

The British Film Institute's London Film Festival will include a screening of "Silent Sherlock: Three Classic Cases" on Oct. 16, with new scores by live musicians <www.tinyurl.com/ay5t538h>. All of the films are from the two-reeler series that starred Eille Norwood as Holmes and were released in the early 1920s, and one of them ("The Golden Pince-Nez") has not been screened since it was in theaters in 1922. The BFI is now restoring all of the Norwood films under a rights agreement with Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group (which acquired the rights when it purchased the Stoll Moss Theatres Group in 2000).

The best of the many articles about the screening was in the Guardian on Aug. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/bdbmjmtu>, with comment by Roger Johnson (editor of the Sherlock Holmes Journal). There's no word yet on the possible release of the newly restored films on DVDs, but one can hope. And in the meantime listen to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's 2021 interview with the late Russell Merritt about the Norwood series at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/4y2efnzd>.

The saga of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (Feb 24 #2) continues. The Southern Daily Echo reported (Sept. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/2sbev3af> that the first residents will move into their new homes in the development before Christmas. The only part of the old hotel that remains is the historic facade, which is said to have been designed by Conan Doyle in 1912, and which the New Forest National Park Authority had required the developer to preserve. But the developer now says that the facade is "in danger of collapse" and wants to demolish it.

"Two Sherlockians and a Former Journo Walk into a Zoom Call" was the headline on an Aug. 28 post to the CrimeReads blog <www.tinyurl.com/3mmm7ftb>. Nancie Clare was the former journo, and Leslie Klinger and Nicholas Meyer were the Sherlockians, talking about *Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell* and many other things, including Nick's next Sherlock Holmes novel.

You can also listen to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's interview with Nick at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/4prcx9es> (among other things, Nick reveals the title of his next book), and read what Nick had to say about "The Great Escape of Art (and the Art of Detection)" on Apr. 24 at CrimeReads <www.tinyurl.com/2ztxeddv>.

There's also a video recording of Nick's appearance with Otto Penzler at the Mysterious Bookshop in New York on Sept. 9, conveniently available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/36arhteb>.

Tim Major has completed his trilogy of Sherlock Holmes pastiches, and continues with *Jekyll & Hyde: Consulting Detectives* (New York: Titan, 2024; 299 pp., \$25.99), in which Henry Jekyll and Edward Hyde help Jekyll's former fiancée Muriel Carew (who appears in the classic 1931 film, but not in Robert Louis Stevenson's novel) in thwarting a band of malicious evildoers; the novel's ending suggests that there will be a sequel.

Sep 24 #2 On Aug. 23 the Miami New Times published a list of all of the books known to have been removed from school shelves in Florida from July 2021 to June 2024 <www.tinyurl.com/y4za569n>; *The Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* is included for the Escambia County School District. The county is on the far western edge of the Florida Panhandle, with Pensacola its largest city. The Pensacola News Journal reported earlier this year <www.tinyurl.com/25ya3ydw> on protests by residents against how slowly the school board has been reviewing books that were "jailed" by the board.

The Little Free Library <www.littlefreelibrary.org> is more than just the boxes of free books one sees by the sidewalk in front of people's homes. The organization has compiled a state-by-state list of all the currently banned books, downloadable as a PDF file; only the one book by Conan Doyle is banned, and only in Florida.

Of course the Little Free Library has been around for a while, and it's a grand way to spread the gospel. Tom Fahres isn't the only Sherlockian who places Sherlockian duplicates in the boxes, and including a note about the local Sherlockian society is an excellent way to find new members.

David Stuart Davies ("Sir Ralph Musgrave" died on Aug. 16. He was a multi-talented author, editor, playwright, actor, and lecturer, praised for his Sherlockian novels, plays, interviews on radio and television, background commentary on Sherlockian DVDs, and by many for his performance of his one-minute version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles". David received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1995.

"Exclude the impossible, and what is left, however improbable, must be the truth." Who said that, and when and where? Spoiler alert: the question will be answered later on in this issue.

