

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 165th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 9 to 13; the (very) long weekend was filled with events, both formal and informal, and detailed reports on most of them will be available soon at the web-site of The Baker Street Irregulars <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>. But in the meantime, here are few brief paragraphs to tide you over:

The BSI's Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Ken Ludwig, award-winning author of three Sherlockian (and many more non-Sherlockian) plays; he reported that he has just completed work on his newest play "Moriarty" (in the five-actor format of "Baskerville") and hopes it will be produced in the near future.

The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Evelyn Herzog proposed the traditional preprandial first toast to Nelda Richards as *The Woman*. This was followed by the presentation of a Festschrift to a thoroughly-surprised member of the BSI who was celebrating the 60th anniversary of his Investiture; immodestly, the editor of this newsletter says "let me recommend this book," which is available (80 pp., \$19.95) from the BSI at <www.tinyurl.com/yb5z9frc>.

The annual dinner's agenda included the usual toasts, rituals, and papers, and Mike Whelan (the "Wiggins" of the BSI) presented Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) to Alexander Katz ("Sarasate"), John Knud-Hansen ("This Lascar Scoundrel"), Brigitte Latella ("Holmes's Alpenstock"), Michele Lopez ("Attenta, Pericolo"), Ira B. Matetsky ("The Final Problem"), Terry McCammon ("Young Stamford"), Mike McSwiggin ("A Seven Percent Solution"), Greg D. Ruby ("Bulldog Pin with Ruby Eyes"), and Monica Schmidt ("Julia Stoner").

Mike Whelan then announced that Mike Kean had been appointed to the office of "Commissionaire" to serve one year, and the end of which he will become the BSI's new "Wiggins". Mike Kean will be only the sixth person to lead the BSI since it was founded by Christopher Morley in 1934.

The Baker Street Irregulars also have published a second title in the Professions Series that was launched with *Nerve and Knowledge* in 2015. The new book is *Canon Law: Lawyers, Law, and the Sherlockian Canon*, edited by William A. Walsh and Donny Zaldin (2018; 206 pp., \$39.95), and it offers a wide-ranging look at many of the legal (and illegal) aspects of the world of Sherlock Holmes, including a transcript of what might have happened if he were to have been tried for some of his infringements of the law.

The latest title in the BSI's Manuscript Series is *Deadly Harpoon*, edited by Glen Miranker (2018; 168 pp., \$39.95), which offers a facsimile of the manuscript of "Black Peter", an annotated transcript, and interesting commentary on the manuscript, the story, and the world in which the Great Detective lived when he was involved in the case. It is of course thoroughly appropriate that the volume has been edited by the fortunate owner of the manuscript. More information about both books, including the tables of contents, can be found at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>.

Jan 19 #2 It should be noted that there is much more to see at the BSI's web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>, such as information about The Baker Street Journal, which now appears five times a year (there are four quarterly issues and a Christmas Annual that's available only to subscribers). The 2018 Christmas Annual reported on the colorful history of the Sherlock Holmes Exhibitions in London in 1951 and then in New York in 1952, and the 2019 Christmas Annual will be a tribute to the late William S. Baring-Gould.

And, for those who want to plan ahead, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London will hold its annual dinner on Jan. 11, 2020, in London, and the BSI will hold their annual dinner on Jan. 17, 2020, in New York.

With regard to *Canon Law*, those who recall that William Shakespeare wrote (in *Henry VI*), "the first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers," should also remember that those words were spoken by Dick the Butcher, who was in rebellion against the king, and that the rebels then managed only to kill a county clerk.

Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> kindly offers (via e-mail) his new 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 are Investitured Irregulars).

Gasogene Books has published *Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers, Volume 4, January-June 1894*, edited and annotated by Mattias Bostrom, Mark Alberstat, Leah Guinn, and Matt Laffey (2019; 202 pp., \$34.95); there are more editors now, quite understandable considering the wealth of material about Holmes and Conan Doyle in the ever-expanding data-bases of digitized newspapers and magazines <www.gasogenebooks.com>.

Those who have bought Nicholas Utechin's splendid *The Complete Paget Portfolio* (Nov 18 #3), still available from Gasogene and still highly recommended, will be interested in a recent message from Nick: some of his text did not make it into the final version of the book, and he will be happy to send the text by e-mail so that you can print it out and insert it into your copy; you can reach Nick at <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>.

More news from the birthday festivities: Nicholas Meyer announced the discovery of another missing manuscript: *The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols*, which will be published later this year (the 45th anniversary of the publication of his *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*).

The Crew of the Barque Lone Star, in Dallas, has published a sequel to its *A Grimm Sherlock Holmes* (Dec 17 #2). *A Grimmer Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Steve Mason, is the society's second anthology of fairy-tale pastiches; it is a 179-page e-book, offering pastiches and the fairy tales on which they are based, nicely available without charge at <www.tinyurl.com/y9oqdroc>.

"Literary Figures Who Can't Commit" in the N.Y. Times Book Review on Jan. 20 offered graphic artist Ali Fitzgerald's illustrations of Captain Ahab, Edward Rochester, Mary Poppins, the White Rabbit, and Sherlock Holmes; you can see them all at <www.tinyurl.com/y97b8lgp>.

Jan 19 #3 Plan ahead: the latest issue of The Bowling Green (the newsletter of The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State) announces an excursion to Oxford in May 2021, commemorating Christopher Morley's first year as a Rhodes Scholar at the University. Details will be available (eventually) from Terry Hunt <18goldini95@gmail.com>.

The UCLA Film and Television Archive has announced a collaborative worldwide search for missing or deteriorating Sherlockian films that will lead to the films' restoration, and the project is being coordinated by Barbara Roisman Cooper, who is a member of The Baker Street Irregulars as well as the Archive's board; if you would like further information or to join the volunteer committee that's working on the project, you can contact Barbara at <penincl@aol.com>. UCLA has the second-largest moving-image archive in the United States (after the Library of Congress), and has worked on Sherlockian films in the past: restoring from nitrate originals and preserving the classic Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce films, with funding from UCLA, Warner Bros., and Hugh Hefner.

Barbara S. Koelle died on Nov. 28. She married Jack Koelle in 1948, and like her husband was an avid book collector, enthusiastic about children's books and especially the world of the Wizard of Oz. Barbara was a member of the board of directors of the International Wizard of Oz Club and she served as its president and as editor of its magazine The Baum Bugle. She was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as *The Woman* in 1982.

Plan ahead: the Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium, which is scheduled for Oct. 12-13 in Portland, Ore., promises "a weekend of scholarship and camaraderie" in the image of the Scintillation of Scions, 221B Con, and other Sherlockian conferences. Planning is underway, registration is open, and there's more information at their web-site at <www.leftcoastsherlock.com>.

The Golden Raspberry Awards (for failure in cinematic achievement), also known as the Razzies, were created in 1981, and traditionally are awarded the day before the Oscars. This year's nominations have been announced, and "Holmes & Watson" has been nominated in six of the nine categories: worst picture; worst actor (Will Ferrell); worst supporting actor (John C. Reilly); worst screen combo (Ferrell and Reilly); worst remake, rip-off, or sequel; and worst director (Etan Cohen). There's plenty of competition for each award, and the winners will be announced on Feb. 23.

For those who came in late, "Holmes & Watson" has won negative (sometimes scathing) reviews from critics, audiences, and Sherlockians, and (so far), according to the Box Office Mojo web-site, has grossed less than its estimated production budget of \$42 million. It has been reported that Netflix turned down the film, and that it likely will be available on DVD in March for those who want to find fault with it, or to enjoy watching Hugh Laurie overact as Mycroft.

The National (based in the United Arab Emirates) ran an article on Jan. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/yaop68m2> about "How Do Film Studios React When They Know They've Made a Dud?" (there have been many other films that foundered; it is interesting that some major newspapers, including the Washington Post, never bothered to review the film).

Jan 19 #4 Netflix has announced plans for a new live-action Sherlockian television series called "The Irregulars" (to be produced by the Canadian company Muse Entertainment); Tom Bidwell, who will be writing the series, has said, "what if Sherlock Holmes was a drug addict and a delinquent and the kids solve the whole case whilst he takes credit?" Bidwell's adaptation of "Watership Down" aired on BBC One last month, and he talked about that (and about "The Irregulars") in a BBC Writersroom interview on Dec. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/ydxgpgqwh>. Muse produced four Sherlockian television films that starred Matt Frewer as Holmes: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2000), "The Sign of Four" (2001), "Royal Scandal" (2001), and "The Case of the Whitechapel Vampire" (2002).

The television series will be based on four graphic novels written by Tony Lee and illustrated by Dan Boulwood that were published Franklin Watts in 2011; their graphic novels already have been dramatized by Eric Coble as a two-act play "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" that premiered in Milwaukee, Wis., in 2014; it has had regional productions elsewhere and the script is available from Dramatic Publishing.

David L. Hammer ("Major-General Stoner") died on Dec. 27. He had a long career as a lawyer, and was launched as a Sherlockian author in 1983 with the publication of his splendid *The Game Is Afoot: A Travel Guide to the England of Sherlock Holmes*, the first of a long series of books about his world-wide travels in the footsteps of Holmes. He was the founder of the Gasogene Press, and presided over an interesting Sherlockian workshop in Dubuque. Scott Monty has a warm tribute to David at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/ya92lg7w>, with a link to Gael Stahl's interview with Dave for the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.

One of the interesting things about modern technology is that the Internet makes it possible to find productions of Sherlockian plays just about anywhere. Howard Ostrom notes Ken Ludwig's "Sherlock Holmes dhe Langoi i Baskervillëve" at the Metropol Theater in Tirana, Albania, Dec. 13, 2018-Feb. 3, 2019 <www.tinyurl.com/y92nmucv>.

The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2018 has "War and Peace" as its theme, with contributions that include pastiches, essays, and artwork, all related to appropriate aspects of the Canon; the 60-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, can be ordered from Phillip (at 3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304), and the cost is \$10.00 postpaid (checks payable to the Norwegian Explorers, please). Anyone outside the U.S. should contact Phillip <pgberman@gmail.com> to ask about the postpaid cost.

Peter Calamai ("The Leeds Mercury") died on Jan. 22. A distinguished Canadian journalist, Peter was awarded membership in the Order of Canada in 2014, honoring his achievements as a science journalist and his contributions to the cause of literacy. He drew upon his expertise in journalism for many of his contributions to Canonical scholarship, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2005, and was the winner of the BSI's Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article published in The Baker Street Journal in 2012.

Jan 19 #5 The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards, and they include Bradley Harper's *A Knife in the Fog* (for best first novel by an American author) and Leslie S. Klinger's *Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s* (for best critical/biographical). The winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 25.

The Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft and the Austrian town of Feldkirch will celebrate Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 160th birthday with an excursion to Feldkirch on May 23-26 (Conan Doyle studied at the Jesuit College of Stella Matutina from 1875 to 1876). More information on the event is available at www.dshc.de/dshg-jahresreise-2019, all in German (as the conference will be).

The Fourth Garrideb will hold its "Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes Dinner" in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Mar. 29, during the American Numismatic Association's National Money Show; there's more information about the event at www.tinyurl.com/y9nhndby.

Russell Baker died on Jan. 21. He was a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who worked most of his career for the N.Y. Times, as a reporter and as a columnist. He also succeeded Alistair Cooke as host of "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS, introducing programs from 1993 to 2004; none of the programs were Sherlockian, but he often found reason to mention (and praise) Holmes and Conan Doyle.

The British Royal Mint has announced that it will issue a 50p coin honoring Sherlock Holmes this year, and the coin already is available for purchase in an annual set that includes all of this year's coins, in various metals; details on the coin, the sets, and an illustration, will be found at the Fourth Garrideb web-site www.tinyurl.com/yc89akeo. Of course the Royal Mint hopes that collectors (and speculators) will pursue the expensive annual sets, but it will be worthwhile waiting: Greg has learned that individual coins will be available later this year at more modest prices. It is unlikely, however, that the coins will turn up in pocket change.

The Beacon Society offers annual Jan Stauber grants of up to \$600 to fund development of programs that 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 society's web-site www.tinyurl.com/h7acxds.

Windsor Davies died on Jan. 17. Born in Wales, he began his acting career on stage in 1961 and went on to work in film and television and as a voice actor in commercials. He played Inspector Illingworth in a dramatization of Max Pemberton's "The Ripening Rubies" (1971), with Bernard Sutton as Robert Lang, in the ITV television series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes".

The Chicago Philharmonic has an interesting afternoon program coming up on Mar. 24, at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie: "Silent Sherlock" will offer Buster Keaton's "Sherlock Jr.," (1924), Koko the Clown's "Fadeaway" (1926), and Felix the Cat's "Sure-Locked Holmes" (1928) (the first and third films being Sherlockian), with live orchestral accompaniment www.chicagophilharmonic.org/silent-sherlock.

Jan 19 #6 Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" on at Cheney Hall in Manchester, Conn., through Feb. 17 <www.cheneyhall.org>. It also is due at the Granite Theatre in Westerly, R.I., Mar. 22-Apr. 7 <www.granitetheatre.com>.

Richard Lavin's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Impaled Whaler" will be performed at the Tudor House in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., Feb. 15-23 <www.tudorhouseentertainment.villas>.

David Stuart Davies' new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Reckoning" will debut at the Assembly Roxy in Edinburgh, Feb. 25-Mar. 2; there's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/y8dlfpb4>.

Mike Grogan's "Life After Sherlock" (billed as "a tale of blackmail, murder, suicide, deceit, and treasure, all in two acts") is touring in Britain with performances scheduled at the Alton Assembly Rooms in Alton on May 25, the Hanger Farm Arts Centre in Southampton on May 31, the Capitol Theatre in Horsham on June 7, and the Petersfield Festival Hall in Petersfield on June 15. Devil's Drum Productions seems to be the producer, but doesn't have a working web-site; a Google search will help. Mike Grogan can be seen at <<https://twitter.com/mikegroganmusic>>.

If you haven't heard already, postage prices have gone up again: a first-class letter now costs 55¢ (up from 50¢), so subscriptions to this newsletter will cost more, for those few remaining subscribers willing to pay for the privilege of opening envelopes rather reading the newsletter online (or printing it themselves). The second ounce of a first-class letter now costs 15¢ (down from 21¢), and delivery outside the U.S. does not cost more (yet).

Finally: if you have noticed slight differences between this month's issue and past issues, that's because this month's issue was created on my newer computer, a change required by the hospitalization of my older MS-DOS computer, and the need to find an exorcist, a resurrectionist, and a wizard to bring me firmly into the 21st century. If you did not notice any differences, that is because I was easily able to find someone who combines all three skills, and has been able to show me how to use Microsoft Word instead of Volkswriter 3, and to write my newsletter on my newer Windows 10 computer. The font is slightly different (TrueType's Courier New isn't quite the same as dot-matrix Courier), but I'm delighted that I still can pretend that I'm using a typewriter (as I did when I started writing paragraphs to John Bennett Shaw in the now-distant 1970s). Some day you might see things such as proportional spacing and dingbats, but the world (this one, at least) is not quite prepared for that.

A few things, including some very recent paragraphing, have vanished, but I expect to catch up sooner rather than later. My Wizard has told me that there's a way to run my older software on my newer computer, so it's possible (but not likely) that this slightly-more-modern look may vanish. If there's anything I've forgotten to remember, please let me know.

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

The Baker Street Irregulars Press and the BSI Trust will hold a book fair on Apr. 27 at the Chatham-Summit Quaker Friends Meeting House in Chatham, N.J., from noon to 4:00 pm, offering books from the various BSI Press series, and used books and other Sherlockiana that have been donated to the Trust. More information is available from Denny Dobry <dendobry@ptd.net>; the nearest train station is NJ Transit's Chatham Station on the Morristown Line, from Penn Station in New York, and Denny will be happy to arrange shuttle transportation from the Chatham Station on request.

If you can't make it to New Jersey, or just can't wait, you can send your want-list to Denny; the BSI Trust inventory includes a wide range of Sherlockian and Doylean material, offered at reasonable prices. Proceeds will be used to maintain the BSI Archives at the Lilly Library at the University of Indiana.

Heritage Auctions is offering the Otto Penzler Collection of Mystery Fiction, beginning with Part One on Mar. 6 in New York; there are some splendid items in the auction, and their web-site includes a short video showing his magnificent library <www.tinyurl.com/y26mknss>.

If you have been thinking about subscribing to the Baker Street Journal, now's the time to decide to do so, before the spring issue goes to press at the end of March. Subscribers will receive all five issues, including the Christmas Annual, which will be a tribute both to the late William S. Baring-Gould and to his *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*. Strike while the iron's hot: go to <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com> to subscribe (and find much else of interest).

Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, and there's still time to see it at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., where it will run through May 27 <www.lsc.org>. The exhibition was created by the Exhibits Development Group, and Ross Davies notes that there's an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9b7yq83> where you can see how the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might want to put it on display.

Greg Ruby discusses "Holmes & Watson in the Great War" (emphasizing Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce's military medals) in the *Numismatist* (Feb. 2019) <www.onlinedigitalpublishing.com/publication/?i=562102&vr=html5&p=50>.

Pokémon's "Detective Pikachu" film is scheduled for release on May 10, but Warner Bros. is so enthusiastic about the film that work has started on a sequel, according to the *Hollywood Reporter* (Jan. 25); you can see Pikachu in Sherlockian costume in a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/ybszcx68>.

You can now register for the "Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences" conference on Aug. 8-11 in Minneapolis; this is the triennial conference sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers, the University of Minnesota, and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. For more information (and a registration form), visit <www.norwegianexplorers.org>.

Feb 19 #2 Dame June Whitfield died on Dec. 28. She began her acting career on stage in 1944 and went on to work in films and on radio and television; she was best known for her appearance in the television series "Absolutely Fabulous", and played Mrs. Hudson and other female parts in Roy Hudd's "The Newly Discovered Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" on BBC Radio 2 in 1999. She was appointed OBE in 1985, CBE in 1998, and then Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2017, for services to drama and entertainment.

John Linsenmeyer has relayed Michael Quigley's report on the Jezail Bullet, an interesting cocktail with a nicely Canonical name and a Sherlockian history Lyndsay Faye commissioned her husband Gabriel Lehner (who does this sort of thing professionally) to create a specialty cocktail for the Baker Street Babes' "Daintiest Bee Under Your Bonnet Ball" at The Players during the birthday festivities in 2015. Laurie Fraser Manifold provided attractive artwork, and the cocktail is reported to have met with universal approval; you can find a readable, downloadable, and printable version of artwork and recipe at the Red Circle's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>.

"One Book/One Community" is an annual program sponsored by the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, and this year they have chosen *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. The program includes an exhibition titled "Who's Your Holmes?" at Louisiana State University's Hill Memorial Library through May 31; the material on display is drawn from the LSU Libraries' Russell A. Mann Sherlock Holmes Research Collection. More information about the program and the exhibition is available at <www.tinyurl.com/ycg4tmnn>, and there's an inventory of the collection at <www.tinyurl.com/y9a2zfvc>.

Registration is now open for the "Holmes, Doyle, & Friends" gathering on Mar. 29-30 in Dayton, Ohio; details will be found at the web-site of the Agra Treasurers <www.agratreasurers.net/holmes--doyle----friends.html>.

Stephen Fry's recording "Sherlock Holmes: The Definitive Collection" has been uploaded to YouTube in 17 parts, and may still be available for download at <www.youtube.com/channel/UC4pYq9_yvIV8vfZzzwFY8Nw>. This will be of interest to people in the U.S., where the version offered by Audible is not complete because of copyright restrictions. *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* is in parts 16 and 17.

"It's Elemental, My Dear Watson," according to an advertisement spotted by Joe Coppola <www.tinyurl.com/yau8qlw2>; the advertisement is by a company called SparkFun, which explains that its "gator:bit v.2.0 is an all-in-one carrier board for your micro:bit that provides you with a fully functioning development and prototype platform."

Joanna Blalock stars in *The Disappearance of Alistair Ainsworth* (New York: Minotaur, 2019; 306 pp., \$26.99), the third in Leonard Goldberg's series about the daughter of Sherlock Holmes, who once again is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son Dr. John H. Watson Jr.; her father taught her well, and she now (in 1915) she is trying to prevent disaster at the hands of German spies. It's all nicely done, and the author has a web-site at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.

Feb 19 #3 There are many who benefit from Boolean algebra but know little if anything about the man who invented the logic that is used by Google for its searches, and who is credited with having invented the ones and zeros on which modern computers rely. The 200th anniversary of his birth was honored with a Google Doodle <www.tinyurl.com/y8d2lavc>, and *New Light on George Boole*, by Desmond MacHale and Yvonne Cohen (Cork: Atrium, 2018; 476 pp., €19.95), offers a detailed account of Boole's life and work, ending with a full chapter on "Sherlock Holmes, James Moriarty, and George Boole." The authors believe that it was Boole who was at least in part the inspiration for Moriarty, and they make a persuasive although sometimes circumstantial case.

Lynda Arco is offering a wide variety of Sherlockian and Doylean books at eBay; her seller ID is lyar_73 (you can use the advanced search function to find her items).

Don Hobbs continues to update his "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"; the January edition has now with 109 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English in non-Roman alphabets such as Braille and Pitman Shorthand), showing covers in color and with bibliographic details for more than 7,200 entries; a thumb drive costs \$15.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) or \$20.00 (elsewhere) from Don (2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028).

When in Monschau: Karen Murdock has found on-line images of an imaginative metal statue of Sherlock Holmes located in Germany; the artist and history are unknown, but you can see the statue at <www.tinyurl.com/ybkdkjqk>.

Sunny Evans has mentioned Gregory Dowling's essay on "G. K. Chesterton's Father Brown Stories: The Debt to Sherlock Holmes", which is available as a free download at <www.academia.edu>, a web-site that offers free access to more than 22 million research papers (including 300 "sherlock holmes" in the title).

Malice Domestic has announced the nominees for this year's Agatha awards, which include Margalit Fox's *Conan Doyle for the Defense* (best non-fiction). The winners will be announced at Malice in Bethesda on May 4.

William Morgan Sheppard died on Jan. 6. He began his acting career with the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1958, performed on screen and television, and voiced characters in video games. He played Jim Craig in the Royal Shakespeare Company's tour of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in Washington and New York in 1975, and appeared in two episodes of the Geoffrey Whitehead television series in 1979 (as the Man in the Morgue in "The Case of Harry Crocker" and as Mischkin in "Four Minus Four Is One")

"Writers, new writers in particular, worry about giving the reader enough detail," Geri Schear wrote in an essay noted in a weekly e-mailing from MX Publishing <www.rycardus.wordpress.com/2019/01/16/the-final-frontier>; she has written three pastiches about Sherlock Holmes and Lady Beatrice for MX and contributed short stories to MX anthologies, and her advice should be heeded by anyone wanting to write a good pastiche (or a non-pastiche, for that matter).

Feb 19 #4 Thaddeus Holt Jr. died on Dec. 29. A lawyer, he also served as deputy undersecretary of the Army and as secretary to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and was a dedicated military historian and wrote *The Deceivers: Allied Military Deception in the Second World War* (2004). Thad's essay on "The Hornblower Saga" in the N.Y. Times Book Review (May 18, 1975) opened with a quote from Christopher Morley and was as much about Holmes as about Hornblower, and his article "You Have Been in Afghanistan, I Perceive" in *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History* (winter 1994) offered evidence that the fatal battle of Maiwand provided Conan Doyle with the names of both Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson.

Sherlockians and Holmesians have their Canon (and fans of Laurie R. King's "Mary Russell" stories have their Kanon), and Thomas Ling had a long essay in *Radio Times* (Feb. 5) <www.tinyurl.com/yd5wtzwx> about the canon created by fans of Doctor Who, with discussion of the Watsonian and Doylean Perspectives, and the similar approaches that the Whovians take regarding the contradictions and complications in their "Whoniverse".

Laurie R. King's *The Art of Detection* (Nov 05 #6) is a delightful crossover combining the worlds of Kate Martinelli and Mary Russell, and it includes a short story written by Sherlock Holmes that Laurie now offers as a free download: "The Marriage of Billy Birdsong" will be available until Mar. 11 at <www.tinyurl.com/y2nloy4m>.

Albert Finney died on Feb. 8. The British actor began his career on stage and appeared in his first film in 1956, achieving international stardom in the title role in "Tom Jones" (1963); he appeared in many other films and was nominated for five Oscars (and was sometimes called the greatest actor never to have won an Oscar), and had an uncredited cameo as a "man in the audience at opera" in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).

Sidney and Walter Paget contributed illustrations to the Canon (and Walter is said to have been the model when his brother Sidney first drew Holmes), but there is another artist in the Paget family; Greg Ruby has three items at his Fourth Garrideb web-site on coins and medals that were designed by Walter Paget's son Thomas Paget. Just go to <www.fourthgarrideb.com> and search for [paget].

Betty Ballantine died on Feb. 12. She and her late husband Ian Ballantine founded Bantam Books and the Ballantine Books, and helped invent the modern paperback. They published Sherlockian titles, of course, and were responsible for one of a delightful publishing hoax: Jean Shepherd, who had a night-time radio show in New York City, once asked his listeners to go to bookstores and ask for Frederick R. Ewing's *I Libertine*; neither the book nor the author existed, but the book made some best-seller lists, at a time when the lists were based on orders as well as sales, greatly frustrating booksellers. When the Ballantines heard about the hoax they asked science-fiction author Theodore Sturgeon to write the book as Ewing; Sturgeon did, and the Ballantines published it in 1956, with cover artwork by Frank Kelly Freas that shows a pub sign for the Fish & Staff; the sign has images of a sturgeon and shepherd's staff.

Feb 19 #5 Charles Finch's *The Vanishing Man* (New York: Minotaur, 2019; 269 pp., \$26.99), set in 1853, is a prequel to the long-running series about Charles Lenox, an amateur detective in pre-Sherlockian London (the series takes him into the 1870s), offering an intriguing view of the London, and England, into which Holmes was born; the story's well-told, with interesting characters and a good sense of time and place.

"Sherlock Holmes 3" (that's the only title announced so far for the third Robert Downey Jr. film) has an official release date of Dec. 25, 2020, according to Warner Bros. There's reported to be script, and one can assume that at some point they'll start production. Or not.

Further to an earlier mention of the CW television series "The Flash" (Aug 18 #4), the continuing character Harrison "Sherloque" Wells (played by Tom Cavanagh) is a distinct homage to Sherlock Holmes; in a recent episode he mentioned his former partner Watsune, who had an affair with Sherloque's fourth wife, and in the next episode we learned that she was Renee Adler (played by Kimberly Williams-Paisley).

Jennie Paton spotted an attractive plaster sculpture of Sherlock Holmes on eBay <www.tinyurl.com/y9ttzxzc>, offered by Sam Safieh at BargainSales365 in England (£29.99); they also offer a plaster sculpture of the exterior of 221 Baker Street (£110.00) <www.tinyurl.com/yaocmp6u>.

"Talk About Sherlock" is a new monthly audio blog by Mattias Bostrom; in the first episode ("The Walking Out Mystery") he discusses the impact of the Will Ferrell/John C. Reilly film "Holmes & Watson" and wonders whether the reported "mass walkouts" actually occurred. In the second episode ("The Micah Clarke Effect") he discusses the importance of Conan Doyle's historical fiction. You can listen to both of the episodes of his blog at <www.talkaboutsherlock.libsyn.com>.

Josh Sorokach's discussion of the documentary "Game Changers" in the on-line newsletter Decider (Feb. 4) included a report that there was a Sherlockian inspiration for the game show "Jeopardy" in a conversation between Merv Griffin and his wife Julann; details at <www.tinyurl.com/ycc29xdh>.

Ray Betzner has been blogging for some time at "Studies in Starrett" about Starrett's *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, and you can read Ray's final(17th) chapter at <www.tinyurl.com/ydqwfpfh>, with links to the earlier chapters; there's much to be said about this landmark in the Sherlockian literature, and Ray says it well.

