

Something else to do in New York during the birthday festivities in January: there will be an interesting exhibition at the Grolier Club (47 East 60th Street). "Imaginary Books: Lost, Unfinished, and Fictive Works Found Only in Other Books" (Dec. 5 to Feb. 15) <www.tinyurl.com/433pemja> quite likely will include one or more Sherlockian items. The exhibition book, to be published by Oak Knoll <www.oakknoll.com/pages/books/141071>, shows on its cover a copy of The Strand Magazine that contains the short story "The Giant Rat of Sumatra".

Registration for Baker Street Irregulars events that are open to the public closes on Dec. 4, so there's still time to register if you act quickly (and if space is available) <www.tinyurl.com/8az9xdak>.

The 1937 German film "Sherlock Holmes: Die graue Dame" with Herman Speelmans as Jimmy Ward/Sherlock Holmes has been available at YouTube for some time (Sep 17 #5), all in German. Jennie Paton has found it available now with closed captions that can be set for English (and other languages) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSVWTFPZY2A>.

There's a Sherlock River in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, and according to Wikipedia it was named in 1861 by surveyor and explorer Frank Gregory while in expedition in the area. Obviously, from the date, it was not named in honor of Sherlock Holmes, but there's also a Sherlock Station homestead, a Sherlock antimony mine, and possible exploitation of gold and antimony at a new Sherlock Crossing project <www.tinyurl.com/26p7ptnm>.

Ann McClellan, who lectured on "The Holmes You Never Knew: Black American Adaptations Then and Now" earlier this year (Mar 24 #2), also talked about the longevity of the famous sleuth at the Whitman Public Library in 2021. Her 92-minute lecture "(Not So) Elementary My Dear Watson" will be found on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAQjOVikIR8>.

CBS-TV has released a teaser for their new "Watson" series, starring Morris Chestnut in the title role <www.tinyurl.com/4cx7avdt>. The first episode is scheduled for Jan. 26, after the AFC Championship game. The series will then air weekly at 9:00 pm beginning on Feb. 16.

Gina Russell Tracy's *Willima & James: A Ghost Story* is a two-act play that was produced at Gillette Castle in October; 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", and the script's available from Next Stage Press <www.tinyurl.com/2smaymfy> (\$10.55 print/\$7.95 digital).

There's still time (if you act quickly) to subscribe to the Baker Street Journal for 2024; the BSJ's Christmas Annual for 2024, available only to subscribers, will be titled "Gather 'Round the Sundial: A Night with the Five Orange Pips". It's a selection of papers delivered at recent meetings of the oldest scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, edited by Rebecca Romney. Subscribe to the BSJ at <www.tinyurl.com/2jzkekm9>.

Nov 24 #2 Sabine Baring-Gould is of interest for his collections of the legends of Dartmoor, his meeting with Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes in Laurie R. King's *The Moor*, and (perhaps most important) the Sherlockian classics that were written by his grandson William S. Baring-Gould. The Public Domain Review recently discussed Sabine Baring-Gould's *The Book of Were-Wolves: Being an Account of a Terrible Superstition* (published in 1865) <www.tinyurl.com/2twasvf6>.

Country Life continues to publish items of interest to Sherlockians. One recalls that Sherlock Holmes lived in retirement "in a small farm upon the downs," an area described as "the perfumed arcadia" and "England' oldest manmade habitat" by their correspondent John Lewis Stempel in a web-site post on Oct. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/u2ek86me>.

Paul Morrissey died on Oct. 28. He began his film career as a writer and director in 1964, and served as Andy Warhol's personal manager from 1965 to 1974. His long list of film credits includes directing the Peter Cook and Dudley Moore version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978).

Internet users have many ways to learn what the "word of the day" is. On Nov. 7 the Classic City News (in Athens, Ga.) proposed "infracaninophile" (a word that's not yet in the Oxford English Dictionary, but ought to be). It was invented by Christopher Morley, and will be found in his preface to *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* <www.tinyurl.com/34sm5cy4>.