Larry Millett, author of seven novels that featured Sherlock Holmes solving mysteries in St. Paul, Minn., turned his attention to Shadwell Rafferty, a supporting character in many of the novels, and now starring in his own stories, the latest being *Mysterious Tales of Old St. Paul* (Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2024; 280 pp., \$24.95), which offers three of Rafferty's intriguing earlier cases.

Nov. 15 is the deadline for nominations for this year's Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award, an on-going effort by the Beacon Society to honor people who have made a significant contribution to exposing young people to the stories of Sherlock Holmes. Details on the award, and a nomination form, are available at <www.beaconsociety.com/the-beacon-award.html>.

Country Life, in a post to its web-site (Sept. 7) about London's best restaurateurs <www.tinyurl.com/2wskme9t>, has many nice things to say about Jeremy King, among them that a relaunch of Simpson's on the Strand is imminent; the restaurant closed in March 2020, and much of its original furnishings was sold at auction last August <www.simpsons-auction.com>, but its web-site's still active <www.simpsonsinthestrang.co.uk>, with an account of the restaurant's history, and a mention of Sherlock Holmes.

Sep 24 #3 Playwright Ken Ludwig, fond of Shakespeare as well as Sherlock Holmes, has made news in Britain: the Guardian reported (Sept. 5) <www.tinyurl.com/2s3b95wc> that he has donated £1 million to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust for crucial conservation work on Hall's Croft, the home of Shakespeare's daughter Susanna and her physician husband John Hall (who is believed to have advised his father-in-law on medical matters).

There are many connections between Shakespeare and Sherlock Holmes, and it was grand that members of the Red Circle of Washington, D.C., were able to visit the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington twice in September, to see the manuscript of "The Valley of Fear" in the temporary exhibition of literary treasures from the Stuart and Mimi Rose Collection (Jun 24 #1), and to meet Nicholas Meyer, who is touring to promote his new novel *Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell* (May 24 #3).

The Folger conveniently offers a virtual tour of the exhibition at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/24hahdrs> (the manuscript is in case #4), and a spectacular book devoted to the exhibition (*Imprints in Time*), fully-illustrated in color, at their gift shop <www.tinyurl.com/4m9p7ytv>, priced at \$125.00. And there's more information about the manuscript, including its history, at the Best of Sherlock Holmes web-site maintained by Randall Stock <www.tinyurl.com/36pxcymn>.

The quarterly Sherlock Holmes Magazine, launched in 2020, has reached its 18th issue <www.sherlockholmesmag.co.uk/latest-issue> (£6.99), which offers Daniel and Eugene Friedman's examination of Mycroft Holmes, who they think is the most colorful character in the Canon.

The University of Minnesota Libraries posted a nicely illustrated article about the "Sherlock Holmes @ 50" conference held in Minneapolis in July, and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/4c5526z4>.

Kelvin I. Jones died on Aug. 16. He was an energetic actor, teacher, researcher, and writer, and you can see many of his books offered by dealers at ViaLibri <www.vialibri.net>, a web-site that casts a larger shadow than AbeBooks <www.abebooks.com>.

Bill Seil reports another appearance of Sherlock Holmes in newspaper comic strips: in Georgia Dunn's "Breaking Cat News" (Sept. 14), nicely available on-line at <www.gocomics.com/breaking-cat-news/2024/09/14>.

The nicely inscribed copy of the first edition of Vincent Starrett's *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, at auction at PBA Galleries in on Sept. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/v9sn8fd8>, was sold for \$281.25 (including the 25% buyer's premium).

"Exclude the impossible, and what is left, however improbable, must be the truth." Who said that, and when and where? Credit goes to Auguste Dupin, who doesn't say that in any story written by Edgar Allan Poe. So who gave the credit to Dupin, and when and where? Spoiler alert: the question will be answered later on in this issue.

