

Jan 12 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 158th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 11 to Jan. 15. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at O'Casey's and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's).

The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was Dr. Lisa Sanders, author of a "Diagnosis" column for the N.Y. Times and the technical advisor for the television series "House, M.D."; the title of her talk was "Is Holmes Crazy As a Fox, or Just Plain Crazy?", and you will be able to read her paper in the next issue of The Baker Street Journal.

The William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's was well attended, as always, and featured Donny Zaldin and Hartley Nathan in a Sherlockian "Carnac the Magnificent" skit and the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Sarah Montague, and Andrew Joffe) in a Sherlockian tribute to the centenary of the sinking of the Titanic. The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual Jan Whimsey award (named in memory of his wife Jan Stauber) for the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year; the winner (Karen Murdock, author of "Do You Write Like Arthur Conan Doyle?") received a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop offered the usual opportunities to browse and buy.

The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI's annual dinner at the Yale Club, with Les Klinger offering the preprandial first toast to Connie Kean as *The Woman*. The dinner's theme was "His Last Bow" (in celebration of the centenary of the beginning of Holmes' involvement in the case), and it featured the usual toasts and traditions, as well as papers and tributes and a hilarious "dramatic homage" by Paul Singleton and Scott Monty to the BSI's 2000 Year Old Man.

Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented the BSI Trust's first Benefactor's Medal to Glen Miranker, an editor's medal to Mary Ann Bradley for her work on the 2011 Baker Street Journal Christmas Annual (a tribute to Lenore Glen Offord), and a Two-Shilling Award to Henry Boote (for maintaining the BSI musical tradition launched by Harvey Officer in the 1940s and continued by Jim and Bruce Montgomery). And this year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures were presented to Mark Samuel Schwartz ("Thucydides"), Phil Bergem ("Birdy Edwards"), Helen Dorey ("Helen Stoner"), Peter Accardo ("Thorneycroft Huxtable"), Akane Higashiyama ("Baritsu"), Don Hobbs ("Inspector Lestrade"), Donny Zaldin ("John Hector McFarlane"), and Mary Ann Bradley ("Mary Morstan").

"Jewels in the Canon" was the theme of the Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club, where the entertainment included toasts, old songs with new Sherlockian lyrics, skits, door prizes, a raffle, an auction, and a "Questionable Crossword" quiz that required punned answers in a "yell it out if you know it" format.

Jan 12 #2 Some of the more fervent (or possibly hard core) Sherlockians have been known to gather after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21; another tradition calls for newly-Investitured Irregulars to buy a round of tequila shots, and it has been reported that this year was no exception.

On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. And The Beacon Society presented its annual Beacon Award (recognizing someone who introduces young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) to William S. Dorn; the society has an excellent web-site <www.beaconsociety.com> where you can read excerpts from Bill's "Study Guide to Sherlock Holmes".

The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; the entertainment included a Sherlockian "Gallagher & Shean" duet performed by James Saunders and Henry Boote. Sonia Fetherston was announced as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate accompanied by a check) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year (her article on "I Met Harry Murcher"). And the Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets for Maggie Schpak's handsome replica Lady Frances Carfax's antique Spanish jewellery, and an auction of literary and artistic donations to the Fund.

The principal Saturday-evening event was the "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at Kennedy's Irish Pub, and then on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant.

A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 11, 2013. And the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 19, 2013.

I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSJ appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere); checks can be sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), and credit-card payments are welcome from foreign subscribers.

You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which also has interesting features such as some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSJ, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities. And in the meantime, you can read Scott Monty's reports on the birthday festivities at his blog at <www.bakerstreetblog.com>.

Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@earthlink.net> offers (by e-mail only) his 2012 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 have received Irregular Shillings).

Jan 12 #3 Plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' running of The Silver Blaze will return to Saratoga Springs Race Track in upstate New York on Aug. 4; it will be a weekend gathering, and details will be available soon from Lou and Candace Lewis (2 Lookerman Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) (845-471-0296) <www.silverblazenyny.homestead.com>.

Plan farther ahead: registration is now open for the BSI's weekend conference in Los Angeles on Aug. 30-Sept. 3. "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" will be held at UCLA and will feature actors, producers, and directors, as well as presentations on screenwriting, casting, costuming, lighting, and sound. And screening of several rare and recently-restored films. Details at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/losangeles2012.html>.

Alice Wright posted to the "Letters of Mary" mailing list noting an interesting post to the Earth Observing System blog at <www.tinyurl.com/7zx7oq6> by Eos Chater about what it was like teaching Benedict Cumberbatch how to portray Holmes as a violin player. She performs in the Bond String Quartet <www.bondmusic.net>.

If you'd like to add Esperanto to your collection of Sherlock Holmes stories in translation, Don Hobbs has found LA PLANOJ DE BRUCE PARTINGTON (36 pp., €5.00 from Books on Demand Gmbh at <www.amazon.de>.

Don also has some nice news for those who want a translation in Piemontese (a language of the Piedmont region in northwest Italy): SHERLOCK HOLMES: EL MASTIN DIJ BASKERVILLE is available from <www.libreriauniversitaria.it> for €15.00; search for [9788889768389]. The number of languages for Canonical translations is now 90.

Willis Frick continues to add material to Sherlocktron, which can be found at <www.sherlocktron.hostoi.com/Sherlocktron.html>, the latest being Phil Bergem's checklists of "Sherlock Holmes (and Holmes Related) Film and Television Programs" and "Non-Sherlockian Conan Doyle Films and Television Programs".

"Felted Soap Sherlock Holmes" is handcrafted by Zoe Djukic at Sofino <www.etsy.com/shop/sofino>; it's a 4-ounce bar of sage and lemongrass soap encased in soft Merino wool (and you can reuse the pouch when the soap's gone); \$18.00 plus shipping. The folks at Criminal Element suggest that "perhaps this fun, woolly Sherlock will wash away your iniquities."

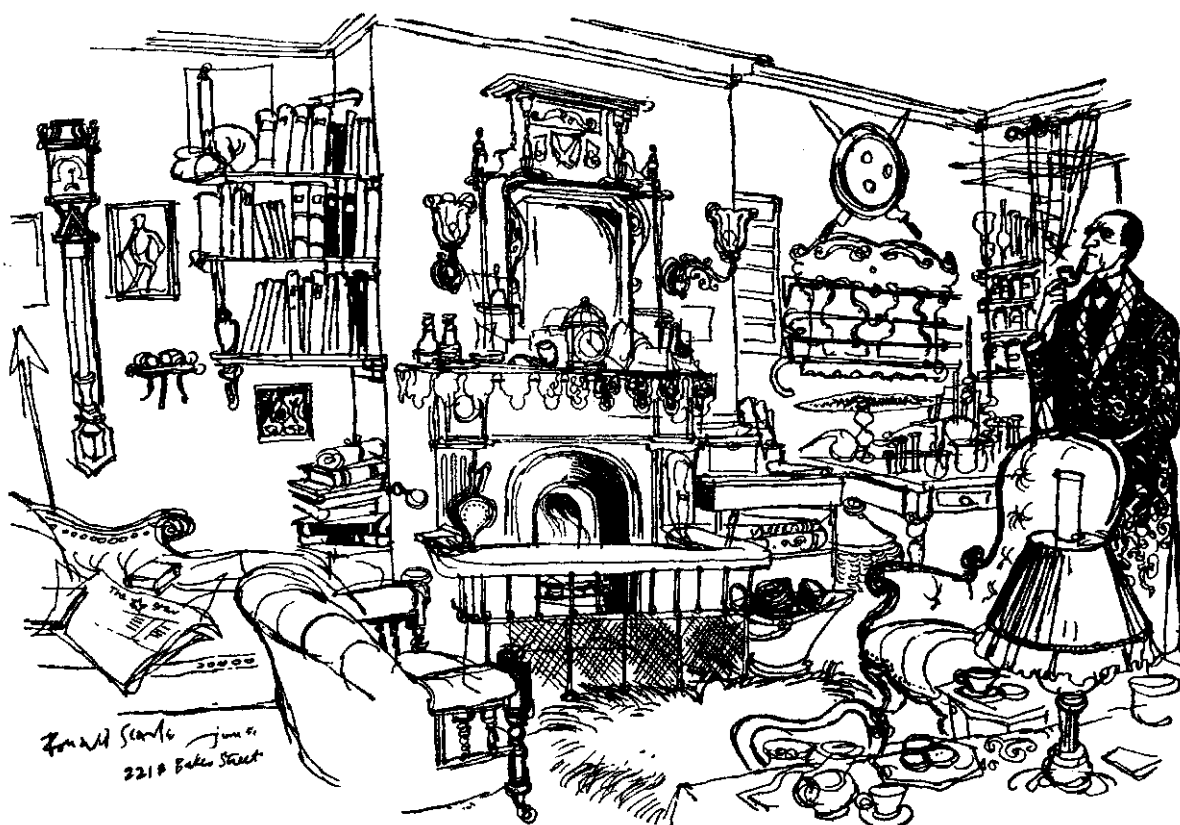


The Beacon Society has announced a Mar. 1 deadline for teachers, librarians, Sherlockian literary societies, and others apply for a Jan Stauber Grant, which funds (up to \$250) development of a project that will introduce young people to the Canon. The application form, guidelines, and additional details are available at the society's web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" is a delightful parody that was written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007, and it will be produced by the New Jersey Repertory Company from Apr. 19 to May 20; 179 Broadway, Long Branch, NJ 07740 (732-229-3166) <www.njrep.org>.

Jan 12 #4 Don Christian spotted a story on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" (Jan. 2) that might be of interest to those who recall that Sherlock Holmes owned a Stradivarius: 17 blindfolded expert violinists were asked to identify whether an excerpt from Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D Major was played on a Strad or on a modern violin. Only three of the experts got it right. You can listen to the story, and take the test yourself, at www.tinyurl.com/75hhehb.

Ronald Searle died on Dec. 30. He was a well-known cartoonist, caricaturist, and cover artist for newspapers and magazines in Britain, France, and the United States. Most famous, perhaps, for creating "The Belles of St. Trinian's" and "Molesworth", Searle also drew the sitting room at 221B Baker Street for the catalog of the Abbey House exhibition in 1951, reprinted in Punch (June 20, 1951); other Sherlockian work included an illustration in Punch (July 6, 1953) and a cartoon in The New Yorker (Dec. 16, 1991).



The publicity still from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) signed by Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce that was offered at eBay with an opening bid of \$6,000 (Dec 11 #5) went unsold when no one entered a bid.

Nice news for friends of Matilda (described by the N.Y. Times as the "Algonquin's Roaming Diva Cat"): after the Department of Health expressed concern about a live animal that isn't a service dog being present in a food-service establishment (Nov 11 #7), the Algonquin has installed an electric fence that will ensure that Matilda stays in a safe section of the lobby. You can read all about it at www.tinyurl.com/89sswdz.

Jan 12 #5 Big Finish continues to issue excellent Sherlockian audio, the latest being THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, dramatized by Richard Dinnick and starring Nicholas Briggs as Holmes and Richard Earl as Watson, on two CDs (\$23.91) and as a download (\$12.99); PO Box 3787, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 3TF, England) <www.bigfinish.com>. It's a full-cast recording, with featurette interviews with cast and crew.

Briggs and Earl also star in Big Finish recordings of THE FINAL PROBLEM AND THE EMPTY HOUSE, in George Mann's interesting pastiche THE REIFICATION OF HANS GERBER, and Brian Clemens 1988 play HOLMES AND THE RIPPER, each on two CDs and as downloads (same prices). Other similar sets available from Big Finish include their earlier recordings (Feb 10 #6) of Roger Llewellyn in David Stuart Davies' plays SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE LAST ACT (1999) and SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DEATH AND LIFE (2008). They're all well done, and there are more to come (check their web-site).

Laurie R. King has reported on her Facebook page that the next Mary Russell novel (GAME OF SHADOWS) will be published in September. It's all about Fez (in Morocco), and she has noted that she had its title, which is central to the theme of the novel, long before she heard of the new Robert Downey Jr. movie, and she sees no reason to change her title.

Harvey Mackie's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at the Jewel Box Theatre, Mar. 1-25. 3700 North Walker Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73188 (405-521-1786) <www.jewelboxtheatre.org>.

Friends of the late Bill Rabe will recall the "List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Misuse, Overuse, and General Uselessness" that he launched in 1976. Lake Superior State University in Michigan continues the tradition, and there was a fine story about this year's list, with mention of Bill, on "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio on Jan. 1. You can listen to (and read) the story at <www.tinyurl.com/8ymo38m>. Thanks to Jon Lellenberg for noting the report.

Jonathan Cecil died on Sept. 22, 2011. He began his acting career in cabaret at Oxford with Dudley Moore and Alan Bennett, made his television debut in 1964, and went on to a long career, also acting on stage and screen and specializing in comic roles. He also was the Honeymoon Groom in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), but in the "naked honeymooner" segment that was cut from the film before it was released.

Ben Stephenson, controller of drama for the BBC refused earlier this month to confirm that there would be more than two seasons of the BBC's mini-series "Sherlock", and co-creator Steven Moffat told BBC News that there was "no guarantee we'll be bringing him back." But as soon as the "Reichenbach" episode aired Moffat told fans "Yes, of course there's going to be a third series--it was commissioned at the same time as the second. Gotcha!"

Judith Freeman's useful index to The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes since 1975); the index is available from her by e-mail as an Excel spreadsheet <judith-freeman@hotmail.com>, and the ASH web-site <www.ash-nyc.com> has information on subscribing to the Muse (back issues are unfortunately not available).

Jan 12 #6 "What Scott Learned" was the headline on a story in the Washington Post on Jan. 3 <www.tinyurl.com/6u3wtz2>, about Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated attempt to be the first to reach the South Pole. One of the photographs with the story shows Scott writing in his journal in a wooden hut at Cape Evans, with shelves of books behind him, and two books on his bed. One of the books he took with him to the Antarctic was Conan Doyle's THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT, and it's still there, preserved as the southernmost copy of a book written by Sir Arthur.

Anglofile, offering detailed coverage of British entertainment and formerly available by mail, now is a blog by Leslie King, and you can read her latest news at <anglofileplus.livejournal.com/9043.html>; she offers early reports on programs to come on PBS-TV and on BBC America.

Sarah Montague reports from time to time on Sherlockian affairs for WNYC-FM (New York), and this year she has honored Sherlock Holmes' birthday with a story about A STUDY IN SHERLOCK, the anthology edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger; she interviewed the editors and some of the contributors (including Neil Gaiman and S. J. Rozann), and you can hear her broadcast at <www.tinyurl.com/7sv7p2w>.

News from Don Izban: the Colonel Sebastian Moran Secret Gun Club will hold its quadrennial "Hunt for the Mongoose Named Moriarty" in Chicago on Feb. 29 (the event takes place only during Leap Years); contact Don (1812 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 06068) (847-292-1270) for more information.

Compliments to eagle-eyed Nick Utechin, whose letter to The Times (Jan. 19) had the headline "If One Is Paying Careful Attention, Inside One Sherlock Holmes One May Well Find...Another Sherlock Holmes"; Nick was grateful to Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss for their choice of the actor who played the perturbed gentleman in the Diogenes Club in "The Reichenbach Fall" (that's the third episode of the new "Sherlock" mini-series). The actor was Douglas Wilmer, who has played Holmes many times, and has just celebrated his 92nd birthday.

The Woodland Opera House Theatre Company is performing Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" through Feb. 12. 340 Second Street, Woodland, CA 95695 (530-666-9617) <www.woodlandoperahouse.org>

The Vigilante Theatre Company is performing Bruce Hurlbut's new play "House Arrest: The Curious Events Surrounding the Retirement of Sherlock Holmes" on tour in Montana, with a stop at Quinns Hot Springs Resort in Paradise on Feb. 11-12; their web-site's at <www.vigilantetheatrecompany.com>.

The Daily Telegraph reported (Jan. 13) that the one-bedroom flat just above Speedy's on North Gower Street in London is available for rent for £300 per week. The building is used for exterior shots for the BBC mini-series that stars Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman (interiors scenes are filmed elsewhere). The story noted that the estate agent's listing does not mention whether living in the flat will "give you preternatural observational powers, a doting landlady, or a network of homeless friends." The agent's listing at <www.mchughandco.com/Lettings/Letting.aspx#&&s=0> may still be viewed (if the flat has not already been taken).

Jan 12 #7 The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards, which include Michael Dirda's ON CON-AN DOYLE; OR, THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING (best critical/biographical), Neil Gaiman's "The Case of Death and Honey" (best short story), and Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" and Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" (competing head-to-head for best play); Neil's story appeared in the anthology A STUDY IN SHERLOCK. The winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 26.



Distinctive Dummies, founded in 2010, creates attractive 12" custom action figures for fans of science fiction, horror, and Hammer Films, and the last of those categories has brought them to Peter Cushing as Sherlock Holmes in the 1959 film "The Hound of the Baskervilles". The figure costs \$99.99 postpaid worldwide, and if you want to see it in full color you can visit their web-site at www.distinctivedummies.net/the_hammer_collection.html. If they're successful with Cushing, they hope to follow up with Basil Rathbone and Jeremy Brett.

Mill Creek Entertainment is planning to release a three-DVD set with all 26 episodes of the animated children's series "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" on Feb. 21 (\$12.98), along with a single "best-of" DVD with 10 episodes (\$9.98). And for completists: there will be different artwork on the boxes.

Sarah Greenwood, the production designer for both of Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" films, will recreate her production studio for an exhibition at the Arts Gallery at the University of the Arts London, through Mar. 9; she has mocked up her studio, including research material, scripts, notebooks, drawings, schedules, and models. More information about the exhibition can be found at www.tinyurl.com/78l87hx.

CBS announced plans for a modern-day "Sherlock Holmes" drama last year (Sep 11 #5), and the entertainment trade press has now reported (Jan. 17) that CBS has green-lighted the project, which is now called "Elementary" and is a step closer to actual production. The new pilot will have Holmes living in New York City.

Welcome to our new postage rates, which are now 45¢ per ounce (domestic), 85¢ (Canada), and \$1.05 (international). The old rates were 44¢/80¢/98¢. The cost of printed envelopes also has increased, and the new subscription rates for the ink-on-paper version of Scuttlebutt are \$11.70 (domestic) and \$16.50 (Canada) and \$18.90 (international). Electronically enabled readers can of course read the newsletter on-line without charge: searchable text of all issues since Mar. 1985 is available at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" www.members.cox.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm, and Scott Monty's archive of scanned images of issues since Jan. 2011 can be found at Scribd's web-site www.scribd.com/collections/2854548/Scuttlebutt-from-the-Spermaceti-Press.

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Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The Internet certainly makes things interesting (or frustrating) for people want to be surprised when they see films or television: web-sites have been flooded with discussion of the BBC's second series, and it's not going to be easy for American viewers who won't see the series until it is broadcast here in May to avoid spoilers. And then there are the DVDs, which are now available to anyone who can play region 2 DVDs on a computer or on a multi-region DVR. But it will be reasonably safe to read this newsletter, where you won't find anything about the shocking revelations in Laura Lyons' diaries in "The Hounds of Baskerville".

MovieViral.com is web-site that offers news and analysis of viral and ARG [alternate reality game] campaigns for films and other forms of entertainment, and they ran a story by Anne Kirn on Feb. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/78bpuyq> about the fan-based "Believe in Sherlock" movement launched after the finale of the BBC's second "Sherlock" television series.

And sales of Sherlock Holmes books have increased in Britain: a representative of Waterstone's (the nation's largest chain of book stores) has said, "The BBC's stunning adaptation has succeeded in making Holmes relevant to a new generation of readers. Whilst the original books may lack references to blogging and cyberspace, the stories remain utterly compelling."

THE GRAND GAME: A CELEBRATION OF SHERLOCKIAN SCHOLARSHIP: VOLUME TWO: 1960-2010, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, is a splendid companion to the first volume (Jan 11 #3), demonstrating how enjoyable it can be watching experts play the Sherlockian game; Klinger's introduction "Why We Write" explains the rules and notes correctly that "the Grand Game is alive and well!" 390 pp., \$39.95 to the U.S./\$49.95 elsewhere, plus shipping). The publisher's web-site is at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.

Nicol Williamson died on Dec. 16. He began his acting career in repertory theater and joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1962, quickly becoming a highly-regarded star on stage, screen, and television, and was compared to Charles Laughton, Laurence Olivier, and Marlon Brando. His film roles included an appearance as Sherlock Holmes in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976).

The "news" has been reported all over the Internet, but it originated with the [London] Sun, which is widely regarded as the least reliable newspaper published in the U.K.: "Guy Ritchie is making a third Sherlock Holmes movie --but this time it will be based in Hollywood." Needless to say, the story is credited to "a source."

"The Radio Adventures of Dr. Floyd" is an audio and video series created by Grant Baciocco and Doug Price for Dementia Radio in 2004 and now distributed via podcast; there were three 10-minute Sherlockian episodes, podcast on Oct. 13, 21, and 27, 2008, that are notable for the actor who played Sherlock Holmes: Stan Freberg; the first episode (#708) ends with a set-up and the story continues in episodes #709 and #710. You can listen to and download the programs at <www.doctorfloyd.com/media/season7>. Bill Anselm gets credit for discovering and reporting the series.

Feb 12 #2 Mike Kean reports that the Diogenes Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea will hold a special meeting in San Francisco on Nov. 10 aboard the SS Jeremiah O'Brien, the only surviving operational World War II Liberty ship. The gathering will include other Sherlockian societies in northern California, and all Sherlockians are welcome to attend; there will be a private tour of the vessel, cocktails, a catered dinner, and a program on "The Nautical Sherlock Holmes". Additional information about the event is available from Capt. Walter W. Jaffee <merships@yahoo.com>. And the ship has its own web-site at <www.ssjeremiahobrien.org>.

Michael Dirda's ON CONAN DOYLE; OR, THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING has been nominated for an Agatha (best nonfiction) from Malice Domestic; the winners of the Agathas will be announced at the Malice Awards Banquet in Bethesda, Md., on Apr. 30. There's still time to register for the convention; their web-site's at <www.malicedomestic.corg>.

The 2011 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 64 pages of scholarship, quizzes, and pastiches; the scholarship ranges from Stephen Adkins' "Is Sherlock Holmes a Drug Addict?" to Bill Mason's "Diagnosing 'The Resident Patient': Questions About a Sherlockian Tale". The annual costs \$13.00 postpaid (\$18.00 outside the U.S.), checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles should be sent to Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332. There's also news of a handsome Sherlockian giclee print by Gayle Holmes shown in full color at <www.gayleholmesfineart.com>; if you mention The Sound of the Baskervilles when you place your order, she will donate 10% of the proceeds to the society's treasury.

A limited-edition linocut print (38/75), signed in pencil, of Edward Bawden's frontispiece for the Folio Society edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1987) was sold at Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers on Jan. 10, with an estimate of £400-£500; it sold, with a hammer price of £400.



Chris Martin, front man for the rock band Coldplay, and husband of Gwyneth Paltrow, has long enjoyed the Sherlock Holmes stories (Jun 05 #4), and (according to director Guy Ritchie) suggested Stephen Fry for the role of Mycroft in "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows".

Sherlockiana continues to appear in Japan, thanks to translations by Masamichi Higurashi; Mitch's latest are Carole Nelson Douglas' GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES (Tokyo Sogensha, 2 vols., ¥940 each), and Daniel Stashower's "The Second Treaty" for MYSTERIES! (v. 48, ¥1,200), which also has Mitch's essay on Sherlockian pastiches in 2000-2001.

Josef Skvorecky died on Jan. 3. He was a famous Czech writer and an energetic promoter and publisher of Czech literature. His SINS FOR FATHER KNOX (1989) was a delightful tribute to Ronald A. Knox; it's a collection of ten stories, each of which violates one of the "decatalogue" rules Knox invented for writing detective fiction (Skvorecky challenged his readers not only to identify the murderer but also to decide which rule had been broken).

Feb 12 #3 IN THE SHADOW OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Leslie S. Klinger (San Diego: IDW, 2011; 350 pp., \$16.99), is a fine anthology of early stories about other detectives by authors who range from Thomas Bailey Aldrich (1862) to Arthur Conan Doyle (1898) to William MacHarg and Edwin Balmer (1910), with atmospheric artwork by Michael Manomivibul, and an introduction and (needless to say) annotations by the editor.

The Racine Theatre Guild will produce Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" on Apr. 13-22. 2519 Northwestern Avenue, Racine, WI 53404 (262-633-4218) <www.racinetheatre.org>.

STARRETT SPEAKS: THE LOST RECORDINGS is a delightful new CD from the Wessex Press, with recently discovered recordings; there are 40 minutes of audio, including Robert Cromie's interview with Starrett and Orlando Park on WTTW-TV in 1964), and Starrett's readings of his own Sherlockiana. \$12.95 from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46256) <www.wessexpress.com>.

Also from the Wessex Press (as the Gasogene Press): THE ILLUSTRATED SPECKLED BAND: THE ORIGINAL 1910 STAGE PRODUCTION IN SCRIPT AND PHOTOGRAPHS, edited by Leslie S. Klinger (104 pp., \$19.95), offering the script of Conan Doyle's play (from Samuel French in 1912), photographs and discussion (from Playgoer and Society Illustrated, 1910), and a reprint of R. Dixon Smith's article on "The Story, the Play, and the Snake"; it's as close as you will ever get to the original production of the play, and great fun.

Judith Freeman's index to The Serpentine Muse (Jan 12 #5) is now available Sherlocktron <www.sherlocktron.hostoi.com/Serpentine.Muse.pdf>, along with the other material Willis Frick kindly makes available.

THE REALLY RAGGED SHAW: BEING THE EXPANDED RAGGED SHAW was published by David L. Hammer from his Gasogene Press in 1994 as a birthday tribute to John Bennett Shaw, offering splendid examples of the imagination and inspiration and humor to be found in the quizzes devised by the Sage of Santa Fe. It's now back in print with an additional new preface by Saul Cohen, from George Vanderburgh (176 pp., \$20.00); Box 50, R.R. #4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0, Canada <www.batteredbox.com>.

Les and Carol Moskowitz, who discovered Sherlock Holmes pubs in France and Norway (Jun 11 #5), have continued their search and have added Australia to their life list, with the Sherlock Holmes Inn at 415 Collins Street in Melbourne (415 Collins Street <www.thesherlockholmes.com.au>).

Reported by Christopher Roden: CONAN DOYLE CONTRE SHERLOCK HOLMES, a new biography (in French) by Emmanuel Le Bret (Paris: Editions du Moment, 2011; 204 pp., €18.50).

BBC Books has published new tie-in editions of A STUDY IN SCARLET, with an introduction by Steven Moffat, and THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with an introduction by Mark Gatiss (£6.99 each), each with cover art from the "Sherlock" mini-series. The series will continue on Mar. 29 with THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (introduction by Steve Thompson), THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (introduction by Benedict Cumberbatch), and THE SIGN OF FOUR (introduction by Martin Freeman).

