

If you've seen the *Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects* catalog that accompanies the exhibition of material from Glen Miranker's collection, you will know what excellent work Hemlock Printers does. The company won nine trophies (including "best in show" for the catalog) and many honorable mentions at the Canadian Printers Awards this month. Details are available Hemlock's blog at www.tinyurl.com/y6nk55ha.

The exhibition's run at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., ended on Dec. 16, but it soon will be on view at the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Feb. 13-May 5.

The documentary "House of the Gods" (Jul 22 #2) is now available at Amazon Prime UK www.tinyurl.com/yjr7urmv. It's the story of an expedition to Roraima (the Venezuelan tepui considered by many to have been the inspiration for "The Lost World") www.tinyurl.com/4axattse.

The Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* has now published six anthologies of pastiches written by members of the society from 2017 to 2022; they're available as PDF files at the society's web-site at www.tinyurl.com/5n75p87t, and (for those who would like to have actual books on their shelves) they now are available at Barnes & Noble www.tinyurl.com/32ncure4, priced at cost (the Crew receives no proceeds from the sales).

The Beacon Society's web-site offers "A Comprehensive Look at the Stories of the Sherlock Holmes Canon" www.tinyurl.com/mtcx56ae; it's useful as a teaching/learning tool for anyone and everyone, newcomers and old hands, with text, artwork, readings of the stories by Patrick Horgan, questions, discussions, and much more.

Deadline reported on Nov. 28 www.tinyurl.com/3bsw9x9w on planning for a "The Boy Sherlock" television series based on the first book in the young-adult series written by Shane Peacock www.shanepeacock.ca; the six-book series began with *Eye of the Crow* (2007).

The six-episode series "Magpie Murders" (adapted by Anthony Horowitz from his novel) is well worth watching; it was broadcast on Britbox in the U.K. last February and on PBS-TV in the U.S. in October, and has many Sherlockian allusions in the plot and in the dialogue. Horowitz also frequently mentions Holmes and Conan Doyle in his post-episode comments, and you can enjoy looking for cryptic messages in the closing credits (watch for the red letters).

Agatha Christie's play "The Mousetrap" isn't Sherlockian, but it holds the record for the longest-running play in history: 70 years, with more than 28,000 performances for more than 10 million audience members, and according to the Smithsonian web-site www.tinyurl.com/mrymykwu there are plans for a production on Broadway in 2023. The play will continue its run at the St. Martin's Theatre in London, of course, but the mantelpiece clock, the only surviving piece of the original set, will be loaned from the London production for the Broadway run www.mousetrapbroadway.com.

Dec 22 #2 Every ten years the British magazine Sight and Sound conducts a poll to name the greatest films of all time, and this year 1,639 critics, programmers, curators, archivists, and academics submitted their top-ten ballots. Alan Rettig has noted that Buster Keaton's "Sherlock Jr." (1924) was tied for #54, and you can see all of the results of the poll at <www.bfi.org.uk/sight-and-sound/greatest-films-all-time>.

"Attention for Andaman" was the headline on a story at the GEO ExPro web-site on Nov. 29 <www.tinyurl.com/bdh8xr7v>, detailing increased interest in possible petroleum resources offshore from the Andaman Islands; an earlier article at the Lowy Institute web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ycx8whe9> explains additional reasons for increasing interest in the Andamans.

The Norwegian Explorers have just published Ruth Berman's *"Sherlock Holmes in Oz" and Others: The Sherlockian Writings of Ruth Berman*; the 110-page book is available for \$11.00 postpaid from Phillip Bergem (3829 172nd Avenue SW, Andover, MN 55304), checks payable to Norwegian Explorers, please; or via PayPal, with payment to <norexpay@gmail.com>.

Nick Fisher died on Nov. 17. He was an accomplished writer for stage, radio, and television in Britain; his "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" was produced at the Salisbury Playhouse in 1991.

The new "30th anniversary edition" of Kim Newman's *Anno Dracula* (London: Titan Books, 2022; 519 pp., £17.99/\$24.95) is signed by the author, with a new Introduction by Neil Gaiman and a new novella "Anno Dracula 1902: The Chances of Anything Coming from Mars" (a reprint from the *Reminiscences of Col. Sebastian Moran*). The book launched a splendid series of alternate-universe novels and stories with a multitude of Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) cross-overs. Newman was the distinguished speaker at the Baker Street Irregulars' birthday festivities in 2013, and he has a web-site at <www.johnnyalucard.com>.

