

"Your message was believed to contain questionable content, and therefore was not delivered to the intended recipients," was Comcast's excuse when last month's issue didn't arrive to be posted at the Red Circle web-site in a timely fashion. Fortunately, there was a work-around: Gmail did not believe there was any questionable content in the issue. One does wonder just what Comcast thought was questionable, but there seems to be no way to figure out how Net Nannies work.

Information about many of the events (formal and informal) planned for the birthday festivities in New York in January 2025 is available at the Baker Street Irregulars web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/57y38z3h](http://www.tinyurl.com/57y38z3h)>. Only a few of them are invitation-only, and the birthday festivities continue to be a (very) long weekend that runs from Wednesday through Sunday.

If you're wondering how Facebook algorithms work, someone I know recently had carpeting done, and accidentally got high from glue fumes, and posted about it on Facebook, and now is flooded with advertisements for microdosing and dispensaries. Big Brother really is watching us all.

"Our greatest export: murder," Mark Gatiss noted from the U.K. in a promo for the PBS-TV series "Moonflower Murders" <[www.tinyurl.com/5n787zbu](http://www.tinyurl.com/5n787zbu)>.

There is a small but intriguing sub-genre of Sherlockiana: short stories and books with titles that appear to be Sherlockian, but aren't. Such as David Henry Hwang's *Yellow Face*, which is a play (2007), film (2010), video (2013), novel (2023), and audio (2024) <[www.tinyurl.com/25bmru6m](http://www.tinyurl.com/25bmru6m)>.

Dame Maggie Smith died on Sept. 27. One of our greatest actors, she appeared in her first film in her 20s in 1956, made her stage debut in London in 1957, and went on to become an award-winning star on stage, screen, and television. Of course, she also had Sherlockian credits: she was Dora Charleston in the film "Murder by Death" (1976) and voiced Lady Blueberry in "Sherlock Gnomes" (2018).

"Fluffy yellow haze in the glass, with notes of overripe yellow peaches, juicy Valencia oranges, fresh honeydew melon, and tropical guava," as well as an imaginative can: Sherlock Bones IPA from KCBC, noted by Jennie Paton <[www.shop.kcbcbeer.com/product/sherlock-bones-ddh-hazy-ipa-7-2-4-pk](http://www.shop.kcbcbeer.com/product/sherlock-bones-ddh-hazy-ipa-7-2-4-pk)>.

The Susan Rice Mentorship Board has issued a call for nominations for the 2025 Susan Rice Mentorship Award, given annually to "one outstanding Sherlockian mentor who, like the late Susan Rice, is committed to bringing aspiring Sherlockians into the cause, and encouraging them to find ways to keep green the memory of Sherlock Holmes." The mentor and the mentee need not be members of the Baker Street Irregulars, and the winner will be announced during the birthday festivities in New York in January 2025. More information about the criteria and the history of the award can be found at <[www.tinyurl.com/susanriceaward](http://www.tinyurl.com/susanriceaward)>. Nominations, with a brief explanation of how they honor Susan's spirit of mentorship, should be submitted Nov. 10 to <[susanricementorshipaward@gmail.com](mailto:susanricementorshipaward@gmail.com)>.

Oct 24 #2 An old (Dec. 4, 2016) post at the ABC-TV Good Morning America web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/6vecuybn](http://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.

Sherlock Holmes died on Sept. 15. Well, it was Sherlock Paul Holmes, Jr., aged 93, son of Sherlock Paul Holmes, Sr. You'll find an obituary for him (and for many other people named Sherlock Holmes) at <[www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)>. It is interesting how many people named Sherlock Holmes are in the Internet telephone directories <[www.411.com](http://www.411.com)> and <[www.whitepages.com](http://www.whitepages.com)>.

In plenty of time for holiday hinting (or shopping): Randall Stock's annual and informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books, movies, DVDs, and more, go on-line at <[www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm)> on Nov. 1. You will also find recommendations of older material, all with helpful explanations of his choices. There's always much more of interest at his web-site, including discussion of manuscripts, Beeton's Christmas Annual, and Sidney Paget; you can click on "Site index" at the upper right to see what's available.

One does hear of Sherlock everywhere, including the Sports section of the Washington Post (Oct. 2), at the end of Thomas Boswell's column about Pete Rose <[www.tinyurl.com/y6t2mk6n](http://www.tinyurl.com/y6t2mk6n)>.

Barbara Leigh-Hunt died on Sept. 16. She began acting on stage in London, and went on to a career on stage, screen, and television that included her appearance as Madge Larrabee in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in London, Bristol, Washington, and New York in 1974.

Johanna Draper Carlson reports that the University of Chicago Press is offering Grolier Club books in a half-off sale until Dec. 1, so here's your chance to purchase Cathy and Glen Miranker's spectacular *Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker* catalog discounted to \$40.00 <[www.tinyurl.com/57kdvp8m](http://www.tinyurl.com/57kdvp8m)>; just use the code GROLIERSALE in the shopping cart.