Feb 12 #4 Jim French's Imagination Theatre has been airing "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" for many years (Jun 98 #4), on many radio stations, on Sirius XM Book Radio <www.siriusxm.com/bookradio>, and on the Internet at <www.jimfrenchproductions.com>, where you can download single programs (\$1.99), purchase CDs (\$12.95), and listen to a weekly web-stream. And if you would like to see what radio drama is like before it's broadcast, 11 scripts from the series are available in M. J. Elliott's SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE AIR (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 340 pp., £14.99/€16.99/\$22.95), with an interesting introduction and notes by the author. The publisher's web-site is at <www.mxpublishing.com>.

One sees Sherlock everywhere: Roland C. (of the Baskerville Hall Club) has noted a link to the three-minute official music video for Nabiha's single "Deep Sleep", which you can see at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0BDpG4k4M0>.

Ian Abercombie died on Jan. 26. He began his stage career as a dancer in England in 1934, came to the U.S. in 1951, and acted on stage, screen, and television; best known as Elaine's demanding boss Mr. Pitt on "Seinfeld", he also played a train conductor in Stewart Granger's television version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1972) and Inspector Lestrade in the "Save Sherlock Holmes" episode of "Fantasy Island" (1982).

Clive Francis' play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be produced at the Lawrence Batley Theatre, Mar. 12-17; Queen's Square, Queen Street, Huddersfield, West Yorks. HD1 2SP (01484-430528) <www.thelbt.org>.

There's more news about the CBS "Elementary" project (Jan 12 #7), about a modern-day Sherlock Holmes living in New York City: according to the Hollywood Reporter (Feb. 14), Jonny Lee Miller (who played Jordan Chase in the Showtime series "Dexter") has been signed to play the title role. Benedict Cumberbatch was Miller's co-star on stage in London in "Frankenstein" last year, alternating the roles of Frankenstein and the monster, and now they both will be playing Sherlock Holmes. You can see them (briefly) in a one-minute promotion for "Frankenstein" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FEakgJj-uA>.

So: what other films and television shows have had Holmes living in (rather than traveling to) cities other than London? Larry Hagman's "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (1976) is one. Any others?

"Sherlock Holmes Averts World War Using Mathematics" was the headline on a article by Jessica Hamzelou in the CultureLab blog of the New Scientist on Jan. 9: the producers of the film asked Oxford mathematicians Alain Goriely and Derek Moulton to write the equations seen on Moriarty's blackboard, and they also created the code in Moriarty's red pocket notebook, and wrote the lecture that Holmes attended in disguise. You can read all about it in the blog at <www.tinyurl.com/6p8egal>.

Radio Litopia is an interesting British web-site, and their series "Litopia After Dark" had a Sherlockian evening on Feb. 5 with a 54-minute interview with Bert Coules, who has dramatized a long series of Sherlockian (Canonical and extra-Canonical) broadcasts for BBC Radio. You can read all about it (and see a photograph of Bert) and listen to or download the program at <www.litopia.com/radio/the-man-behind-sherlock-holmes>.

Feb 12 #5 NINE LIVES OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, by Graham Holderness (London: Continuum, 2011; 215 pp., £18.99/\$27.95) is an interesting literary biography in which Holderness uses a combination of critical essays and fictional narratives to explore nine aspects of Shakespeare's life and career. "The Adventure of Shakespeare's Ring" is a pastiche that has Holmes, Watson, Lord Alfred Douglas, and Oscar Wilde examining the possibility that Shakespeare was a homosexual.

Bruce Holmes died on Dec. 21. An early member of the Bimetallic Question of Montreal, he was an energetic philatelist and greatly enjoyed publishing Sherlockian pamphlets illustrated with carefully-selected and appropriate postage stamps and cancellations.

BMW has launched the Baker Street Mini (a special limited edition, which will go on sale on Mar. 1; the car will be priced from £16,365 in Great Britain and available world-wide. It's named for the area of London where Sherlock Holmes lived (one press report noted that Baker Street also is the name of a hit song by Gerry Rafferty, and suggested that the car might be come with a saxophone rather than a horn).



The next annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend will be held in and near Chicago on Mar. 30-Apr. 1, with a dinner at the Sheraton Four Points in Schiller Park, the annual running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours brunch, and the registration form is available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@comcast.net>.

"Studying Sherlock Holmes" is the theme of this year's "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 20-21; their program will feature a tribute to "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Sign of the Four", and their mailing list is maintained by Kent Ross (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <kenthross@gmail.com>.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-2.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, including news and views of society meetings here and there, and a nice photograph of the Senters.

The Sherlockian "Mr. Gallagher & Mr. Shean" duet performed by Jim Saunders and Henry Boote during the birthday festivities last month is now available to a wider audience, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHYsnsLlVTo>.

The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers a "100 Years Ago" discussion by Dick Sveum of early Danish translations of the Canon and a "50 Years Ago" tribute by Julie McKuras to H. W. Starr and Ron Haydock, plus other new from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

Feb 12 #6 SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREEN, by Alan Barnes (London: Titan Books, 2011; 320 pp., £16.99/\$19.95) carries the accurate subtitle THE COMPLETE FILM AND TV HISTORY, and is a well-illustrated treasure trove of information; it's up to date through "Tom and Jerry Meet Sherlock Holmes" and the first "Sherlock" series from the BBC. The first version of Barnes' book was published in 2001, and the new edition has an enthusiastic foreward by Steven Moffat. It is a valuable reference book, and recommended. The publisher's web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.

Titan continues to extend its series "The Continuing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" with pastiches new and old. THE WEB WEAVER, by Sam Siciliano (394 pp., £7.99/\$9.95) is new; the story's told by Holmes' cousin Dr. Henry Vernier and his wife Michelle, and offers an interesting mystery, tragedy, and romance.

The older pastiches are interesting as well: Richard L. Boyer's THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA (1976) has one of the more interesting (and perhaps improbable) identifications of the ferocious beast, and Sam Siciliano's THE ANGEL OF THE OPERA (1994) is an earlier tale told by Vernier, about Holmes' trip to Paris to confront the Phantom of the Opera (both 309 pp., £7.99/\$9.95).

Titan's new and expanded edition of Kim Newman's ANNO DRACULA: THE BLOODY RED BARON (587 pp., £7.99/\$14.95) is a sequel to his ANNO DRACULA (Dec 11 #12); the Diogenes Club (and Mycroft Holmes) have helped the British overthrow the Prince Consort Count Dracula, who is now providing assistance to the German armies in World War I. There's a very brief appearance by Sherlock Holmes, as well as an aftermath story set in 1923, annotations, and a screenplay Newman wrote for Roger Corman. Newman has a fine way with vampires and an imaginative skill with colorful language.

Titan also has reprinted two of the Harry Houdini mysteries written by Daniel Stashower: THE DIME MUSEUM MURDERS (2000) and THE FLOATING LADY MURDER (2000); the novels are set in the late 1890s, when Houdini was still trying to launch his career as an escapologist (and liked to quote from the Sherlock Holmes stories). Finally, "Imagine a person, tall, lean, and feline, high-shouldered, with a brow like Shakespeare and a face like Satan." That would be Dr. Fu-Manchu, the insidious villain created by Sax Rohmer; Titan has reprinted THE MYSTERY OF DR. FU-MANCHU (1913) and THE RETURN OF DR. FU-MANCHU (1916) and plans to continue with twelve more novels.

Carole Nelson Douglas' "Irene Adler" novella THE PRIVATE WIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, previously anthologized in SEX, LIES, AND PRIVATE EYES (Jul 09 #6) is now available as an Amazon Kindle e-book (\$2.99) from Wishlist Publishing; it's an amusing story, involving Holmes and Irene meeting the Prince of Wales in a house of ill repute.

The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Dayna Nuhn's interesting (and timely) survey of Valentine's Day cards, reports on last year's "A Study in Scandal" conference, and other news from and about the collection; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Feb 12 #7 Daniel McGachey's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE IMPOSSIBLE CASES (Colusa: Dark Regions Press, 2010; 273 pp., \$18.95) is a collection of five pastiches, echoing the unrecorded cases and with considerable emphasis on the supernatural. Dark Regions also has published William Meikle's SHERLOCK HOLMES: REVENANT (2011; 135 pp., \$14.95); Holmes and Watson, on the run from the official police, travel to Scotland and back to London in pursuit of an evil genius with supernatural powers. The publisher has a web-site at <www.darkregions.com>.

John Baesch spotted a profile of Umberto Eco in the Sunday Times (Oct. 30) that reports that Eco was astounded by the success of his novel THE NAME OF THE ROSE, and that he regarded the film as a travesty.

"Remember kicking back in the 1890s? There was nothing better than relaxing with the latest Sherlock Holmes adventure in The Strand Magazine and a Gilbert and Sullivan cylinder on the phonograph." According to CNET story (Feb. 6), spotted by Bill Barnes. Michael Greensmith has made a Steampunk iPhonograph that will play music from your iPad. You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/84xmruh>.

Joan Proubasta, who presides over Círculo Holmes, the Sherlockian society in Barcelona, has donated his Sherlockian collection to La Biblioteca Arús, and there's a 4-minute video showing the library's exhibition (and Joan) at <www.tinyurl.com/7e83xqz>.

The latest Sherlockian audio from Big Finish is THE TANGLED SKEIN, adapted by Richard Dinnick from David Stuart Davies' book (1992) and starring Nicholas Briggs as Holmes, Richard Earl as Watson, and Giles Watling as Count Dracula; on two CDs (\$23.91) and as a download (\$12.99); PO Box 3787, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 3TF, England) <www.bigfinish.com>. It's a full-cast recording, with featurette interviews with cast and crew, and nicely done.

Noted by Greg Darak: MR. MAGOO: THE COMPLETE TELEVISION COLLECTION, 1960-1977, a new set of 11 DVDs from Shout! Factory (\$79.97); the contents include the 30-minute NBC animated television series "The Famous Adventures of Mr. Magoo", in which "Mr. Magoo's Sherlock Holmes" (1965) featured Jim Backus (Mr. Magoo/Dr. Watson) and Paul Freas (Sherlock Holmes). Mr. Magoo also appears briefly in Sherlockian costume at the end of "Mr. Magoo's Dick Tracy and the Mob" (1965). If you're willing to settle for lower fidelity, both episodes are available on the Internet at YouTube <www.youtube.com>.

Greg also reports that LOOK I MADE A HAT, the second volume of Steven Sondheim's collected lyrics, includes "I Never Do Anything Twice" (the song he wrote for the film "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution"), and that an article in the spring issue of The Sondheim Review that lists Steven Sondheim's favorite films, one of which is "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939); the magazine's web-site is at <www.sondheimreview.com>.

"People sometimes wonder why I belong to The Baker Street Irregulars," Michael Dirda wrote in his blog at the N.Y. Review of Books, adding that "the answer, of course, is elementary: friendship, collegiality, fellowship." A sentiment that applies equally to the wider world of Sherlockians; the blog can be read at <www.nybooks.com/blogs/nyrblog/2012/feb/02/sherlock-lives>.

Feb 12 #8 Joe McDonald reports that there will be a "Conan Doyle Weekend" in Haslemere (Surrey) on June 15-17, with events that include a performance of David Stuart Davies' play "Sherlock Holmes-The Last Act", a screening of Peter Cushing's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), presentations by Andrew Lane, Andrew Lycett, Catherine Cooke, and Roger Johnson, and a murder-mystery dinner. You can go to <www.haslemerehall.co.uk> and click on "Events" for more information.

The Machickanee Players will perform Tim Kelly's play "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" at the Park Avenue Playhouse from May 4 to May 13. 408 Park Avenue, Oconto, WI 54153 (920-834-4353) <www.machickaneeplayers.org>.

Alfred A. Levin ("Abe Slaney") died on Feb. 17. Fred was an organic chemist and an enthusiastic Sherlockian; with a special interest in the Reich-enbach Falls (which he visited many times); he was an active member of many of the Sherlockian societies in the Chicago area, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1993.

Randall Stock continues to enhance the contents of his excellent "Best of Sherlock" web-site, which now offers an entry on another new book by Conan Doyle <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/diary-arctic-adventure.htm>. DANGEROUS WORK will feature the journal he kept in 1880 during his voyage to the Arctic aboard the SS Hope in pursuit of seals and whales, and it will be published this fall by the British Library in the U.K. and by the University of Chicago Press in the U.S.

Taz Rai's THE ART OF DEDUCTION: THE WAY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 102 pp., \$17.97) is an eBook that offers a detailed academic discussion of Holmes' use of rationality, logic, and observation, with examples from the Canon, by way of helping readers learn how to use Holmes' methods themselves. The author's web-site's at <www.artofdeduction.com>.

The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained Ron Fish and Ben and Sue Vizoskie at <www.sherlockiancalendar.homestead.com>, is an excellent list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when (and where); you can contact Ron at <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed.

Karen Ellery reports that the Ash-Tree Press is now offering three e-books: Barbara Roden's THE THAMES HORROR AND OTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Dec 11 #2), David Stuart Davies' BENDING THE WILLOW: JEREMY BRETT AS SHERLOCK HOLMES (Mar 97 #2) (\$9.99), and Stephen Clarkson's THE CANONICAL COMPENDIUM (Jan 01 #5) (\$7.99); <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/ebooks.htm>.

Further to the report on Laurie R. King's next "Mary Russell" novel GAME OF SHADOWS, due in September (Jan 12 #5), Laurie reports on her blog that she will go to Japan in April to do research on what the country was like in 1924, when Russell and Holmes were there (between the earlier novels THE GAME and LOCKED ROOMS); the next installment of the Russell saga, not yet named, is due in 2014. Laurie's web-site is at <www.laurierking.com>.

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

Mar 12 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Baker St, a New York-based pop-rock band made up of former and current Columbia University students, has just released their third CD: Irregulars. You can download the album at <www.cdbaby.com/cd/bakerst>, and there will be an EP available there soon; you can find their music videos at YouTube, and their web-site is at <www.bakerstband.com>. Michelle Hutt, the band's songwriter, explains that they decided on the name because she has been a huge fan of the Sherlock Holmes stories since high school; they also feel that in some ways their musical style is a bit more like that of rock music in the UK right now.

Booktrack reports that its "enhanced" edition of "The Speckled Band" (with sound effects and a soundtrack) for reading on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch (Sep 11 #4) has been downloaded more than 100,000 times, and is one of the most downloaded global eBooks of 2011. It helped, of course, that it was available without charge. Booktrack's books can now also be played on Androids, PCs, and Macs <www.booktrack.com>.

Lenny Picker has reported that Benedict Cumberbatch has played a young Rumpole of the Bailey on BBC Radio 4: "Rumpole and the Penge Bungalow Murders" (2009) and "Rumpole and the Family Pride" and "Rumpole and the Eternal Triangle" (2010) featured Timothy West as the older Rumpole, and they played the same parts in "Rumpole and the Man of God" and "Rumpole and the Explosive Evidence" in March.

SN2apps has released four "Sherlock Holmes Interactive Radio Apps" for the iPads (other devices to follow): the stories are "The Speckled Band", "The Speckled Band", "The Five Orange Pips", and "The Man with the Twisted Lip", and the apps (\$2.99 each) come with radio scripts and dramatizations that star Edward Petherbridge and David Peart (from the fine Independent Radio Drama Productions series broadcast by National Public Radio in the 1990s), a map of London, colorful artwork, and a treasure hunt. There's more about the series at <www.sn2apps.com>, and the apps are available at Apple's apps store.

There's a Puffin Classics edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (London: Puffin Penguin, 2011; 243 pp., £6.99/\$4.99) with a new introduction by Judith Kerr and cover art by Bill Sanderson.

"In the beginning there was Sherlock Holmes," according to someone who uses the on-line pseudonym daasgrrl, "And from Holmes was brought forth House, played by Hugh Laurie. Who in Fortysomething as Peter Slippery was father to Rory Slippery, played by Benedict Cumberbatch. Who grew up to play Sherlock. And then my head exploded." Cindy Coppock spotted daasgrrl's mash-up of all this at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXpyCa9IcEM>.

Bill Crider's monthly "Blog Bytes" column in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine recommends interesting sites such as "Stop, You're Killing Me" (maintained by Lucinda Surber and Stan Ulrich); it won an Anthony (best blog) at Bouchercon last year, and it lists more than 3,800 authors, with chronological lists of their books (more than 43,000 titles) and much more information, including lists for characters <www.stopyourekilllingme.com>.

Mar 12 #2 "The Black Swan is an inn of repute in the High Street," Watson wrote (in "The Copper Beeches"), and the Black Swan is one of the very few real hotels found in the Canon. According to an article in the Hampshire Chronicle (Feb. 10), Winchester's headless statue of a black swan is being repaired. A statue originally marked the Black Swan Hotel, which was demolished for road-widening in 1935, and then on the Black Swan Buildings office block that was built on the site of the hotel; the statue was damaged about ten years ago, and a new head and neck will be provided. But it's not the original statue, which fell to pieces in 1945, when members of the public raised £35 to pay a local craftsman to carve a new swan.

People like a good ghost story (well, perhaps people ought to like a good ghost story) and MX Publishing offers "IN THE NIGHT--IN THE DARK": TALES OF GHOSTS AND LESS WELCOME VISITORS (2011; 366 pp., £13.99); it's subtitled as "a complete ghostly crew and a full complement of ghostly passengers," and there's humor as well as horror and terror, although nothing Sherlockian, except that the author is Roger Johnson and the cover photograph is by Jean Upton. The book is full of grand stories and poems.

Marino C. Alvarez's A PROFESSOR REFLECTS ON SHERLOCK HOLMES also is available from MX Publishing (2012; 162 pp., £9.99); the author is a professor emeritus at Tennessee State University's College of Education and a member of The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem, and the book is a collection of papers old and new, including an analysis of Eric L. Conklin's first Sherlock Holmes Mystery Painting (which you can see in full color at <www.ericconklin.com/sherlockholmes1.html> and a report on a trip to Trinity College Oxford to inspect the Ronald A. Knox papers and the Gryphon Club Book of Minutes.

MX Publishing has many pastiches: Wilfred Huettel's MARK OF THE BASKERVILLE HOUND (2011; 211 pp., £10.99) begins in 1982 with a retired New York police officer recounting his visit to Dartmoor and an encounter with a terrifying modern version of the hound. Kieren E. McMullen's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE IRISH REBELS (2011; £10.99) has Holmes and Watson in Dublin in 1916, deeply involved in espionage and the Irish Rebellion. Fred Thursfield's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DISCARDED CIGARETTE (2012; 100 pp., £6.99) brings Holmes and Watson to a meeting with H. G. Wells, whose Time Machine has been used by a crafty art forger. Margaret Park Bridges' MY DEAR WATSON (2011; 217 pp., £9.99) was written in English and published in Japanese some years ago (Jan 99 #3) and is now available in English; Holmes is a woman (unknown to Watson and everyone else) and engaged in a desperate struggle with Constance Moriarty, daughter of the evil professor.

David Ruffle's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LYME REGIS HORROR, first published in 2009 (May 11 #4), has been reissued by MX Publishing in a second expanded edition (2012; 173 pp., £9.99); the title story has Holmes and Watson in Lyme Regis, pursuing the vampire Count Olana in 1896 (Bram Stoker's DRACULA was published in 1897), and there are additional short stories, poems, and fragments. Ruffle's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LYME REGIS LEGACY (2012, 174 pp., £9.99) offers more Sherlockian tales (with some non-Sherlockian ghost stories), and he's the editor of TALES FROM THE STRANGER'S ROOM (2012, 241 pp., £10.99), an anthology of pastiches, vignettes, and poetry written by members of the on-line forum <www.holmesian.net>.

Mar 12 #3 Michael Saler's AS IF: MODERN ENCHANTMENT AND THE LITERARY PRE-HISTORY OF VIRTUAL REALITY (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012; 283 pp., \$27.95) is an interesting examination of the fantasy worlds created by authors ranging from Verne to Tolkien, with a delightful chapter ("Clap if You Believe in Sherlock Holmes: Arthur Conan Doyle and Animistic Reason") that discusses naive believers, ironic believers, and the strange behavior that's found in the world of Sherlockians.

The Hollywood Reporter confirmed (Feb. 27) that the CBS-TV pilot "Elementary" will feature Lucy Liu as Watson; she is currently starring as Officer Jessica Tang in the TNT television series "Southland"; Deadline Hollywood (Feb. 27) had details on the premise: Jonny Lee Miller stars as eccentric Brit Sherlock Holmes, a former consultant to Scotland Yard whose addiction problems led him to a rehab center in New York City; just out of rehab, he now lives in Brooklyn with "sober companion" Joan Watson, a former surgeon who lost her license after a patient died, while consulting for the NYPD.

Some reports have suggested that Lucy Liu will be the first female Watson. Well, not quite: there have been at least three (in films and on television). Care to identify them?

A later report has Aidan Quinn joining the cast of "Elementary" as Gregson, a captain in the NYPD who worked with Holmes previously at Scotland Yard. Quinn recently starred in the NBC-TV series "Prime Suspect".

E. W. Barton-Wright's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SCHOOL OF SELF-DEFENCE: THE MANLY ART OF BARTITSU AS USED AGAINST PROFESSOR MORIARTY (Lewes: Ivy Press, 2011; 127 pp., £6.99) is an amusing compilation of his articles in Pearson's Magazine, with enhancements that include Marcus Tindal's "Self-Protection on a Cycle"; Bartitsu is mentioned in the Canon (misspelled as baritsu), and it probably is just as well that Violet Smith had not read Tindal's article.

THE MORIARTY PAPERS, compiled by Colonel Sebastian Moran (London: New Holland, 2011; 160 pp., £7.99), is collection of Moriarty's surviving papers in the form of a full color scrapbook, with entertaining marginal comments by Moran; it would appear that Moriarty was involved in most of Holmes' cases.

Don Hobbs reports that the total number of languages known to have at least one Canonical translation has reached 92, the latest being Breton, in which there's a translation KI AR VASKERVILLED (272 pp., €9.00 from Coop Breizh at <www.coop-breizh.fr>. Breton is a Celtic language spoken in Brittany, and Vaskervilled is Baskerville in English.

"The book is a rather silly story about a governess and two haunted children. I am afraid that in it Mr. James exposes the extent of his ignorance. He knows little about children and nothing at all about governesses." Governess Hester Barrow, in Diane Setterfield's THE THIRTEEN TALE (2006).

There was a discussion of the phrase "jumping the shark" on the Letters of Mary e-mailing list (for fans of the Mary Russell books), and Kathy Elliott recommended <www.tvtropes.org>; it's a wiki "catalog of the tricks of the trade for writing fiction," and of course a search for [sherlock] brings up a long list of interesting commentary.

Mar 12 #4 Greg Darak has noted a Russian CD "Vladimir Dashkevich: Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" issued by Bomba Music in Moscow in 2002 with tracks from the Russian television series (Dashkevich was the composer of the scores); copies of the CD turn up at eBay, and some of his music is available on the Internet for listening or download.

Jan Berenstain died on Feb. 24. With her husband Stan she created the Berenstain Bears in 1962, launching a series of children's books that became one of the most successful in children's literature; the series, with more than 300 books, has sold more than 260 million copies, and the Berenstain Bears have been seen in stage musicals, television series, videocassettes and DVDs, and as toys. THE BEAR DETECTIVES: THE CASE OF THE MISSING PUMPKIN was published in 1975, with Detective Brother and Detective Sister appearing in Sherlockian costume; they've been seen in many later books, and in a set of figurines issued in 1985.

Gayle Harris recommends the web-site Old Maps Online as an excellent portal for inspecting digital historical maps in libraries around the world. The URL is <www.oldmapsonline.org>, and one can explore Baker Street as well as a world of other locations.

According to a story in the Sussex Courier (Feb. 17), Crowborough historian Michael Tuffley has begun a campaign to erect a statue of Sherlock Holmes in the town, and hopes to raise £50,000 to cover the costs. But town councillor George Moss, noting that Crowborough already has a statue of Conan Doyle, felt there was no need for another statue, and that the money might be best spent elsewhere.

Philip K. Jones has compiled (and continues to compile) an excellent data base for Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction; he had entries for 5,520 different items some years ago (Apr 06 #6), and his count now stands at more than 9,000. The data base is interesting and informative, and available on-line <www.michael-procter.com/holmes/_index.html>.

And who are the women who have played Watson? Joanne Woodward (Dr. Mildred Watson) in "They Might Be Giants" (1971), Jenny O'Hara (Doctor Watson) in "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (1976), and Margaret Colin (Jane Watson) in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1987). There's a fourth, (though likely seen by fewer people): Gina Ryder (Dr. Emma Watson) in the pornographic film "The Secret of Harlot Hill" (2001).

The earlier question (Feb 12 #4) was about films and television shows (other than CBS-TV's "Elementary") that have had Holmes living in (rather than traveling to) cities other than London? Larry Hagman's "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (1976) is one, and Judith Freeman adds Anthony Higgins' "1994 Baker Street: Sherlock Holmes Returns" (1993) to the list.

Something else for fans of the Benedict Cumberbatch series: a four-minute montage of a scene from the first program, dubbed into four different languages <www.radiotimes.com/news/2012-02-25/je-m'appelle-sherlock-holmes>. And there's <www.benedictcumberbatch.co.uk/Sherlock/press.html>, reported by Karen Murdock; it's an unofficial fan-site with links to newspaper and magazine articles and much more.

Mar 12 #5 "At the main pilgrimage temple he paid his respects to the head Lama, who gave him 'a bag of tiny pills which would preserve me from every possible mischance.'" Spotted by John Baesch in the Daily Telegraph obituary (Jan. 31) for Augusto Gansser, a Swiss geologist who died at the age of 101. He visited Tibet in 1936, disguised as a Buddhist pilgrim, and he met the head Lama at Mt. Kailash. And his geological expertise was not limited to the Himalayas: another technical paper "The Roraima Problem, South America" was published in 1974.

"Sherlock & Shylock: The Sleuths of Venice" will be the theme of the No Fog Countries Meeting II, scheduled by Uno Studio in Holmes in Venice on Oct. 12-14; details at <www.unostudioinholmes.org/inglese/ing_homepage.htm>, and you can expect wining, dining, lectures, tours, and a concert.

Mona Morstein's THE CHILDHOOD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was first published by the Galde Press (Feb 00 #6), and it has been reissued by UCS Press in two volumes as THE HOLMES BOYS: SHERLOCK AND MYCROFT (\$14.95 per volume); it's an imaginative and well-written history of the Holmes family, both parents and children, told by the butler who served them.

