

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 166th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 15 to 19; the (very) long weekend was filled with events, both formal and informal, and detailed reports on many if not most of them will be available soon at the web-site of The Baker Street Irregulars <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>. But in the meantime, here are few brief paragraphs to tide you over:

The BSI's Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Theodora Goss, an award-winning author of poetry, short stories, and novels in the fantasy genre (Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are characters in three novels about the Athena Club). On Friday the Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Emily Miranker proposed the traditional preprandial first toast to her mother, Cathy Miranker, as *The Woman*.

The annual dinner's agenda included the usual toasts, rituals, and papers, and Mike Whelan (the "Wiggins" of the BSI) presented Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) to Mary Alcaro ("Ivy Douglas"), Frank Cho ("The Duke of Balmoral"), Walt Colby ("Neil Gibson"), Carlina de la Cova ("The *Anthropological Journal*"), Nancy Holder ("Beryl Garcia"), Freda Howlett ("The British Government"), Ken Ludwig ("Jack Stapleton"), David Richards ("Colonel Warburton's Madness"), and Jim Webb ("The Curious Incident of Sherlock Holmes in Japan"). And Andy Fusco received the prestigious Two-Shilling Award.

Mike Whelan ended the evening by handing over the gavel (and yes, there is a gavel) to Mike Kean, who as the new "Wiggins" then appointed Mike Whelan to the office of "Wiggins Emeritus". Mike Whelan has been head of the BSI for 23 years, and Mike Kean is only the sixth person to lead the BSI since it was founded by Christopher Morley in 1934.

Barbara Herbert reports that some of Paul's film posters and lobby cards will be available at Heritage Auctions on Mar. 21, including a poster and two lobby cards for Clive Brook's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929) and a poster for Basil Rathbone's "The Scarlet Claw" (1944). See them all at <www.tinyurl.com/r9jmyez>.

The next BSI annual dinner will be on Jan. 8, and the next Sherlock Holmes Society of London annual dinner presumably will be on Jan. 16.

Registration is not yet open for the next Baker Street Irregulars' conference on "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at the Bear Mountain Inn near West Point, N.Y., on July 17-19, 2020, but the best way to learn when registration does open is to sign up for free news from the BSI by e-mail at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email>.

There are web-sites that monitor copyright's public domain. "The Sussex Vampire" and Conan Doyle's *Memories and Adventures*, which were published in *The Strand Magazine* in 1924, and Buster Keaton's film "Sherlock, Jr." (1924) are now in the public domain, as are "The Three Garridebs" and "The Illustrious Client" (published in *Collier's* in 1924).

Jan 20 #2 VITA Digital Productions <www.myvitadvds.com> offers a series of Virtual Walks, Virtual Jogs, Virtual Bike Rides, and Virtual Cruises designed for use while exercising on treadmills, Nordic Tracks, indoor bikes, and other exercise equipment, and one of them is 60-minute *Sherlock Holmes Virtual Walk* (\$14.99 DVD/\$6.99 download) that takes you on a tour of sixteen filming locations used in the BBC's "Sherlock" series. There's no voice-over, but there's a "Footsteps" feature that pays closer attention to some of the filming locations. You can sample the *Sherlock* DVD at <www.sherlockwalk.com>.

It's not Sherlockian (so far) but: Willy Werby notes the existence of a personal computer ring that will play music, check your e-mail, give you alerts, and allow you to browse or chat with others. Who said that the future lies ahead? Seems to be here already.



When in Austria: you can pay a visit to Conan Doyle Gasse [Alley] in Feldkirch, where he studied at the Stella Matutina in 1875 (and first became an author. He edited and published the hand-written *Feldkirchian Gazette* (copies of two issues survive, owned by the British Library), and Marcus Geisser reports that last year the Deutsche Sherlock Holmes Gesellschaft joined the town in celebrating Conan Doyle's 160th birthday, unveiling a street sign. There's a report (with video) of the ceremony available online at <www.tinyurl.com/r5jmf8>; it's all in German, but Google Translate will help you read the report.

The Journal of Popular Culture's web-site has a paywall, so you might want to see if your local library has a subscription: Mattias Boström reports that the Dec. 2019 issue includes Mary Katherine Evan's interesting article "'The Name Is Sherlock Holmes, and the Address Is 221B Baker Street': Virtual Reality, Fan Communities, and Tourism".

Robert E. Thomalen ("The Three Garridebs") died on Dec. 5. He was an energetic member of the Three Garridebs of Westchester County, and beginning in 1982 he presided over many "Autumn in Baker Street" (and one "Springtime in Baker Street") conferences, which he explained combined "scholarship with friendship, emotion with reason, and explication with participation"). In 1987 Bob was appointed "Cartwright" of the Baker Street Irregulars and he was awarded the BSI's Queen Victoria Medal when he retired in 1996; he received his Investiture in 1983, and the Two-Shilling Award in 1988. He was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog in 2007; you can listen to both parts of the interview at <www.tinyurl.com/v5lwpuu> and <www.tinyurl.com/vbjkf2c>. You can also read some nice tributes to Bob, sent by friends to Scott Monty's blog, at <www.tinyurl.com/rq9enud>.

The Royal Mail has announced that a new set of stamps honoring "Sherlock" will be issued on Aug. 18. No details available at the moment.

I've reported before (Feb 18 #2) on APOPO <www.apopo.org>, an organization that trains giant African pouched rats to detect unexploded landmines in countries in Africa and Asia (the rats don't weigh enough to set off the mines, which can then be disarmed); the rats can also be trained to detect tuberculosis in mucous samples, and now they are in pursuit of smugglers who traffic in endangered species. Needless to say, APOPO welcomes donations from anyone who wants to adopt a giant rat.

Jan 20 #3 "Cats" (Universal's film version of the 1981 Andrew Lloyd Webber musical that was adapted from T. S. Eliot's book *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*) has been in the works at least since 1990, and there's much to enjoy: Idris Elba is suitably malevolent as Macavity, and Ian McKellen is excellent as Gus the Theatre Cat (although the film, like the musical, omits the Canonical allusion in Eliot's poem). Savaged by the critics, the film's likely gone from theaters by the time you read this, but it's well worth watching on television or a DVD.

Now you can snuggle up with Holmes and Watson: Sidney Paget artwork is available in full color on a pillow case offered at CafePress <www.tinyurl.com/ql5d8u7>.



There's also a full "The Game Is Afoot" Langshan sheet set available from Roostery <www.tinyurl.com/wpayd3q> for sizes twin to king.

Lee Mendelson died on Dec. 25. He was a television producer, and in 1965 he persuaded Charles Schulz to write the animated special "A Charlie Brown Christmas", and went on to produce a long series of specials that included "It's a Mystery, Charlie Brown" (1974), in which Woodstock's nest mysteriously disappears and Snoopy, in Sherlockian costume, plays detective in order to find it.

Gary Lovisi has been in business as Gryphon Books <www.gryphonbooks.com> for many years, offering a wide variety of Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian material, and he has an interesting YouTube channel where you can view his visit to the Merchants Room (also known as Covent Garden West) during the birthday festivities <www.tinyurl.com/r7sd2bm> and an interview with collector and dealer Bob Hess <www.tinyurl.com/sz38bfr>.

