

Apologies for being a bit late with this issue, my excuse being a trip to the land of the "dubhgall" (which translates to "dark foreigner"). That's Ireland, and the presence of the name in the historical records of the 8th and 9th centuries, when the Vikings arrived in Ireland, suggests that the descendants of that dark foreigner are those known today as Doyle (one recalls, of course, that there's a photograph of Conan Doyle in costume as a Viking).

Arthur Conan Doyle's visit to Berlin in 1890 to investigate Robert Koch's widely hailed cure for tuberculosis is briefly discussed in biographies of Conan Doyle (he concluded that Koch's treatment was not, in fact, a cure, and published an article explaining why). Thomas Goetz's *THE REMEDY: ROBERT KOCH, ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, AND THE QUEST TO CURE TUBERCULOSIS* (New York: Gotham Books, 2014; 298 pp., \$27.00) offers a detailed account of how great a scourge the disease was at the time, and informative biographies of the two doctors.

The McClelland Tobacco Company has closed, after 40 years of selling pipe tobaccos from high grade leaf and strip tobacco that's no longer available; "we might have limped along with lesser leaf," the owners said, "but nobody would have been happy with the resulting products, and we would have been ashamed of them." Larry Wagner wrote about the company's history in an article in *Tobacconist* in May <www.tinyurl.com/y9dt3aya>, but doesn't mention their "221B Series" that featured Black Shag, Arcadia, and Honeydew, prized by Sherlockian pipe-smokers (and others who were happy to collect the handsome tins).

Alexander Orlov has noted a Sherlock Holmes Pub in Kharkov, in the Ukraine (without a web-site, but it's reviewed at TripAdvisor on-line). The fact that there are so many Sherlock Holmes Pubs around the world demonstrates his popularity.

The late Raymond Smullyan, author of *THE CHESS MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1979) and many other books, has been credited as having created "the hardest logic puzzle ever." If you would like to try your hand at it, you can find it at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/prux6yo>. But (spoiler alert): don't scroll down too far, because Wikipedia also gives the solution (which you may find as difficult as the puzzle).

"The Return of Sherlock Holmes" was a two-hour special broadcast by CBS-TV on Jan. 10, 1987, starring Michael Pennington (Sherlock Holmes) and Margaret Colin (Jane Watson); Jennie Paton has found it conveniently available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y8wcm94k>.

Many will have seen at least one performance of Matthew Lang's one-act play "Sherlock's Last Case" or Charles Marowitz's two-act play "Sherlock's Last Case" (which was Marowitz's expanded version of the play he wrote as Matthew Lang). There's some interesting discussion of the play in his *BURNT BRIDGES* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1990); the sub-title of the book is "a souvenir of the swinging sixties and beyond," and he tells grand stories about his early theatrical career in London and elsewhere.

Sep 18 #2 It's always fun to realize that my local library is housed in three buildings on Capitol Hill. The Library of Congress has all sorts of resources, including a well-staffed reference desk, where for more than 30 years you could find Thomas Mann, who knew just where all the bodies were buried. Tom is now retired, and has found time to write *DOC AT THE REFERENCE DESK* (Washington: Alexandrina Press, 2017; 77 pp., \$7.00), a collection of "small stories in a large library" that gives one an idea of some of the strange things that can happen at a reference desk. Non-Sherlockian (but obviously written by a Sherlockian), and great fun for anyone who likes real libraries.

The Royal Mail has issued a set of eight stamps honoring the 200th anniversary of the Old Vic in London, and three of the stamps show actors who have had six Sherlockian roles (none of them at the Old Vic): Sir Ralph Richardson and Sir John Gielgud, Sir Laurence Olivier, and Dame Judi Dench. Try your hand at naming the six roles without looking them up (answers will be on the next page).



Craig Sodaro is a prolific playwright for younger performers, and Pioneer Drama Service <www.pioneerdrama.com> has published many of his plays (and plays by other authors); you can search at their web-site for [sherlock holmes] and (for one additional play) [conan doyle].



You can see a poster for "Detective Chimp and the Case of the Missing Mustache" (a film that exists only as a poster) in the trailer for "Teen Titans Go! to the Movies" (2018), and likely in the film itself. There's a brief glimpse of the poster (at 26 seconds) in the trailer <www.tinyurl.com/y8z428kj>.



"If you could attenuate to every strand of quivering data, the future would be entirely calculable," is attributed to Sherlock Holmes in an article by Max Loh in Seeking Alpha on Aug. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/y9aspmol>. So: where and when did Sherlock Holmes say that? Not in the Canon, so don't bother searching there.

