

The long-lost German silent film "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929), with Carlyle Blackwell as Holmes, found in 2009 and carefully restored, is now available at the Internet Archive <www.tinyurl.com/3t6hb9d8>, and on Blu-ray/DVD from Flicker Alley <www.tinyurl.com/394aptub>. It also has been reviewed in detail at the Spectrum Culture web-site, with due attention to director Richard Oswald as well as the film <www.tinyurl.com/sdtsa4ze>.

Sherlock was a winner, on Mar. 31, at the Vaal Race Course in South Africa <www.youtube.com/watch?v=zot8EjUEzL4>. Sherlock is a three-year-old bay colt, by What a Winner out of Slinky the Cat, and you can see his form at <www.racingtv.com/profiles/horse/sherlock-holmes-south-africa>.

People actively collect theater posters: a lot with two posters for the Gillette play <www.tinyurl.com/3knm5zru> sold for £2,200 at Forum Auctions in London on Mar. 26, and another lot with a spectacular full-color poster <www.tinyurl.com/4u9une9v> went for £2,600 (both plus buyer's premium).

Reported by Jim Vogelsang: "Fugue State 1986" (2025), an 8-episode Colombian Netflix series, includes mentions of Conan Doyle in a couple of episodes (a student thinks that Conan Doyle was Jack the Ripper); it's a dark series, following true events that involved Vietnam War veteran Campo Elías Delgado, who committed a mass shooting in Bogotá. There's a trailer at the Netflix web-site <www.netflix.com/title/81726649>.

A signed copy of the first British edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* <www.tinyurl.com/9cr6c2h6> was sold at Swann Auction Galleries on Apr. 23 for \$16,510 (including the buyer's premium); a high price indeed, considering that that's not how the author signed his name.

Andrew Finkel will present the next Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture, at the Toronto Reference Library on Oct. 24, speaking about "The Sultan and the Detective: Sherlock Holmes' Curious Adventures in the Ottoman Empire" <www.acdfriends.org/events.html>. The web-site also offers links to YouTube recordings of past lectures, 2022-2025.

Alexander Orlov has reported that on Apr. 30 the VTB Bank in Russia began presenting an adaptation of "The Sign of the Four" on Russian television, with Artyom Tkachenko as Holmes and Stanislav Beliaev as Watson. There is more about the broadcast at <www.tinyurl.com/mpnnhph5>, and you can watch a trailer at <www.vkvideo.ru/video-22749457_456241747>, and the full one-minute commercial at <www.tinyurl.com/mtp66dht>. Google Translate will be of assistance if you're not fluent in Russian.

"No sheep, Sherlock!" <www.youtube.com/shorts/PYOq5FgyUUY> is a one-minute promo for the new film "The Sheep Detectives", which arrived in theaters on May 8. The film is adapted from Leonie Swann's novel *Three Bags Full: The Sheep Detectives* (2005); neither the book nor the film is Sherlockian, but the video certainly is. You can watch the film's official trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfNLApPCa8E>.

May 26 #2 The Berg Collection at the N.Y. Public Library has manuscripts of three Sherlock Holmes stories ("The Blanched Soldier", "The Devil's Foot", and "The Norwood Builder") and a working copy of the second actor of William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes", all scanned and available at the Library's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ye242mn8>. The Collection also has the manuscript of "The Lost World" (not available on-line). The three Canonical stories also are available in facsimile, with annotations and excellent scholarship, in the Manuscript Series published by the Bakar Street Irregulars <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/manuscript>.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of the Cape Fear (in Wilmington, N.C.) offers a recording of Herbert Greenhough Smith's interview with Mrs. Hudson, on-line at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/573d98cj>.

The Exhibits Development Group has announced that their "Sherlock Holmes: The Exhibition", recently on display at the Point-à-Callière in Montréal (Jan 26 #4), will be seen next in Prague, July 17 through Jan. 10, 2027, at the Gallery Bilá Labut'. Visitors to Prague may also want to contact the Česká společnost Sherlocka Holmese <www.spolecnost-sh.webnode.cz> (that's the Czech Sherlock Holmes Society).

If you would like to own the exhibition, it's for sale at the culturenut website <www.tinyurl.com/2vwfusw2> with an asking price of \$1,800,000.

Charles Blanksteen's *Sherlock Holmes: The Ripper Dilemma* (Manchester: Belanger, 2023; 248 pp., \$19.95) has Holmes and Watson in pursuit of Jack the Ripper in 1888 (and successful) and then dealing with the Cleveland Street Scandal in 1889 (which turns out to have been connected with the Ripper), in an interesting addition to the Jack the Ripper genre.