Tim Kelly died on Dec. 7, 1998. According to an obituary in Playbill, he was thought to be the most-published playwright in America, under his own name and at least four pseudonyms, writing more than 300 comedies, dramas, one-acts, mysteries, melodramas, children's shows, and musicals. His work continues to be popular in the amateur market: in 1998, the Pioneer Drama Service (one of his publishers) licensed more than 3,000 productions of his plays worldwide. His Sherlockian credits include more than a dozen plays, among them an adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" and dramatizations of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Speckled Band".

Titan's recent reprint of Sax Rohmer's THE MYSTERY OF DR. FU-MANCHU (Feb 12 #6) has at the end an interesting essay by Les Klinger on "Appreciating Dr. Fu-Manchu". A separate section "About the Author" notes the truly ironic fact that Rohmer died in 1959, "a victim of an outbreak of the type A influenza known as the Asian flu."

One assumes that many Sherlockians have ordered the British region 2 DVDs of the second series of the BBC's "Sherlock" (at least those Sherlockians who can play the DVDs on multi-region DVRs or computers). The box for the British DVDs carries a "12" rating ("Suitable only for persons of 12 years and over"), which is similar to the Motion Picture Association of America's "PG-13" rating ("Parents Strongly Cautioned: Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13"). But that's not because Lara Pulver is seen wearing nothing but a pair of Louboutins: the box for the British DVDs with the first series carries the same "12" warning.

Christopher Roden has reported that the Arthur Conan Doyle Society has received a message from the Parish Church of St. Oswald's Thornton in Lonsdale, Yorkshire, where Arthur Conan Doyle married Louisa Hawkins in 1885: St. Oswald's proposes to commission a special "Arthur Conan Doyle Plaque" to be affixed to the lych gate entrance to the church and graveyard, and hopes to raise £20,000 for the project, which will also enhance the church facilities with a new kitchen area and disabled toilet.

Mar 12 #6 "It Seems There's Gnome Place Like Holmes," according to a story in Radio Times (Mar. 9): Disney will start production this fall on "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes", a 3D animation that's a sequel to their "Gnomeo & Juliet" (2011); the new film is reported to have Gnomeo and Juliet enlisting the help of Sherlock Gnomes, the world's greatest ornamental detective, when gnomes start disappearing from the suburban gardens of England. Elton John will write songs for the film.

Thad Holt discovered an article in the Daily Telegraph about an exhibition at the Wandsworth Museum of photographs of historic London (including some striking scenes from the Victorian era <www.tinyurl.com/77oucy>).

This year is the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, and William Seil's THE TITANIC TRAGEDY (London: Titan Books, 2012; 261 pp., £7.99/\$9.95) is the latest addition to the publisher's series of reprints in its "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" series; the pastiche was first published in 1996 and has Holmes and Watson aboard the ship, on secret assignment by the government and facing an assortment of villains. The publisher's web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.

Further to the item about the "Conan Doyle Weekend" in Haslemere (Surrey) on June 15-17, there's a web-site at <www.haslemere.com/conandoyle> giving more information about events and lodging.

Peter Bergman died on Mar. 9. He was one of the four founders of the Firesign Theatre in 1966 (the Washington Post once described the Firesign experience as "an impolite talk show where the host has lost control"). The Sherlockian world welcomed their 1974 record "The Tale of the Giant Rat of Sumatra" (also known as "A Thrilling Mis-Adventure from 'The Cheque Book of Hemlock Stones)').

<www.bookshelfporn.com>, noted by Samantha Wolov, is a "photo blog collection of all the best bookshelf photos from around the world." Pay special attention to <www.bookshelfporn.com/post/1262757876>.

Those who wonder about Victorian slang may wish to read the story (spotted by Karen Rhodes) in the Daily Telegraph (Feb. 24) about the on-line availability of the 2nd edition of Francis Grose's A CLASSICAL DICTIONARY OF THE VULGAR TONGUE (1811) at Project Gutenberg <www.tinyurl.com/8a3c9ss>. And Darlene Cypser has noted a more recent resource: J. Redding Ware's PASSING ENGLISH OF THE VICTORIAN ERA: A DICTIONARY OF HETERODOX ENGLISH, SLANG, AND PHRASE (1909) <www.tinyurl.com/86wfxhk>.

Hellokids.com is an imaginative web-site reported by Karen Murdock: among the many features are print-out coloring pages with an assortment of British authors, including Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/6rcnq7t>.

Ken Lanza reports that Holmes & Watson, a British-style pub in Troy, N.Y., will close on Apr. 13. The British-style pub opened in 1978 and has been sold to new owners and will reopen in June as Finnbar's Irish Pub. Holmes & Watson offered for some years a "world tour" prize to customers who tried all of the pub's approximately 100 draft and bottled beers within a year. Ken also reports that he was one of the pub's first customers.

Mar 12 #7 The BBC has reported that filming on the third "Sherlock" season will begin early next year. One reason for the hiatus, of course, is that the stars have other work: Benedict Cumberbatch is filming the next "Star Trek" movie and Martin Freeman is working on "The Hobbit". In the meantime, "Masterpiece" is running a count-down clock for the second season (which starts on May 6), with a variety of video and other links that include a "reader discretion advised" interview with Cumberbatch and a feature on Andrew Scott (who definitely is one of the more imaginative Moriartys). The series will be released in the U.S. on Blu-ray and DVD on May 22 with the three new episodes, audio commentary for the first two, and a behind-the-scenes featurette ("Sherlock Uncovered").

The Browser bills itself as a "21st-century library of Writing Worth Reading", and one of its offerings is an interview with Michael Dirda about the world of Sherlockians and about his favorite Sherlockian and Doylean books <www.thebrowser.com/interviews/michael-dirda-on-sherlock-holmes>.

"Sherlock Holmes Complains about Fake Sherlock Holmeses" is an amusing two-minute video spotted by Lloyd Rose at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/7jo7asj>.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-3.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, including news and views of society meetings, and a CD recording of the late Art Schroeder's audio drama "The Forgotten Victim" (the story of "The Speckled Band" as told by the snake).

"Steampunk Holmes: Legacy of the Nautilus" is a work-in-progress discovered by Karen Murdock at <www.steampunkholmes.com>; there's a two-minute trailer for a planned interactive book.

Martin Breese died on Feb. 23. He was an important figure in the world of magicians, as a historian and a publisher of books, CDs, and DVDs, and in 1995 began publishing a series of Sherlockian pastiches written by fellow magician Val Andrews and others; in 2005 he sold his mystery series to Antony J. Richards, but maintained his enthusiastic interest in magic.

The Société Sherlock Holmes de France now holds a record for the most frequent Sherlockian society publication: their attractive Ironmongers Daily News appears daily (in French) via the Internet, and you can subscribe at their web-site <www.sshf.com> without charge.

There are 166 scripts available for download from The Generic Radio Workshop's Vintage Radio Script Library <www.genericradio.com>, five from the long-running "Sherlock Holmes" series (1939-1947).

There seems to be no end to interesting uses of the Internet: companies are making full-length films and uploading them to YouTube for viewing or downloading without charge; you can even skip most of the commercials. One of the films is "Sherlock Holmes" (2011), length 77 minutes, produced by Anton Pictures, inspired by Universal's "The Woman in Green" (1945), directed by George Anton, with Kevin Glaser (Sherlock Holmes) and Charles Simon (Watson). You can find it at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vez-PSHINSw>. Thanks to Thierry Saint-Joanis for his report on the film.

Mar 12 #8 Timothy M. Brenner's LUMINARIES (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2011; 252 pp., \$9.99) involves Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Harry Houdini, and Orson Welles (all with psychic powers) in an alternate-history pursuit of a vicious serial killer; Welles is gifted with the power of mental telepathy, Houdini with telekinesis, and Conan Doyle can sense the history of objects by touching them, and they need all of those powers to defeat their adversary.

Neil Gaiman's pastiche "The Case of Death and Honey" was selected by editor Jonathan Strahan as one of the stories in THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY OF THE YEAR, VOLUME SIX (Night Shade Books, 2011; 600 pp., \$19.99); it is reprinted from the anthology A STUDY IN SHERLOCK (Aug 11 #2).

The Royal Mail's postage rates are going up on Apr. 30: first class (next working day) service will cost 60p (96¢) for 100g (3.5oz) and second class (third working day) will cost 50p (80¢). For our British readers, Americans pay 45¢ for the first ounce, 65¢ for 2 oz, 85¢ for 3 oz, and \$1.50 for 4 oz.

Laurie R. King's PIRATE KING (Aug 11 #1) will be issued as a trade paperback by Bantam in April with some bonus material: a print version of BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS (Jun 11 #3) and an excerpt from the next Mary Russell novel GARMENT OF SHADOWS; previously available only as an e-novella, BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS is an imaginative look, from Holmes' point of view, at his first meeting with Russell.

Randall Stock continues to enhance the contents of his excellent "Best of Sherlock" web-site, where he has updated his census of copies of Beeton's Christmas Annual <www.bestofsherlock.com/beetons-christmas-annual.htm>; he has added a newly-reported copy at Tulane University, as well as new photographs and other information.

The limited-edition slip-cased set of THE GRAND GAME (with both volumes and FROM PIFF-POUFF TO BACKNECKE: THE FULL STORY) is now available for purchase from The Baker Street Irregulars; more information on the set and on prices will be found at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/grandgamelimited.html>.

"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" has now grossed \$534.8 million worldwide (\$186.8 million domestic and \$348.0 million foreign), more than "Sherlock Holmes" (the first film in the franchise), which grossed \$524.0 million worldwide (\$209.0 million domestic and \$315.0 million foreign); the films rank #83 and #87 in all-time world-wide box-office grosses.

Lyndsay Faye's first novel was the well-received pastiche DUST AND SHADOW (Feb 09 #2), and her second is THE GODS OF GOTHAM, just out from Amy Einhorn Books/Putman; it's set in New York City in 1845 and thus isn't Sherlockian. You can read an excerpt at <www.tinyurl.com/6tx5ecw>, and there is a review by Claire Toohey at <www.tinyurl.com/73uo81l>. Lyndsay also is an energetic blogger: you can read her sprightly report on the BSI annual dinner at <www.tor.com/blogs/2012/03/inside-the-baker-street-irregulars>.

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

Apr 12 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The Exhibits Development Group has released an exhibition announcement for "Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction", an interactive exhibition that will tour science museums from 2013 to 2016; the project, which is licensed by the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Estate Ltd., is impressive, and you can view the announcement at www.tinyurl.com/6ou6hrs. Click on the two links at the bottom of the blue field to see the concept document and the brochure. The tour will begin at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland in 2013. If you would like to receive the company's e-mail announcements, send a request to Angela Noble angelan@exhibitsdevelopment.com.

Brad Keefauver's weird and wonderful "Sherlock Peoria" web-site celebrates its tenth anniversary on June 12, when Brad plans to shut it down. There's still time to visit the web-site www.sherlockpeoria.net and see how imaginative it is; his announcement of the impending post-Sherlock Peoria world was made in his blog on Mar. 4. The April issue of The Gaslight Gazette, published by The Survivors of the Gloria Scott, opens with an appropriately imaginative protest; ask editor David J. Milner at openshaw@bellsouth.net for an electronic copy of the issue.

Later: Brad reports that he has decided to keep his web-site up on the Internet for the foreseeable future, but will abandon the weekly updates, going for a more irregular format. Tune in to his web-site for news of what will happen.

Brad recommends the Baker Street Babes as the new face of Sherlockiana, and they're at www.bakerstreetbabes.com; they have a podcast, and a sprightly theme song: "They call us the Irregulars, but baby, we're always on time. Baker Street Babes always leave the rest of them behind. So when Scotland Yard, they send you home, you feel like you're losing your mind. If this quotidian world has got you cryin', won't you 221 be mine?"

Sorry about that: www.sshf.com is the correct URL for the web-site of The Société Sherlock Holmes de France, publisher of the Ironmongers Daily News (Mar 12 #7).

"Masterpiece" is working hard at promoting the second season of "Sherlock": there's a web-site www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/sherlock, and a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/masterpiecepbs, and there will be a live Twitter discussion during each of the three broadcasts, with the Baker Street Blog, the Baker Street Babes, Lyndsay Faye, and Les Klinger, @masterpiecepbs.

A BOOK, by Mordecai Gerstein (New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2009; 48 pp., \$16.99), is a charming book to read to children; grown-ups will enjoy it as much as their kids, and (of course) there is Sherlockian artwork. Compliments to Jennie Paton for spotting the book.

"A Parliament of Lines" is the title of an exhibition at the City Art Centre in Edinburgh (May 15 through July 8), showing the work of 15 contemporary Scottish artists, one of them Marie Harnett, who creates miniature pencil portraits. Three of them show Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, and Rachel McAdams, and you can see her portrait of Law at www.tinyurl.com/d5eja7m.

Apr 12 #2 The Fireman's Fund is one of the more unusual insurance companies: they're the go-to insurer for the American entertainment industry, and they once insured the Loch Ness monster. They paid the studio when the monster sank during filming of "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970); the monster still lurks at the bottom of the loch, awaiting discovery by some intrepid diver who doesn't know about the history of the film. The N.Y. Times had an interesting article (Mar. 24) about the company, but without any mention of the monster <www.tinyurl.com/7kenh3m>.

Don Hobbs has discovered a new language for Canonical translations: Friulan (spoken in the Friuli region of northeastern Italy): LIS AVENTURIS DI SHERLOCK HOLMES was published in 2009 by the Società Filologica Friulana, which has a web-site at <www.filologicafriulana.it>; search for [doyle].

Pamela Bruxner ("The British Government") died on Mar. 28. She was a medical secretary and was involved with several musical and literary societies; for many years she was meetings secretary of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and she edited or co-edited nine of the Society's expedition handbooks. Pam was an Honorary Member of the Society, and received her Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1998.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" is a delightful parody that was written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007; it will be performed by the Penguin Rep Theatre, May 18 through June 10. 7 Crickettown Road, Stony Point, NY 10980 (845-786-2873) <www.penguinrep.org>.

Add Uruguay to the list of countries that have Sherlock societies: Ana Fernández is the contact for The Blue Scarves' Society, and you can find them at <www.facebook.com/groups/368486129842276>. The name of the society is a tribute to the blue scarf that's worn by Benedict Cumberbatch in the BBC's "Sherlock" mini-series.

Murder Squad is a collective of five excellent British writers, and Martin Edwards has edited their BEST EATEN COLD AND OTHER STORIES (Stroud: Mystery Press, 2011; 190 pp., £6.99/\$12.95); one of the 13 stories is Edwards' own Sherlockian pastiche "The Case of the Musical Butler".

Ted M. Cowell reports an article in the Daily Mail (Mar. 31) about "Sweeps, nomads, quacks, and crawlers: The exotic down and outs of Victorian London captured on camera in the 1870s" <www.tinyurl.com/7zfgxd5> with some striking photographs of what Holmes might have seen when he arrived in London as a young man.

Carolyn and Joel Senter offer an imaginative "Vamberry the wine merchant" corkscrew <www.sherlock-holmes.com/collect.htm#VWM> (with a hand-engraved handle) for \$42.50. And other interesting Sherlockiana.

Hans Sodertalje has reported to The Baskerville Hall Club that Andrew Taylor's BÖCKER SOM FÖRÄNDRADE VÄRLDEN: 50 VIKTIGASTE BÖCKERNA GENOM TIDERNA (published in Sweden in 2009) includes an essay on EN STUDIE I ROTT. For those who don't read Swedish, that's BOOKS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD: 50 MOST IMPORTANT BOOKS OF ALL TIME and (of course) A STUDY IN SCARLET. Scandinavian books can be ordered on-line at <www.adlibris.com>.

Apr 12 #3 The Bristol Riverside Theatre will present the world premiere of Allan Knee's play "Faery Tales", which the theater describes as "the true story" of the Cottingley Fairies (Conan Doyle sent the photographs to his good friend Harry Houdini, "pitting the two men, each famous for their own brand of bringing the fantastic to life, against each other in a war over reality and magic"), Jan. 29-Feb. 17. 120 Radcliffe Street, Bristol, PA 19007 (215-785-0100) <www.brtstage.org>. Conan Doyle and Houdini were involved with the Cottingley Fairies in the film "Fairy Tale: A True Story" (1997), but that wasn't true, either (there's no record of Houdini having been involved in the investigation). Knee's earlier play "The Man Who Was Peter Pan" (1998) was adapted for the film "Finding Neverland" (2004), in which Ian Hart was seen briefly as Arthur Conan Doyle.

The Eastbourne Herald has reported (Mar. 19) on how the locals are honoring Sherlock Holmes and his retirement at East Dean: there's a plaque, and a 6 km walk, and an informative web-site at <www.beachyhead.org.uk>; search for [sherlock holmes].

The film "Titanic" (1997) has been reissued as "Titanic 3D" as part of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the ship's sinking. It's not a compelling reason to see the film again, but: near the beginning, when the salvagers discuss whether 100-year-old Rose Calvert could be a survivor of the disaster, one of them says the other, "There's your first clue, Sherlock."

A marginal item for record collectors: "Back into the Future" is a double-LP album issued by the Welsh psychedelic/progressive rock band Man in 1973 with a cover photograph that shows Sherlock Holmes standing on the platform of an Edwardian railroad station; you can see the cover at the album's entry at Wikipedia <www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Back_Into_The_Future>. The album has been reissued as a CD with the same cover photograph.

Those who fondly remember the grand gourmet Sherlockian dinners at the CIA (that's the Culinary Institute of America) may wish to attend the celebration of the 40th anniversary of The Hudson Valley Sciontists in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on May 27; the theme of the gathering will be "Sherlock Holmes on the Hudson River", and the dinner will be supervised by CIA award-winning chef Fritz Sonnenschmidt. Details are available from Lou and Candace Lewis (2 Lookerman Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601) <llewis@lewisgreer.com>.

Christopher Boone, narrator of Mark Haddon's award-winning best-seller THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME (2003) is an autistic teenager who enjoys the Sherlock Holmes stories, and turns detective himself; the National Theatre in London has commissioned a dramatization of the novel, for performance starting in July.

"Cloud Lovers, Unite!" is the motto of the Cloud Appreciation Society, reported by Karen Ellery, and one of the attractive photographs at the society web-site shows "Sherlock Holmes' smoking pipe over Teglio, Italy." The URL is <www.cloudappreciationsociety.org/?s=sherlock+holmes&g=1>. According to a society press release there will be a Sherlockian cloud in CLOUDS THAT LOOK LIKE THINGS, by Gavin Pretor-Pinney (London: Sceptre, 2012; 112 pp., £12.99), due in April.

Apr 12 #4 "This house, built in 1881, and was once occupied by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," reads a plaque at 2151 Sacramento Street in San Francisco. The house was offered for sale in 1985 for \$1.3 million (Oct 85 #2) and was sold in 1986 for just under \$1 million (Jan 87 #2), and you can now buy one of the building's four apartments (with 3 bed bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2,528 square feet) for \$2.5 million. But: Conan Doyle never lived in the house. He was a visitor, in June 1923, to meet Dr. Albert Abrams, who did live there. Abrams had invented a "radio heterodyne" that he used to detect cancer, syphilis, and other diseases, and Conan Doyle was greatly impressed; he discusses his visit to San Francisco, and Abrams, in OUR SECOND AMERICAN ADVENTURE (1924). He stayed at the Clift Hotel, which is much fancier now than it was then; the current rate for a standard room is \$255 a night.

Tina Rhea spotted some interesting T-shirts at <www.redbubble.com>; search for [sherlock holmes].

I've noted in past issues that members of The Baker Street Irregulars have acted in films, and I suppose that children should not be ignored. Jenny Ashman (daughter of Peter Ashman) has played Madeline in "The Karaoke King" (2007), and has other credits at the Internet Movie Database.

"I love Sherlock Holmes. My life is so untidy and he's so neat." Dorothy Parker, interviewed by Marion Capron on "The Art of Fiction" in the Paris Review, summer 1956.

"Hercule et Sherlock" (1996) is a French film, available on DVD (in French, although there is a version subtitled in Spanish); "when a counterfeiter is captured, two of his thugs have to work with two counterfeit money-sniffing dogs named Hercule and Sherlock to find the lost cash." Credit Irene Mikhlin for spotting the film.

The spring issue of For the Sake of the Trust (the The Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter) has Andy Solberg's report on the Trust's Oral History Project, Vinnie Brosnan's "A Collector Recollects", and other news of and about the Trust; all issues of the newsletter are available on-line at the Trust web-site <www.bsitrust.org>, and copies of the current issue are available from Marshall S. Berdan (2015 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033) <editor@bsitrust.org>.

Peter Calamai recommends the Book Depository for buying in-print books from Britain; they're in Guernsey, and at <www.bookdepository.com>, and there's no charge for world-wide shipping to more than 100 countries.

The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) describe themselves as Chicago's original, senior, and most singular Sherlockian society, and one of their annual dinners featured a presentation by fight director and coordinator Tony Wolf (a co-founder of the Bartitsu Society), who performed a demonstration and previewed his upcoming documentary "Bartitsu: The Lost Martial Art of Sherlock Holmes" (there's been no word on whether any Hounds were harmed during the demonstration). The DVD was released last year by Broken Art (\$29.95), and it is nicely done indeed; the Bartitsu enthusiasts interviewed include authors Neal Stephenson and Will Thomas.

Apr 12 #5 Debbie Clark has reported Peter Tonkin's THE HOUND OF THE BORDERS (2003), which has Elizabethan sleuth Tom Musgrave on the Scottish borders in pursuit of the Barquest (a mythical hound of terrifying proportions); it's the third of four books in the his "Master of Defense" series, which has been described as "James Bond meets Sherlock Holmes meets William Shakespeare."

Plan well ahead: the Segal Centre for Performing Arts in Montreal will present a new Sherlockian play written by Greg Kramer and starring Jay Baruchel as as Holmes, May 5-26, 2013 <www.segalcentre.org>.

The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has reported on "L'extravagant mystère Holmes", a play written by Christian Chevalier and Christophe Guillon that premiered in 2010 and is still being performed by the Compagnie Kelanotre; their web-site at <www.kelanotre.com> has artwork, photographs, and a three-minute video.

Universal Pictures was founded on Apr. 30, 1912, and is now the oldest operating film producer and distributor in the United States. The UCLA Film & Television Archive is celebrating Universal's centenary with a seven-week film festival, showing films that range from "Traffic in Souls" (1913) to "Inglourious Basterds" (2009); details at <www.tinyurl.com/85vhvlp>. Alas: none of Basil Rathbone's "Sherlock Holmes" films made the list.

A new Russian television series "Sherlock Holmes" has been in the works for some time, from Central Partnership, which was described as Russia's largest independent film producer and distributor (Jun 08 #6); there were many delays, but Alexander Orlov has reported that the production of the series is now underway, starring Igor Patrenko (Sherlock Holmes) and Andrey Panin (Dr. Watson) in eight two-part stories. Additional information is available at <www.tinyurl.com/723crts> (the Russian version of Wikipedia); Google Translate is a useful (and free) program that helps you read all sorts of languages on-line.

The Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research surely is one of the more unusual places to find "The Valley of Fear" cited. Karen Murdock discovered "Sherlock Holmes and the Strange Case of the Missing Attribution" (by Jamie Reilly and Jamie Fisher) in the Feb. 2012 issue: the authors note echoes of the story in "The Grandfather Passage", which is used by aphasiologists and others to elicit speech and reading errors. Copies are available from Prof. Reilly <jjreilly@phhp.ufl.edu>.

"You've Got Mail" is a weekly feature on the Houghton Library blog, and you can read Peter Accardo's report on an interesting letter from Christopher Morley to Edgar W. Smith at <www.tinyurl.com/7s2sl3y>. The letter is part of the Baker Street Irregulars Archive at the Houghton.

The next "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., will be on Nov. 2-4, with participants at work solving the mystery "Sherlock Holmes and the Trial of Moriarty's Challenge"; there also will be a performance of "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Norwood Builder" by the East Lynne Theater Company. Visit <www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html> for more information on the weekend, or write to Box 340, Cape May, N.J. 08204.

Apr 12 #6 The Arthur Conan Doyle Weekend in Haslemere on June 15-17 (Feb 12 #8) now has its own web-site <www.haslemere.com/conandoyle>; Conan Doyle and first wife Touie rented Grayswood Beeches in Haslemere, and stayed at the Moorlands Hotel in Hindhead, before they moved into their new home, Undershaw, in the fall of 1897.

The Puzzle Society has "games for your brain" as its motto, and a web-site at <www.puzzlesociety.com>, and a long series of pocket-size themed Pocket Posh puzzle books, the latest of which is POCKET POSH: SHERLOCK HOLMES: 100 PUZZLES & QUIZZES (Kansas City: Andrews McMeel, 2012; 135 pp., \$7.99), and the book offers interesting mental exercise for fans.

Steve Hockensmith's first story about Old Red and Big Red Amlingmeyer was published in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Feb. 2003), and he went on to write more stories and five novels about the two cowboys: Old Red is a devoted admirer of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and Big Red is his literate brother who reads the stories to Old Red as they appear in magazines in the 1890s. DEAR MR. HOLMES: SEVEN HOLMES ON THE RANGE MYSTERIES (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2012; 202 pp., \$11.99) collects seven stories reprinted from EQMM and the anthology GHOST TOWNS (2010); there's lots of detection, old-west flavor, and humor, and even the title-page verso copyright information is funny. The author has a web-site at <www.stevhockensmith.com>.

The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers warm tributes to Norman Schatell by Julie McKuras and Don Pollock, "50 Years Ago" memories of John C. Hogan, and other new from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

PInow (the "trusted network of private investigators") pitted 16 fictional private investigators against each other in a "March Madness" contest, and (as might be expected) Sherlock Holmes was the winner, matched in the finals against Magnum (who won a separate prize for "best private investigator mustache"). Details at <www.tinyurl.com/cp8eph1>.

Tyke and Teddie Niver continue to present their "Sherlock Holmes: An Evening with the Gillettes" at Gillette Castle and at other venues in Connecticut; more information is available at <www.sherlockholmesct.com>.

Acorn Media is continuing its evolution from distribution into content ownership and television production, recently acquiring a 64% interest in the Agatha Christie estate. They continue to offer a wide range of television series on DVDs at <www.acornonline.com>, and free episodes of many of their series at <www.acornonline.com/acorntv>, and if you purchase premium status (\$24.99 a year) you can watch complete series on-line, and they're planning to make their service available to Roku and NOOK devices.

Daniel Corey's MORIARTY comic-book mini-series from Image (Nov 11 #7) will be turned into a stage musical, according to a Comic Book Resources story (Feb. 27) that said "it will be a very gritty and dark piece with a sense of high adventure" with music based in hard rock. Corey's media company is DangerKatt, and you can see his work at <www.professorjamesmoriarty.com>.

Apr 12 #7 Further to the report (Mar 12 #7) on "Steampunk Holmes: Legacy of the Nautilus" (the first in a "multi-channel" series that's going to be available both in print and electronically), the publishers are asking for financial support for the project; pledges start at \$1.00, with premiums offered at various levels (the campaign ends on May 3). There's an interesting web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/blgusuz> with more information, artwork, and a five-minute video.

