

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 169th birthday during the (very) long weekend from Jan. 4 to 8; reports on many if not most of the goings-on posted soon at the Baker Street Irregulars' web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/reports>. In the meantime, here are a few brief paragraphs to tide you over.

Locals and early arrivals enjoyed the ASH Wednesday dinner, and on Thursday morning the ACD Society's Doylean Awards Ceremony and a running of Wessex Cup were held at the Mysterious Bookshop; the society's web-site is at <www.acdsociety.com>. The BSI's Distinguished Speaker that evening was Dr. Lakshmi Krishnan, who suggested that the medical practice of diagnosis cannot be understood without examining its linkage with detective fiction; her paper will be published in the Baker Street Journal, and her book *The Doctor and the Detective* will be published this year.

On Friday the well-attended William Gillette Memorial Luncheon featured a performance of William Gillette's curtain-raiser "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes", and the presentation of the annual Susan Rice Mentorship Award (recognizing "commitment to mentoring Sherlockians as a means of keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes") to Evelyn Herzog.

Then Irregulars and guests gathered for dinner at the Yale Club, where Lou Lewis offered the first toast to Joan Blanksteen as The Woman. The dinner agenda included the usual toasts, and rituals, and spectacular presentations by Betsy Rosenblatt and Dan Stashower. The annual Morley-Montgomery Award went posthumously to Nicholas Utechin, and Mike Kean announced that Steve Rothman was retiring after a record 23 years as the editor of the Baker Street Journal; the new editor of the BSJ is Dan Andriacco, and Steve will be the editor emeritus.

The BSI's new Birthday Honours were awarded to Cindy Brown ("Sam Brown"), Elaine Coppola ("Syracuse"), Erika Dowell ("A First Folio Shakespeare"), Takahiko Endo ("James Armitage"), David Harnois ("James Boswell"), Palle Schantz Lauridsen ("The Royal Family of Scandinavia"), Dore Nash ("The Three Garridebs"), James O'Leary ("James, the Son of the Grimpen Postmaster"), Roberta Pearson ("Nottingham"), Lee Shackelford ("Woodman's Lee"), and John Sherwood ("The Imperial Theatre"). And the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was bestowed on Greg Ruby.

On Saturday morning Covent Garden West offered the traditional opportunity for dealers to help people who wanted to add to their collections, and at the Saturday luncheon and reception the Dr. John H. Watson Fund's auction attracted enthusiastic bidders; the raffle prize was an etched glass salver with matching glasses and coasters, created by Danna Mancini.

The second annual meeting of the Literary Agents was held via Zoom on Sunday morning; you are welcome to watch video of the proceedings at the "Doings of Doyle" page at Facebook <www.tinyurl.com/3ncb9h2w>. And for those who lasted that long, the last event of the birthday festivities was the Adventuresses' Brunch on Sunday.

Jan 23 #2 There's more about the festivities at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/5284d3rf>. Scott and Burt Wolder also discuss the goings-on at <www.tinyurl.com/bp7386rm>. And you can plan ahead: the next annual dinner will be on Jan. 12, 2024, celebrating Sherlock Holmes' 170th birthday and the 90th (granite) anniversary of the founding of the BSI. Anyone who would like to have information about future events (and much more) is welcome to sign up for "News from the BSI" at <www.tinyurl.com/yc5tsz27>.

The Baker Street Irregulars Press has published two new titles: *The Haven Horror* is the newest addition to the Manuscript Series (211 pp., \$39.95); edited by Phillip Bergem, it offers a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Retired Colourman", with an annotated transcription and scholarly commentary on the manuscript and on various aspects of the story (the Manuscript Series continues to offer readers an opportunity to come close to the moment when the stories were written, and the commentary is delightful).

Stimulating Medicine, edited by Robert S. Katz and Andrew L. Solberg (225 pp., \$39.95), is subtitled "More Nerve and Knowledge: Doctors, Medicine, and the Sherlockian Canon"; it's the next title in the BSI's Professions Series, and a second volume, so to speak, accompanying their first title in the series, and the anthology continues to explore the many medical aspects of the Canon. Both of the new titles (and many others) can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books>.

Don't delay: Neil Brand's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with Mark Gatiss as Sherlock Holmes (Dec 22 #6) will be available at the BBC Radio 3 web-site <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001h56s> only until Feb. 20 (and it's nicely done indeed).

As noted in last month's issue, all of the Sherlock Holmes stories now are in the public domain. You can visit Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/2s4ck3s4> to listen to them interview Les Klinger, Betsy Rosenblatt, and Ashley Polasek about the significance of the end of Canonical copyright protection.

Radio Times reported on Jan. 19 <www.tinyurl.com/257fh4ks> on the new Audible radio drama "The Baker Street Four" (based on the graphic-novel series *Les Quatre de Baker Street*), with Peterson Joseph as Sherlock Holmes and Bill Nighy as the Baker Street Irregulars' faithful cat Watson. You can listen to a sample from the recording at <www.tinyurl.com/mr3nnkrb>.

Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> kindly offers (via e-mail) his new 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 are Investitured Irregulars).

Further to the discussion of ChatGPT (Dec 22 #4), Dave Taylor, who has an interesting technology blog at <www.askdavetaylor.com>, asks his readers, "If you read every book Arthur Conan Doyle ever wrote and remembered every single sentence, do you think you could write new Sherlock Holmes stories in his style?" <www.tinyurl.com/2yuu4dbw>. And provides some intriguing insight for people who pursue pastiches.

Jan 23 #3 The script for David MacGregor's comedy "The Adventure of the Ghost Machine" is now available from TRW Plays (\$12.95 print/\$9.00 digital) <www.trwplays.com/david-macgregor>; MacGregor has great fun with Holmes, Watson, and Irene Adler (who has moved into 221B Baker Street and is pretending to be Mrs. Hudson for the sake of propriety). This time they're involved with Nikola Tesla and Thomas Alva Edison, and (again) the villainous daughter of Prof. Moriarty.

Reginald Goodman's *The Willesden Harpooning: A Holmes Before Watson Novel* (2022; 224 pp., \$7.81) offers a look at Holmes when he was trying to find his vocation as a consulting detective, finding he had a lot to learn before he could establish himself; he solves one mystery easily, and then is confronted with another that is far more difficult.

"Why write a Victorian mystery?" is the question answered by Will Thomas, author of the series of novels about Cyrus Barker and Thomas Llewelyn in a post at Criminal Element (Jan. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/3rzzfuvck>; *Heart of the Nile*, the latest in the long series, is due from Minotaur in the spring.

The fall issue of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust's electronic newsletter For the Sake of the Trust has been uploaded to the Trust's web-site at <www.bsitrust.org>. with news about the Trust's activities. You're more than welcome to explore the Trust's web-site to read past issues.



"Don't judge a book by its cover," someone once said. Karen Murdock has noted a new digital edition of *A Study in Scarlet* offered at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/v69zdx5> for only \$3.00. One does wonder: Alice Charpentier? Lucy Ferrier?

I've long described this newsletter as "six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean." If you would like to run a word-search on a large file with all of the text since March 1985 (that's when I entered the computer age) you can now do that easily, thanks to Steve Mason, who provides an updated compilation each month and makes it available to one and all at the Beacon Society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ys63328a>.

The Jan.-Feb. issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine offers its annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes: a Sherlockian cover; Elizabeth Elwood's mystery involving a Sherlockian theater production; Steve Steinbock's reviews of some Sherlockian (and other) books, Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" column about a mystery that intrigued Conan Doyle; John Shen Yen Nee and S. J. Rozan's pastiche "The Killing of Henry Davenport"; an editorial happy birthday from Janet Hutchins; Terence Faherty's parody of "The Reigate Squires"; and an Amlingmeyer Brothers story "Can the Cat Catch the Rat?" by Steve Hockensmith.

What do Frankenstein, Sherlock Holmes, Dracula, Tarzan, the Count of Monte Cristo, and Pinocchio have in common? They are primordial literary myths, according to the novelist Gabriel García Márquez, quoted in an article in the Wall Street Journal (Dec. 27), noted by Karen Murdock. Can you name the authors who created all of those primordial literary myths?

Jan 23 #4 When in Norway: you can stay at the Union Hotel in Øye, where you can "step inside a world treasuring the olden times, when traveling meant introspective discovery, long days of reading and hiking adventures in tweed" <www.unionoye.no>. The hotel boasts that Conan Doyle was one of many celebrities who stayed there, and "fell in love with our country right here, within these walls." It's certainly picturesque, but easy to get to only if you're on a ship cruising in the Hjørundfjord.

Jules Tasca's play "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" was first performed in 2014 and has had many local productions since then; the script's available from Dramatic Publishing (\$10.95) <www.dramaticpublishing.com>. The evening consists of one-act dramatizations of two Canonical stories ("The Noble Bachelor" and "Charles Augustus Milverton") and his new one-act play "The Disappearance of Adam" (which is nicely imaginative and far more than a mere pastiche). The publisher offers many other Sherlockian plays.

Ron Fish continues to publicize meetings of Sherlockian societies via his Sherlockian Calendar, including gatherings held via Zoom or other technology; it's a great way to find out what's happening, where and when. You can see his format at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>, and send information about upcoming meetings to him at <ronf404@aol.com>.

For those who like word-search puzzles: *Brain Games: Sherlock Holmes Word Search* (Morton Grove: Publications International, 2018; 192 pp. \$12.98).

The lists of Sherlockian societies that I used to maintain on my old computer are now sadly out of date, but there's still an easy way to for you to find Sherlockian societies and their contacts: Mike McSwiggin prepares annual listings of contact information for "Sherlockian Groups and Societies" for publication in the Baker Street Almanac, and the 2021 listing is available on-line at <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/bsa.html> (it's a large file, so be patient while it downloads); the 2022 listing should be available soon. Mike also presides over a handy-dandy interactive map of geographical Sherlockian societies at the web-site of the Beacon Society, at <www.beaconsociety.com/sherlockian-societies.html>.

"Pulp Friction" is how Heritage Auctions described what they called "one of the sauciest (and spiciest!) troves of pulp magazines ever assembled" <www.tinyurl.com/55zsrpa8>; there may not be any Sherlockian pulps in the upcoming auctions, but do take a look at some of the covers.

The Beacon Society continues to administer the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, and more than 120 people have completed all three exams and have received their Doctorate in Sherlockiana. There also are annual Re-Certification exams for those who want to continue on, and there is more information about the Program at <www.tinyurl.com/4s6jtn35>.

The December issue of the Beacon Society's Not-So-Quarterly Newsletter now is available at the society's web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>, with the latest news from and about the society and its efforts to offer "teachers, librarians, children's museums, and children's theaters with local resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life."

Jan 23 #5 J. Allen St. John was an author, artist, and illustrator, perhaps best known for his illustration of Edgar Rice Burroughs' novels, but he also created a spectacular image of Holmes and Watson for the Chicago Sunday Tribune's Magazine of Books (Feb. 13, 1949) to accompany Vincent Starrett's review of John Dickson Carr's *The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* <www.pinterest.com/pin/338332990729622515>. Lauren Stump at Shasta/Phoenix offers some of his (non-Sherlockian) original artwork at <www.shastaphoenixart.com/availableartwork>, and Stephen D. Korshak's *The Paintings of J. Allen St. John: Grand Master of Fantasy*.

St. John earlier illustrated "A Scandal in Bohemia" for the anthology *With All My Love* (1945); that artwork can be found on the cover of *Baker Street Miscellanea* (autumn 1982) and in an article in the winter 1982 issue.

Regulation & Imagination: Legal & Literary Perspectives on Fox-Hunting is the thoroughly misleading title of a delightful book edited by Ross E. Davies (Washington: Green Bag Press, 2021; 131 pp., \$65.00). It's actually an exploration of Conan Doyle's "The King of the Foxes" and offers a full-color reprint of the first publication of the story in *The Windsor Magazine*, a facsimile of the manuscript with a transcription and annotations, and essays about the history of the manuscript, illustrators, fox-hunting, and much more, by Doylean scholars and enthusiasts; do not neglect the illustrations on the front and back of the dust jacket, explained in detail on the jacket flaps. The publisher's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3v8ahmyw> has links to two of the essays, and information on how to order the book.

The next 221B Con (A Fan Con for All Things Sherlock Holmes) will be held in Atlanta, Ga., on Apr. 14-16 <www.221bcon.com>, and you are welcome to apply to be on one or more of their panels <www.221bcon.com/panels>.



It would be nice indeed if the U.S. Postal Service were to issue a stamp to honor the new book about "The King of the Foxes", but in fact it's only a nice coincidence that a new 40¢ stamp shows a red fox. That's the rate for bulk mail (pre-sorted circulars, newsletters, and catalogs), and the stamps available in rolls of 3,000 and 10,000; it will be difficult to find them in post offices, but the Postal Service is well aware that there still are some people who collect stamps, and you can purchase 20-stamp sheets at the USPS web-site <www.tinyurl.com/36puatuf>.

"Tide: For Detectives with Sensitive Skin" is a new television commercial <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxPyxgh9xgA> reported by Jerry Margolin and found on-line by Jennie Paton.

Further to the recommendation of Anthony Horowitz's "Magpie Murders" television series (Dec 22 #1), the book from which he adapted the series also is nicely done; the solutions to the murders are the same, but it's interesting to see what Horowitz did when he adapted the book for television.

Jerry Margolin has reported a nicely Sherlockian (and affordable) collectible available in Oregon <www.oregonlottery.org/scratch-its/cash-hunt>; the question for collectors is: do you keep it in mint condition?

Jan 23 #6 The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2022 takes "International Holmes" as its theme, with a nice mix of essays, articles, pastiches, poetry, and a puzzle; only a few copies of the 107-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, are available (\$11.00 postpaid); ask Phillip <pgbergem@gmail.com> if you're in time to order, and he'll tell you how to pay. Back issues for some earlier years, and conference books, also are available.

Gillette Castle is currently closed for tours, and work is underway on renovating the castle's terrace; tours will resume on May 27. In the meantime, Susan Dahlinger reports, there's a virtual tour available on-line at the Gillette Castle State Park web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc38p73j>. The web-site of the Friends of Gillette Castle State Park also is well worth exploring <www.gillettecastlefriends.org>.

The Parallel Case of St. Louis has announced their "Holmes in the Heartland" conference on July 28-30; more information is available at their web-site <www.parallelcasestl.wixsite.com/home/holmes-in-the-heartland>.

The fall issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) offers full reports on the Jubilee@221B conference, news from the Library and the Collection, 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>.

Maurice Breslow's *Full Circle: Sherlock Holmes's Greatest Challenge Ever* (Altona: Friesen Press, 2022; 115 pp., \$14.99) presents Holmes with a dire problem: Conan Doyle has decided to dispose of Holmes at the Reichenbach. Their worlds collide, and overlap, and the novella provides an intriguing solution.

Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers, Volume 6, October 1894, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström and Mark Alberstat (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2023; 258 pp., \$38.95), continues the series launched in 2015; the first volume covered ten years, and this one reprints only some of the articles published in the month that saw Conan Doyle on his highly-publicized tour in the United States.

Also from Gasogene: *You Know My Methods, Watson*, edited by Andy and Shelly Gage (Indianapolis: Illustrious Clients, 2023; 113 pp., \$19.99) is the society's third case-notes, offering a fine mix of articles, toasts, poetry, drama, and explorations of the history of the Clients. The *Sherlock Holmes Review: 2022 Sherlockian Annual* (78 pp., \$24.95) has a wide variety of new articles and reminiscences, Canonical and Sherlockian interesting (Steve Doyle has an especially nice story in the Collectors' Corner.) And while it's not new, Christopher Redmond's *A Quick Succession of Subjects* (2016; 276 pp., \$19.95), a collection of lectures and speeches from 1978 to 2015, includes "Advice from Professor Moriarty on the Presentation of Sherlockian Papers" (which will be of interest and value to anyone who is considering speechifying about Sherlock Holmes). Gasogene's books can be ordered at <www.gasogenebooks.com>.

Jan 23 #7 Do you think copyright protection in the U.S. is complicated? Canada has just changed its regulations to provide protection for 70 (rather than 50) years from the death of the author. Fear not: Conan Doyle's works went into public domain in Canada in 1980, and even if the new regulations were retroaction, his protection would have ended in 2000. The CBC explained it all on Jan. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/mr2zz5cp>.

The December issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, offers detailed reports on the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes (at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul through Apr. 2) and the mini-conference held last October), celebrations of A. A. Milne and D. Martin Dakin, and news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Timothy Johnson, #15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <johns976@umn.com>. Planning's underway for a full-scale conference in Minneapolis in 2024.

Linda Bailey's *Arthur Who Wrote Sherlock* (Tundra Book Group, 2022; 56 pp., \$18.99) is written for children aged 5-9 years, and it's a delightful introduction to the life and work of Conan Doyle, enhanced by Isabelle Follath's colorful artwork.

A recent article in *The Times* reported on "the 22 poshest villages in the UK," and one of them was Forest Row, which was described as "a beacon of progressiveness" and "a posh hippy enclave sloshing with private wealth." Obviously it has changed since Holmes and Watson stayed at the Brambletye Hotel in Forest Row (in "Black Peter").

Howard Ostrom's "Silent Doyle: Non-Sherlockian Conan Doyle and the Silent Film Era" <www.nplh.co.uk/silentdoyle.html> is an informative and nicely-illustrated discussion of the subject; it is unfortunate that most of the films are not known to have survived.

It is getting harder and harder to find open-stack libraries, in which it is possible to browse the shelves, but one of the best and largest is the Mui Ho Fine Arts Library at Cornell University <www.tinyurl.com/55npb48y>.

Piers Haggard died on Jan. 11. He began his theatrical career in Britain in 1960 as an assistant director at the Royal Court, then moved to film and television, and was awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours in 2016; he directed the "Madame Sara" episode of the ITV series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971).

The Baker Street Irregulars in Oxfordshire: they were the Special Operations Executive (SOE), who called themselves the Baker Street Irregulars because during WW2 their headquarters were at 64 Baker Street. They were also called "the Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare" and sometimes it was said that SOE stood for "Stately 'omes of England" after the many country homes and estates they used during the war. One of those stately homes was still used by the intelligence services until the 1970s, when it was sold and carefully restored; it's now on the market again (at £6,000,000), and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/djvaz7vc>.

Jan 23 #8 Will Thomas' *Fierce Poison* (New York: Minotaur, 2022; 294 pp., \$27.99) is the next in his grand series that stars private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and (now) partner Thomas Llewelyn; it's 1893, and the story puts them and their friends in dire peril at the hands of a mysterious poisoner. The tale's well told, and the supporting characters are as interesting as the stars; the book is an excellent addition to the series.

The last Sherlock Holmes stories aren't the only things to enter the public domain this year. Here's something you may not have thought was protected by copyright: <www.tinyurl.com/sxtbbfmr>.

"The only thing needed to be a Sherlockian is a curious mind and the free edition of *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* - Nick Martorelli, interviewed by Robb Nunn on his "Interesting Though Elementary" blog, which continues to offer a fine mix of essays and interviews <www.tinyurl.com/5ym74vsk>.

Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Reno Little Theater in Reno, Nev., through Feb. 12 <www.renolittletheater.org>. It's also due at the Theatre Off The Square in Weatherford, Tex., on Feb. 3-19 <www.theatreoffthesquare.org>; and at the Olathe West Theatre in Olathe, Kan., Mar. 3-4 <www.owtheatre.com>.

The new musical "Sherlock Holmes and the Poisonwood" will be performed at the Other Palace in London, Feb. 2-4 <www.theturbinetheatre.com>.

Joshua L. Peugh's new musical "My Dear Watson" was performed at The Grandel in St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 27-28, and it will be streamed on-line, Feb. 3-5 <www.kranzbergartsfoundation.org/the-grandel>.

The Red Throated League (of the Norwegian Explorers) will perform "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Heiress" at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, Minn., on Feb. 4 <www.mnhs.org/event/9630>.

Lesley Hart will discuss her "Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Lipstick, Ketchup and Blood" (with excerpts performed by Deirde Davis) at the Pitlochry Festival Theatre in Pitlochry, Perthshire, on Feb. 12 (it's her adaptation of "A Study in Scarlet") <www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com>.

Samuel Safa's "Sherlock Holmes: l'Aventure Musicale" will be performed at the 13eme Art theater in Paris, Feb. 18-Mar. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/2s4dwdx>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be performed at the Lakeland Cultural Arts Center in Littleton, N.C., Mar. 24-Apr. 1 <www.lakelandcac.org>.

"Baker Street Irregulars" (by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is to be performed at the Kettering Children's Theatre in Kettering, Ohio, from Mar. 24 to Apr. 2 <www.playkettering.org>.

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

The splendid exhibition of "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" from the collection of Glen Miranker opened with suitable fanfare at the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis on Feb. 13, and it will be on display until May 5. Special events are scheduled for Mar. 16 and Apr. 20, and you can watch Tim Johnson interviewing Glen about the exhibition at www.youtube.com/watch?v=jprpshwYQrg.

There's still time to visit Moscow to see the State Museum of the History of Russian Literature's exhibition "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Russia" www.tinyurl.com/4n8yy2nm, which closes on Mar. 26. There's more information about the exhibition at www.goslitmuz.ru/poster/16438. And if you can't get to Moscow, Howard Ostrom has noted that there is a nice video tour at www.tinyurl.com/bdmmhax.

If you'd like to know more about the life and work of the late Nick Utechin, you can listen to his interview at the Baker Street Irregulars Trust oral-history project at their web-site www.tinyurl.com/3whrpkt2.

Bookforum, launched in 1994 as a literary supplement to Artforum magazine and considered by some as "the cool-kid sibling of older publication like the N.Y. Review of Books," has ceased publication. There still is an on-line archive, where you can read articles such as Audrey Woolen's "Neither Fairy nor Foul" about the Cottingley photographs in the June/July/August issue www.tinyurl.com/394frz56.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation reported (on Jan. 20) the twelve winners of their "name a snowplow" competition; they included "The Blizzard of Oz", "Luke Snowwalker", and "Sherlock Snowmes". See them all at www.tinyurl.com/y9h973dv.

"A Study in Sherlock" is the title of an auction due on Apr. 20 at Potter & Potter www.potterauctions.com; it's "the first sale from Robert Hess' collection of Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle" including original illustration art, first editions, signed photos, letters, movie posters, items from the Jeremy Brett Estate, an original street sign from Baker Street, and much more.

"Boss of Sherlock Holmes Museum Wins Fight to Evict Brother from flm Home in 10-Year Feud" was the headline on a story in the Daily Mirror (Feb. 1) www.tinyurl.com/bdfwjbbm. John Aidiniantz, who now controls the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London, has won the latest lawsuit in a decade-long feud that has involved more than 100 court appearance and resulted in more than £2.5 million in costs and court orders in a legal war that started as a battle over profits from the Museum, which continues to claim that it's at 221B Baker Street.

John Cleese starred as Sherlock Holmes (with William Rushton as Dr. Watson) in "Elementary, My Dear Watson" (a 30-minute program in the BBC-1's "Comedy Playhouse", broadcast in 1973); you can watch their antics on-line at www.tinyurl.com/2v5n565m (kindly reported by Jennie Paton).

Feb 23 #2 Demolition has begun at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel, a local paper reported on Nov. 24, 2022 <www.tinyurl.com/3xx7cfts>. Conan Doyle is said to have designed both the entrance of the hotel and its battlement-style terraces in 1912, and the Daily Telegraph noted on Mar. 20, 2021, that a local historian had found a sketch that showed that Sir Arthur's design for the front façade "was based on the spiritual view of the journey of the soul."

