

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 they then appeared in *The Murder of Mr. Ma* (Apr 24 #2), The second book in the series is *The Railway Conspiracy* (New York: Soho Crime, 2025; 394 pp., \$25.95), like the first, not Sherlockian but inspired by the Canon. Judge Dee and Lao Sheh are again in London in 1924, pursuing an interesting assortment of international villains.

An apartment at 2151 Sacramento Street in San Francisco sold has been sold for \$999,000 <www.tinyurl.com/bph66psk>, according to Samantha Wolov. In the 1920s the building was the home of Dr. Albert Abrams, and Conan Doyle visited Abrams (but never stayed there, as claimed now by the owner). The entry for Abrams at Wikipedia <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Abrams> is entertaining.

Sherlock Holmes at Universal (1942-1946), Volume 1, by Scott Allen Nollen and Kris Allen Marentette (Orlando: BearManor, 2025; 395 pp., \$33.00), is a grand exploration of the Rathbone/Bruce films, with a chapter on the two made with 20th-Century Fox and then a chapter each for the first six made with Universal. The authors are dedicated enthusiasts who dig deeply into each film, discussing scripts and finished films, and offering hundreds of illustrations that include lobby cards and publicity portraits. They have interviewed actors and writers, and tell many stories about the people who worked on the series. One can assume that the second volume, covering the remaining six Universal films, will be just as thorough and interesting.

The Sub-Librarians of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association's meeting during the annual conference of the ALA in San Diego in 2024 included a panel discussion of "Writing Sherlock Holmes into the 21st Century" that featured Laurie R. King, Nicholas Meyer, and Leslie S. Klinger; a recording's now on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/4pf74v77>.

The times they are a-changing: it has been many years since the first mention of Jim Weiss' audiocassette recordings for children in this newsletter (Apr 92 #8). As technology changed, he moved from audiocassettes to CDs, and now he's moving from CDs to MP3. His long list of recordings includes *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Sherlock Holmes for Children* (with narrations of four stories) and *Mystery! Mystery!* (which includes one of the Sherlock Holmes stories). You can purchase CDs (while they're still in stock) and MP3s, and listen to samples, at <www.welltrainedmind.com>, and learn more about his recordings at <www.jimweiss.com>.

This newsletter has appeared monthly for many years, but the Internet now allows you to read Sherlockian (and Doylean) news daily on Facebook. Howard Ostrom's "Sherlock on Screens" Facebook page has more than 8,000 members worldwide, covers more than just film and television, and offers (according to Howard) more Sherlockian news and photos on a daily basis than any other Sherlockian source of information. You can see it all easily at <www.facebook.com/groups/sherlockholmesonscreens>.

Apr 25 #2 The Andaman Islands are in the news again. Mykhailo Viktorovych Polyakov, an American YouTuber, faces up to eight years in prison if he is convicted for the crime of visiting North Sentinel Island, which is protected by the Indian government; the Sentinelese are believed to be one of the world's most isolated indigenous people. Polyakov is reported to have arrived on an inflatable boat with a coconut and a can of Diet Coke intended as gifts to the natives, but he wasn't able to find anybody. The BBC News story (Apr. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/mr28k97t> is only one of many press reports on Polyakov's adventures.

Another comic strip: "Barney & Clyde" (by Gene and Dan Weingarten and David Clark) on Mar. 30 <www.gocomics.com/barneyandclyde/2025/03/30> dealt with copyright and (among others) Sherlock Holmes.

Max Bogdan at Craftsman Pipes offers hand-carved briar pipes for smokers and collectors, including a pipe showing Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes <www.craftsmanpipes.com/product/sherlock-holmes-wood-tobacco-pipe>. Our thanks to Adrienn Fray of the Sherlock Holmes Club of Hungary for the report at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ywnmx8j7>.

It's always interesting when something new about Conan Doyle turns up in the news: on Apr. 11 the Al Hakam web-site reported on news from 100 years earlier <www.tinyurl.com/ncerducw>. A Google search turned up a bit more <www.tinyurl.com/3a797b5c> and <www.tinyurl.com/3dr8dwdm>.