The Adventure of the Creeping Man (Winchester University Press, 2017; 132 pp., £35.00 postpaid in the U.K./£50.00 postpaid elsewhere) is a facsimile edition of the manuscript, accompanied by an introduction and an annotated transcript by Neil McCaw, and a facsimile of the story as published in *The Strand Magazine*; McCaw offers an excellent discussion of the story, and of the changes that Conan Doyle made as he wrote it. Of particular note is the book's epigraph: "Read at once if convenient—if inconvenient, read all the same," a delightful paraphrase of the Canon. The book can be ordered at <www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/conandoyale/thecreepingman>.

Feb 19 #6 "Cromer is a very 1902 kind of place," the Guardian reported on Feb. 22. "One half expects to see a non-ironic mutton-chop or a waxed moustache in the queue at Morrisons, or Arthur Conan Doyle (awfully keen on Cromer) filling up his Prius at the petrol station." You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/y3o2ogj9>. It was at the Royal Links Hotel in Cromer in 1901 that Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson gave birth to the Hound of the Baskervilles; a photograph of the hotel that was taken two years earlier can be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/yxh7splv>.

It's nice to see old television commercials turn up at YouTube: Jennie Paton has reported a 30-second commercial for the American Gas Association and the Lennox Gas Furnace that aired in 1990, starring Patrick Horgan as Holmes and Sandy Marshall as Watson <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wY3g47rID_w>.

There are of course very few people who own a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, and if you're not one of those very few you may want to purchase the new facsimile published by Matt Wingett; it's nicely done and available from <www.lifeisamazing.co.uk> for £15.00, offering you a chance to read the two original drawing room plays that accompanied the first appearance of "A Study in Scarlet" (and the advertisements that provide an interesting look at what life was like in 1887).

Also available from the same publisher is Wingett's *Portsmouth: A Literary and Pictorial Tour* (2018; 93 pp, £12.50); it's a carefully-researched and nicely-illustrated history of the city's varied literary associations, including (needless to say) Arthur Conan Doyle, who was only one of the many authors who lived in or wrote about Portsmouth. And *Conan Doyle and the Mysterious World of Light 1887-1920* (2016; 320 pp., £12.99), in which Wingett reprints (and comments on) articles by and about Conan Doyle that appeared in *Light* and other magazine and newspapers, and offers a detailed look at the development of Conan Doyle's religious approach to Spiritualism.

"The Next Leader of the World's Oldest Sherlock Holmes Society Loves Mysteries—and the Great Game" is the headline on an article in the Monterey County Weekly (Feb. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/y6tld37z>, the next "benevolent dictator" of The Baker Street Irregulars.

Samuel Feinberg ("The Prince of Colonna") died on Feb. 13. He had a long career in broadcasting in Philadelphia and New York, and was a member of the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia. Sam was a devoted member of the Sons of the Copper Beeches, contributed articles to the Baker Street Journal and *More Leaves from the Copper Beeches*, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.

The Golden Raspberry Awards (for failure in cinematic achievement), also known as the Razzies, were created in 1981, and traditionally are awarded the day before the Oscars. This year's winners have been announced, and "Holmes & Watson" won in four categories: worst picture; worst supporting actor (John C. Reilly); worst remake, rip-off, or sequel; and worst director (Ethan Cohen). The film was nominated in two other categories (worst actor and worst screen combo). Details at <www.tinyurl.com/y3feqrjp>.

Feb 19 #7 The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State has announced a Raffle for a brick fragment from Christopher Morley's house in Roslyn Estates on Long Island, offering admirers of Morley a rare opportunity to own an artifact from his home, which was torn down in 2011. Tickets cost \$5.00 each, and proceeds from the raffle will go to the Christopher Morley grave decoration fund; the drawing will be held at the society's annual dinner in Hoboken on Apr. 28, and tickets can be purchased via <hobokenfreestate@mbcable.com>.

"Holmes & Watson" (with Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly) will be released on Apr. 9 in a Blu-ray/DVD set (\$34.99) and DVD only (\$30.99); the added features will include 20 deleted scenes <www.tinyurl.com/y3zzbaod>.

Will Thomas' *Hell Bay* (New York: Minotaur, 2016; 290 pp., \$25.99) continues his series featuring private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewellyn, taking them to one of the Scilly Isles and a desperate battle to solve a series of brutal murders. *Old Scores* (2017; 294 pp., \$25.99), the next in the series, opens with Barker arrested for the murder of a Japanese ambassador, and reveals a lot about Barker's interesting life before he arrived in London; the characters and mysteries are nicely done, and Thomas has a web-site at <www.willthomasauthor.com>.

Jennie Paton spotted Walmart's advertisement for an inexpensive Sherlock Holmes costume kit <www.tinyurl.com/y644wpn3>; for \$3.99 it's likely only patterns, but they also offer a variety of Sherlockian costumes.

The New Yorker, on-line as well as in print, offers "Daily Shouts: Humor, Satire, and Funny Observations" that included (on Jan. 9) Ellen Rosen and Colin Stokes' illustrated "Clues That You Are the Unorthodox Detective in a Murder Mystery"; go to <www.tinyurl.com/y9h5nx92> to see their take on Sherlock Holmes.

"How Sherlock Changed the World" (a two-hour program broadcast in the U.K. and the U.S. in 2013) is now available at YouTube, Jennie Paton reports, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPYBxfvIULU>.

The Royal Mint's new 50p coin honoring Sherlock Holmes so far is available (still) only in annual sets, but you can see some imaginative artwork that promotes the coin, and an item about its designer Stephen Raw, on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y7xajv2s>.

"'Clue House' in Peterborough Inspired Parker Brothers" is the headline on a story in the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript (Feb. 18), noted by Karen Murdock <www.tinyurl.com/yxgfecv9>; according to the article, the house, in New Hampshire, was owned by George and Grace Parker of the Parker Brothers family when the game *Clue* was invented, and the game echoes the layout of the house. The citation for the game in Ron De Waal's *The Universal Sherlock Holmes* reports that in 1949 (when the game was first issued) it was called *Clue, The Great New Sherlock Holmes Game!* But (and there's often a but) according to Wikipedia, the British game *Cluedo* was licensed to Parker Brothers and issued in the U.S. as *Clue*.

Feb 19 #8 "Spy's Skeleton Found in British Home" was the headline on an article in the N.Y. Times (June 27, 1974); it's a spectacular story, well worth reading <www.tinyurl.com/yxbvwlfj>, not really Sherlockian except that Holmes certainly would have nodded and said, "Well, that's Scotland Yard for you." It seems, from an Internet search, that the mystery's still unsolved.

Deb E. Tenney's *The Adventure of Black Peter: Hawaiian Style* (El Cerrito: Glencannon Press, 2017; 16 pp., \$20.00) is an imaginative addition to the universe of Canonical translations, presented in Hawaiian pidgin, complete with footnotes and an explanation of how Hawaiian pidgin is pronounced.

I hear of Sherlock everywhere: Jennie Paton spotted an amusing advertisement created by Saatchi & Saatchi in the United Arab Emirates for Head & Shoulders shampoo <www.tinyurl.com/y8nxfwf4>.

The "Seattle Squeeze" is what the locals call the closing of the Alaskan Way Viaduct that recently was closed, affecting 90,000 cars full of commuters and other drivers. Bill Seil has kindly forwarded an amusing (and Sherlockian) editorial cartoon by David Horsey from the Seattle Times (on Jan. 30) <www.tinyurl.com/ycartyxz>, and you can click on the "simply disappeared" link for more context.

Theatrics: Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Coolidge Theatre in Wellsboro, Pa., Mar. 15-23 <www.tinyurl.com/yxkvvr9b>.

Holmes and Watson are characters in the musical "Take Me Away" to be performed at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, N.J., Mar. 20-Apr. 30 <www.hhplayhouse.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at the Cante V. Sutton Theatre in Raleigh, N.C., Apr. 12-28; their web-site's at <www.raleighlittlethetre.org>. Also at the Theater Barn in New Lebanon, N.Y., June 21-30 <www.theatheaternbarn.org>; at Cumston Hall in Monmouth, Maine, July 11-Aug. 15 <www.theateratmonmouth.org>. It's also due at the Pepsi-Cola Theatre for the Performing Arts in Mitchell, S.D., on Oct. 4-13 <www.mitchellact.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at the Greenville Theatre in Greenville, S.C., on Oct. 25-Nov. 10 <www.greenvilleonline.org>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is due at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., June 12-July 26, 2020 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.

Dan Blackley's new play "Sherlock Holmes: Here There Be Dragons" will be performed at the Camino Real Playhouse in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., on Oct. 18-Nov. 3 <www.caminorealplayhouse.org>; "in 1880s London, there are gruesome killings in Whitechapel."

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

Maiwand is in the news again, many years after the battle in which Watson was wounded in 1880: according to the Sunday Times (Feb. 24), the Ministry of Defence has reported to the Pentagon that the battlefield was looted by American soldiers who were deployed there in 2009, and that personal possessions and military items that had been buried with victims of the battle were sent to America and sold to collectors. Any soldier who took the material "may have broken international law," an MoD official said.

Peter C. Davidson's dramatization of Conan Doyle's "The Disintegration Machine" (brought up to date) is a 17-minute film that debuted at the University of Utah in 2017; it can be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/yc3sbbdj>.

It wasn't that long ago that people diagnosed Sherlock Holmes as displaying Asperger's syndrome, which now is considered part of the autism spectrum; Alan Rettig has found an interesting mention of Sherlock Holmes in a discussion of "autism chic" in an article by Robert Hughes in Northwestern Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/y589z3hl>.

There seem to be Sherlockians who collect anything and everything, but are there any who collect Sherlockian knives? Alexander Orlov has reported an artistic Sherlockian knife made by Alexander Aredakov, you can see images of his knife at <www.vk.com/id167856065>.

A reminder about the book fair due at the Chatham-Summit Meeting House in Chatham, N.J., from noon to 4:00 pm on Apr. 27, when publications of the Baker Street Irregulars Press and Sherlockian material donated to the BSI Trust will be offered for sale; details available from Denny Dobry, who's also happy to help fill want lists from those who can't get to the event <dendobry@ptd.net>.

Jennie Paton has found "The Shackles of Sherlock Holmes" available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVNhZXNPD9w>; broadcast by ITV3 in 2007, the documentary features David Burke (who played Watson in the Granada series) and commentary by Owen Dudley Edwards, David Stuart Davies, Andrew Lycett, Jon Lellenberg, and Gyles Brandreth.

The latest "Sherlock" is a light-weight fingerprint scanner that's marketed by Integrated Biometrics <www.integratedbiometrics.com>; they also offer a Mini Watson.

The web-site HN Entertainment has "learned from a source" that "Sherlock Holmes 3" (the next in the Robert Downey Jr. franchise) will take place in the Old West, especially San Francisco <www.tinyurl.com/y5klclu4>; one can assume that this is the first possibly unreliable rumor about the film.

Playbill Vault <www.playbill.com/vault> bills itself as the largest Broadway data-base on-line, and it's well worth a look by anyone interested in Sherlockian and Doylean theater; there are images of programs as well as articles. The Internet Broadway Data Base <www.ibdb.com> is another fine resource for information about performances and casts and credits.

Mar 19 #2 Alexander Orlov has reported Mikhail Molyukov's *Biology with Sherlock Holmes* (Moscow: ACT, 2019; 242 pp., R239); it's all in Russian, with a detailed discussion of "how animals and plants helped the famous detective Sherlock Holmes unravel dozens of crimes!" The publisher's web-site is at <www.labirint.ru/books/674416>.

Frank Cho (the award-winning artist who created the comic strip "Liberty Meadows") contributed the elegant Sherlockian artwork on the cover of the program for this year's annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars, you can see the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/yyvzpxas>.

"Scooby-Doo and Guess Who?" is an animated television series scheduled to premiere on the Boomerang streaming service and app this year. The gang will solve mysteries while meeting celebrities, including Sherlock Holmes.

Fun Cases is a British company that offers a wide range of merchandise (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian), including an imaginative case for a cell phone (£7.99) <www.funcases.com>.



André Previn died on Feb. 28. He was a consummate musician, as a pianist, composer, and conductor; he won eleven Grammys and four Oscars, received a knighthood in 1996, and was one of the Kennedy Center Honorees in 1998. His connection with Sherlock Holmes is through Sarasate (Holmes said at the end of "The Red-Headed League" that "Sarasate plays at the St. James's Hall this afternoon"): Previn conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra for a 1979 recording of Sarasate's "Zigeunerweisen" with Itzhak Perlman on the violin, and you can listen to the recording at <www.tinyurl.com/y5jstbqb>.

"Catholic Royal Opens New Centre for Christian Renewal at Stonyhurst College" was the headline on a story in the Catholic Universe (Feb. 27); the Catholic royal was Lord Nicholas Windsor, great-grandson of King George V, and the article <www.tinyurl.com/y273zf8s> is interesting for its mention of Conan Doyle having carved his name on a desk at the school, very close to the engraving of a contemporary called Moriarty; the desk is one of the historical artifacts that went on display at the school in 2002, according to the Lancashire Telegraph <www.tinyurl.com/yyflmwy>, and you can see an image of the desk at <www.tinyurl.com/y2qtgg68>.

Martin Edwards will deliver this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture at 2:00 pm on Apr. 6 at the Toronto Reference Library, speaking on "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" <www.acdfriends.org>; admission is free, and the public is welcome to attend.

Carol Channing died on Jan. 15. The award-winning actress made her stage debut in 1941 and went on to stardom in leading roles in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" (1949) and "Hello Dolly" (1964). Jean Upton noted in the District Messenger that Channing also played Mehitabel the cat (with Eddie Bracken as Archy the cockroach) in the Broadway musical "archy & mehitabel" in 1954 (based on the writings of Don Marquis, who was a close friend of Christopher Morley and an early member of The Baker Street Irregulars; she also voiced Mehitabel in the animated film "Shinbone Alley" in 1970.

Mar 19 #3 Carolyn Senter has established the R. Joel Senter Sr. Prize in honor of her late husband (they published the Sherlockian E-Times for many years). The prize will reward young people from grades four through twelve for excellence in writing and critical thinking, based on an essay about one of the Sherlock Holmes stories; the reward will be administered by the Beacon Society <www.beaconsociety.com>, and you're invited to contribute at their web-site (please mark your contribution for the Senter Prize).

Arthur Thomas Walker died on Feb. 9. He was a cornerstone member of the Florida Bibliophile Society, and an avid collector of both Sherlock Holmes and Ernest Stratemeyer material. His collection eventually will be available; contact Maureen E. Mulvihill <maureenmulvihill@gmail.com> for more information.

Jaimee Leigh's hand-crafted "Well-Read Birdhouses" are sold at the Barrow Bookstore in Concord, Mass. Each one "aims to summarize the essence of a book or story," and of course she has not neglected Sherlock Holmes; his birdhouse can be seen at <www.barrowbookstore.com/literarygifts.html>.



Big Chief Studios offers a wide range of authorized (and expensive) figures and dioramas from the "Sherlock" television series, and they're now having a clearance sale <www.tinyurl.com/y62cjco6> on some of their merchandise.

The release of "Sherlock Holmes 3" (the next film in the franchise starring Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law), previously scheduled for Christmas in 2020, has been postponed to the end of 2021 (according to a story in the Hollywood Reporter, which noted that the first film has grossed \$524 million world-wide, and the second film \$545.4 million).

The Occupants of the Empty House have published their monthly Camden House Journal ever since the society was established in 1977, and they finally have gone electronic, offering PDFs via e-mail. If you'd like to see news and scholarship from the Occupants, send an e-mail message to Bill Cochran <www.murraytheorderly.com>.

Further to the item (Sep 18 #1) about the origin of the name Doyle, there is a web-site <www.irishcentral.com> that offers information about Irish family names, with a short video that explains that the Dubhghaill (dark strangers) were the darker-haired Danish Vikings (rather than the lighter-haired Norwegian Vikings).

Frederic H. Mende ("Lord Holdhurst") died on Mar. 15. An expert musician, he played with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and after moving to Charlotte, N.C., he taught music in the public schools and played first trumpet with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. A life-long student of military history, he identified a military surgeon who might have been the inspiration for Dr. Watson and he was an energetic member of his local Sherlockian society, the Saxe-Coburg Squares of Mecklenburg County. Fred received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.

Mar 19 #4 James Mustich's *1,000 Books to Read Before You Die* (New York: Workman, 2018; 948 pp., \$35.00) is a delightful exploration of both Literature and literature, full of insightful commentary, and plenty of surprises. Conan Doyle's *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* is included ("it would be hard to name another modern literary character who has achieved such international celebrity"), and so are Christopher Morley's *Parnassus on Wheels* and *The Haunted Bookshop* (described as "two charming novels that celebrate the company of books").

Some Sherlockian societies are exclusive, some not so much, and a few are totally inclusive, including Doyle's Rotary Coffin, founded by Paul Thomas Miller (with the motto "All Holmes Is Good Holmes"). The society's so inclusive that you're invited to print your own membership card at its website <www.sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin>. The society's purpose is "wholeheartedly and contrarily enjoying stupid Holmesiana regardless of how canonical others consider it to be," and its goal is "resisting the urge to be a Sherlock Snob and instead embracing every last daft bit of Holmes available."

Australia has issued a stamp honoring the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the "Welcome Stranger" in the Bulldog Gully goldfields in 1869; it is still the largest alluvial gold nugget ever found, and it yielded 71kg of gold, worth (then) £9,583 or (now) about AU\$4 million. The second largest, the Welcome Nugget, found in Ballarat in 1859, yielded 69kg of gold (Ballarat is mentioned in "The Sign of the Four" and in "The Boscombe Valley Mystery"). They melted nuggets down in those days; the world's largest surviving nugget is the "Pepita Canaã" found in Brazil in 1983 with 52.33kg of gold, now on display in the Museu de Valores do Banco Central in Brasilia (the source nugget was larger, but split into pieces while being removed from the ground).



Karen Murdock spotted the "Sherlock Personality Quiz" at the WETA website <www.weta.org/tv/program/sherlock/quiz>, where fans of the Benedict Cumberbatch series can find their match.

The battle over the Lyndhurst Park Hotel continues. The developer withdrew its appeal against the National Park Authority's decision to reject a proposal to demolish the hotel (the campaign to protect the hotel included evidence that Conan Doyle helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912) (Dec 18 #4), but the Southern Daily Echo reported on Mar. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/y57jpw6> that PegasusLife plans to submit fresh proposals to replace the hotel with apartments and holiday homes.

Ross E. Davies has edited (and published) the *Baker Street Almanac: An Annual Capsule of a Timeless Past & Future 2019*, which he imaginatively describes as "a formidable scrap-book of 2018, including treasures created or uncovered then, with a few other odds and ends tossed in, and a glance ahead at 2019." It's that and more, in 301 pages, with a wide variety of articles written by Sherlockians from all corners of the globe, and it is available both ink-on-paper (for \$30.00) and as a free 659-MB download at <www.greenbag.org>.

Mar 19 #5 The fall 2018 issue of The Magic Door (that's the newsletter of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) includes a report by Dayna Nuhn on letters Conan Doyle wrote to the publisher Grant Richards (purchased at the auction of Daniel Posnansky's collection), and other news from and about the Library and the Collection; copies are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Barbara Rusch's one-act play "The Crossing" was performed at the Toronto Reference Library in 2011, during the "A Study in Scandal" conference; it has been expanded into a three-act play "The Crossing, or Three Authors in Search of a Character" that has been published for members of the Friends (the three authors being Oscar Wilde, Edgar Allan Poe, and Harry Houdini, with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle involved). There are a limited number of copies available to people who decide to join the Friends now; their web-site <www.acdfriends.org> is credit card and PayPal friendly, and you can send a check (in US or Canadian dollars) to Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above). The minimum donation of \$35.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the play. You can also purchase just the play, for \$20.00 postpaid, from Donny Zaldin; contact him at <donaldzaldin@rogers.com>.

BBC Radio 4 broadcast a series of twelve 30-minute programs in a "Sherlock Holmes" series in 1978, with Barry Foster as Holmes and David Buck as Watson, and Jennie Paton reports that many of them are available on-line at YouTube; search for [barry foster sherlock].

George Morfogen died on Mar. 8. He began his Broadway career as a stage manager in 1962, and went to appear on stage, screen, and television. He was perhaps best known for playing Bob Rebadow on the HBO series "Oz", and performed as Professor Moriarty (with Frank Langella as Holmes) in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" on stage in 1977, and again for a production broadcast by HBO in 1981.

Jennie Paton has found a new (and imaginative) Sherlockian artist: Domino Erdmann, a young woman in Germany who spent six months creating something that has to be seen to be believed <www.tinyurl.com/y5sjmhe8>.

Michael Halm's *Sherlock Holmes and the Mad Doctor* (Hierogamous Enterprises, 2015; 109 pp. \$8.00) has Holmes and Watson in pursuit of a doctor who has invented a time machine; they travel into a great number of pasts and futures described by other authors of pastiches.

Mystery-writer Peter Lovesey has long been interested in the Olympics, and some years ago helped identify the two men who assisted Dorando Pietro at the end of the Olympic marathon in 1908; they actually were Clerk of the Course Jack Andrew and Chief Medical Officer Michael Bulger, rather than (as some still maintain) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Mar 02 #4). Lovesey also has written Sherlockian pastiches, none of which are in the latest collection of his short stories published by Crippen & Landru, *The Crime of Miss Oyster Brown and Other Stories*, but his fans will welcome the opportunity to enjoy the book <www.crippenlandru.com>.

Mar 19 #6 Karen Murdock has noted a story in the San Jose Mercury News (Mar. 11) about Tesla's decision to close half of its stores. The car company's CEO Elon Musk said in a memo to company employees that some of the stores that have been closed so far had not passed "the Sherlock Holmes test," adding that "most of the stores are in such difficult or obscure locations, only Sherlock Holmes could find them!"

"Numismatists do not fear change" is the motto of the Fourth Garrideb website maintained by Greg Ruby, who recently discussed the souvenir he prepared for last January's birthday festivities in New York; explaining how and why Sherlock Crater on the Moon can be seen on a U.S. one-dollar coin issued in 1976 <www.tinyurl.com/y65894po>.

An attention-getting opening paragraph for a book, as noted by Kate Stine in Mystery Scene's monthly on-line newsletter: "On the third day of their honeymoon, infamous environmental activist Stewie Woods and his new bride, Annabel Bellotti, were spiking trees in the forest when a cow exploded and blew them up. Until then, their marriage had been happy." In *Savage Run*, by C. J. Box (2003).

Sherlockians who have 3D printers may want to purchase (for \$15) a program that prints a bust of Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes, reported by Jennie Paton; it's available from CGTrader <www.tinyurl.com/y4rauesw>, and there's a matching bust of Martin Freeman as Dr. Watson.

It's not at all surprising that anyone who knew the late John Bennett Shaw has stories to tell about him, and if you would like to read some of those stories you can find them at <www.johnbennettshaw.com>, a delightful website just launched by Jim Hawkins, who has done a fine job of collecting and illustrating tributes to John.

The late Bill Rabe was a thoroughly imaginative publicist, and many of the traditions he started are still observed, one of them the annual snowman burning that welcomes the arrival of spring at Lake Superior State University; Bill's son John has kindly forwarded the press release for the event <www.lssu.edu/snowman-burning>. Note the link to another of his inspired creations, the Unicorn Hunters. He also was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, and the two editions of his *Sherlockian Who's Who and What's What* in 1961 and 1962 offer a wonderful look at what our world was like in those distant days.

Marjorie Weinman Sharmat died on Mar. 12. She launched her career as an author of books for young readers in 1967, and wrote or co-wrote more than 130 books, including a long series of books that featured young detective Nate the Great, who often appeared in Sherlockian costume in illustrations by Marc Simont; the series debuted in 1972 and eventually sold more than 15 million copies, according to her publisher.

Rob Nunn and Dan Andriacco have created an e-mail exchange for Sherlockian societies, so that they can share news and announcements; if you would like to publicize your society's activities, and hear about what other societies are doing, contact Rob at <parallelcasestl@gmail.com>.

Mar 19 #7 Theodora Goss' *European Travel for the Monstrous Gentlewoman* (New York: Saga, 2018; 708 pp. \$26.99) is the second book in her trilogy about "the extraordinary adventures of the Athena Club"; it's a sequel to *The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter* (Jul 17 #6), and the monstrous gentlewomen are inspired by books written by Stevenson, Hawthorne, Wells, Shelley, Stoker, and Rider Haggard. This time Holmes and Watson are only mentioned, but the cliffhanger ending of the book promises that they'll be more involved in the third book, *The Sinister Mystery of the Mesmerizing Girl*. The author's web-site <www.theodoragoss.com>. offers an interesting look at this and other series.

The Hounds of the Internet continue to cycle through the Canon at a rate of one story per week, and Alexander Braun posts colorful "Case Inquiries" for reach story. Willis Frick reposts them at Sherlocktron, and you can examine them at <www.sherlocktron.com/inquiries.html>. Willis also offers Ralph Edwards' "Canon Queeries" <www.sherlocktron.com/queries.html> (Ralph didn't do Queeries for three of the long stories).

Ghost Stories: Classic Tales of Horror and Suspense, edited by Lisa Morton and Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Pegasus, 2019; 272 pp., \$25.95) has nothing by Conan Doyle (although he's mentioned in the introduction), but it's a treat for anyone who enjoys the genre.

Basil Rathbone's former home in Henley-on-Thames in Oxfordshire was burned down this month in a fire that experts believe "was started deliberately as an unlawful act," the Daily Mail reported <www.tinyurl.com/y4h7jdsdp> on Mar. 20; according to the paper, the current owner is a Russian oligarch who lives abroad, and the property has been the subject of numerous planning applications, including a proposal to build 47 homes on the six-acre site. All of the applications have been turned down.

Bill Seil has forwarded a story in Publishers Weekly (Mar. 11) about plans to publish *Mark Twain's Literary Resources: A Reconstruction of His Library and Reading* <www.tinyurl.com/y3o9c4l8>. According to Alan Gribben, he began the project in 1969, and the resulting three volumes will include an annotated bibliography of all the books Twain cited in interviews and in his writings, and the 3,500 titles he owned in his personal library. Perhaps someone will someday do that for Conan Doyle.

"Let us consider the claims of *Whitaker's Almanack*," said Sherlock Holmes (in "The Velley of Fear"). The almanack (that's the British spelling) is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, and is still being published; Neil Clark offered a nice tribute to Whitaker's in the Daily Express (Mar. 11) <www.tinyurl.com/yyq3my3p>.

Further to the report that Great Scotland Yard had been sold for £370 million and would be converted to "mixed-use residential development" (Dec 14 #6), Nick Utechin notes a report in The Times on Mar. 23 that it soon will be the Great Scotland Yard Hotel. The newspaper's web-site is (alas) protected by a pay-wall, but there's a similar story in the Hindustan Times <www.tinyurl.com/yyaqb3zc>. Now owned by an Indian billionaire, the hotel will open later this year, and it will be both fancy and expensive.

Mar 19 #8 *The New Adventures of Solar Pons*, edited by David Marcum (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2018; 423 pp., \$29.95), offers twenty "tales of the Sherlock Holmes of Praed Street," all written by authors who wanted to extend the Pontine Canon that was launched by August Derleth in 1929, when he created Solar Pons as an homage to Sherlock Holmes; the anthology has been authorized by Derleth's estate, and the new stories follow nicely in the path set by Derleth.

Lynne Stephens has reported "Discovering Literature" (an on-line resource launched by the British Library in 2014); the (well-illustrated) articles include John Sutherland's "Sherlock Holmes Holmes, the World's Most Famous Literary Detective" <www.tinyurl.com/yylzjh8t> and Greg Buzwell's "An Introduction to *The Hound of the Baskervilles*" <www.tinyurl.com/yxsd64ff>.

"Sherlock's Other Brother by a Southern Mother" is being performed at the Black Fedora Comedy Mystery Theatre in Charleston, S.C., through Aug. 29 ("it was the Holmes family secret") <www.tinyurl.com/yyyberxr>.