Why should presidents and former presidents and vice presidents be the only ones to have fun? Now you all can join the the club.



"When Katherine Mansfield died everybody said, 'We have lost a writer of exquisite short stories,' and so we did. We have still, fortunately, other writers not less good, and one thinks of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his 'Sherlock Holmes,' or, again, of Mr. Perceval Gibbon and of Mr. Stacy Aumonier, whose extraordinary lightness of touch gives readability to everything he writes." A quote from the chapter on "Short Stories of Quality" in James Milne's *A London Book Window* (1924), kindly reported by Mattias Boström; the book's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ez8w6hjc>. And one wonders; has anyone actually read a short story written by more than one of those four authors?

The winter 2022/2023 issue of *Canadian Holmes* is a special issue honoring the late Peter Calamai, reprinting eight of his delightful contributions to our pseudo-scholarship. A subscription costs \$40.00 a year (US or CA); single issues cost \$12.00 postpaid <www.torontobootmakers.com>.

Bob Coghill on vacation in New Zealand, found the Holmes Café in Waitara <www.facebook.com/SHolmes-Coffee-More-309768106026323>; it was closed at the time, so he didn't get to sample the food and drinks.

Five Miles to Anywhere is a Sherlockian society that holds monthly on-line discussions, and makes recordings of their meetings available at Derrick Belanger's YouTube, where you can see both their interesting speakers, and how much fun they have <www.youtube.com/channel/UC0msAhK3Awcs5cpXOj4zJ4A>. The society also has a Facebook page, but doesn't yet have a theme song; they might want to adopt <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaD_B_C2RwI>.

Howard Ostrom has reported S. V. Mukhin's interesting Conan Doyle web-site <www.conan-doyle.narod.ru>; it's in Russian (Google Translate can be quite helpful), and is an excellent example of what people are doing to make Conan Doyle and Holmes available in other languages.

Moriarty has returned: Daniel Davis, who played Moriarty in two episodes of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" will be seen in the role again in the third season of "Picard" (which began streaming on Paramount+ beginning on Feb. 16); Robert Ryan reported on the new season of the series on the Inverse web-site (Jan. 25) <www.tinyurl.com/mwby8hj6>.

Feb 23 #3 The portable Goyard writing desk designed for Conan Doyle (Aug 18 #1) has been advertised yet again, discounted to \$106,720 (plus shipping from Hong Kong) <www.tinyurl.com/59zd5sae>. It's not the desk actually owned by Conan Doyle, but rather one of the additional six made by Goyard; Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog offers a detailed and illustrated report on the desk <www.tinyurl.com/ywnn6yc4>.

KD Sherrinford's *Song for Someone* (Extasy Books, 2022; 369 pp., \$13.25) is the first in her "Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler" series; it's a romantic novel, with young Charlotte Saporì reading diaries kept by her mother and father and discovering that she's the daughter of Irene Adler and Sherlock Holmes, and learning about the complicated history of their relationship. The story continues in *Christmas at the Saporìs* (2022; 82 pp., \$7.00) with Mycroft on hand to complicate things. Sherrinford has a Facebook page at <www.tinyurl.com/mr2d9scf>, and you can read more about the author and her two books at <www.tinyurl.com/35hpeyhwh>.

"The Great MLB Jersey Caper" was the headline on a story at the Sports Illustrated web-site on Feb. 27 <www.tinyurl.com/yc73bhjd>, kindly forwarded by Ross Davies. According to the colorful and detailed report, "Baseball had somehow stumbled into a locked-room mystery, more Agatha Christie than Christy Mathewson, more Sherlock Holmes than Homer Bailey," and it's a grand mystery indeed, not just because the missing jerseys cost \$250 each.



Due on CBS-TV (perhaps): "Shortly after the death of his friend and partner Sherlock Holmes at the hands of Moriarty, Dr. John Watson resumes his medical career as the head of a clinic dedicated to treating rare genetic disorders, only to uncover a startling secret that puts him in the cross-hairs of Moriarty once again." CBS has opened a writers room for a series proposed by Craig Sweeney, who worked on the network's "Elementary" series for five years, most of them as executive producer, and targeted for the 2024-2025 season. Opening a writers room means that the network wants to see scripts before approving a pilot.

"September, 1925. Russell and Holmes cross Europe to the village outside Paris where his son, Damian Adler, has settled to paint. But Damian has fled, and while Holmes goes after him, Russell begins to look into the secrets of Holmes' own past, beginning with an intriguing lantern with figures that seem to dance." If you want to know more, you'll need to read Laurie R. King's next novel *The Lantern's Dance*, due early next year.

Memories and Adventures, edited by Douglas Kerr (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2022; 342 pp., £150.00/\$230.00), is the first volume in *The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle*, which will offer the text of the books; detailed introductions; comparisons of the manuscripts (if available), first serial appearances, and first editions; explanatory notes; and (for *Memories and Adventures*) occasional corrections of errors made by Conan Doyle in remembering his life and work. It's a grand project indeed, and *Memories and Adventures* is a splendid start. *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* is due next, to be followed by *Round the Red Lamp*.

Feb 23 #4 The imaginative life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká that shows Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes <www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2>, on display in the Garden of Heroes and Villains created by the late Felix Dennis in Dorsington, Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, is not easy to see, but the Garden will be open to the public during a guided walk on Aug. 2 <www.tinyurl.com/yd7tjmph>.

Jennie Paton reports an update to the video "Evolution of Sherlock Holmes Games" which now covers 2002-2023 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UnD5sYGJTM>.

Mark Godburn advertised (it has been sold) a "rare Victorian book, in its dust jacket, a book that reportedly introduced the first non-white detective in Victorian fiction." The book is Headon Hill's *The Divinations of Kala Persad* (Ward, Lock & Bowden, 1895), a first edition, in a dust jacket, with advertising on the jacket flaps that includes *A Study in Scarlet* (possibly the earliest surviving reference to the book on a dust jacket). Does anyone know of an earlier dust jacket with Canonical advertising?

Mark buys, sells, and collects and researches early dust jackets, and is the author of *Nineteenth-Century Dust-Jackets* (2016) (still available from the Oak Knoll Press <www.oakknoll.com>. He'd be glad to hear from anyone who shares his enthusiasm, at <markrgodburn@gmail.com>.

The late Jim French's "Imagination Theatre" radio series "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" began 25 years ago, and is still on the air. Larry Albert has played Dr. Watson on every program, and you can hear recent shows at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/2p88z22j>. You can also purchase MP3 downloads of the "Further Adventures" (and all of the Canonical stories as "The Classic Adventures") at <www.tinyurl.com/28a8tfj6>. M. J. Elliott has been writing scripts for about 20 years, and has done the entire Canon, as well as many other stories.

"Brian and Charles" (2002) is a splendid and amusing film about Brian (a lonely inventor) and Charles (his robot); Charles appears in Sherlockian costume in about ten minutes of the film, Howard Ostrom reports, and you get a very brief glimpse of him in the trailer <www.youtube.com/4hzvcmzx>. It's available on Amazon Prime and on Blu-ray in the U.S., and on DVD only in the U.K.

"Workplace Return Should Be Elementary, My Dear Prime Minister" read the headline on Matthew Lau's column in the [Toronto] Financial Post on Feb. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/w5vbf39n>, kindly reported by Cliff Goldfarb. And the column's nicely Sherlockian.

Graeme Malcolm died on Jan. 10. Born in Scotland, he moved to the U.S. in his early twenties and began recording for the American Federation for the Blind's talking-books program; he went on to record 168 audiobooks, and to act on stage and in television and films. Malcolm also was an understudy for Frank Langella as Sherlock Holmes in a 1987 production of Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case", and his recordings include the anthology *Sherlock Holmes in America* and two Canonical stories (all of them now available from Audible, where you can hear samples at <www.audible.com>.

Feb 23 #5 Joe Coppola reports that amateur radio operators holding extra-class licenses can ask the Federal Communications Commission for vanity call signs, and he has just been authorized to use K1BSI. K3BSI may still be available from the FCC. If you would like to join the Sherlock Holmes Wireless Society (for licensed amateur radio operators), you can contact Ron Fish at <ronf404@aol.com>.

Max Alvarez has noted an interesting web-site <www.movie-locations.com>, where searches for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] turn up some hits.

Bibliotopus continues to offer important and (unusual) material at their web-site, and their current offers include a complete run of single issues of the Strand Magazine with all 58 stories published in the magazine (for \$85,000) <www.tinyurl.com/2cwbwwys>. They recently offered the manuscript of "His Last Bow" (for \$200,000) <www.tinyurl.com/236uh9wp>, and while it sold quickly, they've kept the description up at the web-site. Mark Hime, who founded the company in the mid-1970s, still presides over the catalog descriptions ("blame no one else," he says), and it's well worth reading what he writes, about his offers, his philosophy, and more.



"The Terror of Blue John Gap" continues to entertain geologists who admire Conan Doyle's fiction, because it includes both an interesting mineral and a monster that turns out to be a Pleistocene cave bear. Dana Martin Batory and William A. S. Sarjeant suggested in 1994 that the Terror was not, in fact, a cave bear, but rather a great scimitar cat, and it's nice that the Royal Mail issued a set of stamps in 2006 honoring Ice Age Animals that included both a cave bear and a sabre-tooth cat.



Marian Mistery and JD Singh have announced that they are going to retire, and will soon be closing the Sleuth of Baker Street in Toronto after 40 years of service to readers all over the world from one of the last remaining mystery-specialist bookstores; you can read the latest (and last) issue of their newsletter Merchant of Menace on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/mryjtv8e>.

Southsea Stories and Beyond, edited by Matt Wingett (Portsmouth: Life Is Amazing, 2022; 447 pp., £25.00 hardback/£15.00 paperback), offers a preface by Andrew Lycett and reprints of all the short stories not included in collections during Conan Doyle's lifetime; it has two additional stories ("The Haunted Grange of Gresthorpe" and "The Blood-Stone Tragedy") that are not in *Uncollected Stories* (edited by John Michael Gibson and Richard Lancelyn Green in 1982), and Wingett's added commentary discusses the many echoes of Southsea and Portsmouth found in the stories. The best price is available at the publisher's web-site at <www.lifeisamazing.co.uk>.

There's an amusing story about Wingett's book: because of the deep rivalry between the Portsmouth (blue) and Southsea (red) football teams, some of the shopkeepers in Portsmouth said their customers refused to purchase the book in its red dust jacket, so he made up a small supply in blue jackets, and you're welcome to order either or both.

Feb 23 #6 The Perseverance rover entered its extended-mission phase on Mars on Jan. 7. Designed to last one Martian year (687 Earth days), the rover reached that milestone on Jan. 6, and is still exploring Jezero Crater. SHERLOC also is continuing to perform well; it has its own entry at Wikipedia (with a mention of WATSON) <www.tinyurl.com/5f6xnrwx> and <www.tinyurl.com/2p9xteja>

"Sherlock Holmes was the first fictional sleuth to use a magnifying glass" (according to a recent post to the Mental Floss web-site from Jake Rossen and Kat Long) <www.tinyurl.com/42v6vjfx>. That might even be true. Can anyone cite an earlier magnifying glass used by a fictional sleuth?

Mark Jones and Paul M. Chapman ("unrepentant Doyleans and Sherlockians") continue their interesting on-line discussions of Conan Doyle's writings, at their "Doings of Doyle" podcast <www.doingsofdoyle.com>; their latest posts are an interview with Martin Edwards (about "Conan Doyle and Crime Fiction") and an examination of "The Final Problem".



Sherlock and Holmes were adopted by the South African Association for Marine Biological Research, according to the Independent On-Line <www.tinyurl.com/2fdf7vze>. Sherlock and Holmes are African penguins (yes indeed, there are African penguins <www.tinyurl.com/2ez83uhf>.

The Lord Chamberlain's Office is where the script for Conan Doyle's play "The Crown Diamond" was discovered (he eventually turned it into the short story "The Mazarin Stone"); British plays no longer are required to be licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, and the British Library now has all of the new plays performed in Britain from 1824 to 1968 as submitted to the Lord Chamberlain. They're now available to researchers, and you can read more about it at <www.tinyurl.com/yc8dcfdk>.

Sherlock has been granted a patent by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. That's Sherlock Biosciences, and the company says that it's now the leader in CRISPR-based diagnostics. CRISPR and SHERLOCK are acronyms (May 20 #4), and the company's press release is at <www.tinyurl.com/n86zb2dk>. An article in GEN Edge (Feb. 22) may or may not be helpful in explaining all of this.

Frank Emerson's *Sherlock Holmes and the Unmasking of the Whitechapel Horror* (London: MX Publishing, 2023; 166 pp., \$12.95) has Holmes and Watson pursuing the Ripper, assisted by Chief Inspector Abberline, and after 15 years they track the Ripper down and bring him to justice and the gallows.

The Baker Street Journal's 2022 Christmas Annual offers a grand survey, by Julie McKuras and Sonia Fetherston, of "Women on the Periphery of the BSI, 1940-1960"; four of them are on display in full color on the cover: Edith Meiser, Lillian de la Torre, and Sylvia Porter (top to bottom at the left, and Coe Glade at the right). The Annual is part of the annual subscription to the BSJ (if you aren't a subscriber, you should search for someone who is, and borrow it). You're welcome to subscribe to the BSJ, and receive the 2023 Christmas Annual, at <www.tinyurl.com/5fvmdf86>.

Feb 23 #7 "After getting a taste for blood, Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet set off to find a new source for food. It's not long before their bloody rampage begins." That's the premise of the new film "Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey" that was quick to take advantage of the end of copyright protection for A. A. Milne's iconic characters. A detailed report on the film in Variety (Feb. 7) <www.tinyurl.com/2ayn2z4h> notes that at one point a horror Sherlock Holmes film was considered, but that seems to have been shelved: the company's next project is described as "Jurassic Park" meets "Bambi".

An excellent way to add good books to your library while saving money is patronize discounters who specialize in publishers' remainders: Daedalus Books <www.daedalusbooks.com> is one of them: a recent search for [sherlock holmes] turned up Andrew Lycett's *Conan Doyle's Wide World: Sherlock Holmes and Beyond* (\$9.98) and Mike Ashley's *Adventures in the Strand: Arthur Conan Doyle & The Strand Magazine* (\$5.98), among others.

William Crick has launched a new on-line "Sherlock Holmes Forum" available at <www.sherlockholmesforum.org>, and welcomes one and all.



I hear of Sherlock everywhere: Howard Ostrom found an image of the F-86E Sabre flown by Maj. James Robinson Risner with the 366th Squadron in Korea in Jan. 1953, with artwork that shows Bugs Bunny looking for a discharge. He retired as a Brigadier General after serving in three wars, and his entry at Wikipedia is well worth reading.



One of the (few) nice things about the pandemic is the opportunity to attend meetings of distant Sherlockian societies via the Internet and YouTube: some societies have posted their virtual meetings on YouTube channels. One of those societies is the Sydney Passengers (posting from Australia) <www.youtube.com/@sydneypassengers3476>. The Red Circle of Washington also has a YouTube channel <www.tinyurl.com/nhfveysp>; other societies are welcome to let me know about their meeting videos

Alexander Orlov has noted that there is a Moriarty Hotel in Krasnodar (in southern Russia). And a Sherlock Holmes Hostel. So it's more expensive for admirers of the Professor.

The August Derleth Society was founded in the late 1970s and continues to celebrate the many-faceted literary career of the creator of Solar Pons. Membership costs \$25.00 a year and includes four issues of their newsletter *Sage of Sac Prairie*; the latest issue offers Derrick Belanger's article about the first annual Luther Norris PSI Dinner, held during the January birthday festivities in New York, to honor the founder of the Praed Street Irregulars. You can find Derrick at <www.belangerbooks.com>, and the August Derleth Society at <www.augustderleth.org>. Luther founded the PSI in 1966, edited and published the *Pontine Dossier*, and held delightful annual dinners in Los Angeles (attended by some people who are willing and able to tell stories about those festivities).

Feb 23 #8 Paul Thomas Miller's "Doyle's Rotary Coffin" (a society whose motto is "All Holmes Is Good Holmes") has a thoroughly amusing Sherlockian web-site <www.sites.google.com/site/doylsrotarycoffin>. Take a look at the article about his "Holmes Parody, Pastiche, and Drama Adaptation Tolerance Increaser Game"

"Baker Street Elementary" is a long-running on-line comic strip created by Joe Faye, Rusty Mason, and Steve Mason, now in its ninth year, and all of their amusing strips (and their six comic books) are available at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star <www.tinyurl.com/ms76ytj8>.

"Emmerdale Star Dominic Brunt Thought He Saw a Cottingley Fairy" was the headline on a Yahoo! News story (Jan. 30) <www.tinyurl.com/mr3t3n5e>. The actor lived at Cottingley Beck in Bradford, where Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths took five photographs of what appeared to be real fairies. According to Brunt, when he lived at the Cottingley Fairies house, he looked out a window and thought he saw a fairy, and "my heart stopped. But when I looked closer it was a dragonfly!"

Larry Millett's *The Disappearance of Sherlock Holmes*, published in 2002, was the fifth in his series of pastiches about Sherlock Holmes in Minnesota; he was interviewed on WYSO-FM that year <www.tinyurl.com/y5pttskp>.

And now for some theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Mantorville Opera House in Mantorville, Minn., Mar. 17-Apr. 2 <www.mantorvilletheatrecompany.com>; also at the Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque, Ont., June 2-24 <1000islandsplayhouse.com>; the John Goodman Amphitheatre at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo., on July 7-14 <www.tenttheatre.missouristate.edu>; and at the Milam Community Theater in Cameron, Tex., July 22-30 <www.milamcommunitytheater.com> and the Cedar Street Playhouse in Rolla, Mo., July 27-Aug. 6 (that web-site's at <www.ozarkactorstheatre.org>).

David Stuart Davies' "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act" will be performed at The White Bear Theatre in London, Mar. 21-25 <www.whitebeartheatre.co.uk> by Nigel Miles-Thomas; it's then due at the Hollywood Fringe Festival in June. The two-act one-man play was written by Davies for Roger Llewellyn, who toured the play in many countries after it debuted in 1999; he died in 2019, and the play has now been revived by Miles-Thomas.

Jon Jory's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Way Off Broadway Theatre in Prattville, Ala., Apr.13-30 <www.facebook.com/prattvillewobt>.

"The Hound of the Bursquervilles" (billed as "a burlesque mystery") will be produced at the Clocktower Cabaret in Denver, Colo., May 4-25; web-site at <[www./ci.ovationtix.com/35628/production/1144613](http://www.ci.ovationtix.com/35628/production/1144613)>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Foothills Playhouse in Easley, S.C., Oct. 27-Nov. 5 <www.easleychamber.net>.

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

There's still a lot of interest in movie posters: the Ricky Jay Collection offered at Potter & Potter Auctions on Feb. 25 included a rare (and colorful) one-sheet poster <www.tinyurl.com/5bmt5dyb> for the 1923 two-reel and long-lost silent film "Is Conan Doyle Right?" (an expose of fraudulent mediums); it sold for \$9,600 (including the buyer's premium).

The British dealer Brought to Book is offering the bound first volume of The Strand Magazine in a dust jacket (£15,000); the first volume contains a non-Sherlockian story by Conan Doyle ("The Voice of Science"), but it's the dust jacket that's truly rare <www.tinyurl.com/2p8yeu34>; early volume of the magazine in dust jackets have been reported, but here's an opportunity to see what one looks like.

Russell Merritt ("The Trepoff Murder") died on Mar. 3. He was a film historian and scholar who taught for many years in the Film Studies and Media Department at the University of California in Berkeley, and was the last person alive who read his first Sherlock Holmes story ("A Study in Scarlet") in a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887. You can learn much more about his life and career by listening to his interview for the Baker Street Irregulars Oral History Program at <www.tinyurl.com/59x5tydd>. He received his Investiture from the BSI in 1960.

If you'd like to see how much fun Russell had as a film historian, watch his talk about "How Movies Coped When the Wrong People Went to See Them" <www.nitrateville.com/viewtopic.php?f=1&p=273753>. You might also want to watch his interview on Steve Doyle's podcast The Fortnightly Dispatch, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWZTc8Nyxss>.

Leonard Goldberg's *The Wayward Prince* (New York: Minotaur Books, 2023; 336 pp., \$28.00), the seventh title in his series that stars Sherlock Holmes' daughter Joanna Blalock, who learned much from her father and is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son (and her husband) Dr. John H. Watson Jr., is set during the Great War, and they are tasked with finding a royal prince who has vanished in the midst of London and may have been kidnapped by the Germans. The author's web-site is at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.

The Deadline web-site has reported (Mar. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/2cz5th2w> on plans for a sequel to the film "Pokémon: Detective Pikachu" (2019). Pokémon was created in 1996, and more than 440 million video games have been sold, and a 25-season animated series is licensed in 177 countries. The first film, with a budget of \$150 million, grossed \$433 million worldwide, so it's likely that the sequel will be produced.

Derrick Belanger has reported that the Praed Street Irregulars will hold a Zoom meeting on June 3; the PSI, founded many years ago by Luther Norris for admirers of August Derleth's writings about Solar Pons, is of course an homage to the Baker Street Irregulars, in the same way Pons was an homage to Holmes. If you'd like to attend the meeting, just send a message to Derrick at <[derrick@belangerbooks](mailto:derrick@belangerbooks.com)>.com; you can also ask to join his Solar Pons e-mail list.

Mar 23 #2 Will Thomas' *Heart of the Nile* (New York: Minotaur, 2022; 320 pp., \$27.99) is the latest in the fine series that stars private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and (now) partner Thomas Llewelyn; the mystery begins in the British Museum in 1893, with the murder of a volunteer researcher who has found a treasure in what may be Cleopatra's mummy. It's an excellent addition to the series, which offers interesting problems and strong characters, and while it's not really Sherlockian, it's all great fun.

"Two Pipe Problems" was a delightful British radio series broadcast by BBC Radio 4, that starred Richard Briers as William Parnes/Sherlock Holmes and Stanley Baxter as Sandy Boyle/Dr. Watson. "Feisty thespians William and Stanley, the self-styled Holmes and Watson of their retirement community, galvanize the other inmates of The Old Beeches, home for terminally resting members of the entertainment community, as they leave no commode unconquered in their quest to solve their own 'two pipe problems.'" Howard Ostrom has reported two episodes ("Marriage at The Old Beeches" and "Have You Come Far?") on-line at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=agie8ZsCVsk> (they first aired on Apr. 27 and 28, 2009).

An interesting Sherlockian book was offered at auction at PBS Galleries this month: Basil Rathbone's copy of the Trilogy Dinner first edition of *Profile by Gaslight*, edited by Edgar W. Smith (1944); it was estimated at \$500-\$800, and it sold for \$600 (\$750 including the buyer's premium).

Sherlock Holmes: Das letzte Problem (2022) was an impressive graphic novel for younger readers, illustrated by Hans Binder, who also adapted the story into German for publication in Switzerland, and it is now available in English as *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem* (New York: NorthSouth Books, 2023; 56 pp., \$18.95) <www.northsouth.com>.

The Beacon Society (created in 2003 to support teaching Sherlock Holmes to young people) has published a new issue of its "not-so-quarterly newsletter" <www.tinyurl.com/nhepfkcf> (scroll down to "Society Newsletter") with reports on current activities.

Ian Jarvis' *Cat Flap* (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 335 pp., \$18.95) features Bernard Quist, a modern-day consulting detective, and a variety of names (for characters and places) taken from the Canon; otherwise it's not Sherlockian, and it's more a thriller than a mystery, with many twists and turns and evil villains.