Gregory Urbach's *Dashiell Hammett vs. Sherlock Holmes: In Search of Jack the Ripper* (2024; 294 pp., \$16.99) opens with Hammett in London in 1929, researching *The Maltese Falcon*, and with some time travel he finds himself in London in 1888, joining forces with Holmes and Watson in pursuing Jack the Ripper; he gets to meet the Queen, and (of course) succeeds in ending the vicious serial killer's reign of terror.

The ACD Society's "The Terror of Blue John Gap Project" (presided over by Margie Deck and Nancy Holder) has reached page 10 of the manuscript of the story, halfway through the manuscript, and the Project's a fine demonstration of making scholarship available on-line; you can explore the results at <www.acdsociety.com/bjg/10/bjg10.html>.

The ACD Society also has reported on the discovery of Conan Doyle's reply to the Toast to Literature at the 1901 annual meeting of the Edinburgh Sir Walter Scott Club, and you can read what he had to say on that occasion at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8y9bsy>. The society's web-site <www.acdsociety.com> is well worth exploring, including the link to A Common Newsletter.

Peter Lovesey died on Apr. 10. He was a prolific mystery writer, winning many honors and awards in Britain and the United States, and his work included Sherlockian pastiches and a bit of Sherlockian poetry. You'll find what he had to say about himself at <www.peterlovesey.com/about>, but with no mention of his interest in the Olympics; in his article on "Conan Doyle and the Olympics" (*Journal of Olympic History*, Dec. 2001) he discussed the famous photograph of the end of the 1908 marathon that some believe shows Conan Doyle helping Dorando Pietri across the finish line, and was able to identify the two Olympic officials who did help Pietri (Jun 02 #4).

Apr 25 #3 The Japanese are still celebrating last year's 40th anniversary of the "Sherlock Hound" television series: Jennie Paton has reported that Wayô Records will issue the original soundtrack of the entire series, and the first animated film, on two LPs or two CDs, accompanied by an eight-page illustrated booklet <www.tinyurl.com/uvu2hj58>.

Many Sherlockian societies met via Zoom during the pandemic, and some continue to do so. Some of the societies record their meetings and make the recordings available on-line at web-sites or YouTube channels (or both). One of the societies is The Sherlocki-anns, who are fond of Irene Adler's younger sister Ann Adler <www.travelswithsherlock.com/sherlocki-anns> (the web-site includes a link to their YouTube channel). Some other societies record the speakers at in-person meetings and make the recordings available at their web-sites (one of them is The Red Circle; their web-site's at <www.redcircledc.org>. Are there other societies doing this?

"Kabukicho Sherlock" was a Japanese television anime series (Apr 19 #2 and Mar 20 #6) that has an entry at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/3ccrzt9>. But there's nothing that explains the "pervert detective who loves rakugo" inscription on a tie-in hardcover notebook spotted by Jennie Paton in an advertisement at a Japanese website <www.tinyurl.com/58pnvmn7>.

The web-site of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London has many useful features, including the Gazetteer <www./gazetteer.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>, an opportunity to "discover all about the important locations from the stories about Sherlock Holmes," with photographs of many of them. Another is the Scrapbook <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/scrapbook>, maintained by Ashley Mayo, who has indexed the Sherlock Holmes Journal and provided both text of the stories and text of what has been said about them (and about other general topics) in the SHJ.

Watson said you hear of the Shoscombe spaniels at every dog show (in Shoscomb Old Place"), and described them as "the most exclusive breed in England." They're not among today's most vulnerable breeds, according to an article in Country Life (Apr. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/yc69yab9>.

"Shall the world, then, be overrun by Sherlock Holmes television series? No, no, horrible!" isn't quite what Holmes once said (in "The Dying Detective"), but it does seem appropriate. Older series are streaming on the cable channels, "Watson" has been renewed for a second season by CBS-TV, and "Sherlock & Daughter" (now running on The CW) has received some nice reviews (for its actors, if not so much for its plotting). It's interesting that the Indian film industry, which continues to turn out modern detective-and-assistant features that proudly claim to have been inspired by Holmes and Watson, has a new film in pre-production: according to Variety (Mar. 25) <www.tinyurl.com/bdh7jh7z>, director Deepa Mehta is developing "Sher" (which she describes as "a complete fun take on Watson"). Sherlock Holmes is dead, and Watson, in Calcutta, finds that Holmes has an illegitimate daughter, born from an affair with a young Indian woman while he was at Cambridge. One can't be entirely sure about the new film (as so often is the case when something's pre-production <www.tinyurl.com/yc6yy4jy>.

