

Sherlockians will gather in New York on Jan. 12-16 to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 168th birthday, and plans for almost all of the traditional events are afoot. There's a "Plans for BSI Weekend" page at the Baker Street Irregulars web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com> that has information on BSI and non-BSI events; most of the events are open to everyone, and there always is much more going on than anyone with reasonable sense or stamina can deal with. There also will be information available in mid-November at Scott Monty's excellent web-site <www.bsiweekend.com>, and his helpful "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" will be found at <ihose.co/bsi2022tips>.

In plenty of time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year goes on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm> on Nov. 1; there also are recommendations of older Sherlockiana, all with helpful explanations of his choices.

The summer issue of The Magic Door (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Douglas Kerr's article about "Conan Doyle's Desert Drama", Jessie Amaolo's discussion of "One-of-a-Kind Manuscripts from a One-of-a-Kind Collections", and reports from and about the Library and the Collection, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. A copy of the newsletter is available on request from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

The Extensión Universitaria in Vigo is holding an on-line course on "Jornadas de novela y crimen: Conan Doyle, el creador de Sherlock Holmes" from Nov. 3 to Dec. 1 <www.extension.uned.es/actividad/idactividad/25501>.

The Red-Throated League have been performing for the Norwegian Explorers for years, presenting staged readings from the Edith Meiser radio scripts held in the Sherlock Holmes Collections in Minneapolis, and you can watch some of their programs at <www.tinyurl.com/2sizr4u5r>.

The arguments over vaccinations and vaccination mandates continues, and it is interesting that Conan Doyle thought and wrote about the issue; thanks to the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia, you can read what he had to say at <www.tinyurl.com/4syk62kc>.

Illustrator Jonathan Barry wrote about "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for the Irish Times (Sept. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/79zbca87>, commenting on the story and including some of his own atmospheric artwork.

It's not particularly Sherlockian, except that there are cross-over pastiches, but: Ron Charles noted in the Washington Post's on-line Book Club on Oct. 1 that "Steve Metze hoped to raise \$10,000 to publish a spell book inspired by the demonic works of H. P. Lovecraft. He reached that goal in 38 minutes." When the Kickstarter campaign ended, he had raised more than \$188,000, and Charles wrote that "I suspect Satanic intervention." There is more about it all at <www.tinyurl.com/peanz6ar> (you'll need to scroll down), and at Kickstarter <www.tinyurl.com/aaymkxuw>.

Oct 21 #2 A. J. West's *The Spirit Engineer* (Richmond: Duckworth, 2021; 208 pp., £14.99) is a novel based on the true story of Kathleen Goligher, an Irish spiritualist medium who was championed by engineer William Jackson Crawford; the book begins in Belfast in 1914 and tells an atmospheric and chilling story involving both belief and deception. Crawford encounters Conan Doyle (and Houdini) while supporting Goligher, but they are only minor characters in a macabre story. It's historical fiction, and an American edition is due this month,

The Bovestrians of Ragged Shaw is the most recently-formed Sherlockian society, which has two founding members, one of whom is Brad Keefauver, who provided information about the brief history of the society last month at his Sherlock Peoria blog <www.tinyurl.com/3w44cr4k>.

"Books, Bohemians, and Baker Street: A Study in Sherlock in Special Collections" is a new on-line exhibition at the web-site of the University of Delaware's library <www.exhibitions.lib.del.edu/sherlock>, kindly reported by Tom Horrocks. Browse the exhibition menu to see some real treasures, nicely presented.

"The Owner of The Mysterious Bookshop Built His Dream House" was the headline on an article in the real estate section of the N.Y. Times on Oct. 3. Go to <nytimes.com> and search for [otto penzler] to read the story (there is a fine slide-show with the on-line version).

One hears of Sherlock everywhere: you've likely read about the Pandora Papers (the treasure trove of leaked financial documents that show how some people have hidden assets in shell companies). According to bne IntelliNews <www.tinyurl.com/r5kh4j4f>, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky's chief aide Serhly Shefir is an owner of a Belize company that paid £22.3 million for an apartment in Baker Street, not far from 221B, and another nearby two-bedroom flat across the street from the Sherlock Holmes Museum was bought for £2.2 million.

Roberta Pearson's webinar lecture (on "The Adventure of the Mutable Detective") for the BSI Trust on Oct. 2 attracted an enthusiastic audience; if you weren't able to Zoom in, the lecture was recorded and will be available at the BSI Trust web-site <www.bsitrust.org> next year.

