

Jan 13 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 159th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 9 to Jan. 13. 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 Kim Newman, author of *ANNO DRACULA*, *THE HOUND OF THE D'URBERVILLES* and other fine fantasies, who discussed the many incarnations of the evil Prof. Moriarty; and as with previous distinguished speakers, you will be able to read his paper in *The Baker Street Journal*.

The next event that evening was a new one: a "Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet Charity Ball" hosted by the Baker Street Babes at the Salmagundi Club, where a capacity crowd enjoyed a buffet dinner, music, a pop quiz, serious costumery, and an auction, all benefiting the Wounded Warriors Project; go to [www.tinyurl.com/awzf46m](http://www.tinyurl.com/awzf46m) to see lots of photographs, including Lyndsay Faye as Robert Downey Jr. as Sherlock Holmes.

The William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's was well attended, as always, and featured a performance of two scenes from "A Requiem for Sherlock Holmes" (a new play written by Gregg Oliver Bodine), and an appearance by Mr. and Mrs. Gillette (who were impersonated by Tyke and Teddie Niver). 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 was Melinda Caric (author of "An Open Apology to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle"), and the award was 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 Sue Vizoskie offering the preprandial first toast to Elaine Coppola as *The Woman*. The dinner's theme was tributes to past leaders of the BSI, and it featured the usual toasts and traditions, as well as papers and tributes and musical entertainment.

Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented editor's medals to John Bergquist, Andy Solberg, Bob Katz, and Sonia Fetherston, and the Two-Shilling Award to Michael Kean, and Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Inestitures) were awarded to Rosane McNamara ("Lady Mary Brackenstall"), Mark Levy ("Don Juan Murillo"), Tom Horrocks ("Colonel Sebastian Moran"), Stefano Guerra ("Count Negretto Sylvius"), Philip Cunningham ("Abe Slaney"), Daniel Moss ("Culverton Smith"), Jan Burke ("The Most Winning Woman"), and Frank Saksena ("Jonathan Small").

"Adventure" was the theme of the Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club, where the entertainment included toasts (musical and otherwise), theatrics (from a script written by Dean Clark), scholarship (edifying and amusing), music, and an auction.

Jan 13 #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 Shannon Carlisle, an accelerated learning teacher in Franklin, Tenn.; the society's web-site is at <[www.beaconsociety.com](http://www.beaconsociety.com)>. The Beacon Society also awards Jan Stauber Grants, funded by contributions and a \$1,000 matching fund pledged by Al Gregory.

The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at Delmonico's Kitchen offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; the entertainment included Al and Betsy Rosenblatt's traditional irreverent recap of the year's events (Sherlockian and otherwise), and Peter Calamai 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 (his article on "Why He Isn't Sir Sherlock Today"). The Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets for Maggie Schpak's handsome replica of Mrs. Hudson's chatelaine (the tickets were sold by Elaine Coppola, Peggy Perdue, and Linda Hunt), and an auction of alcoholic 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. 17, 2014. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 11, 2014.

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](http://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.

Al Gregory <[gaslightandfog@earthlink.net](mailto: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 13 #3 "Doctor Who: The Snowmen" (Nov 12 #4) did indeed have Sherlockian echoes, undoubtedly thanks to Steven Moffat, who wrote the script. You learn how Conan Doyle got the idea for his stories, and Matt Smith, as the Doctor, is seen in Sherlockian costume. And there's more to be found in the annotated look at the show (with lots of spoilers) by Alan Kistler at SpinOff Online <[www.tinyurl.com/d2zq6yy](http://www.tinyurl.com/d2zq6yy)>. And you've seen Richard E. Grant (Dr. Simeon) before: he played Holmes in "Encounters: The Other Side" on BBC 2 in 1992.

The new eBSJ v2 is now available: a DVD with all issues of The Baker Street Journal through 2011 in PDF format, and it's nicely done indeed. The price is \$149.95, but there's a trade-in offer open (through May 1) to those who already have the old BSJ CD-ROM set (send in your old disk #4 and the price of the DVD is only \$49.95); more information and some helpful hints can be found at <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com/ebooks/ebsj.html](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/ebooks/ebsj.html)>. Don't neglect the link to Randall Stock's helpful "Tips for using the eBSJ".

The latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series is THE WRONG PASSAGE, edited by Robert Katz and Andrew Solberg, with a facsimile of the original manuscript of "The Golden Pince-Nez", a careful transcript, annotations, history, commentary, and artwork. Manuscripts bring you close to the moment of creation when an author writes a story, and the accompanying history and scholarship are fascinating, informative, and occasionally surprising. 248 pp., \$35.00; details, including the table of contents and a brief excerpt, are at <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com/wrongpassage.html](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/wrongpassage.html)>.

Robert Veld's THE STRAND MAGAZINE & SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TWO FIXED POINTS IN A CHANGING AGE (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2012; 100 pp., \$24.95) is a detailed and carefully-researched exploration of the many Sherlockian aspects of The Strand Magazine, including its publisher, editors, and illustrators; it's a grand story, and told well indeed. Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46256 <[www.wessexpress.com](http://www.wessexpress.com)>.

Gasogene also has published Nicholas Utechin's "OCCASIONALLY TO EMBELLISH" (319 pp., \$18.95), which is modestly subtitled "some writings on Sherlock Holmes"; it's a collection of reprints of some of Nick's literate and often humorous scholarship, from 1969 through 2009. There are new postscripts to many of the pieces, and the book offers a fine look at how much fun can be found in Canonical criticism.

Paul Herbert has reported something that surely sets a record for the most extreme application of esoteric non-Canonical knowledge to something Sherlockian: Ben Lindbergh's "Overthinking It: The Craziest Half-Inning in History" is his analysis of the televised baseball game that Holmes and Watson watched in the opening episode of "Elementary" on CBS-TV. Posted on-line at Baseball Prospectus <[www.tinyurl.com/9wad2vz](http://www.tinyurl.com/9wad2vz)> on Jan. 18, the piece is well worth a visit.

There will be a full-length reading of Greg Oliver Bodine's new play "A Requiem for Sherlock Holmes" (previewed at the William Gillette Luncheon) by the WorkShop Theater Company in the Jewel Box Theater on Mar. 10 at 6:00 pm (no charge, and reservations not needed); 312 West 36th Street (4th floor), New York, NY 10018) <[www.workshoptheater.org/node/2263](http://www.workshoptheater.org/node/2263)>.

Jan 13 #4 Maria Konnikova's MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Viking, 2013; 273 pp., \$26.95) uses the Canon well to explain to lay readers how Sherlock Holmes thinks, and how readers can follow his methods to improve their own thinking. She is working on a doctorate in psychology at Columbia University and has written for periodicals that include Scientific American and the N.Y. Times; her book is instructive, insightful, and entertaining. And recommended. She also has an interesting web-site at <[www.mariakonnikova.com](http://www.mariakonnikova.com)>.

James E. Smith II ("Winner of the Jackson Prize") died on Dec. 24. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War Two, he had a long career as a psychiatrist for the Baltimore County Circuit Court. Jim was an enthusiastic member of The Six Napoleons, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1998.

The 2012 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 70 pages of scholarship, quizzes, and pastiches, including the late Michael Doyle's script for "Henry Baker--Your Goose Is Cooked", James Romnes' discussion of "Sherlock's Armoire: Wearable Victoriana", and Steve Duke's "ACD in Melbourne". 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, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467.

Kindle users can pretend they're reading a real book if they conceal their Kindle in a vintage book cover that's offered by Signals (Box 2599, Hudson, OH 44236) (800-699-9696) <[www.signals.com](http://www.signals.com)> for \$49.95; one of them (HN3982) being the cover of SHERLOCK HOLMES SELECTED STORIES published by the Oxford University Press in 1951. They're made in Britain by the Manor Bindery and their web-site's at <[www.klevercase.co.uk](http://www.klevercase.co.uk)>.

Admirers of Bert Coules' dramatizations of the entire Canon with same actors as Holmes and Watson (and if you're not, you should be) can visit his excellent new web-site at <[www.merrisonholmes.com](http://www.merrisonholmes.com)>; it's full of information about the background, the shows, the stars, and much more.

Further to the mention of John Bennett Shaw's classic paper "To Shelve or to Censor" (Dec 12 #2), it's nice indeed that the paper is available online at <[www.shadesofsherlock.org/SOS18.pdf](http://www.shadesofsherlock.org/SOS18.pdf)>. The Three Students Plus and Shades of Sherlock editor Bruce Kennedy had great fun in the long-ago days of the junior scions.

221b Con ("a con for all things Sherlockian") has been announced for Apr. 13-14, 2013, at the Holiday Inn Select in Atlanta, arranged by Taylor Blumentberg (one of the Baker Street Babes), and an energetic committee; there's more information at their web-site <[www.221bcon.com](http://www.221bcon.com)>.

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](http://www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html)> for more information on the weekend, or write to Box 340, Cape May, N.J. 08204.

Jan 13 #5    The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; the winter issue offers Gayle Lange Puhl's report on the history of the Criterion Restaurant, which was frequented not only by Dr. Watson but also by Adam Worth, and Patricia Guy's account of the Sherlockian conference in Venice last year. Published quarterly, the Muse costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).

A handsome four-volume boxed set of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES is available from Thomas & Mercer/Amazon in their "Heirloom Collection" for \$78.96 (\$2.99 Kindle), with attractive full-color illustrations by Jacqui Oakley. Thomas & Mercer is named for the streets that flank Amazon's headquarters in Seattle.

Peter Tremayne's AN ENSUING EVIL AND OTHERS (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2006; 331 pp., \$15.99) is a collection of 14 historical mysteries by the author of the "Sister Fidelma of Cashel" mysteries; five of the stories are reprints of Sherlockian pastiches set in Ireland (Tremayne believes that Holmes' background was Anglo-Irish).

Don Izban confirms that there will be a 25th-anniversary Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County, Wis., in September or October; more information will be available this summer, and if you'd like to be on his mailing list, he's at 1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068.

The "Apollo Lunar Surface Journal" (an on-line record of the surface operations on the Moon from 1969 to 1972, edited by Eric M. Jones and Ken Glover) will be found at <[www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)>; search for [sherlock crater] to find Jones' account of "The Valley of Taurus-Littrow" with details on the Apollo 17 landing site and on the crater names. Other links include the Mission Transcripts: the last (and longest) contains discussion by Jack Schmitt (in the landing module on the Moon) and Joe Allen (at CapComm in Houston) that still holds the record for the longest-distance conversation about Sherlock Holmes. Thanks to Janice Portante, who reported about the NASA web-site in The Northumberland Dispatch (published by The Northumberland Fusiliers).

An exhibition on "Murder in the Library: An A-Z of Crime Fiction" opened at the British Library this month, and will run through May, offering a "journey through the development of crime and detective fiction," with Sherlock Holmes of course included (the manuscript of "The Retired Colourman" will be on display). There's more information about the exhibition and exhibition events at <[www.tinyurl.com/cga7vjk](http://www.tinyurl.com/cga7vjk)>, and Randall Stock has much about the manuscript at <[www.tinyurl.com/bbr7zmj](http://www.tinyurl.com/bbr7zmj)>.

One of my nicer Christmas presents was an imaginative one-of-a-kind "Sherlock Holmes" figurine sculpted by Deana Demko, who creates "little replicants" hand-made to order <[www.littlereplicants.com](http://www.littlereplicants.com)>.

Ginger Aldrich continues to expand her Ocular Helmsman ("A Vade Mecum Upon the Personal Effects & Environs of Mssrs. Sherlock Holmes & John H. Watson of 221B Baker Street for the Victorian Layman"), and now includes scans of all of the public-domain Canon published in The Strand Magazine, in the Archives at <[www.jadedcompass.com/ocular\\_helmsman](http://www.jadedcompass.com/ocular_helmsman)>.

Jan 13 #6 Robert C. Burr ("The Rascally Lascar") died on Jan. 9. He was a chemist, and worked for the Dept. of Agriculture; Bob claimed "curmudgeon" as both his vocation and avocation, and happily (almost) never left Peoria. He was an energetic member of The Hansoms of John Clayton and an editor of their journal Wheelwrightings, and for many years Bob presided over his own Plugs & Dottles. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1987, and in 1990 "Robbie Burr" (attending the annual dinner as a life-size photograph) received the Irregular Ha'penny and the Investiture "The Trap Door" from The Baker Street Irrasculars.

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards. Among them: Lyndsay Faye's non-Sherlockian THE GODS OF GOTH-AM (best novel), James O'Brien's THE SCIENTIFIC SHERLOCK HOLMES (best critical/biographical), and Peter Blake's "Elementary: Child Predator" and Steven Moffat's "Sherlock: A Scandal in Belgravia" (best TV episode teleplay). Winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 26.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <[www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times13-1.html](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-1.html)>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, and commentary and challenges.

There are many Sherlockian blogs, including Leah Cummins Guinn's "The Well-Read Sherlockian" <[www.wellreadsherlockian.com](http://www.wellreadsherlockian.com)>; her "12th Night Giveaway" contest featured (on Jan. 1) an amusing publicity photograph of Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce "rehearsing with the truly vicious Baskerville stunt doubles." Mary Loving won the photograph, and reported on it to The Hounds of the Baskerville.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE QUEEN OF DIAMONDS, by Steve Hayes and David Whitehead (London: Robert Hale, 2012; 223 pp., £18.99), is a pastiche from two authors of westerns (Hayes also co-wrote the script for the 1979 film "Time After Time"); essentially a western set in Sherlockian London, with Holmes and Watson in pursuit of outlaws.

This year's "Sherlock Holmes Weekends" in Cape May, N.J., will be on Mar. 15-17 and Nov. 1-3; there will be a mystery ("Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Anima Orbis") to solve, and performances by the East Lynne Theater Company, and 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](http://www.capemaymac.org)>.

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](mailto:judith-freeman@hotmail.com)>, and the ASH web-site <[www.ash-nyc.com](http://www.ash-nyc.com)> has information on subscribing to the Muse (back issues are unfortunately not available).

The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2012" has the theme "Deception", and the essays range from Ray Riethmeier's "A Double Deception" (about the "Mycroft" novel A TASTE FOR HONEY) to Phil Bergem's "Thoughts of Refuges in London" (about Holmes' hideaways). The 54-page booklet is available from John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122); \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).

Jan 13 #7    The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Julie McKuras' seasonal commentary on Sherlockian Christmas cards, Dana Richards' discussion of Conan Doyle's involvement with divorce reform, and other news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Dick Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

Theodore G. Schulz ("The Amateur Mendicant Society") died on Jan. 24. Ted served with merit in the U.S. Army and then worked in education; he was in the Army in the Far East when he began corresponding with Edgar W. Smith in 1957, and was a member of The Illustrious Clients and then of many of the societies in the San Francisco Bay area. He also presided over The Praed Street Irregulars, succeeding Luther Norris as Lord Warden of the Pontine Marshes, founded The Old Soldiers of Praed Street; he proudly named his son William Sherlock Schulz, and was an energetic and generous collector with a legion of friends world-wide. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1961, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1986. There is much more about Ted at his fine web-site at <www.tedschulz.com>.

Dr. William R. Hanson designed a nice cachet for last year's stamp honoring John Huston, showing him as Moriarty (in "Sherlock Holmes in New York" and Humphrey Bogart (who was directed by Huston in "The Maltese Falcon"). The first day cover costs \$10.00 postpaid (in the U.S.) with payment in currency or by U.S. postal money order sent to him at: 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, 12801.



The Saturday Review of Literature has returned, and it's very nice to see it again: it was in its pages that The Baker Street Irregulars first came to the attention of literate readers, since Christopher Morley was one of the editors, and the Jan. 2013 issue (edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler) offers some interesting history and reviews. \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).

Facebook is a social networking service that was launched in 2004 and now boasts more than 1 billion users, and Scott Monty maintains a growing list of "Sherlockian Entities on Facebook" at <www.tinyurl.com/azuk87m>, and of course allows you to add your group or page to the data-base.

"To India with Sherlock Holmes" is the theme of the next pilgrimage by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, from Feb. 17 to Mar. 2, 2014; the tentative agenda includes a Victorian bathing party, a Holmes cricket match, a screening of an Indian-made Sherlock Holmes film, and a day at the races in Calcutta or Mumbai. Louise Nicholson <indianicholson@nyc.rr.com> will be glad to provide more information; a preliminary announcement of the event is at <www.sherlock-holmes.org/india.php>, and you can see details of some of her non-Sherlockian tours at her web-site <www.louiseindia.com>.

Jan 13 #8 Doug Wrigglesworth reports that Peggy Perdue has selected some spectacular material from the Toronto Reference Library's Arthur Conan Doyle Collection for the new exhibition "Adventures with Sherlock Holmes: Life and Times of the Master Sleuth" in the library's new exhibition gallery through Mar. 10 <[www.tinyurl.com/acvekyj](http://www.tinyurl.com/acvekyj)>.

The Veterans History Project (part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress) has added 14 scans of cartoons by Norman Schatell to its web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/ad8jndt](http://www.tinyurl.com/ad8jndt)>; the full-color cartoons are not Sherlockian, but instead date from his service in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946. Norm served as a gunner's mate in the Pacific, and it is delightful to see another aspect of his artistic humor.

Thanks to the Société Sherlock Holmes de France you can watch one minute of Fox Film Corp. silent newsreel footage of Conan Doyle and his family (Lady Doyle and their children Adrian, Jean, and Denis) on June 24, 1922, as they prepared to return to Europe on board the *Adriatic* after the tour that he wrote about in *OUR AMERICAN ADVENTURE* (1923). You can watch the video at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/a3adfvp](http://www.tinyurl.com/a3adfvp)>, and read what the French wrote about it in their *Ironmongers Daily News* <[www.tinyurl.com/aytxnko](http://www.tinyurl.com/aytxnko)>. They were also filmed by Pathé in New York in April, but that footage has been lost.

Welcome to our new postage rates, now 46¢/ounce (domestic) and \$1.10 (international); the old rates were 45¢ (domestic), 85¢ (Canada and Mexico), and \$1.05 (overseas). Printing costs also have increased slightly, and the new subscription rates for the ink-on-paper version of this newsletter are \$12.25 (domestic) and \$20.00 (international).

Electronically enabled readers can read the newsletter on-line free: text of all issues from Mar. 1985 can be found at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <[www.tinyurl.com/b6nka8l](http://www.tinyurl.com/b6nka8l)> and scans of issues from 2012 at "Sherlocktron" and the Red Circle of Washington's web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/d8uoo8o](http://www.tinyurl.com/d8uoo8o)>. The increase in postage rates came as a surprise to anyone who didn't see the brief Associated Press report on an announcement from the Postal Service in October 2012.

The next meeting of The Red Circle of Washington will be on Friday, March 8; our guest speaker will be drama critic and author Lloyd Rose, who will discuss "Sherlock Holmes on Television in the 21st Century". Details about the meeting will be found at the society's web-site <[www.redcircledc.org](http://www.redcircledc.org)>, which also has a link to the Smithsonian magazine excerpt from Dan Stashower's new book *THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR*.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (aka The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) will honor the world's first forensic geologist with dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Pittsburgh on May 22, when local Sherlockians will have a chance to meet geologists who are in town for the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists; if you would like to attend the festivities, just let me know.

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



Feb 13 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sorry about the calendar error: for those who want to plan ahead, The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will (correctly) be held on Jan. 17, 2014. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 11, 2014.

And another correction: Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers by (by e-mail only) his 2013 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, and the recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).

The Baker Street Journal's web-site is well worth exploring, for selections from the BSJ, news about new publications by The Baker Street Irregulars, and the recent statement by Mike Whelan about "A World of Sherlockians" at <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com/sherlockians.html](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/sherlockians.html)>.

"And it is always 1895," as Vincent Starrett wrote in his classic sonnet; it's certainly 1895 this year, since the 1895 calendar works for 2013.

Noted by Pam Verrey: Kaoru Shintani's YOUNG MISS HOLMES CASEBOOK 3-4 (New York: Seven Seas, 2012; 384 pp., \$16.99); the second volume of the English translation of her manga CHRISTIE: HIGH TENSION (2007-2008). Christie is the niece of Sherlock Holmes, and the book offers her own versions of some of her uncle's recorded cases.

<[www.contactmusic.com](http://www.contactmusic.com)> has reported that the Nielsen numbers show that the episode of "Elementary" broadcast after the Super Bowl scored 20.8 million viewers (with a 7.8 rating for adults 18-49), making it the highest-rated entertainment broadcast of the year. But it's far from being the highest-rated post-Super-Bowl broadcast; that was an episode of "Friends" that had 42.9 million viewers in 1999. "Downton Abbey" on PBS-TV during the Super Bowl drew 6.6 million viewers on Sunday, the highest-rated program broadcast at the same time as the Super Bowl, which had 108.4 million viewers.

Dhanil Ali's new play "The Curse of Sherlock Holmes" is about Jeremy Brett: "We find Jeremy entering the Maudsley psychiatric hospital. The combined strain of playing Holmes coupled with the death of his wife sees his mental health deteriorate as fiction blurs with reality." The play will tour from March 6 through 30 in Blakemere, Chester, Liverpool, Shrewsbury, and Warrington, and there's a web-site for the tour at <[www.tinyurl.com/bggxesm](http://www.tinyurl.com/bggxesm)>.

David Stuart Davies' 1992 pastiche THE TANGLED SKEIN: SHERLOCK HOLMES MEETS COUNT DRACULA (with a foreword by Peter Cushing) is now available as a Piccadilly Publishing e-book (\$2.99) at the usual U.K. and U.S. web-sites.

Department of "what might have been": Douglas Wilmer, in a video interview in 2002, recalled that after he declined the second "Sherlock Holmes" series for the BBC in 1968, they offered the role to Eric Porter (who turned it down), and then to John Neville (who turned it down), and then to Peter Cushing (who agreed); John Neville had played Holmes in "A Study in Terror" (1965), and Eric Porter eventually played Moriarty in the Granada series.

Feb 13 #2 "Sherlock Holmes Nevében" [In the Name of Sherlock Holmes] is a Hungarian film (Nov 11 #4) that premiered in 2011; "the movie follows two boys, Holmes and Watson, in their investigation into the disappearance of the city's children that eventually leads to a dark journey into the supernatural." The film has a web-site at <[www.sherlockfilm.hu](http://www.sherlockfilm.hu)> and Greg Darak has reported a soundtrack CD released by Howlin' Wolf Records at <[www.howlingwolfrecords.com](http://www.howlingwolfrecords.com)> (\$13.95).

Phillip Bergem has updated his two extensive checklists of Sherlockian and Doylean films and television programs, annotated for date, country, actors who played Holmes and Watson (or Conan Doyle), production company, and alternate titles; they're available by e-mail from Phil <[pgbergem@gmail.com](mailto:pgbergem@gmail.com)>, and at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <[www.sherlocktron.com](http://www.sherlocktron.com)>.

Fans of the BBC's "Sherlock" will enjoy Guy Adams' SHERLOCK: THE CASEBOOK (London: BBC Books, 2012; 160 pp., £14.99); it's a fully illustrated examination of the first six programs in the series, imaginatively written with great humor in the voice of Watson. There will be an American edition from It Books/HarperCollins (\$17.99), due in July.

Maria Konnikova's web-site <[www.mariakonnikova.com](http://www.mariakonnikova.com)> offers much about her new book MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Jan 13 #4), including a blog with links to audio and video of her appearances on tour promoting the book; you can also listen to her interview for the London Guardian "Science Weekly" podcast at <[www.tinyurl.com/argmbwl](http://www.tinyurl.com/argmbwl)>.

Plan ahead: PBS-TV has announced plans for a two-hour special on "How Sherlock Holmes Changed the World" to air this fall; the program "will reveal for the first time the astonishing impact that Holmes has had on the development of real criminal investigation and criminal techniques." The press release is at <[www.tinyurl.com/bc282lr](http://www.tinyurl.com/bc282lr)>.

WINTER AT DEATH'S HOTEL, by Kenneth Cameron (London: Orion, 2011; 389 pp., £7.99) is set in New York in 1896, when Louisa Conan Doyle has accompanied her husband on a trip to the United States, where she becomes involved in investigating a series of murders; there's good description of New York at the end of the century, but it's a brutal book, not for the faint-hearted. And yes, he actually toured in 1894, and Louisa stayed home, but that was before Teddy Roosevelt became commissioner of police in New York City, as he is in this book.

THE PERILS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Loren D. Estleman (Blue Ash: Tyrus Books, 2012; 208 pp., \$24.95), is a collection of short stories (and one amusing play), almost all reprinted from various Sherlockian anthologies. The play (subtitled "A Comedy in One Unnatural Act") has been performed many times by Sherlockian societies.

"Mr. Selfridge" is the title of a new British (ITV) series that begins on PBS-TV on Mar. 31; it's the story of the "flamboyant and visionary American founder" of the department store in London. In the seventh episode Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (played by John Sessions) visits the store for a Sherlock Holmes book signing. Go to <[www.tinyurl.com/aa2guym](http://www.tinyurl.com/aa2guym)> to see what Sessions looks like as Conan Doyle.

Feb 13 #3 Planning for the "Sherlock Holmes, Past and Present" conference in London on June 21-22 (Dec 12 #3) continues apace. "My Particular Friend" (an interesting blog by Jennifer Petkus) shows a colorful poster at <[www.tinyurl.com/bdnf2ed](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdnf2ed)>, and advance information for participants is available from Jonathan Cranfield <[j.l.cranfield@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:j.l.cranfield@ljmu.ac.uk)>.

"Search over 21,790,000 old New York State historical newspaper pages" is the offer from Old Fulton NY Post Cards <[www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.htm](http://www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.htm)>, and while I can't vouch for the 21,790,000 the data-base is delightful.

Fred Dannay was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars, and with his cousin Manfred Lee wrote as Ellery Queen; you can see their sons Richard Dannay and Rand Lee in a nice 2-minute video tribute to Queen posted by Otto Penzler at his Mysterious Press web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/afgznqf](http://www.tinyurl.com/afgznqf)>.

Otto also has been nominated for an Edgar (best critical/biographical) from the Mystery Writers of America (Jan 13 #6) for his editing of IN PURSUIT OF SPENSER: MYSTERY WRITERS ON ROBERT B. PARKER AND THE CREATION OF AN AMERICAN HERO.

"The Sherlock Holmes Society of London 1959-1974" is a wonderful set of two DVDs issued in PAL format by the Society last year, and available only to members; it's a collection of films featuring members of the Society, made between 1959 and 1974, plus a collection of film coverage of the Society's first pilgrimage to Switzerland in 1968. If you're not already a member, you can join the society at their web-site <[www.sherlock-holmes.org](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org)> or by writing to David Jones, The North Wing, Groton Place, Groton Street, Groton, Boxford, Sudbury CO10 5EE, England, and the DVD set costs £16.50 (UK)/£17.00 (Europe)/\$36.00 (elsewhere), from Robert Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU, England <[shsl221b@aol.com](mailto:shsl221b@aol.com)>.

"Sherlock Holmes in Brentwood" is a new play-reading series curated and introduced by Les Klinger (Sep 12 #4), and their first production will be Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" (1910) at the Contrapuntal Performance Hall in the Brentwood area of Los Angeles on Mar. 23. Details at their web-site <[www.sherlockholmesinbrentwood.com](http://www.sherlockholmesinbrentwood.com)>.

The March-April issue of Harvard Magazine has an excerpt from Maria Konni-ova's MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES, with imaginative artwork by Boris Kulikov; it won't reproduce well here, but you can see it in full color at <[www.tinyurl.com/a4a4dd5](http://www.tinyurl.com/a4a4dd5)>.

Oscar Ross spotted news reports that the Café Royal is open again on Regent Street in London, now as a luxury five-star hotel <[www.hotelcaferoyal.com](http://www.hotelcaferoyal.com)>. Hotel publicity claims that Conan Doyle was a patron of the restaurant, and he may well have been; it was outside that Café Royal that Sherlock Holmes was attacked by two men armed with sticks (see "The Illustrious Client").

Kent Ross reports that "The Untold Tales from the Tin Dispatch Box" will be the theme of the next "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 6-7, and there will be a meeting of The Wigmore Street Post Office on Apr. 5; the mailing list's maintained by Kent (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <[kenthross@gmail.com](mailto:kenthross@gmail.com)>.

Feb 13 #4 Donald Thomas has earned a well-deserved reputation as the author of excellent pastiches, both short stories and novels, and his new novel DEATH ON A PALE HORSE: SHERLOCK HOLMES ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE (New York: Pegasus Books, 2013; 346 pp., \$25.95) offers an exciting account of Holmes and Watson's struggle against Sir Augustus Moran's elder son Rawdon Moran, even more dangerous a foe than his younger brother.

Fans of Laurie R. King have a new e-book available: LAURIE R. KING'S SHERLOCK HOLMES (2013) is a collection of reprints of eight essays (\$2.99 for just about every device on the market). And MRS. HUDSON'S CASE (2012) is a short story in which Mrs. Hudson stars as the detective (\$0.99).

Don Hobbs' SHERLOCKING: AN ADVENTURE IN AESTHETIC SHERLOCKIAN REALISM is a collection of amusing drawings inspired by Chaim Koppleman, who defined the genre as "the oneness of opposites" (such as showing people in places they never visited), and the 216-page book is available from Don for \$29.99 plus shipping (\$4.00 to the U.S., more elsewhere); 2100 Elm Creek, Flower Mound, TX 75028 <221b@verizon.net>.