And a side note, so to speak: I thought that the electronic journal Ripperologist (Dec 17 #3) had stopped publishing, but it turns out that I had just fallen off their mailing list. It is still going strong, and free, with back issues available at its web-site; it's grand reading for anyone interested in Jack the Ripper <www.ripperologist.co.uk>.

The second volume of Charles Blanksteen's trilogy is *Sherlock Holmes: The Seamstress and the Colonel* (2025; 254 pp., \$19.95), which is set after the battle at the Reichenbach, with Holmes in disguise, hiding from and then in pursuit of Colonel Moran in Paris and then in London. There's lots of local color in Paris, with due attention paid to the city's *maisons closes* (the regulated brothels) and similar establishments in London. The novels must be read in order, since they're really chapters in a longer story.

Sherlock Holmes: The Detective and a Woman (2026; 227 pp., \$19.95) is the third volume in the trilogy, continuing the battle between Holmes and Moran, who in 1895 is in Germany, employed by the Kaiser at his hunting lodge in Grunewald, and then in Berlin, Paris, and London, still at work as an assassin; Holmes is victorious, of course. It should be noted that there is another continuing character in the trilogy (sorry: no spoiler here). The publisher's web-site is at <www.belangerbooks.com>.

May 26 #3 The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the spring issue of *Sherlock's Spotlight* is available at their web-site (check the menu at the left) <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective, and the gazette is intended to provide younger Sherlockians with information and entertainment.

Plan ahead: 221B Con will be held at the Atlanta Airport Marriott on Apr. 9-11, 2027. You can read about this year's event in *Watson's Journal*, and register for next year, at <www.221bcon.com/watsons-journal>.

Gavin Milnethorpe's interview with clarinetist Alan Barnes for *The Syncopated Times* web-site (Apr. 29) <www.tinyurl.com/2hjkh72u> includes discussion of the music Barnes wrote for his album "The Sherlock Holmes Suite". You can listen to some of the music at <www.tinyurl.com/ynhwyvpb>.

"Saturday Night Theatre" was a long-running series on the BBC Home Service and then on BBC Radio 4, and the *Times Past* web-site offers a list of all of the broadcasts <www.timespast.ning.com/saturday-night-theatre> that you search for [sherlock] and [doyle]. You can then scroll down and click on "LINK" to listen to any or all of the programs.

The Mystery Writers of America have established a Hall of Fame that will recognize authors who are no longer alive, and thus not eligible for the MWA's Grand Master Award. The first entrants, as reported in *Publishers Weekly* (May 4) <www.tinyurl.com/3wshpabw>, included (needless to say) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. And Donna Andrews, author of *The Hen of the Baskervilles* (Jul 13 #3) and editor of the anthology *School of Hard Knox* (Oct 23 #2) received an MWA Grand Master Award.

The second season of the CBS-TV series "Watson" (starring Morris Chestnut in the title role) ended with a twist that hinted at what might happen in a third season, but the network did not renew the series. Craig Sweeny, the series showrunner, was interviewed at the *Deadline* web-site on May 3 <www.tinyurl.com/2ja9vkxf>, and gave some details on what might have happened in a third season.

The Cretaceous tetrapod *Irritator challenger* was first reported by David M. Martill in Brazil (Feb 96 #1), and the name derives from the irritation that Martill and his fellow authors felt when they found that the snout of the fossil had been artificially elongated by the professional fossil-hunter who had found and sold the skull, and their wish to honor Prof. George Edward Challenger, of the *Lost World*. Now the fossil is to be repatriated from the German museum that bought the fossil in 1991 to Brazil, according to a story in the *Guardian* (May 2) <www.tinyurl.com/y6ymjsa5>.

There was a recent story in *Country Life* <www.tinyurl.com/mv5t4wbd> about Cotterel House in the village of Shere, in the wooded Vale of Holmesdale in Surrey (an hour and a half's drive from Eastbourne on the South Downs), and with mention of Arthur Conan Doyle and A. A. Milne having come to the Shere village green to play for J. M. Barrie's cricket team. Rudyard Kipling and H. G. Wells also were invited, but apparently declined.

May 26 #4 Douglas Kerr is the editor of *The Tragedy of the Korosko and The Fires of Fate*, with *The Nile Journal* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2026; 416 pp., \$165.00), the latest volume in *The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle*; it provides the texts of the book and play, and (published for the first time) the journal that Conan Doyle kept on his visit to Egypt in 1895 and 1896, as well as comparisons of the serial and book editions, discussion of surviving scripts, and detailed explanatory notes. It's a grand addition to Doylean scholarship, and it's wonderful when scholarship is so readable.

