

Apr 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The manuscript of "The Dancing Men" offered at Heritage Auctions in Dallas on Apr. 18 (Mar 18 #2) sold for \$312,500 (the opening bid of \$250,000 plus the buyer's premium); Randall Stock has provided an excellent illustrated discussion of the manuscript, including its history, at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <[www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/dancing-men-2018.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/dancing-men-2018.htm)>. There's also an interesting post about the manuscript, and the Baker Street Irregulars' manuscript-series volume DANCING TO DEATH (Jan 17 #2), at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <[www.tinyurl.com/yahwcxj9](http://www.tinyurl.com/yahwcxj9)>. DANCING TO DEATH is still available for purchase at <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)>. And it is a pleasure to report that the manuscript now is part of the collection of Glen A. Miranker.

Further to the item about the pterosaur "Arthurdactylus conan-doylei" and the tetrapod "Irritator challengeri" (described by David M. Martill and his co-authors from the Lower Cretaceous formations of Brazil (Feb 96 #1), both fossils are included in a database at <[www.dinosaurpictures.org](http://www.dinosaurpictures.org)>; billed as the world's largest dinosaur database, it also offers a link to an interactive globe of ancient earth that allows you to see how the Earth's surface has changed from the Edicarian Period (600 million years ago) to the present.

"Moffat and Gatiss Confirm New Sherlock Series" was the headline on James C. O'Leary's post to Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/y9xctukv](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9xctukv)> earlier this month; the new series is scheduled to air on CBS-TV in the network's next season.

Further to the item (Mar 18 #1) on Vasily Nebenzya's speech at the United Nations, the Daily Telegraph has (alas) a pay-wall for archived articles, and YouTube presents moving targets: try <[www.tinyurl.com/yaoumnu](http://www.tinyurl.com/yaoumnu)>; the Sherlockian segment starts at 14:05 minutes.

It should be noted that in a later speech Nebenzya read from "Alice in Wonderland" ("sentence first and verdict afterwards") in discussing the nerve-gas poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skirpal in England. Alexander Orlov has noted that Nebenzya's father was deputy chairman of the USSR Committee for Publishing, and chairman of the Council for Children's Literature.

And the saga continues: Karen Peirce, the U.K. ambassador to the U.N., responded to a request from Russia that its scientists be allowed to investigate the poisoning by saying that permitting them to join "an investigation when they are the most likely perpetrators of the crime ... would be like Scotland Yard inviting in Professor Moriarty."

When you're in India: Sherlock's Pub is now open in Chennai [formerly known as Madras, with a video spotted by Jennie Paton <[www.tinyurl.com/y97jgwem](http://www.tinyurl.com/y97jgwem)>.

Jean Upton reports in the latest issue of the District Messenger (the newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London) that the National Portrait Gallery's portrait of Conan Doyle, by Henry Gates, is on display again (in room 31) and appears to have been cleaned and restored. Current and past issues of the newsletter are archived at <[www.tinyurl.com/yd5et39e](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd5et39e)>.

Apr 18 #2 Laurie R. King's ISLAND OF THE MAD (New York: Bantam, 2018; 306 pp., \$28.00) has Mary Russell (and her husband Sherlock Holmes) first in England and then in Venice, in 1925, when Americans (including Elsa Maxwell and Cole Porter) are enjoying themselves, and Mussolini's Black Shirts are on the rise; the mystery's imaginative, the politics compelling, and Venice, as always, is intriguing.

The Public Safety Center in Edmond, Okla., displays a bronze sculpture of Sherlock Holmes, created by artist Jane DeDecker and dedicated on Oct. 29, 2015. Images of the sculpture can be seen at [www.tinyurl.com/y8dx4lvm](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8dx4lvm).

"Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences" is the title of The Norwegian Explorers' next conference in Minneapolis, scheduled for Aug. 9-11, 2019, at the Graduate Hotel (the new name of the Commons Hotel), and there will be an evening reception on Apr. 8; you can enroll on their mailing list by contacting Julie McKuras [mike9750@aol.com](mailto:mike9750@aol.com).

How many of Sherlock Holmes' books have you read? Not the Sherlock Holmes in the Canon, but rather the Sherlock Holmes played by Jonny Lee Miller in "Elementary". Listopia (a feature of Goodreads) has a list of 27 books in Holmes' brownstone, and if you can identify more you're welcome to add to the list [www.tinyurl.com/ycfb8xur](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycfb8xur).