And Don continues to update "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes" (Jan 11 #7), now with 98 foreign languages (plus 8 versions of English such as Braille and Pitman Shorthand), showing covers in color and bibliographic information; the bibliography on CD costs \$15.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) or \$20.00 (elsewhere), or free to anyone who reports something not already in the bibliography).

The Beacon Society awards annual Jan Stauber Grants of up to \$350 to help fund development of projects that will introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories; the deadline for applications is May 1, and there is more information at <[www.beaconsociety.com/JanStauberGrant.html](http://www.beaconsociety.com/JanStauberGrant.html)>.

Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be produced at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre through Mar. 10 (22311 North Third Street, Hayward, CA 94546 (510-881-6777) <[www.dmtonline.org](http://www.dmtonline.org)>.

"Holmes & Watson Save the Empire: A Musical Mystery" (with book and lyrics by Jahnna Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner, is being performed at the First Impressions Theatre through Mar. 11; 4360 Gallant Avenue, North Vancouver, BC V7G 1L2, Canada (604-929-9456) <[www.firstimpressionstheatre.com](http://www.firstimpressionstheatre.com)>

Foyles, founded 110 years ago, has long been a landmark in London for book collectors and book buyers, offering more than 200,000 books in its flagship five-story building on Charing Cross Road, and it soon will be moving, just down the street, into better-designed premises. Graham and Lissa Muscatine, owners of Politics and Prose bookstore in Washington, have recently blogged about "The Bookstore of the Future", reporting on a conference that was arranged by Foyles to consider how bookstore can survive; you can read their report at <[www.politic-prose.com/bookstore-future](http://www.politic-prose.com/bookstore-future)>.

An additional reason to visit the Toronto Reference Library's web-site for its exhibition "Adventures with Sherlock Holmes: Life and Times of the Master Sleuth" <[www.tinyurl.com/acvekyj](http://www.tinyurl.com/acvekyj)> is the Virtual Exhibit; you can click on that link and see some excellent images of material that's on display.

Feb 13 #5 SHERLOCK HOLMES IN PARIS, by Séamus Duffy (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2013; 255 pp., \$20.95) offers three pastiches, two from the unrecorded cases; Black Coat has published quite a few pastiches over the years, and is now making them available as e-books, including Frank J. Morlock's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GRAND HORIZONTALS (Mar 07 #1), Brian Stableford's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE VAMPIRES OF ETERNITY (Feb 09 #6). and two translations from the French by Morlock: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS JACK THE RIPPER and SHERLOCK HOLMES VS FANTOMAS. Details at <[www.blackcoatpress.com](http://www.blackcoatpress.com)> about these and other Sherlockian and Doylean titles.

The Shard is the informal name for the tallest building in London (in fact, in Europe) at 1,016 feet and with 72 floors of offices, restaurants, hotel rooms, residences, and observation lounges. And it costs £25.00 to get to the top floor, according to Will Pearson, who provides a 360-degree virtual tour at <[www.tinyurl.com/74xk7ew](http://www.tinyurl.com/74xk7ew)>, where you can maneuver with your mouse and zoom in and out, and it's well worth a visit. Thanks to Dean Clark for reporting this.



"There is nothing new under the sun," Sherlock Holmes said (in "A Study in Scarlet"), but those who visited the dealers room during the birthday festivities in New York definitely saw something new (even if it was more than 70 years old). Javier Doria of Madrid displayed (and hoped to sell) a pair of metal plates apparently created in 1940 to celebrate Macmillan's publication of Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. There's no firm information on the history of the plates, but there's some speculation on "The Mystery of the Two Irregular Plates" at Jon Lellenberg's Archival History web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/ajv9k6s](http://www.tinyurl.com/ajv9k6s)>.

Feb 13 #6 THE BAKER STREET TRANSLATION, by Michael Robertson (New York: Minotaur, 2013; 278 pp., \$24.99) is the third in his series of novels about Reggie Heath, a London barrister who has offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires him to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail; this time Reggie and his brother Nigel and actress Laura Rankin are involved in a case that opens with a rich American who wants to bequeath her fortune to Sherlock Holmes and develops into a race to prevent an attack on a royal event. As with the first two books in the series, THE BAKER STREET LETTERS (Jun 09 #3) and THE BROTHERS OF BAKER STREET (Feb 11 #4), the story is imaginative and well told.

Howard Ostrom is an enthusiastic collector of autographs of actors who have played Holmes and Watson, and (thanks to the wonders of the Internet) you can tour his collection at <[www.tinyurl.com/cano7js](http://www.tinyurl.com/cano7js)>. He has almost all of the usual suspects, and some surprising and interesting candidates as well.

Les Klinger has filed a lawsuit against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate, asking a federal court to rule that the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John H. Watson are no longer protected by federal copyright laws, and that writers, filmmakers, and others are free to create new stories about Holmes and Watson without paying license fees to the owners of the remaining copyrights on the stories. Les has a web-site at <[www.free-sherlock.com](http://www.free-sherlock.com)> with more information about the suit, and Jennifer Schuessler's report for the N.Y. Times "ArtBeat" blog can be read at <[www.tinyurl.com/brd6owa](http://www.tinyurl.com/brd6owa)>.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <[www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times13-2.html](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-2.html)>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, commentary and challenges, and limited quantities of old Sherlockian lapel pins.

Frogwares Studio has announced that "Crimes & Punishments: Sherlock Holmes" will be the next title in its series of Sherlockian computer games. There are six games in the series so far, the most recent being "The Testament of Sherlock Holmes" <[www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com](http://www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com)>.

For those who want to emulate Tonga: David Haugen notes that BLOWGUN TECHNIQUES: THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO MODERN AND TRADITIONAL BLOWGUN TECHNIQUES, by Anante P. Marinas Sr. (2010), is offered discounted to \$7.95 from Edward R. Hamilton <[www.tinyurl.com/aeojn9o](http://www.tinyurl.com/aeojn9o)>.

Winston Churchill is of interest to Sherlockians and Doyleans for many reasons, among them the five letters from Churchill to Conan Doyle in the family papers sold at auction in 2004. And according to Rex Stout, Churchill "knew the Holmes stories fairly well and thought them 'perfect entertainment.'" While there's no Sherlockian connection to the widespread belief that Churchill kept secret a warning that German bombers were to bomb Coventry during World War Two in order to protect his secret intelligence, an interesting article by Peter J. McIver at the Churchill Centre and Museum web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/2appa76](http://www.tinyurl.com/2appa76)> shows that the often-repeated story is not at all true.

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



Mar 13 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Lion Heart Autographs is offering a page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for \$175,000 <[www.tinyurl.com/cvxa6wc](http://www.tinyurl.com/cvxa6wc)>; it's the first page of Chapter XIII ("Fixing the Nets"), included in Randall Stock's census as H31 <[www.bestofsherlock.com/baskervilles-manuscript.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/baskervilles-manuscript.htm)>. A different page from the manuscript was sold at auction last December for \$158,500 (including the buyer's premium) (Dec 12 #2).

Conan Doyle's home at 12 Tennison Road in Norwood, where he lived from 1891 to 1894, went to auction last month, estimated at £875,000; bidding reached £725,000, and the property didn't sell. The house, which displays a Greater London Council blue plaque noting that Conan Doyle lived there, was converted for use as a residential care home in the 1990s; according to an Internet post by the South Norwood Tourist Board, a company that provided autistic care "did a bunk a year ago, leaving the place empty," and the house is now an "absolute horror of a tip," divided into "cell-like one-room bedsits in a disgusting condition." The photographs below show the house as it was in 2007 (photographed by Roger Johnson), and as it is today.



The auction house then advertised the property as available for £750,000; it is quite likely that a buyer would be interested only in the land, and that the house is a tear-down. The official blue plaque was installed on May 18, 1973, and was reported in The Times on May 19 in an article imaginatively headlined "Case of the Left-Handed Arsenal Bricklayer".

The manuscript of Conan Doyle's poem "Ypres" will be offered at auction at Bonhams in London on Apr. 10, estimated at £1,500-2,000. Details from the catalog at <[www.tinyurl.com/crrg342](http://www.tinyurl.com/crrg342)>. Owned by Dame Jean Conan Doyle, it was last at auction in 2006, when it sold for £1,080 (including the buyer's premium). Randall Stock has information about the manuscript at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site at <[www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/200603bonhams.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/200603bonhams.htm)>.

Members of the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club have awarded the society's annual Sherlock Holmes Grand Prize to Jon Lellenberg, Dan Stashower, and Charles Foley, the editors of ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS (translated into Japanese by Masamichi Higurashi and published by Toro Shorin); over the past 35 years the winners of the Grand Prize have almost all been Japanese.

Mar 13 #2 TO KEEP THE MEMORY GREEN, a collection of essays by friends and colleagues honoring the memory of Richard Lancelyn Green, was published by The Quartering Press (a joint venture by The Baker Street Irregulars and The Sherlock Holmes Society of London) (Aug 07 #4). It was a splendid tribute, and copies found discovered in the BSI's warehouse are now available for \$15.00 (half-price) plus shipping from the BSI; go to the BSJ web <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)>; click on [items for sale] and then on [deal table]. Also available at the web-site is the lapel pin designed by Maggie Schpak for the "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" conference at UCLA last September (\$15.00).

The script for Dhanil Ali's new play "The Curse of Sherlock Holmes" (Feb 13 #1) has been published (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 106 pp., £7.99/£8.99/\$10.95); it's an imaginative presentation of Jeremy Brett hospitalized and unable to distinguish between fiction and reality <[www.mxpublishing.com](http://www.mxpublishing.com)>.

Richard Briers died on Feb. 17. He had a long career as an actor on stage, screen, radio, and television, appearing as Hector MacDonald in 23 episodes of the BBC television series "Monarch of the Glen" (2000-2005), and on BBC Radio 4 in 11 episodes of "Two Pipe Problems" (2007-2012) as retired actor (and self-styled Sherlock Holmes) William Parnes.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London continues to offer interesting events <[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/events.php](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/events.php)>, including cricket matches on May 4 and June 23, and a running of the Silver Blaze Wessex Cup on June 18.

Aziz Bin Adam has discovered A. J. Low's SHERLOCK SAM AND THE MISSING HEIR-LOOM IN KATONG (Singapore: Epigram Books, 2012; 105 pp., S\$10.59); Sherlock Sam is Singapore's greatest kid detective, assisted by a robot Watson, and there's a second volume SHERLOCK SAM AND THE GHOSTLY MOANS IN FORT CANNING. Sherlock Sam has a blog at <[www.sherlocksam.wordpress.com](http://www.sherlocksam.wordpress.com)>.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <[www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times13-3.html](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-3.html)>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, commentary and challenges, and limited quantities of old Sherlockian lapel pins.

The Chorley Little Theatre will present a new dramatization of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES by Mark Jones, June 17-22. Dole Lane, Chorley, Lancs. PR7 2RL, England (01257-264362) <[www.chorleylittletheatre.com](http://www.chorleylittletheatre.com)>.

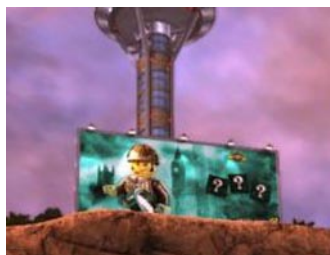
Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon, private detectives in San Francisco in the 1890s, are the protagonists in short stories and novels written by Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini; their latest is THE BUGHOUSE AFFAIR (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2013; 269 pp., \$24.99), which offers lots of local color and an imaginative appearance by a rival detective who claims to be Sherlock Holmes.

Thanks to Tom Drucker for a copy of Lisa Berglund's interesting article "'I Am Lost Without My Boswell': Samuel Johnson and Sherlock Holmes" in The Age of Johnson: A Scholarly Annual (Dec. 2012); the article's not available online, and the journal is published by AMS Press, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Bldg 292 #417, 63 Flushing Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205.



Mar 13 #3     The next annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend will be held in and near Chicago on Oct.25-27, with a dinner, the 54th annual running of The Silver Blaze, and a Fortescue Honours brunch. Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@comcast.net> will be happy to send you a reservation form.

"You are in for an absolute stonker!" Benedict Cumberbatch said after the read-through for the first program in the new series of "Sherlock" for the BBC (there's more than one meaning for "stonker" according to the on-line Urban Dictionary); filming on the new series began on Mar. 18. And there's some additional news: Cumberbatch has said that he and Martin Freeman have signed to make a fourth series, and that he'd love to do a fifth series



"Lego Sherlock Holmes Outed in Lego City: Undercover?" was the headline on a report from NowGamer on Mar. 14 that suggested that "Lego Sherlock Holmes could be the next licensed Lego game coming from Travellers Tales, according to teasers in Lego City: Undercover." And now for some explanation: "Lego City: Undercover" is a new action-adventure video game designed for the Wii U video-game console from Nintendo. NowGamer's Alex Evans spotted Lego's (Sherlockian) Detective (Sep 11 #4) on a billboard in the background of a scene in the new game, and asked Nintendo if a Sherlock Holmes game would be coming next; Nintendo declined to comment. You can read the full story (and see a better screenshot) of the billboard) at <[www.tinyurl.com/a3rsgwp](http://www.tinyurl.com/a3rsgwp)>.

Don Libey, author of THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Sep 12 #5) and Don and Joanne Yates have launched an imaginative enterprise: 221B Cellars, which each year will offer bottles of limited first edition wines. Their web-site at <[www.221bcellars.com](http://www.221bcellars.com)> is well worth exploring, and there's an essay contest offering the winner a bottle of the 2103 vintage.

Don Libey also is a bookseller, and is offering items from Don Yates' Sherlockian collection at <<http://www.tinyurl.com/a2m28o3>>.

Credit Philip J. Atwell for the discovery that some of the Moriartys were good guys, including C. C. H. Moriarty, author of POLICE LAW: ARRANGEMENT OF LAW AND REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF POLICE OFFICERS (1929), written, according to the author, "with the view of assisting police officers in attaining a working knowledge of the law that they have to enforce." Cecil Charles Hudson Moriarty distinguished himself at Trinity College in Dublin, and joined the Royal Irish Constabulary in 1902, advancing to the rank of Chief Constable in 1935; he retired in 1941 and died in 1958, and his book went through 24 editions, the latest published in 1981.

Rex Stout is famous for creating Nero Wolfe (who many Sherlockians like to believe is the son of Sherlock Holmes), but Stout was an excellent writer before Nero Wolfe; some of Stout's earlier stories have been reprinted as e-books by Otto Penzler's Mysterious Press <[www.mysteriouspress.com](http://www.mysteriouspress.com)>, and they're well worth a look. The same is true of the Mysterious Bookshop's monthly newsletter, which always offers Sherlockiana; you can sign up for the newsletter at <[www.mysteriousbookshop.com](http://www.mysteriousbookshop.com)>.

Mar 13 #4    You now have a chance to buy Baskerville Hall (one of them, at any rate): Baskerville Hall (formerly Clyro Court) near Hay-on-Wye is available with an asking price of £3 million, according to a story at Wales Online <[www.tinyurl.com/c75benv](http://www.tinyurl.com/c75benv)>. The mansion (presently used as a hotel) has nine bedroom suites, five principal reception rooms, and much more; the agents are Russell Baldwin & Bright, and there's a detailed description, with many photographs, at <[www.tinyurl.com/d6v84bu](http://www.tinyurl.com/d6v84bu)>. The Baskerville family lived there from 1839 to 1945, and the owners have said for many years that Conan Doyle visited the family often, finding inspiration there for his story (the family asked Conan Doyle to change the setting so that they wouldn't be overrun by tourists).

Ben Langley's comedy "Ha Ha Holmes! The Beast of the Blistervilles" (Mar 11 #1) has been retitled "Ha Ha! Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" and will tour in Britain beginning Sept. 14; details at <[www.hahaholmes.com](http://www.hahaholmes.com)>. Thanks to Oscar Ross for the report.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: HIS GREATEST CASES (London, White's Books, 2009; 501 pp., £19.95) is an attractive collection, with "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and Conan Doyle's selection of "the twelve best Sherlock Holmes stories," an afterword by Andrew Lycett, and a handsome binding illustrated by Michael Kirkham.

A new edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES in two volumes from Barnes & Noble (2012, \$6.98 per volume) has introductions and afterwords (different in each volume) and annotations by Christopher and Barbara Roden.

"The Ghost of Sherlock Holmes" is 28-page PDF file offered by magician Paul Voodini at <[www.readerofminds.co.uk](http://www.readerofminds.co.uk)> for £5.00; described as "a compendium of Sherlock Holmes-inspired bizarre and story-telling magic utilizing playing cards, pendulums, and other common objects," the booklet includes both patter and instructions on how to do the magic.

After 17 episodes, the CBS-TV series "Elementary" is averaging 11.02 million viewers, with a rating of 2.35 in the important age 18-49 demo, beating all the other programs in its Thursday-evening time slot.

The Huntsville-Madison County Library in Huntsville, Ala., has chosen THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES for its month-long "community read" in April, with book discussions, film screenings, and imaginative events for adults, teens, and children and family. Their web-site <[www.guides.hmpl.org/cr13](http://www.guides.hmpl.org/cr13)> offers an overview of what they have planned.

Frank Thornton died on Mar. 16. He had a long career on stage and in films and television, and was best known as Captain Peacock in the television series "Are You Being Served?" (1972-1985); he also played the one-armed doorman at the Diogenes Club in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).

The Popular Culture Association met in Washington this month, and the program included a session on "Sherlock" with papers by Rebecca McLaughlin ("A Study in Sherlock"), Nancy Steffen-Fluhr ("The Semiotics of Desire: Billy Wilder as Sherlock Holmes"), and Rachele Hansen ("Sherlock Holmes"). More anon, if someone reports on the session.

Mar 13 #5 And there's more news about the BBC series "Sherlock": Mark Gatiss has revealed the title of the opening episode of the third season. Fans of the series will recall that the second season ended with "The Reichenbach Fall" and the next season will begin with a delightful and thoroughly appropriate pun: "The Empty Hearse".

John Aidiniantz, who founded the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Baker Street in 1990, is the target of a lawsuit brought by his mother Grace Riley and her daughter Jennifer Decoteau over who is entitled to almost £2 million in admission fees collected in the last two years; the High Court has issued an injunction freezing his assets, including £535,000 that he kept a safe in his home. The case is scheduled to be heard in May. According to a report in The Times (Feb. 28), when the women found last October that only 22p remained in the Museum's bank account, Mrs. Riley withdrew £175,000 from the bank account of Rollerteam Limited (an Aidiniantz company that deals in the "operation of arts facilities"), and her assets also have been frozen.

Morphic Graffiti will present "The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes" (Leslie Bricusse's revision of his "Sherlock Holmes: the Musical") at Hoxton Hall from Apr. 10 to May 10. 130 Hoxton Street, London, N1 6SH, England (020-7684-0060) <[www.hoxtonhall.co.uk](http://www.hoxtonhall.co.uk)>.

Jan Read died on Nov. 29, 2012. He began his career as a scriptwriter in 1949, and is best known for helping create the character of Dixon of Dock Green, who was featured in a BBC television series that ran for more than twenty years; he also wrote the scripts for Peter Cushing's "The Man with the Twisted Lip" and "The Retired Colourman" (1965).

The Royal Family visited the Baker Street Station this month, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the London Underground, and they were welcomed by Sherlock Holmes (or someone dressed like him), as you can see (briefly) in video posted by the Times of Malta (Mar. 20) <[www.tinyurl.com/c9cmdv3](http://www.tinyurl.com/c9cmdv3)>.

Al and Julie Rosenblatt have just discovered on the Gotham Radio Theatre, a bit too late for their production of "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Speckled Band" this month. Their web-site <[www.gothamradiotheatre](http://www.gothamradiotheatre)> is well worth exploring: click on "Sherlock Holmes!" for information on a previous Sherlockian production ("Redheads and Bohemians"), and on "More" and then on "Podcasts" to hear their podcast of the earlier show.

Does anyone know if Julian Wolff's many interests included Lewis Carroll? I've been asked about a bookplate that apparently has Julian's signature, with artwork and verse from "The Walrus and the Carpenter".

Ken Ludwig's comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" had its world premiere in Cleveland in November 2011, winning an Edgar (best play) from the Mystery Writers of America, and it now has its second production, at the Asolo Repertory Theatre; it opened on Mar. 27 and runs through May 12. It's a new (and much better) version of his earlier play "Postmortem" (about a murder at William Gillette's home in Hadlyme), and highly recommended. 555 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243 (941-351-8000) <[www.asolorep.org](http://www.asolorep.org)>. There's a preview of the play in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune (Mar. 23) at <[www.tinyurl.com/cy9yswk](http://www.tinyurl.com/cy9yswk)>.

Mar 13 #6 Mark Catley's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Best Kept Secret" will have its premiere at the West Yorkshire Playhouse on May 18 through June 8 (Mycroft is arrested for treason, and Holmes, assisted by Watson and Irene Adler, must save Mycroft's life); Playhouse Square, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UP, England (0113-213-7700) <[www.wyp.org.uk](http://www.wyp.org.uk)>. After the premiere the play will tour to Woking, Cardiff, and Manchester.

Brian W. Pugh's A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (May 09 #5) was a valuable resource for those interested in Conan Doyle's life and work, and a new revised and expanded edition (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 267 pp., £14.99/£16.99/\$22.95) is even more valuable, with a detailed index, citations of sources, excellent illustrations, and an impressive list of the many statues and plaques that honor Conan Doyle, his daughter Jean, Holmes, and Watson in Britain, the U.S., Australia, Japan, France, Italy, Russia, and Switzerland <[www.mxpublishing.co.uk](http://www.mxpublishing.co.uk)> <[www.mxpublishing.com](http://www.mxpublishing.com)>.

Also from MX Publishing: Charlotte Anne Walter's 56 SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES IN 56 DAYS (2012; 184 pp., £9.99); the author of BAREFOOT ON BAKER STREET (2011) has collected her blogs about the short stories, and has added comments on the long stories, and has made some interesting choices in rating the stories for best and worst. Kevin McMullen's THE MANY WATSONS (2012; 149 pp., £7.99) is a collection of 53 essays about actors who have played Watson on stage, screen, radio, television, and YouTube; some of them male and some female, some major and some minor, but all offering a nice reminder of the different ways in which Watson has been portrayed. Luke Benjamin Kuhns' SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE CASE OF THE CRYSTAL BLUE BOTTLE (2012, 38 pp., £6.99) is a graphic novel, with illustrations and artwork from a dozen Internet contributors.

And: THE LOST STORIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Tony Reynolds (2012; 210 pp., £9.99); the first edition was published in 2010 with eight pastiches, and this second edition includes one additional story. THE ART OF DEDUCTION: A SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION, edited by Hannah Rogers (2013; 176 pp., £9.99), is a collection of vignettes, artwork, and poems. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TEXAS ADVENTURE, by Dicky Neely (2012; 110 pp., £6.99), brings Holmes and Watson to Texas, via Portsmouth, New Orleans, and Corpus Christi, and lets them play cowboy. SHERLOCK HOLMES: HAVE YOURSELF A CHAOTIC LITTLE CHRISTMAS, by Gwendolyn Frame (2012; 125 pp., £6.99); a collection of Christmas advent-calendar vignettes.

"Devotees of Sherlock Holmes are a famously obsessive bunch," according to Jennifer Schuessler, in her follow-up story in the N.Y. Times on the lawsuit Les Klinger filed against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate (Feb 13 #6). You can read the new story at <[www.tinyurl.com/aoubs3t](http://www.tinyurl.com/aoubs3t)>.

eBay can be addictive, especially since it operates in more than 30 countries. If you can't find what you're looking for at <[www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)>, there also are <[www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk)>, <[www.ebay.fr](http://www.ebay.fr)>, <[www.ebay.dk](http://www.ebay.dk)>, <[www.ebay.de](http://www.ebay.de)>, and many more. Thanks to Walt Colby of The Baker Street Breakfast Club for the reminder about how wide-spread eBay is.

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Apr 13 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Boris Berezovsky died on Mar. 23. A Russian tycoon who became wealthy during the privatization of Soviet assets during the 1990s, and was one of the "political oligarchs" who picked Vladimir Putin as the head of the Russian state; Berezovsky then fell out with Putin, fled to London, sought political asylum, and then aligned himself with other critics of Putin. Nikita Krushchev's son Sergei once said that Berezovsky was "the Professor Moriarty of the 21st Century" (Feb 00 #2). The police consider his death to be "unexplained," and have launched an investigation.

"He had a remarkable gentleness and courtesy in his dealings with women," Watson wrote of Holmes (in "The Dying Detective"). Of course that's only one side of the coin: Watson continued with "He disliked and distrusted the sex." And then Watson went on to write that Holmes "was always a chivalrous opponent." So much contradiction in two sentences.

Tina Rhea has spotted some interesting "wallpaper": a montage of 30 people who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes (with pop-up identifications) created by Mark C. Robinson, at <[www.tinyurl.com/d8xu4ma](http://www.tinyurl.com/d8xu4ma)>. Similar wallpaper with 30 Watsons will be found at <[www.tinyurl.com/ctoka4k](http://www.tinyurl.com/ctoka4k)>.

The Geographic Names Information System maintained by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names now contains entries for more than 2 million features in the U.S., 37 of them named Sherlock (or variants thereof). The data base also shows 11 features named Sherlock in other countries, and you can search for Sherlock (or any other name) at <[www.tinyurl.com/d6nvf6p](http://www.tinyurl.com/d6nvf6p)>.

If you're planning a trip to Hungary: there's now a Sherlockian society in Budapest. Zsófia Marinczák <[zmarinczak@gmail.com](mailto:zmarinczak@gmail.com)> is the contact for the Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club.

There has been plenty of news for television fans. The "Elementary" series has been renewed by CBS (not surprising considering how well it has done in the ratings). And Martin Freeman's long-time partner Amanda Abbington will be in the first episode of the new season of "Sherlock" in a role that will "significantly impact" the lives of Watson and Holmes, which has triggered a flood of suggestions that she will play Mary Morstan, which seems to be quite likely, since it has been revealed that the title of the second episode in the season will be "The Sign of Three".

Sarawen Perfume Art sells a set of four "Sherlock Holmes Inspired Perfumes" (\$48.50 for all four in 5-ml bottles); the names of the scents are "Logical Delusion", "Logical Deduction", "Scandal in London", and "Tea with Watson", and their web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/cdgct8t](http://www.tinyurl.com/cdgct8t)> has an artistic photograph of the bottles.

Conan Doyle knew Eugen Sandow and Harry Houdini, and is mentioned in John F. Kasson's HOUDINI, TARZAN, AND THE PERFECT MAN: THE WHITE MALE BODY AND THE CHALLENGE OF MODERNITY IN AMERICA (New York: Hill and Wang, 2001; 286 pp., \$18.00); Sandow was "the perfect man" (and an inspiration for Angelo Siciliano, who is better known as Charles Atlas), and Kasson offers an interesting exploration of turn-of-the-century sociology.

Apr 13 #2     Reported by Andrew Malec: PETER CUSHING: THE COMPLETE MEMOIRS (London: Titan, 2013; 424 pp., £19.99); a reprint of his memoirs (AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY and PAST FORGETTING) with extensive new material from his private collection (there's an American edition due from Signum). And: PETER CUSHING: A LIFE IN FILM, by David Miller (London: Titan, 2013; 1,928 pp., £18.99); with previously unpublished correspondence and new interviews with Cushing's friends and colleagues. Cushing has portrayed both Sherlock (on screen and in television) and Conan Doyle (in television).

Tina Rhea has reported some spectacular color photographs of jellyfish published by The Guardian (Feb. 26) at <[www.tinyurl.com/a8e2s7m](http://www.tinyurl.com/a8e2s7m)>; half of them are lion's manes.

Forecast by Roger Johnson: FORGOTTEN STARS, by Jonathan Croall (from Fantom Films in June, £16.99); a biography of his father John Stuart, who played Sir Henry Baskerville in Robert Rendell's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1932). Fantom also sells a recording of PATRICK TROUGHTON: THE BIOGRAPHY, by Michael Troughton (£17.99); about his father, who played the second Doctor Who, and Mortimer Tregennis in Douglas Wilmer's "The Devil's Foot" for the BBC-1 (1965).

Roger edits The District Messenger, a newsletter that was launched in 1982 as the "grapevine service" of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London; it's available free via e-mail <[rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk)>, and all of the back issues are archived at <[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/district.php](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/district.php)>. It's an excellent round-up of what's going on in the Sherlockian and Doylean world in Britain and elsewhere.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <[www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times13-4.html](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-4.html)>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, limited quantities of old Sherlockian lapel pins, and a link to color photographs of Denny Dobry's spectacular full-scale reproduction of the sitting-room at 221b Baker Street.

Frank Mentzel has reported Adagio Teas at <[www.adagio.com](http://www.adagio.com)>, where you can search for [sherlock] and find a wide range of teas (including one called "Moriartea") inspired by the BBC "Sherlock" series.

"Sometimes I wake up and think, I want to look like Sherlock Holmes today," British cover girl Edie Campbell told Vogue (Mar. 27), "and other times I want to look like a witch from Macbeth." Alas, no pictures are available showing just how she's inspired by Baker Street or Scotland.