Apr 25 #4 Sherlock Holmes called it "the great convict prison of Princetown" (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), but it's now HMP Dartmoor (HMP being an abbreviation for His Majesty's Prison). And it has made the news: the Observer reported (Apr. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/mumjsfux> that the prison was closed last year after high levels of radon gas were discovered in the prison. It's unlikely that the prison will ever reopen, but the government is still paying Prince William's Duchy of Cornwall \$1.5 million a year to lease the land.

"An evening with Sherlock Holmes" will be held at Undershaw (Conan Doyle's former home) on May 17 (6:00-7:30 pm UK, and 1:00-2:30 pm EST); the event will be live-streamed, and you can register at <www.tinyurl.com/33c4senc>. There will be celebrity guests, live performances, a silent auction, and a lot more by way of entertainment. Ticket-holders also will have access to a recording at any time after the event.

James Polchin's *Shadow Men* (Berkeley: Counterpoint, 2024; 354 pp., \$29.00) is a detailed examination of a complicated Jazz Age crime in New York (not all that many people confess to murder, and are then tried and acquitted), with a chapter devoted to Conan Doyle, who in 1922 was in the U.S. lecturing on Spiritualism, and said during an interview that the case would have made an "ideal Sherlock mystery."

Tim Major's *The Defaced Man* (New York: Titan, 2022; 254 pp., \$14.95), one of many titles in Titan's series of "new adventures of Sherlock Holmes," is set in 1896, when Holmes' client is the photographer Eadweard Muybridge (one of the pioneers in the study of motion-picture projection), involved in a complicated mystery that Holmes (of course) eventually solves.

The U.S. Postal Service does a lot more than just deliver the mail (even though there's less and less mail to deliver now that so many people use the Internet). Their Criminal Investigation Group works hard to prevent people from defrauding the public, and you can listen to and read about some of their work to their "mailin' it" podcast; it's available on-line at <www.usps-mailin-it.simplecast.com/episodes>.

Brad Keefauver's *Holmes in an Hour or Two* (May 23 #5) is aptly subtitled "A Sherlock Holmes Fan's First Sherlockian Chronology, or Create Your Own Timeline of Sherlock Holmes's Life in the Shortest Time Possible," and you can listen to Brad talk about the book, and much more, in an interview at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/bdf2afwu>.

The Torists International S.S. have announced that the 66th running of the Chicago Silver Blaze will be held on June 29. The Watsonians are waiting to determine the meeting place, as the track is still under construction." Stay tuned for details from Jonathan Shimberg <www.toristintss@gmail.com>.

The Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial has started work on *The Complete Steele Portfolio*, reproducing all of his Sherlockian illustrations, from original artwork when possible, in 2027 <www.tinyurl.com/59jkzjf6>. They also are planning to upload to their YouTube channel in mid-May recordings of the lectures at their illustration seminar at the Salmagundi Club last year.

Apr 25 #5 The April issue of the newsletter of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Phillip Bergem's article "Getting to Know Jerry Margolin" (explaining how much fun Jerry had as a collector, occasioned by his donation of his spectacular collection of original Sherlockian artwork to the University, and much more news from and about the collections). Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Timothy J. Johnson (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <johns976@umn.com>.

Bruce Beaman has reported that some PBS stations are airing a six-episode series "Ghost Stories" that includes Mark Gatiss' dramatization of Conan Doyle's "Lot 249" (which was broadcast on BBC Two in December 2023), and you can watch it if you have PBS Passport. You may need to pretend that you are somewhere else (try ZIP code 54401). The other five episodes are dramatizations of stories by M. R. James, and all are nicely done.

Further to the item (Mar 25 #5) about a rumored Sherlock Holmes book nook from Lego, there is indeed more news: Ross Davies has kindly noted that a sketch has been posted to the Internet <www.instagram.com/p/DIymXdbJzZE>. There's also video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1GKODegE_Q>.

