

Sherlockians will gather in New York on Jan. 4-8 to honor Sherlock Holmes' 169th birthday, and planning for almost all of the traditional events is afoot. There's a "Plans for BSI Weekend" page at the Baker Street Irregulars web-site <[www.bakerstreetirregulars.com](http://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 is able to deal with. There also will be information available in mid-November at Scott Monty's excellent web-site <[www.bsiweekend.com](http://www.bsiweekend.com)>; his helpful "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" will be found at <[ihose.co/bsi2023tips](http://ihose.co/bsi2023tips)> in December. It's also a good idea to sign up for News from the BSI to hear about Weekend news and when public registration opens for the festivities <[www.tinyurl.com/yc5tsz27](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc5tsz27)>.

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](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm)> on Nov. 1; there also are recommendations of older Sherlockiana, all with helpful explanations of his choices.

On location with Buster Keaton: John Bengtson ("the great detective of silent film locations," according to the N.Y. Times) has an interesting YouTube channel where he takes you on a tour of locations for Buster Keaton's "Sherlock Jr." (1924) <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDQdOmnB\\_Gw&t=76s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDQdOmnB_Gw&t=76s)>. Kindly reported by Jennie Paton.

For all of the fans of professional hockey: Alex Ovechkin, left winger and captain of Washington Capitals, likes to dress in costume for Russian television commercials, and Jennie Paton has spotted him in Sherlockian costume at the RMNB [Russian Machine Never Breaks] web-site in a commercial for Russia's PSB bank <[www.tinyurl.com/43b8bx6k](http://www.tinyurl.com/43b8bx6k)>.

Barbara Peters and Patrick Millikin welcomed Les Klinger to the Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Oct. 6 for a discussion of his *The New Annotated Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (just published by the Mysterious Press), and much more, and you can watch the goings-on at their YouTube channel <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVENiQKyUxo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVENiQKyUxo)>.

Tim Johnson has reported a new 26-minute film from the Mayo Clinic ("Finding Substance X: The Team That Created Cortisone") that features Dr. Philip S. Hench, who shared a Nobel Prize for the results of his research, and with his wife Mary put together the magnificent collection that's a cornerstone of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota <[www.tinyurl.com/3pusytk6](http://www.tinyurl.com/3pusytk6)>.

"Holmes and Yoyo" was a 1976 television series that was Sherlockian only for starring Richard Shull (a member of the Baker Street Irregulars) as Det. Sgt. Alexander Holmes, who is partnered with Det. Sgt. Gregory "Yoyo" Yoyonovich, who turns out to be an android. All these years later, Paul Thomas Miller offers a video of "Holmesian Yo-Yo Tricks" (recently noted by Jennie Paton).

Oct 22 #2 There were some interesting Sherlockiana and Doyleana offered at a sale of rare books and manuscripts in New York on Oct. 6, including four non-Sherlockian manuscripts; Randall Stock has posted detailed information (and images) at his "The Best of Sherlock Holmes" website <[www.tinyurl.com/xjfyms2s](http://www.tinyurl.com/xjfyms2s)>. The highlight of the sale, for Sherlockians, certainly, was the rare inscribed copy of the first Spencer Blakett edition of *The Sign of Four* (1890); the estimate was \$20,000-\$30,000 and it sold for \$201,600 (including the buyer's premium).

The spectacular Williamson Pink Star <[www.tinyurl.com/vrhms2e5](http://www.tinyurl.com/vrhms2e5)> did very well at Sotheby's in Hong Kong on Oct. 5; the 11.15-carat diamond sold for \$57,736,078 (including the buyer's premium) and set a new record for price per carat for any diamond or gemstone. It's also the second most valuable jewel or gemstone ever sold at auction.

In case you don't know about the most valuable jewel or gemstone ever sold at auction, it's the 59.60-carat Pink Star that was sold at Sotheby's in 2017 for \$71.2 million <[www.tinyurl.com/3vpj922y](http://www.tinyurl.com/3vpj922y)>; it weighed 132.50 carats uncut when it was mined by De Beers in 1999, and took two years to cut and polish.

Plan ahead: The Legion of Zoom will hold its second annual virtual conference (exploring "The Sitting Zoom at 221b Baker Street") at 2:00 pm (eastern) on Feb. 19, 2023; more information, and a registration button, can be found at <[www.tinyurl.com/ycpru7mt](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycpru7mt)>.

"Greetings, old friends," is a phrase that will please fans of "Star Trek: The Next Generation". It's a lovely preview of things to come, in a teaser <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wo2VlcSVj-w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wo2VlcSVj-w)> for the ten-episode third season of "Star Trek: Picard" that will be streamed on Paramount+ beginning Feb. 16.

