

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 171st birthday during the (very) long weekend from Jan. 15 to 19, and reports on many of the goings-on will be posted soon at the Baker Street Irregulars' web-site <[www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/reports](http://www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/reports)>. In the meantime, here are a few brief paragraphs to tide you over; you can also hear Scott Monty and Burt Wolder discuss the festivities at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast at <[www.bit.ly/ihose304](http://www.bit.ly/ihose304)>. Scott also reports on the weekend at <[www.tinyurl.com/2m5s4ppz](http://www.tinyurl.com/2m5s4ppz)>.

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](http://www.acdsociety.com)>. The BSI's Distinguished Speaker that evening was author (and Oscar winner) Graham Moore, whose explanation of the Sherlockian aspects of the career of the famous economist John Maynard Keynes will be published in the Baker Street Journal later this year.

On Friday the William Gillette Memorial Luncheon featured a performance of Andrew Joffe's skit "Our Old Holmes" (with Paul Singleton as Holmes, Andrew Joffe as Watson, and Sarah Montague as Mrs. Hudson). And the Susan Rice Mentorship Award (which recognizes "commitment to mentoring Sherlockians as a means of keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes") was presented to Julie McKuras.

Irregulars and guests gathered for dinner at the Yale Club, where Dick Olken offered the traditional first toast to Ellen Pfeifer as "The Woman". The dinner agenda included the usual toasts, and rituals, and spectacular presentations by Ross Davies on "certain aspects of Sherlock Holmes' actual involvement with the Pinkertons," and by Ashley Polasek on the "collaborations, compromises, and occasional conflicts" she has encountered in bringing Sherlock Holmes to the stage. The entertainment also included a new song ("Brush up Your Sherlock") that was written and performed by Alex Katz and Karen Wilson.

Michael Meer was announced as the winner of the annual Morley-Montgomery Award (for the best contribution to the Baker Street Journal in 2024), for his article (in the winter issue) on the "Examination Paper" Conan Doyle wrote in 1893 on the methods of Sherlock Holmes. You can subscribe to the BSJ (four issues and the Christmas Annual) at <[www.tinyurl.com/3vxncdhd](http://www.tinyurl.com/3vxncdhd)>.

The BSI Birthday Honours were awarded to Shana Carter ("Carter"), Jim Cox ("Coxon"), Judi Ellis ("The Carlton Club"), Ron Fish ("The Hon. Ronald Adair"), Beth Gallego ("Lighthouses"), Bruce Harris ("Harris") Louise Haskett ("Aurora"), Rosemary Herbert ("A Slim Youth in an Ulster"), Christian Monggaard ("Neville St. Clair") and Gary Thaden ("Augusto Barelli"). And the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was bestowed on Andrew Solberg.

Another Friday-evening event was the Gaslight Gala, held at Annie Moore's, honoring Watson's "pawky sense of humor" with cocktails, dinner, toasts, jokes, songs, a quiz, and a play. Planning for 2026 is under way.

Jan 25 #2    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 included the last collection of medals and awards designed and made by the late Maggie Schpak, who had provided spectacular raffle prizes for Dr. Watson for many years, and a mantel clock that was designed and crafted by Danna Mancini to look like two books, back to back, honoring "The Bruce Partington Plans" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles". Finally, for those who lasted that long, the last event of the birthday festivities was the traditional Adventuresses' Brunch on Sunday.

You can plan ahead: the next annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars is scheduled for Jan. 9, 2026. 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](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc5tsz27)>.

An added feature of the birthday festivities was a performance at the Coffee House Club of Hal Glatzer's "A Musicale in Mrs. Hudson's Parlor" which celebrated Sherlock Holmes' 60th birthday with music-hall presentations by Insp. Lestrade, Mrs. Hudson, Henry Baker, Irene Adler and other friends). A recording will be available at Hal's channel at YouTube in mid-February (stay tuned).

Another nice feature of the festivities was the opportunity to visit the Grolier Club to view their exhibition "Imaginary Books: Lost, Unfinished, and Fictive Works Found Only in Other Books" from the collection of Reid Byers. There are three nice Sherlockian items in the exhibition: "The Giant Rat of Sumatra" in the June 1909 issue of The Strand Magazine, Sherlock Holmes' notes for his monograph "On the Polyphonic Motets of Lassus", and Aristotle's *Poetics II: On Comedy*.