Here a Baskerville, there a Baskerville, everywhere a Baskerville: further to the item (Oct 95 #1) on Crowsley Park House in Henley-on-Thames, owned by the Baskerville family, one of whose members, Sir Henry Baskerville, was High Sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1847: it's one of the many house alleged to have inspired the Sherlock Holmes story, and it has stone gatepost statues of "hell hounds" with spears through their mouths; you can see one of the hounds in a story in the Henley Standard [www.tinyurl.com/y9muagr5](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9muagr5), with mention of the Baskerville Arms, a pub in nearby Lower Shiplake (not to be confused with The Baskerville Arms in Hay-on-Wye, near Clyro in Wales).

Further to the item (Mar 18 #4) on the Dorothy L. Sayers letter to Walter Klinefelter in which she recommended he contact H. W. Bell for information about the higher criticism of Sherlock Holmes, it was one of 21 letters in the lot at RR Auction that had an opening bid of \$300 and sold for \$4,500 (plus 22.5% buyer's premium).

A reminder of the days when there were smoking and non-smoking sections in restaurant: a (briefly) Sherlockian commercial in favor of proposition 10 in California, on "The David Letterman Show" on Oct. 24, 1980, spotted by Greg Ruby [www.tinyurl.com/ya9crje8](http://www.tinyurl.com/ya9crje8) (at 28:24 minutes).

Andrew Ive has noted an interesting possibility for the origin of Sherlock Holmes' names: Conan Doyle married Louise Hawkins in 1885 in Lonsdale, near St. Mary's Church in Ingleton, where the Rev. Thomas Dod Sherlock had been vicar, and where a nearby area was called the Holmes. The church in Ingleton has launched a campaign to raise money for repairs, and there are plans to have a statue of Sherlock Holmes placed in the grounds once the building work has been completed, and contributions will be most welcome; there is more information at [www.ingleton.co.uk/sherlock\\_holmes.asp](http://www.ingleton.co.uk/sherlock_holmes.asp), and you can reach Andrew Ive at [andyive69@gmail.com](mailto:andyive69@gmail.com).

Apr 18 #3 The Brigadier Gerard is now shut and empty. That's the pub in York, which was originally a private house, then the Gasworks Social Club, and in 1984 expanded as The Brigadier Gerard; it was named not in honor of the hero of Conan Doyle's stories, but rather for a famous race horse. York Mix reported on Mar. 28, that the pub suddenly closed, with no explanation from the brewery that managed it. racing fans are aware that the horse was named for Conan Doyle's swashbuckling hero, and it is worth noting that there is another pub called The Brigadier Gerard, in Eastleigh.

Pokémon's new Nintendo game "Detective Pikachu" has been released, and the company has kindly made a comic book "Detective Pikachu: Episode 0--Eevee's Case" available as a free Kindle download at <[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)>.



Adolph Treidler's atmospherically-Sherlockian ink-and-brush painting of a hansom cab and its driver is available from Taraba Illustration Art for \$350 (plus \$50 domestic shipping); the image size is 8 x 10 in.). Treidler (1886-1961) was well-known for his magazine covers, posters, and illustrations for advertising; first come, first served, and you can contact Fred Taraba by e-mail <[fred@tarabaillustrationart.com](mailto:fred@tarabaillustrationart.com)> to purchase the artwork. Fred advertises a wide variety of attractive original artwork at his web-site, including Robert Fawcett's illustration for a non-Sherlockian story by Noel Langley (Fawcett also illustrated Sherlockian pastiches written by Arthur Whitaker, and by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr.

"Secret Agent Selection: WW2" is the title of a five-episode weekly television series launched by BBC Two on Apr. 9, about the beginning of the Special Operations Executive, whose members were known as the Baker Street Irregulars (because their original offices in 1940 were in Baker Street); the series may (or may not) air in other countries, eventually.

Further to the report (Dec 17 #8) that his long-running "Detective Conan" manga series would be on hiatus while he recovered from illness, Goshō Aoyama announced that the comic would return to stores in April. The manga features a genius teenage detective who shrank into a young boy after being forced to ingest an experimental toxin and takes on the alias Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Conan Doyle) and continues to solve mysteries. The series has been translated into more than two dozen languages (the English version is titled "Case Closed") and has been adapted into an animated series, feature films, video games, and live-action specials.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE VANISHING MAN is a new comic-book series due from Dynamite Entertainment in May, written by Leah Moore and John Reppion, with cover artist John Cassaday and interior artist Julius Ohta. Dan Wickline had a preview at Bleeding Cool on Mar. 29 <[www.tinyurl.com/ycmbczxo](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycmbczxo)>.

