

Some non-Sherlockian original artwork by Frederic Dorr Steele was offered by Heritage Auctions last month <www.tinyurl.com/2v29ff7r>; his illustrations for Ellis Parker Butler's short story "The False Gods of Doc Weaver" were sold for \$450, including the buyer's premium. The story appeared in the Sept. 1901 issue of The Century Magazine, and it's available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/4trawwrj>, allowing you can compare the artwork with what appeared in the magazine (and read the story, of course).

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's excursion to India (Feb 24 #2) is getting prominent mention in the Indian press, including an article in the Kolkata Telegraph (Mar. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/mrjtnsr5>.

Ray Betzner has reported Scott Heller's interview with Mark Greaney (who writes the "Gray Man" espionage series) in the N.Y. Times Sunday Book Review (Mar. 2). Heller asked: "You're organizing a literary dinner party. Which three writers, dead or alive, do you invite?" Greaney replied: "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sir Winston Churchill, and David Sedaris. That would be a weird night."

The Deadline website reports that the series "Sherlock & Daughter" (with David Thewlis as Holmes) will debut on The CW on Apr. 16.

"I'm going to be doing an 'Enola Holmes 3' this year," according to Millie Bobby Brown, at the Collider web-site (Mar. 5) <www.tinyurl.com/54w57nfr>. "We start filming in the coming weeks. I'm very excited." There's no word on when we might expect to see the third film on Netflix, but it's likely to turn up next year.

Ross E. Davies' *Casey at the Bat and the Supreme Court* (Washington: Green Bag Press, 2024; 163 pp., \$65.00 hardbound/\$35.00 softbound) is subtitled as a short and incomplete chronicle of connections; it is an interesting and amusing exploration of the now-legendary poem's history, baseball, and (as Ross promises in his preface) the "closenesses and distances between law and literature." It's also Sherlockian, closing with comment on Martin Gardner's *The Annotated Casey at the Bat*, and his explanation of the connection between Casey's Mudville and Sherlock Holmes. You can order the book at <www.tinyurl.com/bdfhxa9m>.

But: if all you want is to know what that connection is, Gardner explained that the reason one cannot today find Mudville in Kansas today is that the town's civic leaders, hoping to escape its disgraceful image, changed its name to Moorville; that didn't work, and the town withered on the vine (so to speak) and vanished, which is why, now, Moorville can be found only in the text of "The Three Garridebs".

The Letters of Noël Coward, edited and with commentary by Barry Day (Alfred A. Knopf, 2007) has an interesting paragraph, in which Ian Fleming, Leslie Howard, David Niven, Roald Dahl, Alexander and Zoltan Korda, and Cary Grant are reported as having something in common with Coward: they were all recruited by William Stephenson to assist the British Security Coordination, the administrative headquarters for the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) and the Special Operations Executive (SOE). It was the SOE who called themselves the Baker Street Irregulars because they were headquartered in Baker Street.

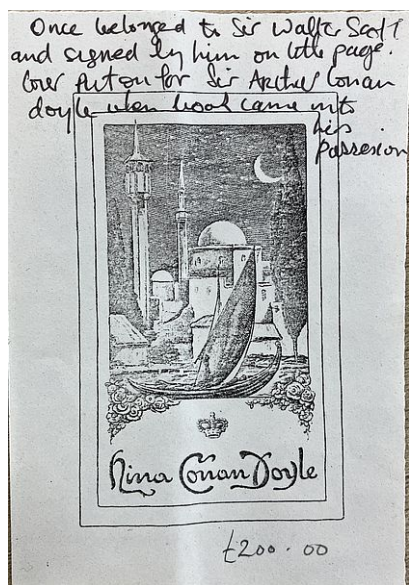
Mar 25 #2 Rebecca Romney's *Jane Austen's Bookshelf: A Rare Book Collector's Quest to Find the Women Writers Who Shaped a Legend* (New York: Marysue Ricci/Simon & Schuster, 2025; 453 pp., \$29.99), is as much a memoir as it is an exploration of authors Austen admired; the introduction is nicely Sherlockian, as might be expected, since Rebecca is a member of the Baker Street Irregulars. She is also an expert book dealer, an energetic and informed collector, and a writer who kindly shares the fun she has had in her quest. Recommended.

Rebecca also has an on-going series of short videos covering a wide range of collectables (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian), explaining various aspects of book collecting <www.youtube.com/@rebecca.romney/shorts>.