The Mini-Tonga Scion Society has been inactive for many years, but there still are Sherlockians who collect or make miniatures. Jennie Paton notes an attractive (and expensive) 1/12-scale Sherlock Holmes Writing Desk on offer at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/5n8pbcws>.

Randall Stock has reported that the 27-page manuscript for Conan Doyle's short story "The Bully of Brocas Court" is advertised by a dealer in Austria for €75,000 <www.inlibris.com/item/bn60378>; it's also available at AbeBooks for \$81,088.68. According to Randall Stock's page on the manuscript <www.tinyurl.com/2p868vrn> it was sold for \$23,940 (including the buyer's premium) at Christie's in New York on Oct. 6; it's likely that the dealer will be prepared to bargain.

Sean Wright has noted that "The Perfect Crime" (an episode in the "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" television series that aired in 1957) is conveniently available on-line <www.dailymotion.com/video/x54oliv>; the program stars Vincent Prince, who always is well worth watching, and there's mention of a great detective in London, and a delightfully Sherlockian introduction by Alfred Hitchcock.

Dec 22 #3 Greg Bear died on Nov. 19. He began his professional writing career as a teen-ager in 1967, and in 1970 was a co-founder of San Diego Comic-Con (there were 300 attendees at the first Con, and more than 135,000 at this year's gathering); he went on to write more than 50 science-fiction and fantasy books, including *Dinosaur Summer* (1998), a delightful alternate history: Conan Doyle's "The Lost World" was a factual account of the Challenger expedition, but in 1947 nobody cares about dinosaurs, the last dinosaur circus in America is closing and the National Geographic funds an expedition to return the surviving dinosaurs to Venezuela (Willis O'Brien and Ray Harryhausen come along for the fun and games, and of course the expedition is stranded on the plateau).

London isn't the only city with a pub called The Sherlock Holmes. There's also one in Bordeaux (France) <www.sherlockholmespub.fr>. And another in Melbourne (Australia) <www.thesherlockholmes.com.au>. And two more in Edmonton (Canada) <www.thesherlockspubs.ca>.

Jennie Paton has reported something new in the wide range of Sherlockian collectibles: a Sherlock Holmes Door Skateboard Deck (\$81.99) available at <www.koelcase.com/products/sherlock-holmes-door-skateboard-decks>; in case you're not a skateboarder, a skateboard deck is the wooden platform where riders place their feet, and to which other parts are attached. And are there any Sherlockian skateboarders?

The Dark Regions Press has announced plans to publish *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of a Dozen Favourites* in two limited editions: the Detective Edition (\$635.00) and the Library Edition (\$215.00) will feature both fine binding and attractive artwork; details at <www.darkregions.com/sherlock>.

Peter Lovesey's *Reader, I Buried Them, and Other Stories* (New York: Soho Crime, 2022; 372 pp., \$27.95) honors the award-winning author of an extensive list of novels and short stories; the collection includes the imaginative and nicely Sherlockian poem "A Monologue for Mystery Lovers" (first published in the Feb. 1999 issue of Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine*), and more than a dozen excellent short stories (three of them new).

Spotted by Samantha Wolov in Anthony Marra's novel *Mercury Pictures Presents* (Hogarth, 2022): "Sherlock Holmes is the Galileo of the left-handed human heart, trading the telescope for a magnifying glass to discern the order within the nearer darkness.

Ross Davies reports that the 2023 Baker Street Almanac will be available early next year. The Almanac ("a modest capsule of a timeless past & future") is far more than a mere almanac, as you can see at its web-site at <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/html>, where you can download free copies of the 2018-2021 almanac, purchase the 2022 almanac, and pre-order the 2023 almanac.

Jennie Paton has noted Greg Wagland's reading of Bret Hart's parody "The Stolen Cigar Case" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=irvfNrWkleo> at Magpie Audio's YouTube channel, where you'll find much more of interest: readings of the Canon, pastiches, and many of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories.