"Many of you have asked what will happen to Becky and Flynn," according to Anna Elliott. Becky and Flynn were supporting characters in the long-running "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series (written by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley), and now feature in Elliott's *Guarded Ground* (available on Kindle). It's set in 1915 during the First World War; Becky has become a surgeon, and Flynn now is a major in the British army. Sherlock Holmes is a supporting character this time, setting Becky and Flynn in pursuit of a dangerous German spy <www.sherlockandlucy.com>.

The Sherlock Holmes Society's 2021 Christmas card celebrates the 70th anniversaries of both the Society and the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in London; £6.00 for a packet of 10 cards (with envelopes), and you can order at the Society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/55jkyrt8>.

Oct 21 #3 The late Paul Churchill was justifiably proud of his "evidence boxes" (one for each of the Canonical tales, and was fortunate in being able to track down so many souvenirs of each case (so fortunate that some people believe he was the greatest Sherlockian forger). Deborah Clark tells stories about Paul and his work in an interview at the "I Hear of Sherlock" blog, where you can also see some of the interesting things he found <www.patreon.com/posts/56803056>.

"Joseph Caminada and His Colt Lightning Revolver: Manchester's Real-Life Sherlock Holmes" is the headline on a story in *Guns-America Digest* (Sept. 24) <www.tinyurl.com/e5ajkv8k>, at hand from John Linsenmeyer. Caminada has been mentioned here before (May 14 #6 and Apr 17 #2).

Reported: "The Lion's Mane" reprinted in *Guilty Creatures: A Menagerie of Mysteries*, an anthology edited and introduced by Martin Edwards (London: British Library, 2021; 336 pp., £9.99). It's the latest in the "British Library Crime Classics" series; an American edition is due next year from the Poisoned Pen Press (\$14.99).

The Internet Archive, which was founded in 1996, has come a long way in 25 years, and still is hard at work capturing everything on the Internet; you can see Brewster Kahle (one of its founders) then and now in a documentary video about "the first crawl" at <www.tinyurl.com/yxv66svy>.

Readers who know all about electric guitars will know what a compressor is and does; Derham Groves has reported *The Engineer's Thumb*, which was invented by Merlin Blencowe <www.valvewizard.co.uk/engineersthumb2.html>.

It's "the legal 7% solution," according to *En Voyage Perfumes* by Shelley Waddington <www.tinyurl.com/rbzbn8d8>, kindly reported by Samantha Wolov. There's neither cocaine nor morphine nor heroin in *The 7% Solution eau de cologne*, and there's an on-line review at <www.tinyurl.com/yj8c64r8>.

Those who like to browse the Internet will be familiar with Google and the Google Doodle, which on Oct. 12 honored the Polish actor Helena Modrzejewska <www.tinyurl.com/4vz7x863>. Her Wikipedia entry notes that Joanna and Catharina Polatynska have suggested that she might have been the model for Irene Adler. The suggestion was in an article posted in 2000 to the Diogenes Club web-site <www.diogenes-club.com/irene.htm>.

When in Málaga (on the Costa del Sol in Spain); you can visit La Casa de Sherlock Holmes <www.facebook.com/SherlockHolmesPubMalaga>, kindly noted by James Utechin. It's a pub, and there's another one, not far away, in Torremolino.

Robert Richardson died on Aug. 31. He was a British journalist and crime writer, serving twice as head of the Crime Writers' Association; his *The Book of the Dead* (1989) was a pleasant murder mystery tied to a Sherlock Holmes story written in 1894 and published by Conan Doyle in an edition of only ten copies, all of which he presented to his godson as a christening present (the pastiche is included in the novel, and shows more imagination and style than many others in the genre).

Oct 21 #4 *The Only One in the World*, edited by Narrelle M. Harris (Bittern: Clan Destine, 2021; 257 pp., \$29.99), is an anthology of thirteen pastiches that reimagine Holmes and Watson in different time periods, cultures, and countries, from Viking Iceland to the distant future; the editor and many of the authors are Australian, and most are newcomers to the world of pastiches. Harris' web-site at <www.narrellemharris.com> offers information about this anthology and her other Sherlockian books, and there's a 49-minute video of her and Lucy Sussex (one of the authors) at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KspZU3qg08>.

