

Jan 17 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 163rd birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 4 to Jan. 8. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at Annie Moore'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 on Thursday evening was Sara Paretsky, author of the continuing series of novels about private eye V. I. Warshawski; her lecture was about Victorian women crime writers, and it will be published in The Baker Street Journal. This year the event was held at the Yale Club, a convenient venue that offered room for an audience of more than 200.

The William Gillette Luncheon at Connolly's was well attended, as always, and the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street entertained the audience with an updated look at Sherlock Holmes' encounters with the telephone. 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), which honors the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year: the winner was Bob Stek, who received both a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.

The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Al Rosenblatt proposed the traditional pre-prandial first toast to Nancy Boote as *The Woman*. The annual-dinner agenda featured Steve Rothman's discussion of "Why January 6th?", the traditional BSI toasts and rituals, an imaginative performance (inspired by Rex Stout's classic suggestion that "Watson Was a Women") by Sarah Montague, Paul Singleton, and Andrew Joffe, and a Shakespearean explication by Tim Greer.

Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented Steve Rothman with an engraved crystal Milestone Award, honoring him as the longest serving editor of The Baker Street Journal, and made a Two-Shilling Award to Ben Vizoskie. This year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) were awarded to Ross Davies ("The Temple"), Tamar Zeffren ("The London Library"), Chris Zordan ("Bunsen Burner"), Charles Blanksteen ("Cavendish Square"), Bonnie MacBird ("Art in the Blood"), Michael Quigley ("A Large Brass-Bound Safe"), and Charles Prepolec ("The Man with the Twisted Lip"). And near the end of the evening Mike Whelan received a Golden Sovereign from the Baker Street Irregulars, honoring his twenty as the leader of the society.

An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at Annie Moore's, where the agenda included traditional (and untraditional) toasts, quizzes, songs, dramatic readings, and much much more.

Some of the more fervent (or perhaps hard core) Sherlockians gathered 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.

Jan 17 #2     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. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting, and the Junior Bloodstain of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner featured a performance of Headon Hill's "The Tenth Green" (edited by George Vanderburgh and Carol Cavalluzzi, and adapted by Bill Hyder).

The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; Bill Mason was honored as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (a check and an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2016. The John H. Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of tickets for the raffle prize (jewelry from "A Study in Scarlet" created by Maggie Schpak), and an auction of attractive donations to the Fund.

The main Saturday-evening event was the annual "Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub, with 54 on hand for the festivities, and on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Churchill Tavern.

A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 12, 2018. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 6, 2018.

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 \$41.95 (to the U.S.) or \$55.00 (elsewhere); you can pay by check sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), or by credit card or PayPal at the BSJ web-site at <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)>, which has interesting features such as articles from recent issues of the BSJ, some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.

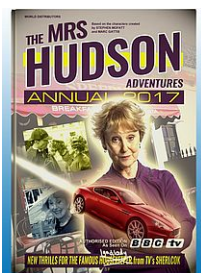
Al Gregory <[gaslightandfog@verizon.net](mailto:gaslightandfog@verizon.net)> offers (via e-mail) his 2017 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).

DANCING TO DEATH is the latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series (2016; 234 pp., \$39.95); edited by Ray Betzner and David F. Morrill, it features a facsimile of the original manuscript of "The Dancing Men", an annotated transcript, interesting commentary on the manuscript and on the story, and a nice surprise if you carefully remove the dust jacket to inspect the cloth binding. Details on the book, including the table of contents are available at <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)>.

Also from the BSI: CANADA AND SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Peter Calamai and Mark Alberstat (2016; 232 pp., \$39.95); the sixth volume in the BSI's International Series offers a splendid selection of scholarly, whimsical, artistic, poetical, and musical contributions from a country that Conan Doyle happily visited four times.

Jan 17 #3     Researchers at Ancestry have reported that Benedict Cumberbatch and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle are related: they are 16th cousins, twice removed, and their common ancestor was John of Gaunt, the 1st Duke of Lancaster and fourth son of King Edward III (who ruled from 1327 to 1377). John of Gaunt had that name not because he was thin, but rather because he was born in Ghent (when people didn't spell as well as they do now). His oldest son and heir was Henry Bolingbroke, who overthrew King Richard II to become King Henry IV. Ancestry <[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)> is a useful web-site for anyone who is pursuing ancestors.

The first episode of the new season of "Sherlock" was the most-watched television program in Britain on New Year's Day, with 8.1 million viewers and a 32.8% share of the viewing audience, according to the Guardian. And the show was the second most popular program of the holiday period, beaten only by the New Year's Eve countdown and midnight fireworks.



Season 4 of "Sherlock" has aired, and you either watched it or you didn't, and if you did watch, you either enjoyed it or you didn't, and you may or may not be waiting for the next season, but in the meantime you may want to look for "The Mrs. Hudson Adventures Annual 2017"; the cover was created by Andrew-Mark Thompson, who describes himself as a 51-year-old former teenager based in the city of Derby. His principal interest is in Doctor Who <[www.andydrewz64.blogspot.com](http://www.andydrewz64.blogspot.com)>.

And it should be noted that presidential candidates aren't the only targets of Russian hackers: the final episode of the fourth season was uploaded to the Internet 24 hours before it was broadcast by the BBC. Series producer Sue Vertue tweeted that the leak had come from Russia, and asked fans not to share it.

Needless to say, the BBC Shop <[www.shop.bbc.com](http://www.shop.bbc.com)> offers the series on DVD and Blu-ray, along with other merchandise that includes a Sherlock Holmes desk magnifier, a deerstalker in grey tweed, and a Sherlock Holmes infinity book scarf with text from "The Hound of the Baskervilles".

The classic "crime green" cover of the Penguin edition of THE CASE-BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES also is available as an umbrella (£14.99), a mug (£8.99), a tote bag (£12.95), and a notebook (£8.99), at British bookstores and at the Penguin web-site <<https://shop.penguin.co.uk/search?q=sherlock+holmes>>.

VisitEngland has declared 2017 the "Year of Literary Heroes," celebrating "some of the publishing phenomena that have helped put England on the map." One of the heroes is Sherlock Holmes, and VisitEngland has noted that this year is the 125th anniversary of the publication of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES <[www.tinyurl.com/god27gp](http://www.tinyurl.com/god27gp)>.

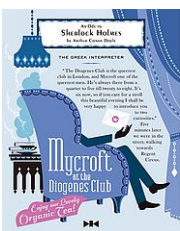
Don "Duck" Edwing died on Dec. 26. He was a gag cartoonist for Mad Magazine from 1962 to 2012. He used a duck as his signature and had duck calls on his answering machine (his wife Claire was known as Cluck Edwing), and his "The Adventures of Headlock Holmes" appeared in DUCK EDWING'S MADVENTURES OF ALMOST SUPERHEROES (1990), and "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes (Headlock Holmes' Ugly Sister)" in MAD'S CREATURE PRESENTATION (1993).

Jan 17 #4    The Detection Club, founded in London in 1930, has honored Peter Lovesey (its current president) with *MOTIVES FOR MURDER*, an anthology of new stories written by its members, edited by Martin Edwards (London: Sphere, 2016; 416 pp., £9.99) (Norfolk: Crippen & Landru, 317 pp., \$19.00); the American edition also is available cloth-bound and signed by Lovesey and Edwards (\$45.00) <[www.crippenandlandru.com](http://www.crippenandlandru.com)>. The stories are nicely done, and they include David Stuart Davies' pastiche "The Adventure of the Marie Antoinette Necklace: A Case for Sherlock Holmes".

"I hear of Sherlock everywhere," including South Australia, noted by Howard Ostrom <[www.tinyurl.com/gpedrtb](http://www.tinyurl.com/gpedrtb)>. The Hundred of Sherlock was proclaimed in 1899 and named after one of South Australia governor Sir Thomas Foxwell Buxton's friends.

Mitch Higurashi has been busy making sure that Japanese readers have access to Sherlockiana: he has translated David Marcum's *THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES* (Hara Shobo, 2016); David Stuart Davies' *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOKS* (Sanseido, 2016); Bonnie MacBird's *ART IN THE BLOOD* (Harper-Collins Japan, 2015); Daniel Smith's *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION* (Kokusho Kankokai, 2016); *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES OF EDWARD D. HOCH* (Hara Shobo, 2012); Carole Nelson Douglas' *GOOD MORNING, IRENE* (Tokyo Sogensha, 2013); Maurice Leblanc's *ARSÈNE LUPIN CONTRE HERLOCK SHOLMÈS: LA DAME BLONDE* (Kodansha, 2014); Alex Werner's *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MAN WHO NEVER LIVED AND WILL NEVER DIE* [the catalog of the exhibition at the Museum of London] (Hara Shobo, 2016); and Maria Konnikova's *MASTERMIND* (Hayakawa Shobo, 2016).

And there's more from Japan: *NHK PUPPET ENTERTAINMENT SHERLOCK HOLMES FAN BOOK* (Shogakukan, 2014) and *NHK PUPPET ENTERTAINMENT SHERLOCK HOLMES MEMORIAL BOOK* (Shogakukan, 2015) [tie-ins for Koki Mitani's delightful television puppet series]; and (last but certainly not least) Mitch's own essays *SHERLOCKIAN HONYAKUKA SAISHO NO AISATSU [THE FIRST BOW BY A JAPANESE TRANSLATOR]* (Hara Shobo, 2013).



"Fog and Ribbon" promises "A Lovely Time for Bibliophiles" at both their shop in Tokyo and on-line <[www.kiri-to-ribbon.com](http://www.kiri-to-ribbon.com)>, and there are three teas in their "An Ode to Sherlock Holmes" offers: attractive packages of "Mycroft at the Diogenes Club", "Mrs. Hudson Breakfast" and "Moriarty London". There also are "Three to One, However" and "Earl Grey Good and Noble" (honoring Jerome K. Jerome's "Three Men in a Boat").

A bit of history about Naval Support Facility Thurmont, the official name for the military installation that's now called as Camp David. First known as Camp Hi-Catoctin, it was built by the Civilian Construction Corps as a camp for federal government agents and their families (construction started in 1938 and was completed in 1938). Warren Randall has noted that Douglas Brinkley, in his new *RIGHTFUL HERITAGE: FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AND THE LAND OF AMERICA* (2016), reports that when FDR first visited Hi-Catoctin, he exclaimed, "This is a Shangri-La." FDR was a Sherlockian, and eventually an honorary member of The Baker Street Irregulars, and it amused him to have his Secret Service agents at his presidential retreat living in cabins on Baker Street, as you can see on the official map of Shangri-La, first published in Life magazine on Oct. 15, 1945.

Jan 17 #5    Watson's Tin Box will host the tenth "Scintillation of Scions" on June 9-10, at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport. It is an entertaining gathering of both local and far-flung Sherlockians, with a fine list of speakers <[www.tinyurl.com/grzzllu](http://www.tinyurl.com/grzzllu)>, and registration is now open; the event sells out early and you're advised not to wait to reserve.

The conference of The Reichenbach Irregulars ("Reichenbach and Beyond: The Final Problem Revisited") will be held in Hasliberg-Reuti (near Meiringen in Switzerland, Aug. 31-Sept. 3 <[www.221b.ch](http://www.221b.ch)>, and it will be followed by Uno Studio in Holmes' conference ("Another Week Later") in Florence, Italy, Sept. 8-10 <[www.unostudioinholmes.org](http://www.unostudioinholmes.org)>; previous conferences by both societies have been thoroughly enjoyable, and this year they are commemorating the beginning of The Great Hiatus.

Paul D. Herbert's UNMITIGATED BLEAT: SELECTED WRITINGS ON SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2017; 221 pp., \$19.95) is a welcome collection of the work of a long-time Sherlockian (his first article appeared in The Baker Street Journal in 1974); Paul's interests and research have been varied indeed, and the results are both insightful and entertaining. Gasogene is at <[www.gasogenebooks.com](http://www.gasogenebooks.com)>.

Also from Gasogene: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE IN THE NEWSPAPERS, VOLUME 3, JULY-DECEMBER 1893, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström and Matt Laffey (2017; 226 pp., \$32.95); it's often suggested that journalism is the first rough draft of history, and this new volume in the series offers an excellent look at what was being said about Holmes and Conan Doyle in newspapers and magazines (in her perceptive introduction, Anastasia Klimchynskaya notes that they were the mass media in Victorian times, much like the Internet today).

CBC News British Columbia has reported that a group of amateur filmmakers are planning a movie in western Canada that will dramatize Stephen King's pastiche "The Doctor's Case" (published in THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in 1988 and reprinted in his NIGHTMARE AND DREAMSCAPES in 1993); the story is at <[www.tinyurl.com/hyowhvt](http://www.tinyurl.com/hyowhvt)>.

The Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. has launched a new web-site promoting its new "legacy brand" <[www.conandoyleestate.com](http://www.conandoyleestate.com)>

"Clever Criminals and Daring Detectives" is the title of the next exhibition at the Rosenbach in Philadelphia <[www.tinyurl.com/zwr8zxe](http://www.tinyurl.com/zwr8zxe)> from Apr. 8 to Sept. 1. The treasures on display will include the manuscript of "The Empty House" and Ellery Queen's thoughts on collecting detective fiction, and everyone is invited to "A Sherlock Holmes Rosenbacchanal" at the Rittenhouse Hotel on May 1 <[www.tinyurl.com/hyq3w26](http://www.tinyurl.com/hyq3w26)> (the event is the Rosenbach's annual gala); Dan Stashower will be the guest speaker, and single tickets are available for \$500 each).

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards, and they include "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" (best television episode/teleplay) and Lyndsay Faye's (non-Sherlockian) JANE STEELE (best novel); winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 17.

Jan 17 #6 LE DÉTECTIVE DÉTRAQUÉ, OU LES MÉSAVENTURES DE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Paris: Éditions Baker Street, 2016; 286 pp., €18.00) is a nice anthology, edited by Cynthia Liebow and dedicated to her father Ely Liebow, offering pastiches and parodies that were published from 1892 to 2012, in English (now translated) or in French. She also has published L'AFFAIRE DE LA BELLE ÉVAPORÉE (2016; 336 pp., €21.00), a translation of J. J. Murphy's A FRIENDLY GAME OF MURDER (Jun 13 #4), a title in her "Algonquin Round Table Mysteries" series that features Dorothy Parker, Arthur Conan Doyle, and many others. Her web-site's at <[www.editionsbakerstreet.com](http://www.editionsbakerstreet.com)>.

As usual, some theatrical news: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is being performed at the Heritage Center Theatre in Morrisville, Pa., through Feb. 5 <[www.actorsnetbucks.org](http://www.actorsnetbucks.org)>.

The Cascade Theatre's production of Ken Ludwig's comedy "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is running at the Riverfront Playhouse in Redding, Calif., through Feb. 11 <[www.cascadetheatre.org](http://www.cascadetheatre.org)>. And the Somerset Valley Players' production is running at the Somerset Valley Playhouse in Hillsborough, N.J. through Feb. 12 <[www.svptheatre.org](http://www.svptheatre.org)>.

Gayle Stahlhuth's radio-theater dramatization of "Sherlock Holmes: Adventure of the Red-Headed League" will be performed by the East Lynne Theater Company at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 17-18 <[www.eastlynnetheater.org](http://www.eastlynnetheater.org)>.

Greg Ruby reports that The Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes will hold dinner meetings this year, at the National Money Show in Orlando, on Mar. 10 and at the World's Fair of Money in Denver on Aug. 2. Details available at the web-site of The Fourth Garrideb <[www.fourthgarrideb.com](http://www.fourthgarrideb.com)>

The Beacon Society offers annual Jan Stauber grants of up to \$500 to fund development of programs that introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the society's web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/h7acxds](http://www.tinyurl.com/h7acxds)>.

For the completists: the Unemployed Philosophers Guild's "Magnetic personalities" Sherlock Holmes finger puppet (or refrigerator magnet) now has a variant: the first version (Dec 06 #7) wore a green deerstalker and cape, and the new version is dressed in brown <[www.philosophersguild.com](http://www.philosophersguild.com)>.

The new tenants of The Royal Oak, a pub in Ashburton, Newton Abbot, plan to reopen the pub in February, with a Hound of the Baskervilles theme that's thoroughly appropriate, since Ashburton is located on the southeastern edge of Dartmoor.

Howard Ostrom has revised and expanded his "Footprints on Film" examination of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on film and television, which now has 66 dramatizations, pastiches, and parodies <[www.tinyurl.com/zxa67ug](http://www.tinyurl.com/zxa67ug)>. He has many other interesting data-bases available at Ross Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <[www.nphl.co.uk](http://www.nphl.co.uk)>.

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Little is known about the Sherlock Holmes Club, which appears to have been a social club in Germany in the early 1900s; there's a green postcard listing some of its members, and Nicole Glücklich, of the Deutsche Sherlock Holmes Gesellschaft, would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who has a copy of the postcard, or any information about the society or its members. You can contact her at <n.gluecklich@sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de>.

The Retired Beekeepers of Sussex, an all-inclusive Sherlockian society for members of the LGBTQ+ community, have now published their fourth Practical Handbook of Bee Culture (with the theme "A Small Farm Upon the Downs) with 41 pages that include poetry, artwork, and pastiche; all four issues of the handbook are available at <www.retiredbeekeepers.tumblr.com>.

Monica Schmidt's presentation ("The Seven-Per-Evaluation: A DSM-5 Analysis of Sherlock Holmes' Cocaine Use") at the Sherlockian conference in Minneapolis in 2016 offered a truly professional examination of the topic, and it is conveniently available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jlxaq38>.

"Have You a Tamerlane in Your Attic?" was the title of Vincent Starrett's article in the Saturday Evening Post (on June 27, 1925); at the time there were only four known copies of Edgar Allan Poe's first-published poems, and Starrett hoped that a nation-wide search would turn up a fifth copy of the pamphlet. What happened next is an interesting story, and Ray Betzner has told it well at his "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com>.

Real Wood Crafts <www.tinyurl.com/zak78ss> offers some interesting and attractive Sherlockian items such as bookmarks and name signs. Albert Baggetta is the craftsman, and he does custom work as well.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) opened at the Fleet Science Center in San Diego, Calif., on Feb. 11, and will run through June 4 <www.rhfleet.org/exhibitions/sherlock-holmes-clocktower-mystery>.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have launched a weekly 15-minute podcast called "Trifles" <www.sherlockholmespodcast.com> that focuses on the Canon, with discussion of "details, questions, and conundrums" in the stories. They're not neglecting their longer twice-a-month "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast that covers "the intersection of Sherlock Holmes and popular culture" <www.ihearofsherlock.com>, and both of their podcasts are interesting and entertaining.

William R. Cochran's THE BREND CODE AND "THE SECOND STAIN" (2015) is now in a revised second edition; the 60-page monograph costs \$20.00 postpaid, and Bill is having great fun with Sherlockian scholarship.

R. H. Thompson will deliver this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture on Apr. 20 at the Toronto Reference Library; his topic will be "War, Words & Writers: 100 Years on at Vimy, Passchendaele and Hill 70" (discussing how writers like Conan Doyle can influence the way we view history, in the context of the key battles of 1917 <www.acdfriends.org>).



Feb 17 #2 Admirers of Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke will be pleased by Alexander Orlov's report that the audio recording of Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (made by Lisa Woods and Linda Pritchard on Mar. 20, 1989), has been re-mastered by Alison Carter, who has posted it on the Internet at SoundCloud at <[www.tinyurl.com/zgvmdsn](http://www.tinyurl.com/zgvmdsn)> and at <[www.tinyurl.com/hc33c44](http://www.tinyurl.com/hc33c44)>.

The model of the Arctic Whale Ship Hope (on which Conan Doyle sailed as the ship's surgeon), at auction on Jan. 11 (Dec 16 #1) sold for \$5,312 (including the buyer's premium); a model of a Peterhead whaleboat sold for \$1,375.

"Nobody shoplifts from a store that knows 3,214 ways to murder someone" is the lede on the story in the N.Y. Times (Feb. 1) <[www.tinyurl.com/j31vahz](http://www.tinyurl.com/j31vahz)> about The Mysterious Bookshop, whose proprietor Otto Penzler notes that detective stories "are essentially fairy tales ... they're the battle between good and evil."

The Baskerville Hall Club (in Sweden) recently posted an intriguing image of the cover of a Super-Team Family comic book that featured Batman and Sherlock Holmes in "An Empty Grave in Gotham!" Super-Team Family was a comic-book anthology series published by DC Comics from 1974 to 1978, with 15 issues; none of them had this cover. But there is a delightful web-site for Super-Team Family...The Lost Issues! that tries "to spark the imagination with what could have been," and is quite successful at it, offering a new cover every day. Ross Pearsall has created three Sherlockian covers (the others pair Holmes with Daredevil and with Detective Chimp <[www.tinyurl.com/jomgmhf](http://www.tinyurl.com/jomgmhf)>, and Pearsall has great fun with his ghostly comic-book match-ups.



Barbara Hale died on Jan. 26. She began her acting career on screen, but is best known as Della Street, secretary to Raymond Burr's Perry Mason, in a long running television series and then in a series of television films. It was in "Perry Mason: The Case of the Reckless Romeo" (1992) that she had a delightfully Sherlockian exchange with her boss; the film's available at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/zopqlen](http://www.tinyurl.com/zopqlen)>, and the dialogue is timed at 1:30:25.

It's not true that computers have taken over Sherlockian game-playing: Keifer Art has developed an interesting "collaborative moving board game" that can be played (and enjoyed) more than once (\$34.99). "Sherlock Holmes and Moriarty's Web" can be ordered at their web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/j22evsn](http://www.tinyurl.com/j22evsn)>, where there are a trailer, instructions, interviews and podcasts.

"Save the date," says Susan Diamond: the 58th annual running of the Silver Blaze in Chicago will be on Oct. 14 at the Hawthorne Race Course.

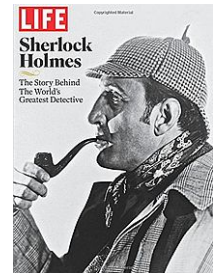
Variety has reported (Feb. 2) <[www.tinyurl.com/z5nmgy2](http://www.tinyurl.com/z5nmgy2)> that Snapper Films has unveiled plans for "Sherlock North", a new ten-hour television series that has Holmes in Lapland, in northern Finland, during the Great Hiatus. According to Snapper Films <[www.snapperfilms.com/project/sherlock-north](http://www.snapperfilms.com/project/sherlock-north)>, the film's premise is "Consulting detective Mr. Sherlock Holmes in subzero Northern Scandinavia, featuring a female Dr. Watson from Finland, and the coldest Moriarty you have ever seen."



Feb 17 #3 "Holmes, Sweet Holmes" (a 1968 episode of a Canadian 30-minute television series called "Telescope") presented "a visit with Adrian Conan Doyle" at the Chateau de Lucens, and it's now nicely available in three parts at YouTube; The first part's at <[www.tinyurl.com/hllmqpj](http://www.tinyurl.com/hllmqpj)>, and links to the other two are at the right. There's a lot of Adrian, and a brief view of him driving his Ferrari 250 GTO.

"Was Sherlock Holmes Irish?" is a 48-minute audio documentary posted to the Internet on Jan. 21 by Newstalk in Dublin <[www.tinyurl.com/j8s5c96](http://www.tinyurl.com/j8s5c96)>. Luke McManus produced the documentary, which includes interviews with Owen Dudley Edwards, Des McHale, Clare Clarke, Rob Byrne, Colm McCarthy, and Barry McCrea.

It's not quite the same as a Time magazine "man of the year" issue, but Life magazine has published a special issue offering "the story behind the world's greatest detective" with 96 pages, often in full color (\$13.99); J. J. Baker is the editor and writer, and the issue's now on the newsstands and available at Amazon and elsewhere on the Internet.



Personal detective Sidney Grice and his ward March Middleton are the interesting protagonists in M. R. C. Kasasian's THE MANGLE STREET MURDERS (London: Head of Zeus, 2013; 329 pp., £16.99) (New York: Pegasus, 2015; 320 pp., \$25.95) (there are trade paperbacks available); the story is set in London in 1882, and there's an amusing brief appearance in chapter 68 by a doctor who will be familiar to all Sherlockians.

Joe Petrosino, an Italian immigrant who joined the New York Police Department and in 1908 was placed in charge of the NYPD's Italian Squad (which was charged with battling the Camorra, the Mafia, and other criminal organizations, was murdered in Palermo in 1909; he was a national hero in Italy (where he was known as "Il Sherlock Holmes d'Italia") and he was the hero of "Il Piccolo Sherlock Holmes" (1909), a one-reel Italian film released in the U.S. as "The Italian Sherlock Holmes" (1910). Stephan Talty's new book THE BLACK HAND: THE EPIC WAR BETWEEN A BRILLIANT DETECTIVE AND THE DEADLIEST SECRET SOCIETY IN AMERICAN HISTORY (2017) has been bought by Paramount Pictures for a film that will star Leonardo Dicaprio.

Christopher Morley (who founded The Baker Street Irregulars) loved Sherlock Holmes, of course, and many other things, including journalism, travel, and (especially) trains; he wrote about trains in an era when they were magic carpets for travelers, and you can read some of the best of what he had to say about them in MR. MORLEY TAKES THE TRAIN, edited by Jon Lellenberg and Donald Pollock (Mainline Press, 2016; 171 pp., \$14.95).

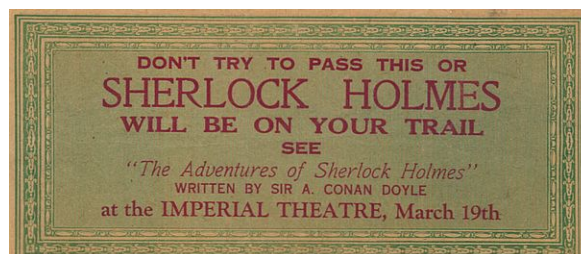
What goes around, comes around, at least for Guy Henry. The web-site Empire reports <[www.tinyurl.com/zl99n9u](http://www.tinyurl.com/zl99n9u)> that "Rogue One" director Gareth Edwards said that Henry (who succeeds Peter Cushing as Grand Moff Tarkin in "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story") was cast because of Sherlock Holmes. Henry played Holmes in the Granada television series "Young Sherlock" (1982) and "got into the role" by watching Cushing in Sherlockian films; Henry "kept Cushing in him throughout the years," and when Edwards saw a clip of Henry, that was enough to persuade Edwards to cast Henry as Tarkin.

Feb 17 #4 The Baker Street Irregulars' "Behind the Canonical Screen" conference at UCLA in 2012 included presentations by Lyndsay Faye ("The Women: Sex and Success in the Canon, BBC, and Warner Brothers") and Ashley Polasek ("The Evolving Role of Women in Sherlockian Film"), and you can see what they had to say uploaded at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/hbujuyb](http://www.tinyurl.com/hbujuyb)> and <[www.tinyurl.com/h4p2ono](http://www.tinyurl.com/h4p2ono)> and <[www.tinyurl.com/jshpgth](http://www.tinyurl.com/jshpgth)>.

Sony Pictures has announced Aug. 3, 2018, as the release date for their new film "Holmes & Watson" (the comedy starring Will Ferrell as Holmes and John C. Reilly as Watson); the cast also includes Ralph Fiennes, Rebecca Hall, Hugh Laurie, and Kelly Macdonald.

The East Haddam Stage Company, now officially known as the Resident Theatre Company at Gillette Castle State Park, has announced that their summer season will include weekend performances of Kandie Carle's "William Gillette: Senator's Son to Super Sleuth". They will also tour New England with their "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" this fall.

Jennie Paton has found an interesting example of Sherlockian publicity: a fac-simile five-dollar bill promoting "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes" at the Imperial Theatre. We'd be delighted to hear from anyone who can identify when and where and why it was used.



The Sherlocks (the Sherlock Consortium for Investigation) were seen on an episode ("16 Years") of NCIS on CBS-TV last year, and they're back in a new episode ("Nonstop") that was broadcast on Feb. 7 and may still be available at <[www.tinyurl.com/jfol82u](http://www.tinyurl.com/jfol82u)>.

A query about Argosy: The All-Fiction Magazine (which was published quarterly by Richard Kyle Publications): the Aug. 1991 issue had an attractive Sherlockian cover by Jim Steranko, and Part One of Ellery Queen's "A Study in Terror"; was the next issue with Part Two ever published? If so, when?

BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY: THE HOWLING HOUNDS is the second series of amusing comic strips created by Joe Fay, Steve Mason, and Rusty Mason; you can see the 2015 and 2016 strips (and some character profiles) at The Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/j29mukf](http://www.tinyurl.com/j29mukf)>.

"Life Imitates Art: Silver Blaze Division" is the comment by Kate Karlson on a story in the Feb. 9 issue of the Daily Racing Form about the suspension of a horse identifier at Delta Downs in Louisiana and an investigation into the possibility that two horses made starts in the state under swapped identities <[www.tinyurl.com/zl3o5rl](http://www.tinyurl.com/zl3o5rl)>. It appears that the horse identifier did not check the lip tattoos on the horses involved in the scheme.

Feb 17 #5 Ann Milam notes an interesting Smithsonian magazine on-line article <[www.tinyurl.com/jf5ecy5](http://www.tinyurl.com/jf5ecy5)> about "the seedy reality of a London long gone"; Charles Booth's classic INQUIRY INTO LIFE AND LABOUR IN LONDON has been catalogued and digitized, and you can now view the poverty maps and police notebooks that describe the streets and street life of London between 1898 and 1900. They portray the London of Sherlock Holmes in a way one doesn't find in the Canon.

"Second Holmes" (the BBC's 1983 series, written by Grant Eustace, about the grandsons of Holmes and Watson) is being repeated by BBC Radio 4 Extra, and you can listen to all six episodes at <[www.tinyurl.com/gwmgt4](http://www.tinyurl.com/gwmgt4)>

BAKER STREET IRREGULARS is a new anthology edited by Michael A. Ventrella and Jonathan Maberry (New York: Diversion Books, 2017; 302 pp., \$16.99); it offers "thirteen authors with new takes on Sherlock Holmes," and their versions of Holmes are new (and decidedly different), including his being the host of a reality show, a vampire, and an eighteen-year old female college student.

Ron Lies <[relies1@msn.com](mailto:relies1@msn.com)> would like to hear from those who shares his interest in Sherlockian jigsaw puzzles, and who would like to buy, trade, or sell duplicates.

Thierry Saint-Joanis reports a delightful example of what can be done with modern computer technology: an article at the 80 Level web-site on "Building Sherlock Holmes' Flat in 3D" <[www.tinyurl.com/hqktvk8](http://www.tinyurl.com/hqktvk8)>. Elliot Lambert (a junior CGI artist at Whitecrow Studios in England) explains what he did, and how he did it, and has a brief video of the results.

"London Police Get Sherlock Holmes-Era Guns Off the Streets" was the headline on a story at Guns.com (Feb. 13) <[www.tinyurl.com/zhtw7zu](http://www.tinyurl.com/zhtw7zu)>; one of the guns shown was a Webley Bulldog. "Paging Dr. Watson," the web-site notes.

"Mickey Spillane and his ilk killed Sherlock Holmes," Basil Rathbone once said, according to Heritage Auctions in its description of a pair of fencing foils given to Spillane by Rathbone, scheduled for auction on Mar. 8. But Spillane was kinder to Rathbone, saying that "he was the neatest fellow around, kind, considerate" <[www.tinyurl.com/hng75b8](http://www.tinyurl.com/hng75b8)>.

"What's Sherlock Holmes Got to Do with Teesside?" asked the Daily Mail in a story (Feb. 16) <[www.tinyurl.com/jnap82w](http://www.tinyurl.com/jnap82w)> about angry complaints from Middlesbrough locals when the local council spent taxpayers' money on literacy-inspired artworks that include a mural that displays a page from "The Five Orange Pips"; actually, there is a connection: Conan Doyle's brother-in-law E. W. Hornung was born in Middlesbrough, and the town has an Orange Pip Market on Baker Street.

Miniaturists continue to have fun with Sherlock Holmes: Orsi Skultéti has created a spectacular miniature version of the kitchen at 221B Baker Street (as in the BBC's "Sherlock" series), shown in full color in articles in The Dolls' House Magazine (Feb. 2014) and American Miniaturist (Feb. 2017); one (and perhaps both, when her web-site's updated) of the articles can be seen at <[www.orsisminiatures.com](http://www.orsisminiatures.com)>.

Feb 17 #6    The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State (which commemorates the life and work of Christopher Morley) will hold its annual Morley Birthday Lunch at Arthur's Restaurant in the Sacred City of Hoboken on Apr. 30, and more information about the event is available from Terry and Linda Hunt <18goldini95@gmail.com>.

Lloyd Rose reports that the BBC has made the scripts for the first season of "Sherlock" available for download (free) at its Writersroom web-site at <www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/scripts/sherlock>. Their Scripts Library offers other scripts from its TV Drama archive (for those who have other favorite shows).

Crowborough will hold its first community festival May 1-27, according to a report in the Kent and Sussex Courier <www.tinyurl.com/jr6nmsq>; the festival will include "Beyond Baker Street" (an improvised theatrical experience with actors scattered throughout the town, a Sherlock Holmes trail, a workshop themed around "The Lost World", and a talk by Conan Doyle biographer Andrew Lycett.

The Baker Street Players are presenting Stuart Kaminsky's "The Final Toast" at the Hein & Co. Bookstore in Jackson, Calif., through Mar. 4, and on other weekends in 2017 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.

"Shamrock Holmes" (a new play by Penny Kohut) will be performed at Theatre-NOW in Wilmington, N.C., through Mar. 25 <www.theatrewilmington.com>.