"Sherlock Holmes Cirque-o-Rama: The Murder Under the Big Topless" will be performed at the Minnsky Theatre in Minneapolis, Minn., on Apr. 18-20; an adult comedy ("join our award-winning Wicked Wenches"), and their web-site is at <www.minnskystheatre.tix.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at the Gungahlin Theater in Gungahlin, Australia, Apr. 19-27; the theater's web-site's at <www.stagecenta.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro" is due at the Performance Hall at Hochstein in Rochester, N.Y., on Apr. 28 (it's presented by the Rochester Symphony Orchestra in their OrKIDStra series); the web-site is at <www.rpo.org>.

"The Game Is Afoot!" (an improvised Sherlock Holmes mystery) will be performed at the Factory Theatre in Marrickville, N.S.W., Australia, May 4-5, during the Sydney Comedy Festival <www.sydneycomedyfest.com.au>; it's advertised as "like 'Holmes & Watson' but funny").

Michael Mitnick's new play "Mysterious Circumstances" will premiere at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, June 11-July 14 <www.geffenplayhouse.org> (the play is inspired by David Grann's article in the New Yorker about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green).

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" is due at the Otto M. Budig Theater in Cincinnati, Ohio., July 17-Aug. 4 <www.cincyshakes.com>.

Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman's musical "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" is scheduled at the Tabard Theatre in San Jose, Calif., Sep. 13-Oct. 6 <www.tabardtheatre.org>.

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

Save the dates: The Baker Street Irregulars will hold a BSI Archive Conference on Nov. 8-10 at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., the new home of the BSI Archive. Ross Davies and Glen Miranker have assembled an outstanding list of speakers from the worlds of collecting, book-selling, and publishing, and registration information will be available later this year for anyone who wishes to attend the festivities.

There's now web-site information about Michael Mitnick's new play "Mysterious Circumstances" (due at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, June 11-July 14 <www.geffenplayhouse.org/mysterious-circumstances>; the play's inspired by David Grann's article in the New Yorker about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green.

A Juno Knitting Pattern Download for a "Conan Doyle Vest" is available for \$6.00 from Interweave <www.interweave.com/store/conan-doyle-vest-in-juno>. It's a cabled vest accented by a wide collar and with big shoulders, and it's not at all clear what the connection to Sir Arthur might be.

Greg Ruby reports that "they're off and running," at Laurel Race Course in Laurel, Md., on June 9. Registration for this year's Silver Blaze (Southern Division) is now open, at <www.fourthgarrideb.com/silver-blaze>.

The latest news about the gene-editing technology CRISPR is the invention of the Specific High sensitivity Enzymatic Reporter unLOCKing device (yes, it's called SHERLOCK) by Sherlock Biosciences; you can read all about it in Ellie Kincaid's article in Forbes (Mar. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/y67adjyp>.

"Desert Island Discs" has been broadcast by the BBC since 1942: each week distinguished guests are asked to choose eight pieces of music they'd take if they were castaways on a desert island, and Martin Freeman was the program's guest on Apr. 5, when he talked about his life and career, and (of course) playing Dr. Watson in the BBC's "Sherlock" series. You can hear the program at <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0003rlf>.

Chess players will enjoy Jennie Paton's discovery of an interesting analysis at YouTube of the chess match between Holmes and Moriarty in "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (2011) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLSDVbxRRek>.

Margalit Fox's CONAN DOYLE FOR THE DEFENSE (May 18 #5) has been optioned by Gold Circle Films, according to the Hollywood Reporter (Mar. 21); the book offers an up-to-date report on Conan Doyle's defense of Oscar Slater, so we may get to see Conan Doyle on the big screen.

Variety reported on Feb. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/yypwvyz5> that a new eight-episode television series based on Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose* was due for release on RAI on Italy in March; it will debut on SundanceTV in the U.S. on May 1, and on the BBC in Britain later in the year. The series stars John Turturro as William of Baskerville, Damien Hardung as Adso of Melk, and Rupert Everett as inquisitor Bernard Gui; the book is set in Italy in 1327, but nevertheless was nicely Sherlockian.

Apr 19 #2 Laird R. Blackwell's *Frederic Dannay, Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, and the Art of the Detective Story* (Jefferson: McFarland, 2019; 226 pp., \$45.00) is a splendid tribute to a magazine that has contributed so much to keeping a genre alive and well, and to its editor; there's a chapter on "The Fine Arts of Parody, Pastiche, and Spoof" that includes many of the Sherlockian contributors (and discussion of Conan Doyle in "The Old Masters Resuscitated"). The publisher's web-site is at <www.mcfarlandbooks.com>.

Shane Rimmer died on Mar. 29. He began his acting career in television in 1957, and is credited as a supporting actor in a long list of television series and films; he also wrote scripts and was a voice actor, and played Lysander Stark with Michael Pennington in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1987) and Jefferson Hope on BBC Radio 4 in "A Study in Scarlet" (1989).

"Kabukicho Sherlock" (a new anime due on television in Japan in October) is set in modern-day Kabukicho in Shinjuku, Tokyo, and "follows the comedic, mysterious, and dramatic adventures of a ragtag band of detectives as they live together in a tenement above Mrs. Hudson's bar in the red-light district and attempt to solve an unusual string of killings." You can see some of the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/y4wwtb6v>.

One hears of Sherlock everywhere, Karen Murdock spotted a letter, written by David Doyle and published in the Irish Times (Mar. 30): "We appear to be heading for a Sherlock Holmes Brexit. Once you eliminate the impossible Brexits, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the true Brexit."

And according to an editorial in The Times on Mar. 31, "we have reached the point in which, to paraphrase Arthur Conan Doyle, once you have eliminated the sensible, you are left with a series of unpalatable choices."

Vincent Starrett and Arthur Conan Doyle shared many literary interests in addition to Sherlock Holmes; one of them was pirates. Conan Doyle wrote four delightful stories about the terrible and terrifying Captain Sharkey (all of them now available online) and Ray Betzner has written an excellent article about "Pirates, Desert Islands, and Mermaids" at his "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.tinyurl.com/y4cubbdw>.

There seems to be no end to puzzle books that feature Sherlock Holmes, but Ian Stewart's *Professor Stewart's Casebook of Mathematical Mysteries* (New York: Basic Books, 2014; 320 pp., \$16.99) offers "mathematical curios and conundrums" that feature Hemlock Soames and Dr. John Watsup; real mathematics are involved, and the solutions are far from trivial.

Georgiana Cavendish, 5th Duchess of Devonshire, gave her name to the style of hat worn by Mary Sutherland (in "A Case of Identity"), and her portrait by Gainsborough was stolen by Adam Worth (who was described as the Napoleon of crime long before that title was given to the evil Prof. Moriarty). You can see the portrait, and learn much more about the Duchess, in an interesting article by Amanda Foreman <www.tinyurl.com/yy8phllk>.

Apr 19 #3 It's a remote connection between Sherlock Holmes and an American president, and one can only wish that there were a photograph of President John F. Kennedy with "a big Sherlock-Holmes style magnifying glass," but there's a reference to this in Don Moser's article on "The Time of the Angel" in *American Heritage* (Oct. 1977), reported by Alexander Orlov in the on-line library of the Central Intelligence Agency. The "Angel" was the nickname of the U-2, and the article is about the Cuban missile crisis. You can read the text of the article at the American Heritage web-site <www.americanheritage.com/time-angel>, and find a scan of the actual article (with illustrations) at <www.tinyurl.com/y2oxeh13>.

Ralph Hall and Mike McSwiggin are helping Barbara Herbert sell Paul Herbert's collection; he cast his net widely, and had interesting Sherlockiana as well as books, and if you have a want-list you're welcome to get in touch with Ralph at <bugmanhall@aol.com>.

"How did Sherlock hire Watson?" Using Google, according to an amusing advertisement <www.vimeo.com/328543356> spotted by Jennie Paton.

"Comedy Playhouse" was a 30-minutes series broadcast by BBC-1; on Jan. 18, 1973, the program included a skit titled "Elementary, My Dear Watson" with John Cleese as Holmes and William Rushton as Watson, and Jennie Paton has found the skit at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpjztufGwhI>.

Gyles Brandreth's *Oscar Wilde and the Return of Jack the Ripper* (New York: Pegasus, 2019; 356 pp., \$25.95), is the seventh of his series of mysteries featuring Oscar Wilde and Arthur Conan Doyle; published in Britain in 2017 as *Jack the Ripper: Case Closed*, the novel's set in 1894 and presents an imaginative, well-written, and colorful solution to the identity of Jack the Ripper.

The 1979 Russian television series that starred Vasiliy Livanov and Vitaliy Solomin was filmed in Riga, and Alexander Orlov reports that the city began formal celebrations of Sherlock Holmes' birthday in 2012; there's a nice assortment of photographs at <www.tinyurl.com/yxf76hqa>, and video at <www.tinyurl.com/y3geu5mn>.

The Haven, in Jamaica Plain, Mass., proudly offers "Scottish food, drink, and great banter," and their menu includes a Sherlock Holmes cocktail made with Lapsang Souchong tea, scotch, honey liqueur, and lemon (in case you would like to try one at home) <www.thehavenjp.com>.

Ross E. Davies' excellent article about "The Bimetallic Question in The Valley of Fear" (published in the summer 2018 issue of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*) now is available on-line at the web-site of the Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/y47mdmev>.

Kazuhito Kato died on Apr. 11. He used the pen name Monkey Punch as the creator of the popular "Lupin III" manga series that was adapted for television, films, musicals, and video games. Lupin III was the grandson of Arsène Lupin, and Sherlock Holmes III was one of the supporting characters in the television episode "The Great Detectives Take to the Sky" (1978).

Apr 19 #4 Uttiyo Bhattacharya's *Ba'az of the Bengal Lancers* (New Delhi: Juggernaut, 2019; 353 pp., INR-350) begins in 1857, the year of the Indian Mutiny (which will be familiar to anyone who has read "The Sign of the Four") and a stolen treasure, and the book is the story of a modern-day search for that treasure; Conan Doyle's story is one of the inspirations for the book (Captain Morstan, Major Sholto, and Jonathan Small make appearances, but aren't quite Conan Doyle's characters), and the story's nicely told. There's also an e-book version available for INR-80 at the publisher's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y3yvoew>.

CBS-TV has announced that the final season of "Elementary" will begin airing on May 23.

Harold Wayne Billings died on Nov. 29, 2017. Born in Texas in 1931, he was for twenty-five years the director of general libraries at the University of Texas in Austin, and was the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article published in *The Baker Street Journal* in 2006 ("The *Materia Medica* of Sherlock Holmes").

Bill Amos' three-act play *Sherlock Holmes and the Scarlet Avenger* was published by Amazon's CreateSpace in 2015 (71 pp., \$10.50) and performed at the Performance Works Factory Theatre in Nuremburg, Pa., this year (it's an interesting dramatization of "A Study in Scarlet").

Arthur Conan Doyle lived and worked in Plymouth in 1882, in practice with George Turnavine Budd, before moving on to Southsea; Plymouth boasts not only a commemorative blue plaque at 1 Durnford Street, but also a series of quotations from his writings that have been set in stone in the sidewalks of the street <www.tinyurl.com/y4jmu3cn>.

Slot machines have come a long way since the days of the one-armed bandit: Tom Horn Gaming has just released "Sherlock: A Scandal in Bohemia" and you can visit www.tinyurl.com/y3antw5b to learn more about the game (and watch a trailer); thanks to Alexander Orlov for reporting this new development.

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the winners of this year's Edgar awards, and they include Leslie S. Klinger's *Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s* (for best critical/biographical); the book was edited by Les, with a Foreword by Otto Penzler (Sept 18 #3).

Jennie Paton found a nice tribute to the late Roger Llewellyn, who was interviewed and recorded by Steve and Pat Tanenbaum after a performance of "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!" <www.tinyurl.com/y4vcsrte>.

When in New Zealand: "Cut! Costume and the Cinema" (an exhibition at the Waikato Museum in Hamilton through July 21) features 43 outfits from 25 films (including Robert Downey Jr.'s suit from "Sherlock Holmes"); their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/y3vh8pvu>. The exhibition is mounted by EDG <www.tinyurl.com/y3tsmy4q>, and will appear next at the Reading Public Museum in Reading, Pa., Sept. 21-Jan. 5. EDG also is responsible for the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition that's now at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., through May 27 <www.lsc.org>.

Apr 19 #5 Greg Ruby has reported that The Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes will hold a dinner meeting during the World's Fair of Money in Rosemont, Ill., on Aug. 15; all Sherlockians in the Chicago area will be welcome at the festivities, and details are available at the web-site of The Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/y3a9djfc>.

Lucy Liu's star will be installed on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on May 1, at Hollywood and Vine, next to the star of Anna May Wong. Lucy Liu plays Joan Watson in the "Elementary" television series, and Anna May Wong was Mrs. Pyke in Reginald Owens' "A Study in Scarlet" (1933), a few years after she was burlesqued in the British marionette film "Herlock Sholmes in Be-a-Live Crook, or Anna Went Wrong" (1930). You can see if your favorite actor has a star using the search engine at <www.walkoffame.com>.

Bill Peschel blogs on behalf of his Peschel Press, and on Apr. 24 posted an amusing discussion of a "chaste salute" <www.tinyurl.com/y38apdsq>.

Susan B. Diamond ("The Great Mogul") died on Apr. 25. She was a member of the Beacon Society since it was founded in 2003, serving on its board of directors and as chair of its grants committee, and for many years helped organize the STUD-Watsonian Weekends and runnings of the Silver Blaze in Chicago. Susan also was an editor of The Serpentine Muse and for a time presided over the Prince Albert League (a society for consorts of members of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes). Susan received her Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1998.

Jennie Paton discovered the Global Gourmet Games, sponsored by the Milkin Institute; they were Sherlockian this year, in Los Angeles on Apr. 27; you can see Michael Milkin (as Sherlock Holmes) explaining the game's rules at their web-site <www.globalgourmetgames.org>.

It's always nice to see the work of artists who have illustrated Sherlockian and Doylean stories, and Fred Taraba (at Taraba Illustration Art) is offering (non-Sherlockian and non-Doylean) original artwork by Arthur I. Keller and Joseph Clement Coll, first come, first served; his e-mail address is <fredappraisals@gmail.com>.

Another (more noted) artist who had Doylean credentials was N. C. Wyeth, who provided illustrations for *The Last Galley* (1911) and *The White Company* (1922); four of his originals will be offered at Heritage Auctions on May 4, including an illustration for *The Boy's King Arthur* (1917) with a reserve of \$500,000 <www.tinyurl.com/y5yfbtvl>.

A nice result of the recent five-week government shut-down that curtailed all but essential agency activities was a reprieve for the troubled Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals instrument scheduled for the Mars rover due to land on the planet next year. The shut-down gave NASA time to plan minor modifications to SHERLOC (yes, that's the instrument's acronym) and avoid cancelling SHERLOC to mitigate continuing cost overruns on the mission, according to an announcement <www.tinyurl.com/y2fdpqfh> noted by Bill Anselm in Space News (Mar. 31). See the earlier report (Apr 14 #2) for more about SHERLOC.

Apr 19 #6 Is anyone watching the CBS All Access web-series "Star Trek: Discovery"? A discussion of the episode "Such Sweet Sorrow" (broadcast on Apr. 11) reported that when Amanda referred to Sarek as "impossible," he replied "I will accept improbable," with a reminder to viewers that that Spock quoted the Canonical axiom, attributing it to "an ancestor of mine" in the 1991 film "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country".

Theatrics: Brian Clemens' "Holmes and the Ripper" is running at the Caxton Little Theatre in Grimsby through May 4 <www.caxtontheatre.com>. And (as "Sherlock Holmes and the Ripper Murders") at the Genesian Theatre in Sydney, N.S.W., until June 15 <www.genesiantheatre.com>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the B Street Theatre in Sacramento, Calif., through May 26 <www.bstreettheatre.org>.

Todd Wallinger's "The Enchanted Bookshop" is scheduled at the DCP Theatre in Telford, Pa., May 3-12 <www.dcptheatre.com>.

C.P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Spinsters of Blackmead" will be performed at the Dunedin Community Center in Dunedin, Fla., May 3-11; website at <www.dunidenshowcasetheater.net>.

Ondrej G. Brzobohaty's "Legenda jménem Holmes" [A Legend Named Holmes] is scheduled at Musical Theater Karlín in Prague, May 8-Sept. 29; their website's at <www.hdk.cz/en/repertoire/57-holmes-the-legend>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (a musical written by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman) will be performed at the Coast Capital Playhouse in White Rock, B.C., on May 11 <www.whiterockplayers.ca>.

Roger Utting's new play "The Trial of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Milestone Centre in Caversham, Berks., May 16-18; their website's at <www.cavparktheatre.org.uk>.

Tal Avizer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Dancing Men" is due at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in the Bronx, N.Y., June 1-9; website's at <www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at the Very Little Theatre in Eugene, Ore., June 7-22; website at <www.thevlt.com>; and at the Vault Theater in Hillsboro, Ore., Dec. 5-23 <www.bag&baggage.org>.

Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" will be performed at the Charity Randall Theater in Pittsburgh, Pa., June 13-30 <www.tinyurl.com/y2dgwbsb>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Bristol Valley Theater in Naples, N.Y., July 25 to Aug. 4 <www.bvtnaples.org>.

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

The Royal Mint has now made their 50p Sherlock Holmes coin available, in cupro-nickel in a presentation folder (£10.00) and in various other metals at higher prices. Greg Ruby offers helpful information at his Fourth Garrideb web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yy7q9a7d>. The Royal Mint also has confirmed that the coin will go into circulation, but hasn't said when; so at some point you'll be able to get the coin for 50p.

Denny Dobry reports that the Baker Street Irregulars' book fair attracted a nice crowd of people interested in Sherlockiana that had been donated to the BSI Trust to be sold in support of the BSI Archives. Denny welcomes your want lists, and has sales lists available for all those in pursuit of reasonably-priced additions to their collections <dendobry@ptd.net>.

The spring issue of the *Serpentine Muse*, published quarterly by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, has an interesting history of the Muse, which was launched in 1975 and is still going strong, plus other news about the society. Subscriptions cost \$20.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230), and a copy of the spring issue is available for \$5.00 postpaid.

Conan Doyle's short story "A Shadow Before" was published in the *Windsor Magazine* (Dec. 1898) and then in *The Green Flag and Other Stories* (1900); the 14-page manuscript will be offered at auction at Christie's in New York on June 12, estimated at \$8,000-\$10,000. Randall Stock has an informative page on the manuscript (and its history) at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/shadow-before-2019.htm>.

According to an article about cricket by Pathikrit Sen Gupta at FirstPost (Apr. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/y39f2ntx>, on Apr. 11, 1913, militant suffragettes set fire to the pavilion at the Tunbridge Wells Cricket Club, and Conan Doyle, who was a keen cricket enthusiast, reacted indignantly at a meeting of the National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage, calling the arsonists "female hooligans" and comparing their attack to "blowing up a blind man and his dog." No one is certain why the club was targeted, but it's said that some time prior to the attack a Kent official had commented: "It is not true that women are banned from the pavilion. Who do you think makes the teas?"

Tim Conway died on May 14. He was a delightful comic actor, and won four Emmy awards while starring for more than a decade on the television series "The Carol Burnett Show". He also played Sherlock Holmes in a skit on the "Tim Conway Show" (1981).

The television series "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World" ran for three seasons (1999-2002) and ended with a "to be continued" cliffhanger for the next season, but New Line Television ran into financial difficulties and there was no fourth season. If you would like to know what was planned for the fourth season, Rich Heldenfels recently made available at <www.reeves-stevens.com/TLWSUMMARY1.pdf> the writers' detailed discussion of what they had in mind.

May 19 #2 William S. Major's delightful *Elementary Art: 100 Years Sherlock Holmes* (Hawthorne: Silver Screen Collectibles, 2017; 167 pp., \$24.99) offers full-color reproductions of posters, lobby cards, and programs, in English and other languages, for a wide range of Sherlockian films and plays, and Sherlockian artwork used in advertising for non-Sherlockian films; it's nicely done, and the publisher's interesting web-site is at <www.silverscreencollectibles.com>.

Fodor's Travel' "How to Vacation at One of the Oldest Places on Earth" at <www.tinyurl.com/y2fpxhh5> discusses Mount Roraima, which is considered to be an inspiration for Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*; but: Fodor's also suggests that "given the current unrest in Venezuela, hold off on any travel plans until the situation in the country has stabilized."

There's more information about Michael Mitnick's new play "Mysterious Circumstances" (which is due at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles June 11-July 14 <www.geffenplayhouse.org/mysterious-circumstances>; the play's inspired by David Grann's article in the New Yorker about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green, and the cast will feature Alan Tudyk (Richard Lancelyn Green and Sherlock Holmes) Hugo Armstrong (The American and others), Austin Durant (Conan Doyle and others), Leo Marks (Smith and others), Ramiz Monsef (Watson and others), and Helen Sadler (Touie and others).

Randall Stock continues to update various pages at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site; his helpful discussion of facsimile editions of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 is at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/rfbeat.htm>.

The ornate Arthur Conan Doyle bookplate that his son Adrian placed in the books in the library at the Château de Lucens in Switzerland is fairly well known, and sometimes believed by the unwary to have been used by Sir Arthur. His son Denis, it seems, had his own bookplate, and a batch of them was offered at Chiswick Auctions in London on May 30, with an opening bid of £50 <www.tinyurl.com/y53y93c8>. Is anyone aware of the existence a book that was owned by Denis, and has the bookplate?



Charles Veley and Anna Elliott have written eight pastiches about Sherlock Holmes and his daughter Lucy James <www.sherlockandlucy.com>, and you can download *The Crown Jewel Mystery* free at their web-site; you can also sample the audiobooks, nicely read by Simon Prebble and Wendy Tremont King.

The Official Sherlock Puzzle Book, by Chris Maslanka and Steve Tribe (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2018; 259 pp., \$17.95), first published by BBC Books in 2017 as a tie-in to the "Sherlock" series, presents more than 165 challenging puzzles featuring characters from the Canon.

Howard Ostrom reported on "Sherlok" (a musical group in Montpellier whose songs are written and composed by Katia Plachez, Alain Cahuac, and Christophe Dubois. You can view two of their (non-Sherlockian) music videos at <www.tinyurl.com/y47pqa36> and <www.tinyurl.com/yyp54x2c>. And there's an interview with Katia Plachez on France 3 TV at <www.tinyurl.com/y5rxkqel>.

May 19 #3 Andrew Glazzard's *The Case of Sherlock Holmes* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2018; 252 pp., £75.00) discusses the "secrets and lies in Conan Doyle's detective fiction," using a scholarly close reading to explore seven themes (finance, class, family, sex, race, war, and secrecy) he found in the Canon, placing the stories in historical context and drawing intriguing inferences such as the possibility that the Hon. Ronald Adair actually was Colonel Moran's willing accomplice.

Turn your computer into a typewriter! With a Querkywriter keyboard! More information is available at <www.querkywriter.com>.

Martin Fido died on Apr. 2. He was a professor, teaching writing at Boston University, and an author who wrote about true crime in *Murder Guide to London* (1986) and went on to become an expert in the crimes and world of Jack the Ripper. He also wrote *The World of Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective and His Era* (Mar 99 #1), which was updated for a second edition as *Sherlock: The Facts and Fiction Behind the World's Greatest Detective* (Mar 16 #3).

N. C. Wyeth's original artwork for an illustration for *The Boy's King Arthur* (Apr 19 #5) <www.tinyurl.com/y5yfbtv1> sold for \$615,000 (including the buyer's premium).

Arwel Jones, the production designer for the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, had advice in the *Hollywood Reporter* on May 22 for those who would like to find and use five signature wallpapers that were used in the series, at 221B Baker Street and elsewhere <www.tinyurl.com/y5q7s7am>.

The Royal Mail has issued a set of stamps honoring the bicentenary of the birth of Queen Victoria; one of them shows a portrait of the "certain gracious lady" (as Watson wrote in "The Bruce-Partington Plans") painted by Heinrich von Angeli in 1890. There's more information about the stamps (and a new £5 coin) at <www.tinyurl.com/y2rmth44>.



This year's San Diego Comic-Con, to be held in San Diego, Calif., July 18-21, will include the Great SherlockDCC Scavenger Hunt, sponsored by the Baker Street Babes <www.sherlockedccparty.tumblr.com>. More than 130,000 people are expected at the convention, which includes a multitude of fandoms.

Rob Nunn has announced a new professional Sherlockian society, the Priory Teacher's Association, for current and past educators; you can contact him at <www.robertanunn@gmail.com> or at 13 West Pickett's Crossing, Edwardsville, IL 62025.

Millie Bobby Brown told the World of Entertainment News Network this month that she plans to start filming this summer on a feature film based on the series of books written by Nancy Springer about Enola Holmes, the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock (May 18 #6); she's the producer as well as the star, and you can see her now in the Netflix series "Stranger Things" and (this summer) in the film "Godzilla: King of the Monsters".

May 19 #4 The seventh and final season of "Elementary" has begun on CBS-TV, to the delight of the series' fans. No spoilers here, but Entertainment Tonight Online had an interesting interview with Rob Doherty on May 23 <www.tinyurl.com/y6yq8xxw>. Doherty is the creator and showrunner of the series, and has some nice stories to tell, including an explanation (well, just one spoiler) of why Joan Watson has gone blonde.

Garrison Keillor's "The Writer's Almanac" was launched in 1993 and syndicated by Minnesota Public Radio until 2017. It is now a podcast, and he paid tribute to Conan Doyle on his birthday <www.tinyurl.com/y3lrmaxd>.

The Affair of the Mysterious Letter, by Alexis Hall (New York: Ace, 2019; 338 pp., \$16.00), is a delightful fantasy that features a consulting sorceress named Shaharazad Haas and her sometimes-bewildered housemate Capt. John Wyndham; the initials are not just a coincidence: they live at 221B Martyrs Walk and the novel has many allusions to the Canon.



One sees Sherlockian icons everywhere: Jim Toomey's "Sherman's Lagoon" is a widely syndicated comic strip that began a weekday thread on May 18 featuring the brainy fish Ernest detecting in a deerstalker. Comics Kingdom has a paywall that requires that you pay to see all but the most recent dates (unless you sign up for a free trial), or you can wait until the annual collection for 2019 is published in 2021.

Jennie Paton found an imaginative Sherlockian wall mural advertised at the Society6 web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yykrdsox>. And for those whose walls are covered with bookshelves, Society6 offers a wide range of other Sherlockiana.

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 Spaghetti Warehouse in San Antonio on May 22 during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, made welcome by The Strange Old Book Collectors and other Texans. We were glad to toast Conan Doyle on his 160th birthday, and we will meet next in Phoenix on Sept. 25, and in Houston on June 10, 2020.

Denise Varner called our attention to Toni Dwiggin's series (now with five titles) of mysteries starring forensic geologists Cassie Oldfield and Walter Shaws; the author's web-site's at <www.tonidwiggin.com>. Two other authors of forensic-geology mysteries are Sarah Andrews, whose detective is Em Hansen <www.sarahandrews.net> and Susan Cummins Miller, whose series features Frankie McFarlane <www.susancumminsmiller.com>.

And Sherlock Holmes was indeed a forensic geologist, as noted by the late Raymond C. Murray in his textbook *Evidence from the Earth: Forensic Geology and Criminal Investigation* (2011), and by John McPhee in his *Annals of the Former World* (1998). McPhee also has an essay about "The Gravel Page" in his collection *Irons in the Fire* (1997); the title of the essay is an allusion to Sherlock Holmes' mention of "the gravel page" (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles").

May 19 #5 Edinburgh Live honored Conan Doyle's birthday on May 22 with a story about the letter he wrote in 1882 when he submitted his story "An Actor's Duel" to Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine; it was the second story he submitted to the magazine, which rejected both of them. The letter is owned by the National Library of Scotland, and you can read the article on-line at www.tinyurl.com/yxkm6gzn.

Jennie Paton has spotted a YouTube video that shows Toni Zee happily opening a package containing a doll in Sherlockian costume www.tinyurl.com/y4pdafbr. The doll is made by a Korean company called Pullip and is a character named Isul (dressed as the "Detective of the Future"). It cost \$154.00 when it was issued six years ago www.tinyurl.com/yy3ht9ew, and the sad news for eager collectors is that it is now out of stock. Of course there's an after-market: you can search for [isul i-924] at eBay and find that the doll is available from sellers in Japan from \$527.99 to \$689.00.



