

There's something else to add to your schedule for the birthday festivities in January: more than 200 items from Paul D. Herbert's collection of Sherlockiana and Doyleana will be offered in an on-line no-reserve auction at Everything But the House in Cincinnati, Jan. 6 through Jan. 10. All of the items will go on-line and be open for bidding at 2:00 am on Jan. 6 and the auction will close with automated bidding beginning at 8:00 pm on Jan. 10. The web-site's at <www.ebth.com> and the code for Paul's collection is 20CIN051.

Some of the items are interesting indeed, including an attractive sculpture of Holmes and Watson by Richard Masloski; a copy of the first American edition of *His Last Bow* inscribed by Conan Doyle to Houdini (accompanied by a photograph of Conan Doyle presenting the book to Houdini); the Collier's Once a Week Library edition of "The Sign of Four" (the pirated edition published in 1891, and the first separate American edition of the story); and a lithographed poster advertising the appearance of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in *The Strand Magazine*.

There's more news about the lawsuit filed by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. over the Netflix television film "Enola Holmes" (Aug 20 #1): Les Klinger has reported that the case has been completely resolved, on mutually satisfactory terms, adding that "I think that Legendary Films is very, very satisfied with the outcome (and so we should be)." Les also reports that he and Laurie King have settled with the CDEL regarding the CDEL trademark applications in the categories of books and films, which the CDEL withdrew without prejudice.

Aaron Moss' reported on the end of the "Enola Holmes" lawsuit at the Copyright Lately web-site on Dec. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/y89ho89d>, posting the text of the "stipulation to dismiss with prejudice."

One of the nicest things about the pandemic is that Zoom has provided access to so many distant events; one of them was this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture, presented by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library. This year's speaker was Rebecca Romney, a knowledgeable rare-book dealer, and her topic was "Sherlockian Collecting: A Tour of Clever, Creative, and Weird Pursuits" (her informal description of collectors, and collections, is "eccentricity made material"). And, thanks to modern technology, her lecture was recorded and has been made available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com//yytrr59m>. Recommended.

The Lost World (Cambremer: SP Books, 2020; \$200.00 postpaid) offers a facsimile of the manuscript (owned by the Berg Collection at the N.Y. Public Library), with 21 illustrations by the French artist Géo Dupuis (reprinted from the French translation of the story in *Je sais tout* in 1913-1914) and a five-page foreword by Jon Lellenberg <www.tinyurl.com/yxu6hpph>. It is grand to be able to see Conan Doyle's changes, corrections, and deletions, and a pity that there is neither a transcript of the manuscript, nor any accompanying scholarship, that have accompanied publication of facsimiles by others of manuscripts of his Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian stories.

Dec 20 #2 *In League with Sherlock Holmes* (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2020; 368 pp., \$25.95), the latest in the series of anthologies edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, offering "stories inspired by the Sherlock Holmes Canon." They continue their search for contributions from friends who (almost always) have not previously done anything Sherlockian, and most of the stories are intriguing homages, rather than pastiches.

Barbara G. Peters opened the Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Scottsdale, Ariz., in 1989; there's now the Poisoned Pen Press, and the Poisoned Pen Podcast, on which Barbara hosted Laurie King and Les Klinger to discuss *In League with Sherlock Holmes* <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Et0rSEeapeU>.

The BBC had great fun with its modern version of Sherlock Holmes, and Netflix is planning a January premiere for its new series "Lupin", according to Ars Technica (Dec. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/yyrk6nqh> (the story includes an action-packed trailer). The series is inspired by Maurice Leblanc's stories about the gentleman-thief Arsène Lupin, who in one of Leblanc's tales encounters Sherlock Holmes (in the French original); in the English translation, it's Herlock Sholmes).

"The Daintiest Scream on the Moor Charity Ball" held during the birthday festivities in New York in 2018 featured the unveiling of a made-to-order Sherlock Holmes Cake for the Baker Street Babes and their hangers-on, and at long last a recording of the event aired on the Discovery Family channel as "Elementary My Dear Buddy" in the 30-minute series "Cake Boss" on Dec. 3.

One often encounters references to the dog that didn't bark, more and more without mention of Sherlock Holmes or the story that has the dog that did nothing in the night-time (which shows that the reference now is part of our cultural literacy), but now there is a book, reported by Tom Cynkin: it was written by Martin Fackler and published this year in Japan, with a title translated in English as "The Dogs That Didn't Bark: Media Control in Abe's Japan" <www.tinyurl.com/y625nt7g>.

