

Holmes and Watson could have seen dinosaurs in London, and they're still there. After the Crystal Palace Exhibition closed in 1851, the building was taken down and rebuilt in Sydenham, and the newly-formed Crystal Palace Company commissioned the creation of fifteen life-sized models of extinct animals. The models are still there, protected by a Grade I listing, and you can see images of some of them in an article posted recently to the Artlyst web-site <www.tinyurl.com/4uxt4e2z>.

From this newsletter in 1998: "Elementary, my dear Watson" was indeed said by Sherlock Holmes in one of A. Conan Doyle's stories. It really was. In which story?

Nea Dodson has reported an intriguing Sherlockian video set to Kristin Andreassen's song "Crayola Doesn't Make a Color for Your Eyes", available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIBtrxEg7xc>. Click on [educated in yellow] to see some similar videos.

The next 221B Con (A Fan Con for All Things Sherlock Holmes) will be held in Atlanta, Ga., on Apr. 12-14 <www.221bcon.com>; there's no schedule yet, but you can consult their 2023 schedule to find out what sort of things go on at the convention.

Raymond A. de Groat ("Harraway") died on July 25. He was a teacher and a life-long dedicated liberal activist, and for many years as enthusiastic member of the Scowrsers and Mollie Maguires of San Francisco. He served as their secretary in the 1970s and 1980s, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.

Something for fans of William Gillette (spotted by Jennie Paton): the New York Public Library has digitized their hand-corrected typescript of the second act of his "Sherlock Holmes" <www.tinyurl.com/3sarukpn>. It's in the William Hooker Gillette Papers in the Berg Collection.

Two-and-a-half minute commercials? Apparently. Ann Marlowe has reported this one <www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnUo0CiatNI>, with a mention of Sherlock at 1:41, presumably 1958-1960, when Westinghouse sponsored "The Westinghouse Desilu Playhouse".

Laurie R. King reports that *The Lantern's Dance* (the new Mary Russell novel) has now "gone into production," and explains just what that means at her web-site <www.laurierking.com>; there also are some interesting posts about the new books at her blog "Mutterings" <www.laurierking.com/blog>.

Michael Jackson's 14-minute music video "Thriller" (1982), available online at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOnqjkJTMAA>, includes wolf howls in the sound effects; according to an article at the Showbiz Cheatsheet on May 25 <www.tinyurl.com/bdd82a3y>, the recording engineer, inspired by a film of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", wanted his Great Dane to provide howls, but the dog "didn't want to be in show business," and Michael Jackson himself was responsible for the howls.

Aug 23 #2 Shannon Mann is the winner of the 2023 Irene Adler Prize: a \$1,000 scholarship for a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature. The prize was established in 2017 by Lucas Aykroyd, an award-winning writer and public speaker in Vancouver, B.C., and it is indeed named in honor of the heroine of "A Scandal in Bohemia". You can learn more about the prize, and read the winning essay, at <www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships>, and there's in a story in Yahoo! Finance (July 25) <www.tinyurl.com/4fe632dn>.

Yes, Sherlock Holmes really did say "Elementary, my dear Watson" in one of A. Conan Doyle's stories, and you can credit (or blame) Jim Vogelsang for the discovery. The story is "The Adventure of the Red Widow" -- by Adrian Conan Doyle.

Elizabeth Crowens reports that she has signed a three-book deal with Level Best Books for her new "Hollywood Mysteries" series set in the 1940s. Her sleuth is Babs Norman, and *The Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles*, due next spring, with feature Basil Rathbone.

Don Hobbs has added language #114 (Tagalog) to his data-base of translations of the Canon. Don's massive (and colorfully-illustrated) "Galactic Sherlock Holmes" (with 18,361 entries) is conveniently available on-line at <www.dfw-sherlock-org/galactic-sherlock-holmes.html>.

Kitchen at Holmes (a restaurant at 108 Baker Street) received a rave review in the Travel Magazine <www.thetravelmagazine.net/kitchen-at-holmes> on July 31. They offer breakfast a la carte, and "festive feast" menus at £55 and £65 <www.kitchenatholmes.co.uk/restaurant>.

