

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 168th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 12 to 16; the (very) long weekend was filled with events, both formal and informal, and the events were well-attended despite the on-going pandemic, and the loss of the now-closed Roosevelt Hotel. Detailed reports on many if not most of the goings-on will be posted soon at the web-site of The Baker Street Irregulars <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>. In the meantime, here are a few brief paragraphs to tide you over.

Locals and early arrivals enjoyed the ASH Wednesday dinner, and on Thursday morning the ACD Society's Inaugural Doylean Awards Ceremony was held at the Mysterious Bookshop; their web-site <www.acdsociety.com> offers a link to video of the meeting.

The BSI's Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Prof. Mary Bendel-Simso, on "My dear Watson...the law is as dangerous to us as the criminals": Sherlock Holmes and the Official Police" (her paper will be published in the Baker Street Journal later this year).

On Friday the Irregulars and their guests assembled for the BSI's annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Julie McKuras proposed the traditional pre-prandial first toast to Jennifer Olson, as *The Woman*. The annual dinner's agenda included the usual toasts, rituals, and papers (Ray Betzner paid tribute to Vincent Starrett, and Ira Brad Matetsky celebrated Rex Stout). Russell Merritt received the annual Morley-Montgomery Award (a check and an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2021, and Mike Kean announced the BSI's Birthday Honours: Laurence Deloison ("Claridge's Hotel"), Jim Hawkins ("The Hans Sloane of My Age"), Heather Holloway ("Atlanta"), David Humphrey ("Chicago Central"), Tim Johnson ("Theophilus Johnson"), Mark Jones ("Peter Jones"), Tiffany Knight ("Knight's Place"), Crystal Noll ("Crystal Palace"), Rob Nunn ("Elementary"), Aaron Rubin ("The Amethyst Snuffbox"), Jonathan Tiemann ("The Bank of England"), Janice Weiner ("Scotland Yard"), Karen Wilson ("Bartholomew Wilson"), and Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves ("Toby"). And the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was bestowed on Marsha Pollak.

On Saturday morning Covent Garden West offered the traditional opportunity for dealers to assist people who wanted to add to their collections, and the agenda of the Saturday luncheon and reception included the presentation of the new Susan Rice Mentorship Award that recognizes "commitment to mentoring Sherlockians as a means of keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes" to Peter E. Blau. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund's auction attracted enthusiastic bidders, and the raffle prize was a set of jewelry with a bee motif created by Maggie Schpak in memory of Susan Rice.

The second annual meeting of the Literary Agents was held via Zoom on Sunday morning; you are welcome to watch video of the proceedings at the "Doings of Doyle" page at Facebook <www.tinyurl.com/3ncb9h2w>. And for those who lasted that long, the last event of the birthday festivities was the Adventuresses' Brunch at The Long Room.

Jan 22 #2 The splendid "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" exhibition will be on display at the Grolier Club in New York through Apr. 16; it's a wonderful opportunity to see some spectacular Sherlockian and Doylean treasures, and you can watch video of the opening ceremonies, and see images of the exhibits, at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3y7pnkx3>. If you can't get to New York, you should visit the Grolier's web-site, where they have an on-line version of the exhibition <www.tinyurl.com/2p8mzssh>, and images of many more of the exhibits <www.tinyurl.com/2p85y5xy>. The catalog is available from the Grolier, and recommended.

More from the birthday festivities in New York: Gary Lovisi has uploaded a ten-minute video tour of Covent Garden West (aka the dealers room) to YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNyWSwe97vo>, and you are welcome to try to identify all those people behind all those masks.

Two new titles have been published by the Baker Street Irregulars Press: *A Masterpiece of Villainy* is the new addition to the Manuscript Series (244 pp., \$39.95), edited by Ross E. Davies; it offers a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Norwood Builder", with an annotated transcription and scholarly commentary on the manuscript and on various aspects of the story (it is grand that the Manuscript Series offers readers an opportunity to come close to the moment when the stories were written, and the commentary is delightful).

Referring to My Notes: Music and the Sherlockian Canon, edited by Alexander Katz and Karen Wilson (173 pp., \$39.95), the next title in the BSI's Professions Series, explores what Nicholas Meyer, in his foreword, calls "the possibilities suggested by Doyle when he so blithely made Holmes a violinist and an opera devotee," and the scholarship extends to discussion of musicians who have been members of the BSI, and some of the Sherlockian musicals performed on stage. Both books (and many others) can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books>.

The Sherlock Holmes Review: Anthology Volume Two 1988-1990 (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2020; 131 pp., \$34.95) is a reprint of the second volume of Steven Doyle's periodical, called by one critic "the last great Sherlockian journal" (it was full of scholarship in an era when there were far fewer readers than there are today). And the *Sherlock Holmes Review: 2021 Sherlockian Annual* (118 pp., \$24.95) is a welcome revival that is a fine demonstration of Steve's continuing ability to find authors who have interesting things to say about many aspects of Sherlockiana. Both can be ordered at <www.gasogenebooks.com>.

More from Gasogene: *The Finest Assorted Collection: Essays on Collecting Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Peter Eckrich and Rob Nunn (232 pp., \$26.95) an impressive gathering of essays written by people who pursue a wide variety of Sherlockiana and who have interesting things to say about it all. And Dan Andriacco's *The Sword of Death* (105 pp., \$18.95), a nicely traditional pastiche that has Holmes and Watson investigating a case that involves a headless corpse and complicated family relationships; Dan's web-site is at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.

Jan 22 #3 Joseph McBride's *Billy Wilder: Dancing on the Edge* (New York: Columbia University, 2021; 658 pp., \$40.00) is a spectacular biography of an iconic film writer and director. McBride is a film historian and focuses in detail on how Wilder's life and career are reflected in his many films, including "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970). Readers of the book will want to watch Wilder's films again, to see just how complex and revealing they were.



Disney honored the 35th anniversary of "The Great Mouse Detective" with an attractive ornament, kindly reported by Tim Kline, that shows Basil of Baker Street ready to head out on an investigation <www.tinyurl.com/bdef2sfd>. \$24.99 from the Disney Shop; part of the "Disney Sketchbook Ornament Legacy Collection", and it's a limited release (but they don't say just how limited the release is).

The Smithsonian magazine's web-site reported on Dec. 29 on the books that entered the public domain at the end of 2021 <www.tinyurl.com/ycxfk6fx>, and noted that all sound recordings made before 1924 now also are in the public domain. And for bibliophiles, there's an older interview with Edward Brooke-Hitching <www.tinyurl.com/32bvp7w5> about his book *The Madman's Library: The Strangest Books, Manuscripts, and Other Literary Curiosities from History* (2021).

Potter & Potter Auctions will have some interesting (and often rare) Sherlockiana and Doyleana in an auction of fine books and manuscripts on Feb. 26 <www.auctions.potterauctions.com/mobile/catalog.aspx?auctionid=1127>.

Rick Boyer died on Jan. 19, 2021. He studied creative writing under Kurt Vonnegut Jr., became a writer himself, and taught English at Western Carolina University until he retired in 2008. His first novel (*Billingsgate Shoal*) won an Edgar Award in 1983, and he went on to write a pastiche *The Giant Rat of Sumatra* (1976) and four short pastiches collected as *A Sherlockian Quartet* (1999).

The Film Detective <www.thefilmdetective.com>, a classic film restoration and streaming company, celebrated Sherlock Holmes' birthday on Jan. 6 with a 20-hour "Sherlock Holmes Marathon of Mystery". There's also a podcast at the web-site, with Carl Amari playing and discussing classic old-time radio programs.

Fred Taraba (at Taraba Illustration Art) specializes in original artwork by American artists, and is offering Roy V. Hunt's colorful rendition of Holmes, Watson, and a ghostly Hound of the Baskervilles for \$2,650 (plus shipping). Hunt was a dedicated Sherlockian, one of the founders of the Council of Four in Denver, and the principal illustrator of the books and journals published by Luther Norris' Pontine Press. The artwork is from Luther's collection; contact Fred <fred@tarabaillustrationart.com> if you are interested.

