

Jan 15 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 161st birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 7 to Jan. 11. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at Annie Moore's, and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's.

The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was Alan Bradley, co-author of *MS. HOLMES OF BAKER STREET* (2004), and author of the award-winning "Flavia de Luce" series; the title of his talk was "Ha! The Stars Are Out and the Wind Has Fallen" (his paper will be published in the next issue of *The Baker Street Journal*).

The William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Restaurant was well attended, as always, and the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton and Andrew Joffe) entertained the audience with an updated version of "The Sherlock Holmes Cable Network" (2000). The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual Jan Whimsey Award (named in memory of his wife Jan Stauber), which honors the most whimsical piece in *The Serpentine Muse* last year: the winner (Jenn Eaker) received a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.

The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Paul Martin proposed the preprandial first toast to Inez Bergquist as *The Woman*. The dinner's agenda featured the traditional BSI toasts and rituals, Michael Dirda's report on Langdale Pike's participation in the Civil War and other important events, Terry Hunt's tribute to Christopher Morley, and David Stuart Davies' one-man multi-voice performance of an unrecorded but almost Canonical episode at Baker Street and elsewhere.

Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented the BSI's Tip of the Deerstalker Awards to Marsha Pollak, Ralph Hall, George McCormack, and Jim Saunders, and a Two-Shilling Award to Mary Ann Bradley. This year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) were awarded to Bill Mason ("White Mason"), James O'Brien ("Knowledge of Chemistry.--Profound"), Chrys Kegley ("Rachel Howells"), Kiyoshi Arai ("The Shoso-in Near Nara"), Emily Miranker ("Lady Hatty St. Simon"), Kristina Manente ("Grace Dunbar"), Marino C. Alvarez ("Hilton Soames"), and Jeffery Hart ("Henry Baker").

An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club, where the agenda featured toasts, music, a show-and-tell by Bob Zatz ("On Dr. Watson's Guns"), and theatrics that included performances of William Gillette's "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes" and some original skits, and much more.

Some of the more fervent (or perhaps hard core) Sherlockians gathered after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21; another tradition calls for newly-Investitured Irregulars to buy a round of tequila shots.

Jan 15 #2 On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting, and the Junior Bloodstain of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner featured Gayle Lange Puhl's new play "The Riddle of the Refurbished Room" (performed by Ken Vogel's hand puppets).

The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; Timothy S. Greer was honored as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (a check accompanied by an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2014. The John H. Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of tickets for the raffle prize (the set of five medals handcrafted by Maggie Schpak for The Curious Collectors of Baker Street), and an auction of attractive donations to the Fund.

The main Saturday-evening event was the annual "Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub, with 54 on hand for the festivities, and on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Churchill Tavern.

A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 15, 2016. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 9, 2016.

I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSJ appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$39.95 (to the U.S.) or \$52.00 (elsewhere); payment by credit card or PayPal is welcome, or you can pay by check sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077).

You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which has interesting features such as articles from recent issues of the BSJ, some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.

The title of The Baker Street Journal's 2014 Christmas Annual is "The Only Actor Who Ever Got It Right" (it's now in the hands of BSJ subscribers, and not otherwise available unless you can find it at eBay or wherever), and it is a warm tribute to Douglas Wilmer, now 95 years old, and it includes his speech to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner in 1994.

The BSJ's 2015 Christmas Annual will be a 40th-anniversary tribute to Nicholas Meyer's THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION, both the book and the film; the Annual, edited by Steven Doyle, will commemorate the spark that ignited the great Sherlockian "boom" of the 1970s.

Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers (via e-mail) his 2015 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).

Jan 15 #3 OUT OF THE ABYSS is the latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series (2014; 229 pp., \$39.95); edited by Andrew Solberg, Steven Rothman, and Robert Katz, it offers a facsimile of the original manuscript of "The Empty House", an annotated transcript, interesting commentary on both the manuscript and the story, artwork by Fred-eric Dorr Steele on the dust jacket, and a nice surprise if you (carefully) remove the dust jacket to inspect the cloth binding. Details, on the book, including the table of contents and one of the articles, are available at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.

Sonia Fetherston's PRINCE OF THE REALM: THE MOST IRREGULAR JAMES BLISS AUSTIN (2014; 174 pp., \$21.95) is the second volume in the BSI's biographical series, and it's a fine tribute to a fascinating man who was a collector, scholar, and mentor, and a good friend to many Sherlockians.

Also from the BSI is SHERLOCKIAN SATURDAYS AT THE PRATT, edited by William Hyder (2014; 192 pp., \$21.95), offers a splendid survey of three decades of Canonical scholarship from the annual gatherings at Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library. All of the BSI's books can be ordered using the BSI web-site or by mail (checks payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) from Michael H. Kean, 3040 Stoa Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93593; shipping for one book costs \$5.95 to U.S./\$22.95 elsewhere. Add \$1.50/\$5.00 for each additional book in the same shipment.

THE DRURY LANE THEATRE MYSTERY is Dennis Hoey's only screenplay, unproduced and only now published, found by Michael A. Hoey after his father died, and now available accompanied by Michael's account of his father's life and career, and a description and history of the Drury Lane (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2014; 85 pp., \$12.95) <www.gasogenebooks.com>. Dennis Hoey had a long career on stage, screen, radio, and television, almost always as a supporting character in roles that included Inspector Lestrade in Universal's "Sherlock Holmes" series, and of course Holmes, Watson, and Lestrade are all involved in Hoey's mystery at the Drury Lane.

One of the nicest things about modern technology is that it offers access to so much information, as can be seen easily in Gasogene's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE IN THE NEWSPAPERS, VOLUME 1, 1881-1892, edited (and annotated) by Mattias Boström and Matt Laffey (2014; 306 pp., \$32.95). They've scoured digitized archives and extracted and reprinted a treasure trove of articles that offer a fascinating look at what was to be found in print in those years, including (for example) the first commentary on the many mistakes in "Silver Blaze" (and the critics were not at all kind). There will be more volumes to come in the series, and that's nice news indeed for anyone who want to see just how valuable an institution the Press can be.

Also from Gasogene: 221 BBC, by Bert Coules (2014; 297 pp., \$22.95) is an expanded and revised second edition of the 76-page booklet published by the Northern Musgraves in 1998, and it will be welcomed by all those who have enjoyed Bert's work on the BBC's radio series, which not only was the first (and the only) series to have dramatized all of the Canon but also was extended by Bert to include 15 apocryphal stories. Bert tells grand stories about how the series was made, and has a fine chapter ("Sherlock Speaks!") in which he discusses earlier appearances of Holmes and Watson on radio.

Jan 15 #4 Wipro Ltd. is a global information technology, consulting, and outsourcing company based in India, and The Times of India reported (Dec. 23) that Wipro has developed a cognitive computing system the company has named Holmes (as in heuristics and ontology-based learning machines and experimental systems). The newspaper wondered whether Wipro's Holmes would partner with IBM's Watson. It should be noted that IBM's Watson has nothing to do with the Canon; its name honors Thomas J. Watson, for many years the head of IBM.

There's no shortage of Sherlockian commercials, now on the Internet as well as on television; here's one from Sephora <www.tinyurl.com/l3ah2f4>, noted by Samantha Wolov.

The statues of Paddington Bear (Nov 14 #3) were sold at auction at Christie's web-site, but Sherlock Paddington, designed by Benedict Cumberbatch, was one of the select number of statues that were sold in a by-invitation-only live auction before the on-line event. The hammer price for Sherlock Paddington was £17,000 (not the most expensive Paddington, which was a W2 1RH bear designed by artist Tracey Quinn that sold for £58,000). You can see images of all the bears at <www.tinyurl.com/nt7qtqe>.

Further to the report (Oct 14 #8) of the new commercial DVD of Tom Baker's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982), the voice-over commentary by Baker includes his recollection of playing both Holmes and Moriarty on stage, in the same play. And so he did, which qualifies him for the list of actors who have played both roles.

Alexander Orlov has been exploring the Associated Press' digitized archives and has found a nice photograph of the passport Sir Arthur Conan Doyle used when he visited the front during World War One <www.tinyurl.com/q2lfsmk>; it should be noted that the descriptive text isn't accurate.

Andrew Lane's YOUNG SHERLOCK: STONE COLD (London: Macmillan, 2014; 307 pp., £12.99) is the seventh in his imaginative series; Sherlock now is a student at Oxford, but quickly becomes involved with bizarre crimes and criminals. And Lane has a second novel about Caleb Challenger, grandson of Professor George Edward Challenger: LOST WORLDS: SHADOW CREATURES (London: Macmillan, 2014; 320 pp., £12.99) has Caleb and his friends still in pursuit of supposedly mythological creatures, and still in conflict with a sinister corporation that wants to exploit them. The books are nicely written and the stories well told, and both series will be interesting for young adults.

There's now a Sherlock Holmes Hostel in Vladivostok. Images are available at <www.booking.com/hotel/ru/sherlock-holmes-hostel.html>, and the cost is \$7.00 a night for a bed in four-bed mixed dormitory room.

Shane Peacock's THE BOY SHERLOCK HOLMES is another well-written series for young adults, with a total of six books providing an interesting back-story for Holmes, Moriarty, Lestrade, and Irene Adler; the last in the series was BECOMING HOLMES (Toronto: Tundra, 2012; 245 pp., \$9.99), and all of the titles are available as trade paperbacks. Peacock's interesting web-site for the series is at <www.theboysherlockholmes.com>, and there's more about his other work at <www.shanepeacock.ca>.

Jan 15 #5 And when did Tom Baker play both Holmes and Moriarty on stage, in the same play? In 1985, in Dublin, in the premiere of Hugh Leonard's "The Mask of Moriarty". There are other actors have appeared in the role(s) in that play, including Geoffrey Palmer and Paxton Whitehead, and the script's available from Samuel French <www.samuelfrench.com>. But: name another performer who has appeared as both Holmes and Moriarty in an entirely different production.

The February issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, continues a long annual tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday, with Sherlockian artwork on the cover, an amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.

The Museum of London continues to offer intriguing events tied to its Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, including "Sleeping with Sherlock" on Feb. 14 and Mar. 28: the all-night event includes a three-course dinner, talks by detective specialists, comedy performances and improvised story-telling, the secrets of fingerprinting and blood-splatter analysis, grizzly ghost stories in the thick of night, a movie marathon, and a full English breakfast (all for £175.00). Their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/qg68kht> has details on all of the museum's Sherlockian events.

Y CYLCH BRITH (a Welsh translation of "The Speckled Band" that was arranged by The Deerstalkers of Welshpool) is now available from Y Lolfa, unofficial printers to the activist Welsh Language Society as a 60-page trade paperback (£3.95) <www.ylolfa.com> and <www.amazon.co.uk>.

The December issue of the electronic journal Ripperologist has Adam Woods' interesting article "Sherlock Holmes and the Polish Jew" (which includes a reprint of Sir Robert Anderson's 1903 article "Sherlock Holmes, Detective, As Seen by Scotland Yard"); Anderson was Assistant Commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police, and the Polish Jew was Aaron Kosminski, whom Anderson believed was Jack the Ripper. Woods' article discusses Conan Doyle and Scotland Yard as well as Sherlock Holmes. Ripperologist is devoted to all aspects of Jack the Ripper (who is mentioned in Hornung's story); contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> for information on how to subscribe.

Alexander Orlov has reported on a new HOLMES in Tajikistan <www.holmes.tj>; it's billed (in Russian) as the first search engine in the country, making it "convenient to look for the right information in your home town in Tajikistan."

It has been a long wait for fans of Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes (GARMENT OF SHADOWS was published in 2012), and Laurie R. King's DREAMING SPIES (New York: Bantam, 2015; 352 pp., \$26.00) is welcome indeed. Russell and Holmes are en route from India to San Francisco (between events in THE GAME and LOCKED ROOMS), and are diverted to Japan and presented with a mystery that's finally solved only after they return to England; the characters are interesting and the plot both imaginative and complicated. Laurie has an excellent web-site at <www.laurierking.com> that's fun for both newcomers and old hands (you can also subscribe to her newsletter "Between the Lines: The Buzz from Laurie R. King").

Jan 15 #6 And what other performer has appeared as both Holmes and Watson on stage in an entirely different production? Kenneth Macmillan, who was seen as both The Great Detective and The Infamous Professor in the ballet "The Great Detective" at Sadler's Wells in London in 1953. Bert Coules has suggested another candidate: Jeremy Brett, in the play written for him by Jeremy Paul, in which Professor Moriarty actually was Sherlock Holmes (or at least "a conjuration of his fevered mind)."

"Mr. Holmes" (the film that stars Ian McKellen as an aged Holmes, based on Mitch Cullen's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND), will be screened at the Berlin International Film Festival in February <www.berlinale.de>, and it should not be long before it's in theaters. And PBS-TV has announced that it will air "Arthur and George" (the television series based on Julian Barnes' novel, with Martin Clunes as Conan Doyle) on "Masterpiece" later this year.

Filming has begun on the "Sherlock" special and according to Mark Gatiss, in an interview with Paul Jones of Radio Times, it will "completely" solve the mystery of Moriarty's appearance at the end of the third season. The special may or may not air at Christmas. There's a (very) brief glimpse of Benedict Cumberbatch in BBC One's "Enjoy 2015" trailer available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/lqx2js6>.

"Missing since Jan. 4: Gillette Castle. Age 100+. Description: Castle-like and stony." That's the promotion for the Connecticut Humanities Council's "The Great Connecticut Caper" ("12 chapters, 12 authors, 12 illustrators, 1 story"), an imaginative on-line weekly serial that's well worth exploring <www.ctcaper.cthumanities.org>.

Anthony Horowitz's publisher reports that THE HOUSE OF SILK (Dec 11 #5) has sold more than 450,000 copies in more than 35 countries, so there will be a wide audience for his MORIARTY (London: Orion, 2014; 310 pp., £19.99) (New York: HarperCollins, 2014; 285 pp., \$26.99). They'll not be disappointed: it's a well-written page-turner, finely plotted and with a surprise ending. The story is set after the fateful battle at the Reichenbach, with Holmes and Watson only mentioned; the major characters are Scotland Yard Inspector Athelney Jones, Pinkerton investigator Frederick Chase, and American master criminal Clarence Devereux, and they're accompanied by interesting supporting characters.

For completists: the British edition of MORIARTY has extra content (a Sherlockian pastiche "The Three Monarchs"), and a variant sold exclusively at Waterstone's also included a Canonical crossword puzzle; Horowitz did not make a American signing tour, but the U.S. edition with an exclusive laid-in bookmark signed by the author is available the from Mysterious Bookshop <www.themysteriousbookshop.com>.

The web-site of The Priory Scholars of NYC now offers a chance to listen to three of the Priory Scholars of Fordham's broadcasts over WFUV in the very old days: "The Priory School" (1969), "The Second Stain" (1970), and "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (1970); go to <www.prioryscholarsnyc.wordpress.com> and click on "Radio Programmes" at the right. You will hear some familiar voices (some of the people who participated still come to the birthday festivities in New York in January).

Jan 15 #7 The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2014" has the theme "Pairings" and the authors range from Robert Brusich's thoughts about Sherlock Holmes and Helena Modjeska to Michael Eckman's nice tribute to Baring-Gould's ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES. Edited by Timothy Reich and Ray Riethmeier, the 50-page booklet can be ordered from Timothy Reich (6809 Pillsbury Avenue, Richfield, MN 55423; the cost is \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).

Laurie R. King's MARY'S CHRISTMAS is an imaginative short story available as an e-story (\$2.99) and as a signed 33-page paper copy (\$10.00). Russell tells Holmes about one her thoroughly unusual Uncle Jake, and there's more information at Laurie's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/q96d4ko>.

The third issue of the resurrected Saturday Review of Literature was published this month, edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler, and with articles that include James B. Saunders' memories of his teenage years with Chris Steinbrunner ("Irregulars of Auld"), Harrison Hunt's tribute to Christ Cella ("Christopher Morley's Beloved PUNCHINELLO"), and Derham Groves' report on a project carried out by his architecture students "(Designing the Conan Doyle Mystery Theatre)". \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).

Patrick Gowers died on Dec. 30. He was an accomplished composer, and wrote a guitar concerto for John Williams, a Toccato for organ for Simon Preston, and (certainly most important for Sherlockians) he composed and conducted the splendid music for the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" television series.

The Fourth Garrideb is a new Sherlockian society devoted to coin collecting in connection with the Canon; Greg Ruby presides over the society, and he has created an interesting and colorfully-illustrated web-site that covers coins, medals, orders, decorations, wooden nickels, cryptocurrency, tokens, and much more <www.fourthgarrideb.com>.

Austin J. McLean ("The London Library") died on Jan. 16. He was the right man in the right place at the right time: as head of special collections at the University of Minnesota Library, he found the funds for and negotiated their acquisition of John Bennett Shaw's collection, and thus was instrumental in creating the wonderful Sherlock Holmes Collections in Minneapolis. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1990.

Bill Dorn has compiled a 42-minute DVD "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: A Comparison of Actors in Identical Scenes" with brief scenes from film and television versions of ten of the stories; it's not for sale, but he'll be happy to send copies for use in classroom environments <billdorn@mac.com>.

Sherlockian philately: Alexander Orlov has reported that last year Zanzibar issued 16 Cinderella mini-sheets, each with a different photograph of Conan Doyle, framed by an image of Watson (Vitaly Solomin) and Holmes (Vasily Livanov playing chess). Steve Trussel displays images of these and many other Sherlockian and Doylean stamps at his excellent (and colorful) web-site The Philatelic Sherlock Holmes <www.trussel.com/detfic/sholmes.htm>. It should be noted that Cinderellas are not real postage stamps, and that Zanzibar no longer is a country and thus has no postal service.

Jan 15 #8 Mike Poteet reported in a message to The Hounds of the Internet that this year is the 50th anniversary of the Broadway premiere of the musical "Baker Street", and Rod Mollise noted that once was included in the catalog of the Tams-Witmark Music Library. And is still is, in case you want to try to suggest that a local theater or school produce the show <www.tams-witmark.com>.

The birthday-festivities performance by Andrew Joffe and Paul Singleton at the William Gillette luncheon (Jan 15 #1) was recorded by Greg Oliver Bodine, and he has kindly made it available at YouTube (copyright 2015); you can watch it at YouTube <www.youtu.be/4BoTmQVueYg>.

And if you want to see what things were like in London, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London proudly displays 125 photographs from this year's annual dinner <www.tinyurl.com/mjatsh9>; they're nicely captioned (roll your mouse over the images).

The gas-lamp era is has not ended: Michael Bragg notes that NPR's Ari Shapiro reported on NPR's "All Things Considered" on Jan. 15 that British Gas employs five lamplighters to tend to London's 1,500 gaslamps, still working and protected by law, thanks to British Heritage. You can read (and listen to) the story at <www.tinyurl.com/pjkk8nj>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is running at the Little Theatre of Alexandria in Alexandria, Va., through Feb. 7 <www.thelittletheatre.com>. And at the Academy of Performing Arts Playhouse in Orleans, Mass., through Feb. 15 <www.apacape.org>.

"The Speckled Band: An Adventure of Sherlock Holmes" (a new play by Timothy N. Evers) is scheduled at the Classical Theatre Company in Houston, Tex., Feb. 4-22 <www.classicaltheatre.org>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Carrollwood Players Theatre in Tampa, Fla., Feb. 13-Mar. 7 <www.carrollwoodplayers.org>

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette) is scheduled at the Indiana Repertory Theatre in Indianapolis, Feb. 18-Mar. 1 <www.irtlive.com>.

The Frisco Area Children's Theater will present Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus' new play "Baker Street Irregulars" at the Frisco Discovery Center in Frisco, Tex., Feb. 27-Mar. 7 <www.friscoacts.com>.

Alas: printing costs for this newsletter have risen slightly, and the new subscription rates for the ink-on-paper version now are \$13.50 (domestic) and \$21.50 (international). The electronic version is available (without charge, and with illustrations in color and live URLs) at the Red Circle's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/d8uoo80> as well as at Willis Frick's Sherlocktron <www.tinyurl.com/kl9gc11>.

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Feb 15 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Still more news about last month's birthday festivities in New York: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, almost certainly the tallest author of a Sherlockian pastiche (MYCROFT HOLMES, due from Titan later this year) attended the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars, and you can read more about it in Jonathan Blitzer's report for The New Yorker at <www.tinyurl.com/mb49798>, Randall Stock kindly notes that if you encounter a paywall, you run a Google search for ["best impression of someone with a low profile"] (you need to include the quotation marks).

Blitzer's story appeared in print in The New Yorker on Feb. 2, preceded by Nick Paumgarten's comments on the move of the magazine's offices from its headquarters at 4 Times Square to join the rest of its parent company Condé Nast at 1 World Trade Center. Paumgarten noted that there are "islands of safety" in the Times Square neighborhood, including one that will be familiar to those who fondly remember the Algonquin Hotel: the Red Flame diner, "still sincere in spite of a series of face-lifts."

Tim Dedopulos' THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLE COLLECTION (London: Carlton/SevenOaks, 2011; 288 pp., \$5.99) offers 150 enigmas to test your logic, non-Sherlockian but presented by Holmes and others in the Canon. Such as: "I'd like you to consider the following sequence of numbers, Watson. They are 2, 5, 8, 11, 16, 14. What number less than 20 is the next in the line? I assure you that you do not need mathematical aptitude to arrive at the correct answer."

The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) honors Conan Doyle's trip to Canada in 1914, and you can request a copy of the newsletter from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

The 2013 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Library by Bernard Lightman (on "Conan Doyle and the Scientific Naturalists"), and his paper has now been published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now. Their web-site at <www.acdfriends.org> has PayPal and credit-card capability, or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above); the minimum donation of \$25.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2014 Memorial Lecture (by Lyndsay Faye on "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Storytelling and the Passion of the Narrator").

Cliff Goldfarb will deliver the Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture this year (on "Arthur Conan Doyle's Waterloo") on June 27, in honor of the 200th anniversary of the Battle, and Canadian actor Robert H. Thomson will present a reading of Conan Doyle's one-act play "Waterloo".

Ravelry <www.ravelry.com> is a free knit-and-crochet on-line community and Melissa Ennis has noted their pattern for a "Dancing Men Muff" (there are quite a few other Sherlockian patterns available). Melissa also has found a Sherlock Holmes dog costume pattern available from McCall's (one of their "sewing patterns for today's fashion trends" <www.tinyurl.com/qch3jdc>).

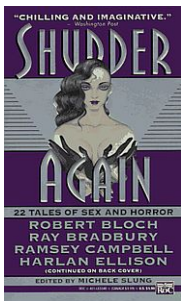
Feb 15 #2 It's time for another mention of the delightful web-site "Basil Rathbone: Master of Stage and Screen" maintained by Marcia Jensen, who presents an excellent catalog of his work on stage, screen, radio, television, and records <www.basilrathbone.net>. There are opportunities to listen and view, and there's also a gallery of photographs: the page for the 1940s <www.tinyurl.com/nggwdhh> includes one that shows him with Nigel Bruce and Rupert Hughes, receiving his certificate of membership in The Baker Street Irregulars. The presentation was on Apr. 17, 1944, when Bruce also received a certificate of membership.

What number is next in the sequence 2, 5, 8, 11, 16, 14? The answer is 17. Why?

Bradford Morrow's *THE FORGERS* (New York: Mysterious Press, 2014; 242 pp., \$24.00) is an imaginative mystery (and thriller) involving collectors, book dealers, forgers, and forgeries that include revelations in letters written by Arthur Conan Doyle; it's a well-written book, with an intriguing plot.

Jim Saunders has a proposal for the next Sherlock Holmes movie: Jabez Wilson receives reward money for exposing bank robber Vincent Spaulding, and moves to Indonesia, where he goes into business distilling gin using a special process and recipe; he heats the gin in a huge cauldron, more than 25 feet high, the largest cauldron in the world, and is quite successful, but has to call in Sherlock Holmes when saboteurs try to destroy the cauldron. The name of the movie? "The Giant Vat of Sumatra".

David Hale Smith's "Return of the Great American Indie Bookstore" is in the January issue of the in-flight magazine *American Way*, with a colorful report on how nice an independent brick-and-mortar bookstore can be; you can read the article on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ph4x8r5>.



Michele B. Slung edited two interesting anthologies: *I SHUDDER AT YOUR TOUCH* (1991) and *SHUDDER AGAIN* (1993), each containing "22 tales of sex and horror"; the second anthology has stories by Ray Bradbury, Harlan Ellison, J. G. Ballard, and 19 others, according to the dust jacket, and one of the 19 others is Arthur Conan Doyle, whose "The Parasite" is described as a "masterpiece of sexual mesmerism and demonic destruction."

The Financial Post had a story (Jan. 30) about Tweed Marijuana Inc., Canada's first publicly-traded pot producer. The company uses "creative and engaging titles for its products," taking cues from "famous people who have worn tweed fabric throughout history." And one of their brands ("Bakerstreet") is named in honor of the street on which Sherlock Holmes lived. Their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/nmhxn3u>.

More than 30 years ago a young Mitch Cullin visited John Bennett Shaw and Dorothy Shaw at their home in Santa Fe and filmed a delightful interview; footage from the visit has now been edited into a 25-minute "Conversation with John Bennett Shaw" <www.vimeo.com/118371969>, kindly reported by Jennie Paton. And yes, that's the Mitch Cullin who went on to write *A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND* (2005), which has been dramatized as "Mr. Holmes" (starring Ian McKellen), due in theaters this year.

Feb 15 #3 Ken Ludwig's new play "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" premiered at Arena Stage in Washington to enthusiastic reviews in the press and from local Sherlockians; there's lots of energy and drama, and even more humor, in the script, acting, direction, and set design. The next productions will be at the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton N.J., Mar. 10-29 <www.mccarter.org>, and at the Old Globe in San Diego, Calif., July 24-Aug. 23 <www.theoldglobe.org>. Recommended.

What number is next in the sequence 2, 5, 8, 11, 16, 14? The answer is 17. Why? The numbers are in increasing length when spelled out as words. Two has three letters, five has four, and 14 has eight. The only number less than 20 with nine digits is seventeen.

LeRoy Lad Panek offers an interesting survey in his AFTER SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE EVOLUTION OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN DETECTIVE STORIES, 1891-1914 (Jefferson: McFarland, 2014; 214 pp., \$40.00); he begins earlier than 1891, continues with a discussion of what's unique about a detective story, and goes on to examine and review the Canon and the best of many authors who helped make the genre so much fun for such a wide and enthusiastic audience. The publisher's at <www.mcfarlandpub.com> (800-253-2817).

The next running of The Baker Street Irregulars' "The Silver Blaze" at Saratoga Racetrack in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is scheduled for Aug. 1; more information is available from Candace Lewis <clewis1880@aol.com>.

The owners of Simpson's-in-the-Strand are looking for someone "to revitalize this magnificent space and name," which may well be bad news indeed for those who have fond memories of dining, and dining well, in an establishment that was known to Holmes and Watson (and mentioned in "The Dying Detective" and "The Illustrious Client"). Founded in 1828 as a coffee house and chess club, Simpson's became famous as a properly British restaurant serving properly British food, but that sort of tradition seems to be less important now both to locals and to tourists. You can visit their web-site <www.simpsonsinthestrand.co.uk> for what may be a last look at a true landmark of a vanishing era.

There's a sample from the new film "Mr. Holmes" (starring Ian McKellen) at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/otnf6un>. And McKellen has provided a teaser poster at his Facebook page <www.tinyurl.com/orwh2zu>.

Stepping Stones School has won final approval of its plan to convert Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school for special-needs children (Sep 14 #6); the main part of the house will be largely preserved and restored, with changes to floor plans to allow for classrooms and bedrooms, and an extension will be built to house studios and other facilities.

There are three titles in Christian Klaver's series THE SUPERNATURAL CASE FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2014): THE ADVENTURE OF THE SOLITARY GRAVE, THE ADVENTURE OF THE INNSMOUTH WHALER, and THE ADVENTURE OF THE LUSTROUS PEARL (each \$6.00); we find Holmes and Watson involved with vampires, and with the Esoteric Order of Dagon, and Klaver has a web-site <www.christianklaver.com> (his personal motto is "writing the fantastic until it bleeds").

Feb 15 #4 Further to the item on Col. Percy H. Fawcett and the film based on David Grann's THE LOST CITY OF Z (Dec 14 #2), Benedict Cumberbatch won't be playing Fawcett, and will instead star in the title role in "Doctor Strange". Charlie Hunnam has now been cast as Fawcett; there's no word on whether the film will show Fawcett's meeting with Conan Doyle.

Benedict Cumberbatch and Sophie Hunter celebrated Valentine's Day by marrying, at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church in Mottistone on the Isle of Wight.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" has been restored, and had its world premiere in Paris on Jan. 31; it will be screened next during the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, May 28-June 1, and tickets will go on sale in March <www.silentfilm.org> (don't neglect the link to their "The Gillette Jollification" blog entry). You can also, thanks to the BBC News Magazine, see a three-minute clip from the film at <www.tinyurl.com/n5apa2r>.