Shigeru Tsuyuguchi died on Apr.28, 2025. He had a long career as an actor on Japanese stage, screen, and television, and dubbed the voice of Sherlock Holmes for the Japanese broadcast of the Granada series.

Sherlockian societies do like to celebrate significant anniversaries, and this year the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's 75th anniversary is being celebrated with a full year of festivities. You can hear all about it in Scott Monty and Burt Wolder' interview with Ashley Mayo at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/mvjzv7ah>. Ashley also discusses the Scrapbook, which he maintains for the Society at their website <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/scrapbook>; he 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.

Bignell Wood, the country home that Conan Doyle bought as a birthday present for his wife Jean in 1924, was on the market four years ago, priced at £2,950,000 (Nov 22 #3). Now it's available again, with an asking price of £3,325,000 <www.tinyurl.com/vt7dpc52>. There's an attractive downloadable brochure at the realtor's web-site. And an interesting display of photographs of Conan Doyle and his family at Bignell Wood at Alexis Barquin's "Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia" <www.tinyurl.com/3j6sh77s>.

The spring issue of Canadian Holmes (the journal of the Bootmakers of Toronto) has Mark Jones' discussion of Conan Doyle's delightful short story "The Crime of the Brigadier" (but do read the story before reading the article), Matthew D. Hall's pursuit of "A Scandal in Pharmacopeia", and much more. Subscriptions are included with membership, and details on that are at <www.torontobootmakers.com/membership>.

As noted earlier (Feb 26 #3), someone managed to hack into my address book and send Paperless Post invitations, allegedly from me, to a party. Now someone has hacked into another Sherlockian's address book and is sending Punchbowl invitations to a party. You should beware of any message that says only "open this," and check before downloading anything.

Rex Reed died on May 12. He was an accomplished journalist and film critic, and occasionally an actor. There were reports in 1972 of plans for an Andy Warhol film, an underground version of Sherlock Holmes, with Reed to play Watson, and again in 1976 for a film in which Reed would have played play Watson with Rona Barrett as Shirley Sherlock, a female gossip columnist who was an amateur sleuth. Neither film made it to production.

May 26 #5 "Sherlock is back," according to Foil Arms and Hog, "and this time he's better than ever, all thanks to A.I.!!!" You can see them perform at <www.tinyurl.com/e9y6hj5p>. Sean Finegan (Foil) plays Holmes, and Sean Flanagan (Hog) plays Watson, and the Irish sketch comedy has a Wikipedia entry. Thanks to Howard Ostrom for the nice discovery.

Dennis Simanaitis presides over the "Simanaitis Says" blog, and Tom Tanaka has noted two colorful posts about Sherlock Holmes in advertising, available at <www.simanaitissays.com/tag/holmes-in-advertising>.

More about interesting uses of AI: Jennie Paton found David Attis' video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ZdWZfe2vQw> about how he is using AI to convert old 4x3 ratio film and video to the 16x9 ratio in use today, and to colorize black-and-white film and video.

Another reason to mention Alexis Barquin's "Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia: a web-page devoted to 84 people who have performed as Conan Doyle, in various media, at <www.tinyurl.com/4rnjdu5d>.

When in Portugal: you can visit the Quinta da Bella Vista in Sintra, which has an impressive web-site <www.quintadabellavista.com> that says that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle once owned the property, and that members of his family had lived there. Not quite: Peter Calamai's article on "Seeking the Conan Doyle 'Estate' in Portugal (in the fall 2018 issue of Canadian Holmes) has the facts. Conan Doyle's sister Annette did live in Sintra, and his son Adrian did own and live in an 18th-century mansion that's now part of the Quinta. There's a long article (in Portuguese) about "Arthur Conan Doyle e Sintra" at the web-site of the Alagamares Cultural Association (Feb. 22, 2022) <www.alagamares.com/arthur-conan-doyle-portugal-e-sintra>.

Open Book Chocolates <www.openbookchocolates.com> continue to offer hand-made chocolate bars with literary-inspired flavors, including their tasty Doctor Watson bar (Earl Grey tea & honey in milk chocolate); \$12.99 for a 2.1-oz. bar.

Forecast for release on Aug 11: "Elementary Cinema: The Early Films of Sherlock Holmes" on Blu-ray (\$24.95) <www.tinyurl.com/y8pb3htc>.