Vanessa Redgrave, who starred as Lola Deveraux in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976) has been awarded a DBE (Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to drama in Her Majesty's New Year's Honours List for 2022. Anthony Horowitz, author of *The House of Silk* (2011) and *Moriarty* (2014), received a CBE (Commander) for services to literature.

Jan 22 #4 Nicely in time for the birthday festivities, the Yale Alumni Magazine celebrated Conan Doyle with an article by Betsy Golden Kellem about "The Man Who Believed Too Much" in its Jan.-Feb. issue, noting that in 1922 he lectured at Yale while touring the U.S. promoting Spiritualism <www.tinyurl.com/2p9cet24>. The article is accompanied by a fine portrait of Conan Doyle by Ricardo Martinez Ortega.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder ended 2021 at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast with an excellent tribute to the late Mike Whelan by seven of his fellow Irregulars <www.ihose.com/ihose231>.

Willy Werby died on Dec. 24. Well known to Sherlockians for her meticulous recreation of the sitting-room, first displayed at 1100 California Street, on the top of Nob Hill in San Francisco, and then on the top floor of the Holiday Inn on Union Square, Willy presided over what was for many years an attraction for the members of the Persian Slipper Club, visiting Sherlockians, and tourists.

Ashley Polasek moderated an on-line session on "Arthur Conan Doyle's Afterlives" <www.tinyurl.com/mry3rkxf> at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association on Jan. 9.

The autumn issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) includes articles by Hartley R. Nathan and Charles L. Blanksteen (on "Arthur Conan Doyle: Stereotypes and Racism") and Elizabeth Savage ("In Search of Conan Doyle: Messages from the Afterlife"), and other reports from and about the Library and the Collection; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Mrs. Hudson is alive and well, hard at work as the "agony aunt" for the British magazine *Country Life* <www.tinyurl.com/ycknr7ev>. But she's not our Mrs. Hudson: the magazine was founded in 1897 by Edward Hudson.

Who knew? There's an amusing connection between the British rock band The Who and the Canon, discovered by Adrian Nebbett and reported in a post to the Sherlock Holmes on Screens page at Facebook. Richard Barnes wrote all about it in *The Who: Maximum R&B* (1982), which the Internet Archive kindly offers free on-line <www.tinyurl.com/yckj4ken>.

Reported: *Sherlock Holmes: Das Kochbuch*, by Silke Martin (Münster: Hölker Verlag, 2021; 128 pp., €24.00); in German, but reviewed in English in the *Soledad Times* on Dec. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/yckszww3>.

Fans of the 2019 "Detective Pikachu" film will enjoy a new fan-film animation "Detective Pikachu: A Christmas Case" that was uploaded to YouTube on Dec. 25 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=krTu8-CI2DY>. The quality is thoroughly professional.

Let me recommend this television series: "One Strange Rock" from National Geographic in 2018. It's now playing on Disney+ and available on DVD, and there's a trailer at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrC4vDcWmxk>. It's not Sherlockian, but it's a splendid explanation of the history of Earth, told by Will Smith, astronauts, and many others.

Jan 22 #5 Betty White died on Dec. 31. She appeared on an experimental television broadcast in 1939 and went on to stardom in a wide range of series that included comedies, soap operas, and game shows. She made a public-service commercial broadcast in 1989 in which she encouraged viewers to read more, suggesting the Canon as a possibility ("solve a mystery with Sherlock Holmes"), and mentioned that as a young girl her favorite books were "Alice in Wonderland" and "Sherlock Holmes".

Heritage Auctions has an interesting article on-line about "The Wonderful World of Disney Maquettes" <www.tinyurl.com/4zjm86cv>, and the Great Mouse Detective will be at auction on Feb. 4-7 <www.tinyurl.com/3hjeprc6>. For those who don't remember the 1986 film, that's Basil of Baker Street.

"Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective" (a game issued by Sleuth Publications in 1981) now has an entry at Wikipedia; revised and expanded since 1981, the game now is available as four sets of ten cases each from SPACE Cowboys <www.tinyurl.com/2nyk8chw>. Their web-site offers much more information as well as a video and a free opportunity to pursue one of the cases; anyone who remembers the original game will be amazed at how far it has come over the years, how well it uses modern technology, and how long the game has lasted

There will be a performance of "Time Travel Tinies: Mystical Creatures" by story teller Dani at the National Archives in Kew (in Britain) on Feb. 25 <www.tinyurl.com/5n6dw4pe>; their web-site has an attractive Sherlockian mouse created by Cog Design (the mouse may or may not be one of the mystical creatures).



The August Derleth Society <www.augustderleth.org> was founded in the late 1970s and continues to celebrate the many-faceted literary career of the creator of Solar Pons. Membership costs \$25.00 a year and includes their quarterly newsletter Sage of Sac Prairie; the latest issue offers a nicely illustrated article by Derrick Belanger on "Resurrecting Solar Pons" (with details on how the Pontine Canon was brought back into print, accompanied by a series of new pastiches by modern authors). The society's postal address is Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583.

Adrian Conan Doyle was an author and an artist, as well as a fierce advocate of his father's place in literary history. Seven of Adrian's paintings will be offered at Roseberys London in an auction on Feb. 15-16, and you can see them at <www.tinyurl.com/uef99d6a>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new Japanese film) is scheduled for release on June 17; it's a sequel of sorts to the television series "Sherlock: Untold Stories" broadcast by Fuji TV in 2019, with Dean Fujioka as Shishio Homare, a freelance crime consultant. You can see the poster and watch a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/2c4hexs6>.

Miss Moriarty, I Presume?, by Sherry Thomas (New York: Berkley, 2021; 353 pp., \$16.00), is the sixth book in her "Lady Sherlock" series that stars Charlotte Holmes, who does her detecting while pretending to be the sister of the non-existent Sherlock Holmes, and encounters both mystery and romance while (now) in dire peril in a battle with Moriarty. The author's web-site is at <www.sherrythomas.com>.

Jan 22 #6 The 1921 census of England and Wales is on-line and searchable at the National Archives <www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census>; you need to pay to see results, but the Daily Mail published an article on Jan. 6 with images of the pages listing the people at Conan Doyle's home when the census was taken <www.tinyurl.com/43jvv7cc>: the five members of the family, five servants, and three visitors: parapsychologist James Hewat McKenzie, his wife Barbara, and the American medium Ada Besinnet.

Philip Ball's *The Modern Myths: Adventures in the Machinery of the Modern Imagination* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021; 426 pp., \$30.00) explores stories that have become myths because retellings of the stories have become necessary, from Robinson Crusoe to Batman, and (of course) including Sherlock Holmes. He suggests that Holmes is not quite what Conan Doyle intended, but rather is a "wish-fulfillment fantasy" that gives him mythic potency, and that the Sherlock Holmes myth "exists not because of but in spite of the advocacy of Sherlockians."

The Beacon Society continues to administer the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, and more than 120 people have completed all three exams and have received their Doctorate in Sherlockiana. There also are annual Re-Certification exams for those who want to continue on, and there is more information about the Program at <www.tinyurl.com/5exr3zh2>.

"Books, Bohemians, and Baker Street: A Study in Sherlock in Special Collections" is the title of a splendid on-line exhibition at the University of Delaware Library; many of the exhibits are from the collection of Mark Samuels Lasner. There are unique items such as a four-page typescript and an autograph manuscript page from the lecture Conan Doyle gave during his tour of the U.S. in 1894 (easily readable at the web-site), and the exhibition is well worth exploring <www.tinyurl.com/37rfz9m4>.

The Banished Words List for 2022 has been posted on-line by Lake Superior State University <www.lssu.edu/traditions/banishedwords>, with due attention paid to Old Irregular Bill Rabe, who launched the list in 1976. You can scroll down at their web-site to read more about Bill, and some of his other imaginative creations. You can also read an interview with his son John, who has more grand stories about his father, at Scott Monty's "Timeless and Timely" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8eh6km>.

"Extant Exhibits: The Remains of 1951" is an excellent article by Nicholas Utechin, published in the Platinum Jubilee Supplement (winter 2021) of the Sherlock Holmes Journal, and available to everyone at the web-site of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London <www.tinyurl.com/32xywver>; it's a well-illustrated account of his research into what has survived from the exhibition at Abbey House that led to the creation of the Society.

