

"Enola Holmes" debuted on Netflix on Sept. 23. The tomatometer at Rotten Tomatoes <www.rottentomatoes.com> had it at 89% favorable for top critics, and 90% favorable for all critics on Sept. 22, and the scores later in the month were 95% and 92%. No count is available for Sherlockian critics.

If you would like to know more about Enola Holmes, now that you have seen the film, Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have an interesting interview with Nancy Springer (the author of the series of books about Enola) at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y6c5kqel>. There are six books in the series, so more films are possible.



Netflix publicized the film by installing statues of historical women across the U.K.; one of them was Enola Holmes, in Baker Street, next to the iconic statue of Sherlock Holmes. You can see images of all of the statues in the slide-show at <www.tinyurl.com/y5rqx8th>.

There is nothing to report on the dueling lawsuits over the film (Aug 20 #1), which may or may not lead to a trial; the filings are on-line at <www.free-sherlock.com>.

Earlier this year the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. filed an application for a trademark for the words "Sherlock Holmes" in the category "entertainment services" <www.tinyurl.com/y5262ctg>; the application was published last month, and this month Les Klinger formally filed opposing the application (as he did in 2018 when the CDEL applied for a trademark in the category "printed matter" and then withdrew the application). The documents in the case also are available at <www.free-sherlock.com>.

Jennie Paton has noted an animated video "Five Orange Seeds" (recorded by the Erkonauts ("think of a Prog version of Motorhead that sometimes leans towards Gojira, sometimes toward Mastodon, sometimes even New Model Army") and inspired by the Sherlock Holmes story; you can see and hear the song at <www.theerkonauts.streamlink.to/fiveorangeseeds>.

None of them are the Mazarin Stone, but you can see some very attractive yellow diamonds at <www.graff.com/house/2019/wonder-yellow-diamonds>; the actual "Mazarin" diamond, which never was owned by the Cardinal, is part of the Iranian crown jewels (see the Baker Street Journal, Sept. 1974, p. 141-145).

"New Marker Designates Rhinebeck as the Violet Capital of the World" was the headline on a story <www.tinyurl.com/y2pfy5vy> that aired on WAMC-FM on Aug. 6; Rhinebeck will be remembered fondly by those who made the Beekman Arms their headquarters for the occasional Sherlockian dinners at the Culinary Institute of America. The story mentions Basil Rathbone in passing, and his play "The Captive", which was closed by the vice squad in New York City in 1927; Rathbone and the rest of the cast were arrested, along with the lead actor and cast of another play, which received much more attention the next day. That lead actor was Mae West, who was appearing in her play "Sex".

Sep 20 #2 The Beacon Society has called for nominations for its Susan B. Diamond Beacon Award, which recognizes a project that successfully introduces young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories. The deadline for nominations is Nov. 15, and more information about the award is available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yxval963>.

And the 2021 R. Joel Senter Sr. Essay Contest, sponsored by Carolyn Senter and the Beacon Society, is now open for submissions from students between the 4th and 12 grades, in the U.S. and Canada. More information about the contest can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/y3e8c94u>.

"You don't happen to have a Raphael or a first folio Shakespeare without knowing it?" asked Sherlock Holmes (in "The Three Gables"). There are only five complete copies of the First Folio in private hands, according to Christie's, and here's your chance to own the sixth, which will be at auction at Christie's in New York on Oct. 14, estimated at \$4 million to \$6 million. It's the same copy scheduled at auction on Apr. 24, and June 12; both sales were cancelled due to the coronavirus. You can read all about the First Folio at <www.tinyurl.com/rwt2lla>.

Marie Burrow reports an attractive and literate Sherlock Holmes 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle <www.tinyurl.com/y27ujgtvh> (\$24.99) made by Cobble Hill in Canada; just the thing for keeping busy while staying home.



There have been occasional Sherlockian allusions in the "Dennis the Menace" comic strip created by Hank Ketcham, and Dennis appears in Sherlockian costume in original artwork drawn by Ketcham on an envelope that also has stamps that were issued by the U.S. Postal Service in 1986 to honor T. S. Eliot (who created Macavity the

Mystery Cat) and a Sherlockian cachet that was created for a stamp exposition held in Long Beach, Calif., in 1994. It's quite likely that it was a Sherlockian who put everything together, and it's nice that the envelope now is owned by a Sherlockian: Jerry Margolin.

Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Was Not, edited by Christopher Sequeira (Melbourne: IFWG Publishing, 2019; 324 pp., \$17.99), is an anthology offering a dozen new pastiches that involve Holmes with doctors other than Watson, and in cases of "mind-bending multi-versal mayhem" full of fantasy, meta-physics, and the supernatural.

William Gillette and his wife (aka Tyke and Teddie Niver) are once again to be seen at (although not yet in) Gillette Castle in Hadlyme, Conn., on Sunday afternoons <www.tinyurl.com/y4lkfvlx>.

"Serial Flasher Who Wears 'Sherlock Holmes Hat' Sparks Hunt after Striking Three Times" was the headline on a story in the London Daily Star on Sept. 3, reporting that "a pervert is on the loose in a leafy Kent town wearing a rucksack, a deerstalker hat, and not much else" in Tunbridge Wells. According to the KentLive and KentOnline web-sites, he was seen three times in two days, and spokesman for the Kent Police said that "the three incidents are suspected to be linked"

Sep 20 #3 Owen R. Minter's *The Shrouded Sword* (Charlotte: Minter, 2019; 274 pp., \$12.99) is an entertaining middle-grade fantasy (for youngsters aged 8 to 12) that involves three children with magic, mystery, time travel, and legend; the story's nicely told, with interesting Canonical allusions, and is billed as the first of a series. The author's website and blog are at <www.owenminter.com>.

More and more Sherlockian societies are holding virtual meetings, and Jennie Paton is collecting video, when it's available, to archive for posterity how Sherlockians are keeping things going during the pandemic. If you have any special programming of this sort, you're welcome to share it with Jennie <jpaton221@gmail.com>

Video of the Red Circle of Washington's two virtual meetings, it should be noted, are available at <www.redcircledc.org>; tune it to see performances by Laurie R. King and Nicholas Utechin.

If you would like to Zoom in to virtual society meetings hither, thither, and yon, many of them are listed in Ron Fish's "Sherlockian Calendar" at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; if your society's meetings aren't listed, you can send information to Ron at <ronf404@a1.com>.

From page to stage to video: "Yūkoku no Moriāti" ["Moriarty the Patriot"] is a Japanese manga (Feb 18 #1) that inspired a stage musical (Dec 18 #4) and now a video series that will premiere in Japan on Oct. 11, according to a story at the Anime Mojo (Sept. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/y343qzqx> that has a trailer for the series. Moriarty is an orphan who as a young man "seeks to remove the ills caused by England's strict class system."

Christopher C. Courter has launched a Facebook group called "The Sherlock Holmes Exchange" ("a free and open place for everyone to sell, purchase, or trade all things related to the great detective or the Victorian era") <www.facebook.com/groups/sherlockholmesexchange>; many people already have signed up for what appears to be a Sherlockian combination of Craigslist and Etsy.

Cliff Goldfarb has kindly reported an article ("Scientific American vs. the Spiritualists") in the magazine's September issue, which celebrates its 175th anniversary <www.tinyurl.com/y4p3w6wa>; Katherine Harmon Courage notes that it was Conan Doyle who suggested to its publisher Orson Munn that instead of covering psychic work as an ongoing debate, the magazine ought to take an official stance on it, and that led to the famous contest that pitted Houdini against the medium Margery. It wasn't until 1942 that the magazine announced that it was concluding the investigation, announcing that "it is, perhaps, too much to hope that it may ever be permanently settled."

Publishers Weekly reported (Aug 31) on news from the Beijing International Book Fair: sales of children's books went up 43% over last year, with the *DK Natural History: The Ultimate Visual Guide to Everything on Earth* the #1 title on the bestseller list; the top ten included a new 40-volume "Detective Sherlock Holmes" illustrated series for primary school students. There's more information about the set at <www.tinyurl.com/y5ljqnti>.