LUKOLI CHIKCHIKA APISA (a Choctaw translation of "The Speckled Band") was commissioned by Don Hobbs, who offers it as a 40-page pamphlet for \$20.00 postpaid (to the U.S.); his address is 2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028 <221b@verizon.net>.

There's a nice assortment of new pastiches from MX Publishing, all of them (and more) available at their web-site <www.mxpublishing.com>: Tim Symonds' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DEAD BOER AT SCOTNEY CASTLE (2012; 277 pp., £11.99) pits Holmes and Watson against the Kipling League, a sinister society that manages to outwit Holmes (who understandably did not want this account published). Dean P. Turnbloom's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE WHITECHAPEL VAMPIRE (2012; 246 pp., £10.99) has Holmes and Watson in pursuit of the Ripper, who is a sophisticated vampire who has fallen in love with the niece of Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Charles Warren. Amy Thomas' THE DETECTIVE AND THE WOMAN (2012; 204 pp., £9.99) sends Holmes and a widowed Irene Adler to Florida during the Great Hiatus, meeting Thomas Edison and foiling complicated villainy.

Also from MX Publishing is Dan Andriacco's HOLMES SWEET HOLMES (2012; 260 pp., £10.99), a murder mystery in which the victim is writer-actor-director Peter Gerard, whose latest film "221B Bourbon Street" had Holmes and Watson in New Orleans in the 1920s and triggered a storm of protest from Sherlockian purists, one of whom may or may not be the murderer.

The winners of Edgars awarded by the Mystery Writers of America this year included Michael Dirda's ON CONAN DOYLE; OR, THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING (for best critical/biographical) and Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" (for best play).

"I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" is an interview podcast by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder, and the latest episode (#41) runs 62 minutes and includes an interview with Lara Pulver, who plays Irene Adler in "A Scandal in Belgravia" (the first episode of the second series of "Sherlock", airing on PBS-TV on May 6). Listen to or download the podcast at <www.ihearofsherlock.com>; earlier episodes also are available, and there are no spoilers in Pulver's interview. It has been rumored that she was fully clothed during her interview, but Monty and Wolder weren't.

The Missing Three-Quarter has been to Japan. The manuscript, that is. The British Library sent "two major treasures" (the manuscript, and a copy of Shakespeare's First Folio) to Tokyo as highlights in an exhibition at the British Embassy, Apr. 23-25, promoting British culture and education.

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May 12 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

July 15 is the deadline for registration for "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" (the Baker Street Irregulars' conference in Los Angeles on Aug. 30-Sept. 3), which will feature actors, producers, and directors, and presentations covering screen-writing, casting, costuming, sound, and lighting. And screening of several rare and recently-restored films. Details at www.bakerstreetjournal.com/losangeles2012.html.

The Ironmongers Daily News (published almost daily by the Société Sherlock Holmes de France) reports "Sherlock Yack" (2011), a French animated television series with 52 13-minute episodes. You can see artwork and watch a few episodes at www.vodgratuite.cm/go/tf1/sherlock-yack-1334640800.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Gladstone's in Long Beach on Apr. 25, when visitors attending the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists were welcomed by members of the local Sherlockian societies. An article on forensic geology and Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockians appeared in the AAPG Explorer's April issue www.aapg.org/explorer/2012/04apr/spotlight0412.cfm. Our next dinners will be in Charlotte on Nov. 7, and in Pittsburgh on May 22, 2013.

Michael Procter died on May 3. He trained at the Royal Academy of Music in London and went on to specialize in Renaissance music; he was a performer, conductor, teacher, and editor and publisher, and his web-site's still active at www.michael-procter.com. Based in Germany, he was an energetic Sherlockian, this year founding the Sherlock Holmes Club of Carlsruhe; he also combined his two interests in an impressive monograph MELANCHOLIA IN MUSIC: THE POSTHUMOUS MOTETS OF ORLANDUS LASSUS, BY SHERLOCK HOLMES, published this year and available from Amazon in most countries.

Philip K. Jones' data base for Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction now has more than 9,000 entries; previously hosted at Michael Procter's web-site, the data base is now available at Christopher and Barbara Roden's web-site www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Sherlock.htm.

Sherlockians who have attended the birthday festivities will recall, fondly or perhaps otherwise, West 44th Street institutions such as the Algonquin, the Iroquois, the Royalton, the Red Flame, and the N.Y. City Bar Association, will enjoy Alex Shoumatoff's long and interesting article "Positively 44th Street" in the June issue of Vanity Fair (alas, only a teaser's available at the magazine's web-site). There's history galore, and gossip and scandal, in the block between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, and Shoumatoff gives the reader a fine tour of the area.

Jon Lellenberg reports Arcadia Falcone's recent contribution to the Harry Ransom Center's "Cultural Compass" blog on "The Adventure of the Immortal Detective: Discovering Sherlock Holmes in the Archives" with a set of interesting images; they have a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual, Paget originals, manuscripts, and other nice material. You can read all about it at www.utexas.edu/opa/blogs/culturalcompass/tag/baker-street-irregulars.

May 12 #2 The Daily Telegraph reported (May 3) that Buckingham Palace insiders have said that Queen Elizabeth has taken part in a film that will be broadcast during the opening ceremony of the summer Olympics, bestowing a knighthood on James Bond (as portrayed by Daniel Craig). Jake Kerridge, the paper's crime critic, noted that two of Britain's most famous literary characters turned down knighthoods: one of them was James Bond, at the end of *THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN*, and the other was Sherlock Holmes, in "The Three Garridebs" (Kerridge also said that he didn't object to Britain "broadcasting to the world a film in which the monarch gives one of the country's highest honors to a bigoted manipulative satyromaniac"). You can watch the film when it airs on July 27.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's *The Sherlockian E-Times* will be found at www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-4.html, with news and offers of Sherlockiana from Classic Specialties, plus reports from other societies.

CBS-TV has scheduled its one-hour series "Elementary" (Mar 12 #3) at 10:00 pm on Thursdays in its fall line-up; you can watch a four-minute trailer at www.youtube.com/watch?y=DVSxNycKc. There's also a more recent five-minute trailer at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ff-XiZzJLxw. A helpful hint for people in countries where CBS-TV isn't available on television (if you have access to the Internet): American networks tend to make their series available on-line; see www.cbs.com for a sample of what's available now.



"The next I heard of Frank," Hatty Doran told Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson (in "The Noble Bachelor"), "he was in Montana, and then he was prospecting in Arizona, and then I heard from him from New Mexico." Our new stamps honor the 100th anniversary of statehood for Arizona and New Mexico; Montana's centennial was celebrated earlier (Jan 89 #5).



"Bloody Scotland", Scotland's first international crime-writing festival, Sept. 14-16 in Stirling, will have Ian Rankin as keynote speaker and many other writers on hand for the weekend event, which will include panels, workshops, a short-story contest, master-classes, and a Sherlock Holmes Dinner (on Sept. 15) with David Stuart Davies as the toastmaster. There's a website at www.bloodyscotland.com, and if you're asked for a password, it's [welcome].

George Anton's YouTube video "Sherlock Holmes" (Mar 12 #7), with Kevin Glaser as Holmes and Charles Simon as Watson, also is available commercially as a DVD (\$19.99) and from Amazon Instant Video (\$1.99).

Laurie R. King will be guest of honor at Malice Domestic 25 (May 3-5, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, Md.); it's a long-running conference for mystery writers and readers, and it offers a fine opportunity to meet your favorite authors (and get them to sign their books for you). Details will be found (eventually) at www.malicedomestic.org, but you can register now (and that's advised if you want full registration including the Agatha banquet, at which attendance will be limited).

May 12 #3 "Masterpiece" promoted the second season of "Sherlock" with an excerpt screening, Q&A, and autograph reception in New York on May 2, with Benedict Cumberbatch, co-creator Stephen Moffat, and producer Sue Vertue, and there were 10,000 on-line applications for the 400 seats at the preview. You can watch a 48-minute video of the Q&A session at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MltF5YNPac>. Rebecca Eaton said that filming for the third season will begin in early 2013, and the series will air in the U.S. in 2013.

Karen Murdock spotted the "Locations" section of Sherlockology, where you can find out where scenes were shot for all six episodes of "Sherlock" (you can click on "Series 1" or "Series 2" and then on scenes to find out what's where). And the British Academy of Film & Television announced its BAFTA Television Craft Awards on May 13, with "Sherlock" winning in three categories for "A Scandal in Belgravia": best editing/fiction, best sound: fiction, and best writer (Steven Moffat).

And "Sherlock" co-creator Mark Gatiss, who also plays Mycroft, has revealed that his Mycroft has a real-life inspiration: "I'd just auditioned to play Peter Mandelson in a TV film and we'd already discussed how reptilian and Mandelsonian we wanted Mycroft to be." Mandelson is a Labour Party politician who has had a colorful and checkered career; a trusted advisor to Tony Blair, Mandelson was twice a member of Blair's cabinet and twice resigned amid accusations of corruption, and there's much more about him in an entry at Wikipedia.

Plan well ahead: Jeffrey Hatcher's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be performed at the Alley Theatre from May 24 to June 23, 2013. The theater is at 615 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77002 (713-220-5700) <www.alleytheatre.org>.

The Sell a Door Theatre Company will perform Tim Kelly's play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the Greenwich Theatre, July 2-8. Croom's Hill, London SE10 8ES, England (020-8858-7755) <www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk>.

"Sherlock Holmes awarded title for most portrayed literary human character in film & TV," Guinness World Records announced this month. According to Guinness, Holmes has been depicted on screen 254 times, by more than 75 actors, and Guinness adjudicator Claire Burgess commented that the title reflects Holmes' "enduring appeal and demonstrates that his detective talents are as compelling today as they were 125 years ago." The runner-up for the record was Hamlet, with only 206 appearances. But Holmes isn't the overall most portrayed literary character, according to Guinness: that title's held by the non-human Dracula who has been portrayed 272 times.

A novel that includes a papal exorcist in its list of characters promises to be interesting, and Gyles Brandreth's OSCAR WILDE AND THE VATICAN MURDERS (New York: Touchstone, 2012; 337 pp., \$14.00) certainly fulfills that promise; it's the fifth in his series featuring Oscar Wilde and Arthur Conan Doyle as the detectives (Wilde, as always, is the better detective) in an imaginative mystery, narrated this time by Conan Doyle, that brings them to the Vatican in 1892. The next book in Brandreth's series will be OSCAR WILDE AND THE MURDERS AT READING GAOL.

May 12 #4 The television series "House, M.D." completed its long run on 21 with a one-hour retrospective special ("Swan Song") that included a brief segment with a Sherlockian discussion by Hugh Laurie (Gregory House) and series creator David Shore, and the final episode ("Everybody Dies") ended with an interesting echo of the Canon. Shore has often acknowledged that Holmes was part of the inspiration for House; the series has included occasional allusions over the years, among them the number of House's apartment: 221B.

"An Indian Sherlock" is the title of a possible Indian film project, based on British author Tarquin Hall's series of novels about Vish Puri, a modern Punjabi detective described as "India's Most Private Investigator". Anand Tucker has been signed to direct the film, which may star Anil Kapoor, and there seems to be nothing Sherlockian about the film other than the title.

A one-hour version of Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (commissioned by Jeremy Brett in 1988) will be performed at Theatre Asylum on June 9-24, during the Hollywood Fringe Festival. 6320 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90038 (323-962-1632) <www.theatreasylum-la.com>.

THE SECRET ARCHIVES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: Allison & Busby, 2012; 285 pp., £19.99) is June Thomson's latest collection of pastiches, with seven new stories; she started her series of collections with THE SECRET FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Dec 90 #5), and continues to entertain her readers. There will be an American edition in September.

The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has noted a new film project: "Sherlock Holmes vs. Frankenstein" from Marteau Films Production, with filming scheduled to start this winter: "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson travel to Germany to investigate a strange case in the village of Darmstadt. Who is the mysterious scientist who digs up corpses and steals their limbs? Could these events be related to the nearby presence of Castle Frankenstein? Everyone is a suspect." Gautier Cazenave wrote the script and will direct, with Holmes and Watson played by Nicholas Rowe and Alan Cox, who played the same characters in the film "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985). You can see a colorful poster at <www.holmes-frank.com>.

Filming has been completed on the new Russian television series "Sherlock Holmes" (Apr 12 #5); the eight two-part programs are scheduled for broadcast next year.

Enid Schantz died on Aug. 12. She and her husband Tom launched the Aspen Bookhouse in 1970 and went on to publish a series of reprints of early pastiches from their Aspen Press, many of which were imaginatively illustrated by Enid. They continued to sell and publish books from The Rue Morgue in Boulder, Colo., and were delighted to meet old and new friends and customers at Bouchercon, Malice Domestic, and Left Coast Crime.

Jennie Paton discovered that an Australian company (Madman Entertainment) has released Roger Moore's "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976) on a region 4 (PAL) DVD (AU\$19.95); it's available for the first time on DVD, and there is a special-feature audio-commentary interview with Moore recorded in Oct. 2011. Details at <www.madman.com.au/catalogue/view/16563>.

May 12 #5 The BBC reported (Apr. 23) on the opening of the Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone, where researchers can consult documents that date back to 699 AD; one of the items on display is a ledger that shows that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was fined £10/9s for driving his car more than 20 mph in the Folkestone area.

Charles Higham died on Apr. 21. He was a poet, journalist, critic, and an energetic celebrity biographer who specialized in Hollywood figures such as Errol Flynn, Charles Laughton, and Cary Grant. Higham described Flynn as a bi-sexual Nazi spy, and Grant as a wife-beating closeted homosexual; some of his obituaries noted that one critic suggested that Higham's biography of Howard Hughes was so salacious that Higham "had reached the point where most of his subjects have slept with one another." His *THE ADVENTURES OF CONAN DOYLE: THE LIFE OF THE CREATOR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1976) was an exception: the book was not well researched and, without sex and scandal, it seemed to have bored its author.

"You Know My Methods: A Collector's Approach to the Sherlockian Canon" is the title of an exhibition at the Book Club of California in San Francisco from June 4 through Sept. 10; the exhibition celebrates the 110th anniversary of the publication of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, and features rare items from the collection of Glen Miranker <www.bccbooks.org>.

I'm not aware of any Sherlockian connection for the prediction that the world will end on Dec. 21, but it's worth noting that Belgium has issued a souvenir sheet with five stamps that show a detail from the prophetic panel of the Mayan calendar. Why Belgium? Because the complete panel is in Brussels, on display at the Royal Museums for Art and History.

What's the most valuable modern Sherlockian periodical? A likely candidate is the first issue of *Playboy*, which included an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four"; it sold for 50¢ in Dec. 1953 and had a press run of 53,991 copies, and a copy sold at Heritage Auctions month for \$8,365 (including the buyer's premium). That's up nicely from the \$3,032 that a copy brought at an auction a few years ago (Sep 10 #6).

Christopher Boone, the narrator of Mark Had-don's award-winning best-seller *THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME* (2003) is an autistic teen-ager who loves the Sherlock Holmes stories and turns detective himself; he will be played by Luke Treadaway in a dramatization by Simon Stephens at the National Theatre in London, July 24 through Sept. 12. There's more information at <www.nationaltheatre.org.uk>. Una Stubbs (Mrs. Hudson in the BBC's "Sherlock" mini-series, will play Mrs. Alexander.



May 12 #6 Scott Monty has reported that the Post-Meridian Radio Players' "Summer Radio Mystery Theatre" July 27-28 will offer new versions of three classic programs, including "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (adapted from the CBS Radio Mystery Theatre) in Somerville, Mass., on July 27-28. Details at <www.huboftheuniverseproductions.com>.

A high court judge heard arguments on May 23 in the Undershaw Preservation Trust's campaign to block conversion of Conan Doyle's home into flats (May 11 #3); the judge is expected to rule soon on whether the Waverly Borough Council properly considered a third-party offer to purchase the house.

There's a new version of the delightful parody of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that was written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007: it's a radio-theater adaptation that will be performed at the Bath Fringe Festival on June 4 <www.bathfringe.co.uk>. It was inspired by a performance with a live audience that was recorded for BBC Radio 4 in March; the program will air as the Saturday Drama on July 7. Nick Hern Books publish the original script and license it for amateur productions <www.nickhernbooks.co.uk>; the company also offers David Edgar's dramatization of Julian Barnes' novel ARTHUR AND GEORGE.

There was a flurry of publicity last month about the discovery in the John Murray Archives at the National Library of Scotland of Conan Doyle stories that were considered to be "not very good and not used as the quality was too poor." The stories, none of them unpublished, were found in a set of typescripts that likely were prepared for possible reprinting in THE CONAN DOYLE STORIES (1929); they've been republished since, in the volume of UN-COLLECTED STORIES (1982) edited by Richard Lancelyn Green.

"Forensic Firsts" begins on the Smithsonian channel on June 17 and the series offers an interesting look at how forensic sciences are used by detectives today <www.smithsonianchannel.com/site/sn/show.do?series=826>. They may even mention Sherlock Holmes.

Les Klinger reports that Ronald Unz has digitized The Bookman [London] and The Bookman [New York] the files are searchable, and of course contain much about Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle. <www.unz.org/Pub/BookmanUK> and <www.unz.org/Pub/Bookman>. Unz has digitized many other magazines that contain Sherlockiana and Doyleana.

"Good Bad Books" is the title of an essay by George Orwell in Tribune (Nov. 2, 1945) and reprinted SHOOTING AN ELEPHANT AND OTHER ESSAYS (1950); he acknowledges G. K. Chesterton for coining the phrase, which Orwell applies to "the kind of book that has no literary pretensions but which remains readable when more serious productions have perished." And his list of "obviously outstanding books in this line" includes "Raffles", "Dracula", "Uncle Tom's Cabin", and the Sherlock Holmes stories. Orwell had earlier written a Sherlockian parody "The Adventure of the Lost Meat-Card" for Eton College's Election Times (June 3, 1918), unmentioned in his essay, which can be read on-line at <www.orwell.ru/library/reviews/books/english/e-books>.

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Jun 12 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The Undershaw Preservation Trust won its suit to prevent conversion of Conan Doyle's home into flats (May 11 #3) when a high court judge ruled that the Waverley Borough Council had not adequately met statutory requirements to pay special regard to the preservation of heritage assets and planning policy when it approved the developer's plans. The judge awarded £20,000 in legal costs to Trust founder John Gibson, and gave the Council time to consider whether to appeal; the Council later announced that it would not contest the decision, but Fossway, the developer, has decided to appeal.

Guy Ritchie is keeping busy while waiting to proceed with a third "Sherlock Holmes" film for Warner Bros. Trade journals report that he is working on a film version of "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." and on a proposed new version of "Treasure Island" (both for Warner Bros.).

The Book Club of California has more information about its celebration of the 110th anniversary of the publication of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES at the club's web-site <www.bccbooks.org/exhibit.htm>. The exhibition runs through Sept 10, and Glen Miranker reports that the material on display includes manuscript pages, original artwork by Sidney Paget and Frederic Dorr Steele, and Conan Doyle's Norwood notebook (1885-1896).

Philip K. Jones' data base for Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction now has more than 9,200 entries; the data base is now available at Christopher and Barbara Roden's web-site <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Sherlock.htm> and (with Philip's article "The Untold Tales--Analyzed") at Miguel Herrera Baena's web-site at <www.sherlock-holmes.es/database.php>.

Further to the item about Alex Shoumatoff's excellent article "Positively 44th Street" in the June issue of Vanity Fair (May 12 #1), Scott Monty has kindly provided a link to the article <www.tinyurl.com/75nen68>.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-6.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, including a tribute to Bob Burr accompanied by photographic proof that Bob does occasionally leave Peoria.

Qiu Xiaolong is the author of the political detective novel DON'T CRY, TAI LAKE (Minotaur, 2012), which was praised by Patrick Anderson in his review in the Washington Post (May 21); it's not Sherlockian, but Xiaolong reports that he was a teenager in China during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) when almost all literature was banned. He succeeded in borrowing a copy of the Sherlock Holmes stories from a friend, and to avoid getting into trouble read them concealed inside the red plastic cover of QUOTATIONS OF CHAIRMAN MAO. He has lived in the United States since 1988, and has a web-site at <www.qiuxiaolong.com>.

Clothes on Film <www.clothesonfilm.com> is an interesting web-site devoted to "examining costume and identity in movies; in May 2010 there was a two-part discussion by Chris Laverty of Robert Downey Jr.'s "Sherlock Holmes" (2009), and this month a two-part discussion of "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (2011), with input from the film's costume designer Jenny Beavan.

Jun 12 #2 The 8th Annual Convention of The Reichenbachian Cliff-Divers is to be held in Peoria on Aug. 15-17, according to an announcement in the June issue of the Gaslight Gazette (published by The Survivors of the Gloria Scott); details of one of the more unusual Sherlockian gatherings are available by e-mail from Dave Milner <openshaw@bellsouth.net>. It's possible that this is a rescheduling of the convention announced for May 11-13 in Succasunna, N.J., in a message to the Sherlock Holmes Social Network <www.sherlockholmes.ning.com>.

Danish artist Nis Jessen has applied Sherlockian quotations to some of the illustrations in his spectacular edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET (Jul 05 #6), and you can see the results at his Facebook page <www.tinyurl.com/7bf2dl9>. His own web-site is at <www.jessen-gallery.dk>, and copies of his book are available: contact his wife Florida at <florida-jessen@jessen-gallery.dk>.

It's not Sherlockian, but it's a fine book for collectors: Miles Harvey's THE ISLAND OF LOST MAPS: A TRUE STORY OF CARTOGRAPHIC CRIME (2000) explores the story of Gilbert Bland Jr., whose cartomania doesn't seem all that far removed from bibliomania. The author's web-site is <www.milesharvey.com>.

"Writing Britain: Wastelands to Wonderlands" is a major exhibition at the British Library through Sept. 25, examining "how the landscapes of Britain permeate great literary works"; the section on "Wild Places: Terror of the Wild" includes THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES. There's an interesting web-site at <www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions/writingbritain>.

The U.S. Postal Service has issued a set of stamps honoring four Great Film Directors: Frank Capra, John Huston, John Ford, and Billy Wilder, three of whom have Sherlockian connections. Billy Wilder directed "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), John Huston played Moriarty in "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976), and John Ford (billed as Jack Francis) played Watson in "A Study in Scarlet" (1914), directed by his older brother Francis Ford, who also played Holmes.



"Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" ended its run in theaters in the U.S. on Apr. 12 after 112 days on screens in 3,703 theaters, according to the Box Office Mojo web-site; the film's world-wide gross is now stands at \$543.8 million. "Sherlock Holmes" (the first Robert Downey Jr. film) ran for 126 days in 3,626 theaters in the U.S. and grossed \$524.0 million world-wide.

The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; the summer issue has Susan Rice's discussion of "Lighthouses of the Past and Future" (about how young women have joined the Sherlockian world from the 1960s through the 2010s), and much more of interest; it's published quarterly and costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).

Jun 12 #3 An article in the Aberdeen Press & Journal (June 16) noted that Arthur Conan Doyle was born at 11 Picardy Place in Edinburgh, and that a plaque on another building on the street notes that on a certain date, on this very spot, nothing much happened. But the real focus of the article is on the building at 12 Picardy Place, where today one will find the Mark Greenaway Restaurant; Mark Greenaway earlier this year became the only Scottish chef to be awarded three rosettes from the Automobile Association for outstanding cuisine.

Anglofile is a blog by Leslie King, offering detailed coverage of British entertainment; she offers early reports on programs to come on PBS-TV and on BBC America at <anglofileplus.livejournal.com>; the blog's also on Facebook at <www.facebook.com/anglofileplus>

For those who don't already have the book (and there shouldn't be many of you), copies of ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS, edited by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley (May 07 #5) are available discounted to \$4.98 at <www.daedalusbooks.com>. Thanks to Tina Rhea for the report.

Janet Rudolph has announced that Anthony Horowitz's pastiche THE HOUSE OF SILK (Dec 11 #5) has been nominated for a Macavity Award (best mystery novel) from Mystery Readers International/Mystery Readers Journal. Winners of the awards (named for T. S. Eliot's creation in OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS) will be announced at Bouchercon in October.

Tumblr is an imaginative and useful web-site that at which people can post text, photos, links, music, and videos; it was founded in 2007 and now has more than 63 million posts a day in twelve languages, and of course some of the posts are from people who are "addicted to Sherlock." You can see what it's all about at <www.shaddicted.tumblr.com>.

"Enjoy the 100 Greatest Books of All Times and Never Have to Read a Word!" is the offer from the Library of Classics; for only \$99.00 you receive the books in audio format and an MP3 player, and one of the books is THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. Go to <www.buytheclassics.com> to see the titles of all of the books.

Patricia Gore-Booth died on Feb. 2. She was born in Japan and educated in Australia, and returning to Japan when war broke out in Europe she went to work in the British Embassy assigned to work in Paul Gore-Booth's department. They were married in September 1940, interned by the Japanese, sent back to Britain, and then posted to the British Embassy in Washington, and she was with her husband during all his long diplomatic career, and during all his Sherlockian career. Their photograph, costumed as Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler during the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's first Swiss Pilgrimage, appeared in The Times on May 1, 1968.

Catherine Cooke reports that Abbey House still stands at the site of 221B Baker Street, with the central facade and clocktower preserved. According to the developer, the overall site has 92 luxury residential units and 40 affordable units, with underground car parking, and there's a nice photograph at <www.flickr.com/photos/ddtmmm/3909629026>.

Jun 12 #4 "The Adventure of the Immortal Detective: Discovering Sherlock Holmes in the Archives" is the title of an interesting post by Arcadia Falcone to the Cultural Compass blog at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas. The collection has some wonderful Sherlockian and Doylean material (including two pairs of his socks); you can read her post at <www.utexas.edu/opa/blogs/culturalcompass/2012/05/03/sherlock-holmes>, and the slide show is fascinating (there's a button to turn on captions).

ARMCHAIR MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is a new collection of pastiches by Alan Downing, available (without charge) via the Internet as PDF and Kindle files at <www.sites.google.com/site/armchairmysteries>.

There will be some intriguing Conan Doyle material at auction on July 10 at Sworders <www.sworder.co.uk/index.php?_a=viewBlog+blogId=17>. Mary Jakeman was working as a servant in Surbiton in 1909, when she applied for a position as lady's maid in the Conan Doyle household, and Conan Doyle's letter offering her the job ("The wages start at £26. The servants find their own beer or wine.") is included in the collection, along with other correspondence from the family (she left their employ in 1932) and photographs, and signed and inscribed books; she is mentioned in THE WANDERINGS OF A SPIRITUALIST (1921) and MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES (1924).