The Société Sherlock Holmes de France have published LE GUIDE DU FIM SHERLOCK HOLMES (1916), a 64-page profusely-illustrated discussion of the film and its actors, with articles by Thierry Saint-Joanis and Bernard Oudin; it is almost all in English, and costs €20.00 at <www.sshf.com/boutique.php>, where you can see thumb-nail images showing the results of their splendid research. Recommended.

The Beacon Society <www.beaconsociety.com> offers Jan Stauber grants of up to \$500 to fund development of programs that will introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the web-site.

Nicely timed to coincide with publicity for Martin Clunes' television series "Arthur & George": a series of thirty Conan Doyle letters pertaining to the Edalji Case <www.tinyurl.com/m5y2h25>, coming to auction at Bonhams in London on Mar. 18. The mini-series is scheduled to air on ITV in Britain in three weekly one-hour episodes beginning on Mar. 2; there's a one-minute trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/mq8d8ct>.

And Clunes has told Radio Times (Feb. 16) that he hopes to extend his role as Conan Doyle into a full series; Philippa Braithwaite, Clunes' wife and producer of the mini-series, explained that a longer series could combine real events from the author's life with fictional elements: "We have told only a few months of Conan Doyle's life in 'Arthur & George' so there's so much more there."

Adam Zanzie has launched an Indiegogo campaign to raise funds for his thesis project: adapting Conan Doyle's "The Parasite" into a short film; contributors get a copy of the film, and other perks depending on the amount contributed, and you can see a brief trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/lqnt4tz>.

Further to the item (Nov 11 #6) on "Sherlock Holmes 4D" (an 11-minute "comedy mystery adventure"), visitors can enjoy the experience at Paultons Park in Hampshire when the park opens for the season on Mar. 20. The film also is being screened at the Allou! Fun Park near Athens in Greece. 4D films combine 3D film with special effects in the theater, and you can see a one-minute teaser of the 3D version of the film at <www.tinyurl.com/nczkmqt>.

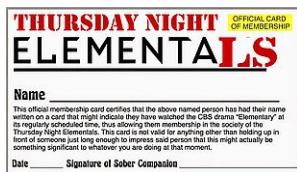
Feb 15 #5 B. J. Rahn's THE REAL WORLD OF SHERLOCK (Stroud: Amberley Publishing, 2014; 264 pp., £20.00) explores both the character and his creator (and Edgar Allan Poe and Dupin, and Joseph Bell), and the police and the forensic science of the Victorian era, providing an excellent background for exploring the world of the Canon.

CONAN DOYLE'S WAR (Stroud: Amberley Publishing; 160 pp., £7.99) is part of Amberley's "Great Writers on the Great War" series, and it's an edited version (omitting details of which units fought where, and when) of the first of the six volumes of his THE BRITISH CAMPAIGN IN FRANCE AND FLANDERS, offering a fine opportunity to see how well Conan Doyle wrote about World War One. The publisher's web-site is at <www.amberley-books.com>.

Anthony Horowitz's pastiche "The Three Monarchs" was published only in the British edition of his MORIARTY (Jan 15 #6), but it's available on-line as an e-story (\$1.99) for Kindle and Nook and the like.

DC Smith has noted a 3-minute YouTube video of Mary Ciccolella's spectacular miniature room-box recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street <www.tinyurl.com/ku2obwv>, and there are close-up photographs of the room at <www.tinyurl.com/px6tdzr>. I've not heard that anyone has done a miniature of the sitting-room in the "Sherlock" television series, but I'm sure someone will.

Congratulations to Graham Moore, who won an Oscar (best adapted screenplay) for "The Imitation Game"; he also is the author of the pastiche THE SHERLOCKIAN (Nov 10 #8), and you can listen to his interview with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder on "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.ihose.co/ihose30>.



Brad Keefauver is the energetic proprietor of Sherlock Peoria <www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com> as well as an enthusiastic fan of the television series "Elementary"; see his post for Feb. 5 for information on his new society The Thursday Night Elementals.

At long last: you can read the Sherlock Holmes story "Discovering the Border Burghs and, by Deduction, the Brig Bazaar" (first published in 1903 in THE BOOK O' THE BRIG and only recently found by Walter Elliott when a copy of the 48-page pamphlet turned up in his attic). Conan Doyle appeared at the bazaar, which was held to raise funds to replace a wooden bridge that was destroyed by a flood in the town of Selkirk in Scotland in 1902. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/kduqaro> (there's a link to the story) and watch a two-minute video at <www.tinyurl.com/mno5kyn>.

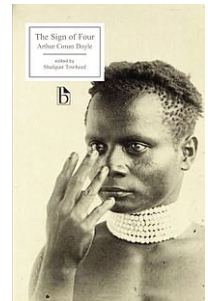
It should be noted that, even faster than with "The Case of the Man Who Was Wanted" in 1948 (when there was no Internet), people have expressed doubts that the story actually was written by Conan Doyle; Mattias Boström is one of the doubters, based in part on research in what was published about the bazaar in local papers, and you can read his conclusions at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/p5x5sz5>. Digitized data-bases are a wonderful resource, as one can see in SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE IN THE NEWSPAPERS, 1881-1892 (Jan 15 #3), the results of careful research by Mattias and Matt Laffey.

Feb 15 #6 Neil Gaiman's TRIGGER WARNING (New York: William Morrow, 2015; 310 pp., \$26.99) is aptly subtitled as "short fictions and disturbances"; it's a collection of short stories and poems by a writer whose talents for story-telling allow him to engage his readers with thoroughly imaginative humor and horror; one of the stories is "The Case of Death and Honey" (reprinted from A STUDY IN SHERLOCK: STORIES INSPIRED BY THE HOLMES CANON).

"Before being eclipsed by Howard Pyle, Doyle and Holmes were the objects of my obsession, and I still dip into their worlds from time to time," notes Ian Schoenherr, who has an interesting blog devoted to Howard Pyle; recent entries are devoted to Pyle's illustrations for Conan Doyle's poem "A Forgotten Tale" (1895) <www.tinyurl.com/mbmdk5p> and his novel "The Parasite" (1984) <www.tinyurl.com/n6xkg4h>.

"PaleyFest Made in NY" (celebrated by the Paley Center for Media in October 2013) included a 38-minute session on "Elementary" with the series' executive producers and leading actors <www.tinyurl.com/qaogbr4>; it's available (with a session on "The Americans") at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/lg6r7ag>.

Shafquat Towheed has edited an interesting edition of THE SIGN OF FOUR (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2010; 218 pp., \$13.95) that offers far more than an arresting cover photograph of an Andaman Islander: there's an insightful introduction that sets the story in context, followed by an annotated version of the story, and five appendixes reprinting extracts from contemporary accounts of events in India, Afghanistan, and the Andaman Islands, and reviews of the newly-published book. It's available from the publisher <www.broadviewpress.com>.



Benedict Cumberbatch is keeping busy: he'll play the title role in the National Theatre's production of "Hamlet"; previews at the Barbican Theatre in London begin on Aug. 5; all the tickets have already been sold, but the production will be filmed and shown in theaters worldwide in October. Details at <www.tinyurl.com/pdee6b3>.

University of Southern Maine media student Kate Tracy's web-series "S(her)-lock" (described as "a feminist LGBTQIA positive take on Sherlock Holmes") is underway. You can see her Kickstarter promotion and clips from four of the six episodes on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/o9ufwvp>, and there are posts about the web-series at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/lws8gyc> and <www.tinyurl.com/lmvz4wm>.

Benedict Cumberbatch as you've never seen him before: on the cover of Radio Times (Feb. 21); actually, on three different covers, with portraits in the styles of Rembrandt, Warhol, and Van Gogh <www.tinyurl.com/nxtucug>.

Alan Howard died on Feb. 14. He had a distinguished career as an actor on stage, screen, and television, and his list of credits includes Theophilus St. James in "The Willow House School" in a BBC television series of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories (1967) and the Duke of Holderness in the Granada version of "The Priory School" (1986). "The Willow House School" was the BBC's title for Conan Doyle's "The Usher of Lea House School".

Feb 15 #7 The Black Phoenix Alchemy Lab specializes in "formulating body and household blends with a dark, romantic Gothic tone" and has introduced a 221B Baker Street line that's inspired by Canonical characters and stories; their web-site's at <www.blackphoenixalchemylab.com>. They're affiliated with the Black Phoenix Trading Post which offered (it's out of stock, but there's a waiting list) an "A Study in Emerald Neil Gaiman Pendant" <www.blackphoenixtradingpost.com>.

Three non-Sherlockian manuscripts ("The Nightmare Room", "The Parish Magazine", and "Through the Veil") and some Conan Doyle letters will be offered at auction at Swann Galleries in New York on Mar. 19. Read all about it at Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/m4dh217>.

Lynnette Porter's BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH: IN TRANSITION (Sep 13 #6) was a delightful examination of his work as an actor and his relationship with his fandom, and she now offers BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH: TRANSITION COMPLETED (London: MX Publishing, 2014, 286 pp., \$18.95); her research is just as careful, and her reporting covers his recent work on stage, screen, radio, and television, including what's known about some things not yet completed, or even not yet in production. It is an excellent book, and the earlier book still is available; the publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Also from MX: P. James Macaluso Jr. uses Legos to illustrate the Canon in full color, his latest being THE BOSCOMBE VALLEY MYSTERY, THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS, and THE MAN WITH THE TWISTED LIP (\$9.95 each), with imaginative recreations of Sidney Paget's illustrations for each story.

And there's more: ROGUES GALLERY (2014; 232 pp., \$14.95) is the latest in Dan Adriacco's series of about Sebastian McCabe and Jeff Cody, his modern-day Holmes and Watson, with the sleuths at work in five short stories; Dan has a blog at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com> that's interesting, entertaining, and Sherlockian. THE LAST CONFESSION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Kieran Lyne (2014; 206 pp., \$14.95), is a retelling of the conflict leading to the battle at Reichenbach Falls, and then an account of Holmes' return to London and his pursuit of a new Jack the Ripper. Kim H. Krisco's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GOLDEN YEARS (2014; 345 pp., \$18.95) has Holmes and Watson in retirement, reunited with Irene Adler and battling a malevolent villain in London and Battle Creek, and then involved in colonial complications with Leander Starr Jameson in South Africa.

Fans of Basil of Baker Street may wish to bid on a production two-cell set-up showing Basil and Dawson from "The Great Mouse Detective" coming to auction at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/lcdvexr>.

THE LAST AMERICAN VAMPIRE (New York: Grand Central, 2015; 398 pp., \$27.00), by Seth Grahame-Smith, is a sequel to his ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (2010) and it offers an interesting look into a thoroughly popular genre; the last American vampire is Henry Sturges, and one of the many famous people he encounters is Arthur Conan Doyle, in London in 1888, while pursuing Jack the Ripper. Special compliments to Elizabeth Connor, who designed the truly imaginative dust jacket, which is on display, along with a video preview of the book, at <www.sethgrahamesmith.com>.

Feb 15 #8 The spiritualist Noah Zerdin held a seance at the Aeolian Hall in London in 1934 and made recordings on 26 acetate disks that were discovered by Zerdin's son in 2001; he donated them to the British Library, and it is now possible to listen to the message that Conan Doyle delivered to the seance. Josh Jones posted about the seance to the blog Open Content on May 7, 2014 <www.tinyurl.com/kyzmczr>, and included links both to a recording Conan Doyle made before his death and to the 1934 recording; Steve Cleary's blog at a British Library web-site <www.tinyurl.com/on5k32l> offers more information about Zerdin and the seance.

Sherlocked: The Official Sherlock Convention will be held in London on Apr. 24-26, organized in association with Hartswood Films (the production company for "Sherlock") at the ExCel convention center in London; you can sign up at the web-site <www.massiveevents.co.uk/sherlocked> for e-mail messages with more information about the convention.

And there's some Sherlockian theater: The Garland Civic Theatre will perform Jaime Robledo's "Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes" in Garland, Texas, Mar. 6-28 <www.gardlandcivictheatre.org>.

On the Fly's improvisational "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Grace Emily Hotel in Adelaide, Australia, on Mar. 9-11, during the Adelaide Improv Festival <www.onthefly.org.au>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being performed at the Curtain Call Theatre in Latham, N.Y., through Mar. 28 <www.curtaincalltheatre.com>. And it's scheduled at the Breckinridge Backstage Theatre in Breckenridge, Colo., Mar. 12-Apr. 4 <www.backstagetheatre.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the House of Dead Lords" will debut at the Victorian Players Theater in Youngstown, Ohio, Mar. 13-29 <www.victorianplayers.org>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is scheduled by the Cheyenne Little Theater Players at the Cheyenne Little Theatre in Cheyenne, Wyo., Mar. 13-29 <www.cheyennelittletheatre.org>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Mundelein High School Auditorium in Mundelein, Ill., Mar. 27-29 <www.kirkplayers.org>. And at the Dorset Theatre Festival in Dorset, Vt., July 9-25 <www.dorsettheatrefestival.org>.

"The bleak tale of a Norfolk village that's slowly falling into the sea" is how the Royal Geographical Society's magazine Geographical began its report (Feb. 12) about what's happening to Happisburgh, and to the Hill House Pub (where Conan Doyle was inspired to write "The Dancing Men"). The Norfolk coastline is eroding, and it's estimated that it would take £15 million to close the gap in protective sea defenses, and that "if the pub's luck holds then it may have another 30 years left before the sea claims it." You can read the story at <www.tinyurl.com/owdecym>.

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Mar 15 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Lyndsay Faye's next book will be *THE FATAL FLAME* (a sequel to her *THE GODS OF GOTHAM* and *SEVEN FOR A SECRET* in her series set 1840s New York), due in May from G. P. Putnam's Sons in May. She offers some insightful thoughts on "The Art of Pastiche" in an interview on Scott Monty's blog "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/putaf72>, and has her own interesting blog at <www.lyndsayfaye.com>.

Leonard Nimoy died on Feb. 27. Best known as Mr. Spock on "Star Trek", he wrote two autobiographies, *I AM NOT SPOCK* (1975) and *I AM SPOCK* (1995), and appeared as Sherlock Holmes on television in "The Interior Motive" (1975) and on stage in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1976). It was thanks to Nicholas Meyer, who wrote and directed "Star Trek IV: The Undiscovered Country" (1991), that Nimoy said (as Spock) "An ancestor of mine maintained that if you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth." He also was the host of the television series "In Search of..." that in 1978 went "In Search of...Sherlock Holmes".

And Howard Ostrom has a new essay "Beam Me Up Sherlock" at Ross Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/oqv5ljo> with details on the many actors, including Leonard Nimoy, who have been part of the Star Trek and Sherlock Holmes franchises.

Three non-Sherlockian manuscripts ("The Nightmare Room", "The Parish Magazine", and "Through the Veil") and some Conan Doyle letters at auction at Swann Galleries in New York on Mar. 19 (Feb 15 #7) all were sold, and with prices nicely above the estimates. You'll find all the details at Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/m4dh2l7>.

There's more news about the recently discovered Sherlock Holmes story "Discovering the Border Burghs and, by Deduction, the Brig Bazaar" (Feb 15 #5): a second copy of *THE BOOK OF THE BRIG* has been found in Scotland, this one signed on the cover by Conan Doyle. Mattias Boström has provided what he calls "The Final Word on the Lost Sherlock Holmes" story in a long essay at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/qjooldn>, with some interesting information on Conan Doyle's positive and negative reactions to other pastiches.

Deadline Hollywood has reported that Sony Pictures TV has sold "Houdini and Doyle" (a ten-episode mini-series) to Fox, ITV, and Shaw Media; the project involves David Shore (creator of "House") and David Hoselton (producer and writer of "House").

THE ANGEL OF MONS: A WORLD WAR I LEGEND, by Jerred Metz (Columbia: Singing Bone Press, 2014; 227 pp., \$19.95) is a novel about the battle of Mons and its aftermath; the battle of Mons was the war's first major engagement, and there soon were reports of supernatural forces supporting the British army. Metz paints a vivid picture of the battle, and his characters include Malcolm Leckie (who died of wounds received at Mons); the second part of the novel focuses on a seance conducted by Lily Loder-Symmons for Arthur Conan Doyle and his wife (Malcolm Leckie's sister Jean), Sir Oliver Lodge and his wife, and Sherlock Holmes.

Mar 15 #2 SOURCES AND METHODS, by Jon Lellenberg (Santa Fe: Hazelbaker & Lellenberg, 2015; 154 pp., \$20.00 postpaid to the US) is a companion volume to his BAKER STREET IRREGULAR, his novel about the early days of the BSI (Sep 10 #1), with detailed annotations about the people, places, and events, factual and fictional, in the novel, and a running account of how the novel was written. Available from the publisher (Box 32181, Santa Fe, NM 87594) or by PayPal to <jonlellenberg@gmail.com>.

Peter Jacoby has formed a discussion group, called The Napoleons of Crime, that will focus on Moriarty's potential behind-the-scenes role in various high-profile crimes and international incidents prior to May 1891. Their inaugural meeting will be at the Public Library in Princeton, N.J., on May 29, and their web-site's at <www.thenapoleonsofcrime.com>.

Fans of Sherlockian and Doylean and other Old Time Radio will be interested in exploring the Times Past web-site <www.timespast.ning.com>, where a wide variety of audio is available to listen to or download; the Groups include a "Definitive Sherlock Holmes Group" and the OTRR Library's a real treasure trove. Try <www.tinyurl.com/mgxp85a> to hear the readings Nigel Stock made for the BBC of nine short stories in 1976 and 1977, and "The Sign of Four" in 1980. There's also Conan Doyle material available, including "The Lost Special" starring Orson Welles (an episode of "Suspense" in 1943).



Don Pollock has noted an imaginative new typeface called Sherlock Pro, designed by Kimmy Kirkwood with a variety of ligatures, swashes, glyphs, and other embellishments; go to <www.tinyurl.com/kjjdgcj> to see for yourself.

The Lost World isn't quite as lost as it used to be, according to a report from Planet Ark (Feb. 18) <www.planetark.org/wen72776>, noted by The Sydney Passengers in their on-line CyberSignals; Venezuela's Mount Roraima now is visited by 3,000 to 4,000 people a year, some of the more affluent arriving by helicopter.

Time for another trivia question: name an actor who has played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes.

Michael Hayes died on Sept. 16. He had a long career as an actor and then as a director; best known for having directed 14 episodes of the Tom Baker "Doctor Who" series, he also directed "The Retired Colourman" in the 1965 Douglas Wilmer series.

Ross E. Davies has an interesting article in the latest issue of The Journal of Law ("Giving It Away at The Strand"), discussing the manuscript of "The Golden Pince-Nez" and reprinted a recently-discovered newspaper version of the story published in the N.Y. World in 1911; you can read the article on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/pgooqgj>.

The modern Strand Magazine is an interesting successor to the original, and has occasional Sherlockian content; it's published quarterly, and its web-site <www.strandmag.com> offers links to content from past issues, including (click on "Stories") H. R. F. Keating's amusing homage "Wisteria Lodge" and Barrie Roberts' "The Disappearance of Daniel Question".

Mar 15 #3 Name an actor who has played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes. Christopher Lee played Mycroft in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) and Sherlock in "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" and "Incident at Victoria Falls" (1992). But there's more: name an actor who played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes in the same production.

"Finding Neverland" is a new musical that began previews on Mar. 15, and is scheduled to open at the Lunn-Fontanne Theatre in New York on Apr. 15, with Matthew Morrison as J. M. Barrie and Kelsey Grammer as Charles Frohman); it is based on the film (2004) and is the story of how Barrie was inspired to write "Peter Pan". Conan Doyle had a cameo appearance in the film, but is not listed as a character in the musical, which had its world premiere at Curve in Leicester in 2012, with a reworked version premiering at the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge in 2014; there's video and audio at the musical's official web-site at <www.findingneverlandthemusical.com>, and a detailed history of the musical is at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/nv2awjy>.

Admirers of the Brigadier Gerard will enjoy watching "How the Brigadier Won His Medal" (a 30-minute "Schlitz Playhouse of the Stars" program broadcast by CBS-TV on July 2, 1954) <www.tinyurl.com/ltqbtwz>. Thanks to Greg Ruby, who reported the video at his web-site <www.fourthgarrideb.com>.

An official 2-minute teaser for Ian McKellen's film "Mr. Holmes" is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/kgm723g>. And you'll be able to see the film in theaters starting June 19 in the U.K. and July 17 in the U.S.

Gerry Fisher died on Dec. 20. He first worked in British films as a clapper boy in 1946, became an assistant cameraman in 1947, and then went on to a world-wide career as director of photography, with a list of credits that included "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).

Inspired by the discovery of the Sherlockian parody in THE BOOK O' THE BRIG (Feb 15 #5), Ian Schoenherr has found two early Sherlockian poems written by Charles Joseph Colton and collected in Colton's VOLUME OF VARIOUS VERSE (1899). Read all about it at Ian's blog <www.tinyurl.com/la4ncuz>.

It's nice to know that good Sherlockian books find a wide audience: an article in Publishers Weekly (Mar. 6) notes that Pegasus Books has reported that more than 10,000 hardcover copies were sold last year of IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, the fine anthology edited by Laurie King and Les Klinger (Oct 14 #1).

Phil Attwell notes the death of Britain's last Victorian: Ethel Lang, the last person to have been born during the reign of Queen Victoria, has died at the age of 114. She had lived independently until the age of 105, when she moved to a nursing home.

Gillian Barr has noted Lee Jackson's new book DIRTY OLD LONDON: THE VICTORIAN FIGHT AGAINST FILTH (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014; 304 pp., \$34.20), which doesn't mention Sherlock Holmes, but does offer considerable detail on the world into which Holmes was born, and in which he lived. Lee Jackson was interviewed on "Fresh Air" on National Public Radio on Mar. 12, and you can listen to the 14-minute interview at <www.tinyurl.com/mgz7kdm>.

Mar 15 #4 Roger Johnson has published 350 issues of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's newsletter The District Messenger, and after 32 years at his editorial desk he has handed the excellent newsletter over to Carrie Chandler (who also manages the Society's presence on Facebook and Twitter); current and (all) past issues of the newsletter can be read at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>, and it always is a grand way to keep up with what's going on in the U.K. and elsewhere.

DREAMING SPIES, Laurie R. King's 13th Mary Russell novel (Jan 15 #5) made the N.Y. Times best-seller list, and has been well reviewed; she's now at work on her next novel, THE MURDER OF MARY RUSSELL, due next spring.

Howard Ostrom has reported that "Moi Nezhny Liubimyi Detektiv" (1986) now is available at YouTube with English subtitles <www.tinyurl.com/l21kwac>. "My Dearly Beloved Detective" is a Russian television comedy about the adventures of Shirley Holmes and Jane Watson, who have a detective agency in Baker Street.

Congratulations to Patricia Morison, who celebrated her 100th birthday on Mar. 19. She began her acting career in 1935, and her roles included the evil Mrs. Hilda Courtney in Basil Rathbone's "Dressed to Kill" (1946); she has some nice stories to tell, which you can read in her interview in the L.A. Times <www.tinyurl.com/lvkhf88>.

"The original BBC Sherlock is back" is the delightful slogan devised by the British Film Institute for its new four-DVD set (region 2 only) with all of the Douglas Wilmer television series from 1964 and 1965 (two of the shows have been reconstructed, since only some of the original footage survived); there are nice added features, and the set costs £39.99 at the BFI's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/maba5df>. It's unlikely (alas) that there will be a region 1 or multi-region version of the set.



If you'd like to see a larger image of the BFI's imaginative poster, it's available at the Red Circle's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>. Or you can take the Underground at the Baker Street station, where the poster's up on the walls.

They're off and running: The Baker Street Irregulars' triennial running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Raceway in Saratoga, N.Y., is set for Aug. 1 (with a brunch and scholarly presentations on Aug. 2). To enroll on their mailing list, contact Lou Lewis <llewis@lewisgreer.com>.

They're also off and running at Pimlico Race Course in Maryland, where Greg Ruby has revived The Silver Blaze (Southern Division), set for May 23; you can read all about it at <www.fourthgarrideb.com/silver-blaze> (the deadline for reservations is May 8).

Name an actor who has played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes in the same production; it's Igor Petrenko, in the last episode ("The Hound of the Baskervilles") of the recent Russian "Sherlock Holmes" series (2013). Petrenko plays Sherlock disguised as Mycroft, but both Sherlock and Mycroft are seen (thanks to trick photography) in a scene near the end of the episode.

Mar 15 #5 Barrie Ingham died on Jan. 23. He began his acting career on stage and performed with the Old Vic and the Royal Shakespeare Company, and also appeared in many British and American films and television shows. Sherlockians heard (but didn't see) him when he provided the voice for Basil of Baker Street in "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986).

Lyn McConchie's SHERLOCK HOLMES: REPEAT BUSINESS (Rockville: Borgo Press, 2013; 244 pp., \$14.99) is a collection of short stories presenting new mysteries brought to Holmes and Watson by clients they know from Canonical cases; her web-site's at <www.lynmcconchie.com>.

"The Crime Museum Uncovered" will be the next major exhibition at the Museum of London, opening Oct. 9. Popularly known as the "Black Museum", the Metropolitan Police's Crime Museum was established in 1875 and was (and is) open only to police professionals and invited guests (one of whom was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle). Now everyone will be able to see some of the collection's original evidence from crimes such as the Acid Bath Murders and the Great Train Robbery <www.tinyurl.com/odstl7s>.

The Baker Street Babes continue to offer interesting material at their website <www.bakerstreetbabes.com>. There's a weird video parody ("The Case of the Missing Shoulder") posted on Mar. 14, an announcement of a new book by Maria Fleischhack (DIE WELT DES SHERLOCK HOLMES) on Mar. 15, a book review by Ardy the Shakespearean Ukulele on Mar. 20, and much more.

Steven Moffat has confirmed what fans of "Sherlock" who have access to the Internet already knew: the Christmas special is going to be Victorian (fans posted photographs taken during on-location shooting that showed everyone in Victorian costume). He also explained to Entertainment Weekly (Mar. 16) that the special won't involve a costume ball or a dream sequence, but is "kind of in its own little bubble." So: no Tardis, and no explanation (until the start of the fourth season) of Moriarty's reappearance at the end of the third season.

The series of thirty Conan Doyle letters <www.tinyurl.com/m5y2h25> pertaining to the Edalji Case that came to auction in London Mar. 18 (estimated at £20,000-£40,000) didn't sell. Another item did sell: a copy of THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1894) with Conan Doyle's inscribed calling card, and a typed letter from George Newnes Limited congratulating the winner of a competition in Tit-Bits in 1893; it sold for £1,125 <www.tinyurl.com/18hyazb>.

The three-part mini-series "Arthur & George" aired on ITV in Great Britain this month, starring Martin Clunes as Conan Doyle, and with a script by Ed Whitmore based on the book by Julian Barnes. The script is inventive, and less than faithful to the book as well as to the actual events in the case.

WHITECHAPEL'S SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CASEBOOK OF FRED WENSLEY, OBE, KPM--VICTORIAN CRIME BUSTER, by Dick Kirkby (Barnsley: Pen & Sword Books, 2014; 254 pp., £25.00) is the story of a man who became a police officer in 1888 and spent 25 years in Whitechapel, becoming Chief Constable in 1924, and retiring in 1929; the book offers a detailed picture of Whitechapel and real police work in the Sherlockian era (a rather different view that is found in the Canon). It's published in the U.S. by Casemate (\$50.00).

Mar 15 #6 Don Libey died on Mar. 14. He was a highly-regarded expert in the direct marketing industry as well as an author and speaker, an enthusiastic Sherlockian. He was the energetic "Buttons" and Director-at-Small of The John H. Watson Society, wrote the inventive THE BIOGRAPHY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Oct 13 #1), and produced two excellent vintages from 221B Cellars. You can read Ariana Maher's nice tribute to Don at the society's web-site <www.johnwatsonsociety.org>.

Sherlocked: The Official Sherlock Convention in London on Apr. 24-26 (Feb 15 #8) continues to add to its list of expected guests; the price of tickets ranges from £29 for a one-day pass to £2995 for a VIP pass. Details at <www.sherlocked.com>.

Alfred Weiner wants to sell an assortment of Sherlockiana (including a set of 16-2/3 rpm recordings of Basil Rathbone reading four stories, issued by the Audio Book Co. in 1958); he's at <almar@stny.rr.com>, and you can request a copy of his sales list from him.

The British company Don't Go into the Cellar continues to tour their "The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes", due at The Place in Bedford on Apr. 4 <www.theplacebedford.org.uk> and elsewhere afterward; you can find information on their shows at <www.dontgointothecellar.com>.