"How many Sherlocks have acted opposite one another?" was the query (Oct 24 #5). Scott Monty kindly reported that someone has posted the question at Reddit <www.tinyurl.com/t3wn77z6>, and there was a flood of answers, so there's no need for a lengthy paragraph here. So: a new question (which I hope will have fewer answers): which plays, films, or television episodes had three or more Sherlocks acting together?

For those who understand Italian, or just want to watch: here's a Facebook excerpt from the new "Sherlock Holmes: Il Musical", which was co-authored by Enrico Solito and is being performed at theaters in Italy through Jan. 26 2025 <www.tinyurl.com/7j6kj4hr>. For more information about the musical, here's its web-site <www.sherlockholmesilmusical.it/#lo-spettacolo>.

John Lawrence's *Sherlock Holmes: The Affair at Mayerling Lodge* (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2023; 285 pp., \$24.95) involves Holmes and Watson in a real historical mystery in the Austro-Hungarian Hapsburg Empire in 1889: the deaths of Crown Prince Rudolf and one of his mistresses in a hunting lodge at Mayerling. The author is a historian who has his own solution to the mystery, and paints a vivid picture of the goings-on in the Empire and in the Royal Family.

Timothy West died on Nov. 12. He began his professional acting career on stage in 1956, then made his London stage debut in 1959, joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in the 1960s, and went on to play major roles in film, radio, and television, retiring from acting in 2023. His lengthy list of credits included appearing as Dr. Watson in the BBC Radio 4 broadcast of Loren D. Estleman's "Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula" (1981).

Nov 24 #3 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.

William Sarjeant, co-author of the then-controversial *Ms. Holmes of Baker Street* (Dec 89 #6 and May 04 #2) was a distinguished paleontologist, and receives a mention in Martin Fone's thoroughly amusing article about "how a bad joke confused paleontologists for generations" in *Country Life* (Nov. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/mwuf2s69>.

The Literary Hub web-site offered (on Nov. 5) "A Brief History of the Most Famous Swear Word in the World" (a word that won't be spelled out or even asterisked here) <www.tinyurl.com/46s9vhap>. It's well worth reading.

"The Stories of Sherlock Holmes" was a South African series, broadcast by Springbok Radio from 1979-1985, with Graham Armitage as Holmes and Kerry Jordan as Watson. Jennie Paton has found a series marathon (with 12 hours of the programs) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=4klQz4F-ycc>. A few of the programs are Canonical, most of them are not.

If you've not yet ordered a Sherlockian calendar for 2025, here's a link to one offered by the Strand Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/4fvxasfw>; you're also welcome to explore their shop and blog.

"Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" celebrated its 45th anniversary on Nov. 16 at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, this year with lectures that focused on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies, the event was recorded, and the seven lectures are conveniently available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/live/ZQLU7ibcoUc>.

The Agra Treasurers' tenth "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends" conference will be held at the Quality Dayton Airport Inn in Dayton, Ohio, Mar. 21-22, 2025; their web-site is at <www.agratreasurers.net> (with links to programs for previous conferences), and registration's now open.

Henry Ward Beecher is mentioned in only one story in the Canon ("The Card-board Box"), but he has been the subject of much Sherlockian scholarship. Michael Dirda's review of Richard Shaplan's new biography of Beecher, *Free Love: The Story of a Great American Scandal* (McNally Editions) was in the *Washington Post* on Nov. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/2rpjvjrd>.

Riverside Studios, the British Film Institute, and the Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes Podcast have announced the "Sherlock Holmes: 40th Anniversary TV Showcase" on Dec. 15 at the Riverside Studios in London; the event will include a screening of two episodes from the Grenada series, followed by a Q&A with some of the people who worked on the episodes. Details will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/pnpwthdp>. Gus and Luke Holwerda preside over the podcast <www.sherlockpodcast.com>, and presented Brettcon earlier this year (Feb 24 #2).

Nov 24 #4 The August issue of the newsletter of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Phil Bergem's report on Laurie R. King's donation of her Mary Russell archives to the Collections, anniversary celebrations of Conan Doyle's *Memories and Adventures* and Nicholas Meyer's *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*, and news from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Timothy J. Johnson (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <johns976@umn.com>.