The Sherlock Holmes Is Real podcast's "a fictional docudrama about a supposed conspiracy to turn Sherlock Holmes from a historical figure to a fictional character over the last hundred years by person or persons unknown" (according to Talon King and Paul Thomas Miller); you can tune in to their conclusions at <www.sherlockholmesisreal.libsyn.com>. Miller also is responsible (or to blame) for the web-site Doyle's Rotary Coffin, definitely well worth exploring <www.tinyurl.com/y2xzepz>.

Jennie Paton has reported the entire "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" animated series at <www.youtube.com/c/TwoBobWatch/videos>, along with much more, including all episodes of "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes".

SHERLOC and WATSON are hard at work on Mars, making significant contributions to the study of the Red Planet <www.tinyurl.com/5xarkkwx>. As noted earlier (Jun 20 #2) their names are acronyms, and they are part of the instrumentation on Perseverance, the Martian rover.

Garage sales can be interesting, especially when someone finds and buys a piece of the Moon <www.tinyurl.com/cpxcr2c2>. The lunar rock was from the Apollo 17 mission, and quite possibly was collected by geologist/astronaut Jack Schmitt, who was responsible for naming Sherlock Crater in honor of geologist/detective Sherlock Holmes.

"The first humans to make up stories may just have saved us all. Or not. It's hard to know for sure," according to Lee Child. You can his interesting and insightful introduction to *The Best Mystery Stories of the Year 2021* (Aug 21 4) at CrimeReads <www.tinyurl.com/24ckj6yn>.

The ACD Society ("a community dedicated to studying and enjoying the works of Arthur Conan Doyle") has a web-site at <www.acdsociety.com>, where you can read its first two newsletters, learn more about the society, and even become a member.

Philip R. Brogdon ("John Sanger") died on Sept. 30. Phil found the world of Sherlockians through the Red Circle of Washington in 1975, and was an enthusiastic member of the society through the 1980s and 1990s. He delivered one of the toasts at the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars in 1986, spoke at Sherlockian conferences in 1986 and 1987, and received his Investiture from the BSI in 1988. His special interests were poetry and the theater (and his fine voice served him well in both), and his book *Sherlock Holmes in Black* was published in 1995.

Oct 21 #5 Would you like to go for a ride on the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle? Since 1999 the Brighton & Hove buses have been named in honor of people "who made a significant contribution to the area or had a strong connection during" during their lifetimes; pages for the buses and their history are at <<http://history.buses.co.uk/history/fleethist/675ad.htm>>.

The second issue of *The Pontine Dossier: Millennium Edition* has appeared; edited by Derrick Belanger, it's a revival of the journal published by the late Luther Norris, who founded the Praed Street Irregulars (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2021; 77 pp., \$7.99), with more new articles about Solar Pons, including David Marcum's detailed discussion of Basil Copper's controversial editing of the Pontine Canon, and his pastiches.

"Sherlock Holmes Afternoon Tea Comes with an Antique Chest and a Cocktail in a Pipe," according My London (Oct. 11) <www.tinyurl.com/55npyt3j>. The boutique Holmes Hotel in Marylebone has revamped its tea, and the article includes a link to the menu; the meal costs only £42.00 (or £55.00 with a specialty drink).

Books of Wonder/William Morrow issued an attractive edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* in 1992, illustrated by Barry Moser. Moser's own signed copy, with five signed original watercolors, will be up for bids on Nov. 10 at Hindman Auctions in Chicago <www.tinyurl.com/sd8mavk>, estimated at \$4,000-\$6,000.

H. F. Heard's delightful Mr. Mycroft pastiche *A Taste for Honey* (1941) has been filmed twice, first as "The Sting of Death" for television's "Elgin Hour" (1955), with Boris Karloff as Mr. Mycroft, and then as "The Deadly Bees" (1967), with no one as Mr. Mycroft, because he doesn't appear in the film (Robert Bloch wrote the screenplay, which was thoroughly revised by Anthony Marriott, who deleted Mr. Mycroft, and Bloch refused to watch what he called his "deformed offspring"). "The Deadly Bees" then was parodied on "Mystery Science Theater 3000" (1998), and you can watch all three at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=QChOFJHdQps>, <www.dailymotion.com/video/x21jjwh> and <www.club-mst3k.com/episodes/905-the-deadly-bees>.

Further to the report (Sep 21 #2) about "The Stories of Sherlock Holmes" (the long-running South African series broadcast by Springbok Radio), with Graham Armitage as Holmes and Kerry Jordan as Watson, Lenny Picker notes that almost all of the shows are available at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <www.tinyurl.com/4eutpyvf>.

