

A bit more about the Grolier Club's exhibition of "Imaginary Books: Lost, Unfinished, and Fictive Works Found Only in Other Books" from the collection of Reid Byers (Jan 25 #2): the catalog twice references Walter Klinefelter (who was a member of the Baker Street Irregulars, as "The British Barque *Sophy Anderson*, 1962), once for his *Books About Poictesme: An Essay in Imaginative Bibliography* (1937), and again for his *The Fortsas Bibliohoax* (1941). You'll find much more about Klinefelter, who was a friend of Vincent Starrett, in two entries (on May 9 and 13, 2024) at Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincetstarrett.com>.

And there's good news for those who weren't able to see the exhibition at the Grolier Club: according to the catalog, the exhibition will be at the Book Club of California in San Francisco, Mar. 17 to July 14, and then on tour through 2028, before returning to the Club Fortsas in Paris. If you would like to know more about the Club Fortsas you are welcome to visit <www.reidbyer.com/fortsas>. Reid will offer some remarks at the opening on Mar. 17, in-person and on-line; register at <www.tinyurl.com/yyy5fk94>.

The Grolier Club's spectacular web-page for the exhibition may well still be available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/54x76xcb>, and well worth exploring. Don't neglect the menu with live links at the left, which will allow you to see close-up views, with commentary, of many of the books on display at the Grolier.

Matt Berry will provide the voice of Sherlock Holmes (in a hallucination) in the seventh episode of the "Watson" television series, according to a post at the TV Insider web-site (Feb. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/yffjmsrh>. And there will be at least ten episodes <www.epguides.com/Watson>.

Bonnie MacBird's *The Serpent Under: Treachery, Twists, and Terror in Baker Street* (New York: Collins Crime Club, 2025; 367 pp., \$26.99), the sixth in her series of novels about Holmes and Watson, lives up to the subtitle by offering readers a thriller as well as a mystery. It begins with a summons to Windsor and a commission from Her Majesty to investigate a bizarre murder, and ends in Baker Street with the mystery solved. You will find more about the book, and other titles in the series, at Bonnie's web-site <www.macird.com>.

Howard Ostrom has reported Project Audion <www.projectaudion.com>, which was launched during the pandemic with the goal of recreating old-time radio broadcasts and making them available at YouTube. They have done many programs, two of them Sherlockian: "Murder in the Casbah" (1945) and "The Curse of Dr. Anselmo" (1945).

Their web-site also offers a link to a wide variety of scripts at the Generic Radio Workshop <www.genericradio.com>, where there are free downloads of scripts that include the Rathbone, Conway, and Gielgud series [sherlock holmes]; the Orson Welles' version of the William Gillette play [mercury theatre]; the Jack Benny program with a 12-minute version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" [jack benny show]; and a broadcast of "The Lost Special" [suspense].

Feb 25 #2 The fall issue of The Magic Door (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Tom Ue's article on "Storytelling at its Finest", Jessie Amaolo's impressive account of the Library's Digital Archive, and Rebecca Nevset's discussion of Watson's descriptions of Anglo-Indian heroines. Copies of the newsletter are available from Cliff Goldfarb (Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Go to <www.youtube.com/watch?v=DW2APROQo4g> to see Craig Fraley perform an intriguing Sherlockian card trick. One wonders where all the Sherlockian magicians are: the Sherlock Holmes Magic Circle no longer is active.

Twelve Classic Christmas Stories: A Feast of Yuletide Tales is edited by Timothy Larsen (Chicago: Moody, 2024; 328 pp., \$22.99); it's an anthology intended as "a Christian affirmation of yuletide joy and celebration," and includes "The Blue Carbuncle". The book is one of many titles published by the Moody Bible Institute.

G. Washington Coffee sponsored "Sherlock Holmes" radio programs from 1930 to 1935, with William Gillette, Richard Gordon, and Louis Hector starring as Holmes. And there really was a G. Washington: there's an interesting entry for him at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/233urjuu>.

H. S. Carter's article on "Medical Matters in the Sherlock Holmes Stories" in the Dec. 1947 issue of the Glasgow Medical Journal is available on-line at <www.pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5969659>, noted by editor Terri Haugen in this month's issue of Ineffable Twaddle, the newsletter of the Sound of the Baskervilles.

