

Burt Solomon's *The Attempted Murder of Teddy Roosevelt* (New York: Forge, 2019; 302 pp., \$17.99) is entertaining historical fiction, with Secretary of State John Hay as the detective, trying to determine whether an accident in Pittsfield, Mass., in 1902 actually was an attempt to assassinate the president. It's Sherlockian only in that throughout the book John Hay enjoys reading from the just-published *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (reported by Jeff Bradway, who lives in Pittsfield) (as did I, in the distant past).

There's no mention of plumber's rockets, but Britain's National Archives reported on toilet design <[www.tinyurl.com/ya6p668n](http://www.tinyurl.com/ya6p668n)>; scroll down to see what was available in 1887.

The new season of the French television series "Lupin" will launch on Netflix on Oct. 5. Omar Sy plays Assane Diop, a present-day gentleman thief inspired by Maurice Leblanc's Arsène Lupin; the series is well done indeed (although so far Sherlockian only for brief glimpses in one episode of a book-cover poster for *Arsène Lupin contre Sherlock Holmes*). The official trailer is available at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpLyzU0tk80](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpLyzU0tk80)>.

All of the Arsène Lupin stories are still in print; there's a ten-volume collection <[www.tinyurl.com/3mnf78dh](http://www.tinyurl.com/3mnf78dh)>, and *The Best Stories of Arsène Lupin* <[www.tinyurl.com/5n94b6xm](http://www.tinyurl.com/5n94b6xm)> that Amazon describes as "based on the popular Netflix series!" (but of course it's the other way round).

Jennie Paton spotted a YouTube video about a Sherlockian subscription box available from Cromwell and Taylor <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSUTMOKw9Kg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSUTMOKw9Kg)>; the company specializes in cross-stitch patterns, supplies, and much more, and the subscription box is one of four Sherlock Holmes items you can order at their web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/3bkb4t2a](http://www.tinyurl.com/3bkb4t2a)>.

The table of contents, and the editorial, in the summer 2023 issue of the Baker Street Journal are up at the BSJ web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/3cmfvb7k](http://www.tinyurl.com/3cmfvb7k)> and there's still time to subscribe for 2023 and receive all five issues.

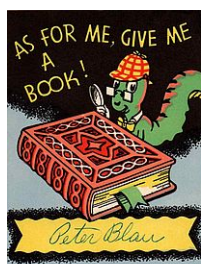
*Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell* is the title of the next novel from Nicholas Meyer, Otto Penzler reports. It's based on the famous Zimmermann telegram, intercepted by British intelligence in 1917, which proposed an alliance between Germany and Mexico against the U.S. The book's due from the Mysterious Press in Aug. 2024.

International Autograph Auctions Europe offers an interesting letter Conan Doyle wrote (probably in 1926), saying (in part) that "I was conscious at one time that Holmes was strained & for some years I only wrote one story a year. I can truly say I have never written to order or allowed the money side of it to influence me at all," and added that, "I have not felt him strained in this last series of six. Five of these are done, and I will not do the sixth if I have any reason to think there is a real declension. I have my ear on the ground <[www.tinyurl.com/4rvt8yxt](http://www.tinyurl.com/4rvt8yxt)>. It is estimated at €6,000-€10,000.

Sep 23 #2 Francis Feeney, who won fame in Hollywood, is being honored in his home town, Portland, Maine, where he was born in 1881, according to an article Karen Murdock discovered in the Aug. 10 issue of the Bangor Daily News <[www.tinyurl.com/2e2a952h](http://www.tinyurl.com/2e2a952h)>. He moved to Hollywood as a young man, changed his name to Francis Ford, and acted in his first film in 1909; he directed his first film in 1912, and directed, and starred as Sherlock Holmes, in "A Study in Scarlet" (1914). He also had brought his kid brother John to Hollywood and cast him as Dr. Watson in the film; John Ford returned the favor by casting his brother as Dan Tobin (the old man with a beard) in "The Quiet Man" (1953).

