

The Priory Scholars have announced an additional event during the birthday festivities in New York: the return of the Gaslight Gala, on Friday, Jan. 12, from 6:00 to 10:00 pm; details at www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner (described as "The Mongoose Munch") will be held in the Members' Dining Room at the House of Commons on Jan. 20; there's more information (and an opportunity to book for the event) at www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/annual-dinner-2024.

Nancy Springer's *Enola Holmes and the Mark of the Mongoose* (New York: Wednesday Books, 2023; 296 pp, \$20.00) is the ninth in her series about Sherlock Holmes' sister. Enola, now on her own as a scientific perditioner, has to work hard and resourcefully to rescue Rudyard Kipling's good friend Wolcott Balestier. His sister Caroline Balestier also appears (people who know a bit about Kipling are aware that eventually he and Caroline marry, but that's not in the book).

The Collider web-site reported on Nov. 7 www.tinyurl.com/52aace9n that Netflix chairman Scott Stuber has said in an interview that "we're working once again" on a screenplay for a third "Enola Holmes" film.

"Københavns Sherlock Holmes" [Copenhagen's Sherlock Holmes] is a Danish silent film released in 1925. Only the title is Sherlockian, but Jennie Paton has reported the film at YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnUUZWt-s74 (with Danish title intertitles).

Mark Shanahan's two-act play "A Sherlock Carol" (an imaginative blend of Dickens and Conan Doyle) was originally produced off-Broadway in November 2021 and has had other productions since then; the script is now available from the Dramatists Play Service www.dramatists.com along with many other Sherlockian plays.

Hopalong Basil stars as the detective in Arturo Pérez-Reverte's new novel *El Problema Final*, so far available only in Spanish, but Amazon gives you a hint of what it's all about www.tinyurl.com/yf4vrj76; Google Translate will be of assistance to those who aren't fluent in Spanish.

"That's Hollywood" was a 1970s 30-minute series broadcast by WABC-TV (New York) and other stations; Jennie Paton has found their "The Amazing Sherlock Holmes" program at YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=_4aYNN79cwg.

The television series "Sherlock's Daughter", which was green-lit by Starlings Television in 2021 (Jan 21 #3), now has funding: C21 Media reported on Nov. 6 www.tinyurl.com/4r2mbbh7 that the series (now titled "Sherlock & Daughter") has been bought by networks in Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, and Australia, and production is expected to begin in February. "A young American woman, after the mysterious murder of her mother, travels to London to track down her biological father, the legendary Sherlock Holmes, who isn't the mythological figure she has come to expect."

Nov 23 #2 The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the autumn issue of Sherlock's Spotlight is available at their web-site (check the menu at the left) <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective, and the gazette is intended to provide younger Sherlockians with information and entertainment.

Robert Sharfman notes that while golf is mentioned only in passing in the Canon, it was quite important to those who enjoy "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and he plans to found a Sherlockian society for people who play (or are interested in) golf, with a possible event in the Midwest. He also suggests that non-golfers will be welcome as caddies, or as drivers of the beer cart. You can contact him at <robertsharfman@gmail.com>.

Monica Schmidt spoke about "Dr. John H. Watson's Invisible War" this month at the University of Nebraska's Leon S. McGoogan Health Sciences Library <www.tinyurl.com/5anntmxn>; she notes that usually she speaks to Sherlockians who don't have clinical knowledge, but this time she was speaking to clinicians who don't have deep knowledge of the Canon.

Sidney Paget's signed watercolor painting of Conway Castle was at auction at Tennants in England on Nov. 3 <www.tinyurl.com/n33r7w88>, estimated at £100-£150. It sold for £160.

"Meitantei Conan" [Detective Conan] was first a Japanese manga comic-book series created by Gyosho Aoama, and then developed into a long-running animated television series, animated films, and much more; Shinichi Kudo is a 17-year-old master detective who is turned by villains into a child and assumes the name Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Arthur Conan Doyle and Edgar Allan Poe) and pursues evil-doers. The English-language version is called "Case Closed". The manga series has been serialized in Weekly Shonen Sunday since 1994 and has more than 270 million copies in print world-wide; the anime television series was launched in 1996 and now has more than a thousand episodes, plus two-dozen movies and video games, and much more, and Wikipedia <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_Closed> has a long and informative entry. You can watch the television series at Crunchyroll and Apple TV+.