There still are Sherlockian philatelists, including Matt Hall, who has an interesting "221B Cooe" blog at <[www.221bcooe.blogspot.com](http://www.221bcooe.blogspot.com)>, and posted about some Sherlockian postage stamps on Oct. 4. Steve Trussel's splendid web-sites on detectives on stamps are still on-line <[www.trussel.com](http://www.trussel.com)>, but haven't been updated since he died in 2020 (Oct 23 #4).

"Will & Harper" debuted on Netflix on Sept. 27, starring Will Ferrell (who appeared as Holmes in "Holmes & Watson" (2018)). It's a touching documentary about his cross-country car trip with his trans-gender woman friend Harper Steele. Ferrell packed his Sherlock Holmes costume, and is wearing it at the Big Texas Steak Ranch in Amarillo, Texas, when he tries to eat a 72-ounce steak in one hour; there was more to the visit than is shown in the film, reported in Vanity Fair (Sept. 27) <[www.tinyurl.com/trmunxkz](http://www.tinyurl.com/trmunxkz)>.

Oct 24 #3 Reported earlier (Feb 19 #5), but still available: *The Adventure of the Creeping Man* (Winchester University Press, 2017; 132 pp. £34.00). It's a facsimile edition of the manuscript, accompanied by an introduction and annotated transcript by Neil McCaw, and a facsimile of the story as published in *The Strand Magazine*; the book's nice epigraph is: "Read at once if convenient—if inconvenient, read all the same." You can (and should) order the book at <[www.tinyurl.com/mudyy782](http://www.tinyurl.com/mudyy782)>.

There are people who consider the story to be science fiction, but there really was some science involved. Lion Heart Autographs is offering (for \$300) a document signed by Serge Voronoff, well-known in those days as the "monkey gland surgeon" <[www.tinyurl.com/mwawtb2f](http://www.tinyurl.com/mwawtb2f)>.

A welcome holiday present for Sherlockians and Doyleans: "Lucy Worsley's Holmes vs. Doyle" will air on PBS-TV in three Sunday episodes beginning on Dec. 8 <[www.tinyurl.com/467yus6k](http://www.tinyurl.com/467yus6k)>. The mini-series was broadcast in Britain on BBC Teo last year as "Killing Sherlock: Lucy Worsley on the Case of Conan Doyle" (Dec 23 #7).

Lion's mane mushrooms have long been believed to be healthful and helpful (Sep 18 #4), and it's not at all surprising that one can now find lion's mane mushroom gummies in health stores (and on the Internet), and at Walgreen's, recently reported by Karen Murdock.

Further to last month's query about "Exclude the impossible, and what is left, however improbable, must be the truth," Cliff Goldfarb notes that he reported in the *Baker Street Journal* (Dec. 1979) that Antoine de Fourcroy, the French astronomer, wrote (in the *Magasin Encyclopedique*) in 1803, "ce n'est qu'en éliminant l'absurde ou l'impossible, que l'on peut adopter ce qui aura d'abord paru incroyable." If you'd like a copy of his article, it's available from Cliff by e-mail <[cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca](mailto:cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca)>.

John Carter's *ABC for Book Collectors*, first published in 1952, is a valuable reference work for anyone who wants to understand the jargon used by careful collectors, dealers, and bibliographers. Max Magee has discovered the eighth edition (2004) available on-line <[www.tinyurl.com/yyhp233a](http://www.tinyurl.com/yyhp233a)>.

Plan ahead: the Gaslight Gala (an alternative birthday-festivities event for those not invited to the Baker Steet Irregulars' annual dinner) will be held on Jan. 17, 2025. If you'd like to be on their mailing list, you can contact Ann Brauer Andriacco <[aandriacco@fuse.net](mailto:aandriacco@fuse.net)>.

"It's a cracker," is how the Sherlock Holmes Society of London describes this year's colorful Christmas card <[www.tinyurl.com/54hbe6wf](http://www.tinyurl.com/54hbe6wf)>. £7.00 for a packet of ten cards and envelopes.

Sherlock Holmes: The Exhibition (the new name for the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes) has ended its run at the Farmington Museum in Farmington, N.M. (Jun 24 #6). If you'd like to see it, or see it again, just persuade your local museum to put it on display, it's available for March-September 2025 <[www.tinyurl.com/j2y4bsrf](http://www.tinyurl.com/j2y4bsrf)>.