70 Years by Gas Lamp: The Illustrious Clients' Sixth Casebook, edited by Mary Ann Bradley, Louise Haskett, and Melanie Hoffman (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2018; 257 pp., \$21.95), celebrates the 70th anniversary of the society's first casebook www.wessexpress.com/html/70years.html.

The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club has launched a new web-site ("The Writings about the Writings in Japan") that offers abstracts (in English) of monographs that have been published in their annual journal *The World of Sherlock Holmes* www.holmesjapan.jp/english/writings.index.html. The journal was launched in 1978, and abstracts now are available for issues from 2002 to 2010, offering an excellent look at the sort of scholarship written by Sherlockians in Japan.

Margaret H. Laing honored Conan Doyle's birthday with an amusing post to the Chicago Tribune's "Chicago Now" blog on "Birthday Time in the Imaginary Writers' Room" www.tinyurl.com/y2ghke8s; you can search her archive to find earlier posts about Conan Doyle, and Holmes.

Victor R. Lahti died on May 15. Vic was a petroleum geologist, worked and lived in Texas and Oklahoma, and was an enthusiastic member of the Practical, But Limited, Geologists. He also presided for many years over the Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa, and edited their newsletter the Afghanistan Perceivers Dispatch.

"Sherlock ist zurück und will bleiben," the Jungfrau Zeitung announced on May 1, in a story about what's new at the Sherlock Holmes Museum; it's all in German www.jungfrauzeitung.ch/artikel/173263, with pictures in full color, and Google Translate will be of assistance to those who need help in reading the story in English. And "Der Glücksfall fürs Haslital" was the headline on a story on May 4 www.jungfrauzeitung.ch/artikel/173428 with more news and more pictures. For the benefit of those who aren't up to speed with Schweizerdeutsch, the headlines on the stories translate as "Sherlock is Back and Wants to Remain" and "The Stroke of Luck for Haslital" (that's the area where Meiringen is located).

May 19 #6 Nick Utechin kindly forwarded a BBC News video from the opening of the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition in London in 1951. And you have a chance to see Arthur Wontner rather older than when he played Holmes on screen in the 1930s <www.tinyurl.com/yy4mb54q>. Howard Ostrom has identified the man who impersonated Holmes: Michael Weight, who presided over the Exhibition's reconstruction of the sitting-room at 221b.

Theatrical news: Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Innisfail Middle School in Innisfail, Alta., June 5-7 <www.innisfailmiddle.ca>.

Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" will be performed at the Charity Randall Theater in Pittsburgh, Pa., June 13-30 <www.tinyurl.com/y2dgwbsb>.

Kenneth Brown and John D. Huston's "2 Sherlock Holmes Adventures" will be performed at the Arts Court Theatre in Ottawa, Ont., June 14-22, during the Ottawa Fringe <www.tinyurl.com/y22omxuy>.

Greg Freeman and Ken McClymont's "Sherlock Holmes and the Invisible Thing" (first produced in 2016 and now revised and restaged by Freeman) will be performed at the Rudolf Steiner Theatre in London, from July 17 to Aug. 18 www.thesherlockplay.co.uk

Thomas Moore's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is touring in Britain and will be performed during the Ventnor Fringe at the Magpie in Ventnor, Isle of Wight, July 24-27 <www.thehoundofthebaskervilles.co.uk>; the two-actor play features Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Jane Watson.

Douglas Maxwell's new dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at the Northern Stage in Newcastle upon Tyne, Sept. 11-23; website at www.northernstage.co.uk

Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the 1st Baker Street Irregular" will be performed at the Parkview Physicians Group ArtsLab in Fort Wayne, Ind., Sept. 20-29 <www.tinyurl.com/yydfrvh9>.

Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" will be performed at the All an Act Theatre in Erie, Pa., Sept. 27-Oct. 20 <www.allanact.net>; and at the First Folio Theatre in Oakbrook, Ill., Oct. 2-Nov. 3 <www.firstfolio.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be produced at the McAninch Arts Center in Glen Ellyn, Ill., Sept. 5-Oct. 6 <www.atthemac.org>; at the Derby Dinner Playhouse in Clarksville, Ind., Oct. 2-Nov. 10 <www.derbydinner.com>; and at the Cumberland County Theatre in Crossville, Tenn., Oct. 11 to Nov. 7 <www.ccplayhouse.com>.

R. Hamilton Wright's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse" will be performed at the Vertigo Theatre in Calgary, Alta., from Nov. 9 to Dec. 8 <www.vertigotheatre.com>.

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

If you would like to receive news from the Baker Street Irregulars about events and books and such, you can sign up for occasional messages at the BSI web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email>; that will also put you on the mailing list for the announcement of registration for the BSI's Archive Conference on Nov. 8-10 at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., the new home of the BSI Archive. The conference is open to everyone; Ross Davies and Glen Miranker have assembled a splendid list of speakers from the worlds of collecting, bookselling, and publishing, and you'll have a chance to see other interesting collections at the Lilly.

Nick Utechin was watching the BBC Two "Newsnight" program on May 29, and heard British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, discussing Brexit, say: "You know, it is Sherlock Holmes who once said, when you rule out everything else, whatever's left, however disagreeable, may be the only question of how you get there."

July 17 is World Emoji Day <www.worldemojiday.com>. There seems to be no Sherlock Holmes emoji, nor even a Detective emoji, but they do have a Foot (for those who believe the game is afoot). Has anyone campaigned to have a Sherlock Holmes emoji created?

The Boomerang streaming service has launched a new 13-episode weekly animated series "Scooby Doo and Guess Who?" and the official trailer has Sherlock Holmes (voiced by Ian James Corlett) as one of the celebrities the gang encounters. The series also will air on the Cartoon network starting in July. Here's the trailer: <www.tinyurl.com/y6s2xr82>.

Conan Doyle's 14-page manuscript for his short story "A Shadow Before" at auction at Christie's in New York this month (May 19 #1) was estimated at \$8,000-\$10,000 and sold for \$13,750 (including the buyer's premium). The same sale included an autograph letter from Edgar Allan Poe, estimated at \$20,000-\$30,000 (sold for \$52,500), and Poe's pocket watch, estimated at \$80,000-\$120,000 (sold for \$250,000). Randall Stock offers an informative page on "A Shadow Before" (and its history) at his "Best of Sherlock" website <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/shadow-before-2019.htm>.

Randall also offers information about a page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that's up for auction at Profiles in History on July 11 <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/hound-baskervilles-h31-2019.htm>, estimated at \$120,000-\$150,000 (it was advertised by Pepper & Stern in 1994 at \$22,500).

The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State held their annual Christopher Morley Birthday Luncheon in Hoboken on Apr. 28, when Terry Hunt unveiled some delightful newsreel footage showing Morley and Cleon Throckmorton hosting the first Hoboken Free State Dachshund Contest, which was held in 1929 <<https://mirc.sc.edu/islandora/object/usc%3A28804>>; Morley is at the left in the opening segment. Terry found the footage in the Fox-Movietone News archive in the Moving Image Research Collection at the University of South Carolina; it's a grand resource indeed.

Jun 19 #2 Claus von Bülow died on May 15. Convicted of attempted murder of his wife Sunny in 1982, he was acquitted in a second trial in 1985 with the assistance of his new love interest Andrea Reynolds (who was mentioned in passing in some of his obituaries); the wife of Sheldon Reynolds, who had produced two Sherlock Holmes television series in 1954 and 1981, Andrea for a time controlled the Conan Doyle copyrights, which she once described as "like owning an oil well." Jeremy Irons starred as von Bülow in the film "Reversal of Fortune" (1990), with Christine Baran-sky as Andrea.



Samantha Wolov spotted Dustin Hoffman in Sherlockian costume, on the cover of the DVD case for "Madigan's Millions"; it's an Italian comedy ("Un dollar per 7 vigliacchi"), released in Italy in 1968 and then in the U.S. in 1969). Hoffman plays Jason Fister, a bumbling U.S. Treasury agent who is sent to Italy to find money taken there from the U.S. by a deported gangster. There's nothing Sherlockian in or about the film itself (it's available at YouTube and elsewhere).

Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge is the semi-annual electronic news-
letter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for the Sherlock Holmes Society of In-
dia <www.sherlockholmessociety.in>, now in its seventh year; the current
issue (with 100 colorful pages) offers Sherlockian news from India, and a
nice mix of scholarship and pastiche. All issues of the Proceedings can
be found at the society's web-site.

Howard Ostrom and Thierry Saint-Joanis' *SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREENS 1940-
1959* is the second volume of their Sherlock Holmes Cyclopedia (Saint-Sau-
vier: Mycroft's Brother Editions, 2019; 168 pp., €30.00), and it's a grand
extension of their research into films and television <www.mycrofts.net>;
the entries feature contemporary reviews, posters, press books, and photo-
graphs, and include actors seen in Sherlockian costume only in advertis-
ing, with some interesting surprises. Copies (inscribed on request) are
available for delivery in the U.S. for \$35.00 postpaid, from Howard (5748
SW 60th Place, Ocala, FL 34474).

"The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes: The Greatest Jail Breaker" is a new
animated film that's due for release in Hong Kong on Aug. 1; it's based on
a five-book series written by Lia Ho and illustrated by Yu Yuen Wong that
is available in English as e-books at Amazon and elsewhere (\$4.99 each),
and there's more information about the film at <www.tinyurl.com/29ycxvz>.

"Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson: A Medical Detective Story" is an exhibi-
tion that opened this month at the Military Medical Museum in St. Peters-
burg, Alexander Orlov reports; details at <www.tinyurl.com/yxntuodz> (all
in Russian, but Google Translate will be of assistance).

"Queen Victoria, Smiling and in Sunglasses, Found Anew on Film" reads the
headline on a story in the N.Y. Times on May 30 <www.tinyurl.com/y6qxyfts>
(kindly reported by Al Rosenblatt); don't neglect the article's link to a
longer MoMA video. The Smithsonian also reported on the find at its web-
site <www.tinyurl.com/y4dmcmam>.

Jun 19 #3 Brian W. Pugh is the winner of this year's Tony and Freda Howlett Literary Award (recognizing the outstanding contribution to the literature of Sherlock Holmes) from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London for his revised and expanded fourth edition of *A Chronology of the Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* (Oct 18 #4). It's a grand resource for information about the life and work of Conan Doyle, and it's available from www.sherlockholmesbooks.com.

Lucy Liu's Joan Watson is "the best-dressed detective on TV," according to Emma Foster, who interviewed Rebecca Hoffher (the costume designer for the "Elementary" series) for Vulture on May 31 www.tinyurl.com/yxocuxdq.

The new television mini-series "The Name of the Rose" likely led at least some of its viewers to wonder about the significance of the rose. Umberto Eco, the book's author, offered his explanation in a letter that went to auction this month. He wrote to Philip Sterling, a New York bibliophile, that, "As for the title, the rose is so overwhelmed with symbolic meanings that everyone can fill it up with every possible interpretation. As a matter of fact I was thinking of the last line of my book: 'the rose of yore remains only through its name and we hold only bare names.' It seemed to me that such a line was a good epitome for a book dominated by 'nominalistic' feelings and based upon other books."

Jennie Paton spotted a neat demonstration of what one can do with CGI now www.youtube.com/watch?v=EM78NyfeODM (someone had fun with "Sherlock").

The German musical "Sherlock Holmes--Next Generation" now offers its music on an MP3 album (£9.99) www.tinyurl.com/y5tf3nyt. The musical premiered last January in Hamburg, and there's more information at The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia www.tinyurl.com/yxetpwt8.

The Langham Hotel, site of the fateful dinner where Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde were asked to write stories for Lippincott's Monthly Magazine, also is mentioned in three of the Canonical stories; it's one of the many properties owned by The Langham Hotels & Resorts, and the company has unveiled a new logo and brand campaign www.tinyurl.com/y5vanah9 inspired by "the brand's distinctively British heritage," explaining that the Langham was known as Europe's first grand hotel when it was opened in 1865 by the Prince of Wales.

Further to the previous report (Oct 18 #2) on "Sherlock: The Game Is Now" (billed as "the only official Sherlock Holmes Escape Game"), it is still going strong and now includes a private cocktail club that's called "The Mind Palace" www.thegameisnow.com/mind-palace and offers private screenings and pop-up Sherlockian events.

"London Detective Mysteria" is an otome visual novel that appeared on the PlayStation Portable in 2013 (otome is a Japanese story-based visual game that's targeted toward women); you can see video about the first episode "Meeting Sherlock Holmes & Watson" at www.tinyurl.com/y2xxy78n. There now is a physical copy of the game available from Limited Run Editions for the PlayStation Vita www.limitedrungames.com.

Jun 19 #4 Douglas G. Greene's JOHN DICKSON CARR: THE MAN WHO EXPLAINED MIRACLES (Apr 95 #7), long out of print, is now available as e-book from Crippen & Landru (\$8.99) <www.tinyurl.com/yy9cy2oo>. It's a splendid biography about a man who was a mastery of the "impossible mystery" genre, wrote an excellent biography of Conan Doyle, adaptations of "The Lost World" and "The Speckled Band" for BBC Radio, amusing Sherlockian parody-playlets performed at the annual dinners of the Mystery Writers of America, and (with Adrian Conan Doyle) a series of pastiches. Carr also from time to time disposed of all his personal papers, presenting problems for any biographer, but Greene persevered, and the results are well worth reading.

Philip Purser-Hallard's *Sherlock Holmes: The Vanishing Man* (New York: Titan, 2019; 279 pp., \$14.95) involves Holmes and Watson with an intricate locked-room mystery, a rich London business man, and murder.

If you don't already have enough Sherlockian neckties, there's a new design offered in four colors by Edutxwstore (\$17.52), spotted by Jennie Paton <www.tinyurl.com/y5lltv8m>.

AcornTV <www.acorn.tv> is a subscription streaming service that has added the first season of the ITV series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971) to its schedule, with fine actors in good stories.

Sleep tight with Sherlock Gnomes: Jennie Paton spotted a colorful Sherlock Gnomes Bedding Set (\$70.99) <www.tinyurl.com/y3ykgys4>.

Ray Betzner launched his "Studies in Starrett" blog five years ago, pursuing all aspects of Vincent Starrett, and reminisces about it in an interview with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at <www.tinyurl.com/y5wh7zpy>.

"Seeing a murder on television . . . can help work off one's antagonisms. And if you haven't any antagonisms, the commercials will give you some." Alfred Hitchcock, quoted by Kate Stine in her on-line Mystery Scene newsletter <www.mysteryscenemag.com>.

Further to the item (May 19 #2) on Denis Conan Doyle's bookplate, it was used: Doug Wrigglesworth reports that he has it in his copy of the George Newnes first British edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1892).

Mick Finlay's *The Murder Pit* (Toronto: MIRA, 2019; 426 pp., \$15.99) continues the adventures of William Arrowood, who calls himself an "emotional agent" rather than the "detective agent" Holmes (Arrowood has rather harsh things to say about how Holmes has, or hasn't, managed to solve some of his cases); the story is set in a working-class world that's far from the setting of the Canon, with interesting characters and a good mystery. The author's web-site is at <www.mickfinlay.com>, with a blog that offers posts such as "the bloody origins of the modern bowler hat."

It's neither Sherlockian nor Doylean, but: "if you remember tape recorders and cassettes" <www.tinyurl.com/y6g4bdof>, Bas Bleu suggests, advertising something that will surely puzzle younger generations who don't.

Jun 15 #5 Robert Dobson's *The Library of the Lost: In Search of Forgotten Authors* (2015) is a delightful collection of articles and essays by a writer who was interested in the weird and the wonderful, and it includes his "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Mystery" (reprinted from *Antiquarian Book Monthly Review*, Feb. 1988). The first edition cost \$60.00, but it's now out of print; fortunately there are less expensive reprints available at <www.abebooks.com>, and the magazine's offered by Oak Knoll Books <www.oakknoll.com> for \$5.00.

"Q.E.D.: Murder on the Bluebell Line" was a British program broadcast by BBC-1 in 1987, based on Charles Blinderman's *The Piltdown Inquest* (1986). The program has Holmes and Watson on the Bluebell Line to Piltdown, and on the way they "review the evidence and the 'criminal records' of the people involved." Hugh Fraser played Sherlock Holmes, and Ronald Fraser was Watson, and Jennie Paton has found it at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yyfdwjcd>.

NBC San Diego reported on July 10 from Comic Con San Diego that "Sherlock" show-runner Steven Moffatt revealed that he actually already had crafted a Sherlock Holmes/Doctor Who crossover: in his youth he cast his sister to play both characters in a home movie ("I made it years ago," he said, "I'm over it.")

Another quote from Moffat: four years ago he told *Entertainment Weekly* he thought fan fiction is "creative and exciting," and that while there is a tendency to disparage it, "I don't agree . . . I refuse to mock it--because I'm a man who writes Sherlock Holmes fan fiction for a living."

Richard A. Lupoff's *The Universal Holmes* (Vancleave: Ramble House, 2007; 148 pp., \$30.00 cloth/\$18.00 paper) is a collection of his pastiches, including an amusing recipe for Giant Rat of Sumatra Stew. It is still in print from the publisher <www.ramblehouse.com>, along with other Sherlockian books by Lupoff, John Kendrick Bangs, Derham Groves, and Gary Lovisi.

Variety reported on June 9 <www.tinyurl.com/y4yqohan> on plans for a new French animated series "The Baker Street Four" based on six French comic books written by Jean-Blaise Dijan and Olivier Legrand and illustrated by David Etien; the comic books also are available in English, and they feature ragamuffins Billy, Charlie, Tom, and their cat Watson, who all assist Sherlock Holmes.

Gretchen McCulloch suggested in *Wired* (June 11) that "Fans Are Better Than Tech at Organizing Information Online" <www.tinyurl.com/y4nu862w>; the article is about Archive of Our Own (AO3), a fan-fiction archive that offers almost five million fan-works and uses "tag wranglers" to help users find things in the archive, and explains how the system works for Sherlockian fan-fiction.

Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Undead Client, by M. J. Downing (Louisville: Burns and Lea, 2018; 264 pp., \$10.99), involves Holmes and Watson in a murder mystery featuring horrific experiments, voodoo, and zombies, and a new solution to the identification of Jack the Ripper. The author's website is at <www.downingplace.com>.

Jun 19 #6 Further to the item (Mar 14 #6) about the sale of the former Cedars Spiritualist Church in Ipswich, where Conan Doyle attended seances in the 1920s, the building was purchased by a developer for £500,000 and was converted into two spacious four-story town houses that are now being offered for £1.25 million to £1.35 million, according to a nicely-illustrated article in the Ipswich Star <www.tinyurl.com/y6cmjs4e>.

Hugh Ashton's *The Darlington Substitution* (published by Inknbeans in 2012) now is available from J-Views Publishing (222 pp., \$9.99); it's a new version of one of the unrecorded cases. The author's web-site has links to all of his pastiches <www.hughashtonbooks.com>.

The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes: The Greatest Detective Stories, 1837-1914, edited by Graeme Davis (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2019; 379 pp., \$25.95), ranges from William Evans Burton to Ernest Bramah, offering a chance to read authors who preceded Holmes, or were published in the years he was absent from *The Strand Magazine*, or competed head to head after Holmes returned.

Also from Pegasus: Kaite Welsh's *The Unquiet Heart* (2019, 281 pp., \$25.95) features Sarah Gilchrist, a young woman who is studying medicine in Edinburgh in 1893, mentored by Dr. Gregory Merchiston, who (with Conan Doyle) studied under Dr. Joseph Bell (and doesn't like to be reminded of it); the story includes murders, and romance, and a good look at society (high and low) in those days. Her web-site is at <www.katiewelsh.wordpress.com>.

The Park Plaza Sherlock Holmes Hotel on Baker Street has been renovated, and now is the boutique Holmes Hotel London on Chiltern Street (only the entrance has been moved); details at <www.tinyurl.com/y2ohbodu>.

Gene Wolfe died on Apr. 14. As an industrial engineer with Procter & Gamble he helped create the frying process used for Pringles stackable potato chips, and he then turned to writing and became an award-winning author of science-fiction and fantasy; his short story "The Rubber Bend" (a pastiche of both Nero Wolfe and Sherlock Holmes) was published in *Universe Science Fiction* (May 1974) and collected in *Storeys from the Old Hotel* (1988).

Further to the item (Mar 19 #7) about plans to convert Great Scotland Yard into a hotel, *Hospitality* reported on June 11 <www.tinyurl.com/y32johx8> that the Great Scotland Yard Hotel will be a luxury hotel in Hyatt's Unbound Collection, and will open in late summer. The report offers details and images that show just how luxurious the hotel will be.

Another addition to Hyatt's Unbound Collection is the Hôtel du Louvre in Paris, opened in 1855 as Paris' first grand hotel. It is mentioned in the Canon ("The Bruce-Partington Plans"), and you can see how grand it is now at its web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ydew5bxg> (standard room rate is €490.00).

Stephen Thorne died on May 26. He had a long acting career, beginning on stage in the 1950s, but his magnificent voice made him a natural for radio (usually for the BBC); he recorded more than 350 books, and played Inspector Lestrade in the Clive Merrison's BBC Radio series.

Jun 19 #7 If you are, or know someone who is, a woman book collector in the United States, aged 30 or under, the Honey & Wax Book Collecting Prize is worth investigating <www.honeyandwaxbooks.com/prize.php>. The deadline for the 2019 prize is past, but there's plenty of time to apply for 2020. Honey & Wax is an interesting book-selling partnership between Heather O'Donnell and Rebecca Romney; they have an attractive web-site where they offer some fascinating books.

"The Long-Lasting Fascination with Sherlock Holmes: It's Elementary" was the headline on Michael Dirda's "Book World" review in the Washington Post (June 20)<www.tinyurl.com/yxwleq39>, with mentions of Sherlockian societies as well a review of recent books.

The question of where Sherlock Holmes went to college has been argued for decades, Oxford and Cambridge being the obvious (but not the only) candidates. Nicholas Utechin, who has long championed Oxford, discusses what he calls *The Controversy* in an excellent 40-page pamphlet that features on its back cover the colorful artwork that Frederic Dorr Steele drew for "The Three Students" (but Collier's didn't publish); £10.00, and details are available from Nick at <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>. Nick insists that he merely presents what everyone has written on the subject, and lets his readers decide who's correct.

Jennie Paton has found some programs from the 30-minute "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" series (1980) at YouTube; this was the series produced by Sheldon Reynolds with Geoffrey Whitehead as Holmes and Donald Pickering as Watson. Search YouTube for [geoffrey whitehead].

More news about the Royal Mint's new 50p Sherlock Holmes coin: you're invited to strike your own Sherlock Holmes coin at the Royal Mint; details at Greg Ruby's "Fourth Garrideb" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yxr4gf2p>. All you need to do is visit the Royal Mint, now located in Pontyclun in South Wales, pay £13.00 to take their tour, and £6.90 more for the coin (one per customer).

Viv Croot's *Biographic Sherlock* (Lewes: Ammonite, 2018; 96 pp., \$14.95) is an imaginative use of infographics (graphic visual representations of information) to presents facts about Holmes, his world, and his cases; it's part of a series, and you can see what they're all about at the publisher's web-site at <www.ammonitepress.com>. Infographics are as old as 1626 (according to Wikipedia); everyone has seen them, and they're useful indeed. The Wikipedia entry is well worth exploring.

KCAL-TV (Los Angeles) reported on June 22 that the latest case of measles in the city had been tracked to one known person who exposed other people at the Geffen Playhouse on June 7. "Hopefully, they disinfected the theater," said Marsha Niles, who had come to enjoy Sherlock Holmes. "We'll hope for the best." She had come to enjoy Michel Mitnick's new play "Mysterious Circumstances" (which is inspired by David Grann's article in the New Yorker about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green). The play has been favorably reviewed in the local press, but no reviews are at hand yet from any local Sherlockians.

Jun 19 #8 Woodlark is a band, founded in 2012, that plays "an eclectic mixture of power metal, epic metal, prog rock, and ballads," and their latest album "The Ascension" includes a track called "Sherlock Holmes" that you can listen to at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yyft2dwd>. It was spotted by Jennie Paton, who notes that they kindly provide the lyrics for the song.

Mark Kilmurray's new play "Murder on the Wireless: The Solitary Cyclist" is being performed at the Ensemble Theatre in Kirribilli, N.S.W., through July 13 <www.ensemble.com.au>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Tex., through July 22 <www.alleytheatre.org>; and it's due at the Austin Playhouse in Austin, Texas, Sept. 6-29 <www.austinplayhouse.com>.

Jules Tasca's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Limelight Theatre in Perth, W.A., July 4-13 <www.limelighttheatre.com.au>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at Upstairs at the Gatehouse in London, July 4-7; their web-site is at <www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com>. Also at Theatre Horizon in Norristown, Pa., Nov. 10 to Dec. 8 <www.theatrehorizon.org>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (newly dramatized by Marc Camoletti, Beverley Cross, and Francis Evans) is coming to the Spire Center for the Performing Arts in Plymouth, Mass., July 20-28 <www.americanattheatre.org>.

"Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled during the Edinburgh Fringe at Just The Tonic at the Caves in Edinburgh, Aug. 1-11 (it is advertised as "No script, Sherlock!") <www.tinyurl.com/y2bparm8>.

Scott McDowell's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Candy Murder" is due at the Overtime Theater in San Antonio, Tex., Aug 9-31; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/yye4obdm>.

"Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes" (by Jamie Robledo) will be performed at the Little Theatre in New London, Minn., Aug. 1-11 <www.newlondonlittletheatre.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé" (by David MacGregor) is due at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., Sept. 19-Dec. 21 <www.purplerosetheatre.org>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" is scheduled at the Rochester Repertory Theatre in Rochester, Minn., Oct. 4-20 <www.rochesterrep.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Basketcases" (a British pantomime) will be performed at the Highbury Theatre Centre in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, Nov. 26-30 <www.fromthetop.org.uk>.

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

An interesting autograph postcard was offered at Forum Auctions in London this month, estimated at £1,200-£1,800: Conan Doyle wrote from Windlesham (about 1920) that "It is a fact that Holmes has some traits of Dr. Bell of Edinburgh. To say that he is entirely based on him would be an exaggeration. My first book (I have written stories since 1878) was 'A Study in Scarlet', a Sherlock Holmes booklet published as Beeton's Annual in 1888."

And yes, Conan Doyle likely didn't remember dates, all those years later: "The Mystery of Sasassa Valley" was published in Sept. 1879, and "A Study in Scarlet" in 1887. The bidders didn't care: the hammer price was £14,000 (add 30% for the buyer's premium). Randall Stock has an excellent discussion of the postcard at www.tinyurl.com/yxqgo6ls.

Two Conan Doyle manuscripts went to auction at Christie's on July 10: an unpublished chapter from "The Land of Mist" was estimated at £3,000-£5,000 and sold for £13,750 (including the buyer's premium); and a poem "Shakespeare's Expostulation" was estimated at £1,000-£1,500 and sold for £2,125. Visit www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2019.htm to see Randall's detailed (and nicely illustrated) descriptions of the two items.

Randall also offers information about a page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that went to auction at Profiles in History on July 11 www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/hound-baskervilles-h31-2019.htm; it was estimated at \$120,000-\$150,000 and did not sell.

"A Tale of Two Villages" is the title of Richard Olken's report on the recent "Dark Deeds in the Canon" conference arranged by the Reichenbach Irregulars in Switzerland www.tinyurl.com/y3rozxju, offering everybody a chance to see what you missed; the local Sherlockians are planning another conference in two or three years.

"Sherlock Holmes" is a 7-minute track on *The Ascension*, a new album from the power-metal band WOODLARK; it's nice that you can listen to the track at YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUVEEYSSSqU.

"Are you named after Conan the Barbarian?" an interviewer asked Conan Osborne, captain of the Jamaica National Rugby Sevens team. "My dad likes to think so," he replied, "but my mum claims it's a little more sophisticated as I'm named after Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." You can read the interview at www.tinyurl.com/y5ye7nx7.