Who was the "George Clooney of the 1800s"? William Gillette, according to a post at the "Boston Uncovered" web-site (May 12) about William Gillette and his castle <www.bostonuncovered.com/gillette-castle-state-park>. One does wonder how Gillette (and Clooney) might regard the comparison.

Michael Pennington died on May 7. He had a long career on stage in Britain (and estimated that he had spent 20,000 hours of his life in Shakespeare's plays), but did perform in other media, playing Sherlock Holmes in the television film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1987) and Professor Moriarty with Clive Merrison on BBC Radio 4 in "The Final Problem" (1992) and "The Empty House" (1993). There's a tribute to Pennington at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/3dzwj4vs> that offers a link to the film. You can listen to the radio programs at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ysy982ef> and <www.tinyurl.com/44j5cdk8>.

May 26 #6 Balduin Groller's Dagobert Trostler (Vienna's Sherlock Holmes) came to the attention of Sherlockians when "Anonymous Letters" was included (in English) in Hugh Greene's anthology *More Rivals of Sherlock Holmes* (1971) and was dramatized in the Thames TV series broadcast by ITV (1971). Now there's a collection, *The Adventures of Dagobert Trostler* (San Diego: Kazabo, 2017; 194 pp., \$9.99), with half a dozen stories about the man Ellery Queen called "the first important Teutonic sleuth." Trostler's not Sherlock Holmes, but he's a fine example of the many rivals who were created after Holmes' career ended at the Reichenbach. The publisher's web-site is at <www.kazabo.com>.

Craig and June Hamilton-Parker described themselves as "happy mediums" and offer on-line readings via Zoom. They have posted a video of their visit to Conan Doyle's "haunted grave" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSc0CXayl1M> and you're entitled to think that their readings will be no more accurate than their stories about Conan Doyle.

Dom Testa tells the story of "The Most Famous Sax Riff Ever" in an interesting video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvtHS2oGmSs> that's actually Sherlockian (although you'll need to listen to the end to find out why). A tip of the deerstalker to Jennie Paton, who found the video.

There's no end to Internet speculation about a third movie starring Robert Downey Jr. as Sherlock Holmes. Director Guy Ritchie, in an interview recently posted at the Collider web-site, said that he would love to make a third film. "I adore Downey, and I adored making those two movies. Look, I think it's just honestly a question of just aligning our schedules. I know the appetite for it's there, but the appetite for it from our side is there, too. So we'd love to make that happen. I just don't know how it's going to happen. It's amazing that it hasn't happened."

One can find Conan Doyle everywhere, including the Tokyo National Museum, in an exhibition honoring the Maeda samurai clan. Matt Hall has an interesting post at his "221B Cooee" blog <www.tinyurl.com/354pb2uc> recounting the story behind a letter from Conan Doyle that's on display in Tokyo.

Jennie Paton has discovered an interesting interview with Nestor Chiesse, who dubbed for Benedict Cumberbatch when "Sherlock" was broadcast in Brazil <www.youtube.com/watch?v=NK4y_7aVw1Y>. If you're not fluent in Portuguese, click on "settings" and "autotranslate" to get closed captions in English.

David Burke died on May 10. He had a spectacular career as an actor, on stage and then on television; his first Sherlockian role was as Sir George Burnwell in Peter Cushing's "The Beryl Coronet" (1965), and then he was a stalwart and intelligent Watson with Jeremy Brett in the first two seasons of the Granada television series (1984-1985). You can see Burke as Watson in the documentary "The Shackles of Sherlock" that was broadcast on ITV in 2007 <www.tinyurl.com/yrwetbev>, and in A&E's "Biography" series in "Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" (2017) <www.tinyurl.com/m7smu5c>. There also is a warm appreciation of Burke at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/578ax6kt>.

May 26 #7 SRF [Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen] has announced the start of production on a new television series ("The Death of Sherlock Holmes") that begins with the supposed death of Holmes at the Reichenbach; Rafe Spall stars as Sherlock Holmes, and the series is scheduled to premiere in 2027. The SRF press release is at <www.tinyurl.com/43p4um9d>.

"The Adventure of the Three Garridebs (1937) was the first broadcast of a Sherlock Holmes story on television, and the second was "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (1949), with Alan Napier as Holmes. Napier is warmly remembered as Alfred, Bruce Wayne's butler, but you can see him as Holmes at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgD81Mz9cOY>, kindly reported by Jennie Paton.