Sorry about that. If you had trouble accessing Bernard Nessey's article "A Sheaf of Autographs" in the Apr. 1905 issue of the Royal Magazine (Aug 23 #4), you should go to <[www.tinyurl.com/4mdb87nj](http://www.tinyurl.com/4mdb87nj)> and enter 592 in the 1/604 page-search box at the bottom.

It's getting harder and harder for those who smoke to find places they can enjoy pipes and cigars and pipes, but some Sherlockian pipe-smokers will welcome news in the September issue of the Peterson Pipe Notes blog about the "pipe of the year" <[www.tinyurl.com/4bnm5wtb](http://www.tinyurl.com/4bnm5wtb)>; it's part of Peterson's "Sherlock Holmes Series", and Peterson's own web-site <[www.peterson.ie](http://www.peterson.ie)> is well worth exploring.



I hope that somewhere there's a copy of the Garden City edition of *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* with this bookplate, and there's a story about why the book's not in my collection; I brought the book with me to New York in 1959, to Fordham University to play Sir Henry Baskerville in the Priory Scholars' recording of Chris Steinbrunner's adaptation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for broadcast by WFUV-FM. We rehearsed in the morning, and when we went out for lunch, I left the book behind in the studio; when we came back from lunch, the book had vanished, presumably taken by someone who wanted to read it, since it was no longer a mint, or even a very fine, copy. It had been a faithful companion, since the late 1940s, when I started reading the Baker Street Journal and of course needed a copy of the Canon. It would be wonderful to have the book again, and I would be happy to reward the finder with a newer and nicer copy of the Canon. The bookplates were sold in stores in the 1940s and 1950s, and are still available at Etsy <[tinyurl.com/yvznsrwk](http://tinyurl.com/yvznsrwk)>, in case you want to try to forge my signature and recreate that long-lost book. But keep in mind that the original will have my DNA on it.

Ellen Fitzhugh died on July 16. She was an accomplished composer and lyricist, nominated for Tony and Emmy awards, and her credits included two songs performed by Vincent Price in the film "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986), in which she also voiced the Bar Maid.

Copies of the Thornwillow Press letter-press printed and hand-bound edition of *The Sherlock Holmes Hexalogy* (Oct 17 #2) are still available from their web-site <[www.thornwillow.com](http://www.thornwillow.com)>. And you can read Zach Harney's recent interview with Thornwillow proprietor Luke Ives Pontifell at the Collectible Book Vault web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/ek7mnxkn](http://www.tinyurl.com/ek7mnxkn)>.

Sep 23 #3     Hundreds of people gathered at Loch Ness at the end of August, hoping to find the Loch Ness Monster, but they were unsuccessful <[www.tinyurl.com/mryk64x2](http://www.tinyurl.com/mryk64x2)>. It's nice to recall that some years ago (Apr 16 #5) a Norwegian company deployed an underwater robot equipped with sonar imaging to explore the loch, and located the model of Nessie made for the film "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970); the model sank during filming, and BBC News <[www.tinyurl.com/zlrkupg](http://www.tinyurl.com/zlrkupg)> reported on the discovery. There is an additional Sherlockian connection with the monster: Shirley Dickensheet ("Ivy Douglas" in The Baker Street Irregulars), who was working for the Fireman's Fund when the model sank in 1969, noted that the company paid the claim for the loss (and received some nice publicity); anyone who might want to rescue the monster as a Sherlockian souvenir will need to have a discussion with the insurance company.

"Tales from the Darkside: The Movie" (1990), which includes Conan Doyle's "Lot 249", will be reissued in a new 4K Blu-ray & DVD combo pack (\$35.99) on Nov. 28 <[www.tinyurl.com/4vascjz2](http://www.tinyurl.com/4vascjz2)>.

It would appear that the Library of Congress Copyright Office is digitizing copyright-deposit material that's in the public domain. Here's what they have made available for the William Gillette film "Sherlock Holmes": <[www.tinyurl.com/5dxz5sy7](http://www.tinyurl.com/5dxz5sy7)>.