Reported: "The Greek Interpreter" and "The Lost Special" reprinted in *The Big Book of Victorian Mysteries*, edited by Otto Penzler (New York: Vintage/Black Lizard, 2021; 640 pp., \$26.00); each story with an introduction by the editor.

When Otto Penzler's *Mysterious Obsession* (Oct 20 #2) was first published, he was interviewed by Gil Roth for the podcast *The Virtual Memories Show*; you can listen to Otto's stories about collecting and collectors, and his own collection and his decision to sell it, at <www.tinyurl.com/ud2jm8fs>. You can buy the book (in a fourth printing) at <www.tinyurl.com/yr63e9k3>.

Oct 21 #6 Mantan Web has reported (in Japanese) on Oct. 18 on just how popular Gosho Aoyama's "Detective Conan" manga has been since the series was launched in 1994 <www.tinyurl.com/yz8jkc2h>: the 100th volume has just been published, bringing the total number of copies to more than 250 million. That's not all: the CBR web-site reported (in English) on Oct. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/2fsnj2v4> that the television animation that began in 1996 now has more than 1,000 episodes, and there are 24 animated films in the franchise. The CBR web-site explains who Detective Conan is.

Viktor Yevgrafov died on Oct. 20. He was a Russian actor and a stuntman, and played a sinister Moriarty in two episodes of the series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1980, with Vasiliy Livanov as Holmes and Vitali Solomin as Watson).

Simon Chapman has written for China Daily (Oct. 10) about his expedition in search of the Lost World, attempting to follow in the footsteps of Col. Percy H. Fawcett through the Amazon jungle <www.tinyurl.com/dvfvbwpj>; his web-site at <www.simonsjungle.co.uk>, and a video about the expedition is available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktOiu4okXMA>.

Dr. Doyle (the three-year-old brown gelding) (Sep 21 #7) continues to disappoint bettors, according to Peter McIntyre, finishing seventh (inside, weakened) on Oct. 12 <ww.tinyurl.com/5eeyknpr> at Parx Racing in Bensalem, Pa.

The Eurocrypt Christopher Lee Collection is a new boxed set with five of his films <www.severin-films.com/shop/eurocrypt-christopher-lee> on Blu-ray and CD (\$105.00), with new audio commentary; one of the films is his "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace" (1962). Alas: they there are no plans to issue to films separately.

Cliff Goldfarb notes that there's an elaborate Sherlockian corn maze about an hour's drive from Montréal <www.vergerlabonte.com/labyrinthes?lang=en>. "You'll scour the streets of Victorian London of the 1880s in the company of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson," the folks at Verger Labonté promise.

Reported by Jennie Paton: an imaginative "Real Hollow Book Music Box" (the book is *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*) offered by Suegnight for \$35.00 (discounted from \$70.00) <www.suegnight.shop>, with any tune you choose).

Jennie also spotted just the thing for rush-hour drivers: a collection of 374 old-time-radio Sherlock Holmes programs on a thumb drive, offered by Rawhguide for \$13.00 (discounted from \$26.99) <www.tinyurl.com/erxs6p4w>.

Gyles Brandreth, who has written seven pastiches that feature Oscar Wilde and Arthur Conan Doyle, also is chairman of the "Oldie of the Year" awards committee of The Oldie magazine <www.theoldie.co.uk>. The BBC reported on Oct. 20 <www.bbc.com/news/uk-58974656> that Queen Elizabeth, now 95 years old, has declined this year's award; her assistant private secretary wrote to him that "Her Majesty believes you are as old as you feel, as such The Queen does not believe she meets the relevant criteria to be able to accept, and hopes you will find a more worthy recipient."

Oct 21 #7 It may be time for competition for the most-attention-getting title of a Sherlockian book. Certainly a serious contender in the contest would be Paul Thomas Miller's *Was Sherlock Holmes an Elephant?* (2021; 56 pp., \$5.57), which offers the results of his search for an answer to a question quite possibly asked for the first time by any Sherlockian (or non-Sherlockian, for that matter). His answer? Well, no spoilers here. It's a welcome contribution to the literature from the man who presides over Doyle's Rotary Coffin.

The Russian television series "Sherlock: The Russian Chronicles" (available on the French streaming service Salto (Sep 21 #1) also is available via the Roku digital media player <www.tinyurl.com/vbf4ccu>.