Modern technology can be nice indeed: Adrienn Fray has reported from Hungary that Owen Davies is posting to YouTube remastered 4K versions of the Jeremy Brett "Sherlock Holmes" series <www.tinyurl.com/39683kjj>. 4K is a horizontal resolution of about 4,000 pixels, which makes things crisp indeed on your computer monitor.

The Beijing Global Times reported (Apr. 23) <www.tinyurl.com/ypfppdr2> on the announcement that Chinese authorities have identified the tomb of Di Renjie, who was a renowned statesman of the Tang Dynasty (618-907). He is much better known in the west as Judge Dee, compared to Sherlock Holmes by Vincent Starrett, noted by Ray Betzner <www.tinyurl.com/ynnfmzmbv>. Judge Dee also has an informative entry at Wikipedia.

You can see the dust-jacket art and read a bit about Nicholas Meyer's next novel, *Sherlock Holmes and the Real Thing*, due from the Mysterious Press on Aug. 26, at <www.tinyurl.com/3czwkuu6>.

There was a nice panel on "What's So Great about Sherlock?" at Malice Domestic, with Carla Coupe as moderator, and Hal Glatzer, Delia Pitts, and Dan Stashower as panelists. Delia reminded everyone how good the Netflix series "The Residence" (Mar 25 #4) is, noting how many echoes of the Canon there are, if you look for them.

Howard Ostrom's "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" now has more than 10,000 entries (with more than 25,000 images), covering stage, screen, radio, television, the Internet, and much more; the new list will be available on-line later this year at <www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html>. Howard decided at the end of 2024 to add new modern entries only for screen and television (there just is too much new material on stage, television, and the Internet), but he'll continue to pursue older entries that turn up as more and more resources are digitized and made available on-line.

Apr 25 #6 The Sherlock Holmes (the iconic pub in Northumberland Street in London) has reopened, after being closed for renovation. Their colorful website's at <www.tinyurl.com/mr3c56ex>, and you can read press reports at <www.tinyurl.com/396eh2r2> and <www.tinyurl.com/bdd6fnxb>. The Sherlockian material, including the spectacular recreation of the sitting-room, has been carefully preserved, Roger Johnson reports (he and Jean Upton have been Sherlockian consultants for the pub for many years).

Theatrics: Tim Kelly's adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is running at the Hanover High School in Mechanicsville, Va., through May 4 <www.tinyurl.com/445pcn44>.

Ollie Jaye's "Sherlock Holmes and the Presidential Scandal" is on at the GECA Theater in Atmore, Ala. through May 4 <www.gecart.org>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" is scheduled at the ISB Theatre in Brussels, May 9-10 <www.tinyurl.com/37mf7n5x>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" is scheduled at the Elmhurst History Museum in Elmhurst, Ill., May 9-18 <www.greenmantheatre.org>.

Yinneboma Peterson's "Sherlock Holmes' Mysterious Case in Camelot" will be performed in Grass Valley, Calif., on May 10 <www.tinyurl.com/2fecjybw>. Holmes and Watson find themselves in Camelot alongside King Arthur, Merlin, and the Knights of the Round Table.

Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is due at Attic Productions in Fincastle, Va., May 15-25 <www.atticproductions.info>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" will be performed at the Arizona Theatre Company in Tucson, Ariz., May 18-June 7 <www.atc.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be performed at the Bellevue Little Theatre in Bellevue, Neb., June 6-22 <www.theblt.org>; and at Dudley Hall in Cleburne, Tex., July 18-Aug. 9 <www.plaza-theatre.com>.

Shari Prestwood's "Sherlock Holmes and the Haunted Theatre" is due at the Loxley Civic Center in Loxley, Ala., on June 8 <www.commediadelarte.org>.

Margaret Raether's "Sherlock Holmes and the Precarious Position" is coming up at the Clackamas Repertory Theatre in Oregon City, Ore., June 26-July 20 <www.clackamasrep.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is going to be produced at the Avalon Theatre in Marysville, Ohio, June 27-29 <www.silvrsceneplayers.com>. Also at the Ghostlight Theatre in Sun City West, Ariz., Oct. 16-26; their web-site's at <www.ghostlightaz.com>.

"The Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, July 31-Aug. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/5bvkJzjs6>; their motto is "No script, Sherlock," and they're celebrating the 10th anniversary of the show's debut at the Fringe <www.improvsherlock.com>.

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