There's a Sherlockian calendar for 2021 available from Andrew F. Gulli's The Strand Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/y2ov4mfm>, and much more Sherlockiana in their 221B Baker Street Collection <www.tinyurl.com/y5phqxcwg>.

It has been a while since the last mention of the excellent Camden House web-site <www.ignisart.com/camdenhouse/main.htm>, which offers a nice assortment of Canonical resources, including the Pinoteca Holmesiana with all the illustrations of all the first appearances of the Sherlock Holmes stories.

The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2020 has "Games Are Afoot" as its theme, with contributions that include pastiches, essays, puzzles, and artwork, all related to appropriate aspects of the Canon; the 96-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, can be ordered from Phillip (at 3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304). The cost is \$10.00 postpaid (checks payable to the Norwegian Explorers, please, or sent via PayPal to <norwegianexplorers@gmail.com>).

Dec 20 #3 Karen Murdoch reports a nice quote from Lisa Scottoline's essay "Literary Slut" in her collection *My Nest Isn't Empty, It Just Has More Closet Space* (2011) about when, as a young girl, she first went into a library: "Of course once inside I had no idea how to choose a book and was way too scared to ask anyone. But there were some books that had a picture of a man in profile on the spine, and the man had a big nose like my Uncle Rocky. And me. . . Anyway, because of his nose the man on the spine felt like family, so his were the books I checked out and read like a fiend. Like our girl crush Nancy Drew. Only later did I find out that the man wasn't Uncle Rocky but some guy named Sherlock Holmes. Who isn't even Italian. Bottom line, that's why I am a mystery writer today."

Further to the discussion of letters signed by Conan Doyle's secretaries (Oct 20 #2), an autograph album offered at auction Dawson's in Maidenhead this month contained two Conan Doyle letters <www.tinyurl.com/y6g5j8nb>. The letter at the left actually was written by his secretary Charles Terry (note the ornate T beneath the signature); Terry also wrote and signed the "My dear Robinson" letter held by the Berg Collection at the N.Y. Public Library as part of its "Hound of the Baskervilles" material. The album, estimated at £2,000-£3,000, was sold for £2,290.

Greg Darak has reported that the Russian "Sherlock Holmes" television series (with Igor Petrenko as Holmes and Andrei Panin as Watson) (2013) now is available (with subtitles in English) in a commercial set of two DVDs (\$14.99) <www.tinyurl.com/y3smghnb>. The series was not well received in Russia (where many people prefer the old Livanov/Solomin series), but it has some nice surprises.

The Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes podcast ("devoted to revisiting and honoring the world's greatest portrayal of the world's greatest detective") <www.sherlockpodcast.com>, created by Gus and Luke Holwerda in Jan. 2019, offers an interesting monthly mix of discussion and interviews.

221B Baker Street is on its way to Mars, according to Brian Day's article at the Pasadena Now web-site on Dec. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/y5bhdk8e>; the address is inscribed on a piece of spacesuit visor that SHERLOC will use as a calibration target; it will also serve as a geocaching target for Earth-bound tourists to track. SHERLOCK is an acronymed instrument that will be used when the Perseverance Rover explores the Red Planet (Nov 20 #7).

There was a nice item at auction at Bonhams in New York this month: "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Surgical Scissors" <www.tinyurl.com/y39zzc3p>, estimated at \$4,000-\$6,000. Dame Jean Conan Doyle gave the scissors to Julian Wolff, who presented them to Norman S. Nolan when he graduated from medical school. The item went unsold when bidding didn't reach the reserve.

Jeremy Musson's article "The Houses of Sherlock Holmes: How Arthur Conan Doyle's Architectural Savvy Shaped Literature's Greatest Sleuth" (in the Nov. 28 issue of *Country Life*) has splendid artwork by Matthew Rice, and it's conveniently available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/y2cfkh6g>. You may need to sign up for their (free) newsletter to have access to the article (but you can unsubscribe at any time).

Dec 20 #4 The fall issue of The Magic Door (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) includes articles by Ray Betzner (about Vincent Starrett in Toronto), and Mark Jones (about The Tales of Captain Sharkey) and other reports from and about the Library and the Collection. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Sally Sugarman ("The Three Gables") died on Dec. 9. She was a teacher and a writer, presided over the Baker Street Breakfast Club for more than 30 years, and was the sparking plug for two excellent conferences at Bennington College ("Victorian Sleuth to Modern Hero: The Mysterious Journey of Sherlock Holmes" in 1994, and "Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His Worlds" in 2010). Sally received her Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 2010.

