

Doctor Who (Matt Smith) and Sherlock Holmes (Benedict Cumberbatch) almost met, in a segment for a "Comic Relief" telethon, but they never did. Stephen Moffat explained why in an interview (on June 25) on "The Whoniverse Show" at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=di90VuXa1TM> (at 26:30).

Terry Golway's *Terror from America* (Virginia Beach: Köehler Books, 2026; 275 pp., \$29.95) is set in 1885, when Sherlock Holmes, sent by the British government to New York in pursuit of the Clan na Gael, the Irish republicans who were setting off bombs in London as part of their campaign in favor of Irish home rule, solves a complicated mystery. There is intrigue and violence and an interesting set of supporting characters (some of them real, and some not), as well as some nice surprises. Golway's web-site is at <www.terrygolway.com> and there's a nice interview with him at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=5X3rZ_lhN18>.

Magicians know that the story is important. Here's Drummond Money-Coutts' nice story about Conan Doyle and Holmes <www.tinyurl.com/4hpdnet6>.

The television series "Wishbone" (which was broadcast on PBS-TV in 1995) included two Sherlockian episodes ("The Slobbery Hound" and "A Dogged Exposure"), both now readily available at YouTube. You can also see Wishbone (briefly, at 52:30) in his Sherlockian costume in "What's the Story, Wishbone?" (a new documentary tribute to the series) that is now streaming on various channels <www.whatsthestorywishbone>.

When in Prague: the Prague Daily News has reported (June 19) on the city's Dear Watson pub <www.tinyurl.com/b9bsf9nj>.

The June issue of the newsletter published by the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Philip Bergem's introduction to Erin McBrien (the Collections' new curator), and tributes to Conan Doyle's *The Land of Mist* and Philip José Farmer's *The Adventure of the Peerless Peer*. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Erin McBrien at #15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <emcbrien@umn.edu>.

Time for a trivia question: name an actor who has played both Watson and Conan Doyle.

An interesting Conan Doyle autograph letter was at auction at Bonhams in London on July 1 <www.tinyurl.com/42xuc4mp> with an estimate of £600-£800. In 1916 he wrote ("Dear Sir") to someone at the Admiralty, noting that "We are short of merchant shipping," and proposing, "should we not buy all the German ships in American ports?" and that "It could no doubt be affected through an American intermediary without the seller knowing who the real purchaser was. It is trading with the enemy but if the value of the ships to us is greater for war purposes than the money to them it is surely good policy." The U.S. did not enter the war until 1917, so German ships were free to come and go at the time; the letter sold for £1,024 (including the buyer's premium).

Jul 26 #2 Further to the item about the Mystery Writers of America (May 26 #3); the MWA also honored Lee Child with their Grand Master Award; his short story "The Bone-Headed League" appeared in the anthology *A Study in Sherlock: Stories Inspired by the Holmes Canon* (2011, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie Klinger).

Name an actor who has played both Watson and Conan Doyle. Ian Hart, who was Watson on television in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2002) and in "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" (2004), and was Conan Doyle in the film "Finding Neverland" (2004). That's according to Nobelle Borines in a post at the International Business Times web-site on July 1 <www.tinyurl.com/2vjmkcre>. Any additions to the list?

Michael Dirda's next book will be *The Great Age of Storytelling: The Glory Day of Adventurer and Rogues, Time Traveler, and Great Detectives*, due on Dec. 1 from Pegasus Books. Here's what the publisher has to say about it <www.tinyurl.com/2s428v7p>.

"The Comic Strips of Television" was a 15-minute animated pilot that was written and directed by Alex Anderson, and produced by Jay Ward in 1948, with three 5-minute segments featuring Hamhock Jones, Crusader Rabbit, and Dudley Doright of the Mounties. Crusader Rabbit and Dudley Doright made it to television (with an added hyphen for Dudley Do-Right), but nothing more was heard of Hamhock Jones, who was voiced by Russ Coughlin. You can watch the film at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyWiR2SmeFs>. And read Keith Scott's *The Moose That Roared: The Story of Jay Ward, Bill Scott, a Flying Squirrel, and a Talking Moose* (2000).

Roy E. Pilot ("Chemical Laboratory at St. Barts") died on June 21. He was a pharmacist and expert chemist, a stalwart member of Sherlockian societies in the mid-west, and with Alvin Rodin was the author of *The Annotated Lost World* (1996) and then with Doug Elliott *The Annotated White Company* (2020). Roy received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1997.