An interesting letter written by F. Scott Fitzgerald was sold by a dealer at the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America's virtual book fair this month <www.fairs.abaa.org/item/1593881128>. Fitzgerald mentions having written an "utterly imitative" Sherlock Holmes story, which may or may not have become his first appearance in print, "The Mystery of the Raymond Mortgage" (published in a school magazine in 1909, discovered by Fred Dannay, and published in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Mar. 1960).

The letter reminded Dan Stashower of something Conan Doyle wrote: "Every writer is imitative at first. My early work, as I look back on it, was a sort of debased composite photograph in which five or six different styles were contending for the mastery."

Jules Feiffer died on Jan. 17. He was a talented cartoonist who began his career at the Village Voice in 1956 and went on to win a Pulitzer Prize in 1986; he also was highly praised for his plays, movie scripts, and children's books. He drew a Sherlockian cartoon for the Village Voice (Apr. 24, 1978, p. 4), conveniently on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/2mwau34u>.

Sherlock Holmes paid fifty-five shillings for his Stradivarius violin, and it was worth at least five hundred guineas (at the time of "The Cardboard Box"). That was then. Last month the Joachim-Ma Stradivarius was sold at Sotheby's for \$10 million (\$11.3 million including the buyer's premium); you can watch the auction at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLHFGPSZeKQ>. The estimate before the sale was \$12 to \$18 million, and Sotheby's had a promotional video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbqmZBcf_98&t=1s>.

Feb 25 #3 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.

Some news about the next 221B Con, which is coming up on Apr. 11-13 in Atlanta <www.221bcon.com/news/ye2k7hionkue433bm9tzfc4go6br3y>.

Pattie Tierney's *Murder on the Menu: Recipes from Sleuthing Stars* (available free on Amazon Kindle Unlimited, or \$4.99 on basic Kindle) has Sherlockian contributors that include actors Steven Fry (Mycroft), John Thaw (Jonathan Small) and Rosalie Williams (Mrs. Hudson); authors Lloyd Biggle Jr., Loren D. Estleman, Otto Penzler. and Daniel D. Victor; and many others from the world of Sherlockians. A paperback version of the cookbook is due in late spring.

Jennie Paton found another Sherlockian card trick performed by Pit Hartling at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYklko62JPA>; with audio in French, but the closed captions are in English.

Geneviève Page died on Feb. 14. She began her acting career in France in the 1940s, and made her film debut in 1950, going on to star in "Foreign Intrigue" (1956), "El Cid" (1960), "Belle de Jour" (1967), and (as Gabrielle Valladon) in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).

If you wondered about the colorful dinosaurs that Dan Stashower and Lucy Worsley visited in the third episode of her series about Holmes and Conan Doyle, here's their history, with a contemporary illustration, thanks to the Public Domain Review <www.tinyurl.com/yc5xbc9r>. You also can visit them in London now <www.tinyurl.com/3kn89ked>.

Paul Morrissey died on Oct. 28, 2024. He began his career in films in the 1950s, and by the late 1960s was a dedicated collaborator with Andy Warhol at the Factory, going on to direct films that included the Peter Cook/Dudley Moore "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978).

More about the "Watson" series now running on CBS-TV: almost all the series was filmed in or near Vancouver; some viewers are wondering why they see so much of Pittsburgh. The answer's simple: Craig Sweeny, who created the series, was born in Pittsburgh and grew up there. If you've not seen the first episode, it may still be at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/2jxuss36>.

Railway enthusiasts such as Ralph Edwards, Wayne and Francine Swift, and John Baesch, and others who enjoy the idea of private varnish (you're welcome to look that up) never got round to creating a Sherlockian society, but they'd certainly be delighted to hear about the Sky Railway, which was founded in 2020 from the ashes of the Santa Fe Southern Railroad; the web-site's at <www.skyrailway.com>. And so would John Bennett Shaw, since the railway runs between Santa Fe and Lamy, and it's almost as good an excuse to visit Santa Fe as was a visit to John Bennett Shaw and his spectacular library. Thank to Douglas Preston, you and everyone else in your party can receive a \$15.00 discount through Oct. 1 by using the codeword PENDERGAST when you purchase tickets.

Feb 25 #4 There have been all sort of ways attention was drawn to films over the years. Michael Meer has reported that when "Der Hund von Baskerville" was released in Dusseldorf in 1914, uniformed "messenger boys" wore sashes with the title of the film and walked the streets of the city accompanied by spotted Great Danes. And he has found film, so you can see for yourself <www.tinyurl.com/bdexeuc8>.