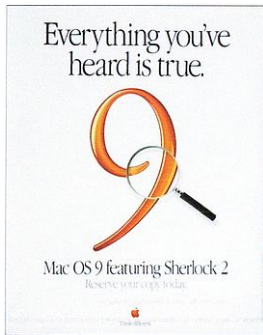
The third issue of *The Newspapers* (it's an "Irregular Journal of Sherlockiana" edited by Greg Ruby for the Sherlockians of Baltimore) has been published, with 183 pp. of articles, toasts, and much more, many by members of the SOBs (\$23.00 postpaid). The focus is on material from Baltimore's newspapers, and about Baltimore, but Greg has cast his net widely, and includes William A. Walsh's report on "Harrison Schmitt: Bringing Holmes to the Moon" and Ira Brad Matetsky's article about "Rex Stout at the BSI Dinners". Available at <www.tinyurl.com/y4fe2zv> and from Greg D. Ruby, 2400 Boston Street #102, Baltimore, MD 21224.

Greg also has published a detailed and colorful exploration of *The Numismatic Edgar Allan Poe* (160 pp., \$50.00 cloth/\$25.00 paper postpaid), discussing Conan Doyle's admiration for Poe in the introduction, reprinting Arthur S. Chapman's 1905 pastiche "The Unmasking of Sherlock Holmes", and including a nicely Sherlockian touch in Jeff Decker's back-cover artwork <www.tinyurl.com/rxswwm7>.

Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, which was briefly on hiatus and now is open at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, S.C., through Apr. 19 <www.scmuseum.org>. The exhibition was created by the Exhibits Development Group, and there's an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9b7yq83> where the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might want to put it on display. And you can plan ahead: the exhibition's due at the Minnesota Historical Center in St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 1, 2021, through Mar. 21, 2022.

Jan 20 #4 It's getting more and more difficult to find places where one can smoke cigars and cigarettes, but there still are cigar and cigarette cards being made (as trading cards): the Acheron Mint is offering a set of seventeen "Sherlock Holmes Moriarty Conan Doyle Irene Adler Lost World" trading cards at eBay (\$14.95); sixteen characters cards plus one card randomly selected from nine other cards. You can see them all at <www.tinyurl.com/txfl3qg>.

Alexander Orlov has reported his discovery at the Polish web-site Culture a fascinating article by Igor Belov that translates as "Elementary Watson: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Poland" <www.tinyurl.com/wj3hpom>; he offers a details discussion of Poland in the Canon and of Polish Sherlockiana. It's all in Russian, but Google Translate will be of assistance.



"Everything you've heard is true" was the slogan used to advertise Sherlock 2 for Apple's Mac OS 9 operating system. Named in honor of Sherlock Holmes, Sherlock was a file and web search tool that was officially retired and removed from Mac's operating systems when OS X 10.5 was released in 2007. But you can still buy the poster from The Missing Bite <www.tinyurl.com/sxor3lf> for \$29.95. And there's more to the story: according to Wikipedia, advocates of Watson, made by Karelia Software, claimed that Apple copied their product without permission, compensation, or attribution in producing Sherlock 3. The phenomenon of Apple releasing a feature that supplants or obviates third-party software is so well known that being "Sherlocked" has become an accepted term used within the Mac and IOS developer community.

For the true fans of the BBC's "Sherlock" series: SamsXStitch offers colorful 18-count cross-stitch patterns showing Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes and Martin Freeman as Dr. Watson (\$3.99 each) at their shop at Etsy <www.etsy.com/shop/SamsXStitch>.

Vicki Delany's *There's a Murder Afoot* (New York: Crooked Lane, 2020; 329 pp., \$26.99) is the fifth in her series of "Sherlock Holmes Bookshop" mysteries that star Gemma Doyle (proprietor of the Sherlock Holmes bookshop on Cape Cod) and her friend Jayne Wilson (who manages the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room). The pastiche brings Gemma and Jane and their friends to London for a Sherlock Holmes conference, where they encounter a murder and other goings-on. The author has more than one series going, and her web-site's at <www.vickidelany.com>.

Terry Jones died on Jan. 21. He was a charter member of the Monty Python comedy team, and he had a long career as an actor and director, and as an author, and once said that his "big hero" was Buster Keaton, "because he made comedy look beautiful."

There were many new books available in the Merchants Room on Saturday during the birthday festivities, but (for various reasons) there hasn't been sufficient time to read and review them. Three new titles from the Baker Street Irregulars Press are listed at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>; you can click on [bsi books]. The Wessex Press has *The Annotated White Company* and the fifth volume of *Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers*; they're at <www.wessexpress.com>. Stay tuned.

Jan 20 #5 Ralph Earle II ("Joyce Cummings") died on Jan. 13. He practiced law in Philadelphia and was a member of the Sons of the Copper Beeches, and began a new career in government in 1968, when he was appointed a Pentagon aide for international security affairs; he went on to serve President Carter as chief negotiator for the second round of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, with the rank of ambassador. He briefly led the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, returning as its deputy director in 1994, and retired in 1999. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1968.



Jennie Paton has spotted a Sherlock Holmes perfume (the fragrance features tobacco, smoke, leather, woody notes, moss, and citrus) created by Ali Habibi and available in Tehran <www.ayliperfumes.com/product/sherlock-holmes> (possibly only in Iran)

"221b Baker Street: The Board Game Classic" (the most recent version of the board game designed by Jim Moriarty and first issued by Antler Productions in 1975) now has a Deluxe Edition, available from the John N. Hansen Company, offering 200 cases (including 20 new ones); the company boasts that more than 3 million copies have been sold worldwide. It's advertised for \$38.49 (at Target), and at higher prices elsewhere, and it may be the oldest Sherlockian board game still in production.

Sherlockians are indebted to Twentieth Century-Fox, the movie studio that gave us Basil Rathbone's landmark "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 1939, and it's a bit sad to learn there will be no more films from the studio, at least under that name; it was bought last year by the Walt Disney Studios, and according to Variety (Jan. 17), "the mouse has officially killed the fox." The new name will be 20th Century Studios for the company (Variety quoted "an insider" as saying, "I think the Fox name means Murdoch, and that is toxic.")

Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" is one of the on-line features of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine; it appears monthly, and his January blog at <www.tinyurl.com/yxx8upzs> is the first of a two-part essay "Finding Sherlock" (the second part will appear in February); the EQMM web-site is well worth exploring.

"Dracula" (the three-episode television series created by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat) premiered on BBC One on Jan. 1, and on Netflix on Jan. 4, and fans in Britain were quick to observe a nod to "Sherlock" in the first episode, when Sister Agatha tells Jonathan Harker that "I have a detective acquaintance in London." According to a report in Radio Times (Jan. 1), after a screening of the episode, Moffat said that "I thought no one would get that," and Gatiss joked, "Really, it's Sexton Blake. We're just messing with you." Radio Times also noted <www.tinyurl.com/78sdrbp> that they had explained previously how their "Dracula" was inspired by their work on "Sherlock".

If you're old enough to remember "Pac Man" you're surely aware that computer games today are not as primitive as they once were. "Sherlock Holmes Game Evolution 1984-2019" is an interesting 14-minute video noted by Jennie Paton that shows just how much more realistic computer games are now <www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nWRDAhEgQU>.

Jan 20 #6 Jim Lehrer died on Jan. 23. A lifelong journalist, first on newspapers and then on public television, he covered the Watergate hearings, presided over a dozen presidential debates, and helped to create a long-running one-hour news broadcast. In Mar. 1990 (when he was associate editor of the "MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour") he wrote an instructive one-page essay for the Smithsonian magazine on the pleasures of collecting (describing himself as a world-class collector of bus depot signs and other memorabilia), and he offered a suggestion that many Sherlockians will agree with: collectors are not odd, he said, "we are merely possessed with a need to collect certain things that some people might consider odd."

Peter Melonas is a creative designer and illustrator who has been offering Sherlockiana at least since the 1980s; you can see his latest merchandise at <www.society6.com/fancifullart>.