One of the many nice things that make the N.Y. Times a great newspaper is their "Overlooked" feature ("a series of obituaries about remarkable people whose deaths, beginning in 1851 went unreported in The Times"), and on Mar. 13 they had a delightful remembrance for Dilys Winn, who died in 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/2njr69xn> (in case you can get through their pay-wall). In 1972 she opened Murder Ink, the world's first bookshop devoted solely to mystery fiction, in New York went on to edit *Murder Ink: A Mystery Lover's Companion*, which won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1978. She appeared on the television series "To Tell the Truth" in 1972, and you can see the program on YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jqj7spy>.

Mar 23 #3 Sherry Thomas' *A Tempest at Sea* (New York: Berkley, 2023; 249 pp., \$17.00), the seventh in her "Lady Sherlock" series about the exploits of Charlotte Holmes, no longer pretending to be the sister of the non-existent Sherlock Holmes but now in hiding after faking her death in order to escape from Prof. Moriarty; she's now carefully disguised as an elderly lady, at sea on her way to Gibraltar, hoping to recover a document stolen by German spies, and forced to solve two murders while avoiding Moriarty's minions. The author's web-site (offering a sample from the book) is at <www.sherrythomas.com>.

Burney Mattinson died on Feb. 27. He worked as an animator, producer, director, and story artist for Walt Disney Animation Studios for 70 years, and was the longest-serving employee in the company's history. His many credits included "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986), on which he worked as writer, producer, and director.



The Royal Mail has issued a sheet of ten stamps showing some of the most popular flowers grown in gardens across the U.K. (they're also the first stamps to feature the silhouette of HM King Charles III); two of them are Canonical: the iris in one story ("Silver Blaze") and the rose in three ("The Engineer's Thumb", "The Naval Treaty", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles") (four, if you include the rose-water in "The Sign of the Four").



There's no longer a legal right to wild camp on Dartmoor, the last place in England and Wales where people had the right to "freely sleep beneath the stars," the National Geographic re-reported (Mar. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/yc588zyw>. Wild camping is "pitching your tent away from all infrastructure, carrying all of your equipment, and leaving no trace," essentially what Sherlock Holmes did in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (except that he didn't have a tent). The High Court has ruled in a legal challenge brought by a hedge-fund manager who is Dartmoor's sixth-largest land-owner that "open-air recreation" includes riding horses and hiking, but not camping. The Dartmoor National Park authority already has spent £100,000 fighting the court case, and is considering an appeal that might cost that much more again.

Ray Betzner's latest exploration in his "Studies in Starrett" blog is an examination of "Rathbone, Eliot, and Woodworth (But Not in That Order)", inspired by his pursuit of the Brothers of the Book; it's a grand example of the strange things one can turn up when research is involved. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/mr424spe>.

The Sherlockian Chronologist Guild provides a safe haven for those devoted to determining the dates of Sherlock Holmes' cases; Bruce Harris is one of the Guild's most active members, and in his new *The Duration Debate* (2023; 120 pp., \$9.95 at Amazon) he has turned his attention to how long it took Holmes to solve each of the sixty Canonical cases, reviewing and commenting on the conclusions of nine earlier chronologists, and occasionally revising his previous datings. If you'd like to know more about the Guild, their web-site's at <www.bkeefauver5.wixsite.com/sherlockchronoguild>.

Mar 23 #4 There's a wide variety of Sherlockian playing cards available now, including a deck issued by Laurence King in the U.K. last year, with artwork by Doug John Miller and a booklet written by Nicholas Utechin (£12.99); details at <www.tinyurl.com/mdt8xdy5>. It's also available in the U.S. (\$14.99) from PBS <www.shop.pbs.org/WE5242.html>, among other sources; kindly reported by John Garcia.

If you have not heard Stephen Fry reading the Sherlock Holmes stories at Audible, Jennie Paton has reported finding some recordings on-line at YouTube <www.youtube.com/@professorjamesmoriarty1887/videos>, along with some of the programs in the BBC Radio 4 series that starred Clive Merrison and Michael Williams.

The latest issue (#31) of the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine offers the usual nice selection of Sherlockian articles and non-Sherlockian fiction, and Kim Newman's continuing "Screen of the Crime" reviews of some of the more unusual Sherlockian film and television available on YouTube, as well as striking cover art by Estevan; \$13.00 (or \$39.99 for four issues) from the Wildside Press <www.wildsidepress.com>.

The Bilge Pump, the newsletter edited by Steve Mason for the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star*, recently offered Denny Dobry's delightful contribution "You Might Be a Sherlockian If ..." in the March issue, which you can read on-line at <www.dfw-sherlock.org/the-bilge-pump-newsletter.html>.

Thomas Wixon, having lost his library to Hurricane Katrina, has decided to focus on something more portable: bookplates. He is trying to assemble a complete set of Vincent Starrett's bookplates, and you're welcome to contact him <twixon@gmail.com> to see what he has, in case you have a duplicate of a bookplate he doesn't.

The "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., will feature a new play "Send in the Clowns" at the La Mer Beachfront Resort on Apr. 14-16. The next weekend will include "The Other Consulting Detective" on Nov. 3-5 and 10-12 <www.tinyurl.com/yckscvuu>.

Steve Doyle's "The Fortnightly Dispatch" has returned for its fourth season, with a program about the public Sherlock Holmes collections in North America, interviewing Erika Dowell (the Lilly Library), Tim Johnson (the University of Minnesota), and Jessie Amaolo (the Toronto Public Library); it's all on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=EG_b4dpq3sE>.

The Baker Street Journal's 2023 Christmas Annual will be a tribute to John Bennett Shaw. The Annual is included in subscriptions to the BSJ, and not available otherwise; you can read all about (and subscribe to) the BSJ at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/the-baker-street-journal>.

There has been next to no publicity in English for "Mademoiselle Holmes" (and not much in French); it's a French television mini-series going into production for broadcast on TF1, with six 52-minute episodes. The stars of the series are Lola Dewaere as Charlie Holmes (descended from Sherlock Holmes) and Tom Villa as her Watson.

Mar 23 #5 The catalog for "A Study in Scarlet: The Curious Collection of Robert Hess" at auction Potter & Potter on Apr. 20, is now on-line at their web-site <www.potteructions.com> as a full-color PDF. The 281 lots are only the first part of his collection, which is spectacular. The items also are on-line at Invaluable <www.tinyurl.com/bdcvf84a>, and it is grand to be able explore his original illustration art, first editions, signed photos, letters, movie posters, items from the Jeremy Brett Estate, an original street sign from Baker Street, and much more. And of course to have a chance to bid on things.

Fans of the late MSFK3 [Mystery Science Theater 3000] will enjoy the work of Bridget Nelson and Mary Jo Pohl at RiffTrax <www.rifftax.com>; the latest Sherlockian film they have parodied is "The Scarlet Claw" (1944).

The splendid exhibition of "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" from the collection of Glen Miranker, on display at the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, closes on May 5, when it will return to Glen's shelves in San Francisco. You can watch and (listen to) Glen interviewed by Richard Sveum at <www.tinyurl.com/2htx83pa>.

"Holmes, Miss Marple, and Poe follows Brendan Holmes, Margaret Marple, and August Poe, who have formed the most in-demand private investigating firm in present-day New York City. They make a formidable team with differing approaches to crime-solving," the Deadline web-site noted on Mar. 21, "and each claims to be distantly related to three of the greatest mystery writers of all time—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie, and Edgar Allan Poe. But who are they really?" <www.tinyurl.com/y4a9fb29>. Best-selling author James Patterson has signed a first-look deal with Skydance Television that includes a possible television series based on a soon-to-be published book (that's not yet forecast at Amazon).

Heritage Auctions is offering some original artwork by James Allen St. John on Apr. 25 <www.tinyurl.com/mtemcm29>, stating that it shows Holmes and Watson, and that it was published as an illustration in the Baker Street Irregulars edition of *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle* (1948). That's not correct: it wasn't, and it's unlikely that it shows Holmes and Watson. But does anyone know whether, and when and where, it actually was published?



"Trichy cigars were once a Churchill favourite. Now, it's choked by taxes in a room of 3," according to the Indian web-site ThePrint, posted on Mar. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/5n8h2heu>, with mention of Sherlock Holmes. There is more about Trichinopoly cigars, and the Canon, at a different Indian web-site <www.beyonder.travel/india/trichinopoly-cigar-india>.

A. J. Low's *Sherlock Sam and the Missing Heirloom in Katong*, published in Singapore in 2012, was the first in a long series about Singapore's greatest kid detective, assisted by a robot Watson (Mar 13 #2), with a blog at <www.sherlocksam.wordpress.com>. There's now "Sherlock Sam: The Musical!" (with script by Jo Tan and score by Elaine Chan), due at the Capitol Theatre in Singapore on May 11-20 <www.tinyurl.com/bdh2yjpw>.

Mar 23 #6 Does anyone have a copy of a single issue of The Strand Magazine with covers printed on white (rather than light blue) paper, and with BRITISH EDITION and the price and date in the box at lower left? Please advise.

Theatrical news: David MacGregor's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes and the Elusive Ear" will be performed at the New Plymouth Repertory Theatre in New Plymouth, New Zealand, Mar. 28-Apr. 8 <www.repertorynp.co.nz>.

Todd Wallinger's "The Enchanted Bookshop" will be performed at the Southwest Missouri State University Fine Arts Theatre in Marshal, Mo., Apr. 1-2 <www.tinyurl.com/ya28ww5x>.

"Sherlock's Veiled Secret" (by K. C. Brown and Arne Zaslove) will be performed at the Abilene Community Theatre in Abilene, Tex., Apr. 7-16; web-site at <www.onthestage.tickets/abilene-community-theatre>.

R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" will be performed at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., May 5-28; web-site at <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes Showcase" (Tal Aviezer's dramatizations of "The Dancing Men" and "The Dying Detective") will be performed at the Elmwood Playhouse in Nyack, N.Y., on July 16 <www.elmwoodplayhouse.com>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" is scheduled at the Dorset Playhouse in Dorset, Vt., Aug. 11-26 <www.dorsettheatrefestival.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Cape Cod Center for the Arts in Dennis, Mass., Aug. 30-Sept. 9 <www.capeplayhouse.com>; and at the Omaha Community Playhouse in Omaha, Neb., Mar. 8-38 <www.omahaplayhouse.com>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be performed at the Historic Arcade Theatre in Fort Myers, Fla., Nov. 28-Dec. 17 <www.floridarep.org>.

This newsletter doesn't make the comics pages all that often, but here's Bassett's "Red and Rover" (Mar. 24) <www.tinyurl.com/2f7mwa43>:



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

"The Pepsodent Show Starring Bob Hope" (broadcast by NBC) was one of the most listened-to series during World War II, and Howard Ostrom has found on-line <www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiZ_LMtEFyY> the program that was broadcast on Jan. 28, 1941, when Hope played straight man to guest star Basil Rathbone, who can be heard in a (non-Sherlockian) skit at 7:50.

Jennie Paton has reported an interesting video in which Anthony Horowitz explains that he was inspired to be a mystery writer by reading a collection of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and then goes on to discuss "The Art of the Murder Mystery Twist" <www.tinyurl.com/sry3a3sk>.

Steve Doyle's new season of "The Fortnightly Dispatch" continues with his interview with Terence Faherty, discussing the Sherlockian films of Basil Rathbone; it's on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dm0GB99iudE>.

Save the date: the next major event in Minneapolis will be a conference on July 26-28, 2024, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. If you would like to enroll on their mailing list, contact Dick Sveum <sveumr@gmail.com>.

Geri Schear's *Sherlock Holmes and the Other Woman* (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 325 pp., \$16.95) is her second pastiche told by Sherlock Holmes, who with his wife Beatrice (a god-daughter of Her Majesty) becomes involved in a desperate (and complicated) battle against a malevolent enemy in 1898. *Return to Reichenbach* (2016; 330 pp., \$16.95), the next in the series, has Holmes and Watson and Beatrice pitted against a mysterious villain who may have supernatural powers, in a dire and bitter contest that brings Holmes back to the scene of his battle with Moriarty. The author has a web-site at <www.rycardus.wordpress.com>.

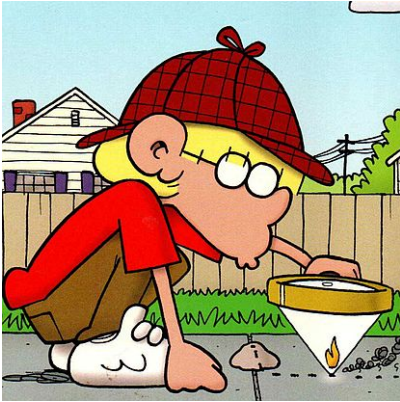
When in Chicago: you can visit the Claudia restaurant, named by chef Trevor Teich in honor of his mother, and work your way through the bar menu, which offers seven fancy (and expensive) cocktails that he has named for Sherlock Holmes stories <www.claudiarestaurant.com/menu-1>. Claudia's one of seven restaurants named for women that were reviewed by Nicole Schnitzler in the Chicago Tribune (Mar. 28) <www.inyurl.com/mreurd3d>.

"Have you ever heard a conch shell trumpet, Queen Victoria's voice, or the call of the bare-faced go-away-bird?" That's the question posed at British Library's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yckwry9w>, to introduce people to their new "Sounds" web-site, where you can listen to "Conan Doyle Speaking" (the recording made in London by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for His Master's Voice on May 14, 1930) <www.tinyurl.com/2p9bzhf2>.

Randall Stock came in first with an identification of the artwork by James Allen St. John at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 25 <www.tinyurl.com/mtemcm29> (Mar 23 #5): it's from the anthology *Favorite Mystery Stories*, edited by Marjorie Barrows (Chicago: Spencer Press, 1953), which included "The Blue Carbuncle" and "The Red-Headed League", both illustrated by St. John. It is cited by Ron De Waal in *The Universal Sherlock Holmes*.

Apr 23 #2 The Oxford University Press has announced its new nine-volume Oxford World's Classics edition of the Sherlock Holmes stories with a video webinar with four of the editors <www.tinyurl.com/ykqvfhah>. The first four volumes (*A Study in Scarlet*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, and *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*) are due for release in May. This will be a new edition, rather than a reprint of *The Oxford Sherlock Holmes* (1993.)

"Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened" is the latest video game from Frogwares, with a trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=J181zTVgnn4>. Gamers will find plenty of reviews on the Internet, by people who play such games. It has been described as a blend of Conan Doyle and Lovecraft, and there's more information at the Frogwares web-site <www.frogwares.com>.



Bill Amend's *Encyclopedias Brown and White* (from Andrews McMeel, 2001) offers a collection of his "Foxtrot" comic strips, with Jason Fox in colorful Sherlockian costume on the cover, and as an investigator in amusing sequence. It's out of print, of course, but copies are available on-line. Other Sherlockian strips will be found Amend's *May the Force Be with Us, Please* (1994) and his *Take Us to Your Mall* (1995).

Reported: Jonathan Payne's *Citizen Orlov* (CamCat, 2023) is set in an unnamed Central European kingdom at the end of WWI (according to the review in *Publishers Weekly*, Apr. 24), and "the blend of action and picaresque buffoonery flatteringly calls Conan Doyle's Brigadier Gerard tales to mind." It is nice indeed to see that one of Conan Doyle's other delightful characters is not forgotten.

A more recent Sherlockian comic strip was Lincoln Peirce's "Big Nate" on Apr. 9 <www.gocomics.com/bignate/2023/04/09>.

And Charles Schultz's "Peanuts" (now in reruns) was Sherlockian on Apr. 13 <www.peanuts.com>; it's a reprint from Apr. 15, 1976.

Mark your calendar for Sept. 23, when Denny Dobry will be holding an open house at his home in Reading, Pa., where visitors can enter (and play in) his splendid recreation of the sitting-room, and browse the shelves in his book fair, where he will be selling Sherlockiana that has been donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust (prices will be modest indeed) and publications of the BSI Press. It is well worth a visit, and directions are available from Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>. You can see colorful images at <www.bsitrust.org/2021/06/book-fair-2021.html> from his similar event in 2021.

John Kelly wrote in his Washington Post column on Oct. 28, 2004, that "As we narrow down all the don'ts, as Sherlock Holmes said, 'We're left with the answer.'" <www.tinyurl.com/mraafeuz>. So: where and when did Sherlock Holmes say that? Not in the Canon, but possibly in a pastiche or play or film; does anyone recognize the quote?

Apr 23 #3 The PeepingMoon web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2p84nk45> reported on plans for a Bollywood adaptation of the BBC "Sherlock" television series, "contextualized for Indian culture and milieu" and set in present-day Kolkata and Bihar, starring Kay Kay Menon as Holmes and Ranvi Shorey as Watson; the series has been greenlit by BBC Studios (the principal commercial subsidiary of the BBC) and was scheduled to go into production on Apr. 3. Jennie Paton found a television news report (in Bengali) about the series at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-DT536mrDU>.

The question (Feb 23 #2) was whether anyone has read stories by more than one of four authors (Katherine Mansfield, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Perceval Gibbon, and Stacy Aumonier). Yes, Otto Penzler notes, he has read stories by them all, because he was reading stories that might be included in one of his many anthologies. "They weren't bad," he reports.

Howard Ostrom recently revised his essay on "The World of Sherlock Holmes Statues" to include a status of Holmes made from twigs, discovered by Alison Corbett in a "Story Stroll" in Rozelle Park in Ayr, Scotland. You can read his illustrated essay at <www.nplh.co.uk/sherlock-statues.html>.

"The Carlton Club will find me," Sir James Damery said (in "The Illustrious Client"); you can read about the nearby Reform Club in a nicely illustrated article at the Country Life web-site <www.tinyurl.com/24k5cywm>.

David Timson, a British actor credited with more than a thousand programs for BBC Radio Drama, has recorded the entire Canon for Naxos Audiobooks, was featured in a recent BlogCritics interview that includes video from one of his recording sessions <www.tinyurl.com/4rr94pyb>.

For the completist: there's yet another fancy gift edition of the Canon: *The Complete Sherlock Holmes Collection* (London: Welbeck Publishing Group, 2022, 1095 pp., \$34.95), with an introduction by Ryan Callander (for The Sherlock Holmes Museum) and illustrations by Patrick Knowles, available in the U.S. apparently only from Barnes & Noble <www.tinyurl.com/4a2pee7d>.

The introduction gives some interesting (to say the least) history of 221B Baker Street, noting that it "stands today exactly as Sherlock Holmes left it in 1904," and that "it is due to tremendous fortune and the fortitude of hard-working people that this building has been preserved as a monument to both a cultural giant and a way of life from days gone by." And 221B operated as a lodging house "even after the first incarnation of The Sherlock Holmes Museum opened in the late 1930s" and then "the landlady would show the study and the adjacent bedroom as the Museum, while tenants still lived upstairs."

Actually, it was on June 4, 1989, that Martin Bailey reported in the Observer that John Aidiniantz had asked the Westminster City Council to re-allocate the address to the house at 239 Baker Street, where he wanted to set up a "Sherlock Holmes Centre". He had earlier advertised in Country Life: "Investor/sleeping partner required with £2.5 million. World famous London landmark for sale. May suit titled person with cultural and historical interests."

Apr 23 #4 Jeremy Brett made his television debut as Sherlock Holmes in "A Scandal in Bohemia" on Apr. 24, 1984, not all that long after he appeared as Ernest Finley in the "Ace's Valet" segment of an episode of "The Love Boat" that aired on Feb. 25, 1984. Jennie Paton has found brief footage from the segment at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3oBdA7pPjQ>; you can watch the entire episode at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQf4FolcQf0>.

There were many interesting items offered in the auction of Bob Hess' collection ("A Study in Sherlock") at Potter & Potter Auctions in Chicago on Apr. 20, including a note written by Conan Doyle on his calling card; estimated at \$600-\$800, it sold for \$1,100 (plus a 20% buyer's premium and sales tax). There was spirited bidding by dealers and collectors, and you can explore the catalog at <www.potterauctions.com>; the prices realized should be posted soon.

This year's annual meeting of the American Library Association (in Chicago) will include a gathering of the Sub-Librarians Scion on the afternoon of Sunday, June 25 <www.tinyurl.com/2w3jpuuc>. Information about the venue will be available from Beth Gallego <bethgallego@gmail.com>.

The spring issue of Canadian Holmes (the journal of the Bootmakers of Toronto) offers a previously unpublished article about cocaine ("A pathological and morbid process") written by the late Donald A. Redmond and recently discovered in his files, Brian Clark's in-depth discussion of fishing in the Canon, and much more. A subscription costs \$40.00 a year (US/CA), and single issues cost \$12.00 postpaid <www.torontobootmakers.com>.

Anne Perry died on Apr. 10. She was an accomplished author of mysteries, (with book sales of 26 million copies worldwide), winner of an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 2000, and guest of honor at Bouchercon in 2013 and 2020. She contributed short stories to many Sherlockian anthologies, and an Afterword to a 2001 Signet edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

The next Black Mountain Bluegrass Picking Weekend at Baskerville Hall will be held on June 23-25 <www.tinyurl.com/4tar8pex>. Baskerville Hall is in Powys, Wales, but their claim is that Conan Doyle was a frequent visitor, a friend of the family, and at their request moved the story to Devon to prevent the Hall being overrun with tourists.

The latest "Buzz from Laurie R. King" <www.tinyurl.com/yksmhspt> reports that the first draft of *The Lantern's Dance* (the next Mary Russell novel) is now in the hands of her editor, and offers a brief sample as a teaser.

Heather MacKenzie's interesting article on "Breaking the 'Beautiful' Mold" in the April issue of *The Whaling News* (the monthly on-line journal of the Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn) <www.whalingnews.wordpress.com> cites Hadar Aviram's article on "Dainty Hands: Perceptions of Women and Crime in Sherlock Holmes Stories" in the *Hastings Journal on Gender and the Law* (summer 2011), also conveniently available on-line at the web-site of the journal <<https://repository.uchastings.edu/hwlj/vol22/iss2/1>>. MacKenzie focuses on Mary Morstan, but Aviram casts her net more widely.

Apr 23 #5 Christopher Sandford's *The Man Who Would Be Sherlock Holmes: The Real-Life Adventures of Arthur Conan Doyle* (London: History Press, 2017) (New York: Thomas Dunne/St. Martin's, 2018) is not (as the author explains) a biography of Conan Doyle, or Holmes, but rather an attempt to show how similar, and sometimes different, they were, and it's a nicely readable examination of Conan Doyle's work and career.

Sherlock Holmes visited Windsor Castle to receive an emerald tie-pin from "a certain gracious lady" (in "The Bruce-Partington Plans"), and here's a nicely-illustrated article about Windsor Castle as it is now at the Country Life web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc7uen59>.

Ira J. Fistell died on Sept. 26, 2022. In 1969 he was one of the founders of the Amateur Mendicant Society of Madison, Wis. (now known as the Notorious Canary Trainers). He contributed to their newsletter (the Notorious Canary-Trainers Manual), wrote *The Hidden Holmes: A Sherlock Holmes Companion* (Nov 20 #6), and had a long career in radio (after he moved to Los Angeles he participated in a reading of the entire Canon on KTPK-FM on Dec. 25-30, 1980).

Ken Ludwig tells some stories about his new play "Moriarty" (due for its world premiere in Cleveland on May 5) in a video interview at YouTube at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgPDPUxiLqU&t=21s>. There's more about some of his other plays at <www.tinyurl.com/4sch5xjh>.