Bill Peschel launched his "223B Casebook Series" in 2014, offering the results of his survey of the many parodies and pastiches published in newspapers, magazines, and books while Conan Doyle lived, reprinting them with footnotes and brief accounts of what Conan Doyle was doing each year, and there are nine volumes, concluding with SHERLOCK HOLMES: JAZZ AGE PARODIES AND PASTICHES II: 1925-1930 (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2019; 341 pp.), and (selected from the first eight volumes) THE BEST SHERLOCK HOLMES PARODIES & PASTICHES: 1888-1930 (2019; 373 pp.) (each \$15.95). Bill's web-site is at www.peschelpress.com.

Jul 19 #2 The Exhibits Development Group's "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" (now at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., through May 27) has no bookings beyond that, and the standard rental fee has been reduced to \$300,000 from \$450,000 (in case you know of a museum that might be a venue for the exhibition). Details on the exhibition are available at <www.tinyurl.com/y2aa7gwc>; museums should contact them at <info@exhibitsdevelopment.com>. It is well worth seeing (if you have not already seen it), and well worth a suggestion if you have a local museum that welcomes touring exhibitions.

"The Magic Bookseller That Changed Everything" was the headline on a newspaper article about Cadabra Inc., kindly forwarded by Bill Seil. If you have never heard of the company, that's because its name was changed. You don't need to know anything about magic, or be a Sherlockian or Doylean, to have purchased something from the company <www.tinyurl.com/y2842d9j>.

Kenneth Cameron, who featured Louisa Conan Doyle as a detective when she and her husband visited New York in 1894 in *Winter at Death's Hotel* (Feb 13 #2), has written a series of books about Denton, an American veteran of the Civil War and now an expatriate author living in turn of the century London, who finds himself investigating murders. They're not Sherlockian (except for passing mentions of Holmes), but they're written with excellent style and well-drawn characters. The first two in the series now are available as trade-paperback reprints: *The Frightened Man* (New York: Felony & Mayhem, 2018; 278 pp.) and *The Bohemian Girl* (2018, 344 pp.) (each \$14.95).

Fans of "Sesame Street" have many reasons to admire the series, Sherlock Hemlock being only one of them. Greg Ruby found video of a tribute to the series during the Emmy Awards in 1982 <www.tinyurl.com/y3qwgzyk>; Sherlock Hemlock appears at 3:30-3:42 and at 5:06 in the 7-minute video.

"There are a handful of names in the pantheon of Sherlockians that are legendary," Scott Monty writes at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog, "Morley. Bell. Smith. Starrett. Baring-Gould. And Shaw." Scott and Burt Wolder offer an interesting interview with Jim Hawkins, who maintains an excellent web-site devoted to John Bennett Shaw, and you can listen to his stories at <www.tinyurl.com/yxupj3>.

Jeeves and the King of Clubs (2018) is Ben Schott's "homage to P. G. Wodehouse" <www.tinyurl.com/y3qwgzyk>; it turns out that the Junior Ganymede Club (like the Diogenes Club is so many modern Sherlockian pastiches) is an arm of the British intelligence service.

Arte Johnson died on July 3. He was actor on stage and television, and in 1968 joined the cast of "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In" eventually winning an Emmy for his performances as a German soldier Wolfgang ("verrrrry interesting") and as the dirty old man Tyrone F. Horneigh. He also played Fabian Holme ("a master private detective who solves crimes with the aid of elaborate disguises") on "Call Holme" (broadcast by NBC-TV in 1972 as a 30-minute pilot for a projected series that never was produced; the pilot is available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zvz88mRmY84>.

Jul 19 #3 David Harnois continues to add to the list of dramatized readings of the Canon at his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>, where you can listen to (or download) readings of the first nine stories, all nicely done. He also offers Alison Carter's remastered two-part audio recording of Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (which starred Jeremy Brett as Holmes and Edward Hardwicke as Watson) made by Lisa Woods and Linda Pritchard on Mar. 20, 1989.

Jennie Paton reported (but isn't going to purchase) a semi-permanent Holmes tattoo offered by inkbox <www.inkbox.com> at \$16.00. It would appear that "semi-permanent" means that it is hard to remove the tattoo, but there are ways to accelerate fading, explained at the web-site.



"The Unseen World of Charles Altamont Doyle" is the title of an exhibition at the Huntington Art Gallery in San Marino, Calif., running through Sept. 23 <www.huntington.org/unseen-doyle>. The exhibition offers sixteen drawings from the Huntington's collection, displaying the fantastical water-colors painted by Conan Doyle's father.

It's a generational thing: President Trump, asked about Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg, said that "Alfred E. Newman can't become president of the United States," and Buttigieg had to use Google to learn who MAD magazine's "What, me worry?" mascot was. Now MAD magazine has announced that it is ending its 67-year run of offering a satirical look at just about everything. Cartoonist Harvey Kurtzman edited the magazine in the 1950s, and as one of MAD's "usual gang of idiots" was responsible for Sherlock Holmes' first appearance in MAD, in a panel in the fourth issue, and as "Shermlock Shomes" in the seventh issue, both in 1953, and he has appeared many more times since then.

The second part of the Otto Penzler Collection of Mystery Fiction will be offered at Heritage Auctions <www.ha.com> on September 5, in sale #6212; there's some nice Sherlockian and Doylean material among the treasures.

The fourth issue of Shadows of the Gnomon (2019) offers a nice (and nicely illustrated) history of the Knights of the Gnomon; it's a 56-page booklet celebrating the 40th anniversary of the society, and is available by mail (\$13.00 postpaid) or as a PDF by e-mail, from amanuensis Marsha Pollak at <mlpollak@icloud.com>.

"Twelve-Object Pictures" (published in The Strand Magazine in Aug. 1912) showed the results of a challenge to "eminent black-and-white artists" to draw pictures incorporating a dozen objects chosen by the magazine; one of the objects was Sherlock Holmes, and you can see the drawings in the summer issue of Canadian Holmes (which is published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto). The issue also offers Cliff Goldfarb's "The Brigadier in Switzerland: Travels with Arthur and Napoleon" (with Cliff's amusing pastiche of Gerard); Canadian Holmes is a quarterly that costs \$30.00 a year (US or CA) by mail to the Bootmakers, 2045 Lakeshore Boulevard West #3303, Etobicoke, ON M8V 2Z6, Canada, or at <www.torontobootmakers.com>.

Jul 19 #4 This year's Christmas card from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London is a colorful night image of Brixton's Electric Avenue in 1895. Electric Avenue, the first street market to be lit by electricity, is just off the Brixton Road, where Mrs. Oakshott was an egg and poultry supplier (in "The Blue Carbuncle"); details on ordering the cards will be available at the society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk> later this year.

Freddie Jones died on July 9. He began his acting career on stage in the early 1960s, and went on to a long list of roles in films and on television; he appeared as Chester Cragwitch in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), Inspector Baynes in Granada's "Wisteria Lodge" (1988) and as the Pedlar in "The Last Vampyre" (1993). His son continues the Sherlockian tradition, Roger Johnson notes: Toby Jones played Culverton Smith in the BBC's "The Lying Detective" (2017).



The Royal Mail has issued a set of eight stamps celebrating "the eclectic mix of annual customs and festivals that take place across the UK"; none of them seems to be Sherlockian, but they're well worth celebrating (and the designs are delightful): Burning the Clocks in Brighton, 'Obby 'Oss in Padstow, The World Gurning Championships in Egremont, Up Helly Aa in Lerwick, Cheese Rolling on Cooper's Hill in Brockworth, Halloween in Derry/Londonderry, Horn Dance in Abbots Bromley, and Bog Snorkelling in Llanwrtyd Wells.

"Heretic of the Week: Arthur Conan Doyle" was the attention-getting headline on a story in the Catholic Herald on June 20; you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/y22mk2fq>; it's part of a continuing series.

"Tell Me More" was a British 30-minute series broadcast by BBC-1; on July 9, 1977, the program had Nanette Newman's interviewing Sherlock Holmes Society of London president Lord Gore-Booth (as Sherlock Holmes) and Chris Bazlinton (as Sherlock Holmes' secretary); Nick Utechin spotted the 2-minute segment at <www.tinyurl.com/yxggobf7>.

Jul 19 #5 Dexter Fletcher has been reported in talks to direct the third film in the Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" franchise, according to the Hollywood Reporter (July 11). Guy Richie was the director of the first two films, which grossed \$524 million and \$545 million. Dec. 22, 2021, still is the scheduled release date for the third film. Fletcher most recently directed the Elton John film "Rocketman" (2019).

John Kendrick Bangs was an American humorist whose books included *A House-Boat on the Styx: Being Some Account of the Divers Doings of the Associated Shades* (1895) and its sequel *The Pursuit of the House-Boat: Being Some Further Account of the Divers Doings of the Associated Shades, Under the Leadership of Sherlock Holmes, Esq.* (1897) in which the Associated Shades hire the world's greatest detective (at the time indeed deceased, according to Dr. Watson's literary agent) to assist them in recovering their hijacked house-boat. The novels have been reprinted as *The Singular Problem of the Stygian House-Boat* (Vancleave: Ramble House, 2007; 167 pp., \$30.00 cloth/\$14.00 paper) <www.ramblehouse.com>.

Also from Ramble House: Richard A. Lupoff's *The Compleat Ova Hamlet* (2009; 250 pp. \$30.00/\$18.00) is a collection of parodies Lupoff wrote using the pseudonym Ova Hamlet, and with an amusing Introduction from skeptical UFO researcher Philip J. Klass. Watson's featured in a parody of Philip José Farmer in "God of the Naked Unicorn" (first published in Aug. 1976 in *Fantastic Science Fiction & Fantasy Stories*).

And there's more: Gary Lovisi's *The Secret Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (2007; 154 pp., \$30.00/\$18.00), *More Secret Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (2011, 150 pp., also \$30.00/\$18.00) and *The Secret Adventures of Sherlock Holmes; Book Three* (2016, 136 pp. \$35.00/\$18.00), offer collections of his pastiches, both reprints and new stories; some of them are longer versions (as written) that he had to edit down before of space limitations imposed when they were first published.

St. Hilda's College at Oxford University launched its "Crime Fiction Weekend" in 1994, and this year's weekend on Aug. 16-18 will include Nicholas Utechin speaking about Sherlock Holmes. The booking deadline is Aug. 5, and details can be found at <www.sthildas.ox.ac.uk/hildas-crime-2019>.

The Strongman Classic will be held in the Royal Albert Hall in London on June 6, 2020, bringing "the world's oldest sport" back where it all began, in 1901, when the Hall's weight-lifting show was judged by strongman legend Eugen Sandow and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The event is part of a tour by Giants Live <www.giants-live.com/theclassic>, and it will be filmed for broadcast by Channel 5 at Christmas in 2020.

Bob Dorian died on June 15. He was an actor, a magician, and a musician, and in 1984 he went to work on the American Movie Classics channel, where he became famous as the genial and enthusiast host for AMC's film broadcasts. He was born Robert Paul Vierengel (Bob Dorian was his professional name as an actor) and as Bob Vierengel he played Sherlock Holmes on nine Sherlockian radio broadcasts produced by Chris Steinbrunner and presented by the Priory Scholars of Fordham on WFUV-FM.

Jul 19 #6 Laurie R. King happily reports that she has finished the first draft of the next Mary Russell mystery, which has the working title *Riviera Gold* and is tentatively scheduled for publication next June. Laurie has also reminded her readers that "all first drafts are crap," and is waiting for comments from her editor.

You may recall seeing that description of first drafts before. According to the Quote Investigator <www.quoteinvestigator.com/2015/09/20/draft>, it is Ernest Hemingway who's credited for saying "the first draft of anything is ****." Asterisked here to get this issue of my newsletter through the net nannies, but the Quote Investigator spells it out.

Save the date: The Parallel Case of Saint Louis has scheduled their next "Holmes in the Heartland" conference for July 24-26, 2020. More information will be available soon.

Undershaw is in the news again. Boris Johnson defeated Jeremy Hunt in the race to lead the Conservative party and become the next prime minister of Great Britain, but during the battle Surrey Live reported on June 26 that Hunt had lobbied on behalf of a businessman who later donated £10,000 to Hunt's leadership campaign. Hunt, the member of Parliament for South West Surrey, had supported upgrading Conan Doyle's former home from Grade II to Grade I during the long-running argument over redevelopment of Undershaw, but changed his mind and instead supported David Forbes-Nixon's plans to make the house part of the Stepping Stones School, and the DFN Charitable Trust then donated £10,000 to Hunt's campaign for the party leadership. A source "close to" Hunt told the paper that donations had no bearing on his decisions, while John Michael Gibson, one of the leaders of the campaign to upgrade protection of Undershaw, said that "It would appear with regard to Jeremy Hunt, to paraphrase George Orwell, all constituents are equal, but some are more equal than others."

There must be Sherlockians who have 3D printers, and there certainly are people who have 3D printers who print Sherlockiana, as Jennie Paton found on-line <www.yeggi.com/q/sherlock+holmes>.

Howard Ostrom has learned that plans are afoot for the next season of the BBC's "Sherlock" and apparently it will be set quite a few years after the recent season ended. They have already tested makeup for members of the cast, including Benedict Cumberbatch (shown here).



Well, not really, the image can be found, along with images of others in the cast, at a Facebook page <www.tinyurl.com/y59as4mb> created by Sherlock Shippers; scroll down to "+5" to see all of the images.

"Elementary, my dear Watson," is a world-famous phrase that is discussed in detail at the Quote Investigator web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yjee9zej>. What's interesting is that "Elementary, my dear Potson" has been found in print (1901) before the first appearance of "Elementary, my dear Watson" (1909). But Sherlock Holmes is first known to have spoken the phrase in the film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929).

Jul 19 #7 Just in time for Christmas: the new film "Cats" is scheduled for release on Dec. 20, starring Judi Dench (Old Deuteronomy) and Taylor Swift (Bombalurina), and (far more important for Sherlockians) Idris Elba (Macavity: The Mystery Cat) and Ian McKellen (Gus: The Theatre Cat). The film based on the Andrew Lloyd Webber 1981 musical, which was based on T. S. Eliot's poetic *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* (1939). For those who are not familiar with the poems or the musical, Macavity is Eliot's tribute to Moriarty. Eliot also included an amusing Canonical allusion in the poem about Gus, but it was omitted from the musical and is unlikely to be in the film. The official trailer for the film can be seen at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=gq50F-IDXDc>.

Intrada <www.intrada.com> has issued a newly remastered 3-CD set with the music from the film "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), with some interesting added features (\$29.95).

The Bimetallic Question (the Sherlockian society in Montréal) has issued a new lapel pin that celebrates their 40th anniversary (it matches their magnifying-glass logo <www.bimetallicquestion.org>; US\$10.00 postpaid from The Bimetallic Question, P.O. Box 232, Westmount Station, Westmount, Quebec H3Z 2T2, Canada. Checks or money orders preferred; cash can be sent at your own risk.



One does hear of Sherlock everywhere: Nick Utechin has forwarded British comic Andy Zaltsman's comment on the Cricket World Cup Final at Lord's on July 14: "As Sherlock Holmes famously said, 'When you have eliminated the logical, whatever remains, however inexplicable, must be the laws and regulations of cricket, and/or the last hour of the 2019 World Cup Final.' If you want to read all about it, go to <www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/4007967>.

Production has started in London on the new film "Enola Holmes" (based on the six-book series written by Nancy Springer (2006-2010) about the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock; Millie Bobby Brown stars as Enola, with Henry Cavill as Sherlock and Helena Bonham Carter as their mother. Cavill has played Superman in the DC Extended Universe franchise (2013-2017) and Napoleon Solo in "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." (2015).

"America Unearthed" (a one-hour series hosted by Scott Wolter and broadcast by the Travel channel): "The Ripper Unmasked" (June 18) was inspired by Daniel and Eugene Friedman's *The Strange Case of Dr. Doyle* (Apr 15 #2); Wolter interviews the Friedmans, and reaches a highly circumstantial conclusion that Conan Doyle was Jack the Ripper. Watch for a repeat on the Travel channel and at the channel's web-site.

The Easton Press is reported to be planning to publish a new Sherlockian collection of the four long stories (possibly later this year), with five full-color illustrations by Dennis Lyall, whose original artwork (oil-on-linen-canvas) is available from the artist. Lyall has been an illustrator for decades, and has designed 43 stamps for the U.S. Postal Service; his web-site is at <www.lyallart.com>, and you can request information about the Sherlockian artwork (a frontispiece portrait of Conan Doyle, and one illustration for each story) from him at <lyallart@aol.com>.

Jul 19 #8 "Look Alive!" is the title of this year's production by the Cambridge University Footlights Dramatic Club; the Footlights were founded in 1883, and launched the careers of Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie, Emma Thompson, John Cleese, and many others. According to a review in the (Cambridge) Varsity (June 12) <www.varsity.co.uk/theatre/17675>, one of the sketches includes an "inquisitive Sherlock Holmes." The Footlights will be on tour in the U.S. in September, in San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston; dates and times are available at <www.tinyurl.com/yyqes2f3>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is on at the Lake George Dinner Theatre in Lake George, N.Y. through Aug. 31; their web-site's at <www.laketheatreproductions.com>. It also will be performed at the Delaware Theatre Company in Wilmington, Del., Sept. 11-29; web-site at <www.delawaretheatre.org>.

"Sherlock and Cinders" (a musical by Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crossey) will be performed at Selby Abbey in Selby, Yorks., Aug. 5-9; their website's at <www.selbyabbey.org.uk>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Historic Zodiac Playhouse in Florence, Ala., Aug. 9-18; their web-site is at <www.historiczodiacplayhouse.com>.

C. Alexander Park's new play "Haslop & Holmes: Art of the Steal" will be performed at the Ti-Ahwaga Performing Arts Center in Owego, N.Y., Aug. 16-18 <www.tiahwaga.com>; Conan Watson Haslop and Irene Holmes vs. the famous thief Lupin.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Strange Case of Alice Faulkner" will be performed as a staged reading at the CoRK Arts District in Jacksonville, Fla., Aug. 22-24 <www.tinyurl.com/yxb8r8dm>; it's the Mercury Theatre on the Air version from 1938.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Angelo Civic Theater in San Angelo, Texas, Sept. 27-Oct. 6 <www.angelotheater.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Canyon Theatre in Newhall, Calif., Sept. 27-Nov. 3 <www.canyontheatre.org>. Also at the Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County in New Philadelphia, Ohio, Oct. 4-20 <www.thenewlittletheatreonline.org>; the Topeka Civic Theatre in Topeka, Kans., Jan. 17-Feb. 9, 2020; and the Matsqui Centennial Theatre in Abbotsford, B.C., May 15-23 <www.gallery7theatre.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at the Art Center Theatre in Hernando, Fla., Nov. 1-17; web-site at <www.artcenterofcitruscounty.org>. Also at the Kirkwood Community Center in Kirkwood, Mo., Nov. 1-10 <www.ktg-onstage.org>; and at the Manoa Valley Theatre in Honolulu, Hawaii, May 14-31 <www.manoavalleytheatre.com>.

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

Registration is now open for the Baker Street Irregulars' BSI Archive Conference on Nov. 8-10 in Bloomington, Ind.; everyone is welcome to attend, and the formal announcement and registration information are available online at www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/event. The next BSI conference will be on "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at the Bear Mountain Inn near West Point, N.Y., on July 17-19, 2020.

Maggie Schpak has kindly hand-crafted spectacular Sherlockian jewelry for many years for the raffle that benefits the Dr. John H. Watson Fund during the birthday festivities in New York, has a day job designing prop jewelry for movie and television studios. Maggie keeps a very low public profile, but she will be making a rare appearance to speak about "Alien Adornment: 50 Years of Star Trek Jewelry" at an "Arts at the Armory" event in Somerville, Mass., near Boston, on Sept. 22 www.startrek.artisansasylum.com.

When and where was the first computer-to-computer message sent? What was the message? Hint: it was not "Mr. Watson -- come here -- I want to see you."

Lola Montez is on stage once again, in a one-woman entertainment written by Richard Byrne that premiered in Washington last month, with Mary Murphy as the notorious performer who has been suggested (by some Sherlockians, at any rate) as one of the possible inspirations for Irene Adler. Details on the play can be found at www.richardbyrneplays.com/lola-montez, and a review of the premiere is available at www.tinyurl.com/y3t4x2lu.

"Gillette Castle Needs Your Help," was a recent post by Scott Monty at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog www.tinyurl.com/y3czco2z.

A Novel Journal: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (San Diego: Canterbury Classics, 2015; 160 pp., \$10.94) is an imaginative concept, part of a series that offers a chance to "write between the lines of your favorite authors." The lines of the journal are what Conan Doyle wrote ("in teeny, tiny text").

Tim Dedopulus' *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLE COLLECTION: THE LOST CASES* (New York: Sterling/ Metro, 2015; 224 pp., \$11.23) presents "over 140 cerebral challenges," imaginative, logical, and attractively illustrated.

"Do Detectives Think?" (1927), a two-reel film produced by Hal Roach, featured Stan Laurel as Ferdinand Finkleberry (the world's second worst detective) and Oliver Hardy as Sherlock Pinkham, (the worst); Jennie Paton found the film at YouTube www.tinyurl.com/y668cvm4.

Mattias Boström has noted that Susanne Buck's *Mörder, Mode, Mitgiftjäger* will be published by Jonas Verlag in October (216 pp., €20.00). It's all in German (according to the author, if the book were in English the title would be *Fashion, Felons, Fortune-Hunters*), and it's about high society in the 1920s; the fortune-hunters, it should be noted, included the "Marrying Mdivanis" (one of whom was Nina, who married Denis Conan Doyle).

Aug 19 #2 "It isn't every day you run into someone who crashed an invitation-only event 45 years ago," Scott Monty suggests. "When you add to the mix that the event was all-male and the interloper was a female --well, now we have the beginning of a good story." The event was a meeting of a Sherlockian society, and it's a good story indeed; you can listen to an interview with the interloper at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/yxgdvqu5>.

When and where was the first computer-to-computer message sent? What was the message? Oct. 29, 1969, from a computer at UCLA to a computer at SRI. You'll find the rest of the story in an article about Leonard Kleinrock at <www.magazine.ucla.edu/depts/forward-thinker/making-magic>.

Hal Prince died on July 31. He had a long career as a producer and director, beginning with "Pajama Game" in 1954, and continued with a long list of Broadway successes, including directing the musical "Baker Street" in 1964. He also purchased the rights to James Goldman's play "They Might Be Giants" and was the producer for its brief run in London in 1961; he then considered producing the play in New York (with George C. Scott and Colleen Dewhurst, and with Mike Nichols as the director), but decided that it couldn't be done properly. Prince kept the screen rights to the script, and when they were purchased by Universal for the 1971 film with Scott and Joanne Woodward), Prince recovered all of his losses from the London stage production ("probably the only time in my life that will happen," he wrote in his 1974 memoirs *Contradictions: Notes on Twenty-Six Years in the Theatre*).

Howard Ostrom has reported that production is underway on "Sherlock Holmes in Russia" (a new television series that stars Maxim Matveev as Holmes); you can read all about it (in Russian) at <www.tinyurl.com/yy44lqyw>.

"Sesame Street" will be the first television series to receive a Kennedy Center Honor; the series was broadcast by PBS-TV for many years, and now airs on HBO; the honors will be awarded on Dec. 8, and broadcast by CBS-TV on Dec. 15, and it's possible, though unlikely, that Sherlock Hemlock will be on hand for the festivities.

Adam Nightingale's *Masters of Crime: fiction's Finest Villains and Their Real-Life Inspirations* (Stroud: History Press, 2011; 101 pp.) is out-of-print on paper, but available as an e-book (£6.99); the contents include a chapter about Conan Doyle and Moriarty and Wild and Worth, and another devoted to Hornung and Raffles and Tennington and Ives and Wilde.

"Elementary" has now ended its seven-season run on CBS-TV, with Jonny Lee Miller as Holmes and Lucy Liu as Watson in 154 one-hour programs, setting a record for playing the roles together longer than anyone other than Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, who appeared together in more films and radio programs, but for fewer hours, since their radio programs ran for only 30 minutes. No spoilers here, but TV Insider ran an interview with show-runner Rob Doherty on Aug. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/y56t7lmv> in which he gave his reasons for how he did (or didn't) wrap things up. There's another interesting interview with Doherty at TV Line <www.tinyurl.com/y3lv4x3r>.

Aug 19 #3 The nominations for Mystery Readers International's Macavity Awards include Margalit Fox's *Conan Doyle for the Defense* and Leslie S. Klinger's *Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s* (for best nonfiction), and Laurie R. King's *Island of the Mad* (Sue Feder memorial award for best historical mystery). The winners will be announced at Bouchercon in Dallas on Oct. 21.

The August issue of the Beacon Society offers the latest news of the society's awards, prizes, and on-going efforts to encourage introducing young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories. You can request a copy by e-mail from Steve Mason <mason.steve@epa.com>.

David Stevens died on July 31. He joined the staff of Playboy magazine in 1966 as an assistant editor, and (according to one of his obituaries) said that he "never worked another day in his life." He retired from the magazine in 2004 as senior editor for modern living, and throughout his career there he was their resident Sherlockian, making sure that the Great Detective was mentioned often in the magazine.

Jennie Paton spotted Russell Stutler's striking birds-eye view of 221 Baker Street under "strange maps" at Big Think's web-site; reported before (Jul 10 #6), but it's still worth a look <www.tinyurl.com/yxa8ezat>.

"Barnes & Noble has been sliding toward oblivion for years," according to a recent article in the N.Y. Times <www.tinyurl.com/yye8mqrn>, kindly forwarded by Bill Seil. But rescue is at hand: the rescuer is Waterstones, a British company that owns a chain of successful bookstores in the U.K. and plans to return Barnes & Noble to profitability.

Further to the report (Mar 19 #1) that "Sherlock Holmes 3" (the next film in the Robert Downey Jr. franchise) will take place in the Old West, the San Jose Mercury-News has explained why: the film has qualified for California's tax-credit production incentive, and will receive about \$21 million in state tax credits in return for spending close to \$107 million on below-the-line, middle-class production job wages and payments to in-state vendors in California.

"That's the trouble with this business," said Sherlockian scholar Vincent Starrett deprecatingly, when I reminded him of this bit of bad taste, "the wrong people get into it." That's from Norman Donaldson's essay "A Freeman Postscript" in *The Mystery & Detection Annual* (1972), reporting on his visit with Starrett in 1964, when they discussed R. Austin Freeman's work books.

And just what was "this bit of bad taste?" Donaldson wondered how closely it might be legitimate to carry a literary analysis. "Was I by any chance becoming guilty of the same deplorable excesses as some over-enthusiastic Sherlockians, who build too ponderous a superstructure of exegesis on too flimsy a foundation? Like the dentist who 'proved' that Holmes suffered from pyorrhea?" Donaldson was referring to Charles S. Goodman, whose essay on "The Dental Holmes" was published in 1944 Edgar W. Smith's anthology *Profile by Gaslight*.

Aug 19 #4 An interesting item was sold at auction this month at Dominic Winter Auctioneers at Cirencester: the original cover design for the May 1912 issue of *The Strand Magazine*, pen and ink on paper, initialed and dated, and advertising Conan Doyle's "The Lost World" (which was being serialized in the magazine) <www.tinyurl.com/y4n8zk5b>. Estimated at £100-£150, it sold for £1,450 (plus buyer's premium and VAT).

Shane Rimmer died on Mar. 29. He began his entertainment career as a cabaret singer and went on to act on film and television, also working as a voice artist and script writer. He played Lysander Stark in the television "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1987) and Jefferson Hope in the BBC Radio 4 broadcast of "A Study in Scarlet" (1989)

There's more news about Enola Holmes: Serena Blasco has adapted the first two of Nancy Springer's novels (*The Case of the Missing Marquess* and *The Case of the Left-Handed Lady*) as graphic novels for IDW Publishing (each 64 pp., \$14.99); the adaptations and artwork are excellent, and *The Case of the Bizarre Bouquets* is scheduled for next year, nicely timed for the release of the movie starring Millie Bobby Brown. There was a well-illustrated interview with the artist at the School Library Journal web-site on Oct. 11, 2018 <www.tinyurl.com/yyvw46ql>. Blasco's graphic novels for all six of Springer's books have been published in France by Jungle Editions.