The North Platte Community Playhouse will present Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at the Neville Center for the Performing Arts in North Platte, Neb., Apr. 10-19 <www.northplattecommunityplayhouse.com>. The play's also being performed at the Tent Theatre at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo., June 25-July 3 <www.tenttheatre.com>.

"The Valley of Fear" is scheduled at the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion in Philadelphia, Apr. 17-19 <www.ebenzermaxwellmansion.org/sherlock-holmes>; it's the fourth in their series of Sherlock Holmes mysteries.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at St. Stephen's Theater in Philadelphia, May 28-June 28 <www.lanterntheater.org>. And at the Mountain Playhouse in Jennerstown, Pa., Sept. 15-27 <www.mountainplayhouse.org>. And the Globe Theatre in Regina, Sask., Jan. 20-Feb. 7 <www.globetheatrelive.com>.

Mark Jones' new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem" is scheduled at the Chorley Little Theatre in Chorley (Lancashire), June 15-20; their web-site's at <www.chorleylittletheatre.com>.

Chris Hibbs' "The Curious Case in the Colony" will be performed in the Newman Wine Vaults in St. John's, Newfoundland, July 3 to Aug. 15, during the Shakespeare by the Sea Festival <www.shakespearebytheseafestival.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (a new musical by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman) has been scheduled at the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre in Kalamazoo, Mich., in Oct. 2015 <www.kazoocivic.com>.

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Apr 15 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

There were two intriguing Sherlockian celebrations of April Fool's Day this year: one from Minneapolis with a headline announcing "Professor Moriarty's Skull Delivered to the University of Minnesota" <www.tinyurl.com/kwharco>, and the other from Portsmouth reporting "Archive Discovery Proves Sherlock Holmes Was a Real Person" <www.tinyurl.com/qz4pgc9> (with an amusing video at the link at the end of the announcement).

There's still time to register for "Lippincott's Legacy" (a literary conference honoring the 125th anniversary of the publication of "The Sign of the Four" and "The Picture of Dorian Gray") scheduled for May 29-31 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (Oct 14 #4); more information is available at <www.lippincottslegacy.org>.

David Fable's THE MURDER OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Studio City: Highflyer Press, 2014; 283 pp., \$12.99) begins in 1912, with a London coroner and Dr. Watson examining the body of Sherlock Holmes, and continues with Watson and young Christopher Hudson, the son of Holmes' landlady, investigating a complicated mystery that offers twists and turns, and a new look at the man Watson calls "the perfectly imperfect Sherlock Holmes."

British Pathé continues to add material to its web-site archives, which now offer some 90,000 historic clips <www.britishpathe.com>, and a search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] turns up interesting material. Thanks to Alexander Orlov for the reminder about this delightful resource.

The Museum of London's spectacular exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" has closed, and if you'd like to see what you missed, or recall what you saw, a Catalogue of the Exhibition will soon be published by the Quatering Press. It was compiled by Nicholas Utechin and Catherine Cooke and has a foreword by Exhibition curator Alex Werner, and is illustrated with color plates. The cost of the 96-page catalogue is \$20.00 plus shipping, and you will be able to order it on and after May 11 at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.

Tom and Marie O'Day report that Hounds of the Baskervilles is a shop that offers "bespoke electric tattooing" and a "traditional barber and shaving parlour" in Singapore; there's a 2-minute video at <www.vimeo.com/72817640> and their web-site's at <www.houndsofthebaskervilles.net>.

Betsy Rosenblatt's 70-page article on "The Adventure of the Shrinking Public Domain" (just published in the University of Colorado Law Review) is a detailed discussion of intellectual-property protection for literary characters in general, and of Sherlock Holmes in particular, considering both copyright and trademark protection, and the complicated history of the Conan Doyle copyright. Betsy is the director of the Center for Intellectual Property Law and Whittier Law School, and ends her article with some interesting suggestions, which she has summarized with a nod to the cable that Conan Doyle sent to William Gillette: "Creators should be able to draw on public domain characters with confidence--to marry them, murder them, or do what they like with them." You can read (and download) her article without charge at <www.tinyurl.com/obdc4mx>.

Apr 15 #2 THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. DOYLE, by Daniel and Eugene Friedman (Garden City: Square One, 2015; 339 pp., \$29.95), is subtitled as "a journey into madness & mayhem," and is written in alternate chapters, offering a biography of Conan Doyle and a description of a tour he led in 1910 along the trail of Jack the Ripper's murders. The tour is invented, but allows the authors to explain their conclusions about the Ripper, and the dust jacket's front flap promises: "if you maintain a sharp mind and a keen eye, at the end of your journey you may just uncover a truth you never expected to find." They're certainly correct.

"Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson will be looking for a rich legacy in Azerbaijan" is the premise of a new comedy "1,000,000 Manat" now being filmed in Baku, according to a report from Alexander Orlov. You can see a photo gallery in Trend Life (Mar. 30) <www.tinyurl.com/o8rrzqk>.

The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" will run through May 10 at the Perot Museum of Science & Nature in Dallas, Texas, and then move to the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., from June 13 to Sept. 7. The exhibition's also scheduled at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in Denver, Colo., opening Oct. 15; and at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., opening Oct. 13, 2016. <www.discoverycube.org> is the web-site for Santa Ana, and <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com> is the web-site for the exhibition.

James C. O'Leary has an interesting essay on "Canonical Connections in Conan Doyle's 'The Winning Shot'" at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/l44fqbt>; the story was published in 1883 in Bow Bells.

Don Pollock has reported THE CHINA COLLECTORS: AMERICA'S CENTURY-LONG HUNT FOR ASIAN ART TREASURES, a new book by Karl E. Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac (from Palgrave Macmillan). Don notes that while Meyer is a member of The Baker Street Irregulars, the book does not have a section on Baron Gruner, most likely because of its focus on American collectors.

Dana Richards has discovered the Redbeard Brewing Company in Staunton, Va. (their taproom motto is "small batches of big beers"); they describe their 221 Baker Brown as an English Brown Ale "to crave like a Hostess cupcake" <www.redbeardbrews.com>.

David Harnois has added "The Red-Headed League" to his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>; you can listen to or download the dramatized reading, which is done well. "A Case of Identity" is next on his schedule, and you can read Peter Holstrom's interview with David at <www.tinyurl.com/qfxm9th>.

Greg Ruby continues to provide interesting content related to Sherlockian numismatics at The Fourth Garrideb's web-site <www.fourthgarrideb.com>, including a nicely-illustrated discussion of "Where Would Dr. Lysander Starr Have Done His Banking?" And older news of general interest, such as plans by British banks to end the check-clearing system in 2018; according to a spokeswoman for the payments council, "the next generation probably won't even have a checkbook."

Apr 15 #3 The DFN Foundation's plans to convert Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school (Dec 14 #6) can now proceed; the BBC reported (Mar. 30) that the Secretary of State will not consider objections raised by the Victorian Society and English Heritage; Norman Stromsoy, the project manager for the school's restoration project, said that Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts could be reassured that Undershaw would be saved, and that its Grade II listing was not in doubt.



A life-size chocolate statue of Benedict Cumberbatch was commissioned by UKTV this month as part of their promotion of a new on-demand channel, and (as might be expected) received a lot of publicity; there's lots of video available at YouTube if you search for [cumberbatch chocolate], including this one <www.tinyurl.com/mea2sv3>, which shows what happened when the 80-pound Belgian chocolate statue was put on display in a London shopping center.

"Sweet pipe tobacco, cherry wood, and fresh rain" is the way Frostbeard Studio aromatically describes its "Sherlock's Study" soy candle (\$16.00) <www.frostbeardstudios.com>; it's also available as a set of six tarts (\$6.00). If you are wondering about the tarts, you just put one in your electric tart warmer and turn it on. An electric tart warmer may not be what you're thinking it is; Frostbeard advises that it's a "great alternative where candles are prohibited or unsafe."

Plan ahead: "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of the next conference in Minneapolis, on June 17-19, 2016, sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries.

The Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library has mounted an exhibition of "Literary Landscapes" featuring "maps of imaginary places that have accompanied literature for centuries." One of the maps on display is "The Sherlock Holmes Mystery Map" created by Jim Wolnick and Susan Lewis and published in 1987 <www.tinyurl.com/lfl5cpb>.

The Brambletye Hotel in Forest Row, one of the few hotels to appear in the Canon under its own name, still is an attractive destination for Sherlockian (and other) tourists. Long the home of the Black Peter Bar, the hotel now also boasts a 221 Restaurant <www.brambletyehotel.co.uk>.

Trevor Smith died on Jan. 6. He acted as Trevor Hancock, and began his career on stage in Britain in 1991; he was best known as Kevin Dolan in the television series "Coronation Street", had a small role in Granada's "The Cardboard Box" (1994), and appeared on stage as Selden in the Found Theatre production of Simon Corble's play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 2007.

The 2015 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 52 pages of scholarship, quizzes, pastiches, and recipes, as well as news of the society and its members. The cost of the annual is \$13.00 postpaid (\$18.00 outside the U.S.); checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles can be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467.

Apr 15 #4 Stan Freberg died on Apr. 7. Sometimes described as "the father of recorded comedy, he launched his career in 1951 with the soap-opera satire "John and Marsha" and went on to stellar performances on records and radio, and in advertising. He played Sherlock Holmes in three episodes of "The Radio Adventures of Dr. Floyd" (created by Grant Baciocco and Doug Price for Dementia Radio) in 2008; you can listen to episodes 708, 709, and 710 at <www.doctorfloyd.com/media/season7>.

An official 2-minute trailer for the UK release of Ian McKellen's film "Mr. Holmes" is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/k7nse8a>; the film opens there on June 19 (and on July 17 in the U.S.).

Bill Peschel's anthology THE EARLY PUNCH PARODIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2014; 281 pp., \$15.99) is the result of a wide-ranging search through a magazine that was full of Sherlockiana and Doyleana; the contents include not only parodies but also commentary, reviews, and a story by Conan Doyle himself, all annotated by the editor, who has included an amusing excerpt from the autobiography of Mark Twain: an account of Twain's encounter with Dr. Watson. Peschel's web-site's at <www.peschelpress.com>.

Radio Spirits publishes and markets old-time-radio programs, and their web-site offers an interesting Elizabeth McLeod's "spotlight article" on "The Forgotten Holmes: John Gielgud on the Air" <www.tinyurl.com/nq67btg>.

M. J. Carter's THE STRANGLER VINE (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2015; 369 pp., \$27.95) is a grand tale set in India in 1837, with interesting heroes and villains; it won high praise from Bernard Cornwell ("an exotic mystery that captivated me"), and according to the publisher contains "sly references to Conan Doyle." And so it does: one of the protagonists is as skilled in observation and deduction as Sherlock Holmes. The novel also offers an interesting and educational look at events that eventually resulted in the Indian Mutiny and Afghan Wars more familiar to Sherlockians and Doyleans. The author's web-site is at <www.mj-carter.com>.

Anyone planning to attend the screening of the film at the San Francisco Silent Film Festival may wish to attend a reception hosted by the Scowrsers and Molly Maguires at the Firewood Cafe on the afternoon of May 30. There also will be a luncheon at the historic Catch Restaurant at noon on May 31, and the film will be shown at the Castro Theatre at 7:00 pm. Details are available from Cade Deverell <hattydorran221@gmail.com>.

Bonnie MacBird has reported on the film's world premiere in Paris: "Gillette was riveting. In motion you see both the gravitas and humor we expect from the character. Though aging and a bit heavy at the time of the filming, he knew his profile was still good and showed it often. The film offered a rare glimpse at Watson's surgery, and although the Watson character was hardly in it, the actor impressed me with his vitality and handsome looks. The storyline was preposterous and some of the acting laughable. But frankly it held up well and was entertaining. I was pleasantly surprised at Gillette. He avoided the melodramatic posing we come to expect from the silent films, and there were a great many subtle and satisfying moments." And Oscar Ross notes that there's an excellent article about the film in Sight & Sound (Apr. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/qywlpmf>.

Apr 15 #5 I WAS THE CAT (Portland: Oni Press, 2014; 191 pp., \$24.99), a graphic novel written by Paul Tobin and illustrated and colored by Benjamin Dewey, offers the story of Burma, a cat who has spent his nine lives trying to achieve world domination; at one point he says, "Let's talk about Sherlock Holmes," and then explains "First...I wasn't associated with Sherlock Holmes, but rather Moriarty, his nemesis," and "Second...it wasn't actually Moriarty, either, but rather Jonathan Wild, one of the men on whom Moriarty was based." That was in one of Burma's previous lives, of course, and neither Burma nor Wild survives that chapter in Burma's story.

Sarah Rosenbaum reports that ThinkGeek offers interesting Sherlockian key-chains (and other items) <www.tinyurl.com/o36o5oo>.

The new Japanese "Sherlock Holmes" television series featuring delightful puppets designed by Bunta Inone (Mar 14 #7) is being released on DVDs, and Alexander Orlov has reported that three episodes are available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/kbab32l>. That's the link to the first episode; click on "Episodes" at the lower left to see links to all three episodes.

Adam Zanzie reports that his Indiegogo campaign to raise funds for his thesis project (adapting Conan Doyle's "The Parasite" into a short film) (Feb 15 #4) has been successful: 48 people donated, with a total slightly higher than his goal of \$4,000 <www.tinyurl.com/lqnt4tz>.

Big Chief Studios, which produces a series of 1:6 scale Doctor Who figures, has made a pair of licensed figures showing Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman as Holmes and Watson <www.bigchiefstudios.co.uk>; their Signature Edition (limited to 400 copies, with display placards signed by the actors and a lithographic print by Alice X. Zhang) costs £439.98 for the pair, and the Limited Edition (1,000 copies) costs £339.98 for the pair. You'll find more information (and better illustrations) at io9.com's Observation Deck <www.tinyurl.com/mk7m79d>.

"The Secret History of Hollywood: A Modern Guide to the Golden Age of Cinema" is a series of podcasts by Adam Roche, and "The Game Is Afoot!" (Feb. 5, 2015) is a 138-minute documentary about the Rathbone/Bruce films and radio programs; go to <www.tinyurl.com/ptkfmn8> to listen or download. It's nicely done, with some great stories, nicely told.

Robert Ryan's DEAD MAN'S LAND (London: Simon & Schuster UK, 2013; 467 pp., £7.99) is a thriller as well as a mystery: World War I has begun, and Dr. Watson, now a major in the Royal Army Medical Corps, is at the front, with wounded to tend and a series of murders to solve, in a story that shows the reader just how terrible trench warfare was; there are heroes and villains and excellent supporting characters, and the story's well-told indeed.

And there's a sequel: THE DEAD CAN WAIT (2014; 463 pp., £7.99), with Watson back in England, involved in the project that led to the development of the "land-ship" that's intended to end the stalemate on the Western Front; this time there are politicians as well as heroes and villains, and agents and spies, and (at last) Sherlock Holmes, along with some nice surprises and a cliff-hanger ending. The series will continue with A STUDY IN MURDER, and the author's interesting web-site's at <www.robtryan.com>.

Apr 15 #6 Howard Ostrom's "In Search of...Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: A Chronological Reference List of Autobiographies, Biographies, and Quasi-Biographies" is a new annotated compilation, and an excellent demonstration of how much has been written by so many about Conan Doyle; Ross K. Foad has made the file available for download at his "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/o929622>.

Tom Alderman reviewed Dan Simmons' Henry James/Sherlock Holmes pastiche THE FIFTH HEART for the Huffington Post (Apr. 21), noting that there are 18,536 Sherlock Holmes titles on Amazon. "Certainly a strong testament to the enduring quality of the series and the several authors who have kept the series thriving all these years."

There's an annual Letters About Literature Essay Contest in which students (grades 4 through 12) write to an author who has changed their view of the world or themselves, and of this year's winners in Minnesota this year was Soren Eversoll, who wrote to Arthur Conan Doyle. Soren became a member of The Norwegian Explorers at the age of 7 and is now 13. His winning letter is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/q8fp6ka>.

Ross E. Davies' interesting article about "The Regulatory Adventure of the Two Norwood Builders: Sherlock Holmes Crosses Paths with Congress, the President, the Courts, and the Administrative State, in the Press" has appeared in the 2015 Green Bag Almanac & Reader, and it's also nicely available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/k3c4wcr>.

Thomas Watson's THE TRUE MYSTERY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK (Greentown: Wicked Good Books, 2015; 142 pp., \$7.95) actually was written by Alf Dotson to amuse Sherlockian and Shakespeareans; allegedly found in the Jamestown Shakespeare Manuscripts, the story's an account of the involvement of Sherlock Homes James (who in the cover photograph looks remarkably like Robert Downey Jr.) in events later dramatized by William Shakespeare. There also is a contest, with a cash prize offered to the person who reports the most Conan Doyle titles concealed in the text. Details on the contest, and much more, will be found at <www.wickedgoodbooks.com>.

"Long Live the Personal Library" is the title of a blog by Gracy Olmstead for The American Conservative (Apr. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/l4cyxjl>, kindly reported by Paul Herbert. It was occasioned by William Giraldis's "Object Lesson" essay for the New Republic (Apr. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/pok99xn>, and both will be interesting to bibliophiles.

One hears of Conan Doyle everywhere: Ian Schoenherr has discovered J. H. A. Gunther's A MANUAL OF ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION & GRAMMAR FOR THE USE OF DUTCH STUDENTS (Groningen: J. B. Wolters, 1899), with many citations from Conan Doyle's writings (Sherlockian and otherwise); the manual is available (and searchable) on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/oqo34cp>.

Randall Stock reports that the enhanced version of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust web-site is up and running <www.bsitrust.org>, with historical information about BSI annual dinners (from 1934 through 1951, with more to come), the oral history project (inaugurated with the reminiscences of Russell Merritt), correspondence, memorabilia, and much more.

Apr 15 #7 The Proms, the world's largest music festival, was launched in 1895 at the Queen's Hall in London, and this year will include "Sherlock Holmes: A Musical Mind" at the Albert Hall on Aug. 16, saluting "a crime-fighting violin virtuoso who wrote a pioneering study of Dutch sacred music, tussled with a contralto from the Warsaw Opera, and used Offenbach to outwit a pair of jewel thieves" <www.bbc.co.uk/events/egnrzc>. The event will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 (and available at the BBC website for 30 days).

There was far more to H. F. Heard's "Mr. Mycroft" than is found in A TASTE HONEY (1941), available in a Blue Dolphin reprint (Oct 09 #8). Many have suspected that Mr. Mycroft is really an elderly Sherlock Holmes, and Heard wrote about him in two more novels and two short stories, all now available from Blue Dolphin in REPLY PAID, with a foreword by Paul D. Herbert (2014; 199 pp., \$16.95), and THE NOTCHED HAIRPIN, with a foreword by Christopher Pittard (2014; 147 pp., \$15.95). Heard was an inventive writer, and had a lot of fun with Mr. Mycroft; Christopher Morley is reported to have said of REPLY PAID: "For tastes that are Baker Street and Irregular, this as good as Mrs. Hudson's curried kedgeree."

The 56th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze (the world's oldest and still-active annual Sherlockian horse race) will be held on Oct. 17 at the Hawthorne Race Course; if you'd like to attend the festivities, details are available from Susan Diamond <szdiamond@comcast.net>.



The Royal Mail has commemorated the bicentenary of the birth of Anthony Trollope (1815-1892) - famous as a novelist, he also introduced the freestanding postbox in 1852, when he was working at the Post Office, and the stamps show his portrait and the first pillar box. And of course there's a Sherlockian connection: "The Great Trollope Mystery", an amusing pastiche that was written by Angela Milne and published in Punch (July 9, 1980), in which she has Holmes analyzing and explaining an apparent error in Trollope's THE WARDEN, in much the same

way that Sherlockian scholars and pseudo-scholars have, for so many years, years explained (or explained away) the mistakes and contradictions they've found in the Canon.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder continue their series of podcast interviews for "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" with a discussion with the editors of the latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars' manuscript series OUT OF THE ABYSS (devoted to "The Empty House"); you can listen to (and download) the conversation at <www.tinyurl.com/pg2aun4>. Scott also reports a new subtitled-in-English version of the amusing Russian animation "Sherlock Holmes and I" (1985) at <www.tinyurl.com/otqdaq>.

"Saturday-Night Theatre: Conan Doyle Investigates" was a 90-minute program broadcast by BBC Radio 4 on May 6, 1972, written by Roger Woddis and dramatizing Sir Arthur's involvement in the George Edalji case, starring Carleton Hobbs as Conan Doyle. The program has been uploaded to YouTube, and is available at <www.tinyurl.com/masr5c6>. Add Carleton Hobbs to the list of actors who have portrayed both Conan Doyle and Holmes.

Apr 15 #8 Roger Johnson notes that Valerie Osment, who designed the imaginative Sherlock Holmes BookBench last year (May 14 #5), has now designed a Sherlock Holmes Dragon for the GoGo Dragons 2015 festival in Norwich <www.gogodragons.co.uk>. GoGo Dragon Sherlock, sponsored by a real estate agency called Watsons, tweets at <www.twitter.com/gogosherlock>.

And (as usual) there's theater: Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Pocahontas County Opera House, in Marlinton, W.V., May 15-16 <www.pocahontasoperahouse.org>.

"The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" (a new open-air production by the Chapterhouse Theatre Company) will have its premiere at East Town Park in Haverhill (Suffolk) on June 12 and then go on tour; their schedule's available at <www.chapterhouse.org/show5.html>.

The Twin Beach Players will present "Sherlock Holmes and the Most Amazing Case!" (a new play by Matthew Konerth) in North Beach, Md., on June 18-28 <www.twinbeachplayers.com>.

The Ottawa Story Tellers will present "The Game's Afoot: Stories of Sherlock Holmes" at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Ont., on June 18, 2015 <www.nac-cna.ca>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at the Florida Studio Theatre in St. Petersburg, Fla., July 1-Aug. 2 <www.floridastudiotheatre.org>.

David Stuart Davies will present his new one-man show "The Game's Afoot: An Encounter with Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle" during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe at the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre, Aug. 12-14 <www.edfringe.com>.

Aquila Theatre's touring production of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (a new play written by Desiree Sanchez) opens at the Pollak Theatre in Monmouth, N.J., on Oct. 1 and continues on tour until Mar. 20, 2016; details can be found at <www.aquilatheatre.com/touring>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is due at the Erie Playhouse in Erie, Pa., Oct. 16-Nov. 1 <www.erieplayhouse.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Red-Headed League" is scheduled by the East Lynne Theater Company at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., on Nov. 6-7, 2015 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes & the First Baker Street Irregular" (a new play by Brian Guehring) will be performed at the Rose Theater in Omaha, Neb., Nov. 6-22 <www.rosetheater.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled by the Philadelphia Theatre Company at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre in Philadelphia on Nov. 27-Dec. 27 <www.philadelphiatheatrecompany.org>.

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May 15 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) will be released on Blu-ray/DVD by Flicker Alley on Oct. 20, with subtitles in French or English, an original musical score and other added features <www.tinyurl.com/mu8kfrk>, and you can pre-order now from Flicker Alley (\$29.95).

Criminal Element is an interesting blog, with plenty of Sherlockian content <www.criminalelement.com>. Search for [lyndsay faye] to find "Strangers on a Train, or When Sherlock Met Jane" (in which Lyndsay and Ashley Weaver describe a thoroughly imaginative encounter between Sherlock Holmes and Miss Jane Marple), and for [chad eagleton] to find his discussion of "Sherlock Holmes and the Killer Bees" (about H. F. Heard's A TASTE FOR HONEY).

A fine example of outreach: Tim Johnson, the curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota Library, recently paid a visit to the Rushford-Peterson High School to talk to the students, and KIMT-TV had a nice report on the event <www.tinyurl.com/nor7v6w>.

The catalog for the Museum of London's exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" (Apr 15 #1) is now available for purchase at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/london.html>, and Randall Stock has a fine report on the exhibition and on the catalog at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/otqkpzx>, with some interesting links to follow. The catalog is spectacular, with full-color illustrations of original artwork by Sidney Paget and Frederic Dorr Steele (a rough sketch of Holmes in disguise as an old woman in "The Mazarin Stone"), a bust of Sherlock Holmes sculpted by Frederick L. Wilkins and presented to Conan Doyle in the 1890s, and much more.

The Leisy Premiere Theatre, a television series broadcast in Cleveland in 1963 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Leisy Brewing Company, presented full-length feature films and was hosted by Basil Rathbone; you can see him in action at <www.tinyurl.com/mdckrb5>.

There's another trailer for Ian McKellen's film "Mr. Holmes" available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/phju2yg>; the film opens in the U.K. on June 19, and on July 17 in the U.S.

John F. Farrell ("The Tiger of San Pedro") died on May 7. He loved music and theater, and for many years wrote reviews for newspapers in the Los Angeles area, and he was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, collaborating with Sean Wright on their SHERLOCK HOLMES COOKBOOK (1976), and presiding over three Sherlockian societies: The Tigers of San Pedro, The Great Hiatus (for Sherlockians who corresponded by foreign translations), and The 140 (for Sherlockians who smoked tobacco). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1981.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) is scheduled at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul <www.smm.org> from Oct. 14 to Jan. 3, 2016. More information on the exhibit is available at the Wonderworks web-site <www.tinyurl.com/24b4fyy>.

May 15 #2 "All the Sherlock Holmes stories were enthusiasms of mine," Agatha Christie wrote in 1966 in a letter to Evelyn B. Byrne; the letter is coming to auction on June 11 at Profiles in History (estimated at \$2,000-\$3,000) <www.profilesinhistory.com>; Christie's letter was published in *ATTACKS OF TASTE* (1971), edited by Byrne and Otto M. Penzler, along with letters and essays by other authors on their childhood literary influences (New York: Gotham Book Mart, 1971). Holmes and Conan Doyle also were mentioned by Eric Ambler, Kay Boyle, John Cheever, Ralph Ellison, Christopher Isherwood, Henry Miller, Ogden Nash, and Louis Simpson, but their letters aren't in the auction.

Karen Murdock spotted Detective Handswell, created by Chris Whitmore Associates <www.cwa.co.uk/hanswell> for Hull Trains in England; he appears in on-board notices that advise passengers to stay safe, by avoiding accidents with hot drinks, being cautious at level crossings, and standing clear of closing doors.



Grant Eustace's *ABSOLUTE DISCRETION*, published by Calabash Press in 1997, is an interesting novel that is set in Somerset and features a young detective who is visiting from Oxford and calls himself Arthur Vernet. There are nice (and nicely appropriate) echoes from the Canon, and the book is available at Amazon and at Abebooks.

"Goodness Gracious Me" was a British 30-minute series broadcast on BBC Radio 4 from 1996 to 1998, and on BBC-2 television from 1998 to 2001; Howard Ostrom notes that there was a "Goodness Gracious Me Reunion Special" that was broadcast on BBC-2 in 2014, with a 1-minute segment ("Everything Comes from India") in which Sanjeev Bhaskar explains to Kulvinder Ghir why "Sherlock" is such a good series <www.tinyurl.com/qz6cpfs>.

The awards ceremony of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts included a Radio Times Audience Award to "Sherlock"; it's the only BAFTA on which the public votes, from a list of nominees selected by an expert jury ("Sherlock" beat out "Game of Thrones" and "EastEnders").

Nigel Terry died on Apr. 30. He began his acting career on stage in repertory in Britain, went on to perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company, appeared as King John in the film "The Lion in Winter" (1968) and as King Arthur in "Excaliber" (1981), and in many roles on television, including Harold Latimer in Peter Cushing's "The Greek Interpreter" (1968).

Neil Gaiman has an official Tumbler, where he recently was asked: "What's the BSI like? Do you all plot world domination behind those doors? Also--if you're allowed to say this out loud--what's your title there?" You can read his answers at <www.tinyurl.com/p62w5nh>.

Alphonse Bertillon and his system for identifying criminals are mentioned in two stories in the Canon ("The Naval Treaty" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), and the Independent had an excellent story (May 17) about Bertillon <www.tinyurl.com/lm8sbz2>, with mention of an exhibition on "Forensics: The Anatomy of Crime" at the Wellcome Museum in London through June 21 <www.wellcomecollection.org/forensics>.

May 15 #3 VICE News (a global news channel founded in 2013) has an interesting on-line interview with Marcel Jaurant Singer, at the age of 94 the last living member of the Baker Street Irregulars. This BSI was the Special Operations Executive, which had its headquarters Baker Street during World War Two (and was sometimes called the "Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare") <www.tinyurl.com/kac3dlv>.

Al Gregory has discovered The Sherlockian Violin Society (for Sherlockians who play or appreciate the violin) <www.sherlockianviolinsociety.com>. The web-site includes links to sheet music for the themes for the Jeremy Brett and Benedict Cumberbatch television series.