Oct 24 #4 The saga of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (Sep 24 #1) has come to an end. The BBC noted (Oct. 10) <[www.tinyurl.com/yff6dwjm](http://www.tinyurl.com/yff6dwjm)> that the New Forest National Park Authority's planning officers had reported that it was clear that the remains of the building were in "a perilous condition" and that retention of that part of the hotel "was no longer a viable option." That's the historic facade, said to have been designed by Conan Doyle in 1912, which the NPA had required the developer to preserve. This was what some call "demolition by neglect," and the Daily Mail reported on Oct. 15 <[www.tinyurl.com/4rcbe23t](http://www.tinyurl.com/4rcbe23t)> that the Victorian Society was still campaigning to preserve the façade. The campaign was not successful: the Bournemouth Echo reported (Oct. 16) that the NPA planning committee, after lengthy discussions, had approved the proposal to demolish the building <[www.tinyurl.com/yff6dwjm](http://www.tinyurl.com/yff6dwjm)>.

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

Here's your chance to own a (reasonably) authentic signed copy of Professor Moriarty's *The Dynamics of an Asteroid*, up for bids at Propstore Auctions on Nov. 17 <[www.tinyurl.com/dff4enuf](http://www.tinyurl.com/dff4enuf)>, estimated at £1,000 to £2,000. It's the prop used in the film "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011). There will be other Sherlockian items in the auction, including the sword used by Holmes (Nicholas Rowe) in his battle with Rathe (Anthony Higgins) at the end of "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), estimated at £4,000-£8,000.

Further to the report (Jul 24 #5) on the discovery of an audio recording of the long-lost BBC-1 television broadcast of Peter Cushing's "The Second Stain" (1968) <[www.tinyurl.com/35fam34b](http://www.tinyurl.com/35fam34b)>, Mark Jones reports that Kaleidoscope has restored the audio, with closed captions and AI images, and that he has posted it at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmnpfEBQJEk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmnpfEBQJEk)>.

"If you have ever amused yourselves by reading some of the work of 'spoof' criticism about Sherlock Holmes (e.g. *Baker Street Studies* or H. W. Bell's *Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson*) you will see just how far pseudo-scientific method can be used to interpret these 'fossil remains' scattered about the Sherlock Holmes stories, and what ingenuity can be used to force the indications into an apparent historical consistency. As regards the past of his characters, Conan Doyle's imagination was not, in fact, very consistent; there are lapses and contradictions, as well as lacunae. But let us suppose a novelist with a perfectly complete and flawless past history; and let us suppose, further, that the fossil remains were being examined by one of the characters, who (since his existence is contained wholly within the covers of the book just as ours is contained wholly within the universe) could not get outside the written book to communicate with the author. (This, I know, is difficult, rather like imagining the inhabitants of two-dimensional space, but it can be done.)" Dorothy L. Sayers, in "Creative Mind" (an address given to the Humanities Club at Reading on Feb. 1942); quoted by Olivia Rutigliano at the CrimeReads blog (Sept. 14, 2024) <[www.tinyurl.com/2mjn4chv](http://www.tinyurl.com/2mjn4chv)>, and published in full in Sayers' collection *Unpopular Opinions* (1946).

Oct 24 #5 Jennie Paton noted an interesting question on-line: "How many Sherlocks have acted opposite one another?" The on-line answer was: Robert Downey Jr. and Benedict Cumberbatch in the "Avengers" movies, Ian McKellen and Christopher Lee in "Lord of the Rings", and Robert Stephens and Robert Downey Jr. in "Chaplin". Can you add to the list?

The British Film Institute's plans to restore all of the Eille Norwood silent films (Sep 24 #1) received nice publicity this month. There's video available at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMorPqG122A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMorPqG122A)>.

The vtdigger web-site reported (Oct. 20) <[www.tinyurl.com/yydx86ma](http://www.tinyurl.com/yydx86ma)> that the Landmark Trust USA is working to protect Naulakha (Rudyard Kipling's home in Vermont) from increasingly punishing precipitation. Conan Doyle visited Kipling there in 1894 (Jan 24 #3).

Plan ahead: the first BSI Canonical Conclave of Scion Societies is to be held in Indianapolis, Ind., on Apr. 26, 2025. The Conclave, according to an announcement in the autumn issue of the Baker Street Journal, is officially recognized by the Baker Street Irregulars and is intended to assist scion societies in sharing ideas, collaborating, networking, and thriving. Stay tuned for further details.

Jerry and Chrys Kegley's splendid obit for the late Maggie Schpak (Jun 24 #3) in the autumn issue of the Baker Street Journal reports that she appeared on television in 1970s and 1980s. You can watch her on "Press Your Luck" in 1984 <[www.tinyurl.com/2eev3yb7](http://www.tinyurl.com/2eev3yb7)> and <[www.tinyurl.com/4n7hy326](http://www.tinyurl.com/4n7hy326)>.