When in Oklahoma: Sherlock Homes Inc. in Henryetta proclaims "19 years of amazing prices for nice mobile homes!" and uses a Sherlockian silhouette in their advertising <www.tinyurl.com/yyykc6rm>, spotted by Jennie Paton.

Steve Mason reports that the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* plan to publish a new anthology of limericks based on Sherlock Holmes and the Canon. Submissions are welcome from anyone, the deadline is Aug. 31, and details are available from Steve at <mason.steve@epa.gov>.

Bearded Sherlockians may wish to investigate the Sherlock products (beard balm, beard oil, and beard co-wash) offered by the Honest Ape Beard Co. <www.honestapebeardco.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes & Digital Worlds" is the title of a study that will document the history of Sherlockian video games from around the world. Mimi Okabe, a member of the Bootmakers of Toronto, would like to hear from anyone who would like to contribute information that will be available in an on-line data-base; details at <www.tinyurl.com/yy2lxlow>.

This month's conference in Minneapolis ("Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences"), sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers, the University of Minnesota, and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, went extremely well, and was the occasion for the publication of *The Best of Friends*; it's a selection of essays and articles from past issues of the Friends' newsletter, edited by Ray Riethmeier, Julie McKuras, Richard Sveum, and Phillip Bergem, with additional comments by the authors of the essays and articles. The 224-page book costs \$28.00 postpaid, from Phil Bergem (3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304) (checks should be payable to the Norwegian Explorers).

Aug 19 #5 Kelvin I. Jones, a prolific author of Sherlockian articles and books in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, is preparing to publish *The Sherlock Holmes Ultimate Smoking Companion*, an up-dated and expanded edition of his earlier book about Holmes' affair with tobacco, and is welcoming submissions from any Sherlockian (or Holmesian) of a new story that has references to smoking, or a new article about smoking Canonical smoking (of tobacco or anything else). His deadline is Sept. 30, and details are available from him at <myscroft.221@yahoo.com>.

Richard M. Caplan ("Dr. Jackson") died on Aug. 20. He had a longer career teaching dermatology at the University of Iowa, also serving as associate dean for continuing medical education. Dick was a prolific contributor to both medical and Sherlockian literature, and was the founder of the Young Stamfords of Iowa City. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1989.

Jennie Paton reports a wide variety of Sherlockian designs available from Spoonflower <www.spoonflower.com> as fabric and as wallpaper.

Alexander Orlov has reported from Russia that Anna Rossonova, a young woman from Chelyabinsk, is hard at work on creating a "knitted detective story" that will feature Holmes and Watson; you can see her attractive work at <www.tinyurl.com/y2f5k9hl>.

Dante Torrese has kindly forwarded a report from Coin World Weekly (Aug. 19) about a nice discovery at Ballarat, where prospectors still are prospecting, sometimes quite successfully: a 4.4-pound gold nugget was found recently by a retiree who searches gold fields as a spare-time hobby, and offers of more than \$160,000 have already been made for the "You Wouldn't Believe It" nugget.

The Panama City News Herald posted a story and a 15-minute audio interview with Nancy Springer on Aug. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/y32g9tl9>; the story noted that Springer posted a rhetorical question on her Facebook page about the casting of Henry Cavill as Holmes: "Hottest Sherlock ever?"

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CASE BOOK (London: Carlton/Sevenoaks, 2018; 224 pp., \$17.23) is a nicely-illustrated collection of ten solve-it-yourself mysteries (complete with solutions at the back of the book). The artwork is credited to Shutterstock <www.shutterstock.com>, a web-site that offers a wide range of attractive (and royalty-free) images, Sherlockian and otherwise.

The Guardian reported on Aug. 19 that Greene King, a 220-year-old pub and beer company, is to be sold for £2.7 billion to the CKA Group, a massive conglomerate based in Hong Kong <www.tinyurl.com/y56un9b5>. Greene King was founded by Benjamin Greene, the great-grand-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), and is of additional interest to Sherlockians because it owned The Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Street.

Aug 19 #6 The usual theatrical news: David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé" has been scheduled at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., Sept. 19-Dec. 21; web-site's at <www.purplerosetheatre.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Kress Theatre in Alexandria, La., Sept. 26 to Oct. 6 <www.cpptheatre.com>; and the SurfFlight Theatre in Beach Haven, N.J., Oct. 2-6 <www.surflight.org>. Also at the Clearfield Arts Studio Theatre in Clearfield, Pa., Oct. 10-19 <www.clearfieldarts.org>; at the Chickasaw Civic Theatre in Mobile, Ala., Oct. 11-20 <www.cctshows.com>; and at the Plaza Theatre in Wharton, Tex., Oct. 18-27 <www.whartonplazatheatre.org>.

Terry McCabe's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is upcoming at the City Lit Theater in Chicago, Sep. 27-Nov. 10 <www.citylit.org>.

The musical "Sherlock Holmes and the East Wind" is due at the Arizona Rose Theatre in Tucson, Ariz., Oct. 12-27 <www.arizonarosetheatre.com>.

"Baker Street Irregulars" (by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) will be performed at the Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wis., on Oct. 17-20 <www.lps.wels.net>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at Stage 212 in La Salle, Ind., Nov. 8-17 <www.stage212.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" (by Michael Menendian and John Weagly) will be performed at the Paola Community Center in Paola, Kan., Nov. 8-9 <www.cornerstoneperformingarts.com>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Newport Theatre Arts Center in Newport Beach, Calif., Nov. 15-Dec. 15 <www.ntaonline.com>.

John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the James J. Hill House in St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 6-20 <www.theatrex.org>.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at Studio 120 at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Jan. 9-26 <www.tamparep.org>.

Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (four one-act plays) will be performed at Caldwell Community College in Lenoir, N.C., on Feb. 13-15 <www.broyhillcenter.com>.

It's not possible to forecast everything in a monthly newsletter; if you would like more frequent news of theatrical events, Howard Ostrom offers exactly that at Twitter <www.twitter.com/HowardOstrom>.

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

The UCLA Film and Television Archive's collaborative world-wide search for missing or deteriorating Sherlockian films (Jan 19 #3) now is formally underway, and details are available at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yy96y7fu>.

Rebecca Romney will be the speaker at next year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture at 2:00 pm on Apr. 20 at the Toronto Reference Library (her topic will be "Using Sherlock Holmes to Expand What Book Collecting Can Be"); no charge for admission, the public is welcome to attend, and detailed information is available at <www.acdfriends.org/events.html>. There's also a save-the-date announcement for the Bootmakers of Toronto's next conference (on Sept. 24-26, 2021).

Footprints of London <www.footprintsoflondon.com> offers a wide variety of walks in London, among them "Sherlock Holmes Goes East" on Oct. 7 and 31, and "Sherlock Holmes--The Return" on Oct. 3.

Leonard Nimoy first played Sherlock Holmes in "The Interior Motive" (a 15-minute program produced by Kentucky Educational Television in 1975); it's now available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_rKfRpQZEE> (kindly reported by Jennie Paton).

Janis Gayer Robinson notes an interesting web-site with all seven seasons of "Elementary" <www.tinyurl.com/y39kbny2>. There's a search engine, in case you want to search for other series (they have the Jeremy Brett and Benedict Cumberbatch series, and many non-Sherlockian series).

Admirers of Sherlock Hemlock will enjoy a YouTube connection to all eleven of the segments of his appearances on "Sesame Street" (spotted by Jennie Paton) <www.tinyurl.com/y2s45z48>.

The film isn't Sherlockian, but it does feature Charlie McCarthy wearing a deerstalker: Ann Marlowe has reported "Two Boobs in a Balloon" (1935), a 10-minute short that's the first film in a collection available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yx9654fu>.

The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem have found a nice way to use modern technology to publicize the society and to attract new members: a 9-minute video available at YouTube <www.yout.be/X9T294hDpDA>.

Kelvin I. Jones has been pursuing Sherlockian scholarship since the 1960s, and his *Sherlock Holmes' 'The Art of Detection'* (Liskeard: Cunning Crime Books, 2019; 334 pp., £12.14) offers an interesting collection of ten of the many monographs written by Holmes. Those outside the U.K. can buy the book for \$16.50 (with free shipping) from the Book Depository, which continues to be a good source for in-print British books; their web-site is at <www.bookdepository.com>. Those are the trade paperbacks; Kelvin has a few copies of the hardback version, available from him without charge except for £6.00 postage <mycroft.221@yahoo.com> (you'll be able to pay via PayPal).

Sep 19 #2 "Conan Doyle and London" is the title of a one-day symposium scheduled for Nov. 15 at the School of Advanced Study at the Institute of English Studies in London <www.tinyurl.com/y57xc3gq>. It's open to the public, and is the first event associated with *The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle*, planned for publication by the University of Edinburgh Press.

Frank A. Hoffmann ("Altamont") died on June 11. Frank had a long academic career teaching both folklore and cinema at Buffalo State College, where he founded An Irish Secret Society at Buffalo in 1976. He also worked for a time for the Kinsey Institute in Bloomington, Ind. (and in 1985 contributed an article to *The Baker Street Journal* on "The Victorian Sexual Subculture: Some Notes and a Speculation"), and was happy to bring his 16mm Sherlockian films to show at meeting of the Illustrious Clients. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1979.

Sarah Obermuller-Bennett's *A Study in Postcards* (London: Sherlock Holmes Society of London, 2019; 38 pp., £6.00/€13.00/\$14.00) provides a colorful look at "Sherlock Holmes in the Golden Age of the Picture Postcard" (which ended in 1918, when the cost of postage doubled, from a halfpenny to one penny); there was a wide variety of cards (advertising, theatrical, scenic, and the traditional miscellaneous), and it's especially interesting to see the results of her research on cards that were accidentally Sherlockian, with connections discovered only with a magnifying glass. Available at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org/uk>.

One of the postcards shown in the book is a delightfully Sherlockian cat drawn by the prolific artist Louis Wain, who has an interesting entry at Wikipedia. Variety reported on July 23 <www.tinyurl.com/yxo23mx> on a new film that will star Benedict Cumberbatch as Wain; production is under way, and a Google search for [cumberbatch wain] will bring up first-look images of Cumberbatch as Wain.

Félix J. Palma's *The Map of Chaos* (New York: Atria, 2015; 574 pp., \$27.00) is the third volume in a trilogy that involves time travel, alternate universes, steampunk, and both real and imagined characters; Conan Doyle appears in this volume, along with H. G. Wells, in a battle to avoid the end of everything and everyone.



Jennie Paton spotted what Hansa Toys calls an "adorable miniature Sherlock Holmes Mohair Bear in quality gift box with trademark deerstalker hat, magnifying glass, and pipe," now available from Hanleys in London (£60.00) <www.tinyurl.com/yxq6tsok>; it's 14cm tall, which may or may not count as miniature, but at least it's cuddly.

Richard Booth died on Aug. 20. He was widely regarded as the most colorful book dealer in Britain, and for that matter in the world, having invented Hay-on-Wye as a destination for collectors. He crowned himself as king of the town, with Richard the Bookheart as his title, and was said to have appointed a horse as prime minister, and his obituary in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/y5hq8smr> is well worth reading.

Sep 19 #3 Michael Sims' *Frankenstein Dreams* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2017; 387 pp., \$22.00) offers "a connoisseur's collection of Victorian science fiction" (and his selections include Conan Doyle's "The Horror of the Heights"); it's part of a series *Dracula's Guest* (vampire stories), *The Dead Witness* (detective stories, with "The Science of Deduction"), and *The Phantom Coach* (ghost stories, with "The Captain of the Pole-Star").

Sims notes in his introduction to "The Horror of the Heights" that Harold Ross (co-founder and editor-in-chief of *The New Yorker*) had "whimsically instructed his writers to be specific in identifying allusions by reminding them that only two figures were known to everyone in Western culture at that time . . . Harry Houdini and Sherlock Holmes." That's from James Thurber's "The Years with Ross" in the *Atlantic Monthly* (Dec. 1957): "He once said that only two names were familiar to every reader in the civilized world: Houdini and Sherlock Holmes."

The next "Holmes in the Heartland" conference in St. Louis, Mo. on July 24-26, 2020, will include Curtis Armstrong as the keynote speaker; registration will open in October, and more information is available from Rob Nunn at <robertanunn@gmail.com>.



The U.S. Postal Service has a rule against issuing postage stamps showing people while they're still alive, but other countries, including Britain, have no such rule (the monarch, after all, appears on all of Britain's stamps). Now the Royal Mail has issued a set of twelve stamps honoring Elton John, who was executive producer and songwriter for the film "Sherlock Gnomes" (2018), and one of the stamps shows an album-cover portrait Elton John himself. You can see all of the stamps (and collectible products) at <www.royalmail.com/eltonjohn>. And yes, the U.S. has occasionally (and accidentally) broken its rule; you can ask your neighborhood philatelist about this.

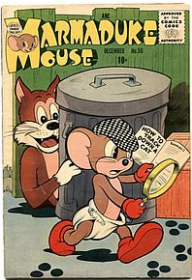
"A fastidiously clean scent, with a dash of pipe and cigarette tobacco," is only part of the description of the Sherlock Holmes Perfume Oil sold by the Black Phoenix Alchemy Lab <www.tinyurl.com/y3jrul4h>. And there is more: "Faintly beneath, you catch the fragrance of a smear of greasepaint, a stray horsehair, and a whisper of Moroccan leather and rosin."

Paul Darrow died on June 3. He had a wide-ranging career acting in Britain, on stage, screen, radio, and television, plus voice work on computer games and audiobooks. Darrow played Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in "Sherlock Holmes and the Missing Link" on stage and on television in 1992.

The television series "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World" featured Peter McCauley as Challenger and an assortment of underdressed "babes of the lost world" that fans likely found far more interesting than the dinosaurs; it ran for three seasons (1999-2002), and was released on DVDs, and is available at no charge for those who subscribe to Amazon Prime. There's also the Oct. 2000 issue of *Femmes Fatales Magazine*, available at eBay and Amazon, with a cover story on Jennifer O'Dell; the artwork on the DVD set and the magazine helps explain why the series ran for three seasons.

Sep 19 #4 More news from Great Britain: Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his partner Carrie Symonds have adopted a Jack Russell puppy that was abandoned by a Welsh farmer and rescued by Friends of the Animals Wales. When asked earlier about the possibility that a dog might join the couple's cat Larry, Johnson said merely that "There is a dog. The dog is like the giant rat of Sumatra, it is a creature for whom the world is not quite ready." The puppy has been named Dilyn, and the BBC has posted video <www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-49548946> of his arrival at Johnson's flat in Downing Street.

Laurance Donnelly will deliver this year's Richard Lancelyn Green lecture to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London at the National Liberal Club on Oct. 17, on "The Applications of Geology to Police and Law Enforcement"; details at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/forensic-geology>.



Jennie Paton has reported a new addition to the list of Sherlockian comic books: the Dec. 1955 issue of Marmaduke Mouse, published by Quality Comics; the issue (#56) shows Marmaduke in Sherlockian costume on the cover, but not inside the comic book, which has been scanned and is available on-line at the Comic Book Plus web-site <www.comicbookplus.com/?dlid=19305>.

Claire O'Dell's *The Hound of Justice* (New York: Harper Voyager, 2019; 326 pp., \$15.99) is a sequel to her *A Study in Honor* (Jun 18 #6); the protagonists are Dr. Jane Watson and covert agent Sara Holmes, both black LGBT women, and in this book Watson is hard at work trying to find and assist Holmes in a battle against a dire threat to their country after the next Civil War.

Just in time for Christmas: Jennie Paton spotted an imaginative cherry-red sweatshirt with an attractive Sherlockian wreath, offered from Australia by Fruugo (AU\$41.95) <www.tinyurl.com/y6bjya46>.

For the gamers (in case there are any out there): J. Robert King's "Baker Street Irregulars" <www.tinyurl.com/y25wuu4u> is a "setting chapter" for Lester Smith's D6xD6 RPG <www.d6xd6.com>. An RPG could be a rocket-propelled grenade, but this one's a role-playing game (apparently similar to "Dungeons and Dragons").

The 60th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze will be held on Oct. 12 at the Hawthorne Race Course. You can request a registration form for the event from Philip Cunningham (9412 South Springfield Avenue, Evergreen Park, IL 60805) <pjc121@comcast.net>.

Terrance Dicks died on Aug. 29. He was best known for his work as editor and writer on the BBC "Doctor Who" series beginning in 1986, and went on to write spin-off novels as well as plays, and children's books that included ten titles in his *Baker Street Irregulars* series (1978-1987). He novelized *Doctor Who and the Talons of Weng-Chiang* (the program and book were full of Canonical allusions), had a cameo appearance by Conan Doyle in *Doctor Who: Revenge of the Judoon* (2008), and was script editor for the Tom Baker television version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982).

Sep 19 #5 "Trafalgar Square Lions Could Give You Sepsis," the Daily Telegraph warned on Aug. 23, reporting that experts had swabbed 24 statues in 13 European cities and found huge levels of bacteria. The statue of Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street, where tourists often touch the statue's feet, was among those tested, and had "a large presence of staphylococcus," which can lead to infections that include sepsis, conjunctivitis, cystitis, and endocarditis."

"A Life in Movies" is the title of an interesting section of the on-line Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia maintained by Alexis Barquin; you can see a delightful selection of home movies and newsreel footage of Conan Doyle and his family <www.tinyurl.com/y4e8o3uz>.

It can be interesting when people with special knowledge write about Sherlockian films: David Salazar, editor-in-chief the web-site Opera Wire, has discussed the way that opera was used in the Robert Downey Jr. film "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (2011) <www.tinyurl.com/y5hy2fm7>.

Neil Gaiman's *Mr. Hero—The Newmatic Man* is a comic-book series scripted by James Vance "based on a concept created by Neil Gaiman," and published by Tekno-Comics. Issue #10 (early Dec. 1995) is titled "The Hand of the Baskervilles" and shows Mr. Hero (the Ratiocinator) in Sherlockian costume. The 18-issue series is collected in two volumes published by Papercutz in 2016 and 2017; Ted Slampyak's artwork is striking, and it's an impressive series.

Internet search engines occasionally turn up stories about young men and women having been named "Sherlock Holmes Athlete of the Week". The award was created in 2017, and is sponsored by the Sherlock Holmes Pubs in Edmonton, Alberta <www.thesherlockspubs.com/athlete-of-the-week>.

The Dundee Courier reported on Aug. 22 that work has begun on a £100 million residential development on the site of the Sunnyside Royal Hospital near Montrose. The hospital building will be converted into 10 townhouses and 24 apartments, and there will be a total of 450 homes on the 64 acres of the hospital grounds. Founded in 1781 as the Montrose Lunatic Asylum, the hospital received its royal charter in 1810, and its patients included Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's father Charles Altamont Doyle.

Big Chief Studios continues to advertise authorized (and expensive) figures and dioramas from the "Sherlock" television series, with special offers on "The Abominable Bride" material <www.tinyurl.com/y57lafbx>.

The web-site "We Got This Covered" reported on Aug. 7 that "sources" have said that "The Great Mouse Detective" is among the live-action remakes being planned by Disney. "Details are still largely unknown," and the story has not been confirmed by anyone else.

Steve Emecz reports that MX Publishing will live stream from Undershaw in Hindhead, Surrey, on Oct. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/y4d5lcqk>, presenting Orlando Pearson's short play "A Scandal in Nova Alba", a performance by deductionist Ben Cardall, author interviews, and a virtual tour of Undershaw.

Sep 19 #6 It's always interesting to make accidental discoveries: Greg Darak found a copy of the Oct. 1900 issue of McClure's Magazine, with Conan Doyle's article "Some Lessons of the War" (about the Boer War), and observed that the issue also contained John Watson's article on "The Life of the Master". Alas, the article's author, the Rev. John Watson, D.D., had written about Jesus, rather than the Great Detective.

And just in time for Halloween: Jennie Paton discovered an attractive costume available from La Casa Di in Italy <www.tinyurl.com/yyoochnw>, priced at €47.99 (no charge for shipping). There's another one offered by Pink Queen in Houston <www.tinyurl.com/y5syscqy> at \$55.99.

Duncan Lamont died on July 2. He began his musical career at the age of seven, but soon switched to the saxophone and became a prolific songwriter, composer, arranger, and bandleader; his obituaries credit him for "The Sherlock Holmes Suite" created in collaboration with Spike Milligan. Does anyone know anything about Lamont's "Sherlock Holmes Suite"? Alan Barnes used the same title for a different jazz album issued in 2003.

David E. Fessenden's *The Case of the Exploding Speakeasy* (Raleigh: Light-house Publishing of the Carolinas, 2013; 159 pp., \$13.95) has Tom Watson, son of Dr. Watson, working with little success as a newspaper reporter in Philadelphia in the 1920s; his father, who has been taking care of an ageing Mycroft after Sherlock Holmes' death, also dies, and Mycroft turns up in Philadelphia, where he happily helps Tom solve a mystery triggered by the destruction of a mob-owned saloon.

The campaign to raise money to repair St. Mary's Church in Ingleton, where the Rev. Thomas Dod Sherlock had been vicar, and where a nearby area was called the Holmes (Apr 18 #2) continues. Jennie Paton has reported an interesting 11-minute Crowdfunder video in which Chris Leeming explains the local connections to Conan Doyle (who married Louise Hawkins in a nearby church in 1885) <www.tinyurl.com/yxoaxdmx>.

According to Gemma Sherlock (on Cheshire Live) <www.tinyurl.com/y5cvddde>, filming has started in Chester on the television series "The Irregulars" (Dec 18 #5); it will focus on a group of street urchins whose crime-solving success a drug-addict Holmes takes credit for. And yes, the reporter really is named Gemma Sherlock.

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 Mi Amigos Phoenix, on Sept. 25, warmly welcomed to Arizona during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. We will meet next in Houston on June 10, and in Montréal on Oct. 28.

The GSA's program included a presentation on an interesting use of forensic geology: Marjorie A. Chan's paper "Case of the Missing Marbles: Iron Oxide Concretions of Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, Utah." Thousands of concretions (called "moqui marbles"), stolen by mineral collectors and dealers, were recovered by the feds, and the perpetrators were prosecuted <www.tinyurl.com/y69n835f>.

Sep 19 #7 "Don't just book it, Thomas Cook it," was the advertising motto of the company that once was the largest travel agency in the world. Founded in 1841, but in recent years battered by the economics of Brexit and the growth of do-it-yourself booking, the company went into compulsory liquidation this month, leaving hundreds of thousands of vacationers stranded. There's a Canonical connection, of course: Watson consulted "the manager at Cook's local office" in Lausanne (in "Lady Frances Carfax").

The Fifth Annual International Sherlockian Summit (a meeting of the Sherlockian societies in the Pacific northwest) will be hosted by the Dogs in then Nighttime in Anacortes, Wash., on Nov. 2, Details are available from Sheila Holtgrieve <sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com>.

"The first time I went to London," Michael Hingston wrote in the Washington Post on Sept. 15, "I asked a friend who lived there for bookstore recommendations. 'Well,' he said, 'that depends. What kind?' I was too embarrassed to admit I didn't realize I had to specify." It's a delightful article, and you can read it at <www.tinyurl.com/y26eed6>.

Jack Perkins died on Aug. 19. After a long career as a newscaster at NBC-TV, he joined A&E in 1991, when it focused on arts and entertainment before turning to reality television, and became best known as the host of their "Biography" series, narrating its program on "Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" (1995).

"In the Company of Harold Prince: Broadway Producer, Director, Collaborator" is a new exhibition running at the N.Y. Public Library for the Performing Arts through Mar. 31 <www.tinyurl.com/y3dwsfax>. Hal Prince, who died on July 31, had a long career as a producer and director, beginning with "Pajama Game" in 1954, and continuing with a lengthy list of Broadway successes that included directing the musical "Baker Street" in 1964 (Aug 19 #2).

"Sherlock Holmes is dead. Or so it is assumed. The world knows the great detective went over the falls at Reichenbach with his nemesis Professor Moriarty. But as Holmes' body was never retrieved, a number of frauds, fakes, and charlatans have come forward since to lay claim to his identity, and it falls to Dr. Watson to disprove them. Then a telegram arrives informing Watson that three men, each claiming to be Holmes, have been committed to a remote asylum off the coast of Scotland. Now Watson must discover if one of the mad men is the real Sherlock Holmes." That's the premise of Jeffrey Hatcher's play "Holmes and Watson" (which I've now seen and enjoyed at a reasonably local theater); it is imaginative, and great fun, with suspense and a surprise ending, and recommended if it's produced at a theater near (or reasonably near) you.

The Dramatists Play Service offers the script <www.tinyurl.com/y65djwh9> (\$10.00), but it would be a great mistake to read the script before seeing the play. The play has been produced elsewhere, and well-reviewed, and all of the reviews seen so far have kindly and carefully not revealed the surprise ending.

Sep 19 #8 Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed (in English) at the Circle Theatre in Copenhagen through Oct. 12 <www.ctcircle.dk>. It's also due at the University Theatre in Greenville, S.C., Oct.10-13 <www.gvltech.edu>; and at the Town Theatre in Columbia, S.C., Jan. 17-Feb. 2 <www.towntheatre.com>.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" is running at the Open Book Theatre in Trenton, Mich., through Oct. 12; web-site at <www.openbooktheatrecompany.net>.

Mark Finbow's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Seagull Rep Theatre in Lowestoft, Suffolk, Oct. 1-2, and will then go on tour in East Anglia <www.seagullrep.co.uk>.

The Baker Street Readers will present "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the Hooker-Dunham Theater in Brattleboro, Vt., Oct. 4-5; Facebook page at <www.facebook.com/bakerstreetreaders>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (written and performed by Rod Goodall and Steve Johnston) will be performed at the Mick Lally Theatre in Galway on Oct. 12 <www.druid.ie>; and at the Town Hall Theatre in Galway on Oct. 24-25 <www.tht.ie>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Macon Little Theatre in Macon, Ga., Oct. 18 to 27 <www.maconlittletheatre.org>; and at the Rubber City Theatre in Akron, Ohio, from Oct. 25 to Nov. 10 <www.rubbercitytheatre.com>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" has been planned at the Manistee High School Auditorium in Brethren, Mich., Oct. 18-27; more information can be found at <www.manisteecivicplayers.org>.

Tim Kelly's adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Van Wert, Ohio, Nov. 22 and 23 <www.vwhstheatre.weebly.com>.

John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Harlequin Theatre in Olympia, Wash., Nov. 27-Dec. 31 <www.harlequinproductions.org>.

"Tweedy Presents: The Missing Company of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham, Glos., Feb. 16-23; their web-site's at <www.everymantheatre.co.uk>.

"Sherlock Holmes Returns" ("an immersive dinner theatre experience") is to be performed at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, N.J., Mar. 10-Apr. 30 <www.hhplayhouse.com>.

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

Sherlockians will gather in New York on Jan. 15-19 to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 166th birthday, and the most efficient way to receive information about all the goings-on will be via the "News from the BSI" e-mail system, which will offer an opportunity to reserve for events as soon as reservations open; if you've not already signed up for the service, you can do so easily at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email>. Almost all of the events are open to everyone, and there's always much more going on than anyone with reasonable sense or stamina can deal with. There will be more information at Scott Monty's excellent web-site <www.bsiweekend.com>, and his helpful "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" will be found in December at <ihose.co/bsi2020tips>.

In plenty of time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year are on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm#newgifts>; there also are recommendations of older Sherlockiana.

Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss have not been on vacation. The first official trailer for their new "Dracula" series carries the warning "Guidance: Horror" <www.tinyurl.com/yy6ku49f>, and it's thoroughly appropriate. The trailer also notes that the new series is "from the makers of Sherlock."

The Adventure of the Abbey Grange, published by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Fondation Martin Bodmer in 2016, offers a full-color facsimile of the manuscript, with a preface by Vincent Delay and an excellent essay by Catherine Cooke that discusses both the history of the manuscript and the different versions of the text of the story, and it's still available from the Society (\$65.00) <www.tinyurl.com/y2ba8pmm> (and recommended to anyone who wants to see exactly what Conan Doyle wrote when he first put pen to paper).