Baker Street West (based in Jackson, Calif.) has its own YouTube channel, and has launched an "And So It Begins" video series intended to encourage people to read the Canon (beginning with "The Red Circle").

I've long described this newsletter as "six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean." If you would like to run a word-search on a large file with all of the text since March 1985 (that's when I entered the computer age), you can now do that, thanks to Steve Mason, who updates his compilation each month and has moved it to the web-site of the Beacon Society at <www.beaconsociety.com/scuttlebutt-from-the-spermacetti-press.html>.

The U.S. Postal Service, which increased the cost of mailing letters last January, now proposes to increase the cost again, in July. A first-class letter will cost 66¢ for the first ounce within the U.S. and \$1.50 for the first ounce outside the U.S. Subscriptions to this newsletter will cost more, and likely will cost even more next year.

Almost all former subscribers have enjoyed being able to access PDFs, with artwork in full color, and live links, without charge, but there still are a few who have been willing to pay for subscriptions, possibly because it is hard to remember to go to a web-site at the beginning of each month and read the new issue, or even print it out (which, after all, is less expensive than paying for printed issues received in the mail). So there will now be a Google Group for the newsletter, which will provide everyone with a link to the PDF each month; if you would like to be in the Google Group, just let me know by e-mail <blau7103@comcast.net>.

Apr 23 #6 Reported: *The Haycraft-Queen & Queen's Quorum Catalogue*, just published by Otto Penzler's Mysterious Bookshop, offering More than 200 books, mostly first editions, from the definitive crime-fiction lists compiled by Howard Haycraft and Ellery Queen, with 14 pages of color photographs; \$10.00 (refundable with purchase from the catalogue). And of course the Canon is included, with first editions of *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Valley of Fear*, and (in dust jackets) *His Last Bow* and *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*.

Jennie Paton has found an impressive video promoting three-bedroom flats on Sherlock Mews at 98 Baker Street in London <www.vimeo.com/816819497>.

Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot: Holmes for the Holidays" is being performed at the Act Two Theatre in St. Peters, Mo., through May 7 <www.acttwotheatre.com>; it's also scheduled at the Lyric Stage Company in Boston, Mass., Nov. 10-Dec. 17 <www.lyricstage.com>.

The Alley Theatre has added a week to its run of Katie Forquette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" in Houston, Texas, and the show will now close on May 14 <www.alleytheatre.org>.

Bert Coules' "Watson: The Final Problem" is now touring in Britain (and on Cunard's *RMS Queen Mary 2* in July) <www.smokescreenprods.com>.

Bob Sturgess' "The Curious Case of the Cow in the Spotlight" will be performed at the Milestone Center in Reading, Berks., May 18-20; web-site at <www.cavparktheatre.org.uk>. "Pantomime can be murder, as the Crouch End Ladies Thespian Society find out when their panto cow is shot dead shortly before the show is due to start."

David Stuart Davies' "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act" will be performed by Nigel Miles-Thomas at the Hollywood Fringe Festival in Hollywood, Calif., June 15-24 <www.hollywoodfringe.org/projects/9759>.

Alex Dawson's radio drama "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at the White Rock Elementary School in Oak Ridge, N.J., on June 16; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/3by3dr8a>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Community Centre in Churchdown, Gloucs., June 21-23 <www.churchdownplayers.com>.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the Watson) Intelligence" will be performed at the Inspired Acting Company in Walled Lake, Mich., on Apr. 5-21, 2024 <www.inspiredacting.org>; also at the Road Less Traveled Theater in Buffalo, N.Y., Apr. 18-May 19 <www.roadlesstraveled.com>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is scheduled at the Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach, Calif., May 29-June 16 <www.lagunaplayhouse.com>.

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

The *Baker Street Almanac 2023*, edited by Ross E. Davies, Jayantika Gangu-ly, Ira Brad Matetsky, and Monica Schmidt, and modestly described as "an annual capsule of a timeless past and future," is now available in print for \$30.00 postpaid (\$50.00 postpaid outside the U.S.); you can order from the web-site at www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/2023.html or from The Green Bag (6600 Barnaby Street NW, Washington, DC 20015). The 364 pages include a copiously-annotated edition of "The Stockbroker's Clerk" (and much more "in the form of a formidable scrap-book of 2022, including treasures created or uncovered then, with a few other odds and ends tossed in").

Among those treasures is Davies' definitive report on HOWW (as Jay Finlay Christ might have abbreviated Conan Doyle's apocryphal "How Watson Learned the Trick"). Almanacs for previous years are available (free) as PDFs at www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/bsa.html.

There's even more about HOWW at www.tinyurl.com/ykxmj3d9, where you'll find his "Where Watson Learned the Trick". It's a Green Bag Single-Sheet Classic that maps where events in the story "take place, and where was Sherlock Holmes going to meet his dentist. This map explains. Maybe."

Ray Betzner, who does cast his net widely, discussed "Sherlock Holmes, Solar Pons, & the Coronation of King Charles III" recently in his "Studies in Starrett" blog www.tinyurl.com/3cfj7duf. There is indeed a connection (quite remote) to Vincent Starrett (read the blog to find out what it is).

Laurence Pernet is a talented Swiss artist who won the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's contest for their 2020 Christmas card; you can see that artwork ("One winter's night") and much more of her work at her web-site www.lpernet-portfolio.ch. When she was a student (of graphic design and then information science) she was able to work on the Conan Doyle Archives at the Bibliothèque cantonale et universitaire in Lausanne and prepared a new inventory of the Archives www.tinyurl.com/5n7dnxyf (it was a "dream job," she says).

The Conan Doyle Archives were bequeathed by Adrian to the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Foundation, and deposited at the Bibliothèque in 1975. They include the manuscript of "Shoscombe Old Place" and are a treasure trove of correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks, and other interesting material that will be useful to anyone writing about the Conan Doyle family.

Laurence Pernet has shown how important the Archives can be, in an article ("Mourning for Holmes: More Than a Myth") in the spring issue of *The Baker Street Journal*, in which she has reported finding a likely source for the often-repeated (and often-doubted) story about how (after publication of "The Final Problem"), gentlemen of the City were seen wearing black arm-bands in honor of the deceased detective. The spring issue is included in an annual subscription to the BSJ (\$41.95 or \$55.00 outside the U.S.) at www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/the-baker-street-journal or P.O. Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077-1934.

May 23 #2 Fans of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" will recall the series' two Sherlockian episodes: "Elementary, Dear Data" (1988) and "Ship in a Bottle" (1993), in which Daniel Davis played Moriarty. Now Moriarty has returned, in "The Bounty" (season three, episode six of "Star Trek: Picard") now streaming on Paramount+. For anyone who came in late, Wikipedia <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_Trek:_Picard> offers a detailed discussion of the series; the third season is available only on Paramount+ (you can subscribe or rent or purchase programs). Davis is delightful as Moriarty, both 35 years ago and today, and you can watch a recent interview with him at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUSmk08u4l4>.

Further to the report on a miniature version of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* from MiniaturbuchVerlag Leipzig (Mar 11 #1), the company offers all sixty of the Sherlock Holmes stories <www.miniboox.de>.



"On the edge of a jutting pinnacle," Conan Doyle wrote (in "A Study in Scarlet"), "three or four hundred feet above him, there stood a creature somewhat resembling a sheep in appearance, but armed with a pair of gigantic horns." And "the big-horn—for so it is called—was acting, probably, as a guardian over a flock which were invisible to the hunter." The U.S. Postal Service has issued a new sheet of 20 stamps to honor the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, and one of them shows a desert bighorn sheep. The images come from thousands in Joel Sartore's "National Geographic Photo Ark" (a project intended to document every species in "human care" in all of the world's zoos, aquariums, and wildlife sanctuaries) <www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/photo-ark>. The Photo Ark now has images of more than 13,000 species, out of an estimated 20,000 species.

Michael Capuzzo's *The Murder Room: The Heirs of Sherlock Holmes Gather to Solve the World's Most Perplexing Cold Cases* was reviewed some years ago (Aug 2010 #7); the book was about the Vidocq Society and forensic psychologist and profiler Richard Walter, described by Scotland Yard (according to Capuzzo) as "the living Sherlock Holmes." Now a story in New York magazine (Apr. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/yck2yba> has offered a detailed report on "The Case of the Fake Sherlock" that notes that Walter was "hailed as a genius," but in reality was a fraud, and asks, "How did he get away with it for so long?"

"Tide: For Detectives with Sensitive Skin" is a new and amusing 30-second television commercial <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxPyxgh9xgA>, reported by Tim Kline.

"Sherlock Holmes Uses Chinese TikTok (Douyin) to Attract New Generation of Chinese Readers" was the headline on a press release from the Phoenix Publishing Group on Apr. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/36rrnjtk>. *Detective Sherlock Holmes*, a new children's book from their Yilin Press imprint, sold 10,000 copies in the first three days, thanks to a short video by an on-line influencer, and 300,000 copies in three months last year. 85% of all Chinese books are now sold on-line, according to the press release, and book sales via social media have risen by 800% over the last six years.

May 23 #3 It has been decades since Nathan L. Bengis suggested (in the Oct. 1957 issue of the Baker Street Journal) that the tie-pin Holmes received from "a certain gracious lady" (in "The Bruce-Partington Plans") was not actually an emerald, but rather his birthstone: a (green) garnet. Bengis also suggested that Watson did not realize that there were gem-quality green garnets, and that Holmes was given a uvarovite tie-pin. There are other green garnets, including tsavorite, discovered recently in Tanzania, and the Smithsonian recently added one to its collection of gems <www.tinyurl.com/ydnabpj2>. The "Lion of Merelani" is a spectacular 116-carat stone, cut with 177 facets, roughly the size of a quarter. There's was more more about the gem in an article in the Washington Post (Apr. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/2ffv5w8v>.

Steve Doyle has two new interviews in his on-line "Fortnightly Dispatch" videos, one with Derrick and Brian Belanger, the prolific Sherlockian publishers responsible for Belanger Books <www.tinyurl.com/yc28f2n4>; and the second with Dan Andriacco, the new editor of the Baker Street Journal, who discusses both what he brings to his new position, what the job entails, as well as what he's planning for the BSJ <www.tinyurl.com/bdzb5x6m>. You can also search YouTube for [fortnightly dispatch] and find his channel, and watch many of his earlier interviews.

"Den sorte Hætte" ["The Black Hood"], produced by the Nordisk Films Kompagni in Denmark, released in 1911, and (as "The Conspirators") later that year in Britain and the U.S., starring Lauritz Olsen as Sherlock Holmes. Jennie Paton has found a 7-minute excerpt from the film on-line at Daily Motion <www.dailymotion.com/video/x8kdlhg>.

The spring issue of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust's electronic newsletter For the Sake of the Trust has been uploaded to the Trust's web-site at <www.bsitrust.org>. with news of the Trust's oral-history project and its new intern Tamara Shu, and an announcement that the next annual (on-line) lecture will be given by Steve Rothman on Sept. 9. You're more than welcome to explore the Trust's web-site and read past issues.

"Netflix will end its DVD Service, 5.2 Billion Discs Later" was the headline on an article in the N.Y. Times (Apr. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/3msjac8f>; the company shipped its first DVD in 1998, and by 2010 had some 20 million subscribers, but viewers have moved to cable and streaming services, and Netflix will ship its last DVDs at the end of September. Commercial DVDs also have been affected: no DVDs have been released for the "Enola Holmes" films, or the series "The Irregulars" and the third season of "Star Trek: Picard" (all still available on cable and streaming services).

The April issue of the quarterly newsletter from The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, offers Phil Bergem's discussion of Conan Doyle's travels in the U.S. and Canada 100 years ago, John Bergquist's tribute to Michael and Mollie Hardwick 50 years ago, and much about the exhibition of "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker"; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Timothy Johnson, #15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <johns976@umn.com>.

May 23 #4 Jack A. French died on Apr. 18. He had a long career as a special agent in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He also was an accomplished actor, with credits on film and in television, and had a long-time interest in old-time radio. Jack was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, a member of the Red Circle of Washington, and acted in production of William Gillette's "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes" at Bouchercon in 1980.

The original artwork by J. Allen St. John, offered at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 25, described as showing Holmes and Watson and published in the Baker Street Irregulars' edition of *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle* (1948), was estimated at \$3,000-\$5,000, and sold for \$2,750 (including the buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/mtemcm29>. It actually shows Henry Baker ("a tall man in a Scotch bonnet") and Dr. Watson at the entrance to the house in Baker Street, and (as Randall Stock noted) was published in the anthology *Favorite Mystery Stories*, edited by Marjorie Barrows (Chicago: Spencer Press, 1953). Frank Middlemass wasn't all that tall in Granada's program <www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBJ05EPno6k>, but he did have what he called his Scottish bonnet.

Barrows' *Favorite Mystery Stories* also has a bit of Sherlockian artwork on the endpapers, inspired by St. John's illustration of Henry Baker and Dr. Watson.

Kim Newman was the Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker during the birthday festivities in 2013, and has enjoyed exploring the world of Sherlock Holmes in *Anno Dracula* and *The Hound of the D'Urbervilles*. His *The Man from the Diogenes Club* (from MonkeyBrain in 2005 and reprinted by Titan in 2017) is a collection of stories featuring Richard Jeperson, who in the 1970s was the Most Valued Member of the club ("the least publicized of Britain's law enforcement and intelligence agencies"). There are occasional mentions of Mycroft Holmes in the science fiction/fantasy/supernatural stories.

The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the spring issue of *Sherlock's Spotlight* is available at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com> (check the menu at the left); 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.

Sherlockian wine enthusiasts may want to pursue the Enos Sherlock Holmes Blend Gran Reserva from Brazil, with a colorful label, spotted by Jennie Paton. R\$190 (that's \$37.63) in Brazil <www.tinyurl.com/5f24jpc5>.

Otto Penzler's continuing series of reprints of excellent American Mystery Classics includes Anthony Boucher's *Rocket to the Morgue* (2019) (\$25.95) with an introduction by F. Paul Wilson, who helpfully identifies (almost) all the Golden Age of Science Fiction writers who appear in the book with different names; thanks to the convenient "Look Inside" feature at Amazon, you can read the introduction on-line. The book also contains many thinly-veiled Canonical and Conanical references, and is great fun to read.

May 23 #5 Sherlock Holmes watches have been offered over the years, but now you can buy a "Limited Edition Hand Assembled Conan Doyle Astute Automatic Rose Black" men's wristwatch from Gamages of London (for only £720) <www.tinyurl.com/4684kx43>. There doesn't seem to be anything Doylean about the watch other than the copywriter's description, but copywriting is an art form, as Dorothy L. Sayers believed; she is credited for creating the slogan "It pays to advertise" and you can read what she had to say about copywriting at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8swevh>.

The Projection Booth <www.projectionboothpodcast.com> was founded in 2011, and recently featured four episodes (#262-265) co-hosted by David MacGregor and devoted to Sherlockian films. Well worth a look (or listen).

Charles Napier Hemy's oil-on-canvas painting of "The Riverside, Limehouse" <www.tinyurl.com/2u5n7as7> was at auction at Bonhams in London on Apr. 26 (estimated at £20,000-£30,000). It was painted in 1914, and doesn't show houses in Upper Swandam Lane as seen from the river (because there was and is no Upper Swandam Lane in London), but it offers a nice view of what the neighborhood looked like not long after the time "The Man with the Twisted Lip".

Otto Penzler and his Mysterious Bookshop were profiled in a recent interview at the RingSideReport web-site <www.ringsidereport.com/?p=119398>.

Brad Keefauver's *Holmes in an Hour or Two* (2022; 178 pp., \$8.95) lives up nicely to its subtitle "A Sherlock Holmes Fan's First Sherlockian Chronology, or Create Your Own Timeline of Sherlock Holmes's Life in the Shortest Time Possible." It's an expert introduction to Sherlockian chronology, a past-time that has bedeviled scholars since 1898, explaining how it works, and offering readers a chance to make their own choices.

Jim Westergard's *Oddballs* (subtitled "The Remarkable True Stories of Forty Unique, Strange, Peculiar, Extraordinary & Generally Odd People, Told in Prose and Wood Engravings") was published in a limited edition of 30 copies by Heavenly Monkey in 2011, and reprinted by Porcupine's Quill in 2015 (104 pp., \$18.95). Conan Doyle is one of the oddballs, and Westergard's wood-engraving portrait of him can be seen in an on-line offer of the limited edition (\$2,500) <www.tinyurl.com/mt6hxume>.

It was well worth the drive to Cleveland to see the opening night of Ken Ludwig's new play "Moriarty". Like "Baskerville", it's performed by five actors, one playing Holmes, another as Watson, and three more as everyone else (including Moriarty, Von Ormstein, Mycroft Holmes, Mrs. Barabas, Hilda Kleb, Daisy, Irene Adler, Mrs. Hudson, and Cartwright). The script is faithful both to the Canon and to William Gillette's play, and at the same time thoroughly original. No spoilers here, except to say that Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson join Irene Adler in confronting the evil Moriarty, and that there are twists and turns and surprises, right up to the finale. "Let me recommend this play," as someone almost once said; you should urge your local theaters to perform "Moriarty" (Concord Theatricals handles all of Ken Ludwig's plays) <www.concord.com>. You can also see a new trailer for the play at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssELZ9EtJi4>.

May 23 #6 "One Woman's Plot to Watch 201 Agatha Christie Movies Without Murdering the Director, Screenwriter, Cast, or Her Husband" is the amusing (and apt) sub-title of Teresa Peschel's *Agatha Christie, She Watched* (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2023; 427 pp., \$19.95); the book includes world-wide film and television, from 1929 to 2022, copiously illustrated, and discussed in detail, with humor and insight and frequent mentions of Sherlockian and Doylean allusions in the films and television series. Her husband (Bill) had edited eight volumes in the "223B Casebook Series" of anthologies of pastiches and parodies published from 1888 to 1930, as well as other books of Sherlockian interest <www.peschelpress.com>.

Note: Peschel Press books are self-published via Amazon, and the cost of printing will increase on June 20, so now's the time to purchase any and all of their books.

Rupert Holmes' *Murder Your Employer* (New York: Avid Reader, 2023; 388 pp., \$28.00) includes a passing mention of Sherlock Holmes (as is the case with so many books nowadays), but it's also a delightful account of the goings-on at the McMasters Conservatory for the Applied Arts (which all focus on the fine art of murder). Rupert Holmes (the pen name of "a man who loves to drink Rupert Knickerbocker beer and is an avid fan of ace sleuth Sherlock Holmes," according to an article in the Dallas Times Herald on June 3, 1986) has won two Edgars from the Mystery Writers of America, and has a colorful web-site at <www.rupertholmes.com>.

The Roosevelt Hotel in New York, site of many events during birthday festivities in January, has been closed for the last three years, and is now open again, but not for the general public. The city is using 850 of the rooms in the hotel to house migrants who are seeking asylum in the U.S.

There's an image of Sherlock Drone in a story in the Lincolnshire World on May 10 (<www.tinyurl.com/mm5sbpp5>, one of four drones used by the county police, named by students at Ingoldmells Academy, a local primary school. Sherlock Drone will be keeping an eye out for criminals in and near Skegness.

Jonny Lee Miller (who starred as Sherlock Holmes in the television series "Elementary") has told his followers on Instagram that he has now completed his "Firefighter I" five-month training course at the Suffolk County Fire Academy in New York <www.tinyurl.com/28ffacn5>, and is on his way to being qualified as a volunteer firefighter; all that he needs to do now is complete the somewhat longer "Firefighter II" training course.

Penguin Random House has begun its promotion of Laurie R. King's next Mary Russell novel *The Lantern's Dance*, due in February. You read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/ntwap5np>.

Howard Ostrom keeps an eye out for various animals in Sherlockian costume, and has reported a new addition to his menagerie: an anteater, used by a pest-control company <www.elementarypestmanagement.com>. And (for children) on the cover of and in Doug Cushman's *Aunt Eater's Mystery Halloween* (1998), out of print but readily available on-line.

May 23 #7 There's more Sherlock Holmes due on Audible: the entire Canon, with Clive Merrison and Michael Williams as Holmes and Watson broadcast by BBC Radio from 1989 to 1995. The collection will include an interview with Adrian Conan Doyle about his father, and behind-the-scenes commentary by the series' head writer Bert Coules, and will be released on Sept.7. Audible is Amazon's audiobook subscription service.



Elementary Pest Management (May 23 #6) isn't the only (or the first) such company to use a Sherlockian image. Ralph Hall (whose investiture in the Baker Street Irregulars is "Smack! Smack! Smack!") presides over a company established in 1985 <www.wisebuyingmall.com/bugdetectors> and has Sherlock Holmes displayed on his car.

Conan Doyle died on May 10. In Davenport, Iowa. His parents were Donald and Jane Doyle, and he is survived by his wife Lori and their children Le-anna, Justine, and Keegan <www.tinyurl.com/252y5rr7>.

"Khitrovka: The Sign of the Four" is a new Russian film, reported by Alexander Orlov <www.tinyurl.com/2x9jkur3>. It's set in Moscow in 1902, and is inspired by (rather than an adaptation of) the Sherlock Holmes story, and the URL provides access to details and four trailers. Alexis Barquin has more images (and information about the film) at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mtmjyub6>.

Jennie Paton spotted ten of the BBC Radio broadcasts with Carleton Hobbs and Norman Shelley as Holmes and Watson, almost all of them with nice introductions by Nicholas Utechin, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDnOCUMvnFU>.

Mike Befeler's *Old Detectives Home* (Farmington: Encircle, 2022; 270 pp., \$6.99) is an amusing look at a retirement home for aging detectives. The staff (mystery authors who include Dash Hammett, Rexie Stout, Dot Sayers, and Art Doyle) and residents (including Tommy and Tuppence Beresford, Auguste Dupin, Hercule Poirot, and Sherlock Holmes) are trying to solve the murder of critic Ed Wilson, and the novel has both plethora of clues and a great deal of broad humor. Befeler's web-site is at <www.mikebefelr.com>.

Mary Stojak's *Sissy Holmes and the Case of the Dead Hypnotist* (London: Orange Pip Books, 2022; 261 pp., \$14.95) may well offer a truly new version of Sherlock Holmes in the ever-expanding world of pastiches, homages, and parodies; Sissy Holmes consults a hypnotist in hopes of giving up smoking, and after the hypnotist is murdered during the session, finds that she is now the host of a reincarnated Holmes. Needless to say, they're successful in solving the crime. The author blogs at <www.mysteriesinc.org>.

William Seil notes that on May 16 Bill Griffith's "Zippy" comic strip had a nice Sherlockian allusion <www.comicskingdom.com/zippy-the-pinhead>.

Closer Presents: *The Mysterious World of Sherlock Holmes*" (a 96-page one-issue magazine published by American Media in 2019) (\$5.99 at Amazon) has no credit to an editor or authors, but it's packed with colorful illustrations of Holmes, his world, and his appearances in various media.

May 23 #8 Paul B. Kane's *Nailbiters: Tales of Crime & Psychological Terror* (Kent: Black Shuck Books, 2017; 256 pp, \$15.65) is a collection of his short stories; one of them is a Sherlockian pastiche ("The Greatest Mystery") reprinted from the anthology *Gaslight Arcanum* (2011). "Psychological terror" describes all of the stories, which aren't for the faint-hearted. The author's web-site is at <www.plkane.com/bio.htm>, and the publisher is at <www.blackshuckbooks.co.uk>.

The Monstrum Opus of Sherlock Holmes: A Compendium of Horrors Dr. Watson Dared Not Tell, edited by Nathaniel Barker-Harris, Brad Keefauver, and Rob Nunn (2022; 131 pp., \$8.95), lives up to its subtitle: it's an anthology of essays by Sherlockians, old hands and new, who have fun shining bright light into some of the darker corners of the Canon.