It's a wrap! Filming on the next "Enola Holmes" film has been completed, and there's brief footage from the celebration <www.tinyurl.com/52cpp2t8>. No word yet on when the film will stream on Netflix.

There seems to be no end to the list of buildings thought to be historic because of Conan Doyle: the attractive Torquay Pavilion, threatened by re-development plans has its supporters, because Conan Doyle once lectured there, according to Devon Live (Nov. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/2p95nks4>. It's also considered to be important because Agatha Christie accepted a proposal of marriage after a concert there in 1903.

Jan 22 #7 The Sunday Times noted that "Britain's villages in all their diversity, prettiness and grittiness have survived and thrived over hundreds of years" in an article on "The 50 Best Villages in the UK" (Sept. 12), adding that all of them have "attractive houses, good connections, a decent school, and friendly neighbours who come together at the pub, shop and village hall." One of the villages is Minstead, where Sir Arthur and his wife Jean are buried; there are 600 or so residents and the average house price is £752,353.

For those who enjoyed Ken Ludwig's delightful "The Game's Afoot; or Holmes for the Holidays" and would like to read the script, it was published by Samuel French in 2012 and is readily available at Amazon. It's grand to see what an accomplished playwright did with William Gillette and his fellow actors at Gillette Castle in 1936.

Lyndsay Faye discussed the "10 Most Underrated Sherlock Holmes Stories" at the Publishers Weekly web-site on Jan. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/2p8k44pk>, explaining why she likes them.

The U.S. Mint's new "American Women Quarters Program" celebrates "the accomplishments and contributions made by women to the development and history of our country," and the five quarters to be issued the year will include one honoring Anna May Wong, the first Chinese-American film star in Hollywood <www.tinyurl.com/34evmznd>. She played Mrs. Pyke in Reginald Owen's "A Study in Scarlet" (1933), and she also was in the title of "Herlock Sholmes in Be-a-Live Crook, or Anna Went Wrong" (1930), the British marionette burlesque of Clive Brook's film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929).



John Murray's new imprint Baskerville (Jun 21 #4) has now launched, with an appropriate logo <www.tinyurl.com/338rfydz>. The name of the imprint honors John Murray's long history as Conan Doyle's publisher; there's more about Baskerville and some of its new titles in an article in the Bookseller (Jan. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/2p9xtzwf>.

"Briony Lodge, Serpentine Avenue, St. John's Wood" is an address that resonates with admirers of Irene Adler. If you'd like to know more about the neighborhood, and its history (including it having been an "ideal place to keep a mistress"), there was an interesting article in Country Life (Jan. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/yhjud7ss>.

The Mystery Writers of America will honor Laurie R. King as a Grand Master at their awards ceremony in New York on Apr. 26; the award is regarded as the "pinnacle of achievement in mystery writing," and recognizes a body of work that is "both significant and of consistent high quality." The Mary Russell stories are only part of her long list of credits, and she is the fourth member of the Baker Street Irregulars to be named Grand Master (the others are Vincent Starrett, Rex Stout, and Fred Dannay).

The New Yorker has its own YouTube channel, and one the videos is "Drawing Life with George Booth" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYlRXgnapj8>; Booth sold his first cartoon to the magazine in 1969, and is still at work for them. It's a warm tribute to a great cartoonist, kindly reported by Bob Coghill, who calls your attention to the bookshelf in the office of David Remnick, editor of the magazine (at 1:21 in the 23-minute video).

Jan 22 #8 Timothy Miller's *The Strange Case of the Dutch Painter* (Jersey City: Seventh Street, 2022; 264 pp., \$17.95) opens with Sherlock Holmes (using the alias Vernet in Paris in 1890), investigating theft and forgery of great art, and soon the death of Vincent Van Gogh. Vernet is accompanied and assisted by a Dr. Lermolieff (who is not Dr. Watson using an alias); the story is imaginative, nicely told, and full of twists and turns.

BBC Radio 4 has kindly made many of their Sherlock Holmes programs available at <www.tinyurl.com/3kwyewyn>; many of them starring Carlton Hobbs, and others Clive Merrison.

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).

Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "The Games' Afoot" is now running at the Elgin Art Showcase in Elgin, Ill., through Feb. 13 <www.elgin-theatre.org>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is being performed at the Torrance Theatre Company in Torrance, Calif., through Feb. 13; their web-site's at <www.torrancetheatrecompany.com>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" will be performed at Copaken Stage in Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 1-20 <www.kcrep.org>.

Bob Bryan's new "Sherlock Holmes: Raising the Dead" will be performed at the Ole Olsen Memorial Theatre, Feb. 3-13 <www.tinyurl.com/2p9dkkp6>.

Jon Jory's "A Sherlock Holmes Radio Mystery Show" is coming up at the Hornel Historic Home in Austin, Minn., on Feb. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/4zxtaenu>.

Neil Oldham's new "A Sherlock Holmes Pantomime" will be performed at St. Bernadette's Hall in Blackpool, Lancs., Feb. 16-19; their web-site's at <www.stbparishplayers.wixsite.com/sbpplayers>.

"Sherlock Returns" (by Peter Sham and Brad Carroll) will be performed at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, N.J., Mar. 8-Apr. 9, 2022; web-site at <www.hhplayhouse.com>.

The improvised comedy "Spontaneous Sherlock" will tour in Britain beginning at the Sundial Theatre in Cirencester, Glos., on Mar. 12; the web-site for the Spontaneous Players is at <www.tinyurl.com/67uwmsap>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" will be performed at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., Apr. 14-Aug. 27 <www.purplerosetheatre.org>.

Lesley Ward's new play "Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Lipstick, Ketchup, and Blood" is coming up at the Pitlochry Festival Theatre in Pitlochry, Scotland, June 8-July 7 <www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com>.

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

The Barts and The London Student Association (BLSA) have launched a petition campaign against the decision by the Queen Mary University of London to change the name of Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry to QMUL Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, noting that "St. Bartholomew's Hospital was founded in 1123, making it the oldest remaining hospital in the country. St. Bartholomew's Medical College was of course the school of Dr. John Watson." If you'd like to read and sign the petition there's a web-site at www.bartslondon.com/wearebl. The Telegraph had a story about the campaign on Jan. 31 www.tinyurl.com/md695y3j.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" is one of a series of 1000-piece "classic mystery" jigsaw puzzles from Bepuzzled www.tinyurl.com/2p9ya5w7 (\$12.36 at Amazon); they come with a dire warning: "Beware! The puzzle is different from the box cover."

"Fresh Air" (produced by WHYI-FM in Philadelphia) is one of the best programs on National Public Radio, and Karen Murdock reports that on Jan. 19 Terry Gross interviewed Benedict Cumberbatch about his new film "The Power of the Dog" www.tinyurl.com/4xu5e6xc; there's nothing Sherlockian about the interview, but it's well done indeed.

The web-site of the Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth is well worth exploring; go to www.tinyurl.com/2n9urv2n to view a photograph (from the 1890s) of "Conan Doyle the cricketer" accompanied by his wife Louisa, his sister Connie, and husband E. W. Hornung.

The Beacon Society is continuing to publish its quarterly newsletter for younger Sherlockians, and the latest issue of Sherlock's Spotlight can be found at their web-site www.beaconsociety.com; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective.

Stephen Chahn Lee's *Sherlock Holmes and the Silent Contest* (2022) is a 97-page monograph that offers his conclusions about "how Sherlock Holmes defeated Professor Moriarty and why Dr. John Watson lied." The approach to the Canon is interesting, and the book is available free from the author stephenchahnlee@gmail.com. You can also watch his lecture on "Sherlock Holmes and the Art of Evidence" at the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association at www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQ6V0leExss.

Sonia Fetherston, who's gathering reminiscences about Thomas L. Stix (Wiggins of the Baker Street Irregulars), would appreciate hearing from anyone who would like to share first-person stories about Tom for a new book that will be published by the BSI Press soniafetherston@comcast.net.