Hugh Ashton's *Some Cases of Mr. Sherlock Holmes Occurring in the Year 1894* (Lichfeld: j-views. 2018; 161 pp., \$8.99) offers six pastiches revealing what happened in some of the unrecorded cases; it's the latest in a long list of collections of his pastiches <www.hughashtonbooks.com>.

James Gunn's appreciative and amusing tribute to "Asimov at 100" appeared in the Jan. 3 issue of Science <www.tinyurl.com/smcqjap>, mentioning Isaac Asimov's membership in the Baker Street Irregulars.

Further to the item (Dec 19 #5) about the Red-Headed League Public House in Lebanon (Pennsylvania), and owner Michael Kapp's belief that the name of the restaurant pays tribute to the story that was inspired by a notorious murder committed by the Blue-Eyed Six in Lebanon in 1878, Gary Ludwig's 36-page pamphlet *The Blue Eyed Six: A Historical Narrative* (Lebanon: Hodge Podge Press, 2004; \$13.95) offers a detailed account of the gang's crime and punishment. There's more about the book, and the author, at the web-site <www.hodgepodgeusa.com>.

When in Chile: Willis Frick reports the Café Sherlock in Puerto Montt; no web-site, but they do have a page at Facebook [sherlock puerto montt].

"The Game Is Never Over" is convention planned to celebrate "10 years of Sherlock" (that's the BBC series) scheduled for Nov. 19-22 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Phoenixville, Pa. <www.thegameisneverover.com>.

2020 will be a "Year of Mystery" in Bennington, Vt., planned by two local libraries and the Baker Street Breakfast Club, and of course the schedule includes Sherlockian events. You can see a video in which Sally Sugarman talks about the Sherlockian aspects at <www.vimeo.com/38715504>.

Steve Mason has been creating sets of puzzles (crossword, criss cross, and word search) for each of the stories, and is now making them available at the web-site of the Beacon Society <www.beaconsociety.com>; click on [the crossword puzzles of sherlock holmes]. They will be of interest to young readers, the target audience of the society, and perhaps to their elders.

Steve also posts a continuing series of amusing "Baker Street Elementary" comic strips (co-authored with his son Rusty and Joe Fay) at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star*. Annual compilations since 2005, and three comic books, can be read (and downloaded) at the society's web-site <www.dfw-sherlock.org>; click on [ephemera--general stuff].

Jan 20 #7 It was H. R. F. Keating, in *Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His World* (1979), who explained that the "modern Belgian masters" whose pictures entirely absorbed Sherlock Holmes (noted in "The Hound of the Baskervilles") were the members of the XX Group. James Ensor was one of them, and Christie's offers an interesting (and colorfully illustrated) guide to Ensor and his work online at <www.tinyurl.com/s3s54dt>.

The Literary Gift Company <www.theliterarygiftcompany.com> offers attractive Hound of the Baskervilles bracelets, and Holmes & Watson earrings and cufflinks, hand-crafted from "rescued" copies of the Canon.

Paul Reffell died on Jan. 3. He was member of the Petaluma Radio Players for many years, and was excellent as Dr. Watson in five episodes of Vince Staddon's amusing "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes"; you can hear him as Watson at <www.petalumaradioplayers.com>; click on podcast].

Max Allan Collins' *The History of Mystery* (Collectors Press, 2001) offers a 196-page colorful tour of detective stories and film noir, as shown in cover art for pulp magazines, books, DVD jackets, and film posters; Sherlock Holmes is included early on, but the emphasis is on later work whose artwork featured comely ladies undressed or in peril, or both. It's out of print, but readily available at eBay and elsewhere.

Bradley Harper's *Queen's Gambit* (Jersey City: Seventh Street Books, 2019; 282 pp., \$15.95) is the second in his series about Margaret Harkness, who is again involved with Arthur Conan Doyle and Joseph Bella and is working to foil a plot against Queen Victoria; as with *A Knife in the Fog* (Oct 18 #5), the story's nicely told, and the characters well drawn. The author's colorful Fantastic Fiction page is at <www.fantasticfiction.com>.

Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> kindly offers (via e-mail) his new edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses are Investitured Irregulars).

Karen Murdock notes a report in Scotland on Sunday (Jan. 25) that Dr. Joseph Bell's former Georgian townhouse at 22 St. Andrew Square in Edinburgh has just opened as a hotel; Conan Doyle, while a medical student, worked as a clerk for Bell, and paid tribute to him as an inspiration for Sherlock Holmes. The paper's reviewer gave high marks to the hotel's restaurant/bistro, and there's more information at the Malmaison Hotel's website at <www.malmaison.com/locations/edinburgh-city>.

The Holmes Hotel London (formerly the Sherlock Holmes Hotel) has been reviewed on-line by the Handbook <www.tinyurl.com/uh4zwb>; the review includes a challenge from the hotel: solve "the barber shop mystery."

Further to the report (Oct 19 #2) about the imaginative life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká <www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2> of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes in the Garden of Heroes and Villains created by the late Felix Dennis in Dorsington, Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, the garden will be open to the public the evening of June 25; details at <www.tinyurl.com/sarp8pj>.

Jan 20 #8 In her latest "News & Nonsense" newsletter, Laurie R. King describes the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars as "a room full of tux-clad men and sequin-bedecked women, raising their glasses and singing silly-ditties" such as "We Never Mention Aunt Clara", and provides a link to White Ghost Shivers singing the song at the Saxon Pub in Austin, Texas, on Apr. 21, 2012 <www.tinyurl.com/s3fpod2>. According to Wikipedia, White Ghost Shivers is an "eclectic American band" that was declared to be "Best None of the Above" at the Austin Music Awards in 2005 and 2007.

Laurie also notes that Mrs. Hudson's given name is Clara (as revealed in an earlier "Mary Russell" novel, adding that "of course, we all know how much trouble she got into, back in her youth." A search for the title of the song at YouTube will bring up some interesting renditions in addition to the White Ghost Shivers recording.

Donald Tosh died on Dec. 3. He had a long career with the BBC, helping to develop their series "Coronation Street" and working as a story editor on "Doctor Who"; he also dramatized "Shoscombe Old Place" (1968) for the series that starred Peter Cushing.

Spotted by Dan Stashower: Nigel J. Hayler's imaginative *Read+Doodle Book 1* (Lancaster: Pocket Doodle Reads, 2018; 52 pp., \$12.80); "A Case of Identity" is one of four stories in the book, all with text, doodling hints, and pages to color <www.doodlereads.com>.

Jennie Paton spotted an attractive and imaginative teaser for a new French graphic novel "Dans la tête de Sherlock Holmes" <www.vimeo.com/387129370>; the first of two volumes will be published in May, and you can order from the Ankama Shop <www.ankama-shop.com>.

And some theater news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is being produced at the Strauss Theatre Center in Monroe, La., through Feb. 8 <www.strausstc.com>. It's also due at the Longwood University Theatre in Farmville, Va., Apr. 15-19 <www.tinyurl.com/wjhkym7>.

Jules Tasca's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" is on at the Mesquite Community Theatre in Mesquite, Nev., through Feb. 15 <www.mctnv.com>.

Tom Hitchcock's "Sherlock Holmes and the Seven Wooden Figurines" will be performed at the Manifest Theatre in Manningtree, Essex, Feb. 27-29; website's at <www.manifesttheatre.co.uk>.