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which for many years has published Sherlockiana in its February issue, nicely timed to coincide with the birthday festivities in New York, has a web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yaemcfc> that's well worth exploring. There's audio and video from the symposium at Columbia University in 2016 that celebrated the 75th anniversary of EQMM, Arthur Vidro's web-only account of the history of the magazine's first issue, Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" report on "We Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" (Feb. 2018), and much more.

George Mann's *THE IMMORALITY ENGINE* (New York: Tor/Tom Doherty, 2011; 347 pp., \$33.87) is the third in his series about Sir Maurice Newbury and Victoria Hobbes; the first was *THE AFFINITY BRIDGE* (2009), the second *THE OSIRIS RITUAL* (2010), and the fourth *THE EXECUTIONER'S HEART* (2013). The series, set in a steampunk Victorian London, with interesting characters, is not Sherlockian, but nicely done. Mann has written some good Sherlockian pastiches, and has a web-site at <www.george-mann.com>.

Sep 18 #3 About those four actors: Richardson and Gielgud played Holmes and Watson in "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" on BBC Radio (1954); Olivier was Prof. Moriarty in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976); Dench was Sally in "A Study in Terror" (1965), and was heard as Mrs. Hudson in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on BBC Radio (1998), and Gielgud played Lord Salisbury in "Murder by Decree" (1979).

Why did Rex Stout decide that Nero Wolfe would live on West 35th Street in New York? John J. McAleer, who wrote a delightful and definitive biography of Stout, reported in 1979 that Stout explained that West 35th Street was where William Gillette's Holmes "received his first acclaim" at the Garrick Theatre.

CLASSIC AMERICAN CRIME FICTION OF THE 1920S (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2018; 1,152 pp., \$39.95), annotated by Leslie S. Klinger and with a Foreword by Otto Penzler, is an interesting addition to the wide variety of literature that Les has annotated; the book contains five novels by Earl Derr Biggers, S. S. Van Dine, Ellery Queen, Dashiell Hammett, and W. R. Burnett, from a decade in which American crime writing was reborn (and a decade that is far enough in the past that annotations are helpful indeed). Four of the authors likely will be familiar; Burnett wrote LITTLE CAESAR, today best known as the source of the 1931 movie that starred Edward G. Robinson, and it's a treat to see what Rico was like on the printed page.



The U.S. Postal Service has issued a colorful set of four postage stamps showing dragons, one of them being a green dragon and thus Sherlockian; dragons are mentioned in three of the Sherlock Holmes stories, but only one of them is green.

"If you could attenuate to every strand of quivering data, the future would be entirely calculable," was said by Sherlock Holmes in "The Six Thatchers" (an episode in the BBC's "Sherlock" series), and easily found, as it turns out, with a Google search. This is not the first time Holmes has been quoted in print from an unidentified non-Canonical source, and it's likely to happen more and more often.

Karen Murdock spotted Robert Douglas-Fairhurst's interesting review in the Guardian on Aug. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/y7qrxp6g> of two books about mazes and labyrinths; he draws an interesting connection between "the scarlet thread of murder" in "A Study in Scarlet" and the ball of red thread that Ariadne gave to Theseus to help him find his way out of the Cretan labyrinth after he killed the Minotaur.

The Baker Street Irregulars <www.tinyurl.com/yb57rklo> is one of the teams in the CSFBL [Computer Simulated Fantasy Football League]; you're welcome to click on the "How to Play" button to see how things work in the League.

Neil Simon died on Aug. 26. He wrote dozens of plays, more than 20 screenplays, and the scripts for five hit musicals, and was sometimes called the world's most popular playwright. Perhaps best-known for "The Odd Couple" (1965), he won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1991 for "Lost in Yonkers", and wrote the screenplay for "Murder By Death" (1976); one of the alternate endings for the film included an appearance by Holmes and Watson.

Sep 18 #4 Collectors of Sherlockian comic books face a problem: the older comic books are more and more expensive each year. But if you want only to read them, there's a great web-site with digital scans and a handy search engine. For example: Hit Comics #29 (Sept. 1943) had Sherlock Holmes on the cover (and in the story "Barry Magician"); you can read the entire comic book, in full color, at <www.comicbookplus.com/?dlid=71548>.

When in Edinburgh: consider The Real Sherlock Holmes Walking Tour of Edinburgh <www.realsherlockholmes.com>; tours can be three hours or a full day (and of course focuses on Conan Doyle rather than Holmes).