There also was some imaginative publicity for "The Lost World" (1925) when it was screened in Wellington, New Zealand, as shown in my seasonal souvenir for this year's birthday festivities in New York. If you've not seen it, just let me know and I'll be happy to send you a scan.

Welcome news for fans of the Granada series that starred Jeremy Brett: the "Sherlock Holmes" CD issued by Jay Records in 2000, with Patrick Gowers' music, is available again (£12.99) <www.tinyurl.com/mwzap53e>.

Anthony R. Lewis died on Feb. 11. He was one of the founders of the New England Science Fiction Association and active in many World Science Fiction Conferences, and his short-story pastiche "The Adventure of the Illegal Alien" was included in the anthology *Sherlock Holmes in Orbit* (1995).

The Feb. 17+24 issue of The New Yorker celebrated the magazine's 100th anniversary, mentioning Sherlock Holmes in a retrospective article by Jill Lepore about the history of the magazine, and (perhaps more important) a "Looking Back" column with reminders from the "Goings On" feature of reviews from the Feb. 21, 1925, issue, one of which (written by Will Hayes Jr.) in its entirety, was: "Moving Pictures. The Lost World, Astor Theatre. Through camera trickery, dinosauri and other beasts of the prehistoric past live again. Interesting because it proves that the camera is a liar."

Peter Lovesey's last Peter Diamond novel is *Against the Grain* (Soho Crime, 2024), in which Diamond visits "the idyllic village of Baskerville (no relation to the Sherlock Holmes story), so he's told."

"Detective Chinatown 1900" is the third in a series of Chinese films that feature Liu Haoran (Qin Fu) as the detective. You can see him perform in Sherlockian costume in a trailer (with subtitles in English) that Aziz Adam has found at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivy8A3GmK6U>.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have interviewed Ira Brad Matetsky, editor of *That Ghastly Face*, the latest volume (about "The Blanched Soldier") in the Baker Street Irregulars Press' Manuscript Series (Jan 25 #3); you can listen to the interview at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast, online at <www.tinyurl.com/bdh7hmrn>.

The Electronic Freedom Foundation's "Privacy Badger" is an intriguing (and free) app that will help you avoid being tracked by third parties when you visit some web-sites <www.privacybadger.org>; it works nicely on most (but not all) browsers.

If you weren't able to see the new play "Holmes/Poirot" (by Jeffrey Hatcher and Steve Hendrickson) in St. Paul, Minn., last year, you can suggest it to your local theater; the play is now available for license from the Dramatists Play Service. You can also read the script; an ePub version is available (\$17.50) <www.dramatists.com/cgi-bin/db/single.asp?key=6693>.

Feb 25 #5 Further to Al Gregory's offer for sale of four letters written and signed by King Charles III that have serious Sherlockian content (Dec 24 #3), there's much more information about them (with illustrations) in a post by Scott Monty to the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/w6p89tzb>. Three of the letters were written to Douglas Wilmer, and one to his widow, when Charles was still the Prince of Wales.

There's another Sherlockian connection for Prince Charles: in 1969, while he was a student at Trinity College, Cambridge, he performed as Sir Cumberbund Overspill in a short skit "The Hound of the Overspills". Alas, there is no recording of the skit, but you can read the script in the June 1969 issue of Bill Rabe's *The Commonplace Book*, a wonderful compilation of anything Bill thought interesting and happily photocopied for his CPB.

The Bookseller has reported (Feb. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/hde67c89> that Hodder & Stoughton has signed with Lucy Worsley for three new books, one of them a biography of Conan Doyle. Her U.S. publisher is Pegasus Books.

Yet another Sherlockian card trick, reported by Jennie Pagon, with a tutorial so you can perform it <www.youtube.com/watch?v=bs7Ud9s8onw>.

Occasionally a book or play or film turns up with a Sherlockian title, but isn't Sherlockian: Jane Upton's new play "(the) Woman" certainly is one of them <www.tinyurl.com/4r8fwrwn>.

Jim Ballinger has entertained the Bootmakers of Toronto (and others) for many years, and he has now composed (and performed) songs for all of the 60 stories; you can hear them all, and his other Sherlockian songs, at his YouTube channel <www.youtube.com/@sherlocksongs221b/videos>.

