

Dec 17 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

There's still time to plan for (at least some of) the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York, but: alas, the reception at the Yale Club on Saturday is sold out, so: no additional reservations are available, by mail or e-mail or at the door. Go to [www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html) for information on other events. Scott Monty has an excellent web-site at [www.bsiweekend.com](http://www.bsiweekend.com), and weekend tips at [www.ihose.co/bsi2017tips](http://www.ihose.co/bsi2017tips).

Congratulations to Helen Dorey, who was included in the Queen's New Year's honours list; Helen was appointed MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for her services to national heritage, and will receive her award at Buckingham Palace on Feb. 8.

The conference of The Reichenbach Irregulars ("Reichenbach and Beyond: The Final Problem Revisited") held in Switzerland last year was followed by an excursion to Florence (since that's where Holmes traveled after the battle at the Reichenbach), and you can read colorful accounts of what went on at [www.221b.ch/Past\\_Events\\_Beyond\\_e.html](http://www.221b.ch/Past_Events_Beyond_e.html). And there will be another chance to enjoy a Sherlockian visit to Switzerland: another conference is planned for spring/early summer 2019 in the Bernese Oberland, celebrating the society's 30th anniversary, followed by an excursion to the Splügen Pass (where Baron von Gruner murdered his wife).

The Sherlock Holmes Collection of Daniel Posnansky went to auction on Dec. 19 at Profiles in History, and the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog has a delightful podcast by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder about Dan and his collection [www.tinyurl.com/yba35wfs](http://www.tinyurl.com/yba35wfs). The fully-illustrated auction catalog is available on-line at [www.tinyurl.com/y9gtlru3](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9gtlru3). There were some real treasures, as well as some great bargains, at the auction, and Sherlockian collectors bidding on the floor and by phone and Internet.

For the Sake of the Trust: Denny Dobry is continuing to sell Sherlockiana at eBay for the benefit of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust (his seller ID is wiggins221b); starting on Dec. 31 he will be offering a complete set (42 titles) of the late John Ruyle's hand-printed (and amusing) Sherlock Loams parodies.

CBS has not announced a date for the start of the sixth season of "Elementary" (likely early next year), but the network has commissioned eight more episodes, bringing the count to 21 (previous seasons had 24 episodes). According to the Hollywood Reporter [www.tinyurl.com/ycpl43eq](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycpl43eq), "Elementary" is CBS' lowest-performing returning scripted series, averaging a 1.2 rating among adults 18-49, and 7.7 million viewers last season; lucrative syndication and international appeal have kept the series in production.

The Stepping Stones School has issued "An Invitation to Undershaw" for anyone who wants to attend their celebration of Arthur Conan Doyle, whose former home now is part of the school. "Enjoy a tour of Undershaw," they suggest, "visit our exhibition at the local museum, enjoy a round of golf on the course he played, hear from experts about his life, retrace his local walks, and enjoy a performance of 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'." Their web-site's at [www.tinyurl.com/ya2h67zb](http://www.tinyurl.com/ya2h67zb); details will be available soon.

Dec 17 #2 An interesting Conan Doyle letter went to auction on Dec. 8, at Lawrences Auctioneers in Britain <[www.tinyurl.com/yc9xvnsx](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc9xvnsx)>; it is well worth your attention: written to Miss Ruby Paulson in 1893, it offers a splendid demonstration of his sense of humor, as well as a hint at what the readers of The Strand Magazine would discover in the December issue. Estimated at £700-£900, the letter sold for £7,400 (not including the buyer's premium and value-added tax); you can read Scott Monty's discussion of the letter at <[www.tinyurl.com/ycbzl9c](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycbzl9c)>.

One of the added features on the Blu-ray version of "The Lost World" (1925) is images of the sheet music that accompanied the film (with words by Harry B. Smith and music by Rudolf Friml); Flicker Alley kindly has made images available <[www.tinyurl.com/y9ha79mt](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9ha79mt)>, and happily will sell you the Blu-ray for \$34.95 <[www.tinyurl.com/ycy4wd5s](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycy4wd5s)>.

Robert A. Moss ("The Case of Fairdale Hobbs") died on Nov. 27. Bob was a professor of chemistry at Rutgers University, and wrote several books and more than 400 scientific articles, including a discussion of Holmes' knowledge of chemistry. He also was a member of The Scandalous Bohemians and The Red-Headed League of Jersey, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1980.

