

Jan 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 164th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 10 to Jan. 14. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at Annie Moore's, and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning (followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's).

The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Martin Edwards, the award-winning mystery author and commentator on mysteries, and then The Baker Street Babes' "Daintiest Scream on the Moor Charity Ball" featured the unveiling of a "Cake Boss" cake in the shape of a bust of Sherlock Holmes (to be featured on an upcoming episode of the TV series).

Friday's William Gillette Luncheon included a performance by the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street, plus Al Gregory's presentation of the annual Jan WHIMSEY Award (named in memory of his wife Jan Stauber), which honors the most whimsical piece in *The Serpentine Muse* last year, to M.E. Rich. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.

The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Roy Pilot proposed the traditional preprandial first toast to Patricia Izban as *The Woman*. The annual-dinner agenda included toasts, rituals, and papers, and Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented this year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) to Shannon Carlisle ("Beacons of the Future!"), Dean Clark ("Watson's Journal"), Denny Dobry ("A Single Large Airy Sitting-Room"), Jeffrey Hatcher ("The Five Orange Pips"), Maria Fleischhack ("Rache"), Anastasia Klimchynskaya ("The Old Russian Woman"), Rebecca Romney ("That Gap on That Second Shelf"), Candace Lewis ("A Little Art Jargon"), Nick Martorelli ("Seventeen Steps"), and Al Shaw ("Sir Hugo Baskerville"). Mike also made a Two-Shilling Award to John Linsenmeyer.

An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at the Social Bar & Grill, and some of the more fervent (or perhaps hard core) Sherlockians gathered after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21.

On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting, and the Junior Bloodstain of *The Clients of Adrian Mulliner* featured a performance of "The Bayswater Boarding House" (adapted by dramatized by Bill Hyder from a parody written by Headon Hill).

The BSI's afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining, and Susan Bailey was honored as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (a check and an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to *The Baker Street Journal* in 2017. And the John H. Watson Fund's raffle prize was (jewelry from "Charles Augustus Milverton") created by Maggie Schpak), and the auction attracted enthusiastic bidders.

Jan 18 #2 The main Saturday-evening event was the annual "Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner at O'Lun-ney's Times Square Pub (arranged by Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street) and on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Ad-venturesses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Long Room.

A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 11, 2019.

I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; you'll find more detailed reports on the goings-on in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSJ appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$41.95 (to the U.S.) or \$55.00 (elsewhere); you can pay by check sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), or by credit card or PayPal at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which has interesting features such as articles from recent issues of the BSJ, some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.

"Far from Baker Street, Ardent Holmes Fans Celebrate His Birthday" was the headline on Corey Kilgannon's story about the birthday festivities in the N.Y. Times on Jan. 15; the story ran on-line a day earlier as "It's Elementary: Sherlockians Take Manhattan" <www.tinyurl.com/yamqwwa3>. Kilgannon, with John McDonough and Malachy McCourt, host "Talk Back--New York, We and Thee Edition" (a two-hour weekly series broadcast by WBAI-FM), and on Jan. 17 they discussed the celebration and interviewed Lyndsay Faye; the program is available on-line at <www.wbai.org/program.php?program=186>, and the 23-minute segment begins at 01:00.

There also is Scott Monty's well-illustrated account of some of the events at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/y9nlqo9n>; remarkable for having been posted, as Scott notes, by someone who missed his first BSI annual dinner since 1995.

Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers (via e-mail) his 2017 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 have received Irregular Shillings).

TRENCHES: THE WAR SERVICE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, the latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series (2017; 274 pp., \$39.95), is edited by Robert Katz and Andrew Solberg, offers a facsimile of the fourteen surviving pages of the manuscript of "His Last Bow", an annotated transcript, interesting commentary on the manuscript, the story, and the world in which Sherlock Holmes lived when he was involved in the case. More information about the book, including the table of contents and one of the essays, can be found at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.