Tina Rhea reports the on-line store Spoonflower, which offers a wide variety of attractive Sherlockian designs <www.tinyurl.com/29dpek9> on cloth and wallpaper.

The film "The Lost City of Z" (2017), which did not do well at the box office (according to Box Office Mojo, the world-wide gross was less than \$20 million), is available on Amazon Prime, and a DVD can be found at eBay and elsewhere. Charlie Hunnam stars as Col. Percy H. Fawcett, who met Conan Doyle in 1910 and later claimed that he inspired "The Lost World"; Fawcett never returned from his last expedition into the Amazon jungle. The two men are discussed in Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin's *The Annotated Lost World* (1996) and David Grann's *The Lost City of Z* (2009), but there's no mention of Conan Doyle in the film.

Heritage Auctions <www.ha.com> will offer a complete set of single issues of The Strand Magazine with the 58 Sherlock Holmes stories first published in the magazine at their sale on Dec. 7-8; you can check their web-site on or after Nov. 18.

Speculation continues about who owns the block of property at 215-237 Baker Street, which includes the site of the former Abbey National Building Society (later the Abbey National Bank), where mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes was for many years answered by Holmes' secretary. A non-governmental organization called Global Witness reported (Jul 15 #2) that the property is included in a portfolio of real estate in London that's owned by a company tied to Rakhat Aliyev, a former Kazakh secret police chief accused in the European Union of money laundering and murder. Max Magee has found a Global Witness story <www.tinyurl.com/eauzkeu4> that includes a link to a report that includes a map that shows the company also owns property behind 239 Baker Street, site of the Sherlock Holmes Museum, but not the museum itself. Abbey National was at what's now 219 Baker Street, which retains the old façade and tower.

Marshall McLuhan, perhaps best known for proposing that "the medium is the message," wrote an article "Sherlock Holmes vs. the Bureaucrat" in *Explorations* (Oct. 1957). He also discussed Holmes (and Conan Doyle) in "From DaVinci to Holmes" in his first book *The Mechanical Bride: Folklore of Industrial Man* (1951). That discussion was reprinted in *Essential McLuhan* (1995), conveniently available at <www.llib.us/book/979006/ede63b>.

Oct 21 #8 C. T. Scott's article about "The Curious Incident of Sherlock Holmes's Real-Life Secretary" <www.tinyurl.com/96baau4d> was in the Economist's 1843 Magazine on Oct. 6 (with striking artwork by Noma Bar) features Chris Bazlinton, who (at the age of 27) signed on as Holmes' secretary at Abbey National; he still has (and treasures) many of the letters he received and answered on behalf of Holmes.

Louis Robinson is an Atlanta-based songwriter who has a wide-ranging YouTube channel, where he has posted a video about "The One and Only Sherlock Holmes" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=PpT6iRKh3hA>.

Carole Nelson Douglas died on Oct. 20. She started writing as a journalist and turned to fiction with the Gothic novel *Amberleigh* (1980). Carol went on to write more than 60 novels, and many short stories; her "Irene Adler" series included eight novels and six short stories. There's much more about her work at her web-site <www.carolenelsondouglas.com>.

"Why do clocks go clockwise?" is an intriguing, although non-Sherlockian, question. The answer will be found in an article at the Country Life web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3s47w7yw>.

"Sherlock Holmes Murder Suspect in Kentwood" is the headline on a story at HL Arledge's "Bayou Justice" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y4fjh64d>. Kentwood a small town in Louisiana, perhaps best-known today as the birthplace of Britney Spears, but in 1915 it was the home of Claude "Sherlock" Holmes (you can read the article to learn more).

Theatrics: Michael Menendian and John Weagley's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" will be presented (as a 1940s radio play) at the Collaborative Theater Project in Medford, Ore., Nov. 5-14; web-site at <www.ctpmedford.org>.

Amy Frey's "Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia" is due at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, N.Y., Nov. 12-Dec. 5 <www.showclix.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Actors' NET of Bucks County in Morrisville, N.J., Dec. 3-19 <www.actorsnetbucks.org>.

Brian Horne's new musical "Second to Sherlock" will be performed at the Columbus Performing Arts Center in Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 3-11; web-site at <www.columbusmakesart.com/event/41139-second-to-sherlock>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" will be performed at the Watertown Players Theater in Watertown, Wis., Dec. 10-12 <www.watertownplayers.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" (a radio play by Michael Menedian and John Weagly) will be performed at the Warren Civic Center in Warren, Mich., Dec. 17-19 <www.warrencivic.org>.

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