Howard Ostrom reports an imaginative and attractive "interactive annotated" Russian edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES from Labyrinth; there is a nice video about the book at <[www.tinyurl.com/y8uhzyzb](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8uhzyzb)>.

"The most beautiful diamond in the world" was sold at auction at Christie's in November (Oct 17 #3), for CHF 33,500,000 (including the buyer's premium) [that's about \$34,194,141]; not bad for a 163.41-carat diamond. The "Grand Mazarin" light-pink 19.07-carat brilliant-cut diamond sold for a mere CHF 14,375,000 [that's about \$14,671,362].

Daedalus Books offers serious discounts, such as the miniature replica of HOW WATSON LEARNED THE TRICK (Sep 14 #3), published at \$25.00 and now discounted to \$3.98 <[www.tinyurl.com/ycroq3sf](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycroq3sf)>; the story was handwritten by Conan Doyle in 1922 in the miniature book now found in the Queen's Dolls' House Library at Windsor Castle.

Reported: Hans Zimmer has a new album "Live in Prague" (available in DVD/Blu-ray/2CD/4LP formats) recorded during this year's world-wide tour with a band, orchestra, and choir; there are 15 tracks from his film scores, one of them "Discombobulate" from "Sherlock Holmes" (the 2009 Robert Downey Jr. film).

"Asian-American Actresses Describe Struggle of Constantly Being Typecast as Sherlock Holmes" is the title of an amusing video spotted by Jennie Paton; it was posted by The Onion to YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/y854f79n](http://www.tinyurl.com/y854f79n)>.

The Crew of the Barque Lone Star, in Dallas, is preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary, and members of the society have created A GRIMM HOLMES, an anthology of imaginative fairy-tale pastiches; it's a 265-page e-book, nicely available without charge at <[www.tinyurl.com/y9oqdroc](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9oqdroc)>, offering 11 pastiches and the fairy tales on which they're based.

Dec 17 #3 Donald B. Izban's SELECTED RHYMING CANONICAL TOASTS presents a nice tour of the alphabet, with 49 poetic toasts, all inspired by the Canon or by eminent Sherlockians. The 81-page book was illustrated by Edward Letwekno and published this year by George A. Vanderburgh; \$16.00 postpaid, and you can ask George <gav@markdalecable.com> for information on how you can order and pay for it.



Tania Henzell has designed a new Sherlock Holmes Tartan that's available in a wide variety of clothing and other merchandise from Tattimole in Edinburgh <www.tinyurl.com/ybu9xx9c>. She's the step-great-great-granddaughter of Arthur Conan Doyle (and the great-granddaughter of Dame Jean's husband Lord Geoffrey Bromet).

The October/November issue of the electronic journal Ripperologist offers detailed reviews of Sinclair McKay's THE MILE END MURDER: THE CASE THAT CONAN DOYLE COULDN'T SOLVE and Christopher Sandford's THE MAN WHO WOULD BE SHERLOCK: THE REAL LIFE ADVENTURES OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, and much more about Jack the Ripper; you should contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> for information on how you can subscribe.

Barry Hapner ("Inspector Forrester") died on Nov. 13. He was an educator, and for a time owned and operated a pipe shop in St. Louis, where he sponsored pipe-smoking contests with Sherlockian themes. Barry was a member of The Noble Bachelors, and a founding member of The Jefferson Hopes, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.

Jack Goldstein and Jimmy Russell's 101 AMAZING FACTS ABOUT SHERLOCK HOLMES (Andrew UK, 2013) is available as a Kindle e-book, and as an audiobook, at Amazon and elsewhere. And Jack Goldstein and Isabella Reese's 101 AMAZING FACTS ABOUT ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (2014), available as a Kindle e-book. Both from Andrews UK, and while they may not be of real interest for knowledgeable fans, they could be fun for beginners. Amazon's "look inside" feature gives you a chance to sample these and many other books.

Marisa Babjak's "Femmes Fatales" <www.femmesfatalesgifts.com> offers a wide variety of mystery-related merchandise; use the Search button at upper left to find Sherlockiana, and you can get a 20% discount if you mention the magic word [scuttlebutt].