Noted by Marsha Pollak: Simon Rich's pastiche "The Adventure of the Spotted Tie", in his collection THE LAST GIRLFRIEND ON EARTH (New York: Reagan Arthur Books, 2013; 224 pp., \$19.99).

W. P. Lawler's MYSTERY AT ST. ANDREWS (2012; 241 pp., \$14.95 postpaid) is a pastiche written by a golf enthusiast for golf enthusiasts; Watson visits St. Andrews and plays a lot of golf (there's a glossary by way of assistance for ordinary folk) and with Holmes and Irene Adler becomes involved in a battle against evil-doers. Available from the author: Bill Lawler, 208 Hilltop Drive, West Wyoming, PA 18644 <[rankambill@comcast.net](mailto:rankambill@comcast.net)>.

Apr 13 #3 Basil Copper died on Apr. 4. He was a writer, journalist, and editor, and had a long relationship with August Derleth's Arkham House. Copper was the author of many macabre stories and novels, and mysteries, and extended the world of Derleth's Solar Pons, editing (and revising) THE SOLAR PONS OMNIBUS (1982) and writing his own series of stories about Solar Pons.

Catherine Cooke has discovered a new "Sherlock" (a centralized knowledge management system launched last year by the National Health Service's Business Services Authority). The new system has won an award from the Customer Contact Association, and you can read about "Sherlock" at [www.tinyurl.com/d5j96ha](http://www.tinyurl.com/d5j96ha); extra points to anyone who can figure out just how it works.



The manuscript of Conan Doyle's poem "Ypres" at auction at Bonhams in London on Apr. 10, and estimated at £1,500-2,000 (Mar 13 #1), sold for £5,250 (including the buyer's premium). Randall Stock has more detailed information about the manuscript, and its history, at his "Best of Sherlock" website at [www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/200603bonhams.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/200603bonhams.htm).

Hugh Ashton's TALES FROM THE DEED BOX OF JOHN H. WATSON MD (Torrance: Inkbeans Press, 2012; 140 pp., \$8.99) offers three pastiches, two of them inspired by the Unrecorded Cases. Information on Ashton, and on other Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian titles, is at [www.tinyurl.com/cb63453](http://www.tinyurl.com/cb63453).

It has been quite a while since we have seen a Sherlockian story for children, David Ruffle's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MISSING SNOWMAN fills the bill nicely; it's a sentimental story with charming illustrations by Rikey Austin (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 32 pp., £6.99/£7.99/\$9.95). The publisher's web-sites are at [www.mxpublishing.co.uk](http://www.mxpublishing.co.uk) and [www.mxpublishing.com](http://www.mxpublishing.com).

Also from MX Publishing: THE DETECTIVE, THE WOMAN, AND THE WINKING TREE, by Amy Thomas (2013; 197 pp., £9.99), is a sequel to her THE DETECTIVE AND THE WOMAN (Apr 12 #7) and has Holmes and Watson paying a visit to Irene Adler in Fulworth, and the three of them solving a complicated local murder mystery. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE BULGARIAN CODEX, by Tim Symonds (2012; 168 pp., £7.99); Holmes and Watson on a scenic journey to Sofia, with lots of local color and with a grotesque mystery to solve. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND YOUNG WINSTON: THE JUBILEE PLOT, by Mike Hogan (2013; 243 pp., £9.99), has Holmes and Watson, assisted by twelve-year-old Winston Churchill, foiling a fiendish (and complicated) plot during Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee; the web-site is at [www.mikehoganbooks.co.uk](http://www.mikehoganbooks.co.uk).

And: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE EDINBURGH HAUNTING, by David Wilson (2012; 210 pp., £9.99), has Holmes and Watson solving a mystery in Edinburgh, where Watson's cousin has invited them so that they can meet Dr. Joseph Bell, who wants to meet the man who is using Bell's methods (Holmes, of course, wants to meet the man who is using Holmes' methods in the practice of medicine); their meeting is unfortunately brief, but nicely done. THE 1895 MURDER, by Dan Andriacco (2012; 227 pp., £9.99), is the third in his series about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, and McCabe's new Sherlockian play "1895"; there's a murder (of course), and amusing sub-plots; Dan has an entertaining blog at [www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com](http://www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com).

Apr 13 #4 LAURIE R. KING'S SHERLOCK HOLMES (2013; 213 pp.) is a welcome collection of eight essays and introductions, all of them previously published, but not necessarily in easily accessible sources; \$2.99 as an e-book, \$9.95 at stores with print-on-demand Espresso Book Machines, and signed copies are available from Bookshop Santa Cruz. Details at her web-site at <[www.laurierking.com](http://www.laurierking.com)>.

"Benefit Presents the Curious Case" is the title of a Sherlockian 2-minute video promotion uploaded to YouTube on Feb. 11 <[www.tinyurl.com/c6w7tv2](http://www.tinyurl.com/c6w7tv2)>. The Chinese version was uploaded on Mar. 11 <[www.tinyurl.com/cuzebek](http://www.tinyurl.com/cuzebek)>.

BOBBY BASKERVILLE SOLVES A CASE, by Richard L. Kellogg, illustrated by Gary Kato (Fort Collins: Airship 27, 2013; 28 pp., \$9.99), is another fine book for young readers, with an interesting story and attractive artwork. Bobby (needless to say) wants to be a detective, and (of course) succeeds.

The spring issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Chris Redmond's discussion of the Canonical and other aspects of THE PARASITE, Donny Zaldin's exploration of the "dancing men" cipher (the Collection now owns young John Gilbert Cubitt's album, which offered inspiration for the cipher), and much more new from and about the Collection; copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <[cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca](mailto:cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca)>.

The Promethean Theatre Ensemble will perform "A Study in Scarlet" from May 3 to June 1. Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 North Southport Avenue, Chicago, IL 60647 (773-935-6860) <[www.prometheantheatre.org](http://www.prometheantheatre.org)>; it's a new dramatization by Paul Edwards.

Novel Poster offers interesting "book posters", one of them being a framed silhouette of Sherlock Holmes composed of the entire text of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (\$40.00) <[www.tinyurl.com/bva4znm](http://www.tinyurl.com/bva4znm)>.

The John H. Watson Society, which "seeks a level of equality in scholarship and enthusiasm for the life and work of John H. Watson, M.D.," will publish a scholarly journal "The Watsonian" twice a year; the society's web-site at <[www.johnhwatsonociety.com](http://www.johnhwatsonociety.com)> has information on dues and such. Don Yates is the founding chairman <[info@johnhwatsonociety.com](mailto:info@johnhwatsonociety.com)> (the web-site notes that "it's always 1895; there are no telephones yet," and they'll welcome submissions for the journal).

Philip K. Jones' data-base for Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction now has more than 10,000 entries; it's available at Miguel Herrero Baena's web-site <[www.sherlock-holmes.es/database.php](http://www.sherlock-holmes.es/database.php)> and Christopher and Barbara Roden's web-site <[www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Sherlock.htm](http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Sherlock.htm)>.

MC Black reports that the "Sherlock Holmes: Past and Present" conference at the University of London on June 21-22 (Feb 12 #3) now has its own web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/czy3ft9](http://www.tinyurl.com/czy3ft9)>. And his Detective Walks is offering a guided walk during the evening of June 20 to places mentioned in the Canon and of importance in Conan Doyle's life; more information is available on request from MC at <[mc.black@hardknott.org](mailto:mc.black@hardknott.org)>.



Apr 13 #5 The Croydon Advertiser reported (Apr. 15) that plans have been submitted to Croydon Council to turn Conan Doyle's former home in Norwood into a 12-bedroom apartment building. The building, which was described (Mar 13 #1) as an "absolute horror of a tip," divided into "cell-like one-room bedsits in a disgusting condition," did not sell when bidding reached £725,000 at auction earlier this year, and it's now on the market with an asking price of £750,000. Some locals, as might be expected, want the house to be restored to a one-family home; according to a British realty web-site, one-bedroom apartments on Tennison Road are available priced from £162,995 to £164,950 (multiply by 12 to see what a 12-apartment building might be worth). A five-bedroom semi-detached house on Tennison Road is available for £379,950.

The Illustrious Clients News reports that two Sherlockian rooms, created by Laverne Sullivan, are being showcased at the Museum of Miniature Houses in Carmel, Ind.; go to <[www.museumofminiatures.org/exhibits.html](http://www.museumofminiatures.org/exhibits.html)> and scroll down to find links to photographs of Holmes sitting-room and bedroom.

Stephanie Osborn reports that 221bCon ("a con for all things Sherlockian") in Atlanta on Apr. 13-14 (Jan 13 #4) was thoroughly successful: they filled the convention hotel and alternate hotels, and wound up with about 1,000 on hand; their web-site's at <[www.221bcon.com](http://www.221bcon.com)>. There's an article about the convention at <[www.tinyurl.com/c6l3zwj](http://www.tinyurl.com/c6l3zwj)>. Brad Keefauver also was on hand for the festivities, and blogged about it several times at Sherlock Peoria <[www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com](http://www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com)>; check April, and look for the 221B Con entries.

One of the interesting items owned by the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library is the diary kept by Conan Doyle's wife Jean on their trip to Canada in 1914. And thanks to the wonders of modern technology you don't need to travel to Toronto to read the diary, which has been scanned and is available at <[www.tinyurl.com/bn7x4x2](http://www.tinyurl.com/bn7x4x2)>. There's a sliding bar at the top that allows you to navigate from page to page, image notes you can click on for more information, and a button at the top that brings up a transcript of each page. It's a fine example of what libraries can do to display material on the Internet.

The Royal Mail's set of stamps honoring Eminent Britains that was issued in 2009 included Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and this month's set honoring Great Britons includes Peter Cushing (who was born in 1913). He played Sherlock Holmes three times, in the film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), in a BBC television series (1968), and in the television film "The Masks of Death" (1984); he was scheduled to play Holmes for the fourth time, in a sequel ("The Abbot's Cry"), but he retired in 1987, explaining that it was time to "nail my toupee to the wall." Cushing also played Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the television film "The Great Houdinis" (1976).



ENCOUNTERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by George Mann (London: Titan Books, 2013; 352 pp., \$14.95), is an imaginative anthology of pastiches by authors from the worlds of steampunk, fantasy, and science fiction; the stories involve notables such as Sir Richard Burton and Raffles, Mrs. Hudson as a detective, and a Martian.

Apr 13 #6 OSCAR WILDE AND THE MURDERS AT READING GAOL, by Gyles Brandreth (New York: Touchstone, 2013; 327 pp., \$18.00), is the sixth in his series about Wilde and Conan Doyle (who is mentioned only occasionally this time); the story is told by Wilde, who has been convicted and imprisoned, and solves a series of murders at Reading Gaol. It's a dark story, with a detailed view of how brutal prison life was in Britain at the end of the 19th century, and it's imaginative and well-written, with a surprising twist as a finale. The story ends the arc of Wilde's life, but there may be more books in the series: Brandreth has said that eventually "it's back to Oscar and Arthur. I think it has to be." And the next book will be well worth waiting for.

THE AYLESFORD SKULL, by James P. Blaylock (London: Titan Books, 2013; 425 pp., \$14.95), is an entertaining adventure in which Arthur Conan Doyle is one of the supporting characters (on behalf of the good guys, of course); steampunk is a modern Victorian science-fiction genre generally set in alternative universes, and you'll find much more about steampunk projects at <www.steampunkholmes.com>.

"Sherlock Hemlock: World's Greatest Detective" is an interesting article by Ryan Dosier at the Mystery Scene web-site <www.tinyurl.com/dxa Afgan>. It's reprinted from Dosier's blog The Muppet Mindset ("the go-to blog for everything Muppet") <www.themuppetmindset.blogspot.com>, where there's lots more about Sherlock Hemlock, and other Muppets such as Baskerville the Hound and Spamela Hamderson.

Irving Kamil ("Monsieur Oscar Meunier, of Grenoble") died on Apr. 26. Irv wrote often for The Baker Street Journal and Baker Street Miscellanea, and was for many years one of the sparking plugs for Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers. Irv and Selma travelled widely over the years, creating ad hoc Sherlockian societies at the Great Wall of China, on the Amazon, and in Sicily, Thailand, New Zealand, Vietnam, Jordan, Antarctica, the Galapagos, and other exotic locales, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1981.

Andrew Lane, who has written five books in his YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES series, has turned his attention to Young Calum Challenger, who is the great grandson of Professor George Edward Challenger. LOST WORLDS (London: Macmillan, 2013; 357 pp., £5.99) is the story of an expedition into the Caucasuses in search of a supposedly mythological creature in hopes that its DNA will be useful (and that it can be protected); the book's principal characters are mostly teenagers, occasionally in dire peril, and the story's well told.

THE BEST OF THE STRAND MAGAZINE, with an introduction by Andrew Roberts, is a digital book from Endeavour Press (£2.99/\$3.99) that offers a fine essay on "The Story of the Strand" (the street rather than the magazine) and text (without illustrations) of a dozen articles and stories, including "Silver Blaze" and an article on "A Night in an Opium Den" that was published not long before Conan Doyle wrote "The Man with the Twisted Lip".

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May 13 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The deadline for the trade-in offer for the new eBSJ v2 has been extended to June 15; the DVD has all issues of The Baker Street Journal through 2011 in PDF format, and is nicely done indeed. The price is \$149.95, but there is a trade-in offer open to those who already have the old BSJ CD-ROM set (send in your old disk #4 and the price is only \$49.95); more information is available at <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com/ebooks/ebsj.html](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/ebooks/ebsj.html)>. Don't neglect the link to Randall Stock's helpful "Tips for using the eBSJ".

The Baker Street Irregulars are going to publish a biography of Bliss Austin, which will be written by Sonia Fetherston; readers of The Baker Street Journal will be familiar with her work, and she invites Sherlockians worldwide to share personal reminiscences of Bliss with her. Sonia's e-mail address is <[soniafetherston@comcast.net](mailto:soniafetherston@comcast.net)>.

There's a lot to be found at YouTube, including an amusing French animation "Les Dalton contre Sherlock Holmes" ["The Daltons vs. Sherlock Holmes"], an episode from the series "Les Nouvelles Aventures de Lucky Luke" (broadcast on France 3 on Sept. 23, 2001 <[www.tinyurl.com/cns42zx](http://www.tinyurl.com/cns42zx)>).

Further to the report on the British stamp honoring Peter Cushing as one of the "Great Britons" (Apr 13 #5), the stamp is a composite: the portrait is a studio publicity photograph for "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), obtained from a commercial archive (not identified here because they wanted to be paid to let you see the photograph, and I ain't gonna give them publicity), with the background imagery showing the Baker Street address added for the stamp. Cushing doesn't wear such a hat in the film, but he can be seen wearing one in posters.

Nancy J. Parra's GLUTEN FOR PUNISHMENT (New York: Berkley, 2013; 304 pp., \$7.99) is the first in her "Baker's Treat Mystery" series (a cozy mystery series set in a gluten-free bakery), apparently non-Sherlockian except for the nicely punned series title. Her web-site's at <[www.nancyjparra.com](http://www.nancyjparra.com)>.

Ray Harryhausen died on May 7. His stop-motion photography was a staple of fantasy and science-fiction films for decades, in a career launched when at the age of four he saw Willis H. O'Brien's work in "The Lost World" (1925); "I always remember the dinosaur falling off the cliff," Harryhausen said in an interview in 2001. He also made some brief test footage at the end of the 1970s for a new version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that was to star Peter Cushing.

Further to the review of Andrew Lane's LOST WORLDS (Apr 13 #6), there's a colorful web-page for the book at <[www.panmacmillan.com/lostworlds](http://www.panmacmillan.com/lostworlds)> with attractive artwork, imaginative links, a game, and much more.

"You know a talk on a new book isn't going to go well when the crowd comes clutching a pile of your old DVDs," Anthony Horowitz told the Sunday Telegraph (Mar. 4, 2012), discussing what he described as a "recent disastrous Sherlock Holmes tour." Horowitz was touring to promote his pastiche novel THE HOUSE OF SILK, but his fans were more interested his television series "Foyle's War". Thanks to John Baesch for the report.

May 13 #2    The Exhibits Development Group has announced the world premiere of The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland on Oct. 10. There's a web-site at <[www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com](http://www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com)> with a link to a press release on the exhibition, which will tour ten cities in North America before touring overseas. The forward schedule already also includes Columbus, Ohio; Dallas, Texas; and Santa Ana, Calif.

The Sub-Librarians Scion of The Baker Street Irregulars will hold a meeting in Chicago on June 30, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm, during the annual meeting of the American Library Association. Additional information is available from Marsha Pollak <[mpollak@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:mpollak@sunnyvale.ca.gov)>.

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH: BEHIND THE SCENES, by Neil Simpson, is a digital book from Endeavour Press (£1.99/\$2.99) that includes discussion of his life and his career, including but not limited to his work in "Sherlock".

"What is your favorite book?" "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes." From a Q&A interview in The Guardian (Apr. 19) with Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, formerly a model and a folk singer, and now the wife of former French president Nicolas Sarkozy. Thanks to Jim Ballinger for the report.

Further to reports on Conan Doyle's former home at 12 Tennison Road in Norwood (Apr 13 #5), previously unsold at auction and then listed at £750,000 by the auctioneer (Barnett Ross), the property is now listed at their web-site as "sold after"; no word as yet as to plans for the house by the new (unidentified) owner. It's possible that the new owner is Revivit Walker, from Bromley, who asked Croydon Council to approve plans to turn the house into a 12-bedroom apartment building.

Two Sherlockian works have won Edgars from the Mystery Writers of America this year: James O'Brien's THE SCIENTIFIC SHERLOCK HOLMES (best critical/biographical), and Steven Moffat's "Sherlock: A Scandal in Belgravia" (best TV episode teleplay).

The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained Ron Fish and Ben and Sue Vizoskie, has a new URL <[www.sherlockiancalendar.com](http://www.sherlockiancalendar.com)>; it's 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](mailto:ronf404@aol.com)> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed.

"Great Lives" is a 30-minute series broadcast by BBC Radio 4. On Apr. 30 host Matthew Parris talked with Gyles Brandreth and Andrew Lycett about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and it's nice indeed that the BBC keeps the series up for listening at their web-site <[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01s4g7j](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01s4g7j)>.

The Telegraph recently blogged about "Ten British TV Shows That Crossed the Pond," and one of them was "Coupling" (described as "the raunchy, semi-auto-biographical sitcom based on the writer Steven Moffat meeting his wife Sue Vertue"). When it was adapted for the American audience in 2003, the series "was deemed to be too sexually explicit" and was cancelled by NBC-TV with just four episodes broadcast. Moffat is better known now as the creator of the BBC-TV series "Sherlock", which is produced by Vertue.

May 13 #3     The seventh episode of "Mr. Selfridge" has now been seen in the U.K. and the U.S., with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (played by John Sessions) coming to the store for a book signing, and he was happy to sign THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES for Agnes Towler; it was a copy of the American edition, the "special limited edition" reprint (stated to be the fourth impression) published by Grosset & Dunlap. And yes, the book says it's the fourth impression. Then he inscribed for Rose Selfridge THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (apparently the British edition) and THE EXPLOITS OF BRIGADIER GERARD (apparently the first British edition).

The series was inspired by Lindy Woodhead's biography SHOPPING, SEDUCTION & MR. SELFRIDGE, published in Britain in 2007 and now available as a reprint from Profile Books (£8.99) and Random House (\$16.00). Conan Doyle is mentioned only in passing, as a friend of Sir Oliver Lodge (a fellow-spiritualist who was given his own reserved table in the store's Palm Court Restaurant).

A bit more about the third season of "Sherlock": according to a VH1 report (May 12), Benedict Cumberbatch has said that there's a possibility that the new programs will be broadcast simultaneously in the U.K. and the U.S., so viewers in the U.S. may not have to wait to see the new series.

Jonny Lee Miller's "Elementary" has ended its season on CBS (no discussion here of what happened, since it's still being broadcast in Britain). The series averaged 10.8 million viewers and was the most-watched new series, which certainly pleased the network: work already is underway on the second season, which will open with Holmes and Watson in London. The DVD set for the first season (\$69.99 for the 24 episodes) is now available for pre-order (\$48.99 at Amazon).

And Variety reported (Apr. 30) that CBS Interactive will produce an on-line series "Baker Street Irregulars" based on "Elementary" that's due this fall and follows "a motley crew of characters who assist the modern-day Sherlock in solving cases with their unique talents," to air on <www.cbs.com>, where you can already watch "Elementary" and play a "3 Truths and a Lie" game to "see if you have what it takes to keep up with Sherlock."

Don Hobbs bought the late Fred Levin's collection of foreign translations of the Canon, and is now offering some duplicates for sale. An illustrated sales list is available by e-mail from Don <221b@verizon.net>.

Martin Wallace is developing a computer game based on Neil Gaiman's Holmes/Lovecraft pastiche "A Study in Emerald" (which won a Hugo award) for Treefrog Games <www.treefroggames.com>; there are links to the company's page at Facebook, and a two-minute video trailer for the game. And if you have wondered what his library looks like, go to <www.tinyurl.com/y8vl5xw>.

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 Spaghetti Warehouse in Pittsburgh on May 22, welcomed by members of The Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers, with the toasts including a birthday tribute to Arthur Conan Doyle. Our next dinners will be in Denver on Oct. 30, and in Houston on Apr. 9.

May 13 #4    The American edition of Guy Adams' SHERLOCK: THE CASEBOOK (Feb 13 #2) will be titled THE SHERLOCK FILES: THE OFFICIAL COMPANION TO THE HIT TELEVISION SERIES, due from It Books in July; it's a fully illustrated examination of the first six programs in the series, imaginatively written and with great humor, in the voice of Watson.

"London in 1927" is six minutes of nostalgic color footage uploaded to the Internet by Tim Sparke, and kindly reported by John Linssenmeyer, who notes that that was the year in which the last four Sherlock Holmes stories were published <[www.vimeo.com/7638752?](http://www.vimeo.com/7638752?)>.

The second Can-Am Silver Blaze event will be held on July 13-14 in Toronto. with a buffet luncheon and the race at Woodbine Racetrack, a special story meeting, and a breakfast and tour of Toronto; more information is available from Donny Zaldin (416-565-9555) <[donaldzaldin@rogers.com](mailto:donaldzaldin@rogers.com)>.

I'd like to hear from anyone who subscribes to the N.Y. Review of Books and can supply a copy of Michael Dirda's "Not So Elementary, Watson" (May 9); the full text is hidden behind a paywall at the magazine's web-site.

Further to the item on the pair of metal plates displayed by Javier Doria during the birthday festivities in New York (Feb 13 #5), it turns out that there are three plates: one of the pair is reported to have been sold to a collector, and the other two were offered at auction in England this month, estimated at £30,000-£50,000 and £5,000-£10,000; they attracted no bids at all. Jon Lellenberg has written about all three of the plates at his Archival History web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/ajv9k6s](http://www.tinyurl.com/ajv9k6s)>; anyone interested in purchasing the unsold plates can contact Richard Westwood-Brookes at Mull-ock's at <[rchrwdstwdbrks8@googlemail.com](mailto:rchrwdstwdbrks8@googlemail.com)>.

Scott Monty notes that Copper Beech Farm is available for purchase. It's not in Hampshire, but rather in Greenwich, Conn., and it's the most expensive property for sale in the U.S. (the asking price is \$190 million). You can read a Wall Street Journal story (May 17) <[www.tinyurl.com/ocfgh75](http://www.tinyurl.com/ocfgh75)> and see a slide show at <[www.tinyurl.com/pdt47rn](http://www.tinyurl.com/pdt47rn)>; 50.5 acres and a 12-bedroom Victorian mansion that needs work. And there are lots of copper beeches.

You can add The Netherlands to the list of countries with active Sherlockian societies: The Baarn Baskervilles meet in Baarn, and Jan-Just Middel is their contact. Cornelis Helling founded and presided over The Crew of the S.S. "Friesland", which was active until he died in 1995. Willis Frick's Sherlocktron web-site <[www.sherlocktron.com](http://www.sherlocktron.com)> offers just-updated lists of 901 Sherlockian societies (419 active and 482 inactive) with names and addresses of contacts for the active societies.

Willis also has revised his listings of Sherlockian purveyors and Sherlockian publications; new information and corrections can be reported to him at <[sherlock1@cox.net](mailto:sherlock1@cox.net)>.

Dorothy Ramsey is offering an extensive collection of Sherlockian books and memorabilia, asking \$1,500 for the entire collection. Anyone interested is invited to request an e-mail copy of her color-illustrated description; her address is <[dorothyramsey@gmail.com](mailto:dorothyramsey@gmail.com)>.

May 13 #5 Otto Penzler, proprietor of the Mysterious Bookshop, continues to publish a monthly Mysterious Bookshop Newsletter, always with a "Sherlock Holmes" section offering new, old, and rare books, pamphlets, and magazines, and of course other non-Sherlockian but interesting material; go to <[www.mysteriousbookshop.com](http://www.mysteriousbookshop.com)> and click on "Newsletter" to see the latest issue.

"Quote Investigator: Dedicated to Tracing Quotations" is a useful web-site maintained by Garson O'Toole <[www.quoteinvestigator.com](http://www.quoteinvestigator.com)>; there's nothing by Conan Doyle, but the web-site has imaginative Sherlockian artwork.

There's lots of news from the world of the theater: Greg Kramer's new play "Sherlock Holmes" (starring Jay Baruchel as Holmes) opened in Montréal on May 5 (Apr 12 #5) and quickly sold out the entire run (including two additional performances).

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" opened at the Alley Theatre in Houston on May 24, and will run through June 23 <[www.alleytheatre.org](http://www.alleytheatre.org)>. Dramatists Play Service (440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016) (212-683-8960) <[www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com)> has published the script (\$8.00); the play premiered in Tucson (Mar 11 #4) and was nominated for an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America.

"Magic! Mystery! Romance! Adventure! Fairies! A master detective in a ridiculous hat!" That's the description of a new play "Sherlock Holmes" performed by the Pantaloons Theater Company <[www.thepantaloons.co.uk](http://www.thepantaloons.co.uk)> on tour in England beginning at Burton Constable Hall in Hull on June 9.

It's not necessarily the farthest-flung Sherlockian theatrical performance, but the Silent Hands Creative Circle will present Ed Lange's play "Sherlock Holmes' Secret Life" at the Lionel Wendt in Colombo, Sri Lanka, June 14-16 <[www.silent-hands.com/creative\\_circle.php](http://www.silent-hands.com/creative_circle.php)>; the poster artwork shows a fine assortment of Sri Lankan actors in costume for the play. And the play also is scheduled at the Tillamook Theater in Tillamook, Ore., Aug. 30-Sept. 15. <[www.tillamooktheater.com](http://www.tillamooktheater.com)>

The Theatre at the Mill will present an outdoor version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (in a new dramatization by Laura Turner) in Mossley Hill Civic Square in Newtownabbey (near Belfast) on July 4. Details at <[www.theatreatthemill.com](http://www.theatreatthemill.com)>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the fine parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be presented by Cut to the Chase at the Queen's Theatre in Hornchurch, East London, Oct. 16-Nov. 17 <[www.queens-theatre.co.uk](http://www.queens-theatre.co.uk)>.

C. P. Stancich's play "Sherlock Holmes and John Watson's Body" premiered in Lafayette, Colo., last year, and will be performed again at the Camino Real Playhouse, Oct. 18 through Nov. 3; 31176 El Camino Real, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 (949-489-8082) <[www.caminorealplayhouse.org](http://www.caminorealplayhouse.org)>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) will have its world premiere at the Seattle Repertory Theatre, Nov. 15-Dec. 15 <[www.seattlerep.org](http://www.seattlerep.org)>.

May 13 #6 "Hammer Housing Estate of Horror" was the headline on a story from the Daily Mail (Apr. 27), at hand from Roger Johnson: the owner of Bray Studios in Berkshire has announced that the iconic location is no longer viable for movie-making and wants to build up to seven homes on the site. The "Hammer" is Hammer Films, and Bray Studios is where many of their films, including "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959) were made.

Department of What Might Have Been: Benedict Cumberbatch, in an interview with Amber M. Ray published in Metro New York (May 6), said that HBO wanted to air "Sherlock" but turned it down because there were only three episodes and "we do series."

Litographs <[www.litographs.com](http://www.litographs.com)> demonstrates the wonders of modern technology: literary T-shirts (\$34.00) and posters (\$29.00) offering artistic designs created from the text of books, including THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. Kindly reported by Tina Rhea.

The spectacular edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET that was published by Hakon Holm in 2005 with the original text from Beeton's Christmas Annual and more than 600 striking illustrations by Danish artist Nis Jessen (Jul 05 #5) has been reissued (with 200 illustrations) as a printed book (€43.95) and in a Kindle edition (€29.99). But the only way to order it appears to be from Amazon in Germany <[www.tinyurl.com/pa3fjpv](http://www.tinyurl.com/pa3fjpv)> (there's no cost for shipping for a Kindle edition).

There was a Steampunk World's Fair in Piscataway, N.J., May 17-19, according to Steve and Linda Morris, with all sorts of events, including Professor Moriarty's Deadly Dinner (with four seatings) and a Bartitsu Workshop; go to <[www.steampunkworldsfair.com](http://www.steampunkworldsfair.com)> and search for [sherlock] and [doyle] and [moriarty]. Bartitsu (and Sherlock Holmes) also made the front page of the Wall Street Journal (May 24) <[www.tinyurl.com/oxnvrwn](http://www.tinyurl.com/oxnvrwn)>.