The Prague Daily News (July 7) <www.tinyurl.com/38fkujzv> reviewed "Sherlock Holmes: The Exhibition", now at the Gallery Bilá Labut', and the review includes a brief video.

Further to the item about Sherlock Holmes stories in Klingon (Sep 25 #1), *A Scandal in Bohemia* and *The Red-Headed League* (Saarbrücken: Egypt Verlag; 2025) are now available at Amazon (\$11.90 each), translated by Andrews D. Miller, with Klingon and English on facing pages. You can see some sample pages at the publisher's web-site <www.egpyt.de>.

If you watched television from Washington the evening of July 4, you got to see the Artemis II astronauts and Jack Schmitt, the only geologist to have set foot on the Moon. It was Jack Schmitt who named Sherlock Crater in honor of Sherlock Holmes as a geologist, and who, during a rest period between excursions onto the Moon's surface, talked with Joe Allen at CAP-COM in Houston in the longest-distance Sherlockian conversation ever held.

Jul 26 #3 Jerry Lewis has many Sherlockian connections, one of them the film "The Family Jewels" (1965), in which he played many characters, including the private detective Skylock Peyton, accompanied by his faithful companion Dr. Matson (played by Sebastian Cabot). You can see a trailer for the film at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/bn4tt8x5>, and watch the film on various subscription channels, or free (with commercials) on Pluto TV. You can also borrow it and watch it free (if you have a library card) on Hoopla <www.hoopladigital.com>.

Howard Ostrom's spectacular "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers, 1891-2024" has been posted at Ross K. Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site at <www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html>. Howard notes that "the famous, the forgotten, and the unknowns all have spots" in the data-base, which has more than 10,000 entries and more than 25,000 images.

Sherlock Holmes is in danger in Edinburgh, according to a story in the Edinburgh Evening News (on July 7) <www.tinyurl.com/msvkea4d>. The Picardy Place statue of Sherlock Holmes has been damaged because of the "craze of topping the city's historic statues with traffic cones." Apparently the damage has been to the stone base rather than to the statue, and the article has pictures. An earlier story (July 3) <www.tinyurl.com/3y26tsvh>, noted that placing cones on statues is a Glasgow tradition that started in the 1980s.

Dame Penelope Keith has died (her death was announced on June 29). Best known here for her stellar performance as Audrey fforbes-Hamilton in the television series "To the Manor Born", she began acting on stage in 1959 and went on to star on screen, radio, and television as well, and she was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2014. In 1995 she spoke at Jeremy Brett's memorial service, and Sherlockians will recall her as the massage receptionist in the Peter Cook/Dudley Moore film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1979).

Netflix has announced <www.tinyurl.com/2eb4tbbn> that "The Final Problem" will debut on Sept. 25. This is the five-episode mini-series dramatizing Arturo Pérez-Reverte's novel *El Problema Final*, featuring Jose Coronado as Benjamin Basil, "a washed-up actor who once played the most famous detective of all time on the silver screen" (May 25 #1). The announcement includes a colorful trailer.

"Enola Holmes 3" debuted on Netflix on July 1, and it was well received by many if not most viewers. For those who do not get Netflix, Jennie Paton kindly reported the film available at <www.dailymotion.com/video/xakznxy>. And a new film "Sherlock Holmes and the Angels of Vengeance" can be seen (with commercials) here <www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSsSiNnDDOE>.

Kim Newman, author of *Anno Dracula* (1992), *The Man from the Diogenes Club* (2005), and *Professor Moriarty: The Hound of the D'Urbervilles* (2011), was the Distinguished Speaker Lecturer at the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York in 2013. He also has long been an enthusiastic reviewer and critic of Sherlockian film and television, and his discussion of "Murder by Decree (1979) is available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=FN_dTkaSTP4>.

Jul 26 #4 International Autograph Auctions in Spain offered on June 24 a small page removed from a notebook, with Conan Doyle's holograph scores from a game of billiards <www.tinyurl.com/bdhe4huw>, signed twice, but only with his initials. It was bought for €150 (plus buyer's premium), one assumes by a billiards enthusiast who was willing to pay a goodly sum for initials.

Jennie Paton has found the classic animation "Mr. Magoo's Sherlock Holmes" (1965) at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3JkLP33eNc>. It features Mr. Magoo (voiced by Jim Backus) as Dr. Watson; Sherlock Holmes was voiced by Paul Frees, and there are brief glimpses of Mr. Magoo as Holmes in the opening credits and at the very end.