The geese have returned to Baker Street! The illuminated geese first appeared four years ago (Nov 19 #6), and they are again celebrating Christmas by reminding passersby of "The Blue Carbuncle". You can see images of this year's installation at <www.tinyurl.com/38xw5mc8>.

Some postal services are more imaginative than others: Australia Post encourages parents and children to participate in "Santa Mail" and promises that Santa will reply to the letters <www.tinyurl.com/5n8cad96>; according to Santa, "My friends at Australia Post delivered more than 170,000 letters to me last year." According to the United Nations, Australia's population is 26,439,111, and the United States' is 339,996,563; if the U.S. Postal Service had a similar program, there would have been more than 2 million letters for Santa to answer.

Nov 23 #3 *Conan Doyle: Mystery and Adventure*, by Mark Jones (Handsworth Wood: Kaleidoscope, 2023; 384 pp., \$35.00) is a filmography of the 1967 BBC-2 television series that dramatized 13 of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories. The series was created and developed by John Hawkesworth (who years later did the same for Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series), and it is sad indeed that only one of the programs is known to have survived: it's "The Mystery of Cader Ifan" [The Surgeon of Gaster Fell], locked away on Betacam tape in the vaults of the British Film Institute. Mark has done a spectacular job of researching and writing about the series, pursuing production notes, scripts, correspondence, and reviews, and you can order from Lulu <www.tinyurl.com/46v9dc9v>. You can also listen to Mark's presentation on "Conan Doyle and John Hawkesworth" to the Sydney Passengers (July 30, 2023) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVj97B4xqXU>.

It's possibly a first: a Sherlockian virtual-reality film from Dillmeadow Media <www.tinyurl.com/bdedfyhk>. "Mrs. Sherlock Holmes" is a 13-minute VR film that was presented at the Belfast Film Festival on Nov. 4-5.

Masamichi Migurashi's new *Sherlock Holmes Bible: A 170-Year Story of the Eternal Detective* <www.tinyurl.com/nvw62h7a> (published by Hayakawa Shobo in Japanese in 2022) has won the Mystery Writers of Japan award for "the best critical and research work" (and this is the first time that a Sherlockian work has won an award from the MWJ since it was founded 76 years ago). Needless to say, Sherlockians outside of Japan will be waiting impatiently for a translation of Mitch's book.

The Agra Treasurers' ninth "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends" conference will be held at the Airport Clarion Inn in Dayton, Ohio, on Mar. 22-23; their website's at <www.tinyurl.com/38xfepyf> (with links to programs for previous conferences).

Bill D'Agostino's new one-act play "Teen Sherlock" has an amusing premise: "New kid Sherlock arrives at Baskerville High School just in time to solve the mystery of the missing hamster Conan. Can he and his new friend Jane Watson figure it out before it is too late? Cheetos, jokes, and misdirection are all involved in this fast-paced mystery." It's nicely done, and available for licensing. If you are interested, you can contact Bill at <williamdag@gmail.com>.

The Rathbones, a rock 'n roll band founded in the early 1990s, named themselves in honor of Basil Rathbone, and this month they were inducted into the Iowa Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame, as reported in the Des Moines Register (Nov. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/mr2sny2f>; they have a Facebook page (with some videos) at <www.facebook.com/p/The-Rathbones-100063586807820>.

Quite a few of the old black-and-white films have been colorized and made available at YouTube and elsewhere by companies that pursue films not protected by copyright, and a colorized version of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) was (briefly) posted on-line this month before being taken down when the owner of the copyright complained. And yes, it's true that a film made in 1916 is in the public domain, but not the restoration released by Flicker Alley in 2019 (with new intertitles in English).

Nov 23 #4 *The Weird Cat*, edited by Katherine Kerestman and S. T. Joshi (Cody: Word-Crafts, 2023; 340 pp., \$33.99), is an anthology of stories, essays, poems, and letters devoted (according to the editors) to the "beautiful, lovable, and enigmatic entities who straddle the world in which humans dwell and another beyond our ken." The contents include Conan Doyle's "The Brazilian Cat".