Robert Rietti died on Apr. 3. A British actor best known for his voice, he worked in films and on radio and television, and specialized in voice dubbing; according to his obituary in the Guardian, in the 1970 film "Waterloo" he was heard talking to himself four times while providing no fewer than 98 voices. Credited at Robert Rietty, he acted in the Gielgud/Richardson radio series in 1954, and then in the Hobbs/Shelley radio series (he played Gennaro in "The Red Circle" (1969).

Sherlockian who are still writing old-fashioned paper checks will welcome Greg Ruby's report that Sherlock-Holmes-themed personalized checks now are available in four designs, which you can see in full color at the web-site of The Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/q8h4jy3>.



Some will recall the "five orange peeps" that were sent to Sherlockians in 2003, in a devious plan conceived by the John Farrell and executed by Kevin Reed (Dec 03 #5). Peeps are gooey little marshmallow chicks that have been made for more than 60 years, and they're now theatrical, in a fashion: the Washington Post has held a Peeps Diorama Contest since 2007, and this year one of the more than 400 entries was "The Many Faces of Benedict Cumberpeep", submitted by Pamela Winston and Leonard Bailey, who honored Benedict Cumberbatch's performances as Julian Assange, Alan Turing, Sherlock Holmes, Khan, and Smaug. They didn't win, unfortunately, but they made the top 50, and you can see them all in a slide-show at <www.tinyurl.com/otwe496>. Benedict Cumberpeep is in image #11.

Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger's IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: STORIES INSPIRED BY THE HOLMES CANON is one of the nominees for an Anthony Award (best anthology or collection) at Bouchercon 2015 in Raleigh, N.C., Oct. 8-11.

Fans of "Sherlock" may enjoy hearing some of the love letters exchanged by Sherlock Holmes and Molly Hooper: there's an 11-minute video of them reading the letters at <www.simongarfield.com>. Okay (spoiler alert): they're actually letters exchanged by Chris Barker and Bessie Moore during the Second World War, published in Simon Garfield's MY DEAR BESSIE: A LOVE STORY IN LETTERS (2015). Some of the letters were read by Benedict Cumberbatch and Louise Brealey (aka Sherlock and Molly in the television series) at the Hay Festival last year (there are two videos at Garfield's web-site, and at YouTube), and for a 45-minute program broadcast by BBC Radio 4 on Apr. 20.

May 15 #4 T. S. Eliot's poem "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" has long been a favorite of Sherlockians because of its amusing homage to Moriarty, and a new book suggests a possible source for the name: Eliot went to high school with a boy named Ronald A. MacAvity, as noted by Robert Crawford in his YOUNG ELIOT: FROM ST. LOUIS TO THE WASTE LAND (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015; 512 pp., \$35.00).

Ruth Rendell died on May 2. She was a noted mystery writer with more than 60 books to her credit, many of them featuring her most famous detective, Chief Inspector Reginald Wexford. She was the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's guest of honor at their annual dinner in 2009, and contributed an interesting introduction to that year's new edition of THE PENGUIN COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES.

Gloria Alden's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY CLUB (Willow Knolls Press, 2013; 199 pp., \$7.95) has students in a third-grade class involved in an exchange of correspondence with an elderly woman who's in pursuit of jewel thieves; the author's web-site is at <www.gloriaalden.com>.

The 2015 edition of the Green Bag Almanac & Reader includes a "new lawyerly edition" of "The Norwood Builder" with annotations by Sherlockians and non-Sherlockians who responded to the journal's request for contributions last year (Oct 14 #4), and other interesting Sherlockian content (together with much non-Sherlockian material such as a selection of "exemplary legal writing" from 2014). It's nicely done indeed, and a few copies of the 662-page volume available without charge to those who send requests (with postal addresses) to Ross E. Davies <rdavies@greenbag.org>. Ross reports that similar attention will be paid to "The Reigate Puzzle" in the next edition; you will find more information about this at <www.greenbag.org>.

If you remember the MG as a classy British two-seat open sports car, that's what it used to be: the company was founded in 1924, but the MG marque now owned by SAIC Motor, a Chinese company that has hired Benedict Cumberbatch to help launch the new MG GS <www.tinyurl.com/mhvpj8k>. The commercial has nice Sherlockian echoes.

Russian tycoon Alexander Perepilichnyy has died in England under mysterious circumstances; he was a major critic of Vladimir Putin, as was Sergei Magnitsky, who had alleged that Russian officials had carried out large-scale theft and then died in prison in Moscow in 2009 (Nov 13 #3). Perepilichnyy was thought to have died from natural causes, but an autopsy showed traces of a rare plant poison in his stomach and British authorities have launched a full inquest. The rare plant poison was gelsemium, and the British press has noted that Arthur Conan Doyle wrote about gelsemium in the British Medical Journal in 1879, after experimenting on himself with the poison to see if it was effective in treating pain.

It is reported (although not confirmed) that BBC Radio 4 will broadcast a dramatization of Laurie R. King's "The Beekeeper's Apprentice" on June 9-12, in four 30-minute episodes; you can check the schedule at the BBC Radio 4 web-site <www.tinyurl.com/otakyuk>. The mini-series was first broadcast in 2000, with Monica Dolan (Mary Russell), James Fox (Sherlock Holmes), and Shaun Prendergast (Dr. Watson).

May 15 #5 The Conan Doyle Estate has filed a copyright and trademark lawsuit against Miramax and others, alleging that Ian McKellen's new film "Mr. Holmes" has infringed on the last ten Sherlock Holmes stories still protected by copyright. The lawsuit targets Miramax (the producer of the film), Roadside Attractions (the film's distributor in the U.S.), William Condon (the film's director), Mitch Cullin (who wrote the book A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND, on which the film is based, and shares credit for writing the film's script), and Penguin Random House (which published the book in 2005).

The Estate demands a jury trial, an injunction against the release of the film (now scheduled for July 17 in the U.S.), and payment to the Estate of its costs and all profits from the film. You can read the entire 24-page "Complaint for Injunctions and Damages" at <www.tinyurl.com/qdryu5o>.

Museum Replicas offers an interesting variety of Sherlockian merchandise, including a Sherlock Holmes statue (\$95.00), coat (\$65.00), and deerstalker (\$19.00), and a Victorian sword cane (\$95.00). Box 840, Conyers, GA 30012 (800-883-8838) <www.museumreplicas.com>.

Joseph C. Camana died on Apr. 27. He worked as an artist for more than 70 years, in the U.S. Army during World War II and then as a freelance commercial artist, including illustrations for CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, adapted by William Kottmeyer and published in 1947.

National Public Radio's "Weekend Edition" (May 3) celebrated Orson Welles' 100th birthday with a 6-minute segment that focused on his work on radio, with (of course) due attention to his appearance as Sherlock Holmes for the Mercury Radio Theatre in 1938 <www.tinyurl.com/npzrdnd>.

Barry S. Brown's MRS. HUDSON IN NEW YORK (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 273 pp., \$16.95) is the fourth in his "Mrs. Hudson of Baker Street" series, in which Mrs. Hudson does the real detecting, with assistance from Holmes and Watson, this time in a case involving the attempted murder of J. P. Morgan, an encounter with Samuel Clemens, and combat with the Pinkertons. The publisher's web-sites are <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

More from MX: THE EGYPTIAN CURSE (2015; 178 pp., \$9.95) is the third in a series by Dan Andriacco and Kieran McMullen that stars Enoch Hale, an American reporter in London in 1924 and now a suspect in a murder, which he has to solve himself; his investigation involves P. G. Wodehouse, Leonard and Virginia Woolf, T. S. Eliot, Howard Carter, Agatha Christie, and (eventually) Sherlock Holmes. David Ruffle's HOLMES AND WATSON: AN AMERICAN ADVENTURE (2015; 140 pp., \$9.95) brings Holmes and Watson to New York, so that Holmes can lecture at a training academy for the city's police force (and help solve a murder), and to Fall River, where Holmes solves two more murders and has a chance to meet Lizzie Borden and review the records of the murders of her father and stepmother. Daniel D. Victor's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BARON OF BREDE PLACE (2015; 235 pp., \$14.95) is the second in his "Sherlock Holmes and the American Literati" series, presenting a somewhat different version of "Charles Augustus Milverton" that has Stephen Crane as another victim of blackmail, in case that also involved Joseph Conrad and H. G. Wells.

May 15 #6 Elliott M. Black has died. He had a long career in engineering and marketing, and was a member of Sherlockian societies in and near Chicago; he also was an avid magician and mentalist (performing as Michael Elliott): he presented "The Sherlock Holmes of Thought" at Bouchercon in Baltimore in 1986, and at the Baskerville Bash during the birthday festivities in 1999, and greatly enjoyed entertaining his fellow Sherlockians.

And as always, there's Sherlockian theater, on-going and up-coming: "Holmes and Watson Save the Empire: A Musical Mystery" (by Jahna Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner) will be produced at the Metro Theatre in Vancouver, B.C., June 17-28 <metrotheatre.com>.

Ed. Lange's "Sherlock's Secret Life" will be performed at the Pioneer Playhouse in Danville, Ky., July 21-Aug. 1 <www.pioneerplayhouse.com>.

"Impossible" (a new play by Robert Khan and Tom Salinsky about Harry Houdini and Arthur Conan Doyle) is scheduled at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland, Aug. 5-31 <www.edfringe.com>.

The Fringe also will include a presentation by the Ghostwriters of "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" (Aug. 6-30) and David Stuart Davies' solo performance of his "The Game's Afoot: An Encounter with Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle" (Aug. 12-14).

Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Magenta Theater in Vancouver, Wash., Sept. 25-Oct. 17 <www.magentatheater.com>. And it will be presented by the Lake Dillon Theatre Company at their theater in Dillon, Colo., Nov. 20-Dec. 13 <www.lakedillontheatre.org>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) will be performed at the Garvin Theatre in Santa Barbara, Calif., Oct. 16-31 <www.theatregroupsbcc.com>.

John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is scheduled at the Renton Civic Theatre in Renton, Wash., from Dec. 4 to Dec. 19 <www.rentoncivictheatre.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Blackfriars Theatre in Rochester, N.Y., from Dec. 11 to Jan. 3, 2016 <www.blackfriars.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Great Nome Gold Rush" (a new comedy by Joseph Vass) will debut at North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach, Calif., Jan. 13-Feb. 7, 2016 <www.northcoastrep.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" (dramatized from Nicholas Meyer's novel by Anthony and Marcia Milgrom Dodge) is due at the Black Box Theatre in Colorado Springs, Colo., Jan. 15-24, 2016 <www.blackboxdrama.com>, and at the Hylton Performing Arts Center on the Prince William Campus of George Mason Univ. in Manassas, Va., Mar. 11-20, 2016 <www.hyltoncenter.org>.

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Jun 15 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" had its American premiere in San Francisco on May 31, and was well received by Sherlockians and non-Sherlockians alike. As was the case at the screening Culpeper, Va., on June 13, during the fourth annual "Mostly Lost" conference at the Library of Congress' National Audio-Visual Conservation Center <www.tinyurl.com/o9be5jc>. It is wonderful that the film has been found and can be seen again after so many years, and it's a delight to be able to watch Gillette's performance. His last performance as Holmes was at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, N.J., on May 12, 1930, which suggests that there's no one left who actually saw him perform live, but now everyone can see him as Holmes on film.

Those who enjoyed seeing the film in San Francisco also have a nice lapel pin to commemorate the occasion. There's much to praise about the film, which is a restoration of the four-part serial discovered in Paris, rather than an attempt to recreate the film as originally screened in the U.S. It's grand indeed to be able to see Gillette's underplayed natural acting style, praised so highly in print for more than a century: he doesn't need to show that he's the smartest person in the room, because you can see for yourself that he really is just that. One of the nicest accolades for Gillette, by the way, came from Orson Welles, who said that "it's too little to say that William Gillette resembled Sherlock Holmes; rather, Sherlock Holmes looked exactly like William Gillette." And the film is being screened widely: at Gillette Castle in Hadlyme, Conn., on Sept. 18-20, and quite possibly elsewhere.



As noted last month (May 15 #1), the film will be released on Blu-ray/DVD by Flicker Alley on Oct. 20, with subtitles in French or English, an original musical score and other added features <www.tinyurl.com/mu8kfrk>; you can pre-order now from Flicker Alley (\$29.95), and it's highly recommended. There has been considerable publicity for the film, both in the press and on-line, and you can read Tim Greer's review (from San Francisco) at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pwxpk6z>. Issue 59 of the blog EatDrinkFilms <www.tinyurl.com/p4b4nrxr> offered Thomas Gladysz' interesting commentary on Gillette, with a video trailer that includes a brief glimpse of Paul Singleton as Holmes.

And there's a bit more: if you'd like to know what it was like to see William Gillette performing on stage, you can read what Vincent Starrett had to say, in Ray Betzner's blog "Studies in Starrett" <www.tinyurl.com/oxw3rv9>.

Finally (perhaps), there's a splendid accompaniment to the film: The Société Sherlock Holmes de France's LE GUIDE DU FILM SHERLOCK HOLMES (1916), a 64-page profusely-illustrated discussion of the film and its actors, with articles by Thierry Saint-Joanis and Bernard Oudin, with press reviews from the original release; it's almost all in English (Thierry has said that he has been asked by members of the Société if he's going to publish a French translation of the book), and costs €20.00 at <www.sshf.com/boutique.php>, where you can see thumb-nail images showing the results of their splendid research. It has been a long time since I've devoted an entire page of the newsletter to anything, but the film and the book are well worth it.

Jun 15 #2 The Broadway production of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" has won five Tony awards. The play, dramatized by Simon Stephens from Mark Haddon's novel, won for best play, best performance by an actor in a leading role (Alex Sharp), best scenic design (Bunny Christie and Finn Ross), best lighting design (Paule Constable), and best direction (Marianne Elliott).

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the Fadó Irish Pub in Denver on June 3, welcomed by members of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients. Our next meetings will be on Nov. 4 in Baltimore, and on June 22, 2016, in Calgary.

Julie Harris died on May 30. She had a long career as a costume designer in British films, perhaps best-known for her work for The Beatles in 1965, when she said "I must be one of the few people who can claim they have seen John, Paul, George, and Ringo naked." She preferred creating period costumes, and is credited for "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (1983).

Nicholas Utechin is preparing a short monograph on the British society The Milvertonians of Hampstead, which was founded by Humphrey Morton and Peter Richard in 1958. Nick is in urgent need of a photograph of Peter Richard, and would welcome hearing from anyone who can help; you can reach Nick at <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>.

MYCROFT HOLMES, by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse (New York: Titan Books, 2015; 323 pp., \$25.99), is set in 1870, when Mycroft, 23 years old, a secretary to the Secretary of State for War, and in love with a beautiful blonde, finds himself involved in a bizarre intrigue that takes him to the Caribbean, where he finds perilous adventure and an interesting assortment of friends and foes.

"What Happened After Sherlock Rescued Irene?" was the question Steven Moffat was asked at the "Sherlocked" convention in London in April, and you can read his amusing answer at the Sherlockology web-site: click on the "News & Events" link at <www.sherlockology.com>. The short answer is that he wrote but didn't film a scene that would have ended with Sherlock naked. You can also read transcripts of the opening panel with the creators of the series, and of Benedict Cumberbatch's panel, and there's lots more to be found at this interesting web-site.

Tim Dedopulos' SHERLOCK HOLMES' ELEMENTARY PUZZLES (London: Carlton, 2014; 143 pp., £7.99) offers 71 "riddles, enigmas, and challenges," non-Sherlockian but presented by Holmes and others in the Canon.

Bill Peschel's anthology THE EARLY PUNCH PARODIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2014; 281 pp., \$15.99) is the result of a wide-ranging search through a magazine that was full of Sherlockiana and Doyleana; the contents include not only parodies but also commentary, reviews, and a story by Conan Doyle himself, all annotated by the editor, who has included an amusing excerpt from the autobiography of Mark Twain: an account of Twain's encounter with Dr. Watson. Peschel's web-site's at <www.peschelpress.com>.

Jun 15 #3 Further to the report (May 15 #2) on Agatha Christie's letter to Evelyn B. Byrne, Ray Betzner has blogged about the letter from Vincent Starrett that wasn't included in ATTACKS OF TASTE, and about Byrne and Otto Penzler, and about their book and their correspondence with Starrett; you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/qeqbod>.

They're off and running: The Baker Street Irregulars' triennial running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Raceway in Saratoga, N.Y., is set for Aug. 1 (with a brunch and scholarly presentations on Aug. 2). For details on how to register, contact Lou Lewis <llewis@lewisgreer.com>.

Christopher Lee died on June 7. A consummate actor, he made more than 250 films, often as villains, but also as heroes and supporting characters. He played Sir Henry Baskerville in Peter Cushing's film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), Sherlock Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes und das Halsband des Todes" [Sherlock Holmes and the Necklace of Death] (1962), Mycroft Holmes in Robert Stephens' film "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), and Holmes again in the television films "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" and "Sherlock Holmes: The Incident at Victoria Falls" (1992); he also was the host of the television documentary "The Many Faces of Sherlock Holmes" (1986), and read "The Valley of Fear" for Listen for Pleasure (1993).

The Bootmakers of Toronto's annual running of The Silver Blaze at Woodbine Racetrack will be held on July 11 <www.torontobootmakers.com>.

It isn't just people who are trying to buy homes that have been affected by the soaring real-estate prices in London: rents are going up as well. Criterion Capital, landlord of the Criterion Restaurant, has increased the annual rent to £850,000 (up from £525,000), and the 140-year-old restaurant has gone into administration [which is essentially the same as filing for bankruptcy]. The restaurant's still open, so you can visit the plaque honoring Watson and Stamford's historic meeting at the Criterion's Long Bar.

Ron Moody died on June 11. He was most famous as Fagin in the musical "Oliver" on stage in the West End and Broadway and on film (1968), and went on to many roles on stage, screen, and television, including Sherlock Holmes in Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (1988).

Marcus Geisser and Helen Dorey were married on May 23 at the Church of St. Cross in Winchester, and have now honeymooned, reporting that "Frau Geisser passed the ultimate honeymoon test: crossing the Splügen Pass successfully and reaching the lovely village of Splügen. For those who have not read the entire Canon, the ultimate honeymoon test will be found in "The Illustrious Client".

"I bear warmest felicitations from Her Majesty The Queen, Professor Stephen Hawking, James Bond, Sherlock Holmes, and the entire cast of Downton Abbey. I think that covers all the important people in England." That was the opening of the speech given at Hillsdale College's commencement ceremony this year by Michael Ward (fellow of Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford, and professor of apologetics at Houston Baptist University), reprinted in the May/June issue of Imprimis (Hillsdale College's readers monthly). The complete speech is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/nsylol8>.

Jun 15 #4 There were some familiar names on the Queen's New Year's honors list: Benedict Cumberbatch was appointed CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire), for services to the performing arts and to charity, and Martin Clunes and Steven Moffat were appointed OBEs (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire), for services to drama. In case you haven't been watching television, Benedict Cumberbatch plays Sherlock Holmes in the "Sherlock" series co-created by Steven Moffat. and Martin Clunes played Conan Doyle in the mini-series "Arthur & George".

Ralph Wroblewski ("Captain Teddy Marvin") died on Apr. 25. He had a long career as a teacher and principal in Catholic high schools in Cleveland, and in 1972 he was a founder and charter member of Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers of Cleveland, and served as their secretary. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1976.

"Sherlock Holmes: Consulting Detective" was first a board game (Dec 81 #3) and then a CD-ROM disk game (Dec 91 #1), and then a DVD game (Nov 99 #4). Now Flickering Myth has reported <www.tinyurl.com/q9tvayk> that Zojoi has remastered the three 30-minute games for PC on Steam. The Zojoi web-site for the game is at <www.zojoi.com/sherlock>.

On Oct. 15, 1969, The Times and the Daily Mirror reported (based on a dispatch from Reuters) that Moscow television seemed to think that Dr. Watson was a secret communist, noting that a television program broadcast in the Soviet Union the day before showed Watson reading the Morning Star, a Communist newspaper published in Britain. Alexander Orlov has discovered that the program apparently was a dramatization of "The Second Stain" (part of a longer program titled "Ministers and Detectives"); does anyone have additional information on the broadcast?

THE DEAD ASSASSIN, by Vaughn Entwistle (New York: Minotaur, 2014; 338 pp., \$26.99) is the second novel in his series taken from "the paranormal case-books of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," and it has Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde dealing with bizarre murders and a dire plot against the realm in a story that's more science fiction than paranormal. The author's web-site is at <www.vaughnentwistle.com>.

Transformative Works and Cultures (a journal published by the Organization for Transformative Works) has issued a call for papers for a special issue on "Sherlock Holmes Fandom, Sherlockiana, and the Great Game" (to be published in Mar. 2017); the deadline for submissions is Mar. 1, 2016, and you will find more information at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/nckrpor>.

Patrick Macnee died on June 25. Best known for playing John Steed in the television series "The Avengers", he began his acting career in Britain at the age of 11 on stage in a production of "Henry V" (with a young Christopher Lee), and had a long list of film and television credits, among them Dr. Watson in "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976), David Worth (a psychotic former British secret agent who believes he's Sherlock Holmes) in "Magnum, P.I.: Holmes Is Where the Heart Is" (1984), Watson in "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" and "Sherlock Holmes: The Incident at Victoria Falls" (1992), and Holmes in the television film "The Hound of London" (1993).

Jun 15 #5 The spring issue of "For the Sake of the Trust" (the newsletter of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust) has news about the Trust, its new web-site, additions to the Archives at the Houghton Library, and an article by Harvard student George Mills on his research in the Archives for his senior thesis on the BSI as a pioneering fan community. The issue is available both at the Trust's web-site <www.bsitrust.org> and by e-mail; if you would like to be on the mailing list, send a request to Mike Berdan at <editor@bsitrust.org>.

David B. Pearce ("The Khalifa at Khartoum") died on June 1. He practiced ophthalmology in New York for more than 40 years, and enjoyed the arts, music, literature, sailing, and lacrosse. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.

Randall Stock has revised his "Best of Sherlock" web-site page for Sidney Paget <www.tinyurl.com/qg6pdv9>; he has added a few non-Sherlockian items, and (far more important) images of original artwork for some of the Sherlockian illustrations, so that one can see how wonderful his original artwork is. You can see much larger full-color images of artwork that was on view at the Museum of London in the spectacular "Catalogue of the Exhibition" that's available for purchase at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.

Congratulations to Scott Monty, who has reached the 1,000th entry on his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/peb2bvX>. The web-site and its podcasts are entertaining, interesting, and informative.

"Murder on the Bluebell Line" was a 35-minute program that was broadcast by BBC-1 in 1987; it was based on Charles Blinderman's book THE PILTDOWN IN-QUEST (1986), and starred Hugh Fraser as Holmes and Ronald Fraser as Watson (Hugh Fraser will be remembered as Hastings in the "Poirot" television series). You can watch the program now, thanks to Alexander Orlov, who has found the program at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/qy9bghe>.

The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" will run through Sept. 7 at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street are presenting a Mini-Symposium at the Discovery on July 18, featuring Leslie S. Klinger, Laurie R. King, Bonnie MacBird, and Mary Platt; details at <www.ccoobs.org>.

There has been progress on the television series "Houdini and Doyle" (Mar 15 #1). Stephen Mangan has been cast as Conan Doyle, and Michael Weston as Houdini; the executive producer is David Shore (creator of "House"). The ten-part mini-series is scheduled for broadcast next spring on Fox in the U.S., ITV Encore in the U.K., and Global in Canada. According to one report, Houdini and Conan Doyle "grudgingly join forces with New Scotland Yard to investigate inexplicable crimes with a supernatural slant."

Bonnie MacBird's ART IN THE BLOOD (London: HarperCollins, 2015; 306 pp., \$25.99) takes Holmes and Watson to Paris and to bleak northern England in an attempt to rescue the illegitimate son of a French chanteuse, recover stolen art, and thwart a vicious criminal conspiracy. The author's web-site is at <www.macbird.com>, and she has helpfully supplied annotations for the book on-line at <www.aitbnotes.com>.

Jun 15 #6 The spring issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) offers Peter Calamai's report on "Conan Doyle's Journalist Circles", Doug Wrigglesworth's investigation of "Arthur Conan Doyle and the South African War", and other news from and about the collection; copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

The "tale in verse" has a long Sherlockian tradition, in the pages of The Baker Street Journal and other publications from the 1940s onward. Edgar W. Smith, Bliss Austin, and many others enjoyed presenting both the Canon and their own stories as poetry, and now Allan Mitchell has written SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MENACING MOORS (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 122 pp., \$8.95), bringing Holmes and Watson back to Dartmoor for another case, told almost entirely in poetic quatrains, and with a nice comment in the introduction: "Sherlock is as real as we want him to be." The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Also from MX: Wendy C. Fries' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND JOHN WATSON: THE DAY THEY MET (2015; 302 pp., \$18.95) is an entertaining collection of "50 new ways the world's most legendary partnership might have begun," short vignettes ranging from 1879 to 2015. Dick Gillman's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE JULIA MORIARTY TRILOGY (2015; 139 pp., \$8.95) collects three stories about Holmes and Watson's confrontation with the evil professor's sister, who is trying to avenge her brother's death. GC Rosenqist's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE PEARL OF DEATH AND OTHER EARLY STORIES (2015; 222 pp., \$14.95) offers ten short pastiches.

And as usual, there are theatrics to report: Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" will be performed at the Charity Randall Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pa., July 9-26 <www.kinetictheatre.org>.

The Namron Players are presenting "Plays Written by Kids (And Performed by Adults)" in the Andrews Park Amphitheater in Norman, Okla., on July 11-12. One of the plays is reported to feature "Sherlock Holmes rescuing all the penguins from an evil mastermind, even though Sherlock cannot pronounce the word 'penguin' himself." The web-site's at <www.namronplayers.com>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is scheduled at the Hangar Theatre in Ithaca, N.Y., on July 16-25 <www.hangartheatre.org>. Also at Portland Stage in Portland, Maine, on Jan. 26-Feb. 21, 2016 <www.portlandstage.org>.

The Filament Theatre Ensemble will present Jessica Wright Buha's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Portage Park" in Chicago on July 18-19 <www.filamenttheatre.org>; "Sherlock Holmes on bike or on foot, searching for clues in and around Portage Park."

Ed. Lange's "Sherlock's Secret Life" will be performed at the Pioneer Playhouse in Danville, Ky., July 21-Aug. 1 <www.pioneerplayhouse.com>.

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Jul 15 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

There's a nice two-minute trailer for William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916), due for release in a Blu-ray/DVD set by Flicker Alley on Oct. 20, and you can watch the trailer at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at www.tinyurl.com/odlmopw. If you weren't able to see the film when it was screened in Paris in January and in San Francisco in May, the Red Circle of Washington has arranged for a theater screening on Sept. 26 in Bethesda, Md.; tickets still are available, and you'll find more information at www.redcircledc.org.

On-line registration for GridLOCK DC in Washington on Aug. 8-9 has closed, but you can also register on-site www.gridlockdc.org. People coming from out of town may wish to arrive one day early to attend The Evil League of Ecdysiasts' presentation of "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Black Cat" www.blackcatdc.com/shows/burlesque2.html at 9:00 pm on Aug. 7 at the Black Cat. The promise of the League is "We do the weird stuff... And you can sing along."

Sorry about that: William Gillette's last appearance on stage as Sherlock Holmes was not in 1930 (Jun 15 #1), but rather at The Playhouse in Wilmington, Del., on Mar. 19, 1932.

It is nice to be able to report that Simpson's-in-the-Strand still is serving its traditional and properly British dinners (although meals cost more than they did when I first dined there some fifty years ago), and it likely will continue to do so. Rumors of possible changes to the restaurant (Feb 15 #3) caused some concern earlier this year, but it appears that management only is seeking to provide late-night and early-morning music in the restaurant's upstairs rooms.

Ben Gibson's THE GHASTLY DANDIES DO THE CLASSICS (New York: Penguin Young Readers, 2013; 64 pp., \$17.95); spotted by Evy Herzog in a bargain bin at Staples, the classics in the book include Sherlock Holmes (with six pages on "The Dancing Men"), and the artworks imaginative (and you should take a close look at the cover).

BBC Radio 4 Extra is broadcasting a "True Crime" series of repeats of older programs, one of which is "Conan Doyle's Strangest Case" (the story of the George Edalji case, first broadcast in 1995, starring Peter Jeffrey as Conan Doyle). You can listen to their programs for a month after they air at www.tinyurl.com/p5sq7mg.

Richard Johnson died on June 6. He had a long career as an actor on stage, screen, radio, and television, and played Dr. Watson in Charlton Heston's television version of "The Crucifer of Blood" (1991).

Willy Werby has created two versions of the sitting-room at 221B, one for display at the restaurant S. Holmes, Esq., in San Francisco, and the other at the Grosvenor Resort Hotel at Disney World in Orlando. Both rooms are now in storage, and she is offering the second room for sale; you can see some nice images of the room at www.holmesroom.com (move your cursor to the top of the screen to open captions).