The Baker Street Irregulars are the oldest of the three American 20th-century literary societies with entries at Wikipedia, and the BSI entry is at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Baker_Street_Irregulars. It includes a list of 76 Irregulars who have their own entries at Wikipedia, and there likely are more who aren't yet on the list. In case you're wondering, the other two societies are the Norman Mailer Society and the Wolfe Pack.

Feb 22 #2 Many books, films, and sound recordings entered the public domain at the end of 2021, and there was much publicity about it all. In an article at Mental Floss' web-site (Dec. 30), Jake Rossen suggested that if you would like to write a story teaming up Sherlock Holmes with Winnie the Pooh to help solve the murder of Bambi's mother, now you can <www.tinyurl.com/2p8bts7e>.

"A Black Sherlock Holmes" (1918) was the first film made by the Ebony Film Corp., and it has been preserved, although in poor condition; you can view it at <www.vimeo.com/457274050>, and read Nikki Igbo's blog post (Feb. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/47x4v9m6> about this and other "race films" produced at a time when theaters were strictly segregated.

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, adapted by Valerie Tripp, with illustrations by Carlo Molinari (New York: Starry Forest Books, 2020; 64 pp., \$7.99) is one of the titles in the "classic adventures" series of chapter books for young readers (ages 7-10); with three stories ("The Red-Headed League", "The Speckled Band", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). The colorful and attractive illustrations by Carlo Molinari, can be sampled at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/2p94w4k9>.

Barry Cryer died on Jan. 25. He was a writer, comedian, radio quiz panelist, and actor, performing on British radio and television for more than 60 years. He wrote *Mrs. Hudson's Diaries: A View from the Landing at 221B* (2012) and "Mrs. Hudson's Radio Show" for BBC Radio 4 (2018), and with his son Bob a play "Mrs. Hudson's Christmas Caper" (2014).

Who was the first Sherlockian scholar? According to research by members of the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild, a new candidate is Helen Elizabeth Wilson, whose article "The Life of Sherlock Holmes" was published in the Oct. 1898 issue of the Cornell Magazine, as reported in the Dec. 2021 and Jan. 2022 issues of Timeline (the Guild's official newsletter), which are available by e-mail from Brad Keefauver <bkeefauver@gmail.com>. Vincent Wright has a detailed discussion of the discovery at his "Historical Sherlock" blog <www.tinyurl.com/yxnuejnj>. He also has posted a video at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=bks-LguCG7Q>, and was interviewed about his discovery by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/32dwhepm>.

Kim Newman, author of *Anno Dracula* and *The Hound of the D'Urbervilles*, was the Baker Street Irregulars' distinguished speaker in 2013, and Jennie Patton has reported a YouTube video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=08E5fulS6Qc> in which he explains his enthusiasm for the film "Murder by Decree" (1979).

"There will always be a war. That's the one thing one can always be sure of." -Irene Adler. That's not a quote from the Canon, of course, but instead from a teaser for Marvel's "Judgment Day" comic book due in stores this summer, and here's where it gets complicated: it already had been revealed that Destiny actually is Irene Adler, and Destiny has her own entry at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/3cjbbxry>. You can see the teaser in an article at the CBR web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yckpamad>.

Feb 22 #3 "A Study in Sherlock & His Creator: 50 Years of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection" is a new exhibition at the Toronto Public Library, running through Apr. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/5avnzvyr>. The collection was opened to the public in 1971, and the web-site includes a virtual tour of the exhibition, with images of more than 40 items on display, a large-print exhibit booklet, a reading list, and a coloring book based on items in the collection. The collection has its own interesting web-site <www.tinyurl.com/fn3szwn7>, with a link to images of 428 items in its digitized archives, and curator Jessie Amaolo narrates a video tour of the exhibition at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HgMZKq0e6k>.

Greg Darak has reported that Cimmerian Records <www.cimmerianrecords.com> has released 2-CD sets with the complete soundtrack music of both of the Robert Downey Jr. films (\$24.95 each).

Telegraph posts are mentioned in the Canon (in "Silver Blaze") and it is nice to know that there is a Telegraph Pole Appreciation Society in Britain. There was a nice article about the society in Country Life (Jan. 27) <www.tinyurl.com/4dazwsjx>. And of course the society has a web-site, at <www.telegraphpoleappreciationsociety.org>.

There was lively bidding at Heritage Auctions for the Disney maquette of The Great Mouse Detective (Jan 22 #5) <www.tinyurl.com/3hjeprc6>, and it was bought for \$5,760 (including the buyer's premium).

RadioEchoes <www.radioechoes.com>, noted by Roger Johnson provides a fascinating look at how much old-time radio is available on the Internet: the web-site lists 4,042 series with 110,078 episodes; for [sherlock holmes] they have 7 series with 587 episodes, and the numbers likely will be higher by the time you read this.

The Baker Street Journal's 2021 Christmas Annual is devoted to "The Dean of British Sherlockians", and Nicholas Utechin, with assistance from Roger Johnson, and Guy Marriott, have done a grand job of celebrating "the life and works of S. C. Roberts," who in many ways laid the foundation for today's world of Sherlockian scholarship and pseudo-scholarship. It's part of the annual subscription to the BSJ (if you aren't a subscriber, search for someone who is, and borrow it). You can subscribe to the BSJ, and receive the 2022 Christmas Annual) at <www.tinyurl.com/5fvmdf86>.

Sherlock Holmes was a winner on Feb. 5, at the Hipodromo Maroñas in Montevideo, and (reported by Jennie Paton) you can see him in action, with commentary in Spanish, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRtLqi6q_vw>.

Further to the discussion (Mar 14 #4) of the Indian film "Bees Saal Baad" [Twenty Years After] (1962), there was an interesting review at the Cinestaan web-site on Feb. 3 that offers a reminder of the film's many echoes of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and a link that allows you to watch the film at YouTube <www.cinestaan.com/articles/2022/feb/3/33143>. Alas, the film's in Hindi, without subtitles in English. If you want to watch the film with subtitles in English, the Bollywood Entertainment DVD is available at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/msnuamsa>.

Feb 22 #4 There has been wide-spread publicity for the "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" exhibition at the Grolier Club in New York in newspapers and magazines and at the Grolier's channel at YouTube, and Steve Doyle has interviewed Glen for this year's inaugural broadcast of the Fortnightly Dispatch; it's available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBGAH0G4jrI>.

This year's Fortnightly Dispatch continues with a interesting interview with Dan Stashower at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAYPAXeOUpS>.

Leonard Goldberg's *The Blue Diamond* (New York: Minotaur Books, 2021; 320 pp., \$26.99), is the sixth title 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 (and her husband) Dr. John H. Watson Jr. in 1917 at recovering a stolen 2,828-carat flawless blue diamond; they soon discover that there's far more at stake in a battle with thieves and spies. The author's web-site is at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.

When in Bangkok: you can visit the 008 Bar in the Akyra Hotel and sample their eight cocktails that pay tribute to Sherlock Holmes; details can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/3ms6j38k>.

David Karpeles died on Jan. 19. He was a teacher and then an investor in real estate, and in the late 1970s began collecting manuscripts, eventually founding the Karpeles Manuscript Library, housed in 16 museums across the United States <www.karpeles.com>. His collection included Conan Doyle letters as well as Sherlockian and other manuscripts; see Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" for details when some of the material was sent to auction in 2016 <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/bonhams-2016-manuscripts.htm>.

Samantha Wolov has spotted an attractive machine-woven Bulldog Tapestry Panel (\$8.98) that's advertised from Poland at Etsy <www.tinyurl.com/y62pj63a>. It's handsome indeed, and was quickly and safely delivered.



"Don Matteo" (a popular and long-running Italian television series broadcast by Rai 1) is available in the U.S. with subtitles in English) on the MHz Choice streaming service, which has many foreign mystery series, according to Pattie Tierney. Don Matteo (who is played by Terence Hill) is a Catholic parish priest skilled at solving crimes. In the first episode he opens his suitcase at his new parish and takes out his childhood keepsakes, one of which is a drawing he made of Sherlock Holmes, by way of demonstrating his passion and inspiration as a detective.