"Follow the Lions, Discover the Pride" is the motto of the Pride of Portsmouth Lion Trail, which was opened on July 11 and will run until Sept. 13 <www.prideofportsmouth.co.uk>. Click on "Meet the Lions" to see Purrlock Holmes (designed by Claire Havell).

Albert Kunz died on June 14. He had a long career with the Swiss National Tourist Office in London (he was its director when he retired), and he was of great assistance to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London when in 1968 they embarked on their first costumed excursion to Switzerland. He chose the quite appropriate persona of "Peter Steiler" for the Society's excursions in 1968 and later years.

The BBC reported, on Apr. 1, 1957, on the spaghetti harvest in Ticino, in Switzerland <www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVo_wkxH9dU>. Albert Kunz, then the publicity officer at the Swiss National Tourist Office in London, was one of the perpetrators, and Greg Darak has kindly forwarded a Swiss report on this classic hoax <www.tinyurl.com/5xt6zf7x>.

Peter McIntyre reports that Sherlock's Jewel finished fourth in a race at the Saratoga Race Course on July 11 <www.tinyurl.com/uv5jpp2>, and he was claimed for \$80,000. There's more about him (and his career) at Equibase <www.tinyurl.com/mrxasczr>.

Karen Murdock has noted an imaginative "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes Light Book" available (for \$40.00) from Modgy <www.tinyurl.com/5eurebdv>. You can click on one of the images to see how it works.

The new (2026) issue of the Baker Street Almanac has been published, with news of world-wide Sherlockian and Doylean activity in 2025, scholarship, and articles, as well as interesting bonus items (just for subscribers to the print edition); one of the bonus items is a delightful booklet devoted to the Sherlockian aspects Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*. If you didn't subscribe, there might be copies available from the Mysterious Bookshop <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>. Text of previous Almanacs is online (free), along with a link useful for people who want to subscribe for future years <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/bsa.html>. Kudos to Ross E. Davies, who has edited and published what he calls "an annual capsule of a timeless past and future" for nine years, and is welcoming PJ Sullivan as general editor, and eventually publisher.

Jul 26 #5 David Poyers' story "The Adventure of the Abducted Sorceress", brings Holmes and Watson into the world of the occult and the supernatural; it first appeared in the anthology *The Night Bazaar: London*, edited by Lenore Hart (Northampton House Press, 2023; 256 pp., \$19.95) and it's also available as a paperback (2024; 87 pp., \$8.95). The publisher's web-site is at <www.northampton-house.com>. Poyers also adapted the story into the two-act play *Blood Moon, or the Adventure of the Abducted Sorceress* (Blue Moon Plays, 2023; 66 pp., \$13.95).

That copy of Chrisina Rossetti's *The Prince's Progress, and Other Poems*, illustrated by Dante Gabriel Rossetti and inscribed by him to Charles Augustus Howell (Jun 26 #8), offered at Forum Auctions in London on July 16, estimated at £4,000-£6,000 <www.tinyurl.com/2s3twsay>, went unsold.

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson were seen together at Wimbledon, according to a post to the TV Insider web-site (July 10) <www.tinyurl.com/ytm44cye>. Needless to say, it's nice to see them together again.

Joanna Petter died on July 17. She made her Broadway debut in 1961, went on to act in television and films, and appeared as Josephine Pacefoot in the X-rated 1969 film "The Best House in London" (which had brief glimpses of Peter Jeffrey as Sherlock Holmes and Thorley Walters as Doctor Watson).

Gyles Brandreth, who has written seven mysteries featuring Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde, had a colorful interview in *Country Life* (July 11) <www.tinyurl.com/yudj2heb>.

Enyd Williams died on June 18. She had a long career with the BBC, working as a producer and director in television and radio, and was best known for her radio serializations of mysteries. She was credited with almost half of the Sherlock Holmes stories dramatized by Bert Coules, with Clive Merrison as Holmes and Michael Williams as Watson, and highly regarded for her attention to detail in sound effects for the series.

Thierry Saint-Joanis has noted that the BBC Radio program "Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula" (1981), dramatized by Glyn Dearman from Loren D. Estleman's novel, with John Moffat (Holmes), Timothy West (Watson), and David March (Dracula), is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y2nphebx>.