Collectors of Sherlockian games may have "Cluedo? The Great Detective Game" (1949), which had a caricature of Holmes and a bloodhound on the cover but was otherwise non-Sherlockian. There's now a new edition of the board game tied to the BBC's "Sherlock" series, available in the U.S. and the U.K. (at about \$50.00 and up), and there appear to be two variants, with or without the "U" on the cover in red.

Robert Serman, the president of the Haslemere Society, has retired after 21 years of service to the society; founded as the Haslemere Commons and Footpath Preservation Society in 1884, the society's present goal is to "protect and enhance" the town, and it was involved in the campaign to restore Undershaw as the Stepping Stones School.

Dec 17 #4 John Nieminski's THE HOUNDS OF THE BASKERVILLE (SIC): A HISTORY OF CHICAGO'S SENIOR SHERLOCKIAN SCION SOCIETY 1943-1983 offered a delightful look at what the world of scion societies was like in the early days, and at how much fun the early Sherlockians had. Donald J. Terras has expanded the history and brought it up to date in a second edition; the 130-page book's available (\$40.00 postpaid) from Don (2535 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60201).

There's a Kickstarter campaign to fund "The Death Defying" (a four-episode comic book starring Houdini and Conan Doyle), and you can view a colorful sample at <[www.tinyurl.com/y75glahr](http://www.tinyurl.com/y75glahr)>.

There were, in olden times, all sorts of Sherlockian tobaccos and smoking accessories, for the delight of the many Sherlockians who smoked; there are far fewer Sherlockians who smoke now, but it's likely that there are some who vape, and while it seems to have taken a while, there now is a Sherlock Ohms e-liquid that comes in three flavors (Bohemian Scandal, Yellow Face, and Noble Bachelor) available from a company in England that claims it is "serious about juice" <[www.sherlockohms.biz](http://www.sherlockohms.biz)>. You can find a number of reviews at YouTube, including this one <[www.tinyurl.com/yanfgvtb](http://www.tinyurl.com/yanfgvtb)>.

The modern Strand Magazine is an interesting successor to the original, and has issued a colorful calendar for 2018 <[www.tinyurl.com/y9md42sp](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9md42sp)>. I've seen only one other Sherlockian calendar for 2018: Sherlock (tied in to the BBC series), available at Amazon and elsewhere.

Harold Billings died on Nov. 29. He spent fifty years at the University of Texas' libraries, rising from cataloguer to Director of General Libraries, and was the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award for best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2006, for his article on "The *Materia Medica* of Sherlock Holmes".

Anthony Harvey died on Nov. 23. He was a highly regarded director, winning a Directors Guild of America award for "The Lion in Winter" (1968); he also directed the George C. Scott film "They Might Be Giants" (1971).

A place to stay when you're in or near Highland, Ill.: The Tibbett's House <[www.thetibbettshouse.com](http://www.thetibbettshouse.com)>, the "bed, breakfast, and books" establishment that boasts a 221B Baker Street room; there was an article about the establishment, and its owners, in the RiverBender <[www.tinyurl.com/y76d8g4h](http://www.tinyurl.com/y76d8g4h)> on Dec. 11.

Norman Wilkinson, an artist and a patient of Arthur Conan Doyle when he was in practice in Southsea, was recommended by Conan Doyle to Jerome K. Jerome (the editor of the Idler and To-Day: A Weekly Magazine) and produced illustrations for those magazines and for the Illustrated London News, going on to become a celebrated maritime painter. James Taylor's DAZZLE: DISGUISE AND DISRUPTION IN WAR AND ART (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2016; 128 pp., \$36.00) is the colorfully illustrated story of Wilkinson's invention of a camouflage scheme for ships during World War One that was intended to confuse the submarine officers who needed to know a target's location and course before firing torpedoes; it was an ingenious creation, echoed today in modern art and clothing.

Dec 17 #5 The BBC reported on Dec. 13 <[www.tinyurl.com/yb9vovl8](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb9vovl8)> that the New Forest National Park Authority has rejected a proposal to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (Oct 17 #1). The campaign to protect the hotel cited evidence that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912, and NPA planners said the Conan Doyle link "raised its heritage value." The planners also said that there was "no guarantee the development would help cater for local needs." There is a video at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/y7asjd8z](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7asjd8z)> that shows the sad condition of the hotel earlier this year.