Jul 15 #2 "Kevin Spacey Fowler: 5 Fun Facts about the Actor," India.com announced on May 10, and one of those fun facts was: "It is because of Sherlock Holmes that Kevin Spacey got into acting. During a trip to London when he was 10 years old and after seeing a production of Sherlock Holmes, the actor made his decision to be what he wanted to be." The actor turned ten years old on July 26, 1969, and of course one wonders what production that was.

Alexander Orlov has reported an interesting video at YouTube: 38 minutes of behind-the-scenes footage from the making of Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" at <www.tinyurl.com/pmjrv6s>; it's a fine look at what's involved in creating a movie. And don't neglect the links to interviews and trailers.

"Sherlock Holmes' Fictional Baker Street Home in London Subject to Ownership Mystery" was the headline on a story in The Independent (July 22) on who owns the block of property at 215-237 Baker Street, which includes the site of the former Abbey National, where mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes was for many years answered by Holmes' secretary. A non-governmental organization called Global Witness has reported that the property is included in a portfolio of real estate in London worth £147 million that's owned by someone with ties to Rakhat Aliyev, a former Kazakh secret police chief accused in the European Union of money laundering and murder. You can read the full report at <www.globalwitness.org>.

Laurie R. King reports that she has finished work on the next Mary Russell novel, THE MURDER OF MARY RUSSELL, due for publication in April. Laurie's excellent web-site's at <www.laurierking.com>; scroll down to Laurie's Muttering at lower right and read "This Is Mrs. Hudson?" to see what Mrs. Hudson was wearing in 1875.

The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained by Ron Fish and Sue and Ben Vizoskie, is at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; it's a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when and where; you can contact Ron at <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed. And Ron reports that the calendar is now on Twitter as @SianCalendar.

Phil Austin died on June 18. The official lead guitarist of the Firesign Theater, he was a co-author and performer on their album "The Giant Rat of Sumatra" (1974), which featured Hemlock Stones and Flotsam. You can listen to the album at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ob85wsz>.

Georges Treville directed and starred as Sherlock Holmes in a series of silent films made by Eclair in 1912, and it's nice indeed that two of these old films have survived: "The Copper Beeches" (24 minutes) has been available for some time, and "The Musgrave Ritual" (18 minutes) was discovered a few years ago. Search for [georges treville] at <www.youtube.com> to see both films.

Oscar Ross has spotted a mention of Sherlock Holmes in the lyrics of B. A. Robertson's song "Bang Bang" issued by Asylum Records as a single in 1979. There's a promotional video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/psetzwc>, and Sherlockian artwork on the sleeve (which you can see easily at eBay).

Jul 15 #3 Adam Frost and Jim Kynvin have created an artistic and interesting graphic analysis of the Canon ("Sherlock Holmes: Examining the Evidence--in Charts"), published in the Guardian on June 30, and well worth examining at the web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pcst3dg>. Don't neglect their presentation of "Other Cases Are Referenced--Which Sound Far More Exciting Than the One We're Reading".

Mel Ruiz ("Jack Douglas") died on Feb. 25, 2014. Proud to be a fourth-generation Californian, he had many enthusiasms, including tennis, old movies, nature, photography, and of course Sherlock Holmes. He was a member of the Sherlockian societies in San Francisco, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1988.

Anne Martinetti's ALIMENTAIRE, MON CHER WATSON! was published in France in 2010 and is now out of print, but a Google search will turn up copies offered for sale, and it's well worth searching for: it's a delightful French cookbook, with many full-page full-color illustrations, Sherlockian as well as alimentary. The author talks about her book in a three-minute video at <www.tinyurl.com/qfh8ea4>.

Further to the report (Feb 14 #6) that CBS had syndicated the first season of "Elementary" about \$3 million per episode, WGN America will start airing the series this fall in the cable channel's "Prime Crime" weeknights line-up. There's a trailer for the line-up at <www.tinyurl.com/pcomzsx>.

Buckminster Fuller was a protege and good friend of Christopher Morley in the 1930s, and a member of the Three Hours for Lunch Club, the Grillparzer Sittenpolizeiverein, and The Baker Street Irregulars, and he installed one of his Dymaxion bathrooms in Morley's "Knothole" writing studio in Roslyn on Long Island. THE SENSE OF SIGNIFICANCE: THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN CHRISTOPHER MORLEY AND BUCKMINSTER FULLER is a splendid tribute to the two men, written by Chris' daughter Louise Morley Cochrane, based on the Morley and Fuller papers and on long taped interviews with Fuller.

The 158-page book offers a fascinating look at their relationship, and it has now been privately published by her children as part of the celebration of the 125th anniversary of Morley's birth. A few copies still are available, and are being used to help raise funds for the Knothole: \$25.00 for the book and \$5.00 for shipping; you can contact Terry and Linda Hunt (516-596-1590) <18goldini95@gmail.com> to see if the book's available, and ask for payment details.

And with regard to the Three Hours for Lunch Club, Greg Ruby has posted at The Fourth Garrideb <www.fourthgarrideb.com> with new information about the Club's medal, together with commentary on the club by Christopher Morley.

Angela Misri's THRICE BURNED (Fierce Ink Press, 2015; 271 pp., CA\$16.99) is the second in her series about the adventures of Portia Adams, a sequel to her JEWEL OF THE THAMES (Apr 14 #3); Portia has discovered that she is the granddaughter of both Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes, and that her mysterious guardian is Irene Adler, and continues to develop her talents as a detective. The book can be ordered on-line at <www.amazon.ca> and from the publisher <www.fierceinkpress.storenvy.com>.

Jul 15 #4 The DFN Foundation's plans to convert Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school (Apr 15 #3) are continuing: the BBC reported (July 7) that a judge has ruled against an appeal by John Michael Gibson, from the Undershaw Preservation Trust, for a review of the Waverley Council's approval of the Foundation's plans. School project manager Norman Stromsoy welcomed the decision, and said that work on the site is "progressing very well," adding that the vast majority of the building has been maintained. Gibson said that he is taking legal advice on his next steps, and he has applied for an oral hearing in front of another judge.

The letter in which Agatha Christie wrote to Evelyn B. Byrne in 1966 that "All the Sherlock Holmes stories were enthusiasms of mine" (May 15 #2) sold for \$2,250 (including the buyer's premium).

The series of thirty Conan Doyle letters pertaining to the Edalji Case that went to auction at Bonhams on Mar. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/m5y2h25> (Feb 15 #4) with an estimate of £20,000-£40,000 went unsold, but they were bought after the auction by the Portsmouth City Council (for £13,750), and have now been added to the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. Michael Gunton, the Collection senior archivist, reports that a selection from the letters has been put on display at the Central Library <www.conandoylecollection.co.uk>.

Omar Sharif died on July 10. He began his acting career in Egyptian films and went on to stardom in "Lawrence of Arabia" (1962) and "Doctor Zhivago" (1965). He also was a highly-ranked bridge player, and with Charles Goren and then Tannah Hirsch, wrote widely-syndicated bridge columns that occasionally involved Sherlock Holmes.

Residents of Widecombe-in-the-Moor are campaigning to block installation of four towering mobile phone masts on Dartmoor, and Norman Cowling, chairman of the Dartmoor Preservation Association, has cited Dr. Watson, who wrote to Holmes that "when you are out upon its bosom, you have left all trace of modern England behind." Landscape enthusiasts point out that the £300,000 in public funding for each mast would give improved mobile coverage to just 47 residences, at a cost of £6,383 per property.

MX Publishing has announced a Kickstarter campaign to help cover the cost of creating a three-volume THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES with 60 stories whose authors have pledged all their royalties to the renovation of Conan Doyle's home Undershaw by the Stepping Stones school. David Marcum is editing the anthology, and you can contribute to the campaign at the Kickstarter web-site <www.tinyurl.com/nfxkpn>.

The Collector's Library <www.collectors-library.com> from CRW Publishing in London offers a lengthy list of titles in cloth-bound pocket-size editions, including the complete Canon in a boxed set of six volumes (£45.00) and as separate volumes: A STUDY IN SCARLET and THE SIGN OF THE FOUR (£7.99), THE ADVENTURES (£8.99), THE MEMOIRS (£7.99), THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES+THE VALLEY OF FEAR (£8.99), THE RETURN+HIS LAST BOW (£8.99), and THE CASEBOOK (£7.99), each volume with an interesting and instructive afterword by David Stuart Davies. THE BEST OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DARK MYSTERIES (£8.99 each) have introductions by Davies; he also has edited anthologies of crime, detective, and other stories for the Library.

Jul 15 #5 It made headlines in Britain when the BBC realized that it had paid thousands of pounds in royalties to a man who had the same name as actor Neil Fitzpatrick, who played John Horner in Peter Cushing's "The Blue Carbuncle" (1968) and died in 2008; the man who received the royalties said he had never cashed the checks, and the BBC said it was trying to contact the dead actor's estate to make amends.

Dean Clark recommends Nathan Gelgud's "An Illustrated History of Sherlock Holmes" (and so do I); it's an amusing tribute he posted (July 11) at Word & Film, a blog at the "intersection of books, movies, and television." You will find his post at <www.tinyurl.com/odcvq4j>.

Roger Rees died on July 10. He started his acting career on stage with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and went on to win Olivier and Tony awards for his performance in the title role in "The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby"; he had many other roles in film and television, and was Sherlock Holmes in the BBC's radio dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1988). He also was seen as Sherlock Holmes' friend Alistair Moore in two episodes of the CBS-TV series "Elementary" in 2012 and 2014. You can listen to him in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at <www.tinyurl.com/ogsg78u> (the Crew of the Barque Lone Star offers a long list of Sherlockian radio).

The BBC has launched its first trailer for the "Sherlock" Christmas special with some intriguing homages to Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series; you can watch the trailer, and read about the homages in Paul Jones' excellent article in Radio Times (July 10) <www.tinyurl.com/p5jasdt>. And there's some news from San Diego: Steven Moffat announced at Comic-Con that the Christmas special also will have a theatrical release.

Further to the item (Oct 14 #2) about Gerard Marcel Beaudoin III, who used the alias Quentin G. Stanhope (who was a character in Carole Nelson Douglas' "Irene Adler" novels) while he committed theft, identity theft, forgery, and tampering with a witness in Lincoln City, Ore., was sentenced to eight years in prison on July 22 after pleading guilty to seven counts of aggravated theft and ID theft. The judge ordered Beaudoin to serve the sentence without the possibility of parole. Beaudoin said that he planned to pay back his victims after earning a theology Ph.D. while in prison and then working as a college professor, but the judge said that he thought "the likelihood of your paying restitution is very limited."

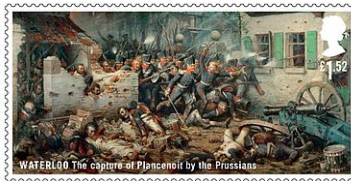
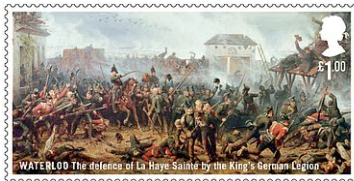
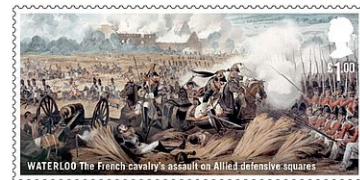
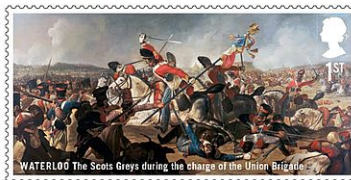
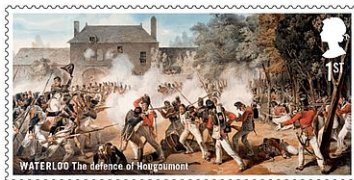


Aubrey Morris died on July 15. He made his stage debut in 1944, performed in the West End and on Broadway, and went on to a long career as a supporting actor in film and on television; he played the Coach Driver in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).

Marvin Lachman's THE VILLAINOUS STAGE: CRIME PLAYS ON BROADWAY AND IN THE WEST END (Jefferson: McFarland, 2014; 254 pp., \$45.00) is a comprehensive survey, organized by subject matter, with an extensive chapter on "Sherlock Holmes: Baker Street on Stage"; the book discusses more than 900 plays that have been produced from the 18th century to the 2013-14 season, and offers a fascinating look at a wide variety of criminous theater. The publisher's web-site is at <www.mcfarlandpub.com> (800-253-2187).

Jul 15 #6 Stephen Hunter is a journalist turned author (he won a Pulitzer Prize as a film critic for the Washington Post, and he has now written 18 novels), and his latest is a gripping and often-graphic account of Jack the Ripper's "autumn of terror," offering twists and turns aplenty and an imaginative solution to the mystery. I, RIPPER (New York: Simon & Schuster, 309 pp., \$27.99) offers a well-written story, with many appropriate mentions of both Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes by characters who have read the just-published A STUDY IN SCARLET.

"We have not yet met our Waterloo, Watson," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Abbey Grange"), and Britain has issued an attractive set of stamps honoring the bicententary of the Battle of Waterloo. Conan Doyle, it should be noted, was quite familiar with the battle: his story "A Straggler of '15" was published in 1891 and dramatized as "A Story of Waterloo" for Henry Irving, who first appeared in the play in 1894 as Corporal Gregory Brewster, hero of the defense of Hougoumont (which is shown in the first of the six stamps, at upper left).



Greg Ruby has an interesting discussion of "2015 Coins and Medals Commemorating The Battle of Waterloo" at the web-site for The Fourth Garrideb; read all about them at <www.tinyurl.com/q6q5wp6>. The Brigadier Gerard also was at Waterloo, and earlier posts about that are at <www.tinyurl.com/ooa5ha4>.

John E. Stephenson, who sold Sherlockiana at eBay (as "houndbook") for many year, has retired and moved to Florida, and his sister Peggy Steele now is selling his collection in a series of sales lists, which you welcome to request from her at <elizmoll@comcast.net>; there are lists available so far for lapel pins, tie tacks, cuff links, comics, and coffee mugs, and there are more to come.

The Conan Doyle Estate lawsuit against Miramax and others charging that the new film "Mr. Holmes" infringes on the Estate's copyright (May 15 #5) has been settled out of court, according to a report in the Santa Fe New Mexican (July 16). Mitch Cullin, who wrote the book A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND (on which the film is based) and shares credit for writing the film script, said on his Facebook page when the lawsuit was filed that it was "an extortion attempt pure and simple, brought on by the desire to make money once the film version of the book came to their attention," and he posted again on July 18, noting that the lawsuit succeeded in holding up the U.S. film tie-in edition of the book, which will appear soon.

Jul 15 #7 The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" runs through Sept. 7 at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., and it's then scheduled at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in Denver, Colo., opening on Oct. 15; at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., opening on Oct. 13, 2016; and then in Sydney, Australia. The web-site for Santa Ana is <www.discoverycube.org>, and the web-site for the exhibition is <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com>.

MY PARTICULAR FRIEND: A CHARLOTTE HOUSE AFFAIR, by Jennifer Petkus (Denver: Mallard Press, 2012; 297 pp., \$14.00) offers six stories inspired by Jane Austen and set in Bath during war with Napoleon; Charlotte is a investigator whose deductive style echoes the Canon (and one of the stories has some amusing echoes of P. G. Wodehouse) <www.myparticularfriend.com>.

The Fourth Garrideb has scheduled its annual meeting in Chicago on Aug. 11, during the American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money; details are available at <www.fourthgarrideb.com>.

Susan Rice has reported nice news for those planning to attend the birthday festivities in New York in January: Moran's Restaurant, where the William Gillette Luncheon has been held since 1994, did close, but it has been re-born as the Fillmore Room (named for the San Francisco music hall, rather than the president), and the luncheon will continue to be held there.

Further to the review of MYCROFT HOLMES, the pastiche written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse (Jun 15 #2), Alexander Wolff's excellent article "Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as Comfortable as Ever as a Public Intellectual" appeared in Sports Illustrated on July 6 <www.tinyurl.com/ph3b234>.

Michael King died on May 27. In the 1970s he and his brother Roger transformed King World Productions into a syndicator of television megahits that they sold in 1999 to CBS for \$2.5 billion in CBS stock. Their most popular shows were "Wheel of Fortune", "Jeopardy!", and "The Oprah Winfrey Show", and at one time they owned the rights to the Rathbone/Bruce films; according to his obituary in the N.Y. Times, he once told an interviewer, "I love owning Sherlock Holmes. If anybody wants to run Sherlock Holmes, anywhere in the world, they have to call Roger and me. Isn't that wild?"

A page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" was offered at eBay this month for \$169,000 <www.tinyurl.com/o8s2moz>. It's the first page of Chapter XIII, and is listed as leaf H31 in Randall Stock's census <www.bestofsherlock.com/baskervilles-manuscript.htm>.

Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" received excellent reviews, with a score of 88% on the tomatometer at <www.rottentomatoes.com>, where you'll find links to 128 reviews by critics. The film also did well at the box office, according to another useful web-site <www.boxofficemojo.com>, with a first-weekend gross of \$2.43 million at 361 theaters, excellent for a film that did not "open wide"; Robert Downey Jr.'s "Sherlock Holmes" did open wide, and had a first-weekend gross of \$62.3 million at 3,625 theaters. If you read (and remember) Mitch Cullin's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND (Apr 05 #2), you know that the film-makers made some interesting changes; it's a fascinating book, and there are new tie-in editions with cover art that shows McKellen.

Jul 15 #8 The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" runs through Sept. 7 at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., and it's then scheduled at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in Denver, Colo., opening on Oct. 15; at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., opening on Oct. 13, 2016; and then in Sydney, Australia. The web-site for Santa Ana is <www.discoverycube.org>.

And there's more theater coming up: Brian Clemens' "Sherlock Holmes & the Ripper Murders" opened at the Devonshire Park Theatre in Eastbourne on June 30, and is now touring in Britain <www.tinyurl.com/pyfzcgga>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is scheduled at the Fortune Theatre in Dunedin from Aug. 8 to Sept. 5, and then will tour in New Zealand <www.fortunetheatre.co.nz>. And at the Kamali Auditorium in Delhi, Aug. 22-23, and the Tata Theatre in Mumbai, Oct. 3-4 <www.in.bookmyshow.com>.

Raleigh Welch's new "Sherlock Holmes in the Raven's Court" will be read at the Paper Wing Theatre Fremont in Monterey, Calif., on Aug. 9, during the company's summer play reading series <www.paperwingtheatre.com>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be presented by the Woy Woy Little Theatre at the Peninsula Theatre in Woy Woy, NSW, Australia, Aug. 14-30 <www.woywoylt.com.au>. And at the Acadia Repertory Theatre in Mt. Desert, Maine, Aug. 18-Sep. 6; their web-site is at <www.acadiarep.org>.

Melbourne Steam Theatre has scheduled "Sherlock Holmes: Era's End" (a new play) at the Mooroolback Community Centre in Victoria on Sept. 4-5, and at the Mezzanine in Melbourne on Sept. 18-19 (both in Australia); you can go to <www.facebook.com> and search for [melbourne steam theatre].

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Sunset Playhouse in Elm Grove, Wis., Sept. 10-27; their web-site is at <www.sunsetplayhouse.com>.

Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" will be performed at the Colonial Players in Annapolis, Md., Sept. 4-26 <www.thecolonialplayers.org>.

Terry McCabe's dramatization of Nicholas Meyer's "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" will be performed at the City Lit Theater in Chicago, Oct. 12-Nov. 15 <www.citylit.org>.

I've long described this newsletter as six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean, and anyone who wants to do a word-search on a large (more than 13-MB) file of all of the text since March 1985 can now do just that, thanks to Steve Mason, who compiled the file, and will update it, and has kindly made it available for download from the Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.dfw.sherlock.org/scuttlebutt-from-the-spermaceti-press>.

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Aug 15 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

William Gillette's 1916 film "Sherlock Holmes" will be screened at the Arlington Theatre in Santa Barbara, Calif., on Sept. 13 (accompanied by Dennis James on the theater organ) <www.tinyurl.com/oosoe6p> and at the Chicago International Film Festival, Oct. 15-29 <www.chicagofilmfestival.com>. If you can't get to Santa Barbara or Chicago, and want to see the film in a theater, the way your grandparents or great-grandparents did, there also is the screening in Bethesda, Md., on Sept. 26, conveniently the morning after the next dinner meeting of The Red Circle of Washington; for details (and a link to the box office), go to <www.redcircledc.org>.

The three-part mini-series "Arthur & George" aired on ITV in Great Britain in March, starring Martin Clunes as Conan Doyle, with a script by Ed Whitmore based on the book by Julian Barnes; the script is inventive, but less than faithful to the book as well as to the actual events in the George Edalji case. The mini-series is scheduled on "Masterpiece" on PBS-TV beginning on Sept. 6.

"I had all the WILLIAM books by Richmal Crompton," John Mortimer recalled, "their covers picturing the hero with his cap and tie askew and his socks like concertina around his ankles. But I didn't really want to read about schoolboys, I had quite enough of them in real life. I much preferred to become the sage of Baker Street, wearing a dressing gown, playing the violin, and shooting the pips out of playing cards stuck up above the mantelpiece. That's from his contribution to THE PLEASURE OF READING, edited by Antonia Fraser, published in 1992, and now in a second (expanded) edition (New York: Bloomsbury, 2015; 345 pp., \$18.00); it's an excellent book that allows you to read about how some fine writers discovered reading, and the books that inspired them.

THE MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA COOKBOOK (Philadelphia: Quirk Books, 2015; 175 pp., \$24.95) is edited by Kate White, who has assembled an assortment of "wickedly good recipes" from MWA members including Laurie R. King ("Mrs. Hudson's Coffee Sheet Cookies"), Ken Ludwig ("Lenore Schneiderman's Gourmet Quiche") and Lyndsay Faye ("Valentine Wilde's Chicken Fricassee"), there also is a sidebar from E.J. Wagner on "The Food Hound of Baker Street".

James Carlopio's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE JULY CRISIS (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 148 pp., \$9.95) is a story created with an interesting approach: he has used words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs taken from the Canon to devise a new pastiche, resulting in a tale told very much in the style of Conan Doyle; some of the plot devices will be familiar, but Carlopio has succeeded in achieving what he calls "creative editing." The author has a web-site at <www.jamescarlopio.com>. And the publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Also from MX: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SWORD OF OSMAN, by Tim Symonds (2015; 229 pp., \$14.95) is set in 1906, with Holmes and Watson in Stamboul hoping to foil an attempt to topple the Ottoman Empire. Dean P. Turnbloom's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE RETURN OF THE WHITECHAPEL VAMPIRE (2015; 230 pp., \$16.95) is the final volume in his trilogy about Holmes and Watson and their pursuit of the undead Baron Antonio Barlucci.

Aug 15 #2 Zach Dundas' *THE GREAT DETECTIVE: THE AMAZING RISE AND IMMORTAL LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015; 320 pp., \$16.00) is a delightful exploration of the Sherlock Holmes stories and the world of Sherlockians; Dundas, at the age of 13, founded a correspondence society he called The Street Arabs and was published in The Baker Street Journal (Dec. 1988), and his book is entertaining and instructive: a well-written guide that will inform old hands as well as neophytes. Recommended.



There's a new line of imaginative vinyl Pop! figurines due from Funko in October: Sherlock Holmes (two versions), Dr. John Watson, Irene Adler, Jim Moriarty, and Mycroft Holmes; from Entertainment Earth <www.tinyurl.com/p67vz73> and the BBC Shop <www.tinyurl.com/nddx5fs> \$9.99/£10.99 each.

David McLaughlin spoke at the Transatlantic Dialogues conference in Liverpool in July on "Imagined Histories and Intangible Heritages: Walking the World of Sherlock Holmes"; it was a delightful tribute to the travel books written by David L. Hammer, and you can read the paper at his "Travelling Histories" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/pqtdcea>.

Flicker Alley, the distributor of the Blu-ray/DVD set of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) reports that the set will be multi-region.

W. E. Dudley ("The Papers of Ex-President Murillo") died on Nov. 14, 1995. Bill worked in industrial security and once wrote that "I am a retired investigator and am sure the Canon led me into that field." He contributed often to The Baker Street Journal, presided over The Travelers for Nevada, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1976.

"Conan Doyle Sues Own Estate from Beyond the Grave" was the headline on the report from Tweenhauken, Pa., tweeted on June 11 by Burt Wolder; it was the first in a continuing weekly series, and you can read all of the reports at <www.burtwolder.wordpress.com>.

"The legendary literary detective comes alive in the Sherlock Holmes Tarot" is the announcement from Aeclectic Tarot <www.tinyurl.com/nzswowe>, noted by Oscar Ross; the cards are colorful and artistic, and the web-site offers links to tarot card meanings and stories. The pack contains 79 Sherlockian cards and a 160-page illustrated guidebook.

A major exhibition on "The Power of Poison" opened at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science on July 10 and runs through Jan. 10, 2016; it's reported to be informative and interesting, and of course poisons in the Canon are not neglected <www.dmns.org/the-power-of-poison>.

Plan well ahead for "Michael Chabon and Sherlock Holmes" at the Peter Jay Sharp Theater at Symphony Space in New York on Dec. 9; it will be the live recording of "Selected Shorts" (a weekly radio series distributed by Public Radio International and available as a podcast). Chabon, author of *THE FINAL SOLUTION: A NOVEL OF DETECTION* (2004), "hosts and curates an evening of readings from some of the most sensational and confounding cases of Sherlock Holmes" <www.selectedshorts.org/onstage/detail/8854>.

Aug 15 #3 "Call yourself a Cumberfan or a Cumberbitch?" BBC Radio 4 asks. "See how much you really know about bounteous Benedict with our Cumberquiz." It's a brief and amusing quiz, with a link to his performance as the young Rumpole in "Rumpole of the Bailey" <www.tinyurl.com/ouwgu4p>. You may find that the BBC wants you to be in the UK, in which case you can use handy little software such as Hola! <www.hola.org> to be anywhere you want to be.

Cumberbatch's performance in the title role in the National Theatre's production of "Hamlet" is reported to be the hottest ticket in London, but you don't need to go to London to see the show: a recording will be screened in theaters in the U.K. and in other countries (including the U.S.) on Oct. 15 and later in the year; details at <www.tinyurl.com/pd2y3h4>.



The Royal Mail is installing 50 plaques on postboxes around the United Kingdom, each featuring a popular stamp associated with the area, and one of the postboxes is the one closest to 221B, located at 210 Baker Street at the corner of Melcombe Street; the plaque shows one of the commemorative stamps that honored Sherlock Holmes in 1993.

The Australian government is reported to have banned hundreds of mobile and web-based games that have "questionable content" (including "crude humor" and "scary elements"), and according to Ars Technica (June 30), one of the banned games is "Sherlock: Criminal Case" on Google Play. Titles that have been refused classification "cannot be sold, hired, advertised, or legally imported in Australia," but it's far from clear how the ban can be enforced in the modern era of digital distribution. Go to <www.play.google.com> to find the game; you can also search for [sherlock] to find many more games and apps (lots of them free).

George Cole died on Aug. 5. He began his acting career on stage in 1939, and became best known for playing Alistair Sim's crooked accomplice Flash Harry in the "St. Trinian's" films in the 1950s and 1960s, and Arthur Daley in the television series "The Minder" (1979-1994). He also played Josiah Amberley in Clive Merrison's "The Retired Colourman" on BBC Radio 4 (1995).

Greg Ruby reports that The Fourth Garrideb has issued a medal and a lapel pin, available at the society's web-site <www.fourthgarrideb.com>; if you order quickly you'll also receive one of the society's wooden nickels.

The Cresco Times ran a story on July 15 about Sherlock Shrimp: Elementary, My Dear <www.tinyurl.com/ovsagxk>; Sherill and Jeff Ryan own a shrimp farm in Ridgeway, Iowa, where they opened their business last year in a former elementary school. Their logo, which you can see at their Facebook page, also is nicely Sherlockian.

It's out of print, but worth looking for: MANAGING THE MYSTERY COLLECTION: FROM CREATION TO CONSUMPTION was edited by Judith Overmeier and Rhoda Harris Taylor for the Haworth Press in 2004, and it includes articles by Victoria Gill ("The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library") and Timothy J. Johnson ("The Adventure of the Unopened Box: Building the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota Libraries").

Aug 15 #4 THE FIFTH HEART, by Dan Simmons (New York: Little, Brown, 2015; 617 pp., \$28.00), is an unusual pastiche, set mostly in gilded-age Washington and featuring Sherlock Holmes and Henry James. The mystery involves the death of Clover Adams; a cast of characters that includes Henry Adams, John Hay, Clarence King, Samuel Clemens; and the attempted assassination of Grover Cleveland. And the book is intriguing metafiction, with Sherlock Holmes occasional wondering whether he's really a fictional character in stories written by Watson (or perhaps Conan Doyle).