"Sherlock Holmes the Musical" will be performed by the Spring-Time Experimental Theatre (in Cantonese) at the Tuen Mun Town Hall in Hong Kong, Mar. 27-28 <www.springtime.com.hk>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at Steeltown Coffee & Tea in Pittsburg, Calif., Aug. 14-23 <www.pittsburgcalifornia.com>.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401 (301-229-5669) <blau7103@comcast.net>

Last year's Baker Street Irregulars Press and the BSI Trust Book Fair was a rousing success; this year's event will be expanded to include an Open House at Denny Dobry's home in Reading, Pa., where you will be able to see his delightful recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street. Mark your calendar for May 17, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, when you'll be able to do more than just see the sitting-room: visitors will be welcome to enter the room for hands-on inspection of its contents; the book fair will offer thousands of books and other Sherlockiana, at rock-bottom prices. Lunch will be available, and Denny's home is at 5003 Stony Run Drive in Reading (100 miles from Manhattan, 80 miles from Baltimore, and 40 miles from Philadelphia, and he suggests that you start planning your car pool). Additional information is available from Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>. There's a nice image of Denny's sitting-room at <www.tinyurl.com/rkojoza>.

The Worst Man in London (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2019; 186 pp., \$39.95), edited by Daniel Stashower and Constantine Rossakis, is the latest volume in the BSI's manuscript series, and it's a grand way to get as close as one can to the writing of "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton"; there's a facsimile and a transcript of the manuscript, and scholarly essays by Randall Stock (on the manuscript and its history), Carla Coupe (on the illustrators of the story), Russell Merritt (on television adaptation), Jonathan McCafferty (on the villainous Charles Augustus Howell), and many others. It's recommended, and available from the publisher at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>.

And there's more: the latest in the professional series is *Education Never Ends: Educators, Education, and the Sherlockian Canon* (2019; 210 pp., \$39.95), edited by Marino C. Alvarez and Timothy S. Greer, with an excellent and wide-ranging assortment of scholarly articles.

Also from the BSI: *Upon the Turf: Horse Racing and the Sherlockian Canon*, edited by Candace J. Lewis, Ira Brad Matetsky, and Roger Downey (2019; 203 pp., \$25.95), discusses horses, horse racing, gambling, and related topics such as horses named from Conan Doyle's stories. By nice coincidence, the current audio interview at Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog is devoted to the book <www.tinyurl.com/rw3n8yg>

"A Mountaineer Named Sherlock" is the title of the inaugural West Virginia University Symposium on Sherlock Holmes, on Mar. 20-21 Morgantown, W.Va.; the registration deadline is Mar. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/rnootvg>.

You can "tour the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes at the South Carolina State Museum" in Columbia, S.C., in a colorful video spotted by Jennie Paton at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvcIkRWPXT4>; the exhibition runs through Apr. 19 <www.scmuseum.org> (Jan 20 #3).

Bob Loomis' *Houdini's Final Incredible Secret* (CreateSpace, 2016; 323 pp., \$13.00) is subtitled "how Houdini mystified Sherlock Holmes creator," and the author has devoted an entire book to his research on the "slate test" that Houdini performed for Conan Doyle when he visited Houdini's home in New York in the 1920s; you can decide for yourself whether Loomis actually has solved the mystery.

Feb 20 #2 Ashley D. Polasek's imaginative *Being Sherlock: A Sherlockian's Stroll Through the Sherlock Holmes Stories* (Guilford: Lyons Press, 2019; 430 pp., \$26.95), offers ten short stories and "The Hound of the Baskervilles", each with entertaining and insightful introductions that explain her choices and provide insights for readers old and new; it is a grand and up-to-date approach to the Canon.

Freda Howlett ("The British Government") died on Feb. 15, aged 101. She was the last of the founders of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, was one of its most enthusiastic members, and was its president from 2003 to 2009. Freda received her Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 2020.



Just the thing for Sherlockian pipe-smokers (if there are any left in this "thanks for not smoking" era): the "Vape Pipe Battery Sherlock Style" (if looks just like a regular pipe "so you can smoke discreetly without anyone being the wiser!") advertised by This Is Why I'm Broke for (\$19.99) <www.tinyurl.com/vptaegh>.

Conan Doyle called the novel "the best thing I have ever done," and it has never been out of print since it was published in 1891. Now you can read *The Annotated White Company* and see for yourself how good he was at writing historical novels; it's annotated and introduced by Doug Elliott and Roy Pilot, with a foreword by Nicholas Meyer (who, like John Ford, wanted to make a film based on the novel), and black-and-white illustrations by George Willis Bardwell (from the second American edition) and color illustrations by N. C. Wyeth (from a later American edition). There also are 14 appendices that offer more information about the author, his notebooks and manuscript, and life in the 14th century; it's nicely done indeed, and recommended (Indianapolis: Wessex Press, 2020, 410 pp., \$48.95). The publisher's web-site is at <www.wessexpress.com>.

Also from the Wessex Press: *The Sherlock Holmes Review: Anthology Volume One 1986-1987* (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2020; 131 pp., \$27.95) is a welcome reprint of Steven T. Doyle's journal, published at a time when almost anything Sherlockian had a limited circulation; if you weren't a subscriber, here's an opportunity to read contributions from Jeremy Brett and Peter Cushing, and Sherlockians who included Stafford Davis, Jack Tracy, Al Rodin, Jack Key, Don Yates, Roger Johnson, and of course Steve himself.

And there's *Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers, Volume 5, July-September 1894*, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström, Mark Alberstat, and Leah Guinn (2020; 204 pp., \$36.95); the first volume in the series from Gasogene Books covered 1881-1892, the next three volumes covered six months each, and now it's three months, which show just how much more reporting there was in the press about his books, travel plans, and play "A Story of Waterloo".

Finally, *The Milvertonians of Hampstead: Forgotten Writings from the Worst Men in London*, introduced, collated, and edited by Nicholas Utechin (2020; 130 pp., \$18.95), is the story of the first scion society of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and it's a grand story indeed, painstakingly researched delightfully told, and reprinting for the first time the excruciatingly rare publications of the society.

Feb 20 #3 Andrew Lycett's *Conan Doyle's Wide World: Sherlock Holmes and Beyond* (London: Tauris Parke, 2020; 327 pp., £20.00) is a delightful presentation of Conan Doyle's expertise as a travel writer; Lycett, author of an impressive biography of Conan Doyle (Sep 07 #6), offers an excellent selection from his fiction (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian), articles, and essays, all nicely showing how well Conan Doyle was able to give his readers a proper sense of place. An American edition is due in April.

Mystery writer Duffy Brown may well own the world's largest Sherlockian teddy bear: her "Sherlock" is seven feet tall and she wrote about him in February in an "At the Scene" blog of *Mystery Scene* magazine <www.tinyurl.com/rlnsk3>.



Kirk Douglas died on Feb. 5. He began his acting career on Broadway in 1941 and soon moved to films, appearing in more than 80 movies, with a starring role in "Spartacus" (1960). He received the American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1991, and an honorary Oscar in 1996. Like many famous American actors, Douglas appeared in television commercials that were seen only outside the United States; you can see him in Sherlockian costume, advertising Maxim coffee in Japan, at Greg Ruby's "Fourth Garrideb" web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/vbkd7sx>.

The Conan Doyle Review, due in the spring of 2021, is described as "an interdisciplinary journal for scholarship on the life, works, creative afterlives, and cultural legacies of Arthur Conan Doyle," and it will be edited by Ashley D. Polasek, Kate Bromley, and Mary M. Alcaro; a Special Issue 1, available during the birthday festivities, offered 16 pages devoted to Ken Ludwig and his Sherlockian plays (including his upcoming "Moriarty"), and the Review itself should be interesting indeed.

Sorry about that: Donald Tosh, who died on Dec. 3 (Jan 20 #8) helped develop the television series "Coronation Street" for Granada; it was, and still is, broadcast by ITV. The series debuted in 1960, and will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

Registration is now open for the seventh "Holmes, Doyle, & Friends" gathering on Mar. 27-28 in Englewood, Ohio; details are available at the web-site of the Agra Treasurers <www.agratreasurers.net>.