Further to the report (Feb 18 #6) on the competition set by the Folio Society and House of Illustration for Sherlockian artwork, one of the finalists was Nataša Ilinčić, and her three illustrations can be seen at her web-site <www.natasilincic.com/book-illustration-2>, and prints are available at her shop at Society6 <www.tinyurl.com/yafa4s9v>.

Karen Murdock has reported an article about "Miraculous Mushrooms" in the August issue of Remedies, and the Lion's Mane Mushroom, which is believed by some to be quite healthful and helpful. *Hericium erinaceus*, according to Wikipedia, has other names, including the bearded hedgehog mushroom and the satyr's beard, and is undergoing basic research for potential biological properties.

Canadian skater Stephen Gogolev landed a quad Lutz en route winning a gold medal in a competition in Slovakia last month; he skated to music from the film "Sherlock Holmes" and wore imaginative costume, which you can see in a story in the Toronto Star <www.tinyurl.com/y7dslt>.

What's the strangest location for a Sherlockian lecture? A leading candidate would be the Mountain View Mausoleum in Altadena, Calif., where Leslie S. Klinger will be the guest speaker on Oct. 11 at an event that will include (in addition to his lecture) a happy hour, a book signing, and a desert reception; the story at Pasadena Now <www.tinyurl.com/ya9ct3mm> has a nice image of the mausoleum.

About that postage stamp: the Green Dragon was the inn, kept by old Barnes, three miles off at Crendall (in "Shoscombe Old Place").

Greg Ruby continues to post interesting commentary at "The Fourth Garrideb" <www.fourthgarrideb.com>; devoted to the "Numismatics of Sherlock Holmes", it covers much more than money: "The Decorated Captain Tommy Gregson of the NYPD" explains the medals and ribbons one sees when he wears his dress uniform on the television series "Elementary".

Further to the report (Aug 18 #7) about the amusing poster for "Holmes and Watson" (the film that stars Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly and is due for release on Dec. 21), the poster is now extremely difficult to find on the Internet: Torrent Freak noted (Aug. 29) <www.tinyurl.com/yczqgvr9> that Columbia Pictures sent DMCA notices to scrub any and all copies from the web (the DMCA is the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, enacted in 1998). Not every web-site received a DMCA notice; the Red Circle of Washington still displays the poster in its Calendar <www.redcircledc.org>.

Sep 18 #5 The British Library has an interesting web-site, which offers articles such as Liza Picard's "Education in Victorian Britain" <www.tinyurl.com/yba2nyza> which includes a brief mention of board-schools (as in "The Naval Treaty"). And John Sutherland's "An Introduction to *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*" <www.tinyurl.com/y9cztloq> which includes a mention that Eliot was a great lover of the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger have edited FOR THE SAKE OF THE GAME (New York: Pegasus, 2018; 284 pp., \$25.95), the fourth in their series of anthologies of "stories inspired by the Sherlock Holmes Canon." Sherlockians often use the word "pastiche" to describe just about any sort of Sherlockian story, including parodies (such as Robert L. Fish's "Schlock Homes" stories) and homages (August Derleth's "Solar Pons" stories), and it may be that yet another word is needed to describe what happens after Laurie and Les ask good writers to do something (or anything) Sherlockian; the results can be interesting and enjoyable indeed.

Further to the item (Mar 18 #5) on Tania Henzell's new Sherlock Holmes Tartan: she has a web-site at <www.sherlockholmestartan.com> where you can see a wide variety of merchandise; she will also have a table in the Merchants Room during the Birthday Festivities in January.

FLIGHT OR FRIGHT, an anthology of flight-based horror stories that was edited by Stephen King and Bev Vincent (Mar 18 #4), has been issued as an audiobook, with Simon Jones reading Conan Doyle's "The Horror of the Heights" (Simon and Schuster Audio, \$34.99); Jones played Sherlock Holmes on stage in the Gillette play in New York in 1998, and in the musical "Baker Street" in New York in 2001.

"It's good if you want to go to the Sherlock Holmes Museum every single day of your life, and less-than-ideal for literally anything else," according to an article in VICE on Sept. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/y85rgfoc>: it's a small apartment with a fold-out bed, available for £1,894 a month.

Jennie Paton spotted an imaginative and jazzy video that advertises Sherlock Handcraft Gin <www.vimeo.com/287490989>; there's a nice image of the label at <www.markspirits.com>. The method of production is "bathtub with premium grain alcohol," and the name was "inspired by the best hound of all time."