C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes: John Watson's Body" [don't worry: Watson isn't dead] is running at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Tex., through Mar. 25 <www.theatresuburbia.org>.

Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Kansas City Kansas Community College Performing Arts Center, Mar. 2-5 <www.tinyurl.com/h5kp9sf>. And at the Center Stage of the Community Light Opera and Theatre Association in Ridgecrest, Calif., Mar. 17-Apr. 1 <www.facebook.com/RCCLOTA>.

"Sherlock Holmes" (Geoffrey Sherman's new adaptation of William Gillette's play) will be performed at the State Theatre in Montgomery, Ala., Mar. 8-May 13 <www.asf.net/project/sherlock-holmes>.

The Baker Street Players will present Beth Barnard's dinner mystery theatre "Murdering Moriarty" at the National Hotel in Jackson, Calif., on Mar. 11 and 25, and Apr. 1 and 8 <www.bakerstreetwest.com/events>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be presented at the Riverhead Theatre in Louth, Lincs., Mar. 13-18 <www.louthplaygoers.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem (a new dramatization by Tal Aviezer) is due at Cahill Theatre at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, N.Y., Apr. 1-23 <www.redmonkeytheater.org>.

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Mar 17 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Stephen Fry has recorded the complete Canon, with his own introductions for each of the nine volumes, for Audible: SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION <[www.tinyurl.com/zmjpanq](http://www.tinyurl.com/zmjpanq)> costs \$82.77 (or free with a 30-day trial membership), and there's a five-minute sample at the Audible web-site. A Google search for [stephen fry sherlock holmes] will turn up video. Note: there are two variants, and you need to be sure that you're getting the one that runs 71 hours and 58 minutes.

GOTHIC TALES, edited by Darryl L. Jones (London: Oxford Univ. Press, 2016; 549 pp., \$27.95), is an imaginative collection of Gothic stories written by Conan Doyle, who is described by Jones as "the greatest genre writer Britain has ever produced." There are 34 stories in this Oxford World's Classics volume, and Jones has supplied an interesting introduction and careful explanatory notes for each of the stories.

Phil Attwell reports that the BBC and Radio Times Television Festival upcoming in London includes three Sherlockian events of interest on Apr. 9: "Mark Gatiss: From League of Gentlemen to Sherlock" (interviewed by Alison Graham), "The Sound of Sherlock" (a panel with Mark Gatiss, Sue Vertue, and composers David Arnold and Michael Price), and "Gala Event: Steven Moffat in Conversation with Frank Skinner" <[www.tinyurl.com/jrp7dgc](http://www.tinyurl.com/jrp7dgc)>.

There is a Klingon translation of "The Blue Carbuncle" (done by Bing, with assistance from Karen Ellery) <[www.tinyurl.com/mtspvkt](http://www.tinyurl.com/mtspvkt)>, but there's also an empty eBook case labeled "Sherlock Holmes" in Klingon, used as set decoration in Trip Tucker's quarters (in the television series "Star Trek: Enterprise"), included in a collection of eBook cases at auction at Propworx this month <[www.tinyurl.com/jukmwxs](http://www.tinyurl.com/jukmwxs)>; the lot sold for \$500 (plus the 23% buyer's premium). There were four seasons of the series, with 98 episodes, so there's plenty to do if anyone wants to confirm that the eBook case actually was seen in the series.

How many actors who have played Holmes or Watson have won Oscars? Not for Sherlockian roles, since no one has, but Howard Ostrom has identified more than 20 actors who have won Oscars for non-Sherlockian work, and discusses them in an interesting 15-minute video "Watson, the Envelope, Please" that is available at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/jgu9ph3](http://www.tinyurl.com/jgu9ph3)>.

"Erkunde Leute, Die Britische Polizei und noch mehr!" [or Explore People, the British Police, and more!] is the title of an interesting collection of 19th- and 20th-century images recently posted at the Pinterest web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/za37nxq](http://www.tinyurl.com/za37nxq)>.

David Shepard died on Jan. 31. He was a dedicated film preservationist who began buying old films as a teenager, with money earned from his newspaper route; he went on to work for the American Film Institute, and then joined Blackhawk Films, where in the 1970s he was instrumental in finding and restoring the Fox-Case Movietone newsreel interview with Conan Doyle that was released in 1929. His obituary in the N.Y. Times <[www.tinyurl.com/hpoymm8](http://www.tinyurl.com/hpoymm8)> is well worth reading, and you can listen to him talk about his career in a Modern Times Podcast <[www.tinyurl.com/gworeqc](http://www.tinyurl.com/gworeqc)>.

Mar 17 #2     Reported: SCIENTIFIC ROMANCE: AN INTERNATIONAL ANTHOLOGY OF PIONEERING SCIENCE FICTION, edited by Brian Stableford (New York: Dover, 2017; 335 pp., \$14.95); "scientific romance" is what its early fans called the genre until Hugo Gernsback coined the word "scientifiction" (for what is now called "science fiction"), and the anthology begins with Poe's "The Conversation of Eiros and Charmion" (1839) and ends with Conan Doyle's "The Horror of the Heights" (1913).

"Treasury of Literature" (described as an integrated reading and language arts program offering a wealth of literature to touch the hearts and minds of its readers) was launched in 1995 by Harcourt Brace & Company, and the Teacher's Edition for VOICES AND REFLECTIONS: VOLUME ONE includes two Sherlockian items: T. S. Eliot's "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" (with drawings by Edward Gorey) and the Michael and Mollie Hardwick radio play "The Speckled Band" (with full-color illustrations by Sergio Martinez); it's out of print but possibly available at Abebooks and elsewhere on-line. Martinez's artwork is attractive, and appears not to have been published elsewhere. And there's also a boxed set with two Literature Cassettes; one of the audio-cassettes includes readings of both items.

Robert Osborne died on Mar. 6. He was an actor, a film critic for the Hollywood Reporter for 26 years, a dedicated film historian, and since 1994 a genial host for films (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian) broadcast by Turner Classic Movies.

Further to the report (Feb 12 #4) on the first time that Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller played the same role (before they played Sherlock Holmes in "Sherlock" and "Elementary"): Jenny Paton notes that their performances alternating as Frankenstein and the Creature in the National Theatre's production of "Frankenstein" in London in 2011 are now available at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/gtmdfuz](http://www.tinyurl.com/gtmdfuz)> and <[www.tinyurl.com/z5pksfw](http://www.tinyurl.com/z5pksfw)>.

"Discover your Sherlock Holmes story name" is the offer made by Epic Reads <[www.tinyurl.com/hm4uxew](http://www.tinyurl.com/hm4uxew)>, kindly reported by Dan Stashower. "The Incident of the Insidious Meme" would be Sherlock Holmes' story name. Mine is "The Tragedy of the Meticulous Toaster".

Larry Millett's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE EISENDORF ENIGMA (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2017; 226 pp., \$25.95) is the latest in his series of well-written mysteries about Holmes, Watson, and Shadwell Rafferty; Holmes, who is now 66 and suffering from emphysema, has returned to the Mayo Clinic for treatment, and winds up in pursuit of the Munich Monster (a serial killer Holmes failed to capture in 1892).

Jim French's Imagination Theater has ended its 17-year run of live recordings. He began his radio career in 1943, served with Armed Forces Radio in Japan, settled in Seattle, and went on to write and produce nearly 500 original shows, including "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", a series which now includes dramatizations of the entire Canon, all adapted by M. J. Elliot and starring John Patrick Lowrie as Holmes and Larry Albert as Watson. The program logs at <[www.old-time.com/otrlogs2](http://www.old-time.com/otrlogs2)> offer details on his broadcasts (see "Jim French Shows", "The Classic Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", and "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes").

Mar 17 #3 Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon, private detectives in San Francisco in 1895, are at work again in Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini's THE DANGEROUS LADIES AFFAIR (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2017; 252 pp., \$25.99), the fifth in their entertaining series; Sabina and John again have separate mysteries to solve, and there's blackmail and attempted murder, and (as usual) an interesting look at turn-of-the-century San Francisco.

Bill Barnes reports an article in the Australian press that was headlined "Sherlock Holmes to Suss out the Valley"; not the Valley Fear, but rather the Moonee Valley Racecourse in Melbourne. And this Sherlock Holmes is an Irish-born five-year-old gelding who's not doing as well in Australia as he did in Ireland <[www.tinyurl.com/jp4yytw](http://www.tinyurl.com/jp4yytw)>.

"With Sherlock Holmes, is pastiche just a fancy word for fanfiction?" asks Lyndsay Faye, who offers advice on "how to successfully imitate Arthur Conan Doyle" at the Literary Hub web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/jpnpnpg](http://www.tinyurl.com/jpnpnpg)>.

"Trumpets and Confetti" is the title of Laurie R. King's announcement that an English production company has purchased the rights to the Mary Russell stories for a television series that will have Laurie as an active consultant <[www.laurierking.com/2017/03/trumpets-russell-holmes](http://www.laurierking.com/2017/03/trumpets-russell-holmes)>. That's all the news that's fit to print, but more (as they say) to come.

"Pop Sherlock!" is the title of a new exhibition in the TD Gallery at the Toronto Public Library, Aug. 19-Oct. 22 <[www.tinyurl.com/grnc2q5](http://www.tinyurl.com/grnc2q5)>, nicely timed for those attending Bouchercon on Oct. 12-15 <[www.bouchercon2017.com](http://www.bouchercon2017.com)> to see the exhibition (and tour the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection).

Further to the announcement (May 16 #1) of plans for a new "Star Trek: All Access" television series, the series is now called "Star Trek: Discovery" and (according the entry at Wikipedia) filming began last month in Toronto. Nicholas Meyer is the consulting producer, and has written the script for the second episode.

Simpson's-in-the-Strand was founded in 1828, and has long been a destination for Sherlockians who want to visit (and dine at) establishments mentioned in the Canon; Simpson's web-site at <[www.simpsonsinthestrland.co.uk](http://www.simpsonsinthestrland.co.uk)> announces that the restaurant will close on Apr. 17 for a six-to-ten-week restoration of the entrance and the Grand Divan.

Mattias Boström has reported an interesting article about the Mdivani family in the Dec. 2016 issue Los Angeles Magazine <[www.tinyurl.com/mlz5m9e](http://www.tinyurl.com/mlz5m9e)>; the family (known in their time as the "marrying Mdivanis") included Nina, who was married to Denis Conan Doyle. Another article, about Nina and Barbara Hutton, was published in the "Jewels du Jour" blog (Apr. 9, 2014); you can read it at <[www.tinyurl.com/mqzv7k](http://www.tinyurl.com/mqzv7k)>.

"A cunning preparation of phosphorus," said Sherlock Holmes (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). According to an article in The New Indian Express <[www.tinyurl.com/hx8ffl3](http://www.tinyurl.com/hx8ffl3)>, phosphorus was discovered by the German alchemist Hennig Brand in the 17th century, and you can read how he did it in the article (which has the subhead "from pee to P").



Mar 17 #4    The notable nerve-regenerative properties of lion's mane mushrooms have drawn the attention of researchers, according to a report in the Huffington Post a while back <[www.tinyurl.com/o6se96v](http://www.tinyurl.com/o6se96v)>. And you can buy them at local market (for \$15 a pound), according to a recent story in the Portland Oregonian, noted and forwarded by Sonia Fetherston. "You can make a small amount stretch," according to the article, "because they have so much flavor." There is a long entry at Wikipedia, for those who want to know more about a lion's mane rather different from the one in the Canon.

The winter issue of The Magic Door (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) has a tribute to Marilyn Penner, who has retired after 36 years at the Library (and her imaginative "Canon Fodder" look at "Silver Blaze"), and more news from and about the Library and the Collection; as always, copies of the newsletter can be requested from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <[cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca](mailto:cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca)>.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE COLLECTION, a 93-page pamphlet published by the Friends in 2014 when the new Arthur Conan Doyle Room was opened, described the acquisitions of the Baillie, Mortlake, Bigelow, and Bengis collections; it was a limited edition with only 100 copies, and it's now available on-line as a free download at <[www.tinyurl.com/l2up68j](http://www.tinyurl.com/l2up68j)>.

The 2015 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Library by Clifford S. Goldfarb (about "Arthur Conan Doyle's Waterloo"), and his paper has now been published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available to people who join the Friends now. Their web-site at <[www.acdfriends.org](http://www.acdfriends.org)> has PayPal and credit-card capability, or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above); the minimum donation of \$35.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2016 Memorial Lecture.

"I have learned that the world consists of two types of people--those for whom no explanation for why I collect is necessary, and those for whom no explanation is possible." Clifford S. Goldfarb (in "Arthur Conan Doyle's Waterloo").

Reported: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, published this year by W. H. Smith in a yellowback edition that celebrates the 225th anniversary of the founding of the company as a news vendor <[www.tinyurl.com/hhbt6f](http://www.tinyurl.com/hhbt6f)>. Yellowbacks, described by Richard Altick as "the most inspired publishing invention" of the Victorian era, provided good books at inexpensive prices at newsstands in railway stations. W. H. Smith has much to brag about, including the invention, in 1966, of the nine-digit code for uniquely identifying books that in 1974 became the ISBN system.

The famous/infamous "tent joke" is alive and well, in Ray V. Batvinis' FBI Studies blog at <[www.tinyurl.com/inv8e68](http://www.tinyurl.com/inv8e68)>. A bit of history: the joke was unveiled to The Hounds of the Internet in July 1998, and seems to have appeared in print first in the Reader's Digest (Nov. 1998); it came in second in voting for the world's funniest joke (Oct 02 #1), and possibly now has become the joke that will never die.

Mar 17 #5    The autumn issue of "For the Sake of the Trust" (the newsletter of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust) has news about the Trust, Francine Kitts' history of the BSI's "standing on the terrace" ceremony at their annual dinners, and much more; the issue is available both at the BSI Trust's web-site <[www.bsitrust.org](http://www.bsitrust.org)> and by e-mail; if you would like to be on the mailing list, you can send a request <[editor@bsitrust.org](mailto:editor@bsitrust.org)>.

Colin Dexter died on Mar. 21. Best known for his 14 novels about Inspector Morse (adapted for the highly popular ITV television series), he also wrote an amusing pastiche "A Case of Mis-Identity" (first published in WINTER'S CRIMES 21 in 1989, and then reprinted in MORSE'S GREATEST MYSTERY AND OTHER STORIES in 1993).

Spanish artist Iñaki Aliste Lizarralde has prepared a colorful floor plan for 221B Baker Street as seen in the BBC television series "Sherlock" (he has done the same for Carrie Bradshaw and Mary Richards), and you can see his work at <[www.nikneukdeviantart.com](http://www.nikneukdeviantart.com)>.

The Jersey Devil Press, an on-line magazine that's edited by Mike Sweeney, published a 54-page Sherlock Holmes issue in Jan. 2016, and you can read it on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/zfm9tsm](http://www.tinyurl.com/zfm9tsm)>. The magazine is now planning a Victorian Mash-up special issue for Aug. 2017, and has issued a call for submissions <[www.jerseydevilpress.com/?p=7476](http://www.jerseydevilpress.com/?p=7476)>; their deadline is July 7, and any of the Canonical characters can be combined with other characters from the Victorian era.

Michael Sims' ARTHUR AND SHERLOCK: CONAN DOYLE AND THE CREATION OF HOLMES (New York: Bloomsbury, 2017; 245 pp., \$27.00) is a welcome addition to anyone's shelf of biographies of Conan Doyle; as promised by the subtitle, it explores his early life and career (ending with the publication of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES), Sims offers an interesting and readable account of the world in which Conan Doyle lived, his family, and the inspirations for his Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) writings. Recommended.

"Sherlock Holmes' Sublime Failures" is the title of Barry S. Brown's post at <[www.tinyurl.com/k55kdgw](http://www.tinyurl.com/k55kdgw)> (look at the upper left for more Sherlockian posts); he has written four pastiche novels in which Mrs. Hudson's the real detective, and his web-site's at <[www.barrysbrown.com](http://www.barrysbrown.com)>.

Dana Gavin, who is researching the experiences of female-identifying fans of Sherlock Holmes for a chapter in an anthology on Geek Feminism, offers an on-line anonymous survey on "Women in the Sherlock Holmes Community"; details are at <[www.tinyurl.com/keeedlf](http://www.tinyurl.com/keeedlf)>, and the deadline for responses is Apr. 12.

Marsha Pollak reports that the Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will be celebrating their 50th anniversary this year, at a meeting on June 29, during the ALA conference in Chicago. The Sub-Librarians are the oldest "professional" Sherlockian society, founded by John Bennett Shaw, and Marsha would welcome congratulatory messages from other societies <[mlpollak@icloud.com](mailto:mlpollak@icloud.com)>. If you'd like to attend the festivities, Marsha will be happy to provide details, by e-mail or postal mail (1318 Mildred Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125).

Mar 17 #6     Flickering Myth has reported that Action Lab Entertainment will publish a new "Kid Sherlock" comic-book mini-series this year: "John Watson is nervous being the only dog at his new school Baker Elementary. But when he takes an interest in fellow student Sherlock Holmes, the two become unlikely, and sometimes contentious, friends." You can see the cover artwork at <[www.tinyurl.com/mx4sdhr](http://www.tinyurl.com/mx4sdhr)>.

The Daily Mail had a nicely illustrated article on Mar. 28 about the Stepping Stones School's restoration of Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, with before-and-after photographs <[www.tinyurl.com/mmrgj6v](http://www.tinyurl.com/mmrgj6v)>; the school also has a colorful web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/k5sddp7](http://www.tinyurl.com/k5sddp7)>.

Michael W. McClure's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CRYPTIC CLUES: A GRAVE UNDERTAKING (Chester: Baskerville Productions, 2016; 269 pp., \$32.99 in cloth or \$21.95 in paper covers) has a Foreword by the late John Bennett Shaw (who wrote it in 1994 when work on the book started), and a "tour of the resting places" of more than 300 characters in the Canon; Michael and John were co-founders of Stimson & Co. (a professional Sherlockian society for funeral directors). Images on many of the tombstones display McClure's portraits of members of The Baker Street Irregulars and The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes who have been Investitured with the names of the characters, and are accompanied by irreverent (and punny) commentary by the author. Available at <[www.baskervilleproductions.com](http://www.baskervilleproductions.com)>.

Further to the forecast of a manga edition of "Sherlock: A Study in Pink" (Mar 16 #3), the six-issue mini-series is now available as a graphic novel from Titan Comics (224 pp., \$12.99). Adapted from Steven Moffat's script, it has striking artwork by Jay.

Gary Lovisi's SHERLOCK HOLMES & MR. MAC IN: THE AFFAIR OF LADY WESTCOTT'S LOST RUBY/THE CASE OF THE UNSEEN ASSASSIN (Eureka: Black Gat Books, 2017; 163 pp., \$9.99) brings back Inspector Alec MacDonald (from "The Valley of Fear"), investigating two new mysteries (with the assistance of Holmes and Watson).

Jeff Falkingham's blog about "Doyle vs. Clemens: A New Perspective" tells the story of a "feud" between the two authors, and you can read his essay (and about his other Sherlockian activities) at <[www.tinyurl.com/jym1quo](http://www.tinyurl.com/jym1quo)>.

"Did you know that his [F. Scott Fitzgerald] first appearance in print was 'The Mystery of the Raymond Mortgage,' a Holmes pastiche?" That's from Jim Huang's review (Mystery Scene #143, winter 2016) of Maureen Corrigan's SO WE READ ON: HOW THE GREAT GATSBY CAME TO BE AND WHY IT ENDURES (2014). The story was first published in the St. Paul Academy school magazine "Now and Then" in 1909, discovered by Fred Dannay, and reprinted in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Mar. 1960) and ELLERY QUEEN'S 15TH MYSTERY ANNUAL (1960); it's not a pastiche, and Sherlockian only in that someone makes some nice deductions.

Alexander Orlov has noted Alexander Sedov's report from Live Journal (Mar. 20) about new statues of Holmes and Watson (sculpted by Andrei Orlov) that are display in Yekaterinburg <[www.tinyurl.com/mjv3rkl](http://www.tinyurl.com/mjv3rkl)>; it's all in Russian (Google Translate helps), and there are lots of images of the statues.

Mar 17 #7 THE DAUGHTER OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Leonard Goldberg (New York: Minotaur, 2017; 305 pp., \$25.00) has Joanna Blalock (Sherlock Holmes' daughter) joining forces with Dr. John H. Watson, and his son Dr. John Watson Jr., in pursuit of a vicious killer (the son of one of the Canonical villains); the story offers mystery and danger, and some romance. The author's web-site's at <[www.leonardgoldberg.com](http://www.leonardgoldberg.com)>. Note: Goldberg also has written nine books about a modern Joanna Blalock (the same name for the protagonist, but she's not Sherlockian).

"London's high society goes to Sherlock Holmes. The rest go to Arrowood" is the cover blurb for Mick Finlay's ARROWOOD (Don Mills: MIRA, 2017; 350 pp., \$15.99); Arrowood is an "emotional agent" rather than the "deductive agent" he calls Holmes, and Arrowood has some harsh things to say about how Holmes has (or hasn't) solved some of his cases in a story that offers interesting characters and an intriguing mystery. There's also a British edition from HQ (£12.99). And the British production company Cave Bear is planning to make a television series based on the book.

And, as usual, there's Sherlockian theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") is on at the Archway Theatre in Los Angeles through Apr. 30 <[www.archwayla.com](http://www.archwayla.com)>.

The Peninsula Players will stage a public reading of Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" at Björklunden in Bailey's Harbor, Wis., on Apr. 3; web-site at <[www.peninsulaplayers.com](http://www.peninsulaplayers.com)>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Adventure" has been scheduled at the Olivet Covenant Presbyterian Church Theater in Philadelphia, Apr. 21-May 7 <[www.beacontheatreproductions.org](http://www.beacontheatreproductions.org)>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is to be performed at the Whippoorwill Hall Theatre in Armonk, N.Y., Apr. 28-May 13 <[www.hudsonstage.com](http://www.hudsonstage.com)>.

The British Comedy Company will perform Peter Wear's parody of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the St. Michael and All Angels Church in Chiswick, London, on Apr. 30 <[www.britishcomedycompany.co.uk](http://www.britishcomedycompany.co.uk)>.

Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Dorset Playhouse in Dorset, Vt., July 13-29; their web-site is at <[www.dorsettheatrefestival.org](http://www.dorsettheatrefestival.org)>. And at the Heagney Theatre in Webster Groves, Mo., Oct. 12-29 <[www.insighttheatrecompany.com](http://www.insighttheatrecompany.com)>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette) will be performed at the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre in Arrow Rock, Mo., Aug. 5-13 <[www.lyceumtheatre.org](http://www.lyceumtheatre.org)>.

R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" is due at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Va., Sept. 28-Nov. 11; their web-site's at <[www.bartertheatre.com](http://www.bartertheatre.com)>.

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Apr 17 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Benedict Cumberbatch is keeping busy: he will star in "The Child in Time" (now in production for BBC One and PBS), based on Ian McEwan's award-winning novel. So is Martin Freeman, who is filming in "Black Panther" (part of the Marvel comic-book franchise). Jonny Lee Miller is now in theaters in "T2 Trainspotting", Lucy Liu will appear in "Future World" (a science-fiction film now in post-production). Robert Downey Jr. is continuing as Tony Stark/Iron Man, and Jude Law is starring as Vortigern in "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword" (due this year).

Brenda Rossini has reported that the Newberry Library in Chicago will hold a one-day seminar on "Sherlock Holmes and the Popular Imagination" on June 10 <[www.newberry.org/S17Sherlock](http://www.newberry.org/S17Sherlock)>.

And a correction: the Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will celebrate their 50th anniversary this year, at a meeting on June 25, during the ALA conference in Chicago. The Sub-Librarians are the oldest "professional" Sherlockian society, and they were founded by John Bennett Shaw. Marsha Pollak would welcome congratulatory messages from other societies <[mlpollak@icloud.com](mailto:mlpollak@icloud.com)>. If you'd like to attend the festivities, Marsha will be happy to provide details, by e-mail or postal mail (1318 Mildred Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125).

Asmodee <[www.tinyurl.com/kso9hol](http://www.tinyurl.com/kso9hol)> has announced for release this fall "The Thames Murders and Other Cases" (ten fully-revised cases for the table-top game "Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective"); there's a link to an interview with Space Cowboys about "The Evolution of Sherlock Holmes: Consulting Detective" (at upper right).

Tim Pigott-Smith died on Apr. 7. He began his acting career on stage with the Bristol Old Vic in 1969 and made his Broadway debut in 1974 as Dr. Watson in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes"; he went on to star on screen, radio, and television, playing Sherlock Holmes in "The Valley of Fear" for BBC Radio 4 (1986) and narrating the BBC-2 television documentary "The Case of Sherlock Holmes" (1987). Pigott-Smith also recorded Hesketh Pearson's ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE for Naxos AudioBooks (2001), read an abridgement of Conan Doyle's "The Case of Lady Sannox" in the BBC Radio 4 series "Beyond the Surgery" (2005), wrote three pastiches for Hodder Children's Books (2008-2009), played Inspector Lestrade in the BBC Radio 4 series "The Rivals" (2013), and was interviewed in "How to Be Sherlock Holmes" in the BBC Four series "Timeshift" (2014). He also was appointed OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to drama in the 2017 New Year's Honours List. A nice resumé indeed.

The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained by Ron Fish and Sue and Ben Vizoskie, is at <[www.sherlockiancalendar.com](http://www.sherlockiancalendar.com)>; it's a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when and where, and it offers an interesting look at how many society events are being held hither and yon. You should contact <[ronf404@aol.com](mailto:ronf404@aol.com)> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed. The calendar also is available on Twitter as @SianCalendar.

Apr 17 #2 E.J. Wagner's THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: FROM BASKERVILLE HALL TO THE VALLEY OF FEAR: THE REAL FORENSICS BEHIND THE GREAT DETECTIVE'S GREATEST CASES now has a second edition (New York: Fall River, 2016; 254 pp., \$7.98 at Barnes & Noble) with a new afterword; it's a fine demonstration of how the Canon can be used to make a technical subject interesting, and it will be just as interesting to Sherlockians: she offers stories of how science was and is used to solve crimes, and shows how forensics have expanded in scope since Sherlock Holmes' time. Her web-site is at <[www.ejwagnercrimehistorian.com](http://www.ejwagnercrimehistorian.com)>.

A complete run of all of the Sherlock Holmes stories published in The Strand Magazine (58 stories in 79 issues) sold on Apr. 9 for \$18,812.50 (including the buyer's premium) at Heritage Auctions <[www.ha.com](http://www.ha.com)>.

Terry Hunt reports in the latest issue of The Bowling Green (the newsletter of the Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State) that Christopher Morley will be inducted into the New York State Writers Hall of Fame on June 5, at the Hall of Fame Dinner at the Princeton Club in New York. If you want to subscribe to the newsletter, contact Terry at <[18goldini95@gmail.com](mailto:18goldini95@gmail.com)>.

Jack Ziegler died on Mar. 29. Once described as "the godfather of contemporary New Yorker cartoonists," he began his career in 1973 by selling an idea that was illustrated by Charles Addams, and had his own cartoon in the magazine on Feb. 11, 1974. He went on to contribute more than 1,600 cartoons to the New Yorker, including this one (on Jan. 11, 1988). You can read Bob Mankoff's tribute to Ziegler in the New Yorker at <[www.tinyurl.com/mann25q](http://www.tinyurl.com/mann25q)> and Michael Cavanaugh's appreciation in the Washington Post <[www.tinyurl.com/n4cofcl](http://www.tinyurl.com/n4cofcl)>.



Melvin Regin (better known by his nickname "Wah Wah Watson") is a guitarist famous for his use of the wah-wah pedal (which provides special effects for the electric guitar). The album cover of his 1976 LP "Wah Wah Watson: Elementary" showed him with a deerstalker and calabash pipe, and he has a web-site at <[www.wahwah.com](http://www.wahwah.com)>; Jennie Paton has found the album (with cover art and music) at YouTube <[tinyurl.com/lo84x8u](http://tinyurl.com/lo84x8u)>.

Further to the review of Leonard Goldberg's THE DAUGHTER OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Mar 17 #7), the modern Joanna Blalock is intended (but not stated) to be the granddaughter of the Joanna Blalock who is Holmes' daughter.

Evy Herzog has kindly reported the monthly blog from the Victorian Trading Co. <[www.tinyurl.com/kdk81l8](http://www.tinyurl.com/kdk81l8)>, which this month is devoted to "Bad Boys of the Victorian Era" (one of them being Joseph Caminada). Angela Buckley's THE REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HIDDEN STORY OF JEROME CAMINADA (May 14 #6) is the biography of a Manchester policeman who began his career as a police constable in 1868 and had risen to the rank of superintendent of the city's police force when he retired in 1899 and became a private detective.

Apr 17 #3 Lyndsay Faye's new collection THE WHOLE ART OF DETECTION: LOST MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Mysterious Press, 2017; 352 pp., \$25.00) offers fifteen pastiches, two of them new and the others reprinted from magazines and other sources, and they're nicely done indeed; she has done an excellent job of capturing the voices of Watson and Holmes, and in offering interesting characters and mysteries.

"The Lost City of Z" opened in theaters this month, starring Charlie Hunnam as Col. Percy H. Fawcett, who met Conan Doyle in 1910 and then disappeared in the Amazon jungle, but no one's listed as Conan Doyle in the cast list at the Internet Movie Data Base, so it's unlikely that Conan Doyle appears in the film. Fawcett and Conan Doyle are discussed by Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin's THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD (1996) and David Grann's THE LOST CITY OF Z (2009); the film is based on Grann's book. Fawcett was British, so the Z is pronounced Zed by everyone. There's a trailer for the film at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/moosuhh](http://www.tinyurl.com/moosuhh)>.

There are (at least) two sides to every story, of course: Hugh Thompson's article about "how to lose friends and make enemies in the jungle" in the Washington Post <[www.tinyurl.com/ml9cjhb](http://www.tinyurl.com/ml9cjhb)> suggests that Fawcett was not at all the intrepid explorer described by Grann.



Ray Betzner has kindly reported a different Sherlockian rubber duckie, from Oriental Trading <[www.tinyurl.com/mv3fgdr](http://www.tinyurl.com/mv3fgdr)>; it is one of four "reading rubber duckies" (2" high), and is holding a book with the spine title "mystery"). It's available from various sources on the Internet, individually or in the set of four.

Buster Keaton's silent film "Sherlock Jr." (1924) is well known (although not actually Sherlockian); Howard Ostrom has now discovered Buster Keaton wearing a deerstalker in the non-Sherlockian film "Battling Butler" (1926), which nicely is available at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/kzk3j5a](http://www.tinyurl.com/kzk3j5a)>; the scene begins at 4 minutes into the film.

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 Birraporetti's in Houston on Apr. 5, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, welcomed by members of The John Openshaw Society. Our next meetings will be on Oct. 25 in Seattle, and on May 23, 2018, in Salt Lake City.

Some interesting Conan Doyle manuscript material is coming up at auction at Swann Auction Galleries on May 4 <[www.tinyurl.com/m7a4cpv](http://www.tinyurl.com/m7a4cpv)>; not Sherlockian (but two of the lots are from his tour of the United States in 1894). Randall stock has details on the 1894 material at <[www.tinyurl.com/ky7wtas](http://www.tinyurl.com/ky7wtas)>.

Ted Friedman ("The Commonplace Book") died on Apr. 21. He was a university professor (teaching marketing at Long Island University) and a licensed investigator (at a management consulting firm), a stamp collector specializing in Sherlockian philately, and a stalwart member of Mrs. Hudson's Cliff-dwelles and other society in an near New York. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1995.



Apr 17 #4 There's a new SHERLOCK, an inexpensive diagnostic tool for detecting nucleic acids from disease-causing microbes: SHERLOCK is an acronym, of course, for the Specific High Sensitivity Enzymatic Reporter UNLOCKing that has been developed from CRISPR (an acronym for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats), a laboratory tool used for editing genes. You'll find Joel Achenbach's article about the new SHERLOCK in the Washington Post (Apr. 14) <[www.tinyurl.com/kdm7w6b](http://www.tinyurl.com/kdm7w6b)>.

Richard A. Roth died on Mar. 17. He launched his career as a film producer with "Summer of '42" (1971), had a bit part in Gene Wilder's "Frankenstein" (1974), and then produced Wilder's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).

Vicki Delany's ELEMENTARY, SHE READ (New York: Crooked Lane, 2017; 308 pp., \$25.99) is a pleasantly-cozy "Sherlock Holmes bookshop mystery" that stars Gemma Doyle (the proprietor of the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop) and her friend Jayne Wilson (the proprietor of the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room) trying to investigate two murders and a mysterious copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887.

Kathryn Schulz has an interesting article ("Polar Expressed") on writings about polar exploration in the 19th century, with nice discussion of Conan Doyle's "The Captain of the Pole-Star" and the journal he kept while serving on the arctic whaler Hope <[www.tinyurl.com/mx99me3](http://www.tinyurl.com/mx99me3)>.

Howard Ostrom spotted an interesting set of optical-illusion puzzles created as part of an ad campaign for the Colsubsidio Book Exchange (with the tag line "Come with one story and leave with another"); you're challenged to find two literary references in each puzzle <[www.tinyurl.com/lnwgovc](http://www.tinyurl.com/lnwgovc)>. One of them has a fairy-tale princess as one of the references.