CBS Entertainment announced (Oct. 16) <[www.tinyurl.com/bdh4kudy](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdh4kudy)> that the new series "Watson" (with Morris Chestnut in the title role) will debut on Jan. 26 (following the AFC Championship game), and then take its regular time slot at 10:00 pm (ET) on Feb. 16. The series will also stream on Paramount+. You can read what Chestnut had to say about the series in an interview at the Deadline web-site (Oct. 20) <[www.tinyurl.com/bejcp3vd](http://www.tinyurl.com/bejcp3vd)>.

If you'd like to know more about Larry Millett's *Mysterious Tales of Old St. Paul* (Sep 24 #2), and Rafferty and Holmes and the Twin Cities, Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have a nice interview with Millett at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <[www.tinyurl.com/36rn237x](http://www.tinyurl.com/36rn237x)>.

One also hears of Conan Doyle everywhere: Asif M. Basit wrote about Conan Doyle and Britain's Muslim community, and his visits to the Fazi Mosque in London, in Al Hakam (Oct. 20) <[www.tinyurl.com/4stjx7bh](http://www.tinyurl.com/4stjx7bh)>. And Ajay Kamlakaran wrote about Conan Doyle's visits to India in a post at the Scroll web-site (Oct. 19) <[www.tinyurl.com/mt8ps7hk](http://www.tinyurl.com/mt8ps7hk)>.

Jennie Paton has noted *Mandevilla sherlockii*, a new species of rocktrumpet discovered in Mexico and named by Leonardo O. Alvarado-Cárdenas and Lucio Lozada-Pérez in 2017 in honor of Sherlock Holmes, who "reflects much of the work of taxonomists and scientists in general, which is entirely detective work. Additionally, he was conceived as an amateur botanist, mainly interested in plants that can be used as poisons."

Oct 24 #6 Some theatrical news: the People and Stories company is touring Scott Ramsey's "Summons in the Night" in and near Portsmouth through Nov. 16. Set in Portsmouth Harbor, it has American adventuress Irene Hunter, touring theater manager Bram Stoker, and local physician Arthur Conan Doyle battle deadly forces when an Egyptian sarcophagus arrives by sea <[www.peopleandstories.co.uk](http://www.peopleandstories.co.uk)>. There was a review in the Portsmouth News (Oct. 7) <[www.tinyurl.com/ym6vvhxew](http://www.tinyurl.com/ym6vvhxew)>.

Jonathan Ross' new dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is on at For His Glory Productions in Kingsport, Tenn., through Nov. 3; web-site at <[www.fhgproductions.org](http://www.fhgproductions.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Emerald Coast Theatre Company in Miramar Beach, Fla., through Nov. 3 <[www.emeraldcoasttheatre.org](http://www.emeraldcoasttheatre.org)>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear" is scheduled at the Gateway Center for the Arts in DeBary, Fla., Nov. 1-10 <[www.gatewaycenterforthearts.org](http://www.gatewaycenterforthearts.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be performed at the Fine Arts Building at the University of Alaska Anchorage, Nov. 1-16 <[www.midnightsuntheatre.org](http://www.midnightsuntheatre.org)>.

Philip Dart's new "Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four" is scheduled at the English Theatre in Vienna, Nov. 5-Dec. 21 <[www.englishtheatre.at](http://www.englishtheatre.at)>.

Phil Cheadle's dramatization of Conan Doyle's "Selecting a Ghost" will be produced at the Stanley Arts Centre in London, Nov. 6-9; their web-site is at <[www.twolinesproductions.com](http://www.twolinesproductions.com)>.

The Lower Shore Performing Arts Company will tour Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" from the Art League of Ocean City in Ocean City, Md., on Nov. 9 to the Mar-Va Theater in Pocomoke, Md., on Dec. 7, 2024; their web-site is at <[www.lowershorepac.org](http://www.lowershorepac.org)>.

Shanahan's play also is scheduled at the Capital Repertory Theatre in Albany, N.Y., Nov. 22-Dec. 22 <[www.attherep.org](http://www.attherep.org)>; and at the Appleton Village Hall in Appleton, Oxon., Nov. 28-30 <[www.tinyurl.com/4hkdn67p](http://www.tinyurl.com/4hkdn67p)>.

"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](http://www.lyndhurst.org)>.

Mark Edwards Lang's "The Death of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed (radio style) at the Cape May Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Nov. 15-23 <[www.eastlynnetheater.org](http://www.eastlynnetheater.org)>.

Jacklyn Fazio's "Sherlock Holmes and the Familiar Face" will be performed during the Sherlock Holmes Weekends in Cape May, N.J., Nov. 16-17 and 23-24 <[www.capemaymac.org/experience/special-events/sherlock-holmes-weekend](http://www.capemaymac.org/experience/special-events/sherlock-holmes-weekend)>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Village Hall in Longdown, Devon., Dec. 3-5 <[www.tinyurl.com/uxwwcckc](http://www.tinyurl.com/uxwwcckc)>.

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