Also from the BSI is MOBILE HOLMES: TRANSPORTATION IN THE SHERLOCKIAN CANON (2017; 270 pp., \$21.95), edited by Walter Jaffee; it's a delightful anthology of essays, from traveling on foot (Catherine Cooke's "What Do You Say to a Ramble Through London?") to traveling aloft (Chuck Winge's "Sherlock Holmes and Aeroplanes").

Jan 18 #3 Jim French died on Dec. 21. He had a long career in radio, as a DJ and an on-air personality, going on to write and produce nearly 500 original shows (including "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes") for his Imagination Theater. Details on his broadcasts are available at www.old-time.com/otrlogs2; see "Jim French Shows", "The Classic Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", and "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes").

"221b in 360" (an impressive photographic slide-show tour of the full-scale recreation of the sitting-room Chuck Kovacic has created in his home in Los Angeles) www.221bbakerstreetla.com, was reported last month, and Alexander Orlov has now noted a truly spectacular 3D interactive tour that's also engineered for those who use virtual reality www.tinyurl.com/y8hrzt7t.

The sixth issue of the resurrected Saturday Review of Literature was published this month, edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler, and with articles that include Phillip G. Bergem's discussion of "221B: What and Where?", Peter Calamai's "Conan Doyle's Neologisms: A Debate", and much more. The issue costs \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).



Paramount has collaborated with Variety: The Children's Charity to create a new pin featuring Sherlock Gnomes for its current Gold Heart Campaign; the pins will be available at movie theaters in return for a \$3.00 donation, and there's a list of participating theaters at www.usvariety.org/gold-hearts.

Randall Stock has kindly forwarded a report from The Bookseller (Jan. 4) on plans by John Murray to celebrate the publisher's 250th anniversary with a new book DEAR MR. MURRAY: LETTERS TO A GENTLEMEN PUBLISHER, due in October. One of the letters, from Adrian Conan Doyle, discusses challenging Harold Nicolson to a duel for insulting Adrian's father; it is likely that Adrian was angry about Nicolson's review of John Dickson Carr's biography THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE in the Daily Telegraph and Morning Post (Feb. 4, 1949). "It is an irksome task," Nicolson wrote, "to write the biography of a man whose children are loyal and alive. It is not easy to depict with sincerity the career of someone whose fame was wholly out of proportion to his intrinsic merits." Nicolson's review has much more to say about Conan Doyle, and Adrian would not have been pleased by any of it.

The next "Sherlocked USA" convention will be held in Los Angeles on May 25-27; it is organized in association with Hartswood Films (the company that produces the BBC series "Sherlock") www.sherlockedusa.com, and many series stars attend the Sherlocked conventions. Tickets cost from \$145 (standard) to \$2995 (VIP Package).

The Baker Street Journal's Christmas Annual for 2017 was written by Sonia Fetherston and Julie McKuras, who tell grand stories about "Helene Yuhasova: The Poetess Laureate of the Baker Street Irregulars"; the Christmas Annuals are available only as part of subscriptions to the BSJ, but they can be found at eBay. You can also hear an excellent podcast about "Helene Yuhasova: Woman of Mystery" at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog www.tinyurl.com/ya5frbbo, where they share some of those stories.

Jan 18 #4 "Mystery as Pub Named after Sherlock Holmes writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is magically rebranded the 'JK Rowling'" read the headline in the Daily Mail on Jan. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/y77g56cz>. Nicholson Pubs (the owner of the establishment in Edinburgh) declined comment on the change, but the Daily Mail suggested that the renaming was an elaborate stunt for Hogmanay (that's the Scottish celebration of the New Year). The Edinburgh Evening News <www.tinyurl.com/y8xndd77> had more information: the change is merely temporary, and is tied to Message from the Skies, a visual art installation that was designed to showcase streets and buildings that have inspired some of the city's finest authors, and included an app that allowed residents and visitors to explore the city while they read a story written by Val McDermid. The event ended on Jan. 25.

The Unemployed Philosophers Guild <www.philosophersguild.com> continues to offer imaginative Sherlockiana, including an attractive Sherlock Holmes Mug that comes with instructions <www.tinyurl.com/ycmrqspr>.