Sep 20 #4 Mary McNamara had an amusing and interesting column ("Sherlock Holmes and Mary Russell Are Getting Me Through COVID-19. They Can Help You Too") in the Los Angeles Times on July 24. She interviewed Laurie R. King, and learned that her latest book was planned to be set in the Tower of London; read the column to find out why she changed her mind <www.tinyurl.com/y2c7czuv>.

"Cyclist Rescued from Infamous Sherlock Holmes Bog on Dartmoor," according to Devon Live (Sept. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/y2gzvzor>; a Dartmoor search and rescue team assisted a 51-year-old cyclist who had become stuck in boggy ground in Fox Tor Mire (believed by many to have been the inspiration for the Grimpen Mire).

Lyndsay Faye has nice things to say about Vincent Starrett and his novel in her introduction to his *The Great Hotel Murder*, recently reprinted by Penzler Publishrs (Aug 20 #1); you can read her introduction at the Crime Reads blog <www.tinyurl.com/y6su3tsl>.

"An Indian Academic's Lone Fight to Save the Great Andamanese," according to the headline on an article in TRT World (Sept. 8) that provides an interesting look at Tonga's world today <www.tinyurl.com/y4wmcm5f>.

Soot and Steel: Dark Tales of London, edited by Ian Whates (Alconbury Weston: NewCon Press, 2019; 260 pp., £12.99/\$15.99), is an imaginative anthology of stories, old and new, about the darker aspects of the city; one of the new stories is Paul Di Filippo's "From the Casebook of Master Wiggins, Esq." (a pastiche from the pen of one of the Irregulars).

Also from NewCon is Simon Clark's *Case of the Bedevilled Poet* (2017; 106 pp., £6.99/\$7.99), a fantasy novella set in London during the blitz, when poet Jack Crofton becomes involved with two elderly gentlemen who claim to be the Holmes and Watson who inspired Conan Doyle's stories.

"Try to contact the dead with true believer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and debunk seances with his friend Harry Houdini" during an "Evening of Illumination" at the Midway Village Museum in Rockford, Ill., on Oct. 30; more information at <www.tinyurl.com/y2986ugy> (click on "Events").

Dame Diana Rigg died on Sept. 10. She began her acting career on stage in 1957, became a star as Emma Peel in the television series "The Avengers" (1961-1969), and went on to a long and storied career that included introductions for programs (including Jeremy Brett's "Sherlock Holmes" series) for "Mystery" on PBS-TV from 1989-to 2003.

Thursday Next, who first appeared in Jasper Fforde's novel *The Eyre Affair* (2001), has been described as "a genre send-up hailed as an instant classic" and after starring in seven novels has her own Wikipedia entry. She is from Swindon (where Sherlock Holmes had lunch) and her uncle is Mycroft (quite possibly Holmes). *First Among Sequels* (Aug 07 #3) was great fun, and so is *The Well of Lost Plots* (2003), which also offers occasional mentions of Mycroft and other intriguing Canonical allusions. Fforde has an interesting web-site at <www.jasperfforde.com>.

Sep 20 #5 Sherlock Holmes spin-offs continue to be popular in Japan: one of them is "IQ246: Karei Naru Jikenbo" ["IQ246: The Cases of a Royal Genius"]. The 10-episode one-hour series debuted on TBS on Oct 16, 2016: Sharaku Homoji is the eldest son of a distinguished family that has studied crime for generations, with the eldest son always having an IQ of 246; he is assisted by Soko Wato a detective assigned to escort him, and his personality and deductions owe much to the latest BBC series. DVD sets are available at YouTube and Amazon (with and without subtitles).

There's also a Chinese spin-off: "Shao nu da ren" ["Maiden Holmes"]; the series is set in the Qi kingdom in the 6th century, and you can watch the first episodes (with subtitles) at <www.tinyurl.com/y6lzwhwa>. Thanks to Aziz Bin Adam for the report, and Jennie Paton for the link.

Just in time for Halloween: they're outdoors, so corn mazes seem to be in vogue, and there are Sherlockian corn mazes, one of them in Mt. Pleasant, Wis. <borzynskis.com/corn-maze>, and the other in Mt. Brydges, Ont. (near London, southwest of Toronto <www.tinyurl.com/yyde8b6j>).

