The subscription for postal subscribers who send money rather than stamped & self-addressed envelopes is (for 12 issues) £6.60 in the UK, and £11.00 or US$18.00 overseas. Please make dollar checks payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. An e-mail subscription costs nothing and pretty much guarantees instantaneous delivery.

Perhaps the most important new publications in our field are the third edition of The Bibliography of A Conan Doyle by Richard Lancelyn Green & John Michael Gibson, with updates by Phillip George Bergem and including pdf files of book covers & title pages and magazine covers & illustrations – these extras being works in progress (Cd$50.00); and The e-Index to The Strand Magazine by Geraldine W Beare (no price given). Both are published in electronic form on disc by The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box (PO Box 50, RR #4, Eugenia, Ontario, Canada N0C 1E0: www.batteredbox.com; gav@cablerocket.com). I can’t give you a proper assessment right now because the formatting seems to be too advanced for my computer. That obstacle should be overcome shortly. I can vouch for the excellence of the Green-Gibson Bibliography as the second edition is on my shelf, and to be able to consult it via the computer, with the various extras, will be a real blessing. Geraldine Beare’s Strand index is long out of print in hard copy, so it’ll be a delight to have it in any format.

John Gibson has also contributed to another new book from the same publisher, The Budds of the West Country, a well-illustrated 112-page paperback by Brian W Pugh, (no price given). Brian Pugh, Curator of the Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment, author of the invaluable Chronology of the Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, gives us a genealogical survey of that remarkable family from the Revd Richard Budd of St Columb Minor to the death of his great-great grandson (if I read the family tree correctly) Dr George Turnavine Budd of Plymouth. It was, of course, George Budd whose treatment of his younger colleague Arthur Conan Doyle influenced the latter’s life and career in such unexpected ways. Fourteen pages are devoted to his life and twenty-four more to a selection of his letters and essays from medical journals, rebutting the myth that he was no more than a quack. He was acceptably written, except for a persistent omission of the comma in the vocative (‘Now work swiftly if you please Watson‘; ‘I would not wish to presume Mr Holmes…’). Sherlock Holmes: The Stuff of Nightmares by James Lovegrove (Titan Books; www.titanbooks.com; 30 August; £7.99) tells a more outre tale, as you might expect from a prolific and very popular science-fiction writer. The action begins with an explosion at Waterloo Station, and builds from there. The bomber’s ultimate victim is to be Queen Victoria, but is he, as the police believe, the masked man who appears at each catastrophic scene? Or does that mysterious person (a sort of amalgam of Spring-heeled Jack and Batman, and calls himself Baron Cauchemar) have another and higher purpose, as Holmes suspects? James Lovegrove’s steampunk thriller treats Holmes, Watson and their circle as well as those who love the stories of Sherlock Holmes and Star Trek. The launch party for The Papers of Sherlock Holmes: Volume Two by Carl Heifetz, a pillar of the Pleasant Places of Florida, reports the publication of his first novel, The Voyage of the Blue Carabuncle (Outskirts Press, www.outskirtspress.com; $8.95). Based on the work of Arthur Conan Doyle and Gene Roddenberry, Voyage of the Blue Carabuncle is a fun and exciting spoof, sure to please science fiction fans as well as those who love the stories of Sherlock Holmes and Star Trek.’ The legendary publisher of the Sherlock Holmes: Volume Two by David Marcum (MX Publications, www.mxpublishing.co.uk; £9.99) will be at the Park Plaza Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street at 8pm on 26 September. Free tickets are available from http://papersofsherlockholmes-ebevent.eventbrite.co.uk. Ross Foad,
Luke Kuhn and Tony Reynolds will also be signing copies of their book David Marcum’s next book, Sherlock Holmes and a Quantity of Debt, will be published on 6 November.

From MX on 8 October comes Sherlock Holmes and The Lufton Lady, a short novel by the much-missed by Marlene R Aig, edited by Chris Redmond (£6.99), and on 30 October comes Watson Is Not an Idiot: An Opinionated Tour of the Sherlock Holmes Canon by Eddy Webb (£9.99).

Investigating Sherlock Holmes: The Jewish Connection and Other Inquiries by Hartley R Nathan & Clifford S Goldfarb is due on 31 October from Mosaic Press (www.mosaic-press.com; £16.09).

Due on 11 November, The Illustrated Sherlock Holmes: Two Unabridged Mysteries from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is a ‘Literary Pop Up’ book illustrated by Chris Coady, whose artwork so impressed in The Lost Stories of Sherlock Holmes by Tony Reynolds (Canterbury Classics; £12.84).

Anthony Horowitz is working on his second Sherlock Holmes novel. The Daily Telegraph reported on Friday: ‘As part of a fundraising initiative, Horowitz will write the winner of a charity auction into the new book. Prospective victims can bid on eBay, with funds being donated to bullying charity Kidscape. The auction opened on Thursday evening, and will run until September 1. If the successful bid is more than £1,000, the winner’s appearance and background will be written in. £2,500 will allow them to meet Holmes and for over £5,000, the donor will be killed off in a ‘bouquet fashion’.’