Bob Byrne's web-site at <[www.solarpons.com](http://www.solarpons.com)> offers his "Solar Pons Gazette" and his "Baker Street Essays", and now "The Brownstone of Nero Wolfe" (for fans of Bob's number-one detective), all nicely done.

Reported: discussion of Conan Doyle and the Cottingley Fairy Hoax in Kevin Young's BUNK: THE RISE OF HOAXES, HUMBUG, PLAGIARISTS, PHONIES, POST-FACTS, AND FAKE NEWS (Graywolf, 2017; 560 pp., \$30.00); favorably reviewed by Michael Dirda in the Washington Post <[www.tinyurl.com/y74renq2](http://www.tinyurl.com/y74renq2)>.

Baker Street Burgers has just opened in Rockford, Ill.; the restaurant gets its name from owners Randy and Betsy Baker, and from the address of Sherlock Holmes, and it has a page at Facebook.

Jennie Paton has reported that "Sherlock Gnomes" (due in theaters on Mar. 23) already has action toys available to Burger King; there's a commercial at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/yadshjyf](http://www.tinyurl.com/yadshjyf)>. You can collect Holmes and Watson and four others, and they're also available at eBay.

Reported: Andreas Jacke's MIND GAMES: ÜBER LITERARISCHE, PSYCHOANALYTISCHE UND GENDERTHEORETISCHE SENDEINHALTE BY A. C. DOYLE UND DER BBC-SERIE SHERLOCK (Wiesbaden: Springer, 2017; 228 pp., €24.99. All in German, but there is a video in English in English at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/yavc3jhb](http://www.tinyurl.com/yavc3jhb)>.

It's an old question, asked in this newsletter in 1981: what was the first in-flight movie? The answer, noted by Patrick Robertson (MOVIE FACTS AND FEATS, 1980, p. 219), is "The Lost World"; the film was shown during an Imperial Airways flight from London to the Continent in April 1925. There's much more about the event on the Internet now, needless to say; Alexis Barquin has an excellent entry on "The Lost World Above the World" at The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <[www.tinyurl.com/y7loorlb](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7loorlb)>.

But (as so often is the case) there's more to the story: the first film to be shown in-flight appears to have been "Howdy Chicago!" (screened aloft in 1921 during Chicago's Pageant of Progress); you can read about that at the Smithsonian's Air & Space Magazine web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/y7w4yeev](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7w4yeev)>.

Reported: Juli Berwald's SPINELESS: THE SCIENCE OF JELLYFISH AND THE ART OF GROWING A BACKBONE (New York: Riverhead, 2017; 352 pp., \$27.00); "a thoroughly delightful and entertaining new book," according to Brian Castner's review at WAMU-FM on Nov. 7 <[www.tinyurl.com/yd8dxstc](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd8dxstc)>; you can listen to Ari Shapiro's interview with her at <[www.tinyurl.com/y7835763](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7835763)>. The book has a passing mention of "The Lion's Mane" as perhaps the greatest testimony to the celebrity of jellyfish.

Dec 17 #6    Howard Ostrom has reported that Riga (in Latvia) will hold its seventh annual celebration of the birthday of Sherlock Holmes on Jan. 6, with a new mini-museum that honors the two most popular actors who have played Holmes (Vasiliy Livanov and Benedict Cumberbatch), a costume parade, and many other events. There's a page at Facebook [sherlock holmes birthday riga], a web-site <[www.holmes.lv](http://www.holmes.lv)> (in Latvian, Russian, and English), and a City Council press release <[www.tinyurl.com/y86l7x](http://www.tinyurl.com/y86l7x)> (in Latvian and Russian); Google Translate can be of assistance. It's not surprising that the city honors Sherlock Holmes: Riga's Jauniela Street doubled for Baker Street in the Livanov television series.

There's a persistent (although unconfirmed) story that in 1925, when Conan Doyle traveled to Paris to preside over the International Spiritualist Congress, he also went to Lyon to visit Edmond Locard's forensic laboratory, which included a display of photographs of criminals. Conan Doyle looked at one of them and said "That's Jules, my old chauffeur." And Locard replied that the photograph showed the notorious criminal Jules Bonnot. It is true that Bonnot did work as a chauffeur in London for a few months in 1910, and then returned to France to lead the notorious Bonnot Gang. There is much more about Bonnot in John Merriman's interesting BALLAD OF THE ANARCHIST BANDITS (New York: Nation Books, 2017; 326 pp., \$28.00).

