

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 170th birthday during the (very) long weekend from Jan. 10 to 14, and reports on many of the goings-on will be 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, and you can also listen to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder discuss the festivities at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/yv5a6w2m>. Scott's report on the weekend is at <www.tinyurl.com/y3wtfcv7>. Michael Dirda also reported on the birthday festivities in the Washington Post on Jan. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/y3r9m8nh>.

Locals and early arrivals enjoyed the ASH Wednesday dinner, and on Thursday morning the ACD Society's Doylean Awards Ceremony and a running of the 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 author Tess Gerritsen, who explained in detail why the worst thing a Victorian could do when ill was to go to a hospital; her entertaining paper will be published in the Baker Street Journal later this year.

On Friday the William Gillette Memorial Luncheon featured performances of two skits: Ray Betzner's "Mrs. Hudson and the Return of Sherlock Holmes" (with Curtis Armstrong as Holmes, Ashley Polasek as Mrs. Hudson, and Ken Ludwig as the narrator and Sherlock's bust); and Andrew Joffe's "Quantum of Sherlock" (with Paul Singleton as Holmes, Sarah Montague as Mrs. Monypenny, Andrew Joffe as Q, and Lee Shackelford as Blofeld. And the Susan Rice Mentorship Award (recognizing "commitment to mentoring Sherlockians as a means of keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes") was presented to Francine Kitts.

Irregulars and guests gathered for dinner at the Yale Club, where Mark Gagen offered the traditional first toast to Pamela Wampler as "The Woman". The dinner agenda included the usual toasts, and rituals, and spectacular presentations by Curtis Armstrong (about grade-B villains in the Canon), and Ray Betzner, Steve Doyle, and Steve Rothman (on Alexander Woollcott's qualifications as a member of the BSI). And Eric Scace was announced as the winner of annual Morley-Montgomery Award (for the best contribution to the Baker Street Journal in 2023) was presented to Eric Scace, for his article "Five Quarter-Centuries of Confusion over 'The Missing Three-Quarter'" in the spring 2023 issue. You can subscribe to the BSJ (four issues and a Christmas Annual) at <www.tinyurl.com/3vxncdhd>.

The BSI's new Birthday Honours were awarded to Rudy Altergott ("Old Patrick"), Derrick Belanger ("The Board Schools"), Thomas Brydges ("Waterloo Bridge"), Fabienne Courouge ("Henri Fournaye"), Daniel Friedman ("Sir Leslie Oakshott"), Chuck Kovacic ("Baker Street"), Stephen Chahn Lee ("Alec MacDonald"), Danna Mancini ("McMurdo"), Maxine Reneker ("The Whole Art of Detection"), Olivia Rutigliano ("Lady Alicia Whittington"), Jessica Schilling ("The Queen's Shilling"), George Schwartz ("The Alpha Inn"), Robert Sharfman ("Killer Evans"), and Liese Sherwood-Fabre ("Mrs. Farintosh"). And the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was bestowed on Otto Penzler.

Jan 24 #2 Friday evening also saw the revival ("Out of the Abyss") of the Gaslight Gala, at Slattery's Midtown Pub, with cocktails, dinner, toasts, songs, a skit, a quiz, a raffle, and (of course) conversation. Planning for 2025 is under way.

On Saturday morning Covent Garden West offered the usual opportunity for dealers to help those who wanted to add to their collections, and the Saturday luncheon and reception included the Dr. John H. Watson Fund's auction, which attracted enthusiastic bidders; the raffle prizes were a set of brass and leather coasters and etched glasses, and an attractive "Mus-grave Ritual" shadow box, all hand-crafted by Danna Mancini. Finally, for those who lasted that long, the last event of the birthday festivities was the Adventuresses' Brunch on Sunday.

You can plan ahead: the next annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars is scheduled for Jan. 17, 2025. You can also plan much farther ahead: the BSI's next special conference (similar to "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at Bear Mountain in 2022) is scheduled for the summer of 2027. If you'd like to have information about future events (and much more) you are welcome to sign up for "News from the BSI" at <www.tinyurl.com/yc5tsz27>.

One of the added features of the birthday festivities was a performance of Hal Glatzer's new one-act play "FlatFinders 1881" (a humorous exploration of Holmes and Watson's search for a flat they could share), at the Coffee House Club, and it's grand that it was recorded and available on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_51MLXZHPU>.

The Yale Club kindly displayed some of the history of the Baker Street Irregulars in glass cases in the Club's library: the BSI's official gavel, made from wood from 221B, presented to Edgar W. Smith by the Six Napoleons; remnants from the cloth used to make the BSI's first official necktie, made for and worn by Christopher Morley; inscribed books; photographs and minutes from early annual dinners, and much more.

Another nice feature of the festivities was the opportunity to visit the N.Y. Public Library to view their exhibition "Max Beerbohm: The Price of Celebrity" and Beerbohm's caricature of Conan Doyle. The exhibition has closed, but the caricature's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/5xwyv5jk>.

Coming to auction at Potter & Potter on Feb. 15: the second half of Robert Hess' collection (including the only known copy of the first British edition of *The Lost World* in dust jacket, and Sidney Paget's personal robe), and Roy Pilot's library (including the manuscript of *Uncle Bernac*). Their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/2rnd6ds7>.

There are two interesting Paget items on offer at Chorley's in Gloucestershire on Feb. 6: an artist's sketchbook that was owned by Henry Marriott Paget (1856-1936) <www.tinyurl.com/vtxhx2uz>, and another owned by Walter Stanley Paget (1862-1935) <www.tinyurl.com/mpmr8br8>, each with an estimate of £200-£300. Both men were brothers of Sidney Paget, and all three were artists (and illustrated stories by Conan Doyle).

Jan 24 #3 Mark Gatiss' dramatization of "Lot No. 249" aired on BBC Two on Dec. 24 and was streamed on the BBC's iPlayer, for viewers in Britain. As with so many other things on the Internet, there are work-arounds, many of them involving copyright infringement, and (sure enough) that has happened with "Lot No. 249", which is still available at the Dailymotion web-site <www.dailymotion.com>, which is owned by the French media company Vivendi. No spoilers here, for those who haven't seen the show, but Gatiss had fun with the story, adding a new character (with some nice Canonical echoes), and providing a different ending. Conan Doyle's story is of course readily available on-line, in case you'd like to read what inspired Mark Gatiss.

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).

Hal Glatzer's *The Sign of Five* (2023; 283 pp., \$25.00) is a collection of five pastiches (reprinted from earlier anthologies) tied to his interests in Hawaii, Gilbert & Sullivan, and much more. His web-site, which is on-line at <www.halglatzer.com>, offers more information about his book, and about his play "Sherlock Holmes and the Volcano Horror" (along with a link to video of the play).

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London is planning their next excursion, to India, Feb. 22-Mar. 9, 2025; details, as well as a link to a downloadable and colorful brochure, are at <www.tinyurl.com/mhzn7u9>, with a request for expressions of interest.

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 last year for \$95,250 (including the buyer's premium) (Jul 23 #3), and the new owner has sent one of the four pages to auction at RR Auction in Amherst, N.H., on Feb. 22, with an estimate of \$40,000+ <www.tinyurl.com/3mefsu8s>. Randall Stock discusses the manuscript on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/382c5925>.

RR Auction also is offering, on Feb. 14, a 34-page notebook in which Conan Doyle wrote about Spiritualism <www.tinyurl.com/mtsjkja2>, with an estimate of \$8,000+. The web-site has a detailed description of the contents, and images of the pages.

The Brattleboro Reformer reported (Jan. 23) <www.tinyurl.com/yyvscd24> on the Landmark Trust USA's "Snow Golf" skills competition to be held on Feb. 25. The Trust manages Naulakha, Rudyard Kipling's home in Dummerston, Vt., where he is credited with inventing snow golf after being introduced to the game by Conan Doyle in 1894. You can stay at Naulakha for a night (or a week) <www.landmarktrustusa.org/rudyard-kiplings-naulakha>.

"Lion's Mane Mushrooms Make This Crab-Inspired Fried Rice Roar with Flavor" was the headline on Joe Yonan's article in the Washington Post food section on Jan. 10; there was no mention of Sherlock Holmes, but you can read the article (and get the recipe) at <www.tinyurl.com/2jatxpt9>.

Jan 24 #4 "Find your fit as we explore the streets of London and the infamous 221B Baker Street" is the suggestion from Yes.Fit, a company that offers to make running (and walking and bicycling) interesting <yes.fit/races/Sherlock>. Alas, Sherlock no longer is available, but you might still be able to buy the reward merchandise.

Greg Darak has noted a nicely Sherlockian book available from Blackwell's Rare Books in Oxford <www.tinyurl.com/yc5prmkj>: a copy of the first edition of Christina Rossetti's *The Prince's Progress, and Other Poems* (1866) illustrated by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, who inscribed the book to Charles A. Howell, "from his affectionate friend." (£7,500). According to the cataloguer, Charles Augustus Howell "was one of the most notorious figures of his day, thinly fictionalized and roundly vilified by Arthur Conan Doyle in his story 'The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton', where he was damned 'the worst man in London.'" And so he was, and there's much more said about Howell and Rossetti and others in the catalog.

The new film "The Color Purple" got a lot of publicity for having the second-highest Christmas Day opening of all time (with \$18.15 million in box-office receipts. Robert Downey Jr.'s "Sherlock Holmes" (2009) holds the all-time record (\$24.6 million) <www.tinyurl.com/mwbkeh2d>.

Sherlockians aren't the only people who celebrate on Jan. 6, according to Country Life <www.tinyurl.com/pz5rbkmc> and <www.tinyurl.com/mrx47htw>.

The manuscript of "The Bully of Brocas Court" is available from Antiquariat Inlibris in Vienna for €75.000 <www.inlibris.com/item/bn60378>. There is a detailed history of the ms. at Randall Stock's "The Best of Sherlock Holmes" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/bully-brocas-court-2023.htm>.

Tom Smothers died on Dec. 26. He played the naïve half of the two Smothers Brothers and became a star when their off-beat television series was launched on CBS-TV in 1967. He appeared dressed as Sherlock Holmes in the "Mistaken Identity" episode of television series "Hotel" on Feb. 1, 1984, but (alas) the episode seems not to be available on the Internet.

The Beacon Society continues to administer the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, and more than 120 people have completed all three exams and have received a Doctorate in Sherlockiana. The 2024 Recertification Exam is available on request from Steve Mason <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>, and there's more information about the program at <www.tinyurl.com/2vt9saym>.

Robert Stek's *An Ancestor of Mine ...* (2022) is a pleasant pastiche revealing that Star Trek's Mr. Spock was the biological father of Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes; you can read it on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/3w7vyh8j>.

Maryann B. Murray's *Coda* (Ocean Park: CSan Communications, 2023; 302 pp., \$16.95) is set in Montpellier in 1894; Elizabeth Devereaux is in dire peril in a thriller that involves murder, missing documents, and a mysterious Norwegian named Sigerson, who will be familiar to those who remember what Sherlock Holmes was doing in 1894.

Jan 24 #5 Robert Downey Jr. has won this year's Golden Globe award for best supporting actor in a film for his role as Lewis Strauss in "Oppenheimer". Downey has won other Golden Globe awards in the past, including best actor in a musical or comedy, for "Sherlock Holmes" (2009). Indeed, the film was considered to be a musical or comedy. Jeff Bridges won the award that year for best actor in a drama for "Crazy Heart".

A collection of treasures from Queen Mary's Dolls' House will be on display at Windsor Castle this year to celebrate the centenary of its creation <www.tinyurl.com/4j8btf9m>, and there will be an on-line lecture on Apr. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/3ufnsx7e> that may (or may not) mention or show Conan Doyle's manuscript for "How Watson Learned the Trick". Fine Books & Collections (Jan. 24) <www.tinyurl.com/474pr8cf> has a nicely illustrated article about the Doll's House's library.

Jean Upton, the editor of the always-interesting District Messenger (the long-running monthly newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London), has an attractive business card that proclaims that she is a librocubicularist. If you're not familiar with the word, Merriam-Webster has a nice definition <www.tinyurl.com/25uynr33> that credits Christopher Morley (in *The Haunted Bookshop*) for inventing the word.

The China Global Television Network reported on Jan. 4 on a new Sherlock Holmes-themed exhibition at the Hebei Museum in Shijiazhuang (in northern China <www.tinyurl.com/29hvfsrc> though Mar. 31. This isn't the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition that has been seen in many museums and science centers since it opened in Columbus, Ohio, in 2014.

According to Variety (Jan. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/44w2a63r> CBS-TV has given a straight-to-series order for "Watson" (expected to air during the 2024-2025 season). The series is set one year after Holmes' death at the Reichenbach, with Morris Chestnut as Watson, who had resumed his medical career as head of a clinic devoted to treating rare disorders, but "Watson's old life isn't done with him." Craig Sweeny created the series and will be the showrunner and executive producer; he was an executive producer and writer on the "Elementary" series that ran for seven seasons on CBS, and it's obvious that the network is hoping for another success.

According to a story at Crunchyroll (Jan. 24) <www.tinyurl.com/yf7emtmd>, Sherlock Hound will celebrate his 40th anniversary this year. Two digitally remastered compilation films of the 1984 anime series that was directed by Hayao Miyazaki and Kyosuke Mikuriya will be screened throughout Japan beginning on Mar. 22. "His name is Sherlock Hound. It's his business to know what other woofs don't know."

Sherlocktron (Oct 87 #5) was launched by Willis G. Frick in the long-ago era of dial-up phone-line access to the Internet as an electronic bulletin board, and Willis has announced that "time and technology pass all of us by, and Sherlocktron has reached the end of its effective life and has retired to a small farm on the Sussex Downs to keep bees." Sherlocktron was older than the World Wide Web (which was invented in 1989 by Tim Berners-Lee, and opened to the public in 1991). Ave atque vale to Sherlocktron.

Jan 24 #6 The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2023 celebrates the 75th anniversary of the society, with a nice mix of articles essays, pastiches, poetry, artwork, and a puzzle; only a few copies of the 112-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, are available (\$12.00 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.

Theatrical news: Rick Robinson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Final Problem" is running at the Theatre on the Ridge in Paradise, Calif., through Feb. 4 <www.totr.org>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" is scheduled at the Uptown Theatre in Mount Vernon, Iowa, Feb. 2-10 <www.mvlct.com>.

Kyle Gallagher's "The Man in the Shadows: An Original Telling of Sherlock Holmes" will have its world premiere at the Halifax Playhouse in Halifax, W. Yorks., Feb. 5-9 <www.halifaxplayhouse.org.uk>.

Zoe Drew-King's new play "We Can But Try" is scheduled at the Youth Initiative High School in Viroqua, Wis., Feb. 9-17 <www.yihs.net>.

Nick Lane's "The Valley of Fear" will tour in Great Britain, Mar. 9-Apr. 20 <www.blackeyedtheatre.co.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Ocala Civic Theatre in Ocala, Fla., Mar. 21-Apr. 7 <www.ocalacivictheatre.com>. It's also due at the Huronia Players Community Theatre in Midland, Ont., on Apr. 26-May 11 <www.huronplayers.ca>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" is due at the Parsons Stage at Northglenn Arts in Northglenn, Colo., Mar. 21-Apr. 7 <www.phamaly.org>. Also at the Fells Point Corner Theatre in Baltimore, Md., from Apr. 25 to May 19 <www.fpct.org>.

David MacGregor's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes and the Fallen Soufflé" will be performed at the Sullivan Theater in Baton Rouge, La., Apr. 5-14 <www.sullivantheater.com>.

Max Bush's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of Abbey Grange" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Capper Beeches" will be produced at the Patsy Miller Studio Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., Apr. 25-May 4; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/mps28he7>.

Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes & the First Baker Street Irregular" will be performed at the Warrenton Cultural Center in Warrenton, Ga., May 10-12 <www.areachildrenstheatre.org>.

Margaret Raether's "Sherlock Holmes & the Precarious Position" is due at coming up at the Taproot Theatre in Seattle, Wash., May 15-June 15; web-site at <www.taproottheatre.org>.

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

The Baker Street Irregulars Press has published two new titles: *Clutches of a Fiend* is the new addition to the Manuscript Series (179 pp., \$49.95); edited by Steven T. Doyle, it offers a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Illustrious Client", 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).

Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire, edited by Ross E. Davies (211 pp., \$29.95), offers the proceedings and papers of the BSI's conference at the Bear Mountain Inn in 2022, with colorful images of the performers, and all of their scholarship. Both of the new titles (and many others) can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books>.

Further to the item about Queen Mary's Doll's House (Jan 14 #5): The Royal Family announced on Jan. 30 that Queen Camilla hosted a reception at Windsor Castle for authors, illustrators, and binders involved in creating a new Modern-Day Miniature Library collection that will be displayed alongside the Dolls' House <www.tinyurl.com/yvsxxuz2>. The 20 authors of the new miniature books include Anthony Horowitz (who has contributed "A Tiny Ghost Story"). The Queen has said that the Dolls' House's library (which has Conan Doyle's manuscript for "How Watson Learned the Trick") is "the most breath-taking space in the house." <www.bbc.com/news/uk-68139937>.