The Queen's South Africa medal, with three clasps (for Cape Colony, Orange Free State, and Transvaal), that was awarded to Private W. Milton for his service with the Langman Field Hospital during the Boer War, went to auction at Noonan Mayfair in London on July 26, and sold for £550 (plus 24% buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/2294ykc2>. Surgeon A. Conan Doyle received the same medal (with the same three clasps), but unfortunately it is not known to have survived. The Official Medal Roll for the Langman Hospital was published in an article in the Journal of the Orders and Medals Research Society (autumn 1979) <www.tinyurl.com/4e54n4yr>.



The never-ending Sherlock Holmes Museum saga continues: earlier this year (Feb 23 #1) John Aidiniantz, who founded the museum, served a sentence in jail, and now controls the museum again, won a suit against his brother. Now Honoria Cartlidge, who was fired from her £120,000-a-year job as senior manager, has been (partially) successful in a suit against the museum. She didn't win the £500,000 bonus she says she was promised, but the judge ruled that museum directors (including Cartlidge's ex-girlfriend) dismissed Cartlidge unfairly, and that she was entitled to unlawful deduction of holiday pay. You can read all about in an article in the Daily Mail (July 27) <www.tinyurl.com/3yrmkmyn>.

Aug 23 #3 Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies is an on-line journal that is "committed to publishing insightful and innovative scholarship on gender studies and nineteenth-century British literature, art, and culture." The summer 2023 issue (reported by Ross Davies, who keeps an eye out for matters legal) contains Rebecca Nesvet's "Walking Aslant: Irene Adler Visits the Inner Temple" <www.tinyurl.com/2p8c6srb>. Authors have written about Holmes and Conan Doyle in past issues.

Thierry Saint-Joanis is offering-summer sales discounts (available until Sept. 23) on four "Sherlock Holmes on Screens" publications; details are available at <www.tinyurl.com/537bbkwp>.

Jerome Coopersmith died on July 21. He launched his theatrical career in 1947, writing script for television series, and his many later credits included writing the book for the musical "Baker Street" (1964), for which he received a Tony Award nomination. He also wrote a script for "The Other Side" (a one-act play about Conan Doyle and Houdini), performed during "Autumn in Baker Street" in 2007, and during the Sherlock Holmes birthday festivities in New York in 2008.

And Inga Swenson died on July 28. She launched her acting career on stage in 1949, and went on to many appearances on stage, screen, and television. Best known for her performance as Gretchen Kraus in the television series "Benson" (1979-1986), she also starred in (and won a Tony nomination) as Irene Adler in the musical "Baker Street" (1964), and was an honored guest at the Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner in 2005.

Scott Monty has a warm tribute to them both at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mrx6kaw2>.

Howard Ostrom has reported a 1970 episode of the British series "It's Tommy Cooper" now available on-line at <www.dailymotion.com/video/x8md4cu>. An 11-minute skit "Great Performances of our Time" (at 12:54) stars British comedian Tommy Cooper as Holmes and Patrick Cargill as Watson. Howard notes that one of Cooper's stand-up lines (from a stage show) was, "I say, Watson, this is a most serious case. The window is broken on both sides."

All those who own a copy of *The Sherlock Holmes Hexalogy*, which was letterpress printed and hand-bound at the Thornwill Press (Dec. 17 #2), will be aware of the fine work that they do. It's still available, along with many other titles, including their latest, Wodehouse's *Leave It to Jeeves*, at their web-site <www.thornwillow.com>.

Andrew Norman's *The Real Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: The Creator of Sherlock Holmes* (Yorkshire: White Owl, 2023; 224 pp., \$34.95) is a biography written by an author who studied medicine, became a writer, and has had access to and quotes from medical records and case notes of Conan Doyle's father Charles Altamont Doyle, who had been diagnosed as suffering from epilepsy and alcoholism. Norman believes that Conan Doyle's father suffered from a schizo-affective disorder, which includes symptoms of both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder and may have been inherited by Conan Doyle, explaining his conversion in later life to Spiritualism.