Jennifer Petkus' OUR MUTUAL FRIENDS: A CHARLOTTE HOUSE AFFAIR (Denver: Mallard Classics, 2017; 353 pp., \$16.99) is sequel to her MY PARTICULAR FRIEND (Jul 15 #7); Charlotte House and her ward Jane Woodson are now involved in investigations in London. The tale is told in the style of Jane Austen and is set in that era, and yes: the names are echoes, and not the only echoes from the Canon <[www.myparticularfriend.com](http://www.myparticularfriend.com)>.

Mattias Boström's FRÅN HOLMES TILL SHERLOCK (Aug 13 #4) has now been translated from Swedish into English as FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK (New York: Mysterious Press, 2017; 571 pp., \$27.00), and it's welcome indeed. The book's subtitle is "the story of the men and women who created an icon," and Mattias reports on his detailed research on Conan Doyle and his family, 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, with discussion of Sherlockiana on the Internet and the BBC's "Sherlock" and CBS's "Elementary" television series. His research included family papers that offer a new and interesting look at the battles over archives and copyright that were launched by Denis and Adrian are not yet over. Well-written and recommended. And there will be a British edition from Head of Zeus titled THE LIFE AND DEATH OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: MASTER DETECTIVE, MYTH AND MOVIE STAR (£25.00 hardcover/£8.99 paperback).

Apr 17 #5 Mercedes Lackey's A STUDY IN SABLE (New York: DAW Books, 2016; 313 pp., \$27.00) is the latest title in her otherwise-non-Sherlockian "The Elemental Masters" series; two young women, one a psychic and the other a medium, team up with John and Mary Watson, themselves elemental masters, to investigate weird and magical cases that are too occult for the more prosaic Sherlock Holmes.



Interweave, an on-line company, offers a pattern for a "Conan Doyle Vest" (a cable vest, accented by a wide collar, for this season's big-shoulder look) <[www.tinyurl.com/lhuvgyb](http://www.tinyurl.com/lhuvgyb)>. They don't say how this is related to Conan Doyle, however.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" has been adapted for the stage many times since 1902 (in Australia), and it is always interesting to see how people present the Hound for theater audiences. And if you can't see a play performed, you can at least enjoy the script: Claire Malcomson's dramatization was staged in Britain in 2013, and it has been published (London: MX Publishing, 2014; 80 pp., \$10.95) <[www.mxpublishing.com](http://www.mxpublishing.com)> <[www.mxpublishing.co.uk](http://www.mxpublishing.co.uk)>.

Wildside Press, publisher of the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine, edited by Marvin Kaye (now up to issue #22), also offers books, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian, with many titles by Conan Doyle <[www.tinyurl.com/l3nbxy4](http://www.tinyurl.com/l3nbxy4)>.

Randall Stock has reported an amusing blog post at the web-site of Unbiased <[www.tinyurl.com/m5e272b](http://www.tinyurl.com/m5e272b)> that notes that "every tax return tells a story" (with discussion of the various business-expense deductions that might be claimed by Captain Hook, Mary Poppins, and Sherlock Holmes); Holmes wears no official uniform, so he couldn't claim clothing expenses for his deerstalker, but he could claim the cost of what he wears when in disguise.

Don't Go Into the Cellar (a theatrical touring company that's based in the West Midlands) is taking bookings for its 2018 season. Their productions include "The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes" (first staged in 2011) <[www.dontgointothecellar.com](http://www.dontgointothecellar.com)>. They've also done "The Supernatural Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (2012), "Ho Ho Holmes" (2012), and "Holmes Alone" (2013).

"How much would fictional houses cost in real life?" was the question, and CNN had some answers on Apr. 27 <[www.tinyurl.com/n95uu8m](http://www.tinyurl.com/n95uu8m)>, including an estimate by the real estate advisor Savills that 221B Baker Street (where the Sherlock Holmes Museum is now) is worth \$5 million.

The manuscript of "The Missing Three-Quarter" is on its way to China, included in a cultural exchange program between the British Library (owner of the manuscript) and partner institutions in China. "Shakespeare to Sherlock: Treasures of the British Library" is a joint exhibition that opened this month at the National Library of China in Beijing. Information about the exhibition is available on-line in Mandarin <[www.tinyurl.com/kebgkr8p](http://www.tinyurl.com/kebgkr8p)>; Google Translate will be a great help in seeing that they have to say about Conan Doyle, and there are links to articles that include Prof. Li Ou-fan's discussion of the translation and dissemination of Sherlock Holmes in China, especially in the late Qing Dynasty (early 20th century).

Apr 17 #6    The 2017 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle (it is their 34th annual issue), offering 54 pages of scholarship, quizzes, pastiches, art-work, and reports on the society and its members. The annual costs \$13.00 postpaid (\$20.00 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.

St. James' Court (a Taj Hotel in London) has launched a series of "English Classics Revisited" that now includes a "bespoke limited-edition hardback" edition of Sherlock Holmes stories <[www.tinyurl.com/n4nwl5j](http://www.tinyurl.com/n4nwl5j)>; the hotel also offers a "Sherlock Holmes Afternoon Tea" (£35.00) with a Canonical menu.

And the usual theatrical alerts: "The Game Is Afoot" (a new play written by Kate Clabough) will be staged by the Blount Home Education Association Drama Club at the River Oaks Community Church in Maryville, Tenn., May 5 and 6 ("Sherlock Holmes meets Harry Houdini").

"The Adventure of the Speckled Band" will be performed at the Tudor House at Lake Arrowhead, Calif., June 9-17 <[www.tudorhouseentertainment.villas](http://www.tudorhouseentertainment.villas)>; this is Conan Doyle's script from 1910.

Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed by the Walnut Street Theatre at Independence Studio on 3 in Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 2-Feb. 4, 2018 <[www.walnutstreettheatre.org](http://www.walnutstreettheatre.org)>, and then on tour; the schedule for the tour will be available this summer, but in the meantime includes Wilkes Barre PA (Feb. 7); Elmira NY (Feb. 8); Galloway NJ (Feb. 10); Manassas VA (Feb. 11); Grand Rapids MN (Feb. 14); Collegeville MN (Feb. 16-17); Hamilton, Bermuda (Feb. 20-21); Albuquerque NM Feb 23), Glendora CA (Feb. 23); Palm Desert CA (Feb. 27-28); Hampton VA (Mar. 2); Fairfax VA (Mar. 3); and Frederick MD (Mar. 4). The play's also scheduled by local companies at the Ocean State Theatre in Warwick, R.I. Mar. 28-Apr 15 <[www.oceanstatetheatre.org](http://www.oceanstatetheatre.org)> and the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., June 15-Aug. 5, 2018 <[www.parksquaretheatre.org](http://www.parksquaretheatre.org)>.

The East Lynne Theater Company will perform Craig Wichman's radio-style adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Speckled Band" at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Nov. 3-4 <[www.eastlynnetheater.org](http://www.eastlynnetheater.org)>; also on Mar. 16-17, 2018.

The Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Conn., will present "A Connecticut Christmas Carol" (a new musical with book by L. J. Fecho and music and lyrics by Michael O'Flaherty) Nov. 17 to Dec. 24. "Famed actor and local legend William Gillette leaves his castle on the Connecticut River to adapt Charles Dickens' holiday classic in the 1920s" (Mark Twain, Harriett Beecher Stowe, and P. T. Barnum support Gillette as Scrooge).

"Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" (by Eric Coble, based on the graphic novels by Tony Lee and Dan Boulton), will be performed at the Dobama Theatre in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Dec. 1-30 <[www.dobama.org](http://www.dobama.org)>.

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May 17 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Big Brother is indeed watching you. Your mail not only is delivered by the U.S. Postal Service, but the sorting machines also scan and store images of the envelopes (so people can keep track of who's sending mail to you). You can also sign up for "informed delivery" (a daily e-mail message with images of the letter-size envelopes that will be delivered that day); you can check on-line to see if "informed delivery" service is available in your area.

Audible has released a recording of "Sherlock Holmes: The Speckled Band Retold for Children" (written by Mark Williams and narrated by Joseph Tweedale); 55 minutes, \$3.95 (or free with a 30-day trial membership); details at <[www.tinyurl.com/lu8of5o](http://www.tinyurl.com/lu8of5o)>.

A long-range forecast: The Norwegian Explorers are planning to hold their next Sherlockian conference in Minneapolis on Aug. 9-11, 2019, and you can get on their mailing list by contacting Julie McKuras <[mike9750@aol.com](mailto:mike9750@aol.com)>.

The song "Let Yourself Fall" from the then-work-in-progress musical "Dust and Shadow" (based on Lyndsay Faye's book) was previewed at the Saturday-afternoon reception of The Baker Street Irregulars in Jan. 2011; the complete musical will have its first public performance at the Highline Ballroom in New York on July 17 <[www.tinyurl.com/k8djuqb](http://www.tinyurl.com/k8djuqb)>. The novel (and the musical) have Holmes and Watson in pursuit of Jack the Ripper. And there's another Sherlockian connection: Jenny Ashman (who plays Mary Jane Kelly) is the daughter of the late Peter G. Ashman ("Peter Steiler, the Elder" in the BSI).

Jennie Paton has reported the country western song "Just Call Me Sherlock Holmes" with words and music by Richard Grossman (1987); it's available at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/mt2m4yf](http://www.tinyurl.com/mt2m4yf)>.

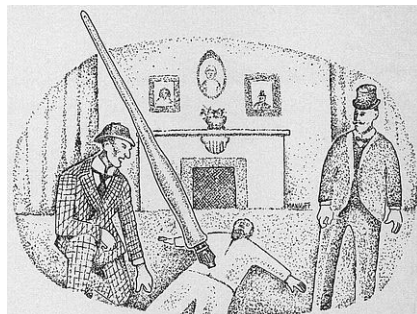
It has been quite a while since DINING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES was published in 1976, but people still are interested in Canonical dining: the [London] Evening Standard's upcoming "Food Month" will include the Literary Hour's presentation of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes & the Scandalous Supper Club" at the Manor House in London on June 28-30 <[www.tinyurl.com/lq92dxo](http://www.tinyurl.com/lq92dxo)>. According to the newspaper <[www.tinyurl.com/mpjkzmy](http://www.tinyurl.com/mpjkzmy)>, there will be drinks, a five-course dinner, and a mystery to solve.

Paul Herbert has noted Andrew M. Greeley's IRISH EYES: THE DARK BEGINNINGS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2000) at Amazon <[www.tinyurl.com/kjjop6e](http://www.tinyurl.com/kjjop6e)>, but the book seems to have no Sherlockian connection other than the subtitle (which is not given in other listings of the book). It's one of twelve novels about "Nuala Anne McGrail, that beautiful Irish spitfire," and the "Look inside" feature at Amazon turns up no mention of Sherlock Holmes in the text other than mention of a character who "looked like the last Basil Rathbone playing Sherlock Holmes in the old movies."

Jennie Paton reports that there's a "Sinister Image" series at Vimeo, with David Del Valle as host, and with his commentary on each film. There are two Rathbone films in the series (so far): "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1943) and "Terror by Night" (1946) <[www.tinyurl.com/lepdkw2](http://www.tinyurl.com/lepdkw2)>.

May 17 #2 Further to the report (Jan 17 #6) on plans to reopen the former Royal Oak pub in Ashburton, Newton Abbot, with a new theme, the pub is now open as The Hound of the Baskervilles, and thoroughly Sherlockian (including Baskervilles IPA from the Dartmoor Brewery on draft) (or on draught, as it's spelled on Dartmoor). There was a colorful report, complete with videos, at Devon Live (May 5) <[www.tinyurl.com/kdet8rg](http://www.tinyurl.com/kdet8rg)>.

Bob Mankoff is retiring from The New Yorker after 20 years as cartoon editor and 20 more as a contributor, and there's a fine Washington Post article about him at <[www.tinyurl.com/mqo7ppu](http://www.tinyurl.com/mqo7ppu)>. The caption on his Sherlockian cartoon is "Elementary, my dear Watson, the cartoonist did it" (in the Saturday Review, Nov. 15, 1975). And his story about his own famous "How about never" caption is at <[www.tinyurl.com/jlbaot9](http://www.tinyurl.com/jlbaot9)>.



Reported by Dana Richards: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: STUDIES IN THE BIBLICAL TEXT IN HONOUR OF ANNELI AEJMELEAUS (CONTRIBUTIONS TO BIBLICAL EXEGESIS AND THEOLOGY), published by Peeters Bvba in 2014, with no mention of Sherlock Holmes other than in the title. Kristin De Troyer, one of the editors of the book, explained by e-mail that "text critics work with data and have to put all the data together in order to solve the text critical problem."

It's old news, but we're catching up now: there was a report from BBC News last year <[www.tinyurl.com/jcqnedw](http://www.tinyurl.com/jcqnedw)> on how researchers at University College London have taught a computer to imitate anyone's handwriting. They call their system "My Text in Your Handwriting" and they have tried it out on samples of handwritten text from historical figures that include Abraham Lincoln and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. If you'd like to see "Elementary, my dear Watson" in Conan Doyle's handwriting (produced by their computer) go to the UCL web-site <[www.visual.cs.ucl.ac.uk/pubs/handwriting](http://www.visual.cs.ucl.ac.uk/pubs/handwriting)> (and don't neglect the video).

Further to the item about Stephen Fry's recording for Audible of SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION (Mar 17 #1), there's a six-minute video of Fry discussing Holmes at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/lv7scaz](http://www.tinyurl.com/lv7scaz)>. Note: the complete collection (71 hours and 58 minutes) is available only in Britain (and in the U.S. only if you have a program that allows you to pretend you are in Britain); the shorter version that's available in the U.S. has only the stories that are in the public domain in the U.S.

Simon Callow has a long (and enthusiastic) review of THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION in the N.Y. Times <[www.tinyurl.com/mzqnzyj](http://www.tinyurl.com/mzqnzyj)>; Callow is a British director, writer, and actor, and he has played Holmes on radio, and Lestrade on television.

Ben Abramson presided over the Argus Book Shop, published the old series of The Baker Street Journal from 1946 to 1949, and of course was an early member of The Baker Street Irregulars. He was a good friend of Vincent Starrett, and there's a nice blog entry about Ben at Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" <[www.tinyurl.com/lde82gl](http://www.tinyurl.com/lde82gl)>.

May 17 #3    The Strand Magazine (the modern version edited by Andrew Gulli) continues to publish quarterly, and its on-line shop offers a wide variety of Sherlockian merchandise, including notepads, colorful Hound of the Baskervilles socks, bookmarks, mousepads, lapel pins, and refrigerator magnets <[www.strandmag.com/shop-new](http://www.strandmag.com/shop-new)>. They have other literary offerings, including some imaginative Count of Monte Cristo socks.



Samantha Wolov spotted a story in the Japanese edition of Harper's Bazaar about Miu Miu's pop-60s-style pre-fall collection <[www.tinyurl.com/khv8bsc](http://www.tinyurl.com/khv8bsc)>, inspired by Twiggy; there are eight images of models in fashionable deerstalkers, with a link to behind-the-scenes video.

Further to the long-ago report (Jun 83 #1) on The Baskerville Hounds, the band has a web-site <[www.baskervillehounds.com](http://www.baskervillehounds.com)>, with links to some of their music at YouTube.

The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis have an interesting event coming up on Aug. 26: "Nerve and Knowledge II" will take place in the operating theater in the Old Pathology Building at the Indiana Medical History Museum; it is the oldest intact pathology facility in the U.S. (it opened in 1896) and offers visitors a chance to see the sort of operating theater described in Conan Doyle's "His First Operation" (which is available on-line at Project Gutenberg as well as in ROUND THE RED LAMP and other collections). Contact Steve Doyle <[sdoyle221@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sdoyle221@sbcglobal.net)> for more information (attendance is limited to 98, the seating capacity in the operating theater); there is a nice web-site for the Museum (with video) at <[www.imhm.org](http://www.imhm.org)>.

The title of the event in Indianapolis was inspired by NERVE AND KNOWLEDGE: DOCTORS, MEDICINE, AND THE SHERLOCKIAN CANON, published by The Baker Street Irregulars in 2015, and still available (\$39.95) at the Baker Street Journal web-site <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com/nerve.html](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/nerve.html)>.

Margaret H. Laing honored Arthur Conan Doyle's birthday by posting to the Chicago Tribune's "Chicago Now" blog the amusing "Tale of John Thomas" extracted from DANGEROUS WORK: DIARY OF AN ARCTIC ADVENTURE (2012). Here's a link to her blog: <[www.tinyurl.com/kb2vc9a](http://www.tinyurl.com/kb2vc9a)>. For those of you who do not have access to the Internet, but do have the book, you'll find John Thomas in the entries for June 3-6 and June 10, 1880. Randall Stock has an excellent discussion of the diary and the book at <[www.tinyurl.com/ycabhod8](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycabhod8)>.

Reported: a new recording of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" starring Derek Jacobi as Holmes, due from Cadabra Records in July (\$29.00); there's more information at <[www.tinyurl.com/mk8jamq](http://www.tinyurl.com/mk8jamq)>. And there's an audio sample at <[www.tinyurl.com/n53m99o](http://www.tinyurl.com/n53m99o)>.

Paul Schullery's DIAMOND JUBILEE: SHERLOCK HOLMES, MARK TWAIN, AND THE PERIL OF THE EMPIRE (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2016; 246 pp., \$18.00) involves Holmes and Watson with Mark Twain, who is visiting London for the celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897, and all three men in thwarting a dire assassination plot. Schullery (a member of the Mark Twain Forum) does an excellent job of capturing Twain's voice and style, and has a web-site at <[www.paulschullery.com](http://www.paulschullery.com)>.



May 17 #4 Sherlockian.Net was launched in 1994 by Chris Redmond, and has long been a valuable resource for the growing population of Internet-savvy Sherlockians (Jul 16 #5) (Dec 16 #5), and it is now owned and edited at the Center for Writing, Information, and Digital Experience, located at Michigan State University. One of its important features is the list of Sherlockian societies' web-sites; societies that aren't included, and would like to be, should contact Liza Potts <lpotts@msu.edu>.



One of the traditional features of Malice Domestic (the long-running conference for mystery writers and readers in the Washington area) is the hospitality room, where authors and publishers leave stacks of bookmarks and other publicity for their books. One of the cards available this year promoted the Skyler Foxe Mysteries, written by Haley Walsh <www.skylerfoxemysteries.com>. "This LGBT rom-com mystery series follows the teaching and unwitting sleuthing career of Skyler Foxe, high school teacher," but there isn't anything Sherlockian about the books (despite the imaginative publicity image).

Malice Domestic is an excellent opportunity to meet your favorite authors, and get them to sign their books for you, this year's "Sherlock Lives" panel featured John Gregory Betancourt, Dana Cameron, Carla Coupe, and Vicki Delaney, with Peter E. Blau as moderator. Next year's Malice will be held on Apr. 27-29 <www.malicedomestic.org>.

Good news for fans of "Elementary": the series has been renewed for a sixth season. According to Deadline Hollywood, the series has "soft" ratings in its slot (7.4 million viewers), but "Elementary" also is syndicated to WGN America, Hulu Plus, and other broadcast stations, for as much as \$3 million per episode; a year ago Les Moonves (CEO of CBS Corp. which owns the series) said that "Elementary" made about \$80 million profit for the corporation the preceding year. With 120 hours over five seasons, Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu already hold a record for any pair of actors as Holmes and Watson except for Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.

CBS has asked for only 13 new episodes of "Elementary" (rather than a full 24-episode season), and the new season will be a mid-season replacement for a new series that doesn't do as well as CBS hoped. The network surely will be paying attention to how many protests from "Elementary" fans there are when the series does not air in September, and what the ratings the series gets when it does air again.

And Lucy Liu will have a busy year, the Hollywood Reporter notes: she has signed on for a multiple-episode arc on the Hulu series "Difficult People" (as Veronica, "a morally corrupt, taste-challenged, and highly successful alpha female").

Further to the report about a manga edition of "Sherlock: A Study in Pink" from Titan Comics, the series will continue with "Sherlock: The Blind Banker" in October, and then "Sherlock: The Great Game" (all based on the BBC television series). And Insight Editions is publishing English versions of "The Baker Street Four" (a graphic novel written by Olivier Legrand and J. B. DiJan and published by Vents d'Ouest in France in 2009); the first volume is available now, and additional volumes are due in August and October.



May 17 #5    More news from the Stepping Stones School, which has carefully restored Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home: the school has launched a year-long "Arthur Conan Doyle Lecture Series". Michael Gunton, senior archivist at the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth, gave the first lecture this month (on "Conan Doyle: The Hampshire/Surrey Connection"), and the series will finish next May with a weekend of events; more information about the series can be found at <[www.tinyurl.com/mleq56y](http://www.tinyurl.com/mleq56y)>.

There was a nice story about the school, and the series, in the Alton Herald (May 13) <[www.tinyurl.com/mh3b6nd](http://www.tinyurl.com/mh3b6nd)>, with a photograph of "pupils and volunteers at Undershaw" that includes (presumably a volunteer rather than a student) what appears to be Freddy the Pig. It isn't Freddy the Pig, actually, but rather Sherlock Hams. Haslemere is celebrating a Festival of Hogs, using local artists and schools to decorate fiberglass Hogs that will be displayed in the area and then sold at auction. The school is sponsoring Sherlock Hams, decorated by Alison Saunders <[www.tinyurl.com/l3kt6ks](http://www.tinyurl.com/l3kt6ks)>, and it's well worth clicking on this link to see Sherlock Hams.

"What To Do with Too Many Books (Is There Such a Thing?)" is the title of Chris Redmond's interesting contribution to the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere") blog <[www.tinyurl.com/lwl7wgu](http://www.tinyurl.com/lwl7wgu)>.



There aren't many bookshops left that specialize in the mystery genre, but The Sleuth of Baker Street is going strong in Toronto <[www.sleuthofbakerstreet.ca](http://www.sleuthofbakerstreet.ca)>. J.D. Singh and Marian Mister are the proprietors, and their monthly newsletter "The Merchant of Menace" offers discussion of many of the Sherlockian and Doylean books published in Canada, the U.S., and the U.K., and available from their shop. And of course it's nice that their logo is Sherlockian.

The Rookies web-site has noted <[www.tinyurl.com/k4w8rw4](http://www.tinyurl.com/k4w8rw4)> that the Royal National Institute for the Blind is now planning a mini-exhibition display that will include a newly-commissioned bust of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. There are images and a brief video at the web-site. Dame Jean Conan Doyle bequeathed her copyrights to the Institute, and the Institute later sold them to the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd.

According to Laura Weston (the education and learning officer at the Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth), the mini-exhibition, prepared by the Collection to be transported by car to various locations, is intended to allow people who are blind or partially sighted to access the Collection, and to attract other audiences such as children or younger people, and people with disabilities. There will be audio about the Collection and the life of Conan Doyle, and two boxes of unique handling-objects that will include the bust and a 3D printed version of battle at the Reichenbach Falls that will be cold to the touch (thanks to a refrigeration unit), all designed to be as sensory as possible.

William Hjortsberg died on Apr. 22. He was an author of novels and screenplays, including Ridley Scott's cult film "Legend" (1985); his novel NEVERMORE (1994) was a mystery featuring Harry Houdini, Arthur Conan Doyle, and a serial killer who copies the murders described by Edgar Allan Poe.

May 17 #6 Larry L. Elliott has created interesting artwork for a "Sherlock Holmes" jigsaw puzzle that's now available from Piecetime Puzzles <[www.piecetimpuzzles.com](http://www.piecetimpuzzles.com)> (\$16.95); there also a "Sherlock Holmes Gift Tower" available from Thingamajigsaw <[www.thingamajigsaw.com](http://www.thingamajigsaw.com)> and more expensive, because it has hand-cut wooden pieces, including special pieces tied to the Canon).

Further to the long-ago report (Jun 83 #1) on The Baskerville Hounds, the band now has a web-site <[www.baskervillehounds.com](http://www.baskervillehounds.com)>, with links to some of their music at YouTube.

Samantha Wolov notes a menu of Sherlockian loose-leaf teas at The Dartealing Lounge in San Francisco <[www.dartealing.com/menu.html](http://www.dartealing.com/menu.html)>; they also offer teas that are an homage to Downtown Abbey, as well as tea services and sandwiches.

Further to the item (Sep 14 #7) on "The Great Ace Attorney" (an addition to the Japanese Nintendo 3DS series from Capcom), a new game set in the Meiji period, with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, in the cast of characters: you can watch a demo with English subtitles <[www.tinyurl.com/kkpsk2c](http://www.tinyurl.com/kkpsk2c)>. Nintendo has announced that "The Great Ace Attorney 2" will be released in Japan on Aug. 3 and there's a trailer at <[www.tinyurl.com/nycz1vl](http://www.tinyurl.com/nycz1vl)>.

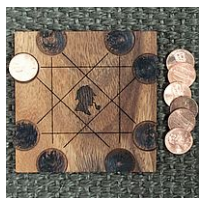
Dr. Watson takes on the case of Sherlock Holmes' supposed death in Jeffrey Hatcher's new play "Holmes and Watson" (performed in Tucson and Phoenix in April and May, to good reviews). You can hear Hatcher talk about the play in an interview for Arizona's KJZZ-FM <[www.tinyurl.com/lskuwry](http://www.tinyurl.com/lskuwry)>.

iClassics offers some colorful and interesting combinations of literature, art, and technology, and one of the stories they've done is "A Scandal in Bohemia" <[www.iclassicscollection.com/en/project/idoyle](http://www.iclassicscollection.com/en/project/idoyle)>. It's available in four languages (English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese), and it's an impressive demonstration of how modern technology can make reading enjoyable for a generation that needs to be persuaded that reading can be fun. It's an on-line app (\$2.99) available at Amazon and other sites, and they have done others authors as well (Washington Irving, Charles Dickens, Edgar Allan Poe, H. P. Lovecraft, Oscar Wilde, and Edgar Allan Poe. The company also offers attractive stickers that can be used when sending messages using iOS 10 (click on Stickers in the iClassics drop-down menu), and Sherlock Holmes stickers are available.

Cliff Goldfarb kindly reported that "lust-house" was featured on May 17 at the A.Word.A.Day web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/k4zormc](http://www.tinyurl.com/k4zormc)>, with credit to Conan Doyle. By nice coincidence, the "thought for today" was from Alan Kay, the spouse of Sherlockian author Bonnie MacBird.

The web-site also honored Conan Doyle's birthday on May 22 with a "thought for today" that he once wrote: "I should dearly love that the world should be ever so little better for my presence. Even on this small stage we have our two sides, and something might be done by throwing all one's weight on the scale of breadth, tolerance, charity, temperance, peace, and kindness to man and beast. We can't all strike very big blows, and even the little ones count for something."

May 17 #7 If you viewed "Elementary: Dead Man's Tale" on Mar. 26, you saw Nadia Alexander as Hope Nelligan. Nadia, a member of The Sound of the Baskervilles (the Sherlockian society in Seattle), was interviewed by James C. O'Leary for the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog; you can read the interview at <[www.tinyurl.com/knd4u23](http://www.tinyurl.com/knd4u23)>. Spoiler alert: if you've not watched the episode, you might want to wait for a repeat or the DVD before reading the interview.



"Sherlock's 7 Cent Solution" is a new wooden puzzle designed by Diamond Jim Tyler (\$14.95) <[www.tinyurl.com/l49u47k](http://www.tinyurl.com/l49u47k)>. Tyler is a magician as well as a puzzle designer, and has some intriguing promo videos at his web-site [ABOUT DJT].

Who knew? May 22 has been designated "International Sherlock Holmes Day" by someone posting to The Sherlock Forum in 2014, suggesting that people "celebrate by reading Sherlock Holmes books, watching Sherlock on TV, watching a Sherlock Holmes movie, dressing up in a costume, solving a mystery, etc." May 22 also is sometimes noted as "Sherlock Holmes Day" (and of course it's the birthday of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle).

Laurie R. King offers a bit of news about the next Mary Russell novel, due next year: the working title is ISLAND OF THE MAD. The book is set in the spring of 1925, when Mary travels across Europe to Venice, and to Poveglia (an island asylum built on the bones of centuries of plague victims); one assumes that her husband is involved somehow. Laurie has a colorful web-site at <[www.laurierking.com](http://www.laurierking.com)>, with lively blogs and much more.

One of the interesting features of the long-running Mystery Scene magazine are the crossword puzzles in each issue. Verna Suit's "A Case of Identity" puzzle is nicely Sherlockian, and you can find it on-line at the magazine's web-site <[www.mysteryscenemag.com/fun-games?id=5532](http://www.mysteryscenemag.com/fun-games?id=5532)>.

The Bradford Telegraph & Argus has reported on events that will celebrate the centenary of the Cottingley Fairies hoax. There are exhibitions now at Cliffe Castle Museum in Keighley <[www.tinyurl.com/mehysrz](http://www.tinyurl.com/mehysrz)> and at the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford <[www.tinyurl.com/kntnw68](http://www.tinyurl.com/kntnw68)>, and there will be a Cottingley Community Association Fun Day on July 8, and a Cottingley Fairy Festival on July 29, both taking place at the Cottingley Recreation Ground. The museum in Bradford owns the two cameras used by the young girls who took the photographs that fooled Conan Doyle.

The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia, maintained on-line by Alexis Barquin <[www.arthur-conan-doyle.com](http://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com)>, is a fascinating and extensive resource for information about the life and work of Conan Doyle, and well worth exploring. There are images and transcripts, including the encyclopedia entry, noted by Alexander Orlov, for the thesis Conan Doyle wrote to earn his M.D. <[www.tinyurl.com/ls7xjd7](http://www.tinyurl.com/ls7xjd7)>.

A much younger-than-now Steve Doyle played Watson in the first act of "The Case of Black Peter" recorded at Indiana University in Apr. 1983; you can see him perform at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/kapng5s](http://www.tinyurl.com/kapng5s)>. This was his second performance as Watson, the first being in high school, in a film "Sherlock Holmes vs. the Wolfman" (1976) (not yet available at YouTube).

May 17 #8 "Jinsei ni Kiku! The World of Sherlock Holmes" ["Enriching Your Life: The World of Sherlock Holmes"] is a 90-minute interactive documentary scheduled for broadcast by NHK in Japan (and only in Japan) on July 8; the production company has recorded segments in the U.S. and Britain, and viewers will be able to answer quiz questions using their remotes (they'll also be able to see interviews with Sherlockians in the U.S., with voice-over in Japanese).

Roger Moore died on May 23. The actor was best known for his roles as "The Saint" in the 1960s television series and then as the longest-running James Bond in six films in the 1970s and 1980s, he also played the title role in the NBC television film "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976). He received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2003.

Howard Ostrom spotted an announcement by Spookhouse Productions of "Puppet Holmes" (described as "the Odd Couple meets Ernie and Bert in the world of Arthur Conan Doyle"); you can see an announcement trailer at their web-site <[www.spookhouseproductions.weebly.com/puppet-holmes.html](http://www.spookhouseproductions.weebly.com/puppet-holmes.html)>, and if you click on the "short films" link you will find their earlier "221B: The Sherlock Holmes Web-Series" (2013).

And the usual theatrical update: Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is running at the Coach House Theatre in Akron, Ohio, through June 4 <[coachhousetheatre.com](http://coachhousetheatre.com)>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is on at the English Theatre Frankfurt in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, through June 30 <[www.english-theatre.de](http://www.english-theatre.de)>. And it's scheduled at the Shubert Theatre in Center Valley, Pa., June 21-July 16 <[www.pashakespeare.org](http://www.pashakespeare.org)>.

Jonathan Josephson's immersive-theater "Mystery Lit: Holmes, Sherlock, and the Consulting Detective" will be performed at the Santa Anita Train Depot on the grounds of the Los Angeles County Arboretum, from June 2 to July 1 <[www.unboundproductions.org](http://www.unboundproductions.org)>.

The Baker Street Players and KVC Radio will present double bills of live radio theater of programs from the old "Sherlock Holmes" series at the Hein & Co. Bookstore in Jackson, Calif., on June 3-4, Aug. 4-5, and Aug. 17-18; more information at <[www.bakerstreetwest.com](http://www.bakerstreetwest.com)>. The Players also will perform Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" Sept. 8-Oct. 7 (there's lots more about Baker Street West, noted at the web-site).

"The Baker Street Irregulars" (written by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is to be performed at the Liberty Lake Theatre in Liberty Lake, Wash., June 7-15 <[www.libertylaketheatre.com](http://www.libertylaketheatre.com)>.

Jami-Leigh Bartschi's musical "My Dear Watson" will be performed at the Peter Jay Sharp Theater in New York, July 11-16 <[www.nymf.org](http://www.nymf.org)>. The web-site for the musical <[www.mydearwatsonmusical.com](http://www.mydearwatsonmusical.com)> has the history of the musical, and an audio interview with Bartschi.

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

Jun 17 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The Baker Street Irregulars are holding a (July only) 50% discount sale on four titles: TO KEEP THE MEMORY GREEN (Aug 07 #4), "A REMARKABLE MIXTURE" (Jan 08 #3), THE GRAND GAME: VOLUME 2 (Feb 12 #1), and THE REMARKABLE CHARACTERS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (Feb 14 #1). The books are a bargain, as well as "just the thing to fill that gap on that second shelf" (as someone once said); they're available only at the web-site <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)> and only using PayPal or credit cards.

Sorry about that: the link for seeing "Elementary, my dear Watson" in Conan Doyle's handwriting (May 17 #3) is broken; <[www.tinyurl.com/ycqttv5r](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycqttv5r)> is a working URL.

