

The Pursuit of Clues (Editorial)

A series of articles in one of the Sunday supplements reveals the eager search for Blackmore's Doone Valley and Buchan's Thirty-nine Steps; an earlier piece on the 'literary landscape' made compelling reading in the attempt to sort out Arthur Ransome's Cumbrian hills and lakes. It is clear from booksellers' request lists that a much collected group of SBG's writings is his location novels, such as Mehalah, Red Spider, Bladys of the Stewponey and several others, including the two mentioned in the previous editorial.

However, our man provides a whole range of other 'clues' waiting to be followed up. Some have already been mentioned in past newsletters. Developments are usually slow to mature, and the investigator has to exercise patience. The matter of letters is often tantalising - collections are rumoured but then seem to fade into oblivion. At the moment of writing your editor is waiting to be introduced to a third party who claims to have 'bundles' of BG papers!

Our newest member has been doing some archaeological research, and in due course will share his findings with the Society. In his own detective work SBG seemed less interested in arriving at definitive truth than in enjoying the romance of the features and people encountered in the process. As a pioneer in opening up the secrets of Dartmoor his conclusions have often been disputed both by contemporaries and successors. Yet his work is still acclaimed and valued. As one consequence of this the Society has been honoured by the request of the Devonshire Association to provide a speaker for their annual meeting next May.

Meanwhile, although one or two members report nearly complete collections of SBG's writings, most of us find many titles hard to track down, and the prices demanded for some items beyond our means.

We are most grateful to our President for producing the family crest - see the back cover - which we hope to use as a logo for publicity and correspondence. Many thanks also to the other contributors to this issue.

DPRS