

Oct 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Modern technology has made it possible to abbreviate the traditional forecast for the birthday festivities in New York in January; detailed information will be available at [www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-event-dates](http://www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-event-dates). The (very) long weekend will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 9, and end on Sunday, Jan. 13, and the schedule may or may not include some surprises; space is limited at some events, so don't delay registering. There will be more information at Scott Monty's excellent web-site [www.bsiweekend.com](http://www.bsiweekend.com), and his "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" will be at [www.ihose.co/bsi2019tips](http://www.ihose.co/bsi2019tips) in December.

Copies of two of the sepia gelatin prints of the Cottingley Fairies went to auction this month at Dominic Winter Auctioneers in Cirencester, estimated at £700-£1,000 each, and went for £15,000 (Frances Griffiths with the fairies) and £5,400 (Elsie Wright with the gnome) [www.tinyurl.com/y7edj26u](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7edj26u).

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's 2018 Christmas Card features a period photograph of The Royal Exchange [www.tinyurl.com/yde36bvd](http://www.tinyurl.com/yde36bvd) (\$20.00 for a packet of ten). The Society's home-page has much of interest, including (under Publications) a link to an archive of all of the issues of The District Messenger, the newsletter launched by Roger Johnson as a "Grapevine Service" in 1982 and now (edited by Jean Upton) after 379 issues continues to offer the same mix of information and gossip in the U.K. (and elsewhere) that this newsletter does for the U.S. (and elsewhere).

It's nice to know that treasures do turn up: a previously unrecorded copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 is advertised by Peter L. Stern, for \$75,000; it has been added to Randall Stock's annotated checklist and census at [www.bestofsherlock.com/beetons-christmas-annual.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/beetons-christmas-annual.htm), where you'll also find a link to the AbeBooks entry.

MC Black has noted the web-site of the Haslemere Society, which has placed a blue plaque at Undershaw (Conan Doyle's former home); their web-site's at [www.haslemeresociety.org/undershaw.html](http://www.haslemeresociety.org/undershaw.html), with a link to the booklet that the society issued when the plaque was unveiled in 2016.

Samantha Wolov has reported an En Voyage Perfumes eau de parfum called "The 7% Solution" (suitable for men or women), described at the company's web-site as happy, relaxing, stimulating, and clarifying (and with a mention of Sherlock Holmes at their web-site) [www.tinyurl.com/y73uzs7u](http://www.tinyurl.com/y73uzs7u) (\$60.00 for an ounce, or \$50.00 for half an ounce).

Peter Melonas has been creating interesting Sherlockian (and other) artwork since the 1980s, and his offers at eBay include six Sherlockian prints, one of them a (and colorful) tribute to "The Dancing Men" (\$20.00) that you can see at [www.tinyurl.com/y7ovwujc](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7ovwujc).

Bill Seil discovered an intriguing Literary Hub blog by Emily Temple on "A Century of Reading: The 10 Books That Defined the 1900s". THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES is one of the ten, and Temple noted that the book revived the Sherlock Holmes series, asking "was this an early precursor of Twitter fans bringing back every show on the planet?" [www.tinyurl.com/yc7ohr6u](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc7ohr6u).

Oct 18 #2 THE ADVENTURES OF TWO BRITISH GENTLEMEN IN GERMANY/DIE ABENTEU-  
ER ZWEIER BRITISCHER GENTLEMEN IN DEUTSCHLAND, edited by Nicole  
Glücklich, and published by the Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft (286  
pp. in English and 298 pp. in German), is a welcome companion to their ear-  
lier book about Switzerland (Jul 17 #1); the new book discusses the visits  
to Germany by Conan Doyle, the Great War, Sherlockian societies in Germany  
(including a detailed discussion of a society apparently founded in 1902),  
and Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen, radio, and television in Germany, all  
carefully and colorfully illustrated. Available for \$42.00 (€36.00) post-  
paid from the society via PayPal <info@sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de>.

Birmingham is the youngest city in Europe, with nearly 40% of its popula-  
tion aged under 25, according to the "Student City Guide" published in The  
Sunday Times on Sept. 23. The Guide also notes that the city has made its  
mark as the birthplace of HP Sauce and Black Sabbath, "not to mention Sir  
Arthur Conan Doyle, who bought a violin on Sherlock Street while he was a  
medical student." No author stated for the Guide, so there's no one to ask  
for evidence that Conan Doyle ever played the violin. And yes, he was born  
in Edinburgh.