"The cavemen in a lounge suit" is Gautham Shenoy's description of Professor George Edward Challenger in a nice tribute to Challenger on the Daily Factor blog <[www.tinyurl.com/ycbr7zz2](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycbr7zz2)>, repeating Edward Malone's description of Challenger in "When the World Screamed". Challenger's much better known as the hero of "The Lost World" (in print and on film). The restored (and most complete) version of "The Lost World" (1925), released on DVD by Image Entertainment in 2012 <[www.tinyurl.com/luphdmv](http://www.tinyurl.com/luphdmv)>, will be available on Blu-ray from Flicker Alley on Sept. 12 with added features (\$29.95 if you pre-order now, and \$39.95 after it's issued) <[www.tinyurl.com/ycy4wd5s](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycy4wd5s)>.

There are some nice clips from old British television shows uploaded by Jim Clark to YouTube: a segment from "The South Bank Show: The Underground of the Imagination" (1987) <[www.tinyurl.com/y9zaaz7m](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9zaaz7m)>, interviews with Stanley MacKenzie [possibly from "Collectors' Lot"] <[www.tinyurl.com/y9g9q62r](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9g9q62r)> and Anthony Howlett at The Sherlock Holmes [possibly from "Something to Treasure"] <[www.tinyurl.com/yb3es6t4](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb3es6t4)>, and (in the interview clips) footage of The Sherlock Holmes Society's excursion to Switzerland in 1987. The interview clips are compilations, and the descriptions aren't correct.

Leonardo DiCaprio is planning to star in a film based on Erik Larson's THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY (2003), playing America's first serial killer Herman Webster Mudgett, who built and ran the World's Fair Hotel in which many of his victims died. Mudgett used the alias H. H. Holmes in Chicago, and while some have suggested that he was inspired by Sherlock Holmes, Mudgett first registered as Holmes in July 1886. Martin Scorsese is scheduled to direct the film, which does not yet have a script.

There is, however, a real Sherlockian connection for H. H. Holmes: it was one of the pseudonyms used by author and critic Anthony Boucher, who wrote THE CASE OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS (1940) and was an early member of the BSI.

Beau Riffenburgh's PINKERTON'S GREATEST DETECTIVE (New York: Penguin, 2014; 384 pp., \$18.00) is the newest biography of James McParland, the inspiration for Birdy Edwards (in "The Valley of Fear"); Ben Macintyre, reviewing the book in the N.Y. Times, called it "the fullest and fairest biography to date," and he was accurate indeed. The Penguin edition is the trade paperback, and (an interesting trend in publishing now) the notes and references and other material have been omitted, but are available at a web-site.

Jun 17 #2 Elizabeth Eulberg's THE GREAT SHELBY HOLMES (New York: Bloomsbury, 2016; 243 pp., \$16.99) is written for young readers and has a delightful opening: eleven-year-old John Watson has just moved into his new home in Harlem, and begins the book by complaining that his whole life has been boring. "Then we moved from Maryland to New York City, and my new neighbor tried to blow up the building." His neighbor, of course, is nine years old, and nicely Sherlockian, and the story's told well. The author's web-site is at <[www.elizabetheulberg.com](http://www.elizabetheulberg.com)>.

"What is huge and furry, has vicious fangs, big ears and a long tail, and sings 'My Way'?" Roger Johnson asked in The District Messenger (many years ago).

Radio Times has announced that the BBC's video-on-demand store will close on Nov. 1, only 18 months after it was launched <[www.tinyurl.com/yysjjhq2](http://www.tinyurl.com/yysjjhq2)>. The BBC was unable to compete with other steaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime, but the BBC and ITV have not closed their own streaming service BritBox, available in the U.S. but not in Britain. At the moment, BritBox offers four seasons of the Granada series, "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" (with Rupert Everett as Holmes), and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Tom Baker as Holmes).

The Red Circle of Washington keeps an eye out for political Sherlockian (and Sherlockian politicians): Asher Schwartz's editorial cartoon "Sherlock Trump and the Missing Peace" was published by the Jewish Press on May 22.



Steven Spielberg has many Sherlockian and Doylean connections: he was executive producer of "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) and director of "Jurassic Park" (1993) and "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" (1997). He also was executive producer and head writer for the animated television series "Animaniacs" that in 1995 included a segment "Deduces Wild" (1995) that's available at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/ybtzhejj](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybtzhejj)>.

Julie McKuras has reported Graphic 45, a company that specializes in scrapbook and paper crafting; their products include a "Master Detective" collection <[www.tinyurl.com/yocrj2xdm](http://www.tinyurl.com/yocrj2xdm)> that's attractive, colorful, and nicely Sherlockian.

The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition is now at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Australia, through Oct. 8, and the museum is offering a long list of imaginative events and programs <[www.tinyurl.com/yb8wcaca](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb8wcaca)>.

Roy Barraclough died on June 1. He began his acting career in 1962 in provincial pantomime in Britain, became a fixture at the Rovers Return (in the British television series "Coronation Street"), and played Dr. Watson (with Robert Powell as Holmes) in a 1993 touring production of Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical".

Watson's Tin Box sponsors an annual Sherlock Holmes Essay Contest for 7th Graders, and in 2014 the winner of the first prize was Hanna Al-Kowski, who went on to make an impressive 14-minute video for her Girl Scout Gold Award project. "A Study in Sherlock" is available at <[www.tinyurl.com/y7mmbuw3](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7mmbuw3)>.



Jun 17 #3    A note about TinyURL, which was launched in January 2002 and is credited as the first notable URL-shortening service: I started using TinyURL in 2008, when the service used six-character extensions. The service eventually graduated to seven-character extensions and has just begun using eight-character extensions. Mathematicians are welcome to calculate how many times the TinyURL will be used before the service needs to go to nine-character extensions (they don't use "one" or "zero").

"What is huge and furry, has vicious fangs, big ears and a long tail, and sings 'My Way'?" "The giant rat of Sinatra." The Smithsonian Institution has issued an exclusive CD "Frank Sinatra: Lost & Found: The Radio Years" (\$14.99) with 26 live radio performances (including 24 that have never been released commercially, and 14 songs not available on any other CD). It's not Sherlockian (as far as I know), but Basil Rathbone is reported to have appeared in Sherlockian costume on "The Frank Sinatra Show" on CBS-TV (May 24, 1951), helping Sinatra find his missing bow tie.



Our new commemorative honors the bicentenary of the birth of Henry David Thoreau, who is quoted by Sherlock Holmes (in "The Noble Bachelor"). Thoreau wrote in his JOURNAL (on Nov. 11, 1854) "Some circumstantial evidence is very strong, as when you find a trout in the milk," but it is of interest that his JOURNAL was not published until 1906, many years after the case took place, which raises a question of how Holmes could have read about the trout in the milk. The question is answered in an article "In Memoriam: Henry David Thoreau" (published in the Sept. 1969 issue of The Baker Street Journal, and illustrated with a reproduction of the commemorative issued by the U.S. in 1967).

"1920s Pac Heights Condo with Views of Lafayette Park Asks \$3.9 Million" is the headline on a story at Curbed San Francisco <[www.tinyurl.com/ybmygdgg](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybmygdgg)> about a top floor condo at 2151 Sacramento Street. "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Once Hung Out Here" is the sub-head, and he did indeed visit the house, in June 1923, to meet Dr. Albert Abrams, who had invented a "radio heterodyne" that he used to detect cancer, syphilis, and other diseases. Conan Doyle was greatly impressed and discussed his visit to San Francisco, and Abrams, in OUR SECOND AMERICAN ADVENTURE (1924). The entire house was purchased in 1986 for close to \$1 million, and one of the four condos was available for \$2.5 million in 2012. The top-floor condo, is advertised at \$3,995,000 and has 2,528 square feet (that's \$1,580 per square foot), which will give you an idea of how expensive real estate in San Francisco is.

Austin Mitchelson died in February. He was a journalist, and with Nicholas Utechin co-authored two pastiches (THE EARTHQUAKE MACHINE and HELLBIRDS) in 1976; he also wrote THE BAKER STREET IRREGULAR: THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1994) and the graphic novel HOLMES AND HUDSON (2016).

Randall Stock has updated his report on the Swann Galleries sale of Conan Doyle manuscript material on May 4 <[www.tinyurl.com/ky7wtas](http://www.tinyurl.com/ky7wtas)>; three drafts of the lecture that he gave on his tour of the United States in 1894 sold for \$10,625 (including the buyer's premium). All of the material was from the collection of the late Milton R. Slater, who also owned manuscripts for three of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories, sold at Swann in 2015.



Jun 17 #4 Raymond Smullyan died on Feb. 6. He was a magician, a mathematician, and a world-famous creator of puzzles; he had a grand sense of humor (he once said "Why should I worry about dying? It's not going to happen in my lifetime!"), and THE CHESS MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1979) was one of his many books. The Guardian's obit included his puzzle "The Mystery of Portia's Caskets" <[www.tinyurl.com/z4lsrnu](http://www.tinyurl.com/z4lsrnu)> (there's a link to the answer, which some if not many will find useful).

Daedalus Books <[www.daedalusbooks.com](http://www.daedalusbooks.com)> is an excellent on-line resource for remaindered books and DVDs offered at deep discounts: searches for [conan doyle] and [sherlock holmes] will turn up many bargains.

Tina Rhea kindly reported a post by Chris Foster to The Veterans Site blog <[www.tinyurl.com/y6vsv3j9](http://www.tinyurl.com/y6vsv3j9)> with a headline that read "No One Knew Why Cows Were Vanishing from This Ranch in the '20s Until Ranchers Found This!" The ranch was in Elko, Nev., where rustler J. R. "Crazy Tex" Hazelwood made himself an interesting pair of shoes (perhaps after reading "The Priory School").



Purina's Mmmysteries Presents the Case of the Bargain Bandit is a new advertising campaign <[www.tinyurl.com/yb7yq7lm](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb7yq7lm)> that features an image of a deerstalkered hound named Detective Wigglesby.

Two copies of a "color print of Arthur Conan Doyle being haunted by Sherlock Holmes produced by Gahan Wilson" were included in a group of portfolios and prints <[www.tinyurl.com/y75pcydw](http://www.tinyurl.com/y75pcydw)> offered at Heritage Auctions on June 6. The person actually being haunted by Holmes might be amused, one suspects, by the confusion.

Susan Diamond reports that Mike Shenk's "Acrostic" in the Wall Street Journal (June 3) is nicely Sherlockian, and it may still be available on-line <[www.tinyurl.com/yd96ofws](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd96ofws)>.

Thornwillow Press is running a Kickstarter campaign for their new "Sherlock Holmes Hexalogy" <[www.tinyurl.com/yct49rx](http://www.tinyurl.com/yct49rx)>: six letter-press printed and hand-bound volumes, each with one of Conan Doyle's favorite Sherlock Holmes stories, each in different bindings and at different prices; a fancy copy themed for "The Speckled Band" comes bound in genuine python skin and black Morocco leather), and each volume has the introduction written by Randall Stock for the Hexalogy.

Thornwillow also offers (available now) an attractive broadside leaflet AN EMBELLISHMENT OF LIFE: THOUGHTS ON ROSES (\$5.00) with quotations from eight authors (including Conan Doyle) <[www.tinyurl.com/ychzt2po](http://www.tinyurl.com/ychzt2po)>.

The Craven Herald & Pioneer reported <[www.tinyurl.com/y9zk7jj3](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9zk7jj3)> on plans to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' connections to the Yorkshire Dales. Martyn Sutton, who runs Uncle Jeremy's Household, a gift shop in Ingleton, believes that the detective's name was inspired by Conan Doyle's visits to the area (he married his first wife Louise Hawkins there in 1885, the same year his short story "Uncle Jeremy's Household" was published). Sutton's gift shop has a Facebook page <[www.facebook.com/unclejeremys](http://www.facebook.com/unclejeremys)>.

Jun 17 #5 "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and His Campaign to Save the Lives of British Tommies" is an exhibition open through Aug. 31 at the Bankfield Museum in Halifax, West Yorks. His letter in The Times (July 27, 1915) suggested that better helmets and armor would reduce the casualties caused by shrapnel, rifle, and machine gun fire. Philip Abbot wrote an interesting four-part blog on the campaign for the Royal Armouries, available at <[www.tinyurl.com/y9wrca7u](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9wrca7u)>.

Since it's certain that newcomers may well not know what he looked like, it was Isaac Asimov, not Arthur Conan Doyle who was haunted by Sherlock Holmes in Gahan Wilson's print (Jun 17 #4). The artwork also was used on the dust jacket and as the frontispiece for ASIMOV'S SHERLOCKIAN LIMERICKS (1978).

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES TAROT, by John Matthews and Wil Kingham (London: Connections Book Publishing, 2014) described earlier (Aug 15 #2) is now out-of-print but available on the Internet; Matthews is a modern-day shaman and Kingham is a shamanic artist, and they have produced a 160-page illustrated guidebook and 79 attractive Sherlockian cards.



"If there were no Books there would be no Hound of the Baskervilles" is the title of an attractive letterpress broadside illustrated by Alan James Robinson for the Cheloniidae Press, offered by Wonder Book <[www.tinyurl.com/yda7d5rk](http://www.tinyurl.com/yda7d5rk)> for \$95.00; they also offer the same image on a T-shirt (\$15.99) <[www.tinyurl.com/y7nuodge](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7nuodge)>.

Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge is the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for The Sherlock Holmes Society of India; it's now in its fifth year, and the current issue (with 85 colorful pages) is available at <[www.tinyurl.com/yat9h3ed](http://www.tinyurl.com/yat9h3ed)>. David Marcum's "Automobiles in Sherlock Holmes" offers nicely-illustrated original research; note also the imaginative paper jewellery available from Patralankaar.

Many years ago (Jun 79 #1) I noted that Peter Cook and Dudley Moore are reported to have played Holmes and Watson about ten years earlier in a five-minute sketch in "Not Only... But Also", asking for more information. The BBC television series aired from 1965 to 1970, and here's another request for more information.

"Calls within the network won't steal a minute on the entire tariff range," according to an advertisement in Yekaterinburg <[www.tinyurl.com/yb2httof](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb2httof)>, noted by Alexander Sedov and reported by Alexander Orlov. The next building to the right, Alexander adds, is where the latest statues of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are located (Mar 17 #6) <[www.tinyurl.com/mjv3rkl](http://www.tinyurl.com/mjv3rkl)>.

"Homespun from Ireland" (an LP issued by Marble Arch Records in 1966) featured Michael O'Duffy with the Bill Shepherd Orchestra and Chorus, and it is of interest to Sherlockians because one of the tracks has O'Duffy singing the traditional Irish song "Mush, Mush"; you can hear the track at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/y82lcgkg](http://www.tinyurl.com/y82lcgkg)>. The song is of interest to Sherlockians because the late James Montgomery decided that the lyrics of "We Never Mention Aunt Clara" were better suited to the music of "Mush Mush" than to the original music written by Bud Willis and his wife.

Jun 17 #6 Samuel V. Wilson died on June 10. He was a retired Army lieutenant general who served in the Office of Special Services and the Central Intelligence Agency, and then as director of the Defense Intelligence Agency; the Washington Post obituary <[www.tinyurl.com/y8xtclxp](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8xtclxp)> for him noted that he once said: "Intelligence's real hero is Sherlock Holmes, not James Bond." The obit's well worth reading if you like to travel (see his detailed description of what he did roaming the five continents and the seven seas).

For the completists: THE GLEN MICHAEL CAVALCADE ANNUAL [1974] has Sherlock Haggis on the cover, and includes a four-page comic strip "Sherlock Haggis and Dr. Neeps"; Michael was the presenter of a television series that ran for 26 years on Scotland's STV.



The Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce film "Sherlock Holmes in Washington" (1943) is one of the best in Universal's series, and not just for those who live in Washington. The film is readily available at YouTube, in English and dubbed into Italian, Spanish and German. This poster for the film will be offered at Heritage Auctions on July 29, estimated at \$1,500-\$3,000; Its attractive graphics are quite different from the much more common version and the auction house explains that it's one of only two copies known to exist.

It has taken almost two years to decide (Oct 15 #2), but Westminster City Council has given final approval to convert Baker Street to two-way traffic (taking it back, Catherine Cooke notes, to the way it was in Sherlock Holmes' day). Details at <[www.bakerstreettwo-way.co.uk](http://www.bakerstreettwo-way.co.uk)>.

Richard Hughes, founder of The Baritsu Chapter of the BSI (the first Sherlockian society in Japan) had a fascinating and colorful life and career, as noted recently in the Japan Times <[www.tinyurl.com/y9zthrz9](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9zthrz9)>. He liked to say he had been a spy during the Cold War (for both sides), and his memoirs FOREIGN DEVIL (1972) and Norman Macswan's biography THE MAN WHO READ THE EAST WIND (1982) are well worth reading.

The Sherlocks. a British indie/rock band from Sheffield that plays on tour, have a web-site <[www.thesherlocksmusic.co.uk](http://www.thesherlocksmusic.co.uk)> with links to their singles and to a video, and the BBC has a nice web-page <[www.tinyurl.com/yd5ko2p6](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd5ko2p6)>; their first album ("Live for the Moment") will be issued on Aug. 18.

"The Radio Detectives" (an interesting five-part 30-minute series broadcast by BBC Radio 4 in 1998) is now available as a repeat by BBC Radio 4 Extra <[www.tinyurl.com/yc4jlf3l](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc4jlf3l)>. The second episode is "The Voice of Sherlock Holmes" (and the other episodes are devoted to The Shadow, The Saint, Paul Temple, and Sexton Blake).

Dana Richards has found Doyle's Delight (or rather that there is a such a place): according to Wikipedia, it is the highest peak in Belize, and was named by Sharon Matola in 1989 in honor of "The Lost World" ("there must be something wild and wonderful in a country such as this, and we're the men to find it out"). Belize, for those who learned geography when I did, long ago, is the new name for British Honduras, in Central America.

Jun 17 #7 THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: PART VI--2017 ANNUAL (London: MX Publishing, 2017; 671 pp., \$48.95) is the latest in the series edited by David Marcum, and an excellent companion to earlier volumes, with almost three dozen traditional pastiches, a poetic tribute, and a radio script; the authors, old hands and new, ably show how nice it can be to have new and well-written short stories. MX's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Also from MX: Kieren McMullen's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERY OF THE BOER WAGON (2012; 225 pp., \$16.95) has Holmes, Watson, and Conan Doyle in South Africa during the Boer War; Watson and Conan Doyle are at work in the Langman Field Hospital, Holmes is in disguise investigating a spy ring on behalf of Mycroft (assisted by Watson and Conan Doyle, of course), and Winston Churchill is on hand as a war correspondent. Brenda Rossini's GRACE-LAND CEMETERY IN CHICAGO: A SHERLOCKIAN WALK MIDST THE TOMBSTONES (2017; 54 pp., \$8.95) provides visitors with a guided tour of the graves of Vincent Starrett and many others (accompanied by notes on their sometimes-tenuous Sherlockians connections), plus "The Story of Gina" (a lady who had a colorful life, and a thoroughly outré demise).

And: Viktor Messick's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A HOLE IN THE DEVIL'S TALE (2016; 130 pp., \$9.95) has Holmes and Watson in London in the 1890s, investigating a series of murders committed by the Tarot Master. Petr Macek's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND HITLER'S MESSENGER OF DEATH (2017; 258 pp., \$16.95) begins with Holmes and Watson preventing an assassination of Queen Victoria, and ends with a battle against German espionage that brings them to the U.S. on the airship Hindenberg. John Raffensperger and Richard Krevolin's THE DIARY OF YOUNG ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: ADVENTURES IN THE WILD WEST, 1878 (2017; 221 pp., \$16.95) is set in 1878, when Dr. Joseph Bell brings his young medical assistant to Chicago to help solve a case that involves a series of murders and an attempt to assassinate President Rutherford B. Hayes.

And: James Moffett's THE TRIALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2017; 228 pp., \$14.95) offers eight connected cases that culminate in a confrontation with a villain who nurses a long-standing grievance against Holmes. Michael Druce's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE PORTAL OF TIME (2017; 210 pp., \$14.95) has Holmes and Watson involved with H.G. Wells and his wife, and Albert Einstein, involved in a wormhole time-travel battle against Moriarty in 1918 and 1939. John A. Little's THE FINAL TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (VOLUME FOUR): THE CASE OF THE KEW GARDENS GNOMES (2017, 156 pp., \$11.95) brings his series about Holmes and Watson in their 70s to a close, offering five stories that end with Watson deceased, and Holmes again in retirement on the Sussex Downs.

And: Thomas Kent Miller's SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD (2017; 102 pp., \$9.99) is a reprint from 1991; Leo Vincey (whom some will recall from Rider Haggard's SHE and AYESHA) in Lhasa in 1891, when he and Horace Holly encounter a Norwegian named Sigerson. Richard T. Ryan's THE STONE OF DESTINY (2017; 253 pp., \$24.95) sends Holmes and Watson in pursuit of the Coronation Stone, stolen from Westminster Abbey by Irish nationalists after the death of Queen Victoria; the stone is recovered, as would be expected, and King Edward is duly crowned. Allan Mitchell's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LEY LINE MURDERS (2017; 331 pp., \$16.95) challenges Holmes and Watson with gruesome murders near Stonehenge, and the mysterious "ancient ways".

Jun 17 #8 Michael Conan the grand-uncle and godfather, and namesake, or Arthur Conan Doyle. Conan was a journalist and art critic in Paris, where young Arthur visited and met him (and wrote about the meeting in MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES (1923)). There is much more about Conan at The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <[www.tinyurl.com/ydhkgos9](http://www.tinyurl.com/ydhkgos9)>, which is maintained and edited by Alexis Barquin; it's a detailed and delightful source for information about Sir Arthur.

The Portsmouth City Council and Winchester University Press have published a facsimile edition of the manuscript of "The Creeping Man" (with an introduction and annotated transcription by Neil McCaw, who is professor of Victorian literature and culture at the University); £35.00 (postpaid) to the U.K. and £50.00 elsewhere <[www.tinyurl.com/yd44skqx](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd44skqx)>.

Further to the item about Steve Doyle playing Watson in 1983 (May 17 #7), Jennie Paton has noted that you can see an even-younger Steve as Watson in his high-school film "Sherlock Holmes vs. the Wolfman" (1976) at YouTube: <[www.tinyurl.com/ydgasdpm](http://www.tinyurl.com/ydgasdpm)>.

Peter Sallis died on June 2. He had a long career as an actor, and for 37 years he played Norman Clegg on the BBC television series "Last of the Summer Wine". He also voiced Wallace in the "Wallace and Gromit" films, and played Dr. Watson in the original production of the musical "Baker Street" (1964) and Jonas Oldacre in the BBC Radio 4 "The Norwood Builder" (1993). You can hear Sallis sing "A Married Man" from "Baker Street" at Scott Monty's tribute at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <[www.tinyurl.com/yd589wo4](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd589wo4)>.

And there's theater: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Bridges Covenant Church in Tavares, Fla., July-1-16 <[www.tavarestheater.org](http://www.tavarestheater.org)>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is scheduled at the Village Meadows Baptist Church in Sierra Vista, Ariz., July 20-23 <[www.tinyurl.com/ydujdygw](http://www.tinyurl.com/ydujdygw)>. Also at Sanborn-Skyline County Park in Saratoga, Calif., Aug. 4-Sept. 3 <[www.svshakespeare.org](http://www.svshakespeare.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Ruth Caplin Theatre at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va., July 22-29 <[www.tinyurl.com/y6vraozb](http://www.tinyurl.com/y6vraozb)>; and at the CAT Theatre in Richmond, Va., Sept. 1-16 <[www.cattheatre.com](http://www.cattheatre.com)>; and at the Wade James Theater in Edmonds, Wash., Sept. 8-24 <[www.tinyurl.com/y7yfqzqn5](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7yfqzqn5)>.

R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" is scheduled at the Vertigo Theatre in Calgary, May 12-June 10, 2018; web-site at <[www.vertigotheatre.com](http://www.vertigotheatre.com)>.

The next best thing to seeing theatrical entertainment on stage is to read scripts; many scripts have been published and are in print, and there's an on-line clearing house where you can find many of them listed and available for purchase: just search for [sherlock holmes] at <[www.stageplays.com](http://www.stageplays.com)>.

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

Jul 17 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Mattias Boström's FRÅN HOLMES TILL SHERLOCK (Aug 13 #4) has now been translated from Swedish into English as FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK (New York: Mysterious Press, 2017; 597 pp., \$28.00); it was reviewed here at length (Apr 17 #4) and it's grand to see it formally in print. Subtitled "the story of the men and women who created an icon," it's well-written and heartily recommended.

THE ADVENTURES OF TWO BRITISH GENTLEMEN IN SWITZERLAND/DIE ABENTEUER ZWEIER BRITISCHER GENTLEMEN IN DER SCHWEIZ is a delightful book, edited by Nicole Glücklich and published by the Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft (248 pp. in English and 270 pp. in German), presenting a colorfully-illustrated account of Conan Doyle's four visits to Switzerland, and Holmes' one visit, plus detailed discussion of Holmes' presence there today, on the ground, in pastiches, and in films and on television. Available in Germany from Amazon <[www.amazon.de](http://www.amazon.de)> (€29.00) and in the United States from the Mysterious Bookshop <[www.mysteriousbookshop.com](http://www.mysteriousbookshop.com)> (\$49.95). Recommended.

Conan Doyle was deceived by photographs of the Cottingley Fairies, and you can now have your very own, to decorate your garden (or home): Jennie Paton reports that the Victorian Trading Company is offering a colorful pair of them (in metal) for \$24.95 <[www.tinyurl.com/y7seh9h3](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7seh9h3)>; there is a blog at the web-site with a display of the five photographs taken by Frances Griffiths and Elsie Wright.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the fairy photographs taken by the two girls, and an article in the Daily Telegraph <[www.tinyurl.com/y72nf952](http://www.tinyurl.com/y72nf952)> attempts to answer the question "Why Do So Many People Still Believe in the Cottingley Fairies?"

And the journal Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications published an article this month <[www.tinyurl.com/y8meurpn](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8meurpn)> on a study that investigated whether people can identify original and manipulated photos of real scenes. You can test yourself on five photographs at the Washington Post's web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/yccj7vvj](http://www.tinyurl.com/yccj7vvj)>, where you're asked an up-to-date question: "Can You Tell Fake News When You See It?"

Steve McGarry's "KidTown" is a Sunday comic strip aimed at children, and it was Sherlockian on July 1 <[www.gocomics.com/kidtown/2017/07/01](http://www.gocomics.com/kidtown/2017/07/01)>. There are similar comic strips, including "Slylock Fox" (now drawn by Bob Weber Sr. and Jr.) <[www.comicskingdom.com/slylock-fox-and-comics-for-kids/2017-07/01](http://www.comicskingdom.com/slylock-fox-and-comics-for-kids/2017-07/01)> in which Slylock always appears in Sherlockian costume.

"I shall be the Hans Sloane of my age," Nathan Garrideb said (in "The Three Garridebs"), and you can now read a biography of Sloane: James Delbourgo's COLLECTING THE WORLD: THE LIFE AND CURIOSITY OF HANS SLOANE (London: Allen Lane, 2017; 544 pp., £25.00); the American edition is COLLECTING THE WORLD: HANS SLOANE AND THE ORIGINS OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM (from Belknap Press) and you can hear Delbourgo talk about his book in an interesting History Extra podcast available on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/y966eu5p](http://www.tinyurl.com/y966eu5p)>, and read a review of the book in The Economist at Greg Ruby's The Fourth Garrideb's web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/yb2428jh](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb2428jh)>.



Jul 17 #2 Greg Darak reports **TAKING DETECTIVE STORIES SERIOUSLY: THE COLLECTED CRIME REVIEWS OF DOROTHY L. SAYERS** (Perth: Tippermuir, 2017; 321 pp., £15.00); it is edited by Martin Edwards, who has assembled all of the book reviews that she wrote for The Sunday Times in the 1930s, including her perceptive review (Feb. 6, 1949) of John Dickson Carr's **THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE**.



"What the deuce is it to me?" said Sherlock Holmes impatiently (in "A Study in Scarlet"). "You say that we go round the sun. If we went round the moon it would not make a pennyworth of difference to me or to my work." It will make a difference to people who will have a chance to view a rare total eclipse of the sun on Aug. 21 (you'll need to be in a narrow band that crosses the U.S. diagonally from Salem, Oreg., to Charleston, S. Car.), and the Postal Service has honored the event using special heat-activated technology to create stamps printed with thermochromic ink: you can press on the black circle of the stamp with your finger, and an image of the full moon will be revealed.

The Postal Service is becoming more and more creative: they've also issued a sheet of eight tactile "Have a Ball" stamps <[www.tinyurl.com/ybejrhcrc](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybejrhcrc)>: each of the eight balls has a distinctive feel, and they showcase football, volleyball, soccer, golf, baseball, basketball, tennis, and kickball. Note that four of them are Sherlockian or Doylean.

"Shisha no teikoku" ["The Empire of Corpses"] was a Japanese animation (Mar 16 #5); John Watson, recruited by the British government for a covert mission in Afghanistan, poses as a newly recruited medic for the British army and learns that humans are being brought back from the dead in the form of Frankenstein's monster. But the film's also Sherlockian: there's a cameo appearance by Holmes, with Watson, in the midst of the closing credits.

Howard Ostrom reports that people who make their own soap can make a "Sherlock Holmes-Inspired Masterpiece" ("221 Baker Street" soap) following instructions provided by Kate Carson (Royalty Soaps) and Bee (Sorcery Soap): there's a 20-minute video at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/y8b9vzms](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8b9vzms)>.

"Smoking Gun or Distraction" was the headline on an article by Marc Fisher and David Nakamura in the Washington Post (July 13) about whether Donald J. Trump Jr.'s e-mails are important or not (which depends on how people feel about the issue <[www.tinyurl.com/y8ms45bh](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8ms45bh)>); the article notes the origin of the "smoking gun" phrase in "The Gloria Scott" (quoting the YALE BOOK OF QUOTATIONS), and Ben Panko digs deeper in a post at the Smithsonian Institution blog <[www.tinyurl.com/y9lc4wju](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9lc4wju)>. noting William Safire's comments on the phrase in his "On Language" column in the N.Y. Times Magazine in 2003.

Mo Lebowitz ("Arthur H. Staunton, the Forger") died on June 25. He had a long career as an art director, and he was highly regarded as a graphic designer, as the proprietor of the Antique Press, and as a bluegrass mandolinist. The Antique Press, located in the basement of his home, used hand-set letter press type and other old equipment to produce attractive booklets and broadsides, including some striking Sherlockiana. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1970.



Jul 17 #3 The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and the summer issue includes Donny Zaldin's interesting essay about "The Cubitt Family Autograph Album as a Source of the Cipher in 'The Dancing Men'"; published quarterly, the Muse costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230), and a copy of the summer issue costs \$5.00 postpaid.



One sees Sherlock everywhere, but seldom as cute as in an Italian television commercial <[www.tinyurl.com/y8ny6ps4](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8ny6ps4)> advertising Amadori's new Würstel 100%, kindly reported by Howard Ostrom.

The Wistow Maize Maze is an annual event in Leicestershire, and this year it celebrates the 130th anniversary of the publication of the first Sherlock Holmes story; it's open through Sept. 17, and you'll find details at <[www.wistow.com/wistow-maze](http://www.wistow.com/wistow-maze)>.

The BBC had a story about the "A-maze-ing Sherlock Puzzle" accompanied by a short video <[www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/40574499](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/40574499)>. One assumes that the maize will be harvested in September, and possibly sold, creating an imaginative agricultural Sherlockian souvenir; the maze, alas, is planted in maize (for animal feed) rather than in sweet corn.

Canadian Holmes, published quarterly by The Bootmakers of Toronto, always is interesting; the winter 2016 issue included Hartley R. Nathan's "Mortimer's Penang Lawyer 1884" (an imaginative investigation Mortimer as well as of his walking-stick), and the spring 2017 issue offers John Linsenmeyer's "The Island of Uffa" (presenting a new candidate for the island mentioned in passing in "The Five Orange Pips"). There is much more to be found in the 40-page issues, which cost CA\$12.00 postpaid, and you can subscribe for a year for \$30.00 (US or CA), by mail to the Bootmakers at 3304-2045 Lakeshore Boulevard West, Etobicoke, ON MV8 2Z6, Canada, or at their web-site <[www.torontobootmakers.com](http://www.torontobootmakers.com)>.

The summer 2017 issue of Canadian Holmes also is of interest: there always is something new to be said about the Canon, and Sonia Fetherston has done just that, in her "Canonical Canoodling: Kisses from the Pages of Sherlock Holmes"; Thelma Beam also discusses letters Conan Doyle wrote to his wife during their Canadian tour, and Kariaa Kuusisto examines the improvements over the years in the Strand Magazine's illustration by Sidney Paget.

Nelsan Ellis died on July 8. He was a playwright, and an actor in film and on television, and played Shinwell Johnson in eleven episodes of the "Elementary" series.

Further to the report (Oct 11 #4) about the "Sherlock" violin made by Steve Burnett from wood from the 170-year-old sycamore at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, Roger Johnson reports an excellent web-site devoted to the violin <[www.tinyurl.com/y97dj8hm](http://www.tinyurl.com/y97dj8hm)>, where you can read about its history, and listen to it being played by Ari Batikian in Usher Hall in Edinburgh.