The exhibition closes on Feb. 15, and there's another nice exhibition "A First-Class Fool: Mark Twain and Humor" (open through Apr. 5); one of the items on display is Mark Twain's typewriter. The Grolier Club's web-site is at <[www.grolierclub.org](http://www.grolierclub.org)>. If you're wondering about Aristotle's *Poetics II: On Comedy*, the only known copy of the book was destroyed by fire in a Benedictine abbey in the Piedmont in 1327, reported in Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose* (according to the exhibition catalog, "the safe handling of this book requires protective clothing and gloves). The catalog of the "Imaginary Books" exhibition, written by Reid Byers, is spectacular (scholarly, humorous, and in full color), and available from the Oak Knoll Press (\$65.00) <[www.tinyurl.com/5e6smbs5](http://www.tinyurl.com/5e6smbs5)>.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was not neglected during the festivities. You can watch the ACD Society's Doylean honors and its running of the Wessex Cup at <[www.tinyurl.com/mxfnc82v](http://www.tinyurl.com/mxfnc82v)>, as well as the annual meeting of The Literary Agents, held via Zoom on Friday, honoring the centenary of "The Land of Mist" and Christine Ferguson, editor of that book upcoming in the Edinburgh University Press series, at <[www.tinyurl.com/5cap5cpd](http://www.tinyurl.com/5cap5cpd)>.

Jan 25 #3 Daniel J. Morrow ("James Stanger of the *Herald*) died on Dec. 23, 2024. His long career in radio broadcasting inspired his dedication to Sherlockian radio programs, and in 1969 Dan was one of the founders of the Scandalous Bohemians of New Jersey. He contributed scholarship to the Baker Street Journal and society newsletters, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.

A non-trivial trivia question: many people celebrated the Chinese New Year this month. In the Chinese calendar each year is named for one of twelve animals in the Chinese zodiac cycle, and this year's zodiac animal is the snake. What was Sherlock Holmes' zodiac animal?

Sonia Fetherston's "*Wiggins*": *Tom Stix & His Baker Street Irregulars* (126 pp., \$24.95), one of two new books from the Baker Street Irregulars Press, is the latest title in the Biography Series. It is a carefully-researched and well-written warm tribute to the fourth leader of the BSI, who in many ways brought the BSI firmly into the 20th century.

*That Ghastly Face*, edited by Ira Brad Matetsky, is the new addition to the Manuscript Series (224 pp., \$49.95); there's a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Blanched Soldier", accompanied by both 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 spectacular). Both of the new titles (and many others) can be ordered at <[www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books](http://www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books)>.

The three Sherlockian neckties offered by Frederick Thomas of London some years ago (Feb 16 #1) are still available, but (of course) more expensive now <[www.tinyurl.com/568xuhty](http://www.tinyurl.com/568xuhty)>.

Max Magee has noted that William S. Baring-Gould's *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes* (1967) can be borrowed (read on-line but not downloaded) from the Internet Archive <[www.tinyurl.com/52y7rtjx](http://www.tinyurl.com/52y7rtjx)>. The book is available in the Internet Archive's National Emergency Library, which was created in 2020, at the start of the pandemic, and became the target of a lawsuit filed by four major publishers against the Internet Archive. On Sept. 24 the Wired web-site reported <[www.tinyurl.com/rwbyjda4](http://www.tinyurl.com/rwbyjda4)> that a U.S. Court of Appeals had decided against the Internet Archive, but Baring-Gould's book is still available at the web-site, possibly because the book's out of print, which would make it difficult for the publisher to demonstrate damages.

If you'd like to read the Court's 64-page opinion, it's available on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/36zpkb7r](http://www.tinyurl.com/36zpkb7r)>. Thanks to Ross Davies for knowing how to find this sort of thing.

Scott Monty has reported on planning for what might well take first prize for the most unusual Sherlockian event: the H&W Con, scheduled on Mar. 1-3 in Sioux City, Iowa <[www.tinyurl.com/ysmcm5fa](http://www.tinyurl.com/ysmcm5fa)>; fans of the 2018 "Holmes & Watson" film that starred Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly will gather for a celebration of the "hilarious and timeless comedy classic." Be sure to read Scott's report all the way to the end.

Jan 25 #4 "Why the British Love Belonging to Clubs" was the headline on an article (Dec. 31, 2024) <[www.tinyurl.com/mry9kaf7](http://www.tinyurl.com/mry9kaf7)> by Sean Walsh, at The Conservative Woman web-site, and he mentions one of his favorite clubs, found in "the fictional world of Sherlock Holmes." It's not the Diogenes Club, and you are welcome to guess what it was (or just go to the web-site and read the article).

