

# The District Messenger

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

5th May 1985

Not a plethora of news at the moment.

Those of you who missed Grant Eustace's witty and clever radio series **SECOND HOLMES** (and shame on you if you did) should be able to hear it on the BBC World Service, starting on Sunday the 26th May. As is usual with the World Service, each programme will be broadcast four times during the week, on Sunday at 2.30 pm, Monday at 6.30 pm, Tuesday at 10.30 am and Wednesday at 2.30 am. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** the World Service operates on Greenwich Mean Time, so you'll have to make allowance for that, but the programmes are worth it. Jeremy Nicholas and Peter Egan play the grandsons of Watson and Holmes, applying their ancestors' methods very successfully in the 1980's.

The press handout for the forthcoming film **YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES** rather boggles the mind. I quote: "It is set in 1870 in England and depicts the sleuth in his student days involved with Watson in adventurous criminology." Yes, folks: ten or more years before Holmes and Watson first met! Holmes is played by 18-year-old Nicholas Rowe (a year or two too old, but still. . .) and Watson by Alan Cox, son of that fine actor Brian Cox. Alan Cox is 14 years old. (Er. . .) Others in the cast include Nigel Stock (that's better), Susan Fleetwood, Freddie Jones, Patrick Newell, Sophie Ward and Anthony Higgins. The script's by Chris Columbus, who wrote (wait for it) **GREMLINS**. The director and producer are Barry Levinson and Mark Johnson (no relation) who were responsible for **THE NATURAL** and **DINER**. I'm assured that the film has no connection with Gerald Frow's excellent TV series **YOUNG SHERLOCK**. I think I could have guessed that. Oh well, we shall see. . .

I've had a letter from Professor Thomas L. Drucker of the University of Wisconsin - Extension at Madison, Wisconsin 53703. (U.S.A. for anyone who didn't know.) There will be a Sherlockian workshop held at the J.F. Friedrich Center in Madison over the weekend of the 20th and 21st of July featuring, among others, David Hammer, Robert W. Hahn, Chris Redmond, David Skene Melvin, Ely Liebow, Bradley Kjell and Professor Drucker himself. In addition to the talks there will be performances of **THE PAINFUL PREDICAMENT OF SHERLOCK HOLMES** and **THE CROWN DIAMOND**, displays of rare items of Sherlockian and Doylean interest, and a gala Sherlockian dinner. It all sounds like great fun, and I'm very envious of any of you who can afford to go. If you're interested, please drop a line to Professor Drucker for further details.

Well, that's it. I, at least, am still eagerly awaiting the remaining six episodes of Granada's excellent TV series, **THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES**. Any news? In the meantime we can expect a TV series (again from ITV) based on Ellis Peters' delightful "mediaeval whodunnits", the **Chronicles of Brother Cadfael**. Not strictly Holmesian, but highly recommended.

Please don't forget that information for **THE DISTRICT MESSENGER** is always welcome. I'm very grateful to Grant Eustace and Tony Medawar for help with this issue, so please, if you know of anything happening in the Sherlockian field - especially theatrical events and presentations - don't keep it to yourself; tell **THE DISTRICT MESSENGER!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. J. G.' followed by a long horizontal stroke.