The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2021 has "Science and Medicine" as its theme, with contributions that relate to appropriate aspects of the Canon; the 106-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, can be ordered from Phillip at 3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304. \$10.00 postpaid; checks made payable to the Norwegian Explorers, please, or sent via PayPal to <norexpay@gmail.com>. Back issues for some earlier years still are available.

Feb 22 #5 Larry Millett's *Rafferty's Last Case* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2022; 375 pp., \$25.95), the ninth and last in the entertaining series of mysteries he began in 1995, featuring Sherlock Holmes and Shadwell Rafferty in St. Paul, is set in 1928 and begins opens with the brutal murder of Rafferty; Holmes and Watson are in pursuit of the murderer, sorting through five prime suspects in a case that also involves blackmail and corrupt politicians.

Seven paintings by Adrian Conan Doyle were at auction this month in London (Jan 22 #5), all estimated at £400-£600; one sold for £550, four sold for £280 each, and two didn't sell. You can view images of all the paintings at <www.tinyurl.com/3nzdybjb>.

Timothy Miller, who has written two imaginative pastiches, has an interesting web-site <www.thestrangecasesofsherlock.com>, at which he posted on Feb. 14 an amusing account of "scion society hazing."

Beryl Vertue died on Feb. 12. She began her career in entertainment as a secretary at Associated London Scripts, went on to become a business manager and an important television producer. In 1979 she founded Hartswood Films, the company that created many hit series, and was executive producer of "Sherlock" for the BBC. She was appointed an OBE in 2000 and an CBE in 2016, and Benedict Cumberbatch called her "Sherlock's godmother."

Raymond Keene's "Norwegian Clue" at TheArticle web-site (Feb. 12) will be of interest to chess enthusiasts <www.thearticle.com/norwegian-clue>, and it has a link to Bill Wall's extensive list of references to chess in Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian stories, in Sherlockian articles and stories by others, and in Sherlockian films and television.

Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, which will be at the Frost Science Center in Miami, Fla., May 14-Sept. 5 <www.frostscience.org/exhibition/sherlock-holmes>. Created by the Exhibits Development Group, the exhibition has an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/4sv5j dj3> where the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might consider putting it on display.

Karen Murdock, who is writing a book about figures of speech in the Canon, will be speaking about "Beyond Similes and Metaphors: Fun with Figures of Speech" via Zoom on Mar. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/2p848fna>.

For those who like to find Sherlockian connections to everything, there's an article at The Conversation (Jan. 28) <www.tinyurl.com/5n8ynptf> that manages to mention the Canon in discussion of the new game Wordle.

Netflix has released a three-minute trailer showing what its viewers can expect in 2022 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTI6T5M8Fj0&t=4s>, and there's a brief look (at 1:02) at "Enola Holmes 2". There isn't a release date yet, but here's a synopsis: "Now a detective-for-hire like her infamous brother, Enola Holmes takes on her first official case to find a missing girl, as the sparks of a dangerous conspiracy ignite a mystery that requires the help of friends—and Sherlock himself—to unravel."

Feb 22 #6 "The BBC confirmed rumours Sherlock Holmes is next to be portrayed as a 'non-nonsense, trans northerner,' according to Romeo Coates in *The Critic* (Feb. 2022), "with 'Baker Street' now in Bolton. As excitement mounts over casting, we're assured by a Beeb source: 'It's more true to life than anything Conan Doyle wrote.'" There is more such news at <www.thecritic.co.uk/issues/february-2022/go-west-young-man>.

Lucky Duck Games <www.luckyduckgames.com> has announced plans for a "Sherlock: Case Connection" table-top game based on the BBC's "Sherlock" series <www.tinyurl.com/45an5zxv> and <www.tinyurl.com/38sywctf>.

"Sherlock Holmes on Screens" (an interesting web-site maintained by Howard Ostrom, Thierry Saint-Joanis, and Jean-Claude Mornard) offers easy access to Sherlockian video (including a commercial that shows Holmes and Watson in diapers) <www.sherlock-holmes-on-screens.com>. There's also an interesting interview with Howard Ostrom at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/mrxas37k>.

Sherlockians can now have their cake and eat it too. Jennie Paton reports that there's now a "Sherlock" cake-topper image <www.tinyurl.com/4dw662rj> available for \$11.99. You'll also need an edible printer that uses edible ink and edible paper, and they're available as well.

The Brick Show web-site reported (Feb. 14) <www.brickshow.com/2022/02-15> that a LEGO Ideas member has qualified for the company's First 2022 review stage with a spectacular Sherlockian display. LEGO certainly has come a long way since the days of simple rectangular bricks: Brandon Daniel has noted three complete rooms from 221B available from Pantasy (\$89.00); the web-site even has video <www.tinyurl.com/2p86mrum>.

Patricia Srigley's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' Cat* (Montreal: WigglesWorth, 2021; 211 pp., \$9.99) begins with Holmes adopting a stray cat, who helps tell irreverent and sometimes slapstick stories about their adventures and cases; the author's web-site is at <www.srigleyarts.com>.

Plan well ahead: "Lone Star Holmes: A Look at Sherlock Holmes Past, Present and Future" is the title of the conference set for May 26-27, 2023, at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. To enroll on their mailing list, just send a message to Don Hobbs <221b@verizon.net>; the festivities also will celebrate the formal opening of Don's massive collection of foreign translations of the Canon, which he has donated to SMU.

You can listen to Ross Davies and Ira Matetsky interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog about the latest addition to the Baker Street Irregulars' manuscript series ("The Norwood Builder") at <www.tinyurl.com/mrxxwye4>.

Christian Klaver's *Sherlock Holmes & Count Dracula* (New York, Titan, 2021; 425 pp., \$19.99) begins with Holmes being asked by Dracula for help finding his kidnapped wife Mina, and there are vampires as well as plenty of action in this greatly expanded version of three short stories that were published earlier as "The Supernatural Case Files of Sherlock Holmes" (Feb 15 #3). The author's web-site is at <www.christianklaver.com>.

Feb 22 #7 In 2010 the Baker Street Irregulars sold twenty unfinished aluminum replicas of the Sherlockian switch plate that was rescued from Edgar W. Smith's cottage at 221B Baker Street in Morristown (and is now held in the BSI Archives) <www.tinyurl.com/2xpyujy5>. Bruce Harris <marxman@comcast.net> is compiling a census of the replicas, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who has one.

"The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress invites people of all ages to discover the fascinating people, places, and events that await you whenever you read" at Read.gov, and the web-site offers digitized images of books, including a pirated edition of "the book that started it all" (*A Study in Scarlet*) <www.read.gov/books/sherlock_holmes.html>.

"Reacher is the new Sherlock Holmes," Howard Ostrom suggests, in a recent post to his "Sherlock on Screens" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/ym83f683>, with video from the new series that's running on Amazon Prime.

If you've not seen the catalog for the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in London in 1951, it has been scanned and made available on-line at <www.wellcomecollection.org/works/yugh4nzt/items?canvas=1>; thanks to Jennie Paton for reporting this.

Emma Hughes discussed "the nine greatest cats in literature" in an article for Country Life in 2018 <www.tinyurl.com/mrxxwye4>. Sherlockians will be glad to see that Macavity leads the list.

Johanna Draper Carlson has launched a new "Sherlock Holmes in Comics" web-site at <www.comicsworthreading.com/sherlock-holmes-in-comics>, covering comics, graphic novels, and manga; it's colorful web-site, with much worth exploring.

Benedict Cumberbatch was honored by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 28 as the 2,714th star on the Walk of Fame. You can read their press release at <www.tinyurl.com/yckp86ew>.

There's a new Sherlock, noted by Andrew Jay Peck: "Merlin IS is powered by Sherlock, the world's first AI-driven digital document bloodhound and the backbone of Merlin's Search 2.0 platform," according to the press release <www.tinyurl.com/4xmprfse>.

Planning continues for "Jubilee@221B" (the conference celebrating the 50th anniversaries of the opening of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library, and the founding of the Bootmakers of Toronto) to be held at the Library on Sept. 23-25. To enroll on the mailing list, you can send an e-mail request to <jubilee_registration@acdfriends.org>.