Theatrical news: James Barry's "Sherlock's Excellent Adventure" continues in Britain <www.ourstartheatrecompany.com>. There's a two-minute teaser at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/mryja2sz>.

Alex Dawson's radio drama "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at the White Rock Elementary School in Oak Ridge, N.J., on June 16; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/3by3dr8a>.

The Carnegie Players of Rennsalaer's "Sherlock Holmes" (their dramatization of "The Red-Headed League" and "The Musgrave Ritual" in Rennssalaer, Ind., June 16-24 <www.thecarnegieplayers.org>).

Seven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Gladys G. Davis Theatre in Morgantown, W.Va., June 23-July 1; web-site at <www.wvucca.universitytickets.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Western Reserve Playhouse in Bath, Ohio, through June 10 <www.thewrp.org>. It's also scheduled at the Barn Theatre in Augusta, Mich., July 18-30 <www.barntheatreschool.org>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2b" has been scheduled at the University Theatre at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, July 27-Sept.24 <www.theatre.wisc.edu>.

The musical "The Whimsical World of Sherlock Holmes" (by Marney and Anthony Makridakis) will be performed at the Wylie Acting Group in Wylie, Tex., Aug. 4-6 <www.tinyurl.com/yc4eawhr>; there's video at the web-site of an earlier performance.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at the Sheringham Little Theatre in Sheringham, Norfolk, Aug. 15-19 <www.sheringhamlittletheatre.com>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes & Watson" will be performed at the Waldron Auditorium in Bloomington, Ind., Sept. 7-24 <www.seeconstrallation.org>.

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

There doesn't appear to be a society for Sherlockian origami enthusiasts, and it's possible that there aren't enough Sherlockian origami enthusiasts to form a society, but: there is Sherlock Holmes origami, and detailed instructions can be found (in Spanish) in *El libro de las máscaras de papel plegado* (Madrid: Alianza Editorial, 1997). It's nice that a scan of the book is available at the Internet Archive <www.tinyurl.com/2s44pswr>, and even nicer that you can see a full-color image of the completed origami at <www.tinyurl.com/4p69uh8a>. It's also hard to believe that it was folded from a single piece of paper, but that's what modern origami is like. The book also is available at Amazon.

The theme of this year's "Summer of Sherlock" celebration in Portsmouth is "Worldwide Doyle 2023" <www.tinyurl.com/mwjj6mb>, with on-line lectures by Ross Davies and Mark Jones, Michael Gunton, Bryan Woods, and Christopher Pittard (June 28-July 4). The annual event honors the city's Conan Doyle Collection, which includes the collection of the late Richard Lance-lyn Green.

Visit Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/2s4cp3aj> to listen to their interview with Dan Andriaco, the new editor of the Baker Street Journal. And if you'd like to know more about Ken Ludwig's new play "Moriarty" (which had its world premiere in Cleveland last month), you can listen to Scott and Burt interview Ken and Ashley Polasek at <www.tinyurl.com/52urz6er>.

Reported: *The Parasite and Other Tales of Terror*, edited by Eric J. Guignard and Leslie S. Klinger for the Horror Writers Association (Naperville: Poisoned Pen Press, 2021; 240 pp., \$14.99); nine (non-Sherlockian) stories by Conan Doyle, with an introduction by Daniel Stashower.

Paxton Whitehead died on June 16. He started acting in Britain in 1956, joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1958, and went on to a long career on stage, screen and television. He played Sherlock Holmes in "The Crucifer of Blood" in 1978 and 1979, and in "The Mask of Moriarty" in 1994 and 1997, and there's much more about him in Scott Monty's fine tribute at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.ihose.co/paxtonwhitehead>.

The spring issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Douglas Kerr's article about Conan Doyle and actor Lewis Waller, Cliff Goldfarb's report on variant scripts for Irwin Allen's film "The Lost World" (with information on who was considered for major roles), 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>.

Brad Keefauver describes his *Radix Pedis Diaboliday: A John H. Watson Reverie* (2019; 93 pp., \$4.99) as a "decided horrible book," but in fact it's Watson's account of what happened when (as he notes in "The Devil's Foot") his brain and imagination "were beyond all control," and it's an imaginative exploration of a Watsonian hallucination.

Jun 23 #2 The Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia has announced a "Sherlock Monday" weekly series of 90-minute virtual programs covering 27 of the stories (from "A Study in Scarlet" to "The Empty House") beginning Sept. 18 and featuring senior manager of public programs Edward G. Pettit and a rotating group of co-hosts. You can watch the series live, or view the videos at the Rosenbach's YouTube channel. More information is available at <www.rosenbach.org/events/sherlock-Mondays>.

221B Tactical <www.22btactical.com> "brings entirely new product ideas to the tactical gear and apparel marketplace," and while they give credit to Sherlock Holmes for the name, they don't explain what use he made of tactical gear. Kindly reported by Ann Marlowe.

"I think 'Where the Pavement Ends' is the best book of short tales by any debutant since Kipling's 'Play Tales'" is the quote from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on the back flap of the dust jacket of John Russell's *Far Wandering Men* (W. W. Norton, 1929). Russell's *Where the Pavement Ends* was published in London in 1919, so Conan Doyle must have written that after 1919. When and where?

If you occasionally forget that a PDF of a new issue of this newsletter is available on-line, you're welcome to join the Google Group for monthly reminders; just let me know by e-mail <blau7103@comcast.net>.



One hears of the lion's mane everywhere; Australia has issued a new set of stamps that show "Jellyfish: Underwater Wonders" (one of them the Lion's Mane). At least 1,000 jellyfish species of jellyfish drift on the currents around Australia, according to Australia Post.

And more about the Lion's Mane: "This Jellyfish Less Dangerous Than Sherlock Holmes Would Have You Believe" was the headline on a story that ran in the *Montréal Gazette* (June 16) <www.tinyurl.com/5n6tmhtc>, reported by Branda Rossini. Dr. Joe Schwarcz also discusses the Lion's Mane mushroom (and there's some video).

Steven Rothman will deliver this year's Baker Street Trust on-line lecture on Sept. 9 <www.bsitrust.org/2023/04/save-date-2023-lecture.html>. And the Trust is now accepting applications for Sherlockian research projects; two fellowships will be awarded, each with a stipend of up to \$2,500, and the deadline is Sept. 15 <www.bsitrust.org/2022/05/fellowships.html>. You're welcome to subscribe to "News from the BSI" at <www.tinyurl.com/tuc7vtk2>.

Terry Hunt has reported an interesting souvenir from the prohibition-era theater scene in Hoboken, where Christopher Morley produced plays in what he called the Hoboken Free State: one of the passports that were issued by Morley and his fellow producer Cleon Throckmorton. It's Brooks Atkinson's passport, which he purchased for \$10.00, in the collection at the Hoboken Historical Museum <www.tinyurl.com/4n362kra>. Atkinson used it, and wrote notes and cocktail recipes on the back pages, and Burt Wolder has kindly transcribed the recipes, which are available at <www.tinyurl.com/hd4nexz5> (Burt recommends the Journalist).

Jun 23 #3 The DeGolyer Library at Southern Methodist University in Dallas has an exhibition of highlights from Don Hobbs' collection of foreign translations of the Canon <www.tinyurl.com/yxesy8vr>, and there was a preview of the exhibition at the beginning of the "Lone Star Holmes" conference on May 26-27 <www.dfw-sherlock.org/2023-lone-star-holmes.html>. The library's exhibition celebrating the Donald J. Hobbs Collection will run through Sept. 15.

One of the highlights of the conference was the unveiling of *The Crew of the Barque Lone Star: The Facts, Legend, and Lore of the Society's Beginnings and 50-Year Legacy*, edited by Cindy Brown and Steve Mason. The 148-page book is a splendid demonstration of what a Sherlockian society can do to preserve its history, and it's available from Barnes & Noble for \$7.76 <www.tinyurl.com/3ppdj7eb>; you can also download a PDF of the book without charge at the Crew's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2238arsh>. And there's video history of the society at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctsUyUMHykw>.

Tim Collins' *Sherlock Bones and the Case of the Crown Jewels* (London: Buster Books, 2022; 192 pp., \$9.99) was the first in his series of books for children (7-9 years old) featuring "the greatest detective the world has ever known" and "his trusty sidekick Jane Catson," with illustrations by John Bigwood and games and puzzles as well as mysteries. There are three books in the series so far, with a fourth due later this year, and there is more about Sherlock Bones at <www.tinyurl.com/5n7b76er>.

More than 40 of the short stories have been dramatized in Tamil, and you can listen to them at <www.mirchi.in/podcast/thriller/sunday-suspense>.

The Capitol Film Arts Alliance in Sacramento recently held a film competition in which eight teams were given the same one-page dialogue script and asked to interpret the dialogue into a one- to ten-minute film; one of the teams used Baker Street West and the Baker Street Players, and their film won two awards: one for best film (judges' choice) and the other for best film (audience's choice). You can see their "Sherlock Holmes and the Headless Bishop" at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaRiQzdYWgo>.

"The Sherlock is on the lookout for its new Watson—by that we mean Assistant Manager, of course!" Greene King, who own The Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Street in London, are advertising the job, and there's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/bdz83cps>.

Jennie Paton spotted a new 30-second Sherlockian television commercial for the 2023 Toyota Tacoma at <www.ispot.tv/ad/lsgH/toyota-sherlock-t2>.

Katie Spalding's *Edison's Ghosts: The Untold Weirdness of History's Greatest Geniuses* (New York: Little, Brown, 2023; 342 pp., \$29.00) is an irreverent and entertaining exploration of the quirks and foibles of geniuses; the table of contents begins with "The Mathematical Cult Leader Pythagoras, and His Incredibly Stupid Death", ends with "NASA Forgets about Women, Toilets, and the Metric System" (and she includes "Arthur Conan Doyle Gets Pranked So Hard He Claims Fairies Exist"). The chapter on Conan Doyle is available on-line at CrimeReads <www.tinyurl.com/y9cp4y6s>.

Jun 23 #4 Denny Dobry's open house and book fair in Reading, Pa., will be held on Sept. 30 (rather than Sept. 23). Visitors to his home will be able to enter (and play in) his delightful recreation of the sitting-room, and browse the shelves in his book fair, where Denny will be selling all sorts of Sherlockiana and Doyleana that people have donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust (prices will be modest indeed), and publications of the BSI Press; it's well worth a visit; directions are available from Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>. There are colorful images from his similar event in 2021 at <www.bsitrust.org/2021/06/book-fair-2021.html>.

The late Russell Merritt's family will host a celebration of his life, on July 9 in Berkeley, Calif., and the event will be live-streamed for those who can't attend in person; the celebration will start at 1:30 pm (eastern time) and you can register at <www.tinyurl.com/2nb2pemb>.

Sir Sydney Smith was a renowned forensic scientist and pathologist whose career included almost a dozen years working in Cairo; and in his memoirs *Mostly Murder* (1959) he discusses many of the cases he worked on there (as well as devoting a chapter to "Dr. Bell and Sherlock Holmes"). It has taken many years, but his book has finally been translated into Arabic, and there was a long review of the book (in English) in the Al-Ahram Weekly on June 1 <www.tinyurl.com/4b6dd73v>.

Ardent fans of Laurel & Hardy may be interested in a new Blu-ray release of "Laurel & Hardy: Year One: The Newly Restored 1927 Silents" that's due soon from Flicker Alley <www.tinyurl.com/34escdma>. It will include their "Do Detectives Think?" (which features Oliver Hardy as Sherlock Pinkham).

If you'd like to see Sherlock Holmes' last will and testament, discovered by Nathan L. Bengis and published in 1951, just visit Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/msj3thbh>.

The Oxford University Press ELT [English Language Teaching] has a YouTube channel <www.youtube.com/@OUPELTGlobal/videos>, where you'll find a five-part reading of "The Dying Detective" (intended to help young readers enjoy learning to read English).

When in India: you can visit 221B Baker's Street, a detective-themed café in Kolkata, featured in the local Telegraph <www.tinyurl.com/memmb279> on May 9.

Wanda Dow notes that video of David Stuart Davies' play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Reckoning" (performed in Edinburgh in 2019 with Michael Daviot as Holmes and Mark Kydd as Watson) has been posted to YouTube; watch it at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=f064ZW-TMJY>.

The winner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual Tony & Freda Howlett Literary Award (for the best work on Sherlock Holmes by a member published in the previous year) was announced at the Society's annual general meeting on May 18: the catalogue for the exhibition "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects: From the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" (2022), which is highly recommended and still available from Amazon and other booksellers.

Jun 23 #5 "Sherlock Holmes Movie Seeking Extras in Texas Hill Country" was the headline on an article in the San Antonio Express-News on-line (May 25) with the full story behind their paywall. The movie is "Sherlock Holmes: Mare of the Night" (listed at the Internet Movie Data Base as in pre-production), will star Les Best (Sherlock Holmes), Layton Wheeler (Young Sherlock Holmes), and Jonathan C. Rich (John Watson). The film web-site (with videos) is at <www.sherlockholmesmareofthenight.com>.

Julian Symons' *Bloody Murder* (1972), subtitled "From the Detective Story to the Crime Novel: A History", was a grand survey of the genre, and now Martin Edwards' *The Life of Crime: Detecting the History of Mysteries and Their Creators* (London: Crime Club, 2022; 736 pp., \$32.99) offers an updated, broader, and more personal survey of writers and the stories they have written. He has a chapter on "The Great Detective: Sherlock Holmes" (of course), and is kinder to Conan Doyle and Holmes than Symons was.

Nancy Springer's *Enola Holmes and the Elegant Escapade* (Wednesday Books, 2022) won an Agatha Award (Best Children's/YA Mystery) at this year's Malice Domestic conference.

The winners of Edgar Awards from the Mystery Writers of America included Martin Edwards' *The Life of Crime: Detecting the History of Mysteries and Their Creators* (for best critical/biographical) and the first episode of Anthony Horowitz's television series "Magpie Murders" (for best television episode/teleplay).

"We are very rich in orchids on the moor," said Beryl Stapleton (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). You can still find wild orchids in Britain, according to an article in Country Life <www.tinyurl.com/u827svby> on May 27; Dartmoor isn't mentioned as one of the locales, but you can still see them there <www.tinyurl.com/ycxvepm9>.

The article does mention the New Forest; Conan Doyle bought Bignell Wood, near Minstead in the New Forest, as a birthday present for his second wife Jean, and they used it as a rural retreat. That was after Watson yearned for the glades of the New Forest in "The Cardboard Box" (and "The Resident Patient").

"AI Is About to Turn Book Publishing Upside-Down" was the headline on Thad McIlroy's article in Publishers Weekly (June 2) <www.tinyurl.com/mpaaajy3x> (he believes that "the latest generation of AI is a game changer," adding that "every function in trade book publishing today can be automated with the help of generative AI," and that "the trade book publishing industry as we know it will soon be obsolete"). Of course reviewers will continue to be important (at least, that is, until AI learns how to write reviews as well as books).

Nominees for Anthony Awards from Bouchercon 2023 include Harini Nagendra's *The Bangalore Detectives Club* (best first novel), Nancy Springer's *Enola Holmes and the Elegant Escapade* (best children's/young adult), Dan Stashower's *American Demon* and Martin Edwards' *The Life of Crime* (best critical/nonfiction); winners will be announced in San Diego in September.

Jun 23 #6 The Pakistani newspaper Dawn had an interesting essay on June 11 <www.dawn.com/news/print/1758991>, about "Agony Columns and Victorian Fiction", reporting on the exhibition on "News and Novel Sensations" at the McGill Library. The exhibition is no longer open, there is a 51-minute video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7fPJpuhfgo&t=3s> and an interesting web-site <www.libraryponders.github.io/index.html> that offers (among other things) access to Vibecheck, which allow would-be pastichists to input their text and see just how close they are to "Victorian vibe".

"I saw it on the Internet, so it must be true!" Famous last words, to be sure, and it's certainly correct when it comes to the continuing flood of "news" about the next Benedict Cumberbatch series, the next Robert Downey Jr. film, and much more. But here's something so hilarious that it's worth watching: an announcement of a new film, due in theaters on Oct. 15, 2024: "Sherlock Holmes vs. Frankenstein" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymL8XL6qFAU>. Kindly reported by Jennie Paton, who commented, "What????!!!"

Rich Ryan reports plans for something new: a 2024 Sherlock Holmes page-a-day calendar offering "the illustrated wit and wisdom of the Great Detective" and expected to retail at \$24.95. There's more information at the Kickstarter campaign web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2yzpumz2>.

"21st-Century Editors Should Keep Their Hands Off 20th-Century Books" was the headline on a Washington Post editorial <www.tinyurl.com/56a4a6c4> on June 14, about publishers changing the text in books by Roald Dahl, Agatha Christie, Ian Fleming, and Ursula K. Le Guin to remove language that might be considered offensive today. Conan Doyle appears to have avoided this sort of "retouching" . . . at least so far.

It has been many years since Robby the Robot made it into this newsletter (Sep 77 #4). Robby first appeared in the film "Forbidden Planet" (1956), and had small parts in many films and television shows after that. One of them would have been the television series "Holmes and Walston" that never was broadcast. But a pilot was made in 1975, in which Robby had been programmed with 3,000 volumes of Sherlock Holmes by an eccentric inventor and believed he was Holmes; the pilot seems not to have survived, but you can see a few minutes of behind-the-scenes footage, with Robby in Sherlockian costume, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQc72qGjfeI>.

Bill Seil reports that the WuMo comic strip was nicely Sherlockian on June 10 <www.gocomics.com/wumo/2023/06/10>. And Mother Goose & Grimm on June 11 <www.gocomics.com/mother-goose-and-grimm/2023/06/11>.

It has been many years since David M. Martill, studying fossils from the Lower Cretaceous formations of Brazil, named the tetrapod *Irritator challengeri* (Feb 96 #1). The fossil's name derives from the irritation that Martill and his fellow authors felt when they found that the snout of the fossil had been artificially elongated by the professional fossil-hunter who had found and sold the skull, and their desire to honor Prof. George Edward Challenger, of the Lost World. Paleontologists still are studying *Irritator*, and there's a new article on "A Predatory Dinosaur from Brazil and Its Surprising Anatomy" <www.tinyurl.com/48vdpke4>.

Jun 23 #7 "An evening of miracles followed." George Bernard Shaw wrote to Hayden Church, in "an amusing account of faking a séance," according a cataloguer at Bonhams in London. Shaw went on to say, "After that experience I could not discuss the subject with Oliver Lodge grieving for his lost son, nor with the infatuated author of Sherlock Holmes." The letter is one of many in an archive of correspondence that went to auction on June 21. Church was a prolific journalist who interviewed Conan Doyle ("Life After Death" in *The Strand Magazine*, Mar. 1919), and John Barrymore ("The Youth of Sherlock Holmes" in *the Strand*, Apr. 1922).

Stephen Gaspar's *Holmes of Baker Street* (2023; 256 pp., \$12.99) is a collection of eight traditional pastiches, most of them accounts of unreported cases, plus two stories (one of them involving Holmes) about Inspector Henry Barclay, of the Northwest Mounted Police. The author's web-site at <www.stephengaspar.blogspot.com> offers more information about his books.

The Theatre-Goers, *Homeward Bound*, after a one-year hiatus, are resuming their monthly on-line screenings of Sherlockian films, usually on the last Saturday of each month, co-hosted with the Legion of Zoom. Contact Steve Mason <stevemason880@gmail.com> to join their mailing list.

"Emsworth the Crimean V.C." (mentioned in "The Blanched Soldier") was one of the earliest to be honored with the Victoria Cross. You might be able to purchase one of the prestigious medals (for £400,000, according to Wikipedia), or you can settle for a replica (for only £15) from the National Archives <www.tinyurl.com/23vm9fku>; a miniature replica also is available (for £5).

Peter McIntyre reports a new horse for racing fans to follow: Sherlock's Jewel <www.tinyurl.com/yc7zuu29>, who's doing well at the races.

Canterbury Classics has a series of "classic pop-up tales" that includes *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (2023, \$24.99), adapted by Claire Bampton, with artwork by Anthony Williams and pop-ups by David Hawcock; it's colorful, imaginative, and nicely done. If you're going to order from Amazon, search for [classic pop-ups].

Daedalus Books <www.daedalusbooks.com>, one of the more energetic on-line sources for remainder books, has many interesting offers: just search the web-site for [sherlock holmes].

Laurie R. King writes that she's "having such a good time with the rewrite of *The Lantern's Dance*, tweaking scenes, weaving in a great fun subplot, making the settings and characters come alive." If you'd like to know a bit more about the next Mary Russell mystery, due in February, here's the publisher's description <www.tinyurl.com/37axc985>.

"I think Harry Potter was always destined to become like Sherlock Holmes," Daniel Radcliffe said recently, adding that "it'll get passed on." Now in his early 30s and a father, Radcliffe also said that he won't be performing cameo roles in new Harry Potter films and television series. There's more at Yahoo News! on June 15 <www.tinyurl.com/bdhnheew>.

Jun 23 #8 Burt Wolder has noted Rich Warren's interesting blog "A Road of Intangible Inclinations: The Chicago Booktrade 1886-1974", which recently (June 15) offered a piece titled "Ben Abramson Speaks About the BSI" <www.tinyurl.com/4759uh96>, with a link to a 1954 radio broadcast that included an interview with Ben, who presided over the Argus Bookshop and was the first publisher of the Baker Street Journal. And at the end you'll find links to three more entries about Ben.

Night Legion is an Australian "power metal" band whose new album "Fight or Fall" includes "The Hounds of Baskerville"; there's a review (with a link to the lyric video) at <www.knac.com/article.asp?ArticleID=45538>, and the band's web-site is at <www.nightlegion.net>.

Vincent Starrett's *The Unique Hamlet* is thought by many to be the iconic Sherlockian pastiche. The first edition's rare indeed, but Tague la Cour's copy (inscribed and signed by Starrett, advertised by a British dealer for £4,000 <www.tinyurl.com/59vkms32>, quickly sold. Randall Stock's revised census of the first edition is available at <www.tinyurl.com/3ncfteht>.

Theatrics: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by Andrew and David Hobbs) is touring in England through Sept. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/2p8p25ex>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by Tim Churchill and Catherine O'Reilly) will be performed at the Players Theatre in Nantwich, Cheshire, July 18-22 <www.facebook.com/shavingtondramagroup>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Milam Community Theater in Cameron, Tex., July 29-Aug. 6 <www.milamcommunitytheater.com>. It also is scheduled at the Marion Art Center in Marion, Mass., on Aug. 4-20 <www.marionaartcenter.org>; at the Hanover Tavern in Hanover, Va., on Dec. 15-Jan. 21 <www.va-rep.org>; and at the Kanata Theatre in Kanata, Ont., on May 15-25 <www.kanatatheatre.ca>.

"The Death of Sherlock Holmes" (radio-style) is due at the Cape May Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Nov. 3-11 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at the City Lights Theater in San Jose, Calif., on Nov. 16-Dec. 17 <www.cltc.org>; and at the BlackBox Theater in Midland, Pa., on Dec. 1-10 <www.lincolnparkarts.org>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" is scheduled at the Marylebone Theatre in London, Nov. 24-Jan. 7 <www.marylebonetheatre.com>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" is due to be performed at the Playhouse on Park in West Hartford, Conn., from Jan. 24 through Feb. 18, 2024 <www.playhouseonpark.org>.