Howard Ostrom's SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREENS 1929-1939 is the first volume of  
his Sherlock Holmes Cyclopedia (Saint-Sauvier: Mycroft's Brother Editions,  
2018; 88 pp., €30.00) <www.mycrofts.net>; it's a delightful exploration of  
the first decade of Sherlockian talking films, major and minor, from "The  
Ghost Talks" (1929) to "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939). Howard  
has spread his net widely, and includes actors in Sherlockian costume, and  
the entries are accompanied by contemporary reviews, photographs, posters,  
and commentary; those who have access to the Internet can (and surely will)  
find many of the major (and minor) films at YouTube or Vimeo. Copies (in-  
scribed on request) are available for delivery in the U.S. for \$35.00 post-  
paid, from Howard (5748 SW 60th Place, Ocala, FL 34474).

James Mustich's 1,000 BOOKS TO READ BEFORE YOU DIE (from Workman, 2018) was  
warmly reviewed by Michael Dirda in the Washington Post, and it is reported  
that one of the 1,000 books is THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES ("it would be  
hard to name another modern literary character who has achieved such inter-  
national celebrity").

MYCROFT AND SHERLOCK, by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse (New York:  
Titan Books, 2018; 355 pp., \$25.99) is set in 1872, two years after their  
MYCROFT HOLMES (Jun 15 #2); the brothers are unintentionally investigating  
the same mystery, and don't share information until the end of their case.  
The book's a thriller as well as a mystery, with interesting major and mi-  
nor characters, and it offers an intriguing look at Victorian London.

Further to the previous report (Jun 18 #3) on "Sherlock: The Game Is Now"  
<www.sherlockgame.com> (billed as "the only official Sherlock Holmes Escape  
Game, a 90-minute immersive experience for teams of 4-6 people"), it's sold  
out through the end of the year, but tickets are now being made available  
through the end of May 2019. The game is organized by Time Run and "Sher-  
lock" creators Steve Moffat and Mark Gatiss, and tickets for the 90-minute  
experience cost £54 per person. If you don't have your own group, there's  
a Facebook page for those who want to form teams.

Oct 18 #3 Terry Hunt has reported on a discovery in Christopher Morley's memorandum book for 1935 (in the Morley collection at the Harry Ransom Center in Austin, Texas): a list of "names for cottage" that he was considering for the one-room cabin that he used as a studio: Ex Libris, The Knothole, The Molehill, The Dachshunds, Satisfaction Piece, The Workhouse, Poison Ivy, Socony Cottage, and The Nerts. Those who've made a pilgrimage to Roslyn, Long Island, know that the name he chose is The Knothole (which also is the name of the newsletter of The Christopher Morley Knothole Association <[www.christophermorley.org](http://www.christophermorley.org)>).

Samantha Wolov has reported <[www.bookmarksreviews.com](http://www.bookmarksreviews.com)>, handy for those who want to see what reviewers have said about new books from major publishers; you can also search to see how older books (and authors) have been rated.

Reported: the Folio Society's THE SELECTED ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Feb 18 #6) has been published (\$45.95), and you can read all about it at <[www.tinyurl.com/y85vw9br](http://www.tinyurl.com/y85vw9br)>; Helen Dorey was on the panel of six judges that chose the illustrator (Max Lüffler), and there's an introduction by Michael Dirda.

Nils Clausson's ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S ART OF FICTION: A REVALUATION (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars, 2018; 384 pp., £67.99) opens with a suggestion that "the fact that Conan Doyle is almost universally regarded as a popular writer has meant that his fiction, like most popular fiction, has been studied not as literature but as a manifestation of popular culture." Clausson offers an academic "close reading" that is intended to reveal the "neglected artistry" in Conan Doyle's fiction a decidedly different view of Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian writings. The publisher offers a 40% discount if you purchase from their web-site by Nov. 15; use the special code ACD40 at their web-site <[www.cambridgescholars.com](http://www.cambridgescholars.com)>.

Cinema Scandinavia reported on Oct. 17 <[www.tinyurl.com/y7luok7w](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7luok7w)> that the television series "Sherlock North" (in development by Snapper Films in Finland) has been picked up by Viaplay for international distribution; Holmes travels to Scandinavia after the battle at the Reichenbach and "finds himself solving crimes in Finnish Lapland."

"The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia" at <[www.arthur-conan-doyle.com](http://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com)> is a spectacular web-site, maintained by Alexis Barquin in France. It has more than 5,000 pages, and is devoted to all aspects of the life and career of Conan Doyle. You can see the depth of the research with a text search for [les andelys]. It's a town in Normandy that is mentioned several times in Conan Doyle's fiction, and Alexis explains that two of Conan Doyle's sisters went to school there, and Conan Doyle visited the town, and there's a video of a 1959 television interview with the woman whose home he stayed in (the interview was filmed in her garden).

The opening of "Holmes & Watson" (with Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly) has been delayed until Dec. 25, which will please those who want something to do after opening their Christmas presents; no reason was given, but likely it was competition (five other films were scheduled for Dec. 21). The official name for the film now has an ampersand (and no reason was given for that, either).