The 34-page notebook in which Conan Doyle wrote about spiritualism, up for bids this month at RR Auction <www.tinyurl.com/ysa6znrj> (Jan 24 #3), estimated at \$8,000, sold for \$12,378 (including the buyer's premium).

CBS' "Watson" (Jan 24 #5) isn't the only Sherlockian television series in the works: according to Variety (Feb. 15) <www.tinyurl.com/kavtm8px>, David Thewlis is due as Holmes in "Sherlock & Daughter" (Nov 23 #1) on the CW channel with Blu Hunt as his daughter Amelia and Dougray Scott as Moriarty.

Howard Ostrom's "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" now has more than 9,200 entries (with more than 20,000 images), covering stage, screen, radio, television, the Internet, and much more; the list's available on-line at <www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html>.

The Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes Podcast has announced Brettcon 2024: The 40th Anniversary Celebration <www.tinyurl.com/mpw9zz3e>, scheduled for May 25 in Guildford (Surrey). The podcast <www.sherlockpodcast.com> was created by Gus and Luke Holwerda in 2019, and they've now hosted more than 40 episodes that will be of interest to fans of the Granada series. Episode 41 is a delightful interview with now-94-year-old June Wyndham Davies, who produced the series and tells great stories about it; episode 40 provides a discussion of and a link to video of "The Adventure of the Abbey Treasure" (filmed by Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke in 1988 for the Abbey National Bank). The podcast is well worth exploring, and there's a handsome video trailer for the convention.

Feb 24 #2 An interesting look at the use of artificial intelligence to do research: <www.tinyurl.com/2rweutv2>. From Google Bard or some other AI program, and it's a grand example of how hilarious (and awful) the results can be. Alexander Orlov suggests that you try researching yourself to determine how good an AI program is.

Ray Betzner's "Mrs. Hudson and the Return of Sherlock Holmes" (with Curtis Armstrong as Holmes, Ashley Polasek as Mrs. Hudson, and Ken Ludwig as the narrator and the bust), performed at the William Gillette Luncheon in New York on Jan. 12, is now on-line in the Inner Circle at the Red Circle of Washington's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>.

The Beacon Society has announced its 2024 R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Essay Contest for students in grades 4 through 12; the deadline for submissions is Apr. 1, and details on the contest (and its history) can be found at <www.beaconsociety.com/joel-senter-essay-contest.html>.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London reports that there has been enough interest in their next excursion, to India, Feb. 22-Mar. 9, 2025 (Jan 24 #3) for them to proceed with planning; details, and a link to a downloadable and colorful brochure, are at <www.tinyurl.com/44s9fks7>, and there's still time to register interest at their web-site. A more detailed brochure will be available in March.

Wanda Dow has found James Moriarty amongst the staff at Utica University <www.utica.edu/people/james-moriarty>. She also offers a chemistry quiz: what do you get when you combine tungsten, astatine, sulphur, oxygen, and nitrogen?

The Southern Daily Echo has reported (Feb 19) <tinyurl.com/y4629unh> that most of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel has been demolished, and showed an image of the planned new development. Conan Doyle is said to have designed the entrance of the hotel and its battlement-style terraces in 1912; the Daily Telegraph said on Mar. 20, 2021, that a local historian had found a sketch that showed that his design for the front façade "was based on the spiritual view of the journey of the soul."

If you don't remember Groucho Marx's "You Bet Your Life" series on NBC-TV, here's a nice excuse to watch it: the final question on Jan. 23, 1958, was Sherlockian <www.youtube.com/watch?v=beTpo2KCSFw> (kindly reported by Ann Marlowe).

Rodger Garrick-Steele died on Dec. 10, 2020, receiving far less publicity when he died than when he was alive and accusing Conan Doyle of murdering Bertram Fletcher Robinson (and having an affair with Fletcher Robinson's wife); he worked hard, and unsuccessfully, to arrange for an exhumation of Fletcher Robinson, hoping to prove the murder, and he wrote *The House of the Baskervilles*, a book which was translated and published in Japan before it was published in Britain in 2005. If you would like to know more about him, you can run a word-search for his name in Steve Mason's compilation of the text of this newsletter from March 1985 onward; it's on-line at <www.beaconsociety.com/scuttlebutt-from-the-spermacetti-press.html>.

Feb 24 #3 The Salmagundi Club, in addition to hosting the Coffee House Club's presentation of Hal Glatzer's "FlatFinders 1881" during the birthday festivities in New York, also hosted the "6th International Figure Painting Competition", which included Sierk van Meeuwen's attractive "The Coffee Trader's Dilemma" which can be seen at the artist's website <www.sierk.art>. The inspiration for the painting was Derrick Belanger's pastiche, published in David Marcum's anthology *The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories, Part VI* (2017), and reprinted, together with van Meeuwen's artwork, in Phil Growick's anthology *The Art of Sherlock Holmes Global Edition 1* (2020).

Further to the report (Dec 23 #7) on plans for an "Immersive Fort Tokyo" theme park to open in Tokyo on Mar. 4, there's much more about the theme park, and its Sherlockian features, at <www.tinyurl.com/bdzk3bb8>.

"And here's my tao about happiness. If you want to be happy for an hour, smoke some grass. If you want to be happy for a month, fall in love. If you want to be happy forever, take up book collecting." Mark Hime, in the latest on-line catalog from Biblioctopus <www.biblioctopus.com>.

Sorry about that: the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition (Jan 24 #5) actually opened in Portland, Ore., on Oct. 10, 2013.

The envelope in which the Sept. 1964 issue of the Baker Street Journal arrived also contained a copy of a 100-question Sherlockian quiz prepared by Elliot Kimball, recommended by Bob Schutz, as one of the most remarkable quizzes ever penned. Now the quiz is being reoffered as part of the Beacon Society's Fortescue Scholarship exam program, and if you would like to see (or take) this remarkable quiz, it is available by e-mail from Steve Mason <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>.

Art and Chip Sansom's "The Born Loser" comic strip was nicely Sherlockian on Jan. 20 <www.gocomics.com/the-born-loser/2024/01/20>; kindly reported by Les Klinger.

A warning for people who buy things from Acorn <www.acrononline.com>: they have a 30-day policy for returns (not stated in their catalog or at their website); I ordered a present from Acorn for someone months ago, and last month learned it was damaged, and they refused to replace it. So if you do order anything from Acorn, don't delay checking for damage.

Wanda Dow asked: what do you get when you combine tungsten, astatine, sulphur, oxygen, and nitrogen? The answer's elementary: W-At-S-O-N. You're welcome to subscribe to her monthly two-page on-line newsletter Papers on the Sundial; it's free, and she's at <hal0tot@verizon.net>.

Fiona Maher, author of *The Secret of the Cottingley Fairies* (Feb 18 #6), has followed up the book with a play: "Sherlock Holmes & the Man Who Believed in Fairies" (which features Holmes, Watson, and Conan Doyle). The play is scheduled for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe later this year, and her Crowdfunder web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2d8465r5> offers video of this month's script-in-hand performance this month.

Feb 24 #4 The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the winter 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.

The single page of the manuscript of "The Crooked Man" (Jan 24 #3) offered at RR Auction on Feb. 22 (with an estimate of \$40,000+), went unsold when bidding (\$32,120 including the buyer's premium) didn't reach the reserve. Randall Stock discusses the manuscript at <www.tinyurl.com/382c5925>.

The Clients of Adrian Mulliner are planning a meeting on Sept. 26 during the upcoming annual meeting of the Wodehouse Society in Nashville, Tenn. More information is available from Elaine Coppola <emcoppola@syr.edu> or Curtis Armstrong <isle14cj@gmail.com>. The annual meetings of the Wodehouse Society can be (they claim) "binges on a scale calculated to stagger humanity" <www.wodehouse.org/conventionsinfo.html>. Adrian Mulliner will be found in Wodehouse's pastiche "From a Detective's Notebook", first published in Punch in 1959 and now on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/3sfbhp96>.

Canonical Cornerstones: Foundational Books of a Sherlockian Library, edited by Peter Eckrich and Rob Nunn (Indianapolis: Gasogene, 2023; 125 pp., \$24.95), is a collection of essays by Sherlockians who explain in detail why the 17 books they recommend are both useful and enjoyable.

And *The Sherlock Holmes Review: 2023 Sherlockian Annual* (Gasogene, 2024; 76 pp., \$26.95) celebrates 40 years of Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series with articles and interviews, plus Ray Betzner's warm tribute to Old Ir-regular Charles E. Honce, and much more.

Also: *Sherlock Holmes: Immortal Detective: Selected Writings of Donald A. Redmond, Volume 1* (Gasogene, 2024; 216 pp., \$28.95), edited by Christopher Redmond, is a welcome collection of his father's articles, notes, and essays, from 1964 to 1998, both published and unpublished, offering a welcome opportunity to see just how much fun can be had in the world of Sherlock Holmes. Gasogene's web-site's at <www.wessexpress.com>.

Country Life continues to publish interesting articles about stately homes in Britain, including one (on Jan. 28) on Madresfield Court (in Worcestershire) <www.tinyurl.com/yxzv8kyv>; a house that has been owned by the same family for more than 900 years.

Historical Dictionary of Sherlock Holmes, by Neil McCaw (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019; 425 pp., \$116.99 cloth/\$50.00 paper), offers more than 1,000 entries on the life and times of Holmes and Conan Doyle, as well as a chronology and bibliography; McCaw, who died in 2020, was a professor of Victorian literature and culture at Winchester University, and the academic director of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth, and wrote that his "idea in writing a historical dictionary on a collection of what are ostensibly fictional stories" has been to help readers "begin thinking about the stories from other perspectives," and he has done just that.

Feb 24 #5 The Public Domain Review web-site has published a splendid article about J. M. Barrie's *My Lady Nicotine*, in which he told his readers how wonderful it was to smoke the Arcadia mixture in his pipe. Barrie was a friend of Conan Doyle, and it's surely no accident that Sherlock Holmes mentions the Arcadia mixture (in "The Crooked Man") (Barrie's Arcadia mixture actually was Carrera's Craven mixture, and Carrera happily advertised that). The article (and the book) are conveniently available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/2h8ssnhf>.

It should be noted that Surbrug, in the U.S., marketed an Arcadia mixture, quoting Barrie on its tins and cans, quite likely without permission from Barrie. You can find their tins easily at eBay and elsewhere.

It's unique, and advertised at £224,850, Country Life reported on Feb. 1: a Land Rover Range Rover that was owned (and used) by Queen Elizabeth II <www.tinyurl.com/2jx3x6kk>. The Duke of Edinburgh drove the car, accompanied by the Queen, in 2016 to greet President Obama and the First Lady when their helicopter Marine One landed on the grounds of Windsor Castle, and then drove them all back to the castle.

Nancy Springer's *Enola Holmes and the Mark of the Mongoose* (Nov 23 #1) has been nominated for an Agatha (best children's young adult mystery novel); the winners will be announced at Malice Domestic 26 in Bethesda in April. The Internet's always full of rumor about plans for something near or far in the future, but there was a report at the Collider web-site on Nov. 7 <www.collider.com/enola-holmes-3-netflix> that Scott Stuber, chairman of Netflix Films, said that "we're working once again on a screenplay" for a third "Enola Holmes" film.

"Visit Toronto" offers a video tour of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfV5_66sAEk>.

The February issue of The District Messenger, the newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, is the first issue edited by Holly Turner, who has succeeded Jean Upton. The District Messenger does for the Brits (and others) what this newsletter does for the Yanks (and others), and all its more-than-180 issues are archived on-line at the Society's web-site at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/newsletter>.

The ACD Society had its annual meeting during the birthday festivities in New York, on Jan. 11 at the Mysterious Bookshop. Video of the presentation its honors by Ross Davies, and a running of this year's Wessex Cup, is on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4OPBtt6eZE>.

This month's auction at Potter & Potter of material from the collections of Bob Hess and Roy Pilot made many new owners happy indeed. The star lot in the auction was the manuscript of "Uncle Bernac" that sold for \$37,000 (plus buyer's premium); Randall Stock's detailed discussion of the manuscript is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/4wbj5pbu>. Sidney Paget's dressing gown sold for \$3,400. The complete auction catalog (with prices realized) is at <www.tinyurl.com/hj3szkzp>.

Feb 24 #6 David Kahn died on Jan. 23. His deep interest in cryptology led him to write *The Codebreakers: The Story of Secret Writing* (1967); it was and is widely regarded as the best book ever written about codes and ciphers, and those who deal with them (one of them was Sherlock Holmes and the dancing men cipher). He was appointed scholar-in-residence at the National Security Agency in 1995, and he donated his collection of books and artifacts to the National Cryptological Museum of the NSA.

Laurie R. King's new *The Lantern's Dance* (Nov 23 #5) has its own page at her web-site <<https://laurierking.com/books/the-lanterns-dance>>, where she offers a downloadable reading-group guide to the novel. Laurie is an expert at using the Internet to keep her fans interested in her books, and her web-site's well worth exploring.

Laurie also contributed an interesting post about "Sherlock Holmes, That Enigma We Know So Well" to the CrimeReads blog on Feb. 14. She explains that "I write Holmes as a character, and it's startling how much I've had to make up."

Neil Nyren offered an impressive look at Laurie R. King's "Mary Russell" series at Crime Reads on Feb. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/3ntvvmtp>. And there's still time to sign up for her "Russell & Holmes" days in April in Seattle, Bethesda, and Nashville <www.laurierking.com/russell-holmes-days>.

The winter issue of the Sherlock Holmes Journal (published twice a year by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London) offers the late Russell Merritt's vocative and well-illustrated article "Seeing Paget in Colour", and much more. Information about subscription, and membership in the Society, will be found on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ysd85wax>.

Illeana Douglas' *Connecticut in the Movies: From Dream Houses to Dark Suburbia* (Essex: Lyons Press, 2023; 340 pp., \$39.95) is a pleasant and well-illustrated tribute to films made in, or related to, the state, including William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916), because his magnificent home Gillette Castle is in the state, and (although not Sherlockian) "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House" (1948), which was directed by H. C. Potter, a member of the Baker Street Irregulars.

Holmes, Marple & Poe, co-authored by James Patterson and Brian Sitts (New York: Little, Brown, 2024; 341 pp., \$30.00), has three private detectives (Brendan Holmes, Margaret Marple, and Auguste Poe) solving crimes in modern-day New York; they're well aware of their namesakes, and their actual identities are an additional mystery.

Terry Hunt's presentation about Christopher Morley at the Bryant Library in Roslyn, N.Y., on Mar.13 will be available on-line; you can register at the Library's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/57frrswa> (scroll down to "Christopher Morley Zoom Lecture"). Morley founded the Baker Street Irregulars, and his one-room writing studio, the Knothole, is preserved in the county park named in his honor near the Library. Terry, former senior curator of history and supervisor of historic sites for Nassau County, was responsible for the Knothole for many years.

Feb 24 #7 The Beacon Society continues to offer resources to help Sherlockian societies, and to help people find Sherlockian societies <www.tinyurl.com/2j486ym2>. Mike McSwiggin's interactive map of the active geographical societies is useful indeed, and their web-page now has my alphabetical list of all of the Sherlockian societies (well, all that I know of) that formerly was available at Sherlocktron, so that you can see the imaginative names that people have chosen for their societies. If you like numbers, there's a total of 987 societies on the list, including 477 active societies.

Social media seems to be an interesting way to reach people who share your interests. Howard Ostrom reports close to 5,000 members (in at least 60 countries) at Facebook for his "Sherlock Holmes on Screens" (which covers stage, screen, radio, television, and the Internet); you can see (or follow) his posts at <www.tinyurl.com/47v7cufx>.

Will Thomas' *Death and Glory* (New York: Minotaur, 2024; 292 pp., \$28.00) is the latest in the fine series that stars 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 15 titles, and this time involves a plot by survivors of the Confederacy who hope to revive their lost cause and want possession of a warship that was bought from Britain in 1865 but never delivered. Thomas again offers nice plotting and interesting characters.

"It's nice I've been chosen," Louis Hector said to Edith Meiser, after his successful audition for her "Sherlock Holmes" radio series (according to Bernes Robert in the Oakland Tribune, Apr. 7, 1935), "I used to play the role in England." Does anyone know when and where and in what play? According to Wikipedia, Hector emigrated to the U.S. in 1920.

"The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare" (directed by Guy Ritchie) will be released on Apr. 19; the trailer's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/42fx89uy>. The film, based on Damien Lewis' book *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare: How Churchill's Secret Warriors Set Europe Ablaze and Gave Birth to Modern Black Ops* (Nov 16 #6) may (or may not) mention that members of the Special Operations Executive, which had its headquarters in Baker Street, called themselves the Baker Street Irregulars.