Dan Stashower discovered "Veglock" (British artist Red Scharlach's tribute to the BBC series); obviously she's a candidate for membership in The Pawky Humorists. You can see her artwork (and her puns) at www.tinyurl.com/99c6n4m much larger and in full color.



Les Klinger has reported J. Redding Ware's PASSING ENGLISH OF THE VICTORIAN ERA: A DICTIONARY OF HETERODOX ENGLISH, SLANG, AND PHRASE [1909]; the book offers 271 pages in which one can explore words and phrases that the author calls "fugitive language," and it's nice indeed that it's all digitized at www.tinyurl.com/qxulaec. Sherlockians may be interested to find that the Pink 'un had competitors that included the Brown 'un and the Blue 'un, and there likely will be other discoveries to be made.

GridLOCK DC in Bethesda on Aug. 8-9 was an interesting conference, and it's more than likely to repeat next year; about 200 people on hand, with a variety of panels and a fashion show/costume contest (the best of show award went to Basil of Baker Street). Go to www.gridlockdc.com to see details on the programming and the conference in general.

"It's my understanding that naked women generally don't carry knives" is a great opening sentence for a story. The best opening sentences are those that encourage the reader to continue reading ("To Sherlock Holmes she is always the woman" is a more familiar example), and you will find both the naked woman and the knife at the beginning and at the end of S. G. Browne's LUCKY BASTARD (New York: Gallery Books, 2012; 358 pp., \$15.00), reported by Samantha Wolov. The book features Nick Monday, a San Francisco private investigator who's also a luck poacher and has a sidekick who wants to be the Watson to Monday's Holmes. Browne, who also has written about zombie gigolos and alien sex toys, presides over an entertaining web-site and blog at www.sgbrowne.com.

Karen Murdock found the "221 Bakery Street" web-site ("a place for Sherlock inspired food, drinks, and recipes") www.sherlockfood.tumblr.com; scroll down to see Red Scharlach's amusing "Sherl-ices". Beth Gallego also noted an imaginative "221B Bakery Street" T-shirt designed by Themoreiarty at the Qwertee web-site www.tinyurl.com/noz32bx.

Ray and Joan Betzner visited New Jersey recently and discovered Spermaceti Cove, which turns out to be the only geographic feature with the name Spermaceti in the United States officially recognized by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names; it also was the site of the Spermaceti Cove Life-Saving Station, the first station in the country, erected in 1848. The proprietor of the Spermaceti Press is of course glad that it's so official and historic.

Aug 15 #5 Scott Palmer's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE BASIL RATHBONE YEARS & OTHER FILMS (Bloomington: Xlibris, 2015; 242 pp., \$131.99 (hardcover) \$121.99 (softcover) \$24.99 (e-book) is a well-illustrated filmography with detailed synopses, thumbnail portraits, and screenshots; there are samples at <www.tinyurl.com/ornb3j6> and <www.sherlockholmesonscreen.com>.

J. Devereaux deGozzaldi ("The Speckled Band") died on Aug. 18. Dev was an advertising sales manager for Newsweek, and after retirement he devoted his time to restoring antique cars, sailing, and serving as a part-time member of the board of directors of a bank. He joined The Speckled Band of Boston in 1958, and was for many years its devoted Poker (secretary); he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1980.

THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: A COLLECTION OF VICTORIAN DETECTIVE TALES, edited by Stefan Dziemanowicz (New York: Fall River Press, 2015; 707 pp., \$7.98 at Barnes & Noble), offers an introduction by Leslie S. Klinger and 40 stories (including six Sherlockian satires and homages) published from 1845 to 1916.

Underground Toys has a new "Sherlock" articulated action figure, with his violin, skull, and mobile phone, 5 inches high (\$19.95 pre-order<www.bigbadtoystore.com>.



An "international celebration of Jeremy Brett's life, love, and laugh" is set for Sept. 12 (the 20th anniversary of his death) at Clapham Common (his last home was a penthouse flat with views of the Common), where a commemorative bench will be dedicated, and tributes paid by his colleagues and friends. And Wyndham's Theatre has offered access that morning to the Royal Circle Bar that morning to view a commemorative plaque and a display of Keith Harding's photographs of Brett and Edward Hardwicke in "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes". Details at <www.tinyurl.com/nk5t4kc>.

It is always nice when a Sherlockian society can celebrate one of its founders: Freda Pearce helped mount the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition for the Festival of Britain in 1951 and then (with Jack Thorne, Anthony Howlett, and Colin Prestige) founded The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. She married Tony Howlett, served as president of the Society, and now, at the age of 97 Freda Howlett has written the preface for a book to be published next year in honor of the Society's 65th anniversary.

The argument over converting Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school (Jul 15 #4) is not over: a High Court judge has granted John Gibson, director of the Undershaw Preservation Trust permission to mount a full judicial review challenging the Waverley Council's approval of the DFN Foundation's plans. Gibson's attorney said that the council had shown a "cavalier disregard" for Undershaw's "irreplaceable" status, and the judge ruled that the complaints were "at least arguable." A Council spokesman said "we are disappointed that the judge has determined that the case is to be heard and a full hearing is to take place, despite the fact that the High Court previously supported the council decision to grant planning permission." A statement from the DFN Foundation said that "we will continue to repair Undershaw and build our school," and that "we trust that the court will throw out this ridiculous case."

Aug 15 #6 Dorling Kindersley's Eyewitness Travel Guides have long been a standby for travelers to just about anywhere. Now part of Penguin Random House, DK also publishes a long list of Visual Guides on subjects such as Shakespeare, science, politics, religion, and (now) Sherlock Holmes. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOK (2015; 352 pp., \$25.00) has David Stuart Davies and Barry Forshaw as consultant editors, and provides an enjoyable guide to the Canon and to the world of Sherlock Holmes.

September will be "Conan Doyle Month" at Groombridge Place, with "Sherlock Holmes and The Valley of Fear" guided tours, a Sherlock Holmes murder mystery and dinner, and "Remembering Conan Doyle" theater evenings; details at <www.groombridgeplace.com>.

The British (region 2) Blu-ray/DVD of Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" will be released on Oct. 26. No word yet on when the U.S. release will be.

The Second Street Irregulars, are a non-Sherlockian society that describes themselves at their web-site as "armchair sleuths dedicated to solving the Borden Case of 1892." They have annual awards, an official mutton-eaters song, and interesting web-site video <www.secondstreetirregulars.com>.

"Both were oddballs who took refuge in detective novels, and they quickly bonded over their mutual love of Sherlock Holmes and the Rover Boys," according to Alexandra Alter's story in the N.Y. Times (Aug. 9) about Harper Lee and Truman Capote, reporting on Greg Neri's novel "Tru and Nelle" due from HMH Books for Young Readers in March (spotted by Ray Betzner).

"A luxurious large-scale flock design of a dark-chocolate fleur-de-lys motif within a trellis pattern" is the manufacturer's description of the "Sherlock Wallpaper Ladies' Tank Top" spotted by Pam Weiner at Think Geek (\$24.99) <www.tinyurl.com/oyd758m>.



Peter L. Stern <www.sternrarebooks.com> is offering some interesting Sherlockiana and Doyleana: copyright editions (duplicates once held by the Library of Congress) of Conan Doyle's WESTERN WANDERINGS (1915), THE EVIDENCE FOR FAIRIES (1921), and THE MARACOT DEEP AND OTHER STORIES (1929); and two archives of correspondence, one of his letters to Major Pond (who managed Conan Doyle's lecture tour of the U.S. in 1894), and the other of letters to H. Greenhough Smith (his editor at The Strand Magazine) in which he praises P. G. Wodehouse's "Psmith" series and discusses THE LOST WORLD.

THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Barnes & Noble, 2014; 416 pp., \$10.00) is the latest in the store's colorfully-bound gift editions, with six short stories, "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and 27 illustrations by Sidney Paget.

The Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium at the Newberry Library in Chicago on Oct. 24, starting at 9:00 am, is open to the public with no admission charge; the speakers will be Zach Dundas (author of THE GREAT DETECTIVE) on "Cracking the Casebook" and Tim Johnson (curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the Univ. of Minnesota) on "Is It Always 1895?" There's more information at <www.newberry.org/programs-and-events>.

Aug 15 #7 More and more Sherlockian societies now have web-sites, and you will find a comprehensive set of links at Chris Redmond's "web portal about the Great Detective" at <www.sherlockian.net>; click on [fans, societies, events]. You might also click on [the original Sherlock Holmes stories] to see what people have had to say about the Canon (don't neglect "Redmond's Delicate Question" for each story); his links can be weird and wonderful: if you explore "The Hound of the Baskervilles" you will find a link to Laura Lyons as Playmate of the Month.

"Masterpiece" repeated the second season of "Sherlock" this month, and the on-line promotion <www.tinyurl.com/p9qeljv> included a selection of video features and an observation game, all possibly still available.

Ray Jessel died on July 17. Best known to Sherlockians as one of the authors of the musical "Baker Street" (1965), he had a long list of credits as writer and story editor for television series that included "The Love Boat" and "The Carol Burnett Shows". He attended (and performed at) the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars in 2010. You can hear him perform "A Married Man" at <www.tinyurl.com/qcxmbbv>.

The Sherlock Holmes Dragon, designed by Valerie Osment for the GoGo Dragons 2015 festival in Norwich (Apr 15 #8) will be displayed until Sept. 5 and will be auctioned for charity on Oct. 1. There's a larger image of Dragon Sherlock (#54) in a story in the Eastern Daily Press <www.tinyurl.com/peq4j7h>.



The Solitary Runners of Sherlock Holmes is a virtual race club focused on Sherlock Holmes, and its goals include promoting physical activity, giving fans the chance to earn exclusive limited-edition medals, and donating money to worthy charities. Their motto is "Run if convenient...if inconvenient, run anyway," and you can enroll on the society's mailing list with a request to Nea Dodson at <solitaryrunners@outlook.com>.

The Vista sports bar Wild Hare in Columbia, S.C., has closed, but it will reopen in the fall as the Irish pub Moriarty's, named after the evil professor, according to an article in the Columbia State (Aug. 15).

Adam Christopher's ELEMENTARY: THE GHOST LINE (London: Titan Books, 2015; 319 pp., \$7.99) is "based on the CBS television series," with a new story that captures the flavor and style of the series. BLOOD AND INK is due in Feb. 2016, and a third title is planned <www.adamchristopher.ac>.

"Sherlock Holmes & the Internet of Things" <www.sherlockholmes.io> is described as an attempt "to build a massive connected crime scene consisting of smart story-telling objects," sponsored by the Columbia University Digital Storytelling Lab for people who want to participate in a "massive connected crime scene, with a global challenge set for Oct. 24-25, according to a story in Variety (Aug. 18).

Registration for the 56th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze (the world's oldest and still-active annual Sherlockian horse race) at the Hawthorne Race Course on Oct. 17 is now open; details are available from Susan Diamond <szdiamond@comcast.net>.

Aug 15 #8 The "How I Got Started" department in the summer issue of Fine Books & Collections has a nice interview with Ray Betzner, who talked about Sherlock Holmes and Vincent Starrett, and the magazine has an excellent web-site at <www.finebooksmagazine.com> (although the interview isn't yet available on-line). Ray's own web-site "Studies in Starrett" also is well worth a visit <www.vincentstarrett.com>.

Dramatic news: John Chaffin's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem and The Empty House" is being performed at the Backstage at Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre in Nashville, Tenn., through Sept. 12 <www.dinnertheatre.com>.

"The Improvised Adventures of Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson" (a weekly series) began at the Under the Gun Theater in Chicago on July 9 and will continue through Oct. 29 <www.undertheguntheater.com>; their web-site includes a link to Watson's blog, which recaps previous performances.

The Raconteur Radio troupe will perform their radio play "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" at the Kearny Public Library in Kearny, N.J., on Sept. 12 <www.kearnylibrary.org>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at the Mountain Playhouse in Jennerstown, Pa., Sept. 15-27 <www.mountainplayhouse.com>.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at Theater Wit in Chicago, Sept. 17-Nov. 14 <www.theaterwit.org>.

The American Lyric Theater has scheduled "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Fallen Giant" (a new opera by composer Evan Meier and librettist E. M. Lewis) at the Living Libretto workshop at the National Opera Center in New York on Sept. 28, and at an InsightALT concert reading at the Baruch Performing Arts Center in New York on May 26, 2016 <www.altnyc.org>.

Aquila Theatre's touring production of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (a new play written by Desiree Sanchez) opens at the Pollak Theatre in Monmouth, N.J., on Oct. 1 and continues on tour until Mar. 20, 2016; details can be found at <www.aquilatheatre.com/touring>, and it's well worth checking to see if it will be at a nearby venue.

Tal Aviezer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Red-Headed League" has been scheduled at the Cahill Theater at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, N.Y., Oct. 10-25 <www.redmonkeytheater.org>.

Greg Kramer's "Sherlock Holmes" (which had its world premiere in Montréal in May 2013) now has a touring Canadian production; the U.S. premiere will be at the Ricardo Montalban Theatre in Los Angeles, Oct. 15-18, followed by performances at Ed Mirvish Theatre in Toronto, Oct. 27-Nov. 8, at the Warner Theatre in Washington, Nov. 17-22, and the Oriental Theatre in Chicago, Nov. 24-29 <www.sherlockholmesonstage.com>; TV stars David Arquette and Michael Trevino play Holmes and Watson.

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Sep 15 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Some Sherlockians have had a chance to attend theater and other screenings of William Gillette's restored silent film "Sherlock Holmes" (1916), and it soon will be available on the small screen: it will be broadcast on Turner Classic Movies cable on Oct. 18 at 9:30 pm, and it will be issued by Flicker Alley as a Blu-ray/DVD set on Oct. 20; you can pre-order the set now at Amazon and Barnes & Noble and elsewhere on-line, but the best price is the discount offer at <www.flickeralley.com>.

Don't neglect a delightful accompaniment to the film: The Société Sherlock Holmes de France's LE GUIDE DU FILM SHERLOCK HOLMES (1916), a 64-page profusely-illustrated discussion of the film and its actors, with articles by Thierry Saint-Joanis and Bernard Oudin, with press reviews from the original release; it's almost all in English and costs €20.00 at the society's web-site <www.sshf.com/boutique.php>, where you can see thumb-nail images showing the results of their splendid research.

The script for Simon Stephens' dramatization of Mark Haddon's best-selling novel THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME (2003), which was commissioned for and performed by the National Theatre in London in 2012, has now been published by the Dramatists Play Service <www.dramatists.com>. In the book Christopher Boone is an autistic teen-ager who enjoys the Sherlock Holmes stories and turns detective himself, but there's no mention of Sherlock Holmes in the play.

The New York Comic Con on Oct. 8-11 <www.newyorkcomiccon.com> will include a CBS TV Studios session on Oct. 9 devoted to the "Elementary" series, with Jonny Lee Miller, Lucy Liu, John Noble (Sherlock's father Morland Holmes) and executive producer Rob Doherty on hand for a panel and a sneak peek at the new season.

Dynamite Entertainment has completed its five-issue comic-book mini-series SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. HARRY HOUDINI (Sep 14 #2); the writers are Anthony Del Col and Conor McCreery, the artist is Carlos Furuzono, and a trade paperback is now available (\$15.29).

And IDW has launched its mini-series of SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION (\$3.99 each), written by David and Scott Tipton, based the book by Nicholas Meyer, and the artist is Ron Joseph <www.idwpublishing.com>

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of mathematician George Boole; his great idea was Boolean logic, the basis for the Boolean search, been used by everyone who has run a keyword search such as "sherlock" AND "holmes" (you can also use NOT and OR). Boole spent much of his career in Ireland, and at the George Boole Mathematical Science Conferences held at University College Cork last month, professor Des MacHale presented what he believes is "compelling evidence" that Boole was the inspiration for another Irish mathematician made famous by Arthur Conan Doyle. MacHale suggests that "Every computer scientist, mathematician, electrical engineer, and logician on the planet already knows about George Boole," adding that "If the Boole-Moriarty link can be established, then every literate person on the planet will know about George Boole too."

Sep 15 #2 Jack Carter died on June 28. He was a fearless comedian, with rapid-fire delivery, and an excellent mimic who began his acting career in high school and had a long career on stage, screen. According to his N.Y. Times obituary, his first paid role was in summer stock in Christopher Morley's "The Trojan Horse" (1940), and Carter horsed around so much during rehearsals that Morley suggested that Carter turn to comedy.



Susanna Lazarus had an interesting article in Radio Times (Aug. 30) <www.tinyurl.com/ph6mjqu> with the headline asking "Did you notice these film and TV costumes have been recycled?" One of the costumes was an elegant Victorian dress worn by Janet Fielding as the fifth Doctor's companion Tegan in "Doctor Who: Enlightenment" (1983) and by Gayle Hunnicutt as Irene Adler in Granada's "A Scandal in Bohemia" (1984). There are more repeats (non-Sherlockian, alas) shown in the story and even more to be found at the web-site "Recycled Movie Costumes" <www.recycledmoviecostumes.tumblr.com>.



Benjamin Allison, attorney for the Conan Doyle Estate, has said that the company is "very pleased" that its lawsuit against Miramax and others about the Ian McKellen film "Mr. Holmes" has been settled (Jul 15 #6), according to a report in Entertainment Weekly (Sept. 3). Allison also announced that an "agreement in principle" had been reached with the filmmakers, and that a second agreement finalized with author Mitch Cullen and with the publisher of A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND will add an acknowledgement to the e-book version of use of material from the copyrighted Sherlock Holmes stories.

"Danger Mouse" was a British 10-minute animated series first broadcast in the U.K. in 1981, it starred "the world's greatest detective and his faithful assistant Penfold, the world's most obvious coward," who operated from a letterbox on Baker Street," and it was nice to learn that a new series of 52 11-minute episodes was launched on CBBC on Sept. 28 (the original series aired in the U.S. on Nickelodeon, and the new series will be available here on Netflix.

A Japanese real estate agent called Home's has some imaginative Sherlockian television commercials <www.box.homes.co.jp/cm/mirai>; Mitch Higurashi has reported that the young man who plays Holmes is a member of a vocal group Arashi [Storm], which is highly popular with young women; the group's English-language web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/qjapy9f>.

Otto Penzler's The Mysterious Press will publish a limited edition of Bonnie MacBird's ART IN THE BLOOD (Jun 15 #5): sixty copies only, in marbled boards with a leather spine, numbered and signed, and containing (only in this edition) annotations by the author, a forward by Leslie Klinger, and illustrations in black and white (\$150.00); details (and one of the illustrations) at <www.tinyurl.com/p8y637v>.

Sep 15 #3 "The Empire of Corpses" is a new Japanese animation, scheduled for release in Japan on Oct. 2, and in North America next year. According to The News Hub (Aug. 22), "John Watson, a medical student at the University of London, is recruited by the British government for a covert mission in Afghanistan. His cover job is a newly recruited medic for the British army, where he learns that humans are being brought back from the dead in the form of Frankenstein's monster."

Further to the report (Jul 15 #3) that CBS had syndicated the first season of "Elementary" for about \$3 million per episode, WGN America began airing the series on Aug. 31 in the cable channel's "Prime Crime" weeknights lineup. There's a trailer for "Prime Crime" at <www.tinyurl.com/pcomzsx>.

Greg Ruby seeks information about a hitherto-unknown Sherlock Holmes medal cast in aluminum, and has posted an image of the medal at The Fourth Garri-deb's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/poma4qt>.

Joseph A. Kestner died on Aug. 24. He was the McFarlin Professor of English and the founded the Department of Film Studies at the University of Tulsa; he specialized in Victorian literature, and he explored the Canon is SHERLOCK'S MEN: MASCULINITY, CONAN DOYLE, AND CULTURAL HISTORY (1998), SHERLOCK'S SISTERS: THE BRITISH FEMALE DETECTIVE, 1864-1913 (2003), and THE EDWARDIAN DETECTIVE, 1901-1915 (2004).

The "international celebration of Jeremy Brett's life, love, and laugh" on Sept. 12 (Aug 15 #5) was well attended, and there's a Facebook event page at <www.tinyurl.com/nk5t4kc>.

Long runs of The Strand Magazine are few and far between, but a recent auction at PBA Galleries included the first 74 volumes in publisher's cloth and a nearly-complete run of the remaining 44 volumes in cloth and as single issues; the lot sold for \$6,000 <www.tinyurl.com/q7j9nsy>.

SARATOGA: AT THE RAIL: FROM "SILVER BLAZE" TO "SHOSCOMBE OLD PLACE" is the book published to accompany this year's running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Racetrack, with essays that focus on the Canon's two racing stories (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2015; 79 pp., \$18.95); it's available from the BSI <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.

Gautier Cazenave's fund-raising campaign for his film "Sherlock Holmes vs. Frankenstein" continues at Indiegogo <www.tinyurl.com/fxbx7s>; he hopes to film the first scenes in December, and complete the film next spring.

Jack W. Schmidt died on July 25. He served in the Air Force in World War Two, worked as a financial analyst in the aerospace industry, raised a family, and then became an actor, performing as Count von Stalburg in John Michalski's tour of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1976-1977), and then both on- and off- Broadway.

Michael Dirda spent a year writing weekly personal essays for The American Scholar's web-site, and they've now been collected as BROWSINGS (New York: Pegasus Books, 2015; 246 pp., \$24.95); the essays are interesting and literary, and occasionally deal with matters Sherlockian.

Sep 15 #4 The National Coalition Against Censorship has reported that the principal of Lincoln High School in Tallahassee, Fla., canceled the summer reading assignment of Mark Haddon's THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME because a few parents had complained about "profanity and religious references" in the book <www.tinyurl.com/op4oz3f>. The story includes op-ed comments by Lincoln High School senior Jaclyn Weinell published in the Tallahassee Democrat opposing the decision, and she notes that required reading in past years has included FAHRENHEIT 451, CATCHER IN THE RYE, and THE GREAT GATSBY.

This year's Christmas card from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London will show Sidney Paget's portrait of Arthur Conan Doyle, exhibited this year in Britain for the first time during the exhibition at the Museum of London, in full color and in packs of ten; there's an order form (and much more of interest) at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.

Sherlockians visiting or living in Columbia, S.C., may wish to stop by at the new Starbucks in the basement of the Sheraton on Main Street: according to an item in the Columbia Free Times (Sept. 7), the new Starbucks occupies the space that used to be the Sherlock Holmes pub.

The Anime News Network reported (Sept. 12) on plans by the Japanese on-line clothing store Sukiyaki to release a new fashion collection that is based on the Japanese animated series "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" (1983) <www.tinyurl.com/qhqsqz4>. You can read all about the new line (in Japanese) and place your orders at <www.tinyurl.com/p5ycnvg>.

Charles Veley's THE LAST MORIARTY (Seattle: Thomas & Mercer, 2015; 287 pp., \$15.95) is set in London in November 1895, with Holmes back from the Great Hiatus (although the public's not yet aware of his return) and on behalf of John D. Rockefeller, J. P. Morgan, Andrew Carnegie, and Her Majesty's government solving a crime that involves some twists and turns with regard to people from Holmes' past.

The Unemployed Philosophers Guild continues to add new items to their Sherlockian offerings: the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Bar (\$4.95) is a "delicious fruit and nut bar" that comes in a box "full of clever diversions" that include a Sherlock Holmes Rogues Gallery <www.tinyurl.com/nkkjjeu>.

The Stillwater Public Library (in Oklahoma) has arranged a month-long series of imaginative events publicizing Sherlock Holmes (and of course reading) <www.library.stillwater.org/sherlock.php>, tied to the performance in Stillwater on Oct. 29 of Aquila Theatre's touring production of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" <www.aquilatheatre.com/touring>.

The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" is on its way to the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in Denver, Colo., where it will open on Oct. 15 and close on Feb. 15, 2016 <www.dmns.org>. Then it will open at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., Oct. 13, 2016, and close on Jan. 8, 2017. Other dates are available, in case your local science museum is interested; contact <info@exhibitsdevelopmentgroup.com>. The Exhibits Development Group has seven other interesting exhibitions now on tour, and two more in development; details at <www.exhibitsdevelopment.com>.

Sep 15 #5 Some of the better pastiches are being written for younger readers, and the SHERLOCK, LUPIN & ME series is an excellent example: written by Irene Adler [Alessandro Gatti] and launched in Italy beginning in 2011 (11 titles so far), the series is now appearing in English translations. The first book is THE DARK LADY (North Mankato: Stone Arch Books, 2014; 239 pp., \$12.95), presenting 12-year-old Irene Adler in Saint-Malo, where she encounters slightly-older Sherlock Holmes and Arsène Lupin, and joins them in investigating (and solving) a case that involves robbery and murder. In the second, THE SOPRANO'S LAST SONG (2015) the third, THE MYSTERY OF THE SCARLET ROSE (2015), the three children are London and solving more mysteries; there's also attractive art by Jacopo Bruno.

"The Art of Music" is Christie's title for its private exhibition and sale of a collection of Stradivari and other violins and cellos, and the auction house's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/oso6xeh> is well worth a visit; click on "View the Interactive" to see the instruments and hear them played, and of course learn what made Sherlock Holmes' violin so special.

Arthur L. Levine (The Cutter *Alicia*) died on Sept. 16. He worked for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics in Cleveland, where he was one of the founders of The Creeping Men, and when NACA became NASA Art's first job was recruiting astronauts (including Neil Armstrong and John Glenn); he became the first administrator of NASA's Goddard Institute, and went on to be a professor of public administration at the City University of New York. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1955, and was a long-time member of The Three Garridebs, and was interviewed in an "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/pyxl5ab>.

Laurie R. King reports that she has handed the manuscript of THE MURDER OF MARY RUSSELL over to her editor, and has posted a teaser for the novel (and an account of her research) at Between the Lines: Buzz from Laurie R. King <www.tinyurl.com/npkhsae>; the new book will be published in April 2016.

A SHERLOCK HOLMES DEVOTIONAL, by Trisha White Priebe (Uhrichsville: Shiloh Run, 2015; 320 pp., \$12.99), uses the Canon as an inspiration for a series of short lessons aimed at "uncovering the mysteries of God."

Mandarin Companion's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE CURLY HAired COMPANY (Shanghai: Mind Spark Press, 2014; 78 pp., \$12.95 at Amazon and Barnes & Noble) is a simplified translation for people who have been studying Chinese for about a year (there are no red-heads in China, but curly hair's as rare there as red hair is in the west); the story's set in Shanghai in the 1930s, and it's an imaginative approach to learning a language.

"Holmes and the Stolen Stones" is a new on-line slot machine from Yggdrasil Gaming; you can read all about it, see the Sherlockian graphics, and play for free at <www.tinyurl.com/qehjuhe>.

Malware: somehow I wound up with a malware program that created pop-up ads whenever I opened Mozilla Firefox. And thanks to a recommendation in Consumer Reports I found that downloading and running the free Malware Anti-Malware scanner identified and removed the offensive program. You can do the same, if you have problems, from <www.malwarebytes.org>.

Sep 15 #6 Randall Stock continues to expand his "Best of Sherlock" web-site page for Sidney Paget, and has added memorabilia associated with his Sherlockian illustrations <www.tinyurl.com/q555rzzr> as well as treasures such as the silver cigarette case Paget received as a wedding present from Sherlock Holmes (who had it inscribed for the occasion).

Greg Ruby reports at The Fourth Garrideb web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ps4v6hq> on a new Kingdom of Great Britain £10 banknote featuring Sherlock Holmes; it's a "fantasy banknote" that's quite artistic, and it's available at eBay for \$9.99 <www.tinyurl.com/opz2n49>.

Books Space <www.books-space.com> is offering subscribers THE COMPLETE CONAN DOYLE COLLECTION, with a hardback book and a magazine delivered by mail every two weeks for £7.99 an issue; there will be 50 volumes, with THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES as the first two volumes.

"The Celebrity Voicemail Show" is a British 15-minute series, starring Kayvan Novak and broadcast by BBC Radio 4; on Sept. 23 Novak imagined what it would be like to hear Benedict Cumberbatch's voicemail message, and you can listen to the program at <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06bp5tt>.

The 2015 edition of the Green Bag Almanac & Reader (May 15 #4) presented an interesting variety of articles devoted to "The Norwood Builder" written by Sherlockians and non-Sherlockians, and much of the issue's contents are now available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/nl4nxhh>. There also was a detailed map, available as two (extremely large) files at <www.tinyurl.com/nbp4x9y> and <www.tinyurl.com/ohykkcb>.

"Big Nate" is a comic strip written and drawn by Lincoln Peirce, and there was a Sherlockian story arc from July 22 through July 25; you can see the comic strip at <www.comics.com/big_nate>.

Tom Dunn, who presided over The Universal Coterie of Pipe Smokers and edited and published The Pipe Smoker's Ephemeris until he died in 2005 (Apr 06 #6), also was a collector, and material from his collection (including a copy of my long-out-of-print seasonal souvenir for 1970 advertised at the flattering price of \$25.00) are now being sold by the Good Times Bookshop <www.goodtimesbookshop.com>.