Tony Padilla's "Sherlock Holmes Confidential" will have its world premiere at the Palm Springs Cultural Center in Palm Springs, Calif., on Apr. 12-21 <www.desertensembletheatre.org>.

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Fans of the Internet Archive may not be aware of its Open Library, an online equivalent of a bricks-and-mortar library that allows you to read or borrow books using "controlled digital lending" <www.openlibrary.org>. A judge recently ruled against the Internet Archive in a copyright-infringement lawsuit brought by publishers, but legal arguments continue. Search the Open Library web-site for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] to see what's (still) available to read or borrow. You can read about the lawsuit at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/yaj9ydzf>.

Glen Miranker's enthusiastic collecting is not limited to Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He also collects Enigma machines, and was interviewed by Jay Jadot about obsessions; Max Magee reports that the interview was published on-line on Oct. 6, 2021 <www.tinyurl.com/mubn3v87>.

"What is important is reading the books you like," Vincent Starrett said, adding, "I don't believe there are any hundred best books, or even 1,000 best books. There might be 5,000 best books—I don't know." According to June Provines, in her Chicago Tribune column "Front Views and Profiles" on Oct. 14, 1940.

Laurence Pernet, who was able to work on the Conan Doyle Archives at the Bibliothèque cantonale et universitaire in Lausanne (May 23 #1), has now prepared a spectacular web-site titled "An Alpine Walk: Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes in Switzerland" that offers (in French and English) a wonderful look at some of the material in the Archives, including images and video <www.fondation-sir-acd-expo.ch/en/home>. Highly recommended.

M. J. Downing's *Sherlock Holmes: The Ghosts of Savannah* (Louisville: Burns & Lea, 2023; 282 pp., \$11.99) is the third in his series about Dr. Watson in pursuit of revenants, vampires, and Moriarty's occult army, defending the world against malevolent forces (with some echoes of "The Five Orange Pips"). The author's web-site <www.mjdowningsplace.com> offers an interesting look at what he calls the "Downing-verse", and a short story "Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of the Vicarage Ghost" which you can find by searching for [vicarage].

M. K. Wiseman's *Sherlock Holmes & the Silver Cord* (2023; 206 pp., \$22.50) is Holmes' own account of a case he encountered six months after his return from the Great Hiatus, still suffering mental trauma from the events in Switzerland; there are mysterious deaths, confusing clues, worshippers of the occult, and questions of justice, good, and evil. The author has a web-site at <mkwisemanauthor.com>.

Michael Jackson's 14-minute music video "Thriller" (1982), available online at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOnqjkJTMAA>, includes wolf howls in the sound effects; according to an article at the Showbiz Cheatsheet on May 25 <www.tinyurl.com/bdd82a3y>, the recording engineer, inspired by a film of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", wanted his Great Dane to provide howls, but the dog "didn't want to be in show business," and Michael Jackson himself was responsible for the howls.

Jul 23 #2 It was in December 1972 that Harrison (Jack) Schmitt traveled to the Moon in Apollo 17, becoming the first (and so far the only) geologist to have visited there. In April he welcomed an American Association of Petroleum Geologists field trip to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Space Center in Houston and talked about NASA's new Artemis "Return to the Moon" mission <www.nasa.gov/specials/artemis>.

Bouchercon (the long-running and always-interesting annual conference for mystery fans) <www.bouchercon.com> is due in San Diego (Murder at the Marina) Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 2023; Nashville (Murder and Mayhem in Music City) Aug. 28-Sept. 4, 2024; New Orleans (Blood on the Bayou) Sept. 3-7, 2025; and Calgary (Cross-Border Crimes) Oct. 21-25, 2026.

Fans of the late Ogden Nash enjoyed his poetry, which was often Sherlockian, and he included a nice mention of Holmes in "Each June I Make a Promise Sober", which appeared in the N.Y. Times Book Review (June 7, 1953), and was reprinted in the Baker Street Journal (Oct. 1953), but never was published in any collection of his poetry. Karen Murdock annotated version of the poem, published in the Passengers' Log in 2005, is available on request from Karen <murdock1212@gmail.com>.

"I have lived happily at Horsham," said John Openshaw (in "The Five Orange Pips"). A story about present-day Horsham at the Great British Life website (June 13) <www.tinyurl.com/3aumf3ye> says "Jam-Packed with culture and history, it's no wonder that this pretty market town constantly tops the list of best places to live in the country, let alone the county."

The June issue of the Beacon Society's Not-So-Quarterly Newsletter now is available at the society's web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>, with the latest news from the society and its efforts to offer "teachers, librarians, children's museums, and children's theaters with local resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life."



"I seem to have all Niagara whizzing and bussing in my ears," Jim Browner said (in "The Cardboard Box"). The Postal Service has issued a sheet of Waterfalls stamps, one of them showing Niagara Falls, photographed by John Cancalosi.

Julian Doyle's *The Jericho Manuscript* (2023; 254 pp., \$13.17), reviewed in the Daily Express as "Sherlock Holmes meets the Da Vinci Code," follows the path blazed by Dan Brown. The author uses Holmes and Watson's investigation of a murder and a stolen manuscript to present his own conclusions about the truth behind the inconsistencies and contradictions in the long-accepted biblical accounts of the life and death of Jesus of Nazareth. In many ways it's similar to Edmund Aubrey's pastiche *Sherlock Holmes in Dallas* (1980), but Holmes is in early Edwardian times.

The Sherlockian Chronologist Guild discusses two of the Canonical stories each month in their newsletter Timeline, which reached issue #30 in June. Now they're going to it again, taking into account new discoveries as well as newly-discovered older scholarship. Brad Keefauver presides over the Guild, and their mailing list <bkeefauver@gmail.com>.

Jul 23 #3 Reported: *Golden Age Bibliomysteries*, edited by Otto Penzler (2023; 480 pp., \$27.95) offers "fourteen tales of bibliophilic transgression from the Golden Age of the mystery genre", including Vincent Starrett's classic Sherlockian pastiche "The Unique Hamlet" (Otto introduces each of the stories).

Sherlock Holmes keeps up with current events, as in a cartoon that accompanied an essay "The Wagner March on Moscow Offers Another Russian Enigma" in GIS Reports on June 24 <www.gisreportsonline.com/r/wagner-coup>. The artist is the Polish satirical cartoonist Jurek Wasiukiewicz.

According to the Kirkus Review, Stephen Gallagher "has been called a horror writer, a fantasy writer, a writer for big screens and smaller ones, a writer whose considerable talent has enabled him to slip in and out of genres precisely as if those tidy little boxes didn't exist." His television credits include the script for an episode in the "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" series (2000), and his *The Governess* (London: Brooligan Press, 2021; 39 pp., \$5.09) is an imaginative ghost story, told by Edward Malone and involving Professor Challenger. The author has a web-site at <www.stephengallagher.com>, and the story was reprinted in *Comparative Anatomy: The Best of Stephen Gallagher* (Burton: Subterranean, 2022; 568 pp., \$45.00)

The schedule for Bouchercon in San Diego ("Murder at the Marina), includes a panel on "The Game's Afoot: Sherlock Holmes and His Influence on Mysteries" with Les Klinger, Jeri Westerson, Laurie King, Liese Sherwood-Fabre, and Mary Stojak at 9:00 am on Sept. 1 <www.bouchercon2023.com>.

"Arthur Conan Doyle and the Adventure of the Gaiola Malediction" (by Ross Davies and Mark Jones), the first of the four "Worldwide Doyle" lectures during the Portsmouth Libraries' "Summer of Sherlock" honoring the city's Conan Doyle Collection (Jun 23 #1) is now on-line (and well worth watching) at <www.tinyurl.com/yc6uz67b>. ETA: Mark kindly has made all four of the lectures available at <www.bit.ly/worldwidedoyle>, and all of them are interesting.

If you're wondering about "estimated time of arrival" in the previous paragraph, in this modern age and on the Internet, ETA also means "edited to add." Times change, and so do abbreviations.

Chris Werby, son of the late Willy and Don Werby, is offering for sale the contents of the spectacular rooms that Willy created for S. Holmes, Esq., in San Francisco, and for the Grosvenor Hotel in Orlando; there are lots of images at <www.holmesroom.com>.

Four pages (all that are known to have survived) of the manuscript of "The Crooked Man" were sold at auction at Sotheby's in New York on July 20 for \$95,250 (including the buyer's premium). Randall Stock has posted a report on the manuscript (as well as on the sale) at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/crooked-man-2023.htm>. An interesting aspect of the manuscript is the emendations (some by the author, and some perhaps by an editor), all visible in the images.

Jul 23 #4 Glen Dakin's *Sherlock Holmes' Little Book of Wisdom* (New York: Hero Collector, 2021; 109 pp., \$14.95) is sub-titled "How to Deduce What on Earth Is Going On"; Dakin (who calls himself a "writer and cartoonist") has great fun explaining how "to deduce the best way to solve the crimes of modern life." His web-site at <www.glenndakin.com> offers a nice sample of his art and humor.

It isn't easy to come up with a title for a story that makes a reader feel that it has to be read. Peter Turnbull's "The Extremely Pleasant and Most Helpful Lady with Three Ears" certainly qualifies, and you can read it in the July-August issue of Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine*.

The June issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, offers Andrew Malec's nicely illustrated report on the Chicago publisher Max Stein's use of Frederic Dorr Steele's artwork on the covers of piracies of Conan Doyle (and other authors), plus celebrations of the Terry/Rose play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1923) and George W. Locke's anthology of parodies *At the Mountain of Murkiness* (1973), and news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Timothy Johnson (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <johns976@umn.com>.

Mark Jones and Paul M. Chapman continue to add to the interviews at their "Doings of Doyle" podcast <www.doingsofdoyle.com>, the most recent featuring Jonathan Cranfield, who has edited *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* for the *Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle*.

SP Books, who have just published a facsimile of the manuscript of Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* <www.spbooks.com/14-manuscripts>, also still offer a similar volume for *The Lost World* (Dec 20 #1) for \$200.00 postpaid.

Alan Arkin died on June 29. He began his award-winning acting career on film in 1957, and went on to star on stage and television, winning awards in all three media. He also played Sigmund Freud in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976).

"Sherlock Holmes Playing Cards" from Laurence King/Orion Publishing come in an attractive box with a deck of cards and a booklet written by Nicholas Utechin and illustrated by Doug John Miller (whose artwork also can be seen on the cards); £12.99 in the U.K. <www.tinyurl.com/ymzr746v>. \$11.29 in the U.S. <www.tinyurl.com/3x534ht2>.

James J. Patterson's *Junk Shop Window* (Bethesda: Alan Squire Publishing, 2023; 168 pp. \$19.95) is a collection of essays on "myth, life, and literature," and they demonstrate just how grand, and how much fun, a personal essay can be. "Literature" includes Herman Melville, Henry Miller, William Wordsworth, and Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes is aptly quoted in an account of a trip to the Wordsworth Trust Museum), and there's also an amusing story about Patterson's adventures while recording some of the Canon for radio in the 1970s.

Jul 23 #5 "I think it's like Harry Potter was always, I think, destined to become like Sherlock Holmes," Daniel Radcliffe said. "The people who saw Basil Rathbone play Sherlock Holmes then were like, No one could ever do this!' They're gonna, though; it'll get passed on to somebody." Interviewed on "The Actor's Side with Pete Hammond"; there's video on-line at the Deadline web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3n8tew3z>, at 17:50, in case you don't want to watch the entire interview.

We hear of Sherlock Snoopy everywhere, thanks to Jennie Paton, who found him decorating crocs <www.tinyurl.com/4sxf76wk>.

Orson Welles shot footage for a film "Too Much Johnson" (based on William Gillette's play) in 1938, but the film never was completed. Some footage did survive (Sep 14 #2) and is available at the National Film Preservation Foundation's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/494rdesj>, where there are two different version (links at "click here"). You can also watch the film, with music by Ben Model, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dkC8vG4x54> (a tip of the hat to Doug Chapman for reporting the link).

Reported: *The Best Mystery Stories of the Year*, edited by Amor Towles (New York: Mysterious Press, 2023; 500 pp., \$28.95); the contents include Derrick Belanger's "The Adventure of the Misquoted Macbeth", reprinted from the anthology *A Detective's Life: Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Martin Rosenstock (Titan, 2022).

Ali Standish's *The Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall* (New York: Harper-Collins, 2023; 336 pp., \$18.99), is an imaginative fantasy, for children ages 8-12; a chance encounter in Edinburgh brings young Arthur Conan Doyle to study at a school for gifted children where the faculty includes George Edward Challenger and the Brigadier Gerard, and Arthur's fellow students include Irene Eagle and Jimmy Moriarty. There's dire peril, humor, mystery, and a resolution that promises a sequel.

You might not be able to stay at Bignell Wood (the house that Conan Doyle bought as a birthday present for his wife Jean), but you can stay at Little Bignell (a cottage on the grounds of Bignell Wood), which is listed at Airbnb <www.tinyurl.com/3889kzsn> as a "romantic getaway for two" in the New Forest.

An exhibition on "Max Beerbohm: The Price of Celebrity" will be on view at the N.Y. Public Library from Oct. 20 to Feb. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/2vu5sw6b>; it will be co-curated by Mark Samuels Lasner, who has for many years collected and researched the British literary figures of the last half of the nineteenth century, and by Margaret D. Stetz, a profess at the University of Delaware. The exhibition will include the original artwork for Beerbohm's caricature of Conan Doyle.

The late Charlie Watts was a collector as well as an inspired drummer (for the Rolling Stones); an auction at Christie's in London on Sept. 28 will include a first edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* signed by Conan Doyle with the comment "I perambulated Dartmoor before I wrote this book" <www.tinyurl.com/ysr7hcxj>.

Jul 23 #6 Adrian Nebbitt has noted an episode of "The Buick Berle Show" (Jan. 12, 1954); Milton Berle's guests were Mickey Spillane, Dagmar, and Basil Rathbone <www.tinyurl.com/mvfyderb>. Rathbone appears in Sherlockian costume at 41:50. No one will know if you watch the entire program to see why Dagmar was so famous all those years ago.

"British Authors Adverse" was the headline on a story in the Chicago Inter-Ocean (Aug. 25, 1906), quoted by Rachel Lang in a post to the blog at the Theodore Roosevelt Center's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ye9jhpfd>. "Sir Conan Doyle fears the reform would mean the end of the English language. He said: 'Reformed spelling might become universal, but it would cease to be the English language'" Any idea when and where Conan Doyle said that?

Steve Doyle's new season of "The Fortnightly Dispatch" continues with his interview with Mike McSwiggin, associate editor of the Baker Street Journal, discussing collecting, chronology, and much more; it's available online at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4UEN1EC4UE>.

It was while standing at the Criterion Bar that Watson encountered young Stamford (in "A Study in Scarlet"), and went on to a meeting with Sherlock Holmes. The Criterion has changed hands many times since then, and now is an Indian restaurant: the Masala Zone Piccadilly offers a thoroughly exotic décor <www.tinyurl.com/3uyucz2j> and menu. There's no word (so far) of the commemorative plaque noting the Sherlockian history of the restaurant.

Caroline Crampton presides over the Shedunnit podcast and YouTube channel, and recently interviewed Teresa Peschel about her recent *Agatha Christie, She Watched* (May 23 #4) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gT_i5uhTug>.

Jon L. Breen's *What About Murder? (1981-1991): A Guide to Books About Mystery and Detective Fiction* (Metuchen: Scarecrow Press, 1993) offers a detailed examination of 564 books published in that decade, including histories, reference books, technical manuals, collected essays and reviews, anthologies, and much more, with insightful commentary that often includes identification of authors' errors. It's out of print, but readily available, as is his earlier *What About Murder?* (1981), which had only 239 entries; the two volumes demonstrate well the explosion of critical interest in the genre that began in the 1980s.

A bit of theatrical news: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes: The Case of Alice Faulkner" is being performed at Colorado ACTS in Wheat Ridge, Colo., through Aug. 13; their web-site's at <www.wheatridgetheatre.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Barnstormer Theatre in Tamworth, N.H., Aug. 24-Sept. 2 <www.barnstormerstheatre.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes & the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman) has been scheduled at the Main Street Theater in Houston, Tex, Apr. 21-May 11, 2024 <www.mainstreettheater.com>.

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

Holmes and Watson could have seen dinosaurs in London, and they're still there. After the Crystal Palace Exhibition closed in 1851, the building was taken down and rebuilt in Sydenham, and the newly-formed Crystal Palace Company commissioned the creation of fifteen life-sized models of extinct animals. The models are still there, protected by a Grade I listing, and you can see images of some of them in an article posted recently to the Artlyst web-site <www.tinyurl.com/4uxt4e2z>.

From this newsletter in 1998: "Elementary, my dear Watson" was indeed said by Sherlock Holmes in one of A. Conan Doyle's stories. It really was. In which story?

Nea Dodson has reported an intriguing Sherlockian video set to Kristin Andreassen's song "Crayola Doesn't Make a Color for Your Eyes", available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIBtrxEg7xc>. Click on [educated in yellow] to see some similar videos.

The next 221B Con (A Fan Con for All Things Sherlock Holmes) will be held in Atlanta, Ga., on Apr. 12-14 <www.221bcon.com>; there's no schedule yet, but you can consult their 2023 schedule to find out what sort of things go on at the convention.

Raymond A. de Groat ("Harraway") died on July 25. He was a teacher and a life-long dedicated liberal activist, and for many years as enthusiastic member of the Scowrers and Mollie Maguires of San Francisco. He served as their secretary in the 1970s and 1980s, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.

Something for fans of William Gillette (spotted by Jennie Paton): the New York Public Library has digitized their hand-corrected typescript of the second act of his "Sherlock Holmes" <www.tinyurl.com/3sarukpn>. It's in the William Hooker Gillette Papers in the Berg Collection.

Two-and-a-half minute commercials? Apparently. Ann Marlowe has reported this one <www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnUo0CiatNI>, with a mention of Sherlock at 1;41, presumably 1958-1960, when Westinghouse sponsored "The Westinghouse Desilu Playhouse".

Laurie R. King reports that *The Lantern's Dance* (the new Mary Russell novel) has now "gone into production," and explains just what that means at her web-site <www.laurierking.com>; there also are some interesting posts about the new books at her blog "Mutterings" <www.laurierking.com/blog>.

Michael Jackson's 14-minute music video "Thriller" (1982), available online at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOnqjkJTMAA>, includes wolf howls in the sound effects; according to an article at the Showbiz Cheatsheet on May 25 <www.tinyurl.com/bdd82a3y>, the recording engineer, inspired by a film of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", wanted his Great Dane to provide howls, but the dog "didn't want to be in show business," and Michael Jackson himself was responsible for the howls.

Aug 23 #2 Shannon Mann is the winner of the 2023 Irene Adler Prize: a \$1,000 scholarship for a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature. The prize was established in 2017 by Lucas Aykroyd, an award-winning writer and public speaker in Vancouver, B.C., and it is indeed named in honor of the heroine of "A Scandal in Bohemia". You can learn more about the prize, and read the winning essay, at <www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships>, and there's in a story in Yahoo! Finance (July 25) <www.tinyurl.com/4fe632dn>.

Yes, Sherlock Holmes really did say "Elementary, my dear Watson" in one of A. Conan Doyle's stories, and you can credit (or blame) Jim Vogelsang for the discovery. The story is "The Adventure of the Red Widow" -- by Adrian Conan Doyle.

Elizabeth Crowens reports that she has signed a three-book deal with Level Best Books for her new "Hollywood Mysteries" series set in the 1940s. Her sleuth is Babs Norman, and *The Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles*, due next spring, will feature Basil Rathbone.

Don Hobbs has added language #114 (Tagalog) to his data-base of translations of the Canon. Don's massive (and colorfully-illustrated) "Galactic Sherlock Holmes" (with 18,361 entries) is conveniently available on-line at <www.dfw-sherlock-org/galactic-sherlock-holmes.html>.

Kitchen at Holmes (a restaurant at 108 Baker Street) received a rave review in the Travel Magazine <www.thetravelmagazine.net/kitchen-at-holmes> on July 31. They offer breakfast a la carte, and "festive feast" menus at £55 and £65 <www.kitchenatholmes.co.uk/restaurant>.

The Queen's South Africa medal, with three clasps (for Cape Colony, Orange Free State, and Transvaal), that was awarded to Private W. Milton for his service with the Langman Field Hospital during the Boer War, went to auction at Noonan Mayfair in London on July 26, and sold for £550 (plus 24% buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/2294ykc2>. Surgeon A. Conan Doyle received the same medal (with the same three clasps), but unfortunately it is not known to have survived. The Official Medal Roll for the Langman Hospital was published in an article in the Journal of the Orders and Medals Research Society (autumn 1979) <www.tinyurl.com/4e54n4yr>.



The never-ending Sherlock Holmes Museum saga continues: earlier this year (Feb 23 #1) John Aidiniantz, who founded the museum, served a sentence in jail, and now controls the museum again, won a suit against his brother. Now Honoria Cartlidge, who was fired from her £120,000-a-year job as senior manager, has been (partially) successful in a suit against the museum. She didn't win the £500,000 bonus she says she was promised, but the judge ruled that museum directors (including Cartlidge's ex-girlfriend) dismissed Cartlidge unfairly, and that she was entitled to unlawful deduction of holiday pay. You can read all about in an article in the Daily Mail (July 27) <www.tinyurl.com/3yrmkmyn>.

Aug 23 #3 Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies is an on-line journal that is "committed to publishing insightful and innovative scholarship on gender studies and nineteenth-century British literature, art, and culture." The summer 2023 issue (reported by Ross Davies, who keeps an eye out for matters legal) contains Rebecca Nesvet's "Walking Aslant: Irene Adler Visits the Inner Temple" <www.tinyurl.com/2p8c6srb>. Authors have written about Holmes and Conan Doyle in past issues.

Thierry Saint-Joanis is offering summer-sales discounts (available until Sept. 23) on four "Sherlock Holmes on Screens" publications; details are available at <www.tinyurl.com/537bbkwp>.

Jerome Coopersmith died on July 21. He launched his theatrical career in 1947, writing script for television series, and his many later credits included writing the book for the musical "Baker Street" (1964), for which he received a Tony Award nomination. He also wrote a script for "The Other Side" (a one-act play about Conan Doyle and Houdini), performed during "Autumn in Baker Street" in 2007, and during the Sherlock Holmes birthday festivities in New York in 2008.

And Inga Swenson died on July 28. She launched her acting career on stage in 1949, and went on to many appearances on stage, screen, and television. Best known for her performance as Gretchen Kraus in the television series "Benson" (1979-1986), she also starred in (and won a Tony nomination) as Irene Adler in the musical "Baker Street" (1964), and was an honored guest at the Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner in 2005.

Scott Monty has a warm tribute to them both at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mrx6kaw2>.

Howard Ostrom has reported a 1970 episode of the British series "It's Tommy Cooper" now available on-line at <www.dailymotion.com/video/x8md4cu>. An 11-minute skit "Great Performances of our Time" (at 12:54) stars British comedian Tommy Cooper as Holmes and Patrick Cargill as Watson. Howard notes that one of Cooper's stand-up lines (from a stage show) was, "I say, Watson, this is a most serious case. The window is broken on both sides."

All those who own a copy of *The Sherlock Holmes Hexalogy*, which was letterpress printed and hand-bound at the Thornwill Press (Dec. 17 #2), will be aware of the fine work that they do. It's still available, along with many other titles, including their latest, Wodehouse's *Leave It to Jeeves*, at their web-site <www.thornwillow.com>.