The Japanese animated series "Moriarty the Patriot" (Oct 20 #5) already is streaming on the pay channel Funimation <www.funimation.com> in the U.S. First a manga, and then a stage musical, the series presents Moriarty as an orphan who as a young man "seeks to remove the ills caused by England's strict class system"; there was a detailed discussion of the series (with spoilers at the CBR web-site on Dec. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/y3vqw3vq>.

"Arthur Conan Doyle Lived Here 1881 to 1882" according to a plaque on the building at 15 Lonsdale Terrace in Edinburgh, where an elegant five-bedroom top-floor flat is available for offers over £680,000 (the Edinburgh News reported on Dec. 13) <www.tinyurl.com/y67grhhu>.

Samantha Wolov has reported the web-site of Anglia Dolls Houses, where Tim and Angela Hartnell show images of some of the bespoke dolls houses they have created <www.angliadollshouses.co.uk>. Scroll down at the web-site to see their version of 221B Baker Street. Someone has had some fun owning and decorating all those rooms.

"I've always been captivated by the Cottingley fairy photographs and have harboured a secret ambition to give them a modern-day reworking!" British artist and fashion photographer John Rankin Waddell says, explaining the photograph at auction at Dreweatts in Newbury on Jan. 21, with an estimate of £2,000-£3,000 <www.tinyurl.com/y7fd42c3>. His photograph of Kate Moss in the same auction has a much higher estimate <www.tinyurl.com/ybm4x2yg>.

Mediaweek reported (Dec. 11) that Netflix has announced its most popular programing in 2020 <www.tinyurl.com/y3bqdnln>; "Enola Holmes" was first in drama (film), which suggests that a sequel might be under consideration.

If you're old enough, you may remember people living in trailers. Eventually people started living in mobile homes. And now people live in manufactured homes (the Department of Housing and Urban Development regulates this sort of thing, decreed that after June 15, 1976, factory-built homes would be called manufactured homes. Anyone in Colorado Springs is welcome to buy one from Sherlock Holmes <www.sherlockholmesllc.com>, reported by Karen Murdock; the company has an imaginative graphic at its web-site.

Dec 20 #5 John le Carré died on Dec. 12. He worked for both Britain's Security Service (MI5) and Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) and was a highly regarded author of espionage novels; he mentioned Sherlock Holmes from time to time in his books. Bill Crow, a character in *The Honourable Schoolboy*, was based on Richard Hughes (who founded the Baritsu Chapter of the BSI in Tokyo in 1948); he said the book was "another piece of lampoonery, but if I sue he might tell the truth about me, just as Ian Fleming threatened to do if I moaned too much about Dikko Henderson." In a letter scheduled at RR Auction in Boston on Jan. 13 (reported by Randall Stock) <www.tinyurl.com/ycfumy53>, le Carré noted that while at school he enjoyed "all of Conan Doyle."

"Fandom Conspiracy Theories Are Just as Dangerous as Others" was the headline on Jessica Mason's article published on The Mary Sue web-site on Nov. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/y4zplgfl>, and one of the conspiracy theories she mentions ("Johnlock") is about the relationship ("ship") between Holmes and Watson: "Fandom conspiracy theories pop up every few years, and they are almost always about ships," she wrote, adding that fans who subscribed to the Johnlock Conspiracy (the false idea that the BBC's 'Sherlock' series was filled with secret, intentional clues, from the music to the props and more) believed that there was a secret episode that would "make the ship canon."

There is a wealth of resources on the Internet, one of them the Internet Archive <www.archive.org>, which has much to brag about: "In 2020 we grew from 40 million to 65 million public-media items, including texts, images, videos, and audio files. Right now we're storing over 70 petabytes of data (equivalent to the contents of 186 million filing cabinets) and serve more than 1.5 million visitors daily. The Wayback Machine has grown rapidly, too; right now there are 475 billion web pages archived inside it, and we are capturing another 750 million pages every single day!" Take a look to see how much fun one can have browsing there.

The fall issue of the BSI Trust's newsletter For the Sake of the Trust is available on-line at the Trust's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yd6a5fjk> along with all prior issues. The BSI Trust is the repository of the collective memory of the Baker Street Irregulars, and supports the BSI Archive at the Lilly Library at Indiana University. The web-site provides easy access to material in the Archive.