"Gilded Newport Mysteries: Murder at the Breakers" is a new movie available on the Hallmark channel <www.tinyurl.com/ekbr9k96>. According to a review at the Film Fugitives web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2yewh4un> there are references to Conan Doyle in the film (and there are plot spoilers in the review).

"Mountain creature -- with 'massive' head and blue eyes -- discovered as new species," read the headline on a report in the Miami Herald on Feb. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/ybabj7kn>. The "mountain creature" is a frog, about 1.3 inches long, and its species is *Caligophryne doylei* (Doyle's mist frog). Its Wikipedia entry <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caligophryne> reports that it is found on a tepui on the border between Brazil and Venezuela and was named in 2023 in honor of Conan Doyle, author of *The Lost World*.

Feb 24 #8 Elizabeth Crowens' *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles* (Olney: Level Best, 2024; 254 pp., \$16.95) features young and inexperienced private detective Babs Norman and her partner Guy Brandt, who have been hired by Basil Rathbone in 1940 to find his kidnapped dog (since the police just ask, "Sherlock Holmes has lost his dog?") There are other movie stars (and other kidnapped dogs), and of course villainy afoot, and the story's told with (sometimes slapstick) humor. The author will be at the Mysterious Bookshop in New York for a launch party on Apr. 4, and her web-site's at <www.elizabethcrowens.com>.

Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Bates Masonic Lodge in Attleboro, Mass., Mar. 1-17 <www.tinyurl.com/sdk5zs2a>.

Tim Kelly's adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the O'Reilly Theatre in Dublin, Ireland, Mar. 7-8; their web-site is at <www.oreilleytheatre.com>.

Kent R. Brown's children's play "Dracula: A Comic Thriller Starring Shirley Holmes and Jennie Watson" will be performed at the Traveling Players Studio in Tysons, Va., Mar. 9-17 <www.tinyurl.com/h3a273h9>.

"The Great Murder Mystery" is a dinner-theater presentation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" scheduled at the Lost Estate in London, Mar. 12-May 24 <www.tinyurl.com/4hywm73a>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Heiress" will be performed as an "old-fashioned radio-style play" in New Brunswick, Canada, Mar. 16-23 <www.tinyurl.com/3yx9dwe4>.

Nick Lane's "Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four" is scheduled at the Robin Hood Theatre in Newark-on-Trent, Notts., Mar. 23-26 <www.rhtc.co.uk>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson—Apt. 2B is coming up at the Alvinna Kraus Theatre in Bloomsburg, Pa., Mar. 28-Apr. 14 <www.bte.org>.

Richard Levin's "Sherlock Holmes & the Star of Arabia" will be performed at Tudor House in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., Apr. 26-May 4; their web-site is at <www.heislertheater.com>.

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 (which is when I entered the computer age), you can now do that, thanks to Steve Mason, who updates his compilation each month and kindly posts at the Beacon Society's web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com/scuttlebutt-from-the-spermacetti-press.html>. If you occasionally forget that the 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.

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The winter issue of *Canadian Holmes* (the journal of the Bootmakers of Toronto) offers Donny Zaldin's article about the Agony Column (in Victorian culture and in the Canon), Mark Jones' discussion of Conan Doyle's short story "The Black Doctor", and much more. Subscriptions are included with membership, \$50.00 a year (print) or \$35.00 (PDF), and \$12.00 postpaid for a single issue <www.torontobootmakers.com/membership>.

"Money back if not satisfied" was an offer made by Harper Brothers to its customers in 1929, and the Japanese publisher Hayakawa makes the same offer for its new translation of Tom Mead's *Death and the Conjuror*. You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/2s426afz>.

"The Case of Sherlock Holmes' Motorcycle" offers Brendan McAleer's amusing discussion of (and answer to) the question: "what kind of motorcycle did Sherlock Holmes ride?" You can read his article (and answer) at the Hagerty Media web-site <www.tinyurl.com/5epuncsd>.

Jennie Paton has reported the discovery of some interesting footage from the long-lost Universal film "Sherlock Holmes Meets Dracula" (now available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ov0WnRzLrhQ>).

Sasha Archibald's article in the *Public Domain Review* about P. H. Ditchfield's *Books Fatal to Their Authors* (1895) isn't Sherlockian, but it's a fascinating look at how dangerous being an author can be; you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/5n77vupc>.

The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes, edited by Jonathan Cranfield (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2023; 359 pp., £125.00), is the second volume in *The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle*, and includes the text of the book, detailed introductions; comparisons of first serial appearances and first editions, the text of "The Cardboard Box" and a discussion of the story's history, and explanatory notes. Some may question the publisher's boast that it's "the first scholarly edition" of the book (if they are aware of *The Oxford Sherlock Holmes* and Leslie S. Klinger's *The Sherlock Holmes Reference Library and New Annotated Sherlock Holmes*), but Edinburgh's project will include much of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian work).

The artist's sketchbooks owned by Henry Marriott Paget and Walter Stanley Paget (Sidney Paget's brothers), offered at Chorley's in Gloucestershire on Feb. 6 (Jan 24 #2) each estimated at £200-£300, were sold for £150 each <www.tinyurl.com/mz9mhvyf>.

The Daily Beast says that "Benny Hill, classic '80s video games, Voltron, and Sherlock Holmes are components of this zany gem," its review (Feb. 27) of the film "Hundreds of Beavers" <www.tinyurl.com/3zruvp55>. There is a trailer at the official web-site <www.hundredsofbeavers.com>, and you can see images of the Holmes and Watson beavers at the film's page at Facebook <www.tinyurl.com/52vzt53u>.

Mar 24 #2 Sad news for those who have procrastinated about visiting Lew Trenchard, the home of Sabine Baring-Gould (Dec 88 #2 and May 18 #2). He wrote about the folk-tales of Dartmoor, including the spectral hounds, and his grandson William S. Baring-Gould's biography of Sherlock Holmes used details from his grandfather's life in describing Holmes' early years. Sabine Baring-Gould also was visited by Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes in Laurie R. King's novel *The Moor* (1998). Lew Trenchard, run as a luxury hotel and restaurant for the last twelve years, has now been closed due to "difficult trading conditions, "and is expected to return to Baring-Gould family ownership. Oliver Mundy kindly forwarded one of the on-line reports <www.tinyurl.com/3v5dn57a>. One of the very best items on the restaurant menu (in 2004) was the Devonshire clotted cream ice cream.

The Japanese eight-episode series "Miss Sherlock" (Oct 18 #5) is available on HBO Max, and it is well worth watching; it stars Yûko Takeuchi as Sherlock and Shihori Kanjiya as her friend Wato-san, and is full of Canonical echoes <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miss_Sherlock>.

Bill Seil has reported that Harry Bliss' comic strip was nicely Sherlockian on Feb. 26 <www.gocomics.com/bliss/2024/02/26>.

Country Life continues to publish interesting articles about stately homes in Britain, including one (on Jan. 28) on Madresfield Court (in Worcestershire) <www.tinyurl.com/yxzv8kyv>; a house that has been owned by the same family for more than 900 years.

The first of the "obligatory Canonical toasts" listed in the Constitution and Buy-Laws of the Baker Street Irregulars is to The Woman, and episode #282 of the interviews by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/bzce3t8b> is their discussion of "A History of The Woman" with Beverly Wolov, who was honored with that toast in 1997.

"The Holmes You Never Knew: Black American Adaptations Then and Now" is a virtual lecture by Ann McClellan at the Public Library in Groton, Mass., on Apr. 23 (7:00-8:00 pm); she will discuss the Broadway musical "In Dahomey" (1902), the silent film "A Black Sherlock Holmes" (1918), jazz references, graphic novels, and modern fan fiction, and the registration link for the Zoom event is at <www.tinyurl.com/5n7uekbn>.

There was a colorful report about The Langham in Upscale Living Magazine on Feb. 15 <www.upscalelivingmag.com/features/the-langham-hotel>; it's a lot fancier now than it was in 1889, when Conan Doyle dined there (and was commissioned to write "The Sign of the Four").

Marvin Lachman died on Oct. 21. Marv was an outstanding scholar of crime and mystery fiction, and won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America for his work on *The Encyclopedia of Mystery and Detection* (1976). He also received their Raven Award (for significant contributions to the genre) in 1997, and his later books included *The Heirs of Anthony Boucher* (2005) and *The Villainous Stage* (2014). He was the fan guest of honor at Bouchercon in 1984, and was knowledgeable and helpful to a host of friends.

Mar 24 #3 The Internet continues to offer a flood of rumors about, and comment on, the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, and occasionally older news turns up. "Sherlock creators reveal their choices for female Sherlock Holmes," was the announcement at the Digital Spy web-site on July 27, 2020 <www.tinyurl.com/2sfbtadra>. Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss had suggested Michelle Gomez, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, and Olivia Colman, and producer Sue Vertue proposed Jodie Comer (you can easily find their images and resumes on-line). But there were no suggestions for a female Watson; "You know what I get stuck on?" Moffat said, "Who is John Watson as a woman?" And yes, all seven seasons of "Elementary" had aired by then.

Yes, that interesting footage from the long-lost Universal film "Sherlock Holmes Meets Dracula" (Mar 24 #2) might well have been posted on Apr. 1.

The Kyodo News reported on Mar. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/3kntkn2v> that the "Immersive Fort Tokyo" theme park is now open; its web-site shows some of its Sherlockian atmosphere <www.immersivefort.com/en>. There's much more in a full-scale (and colorful) review posted to the Japan Wireless web-magazine on Mar. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/mww6tuzn>.

Mark Johann <mkr9905@gmail.com> wonders if anyone knows anything about a plastic token, 1.25" in diameter, with interesting Sherlockian artwork. The M.A.T.C.A. was the Maryland Amusement Token Collectors Association, founded in 1979 (but apparently no longer active).



Possibly something truly new for Sherlockians: Jennie Paton reports a video review <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZO7f7XgHBpw> of Jorge Félix's *The Baker Street Canon* (2024), which can be found easily at Amazon (for Kindle only); the video was created by someone who used invideo AI, and it's quite possible that the book also is an AI product. There's another video from invideo AI at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6J0k2_l368>, but Jorge may be the first AI author of a Sherlockian book. There is a lot more about Amazon and AI at <www.tinyurl.com/2md975sk>. Note that invideo AI should not be confused with Nvidia, which is a dominant supplier of artificial intelligence hardware and software.



"The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar" is a new film, nominated for an Oscar (best live action short film), based on a short story by Roald Dahl, now available on Netflix, with some fine actors, and well done indeed. Samantha Wolov has noted that in an early scene in a hospital a doctor is seen sitting at a table holding a book that has a Sherlock Holmes silhouette on its cover (a nod, perhaps, to Benedict Cumberbatch, who's one of the stars in the film. We'll be seeing more Roald Dahl stories on Netflix: in Sept. 2021 Netflix bought the Roald Dahl Story Company for \$686 million.

Sonia Fetherston has reported a tea available from the Republic of Tea in Larkspur, Calif. <www.republicoftea.com/calm-focus/p/v20851>, that may be of interest to Sherlockians: it's a green tea, with uplifting peppermint and lion's mane mushroom extract, and a touch of bright lemon. She found it in her CostPlus World Market, so it might be in other local stores.

Mar 24 #4 The winter issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Gareth A. Reeves' article on "Examining Trace Fossils in 'The Terror of Blue John Gap'", David Sanders' report on Dana Richards' lecture on "Conan Doyle and The Fires of Fate", and much more. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb at the Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Elizabeth Crowens, author of *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles* (Feb 24 #8) will be happy to speak to Sherlockian societies via Zoom or in person. She lives in New York City, e-mail at <greatyear111@gmail.com>, and website at <www.elizabethcrowens.com>.

You can watch Sherlock's Jewel come from behind to finish second on Mar. 9 at Tampa Bay Downs <www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7MQZxigEMc>; video kindly reported by Jennie Paton.

Philip Cunningham is compiling a census of Michael Murphy's *Conferment by Needle*, a pamphlet issued in 1980 reprinting Vincent Starrett's correspondence with T. S. Eliot about Eliot's honorary membership in the Hounds of the Baskerville (sic); there were 230 copies, 1-221 numbered and nine unnumbered, some signed or inscribed by Murphy in black or green ink. Phil would like to hear from anyone who has a copy <pjcl21@comcast.net>.

In case you weren't watching the Oscars ceremony this month, Robert Downey Jr., who has played Sherlock Holmes in two films, won as best actor in a supporting role as (Lewis S. Strauss in "Oppenheimer"), and "The Wonderful World of Henry Sugar" (Mar 24 #3) won as best live-action short film.

Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki won his second Oscar (for best animated feature film) for "The Boy and the Heron". His first Oscar was for "Spirited Away" (2001), and he was the director of six early episodes of "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" (1983).

The manuscripts of four unpublished short stories by A. A. Milne, one of them an amusing Sherlock Holmes pastiche, have been published in the new *The Complete Short Stories of A. A. Milne* (Richmond: Farrago, 2024); 304 pp., £12.99/\$22.27). The stories were found by the agent of the Milne estate in his papers at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas, and the new book has an introduction written by Gyles Brandreth, who imagines Milne in the next world, sitting on a heavenly cloud with two of his good friends and personal heroes, Conan Doyle and Barrie. If you'd like to see the manuscript of the Sherlock Holmes story, it sold at auction in 2018 <www.tinyurl.com/4krrckc6> for \$900 (including the buyer's premium).

The new story ("Elementary, My Dear Vincent") appears to have been written and sent in 1933 to Vincent Seligman, and it's a nice addition to Milne's Sherlockian credentials, which started with "The Rape of the Sherlock" in *Vanity Fair* (Oct. 15, 1903). The burlesque was his first published fiction; it's not in the new book, but was reprinted in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* (Feb. 1974).

Mar 24 #5 *A West Wind*, edited by Thomas A. Horrocks and Ray Betzner (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2024; 204 pp., \$39.95), is subtitled "How America and Americans Influenced the Sherlockian Canon," and offers interesting essays that include Curtis Armstrong's expert analysis of just how good an actor Sherlock Holmes was when he pretended to be an American, Burt Wolder's well-illustrated examination of how Americans saw Holmes when the stories were first published, and many more. You can order the book from the BSI at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books>.

Michael Culver died on Feb. 27. He began acting on stage in Britain, and went on to a career that lasted more than 50 years. Best known, perhaps, for his death scene (as Captain Needa) in "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back" (1980), he also played Sir Reginald Musgrave in the Granada version of "The Musgrave Ritual" (1986).

For everyone who fondly remembers Sherlock Hemlock: Jennie Paton has found a nice compilation of his many appearances on "Sesame Street" at YouTube <www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxVUNwZo_UyO02nZVQyDlPQDBrALPFl_C>.

"Remembering Gene Wilder" (a new 92-minute documentary now in limited release in U.S. theaters) <www.tinyurl.com/2m8kjymp> has had nice reviews; one hopes that it includes footage from "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), a film which he wrote, directed, and starred in, and that it will soon be available on one of the cable channels.



Petri Wine was heavily advertised in the good old days, and an unusual porcelain enamel garage sign was recently offered at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/5ddj7wu7> by a dealer in Australia, for AU\$180.00 (plus shipping, of course). It would seem that Petri's advertising was different down under than here (there is no date for the sign).

UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) has recognized Exeter as a City of Literature, and Exeter is celebrating the event with colorful murals at the city's Great Western Railways station. The murals include scenes from books by famous authors, and the announcement by the Exeter City Council allows you to see one of the murals <www.tinyurl.com/yc5e537k>. There's no mention of the Great Western in the Canon, but Holmes and Watson must have used it when they traveled to Exeter in two of their cases.

Joel Cohen has reported a colorful slide-show on "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Poisonous Plants" at the web-site of the Science History Institute in Philadelphia <www.tinyurl.com/yckb3ust>.

The first volume of Tripwire's graphic novel *Sherlock Holmes and the Empire Builders: The Gene Genie* <www.tinyurl.com/4zk7an7p> is now in print (96 pp., \$35.00), and the first few pages are available (free) on the Global Comix digital platform <www.tinyurl.com/5n83r7sa>. It's an alternate-universe science fiction story, with striking artwork, and Oswald Mosely (leader of the British Union of Fascists) as the villain. Tripwire's web-site's at <www.trpwire1001.bigcartel.com>.

Mar 24 #6 "Conan Doyle's books are always so good," the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) wrote in 1911, thanking someone for sending him three charming books. The letter was offered at International Autograph Auctions Europe on Mar. 14 <www.tinyurl.com/x58f5axv>, with an estimate of €200-€300, and it was bought for €320 (plus buyer's premium). One hopes, of course, that the fortunate buyer will eventually some-day be able to identify those three charming books.

It's always interesting when films and television are reviewed by real experts: Jennie Paton spotted the Thoroughbred Racing Commentary web-site's review of various versions of "Silver Blaze" on Feb. 25 (Granada came in first) <www.tinyurl.com/2b5h2v9z>.