Also available from the Society is a second printing of Jessica Victoria Woolf's *Through the Archives* (\$25.00); first published in 2018; the book offers 75 pages, fully illustrated in color, showing the Society's history as portrayed in its archives <www.tinyurl.com/y6acl8eu>.

"Storm Area 51: They Can't Stop All of Us" was a Facebook event that took place on Sept. 20 at the U.S. Air Force Nevada Test and Training Range for those hoping to search for extraterrestrial life; more than 2 million people reported "going" (and 1.5 million more were "interested"), and about 150 people actually showed up at the entrance to Area 51, with none succeeding in entering the site. Not really Sherlockian, but the "Storm Area 51" event inspired a "Storm Loch Ness" event scheduled one day later for people who wanted to find the Loch Ness Monster; it would appear that no one took this seriously enough to show up the event, but publicity in the press often mentioned that "Nessie" already had been found, in 2016, when a Norwegian company using an underwater robot equipped with sonar imaging to explore the loch located the model used in the movie "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) (Apr 16 #5); the model sank while the movie was being filmed, and still rests quietly on the bottom of the loch.

Oct 19 #2 The summer 2019 issue of The Magic Door (that's the newsletter of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) includes an interesting article by Randall Stock about the "The Parish Magazine" (both the manuscript and the story), Robert S. Katz's discussion of *Round the Red Lamp*, and other reports from and about the Library and the Collection; copies are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

And Cliff, chairman of the Friends, suggests in a separate letter that it might be time for an active literary society devoted to Conan Doyle; you can read his letter on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/yyw9hn8b>.

"Why No BU Student Wants to Be a Sherlock Holmes" was the headline on an article in the Deccan Herald (Sept. 19). Not Boston University, but rather Bangalore University, where not a single student signed up for a master's degree program in criminology. "We all love Sherlock Holmes," the story suggested, but no student "wants to be like him in real life."

Howard Ostrom has noted an imaginative life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká <www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2> of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes, in the Garden of Heroes and Villains created by the late Felix Dennis in Dorsington, Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire; it's not easy to visit the Garden: see the story in the Stratford Observer earlier this year <www.tinyurl.com/y287nhsg>. The Garden will be open for at least a few days next year, according to the Eventbrite web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y228p3dg> (where you can sign up for notifications of additional open days).



Jerry Margolin reports that "Under Your Sky" is a new album from The Sherlocks, a British indie/rock band from Sheffield that plays on tour (Jun 17 #6); their web-site's at <www.thesherlocksmusic.co.uk>.

AM New York was launched by Newsday in 2003 as the first free daily newspaper in New York city, and of course they have a web-site, where you can read their story about the Mysterious Bookshop, which has been in business for more than 40 years <www.tinyurl.com/y5tfvekj>. Otto Penzler, its proprietor, proudly boasts that it is "the oldest and largest mystery bookstore in the world."

You've likely seen Derren Brown (briefly) in "Sherlock: The Empty Hearse" and you can read about him in an "Annals of Show Business" article in the New Yorker (Oct. 7) <www.tinyurl.com/y4by6a4y>, and listen to a New Yorker podcast about him on Aug. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/y28fs2ek>.

An article in the Camden New Journal (Sept. 18) is headlined "Lillie Plays the Field" <www.tinyurl.com/y56hdm6w> and is based on Neil Titley's now-out-of-print *The Oscar Wilde World of Gossip*; it tells some grand stories about Lillie Langtry, who is believed by many to have been at least one of the inspirations for Irene Adler. Titley tells more stories at his colorful web-site at <www.wildetheatre.co.uk>.

Oct 19 #3 *The Missing Mr. Moonstone* (Marlborough Court, 2019; 178 pp., \$14.99) is the first in Peter Tong's "Detective Ladies of Baker Street" series; Sherlock Holmes is reported to have died in Switzerland, and Mrs. Hudson and her Cockney maid-of-all-work Fanny-Annie Grubbins find themselves involved in "detectivising" in pursuit of a missing husband and his wife's missing jewelry. He has written a play "Mrs. H. of Baker Street" (2005) and two more novels in his "detective ladies" series, and has a web-site at <www.petertong.org>; his publisher's web-site is at <www.marlboroughcourt.org>.

The next 221B Con will be held in Atlanta on Apr. 3-5. The annual event (billed as a "fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes") was first held in 2013, and more information is available at <www.221bcon.com>.

If you would like to know more about the BSI Archives (which will be celebrated at a conference on Nov. 8-10), Glen Miranker and Ross Davies were interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog; listen to the interview at <www.tinyurl.com/y35nq7mf>.

Pan Macmillan has reissued eight of its volumes of Sherlock Holmes stories in its "Macmillan Collector's Library" with attractive new cover artwork <www.tinyurl.com/y4vxbjx4>.

Gillette Castle is celebrating its 10th anniversary, and on Aug. 20 WTNH-TV (New Haven) aired a 15-minute interview with Friends of Gillette Castle president Wendy Vincent <www.tinyurl.com/y3yj8vy6> that included a video tour of the Castle.

"Cleats" is a comic strip drawn by Bill Hinds, and Tina Rhea spotted this one on Oct. 7 (it's a repeat from 2008):



The strip also was Sherlockian on Oct. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/y6pllzy9>.

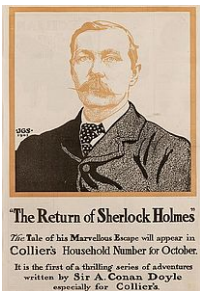
Karlan's Arms & Antiques is offering (on Nov. 4) a snub-nose .450 caliber revolver described as "a very nice example of a Webley Military and Police pistol as used by the famous Sherlock Holmes" <www.tinyurl.com/y926ny>. John Linsenmeyer, who knows about such things, says that the reference to Sherlock Holmes is not nonsensical: it's almost certainly the pocket pistol that the Canon mentions him carrying.

Oct 19 #4 There aren't many authors who have been writing stories about Sherlock Holmes longer than Conan Doyle did (the first of his stories was published in 1887, and the last one in 1927). Nicholas Meyer certainly is one of them: his *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution* appeared in 1974 (and was both a best-seller and the basis for a hit movie), and his latest is *The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols* (New York: Minotaur, 2019; 238 pp., \$25.99). The story is set in 1905, when Holmes and Watson are sent on a mission to determine the origins of the Protocols of Zion, and there is plenty of adventure as well as mystery (it's all nicely done indeed). The author has an excellent web-site at <www.nicholas-meyer.com>; click on [press] to find an interesting interview with Lenny Picker in Publishers Weekly in August, and click on [events] to see the schedule for public appearances and signings (it's well worth hearing what he has to say).

Dan Andriacco's *House of the Doomed: An Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2018; 115 pp., \$19.95) is an imaginative pastiche, set in 1901, when Holmes and Watson investigate a mystery in Surrey (in an area that had become quite popular with writers and artists); Conan Doyle was one of them (he moved to Haslemere in 1897, but doesn't appear in the story). Gasogene's web-site is at <www.gasogenebooks.com>, and Dan has his own at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.

The Japanese anime series "Kakukichō Sherlock" (Apr 19 #2) began airing on television in Japan on Oct. 11 (showing "the comedic, mysterious, and dramatic adventures of a ragtag band of detectives as they live together in a tenement above Mrs. Hudson's bar in the red-light district and at attempt to solve an unusual string of killings"). You can watch the first episode with English subtitles at <www.dailymotion.com/video/x7mkjkm>, Jennie Patton reports.

"Baker Street Elementary" is a long-running comic strip that's crafted by Joe Fay, Steve Mason, and Rusty Mason, and is available at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* <www.dfw-sherlock.org>, along with much else of possible interest, such as a compilation of the text of this newsletter since it went electronic in 1985 (to be found under Ephemera).



There was a full-page advertisement on p. 18 in the Sept. 12, 1903, issue of Collier's Magazine announcing "The Return of Sherlock Holmes", with an attractive portrait of Conan Doyle: <www.tinyurl.com/yyzgd4k>. A copy of the page, matted and framed, sold for \$437.50 (including the buyer's premium) on Oct. 18 at Potter & Potter Auctions. And now for an important question: the artwork was credited to J.G.S.; does anyone know who J.G.S. was?

Homunculus Verlag <www.homunculus-verlag.de> has published three imaginative Sherlockian advent calendars, the first two only in German, and the third this year in English as well as German; they're colorfully attractive and offer 24 solve-it-yourself mini-mysteries. €15.00 each from the publisher in Germany. This year's English version also is available from MX Publishing for £12.99 <www.tinyurl.com/y2gq3x5h>, and for \$19.99 from The Strand Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/y6k8tn4b>.

Oct 19 #5 The famous (perhaps infamous) "Sherlock Holmes tent joke" has been in circulation at least since 1998, and in 2002 won second place in a Laughlab experiment intended to determine the world's funniest joke. I won't publish it again (since I promised not to), but you can find it easily on the Internet. I will call attention to two amusing tributes to the joke in the "Baker Street Elementary" comic strip in 2015 <www.tinyurl.com/y5rj2zm8> and 2019 <www.tinyurl.com/y6loduw7>.

"*The Beekeeper's Apprentice* changed my life," Laurie R. King has written, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the book by telling some nice stories about those long-ago days when the long-running (and continuing) saga of Mary Russell was launched <www.tinyurl.com/y4c5f7qw>.

Anna Quayle died on Aug. 16. She began acting at the Edinburgh Fringe in 1956, and went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television, winning a Tony Award as best featured actress in a musical in "Stop the World - I Want to Get Off" in 1963, and playing Freda (Sigmund Freud's maid) in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976).

When in Lebanon (Pennsylvania): the Red-Headed League Public House will be opening in November, on the top floor of the Lebanon Farmers Market. According to a post on their Facebook page <www.tinyurl.com/y58gq2ya>, the Sherlock Holmes story was inspired by a notorious murder committed by the Blue-Eyed Six in Lebanon in 1878.

"Bruce Wayne once told me that if you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains—however improbable—must be the truth," Adrian Chase said, in the "Starling City" episode of "Arrow" broadcast on The CW on Oct. 15. Adrian Chase is Earth-2's Green Arrow, and "Arrow" is a sister series of the CW series "The Flash" (which featured Harrison "Sherloque" Wells in a recent season).

Derham Groves' *Feng-Shui and Western Building Ceremonies* (Singapore: Graham Brash, 1991; 114 pp.) offers an architect's approach to the geomancy of places, and the architect is a Sherlockian, so there's a case study of the feng-shui of 221B Baker Street; the book is out of print, but readily available at Amazon and AbeBooks.

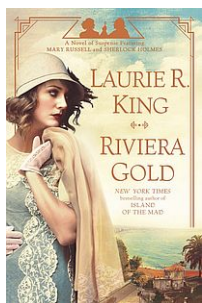
When in Naperville, Ill.: you can drive along Conan Doyle Road, in an area where the streets were named by someone who obviously enjoyed reading; see the Google map at <www.tinyurl.com/y3lrhq8f>.

They're not mentioned in the Canon, but just about anyone who has visited or lived in London since 1948 has ridden in one of the iconic black cabs. My London had an interesting story on Oct. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/y6tobkvs> that included some facts that might be new to you, such as: the taxis are allowed to have a maximum turning circle of only 25 feet because the entrance to the Savoy hotel has a small roundabout that can't be navigated by vehicles with a wider turning circle. And the taxis are black because when the Austin FX3 was introduced in 1948, black was the standard color, and buyers had to pay extra for any other color, so fleet owners decided that black was best.

Oct 19 #6 "Search the Sherlock Holmes Stories" is a useful feature included in the on-line Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia that's maintained by Alexis Barquin, offering a search engine and the Oxford University Press version of the 62 stories <www.tinyurl.com/y3jcf5js>. Yes, that's 62, because he considers the Apocryphal "The Field Bazaar" and "How Watson Learned the Trick" to be Sherlock Holmes stories.

Scott Monty describes Vincent Starrett's sonnet "221B" as an "iconic poem" for Sherlockians, and so it is; you can read what Scott has to say at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/y48tx9x>, and follow links to the eleven chapters of Ray Betzner's new (and delightful) monograph about the poem at his "Studies in Starrett" blog.

William D. Goodrich ("Alexander Holder") died on Oct. 20. He had a long career in banking in Chicago and was an energetic member of the Sherlockian societies there. Bill was one of the founders of *Baker Street Miscellanea* in 1975 and compiled two editions of his *Good Old Index* to the Canon in 1987 and 1994. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.



"It's summertime on the Riviera, where the Jazz Age is busily reinventing the holiday delights of warm days on golden sand and cool nights on terraces and dance floors," Laurie R. King writes. The next Mary Russell novel, *Riviera Gold*, is set on the Côte d'Azur in 1925, when Russell and Sherlock Holmes encounter "hot sun and cool jazz, new friendships and old loyalties, childlike pleasures, and very grown-up sins." Publication date is June 9. And it's nice indeed when researching for a book means that travel is a business expense.

"Gwyneth Paltrow Hired a Personal Book Curator" was the headline on an article in *Town & Country* on Aug. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/y45h6ove>. The personal book curator, Thatcher Wine of Juniper Books <www.juniperbooks.com>, also offers custom book jackets for sets of books that turn the books into an appropriate artistic image on your shelves, and there are two sets of the Canon.

It's possible that Holmes and Watson were aware of J. Hepworth & Son, gentlemen's tailors, founded in Leeds in 1864; the firm, now called Next, is a chain of more than 500 stores that offer clothing and furnishings that include a wide and colorful variety of "Sherlock" chairs, sofas, and footstools <www.next.co.uk/homeware/sofas-chairs/sherlock>, kindly reported by Annie Utechin.

Mycroft and Sherlock: The Empty Birdcage (New York: Titan, 2019; 128 pp., \$25.99) is the third in the series written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse; it's now 1873, and Mycroft, although he has resigned his post as secretary to the Secretary of State for War, has maintained his government contacts and finds them useful indeed when he meddles in international criminal affairs while he also tries to shepherd his annoying younger brother, who's in pursuit of a different criminal. It's nicely done, with style and substance.

Oct 19 #7 "J. D. Salinger" is the title of an exhibition at the N.Y. Public Library, running until Jan. 19 <www.nypl.org/salinger>, and displaying his manuscripts, letters, photographs, books, and personal effects, including a bookcase from Salinger's bedroom filled with books from his personal library. According to a report in the N.Y. Times (Oct. 18), the authors whose books he wanted close at hand at the end of his life included Conan Doyle; the library kindly reports that the two-volume edition of *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* is on display in the bookcase.

It was in Salinger's story "Hapworth 16, 1924" (published in the June 19, 1965, issue of *The New Yorker*) that seven-year-old Seymour Glass wrote to his family from summer camp that "my love for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle ... is an absolute certainty!" Roger Lathbury wrote in *New York magazine* on Apr. 4, 2010 <www.tinyurl.com/y2abnf4> about how he almost managed to publish the first edition of the story, Salinger's last book.

Individual 7-cm figurines in the "Sherlockians" collection handcrafted in resin by Spanish artist Marco Navas are still available (€35.00 each), but the gallery designed to display them has sold out. Details and images can be found at <www.marconavas.com>.

"In a series starting with *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*, young Mary Russell teams up with this British sleuth" was the answer worth \$400 in the category "Untrue Detective" on the television series "Jeopardy" on Oct. 2, according to Bill Mosteller. One contestant guessed "Morse" and the other two passed.

Don Hobbs is expanding his Galactic Sherlock Holmes data-base of foreign translations (which now has almost 8,000 entries) to include appearances in magazines and newspapers, and would be glad to hear from anyone who has found something that's not already in the data-base; the latest version is available on request as a 222-MB WeTransfer file <221b@verizon.net>.

"Bunny Yeager was a model and a beauty queen before becoming a photographer herself," I noted some years ago (May 97 #2), in an item about her offer of collector's cards that included "Sherlock Holmes' Apprentice" (for those more than 18 years old). Howard Ostrom has discovered an interesting item at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/y2m2f732> open for bidding until Nov. 7.

The "British Library Crime Classics" series of anthologies edited by Martin Edwards (Jun 16 #5) continues, with Edwards providing enthusiastic introductions and a careful selection of stories, and the latest, just out, is *Deep Waters: Mysteries on the Waves*, reported to include "The Gloria Scott" (U.S. editions are published by the Poisoned Pen Press).

MC Black, of Detective Walks, will lead a walk "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" on the evening on Nov. 14, through Covent Garden and the West End; details are available from MC at <mcb@detectivewalks.co.uk>. This is one day before the symposium on "Conan Doyle and London" at the Institute of English Studies in London <www.tinyurl.com/y57xc3gq>; it's open to the public, and it is the first event associated with *The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle*, planned for publication by the University of Edinburgh Press.

Oct 19 #8 Falling Stars Theatre <www.fallingstarstheatre.co.uk> advertise that they're "known for their immersive style of performance," and are touring Yorkshire with a play written by Geoff Parker, presented by A.R.S.E.S. (the Amateur Rural Society of Entertainment and Singers). The play is "an antimime for grownups!" and seems to have a different title for each performance ("Join Sherlock, Watson, and Woofers as they embark on a journey to deepest, darkest Yorkshire in search of a beast").

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear" is being performed at the 10th Street Stage in Toledo, Ohio, through Nov. 3 <www.toledorep.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the Quogue Community Hall in Quogue, N.Y., through Nov. 10; web-site at <www.hamptontheatre.org>. And it's due at the Pima Community College Center for the Arts in Tucson, AZ, Nov. 7-17 www.tinyurl.com/yy2gyv6s

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Carpenter Square Theatre in Oklahoma City, Okla., through Nov. 9 <www.carpentersquare.com>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Warren Arts Foundation in McMinnville, Tenn., Nov. 1-10; their web-site's at <www.warrenartstn.ticketleap.com>.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Gryphon Theatre in Laramie, Wyo., Nov. 7-16.; web-site at <www.gryphontheatre.org>.

John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is scheduled at the P. W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler, Manitoba, Nov. 7-10 <www.flatlandstheatre.com>.

A. S. Waterman's "Sherlock Holmes and 'T'Was the Murder Before Christmas" (an interactive dinner murder mystery) will be produced at the Bristol Bar and Grill in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 16-Jan. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/y5c95gou>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Warlock of Whitechapel" (a new play by Pat Why-mark and Julian Harries) will be on tour in East Anglia, Dec. 12-Jan. 19 <www.commongroundtc.co.uk>.

The Ghostwriters' "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled in the Gold Digger in Fringe Central in Perth, W.A., from Jan. 26 to Feb 3 <www.tinyurl.com/yyxrq9e>.

Sandra Bass' new adaptation "Sherlock Holmes and the Death on Thor Bridge" will be performed at the Genesian Theatre in Sydney, N.S.W., Feb. 28-Apr. 4 <www.genesiantheatre.co.uk>.

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

"Building an Archive: A Celebration of the Arrival of the BSI Archives at the Lilly Library" (the conference in Bloomington on Nov. 8-10) went very well, offering participants behind-the-scenes tours of the Lilly as well as an exhibition of treasures from the Archives. More than 90 people were on hand, and Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "Live from the Lilly Library" is episode #180 of their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" interviews; you can tune in to the proceedings at www.ihose.co/ihose180.

Harrison and Linda Hunt's "Aboriginals" (New York: The Baker Street Irregulars, 2019; 252 pp., \$24.95) offers brief biographies and photographs of the many men (and women) who were "the earliest Baker Street Irregulars, 1934-1940," attending annual dinners or solving the crossword puzzle that was published in the Saturday Review of Literature in 1934; it's available from the BSI at www.bakerstreetirregulars.com. The BSI also is offering a deep discount on the few remaining copies of the Undershaw Limited Edition set at www.tinyurl.com/t94d6pw.

And there's still time to subscribe to the Baker Street Journal for 2019 (\$41.95) and receive all five issues, including the BSJ Christmas Annual, which will be about William S. Baring-Gould (who was the first to annotate the Canon) and will be available only to subscribers. But: the deadline for 2019 subscriptions is Dec. 6.

Type Punch Matrix, the rare book firm founded by Rebecca Romney and Brian Cassidy has issued its first catalog www.tinyurl.com/y2xv2747; it nicely begins with two items of "Victorian Fact and Fiction": the first book edition of *A Study in Scarlet* (illustrated by the author's father Charles Altamont Doyle and published in 1888), and a second edition of a *Police Manual* (prepared by a Committee of Chief Constables of Scotland and published in 1894). The second book is "the real-life handbook for constables during the era of the romanticization of detective work in Scotland-born author Arthur Conan Doyle's stories."

The Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* has published *The Canon: Five Lines at a Time*, an amusing collection of Sherlockian limericks submitted by members of the society and edited by Steve Mason; it's available to one and all as a free download at www.tinyurl.com/ybaqwa7y.

Registration is now open for the "Holmes in the Heartland" conference in St. Louis on July 24-26; details at www.tinyurl.com/yd5elmpj.

Big Chief Studios has announced a "warehouse clearance everything must go" sale on its authorized (and expensive) figures, dioramas, and artwork from the "Sherlock" television series www.tinyurl.com/y6t5z5z5.

Yahoo (which is owned by Verizon) has announced that it is shutting down Yahoo Groups on Dec. 14, and all Group contents will be deleted. The moderators of "Letters of Mary", a Yahoo group for fans of Laurie R. King's "Mary Russell" stories with more than 900 members, have found a new home for the group, at lettersofmary@grops.io. There's no word as yet about any other Sherlockian or Doylean groups that used Yahoo.

Nov 19 #2 David M. Rush died on Oct. 28. He was a life-long Sherlockian and Doylean in Illinois, and as a guest columnist for the *Decatur Herald & Review* he made sure that his readers were often reminded of his enthusiasms. David also contributed to society newsletters and journals, and his article on "Holmes and the Opera Ghost" was reprinted from the *Devon County Chronicle* in an 1985 edition of Gaston Leroux's *The Phantom of the Opera*.



"Get clued in during downtime, the N.Y. Times suggests, in an advertisement for its crossword puzzles, spotted by Samantha Wolov. You can subscribe to the puzzles for \$39.95/year (which helps the paper avoid becoming what some have called "the failing N.Y. Times").

Bunny Yeager's "Sherlock Holmes' Apprentice" at auction at eBay (Oct 19 #7) <www.tinyurl.com/y2m2f732> sold for \$199.99, one assumes to someone who enjoys blondes wearing only a deerstalker.

Richard K. Radek's *The Problem of the Singular Stradivarius* (2014) and *The Tragedy of the Salopian Roses and Three Short Stories* (2019) are the first two volumes of his "The Sequestered Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (184/271 pp., \$13.95/\$14.95); they're traditional pastiches, involving Holmes and Watson with forged Strads and other mysteries in an around London.

The snub-nose .450 caliber Webley Military and Police revolver offered at auction at Karlan's Arms & Antiques on Nov. 4 (Oct 19 #4) sold for \$650, rather more than Sherlock Holmes would have paid for his.

"Cartoonist Gahan Wilson Is Looking to Find His Way" was the headline on a story in 27 East on Oct. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/y6rjuzyg> about Gahan Wilson, who has drawn some delightful Sherlockian cartoons over the years. Now 89 and suffering from dementia and other health issues, he is living in Arizona and is still drawing; some of his recent artwork is on-line at a GoFundMe page <www.gofundme.com/f/gahan-wilson-team-effort>.

Nicholas Meyer is on tour promoting his new pastiche *The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols*, and if you've missed seeing and hearing him, you can listen to Richard Wolinsky's fine 45-minute interview with Nick on KPFA-FM on Oct. 24 <www.kpfa.org/episode/bookwaves-october-24-2019>, with discussion of the new book and much more.

Derrick Belanger writes that Belanger Books is calling for submissions for its second young-adult Sherlock Holmes anthology (the first was *The Irregular Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*); guidelines are available from Derrick at <derrickgbelanger@gmail.com>.

"Your house can't shave, but it can smell great!" according to the Chiseled Face Groomatorium, which advertises a handmade "Sherlock Scented Candle" that offers "a warm tobacco-based scent blended with toasted caramel, black pepper, moist dirt, and finished with a touch of leather, mandarin, honey, and rose" (\$15.99) and a wide variety of other Sherlock products at their web-site <www.chiseledface.com>.

Nov 19 #3 "It is rumored there is an element of Sherlock Holmes in the construction of the new SWISSPEAK resorts in Meiringen," according to flier announcing the opening of a new apartment resort located just across the road from the Sherlock Holmes Museum. The apartment resort will open on Dec. 11 ("there are rumors that Sherlock Holmes will be mingling in the lobby"), and there's a link at the end of their imaginative flier <www.tinyurl.com/s6rtijk> to more information about the Interhome resort.

Jeremy Kemp died on July 19. He started acting on radio with the BBC in 1958, starred in the BBC television series "Z Cars" (1962), and went on to a long career that included roles such as Baron Karl von Leinsdorf in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976) and Dr. Grimesby Roylott in Granada's "The Speckled Band" (1984).

Watson's Tin Box is hosting the next "Scintillation of Scions" on June 12-14, 2020, at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport. It's an entertaining gathering of local and far-flung Sherlockians and will include the annual running of The Silver Blaze (Southern Division) at Laurel Park Race-track. Registration is now open <www.scintillation.org>.

Denny Dobry has very kindly reported viaLibri <www.vialibri.net>, a spectacular web-site managed by James A. Hinck, that provides a search engine that finds books and magazines advertised on a long list of on-line web-sites.

The Strand Magazine's colorful "Sherlock Holmes Calendar 2020" (\$24.95) is available at <www.tinyurl.com/woetvyj>. And Mark Alberstat's "2020 Sherlockian Calendar" includes Canonical artwork (mostly by Sidney Paget) and information from the Baring-Gould chronology, and can be downloaded (without charge) at <www.tinyurl.com/ue2qmbd>.

"Let us consider the claims of *Whitaker's Almanack*," Holmes suggested (in "The Valley of Fear"). The Bookseller reported on Nov. 19 that Bloomsbury Yearbooks, is offering to sell Whitaker's assets (the current edition, the on-line edition, and backlist editions going back to 1869), describing the almanac as "an excellent investment opportunity for the buyer interested in preserving this historic publication and presenting definitive answers to questions in an era of 'fake news.'" <www.tinyurl.com/skylo4k>.

Howard Ostrom notes a story in the Sunderland Echo on Nov. 1 about the new range of clothing offered by Master Debonair <www.tinyurl.com/y5q5ovxq> in mix-and-match pairs for Holmes & Watson, Rathbone & Bruce, and Lestrade & Moriarty <www.tinyurl.com/y6x3p2sl>.

Mark Jones and Paul M. Chapman have launched a new podcast called "Doings of Doyle" <www.doingsofdoyle.com> devoted to discussion of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian writings; the first episode deals with *The Doings of Raffles Haw*. See also the entry on "The Ophthalmologist's Tale" and its link to an article in Eye News (Oct. 1) that focuses on the Conan Doyle notebook held by the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh that contains the manuscript of "The American's Tale" and an unpublished poem.

Nov 19 #4 The life-size chocolate statue of Benedict Cumberbatch commissioned by UKTV (Apr 15 #3) now is available to all in a smaller version, Mental Floss reported (on Apr. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/weox3cy>. You can make a note to order one for Easter next year, from Chocolatician <www.chocolatician.com> (£39.95 and up); 400 grams (about 14 oz.) of chocolate, and they come in three flavors: milk chocolate, dark chocolate, and white chocolate (with a 22-carat bow tie).

Karen Murdock notes that the [London] Independent said "We'd be hard-pressed to say there's anything entirely useful about these glasses shaped like the pipe Sherlock Holmes puffed on while solving his most difficult cases." The stems are glass straws useful for those who prefer not to sip their wine, and the Wino Sippo Glasses are available from Firebox (\$18.99 for a set of two <www.tinyurl.com/y96cvv2x>. The paper suggests that "Christmas is about having a bit of fun, and these glasses are guaranteed to add to a general feeling of seasonal goodwill." Firebox doesn't mention Sherlock Holmes, but it does promise that "it's almost impossible to knock one of these bad boys over."