Mark Rowlands' nicely philosophical *The Book of Memory: How We Become Who We Are* (New York: Pegasus, 2025; 147 pp., \$26.95) opens with a Preface on "My Life as a Fictional Character" that explores "the difference between fiction and reality," and discusses Sherlock Holmes, concluding that "being a fictional character no doubt has its drawbacks." But he also suggests that "death is never definitive for such a being."

Black Cat Weekly is an e-zine <www.blackcatweekly.com> edited by John Betancourt and published by the Wildside Press. The e-zine casts a wide net, and issue 246 includes Elizabeth Elwood's pastiche "Gladwyn and the Speckled Band".

"The Young Lord Peter Consults Sherlock Holmes" (written by Dorothy Sayers) was included in a "Tribute to Sherlock Holmes on the Occasion of His Hundredth Birthday" broadcast by the BBC Home Service on Jan. 8, 1954. No recording's known, but the script was published in *Sayers on Holmes* (2001) and (reported by Allyn Gibson) is available at <www.tinyurl.com/464wrarr>.



It is tempting to suggest that there is nothing Sherlockian about the stamp (one of eight in a recent mini-sheet issued by our Postal Service to honor Route 66) that shows a handsome blue-and-white 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air parked in front of the Munger Moss Motel in Lebanon, Mo. But: the first new car that I ever owned was a blue 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air, and it was in that car that I drove to New York in 1958 to attend my first annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars, and in 1959 for my second annual dinner, at which I received my Irregular Shilling and my Investiture. I wish I still had it. It is now a classic car, worth considerably more than the \$2,400 it cost me to buy mine.

Some ornithopter wings used in the film "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), at auction at Propstore on May 21, were estimated at £1,000-£2,000 but didn't sell <www.tinyurl.com/ymyuesuy>; Benedict Cumberbatch's autographed read-through script for Granada's "The Lying Detective" (2017) was estimated at £1,500-£3,000 and was bought for only £945 (including the buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/47ddjutv>; and the screen-matched Baker Street sign from Granada's "The Abominable Bride" (2016), estimated at £1,000-£2,000, sold (with 34 bids) for £10,080 <www.tinyurl.com/4rja89n2>.

May 26 #8 Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" is running at the Arts Theatre Cronulla in Cronulla, N.S.W., through June 13; web-site at <www.artstheatrecronulla.com.au>. It is also due at Lone Star College-Montgomery in The Woodlands, Tex., July 9-11 <www.tinyurl.com/j9kh3hdw>.

John Goodrum's "The Nightmare Room" (based on Conan Doyle's story) is on tour in Britain through Aug. 22 <www.tabsproductions.co.uk>.

Mark O'Sullivan's "Sherlock Holmes" will be produced at the Roman Theatre of Verulamium in St. Albans, Herts., June 5-20 <www.ovo.org.uk>.

Elle Michael River's comedy "Oh Sh*t, Sherlock" [their asterisk] is to be produced at the October Ensemble Theatre in Ocean Grove, N.J., June 6-20 <www.octoberensemble.com>; "A different Sherlock every night! The twist? The actor playing Sherlock has never seen the script or attended a rehearsal."

David M. Belke's "The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes" will be produced at the Arts Barn at Gaithersburg, Md., June 12-28; their web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/3shzrzuy>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Peterborough Players Theatre in Peterborough, N.H., June 17-28 <www.peterboroughplayers.org>.

James Nicholas' "Sherlock Holmes: The Speckled Band" is scheduled at the Blue Orange Theatre in Birmingham, July 18 <www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk>; and at theSpace on the Mile in Edinburgh, Aug. 21-29 <www.edfringe.com>.

The Old Joint Stock Theatre is performing "Sherlock Holmes and the Bitter of the Baskervilles: An Untapped Tale" on tour in Fuller's pubs in Britain, starting on July 26 <www.fullers.co.uk/event-finder/sherlock>.

The Ghostwriters' "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" will be performed during the Edinburgh Fringe at Just the Tonic in the Caves, Aug. 6-17 <www.improvsherlock.com>.

"Houdini Speaks to the Living" (Houdini and Conan Doyle and magic) is due at theSpace on the Mile in Edinburgh, Aug. 7-22 <www.edfringe.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" will be produced at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater in Rockville, Md., Sept. 25-Oct. 4 <www.rlt-online.org>.

Nick Lane's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hunt for Moriarty" will be produced at the Vertigo Theatre in Calgary, Alb., Nov. 14-Dec. 19; their web-site is at <www.vertigotheatre.com>.

"Baker Street: The Musical Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be produced at the Gray Smith Stage in Winton-Salem, N.C., Nov. 19-23; their web-site is at <www.theatrealliance.ws>.

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