One of Disney's production-used 8¼-inch maquettes of The Great Mouse Detective (aka Basil of Baker Street) will be offered at Heritage Auctions on Dec. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/y9r79sek>. A similar maquette sold last year for \$5,760 (including the buyer's premium (Feb 22 #3)).

"If Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes tales describe a detective who, from a few stray facts, sees through baffling mysteries, his 'Coming of the Fairies' tells the story of a man who, with all the facts in the world, cannot see what is right before his face." That's according to Daniel Immerwahr, in his review of Walter J. Scheirer's *A History of Fake Things on the Internet* (Stanford University Press, 2023) in the *New Yorker* (Nov. 20); you may be able to read the full review on-line at the magazine's web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/3hjpx23b>.

The autumn issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Douglas Kerr's report on the new edition of Conan Doyle's *Memories and Adventures* (which he edited for the Edinburgh University Press), A. J. Low's article about the "Sherlock Sam" children's mystery series, and much more. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb (Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Peter McIntyre reports that Dr. Doyle did very well at Laurel Park on Nov. 11, finishing first by 7 lengths. He has a record overall: you can see his statistics at <www.tinyurl.com/46m2usck>.

John F. Baesch ("State and Merton County Railroad") died on Nov. 14. He was a fervent railroad enthusiast and had a long career with Amtrak, and a fervent Sherlockian as an energetic member of many Sherlockian societies on the east coast. He also was a frequent contributor to our literature, and received his thoroughly apt Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1998.

Fans of the 1979 Russian "Sherlock Holmes" television series might enjoy a Nov. 11 article about the battles between Vasily Livanov (Holmes) and series director Igor Maslenikov <www.tinyurl.com/yeymuwve>; there's a convenient English translation at <www.tinyurl.com/a747at5h>.

Video of Jennet Conant's lecture on "The Irregulars: Baker Street Spies in Wartime Washington" at the Atlanta History Center in 2008 is now available at <www.tinyurl.com/5ets3wae>. The title of her book actually was *The Irregulars: Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in War-Time Washington*; Jon Lellenberg noted in 2008 that the spies in Washington were members of the British Security Coordinaton (BSC), and that it was the Special Operations Executive (SOE) that had its headquarters in offices in Baker Street.

Nov 23 #5 Laurie R. King's *The Lantern's Dance* (New York: Bantam, 2024; 298 pp., \$28.99) is billed as "a novel of suspense featuring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes," but it's much more than that. Russell and Holmes are in France, dealing with a dire threat against his son Damian Adler, and in the course of the story we learn far more about Holmes' family history than is hinted at in the Canon. No spoilers here (and it's difficult to say much more about the book without spoilers), but if you'd like to see Horace Vernet's painting "The Artist and his Companions traveling in the Desert" (now in the Wallace Collection in London), an image is on-line <www.tinyurl.com/4cka3xr4>. Laurie also blogs about the book at her web-site <www.laurierking.com>.

The latest issue (#32) of the *Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine* offers the usual nice selection of Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian articles, fiction, and artwork, among them "The Perplexing Problem of the Puzzling Proposition" (an examination by mathematician Brent Morris of the Canon's mention of Euclid); the cost is \$13.00 (or \$39.99 for four issues) from the Wildside Press <www.wildsidepress.com>.

Aziz bin Adam has kindly forwarded an article in the *Malaysian Star* (Nov. 4) <www.tinyurl.com/y8pps55h> about an eight-hour tour of Dartmoor led by Alex Braeme, great-grandson of Robert Duins Cooke, who was the local vicar in 1901; the tour includes the cemetery at Ashburton and the gravesite of Harry Baskerville, Fletcher Robinson's coachman (whom Conan Doyle thanked for the use of his name when the book was written). There is more about Graeme and his tour in the autumn 2018 issue of *Dartmoor Magazine*, which is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/4bkpwpcs>.