Don Hobbs continues to expand his "Galactic Sherlock Holmes" data-base of foreign translations of the Canon (which now has about 14,000 entries in 112 different languages, and many full-color illustrations), and would be glad to hear from anyone who has found something not already in the data-base; the latest version is available on request and without charge as a large WeTransfer file <221b@verizon.net>.

Feb 22 #8 Just the thing for dinosaur fans: original artwork by Harry Rountree for "The Lost World" (ink wash and gouache on board) will be offered at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/34w97sv6> estimated at \$3,000-\$5,000; it's fascinating to see just how much better the original artwork was than what readers of the story in the Strand Magazine saw. That's also true, of course, for Sidney Paget's original artwork for the Sherlock Holmes stories.

The Three Winter Terrors (New York: Titan, 2021; 407 pp., \$19.99) is James Lovegrove's latest pastiche; Holmes and Watson investigate three grotesque murders, in 1899, 1890, and 1894, all of them involving the same family, and all with a touch of the macabre. Lovegrove has information about all of his Sherlockian pastiches at his web-site <www.jameslovegrove.com>.

Theater news: John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being produced at Steeltown Coffee & Tea in Pittsburg, Calif., through Mar. 6 <www.pittsburgcommunitytheatre.org>. It's also due at the Ilkley Playhouse in Ilkley, W. Yorks., on Mar. 3-12; their web-site is at <www.ilkleyplayhouse.co.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Port Angeles Community Theatre in Port Angeles, Wash., through Mar. 14 <pacommunityplayers.org>; and at the Åbo Svenska Teater in Turku, Finland, through Apr. 23; their web-site is at <abosvenskateater.fi>. It's also due at the Little Theatre of Fall River in Fall River, Mass., Mar. 17-27 <www.littletheatre.net>, and it will be produced at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., Apr. 1-May 14 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.

Jules Tasca's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" (with three one-act plays) is being performed at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Texas, through Mar. 26 <www.web.theatresuburbia.org>.

Daniel Foley's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" is running at Upstairs at the Gatehouse in London, Mar. 1-6 <www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com>.

The Théâtre Sans Frontières will tour "Sherlock Holmes: The Speckled Band" in Britain, beginning at the Queen's Hall Arts Centre in Hexham, Northum., on Mar. 8 <www.tsf.org.uk>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" will be produced at Silverdale Baptist Academy in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Mar. 10-11 <www.silverdaleba.org>.

The Northern Opera Group has announced it will begin work in April in the U.K. on Lliam Paterson's opera based on "The Sign of Four"; there's more information at <www.northernoperagroup.co.uk/sherlockholmes>.

Tim Kelly's adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" has been scheduled by the 3rd Act Theatre Company in Oklahoma City, Okla., Apr. 8-23 <www.3rdacttheatreco.com>.

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

The Baker Street Irregulars will celebrate Sherlock Holmes's 168th birthday at their annual dinner in New York on Jan. 6, 2023, which of course is his actual birthday. Planning is under way for the Distinguished Speaker Lecture on Jan. 5, and the Reception on Jan. 7. If you're not already receiving news and updates from the BSI, you can enroll on their e-mail list at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8n2ptm>.

There was active (and serious) bidding at Potter & Potter Auctions on Feb. 26 for some interesting (and often rare) Sherlockiana and Doyleana. You can see the catalog at <www.tinyurl.com/y3ffiy3jff> and the results of the auction at <www.tinyurl.com/yc2kw4d6>.

Simon Guerrier's *The Great War* (New York: Titan, 2021; 293 pp., \$14.95) is the latest title in Titan's long-running series of "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes". Set in 1917 at a British field hospital, it features Augusta Watson, a VAD (Volunteer Aid Detachment) who assists nurses in the hospital and is assigned to help Sherlock Holmes an investigation of what turns out to be a complicated conspiracy; the book is more of a thriller than a mystery, but nevertheless nicely done.

Lyndsay Faye wrote about "Pastiche, Fan Fiction, and the Sincerest Form of Flattery" at the CrimeReads blog on Feb. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/mryxsbdj> and lamented that when her first book *Dust and Shadow* was published she wasn't able "to hire a plane with an advertising banner reading DID YOU KNOW THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURES ARE THE AWESOMEST THINGS TO HAPPEN SINCE SUPER-NOVAS?"

"Sherlock the Musical" (written by Stefan van de Graaff and Denning Burton), performed in Canada in 2017, has been filmed from a new production, with a studio cast recording uploaded to YouTube on Mar. 25; their channel's at <www.youtube.com/channel/UCGlo7-cOunr_mn6CTc6R1Bg>, and a full filmed production will be uploaded on Apr. 26.

Karen Ellery, who presides over the Tea Brokers of Mincing Lane, would appreciate hearing about any published articles, essays, and pastiches that focus on Sherlock Holmes and tea <teabrokersmincinglane@gmail.com>.

Edwin Van der Flaes ("Victor Trevor") died in February. Born in Belgium, he emigrated to Canada in his teens and was an early member of the Boot-makers of Toronto, serving twice as the society's Meyers (president); Ed also was involved for many years as a leader in Scouts Canada, and enjoyed traveling, by car whenever possible, to meetings of other Sherlockian societies. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1984.

The campaign continues against the decision by the Queen Mary University of London to rename Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry as the QMUL Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (Feb 22 #1), and the "We Are BL" students have posted an update <www.tinyurl.com/2p88bhkf>; some of the newspaper articles can be read at <www.bartslondon.com/weareblresponses>.

Mar 22 #2 William Brittain was a prolific author of short stories that appeared in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine and Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, and it's grand to see many of them back in print, thanks to Crippen & Landru, in *The Man Who Read Mysteries* (2018; 212 pp., \$29.00 cloth or \$19.00 paper) and *The Man Who Solved Mysteries* (2022; 316 pp., \$32.00/\$22.00); Sherlockians will especially enjoy "The Man Who Read Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" and "Mr. Strang, Armchair Detective" (in the first volume). Crippen & Landru (Jeffrey Marks and Douglas G. Greene) continue to bring "lost classic" mystery short stories back into print, and their web-site <www.crippenlandru.com> has much to offer.

Fans of the BBC's "Sherlock" television series will recall Watson meeting Irene Adler in a scene filmed in the derelict (and atmospheric) Battersea Power Station, which no longer is as derelict as it was then; you can read about its history, and see what it's like now, in an article at the Country Life web-site on Mar. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/ymshdyzn>.

Yuichi Hirayama has noted an interesting use of the Canon: helping Japanese learn English grammar using "The Blue Carbuncle"; details available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaEVyu_H5Mo&t=8s>.

Benedict Cumberbatch was honored by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 28 as the 2,714th star on the Walk of Fame (Feb 22 #7), with only a brief mention of "Sherlock" during the ceremony. You can watch the festivities at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfkijn4_4NiE>.

Those who attended the Arthur Conan Doyle Society's inaugural Doylean Honors awards ceremony at the Mysterious Bookshop during the birthday festivities in January received an attractive and amusing limited-edition Sherlock Holmes bobblehead statuette; Ross Davies has annotated the bobblehead (and there is much to explain) at <www.tinyurl.com/22e4eda3>.

Tania Henzell (who is the step-great-great-granddaughter of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) has a new video in which she explains the design of her Sherlock Holmes tartan <www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lgLIFcc6A>; her web-site is at <www.sherlockholmestartan.com>.

Potter & Potter Auctions continues to offer interesting (and rare) Sherlockian and Doylean books, as well some Derleth titles, at a sale upcoming on Apr. 26 <www.auctions.potterauctions.com/Catalog.aspx?auctionid=1131>.

The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State has announced that its annual Christopher Morley Birthday Lunch will be held in Philadelphia this year, on Mar. 7. Linda and Terry Hunt <hobokenfreestate@gmail.com> will be happy to provide more information.

Craig Rice's *Eight Faces at Three* (1939) has been reprinted in Otto Penzler's "American Mystery Classics" series <www.tinyurl.com/md78fnkv>; the book's not Sherlockian, but Lisa Lutz's introduction ("Rediscovering the Gin-Soaked Screwball Mysteries of Craig Rice") is available at the Crime Reads web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2xua2zae> and offers a grand description of the author and the book.