Reported: WATSON & HOLMES: DIARIOS DEL 221B, a Spanish board game designed by Jesús Torres Castro for Ludanova and issued in 2015; there's a video (in Spanish) at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/yakevzbz](http://www.tinyurl.com/yakevzbz)>. There appears to be a version in English (WATSON & HOLMES: FROM THE DIARIES OF 221B) from Asmodee in 2016.

"221b in 360" is the title of the impressive photographic tour of the full-scale recreation of the sitting-room in Chuck Kovacik's home in Los Angeles <[www.221bbakerstreetla.com](http://www.221bbakerstreetla.com)>.

The Hollywood Reporter has noted <[www.tinyurl.com/yaafnosp](http://www.tinyurl.com/yaafnosp)> that HBO Asia, celebrating its 25th anniversary, has partnered with Hulu Japan to produce "Miss Sherlock" (its first Japanese-language drama); it will be an eight-part one-hour series that will air next April, and there's a trailer online at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/y891jd8p](http://www.tinyurl.com/y891jd8p)>.

Out of Print <[www.outofprintclothing.com](http://www.outofprintclothing.com)> offers a wide variety of literary clothing in various genres, including Sherlock Holmes T-shirts and socks.

The China Daily reported (Dec. 19) on Amazon China's ranking of the best-selling books in China this year: the most popular paid e-books on Kindle were THE THREE-BODY trilogy (by science-fiction writer Liu Cixin), MIRACLES OF THE NAMIYA GENERAL STORE (by Keigo Higashina), and THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES <[www.tinyurl.com/y8mdfco9](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8mdfco9)>.

David Marcum's THE PAPERS OF SOLAR PONS (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2017; 249 pp., \$29.95) is a welcome collection of new stories that feature Solar Pons (the delightful homage to Sherlock Holmes created by August Derleth). The opening story has an artful premise: Solar Pons and Dr. Parker are in pursuit of a culprit who has stolen the late Dr. Watson's tin box from a vault at Cox & Co., and the collection is a fine tribute to Solar Pons.

Dec 17 #7 The Petaluma Radio Players <[www.petalumaradioplayers](http://www.petalumaradioplayers)> have produced three "Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" from scripts by Vince Staddon. The first show ("The Obliging Cadaver") is available in two parts in the podcasts at their web-site, and the others will be soon. They did three more shows as "Holmes for the Holidays" in December, and they'll up at the web-site eventually.

John Walton's THE LEGENDARY DETECTIVE: THE PRIVATE EYE IN FACT AND FICTION (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015; 232 pp., \$25.00) focuses much more on fact than fiction, with an interesting examination of the history of the profession, including the Pinkertons and with more attention paid to William J. Burns and his agency. Burns and Pinkerton were bitter rivals, and Burns went on to serve as J. Edgar Hoover's predecessor as Director of the Justice Department's Bureau of Investigation, and then became enmeshed in the Teapot Dome Scandal.

Sherlockians will recall that a Pinkerton agent, James McParland, was the inspiration for Birdy Edwards in "The Valley of Fear" (which is mentioned in Walton's book). Burns visited Conan Doyle at Windlesham in 1913 and was at the pier to welcome Conan Doyle and his family to New York in 1914. It should be noted that the Pinkerton and Burns agencies are now both part of the international company Securitas AB.

New and decorative: Espionage Cosmetics <[www.espionagecosmetics.com](http://www.espionagecosmetics.com)> offers "nerd makeup" that includes "Baker Street" glow-in-the-dark nail wraps (22 nail wraps and a mini nail file for \$11.00).

Sony Pictures has announced Nov. 9, 2018, as the release date for their new film "Holmes & Watson" (the comedy starring Will Ferrell as Holmes and John C. Reilly as Watson); the cast also includes Ralph Fiennes, Rebecca Hall, Hugh Laurie, and Kelly Macdonald. Even farther ahead (and of course quite likely to change) is the release of the live-action film "Detective Pika-chu" (starring Ryan Reynolds) on May 10, 2019.

How many actors have played the role of Sherlock Holmes? More than 3,700. That is the current count in Howard Ostrom's "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" <[www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html](http://www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html)>, and of course the count will continue to increase with new productions, and new discoveries of old productions. Howard has compiled many other interesting data-bases, which can be found at <[www.nplh.co.uk/original-essays.html](http://www.nplh.co.uk/original-essays.html)>.