The 2023 Baker Street Almanac is now on-line and available without charge <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/2023.html>; more than 364 pages, so it takes a while to download the PDF file, but it's well worth it. That means that the print version of the 2024 Almanac is almost ready; the URL also offers information on how to subscribe.

Laurie R. King has begun work on her next novel, about Mary Russell's Uncle Jake (who gave her, and then taught her how to use, her first throwing knife. You can read the (possible) opening of the Prologue at her blog at <www.tinyurl.com/ymx4n6bh>.

The Swann Galleries auction of material from the Steve Forbes Collection included a lot with nine manuscript pages from, and other material related to, the last chapter ("Singular Records of a Circle") of Conan Doyle's *The Edge of the Unknown* (1930), estimated at \$3,000-\$4,000; it sold for \$2,400 (plus the buyer's premium). Randall Stock's discussion of the manuscript is at <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/edge-unknown-2024.htm>.

There's continuing discussion of what can happen when characters enter the public domain, and what has happened with and to Winnie the Pooh. "Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey" (2023) was so successful that there's now a sequel <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winnie-the-Pooh:_Blood_and_Honey>.

There are some people who still have 16mm projectors: a print of Christopher Plummer's television film "Silver Blaze" (1977) was sold this month at eBay for \$115 <www.tinyurl.com/yved86hw>.

The two "Moriarty" series now available at Audible (Sep 23 #5) continue to be well-reviewed and there was an interesting interview with Phil LaMarr (who plays Sherlock Holmes) posted at the Bleeding Cool web-site (Nov. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/23zjvj94>.

Ross Davies has discovered an interesting (and expensive) letter from F. Scott Fitzgerald offered by a New York dealer <www.tinyurl.com/mvhwwf8s> in which Fitzgerald mentions having written an "utterly imitative" Sherlock Holmes story. This may (or may not) have become his first appearance in print: "The Mystery of the Raymond Mortgage" (non-Sherlockian), which was published in a school magazine in 1909 (Mar 17 #6). Fred Dannay found the story and reprinted it in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* (Mar. 1960) and in *Ellery Queen's 15th Mystery Annual* (1960).

Mar 24 #7 John Allen's *Stylometric Analysis of the Sherlock Holmes Canon* (Allen & Allen Semiotics, 2021; 57 pp., \$5.95) offers the basis behind his earlier *Shadow Woman: The Creator of Sherlock Holmes and Brimstone* (Mar 18 #4); Allen has used the function-word frequencies of Conan Doyle's stories and concluded this his first wife Louise wrote 27 of the Sherlock Holmes short stories and that his second wife Jean wrote 28 (with "The Empty House" being the only one written by Conan Doyle). Some of his non-Sherlockian stories also were written by Louise and Jean. Allen also has a Louise Conan Doyle Cyclopedia web-site, where he has been blogging since June 2017 <www.louiseconandoyle.com>.

It may not be the better-known Guinness World Records, but on Feb. 16 the World Record Academy listed the world's largest Sherlock Holmes collection at the University of Minnesota <www.tinyurl.com/2pyn2x7c> (with some nice images of the collection).

Christian Klaver's *Sherlock Holmes & Dorian Gray* (New York, Titan, 2024; 353 pp., \$25.99) is the third in his "classified dossier" series. There are vampires galore, including Dracula and Mina and (now) Watson, who with Holmes are confronted with vicious enemies that include H. G. Wells' Doctor Moreau. Dorian Gray is decidedly different from the character in Oscar Wilde's story, and the focus of Klaver's book is on Watson rather than Holmes. The author's web-site is at <www.christianklaver.com>.

The March 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."

Further to the item (Jan 24 #5) about the celebration of the 40th anniversary of "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound", Jennie Paton discovered a nice post to the SoraNews24 web-site (Mar. 26) <www.tinyurl.com/4t7yttj7>, with an image of the poster for the new theatrical release (and a trailer for the older Blu-ray collection).

Holly Turner has reported in the March issue of the District Messenger on an antique dealer's offer of a silver salver presented to Dr. Joseph Bell by the Glasgow Infirmary in April 1862 <www.tinyurl.com/727wja85>.

The District Messenger, launched in 1982 as the "grapevine service of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, is an excellent monthly round-up of go-igs on in the Sherlockian and Doylean world in Britain and elsewhere; current and back issues are available at <www.tinyurl.com/34u876mj>.

Les Klinger has now edited 17 volumes in the Library of Congress' Crime Classics series; the latest is Richard Harding Davis' atmospheric *In the Fog* (1901). You can sample Les' introduction to the reprint at the Crime-Reads web-site <www.tinyurl.com/4bppwczu>. It's not really true that everything has a connection to Sherlock Holmes, but: the book's first edition had grand illustrations by Frederic Dorr Steele, and Davis mentored young Vincent Starrett at the beginning of his brief career as a war correspondent.

Mar 24 #8 There's all sorts of theatrical news: Joe and Brad Dickenson's "Sherlock Holmes: The Melodrama" is on at the Pocket Sandwich Theatre in Carrollton, Tex., through May 11 <www.pocketsandwich.com>.

James Barry's "Sherlock's Excellent Adventure" continues on tour in Britain through July 6 <www.ourstartheatrecompany.com/what-s-on>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be running at the Gateway Theatre in Richmond, B.C., Apr. 11-20 <www.gatewaytheatre.com>; presented in English with traditional and simplified Chinese subtitles (certainly understandable in a city that's said to have a population that's 74% ethnically Chinese). It also is scheduled at the Bell Tower Theater in Dubuque, Iowa, on Apr. 12-28 <www.belltowerthter.net>; and will be touring in England, on Apr. 20-27 <www.facebook.com/minttheatresociety>. It's next at the Greenbrier Valley Theatre in Lewisburg, W.Va., on May 10-18 <www.gvtheatre.org/baskerville>; and at the Ruth Humphreys Brown Theatre in Creede, Colo., May 25-Sept. 14 <www.creederep.org>.

"Sherlock & Cinders" (by Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crosby) is scheduled at the Muse Theater in Jefferson City, Mo., Apr. 18-20; their web-site's at <www.itsybitsyboradway.com>.

Teresa Pesce's "Sherlock" will have its world premiere at the Panida Theater in Sandpoint, Idaho, Apr. 19-27 <www.panida.org>.

Max Bush's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of Abbey Grange" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Capper Beeches" will be produced at the Patsy Miller Studio Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., Apr. 25-May 4; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/mps28he7>.

Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" has been scheduled at the Placer Repertory Theater in Rocklin, Calif., May 3-4 <www.placerrep.org>.

Ron Kelly Spurles' humorous "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Heiress" will be performed radio-style (BBC in 1928) at the Sackville Legion in Sackville, NB, May 4 <www.tinyurl.com/ymamsrd2>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman) is to be performed at Wollondilly Anglican College in Tahmoor, N.S.W., May 7-9 <www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1178632?>.

Bert Coules' "Watson: The Final Problem" is scheduled at the 59E59 Theaters in New York, May 22-June 9 <www.tinyurl.com/mrx9dzkc>; it's a one-man show starring Tim Marriott.

"Sherlock and Watson: A Murder in the Garden" is a new comedy from Calf 2 Cow, launching a tour in Britain at the Maumbury Rings in Dorchester, Dorset, on June 7 <www.calf2cow.co.uk/sherlockandwatson>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" will be performed at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse in Cape May, N.J., July 17-Aug. 25; web-site at <www.capemaystage.org>.

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According to Variety (Jan. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/44w2a63r> CBS-TV has given a straight-to-series order for "Watson" (expected to air during the 2024-2025 season). The series is set one year after Holmes' death at the Reichenbach, with Morris Chestnut as Watson, who had resumed his medical career as head of a clinic devoted to treating rare disorders, but "Watson's old life isn't done with him." Craig Sweeny created the series and will be the showrunner and executive producer; he was an executive producer and writer on the "Elementary" series that ran for seven seasons on CBS, and it's obvious that the network is hoping for another success.

The latest (unconfirmed) film rumor is about plans for a new "Young Sherlock" movie based on Andrew Lane's Young Sherlock series of novels, in development at Motive Pictures, noted at the Covered Geekly web-site on Apr. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/fh4pmjzj>, and headed directly to the "don't hold your breath" file.

Admirers of Professor Ratigan surely will enjoy the post by Eileen Gonzalez at the Popverse web-site on Mar. 28; she explains "why the Great Mouse Detective's Professor Ratigan is one of the great Disney villains of all time" <www.tinyurl.com/mrdht5p2>.

When in Japan: you can visit the Sherlock Holmes Pub in Osaka. There's a brief video tour <www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfaXYbjEwys>, reported by Yuichi Hirayama.

I've mentioned Neve Rendell's blog "The Great Baz" before (Jul 13 #2), and am happy to recommend it again, for the three-part post about who actually wrote Basil Rathbone's autobiography *In and Out of Character* (1962), kindly reported by Ann Marlowe <www.tinyurl.com/3j2xch8e>.

Cliff Goldfarb, who likely isn't the only Sherlockian interested in genealogy, has reported Sherlock Cohn, who's really Ava Cohn, a photo genealogist whose web-site's at <www.sherlockcohn.com>.

I don't generally report on Sherlockian statues and sculptures and miniatures, because there are so many of them now, but Jenny Paton has noted an unusual "Holmes and Watson" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhV86mLROK8>. Available in May for £69.00 <www.tinyurl.com/83hb5ezk>.

Bill Seil has kindly reported an amusing interview with William Shatner in 2004 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuz0bivB3wc> in which he recalls acting with Basil Rathbone. "Billy Budd" was broadcast in 1955 in the (Canadian) CBC television series "Encounter", and the episode is conveniently available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GQasQrSjWo>.

William Samples died on Jan. 2. He began his acting career in a Canadian film in 1980, and went on to voice a long list of characters in television animations, including Chief Inspector Greyson in 26 episodes of "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" (1999-2001).

Apr 24 #2 Brenda Rossini, in her *Oscar Slater: A Killer Exposed* (MX Publishing, 2023; 405 pp., \$36.95), offers a carefully researched discussion of the murder of Marion Gilchrist, the trial and conviction of Oscar Slater for her murder, and Conan Doyle's long (and successful) campaign to free Slater from prison. Rossini concludes that Slater actually was guilty of the crime, and explains in detail why she believes that others, including Conan Doyle, who wrote about the case and believed Slater innocent, were wrong.

It isn't Sherlockian, but: Nicholas Meyer, the director of "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan" (and the author of a grand series of Sherlockian pastiches) was featured in a symposium about the film arranged by the American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers on Feb. 27. It's interesting, and nicely available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/4me36kry>. Kindly reported by Samantha Wolov.

Richard L. Kellogg reports that *Barry Baskerville and the Stolen Car* (Airship 27), the ninth in his series of children's books, is now available at Amazon and elsewhere.

Walter W. Jaffee ("The Retired Colourman") died on Mar. 8. He had a long career as an officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine, authored 18 books about ships and the sea, and edited *Mobile Holmes: Transportation in the Sherlockian Canon* in 2017 for the Baker Street Irregulars Press. He also was a long-time member of the Scowrsers and Molly Maguires, and he received his Investiture from the BSI in 2009.

Judge Dee and Lao Sheh met with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in London in 1924 in John Shen Yen Nee and SJ Rozan's "The Killing of Henry Davenport" in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* (Jan./Feb. 2023), and while their new *The Murder of Mr. Ma* (New York: Soho Crime, 2024; 300 pp., \$25.95) is not Sherlockian, it's inspired by the Canon and has Judge Dee and Lao Sheh again in London in 1924, investigating murders in the city's Chinese community. The novel's entertaining, and the Afterword "It Takes a (Chinese) Village" is available on-line at the EQMM blog "Something Is Going to Happen" at <www.tinyurl.com/dytjwvtw>.

Philip Cunningham's census of Michael Murphy's *Conferment by Needle* (Mar 24 #4) is well underway, and a preliminary version now is available from him by e-mail <pjcl21@comcast.net>. If your copy is not yet listed in the census, you're welcome to come aboard; the pamphlet reprints Vincent Starrett's correspondence with T. S. Eliot about Eliot's honorary membership in the Hounds of the Baskerville (sic).

The Strange Case of the Pharaoh's Heart, by Timothy Miller (Jersey City: Seventh Street, 2024; 288 pp., \$18.95), is set in 1923 and has Sir Sherlock (a firm believer in Spiritualism), Watson, and Mrs. Estelle Roberts (and her spirit guide Red Cloud), traveling from London to Egypt to investigate the deaths of Lord Carnarvon and others, and the disappearance of a valuable artifact from Tutankhamun's tomb. They encounter T. E. Lawrence and Howard Carter, and of course solve the mysteries. Miller has a web-page at <www.tinyurl.com/56a2wkcx>.

Apr 24 #3 The Daily Mail reported (Mar. 28) <www.tinyurl.com/5sv7vkje> that Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice have teamed up to write songs for a play which Rice's son Donald is producing. "Sherlock Holmes and the Twelve Days of Christmas" will feature Holmes investigating a serial killer who is dispatching his victims using methods suggested by the carol ("think partridges and milkmaids").

The Cinemaholic web-site reported (Mar. 30) <www.tinyurl.com/3srd96fr> on CBS-TV's plans to begin shooting in Vancouver in June for their new series "Watson" (Jan 24 #5); Morris Chestnut will star as Watson, who has resumed his medical career as head of a clinic devoted to treating rare disorders, after Holmes' fatal battle at the Reichenbach.

William H. Vande Water ("An Enlarged Photograph") died on Mar. 17. Bill enjoyed a wide range of interests, including the history of magic and (of course) Sherlock Holmes, contributing to our literature, and founding imaginative Sherlockian societies such as the Billy Club and A Case of Identifiers. He had a long career with CBS Television, and as the archivist of their film and tape library was well placed, when they decided to throw out a storage room of old videotapes, to rescue and preserve for posterity the 1957 "Odyssey" program devoted to the Baker Street Irregulars. He received his Investiture from the BSI in 1994.

Christian Klaver's *Sherlock Holmes & Mr. Hyde* (New York, Titan, 2022; 344 pp., \$19.99) is the second in his "classified dossier" series. Watson has become a vampire, and he and Dracula and Mina join Holmes in pursuit of a villainous cult, encountering both Jekyll and Hyde and others who are not quite the same as in books written by Stoker and Stevenson and Wells. The author's web-site is at <www.christianklaver.com>.

Linda Hein has reported that the Hein & Company bookstore has moved, and now is in Sutter Creek, Calif. Their first author event will be held on May 7 and will feature Elizabeth Crowens and her *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles* (Feb 24 #8). Photographs of the new store are available at her Facebook page <www.facebook.com/UsedandRare>.

The Torists International and the Watsonians will celebrate the 65th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze horse race on June 28, at the Hawthorne Race Course in Stickney, Ill. There's no charge for parking or for admission; if you register you'll receive a racing program, a commemorative pin, and a \$2 bill for your first bet (they don't know of any other Sherlockian event where you're paid to attend). For additional information, contact Jonathan Shimberg <www.toristintss@gmail.com>.

The National Rifle Association's "Shooting Sports USA" web-site carried a report (Apr. 15) <www.tinyurl.com/243aftma> on the "Sherlock Holmes 1991" (described as "a one-of-a-kind pistol tribute to the legendary fictional detective") advertised by Cabot Guns. There's much more about the pistol at the company's web-site <www.cabotguns.com/sherlock>, and (sorry) it already has been sold, for \$229,000 (which includes a luxurious "immersive two-day Sherlock Holmes scavenger hunt in Paris). Rob Bianchin, founder of Cabot Guns and a fan of Sherlock Holmes, has created an attractive concept for a Cabot Custom.

Apr 24 #4 *Round the Red Lamp: Being Facts and Fancies of Medical Life*, edited by Roger Luckhurst (Edinburgh University Press, 2023; 348 pp., £100), the third volume in The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle, includes the text of the book, two stories that were added to the Crowborough Edition, detailed introductions, comparisons of first serial appearances and first editions, the text of two plays, essays and letters in the medical press, and explanatory notes. The next volume in the series will be *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Andrew Glazzard.

The Edinburgh Edition will offer real scholarship on Conan Doyle's work, both Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian, and the books will be conveniently available for years to come, which will be truly important for anyone who wants access to what the editors have achieved.

The April issue of the newsletter published by the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Phil Bergem's report on "The Klinger Archive", anniversary celebrations of "How Watson Learned the Trick" and *Naked Is the Best Disguise*, and new from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Timothy Johnson (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <johns976@umn.com>.

Nicholas Shakespeare's *Ian Fleming: The Complete Man*, published last year in Britain, now has an American edition (New York: Harper, 2024; 820 pp., \$45.00); it's a fascinating biography of an author who quickly became secondary to the character he created (something not unfamiliar to admirers of Conan Doyle), and Doyleans will enjoy the mentions of Fleming's close friend Richard Hughes, who founded the Baskerville Chapter of the BSI in Japan after World War II, was a character in books by Fleming and John le Carré, and was simultaneously a spy for the British and the Soviets (using the code name Altamont for the Soviets).