Oct 18 #4 Bill Mason's *A HOLMES BY ANY OTHER NAME* (Rockville: Wildside, 2018; 195 pp., \$12.99) offers the results of his exploration of variations of the Great Detective's name that he found in parodies, films, comic books, and many other sources, from 1891 to the present; 578 names, from Airlock Holmes to Zoolock Holmes, annotated and indexed, and there are shorter lists for Watson and Moriarty (it's amusing to see the fun people have had with the name of Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty). The publisher's web-site is at <[www.wildsidepress.com](http://www.wildsidepress.com)>.

Also from Wildside: *SHERLOCK HOLMES IS LIKE*, edited by Christopher Redmond (2018; 275 pp., \$14.99), offers what he describes as "sixty comparisons for an incomparable character," with essays by sixty Sherlockians whose suggestions range from traditional and expected to weird and wonderful (the latter including Lucy van Pelt, proposed by Steve Mason).

The airport in Tottori in Japan has been renamed the Tottori Sand Dunes Conan Airport, according to a story in the Japan Times (July 28). The name of the airport honors the province's impressive sand dunes, and the manga and anime character created by Tottori native Gosho Aoyama; the comic has been running in a weekly magazine since 1994 and features a young detective named in honor of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (the English version of the manga is called "Case Closed"). You can see Detective Conan at the airport in an image at <[www.tinyurl.com/y8rysgel](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8rysgel)>.

Jennie Paton spotted "Back of the Bookshelf" (a monthly podcast of classic short stories narrated by C. J. Carter-Stephenson); the first story is Conan Doyle's "The Disintegration Machine" <[www.vimeo.com/293785106](http://www.vimeo.com/293785106)>.

Brian W. Pugh continues to revise his *A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE* (Mar 14 #7); the fourth edition (London: MX Publishing, 2018; 444 pp., \$34.95) is a grand resource for information about the life and work of Conan Doyle. The chronology starts in 1755 (with the birth of James Doyle) and ends in 1998 (the memorial service for Dame Jean), and one of the truly useful aspects of the chronology is the citation of sources, so that one can sort through conflicts (and learn that in some cases, Conan Doyle himself was not the most reliable source). There's also information about aspects of his life and works, and maps and photographs, and a careful and useful index compiled by Geraldine Beare. Recommended. MX's books are available at <[www.sherlockholmesbooks.com](http://www.sherlockholmesbooks.com)>.

Also from MX: Daniel D. Victor's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SHADOWS OF ST. PETERSBURG* (2018; 182 pp., \$12.95) offers an interesting intersection of the Canon with *CRIME AND PUNISHMENT*; Holmes and Watson are in pursuit of a killer who seems to be recreating the murders in Dostoyevsky's book. Elizabeth Crowens' *SILENT MERIDIAN* (2016; 350 pp. \$16.95) is a complicated time-shifting novel that involves Conan Doyle, Wells, Houdini, Freud, Jung, and a Japanese shogun in a set of parallel and sometimes supernatural universes. W. P. Lawler's *TREACHERY IN TORQUAY* (2018; 317 pp., \$16.95) is set on the south coast of England in 1905, with Holmes and Watson investigating a series of brutal murders and aiding a client in protecting his family from dire peril. *TALES FROM THE STRANGER'S ROOM, VOLUME 3*, edited by David Ruffle (2017; 207 pp., \$16.95), is an interesting anthology of pastiches, poetry, vignettes, and quizzes.

Oct 18 #5 The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will open at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., on Nov. 3, running through May 27, 2019, and their web-site's at <[www.lsc.org](http://www.lsc.org)>. It's a spectacular exhibition, and it has been welcomed with enthusiasm everywhere it has been in the U.S. and overseas; there are no future venues scheduled for the exhibition, and it's nice indeed (for travelers from afar) that it will be open during the Sherlockian birthday festivities in January.

Congratulations to Russell Merritt, who received the David Shepard Career Achievement Award at the Denver Silent Film Festival; Russell was instrumental in the rescue and restoration of both "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) and "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929).

Canadian Holmes, published quarterly by The Bootmakers of Toronto, always is interesting; the fall 2018 issue includes Peter Calamai's "Seeking the Conan Doyle 'Estate' in Portugal" (detailing the results of his investigation triggered by a report that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle once had an estate in Sintra) (he didn't, but there was one), and much more in the 40-page issue; subscriptions to the quarterly cost \$30.00 (US or CA) a year, by mail to the Bootmakers at 2045 Lakeshore Boulevard West #3303, Etobicoke, ON MV8 2Z6, Canada; or at their web-site <[www.torontobootmakers.com](http://www.torontobootmakers.com)>.

Martin Edwards will deliver next year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture on Apr. 6 at the Toronto Reference Library (Edwards is president of the Detection Club and chair of the Crime Writers' Association, and his topic will be "In Sherlock's Footsteps"); admission is free, and the public is welcome to attend <[www.acdfriends.org](http://www.acdfriends.org)>.