The 27-page manuscript of "The Bully of Brocas Court" (with a copy of the story in the November 1921 issue of The Strand Magazine) was offered at RR Auction in Amherst, N.H., on Sept. 13 <[www.tinyurl.com/4rcw6rtp](http://www.tinyurl.com/4rcw6rtp)>, with an estimate of \$50,000; the highest bid was \$36,574 (including buyer's premium), which didn't reach the reserve, so the manuscript was bought in. You can go to <[www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/bully-brocas-court-2023.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/bully-brocas-court-2023.htm)> to see Randall Stock's detailed report on the history of the manuscript.

Reported to be coming up on BBC Two in November: "Sherlock: Lucy Worsley on Holmes vs. Doyle" (a three-part series); according to the Bradford Telegraph & Argus <[www.tinyurl.com/mv94jt7v](http://www.tinyurl.com/mv94jt7v)> and <[www.tinyurl.com/389ff85s](http://www.tinyurl.com/389ff85s)>, scenes for the third episode (which will include the Cottingley Fairies) have been filmed at Cottingley Beck. Her blog about "Why I Love Sherlock Holmes" is at <[www.lucyworsley.com/why-i-love-sherlock-holmes](http://www.lucyworsley.com/why-i-love-sherlock-holmes)>, and it's likely that the series will be broadcast on PBS-TV, which has aired many of her past historical programs.

"The Adventure of the Ignoble Bachelor" is the latest Baker Street Elementary comic book from the hands of Joe Faye, Rusty Mason, and Steve Mason, available (as are all of their comic books) at <[www.tinyurl.com/3cmfvb7k](http://www.tinyurl.com/3cmfvb7k)>.

Bob Barker died on Aug. 26. He began his long career as a television game show host on "Truth or Consequences" in 1956, and presided over "The Price is Right" from 1975 to 2007; when he retired from the program he told reporters, "The question that I'm hearing most often is why did I choose to retire just now. In December I became 83 years old, and I want to retire while I'm still young." You can see him in action in "The Price Is Right" in 1984, in a segment titled "The Great Sherlock Solmes" (with Janice Pennington in Sherlockian costume) <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=0z3VafiRzNo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0z3VafiRzNo)>.

Sep 23 #4 He's back! Sherlock Holmes has returned to Picardy Place in Edinburgh. The life-sized bronze sculpture by Gerald Ogilvie Laing, which was installed in 1991 in Picardy Place (where Conan Doyle was born in 1859), and then placed in storage during the redevelopment of its traffic-island site, has been refurbished and welcomed back by members of the local council, Tania Henzell (designer of the Conan Doyle tartan), and Barry Young (of the Sherlock Holmes Society of Scotland. You can read all about it in the Edinburgh Reporter (Sept. 13) <[www.tinyurl.com/yeym296r](http://www.tinyurl.com/yeym296r)>, and watch video at <[www.dailymotion.com/video/x8olptf](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x8olptf)>. On Sept. 15 the Edinburgh Live web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/2u6vhfeh](http://www.tinyurl.com/2u6vhfeh)> had more about Picardy Place and Conan Doyle. Robert Stek reported on "The Secret of Sherlock's Statue" on May 18, 2015, at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <[www.tinyurl.com/yu5wdtxu](http://www.tinyurl.com/yu5wdtxu)>.

The September issue of The Bilge Pump (the newsletter of the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star*), is available at <[www.tinyurl.com/42acdv7v](http://www.tinyurl.com/42acdv7v)>, including a reprint of William A. Walsh's interesting article about "Harrison Schmitt: Bringing Holmes to the Moon".

George F. Burrows ("Dr. Grimesby Roylott" in the BSI) appeared on the CBS-TV television series "To Tell the Truth" (July 5, 1965); you can watch the program at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGzCe9PQGyg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGzCe9PQGyg)> (if you don't feel like watching the entire show, his segment starts at 18:00). Kindly reported by Ann Marlowe.

Arup K. Chatterjee's article about "Sherlock in India" in the Kolkata Telegraph (Aug. 30) <[www.tinyurl.com/3ft5c883](http://www.tinyurl.com/3ft5c883)> is his latest discussion of the Indian aspects of the Canon, and his web-site at <[www.arupkchatterjee.com](http://www.arupkchatterjee.com)> includes links to seven other Sherlockian articles and paper.

