

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](https://twitter.com/HowardOstrom).

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