

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/yvzpxas.

"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/yylflmwy, and you can see an image of the desk at www.tinyurl.com/y2qtqg68.

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/y4h7jdsp> 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>.

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