Richard Carpenter died on Feb. 26. He was acted on stage and television, and in the 1970s turned to writing for ITV and the BBC, becoming a popular and prolific screenwriter for children's television, including two of the four programs in the series "The Baker Street Boys" (1983).

Twickenham Film Studios has closed, one year short of celebrating 100 years of British film-making. Founded as St. Margaret's Studios in 1913, it was renamed in 1929 by the company's owners producer Jules Hagen and director Leslie Hiscott. Films made at Twickenham included the Beatles' "Help!" and "A Hard Day's Night", Michael Caine's "Alfie", Angela Lansbury's "The Mirror Crack'd", Meryl Streep's "The Iron Lady", and most of Arthur Wontner's Sherlockian films in the 1930s.

Further to the report (Dec 01 #4) on the "Hound of the Baskervilles effect" (the conclusion that fatal heart attacks and stress are linked in fact as well as fiction), Don Pollock has noted references to a "Hound of the Baskervilles pattern" <www.tinyurl.com/6nb6kp3>. It's a financial phenomenon, "when a pattern or anticipated behaviour in prices does not occur in spite of compelling recent evidence," and it seems to have been named by someone who thought that the dog that did nothing in the night-time was the Baskerville hound.

The latest Sherlockian audio from Big Finish is SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE PERFIDIOUS MARINER, on a CD (\$14.07) and as a download (\$7.99); PO Box 3787, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 3TF, England <www.bigfinish.com>. Nicholas Briggs stars as Holmes, and Richard Earl as Watson, with Michael Maloney as J. Bruce Ismay (the most hated man in England, blamed for the Titanic disaster); it's an intriguing mystery, and as always well-acted and recorded. There's a 30-minute podcast at the web-site, and downloadable copies of the company's monthly magazine Vortex, as well as information about their Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian recordings.

Jun 12 #5 The "casting thread" is pervasive on the Internet, where people often imagine various actors playing various characters, and in 2009 Regan Payne, a Canadian free-lance writer and director, was inspired by the first Robert Downey Jr. film to propose imaginative combinations of actors and directors for never-made Sherlock Holmes movies for each decade from 1929 to 1999 (for 1939, for example, he had Michael Curtiz directing William Powell as Holmes and Buster Keaton as Watson). The entire blog can be read at <www.tinyurl.com/cdauzud>.

Alyson Kuhn has an interesting (and well illustrated) report on "The Case of the Sherlockian Miranker" at the Felt and Wire web-site on the exhibition "You Know My Methods: A Collector's Approach to the Sherlockian Canon" at the Book Club of California in San Francisco (May 12 #5); you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/6q6jnuw>.

Benedict Cumberbatch, interviewed by TVLine (June 14), said that "I'll always do 'Sherlock'--it's something I'm not going to give up on," and that "there's no reason for us to stop if it's still being adored and we still enjoy doing it." Cumberbatch also said that he'd like to see Holmes getting older: "We're starting quite young. It's rare to see Holmes and Watson at the beginning of their relationship; we usually join them in their mid-to-late 40s or 50s. I've got a way to go. I mean, I'm only 35."

And "Getting Sherlock Holmes Right Onscreen" is the title of a perceptive essay by Michael Sragow at the New Yorker's "culture desk" blog, where he has nice things to say about the Cumberbatch/Freeman series, and about the Rathbone/Bruce films <www.tinyurl.com/7cbdw7>.

Last month President Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to 11-time Grammy winner Bob Dylan, noting that "there is not a bigger giant in the history of American music" (the medal is awarded "for having made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to culture or other significant public or private endeavours." In 1963 Dylan refused appear on "The Ed Sullivan Show" when CBS refused to allow him to sing "The Talking John Birch Society Blues" (the song's lyrics include a mention of Sherlock Holmes).

Caroline John died on June 5. She began her acting career on screen at the age of 15, performed on stage, and was best known for her role as Liz Shaw in the "Doctor Who" television series. She also had a supporting role in "Madame Sara" in "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971), and played Laura Lyons in Tom Baker's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982).

Karen Murdock reports the Craig Calvert has constructed 1:6 scale diorama of the sitting room at 221B, and there are lots of photographs at his web-site at <www.bakerstreetdiorama.com>.

Phil Bergem continues his research into matters Doylean, and has written an excellent article on "Residences of Arthur Conan Doyle"; there are detailed descriptions, contemporary maps, coordinates, and latitudes and longitudes (so you can use Google Earth to see what locations look like now). It is available as a PDF file at the "Conan Doyle" group at Yahoo (the file name is "ACD-residences") and by e-mail from Phil <pgbergem@gmail.com>.

Jun 12 #6 Daniel Stashower's THE HOUDINI SPECTER (2000) has been reissued by Titan Books (\$12.95), completing his trio of "The Harry Houdini Mysteries"; as in THE DIME MUSEUM MURDERS and THE FLOATING LADY MURDER (Feb 12 #6), Houdini, beginning his career as an escapologist, succeeds in solving a well-written mystery. The books have passing mentions of Sherlock Holmes, and it's a pity there are only three in the series. The publisher's web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.

Christopher Challis died on May 31. He was a newsreel camera assistant as a teenager, and began his film career as a cinematographer in 1947 and went on to have a long association with Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, and became best known for his spectacular color work. He was director of photography for "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes".



An interesting photograph of Conan Doyle will be available at International Autograph Auctions on July 14-15; it's lot 529, estimated at £250-£350 <www.autographauctions.co.uk>. It shows a younger Conan Doyle, and is signed, and is particularly interesting because it was taken by Elliott & Fry of Baker Street (the photograph studio was at 56 & 56 Baker until 1919, when it moved to another location), and it is interesting because it shows that Conan Doyle was forgetful when he once told an interviewer that he did not recall ever call ever having been in Baker Street in his life.

Anthony Horowitz is keeping busy: he's writing new episodes for "Foyle's War" and working on a sequel to his pastiche THE HOUSE OF SILK that will not feature Sherlock Holmes. "The recent Robert Downey films are great," Horowitz said to the Yorkshire Post (June 12), but they're what I call Indiana Holmes and, what I really want to do is explore the world in which he lives. So it's set in 1890 and the main character is Watson. By that time he and Holmes were already working together, but I want to look at Watson's partnership with another younger detective." Thanks to Randall Stock for the report.

The Société Sherlock Holmes de France's Ironmongers Daily News has reported an amusing Russian parody of the Robert Downey Jr. and Benedict Cumberbatch versions of Sherlock Holmes at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nlsHIBi_yZM>, and with English subtitles at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=v10idzSEN4Q>.

Michael Kurland's VICTORIAN VILLAINY (Rockville: Wildside Press, 2011) is a collection of reprints of four short stories about Professor Moriarty, and they are written with style, imagination, and humor; \$4.19 as a eBook, or \$15.99 with Kurland's THE TRIALS OF QUINTILIAN in a trade-paperback reprise of the old Ace Double format (Quintilian was an early crime-solver, in the time of the Emperor Vespasian). Wildside specializes in mystery, fantasy, and adventure, and their web-site's at <www.wildsidebooks.com>. Kurland's own web-site's at <www.michaelkurland.com>; THE INFERNAL DEVICE, his first Moriarty novel, has been dramatized by James Geisel as a one-act play, and had its world premiere this month in South Bend, Ind.

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

Jul 12 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Julian Barnes' ARTHUR & GEORGE (Sep 05 #5) was a novelized joint biography of Arthur Conan Doyle and George Edalji, well written and imaginative, and it was dramatized by David Edgar (Feb 10 #5); Edgar's script (London: Nick Hern Books, 2010; 131 pp., £8.99) offers a welcome opportunity to see how interesting and intelligent a good dramatization can be. The publisher also offers a script for the parody version of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES dramatized by Steven Canny and John Nicholson for Peepolykus (Apr 07 #3); the script (2012; 100 pp., £9.99) is delightful, and offers some pleasant surprises for those who have seen more recent productions of the play. The scripts are available from Nick Hern Books, 14 Larden Road, London W3 7ST, England <www.nickhernbooks.co.uk>.

Willis Frick reports happily that he now has a new URL for Sherlocktron, at <www.sherlocktron.com>; this should take care of problems people have been having when their ISPs blocked access to Sherlocktron at his previous host.

The summer issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Al Dawson's account of research into a Conan Doyle letter (now owned by the Collection) along a trail that involved Oscar Wilde and his wife Constance, Peter Calamai's tribute to Conan Doyle's story "The Three Correspondents", and news from and about the collection; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>. And the Friends will celebrate the centennial of "The Lost World" on Sept. 15, when Roy Pilot will deliver the 2012 Cameron Hollyer Lecture at the Library.

Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" will be produced at the Lakewood Playhouse, Sept. 14 through Oct. 14. 5729 Lakewood Towne Center Boulevard, Lakewood, WA 87488 (253-588-0042) <www.lakewoodplayhouse.org>.

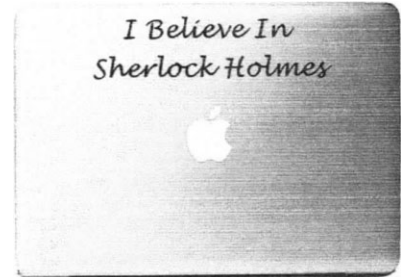
Laurie R. King's GARMENT OF SHADOWS (New York: Random House, 2012; 264 pp., \$26.00) is subtitled "A novel of suspense featuring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes," and it lives up to its billing. The new novel is set immediately after PIRATE KING (Aug 11 #1), and opens with Russell in dire peril in Fez. She (and Holmes) wind up deeply involved in Moroccan colonial politics and tribal warfare, and encounter some old friends from earlier days. The next Mary Russell novel will be set in Japan (before LOCKED ROOMS), and you can read about her research, and other things, in her "Mutterings" blog at <www.laurierking.com>.

Fans of Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes may want to attend a "twitter garden party" at the Russell-Holmes cottage on the South Downs on Aug. 19; details at <www.maryrussellholmes.com>, where you will find much more by and about Mary Russell, including a short story and some correspondence.

"Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place" will be the theme of the next conference in Minneapolis, on Aug. 9-11, 2013, sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries; if you'd like to be on their mailing list, contact Gary Thaden <norwegianexplorers@gmail.com>.

Jul 12 #2 "Campaigning for Statue of Sherlock" was the headline on a story in the Sussex Courier (July 6): Mike Tuffley wants to raise £50,000 for a statue of Sherlock Holmes to be erected in Crowborough; Tuffley believes that the statue will attract visitors from all over the world, and has created the Sherlock Holmes Trust Fund and is asking for donations (which can be made at any branch of Lloyds Bank).

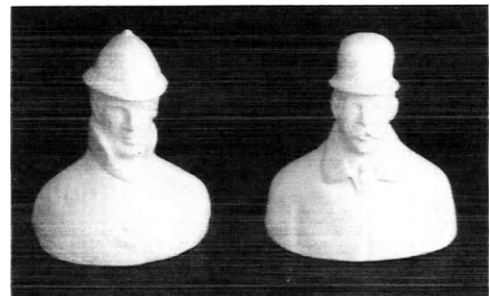
Karen Murdock discovered an amusing custom vinyl decal for Macbooks, laptops, car windows, or other flat non-porous surfaces; created by Benjamin Daniels for Perfectly Aligned Decals, it measures 8.0 by 2.2 in. and costs \$5.00; two more Sherlockian designs available, and many others for non-Sherlockians <www.tinyurl.com/76odguy>.



Andy Griffith died on July 3. He was a musician, a monologist, and then an actor. He starred on Broadway in "No Time for Sergeants" in 1955, and acted in films and on television, starring as Andy Taylor of Mayberry on "The Andy Griffith Show" and as Ben Matlock on "Matlock"; in one episode of the Matlock series he said "I've always felt that the wrong Holmes is taught in law school; it ought to be Sherlock and not Oliver Wendell," and in another episode he delivered a two-minute courtroom summation of the plot of "The Red-Headed League".

The parody of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007 will be performed at the American Heartland Theatre, Jan. 11 through Feb. 13; 2450 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64108 (816-842-9999) <www.ahtc.com>.

Vinnie Brosnan is in search of information on two busts, of Holmes and Watson; they are 4 in. high, marked on the bases as made in London, and numbered. Who was the artist, and when were they sold, and by whom, and at what price? He's at <sherlockinla@cox.net> and would be happy to hear from anyone who can help.



Eric Sykes died on July 4. He began his entertainment career writing radio scripts, and went on to act and write on stage, screen, radio, and television, achieving renown both as a comic and character actor. He played Horace Harker in Granada's "The Six Napoleons" (1986).

"Solves that violin-case-need mystery that's been confounding you" is the slogan that Elderly Instruments uses for their elegant Baker Street Violin Case, spotted by Peter Ashman <www.elderly.com/accessories/items/221B.htm>.

The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers an appreciative tribute to Fred Levin by Tim Johnson, a "50 Years Ago" look at Elliot Kimball by Julie McKuras, and other news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Dick Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

Jul 12 #3 Dale Fututani's new THE CURIOUS ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES IN JAPAN (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2011; 228 pp., \$12.99) is an interesting collection of stories set in 1892-1893, when Holmes is living in disguise as the guest of a Japanese doctor, and solves a series of mysteries; the stories have fine local flavor, and it's intriguing to see how Holmes reacts to a thoroughly different culture and environment. The author's web-site is at <www.dalefurutani.com>.

Conan Doyle's 'DANGEROUS WORK': DIARY OF AN ARCTIC ADVENTURE offers a welcome look at some of his earliest writing: the illustrated journal that he kept on the whaler Hope; he celebrated his 21st birthday during the voyage, and the journal is full of detail on what that sort of adventure was like. There's also much humor, directed at himself as well as at others, and the journal is reproduced in facsimile, with a transcript, letters he wrote to his mother during the voyage, and later articles and stories that reflect his experiences on the ship. Edited and annotated by Jon Lellenberg and Daniel Stashower, the 368-page book will be published soon by the British Library (£25.00) and the University of Chicago Press (\$35.00), and Randall Stock offers a fine discussion of the book, and the history of the journal (which was preserved in the family papers and is now owned by the British Library) at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/diary-arctic-adventure.htm>.

Jon and Dan will discuss and sign the book at the Centuries & Sleuths bookstore in Forest Park, Ill., on Sept. 29, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm; 7419 West Madison Street (708-771-7243).

Guy Adams had Holmes and Watson involved in the world of the supernatural in SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE BREATH OF GOD (2011), and he has turned to fantasy in SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ARMY OF DR. MOREAU (London: Titan Books, 2012; 284 pp., \$12.95), with an interesting celebration of both H. G. Wells and Conan Doyle. The author's web-site's at <www.guyadamsauthor.com>, and the publisher's at <www.titanbooks.com>

Titan continues to reprint Sax Rohmer's stories about Fu-Manchu (who "makes Professor Moriarty seem an under-achiever," according to Max Collins); THE HAND OF FU-MANCHU (266 pp., \$9.95) is the third in the series, setting Sir Dennis Nayland Smith and Dr. Petrie against the Si-Fan.

"The movies you want at your local theater" is the motto of Tugg, a company that will help you set up a screening of John Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes" (1922) and many other (non-Sherlockian) films. There's more information at their web-site <www.tugg.com>.

Sorry about that: ARMCHAIR MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, the new collection of pastiches by Alan Downing (Jun 12 #4), is available (without charge) via the Internet at <www.sites.google.com/site/armchairmysteries>.

Ernest Borgnine died on July 8. He acted on stage and television and then on film, winning an Oscar for his role in "Marty" (1955), and liked to say that "You don't have to be tall, dark, and handsome to be a movie star, but I was the first one to prove it." Alas, there's no photograph known, but he played Watson (with Dennis Allen as Holmes) on television in a skit in the "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" series in 1973.

Jul 12 #4 Pam Verrey spotted YOUNG MISS HOLMES, CASEBOOK 1-2 (New York: Seven Seas, 2012; 384 pp., \$16.99), the English translation of Kaoru Shintani's manga CHRISTIE: HIGH TENSION (2007-2008); Christie is the niece of Sherlock Holmes, and the book offers her versions of some of her uncle's recorded cases. There's a web-site with cover and interior artwork at <www.us.macmillan.com/youngmissholmescasebook12/KaoruShintani>; CASEBOOK 3-4 is due later this year.

Plan well ahead: Jeffrey Hatcher's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be performed at the Park Square Theater from June 7 through July 14, 2013; 20 West 7th Place, Minneapolis, MN 55102 (651-291-7005) <www.parksquaretheater.org>.

Evan Lewis' "Skyler Hobbs and the Rabbit Man" (a comic mystery about a modern would-be Sherlock Holmes) was published in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Feb. 2010), and won the Mystery Writers of America's Robert L. Fish Memorial Award (for best first short story by an American author); his Skyler Hobbs and the Garden Gnome Bandit" is in the Sept.-Oct. issue of EQMM.

Jean M. White died on July 14. She started her career in journalism as a city desk reporter at the Washington Post in 1953, and worked for the paper for almost 30 years as a writer, editor, and reviewer, reporting often on Sherlockian books and on Sherlockians.

Total-E-Bound Publishing, obviously aware of the success of 50 SHADE OF GREY, has launched a series of Clandestine Classics, presenting "classics as they have never been seen before," and taking readers "behind the closed bedroom doors of our favorite, most beloved British characters. One of the classics, needless to say, will be A STUDY IN SCARLET, by A. C. Doyle and Sarah Masters, due later this year <www.total-e-bound.com>.

Sherlock at the Olympics? Not quite, but almost, if you were watching the BBC on July 27, when they aired a nice 4-minute video about London narrated by Benedict Cumberbatch <www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvKlX_MdMN0>. Thanks to Debbie Clark for the report.

The Conan Doyle material owned by Mary Jakeman, who worked for the family from 1909 to 1932, brought nice prices at Sworders on July 10 (Jun 12 #4). The star of the sale was a signed copy of the first American edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, estimated at £400-800, which was sold for £3,900 at the auction.

Smithsonian magazine's interesting "Design Decoded" blog had two Sherlockian entries in July, by Jimmy Stamp on "The Mystery of 221B Baker Street" (with splendid photographs of various recreations of the sitting-room), and by Sarah C. Rich on "The Deerstalker: Where Sherlock Holmes' Popular Image Came From" (with many images of items in Glen Miranker's collection); the blog is at <www.blogs.smithsonianmag.com/design/2012/07>.

Randall Stock continues to enhance the contents of his excellent "Best of Sherlock" web-site, where he has updated his census of original artwork by Sidney Paget: Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian illustrations, oil paintings, and watercolors <www.bestofsherlock.com/sidney-paget-original-art.htm>.

Jul 12 #5 Christopher Boone, the narrator of Mark Haddon's award-winning best-seller *THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME* (2003) is an autistic teen-ager who enjoys the Sherlock Holmes stories, and turns detective himself; the National Theatre in London has commissioned a dramatization of the novel, and the production has been recorded and will be broadcast to selected theaters around the world in September. Information on the play, and on dates and venues for the broadcast, can be found at www.nationaltheatre.org.uk.

Sherlock at the Olympics? Actually, yes. If you count Wenlock, one of the two official mascots; the name honors the town in Shropshire that helped inspire the modern games. There are fiberglass statues of Wencock in various costumes here and there in London, and Sherlock Wenlock can be found in Regent's Park. No word yet on whether there will be smaller figurines available as Olympic souvenirs.

Kelly Blau has reported Sherlockian artwork on the cover of the children's book *SECRET AGENT SPLAT!*, by Rob Scotton (New York: HarperCollins, 2012; 40 pp., \$16.99); it's the latest title in his "Splat the Cat" series.



Donald J. Sobol died on July 11. He was a journalist and then an author, best known for his "Encyclopedia Brown" series of mysteries, for which he won a special Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1976; Sobol described Encyclopedia Brown as "America's Sherlock Holmes in sneakers."

The Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium at the Newberry Library in Chicago on Sept. 29, starting at 9:00 am, is open to the public with no admission charge, and will feature Jon Lellenberg and Dan Stashower (on "Dangerous Work: Conan Doyle's Diary of Arctic Adventure"), Carter Lupton (on "Literary Icons of 1912: Prof. G. E. Challenger"), and Todd Rosenthal (on "Recreating Sherlock Holmes' Baker Street"). There's more information at www.newberry.org/09292012-arthur-conan-doyle-sherlock-holmes-symposium.

Simon Ward died on July 20. He began his acting career on stage, and went on to star in films and on television; best known for his role as Winston Churchill in the film "Young Churchill" (1972), he also played Stephen Barrow in an adaptation of "The Leather Funnel" (1973) in a British series of "Great Mysteries" hosted by Orson Welles on ITV.

YouTube's PBS Idea Channel has an amusing 6-minute video by Mike Rugnetta at www.youtube.com/user/pbsideachannel?feature=watch that offers his answer to the question "How Did Sherlock Holmes Pave the Way for 50 Shades of Grey?"

Berkswell Grange, the childhood home of Jeremy Brett, is for sale, offered for £1.68 million; the 17th-century house, a few miles outside of Coventry, has six bedrooms, 15.7 acres of grounds, and a brick in the wall bearing a child's handprint, authenticated by Brett as his own. The estate agent is Knight Frank www.knightfrank.com/str120124.

Jul 12 #6 Doc Watson died on May 29. Arthel Watson, blind almost from birth, became an outstanding acoustic guitarist, known for his baritone voice and vast repertoire of bluegrass, folk, country, and blues. He once explained that he acquired his nickname during a live radio broadcast in 1941 when the announcer asked for an easy nickname, and someone in the audience shouted "Call him Doc." His album "Elementary Doctor Watson!" was issued by Poppy Records in 1972 and has some fine tracks (but no Sherlockian significance other than the title).

The new series "Elementary" (with Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu as Holmes and Watson) debuts on CBS-TV on Sept. 27 at 10:00 pm (on the east coast). And there's now an official web-site at <www.cbs.com/shows/elementary>.

My birthday party on the Mall on July Fourth featured the usual spectacular fireworks, although not as spectacular as in San Diego, where a faulty computer fired off twenty minutes of fireworks in twenty seconds; fortunately there were on barges, and no one was hurt. It was also nice to receive a few birthday cards, and an especially nice telegram (delivered, of course, via the postal service, as telegrams are now).

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Aug 12 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The BBC/PBS "A Scandal in Belgravia" has received 13 nominations for prime-time Emmy Awards from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, including outstanding mini-series or movie, lead actor (Benedict Cumberbatch), supporting actor (Martin Freeman), and writing (Steven Moffat); the awards are to be announced on Sept. 23. It's possible that the producers decided to submit "Sherlock" as a mini-series rather than as a drama series to avoid competition with the extremely-popular "Downton Abbey".

"Why didn't you tell me about this reading thing? This reading business, Dad, I really recommend it. Maybe you should give it a try." A quote from the younger generation in Australia, in an opinion piece by the Dad in the Sydney Morning Herald, July 28 <www.tinyurl.com/cdtkyas>, written after his son saw the "Sherlock" mini-series and discovered that it was possible to read stories about Sherlock Holmes.

There's also a blog by Lynnette Porter <www.tinyurl.com/c8ztmnh> reporting on an Internet survey that generated some interesting numbers from fans of the mini-series: more than 68 percent have read Conan Doyle's stories about Sherlock Holmes. And more than 70 percent read or write fanfiction, which suggests that at least a few people who prefer fanfiction to the originals, and possibly base their fanfiction on television or films, rather than the printed page.

Ely Liebow reported The Brigadier Gerard many years ago (Aug 95 #2); it is a pub in York, named not in honor of the hero of Conan Doyle's stories, but rather for the famous race horse (which was named for Conan Doyle's swash-buckling hero). It's not unique: there's another Brigadier Gerard in Eastleigh in Hampshire, and of course both can be found with a Google search.

Martin H. Greenberg died on June 25, 2011. He was the dean of the school of international studies at Florida International University, and the first director of graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and was a well-known editor in the fields of mystery, horror, and science fiction, winning an Ellery Queen Award from the Mystery Writers of America in 1995. Anthologies he helped edit included SHERLOCK HOLMES THROUGH TIME AND SPACE (1986), THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1987), SHERLOCK HOLMES IN ORBIT (1995), HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS (1996), MORE HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS (1999), MURDER IN BAKER STREET (2001), MURDER, MY DEAR WATSON (2002), GHOSTS IN BAKER STREET (2004), and SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA (2009).

The Wildclaw Theatre Company will present (one performance only) a dramatization of Neil Gaiman's pastiche "A Study in Emerald" during its "Masque of the Red Death Gala Benefit" at the Strawdog Theatre on Sept. 15. The theater's at 3829 North Broadway, Chicago, IL 60613 <www.wildclawtheatre.com>.

THE LOST CASEBOOKS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Donald Thomas (New York: Pegasus Books, 2012; 873 pp., \$35.00), is a one-volume reprint of his earlier THE SECRET CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1997), SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE VOICE FROM THE CRYPT (2002), and THE EXECUTION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2008); he is one of the better authors of pastiches, and this collection offers 18 of his stories, some based on true crimes and others new inventions.

Aug 12 #2 Those who have access to the Internet likely have seen images inspired by the "Believe in Sherlock" movement launched after the finale of the BBC's second "Sherlock" mini-series (Feb 12 #1); the person who launched the movement was Mika Hallor, and you can read more about her at www.tinyurl.com/cqnbwfg and in an article in the summer issue of The Baker Street Journal by three members of the Baker Street Babes (Taylor Blumenberg, Jenn Eaker, and Amy Thomas), along with an imaginative report (by Leslie S. Klinger) on his discovery of a press account of the memorial service for Sherlock Holmes in 1891.

The BSJ appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere); checks can be sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), and credit-card payments are welcome from foreign subscribers. You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at www.bakerstreetjournal.com, which also has interesting features such as some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSJ, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.

Great Britain has honored the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens by issuing a set of attractive stamps that show some of his characters, drawn by Joseph Clayton Clarke. One of the stamps shows Mr. Pickwick, who is mentioned in the Canon: "There was something of Mr. Pickwick's benevolence in his appearance, marred only by the insincerity of the fixed smile and by the hard glitter of those restless and penetrating eyes." That's from Watson description of the worst man in London (Charles Augustus Milverton).



Bob Katz has noted an interesting "Literary Detectives Deathmatch" at the Huffington Post (Nov. 29, 2011) www.tinyurl.com/coytdp9. The challenge was posed by books editor Andrew Losowsky, and the responses are all his, including the imaginative finale between Miss Marple and Sherlock Holmes. You can click through the brackets to follow the battle.

NBC Today ran a four-minute segment titled "It's Elementary: On the Trail of Sherlock Holmes" from London on Aug. 2, with Keith Miller interviewing Roger Johnson and two of the Baker Street Babes (Kristina Manente and Katherine Ryan); you may still be able to see it at www.tinyurl.com/cwnt98w.

The Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes and the Turf Builders of Baker Street have organized another "no frills" version of The Silver Blaze on Oct. 6 at Monmouth Park in Long Branch, N.J. The organizers promise free handicapping, along with a warning: *caveat bettor*. Additional information is available from Peter McIntyre (732-765-1240) psipete@optonline.net and Kate Karlson kkarlson@stny.rr.com.

The Ironmongers Daily News (published almost daily by the Société Sherlock Holmes de France) reports a Spanish film "Holmes y Watson: Madrid Days" due for release by Atla Films on Sept. 7, with Gary Piquer as Holmes and José Luis Garci as Watson (in pursuit of Jack the Ripper). There's a two-minute trailer at www.youtube.com/watch?v=U95o3Ee4Kno. The film's listed at the Internet Movie Data Base and Wikipedia as "Holmes: Madrid suite 1890".

Aug 12 #3 "Join Sherlock Holmes at the Edgar Allan Poe Mystery Writers of America Awards Dinner" is the title of the 56-page dinner program published for the dinner on Apr. 26, and the contents include tributes by Dana Stabenow, Peter Abrahams, Donna Andrews, Jan Burke, Kristine Kathryn Rusch, Carole Nelson Douglas, Lyndsay Faye, Steve Hockensmith, Leslie S. Klinger, Laurie R. King, Toni L. P. Keiner, David Wright, Barbara Peters, SJ Rozan, and David Wright. The bad news is that it appears that the only way to acquire a copy is to beg, borrow, or steal one from a member of the MWA.

Smithsonian magazine's interesting "Design Decoded" blog (Jul 12 #4) continued its Sherlockian entries with Jimmy Stamp's "Sherlock Holmes and the Tools of Detection" and "A Modern Sherlock Holmes and the Technology of Detection" and Sarah C. Rich's "The Architecture of Memory"; you can find the entire series at <www.blogs.smithsonianmag.com/design/2012/08>.

Maria Konnikova, who is working on a Ph.D. in psychology at Columbia University, has written Sherlockian essays for to the Scientific American blog (Sep 11 #6) and elsewhere, and you can read them all (and other non-Sherlockian pieces) at her interesting web-site <www.mariakonnikova.com>.

Philip José Farmer's imaginative science fiction included the world of the Wold Newton Family, which included Sherlock Holmes, Tarzan, and many other fictional characters, and THE OTHER LOG OF PHILEAS FOGG (1973) demonstrated just how complicated the affairs of the Family could be; dedicated to H. W. Starr, it included a reprint of Starr's article "A Submersible Subterfuge, or Proof Impositive" (first published by The Sons of the Copper Beeches). The book has been reissued (London: Titan Books, 2012; 306 pp., \$9.95) with a helpful afterword and chronology by Win Scott Eckert, and the new edition is also dedicated to the members of The Hansoms of John Clayton of Peoria (where Farmer lived for many years). Titan plans to publish more titles in the Wold Newton series, and their web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club", previously scheduled at the Round House Theatre in Bethesda, Md., May 29-June 23, 2013, has been cancelled; the theater's new artistic director decided that Gina Gionfriddo's comedy "Becky Shaw" was more to his taste.

Carole Nelson Douglas (author of the Irene Adler series) will be inducted into the Texas Literary Hall of Fame on Oct. 19. Founded by the Friends of the Fort Worth Library in 2004, the Hall of Fame "honors authors whose body of work enhances Texas' literary heritage, is original and first published in this country, and has already been recognized for its literary significance."

Edinburgh's was recognized as the first "world city of literature" (Aug 04 #5) by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization), and there are others now, including Iowa City, whose City of Literature web-site at <www.cityofliteratureusa.org/node/1> displays city resident Al Dawson's article in the latest issue of The Magic Door (Jul 12 #1). Iowa City also claims Nicholas Meyer, who graduated from the University of Iowa's Department of Theatre Arts and went on to write THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION and other pastiches.

Aug 12 #4 Darlene Cypser's THE CONSULTING DETECTIVE TRILOGY: PART I: UNIVERSITY (Morrison: Foolsap & Quill, 2012; 323 pp., \$14.99) is a sequel to her THE CRACK IN THE LENS (Mar 11 #6); Holmes is now at university (Cambridge) and beginning the studies that led him to his career as a detective, and "The Gloria Scott" is only one of the mysteries he solves. Again, there's nice local flavor, interesting psychology, and good writing. Two more volumes are to come, covering the years until Holmes meets Watson.

ANOMALOUS, by Samuel Williams, Jr. (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 220 pp., £9.99), is a pastiche by a black author who involves Holmes and Watson with Steve Dixie and Lucy Hebron, and with Jack Johnson, Big Jim Colosimo, Johnny Torrio, Frankie Yale, Al Capone, in Chicago and in London.

William Windom died on Aug. 16. He had a long career as a character actor in films and on television, including playing Dr. Seth Hazlitt in more than episodes of the series "Murder, She Wrote". He also was Watson in a California Artists Radio Theatre production in the 1990s of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" with David Warner as Holmes and Samantha Eggar as Alice Faulkner.

The CART broadcast of "Sherlock Holmes" is available on CD (\$20.00) and as an MP3 download (\$10.00) at their web-site <www.cartradio.com>, along with their broadcast of Conan Doyle's "Selecting a Ghost" (\$15.00/\$7.50) (Jul 05 #1).

More Olympics: "26 Miles" is a new radio play written by Anthony Sergeant for the Wireless Theatre Company <www.wirelesstheatrecompany.co.uk>; it's fact and then fantasy about the Marathon in 1908, and Conan Doyle is mentioned twice. You can listen or download (there's no charge) at their web-site, where you'll also find their amusing "Sherlock Holmes Strikes Back!" (Sep 11 #3).

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-7.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, including a set of photographs from the Gathering of Southern Sherlockians in Chattanooga in April.

"There were one hundred and forty-three diamonds of the first water," Jonathan Small explained (in "The Sign of the Four"), "including one which has been called, I believe, 'the Great Mogul.'" The Great Mogul also was the title of any of the Muslim emperors of India from 1526 to 1857, during what is called the Mughal Empire. "Mughal India: Art, Culture, and Empire" will be on display at the British Library from Nov. 9 through Apr. 2. There's an illustrated announcement at <www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions>, and if you would like to see some of the Mughal treasures in the British Museum, there is an interesting web-site at <www.mughalindia.co.uk>.

Mary Loving has noted an announcement in the Marshfield News Herald (Aug. 13) that the University of Wisconsin/Marshfield/Wood County will present a "Sherlock Holmes learning cluster" in the fall semester, with three interconnected courses, a lecture series open to the general public, and a film series, plus a community read of "The Hound of the Baskervilles". There's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/96asmq4>.

Aug 12 #5 Robert E. Robinson ("The Hansom Cab") died on Aug. 11. He was an organic chemist and co-founder and president of Lindau Chemicals, and enthusiastic about classical music, opera, and Sherlock Holmes; he was program chairman for The Hansom Wheels of Columbia and wrote and he produced many plays for the society. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.

The A. D. Players plan to produce Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at the Grace Theatre, Sept. 5-Oct. 7. 2710 West Alabama Street, Houston, TX 77098) (713-526-2721) <www.adplayers.org>.

If you have enjoyed seeing jellyfish in aquariums and think you'd like to have some of your own, they're available from Jellyfish Art, with tanks and food; they're not inexpensive, and the varieties offered do not include the lion's mane, but the company's web-site is at <www.jellyfishart.com>.

The Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre will present Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" at the Charity Randall Theatre on Dec. 4-21, 2013. 4301 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 (412-561-6000) <www.picttheatre.org>.

Michael Hecht will appear in "What I Learned from Sherlock Holmes" at the Stoughton Opera House on Oct 3. 381 East Main Street, Stoughton, WI 53589 (608-877-4400) <www.tinyurl.com/4bhbo8y>; according to the publicity, "Local visual and literary artist Michael Hecht explores the times and artistic influences that gave birth to the great detective," and Hecht's personal view is expressed through the writings of Poe, Darwin, Wilde, and great events including Krakatoa to the Oxford dictionary; visual pieces and music will also be utilized to tell this story." Thanks to Tom Drucker for spotting this unusual event, which is open to the public, with a free-will donation requested.

"Sherlock Holmes--A Study in Fear" is a new play, written by John Goodrum (based on "The Final Problem"), with Nicholas Briggs starring as Sherlock Holmes, to be performed on tour in Britain by the Rumpus Theatre Company from Sept. 11 to Oct. 27 <www.rumpustheatrecompany.co.uk/future.htm>.

More Sherlock Holmes at the Olympics: Kelly Blau noted a report in the N.Y. Times (Aug. 7) that the Kazakhstan women's synchronized swimming team (Anna Kulkin and Aigerem Zhexembinova) performed to music from "Sherlock Holmes" (the Robert Downey Jr. film); Zhexembinova explained that "we pretended to make pistols with our hands." Alas, they didn't qualify for the finals.

Finally, I've not heard from anyone who observed a Sherlockian quote amid all the newsprint that was used in the set designs during the closing ceremonies; of course we couldn't see it all watching NBC-TV, and what we did see wasn't all that legible.

Grubwithus (a social-networking web-site) will host Sherlock-themed dinners tied to the upcoming CBS-TV series "Elementary" on Sept. 13 in ten cities (New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia, Boston, Seattle, Dallas, and Atlanta) <www.tinyurl.com/8wvhw2f>; the meal (with an appropriate menu) costs \$25.00 and includes a "free DVD screener" of the show.

Aug 12 #6 The Exhibits Development Group has announced additional venues for "Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction", an interactive exhibition that will tour science museums starting in 2013 (Apr 12 #1); the tour begins at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland, Oct. 10, 2013-Jan. 5, 2014, continuing at the Center for Science & Industry in Columbus, Feb. 6-Sept. 8, 2014, and then at the Dallas Museum of Nature and Science, Oct. 9, 2014, to Jan. 4, 2015, with an additional stop at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., June 11-Sept. 6, 2015. Visit www.exhibitsdevelopment.com/SherlockHolmes.html for additional information about the exhibition.

Colin Mochrie, who appeared in the improv show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" and is now on "Trust Us with Your Life" on ABC-TV, has written a book "Not Quite the Classics" due this fall from Penguin. "I take the first and last line of 12 famous novels and make up a different middle," he told USA Weekend (Aug. 3-5). "One is based on 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'; my story is how Sherlock Holmes decided he wants to be a stand-up comedian."

Darlene Cypser has reported the web-site goodreads, where there is a page www.tinyurl.com/9yndugd allowing people to rank their favorite Sherlockian pastiches. Not many people seem to be voting, although of course that may change as more Sherlockians start visiting the web-site; at the moment the winner (with 21 votes) is Luke Benjamin Kuhns' THE UNTOLD ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with Nicholas Meyer's THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION second (with 19 votes). Another list (Beyond Conan Doyle--Best of the Continuing Cases of Sherlock Holmes) www.tinyurl.com/9m8pvse has different results.

He's back! The statue of Sherlock Holmes is once again on view in Picardy Place in Edinburgh. Removed in 2009 because it blocked construction of a new tram line (Jul 09 #4), the bronze statue was commissioned by the Federation of Master Builders to mark its 50th anniversary in 1991, and has been reinstalled near the site of the house where Conan Doyle was born.

An intriguing item is coming up for auction at the Rock Island Auction Company on Sept. 9: the Waterloo Bravery Medal Awarded to Corporal Brewster, estimated at \$3,500-6,500. It's a silver medal presented to Corporal Brewster from the officers of the Coldstream Guards, in fine condition, and the author of the catalog description was not able to confirm the link between the medal and Conan Doyle's character in "A Straggler of '15" (further research, the catalog notes, "could provide some interesting results"); there is more information at www.rockisland.com/viewitem/aid/56/lid/3432.

The web-site Badass Digest has reported (Aug. 14) that Paramount has asked Chris Columbus to "steer" a remake of their "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985); the original film, directed by Columbus, starred Nicholas Rowe and Alan Cox and had a total domestic gross of \$19.7 million. "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" had a domestic gross of \$39.6 million its first weekend. Paramount's plans likely fall into the "wouldn't it be a good idea" category of copycat films such as Columbia Pictures' announcement (Jul 08 #3) of a film starring Sacha Baron Cohen as Holmes and Will Ferrell as Watson.

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Sep 12 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The London Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games is now auctioning memorabilia in hopes of recovering some of the £9.3 billion cost of the Games; the imaginatively decorated statue of Sherlock Wenlock (Jul 12 #5) has already been sold, for £6,520. The folks at Sherlockology have kindly posted photographs and an explanation of the 13 references to the Canon displayed on the statue <www.tinyurl.com/8m7c9kr>.

And there is one last note on the Olympics: viewers of the closing ceremonies will recall seeing sheets newsprint with quotations from the works of literary and cultural figures. One of them was Conan Doyle (represented by a quote from "The Hound of the Baskervilles"); this was not visible during the broadcast on NBC-TV in the U.S., and no one has reported seeing it in the U.K., and (alas) there seems to be no archive of official photographs of the more than 100 quotations.

Stuart M. Kaminsky's play "The Final Toast" (2008) will be performed by the St. Jude's Players Nov. 14-24. St. Jude's Hall (444 Brighton Road, Brighton, SA 5048, Australia (08-8296-2628) <www.stjudesplayers.asn.au>.

The official launch party for Laurie R. King's GARMENT OF SHADOWS (Jul 12 #1) was held this month at the Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Phoenix, and there is a 90-minute video at <www.livestream.com/poisonedpen/LRK> of Laurie interviewed by Poisoned Pen proprietor Barbara Peters.

The Hedgerow Theatre will present Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" (1978) from Oct. 4 to Nov. 5. 64 Rose Valley Road, Rose Valley, PA 19063 (610-565-4211) <www.hedgrerowtheatre.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" (the conference presented by the UCLA School of Television, Film & Theater and The Baker Street Irregulars over the Labor Day weekend) was thoroughly delightful. The speakers included John Landis and director-screenwriter Nicholas Meyer ("From Paper to Celluloid: Adapting Holmes for the Screen"), directors John Musker and Ron Clements ("The Great Mouse Detective"), author Lyndsay Faye ("The Women: Sex and Success in the Canon, the BBC, and Warner Brothers"), film historian Russell Merritt ("How Holmes Crashed the Silents Without His Boswell and Fell to Moriarty"), lawyers Betsy Rosenblatt and Jonathan Kirsch ("Intellectual Property and Copyright"), and many others, and had a chance to see a true film rarity (Eille Norwood's "The Sign of Four" accompanied by expert Philip Carli on piano) and the pilot episode of "Elementary" (with producer Rob Doherty on hand to tell stories and answer questions).

Those who want to know more about the conference can read tweets by Lyndsay Faye and others; just go to <www.twitter.com> and search for #UCLASherlock or @lyndsayfaye.

Mary Burke reports that Condé Nast Traveler offers a "Literary World Tour" of "7 Famous Authors' Homes You Can Visit" <www.tinyurl.com/9pb6jjd>. The list includes The Sherlock Holmes Museum ("Okay, so Sherlock Holmes is neither a writer nor a real person. But the character, created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, remains one of the literary world's most famous").

Sep 12 #2 The animated movie "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes" (Mar 12 #6) now has a director: John Stevenson, who directed "Kung Fu Panda". Elton John's Rocket Pictures is producing the film, and there are reports the production will start early next year, for a release in 2014. Gnomeo and Juliet enlist the help of Sherlock Gnomes, the world's greatest ornamental detective, to investigate why gnomes are disappearing from England's suburban gardens.

Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" can be seen at the Nashville Children's Theatre through Oct. 7 (25 Middleton Street, Nashville, TN 37210) (615-252-4675) <www.nashvillechildrenstheatre.org>; and at the Repertory East Playhouse through Oct. 20 (24266 Main Street, Newhall, CA 91321) (611-288-0000) <www.repeastplayhouse.org>.

"The Virgin and the Book Dealer" is the theme for this year's NYC Vintage Paperback & Pulp Fiction Expo at the Holiday Inn (440 West 57th Street in New York) on Oct. 14; it's organized by Gary Lovisi (Sherlockian author and editor), and the guest authors will include Sherlockian pastichists Carolyn Bugge and Marvin Kaye <www.gryphonbooks.com>.

Jerry Nelson died on Aug. 23. He worked as a puppeteer with Bil Baird and then went to work for Jim Henson, creating Sherlock Hemlock and many other memorable muppet characters on "Sesame Street" and "The Muppet Show".

Betty G. Birney's MYSTERIES ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY (New York: G. P. Putnam's Son, 2012; 146 pp., \$14.99) is a pleasant book for young readers; Humphrey is a hamster (in deerstalker on the dust jacket) who resides in room 26 of Longfellow School, and listens as the class learns about "an unsqueakably smart detective named Sherlock Holmes" and does some detecting on his own.

"The Murder of the World's Most Famous Detective" was an interesting pastiche published in 1908 (as "L'Assassinat de plus Célèbre Détective"), the first in a series of "fascicules" written by Antonin Reschal about the exploits of "Miss Boston: La seule détective-femme du monde entier"; the most famous detective was indeed Sherlock Holmes, and Miss Boston, with the help of Dr. Watson, captures the murderer. THE ADVENTURES OF MISS BOSTON: THE FIRST FEMALE DETECTIVE (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2012; 306 pp., \$22.95) is a collection of eleven stories, translated by Nina Cooper, who also wrote an informative introduction. Miss Boston was of course not the only female detective in the entire world at the time, and Reschal knew (or cared) very little about American geography; Miss Boston's adventures take place in a New York that few of his readers had ever visited.

The publisher <www.blackcoatpress.com> also offers a nice list of books by Maurice Leblanc (and pastiches by others) about Arsène Lupin, including reprints of Sherlockian stories in Leblanc's THE PHANTOM BLONDE and THE HOLLOW NEEDLE in a new collection THE MANY FACES OF ARSENE LUPIN.

The Los Angeles Times web-site has an interesting set of photographs titled "Sherlock Holmes: Revealing the Detective's Place in Pop Culture", and it's well worth taking a look <www.tinyurl.com/coorjbr4>, because they have come up with some unusual items, including a reference to the Canon in the lyrics of the song "Waiting for Sex" by the English synth-pop duo Erasure.

Sep 12 #3 "The Art of Jonathan Barry" was exhibited this month at the No Grants Gallery in Dublin; Barry specializes in painting scenes from literary classics and has just turned his attention to the Canon. You can see his portrait of Sherlock Holmes (in full color) in an article noted by Karen Murdock in the Irish Times (Sept. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/9o5bn6b>.

Karen Murdock spotted a report that Benedict Cumberbatch will make a guest appearance on the next season of "The Simpsons" in an episode titled "Love Is a Many-Splintered Thing", playing both the British Prime Minister and a snake-like character; he was in Los Angeles for four months shooting "Star Trek 2" and asked the series producers if he could have a cameo role. And there was a report in the Daily Express (Sept. 8) that the next season of "Sherlock" will be the last, because Cumberbatch and Freeman are enjoying flourishing film careers. "It's a question of schedules," an unidentified source told the paper, "they will no doubt be signing off in style."

"Sherlock Holmes and a Most Irregular Tea Party" is an "interactive drama" being presented by the Milwaukee Entertainment Group at the Brumder Mansion through Oct. 14; 3046 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53208 (414-388-9104) <www.milwaukeeentertainmentgroup.com>.

Stephanie Watson's ROBERT DOWNEY JR.: BLOCKBUSTER MOVIE STAR (Minneapolis: ABDO, 2012; 112 pp., \$23.95) is part of ABDO's "Contemporary Lives" series (which also includes Justin Bieber, Eminem, Lady Gaga, Jay-Z, Kim Kardashian, Taylor Swift, and Justin Timberlake); it's written for younger read-, with many illustrations, and with two pages on Downey's "Sherlock Holmes". The publisher's web-site's at <www.abdopublishing.com>.

Lloyd Rose spotted an amusing Sherlockian birthday cake, which you can see in full color at "Police Boxes and Death Frisbies...and Aeroplanes Too" on Tumblr <www.tinyurl.com/8z3e284>.

Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (62 pp.) celebrates the founding of the society with a series of reminiscences about the early days, and about founders that included Steve Clarkson and Paul Churchill (the third founder, Rod McCaslin has contributed his own essay), and Matt Rutkowski's winning essay for this year's Clarkson Prize, named in honor of the late Steve Clarkson and sponsored by the society for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md. The cost is \$15.00 postpaid, from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).

Sorry about that: if you are planning to see Jeffrey Hatcher's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" at the Park Square Theater next year (Jul 12 #4), the theater is in St. Paul, not Minneapolis.

The panels have been announced for Bouchercon in Cleveland on Oct. 4-7, and one of them is "Elementary My Dear Cleveland" (How Sherlock Holmes Is Still Influencing Fiction Today) with Les Klinger, Michael Robinson, Dan Andriaco, Laurie King, Sara Paretsky, and Dan Stashower). Laurie will also be on a panel on "Our Inspirations" (What Books/Plays/ Films/TV Shows/Music Made Us the Writers We Are Today?). Go to <www.bouchercon2012.com> for the complete schedule.

Sep 12 #4 The delightful parody "The Hound of the Baskervilles" written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007 is being performed by the Virginia Repertory Theatre at the Hanover Tavern until Nov. 4. The tavern is at 13181 Hanover Court Courthouse Road, Hanover, VA 23069 (804-282-2620), and the company's web-site is at <www.va-rep.org>.

Karen Murdock noted a report that the Royal Western India Turf Club's "Live Legend Plate" was run at Pune on Sept. 9. Snow Mountain won the race, with Persian finishing second and Theology third, with Sherlock Holmes fourth. Sherlock Holmes is a three-year-old gelding, and you can see the race results at <www.racingpulse.in/Code/rupdate.aspx?pgId=34670>; there also is video at <www.indiarace.com/fullvedio.aspx?venue=Pune&date=09/12/2012>.

The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; the fall issue offers Bill Vande Water's report on his discovery of the ASH Constitution and Buy-Laws (now published some years after his report at one of their dinners), and Judith Freeman's refutation of the spurious document, accompanied by a reprinting (for the first time since 1975) of the actual ASH Bylaws (there seems never to have been an ASH Constitution). The Muse is published quarterly; \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).

"Sherlock Holmes in Brentwood" is a new play-reading series scheduled next year; it's a Sunday-afternoon series of readings by professional actors in a concert-hall venue in Brentwood, Calif., curated by Les Klinger. Plays read in the first season will include Jeremy Paul's "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's dramatization of "The Speckled Band". The web-site's at <www.sherlockholmesinbrentwood.com>.



The Postal Service has celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of William S. Porter, who adopted the pseudonym "O. Henry" while an inmate at the Ohio State Penitentiary and went on to become a successful author. His Sherlockian parodies include "The Adventures of Shamrock Jolnes" (1911) and "The Detective Detector" (1917). And if you've ever wondered what that initial abbreviated, there's an answer, from O. Henry himself, in the N.Y. Times (Apr. 4, 1909): A newspaper once wrote and asked what the O stands for, and he replied, 'O stands for Olivier, the French for Oliver.'

"Cosplay" is an aspect of modern culture that has its own entry at Wikipedia; it's a shortening of "costume play" and is described as a type of performance art in which participants don costumes and accessories to represent a specific character or idea. Cosplayers often interact to create a subculture centered on role play. A broader use of the term applies to any costumed role play in venues apart from the stage, regardless of the cultural content.

If that sounds familiar, it certainly should: Sherlockians have been doing that for decades, especially The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, which has just returned from its latest pilgrimage to Switzerland. There was a report at the N.Y. Times on Sept. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/9c4bfwz>, and there is video from the BBC at <www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-19598997>.

Sep 12 #5 Don Libey's THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (San Francisco: Campbell & Lewis, 2012; 132 pp., \$15.00) is an interesting approach to the Canon: the book was written by Holmes in 1929, after Watson's death, and it turns out that there were many things that Watson invented, including their address in London and the name of their landlady; the voice of Holmes is authentic, and his account of his life and career is intriguing.

Watson's Tin Box will host the sixth "Scintillation of Scions" at the Hilton Garden Inn in Hanover, Md., June 7-9, 2013; it's an entertaining gathering, and details are available from Jacquelyn Morris (3042 Old Channel Road, Laurel, MD 20724) <www.scintillation.org>. They have moved to a new venue because they outgrew the old one, and registration is limited to 100.

John Addy's SHERLOCKIAN PICTURE PUZZLES: A MONOGRAPH ON ELIOT KEEN'S 1905 ILLUSTRATIONS (2012; 28 pp.) offers a fascinating look at puzzles published in the N.Y. Herald and other American newspapers; they're a type of rebus picture puzzle, and they appeared at a time when puzzles were quite different than they are today (the first "word-cross" puzzle appeared in the N.Y. World in 1913). Created for children, they will challenge today's adults. The book is available from The Musgraves (Anne Jordan, Hallas Lodge, Green-side Lane, Cullingworth, Bradford BD13 5AP, England) and costs £7.50 (UK) / £10.00 (Europe) / \$25.00 (US+Canada) / \$30.00 (rest of world), all postpaid.

"The Life and Times of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Creator (Literary Agent) of Mr. Sherlock Holmes" will be the theme for the next "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore from 10:00 to 1:00 on Nov. 3; the event is sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies, the library is at 400 Cathedral Street, and there is no charge to attend.



The Postal Service has honored Edgar Rice Burroughs and Tarzan; "Tarzan of the Apes" was first published in 1912. Philip José Farmer explained in TARZAN ALIVE (1972) that Tarzan was related to Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes, as well as many other members of the Wold Newton family, which originated when a radioactive meteor landed in Wold Newton, England, in the year 1795. The family's web-site <www.pjfarmer.com/woldnewton/Pulp.htm> has a fine introduction by Win Scott Eckert, and an image of Farmer's amusing calling card.

"It is said that one measure of the popularity of a public personality is the number of rumours and urban legends that have grown up around him" is how Cliff Goldfarb begins his article on "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Dorando Affair" in the 2012 issue of the Journal of Olympic History. He offers a definitive history (and refutation) of the oft-repeated story that Conan Doyle assisted Dorando across the marathon finish line at the Olympics in London in 1908, tracking the story back to 1948. Copies of the journal are available from Anthony Bijkerk <tony.bijkerk@planet.nl>.

Cliff also has an interesting article on "Winston Churchill and Arthur Conan Doyle" in *Finest Hour: The Journal of Winston Churchill* (summer 2012), explaining the relationship between the two "Great Britons". The magazine costs \$5.95; Box 740, Moultonborough, NH 03254 <www.winstonchurchill.org>.