Andrew Norman's *The Real Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: The Creator of Sherlock Holmes* (Yorkshire: White Owl, 2023; 224 pp., \$34.95) is a biography written by an author who studied medicine, became a writer, and has had access to and quotes from medical records and case notes of Conan Doyle's father Charles Altamont Doyle, who had been diagnosed as suffering from epilepsy and alcoholism. Norman believes that Conan Doyle's father suffered from a schizo-affective disorder, which includes symptoms of both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder and may have been inherited by Conan Doyle, explaining his conversion in later life to Spiritualism.

Aug 23 #4 "Together, we make up Unit 221B, named after Sherlock Holmes as recommended along the way by a UK law enforcement friend of mine when I was trying to figure out what to name the company. He said, 'That is what you and your crew do: you are the Sherlock Holmes of cyberspace.'" That's from Lance James, CEP of Unit 221B, explaining the origin of his company, which offers "products and services to companies seeking discreet, best-in-class, and advanced cybersecurity operations and training." Their web-site's at <www.unit221b.com>.

Bignell Wood, the country home that Conan Doyle bought as a birthday present for his wife Jean in 1924, advertised for £2,950,000 last year (Nov 22 #3) <www.tinyurl.com/uv9nxb5y>, is now "under offer" (which means there's a buyer, but no contact has been signed).

Ben Abramson presided over the Argus Book Shop, in Chicago and New York, published the 13 issues of the Old Series of the Baker Street Journal from 1946 to 1949, and was an early member of The Baker Street Irregulars, and a very good friend of Vincent Starrett; you can hear him (and others) talk about all of that in episode 269 of Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/3dukc3m4>.

A reading list for fans of the "Elementary" television series (spotted by Jennie Paton): someone has compiled a list of all the books that are visible in Sherlock's brownstone home <www.tinyurl.com/2h8yuku9>.

Amaranthine Books has an interesting video about its limited letter-press editions of *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of a Dozen Favourites* (Dec 22 #3) at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=1k9ejSiTI1o>. You can click on [shop] at their web-site <www.amaranthinebooks.com> for more information about their books; they plan to ship the Sherlock Holmes editions in September.

Sherlockian fan-fiction can be helpful, according to an article on-line at the Huffington Post (July 3, 2020) <www.tinyurl.com/mus7vdkc>.

"The creator of Sherlock Holmes acknowledges that he is a bad penman" was the caption on an image of Conan Doyle autograph in Bernard Nessey's article "A Sheaf of Autographs" in the Apr. 1905 issue of the Royal Magazine, discovered by Ross Davies, who has reported on it in the August issue of A Common Newsletter, published by the ACD Society. You can read the article on-line, thanks to the Hathi Trust <www.tinyurl.com/4mdb87nj> (just go to pages 485-487), and you can learn more about the ACD Society at its web-site <www.acdsociety.com> (four of the images along the top of the opening page are live links to some of the society's goings-on).

A. Wallis Myers' article about "Smoke, Smokes & Smokers" in the Sept. 1902 issue of the magazine includes a photograph of William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes, with a caption "Sherlock Holmes without a pipe could hardly be imagined." Myers reports that smoking on stage "is by no means as simple as it might appear," adding that Gillette "used always to employ very light tobacco which would burn for hours without losing its capacity for supplying smoke."

Aug 23 #5 By Common Consent (a blog that was "started by a group of Mormons to provide a thoughtful, enjoyable, and reasonable place to post and discuss Mormon topics,") has (as might be expected) discussion of "A Study in Scarlet". A recent post by Michael Austin had an intriguing title: "Sherlock Holmes and the Giant Rat of Sumatra: A Study in the Impossibility of a Closed Canon" <www.tinyurl.com/mr2tunzc>, and a link to an earlier post by Ivan Wolfe on "Sherlock Holmes, 'Mormons', and Canon" <www.tinyurl.com/yfzsythk>. It's interesting that "Star Wars" fandom also has trouble agreeing on just what their canon is, and that Disney tried and failed to control the definition <www.starwars.fandom.com/wiki/Canon>.

Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" blog has some delightful discoveries, such as <www.vincentstarrett.com/blog/2023/1/17/mord-i-folio>, about his success, at long last, of acquiring a Swedish translation of "The Unique Hamlet" published in 1960 with attractive illustrations, now available for everyone to see.

Otto Penzler has announced creation of a new Penzler Publishers imprint: Crime Ink <www.penzlerpublishers.com/announcing-crime-ink> will launch in the spring of 2024; their first title will be *The Serial Killer's Apprentice* (by Katherine Ramsland and Tracy Ullman).

"The stout gentleman with the wig ought to be a Reynolds," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). Country Life magazine recently offered a nicely-illustrated discussion of the life and work of Sir Joshua Reynolds <www.tinyurl.com/mrxz4vwj>.

"The Play That Goes Wrong" recently was produced at the Kennedy Center in Washington; it is billed as "a hilarious hybrid of Monty Python and Sherlock Holmes." There's nothing Sherlockian about the play, except that it is a murder mystery, but it's a delightful farce and highly recommended if there's a production anywhere near you.

The book collection of the late Charlie Watts, at auction at Christie's in London on Sept. 28 (Jul 23 #5) <www.tinyurl.com/ysr7hcxj> also includes a nicely inscribed copy of the first American edition of *A Study in Scarlet* <www.tinyurl.com/ym5b9uku>.

We are indebted to Petri Wine for sponsoring the Sherlock Holmes series on radio from 1943 to 1950. There was an unusual (and attractive) porcelain advertising sign from 1964 available at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/33rbh2yj>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Great Escape" was a Chinese animation (released in 2019 as "The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes: The Great Jail Breaker"); Jennie Paton has reported it on-line, dubbed in English, at Daily Motion <www.dailymotion.com/video/x8n6hab>.

CAT PAWZZLES PRESENTS PURRLOCK HOLMES, edited by Tim Baker (New York: Topix Media, 2023; 96 pp., \$7.99) (\$3.50 at Amazon), has a pipe-smoking cat in Sherlockian costume on the cover and offers "puzzles, ciphers, and itty bitty mysteries for feline fanatics." Dr. Watson also appears, along with Irene Catler, and Meowriarty.

Aug 23 #6 The late Jack Ritchie, author of more than 350 short stories (and one novel) wrote a pastiche "A Case of Identity" (in the Jan. 1982 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine) in which he identified Watson as Jack the Ripper; one of his specialties was hard-boiled noir for magazines such as Manhunt and Mantrap, and you can read some of the stories in that genre in *The Best of Manhunt 4: the Jack Ritchie Stories*, edited by Jeff Vorzimmer (Eureka: Stark House, 29221; 221 pp., \$15.95).

The fall issue of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter is now online at the Trust's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mtv6wa8h>, with a colorful report on Denny Dobry's work supporting the Trust, and additional information about Steve Rothman's upcoming on-line Trust lecture on Sept. 9.

When in southern Albania: there's a Sherlock's Irish Pub in Pogrdec; the web-site's at <www.sherlock-iriish-pub.business.site> (reports by Jennie Paton).

Have you ever played with a Magic 8 Ball? There's now an on-line version, at <www.magic-8ball.com>. There's a (remote) connection to Conan Doyle: the original Magic 8 Ball was invented by Alfred Carter; his mother Laura Pruden was a Cincinnati clairvoyant who specialized in slate-writing and was praised by Conan Doyle, who sat with her twice in the 1920s, and said that she "is certainly one of the great mediums of the world" (in *Our Second American Adventure*).

Theatrical news: Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Spotlight Playhouse in Berea, Ky., Sept. 1-3; web-site at <www.thespotlightplayhouse.com>.

R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" is scheduled at the Art Barn in Gaithersburg, Md., Sept. 16-Oct. 1; their web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/yw8xnuz4>.

Richard Tunley's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Blackwood Miners' Institute in Blackwood, Wales, on Oct. 3, and then on tour <www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100079483407798>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" is due at the Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester, Mich., Oct. 4-29 <www.meadowbrooktheatre.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Temple Theatre in Sanford, N.C., Oct. 12-29 <www.templeshows.com>.

Matthew Ivan Bennett's "Sherlock Holmes and the Final Problem" is coming up at the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Oct. 27, for broadcast by KUER-FM <www.tinyurl.com/vjutufvn>.

Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" has been scheduled at the Theatre at Seneca Ridge Middle School in Sterling, Va., Nov. 10-19, 2023; the web-site's at <www.sterlingplaymakers.org>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

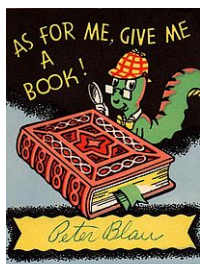
Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell is the title of the next novel from Nicholas Meyer, Otto Penzler reports. It's based on the famous Zimmermann telegram, intercepted by British intelligence in 1917, which proposed an alliance between Germany and Mexico against the U.S. The book's due from the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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Copies of the Thornwillow Press letter-press printed and hand-bound edition of *The Sherlock Holmes Hexalogy* (Oct 17 #2) are still available from their web-site <www.thornwillow.com>. And you can read Zach Harney's recent interview with Thornwillow proprietor Luke Ives Pontifell at the Collectible Book Vault web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ek7mxxkn>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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"Plans for the 2024 BSI Weekend" are available at the Baker Street Irregulars web-site <www.tinyurl.com/5xwau634>. Everyone who has subscribed to "News & Updates from the BSI via E-mail" has already received the message; if you've not subscribed, you can sign up at <www.tinyurl.com/36jhun6u>.

In plenty of time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year goes on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm> on Nov. 1; there also are recommendations of older Sherlockiana, all with helpful explanations of his choices.

Laurie R. King is celebrating the 30th anniversary of her first Mary Russell novel *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*, and the publication of the latest novel *The Lantern's Dance* with a series of "Russell and Holmes" days to be held in Santa Cruz, Calif. (Feb. 17); Seattle, Wash. (Apr. 10); Bethesda, Md. (Apr. 25), and Nashville, Tenn. (Aug. 27), with the last three timed for Left Coast Crime, Malice Domestic, and Bouchercon. Details and registration links for the events will be found in Laurie's latest newsletter <www.tinyurl.com/ydjzdhzs>.

The book collection of Rolling Stones drummer Charlie Watts, at Christie's in London on Sept. 28-29, set some records: a copy of the first edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* signed by Conan Doyle and inscribed "I perambulated Dartmoor before I wrote this book" sold for £214,200 [\$226,555] (including the buyer's premium), setting a record for a printed book from the Canon (a copy of *The Sign of Four* sold for \$201,600 in 2022); the most ever paid for a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 was \$156,000 at an auction in 2007.

The copy of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* wasn't the most expensive book in the auction: a copy of *The Great Gatsby* signed by F. Scott Fitzgerald and inscribed to Harold Goldman (as "the original 'Gatsby' of this story") sold for £226,800.

There were other Sherlockian books in the sale, including a presentation copy of the first American edition of *A Study in Scarlet* (1890), inscribed in 1891 "With A Conan Doyle's kindest recollections of pleasant partnership in travel" which sold for £32,760. You can view the catalogue of the sale at <www.tinyurl.com/mr29jkrb>.

This year's Christmas card from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London features seasonally appropriate artwork by Mark Mázers. You can order them from the Society at <www.tinyurl.com/3wwdcv92>.

The NewsByte web-site reported on Oct. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/wbk94ybb> that Netflix would start production in Switzerland this month on a new eight-episode series described as a blend of "Downton Abbey" and "The White Lotus". "Winter Palace" will tell the story of the birth of luxury winter tourism in 1899, and the cast will include Henry Pettigrew as Conan Doyle.

Oct 23 #2 Andrew Lycett's *The Worlds of Sherlock Holmes* (London: Frances Lincoln, 2023; 207 pp., \$32.00) is an account of "the inspirations behind the world's greatest detective." Author of the excellent biography *Conan Doyle: The Man Who Created Sherlock Holmes* (2007) as well as the collection *Conan Doyle's Wide World* (2020), Lycett provides an impressive and colorfully-illustrated discussion of how Holmes was created, and why he continues to fascinate each new generation of readers. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interviewed Lycett about the new book (and much more) at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/2945an94>.

"Sherlock Holmes Could Teach Washington about Budgeting" was the headline on Peter Coy's lead opinion piece in the N.Y. Times on Oct. 2, according to Mike Berdan, who added, "Alas, there is not much Holmes in it, just his aphorism about eliminating the impossible." The headline appeared only in the print edition.

The U.S. Postal Service has issued a booklet of stamps showing Winter Woodland Animals, with images of a [white-tailed] deer, a rabbit, an owl, and a fox. All of them are mentioned in the Canon. Four out of four isn't all that bad.



"Things get green, slimy, and sticky with ghost photography," according to an article in the Manitoban (Sept. 28) about an exhibit <www.tinyurl.com/nwr24xwd> at the University of Manitoba. "The Undead Archive: 100 Years of Photographing Ghosts" is based on photographs taken by a Winnipeg doctor and nurse who were inspired by Conan Doyle's lecture on "Proofs of Immortality" in Winnipeg a hundred years ago.

R. Hamilton Wright's two-act play "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" was first performed in 2016; the script, published by Samuel French in 2022, is one of many Sherlockian scripts available from Concord Theatricals <www.concordtheatricals.com>.

"If you haven't figured out that in every version of Sherlock Holmes ever made that sex for Sherlock is crime solving, then you're not paying attention," Stephen Moffat said, during an interview published in the Glasgow Guardian (Sept. 8) <www.tinyurl.com/yc7tt6fz>.

Howard Ostrom's "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" now has more than 9,000 entries (with about 20,000 images); the list is available on-line at <www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html>.

School of Hard Knox, edited by Donna Andrews, Greg Herren, and Art Taylor (Cincinnati: Crippen and Landru, 2023; 200 pp., \$47.00 cloth/\$22.00 paper) is an anthology of new stories that break one (or more) of Ronald Knox's ten commandments for crime fiction. Daniel Stashower's "The Forlorn Penguin" is intriguingly Sherlockian, and Peter Lovesey, in his poetic "Knox Vomica" has great fun with just about every detective in the genre. The hardbound edition, which is signed and numbered, has a laid-in reprint of Knox's delightful Sherlockian pastiche "The Adventure of the First Class Carriage". The publisher's web-site's a <www.tinyurl.com/9367hac7>.

Oct 23 #3 RR Auction in Amherst, N.H., offered on Oct. 18 an interesting (and amusing) letter <www.tinyurl.com/dyz5tpsm> written by Conan Doyle from Southsea, presumably to Jessie Drummond, a member of a family he came to know while he was a studying medicine in Edinburgh. There are three other letters he wrote to her in Mark Samuels Lasner's collection <www.tinyurl.com/yc27ket8>.

You can order (well, pre-order) a nice new Rolls Royce, for only £330,000 <www.tinyurl.com/34macj6u>; it's quite a car.

Ann Kimbrough offers a new and imaginative approach to the Canon, presenting two stories as a series of text messages exchanged by Holmes, Watson, four teenagers, and other characters found in the Canon. *Sherlock & Watson Wired* (Everything Novels, 2022; 143 pp. \$13.99) is her adaptation of "The Devil's Foot", and *Sherlock & Watson Re-Wired* (179 pp., \$13.99) does the same for "The Bruce-Partington Plans". It's intriguing to find Holmes and Watson brought up to date on social media, and if want a sample of how it works, just text textsherlock to 888-391-1895.

The Public Domain Review recently posted on-line an interesting discussion of "modern slang, cant, and vulgar words" that one might encounter in London in 1860 <www.tinyurl.com/yedj3uxf>.

"The Four Oaks Mystery" featuring Jeremy Brett (Sherlock Holmes) and Edward Hardwicke (Dr. Watson) was one of four segments created for ITV's 28-hour charity telethon that aired on July 16-17, 1992. It's available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/nwr24xwd>, kindly reported by Jennie Paton. The other segments, all available at YouTube, featured Inspector Piet Van der Valk, Taggart, and Chief Detective Inspector Reginald Wexford; in case you want to see the solution to the mystery.

The September issue of the quarterly newsletter published by the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Gary Thaden's discussion of a letter Conan Doyle wrote to Minneapolis in 1923, Philip Bergem's report on August Derleth's *The Chronicles of Solar Pons* (1973), news from and about the collections, and (most important) a multi-page tribute to Julie McKuras, who edited 92 issues of the newsletter before retiring from the editor's chair. Copies of the newsletter can be requested from Timothy Johnson (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <johns976@umn.com>.

In case you want to live in a Dartmoor farmhouse, there's one available, for only £1 million <www.tinyurl.com/4x2hpnhf>.

David McCallum died on Sept. 25. He began his acting career in 1953 in a BBC television series, went on to appear on stage and screen, and starred as Ilya Kuryakin in the television series "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." (1964-1968) and as the medical examiner "Ducky" Mallard in the television series "NCIS" (2003-2023); it was in a 2015 episode ("16 Years") in that series that he revealed his participation in the Sherlock Consortium for Investigation, a secret society whose members solve cold cases.

Oct 23 #4 Howard Ostrom has added "Spooks!" (1953) to the list of films in which the Three Stooges are seen in Sherlockian costume, and it's available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZ2AOPwxvZU>. The other films on the list are "Horses' Collars" (1935), "We Want Our Mummy" (1939), and "Shivering Sherlocks" (1948). Warning: the Three Stooges are an acquired taste now, but they were featured in 190 short comedies made by the Columbia Pictures Corp. and were highly regarded, once upon a time.

"New views of Peking with Vincent and Ray" (the latest entry in Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" blog) <www.tinyurl.com/2p9hybnm> is a splendid example of how much fun can be had from an accidental discovery (in this case, an archive of photographs from a trip to the Orient by Vincent Starrett and his wife in the 1930s).

Vincent Price's prologues and epilogues for three more programs in Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" television series on "Mystery" on PBS-TV have been made available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEl4tYUxul0>.

Tim Major's pastiche *Sherlock Holmes & the Twelve Thefts of Christmas* (New York: Titan, 2022; 275 pp., \$19.99) is an imaginative Christmas story that involves a cunning Christmas challenge set by Irene Adler upon Holmes, and cases brought to him by Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen, and Edward and Lillie Langtry.

The latest list (#6) from Type Punch Matrix of material from Curtis Armstrong's collection is now on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/yckp293a>. Unsold material from earlier lists also is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/mr4cx2u2>.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Oct. 17 that Netflix is expanding its focus on games to include higher-end games that can be streamed from TVs or PCs, and that Netflix is discussing games based on "its Sherlock Holmes series." It's not at all clear what that series might be, other than the two Robert Downey Jr. films.

Steve Trussel's web-sites on detectives on stamps have long been valued by Sherlockian and Doylean philatelists, and it was sad indeed to learn from Max Magee that Steve died on June 26, 2020. His interests were varied, as you can see from his web-site <www.trussel.com>, and it's nice to see that his web-site and many lists will be kept on-line (although not updated) so people will be able to see how much he accomplished.

An Entertainment Memorabilia Live Auction in London on Nov. 9-12 will include five lots of interesting props that were used in Robert Downey Jr.'s "Sherlock Holmes" films <www.tinyurl.com/3832apu5>.

Mark Gatiss is dramatizing Conan Doyle's "Lot No. 249" for broadcast by BBC Two at Christmas, according to a story in the Hollywood Reporter (Oct. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/55h5dhck>. And a report at the Deadline web-site (Oct. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/4u3kv79f>, the program will star Kit Harrington (Abercrombie Smith) and Freddie Fox (Edward Bellingham). The story was featured on Mark Jones and Paul M. Chapman's "Doings of Doyle" podcast on Aug. 27 <www.tinyurl.com/3pr3h8y4>.

Oct 23 #5 James Lovegrove's *The Cthulhu Casebooks: Sherlock Holmes and the Highgate Horrors* (New York: Titan, 2023; 509 pp., \$22.95) is the fourth title in his *Cthulhu Casebooks* trilogy. And yes, it was a trilogy, until he found yet another Watson manuscript. The series is of course a tribute to H. P. Lovecraft, and the new book pits Holmes and Watson against the Mi-go (the race of extraterrestrials created by Lovecraft in 1931) and offers radically new versions of some of the Canonical cases. Lovegrove has written other more-traditional pastiches, as well as non-Sherlockian fiction, and his web-site's at <www.jameslovegrove.com>.

Historian and presenter Lucy Worsley will host a BBC Two series "Killing Sherlock: Lucy Worsley on the Case of Conan Doyle", according to the BBC media center (Oct. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/3e2nnwfn>. There will be three one-hour episodes, due in December on BBC Two and PBS-TV.

Street art has a long history, and it includes real humor; street artist EFIX (François Xavier Donguy) has had some non-Sherlockian fun, kindly reported by Samantha Wolov <www.tinyurl.com/2p8ax248>.

Ann Kimbrough has launched the Sherlocki-Anns (for Sherlockians named Ann or Anne); they honor Ann Adler (the younger sister of the much more famous Irene Adler) and meet three times a year via Zoom (anyone can be an honorary member <travelswithsherlock.com/sherlocki-anns>).

Howard Ostrom has reported a new statue of Sherlock Holmes, at the British Antique Museum in Kamakura (Japan). It celebrates that one-year anniversary of the opening of the museum, which features a recreation of the sitting room at 221B Baker Street. The statue is the latest addition to Howard's comprehensive (and nicely illustrated) essay "The World of Sherlock Holmes Statues" <www.nplh.co.uk/sherlock-statues.html>.

Haydn Gwynne died on Oct. 20. She began her acting career on stage in the U.K., and went on to appear in many roles on television and radio, including Miss Wenceslas in "The Great Game" (2010) in the "Sherlock" television series.

Col. Heeza Liar starred in a lengthy series of short live-action animated films created by Vernon Stallings during the silent-film era. You can see him in a deerstalker in "Col. Heeza Liar, Detective" (1923) found by Howard Ostrom at <www.tinyurl.com/5n7pkz2d>.

American Theatre magazine's Oct. 18 report on the 20 most-produced playwrights of the 2023-24 season has three playwrights who have Sherlockian credits: Ken Ludwig (#2), Kate Hamill (#6), and Jeffrey Hatcher (#7); details at <www.tinyurl.com/yc8xwvpu>.

Kate Karlson notes a new exhibition coming up at the Groller Club in New York, Nov. 30 through Feb. 10, nicely timed for anyone who has spare time during the birthday festivities. "Whodunit? Key Books in Detective Fiction" <www.tinyurl.com/yansyj6j> will be on view in the Second Floor Gallery, and the Club's at 47 East 60th Street.

Oct 23 #6 Many Sherlockians made a pilgrimage to Barts, where Dr. Watson first met Sherlock Holmes, but those who have visited St. Bartholomew's Hospital may not have visited St. Bartholomew-the-Great, the nearby church; the hospital and the church are celebrating their 900th anniversaries this year, and Country Life had a nicely-illustrated article about the church (Oct. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/yxj2p7bm>.

"Der Mann, der Sherlock Holmes war" (1937) was one of the best Sherlockian films from Germany, readily available on-line; Jennie Paton has discovered a two-minute trailer for the film at <www.dailymotion.com/video/x8oxdgc>. The complete film (subtitled in English) is at <www.tinyurl.com/yvzyxvznz>.

Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Plowright Theatre in Scunthorpe, Lincs., through Nov. 4 <www.thehospitalplayers.co.uk>. It also is due at the Festival Stage during the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery, Ala., on Apr. 15-May 12 (<www.asf.net>); and at the Ron Maslin Playhouse in Kanata, Ont., May 15-25 <www.kanatatheatre.ca>.