Laurie R. King's *Knave of Diamonds* (New York: Bantam Books, 2025; 318 pp., \$30.00) is the 20th title in her series about Mary Russell, her (now) husband Sherlock Holmes, and her Uncle Jake, and it's a welcome addition to the series that began with *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*. It was Uncle Jake who gave young Mary her throwing knife, and taught her how to use it; she hasn't heard from him in years, but now (in 1925) Jake has returned and he involves Mary, and Sherlock, in a search for the Irish Crown Jewels (which were stolen from Dublin Castle in 1907 and never recovered). No spoilers here, but you'll have fun with the book.

Offered at Forum Auctions in London on Mar. 6: a book owned and signed by Walter Scott, and then owned by Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/3sjmy5yx>. Estimated at £200-£300, it sold for £750 (plus a 26% buyer's premium). Of interest for Doyleans was the laid-in bookplate of Nina Conan Doyle, the wife of Conan Doyle's son Denis. Has anyone ever seen her bookplate in another book? Could this be something truly new?

A Sir Arthur Conan Doyle bookplate with an elaborate family coat of arms is relatively common, and confusing to collectors who don't know that Adrian Conan Doyle obtained the family coat of arms from the Dublin Herald and added the bookplate to the books in his father's library after Adrian moved into the Château de Lucens; some of the books had been acquired by Adrian after his father's death.



R.P. O'Donnell, author of *No Comfort for the Dead* (Jan 25 @7) has posted to CrimeReads an excellent essay on "Sherlock Holmes in the World"; it's online at <www.crimereads.com/sherlock-holmes-in-the-world>.

Jan C. Prager ("Lowenstein of Prague") died on Nov. 18, 2024. Jan was a pioneer in environmental protection, first with the Sandy Hook Laboratory in Jersey, and then with the Environmental Protection Agency in Rhode Island. His grand sense of humor inspired him to use, on visits to the EPA headquarters in Washington, an official identity card issued to his miniature poodle Phineas T. Buzzerhound, and it took almost three years before an alert security guard actually looked at the card. Jan received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1975.

Mar 25 #3 Christopher Plummer's *In Spite of Myself: A Memoir* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008) is a detailed, and interesting account of the life and career of a noted actor who credits include appearances as Sherlock Holmes on television in "Silver Blaze" (1977) and on the screen in "Murder by Decree" (1979). He also toured in the one-man play "Barrymore" (1997), becoming one of the very few actors who have played both Sherlock Holmes and an actor who played Sherlock Holmes



"Holmes discovered that we had come without our spoon-bait for jack," according to Watson (in "Shoscombe Old Place") "which absolved us from fishing for the day." While that may not be the most memorable of Watson's sentences in the Canon, it certainly presents a puzzle for readers who don't have access to annotations. The U.S. Postal Service has issued a sheet of five stamps showing freshwater fishing lures, one of them a spoon lure. "Spoon lures have been around since the 1800s and are named for the concave shape," according to their press release, which adds that "Spoons have remained popular because their unique movement and glimmer under water are so effective at catching fish," such as bass, pike and trout." And "jack" is a common name for pike.

Rebecca Rego Barry's *The Vanishing of Carolyn Wells: Investigations into a Forgotten Mystery Author* (New York: Post Hill, 2024; 332 pp., \$30.00) is a detailed account of the life and career of a best-selling author who wrote more than 80 mysteries and many other books from the 1890s into the 1940s, but now is largely ignored by those who write about the genre. There are many mentions of Conan Doyle and Holmes (she wrote two Sherlockian ballads and two pastiches), and Christopher Morley and Vincent Starrett.

Barry also reports an anonymous article in the Apr. 1905 issue of the Century Magazine on "President Roosevelt as a Reader" that praises Theodore Roosevelt as "one of the greatest readers we have among our literary men" and lists, among the many books he read in 1901-1903, Conan Doyle's "The White Company".

Harold E. Niver ("The Man on the Tor") died on Mar. 17. He contributed to the Baker Street Journal and many other Sherlockian society publications. He obtained a SHROLOK license plate and his many interests included music and especially William Gillette. Tyke and his wife Teddie founded the Men on the Tor in 1977, and impersonated the Gillettes at Gillette Castle on weekends beginning in 2001, and in Victorian costume celebrated their 50th wedding this year at the Castle. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1979.