"We Are The Mighty" describes itself as a "military media brand run by veterans, military family members, and civilians to bring relevant, engaging entertainment to the military community," and they recently posted a video of a taste test of a British field ration from the Second Boer War, something Arthur Conan Doyle might have eaten in South Africa almost 120 years ago <[www.tinyurl.com/y745s83c](http://www.tinyurl.com/y745s83c)>.

Apr 18 #4 Carol Nelson Douglas reports that Midnight Louis, P.I., who's featured in a 28-book alphabetical mystery series, will return in October in ABSINTHE WITHOUT LEAVE; the book will also have a cameo appearance by Irene Adler (the heroine of an eight-book series about the only woman who outwitted Sherlock Holmes). There is more information about Carol, and her books, at her web-site <[www.carolnelsondouglas.com](http://www.carolnelsondouglas.com)>.

Further to the item (Jul 15 #2) on "Sherlock Holmes' Fictional Baker Street Home in London Subject to Ownership Mystery" about just who owns the block of property at 215-237 Baker Street, which includes the site of the former Abbey National, where mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes was for many years answered by Holmes' secretary: it's still a mystery, although it seems to be tied to Kazakh oligarch Nurali Aliyev, according to a report at Microsoft's MSN web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/y82jxwoe](http://www.tinyurl.com/y82jxwoe)>, kindly noted by Oscar Ross.

BBC Radio 4 has a Friday-night comedy podcast that includes "The News Quiz" (a satiric look at the week's news) and uses a nicely Sherlockian image at its web-site; there have been no reports (so far) of anything Sherlockian on the podcast, but you can listen on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/ya9hqmkcr](http://www.tinyurl.com/ya9hqmkcr)>.



The on-line A.V. Club (which bills itself as "pop culture obsessives writing for the pop culture") has some interesting "Watch This" reviews of older Sherlockian films <[www.avclub.com](http://www.avclub.com)>; search for [sherlock holmes].

Alexander Orlov has reported an interesting web-site: the Cover Art Archive <[www.tinyurl.com/yd86mzyj](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd86mzyj)>; it's a joint project between the Internet Archive and MusicBrainz, and has images of (at the moment) more than 800,000 album covers, and an excellent search engine that works for titles and artists and types of music.

Sherlock Holmes "looked in at Mecca" during the Great Hiatus, he told Watson (in "The Empty House"). Undoubtedly Mecca looked much the same then as it did in 1885, when it was photographed by Al-Sayyid Abd Al-Ghaffar; fifteen of his photographs will be offered at Sotheby's in London on May 15, and you can see an article about them at <[www.tinyurl.com/y9w2cb4t](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9w2cb4t)>.

"The Real Sherlock of Baker Street" was the headline on a Londonist report <[www.tinyurl.com/y8oh42yb](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8oh42yb)> on a City of Westminster plaque on York Terrace East, a five minute walk from Baker Street; it honors Dame Sheila Sherlock, a professor of medicine and a world authority on the liver and its diseases (she published hundreds of papers in scientific journals, and in 1951 was made the youngest female Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians). She was appointed a Dame in 1978, and then a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Julian D. Corrington wrote about "Baker Street Weather" in The Saint Detective Magazine (Nov. 1957), but he was best known for his pioneering work in amateur microscopy and for founding the American Society of Amateur Microscopists in 1939. He also wrote about Sherlock Holmes and his use of the microscope in Nature Magazine (Oct. 1953) and in books published by Bausch & Lomb (1934) and McGraw-Hill (1957); Burt Wolder has discovered an interesting article by John Gustav Delly in Modern Microscopy (Aug. 14, 2013) on Corrington, his career, and his microscopes <[www.tinyurl.com/ybdgwyho](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybdgwyho)>.

Apr 18 #5 Roger Llewellyn died on Apr. 17. He had a long theatrical career that included appearances as Inspector Lestrade (with Ron Moody as Sherlock Holmes) in Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (1988) and Sherlock Holmes in Christopher Martin's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1997). Roger also played Holmes (and many others parts) in David Stuart Davies' one-man shows "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!" (1999) and "Sherlock Holmes: The Death and Life" (2008) in world-wide tours. Excerpts from "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!" are available at YouTube, and audio recordings of both one-man shows from Big Finish <www.bigfinish.com>.

The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will be at the Houston Museum of Natural Science through Sept. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/ya7r7rlw>, and then on display at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., Nov. 3 through May 27, 2019 <www.lsc.org>; it's a splendid exhibition, well worth a visit.

Reported: MYCROFT AND SHERLOCK, by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse, is due from Titan Books in October; a sequel to their MYCROFT HOLMES (Jun 15 #2), it's set in 1872, when the brothers unintentionally investigating the same mystery as they pursue the reason behind the growing opium trade. There's a third book in the series scheduled for 2019.