Burt Wolder has found some interesting items in the pages of *The New Yorker*. "Nobody operating a typewriter these days is funnier than S. J. Perelman, a definitive authority on the life of Sherlock Holmes," according to Wolcott Gibbs (Apr. 19, 1941). Perelman himself wrote (Mar. 2, 1946): "Yes, Hollywood dearly loves a technical expert, however recondite or esoteric his field. It is a pretty picayune film that cannot afford at least one of them; sometimes they well-nigh outnumber the actors. The Sherlock Holmes series, for instance, employs three savants on a full-time basis--one who has made a life-long study of the décor at 221-B Baker Street, a second deeply versed in the great detective's psychology, and a third who spots anachronisms in the script which may distress Holmesians, like penicillin and the atomic bomb." Perelman was a highly-regarded satirist, as those who have seen the 1940s Universal series will quickly realize.

Jul 26 #6 Thomas Drucker has reported Willard Spiegelman's "Musings of a Savoyard" in *The American Scholar* (winter 2026), available online at <www.tinyurl.com/34jm4d2u>, with a mention of a member of the chorus in Sherlockian costume in the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players production of "The Mikado" (which had its premiere in New York in 2017). You can see him in the short video at <www.nygasp.org/mikadotour>.

It's nice to be able to report that a well-placed source has said that the British Film Institute is continuing to work on restoring the 1920s Eille Norwood silent films, and that it is possible that we will be able to see more of them in 2027.

"It has always fascinated me," Anthony Horowitz wrote in *The Sunday Times* (July 19), "the distinction between what you might call 'great' literature and commercial fiction, which, one could argue, is exemplified by crime stories. But Sherlock Holmes is proof that a writer of Doyle's genius can encapsulated greatness and commercial success, and we crime writers, toiling away in his shadow, should take heart from his example."

The twelve-part serial "The Lost Special" (1932) is one of more unusual films credited to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. It's set in the American west and offers a grand look at what brought people to the cinema week after week all those years ago; see for yourself at <www.tinyurl.com/hcf3d7em>.

Karen Ellery has reported that a "Sherlock Holmes" MAX Brick Construction Book (from Zuru) is offered (\$14.99) by ToyWiz <www.tinyurl.com/ye2xhfyd> and others. There's a bit more about the book at the Facebook page of the Bricks without Clay society at <www.facebook.com/groups/1523843528327148>. If you'd like to have a copy of the actual book on which the Brick Book is based, Max Magee has found it at <www.amazon.com/dp/1984899538>.

Elizabeth Stamp's *150 Bookstores You Need to Visit Before You Die* (Tieft: Lanooo, 2023; 256 pp., \$39.95) is Sherlockian only because Otto Penzler's Mysterious Bookshop is included, but it's a grand tour of the world's remarkable bookstores.

Thierry Saint-Joanis has reported that the French television series "Madoiselle Holmes" has been cancelled, so we won't see a third season. The first two seasons, with Lola Dewaere as Charlotte Holmes, the great-granddaughter of Sherlock Holmes (Aug 25 #3), still are available, with English subtitles, on PBS Passport.

Adding to the report on David Addis' using AI to convert the old 4x3 ratio film and video to today's 16x9 ratio, and to colorize black-and-white film and video (May 26 #5), you can watch his "new and improved" "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6619FZOecs>.

The next "Russell and Holmes" book from Laurie R. King will be *Mary Russell's Ghost*, a collection of short stories that is due in February 2027. Read all about it at <www.laurierking.com/books/mary-russells-ghost>. In the meantime her non-Russell *Those Who Are Gone* is due in September; details and a sample are at <www.laurierking.com/books/those-who-are-gone>.

Jul 26 #7 Steve Hockensmith's "Holmes on the Range" series now extends to eight entertaining books, set in the 1890s, that feature the cowboy Amlingmeyer brothers, Big Red (who kindly reads the stories to his brother) and Old Red (who strives to follow in Sherlock Holmes' foot-steps as a detective). *Hunters of the Dead* (Las Vegas: Rough Edges, 2023; 272 pp., \$14.99) takes their A.A. Western Detective Agency to Wyoming in 1894, hired to protect fossil hunters in pursuit of dinosaur fossils. And *Strong Medicine* (2016; 295 pp., \$14.99) has the brothers in Galveston, investigating and (of course solving) a complicated mystery. The author's colorful web-site's at <www.stevhockensmith.com>, and Paul Zeidman interviews Steve at the CreativeWritingLife podcast <www.tinyurl.com/dfxssymk>.

The British Library now offers access to EThOS (E-Theses Online Service), which provides access to thousands of thesis records from the 1700s up to 2026 <www.tinyurl.com/fwyyjuhd>. Searches for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] yield quite a few theses, one of them Ashley D. Polasek's "The Evolution of Sherlock Holmes: Adapting Character Across Time and Text" (De Montfort University, 2014).