Aug 23 #4 "Together, we make up Unit 221B, named after Sherlock Holmes as recommended along the way by a UK law enforcement friend of mine when I was trying to figure out what to name the company. He said, 'That is what you and your crew do: you are the Sherlock Holmes of cyberspace.'" That's from Lance James, CEP of Unit 221B, explaining the origin of his company, which offers "products and services to companies seeking discreet, best-in-class, and advanced cybersecurity operations and training." Their web-site's at <www.unit221b.com>.

Bignell Wood, the country home that Conan Doyle bought as a birthday present for his wife Jean in 1924, advertised for £2,950,000 last year (Nov 22 #3) <www.tinyurl.com/uv9nxb5y>, is now "under offer" (which means there's a buyer, but no contact has been signed).

Ben Abramson presided over the Argus Book Shop, in Chicago and New York, published the 13 issues of the Old Series of the Baker Street Journal from 1946 to 1949, and was an early member of The Baker Street Irregulars, and a very good friend of Vincent Starrett; you can hear him (and others) talk about all of that in episode 269 of Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/3dukc3m4>.

A reading list for fans of the "Elementary" television series (spotted by Jennie Paton): someone has compiled a list of all the books that are visible in Sherlock's brownstone home <www.tinyurl.com/2h8yuku9>.

Amaranthine Books has an interesting video about its limited letter-press editions of *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of a Dozen Favourites* (Dec 22 #3) at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=1k9ejSiTI1o>. You can click on [shop] at their web-site <www.amaranthinebooks.com> for more information about their books; they plan to ship the Sherlock Holmes editions in September.

Sherlockian fan-fiction can be helpful, according to an article on-line at the Huffington Post (July 3, 2020) <www.tinyurl.com/mus7vdkc>.

"The creator of Sherlock Holmes acknowledges that he is a bad penman" was the caption on an image of Conan Doyle autograph in Bernard Nessey's article "A Sheaf of Autographs" in the Apr. 1905 issue of the Royal Magazine, discovered by Ross Davies, who has reported on it in the August issue of A Common Newsletter, published by the ACD Society. You can read the article on-line, thanks to the Hathi Trust <www.tinyurl.com/4mdb87nj> (just go to pages 485-487), and you can learn more about the ACD Society at its web-site <www.acdsociety.com> (four of the images along the top of the opening page are live links to some of the society's goings-on).

A. Wallis Myers' article about "Smoke, Smokes & Smokers" in the Sept. 1902 issue of the magazine includes a photograph of William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes, with a caption "Sherlock Holmes without a pipe could hardly be imagined." Myers reports that smoking on stage "is by no means as simple as it might appear," adding that Gillette "used always to employ very light tobacco which would burn for hours without losing its capacity for supplying smoke."

Aug 23 #5 By Common Consent (a blog that was "started by a group of Mormons to provide a thoughtful, enjoyable, and reasonable place to post and discuss Mormon topics," has (as might be expected) discussion of "A Study in Scarlet". A recent post by Michael Austin had an intriguing title: "Sherlock Holmes and the Giant Rat of Sumatra: A Study in the Impossibility of a Closed Canon" <www.tinyurl.com/mr2tunzc>, and a link to an earlier post by Ivan Wolfe on "Sherlock Holmes, 'Mormons', and Canon" <www.tinyurl.com/yfzsythk>. It's interesting that "Star Wars" fandom also has trouble agreeing on just what their canon is, and that Disney tried and failed to control the definition <www.starwars.fandom.com/wiki/Canon>.

Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" blog has some delightful discoveries, such as <www.vincentstarrett.com/blog/2023/1/17/mord-i-folio>, about his success, at long last, of acquiring a Swedish translation of "The Unique Hamlet" published in 1960 with attractive illustrations, now available for everyone to see.

Otto Penzler has announced creation of a new Penzler Publishers imprint: Crime Ink <www.penzlerpublishers.com/announcing-crime-ink> will launch in the spring of 2024; their first title will be *The Serial Killer's Apprenti* (by Katherine Ramsland and Tracy Ullman).