Spoiler alert: those fateful words are spoken by Daniel Davis, who's back as Moriarty, who was featured in two episodes of the original series: "Elementary, Dear Data" (1988) and "Ship in a Bottle" (1993). If you want to know (much) more about the series, and the episodes, Wikipedia has a helpful entry <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star\\_Trek:\\_The\\_Next\\_Generation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_Trek:_The_Next_Generation)>.

Steve Mason wonders why this (non-Sherlockian) sentence is unusual: "Dennis, Nell, Edna, Leon, Nedra, Anita, Rolf, Nora, Alice, Carol, Leo, Jane, Reed, Dena, Dale, Basil, Rae, Penny, Lana, Dave, Denny, Lena, Ida, Bernadette, Ben, Ray, Lila, Nina, Jo, Ira, Mara, Sara, Mario, Jan, Ina, Lily, Arne, Bette, Dan, Reba, Diane, Lynn, Ed, Eva, Dana, Lynne, Pearl, Isabel, Ada, Ned, Dee, Rena, Joel, Lora, Cecil, Aaron, Flora, Tina, Arden, Noel, and Ellen sinned."

Robert J. Harris' *The Devil's Blaze: Sherlock Holmes 1943* (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2022; 276 pp., \$26.00) is his second pastiche inspired by the Universal series of films that brought Holmes and Watson into the 1940s; they're in war-time Britain, investigating a series of grotesque murders, pursuing Professor Moriarty and hard at work preventing a German victory, The author's web-site is at <[www.harris-authors.com](http://www.harris-authors.com)>.

Oct 22 #3 Steve Mason wonders why this (non-Sherlockian) sentence is unusual (Oct 22 #2): it's a palindrome, provided by Steve in the October issue of *The Bilge Pump*, the monthly newsletter of the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* (the Sherlockian society in Dallas/Fort Worth); the issue is conveniently available at their web-site <[www.dfw-sherlock.org](http://www.dfw-sherlock.org)>. Actually, you can read all the issues of their newsletter, which was launched in June 2013, since they're archived at the web-site, along with much more of interest. There are (so far) a few other societies that archive their newsletters on-line; it's a wonderful way to make Sherlockian scholarship available to everyone.

At last! Jennie Paton has discovered that The Russian television series "Sherlock: The Russian Chronicles" (with Maxim Matveev as Holmes) (Apr. 20 #6) will soon be available on DVDs. That's the good news. The bad news is that the DVDs will be in European PAL format, in Russian with subtitles only in French <[www.tinyurl.com/3rk4c6nu](http://www.tinyurl.com/3rk4c6nu)>. Sherlock Holmes is in St. Petersburg, following the trail of Jack the Ripper (who has fled to Russia), and you can see a trailer at <[www.start.ru/watch/sherlok-v-rossii](http://www.start.ru/watch/sherlok-v-rossii)>.

Japan Today had a colorful report on Oct. 4 <[www.tinyurl.com/5n8e3frj](http://www.tinyurl.com/5n8e3frj)> on the new Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at the British Antique Museum in Kamakura; the museum's web-site's at <[www.bam-kamakura.com](http://www.bam-kamakura.com)>.

The Blackeyed Theatre's tour of Nick Lane's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Valley of Fear" began in Britain on Sept. 14, but you won't need to travel to Britain to see it: it's being streamed on-line through Jan. 22, and is well worth watching <[www.tinyurl.com/mry6sxx5](http://www.tinyurl.com/mry6sxx5)>.

Daniel Stashower's *American Demon: Eliot Ness and the Hunt for America's Jack the Ripper* (New York: Minotaur, 2022; 342 pp., \$29.99) is his latest non-fiction book, about the man who helped bring down Al Capone in Chicago and then found himself in Cleveland, attempting to solve a series of brutal murders; there are passing mentions of Sherlock Holmes (Dan knows this is important in persuading Sherlockians to read his books), and the book's great fun.

Why would you want to read a book? Jennie Paton found an amusing commentary on that question, on-line at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2GERJ38Zvk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2GERJ38Zvk)>.

"Musings on Amusements in the Canon" is the title of the next conference scheduled by the Reichenbach Irregulars in Leukerbad, Switzerland, on June 1-4, 2023 <[www.tinyurl.com/25zphw74](http://www.tinyurl.com/25zphw74)>; planning for the conference continues, and visitors from far and near are welcome to participate in the festivities.

The Christopher Morley Knothole Association is hosting an illustrated lecture on one of his favorite topics: the Long Island Railroad. David Morrison will talk about steam trains, and the LIRR from its inception to the time when Morley rode the rails from the 1930s to the 1950s, at the Bryant Library in Roslyn, N.Y., on Nov. 3, at 6:30 pm. The meeting is free, and open to the public; more information about the event, and the Knothole Association, is available from Peter Cohn <[apacohn@aol.com](mailto:apacohn@aol.com)>.