And there was discussion of bartitsu (and baritsu) in "Timeshift: Everybody Was Kung Fu Fighting: The Rise of Martial Arts in Britain" (a one-hour television program broadcast by BBC-4 on Feb. 24). Of particular interest was the voice-over statement that the first mention of baritsu in print was in The Times. Thanks to Catherine Cooke for tracking down an article on "Japanese Wrestling at the Tivoli" about an exhibition by instructors at "Mr. Barton-Wright's school of physical culture in Shaftesbury-avenue, where the 'baritsu' system of self-defence is taught," published Aug. 23, 1901 (much earlier than the appearance of "The Empty House" in The Strand Magazine in Oct. 1903).

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <[www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times13-5.html](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-5.html)>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, and a report (with a photograph) of an intriguing copy of vol. 42 of The Strand Magazine (Jul-Dec 1911) with a fore-edge painting showing an illustration from "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax" and a portrait of Conan Doyle, offered by Buckingham Books for \$3,750; the website for the dealer is <[www.buckinghambooks.com](http://www.buckinghambooks.com)>.

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



Jun 13 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The Canadian one-hour series "Murdoch Mysteries" is now in its sixth season and is popular in Canada and Britain (but still not available in the U.S.); it's set in Toronto in the 1890s and stars Yannick Bisson as Inspector Murdoch. Geraint Wyn Davies appeared as Arthur Conan Doyle in two episodes in 2008 (Jan 09#1), and he returns in "A Study in Sherlock" (broadcast in Canada on Jan. 28); the program also features Andrew Gower as a man claiming that he is Sherlock Holmes.

A new Sherlock Holmes comic's due from Madefire, with an adaptation of "The Greek Interpreter" by Liam Sharp and Bill Sienkiewicz; you can see a sample of their artwork in full color at <[www.tinyurl.com/lu3a8h7](http://www.tinyurl.com/lu3a8h7)>; Madefire is a company that creates and markets "motion books" that are downloaded as apps for the iPhone and iPad.

Gary Lovisi notes that the 25th Anniversary Annual NYC Collectable Paperback & Pulp Fiction Expo will be held on Oct 13 at the Holiday Inn at 440 West 57th Street in New York. Go to <[www.gryphonbooks.com](http://www.gryphonbooks.com)> for details on authors who will attend, and on his Sherlockian and other books.

There was a bit of publicity in the British press about a Twitter exchange: "Sherlock" co-creator Mark Gatiss tweeted "Isn't Roger Moore wonderful in The Man Who Haunted Himself? I have such a soft spot for the film." Moore (who played Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes in New York") responded with "@Markgatiss thank you. I might be equally wonderful in Doctor Who or Sherlock if asked." And Gatiss tweeted "My life is complete! Will be in touch. My dad was once mistaken for you by two old ladies in Whitley Bay!" Fans were excited, with one tweeting "You mean Roger Moore playing Sherlock Holmes in a Doctor Who episode? Awesome idea."

Colin Dexter's amusing pastiche "A Case of Mis-Identity" (in which he offered an amusing analysis of the Canonical case that Holmes may or may not have solved correctly) was published in WINTER'S CRIMES 21 (1989) and reprinted in MORSE'S GREATEST MYSTERY AND OTHER STORIES (1993). Now Jennifer Reeve's story "A Case of Mis-Identity" has been published in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Aug. 2013); it's an imaginative tribute to Dexter, sent to EQMM at his suggestion.

"Great Reverence at the Famous" is the title chosen by Scott Monty (who has a talent for finding appropriate Canonical quotes) for his blog about last month's birthdays of three legendary Sherlockian actors; you can read this entry in his Baker Street Blog at <[www.tinyurl.com/ls9pu5a](http://www.tinyurl.com/ls9pu5a)>.

A comment on the finale of "Elementary" on-line at the Stabley Times (May 21) from Jerry Miller, who knows much more about modern technology than I do: "Sherlock Holmes and Watson make a breakthrough in a case by deducing that a series of unrelated iPhone 5 units may be connected because they've been jailbroken in order to run the same homebrew app to communicate with Moriarty. And while it was a small aside in the plot, it marked the first time the word 'jailbreak' has been used on a mainstream TV drama in reference to the iPhone 5 hacking group." If you want to know more about this, you can read the story at <[www.tinyurl.com/mb4efs2](http://www.tinyurl.com/mb4efs2)>.

Jun 13 #2    Bev Wolov discovered the Lavolta Press <[www.lavoltapress.com](http://www.lavoltapress.com)>, which publishes books of historical clothing patterns. FASHIONS OF THE GILDED AGE, VOLUME 1 (\$49.00) contains "160 authentic women's patterns for Victorian reenactment and theatrical costuming, suitable for Old West/Wild West; Oregon Trail; British-Zulu Wars; Victorian teas, dances, and weddings; Sherlock Holmes events; and productions of operettas by Gilbert & Sullivan and Johann Strauss II" (\$49.00). And THE VOICE OF FASHION (\$42.00) offers "79 patterns for women's styles from 1900 through 1906, suitable for Edwardian garden parties; teas and weddings; ragtime dances; historic house tours; Sherlock Holmes and steampunk events; and productions of plays by Chekhov and Shaw" (\$42.00). And they have more titles for anyone interested in the Sherlockian era.

"Bloody Scotland" is Scotland's international crime-writing festival, and it's scheduled for Sept. 13-15 in Stirling. The program is available online at <[www.bloodyscotland.com](http://www.bloodyscotland.com)>; nothing Sherlockian or Doylean (so far).

Paul Jones had some predictions about possible plot twists in the next season of "Elementary" in the Radio Times (May 29), one of them that Jonny Lee Miller will swap roles with Benedict Cumberbatch: they've alternated roles before (in the National Theatre's play "Frankenstein"), and "Benedict Cumberbatch's detective will be taking over Miller's New York beat while he in turn joins forces with a very confused John Watson." You can read more of the predictions at <[www.tinyurl.com/qbcxstm](http://www.tinyurl.com/qbcxstm)>.

Don Pollock has reported Redbubble <[www.redbubble.com](http://www.redbubble.com)>, where you'll find all sort of artwork on T-shirts, iPhone cases, stickers, posters, and much more. A recent search turned up 3,501 hits for [sherlock holmes], 239 hits for [conan doyle], 201 hits for [irene adler], 50 hits for [baskervilles], and 3 hits for [scuttlebutt].

Olaf Maurer has reported that the Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft has launched a competition, in company with the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Meiringen and Haslital Tourism, offering an attractive prize to anyone who can solve all of the clues to the Canonical tales hidden on or associated with John Doubleday's life-sized statue of Sherlock Holmes at Meiringen. There is more information (in German) at <[www.sherlock-gesellschaft.de](http://www.sherlock-gesellschaft.de)>, and (in English) at <[www.sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.ch](http://www.sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.ch)>. This isn't an easy competition: according to Olaf, the current record holder is Michael Meer, who has solved 54 of the 60 clues.

SHINee is a South Korean contemporary R&B boy group, and the lead single on their fourth EP is "Sherlock" (which was an instant success when it was released in 2012). It's at YouTube at <[www.tinyurl.com/k8j9fts](http://www.tinyurl.com/k8j9fts)> along with other videos by the band. Thanks to Aziz Bin Adam and Les Klinger for reporting the song.

Jean Stapleton died on May 31. She had a long career as an actor on stage, screen, and television, and was best known for her role as Edith Bunker in the 1970s television series "All in the Family"; she also appeared as busybody investigator Miss Tweed in a production of the murder-mystery musical "Something's Afoot" that was broadcast by Showtime in 1984, singing "I owe it all to Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle."

Jun 13 #3 Noreen Malone reported in the New Republic (May 23) that Amazon keeps track of which passages Kindle readers have highlighted the most and #19 on the list is from THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: "I have no data yet. It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts." The most-highlighted book, of course, is THE HOLY BIBLE. You can consult the lists at <[www.kindle.amazon.com/most\\_popular](http://www.kindle.amazon.com/most_popular)>.



Neil Patrick Harris (perhaps best known for four seasons in the title role in the television series "Doogie Howser, M.D.") hosted the Tony Awards in New York this month and won high praise. The photograph shows him with his partner David Burka in costume at the themed mystery wedding of Becky Bailing and Kris Lythgoe on Apr. 27.

David Marcum has reported that THE PAPERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, a collection of pastiches, one explaining the family connection between Holmes and Solar Pons (Nov 12 #4) has been reissued by MX Publishing in two volumes at \$16.95 each.

Holmes and Watson in a new film (sort of): "Dom Hemingway" will star Jude Law as a safecracker known for his profane and dangerous ways, and Richard E. Grant as his partner Dickie. Jude Law plays Watson in the Warner Bros. "Sherlock Holmes" series, and Grant played Holmes in "Encounters: The Other Side" in 1992 (and Mycroft in "Sherlock" and Stapleton in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 2002). The film is due for release in 2014.

Scott Monty has reported that his Sherlock Holmes Social Network, which has been on-line since 2007, will be shutting down as of July 15 because of the increasing amount of spam and fake accounts <[www.sherlockholmes.ning.com](http://www.sherlockholmes.ning.com)>. But there's an alternative: his Sherlock Holmes Community at Google+; all that's required is a Google account <[www.bit.ly/SHCommunity](http://www.bit.ly/SHCommunity)>.

Tim Johnson, curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, blogs from time to time, and more than occasionally on matters Sherlockian or Doyleans. He has perpetrated a Sherlockian pastiche for the "Three-Minute Fiction" competition was announced on "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio, and while he didn't win, you can his blog about the pastiche at <[www.tinyurl.com/lp9nmq2](http://www.tinyurl.com/lp9nmq2)>. He also has blogged with pleasure about a Doylean competition he did win <[www.tinyurl.com/kqkxxwu](http://www.tinyurl.com/kqkxxwu)>; it would appear he was the only competitor, but it's a grand story.

"Baker Street Irregulars: Hanging on for Dear Life" is a CD issued by Atomic Mouse Recordings in 2006 and available at <[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)> (\$11.53); you can also purchase individual tracks on-line. The Baker Street Irregulars is described on Myspace as the "nom de guerre" of Brian McKnight's one-man; none of the tracks are Sherlockian but he explains the Sherlock Holmes has always been one of his heroes, and he was mesmerized when at the age of 12 he saw the HBO broadcast of Frank Langella in the Gillette play.

Jun 13 #4 The "Algonquin Round Table Mysteries" (a series of novels from J. J. Murphy) are set in the Algonquin Hotel in New York during the 1920s and feature Dorothy Parker, her fellow members of the Round Table, and others including William Faulkner in MURDER YOUR DARLINGS; Harry Houdini in YOU MIGHT AS WELL DIE; and Arthur Conan Doyle in A FRIENDLY GAME OF MURDER (New York: Penguin/Obsidian, 2013; 316 pp., \$6.99); Murphy takes some liberties (but has fun) with the Algonquin as well as with its famous (and infamous) inhabitants <[www.roundtablemysteries.com](http://www.roundtablemysteries.com)>.

Sonia Fetherson notes that Matt Laffey has reported that The Spectator has created an archive of issues from 1828 to 2008, searchable on-line without charge. The Spectator published many items of interest to Sherlockians and Doyleans; it's intriguing that a search for [sherlock holmes] produces 221 hits.

Admirers of "Sherlock" and admirers of "Elementary" argue (sometimes strenuously) about the merits of one series or the other; occasionally the argument is amusing, as with a post by Jack Moore to BuzzFeed last year. Obviously, CBS was not persuaded.

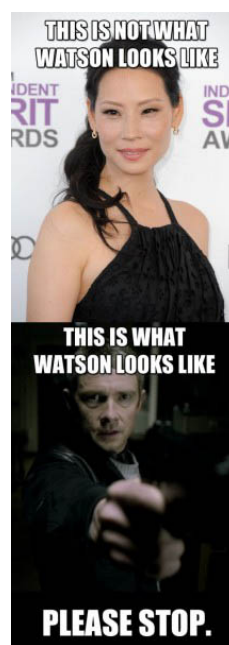
Andrew Lane, who turned his attention to the great grandson of Professor George Edward Challenger in LOST WORLD (Apr 13 #6), launched his earlier YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES series with DEATH CLOUD (Jun 10 #3); there are five titles in the series, the latest being FIRE STORM (London: Macmillan, 2011; 344 pp., £12.99/\$17.99) and SNAKE BITE (London: Macmillan, 2012; 312 pp., same). Lane has said that he plans to continue the series, and there is an interesting web-site at <[www.youngsherlock.com](http://www.youngsherlock.com)>.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of India (Mar 05 #5) now has an on-line journal Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge, with 60 pages and nicely done. There's a link at the society's homepage <[www.sherlockholmessociety.in](http://www.sherlockholmessociety.in)>.

"The Adventure of the Mysterious Safe" is the title of an imaginative project devised by Shannon Carlisle, an accelerated-learning elementary-school teacher in Nashville; she was this year's winning of The Beacon Society's Beacon Award, and you can read all about the project in a special edition of Joel and Carolyn Senter's Sherlockian E-Times <[www.tinyurl.com/mv374q3](http://www.tinyurl.com/mv374q3)>.

There's a north-of-the-border equivalent of the BBC America cable channel: BBC Canada (which is showing the CBS-TV series "Elementary"), and of course there's a BBC Canada Shop offering (among other things) a Sherlock Holmes Coaster Set (#16903) decorated with Sherlockian silhouettes, discounted to \$19.99 <[www.tinyurl.com/k52886f](http://www.tinyurl.com/k52886f)>; kindly reported by Jack Winn.

Shane Peacock's BECOMING HOLMES ends his series about Sherlock Holmes as a young man, and it has been nominated for an Arthur Ellis Award (best juvenile/young adult) from the Crime Writers of Canada; the awards are imaginatively named after the "nom de travail" of Canada's official hangman. The author has a web-site at <[www.shanepeacock.ca](http://www.shanepeacock.ca)>.



Jun 13 #5 The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; the summer issue has Evy Herzog's imaginative "Toast to Spring Cleaning" and Brad Keefauver's enthusiastic report on 221BCon in Atlanta; next year's convention will be held Apr. 4 to 6 <[www.221bcon.com](http://www.221bcon.com)>. The Muse is Published quarterly, and costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).

"I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" (a podcast created by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder) now has 53 episodes, the latest of them being a 61-minute program featuring an interview with Tom Francis, who chairs the Baker Street Irregulars Trust, which collects and archives primary material about the history of the BSI and its members. You can listen to or download the podcast at <[www.ihearofsherlock.com](http://www.ihearofsherlock.com)>; earlier episodes also are available.

Gary Thaden has discovered just the thing for Sherlockian bathrooms: "No Shit Sherlock Lavatory Mist" sold by Blue Q (\$11.99), with a light lemon and cedar scent and suitable "for crime scenes of all types and sizes"; their web-site's at <[www.tinyurl.com/om9p8jl](http://www.tinyurl.com/om9p8jl)>.

Thomas Wheeler, the author of THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Nov 11 #8), has used Google Maps Engine to create an imaginative map of the London area with icons for some of the sites in his book; you can zoom in and out using the icons at the lower right, and navigate with your mouse. Ask him <[londonsecrets@london.com](mailto:londonsecrets@london.com)> to share it with you.



Viator ("travel with an insider") offers various guided tours, including a "Sherlock Holmes Film Location Tour in London": the two-hour walking tour, which is led by a film-expert guide, visits film sites from "Murder by Decree" to "Sherlock" (\$15.36) <[www.tinyurl.com/mt385ch](http://www.tinyurl.com/mt385ch)>.

AIDE-DE-CAMP TO CONAN DOYLE: THE BOER WAR DIARY OF CHARLES BLASSON, by Ken Cooper (London: Createspace, 2013; 64 pp., £6.99), is the diary of a young medical student who served as one of the dressers in the privately-funded Langman Field Hospital during the Boer War in South Africa, where he served under Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle and was for a time his secretary. Ken Cooper found the diary in his wife's family papers, and his annotated transcription offers a fascinating account of what the war was like for the British who fought in it, and a look at Conan Doyle himself.

MX Publishing has now sponsored four Great Sherlock Holmes Debates on the Internet since the first one was held on Nov. 10, 2011 (the latest was held on June 8 this year). Colorful slides from all four debates are available at <[www.slideshare.net](http://www.slideshare.net)>, and recordings of the second and third can be seen at <[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)>; just search for [great sherlock holmes debate].

Scott Monty reports that his Sherlock Holmes Social Network will shut down in July, because of the growing number of spammers and the cost of keeping the site running; if you have content at the site you'd like to keep, you need to download it now, because the site will be deleted. But there's a substitute: the Sherlock Holmes Community <[www.bit.ly/SHCommunity](http://www.bit.ly/SHCommunity)>.

Jun 13 #6 With regard to Les Klinger's lawsuit against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate (Feb 13 #6), asking a federal court to rule that the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John H. Watson are not protected by federal copyright laws, and that writers, filmmakers, and others can use the characters in new stories without paying any license fees to the owners of the remaining copyright on the stories, Les has posted a brief update at his web-site at <[www.free-sherlock.com](http://www.free-sherlock.com)>: "The Arthur Conan Doyle Estate has failed to file a formal appearance or any other responsive pleading in the matter within the time granted to it. We are considering our next actions in the case and will keep you posted."

Scott Monty has a "Holmes on Facebook" link at the top of the opening page of his Baker Street Blog, where you can find a list (with links) and a form you can use to report additions <[www.bakerstreetblog.com](http://www.bakerstreetblog.com)>. There seems to be no end to Sherlockian social networking.

The First Annual John H. Watson Society Treasure Hunt will be launched at noon on Aug. 1; details at the society's web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/lhrk8ob](http://www.tinyurl.com/lhrk8ob)> (you don't need to be a member to participate).

The Book Depository offers lists of Top Heroes and Top Villains (as voted by customers) <[www.tinyurl.com/lq7payx](http://www.tinyurl.com/lq7payx)>, and of course Holmes and Moriarty are near the top of their lists; what's really interesting is whether you can identify all of the heroes and villains.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <[www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times13-6.html](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-6.html)>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, and reports from society's near and far.

The Bay Area Sherlock Con, now in its second year, will be held on Aug. 17 at Santa Clara University in California <[www.bayareasherlockcon.com](http://www.bayareasherlockcon.com)>; it's a "fan-run celebration of Sherlock Holmes" and there's additional information at their Tumblr site <[www.bayareasherlockcon.tumblr.com](http://www.bayareasherlockcon.tumblr.com)>.

Further to the report (May 13 #6) on the British television program "Time-shift: Everybody Was Kung Fu Fighting: The Rise of Martial Arts in Britain" that included discussion of bartitsu and baritsu, Aziz Bin Adam notes that it's available at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=St0-JDpJAIQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=St0-JDpJAIQ)>.

The new CD "Twisted Tales" (Chops not Chaps, \$15.00) is a collaboration between the late rock keyboardist Ray Manzarek and blues slide guitarist Roy Rogers, and the lead track is a new song "Just Like Sherlock Holmes" (which you can sample or purchase as a download at <[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)>).

Ladbroke's opened a betting market on who will be the next Doctor Who (Matt Smith, the current Doctor, leaves the series at the end of this year), and the early front-runner (at 3/1) was Rory Kinnear (Bill Tanner, M's Chief of Staff, in the current "James Bond" films). But not far behind (at 6/1) was Benedict Cumberbatch (who of course is well known to Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss (co-creators of both "Doctor Who" and "Sherlock")). When the odds on Kinnear dropped to 2/1, Ladbroke's suspended betting. Rory Kinnear's father was the late Roy Kinnear, who played Moriarty's assistant in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975)



Jun 13 #7 "MAD" is a 15-minute animated series that airs on the Cartoon Network, and offers parodies similar to those in its namesake magazine, and on June 17 the program included an amusing 3-minute spoof of the CBS series "Elementary" (with Mary Poppins helping Watson and Gregson investigate the mysterious disappearance of Sherlock Holmes. You might be able to see the segment at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/msq9xkn](http://www.tinyurl.com/msq9xkn)>, if it's still there (if not, you can search for "Umbrellamentary").

More theater news: Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" opened at the Park Square Theater in St. Paul, Minn., on June 7 and will close on July 14 <[www.parksquaretheater.org](http://www.parksquaretheater.org)>; there's a 2-minute video trailer at <[www.tiny.url/mf3olkn](http://www.tiny.url/mf3olkn)>.

Laura Turner's new outdoor version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (May 13 #5), first performed by the Chapterhouse Theatre at Wentworth Castle Gardens in Barnsley, is now touring in Great Britain and Ireland. The full schedule's at <[www.chapterhouse.org](http://www.chapterhouse.org)>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being performed at the Hackmatack Playhouse in Berwick, Maine, through July 6 <[www.hackmatack.org](http://www.hackmatack.org)>. And at the Lakeview Arts Barn in Bobcaygeon, Ont., through July 6 <[www.lakeviewartsbarn.com](http://www.lakeviewartsbarn.com)>. And it's being performed at the Seaside Repertory Theatre in Santa Rosa Beach, Fla., through Aug. 3 <[www.seasidereptheatre.wordpress.com](http://www.seasidereptheatre.wordpress.com)>. For those who want to plan far in advance, it has been scheduled by Theatre Works at the Mountainview Center for the Performing Arts in Palo Alto, Calif., on Apr. 2-27 <[www.theatreworks.org](http://www.theatreworks.org)>.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" (Steven Dietz's play) is being performed at the Pierson Playhouse in Pacific Palisades, Calif., through July 14 <[www.theatrepalisades.org](http://www.theatrepalisades.org)>. And at the Commonwealth Theatre in Lanesboro, Minn., through Oct. 28 <[www.commonwealththeatre.org](http://www.commonwealththeatre.org)>.

Don't Go Into the Cellar <[www.dontgointothecellar.com](http://www.dontgointothecellar.com)> is a Victorian theater company performing in Britain; click on "What's On" to find dates and venues for their tours of "The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes" (from July 11), "Holmes Alone" (from Oct. 12), and "Ho Ho Holmes" (from Nov. 23).

Radio Spirits continues to offer a wide variety of old-time radio programs on CDs, some Sherlockian but most non-Sherlockian, and the company's catalogue and web-site are well worth inspection (3107 Wallingford, CT 06494) (800-833-4248) <[www.radiospirits.com](http://www.radiospirits.com)>. They also have a blog, and an archive of their own radio broadcasts.

Go to YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/nso9d4r](http://www.tinyurl.com/nso9d4r)> to hear 35 minutes of a longer recording of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" issued on a CD by Verglas Music (Feb 02 #6); words and music are by Clive Nolan and Oliver Wakeman, and the narrator is Robert Powell, who also plays Dr. Watson (Powell was Sherlock Holmes in the BBC radio broadcast of "A Study in Scarlet" in 1974, and on stage in a touring production of "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" in 1993).

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

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: MX Publishing, 2013, 289 pp., £18.99/€22.99/\$29.95) offers an extensive look at the Sherlockian artwork of Norman Schatell; compiled by his son Glenn, the book is a splendid tribute to a truly imaginative artist whose artwork appeared in many Sherlockian publications and on envelopes of the letters he sent to his correspondents. You'll see for yourself why his friends waited impatiently for his letters, and miss receiving them now. There's also a trade paperback edition. "Let me recommend this book," as Sherlock Holmes once said.

EAST WIND COMING, by Yuichi Hirayama and John Hall (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 233 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95), is a welcome collection of their articles and essays first published in the Shoso-in Bulletin, the Baker Street Journal, and other Sherlockian periodicals, many of them offering interesting Japanese insights into the Canon.

Article IV of the Constitution of The Baker Street Irregulars states that the "duties of the Commissionaire shall be to telephone down for ice, White rock, and whatever else might be required and available." White Rock still is available for purchase, although Psyche (the company's symbol of purity since 1894) is rather more decorous now than she was when Elmer Davis wrote the Constitution. You can see a slide show at <[www.whiterockbeverages.com](http://www.whiterockbeverages.com)> and (explore the section for Collectors) see video of Ernie Kovacs' brief encounter with Psyche.

CBS Consumer Products has announced that they have licensed Titan Publishing Group to create a series of original novels, that will be released in 2014. The novels will be new stories, tie-ins to the CBS television series "Elementary"

Wilfrid de Freitas has noted an interesting article in the London Evening Standard (June 6) <[www.tinyurl.com/o6v6f5p](http://www.tinyurl.com/o6v6f5p)> about Simon Wright, who was arrested for violating an Asbo [anti-social behaviour order] that banned him from begging in London. He has been earning £50,000 a year as a beggar and lives in a £300,000 flat in Fulham, happily following the example that was set by Neville St. Clair.

If you're considering a trip to India in August, the Sherlock Holmes Society of India is holding its annual meeting in Mumbai on Aug. 24-25; details at their web-site <[www.sherlockholmessociety.in](http://www.sherlockholmessociety.in)>.

The second annual Sherlock Seattle Convention will be held at the Broadway Performance Hall on Oct. 4-6; the guests of honor will be Laurie R. King, Les Klinger, and Lee Eric Shackelford, and there will be panels, cosplay, and other entertainment <[www.sherlock-seattle.org](http://www.sherlock-seattle.org)>.

Alan Barnes' "Sherlock Holmes Suite" for jazz octet and narrator was first performed at the Appleby Festival in Cumbria in July 2002 and then issued as a two-CD set from Woodville Records (WVCD102); the CD set's still available at <[www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)>, and the tracks as downloads from Amazon in the U.K. and the U.S.. Barnes has a talent for swing, and pays tribute to Duke Ellington; you can listen to the music free at <[www.tinyurl.com/o8ntrt4](http://www.tinyurl.com/o8ntrt4)>.



Jul 13 #2 "A Curious Night at the Theatre" was a one-night fund-raising gala in aid of two charities (the National Autistic Society and Ambitious about Autism) at the Apollo Theatre in London on July 1, and the evening included an imaginative live-and-video sequel to the National Theatre production of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" (dramatized from the novel by Mark Haddon). Luke Treadaway again played Christopher Boone, whose regular game of Tetris was invaded by Doctor Who (Matt Smith), who sent Christopher on a mission to combat the evil Moriarty (Andrew Scott); needing help, Christopher turned to the Queen (Helen Mirren), who granted access to the computer wizardry of Q (Ben Whishaw). And if the names of the supporting actors are familiar, it's because they have played the same roles on screen and television; Jude Law also was in the play, not as Watson but rather as Christopher's supply teacher.

THE SAGE OF SANTA FE: THE ADVENTURES AND PUBLIC LIFE OF JOHN BENNETT SHAW, by Susan Rice and Vinnie Brosnan (Oceanside: Sherlock in L.A. Press, 2013), is a delightful and nicely illustrated 28-page tribute to a man who was admired by more than one generation of Sherlockians, and justly so; available for \$7.00 postpaid from Vinnie (1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056).

The Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club (Apr 13 #1) now has two web-sites, one of them in Hungarian <[www.sherlock-sorozat.hu](http://www.sherlock-sorozat.hu)>, and the other one in English <[www.sherlockian-sherlock.com](http://www.sherlockian-sherlock.com)>.

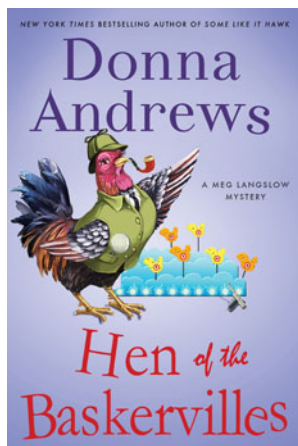
The Museum of London has scheduled a major exhibition on Sherlock Holmes to open next autumn. According to a story in The Times (June 26), "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's first scribbled notes about Sherlock Holmes" may be among the exhibits; Alex Werner, head of history collections at the museum, said that he hopes to obtain permission to show the author's manuscript notebooks in which the detective first appeared, as well as manuscripts for some of the stories.

Thomas Wheeler's imaginative interactive map of the London area (Jun 13 #5) is now available at Google Maps Engine <[www.tinyurl.com/n2dweuu](http://www.tinyurl.com/n2dweuu)>; you can zoom in and out using the icons at the lower right, and navigate with your mouse to see information from his THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.

Basil Rathbone continues to be popular, and is well represented on the Internet: "The Great Baz" <[www.thegreatbaz.wordpress.com](http://www.thegreatbaz.wordpress.com)> is delightful blog maintained by Neve Rendell.

Allen J. Hubin likely has read more crime fiction than anyone else, alive or dead: his CRIME FICTION IV: A COMPREHENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1749-2000 has been undated to 2010 and includes 143,200 books, 79,200 stories, and 5,100 movies, and it's a treasure for anyone interested in the genre. He began publishing his bibliography in "The Armchair Detective" (which he launched as a fanzine in 1967) and told the story of his work in a splendid article on "My Life Crime Fiction" in Janet Rudolph's magazine Mystery Scene. You can read the article at the magazine's web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/ly8x5xd](http://www.tinyurl.com/ly8x5xd)>. The bibliography is available in a CD edition (\$49.95) from Locus Magazine <[www.locusmag.com](http://www.locusmag.com)>. The current (summer) issue of Mystery Scene includes Joseph Goodrich's "Nicholas Meyer: An Appreciation" and Carole Nelson Douglas' "Why Can't They Get Irene Adler Right?" (not available on-line).