BBC One has released a new trailer that promotes its upcoming season, with brief bits from the "Sherlock" special that's due (in the U.K. at least) at Christmas <www.youtube.com/olsbl4s>. The folks responsible for "Sherlock" are experts at generating rumors and of course publicity; the best web-site for the latest (accurate) news is <www.sherlockology.com>.

Despite Sherlock Holmes' derogatory comment about Edgar Allan Poe's Dupin (in "A Study in Scarlet"), Conan Doyle acknowledged the great debt that he and other mystery writers owed to Poe. Jeff Jerome, who presided over the Edgar Allan Poe House in Baltimore until 2012 (when the city withdrew its funding), still arranges annual celebrations of Poe's birth and death, and has a fund-raising campaign in support of this year's event at the Westminster Hall and Graveyard; you can contribute at <www.gofundme.com/s543f947>.

Sep 15 #7 Marcia Wilson's YOU BUY BONES: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND HIS LONDON THROUGH THE EYES OF SCOTLAND YARD (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 269 pp., \$14.95) is a police procedural and thriller from the early 1880s; the policemen are Lestrade, Hopkins, Bradstreet, and Murcher, encountering Holmes after his arrival in London and again after Watson joins Holmes, and the book offers both an interesting picture of London and a perilous mystery that involves Watson rather than Holmes. The publisher has web-sites at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <mxpublishing.co.uk>.

MX has also published Petr Kopl's THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (2014; 164 pp., \$16.95) and THE FINAL PROBLEM (2015; 208 pp., \$16.95) are the latest in his imaginative and attractive graphic-novel adaptations of the Canon; the second book has more than one case, and both have amusing echoes from other parts of his "Victoria Regina" series; his interesting web-site is at <www.petrkolp.cz>.

And there's more from MX: Hamish Crawford's THE BEST AND WISEST MAN (2015; 238 pp., \$16.95) is subtitled "being a reprint of the reminiscences of Mrs. Mary Watson, née Morstan," and presents Mary Morstan's own comments on her husband's relationship with Holmes, followed by extracts from the memoirs of the Watsons' daughter. Mark Mower's A FAREWELL TO BAKER STREET (2015; 169 pp., \$9.95) offers five stories, ranging from the beginning to the end of Watson's partnership with Holmes.

Also from MX: John A. Little's THE CASE OF THE HAMPSTEAD PONIES (2015; 186 pp., \$11.95) offers five stories, set in 1925, with Holmes and Watson back at 221B (where the landlady now is Mrs. Hudson's Cockney niece Lily), solving cases that involve cannibalism and other dire perils. Petr Maceks' GOLEM'S SHADOW: THE FALL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2015; 175 pp., \$16.95) presents Holmes and Watson in pursuit of a missing husband, which leads to a series of brutal murders and takes them to Paris and Prague. And Thomas Gwinner's SHERLOCK HOLMES AS A PIPE SMOKER (2015; 100 pp., \$14.95) surveys and analyzes all of the mentions of Sherlock Holmes' pipes and pipe-smoking in the 60 stories and in the illustrations in the first appearances of the stories in British and American periodicals.

Alexander Orlov has made an interesting discovery at the Find My Past blog: Sherlock Holmes and his brother Mycroft Holmes, recorded as living in Yorkshire, in the 1911 census of England and Wales <www.tinyurl.com/pqjo9q8>; the blog includes an image of the census page, and you can click on the image to enlarge it and read it easily.

David Grann, author of THE LOST CITY OF Z, was at a Smithsonian event this month for a book signing, and was asked about the film (Feb 15 #4), which is now in production; the British scenes have been done (in Northern Ireland), and they're now on their way to Colombia to work there.

Dennis Drabelle, in his Washington Post review of three (non-Sherlockian) books by Malcolm Mackay, gives a wonderful description of a writer's three great strengths: he knows (or, what is equally good, persuades us that he knows); he is a natural storyteller, able to jump from one hurtling train of action to another without making the reader feel manipulated; and he's got a voice to which we're happy to surrender. A nice compliment indeed.

Sep 15 #8 Paula Berinstein's AMANDA LESTER AND THE PINK SUGAR CONSPIRACY, (Aguoura Hills: The Writing Show, 2015; 357 pp., \$9.99), features a 12-year-old descendant of Inspector Lestrade who's expected to continue in the family's tradition; despite her not wanting to be an investigator she nevertheless is sent to a mysterious British school for descendants of famous detectives, where she encounters a real mystery and a villainous conspiracy. It's the first of an interesting series, and the author has a web-site (with sample chapters) at <www.amandalester.net>.

New theater: Tony Macaulay's new musical "Sherlock in Love" (with Sherlock Holmes pursuing Jack the Ripper) is running at the Cocoa Village Playhouse in Cocoa, Fla., through Oct. 11 <www.cocoavillageplayhouse.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (his first version of "The Game's Afoot") is on at the Newport Theatre Arts Center in Newport Beach, Calif., through Oct. 11 <www.ntaonline.com>. It will also be performed at the Rivoli Theatre in South Fallburg, N.Y., Oct. 9-18 <www.scdw.net>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is running at the Lost Nation Theater in Montpelier, Vt., through Oct. 25 <www.lostnationtheater.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" has been scheduled at the Malcolm Field Theatre in University Center, Mich., Oct. 7-11 <www.svsu.edu/theatre/showschedule>. And at the Hickory Community Theatre in Hickory, N.C., Oct. 16-Nov. 1 <www.hickorytheatre.org>.

Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed by the Actors Co-op at the Crossley Theatre in Hollywood, Oct. 14-Nov. 22 <www.actorsco-op.org>.

The CAB Theatre Halloween show "MaCABre III, Hex and the City" at the University of Wisconsin/Barraboo/Sauk County on Oct. 16-17 will include "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Misplaced Dipstick"; details at their Facebook page <www.facebook.com/cabtheatre>.

C. P. Stancich's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Maple Leaf Murder" will be performed at the Camino Real Playhouse in Capistrano, Calif., Oct. 16-Nov. 1 <www.caminorealplayhouse.org>.

The Phoenix Repertory Players will perform a new dramatization of "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" at Theatre Rocks! in Ennis, Tex., Oct. 29 to Nov. 1 <www.phoenixrepertoryplayers.com>.

Bill Daniel's new play "Holmes vs. Holmes" will debut at the Heartland Studio Theatre in Chicago, Nov. 5-29 <www.edgeoforion.com>.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at Bard's Town Theatre in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 5-15; web-site at <www.thebardstown.com>.

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Oct 15 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The National Theatre's production of "Hamlet" is spectacular, and not just because it stars Benedict Cumberbatch in the title role; the performance on Oct. 15 was broadcast live to theaters in the U.K. and other countries, and there will be encore (recorded) theater screening coming up. To find out when and where near you, go to www.ntlive.com and click on "Hamlet" (or use the "what's on near you" button to check on all their productions. You can see a brief trailer for the show at YouTube www.tinyurl.com/ptc7g2e).

Readers of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES will be familiar with the forensic work of Alphonse Bertillon, but he did much more than merely measure criminals, as explained by Kate Summerscale in an article in The Telegraph (Oct. 2) headlined "How to Frame a Murder: The Suspicions of Monsieur Bertillon" www.tinyurl.com/oqm93c9.

Chilean art director Javier Jensen has use GIF technology to animate iconic book covers, including THE ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES; The Guardian has kindly put them on-line (Sept. 10) www.tinyurl.com/nqjw3ph.

William S. Kirby's VIENNA (New York: Forge, 2015; 318 pp., \$26.99) features Vienna (a mysterious autistic savant) and Justine (a glamorous high-fashion model) in a modern-day thriller that echoes "The Six Napoleons" in a story that involves a series of murders as well as interesting twists and turns in the plot.

Samuel French www.samuel french.com has published the script for Madeleine George's imaginative play "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" (88 pp., \$9.95); this Watson is the "trusty side-kick to Sherlock Holmes, loyal engineer who built Bell's first telephone, unstoppable super-computer that became reigning "Jeopardy!" champ, and amiable techno-deweeb who, in the present day is looking for love." You can watch her five-minute video about the play's background at www.tinyurl.com/phd7ahv.

"The Abominable Bride" (that's the title of the upcoming special episode of "Sherlock") will be screened in theaters and broadcast by BBC-1 in the U.K. and by PBS-TV in the U.S. on Jan. 1, offering Holmesians and Sherlockians a nice way to start the New Year. Theater screenings (on Jan. 5 and 6 in the U.S.) will have extra material, including Stephen Moffat's guided tour of 221B Baker Street and behind-the-scenes footage from the making of the episode. Locations in the U.K. are available at www.tinyurl.com/pdrbavk and in the U.S. they'll be available at www.fathomevents.com on Nov. 6. The program has been scheduled for release on DVD and Blu-ray on Jan. 12, and is available for pre-order on-line at Amazon and elsewhere.

The headline in the Daily Mail (Oct. 13) pretty much says it all: "A Case for Sherlock Holmes Himself: Founder of Baker Street Museum Is Accused of 'Embezzling' His Mother's Money in Bitter Court Battle with His Half-Sisters and Brother Over the Lucrative Tourist Trap"; the judge said that "a survey of this lamentable litigation history shows that whenever one side enjoys any success, the other immediately takes steps to blunt the advantage." You can read much more about John Aidinantz and his litigious family at www.tinyurl.com/qhjy5od.

Oct 15 #2 Further to the report (Jun 15 #3) on the Criterion Restaurant, which after 140 years in business encountered difficulties when the landlord increased the rent), a representative of the property managers said on Aug. 20 that "due to the downturn in trade and no interested party being found to acquire the restaurant despite all avenues being exhausted the restaurant was closed yesterday evening." The Criterion's Long Bar was where Watson and Stamford had their historic meeting (as noted in A STUDY IN SCARLET).

"Elementary" starts season 4 on Nov. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/q2x4u29>, and the series has a web-site "The Deductionist" <www.thedeductionist.net>

Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., has announced a "Sherlock Holmes in London" spring break program, Mar. 4-11, 2016. The program will be led by English Department instructor Alicia DeFonzo; more information is available at <www.tinyurl.com/onszl3k>.

C. Frederick Kittle ("Jack Stapleton") died on Oct. 18. He was an oncologist and a cardiologist, a dedicated student of medical history, and an ardent Sherlockian and Doylean; as a collector he specialized in DoYLES (all of them), and donated his manuscripts, books, letters, and original artwork to the Newberry Library in Chicago. Fred received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2000.

Eduardo Zinna (editor of Ripperologist) reports that Clam Radio (hosted by John Tabacco on WUSB-FM) has a 19-minute audio interview with Daniel Friedman, who with his father wrote THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. DOYLE (Apr 15 #2), in which they suggest that Conan Doyle was Jack the Ripper. You can listen to the interview at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/p4jb3pz>.

The DVD of Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" will be released on Nov. 10, and is available for pre-order now on-line.

Baker Street, now a southbound one-way street, would be converted to two-way traffic under a proposal to "return Marylebone to how it was originally intended: a place for people" <www.bakerstreettwoway.co.uk>; there has been considerable opposition to the plan, and no final decision has been made.

Eugene T. (Sherlock) Holmes is one of three candidates who are campaigning against incumbent Rick Murphrey to serve as mayor in Kings Mountain, N.C. According to the Kings Mountain Herald, Holmes is a convicted felon who in 1985 was sentenced to 10 years in prison for larceny of more than \$200 (he was released in 1990); last year he was arrested on disorderly conduct and trespassing charges while protesting at a local church, and this year was arrested on the same charges at a local flea market for spouting vulgarities and harrassing vendors. Holmes, a 78-year-old Korean War veteran, has said he is a member of the Church of God, and that if elected he "would get the D.A. to swear out a warrant on any man who says he's gay." He also admitted that he doesn't actually want the job, saying, "I don't want to be mayor no more than I want to fly. I don't know about my chances in this. I'm a newcomer--and I don't give one hoot about politicians." You can see his picture (and his mug shot) in a story published in the Advocate (Sept. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/nz2knwj>.

Oct 15 #3 "According to Pingk's biography, the debut author-illustrator ran away from the circus to join a normal family," according to a Publisher's Weekly interview with Rubin Pingk (Sept. 17). Simon & Schuster has just published his (non-Sherlockian) SAMURAI SANTA: A VERY NINJA CHRISTMAS, and he is hoping that they will publish his middle-grade graphic novel about Sherlock Holmes' granddaughter Padlock Holmes.

"Whosolvedit? Take Our Famous Literary Detectives Quiz!" was the challenge from the Christian Science Monitor <www.tinyurl.com/mytqjjpg>; the question about the Canon won't be difficult, but getting all thirty correct answers presents more of a problem.

"Worn with pain, and weak from the prolonged hardships which I had undergone," Watson wrote (in "A Study in Scarlet") "I was removed, with a great train of wounded sufferers, to the base hospital at Peshawar." Alexander Orlov has found some interesting photographs of the Peshawar Valley Field Army during the Second Anglo-Afghan War, at <www.tinyurl.com/q6x5z7b> and <www.tinyurl.com/qgw4c3c> and <www.tinyurl.com/p4tygzc>. The photographs were taken by James Burke, the first photographer ever to work in Afghanistan, and you can read an interesting discussion of his life and career at <www.simonnorfolk.com/burkenorfolk/conversation.html>.

George A. Hough ("The Duke of Balmoral") died on Sept. 22. He was a journalist, working as a reporter, editor, and publisher, and went on to teach journalism at Michigan State University and Georgia State University until he retired in 1990. He was one of the founding members of The Greek Interpreters in East Lansing in 1959, and he received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.

Karen Murdoch spotted a story published in the Derby Telegraph on Oct. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/oxaz9eu> about the upcoming sale at auction of two paintings by Peter Cushing; they're landscapes in watercolor, and the story includes images. The auction will be held on Dec. 2, and details will be online at Hansons Auctioneers' web-site <www.hansonsauctioneers.co.uk> about a week early.

The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition has opened at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, and will run through Jan. 31; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.comj/pc557jw>. The museum had an impressive video Q&A training session for volunteers, discussing Sherlock Holmes and forensic science and featuring E.J. Wagner; you can watch that (and see a brief appearance by her Havanese Wiggins) at <www.tinyurl.com/n9cm53v>.

Roger Johnson reports that The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street has closed for extensive refurbishment, and that Sue Collier has left after 16 years as manager. Owned by Whitbread & Co. when it opened in December 1957 with an upstairs display of Sherlock Holmes' sitting-room (for which Roger and Jean Upton are now the curators), the pub now is owned by Greene King, a British brewery established in 1799 by Benjamin Greene, the great-grandfather of author Graham Greene (who wrote an introduction for the Murray/Cape edition of THE SIGN OF FOUR in 1974) and his brother Hugh Greene (who was director-general of the BBC and the editor of the "Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" series of books). The pub is expected to reopen in December.

Oct 15 #4 Bouchercon 2105 in Raleigh was enjoyable, especially for Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, who won an Anthony Award (best anthology or collection); there was a Sherlockian panel (with Laurie, Les, Michael Robertson, Bonnie MacBird, and yours truly), and Laurie had an opportunity to dine with friends and fans of Mary Russell. Named in honor of the late Anthony Boucher, Bouchercon is the major annual event for mystery authors and readers, and is always great fun.

Bouchercon 2016 will be in New Orleans ("Blood on the Bayou"), Sept. 15-18; followed by Toronto ("Passport to Murder") Oct. 12-15, 2017; Saint Petersburg ("Crime in the Sunshine"), Sept. 13-16, 2018; Dallas ("Denim, Diamonds and Death") Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 2019; and Sacramento ("Where Murder is a Capital Crime"), Oct. 15-18, 2020. Information about Bouchercon, with links to future events, is on-line at the Bouchercon web-site <www.bouchercon.info>.

"Project 39" is an Indiegogo crowd-funding campaign by ComicFlix that will convert all 39 episodes of the Ronald Howard television series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" into graphic novels; there's more information and a video at <www.tinyurl.com/oxcxkb6>.

"Imagine a house that breathes when the wind blows through its chimneys. A home that bleeds through its pipes when you fill the bathtub with red clay water." That's the beginning of Arturo Conde's NBC News review (Sept. 21) of Guillermo del Toro's new movie "Crimson Peak" (which opened on Oct. 16); the review concludes by noting: "the ghosts of 'Frankenstein' author Mary Shelley, Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle, horror fiction master Edgar Allan Poe, and many others not only shape Del Toro's imagination, but also could help you uncover hidden stories in your own life."

Howard Ostrom's "From Watson with Love" is a video examination of the history of Sherlock Holmes on screen in Russia <www.youtube.com/ojksp2j>. The 16-minute video is presented by Samantha Rae in Ross K. Foad's series "The Diogenes Documentaries".

Nikki Stafford's INVESTIGATING SHERLOCK: THE UNOFFICIAL GUIDE (Toronto: ECW Press, 2015; 229 pp., \$18.95) is an insightful companion to the first three seasons of the series, with discussions of its history, analysis of and commentary on each episode, and interviews with Canadian Sherlockians (Chris Redmond, Charles Prepolec, and Peter Calamai).

Barton A. Eberman ("The Hound of the Baskervilles") died on July 8. He was a member of The Hounds of the Baskerville, edited The Grimpen Mire Gazette (the newsletter of Hugo's Companions), and received their Most Notable Companion Award in 1988. Bart received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.

Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (60 pp.) offers the usual mix of essays and articles, including Zachary Pamukcoglu's winning essay for the 2015 Clarkson Prize (which honors the late Steve Clarkson and is sponsored by the society for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md.) and Denny Dobry's explanation of how one goes about "Recreating 221B"; the cost is \$15.00 postpaid, from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).

Oct 15 #5 Further to the reports (Jun 10 #6 and July 10 #7) on the Sherlock Holmes elephant in Baker Street, installed during a fundraising campaign by Elephant Family (a financial support organization for endangered Asian elephants) and sold at auction for £9,750, those who purchased miniature reproductions of the Sherlock Holmes elephant will want to read the article in Vanity Fair (Nov. 2015) <www.tinurl.com/o4y8ydm> about Mark Shand, who founded the charity in 2002; he died in New York last year, and the story in Vanity Fair is headlined "The Untamed Aristocrat".

The Agra Treasurers will hold their "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends Three" conference in Dayton, Ohio, Apr. 15-16, 2016. More information is available from Ann Siefker <annsiefker@yahoo.com>.

THE BIG BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES, edited by Otto Penzler (New York: Vintage Crime/Black Lizard, 2015; 780 pp., \$25.00), is a worthy successor to Ellery Queen's landmark anthology THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1944). The new anthology offers many more pastiches and parodies, as one would expect, with seven more decades to draw from, and the authors are an excellent and varied selection of classic and modern admirers of Holmes and Watson; the quality of the selections is high indeed, and the new anthology is a fine demonstration of how much enjoyment imaginative writers can offer their readers.

Bill Peschel's anthology SHERLOCK HOLMES EDWARDIAN PARODIES AND PASTICHES I: 1900-1904 (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2015; 319 pp., \$15.99) is the latest in his 223B Casebook Series, offering the results of a wide-ranging search through newspapers, magazines, and books, all annotated by the editor, who has included a pastiche of his own. His web-site, for both his press and his books, is at <www.peschelpress.com>.

Matthew Fox ("Vigor, the Hammersmith Wonder") died on Sept. 11. He served in the U.S. Navy, earned degrees in engineering and business, and went on to work for Coopers and Lybrand, and American Home Products. He was a member of The Hounds of the Baskerville, and a serious book collector. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.

Martin Edwards' THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER (London: HarperCollins, 2015; 481 pp., £20.00) is subtitled "the mystery of the writers who invented the modern detective story," and examines members of the Detection Club and other authors of the 1920s and 1930s who followed the trail blazed by Conan Doyle but found new ways to entertain their readers. There's an occasional surprise for Doyleans, including discussion of Bruce Hamilton, who solicited a quote from his godfather Conan Doyle to support Hamilton's first novel TO BE HANGED (1930); Conan Doyle confided that not only had he forgotten the "transaction" of becoming Bruce's godparent, but that he felt the book faltered after a good start. According to Andrew Lycett's THE MAN WHO CREATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, Bruce's father Bernard Hamilton dedicated his novel A KISS FOR A KINGDOM (1899) to Conan Doyle and was a neighbor when Conan Doyle was living at Undershaw.

Finally, nicely in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books and DVDs of the year is on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm>.

Oct 15 #6 Sherlock Holmes' 162nd birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 15, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 pm at the Press Box (932 Second Avenue between 49th and 50th Streets); attendees will pay their own checks, but need to reserve with Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> or Evy Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com>.

The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club (at 40 West 45th Street), and the speaker will be Jeffrey Hatcher, who has written the plays "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders", and the screenplay for the film "Mr. Holmes". The cost of the lecture will be \$11.00; seating is limited, and you're advised to reserve early (details below); tickets won't be sold at the door.

The Baker Street Babes happily invite one and all to their "Daintiest Thing in a Dressing Gown Pyjama Party" which starts at 8:00 pm at The Players (16 Gramercy Park South) and will be hosted by William Gillette; there will be a buffet dinner, cash bar, live music, prizes, toasts, and entertainment, and the cost is \$45.00, with proceeds benefiting the Wounded Warriors Project. Go to the Babes' web-site <www.bakerstreetbabes.com> for more information, and to purchase tickets.

Otto Penzler's traditional open house on Friday from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.

The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon at the Fillmore Room (the new name for Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant) at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; the cost is \$47.00 for chicken or salmon (\$52.00 for steak). Checks should be sent to Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221b@gmail.com>.

The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); attendance is by invitation only. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment (with the theme "Thieves, Scoundrels, and Rogues") at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (201 West 52nd Street at Seventh Avenue); \$90.00 (checks or PayPal), and details are available from Christopher Zordan (184 Blew Court, East Brunswick, NJ 08816 <gaslightgal@gmail.com>; information is available at <www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com>.

If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other mementos to be included in the various dinner packets you should send 175 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 18 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material must be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15.

Oct 15 #7 On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) somewhere in the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; see the hotel directory for the location. Vendors can contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> to request information about dealers' tables.

The Beacon Society's annual meeting will be at 10:00 am in the York Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing individuals' efforts to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people; details are at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner will hold a Junior Bloodstain, also in the York Suite, at 11:30 am, for devotees of the work of John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse; additional information is available from Elaine Coppola <emcoppol@syr.edu>.

The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:15 to 4:15 in the grand ballroom on the 22nd floor of the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); there will be a cocktail-party buffet and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks), and the traditional (and perhaps unusual) entertainment; the cost is \$69.00 (details below) or \$79.00 after Nov. 29 or at the door.

For those who wish to continue partying, Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will host "The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner" at 6:00 pm at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub (145 West 45th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues); more information is available from Chrys (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will end the birthday festivities with their informal buffet brunch on Sunday, at 11:30 am at the Black Sheep (583 Third Avenue, at 38th Street); \$25.00 (payable at the door, cash or check); RSVP to Lyndsay Faye <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com>, please.

Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and at the Gaslight Gala on Friday, and early reservations are advised if you wish to attend these events.

Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate available only on reservations made through the Baker Street Irregulars by Nov. 22; details will be found soon at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html>. Guest cards for the Yale Club's second-floor lounge are available to all Sherlockians, and it's a fine venue for socializing and relaxing.

Other hotels offer reasonable (according to New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.hotels.com>; you will be wise if you then check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (do keep in mind that there are non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).

Oct 15 #8 And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement and reservation form (including prices) for the Roosevelt Hotel and the Yale Club, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, go to <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html> after Nov. 8, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.

The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.

And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>. News about additional events will be found in next month's issue of this newsletter.

On the stage: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being performed at the Black Box Theatre at the University of Nevada Las Vegas through Nov. 8 <www.unlv.edu/pac>.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Hickory Community Theatre in Hickory, N.C., from Nov. 6 to 21 <www.hickorycommunitytheatre.org>; and at the Moxie Theatre in San Diego, Calif., Nov. 8-Dec. 6 <www.moxietheatre.com>.

John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is on tour by the Baroque Theatre Company, opening at the Weymouth Pavilion in Weymouth on Nov. 1, 2015 <www.baroquetheatre.com>. And at the Springs Park Playhouse in Lititz, Pa., on Dec. 17-20 <www.springsparkplayhouse.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Pierson Playhouse in Pacific Palisades, Calif., from Nov. 6 to Dec. 13 <www.theatrepalisades.org>; at the Javeenbah Theatre in Nerang, Queensland, Nov. 13-18 <www.javeenbah.org.au>; at the Port Angeles Community Playhouse in Port Angeles, Wash., Nov. 20 to Dec. 6 <www.pacomunityplayers.com>; at the Minnedosa Community Conference Center in Minnedosa, Manitoba, Nov. 26-28 <www.facebook.com/minnedosa.dramaclub>; at the Olympia Little Theatre in Olympia, Wash., Nov. 27 to Dec. 20 <www.olympialittletheatre.org>; and at the Virginia Beach Little Theatre, in Virginia Beach, Va., Jan. 15-Feb. 7 <www.ltvb.com>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed by the Vicksburg Theatre Guild in Vicksburg, Miss., Nov. 13 to 23 <www.vicksburgtheatreguild.com>. And by the Alvin Community College Drama Department in Alvin, Tex., Dec. 5-12, 2015 <www.alvincollege.edu/drama>.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD
20817-4401 (301-229-5669) <blau7103@comcast.net>

Nov 15 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: Jim Cox and Dore Nash will lead the Christopher Morley Walk on Thursday, leaving at 9:30 am from the lobby of the Roosevelt Hotel (entrance on 45th Street east of Madison), and the walk will conclude with the Christopher Morley luncheon at 1:30 pm at McSorley's Old Ale House at 15 East 7th Street (between First and Second Avenues); details are available from Jim Cox <jasdcx@yahoo.com>. The correct price for the Gaslight Gala on Friday is \$90.00; cazordan@aim.com for PayPal. The Baker Street Irregulars table in the Merchants Room on Saturday will be accepting credit-card payments. Scott Monty suggests an addition to the web-sites offering alternatives for places to stay: <www.airbnb.com>.

Scott also notes that episode 84 of "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" offers listeners' suggestions for Sherlockian gifts for the holiday, and a link to a shopping page on the web-site <www.ihose.co/ihose84>; and that episode 85 <www.ihose.co/ihose85> features with author/screenwriter Nicholas Meyer in which he discusses his creative process and his Sherlockian work. The 2015 Baker Street Journal's Christmas Annual will honor the 40th anniversary of THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION; it is available only to subscribers, and you can still subscribe to the BSJ for 2015 at <www.tinyurl.com/j6msg9y>.

Further to the review of MYCROFT HOLMES, the pastiche written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse (Jun 15 #2), John Rabe had a nice 15-minute interview with Kareem on John's "Off-Ramp" radio series on KPCC-FM on Sept. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/pmc9y6u>.

Further to the item about plans to convert Baker Street to two-way traffic (Oct 15 #2), there's another change due: according to Nicholas Lezard (in the New Statesman) <www.tinyurl.com/pc5ghmo>, "The underpass under Marylebone Road will be transformed...into a urine-free Wonderpass." The Baker Street Quarter Partnership's proposal, with attractive artwork, can be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/pywkfp3>.

Alexander Orlov reports a fascinating two-minute "demo reel" showing (with scenes from the Russian television series starring Igor Petrenko) just how much can be done with computer-generated imagery [CGI] nowadays. You can see the wonders for yourself at <www.vimeo.com/98542378>.

The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, now at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science through Jan. 31, will next be seen at the Telus World of Science in Edmonton, Mar. 25-Sept. 5 <www.telusworldofscienceedmonton.ca>. It moves to the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., opening on Oct. 13, 2016, and then to Sydney, Australia.

Mike Collins' SHERLOCK: THE MIND PALACE (London: BBC Books, 2015; 80 pp., £9.99) is an official "colouring book adventure" with imaginative artwork that recreates scenes from the series (with hidden clues from each of the nine episodes) and offers enthusiasts an opportunity to be artistic. The hidden clues have already triggered discussions on the Internet among fans who have detected hints about future developments in the series; one of the (possible) discoveries will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/qa3pude>.

Nov 15 #2 Reported: THE CLASSIC ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (from Jim French Productions \$39.95 each): four sets of 12 full-cast audio dramatizations by M. J. Elliott, featuring John Patrick Lowrie as Holmes and Lawrence Albert as Watson; the sets are the start of a project aimed at recording the entire Canon with the same actors as Holmes and Watson. More information is available at <www.jimfrenchproductions.com>.

"Stop, You're Killing Me!" <www.stopyourekilllingme.com> is an interesting web-site maintained by Lucinda Surber and Stan Ulrich, with lists of authors (4,700) and their books (more than 54,000 titles) and their characters, with indexes and other neat features; it's well worth exploring.



