

## Editorial

### Saving the Ceiling

The Article on page 7, 'Last Relic of the Plasterer's Craft' (from The Western Morning News 1967), provides the background to Exeter's Royal Albert Memorial Museum project to restore the other half of the 17th century ceiling rescued by SBG at the beginning of this century, and exhibit it in the Museum's Local History Gallery. The pieces have been kept in the basement out of public view for 25 years, and the estimate for cleaning, rebacking, providing casts for missing sections and finally rehanging amounts to £12,000. The illustrations on pages 8 and 9 will give some idea of the eye-catching craftsmanship. Contributions will be welcomed by the Appeal Administrator at the Museum: Queen Street, EXETER, EX4 3RN.

### The Local Vicar ?

Is there a 'throwaway' reference to SBG in the introduction of Who Really Killed Cock Robin? by Norman Iles (Hall 1986) on page 12: 'A folk singer told Cecil Sharp who usually collected songs with the help of the local vicar ... ' - i.e. did Cecil Sharp collect songs with his own local vicar, or must this have been SBG? <sup>i</sup>

### SSG in Fiction - a Foretaste

One of our members, Laurie R. King, of California and Oxford, has just written a book, due for publication next year, which features SBG in a Dartmoor setting. The author kindly sent me a copy of her 1994 novel, just published in the UK by Harper Collins under their Collins Crime imprint, entitled The Beekeeper's Apprentice. This is a brilliantly crafted pastiche of Conan Doyle's Sherlock I lohnes, now retired to his bees in Sussex, but caught up in a series of crime adventures with a young female student who becomes his apprentice. As an interested, rather than addicted, follower of Sherlock Holmes, I found the plotting and characterisation thoroughly rewarding and stimulating. The Boston Globe accolades the author as their favourite to succeed P.D. James. At any rate my appetite is thoroughly whetted for 'the new adventures of Baring-Gould'. (Laurie R. King - The Beekeeper's Apprentice - Harper Collins 1986 £15.99.)

### DPRS

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<sup>i</sup> In fact this would have been Charles Marson, the Vicar of Hambridge in Somerset. It was at Marson's vicarage that Sharp first noted a folk song, 'The Seeds of Love', from Marson's Gardener, John England in August 1903. After that Sharp stayed regularly with Marson to collect songs and Marson co-edited 'Folk Songs from Somerset' with Sharp. However, Sharp, like Baring-Gould, would frequently use clergymen as his key contact in a location he was visiting. MRG