$18.99 / €12.99) concerns the murder of Peter Gerard, writer, director and star of *221B Bourbon Street*, which reimagines Sherlock Holmes as a jazz-

playing American in 1920s New Orleans. The film is a hit, but some Sherlockian fundamentalists have sent hate mail. Did an angry Sherlockian break in to St Benignus College and kill Gerard? And how could Gerard be murdered twice? The characters are engaging, the plot is cunning, and the writing is literate and witty. This is classy stuff!

In *The Secret Journal of Dr Watson* (MX Publishing; £10.99 / \$18.95 / €12.99) **Phil Growick** tells of Holmes and Watson's most dangerous mission. In 1918, at the personal request of King George, they risk their lives to save those of the King's cousins, the deposed Tsar Nicholas II and his family. On their journey deep into a Russia torn by violent revolution, they discover that friend and foe alike have their own agendas; even their most trustworthy helper, a Colonel in the secret police, is not what he seems. More dangerous even than the Reds and the Whites are the unknowns who want the Romanovs and their rescuers dead. The drama is exotic but the characters and events exude authenticity, and despite the occasional stylistic infelicity (notably the consistent use of 'shall' for 'will'), the narrative carries you along like an express train.

*Sherlock Holmes and the Dead Boer at Scotney Castle* by **Tim Symonds** (MX Publishing; £11.99 / £18.95 / €13.99) also involves political conspiracy, but in quite different circumstances. In 1904 the invitation to speak to the exclusive Kipling League at a Sussex country house has unexpected consequences for Holmes and Watson. Holmes suspects that the lecture was arranged to provide an alibi for the murder at nearby Scotney Castle, but uncovering the truth stretches his powers to the limit as the killers have learned more from him than he supposed – and the Kipling League's schemes, like those of Baron Maupertuis, are colossal. It's an engrossing tale, well told.

In *Sherlock Holmes & the Mayfair Murders* by **David Britland** (Breese Books, [www.breesebooks.com](http://www.breesebooks.com); £7.50 / \$18.50 / €12.50) three young women have been slaughtered in a highly respectable part of London. There are fears that Jack the Ripper is back and has turned his attention to the West End, but rather than consult Sherlock Holmes the police turn to the specious Dr Karl Schermann. Holmes solves a sly theft and exposes a counterfeiting racket – and then another girl is murdered. Holmes triumphs in the end, but only after he's revealed the true nature of Dr Schermann.

The novels of **Larry Millett**, dealing with Holmes and Watson's exploits in the USA, haven't been published here despite their deserved popularity in America. Fortunately they're being reprinted by the University of Minnesota Press ([www.upress.umn.edu](http://www.upress.umn.edu)) and are easily available from Amazon and other sources. In *Sherlock Holmes and the Rune Stone Mystery*, Holmes's investigation, on behalf of the King of Sweden, of a reported Viking inscription unearthed in rural Minnesota involves him and Watson in theft and murder. (The authenticity of the Kensington Rune Stone and other alleged Viking artefacts is still debated.) *The Disappearance of Sherlock Holmes* sees Holmes in pursuit of Abe Slaney, who has returned, apparently from the dead, to abduct Elsie Cubitt, and is masquerading as the detective. The chase takes Holmes and Watson to Chicago, Slaney's home territory. In both cases, the assistance of the saloonkeeper Shadwell Rafferty proves invaluable. Mr Millett tells a compelling tale, and his ability to convey the *genius loci* is outstanding.

Opening at random *The Iron Mausoleum: A Case of Sherlock Holmes and the Titanic* by **Stephen Lees** (no publisher named; £6.99 from Amazon) I found Holmes telling Watson that Charlie Peace was an art faker and a violin virtuoso who performed at the Wigmore Hall. Oh, dear! Peace was a cat-burglar, and though he was a talented fiddler, he certainly never played in any major concert halls. Besides, the Bechstein Hall wasn't renamed Wigmore Hall until 1917... As to the novel, it's so clumsily written and so poorly proof-read that I gave up after a few pages. Sorry.

Just received from Gasogene Books ([www.wessexpress.com/](http://www.wessexpress.com/)) are *The Illustrated Speckled Band: The Original 1910 Stage Production in Script*

and Photographs by **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**, edited by **Leslie S Klinger** (\$19.95) and the CD *Starrett Speaks: The Lost Recordings* – recordings of **Vincent Starrett** (\$12.95). They'll be reviewed in the next issue, as, probably, will two new titles from MX: *Sherlock Holmes & the Whitechapel Vampire* by **Dean Turnbloom** (£10.99 / \$18.95 / €12.99) and *The Detective and the Woman* by **Amy Thomas** (the first novel from the Baker Street Babes; £9.99).