"The stout gentleman with the wig ought to be a Reynolds," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). Country Life magazine recently offered a nicely-illustrated discussion of the life and work of Sir Joshua Reynolds <www.tinyurl.com/mrxz4vwj>.

"The Play That Goes Wrong" recently was produced at the Kennedy Center in Washington; it is billed as "a hilarious hybrid of Monty Python and Sherlock Holmes." There's nothing Sherlockian about the play, except that it is a murder mystery, but it's a delightful farce and highly recommended if there's a production anywhere near you.

The book collection of the late Charlie Watts, at auction at Christie's in London on Sept. 28 (Jul 23 #5) <www.tinyurl.com/ysr7hcxj> also includes a nicely inscribed copy of the first American edition of *A Study in Scarlet* <www.tinyurl.com/ym5b9uku>.

We are indebted to Petri Wine for sponsoring the Sherlock Holmes series on radio from 1943 to 1950. There was an unusual (and attractive) porcelain advertising sign from 1964 available at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/33rbh2yj>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Great Escape" was a Chinese animation (released in 2019 as "The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes: The Great Jail Breaker"); Jennie Paton has reported it on-line, dubbed in English, at Daily Motion <www.dailymotion.com/video/x8n6hab>.

CAT PAWZZLES PRESENTS PURRLOCK HOLMES, edited by Tim Baker (New York: Topix Media, 2023; 96 pp., \$7.99) (\$3.50 at Amazon), has a pipe-smoking cat in Sherlockian costume on the cover and offers "puzzles, ciphers, and itty bitty mysteries for feline fanatics." Dr. Watson also appears, along with Irene Catler, and Meowriarty.

Aug 23 #6 The late Jack Ritchie, author of more than 350 short stories (and one novel) wrote a pastiche "A Case of Identity" (in the Jan. 1982 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine) in which he identified Watson as Jack the Ripper; one of his specialties was hard-boiled noir for magazines such as Manhunt and Mantrap, and you can read some of the stories in that genre in *The Best of Manhunt 4: the Jack Ritchie Stories*, edited by Jeff Vorzimmer (Eureka: Stark House, 29221; 221 pp., \$15.95).

The fall issue of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter is now online at the Trust's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mtv6wa8h>, with a colorful report on Denny Dobry's work supporting the Trust, and additional information about Steve Rothman's upcoming on-line Trust lecture on Sept. 9.

When in southern Albania: there's a Sherlock's Irish Pub in Pogrdec; the web-site's at <www.sherlock-iriish-pub.business.site> (reports by Jennie Paton).

Have you ever played with a Magic 8 Ball? There's now an on-line version, at <www.magic-8ball.com>. There's a (remote) connection to Conan Doyle: the original Magic 8 Ball was invented by Alfred Carter; his mother Laura Pruden was a Cincinnati clairvoyant who specialized in slate-writing and was praised by Conan Doyle, who sat with her twice in the 1920s, and said that she "is certainly one of the great mediums of the world" (in *Our Second American Adventure*).

Theatrical news: Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Spotlight Playhouse in Berea, Ky., Sept. 1-3; web-site at <www.thespotlightplayhouse.com>.

R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" is scheduled at the Art Barn in Gaithersburg, Md., Sept. 16-Oct. 1; their web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/yw8xnuz4>.

Richard Tunley's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Blackwood Miners' Institute in Blackwood, Wales, on Oct. 3, and then on tour <www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100079483407798>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" is due at the Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester, Mich., Oct. 4-29 <www.meadowbrooktheatre.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Temple Theatre in Sanford, N.C., Oct. 12-29 <www.templeshows.com>.

Matthew Ivan Bennett's "Sherlock Holmes and the Final Problem" is coming up at the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Oct. 27, for broadcast by KUER-FM <www.tinyurl.com/vjutufvn>.

Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" has been scheduled at the Theatre at Seneca Ridgle Middle School in Sterling, Va., Nov. 10-19, 2023; the web-site's at <www.sterlingplaymakers.org>.

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