The Deutsche-Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft holds a convention in Germany every two years, and next year's SherloCON will be in Saarbrücken on May 11-13 <[www.sherlocon.info](http://www.sherlocon.info)>.

Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge is the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for The Sherlock Holmes Society of India; the current issue (with 148 colorful pages) includes David Marcum's "Sherlock Holmes and John Atkinson Grimshaw: The Perfect Holmesian Book Covers" (examining the atmospheric artwork used on many Sherlockian book covers). Howard Ostrom's "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson Tour Spain, or Two Knights-Errant to the Rescue" (discussing the many aspects of Sherlockiana found in Spain), and much more <[www.tinyurl.com/ycqjbf7d](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycqjbf7d)>.

Dec 17 #8 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 Reading, Pa. <[www.facebook.com/221binReading](http://www.facebook.com/221binReading)>, and he will be holding an open house on May 20, 2018; one of the nicest things about his sitting-room is that it's hands-on, and full of interesting artifacts. You can contact him <[dendobry@ptd.net](mailto:dendobry@ptd.net)> for more information about the event, and to enquire about alternative dates.

I don't recall that anyone has ever created Sherlockian poker chips before, but Nick Thorn has launched a Kickstarter campaign for a set of three buttons for the dealer, big blind, and small blind, with images of Moriarty, Holmes, and Watson <[www.tinyurl.com/ya4xo6wr](http://www.tinyurl.com/ya4xo6wr)>.

"'Detective Conan' will be on hiatus for the foreseeable future so that I can recover from illness and rest up," Gosho Aoyama announced this month. The comic features a genius teenage detective who shrinks into a young boy after being forced to ingest an experimental toxin, takes on the alias Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Conan Doyle) and continues to solve mysteries. The comic has been running weekly in a Japanese magazine since 1984 and has been translated into more than two dozen languages (the English version is titled "Case Closed") and has been adapted into an animated series that began in 1996, feature films, video games, and live-action specials.

Theatrics: the British Comedy Company will perform Peter Wear's parody of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the St. Michael and All Angels Church in Chiswick, London, Jan. 5 <[www.britishcomedycompany.co.uk](http://www.britishcomedycompany.co.uk)>.

Hive and Tall Tales will present "Sherlock--A Play" at the Junction Theatre in Dubai (in the United Arab Emirates), Jan. 18-20 (apparently a new play) <[www.thejunctiondubai.com](http://www.thejunctiondubai.com)>. If you go to Dubai, you can also pay a visit to the Sherlock Holmes English Pub at the Arabian Courtyard Hotel and Spa <[www.sherlockholmespub.net](http://www.sherlockholmespub.net)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at Theatre Baton Rouge in Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 19-Feb. 4 <[www.theatrebr.com](http://www.theatrebr.com)>. Also at the 710 Theatre in Buffalo, N.Y., May 10-13 <[www.sheas.org](http://www.sheas.org)>; and at the Pride Art Center in Phoenix, Ariz., on May 11-12 <[www.mptheatreco.com](http://www.mptheatreco.com)>; and at the Little Theatre of Walla Walla in Walla Walla, Wash., June 1-17 <[www.lttww.org](http://www.lttww.org)>; and the Bard to Broadway Theatre in Qualicum Beach, B.C., July 3-Aug. 19 <[www.b2btheatre.com](http://www.b2btheatre.com)>; and the Timber Lake Playhouse in Mount Carroll, Ill., July 19-26 <[www.timberlakeplayhouse.org](http://www.timberlakeplayhouse.org)>. And the Taproot Theatre in Seattle, Wash., Sept. 12-Oct. 13 <[www.taproottheatre.org](http://www.taproottheatre.org)>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Greater Boston Stage Company in Stoneham, Mass., Apr. 5-22, and their web-site is at <[www.greaterbostonstage.org](http://www.greaterbostonstage.org)>. And at the Peninsula Players Theater in Fish Creek, Wis., July 4-22 <[www.peninsulaplayers.com](http://www.peninsulaplayers.com)>, and at the Crede Repertory Theatre in Crede, Colo., July 27-Sept. 15 <[www.creederep.org](http://www.creederep.org)> [it's totally coincidental, but Crede features in the first episode of the new Netflix western series "Godless"].

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