The King's New Year Honours included a knighthood for Stephen Fry (for his work on mental health); he played Mycroft Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011), recorded "Sherlock Holmes: The Definitive Collection" (2017), and is a patron of the Sherlock Holmes Collection in Portsmouth.

And Eddie Marsan received an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) for services to drama; his many credits include Inspector Lestrade in "Sherlock Holmes" (2009) and "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011).

There also is the New Zealand Royal Honours List (created in 1975), which included the Order of Merit for Lee Murray (for services to literature); she was one of the 2024 honorees of the ACD Society, for her short story "Māoriland Blue" in their "The Terror of Blue John Gap Project.

What was Sherlock Holmes' zodiac animal? If your answer was that Holmes was born in the year of the tiger, you're wrong.

There was an interesting article at the Country Life web-site on Jan. 16 <[www.tinyurl.com/bjm7f7ms](http://www.tinyurl.com/bjm7f7ms)> about the history of the London double-decker bus, particularly interesting for the photograph of a horse-drawn double decker bus in Piccadilly about 1904, when Sherlock Holmes would have seen them, and (who knows) ridden in or on one.

SHERLOC is alive and well on Mars, still contributing to the exploration of the Red Planet. SHERLOC (it's an acronym) has its own entry at Wikipedia <[www.tinyurl.com/3nmsx9nh](http://www.tinyurl.com/3nmsx9nh)>. Just click on the image of the calibration target to see where it came from.

The National Park Visitor Centre in Princeton was under threat of closure in 2022 (Nov 22 #5), but it was rescued with a £440,000 government grant. The money has now been spent, and the Centre may be shut down, the Devon Air Radio web-site reported on Jan. 11 <[tinyurl.com/yc756djk](http://tinyurl.com/yc756djk)>. The Centre formerly was the Duchy Hotel <[www.tinyurl.com/5cpdtttd](http://www.tinyurl.com/5cpdtttd)>, said to have been "once home to Conan Doyle as he wrote the Hound of the Baskervilles."

The Living Life Fearless blog as reported <[www.tinyurl.com/3u75axkj](http://www.tinyurl.com/3u75axkj)> that Manga Classics has launched a manga series of the Sherlock Holmes stories. *A Study in Scarlet*, adapted by Crystal S. Chan and with artwork by Julien Choy, released this month and available in comic-book shops and at Amazon (\$11.99). *A Scandal in Bohemia and Other Stories* is due in June. Manga Classics <[www.mangaclassics.com](http://www.mangaclassics.com)> has published a long list of titles, and seems to be the modern equivalent of the Classic Comics that so many members of an older generation relied on for an introduction to literature or for writing book reports without actually having read the books.

Jan 25 #5    There are many people who prefer ink-on-paper when it comes to books, and others who prefer digital (and plenty of people, of course, who happily live in both worlds). Smashwords <[www.smashwords.com](http://www.smashwords.com)> is an on-line retailer that offers almost a million ebooks (some of them free), and many (but not all of them) self-published. A recent search for ["conan doyle"] yielded 200 hits and ["sherlock holmes"] produced 906 (use quotation marks when searching).

The National Theatre's revival of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" closed on Jan. 25, but National Theatre Live will make it available in cinemas world-wide beginning on Feb. 20; the production seems to be (momentarily) Sherlockian: watch the trailer to see Ncuti Gatwa (Algeron Moncrieff) in Sherlockian costume <[www.tinyurl.com/yfu5awfb](http://www.tinyurl.com/yfu5awfb)>.

What was Sherlock Holmes' zodiac animal? Holmes was born in the year of the ox. The new year in the Chinese lunisolar calendar does not begin on Jan. 1. In 1854 the year of the tiger began on Jan. 29, and Jan. 6 was in the last month of the year of the ox.

Ray Betzner was the Cameron Hollyer Lecturer at the Toronto Public Library on Nov. 30, 2024, on "Born in a (Toronto) Bookshop: Vincent Starrett and the World of Sherlock Holmes", and the lecture's now on-line, so you can watch the proceedings at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEbSGzMnyzs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEbSGzMnyzs)>. Ray is an entertaining speaker, as well as an expert on Starrett.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder reviewed 2024 on their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog with an interview with Ross Davies (who's the editor of the Baker Street Almanac) <[www.tinyurl.com/5hf6mpze](http://www.tinyurl.com/5hf6mpze)>. It's just the thing for people who want more news than you get in this newsletter.