Oct 22 #4 *Nights of Plague*, by Orhan Pamuk (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2022; 683 pp., \$34.00), published in Turkey last year and now available in an English translation, is a novel disguised as a history of the fictional island of Mingheria, ruled by the Abdul Hamid II, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire; in 1901 the island is beset by virulent bubonic plague that ravishes the Christian Greeks and Muslim Turks who live there. The Sultan, in the novel and in fact an admirer of the Sherlock Holmes stories, sends an epidemiologist to the island, instructed to use Sherlockian deduction to solve a murder. Pamuk also notes that when Conan Doyle visited Turkey in 1907, he received the Order of the Mecidiye from Abdul Hamid, who was deposed in 1909. Not in the novel but widely reported: Hamid, on his last night as Sultan listened to a courtier read a translation of a Sherlock Holmes story in an issue of *The Strand Magazine*. Nick Hilden's interview with Pamuk, about the book and much more, was published in the *Washington Post* (Book World) on Oct. 16 <[www.tinyurl.com/45hmksdk](http://www.tinyurl.com/45hmksdk)>.

There's a fine slide show of treasures in the cases at the splendid exhibition of "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" (at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., through Dec. 16) at the exhibition web-site <[www.sherlockin221objects.org/the-lilly-library](http://www.sherlockin221objects.org/the-lilly-library)>.

*Canonical Cameos*, by the late Donald A. Redmond, is a collection of entertaining poems he wrote in 1976, now published for the first time in a 16-page pamphlet that was a souvenir prepared by his son Christopher Redmond for the recent "Jubilee@221B" conference in Toronto; copies are available from Chris for \$5.00 postpaid via PayPal at <[redmond2@execulink.com](mailto:redmond2@execulink.com)>.

There was a nice article by Steve Marsh about the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota at the *Mpls.St.Paul* magazine web-site on Oct. 16 <[www.tinyurl.com/mr2efnj5](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr2efnj5)>. Tim Johnson, librarian and curator of the collections, explained that "we still have archiving to do. I call it job security."

The *Deadline* web-site noted on Oct. 3 <[www.tinyurl.com/4vbtvxz](http://www.tinyurl.com/4vbtvxz)> that work has begun on a new mystery series for CBS-TV. Craig Sweeney, who worked on the "Elementary" series for five years, most of them as executive producer, will write the new series, which features Dr. Watson, back in practice a year after the death of Holmes at the hands of Moriarty. The new series isn't even "in development" yet, so don't hold your breath.

The web-site also reported on Oct. 6 <[www.tinyurl.com/3b6nn4xy](http://www.tinyurl.com/3b6nn4xy)> on plans for a different Sherlockian project ("The Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall"), which will consist of a three-book children's series written by Ali Standish and published by HarperCollins, and a television series produced by Imagine Kids+Family.

Don Hobbs has added language #113 to his data-base of translations of the Canon, thanks to Marsha Pollak who found a Khmer translation at the International Book Center in Phnom Penh in 2018 (Khmer is the official and national language of Cambodia). Don's massive (and colorfully-illustrated) data-base (which he calls "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes") is available online at <[www.dfw-sherlock.org/galactic-sherlock-holmes.html](http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/galactic-sherlock-holmes.html)>.

Oct 22 #5 "Boss of Sherlock Holmes Museum Continues 'Bitter' High Court Battle with His Little Brother Who Is Refusing to Move out of £1 million House Which Has Been His Home for 25 Years" was the headline on an article in the Daily Mail (on Oct. 17) <[www.tinyurl.com/dkkr9hn3](http://www.tinyurl.com/dkkr9hn3)> about the seemingly perpetual lawyering among John Aidiniantz and members of his family, who have "racked up more than £2.5 million in costs and court orders" in a decade-long battle over profits from the Sherlock Holmes Museum at 221B Baker Street.

Angela Lansbury died on Oct. 11. She had a long and distinguished career acting on screen and stage and television, and became a household name as Jessica Fletcher on "Murder, She Wrote" which ran for 12 seasons on CBS-TV from 1984 to 1996. The pilot episode for the series ("The Murder of Sherlock Holmes") is discussed in detail at <[www.vimeo.com/115878284](http://www.vimeo.com/115878284)>.

The Dramatic Publishing Co. <[www.dramaticpublishing.com](http://www.dramaticpublishing.com)> offers a wide variety of scripts (16 in all) for regional and school productions of Sherlock Holmes plays.

Daniel Monaghan (who stars in the title role in Treefort Media's ten-episode audio mini-series "Moriarty: The Devil's Game") gave an interesting interview to the Sydney Morning Herald <[www.tinyurl.com/3stmn52k](http://www.tinyurl.com/3stmn52k)> on Oct. 19, talking about the mini-series and much more. You can sample the mini-series <[www.audible.com/pd/Moriarty-Podcast/B0B2DZBVRR](http://www.audible.com/pd/Moriarty-Podcast/B0B2DZBVRR)>; Phil LaMarr stars as Sherlock Holmes.