Jul 13 #3 Catherine Cooke reports that Abbey House, for years the headquarters of the Abbey National Bank, now is the Park View Residence, and it's quite grand <[www.parkviewresidence.co.uk](http://www.parkviewresidence.co.uk)>. Its flats are available for rental from Knight Frank <[www.tinyurl.com/mjhuolb](http://www.tinyurl.com/mjhuolb)> at £5,416 to £6,608 per month. Abbey House was the site of the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition during the Festival of Britain in 1951.



Donna Andrews has a continuing series about Meg Langslow (a successful decorative blacksmith and amateur sleuth), all with nicely punned titles (including COCKATIELS AT SEVEN, SOME LIKE IT HAWK, and OWLS WELL THAT ENDS WELL). the 15th title in the series is THE HEN OF THE BASKERVILLES (New York: Minotaur, 2013; 308 pp., \$24.99), in which livestock is stolen from a country fair (the owners aren't really named Baskerville, but many people do think so). There's a murder, and other mysteries, and a Sherlockian allusion or two in the book, which has amusing cover art. The author's at <[www.donnaandrews.com](http://www.donnaandrews.com)>.

Martin Freeman and Benedict Cumberbatch weren't in San Diego to attend Comic-Con, but they sent an amusing 4-minute video in which Cumberbatch revealed how he survived the fall from the roof of Bart's at the end of the second season; it may still be seen at <[www.tinyurl.com/p3wehot](http://www.tinyurl.com/p3wehot)>. You can also watch Digital Spy's 4-minute video interview with Steven Moffat, Sue Vertue, and Mark Gatiss at <[www.tinyurl.com/mfaq6p8](http://www.tinyurl.com/mfaq6p8)>. They were on a panel together, and according to the Los Angeles Times (July 18), they confirmed that there will be a wedding coming up: "Hot off the presses from 110 years ago, John does get married," Moffat said, "We hoped that you wouldn't sneak ahead and read the books." They also explained why Andrew Scott was seen on the set during filming of "The Empty Hearse": Moriarty's in the episode, as a corpse (Gatiss said that "it was cheaper to get Andrew Scott than a mannequin").

Andrew Malec has recommended Stephen J. Gertz's blog Booktryst (subtitled "a nest for book lovers") <[www.booktryst.com](http://www.booktryst.com)>; the postings are only occasionally Sherlockian or Doylean, but they're interesting nonetheless.

"Desert Island Discs" has been broadcast by the BBC since 1942: each week distinguished guests are asked to choose eight pieces of music they'd take if they were castaways on a desert island. They also get to choose a book, which occasions Sherlockian allusions by some castaways, who include violinist Itzhak Perlman, the Right Reverend David Jenkins (Bishop of Durham and the guest of honor at the annual dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London), Mark Gatiss, and most recently Beryl Vertue (founder and chairman of Hartswood Films, the company that produces "Sherlock" for the BBC). It is especially nice that there is an on-line archive of more than 1,500 programs at <[www.tinyurl.com/6cs8hsp](http://www.tinyurl.com/6cs8hsp)>. Search for [conan doyle] you'll get nine hits.

One of Beryl Vertue's music choices was David Arnold's "SHERlocked" played by the London Session Orchestra; the piece was written for the second season of "Sherlock" and is available on a soundtrack CD and as an MP3 download from on-line booksellers.

Jul 13 #4    Andrea Ross has reported an intriguing project carried out by Ariane DeVere (aka Callie Sullivan), who has posted transcripts for all episodes of the BBC "Sherlock" television series at her Live Journal web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/oul7sek](http://www.tinyurl.com/oul7sek)>. The pilot for the series and the special features from the DVD are included in the transcripts, which will be quite helpful for those who aren't quite sure just what people are saying in the series.

Reggie Musgrave died on June 24. An enthusiastic member of both The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and The Poor Folk Upon the Moor, he was formerly Roger Matthews. Not liking his original name he changed it to that of the character he often impersonated when the Society held its costumed excursions. As far as I know, he's the only person to be that devoted to the Canon).

Jody Baker's the contact for The Friends of a Soldier Named Murray, a Sherlockian society at an assisted-living facility in Chattanooga, Tenn., and he's happy to offer support and assistance to anyone who planning to start such a society elsewhere. He's at <[josiahbaker@bkhcw.com](mailto:josiahbaker@bkhcw.com)>.

Simon Corble's two-act play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" was first performed in and outdoor venue in Britain in 1995, and the script's now available (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 109 pp., £7.99/€8.99/\$10.95); Corble's introduction explains how the play came to be written, and why it differs from the book. It can be interesting indeed to read scripts when you have already read the story.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND PHILOSOPHY: THE FOOTPRINTS OF A GIGANTIC MIND, edited by Josef Steiff (Chicago: Open Court, 2011; 376 pp., \$19.95), is part of a long series on Popular Culture and Philosophy that presents essays written by academic philosophers about icons of popular culture. Holmes certainly is one of those icons, and the essays explore the stories, pastiches, film, and television.

David Miller's PETER CUSHING: A LIFE IN FILM (London: Titan, 2013; 192 pp., £18.99/\$24.95) is both a biography and a filmography, and it's entertaining and informative, with (of course) discussion of his appearances as Sherlock Holmes and as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. There's an interesting photograph in the book (page 77) that shows Peter Cushing on the set of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 1958 with Stanley Mackenzie (identified only as a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society) and Humphrey Morton (who acted with Cushing in a touring company in "Private Lives" in 1942). Stanley Mackenzie was an enthusiastic collector and stage manager for the Royal Shakespeare Company revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1973, and Morton was the founder and chairman of The Milvertonians of Hampstead.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND FRANKENSTEIN'S DIARY (Sutton: Severn House, 2013; 183 pp., \$28.95) is the fourth in Barry Grant's series; Sherlock Holmes, frozen in a Swiss glacier for 90 years, has been revived and is again detecting in London, assisted by James Wilson, a correspondent invalided home after an assignment in Afghanistan. This time they're in pursuit of (and under attack from) tabloid king Gerald Gurloch, who seems to be corrupting, blackmailing, or hacking everyone in sight.

Jul 13 #5 Jennie Paton has discovered a new (well, new to me) Sherlockian genre: a video of Rebecca van Tassel performing her strip-tease "Elementary My Dear Watson" at India Starr's Cabaret Nouveau in Leicester; the finale is properly (or improperly) S'ian, and there's a 4-minute video is available at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/kwef812](http://www.tinyurl.com/kwef812)>.

Jennie has found something else new: a surviving print of the one-reel silent film "Burstup Homes' Murder Case" (1913), starring Fraunie Fraunholz in the title role <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDbl6rCGnB8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDbl6rCGnB8)>; you get to watch the first 6 minutes twice, but then the film's complete.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <[www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times13-7.html](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-7.html)>, offering Sherlockian news, and old and new Sherlockiana.

There was a lot of discussion on the Internet about the title of the third episode of the third season of "Sherlock": the title of the first episode is "The Empty Hearse" and the second episode will be "The Sign of Three"; Steven Moffat gave fans a clue for the third episode earlier ("Bow"), and the BBC announced there would be clues planted in reruns of the second season in the U.K. And so there were: the clue in the first episode was the word "HIS"), leading to conclusions about "His Last Bow". A delay in the repeat broadcast of the third episode led the producers to reveal the full title in the second episode: it's "His Last Vow".

Marc Simont died on July 13. He was a noted author, but was best known as an illustrator of children's books; his artwork appeared in nearly a hundred books, and he was a winner of the Caldecott Award and the illustrator of the first 20 titles in Marjorie Weinman Sharmat's "Nate the Great" series about a boy who enthusiastically follows in Sherlock Holmes' footsteps.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE NEEDLE'S EYE, by Len Bailey (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2013; 302 pp., \$15.99), is subtitled "The World's Greatest Detective Tackled the Bible's Ultimate Mysteries"; Holmes, Watson, and (for one mystery) Mrs. Hudson time-travel to Biblical times to offer the author's own textual criticism and disputation.

There's nothing Sherlockian about Laurie R. King's TOUCHSTONE (2008), and it's unlikely that there will be anything S'ian about its upcoming sequel THE BONES OF PARIS, but her publicity campaign for the new book includes a thoroughly imaginative and amusing 6-minute video; you can read about the book (and watch the video) at <[www.tinyurl.com/ln3eq7z](http://www.tinyurl.com/ln3eq7z)>.

Some of you are accustomed to seeing announcements of meetings of The Red Circle of Washington as part of the newsletter, but (edging into the 21st century) we now have an electronic mailing list, which you are welcome to join; requests to me, please, at <[blau7103@comcast.net](mailto:blau7103@comcast.net)>.

Since it's summer, there's lots of theater coming up, here and there. The East Haddam Stage Company is presenting "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" (a 30-minute live-action radio drama using the script from William Gillette's 1930 broadcast) at Gillette Castle in East Haddam, Conn., through Aug. 11 <[www.tinyurl.com/m43smbm](http://www.tinyurl.com/m43smbm)>.

Jul 13 #6 Chris Hibbs' play "The Curious Case in the Colony: A Sherlock Holmes Adventure" is being performed in the Newman Wine Vaults, Provincial Historic Site, in St. John's, Newfoundland, through Aug. 18 as part of the Shakespeare by the Sea Festival <[www.tinyurl.com/k5qghuu](http://www.tinyurl.com/k5qghuu)>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Charleston History Mystery" is an audience-participation parody being performed at the Black Fedora Comedy Mystery Theatre in Charleston, S.C., through Aug. 30 <[www.tinyurl.com/mdoasno](http://www.tinyurl.com/mdoasno)>.

Two scenes from Greg Oliver Bodine's "A Requiem for Sherlock Holmes" were performed during the William Gillette Luncheon during the birthday festivities, and the complete play was presented at a sold-out staged reading last March; there will be three readings of the latest version of the play, with Paul Singleton starring as Holmes, at the Workshop Theater Company in New York on Aug. 8-10 <[www.requiemforsherlockholmes.com](http://www.requiemforsherlockholmes.com)>, and reservations are recommended <[www.theaterworkshop.org/node/2358](http://www.theaterworkshop.org/node/2358)> although there's no charge to attend the show.

The Porters of Hellsgate will present Gus Krieger's new two-act play "Sherlock Through the Looking-Glass" (based on the works of Arthur Conan Doyle and Lewis Carroll) at the Whitmore Theatre in North Hollywood, from Aug. 16 to Sept. 22 <[www.whitmorelindleytheatrecenter.com](http://www.whitmorelindleytheatrecenter.com)>: if you don't find the play at the web-site, the theater's phone number is 818-679-6160).

Broken Holmes Productions will offer Robin Johnson's comedy "Broken Holmes" during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe at the Space on the Mile on Aug. 19-24 <[www.brokenholmes.co.uk](http://www.brokenholmes.co.uk)>.

Ed Lange's play "Sherlock's Secret Life" will be performed at the Barn Community Playhouse <[www.tillamooktheater.com](http://www.tillamooktheater.com)> in Tillamook, Ore., from Aug. 30 through Sept. 15.

"Sherlock Holmes--Knight's Gambit" (a new play by Paul Falzone) is scheduled at the Cider Mill Playhouse in Endicott, N.Y., Sept. 19 through Oct. 13 <[www.ciderhillplayhouse.org](http://www.ciderhillplayhouse.org)>. And by the Oldcastle Theatre Company in Bennington, Vt., Sept. 27-Oct. 13 <[www.oldcastletheatre.org](http://www.oldcastletheatre.org)>. And at the Bickford Theatre at the Morris Museum in Morristown, N.J., Oct. 24-Nov. 10 <[www.morrismuseum.org](http://www.morrismuseum.org)>.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled by the Spotlight Players Theatre Troupe at the Meridian Habitat Community Center in Puyallup, Wash., Sept. 28-Oct. 5 <[www.valleyartsunited.org/Spotlight\\_Players.html](http://www.valleyartsunited.org/Spotlight_Players.html)>.

Chris Bange's "Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Hansom Cab Killer" will be performed at The Gladstone in Ottawa on Oct. 15-26 <[www.thegladstone.ca](http://www.thegladstone.ca)>.

And you can plan farther ahead: two Sherlockian plays will be presented by Vertigo Theatre in Calgary next year: Chris Gibbs' "Antoine Feval" on Jan. 15-25, and Clive Francis' dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" from May 10 to June 8 <[www.vertigotheatre.com](http://www.vertigotheatre.com)>.

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

Aug 13 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Catherine Cooke reports that the Sherlock Holmes Collection has moved from the Marylebone Library to the Westminster Reference Library, and that its new postal address is "Sherlock Holmes Collection (Third Floor), Westminster Reference Library, 35 St. Martin's Street, London WC2H 7HP, England. She has also posted to the "Irregular Observations" blog an amusing account (nicely illustrated) of "The Case of the Leicester Square Furniture Van" at <[www.wcclibraries.wordpress.com/category/irregular-observations](http://www.wcclibraries.wordpress.com/category/irregular-observations)>.

Spotted by Marsha Pollak: PRACTICAL CLASSICS: 50 REASONS TO REREAD 50 BOOKS YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED SINCE HIGH SCHOOL, by Kevin Smokler (Amherst: Prometheus Books, 2013; 300 pp., \$18.00); with a 7-page chapter on "The Work/Life Balance of Sherlock Holmes".

"A Triceratops Skull, a Giant Robot, and a Fantastic Flying Machine: Christie's Displays Lots for Out of the Ordinary Sale" read the headline on the Independent's story (Aug. 5) on an auction scheduled in London on Sept. 5. The "fantastic flying machine" is the Waxflatter Ornithopter used in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985); it's estimated at £50,000 to £80,000.

Judith Freeman has prepared a useful guide to "How to Start and Run a Sherlockian Group"; available on request <[judith-freeman@hotmail.com](mailto:judith-freeman@hotmail.com)>.

The Daily Telegraph ran a colorful photograph of a lion's mane jellyfish in a story (July 30) on hundreds of thousands of jellyfish having descended on Britain; the Marine Conservation Society conducts an annual national jellyfish survey, and is asking people to report jellyfish sighting. People are warned, however, that the lion's mane has a powerful sting, and anyone taking part in the survey should look but not touch jellyfish that they see.

The Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club has discovered an on-line "how to draw" web-site at <[www.drawingnow.com](http://www.drawingnow.com)> that offers a helpful tutorial on "how to draw Sherlock Holmes" <[www.tinyurl.com/mvqcpmu](http://www.tinyurl.com/mvqcpmu)>.

Gayle Lange Puhl's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE FOLK TALE MYSTERIES, published by George Vanderburgh in 2012, is a 192-page collection of imaginative pastiches inspired by children's folk tales and nursery rhymes (plus a Wodehouse pastiche), and with cover and interior art by Gayle. \$25.00 postpaid (signed or inscribed on request), available from Gayle at 501 South Madison Street #12, Evansville, WI 53536.

Frogwares has released a 2-minute trailer for its new computer game "Crimes & Punishments" (the next title in its series of Sherlockian computer games) <[www.tinyurl.com/mr258kk](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr258kk)>; I have never played any of these games, but the graphics continue to improve, and are now truly spectacular.

Peter G. Ashman ("Peter Steiler, the Elder") died on Aug. 5. He was a lawyer in the Washington area, and a member of The Red Circle, and then a District Court Judge in Alaska, serving rural communities and especially Alaskan Natives. Peter founded The Pawky Humorists in 1974, but unfortunately never was able to complete his projected magnum opus "The Annotated Schlock Homes"; his Investiture was awarded by The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.

Aug 13 #2 Douglas G. Greene has presided over Crippen & Landru for many years, and his recently-updated web-site is well worth a look <[www.crippenlandru.com](http://www.crippenlandru.com)>. He specializes in publishing collections of mystery short stories, often previously uncollected and sometimes previously unpublished, and he offers a treasure trove for those who enjoy the genre. He will soon issue the first edition in English of Balduin Grollers' DAGO-BERT, SLEUTH OF OLD VIENNA (1910); Dagobert Trostler was one of "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" in the fine 1970s television series that was based on anthologies edited by Hugh Greene.

Les Klinger spotted an advertising campaign by Steimatsky (Israel's largest bookstore chain) with the slogan "The Right Book Will Always Keep You Company" (and needless to say, one of the right books is the Sherlock Holmes stories).



Harry Houdini's A MAGICIAN AMONG THE SPIRITS (1924) included discussion of his relationship with Conan Doyle; Houdini was not satisfied with the book, cut by the publisher to 75,000 words from the nearly 175,000 words that Houdini wrote, and he soon began work on a revised edition that was unfinished when he died in 1926. The 409-page typed manuscript, hand-corrected and signed, was previously owned by magician Milbourne Christopher, and offered at RR Auctions on July 17, estimated at \$40,000-\$50,000, but it went unsold. The manuscript was published in facsimile, edited and introduced by his widow Maurine, in 1996.

The spring issue of For the Sake of the Trust (The Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter) celebrates the tenth anniversary of the Trust, with looks back and forward, and an announcement that the newsletter will be available electronically, both at the web-site <[www.bsitrust.org](http://www.bsitrust.org)> and by e-mail. If you would like to be added to the e-mailing list, you can send a request to <[trust221b@gmail.com](mailto:trust221b@gmail.com)>.

"Evaline and Mina didn't mean to get into the family business" is the hook for Colleen Gleason's THE CLOCKWORK SCARAB (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2013; 350 pp., \$17.99), and it's an imaginative proposition: Evaline Holmes is the niece of Sherlock, and Mina Stoker is the sister of Bram, and their adventures are set in a steampunk Victorian London. The book is a young-adult novel aimed at teen-age girls, with romance, villainy, plenty of reasons for a sequel, and a web-site <[www.stokerandholmes.com](http://www.stokerandholmes.com)>.

"Click to Play: Web Adaptations of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of a recent essay by Kristina Manente at the Baker Street Babes blog. It's easy enough to see (and sometimes difficult to escape) various television series, but there's an entirely different genre available on the Internet: web series. Kristina's blog <[www.tinyurl.com/kpkz3e4](http://www.tinyurl.com/kpkz3e4)> has interesting comment on and links to three current series.



Aug 13 #3     The latest issue of the electronic journal Ripperologist notes a BBC report that Ian Brady, convicted Moors Murderer, has told a mental health tribunal that he used "method acting" to be classed insane. Speaking of the media, Brady asked, "Why are they still talking about Jack the Ripper after a century?" His answer was "Because of the dramatic background, the fog, cobbled streets. Mine's the same ... Wuthering Heights, Hound of the Baskervilles." Brady, convicted in 1966, wants to be transferred from a psychiatric hospital to a Scottish prison. For information on how to subscribe to Ripperologist, you can contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk>.



Reported by Al Gregory: ESTUDIO EN ESCARLATA, a commemorative translation of the story as it appeared in Beeton's Christmas Annual, published last year by Debolsillo in Barcelona (€95) <[www.tinyurl.com/bs7gwlk](http://www.tinyurl.com/bs7gwlk)>.

A bibliographic query received from Nick Utechin: Helan Halbach published a new edition of William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974, using the original plates for the 1935 edition; according to the 1974 edition's limitation statement, there were 1,000 copies, 250 of them numbered, and some of the copies are thought to have been sold accompanied by an original plate used to produce the new edition. Nick has the plate for page 85 (acquired separately from the book), and a dealer in California is offering a copy of the book with the plate for page 182; plates certainly were made available, although not necessarily with copies of her edition. Nick would like to hear from anyone who has an original plate, and about how the plate was acquired <[highfieldfarmhouse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:highfieldfarmhouse@yahoo.co.uk)>.

William and Helen Gillette (impersonated by Tyke and Teddie Niver) traveled on the Essex Steam Railway & Riverboat on Aug. 17 and 18, and you can watch a short promotional video at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JoawaS3R](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JoawaS3R)>.

Jonathan Cranfield and Tom Ue, who presided over an academic conference on "Sherlock Holmes, Past and Present" in London earlier this year, have issued a call for papers for a similar symposium titled "Challenger Unbound" in London on Dec. 9; the symposium will be "dedicated to re-evaluating the narratives, their author, the wider culture that he inhabited, and the legacy of his work for the twentieth and twenty-first centuries." Details are available from <[j.l.cranfield@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:j.l.cranfield@ljmu.ac.uk)> and <[ue\\_tom@hotmail.com](mailto:ue_tom@hotmail.com)>.

You still have time to register for Bouchercon 2013 ("A New York State of Mind") in Albany, Sept. 19-22 <[www.bcon2013.com](http://www.bcon2013.com)>; this is the 44th annual event, named in honor of the late Anthony Boucher, and always a lot of fun. There will be a panel on "And So It Goes: Beyond Doyle and Holmes" (panelists are Terence Faherty, Lyndsay Faye, Les Klinger, and Michael Robertson, moderated by yours truly).

Thomas Wheeler's imaginative interactive map of the London area (Jun 13 #5) now includes information from Bernard Davies' guidebooks; the map is available at Google Maps Engine <[www.tinyurl.com/n2dweuu](http://www.tinyurl.com/n2dweuu)>, where you can zoom in and out using the icons at the lower right, and navigate with your mouse to see information from Wheeler's THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.



Aug 13 #4 Bill Barnes has reported on a new discovery about Conan Doyle's visit to Australia in 1920: his visit to Penfolds Winery near Adelaide. Conan Doyle mentioned visiting a winery in WANDERINGS OF A SPIRITUALIST (writing that his children were "wildly excited over the possibility of concealed snakes") but didn't identify the winery. Members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of South Australia (aka The Unscrupulous Rascals) have identified Penfolds and found a visitor's book with the signatures of Conan Doyle and his wife in the National Museum of Australia in Canberra. The book has been loaned to the South Australian Museum in Adelaide, where there will be champagne reception on Sept. 9. Penfolds still produces excellent wine, including Grange shiraz, Australia's most expensive wine (the 2008 vintage costs AU\$785.00 per bottle).

Carole Nelson Douglas' essay on "Why Can't They Get Irene Adler Right?" is now online at <[www.mysteryscenemag.com](http://www.mysteryscenemag.com)>, along with other interesting content published in Janet Rudolph's magazine.

Finding excellent Sherlockian books that one can't read easily can be frustrating, but if you're reasonably fluent in Swedish, you'll enjoy Mattias Boström's FRÅN HOLMES TILL SHERLOCK (Stockholm: Pirat Förlaget, 2013; 514 pp., SEK 195). The title translates as FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK, and Mattias reports on his research into Conan Doyle, and Sherlock Holmes, early and more recent Sherlockians, Sherlockian societies in various countries, pastiches, and stage, screen, radio, and television, and he's thoroughly up to date, discussing Sherlockiana on the Internet and the BBC's "Sherlock" television series. Readers in other countries will find sources for ordering the book at <[www.tinyurl.com/n4jg2pf](http://www.tinyurl.com/n4jg2pf)>.

"Elements of the Elementary" was an exhibition of modern multi-media art at White Lady Art in Dublin this month. There's information about the exhibition at Facebook <[www.tinyurl.com/kczpm7w](http://www.tinyurl.com/kczpm7w)>, and Oscar Ross has noted interesting videos at <[www.tinyurl.com/l8sqfoe](http://www.tinyurl.com/l8sqfoe)> and <[www.youtube.com/kl3oy4v](http://www.youtube.com/kl3oy4v)>. His web-site for The Crew of the S.S. May Day <[www.thessmayday.co.uk](http://www.thessmayday.co.uk)> is a fine way to keep up with what's going on in Northern Ireland and elsewhere.

William Gillette's (non-Sherlockian) play "Too Much Johnson" has been made into films in 1919, directed by Donald Crisp, and again in 1938, directed by Orson Welles for a planned Mercury Theatre stage-and-screen production; the play was performed briefly without the film, which has never been seen by the public. A copy of the film was discovered in Italy in 2008 and has been restored, and the film will have its world premiere at the Pordenone Silent Film Festival on Oct. 9, and its U.S. premiere at the George Eastman House in Buffalo on Oct. 16. The restoration was supported by the National Film Preservation Foundation, which hopes to make the film available on the Internet later this year.

Laurie R. King's next (and non-Sherlockian) novel will be THE BONES OF PARIS, a sequel to TOUCHSTONE (2008), and her promotion campaign is underway; details at <[www.tinyurl.com/murcwzr](http://www.tinyurl.com/murcwzr)>. The launch party will be on Sept. 10 in San Francisco, and then she'll be touring (including Bouchercon in Albany). Laurie has not abandoned Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes, and is now writing the next novel in that series; Russell and Holmes will visit Japan, and there's information about that at <[www.laurierking.com](http://www.laurierking.com)>.

Aug 13 #5 The Baskerville Hall Club's DÖDEN PÅ EXCELSIOR is a collection of Swedish translations of nine of P. G. Wodehouse's Sherlockian writings, together with interesting contemporary illustrations, a foreword by Bengt Malmberg, and an afterword by Tomas Prenkert; it's available (\$6.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping to the U.S.) from Anders Wiggström (Byggmästarvägen 29, SE-16832 Bromma, Sweden <wiggstrom@telia.com>. Wouldn't it be nice (hint, hint) if a similar collection were available in English?



It's not the Blue Carbuncle, but a 7.59-carat round brilliant-cut internally-flawless blue diamond called the "Premier Blue" will be offered at auction by Sotheby's in Hong Kong on Oct. 7; according to a story in the N.Y. Times (Aug. 19) Sotheby's expects the stone to bring about \$19 million, a record per-carat price for any diamond.

Peter Capaldi will be the next Doctor Who, succeeding Matt Smith, who will leave the series at the end of this year. Earlier this year (Jun 13 #6). Ladbrokes' odds on Benedict Cumberbatch were 6/1 (the odds on Capaldi were 20/1, but rose to 5/1 before the announcement).

You can visit <[www.cbs.com/shows/elementary](http://www.cbs.com/shows/elementary)> for official news of the second season of "Elementary" (which premieres on Sept. 26); there are first-look photographs from filming on location in London, and (at various web-sites) more on-set fan photos.

Aziz Bin Adam has reported a 56-minute speech delivered on July 4, 2011, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle via trance medium Arthur Kakalani Pacheco at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/ljapt3t](http://www.tinyurl.com/ljapt3t)>; you can read transcripts of more messages from Conan Doyle at <[www.tinyurl.com/lby62xv](http://www.tinyurl.com/lby62xv)>.

Aziz also has noted a Comedy Central television series "Drunk History" in which "booze helps bring out the truth of our nation's history," with historical reenactments presented by inebriated storytellers; on Aug. 13 the program included a 3-minute segment on Houdini and Conan Doyle and Spiritualism, which you can watch at <[www.tinyurl.com/llg6gl3](http://www.tinyurl.com/llg6gl3)>.

Oscar Ross has kindly forwarded the Sherlockology link to the imaginative teaser for the third season of "Sherlock" that aired this month at the end of the BBC repeat of "The Reichenbach Fall" <[www.tinyurl.com/mfbbhbh](http://www.tinyurl.com/mfbbhbh)>.

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS (the excellent annotated collection of letters he wrote to his mother and others) has been discounted to \$4.95 by Edward R. Hamilton <[www.tinyurl.com/n3zs49j](http://www.tinyurl.com/n3zs49j)> for the hardbound edition, and to £0.85 by Bibliophile Books <[www.tinyurl.com/lklz2mx](http://www.tinyurl.com/lklz2mx)> for the paper-bound edition. Value for money indeed.

VOYAGE OF THE BLUE CARBUNCLE, by Carl L. Heifetz (Denver: Outskirts Press, 2013; 45 pp., \$8.95) is subtitled "journey into a parallel universe," and it's exactly that: an homage to the worlds of Star Trek and Holmes. Commander S. Verner, the chief science officer on the space-exploration ship Clipper, has a blue carbuncle acquired by an ancestor in or about 1899, and it has mysterious powers; there's also an appearance by space pirate Sebastian Moran, a bit of sex, and a successful conclusion.

Aug 13 #6 Barry Grant's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SWEDISH ENIGMA (Sutton: Severn House, 2012; 180 pp., \$27.95) is the third in his series of four novels featuring the original Sherlock Holmes (no longer frozen in a Swiss glacier) and his modern-day assistant James Wilson; there is more Wilson than Holmes (just as Holmes wasn't on hand for much of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES), with two mysteries to be solved; a gigantic hound (not at all supernatural) makes a brief appearance.

Snoo Wilson died on July 3. He was an anarchic playwright in the vanguard of British theater from the end of the 1970s onward; earlier he is reported to have worked on a script for the Royal Shakespeare Company revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1974), and then he wrote two plays about Conan Doyle: "In Defence of Fairies" (1997) starred Simon Callow, and "Moonshine" (1999) featured Robin Soans in the same role.

The Norwegian Explorers and Sherlock Holmes Collections' conference "Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Space" in Minneapolis was thoroughly successful, with 156 people on hand for the festivities (plan ahead for the next conference in the summer of 2016). The St. Paul Pioneer Press had a nice article (Aug. 12) about the gathering <[www.tinyurl.com/l6vflnv](http://www.tinyurl.com/l6vflnv)> with a link to an audio recording of the Red-Throated League's performance of the Edith Meiser script for "Sherlock Holmes and the Monster of Gyre" (1944) as a radio play. The Minnesota library's "Continuum" interviewed Les Klinger during the conference, and posted a 6-minute video <[www.tinyurl.com/kq3ujnf](http://www.tinyurl.com/kq3ujnf)> at their web-site.