Jul 17 #4 Michael Bond died on June 27. Bond created Paddington Bear in 1957, found a publisher in 1958, and went on to write 14 books about Paddington that sold 35 million copies worldwide and were translated into 40 languages, including Latin. Paddington also starred in a BBC television series in the 1970s and in a film in 2014, and his creator was appointed OBE in 1997 and CBE in 2015 for services to literature. Paddington used Sherlockian methods, and dialogue, in "Paddington Turns Detective" in MORE ABOUT PADDINGTON (1959) and PADDINGTON ON STAGE (1977). There is an image of Sherlock Paddington (designed by Benedict Cumberbatch) in the Nov. 2014 issue of this newsletter <[www.tinyurl.com/yad7rhba](http://www.tinyurl.com/yad7rhba)>; the statue later sold in a charity auction for £17,000.

"Oscar Wilde called on us again, and I am quite sure no good will come of it this time either" is a grand way to begin a story, for those who like to collect great opening sentences; this one will be found in a new Irene Adler story by Carole Nelson Douglas. Her "A Spirited Death" is one of the thirty stories in MALICE DOMESTIC 12: MYSTERY MOST HISTORICAL (Rockville: Wildside Press, 2017; 371 pp., \$19.99), an anthology of stories by some of the conference's best authors.

Tim Johnson, curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, has an interesting blog "Special & Rare on a Stick" in which he occasionally offers Sherlockian posts, such as "Regarding Sherlock" in February, when he made some intriguing comments on the BBC television series <[www.umbookworm.blogspot.com/2017/02](http://www.umbookworm.blogspot.com/2017/02)>.

The British Museum is planning to bring its world-famous Reading Room "to life again." The Reading Room, where Conan Doyle held a reader's card, was located in the Great Court of the British Museum, and was the main reading room of the British Library until 1997, when the Library was moved to a new building in St. Pancras.

The Television Academy has announced its nominations for this year's Emmy Awards, and "Sherlock: The Lying Detective" won nominations in four categories: one for Benedict Cumberbatch (lead actor in a limited series or movie) and three for the program (outstanding television movie; outstanding sound mixing for a limited series, movie, or special; and outstanding sound editing for a limited series, movie, or special. The Emmy Award presentation will be broadcast in September.

Further to the item about the giant rat of Sinatra (Jun 17 #3), Basil Rathbone did indeed appear on "The Frank Sinatra Show" on Mar. 24, 1951; there is a link to the 7-minute segment at Greg Ruby's "The Fourth Garrideb" website <[www.tinyurl.com/yc2sexof](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc2sexof)>, along with diffusion of the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Sinatra in 1998.

The list of Sherlockian collections at libraries continues to grow: Michael Bragg blogged on June 23 in the Parallelogram (the newsletter of the Parallel Case of St. Louis) <[www.tinyurl.com/ydds zdse](http://www.tinyurl.com/ydds zdse)> about the St. Louis Sherlockian Collection at the main branch of the St. Louis Public Library. The collection was started by Mary Schroeder in the 1990s and recently expanded by material donated by Bill Cochran. Cataloguing is underway, and the collection is scheduled to be unveiled this fall.

Jul 17 #5 Louis Le Prince, a French inventor who filmed the first moving pictures (on paper film with a single-lens camera) and is credited as the father of cinematography, filmed his first moving pictures in 1888 and then mysteriously vanished from a train in 1890, before he could demonstrate his invention to the public. Irfan Shah, co-author of the documentary "The First Film: The Greatest Mystery in Cinema History" (2015), is writing a biography of Le Prince and has an interesting web-site about him <[www.tinyurl.com/yaelqhw7](http://www.tinyurl.com/yaelqhw7)> that offers brief glimpses of films he made in Oct. 1888 (less than a year after "A Study in Scarlet" was published).

THE CASE OF THE VANISHING PRAIRIE, by John Parr (Simcoe: Davus Publishing, 2015; 112 pp., \$12.00) is a comic pastiche: Watson decides to strike out on his own in the Old West, becomes a veterinarian, encounters Dr. Acula (and his assistant Igor), deals with local ranchers, Indians, and a mysterious Old Timer; available from the publisher <[www.davuspublishing.com](http://www.davuspublishing.com)>.

Will Thomas' THE FATAL ENQUIRY (New York: Minotaur, 2014; 293 pp., \$25.99) is an exciting addition to his series featuring Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman"); Barker is assisted, as usual, by Thomas Llewelyn (they battle a vicious killer who is Barker's long-time adversary, and we learn some details about Barker's mysterious back-story).

Charlotte Montague's CREATING SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE REMARKABLE STORY OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (New York: Chartwell Books, 2017; 192 pp., \$14.99) is a colorful introduction to Conan Doyle's heritage, career, and writings, with synopses of each of the Canonical tales, and a final chapter on "The Sherlock Holmes Legacy" (all in all a nice gift for someone who's just entering the Sherlockian/Doylean world).

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Forged Stradivari: Did We Miss a Vital Clue for 130 Years?" is the title of an interesting post by Rachael Durkin (lecturer in music at Edinburgh Napier University) about the violins owned by Sherlock Holmes, and by another detective whose memoirs Conan Doyle may have read <[www.tinyurl.com/ttd6ruq](http://www.tinyurl.com/ttd6ruq)>.

Howard Ostrom reports that Riva del Garda (in northern Italy) is celebrating Sherlock Holmes in this year's "Notte di Fiaba" on Aug. 24-27; details at <[www.tinyurl.com/y7vau3th](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7vau3th)>. Click on the WWW button for information on all of the events, and play the YouTube video to see a preview for an app game that will be available during the festival.

Further to earlier reports (Mar 04 #1 and Sep 09 #1) on the Sherlockian and Doylean names of streets in Sherlock Holmes Estates in southeastern Carroll County, Md., Julie Snell reports that a number of homes are available for purchase by anyone who might want to live there <[www.tinyurl.com/yccwto8a](http://www.tinyurl.com/yccwto8a)>.

The Historical Society of the New York Courts publishes a series of calendars devoted to "Literature in the New York Courts", and this year they've chosen the title "Cases & Quotations" (presenting a colorful discussion of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for June). The society's president, the Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt, creates the calendars, and copies of this year's version are available from Al for \$4.00 postpaid (300 Freedom Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569).

Jul 17 #6     Howard Ostrom reports audio of Jack Benny as Sherlock Holmes on "The Jell-O Program at YouTube: on June 4, 1939, the show pre-viewed the following week's performance of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <[www.tinyurl.com/ycsr9l9l](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycsr9l9l)>, and on June 11 the program included a 12-minute segment parodying the story (with a fine performance by Andy Devine as the Hound) <[www.tinyurl.com/ydxm3jqc](http://www.tinyurl.com/ydxm3jqc)>.

Harris Pest Control in South Carolina displays a modest silhouette of Sherlock Holmes at its web-site <[www.harrispestcontrolinc.com](http://www.harrispestcontrolinc.com)>, and (spotted by Jennie Paton) a much more Sherlockian animation "Sherlock and the Case of the Termites" at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/ybsgzmvy](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybsgzmvy)>.

Artwork for "The Old Grey Fox" at auction, at Menzies in Sydney, Australia, on Aug. 10 <[www.menziesartbrands.com/items/old-grey-fox](http://www.menziesartbrands.com/items/old-grey-fox)>: six paintings by George Goodwin Kilburne, conceived as illustrations to accompany the poem, which was published in Conan Doyle's SONGS OF ACTION (1898) and THE POEMS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE--COLLECTED EDITION (1922); does anyone know when and where and by whom the poem was published with these illustrations?

The Magic Door IV in Pomona, Calif., is the fourth in a series of used-book stores owned by Dwain Kaiser, who in 1967 named his first store in honor of the book written by Arthur Conan Doyle. Kaiser unfortunately was shot and killed this month, but his widow Joann plans to keep the store open and to continue his legacy.

Trevor Baxter died on July 16. He had a long acting career on television, stage, and screen, and was a playwright as well. Sherlockians will recall him as Prof. Litefoot in "Doctor Who: The Talons of Weng-Chiang" (1977).

"Would Sherlock Holmes Pay £1.7m for 221B Baker Street?" was the question asked by Which? Mortgage Advisors. That's £1.7 million, and you can read about Paul Ryan's estimates for Holmes' two-bedroom Georgian flat and other (mostly) fictional properties at their web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/ybjgn29f](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybjgn29f)>.

Theodora Goss' THE STRANGE CASE OF THE ALCHEMIST'S DAUGHTER (New York: Saga Press, 2017; 402 pp., \$24.99) was inspired, she notes, by a question: Why did so many of the mad scientists in nineteenth-century narratives create, or start creating but then destroy, female monsters? Her answer involves characters from books written by Stevenson, Wells, Hawthorne, Shelley, and Stoker; Holmes and Watson appear in the story, consulted by Mary Jekyll and assisting the ladies in an imaginative tale.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) opened at the Wilbur D. May Museum in Reno, Nev., on July 29, and will run through Oct. 29 <[www.maycenter.com](http://www.maycenter.com)>.

One can find just about everything important on-line at Wikipedia, and it's interesting to see that their explanation of "Canon (fiction)" notes that "the term was first used by analogy in the context of fiction to refer to the Sherlock Holmes stories and novels." Thanks, of course, to Ronald Knox and his landmark biblical analysis, with a tip of the hat to Sabrina Flynn, who noted the explanation in a post to the Mary Russell e-mail list.

Jul 17 #7 Further to the item (Apr 17 #2) about Joseph Caminada, the Manchester policeman who began his career as a police constable in 1868 and had risen to the rank of superintendent of the city's police force when he retired in 1899 and became a private detective (some have suggested that he was an inspiration for Sherlock Holmes), Mancunian Matters reported on July 19 that a 15-bedroom hotel and pub in Manchester is to be named in honor of Caminada <[www.tinyurl.com/y995vvy9](http://www.tinyurl.com/y995vvy9)>.

When in Dijon: you can visit "221B Baker Street" (le bar des passionnés de Sherlock Holmes) <[www.tinyurl.com/y9dstcgk](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9dstcgk)>. Kindly reported by Howard Ostrom, who spotted it on-line (rather than in Dijon).

Lora Roberts' THE AFFAIR OF THE INCOGNITO TENANT (Palo Alto: Perseverance Press/John Daniel & Co., 2004; 264 pp., \$13.95), subtitled "a mystery with Sherlock Holmes," stars Charlotte Dodson, a housekeeper in Sussex, who discovers that her tenant, a Mr. Sigerson, is of great assistance in solving a mystery; it's an amusing story, and the book's still in print (and available at deep discount at Amazon).

Nick Utechin discovered a 221B cocktail on the menu at the St. James Bar at The Balcon in London: Metaxa Greek brandy, creme de fig infused with chai tea, liquorice bitters, lime juice, honey, and dark chocolate syrup, shaken with egg white (for only £16.00) <[www.thebalconlondon.com](http://www.thebalconlondon.com)>. There's also a Jekyll & Hyde cocktail, with recipe (and price) just as awful.

Orlando Pearson's THE REDACTED SHERLOCK HOLMES is a three-volume series of collections of pastiches, a mix of "what came after" extensions of Canonical cases, and other cases that involve Holmes and Watson with tax evasion, climate change, the royal family, cricket and the rise of Hitler in 1930, and much more; the first volume was published by Clink Street in 2015 (86 pp., \$8.99) and the second and third by MX Publishing in 2016 (173/227 pp., \$12.95/\$14.95). The author's web-site is at <[www.orlandopearson.com](http://www.orlandopearson.com)>, and MX's web-sites are at <[www.mxpublishing.com](http://www.mxpublishing.com)> and <[www.mxpublishing.co.uk](http://www.mxpublishing.co.uk)>.

Note that MX books are available at Amazon and elsewhere, but also at The Strand Magazine's web-site <[www.strandmag.com](http://www.strandmag.com)> at better prices, and if you put "Hounds" in the order notes you'll also get a free Sherlockian bookmark as well as a discount on anything Sherlockian.

That's "Hounds" as in "The Hound of the Internet" (they're perhaps the old-on-going Sherlockian list-serv). Details on the Hounds of the Internet can be found at <[www.sherlockian.net/hounds](http://www.sherlockian.net/hounds)>, the web-site that was created by Chris Redmond in 1994, and recently was transferred to Michigan State University's WIDE Research Center (it's a valuable resource for the ever-growing population of Internet-savvy Sherlockians).

H. B. Lyle's THE IRREGULAR (New York: Quercus, 2017; 294 pp., \$26.99) features Wiggins, as a young man employed by Sherlock Holmes, and as an Army veteran in 1909 involved in the creation of the Secret Service Bureau (later split into MI5 and MI6); it's a colorful story, and the start of a series. The British edition is THE IRREGULAR: A DIFFERENT CLASS OF SPY (from Hodder & Stoughton, £17.99), and Mike Stotter's interview with Lyle is on-line at <[www.shotsmag.co.uk/interview\\_view.aspx?interview\\_id=302](http://www.shotsmag.co.uk/interview_view.aspx?interview_id=302)>.

Jul 17 #8 And (as always) there's theater: the Illyria theater company is touring its open-air production of "The Lost World" in Britain through Sept. 3; the schedule is available at <[www.illyria.uk.com](http://www.illyria.uk.com)>, and a photograph of the cast (without the company's "debutant dinosaur") ran with a story in the Lancashire Evening Post <[www.tinyurl.com/ybnbm2o2](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybnbm2o2)>. This is not the first time the story has been staged (it was performed in England in 2003 and in Russia in 2014).

Kandie Carle's "William Gillette: Senator's Son to Super Sleuth" is being performed by the East Haddam Stage Company at Gillette Castle State Park in East Haddam, Conn., on weekends through Aug. 13 <[www.ehsco.org](http://www.ehsco.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the Lighthouse Festival Theatre in Port Dover, Ont., through Aug. 12 <[www.lighthouse theatre.com](http://www.lighthouse theatre.com)>, And it's due at the Melbourne Civic Theatre in Melbourne, Fla., Oct. 6-Nov. 12 <[www.mymct.org](http://www.mymct.org)>; at the Playhouse in Liverpool, Dec. 7-Jan. 13 <[www.everymanplayhouse.com](http://www.everymanplayhouse.com)>; and at Stage West in Calgary, Feb. 9-Apr. 15, 2018 <[www.stagewestcalgary.com](http://www.stagewestcalgary.com)>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at Sand Harbor in Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park through Aug. 23 <[www.tinyurl.com/yc5mafzd](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc5mafzd)>. And at the Bauer Theatre at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S. through Aug. 26 <[www.stfx.ca](http://www.stfx.ca)>. And it is scheduled at the New Theatre Royal in Portsmouth, Hants., Aug. 30-Sept. 2 <[www.newtheatreroyal.com](http://www.newtheatreroyal.com)>.

Linda Hein has reported from Baker Street West <[www.bakerstreetwest.com](http://www.bakerstreetwest.com)> in Jackson, Calif.: the Baker Street Players Radio Theatre: will perform "The Problem of Thor Bridge" and "Murder in the Casbah" on Aug. 4 and 5, and "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Tolling Bell" on Aug. 17 and 18 (all from the old radio series starring either Basil Rathbone or Tom Conway). The Baker Street Players also will perform "A Study in Sherlock: The Last Voyage" as dinner mystery theater on Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 and 11.

"The Baker Street Irregulars" (written by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is scheduled at the Phillips County Events Center in Holyoke, Colo., Aug. 11-13 <[www.phillipscountyplayers.weebly.com](http://www.phillipscountyplayers.weebly.com)>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at St. Stephen's Anglican Hall in Adamstown, N.S.W., Aug. 11-Sept. 2; web-site at <[www.theatreonbrunker.com](http://www.theatreonbrunker.com)>. Also at The Mowlen in Swanage, Dorset, Aug. 24-29 <[www.mowlemtheatre.co.uk](http://www.mowlemtheatre.co.uk)>.

Jennifer Berman's "The Last Séance, the Odd Friendship of Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" is due at the Hudson Guild Theater in New York from Sept. 25 to Oct. 1 <[www.tinyurl.com/y7o2fbzz](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7o2fbzz)>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Hooded Lance" (a new play by Pat Whymark and Julian Harries) will be performed at the New Wolsey Studio in Ipswich, Suffolk, Jan. 8-13, 2018 <[www.wolseytheatre.co.uk](http://www.wolseytheatre.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)>

Aug 17 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press is supposed to be appear at or near the end of each month, and there is a reason why this issue is a bit later than usual: my every-five-years-do-something-geological trip. In the past Bev and I have visited a working volcano (in Hawaii) and stood on a glacier (in Alaska), and this year we stood with one foot in North America and the other foot in Europe.

Bonnie MacBird's UNQUIET SPIRITS: WHISKY, GHOSTS, MURDER (London: Collins Crime Club, 2017; 492 pp., £14.99) delivers on the promise of its subtitle; it's a sequel to her ART IN THE BLOOD (2015), with a complicated mystery in France and Scotland, and revelations about Holmes' life before he became a detective; the American edition is due in October. The author has an interesting web-site <[www.macbird.com](http://www.macbird.com)> where she blogs and offers annotations on both books, and there's a third novel (DEVIL'S DUE) in the works to extend the series.

Further to the mention of Anthony Boucher (Jun 17 #1), you can learn a lot more about him in a recent post at Ray Betzner's blog "Studies in Starrett" <[www.tinyurl.com/ycps74zy](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycps74zy)>. Boucher and Starrett were correspondents and friends.

Denny Dobry has kindly volunteered to raise funds for the BSI Trust, selling material donated to the Trust that is not historically tied to the BSI, and you can find this material at eBay; his seller name is wiggins221b, and you can make him a favorite seller. At the moment he is offering a first day cover, signed by Dame Jean Conan Doyle, of the set of Sherlock Holmes stamps issued by the Royal Mail in 1993, and there's more to come. You can contact Denny at <[dendobry@ptd.net](mailto:dendobry@ptd.net)>.

June Foray died on July 26. She began her career as a voice actress on radio at the age of 12, and provided voices for an astounding range of characters; animator Chuck Jones once said that "June Foray is not the female Mel Blanc; Mel Blanc was the male June Foray." She voiced Rocket J. Squirrel on the long-running series "The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show" and was Natasha Fatale in the same series (in one episode Natasha pretended to be Dr. Watkins to Boris Badenov's Herlock Soames), and she participated in a KPFF-FM (Los Angeles) reading of the entire Canon produced by Mike Hodel in Dec. 1980.

Further to the item (Jun 17 #1) on Flicker Alley's upcoming Blu-ray edition of "The Lost World" (1925), with added features, you can still order at a discount <[www.tinyurl.com/ycy4wd5s](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycy4wd5s)>, and see a short but colorful preview.

For those who want to know where you can stand with one foot in North America and the other foot in Europe: Iceland. That's where the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, which separates the two tectonic plates comes to the surface and one can stand on the boundary without getting one's feet wet. We also saw the original geyser, which is located in the Haukadalur valley. The Great Geyser (from the Icelandic verb geysa, which means "gush") is the first geyser described in print, and it has been active for about 10,000 years and has given its name to all the others.



Aug 17 #2 Paul Voodini is a professional mind-reader, psychic, and mentalist, and a magician, and is happy to share some of his routines: his NINJA MIND-READING SECRETS is a 56-page PDF file that includes "The Baker Street Tarot" (allegedly reprinted from the Christmas 1892 issue of The Strand Magazine), available (£20.00) at <[www.readerofminds.co.uk](http://www.readerofminds.co.uk)>. He also has written a "gas-lamp mystery" THE CURIOUS CASE OF JACK THE RIPPER, CONAN DOYLE, & HOUDINI, available (124 pp., \$14.00) at <[www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)>.



"Looking for ice cream? Just call Furlock Holmes" was the slogan used last year by Blue Bunny ice cream, kindly reported by Eric Sveum <[www.bluebunny.com/where-to-buy](http://www.bluebunny.com/where-to-buy)>. A Google search for [furlock holmes] reveals a company called Furlock Holmes Animal Care (in Whitchurch, Hants.), as well as some amusing videos and Cheezburger images. Dog-lovers might want to do a search for [furlock bones].

"The Reconstruction of the Crime" is a previously-unpublished play, written by J. M. Barrie and E. V. Lucas, and now in print for the first time in the latest issue of The Strand Magazine <[www.tinyurl.com/y85uv7we](http://www.tinyurl.com/y85uv7we)>. The play is subtitled "a sensational scene in which the victim requests the audience to assist him in the detection of a criminal," and it has been described by some as "a hilarious send-up of a Sherlockian story." It's nice to recall that Barrie and Lucas each wrote Sherlockian or Doylean parodies.

The modern Strand Magazine is an interesting successor to the original, and has occasional Sherlockian content; it's published quarterly, and managing editor Andrew Gulli has a knack for finding previously unpublished stories. Subscriptions cost \$24.95 a year at their web-site <[www.strandmag.com](http://www.strandmag.com)>.

More news from the Stepping Stones School, which has carefully restored Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home: the school will participate in the Heritage Open Day program, opening to the public on Sept. 10, with tours led restoration architect Mark Goodchild, and a talk by Bonnie MacBird, author of the pastiches ART IN THE BLOOD and UNQUIET SPIRITS; there's more information at <[www.tinyurl.com/y88pnzys](http://www.tinyurl.com/y88pnzys)>.

Many readers will have enjoyed this month's eclipse of the Sun, either total or partial, depending on where you were. So: "I had a chat with him on eclipses. How the talk got that way I canna think; but he had out a reflector lantern and a globe, and made it all clear in a minute." Now: who said that? And with whom did he have a chat?

The list of members of The Baker Street Irregulars who have written autobiographies isn't all that long, but it now includes Curtis Armstrong ("An Actor and a Rare One"). His REVENGE OF THE NERD (New York: Thomas Dunne/St. Martin's Press, 2017; 336 pp., \$26.99) is subtitled "Or...the singular adventures of the man who would be Booger," and he notes that in 1964 "Mr. Sherlock Holmes, and his friend and associate John H. Watson burst into my consciousness like a couple of drunken uncles into a bar mitzvah, forever altering my reality." He has more to say about Sherlockians, and of course much more about his long career as an actor, and it's nicely done indeed. If you would like to hear Scott Monty and Burt Wolder in conversation with Curtis, visit "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <[www.tinyurl.com/ycku4few](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycku4few)>.

Aug 17 #3 Robert Hardy died on Aug. 3. He started his long career as an actor on stage in 1949, and is perhaps best remembered as Siegfried Farnon in the BBC television series "All Creatures Great and Small" (1978-1990) and as Minister for Magic (Cornelius Fudge in four "Harry Potter" films (2002-2007)); he also played Sherlock Holmes on records in 1970 (with Nigel Stock as Watson), read from the Canon on records in 1984-1985, and was a grand Charles Augustus Milverton in Granada's "The Master Blackmailer" in 1992 (with Jeremy Brett as Holmes).



"Lion's Mane Jellyfish Alert on Ulster Beach" warned the headline on a story in the Belfast Telegraph this month <[www.tinyurl.com/ycde2no7](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycde2no7)>. Michelle Hay of the Mulroy Coast Guard said the one sting "can cause potentially-deadly anaphylactic shock," and that the Lion's Mane is the largest jellyfish to be found in Irish waters.

The uncommon variant of the poster for The Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce film "Sherlock Holmes in Washington" (1943) offered at Heritage Auctions on July 29 (Jun 17 #6) sold for \$2,509.50 (including the buyer's premium); the only other known copy sold for \$2,151.00 on Nov. 21, 2015. A copy of the common variant sold for \$4,780.00 on July 30, 2016.

How many of you recognized that chat on eclipses (without looking it up in an index or running a text search)? Inspector MacDonald chatted with Professor Moriarty (in "The Valley of Fear").

Groombridge Place is in the news, boasting it has the longest and highest treetop walkway in Britain <[www.tinyurl.com/y98xglds](http://www.tinyurl.com/y98xglds)>; a story in the Independent noted that Conan Doyle often visited Groombridge, and that it was the inspiration for Birlstone Manor in THE VALLEY OF FEAR. Groombridge has a lot more to offer: their web-site's at <[www.groombridgeplace.com](http://www.groombridgeplace.com)>. Visitors can tour the grounds, but view the house only from across the moat.

Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian story "The Case of Lady Sannox" was adapted for television and broadcast in the series "Suspense" on CBS-TV on Dec. 27, 1949. And you can watch it at <[www.tinyurl.com/yaq63km8](http://www.tinyurl.com/yaq63km8)>, in an entry in "The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia" (which, as always, has much of Sherlockian and Doylean interest).

The Baker Street Journal always is interesting, but the summer 2017 issue is especially interesting. Mattias Boström's article "Ouida Before Rathbone" tells the colorful story of Eula Branch, who re-invented herself as Ouida Bergère, married Basil Rathbone, and wrote the ill-fated play "Sherlock Holmes". You can subscribe to the BSJ at <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)> (\$41.95 a year for four issues plus the Xmas Annual).

Bruce Forsyth died on Aug. 18. A British television presenter and entertainer for more than 75 years, he was recognized by the Guinness World Records in 2012 as having had the longest television career for a male entertainer. One of the game shows he hosted was "You Bet!" on ITV, and on Feb. 24, 1990, one of the contestants was 15-year-old Sarah Elliott, answering questions about Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series; Oscar Ross has kindly reported the segment available at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/yb9xrlkn](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb9xrlkn)>.

Aug 17 #4    The Swindon Advertiser has noted that John Blick, 45, charged with three counts of assault in March, will face trial before Chippenham magistrates on Sept. 20. This would not be all that important to readers of this newsletter, except that Mr. Blick lives on Conan Doyle Walk; it's one of the streets in a development that includes Conrad Close, Thackeray Court, Austen Crescent, and Carroll Close, and one can only assume that they were named by someone who liked to read.

The inaugural Irene Adler Prize has been awarded to Kiley Bense for her essay "A History of One's Own". The prize offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature, and was established by Lucas Aykroyd, an award-winning writer and public speaker in Vancouver, B.C.; it is indeed named for the heroine of "A Scandal in Bohemia", and you can learn more about the prize, and read the winning essay, at <[www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships](http://www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships)>.



Daniil Doubshin hopes to learn more about the statuette of Professor George Edward Challenger that appeared in a photograph in the Jan. 1913 issue of The Strand Magazine, promoting the publication of "The Poison Belt" (which began in March); the statuette was displayed "at the largest bookshop and bookstalls" where the public could buy THE LOST WORLD. Daniel believes that statuette was owned by Conan Doyle; does anyone know the identity of the artist, or where the statuette is now? The statuette does bear a striking resemblance to a photograph of Challenger in THE LOST WORLD <[www.tinyurl.com/y9he2j2w](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9he2j2w)>.

Reported: Otto Penzler has edited BIBLIOMYSTeries: STORIES OF CRIME IN THE WORLD OF BOOKS AND BOOKSTORES (New York: Pegasus, 2017; 144 pp., \$26.95); it's an anthology of short mystery stories specially commissioned by Otto, and they include Lyndsay Faye's "The Gospel of Sheba" (May 14 #6), a tale that involves sublibrarian A. Davenport Lomax, a friend of Dr. Watson, who consults Sherlock Holmes about a rare (and dangerous) volume. You can read more about the bibliomysteries at <[www.tinyurl.com/ycxr6ebp](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycxr6ebp)>.

Les Klinger notes that Douglas P. Lyle has posted about "Holmes, Thorndyke, Locard, Gross, and the Modern CSI" at the Crime Writer's Forensics Blog at <[www.tinyurl.com/yc4oaya2](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc4oaya2)>. Lyle, the author of FORENSICS FOR DUMMIES, has written for "CSI: Miami", "Monk", "Law & Order", and many other programs.

Charles Altamont Doyle's "The spirits of the prisoners" (which he painted at the Montrose Asylum) is on display in an exhibition of "Victorian Watercolors" at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney through Dec. 3; the painting, which is owned by the Gallery <[www.tinyurl.com/y7w4wutp](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7w4wutp)>, was purchased at auction at Christie's in New York in 2012 for \$16,500.

"A Yorkshire Fairie Tale" was a two-act play written by Thomas Diggs that was presented by On the Leesh Productions in New York in 2007; it was based on the Cottingley Fairies hoax, and Conan Doyle wasn't in the play. Nor is he in the musical based on the play, with music by Jay D'Amico: there's a web-site for "The Fairy Hoax" at <[www.thefairyhoax.com](http://www.thefairyhoax.com)>, with information about the musical and a chance to sample some of the songs.

Aug 17 #5 Further to the list of Sherlockian collection at libraries (Jul 17 #4), add another one: the Donald J. Hobbs Sherlockian Collection, which Don has donated to Southern Methodist University. His extensive collection of translations of the Canon now includes 108 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English in non-Roman alphabets); he will work with SMU and continue to help curate the collection, pursuing new languages and continuing his search for three languages known but still missing from the collection.



Clarendon Serviced Apartments, based in London, offers floor plans for the apartments of seven famous fictional characters, including (of course) Sherlock Holmes in the series "Sherlock" <[www.tinyurl.com/ycx9cea6](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycx9cea6)>.

"A Leg to Stand On; the Law and the Sign of Four" is the title at E.J. Wagner's EJDissectingRoom blog for the brief filed by Senior Assistant Hennepin County Attorney Michael B. Miller, in which he quoted from the Canon <[www.tinyurl.com/y7v6sg43](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7v6sg43)>. The case was argued in 2008, and the defendants (including the county) won, both in federal district court and in the 8th circuit court of appeals.

Steve Mason reports that The Beacon Society has formed a new Junior Sherlockian Society for children and youth "eager to develop an understanding of the great detective Sherlock Holmes." They have an interesting web-site <[www.juniorsherlockian.com](http://www.juniorsherlockian.com)> and an imaginative program.

The Irish Independent had a story on Aug. 8 <[www.tinyurl.com/y9ldnuvw](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9ldnuvw)> on "three blokes from Russian who decided to make a Sherlock-esque game with echoes of monster hit Pokémon Go by setting up a company in Ireland." The game is "Silent Streets" and it's 19th-century Victorian but not Sherlockian; you can preview it at <[www.silent-streets.com/#overview](http://www.silent-streets.com/#overview)>.

Finally: something for Sherlockian fans of "Game of Thrones". Joanna Robinson, in a blog for Vanity Fair <[www.tinyurl.com/ydg4cf5u](http://www.tinyurl.com/ydg4cf5u)>, draws an analogy, suggesting that Varys' network of Little Birds was inspired by Sherlock Holmes' Baker Street Irregulars.

The Wireless Theatre Company <[www.wirelesstheatrecompany.co.uk](http://www.wirelesstheatrecompany.co.uk)> was founded in 2007, and offers an interesting variety of audio drama as MP3 downloads (£1.49 each); they're now celebrating summer by offering one free download, and there are two Sherlockian dramas: "Sherlock Holmes Strikes Back!" and "The Trial of Sherlock Holmes" (use the code FREESUMMER2017).

Sherlock Holmes fan Kaden Taylor tested his memory skills on July 24 on the one-hour Fox television series "SuperHuman" and received some publicity in the Phoenix New Times <[www.tinyurl.com/y96q4vgj](http://www.tinyurl.com/y96q4vgj)>; if any of my readers captured (and kept) this episode, please let me know.

Father J. Michael Venitti's A READER'S COMPANION TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (Pittsburgh: Dorrance, 2017; 137 pp., \$22.00) is, he notes, intended as a "handy and simple guide" to help navigate the Canon, and the book offers a brief biography of Conan Doyle and commentary on each of the stories, presented in the order in which they were first published.

Aug 17 #6 Stephen Moffat, interviewed at Comic-Con San Diego, explained that one episode of "Sherlock" is "becoming a period piece before our eyes." The episode ("The Blind Banker") had a map being used to crack the code; "At that point [in 2010] it was absolutely true that everybody in London, including you, if you were visiting London, owned an A TO Z," he said. "A very small number of years later absolutely nobody owns an A TO Z, it's all on their iPhones--it doesn't work." Actually, the book is still print: a 2016 edition is available from Amazon.

Ben Kingsley recorded seven stories for Dove Books on Tape some years ago (Jun 89 #8): A TREASURY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Scan, RedH, Twis, Croo, Card, Copp, and SixN) is now available for download as an unabridged audiobook at Audible <[www.audible.com](http://www.audible.com)>.

"I am a strong man with a J pen and a weakling with a Waverley," wrote Conan Doyle to Russell Goodwin-Smith, in one of three autograph letters that sold for £11,000 at auction in March 2015 <[www.tinyurl.com/q8a3q5x](http://www.tinyurl.com/q8a3q5x)>. It's a nice reminder of the distant days when people wrote with wooden pens and steel nibs. J pens are mentioned in the Canon (in "The Cardboard Box" and in "The Greek Interpreter"), and Conan Doyle later used (and endorsed) the Parker Duofold fountain pen. It's intriguing to note that the Waverley was made by Macniven and Cameron, an Edinburgh-based company, and that the pen was named in honor of the Waverley novels written by Conan Doyle's literary hero Sir Walter Scott.

And for those who have a fondness for fountain pens: Dante Torrese reports that the Goulet Pen Company offers a wide variety of pens, inks, paper, and accessories, including a night blue De Atramentis Sherlock Holmes ink hand-made by Dr. Franz-Joseph Jansen in Germany. \$12.95 for a 35ml bottle that has a Sherlockian image on the label <[www.tinyurl.com/y8volfdc](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8volfdc)>.

The first issue of The Newspapers (an "Irregular Journal of Sherlockiana" edited by Greg Ruby for The Sherlockians of Baltimore) has been published, with 120 pp. of toasts, poems, articles, and much more, many by members of the SOB's; \$20.00 <[www.fourthgarrideb.com/shop](http://www.fourthgarrideb.com/shop)>.