Mar 22 #3 John Keston died on Feb. 18. Born in London, he started his stage career as a singer, moved on to acting, and played Sir Edward Leighton when the Royal Shakespeare Company brought its revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" to the U.S. in 1974. His obituary in the Telegraph (Mar. 7) noted that he decided to stay in the U.S., teaching both voice and classical singing, and continued to perform on stage, eventually becoming an ardent and record-breaking runner.

The Grolier Club's channel at Vimeo <www.tinyurl.com/bde62x42> offers recorded recordings about the exhibitions, including "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Glen S. Miranker" exhibition. There's another lecture by Glen at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eb96PIH8rHg>.

There has been considerable publicity about the discovery of the Endurance (10,000 feet below the surface of the Weddell Sea in the Antarctic); this was the ship that Sir Ernest Shackleton used in his attempt to reach the South Pole in 1915. As reported earlier (Apr 16 #1), a photograph of his cabin showed the books he took with him on the expedition, and one of them was E. W. Hornung's RAFFLES, which Hornung dedicated to his brother-in-law Conan Doyle. You can see the photograph, and a list of all the books, at <www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35633374>. The site was declared a historical monument in the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, so the book (or what's left of it) will remain there undisturbed.

The N.Y. Post noted (Mar. 11) a Wikipedia-style (crowd-sourced) web-site called Book Trigger Warnings <www.booktriggerwarnings.com> at which people can enter warnings about books with content that might be dangerously offensive. More than 6,000 books have been flagged, including some of the Sherlock Holmes stories <www.tinyurl.com/2p9c39hr>. *A Study in Scarlet* is the most dangerous, with warnings for: blood, drug addiction, forced marriage, homophobia, kidnapping, murder, persecution (Mormons), poison, racism, and stalking.

"A Celebration of Sherlock Holmes" is the theme of this year's DePaul Pop Culture Conference <www.tinyurl.com/5n6ntm73> at DePaul University in Chicago on May 7, featuring Arwel Wyn Jones (production designer for "Sherlock") Tom Ue (editor of *Fan Phenomena: Sherlock Holmes*), and Ashley Polasek (author of *Being Sherlock*).

Gary Lovisi's *A Sherlock Holmes Notebook* (Eureka: Stark House, 2022; 198 pp., \$15.95) offers a wide-ranging collection of reprints of his many articles and essays about Sherlockiana (and Doyleana); there's a warm tribute to John Bennett Shaw, discussions of plays and films, and much more. Gary has been collecting, and writing about collecting, for decades, and his YouTube channel <www.tinyurl.com/2p84d4du> shows just how varied his interests are.

Ron Fish continues to publicize meetings of Sherlockian societies via his Sherlockian Calendar, including gatherings held via Zoom or other technology; it's a great way to find out what's happening, where and when. You can see his format at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>, and send information about upcoming meetings to him at <ronf404@aol.com>.

Mar 22 #4 The Times reported (Mar. 14) that the government of Kazakhstan has arrested Kairat Satybaldy, nephew of the country's former president Nursultan Nazarbayev, who ruled the country for three decades; Satybaldy has been charged with abuse of power and embezzlement of funds. Nazarbayev's daughter Dariga Nazarbayeva, and her son Nurali Aliyev, were named two years ago (Mar 20 #3) as owners of Park View Residence at 215-229 Baker Street <www.parkviewresidence.co.uk>, the building that retains the façade of Abbey House, where Abbey National for many years provided a secretary to answer mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes at 221B.

Steve Doyle's Fortnightly Dispatch continues with an interesting interview with Mike Kean (the BSI's Wiggins) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=erU_4hAW_Gs>. His next guest was Mark Gagen (Steve's co-conspirator at the Wessex Press and the BSI Press) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKzB5KVJcrI>.

His clients—Colonel Ross, whose racehorse flees,
Or Violet Hunter, seen at Baker Street,
Who crops her locks of hair—would all agree,
This haughty, hawkeyed Brit's a bit offbeat.

Observed by Karen Murdock in The New Yorker (Dec. 27, 2021) in a puzzle "In the Doggerel House" by Andy Kravis and Liz Maynes Aminzade, who ask, "Can you identify the literary work or series that each poem is about, and find the character whose name is hidden within?" You'll have no trouble identifying the literary work or series, but can you find the character?

The Original Theatre Company/Octagon Theatre Bolton touring production of John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" has been recorded and will be streamed on-line from Apr. 14 to July 31; early-bird tickets are available at <www.tinyurl.com/44e6wruj>.

Irish historian Turtle Bunbury has a new podcast "Turtle Bunbury's Global Irish" that recounts the stories of people who left Ireland to make their mark around the world; Lola Montez (thought by some to have been the inspiration for Irene Adler) will be featured on Apr. 11, and Arthur Conan Doyle on Apr. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/2p9ff7t9>.

The Baz <www.tinyurl.com/3cwb4rh2> is a Basil Rathbone blog, noted by Jennie Paton, where you will find Marcia Jessen's interesting discussion of the German versions of the Universal Films (which of course were not released in Germany during WW2).

Baker Street West, in Jackson, Calif., continues to offer podcasts, dramatic readings, and much more <www.bakerstreetwest.com>; it's one floor up from the Hein & Co., used-book store, and they recently received some nice (and colorfully illustrated) publicity, with mention of their recreation of the sitting-room, at the Time Out web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ynvenrs2>.

The Festival de cine Fantástico de Canarias [Canary Islands Fantastic Film Festival] presented an honorary award in 2021 to Nicholas Rowe (who played Sherlock Holmes in two films); Jennie Paton notes video of the award presentation and the interview with Rowe <www.vimeo.com/688824999>.

Mar 22 #5 Sherlock Holmes continues to be popular in Japanese manga and anime, and one of the weirdest incarnations surely is Oshiri Tantei [The Butt Detective]; the latest film features the master criminal Shiriarty <www.tinyurl.com/3xbdwmrb>. You can also watch the trailer for an earlier film <www.youtube.com/watch?v=047VMJlBZxQ>, kindly reported by Jennie Paton (you can set the subtitles for English).

Did you find the character in that little poem on the previous page? He's in "crops her locks".

Gary Lovisi's *Sherlock Holmes in Oz* (Cabin John: Wildside Press, 2022; 141 pp., \$12.99) brings Holmes and Watson to Oz, pursuing the Red Poppy Menace and endeavoring to rescue Dorothy Gale (the great-niece of Watson's wife); they encounter L. Frank Baum, and many of the characters he created.

How they got their start: Rob Lowe, an American actor, director, producer, and podcaster, made his acting debut at the age of 15, according to Wikipedia, but he first appeared on stage at the age of 12, as Billy in Thomas Hinton's "Sherlock Holmes: A New Adventure" at Wright State University in Fairborn, Ohio. You can read all about it in the Dayton Daily News, Mar. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/2s3e7ne4>.

Yes, Nicholas Rowe did play Sherlock Holmes in two films, in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) and thirty years later in "Mr. Holmes" (2015) in the black-and-white film Ian McKellen sees in a theater.

The Legion of Zoom, a Sherlockian society that was founded late last year to reflect the Age of the Pandemic <www.tinyurl.com/2p8zv245>, continues to attract members; Edith Pouden, Rick Krisciunas, and Steve Mason (some of the ringleaders) were interviewed recently by Scott Monty and Burt Wolfer on "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/3tye8fhz>. Don't confuse the society with the other one <www.tinyurl.com/9dvv94zc>. Or the one in Kansas City <www.tinyurl.com/2btkbcd>.

For those who (mistakenly) believe that the Blue Carbuncle was a blue diamond: the De Beers Cullinan Blue (15.10 carats, step-cut) will be offered at auction at Sotheby's in Hong Kong on April 27; read about it, and watch a video, at <www.tinyurl.com/3aruc6m5>. Town & Country had an interesting article about blue diamonds (Feb. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/2p83d3nn>.