Orson Welles' "Sherlock Holmes" radio-style production at the Tighthouse Brewery in Mundelein, Ill., will have an additional performance; it's now due on Nov. 5 and 12 <www.kirkwoodplayers.org>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" will be performed at the Central Valley High School in Corvallis, Ore., on Nov. 10-18 <www.tinyurl.com/bdh4me7t>; and at the Bahadur Bhatla Theatre in Montréal, Q.C. Jan. 24-25 <www.tinyurl.com/brzhnf2s>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be performed at the Spokane Civic Theatre in Spokane, Wash., Nov. 24-Dec. 17 <www.spokanecivictheatre.com>. Also at the Cypress Moon Studios in Sheffield, Ala., Dec. 7-10; web-site at <www.cypressmoonstudios.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at the Bellingham Theatre Guild in Bellingham, Wash., Nov. 24-Dec. 10 <www.bellinghamtheatreguild.com>; and at the Olympic Theatre Arts Center in Sequim, Wash., on Dec. 1-17 <www.olympictheatrearts.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose (by Michael Menendian and John Weagly) will be performed at the Highview Arts Center in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 25-Dec. 3 <www.highviewartscenter.com>; it also is due at the Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park Theater in Joliet, Ill., Dec. 15-17 <www.thejolietdramaguild.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Fallen Giant" (an opera by Evan Meier and E. M. Lewis) is scheduled at the Lincoln Studio Theater in Portland, Ore., Nov. 25-Dec. 3 <www.pdx.edu/music-theater/sherlock-holmes>; and at the State Theatre in Modesto, Calif., Jan. 13-20. <www.operamodesto.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes & the Opera Mystery" will be performed at the King Center for the Performing Arts in Melbourne, Fla., on Feb. 8, 2024; the web-site is at <www.kingcenter.com/events/youth-theatre>.

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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 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=_4aYNN79cwq.

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>.

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

An addition to the birthday festivities in New York: Hal Glatzer's radio-style play "FlatFinders, 1881" at the Coffee House Club (47 Fifth Avenue at 12th Street), on Wednesday, Jan. 10. "How did Holmes and Watson, having just met, really find their flat in Baker Street? With the help of an estate agent, of course!" Admission at 3:00 pm is free, with no-host refreshments available, and the 30-minute play will start at 4:00 pm. Hal's web-site's at <www.halglatzer.com>.

And for those who won't be in New York on Jan. 12, Brad Keefauver reports that The Dangling Prussian will be opening its virtual doors the evening of Jan. 12; details at <www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com> or from Brad by e-mail <bradkeefauver@comcast.net>.

There was an interview with Guy Charles Owen, the manager of The Langham in London, at the Hotel Management web-site on Nov. 17; it is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/49rynyus>. He said that his favorite "signature suite" is the Tower Suite, spread over three different levels in one of the corner turrets, and with an homage to Conan Doyle, a "former guest of the hotel." He did dine there on Aug. 30, 1899 (when he was commissioned to write "The Sign of the Four"), and he mentioned the hotel in that story (and in two others in the Canon). There's more information about the Tower Suite at <www.tinyurl.com/2pzcknjc> (the going rate is £2,500 a night).

Doyle's World: Lost and Found, by Daniel and Eugene Friedman (Garden City Park: Square One, 2023; 326 pp., \$29.95), is sub-titled "the unknown histories of Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," and it's much more than just another biography of Conan Doyle. Their discussion of the parallels between his life and his writings (both Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian) includes new information about the people he encountered, along with interesting conclusions about how they influenced him and his work. Their book also offers reprints of two short stories, published in 1898 in *London Society* and *Belgravia*, that they believe Conan Doyle wrote and submitted to the magazines using a pseudonym. The publisher's web-site is at <www.squareonepublishers.com>.

The December issue of *Le Petit Journal* (published by Marco Navas Studio) features their colorful Sherlock Holmes 1/32 miniature figures and scenes. You can request a copy of the journal from <isabel@marconavas.com>; their web-site's at <www.marconavas.com>.

"I have loved watching you. Actually I meant to bring up a performance of yours I particularly remember. When I was doing my National Service, before I had even dreamed of becoming an actor, I saw your marvellous performance as Holmes in 'Hound of the Baskerville [sic]' and I was so taken aback by the precision and perfectionism of that performance, that I clung to that impression a few years later when I became an actor, and used to spend hours rehearsing details on my own." Anthony Hopkins to Peter Cushing, in a letter available from Neal Pearson Rare Books (a London dealer) <www.tinyurl.com/2b9d7n3d>.

Dec 23 #2 The Parallelogram, the newsletter of the Parallel Case of St. Louis, found its way into print in 1991 and it's still being published (although now as a blog); Madeline Quiñones' recent article "A Great Heart, Revisited" is an excellent example of what happens when someone takes a thoughtful look at something in the Canon and starts thinking about whether it makes sense (and comes up with a new perspective). You can see for yourself what she wrote, at <www.tinyurl.com/ypasjkve>.

The November issue of A Common Newsletter (bringing tidings from the ACD Society) notes that they have now reached page 6 of their annotated edition of "The Terror of Blue John Gap", which is conveniently available online at <www.acdsociety.com/bjg/a/bjga.html>.

It's not Wisteria Lodge, but Ready Token House in the Cotswolds seems just the place for admirers of wisteria, according to a story in Country Life on Nov. 21 <www.tinyurl.com/3mxty84x>.

Mark Shanahan's play "A Sherlock Carol" seems to have more and more productions each year in the Christmas season, and Fergus Morgan has answered the question "why is theatre so obsessed with Dickens' festive tale?" in a long and interesting post to the web-site of The Stage on Nov. 30; you'll need to sign up (it's free) to read it at <www.tinyurl.com/bdfhyhdc>.

Donald E. Curtis ("Jabez Wilson") died on Nov. 30. After eight years in the U.S. Air Force Security Service monitoring Communist China (for which he received a Badge of Honor from the Chinese government in Taiwan), Don went on to career in medical sales. He presided over the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis for 25 years, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 2000.

Vicki Delany's *The Sign of Four Spirits* (New York: Crooked Lane, 2024; 277 pp., \$29.99), the latest in her series of "Sherlock Holmes Bookshop" mysteries that star Gemma Doyle (proprietor of the Sherlock Holmes bookshop on Cape Cod) and her friend Jayne Wilson (who manages the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room). The new mystery involves Gemma and Jayne, and their friends, with a medium who's murdered during a séance, and it's a nice addition to her comfortable series. Delany has more than one series going, and her web-site's at <www.vickidelany.com>.

Ray Betzner celebrated the holidays at his Studies in Starrett blog with a splendid post about Starrett's "The Escape of Alice: A Christmas Fantasy" (1919), which was a delightful example of his wit and sentiment and love of literature. The post also is a fine example of the results of careful research. You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/52amr3t7>.

The Hulu series "A Murder at the End of the World" (2023) stars Emma Corrin as amateur detective Darby Hart, who's described as "Gen-Z's Sherlock Holmes" (and that phrase has appeared in a lot of the reviews of the series). For those in older generations, Gen-Z are the youngsters (11 to 26 years old) who have grown up with social media and smartphones. And while the series isn't really Sherlockian, it's intelligent and interesting.

Dec 23 #3 Sherlock spyware makes the news from time to time. It's sold by a mysterious Israeli company called Candiru (which is named after an Amazon fish reported to parasitize the human urethra). The fish has an entry at Wikipedia <[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candiru_\(fish\)](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candiru_(fish)), and so does the company <[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candiru_\(spyware_company\)](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candiru_(spyware_company))>. According to a recent post at the web-site of The Register (Sept. 16), the software was developed by Insanet, a different mysterious Israeli company <www.theregister.com/2023/09/16/insanet_spyware>, and the spyware uses advertising malware to infect computers and phones.

Mike Poteet has noted the web-site Storiarts ("where style meets literature") <www.storiarts.com>, where you'll find some imaginative Sherlockian items; just search for [sherlock].

It's a bit late to be celebrating Christmas (that's one of the problems an end-of-the-month newsletter faces), but James C. O'Leary's delightful pastiche "The Adventure of the Fur-Lined Hat" is both well worth reading and conveniently available at <www.tinyurl.com/3bbwevc4>.

"Here a rat, there a rat, everywhere a giant rat," I suggested some years ago (Sep 09 #6). They continue to turn up in southeast Asia, most recently on Vangunu, one of the Solomon Islands, according to a Melbourne University press release (Nov. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/y5ufapes>. You can read all about *Uromys vika* in an article at the Ecology and Evolution web-site (Nov. 20) <www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ece3.10703>.

An interview with Bill Cochran is the latest addition to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust's oral history project, now up at the Trust's web-site at <www.bsitrust.org>, along with articles and the Trust's newsletters.

Don Hobbs describes his Sherlockian Theatrical Society as non-judgmental, "based on the belief that any play about Sherlock Holmes is worth attending." He attends a lot of plays, and you can read his reviews at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* <www.tinyurl.com/yzbztv87>.

Sherlock Holmes and the Arcana of Madness (Crystal Lake Publishing, 2023; 179 pp., \$17.99) is an anthology of stories by John Linwood Grant, Angela Yuriko Smith, and Naching T. Kassa, all involving Holmes and Watson with the supernatural, and all tied to the work of the artist Richard Dadd; the publisher's web-site's at <www.crystallakepub.com>.

"Baker Street Elementary" is the long-running comic strip created by Joe Faye, Rusty Mason, and Steve Mason, and it has now entered its tenth year. All of the strips are available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/5n89cupv>, and one of the best of them is #480

The production-used 8¼-inch maquettes of The Great Mouse Detective (that's Basil of Baker Street) that was offered at Heritage Auctions on Dec. 8 was sold for \$4,920 including the buyer's premium <www.tinyurl.com/y922sspc>. A similar maquette sold last year for \$5,760 (including the premium) (Feb 22 #3). A pair of maquettes, of Dawson and Olivia, also was sold on Dec. 8 for \$3,900 (including the premium) <www.tinyurl.com/58wv9yyn>.

Dec 23 #4 David A. Weiss ("Crosby, the Banker") died on Mar. 24, 2020.

He was living in Baltimore and a member of the Six Napoleons when his "Celestial Pastiche" was published in the Baker Street Journal in 1948; he was persuaded to move to New York and become a professional writer, and he was awarded his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1958. Julie McKuras' warm tribute to him ran in the spring 2008 issue of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter <www.tinyurl.com/2p9akefw>.

Watch Harry Charles and Sherlock win the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup in A Coruña (in Spain) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZPxOFFL5Uc> (kindly noted by Jennie Paton).

When in Baku (in Azerbaijan): miniature-books enthusiasts may wish to visit the world's largest museum of miniature books <www.minibooks.az>. An article at the Azernews web-site <www.azernews.az/culture/218848.html> on Dec. 13 notes that Conan Doyle is one of many authors in the collection.

Mystery, Murder, Madness, Mythos is an anthology of "dark fantasy inspired by Lovecraft," not Sherlockian except for the intriguing cover artwork by Tomislav Tikulin; just out from PS Publishing <www.tinyurl.com/muza4fb4>.

Ron Fish continues to publicize meetings of Sherlockian societies via his Sherlockian Calendar, including gatherings held via Zoom or other technology; it's a great way to find out what's happening, where and when. You can see his format at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>, and send information about upcoming meetings to him at <ronf404@aol.com>.

Those who were at the Saturday reception last January may recall the spirited Dr. John H. Watson Fund bidding for being able to name a character in Bonnie MacBird's next pastiche *The Serpent Under* (the winner also received a copy of her recent *What Child Is This?* that was signed and inscribed by Bonnie and her illustrator Frank Cho, who also provided original Sherlockian artwork on the endpapers). Bonnie and Frank wrote about their collaboration at the CrimeReads web-site (Dec. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/wkmmk5>.

"Sherlock & Co." is an intriguing audio podcast that stars Harry Attwell (Sherlock Holmes) and Paul Waggott (Dr. John Watson) in Goalhanger's modern version of the Canon, and dozen adaptations of Canonical tales can be heard at <www.youtube.com/@SherlockPod>.

"It's totally legal for Batman to punch the Great Gatsby and yet I'm still waiting," Susana Polo complained, in a post to the Polygon web-site (Dec. 13) <www.tinyurl.com/4ktvcy8b>, noting that Batman and the Great Gatsby, like Sherlock Holmes, are now in the public domain.

Burt Wolder notes that the Chris Beetles Gallery in London offers at its web-site <www.chrisbeetles.com/exhibition/286/the-illustrators> a catalog of *The Illustrators: The British Art of Illustration 1831-2023*, which is available for sale (£20.00) or on-line (free), with an interesting section devoted to Conan Doyle's father Charles Altamont Doyle. The gallery also offers original artwork by Conan Doyle's father, and uncle Richard Doyle.

Dec 23 #5 "Now it is clear that anyone working with rocket fuels is outstandingly mad. I don't mean garden-variety crazy or a merely raving lunatic. I mean a record-shattering exponent of far-out insanity." Isaac Asimov, in his forward to John D. Clark's *Ignition!: An Informal History of Liquid Rocket Fuel Propellants* (1972). Both of them were members of the Baker Street Irregulars, and you can read more of what Asimov had to say about liquid rocket fuels in a recent post to the Ricochet web-site (Dec. 7) <www.tinyurl.com/ysvhs9yw>.

Laurie R. King is already thinking about 2025, and the next Mary Russell book, which will be about Mary's uncle Jake (who gave a throwing knife to a young Mary <www.laurierking.com/2023/12/russell-what>. The free download of *Mary's Christmas* (with artwork that wasn't in the 2014 print version) will be available until Jan. 6.

Horror Dogs: Man's Best Friend as Movie Monster, by Brian Patrick Duggan (Jefferson: McFarland, 2023; 262 pp., \$49.95) is a delightful example of the results of careful research; it's a splendid filmography, written by someone who obviously loves both dogs and movies. The Hound of the Baskervilles was for decades the iconic horror dog (although some people now prefer Cujo), but there are many others (from 1904 to 2022); the book is entertaining and instructive, and recommended.

Smithsonian Magazine <www.smithsonianmag.com> has published many Sherlockian and Doylean articles over the years, both in print and on-line. Just search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] to find all sorts of articles (including some that were on-line only).

Christie's (in London) offered a copy of the first printing of the first British edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, in a damaged second state of the dust jacket, on Dec. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/4ak98ne5>, with an estimate of £20,000-£30,000. It was sold for £23,940 (including the buyer's premium).

Christie's also offered on Dec. 14 a list of the contents of Conan Doyle's psychic library kept by his secretary, Major A. H. Wood, with an estimate of £1,500-£2,500 <www.tinyurl.com/cpepxhzh>; it sold for £2,268 (including the premium).

In 1982 the television series "Fantasy Island" included a segment titled "Save Sherlock Holmes" in which Ron Ely played a department store detective in a fantasy that had him rescuing Sherlock Holmes from Prof. Moriarty. The cast included Peter Lawford as Sherlock Holmes, Donald O'Connor as Dr. Watson, Mel Ferrer as Moriarty, and Rita Jenrette (whose activities in Washington inspired the name of the group of political-satire performers "The Capitol Steps") as Nurse Heavenly. Jennie Paton reports that the program is on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObYAytZ1UCs> (the URL noted in 2020 no longer works). Howard Ostrom adds that the YouTube channel also has the 1986 "Holmes Sweet Holmes" episode from the "Fame" series, and the 1991 "The Consulting Detective" episode from the "Father Dowling Mysteries" series. Just about everything seems to arrive on-line eventually.

Dec 23 #6 "Mystery Sign on This San Francisco Home Is Last Remnant of a Dangerous Charlatan" was the headline on a story at the SFGATE web-site (Dec. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/2fhw823f>. The sign, on the house at 2151 Sacramento Street, says that "This house, built in 1881, was once occupied by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." Conan Doyle came to the house in 1923 to visit Dr. Albert Abrams, but stayed only a few hours. As for the man who lived in the house, the article notes that "It's impossible to count the number of lies Dr. Albert Abrams told while defrauding patients."

It's not Sherlockian, but here's a trivia question: who was the first actor to play Ian Fleming's hero James Bond?

"One of the Most Obscure Disney Characters Ever Is Terrorizing the Lorcana Meta," was the headline on Eric Switzer's post to The Gamer web-site (Nov. 29 <www.tinyurl.com/5ewv2auz>. Disney Lorcana is described as an "immersive trading card game" that features Disney characters in original and re-imagined art styles, and the obscure character is Hiram Flaversham, a side character in "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986); there also are cards for Basil, Ratigan, and Fidget, and if you would like to know more about the game you'll need to find someone who understands the gamer jargon in the article.

One does hear of Sherlock everywhere, as in Siddhartha Mukherjee's "Annals of Medicine: Sleeper Cells" in The New Yorker (Dec. 18); he certainly is familiar with the Canon, and ends his article with a ride to Baker Street. The article's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/2hpf85x4>.

Peter McIntyre notes that Sherlock's Jewel is performing well at various race tracks <www.tinyurl.com/fu8p9t8d>; you can watch Sherlock's Jewel win a recent race at Tampa Downs at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4cyva4CeDs>.

"You can put back anything but dust," said Sherlock Holmes, "Dust is eloquent." The quote is in an article at the web-site of Nautilus magazine (Dec. 11) <www.tinyurl.com/4n48ymyh> about the use of DNA and biochemical analysis of dust by modern forensic investigators. The article notes that the quote is from the BBC's "Sherlock" television series.

The Japan Times reported (Dec. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/bdfut7fz> on plans for an "Immersive Fort Tokyo" theme park to open in Tokyo on Mar. 4. One of the attractions will feature Sherlock Holmes.

Reported: "Cushing Curiosities" is a six-disc Blu-ray boxed set honoring Peter Cushing, with 5 feature films, 6 BBC teleplays, a 200-page book, and more than 16 hours of special features (\$95.00), issued this year by Severin Films; two of the discs offer the six surviving episodes of his 1968 "Sherlock Holmes" (with commentary by Kim Newman, David Stuart Davies, and others) <www.tinyurl.com/nhb3hvx8>.

The Baker Street Irregulars restaurant, at 1152 1st Avenue in New York (at 63rd Street), formerly the Baker Street Pub, says that it's continuing the pub's tradition, but it's "just a little more irregular than you remember" <www.irregularsnyc.com>.

Dec 23 #7 Ryan O'Neal died on Dec. 8. He launched his acting career in television in 1960, went on to films and stage, and was perhaps best known for roles in "Love Story" (1970) and "Paper Moon" (1973). He also played Gregory Stark in "Zero Effect" (1998), which starred Bill Pullman as the world's best private detective, who is utterly brilliant, a deductive genius, emotionally unstable, and uses disguises, and Ben Stiller as his steady, reliable aide who eventually leaves him for a wife.

Who was the first actor to play James Bond? Barry Nelson, in a one-hour dramatization of Casino Royale for the "Climax!" television series broadcast by CBS-TV in 1954. Peter Lorre played Le Chiffre, and you can watch the program at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGNMKT-6i4Y>.

The trivia question was inspired by Jacques Ernewein's article on "Casino Royale: 007 et l'Alsace de la Guerre Froide" in the June 2023 issue of Le Carnet d'Écrou (the journal of Les Évadés de Dartmoor), which also has an interesting article by Leon Sterndale about "Sherlock Holmes, la pièce de William Gillette, son adaptation par Pierre Decourcelle". If you'd like to subscribe, the editor is François Hoff <francois.hoff@orange.fr>.

Karen Murdock notes that the Canadian one-hour documentary "The Real Sherlock Holmes" (2012) is available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Eo-Cp9u4ME>, with a number of Sherlockians interviewed.

The Oxford English Dictionary is on-line and updated quarterly, and they have provided counts of how many time authors are quoted. Conan Doyle's count is 844, which puts him behind William Faulkner and ahead of Virginia Woolf. You can see the list at <www.tinyurl.com/msk4zzwb>.

"Killing Sherlock: Lucy Worsley on the Case of Conan Doyle" (a three-episode mini-series broadcast by BBC Two beginning on Dec. 10) received great publicity in the British press, including a colorful article in the Daily Mail (Dec. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/3vcsj3rw> and a press release from the BBC (Dec. 4) <www.tinyurl.com/yc3mkwr9>. BBC Arts also presented viewers with a "Sherlock Holmes Quiz: What's the Truth About Arthur Conan Doyle?" (Dec. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/9smc5yyf>. The series has not yet been scheduled by PBS-TV (stay tuned), but you may still be able to watch the programs, with a short musical overlay (presumably to establish copyright ownership), at her YouTube channel <www.youtube.com/@Lucy_Worsley/videos>.

Video of all three of the BSI Trust Lectures (Roberta Pearson in 2021, Ray Betzner in 2022, and Steven Rothman in 2023) are now available at the BSI Trust web-site <www.bsitrust.org/2023/12/bsi-trust-lectures.html>.

The Portsmouth News reported (Dec. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/5vcnmkxd> that the former city records office won't be turned into a Sherlock Holmes museum; consultants have said that the site is too small and is in the wrong location, and estimated that it would cost £2 million to refurbish the building and £2.5 million to turn it into museum, but only £331,000 to demolish the building. The campaign for a new museum had been led by Stephen Fry, patron of the Sherlock Holmes Collections.

Dec 23 #8 Mark Gatiss' dramatization of "Lot No. 249" aired on BBC Two on Dec. 24. You can read the BBC's press release (Dec. 6) at <www.tinyurl.com/3a895vpk>, an interview with him in Radio Times (Dec 20) <www.tinyurl.com/2vsr52yu>, and another interview at the web-site of the British Film Institute (Dec. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/3jp5r7su>. Gatiss said that "there's definite potential in the Professor Challenger stories," and added that he and Steven Moffat "talked a lot about Challenger as a separate thing, because he's a wonderful character—Doyle did that rare thing of getting another one!" Gatiss had fun with the story, and the program was widely and favorably reviewed in the British press and on-line. It's unlikely it will air here, alas.

Theatrical news: Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is due at the James A. Garfield High School in Garrettsville, Ohio, Jan. 19-27; web-site at <www.curtainsuptheatre.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Whitechapel Fiend" (by Toby Hulse and Ross Smith) will have its world premiere at the Barn Theatre in Cirencester, Glos., on Jan. 26-Mar. 9 <www.barntheatre.org.uk>.

Martin Parsons' dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" as a radio-play toured in Britain in 2022 and it will tour again. Mar. 5-May 5; <www.crimeandcomedytheatrecompany.co.uk>.

Tal Aviezer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem" is due at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, N.Y., Mar. 1-24 <www.lyndhurst.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Adelaide Repertory Theatre in Adelaide, S.A., Mar. 21-Apr. 6 <www.adelaiderep.com>; at the Garfield Center for the Performing Arts at the Prince Theatre in Chestertown, Md., Apr. 19-May 5 <www.garfieldcenter.org>; and at the Kanata Theatre in Ottawa, Ont., May 15-25 <www.kanatatheatre.ca>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson" will be performed at the Vertigo Theatre in Calgary Alta., May 11-June 9 <www.vertigotheatre.com>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" has been scheduled at the Don Bluth Front Row Theatre in Scottsdale, Ariz., Mar. 21-Apr. 27; their web-site's at <www.donbluthfrontrowtheatre.com>.

Reginald Candy's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart" will be performed at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., July 24-Oct. 13 <www.shawfest.com>.

Rick Robinson's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Study in Scarlet" is due at the Oregon Cabaret Theatre in Ashland, Ore., Sept. 13-Nov. 3; web-site at <www.oregoncabaret.com>.

Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes & the First Baker Street Irregular" is scheduled at the Merc Playhouse in Twisp, Wash., Dec. 5-15; their web-site is at <www.mercplayhouse.org>.

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