

Breaking news about the Baker Street Irregulars' conference on "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at the Bear Mountain Inn, N.Y., on July 29-31: registration will open to the general public on May 17. See the announcement about the conference at <www.tinyurl.com/2py9xsvs>.

"They're creatures of our creation, like Sherlock Holmes is" might not be an expected answer to the question "What is math?" But there is indeed a relationship, according to Dan Falk's interesting article at the Smithsonian magazine web-site (Sept. 23, 2020) <www.tinyurl.com/3d2yu2bj>, noted by John Marlowe.

Are you woke? Are you from Woking? Residents of the city (mentioned in "The Naval Treaty") are reported to be "caught in the glare of a cultural confrontation," according a piece by Stephen Rand in The Article (Apr. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/245pwp46>.

Reported: Hugh Corbett's *Hymn to Murder* (Headline, 2021) is set on Dartmoor in 1312, and according to Ben Witherington at Patheos (Mar. 27), involves wild beasts and a taverner named Baskerville.

Sherlockians are well aware that "A Study in Scarlet" was first appeared in Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887; the annual was named for Isabella Beeton, but it was her husband Samuel who published it, capitalizing on the fame of his late wife, who was renowned for her *Book of Household Management*, first published in 1861. Conan Doyle titled a chapter in his *A Duet: With an Occasional Chorus* (1898) "Concerning Mrs. Beeton", and involves his newly-wed couple in an amusing discussion of the book. Lytton Strachey planned to write a biography of Mrs. Beeton, but didn't; Kathryn Hughes' *The Short Life and Long Times of Mrs. Beeton: The First Domestic Goddess* was published in 2006, and she's scheduled to speak at the British Library on May 18 in a panel discussion of "The Culinary Worlds of Eliza Acton and Mrs. Beeton" <www.tinyurl.com/2p8ept4> (the cost is £13.00 live or streamed).

Kathryn Hughes also has written *The Victorian Governess* (1993) and *Victorians Undone: Tales of the Flesh in the Age of Decorum* (2017), and she is now writing a book about the late Victorians' obsession with cats. Andrew Lycett wrote a sprightly review of her *Victorian Undone* for History Today <www.historytoday.com/reviews/stripping-down-buttoned>.

It has been open since at least 2005: there's a Sherlock Holmes English Lounge in the Arabian Courtyard Hotel in Dubai, and now Jennie Paton has reported a visual tour at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=TN-ljkOXLFE>.

Further to the preview of "A Celebration of Sherlock Holmes" at the DePaul Pop Culture Conference scheduled at DePaul University in Chicago on May 7 (Mar 22 #3), Paul Booth, who developed the conference, was interviewed recently by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/bdsu6jvb>.

Apr 22 #2 John T. Lescroart began his writing career with *Son of Holmes* (1986) and *Rasputin's Revenge* (1987); they're about Auguste Lupa, and are more Neronian than Sherlockian. If you would like to know more about his long and successful career since then, there's an interesting interview with him published in the March-April issue of Sactown Magazine <www.sactownmag.com/life-of-crime-john-lescroart>.

Something new: cli-fi (fiction literature that deals with the effects of climate change on human society). A brief Sherlockian cli-fi was one of the winners in a recent competition set by the British magazine *The Speculator* <www.tinyurl.com/f8vfuxss>.

Jennie Paton spotted an unusual (to say the least) Sherlock in Brazil; you can see him at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=29Q07qN-cKM>.

Lyndon N. Smith's *Star Trek Nation* (Sedgemoor, 2021; 179 pp., \$32.95) offers "an Englishman's view of America." It's very much a memoir, written by someone who believes that the "Star Trek" television series has much to say about America, and its relationship with Britain, and that the Sherlock Holmes stories can be just as helpful to Americans who want to understand Britain. Smith's explanation of it all is nicely entertaining.

The Atlantic Coast Theatre for Youth will be touring their new "Sherlock Holmes & the Opera Mystery" on tour from Sept. 2022 to Aug. 2024; it's for grades K-8, and their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3dry4s75> has a five-minute video preview.

The Royal Mail has issued a set of stamps showing migratory birds, one of them a Stone-curlew, described as "an odd-looking 'goggle-eyed plover'" (curlews are mentioned in two stories: "The Priory School" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles").



June Brown died on Apr. 3. She began acting on stage with the Old Vic in 1948, and was best known as Dot Cotton in the "Eastenders" television series, in which she appeared for more than 30 years. According to her obituary in the Guardian, she never cared about propriety, claiming that when she appeared in "Calendar Girls" in the West End at the age of 82, she was the only one in the cast who stripped completely naked for the photo call. She also played Anne Chapman in "Murder by Decree" (1979).

Are you woke? Are you from Woking? Be skeptical about anything published on Apr. 1.