Larry Millett launched his series of pastiches about Sherlock Holmes and Shadwell Rafferty in St. Paul, Minn., in 1995; they were (and are) great fun, and nicely done, and still available from the University of Minnesota Press in trade paperbacks (\$14.95 each). *The Magic Bullet* is an interesting locked-room mystery in which Holmes provides assistance from London.

Joe Ruby died on Aug. 26. He began his career in animation at Walt Disney Productions and in 1959 went to work for Hanna-Barbera as a writer; he and his long-time partner Ken Spears created the cowardly Great Dane "Scooby-Doo" (who sometimes is seen in Sherlockian costume) and many other series.

Laurie R. King's web-site <www.laurierking.com> has much of interest; you can click on "see all blog posts" and scroll down to find Twitter conversations between Laurie and Mary Russell, and between Mary and Les Klinger, as well as a bit of comment on Laurie's virtual meeting with the British team that's working on adapting Mary Russell for television.

Reported: a new deck of "Sherlock Holmes" playing cards, with artwork in full color <www.tinyurl.com/y5tb8row>, available from Nicky Bird Designs in the U.K.; £6.00 (plus £6.00 postage to the U.S.) (postage per deck is less if you order more than one deck).

Steve Doyle's video podcasts for the Baker Street Irregulars continue at YouTube; you can search for [fortnightly dispatch] to find interviews with many Sherlockians, and Doyleans (his latest interview's with Roy Pilot and Doug Elliott).

I've long described this newsletter as "six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean." If you would like to run a word-search on a large file with all of the text since March 1985 (that's when I entered the computer age) can now do just that, thanks to Steve Mason, who updates his compilation each month and makes it available at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* <www.tinyurl.com/ybxh2y2m>.

Sep 20 #6 Further to the earlier report (May 20 #7) on the new SHERLOCK inexpensive diagnostic tool for detecting nucleic acids from disease-carrying microbes (developed from CRISPR by Sherlock Biosciences), the Tata Group in India has used CRISPR to create a rapid-test kit for COVID-19 that they have named the FNCAS9 Editor Linked Uniform Detection Assay (FELUDA), honoring the Bengali private investigator created by Satyajit Ray, who was inspired by Sherlock Holmes (his mother used to read the stories to him in English).

Original artwork by Sidney Paget is coming to auction in the U.K. on Oct. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/y52h4v3a>; it's a non-Sherlockian pencil and watercolor painting of boats and a sailing ship on a stormy sea.

John E. Pforr ("Police-Constable Cook") died on Sept. 23. He served with distinction during his long career with the Secret Service, and was an enthusiastic Sherlockian: he was Gasogene XXV of the Six Napoleons of Baltimore, and a member of many other east-coast Sherlockian societies. John received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1996.

Drive-in theaters are making a comeback during the pandemic. Jennie Paton has reported that there was a screening this month of Robert Downey Jr.'s "Sherlock Holmes" on an inflatable screen at a pop-up drive-in in Tasmania (by nice coincidence at the Baskerville Raceway).

Reported: "The Adventures of John Watson" is a new computer game from ArmiGames for Android phones and tablets; the first adventure can be played without charge, and there are four more games you can play after a single in-app purchase (\$3.49/£2.99) <www.tinyurl.com/yyzsbzoc>. They expect to have a version for iPhones and iPads available by the end of November.

Reported: Richard L. Kellogg's *Barry Baskerville's Christmas Mystery* (Airship 27) is the seventh in his series (illustrated by Gary Kato) about boy detective Barry Baskerville.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has decided not to have their annual dinner in January, because of the novel coronavirus, but they are holding virtual meetings, and they have announced an attractive Christmas card for this year. Details at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.

Some theaters are opening: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is due at the Foothills Playhouse in Easley, S.C., Oct. 2-18 <www.foothillsplayhouse.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Triad Stage in Greensboro, N.C., Nov. 15-Dec. 13 <www.triadstage.org>.

Bilal Dardai's new dramatization of Jamyang Norbu's "The Mandala of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Seattle Center in Seattle, Wash., on May 15-June 30, 2021 <www.book-it.org>.

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