Sep 12 #6 The three-page manuscript of Conan Doyle's "Mr. Sherlock Holmes to his Friends" went to auction at Freeman's in Philadelphia on Sept. 20, estimated at \$5,000-8,000. The essay was published in The Strand Magazine (Mar. 27) as "Mr. Sherlock Holmes to His Readers" and revised and reprinted as the preface to THE CASE BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES; Randall Stock has provided details on the manuscript, and on other items in the auction, at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/sherlock-friends-ms-freemans.htm>. The manuscript sold for \$65,000 (plus buyer's premium, for a total of \$80,500).

"Sherlock" co-creator Steven Moffat offered a hint about the second season of the series: "The critical words, I'd say, would be--Adler, Hound, Reich-
enbach." (Oct 10 #7). The teaser words for the third season are Rat, Wedding, and Bow (reported by the Guardian from the Sherlock Holmes Masterclass in Edinburgh on Aug. 24). Shooting for the new season is expected to begin in January, for broadcast in August (producer Sue Vertue is "determined" to close the gap between broadcast dates in Britain and the U.S.). Speculation on the teaser words is rife, of course; Benedict Cumberbatch marrying Lara Pulver is low on the list of explanations for Wedding.

And Pulver, who was seen (to put it mildly) as Irene Adler in "A Scandal in Belgravia" but wasn't at the Masterclass, has denied rumors on the blogosphere that she will be the first woman to play Doctor Who.

Don Hobbs, always in pursuit of new Sherlockian translations, has found a quote in Gallifreyan. The quote is "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth," and you can see the translation at <www.tinyurl.com/9v499hm>. Old High Gallifreyan was the language of the Time Lords; by the time of the Doctor, it had evolved into Modern Gallifreyan and Circular Gallifreyan. The Doctor, of course, is Doctor Who. And the artist is Vyctoria Hart (aka Phantoms Siren); you can see more of her work (and let her know if you would like to commission a different quote) at <www.tinyurl.com/8jav4ja>. And you can wear her artwork as a tattoo <www.tinyurl.com/0bub5nc>.

Peggy Perdue has reported that the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library now owns the autograph book in which Conan Doyle first saw the stick-figure alphabet that inspired the dancing men cipher (Jul 06 #4); the autograph book was discovered at an antiques fair in Norwich (Nov 08 #8) and was recently purchase by the Collection. There's an interesting and well-illustrated blog about the book at <www.tinyurl.com/9ely93c>.

Just in time for Halloween: Steve Rothman notes "The Valley of Fear" (which is billed as "America's Most Horrifying Woods") also offers the "Original Haunted Hayride" through Nov. 3 at the Phoenix Sport Club (301 West Bristol Road, Feasterville, PA 19053 (216-942-9787) <www.valleyoffear.com>; apparently not Sherlockian except for the name. And there are Sherlockian costumes at available at <www.partycity.com>, including an quite adult detective costume for women that costs more and covers less than their Sherlock Holmes costume for men. Finally, Jennie Paton spotted a "Sherlock Holmes Halloween Pumpkin Carving Stencil" at <www.tinyurl.com/9mqckby>.

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20817-4401 (301-229-5669) <blau7103@comcast.net>

Oct 12 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Carol McCleary's *THE FORMULA FOR MURDER* (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2012; 336 pp., \$24.99) is the third in her series of mysteries featuring Nellie Bly, the adventurous American journalist; investigating the apparent suicide of a friend, Nellie travels to London, and Bath and Dartmoor, in 1890, and becomes involved with H. G. Wells, Oscar Wilde, and Arthur Conan Doyle (who is conducting research on the legends of ghostly hounds). The author has a web-site at www.carolmccleary.com.

John Linsenmeyer noted a report in the N.Y. Times (Sept. 17) that the Regency Hotel will close on Jan. 1 for a wholesale renovation that could last an entire year. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner was held at the Regency from 1972 through 1986.

"Sherlock Holmes Baffled" (1900) is credited as the first Sherlockian film (although it was made for a Mutoscope rather than a projector); how old is the first film known to have been shot in color?

It isn't new, but rather newly reported: there is an on-line "Great Mouse Detective" fan club at www.fanpop.com/spots/the-great-mouse-detective; it is an active web-site with 141 fans (at the moment) of the movie starring Basil of Baker Street.

Electronic cigarettes are a modern invention that give users a nicotine hit but are unaffected by bans on smoking, and Liberro (a British company) also offers electronic pipes; both can use the Holmes blend e-liquid, which has a "robust woody tobacco flavor" and is named in honor of Sherlock Holmes. Details at www.liberro.co.uk. Credit eagle-eyed John Baesch for spotting a mention of the blend in an advertising supplement in The Times (June 14).

Patricia Guy, author of *BACCHUS AT BAKER STREET: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND VICTORIAN DRINKING LORE* (Jan 08 #8), has an article on "Sherlock Holmes and Alcohol: Partners in Solving Crime" on-line at Wine-Searcher Magazine; go to www.tinyurl.com/9tbgaqw.

Robin Rigby reports that there will be a memorial service in London on Nov. 2 for Michael Procter, who died earlier this year (May 12 #1); details at his web-site at www.michael-procter.com.

Tracy Mack and Michael Citrin's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS* series for readers ages 9-12, ended in 2010 with the fourth book *THE FINAL MEETING* (Orchard Books/Scholastic Press, 248 pp., \$7.99); the series is interesting, with the Irregulars receiving as much attention as Holmes and Watson.

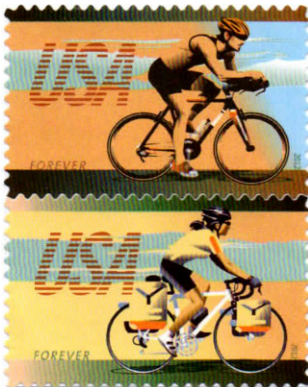
The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has reported on Chris Schweitzer, an imaginative artist who has created a spectacular set of Sherlock Holmes paper figures based on the BBC's "Sherlock" series available on five pages in full color at www.employeepages.scad.edu/~cshweitz/BBC-SHERLOCK-7380.pdf. And for those who are not dedicated fans of "Sherlock" there's a more traditional but nevertheless just as artistic set of eight figures for \$10.00 postpaid www.crogranadventuresstore.blogspot.com/p/merchandise.html.

Oct 12 #2 "The Real Sherlock Holmes" is a one-hour documentary that was broadcast by the History Channel in Canada on Sept. 28, but it did not air in the U.S., because the History Channel hasn't purchased the program. The program is aimed at a general audience and has commentary by Steve Doyle, Nick Utechin, E.J. Wagner, Mark Gatiss, and others. The production company is Storyline Entertainment, which will be happy to sell the documentary to a U.S. television channel. In the meantime, their web-site <www.realsherlock.com> offers a look what viewers outside Canada missed.

The first film shot in color was made in London in 1901 or 1902, and it has been preserved, and digitized, at the National Media Museum in Britain; you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/96bf9c7>. The first Sherlockian film shot in color was "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959).

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-9.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more.

The OScholars is "an electronic journal for the exchange of information on current research, publications, and productions concerning Oscar Wilde and his worlds," and there has been a call for papers (3000 to 4000 words) for a special issue devoted to Conan Doyle, edited by Sarah E. Maier; the deadline for abstracts (250 words) is Dec. 1, and more information is available at <www.call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/47971>.



The Postal Service has issued a set of stamps honoring "The Solitary Cyclist" (well, not really, but it does seem that way). Which leads to the question: who was the solitary cyclist? Violet Smith or Bob Carruthers? There is an answer to the question, and those who don't know the answer are invited to read the story and decide for yourselves (but if you read the story in THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, don't read the annotations, because Les Klinger gives the answer, which will also be revealed in this issue of my newsletter).

Don Petkus has noted that Skeletons in the Closet (the store operated by the Los Angeles County Coroner's Department) still offers Sherlockian merchandise, including T-shirts with a skeleton in Sherlockian costume (in black or white); they also sell a mug with a Sherlockian design. 1104 North Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90033 <www.lacoroner.com>.

Doug Wrigglesworth reports that Terry Fallis' UP AND DOWN (Toronto: Douglas Gibson, 2012; 432 pp., \$22.99) is a humorous novel whose Canadian protagonist is a serious Sherlockian and bibliophile.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's pilgrimage to Switzerland (Sep 12 #4), and as usual with the Society's excursions, there was a handsome handbook published: RETURN TO THE REICHENBACH: A SHERLOCK HOLMES SWISS ACCOUNT BOOK (2012, 114 pp.) is an excellent gathering of scholarship, artwork, and humor, and the postpaid cost is £17.50 (to the U.K.)/£20.00 (to Europe)/£25.00 (elsewhere) from the Society <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.

Oct 12 #3 The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has the "Sherlockian Memories" of Donald Yates, a "50 Years Ago" tribute to Henry T. Folsom and his Canonical chronologies by Julie McKuras, and other news from and about the collections. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Dick Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>).

Randall Stock reports the discovery of one more page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" to be offered at auction at Christie's in New York on Dec. 7. Randall has a detailed description of the page at his web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/9pyvz8p>.

Jim Weiss continues to offer his excellent recordings younger audiences as CDs (\$13.95) and MP3 downloads (\$10.95): SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR CHILDREN ("The Mazarin Stone"/"The Speckled Band"/"The Musgrave Ritual"/"The Blue Carbuncle") and MYSTERY! MYSTERY! ("The Red-Headed League" and tales by Chesterton and Poe); Greathall Productions, Box 5061, Charlottesville, VA 22905 (800-477-6234) <www.greathall.com>. And there's Sherlockian artwork at the home page of his web-site.

John Longenbaugh's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Taproot Theatre from Nov. 16 through Dec. 29; the theater is at 204 North 85th Street, Seattle, WA 98103 (206-781-9707) <www.taproottheatre.org>.

Titan continues to reprint Sax Rohmer's stories about Fu-Manchu (who "makes Professor Moriarty seem an under-achiever," Max Collins has noted); DAUGHTER OF FU-MANCHU (236 pp., \$9.95) is the fourth in the series, setting Sir Dennis Nayland Smith and Dr. Petrie against the evil Fah Lo Suee in 1913. And Titan has other non-Sherlockian series, including Kevin J. Anderson's alternative histories: THE MARTIAN WAR: A THRILLING EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT ALIEN INVASION involves H. G. Wells with Dr. Moreaux, Dr. Cavor, T. H. Huxley, and Percival Lowell, on Earth, the Moon, and Mars (342 pp., \$12.95). The publisher's web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.

Mark Alberstat's 2012 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. US\$15.00 postpaid, and his address is: 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2M2, Canada.

Who was the solitary cyclist? Bob Carruthers. The manuscript of the story is titled "The Adventure of the Solitary Man", a discovery made by Andrew Jay Peck, whose article "The Solitary Man-Uscript" was published in The Baker Street Journal (June 1972) and won Andy the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best paper published in the BSJ that year. His article was reprinted by The Baker Street Irregulars in "A REMARKABLE MIXTURE" (Jan 08 #3), still available at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> (\$35.00 plus shipping).

David Haugen (of The Sound of the Baskervilles) reports that Mimi Noyes is organizing a Seattle Sherlock Convention to be held Nov. 3-4. The convention focus will be on the BBC series, but there will also be panels on the Canon, and on "After ACD" pastiches; details at <www.sherlock-seattle.org>.

Oct 12 #4 MX Publishing <www.mxpublishing.com> continues to publish interesting Sherlockiana: SHERLOCK'S HOME: THE EMPTY HOUSE, edited by Steve Emecz (2012; 224 pp., \$16.95) is an anthology of pastiches, poems, and vignettes from participants of <www.sherlockology.com>, issued in support of the Undershaw Preservation Trust, with additional contributions from supporters of the Trust who include Mark Gatiss, Douglas Wilmer, Stephen Fry, and many others well known to Sherlockians. Completists may want to have the Russian translation, to be published soon by Amphora; you can watch a 3-minute television news report at <www.ntv.ru/novosti/344118>.

Also from MX Publishing is P. C. Martin's STEAMPUNK HOLMES: LEGACY OF THE NAUTILUS (2012; 142 pp., \$14.95); it's a steampunk retelling of "The Bruce-Partington Plans" featuring Sherlock Holmes, a bionic Dr. Watson, and Sherlock's sister Mycroft (steampunk's a modern Victorian science-fiction genre generally set in alternative universes). There's much more about steampunk projects at <www.steampunkholmes.com>.

And: Fiona-Jane Brown's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE JACOBITE ROSE (2012; 87 pp., \$10.95) is the script for a two-act play that involves Holmes and Watson with Mycroft and forgers and thieves. Charlotte Smith's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MURDER AT LODORE FALLS AND OTHER MINOR TALES (2012; 154 pp., \$12.95) has Holmes and Watson battling a villainous gang with evil plans afoot (the minor tales are Christmas vignettes rather than cases).

And: a reprint of Steven Seitz's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE PLAGUE OF DRACULA (2012; 178 pp., \$18.95), first published in 2006; Holmes is appropriately skeptical about the supernatural, but quite mistaken.

Henry Zecher and Gay Zurich offer ideas for Christmas: Henry's biography of William Gillette, and Gay's artwork on personalized cartoons and magnets; go to <www.artandsoulinc.com> and "Product Search" for [sherlock].

Ken Rozek reports a new set of eight stamps from Liechtenstein that honors famous figures from classical literature, all drawn by Swiss artist Oskar Weiss, and one of them being Sherlock Holmes; the cost of the set is 8.00 CHF (that's Swiss francs, for a total of about \$8.55) and their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/8hk6783>.



Randall Stock's gift-buyer's guide to the "Best 2012 Sherlock Holmes Books and Movies" <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm> will be posted at his web-site on Nov. 3.

Jacques Barzun died on Oct. 25, aged 104. He was a highly-regarded scholar with wide-ranging interests, and he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2003. One of his special interests was detective fiction, and he was co-author of A CATALOGUE OF CRIME (1971), a classic survey of the genre that won a special Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America; he also contributed often to The Baker Street Journal, wrote Sherlockian clerihews, and in SIMPLE AND DIRECT: A RHETORIC FOR WRITERS (1975) revealed that "to keep a bull pup" was, in the 1880s, British army slang for "to have a bad temper" (a revelation for which many Sherlockians have vainly sought supporting evidence).

Oct 12 #5 Sherlock Holmes' 158th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 11, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but you should let Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> or Evy Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com> know if you are coming to the event.

The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on Thursday on the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club (40 West 45th Street); Kim Newman, author of ANNO DRACULA (1992), THE MAN FROM THE DIOGENES CLUB (2005), and PROFESSOR MORIARTY: THE HOUND OF THE D'URBERVILLES (2011) will be the speaker. \$11.00; seating is limited, and you should reserve early (details below); tickets will not be sold at the door.

The Baker Street Babes will present a new birthday-festivities event: their "Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet Charity Ball" at 8:00 pm at the Salmagundi Club at 47 Fifth Avenue (between 11th and 12th Streets), offering a buffet dinner, cash bar, and entertainment; formal attire and Sherlockian costume are strongly encouraged. The cost is \$45.00, and proceeds will benefit the Wounded Warriors Project; more information at <www.bakerstreetbabes.com> or from Lyndsay Faye <lyndsay@bakerstreetbabes.com>.

Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house on Friday from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.

The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; the cost is \$47.00 for chicken or salmon (\$52.00 for prime rib). Checks can be sent to Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221b@gmail.com>.

The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); attendance is by invitation only. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (800 Seventh Avenue at 52nd Street); checks for \$78.00 (payable to Will Walsh) should be sent to Becky Robare at 111 North 9th Street #300, Philadelphia, PA 19107 (917-817-1608). The Gala web-site has more information at <www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com>.

Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and at the Gaslight Gala, and early reservations are advised if you wish to attend these events.

If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other mementos to be included in the various dinner packets you should send 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 18 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material must be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15.

Oct 12 #6 On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) in the Vanderbilt Suite (on the second floor of the Roosevelt Hotel at 45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; you can contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> for information about dealers' tables.

The Beacon Society will hold their annual meeting from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing the efforts of individuals to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people. Details at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>.

The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 at a Delmonco family midtown restaurant (to be named later); there will be hors d'oeuvres (adequate but not replacing lunch or dinner) and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks). And, of course, the usual (or perhaps unusual) entertainment; the cost is \$69.00 (details below) or \$79.00 after Nov. 26 or at the door.

For those who wish to continue partying, there are as yet no plans (firm or infirm) for sporting events at Kennedy's or other venues on Saturday evening; stay tuned (as they say) for a further report.

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Irish Rogue (356 West 44th Street, between Eighth and Ninth Avenues); \$20.00 payable by cash or check at the door. As always, the brunch is open to all, but space is limited; details about a fine way to end a long weekend are available from Lyndsay Faye (450 West 162nd Street #25-E, New York, NY 10032) <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com>.

Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate of \$199.00 per night (single or double room); the special rate is available only for reservations made through the Baker Street Irregulars by Nov. 19. In addition, there may be some rooms available at the Yale Club (50 Vanderbilt Avenue) at a special tax-free rate of \$200.00 per night (details on both below); guest cards for the Club's second-floor lounge are available to all Sherlockians.

And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement and reservation form (including prices) for the Roosevelt Hotel and the Yale Club, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, visit the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and click on BSI Weekend, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.

Mary Ellen Rich kindly continues to advise about hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.hotels.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.quikbook.com>; special rates also are available at <www.travelzoo.com/top20/82851294-890255>. You will be wise then to check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (and you should not forget about non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).

Oct 12 #7 The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.

And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and <www.bsiweekend.com>. News of additional events will be found in this newsletter, and at the web-sites.

"Sherlock & Shylock: The Sleuths of Venice" (the second conference arranged by the No Fog Countries) (Spain, Italy, and France) was an splendid gathering, thanks to hard work by members of Uno Studio in Holmes, who welcomed visitors as far-flung as Australia, Canada, Japan, and the U.S. The major event at the conference was the launch of SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: VIAGGIO IN ITALIA-ITALIAN JOURNEY, edited by Gianluca Salvatori, Enrico Solito, and Roberto Vianello; the book is a carefully-researched exploration of two albums of postcards and photographs devoted to Conan Doyle's visits to Italy, purchased at the auction at Christie's in 2004 by Richard J. Sveum. Everything in the book (Rome: Bobi Bazlen; 146 pp., E30.00) is presented in both Italian and English. You can purchase the book directly from the publisher (using PayPal) <info@bobibazlenservice.it>. Recommended.

One of the nice things about eBooks is that they're a fine way to keep authors' books in print. The late Stuart Kaminsky wrote 24 novels about Toby Peters (described by Kaminsky as "the anti-Philip Marlowe"), and they are all available from Otto Penzler's Mysterious Press; two of them are of particular interest: THE HOWARD HUGHES AFFAIR (1979), in which Basil Rathbone does some detecting, and HE DONE HER WRONG (1983), which involves a Sherlockian society called The Engineer's Thumbs. \$7.99 each on-line, and you can see all of the titles at <www.mysteriouspress.com>.

Electronic publishing also helps readers find short fiction, such as Roger Johnson's pastiche "The Adventure of the Grace Chalice" (first published in 1997 in THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURES), now available in a Kindle edition for \$1.20.

Richard H. Miller ("The Grice Patersons in the Island of Uffa") died Oct. 21. He served the U.S. Army (nuclear artillery) and in the U.S. Naval Reserve (intelligence, although he sometimes claimed to be in charge of disposing of all enemy mines discovered in New Mexico), and he worked for many years as lawyer at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Dick was one of the founders of The Brothers Three of Moriarty, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.

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Nov 12 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: the Beacon Society will meet in the Park Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel from 10:00 to 11:15 am on Saturday, Jan. 12. Details at their web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com>.

Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will once again host The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner on Saturday at 6:00 pm at Pete's Tavern (129 East 18th Street, between Irving Place and Third Avenue); \$45.00 (including tax and tip) for two drinks and dinner, and the details are available from Chrys (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.

And a reminder: seasonal souvenirs or other mementos intended for various dinner packets should be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15: 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 18 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278).

Amanda L. Goode's SHERLOCK CLYDE AND THE CHICKEN CAPER (Randy Goode, 2008; 64 pp., \$11.96) is an amusing mystery for young readers: Clyde is a retired draft horse who lives on a south Texas ranch and investigate why chickens are going missing at an alarming rate. Available at <www.lulu.com>.

Scotland Yard is for sale. Not Great Scotland Yard, the original home of the Metropolitan Police, but rather New Scotland Yard, which has served as police headquarters since 1967; it also houses the Home Office Large Major Enquiry System (HOLMES). The police hope to save more than £500 million a year from an annual budget of £3.6 billion, and expect to receive as much as £150 million for the building after they move to a smaller building near Whitehall.

Katie Forgette's play "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be presented by the Greenville Little Theatre from Feb. 2 to Mar. 9, 2013. The theater is at 444 College Street, Greenville, SC 29601 (864-233-6238) <www.greenvillelittletheatre.org>.

Nicholas Utechin's AMAZING & EXTRAORDINARY FACTS: SHERLOCK HOLMES (Newton Abbott: David & Charles, 2012; 140 pp., £9.99) is an informed and informative exploration of the Canon and its major characters, of its author and of what other authors and actors have brought to the Sherlockian world, all explained for general readers with style and occasional humor; it's a fine gift for people who have read the Sherlock Holmes stories and want to know more about them.

Bouchercon 2012 in Cleveland was quite successful, by all reports, with an agenda that included a Sherlockian panel ("Elementary, My Dear Cleveland"). Bouchercon 2013 ("A New York State of Crime") will be held in Albany Sept. 19-20, Bouchercon 2014 ("Murder at the Beach" in Long Beach on Nov. 13-16, and Bouchercon 2015 (no slogan as yet) in Raleigh on Oct. 8-11. Their web-sites are at <www.bouchercon201x.com> (substitute a numeral for the x).

Nov 12 #2 Nielsen's "live plus same day" data credited the "Elementary" pilot episode with 13.4 viewers, winning its network time slot, and the series has continued to do well, with most newspaper and Internet reviews quite favorable. According to CBS, the series is up 17% over the same time period last year for adults aged 18-49 (the prime target for such shows), and the network has ordered the "back nine" for the series, for a total of 22 episodes. CBS also has announced that a special episode of the series will receive the coveted post-Super Bowl time slot on Feb. 3. The previous Super Bowl had an estimated 111.3 viewers, and about 38 million of them stayed tuned in to watch the next program.

KY TEYLU BASKERVILLE is the latest language for Canonical translations reported by Don Hobbs; the language is Cornish, and the book is available at <www.amazon.com> (232 pp., \$16.95). Don notes that there now are 98 languages with at least one translation.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the King's Kitchen in Charlotte on Nov. 7, welcomed by Fred Mende (founder of The Saxe-Coburg Squares of Mecklenburg County). The city is named in honor of Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and there's a Sherlockian connection: she was Queen Consort of the United Kingdom, married to George III, the monarch whose folly Holmes mentioned (in "The Noble Bachelor").

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-10.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more.

Kelly Blau has kindly forwarded Diane Birnberg's colorful article on "Life at 221B Baker Street" in the Sept.-Oct. issue of Dollhouse Miniatures; she and her husband have a complete house, based on books, films, and television. \$6.95 (\$5.95 digital) (886-606-6587) <www.dhminiatures.com>.

It has been many years since the "Mazarin" stone was identified (BSJ, Sept. 1974, p. 141-145) as a 78.96-carat yellow diamond that was then among the crown jewels of Iran, and it's nice to learn that it is still in Teheran, one of the "Iranian Yellows" described in a catalog published by the Iran Chamber Society and available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/268kwn>.

There will be some yellow diamonds available at auction at Sotheby's in New York on Dec. 5, including a 47.14-carat diamond formerly in the collection of the Duchess of Windsor, part of a diamond pendant necklace estimated at \$1,500,000-2,000,000, and (if you want something a bit bigger) a 52.73 diamond ring estimated at \$3,000,000-4,000,000.

Nicole Marie Charlotte Pierette Jeanne Schneider Milinaire-Russell, Dowager Duchess of Bedford, died on Sept. 6. Nicole Milinaire was associate producer for Sheldon Reynolds' 1954 television series "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes". After her marriage to the Duke in 1964 she helped make Abbey the most popular stately home in Britain, and her NICOLE NOBODY: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE DUCHESS OF BEDFORD (1974) has a short chapter dealing with her work with Reynolds.

Nov 12 #3 The November issue of Ineffable Twaddle (the monthly newsletter of The Sound of the Baskervilles has news of Richard Milner's acquisition of the contents of a safe deposit box that had belonged to Sir Arthur Conan. There were two pistols, one of them originally purchased by Conan Doyle's brother Innes in 1893, and both weapons were left with Conan Doyle's solicitors in 1921 when the Firearms Act first became law. You can read more about the discovery at <www.soundofthebaskervilles.com>.

The newsletter also has a report of some interesting cufflinks that feature pages from a copy of a Sherlock Holmes adventure (\$34.50) available at Etsy <www.tinyurl.com/a5nakgp>.

"Will Arsène Lupin Meet Sherlock Holmes in Hollywood Return?" was the headline on a blog by Graham Fuller on Nov. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/b5uvfa7>. "Lupin is known as being to the French what Sherlock Holmes is to the English-speaking world," according to Liza Forman <www.tinyurl.com/ar97hzl>; Lupin encountered Holmes in stories written by Maurice Leblanc, and the new film (tentatively titled "Arsene Lupin AKA Once a Thief") is "set up at Warner Bros." (and is not yet even listed at the Internet Movie Data Base, which means that it hasn't reached the "in development" stage).

Nice news for Canonical chronologists: Jody Baker has reported a new "complete chronology" for Sherlock Holmes; it was prepared by Chris J. Miller and is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/7qcpwxk>. He includes a link to an interesting essay by David Richardson on "Some Chronological Crankiness" via the Wayback Machine, something that people may recall from "The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show". Today's Wayback Machine is a digital time capsule created by the Internet Archive in San Francisco, with more than 150 billion web pages from 1996 onward; it's a splendid way to recapture material from defunct web-sites.

Jody also has posted to The Hounds of the Internet a warm tribute to Christopher Morley, explaining that "Morley (and that little band of intellectual ruffians with whom he associated) set a tone that still exists today. They were a literate, talented, free-spirited, fun loving bunch of devotees who held nothing Canonical to be sacred. Everything was subject to their humor and became the objects of their spoof. They had their fun. It was clean fun, with refinement and civility. It is among the highest forms of entertainment."

Edward R. Hamilton, who specializes in remaindered books, offers interesting Sherlockian and Doylean books, DVDs, and CDs at nicely discounted prices; you can request a catalog (Box 15, Falls Village, CT 06031) or visit his web-site <www.hamiltonbook.com>.

Fossway, the developer that owns Undershaw, where Arthur Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, has been denied permission to appeal a high court ruling that the house may not be converted into flats (Jun 12 #1). The Don't Go Into the Cellar theater company will offer a free performance of their one-man show "Ho Ho Holmes" (which they describe as "Holmes in time for Christmas with some seasonal Sherlockian capers") at the Devil's Punchbowl Hotel in Hindhead on Dec. 23, in support of the Undershaw Preservation Trust; additional information available at <www.saveundershaw.com>.