Orson Bean died on Feb. 7. He had a long career as a magician, stand-up comedian, and actor, on stage, screen, and television (where he became a fixture on game shows); he played Colonel Sebastian Moran/Sir Charles/Dr. Grimsby Roylott/Professor Moriarty in Susan L. Seder's play "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" in Lancaster, Pa., in 1988.

A letter written by Conan Doyle in 1901 was found under the floorboards in one of the rooms in the Sherlock Art Hotel in Riga, Latvia, according to a story reported by Karen Murdock in the Daily Mail (Feb. 8). The boutique hotel's web-site tells more at <www.sherlock.lv/en/our-legendeng>, but you need not rush to make a reservation: Alexander Orlov queried the hotel and was told that there is no letter, and that the story was just an invention intended to generate publicity.

Feb 20 #4 *A Plum Assignment: Discourses on P. G. Wodehouse and His World* (Bensonberg: Winch and Clutterbuck, 2018; 183 pp., \$16.95), by Curtis Armstrong and Elliott Milstein, is a collection of their papers and toasts presented at Wodehouse conventions and published in Wodehouse journals, edited by Ashley D. Polasek; there are occasional allusions to Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes, and the book provides an interesting look at a Wodehousean world that can be as strange as that of Sherlockians. If you would like to see what all the fuss is about, Denny Dobry has a sales-list of Wodehouse's books that are being sold at quite reasonable prices by way of benefiting the Baker Street Irregulars Trust <dendobry@ptd.net>.

Reported: *Measure of Malice: Scientific Detection Stories*, edited by Martin Edwards (Naperville, Poisoned Pen Press, 2018; 336 pp., \$14.99) is the latest in the long-running series of "British Library Crime Classics" and it includes "The Boscombe Valley Mystery".

Randall Stock has noted an article in *Fine Books & Collections* (Feb. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/tb2cubf> about an exhibition at the Old Bodleian Library in Oxford through Mar. 15: "From Studio to Selfie" displays photographs of authors, including one of Conan Doyle disguised as Professor Challenger. The photograph (which was the frontispiece in the 1912 first edition of *The Lost World*) is in a case displaying "Masks, disguises, and riddles" (in a bound volume of *The Strand Magazine*), which you can see at <www.tinyurl.com/uakqcrh> (at the right, in the sixth image).



AbeBooks is far more than a web-site used by book dealers and collectors: there's also a podcast called "Behind the Bookshelves"; on Feb. 20 there was a 22-minute interview ("Sherlockians") with Richard Davies interviewing Denny Dobry about the Beacon Society and the worlds of Sherlock Holmes and the Sherlockians <www.tinyurl.com/u6knws3>.

Noel Murphy's interesting column in the *Geelong Advertiser* on Feb. 10 mentioned local architect/lecturer Derham Groves (first Australian member of the Baker Street Irregulars) and another "Geelong bloke," George Morrison, who "had a New Guinea native's spearhead surgically removed from his arse" by Scottish surgeon Joseph Bell, who was credited by Conan Doyle as having been the inspiration for Sherlock Holmes.

According to Wikipedia, George Ernest "Chinese" Morrison had a thoroughly interesting and colorful life <www.tinyurl.com/r66hxtpt>; the story of the spearhead is different at Wikipedia, both for its location and the name of the surgeon who removed it. And just to complicate things, Derham reports that Cyril Pearl, in *Morrison of Peking* (1967) says that "Chiene, assisted by Bell, and with sixteen other surgeons watching," operated on Morrison.

The list of members of the Baker Street Irregulars who have acted in films and on television can now be expanded to include music videos: there's now a video that promotes Pokey LaFarge's album "Rock Bottom Rhapsody" (due in April), and you can read all about it, and see the video, in an article in *Rolling Stone* (Jan. 22) <www.tinyurl.com/uylfoxj>. The video was shot in Randsburg, Calif., home of Jennie C. Paton, who reports that she appears in the video about a dozen times (and dares you to find her).

Feb 20 #5 Further to the report (Sep 19 #7) about the exhibition "In the Company of Harold Prince" (at the N.Y. Public Library for the Performing Arts through Mar. 31 <www.tinyurl.com/y3dwsfax>, Greg Darak reports that there's an interactive screen that allows you to scroll through the prompt-book and the script of the musical "Baker Street" (which Prince directed). There also are multiple photographs from the show, illustrating almost every page of the script, and a television commercial (possibly the first television commercial for a Broadway musical).

Alexander Orlov notes that the National Library of Scotland offers on-line access to digitized material <www.digital.nls.uk>. A search for [sherlock holmes] or [conan doyle] turns up interesting material, including theater programs and post office directories.

Welcome to the Year of the Giant Rat (or, according to the U.S. Postal Service, the Year of the Rat, which started on Jan. 25 (that's the Chinese Lunar New Year).



Karen Murdock noted a story in the Washington Examiner (Feb. 6) on the appointment of Dame Karen Pierce as the next British ambassador to Washington. She has been Britain's permanent representative to the United Nations, where she battled head-to-head with Russian ambassador Vasily Nebenzya in an exchange about the nerve-agent attack in Britain. Nebenzya said that Russia should be involved in the investigation, and she replied that "allowing Russian scientists into an investigation when they are the most likely perpetrators of the crime in Salisbury would be like Scotland Yard inviting in Professor Moriarty."

Jennie Paton has noted The Literary Tea Company, which offers a wide range of Sherlockian teas, caddies, and infusers <www.tinyurl.com/rj8kpkn>; they offer merchandise honoring other authors and characters, in case you have non-Sherlockian friends.

Will Thomas' *Blood Is Blood* (New York: Minotaur, 2018; 320 pp., \$27.00) is the tenth in his series featuring private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewelyn; it has an explosive beginning and a challenging mystery, and the characters, who include Barker's long-lost brother, are nicely done. The author has a web-site at <www.willthomasauthor.com>.

Titan Comics is continuing its series of manga adaptations of the BBC television series "Sherlock" (with artwork by Jay); "A Scandal in Belgravia" is due in July, and you can see the cover and samples of the interior artwork at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/rnrdrtn>.

For the ladies: Howard Ostrom has noted Miss Patina, who offers a Holmes trench coat <www.misspatina.com/product/holmes-trench-coat-tall> and other items in two Sherlock Holmes Inspired Collections; search for [holmes].

The Swedish Film Institute <www.filmarkivet.se> has a nice web-site (click on the British flag for text in English); search for [sherlock holmes] to see an amusing television commercial from 1960, and on [conan doyle] for film of him arriving in Stockholm in 1929.

Feb 20 #6 There's yet another Sherlock Holmes pub, but it's not open to just anyone: according to a report in the East Anglian Daily Times on Feb. 7, spotted by Karen Murdock, the pub's at Glastonbury Court, a care home in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, that provides quality dementia care for older people; there's a web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/wlmax9g>.

And now for some theatrical news: Ed. Lange's "Sherlock's Secret Life" is due in Southampton, N.Y., on Mar. 6-22 <www.sc-arts.org>.

Emily Pruna's "Hark! How the Bells" will be performed during the Sherlock Holmes Weekends in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 13-15, Oct. 30-Nov. 1, and Nov. 6-8 <www.capemaymac.org/sherlock-holmes-weekend>. The East Lynn Theatre Company will perform Craig Wichman's radio play "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Speckled Band" during each weekend.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre in Frederick, Md., Mar. 13-Apr 25 <www.wayoffbroadway.com>.