Forecast: Sarah Penner's *THE LONDON SÉANCE CLUB*, due in 2023, is, according to *The Bookseller* (Apr. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/5cmzd6eh>, set in 1872 London and is "inspired by a real gentlemen's-only séance club founded by Charles Dickens and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." That would be the Ghost Club, which was founded in 1862 and is still going strong, but while Dickens and Conan Doyle were members, they weren't among its founders. Nor were they even members at the same time: Dickens died in 1870, when Conan Doyle was only eleven years old.

Apr 22 #3 It's reasonably official, since it was reported by both Variety and the Hollywood Reporter (Apr. 5): Warner Bros. hopes to expand its "Sherlock Holmes" film universe into television, and is working with HBO Max to develop two new series, with Robert Downey Jr. on board as executive producer. The new series likely would be a substitute for the long-delayed third RDJ film, which was originally scheduled for release in December 2020, but is not yet in production.

The largest autograph album ever compiled by a single collector, with signatures of more than 60,000 notables <www.tinyurl.com/2p9dmwke>, is up for sale for \$250,000. The history of the collection is fascinating indeed, even though (according to the dealer) Conan Doyle is not in the album.

She wasn't a Sherlockian, but Lillian Virginia Mountweazel, well known to some (but not all) of those are interested in copyright, is worthy of attention; you can read about her at <www.tinyurl.com/cemjfunck>. Lady Mondegreen is better known to people interested in strange but useful words; you can read about her at <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mondegreen>.

Old Marvel, the Scientific Detective (Dark Lantern Tales, 2021; 229 pp., \$19.95) is an intriguing reprint of a serial, discovered by Joe Rainone, that appeared in Saturday Night (a weekly "story paper" published in Philadelphia) in 1884, three years before Conan Doyle's scientific detective. The book also has a reprint of "A Study in Scarlet" as serialized in The Illustrated Home Guest in 1894, and an introduction by Rainone detailing the coincidences between the two stories. It's all nicely edited by Mark Williams, who presides over Dark Lantern <www.darklantern.wordpress.com>.

Glen and Cathy Miranker were interviewed in a CBS Sunday News segment on Apr. 10 on the "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" exhibition at the Grolier Club <www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-555u43x68>.

"Mystery novels offer a more nuanced perspective in which perfumes are one intriguing tool in the box of dark communication strategies," Megan Volpert suggests in her new book *Perfume (Object Lessons)* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2022). Sherlock Holmes is among the detectives she discusses, and you can read what she has to say about him in an excerpt from the book at the Literary Hub web-site (Apr. 8) <www.tinyurl.com/2ez7jnn3>

There have been many mentions of Cameron Hollyer in this newsletter over the years, and the annual Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture in Toronto is named in his honor; if you would like to know more about him, and his many contributions to the Sherlockian world, Chris Redmond's fine tribute will be found at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/2p837awa>.

Further to the report (Oct 21 #8) on C. T. Scott's article about "The Curious Incident of Sherlock Holmes's Real-Life Secretary" in the Economist's 1843 Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/96baau4d> about Chris Bazlinton, who at the age of 27 signed on as Holmes' secretary at Abbey National: Aurra Studios has announced that "Sherlock Holmes's Secret Secretary" now is in development for television <www.tinyurl.com/4afm96ts>. Needless to say, a secret secretary makes for a better television title than real-life secretary.

Apr 22 #4 Richard Hughes, mentioned often in this newsletter, was noted for having had characters modeled after him in books written by Ian Fleming and John Le Carré. Hughes' copy of Ian Fleming's *You Only Live Twice*, inscribed by "To Dikko-san from Fleming-san. With all affection." was offered in an on-line auction at Christie's this month, estimated at \$35,000-\$50,000 <www.tinyurl.com/zr9hncjj>; it didn't sell.

Just the thing for dinosaur fans: original artwork by Harry Rountree for "The Lost World" (ink wash and gouache on board) was sold at Heritage Auctions this month for \$8,125 (including the buyer's premium); at auction in 2017 it sold for \$5,500. It's fascinating to see just how much better the original artwork is than what readers of the story in the Strand Magazine saw <www.tinyurl.com/34w97sv6>.

This year's Virtual Jack Benny convention included "Jack Benny Meets Sherlock Holmes" (written by Brad Strickland and performed by the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company); you can watch (and listen to) the 23-minute show at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtQ1SbgUwKo>. The ARTC <www.artc.org>, founded in 1984, offers an interesting catalog of "adventure in sound," including "Sherlock Holmes and the Crime of the Century".

The (real) "Jack Benny Show" had quite a few Sherlockian segments, including "Sherlock Holmes and King Kong" in the program that aired on May 26, 1933, starring Jack as Sherlock Holmes; Jennie Paton found it on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJyZGVHgGU8>.