Peter Lovesey's article "Wobble in the Aggie", an interesting account of the career of his Sergeant Cribb in novels and on television in the winter 2024 issue of the Mystery Readers Journal <[www.tinyurl.com/bddsvcty](http://www.tinyurl.com/bddsvcty)>, ends with a surprising (and Sherlockian) reason why the television series ended prematurely.

It's not Sherlockian, except for many nice things said about Christopher Morley, but Evan Friss' *The Bookshop: A History of the American Bookstore* (New York: Viking, 2024; 403 pp., \$30.00) is a delightful read for anyone who remembers, or wants to know, what bookshops were like, in times past when there were lots of them.

"Sherlock Holmes' birthday is NOT January 6th after all," according to Erik Deckers, who has deduced what's quite likely (well, possibly) the correct date, and explains his reasoning in detail in a post to Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <[www.tinyurl.com/3v2pdubv](http://www.tinyurl.com/3v2pdubv)>.

Erin O'Neill (the editor of the Sydney Passengers' journal *The Passengers' Log*) has reported on interesting artwork available from the Chris Beetles Gallery in London. The artists include Conan Doyle's father Charles Altamont Doyle <[www.tinyurl.com/y5k5vxk5](http://www.tinyurl.com/y5k5vxk5)> and by Conan Doyle's uncle Richard Doyle <[www.tinyurl.com/44ebxw96](http://www.tinyurl.com/44ebxw96)>.

Jan 25 #6 Fowlescombe Farm in south Devon will open eight full-service luxury suites this spring, according to a report at the web-site of The Caterer (Jan. 9) <[www.tinyurl.com/2ntvrhnm](http://www.tinyurl.com/2ntvrhnm)>. The ruined mansion on the estate, it seems, "may well" be the inspiration for "Baskerville Hall". The web-site of the Farm <[www.tinyurl.com/2ntvrhnm](http://www.tinyurl.com/2ntvrhnm)> has an account of the mansion's "legend of the hounds."

Sherlockian scholars have noted occasional mistakes in how nobility is described and addressed in the Canon, and an article in Country Life (Nov. 20) <[www.tinyurl.com/5u6d5uez](http://www.tinyurl.com/5u6d5uez)> about "The End of Deference: Why the Right Title Matters" offers an instructive look at proper terms of address.

Almost twenty years ago (Dec 06 #1) Stanford University's Community Reading Project published some of the Sherlock Holmes stories weekly, by mail and on the Internet, in nicely annotated facsimiles of the Stories as they first appeared in The Strand Magazine. Max Magee notes that they're still available on-line at <<http://sherlockholmes.stanford.edu/readings.html>>. Don't neglect to click on "more stories".

Max also has noted something that may interest fans of the "Raffles" stories that were written by Conan Doyle's brother-in-law E. W. Hornung: the "Raffles Redux" web-site <[www.rafflesredux.com](http://www.rafflesredux.com)>, where you'll find annotated reprints of all the stories, as well as a play.

Reported: Kerry McGee's "Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia" from the Literary Adventure Society (\$55.00); it's a mail-order audio mystery with clues, souvenirs, and audio, and there's more information (and an audio sample) at their web-site <[www.literaryadventuresociety.com](http://www.literaryadventuresociety.com)>.

There are many (some people would say far too many) ratings of Sherlockian films on the Internet, but Bob Rivers' list of his "top ten" films for The Strand Magazine (Jan. 13, 2017) <[www.tinyurl.com/ycx8peas](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycx8peas)> is more interesting, because he gives his reasons for why he likes them.

Adrian Nebbett has reported discovering a film that's Sherlockian in a minor way: "The Curse of the Living Corpse" (1964), in which Paul Haney (as Chief Constable Barnes) is seen in Sherlockian costume. It's conveniently available at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuy6tmw8NuU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuy6tmw8NuU)>.

Cromer, in North Norfolk, is an underrated seaside town with a huge pier and the best fish and chips in the UK, according to the headline on an article in the Daily Mirror (Dec. 28) <[www.tinyurl.com/5baf2z4c](http://www.tinyurl.com/5baf2z4c)>. The article also mentions Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson, who visited Cromer in 1901, when they stayed in the Royal Links Hotel and were invited to dinner at Cromer Hall. They then went on to Dartmoor, and a ride in a carriage driven by Harry Baskerville, and the result of all that was "The Hound of the Baskervilles".

Al Gregory <[gaslightandfog@verizon.net](mailto: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).