MC Black notes that Bibliophile Ltd is offering the paperback of evening, and will run until September 1. If the successul bid is more donated to bullying charity Kidscape. The auction opened on Thursday initiative, Horowitz will write the winner of a charity auction into the Anthony Horowitz The Lost Stories of Sherlock Holmes

The fascinating Sherlock Holmes Map by Thomas Bruce Wheeler now includes routes based on the researches of Bernard Davies: ‘Holmes and Watson’s meandering route from Cavendish Square to the rear of Camden House, in ‘The Empty House’. I modified it slightly, as I think the entire journey was by Hansom cab. In “The Blue Carbuncle, Mr. Davies identified the trek from The Alpha Inn to Breckinridge’s goose stand. I included my suggested route from 221B Baker Street to the Alpha Inn. Holmes, Watson and Mary Morstan’s four-wheeler ride from the Lyceum Theatre to Thaddeus Sholto’s house in The Sign of the Four. After identifying Pondicherry Lodge, Mr. Davies suggested the path Holmes, Watson and Toby took in what he called the Creosote Unabridged Mysteries from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Inquiries & Investigations

Our Society’s re-enactment of Holmes’s fight with Roaring Jack Woodley features, with photo, on a nice website called The Best of Farnham at www.thebestof.co.uk/local/farnham/community-hub/blog/view/fascinating-stories-from-my-travels-around-farnham.

At noon on Bank Holiday Monday, 26 August, BBC Radio Norfolk will broadcast an admirable hour-long documentary (I don’t say that just because I’m in it) called Far From the Fogs, in which Paul Hayes investigates the links between Sherlock Holmes and the county of Norfolk. Those outside the area can listen on-line at www.bbc.co.uk/radionorfolk, or catch up on iPlayer at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01dwbl, where there’s a page about the programme.

Ken Ross is uploading more of his video recordings to YouTube. The 2000 Norfolk Weekend will be followed by Dartmoor 2004. Go to www.youtube.com type ken ross sherlock holmes in the search bar.

The fascinating Sherlock Holmes Map by Thomas Bruce Wheeler now includes routes based on the researches of Bernard Davies: ‘Holmes and Watson’s meandering route from Cavendish Square to the rear of Camden House, in ‘The Empty House’. I modified it slightly, as I think the entire journey was by Hansom cab. In “The Blue Carbuncle, Mr. Davies identified the trek from The Alpha Inn to Breckinridge’s goose stand. I included my suggested route from 221B Baker Street to the Alpha Inn. Holmes, Watson and Mary Morstan’s four-wheeler ride from the Lyceum Theatre to Thaddeus Sholto’s house in The Sign of the Four. After identifying Pondicherry Lodge, Mr. Davies suggested the path Holmes, Watson and Toby took in what he called the Creosote Trail, to Mordecai Smith’s boatyard. Find the map at the splendid Hungarian website run (in English) by Zsófia Marincsák, Edina Jáczberényi and Adrienn Fray: www.sherlockian-sherlock.com/the-london-of-sherlock-holmes.php or at https://mapsengine.google.com/.../gmp=m.../mid=zz7OC1y2oDAk6pynXNxMsHqE;F.

Tom is also working on a map showing the location of famous Londoners’ homes. There’ll be over 700 sites when it’s finished. See: https://mapsengine.google.com/.../edit?gmp=m.../mid=zz7OC1y2oDAkJh46NrhEfBlE.


Sherlock Holmes 10 Minute Plays by John DeGaetano, will be at the Leicester Square Theatre, London 2-5 October (08448 733433; www.leicestersquaretheatre.com), then at Islington’s Kings Head Theatre (0207 478 0160; www.kingsheadtheatre.com) 8-12 October.

Sherlock Holmes: The Speckled Band, Treasurer’s House, York, November 14 to 24 Theatre Mill present Sherlock Holmes: The Speckled Band at the Treasurer’s House, York, from November 14 to 24, inviting you to ‘experience the thrill of discovery and the true power of classic storytelling.’ (01904 623568; yorktheatreroyal.co.uk).

The République du Congo, the smaller of the two Congolese republics, has issued an attractive Sherlock Holmes, Consulting Detective series of postage stamps. I’ve not yet seen them on offer in the UK, though some US dealers offer them on Amazon.com. You can see the stamps at www.trussel.co.uk/defic/holmes.htm#Congo, and just above them a 2012 Liechtenstein issue that somehow escaped my notice before.

Aziz Bin Adam reports that the grand 1965 film A Study in Terror has been posted complete on YouTube. He adds: ‘You can view @ 360p or change it to 720p - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lw_FyAzjewQ - Video quality is superb, btw.’

Not Holmesian, but of interest nonetheless: Mark Smith, Archivist at Derbyshire Record Office, advises: ‘We have just put out a blog post about Conan Doyle and his bullet proof vest idea. Here is the link: http://recordoffice.wordpress.com/2013/07/17/sir-arthur-conan-doyles-ferodo-and-the-bullet-proof-vest/.’

And Alistair Duncan passes on news from Ian Bone of the South Norwood Tourist Board: ‘We are launching a campaign to name the lake in South Norwood Country Park Lake Conan in honour of ACD. The lake is presently un-named and we are getting a positive response. We would be grateful for your support and that of The Sherlock Holmes Society.’ See http://southnorwoodtouristboard.com/page/2/.

News just in from Tony Earnshaw, author of An Actor and a Rare One: Peter Cushing as Sherlock Holmes: his company, Reel Solutions, has published a 20-page monograph entitled Putting the ‘Grand’ in Guignol: A Centenary Tribute to Peter Cushing, with contributions from Peter Sadsy, Peter Duffell, Paul Annett, Kevin Connor, Bernard Cribbins, John Hurt, Val Kilmer, Barbara Shelley, Kate O’Mara and Uwe Somernadar, plus a complete filmography, list of awards and an Holmes-oriented essay/lecture by Tony himself. Plus lots of production images and some behind the scenes candid shots. Copies can be ordered from tony@reelsolutions.co.uk for £6.20 postpaid.


Roger Johnson