Tim Kelly's adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Schwartz Center for the Arts in Dover, Del., Mar. 14-15; tickets at <www.eventbrite.com/e/sherlock-holmes-play-tickets-92036540711>.

Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa Falls, Ga., Mar. 27-29 <www.tinyurl.com/vqnxgvf>.

Noveltease will perform a burlesque of "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes" Mar. 27-28 in the Auditorium at U-Heights in Seattle, Wash., on Mar. 27-28 <www.novelteasetheater.org>.

Brit Ward's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Sinister Trio" will be performed at the Totah Theatre in Farmington, N.M., Apr. 17-26; their Facebook page is at <www.facebook.com/TEAcommunitytheatre>.

Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be presented by the Long Island Repertory Company in Saint James, N.Y., Apr. 18-May 3 <www.facebook.com/pg/longislandrep/posts>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the East Riding Theatre in Beverley, Yorks., Apr. 23-May 16 <www.eastridingtheatre.co.uk>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" is scheduled at the Cary Arts Center in Cary, N.C., May 15-17 <www.townofcary.org>.

Jules Tasca's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" is also due at the Heisler Theater in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., May 21-24 <www.heislertheater.com>.

R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse" is scheduled at People's Light in Malvern, Pa., Aug. 4-29, 2021 <www.peopleslight.org>.

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's web-site is recommended as the best source for helpful and reliable information about COVID-19 and what to do about the current pandemic, and for what we do and don't (yet) know about the novel coronavirus <www.tinyurl.com/sx5yfuv>. The CDC also tells you why they use the term COVID-19. If you scroll down, at the lower left there's a way to subscribe to e-mail updates. It's not the CDC's advice, but: "keep washing your hands, and family and friends."

Of course it's nice indeed that reading is a grand way to deal with self-quarantine. Bookshops in the DMV (that's the local abbreviation for DC/MD/VA) are helping <www.tinyurl.com/wd8poss>, and Mental Floss reported on Mar. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/uwccm5d> on one bookshop's imaginative response to the situation. Bill Seil has forwarded an interesting report from Penguin Books about "how Britain's independent bookshops are rallying to help readers during the coronavirus crisis" <www.tinyurl.com/vbvkujg>.

Herewith a reminder that the very best way to receive news about the Baker Irregulars' events and publications is to sign up for free e-mail messages from the BSI at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email>. For information about other Sherlockian events, the Sherlockian Calendar maintained by Ron Fish and Ben and Sue Vizoskie <www.sherlockiancalendar.com> is a valuable resource; you can contact Ron <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have meeting or conference listed.

The most recent news from the Baker Street Irregulars is that the "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" conference scheduled at the Bear Mountain Inn near West Point, N.Y., has been rescheduled to June 25-27, 2021; registration is expected to open by early April 2021. There's a revised web-site, with a colorful map <www.tinyurl.com/udu3vjx>.

There are some Sherlockian events scheduled a few months ahead that have not been cancelled or postponed, one of them the Book Fair and Open House at Denny Dobry's home in Reading, Pa., on May 17 (Feb 20 #1). Additional information is available from Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>.

The *Baker Street Almanac 2020*, modestly described by editor Ross E. Davies as "an annual capsule of a timeless past and future," is now available on-line (without charge) at <www.tinyurl.com/rufssb3>, and in print (\$30.00 postpaid from The Green Bag, 6600 Barnaby Street NW, Washington, DC 20015) with more than 360 pages of news and gossip about some of the interesting events in the Sherlockian and Holmesian world in 2019, "The Cardboard Box" (presented with "extravagant Canonical annotation"), and a wide variety of scholarship and pseudo-scholarship. Ross promises some "amusing extras" in the print edition, perhaps for the benefit of those who prefer to turn pages, rather than scroll.

Dean Clark has reported an interesting article on "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Adventure of the Boer War" posted on-line at History Today on Feb. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/vw8o22b> and notable for an attractive illustration by H. M. Paget; Henry Marriott Paget was Sidney Paget's brother.

Mar 20 #2 Alexander Orlov has reported seeing Vladimir Putin as Sherlock Holmes, and Dmitri Peskov as Dr. Watson, unraveling the case of journalist Ivan Golunov in an animated (and amusing) "news report" in Russian on the German television channel Deutsche Welle. Pesko is press secretary for Russian president Putin, and the video is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/s68be3o>.

"Meet Maggie Schpak" is the title of an informative and interesting post to Greg Ruby's "The Fourth Garrideb" blog <www.tinyurl.com/ty56jffj>; Maggie is investitured in the Baker Street Irregulars is "The Soup Plate Med-al" and has had a long career as a designer of medals and other artifacts for films and television, and for Sherlockian societies (and the Dr. John H. Watson Fund's raffle during the birthday festivities in New York each January).

Will Thomas' *Lethal Pursuit* (New York: Minotaur, 2019; 308 pp., \$27.99) is the eleventh in his series starring private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant (now partner) Thomas Llewelyn, who also now is married but still hard at work; there is an intriguing mystery that involves secret societies as well as domestic and foreign intrigue, and as in earlier books in the series, the characters, both principal and supporting are interesting. The author has a web-site at <www.willthomasauthor.com>.



German illustrator Romy Blümel's artwork was used by The New Yorker last November for a flash sale of subscriptions to the magazine, promising a free tote bag to new subscribers. Alas, the Sherlockian dachshund was used only in the advertisement, and did not appear on the free tote bag.

James Lipton died on Mar. 1. After a long career in show business, he was invited to join the board of directors of the Actors Studio workshop, and in 1994 created the "Inside the Actors Studio" television series for Bravo. He also wrote *An Exaltation of Larks* (1968), an exploration of "the venereal game" (which is not quite what you may be imagining at the moment); it's a delightful exploration of collective nouns, and he quotes at length from Conan Doyle's *Sir Nigel* in which young Nigel demonstrates his knowledge of such things as a cete of badgers and a skulk of foxes. The book has been revised and expanded, most recently in 1991, to include new coinages, and it's great fun indeed.

"A Billion-Dollar Scandal Turns the 'King of Manuscripts' into the 'Madoff of France'" was the headline on a story in the N.Y. Times (Feb. 21) about a literary Ponzi scheme perpetrated by Gérard Lhéritier, who bought rare manuscripts and letters, had them appraised, and sold shares in them, and promised to buy the shares back in five years for at least 40 percent over the original price. The appraisals were greatly inflated, and the company refused to buy back the shares; Lhéritier was arrested and is now free on \$2.1 million in bail, and the French government has begun to auction off the company's assets. The story is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/w3uh42m>.

Mar 20 #3 Dean Clark notes that the only copy of the unpublished memoirs of Nigel Bruce is held by his daughter Pauline Page, who was interviewed some years ago by Nicholas Utechin, who published extracts in the winter 1999 issue of the Sherlock Holmes Journal. For those who don't have access to that issue of the SHJ, Dean reports that Stuart Fanning has posted (with permission) some of the extracts at the Scarlet Street Forums on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/sy8cvmo>.

There are at least a few people who claim to read the N.Y. Times primarily because its obituaries are so interesting and well-written; if you'd like to see just how much fun the obituaries can be, here's what Neil Genzlinger had to say about the late Peregrine Pollen <www.tinyurl.com/r2aszlk>.

"May God blast anyone who writes a biography of me," J. M. Barrie wrote, according to Piers Dudgeon, whose *Neverland: J. M. Barrie, the Du Mauriers, and the Dark Side of Peter Pan* (2009) is a dark and grim examination of the lives of the author and his friends, and he quotes D. H. Lawrence, who wrote in a letter that "Barrie has a fatal touch for those he loves. They die." Conan Doyle is mentioned briefly, and the book still is available in a reprint edition.