Jan 25 #7 CNN Travel had a story in 2017 headlined "All-White and Futuristic: Tianjin's Stunning New Library Looks Out of This World" <[www.tinyurl.com/3tsuhjp4](http://www.tinyurl.com/3tsuhjp4)>; the Tianjin Binhai Library is impressive, and the article also had a grand gallery of images of "the world's most beautiful places to read." However: there's more to the story, as noted in an article at the Atlas Obscura web-site in 2018 <[www.tinyurl.com/5nym2267](http://www.tinyurl.com/5nym2267)>.

*No Comfort for the Dead*, by R.P. O'Donnell (New York: Crooked Lane, 2024; 281 pp., \$29.99), is a pleasant Irish murder mystery, set in Castlefreke, a small village not far from Skibbereen; the detective is Emma Daly, the town librarian, who has read (and enjoys remembering) the Sherlock Holmes stories throughout her investigation.

The Beacon Society continues to administer the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, and more than 150 people have completed all three exams and have received a Doctorate in Sherlockiana. The 2025 Recertification Exam is available on request from Steve Mason <[mason.steve8080@gmail.com](mailto:mason.steve8080@gmail.com)>, and there's more information about the program at <[www.tinyurl.com/2vt9saym](http://www.tinyurl.com/2vt9saym)>. The society's goal is "providing teachers, librarians, children's museums, and children's theaters with local resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life" <[www.beaconsociety.org](http://www.beaconsociety.org)>.

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar Awards, and one of them is Nicholas Shakespeare's *Ian Fleming: The Complete Man* (Apr 24 #4) in the best critical/biographical category. You can see the complete list of nominees at <[www.tinyurl.com/muax2ej6](http://www.tinyurl.com/muax2ej6)>. The winners of the Edgars will be announced on May 1.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has always been imaginative: their Well-Readed League <[www.tinyurl.com/3je6d8bf](http://www.tinyurl.com/3je6d8bf)> is an informal on-line book group, and now they have their Reformed Diogenes Club, which is planning an excursion to Phantom Peak in Canada Water (a Wild West Frontier Town in London <[www.tinyurl.com/carayzdw](http://www.tinyurl.com/carayzdw)>, far more convenient than Phantom Peak in Nunavut Territory in Canada, or Phantom Peak in Whatcom County, Wash., in the United States. One of the wonders of modern technology is official lists of geographic names, available on-line for both countries.

*Sherlock Holmes: Immortal Detective: Selected Writings of Donald A. Redmond, Volume 2* (193 pp., \$26.95), one of two new titles from the Gasogene Press, is edited by Christopher Redmond and collects many of his father's articles, notes, and essays, from 1983 to 2001, both published and unpublished. Don was among the most literate, intelligent, and entertaining of Sherlockian researchers and authors; the nine-page bibliography at the end of the book shows just how widely his interests ranged. It is grand indeed to have his collected work so easily available.

And *The Sherlock Holmes Review: 2024 Sherlockian Annual* (96 pp., \$31.95), edited by Steven Doyle, is an anthology that ranges from a celebration of Eille Norwood to a tribute to Walter Klinefelter, with Rob Nunn providing "A Snapshot of Sherlockiana as Seen Through Interviews with 100 Sherlockians" and Ira Brad Matetsky discussing the suppression and resurrection of "The Cardboard Box". Gasogene's web-site's at <[www.wessexpress.com](http://www.wessexpress.com)>.

Jan 25 #8 "Watson" has now debuted on CBS-TV, and many people have (or haven't) seen it, and have (or haven't) enjoyed it. If you've not seen it, the premiere is available on Paramount+ and (thanks to Howard Ostrom for the report) on YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/2jxuss36](http://www.tinyurl.com/2jxuss36)>. No spoilers here, but the show seems likely to please the CBS-TV viewers who made the CSI and NCIS series (and "Elementary") so popular. The next episodes will air weekly at 9:00 pm beginning on Feb. 16.

