

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/y9ttxzxc>, 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/yydqwpfh>, 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/yxh7sply.

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 (Etan 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/y644wpm3; 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 Canteen 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.theatheaternon.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.parkquaretheatre.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."

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