Potter & Potter Auctions in Chicago will be offering "fine books and manuscripts" on Apr. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/yx4y7j9l>, with interesting Sherlockian and Doylean material; search for both [sherlock] and [doyle]. It appears to be someone's collection (some of the books are inscribed to John Nieminski and Nathan L. Bengis).

There was a nice (and nicely illustrated) article in France Today (Mar. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/u93pr7p> about French criminologist Alphonse Bertillon, whom Sherlock Holmes admired: "he expressed his enthusiastic admiration of the French savant," Watson said (in "The Naval Treaty").

"Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Who Owns 221b Baker Street" headlined a story in The Telegraph (Mar. 14) that led with a misleading photograph of the Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street; the photograph was misleading because the story is about the block of property at 215-237 Baker Street, which includes the site of the former Abbey National, where mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes was for many years answered by Holmes' secretary. The block of offices and flats at 215-237 is owned by "a string of anonymous holding companies" tied to Kazakh oligarch Nurali Alivyev, and the government's National Crime Agency is investigating property in London that might have been bought with the proceeds of organized crime.

It's interesting to see that it's not only The Telegraph that is confused about where Sherlock Holmes lived: if you ask Google Maps to show you 221b Baker Street, you're shown an image and the location of the Museum.

Deadly Anniversaries, edited by Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini (New York: Hanover Square, 2020; 396 pp., \$26.99) celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Mystery Writers of America; it's an anthology of new stories by members of MWA, each involving some sort of anniversary, including Laurie R. King's "Ten Years On" (a nice addition to her Mary Russell stories).

Mar 20 #4 "Elementary, my dear Watson." One often hears or reads that Sherlock Holmes never said that iconic sentence, but of course it would be better to say that he never said that in the Canon (if one is going to play the Grand Game properly). The earliest recorded instance of Holmes actually saying that is in the film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929), which isn't all that surprising since it's the first film in which Holmes actually speaks. There has been quite a bit of research into other people saying that, or something like that, and you can read all about it at the Quote Investigator web-site <www.tinyurl.com/tkm6pqu>.

One hears of Sherlock everywhere: "While other detectives need their Mind Palaces to solve their crimes, the infamous 'Sherlock Homi' needs only a cup of tea and two eggs every morning! Come catch him in action with his partner, Dr. Jamshed Wadia in this funny yet adventurous play" at the Tata Theatre in Mumbai on Mar. 21.

Cenarth Fox's *Sherlock Holmes: Playing the Game* (Melbourne: Fox's Plays, 2020; 184 pp., \$12.99) is a delightfully imaginative pastiche: Holmes is preparing to retire to Sussex, and is informed by Mrs. Hudson that she has written her memoirs, in which she corrects the many mistakes he has made, and the many errors in Watson's stories; hoping to find a publisher, she takes her manuscript to Conan Doyle, who sends her to Greenhough Smith at the Strand magazine, and it is grand see two alternate universes collide. It's readily available at Amazon, and recommended.

Fox also has written two two-act plays "The Real Sherlock Holmes" (2005) and "Nursing Holmes" (2009), and a two-act musical comedy "Sherlock, Stock and Barrel" (2007); you can read preview scripts of all three plays at his web-site <www.foxplays.com>. His own web-site's at <www.cenfoxbooks.com>.

Mark Jones and Paul Chapman are continuing their interesting discussions of the writings of Conan Doyle (focusing on his non-Sherlockian work) at their "Doings of Doyle" podcast <www.doingsofdoyle.com>; their latest post considers two Apocryphal stories ("The Man with the Watches" and "The Lost Special").

Roy Hudd died on Mar. 15. He launched his career as a comedian on stage in 1957 and went on to perform in pantomimes and music hall, and on radio and television, and was awarded an OBE in 2004. He played Sherlock Holmes in 1999 in the BBC Radio 2 series "The Newly Discovered Casebook of Sherlock Holmes", John Gedgrave in Granada's "The Dying Detective" (1994) and James Phillimore in "The Singular Inheritance of Miss Gloria Wilson on BBC Radio 4 (2002).

Leonard Goldberg's *The Art of Deception* (New York: Minotaur Books, 2020; 320 pp., \$26.99), is the fourth in his series that stars Sherlock Holmes' daughter Joanna Blalock, who learned much from her father and is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son Dr. John H. Watson Jr. to capture an apparent madman who is defacing valuable paintings in galleries and private collections in London in 1916. It turns out that there's method to the vandal's madness, and more than one mystery for the team to resolve; the author's web-site is at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.

Mar 20 #5 The Belfast Custom House is for sale, according to an article in the Belfast Telegraph on Mar. 9, kindly forwarded by Oscar Ross, who reports that the building is one of two candidates for the location of the post office in Belfast where James Browner mailed his gruesome packet (in "The Cardboard Box"); the Queen's Square post office was housed in the west wing of the building at the time the case occurred. You can see images of the Custom House on-line <www.tinyurl.com/vlww6hj>; the estate agents say POA [price on application], which may or may not mean "if you have to ask, you can't afford it."

Here a plaque, there a plaque . . . Roger Johnson found the Open Plaques web-site <www.openplaques.org>, with information about 47,627 commemorative plaques that have been installed world-wide; the listing's not complete, but a search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] reveals a nice assortment, hither, thither, and yon.

Catherine Cooke has received notice that the "Conan Doyle in Edinburgh" conference at Napier University on June 25-27 (Dec 19 #2) has been postponed, and that dates for a rescheduled conference later in the year will be posted as soon as possible at <www.edinburgh-conan-doyle.org/events>.

The Old Court Radio Theatre Company collaborated with the Sherlock Holmes Society of London to make splendid recordings of ten stories from the Canon, two Apocryphal tales, the Gillette play, and two pastiches, and they are available on-line so that you can listen to them free at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/category/podcasts>.

Sam Siciliano's new *The Venerable Tiger* (New York: Titan, 2020; 317 pp., \$14.95) is the latest in his series of accounts of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes and his cousin Dr. Henry Vernier; the story inspired by "The Speckled Band" (but with some interesting twists and turns). Siciliano's web-site is at <www.samsiciliano.net>.

Samantha Wolov notes that Holmes and Watson are featured prominently (and unexpectedly), along with Wilkie Collins, Hunter S. Thompson, Dorothy Parker, Collette, Ernest Hemingway, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, in Paul Bassett Davies' *Dead Writers in Rehab* (2017).

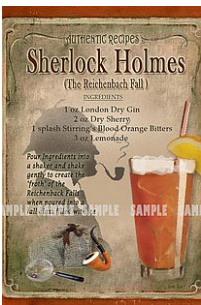
Walter Satterthwait died on Feb. 23. He was a prolific writer of mystery novels and short stories, and his novel *Escapade* (1995) was a locked-room murder mystery set in an English country house in 1921 and with Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on hand.

"Sherlockian Wisdom for a Pandemic" is an amusing challenge posted in the Inner Circle at the Red Circle's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>; everyone is welcome to participate.

"Sherlock Holmes est installé dans l'Allier!" is an interesting two-minute video (all in French) on YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/v5qxngp> about Thierry Saint-Joanis, president of the Société Sherlock Holmes de France. The Société has its own YouTube channel at <www.tinyurl.com/txd8gxs> with many more videos, including the imaginative "See EU Later" comment on Brexit.

Mar 20 #6 Book collectors soon (or eventually) discover how interesting provenance can be; it's the history of a copy of a book, from owner to owner, and of course there's much more to it than merely saying "from the collection of ...," as shown in Ray Betzner's post to his "Studies in Starrett blog <www.vincentstarrett.com/blog/2020/2/1>.