Joss Ackland died on Nov. 19. He made his stage debut in 1945, appeared in his first film in 1949, debuted on television on in 1957, and went on to a long and successful acting career; when he retired from the stage in 2010, he was credited by the *Daily Express* with having been in more plays than any other living actor. He had many Sherlockian roles, and you can read about them, and much more, at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/ymrhxhtr>.

So Far Down Queer Street, an on-line journal that focuses on "Aspects of the Sherlockian canon and adaptations that are not ordinarily discussed in scholarly work," was launched last year (Aug 22 #2); they're now up to the third issue, with the fourth scheduled for next year. Their web-site's at <www.downqueerstreet.com>, with links to all three issues.

KD Sherrinford's *Meet Me in Milan* (Extasy Books, 2023; 105 pp., \$7.25) is the third in her "Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler" series (Feb 23 #3); it is a romantic novel that starts with Holmes away in London and Adler needing to prove the innocence of her friend Renata, who has been accused of attempting to murder her husband Luigi. The game's afoot, with plenty of deception and intrigue, and (after Holmes returns to Milan) a successful conclusion to the mystery. Sherrinford has a colorful Facebook page on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/mr2d9scf>, and you can read more about the author and her books at <www.tinyurl.com/35hpeyhwh>.

Nov 23 #6 Sherlock Holmes (Scott Shelby) and Dr. Watson (Jobeth Devera) will be among the many performers at the Great Dickens Christmas Fair & Victorian Holiday Party at the Cow Palace in Daly City, Calif., weekends through Dec. 17. Daly City is just south of San Francisco; the event's web-site is at <www.dickensfair.com>, and you can see Holmes and Watson promoting the fair at <www.tinyurl.com/yhdny2ur>.

Jennie Paton has reported the entire Russian "Sherlock Holmes" television series (2013) with Igor Petrenko as Holmes and Andrei Panin as Watson online at <www.youtube.com/@BE4EPKuHO/videos>. The series was not popular in Russia, where fans much preferred the 1979-1986 series with Vitaliy Livanov and Vasiliy Solomon. Try using the settings feature to auto-translate the subtitles into English.

If you've not yet ordered a Sherlockian calendar for 2024, here's a link to one offered by the Strand Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/ysaxx3wx>; you're also welcome to explore their shop and blog.

Sherlock Holmes continues to be popular with commercial publishers of novels for young adults: Publishers Weekly noted on Nov. 13 that Little, Brown has bought two YA novels from Clair M. Andrews. The first will be *A Beautiful and Terrible Murder*, set for winter 2025; Holmes and Adler "must work together to hunt down a murderer at Oxford who is killing classmates, one by one, in ways more gruesome than the next."

Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Pavilion Theatre in Castle Hills, N.S.W., through Dec. 9 <www.paviliontheatre.org.au>. It will also be produced at the Doraville Civic Center in Doraville, Ga., on Feb. 23-Mar. 10 <www.merelyplayerspresents.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is being performed at the St. Croix Festival Theatre in St. Croix Falls, Wis., through Dec. 17 <www.festivaltheatre.org>; also at the Unity Theatre in Brenham, Tex., through Dec. 17 <www.unitybrenham.org>. It's also due at the Dorset Playhouse in Dorset, Vt., Dec. 1-10 <www.dorsetplayers.org>; The Barn in Skippack, Pa., Dec. 1-16 <www.playcrafters.org>; the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center in Midland, Pa., Dec. 1-17 <www.lincolnparkarts.org>; the Polo Town Hall in Polo, Ind., Dec. 1-9 <www.polotheatre.org>; and the Abbey Players in Abbeville, La., Dec. 8-17 <www.abbeyplayers.com>.

John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Pasadena Little Theater in Pasadena, Tex., Dec. 1-17 <www.pasadenalittletheter.org>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be produced at the Bay Area Stage in Vallejo, Calif., Dec. 1-17 <www.bayareastage.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Poison Wood" (a new rock musical with book, lyrics, and music by P. Burton Morgan and Ben Glasstone) is due at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury, Berks., Feb. 2-Mar. 16 <www.watermill.org.uk>; a short music video is online at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVKe6PlMtDI>.

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