Add Ian Merrill Peakes to the list of the actors who have appeared as both Holmes and Moriarty. He has played Holmes in Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" (2018) and Bill Van Horn's "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (2022), and Moriarty in Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" (2026). He also read for the part of Watson in "Baskerville" in 2018 but was cast as Holmes.

"The Adventures and Memoirs are the foundational texts of detective fiction as a modern genre, collecting the stories in which Doyle established not just a character but an entire narrative grammar that every subsequent writer in the form has had to either adopt or argue with," according to an on-line catalog from Bibliotopos, offering first American editions of the two books (for \$750) <www.tinyurl.com/2kar38ey>. And there's more praise for both Conan Doyle and Holmes.

"Dartmoor ponies given new protection after cull fears," the BBC reported on July 16 <www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj632kxez2eo>. There were concerns that a requirement for reduced grazing on the moor's commons could lead to removal of 90% of the ponies, and the government has said that the ponies will be removed from stocking-rate calculations, so farmers would not face a choice between keeping ponies and maintaining sheep or cattle. The article also notes that the ponies have been part of the Dartmoor landscape for 4,500 years, but their numbers have dropped from 6,000 25 years ago to fewer than 1,000 today, and they have now been declared to be endangered. It was Stapleton who said (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles") that he had seen one of the moor ponies wander into the great Grimpen Mire, and that "he never came out."

Liane Luini reports that Watson's Tin Box (the Sherlockian society in Ellicott City, Md.) has a new web-site at <www.watsonstinbox.net>. All back issues of their journal "Irene's Cabinet" are posted there, along with papers written by members, and files of the spectacular Evidence Boxes that were created by the late Paul G. Churchill for each of the 60 stories, and summaries of their monthly meetings.

Jul 26 #8 As always, there's plenty of theatrical news. Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" is running at the Peninsula Theatre in Woy Woy, N.S.W., through Aug. 6 <www.woywoylt.com>; and at the StageCenter Theatre in Bryan, Tex., through Aug. 8 <www.stagecenter.net>. It also will be performed at the Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., Aug. 14-27 <www.stagecraftersfwb.com>; and at the English Theatre of Hamburg in Germany, Feb. 12-Apr. 9, 2027 <www.ethhamburg.de>.

The Rusticus Woodland Creatures Theatre are performing "The Lost World" at Sewerby Hall and Gardens in Bridlington, Yorks., through Sept. 1; web-site at <www.sewerbyhall.co.uk>.

John Goodrum's "The Nightmare Room" will be produced at the Theatre Royal in Nottingham, Notts., Aug 18-22 <www.trch.co.uk>.

John E. Lee's "Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula" is scheduled at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., Sept. 18-Oct. 11 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be produced at the Majestic Theatre in Corvallis, Ore., Sept. 25-Oct. 3 <www.majesitic.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Main Street Theatre in Sulfur Springs, Tex., Oct. 9-18 <www.communityplayersinc.com>; at the Stage North Theater in Brainerd, Minn., Oct. 22-25 <www.stagenorththeater.com>; and at the Three Notch Theatre in Lexington Park, Md., Apr. 23-May 9, 2027 <www.newtownplayers.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the 12 Days of Christmas" (by Humphrey Ker and David Reed, with songs by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice), is due at the Alexandra Palace in London, Nov. 26-Jan. 17 <www.alexandrapalace.com>. There is a trailer (presumably from the premiere at the Birmingham Rep) on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzTP0cZqW-E>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" is scheduled at the Twin Lake Playhouse in Mountain Home, Ark., Nov. 6-22 <www.twinlakesplayhouse.org>; at the Andrews Theatre in Buffalo, N.Y., Nov. 27-Dec. 13 <www.irishclassical.com>. It also will be produced at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., Nov. 27-Dec. 13 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>; and at the Dobama Theater in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Dec. 3-Jan. 7 <www.dobama.org>; and at On Pitch Performing Arts in Layton, Utah, Dec. 4-19 <www.onpitchperformingarts.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at the Lewisville Theatre in Lewisville, Tex., Dec. 4-20; web-site at <www.lewisvilleplayhouse.org>.

"Murdering Sherlock: The Life and Crimes of Arthur Conan Doyle" is coming up at the Bingley Arts Centre in Bingley, West Yorks., on Mar. 31, 2027 <www.bingleyartscentre.co.uk>.

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