An unabridged reading by the remarkably versatile **David Ian Davies** of **Daniel Ward's** thriller *Sherlock Holmes: The Way of All Flesh* is now available from [www.audible.co.uk](http://www.audible.co.uk), Amazon, and other sources.

Fantagraphics Books give no date for *Of Extraordinary Interest: Sherlock Holmes' Vital Evidence*, an 'overflowing art book featuring faithful reproductions of original book illustrations, unpublished artwork from Doyle's era, theatrical and movie posters, and complete runs of Sherlock Holmes comic strip and comic book versions, and parodies'. [www.fantagraphics.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=4029&Itemid=94](http://www.fantagraphics.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4029&Itemid=94)

In the Pathology Museum at St Bartholomew's Hospital on 27 June **Alistair Duncan** will give a lecture entitled 'A Study in Bart's: Sherlock Holmes, John Watson and England's Great Hospital'. Tickets are available free at <http://sherlocksociety.eventbrite.co.uk/>.

The Oldham Coliseum's production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by **Clive Francis** is currently touring. It'll be at the Theatre Royal, Windsor from 30 April to 5 May (01753 853888; [www.theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk](http://www.theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk)). The production is highly recommended by David Jones.

The Veni Vidi Company's production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by **Simon Williams**, presented as a 1930s radio broadcast, returns to Theatro Technis (26 Crowndale Road, London NW1 1TT) from 30 April to 12 May. Tickets from 07938 995 825 or [www.venividitheatre.com](http://www.venividitheatre.com). I saw this production last year and was greatly impressed.

Cardiff Players' production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by **Tim Kelly** will be at the Mike Barlow YMCA Theatre (The Walk, Cardiff CF24 3AG) from 9 to 11 May. Tickets are available from 01656 865989 or [cardiffplayers@hotmail.com](mailto:cardiffplayers@hotmail.com).

Sell a Door Theatre Company's production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by **Tim Kelly** will be at the Greenwich Theatre 2 to 8 July (020 8858 7755; <http://ticketing.greenwichtheatre.org.uk/Default.aspx>).

And the Peepolykus production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by **John Nicholson** and **Steve Canny** has been recorded, with the original cast, before an audience and will be broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in May.

The Lenfilms production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, with **Vasily Livanov** and **Vitaly Solomin** will be released on Region 2 DVD by Mr Bongo ([www.mrbongo.com](http://www.mrbongo.com)). (Thanks to Robin Rowles.)

**Dave Marsh** is looking to raise \$55,000 investment to launch the classic *Sherlock Holmes, Consulting Detective* game in a form that can be played on mobile devices. If you're interested and have money to invest, see [www.kickstarter.com/projects/1920171553/sherlock-holmes-consulting-detective-adventure-mys](http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1920171553/sherlock-holmes-consulting-detective-adventure-mys).

Michael Cox notes that **Catherine Manoukian** has recorded a CD called *Chopin on Violin* for Marquis Classics ([www.marquisclassics.com](http://www.marquisclassics.com)), though it doesn't include the F minor Nocturne, which was Guy Warrack's candidate for 'that little thing of Chopin's' that Norman-Neruda played.

At [www.beachyhead.org.uk/latest/2012/01/did-sherlock-holmes-retire-near-beachy-head/](http://www.beachyhead.org.uk/latest/2012/01/did-sherlock-holmes-retire-near-beachy-head/) you'll find an article about Holmes's chosen area of retirement and a link to a map of the Sherlock Holmes Walk.

Last month it was announced that after 244 years the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* will no longer be published in print. Future editions will be available on-line only. Despite the name, the *Britannica* has been an American institution since 1901.

Interested in meeting other Sherlockians to talk Sherlock in the north of England? Come along to an informal lunchtime social gathering of **Scandalous Bohemians** in a Victorian hostelry in Leeds on Saturday 12 May. Join David Stuart Davies, Kathryn White and their Good Comrades Matthew Booth, Paul Chapman, Teresa Dudley and John Hall to help shape a Bohemian future. Fun, scholarship, and conviviality guaranteed. For more details, contact Kathryn and David at: [overdale@btinternet.com](mailto:overdale@btinternet.com) or check the website at [www.scandalousbohemians.co.uk](http://www.scandalousbohemians.co.uk).

If you search the web for **The Poor Folk Upon the Moors** you're likely to find an inactive website. The up-to-date and active [www.poorfolk.co.uk](http://www.poorfolk.co.uk) is the one to go to. And there's another change. After nine years, Reggie

Musgrave has stepped down as Editor of *The Torr*, the post now occupied by **Stephan Arthur** ([stephan.arthur@gmx.ch](mailto:stephan.arthur@gmx.ch)).