Dec 22 #4 For those not absolutely up to date in this computer age, AI is the abbreviation for Artificial Intelligence, and OpenAI is a company that has created a program called ChatGPT (GPT is an abbreviation for Generative Pre-trained Transformer), and there's a lot more about that in its Wikipedia entry <www.tinyurl.com/yjp9px2e>. Megan McArdle's Washington Post column (Dec. 9) <www.tinyurl.com/5cyusxja> was interesting, but not as interesting as what seems to be the first use of ChatGPT by Sherlockians: Mattias Boström and Jim Ballinger offer "Sherlock Holmes and Hedgehog Watson" at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIshLHI-v4U>. It's easy to try out ChatGPT for yourself at <www.openai.com/blog/chatgpt>.

Do you own your books, or do your books own you? That's a question for just about everyone who has more than one bookshelf, and Karen Heller had an excellent article in the Washington Post (Dec. 19) that provides help for those pursuing an answer <www.tinyurl.com/yc5j8zu2>.

The Stradivarius that was offered at auction in June (May 22 #5) sold for \$15.34 million, making it the world's second most expensive violin; Sherlock Holmes paid 55 shillings for his. Antonio Stradivari was described as "the ultimate craftsman" in an interesting article in the Smithsonian magazine (Nov./Dec. 2022) <www.tinyurl.com/2mf4udkk>.

Feel free to wish a Happy New Year to *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*. As of Jan. 1, 2023, all of the Sherlock Holmes stories now are in the public domain in the U.S. (where copyright protection ran for 95 years from the end of the year they were first published).

Fans of MSFK3 [Mystery Science Theater 3000] may not be familiar with the similar RiffTrax series, also created by and for the people who don't take films seriously <www.rifftax.com>; Matthew Elliott has noted that "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace" (1962) is one of six Sherlock Holmes films you can purchase and download.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the classic silent film "Nosferatu" (inspired by Bram Stoker's *Dracula*); on-line celebrations have included an amusing Sherlockian video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=uk2Yx9izr3s> created by Nick Hilligoss and kindly reported by Howard Ostrom.

"Letters from Watson" <www.lettersfromwatson.substack.com> is an on-line project (noted by Nea Dodson) that will launch in January and will involve e-mail versions of all the short stories; you can click on [some preliminary notes] and scroll down for information about the project's lapel pin and how to order it.

It was 50 years ago this month that geologist/astronaut Jack Schmitt was the first (and still the only) scientist to set foot on the Moon, and the December issue of the AAPG Explorer has a colorful illustrated article on "Apollo to Artemis: An Epic of 50 Years" <www.tinyurl.com/4ywzr8xv>. He also named Sherlock Crater in honor of Sherlock Holmes as a geologist, and had the longest-distance Sherlockian conversation ever, with Joe Allen at CAPCOM in Houston. There is a bit more about this in the March 1973 issue of the Baker Street Journal.

Dec 22 #5 Fake news is nothing new: there was plenty of it in the 18th century: <www.tinyurl.com/m7kssbwf>. And yes, there has been Sherlockian fake news: Scott Monty was the perpetrator, at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog back in 2007 <www.tinyurl.com/yerb2fn4>. Quite a few people never bothered to click on the "Background info" link at the end of the piece, and the story quickly caught attention and circulation on the Internet <www.tinyurl.com/2p8zed4u>.

The Daily Mail reported on Dec. 19 on the will of Beryl Vertue, who died earlier this year (Feb 22 #5); Benedict Cumberbatch called her "Sherlock's godmother," and her bequests show that she had a wonderful sense of humor <www.tinyurl.com/42jtnpyc>.

Sherlock Holmes was an easy winner <www.youtube.com/watch?v=921D02qrxBQ> at Más Hipica (in Montevideo, Uruguay).

The Marco Navas Studio has released its second set of "A Study in Scarlet" 1/32-scale figurines (hand-crafted in resin and hand-painted) showing another scene from the story <www.tinyurl.com/3zan9bmx>.

It's time for another trivia question: can you name three actors who have played both Sherlock Holmes and James Bond?