Type Punch Matrix, the rare book firm founded by Rebecca Romney and Brian Cassidy has issued a new catalog <www.tinyurl.com/ubnjtug>; there's nothing directly Sherlockian, but a copy of Sugiyama Toujirou's *A Japanese Argument for Women's Suffrage* (1887) is accompanied by an intriguing illustration that shows Japanese women dressed in contemporary Victorian fashion copied from British books and magazines (the Meiji Restoration began in 1868). Open the catalog in Adobe (there's a link at the right) and go to page 58 to see how up-to-date some Japanese women were in the year that "A Study in Scarlet" was published in Beeton's Christmas Annual.



It can be interesting to see what turns up Pinterest: go to <www.pinterest.com> and search for [sherlock holmes cocktail} to find a heavy aluminum sign (£4.99) offering a recipe for "The Reichenbach Fall" (1 oz London dry gin, 2 oz dry sherry, 1 splash Stirrings' blood orange bitters, and 3 oz lemonade); pour ingredients into a shaker and shake gently to create the froth of the Reichenbach Falls when poured into a tall glass filled with ice. Stirrings makes a wide variety of mixes and seems to owned by the Sazerac Company, which got its start in the 19th century in the Sazerac Coffee House in New Orleans.

This isn't be best time to travel, but in the meantime the Hotel Sherlock Holmes in Meiringen has a nice video advertisement that you can watch at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk70dqfIudg>.

"There's a Place Where Lost Things Go" was a recent episode on "Legacies" (a series streamed on the CW) that aired on Mar. 12, and included a dream sequence that had Alexis Denisof (Professor Vardemus) as Sherlock Holmes and Quincy Fouse (Milton Greasley) as Dr. Watson). As with many series on the CW, it can difficult to understand just what's going on unless you've watched earlier episodes (or have a cheat sheet), but you may be able to see an excerpt from the dream sequence at <www.tinyurl.com/sjntg56>.

Kabukichō Syarokku [Kabukicho Sherlock] is an imaginative 30-minute Japanese animated series that's available on Amazon Prime; it's set in Tokyo's most famous red-light district, and features Katsuyuki Konishi (Sherlock Holmes) and Kuichi Nakamura (John Watson), and there's an entry at Wikipedia that gives you a good idea of what's going on.

The Golden Raspberry Awards (for failure in cinematic achievement), also known as the Razzies, have been announced, and this year "Cats" won in six categories: worst picture, worst supporting actor (James Corben), best actress (Rebel Wilson), worst director, worst screenplay, and worst screen combo (for "any two half-feline/ half-human hairballs"). Idris Elba, who played Macavity: The Mystery Cat) was not nominated in any category. Details at <www.razzies.com/razz-newz.html>.

Mar 20 #7 Ernest Dudley, Eille Norwood's son-in-law, was interviewed by David Stuart Davies at the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's film evening in 1998, and it's available, Jennie Paton notes, at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlH-g4UL5mo>. Norwood played Sherlock Holmes in 45 films in the early 1920s, and then in the play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1923), which was revised by Dudley and performed in 1953.

Jennie also has discovered "Movie Magic & Mysteries: The Making of Sherlock Jr." <www.youtube.com/watch?v=0YR81Zp07AI>, a 23-minute documentary (produced by the Kino International Corp. in 2010) about how Buster Keaton made his now-classic 1924 silent film.

Nils Clausson, author of *Arthur Conan Doyle's Art of Fiction* (Oct 18 #3), reports that he has been commissioned by Cambridge Scholars Publishing to edit an anthology of essays on Conan Doyle's life and complete works (not just the Sherlock Holmes stories). The formal call for contributions is available on request <nils.clausson@uregina.ca>; please put "Reexamining ACD" in the subject line.

Reported: *The Big Book of Reel Murders: Stories That Inspired Great Crime Films*, edited by Otto Penzler (Viking, 2019), includes two tales from the Canon ("The Five Orange Pips" and "The Six Napoleons").

L.A. Theatre Works has launched an imaginative program to assist students who are working on-line: "Setting the Stage for Learning" is a package of audio recordings of plays that allows teachers to enhance distance learning <www.latw.org/setting-stage-learning>; one of the plays is "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright and performed by LATW in 2014). Their commercial CD set for the play included a live audience talk-back with Leslie S. Klinger, and it's available for purchase at <www.latw.org/title/hound-baskervilles> if you're not an educator.

Adam Hochschild's *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*, first published in 1998, now has a second edition (New York: Mariner, 2020; 380 pp., \$16.99), and it's a grand book indeed; the sub-title is thoroughly appropriate. Conan Doyle joined the campaign against Leopold, writing *The Crime of the Congo* (1909) and many letters to the press, but E. D. Morel and Roger Casement are the real heroes in the battle to end Leopold's infamous conduct in West Africa.

Steve Mason reports that the Beacon Society has established an Annual Recertification Exam for the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, by way of encouraging "increased familiarity with the Canon and the Sherlockian world." The questions are not overly difficult, he promises, and there is no charge to participate. Details at <www.tinyurl.com/rmo52dy>.

The Strand Bookstore in New York, which boasts 18 miles of bookshelves, is opening a second store, on the Upper West Side, on Columbus Avenue between 81st and 82nd Streets, near the American Museum of Natural History; there is no word yet on how many more miles of bookshelves there will be at the new location <www.tinyurl.com/srlo88q>.

Mar 20 #8 There's an attractive edition of *A Study in Scarlet* (New York: Balzer + Bray, 2014; 277 pp, \$17.99) with many illustrations (in color and in black and white) by Gris Grimly, who has been described as a "modern master of gothic romanticism," and is just that; he has illustrated many other books, including *Frankenstein* and Neil Gaiman's *The Dangerous Alphabet*, and he has a web-site at <www.madcreator.com>.

Radio Times has reported <www.tinyurl.com/tk5fn6s> that Audible has kindly made hundreds of its titles available for streaming without charge during the coronavirus crisis; one of them being "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" read by Simon Prebble.

P. James Macaluso Jr., who has illustrated more than a dozen of the Sherlock Holmes stories using Lego minifigures and bricks, also has created a similar *A Sherlock Holmes Alphabet* (London: MX Publishing, 2018; 68 pp., \$12.95); it's in full color, dedicated to Edward Gorey and typeset in Zombified, and imaginatively Sherlockian. MX Publishing's books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.

The Nitrate Film Interest Group has an interesting web-site for those who want to help identify bits and pieces of films <www.tinyurl.com/vjmw3zy>; there (alas) many films that survive today only as fragments.

"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 Apr. 24, estimated at \$4 million to \$6 million. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/rwt2lla>.

Theatrics: the CDC having advised against large gatherings, it is likely that there won't be any theatrical performances in the near future; I've not heard that any of the following have been postponed or canceled, but it would be wise, to be sure, to check with theaters.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Historic Casino Hall in La Grange, Tex., May 1-3; Facebook page at <www.facebook.com/Fayettecountrycommunitytheatre>.

Craig Sodaro's "Young Sherlock" will be performed at Playhouse 38 in Geneva, Ill., May 22-31 <www.tinyurl.com/qwjsv2k>. And his "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" is due at the PIX Theatre in Lapeer, Mich., May 22-23 <www.centerfortheartslapeer.org>.

Sad news for my print subscribers: printing costs have risen again, so the new prices per year are \$19.50 (U.S.) and \$26.50 (foreign); as always, you can read the newsletter on-line at <www.redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39>, in full color and with live links, and at no cost whatsoever, and my feelings won't be hurt if you decide not to renew your print subscriptions.

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