Further to the item (Jan 17 #5) about plans to film Stephen King's pastiche "The Doctor's Case" in western Canada, there's now an interesting web-site for the film <[www.thedoctorsmovie.com](http://www.thedoctorsmovie.com)>.

THE MAGICIAN AND THE SPIRITS, by Deborah Noyes (New York: Viking, 2017; 152 pp., \$18.95) is the story of "Harry Houdini and the Curious Pastime of Communicating with the Dead" told for young readers (ages 10 and up), and told nicely, with discussion, of course, of Houdini's relationship with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Greg Ruby has reported the "Merrie Melodies" cartoon "Have You Got Any Castles?" (1938), nicely available at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/y9b5re94](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9b5re94)>; you get a brief glimpse (at 6:03 minutes) of books titled "The White Company" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles". It's an interesting challenge to try to identify all the people being parodied, but here's one: Alexander Woollcott, who had a radio program called "The Town Crier" (and was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars in the days before Investitures were awarded).

Aug 17 #7    Liu Zhen reports from China that Sherlock Holmes is very popular there, and that there are more than 500 translations of the Sherlock Holmes stories into Chinese, including THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES. The most popular of the translations is the complete Canon, from the Qunzhong Publishing House, with more than 1.8 million copies in print. There's also a Murder Pen project that publishes translations of golden-age detective fiction and non-fiction, and there are translations of three essays from Dorothy L. Sayers' SAYERS ON HOLMES (2001) at their web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/yc6qhf7s](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc6qhf7s)>. You can also ask Liu Zhen <[ellry@163.com](mailto:ellry@163.com)> for information about The Chinese Sherlock Holmes Society in Shanghai.

The colorful edition of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (published by O'Mara in England and by the Mysterious Press in the U.S. in 1987) included all of Frederic Dorr Steele's illustrations for Collier's (including the covers in full color) and an insightful introduction by Andrew Malec, and is available in a Kindle edition at Amazon (\$0.99) <[www.tinyurl.com/ycy2pbft](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycy2pbft)>.

Simpson's-in-the-Strand, which has long been a destination for Sherlockians who want to visit (and dine at) establishments mentioned in the Canon, was closed for renovation on Apr. 17 (Mar 17 #3); it's now open again, with an enhanced-but-still-traditional menu, and you can read all about it at the Big Hospitality web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/yahtexab](http://www.tinyurl.com/yahtexab)>. Their web-site also has been renovated <[www.simpsonsinthestrland.co.uk](http://www.simpsonsinthestrland.co.uk)>, and (alas) now has no discussion of the restaurant's long and colorful history.

Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese in London "once boasted Samuel Johnson and Arthur Conan Doyle as regulars," according to a story in the Independent on July 2 <[www.tinyurl.com/y93tpjkm](http://www.tinyurl.com/y93tpjkm)>, inspired by the decision of the Samuel Smith pub chain (which owns the Cheshire Cheese) to ban swearing at all its establishments. Devotees of Johnson have long cast doubt on his ever having frequented the Cheshire Cheese, and there's no evidence whatsoever that Conan Doyle ever visited.

Kenneth Manzanares has been charged with killing his wife Kristy on an Alaska-bound cruise ship, The Emerald Princess, on a night the entertainment was a murder-mystery theater about a death on a cruise ship; according to one of the passengers, "we were at a Sherlock Holmes murder mystery" when an announcement a medical alert was announced over the intercom, and people thought it was part of the play <[www.tinyurl.com/y8zvpdfh](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8zvpdfh)>.

Jerry Lewis died on Aug. 20. He was a master slapstick comedian who began his career with Dean Martin at a nightclub in 1946, and starred with him on "The Colgate Comedy Hour" (which included a skit in 1952 with Lewis playing Sherlock Fink) <[www.tinyurl.com/yd6tzo8d](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd6tzo8d)>. He also played Skylock Peyton (with Sebastian Cabot as Dr. Matson in the film "Family Jewels (1965)).

David Harnois continues to add to his dramatized readings of the Canon, and now offers the first six stories at his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <[www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com](http://www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com)>; you can listen to or download the dramatized readings, which are nicely done. He also has links to an audio recording of Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (which was made by Lisa Woods and Linda Pritchard on Mar. 20, 1989); it has been remastered by Alison Carter.

Aug 17 #8 "Calling all Anglophiles to the third annual Britsburgh Festival" was the headline on an announcement of six days and twenty events scheduled on Sept. 5-10 in Pittsburgh <[www.britsburgh.com](http://www.britsburgh.com)>; at one of the events, on Sept. 9, people will have an opportunity to discuss "The Six Napoleons" with members of the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers (the local Sherlockian society) and to hear a talk by historian Len Bacousky about Conan Doyle's visit to Pittsburgh in 1923.

And there's theater: "A Scandal in the Weimar" (a new play by Claire Bowen and Jennifer Piper featuring "Lady Sherlock Holmes, Nazis, and cabaret") is on at the Bluestone Church Arts Space in Footscray, Vic., through Sept. 9 <[www.witinc.com.au](http://www.witinc.com.au)>.

Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" is running at the DAPA Theatre on Beaumont in Hamilton, N.S.W, through Sept. 9 <[www.tinyurl.com/ycp7upyb](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycp7upyb)>.

"The Return to Baker Street" (a new play from by Dan Bray and Jacob Sampson) is being performed at the Waiting Room in Halifax, N.S., through Sept. 10 <[www.tinyurl.com/y8vz6m9h](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8vz6m9h)>.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" is being performed at the Ashley Stage in Berkeley, Calif., through Sept. 10; website at <[www.shotgunplayers.org](http://www.shotgunplayers.org)>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Crimson Cobbles" (a new play by Toby Hulse) will be performed at the Salisbury Playhouse in Salisbury, Wilts., Sept. 12-16 <[www.tinyurl.com/yadjzll9](http://www.tinyurl.com/yadjzll9)>; click on "further information" to see a colorful Education Pack, and there is a trailer at <[www.tinyurl.com/yaluurg9](http://www.tinyurl.com/yaluurg9)>. The play then will be performed at the Theatre Chipping Norton in Chipping Norton, Oxon., Sept. 19-24 <[www.tinyurl.com/y8yzzk4a](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8yzzk4a)>, and after than tour in Britain.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the West Allis Central Auditorium in West Allis, Wis., from Oct. 6 to Oct. 15 <[www.westallisplayers.com](http://www.westallisplayers.com)>.

Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at The ZACK in St. Louis, Mo., on Oct. 12-19 <[www.insighttheatrecompany.com](http://www.insighttheatrecompany.com)>; and by the Fairbanks Drama Association at the Riverfront Theatre in Fairbanks, Alaska, Oct. 20-Nov. 5 <[www.fairbanksdrama.org](http://www.fairbanksdrama.org)>.

The play also will tour after its production by the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, Jan. 2-Feb. 4, and the full schedule for the tour's available at <[www.baylinartists.com/walnut-street-theatre](http://www.baylinartists.com/walnut-street-theatre)>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is to be performed at the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre in Orlando, Fla., Oct. 11-Nov. 19 <[www.orlandoshakes.org](http://www.orlandoshakes.org)>; and at the Chesil Theatre in Winchester, Hants., Nov. 18-25 <[www.chesiltheatre.org.uk](http://www.chesiltheatre.org.uk)>; and at the Little Theatre in Colne, Lancs., Mar. 5-9, 2018.

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



Sep 17 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

"The Strange Case of the Megatherium Thefts" is an amusing pastiche written by S. C. Roberts, first published in 1945 and then included in his collection *HOLMES AND WATSON: A MISCELLANY* in 1953, involving thefts from the library of the Megatherium in London. And it turns out that there really was a Megatherium Club, in Washington rather than in London. Its members were scientists who lived in the Smithsonian Castle in its early years and their club was named in honor of a recently-discovered giant sloth. There's more about the Megatherium, and its four young naturalists, in a recent blog at the Smithsonian Institution's web-site <[www.si.edu/megatherium](http://www.si.edu/megatherium)>.

"Ninety percent of intelligence comes from open sources. The other ten percent, the more clandestine work, is just more dramatic. The real intelligence hero is Sherlock Holmes, not James Bond." According to the late Lt. Gen. Sam Wilson, former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, quoted by Van Hipp on Fox News <[www.tinyurl.com/y9np5ygw](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9np5ygw)>.

Further to the item about Goyard of Paris and the "writing trunk" they made on commission from Conan Doyle in 1925 (Nov 16 #5), the company has opened a flagship store on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills; the company's impressive web-site is at <[www.goyard.com](http://www.goyard.com)>.

The winter issue of *The Magic Door* (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) has an interesting article by Al Dawson ("Six Steps to Douglas Ainslie" that connects Ainslie, Seymour Hicks, Ellaline Terriss, William Terriss, Bert Coules, and Arthur Conan Doyle); and more news from and about the Library and 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)>.

Pierre Berloquin's *SOLVING SHERLOCK HOLMES: PUZZLE YOUR WAY THROUGH THE CASES* (New York: Wellfleet, 2017; 192 pp., \$21.99) is an imaginative approach to the Canon; the author has written more than 50 books of puzzles, and in this attractively-illustrated volume uses six stories to present 144 puzzles of varying complexity.

Pan Macmillan is celebrating its 70th anniversary of the first Pan paperback with a "Pan 70th Collection" of 20 of their "best-loved, best-selling" stories, with redesigned covers, and one of them is *THE LOST WORLD*; you can see the new cover designs at <[pages.panmacmillan.com/pan-70](http://pages.panmacmillan.com/pan-70)>.

Hazel Gaynor's *THE COTTINGLEY SECRET* (New York: William Morrow, 2017; 389 pp., \$15.99) is a well-written novel that tells the stories of two women: Olivia Kavanagh in modern-day Ireland, and Frances Griffiths, whose diary Olivia finds, and it's a delightful and warm celebration of the centenary of the Cottingley Fairies.

There's no shortage of knitted brows in the Canon, but the "dear old ruddy-faced woman in a country cap" is the only person who actually knitted (in "His Last Bow"). Sherlockian knitters surely will be interested in Joanna Johnson's *SHERLOCK KNITS: PATTERNS INSPIRED BY THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS CONSULTING DETECTIVE* (Loveland: Slate Falls Press, 2016; 48 pp., \$12.95).

Sep 17 #2 Further to the item about the statuette of Professor George Edward Challenger (Aug 17 #4), the image of the statuette disappeared from the web-site, but you can see it in the Inner Circle at the Red Circle's web-site <[www.redcircledc.org](http://www.redcircledc.org)>. Daniil Doubshin believes that Conan Doyle owned a copy of the statuette, and would like to know where the statuette is now, and the name of the artist. Daniil's at <[txt@list.ru](mailto:txt@list.ru)>.

Mattias Boström's FRÅN HOLMES TILL SHERLOCK (Apr 17 #4) is receiving excellent and widespread reviews, and interesting podcast interviews, including his conversation with Jacke Wilson in "The History of Literature" series at <[www.tinyurl.com/yaw4ebj](http://www.tinyurl.com/yaw4ebj)> and his conversation with Burt Wolder and Scott Monty at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <[www.tinyurl.com/y89egfls](http://www.tinyurl.com/y89egfls)>.



Catherine Cooke found an imaginative Sherlock Bones Pug figurine (about 10" tall) in a shop in London (£15.99); it benefits the British Heart Foundation <[www.bhf.org.uk](http://www.bhf.org.uk)> but isn't available at their web-site. Their web-site does, it should be noted, have two Sherlockian birthday cards <[www.tinyurl.com/y9tbbkuy](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9tbbkuy)> <[www.tinyurl.com/ycy2t47o](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycy2t47o)>.

What was the "A.D.P. brier-root pipe" that was owned by John Straker (in "Silver Blaze")? Sherlockian scholars have long wondered, with many if not most suggesting an Alfred Dunhill Pipe, but now Dino Argyropoulos, editor of the Grimpen Mire Gazette (published by Hugo's Companions), has discovered an advertisement for a trademarked A.D.P. pipe in 1885 in the British Trade Journal. If you'd like to know more, you can request a PDF copy of the newsletter from Dino <[dargy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dargy@sbcglobal.net)>.

Another Sherlockian cocktail, from the St. James Bar at The Balcon in London: the 221B (Metaxa Greek brandy, chai tea-infused crème de fig, liquorice bitters, lime juice, honey, and dark chocolate syrup, shaken with egg white), described as complex and velvety, dangerously easy to drink, in an article in The Telegraph (July 14) <[www.tinyurl.com/yzof5gft](http://www.tinyurl.com/yzof5gft)>.

The animated movie "Sherlock Gnomes" (formerly known as "Gnomeo and Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes" and scheduled for release on Jan. 12) will now be released on Mar. 23. Johnny Depp voices the title character: the world's greatest ornamental detective, who is called in to investigate why gnomes are vanishing from England's suburban gardens.

Richard Masloski sculpted Holmes and Watson in the 1980s. Alexander Orlov has kindly reported Masloski's post at Facebook <[www.tinyurl.com/y8esf7rc](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8esf7rc)> about his sculpture "The Game Is Afoot" (a model for a proposed life-size monument to Holmes and Watson). You also can see him with an older sculpture at <[www.tinyurl.com/y9nnzhun](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9nnzhun)>.

Conan Doyle's WHY WE MUST FIGHT AN UNENDING WAR is a book that doesn't exist, except on p. 37 of Stephen Baxter's THE MASSACRE OF MANKIND (New York: Crown, 2017; 453 pp., \$27.00). In Baxter's sequel to H. G Wells' THE WAR OF THE WORLDS, set in 1920, the Martians are back, and in Michael Dirda's Washington Post review of the book <[www.tinyurl.com/y9e7594v](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9e7594v)>, he mentions Conan Doyle having written "a jingoist book" praising General Marvin, who managed to knock out one of the Martians' original fighting machines.

Sep 17 #3 "I hate reformers," Dorothy Parker once wrote, "They raise my blood pressure." And she hated the movie censors: "They insist that Sherlock Holmes is made to say, 'Quick, Watson, the crochet needle!'" That's just part of a poem ("Reformers: A Hymn of Hate") she wrote for NON-SENSEORSHIP, an anthology published in 1922 and recently discovered by Ross Davies. Good luck finding a copy of the first edition: as this paragraph was written, only one copy was advertised on-line, for \$350.00. But if you only want to read the poem, the book has been digitized, and you'll find it at <[www.tinyurl.com/y96wwqv7](http://www.tinyurl.com/y96wwqv7)>.

The Research Society for Victorian Periodicals <[www.rs4vp.org](http://www.rs4vp.org)> has issued a call for papers for a special issue of Victorian Periodicals Review devoted to The Strand Magazine; they're seeking original essays on a wide variety of topics, with abstracts due by Dec. 1.

Ehsan Ehsani presides over the on-line magazine "Mystery Tribune" and offers an interesting list of "six top apps for the ultimate Sherlock Holmes fan" <[www.tinyurl.com/y7hufqgx](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7hufqgx)>.

Sharks are mentioned in two of the stories ("The Sign of the Four" and "The Valley of Fear"), and in a third story if you want to include Count Negret-Sylvius ("The Mazarin Stone"); eight sharks are shown on an attractive mini-sheet issued by the U.S. Postal Service earlier this year.



The Sherlock Holmes Society of London offers a wide variety of Sherlockian merchandise at its web-site <[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/shop](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/shop)>, and has discounted the price of TO KEEP THE MEMORY GREEN, the tribute to Richard Lancelyn Green edited by Steven Rothman and Nicholas Utechin in 2007. A SINGULAR COUNTRYSIDE is the Society's just-published handbook for its expedition to Norfolk this year, and their Christmas card for 2017 is a handsomely-colored of Sidney Paget's wintry artwork for "The Abbey Grange".

Sep 17 #4 "If you want to do a cop's job, but you're not a cop, what are your options?" Anthony Lane asked in a review of (non-Sherlockian) films in The New Yorker (Sept. 11); he began his answer by noting that "Sherlock Holmes called himself a 'consulting detective,' on the strength of which he was repeatedly invited by members of the police force to demonstrate that they were dithering fools."

I don't recall anyone reporting the really big news from Comic-Con in San Diego in 2016: Mark Gatiss announced that there will not be a fifth season of "Sherlock". You can watch the "Sherlock" panel at YouTube, and that's exactly what he said, adding that there will be a sixth season.

RSI (radiotelevisione svizzera) broadcast some colorful coverage of the Sherlockians who toured Switzerland and Italy in August and September (Jan 17 #5): the coverage starts at 6:48 <[www.tinyurl.com/ybzvv4uz](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybzvv4uz)>.

The "Pop Sherlock" exhibition in the TD Gallery at the Toronto Public Library continues through Oct. 22, <[www.tinyurl.com/grnc2q5](http://www.tinyurl.com/grnc2q5)>; it celebrates Sherlock Holmes as the "ultimate pop culture icon" with "an eclectic array" of items from the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection.

Belanger Books (in association with Arkham House Publishing) has launched a Kickstarter campaign for David Marcum's THE PAPERS OF SOLAR PONTS, a collection of new stories featuring Solar Pons, the delightful homage to Sherlock Holmes created by August Derleth; Vincent Starrett once called Solar Pons a "clever impersonator, with a twinkle in his eye." Kickstarter has more information about the book at <[www.tinyurl.com/ybaywlu6](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybaywlu6)>.

Big Chief Studios is now at work on figures of Sherlock and John from "The Abominable Bride", but they're also offering a 30% discount on their "221B Baker Street Door Diorama" <[www.tinyurl.com/y7dxmjpp](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7dxmjpp)>, ideal for displaying their upcoming 1:6 figures of Sherlock and John, or their current versions.

The Royal Mail has issued a set of eight stamps honoring Ladybird Books for the long series of books that helped generations of children learn how to read. None of the stamps show the Sherlockian titles published by Ladybird, but there were some: THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1982) and BASIL, THE GREAT MOUSE DETECTIVE (1987).



"Quote Investigator: Dedicated to Tracing Quotations" is a useful web-site maintained by Garson O'Toole <[www.quoteinvestigator.com](http://www.quoteinvestigator.com)>; a few years ago (May 13 #5) the web-site had imaginative Sherlockian artwork, but now there also are some interesting hits if you search for [sherlock holmes].

Maria Konnikova has written MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (2013) and THE CONFIDENCE GAME: WHY WE FALL FOR IT...EVERY TIME (2016), and her next book will explore the balance of luck and skill in our daily lives (using No-Limit Texas Hold 'Em as a metaphor for life); she has spent more than a year playing professional poker, and worked her way up to the World Series of Poker, and you can read all about it in the blog at her interesting web-site <[www.mariakonnikova.com](http://www.mariakonnikova.com)>. She also has ten interesting podcasts about con artists at The Grift <[www.thegriftpodcast.com](http://www.thegriftpodcast.com)>.



Sep 17 #5 Sherry Thomas' new A CONSPIRACY IN BELGRAVIA (New York: Berkley Books, 2017; 317 pp., \$15.00) is a sequel to A STUDY IN SCARLET WOMEN (Aug 16 #1); she's an established writer of historical romances, and the series features Charlotte Holmes, who does her detecting pretending to be "Sherlock Holmes" and finds both mystery and romance in an imaginative tale that offers nice surprises, and interesting characters. The author's web-site is at <[www.sherrythomas.com](http://www.sherrythomas.com)>.

Alexander Orlov has noted that the German film "Sherlock Holmes: Die graue Dame" (1937) with Herman Speelmans as Jimmy Ward/Sherlock Holmes is available at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/yb756v4f](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb756v4f)>. It's all in German, of course, and one can only hope that some day there will be English subtitles.

Treasure is where you find it: builders renovating the home of a late cinema owner in Penarth (Wales) discovered 66 film posters that been used as carpet underlay after being displayed in local theaters from 1936 to 1940. One of them was a 12-sheet poster for "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) estimated at £600-£1,000 <[www.tinyurl.com/y6vr6w72](http://www.tinyurl.com/y6vr6w72)>; it was sold for £13,000 (apparently because it is a variant so rare that it's not recorded at Google Images. It was the second-most expensive poster in the auction; first place went to a 12-sheet poster for "Stage Coach (1939), which sold for £31,000. Ben Rogers Jones (the auctioneer) was quoted in the Antiques Trade Gazette as saying that the Texas-based buyer of the poster "told us that there is quite a good market in the U.S. for posters that suggest the British stiff upper lip."



If you've wondered about Sherlock's fancy chair at 221B Baker Street in the BBC television series, a story in the Financial Times (sorry: there's a pay-wall) explains that it's a Le Corbusier 1959 Grand Confort LC3. The chair was designed by the Swiss-French architect in 1928, and you can buy the 1959 model from the Conran Shop <[www.conranshop.co.uk](http://www.conranshop.co.uk)> for £4,728 or find modern versions in other shops and on-line at lower prices. There's also a love-seat available, in case you want a mind palace built for two.

"Asian-American Actresses Describe Struggle of Being Typecast as Sherlock Holmes" is the headline on an amusing story in The Onion, kindly forwarded by Dana Richards <[www.tinyurl.com/ycc4xsov](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycc4xsov)>. The Onion, self-described as "America's Finest News Source, was founded in 1988 long before the phrase "fake news" became so popular.

The show runners of "Sherlock" (and the actors) continue to tantalize fans with confusing answers to questions about a continuation of the series, and Radio Times, noting that Jodie Whittaker has been cast as the next Doctor Who, asked Benedict Cumberbatch whether he thought there might be a female Sherlock. "Why not," Cumberbatch replied, "I don't care." And he offered a suggestion: "Sherlockina, it's coming to you soon."

Jennie Paton has noted a video devoted to "Litigation and Literature in the N.Y. Courts: Shaw, Shakespeare, and Sherlock" <[www.tinyurl.com/ydge9ndn](http://www.tinyurl.com/ydge9ndn)>; the interesting program was presented by the Historical Society of the N.Y. Courts on Feb 17, 2016, with the Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt (the society's president) presiding, and with readings by Paxton Whitehead.

Sep 17 #6     Anyone who wants to follow in the footsteps of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle can pay a visit to Rochester Square in London, where the inscription on the foundation stone of the Rochester Square Spiritual Temple notes that it was laid by Sir Arthur in 1926 (Oct 90 #5). But you need to visit soon: the Spiritualists' National Union, which owns the building, proposes to demolish the temple, to make way for flats and a basement gallery, according to a story in the Hampstead & Highgate Express on Sept. 9 that includes an image of the foundation stone <[www.tinyurl.com/y8vc8zld](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8vc8zld)>.

Bill Barnes has reported from Australia that Sherlock Holmes, a six-year-old chestnut gelding, had his second race there on Sept. 23; he started at \$18 and finished fourth in a field of thirteen, his best result since moving to Australia from his native Ireland.

Conan Doyle lived briefly in Plymouth (in Devon) in 1882, when early in his medical career he joined the practice of George Turnavine Budd (there's a fictionalized account of his time in Plymouth in THE STARK MUNRO LETTERS, published in 1895); the house where they lived now has a blue plaque, unveiled at a ceremony this month <[www.tinyurl.com/y7y7xaf7](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7y7xaf7)>.

Pam Verrey has reported "Yukoko no Moriarty" (an on-line manga by Takeuchi Ryousuke and Miyoshi Hikaru) at <[www.tinyurl.com/y82n2426](http://www.tinyurl.com/y82n2426)>; that's "Moriarty the Patriot" and it's in English, exploring his motivation in becoming the greatest criminal Britain has ever seen.

"Sherlocko the Monk" (the Gus Mager comic strip with 430 episodes in newspapers from 1910 to 1925) is now completely available on-line at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <[www.tinyurl.com/ycqxhc39](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycqxhc39)>; our thanks to Howard Ostrom for reporting the new archive. It should be noted that Groucho Marx said in THE GROUCHO PHILE: AN ILLUSTRATED LIFE (1976) said that he took his name from a character in Mager's comic strip.

Acorn <[www.acornonline.com](http://www.acornonline.com)> offers a nice variety of Sherlockiana, including a Mystery Lover T-shirt (\$19.95) and sweatshirt (\$29.95) with a colorful (mustached) Sherlockian caricature.

An intriguing development in the bookstore business is Amazon's decision to sell books in bricks-and-mortar stores: their ninth and tenth stores opened in Bellevue, Wash., and San Jose, Calif., in August, and Bill Seil has forwarded a story in the Seattle Times <[www.tinyurl.com/y8pkhebg](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8pkhebg)> that offers a look at what customers can (and cannot) expect. Amazon stores stock only books that have received high ratings from Amazon reviewers, have room for about 3,700 titles, and are small enough to fit into city neighborhoods.

I've noted in past issues that members of The Baker Street Irregulars have acted in films, and we can add Michael J. Quigley, who has appeared as an extra in two films. The rest of the list: Elmer Davis, H. C. Potter, and Evan Wilson (as themselves); Curtis Armstrong, Paul Singleton, and Richard Shull (as actors); Al Gregory, Jerry Margolin, John Pforr, Donald Pollock, Mary Ellen Rich, Philip Shreffler, and Bill Ward (as extras), and Jean Upton (as voices). If you'd like to include children of members of the BSI, add Peter Ashman's daughter Jenny (as an actor). Additions to the list are of course welcome.

Sep 17 #7 THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: ELIMINATE THE IM-POSSIBLE (London: MX Publishing, 2017) is a welcome addition to the series of anthologies edited by David Marcum for those who believe that short stories are the best way to revisit Holmes and Watson; there are two volumes (459/566 pp., \$44.95 each), with 48 stories (and poems and scripts) by old hands and new who have responded to the editor's request for "apparently supernatural investigations, but with rational solutions," and they are nicely done indeed. MX's web-sites are at <[www.mxpublishing.com](http://www.mxpublishing.com)> and <[www.mxpublishing.co.uk](http://www.mxpublishing.co.uk)>.

Also from MX: Dan Andriacco's QUEEN CITY CORPSE (2017; 233 pp., \$14.95) is the latest in his series about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, who are in Cincinnati for a mystery convention and encounter mystery and murder, and a surprising solution; it's a lively story, and Andriacco maintains an (often-Sherlockian) blog at <[www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com](http://www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com)>. Wendy Heyman-Marsaw's MEMOIRS FROM MRS. HUDSON'S KITCHEN (2017; 119 pp., \$11.95) offers a collection of columns from Canadian Holmes, expanded and edited by JoAnn and Mark Alberstat; it's a nice cookbook, with commentary on life in Victorian times in London and the English countryside. Rob Nunn's THE CRIMINAL MASTERMIND OF BAKER STREET (2017; 336 pp., \$18.95) answers the question "what if Sherlock Holmes had turned to crime instead of detection?" by retelling the Canonical cases from a new viewpoint; his "Interesting Though Elementary" blog is at <[www.tinyurl.com/yd5hw4hn](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd5hw4hn)>.

More from MX: Arthur Hall's THE DEMON OF THE DUSK (2017; 204 pp., \$12.95); Holmes and Watson are in Warwickshire, investigating a curse, a ghost, and a series of vicious murders. And Hall's THE ONE HUNDRED PER CENT SOCIETY (2017; 141 pp., \$10.95) pits Holmes and Watson against another vicious murderer, in a complicated and bizarre mystery. Mark Mower's THE BAKER STREET CASE-FILES (2017; 173 pp., \$14.95) is a collection of short stories, some new and most reprinted from MX BOOK anthologies. John Sutton's IN UNHALLOWED REST (2017; 137 pp., \$10.95) has Holmes and Watson in Suffolk in pursuit of vampires. And Richard K. Tobin's CANON OF THE NON-SACRED WRITINGS (2017; 120 pp., \$9.95) is a collection of five new stories told in non-Watsonian style. John Sutton's IN UNHALLOWED REST (2017; 137 pp., \$10.95) has Holmes and Watson in Suffolk in pursuit of vampires. Janina Woods' MYCROFT HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE DESERT WIND (2017; 303 pp., \$16.95) sends Mycroft, his fellow Secret Service agent Victoria Trevor, and Dr. Watson in pursuit of the villains who have kidnapped Sherlock Holmes, in a case that involves supernatural forces.

Hugh Hefner died on Sept. 27. When he founded Playboy magazine in 1953 he launched an empire that affected both the publishing world and a sexual revolution that reflected, and was reflected by, his own life-style. Those who bought the first issue of Playboy to see the photograph of a nude Marilyn Monroe were surprised to find that the lead fiction in the issue was an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four". "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Copper Beeches" followed in the next two issues, and Playboy continued with a variety of Sherlockiana, including delightful cartoons by Gahan Wilson and Nicholas Meyer's "The West End Horror", and Laura Lyons was Playmate of the Month in the Feb. 1976 issue. None of this was accidental: Hugh Hefner was an enthusiast, and once explained that his trademark pipe smoking was inspired by Holmes.



Sep 17 #8 If you would like to have breaking news about Sherlockian theatrics, Howard Ostrom offers just that (and a great deal more) at his <[www.twitter.com/HowardOstrom](http://www.twitter.com/HowardOstrom)>. Note his link at the left to his alphabetic index of actors who have performed as Sherlock Holmes (more than 3,500 at the moment, and the list is growing).

F. Andrew Leslie's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is running at the Port Tobacco Playhouse in La Plata, Md., through Oct. 8 <[www.ptplayers.com](http://www.ptplayers.com)>.

Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is running at A Local Barn in Durango, Colo., through Oct. 14 <[www.merelyplayers.us](http://www.merelyplayers.us)>; and at the Oregon Cabaret Theater in Ashland, Ore., through Nov. 5; their web-site's at <[www.oregoncabaret.com](http://www.oregoncabaret.com)>. And it's due at the Live Theatre Workshop in Tucson, Ariz., Oct. 5-Nov. 11 <[www.livetheatreworkshop.org](http://www.livetheatreworkshop.org)>; and at the Jacklin Arts and Cultural Center in Post Falls, Idaho, Oct. 12 through 15 <[www.cdsummertheatre.com](http://www.cdsummertheatre.com)>. Also at the Royal Off-the-Square Theatre in Brownstown, Ind., Oct. 13-21 <[www.jcct.org](http://www.jcct.org)>; the Fringe Club in Hong Kong, Oct. 18-26 <[www.hkfringeclub.com](http://www.hkfringeclub.com)>; and Murry's Dinner Playhouse in Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 31-Nov. 25 <[www.murrysdp.com](http://www.murrysdp.com)>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles: A Sherlock Holmes Adventure" (a new "hiking play" written by Lauren LaCasse) is being performed by Arts in the Open at the Chautauqua Picnic Shelter in Boulder, Colo., through Oct. 29; web-site at <[www.chautauqua.com](http://www.chautauqua.com)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be performed at the Mundelein High School in Mundelein, Ill., Oct. 6-8; the web-site's at <[www.kirkplayers.org](http://www.kirkplayers.org)>.

Christophe Delort's dramatization of "Sherlock Holmes et la mystère de la vallée de Boscombe" will be performed at the Théâtre du Gymnase Marie-Bell in Paris, Oct. 12-Jan. 27 <[www.billetreduc.com/194998/evt.htm](http://www.billetreduc.com/194998/evt.htm)>.

Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Xenia Area Community Theatre in Xenia, Ohio, Oct. 27-Nov. 5 <[www.xeniaact.org](http://www.xeniaact.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's play "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Ivoryton Playhouse in Ivoryton, Conn., Nov. 1-19; the web-site is at <[www.ivorytonplayhouse.org](http://www.ivorytonplayhouse.org)>. And at Cheriton Village Hall in Cheriton (near Alresford), Hants., Nov. 15-18 <[www.thecheritonplayers.org.uk](http://www.thecheritonplayers.org.uk)>; and at the Ajax Community Theatre in Ajax, Ont., Nov. 16-26; their web-site is at <[www.ajaxcommunitytheatre.com](http://www.ajaxcommunitytheatre.com)>. Also at the Triple Locks Theater in Coshocton, Ohio, Dec. 1-16 <[www.footlightplayers.com](http://www.footlightplayers.com)>; and at the AFD Theatre in Arlington, Mass., Dec. 8-17 <[www.afdtheatre.org](http://www.afdtheatre.org)>.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" (written by Eric Coble and based on the graphic novels by Tony Lee and Dan Boulwood), has been scheduled at the Alaska Fine Arts Academy in Eagle River, Alas., from Nov. 10 to 18 <[www.akfinearts.org](http://www.akfinearts.org)>.

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

Oct 17 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Transformative Works and Cultures is an international on-line journal that publishes articles about popular media, fan communities, and transformative works; v. 23 (2017) <[www.tinyurl.com/y9hkz4ml](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9hkz4ml)> is titled "Sherlock Holmes, Fandom, Sherlockiana and the Great Game" and was edited by Betsy Rosenblatt and Roberta Pearson. There's cover artwork by Laurie Fraser Manifold, and an excellent mix of material by and about Sherlockians, and it's all available to read on-line or download without charge.

Alexis Barquin notes a two-minute British Pathé clip of Eille Norwood putting on a disguise in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" at the Princes Theatre in London (1923) <[www.tinyurl.com/y8xnf9h7](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8xnf9h7)>; this seems to be the earliest known film/video from a Sherlockian play.

Kazuo Ishiguro has been awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize in Literature. He is best known for his novels THE REMAINS OF THE DAY, NEVER LET ME GO, and THE BURIED GIANT, and Sara Danus, the permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, said that "If you mix Jane Austen and Franz Kafka then you have Kazuo Ishiguro in a nutshell, but you have to add a little bit of Marcel Proust into the mix." In an interview published in the N.Y. Times Sunday Book Review in 2015 <[www.tinyurl.com/y7ux8nlm](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7ux8nlm)>, Ishiguro said that he discovered the Sherlock Holmes stories as a young boy in the local library, and that "I not only read obsessively about Holmes and Watson, I started to behave like them. I'd go to school and say things like: 'Pray, be seated' or 'That is most singular.' People at the time just put this down to my being Japanese." Mattias Boström has posted about Ishiguro at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <[www.tinyurl.com/y9mbuzd8](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9mbuzd8)>.