The Japanese eight-episode series "Miss Sherlock" (produced by HBO Asia and Hulu Japan) (May 18 #4) is now available on HBO Go in the U.S., and it is well worth watching; it stars Y-ko Takeuchi as Sherlock, and Shihori Kanjiya as her friend Wato-san, and is full of Canonical echoes.

It's sometimes tempting to suggest that everything has a Sherlockian connection. "King Kong" does, at least to the author of the Sherlock Holmes stories: Willis H. O'Brien, who created the stop-motion special effects for "The Lost World" (1925), did the same for "King Kong" (1933), and the late Forry Ackerman owned a pair of models of pterodactyls, one from each film. If you'd like to see what modern technology can do, there's a trailer for the musical "King Kong" (now in previews on Broadway) that shows their 20-foot version of the "gentle giant" <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8YJwRUTK7Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8YJwRUTK7Y)>. See also the N.Y. Times <[www.tinyurl.com/yb9losty](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb9losty)>.

EconoTimes reported on Oct. 23 that the CBS-TV series "Elementary" has celebrated production of its 150th episode <[www.tinyurl.com/y7fywz4e](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7fywz4e)>, and has links to images of the event at the Twitter account of writer and producer Jeffrey Paul King, who has worked on every episode.

Bradley Harper's A KNIFE IN THE FOG (Amherst: Seventh Street Books, 2018; 288 pp., \$15.95) has Arthur Conan Doyle and Joseph Bell in pursuit of Jack the Ripper, accompanied by Margaret Harkness (who also was a real person, quite familiar with the appalling conditions faced by the poor in London); Conan Doyle is an excellent detective, and the story's nicely told.

Oct 18 #6 And theatrical news: C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Doom of Devilsmoor" is on at the Gillette Community Theatre in Gillette, Wyo., through Nov. 3 <[www.gillettecommunitytheatre.weebly.com](http://www.gillettecommunitytheatre.weebly.com)>.

Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at the Bay Area Harbour Playhouse in Dickinson, Tex., through Nov. 4 <[www.harbourtheater.com](http://www.harbourtheater.com)>.

Jeffery Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" is running at the Clear Creek Community Theatre in Nassau Bay, Tex., through Nov. 4 <[www.clearcreekcommunitytheatre.com](http://www.clearcreekcommunitytheatre.com)>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is on at the Little Theatre in American Falls, Idaho, through Nov. 5; Facebook page at <[www.tinyurl.com/y9p2a2ud](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9p2a2ud)>. It's also due at the Wade James Theatre in Edmonds, Wash., June 14-30; web-site at <[www.edmondsdriftwoodplayers.org](http://www.edmondsdriftwoodplayers.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the Monon Depot Theatre in Lafayette, Ind., through Nov. 10; the web-site's at <[www.lafayettecivic.org](http://www.lafayettecivic.org)>. It also will be performed at the Andria Theatre in Alexandria, Minn., Jan. 11-20, 2019 <[www.andriatheatre.org](http://www.andriatheatre.org)>; and the Des Moines Community Playhouse in Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 25-Feb. 10, 2019 <[www.dmpplayhouse.com](http://www.dmpplayhouse.com)>.

Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular" is due at the Lansing Hannah Community Center in East Lansing, Mich., Nov. 2-11 <[www.allofusexpress.org](http://www.allofusexpress.org)>.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is due at Harriton High School in Bryn Mawr, Pa., Nov. 14-17 <[www.harritontheater.com](http://www.harritontheater.com)>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Missing Holly" is due at the Prairie Pines Playhouse in Maize, Kans., Nov. 16-Dec. 23 <[www.prairiepinesplayhouse.com](http://www.prairiepinesplayhouse.com)>.

The Rain or Shine Theatre Company will perform their new comedy "Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of Dr. Jekyll & Miss Hyde" at the Bradwell Village Hall in Bradwell, Oxon., on Nov. 17, and then take the show on tour in the U.K. <[www.rainorshire.co.uk](http://www.rainorshire.co.uk)>.

John Nassivera's "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" is due at The Gladstone in Ottawa, Ont., Nov. 23-Dec. 1 <[www.thegladstone.ca](http://www.thegladstone.ca)>.

The Tehachapi Community Theater will perform John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Christmas Carol" at TCT Second Space In Tehachapi, Calif., Nov. 23-Dec. 9 <[www.tinyurl.com/y9nt4zyn](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9nt4zyn)>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is due at the Hanover Tavern in Hanover, Va., Nov. 30-Jan. 6 <[www.virginiarep.org](http://www.virginiarep.org)>. And at the Stage III Community Theatre in Casper, Wyo., Dec. 7-23; web-site at <[www.stageiii theatre.org](http://www.stageiii theatre.org)>.

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