Vanessa Thorpe has reported in the Observer (Apr. 20) that Gareth Rubin is the latest author of a pastiche authorized by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. <www.tinyurl.com/msr6zxaz>. His *Holmes and Moriarty* is scheduled by Simon & Schuster UK in September, and Rubin also wrote about his book, in which Holmes and Moriarty will be forced to work together on a case, and they'll "compete, collaborate, stab each other in the back, and save one another from fatal peril" <www.tinyurl.com/kttmc7er>.

The collection of the late Rodney P. Swantko (who died in 2022) will be at auction at Sotheby's in New York on June 26, and it will include some truly spectacular material, such as the manuscript of "The Sign of the Four" (estimated at \$800,000-\$1,200,000), the original Sidney Paget artwork for his illustration of the death of Sherlock Holmes at the Reichenbach, and a copy of the rare Starrett variant of his classic pastiche "The Unique Hamlet" <www.tinyurl.com/4tmm25x5>. Randall Stock has a detailed discussion of the manuscript of "The Sign of the Four" (the most valuable Conan Doyle item ever to be sold at auction, in 1996, for \$519,500 including the buyer's premium) at his always-informative "Best of Sherlock Holmes" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/sign-of-four-2024.htm>.

Apr 24 #5 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; The Times reported last year (Sep 23 #5) that the company was seeking a buyer or an investor to support its fast-growing operations. The latest news, at the Deadline web-site (Apr. 17) is that ITV Studios is in the lead to invest in Hartswood <www.tinyurl.com/zy7a95p3>.

Who knew? Dr. Watson once was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. That was in 2014, when Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for drama. The play features one actor as computer repair technician Josh Watson, a humanized version of an artificial intelligence device named after IBM's earlier creation, Alexander Graham Bell's assistant Thomas Watson, and Sherlock Holmes' companion. The winner of the prize was Annie Baker's "The Flick", which the prize committee described as a "thoughtful drama with well-crafted characters that focuses on three employees of a Massachusetts art-house movie theatre, rendering lives rarely seen on screen."

If you've wondered about buyer's premiums at auctions, Sotheby's has announced that on May 22 they will reduce their premium, to 20% on the first \$6 million (their current premium is 26%). It will be interesting to see whether Christie's and other auction house also reduce their buyer's premiums. If you're planning to bid higher on something, Sotheby's premium above \$6 million will be 10%.

"This Here Is Your Life, Sherlock Holmes" (a 34-minute parody of the radio series "This Is Your Life"), commissioned by Sean Wright for performance at the June 1976 meeting of the Non-Canonical Calabashes, was written by Daws Butler and others, and Sean believes it was broadcast by Mike Hodel on his "Hour 25" program on KPFK-FM in 1976. You can hear the recording at Audible <www.tinyurl.com/2586epc6>, with Ben Wright as Sherlock Holmes.

Reported: all 177 episodes of the television series "House" are now available on Hulu and Amazon Prime; the series ran for 8 seasons (2004-2012) on Fox and starred Hugh Laurie as Dr. Gregory House. Wikipedia offers a long entry on the series <www.tinyurl.com/ms4jt8er>, which had as its premise "if Sherlock Holmes were a medical doctor, he would be Gregory House," and discusses many (but not all) of the Sherlockian allusions in the series.

William S. Dorn ("The Newgate Calendar") died on Apr. 18. He taught courses on Sherlock Holmes at the Univ. of Denver for more than 25 years, was a prolific publisher of Sherlockian calendars and other Sherlockiana from his Pencil Productions, created and sold the first Sherlock Holmes bobble-head, and was an enthusiastic member of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients. Bill received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1999.

The late Chris Steinbrunner, who happily believed he was a Watsonian rather than a Sherlockian, would be delighted to read Olivia Rutigliano's post to the Crime Reads blog (Apr. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/2ub7zb56> ranking "the 81 best, worst, and strangest Dr. Watson portrayals of all time." One may well wonder how many other people actually have seen them all.

Apr 24 #6 "Uniquely New York with Rachel Holt" (which airs on the CBS channel in New York) featured an interview with Otto Penzler at the Mysterious Book Shop <www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWhlVgFnlag>. The shop's back wall still is totally Sherlockian.

Another (older) rumor: the Collider web-site reported (Nov. 7, 2023) on an interview with Scott Stuber, head of Netflix Film, who said that Netflix is "working once again" on a screenplay for a third "Enola Holmes" film.

Theatrical news: Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Community Gathering Place in Humboldt, Sask., May 2-6 <www.facebook.com/humboldttheaterclub>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Great Royal Goose Chase" (by Peter Sham and Brad Carroll) is due at the Delta Presbyterian Church in Lansing, Mich., on May 10-18 <www.starlightdinnertheatre.com>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" will be performed at Osceola Arts in Kissimmee, Fla., May 30-June 15 <www.osceolaarts.org>.

Ken Ludwig's new "Moriarty" is on the schedule at Theatre SilCo in Silverthorne, Colo., June 14-July 7 <www.thesilco.org>.

Kyle Gallagher's "The Man in the Shadows" is due at the Salford Arts Theatre in Salford, Greater Manchester, July 22-23 <www.tinyurl.com/nzn44prf>.

Oliver Gray's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be on tour in Britain again, July 27-Sept. 8 <www.illyria.co.uk>.

More than 1300 shows have been announced for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe <www.edfringe.com>, three of them Sherlockian: the Ghostwriters' "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes", Aug. 1-25; Nigel Miles-Thomas' one-man "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act", Aug. 1-25; and Blue Orange Arts' one-man retelling of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", Aug. 2-24.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the TPS Center Theatre in Seattle, Wash., Aug. 2-25 <www.theatrepugetsound.org>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" will be performed at the Waterville Opera House in Waterville, Maine, Aug. 30-Sept. 8; their web-site is at <www.watervillecreates.org>.

Lliam Paterson's opera "Sherlock Holmes and The Sign of Four" will be performed at the Leeds School of Arts in Leeds, Yorks., Aug.-Sept.; web-site at <www.northernoperagroup.co.uk/leeds-opera-festival-2024>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be performed at the Lyceum Theatre in Arrow Rock, Mo., Sept. 6-15 <www.lyceumtheatre.org>; and at the freeFall Theater in St. Petersburg, Fla., Nov. 8-Dec. 15 <www.freefalltheatre.com>.

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Reported: *The Last Island: Discovery, Defiance, and the Most Elusive Tribe on Earth*, by Adam Goodheart (Godine, 2023), describes North Sentinel Island, "a small patch of land in the Andaman archipelago," and other Andaman tribes' encounters with the outside world; it may (or may not) include mention of "The Sign of the Four".

The musical "Sherlock Holmes and the Poison Wood" (with book and lyrics by Poppy Burton-Morgan and Ben Glasstone) was produced at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury, Berks., last year; the original-cast recording's available for your listening pleasure at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/v5mc8pjt> and Spotify <www.tinyurl.com/3kbz24wc>.

CBS-TV has announced that "Watson" will debut mid-season, on Sundays at 10:00 pm after football season ends (they'll be showing "drama encores" in that slot during football season).

The Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial's seminar on "Murder, Mayhem, and Masterpieces: The Art of Illustrating Mysteries" at the Salmagundi Club (in New York) on June 7 will feature CrimeReads editor Olivia Rutigliano (on the evolution of British detective fiction and the role of illustration) and illustrator and graphic designer Jeff Wong (on how his career collides with his passion as a book collector); more information is available from Burt Wolder <burt@fdsteele.org>.

For those who fondly remember the Sherlockian episodes of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" ("Elementary, My Dear Data" in 1988 and "Ship in a Bottle" in 1993): it seems there were different scripts with different explanations of how the holodeck worked. Chris Snellgrove posted about it at the Giant Freakin Robot web-site on May 5 <www.tinyurl.com/4ewp87bw>.

Anne Perry died on Apr. 10, 2023. Perry was a prolific author, credited with more than 100 books, and was best known for a series featuring Thomas and Charlotte Pitt, and another featuring William Monk. She also contributed the Introduction to *The Sherlock Holmes Mysteries*, published by the New American Library in 1985 with 22 stories from the Canon; her web-site is at <www.anneperry.us>.

A brief time-out for a visit to South Dakota, a state which seems to have no resident Sherlockians. There used to be a Sherlock & Co. escape room in Sioux Falls, but it closed some time ago, and we missed the production of "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" at the Mitchell Christian School in Mitchell in April. But there still was (of course) a Sherlockian connection there, found in Deadwood, where Sen. George Hearst, who had made a fortune mining gold in California (and silver in Nevada), arrived in 1877 and opened the Homestake Mine, the largest gold mine ever in the Western Hemisphere (readers of "Thor Bridge" will recall Sen. J. Neil Gibson, the Gold King from a western state). Hearst also owned the San Francisco Examiner, the newspaper that launched his son's publishing empire. One wonders what William Randolph Hearst thought when he read "Thor Bridge" in Hearst's International Magazine in 1922.

May 24 #2 Sam Siciliano's *The Gentleman Burglar* (New York: Titan, 2024; 317 pp., \$16.95), the latest in Titan's long-running series of "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", is an imaginative double pastiche, bringing together Holmes, his cousin Henry Vernier, Arsène Lupin, and Maurice Leblanc in a mystery inspired by *The Hollow Needle* but, with some added twists and turns, in a story that's nicely told as much in the style of Leblanc as of Conan Doyle (and that's not easily done). The author's web-site is at <www.samsiciliano.net>.

The next 221B Con (A Fan Con for All Things Sherlock Holmes) will be held in Atlanta, Ga., on Apr. 11-13, 2025 <www.221bcon.com>; there's no schedule yet, but you can consult their 2024 schedule to find out what sort of things go on during the five-track program of panels, roundtables, performances, and workshops at the conference.

I've seen the film, so you don't need to. "The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare" was released on Apr. 19 (Feb 24 #7) and the trailer's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/42fx89uy>. The film was based on Damien Lewis' *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare: How Churchill's Secret Warriors Set Europe Ablaze and Gave Birth to Modern Black Ops* (Nov 16 #6), but there was nothing about members of the Special Operations Executive, which had its headquarters in Baker Street, calling themselves the Baker Street Irregulars.

However: the movie was co-written and directed by Guy Ritchie ("Sherlock Holmes" and "Sherlock Holmes Game of Shadows") and it stars Henry Cavill (Sherlock Holmes in two "Enola Holmes" films). It's an exciting film with plenty of action and shooting and explosions, and thoroughly heroic Brits and evil Nazis, and is far less graphic than a lot of other modern films.

It's a minor item from the good old days (reported by Ann Marlowe): the 6-minute animation from Walter Lantz Productions "The Dog That Cried Wolf" (1953) shows Dizzy the sheepdog in Sherlockian costume at the end of the film <www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpH_U09I6fw>.

Apologies to whoever it was who sent the letter from M. A. Lesser that appeared in the N.Y. Times Saturday Review on Feb. 10, 1900, about "Dupin and Sherlock Holmes" (and I wish I could remember whom to thank). Lesser mentioned earlier comments by Henry Austin on imitators who appropriate Edgar Allan Poe's plots, ideas, and methods to feather their own nests. Austin said (in part) that "perhaps the most gaudy example of this kind of freebooter is furnished by Dr. A. Conan Doyle. His alleged detective, Sherlock Holmes, out of whom he had made so undeserved a reputation, will be found, by any one who takes the trouble to compare Holmes's exploits and methods with those of Dupin, about the crudest and most contemptible imitation of a strong original in all literary annals."

Austin's comments appeared in his Preface to Poe's *The Murders in the Rue Morgue and A Tale of the Ragged Mountains* (R. F. Fenno, 1899), a book that is not advertised by any book dealer on the Internet, and not held by any library. We are indebted to Ross Davies, who has found Austin's "Preface" on-line at the web-site of the Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore, and has kindly provided a useful URL <www.tinyurl.com/bdszuu9n>.

May 24 #3 Douglas Stuart's new *Fair Game: A Holmes and Watson Adventure* (Cambridge: Vanguard, 2023; 239 pp., \$12.99) brings Holmes and Watson to the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, as guests of President Theodore Roosevelt. There's a dire (and unsuccessful, needless to say) plot to assassinate the President, a detailed description of the attractions of the Fair, and an encounter with Irene Adler Norton.

Caleb Carr died on May 23. His first real success as an author came with *The Alienist* (1994) and *Angels of Darkness* (1997), and he went on to write *The Italian Secretary: A Further Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* (2005), in which Holmes and Watson travel to Edinburgh to assist Mycroft in defending Her Majesty against a plot that involves Holyrood and David Rizzio (he was Queen Mary's secretary and met his death at Holyrood).

Aziz Adam has reported a Kickstarter campaign for a new game "The Beekeeper's Picnic" <www.tinyurl.com/5ybfvmxe>. The company is called Jabbage <www.jabbage.itch.io>, and you'll find a demo for the game at the Jabbage web-site <www.tinyurl.com/5ybfvmxe>.

Nicholas Meyer's new *Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell* (New York: Mysterious Press, 2024; 285 pp., \$26.95) brings Holmes and Watson to the United States in 1916, hard at work for the British government, pursuing what's now known as the Zimmerman telegram and meeting J. Edgar Hoover and Alice Roosevelt Longworth in Washington, and succeeding in foiling a dastardly German plan. Meyer, who has been writing Sherlock Holmes stories for a decade longer than Conan Doyle did, is celebrating the 50th anniversary of *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution* with a fine addition to his long list of Sherlockian novels.

Apples of Gold, a small theater company broadcasting a weekly devotional podcast in Charleston, W.Va., often presents radio drama; their dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" aired in 2023 with Marshall Valentine and Ken Guthrie as Holmes and Watson, and is conveniently available at their website <www.applesofgoldstudio.com>. Their "The Hound of the Baskervilles" aired on May 22 this year, with Matthew Emch and Kennie Bass as Holmes and Watson <www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMZ0ovt57Aw>.

"The Cabinet of the Unsolved" (the CBS Radio Mystery Theater's title for "The Man with the Watches") (which many consider an apocryphal addition to the Canon) was broadcast in 1978, and Jennie Paton has reported it available on-line at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9SnI_5USCI>. "The Mysterious Rochdale Special" (the apocryphal "The Lost Special") also can be heard at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EnNiqBu-2Q>. The long-running CBS series also offered many Canonical stories, as well as some of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian tales.

Pantasy, a Chinese company that offers a wide range of building-brick collectibles, has three that are Sherlockian (versions the house at 221B Baker Street) <www.pantasy.com/collections/sherlock-holmes>. There's a growing alternative-brick market, for people who want more than Lego offers), and someone using the nom "SheClicksBricks" has an in-depth review of the most expensive version of 221B <www.youtube.com/watch?v=sURAX2-v-zE>.

May 24 #4 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 (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.

Variety has reported (May 14) <www.tinyurl.com/3vmcz8ua> on some additional cast (and characters) for the "Watson" series due on CBS-TV after the end of the football season.

The University of Minnesota Libraries will celebrate the golden anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Collections with a "Sherlock Holmes at 50" exhibition at the Elmer L. Anderson Library in Minneapolis, June 3-Sept. 30 <<https://libnews.umn.edu/2024/05/sherlock-holmes-at-50>>. The conference (same name) <www.norwegianexplorers.org/2024%20conf%20reg.html> (July 26-28) is now at capacity, but you can ask to be on the waiting list.

Tom Schantz died on June 4, 2023. Tom and his wife Enid launched the Aspen Bookhouse in 1970 and went on to publish a series of reprints of early pastiches from their Aspen Press, many of which were imaginatively illustrated by Enid. They continued to sell and publish books from The Rue Morgue in Boulder, Colo., and were delighted to meet old and new friends and customers at Bouchercon, Malice Domestic, and Left Coast Crime.

There's an amusing 5-minute video of "Sheerluck Holmes on the Fatal Flaws of Chinese EVs" <www.tinyurl.com/4hc95p4x>; produced by Xinhua Global Services, the video was made before an even more important flaw was created, when the U.S. imposed a 100% tariff on Chinese EVs.

The Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia has completed its "Sherlock Mondays" weekly series of 90-minute virtual programs (Jun 23 #2) covering 27 of the stories (from "A Study in Scarlet" to "The Empty House"), hosted by senior manager of public programs Edward G. Pettit and featuring a rotating group of Sherlockian co-hosts. You can watch all of the programs at the Rosenbach's YouTube channel <www.tinyurl.com/3u4xy7cw>.

The Postal Service has issued a sheet of stamps showing five horses (six, if you count the one in the selvage at the top), and you can see the sheet on the next page. Horses are mentioned in many of the Canonical stories, but since these are American horses, one is tempted to say that they honor the horses in "A Study in Scarlet". On the other hand (or hoof), one of the horses (second from the left in the second row) is, according to the Postal Service, a chestnut horse with a white blaze; one could say that it looks remarkably like Silver Blaze.