Owen Thomas' "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (with Nigel Miles-Thomas as Holmes and Daniel Foley as Watson) continues its tour in Asia, and there's a nice review of the show at Ben's Theater in Jomtien, Thailand, published in the Pattaya Mail on Oct. 19 <[www.tinyurl.com/ya2akckb](http://www.tinyurl.com/ya2akckb)>.

Original production cels from the classic animated film "Deduce, You Say!" (1956) aren't easy to find. Teresa Rettig reports that one is available from the Chuck Jones Gallery for \$5,950 <[www.tinyurl.com/ydsfn5r8](http://www.tinyurl.com/ydsfn5r8)>. They weren't nearly as expensive in 2009, when one sold for \$3,585 at Heritage Auctions <[www.tinyurl.com/ymspzsx](http://www.tinyurl.com/ymspzsx)>. Of course you can settle for limited edition cels that are made for collectors and cost much less

"A Doctor, a Deduction, and Death Averted" is an interesting essay on "how doctor and writer Simon Stephenson's love for Sherlock Holmes helped him save his mother's life", published at the CrimeReads web-site on Oct. 19 <[www.crimereads.com/a-doctor-a-deduction-and-a-death-averted](http://www.crimereads.com/a-doctor-a-deduction-and-a-death-averted)>. Stephenson explains that he was born in the same hospital as Sherlock Holmes, and has a good story to tell.

When in Whitstable (in Kent): you can visit the Whitstable Community Museum and Gallery, to see its exhibition honoring the late Peter Cushing, who lived there for 35 years <[www.whitstablemuseum.org/exhibit/peter-cushing](http://www.whitstablemuseum.org/exhibit/peter-cushing)>. Howard Ostrom has found a video tour of the exhibition, when it opened in 2013 <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEtpEftsJ8k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEtpEftsJ8k)>; the exhibits include costumes he wore as Sherlock Holmes (Cushing played Holmes many times on screen and on television, and Conan Doyle once on television).

Oct 22 #6 "A Sherlockian Semiquincentennial" is the title of the 250th episode of "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" audio show that was launched in 2007 by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder; it's still going strong, and offers a search engine and a complete archive of 15 years of discussions and interviews that are well worth investigating.

And yes indeed, semiquincentennial is a real word, not recognized by the Word spell-checker but nevertheless in dictionaries. You can also celebrate sestercentennials and quarter millenniums, and you can expect to see all of those words on July 4, 2026, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the 13 colonies that became the United States of America.

Leslie Katz has written many papers on Canonical topics, and all of them are conveniently available at <[www.ssrn.com/author=1164057](http://www.ssrn.com/author=1164057)>; his latest is "Thrills and Chills and Postage and Wills: A Look at a Few Aspects of 'The Five Orange Pips'".

Andy Lane who has written eight novels in his "Young Sherlock" series and two in his "Lost World" series, and many more in non-Sherlockian and non-Doylean genres, was interviewed at length recently at the Time Scales website <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcxmJ\\_WmNtA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcxmJ_WmNtA)>, kindly reported by Jennie Patton.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the State Theater in Olympia, Wash., Jan. 27-Feb. 11; web-site at <[www.harlequinproductions.org](http://www.harlequinproductions.org)>. Also at Cheney Hall in Manchester, Conn., Feb. 3-19 <[www.cheneyhall.org](http://www.cheneyhall.org)>; and the Amelia Community Theatre in Fernandina Beach, Fla., June 9 to 24 <[www.ameliacommunitytheatre.org](http://www.ameliacommunitytheatre.org)>; and the Totem Pole Playhouse in Fayetteville, Pa., June 16-July 2 <[www.totempoleplayhouse.org](http://www.totempoleplayhouse.org)>.

"William Gillette's Legacy Shines a Bit Brighter at Farmington Cemetery" was the headline on a story <[www.tinyurl.com/49mhv35y](http://www.tinyurl.com/49mhv35y)> in the Middletown Press (Oct. 11) about the restoration of the headstones at the graves of William and Helen Gillette, with a photograph that includes the Gillettes (impersonated by Tyke and Teddie Niver).

Theatrics: Tad Aviezer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Red-Headed League" is scheduled at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, N.Y., Nov. 4-Dec. 4 <[www.lyndhurst.org](http://www.lyndhurst.org)>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Genesian Theatre in Sydney, N.S.W., Nov. 4 through Dec. 10 <[www.genesiantheatre.com/au](http://www.genesiantheatre.com/au)>.

Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Mount Vernon, Ohio, Nov. 10-12; web-site at <[www.mvnu.edu/events/fall-play-22?date=2022-11-10](http://www.mvnu.edu/events/fall-play-22?date=2022-11-10)>.

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