Local conservationists are campaigning against a developer's plans to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel in Lyndhurst, Hants., and build flats and affordable homes on the site. The campaigners are citing evidence that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle helped design the 1912 redevelopment of the building as a hotel; local historian Brice Stratford reports that he has discovered Conan Doyle's design sketches in the Richard Lancelyn Green archive in Portsmouth, and he has written a detailed and illustrated report that's available on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/y97zljpc](http://www.tinyurl.com/y97zljpc)>. The Victorian Society is supporting the campaign <[www.tinyurl.com/yb5yvzve](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb5yvzve)>, and their web-site has a link for those who wish to comments on the developer's planning application.

A SINGULAR COUNTRYSIDE, edited by Nicholas Utechin, David Jones, and Heather Owen (London: Sherlock Holmes Society of London; 2017, 40 pp., £7.50), is the handbook for the Society's expedition to Norfolk; the Society's fortunate to have so many Canonical locales to visit on its expeditions, and to have so much scholarship available from its members. It's available at the Society's web-site <[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk)>.

This may not qualify as Sherlockian theater, but: "it's ecdysiastical, my dear Watson." "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Scarlet Buttcheek" is a new, fully-scripted striptease that stars Nasty Canasta (Sherlock Holmes) and Sapphire Jones (Dr. Watson), for one night only, at the Bell House in Brooklyn on Nov. 3 <[www.thebellhouseny.com](http://www.thebellhouseny.com)>. "When you have eliminated the clothing, whatever remains, however improbable, must be naked."

Oct 17 #2    The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and the contents of the fall issue include Evelyn Herzog's "The Second Case of the Speckled Band" (originally published in Albertinum, spring 1966, when the ASH were founded at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven); the Muse is published quarterly and costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230), and a copy of the summer issue costs \$5.00 postpaid.

Don Hobbs, assisting the search for information about deceased members of The Baker Street Irregulars, is still seeking exact death dates for Irving M. Fenton, Robert G. Parker, and Frank F. Reilly. Nothing was found in The Baker Street Journal, the Social Security Death Index, and [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com); if any anyone knew, or has personal information about, any of the missing three, please get in touch with Don <221b@verizon.net>.

There's always something new to be discovered, such as "Gli aristocratici e Sherlock Holmes" (published in Il Corriere del Ragazzi, Mar. 1975); it's an Italian comic strip that was written by Alfredo Castelli and drawn by Ferdinando Tacconi, and it's available on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/ybssps5z](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybssps5z)>.

Copies of THE SHERLOCK HOLMES HEXALOGY have been shipped by the Thornwillow Press; it's a collection of Conan Doyle's six favorite stories, introduced by Randall Stock, letterpress-printed and hand-bound, and it's available in different bindings, ranging from paper (\$85) to half-leather (\$575), and a few individual stories still are available in even fancier bindings. More information at <[www.thornwillow.com/sherlock-holmes-hexalogy-1275](http://www.thornwillow.com/sherlock-holmes-hexalogy-1275)>.

The Marco Navos Studio offers a colorful collection of paper dolls showing 12 characters from the Canon (plus Conan Doyle) <[www.tinyurl.com/y93jvxe3](http://www.tinyurl.com/y93jvxe3)>; they are available in two sizes. The company also offers a variety of miniature figurines <[www.tinyurl.com/y9v1vmch](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9v1vmch)>, Sherlockian and others.

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has published aerial footage of a luxurious hidden mansion called Villa Sellgren, located on an island near the border with Finland, and allegedly used by Vladimir Putin as a holiday retreat <[www.tinyurl.com/y6vtwr5d](http://www.tinyurl.com/y6vtwr5d)>. The [London] Sun had a colorfully-illustrated story about the mansion <[www.tinyurl.com/yb8kpj4o](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb8kpj4o)>, which has a Sherlockian connection, as the site of filming for an episode of the series that starred Vasiliy Livanov and Vitali Solomin.

Flicker Alley promoted its restored (and most complete) Blu-ray edition of "The Lost World" (1925) with its first animated video contest, encouraging fans to submit short animated videos inspired by the company's titles; the winner was Shane Fleming, whose "The Tyrant Lizard" can be seen at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/yalh587](http://www.tinyurl.com/yalh587)>.

H. H. Holmes is definitely dead. That was the alias used by Herman Webster Mudgett, who murdered a series of young women in the World's Fair Hotel in Chicago, and by Anthony Boucher, who was an author, critic, and early member of The Baker Street Irregulars (Jun 17 #1). The History Channel series "American Ripper" pursued a rumor that Mudgett escaped from prison and execution and ended with the exhumation of Mudgett's grave; forensic tests determined that the body was indeed Mudgett's.

Oct 17 #3 Alexander Orlov has noted an interesting on-line archive: the National Center for Biotechnology Information, which has 16 data-bases with citations for ["sherlock holmes"] and 13 for ["conan doyle"] <[www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)>. Anyone interested in Sherlockian and Doylean medicine will find much of interest: just one of the data-bases, PubMed Central <[www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc)> yields 623 hits for ["sherlock holmes"] and 461 for ["conan doyle"].

"The most beautiful diamond in the world" is Christie's description of the 163.41-carat diamond that will go to auction in London on Nov. 14; it was cut from a 404-carat rough diamond found in Angola last year, and you can read all about it at <[www.tinyurl.com/yb4g7yjl](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb4g7yjl)>. There's nothing Sherlockian about the diamond, but it's certainly more spectacular than the Mazarin Stone (a 77-carat yellow diamond that's part of the Iranian crown jewels, and was never owned by Cardinal Mazarin).

If you would like to know more about Mazarin, and the diamonds that actually were in his collection, you can consult the catalog for Christie's auction of "magnificent jewels" <[www.tinyurl.com/ycwzntl8](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycwzntl8)>; the auction will include the "Grand Mazarin" (a light-pink 19.07-carat brilliant-cut diamond that's so magnificent that it's listed as "estimate on request").

Breaking news: the Russians used Sherlock Holmes to try to interfere with the U.S. election. It was a CNN Exclusive this month, illustrated with an image of Vasiliy Livanov and Vitali Solomin <[www.tinyurl.com/yavs6mjr](http://www.tinyurl.com/yavs6mjr)>.

It was H. R. F. Keating, in SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MAN AND HIS WORLD (1979), who explained that the modern Belgian masters whose pictures entirely absorbed Sherlock Holmes (in THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES) were the members of the XX Group. James Ensor was one of them, and Christie's has on-line an interesting "5 minutes with... A book of poems illustrated by James Ensor" <[www.tinyurl.com/y984kka8](http://www.tinyurl.com/y984kka8)>.

Greg Ruby has reported at The Fourth Garrideb web-site that a portrait of Arthur Conan Doyle appears on a new Scottish £10 note, and offers colorful images and a detailed description <[www.tinyurl.com/ybp8jbhk](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybp8jbhk)>. It's a fantasy note created by Gabris Matej, and Greg includes a link to Matej's on-line shop, in case you'd like to buy one of the notes (\$8.90 postpaid).

Steampunk, first mentioned in this newsletter in 1996, is a modern Victorian science-fiction genre generally set in alternative universes, but there is real science in its history. Brandy Schillace explores that history in her CLOCKWORK FUTURES (New York: Pegasus, 2017; 300 pp., \$28.95); the subtitle is "the science of steampunk and the reinvention of the modern world" and (of course) she has a chapter on "The Science of Sherlock".

The University of Chicago Press has announced the Great Chicago Book Sale, and one of the books is Conan Doyle's 'DANGEROUS WORK': DIARY OF AN ARCTIC ADVENTURE (Jul 12 #4); if you don't have this excellent book already, here is a chance to get it at a discount: \$13.00 for the cloth edition (instead of \$35.00) and \$69.00 for the limited, numbered, and cloth slip-cased edition (instead of \$289.00). Go to <[www.bit.ly/UCPSale](http://www.bit.ly/UCPSale)>, search for [dangerous work] and use the keycode AD1647 to get the discount.

Oct 17 #4 Bert Wolder spotted an interesting item scheduled for auction at Sotheby's in London on Sept. 26 in The Vivien Leigh Collection: a photograph of David Niven, with a deerstalker (and bow and arrow) jumping into a swimming pool; They were close friends, and she was godmother to his oldest son. Estimated at £300-£500, it sold for £4,000, and you still may be able to see the photograph at <[www.tinyurl.com/yd42jma9](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd42jma9)>.

The Folio Society and House of Illustration have announced the 2018 Book Illustration Competition to illustrate THE SELECTED ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES; details at <[www.tinyurl.com/yb5ss7ez](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb5ss7ez)>. The winner will receive a £5,000 commission to illustrate the book and design the binding, and the deadline for entries in the competition is Jan. 17. The selected long-list will be available at the House of Illustration web-site from Feb. 1, and members of the public will be able to vote for their favorite entry; the winner, however, will be chosen by a panel of six judges.

Breaking news: the Russians used Sherlock Holmes to try to interfere with the U.S. election. Okay: it was fake news (as you might have concluded if you observed the mention of "Sherlock Go"); someone had fun with the hoax, presumably inspired by the real CNN story about how the Russians used the game Pokémon Go to meddle in the election <[www.tinyurl.com/y8vux3at](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8vux3at)>.

And (speaking of Pokémon), the company's game "Detective Pikachu" has the title character in Sherlockian costume (Feb 16 #2), and a live-action film is reported to be scheduled to begin shooting in London next year. You can see a nine-minute trailer for the game at <[www.tinyurl.com/y9y5bk2v](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9y5bk2v)>.

The British Film Institute has launched a new Filmography data-base covering more than 100 years of feature films, starting in 1911, with details on more than 10,000 films and more than 250,000 cast and crew. Details available at <[www.bfi.org.uk/archive-collections/bfi-filmography](http://www.bfi.org.uk/archive-collections/bfi-filmography)>, and there are answers to all sorts of questions, such as: who are the most featured characters in British feature films? Sherlock Holmes ranks third (24 films); James Bond and Queen Victoria are tied for first (25 films), and Miss Monypenny ranks fourth (17 films). Old Mother Riley and the Prince of Wales are tied for seventh (13 films). And who was Old Mother Riley? Look her up at Wikipedia (I had to).

Steve Duke died on Sept. 21. A co-founder of The Sherlock Holmes Society of Victoria (aka The Elementary Victorians), he produced occasional cryptic messages he called "The Dark Rumours of Moriarty"; his article on "ACD in Melbourne" appeared in the 2012 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual, and for many years he had great fun out there down under.

Dennis Pearce was the runner-up in the "detective" category in the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest in 2010: "As Holmes, who had a nose for danger, quietly fingered the bloody knife and eyed the various body parts strewn along the dark, deserted highway, he placed his ear to the ground and, with his heart in his throat, silently mouthed to his companion, 'Arm yourself, Watson, there is an evil hand afoot ahead.'" This has been in this newsletter before, but incorrectly, and the full version is better. The motto of the contest is "Where www means 'Wretched Writers Welcome'" and their web-site is at <[www.bulwer-lytton.com](http://www.bulwer-lytton.com)>.

Oct 17 #5 EVERY CLUE COUNTS: A CHILDREN'S SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY (2017; 210 pp., \$9.99 at Amazon and elsewhere) was written and published by the 5th-grade class of Downes Elementary School in Newark, Del., and it is nicely done indeed; the 5th-graders know their audience, and obviously have had great fun creating an interesting book.

Terry Downes died on Oct. 6. A British middle-weight boxing champion who was nicknamed the Paddington Express, he became wealthy outside the ring by investing in legal betting shops, and occasionally acted in films, including "A Study in Terror" (1965), in which he played Chunky.

The next 221B Con will be held in Atlanta, Apr. 13-15, 2018; it's promoted as "a fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes" and (by all accounts) it is never boring <[www.221bcon.com](http://www.221bcon.com)>.

The Napoleon of Crime now has a grave marker. Jerry Klinger, in an article in the San Diego Jewish World (Oct. 8) <[www.tinyurl.com/y9lmxvm6](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9lmxvm6)>, reports that he has installed a grave marker at Highgate Cemetery in honor of Adam Worth (the master criminal who was known as the Napoleon of Crime well before Prof. Moriarty).

An addition to the list of members of The Baker Street Irregulars who have acted in films (Sep 17 #6): Sonia Fetherson (as an extra). And to the list of children of members of the BSI: James Utechin (as an actor).

Joe Ide's IQ won an Anthony award (for best first novel) at Bouchercon this month. His protagonist is Isaiah Quintabe, "a street-smart Sherlock" (according to one reviewer) who lives in Long Beach, Calif., and the book has many Canonical echoes. Lenny Picker interviewed Ide for Publishers Weekly last year <[www.tinyurl.com/ydhmsope](http://www.tinyurl.com/ydhmsope)>.

Bouchercon was held in Toronto, and the schedule included a nice Sherlockian panel moderated by Angela Misri; there also were opportunities to visit the "Pop Sherlock!" exhibition and the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library. Congratulations to Peggy Perdue on her promotion; she now is senior department head of the special collections department.

The next Bouchercons will be in Saint Petersburg ("Crime in the Sunshine") Sept. 13-16, 2018; in Dallas ("Denim, Diamonds and Death") on Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 2019; and in Sacramento ("Where Murder is a Capitol Crime"), Oct. 15-18, 2020. Bouchercon is the largest gathering of mystery authors and readers, and there's (almost) always a Sherlockian panel.

David Marcum, author of the upcoming THE PAPERS OF SOLAR PONS (Sep 17 #4), blogs at "A Seventeen Step Problem...." and has a nicely illustrated post about August Derleth and Solar Pons <[www.tinyurl.com/yczklxeq](http://www.tinyurl.com/yczklxeq)>.

Donald A. Yates ("The Greek Interpreter") died on Oct. 17. He was a professor of Romance Languages at Michigan State University, where he resurrected The Greek Interpreters, and was an expert on the writings of Jorge Luis Borges. Don contributed to our literature with scholarship, poetry, and pastiche, and was the founding chair of The John H. Watson Society; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.

Oct 17 #6 Reedsy (which describes itself as "a full ecosystem for authors and publishing professionals") has celebrated the 125th anniversary of the publication of THE ADVENTURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES by asking a dozen professional book designers to create new book covers for each of the stories in the collection. The designs are thoroughly attractive, and you can see them in full color at <[www.tinyurl.com/ybzbvvgw3](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybzbvvgw3)>. Alas: there are no plans (at the moment) to publish books with the colorful covers.

Arthur Conan Doyle, J. M. Barrie, and P. G. Wodehouse were members of the Authors XI Cricket Club, founded in 1892 and dissolved in 1912. The club was revived in 2012 and has an active schedule, a page at Facebook, and a web-site <[www.authorscricketclub.com](http://www.authorscricketclub.com)>.

Anatoly Mikhailovich Eliseev has created some colorful and striking illustrations for Sherlock Holmes stories, apparently not published, but Howard Ostrom notes that you can see them on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/yajeztnu](http://www.tinyurl.com/yajeztnu)>.

Harry Rountree's original artwork for one of his illustrations in "The Lost World" in The Strand Magazine was offered at Heritage Auctions this month, and you can see at their web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/ydgbhzoc](http://www.tinyurl.com/ydgbhzoc)> how spectacular the artwork in inkwash and gouache is, compared to what readers saw in the Strand; it sold for \$5,500 (including the buyer's premium).

"Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" (1999-2001), a British animated television series that ran for two seasons on CITV and Fox Kids, still has its fans, including Patrick Morris, who posted The Arcanist web-site on Oct. 6 <[www.tinyurl.com/y9rnyhnb](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9rnyhnb)> about "how a forgotten cartoon predicted the future." And he makes some interesting points.

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

Mattias Boström didn't have room for all of his research in the 571 pages of his FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK (Apr 17 #4), and he's now posting all sorts of additional material at his Facebook page, which is well worth visiting <[www.facebook.com/fromholmestosh Sherlock](http://www.facebook.com/fromholmestosh Sherlock)>.

Roy Dotrice died on Oct. 16. He had a long career as an actor, noted for appearing as John Aubrey on stage in the one-man show "Brief Lives" (which opened in 1967 and ran for 1,700 performances), and as Hallyne the Pyromancer in two episodes of the television series "Game of Thrones" in 2012. He also played Douglas Stone in the BBC-2 dramatization of Conan Doyle's "The Case of Lady Sannox" (1968), Simon Carne in "The Duchess of Wilshire's Diamonds" in the ITV television series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971), and Conan Doyle in the television film "Young Harry Houdini" (1987).

The fall meeting of The Sons of the Copper Beeches in Philadelphia was enjoyed by all, including the toastmaster, who for the first time in the history of the society was able to call the meeting to order by saying "ladies and gentlemen" (all of the six traditional toasts were given by ladies, and all the ladies on hand, having attended their first meeting, are on their way to becoming full members of the Sons.



Oct 17 #7    The traditional forecast for the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York in January is considerably shorter than usual, because details are not yet available. But they will be, on-line early in November, at [www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html). The long weekend will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 10 with the ASH Wednesday dinner, and end on Sunday, Jan. 14 with the ASH brunch, and the schedule may or may not include some surprises.

Paste magazine has reported [www.tinyurl.com/y7bw5l2y](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7bw5l2y) that next year Dark Horse will publish a graphic-novel adaptation of Neil Gaiman's pastiche "A Study in Emerald"; visit the web-site to see the cover artwork.

Conan Doyle sailed from Sydney to Auckland in 1920 on the SS Maheno while on his Spiritualist tour of Australia and New Zealand; in 1935 it was sold for scrap, caught in a cyclone, and beached on Fraser Island, off the coast of Queensland. It's still there, and Bill Barnes has reported that Google Maps has panoramic views of the wreck today [www.tinyurl.com/yd5wls57](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd5wls57).

Pattie Tierney's "Mystery Jewelry and Gifts" [www.pattietierney.etsy.com](http://www.pattietierney.etsy.com) offers imaginative items, Sherlockian and otherwise, including a new "Sherlock Noir" charm bracelet.

Ted Bergman ("The Honourable Philip Green") died on Oct. 22. He was one of the founders of The Solitary Cyclists of Sweden, and an energetic member of The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden. Ted was a dedicated Sherlockian, an expert bibliographer, and proud of his miniature recreation of 221B Baker Street, and he was awarded his Investiture by The Baker Street Irregulars in 1978.

Judge Richard A. Posner retired in September after more than three decades on the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago; you can read the Chicago Tribune's story at [www.tinyurl.com/y7g47vrj](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7g47vrj), and Adam Liptak's "Exit Interview with Richard Posner, Judicial Provocateur" in the N.Y. Times at [www.tinyurl.com/y79aln54](http://www.tinyurl.com/y79aln54). Posner wrote the Court of Appeals decision in Leslie S. Klinger v. Conan Doyle Estate, Ltd., in 2014, ruling that copyright protects only characters and story elements unique to the ten stories still under copyright, and awarded Les more than \$30,000 to cover his legal fees; you can read the decisions at [www.free-sherlock.com](http://www.free-sherlock.com). Posner also reviewed THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES for The New Republic in 2004 and offered a decidedly unfavorable opinion of the scholarship and pseudo-scholarship detailed in Les' annotations.

Bill Barnes has reported from Australia that Sherlock Holmes, a six-year-old chestnut gelding (Sep 17 #6), is continuing to race in Australia: he was the favorite in a field of 12 on Oct. 11, but finished fourth, and came in fourth again in a race on Oct. 18. His lifetime earnings are AU\$42,296.

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 Elephant & Castle Pub and Restaurant in Seattle on Oct. 25, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, welcomed by members of The Sound of the Baskervilles. Our next meetings will be on May 23 in Salt Lake City and on Nov. 7 in Indianapolis.

Oct 17 #8 Robert Guillaume died on Oct. 24. He earned a Tony nomination in a production of "Guys and Dolls" in 1977, and went on to win an Emmy for best supporting actor as the butler Benson DuBois in the television series "Soap"; he then won a second Emmy as best actor in the spin-off "Benson" and in an episode of the second series he was seen briefly in Sherlockian costume impersonating a Scotland Yard inspector.

Denny Dobry has kindly reported a 3-minute Sherlockian segment in the History Channel's series "Pawn Stars": in the episode "Chum's Risky Business" (Cot. 23, 2017), Chuck Kovacic (founder of The Baker Street Builders) sold Rick Harrison a gasogene.

Theatrics: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new play by Thomas Moore) is running at the King's Arms in Salford, Manchester, through Nov. 25; their website's at <[www.thehoundofthebaskervilles.co.uk](http://www.thehoundofthebaskervilles.co.uk)>.

Christophe Delort's dramatization of "Sherlock Holmes et la mystère de la vallée de Boscombe" is running at the Théâtre du Gymnase Marie-Bell in Paris through Jan. 27 <[www.billetreduc.com/194998/evt.htm](http://www.billetreduc.com/194998/evt.htm)>; there's a trailer trailer at <[www.vimeo.com/233013768](http://www.vimeo.com/233013768)>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is due at the Lion's Club in Key Largo, Fla., Nov. 1-11 <[www.thekeyplayers.org](http://www.thekeyplayers.org)>; and at the Frank Venables Theatre in Oliver, B.C., Nov. 2-4; their web-site is at <[www.venablestheatre.ca](http://www.venablestheatre.ca)>. It's also at the Otter Valley Playhouse in Tillsonburg, Ont., Nov. 2-12; <[www.theatretillsonburg.com](http://www.theatretillsonburg.com)>; and at the nTelos Theatre in Staunton, Va., Nov. 3-12 <[www.shenanarts.org](http://www.shenanarts.org)>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Reuben Cordova Theatre in Beverly Hills, Calif., Nov. 16-Dec. 17 <[www.theatre40.org](http://www.theatre40.org)>; and the Ottawa Little Theatre in Ottawa, Ont., May 2-19 <[www.ottawalittletheatre.com](http://www.ottawalittletheatre.com)>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Christmas Goose" (by Duke Ernsberger and V. Cate) will be performed at the Greenville Little Theatre in Greenville, S.C., on Dec. 7-17 <[www.greenvillelittletheatre.org](http://www.greenvillelittletheatre.org)>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed in the script-in-hand play-reading series at the Westport Country Playhouse in Westport, Conn., on Dec. 11 <[www.westportplayhouse.org](http://www.westportplayhouse.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Ashton Community Center in Ashton, Iowa, Nov. 2-5; web-site at <[www.offoffboardwayinc.com](http://www.offoffboardwayinc.com)>. And at the Manoa Valley Theatre in Honolulu, Hawaii, Jan. 11-28, 2018 <[www.manoavalleytheatre.com](http://www.manoavalleytheatre.com)>; then at the Long Wharf in New Haven, Conn., Feb. 28-Mar. 25, 2018 <[www.longwharf.org](http://www.longwharf.org)>.

David MacGregor's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear" is due at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., Mar. 29-May 6, 2018 <[www.purplerosetheatre.org](http://www.purplerosetheatre.org)>.

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Nov 17 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sherlock Holmes' 164th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 12, with the traditional festivities in New York. The (very) long weekend runs from Wednesday through Sunday, and information about registering for events and making hotel reservations is available on-line at the Baker Street Irregulars' web-site <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html)>; space is limited at some events, so don't delay registering. There's more information at Scott Monty's excellent web-site <[www.bsiweekend.com](http://www.bsiweekend.com)>; Scott also has a "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" at <[www.ihose.co/bsi2017tips](http://www.ihose.co/bsi2017tips)>.

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.

The Watson Fund benefits from the auction at the Saturday reception during the birthday festivities; if you would like to see what a truly spectacular auction looks like, watch the video at <[www.tinyurl.com/ybh7xtlz](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybh7xtlz)>.

"The Sherlock Holmes Collection of Daniel Posnansky" will be at auction at Profiles in History on Dec. 19 <[www.tinyurl.com/y9gtlru3](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9gtlru3)>, and the catalog offers a splendid look at what a truly dedicated collector can achieve; the web-site offers Glen Miranker's delightful tribute to Dan, and you can (and should) download the Catalog PDF, which is fully illustrated.

Another addition to the list of members of The Baker Street Irregulars who have acted in films (Sep 17 #6 and Oct 17 #5): Michael W. McClure.. And his children (Michael W. McClure II, Jennifer McClure, Christine McClure, and Elizabeth McClure) as extras.

Fans of the musical "Baker Street" (1964) will enjoy Stephen Bowie's story in Broadway World, Oct. 31 <[www.tinyurl.com/y9bntawt](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9bntawt)> about the N.Y. Public Library's acquisition of the scripts of Jerome Coopersmith; there's a long interview with Coopersmith about the musical in the story, with some interesting background on how the musical was created and staged.

Some of Conan Doyle's correspondence was written and signed by secretaries, and the secretaries put their initials after the signature; an example of this went to auction at Bubba Kuyper in the Netherlands on Nov. 22, estimated at €150-€250 <[www.tinyurl.com/y7rm9d8h](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7rm9d8h)>. It sold for €200.

Mary Cameron Shore's collection of Sherlockiana was donated to the University of North Carolina in 1978, and items from the collection were exhibited there in 1980 (Jan 80 #1). Its existence is not well-known, but the collection is interesting indeed, and Mattias Boström has reported Christy Edina Richards' comprehensive assessment of the collection, submitted for her M.S. degree in Library Science in 2003 <[www.tinyurl.com/yae7ovhw](http://www.tinyurl.com/yae7ovhw)>.

Nov 17 #2 Willmer A. Hoerr's "The Case of the Archetypical Agent" (published in The Baker Street Journal in Mar. 1968) discussed Ignatius Paul Pollaky, widely known as "Paddington Pollaky" (and mentioned in Gilbert and Sullivan's "Patience"). Pollaky was a private detective active in London well before Sherlock Holmes, and Hoerr concluded that "because he was very close-mouthed and lacked a literary friend, we shall probably never know just what his exploits were." Bryan Kesselman's 'PADDINGTON' POLLAKY: PRIVATE DETECTIVE (Stroud: History Press, 2015; 239 pp., \$19.95) corrects that oversight; sub-titled "the mysterious life and times of the real Sherlock Holmes," the book is a full-scale biography of Pollaky, who was no Holmes, but nevertheless a colorful character indeed.

More kidvid: Lenny Picker's daughter has reported a (brief) appearance of a wax figure of Sherlock Holmes in the "Headhunters" episode of the Disney Channel's animated series "Gravity Falls" <[www.tinyurl.com/ycd2r8kl](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycd2r8kl)>.

Nancy Friday died on Nov. 5. Famous as the author of MY SECRET GARDEN (a survey of women's sexual fantasies that was published in 1973 and sold more than two million copies), she went on to write FORBIDDEN FLOWERS: MORE WOMEN'S SEXUAL FANTASIES (1975) in which she said that "Another fantasy is one where I seduce Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes at 22B [sic] Baker Street. In it, I am his twenty-year-old niece. Dr. Watson (Nigel Bruce) is amazed his aloof pal Holmes finally fell for someone."

There's a Sherlock Holmes Walking Tour of Edinburgh, led by Toby Virgo (in Sherlockian costume); you can also book a private tour, and there's a colorful web-site at <[www.realsherlockholmes.com](http://www.realsherlockholmes.com)>.

John Hillerman died on Nov. 9. He had a long career as an actor on stage and screen and television, and is best known for his role as Higgins in the long-running television series "Magnum, P.I."; he also played Dr. Watson in the television film "Hands of a Murderer" on CBS-TV in 1990.

Howard Ostrom has discovered a spectacular one-of-a-kind portrait doll that the Russian artist Natalia Zatova created of Borislav Brondokov as Inspector Lestrade in the Russian television series that starred Vasiliy Livanov as Sherlock Holmes. You can see the doll in full color at her web-site at <[www.natalydolls.com/lestrade.php#](http://www.natalydolls.com/lestrade.php#)>, and more of her dolls are on display at her web-site. Inspector Lestrade is in a private collection and not for sale, but she accepts commissions (costing 200,000 rubles and up, depending on the complexity of the costume).

There's now an official trailer for "Sherlock Gnomes" (the animated movie featuring the world's greatest ornamental detective), scheduled for release on Mar. 23 <[www.tinyurl.com/ybnvawee](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybnvawee)>.

Further to the report (Sep 03 #2) on Britain's endangered bitterns (it was in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that Stapleton suggested that "I should not be surprised to learn that what we have heard is the cry of the last of the bitterns"), a story in The Guardian (Nov. 8) <[www.tinyurl.com/ymdalksx](http://www.tinyurl.com/ymdalksx)> (kindly noted by Phil Attwell) reports that there now is a record high of bitterns in Britain: the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds recently counted 164 bitterns at 71 wetlands sites in Britain.

Nov 17 #3    Who knew? The Langham Hotel, site of the fateful dinner where Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde were commissioned to write stories for Lippincott's Monthly Magazine, is haunted, according to a report in the South China Morning Post <[www.tinyurl.com/y8lyfyj6](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8lyfyj6)>, and one of them is the Langham (which of course also is mentioned in three of the Canonical stories). A Google search for [langham hotel room 333] yields some interesting reports (and videos).

Brian Pugh spotted an interesting painting at auction at Bonhams in London on Nov. 21, estimated at £1,000-£1,500: the painting, by Edward George Handel Lucas, shows Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's writing shed and grave at Crowborough in August 1930 <[www.tinyurl.com/y7oq5okt](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7oq5okt)>; it sold for £1,750.

Dudley Simpson died on Nov. 4. He learned to play the piano in his childhood in Australia and went on to become an accomplished conductor in Australia and Britain; he then moved into composing for television, including "Doctor Who" and is credited for the incidental music in that series' Victorian (and almost Sherlockian) episode "The Talons of Weng-Chiang" (1977).

Sherlock Holmes has been wrapped. Again. Charity Hands On London wrapped the statue of Sherlock Holmes outside the Baker Street underground station in a bright red coat on Nov. 5, as part of a campaign asking people to donate their old coats, which go to those in need <[www.wrapuplondon.org.uk](http://www.wrapuplondon.org.uk)>; there's a brief glimpse of the Sherlock Holmes statue in a "Wrap Up London" video at <[www.tinyurl.com/y7wrnfvw](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7wrnfvw)>

Vicki Delany's BODY ON BAKER STREET (New York: Crooked Lane, 2017; 297 pp., \$26.99) is the second in her pleasantly-cozy "Sherlock Holmes bookshop mystery" series that stars Gemma Doyle (the proprietor of the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop) and her friend Jayne Wilson (the proprietor of the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room) investigating the murder (in the bookshop) of an author of Sherlockian pastiches. The next title in the series will be THE CAT OF THE BASKERVILLES.

The oldest surviving Sherlockian television broadcast is "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (broadcast by NBC-TV in 1949); Holmes); you can watch it at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/ydabnb3w](http://www.tinyurl.com/ydabnb3w)> and see Alan Napier as Holmes, years before he became famous as Alfred the butler in the long-running "Batman" series in the 1960s. "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs" was broadcast by NBC on its experimental station in New York in 1937; with Louis Hector as Holmes, and it would be nice indeed if someone discovers a recording of the show.

Sherlock Holmes needs to move. Again. The Edinburgh City Council is considering remodelling Picardy Place, and is asking for suggestions from the public about a new site for the statue of Sherlock Holmes erected in 1991 as a memorial to Arthur Conan Doyle <[www.tinyurl.com/y865v36c](http://www.tinyurl.com/y865v36c)>.

Massimo Polidaro's "Notes on a Strange World" column in November/December issue of the Skeptical Inquirer is devoted to "The Conspiracy of Fairies" and the possibility, suggested by Fiona Maher in the August issue of Fortean Times, that the Cottingley photographs actually were faked by Elsie Wright's father Arthur.

Nov 17 #4 Michael Ross, who some years ago reported the PLAYMOBIL figurine of Sherlock Holmes (May 94 #2) has now reported Richard Unglik's SHERLOCK HOLMES ET LE CHIEN DES BASKERVILLES (Bruxelles: Casterman, 2013; 96 pp., €18.50 at the publisher's web-site) <[tinyurl.com/y9jnluhg](http://tinyurl.com/y9jnluhg)>; une interprétation playmobilesque du roman de Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The book's also available in Spanish as EL PERRO DE LOS BASKERVILLE (2015) and in English as THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, 2016).

The second title in Elizabeth Eulberg's "Shelby Holmes" series is THE GREAT SHELBY HOLMES MEETS HER MATCH (New York: Bloomsbury, 2017; 230 pp., \$16.99) and it is an excellent sequel to THE GREAT SHELBY HOLMES (Jun 17 #2). The series is written for young readers and is nicely Sherlockian, and the new story's told well. The author's web-site is at <[www.elizabetheulberg.com](http://www.elizabetheulberg.com)>.

THE LOST PRINCESS OF OZ was the eleventh of Frank L. Baum's books about Oz, and the autumn issue of The Baum Bugle (the quarterly journal of the International Wizard of Oz Club) has Scott Cummings' discussion of some of the early reviews of the book, offering a nice example or two of how one hears of Sherlock everywhere: the Chicago Post (Dec. 7, 1913) noted that "There are few characters in fiction that one could wish to go on forever--Sherlock Holmes is one," adding that "certainly the inhabitants of Oz are among that few elect," and the Louisville Courier Journal (Dec. 13, 1917) reviewer said that, "it is the wonderful wizard, who like Sherlock Holmes, never made a mistake, who finds Ozma in a most surprising situation." The Club's colorful web-site is at <[www.ozclub.org](http://www.ozclub.org)>.