Of course Silver Blaze is said in the Canon to have been a bay rather than a chestnut. Bays and chestnuts can have the same body color, but bays always have black manes and tails, and it is indeed convenient that we can't see the color of the mane on the horse on the stamp; the horse in the selvage has a black mane, and therefore is a bay, marked with a star rather than a blaze.

May 24 #5 And here are the horses, black and white ink-on-paper, and in full color in the electronic version; the stamps were designed by Derry Noyes from photographs by Stephanie Moon and Karen Wegehenkel.

HORSES



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May 24 #6 Theater news: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by Steven Can-ny and John Nicholson) is running at Shadowland Stages in El-lenville, N.Y., through June 16 <www.shadowlandstages.org>. It's also due at the South London Theatre in London, July 25-Aug. 3; their web-site's at <www.southlondontheatre.co.uk>.

"Sherlock Holmes vs Hercule Poirot" (Tal Aviezer's "The Reigate Squires" and Amy Frey's "The Tragedy at Marsdon Manor") has been scheduled at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, N.Y., June 8-16; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/mryj857u>.

Mike Hurst's "Sherlock and the Case of the Horrible Thing" is scheduled at the Players Theatre in Thame, Oxon., June 15-16 <www.catkids.biz>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Adele Grage Community Center in Atlantic Beach, Fla., July 12-14 <www.apextheatrejax.com>; at the Marion Art Center in Marion, Mass., Aug. 9-25 <www.marionartcenter.org>; and at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield, Ill., on Oct. 11-13; web-site at <www.hcfta.org>. Also at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Tex., Apr. 4-27, 2025 <www.alleytheatre.org>.

The Strange Fascination Theatre will tour their new "The Lost World" in England, July 24-Aug. 31 <www.facebook.com/strangefascinationtheatre>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Va., Sept. 4-Nov. 8; web-site at <www.bartertheatre.com>.

An "immersive experience" with Arthur Conan Doyle, Mina "Margery" Crandon, Harry and Bess Houdini, and Howard Thurston has been scheduled at the Spir-its' Speakeasy in New York, Sept. 19-Nov. 3 <www.spiritsspeakeasy.com>.

People and Stories will be touring their gothic thriller "A Summons in the Night" in England, Sept. 21-Nov. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/bdfxzydc>; Irene Hun-ter, Bram Stoker, and Arthur Conan Doyle battle a deadly force unleashed from an Egyptian sarcophagus in Portsmouth in 1889.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Strange Case of Miss Faulkner" is scheduled at the Studio at New Wimbledon Theatre in London on Oct. 1-5 <www.tinyurl.com/2s3yw8nd>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear" is scheduled at the Miners Alley Performing Arts Center in Golden, Colo., Oct. 4-Nov. 10 <www.minersalley.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be per-formed at the Chatham Drama Guild in Chatham, Mass., from Nov. 15 to Dec. 8 <www.chathamdramaguild.org>.

Patrick Withey's "Sherlock Holmes and a Christmas Mystery" is coming up at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham, Glocs., Dec. 5-Jan. 5; their web-site is at <www.everymantheatre.org.uk>.

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Sotheby's offered "The library of Dr. Rodney P. Swantko" at auction in New York on June 26 <www.tinyurl.com/bdexvft5>, and the catalog is well worth browsing, to see the sort of interesting rarities he pursued and added to his collection. He also was a generous donor to libraries such as the Lilly Library at Indiana University, the Newberry Library in Chicago, and the Chicago History Museum, but he appears to have kept all of his Sherlockiana in his own collection.

Lots 9 through 13 in the auction were of particular interest to Sherlockians and Doyleans, beginning with the manuscript of *The Sign of the Four*, and their detailed description of the manuscript certainly is well worth reading <www.tinyurl.com/5dhz4d2h>. Estimated at \$800,000-\$1,200,000, the manuscript sold for \$960,000 (including the buyer's premium), making it the most valuable Sherlockian item ever sold at auction. There's more information about the manuscript to be found at Randall Stock's "The Best of Sherlock Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/466ccmhw>.

The auction continued with Sidney Paget's spectacular original artwork for "The Death of Sherlock Holmes" <www.tinyurl.com/2dche4ep>, with an estimate of \$250,000-\$350,000, it sold for \$384,000. Randall Stock has more information about the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/yc4keu93>.

The next item was a copy of the first British edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* <www.tinyurl.com/22pjuuxr>. Estimated at \$6,000-\$8,000, it sold for \$7,200.

Then came an inscribed copy of Vincent Starrett's *The Unique Hamlet*, one of the only ten copies of his iconic pastiche that were stated as printed for the friends of Vincent Starrett <www.tinyurl.com/537763j9>; the estimate was \$30,000-\$40,000, and bidding didn't reach the reserve. Randall Stock's page about the pastiche is at <www.tinyurl.com/y2c2b6ve>.

And last, but certainly not least, was a copy of the large-paper edition of Starrett's *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, inscribed to his friend Lloyd Springer <www.tinyurl.com/57ed8n53>. There were only three copies of the large-paper edition; they were specially bound for the author, and this is the only copy known to have survived. Estimated at \$1,500-\$2,000, it sold for \$1,320. Randall Stock has more information about the book at <www.tinyurl.com/5b7c7rub>.

One can get a sense that Swantko's interests included more than books: the 47 items in the auction included 8 volumes about golf.

You can also see a Canonical manuscript in Washington (a fine excuse for a visit to the nation's capital): the Folger Shakespeare Library reopened on June 21, and there's a temporary exhibition of literary treasures from the Stuart and Mimi Rose Collection on display, one of them the manuscript of "The Valley of Fear" <www.tinyurl.com/5a5mdhv9>. The exhibition will end on Jan. 5. The game's also afoot in the Folger's 82 copies of the First Folio (with the quote in "Henry IV Part 1" and "Henry V").

Jun 24 #2 The spring issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Cliff Goldfarb's warm tribute to the "Bigelow Index" card file (which now has about 53,000 cards, and was thoroughly useful when a cyber-attack last October shut down the on-line catalog for all 100 branches of the Library for three months); Jessie Amaolo's report on the collection's acquisition of the one important edition of the Canon that Cameron Hollyer noted in 1986 that they did not have: the first book edition of *A Study in Scarlet*, illustrated by Conan Doyle's father; and much more. You can ask for a copy of the newsletter from Cliff at the Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Roger Corman died on May 9. He had a long Hollywood career as a director and producer, and became famous (or infamous) for making low-budget films. He also helped launch the careers of Jack Nicholson, Francis Ford Coppola, Robert De Niro, and others, and in 2009 was awarded an honorary Oscar for lifetime achievement. *Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine* (edited by David Stuart Davies) reported in 1999 on a rumor that Corman was planning to film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (he never did, but one can be sure it would have been interesting).

Howard Ostrom has reported that 6,000 people follow his "Sherlock Holmes on Screens" group at Facebook (which covers stage, screen, radio, television, and the Internet) <www.facebook.com/groups/sherlockholmesonscreens>; it's a lively group indeed.

Greg Darak reports that Howlin' Wolf Records offers a CD with the score of "Murder by Decree" (the grand 1979 film that starred Christopher Plummer and James Mason <www.howlinwolfrecords.com/storemurderbydecree.html> for \$18.95; the CD also has some music not used in the film, and the web-site has a link to a 12-minute audio documentary about the score.

Howlin' Wolf also still offers an "In the Name of Sherlock Holmes" CD with Róbert Gulya's score from the 2011 Hungarian film "Sherlock Holmes Néveben" for \$13.95 <www.howlinwolfrecords.com/storeitnosh.html>.

Karen Ellery, who presides over the Tea Brokers of Mincing Lane (a society for Sherlockian lover of tea and tisanes), reports the society's official T-shirt <www.zazzle.com/tea_at_once_t_shirt-256003383475187607>, available for \$22.95 with imaginative artwork by Sidney Paget. The reason why the artwork's imaginative is that Paget never showed Sherlock Holmes drinking tea: the original of his illustration of Holmes with cigar and cigar case (from "The Resident Patient") has been carefully altered to show him with a tea cup and saucer.

Christie & Co. have announced that the Brambletye Hotel in Forest Row (in Sussex) is for sale <www.tinyurl.com/5yn4rfer>. Holmes and Watson stayed at the Brambletye, presumably in one of its 19 rooms, and there's an aptly-named Two Two One Restaurant (alas: Black Peter's Bar & Restaurant now seems to be closed). The hotel also has a Moriarty Boardroom, a Sherlock Holmes Suite, and a Dr. Watson Lounge, all available for £1.5 million.

Jun 24 #3 Conan Doyle's *The Refugees* made news world-wide, thanks to an Agence France-Presse report published in the Guardian on May 29 <www.tinyurl.com/jv6sbxwr> that a copy of a Finnish translation of the book checked out 84 years ago had been returned to the Central Library in Helsinki; the due date of the loan was just a month after the Soviet Union invaded Finland in 1939, and "the return of the book might not have been the first thing on the borrower's mind," librarian Heini Strand suggested.

Editor Carla Kaessinger Coupe has assembled a nice assortment of Sherlockian homages in the latest issue (#33) of the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine, which also has Kim Newman's detailed discussion of the BBC's 1960s Sherlock Holmes television series; the cost is \$13.00 (or \$39.99 for four issues) from the Wildside Press <www.wildsidepress.com>, and the magazine also is available as eBooks (single issues or subscriptions).

Jennie Paton has reported an interesting interview with Sherlockian playwright Jeffrey Hatcher at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYd6p59ibs0>.

Maggie Schpak ("The Soup Plate Medal") died on June 23. She was an artistic genius, designing and crafting jewelry and props for movies and television series, as well as medals and awards for members of the Baker Street Irregulars, and spectacular raffle prizes for the Dr. John H. Watson Fund. Her interview for the UCLA oral history library is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/s4snm2u6>. Maggie received her Investiture from the BSI in 2007.

I've long described this newsletter as "six or more pages a month of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean." There was an amusing discussion of gossip (and gossips) by Jonathan Self in a post to the Country Life web-site on June 11 <www.tinyurl.com/48ae69vs>.

This year's "Summer of Sherlock" celebration in Portsmouth, honoring the city's Conan Doyle Collection (which includes the collection of the late Richard Lancelyn Green) <www.tinyurl.com/2s3jret5>, offers (free) on-line presentations by Prof. Christine Ferguson, Paul Chapman, Ross Davies, Mark Jones, Mattis Boström, and Douglas Kerr (July 2-15). You can register for the Zoom lectures at the web-site soon.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast is now 17 years old, and well deserves their boast that it's the oldest Sherlock Holmes podcast. You can listen to them celebrate the anniversary at <www.tinyurl.com/3ptez74z>. One of the nicest things about the podcast is their archive of all the previous episodes.

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." This issue offers the winning entries in this year's Joel R. Senter essay contest, and it's impressive indeed to see how well youngsters can do.

Jun 24 #4 Karen Murdock notes something for completists who have Charles Wysocki's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" artwork as a print, plate, calendar, or jigsaw puzzle (Sep 10 #7 and Dec 14 #4): a different version of the artwork in his *Americana Adult Coloring Book* (Dayton: Mead, 2016); the artwork's Sherlockian only for the title, and the coloring book is safe for all ages.

"Murder by the Book" (promoted as "a criminally good exhibition!") is now on display at the Cambridge University Library, through Aug. 24, with an interesting web-site <www.cam.ac.uk/stories/murder-by-the-book> that shows many of books and other items on display. The exhibition includes a copy of the first edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and much much more, in their "celebration of 20th-century British crime fiction."

The Independent reported on June 18 <www.tinyurl.com/mte6mche> that Enola Holmes will be on display at Madame Tussauds in London when a new film and TV-themed zone opens to the public on July 19, and there's video of Millie Bobby Brown at the unofficial unveiling of the wax figure.

Peter McIntyre and Kate Karlson were at Monmouth Park (in New Jersey) on June 15 to watch Sherlock's Jewel run and (unfortunately) finish dead last <www.tinyurl.com/mtpjwpez>. But the horse has a good record overall, having finished in the money in half the races in which he's run; here's his lifetime record <www.tinyurl.com/7up5xh3w>.

If you enjoyed vol. 1 of Tripwire's graphic novel *Sherlock Holmes and the Empire Builders: The Gene Genie* (Mar 24 #5), the company is offering two different signed covers for the issue <www.tinyurl.com/5956svef> (and lots of other artwork as well).

The latest news from Laurie R. King <www.tinyurl.com/49btsr3r> is that the title of her upcoming book about Mary Russell and her Uncle Jake will be *Diamond Deceiver*. There's also a tribute to her first agent, Linda Allen who died last month, and a free download of "The Marriage of Billie Birdsong" (an extract from the Russell/Martinelli cross-over *The Art of Detection*) available until July 15.

"Baker Street Irregulars Is Still Going Strong 36 Years After Tom Cruise Learned to Sling Bottles for 'Cocktail' at Famous New York Bar" (according to a story at the Morning Honey web-site) <www.tinyurl.com/3cpunty6> (June 10). That's the bar and grill on the Upper West Side, which also charms guests with poker and bingo nights, and occasional magicians.

Michael W. Homer will lecture on "The Adventures of Arthur Conan Doyle and His Spirit Guide Pheneas" on-line on Oct. 6, using previously unpublished material to explore the seances in which Pheneas appeared to Conan Doyle's home circle. Mike has written about Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes for the Baker Street Irregulars Press and many scholarly journals, and there's more information about the event at <www.tinyurl.com/3wkanf9d>. The lecture is sponsored by the Last Tuesday Society, which is headquartered at the Viktor Wynd Museum of Curiosities, Fine Art, & Natural History in London <www.thelasttuesdaysociety.org/museum>.

Jun 24 #5 There's a fine Wikipedia entry for Sir Henry Thompson, but it doesn't mention The Octaves. "Sir Henry Thompson was holding that evening one of those charming 'octave' dinners at which it was my occasional privilege to attend," Conan Doyle wrote, in 1906, in his article "An Incursion into Diplomacy". Eight people at 8:00 for eight courses was the rule for the dinners, and you can read more about Sir Henry in a post at the Inside Croydon" web-site (on June 10) <www.tinyurl.com/55edphuf>. Conan Doyle's article is available (thanks to Alexis Barquin) at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2zd5en6y>.

The Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial's seminar on "Murder, Mayhem, and Masterpieces: The Art of Illustrating Mysteries", at the Salmagundi Club in New York (May 24 #1), has been rescheduled to Sept. 13 (4:00 to 6:30 pm). It will feature CrimeReads editor Olivia Rutigliano (on the evolution of British detective fiction, and the role of illustration) and illustrator and graphic designer Jeff Wong (on how his career collides with his passion as a book collector); more information is available from Burt Wolder <burt@fdsteele.org>.

Donald Sutherland died on June 20. He began his acting career on television in 1962, appeared in his first film in 1963, and starred as Hawkeye Pierce in "M*A*S*H" in 1970. He appeared as the spiritualist Robert Lees in "Murder by Decree" (1979), and was cast as Moriarty in a never-produced film "Limehouse", based on the John Gardner novel *The Return of Moriarty* (scheduled for production in Apr. 1976); there's a first-draft screenplay by Erik Lee Preminger in someone's collection.

This Work of Storytelling, edited by Cathy and Glen Miranker (San Francisco: Quartering Press, 2024; 63 pp., \$60.00), is as close as we'll ever get to Conan Doyle's speech to the Author's Club in London on June 29, 1896. There's a full-color facsimile of the eight-page manuscript, with a transcription and knowledgeable essays by experts. There's only passing mention of Sherlock Holmes (who in 1896 was thoroughly deceased), but it's a grand opportunity to learn more about Conan Doyle. It is available from the Wessex Press <www.wessexpress.com/html/Miranker2.html>, and (signed by the editors) from the Mysterious Bookshop <www.tinyurl.com/29njz3h2> (for \$75.00).

Sherlock Is a Girl's Name, edited by Narrelle M. Harris and Atlin Merrick (Bittern: Clan Destine, 2024; 193 pp., \$21.99), is an anthology of stories inspired by the Canon, all of them presenting Sherlock Holmes as a woman, in genres that include imaginative fantasy, alternate universes, science fiction, and other genres. Harris also edited the anthology *The Only One in the World* (Oct 21 #4).

She also has written a novel, *The She-Wolf of Baker Street* (2024; 290 pp., \$22.99). It's set modern times, and the she-wolf is Mrs. Hudson, who is a werewolf; Holmes and Watson are on hand, along with many other characters from the Canon, some human and some not, some heroes and some not, and the story's told with verve and drama and humor. The author has a web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/47j86e7f>, and Clan Destine has an interesting (and colorful) web-site at <www.clandestinepress.net>.

Jun 24 #6 Powell's Books in Portland, Ore., is one of a very few survivors in a vanishing world of old-time massive bookshops, and it's still a destination for collectors: the line of customers grew until it was nearly two miles long, at a recent warehouse sale at Powell's, according to a story at OPB's web-site (June 3) <www.tinyurl.com/55fc2atk>, kindly forwarded by Bill Seil.