Sep 24 #4 The oldest surviving Sherlockian television broadcast is "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (broadcast by NBC-TV in 1949); you can watch it at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ew2_egscp0> (kindly noted by Jennie Paton) and see Alan Napier as Holmes, many years before he became famous as Alfred the butler in the long-running "Batman" series in the 1960s. You'll also see Arthur Shields as The Bookshop Man, who introduced all of the programs in Lucky Strike's "Your Show Time" series.

You may think you've seen and heard Arthur Shields before, and there's a reason: he was the younger brother of Barry Fitzgerald, and both of them appeared in "The Quiet Man" (1952). I've mentioned that grand film before (Jun 09 #3), because it has two tenuous Sherlockian connections: Francis Ford, who played Sherlock Holmes in the film "A Study in Scarlet" (1914) played Dan Tobin (the old man with the white beard), and when the locals arrived at the newlyweds' cottage, they sang "Mush, Mush" (the music's now used by Sherlockians when they sing "We Never Mention Aunt Clara"). The movie was inspired by one of the stories in Maurice Walsh's wonderful collection *Green Rushes* (1935), which has been reprinted as *The Quiet Man and Other Stories* (1992); I recommend reading the book from the beginning, so that you'll know who's who.

"Exclude the impossible, and what is left, however improbable, must be the truth." So who gave the credit to Dupin, and when and where? Arthur Conan Doyle, in his short story "The Fate of the Evangeline" (which was published in 1885, four years before a similar quote appeared in "The Sign of the Four"). This is only one of many discoveries at the Quote Investigator web-site <www.quoteinvestigator.com> if you search for [conan doyle].

The Giant Freakin Robot blog offered an interesting interview with Nicholas Meyer on Sept. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/42jsknyv>. Nick talked about Star Trek, his obituary, and (of course) Sherlock Holmes.

There are many mentions of spiders in the Canon, most of them pejorative, but the Royal Mail wants everyone to see how attractive Britain's spiders are, as shown on the country's new set of ten colorful stamps.



Sep 24 #5 MidWorld Press is celebrating the 30th anniversary of Laurie R. King's *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* with a special edition of the book: 300 hand-numbered copies, signed by Laurie, with new dust-jacket art and four full-color interior illustrations by Grace Aldrich (\$140.00). There's more information about the new edition, and an opportunity to pre-order, at www.midworldpress.com/store/p/the-beekeepers-apprentice.

"The Sleuth" www.disney.fandom.com/wiki/The_Sleuth, a Sherlockian character created for Disney comics, also appeared in two episodes of "The New Mickey Mouse Club" television series on Oct. 26 and 27, 1977 (which, alas, seem not to be available on-line). Samantha Wolov spotted a puppet of The Sleuth used in the series offered at auction at Van Eaton Galleries in Los Angeles www.vegalleries.com/auctions on Sept. 21, estimated at \$7,000-\$9,000 (lot 255 on page 90 in the catalog). Bidding didn't reach the reserve, and the lot didn't sell.

Howard Ostrom has updated his comprehensive and well-illustrated "Holmes Was a Dummy" essay to include The Sleuth; it's conveniently available on-line at www.nplh.co.uk/sherlock-puppetry.html.

Ian A. R. Brown's *The Langham: The Legend Lives Since 1865 (140th Anniversary)* (Langham Hotels International, 2025) is a spectacular 138-page tribute to the hotel, full of color illustrations and colorful stories about its guests, famous and infamous, and its ghosts. Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes are not neglected (see pp. 44-45 and 47). The book's out of print, but available from on-line used-book dealers.

Gareth Rubin's *Holmes and Moriarty* (London: Simon & Schuster UK, 2024; 340 pp., £18.99) has Holmes and Watson forced to work with Moriarty and Moran to investigate a malevolent conspiracy; the concept's imaginative, and Rubin discussed the book in the Observer earlier this year (Apr 24 #4); you can read what he had to say at www.tinyurl.com/kttmc7er. There isn't an American edition (yet), but the book's available at Amazon, and presumably elsewhere on-line.