The "Sherlock Holmes" electric locomotive, which ran on the Metropolitan Line in London for many years and was restored to service four years ago (Jun 18 #2), will be running on the North Norfolk Railway this summer, according to Rail Advent (Mar. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/38buudr2>; the story includes an amusing image showing how the locomotive arrived in Norfolk.

Paulette Greene died on Dec. 6. She was a mail-order used-book dealer in Rockville Center, N.Y., in the 1980s, and her catalogs were helpful indeed to Sherlockian collectors; she also published Sherlockian books by Trevor H. Hall and Madeleine B. Stern, and interesting Sherlockian artwork by her son Sam. At the end of the 1980s she announced that she was retiring, and moved to Boca Raton, Fla., but continued to be active as a dealer.

Mar 22 #6 The 39th issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 73 pages of articles, quizzes, recipes, pastiches, and reports on the society and its members. It costs \$14.00 postpaid (\$25.00 outside the U.S.); checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles can be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467.

Rob Nunn has issued a call for contributions to his upcoming *The Monstrum Opus of Sherlock Holmes: A Compendium of Horrors Dr. Watson Dared Not Tell* (not pastiches, but rather "scholarship that plants its tongue firmly in check"); the deadline is July 31, and there's more information at his Interesting Though Elementary blog <www.tinyurl.com/3h9v7v6r>.

The Sherlockian Chronologist Convention for this year has been canceled, Ira Matetsky has announced, because "They couldn't agree on the date."

One page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be up for bids at Heritage Auctions on June 4 <www.tinyurl.com/2hw5dts6>. It's page H37 in Randall Stock's census, and there's more information about it at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/5n7bahk8>.

Nicholas Meyer will be the keynote speaker at "Jubilee@221B" (the conference that will celebrate the 50th anniversaries of the opening of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library and the founding of the Bootmakers of Toronto) to be held at the Toronto Reference Library on Sept. 23-25. To enroll on the mailing list, send an e-mail request to <jubilee_registration@acdfriends.org>.

Priscilla Ridgway died on Feb. 23. She was executive director of the Mystery Writers of America for many years, went on to work at the New England Society of N.Y.; she enjoyed theater, opera, and concerts in New York, and a good friend of many in the Sherlockian world.

Paddington Station, which opened only a few days after Sherlock Holmes was born, is mentioned in five of the Canonical stories, and Country Life had a nice article on-line (Mar. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/2tzedhjf> about the history of this London landmark.

Fans of the 1940s Universal films about Sherlock Holmes will remember Rondo Hatton, who played the Hoxton Creeper in "The Pearl of Death" (1944). The Rondo Hatton Classic Horror Awards, which were launched in 2002 at a fan-based web-site and recently reported by Ann Marlowe, can be explored at <www.rondoaward.com>.

Broadway World reported on Feb. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/yk2p9fvt> that the American Lyric Theater has launched an Aria Access Project, "a free hub of downloadable contemporary aria sheet music" intended for singers who are asked to audition at 21st-century aria. One of the operas is "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Fallen Giant" (by Evan Meier and E. M. Lewis), first performed at the National Opera Center in New York in 2015. Three soprano arias from the opera are available (with sheet music and lyrics) for download at <www.altnyc.org/aap-soprano>.

Mar 22 #7 The imaginative life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká that shows Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes <www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2>, on display in the Garden of Heroes and Villains created by the late Felix Dennis in Dorsington, Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, is not easy to see, but the Garden will be open to the public during an evening fund-raiser (with food and drink available) on July 21 <www.tinyurl.com/2fpcahze>.

Don Hobbs has reported an interesting discovery in Yr Herald Cymraeg [The Welsh Herald] <www.newspapers.library.wales/view/3781337/19>: a Sherlockian advertisement for Mackintosh's Toffee, published in 1910 (the toffee still is available in British shops).

Rob Nunn's *The Common-Place Book 2021* (33 pp., \$5.99) offers 13 of the essays, stories, and toasts he has written since he attended his first society meeting in 2015, among them "A Study in Steadfast" (with an intriguing look at "A Study in Scarlet" by one of its minor characters).

Life's 96-page special issue offering "the story behind the world's greatest detective" (with Basil Rathbone on the cover), which first appeared in 2016, has been reissued (with very minor differences that will be of interest only to the completist) and is back on newsstands, and available at Amazon and elsewhere.

Game-playing Sherlockians may not be aware that Frogwares, the developer of many computer games (their latest is *Sherlock Holmes: Chapter One*) is headquartered in Ukraine. The company's CEO Wael Amr is featured in a recent interview spotted at the IGN web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2p8emjn7> by Jennie Paton.

Original (non-Sherlockian) artwork by Sidney Paget is coming to auction in the U.K. on Apr. 6, estimated at £50-£80 <www.tinyurl.com/4ppuyxsc>; it's a watercolor of "a landscape with sailing boats on a lake with mountains beyond and a figure on a path."

9GAG, according to Wikipedia, is a web-site based in Hong Kong that allows users to upload user-generated content. Jennie Paton has noted an amusing "Dead British Actors" video <www.tinyurl.com/ybcf9jy7> that's something of a deep fake: it's really a segment from the British BBC-2 television series "That Mitchell and Webb Look". The skit actually aired on Sept. 21, 2006, and starred David Mitchell and Robert Webb.

Le fantôme de l'oiseau lune (Paris: Editions l'Âge d'Or, 2013) is a graphic novel written by Yves Varenne and illustrated by René Follet, with cover art that's striking indeed <www.tinyurl.com/2p83ev5h>.

CGI (Computer Generated Imagery) has been used for quite a while now, but it's nice to know that the first CGI character in a film was the dancing knight from a stained-glass window in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985); the GeekTyrant web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2p8txfkv> recently made available a fan-created video showing how much improved the technology is now, and the video includes (at 18:45) an homage to the 1985 film.

Mar 22 #8 Theater news: John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at the Little Theatre in Hertford, Herts., through Apr. 2 <www.cops.org.uk>.

Susan Lumenello's "The Sherlock Problem" is on at the Cape Cod Theatre in West Harwich, Mass., through Apr. 3 <www.capecodtheatrecompany.org>; it's a new comedy featuring Conan Doyle, Holmes, and Watson.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Runway Theatre in Grapevine, Texas, through Apr. 10 <www.runwaytheatre.com>. It's coming up at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., Apr. 1-May 14 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical "Cats" (with Macavity: The Mystery Cat) is on tour in the U.S. through June 26 <www.ustour.catsthemusical.com>.

Richard Lloyd's "Sherlock Holmes and the Sons of Anubis" will be performed at the Coulsdon Community Centre in Coulsdon, Surrey, Apr. 2-9; web-site at <www.twcoulsdon.org.uk>.

Liam Paterson's new opera "The Sign of Four" will have a special preview performance (scenes from the opera and a discussion with the audience) at the East Riding Theatre in Beverley, Yorks., on Apr. 9; their web-site at <www.northernoperagroup.co.uk>.

Jeff Ames' "The Hit-or-Miss Adventures of Watson and Holmes" will be performed at the Wallenstien Theater at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake, Wash., Apr. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/mrx6jprz>.

Jonathan Goodwin will perform his new "Sherlock Holmes: The Poet and His Muse" on-line on Apr. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/htmaapd5>.

Craig Wichman's "The Blue Carbuncle" will be performed by the East Lynne Theater Company in Cape May, N.J., May 14-15 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

Bert Coules' "Watson: The Final Problem" will be performed during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh, on Aug. 3-10 <www.assemblyfestival.com/whats-on/all-shows/watson-the-final-problem>.

Michael Mitnick's "Mysterious Circumstances" (which was inspired by David Grann's 2004 article in the New Yorker about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green) is scheduled at the Road Less Traveled Theater in Buffalo, N.Y., on Sept. 15-Oct.16 <www.roadlesstraveledproductions.org>.

Gael Stahlhuth's "The Norwood Builder" will be performed by the East Lynne Theater Company in Cape May, N.J., Oct. 21-22 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty: A New Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will premiere at the Cleveland Playhouse's Allen Theatre in Cleveland, Apr. 29-May 21, 2023 <www.clevelandplayhouse.com>.

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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/2p8eep4> (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/cemjfumk>. 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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