Michael Cohen's *The Golden Era of Sherlock Holmes and His Contemporaries* (Milwaukee: Genius Book Publishing, 2024; 258 pp., \$16.95) begins with the publication of the first Sherlock Holmes short stories in The Strand Magazine, and goes on to discuss the wide variety of authors whose detectives, amateur and professional, were inspired by Conan Doyle's success. Cohen's book is a detailed and informed guide to the genre. But (fair warning): he seems to have written for academics, offering plot summaries that will spoil things for those who would prefer to be surprised when they read the stories. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's recent interview with Cohen at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/29hja47n> offers much more about the book, and its author.

Mar 25 #4 Mark your calendar for July 26, when Denny Dobry will be holding an open house at his home in Reading, Pa., where visitors can enter (and play in) his splendid recreation of the sitting-room, and browse the shelves in his book fair, where he will be selling Sherlockiana that has been donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust (prices will be modest indeed) and publications of the BSI Press. It's well worth a visit, and directions are available from Denny <dendobry@ptd.net>. You can see colorful images at <www.bsitrust.org/2021/06/book-fair-2021.html> from his similar event in 2021.

The Royal Mint happily offers a wide range of collectibles in addition to providing pocket change, and they have just added a £5 coin honoring John Lennon to their "Music Legends" series <www.tinyurl.com/2hdrbdjt>; there's a Sherlockian connection for Lennon, of course: his self-portrait in Sherlockian costume will be found in his *A Spaniard in the Works* (1965), along with his Shamrock Wolms and Doctored Whopper parody "The Singularge Experience of Miss Anne Duffield".

Sharon Klinger died on Mar. 6. Her husband Les Klinger described her as his inspiration and as his head cheerleader, and he thanked her for proof-reading every word of his Edgar Award-winning *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Short Stories*. She was honored as *The Woman* by the Baker Street Irregulars in 2009.

Bill Seil has noted the availability (for 99¢) <www.tinyurl.com/444mdj7c> of a ringtone of the theme music from the BBC "Sherlock" series.

Ed Rampell's review, in the *Progressive Magazine* (Mar. 19) of Francis MacDonnell's new book *Policing Show Business: J. Edgar Hoover, the Hollywood Blacklist, and Cold War Movies*, mentions what MacDonnell calls "the Sunset Street Irregulars" (movie industry insiders who spied and snitched on colleagues to Hoover's investigators).

If you missed Reid Byers' remarks at the opening of the exhibition of imaginary books at the Book Club of California (Feb 25 #1), they're on-line at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=M75FjR59Tes>. You will get to see two of the exhibition's Sherlockian items: Aristotle's *Poetics II: On Comedy* and "The Giant Rate of Sumatra" in the June 1909 issue of *The Strand Magazine* (Jan 25 #2).

Many people hoping to find recruits interested in founding a Sherlockian society have in the past relied on the classified advertisements in their local newspapers, but now the Internet has essentially replaced the classifieds. But newspapers do have web-sites, and they can be useful, as was the *Albuquerque Journal* on Mar. 21 <www.tinyurl.com/3bvykt9e>.

The oil-on-canvas painting "Chimney-sweep" by Swedish artist Frans Wilhelm Odemark (1880) is in a private collection, but you can see it at Wikimedia <www.tinyurl.com/47yfxupj>. And in the March issue of *The Moor*, the journal of the Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden. It's a grand reminder of what Watson wrote (in "The Five Orange Pips") when he said that "the wind cried and sobbed like a child in the chimney." That child was of course a chimney-sweep, as readers of the story in the November 1891 issue of *The Strand Magazine* would have known.

Mar 25 #5 Simon Fisher-Becker died on Mar. 9. A British character actor, he began his career on television in the early 1990s, and went on to provide voices for audio and podcast series. He voiced Arthur Morstan in "The Ghost of of Chammersmith Manor" (2022), an episode in the Overton Audios "Sherlock Holmes" mini-series that starred Connor Chadwick (Holmes) and John N. Harper (Watson). The mini-series is on-line at YouTube, and the episode is at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hVnpvwHkHg>.

More about the "Watson" series now running on CBS-TV: it seems there will be a break in the broadcast schedule (one assumes there are some serious Sunday sports coming up). The next-to-last episode will air on Apr. 13, and the last episode will air in two parts on May 4 and 11. In the meantime, there's an interview with series costume designer Kerry Weinrauch at the ProductionHUB blog (Mar. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/26szvpna>, and another with Ritchie Coster (Shinwell Johnson) at the Ghostly Gallery podcast, on-line at You-tube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXrYPE30hyI>. And there's more news: the network announced (Mar. 26) that the series has been renewed for a second season <www.tinyurl.com/5f6kpukc>.