Bishop's Orchards in Guilford, Conn., have chosen a Sherlock Holmes theme for its three-acre corn maize this year <[www.tinyurl.com/mprcwkf4](http://www.tinyurl.com/mprcwkf4)>.

Gayle Hunnicutt died on Aug. 31. Born in Texas, she acted in college and made her professional debut on television in 1966; she then moved to England and had a long career there, most notably (for us) as a stellar Irene Adler in Granada's "A Scandal in Bohemia" (1984).

The Criterion Restaurant, where young Stamford helped Watson find someone to share rooms with (in "A Study in Scarlet"), has re-opened yet again: it now is an Indian restaurant: the Masala Zone Piccadilly Circus, which has a web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/657tps7b](http://www.tinyurl.com/657tps7b)>; there was an enthusiastic review in the Guardian (Sept. 3) <[www.tinyurl.com/56krmj5s](http://www.tinyurl.com/56krmj5s)>, but there's no word (yet) whether the commemorative plaque installed by the Inverness Capers has survived.

Sharon Lynn's *Death Takes a Bath* (Level Best, 2022; 295 pp., \$16.96), set in historic Bath, features (according to one reviewer) "an intrepid heroine, a dishy policeman, and a rabbit." It also begins with an homage to "The Cardboard Box" and includes bits and pieces from other stories. The author's web-site is at <[www.sharonlwnwrites.com](http://www.sharonlwnwrites.com)>.

Sep 23 #5 Watson reported (in "The Bruce-Partington Plans") that Holmes had undertaken a monograph "upon the Polyphonic Motets of Lassus." There are recordings of his polyphonic motets, but they're not often performed live; you can hear some of them sung by Chantry in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 25, 2024 <[www.chantrydc.org/concert-2](http://www.chantrydc.org/concert-2)>. There's also an informative interview with Ann Margaret Lewis about Lassus and his music on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <[www.tinyurl.com/2h4scasp](http://www.tinyurl.com/2h4scasp)>.

As noted earlier (Jul 23 #5), *The Best Mystery Stories of the Year*, edited by Amor Towles (Mysterious Press, 2023); includes Derrick Belanger's "The Adventure of the Misquoted Macbeth"; it also features Towles' insightful and entertaining introduction "All Hail the Long-Suffering Cadaver", which you can read at <[www.tinyurl.com/47ez5bw7](http://www.tinyurl.com/47ez5bw7)>.

The Beacon Society has announced its 2023 Nancy Springer Creative Writing Contest (honoring the author of the Enola Holmes series), with prizes for the best original Sherlock Holmes story written by a student in grades 7 through 12; details at <[www.tinyurl.com/y6v8ef3d](http://www.tinyurl.com/y6v8ef3d)>.

Hartswood Films, founded by the late Beryl Vertue in 1979, is the production company responsible for the "Sherlock" television series that starred Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman; it is now seeking a buyer or an investor to support its fast-growing operations, according to an article in *The Times* (Aug. 27). In the twelve months ending in March 2022, Hartswood reported sales of £51 million and a profit of close to £8 million, and paid out dividends of £3.2 million.

There's a crime wave in Minstead: "Villagers who have been left terrorized by masked gangs have launched 'Operation Sherlock' to fight back against the crooks in honour of author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who is buried at the local church," according to an article published in the *Daily Express* on Sept. 13 <[www.tinyurl.com/aywdxwd6](http://www.tinyurl.com/aywdxwd6)> (with video of the burglars). The BBC News story (Sept. 20) <[www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy9wxk0wd79o](http://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy9wxk0wd79o)> shows the operation's Sherlockian poster

The "Holmes in the Heartland: Arch Enemies" conference in St. Louis was a success, with more than 90 people on hand for the festivities; there is a nicely illustrated report on the goings-on at the web-site of the Parallel Case of St. Louis <[www.tinyurl.com/msuwjnks](http://www.tinyurl.com/msuwjnks)>.