The Marco Navas Studio has honored "The Sign of the Four" with a new set of 1/32 figurines; they're hand-crafted in resin and hand-painted, and you can see them at <www.tinyurl.com/4t92zvj2>. This is the latest in their Sherlock Holmes Collection <www.tinyurl.com/2s3m7r5b>; some of their earlier figurines are still available.

On the Nov. 4 episode of the BBC Two "Mastermind" quiz-show series, contestant Kaushik Bhattacharya answered questions about the Sherlock Holmes stories <www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvmOS3dlD-M>. See if you can do better than he did.

"Khitrovka: The Sign of Four" was a Russian film, released in 2003, and it will be issued on Blu-ray (with English sub-titles and added features) as "In the Moscow Slums" on Feb. 11. You can read much more about the film (and see a trailer) at <www.blu-ray.com/news/?id=35507>, and it's available for pre-order at Amazon.

I try not to report on rumors about films and television and such, but on occasion there's something attention-getting: a report in the Kosovo Telegraph about a new film starring Sacha Baron Cohen as Sherlock Holmes and Will Ferrell as Dr. Watson <www.tinyurl.com/4erjjjje>. But if one is observant one sees that the report is from 16 years ago. And 16 years ago the report was accurate. The casting eventually was revised: when "Holmes & Watson" was released in 2018 it starred Will Ferrell as Holmes and John Reilly as Watson.

"Fury as Woke Uni Gives Sherlock Holmes Book a Trigger Warning Because It Explores 'Violence & Murder'" was the headline on a story at the web-site of the London Sun (Nov. 17) <www.tinyurl.com/57bz69pu>. According to the story, "soft-touch dons" at East Anglia University have included *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in a list of books that may be "emotionally and intellectually challenging" proposed for a module on "The Art of Murder". The founder of the university's Free speech Union suggested that anyone studying "The Art of Murder" didn't "need to be Sherlock Holmes to figure out that the books you'll be reading contain violence and murder," adding that "if you require a trigger warning to alert you to that fact, maybe a university education isn't for you."

It's not the first time that East Anglia has made the news about trigger warnings: two years ago the Daily Mail reported <www.tinyurl.com/c5d8k8h8> that students were warned that the history of St. George (patron saint of England) and his martyrdom "contains descriptions of and allusions to torture and violence leading to his death."

Nov 24 #5 Country Life's web-site turns up often in these pages. This time with an article that announces "if oysters be the food of love, shuck on" (Nov. 7) <www.tinyurl.com/mtsdetm9> that will be of particular interest to members of S.P.O.D.E., who meet to dine on oysters during the birthday festivities in New York in January, and elsewhere at other times. The full name is the Society for the Prevention of Oysters Destroying the Earth (see "The Dying Detective").

This year's Baker Street Irregulars Trust Lecture, featuring Mattias Bostrom (Aug 24 #5), now is available (along with lectures from past years) at the Trust web-site <www.bsitrust.org/2023/12/bsi-trust-lectures.html>.

The (reasonably) authentic signed copy of Professor Moriarty's *The Dynamics of an Asteroid*, up for bids at Propstore Auctions on Nov. 17 (Oct 24 #4) estimated at £1,000-£2,000, went unsold when bidding did not reach the reserve; it's the prop used in the film "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011). 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, also did not sell.

Will Thomas' *Season of Death* (New York: Minotaur, 2025; 352 pp., \$28.00) is the latest in the excellent series that features private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and Thomas Llewelyn (his faithful and long-suffering partner); the series now runs to 16 titles, and this time they are pitted against a would-be crime lord who wants to control all the gangs in London. As always, Thomas has great fun with his colorful characters on both sides of the law.

Fifty Fantastic Years: An Anniversary Celebration (a 46-page booklet published in August by the Three Garridebs of Westchester County) is a pleasant collection of memories, reminiscences, and photographs. You can order a copy from Troy Reynolds (122 Waterside Close, Peekskill, NY 10566) for \$7.00 postpaid.