One of the souvenirs of the conference was J. RANDOLPH COX: A SHERLOCKIAN FESTSCHRIFT, a 137-page book nicely edited by Philip Bergen, with tributes to and writings by Randy, a long-time member of the Explorers. It's available from Phil (3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304); \$13.00 postpaid.

And if you'd like to see what you missed, Mike McCoy digitized and posted the 16-page conference program <[www.twl.sh/174FdNC](http://www.twl.sh/174FdNC)>.

Barbara Mertz died on Aug. 8. She was an Egyptologist and a prolific writer, with many series in print; better known as Elizabeth Peters and Barbara Michaels, she once joked that "Peters supplies me with a comfortable living, Michaels buys me lily ponds and gazebos." She acknowledged that her Elizabeth Peters series about Amelia Peabody Emerson owed much to the Canon, and as Barbara Michaels she wrote OTHER WORLDS (1999), a novel in which Frank Podmore, Nandor Fodor, Harry Houdini, and Arthur Conan Doyle suggest (and briefly debate) possible solutions to two unsolved ghostly 19th-century mysteries.

The Bay Area Sherlock Con (Jun 13 #6) featured a panel with Mike Kean, Randall Stock, and Marsha Pollak, and the Nerdophiles blog had a long article about the event <[www.tinyurl.com/lboz6uq](http://www.tinyurl.com/lboz6uq)>.

There's an intriguing 4-minute trailer for the new "Sherlock Holmes" series due soon on Russian television, and it may or may not be available at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/mu36nxk](http://www.tinyurl.com/mu36nxk)>. If this link has been taken down, you may still be able to find it the trailer, since it comes and goes. The series stars Igor Petrenko as Holmes, and Andrei Panin as Watson.

Aug 13 #7    Imagine Sherlock Holmes applying for a license as a private detective. The BBC reported (July 31) that Britain's Home Office has announced that it wants to "ensure rigorous standards" in an industry where "rogue investigators" have been infringing privacy. Private investigators will be required to be licensed by the Security Industry Authority beginning in the autumn of 2014.

If you're seeking an excuse to watch the colorized version of Basil Rathbone's "The Woman in Green" (1945), it was on "Classic Movies with Ron McCloskey" on Aug. 1 on Edison TV (New Jersey) with a four-segment interview with Al Gregory <[www.tinyurl.com/k7czbbp](http://www.tinyurl.com/k7czbbp)>.

"The Arthur Conan Doyle Experience" was a display of drawings and paintings from the scrapbook kept by Charles Altamont Doyle at the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre in Edinburgh, which also is the home of the Edinburgh Association of Spiritualists <[www.25palmerstonplace.com](http://www.25palmerstonplace.com)>. The Edinburgh Evening News had an article about the exhibit on Aug. 9 <[www.tinyurl.com/l2uxf8s](http://www.tinyurl.com/l2uxf8s)>.

David Marcum's THE PAPERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, published earlier with nine pastiches (Nov 12 #4) is again available (edited and revised) from MX Publishing in two volumes (£9.99/€12.99/\$16.95 each); Volume I (194 pp.) has six pastiches and Volume II (200 pp.) has three. Holmes and Watson visit Tennessee (where the author lives), and solve cases in England, with one of story explaining a family connection between Holmes and Solar Pons. There will be a book launch for both volumes at the Sherlock Holmes Plaza Hotel in Baker Street in London on Sept. 26; the author will be on hand for a Q&A session <[www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/7835495177](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/7835495177)>, and other authors as well.

Also from MX Publishing: Mike Hogan's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MURDER AT THE SAVOY AND OTHER STORIES (2013; 213 pp., same prices); five stories, with a bit of Gilbert & Sullivan, and with Holmes challenged to a duel, arrested for murder, and brought in to solve a mystery at Windsor Castle (not all in the same story).

Al Gregory found a Wooster Sherlock Frame at Home Depot, and it might be of interest to fans of Sherlock Holmes as well as Bertie Wooster. Or not: it is a professional paint roller frame, widely available at hardware stores and on the Internet; if you'd like to see just how professional it is, you can watch a 4-minute video at <[www.tinyurl.com/kmc9juo](http://www.tinyurl.com/kmc9juo)>.

The Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes and the Turf Builders of Baker Street have organized their third "no frills" version of The Silver Blaze on Sept. 21 at Monmouth Park in Long Branch, N.J. Additional information is available from Peter McIntyre (732-765-1240) <[psipete@optonline.net](mailto:psipete@optonline.net)> or Kate Karlson (607-669-4653) <[kkarlson@stny.rr.com](mailto:kkarlson@stny.rr.com)>

The Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium at the Newberry Library in Chicago on Oct. 12, starting at 9:30 am, is open to the public with no admission charge, and will feature David Spadafore (president of the library) on "Working with the Kittle Collection", Jon Lellenberg on "A. Conan Doyle: A Nineteenth-Century Man", and a team from Exhibits Design Group on "Recreating Sherlock Holmes' World" for the exhibition opening soon in Portland; more information at <[www.newberry.org/programs-and-events](http://www.newberry.org/programs-and-events)>.

Aug 13 #8     There was a panel about "Sherlock" at Comic-Con International in San Diego on July 18, with Mark Gatiss, Steven Moffat, and Sue Vertue, with video at YouTube <[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)>; search for [comic-con 2013 sherlock heidi] to find all three parts of the video. There also was a less-official "Nerd HQ" conversation with the trio; there's a 57-minute video at <[www.tinyurl.com/kgrmm3q](http://www.tinyurl.com/kgrmm3q)>.

Reported: Margalit Fox, in *THE RIDDLE OF THE LABYRINTH: THE QUEST TO CRACK AN ANCIENT CODE* (New York: Ecco, 2013; 384 pp., \$27.99), uses Conan Doyle's dancing men to explain principles of cryptographic analysis.

Elizabeth Shipe's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Final Vow" will be performed by the Milwaukee Entertainment Group at the Brumder Mansion in Milwaukee from Sept. 20 to Oct. 13 <[www.milwaukeeentertainmentgroup.com](http://www.milwaukeeentertainmentgroup.com)>.

Ken Ludwig's Edgar Award-winning comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be produced at the Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester, Mich., Oct. 2-27 <[www.mbtheatre.com](http://www.mbtheatre.com)>. And at the Houghton Hall in Northport Village, N.Y., Oct. 25-Nov. 2, 2014 <[www.minstrelplayers.org](http://www.minstrelplayers.org)>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be presented by Bad Dog Productions at the Newton Cultural Centre in Surrey, B.C., on Oct. 23-31 <[www.baskervilles.org](http://www.baskervilles.org)>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Waterloo Community Playhouse in Waterloo, Iowa, from Oct. 25 to Nov. 2 <[www.wcpbhct.org](http://www.wcpbhct.org)>.

The East Lynne Theater Company will perform a radio-play version of "The Norwood Builder" (dramatized by Gayle Stalhuth) on Nov. 4-5, 2011, and Mar. 16-17, 2012.

Theatre Mill will present Max Gee's new adaptation of "The Speckled Band" at the Treasurer's House in York on Nov. 14-24 <[www.theatre-mill.co.uk](http://www.theatre-mill.co.uk)>.

The Florida Repertory Theatre in Fort Myers will present "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) on Feb. 11-Mar. 5 <[www.floridarep.org](http://www.floridarep.org)>.

The Encore Stage & Studio will present Craig Sodaro's play "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" at the Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre in Arlington, Va., Feb. 28-Mar. 9 <[www.encorestage.org](http://www.encorestage.org)>.

The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" will open at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland on Oct. 10 and runs through Jan. 5; tickets will go on sale at <[www.oms.edu](http://www.oms.edu)> on Sept. 5. Galleries in the exhibition will include recreations of Conan Doyle's study and the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street, interactive displays of science and history and on becoming a detective, and exhibits devoted to displaying the culture of Sherlock Holmes <[www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com](http://www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com)>.

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Sep 13 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The first volume of Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES is now available as an e-book in various formats, including Kindle and Nook, and the second and third volumes presumably will follow, making things easier for those who don't want to lug the print editions around with them. But not much cheaper: the Kindle version costs \$25.14, and version for the Nook \$22.99. You can read all about it at <[www.lesliesklinger.com](http://www.lesliesklinger.com)> (the second volume of the short stories is coming soon).

Sorry about that: here's a repeat of the item about the Frogwares computer game (Aug 13 #1) with the correct URL: Frogwares has released a two-minute trailer for its new computer game "Crimes & Punishments" (the next title in its series of Sherlockian computer games) <[www.youtube.com/mr258kk](http://www.youtube.com/mr258kk)>; I have never played any of these games, but the graphics continue to improve, and are now truly spectacular.

And the video of Tyke and Teddie Niver impersonating the Gillettes (Aug 13 #3) was taken down from the web-site before the end of August.

Kent Ross reports that "The Ambience & Residents on Baker Street" will be the theme of the next "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 27-27, 2014; Kent (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <[kenthross@gmail.com](mailto:kenthross@gmail.com)> maintains the mailing list.

All eight of Carole Nelson Douglas' novels about Irene Adler and Sherlock Holmes are now available as e-books, and with readers' guides. The titles are GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES; THE ADVENTURESS [GOOD MORNING, IRENE]; A SOUL OF STEEL [IRENE AT LARGE]; ANOTHER SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA [IRENE'S LAST WALTZ]; CHAPEL NOIR; CASTLE ROUGE; FEMME FATALE; AND SPIDER DANCE.

A. J. Wright has noted Sherlock's Mystery Dinner Theatre in Columbus, Ga. <[www.sherlockscolumbus.com](http://www.sherlockscolumbus.com)>; they don't seem to have any Sherlockian plays in their repertoire, but there's S'ian artwork in their logo.

Declan Hughes' dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" was broadcast by RTE Radio (Irish Republic) in two one-hour parts on Oct. 24 and 31, 2010, with Robert O'Mahoney as Holmes and Owen Roe as Watson. You can find two web-sites where you can buy downloads by searching for [declan hughes baskervilles].

Thomas F. Hanratty's THE SINGULAR ADVENTURE OF CHARLES GOODFOOTE (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2012; 292 pp., \$13.46) is subtitled "a thrilling tale of a perilous escapade set in the old west," and it's that with bells on; it also features a young Sherlock Holmes, who's in the U.S. to help Pinkerton agent Goodfoote pursue a villain, and who learns quite a bit from Goodfoote during the pursuit.

"Lost Land of the Volcano" (a three-part series broadcast by BBC-1 on Sept. 8-22, 2009) featured Mount Bosavi in New Guinea, where an expedition discovered a giant rat. The series is available in segments at YouTube, and you can see the Bosavi giant rat in two segments: <[www.tinyurl.com/ln4m5bz](http://www.tinyurl.com/ln4m5bz)> and <[www.tinyurl.com/mf9ows6](http://www.tinyurl.com/mf9ows6)>.

Sep 13 #2     There are two versions of the set of DVDs for the first season of the CBS series "Elementary": the six-disk set available from Amazon and elsewhere (\$27.99) and a seven-disk set available only from Target (also \$27.99). The seventh disk has bonus additional features: "Elementary" Supersized; CBS Launch Promo: Behind the Scenes; Photo Montage; and Actor Biographies.

Jerry Margolin is offering original art that shows five actors who have played Sherlock Holmes by artist SanJulian (\$1500); go to <[www.tinyurl.com/nxkuu7q](http://www.tinyurl.com/nxkuu7q)> to see a much better (and larger) image, and you can contact Jerry at <[221bee@comcast.net](mailto:221bee@comcast.net)>.



Stuart Palmer was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars (his amusing essay "The I-O-U of Hildegard Withers" ran in The Baker Street Journal (Jan. 1948), discussing the great debt that Hildegard Withers owed to Sherlock Holmes). Otto Penzler's Mysterious Press is reissuing Palmer's work as e-books, and 17 titles are available (some about Withers and some not) <[www.tinyurl.com/mdw334r](http://www.tinyurl.com/mdw334r)>. The web-site has some interesting links, among them "In Search of the Classic Mystery Novel" (which last month reviewed A STUDY IN SCARLET).

Susan Dahlinger noted a report in The Bookseller (Nov. 30) that A. P. Watt, the world's first literary agency (founded in 1875), has been acquired by United Agents; Arthur Conan Doyle was a client of Watt for many years.

"Before Sherlock: The Novel Art of Detection" is an event scheduled at the Old Swan Hotel in Harrowgate on Oct. 27 <[www.tinyurl.com/pnfwvfr](http://www.tinyurl.com/pnfwvfr)>; the list of speakers includes Nick Rennison, author of SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY (2005) and Robert Ryan, author of the pastiche DEAD MAN'S LAND (2013).

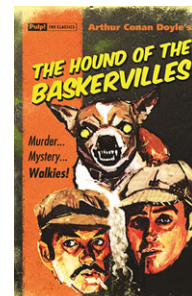
Wilfrid de Freitas is selling material from Don Redmond's collection; you can ask Wilfrid for a sales-list <[wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com](mailto:wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com)>.

Douglas Kerr's CONAN DOYLE: WRITING, PROFESSION, AND PRACTICE (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013; 273 pp., \$55.00) suggests that "Arthur Conan Doyle was, arguably, Britain's last national writer," an intriguing concept that is explored in six sections: Sport, Medicine, Science, Law and Order, Army and Empire, and Spirits. Kerr is knowledgeable and interesting, and offers informed insights into Conan Doyle's life and career.

It can be interesting indeed when people you know only as names in credits turn out to be famous, or infamous, or sometimes both, as is the case with Harry Alan Towers: MR. TOWERS OF LONDON: A LIFE IN SHOW BUSINESS (Albany: BearManor Media, 2013; 157 pp., \$19.95) is his autobiography (subtitled "a life in show business"). Sherlockians may remember him as the producer of the 1954 radio series that starred John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson, and Orson Welles, the and two films in the 1992 television mini-series "The Golden Years of Sherlock Holmes" with Christopher Lee and Patrick Macnee, and as writer and producer of the 1994 television mini-series "The Lost World" starring John Rhys-Davies as Challenger. Towers knew and worked with just about everyone in the business during six-decades career, and tells enjoyable stories about them.

Sep 13 #3 "Sherlock Holmes and the Stolen Emerald" had its world premiere at a theater in London in June; the delightful 6-minute silent comedy was written by Céline Terranova and funded by an IndieGoGo campaign; you can see the promotion for the campaign at <[www.tinyurl.com/ml67b8t](http://www.tinyurl.com/ml67b8t)> and see trailers for the film and the sequel at <[www.stolenemerald.com](http://www.stolenemerald.com)>, where you can also order a DVD or a download of the film.

The blurb reads: "A desolate moor, a diabolical dog in need of a muzzle, and some inbred locals; Sherlock Holmes is really up against it," from imprint Pulp! The Classics for their new edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (Harpenden: Oldcastle Books, 2013; 192 pp., £5.99). They reissue classics with new covers in a pulp fiction style, with a dash of wry humor," in this case with a cover showing Rathbone and Bruce, and a promise of "Murder...Mystery...Walkies."



Further to the mathematics behind "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadow" (Feb 12 #4), Alain Goriely and Derek E. Moulton wrote about their work for Warner Bros. in the Apr. 2012 issue of SIAM News (the Newsjournal of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) <[www.tinyurl.com/l6ub8gs](http://www.tinyurl.com/l6ub8gs)>.

Turns out that Rebecca van Tassel (Jul 13 #5) is only one of the Sherlockian strippers at YouTube: Lauren Langley has uploaded the 9-minute "A Study in Pink: A Sherlock Holmes Burlesque" at <[www.tinyurl.com/5r2ncv](http://www.tinyurl.com/5r2ncv)>.

For admirers of Dr. John H. Watson: "Before speaking of present day English writers, I must first pay tribute to Conan Doyle, the pioneer of detective writing, with his two great creations Sherlock Holmes and Watson---Watson perhaps the greater creation of the two. Holmes after all has his properties, his violin, his dressing gown, his cocaine, etc., whereas Watson has just himself--lovable, obtuse, faithful, maddening, guaranteed to be always wrong, and perpetually in a state of admiration! How badly we all need a Watson in our lives!" Agatha Christie, in her article "Detective Writers in England" (written in 1945 at the request of the Ministry of Information for publication in a Russian magazine), published in English for the first time as the Preface to a new edition of the Detective Club's collaborative novel ASK A POLICEMAN (London: Harper, 2013; 312 pp., £7.99); the novel was first published in 1933.

Hartley Nathan appeared (with deerstalker, pipe, and magnifying glass) on the cover of the September issue of Canadian Lawyer Magazine, and (together with Cliff Goldfarb) in an article "The Penang Lawyer" reporting on their Sherlockian and lawyerly work <[www.tinyurl.com/nl8t7yv](http://www.tinyurl.com/nl8t7yv)>.

A fine example of what can be done with Internet technology is an interactive map for "The Bruce Partington Plans" (reported by Diane Gilbert Madson) <[www.mapbox.com/tutorial-sherlock](http://www.mapbox.com/tutorial-sherlock)>.

"The Many Faces of Sherlock" 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. 2; the event is sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies, the library is at 400 Cathedral Street, and there is no charge to attend. You can see the flier at <[www.tinyurl.com/lvrcl9v](http://www.tinyurl.com/lvrcl9v)>.



Sep 13 #4     There have been many changes in London since the time of Sherlock Holmes, including the skyline: a 37-story skyscraper under being built at 20 Fenchurch Street is reflecting sunlight at such intense levels that cars are being melted. For more about what's being called the "solar death ray" just run a Google search for [walkie talkie tower].



There hasn't been a really good dog toy for Sherlockians (and Sherlockian dogs) since "The Hound of the Baskervilles by A Collie Dog" (Feb 89 #5), but a "Zombie Foot Dog Toy" certainly ought to qualify; it's made by GAMAGO (\$9.99) and is available at Amazon and elsewhere. The label carries the warning "Not a Toy" (but with an image of a baby, suggesting that the company feels babies need more protection than pets).

The admirers of Brigadier General Sir Harry Flashman VC, whose papers were edited by George MacDonald Fraser, may be shocked to discover that Flashman "was nothing more than a Paris-based remittance man and a plagiarizing fraud," according to the writings of Captain Jasper Speedicut, whose papers have been found and are being edited by Christopher Joll. THE SPEEDICUT PAPERS: BOOK 1 (1821-1848): FLASHMAN'S SECRET (Bloomington: AuthorHouse, 2013; 290 pp., \$31.70/£23.47) was reported by John Baesch as reviewed in The Times on Apr. 1 by Thomas Arnold (if you're worried about the date of the review, it may help that the book is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble). Speedicut's web-site is at <[www.tinyurl.com/nyr3lfu](http://www.tinyurl.com/nyr3lfu)>.

"Sherlock Holmes Nevében" [In the Name of Sherlock Holmes] is a Hungarian film that premiered in 2011 (Feb 13 #2); it will have its British premiere (with English subtitles) on Oct. 12 during the Cinemagic International Film & Television Festival for Young People in Belfast. There's a trailer (also with subtitles) at <[www.youtube.com/watch?V=H\\_pUCQ\\_Ig8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?V=H_pUCQ_Ig8)> and a web-site for the film at <[www.sherlockfilm.hu](http://www.sherlockfilm.hu)>.

News from the Toronto Film Festival: the next project for Bill Condon (director of the new Wikileaks movie "Fifth Estate") will be "A Slight Trick of the Mind" with Ian McKellen as a retired Sherlock Holmes, and a screenplay by Jeffrey Hatcher based on Mitch Cullin's novel (Apr 05 #2), and BBC Films is a co-producer. Hatcher wrote "The Duchess" (2008), in which Keira Knightly starred as Georgina, Fifth Duchess of Devonshire. If you'd like to see what McKellen looked like playing Sherlock Holmes in 2002, there is an image at <[img-www.theonering.net/images/170302-snlmckellen30.jpg](http://img-www.theonering.net/images/170302-snlmckellen30.jpg)> showing him in the "Hot Air Balloon Mystery Theater" skit that aired on Saturday Night Live" on Mar. 16, 2002.

Scott Monty has announced that his long-running "The Baker Street Blog" is merging with his web-site "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" (the last official post to the blog was on Aug. 28); you can read his announcement about the merger at <[www.tinyurl.com/ktsqnpny](http://www.tinyurl.com/ktsqnpny)>. "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" was founded as a podcast in 2005 and has become far more than that; it is now billed as "News and Information About Sherlock Holmes in Popular Culture," and that's just what it is (the only word missing from the description is "Timely"). Scott and his contributors do an excellent job of making interested news and commentary available on the Internet.

Sep 13 #5 John Baesch has forwarded a report in the Daily Telegraph (Apr. 4) on the campaign by the South Norwood Tourist Board to rename one of its two lakes Conan Doyle Lake; the board also want South Norwood to be declared the true Lake District, on the grounds that its great literary hero is far more popular than Wordsworth.

John also spotted a report in The Times (June 17) that the Policy Exchange think tank closing 30 of Britain's best-known but run-down prisons, including Dartmoor in Princetown, selling them to developers, and replacing them with huge prison "justice villages" holding up to 3,000 inmates.

"Great myths turn on simple pairs," Adam Gopnik wrote in the Sept. 9 issue of The New Yorker, "God and Lucifer, Sun and Moon, Jerry and George--and so an author who makes a vital duo is rewarded with a long-lived audience. No one in 1900 would have thought it possible that a century later more people would read Conan Doyle's Holmes and Watson stories than anything of George Meredith's, but we do."

"Cocktail Party Physics" is the Scientific American blog by Jennifer Oull-ette, who discussed "Sherlock Holmes and the Dynamics of an Asteroid" (Aug. 27) with particular attention to the film "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" <[www.tinyurl.com/mua6bjm](http://www.tinyurl.com/mua6bjm)>.

Further to the bibliographic query (Aug 13 #3) about the plates that were used to produce Helan Halbach's edition of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974, Nick Utechin has heard from a few people who own plates (Rudy Faist, Jim Vogelsang, Bob Hess, and the dealer 221Books, has located nine plates (including his own). Nick will report in more detail on his discoveries in the Baker Street Journal, but there are many more of the book's 191 plates to be found in other hands; he's at <[highfieldfarmhouse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:highfieldfarmhouse@yahoo.co.uk)>.

"Elementary, My Dear Holmes!" is a new computer game under development by Victory Square Games after a successful Kickstarter campaign that wound up raising more than \$50,000 from on-line contributors; you can read about the game, and the campaign, at <[www.tinyurl.com/mvwwpaw](http://www.tinyurl.com/mvwwpaw)>.

David Frost died on Aug. 31. He was a British journalist and broadcaster, perhaps best known for his groundbreaking interview with former president Nixon. Frost skyrocketed to renown as the host of the BBC television series "That Was the Week That Was" in 1962-1963; this caricature by Nicolas Bentley, published in the Sunday Telegraph, show Holmes and Watson examining Frost, presumably hoping to determine the reason for his rise to fame. The original artwork may still be available from dealer Peter Harrington (£400) <[www.tinyurl.com/nzyzor9](http://www.tinyurl.com/nzyzor9)>.



John Cox is "wild about harry" (that's the name of his blog, which is all about Harry Houdini. Cox has blogged about the Houdini/Conan Doyle segment that was broadcast on "Drunk History" last month (Aug 13 #5), with a nice photograph showing the two families relaxing on the beach in Atlantic City in 1922 <[www.tinyurl.com/l13qqmh](http://www.tinyurl.com/l13qqmh)>. He also has reported that the History channel has greenlit a four-hour Houdini mini-series, with Adrien Brody as Houdini and a script written by Nicholas Meyer <[www.tinyurl.com/lrw9285](http://www.tinyurl.com/lrw9285)>.

Sep 13 #6 Plan well ahead: the Wessex Press has announced "From Gillette to Brett IV: Basil, Benedict, and Beyond" at Indiana University in Bloomington on Sept. 12-14, 2014 <[www.wessexpress.com/html/g2b4.html](http://www.wessexpress.com/html/g2b4.html)>. Steve Doyle and Mark Gagen have attracted enthusiastic audiences for their past three conferences; the web-site has a link to show you what went on at the third one in 2011.

Fans of Benedict Cumberbatch and "Sherlock" will welcome Lynnette Porter's BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH: IN TRANSITION (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 347 pp., £12.99/€14.99/\$18.95; subtitled as "an unauthorized performance biography," the book is an informative and carefully-researched discussion of all his work as an actor, and his relationship with his fandom, which includes both Sherlockology <[www.sherlockology.com](http://www.sherlockology.com)> (for the series) and Cumberbatchweb <[www.benedictcumberbatch.co.uk](http://www.benedictcumberbatch.co.uk)> (for the actor). The 412 sourcenotes demonstrate the depth of the research, and the results are interesting indeed.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. JAMES PHILLIMORE, by Dan Andriacco (MX Publishing, 2013; 240 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95) is the fourth book in his series about Jeff Cody (in London for the second half of a honeymoon) and Sebastian McCabe (in London to debate Holmes-vs-Poe); there are two Phillimores (one of them Canonical and one quite modern), more than two murders, and some interesting sleuthing. The author's entertaining (and Sherlockian) blog is at <[www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com](http://www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com)>.

Andriacco also is the co-author (with Kieran McMullen) of MX Publishing's THE AMATEUR EXECUTIONER (2013; 175 pp., £7.99/€8.99/\$11.95), which is set in London in 1920 and features American reporter Enoch Hale, Wiggins (now a Chief Inspector in Scotland Yard), various literary and political figures, and Holmes, Watson, and others familiar from the Canon. There's a series of murders, and plenty of mystery.

Matthew J. Elliott has written scripts for Sherlockian radio, some reprinted last year in SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE AIR (Feb 12 #4), and pastiches; six atmospheric pastiches, first published in S'ian magazines and anthologies, have been collected in SHERLOCK HOLMES IN PURSUIT (MX Publishing, 2013; 182 pp., £7.99/€8.99/\$12.95).

More from MX Publishing: Fred Thursfield's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERY WRITER (2013; 196 pp., £8.99/€10.99/\$14.95); the story is set in 1920 and told by Watson's widow Mary, and involves her mystery-writer friend, both Holmes brothers, and World War skullduggery. Ross K. Foad's HOLMES IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS (2013; 161 pp., £7.99/€8.99/\$12.95) has Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes and Irene Adler solving a series of Christmas murders: it's a print version of a seven-part video produced by the author, available at YouTube (search for the title).

Foad has created much more than his Christmas story, and has written about it all in MX Publishing's THE STORY AND SCRIPTS BEHIND NO PLACE LIKE HOLMES (2013; 231 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95): his web-site <[www.nplh.co.uk](http://www.nplh.co.uk)> offers links to all his videos, as well as (click on "More") to the Howard Ostrom Holmes and Watson Collection, showing the results of his 30 years of collecting autographs of the people who have portrayed them on stage, screen, radio, television, and in other media.

Sep 13 #7 Brad Keefauver has kept his promise to stop updating his "Sherlock Peoria" web-site (Apr 12 #1), which is still available at <[www.sherlockpeoria.net](http://www.sherlockpeoria.net)> if you want to explore its archives, but "Sherlock Peoria" continues as a blog <[sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com](http://sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com)>, where Brad continues to report on topics that range from "Plan 221 from Outer Space" to "Irene Adler in a pile of naked ladies".

The Waxflatter Ornithopter used in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) was estimated at £50,000 to £80,000 last month at Christie's (Aug 13 #1), and the final price was £55,875 (which includes the buyer's premium); the Triceratops skull sold for £193,875.

The John H. Watson Society has announced the names of winners of its First Annual Treasure Hunt (Jun 13 #6): the Open Team competition was won by the Sound of the Baskervilles (of Seattle) with a perfect score, and the Open Individual competition by Denny Dobry with 98 out of a possible 100. You can find details at the society's web-site <[www.johnhwatsonociety.com](http://www.johnhwatsonociety.com)> and see the questions and answers; the questions for the Second Annual Treasure Hunt will be posted on May 1 (the contest will end on May 31).

The DVD set for "Sherlock: Season Three" has already been listed at Amazon <[www.tinyurl.com/q563yzt](http://www.tinyurl.com/q563yzt)>, where you can pre-order the set (for \$23.99) and read amusing comments ("Amazon, Thou Hast Forsaken the Fangirls" and "What a Twist!") by reviewers.

PBS-TV's two-hour special on "How Sherlock Holmes Changed the World" (Feb 24 #2) will air in two parts on Nov. 19 and 26. The program "will reveal for the first time the astonishing impact that Holmes has had on the development of real criminal investigation and criminal techniques," and there's more information about the program at <[www.tinyurl.com/bc282lr](http://www.tinyurl.com/bc282lr)>.

"The Baskerville Beast" is a British musical written by Teddy Hayes, first performed in 2004, and a script and full musical score are now available to amateur theatrical groups. There's more information, including a 3-minute video trailer at their web-site <[www.thebaskervillebeast.co.uk](http://www.thebaskervillebeast.co.uk)>.

There was a charity auction on eBay (benefiting Kidscape) last month offering naming rights in Anthony Horowitz's sequel to "House of Silk" (which is due next year); there were 49 bids and the winning bid was £3,700 (about \$5,723); that ensured that winner's character will meet Sherlock Holmes (a bid of more than £5,000 would have gotten the character killed off). But: one should note that in an interview with The Sunday Times (Mar. 24) Horowitz said that he has given up writing about Sherlock Holmes, and that the sequel won't have Holmes in it ("it is quite a dark thriller set after the supposed death of Sherlock Holmes at the Reichenbach Falls). In an interview in the Observer (Sept. 14) Horowitz said that "Sometimes you just have to rewrite a book: the new Sherlock Holmes novel wasn't working, so 42,000 words in I'm back to the beginning."