Theater news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is on at the Doris Harper-White Playhouse in Flagstaff, Ariz., through Feb. 2 <[www.theatrikos.com](http://www.theatrikos.com)>; it also will be produced at the Jewish Community Center in St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 20-Dec. 7 <[www.jccstl.com](http://www.jccstl.com)>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" is on at the State Theater in Olympia, Wash., through Feb. 9 <[www.harlequinproductions.org](http://www.harlequinproductions.org)>. It also is being performed at the Red Barn Theatre in Key West, Fla., through Feb. 22 <[www.redbarntheatre.com](http://www.redbarntheatre.com)>. And it will be produced at Osceola Arts in Kissimmee, Fla., May 30-June 15 <[www.osceolaarts.org](http://www.osceolaarts.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is on at the Sutter Street Theatre in Folsom, Calif., through Feb. 16 <[www.sutterstreettheatre.com](http://www.sutterstreettheatre.com)>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" is coming up at the Performing Arts Center at Garrett College in McHenry, Md., Feb. 19-Mar. 2 <[www.performingartsgc.com](http://www.performingartsgc.com)>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Professor Moriarty" (a new play) is due at the Majestic Theater in Pottsville, Pa., Feb. 21-Mar. 2; their web-site is at <[www.majestictheater.net](http://www.majestictheater.net)>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman) is planned at the Arts Center of Cannon County in Woodbury, Tenn., Feb. 26-Mar. 8 <[www.artscenterofcc.com](http://www.artscenterofcc.com)>.

Tim Kelly's version of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" has been scheduled at the Baldwin Theatre in Royal Oak, Mich., Feb. 27-Mar. 2; website's at <[www.stagecrafters.org](http://www.stagecrafters.org)>.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Last Laugh" is due at St. Thomas Churchill Hall in Warrington, Ches., Apr. 25-26 <[www.facebook.com/soupproductionsuk](https://www.facebook.com/soupproductionsuk)>.

Nick Lane's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hunt for Moriarty" is going to be Nick Lane's third Sherlockian play, performed on tour in Britain by Blackeyed Theatre beginning in September <[www.tinyurl.com/y24fb6vn](http://www.tinyurl.com/y24fb6vn)>.

C. P. Stancich's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Greek Chorus" is due at the Arapaho Center in Lafayette, Colo., in November <[www.tclstage.org](http://www.tclstage.org)>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be performed at the Ottawa Little Theatre in Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 3-20 <[www.ottawalittletheatre.com](http://www.ottawalittletheatre.com)>. We can be sure there will be many more productions of this popular (and seasonal) play in 2025; there were at least 17 productions in 2024. And at least 38 productions of Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville".

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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 Bibbio-hoax* (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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.tinyurl.com/yffjmsrh)>. And there will be at least ten episodes <[www.epguides.com/Watson](http://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](http://www.macird.com)>.

Howard Ostrom has reported Project Audion <[www.projectaudion.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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=DbqmqZBcf\\_98&t=1s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbqmqZBcf_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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc5xbc9r)>. You also can visit them in London now <[www.tinyurl.com/3kn89ked](http://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](http://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](http://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/bdexuuc8](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdexuuc8)>.

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Paton, with a tutorial so you can perform it <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=bs7Ud9s8onw](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.caperep.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.greenhillschool.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>.

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

Some non-Sherlockian original artwork by Frederic Dorr Steele was offered by Heritage Auctions last month <[www.tinyurl.com/2v29ff7r](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

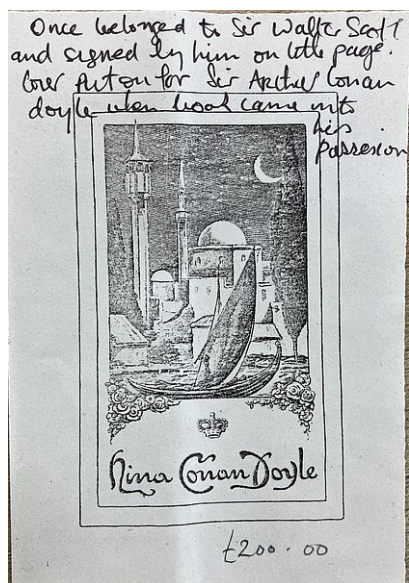
Mar 25 #2 Rebecca Romney's *Jane Austen's Bookshelf: A Rare Book Collector's Quest to Find the Women Writers Who Shaped a Legend* (New York: Marysue Ricci/Simon & Schuster, 2025; 453 pp., \$29.99), is as much a memoir as it is an exploration of authors Austen admired; the introduction is nicely Sherlockian, 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Wolmbs 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/3bvkt9e>.

The oil-on-canvas painting "Chimney-sweep" by Swedish artist Frans Wilhelm Odellmark (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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.tinyurl.com/4j52b4wd)> <[www.tinyurl.com/3udecfcs](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.ctpmedford.org)>. It also will be performed at the Village Hall in Nayland, Suff., Apr. 2-5 <[www.villageplayers.co.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/CrestonFootlighters)>. Also at the Civic Arts Theatre in Oswaldtwistle, Lancs., June 5-7; web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/5cpvxet9](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk)>.

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