Keith Barron died on Nov. 15. A British actor, he appeared in many television series, and he was best known for his role as David Pearce in "Duty Free" in the 1980s. Barron also played Rob Ferguson in Granada's "The Last Vampyre" (1993).

It's often said, by people who believe that "The Blue Carbuncle" could not have involved a garnet, that there are no blue garnets. That certainly was true when Sherlock Holmes solved that mystery, but no longer: in 1998 there was a discovery of a blue garnet in the Bekily mines in Madagascar. But it is only sometimes blue: it's a color-change garnet, a mixture of pyrope and spessartine that's grayish or greenish blue in daylight, changing to purple in incandescent light, and brilliant blue in LED light.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Early LSD Guru" was the headline on a story on Oct. 27 <[www.tinyurl.com/ybk2p3vb](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybk2p3vb)> at the Reason Foundation's Hit & Run blog about the late Gerald Heard, described as a mystic whose syncretic spiritual path eventually led him to mescaline and LSD." You can read more about at a web-site <[www.geraldheard.com](http://www.geraldheard.com)>, including the books that he wrote (as H. F. Heard) about Mr. Mycroft. The "Hit & Run" blog includes a link to Boris Karloff's "The Sting of Death" (1955), which was adapted from Heard's A TASTE FOR HONEY.

Laurie R. King's web-site <[www.laurierking.com](http://www.laurierking.com)> now has a new and helpful chronology of her books and stories about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes; click on [Books] and then on [Russell and Holmes] to read what she has to say about what her fans call the Kanon, and scroll down to find the "Internal chronology" for the series.

Nov 17 #5     Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Speckled Band") that "Palmer and Pritchard were among the heads of their profession." Stephen Bates' *THE POISONER: LIFE AND CRIMES OF VICTORIAN ENGLAND'S MOST NOTORIOUS DOCTOR* (New York: Overlook Press, 2014; 342 pp., \$17.95) is a detailed biography of William Palmer; Bates notes that Holmes was flattering to Palmer, "since he lost his nerve and was never at the head of his profession, even as a poisoner."

Rosemary Herbert's interview with Jeremy Brett, published in *The Armchair Detective* (fall 1985) has been excerpted as "Jeremy Brett: The Real Sherlock Holmes" in the "Murder & Mayhem" blog, and it's a nice reminder of the Granada series <[www.tinyurl.com/y8dz8vbe](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8dz8vbe)>.

Martin Arbagi reports that registration is now open for the "Holmes, Doyle, & Friends" gathering on Mar. 9-10 in Dayton, Ohio; details at the web-site of The Agra Treasurers <[www.agratreasurers.net/holmes-doyle-friends.html](http://www.agratreasurers.net/holmes-doyle-friends.html)>.

*THE USUAL SANTAS*, edited by Peter Lovesey (New York: Soho Crime, 2017; 400 pp., \$19.95) is subtitled "a Collection of Soho Crime Christmas Capers" and is a nicely seasonal anthology of stories by interesting authors, including Cara Black's "Cabaret aux Assassins" about Irene Adler's daughter Neige and Irene's exploits in Paris).

David Small died on July 21. He had a long career in England and Australia as an actor, director, and radio presenter, and played Conan Doyle in Australia in Cenarth Fox's "The Real Sherlock Holmes" in 2004 and 2005.

"Fake News" is the title of an exhibition at the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford, W. Yorks. <[www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk](http://www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk)>, running through Jan. 28; the Bradford Telegraph & Argus noted (Nov. 16) that "Fake News" is nothing new, and that the exhibits range from the existence of bat creatures living on the Moon in 1835 to modern-day politics (both British and American), and the historic material on display includes the Cottingley Fairies hoax <[www.tinyurl.com/ybgktdew](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybgktdew)>.

Plan well ahead: the Wessex Press' "From Gillette to Brett V" conference is scheduled for Oct. 5-7 in Bloomington, Ind. <[www.wessexpress.com](http://www.wessexpress.com)>.

Ross K. Foad (who maintains the web-site "No Place Like Holmes") has begun a new web-series "The History of Spirituality" (adapted from Conan Doyle's *THE HISTORY OF SPIRITUALISM*); the first episode ("The Story of Swedenborg") is available at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/ybfo8xtg](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybfo8xtg)>, with more episodes to follow.

Aaron Cowan was in the news in Britain in October: he was jailed for five years after admitting six charges of fraud, five of them while posing as a police officer. He used the persona of Insp. Greg Lestrade at mobile phone shops and bookmakers across Kent, purporting to investigate stolen iPhones and fake bank notes, and was reported to the police when a business manager became suspicious of the name. At his trial he claimed he was the victim of a vicious gang who made him pose as an Inspector Lestrade, but the judge declared him the most "unconvincing witness he had ever heard, with crocodile tears, a self-pitying confidence trickster."



Nov 17 #6     Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Waco Civic Theatre in Waco, Tex., Dec. 1-10 <[www.wacocivictheatre.org](http://www.wacocivictheatre.org)>; and at the Theatre Baton Rouge in Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 19-Feb. 4 <[www.theatrebr.org](http://www.theatrebr.org)>; and at the Clear Space Theatre in Rehobeth Beach, Del., Jan. 26-Feb. 11; their web-site's at <[www.clearspacetheatre.org](http://www.clearspacetheatre.org)>. The play's also due at the Springhouse Theatre in Smyrna, Tenn., Apr. 13-29 <[www.springhousetheater.com](http://www.springhousetheater.com)>; at Greensburg Civic Theatre in Greensburg, Pa., May 4-6 <[gctheatre.org](http://gctheatre.org)>; at Shea's 710 Theatre in Buffalo, N.Y. May 10-13 <[www.sheas.org](http://www.sheas.org)>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater in Milwaukee, Wis., through Dec. 17 <[www.milwaukeeep.com](http://www.milwaukeeep.com)>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is running at the Ross Valley Players in Ross, Calif., through Dec. 10; their web-site's at <[www.rossvalleyplayers.com](http://www.rossvalleyplayers.com)>. It's also due at the Love Street Playhouse in Woodland, Wash., Dec. 1-17 <[www.lovestreetplayhouse.com](http://www.lovestreetplayhouse.com)>. Also at the Glendale Center Theatre in Glendale, Calif., Oct. 11-Nov. 17, 2018 <[www.glendalecentertheatre.com](http://www.glendalecentertheatre.com)>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is to be performed at the Jermyn Street Theatre in London, Dec. 6 through Jan. 13 <[www.jermynstreettheatre.co.uk](http://www.jermynstreettheatre.co.uk)>.

Admirers of Charles Dickens know that his last novel THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD was left unfinished when Dickens died in 1870, and that a minor industry sprang up as people offered their solutions to the mystery. One of those people was T. P. James of Brattleboro, Vt., author of PART SECOND OF THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD BY THE SPIRIT-PEN OF CHARLES DICKENS THROUGH A MEDIUM, published in 1873. The Rutland Herald had a long story about James on Nov. 25 <[www.tinyurl.com/yalfya95](http://www.tinyurl.com/yalfya95)>, noting that Conan Doyle, in the December 1927 issue of The Bookman, discussed the book and concluded that it read like "Dickens gone flat." But there's bit more to the story, not reported in the Rutland Herald: when Conan Doyle reprinted the article in THE EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN in 1930, he added an account of his later conversation with Dickens about the book. Conan Doyle asked Dickens, "was that American who finished EDWIN DROOD inspired?" And Dickens answered, "Not by me."

The conversation, needless to say, was through a medium, at a sitting with Florizel von Reuter and his mother; Dickens had more to say about the book, of course, and THE EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN is well worth pursuing (Conan Doyle also discusses Harry Houdini, and ghosts, and much more); the full text is not available on-line, but reprints are available at reasonable prices at eBay and Amazon and elsewhere.

You can see Nils Nordberg and the late Ted Bergman as they were fifty years ago, in a television quiz show that had Norwegian and Swedish experts competing for 10,000 kroner (rather than \$64,000); the program is available at the Norwegian NRK web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/y743cgyz](http://www.tinyurl.com/y743cgyz)>. A tip of the hat to Howard Ostrom, who spotted the video.

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Dec 17 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

There's still time to plan for (at least some of) the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York, but: alas, the reception at the Yale Club on Saturday is sold out, so: no additional reservations are available, by mail or e-mail or at the door. Go to [www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html) for information on other events. Scott Monty has an excellent web-site at [www.bsiweekend.com](http://www.bsiweekend.com), and weekend tips at [www.ihose.co/bsi2017tips](http://www.ihose.co/bsi2017tips).

Congratulations to Helen Dorey, who was included in the Queen's New Year's honours list; Helen was appointed MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for her services to national heritage, and will receive her award at Buckingham Palace on Feb. 8.

The conference of The Reichenbach Irregulars ("Reichenbach and Beyond: The Final Problem Revisited") held in Switzerland last year was followed by an excursion to Florence (since that's where Holmes traveled after the battle at the Reichenbach), and you can read colorful accounts of what went on at [www.221b.ch/Past\\_Events\\_Beyond\\_e.html](http://www.221b.ch/Past_Events_Beyond_e.html). And there will be another chance to enjoy a Sherlockian visit to Switzerland: another conference is planned for spring/early summer 2019 in the Bernese Oberland, celebrating the society's 30th anniversary, followed by an excursion to the Splügen Pass (where Baron von Gruner murdered his wife).

The Sherlock Holmes Collection of Daniel Posnansky went to auction on Dec. 19 at Profiles in History, and the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog has a delightful podcast by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder about Dan and his collection [www.tinyurl.com/yba35wfs](http://www.tinyurl.com/yba35wfs). The fully-illustrated auction catalog is available on-line at [www.tinyurl.com/y9gtlru3](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9gtlru3). There were some real treasures, as well as some great bargains, at the auction, and Sherlockian collectors bidding on the floor and by phone and Internet.

For the Sake of the Trust: Denny Dobry is continuing to sell Sherlockiana at eBay for the benefit of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust (his seller ID is wiggins221b); starting on Dec. 31 he will be offering a complete set (42 titles) of the late John Ruyle's hand-printed (and amusing) Sherlock Loams parodies.

CBS has not announced a date for the start of the sixth season of "Elementary" (likely early next year), but the network has commissioned eight more episodes, bringing the count to 21 (previous seasons had 24 episodes). According to the Hollywood Reporter [www.tinyurl.com/ycpl43eq](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycpl43eq), "Elementary" is CBS' lowest-performing returning scripted series, averaging a 1.2 rating among adults 18-49, and 7.7 million viewers last season; lucrative syndication and international appeal have kept the series in production.

The Stepping Stones School has issued "An Invitation to Undershaw" for anyone who wants to attend their celebration of Arthur Conan Doyle, whose former home now is part of the school. "Enjoy a tour of Undershaw," they suggest, "visit our exhibition at the local museum, enjoy a round of golf on the course he played, hear from experts about his life, retrace his local walks, and enjoy a performance of 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'." Their web-site's at [www.tinyurl.com/ya2h67zb](http://www.tinyurl.com/ya2h67zb); details will be available soon.

Dec 17 #2    An interesting Conan Doyle letter went to auction on Dec. 8, at Lawrences Auctioneers in Britain <[www.tinyurl.com/yc9xvnsx](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc9xvnsx)>; it is well worth your attention: written to Miss Ruby Paulson in 1893, it offers a splendid demonstration of his sense of humor, as well as a hint at what the readers of The Strand Magazine would discover in the December issue. Estimated at £700-£900, the letter sold for £7,400 (not including the buyer's premium and value-added tax); you can read Scott Monty's discussion of the letter at <[www.tinyurl.com/ycbzl9c](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycbzl9c)>.

One of the added features on the Blu-ray version of "The Lost World" (1925) is images of the sheet music that accompanied the film (with words by Harry B. Smith and music by Rudolf Friml); Flicker Alley kindly has made images available <[www.tinyurl.com/y9ha79mt](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9ha79mt)>, and happily will sell you the Blu-ray for \$34.95 <[www.tinyurl.com/ycy4wd5s](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycy4wd5s)>.

Robert A. Moss ("The Case of Fairdale Hobbs") died on Nov. 27. Bob was a professor of chemistry at Rutgers University, and wrote several books and more than 400 scientific articles, including a discussion of Holmes' knowledge of chemistry. He also was a member of The Scandalous Bohemians and The Red-Headed League of Jersey, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1980.

Howard Ostrom reports an imaginative and attractive "interactive annotated" Russian edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES from Labyrinth; there is a nice video about the book at <[www.tinyurl.com/y8uhzyzb](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8uhzyzb)>.

"The most beautiful diamond in the world" was sold at auction at Christie's in November (Oct 17 #3), for CHF 33,500,000 (including the buyer's premium) [that's about \$34,194,141]; not bad for a 163.41-carat diamond. The "Grand Mazarin" light-pink 19.07-carat brilliant-cut diamond sold for a mere CHF 14,375,000 [that's about \$14,671,362].

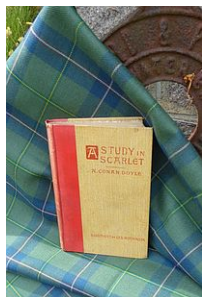
Daedalus Books offers serious discounts, such as the miniature replica of HOW WATSON LEARNED THE TRICK (Sep 14 #3), published at \$25.00 and now discounted to \$3.98 <[www.tinyurl.com/ycroq3sf](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycroq3sf)>; the story was handwritten by Conan Doyle in 1922 in the miniature book now found in the Queen's Dolls' House Library at Windsor Castle.

Reported: Hans Zimmer has a new album "Live in Prague" (available in DVD/Blu-ray/2CD/4LP formats) recorded during this year's world-wide tour with a band, orchestra, and choir; there are 15 tracks from his film scores, one of them "Discombobulate" from "Sherlock Holmes" (the 2009 Robert Downey Jr. film).

"Asian-American Actresses Describe Struggle of Constantly Being Typecast as Sherlock Holmes" is the title of an amusing video spotted by Jennie Paton; it was posted by The Onion to YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/y854f79n](http://www.tinyurl.com/y854f79n)>.

The Crew of the Barque Lone Star, in Dallas, is preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary, and members of the society have created A GRIMM HOLMES, an anthology of imaginative fairy-tale pastiches; it's a 265-page e-book, nicely available without charge at <[www.tinyurl.com/y9oqdroc](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9oqdroc)>, offering 11 pastiches and the fairy tales on which they're based.

Dec 17 #3 Donald B. Izban's SELECTED RHYMING CANONICAL TOASTS presents a nice tour of the alphabet, with 49 poetic toasts, all inspired by the Canon or by eminent Sherlockians. The 81-page book was illustrated by Edward Letwekno and published this year by George A. Vanderburgh; \$16.00 postpaid, and you can ask George <gav@markdalecable.com> for information on how you can order and pay for it.



Tania Henzell has designed a new Sherlock Holmes Tartan that's available in a wide variety of clothing and other merchandise from Tattimole in Edinburgh <[www.tinyurl.com/ybu9xx9c](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybu9xx9c)>. She's the step-great-great-granddaughter of Arthur Conan Doyle (and the great-granddaughter of Dame Jean's husband Lord Geoffrey Bromet).

The October/November issue of the electronic journal Ripperologist offers detailed reviews of Sinclair McKay's THE MILE END MURDER: THE CASE THAT CONAN DOYLE COULDN'T SOLVE and Christopher Sandford's THE MAN WHO WOULD BE SHERLOCK: THE REAL LIFE ADVENTURES OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, and much more about Jack the Ripper; you should contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <[editorez@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:editorez@yahoo.co.uk)> for information on how you can subscribe.

Barry Hapner ("Inspector Forrester") died on Nov. 13. He was an educator, and for a time owned and operated a pipe shop in St. Louis, where he sponsored pipe-smoking contests with Sherlockian themes. Barry was a member of The Noble Bachelors, and a founding member of The Jefferson Hopes, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.

Jack Goldstein and Jimmy Russell's 101 AMAZING FACTS ABOUT SHERLOCK HOLMES (Andrew UK, 2013) is available as a Kindle e-book, and as an audiobook, at Amazon and elsewhere. And Jack Goldstein and Isabella Reese's 101 AMAZING FACTS ABOUT ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (2014), available as a Kindle e-book. Both from Andrews UK, and while they may not be of real interest for knowledgeable fans, they could be fun for beginners. Amazon's "look inside" feature gives you a chance to sample these and many other books.

Marisa Babjak's "Femmes Fatales" <[www.femmesfatalesgifts.com](http://www.femmesfatalesgifts.com)> offers a wide variety of mystery-related merchandise; use the Search button at upper left to find Sherlockiana, and you can get a 20% discount if you mention the magic word [scuttlebutt].

Collectors of Sherlockian games may have "Cluedo? The Great Detective Game" (1949), which had a caricature of Holmes and a bloodhound on the cover but was otherwise non-Sherlockian. There's now a new edition of the board game tied to the BBC's "Sherlock" series, available in the U.S. and the U.K. (at about \$50.00 and up), and there appear to be two variants, with or without the "U" on the cover in red.

Robert Serman, the president of the Haslemere Society, has retired after 21 years of service to the society; founded as the Haslemere Commons and Footpath Preservation Society in 1884, the society's present goal is to "protect and enhance" the town, and it was involved in the campaign to restore Undershaw as the Stepping Stones School.

Dec 17 #4 John Nieminski's THE HOUNDS OF THE BASKERVILLE (SIC): A HISTORY OF CHICAGO'S SENIOR SHERLOCKIAN SCION SOCIETY 1943-1983 offered a delightful look at what the world of scion societies was like in the early days, and at how much fun the early Sherlockians had. Donald J. Terras has expanded the history and brought it up to date in a second edition; the 130-page book's available (\$40.00 postpaid) from Don (2535 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60201).

There's a Kickstarter campaign to fund "The Death Defying" (a four-episode comic book starring Houdini and Conan Doyle), and you can view a colorful sample at <[www.tinyurl.com/y75glahr](http://www.tinyurl.com/y75glahr)>.

There were, in olden times, all sorts of Sherlockian tobaccos and smoking accessories, for the delight of the many Sherlockians who smoked; there are far fewer Sherlockians who smoke now, but it's likely that there are some who vape, and while it seems to have taken a while, there now is a Sherlock Ohms e-liquid that comes in three flavors (Bohemian Scandal, Yellow Face, and Noble Bachelor) available from a company in England that claims it is "serious about juice" <[www.sherlockohms.biz](http://www.sherlockohms.biz)>. You can find a number of reviews at YouTube, including this one <[www.tinyurl.com/yanfgvtb](http://www.tinyurl.com/yanfgvtb)>.

The modern Strand Magazine is an interesting successor to the original, and has issued a colorful calendar for 2018 <[www.tinyurl.com/y9md42sp](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9md42sp)>. I've seen only one other Sherlockian calendar for 2018: Sherlock (tied in to the BBC series), available at Amazon and elsewhere.

Harold Billings died on Nov. 29. He spent fifty years at the University of Texas' libraries, rising from cataloguer to Director of General Libraries, and was the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award for best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2006, for his article on "The *Materia Medica* of Sherlock Holmes".

Anthony Harvey died on Nov. 23. He was a highly regarded director, winning a Directors Guild of America award for "The Lion in Winter" (1968); he also directed the George C. Scott film "They Might Be Giants" (1971).

A place to stay when you're in or near Highland, Ill.: The Tibbett's House <[www.thetibbettshouse.com](http://www.thetibbettshouse.com)>, the "bed, breakfast, and books" establishment that boasts a 221B Baker Street room; there was an article about the establishment, and its owners, in the RiverBender <[www.tinyurl.com/y76d8g4h](http://www.tinyurl.com/y76d8g4h)> on Dec. 11.

Norman Wilkinson, an artist and a patient of Arthur Conan Doyle when he was in practice in Southsea, was recommended by Conan Doyle to Jerome K. Jerome (the editor of the Idler and To-Day: A Weekly Magazine) and produced illustrations for those magazines and for the Illustrated London News, going on to become a celebrated maritime painter. James Taylor's DAZZLE: DISGUISE AND DISRUPTION IN WAR AND ART (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2016; 128 pp., \$36.00) is the colorfully illustrated story of Wilkinson's invention of a camouflage scheme for ships during World War One that was intended to confuse the submarine officers who needed to know a target's location and course before firing torpedoes; it was an ingenious creation, echoed today in modern art and clothing.

Dec 17 #5    The BBC reported on Dec. 13 <[www.tinyurl.com/yb9vovl8](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb9vovl8)> that the New Forest National Park Authority has rejected a proposal to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (Oct 17 #1). The campaign to protect the hotel cited evidence that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912, and NPA planners said the Conan Doyle link "raised its heritage value." The planners also said that there was "no guarantee the development would help cater for local needs." There is a video at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/y7asjd8z](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7asjd8z)> that shows the sad condition of the hotel earlier this year.

Bob Byrne's web-site at <[www.solarpons.com](http://www.solarpons.com)> offers his "Solar Pons Gazette" and his "Baker Street Essays", and now "The Brownstone of Nero Wolfe" (for fans of Bob's number-one detective), all nicely done.

Reported: discussion of Conan Doyle and the Cottingley Fairy Hoax in Kevin Young's BUNK: THE RISE OF HOAXES, HUMBUG, PLAGIARISTS, PHONIES, POST-FACTS, AND FAKE NEWS (Graywolf, 2017; 560 pp., \$30.00); favorably reviewed by Michael Dirda in the Washington Post <[www.tinyurl.com/y74renq2](http://www.tinyurl.com/y74renq2)>.

Baker Street Burgers has just opened in Rockford, Ill.; the restaurant gets its name from owners Randy and Betsy Baker, and from the address of Sherlock Holmes, and it has a page at Facebook.

Jennie Paton has reported that "Sherlock Gnomes" (due in theaters on Mar. 23) already has action toys available to Burger King; there's a commercial at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/yadshjyf](http://www.tinyurl.com/yadshjyf)>. You can collect Holmes and Watson and four others, and they're also available at eBay.

Reported: Andreas Jacke's MIND GAMES: ÜBER LITERARISCHE, PSYCHOANALYTISCHE UND GENDERTHEORETISCHE SENDEINHALTE BY A. C. DOYLE UND DER BBC-SERIE SHERLOCK (Wiesbaden: Springer, 2017; 228 pp., €24.99. All in German, but there is a video in English in English at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/yavc3jhb](http://www.tinyurl.com/yavc3jhb)>.

It's an old question, asked in this newsletter in 1981: what was the first in-flight movie? The answer, noted by Patrick Robertson (MOVIE FACTS AND FEATS, 1980, p. 219), is "The Lost World"; the film was shown during an Imperial Airways flight from London to the Continent in April 1925. There's much more about the event on the Internet now, needless to say; Alexis Barquin has an excellent entry on "The Lost World Above the World" at The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <[www.tinyurl.com/y7loorlb](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7loorlb)>.

But (as so often is the case) there's more to the story: the first film to be shown in-flight appears to have been "Howdy Chicago!" (screened aloft in 1921 during Chicago's Pageant of Progress); you can read about that at the Smithsonian's Air & Space Magazine web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/y7w4yeev](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7w4yeev)>.

Reported: Juli Berwald's SPINELESS: THE SCIENCE OF JELLYFISH AND THE ART OF GROWING A BACKBONE (New York: Riverhead, 2017; 352 pp., \$27.00); "a thoroughly delightful and entertaining new book," according to Brian Castner's review at WAMU-FM on Nov. 7 <[www.tinyurl.com/yd8dxstc](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd8dxstc)>; you can listen to Ari Shapiro's interview with her at <[www.tinyurl.com/y7835763](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7835763)>. The book has a passing mention of "The Lion's Mane" as perhaps the greatest testimony to the celebrity of jellyfish.

Dec 17 #6     Howard Ostrom has reported that Riga (in Latvia) will hold its seventh annual celebration of the birthday of Sherlock Holmes on Jan. 6, with a new mini-museum that honors the two most popular actors who have played Holmes (Vasiliy Livanov and Benedict Cumberbatch), a costume parade, and many other events. There's a page at Facebook [sherlock holmes birthday riga], a web-site <[www.holmes.lv](http://www.holmes.lv)> (in Latvian, Russian, and English), and a City Council press release <[www.tinyurl.com/ych86l7x](http://www.tinyurl.com/ych86l7x)> (in Latvian and Russian); Google Translate can be of assistance. It's not surprising that the city honors Sherlock Holmes: Riga's Jauniela Street doubled for Baker Street in the Livanov television series.

There's a persistent (although unconfirmed) story that in 1925, when Conan Doyle traveled to Paris to preside over the International Spiritualist Congress, he also went to Lyon to visit Edmond Locard's forensic laboratory, which included a display of photographs of criminals. Conan Doyle looked at one of them and said "That's Jules, my old chauffeur." And Locard replied that the photograph showed the notorious criminal Jules Bonnot. It is true that Bonnot did work as a chauffeur in London for a few months in 1910, and then returned to France to lead the notorious Bonnot Gang. There is much more about Bonnot in John Merriman's interesting BALLAD OF THE ANARCHIST BANDITS (New York: Nation Books, 2017; 326 pp., \$28.00).

Reported: WATSON & HOLMES: DIARIOS DEL 221B, a Spanish board game designed by Jesús Torres Castro for Ludanova and issued in 2015; there's a video (in Spanish) at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/yakevzbz](http://www.tinyurl.com/yakevzbz)>. There appears to be a version in English (WATSON & HOLMES: FROM THE DIARIES OF 221B) from Asmodee in 2016.

"221b in 360" is the title of the impressive photographic tour of the full-scale recreation of the sitting-room in Chuck Kovacik's home in Los Angeles <[www.221bbakerstreetla.com](http://www.221bbakerstreetla.com)>.

The Hollywood Reporter has noted <[www.tinyurl.com/yaafnosp](http://www.tinyurl.com/yaafnosp)> that HBO Asia, celebrating its 25th anniversary, has partnered with Hulu Japan to produce "Miss Sherlock" (its first Japanese-language drama); it will be an eight-part one-hour series that will air next April, and there's a trailer online at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/y89ljd8p](http://www.tinyurl.com/y89ljd8p)>.

Out of Print <[www.outofprintclothing.com](http://www.outofprintclothing.com)> offers a wide variety of literary clothing in various genres, including Sherlock Holmes T-shirts and socks.

The China Daily reported (Dec. 19) on Amazon China's ranking of the best-selling books in China this year: the most popular paid e-books on Kindle were THE THREE-BODY trilogy (by science-fiction writer Liu Cixin), MIRACLES OF THE NAMIYA GENERAL STORE (by Keigo Higashina), and THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES <[www.tinyurl.com/y8mdfco9](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8mdfco9)>.

David Marcum's THE PAPERS OF SOLAR PONS (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2017; 249 pp., \$29.95) is a welcome collection of new stories that feature Solar Pons (the delightful homage to Sherlock Holmes created by August Derleth). The opening story has an artful premise: Solar Pons and Dr. Parker are in pursuit of a culprit who has stolen the late Dr. Watson's tin box from a vault at Cox & Co., and the collection is a fine tribute to Solar Pons.



Dec 17 #7    The Petaluma Radio Players <[www.petalumaradioplayers.com](http://www.petalumaradioplayers.com)> have produced three "Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" from scripts by Vince Stadon. The first show ("The Obliging Cadaver") is available in two parts in the podcasts at their web-site, and the others will be soon. They did three more shows as "Holmes for the Holidays" in December, and they'll up at the web-site eventually.

John Walton's THE LEGENDARY DETECTIVE: THE PRIVATE EYE IN FACT AND FICTION (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015; 232 pp., \$25.00) focuses much more on fact than fiction, with an interesting examination of the history of the profession, including the Pinkertons and with more attention paid to William J. Burns and his agency. Burns and Pinkerton were bitter rivals, and Burns went on to serve as J. Edgar Hoover's predecessor as Director of the Justice Department's Bureau of Investigation, and then became enmeshed in the Teapot Dome Scandal.

Sherlockians will recall that a Pinkerton agent, James McParland, was the inspiration for Birdy Edwards in "The Valley of Fear" (which is mentioned in Walton's book). Burns visited Conan Doyle at Windlesham in 1913 and was at the pier to welcome Conan Doyle and his family to New York in 1914. It should be noted that the Pinkerton and Burns agencies are now both part of the international company Securitas AB.

New and decorative: Espionage Cosmetics <[www.espionagecosmetics.com](http://www.espionagecosmetics.com)> offers "nerd makeup" that includes "Baker Street" glow-in-the-dark nail wraps (22 nail wraps and a mini nail file for \$11.00).

Sony Pictures has announced Nov. 9, 2018, as the release date for their new film "Holmes & Watson" (the comedy starring Will Ferrell as Holmes and John C. Reilly as Watson); the cast also includes Ralph Fiennes, Rebecca Hall, Hugh Laurie, and Kelly Macdonald. Even farther ahead (and of course quite likely to change) is the release of the live-action film "Detective Pika-chu" (starring Ryan Reynolds) on May 10, 2019.

How many actors have played the role of Sherlock Holmes? More than 3,700. That is the current count in Howard Ostrom's "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" <[www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html](http://www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html)>, and of course the count will continue to increase with new productions, and new discoveries of old productions. Howard has compiled many other interesting data-bases, which can be found at <[www.nplh.co.uk/original-essays.html](http://www.nplh.co.uk/original-essays.html)>.

The Deutsche-Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft holds a convention in Germany every two years, and next year's SherloCON will be in Saarbrücken on May 11-13 <[www.sherlocon.info](http://www.sherlocon.info)>.

Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge is the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for The Sherlock Holmes Society of India; the current issue (with 148 colorful pages) includes David Marcum's "Sherlock Holmes and John Atkinson Grimshaw: The Perfect Holmesian Book Covers" (examining the atmospheric artwork used on many Sherlockian book covers). Howard Ostrom's "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson Tour Spain, or Two Knights-Errant to the Rescue" (discussing the many aspects of Sherlockiana found in Spain), and much more <[www.tinyurl.com/ycqjbf7d](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycqjbf7d)>.

Dec 17 #8    Plan well ahead: Denny Dobry has for many years welcomed those who want to visit his splendid recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street in Reading, Pa. <[www.facebook.com/221binReading](http://www.facebook.com/221binReading)>, and he will be holding an open house on May 20, 2018; one of the nicest things about his sitting-room is that it's hands-on, and full of interesting artifacts. You can contact him <[dendobry@ptd.net](mailto:dendobry@ptd.net)> for more information about the event, and to enquire about alternative dates.

I don't recall that anyone has ever created Sherlockian poker chips before, but Nick Thorn has launched a Kickstarter campaign for a set of three buttons for the dealer, big blind, and small blind, with images of Moriarty, Holmes, and Watson <[www.tinyurl.com/ya4xo6wr](http://www.tinyurl.com/ya4xo6wr)>.

"'Detective Conan' will be on hiatus for the foreseeable future so that I can recover from illness and rest up," Gosho Aoyama announced this month. The comic features a genius teenage detective who shrinks into a young boy after being forced to ingest an experimental toxin, takes on the alias Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Conan Doyle) and continues to solve mysteries. The comic has been running weekly in a Japanese magazine since 1984 and has been translated into more than two dozen languages (the English version is titled "Case Closed") and has been adapted into an animated series that began in 1996, feature films, video games, and live-action specials.

Theatrics: the British Comedy Company will perform Peter Wear's parody of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the St. Michael and All Angels Church in Chiswick, London, Jan. 5 <[www.britishcomedycompany.co.uk](http://www.britishcomedycompany.co.uk)>.

Hive and Tall Tales will present "Sherlock--A Play" at the Junction Theatre in Dubai (in the United Arab Emirates), Jan. 18-20 (apparently a new play) <[www.thejunctiondubai.com](http://www.thejunctiondubai.com)>. If you go to Dubai, you can also pay a visit to the Sherlock Holmes English Pub at the Arabian Courtyard Hotel and Spa <[www.sherlockholmespub.net](http://www.sherlockholmespub.net)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at Theatre Baton Rouge in Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 19-Feb. 4 <[www.theatrebr.com](http://www.theatrebr.com)>. Also at the 710 Theatre in Buffalo, N.Y., May 10-13 <[www.sheas.org](http://www.sheas.org)>; and at the Pride Art Center in Phoenix, Ariz., on May 11-12 <[www.mptheatreco.com](http://www.mptheatreco.com)>; and at the Little Theatre of Walla Walla in Walla Walla, Wash., June 1-17 <[www.lttww.org](http://www.lttww.org)>; and the Bard to Broadway Theatre in Qualicum Beach, B.C., July 3-Aug. 19 <[www.b2btheatre.com](http://www.b2btheatre.com)>; and the Timber Lake Playhouse in Mount Carroll, Ill., July 19-26 <[www.timberlakeplayhouse.org](http://www.timberlakeplayhouse.org)>. And the Taproot Theatre in Seattle, Wash., Sept. 12-Oct. 13 <[www.taproottheatre.org](http://www.taproottheatre.org)>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Greater Boston Stage Company in Stoneham, Mass., Apr. 5-22, and their web-site is at <[www.greaterbostonstage.org](http://www.greaterbostonstage.org)>. And at the Peninsula Players Theater in Fish Creek, Wis., July 4-22 <[www.peninsulaplayers.com](http://www.peninsulaplayers.com)>, and at the Crede Repertory Theatre in Crede, Colo., July 27-Sept. 15 <[www.creederep.org](http://www.creederep.org)> [it's totally coincidental, but Crede features in the first episode of the new Netflix western series "Godless"].

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