Oscar Ross has noted a Lego recreation of the sitting-room at 221B at the Lego CUUSOO web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/nlb5a8a](http://www.tinyurl.com/nlb5a8a)>. CUUSOO is a Japanese partner of the Lego Group ("cuusoo" reported means "wish" in Japanese), and you can search the web-site for [sherlock] to see some other interesting work.

Sep 13 #8 With regard to Les Klinger's lawsuit against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate (Jun 13 #6), asking a federal court to rule that the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John H. Watson are not protected by federal copyright laws, and that writers, filmmakers, and others can use the characters in new stories without paying license fees to the owners of the remaining copyright on the stories, the Estate has filed to oppose the motion, and Les has filed his response. All the documents in the case (and many of the reports in the press) are available at <[www.free-sherlock.com](http://www.free-sherlock.com)>.

Y CYLTH BRITH is the newest addition to the list of foreign languages into which a Sherlock Holmes story has been translated; it's "The Speckled Band" in Welsh, and the translation, arranged by The Deerstalkers of Welshpool, was featured by BBC News Mid Wales on Aug. 31. The report (and some audio of a bit of the story read in Welsh) is at <[www.tinyurl.com/owuvtj3](http://www.tinyurl.com/owuvtj3)>, and you can order the pamphlet (£6.00 plus shipping) from Roy Upton-Holder, the head of the Welsh society <[ruptonholder@onetel.com](mailto:ruptonholder@onetel.com)>.

And as usual there's no shortage of Sherlockian dramatics, old and new:

Brandon Palmer's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Whitechapel Murders" is being performed by the Byers-Evans House Theatre Company in Denver through Oct. 12 (303-620-4933).

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is being performed at the Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre in Fort Gordon, Ga., through Oct. 12 <[www.fortgordon.com/theatre/php](http://www.fortgordon.com/theatre/php)>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the fine parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being presented by the Theater Project at the Burgdoff Center in Maplewood, N.J., through Oct. 13 <[www.thetheaterproject.org](http://www.thetheaterproject.org)>.

Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" can be seen the Ankeny Community Theatre in Ankeny, Iowa, Oct. 4-20 <[www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com](http://www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com)>. And at the Fountain Hills Theater Mainstage in Fountain Hills, Ariz., Oct. 25-Nov. 10 <[www.fhtaz.org](http://www.fhtaz.org)>.

John DeGaetano's "Sherlock Holmes 10 Minute Plays" will be at the Leicester Square Theatre in London, Oct. 2-5 <[www.leicesterquaretheatre.com](http://www.leicesterquaretheatre.com)> and at the Kings Head Theatre in Islington, Oct. 8-12 <[www.kingsheadtheatre.org](http://www.kingsheadtheatre.org)>. The author's web-site is at <[www.johndegaetanoproductions.com](http://www.johndegaetanoproductions.com)>, and there's a book with nine plays available at Amazon and elsewhere, and some videos at YouTube.

Ken Ludwig's Edgar Award-winning comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" can be seen at the Summit Playhouse in Summit, N.J., Nov. 1-16 <[www.summitplayhouse.org](http://www.summitplayhouse.org)>.

Theatre Mill will present Max Gee's new adaptation of "The Speckled Band" at the Treasurer's House in York, Nov. 14-24, and at Ripley Castle in Harrogate, Nov. 26-28 <[www.theatre-mill.co.uk](http://www.theatre-mill.co.uk)>.

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

Oct 13 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Nick Utechin has noted evidence that the debate over whether the Sherlock Holmes stories qualify as literature has ended, at least according to The Times, whose recent (Sept. 17) "quick guide to everything you should know about culture" includes 25 books "that changed the course of literature." The chronological list starts with THE ILIAD and goes on to include A STUDY IN SCARLET.

Don Libey's THE BIOGRAPHY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Santa Rosa: Campbell & Lewis, 2013; 238 pp., \$17.00) offers both Mycroft's MY BROTHER, SHERLOCK and Sherlock's MONTAGUE NOTATIONS (Sep 12 #5). Just as Sherlock Holmes showed that there's a great deal of invention in Watson's writings, Mycroft Holmes explains that his brother is similarly unreliable.

Bouchercon 2013 in Albany was enjoyable, including the Sherlockian panel. Bouchercon 2014 ("Murder at the Beach" will be held in Long Beach, Nov. 13-16; Bouchercon 2015 (no title yet) in Raleigh, N.C., Oct. 8-11; Bouchercon 2016 ("Down in New Orleans") in New Orleans, Sept. 15-18; Bouchercon 2017 ("Passport to Murder") in Toronto, Oct. 12-15; and Bouchercon 2018 ("Crime in the Sunshine") in Saint Petersburg, Sept. 13-16.

"A Stout Heart in the Great Cesspool: Arthur Conan Doyle in London" was the title of an interesting lecture given by Richard Burnip at Gresham College on July 2, 2012, part of a series on "Literary London Crime"; thanks to the wonders of modern technology, there's audio, video and a transcript available at <[www.tinyurl.com/n8vgbq5](http://www.tinyurl.com/n8vgbq5)>.

"Sherlock Phone-Box Shrine Desecrated" was the eye-catching headline on the story on the Londonist web-site (Sept. 14) that "one of London's most cherished fan sites has been stripped bare" <[www.tinyurl.com/ol552o7](http://www.tinyurl.com/ol552o7)>. The fan site is red phone box outside St. Bart's Hospital, where fans of "Sherlock" left cards, ribbons, graffiti, and other mementos after Holmes jumped from the roof of the hospital at the end of the second series. A "cultural vandal" removed most of the messages, according to the story, and "the naked phone box is bereft of its individuality" (one assumes that it wasn't naked for very long).

D. A. Joy's MURDER IN WHITECHAPEL: THE ADVENTURE OF THE POST MORTEM KNIFE (Domnall Publishing, 2013; 481 pp., \$15.25) has Holmes and Watson solving the mystery of Jack the Ripper, and includes retellings (with some differences from the Canon) of the end of "The Greek Interpreter" as well as four other recorded and unrecorded cases from the time of the Ripper.

The results of Howard Ostrom's investigation of the first Sherlockian movie that actually was filmed ("Sherlock Holmes Baffled" was created to be shown on Mutoscopes) have been published at the Baker Street Babes' web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/msg89lg](http://www.tinyurl.com/msg89lg)>; the film in question is "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (or Held for a Ransom)", released by Vitagraph in 1905. Filmographers have long tended to rely on earlier filmographers, and there's a lengthy list of film resources that identify Maurice Costello as the actor who play Holmes; Howard explaining in detail why it couldn't have been Costello, and suggests who the actor really was.

Oct 13 #2    There's nothing truly Sherlockian in Mark Leibovich's dishy new book THIS TOWN, but nevertheless there's a connection: Roxanne Roberts and Amy Argetzinger had an item about the book in their column "The Reliable Source" in the Washington Post <[www.tinyurl.com/onqddsp](http://www.tinyurl.com/onqddsp)> mentioning his account of a book party Tammy Haddad hosted for the son of Michelle Obama's chief of staff Susan Sher. The host actually was Jill Biden, and the party was at the official home of vice president Joe Biden; the book's author was Susan Sher's son Graham Moore, and his book was THE SHERLOCKIAN (Nov 10 #8). Roberts and Argetzinger's earlier item on the book party can be found at <[www.tinyurl.com/oskb6gf](http://www.tinyurl.com/oskb6gf)>. There's more about the party, and the book, and the author, at his web-site <[www.thesherlockian.com](http://www.thesherlockian.com)>.

The Museum of London's major exhibition on Sherlock Holmes (Jul 13 #2) will open on Oct. 14, 2014, and close on Apr. 12. 2015; there's a web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/mp263ux](http://www.tinyurl.com/mp263ux)>.

Further to the item (Jun 13 #7) about Radio Spirits <[www.radiospirits.com](http://www.radiospirits.com)>, the company offers two sets of CDs of particular interest, each with program notes by Bill Nadel: "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (16 programs starring Tom Conway and Nigel Bruce) and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (16 programs starring John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson (at \$31.95 each)).

John Moffatt died on Sept. 12, 2012. He had a long career as an actor, on stage, screen, radio, and television; in the 1980s he was a member of the BBC's Radio Drama Company, and played both Holmes (in "Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula" in 1981) and Watson (with Roy Marsden in a series written by Grant Eustace, and with Dinsdale Landen in "Sherlock's Last Case" all in 1987).

Oscar Ross spotted a British web-site maintained by Penny Golightly, whose motto is ("who cares if we're broke, let's have fun anyway"), and has provided some helpful hints on a "221B Baker Street Makeover on a Budget with Argos" <[www.tinyurl.com/m5jfggb](http://www.tinyurl.com/m5jfggb)> for anyone who wants to decorate a living room in the style of the sitting room seen in the BBC's "Sherlock" television series (Argos is a British on-line shopping web-site).

Anthony Hinds died on Sept. 30. He had a long career in the film business, and in the 1950s was one of the founders of Hammer Films. He was the producer of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), and he also dramatized the story as a three-act play performed by the Steeple Aston Players in 1982.

Pierre Decourcelle adapted William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" as a five-act play performed in Paris in 1907 (the fifth act was provided by Decourcelle); if you'd like to see (or download) the television film "Une aventure de Sherlock Holmes" based on the play (as broadcast by ORTF in 1967), it is available at <[www.ina.fr](http://www.ina.fr)>, along with other interesting Sherlockian and Doylean video.

PBS-TV's two-hour special on "How Sherlock Holmes Changed the World" aired on the National Geographic channel in Britain on Oct. 8, giving Holmesians a leg up on Sherlockians, who won't see the program until it airs on PBS-TV in the U.S. in two parts on Nov. 19 and 26. There's more information about the program at <[www.tinyurl.com/bc2821r](http://www.tinyurl.com/bc2821r)>.

Oct 13 #3     The "Knickerbocker Classics" (from Race Point Publishing) now includes THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES, clothbound and in a slip case, with an insightful (as might be expected) foreword written by Daniel Stashower (2013; 1,200 pp., \$35.00/£20.00). Dan says he's very pleased to be able to give his two boys an edition of the Canon that has a foreword by their old man.



TeeFury is an interesting retailer: their T-shirt designs are available for only one day <[www.teefury.com](http://www.teefury.com)>. "The Science of Deduction" (with artwork by Megan Lara) was sold on Sept. 16. You can vote to bring designs back, but of course you need to visit the web-site daily to find out if the design's available again. Or you can go to her web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/lnssnk9](http://www.tinyurl.com/lnssnk9)> and buy the design on clothing or as a print or stickers.

Bryan Talbot, a well-known British comic-book artist, has designed the colorful new Sherlock Holmes Society of London Christmas Card. Packets of ten cards cost £7.50 postpaid to the U.K., £8.50 to Europe, and £12.00/\$20.00 to the U.S.; details at the Society web-site <[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk)>. You can see more of his artwork at his web-site <[www.bryan-talbot.com](http://www.bryan-talbot.com)>.

"There is as much sense in Hafiz as in Horace, and as much knowledge of the world," Sherlock Holmes said (in "A Case of Identity"). Michael Dirda gave high marks to *FACES OF LOVE: HAFEZ AND THE POETS OF SHIRAZ*, translated from the Persian by Dick Davis (2013) in a review in the Washington Post (Sept. 18) <[www.tinyurl.com/o4aknw7](http://www.tinyurl.com/o4aknw7)>. And yes, there's more than one way to spell the name of the 13th-century poet.

It's always nice when long-lost Sherlockian films are discovered, and even nicer when they're made available on DVD, as is the case with "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1914); it's a German silent film, directed by Rudolf Meinert, with Alwin Neuss as Holmes. It's available, or soon will be, with English subtitles, from Editions Filmmuseum <[www.edition-filmmuseum.com](http://www.edition-filmmuseum.com)>.

Ruth Berman has reported Eleanor Arnason's science-fiction pastiche "Holmes Sherlock: A Hwarhath Mystery" available on-line <[www.tinyurl.com/kdxphwd](http://www.tinyurl.com/kdxphwd)> and reprinted in Gardner Dozois' anthology *THE 30TH ANNUAL YEAR'S BEST SCIENCE FICTION* (St. Martin's Press, 2013); the Hwarhath first appeared in her novel *RING OF SWORDS* (1993), and she has written a series of stories about them.

If you'd like to see what a splendid copy of the first British edition of *THE LOST WORLD* in dust jacket looks like, go to <[www.tinyurl.com/mstucyu](http://www.tinyurl.com/mstucyu)>; it went to auction at Swann Galleries in New York on June 20, estimated at \$6,000-9,000, and it sold for \$22,800 (including the buyer's premium).

The Speckled Band of Boston will present a special event, open to the public, on Nov. 15 at Harvard University in Cambridge: there will be a sherry reception at the Houghton Library and a viewing of treasures from the H. W. Bell Speckled Band Collection, cocktails and dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club, and a presentation by Daniel Posnansky on "Frederic Dorr Steele, The Baker Street Irregulars, and Vincent Starrett: A Perfect Storm". More information is available from Richard Olken <[speckledband@comcast.net](mailto:speckledband@comcast.net)>.



Oct 13 #4 Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (62 pp.) offers an interesting mix of Sherlockian and Doylean poetry and prose, including Andrew Vetsch's amusing analysis of the Cumberbatch/Freeman "The Blind Banker", Andrew L. Solberg's thoughts about the future of the S'ian world, and Jisoo Choi'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).

Catching up: John O'Connell's THE BASKERVILLE LEGACY (Feb 11 #6) also has a trade paperback edition as BASKERVILLES: THE MYSTERIOUS TALE OF SHERLOCK'S RETURN (London: Short Books, 2012; 190 pp., £7.99) (New York: Marble Arch, 2013; 190 pp., \$16.00); it's an extremely fictionalized account of how Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson wrote HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <[www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times13-10.html](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-10.html)>, offering Sherlockian news, commentary, and discussion.

Compliments and congratulation to retired Court of Appeals Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt: on Sept. 26 the Dutchess County Courthouse was dedicated in his honor. Al served as Dutchess County assistant district attorney, district attorney, and county judge from 1964 to 1981, and then in the state judiciary and on the Court of Appeals until he retired in 2006.

Anyone interested in Canonical birds will welcome Phil Attwell's report of the "Tweet of the Day" on BBC Radio 4. You can hear (and hear about) more than a hundred British birds, including a cormorant, a storm petrel, and a ringed plover <[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01s6xyk](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01s6xyk)>.

The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" (Aug 13 #8) opened at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland on Oct. 10, and closes on Jan. 5; there's a colorful web-site at <[www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com](http://www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com)>. The exhibition is scheduled next at the Center of Science and Industry in Columbus, Ohio, opening on Feb. 6 and closing on Sept. 8. There was a 3-minute report on KOIN-TV on Oct. 9 <[www.tinyurl.com/kfh9u36](http://www.tinyurl.com/kfh9u36)> (Conan Doyle's great-grand-nephew Richard Doyle was on hand to open the exhibition).

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 its focus on Donald Redmond, whose personal papers have been donated to the Collection: Chris Redmond writes about his father's work on the Library's "Bigelow Index" (he also indexed The Baker Street Journal for many years), and Peggy Perdue describes his work in and for the Collection. Copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <[cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca](mailto:cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca)>.

Further to the item (Sep 13 #5) on the campaign by the South Norwood Tourist Board to name a local lake in honor of Conan Doyle, the board now proposes the name Lake Conan (keeping the tradition of giving lakes one-word names) <[www.southnorwoodtouristboard.com](http://www.southnorwoodtouristboard.com)>, but has opened a poll to allow you to vote on various names <[www.micropoll.com/a/mpview/1143074-3806016](http://www.micropoll.com/a/mpview/1143074-3806016)>.

Oct 13 #5 "How Benedict Cumberbatch and Alan Turing Helped a Writer Find Success in Hollywood" was the title on a long report by E. A. Hanks on BuzzFeed (Sept. 27) <[www.tinyurl.com/ktagu5a](http://www.tinyurl.com/ktagu5a)>, noted by Samantha Wolov. The writer is Graham Moore, author of the pastiche THE SHERLOCKIAN (2010), and the screenplay is for the film "The Imitation Game" (due next year, starring Cumberbatch as Turing).

The late Robert Joynt wrote five pastiches published in Neurology, and an unfinished sixth pastiche was found on his computer, and there's now a contest to complete the story (the deadline is Nov. 11). Details and the text can be found at <[www.neurology.org/content/81/11/1018.full](http://www.neurology.org/content/81/11/1018.full)>, with links to the first five stories.

It's probably merely a coincidence, but many viewers of the first episode of the second season of CBS-TV's "Elementary" noted that one of the commercials also was briefly Sherlockian <[www.tinyurl.com/k5cl2hb](http://www.tinyurl.com/k5cl2hb)>; for those who haven't read "The Second Stain" (or don't remember the story), Eduardo Lucas was the secret agent found murdered in his flat in Godolphin Street.

Jack Tracy, when he died in 1996, left behind many frustrated customers, as well as a wealth of interesting stories; many of those stories can be found in Phil Dematteis' "The Strange Life and Death of Jack Tracy" (a paper Phil delivered at a recent meeting of The Hansom Wheels and available at their web-site) <[www.hansomwheels.com](http://www.hansomwheels.com)>.

Ales Kolodrubec has posted a nice tribute to John Bennett Shaw at the web-site of the Ceska spolecnost Sherlock Holmese, on the occasion of the centenary of John's birth on Oct. 10, 2013 <[www.tinyurl.com/lve5qvo](http://www.tinyurl.com/lve5qvo)>. If you aren't fluent in Czech can read it in English (thanks to Google Translate) at <[www.tinyurl.com/mv5gwgu](http://www.tinyurl.com/mv5gwgu)>.



Benedict Cumberbatch was on the cover of Time magazine (Oct. 28), but only on the cover of the international edition. Concerned "about what it says for feminism," he no longer refers to his female fans as Cumberbitches, suggesting that "Cumberbabes might be better". He was inside the U.S. edition, but not the cover. Radio Times provided its readers with a 1-minute video of the shoot <[www.tinyurl.com/nl7xulu](http://www.tinyurl.com/nl7xulu)>, and there's much more about him at <[www.benedictcumberbatch.co.uk](http://www.benedictcumberbatch.co.uk)>.

If you're wondering what Time magazine thought was more important for its domestic edition, the cover showed "The United States of Texas" (by way of highlighting a long story on "Why Texas Is Our Future" that was subtitled "It's not an accident that three of the five fastest-growing cities are in Texas. It's more like destiny."

HOUNDS OF THE BASKERVILLES: FROM DEMON DOGS TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (New Brunswick: Global Communications, 2012; 273 pp., \$17.06.) is edited by Timothy Green Beckley, who says he is "a friend of all things weird and unknown," and explains that "since an early his life has more or less revolved around the paranormal." The book includes accounts of phantom black dogs in Britain, Canada, the United States, and other countries; a reprint of the story by Conan Doyle, and other related material.

Oct 13 #6     Sherlock Holmes' 159th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 17, 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 the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club (at 40 West 45th Street); the speaker will be James O'Brien, author of THE SCIENTIFIC SHERLOCK HOLMES (2012); his book won an Edgar (best critical/biographical) from the Mystery Writers of America. The lecture will cost \$11.00; seating is limited, and you should reserve early (details below); tickets will not be sold at the door.

The Baker Street Babes' "Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet Charity Ball" will start at 8:00 pm at The Players (16 Gramercy Park South), offering appetizers, live music, toasts, a costume competition, prizes, and an auction; the cost is \$35.00, and the proceeds will benefit the Wounded Warriors Project (last year's event raised nearly \$3,000 for the project). More information be posted soon at <www.bakerstreetbabes.com>.

Otto Penzler's 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), with entertainment (an original presentation) provided by the Friends of Bogie's; the cost is \$47.00 for chicken or salmon (\$52.00 for prime rib). Send checks 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 (201 West 52nd Street at Seventh Avenue); details are available from Becky Robare (111 North 9th Street #300, Philadelphia, PA 10107 (917-817-1608) <robareowl@gmail.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 175 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. 16.

Oct 13 #7    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's annual meeting will be at 10:00 am in the York Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing individuals' efforts to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people; details are at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner will hold a Junior Bloodstain, also in the York Suite, at 11:15 am, with Wodehousean entertainment.

The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 in the second-floor lounge at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); there will be a cocktail-party buffet and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks), and the usual (perhaps unusual) entertainment; the cost is \$69.00 (details below) or \$79.00 after Nov. 29 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 their informal buffet brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 am until "the last egg is exterminated" at Harley's Smoke Shack and BBQ at 356 West 44th Street (between Eighth and Ninth Avenues); \$20.00 payable by cash or check at the door. The brunch is open to all, but reservations are requested; 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 \$189.00 per night (single or double room); the special rate is available only for reservations made through the Baker Street Irregulars by Nov. 22. 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> after Nov. 8 and click on BSI Weekend, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.

Other hotels 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.expedia.com>, and <www.hotels.com>; you will be wise then to check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (do keep in mind that there are non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).

Oct 13 #8     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](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)>. News about additional events will be found in next month's issue of this newsletter.

Howard Ostrom and Ray Wilcockson have a well-illustrated article on "Voices from the Darkness: A Look at African-American Sherlock Holmes" available at Ross K. Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/kpa28ad](http://www.tinyurl.com/kpa28ad)>, and it's not just Sherlock Holmes: they start with Conan Doyle's campaign against what he called "The Crime of the Congo" and his invitation to referee the heavyweight contest between Jim Jeffries and Jack Johnson, and includes detailed coverage of films, television, records, and Internet video.

Save the date: Marcus Geisser reports that there will be a conference honoring Conan Doyle's visits to Davos (in Switzerland) on Sept. 26-28, 2014. Save another date: the Baker Street Irregulars Trust will sponsor a conference at Harvard University on June 5-7, 2015, focusing on the bibliophilic aspects of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle, with the possibility of field trips to Boston and Vermont. Save still another date: the BSI will hold a conference celebrating Sherlock Holmes and the Arts in mid-September 2016 at the Chautauqua Institution in far southwestern New York state. Details on all of these will be reported when they're available.

Those who pursue the Canon in other languages will welcome a first Klingon translation: "The Blue Carbuncle" (Minneapolis: 221T Press, 2013; 31 pp., \$13.74); the translation's by Bing, with assistance from Karen Ellery, and you can order from Lulu <[www.tinyurl.com/mtspvkt](http://www.tinyurl.com/mtspvkt)>.

Madeleine George's new play "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be produced at the Playwrights Horizons Mainstage Theater in New York, Nov. 17-Dec. 29 <[www.playwrightshorizons.org](http://www.playwrightshorizons.org)>; this Watson is "trusty sidekick to Sherlock Holmes, loyal engineer who built Bell's first telephone, unstoppable super-computer that became reigning "Jeopardy!" champ, and amiable techno-deweeb who, in the present day is looking for love." There's a five-minute video about the play's background at <[www.tinyurl.com/phd7ahv](http://www.tinyurl.com/phd7ahv)>.

Finally, nicely in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for "the best Sherlock Holmes books and DVDs of the year" is on-line at <[www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm)>.

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20817-4401 (301-229-5669) <[blau7103@comcast.net](mailto:blau7103@comcast.net)>

Nov 13 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: The Gaslight Gala (open to all Sherlockians and their friends) has a new venue: The Dover Parlour (228 Thompson Street, located between Bleeker and West 3rd Streets in Greenwich Village); the event will run from 7:00 to 11:00 pm on Friday, with a cost of \$105 for dinner, entertainment, and open bar (discounted to \$75 for people younger than 21). Details are available from Becky Robare (111 North 9th Street #300, Philadelphia, PA 10107 (917-817-1608) <robareowl@gmail.com>).

Saturday-morning visitors to the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) will be able to buy books (some signed or inscribed) from the collection of the late Ted Schulz, with proceeds kindly donated by Vinnie Brosnan to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust. The books will be on sale at Bob Hess' table.

Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will host The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner on Saturday at 6:00 pm at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub (145 West 45th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues); \$47.00 (including tax and tip) and the details are available from Chrys (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.

It's not quite a birthday-festivities event, but everyone surely will want to be home in time to watch the U.S. premiere of the third season of "Sherlock" on PBS-TV on Jan. 19. The first episode will of course reveal just how Benedict Cumberbatch survived his fall from the roof of St. Bart's.

There's an exhibition on "Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul" at the Morgan Library (225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street) that includes some of the authors he influenced, one of them being Conan Doyle, who's represented by the first page of the manuscript of Chapter XI of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (on loan from the Berg Collection of the N.Y. Public Library). Also on display is a copy of Poe's "Tamerlane" with a mention of the article "Have You a Tamerlane in Your Attic" (but Greg Darak reports, without mention of the author of the article: Vincent Starrett).

MC Black suggests that anyone coming to London for the annual dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London (on Jan. 11) may interested in one of his Detective Walks. He offers a discounted price of £5.00 to readers of this newsletter, and he's at <mcb@detectivewalks.co.uk>.

Tina Rhea spotted a report on *Chironius challenger*, a newly-named species of snake that was found at Maringma Tepui in the Pakamaraima Mountains on the Guyana-Brazil border. The species was named by Philippe J. R. Kok in 2010 in honor of Professor Challenger, and you can read all about it at the Reptile Database <[www.tinyurl.com/ltbrpu6](http://www.tinyurl.com/ltbrpu6)>.

It's not Sherlockian, but here's your chance to see Christopher Lee, accompanied by sexy back-up dancers and a goblin, singing about booze in an effort to corrupt an alcoholic super-hero into falling off the wagon. It's a clip from an Australian musical comedy "The Return of Captain Invincible" (1983), kindly made available by Dread Central <[www.tinyurl.com/mth3vr3](http://www.tinyurl.com/mth3vr3)>.

Nov 13 #2 Benedict Cumberbatch continues to be busy: he'll play Lt. Col. Percival Fawcett in the film "The Lost City of Z" (based on the book by David Grann). Fawcett spent many years trying to find a lost civilization hidden in the Matto Grosso in Brazil, and on his last expedition, in 1925, he vanished, never to be heard from again. He met Conan Doyle in 1910, and you can read more about them in THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD, by Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin (1996): they quote from Fawcett's memoirs EXPLORATION FAWCETT (eventually published in 1953). He was in London to lecture about his exploration of the Ricardo Franco Hills, and later wrote: "They stood like a lost world, forested to their tops ... So thought Conan Doyle when later in London I spoke of these hills and showed photographs of them! He mentioned an idea for a novel on Central South America and asked for information, which I told him I should be glad to supply. The fruit of it was his 'Lost World'."

Gerald N. Wachs ("Sir James Saunders") died on Nov. 8. Jerry was a dermatologist who presided over the annual recertification examination of The Sir James Saunders Society (the professional society for Sherlockian dermatologists), co-author of the definitive bibliography of Tom Stoppard, and a collector whose interests ranged from 19th-century English poetry to Sherlockian lapel pins. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1995.

Further to the mention of the Canadian one-hour television series "Murdoch Mysteries" (Jun 13 #1), it's now available in the United States on the Ovation channel as "The Artful Detective". It's nicely done, set in Toronto in the 1890s, and stars Yannick Bisson as Inspector Murdoch. Geraint Wyn Davies has appeared as Arthur Conan Doyle in four episodes ("Elementary, My Dear Murdoch", "Belly Speaker", "A Study in Sherlock", and "Return of Sherlock"), with the last two also featuring Andrew Gower as a man who claims that he is Sherlock Holmes.

Tim Federle's TEQUILA MOCKINGBIRD: COCKTAILS WITH A LITERARY TWIST (Philadelphia: Running Press, 2013; 148 pp., \$15.00) contains atmospheric illustrations by Lauren Mortimer and amusing instructions and recipes for cocktails such as "The Blizzard of Oz", "The Malted Falcon", and "Romeo and Juliet", and "The Adventures of Sherbet Holmes" (which combines berry sherbet, Champagne, ginger ale, and blueberries).

SHAATJ! That's "Sherlock Holmes and All That Jazz" (now under the auspices of The Sherlockians by Invitation Only Society), and there will be an extravaganza held in Davenport, Iowa, birthplace of Dixieland great Bix Beiderbecke, in July or August 2014. If you would like to be on their mailing list, contact Donald B. Izban (1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068).

Jim Weiss continues to offer his excellent recordings for younger audiences and has added THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES to his list (\$13.95 on CD). It is nicely done, as are his earlier 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); you can listen to samples at his web-site <[www.greathall.com](http://www.greathall.com)>. There are many non-Sherlockian tales in his catalog (Greathall Productions, Box 5061, Charlottesville, VA 22905 (800-477-6234)).

Nov 13 #3 "Sherlock Holmes in Brentwood" (the new play-reading series curated and introduced by Les Klinger) was launched earlier this year with Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" (Feb 13 #3), and will continue with Bonnie MacBird's dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" at the Contrapuntal Performance Hall in Brentwood (Los Angeles) on Dec. 8. Details at their web-site <[www.sherlockholmesinbrentwood.com](http://www.sherlockholmesinbrentwood.com)>.