Many figure skaters have used a Sherlock Holmes theme, but now there's one who does something different: Tomoki Hiwatashi, who has gone to the dark side (so to speak) <www.tinyurl.com/y5vaw5df>. Jennie Paton has found him in action at YouTube, dancing to "Romani Holiday" (from "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows") <www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuhzD19ksUQ>.

Michael Harrison was a knowledgeable and entertaining writer, well known for his many books about the world of Sherlock Holmes, but he wrote about many other things, including what he called "the golden age of whoredom" in *Fanfare of Strumpets* (1971). The book does have a passing mention of Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes, but has much more to say about women such as Cora Pearl (whose entry at Wikipedia you're welcome to consult); an interesting letter from her (to a gentleman she did not know but who obviously wanted to know her) will be at auction on Jan. 12, with an estimate of €500-€600 <www.tinyurl.com/2kje4xt3>

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's excursion to India (Sep 22 #2) has been postponed. Information still is available at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/to-india-with-sherlock-holmes>; stay tuned for an announcement of new dates for "The Jewel in the Canon".

"Arsène Lupin contre Herlock Sholmes" was a four-act play written by Victor Darlay and Henri de Gorsse, based on the novel by Maurice Leblanc; it was first produced in Paris in 1910, and is now available as *Arsène Lupin vs. Sherlock Holmes: The Stage Play* (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2005; 248 pp., \$20.95) adapted into English by Frank J. Morlock. It's grand to see what French theater was like all those years ago, and great fun to see Lupin and Holmes (and Holmes' son Frederick) in action. There's also a new Sherlockian playlet by Morlock as an afterword.

Dec 22 #6 Were you able to name three actors who have played both Sherlock Holmes and James Bond? They are Roger Moore, David Niven, and Armand Kautzky. Armand Kautzky? He's a well-regarded Hungarian actor who played Sherlock Holmes in "The Curious Case of Sherlock Holmes and the Orphan of Europe" on Hungarian radio in 2021, and dubbed Bond's voice in Pierce Brosnan's films. Adrien Fray reports that he has agreed to be the new president of the Sherlock Holmes Club of Hungary. He also dubbed Ralph Fiennes' Professor Moriarty in "Holmes and Watson" (2018).

David Stuart Davies was interviewed recently about "Resurrecting Sherlock Holmes" and much more on the Dark Fantastic Network audio channel at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?=-NDXN8KXYUIY>.

You can add one more name to the list of actors who have played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes. The BBC has recorded Neil Brand's 90-minute dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Mark Gatiss as Holmes and Sanjeev Bhaskar as Watson) for broadcast on BBC Radio 3 beginning Jan. 22; the performance also was filmed for future broadcast on BBC Four.

The Blackeyed Theatre's tour of Nick Lane's "The Valley of Fear" in Britain has been extended into 2023 <www.tinyurl.com/yphkntay>; the play also is being streamed on-line through Jan. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/mry6sxxz5>, and is well worth watching.

A parody murder-mystery dinner-theater production of "The Big Dog of the Baskerton" is due at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, N.J., Jan. 13-29 <www.papermill.org/purchase-tickets>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson" will be performed at the U.S. Bank Main Stage in Portland, Ore., Jan. 14-Feb. 12 <www.pcs.org>. It also will be performed at the B Street Theatre in Sacramento, Calif., Mar. 8-Apr. 16 <www.bstreettheatre.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at Cheney Hall in Manchester, Conn., Feb. 3-19 <www.cheneyhall.org>, and at the Theatre in a Garden in Fish Creek, Mich., Sept. 6-Oct. 15 <www.peninsulaplayers.com>.

Richard James' "Sherlock Holmes and Mystery at Mallen Hall" will be performed at St. Peter's Church Hall in Netherton, West Midlands, Mar. 16-19 <www.dudleylittletheatre.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Strange Case of Miss Alice Faulkner" has been scheduled by the Long Beach Shakespeare Company (as a radio play) at the Helen Borgers Theatre in Long Beach, Calif., Mar. 24-Apr. 2; their web-site's at <www.lbshakespeare.org>.

Rick Robinson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Final Problem" will be performed at the Great American Melodrama Theatre in Oceano, Calif., Mar. 31-May 21 <www.americanmelodrama.com>.

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