Leonard Goldberg's *A Scandalous Affair* (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2025, 251 pp., \$27.95), the eighth title in his series about Sherlock Holmes' daughter Joanna Blalock, who has learned much from her father and is now working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son (and her husband) Dr. John H. Watson Jr., is set in 1918, when they are set in pursuit of a truly evil villain who is blackmailing a high official in the British government. It is nicely done, and the author's web-site is at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.

Undershaw, formerly the home of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and now used by the Stepping Stones School for children with special needs, made the news with a story in the Bordon Herald (Mar. 18) reporting that the school had been given an "outstanding" rating from Ofsted <www.tinyurl.com/cbpasp43>. Ofsted is the British government's Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services, and Skills (definitely needing an abbreviation).

The Lego Group began manufacturing its interlocking toy bricks in Denmark in 1949, and according to Wikipedia, it's now the largest toy manufacturer in the world by sales. So far they have issued a "detective" figure that is in Sherlockian costume, but now there are rumors that this year there will be an official Sherlock Holmes booknook. Jennie Paton found some of the rumors on-line <www.tinyurl.com/4j52b4wd> <www.tinyurl.com/3udecfcs>. Stay tuned for more news, if there is some.

The Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes podcast ("devoted to revisiting and honoring the world's greatest portrayal of the world's greatest detective"), was created in Jan. 2019 by Gus and Luke Holwerda (Dec 20#3), and in May 2024) they presided over Brettcon 2024: The 40th Anniversary Celebration in Guildford in Surrey (Feb 24 #1). The podcast continues, and it is well worth exploring, especially for their new posting of Gary Leach's interview with Brett in 1985 <www.tinyurl.com/5ambbjjt>. They've also commissioned a new run of the "Secret of Sherlock Holmes" T-shirts, designed by Leach, and previously available only at the Wyndham Theatre during the run of the play (1988-1989); they're available (while supplies last) at Etsy for \$29.99 <www.etsy.com/listing/1870427276> in various colors and sizes.

Mar 25 #6 It's (sort of) Sherlockian: a new eight-episode Netflix series "The Residence" offers a fictional murder scandal involving the staff of the White House, and began streaming on Mar. 20. "The Engineer's Thumb" is the title of the seventh episode, and there are other Canonical echoes. It was praised by most reviewers, and there's a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/hnxf3upk>; as for why "The Residence" is Sherlockian, just see the interview with showrunner Paul William Davies at the Shondaland web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3a66vtwr>.

Theatrics; Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" is running at the Collaborative Theatre Project Playhouse in Medford, Ore., through Apr. 13 <www.ctpmedford.org>. It also will be performed at the Village Hall in Nayland, Suff., Apr. 2-5 <www.villageplayers.co.uk>.

Ben Abbott's new play "Shut Up Sherlock" is on at the Great American Melodrama in Oceano, Calif., through Apr. 16 <www.americanmelodrama.com>.

Miriam Cyr's "A Case of the Heart" (an adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes") will have a staged reading at the Gloucester State in Gloucester, Mass., on Apr. 5 <www.punctuate4.org>.

Jacklyn Fazio's "Sherlock Holmes and the Familiar Face" will be performed again, during the Sherlock Holmes Weekends in Cape May, N.J., Apr. 5-6 and Oct. 25-Nov. 2 <www.capemaymac.org/sherlock-holmes-weekend>.

Stand-up comedian Robert Rule will perform "The Sherlock Files" at the Interchange Theater Co-op in Milwaukee, Wis., on Apr. 5; the web-site is at <www.interchangetheater.com>.

Martin Parsons' "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Colin Baker and Terry Molloy as Holmes and Watson) will tour again in Britain, Apr. 7-19; the web-site's at <www.crimeandcomedytheatrecompany.co.uk>.

T. S. Forsyth's "Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four" will be on tour in and near Sacramento, Calif, Apr. 24-May 2 <www.placerrep.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Kootenay River Theatre in Creston, B.C., Apr. 3-5 <www.facebook.com/CrestonFootlighters>. Also at the Civic Arts Theatre in Oswaldtwistle, Lancs., June 5-7; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/5cpvxet9>.

Joshua L Peugh's ballet "My Dear Watson" (with music by Brandon Carson) is scheduled at the Catherine B. Berges Theatre in St. Louis, Mo., May 30-31 <www.saintlouisdanceheatre.org>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" is due at the Gloucester Stage in Gloucester, Mass., Sept. 4-27 <www.gloucesterstage.com>.

Fiona Maher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Man Who Believed in Fairies" will be performed at the Greenwich Theatre in London, Oct. 10-11; web-site at <www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk>.

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