Barbara Hicks died on Sept. 6. She had a long career on stage, screen, and television in supporting roles, not all of them serious (her obituaries in the British press noted that Mel Brooks considered her the funniest woman he had ever met). She also played Emily Garrideb in Granada's "The Mazarin Stone" (1994).

Ann Treneman's FINDING THE PLOT: 100 GRAVES TO VISIT BEFORE YOU DIE (London: Robson Press, 2013; 307 pp., £12.00/\$16.99) offers a delightful tour of what she calls the "dead interesting" inhabitants of British graveyards, including Conan Doyle (the cover photographs show her at his grave-site); her essays are informative and interesting, and her choices range from the famous to the infamous, from the well known to those who ought to be.

If you remember Cliff Notes and Monarch Notes (happily used for many years by pre-Internet students), you won't be surprised that there now are Mojo Notes <[www.watchmojo.com](http://www.watchmojo.com)>, noted by Andrew Vetsch. Their book videos include "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <[www.tinyurl.com/k8x928l](http://www.tinyurl.com/k8x928l)>.

Alan Rettig has reported on his visit to Moriarty, N.M. (which now proudly calls itself "the crossroads of opportunity"); the city has a web-site, at <[www.cityofmoriarty.org](http://www.cityofmoriarty.org)>, but the Frontier Saloon has vanished, and there isn't even an historical plaque honoring the site of the Moriarty Memorial Manure Pile invented by John Bennett Shaw. What the town does have (and this would surely please John) is the Sierra Blanca Brewing Company, which has a web-site <[www.sierrablancabrewery.com](http://www.sierrablancabrewery.com)> and craft beer that "is brewed in the wild west and is out of this world!" (according to the company, not Alan). But Alan did try a bottle of Rodeo Cold lager, right off the line, and describes as a very good lager from a most charming brewery.

Don Pollock has reported that the Easton Press has announced a new edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES <[www.tinyurl.com/kg4n27s](http://www.tinyurl.com/kg4n27s)>; leather-bound, with new illustrations by Matthew Stewart, signed by the artist, and limited to 1,200 copies (\$267.00).

The manuscript of "The Marriage of the Brigadier" has been added to the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library; it's the last of the stories he wrote about the Brigadier Etienne Gerard, and the manuscript was one of many Conan Doyle manuscripts owned by William Randolph Hearst. Randall Stock offers more information about the manuscript at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/mo37d9m](http://www.tinyurl.com/mo37d9m)>.

There's a short list of actors who have played Sherlock Holmes and who also have played actors who have played Sherlock Holmes. One of them is Christopher Plummer, who starred as John Barrymore in "Barrymore" (which ran for more than seven months on Broadway in 1997). The play was filmed in 2011, and it will air on "Great Performances" on PBS-TV on Jan. 31.



Nov 13 #4    Matt Laffey offers all sorts of Sherlockian comment and information at his "Always 1895" web-site, including an interesting discussion of "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (the play written by Jeremy Paul for Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke <[www.tinyurl.com/kehjv6p](http://www.tinyurl.com/kehjv6p)>. Look for the link (in the first paragraph) to an audio recording of the play, as performed by Brett and Hardwicke.

SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. DRACULA (1978) was Loren D. Estleman's first Sherlockian pastiche, and he has now edited the anthology SONS OF MORIARTY AND MORE STORIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Blue Ash: Tyrus Books, 2013; 207 pp., \$24.99), which includes his own title novella and reprints of seven fine older pastiches by others ranging from Arthur Conan Doyle (1896) to Lenore Carroll (2002).

Otto Penzler has edited THE BIG BOOK OF CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES (New York: Vintage Crime/Black Lizard, 2013; 672 pp., \$25.00); it's billed on the cover as "the most complete collection of Yuletide whodunits ever assembled," and it contains 60 stories, five of them Sherlockian. One of them (of course) is "The Blue Carbuncle" with others by Peter Todd, S. C. Roberts, Edward D. Hoch, and Gillian Linscott.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <[www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times13-10.html](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-10.html)>, offering Sherlockian news, commentary, and discussion.

"Nova: Cold Case JFK" aired on PBS-TV on Nov. 13, examining whether modern forensic science can uncover fresh clues about the assassination of President Kennedy; Greg Darak reports that at the end of the program one of the investigators says, "if you rule out that which is impossible, that which remains, no matter how seemingly improbable, is the truth." There was no mention of the source of the quote, and it's possible that it's now getting to be part of cultural literacy (things people are expected to know), along with "Moriarty" and "the dog in the night-time" (often seen now without any mention of Sherlock Holmes). You may still be able to view the program online at <[www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tech/cold-case-jfk.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tech/cold-case-jfk.html)>.

"Willkommen to Reichenbach Hall" is the motto of Reichenbach Hall, noted by Will Walsh at 5 West 37th Street in New York <[www.reichenbachhall.com](http://www.reichenbachhall.com)>. He has not yet found anything Sherlockian on the menu, but is investigating.

The two-hour special on "How Sherlock Changed the World" aired on the National Geographic channel in Britain on Oct. 8, and it will be broadcast by PBS in the U.S. on Dec. 17 (delayed from the November dates that were originally announced). You can go to <[www.tinyurl.com/bc282lr](http://www.tinyurl.com/bc282lr)> for more information about the program.

The Crime Writers' Association (the British equivalent of the Mystery Writers of America) is celebrating its 60th anniversary and has polled its members to determine the Best Ever Crime Writer: the winner was Agatha Christie (Conan Doyle came in second). Christie's THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD won as Best Ever Crime Novel (THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES came in third, behind Christie's MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS). "Sherlock Holmes" did win as The Best Ever Crime Series.

Nov 13 #5 Alexander Orlov reports that the new Russian "Sherlock Holmes" series, with Igor Petrenko as Holmes and Andrei Panin as Watson, premiered his month. You can see many of the episodes [look for the (approximately) 90-minute links] at <[www.tinyurl.com/ovo9nmv](http://www.tinyurl.com/ovo9nmv)>; it's all in Russian, of course, but one hopes that when the series is released on DVDs there will be subtitles in English. The programs may also be available at YouTube. The episodes were broadcast in Russia in two parts, each 45 minutes, four days a week (Monday through Thursday), which explains why they are so quickly on the Internet.

Rebecca Eaton has presided over the PBS/WGBH "Masterpiece" series for more than 25 years, and she has many excellent stories to tell in MAKING MASTERPIECE (New York: Viking, 2013; 300 pp., \$29.95); her memoirs cover both her life and her career as an Emmy award-winning producer (of "Masterpiece Theatre" and "Mystery!"), and her behind-the-scenes stories, Sherlockian and otherwise, are a delight.

It's official: the "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" (currently at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland) (Oct 13 #7), will open at the Center of Science and Industry in Columbus, Ohio, on Feb. 8 and close on Sept. 1 <[www.tinyurl.com/k3sapom](http://www.tinyurl.com/k3sapom)>.



Basil Rathbone often wore an iconic deerstalker as Sherlock Holmes, but not always: he's sometimes seen in a tweed hat (as in "Spider Woman" and other Universal films). That hat (authenticated) was auctioned by Premiere Props on Nov. 23; estimated at \$5,000-\$8,000, and it sold for \$1,000.

Phil Attwell reports that the Royal Mail has conducted a survey of possible themes for postage stamps for the next three years, and one of them is "Famous Hoaxes" (with the Cottingley Fairies, the Piltdown Man, and the Loch Ness Monster as examples).

Benoit Guilielmo has noted "Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Primary References in the Early Works of P. G. Wodehouse (through 1922)"; it's an interesting survey by John Dawson <[www.madameulalie.org/articles/pgwconandoyle.html](http://www.madameulalie.org/articles/pgwconandoyle.html)> of the writings of an author who knew Conan Doyle and greatly admired his work (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian).

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE KNAVE OF HEARTS, by Steve Hayes and David Whitehead (London: Robert Hale, 2013; 224 pp., £19.99), brings Holmes and Watson to France, solving an intricate mystery that involves Jules Verne and his family, and a dastardly political plot.

Peter Melonas offers interesting Sherlockian artwork, by various artists, at <[www.fineartamerica.com/art/all/sherlock+holmes/all](http://www.fineartamerica.com/art/all/sherlock+holmes/all)> (there are nearly 200 images to inspect).

"Coin of the Canonical Realm" is a 55-page monograph by Nicholas Utechin, to be published in mid-December by The John H. Watson Society; it's a detailed discussion of Canonical coins and notes (illustrated in full color), and comparisons of "then and now" values. \$9.00 (plus shipping) and there is more information at the society's web-site <[www.johnhwatsonociety.com](http://www.johnhwatsonociety.com)>.

Nov 13 #6     The fanatic completist may (or may not) welcome a report from Mark Hime in Bibliotopos catalog 51 (2013) that the much rarer (earlier?) of two states (issues?) of the first issue of Playboy has page 3 numbered; he's asking only \$9,000 for a presentation copy (with page 3 numbered) sent by Hugh Hefner to John Basil in 1955 from Playboy's editorial file, accompanied by a letter typed by Janet Pilgrim and signed by Hefner. This issue's important to Sherlockian collectors because it contains an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four". Hime also notes that Playboy codified two ideas: "that sex was the poor man's private jet, and that while sexual innocence is enchanting in young people, it's a needless aberration in mature adults." His catalogs are entertaining and instructive, and available at his web-site <[www.bibliotopos.com](http://www.bibliotopos.com)>.

The John H. Watson Society has published the first issue of its semi-annual journal "The Watsonian", with 152 pages of comment, commentary, reminiscences, and bibliographic research, and it's an excellent tribute to a man who does not always receive the attention he deserves. Membership in the society (including the journal) costs \$40.00 for two years, and its web-site's at <[www.johnhwatsonociety.com](http://www.johnhwatsonociety.com)>.

"The Empty Hearse" (the first episode of the new season of "Sherlock") will be screened at the British Film Institute in London on Dec. 15, and lucky ticket-holders will also be able to see a live Q&A session with some of the actors in the series; tickets to the screening sold out almost instantly, of course. The BBC has not yet announced an air date for the series (as we went to press), but there seems to be a strong possibility that it will be Jan. 1 (well before the U.S. launch on Jan. 19). Needless to say, the Internet will be full of news about "The Empty Hearse" as people tweet live from the screening on Dec. 15, and comment quickly on blogs and such, with or without spoiler alerts. One wonders whether purists will decide to shun the Internet, to avoid reading spoilers, so that they can be surprised when the series actually airs.

"A Dickens of a Murder" (an interactive murder-mystery dinner-theater production) takes place after the events of "A Christmas Carol" with Ebenezer Scrooge a changed man, but when he doesn't show up at a Christmas party and is found dead, audience members assist none other than Sherlock Holmes in finding the murderer. The show's performed by Without a Cue Productions at the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City, N.J. <[www.resortscas.com](http://www.resortscas.com)> and at Fisher's Tudor House in Bensalem, Pa. <[www.fisherstudor.com](http://www.fisherstudor.com)> through Dec. 21.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the fine parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at Playhouse on Park in West Hartford, Conn., Dec. 4-22 <[www.playhouseonpark.org](http://www.playhouseonpark.org)>. And at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa, Fla., Jan. 8 to Feb. 2 <[www.strazcenter.org](http://www.strazcenter.org)>.

Next year's "Sherlock Holmes Weekends" in Cape May, N.J., will be on Mar. 14-16 and Nov. 7-9; there will be a mystery to solve, and performances by the East Lynne Theater Company of Gayle Stahlhuth's radio-theater dramatization of "The Copper Beeches" <[www.eastlyntheater.org](http://www.eastlyntheater.org)>.

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

Dec 13 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

A federal judge has issued a declaratory judgment in Les Klinger's lawsuit against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate (Sep 13 #8), ruling that Holmes, Watson, and other story elements that appear in the 50 stories now in the public domain can be used freely by others without permission from the Estate. Story elements that appear only in the ten stories still protected by copyright cannot be used by others without permission. IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, an anthology of new stories edited by Les and Laurie R. King and originally scheduled for publication this year without payment of a licensing fee to the Estate, is now scheduled for 2014. You can read all the details about the lawsuit and the decision at <[www.free-sherlock.com](http://www.free-sherlock.com)>, and there was a story in the N.Y. Times on Dec. 28 <[www.tinyurl.com/mmssof9](http://www.tinyurl.com/mmssof9)>.

More information is available about "Alpine Adventures: Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland", the conference planned by The Reichenbach Irregulars in Davos on Sept. 26-28; they promise a weekend devoted to "an author, a skier, a detective--and a ghost." The society's web-site is at <[www.221b.ch](http://www.221b.ch)>, and the full program for the conference is at <[www.tinyurl.com/lzvxxqk](http://www.tinyurl.com/lzvxxqk)>.

BelTA (the Belarusian Telegraph Agency) reported (Dec. 3) on plans to build a Sherlock Holmes house in the town of Orsha <[www.tinyurl.com/kyydo8h](http://www.tinyurl.com/kyydo8h)>; the story quotes Oleg Shchukin, director of the company Protege By, which has designed the building and is seeking investors for the project. Alexander Orlov has kindly provided links to the company's web-site <[www.protege.by](http://www.protege.by)> and to details <[www.tinyurl.com/lgnambd](http://www.tinyurl.com/lgnambd)>; it's all in Russian, but Google Translate is extremely helpful.

It's official: the third season of "Sherlock" will begin on BBC One on Jan. 1, and the announcement was as imaginative as other publicity for the series: tweets to #sherlocklives alerted fans to a handsome black hearse being driven through London with a flower arrangement spelling out "Sherlock" and "01 01 14". The title of the season's first episode is "The Empty Hearse".

This is going to create an interesting situation for at least some American viewers: those who don't want spoilers, so that they can be surprised when the series begins on PBS-TV on Jan. 19. Not only will the Internet be full of comment, and perhaps bootleg uploads to YouTube and other web-sites, but there will be Brits at the birthday festivities who will have seen the series, and may or may not kindly refrain from revealing secrets.

In the meantime, on Dec. 24 the BBC broadcast a spectacular 7-minute teaser ("Many Happy Returns") for the series (without spoilers); you can watch it at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwntNANJCOE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwntNANJCOE)>. And PBS-TV has scheduled a one-hour special "Unlocking Sherlock Holmes" for Jan. 12, offering interviews with writers and actors; if you don't want to wait until Jan. 12, the program is available on-line at <[www.video.pbs.org](http://www.video.pbs.org)>

Admirers of Aunt Clara may be interested in Svend Ranild's Danish translation "Min Tante Claras Meriter" in the latest issue of Sherlockiana (published by the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark), available on request from Svend at <[sr@ranild.dk](mailto:sr@ranild.dk)>. There's colorful artwork, and you don't need to worry about learning a new melody.

Dec 13 #2     Compliments to David Milner, who reports in the December issue of The Gaslight Gazette (published by The Survivors of the Gloria Scott) on something new under the sun, so to speak: there actually is a blue garnet, which will be of interest to those who have discussed whether the Blue Carbuncle was a sapphire or a diamond; according to Wikipedia, the blue garnet was first found in the 1990s in Bekily, Madagascar, and is also known in the United States, Russia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Turkey. However: blue garnets seem to be a color-change garnet variety, similar to the beryl variety alexandrite; you can see the wide range in color of blue garnets at <[www.tinyurl.com/m7vavhu](http://www.tinyurl.com/m7vavhu)>.

Episodes of the new Russian "Sherlock Holmes" television series can still be seen (in Russian) at <[www.tinyurl.com/ovo9nmv](http://www.tinyurl.com/ovo9nmv)>, and Tina Rhea has noted that the older Livanov/Solomin series (with English subtitles) can be seen on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/3d22ahf](http://www.tinyurl.com/3d22ahf)>.

Samantha Wolov spotted "Elementary My Dear Watsonville" (a pizza with red sauce, mozzarella, artichokes, and tomato) offered by Escape from New York Pizza in San Francisco; the restaurant is 90 miles from Watsonville.

LitKids offers imaginative literary artwork by Matt Hinrichs, including a portrait of Sherlock Holmes on actual pages from the Canon (\$15.00) <[www.tinyurl.com/lpjqpdpj](http://www.tinyurl.com/lpjqpdpj)>.



Admirers of pastiches surely realize that the Sherlock Holmes stories aren't the only stories to be pastiched. Sebastian Faulks, authorized by the Wodehouse heirs, has written JEEVES AND THE WEDDING BELLS, was favorably reviewed by Christopher Buckley in the N.Y. Times on Dec. 1 <[www.tinyurl.com/ls5my43](http://www.tinyurl.com/ls5my43)>. But Scott Daniels has reported other less favorable reviews, by Isaac Chotiner in the New Republic <[www.tinyurl.com/myabna7](http://www.tinyurl.com/myabna7)> and by Alexandra Petri in the Washington Post <[www.tinyurl.com/lbt43fy](http://www.tinyurl.com/lbt43fy)>, neither of the reviews being at all fond of fan fiction, authorized or otherwise.

From Stephen Booth's DEAD AND BURIED (2012): "Even Sir Arthur Conan Doyle had once said: 'All this country is hollow. Could you strike it with some gigantic hammer it would boom like a drum.'" And where will that quote be found?

Dan Crowe, when he was editor of the literary magazine Zemblia, asked a series of living authors to interview their dead literary heroes. Ian Rankin, creator of Inspector Rebus, chose Arthur Conan Doyle; the interview, first published in 2004, has now been reprinted in the collection DEAD INTERVIEWS (London: Granta, 2013; 202 pp., £12.99). It's not the first time that Rankin has channeled Conan Doyle, who's featured in Rankin's short story "The Acid Test" in the winter 1998-99 issue of Edit (the University of Edinburgh magazine) <[www.tinyurl.com/kjnpf3b](http://www.tinyurl.com/kjnpf3b)>.

The fall issue of "For the Sake of the Trust" (the newsletter of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust) has news about the Trust, and about recent additions to the Archives at the Houghton Library, and it's available both at the Trust web-site <[www.bsitrust.org](http://www.bsitrust.org)> and by e-mail; if you would like to be on the mailing list, send a request to <[trust221b@gmail.com](mailto:trust221b@gmail.com)>.

Dec 13 #3 Further to the item (Oct 13 #4) about the campaign by the South Norwood Tourist Board to arrange for the naming of a local lake in honor of Conan Doyle, Jason E. Cooper has reported that the lake will be (unofficially) named Conan Doyle Lake on Feb. 1 (he hopes to persuade the local council to make things official). He also has launched a fund-raising effort to commission a sculpture of Conan Doyle to be displayed in the center of South Norwood <[www.gofundme.com/5en97s](http://www.gofundme.com/5en97s)>.



Oscar Ross reports that his daughters Andrea and Deborah spotted an attractive "Sherlock Chair" offered at Next in Belfast (Next is a chain with many branches in the U.K. and Europe), available in a wide range of fabrics and colors, including Darwin (fabric) and Espresso (color) <[www.tinyurl.com/m9g8yfd](http://www.tinyurl.com/m9g8yfd)>.

"Wholock: Sherlock Meets the Doctor!" is an imaginative 6-minute crossover video produced by John Smith, who explains his concept as: "Months after an encounter with a mysterious 'Doctor', Sherlock becomes obsessed with discovering more about this impossible man...until the man makes an unexpected return." You can watch it at <[www.tinyurl.com/lm3ya9z](http://www.tinyurl.com/lm3ya9z)>, along with a spectacular 5-minute "VFX Breakdown" showing the sort of thing that can be done with modern technology. It has been reported that the BBC was so impressed with the video that they authorized it.

"All this country is hollow. Could you strike it with some gigantic hammer it would boom like a drum." It isn't all that often that one finds an author quoting Conan Doyle from something other than the Canon. This quote's from "The Terror of Blue John Gap".

Neil Gaiman's pastiche "A Study in Emerald" has inspired a board game, designed by Martin Wallace for Treefrog Games (\$75.00/€55.00/£48.00); details at <[www.treefroggames.com/a-study-in-emerald](http://www.treefroggames.com/a-study-in-emerald)>.

"The Quiet Man" is one of the 25 films in this year's list of additions to the Library of Congress' National Film Registry (an archive of American motion pictures "earmarked for preservations because of their cultural, historic, or aesthetic significance"). It's a fine film, and it has a remote Sherlockian connection: when the locals arrive at the newlyweds' cottage, they sing "Mush, Mush" (the music's now used by Sherlockians when they sing "We Never Mention Aunt Clara").

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <[www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times13-12.html](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-12.html)>, offering Sherlockian news, commentary, and discussion.

Peter O'Toole died on Dec. 14. He began his acting career with the Bristol Old Vic in 1955, played a small part in the television series "The Scarlet Pimpernel" in 1956, and won fame for "Lawrence of Arabia" in 1962, the film for which he won the first of his eight Oscar nominations. In 1963 he was considered by Billy Wilder for the title role in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (eventually released starring Robert Stephens in 1970), and he played Holmes on stage in a touring production of "Dead Eyed Dicks" (1976). He also provided the voice of Holmes in four animations of the long stories (1983), and played Conan Doyle in "FairyTale: A True Story" in 1997.

Dec 13 #4 Further to the report (Mar 11 #2) on the statue of a black swan that adorns Winchester's Black Swan Building Block, the Southern Daily Echo has noted that there's now a polished steel plaque that explains that the building is the site of the Black Swan Hotel, which Holmes and Watson visited in "The Copper Beeches".

DEATH BY MISADVENTURE (North Charleston: Beach Reeds, 2013; 136 pp., \$9.99) is a new pastiche by Steve Leadley that involves Holmes and Watson with a mysterious murder, Nicolas Tesla, and Russian anarchists.

Mike Hogan's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND YOUNG WINSTON series continues; THE GIANT MOLES (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 203 pp., £9.99) has Holmes, Watson, and a precocious 13-year-old Churchill involved in a investigation of missing papers, a mad doctor, and (possibly) giant moles. Hogan's web-site is at <[www.mikehoganbooks.co.uk](http://www.mikehoganbooks.co.uk)> and the publisher's at <[www.mxpublishing.co.uk](http://www.mxpublishing.co.uk)>.

MX Publishing also has launched a new Sherlockian lending library with more than 100 different titles in Watson's Lounge at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street; there's also a bookshop for those who want permanent additions to their shelves.

Another interesting video is a "Saturday Night Live" skit "The Robert Goulet Holiday Special" broadcast on Dec. 8, 2001; Jennie Paton has found it at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIm8nO8nVuk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIm8nO8nVuk)>.

Warren Dunn, a managing partner of Thomson OPI LLP, is seeking investors in a new project "Sherlock Holmes and the Canary Girls" (initially a play to be produced in English and Mandarin, and then possibly a film or television series); contact Dunn <[warren@thomsonopi.com](mailto:warren@thomsonopi.com)> to request a prospectus and director's statement.

The Literary Gift Company <[www.literarygiftcompany.com](http://www.literarygiftcompany.com)>, spotted by Michele Kaminski has an assortment of appropriate gifts; just search for [sherlock] and [baskervilles] and [conan doyle].

J. Randolph Cox still teaches "Sherlock Holmes": one two-hour class a week for eight weeks in January and February at the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium in Northfield, Minn.; he reports that the class filled on the first day of registration.

Older collectors will remember Sherlock's Home, Chris Caswell's bookstore in southern California in the 1980s and 1990s; he's now selling old and new items at Etsy <[ww.etsy.com/shop/aSherlockshome?ref=si\\_shop](http://ww.etsy.com/shop/aSherlockshome?ref=si_shop)>.

Chris Gay's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE FINAL REVEAL (Manchester: Suesea Press, 2013; 60 pp., \$10.00) is Watson's account of his last meeting with Holmes, and the background to a case that Holmes was never able to solve.

"I like artifacts," Glen Miranker told a reporter for Forbes Magazine, and you can see some of those artifacts in the photogallery accompanying an article in Forbes Magazine, including a \$15.00 copy of THE CASE-BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES that he now confesses is "the world's costliest book." You can read the article on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/pqypnvh](http://www.tinyurl.com/pqypnvh)>.

Dec 13 #5 Nancy J. Parra's GLUTEN FOR PUNISHMENT (2013) stars Toni Ryder, "who inherits the family homestead and brings her gluten-free bakery to Oiltop's Main Street only to discover that owning a gluten-free bakery can be murder." It's Sherlockian only in that it's the first in a projected series of Baker's Treat mysteries. The author has a web-site at <[www.nancyjparra.com](http://www.nancyjparra.com)>.

BBC Books is continuing its series of tie-in editions of the Canon: THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (introduction by Mark Gatiss) and HIS LAST BOW (introduction by Steven Moffat) with "Sherlock" cover art were published this month (£6.99 each).

Tacit Theatre will present a new dramatization of "A Study in Scarlet" by Lila Whelan and Greg Freeman at the Southwark Playhouse in London, Mar. 19 through Apr. 12 <[www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk)>. Tacit also will provide a series of 20-minute podcasts starting on Jan. 19: the "Sherlock Holmes Series" will offer discussions with Sherlockian experts, and the theater web-site's at <[www.tacittheatre.co.uk](http://www.tacittheatre.co.uk)>.

Otto Penzler's THE BIG BOOK OF CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES (2013) had a brief review in the newspaper insert Parade magazine (Dec. 22), with a link to an on-line version of "The Blue Carbuncle".

Judith Freeman's useful index to The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes since 1975), now complete through 2013, is now available <[judith-freeman@hotmail.com](mailto:judith-freeman@hotmail.com)> as an Excel spreadsheet; the ASH web-site at <[www.ash-nyc.com](http://www.ash-nyc.com)> has information on subscribing to the Muse.

SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE MASTER ENGRAVER, by Ross Husband (Norfolk: Glen Ross Editions, 2013; 449 pp., £11.95/\$16.95), has Holmes and Watson involved in thwarting a thoroughly complicated plot to flood Britain with counterfeit currency printed from the Bank of England's own plates on authentic paper; there's murder and mayhem and atmosphere, and two sample chapters from the next installment in a series with the overall title "The Revival of Sherlock Holmes"

"The Case of the Scarlet Membrane" was a skit burlesquing Holmes and Watson broadcast on "Saturday Night Live" on Apr. 8, 1978, starring Michael Palin as Holmes and Dan Aykroyd as Watson. Janice Portante reports that the skit is available on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/la2lu4s](http://www.tinyurl.com/la2lu4s)>.

Wilfrid de Freitas' new sales-list for material from Don Redmond's collection (with writings on the writings, society publications, and monographs) will be available in January <[wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com](mailto:wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com)>.

Howard Ostrom's enthusiastic interest in Sherlockian silent films extends far beyond his research into who played the title role in "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1905): his interesting (and well illustrated) 20-part essay "Silent Sherlock" is available on-line in the "Original Essays" section of the "Diogenes Club Library" at Ross K. Foad's extensive "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <[www.nplh.co.uk/original-essays.html](http://www.nplh.co.uk/original-essays.html)>. His five-part essay "The Original Baker Street Babes" discusses the many women who have played Holmes and Watson, and have worked as directors and writers.



Dec 13 #6 "Chinese fans go potty for the BBC's Sherlock," according to an article in Radio Times (Dec. 9). After British prime minister David Cameron set up a profile on the Chinese social media site Sina Weibo, the most popular message posted was "Please urge Sherlock crew to be quick! They have had us waiting for two years for every season!" He replied that he couldn't tell the BBC what to do, since it's an independent company, and suggested that "of course people can always go back and read the original Conan Doyle stories, which are wonderful." The Chinese call Benedict Cumberbatch "Curly Fu" (because of his curly hair and a shortening of his name in Chinese) and Martin Freeman "Peanut" (because the Chinese version of his name Hua Sheng" sounds like the Mandarin word for the nut). Thanks to Oscar Ross for spotting and reporting this news.

The Feb. 2014 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 Terence Faherty and Evan Lewis, a birthday tribute by editor Janet Hutchings, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.

Vinnie Brosnan ("That Gap on the Second Shelf") died on Dec. 28. He issued his first mail-order catalog from "Sherlock in L.A." in 1982, and over many years helped collectors near and far expand their collection. Vinnie began publishing Sherlockiana in 1985, was active in many Sherlockian societies in southern California, and received his quite appropriate Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2011.

MORIARTY RETURNS A LETTER (New York: Minotaur, 2013; 262 pp., \$24.99) continues Michael Robertson's series of novels about Reggie Heath, the London barrister who has offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires him to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail; this time Reggie and his fiancée Laura Rankin are pursued by a vicious killer, amidst fun and games galore.

There were some interesting items in Bonhams' ("What Dreams Are Made Of: A Century of Movie Magic" auction in New York on Nov. 25: the wool tweed suit worn by Richard Greene in the "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) sold for \$1,625 (including the buyer's premium), and the wool tweed jacket worn by Basil Rathbone in the same film sold for \$13,750 (the same jacket went for \$11,685 in 2011, in an auction of Debbie Reynolds' collection). Someone paid \$461,000 for the 1940 Buick Phaeton that was seen in "Casablanca" (1942), and the star of the sale was an authenticated Maltese Falcon, which sold for \$4,085,000.

Lots of theater upcoming in Texas: Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at will be performed at the Dallas Theater Center, Apr. 25 to May 25 <[www.dallastheatercenter.org](http://www.dallastheatercenter.org)>; Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" at the First United Methodist Church in Dallas, May 16-24 <[www.fumcdal.org](http://www.fumcdal.org)>; and Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" at Rover Dramawerks in Plano, Sept. 11-27. Plano <[www.roverdramawerks.com](http://www.roverdramawerks.com)>

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