Nov 12 #4 Harry Stephen Keeler, according to Google Books, is to some an overlooked genius, and to others the Ed Wood of detective fiction. And his novel THE RIDDLE OF THE TRAVELING SKULL (1934) features Milo Payne, who appears with a "long-beaked Sherlockholmsian cap" (noted by Paul Williams in Ineffable Twaddle, the monthly newsletter of The Sound of the Baskervilles). Keller apparently invented the word (with that spelling).

Paul Kurtz died on Oct. 20. He was a noted secular humanist and for decades debunked paranormal phenomena and pseudoscience; he founded the Center for Inquiry and the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, and in 1969 created Prometheus Books, which published books by Martin Gardner, Isaac Asimov, and many others.

Jim Webb spotted Beth Carswell's essay "Great Gumshoes: A Guide to Fictional Detectives at the AbeBooks.com <www.tinyurl.com/d4febqq>, with a report (courtesy of The Guardian) on an essay written by Agatha Christie in 1945 at the behest of the Ministry of Information in which she praised the excellence of British crime fiction, with lavish praise of Conan Doyle, and harsh comments about her won Hercule Poirot (with whom she had become bored to tears). You can read the Guardian article at <www.tinyurl.com/bysomda>, but to read Christie's essay you'll need to buy a copy of the new reprint of the collaborative novel ASK A POLICEMAN, recently published by Harper-Collins with the first-ever publication of her essay in the U.K. (according to The Guardian, it was first published in a Russian magazine in 1947).

David Marcum's THE PAPERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES has been published by George Vanderburgh (2011; 311 pp., \$25.00); the collection of nine pastiches has Holmes and Watson visiting Tennessee (where the author lives) and solving cases in England, with one of them explaining a family connection between Holmes and Solar Pons. The publisher's address is Box 50, R.R.4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0, Canada <www.batteredbox.com>.

And for a newer generation who may not be familiar with Solar Pons, you can consult Bob Byrne's web-site at <www.solarpons.com> and Charles Prepolec's discussion at <www.bakerstreetdozen.com/pons.html>.

Sabrina Herrera reports that "Doctor Who: The Great Detective" is the title of a "prequel" to the next Christmas Special "The Snowmen" (which will air in Britain on the BBC and in the U.S. on BBC America on Dec. 25); you can read all about it (and watch the 4-minute prequel and a trailer at the BBC web-site <www.tinyurl.com/bty67z5>. The current "Doctor Who" is created by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat, so it's understandable that there seem to be at least a few echoes of Sherlock Holmes in the upcoming Christmas Special.

When in London: the Geological Society of London will mark the centenary of the reading of Charles Dawson's "Piltdown Man" paper to the Society with a one-day conference on Dec. 18. There will be tours of the Natural History Museum's "Piltdown Centenary Exhibit" in the morning, and the papers in the afternoon will include David Martill's "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Piltdown Forgery"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/cow6fkx>. In 1994 Martill and Eberhard Frey described and named "Arthurdactylus conan-doylei" from a fossil found in northeastern Brazil (Aug 95 #6 and Sep 95 #2); it's a pterodactyl with a wing-span of 4.6 meters.

Nov 12 #5 Joe Fay (the manager of rare books at Heritage Auctions) "will attempt to solve the mystery of why one man from Flower Mound owns 3,000 books he can't read," in Dallas on Dec. 11 at 6:00 pm. The man in question is Don Hobbs, the "maniac collector" who specializes in Canonical foreign translations and will speak at the event; additional information is available from Heritage Auctions (800-872-2467) <rsvp@ha.com>.

Further to the report on "Sherlock & Shylock: The Sleuths of Venice" (Oct 12 #7), those who attended the conference were fortunate to have escaped a more recent extreme weather event: <www.tinyurl.com/cmpwmbh>.

Titan Books <www.titanbooks.com> continues to reissue Philip José Farmer's science fiction and fantasy: A FEAST UNKNOWN (303 pp., \$12.95) is an introduction to the non-Sherlock world of Lord Grandrith and Doc Caliban (Farmer's versions of Tarzan and Doc Savage), with much sex and violence, and a Postscript by Theodore Sturgeon, and a new Afterword by Arthur C. Sippo.

The Strand Magazine offers a full-color Sherlockian calendar for 2013, with more than a hundred illustrations, including original artwork (\$19.95). Go to <www.tinyurl.com/dxrhd7w> for more information.

Roger Johnson and Jean Upton's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MISCELLANY (Port Stroud: History Press, 2012; 223 pp., £9.99) has an appreciative foreword by Gyles Brandeth and entertaining descriptions of how interesting Sherlockians and Sherlockiana can be; it's an excellent introduction for beginners, and old hands will also find it a valuable guide to what admirers of Holmes and the Canon have done and are doing.

"The Arthur Conan Doyle Appreciation Society" is a new play written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson (who wrote "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for Peepolykus in 2007) and performed by Nicholson, Javier Marzan, and Gabriel Quigley at the Traverse Theatre, Dec. 4-22; according to the theater, "this riotous show fuses lecture, storytelling, slapstick comedy, and lightning-fast costume changes to explore some pretty big ideas" about Arthur Conan Doyle and his life and work. 10 Cambridge Street, Edinburgh EH1 2ED, Scotland (0131-228-1404) <www.traverse.co.uk>.

Another Christmas show coming up is "Sherlock Holmes: The Panto-Crime" at St. Ambrose Church Hall in Leyland, Dec. 4-8. The St. Ambrose Players are presenting "a highly traditional Christmas pantomime" in which Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is kidnapped by Toyland's evil Mrs. Moriarty, and Santa calls in Holmes and Watson to solve the crime. Moss Lane, Leyland, Lancs. PR25 4XA, England (0743-243-286) <www.stambroseplayers.co.uk>.

Keep an eye out for "The Starving Games", a new film now in production by the Safran Company; according to Variety (Oct. 22), it's a parody of "The Hunger Games", "The Avengers", "Sherlock Holmes", and "Harry Potter".

The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has found Heroes and Villains Miniatures, who offer a pair of attractive miniature busts of Holmes and Watson (€39.95), sculpted in resin at 1/12 scale by Raúl García Latorre; the company is in Spain, and their web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/c8xcxa3> has detailed instructions for assembling and painting the busts.

Nov 12 #6 Richard Lancelyn Green's copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual is now on display at the City Museum of Portsmouth, by way of celebrating the 125th anniversary of the publication of "A Study in Scarlet"; the City Council's press release at <www.tinyurl.com/apn7vl8> has a photograph of museums volunteer Aneta Martiskova wearing appropriate fingernail polish and lipstick. The copy of Beeton's will be exhibited until Jan. 31; Randall Stock has more about this copy at <www.tinyurl.com/az4m9ka>.

The Wrap (a web-site covering Hollywood) has reported on plans for a remake of "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985); Chris Columbus wrote the screenplay for the original film and will produce the remake for Paramount. The studio is "in talks with" Evan Spiliotopoulos to write a new script.

Tina Rhea spotted "Skull Panda Loves Everything" (a web-site that features Sam Logan's imaginative cartoons) and an amusing approach to the Canon published on Oct. 26 <www.skullpanda.com/post/34346166573>.

"The Sussex Vampire" wasn't a vampire, but there have been quite a few vampires in Sherlockian pastiches, starting in 1973, according to Bill Mason's list at <www.sherlockian.net/pastiches/vampires.html>.

"Jack the Ripper: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery Musical" had a two-performance run in Australia this month; the show is described as "the gothic, grizzly Jack the Ripper story, set in the backdrop of the seedy 'Arse End of London' Music Hall, investigated by a humorous Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson" and is scheduled at the Adelaide Fringe on Feb. 23 and Mar. 2 and 9. There is Facebook page [fans of jack the ripper a sherlock holmes mystery] with lots of photographs.

Alan Rettig spotted an imaginative two-minute animation ("The Case of the Broken Lamp") created by Alberto Beguierie, a student at the Ringling College of Art & Design in Sarasota, who offers a combination of film noir and youthful fun <www.vimeo.com/42728658>.

John R. Lavas has published a lavish "collector's centenary edition" of THE LOST WORLD in a limited edition of 300 copies (US\$115.00 plus shipping from New Zealand) with color illustrations and additional essays by other authors on topics such as "The Geology of the Lost World" and "The Lost World in Popular Culture"; more information is available from the publisher (Box 14-421, Panmure, Auckland 1741, New Zealand) <j.lavas@auckland.ac.nz>.

The Soci  t   Sherlock Holmes de France has reported a Benedict Cumberbatch Mask that "will transform you into an English film, television, and theater actor" (£3.49), at <www.mymask.co.uk/benedict-cumberbatch-177p.asp>.

Larry Hagman died on Nov. 23. He began his long career as an actor on the stage and went on to star in television, best known for his roles as Capt. Tony Nelson on "I Dream of Jeannie" (1965-1970) and as J. R. Ewing on "Dynasty" (1981-1989), he also played Sherlock Holmes in the television film "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (1976).

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

Dec 12 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: the Clients of Adrian Mulliner will hold a Junior Bloodstain in the Park Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel at 11:15 am on Saturday, Jan. 12. There will be a performance of "The Riddle of the Starving Swine", a play written by Gayle Lange Puhl, adapted by William Hyder, and with puppets created by Ken Vogel.

And those heading to New York may find some useful hints in Scott Monty's handy-dandy guide for newbies and veterans <www.bit.ly/bsitips>.

The Baker Street Irregulars will issue a new version of the electronic Baker Street Journal in January: the eBSJ v2 will be on sale on Saturday during the birthday festivities in Covent Garden West (that's the dealers room in the Roosevelt Hotel's Vanderbilt Suite) for \$149.95 (or \$49.95 to owners of the old BSJ CD-ROM who bring and surrender disk 4); the new DVD has all issues through 2011 on one disk, and will be more easily searchable. Go to <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/pdf/ebsj-cd-trade-in.pdf> for more information on the eBSJ v2. After the birthday festivities the new DVD will be available by mail at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/ebooks/ebsj.html> (the trade-in expires on May 1).

"Confessions of a Bookplate Junkie" (reported by Don Hobbs) is a blog that offers Lew Jaffe's "random thoughts from a passionate bookplate collector" <www.bookplatejunkie.blogspot.com>, and on Nov. 25 he displayed images of five bookplates showing fingerprints. One of the bookplates (with Frederic Dorr Steele artwork) is from S. Davis Levin's "A. Conan Doyle Collection" and is dated as early 20th century. A Google search has turned up a letter dated 1937 in which he said that he had been collecting bookplates for more than thirty years; does anyone know of him as a Conan Doyle collector?

SCARLET IN GASLIGHT was a comic-book series, written by Martin Powell and illustrated by Seppo Makinen and published by Eternity Comics in 1987 and 1988, with Sherlock Holmes engaged in a battle against Count Dracula. Now there's a 25th-anniversary reprint as a graphic novel (Los Angeles: Pulp 2.0 Press, 2011), with remastered artwork and an introduction by Win Scott Eckert, an interview with Powell.

James O'Brien's THE SCIENTIFIC SHERLOCK HOLMES: CRACKING THE CASE WITH SCIENCE AND FORENSICS (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012; 172 pp., \$29.95) offers an informed review of forensics both in the Canon and at the time the stories were written; O'Brien is a chemist, and pays particular attention to that area of forensics, offering a rebuttal to Isaac Asimov's claim that Holmes was a "blundering chemist" (in Science Digest in 1980).

O'Brien ends his book with a brief but entertaining discussion of Charles L. Scamahorn, whose "Probaway--Life Hacks" blog includes detailed explanations of how Conan Doyle was a prolific hoaxster, responsible for Piltdown Man, Sir Francis Drake's Plate, and the Kensington Rune Stone, and in addition was Jack the Ripper; go to <www.probaway.wordpress.com> and search for [conan doyle].

Dec 12 #2 John Bennett Shaw once gained fame, or perhaps notoriety, when he explained at an annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars why he had decided that the Canon was unsuitable for younger readers, and his paper ("To Shelve or to Censor") was published in Shades of Sherlock in Aug. 1971; Tina Rhea spotted a more recent list of "the top 10 suggestive lines from the Sherlock Holmes canon" can be found at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/c8jexy7>.

There will be a sequel to A STUDY IN SHERLOCK, an anthology of "stories inspired by the Holmes Canon" edited by Laurie R. and Leslie S. Klinger (Aug 11 #2); the new volume will be IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, due from Bantam in the fall of 2013. Laurie listed the authors whose stories will be in the new book at her web-site on Nov. 18 <www.laurierking.com/blogs>.

Spain Rodriguez died on Nov. 23. He was an influential radical cartoonist, a founder (with Robert Crumb) of ZAP Comix, and an important contributor to underground comics. He also illustrated five Canonical stories in SHERLOCK HOLMES' STRANGEST CASES (Nov 01 #2).

Jean Marie Whaley has reported "Epic Rap Battles of History" is a series of short videos you can view at YouTube; the latest being "Batmam vs. Sherlock Holmes" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=17CLlZuiBkQ>. Parental warning: there are crude lyrics involved.

The fall issue of For the Sake of the Trust (the The Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter) has Greg Darak's report on 1940s correspondence between Edgar W. Smith and Basil Rathbone, plus other news of and about the Trust; past issues of the newsletter can be read on-line at the Trust web-site <www.bsitrust.org>, and the current issue is available from Mike Berdan (2015 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033) <editor@bsitrust.org>.

"Descent Into Madness: The Truth About Mary Russell" is the title of David Marcum's quite different view of the relationship between Holmes and Russell, presented as a pastiche that you can read on-line at Carolyn and Joel Senter's "Classic Specialties" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/czf42ax>.

The page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at auction at Christie's in New York on Dec. 7 (Oct 12 #3) sold for \$158,500 (including the buyers premium), twice as much as the last page from the manuscript that sold at auction for \$78,000 (Nov 04 #4). Randall has a detailed description of the page at his web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/9pyvz8p>.

The electronic journal Ripperologist continues to cast a wide net: the December issue (#129) has an interesting article ("Taken as Magnificent: The Lydia Manton Affair") by Robert Linford, David O'Flaherty, and John Savage, that discusses in some detail a royal scandal involving Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence. The Duke of Clarence, the eldest son of the Prince of Wales, is one of the many people suspected of being Jack the Ripper, and there's a Sherlockian connection: the solicitor George Lewis, who had royal connections, was present at the inquest into the death of Miss Manton and is mentioned in "The Illustrious Client" (a case that some Sherlockians believe involved the Prince of Wales). For information about subscriptions, you can contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk>.

Dec 12 #3 Last year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Toronto Public Library by Tom Ue (on "Sherlock Holmes and Shakespeare"), and his remarks were published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now. The web-site (with PayPal and credit-card capability) is at <www.acdfriends.org> or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>; the minimum donation (which includes three issues of their newsletter "Through the Magic Door") is \$25.00. This year the lecturer was Roy Pilot (on "The Lost World") and his talk will be sent to members of the Friends next year.

"Sherlock Holmes, Past and Present" is the title of a conference planned by Jonathan Cranfield and Tom Ue at Senate House in London on June 21-22; they have issued a call for papers (with a deadline of Jan. 15), and more information is available at <www.filmint.nu/?p=6377>.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-11.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, including a report on a recent conference in Seattle (there are plans for a second one next year), and news that there might be a 25th-anniversary Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County next September.

Ken Ludwig's play "Postmortem" (involving a mystery at William Gillette's home in Hadlyme, Conn.) will be performed by the Minstrel Players at Houghton Hall (on Long Island), Nov. 13-21 (120 Main Street, Northport Village, N.Y. 11768) (631-732-2926) <www.minstrelplayers.org>.

Penguin has relaunched its Penguin English Library ("100 of the best novels in the English language") in attractive new covers, all of the books priced at £5.99. And one of those novels is THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES. But they also are not taking the limitation seriously: another of their titles is THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS AND OTHER CASES.

COMPLETE WORKS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with an introduction by Robert Ryan, has been published by Simon & Schuster. It's available without charge at Amazon, and can be read by anyone who has a Kindle, or Kindle software installed on your computer <www.amazon.com/dp/B00AHE20W0>.

As noted earlier (Apr 12 #6) Steve Hockensmith's story "Water Indian" (featuring Old Red and Big Red Amlingmeyer) was first published in the anthology GHOST TOWN, edited by Martin H. Greenberg and Russell Davis (New York: Pinnacle Books, 2010; 336 pp., \$6.99); there are 15 original stories (the others non-Sherlockian) by authors who include Loren D. Estleman and Louis L'Amour.

Peter Calamai reports that Stella Bella Wines (Margaret River, Australia) is selling a range of Skuttlebutt wines that have reached Canada, and perhaps soon will be available in the U.S.; their Shiraz/Cabernet 2008 is reviewed at WineCompanion.com as a "hedonistic style offering year-in, year-out enjoyment." Skuttlebutt seems to be a variant spelling of Scuttlebutt, but (not for the faint-hearted) there's a seriously different definition at <www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=skuttlebutt>.

Dec 12 #4 "The Magical Illustration of Arthur Rackham" a nice tribute to the artist at Abebooks.com <www.tinyurl.com/ctgzx2>, but they don't mention Rackham's illustrations for a book that's of marginal Sherlockian interest: Christopher Morley's WHERE THE BLUE BEGINS (1922), which was written by the founder of The Baker Street Irregulars and is available from dealers at prices ranging up to \$3575 <www.tinyurl.com/cj5v9e3>.

Benedict Cumberbatch has been nominated by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for a Golden Globe Award for best actor in a miniseries or motion picture made for television. The awards ceremony will be broadcast by NBC-TV on Jan. 13.

Roger Johnson and Jean Upton report an impressive "Ronald Searle Tribute" blog by Matt Jones at <www.ronaldsearle.blogspot.com>; Jones' entry on Apr. 27, 2009, about Searle's involvement with the Festival of Britain, includes two versions of his wonderful depiction of the recreation of the sitting-room at 221b Baker Street.

The autumn issue of The Magic Door celebrates the 100th anniversary of "The Lost World" and includes fine articles by Dayna Nuhn, Doug Wrigglesworth, Peggy Perdue, and others, all devoted to Professor Challenger. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Cliff (as above). The Friends will celebrate the science of Arthur Conan Doyle on May 4, when the Hollyer Lecturer will be Bernard Lightman.

Craig Wichman's STANDING IN THE SPIRIT AT YOUR ELBOW: A HISTORY OF DICKENS' CHRISTMAS CAROL AS RADIO/AUDIO has been published by Bear Manor Media (238 pp., \$19.95) <www.tinyurl.com/bsgtr95>; Wichman has played Scrooge, and so has Basil Rathbone, and the book includes recollections by Rathbone (Edith Meiser wrote the script) and many others. Signed copies are available from the author <quicksilverrt@aol.com>; \$25.00 postpaid,

What if Conan Doyle had named his detective something other than Sherlock, like Keith or Francis, asked a blogger on the web-site of the Topeka Capital-Journal (May 26). Well people would be saying "No kidding, Keith" or "No fooling, Francis."

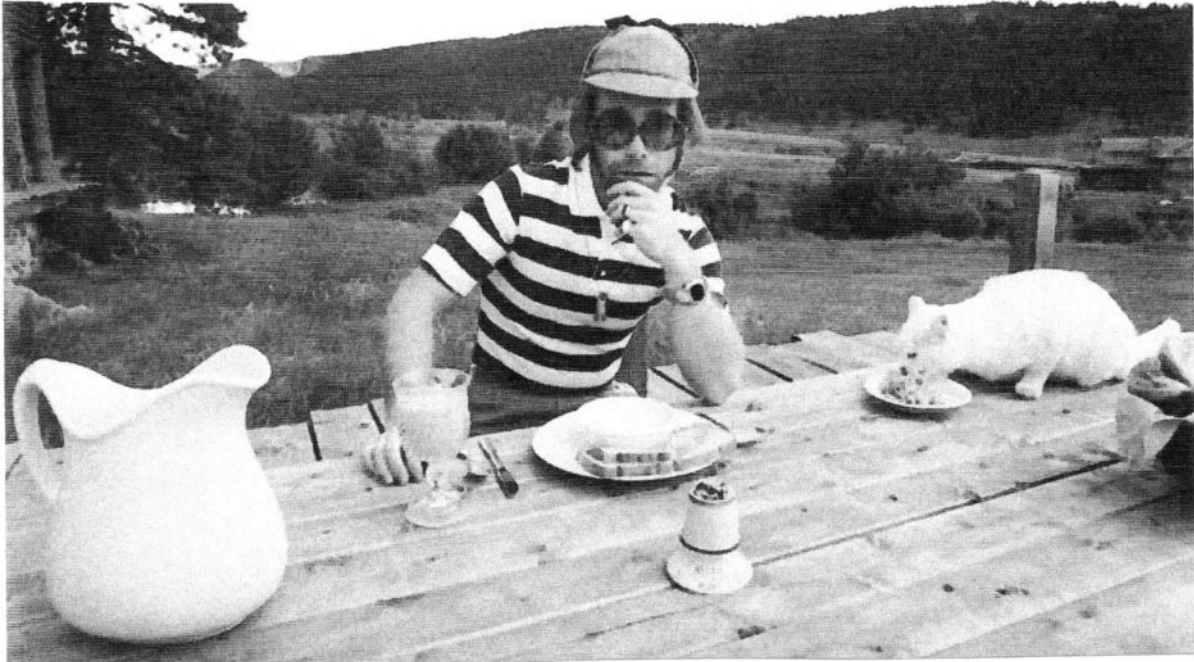
Ronald A. Knox is well known to Sherlockians for his landmark paper "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes", but he did much more, including translating the Bible from the Latin Vulgate into English. Ann Lewis has reported a web-site at <www.knoxbible.com> for a work that was approved for liturgical use and endorsed by Pope Pius XII.

Ken Ross has posted video at YouTube showing nine minutes of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London in action against the P. G. Wodehouse Society in their first cricket match, in 2001 <www.tinyurl.com/buqde9m>; the video includes footage showing the appropriately costumed spectators.

Next year's "Sherlock Holmes Weekends" in Cape May, N.J., will be on Mar. 15-17 and Nov. 1-3; there will be a new mystery to solve, and a performance by the East Lynne Theater Company. More information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204) (800-275-4278 ext 185) <www.capemaymac.org>.

Dec 12 #5 The Feb. 2012 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which will be found on newsstands during the birthday celebrations, has Sherlockian artwork on the cover, pastiches by Howard Engel, Terence Faherty, and Amy Myers, a birthday tribute by editor Janet Hutchings, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.

F. Andrew Leslie's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be produced at the Cloverdale Performing Arts Center from Feb. 22 through Mar. 3. The theater is at 209 North Cloverdale Boulevard, Cloverdale, CA 95425 (707-894-2214) <www.cloverdaleperformingarts.com>.



"Department of Celebrities Wearing Deerstalkers" ... who's the celebrity?

"Sharing Sherlock: The Story of a Pompey Lad" is a project that has won a £90,000 grant from Britain's Heritage Lottery Fund. The Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth will create a new on-line exhibition and run 30 outreach and education workshops for schools and local residents, and produce 10 touring exhibitions for local communities.

AudioGO (a new name for BBC Audiobooks) now offers the entire Canon, read unabridged (and very well) by Derek Jacobi, on CDs and as downloads; their web-site is at <www.audiogo.co.uk>. THE LOST WORLD also is available, both read unabridged by Matthew Rhys and as a radio dramatization broadcast by the BBC in 1975, plus many Sherlockian pastiches by other authors. There also is a great deal of Sherlockian and Doylean audio offered as downloads at Amazon's <www.audible.com>.

Booger is back! Curtis Armstrong (BSI 2006, as "An Actor and a Rare One") starred as Booger in "Revenge of the Nerds" (1984), and he will return in "King of the Nerds" (an unscripted eight-episode series on TBS cable), and he and Robert Carradine will host a competition for nerdy hopefuls competing for a \$100,000 prize. The series starts on TBS on Jan. 17.

Dec 12 #6 "Mr. Culverton Smith is in," Watson was told (in "The Dying Detective"). Donald A. Redmond, in his SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SOURCES (1982), was unable to determine a source for the name Culverton Smith, and it's unusual indeed. A Google search reveals a song "Culverton Smith is the Boogie Man" at YouTube (but it's Sherlockian), and there was a Culverton Smith who graduated from Holmes Elementary School in Spring Lake, Mich., in the class of 1904, according to the web-site <www.classmates.com> (but one must be skeptical). Now Bob Katz has reported Culverton Smith as a character (played by Muriel Hutchinson) in the movie "Another Thin Man" (1939).

So who's the celebrity wearing a deerstalker? "Elton John dining al fresco with his cat at Caribou Ranch, Colorado, 1974," in a photograph spotted and kindly forwarded by Samantha Wolov.

Gail H. Curry's THE MINIATURE SHERLOCK HOLMES: A SOURCE BOOK FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOKS PUBLISHED IN MINIATURE FORMAT (2011; revised and reprinted in 2012; 36 pp., \$25.00 postpaid) is exactly what the subtitle promises, covering both the Canon and Sherlockiana, with many full-color illustrations, from 1915 (Little Leather Library) to 2010 (Peter and Donna Thomas). Completists may be unhappy to discover that there are three variants of John Bennett Shaw's THE WHOLE ART OF DETECTION, but that's an indication of how widely the author has spread her net. Gail Curry-Books, 12016 Ballantine, Overland Park, KS 66213.

Get out your running shoes: Kate Karlson reports that there will be a London Bridge Half Marathon and 5K on Apr. 13 (that's the old London Bridge at Lake Havasu, Ariz., rather than the new London Bridge in London). Details are available at <www.londonbridgehalf.com>. You get to see the bridge as one of the locations filmed for "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (1976), which starred Larry Hagman as Sherman Holmes. And if you run in the 5K you may see Kate as well.

This newsletter has come a long way from the ancient days when it was produced on a typewriter and distributed as photocopies: for one thing, it now costs more to print and mail (and the subscription price will increase next year to reflect a slight increase in printing costs). And making the newsletter available on the Internet has reduced the number of subscribers (the print run of more than 300 in 1985 is now fewer than 150). The electronic edition started as text posted free to two electronic mailings lists, and now, thanks to the wizardry of Randall Stock, it is also published scanned, with illustrations in full color and with live links, at two web-sites: one of them Willis Frick's Sherlocktron <www.sherlocktron.com/scuttlebutt.htm>, and the other The Red Circle of Washington <www.tinyurl.com/d8uoo8o>. As for the future, god only knows (there are no plans for a podcast, nor for a live-action video edition at YouTube).

And Kate Karlson, who presides over The Turf Builders of Baker Street, offers an enthusiastic tip on Bridgetta at Aqueduct on Jan. 13, for the punters who have any money left at the end of the birthday festivities.

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