The summer issue of The Magic Door (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) focuses on Conan Doyle in Africa, with articles by James Reese, Hartley Nathan, and Brenda Rossini along with news from and about the Library and the Collection. Copies are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>, and you can easily join the Friends at <www.acdfriends.org>.

Sorry about that: the amusing poster for "Holmes and Watson" (Aug 18 #7) is hard to find on the Internet, likely because the studio requested/demanded that it be taken down. If you would like to see it, go to the Red Circle of Washington's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>: it's in the Calendar at the right, at Dec. 21.

Sep 18 #6 Ray Betzner plans to devote his "Studies in Starrett" blog this fall to a detailed examination of the publishing history of THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, a true classic in our literature, and he'd like to hear from anyone who has information about the history of Mike Murphy's plans to reprint the 1933 first edition, which resulted in a limited edition of unbound signatures from the Autolytus Press in 1979. Ray can be reached at <rbetzner@mac.com>, and you can read the first of his weekly installments at <www.bit.ly/2wTxQOB>.

Copies of William R. Cochran's THE EMPTY PROBLEM AND THE FINAL HOUSE (2017) are still available for \$21.00 postpaid from Bill (614 South Terrace Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901); the 35-page pamphlet offers the results of his explorations of the two stories that bookend the battle at the Reichenbach.

There's now an official trailer for the upcoming comedy "Holmes and Watson" (starring Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly) <www.tinyurl.com/y8kgh4at>; the film's due in theaters on Dec. 21.

"Bejewelled: Badges, Brotherhood and Identity" is the title of an exhibition, open through Aug. 24, 2019, at the Library and Museum of Freemasonry in London. The exhibition's web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/7zslb3j>, and there was an article in the Telegraph on Aug. 25 <www.tinyurl.com/yak9t69o> that said that the jewelry on display would include Conan Doyle's badge; it turns out that the reporter got it wrong: while the Museum does have Conan Doyle's jewelry, it won't be on display.

Mattias Boström's FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK will have a Japanese edition from Sakhin-sha, translated by Yuichi Hirayama; his book's already available in Swedish (2013), Danish (2014), German (2015), Norwegian (2016), and English (2017).

"The Hound of the Wasgijville!" is the title of a new 1,500-piece Sherlockian jigsaw puzzle that features detective Sheer-luck, available at Amazon (\$20.00) and elsewhere <www.tinyurl.com/y9yrhyaa>. There's also a new (and attractive) "Sherlock Holmes" 1,000-piece puzzle available from ThinkGeek (\$14.99) <www.tinyurl.com/y8xuezx5>.

John P. Crotty ("Dr. James Mortimer") died on Aug. 12. He worked for many years as a radiologist in St. Louis, and was a colleague of Dr. Gray Chandler Briggs, from whom John acquired the treasure trove of original Frederic Dorr Steele artwork that Briggs had received from the artist. John was an energetic member of the Sherlockian society in St. Louis, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.

Those who enjoy the CBS-TV series "Elementary" will welcome the news that the two-part finale does not end the series. The seventh season is now in production, picking up a year later, and show-runner Rob Doherty has told a TV Line interviewer that "Sherlock, Joan, Gregson, and Bell form this very non-traditional family unit, and as the seventh season begins there's going to be a family crisis." Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu now firmly hold the second-place record for having played Holmes and Watson in the most performances in the most shows (Rathbone and Bruce still lead, counting all their films and radio programs).

Sep 18 #7 S. C. Roberts' HOLMES AND WATSON: A MISCELLANY, first published in 1953, was a landmark in Sherlockian scholarship, offering a collection of his writings, including a play and a pastiche, and his comments on the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in 1951, demonstrating well just how much fun there is in taking a serious look at the Canon. Roberts was an excellent writer, and the first president of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and his book has now been reissued by the British Library (160 pp., £10.00/\$15.95), with an nicely insightful Introduction by Guy Marriott; it's grand to have Roberts' thoughts on the Canon available again.

Conan Doyle's Colt .38 semi-automatic pistol, offered at auction on Sept. 20 in the U.K. (Aug 18 #1), sold for £4,000 <www.tinyurl.com/y9o9kkoy>.

Further to the item (Sep 97 #1) about Abdul Hamid II, who was the last Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, the Daily Sabah had an interesting story on July 27 about the Sultan's passion for Sherlock Holmes, and his meeting with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/yd57kftz>. Grey Ruby has an interesting post about the medals the Sultan awarded to Conan Doyle and his wife at the Fourth Garrideb web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y7f67nd4>.