The nominees for the Agatha Awards from *Malice Domestic* include Elizabeth Crowens' *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskerville* (for best first mystery novel) (Feb 24 #8), James Ponti's *The Sherlock Society* (best children's/young adult mystery novel) (Aug 24 #4), and Evan Friss' *The Bookshop: A History of the American Bookstore* (best mystery nonfiction) (Jan 25 #5); the full list of nominees is at <www.tinyurl.com/4y89y742>. Donna Andrews, author of *The Hen of the Baskervilles* (Jul 13 #3) and the editor of the anthology *School of Hard Knox* (Oct 23 #2) will receive a lifetime achievement award.

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." New issues are published near the end of each month, and PDFs of current and past issues, with recent issues in full color and with live links, are always available at <www.redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39>. If you occasionally forget that a PDF of a new issue is available on-line, you're welcome to join the Google Group for monthly reminders; just let me know by e-mail <blau7103@comcast.net>.

If you would like to run a word-search on a large file that has 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 posts it at the Beacon Society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2wnkcccu>.

Feb 25 #6 Theatrics; Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Burt-
ness Theatre in Grand Forks, N.D., through Mar. 2; web-site at
<www.burtness.und.edu>. It also will be performed at the Cape Rep Theatre
in Brewster, Mass., Mar. 6-8 <www.caperrep.org>; and at the Shoeni Theatre
in Mendocino, Calif., Mar. 6-Apr. 6 <www.mendocinotheatre.org>. Also at
the Chemainus Theatre in Chemainus, B.C., May 2 to June 1; their web-site
is at <www.chemainusthetrefestival.ca>. And at the Strand Theater in Wat-
ertown, N.Y., May 8-10 <www.littletheatreofwatertown.com>.

The musical "The Remarkable Mister Holmes" (by Daniel Lincoln, David El-
lenstein, and Omri Schein) will be performed at the Laguna Playhouse in
Laguna Beach, Calif., Mar. 5-30 <www.lagunaplayhouse.com>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" will be performed at the
Cannon Street Arts Center in Charleston, S.C., Mar. 6-29; web-site's at
<www.puretheatre.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be performed at The Coro in Ulverston, Cum-
bria, Mar. 11-14 <www.thecoro.co.uk>; at Barton College in Wilson, N.C., on
Mar. 13-16 <www.barton.edu/baskerville>; and at the Allen Contemporary
Theatre in Allen, Tex., Mar. 14-30 <www.allencontemporarytheatre.net>.

Kent R. Brown's "The Hound of the Baskervilles: A Comic Thriller Starring
Shirley Holmes and Jennie Watson" will be performed at the Greenhills High
School in Ann Arbor, Mich., Mar. 13-15 <www.greenhillsschool.org>.

"Steamin' Sherlock and the Hound of the Govanhillies" will be performed at
Inn Deep in Glasgow, Mar. 25-27, during the Glasgow International Comedy
Festival <www.tinyurl.com/yzv5d9k3>. "A demonic dug, a famous detective
duo, and some drunken debauchery...it's all going down in Govanhill."

"Sherlock Holmes and the Presidential Scandal" is due at the Greater Escam-
bia Council for the Arts in Atmore, Ala., Apr. 24-May 4 <www.gecarts.org>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" is due at the
Avon High school in Avon, Ind., Apr. 25-27 <www.avonhs.booktix.com>. And
at Saint Mary's Parish Hall in Brantford, Ont., June 6-8; their web-site's
at <www.ichthystheatre.ca>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Thief of Antiquity" will be performed at the The-
atre Royal in Winchester, June 11-12 <www.blueappletheatre.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the 12 Days of Christmas" (a new musical comedy writ-
ten by Humphrey Ker and David Reed, and with songs by Tim Rice and Andrew
Lloyd Webber) will be performed at the Birmingham Rep in Birmingham, West
Midlands, Nov. 14-Jan. 11 <www.birmingham-rep.co.uk>. There was an arti-
cle about the show in the Guardian (Feb. 11) <www.tinyurl.com/2v9jn9xp>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and Case of the Fallen Soufflé will be
performed at the Stage West Theatre in Fort Worth, Tex., June 12-29; web-
site at <www.stagewest.org>.

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