Jennie Paton reports the Sherlock Patisserie in Zamalek in Cairo (Egypt) <www.facebook.com/p/Sherlock-patisserie-61552743720496>.

Sherlock Holmes: The Exhibition (the new name for the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes) is now at the Farmington Museum in Farmington, N.M. <www.farmingtonnm.org> through Sept. 28. The exhibition debuted in Portland, Ore., in 2013, and has toured widely since then. It's truly impressive, Doylean as well as Sherlockian, as you can see at the EDG web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yym7m9s>.

Chloe Robyn Smith has an unusual hobby: creating closed fore-edge artwork on her books. One of them is a collection of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and you can see her at work at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nL3XQKh24N0>. Her YouTube channel's at <www.youtube.com/channel/UCrUHTnF6deuWhumeQcleZow>.

H. A. Saintsbury appeared as Holmes in the Gillette play, with Kenneth Rivington as Watson and Charlie Chaplin as Billy, touring in Britain in 1903, and a program from the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton (Sept. 14, for six nights only) was offered at Bonhams in London on June 20 with an estimate of £600-£800 <www.tinyurl.com/pmmbmphpd>; it sold for £2,560 (including the buyer's premium).

Theatrical news: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is running at the Chester Little Theatre in Chester, Cheshire, through July 6 <www.chesterlittletheatre.co.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Okoboji Summer Theatre in Okoboji, Iowa, July 2-7 <www.okobojisummertheatre.org>; the French Creek Theatre in Sheffield Village, Ohio, on Sept. 13-22 <www.tinyurl.com/23eb8txf>; and at the Wayne Theatre in Waynesboro, Va., Oct. 25 <www.waynetheatre.org>.

Fractal will perform "The Sherlock Files" (an improvised mystery) at the Interchange Theater in Milwaukee, Wis., July 26; the theater's web-site is at <www.interchangetheater.com>.

Oliver Gray's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will tour in Britain, July 27-Sept. 15 <www.illyria.co.uk>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" is scheduled at the Caine Lyric Theatre in Logan, Utah, Oct. 4-12 <www.cca.usu.edu/theatre>.

Todd Wallinger's "The Enchanted Bookshop" is due at the New Castle Playhouse in New Castle, Pa., Aug. 9-18 <www.newcastleplayhouse.org>.

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SHERLOC (an abbreviation for Scanning Habitable Environment with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals), is now on board the Perseverance rover on Mars, and it has been operating for three years; it malfunctioned in January, but it's back in action now, and there's more about SHERLOC at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's web-site, which is online at www.tinyurl.com/9bdzdvss.

"The story of early cinema may have been different had Wordsworth Donisthorpe been better at blackmail." There's nothing Sherlockian about Irfan Shah's essay at the Public Domain Review web-site (June 24), but it's well worth reading www.tinyurl.com/y62433js. Donisthorpe, was (according to Shah) a forgotten polymath, political individualist, chess reformer, and inventor of a peculiar kind of film camera. Wool combing in England also was involved in this intriguing bit of history.

It seems that Scuttlebutt is not only something in the title of a newsletter. It's also a sandwich, conceived by Carolina Fidanza at her restaurant Saltie in Brooklyn. The restaurant has been closed, but Ray Betzner has found a recipe at the N.Y. Times web-site www.tinyurl.com/bp8dcbht.

"Collectors are not odd," according to the late Jim Lehrer (in an essay in Smithsonian magazine (March 1990), "we are merely possessed with a need to collect certain things that some people might consider odd." Lehrer gladly described himself as a world-class collector of depot signs and other memorabilia). There's an article on "Britain's most eccentric collectors" at the Country Life web-site (Jun 22) www.tinyurl.com/mrxbuw6y (none of them are Sherlockians, but they're still eccentric).

Jennie Paton discovered a documentary on "'Hidden Killers of the Victorian Home" www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sy7iUoWi_-U. The good old days weren't as good as they could have been.

Stephen Fry appeared on BBC-2's "Celebrity Mastermind" series in 2004, answering (or not answering) questions about "Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes"; he answered 8 of the 14 questions correctly. Jennie Paton found video of his appearance www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdxafxQe-BC, and you're welcome to see how well you do.

There's an International Buster Keaton Society, and a Keaton Journal, and (reported by Andrew Malec) an interesting article about the film "Sherlock Jr." (1924) at www.tinyurl.com/yezwdvk8.

The Generic Radio Workshop www.genericradio.com offers free downloads of a wide variety of old-time radio scripts: twelve from the Rathbone, Con-Conway, and Gielgud series www.genericradio.com/series/sherlockholmes, another from the Mercury Theater broadcast of Orson Welles' version of the William Gillette play www.genericradio.com/show/8VCGXSKAOS, one from the Jack Benny Show series with a 12-minute version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" www.genericradio.com/show/7STBVAZP4E1, and one from the Suspense series broadcast of "The Lost Special" www.tinyurl.com/b9ds75d4.

Jul 24 #2 Jennie Paton has reported Jigidi (a free on-line community for jigsaw puzzle lovers), as well as a free on-line 80-piece jigsaw puzzle <www.tinyurl.com/mvwzzh7b> that shows the Sherlock Holmes Pub in London. You can search the web-site for [sherlock] and [moriarty] and [conan doyle] to find more on-line jigsaws. It's nice that you don't need to worry about losing pieces. And yes indeed, some purists do insist that jigsaws are not puzzles.

Sorry about that: the URL for the "immersive experience with Arthur Conan, Mina "Margery" Crandon, Harry and Bess Houdini, and Howard Thurston", due at the Spirits' Speakeasy in New York, Sept. 19-Nov. 3, should have been <www.thespiritsspeakeasy.com>. Brian Silliman will perform as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and tickets are now on sale.

An emoji, according to Wikipedia, is a pictogram (or logogram or ideogram or smiley) embedded in text and used in electronic messages and web-pages. There's now a wide variety of emoji, including some for admirers of Holmes and Watson, noted by Jennie Paton <www.tinyurl.com/2h5jn2ku>.

There was a tour of the grounds of "the world's most famous school" at the Country Life web-site (June 29) <www.tinyurl.com/59m2h6x2>. That's Eton, mentioned twice in the Canon (three times, if you count an Eton jacket). There's also an interesting article explaining "How to Win at Rock, Paper, Scissors" <www.tinyurl.com/58rfz4x6>.

Conan Doyle was one of many researchers who used the historic Reading Room at the British Library <www.tinyurl.com/5n6mf8xs>. The Reading Room has been preserved and now is a feature of the British Museum, and open to the public for visits and tours <www.tinyurl.com/yc72np45>.

This year the Morgan Library & Museum in New York is celebrating its 100th anniversary as a public institution, and Samantha Wolov has noted a short video by Fran Liebowitz <www.tinyurl.com/ycjhdjxy> shows some of the wonders of the Morgan, which include the manuscript of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" (written by Oscar Wilde after that fateful dinner in 1889, when the editor of Lippincott's asked both Wilde and Conan Doyle to write stories for the magazine).

The East Haddam Stage Company <www.ehsco.org> continues to honor William Gillette in performances at Gillette Castle, and is performing his play "All the Comforts of Home" on weekends through Aug. 11. The four-act comedy was first produced in 1890 and published in 1897, and you can read it on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/3wed7m4j>.

There seems to be no end to the saga of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (Feb 24 #2). The Milton Advertiser & Lymington Times has reported (July 5) that the developer has submitted a plan to demolish the entire hotel, including the facade designed by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/5aaf4jcw>; the developer claims that the building has been so long neglected that it is no longer safe to work in or near it. The rebuild would reinstate the elements of Conan Doyle's design, according to the developer, and the public had until the end of July to comment on the plan.

Jul 24 #3 "This game can be played only once. To solve the riddles, you will have to write on, fold, and cut the game materials." The game is *Exit: The Game: The Disappearance of Sherlock Holmes*, created for Kosmos by Inke and Markus Brand (Thames & Kosmos, \$17.95), and it offers a rare opportunity to annoy all fanatic collectors who believe that a "mint" copy is the best thing to have in one's collection (once you have played the game, it is no longer in mint condition) <www.tinyurl.com/mr4c3839>. A true fanatic, of course, will need to avoid opening the game's plastic wrapper.

A query about the "A Tip of the Deerstalker" awards that were presented by Mike Whelan to deserving members of the Baker Street Irregulars at annual dinners in 2014, 2015, and 2017; I wonder about awards in other years, and would welcome information about those awards <blau7103@comcast.net>.

Jennie Paton has reported video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjeDMxAqe34> from a 1970 episode of "The Flip Wilson Show" with Flip as Hemlock Jones, Johnny Brown as Dr. Dotson, and Connie Stevens as Prof. Doriarty.

Sherry Thomas' *A Ruse of Shadows* (New York: Berkley/Penguin Random House, 2024; 331 pp., \$18.00) is the eighth title in her "Lady Sherlock" series, which stars Charlotte Holmes, who does her detecting while pretending to be the sister of the non-existent Sherlock Holmes (with Mrs. Watson as her friend and business partner); Charlotte is continuing to battle Moriarty and his henchmen, and also is under threat from Scotland Yard. There is mystery and romance, as well as dire peril, in the story, and the author's web-site is at <www.sherrythomas.com>.

Magnadur (a Finnish "fierce melodic death metal" band) has issued a music video for "Dog of Baskerville" from their third album ("Unholy Punisher") due in September. You're welcome to watch (and listen to) the music video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBXzhTthLtI>.

Welcome news for those who've not yet seen Mark Gatiss' dramatization of "Lot No. 249" (which was broadcast last December BBC Two's annual series "A Ghost Story for Christmas") (Jan 24 #3): the story is one of six programs that have been acquired by American Public Television for syndication to public television stations for broadcast later this year. You're welcome, of course, to try to persuade your local PBS station to ask APT about "Ghost Stories".

Sorry about that: Baker Street Irregulars (Jun 24 #4) is a bar and grill on the Upper East Side in New York <www.irregularsnyc.com>, not the Upper West Side; east is east, and west is west, as someone once said.

There's more to be said about Nicholas Shakespeare's *Ian Fleming: The Complete Man* (Apr 24 #4): in addition to mentions of Fleming's friend Richard Hughes, who founded the Baskerville Chapter of the Baker Street Irregulars in Japan after World War II, there's a quote from Kingsly Amis, who ranked Fleming alongside the 'demi-giants' of an earlier age, Verne, Haggard, Conan Doyle; and a note that the verdict that most pleased Fleming was John Betjeman's comparison of Bond to an international Sherlock Holmes.

Jul 24 #4 Forbes magazine has offered "An Insider's Guide to The Langham, London" (July 14) <www.tinyurl.com/2p9v6t4f>; they don't have Conan Doyle and the Canon quite right, and there's no mention of the dinner in 1889 at which he was commissioned to write a story for Lippincott's magazine. The fault lies with the history at the hotel's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ymckyx5u>, and in case you're thinking about staying at the hotel, an inexpensive room costs at least £600 a night.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Exhibition" (at the Farmington Museum in Farmington, N.M, through Sept. 9 (Jun 24 #6) now has an on-line presence that you can visit at <www.tinyurl.com/ms7tesbv>.

Variety has reported (July 2) <www.tinyurl.com/5n7apekr> that the AI firm ElevenLabs has license agreements with the estates of Judy Garland, James Dean, Burt Reynolds, and Laurence Olivier to use their legendary voices to read books, articles and other material to mobile users of its new Reader App. ElevenLabs envisions using AI for projects that might include Judy Garland reading *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, and Laurence Oliver narrating a Sherlock Holmes story, and already offers Judy Garland reading (briefly) from L. Frank Baum's book <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zo5-rhYO1Nk>.

Kinky Friedman died on June 26. He was a satirist, raconteur, songwriter, singer, unsuccessful political candidate, and author, who once told a reporter, "with a name like Kinky, you should be famous, or else it's a social embarrassment." His *Spanking Watson* (1999) was nicely Sherlockian, and his *Greenwich Killing Time* (1986) and *The Love Song of J. Edgar Hoover* (1996) had amusing Sherlockian allusions.

"A Brief History of Ghosts and Spirit Photography" is an 16-minute video tour of some of the treasures at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London <www.tinyurl.com/3twukxfj>, with brief mentions of Charles Altamont Doyle and his son (at 2:20-03:10 and 10:00).

Laurie R. King' new novel about Mary Russell's uncle Jake (Mar 24 #6) has a (probably) final title: *Knave of Diamonds*; there's a brief video at her Facebook page <www.facebook.com/reel/816124467162116>. And there will be a new edition of *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* from Midworld Press, with illustrations by Grace Aldrich; you can see some of her artwork at her website <www.gracealdrichillustration.com>, and previous Midworld titles at <www.midworldpress.com>.

Bill Seil has noted an interesting interactive map of the U.S. that shows almost 6,000 bookstores <www.iheartbookstores.com>, useful indeed for anyone wondering if there's a bookstore nearby.

When in Hull (in East Yorkshire): you can visit the Northern Academy for Performing Arts and see A. Garth Jones' mosaic "Triumph of Art over Ignorance" <www.thehullstory.com/allarticles/napa-column>. Sherlockians are indebted to Garth Jones for his striking designs for the decorated covers of the first British edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and the four volumes of the Souvenir Edition of the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Jul 24 #5 "Sherlock had been balling out in London as this world-class PI before he burned out on the game (and his massive coke habit, and straight up faked falling off a waterfall to get out)" according to Andrew Battershill, in his *Pet, Pet, Slap* (Toronto: Coach House Books, 2024; 235 pp., \$18.95); it's an intriguing surrealist and absurdist novel, featuring Pete "Pillow Fist" Wilson, with Holmes as Wilson's roommate and in-house doping expert.

Coming up on PBS-TV: "Lucy Worsley's Holmes vs. Doyle" will air in three weekly one-hour episodes beginning on Dec. 8; this is the American title for BBC Two's "Killing Sherlock: Lucy Worsley on the Case of Conan Doyle" mini-series that aired in the U.K. at the end of last year (Dec 23 #7).

Woof! Jennie Paton reports that Honour Sherlock is a greyhound racing in Nottingham <www.tinyurl.com/2t4afj28>.

Harry Houdini visited Cincinnati in 1925, with a check for \$5,000 offered to the medium Laura Pruden (who had thoroughly impressed Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) if she could prove that she wasn't faking; you can read all about it in a July 15 article in Cincinnati Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/3edtzbrw>.

It's time to report on something Guy Ritchie is doing while everyone waits for a third film in the Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" franchise (all that's needed for this is a script, and actors, and lots of money). What he is doing is preparing to direct an eight-episode "Young Sherlock" series for Amazon Prime Video, inspired by the "Young Sherlock Holmes" novels written by Andy Lane. Hero Fiennes Tiffin has been cast as Holmes, with Natascha McElhone and Colin Firth signed on in leading roles.

It's not unlikely that the success of Millie Bobby Brown's "Enola Holmes" films persuaded Amazon that the new young-adult series will be similarly popular with viewers. Andy Lane's "Doctor Who" novel *All-Consuming Fire* (Jul 94 #4) had The Doctor meeting Sherlock Holmes, and the later "Young Sherlock Holmes" novels were well-received.

Some grand news for admirers of Peter Cushing's performances as Sherlock Holmes: the Sherlock Holmes Society of London has announced the discovery of an audio recording of the long-lost BBC-1 television broadcast of "The Second Stain" (1968) <www.tinyurl.com/35fam34b>. The recording has been restored and will premiere at event in London and Birmingham in September. One hopes, needless to say, that it will be more widely available eventually.

Admirers of Mycroft Holmes will certainly enjoy Tauhid Bondia's "Crabgrass" comic strip (July 19) <www.gocomics.com/crabgrass/2024/07/19>, kindly reported by Bill Seil.

Les Klinger has kindly reported "Orlock Holmes: Night Detective" (a grand 37-second animation <www.youtube.com/watch?v=uk2Yx9izr3s> created in 2022 to honor the 100th anniversary of the release of the classic silent film "Nosferatu". Credit goes to Albin Grau and Nick Hilligoss for character design, and Nick Hilligoss for animation.

Jul 24 #6 When in Montana: you may want to visit the Montana Valley Book Store in Alberton (which is about 30 miles northwest of Missoula on US 90, near the border with Idaho). A report on NBC Montana, kindly at hand from Bill Seil <www.tinyurl.com/58d54yym>, explains that the store offers a chance to browse 100,000 used books. The store has a web-site at <www.montanavalleybookstore.com>, but (alas) there's no way to search for books on-line (as was the case with the late and lamented wonderful Acres of Books in Long Beach).

On July 18 Forum Auctions in London offered a copy of the first volume of The Strand Magazine, bound in the publisher's decorated blue cloth, with a decorated tan dust jacket <www.tinyurl.com/4meas4b7>. Estimated at £2,500-£3,500; it sold for £1,500.