The February issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Julie McKuras' report on this newsletter (since there's a compete run in the collection), her "50 Years Ago" tribute to Hank Potter, and other news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Timothy Johnson, 15-G Elmer L. Anderson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <johns976@umn.com>.

Ronald Levisky discusses "A Holmesian Homage—The Chronicles of Addington Peace" and Jerry Margolin explains how "The Slavering Hound Is Brought to Heel" in the spring issue of *Canadian Holmes*, which is published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto, and also offers news of Sherlockian goings-on in Canada. Subscriptions cost \$30.00 a year (US or CA); single issues cost \$12.00 <www.torontobootmakers.com>.

The Knockhatch Adventure Park in Hailsham (Sussex) has a Sherlock Holmes Experience <www.tinyurl.com/yurfjxya>; Richard Doyle (grand-nephew of Sir Arthur) presided over the opening this month. There's also a trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIRbDfrYUS4>. The Parks also offers a Lost World Playbarn <www.tinyurl.com/yrhk8898>.

Nev March's *Peril at the Exposition* (New York: Minotaur Books, 2022, 352 pp., \$27.99), the sequel to her award-winning *Murder in Old Bombay* (2020), has Captain Jim Agnihotri, now married to Diana Framji, in Chicago in 1893 investigating a threat to the Columbian Exposition; Jim has disappeared, and Diana must find him, in a story that's a thriller with some Sherlockian sleuthing involved.

Apr 22 #5 Further to the items (Sep 14 #7 and Dec 14 #5 and May 16 #6) about a new Sherlock Holmes play, written by Rachel Wagsaff and Duncan Abel, and produced by Antonio R. Marion, forecast for Broadway in 2017, Deadline has reported (Apr. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/yjescyzh> that the play is (still) under development, "with an eye toward the West End and Broadway." Stay tuned.

Lykkelig Påskekrim! Turns out that Norwegians have an interesting way of celebrating Easter <www.lifeinnorway.net/easter-crime>.

If you didn't buy a bottle of Macallan's Archival Series of fine whiskies honoring the "luggy bonnet" for £250 two years ago (May 20 #2), you should have: one bottle was at auction at Sotheby's in Hong Kong this month, estimated at 8,000-12,000 HKD <www.tinyurl.com/bkb6cjfz>; it sold for 22,500 HKD (that's \$2,868), with shipping extra.

Who was the first Sherlockian scholar? Not, as it turns out, Helen Elizabeth Wilson, whose article "The Life of Sherlock Holmes" was published in the Oct. 1898 issue of the Cornell Magazine (Feb 22 #2). The spring issue of The Baker Street Journal reprints William Aspenwall Bradley's "Sherlock Holmes and His Literary Prototype" (first published in the Dec. 1896 issue of the Columbia Literary Monthly), accompanied by an article about Bradley by Daniel L. and Eugene B. Friedman, who discovered the 1896 scholarship. You can subscribe to the BSJ <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com> and receive the spring issue as part of this year's subscription.

Why does Sherlock Holmes like Mexican restaurants? Jennie Paton found the answer at YouTube <www.youtube.com/shorts/l1TgXNw8Ntc>.

More than 300 people attended the 221B Con in Atlanta on Apr. 8-10, and a good time seems to have been had by all. There were many panels, and you can see their list at <www.221bcon.com/panels>. The most detailed report from a Sherlockian about what went on is by Brad Keefauver; check his blog archive for April at <www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com>. You can also hear a 37-minute audio report <www.tinyurl.com/2p932jyn> at the Watsonian Weekly web-site.

Steve Doyle's Fortnightly Dispatch continues; his latest interviews have been with Mark Jones and Ira Matetsky <www.tinyurl.com/mr45zbhu>.

In case you've never seen one: a very nice copy of the 1925 A. L. Burt Co. photoplay reprint edition of *The Lost World*, with dust-jacket art from the film <www.tinyurl.com/5fmutuax>, sold at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 10 for \$660 (including the buyer's premium).

For those who are aware that William Gillette smoked a curved wooden pipe, rather than a calabash, when he performed as "Sherlock Holmes" (no one has ever come up with a photograph or contemporary artwork that shows him with a calabash): a "Sherlock Holmes limited edition calabash rusticated estate smoking pipe" (presumably a briar) <www.tinyurl.com/5d7x3w27> was at auction this month, estimated at \$50-\$150; it sold for \$150.

Apr 22 #6 Mark F. McPherson's *An Irregular Life: Being the Adventures and Memoirs of a Fortunate Sherlockian* (London: MX Publishing, 2022; 539 pp., \$39.99) is the second (and greatly expanded) edition of his memoirs, and it's a great read, offering a chance to share his travels and quests (for Camelot, Atlantis, Jack the Ripper, James Bond, Emma Peel, and the Loch Ness Monster, among others); his meetings with interesting Sherlockians (including his mentor Bill Rabe) and non-Sherlockians; as well as his appearances in his own one-man show "An Evening with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle". Memoirs, of course, are much more fun than autobiographies.

"Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" at the Grolier Club in New York opened on Jan. 12 and closed on Apr. 16, and had 5,500 visits, more than any other exhibition in at least the last ten years, and would have had more if attendance had not been restricted during the pandemic. The exhibition next will be at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., Aug 1-Dec. 15; details will be found at Glen's web-site at <www.sherlockin221objects.org>.

The Generic Radio Workshop <www.genericradio.com> offers free downloads of a wide variety of old-time radio scripts, including ten from the Rathbone, Conway, and Gielgud series <www.genericradio.com/series/sherlockholmes>, and the Mercury Theater broadcast of Orson Welles' version of the Gillette play <www.genericradio.com/show/8VCGXSKAOS>.

"Experience the mystery in VR" seems to be something new in the Sherlockian world. Les Enfants Terribles have created "The Case of the Hung Parliament" as a "live immersive production" that was adapted for an on-line audience on Zoom <www.vrisch.com/projects/sherlock-holmes-vr>. There's additional information at <www.sherlockholmesvr.com>, and even more about it at <www.sherlockimmersive.com>. The review in the Evening Standard (Feb. 25, 2021) was far from enthusiastic <www.tinyurl.com/4p24znp6>.

For fans of "The Lost World": the National Geographic's one-hour program "Explorer: The Last Tepui" began streaming on Disney+ on Apr. 22; you can watch the trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/y8sc37jr>. It's the story of an expedition to Wei-Assipu, also known as Little Roraima or Roramita (many believe that near-by Roraima was the inspiration for Conan Doyle's story).

Walt and Roger Reed's *The Illustrator in America 1880-1980: A Century of Illustration* (New York: Society of Illustrators, 1984) offers a detailed and well-illustrated discussion of American artists. The entry for Joseph Clement Coll ("perhaps America's greatest virtuoso in the use of pen and ink") includes artwork for "Sir Nigel" and "The Lost World", and the entry for Frederic Door Steele ("best remembered for is portray of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes") shows a cover from Collier's.

"A wise man once said, if you've eliminated the possible and the probable, then the impossible must be true! Sherlock Holmes, I think: 1899." According to Peter Parker (aka Spider-man), in the May 1973 issue of Marvel Team-Up, noted by Paul Thomas Miller in the April issue of the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild's newsletter Timeline, conveniently available by e-mail from Brad Keefauver <bkeefauver@gmail.com>.

Apr 22 #7 Rathbone and Bruce in 1959? They both signed a contract with NBC-TV on July 23, 1959, giving permission to use a photograph of them in a "reunion plug" <www.tinyurl.com/2kx4szmd>; the contract was at auction on Apr. 27, estimated at \$1,500-\$2,500; the photograph was not included, and there was no information on what the program was, or whether it aired. The lot was withdrawn, and for a good reason: Nigel Bruce died in 1953.

Terry Hunt's presentation at the Bryant Library in Roslyn, N.Y., on May 12 about Christopher Morley's connections with Sherlock Holmes will be available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/5xhw3xxe>; Morley's "Knothole" is preserved in Roslyn, where he lived and wrote for many years.

Terry also has created a new Sherlockian society, the League of Kilted Canonicals, for Sherlockians who wear kilts; more information is available from him at <sherlockstuff113@gmail.com>.

Theater news: Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the 1st Baker Street Irregular" will be performed at the James McCabe Theatre in Valrico, Fla., May 6-21 <www.thevillageplayersvalrico.com>.

Allan Martin's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Basketballs" (a puppet show billed as "appropriate for mature audiences, not children") will be performed at the Old Town Hall in Altamonte, Ont., May 12-15; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/4hhzyes4>.

John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Keighley Playhouse in Keighley, West Yorks., on May 2-7 <www.keighleyplyhouse.co.uk>; also at the Daneside Theatre in Congleton, Cheshire, from June 14 to June 18 <www.congletonplayers.com>.

The Lantern Light Theatre Company will perform "Miss Sherlock Holmes" (a triple bill of one-act plays) on tour in Britain in June and July; their schedule is at <www.tinyurl.com/yc23w4kw>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" will be performed at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., July 12-Aug.21 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.

A new adaptation of "The Poison Belt" is due at the Jermyn Street Theatre in London, July 21-30 <www.jermynstreettheatre.co.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Great Plains Theatre in Abilene, Kans., Sept. 9-25 <www.greatplainstheatre.com>.

"Spontaneous Sherlock" will be performed at the Glee Club in Nottingham on Oct. 24 <www.thespontaneousplayers.com>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and Case of the Jersey Lily" is due at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Apr. 14-May 7, 2023 <www.alleytheatre.org>.

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