Jennie Paton spotted an advertisement for T-shirts promoting the Sherlock Sharks <www.tinyurl.com/3pfe7nkn>. This Sherlock is the Sherlock Elementary School in Cicero, Ill., named for local resident and attorney John J. Sherlock <www.cicd99.edu/sherlock-school/about>.

Lloyds Bank will close its Baker Street branch on Jan. 6, many years after becoming world-famous in 1971, when enterprising thieves managed to tunnel into the bank from a nearby shop in a robbery inspired by "The Red-Headed League". The BBC web-site had a long and well-illustrated story about the robbery at its web-site on Nov. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/35x3rt2w>.

The Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia is continuing its series of Canonical virtual programs (May 24 #4), with senior manager of public programs Edward G. Pettit as host and featuring a rotating group of Sherlockian co-hosts <www.tinyurl.com/susvpm64>. "Sherlock Mondays" is now "Sherlock Monthly", and all the programs can be watched at the Rosenbach's YouTube channels <www.tinyurl.com/3u4xy7cw> <www.tinyurl.com/5cfnr27x>.

Nov 24 #6 Theatrical news: Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" seems to be everywhere this holiday season. It is being performed at the Historic Opera House in Mantorville, Minn., through Dec. 22; web-site at <www.mantorvilletheatrecompany.com>. And at the San Jose Stage Company in San Jose, Calif., through Dec. 1 <www.thestage.org>; and at the Marylebone Theatre in London until Jan. 5 <www.marylebonetheatre.com>.

It also is scheduled at the Footlighters Theater in Redlands, Calif., Dec. 2-29 <www.redlandsfootlighters.org>; at the Wells Theatre in Norfolk, Va., Dec. 4-29 <www.vastage.org>; the Cary Arts Center in Cary, N.C., Dec. 5-9 <www.caryplayers.org>; the Community Theater in Brandon, S.D., Dec. 6-15 <www.mightycorson.com>; the Stage III Community Theatre in Casper, Wyo., Dec. 6-22 <www.stageiii theatre.org>; and at the Cailloux Theater in Kerrville, Texas, Dec. 6-15 <www.caillouxperformingarts.com>.

Also at the Red Curtain Foundation for the Arts in Marysville, Wash., Dec. 6-22 <www.redcurtainfoundation.org>; at the Dream House Theatre in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Dec. 11 to 19 <www.longbaytheatre.com>; at the Henry Heymann Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 13-22 <www.kinetictheatre.org>; and (last listing this month) at the Westport Country Playhouse in Westport, Conn., Dec. 17-22 <www.westportplayhouse.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is on at the Sundre Arts Centre in Sundre, Alta., until Dec. 7 <www.sundreartscentre.com>; and the Santa Paula theatre Center in Santa Paula, Calif., Dec. 15 <www.santapaulatheatrecenter.org>. And it is scheduled at the Lone Tree Arts Center in Lone Tree, Colo., Nov. 3-13 <www.lonetreeartscenter.org>.

Billy Morton's new "A Sherlock Holmes Christmas" will be performed at The Old Courthouse in Oxford, Oxon., Dec. 9-21 <www.wildgoosetheatre.co.uk>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Boone Community Theatre in Boone, Iowa, Jan. 3-11 <www.boonecommunitytheatre.org>; it also is due at the Centerstage Theatre in Federal Way, Wash., Jan. 31-Feb. 23 <www.centerstage.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Tottenham Tosser" (by Rob and Linda Garget) has been scheduled at the Keelby Village Hall in Keelby, Lincs., on Feb. 1-8 <www.tinyurl.com/bdejc928>. It's a British pantomime, with a great title.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" will be performed at the Coolidge Theatre in Wellsboro, Pa., Feb. 14-22, 2025 <www.hamiltongibson.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro" is due at the Jones Hall for the Performing Arts in Houston, Tex., Mar. 1 (with two performances) <www.tinyurl.com/3v4kjvn6>.

The musical "Sherlock & Cinders" (by Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crossey) will be performed at the Witton Middle School in Droitwich Spa., Worcs., Mar. 18-20 <www.witton.worcs.sch.uk/musical-2025-sherlock-cinders>.

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