No Word from Winifred (1986) is one of a long series of mysteries written by Amanda Cross (the pen name used by Carolyn G. Heilbrun), and it's literate, witty, and entertaining, and full of Canonical allusions.

"Tom Steyer's Fortune Fuels Underdog 2020 Campaign" was the headline on an Associated Press story (Nov. 17) <www.tinyurl.com/v26uz9m>. The hopeful Democrat suggested that "this race is completely up in the air—seriously," adding that "the game's afoot."

The Devil's Due, by Bonnie MacBird (London: Collins Crime Club, 2019; 369 pp., \$26.99), is her third pastiche, and it involves Holmes and Watson in a battle against villainous opponents, with a series of gruesome murders, and plenty of twists and turns. Her fourth pastiche (*The Three Locks*) is due next year, and it will be a prequel; Bonnie's interesting web-site at <www.macbird.com> offers blogs and annotations on the series.

The Look and Learn History Picture Library <www.lookandlearn.com> offers access to "one of the world's largest and most unusual collections of historical pictures and vintage imagery," and the artwork is interesting indeed; their search engine turns up 96 images for [sherlock holmes] and 172 images for [conan doyle].

The Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh has awarded this year's Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Medal, which recognizes the highest-placed graduate ChM (Master of Surgery) in clinical ophthalmology, to Hani Hasan, according to the Swindon Advertiser (Nov. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/u33kpmf>.

Flickering Myth reported on Nov. 21 that Titan Comics has announced a new comic-book series "Adler" that has Irene Adler teaming up with a "League of Extraordinary Gentlewomen" to take on Moriarty; the first issue is due on Feb. 5, and there's a preview of the first issue (with lots of colorful artwork) at <www.tinyurl.com/w4qnjc2>.

Nov 19 #5 There's seemingly no end to Internet buzz about whether there will be a new season of the BBC's "Sherlock" (it appears that it's absolutely positively definitely certain that there may or may not be new season), but Howard Ostrom noted some interesting news in Radio Times (Nov. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/rnn3tuf>: now that work has been completed on their three-episode series "Dracula" (which is due this year on BBC One) Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss told an interviewer that they would like to bring back another iconic detective: Columbo. "I did have a decent go at it," Moffat said, "but the rights are really tied up."

Alan Barnes' "The Sherlock Holmes Suite" was recorded and released in 2003 and is available as a 2-CD set at Amazon; he's still performing, and received an enthusiastic review from Leon Nock in the on-line Jazz Journal on Nov. 19 <www.tinyurl.com/wgjpa88>.

Karen Murdock has reported an item in the Daily Telegraph (Nov. 5) about a politician on "Team Farage": candidate Sarah Wass (East Leeds) is a human resources expert who talked her way into university despite have no A-levels. The Brexit Party said she held "two world records" for taking part in the biggest ever elf gathering, and the biggest Sherlock Holmes dance-off. The Guinness World Records web-site does have an entry for the largest gathering of Santa's elves <www.tinyurl.com/u7kbdhk>, but no entry for a Sherlock Holmes dance-off.

Ross Davies has reported a Kickstarter campaign for *The Art of Frank Cho: A Twenty-Year Retrospective* <www.tinyurl.com/u8mtubk>; if you run the video you can see him engaging in Sherlockian artistry. You can also scroll down to see his portrait of Holmes and Watson.

Further to previous mentions of Big Chief Studios' authorized (and expensive) figures from the "Sherlock" television series, they're also offering fans of "Game of Thrones" a figure of Daenerys Targaryen: Mother of Dragons at a pre-order price of £1,499 <www.tinyurl.com/rxopv83>. Fans of the "Game of Thrones" series obviously are presumed to be more fanatical than fans of the "Sherlock" series. On the other hand, there have been no reports (yet) of a "Game of Thrones" escape room.

When in Scotland: it's remote connection, but Airth Castle was the ancestral home of the Baronets of Stenhouse; Nigel Bruce was the younger son of the 10th baronet, and thus didn't inherit the title. On Nov. 13 the Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser published a letter to the editor from Cameron Stevenson, who suggested that if Nigel Bruce had been the older son, he might not have gone to Hollywood to become Rathbone's Dr. Watson. Airth Castle now is a hotel <www.airthcastlehotel.com>, near Stirling about 40 miles from Edinburgh; there's no mention of Nigel Bruce at their web-site.

The Baker Street Quarter Partnership is the business improvement district (BID) for the Marylebone area of London, and they are celebrating Christmas this year with installations of Christmas lights. Baker Street will feature illuminated geese perched on columns to remind passersby of "The Blue Carbuncle".

Nov 19 #6 It's not possible to forecast all upcoming theater in a monthly newsletter; if you would like to have more frequent news, Howard Ostrom offers just that at Twitter <www.twitter.com/HowardOstrom>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Art Square Theatre in Las Vegas, Nev., through Dec. 8 <www.theatre.vegas>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is on at the Murphys Creek Theatre in Murphys, Calif., through Dec. 15; web-site's at <www.murphyscreektheatre.org>. It also is scheduled at the Tacoma Little Theatre in Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 6-29 <www.tacomalittletheatre.com>; and at the Theatre of Western Springs in Western Springs, Ill., May 28 to June 7 <www.theatreofwesternsprings.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" (by Michael Menendian and John Weagly) will be performed at the James Downing Theatre in Chicago, Ill., Dec. 6-15 <www.jamesdowningtheatre.com>; and at the Brumder Mansion in Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 6-21 <www.milwaukeeemansion.com>.

Susan I. Weinstein's new play "ETHER: The Strange Afterlife of Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" is scheduled at IRT in New York, Dec. 19-22 <www.irttheater.org>.

Michael Druce's "Sherlock Holmes and the Portal of Time" is due at Rover Dramawerks in Plano, Tex., Jan. 9-Feb. 1 <www.roverdramawerks.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes the Pantomime" will be performed at the Memorial Hall in Woodchurch, Kent, Jan. 17-25 <www.woodchurchplayers.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Melon Patch Theatre in Leesburg, Fla., Jan. 24-Feb. 9; the web-site's at <www.melonpatchplayers.org>.

"Tweedy and the Missing Company of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled on tour in the U.K., from Oxford (Jan. 25) to Cheltenham (Feb. 23); web-site's at <www.tweedyswebsite.com>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Waterville Opera House in Waterville, Maine, Jan. 31-Feb. 2 <www.operahouse.org>. it also has been scheduled at Greystone Hall in Akron, Ohio, Apr. 17 to May 3 <www.ohioshakespearefestival.com>.

Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Torchlight Theatre in Rocky View County, Alta., Mar. 12-14; their web-site's at <www.polariscentre.ca/torchlight>.

The East Lynne Theater Company has scheduled Craig Wichman's radio-style adaptation of "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Mar. 13-14 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

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

Jean Upton reports in the District Messenger that congratulations are in order for Jerome Coopersmith: on Nov. 12, aged 94, he became a Chevalier in the National Order of the French Legion of Honor, in recognition of his service to France in WW2 (Sherlock Holmes received the same honor for his tracking and arrest of Huret, the Boulevard assassin). Coopersmith wrote the book for the musical "Baker Street" (1964), and you can read about the ceremony, and his military career, in a story in the Long Island Herald on Nov. 21 <www.tinyurl.com/scar5v5>.

The District Messenger, launched in 1982 as the "grapevine service" of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, is an excellent monthly round-up of goings on in the Sherlockian and Doylean world in Britain and elsewhere; all back issues are archived at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/newsletter>, and it's available by e-mail <district.messenger@yahoo.com>.

The "Sherlock Holmes tent joke" (Oct 19 #5) keeps turning up in new forms, including Legos <www.newgrounds.com/portal/view/742717>, noted by Jennie Paton.

Edward S. Smith Jr.'s *The Floor Plans of Baker Street*, first published in 1996, offers a survey of what was where at 221 Baker Street, on all of the floors, with plans and citations; a second printing of the 38-page booklet now is available at Amazon (\$15.00).

The new movie "Knives Out" is a delightful blend of mystery and comedy and excellent acting, and it has some imaginative Canonical allusions.

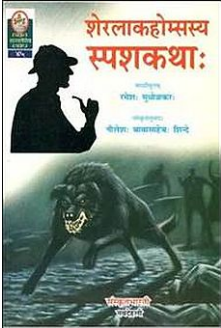
Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge is the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for the Sherlock Holmes Society of India <www.sherlockholmessocietyofindia.com>, now in its seventh year; the current issue (with 120 colorful pages) offers Sherlockian news from India, and a nice mix of scholarship and pastiche. All issues of the Proceedings can be found at the society's web-site.

Further to last month's report that Yahoo is shutting down Yahoo Groups, Jim Hawkins notes that WelcomeHolmes ("a discussion group for fans of Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes"), formerly at Yahoo, now is hosted at <www.groups.io/g/welcomeholmes>.

"Mostly Lost" is an annual conference at the Library of Congress' National Audio-Visual Conservation Center in Culpeper, Va. (William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" was screened there in 2015), and one of the features of the conference is screenings of unidentified films, in hopes that someone can help. Take a look at what the Nitrate Film Interest Group has posted on-line <www.flickr.com/photos/nfig/albums>. Nothing seems Sherlockian, but there's always possibility that something of interest will turn up.

Jennie Paton found a jar of "It's Sedimentary, My Dear Cookie!" mix in an aisle at Trader Joe's; you may be able to find it at a local store, or buy it on-line <www.traderjoes.com/FearlessFlyer/Article/4578>. It was named by Jeannette Powers in a contest Trader Joe's ran in 2016 (Jul 16 #6).

Dec 19 #2 Gahan Wilson died on Nov. 21. Neil Gaiman once described him as "having a cockeyed, dangerously weird way of looking at the world," and Wilson told a reporter that "life is a grotesque thing, inexplicable, odd." As a cartoonist Wilson was a master of the macabre, and a frequent contributor to the *New Yorker*, the *National Lampoon*, and *Playboy*. His *Playboy* cartoons often were Sherlockian, beginning with a delightful four-page spread in the Dec. 1959 issue and continuing over the years. He also was the Distinguished Speaker at the Baker Street Irregulars' lecture in 2005.



Don Hobbs continues to update "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes": he has found a translation into Sanskrit, bringing his count to 109 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English in non-Roman alphabets such as Braille and Pittman Shorthand). He shows covers in color and with bibliographic details for more than 8,200 entries; a thumb drive costs \$15.00 (postpaid) to the U.S. or \$20.00 (elsewhere) from Don (2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028).

Joe Posnanski's *The Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini* (New York: Avid Reader Press, 2019; 316 pp., \$28.00) is a delightful account of the author's pursuit of Houdini; aided by a legion of Houdini's fans (and some detractors), Posnanski offers a splendid exploration of why Houdini became (and still remains) a legend. Conan Doyle is mentioned in passing, but he wasn't really part of the story that Posnanski has told so well.

The podcast "Doings of Doyle" <www.doingsofdoyle.com> (launched last month by Mark Jones and Paul Chapman) now includes discussion of Conan Doyle's short story "The Winning Shot" (1883) and a report on last month's "Conan Doyle in London" conference. Planning is now underway for a "Conan Doyle in Edinburgh" conference <www.edinburgh-conan-doyle.org/events> at Napier University on June 25-27, 2020; Owen Dudley Edwards and Nicholas Daly will be the keynote speakers.

The Daily Sherlock Holmes, edited by Levi Stahl and Stacey Shintani (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019; 195 pp., \$14.00) offers "a year of quotes from the case-book of the world's greatest detective" that provide an excellent demonstration of how fascinating the language of the Canon is. And there are some amusing surprises in store for readers.

The Christmas Card Crime and Other Stories, edited by Martin Edwards (Naperville, Poisoned Pen Press, 2018; 224 pp., \$14.99) is part of the long-running series of "British Library Crime Classics"; none of the stories in this volume are Sherlockian or Doylean, but it includes a delightful story ("The Motive") by Ronald Knox, who in addition to being a fine author is credited with creating the "Grand Game" that Sherlockians still play.

Colonel Sebastian Moran's Secret Gun Club will hold their quadrennial hunt for the mongoose named Moriarty on Feb. 29; the gala will feature the mongoose chase, bison burgers, cash bar, awards, and surprises, and more information is available from Donald Izban (1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068). The club has been meeting on Leap Day every Leap Year since 1996.

Dec 19 #3 René Auberjonois died on Dec. 8. He began his acting career on stage in 1962, appeared in his first film in 1964, went on to play Father John Mulcahy in "M.A.S.H." in 1970 and many other significant roles in films and on television. He played Sherlock Holmes in "The 1977 Milliken Breakfast Show" (a ten-act "industrial musical" performed at the Waldorf Astoria in New York) and read Mark Frost's pastiche *The List of Seven* for a Dove audiobook in 1993.

Profiles in History's "Hollywood: A Collector's Ransom" auction this month included a "vintage original doll of William Gillette in his role as Sherlock Holmes, presented to Gillette by his costumer on the opening night of the play" in 1899, estimated at \$400-\$600; it sold for \$4,000. Previously owned by Dan Posnansky, it went for \$2,000 when his collection was sold in 2017.



Further to last month's item about the Christmas lights that have been installed in Baker Street in London (featuring illuminated geese that will remind passersby of "The Blue Caruncle"), the lights were designed by the Michael Grubb Studio, and are imaginative indeed.

The National Science and Media Museum, in Bradford, Yorks., now owns all three of the cameras that were used to photograph the Cottingley fairies, according to a report in the Yorkshire Post (Dec. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/todj7n3>. The article includes an image of all three cameras, which appear thoroughly antique in modern times when everyone seems to have a smartphone; the museum also owns original prints of the photographs, and watercolor sketches of fairies drawn by Elsie Wright, one of the young woman who took the photographs that convinced Conan Doyle that the fairies were real.

For those who were watching television in the 1960s (and remember "Beany and Cecil"), Greg Darak kindly reports an interview with Bob Clampett, the creator of the series, in *Funny World* (summer 1970); Clampett said that he was inspired by the prehistoric monsters in a silent movie when he created the dinosaur Cecil, and that Captain Huffenpuff, in beard and pith helmet, echoed a character in the film, which of course would have been "The Lost World" (1925). The series is available at YouTube, and "Beany Meets the Monstrous Monster" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ge5f2HSeFCc> is of particular interest: watch for Cecil as a detective, wearing a deerstalker.

Greg also has posed an intriguing challenge: where in the Canon is Sherlock Holmes likened to Cleopatra?

Garrison Keillor's "The Writer's Almanac" still is available on the Internet, and Bill Anselm noted a mention of Conan Doyle on Dec. 18, the date the Piltdown Man was presented to the Geological Society of London in 1912 <www.tinyurl.com/sh6ux9s>; the entry reports that "many scholars point the finger at Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as the perpetrator," but includes a link to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* article on the Piltdown Man that offers a more careful and less sensational discussion of the hoax.

Dec 19 #4 Sky News noted on Dec. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/vd8na8q> the end of an era of British publishing: Pearson has decided to sell its remaining stake in Penguin Random House to Bertelsmann. Now none of the "big five" of English-language book publishing remain in British ownership (Macmillan is owned by another German publisher Holtzbrinck, John Murray (for many years the publisher of Conan Doyle's books) is now owned by the French company Hachette, HarperCollins is owned by News Corp in the U.S., and Simon & Schuster (once owned by Pearson) is owned by ViacomCBS.

Where in the Canon is Sherlock Holmes likened to Cleopatra? In "The Empty House" it's Holmes himself who says, "I trust that age does not wither nor custom stale my infinite variety," echoing the description of Cleopatra in Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra".

Netflix has announced the lead actors in its new television series called "The Irregulars": Harry Lloyd-Hughes (Sherlock Holmes) and Royce Pierreson (Doctor Watson); Tom Bidwell, who is writing the series, has said "what if Sherlock Holmes was a drug addict and a delinquent and the kids solve the whole case whilst he takes credit?"



And now for a mystery: the image shows Sophie Aldred as Ace, who was the companion to the Seventh Doctor (Sylvester McCoy) in the "Doctor Who" series from 1987 to 1989. Patrick J. DeCanio, who's both a Sherlockian and a Whovian wonders, about one of the patches that Ace is wearing on her jacket. Andrew Cartmel, the script editor of the series at the time, has said that it is related to the Baker Street Irregulars, and Charles Prepolec hopes that a reader of this newsletter might know more about the patch, which (as might be expected) has been reproduced is available for Whovians (and others) at Etsy for only \$9.00 <www.tinyurl.com/sglbgbf>.

Too late for this year, but in plenty of time for 2020: Jim Suszynski reports two colorful Sherlockian Christmas cards offered by Allport Editions; there's a third card that's Sherlockian only if inspected closely. Go to <www.allport.com> and search for [sherlock].



Van Ryder Games is running a Kickstarter campaign for *Sherlock Holmes: Baker Street Irregulars*, which is described by the company as "a cooperative graphic novel adventures game" <www.tinyurl.com/uk94yf7>; there appear to be many Sherlockian games available; is anyone keeping track of them? Or maintaining a web-site that describes and discusses them?

Do you have quick nunchi? According to Eunyoung Hong, author of *The Power of Nunchi: The Korean Secret to Happiness and Success*, noted by Yahoo! Lifestyle on Dec. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/txhsv4b>, picking up signals from your environment can make you a "nunchi ninja" like Steve Jobs, Tyrion Lannister, Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon, and Sherlock Holmes.

Dec 19 #5 The Red-Headed League Public House in Lebanon (Pennsylvania) (Oct 19 #5) is now open for business on the third floor of the Lebanon Farmers Market, the Lebanon Daily News reported on Dec. 13. The name of the restaurant pays tribute to the Sherlock Holmes story that was (according to owner Michael Kapp) inspired by a notorious murder committed by the Blue-Eyed Six in Lebanon in 1878 <www.tinyurl.com/trk74m9>.

The first permanent granite statue honoring Sherlock Holmes erected in the Americas has now been unveiled in Chester, Ill., according to Michael W. McClure <www.baskervilleproductions.com/statue>; Mike was interviewed earlier this year by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/tu8l4py> discussing "Sherlock, Popeye, and More" (and yes, Popeye has a connection to Chester).

Ashley Polasek has reported on plans for The Conan Doyle Review, devoted to peer-reviewed scholarship on Conan Doyle's life and work. The journal will begin accepting submissions in the summer of 2020, and the first volume will be published in the spring of 2021. A special limited-run preview issue will be on sale in Covent Garden West during the birthday festivities in New York. Scott Monty reported on the project at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/uzk3qq>; more information is available from Ashley (the editor-in-chief) at <editor@acdreview.org>.

Claudine Auger died on Dec. 18. She began her long career as an actor in France in 1958, went on to star as Domino in the James Bond film "Thunderball" in 1965, and played Isadora Klein in Granada's "The Three Gables" in 1994.

An interesting letter will be at auction on Jan. 22 at Forum Auctions in London, estimated at £1,000-£1,500 <www.tinyurl.com/sew96fe>: P. G. Wodehouse wrote to Miss Terry Smith in 1933 that "I racked my brain for years for something that would make a series like the Sherlock Holmes stories, and could never get one," adding that he "suddenly found that I had written about a dozen stories round Jeeves and that there seemed to be no reason why the thing shouldn't go on forever."

There's an on-going campaign to restore the Royal Court Theatre in Wigan (near Manchester) <www.royalcourttheatre.org.uk>. The 3,000-seat theater was open in 1886, and in 1903 Charlie Chaplin performed there as a teenager as Billy; that would have been with Charles Frohman's North Company on tour with William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (with H. A. Saintsbury as Holmes and Fred Inwood as Watson).

When in Bialystok (in Poland): you can pay a visit to the Sherlock Holmes Pub <www.facebook.com/sherlock.bialystok>.

There seems to be an unlimited supply of Sherlockian action figures, and Jennie Paton has reported a new one, showing Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes, made by Pekkasland and available from AliEspress for \$13.64 <www.tinyurl.com/vkjg5gb>. Jennie also has noted a new set of plush soft toys of six characters (including Sherlock and Watson) from the "Sherlock Gnomes" film (£3.98) from Wisorkgoods <www.tinyurl.com/wsdefc4>

Dec 19 #6 Karl E. Meyer ("Fritz von Waldbaum") died on Dec. 22. He had a distinguished career in journalism, as a foreign correspondent and editorial writer for the Washington Post, as an editor and television critic for the Saturday Review, and then as an editor for the N.Y. Times and the Foreign Policy Review. He wrote stories about the Sherlockian birthday festivities for the N.Y. Times in 1986 and 2000, and went on to a distinguished career as an author, making sure that his *Tournament of Shadows: The Great Game and the Race for Empire in Central Asia* (1999) included Dr. John H. Watson in the index. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.

The conversion of Great Scotland Yard into a hotel (Jun 19 #6) is now complete, and the Great Scotland Yard Hotel is open for business. The Evening Standard had a nicely illustrated article about the new hotel on Dec. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/vbkt2yg>.

Jennie Paton reports a new Sherlockian teddy bear that is made by Hermann Spielwaren in Germany and is available from various Internet sellers; it's more imaginative than others of its ilk in that there appears to be tobacco in the pipe, which one supposes could be rigged so that there's a bit of smoke.



The January-February issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues a long annual tradition of celebrating Sherlock Holmes' birthday, with Sherlockian artwork by Erika Steiskal on the cover, a new and amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, an Ellery Queen pastiche by Josh Pachter with a Sherlockian pun as a title, a Sherlockian cartoon by Scott Masear, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.

The Holmes Hotel London (formerly the Sherlock Holmes Hotel) has been reviewed on-line by Business Traveller <www.tinyurl.com/wgwhz16>; the hotel has been refurbished and brought up to date, still with nicely Sherlockian décor.

Correcting a typo (Nov 19 #1): registration is now open for the "Holmes in the Heartland" conference in St. Louis on July 24-26; more information is available at <www.tinyurl.com/yd5elmpj>.

Thanks to author Hank Philippi Ryan (who has written some fine, although non-Sherlockian) mysteries, here's an iPhone secret: if you hold down the space bar, it acts like a mouse, and you can move to wherever you want to be in the message you've typed.

Roger Johnson has discovered a nice treat for those who want something to drink while reading this newsletter: an Australian wine called Skuttlebutt sold by Stella Bella Wines <www.stellabella.com.au>. There's a 2017 Cabernet and a 2019 Sauvignon Blanc Semillon advertised at the company's website, and it appears that you don't need to go to Australia to buy some: Little Peacock Importers <www.little-peacock.com> can tell you where it's sold in the U.S.

Jennie Paton has discovered a new audio production of "The Blue Carbuncle" from Redfield Arts Studio <www.redfieldartsaudio.com>, starring Mark Redfield as Sherlock Holmes, J. R. Lyston as Dr. Watson, and Carol Mason as Mrs. Hudson; it's available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/sxcxw6x>.

Dec 19 #7 The three latest volumes of *The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories: Whatever Remains*, edited by David Marcum, continue his excellent series of anthologies, this time presenting a wealth of traditional pastiches, with Holmes facing "ghosts and mythological creatures, impossible circumstances, and curses, possessions, and prophecies," in the stories, poetry, and radio scripts (London: MX Publishing, 2019; 383/419/380 pp., \$24.95 each); MX Publishing's books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.

Also: Sheldon Goldfarb's *Sherlockian Musings* (2019, 299 pp., \$16.95), is an interesting collection of the "musings" he prepared for meetings of the Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, by way of suggesting ideas for discussion of the Canon; it is nicely done, and will be helpful to other Sherlockian societies. The author offers samples of some of the essays at his web-site <www.sheldongoldfarb.wordpress.com>.

And: Richard T. Ryan's *The Merchant of Menace* (2019; 232 pp., \$16.95) is his fourth pastiche, pitting Holmes against a master criminal who specializes in stealing precious objects, eventually meeting his match with the Great Detective at Blenheim Palace. Kim Krisco's *Irregular Lives: The Untold Story of Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars* (2016; 356 pp., \$18.95) is set in 1919, when Holmes and Watson are invited to a mysterious exhibition of photographs that reconnect them with the young boys who helped them all those years ago, and they're all engaged in solving in a new mystery. Marcia Wilson's *The Adventure of the Flying Blue Pigeon* (2016; 274 pp., \$14.95), the first book in her "Test of the Professionals" series, is set in 1883 and offers an intriguing look at the world of Sherlock Holmes as seen by the Scotland Yarders (who include Lestrade, Gregson, and Bradstreet). And David Marcum's *Sherlock Holmes: Tangled Skeins* (2015; 241 pp., \$14.95) offers five pastiches set in London and in Sussex.

Karen Murdock has noted an imaginative coffee mug that's marked "Property of Diogenes Club/Comfortable Chairs/Latest Periodicals" and is available at Amazon UK <www.tinyurl.com/w3dfrmu> (£16.99).

The Lost World is in the news again, mentioned often in articles about a successful attempt to climb the 2,000-foot high prow of Guyana's Mount Roraima, credited by many as having inspired Conan Doyle when he wrote the story. Here's what the Daily Mail had to say: <www.tinyurl.com/r3k6rk7>.

The Sherlock Holmes Complete Puzzle Collection, with text and puzzles by Tim Dedopulus (London: Carlton Books, 2017; 400 pp., \$25.37), offers "over 200 devilishly difficult mysteries, inspired by the world's greatest detective." It's a reprint combining his *The Sherlock Holmes Puzzle Collection* (Feb 15 #1) and *The Sherlock Holmes Puzzle Collection: The Lost Cases* (Aug 19 #1), nicely bound and with attractive artwork.

The Cambridge Companion to Sherlock Holmes, edited by Janice M. Allan and Christopher Pittard (Cambridge University Press, 2019; 261 pp., \$19.99), is an anthology of excellent academic and readable essays that deal with a wide variety of aspects of the Canon, ending with Roberta Pearson's up-to-date and interesting discussion of "Sherlockian Fandom".

Dec 19 #8 At auction at Ahlers & Ogletree in Atlanta on Jan. 11: a copy of the Al Hirschfeld limited-edition colored lithograph "The Game's Afoot" (showing Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce as Holmes and Watson), estimated at \$800-\$1,200 <www.tinyurl.com/uwsjvw2>. It's also still available from Margo Feiden Galleries <www.alhirschfeld.com> for \$1,800.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is scheduled at the 2nd Stage Theatre in Fresno, Calif., Jan. 3-Feb. 23 <www.gcplayers.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the New Bern Civic Theatre in New Bern, N.C., Jan. 10-19 <www.newberncivictheatre.org>. Also at the Von Braun Center Playhouse in Huntsville, Ala., Jan. 17-25; web-site's at <www.theatrehsv.org>. Also at the Topeka Civic Theatre in Topeka, Kan., Jan. 17-Feb. 9 <www.topekacivictheatre.com>; and at the Stageworks Theatre in Houston, Texas, Jan. 17-Feb. 9 <www.stageworkshouston.org>.

Bart Lovins' "The Novel Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four" will be performed at the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center in Elizabethtown, Ky., Jan. 16-26, 2020 <www.thepac.net>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is scheduled at the Burlington County Footlighters Theater in Cinnaminson, N.J., Jan 17-Feb. 1; web-site's at <www.bcfootlighters.com>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Waterville Opera House in Waterville, Maine, Jan. 24-Feb. 2 <www.operahouse.org>.

Craig Wichman's radio-theater dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" will be performed at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Mar. 13-14 and Oct. 30-Nov. 7 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

"Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes" (by Jamie Robledo) will be performed at the Sheldon Vexler Theater in San Antonio, Texas, May 7-31 <www.vexler.org>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" is due at the Greater Boston Stage Company in Stoneham, Mass., June 4-28 <www.greaterbostonstage.org>.

Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Waukesha Civic Theatre in Waukesha, Wis., June 4-21; their web-site's at <www.waukeshacivictheatre.org>.

R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse" will be performed at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., June 21-Oct 18 <www.shawfest.com>.

"Sherlock and Cinders" (a musical written by Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crossley) will be performed at the Carver Theatre in Stockport, Cheshire, July 3-4 <www.carvertheatre.co.uk>.

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