"221B Sesame Street" was recently posted to An Archive of Our Own by District Messenger editor Holly Turner www.tinyurl.com/6477fnek; it's Holmes and Watson rather than Sherlock Hemlock, and great fun indeed. The District Messenger is the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's monthly on-line newsletter, published since 1982, and a complete archive is available at www.tinyurl.com/5h66be6c.

A bit more about Nicholas Meyer: Steven T. Doyle had a long and interesting discussion of the impact of *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution* (the book and the film) at the CrimeReads blog on Sept. 15 www.tinyurl.com/2e7fcm72.

Emmett Kelly, who achieved fame performing as a circus clown, once hoped to appear on television in his own show. He made a pilot in 1962, with a brief appearance as Sherlock Holmes, but the pilot never made it onto the air. You can see him as Holmes, thanks to Jennie Paton, who discovered a brief clip at YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=eel438nB7tc.

Sep 24 #6 An old (Dec. 4, 2016) post at the ABC-TV Good Morning America web-site <www.tinyurl.com/6vecuybn> on "what to see and what to skip in London" recommends a visit to the Sherlock Holmes Pub, and dining on "Watson's favorite food": Cumberland sausages. There's no mention of Cumberland sausages in the Canon, but Wikipedia reports that they have been a local delicacy for around 500 years.

Theater news: Don't Go Into the Cellar (Victorian Theatre with Bite) continues to tour a long list of touring shows <www.dontgointothecellar.com>, many of them one-man Sherlockian presentations starring Jonathan Goodwin.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" is running at the Claude L. Shaver Theatre in Baton Rouge, La., through Oct. 6; their web-site's at <www.lsu.edu/cmda/theatre/events/index.php>.

Stewart Howson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Sting of the Scorpion" is touring in Britain through Oct. 26 <www.tinyurl.com/2s37w4su>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is on at the Coaster Theatre Playhouse in Cannon Beach, Ore., through Oct 26 <www.coastertheatre.com>. It's also due at the McKinney Performing Arts Center in Deep Ellum, Tex., Oct. 4-12 <www.tinyurl.com/y5yrwsc>, and the Old Opera House in Charles Town, W.Va., Oct. 18-27 <www.oldoperahouse.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Hailey Theater in Lynchburg, Va., Oct. 3-5 <www.tinyurl.com/bp8yfkpv>; and the Fern Street Theatre in West Palm Beach, Fla., Oct. 3 to 5 <www.pba.edu/venue/fern-street-theatre>; and the Prince William Little Theater in Manassas, Va., Oct. 4-12, web-site's at <www.pwlt.org>. Also at the Tyler Civic Theatre Center in Tyler, Tex., Oct. 13-20 <www.tylercivictheatre.com>; the Carrollwood Players Theatre in Tampa, Fla., Oct. 18-Nov. 3 <www.carrollwoodplayers.org>; and the Austin Play-house in Austin, Tex., Nov. 22-Dec. 13 <www.austinplayhouse.com>.

"Holmes/Poirot" (by Jeffrey Hatcher and Steve Hendrickson) will have its world premiere at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 9-Nov. 3 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>. Hatcher and Hendrickson were interviewed on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/mrym6a2w>.

Gina Tracy's "William and James: A Ghost Story" will be performed at Gillette Castle in East Haddam, Conn., Oct. 18-27 <www.tinyurl.com/3ab76xrm>; it's an imaginary conversation between William Gillette and James O'Neill at The Players in New York, on the opening night of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes".

Thomas W. Olson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars" will be produced at the Black Box Arts Center in Shepherdstown, W.Va., in November <www.rovingperegrine.squarespace.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Brook Street Mysteries" (adapted by Melinda O'Brien and Michael Muldoon from "The Resident Patient" and "The Naval Treaty") is to be performed at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, N.Y., Nov. 15-Dec. 8 <www.lyndhurst.org>.

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