Treefort Media's new audio mini-series "Moriarty: The Silent Game" will be available at Audible on Nov. 9; it follows last year's "Moriarty: The Devil's Game", starring Dominic Monaghan (Moriarty), Phil LaMarr (Holmes) and Curtis Armstrong (Gregson), and with Helen Mirren as Lady Milverton ("the worst woman in London"). The *Hollywood Reporter* published a preview (with a link to an audio trailer) on Aug. 30 <[www.tinyurl.com/2s43cwz5](http://www.tinyurl.com/2s43cwz5)>.

Arturo Pérez-Reverte's *El Problema Final* (Alfaguara, 2023) is his latest Sherlockian novel, so far available only in Spanish, at Amazon US and UK. There certainly will be a translation into English, but in the meantime, here's a summary in Spanish and English <[www.tinyurl.com/6aeytf77](http://www.tinyurl.com/6aeytf77)>.

Sep 23 #6     This month's Whanganui Literary Festival (in New Zealand) included "Dear 26: The Art of the Letter", with 26 writers asked to create letters written by their choices of fictional characters, each starting with the same randomly assigned letter of the alphabet. You can read them here <[www.dear26.com](http://www.dear26.com)>, including the correspondence between Sam Spade and Sherlock Holmes.

Would you like to be a Baron? There's a Barony for sale (it comes with a castle and a country house) <[www.tinyurl.com/37fkpr3u](http://www.tinyurl.com/37fkpr3u)>.

It was in 1985 that Vincent Price first provided commentary for Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" television series on "Mystery" on PBS-TV. Jennie Patson reports that his prologues and epilogues for the first four programs can be seen at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=yc-9ZtHuAeo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yc-9ZtHuAeo)>.

"What does it mean to be a fan?" Kira Deschler asked, posting to the Daily Dot web-site on Sept. 24 <[www.tinyurl.com/yf477wz8](http://www.tinyurl.com/yf477wz8)>, and she suggests that a fandom "is a group of people who are similarly passionate about a piece of pop culture and create a community based on this shared interest."

Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Kam and James Morris Theatre in Lakeway, Tex., through Oct. 15 <[www.tex-arts.org](http://www.tex-arts.org)>. It also has been scheduled at the Hillbarn Theatre in Foster City, Calif., Oct. 5-22 <[www.hillbarntheatr.org](http://www.hillbarntheatr.org)>; at the Gem Theater in Mulberry, Fla., Oct. 27-Nov. 5 <[www.themissingpiecetheatre.org](http://www.themissingpiecetheatre.org)>; and at the Sagebrush Theatre in Kamloops, B.C., Jan. 25 to Feb. 23, 2024 <[www.sagebrushtheatre.ca](http://www.sagebrushtheatre.ca)>.

Linda Ramsay-Detherage's "Sherlock Holmes and the White City" will be performed at the Planet Ant Theatre in Hamtramck, Mich., Oct. 11-28; web-site at <[www.planetant.com](http://www.planetant.com)>.

Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes & the First Baker Street Irregular" will be performed at the American International School in Chennai [Madras], India, Oct. 12-13 <[www.tinyurl.com/mrxhf2y2](http://www.tinyurl.com/mrxhf2y2)>.

Peter Colley's "The Real Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at Beatniks at Conkey in Hammond, Ind., Oct. 13-22 <[www.beatniksonconkey.com](http://www.beatniksonconkey.com)>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is due at the Rise Church in Tigard, Ore., Nov. 3-19 <[www.maskandmirror.com](http://www.maskandmirror.com)>; and at the Royal Off-the-Square Theatre in Brownstown, Ind., Dec. 1-9 <[www.jcct.org](http://www.jcct.org)>.

Orson Welles' "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled radio-style at the Tighthead Brewery in Mundelein, Ill., on Nov. 5 <[www.kirkwoodplayers.org](http://www.kirkwoodplayers.org)>.

The Charlotte Symphony will perform "Sherlock Holmes and the Missing Maestro" at the Knight Theater in Charlotte, N.C., on Nov. 11; their web-site is at <[www.tinyurl.com/m567xakf](http://www.tinyurl.com/m567xakf)>.

Without a Cue Productions will present "A Dickens of a Murder" at the Red Rum Theater in Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 24-Dec. 30 <[www.redrum.live](http://www.redrum.live)>.

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