The Crusader's Curse, by Stuart Douglas (New York: Titan Books, 2020; 284 pp., \$14.95), is the latest in the publisher's long-running series of "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"; in this pastiche Holmes and Watson find themselves marooned a blizzard in a manor house in Yorkshire, faced with missing treasure, murder, and a possible ghost.

"Gland Larceny: When Testicle Thefts Took Chicago by Storm" was the headline on a story in MedPage Today (Dec. 9) <www.tinyurl.com/yycshgb3> about events in the Windy City just before "The Creeping Man" was written. The article also quotes from an editorial in the Journal of the American Medical Association on July 8, 1922, on "Rejuvenation by Testicular Transplantation and Occlusion of the Seminal Ducts".

Dec 20 #6 Barbara Windsor died on Dec. 10. She began her acting career at the age of 13 in pantomime in Britain, and was best known for her roles in the "Carry On" films and the "EastEnders" television series; she played Annie Chapman in "A Study in Terror" (1965). In 2016 she was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) for services to charity and entertainment.

One hears of Conan Doyle everywhere: he came in first in the Riviere D'arc Chase in Pau on Dec. 15, winning €17,610 <www.tinyurl.com/y8lkzd8w>; Conan Doyle is a French eight-year-old gelding (yes, a horse), and was a winner in his only other race this year <www.tinyurl.com/y7kcpwox>.

The Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* offer a "Hound of the Baskervilles" calendar for 2021 decorated with images of Sidney Paget's illustration; it's available (free) as a PDF from Steve Mason <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>.

Otto Penzler has launched a new series at YouTube, showing off recent arrivals at the Mysterious Bookshop, talking about authors, collecting, and collectibles; the 13-minute first episode is about S. S. Van Dine, creator of Philo Vance <www.tinyurl.com/ycep2kpm>. The second is about Sue Grafton (creator of Kinsey Millhone) <www.tinyurl.com/y85aztzm>.

Sherlockians are not the only ones who enjoy using old maps for research, but not everyone who uses old (and new) maps is aware of "trap streets", discussed by Martin Fone in an interesting article at Country Life's website on Dec. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/yyku3ksz>.

Leslie Katz continues to make his Sherlockian scholarship available at the Social Science Research Network; you can read or download all of his (now) 33 articles at <www.tinyurl.com/y34yzzpar>.

Jeff Falkingham's *Murder in Minnesota!* (Mar 18 #2) has been reissued in a new edition (Eden Prairie: Frontier Fantasies, 2020; 287 pp., \$10.99) with more artwork and illustrations, offering reprints of his earlier *Sherlock Holmes and the County Courthouse Caper* (2007) and his *Sherlock Holmes in Search of the Source* (2009); Holmes is in Browns Valley in 1886 to solve a series of murders, and in St. Paul in 1896 to solve another mystery (both stories involve quite a bit of local history); the author's web-site is at <www.cccaper.com>.

Jennie Paton has noted video of an attractive Sherlockian dog created by Emma Krikunova <www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Pk-o10_Sfs>; there's more information about it at her web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yxud8pgs>. Alas, it is one of kind, and already sold.

Vicki Delany's *A Curious Incident* (New York: Crooked Lane, 2021; 293 pp., \$26.99) is the fifth in her series "Sherlock Holmes Bookshop" mysteries, starring Gemma Doyle (proprietor of the bookshop) in an adventure that begins with a hunt for a missing cat and ends with a solution to a murder; Gemma insists to all and sundry that she's not a consulting detective, but no one, quite correctly, believes her. The author's web-site has information on all of her books <www.vickidelany.com>.

Dec 20 #7 "Cate Blanchett Alters Plans to Sussex Home Due to Bat Colony," according to the headline on a story in the Brighton Argus <www.tinyurl.com/y7r87xsb> (Dec. 16). Blanchett bought Highwell House in Crowborough some years ago (Jan 16 #4 and Jul 18 #2) and was planning to demolish a cottage and shed on the grounds, but recently found roosts of common pipistrelle bats and brown long-eared bats, both protected species, and a license from Natural England will be needed before work can proceed. Press reports continue to state that Tom Baker and Conan Doyle lived in the house; while it's true that Tom Baker did, Sir Arthur lived nearby at Windlesham.

Simon Bailey's *Sherlock Holmes: Color in Classics* (San Diego: Canterbury Classics, 2016; 144 pp., \$14.99) is an imaginative and attractive approach to some of the Sherlock Holmes stories; it's one of a series that includes *Alice in Wonderland* and *Grimms' Fairy Tales*.