Evy Herzog reports that Fabienne Courouge and H el ene Colin, with some kin-sprits, have founded "La Gazette du 221B" (a "webzine d' tudes et d'actualit es sur l'univers de Sherlock Holmes"), all in French, with three issues so far; all available in the Archives at <www.gazette221b.com>, and they're a colorful demonstration of what can be done now on the Internet.

"Sherlock Holmes brings The Rolling Clones" was the headline on a story in the Gulf Daily News <www.tinyurl.com/yc6hfx3n>; the Rolling Clones band is a tribute to the Rolling Stones, and the "Sherlock Holmes" turns out to be the Sherlock Holmes Pub in the Gulf Hotel in Bahrain.

Further to the report (Jul 18 #2) on a proposal to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (the campaign to protect the hotel had cited evidence that Conan Doyle helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912), the National Park Authority has scheduled a five-day inquiry in January, at which the developer will continue its battle against local objections, according to a story in the Southern Daily Echo <www.tinyurl.com/y7t87ssw>.

Conan Doyle and hockey? We know he was an athlete, but we don't know if he played hockey, although there is a connection: a letter he wrote (well, it actually was written and signed for him by his secretary) from Undershaw to Miss Williams, saying, "I am sorry to say that I have so much heavy work to hand at present that I fear I am quite unable to be of any use to the Hind-head Hockey Club." There seems to be nothing on the Internet about a Hind-head Hockey Club, but there is a Haslemere Hockey Club that was founded in 1946, with eight teams for men, five for ladies, and ten squads in a junior section. And their sport, of course, is field hockey. The letter was at auction this month at Duke's in Dorchester, estimated at £200-£300; it sold for £180 <www.tinyurl.com/ybgulfff>. You can identify letters written and signed by Conan Doyle's secretaries by the symbols written underneath the signatures; this is something to look for if you have any doubts about the handwriting.

Sep 18 #8 And there's no shortage of Sherlockian (and Doylean and Watsonian) theater coming up: Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" is on at the Dragon Theatre in Redwood City, Calif., though Oct. 7 <www.dragonproductions.net>.

Timothy N. Evers' "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" ("The Greek Interpreter" and "Charles Augustus Milverton") will be performed at the Classical Theatre Company in Houston, Tex., Oct. 3-21 <www.classicaltheatre.org>.

"The Twilight of the Gods" (a new "comedic thriller" written by Wes Driver and Gregg Greene) is due at the Williamson County Performing Arts Center at Academy Park in Franklin, Tenn., Oct. 4-14 <www.blackbirdtheater.com>; the play offers "Mark Twain, Edgar Allan Poe, Annie Oakley, Arthur Conan Doyle, and a number of other 19th century luminaries...locked in a battle of wits and ideologies, while a killer in their midst turns their dream for a modern Utopia into a Gothic nightmare."

Patrick Derksen's "A Lighter Shade of Noir" (a parody whose characters include Shirley Holmes and Dr. Watson) is coming up at the Aledo High School in Weatherford, Tex., Oct. 4-7; the Aledo Players have a Facebook page.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Garvin Theatre in Santa Barbara, Calif., Oct. 10-27; their web-site is at <www.theatregroupsbcc.com>. It's also due at the Jewel Box Theatre in Oklahoma City, Okla., from Nov. 19 to Dec. 5 <www.jewelboxtheatre.org>.

"Spontaneous Sherlock" (improvised by the Spontaneous Players) is performed at Monkey Barrel Comedy in Edinburgh <www.thespontaneousplayers.com>, next on Oct. 11 and 25, and Nov. 8 and 22. Their first performance was in Feb. 2015, and they have since appeared at the Edinburgh Fringe and on tour in the U.K.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at the Barn Theatre in Cirencester, Glos., from Oct. 24 to Nov. 24 <www.barntheatre.org.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Cape Fear Playhouse in Wilmington, N.C., Oct. 25-Nov. 11; web-site at <www.bigdawgproductions.org>.

"Baker Street Irregulars" (by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is planned by the Owasso Community Theatre in Owasso, Okla., Nov. 1-3; their web-site's at <www.octok.org>.

John Alvarez's new "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of a Siren's Call" will be performed during the Sherlock Holmes Weekend in Cape May, N.J., on Nov. 2-4 <www.capemaymac.org>.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the W. D. Powell Theatre at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., Nov. 8-13 <www.uu.edu/theatre>.

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