Reported: *Holmes in the Heartland*, edited by Joe Eckrich and Rob Nunn; an anthology of presentations at the 2018 and 2023 conferences of the Parallel Case of St. Louis <www.tinyurl.com/5dtw3wdy>.

Theatrics: Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" is running at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre in San Diego, Calif., through Aug. 25; web-site at <www.theoldglobe.org>; and at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse in Cape May, N.J., through Aug. 25 <www.capemaystage.org>.

"Sherlock the Musical" (by Stefan van de Grff and Denning Burton) will be performed at the Building Block School for the Arts in Columbia, Tenn., on Aug. 2-4 <www.buildingblockarts.com>.

George Psarras' new "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Greek Interpreter" will be performed as a reading at the City Lights Theater in San Jose, Calif., on Aug. 4 <www.cltc.org>.

Tyler Scott Null's (also) new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Missing Mystery" will be performed as a staged reading at LaVal's Subterranean Theater in Berkeley, Calif., on Aug. 27 <www.aeofberkeley.org>.

Darryl Bojanowski's musical "The Case of the Counterfeit Napoleon" will be produced at the Palace Theatre in Duncan, Okla., Sept. 12-15; web-site at <www.duncanlittletheatre.com>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" is due at the First United Methodist Church in Elmhurst, Ill., Sept. 20-Oct. 6 <www.greenmantheatre.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Carrollwood Players Theatre in Tampa, Fla., Oct. 18-Nov. 3 <www.carrollwoodplayers.org>; at the Austin Playhouse in Austin, Tex., Nov. 22-Dec. 13 <www.austinplayhouse.com>; at the John Edson Anglin Performing Arts Center in Union, Mo., Mar. 1-4, 2025 <www.ecctheatre.com>; and the Lone Tree Arts Center in Lone Tree, Colo., Apr. 3-13 <www.lonetreeartscenter.org>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be performed at the Capital Repertory Theatre in Albany, N.Y., Nov. 22-Dec. 22 <www.attherep.org>;

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Interfax reported (July 23) that the Russian parliament has passed a package of bills that prohibit "the propaganda of narcotic drugs in Russia." But the Sherlock Holmes stories have not been banned: "all literature published before August 1, 1990, including works by Arthur Conan Doyle," is not affected <www.interfax.com/newsroom/top-stories/104479>. Things were different in 1929, when the Soviet government banned all of Conan Doyle's works, because of his interest in "occultism and spiritualism," and almost nothing was published in the USSR until some of the Sherlock Holmes stories were translated into Russian for distribution to the Soviet Army during World War Two.

RiffTrax <www.rifftrax.com> has added "Spider Woman" (1944) to its list of Sherlockian films with commentary by Mystery Science Theater 3000 alumnae Bridget Nelson and Mary Jo Pehl; needless to say, they never take movies seriously.

The new CBS-TV series "Watson" (Jan 24 #5) will debut at MIPCOM in Cannes on Oct. 24. MIPCOM [Marché International des Programmes de Communication] is a four-day trade show for the television industry, and "Watson" will be broadcast here after the football season ends. Morris Chestnut (who plays Watson) and Craig Sweeny (executive showrunner and producer) will attend the screening (Sweeny was executive producer and writer on the successful CBS-TV series "Elementary").

Conan Doyle isn't the only famous author to have been honored by Montblanc in their "writer's edition series of pens (Jul 21 #6). The latest author is Jane Austen <www.tinyurl.com/4s3wsd4b>, and if you'd like to have a Conan Doyle pen, run a Google search for [montblanc conan doyle].

Barry Le Cheminant has won this year's Conan Doyle competition, according to a report <www.tinyurl.com/5hcd3p3u> in the Jersey Evening Post on July 23. The Conan Doyle competition is held annually, with a prize awarded by Britain's National Rifle Association, and you can read more about that in Christopher Bunch's book *The National Rifle Association: Its Tramways and the London & South Western Railway* (2019), which is conveniently available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/bdda2vzs>, and in Mark Alberstat's article "Conan Doyle Takes Aim" in the winter 2022 issue of the Baker Street Journal.

It's nice to report that Glen Miranker was a successful bidder at the auction of the Swanktko collection at Sotheby's (Jun 24 #1), and is the new owner of the manuscript of "The Sign of the Four" and Sidney Paget's original artwork for "The Death of Sherlock Holmes".

Latvia is not high on the list of countries that Sherlockians visit, but a recent post at the Culture Trip web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yck648yu> was a fine reminder that it was in Riga that the first Russian "Sherlock Holmes" television series (1979-1986, starring Vasilij Livanov and Vitali Solomin as Holmes and Watson) was filmed, and with good reason: the city still has a lot of Victorian architecture, and was a convenient and excellent substitute for Sherlockian London.

Aug 24 #2 The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the summer 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.

Rebecca Romney continues to post sales lists of interesting material from the collection of Andrew Jay Peck; if you would like to be on her mailing list, just sent her a message at <info@typepunchmatrix.com>. There's much more Sherlockiana and Doyleana at her web-site <www.typepunchmatrix.com>.

The "Sherlock Holmes @ 50" conference in Minneapolis was thoroughly enjoyable, with more than 160 people registered for the festivities. The major news included the announcement of three major donations that will be coming to the Sherlock Holmes Collections: Laurie R. King's notes and drafts for her novels about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes, Denny Dobry's spectacular recreation of Holmes and Watson's sitting-room 221b Baker Street, and Jerry Margolin's comprehensive collection of original Sherlockian artwork. Laurie spoke (virtually) at the conference, and you can watch her video at <www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1536320753641832&ref=sharing>.

"Become a Detective at Sherlock Holmes Experience Space" was the headline on an article in the Shanghai Daily (Aug. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/4m9h3jyu> about a new attraction in the city's Old Millfun (described as a renovated historic slaughterhouse whose "unique architectural style and historical weight adds a mysterious atmosphere to the Experience Space").

Gaston Tissandier's *Popular Scientific Recreations in Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, Geology, Chemistry, etc., etc., etc.* ("profusely illustrated" and published by Ward, Lock, and Co., ca. 1883) provides a comprehensive view of what science was like at the beginning of Sherlock Holmes' career as a detective, and the entire 782-page book is conveniently available online at the Public Domain Review's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3v285wc7>.

"To the Tower," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Sign of the Four"). It is nice indeed that the Royal Mail has issued a set of stamps celebrating the Tower of London, which was built almost a thousand years ago as a fortress and a symbol of royal power.



Aug 24 #3 Conan Doyle was described as "not himself distinguished as a particularly acute thinker," and Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes as having "quite a sniff of priggery about these two precious gents," in a long letter written by J. R. R. Tolkien in 1947, recently offered by Bayliss Rare Books. It sold for \$26,041.00 <www.tinyurl.com/4wscrr9a>. Aziz Adam has reported a short video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=G18hNoTCSsw>.

Six letters and notes written about Spiritualism and Houdini were offered at Canterbury Auction Galleries in the U.K. this month, with an estimate of £3,000-£5,000 <www.tinyurl.com/9zw9989a>; they sold for £2,800 (plus the 30% buyer's premium). The next lot, a letter from Houdini, was estimated at £1,000-£1,500, and sold for £900 (plus the premium). You can read a BBC News article, posted a day before the sale, at <www.tinyurl.com/3rxjsrrx>.

Howard Brody ("Anstruther") died on July 22. He was a doctor and an educator, a pioneer in medical ethics, and a frequent contributor to the Baker Street Journal and Baker Street Miscellanea. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1981.

A recent post to the "Economist Writing Every Day" blog is a fine example of what happens when someone looks at something Sherlockian, and thinks, "I wonder..." <www.tinyurl.com/22kdwnnb>. The memorable scene in the dock-yard in the Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" film (2009) led to an interesting question: was that ship insured? And if you don't remember the scene, here it is at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8knG5h9m4I>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1942) in modern times, spotted by Jennie Paton <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bt04D5p-dQo>; someone has "enhanced" the Rathbone/Bruce using AI. If you can recall seeing the film projected in a theater, you can decide whether AI can take you back to the good old days, or (for younger generations) whether AI enhancement can be as good as remastering for DVD or Blu-ray.

The television series "The X-Files" had (and still has) fans galore, and one of the episodes ("Fire") was nicely Sherlockian and Doylean; you can read all about it in an article posted to the Giant Freakin Robot web-site (Aug. 13) <www.tinyurl.com/nhmmn66c>. And you can watch "The X-Files" on Hulu.

"The Baker Street Boys" (a 30-minute television series broadcast by BBC-1 in 1983, starring Roger Ostime and Hubert Rees) is conveniently available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/3c97rdz8>.

"Fogtown is a mystery comedy series of multimedia projects (including a TV show) that's been in development since 2020, featuring the adventures of a brilliant but easily-distracted detective Sherblock and his ever-devoted Blockon," according to the series web-site <www.fogtownseries.com> (all of the characters are puppets). Articles about "Fogtown" were published in the Portland Oregonian (Aug. 7) <www.tinyurl.com/59h9tx8y> and in the Willamette Week (Aug. 13) <www.tinyurl.com/34b8fv3d>, and the pilot episode premiered on Aug. 22 at a special event in Portland.

Aug 24 #4 *The Sherlock Society*, by James Ponti (New York: Aladdin, 2024, 339 pp., \$18.99), is an entertaining middle-grade (ages 8-12) novel about four youngsters who decide to become detectives, and wind up involved in solving a real crime; there are many echoes of the Canon, and it's the start of a new series by an experienced author. There's a free reading-group guide available at <www.simonandschuster.net>, and Ponti's web-site's at <www.jamesponti.com>.

Colleen Hoover's *It Ends with Us* is a romance novel published in 2019, and now a movie released this month. The movie seems to be accidentally Sherlockian, as noted in a review at the British Film Institute web-site (Aug. 9) <www.tinyurl.com/mtsbfa8j>.

An interesting copy of the first edition of Vincent Starrett's *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* will be at auction at PBA Galleries in Berkeley on Sept. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/mryncw4b>; it's inscribed by Starrett to Franklin Rhode, a fellow Sherlockian in Chicago as well as a fellow member of the Baker Street Irregulars, it's estimated at \$200-\$300.

Randall Stock has updated his web-site pages on Sherlockian manuscripts at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-manuscripts.htm> to show new information on the recent sale of "The Sign of the Four" and the on-going exhibition that includes "The Valley of Fear".

The television series "Gomorra" (which first aired on Sky Italia in 2014 and 2016) is again available on Max (formerly HBO). The series is a fictionalized account of today's crime syndicate in Naples, and the title's a pun on the syndicate's real name, the Camorra <www.tinyurl.com/2yfundtv>, which of course is well known to those who are aware that the manuscript of "The Red Circle" states "Camorra" (but when the story was published the name was changed to "Carbonari"). Of course there are subtitles in English; when the series aired in Italy it was subtitled in Italian, because the dialogue is in the Neapolitan dialect rather than in proper Italian. Fair warning: the series is not for the faint-hearted.

"Mastermind" (a long-running British television game-show series launched on BCC-1 in 1972, and still on the air on BBC One) has had contestants who chose "Sherlock Holmes" as their topic. Philip Gartside was a contestant on Mar. 5, 1989, and Wilfrid de Freitas has suggested that you might want to see how you do <www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfszihbvL6E>. Wilfrid reports that he "failed miserably."

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's 2024 Christmas Card Competition is now open, and you don't need to be a member of the Society to submit a design; the deadline is Sept. 15, and you'll find more information about it at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/christmas-card-competition-2024>.

The Northern Opera Group's opera "The Sign of Four" premiered at the Leeds Opera Festival this month, with much of the publicity explaining that it's the first Sherlockian opera. It may be the first one in Britain, but the U.S. had "A Scandal in Bohemia" (2009) and "Sherlock Holmes and the Fallen Giant" (2015), and there have been Sherlockian operas in Japan and China.

Aug 24 #5 Registration is now open for the fourth annual BSI Trust Lecture, available free on Sept. 21 via Zoom, but with registration required. Mattias Boström has analyzed thousands of newspaper articles to perform a deep dive into the activities of the Baker Street Irregulars to shed light on how the BSI has helped create and shape the Sherlockian landscape for nearly a century. You can register for the event at <www.bsitrust.org>.

Kingsley Amis' "Dr. Watson and the Darkwater Hall Mystery" was broadcast by BBC-1 (1974), and published in Playboy (May 1978). You can now watch the broadcast at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA0LbivaRBs>; Edward Fox appears as Watson.

"An Exciting Day at the Track" read the headline in the Spokane Press on Sept. 26, 1906, discovered by John Lockwood. "The talent all got down on Sherlock Holmes for the next heat," according to the article about harness racing at the Interstate park. You can read all about it at the Library of Congress web-site <www.tinyurl.com/um8f5j2h>.

Rebecca Romney is continuing to star as the book specialist on the "Pawn Stars" television series. On Aug. 14 she appraised the Limited Editions Club eight-volume "Sherlock Holmes" set; you can watch her segment on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=RV2UZm2Jiqg>.

Mike Homer notes that a friend has reported a Sherlock Holmes Irish Pub in Zumpano (in Cosenza Province in Calabria in Italy); plenty of reviews on-line but apparently no web-site.

The Reading Room in the British Museum, which has been closed to the public for many years, is open to visitors again, and Country Life had a nice story about it on Aug. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/2axmn7t3>. Conan Doyle was one of many people who had reader's tickets, and Sherlock Holmes spent a morning there reading about voodooism (as noted in "Wisteria Lodge"). There also is a nicely illustrated report about the Reading Room at the British Museum's web-site blog <www.tinyurl.com/bdh6he74>.

Registration is now open for "221B Con: A Fan Con For All Things Sherlock Holmes" in Atlanta, Apr.11-13, 2025 <www.221bcon.com>; many Sherlockians have attended, and I don't know anyone who didn't have a good time.

The John H. Watson Society, which bills itself as "The Open and Inclusive Worldwide Online Sherlockian Society (Really, We're about Having Fun)," has an annual John H. Watson Treasure Hunt; it's far from easy, and you can read all about it at <www.johnhwatsonssociety.com>.

"Shekhar Home" (a new six-episode Bengali television series from BBC Studios Productions India) is inspired by the Canon and stars Kay Kay Menon in the title role and Ranvir Shorey as his friend and assistant Jayavrat Saini. It debuted on Aug. 14, and was widely reviewed in India. You can find reviews (and a trailer) on-line, and watch episodes (with subtitles in English) at <www.dailymotion.com>; search for [shekhar home s01e01] to find the first episode (and s01e02, etc., for the others).

Aug 24 #6 Mystery fans who have attended Malice Domestic and other conferences will have enjoyed presentation by Luci Zahray, who is renowned as "the poison lady" and gladly shares her expertise with authors who want to learn interesting ways to poison people. You can read about her in the Gatesville Messenger (Aug. 22) <www.tinyurl.com/43d7wrve> and at the Daily Beast web-site (Aug. 7) <www.tinyurl.com/5xpf3nez>.

Lincoln Peirce's "Big Nate" comic strip had Nate in a Sherlockian arc that ran from Aug 19 through Aug. 24 <www.bignate.com>.

Bill Seil has forwarded an article in Publishers Weekly (July 31) reporting <www.tinyurl.com/8u43jp8f> the purchase by Barnes & Noble of the Tattered Cover bookstore in Denver. It's nice news indeed for faithful customers, but what's really interesting is the list of formerly independent bookstores now owned by Elliott Investment Management: Waterstones, Blackwell's Hatchards, Foyles, Hodges Figgis, Barnes & Noble, among others.

So Far Down Queer Street, Holly Turner's on-line journal that focuses on "Aspects of the Sherlockian canon and adaptations that are not ordinarily discussed in scholarly work," was launched in 2022, and the fourth issue is now available, at <www.downqueerstreet.com>; click on "Issues" to see all of them.

Rare Birds Books bills itself as "Edinburgh's liveliest bookstore," and is hosting a "make friends mixer" tea on Sept. 14 <www.tinyurl.com/2vysmt96>. The menu honors the city's famous writers <www.tinyurl.com/4fhkrwtu> and includes a raspberry cranachan as a tribute to Conan Doyle. You can consult Wikipedia's entry for "cranachan" to see how delicious it is.

Theater news: Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" is running at the Lakewood Theater in Madison, Maine, through Sept. 7 <www.lakewoodtheater.org>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at the Repertory Company Theatre in Richardson, Tex., Sept. 6-15 <www.rcttheatre.com>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" is due at the Warehouse Theatre in Greenville, S.C., Sept. 13-Oct. 6 <www.warehousetheatre.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is scheduled at the Theatre in the Country in Langley, B.C., Sept. 11-28 <www.theatreinthecountry.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be produced at the Playhouse in Huntsville, Ala., Sept. 13-22 <www.theatrehsv.org>.

Alexander Shevtsov's musical "Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia" has been scheduled (in Russian with English subtitles) at the Russian Club in Strathfield, N.S.W., Sept. 20-Nov. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/2k6ujzxw>.

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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 Journalist 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 journalist, 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/42jksnyv>. 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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