**The Sydney Passengers** also have a new editor. **Erin O'Neill** has taken over the reins of *The Passengers' Log* from Rosane McNamara, who now supervises the layout.

Following the success of the two **Great Sherlock Holmes Debates**, the third, on 4 August, will be part of the first **Sherlock Holmes Week**, 31 July to 5 August. The Holmesian world has evolved rapidly with the emergence of virtual societies and the rise of lively, intelligent groups inspired originally by BBC TV's *Sherlock* and Guy Ritchie's films. Sherlock Holmes Week will be an opportunity for Holmesians throughout the world to boost our image and our numbers – and have fun. See the website at [www.sherlockholmesweek.com/index.html](http://www.sherlockholmesweek.com/index.html).

You'll find a two-hour video recording of the second debate at <http://mxpublishing.tumblr.com/post/20578813584/the-full-video-the-great-sherlock-holmes-debate-2> and the complete PowerPoint show at <http://mxpublishing.tumblr.com/post/20336961470/great-sherlock-holmes-debate-2-full-slides>.

Our colleague and friend **Pamela Bruxner** died on 28 March, aged seventy-seven. From 1988 to 2005, while serving as the Society's Meetings Secretary, Pam also edited nine of our Expedition Handbooks and wrote two plays for us. In 1998 she was invested into the Baker Street Irregulars as 'The British Government', in 2003 she became an Honorary Member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and in 2006 she was the third recipient of the Tony Howlett Award. Pam was a fixed point in a changing age.

As an actor, **Richard Carpenter** played Arthur Holder to Douglas Wilmer's Holmes in *The Beryl Coronet* on BBC TV in 1964. As a writer, he created two adventures for BBC TV's *The Baker Street Boys* in 1983. His dream of casting Bernard Archard as the elderly Holmes was not to be fulfilled. Richard Carpenter died on 26 February, aged eighty-two.

Periodicals received. *The Camden House Journal*, February 2012 and March 2012 (**The Occupants of the Empty House**, Debbie Tinsley, PO Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999, USA). *Canadian Holmes*, Spring 2012 (**The Bootmakers of Toronto**, Mark & JoAnn Alberstat, 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3A 2M2, Canada). *Cri Bar Crier*, April 2012 (**The Criterion Bar Association**, Susan Z Diamond, 16W603 3rd Ave, Bensenville, IL 60106-2327, USA). *Elementary My Dear Victoria*, Late Summer 2012 (**The Sherlock Holmes Society of Victoria**, Steve Duke, PO Box 340, Reservoir, 3073 Victoria, Australia). *For the Sake of the Trust: The Baker Street Irregulars Trust Newsletter*, Spring 2012 (**The BSI Trust**, Marshall S Berdan, 2015 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033, USA). *The Illustrious Clients News*, March 2012 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, IN 46077, USA). *Ineffable Twaddle*, April 2012 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 9832-8981, USA). *Ironmongers Daily News*, er, daily! (**La Société Sherlock Holmes de France**, Thierry Saint-Joanis, 15 rue Grande, 03370 Saint-Sauvier, France). *Irregular Newsletter*, March 2012 (**The Conan Doyle [Crowborough] Establishment**, Brian Pugh, 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN). *Mayday Mayday*, March 2012 & April 2012 (**The Crew of the SS May Day**, Oscar Ross, 19 Ardcarney Way, Belfast BT5 7RP). *The Passengers' Log*, Autumn & Winter 2011 (**The Sydney Passengers**, Erin O'Neill, 24 Karuah Street, Strathfield, NSW 2135, Australia). *The Petrel Flyer*, April 2012 (**The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia**, Len Haffenden, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada V7P 3C6). *The Scion*, Spring 2012 (**The Musgraves**, Anne Jordan, Hallas Lodge, Greenside Lane, Cullingworth, Bradford BD13 5AP). *The Serpentine Muse*, Spring 2012 (**The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes**, Evelyn Herzog, 301 Warren Ave, #203, Baltimore, MD 21203, USA). *Sherlockiana*, Nr 1 2012 (**Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark**, Bjarne Rother Jensen, Højbovangen 24, 9200 Aalborg SV, Denmark). *Studies of the Nippon Sherlock Holmes Club*, Vol. XVI no. 1 (**The Sherlock Holmes Research Committee**, Saburoh Hiraga, JZB04100@nifty.com). *3-Pipe Problem Plugs and Dottles*, February-March 2011 (**The Nashville Scholars of the Three-Pipe Problem**, Kay Blocker, [pkblocker@comcast.net](mailto:pkblocker@comcast.net)).

And *Scuttlebutt from the Spermacti Press*, March 2012 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; [blau7103@comcast.net](mailto:blau7103@comcast.net)).

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