"In pop culture, at least, solving mysteries has always led investigators to sail close to the wind," according to an article published on-line at Lexology on Dec. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/ybn4tyrp>. "A friend and fellow investigator pointed out recently that in one outing Sherlock Holmes stages an accident, lies to witness, is outed as a cocaine addict, daubs himself in fake blood, and tries to steal blackmail material. Modern consulting detectives are more scrupulous, if less likely to be serialized."

Forecast, Dan Stashower notes, from DC Comics in February: *DC's Greatest Detective Stories Ever Told* (\$19.99). Sherlock Holmes and Batman are on the cover, and reprints of "key adventures" include "The Doomsday Book" from Detective Comics #572 (1987).

Reported: a reprint of Neil Gaiman's short-story pastiche "A Study in Emerald" (2003) in *The Neil Gaiman Reader: Selected Fiction* (William Morrow, \$40.00); a collection of 47 short stories and excerpts from 5 novels.

The Martian Menace, by Eric Brown (New York: Titan Books, 2020; 345 pp., \$9.95), another title in the "Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," is a science-fiction pastiche; the Martians have returned, almost twenty years after their first (and unsuccessful) invasion, and sharing their advanced technology and bringing prosperity, but (of course) there are problems in store, and a major conflict; Holmes and Watson travel to Mars, and back, and help restore peace to Earth.

Reported: Sara Paretsky's *Love & Other Crimes* (New York: William Morrow, 2020; 448 pp., \$17.99) is a collection that includes her Sherlock Holmes/Miss Butterworth pastiche "The Curious Affair of the Italian Art Dealer" (reprinted from the 2014 anthology *In the Company of Sherlock Holmes*).

The Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, administered by the Beacon Society on behalf of the Watsonians, now has 120 Sherlockians who have completed all three of its examinations, and this year has issued a Re-Certification Exam for those who would like to continue their pursuit of Canonical Scholarship. The first three Examinations still are available; Steve Mason <mason.stev8080@gmail.com> will be happy to send more information.

Dec 20 #8 Vincent Starrett's *The Great Hotel Murder* (New York: Penzler Publishers, 2020; 210 pp., \$15.95) isn't Sherlockian (well, a character does say "Cross my heart, my dear Holmes!"), but it's a wonderful reminder of what mystery novels were like in the 1930s (and it has a fine introduction by Lyndsay Faye).



The Royal Mail will issue a set of 10 stamps on Jan. 14 celebrating the 70th anniversary of Great Britain's National Parks; four Parks, including Dartmoor, were created in 1951. The stamps also

include the New Forest (2005) and the South Downs (2010), all mentioned in the Canon (each of them in more than one case, for those who want to attempt to list them all).

Mark Alberstat's "2021 Sherlockian Calendar" offers artwork from the Canon (mostly by Sidney Paget) and information from the Baring-Gould chronology, and can be downloaded (without charge) at www.tinyurl.com/ya9667zx.

Orlando Pearson's *The Redacted Sherlock Holmes, Volume V* (London: MX Publishing, 2018, 138 pp., \$14.95) is another in his series of collections of pastiches, a mix of "what came after" extensions of Canonical cases, other cases that bring Holmes and Watson forward to the 1930s and 1940s, and some religious meditations. MX Publishing's books are available at a discount at www.sherlockholmesbooks.com.

Mr. and Mrs. William Gillette celebrated the Christmas holidays at their home in Connecticut; you can see them at www.tinyurl.com/y98y7klm.

The Netflix eight-episode series "The Irregulars" (Jan 19 #4) is now described by the Internet Movie Data Base as in production, with broadcast expected in 2021; it has been vaguely described as featuring the Canonical Street urchins working for Dr. Watson to save London from supernatural elements. The cast includes Henry Lloyd-Hughes as Holmes and Royce Pierreson as Watson, but since they're not listed in the cast at the IMDB, they may not be seen in many if not most episodes.

And there's some theatrical news: Bart Lovins' "The Novel Stage Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles" has been scheduled at the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center in Elizabethtown, Ky., on Jan. 23-31 www.thepac.net; it will then be streamed on demand

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed and streamed at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre in Arlington Heights, Ill., on Jan 29-31, and streamed on-demand, Feb. 1-14 www.metropolisart.com; it's also scheduled at the Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., Mar. 12-21 www.stagecraftersfwb.com.

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