Mystery Scene, edited by Kate Stine <www.mysteryscenemag.com>, frequently offers Sherlockian content: issue 153 (winter 2018) has Michael Mallory's report on "The Remarkable Lives of Anthony Boucher" (he was an avid Sherlockian and an early member of The Baker Street Irregulars), Cathy Pickens' article about "Writers Turned Sleuths" (Arthur Conan Doyle and Erle Stanley Gardner), and reviews of Sherlockian books.

"Sherlock Gnomes" had an opening weekend gross of \$10.6 million, according to the Box Office Mojo web-site, far behind the \$25.4-million opening weekend gross of "Gnomeo and Juliet" in 2011. As of Apr. 26, the film's total worldwide gross was \$58.6 million; the web-site estimates the film's production budget at \$59 million (the industry rule of thumb is that the studio gets half of the gross receipts). It should be noted that it isn't the only gnomish film you can see this year: there also is "Gnome Alone" (which premiered in Europe in 2017 but hasn't yet been released in the U.S.), with an official trailer available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ycycpnvf>

Vicki Delany's THE CAT OF THE BASKERVILLES (New York: Crooked Lane, 2018; 291 pp., \$26.99) is the third in her series of "Sherlock Holmes Bookshop" mysteries that star Gemma Doyle (the proprietor of the Sherlock bookshop) and her friend Jayne Wilson (the proprietor of the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room), this time investigating the death of an actor scheduled to perform as Holmes in a local presentation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (and there are twists and turns, and a bit of romance, in the story). And there's a fourth book in the series coming up: "A Scandal in Scarlet".

And there's late-breaking news: Mattias Boström won the Agatha Award (for best nonfiction) for his FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK (Apr 17 #4); the award was announced at the Malice Domestic awards dinner in Bethesda on Apr. 28, and Mattias was there to accept the traditional appropriately-decorated ceramic teapot and deliver an artful and gracious acceptance speech. You can see him with his award at his Facebook page <www.tinyurl.com/ya6y945x>.

Apr 18 #6 Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller alternated as Frankenstein and the Creature in the National Theatre's production of "Frankenstein" in 2011, and the show was recorded and will be screened again in theaters in October. It was the first time they played the same character (they went on to perform as Sherlock Holmes on television), and it's well worth seeing the play twice, so that you can decide which actor is better in which role.

Michael Kuhn's "Sherlock Holmes und die Schnecken von Eastwick" [Schnecken are snails] is being performed at the Boulevardtheater in Dresden through May 12 <[www.boulevardtheater.de](http://www.boulevardtheater.de)>.

"The Sherlock Project" (a new "immersive theatrical experience") is being presented by the PaperHouse Theatre at the FROCK Shop in Charlotte, N.C., through May 12 <[www.paperhousetheatre.com](http://www.paperhousetheatre.com)>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being done at the Waldon Arts Center in Fayetteville, Ark., through May 27 <[www.theatre2.org](http://www.theatre2.org)>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Stagehouse Theatre in El Cajon, Calif., May 10-19 <[www.tinyurl.com/yab57n4b](http://www.tinyurl.com/yab57n4b)>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Stafford Gatehouse Theatre in Stafford, May 15-19 <[www.staffordplayers.co.uk](http://www.staffordplayers.co.uk)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at Chevalier College in Burradoo, N.S.W., May 23-26 <[www.tinyurl.com/yao2azs7](http://www.tinyurl.com/yao2azs7)>. Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be performed at the Theatre in the Round in Minneapolis, Minn., June 1-24 <[www.theatreintheround.org](http://www.theatreintheround.org)>.

"Sherlock Holmes" (a new "comedy musical") will be performed at the Sörby Rundloge in Mjölby, Sweden, June 2-17 <[www.soffteater.se](http://www.soffteater.se)>.

Tal Aviezer's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Musgrave Ritual" will be performed at the Barton-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, N.Y., June 2-10 <[www.bartowpellmuseummansion.org](http://www.bartowpellmuseummansion.org)>.

The Chapterhouse Theatre Company will continue touring its "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" on tour in England this summer, June 14 through Aug. 30 <[www.chapterhouse.org](http://www.chapterhouse.org)>.

The East Haddam Stage Company, based at Gillette Castle in Connecticut, has held auditions for this year's season, which will include an adaptation of "The Professor" (William Gillette's first comedy) July 7-Aug. 12, an original one-man presentation of "Yukitaka Osaki, William Gillette's Gentleman Valet" in September, and Ara Barlieb's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Christmas Goose" for the holidays.

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