"It's kindergarten, my dear," is the attractive sample artwork from BABY SHERLOCK: THE CRUMBS OF BASKERVILLE, a children's book by S. Mickey Lin with artwork by Elle Shengxuan Shi; Alexander Orlov discovered a Kickstarter campaign at <www.tinyurl.com/q2h88yb>

Gordon R. Shriver's BORIS KARLOFF: THE MAN REMEMBERED (Baltimore: Publish-America, 2004; 208 pp., \$23.00 postpaid) is a fine biography of the actor, and includes information about his appearance as Mr. Mycroft in "The Sting of Death" (1955) and his many other roles on stage, screen, radio, television, and records. Gordon still has a few copies for sale, and you can order direct from him <sgord57@aol.com>, and pay by check or PayPal.

Leslie S. Klinger has edited the anthology IN THE SHADOW OF EDGAR ALLAN POE (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2015; 320 pp., \$24.95), presenting twenty classic stories of horror and terror published from 1816 to 1914; there's an interesting introduction, with the authors ranging from the famous to the almost forgotten, and Conan Doyle is represented by "The Leather Funnel".

N. Quentin Woolf presides over the interesting podcast "Londonist Out Loud" <www.londonist.com/podcasts/londonist-out-loud-sherlock-squared>; on Oct. 3 he posted a 46-minute interview with Bonnie MacBird, author of the pastiche ART IN THE BLOOD (Jun 15 #5).

"Seeing Is Believing" is an exhibition of early 20th-century spirit photographs at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Mich., through Jan. 17; the exhibition features of photographs from the collection of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, on loan from the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas in Austin <www.tinyurl.com/q8jc9hu>.

Reported: the new Crime Scene Magazine is advertised as "the ultimate guide to crime drama!"; it's a quarterly, published in Britain, and it has a page at Facebook <www.tinyurl.com/oxaf4yj> with a link to a detailed review at the GamesRadar web-site.

The modern Strand Magazine is an interesting successor to the original, and has occasional Sherlockian content; it's published quarterly, and managing editor Andrew Gulli has a knack for finding previously unpublished stories. The July-Oct. issue has that sort of intriguing story, by F. Scott Fitzgerald, plus a pastiche by Larry Millett ("The Opera Thief"). Subscriptions cost \$24.95 a year at their web-site <www.strandmag.com>.

Nov 15 #3 Further to the report (May 15 #3) about Marcel Jaurant Singer, the last living member of the Baker Street Irregulars (the Special Operations Executive, which had its headquarters in Baker Street during World War Two (and was sometimes called the "Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare"), Susan Elia MacNeal is writing an on-going series of mystery novels featuring Maggie Hope, a member of the SOE. The latest (fifth) title in the series is MRS. ROOSEVELT'S CONFIDANTE, just out from Bantam.

The L.A. Theatre Works recording of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) with Seamus Dever as Holmes and Geoffrey Arend as Watson (Sep 14 #8) has won an Audie Award (best audio drama) from the Audio Publishers Association. The two-CD set is available at <www.latw.org/radio.html>.

Maureen O'Hara died on Oct. 24. She started her acting career on stage in Ireland, and became a movie star at the age of 19, as Esmeralda in Charles Laughton's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" (1939). She acted in many other fine films, and the one with a tenuous Sherlockian connection is "The Quiet Man" (1952): the morning after Mary Kate Danaher's marriage to Sean Thornton the newlyweds are serenaded by the locals singing "Mush, Mush" (the music's now used by Sherlockians when singing "We Never Mention Aunt Clara").

Just in time for Christmas: a Sherlock Holmes Meerkat (10 in. high) from Acorn (#19742) (\$69.95) <www.tinyurl.com/q2aoq2f>; there's also a Hercule Poirot Meerkat (same item number and price).



Karen Murdock discovered a locksmith using the company name Surelock Homes <www.surelockathome.com>; there is no Sherlockian artwork at the web-site, nor any mention of Conan Doyle, but the company's is conveniently located in Portsmouth in the U.K.

Jim Clark has used modern technology to create a fascinating virtual movie of Basil Rathbone reciting Vincent Starrett's classic sonnet "221B"; it's available at <www.youtube.com/watch?V=12iCXXzKQSU>.

You can now register for "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the title of the next conference in Minneapolis, June 17-19, 2016, sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries); details, including a registration form, are available at <www.tinyurl.com/nuzvg3w>.

Kate Tracy reports a 1-minute video teaser for "S-her-lock: the Web Series" at <www.vimeo.com/142970359>, with a link to a screening of the first two episodes in Portland, Maine, on Nov. 13.

David Jaher's THE WITCH OF LIME STREET: SÉANCE, SEDUCTION, AND HOUDINI IN THE SPIRIT WORLD (New York: Crown, 2015; 436 pp., \$28.00) is the carefully-researched and detailed history of Mina Crandon, whose performances as the medium Margery provided a real test of the Scientific American challenge in the 1920s; Houdini was one of her most energetic and fervent opponents, and Conan Doyle one of her principal advocates in the 1920s, and the book is a well-written account of their histories, and their battle over whether her powers were real or fraudulent.

Nov 15 #4 The Surgeon's Hall Museums of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh have reopened after a £4 million renovation, and publicity for the event included mention of an exhibit related to Dr. Joseph Bell. The college was an active bidder at Christie's when the Conan Doyle family papers went to auction in 2004, buying three lots, one of which included a poem that Conan Doyle wrote about the college.



The "Caganer" (translated from Catalan, that's the merry fertilizer, or another phrase that might not get through obscenity filters) has been featured in Christmas crèches in Catalonia at least since the 18th century, enriching the soil and bringing good health and calm to the body and soul. Joan Proubasta, in 1996, commissioned a Sherlock Holmes Caganer and sent it to his friends, and now there's a commercial version, in two variants <www.tinyurl.com/ntkuvh3>. The Amics del Caganer <www.amicsdelcaganer.com> has an interesting web-site (Google Translate will be of great assistance to those who are less than fluent in Catalan), and of course there is a Wikipedia entry for the Caganer. Joan reports that there will be a Caganer fair in December, with more than 200 celebrities displayed and sold.

There's a new edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, from Universe and Andrew McMeel (366 pp., \$14.99); the reason why there are 366 pages is that it's also a day-by-day calendar for 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/nzgczb>.

A new "Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition" of SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE NOVELS (New York: Penguin Books, 2015; 571 pp., \$25.00) has an insightful introduction by Michael Dirda, and jacket artwork by Adam Simpson that's imaginative and attractive.

Jens Byskov Jensen provides vocals and fiddle for his country and western swing show band "Doctor Django and His Nurses" now performing in Denmark, surely a new musical genre for a member of The Baker Street Irregulars; his web-site is at <www.byskovjensen.com>, and you can listen to his music at YouTube <www.youtube.com/user/byskovjensen>.

The Jersey Devil Press, an on-line magazine, has issued a call for submissions for a January issue devoted to Sherlock Holmes; their deadline is Dec. 31 <www.jerseydevilpress.com/?p=6911>.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE GRINNING CAT, by Joseph W. Svec III (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 410 pp., \$9.95), brings Holmes and Watson into the world of Wonderland, where they find H. G. Wells' time machine and some Carrollian logic puzzles as well as many of the characters Alice encountered there. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Greg Kramer's "Sherlock Holmes" (which had its world premiere in Montréal in May 2013) has toured to Los Angeles, Toronto, Washington, and Chicago, starring David Arquette and James Maslow as Holmes and Watson. The play's an amusing mix, with scenes taken from the Canon, broad comedy, a new mystery, and imaginative staging. There's an interesting web-site (with some nice links) at <www.sherlockholmesonstage.com>, and the playbill's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/pwyp27t>.

Nov 15 #5 Who's your favorite fictional hero or heroine?" was the question in a "By the Book" interview in the N.Y. Times Sunday Book Review (Nov. 8). "Sherlock Holmes," was Nathan Lane's answer. "Talk about an enduring creation. Brilliant, flawed, and lonely. And it made Benedict Cumberbatch a star. Hear, hear, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." Kindly reported by Ray Betzner; the complete interview is at <www.tinyurl.com/nrdm2q8>.

Reported: Richard Tomlinson's AMAZING GRACE: THE MAN WHO WAS W.G. (London: Little, Brown, 2015; 432 pp., £25.00); a biography of the famous cricketer who once played against Conan Doyle.

Collider (a web-site for entertainment news) had an interview with Charlie Hunnam (who stars in "Crimson Peak") about the film and Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/qxkvnu7>. Hunnam is now at work starring as Col. Percy H. Fawcett in "The Lost City of Z" (Feb 15 #4).

The team that maintains a non-profit and unofficial fan-site for the television series "Elementary" has announced that they will shut down the web-site in December take a look before it vanishes <www.thedeductionist.net>.

There's nice news for people who have enjoyed the delightful three-man version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that was dramatized by John Nicholson and Steven Canny for Peepolykus (2007) and has had many productions in the U.K., the U.S., and other countries: their new play "The Massive Tragedy of Madame Bovary" will open in Liverpool on Feb. 5. "Marvel at how many parts a Spanish man with limited English can play with only one moustache," they promise, adding that "there will be vermin, visual absurdity, wild animals, and a nun." <www.peepolykus.com>.



Mikel Jaso's artwork (titled "Ceci n'est pas Sherlock Holmes") accompanied a review of Sherlockian books in the Sunday Book Review of the N.Y. Times <www.tinyurl.com/p92pwgc>; it's a delightful artistic homage to René Magritte's iconic surrealist painting "La trahison des images".

Noted: Stephen Bates' THE POISONER: THE LIFE AND CRIMES OF ENGLAND'S MOST NOTORIOUS POISONER (London: Duckworth, 2014; 320 pp., £16.99) is a detailed account of the nefarious activities of the infamous William Palmer; "Palmer and Pritchard were among the heads of their profession," according to Sherlock Holmes (in "The Speckled Band").

Keith Michell died on Nov. 20. Best-known for his portrayals of King Henry VIII on stage, screen, and television, Michell had a long career as an actor, including his appearance as Sherlock Holmes in "The Crucifer of Blood" in London in 1979.

Rachel and Rebecca Oshlag are professional story-tellers, and they perform as "Stories Galorious"; they will be presenting "An Evening at Baker Street: The Adventure of the Speckled Band" for the Sherlockian society Rochester Row on Dec. 7 in Rochester, N.Y., and on Dec. 21 in Greece, N.Y., and Feb. 15 in Williamsville, N.Y. They're also doing "Holmes for the Holidays: The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" on Dec. 10 in Gorham, N.Y., and their web-site's at <www.storiesgalorious.com>.

Nov 15 #6 There seem to be fewer and fewer Sherlockians who share Sherlock Holmes' penchant for smoking, but one company, at least, still sells appropriate Sherlockian pipe tobacco: "Black Shag", "Honeydew", and "Arcadia" all are available in McClelland's "221B Series" in a catalog from Pipe and Cigars (800-494-9144) <www.pipesandcigars.com>.

And on stage: Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" is on at the Dudley Experimental Theatre in Duluth, Minn., through Dec. 5 <www.sfa.d.umn.edu>.

John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is being presented by the Forte Theatre Society at the Burnaby Village Museum in Burnaby, B.C., through Dec. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/ohuguw4>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is running at the Stage Coach Theatre in Boise, Idaho, through Dec. 19 <www.stagecoachtheatre.com> and the West Valley Playhouse in Canoga Park, Calif., through Dec. 29 <www.wvplayhouse.com>. And it's due at the Rogers City Community Theatre in Roger City, Mich., from Jan. 29 to Feb. 7 <www.rcctheatre.org>.

Michael Menendian and John Weagley's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" will be performed at the Raven Theatre in Chicago, Dec. 9-Jan. 3 <www.raventheatre.com>.

Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Conejo Players Theatre in Thousand Oaks, Calif., on Jan. 8-30 <www.conejoplayers.org>.

"The Man Who Murdered Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Mercury Theater in Chicago Jan. 20-Mar. 20 <www.mercurytheaterchicago.com>. The new musical is by John Reeger (book) and Julie Shannon and Michael Mahler (lyrics and music).

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed on tour by the Royal Manitoba Theatre in Manitoba province, Jan. 25 to Feb. 26 <www.royalmtc.ca>. Also at the Portland Stage in Portland, Maine, Jan. 26-Feb. 21 <www.portlandstage.org>, and at the Northern Stage in White River Junction, Vt., from Feb 24 to Mar. 12 <www.northernstage.org>.

The Sugar Creek Players have scheduled Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" at the Vanity Theater in Crawfordsville, Ind., Feb. 12-21, 2016 <www.sugarcreekplayers.org>.

C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Doom of Devilsmoor" is upcoming at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Feb. 26-Mar. 26 <www.theatresuburbia.org>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by Althos Low) will be presented by the Idle Muse Theatre Company at the EDGE Theatre in Chicago, Mar. 3-Apr. 3, 2016 <www.idlemuse.org>.

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Dec 15 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Scott Monty's "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.ihose.co/bsi2016tips>, offers a "series of tips for the veteran attendees and the newbies alike" that include ride-hailing apps such as Uber, Lyft, and Via (with codes for freebies and credits). Scott aptly suggests that "whether you're making the trip for the first or twenty-first time, you know that the Weekend provides the same level of excitement, anticipation, and giddiness as Christmas morning does for a child."

There's more than one edition of SHERLOCK HOLMES: CATALOGUE OF AN EXHIBITION HELD AT ABBEY HOUSE, BAKER STREET, LONDON, MAY-SEPTEMBER 1951; starting with the first edition (59 numbered pages); the second edition (60 numbered pages) also has a limited edition with 50 numbered copies, and I hope any fortunate owners of numbered copies will let me know (including whether there are inscriptions or signatures).

It's grand when Sherlockian societies have archives, and even grander when there's a good editor to put together a history. That's what Christopher Music has done, and done well, for The Amateur Mendicants of Detroit: FROM THE LOWER VAULT (2015; 183 pp., \$25.00 postpaid), covers the early years of the society, from 1946 to 1964, and it's great fun to see what Sherlockians did in those distant years. Checks (payable to Amateur Mendicants Society) can be sent to Chris at 6717 Snow Apple Drive, Clarkston, MI 48346.

Nicholas Smith died on Dec. 6. Best known as Mr. Rumbold on the long running BBC television series "Are You Being Served?", he also played Hunkston, the landlord, in the film "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), and Milverton in the Middle Ground Theatre Company's 1997 revival of Ernest Dudley's play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes".

Plan well ahead: Denny Dobry has for many years welcomed those who want to visit his splendid recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street in his home in Reading, Pa. <www.facebook.com/221binReading>, and he is holding an open house on Apr. 9, 2016, from 1:00 to 6:00 pm; one of the nicest things about his sitting-room is that it's hands-on, and full of interesting artifacts. You can contact him to RSVP for the event (and to ask for directions <dendobry@ptd.net>).

The animated movie "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes" was first reported as a work-in-progress a few years ago (Mar 12 #6 and Sep 12 #2), with Gnomeo and Juliet enlisting the help of Sherlock Gnomes, the world's greatest ornamental detective, to investigate why gnomes are vanishing from England's suburban gardens. It's still a work-in-progress, but Johnny Depp has been announced as the voice of Sherlock Gnomes, and the film's scheduled for release on Jan. 12, 2018.

Sherlock Holmes' granduncle, Horace Vernet, was a photographer as well as an artist; he visited Egypt with his nephew Frédéric Goupil-Fesquet, and in 1838 they exposed a daguerrotype that was the first photograph ever taken on the African continent. Leslie Katz reports that the photograph is reprinted in Jeff Koehler's article "Capturing the Light of the Nile" in the Nov.-Dec. issue of AramcoWorld <www.tinyurl.com/pac3v8x>.

Dec 15 #2 Further to the item about Eugene T. (Sherlock) Holmes, candidate for mayor in Kings Mountain, N.C. (Oct 15 #2), it was not a surprise to locals when he came in last, with three votes. He also was arrested at a polling site the morning of the election and charged with obstruction of justice, communicating threats, and resisting arrest, after he shouted obscene statements and refused to leave.

BBC One had an amusing trailer for Christmas 2015: "Sprout Boy Meets a Galaxy of Stars" (with a fleeting glimpse of Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman); you can see it at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnoxGr_sTz4>.

At long last, after all these years, there's a Sherlockian cross-over collectible from the world of Star Wars. Well, it's Doylean rather than Sherlockian, but no matter: Randall Stock spotted on eBay a press kit for "Star Wars" (1977) that includes a press release that begins with an almost-correct quote of Conan Doyle epigraph poem from THE LOST WORLD. The press kit attracted 43 bids, and sold for \$414.00.

And in case you don't remember Conan Doyle's delightful poem, he wrote: "I have wrought my simple plan/If I give one hour of joy/To the boy who's half a man/Or the man who's half a boy."

Actually, there is another connection between "Star Wars" and the world of Sherlock Holmes. Clive Revill, who provided the voice for the villainous Emperor in "The Empire Strikes Back" (1980), also appeared in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) as Nikolai Rogozhin, the director-general of the Imperial Russian Ballet.

There is no shortage of giant rats in southeast Asia: archaeologists with the Australian National University have discovered fossils of seven species of giant rat on East Timor, with the largest weighing about five kilos, the size of a small dog (a large modern rat would weigh about half a kilo); a press release will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/oq8na6o>.

Anthony Valentine died on Dec. 2. He began his acting career on screen in 1949 and was best known as Luftwaffe officer Max Mohn in the BBC-2 series "Colditz" (1974) and as A. J. Raffles in Yorkshire Television's "Raffles" (1975-1977); he also was seen as Baron Gruner in Granada's "The Illustrious Client" (1991), and narrated "Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" (1995) for A&E cable's "Biography" series.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Dempsey's Brew Pub & Restaurant in Baltimore on Nov. 4, welcomed by members of the local Sherlockian societies. Our next dinners will be on June 22, 2016, in Calgary, and Sept. 28 in Denver.

Book collectors do like dust jackets, especially if they are colorful and artistic, and you can see how attractive they can be with a set of Mysterious Classics Cards showing more than sixty high spots, available (\$14.95) from The Mysterious Bookshop <www.tinyurl.com/nenaou9>; the titles include A. A. Milne's THE RED HOUSE MYSTERY (in which two of the characters assume the roles of Holmes and Watson).

Dec 15 #3 According to Philip José Farmer, the Wold Newton family originated when a radioactive meteor landed in Wold Newton, England, in the year 1795; the radiation caused a genetic mutation in those who were present, which endowed many of their descendants with extremely high intelligence and strength, and an exceptional capacity and drive to perform good (or evil) deeds. The family includes Sherlock Holmes, Tarzan, and a host of other fictional characters (and it still is growing, thanks to what is called the "Crossover Universe"). The Crossover Universe is now so large, in fact, that it has been described in great detail by Win Scott Eckert in the two-volume CROSSOVERS: A SECRET CHRONOLOGY OF THE WORLD (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2010; 460+480 pp., \$30.95 each), where you'll find a lot about Holmes, Watson, Moriarty, Sir Nigel Loring, Professor George Edward Challenger, and other characters from the Conan Doyle book's and stories (and of course from many pastiches and parodies). You can read more about Eckert's work at <www.blackcoatpress.com/crossovers.htm>.

Steven Spielberg has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom; he was the executive producer for the film "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), and there's more information about the ceremony, and the medal, at Greg Ruby's web-site for The Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/zdnc7vu>.

Carter Burwell is not well known to the general public, but he's a prolific composer for films <www.tinyurl.com/p29mlmw> and has written scores for six Bill Condon films, among them Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes"; the soundtrack for that film is available on CD and as a download at Amazon and elsewhere. And Karen Murdock reports an interesting interview with Burwell in the Los Angeles Times (Dec. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/heumf3x>.

Marjorie Lord died on Nov. 28. She began acting on stage in 1935, and in films in 1937, and was most successful on the long-running television series "The Danny Thomas Show"; she also played Nancy Partridge in "Sherlock Holmes in Washington" (1943).

The Portsmouth City Council has unveiled a new proposal to create a "world-class Sherlock Holmes visitor attraction" in the city, with the cost estimated at £7 million, but noted that there's no funding for the project. A similar plan was publicized last year (Feb 14 #8), with an estimated cost of £25 million, but the city was unable to find a financial backer.

Jon Lellenberg has reactivated his archival-history blog, and has started posting what he calls "Edgar W. Smith: Prolegomena to Any Future Biography" as a serial, a few thousand words at a time from what he calls a work-in-progress <www.tinyurl.com/owbwq62>.

Michael Hardwick's PRISONER OF THE DEVIL (1979) was approved by Dame Jean Conan Doyle and well received, and it is nice news indeed that after many years out-of-print the novel has a new edition, by Michael Hardwick, with Simon Haugh (New York: Meantime Books, 2016; 414 pp., \$15.95). Mike Brecher, editor of the first edition, explains in his introduction that it was Simon Haugh who provided the concept and plot of the pastiche, with Michael Hardwick contributing both his Sherlockian sensibilities and his knowledge of Conan Doyle's style. The new edition includes an alternative ending to the novel, discovered by Simon Haugh in his files on the project.

Dec 15 #4 THE ELEMENTARY SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: Portico, 2014; 160 pp., \$16.95) is, according to the publisher (Pavilion Books), based on THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ENCYCLOPEDIA, but they don't say which one (it most likely is Matthew Bunson's); there's lots of artwork, and pages of "things you didn't know about literature's greatest detective."

Adam Zanzie has completed his 31-minute dramatization of Conan Doyle's "The Parasite" (Apr 15 #5), and it's an impressive production. You can watch a trailer, and download the video (\$4.99) at <www.theparasite.vhx.tv>.

There's an addition to the list of actors who have played Sherlock Holmes: many American actors have appeared in television commercials in other countries, and one of them is Kirk Douglas, in a Japanese 30-second commercial for Maxim instant coffee <www.tinyurl.com/opszb5m>, discovered by Jennie C. Paton.

I recall seeing a faked Time magazine cover with Sherlock Holmes as the Man of the Year, but can't remember the name of the artist, or where or when it appeared; I'd love to hear from anyone who has a better memory than I do.

Reported by Bev Wolov: Ingrid Mida and Alexandra Kim's THE DRESS DETECTIVE (London: Bloomsbury, 2015; 224 pp., £75.00) is subtitled "a practical guide to object-based research in fashion," and opens with two pages devoted to an excerpt from "The Blue Carbuncle" (noting that "unlocking the personal and cultural narratives hidden in the folds of a garment is a little bit like being Sherlock Holmes").

Ryan Britt's "17 Hilarious Honest Definitions of Sci-Fi and Fantasy Terms" appeared on BuzzFeed on Dec. 9, Samantha Wolov reports, and one of the 17 was Sherlock Holmes; you'll find them all at <www.tinyurl.com/qd45hhj>.

The Baker Street Irregulars Trust continues to expand its holdings, and its web-site <www.bsitrust.org>, where there's much of interest, including current and past issues of its newsletter "For the Sake of the Trust" (click on [News]), reports on its annual dinners (click on [Images]), and links to some of its oral history (click on [Recordings]).

Kate Karlson reports that Mrs. Hudson, a three-year-old filly by Dark Bay out of Street Cry, made her second lifetime win at Aqueduct on Dec. 10 in a \$67,000 allowance race at six furlongs, and paid \$4.50 to win.

Basil of Baker Street and his friend Major Dawson still have fans: studio-used maquettes prepared for animators were sold at Heritage Auctions this month for \$2,031.50 and \$1,195.00 <www.tinyurl.com/h9h4hen>.

The auction at Swann Galleries on Nov. 10 had some interesting Sherlockian and Doylean items (#92-113); the most interesting, perhaps, was a copy of the first American edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES in Tabard Inn library binding with dust jacket (estimated at \$4,000-6,000), which brought \$8,125 (including the buyer's premium). A copy of the Once a Week Library pirated edition of THE SIGN OF FOUR (the first separate American edition) was estimated at \$7,000-10,000 and sold for \$8,125 (including the premium) <www.tinyurl.com/p2c965u>.

Dec 15 #5 Fyodor Pavlov's interesting artwork, reported by Carla Coupe, has appeared on the cover of the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine, and his Sherlockian images are available as greeting cards and stickers, and as original art; go to <www.fyodorpavlov.com> and click on [Shop]. Warning: some of his other artwork may not be for the faint of heart.

Patricia Guy's interview with Umberto Eco appeared in the Oct. 26 issue of Publishers Weekly, and of course included an amusing discussion of his THE NAME OF THE ROSE <www.bit.ly/1HiqndI>.

"AUNT CLARA" CLARIFIED is a delightful 19-page booklet published by William Hyder "unearthing the original tune of "We Never Mention Aunt Clara" in the year of its 80th anniversary" and available to musical Sherlockians on request from Bill <shawgas29@gmail.com>, who has contributed new insights on the music of what has become a Sherlockian anthem.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE PLATED SPOON AND OTHER TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Loren Estleman (Blue Ash: Tyrus Books, 2014; 272 pp., \$26.99), offers an interesting mix of a dozen reprints and new stories (including one of his own).

Greg Ruby has noted Red Scharlach's artwork <www.tinyurl.com/o2hlqvw> for a new British £10 note; the Bank of England has announced that Jane Austen will appear on the £10 note in 2017, but Red suggests that they switch to Cumberquids.

The N.Y. Times reported (Nov. 1) that the St. Regis in New York offers its guests a Kindle that's encased in a custom-made Thornwillow Press leather-bound cover, with digital versions of 58 titles from the original collection of its founder John Jacob Astor IV; one of them is THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.

Andrew "Sherlock" Holmes died on Oct. 18, in Nortonville, Ky., at the age of 86. It's possible that more and more people named Holmes are proud to have the nickname, but it's also possible that it's only that the Internet makes it easier to hear about them.

The fall issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has a Napoleonic theme, honoring the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo; copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

The 2014 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Library by Lyndsay Faye (on "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Storytelling and the Passion of the Narrator"), and her paper has been published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now. Their web-site <www.acdfriends.org> has PayPal and credit-card capability, or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above); the minimum donation of \$25.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2015 Memorial Lecture (by Clifford Goldfarb on "Arthur Conan Doyle's Waterloo"). The 2016 Memorial Lecture will be given by Russell Merritt (on the William Gillette film) on May 28.

Dec 15 #6 "Epic Rap Battles of History" is a continuing series of short videos you can view at YouTube; there was "Batman vs. Sherlock Holmes" (Dec 12 #2), and Jennie Paton reports there now is "Sherlock Hound vs. Montana Jones" <www.tinyurl.com/oxmhewc>. "Montana Jones" was another Japanese/Italian animated series (with big cats rather than the dogs that were featured in "Sherlock Hound").

"9 Auction Oddities--The Craziest Prices for the Loopiest Lots Ever to Go Under the Hammer" was the headline on a story in The Mirror (Oct. 27); one of the lots was an envelope kept by Lady Jean Conan Doyle labeled "My beloved's moustache hairs" that was sold at an auction in 2007 for £156. The Mirror noted that "the buyer was bristly about being identified..."

Ray Betzner has reported on a "Review Contest" on the N.Y. Times blog "The Learning Network": in October teenagers were challenged "to go out and experience works of culture that were new to them, and then write about it." More than 1,600 students responded, and one of the winners was 14-year-old Maya J. Sekhar, who reviewed the BBC's "Sherlock" series. Details on the contest, and her winning entry, will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/h7pew42>.

Don Marquis, perhaps most famous today for creating "archy and mehitabel", was a multi-talented newspaper columnist, poet, playwright, and novelist, as well a good friend of and collaborator with Christopher Morley. There is an interesting and amusing web-site <www.donmarquis.com> presided over by Jim Ennis and John Batteiger and devoted to Marquis and his "tall tales and light verse," and there are plans afoot for an archyFest next year to celebrate archy's 100th birthday on Mar. 29.

Robert Adey died on Jan. 4. He was a devoted scholar in the field of mysteries, compiling the landmark bibliography LOCKED ROOM MURDERS AND OTHER IMPOSSIBLE CRIMES (1991) and edited many fine anthologies, including AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN: A COLLECTION OF SHERLOCKIAN PARODIES FROM UNLIKELY SOURCES (Dec 99 #6) based on his research in humor magazine from the 1890s onwards.

And there's theater, starting with "Sherlock Holmes et le chiens des Bas-kerville" (the francophone premiere of the parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) running at the Théâtre Denise-Pelletier in Montréal through Jan. 18 <www.denise-pelletier.qc.ca>.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Springs Ensemble Theater in Colorado Springs, Colo., Jan. 21-Feb. 7 <www.springsensembletheater.org>.

"The Secret Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (by Alex H. Coy and Andrew Moritz) is first episode of a monthly series scheduled at the Overtime Theater in San Antonio, Tex., Jan. 29-30 <www.tinyurl.com/grwx44z>.

The Elkhart Civic Theater is presenting "The Baker Street Irregulars" (by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) at the Bristol Opera House in Bristol, Ind., Feb. 5-7 <www.elkhartcivictheater.org>.

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