One of the more imaginative celebrations of the holiday season is "The Bloo Sparkly" (The Blue Carbuncle, as Told by Animated GIF), created by someone nommed "whorl" and posted at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog in 2011 <www.tinyurl.com/ydd2oks3> and again in 2017.

Samantha Wolov notes Elvis Costello's "Dr. Watson, I Presume" (released in 2010 on his album "National Ransom"), which may or may not be Sherlockian; you can sample the song (and read the lyrics) at <www.tinyurl.com/y8h9vuy7> and decide for yourselves.



"I hear of Sherlock everywhere," including on the label of Whodunnit? Popcorn (Specially Blended for Mystery Lovers), available from Acorn <www.acornonline.com/XB3412.html> (\$14.95 for 30 oz.). "The sound of crunchy popcorn adds to the suspense!" they explain. Acorn also offers a Star Wars Popcorn Maker and Rogue One Darth Vader Lightsaber Handheld Immersion Blenders for fans of that other series.

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes have issued a CD that contains a complete run of The Serpentine Muse from April 1975 through winter 2015; it's indexed and text-searchable, and costs \$15.00 postpaid <www.ash-nyc.com>.

Roger Heyworth has designed SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CARD GAME for Gibson and Sons Ltd.; there was a first edition in 1991, a second edition in 2014, and (apparently) a third edition (in a black box) in 2017, available at Amazon in the U.K. and the U.S.

Paul Annett died on Dec. 11. He was writer, producer, and director in film and television; his directing credits include work on series that include "Poldark" (1975-1976) and "EastEnders" (1998-2009), and three of the early stories in Granada's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes": "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Solitary Cyclist" (1984), and "The Copper Beeches" (1985).

When in Dallas: Daniel J. Darrouzet will appear in an "author talk" about his STORIES FROM THE TIN BOX: UNTOLD ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2015) at 6:30 pm on Feb. 8 at the Preston Royal Branch Library in Dallas; directions at <www.tinyurl.com/y88cf6j3>.

Jan 18 #5 More and more Sherlockian societies are taking advantage of digitization to create on-line archives of their newsletters and other publications. The Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark is the latest to do this, and all issues of their "Sherlockiana" from 1956 through 2016 are available at their web-site <www.sherlockholmesklubben.dk>; there's a link at the top of their opening page.

The February issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues a long annual tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday, with Sherlockian artwork on the cover, an amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, a nice homage to Sherlockians by John Morgan Wilson, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.



"Pop star Rita Ora was channeling detective Sherlock Holmes when she wore a bizarre Burberry shorts combo to the BBC Radio 1 Teen Awards in October. The only mystery to solve is why anyone let her leave the house like this." She provided one of the "worst fashion frights" in 2017, according to the Daily Mail (Dec. 29. You can see all of their picks at <www.tinyurl.com/y9t6ep8c>.

The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained by Ron Fish and Sue and Ben Vizoskie, is at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; it's a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when and where, and it offers an interesting look at how many society events are being held hither and yon. You should contact Ron at <ronf404@aol.com> to have a meeting or conference listed. The calendar also is available on Twitter as @SianCalendar.

Terence Marsh died on Jan. 9. He began his film career as a draughtsman at Pinewood Studios, and went on to become a highly-regarded art director and production designer who won Oscars as art director on "Dr. Zhivago" (1968) and "Oliver!" (1968); his many credits included his work as production designer on Gene Wilder's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).

Congratulations to Jessie Amaolo on her promotion to curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library; her formal title is services specialist for the collection, and she succeeds Peggy Perdue, who has been promoted to senior department head of the special collections department.

Leslie S. Klinger's BAKER STREET REVERIES: SHERLOCKIAN WRITINGS 2006-2016 (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2018; 228 pp., \$23.95), a sequel to his BAKER STREET RAMBLES (2008), reprints his more recent essays, including his checklist, unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately) not illustrated) of Sherlockian pornography. Gasogene is at <www.wessexpress.com>.

Gasogene has also published 70 YEARS BY GAS LAMP, edited by Mary Ann Bradley, Louise Haskett, and Melanie Hoffman (2018; 245 pp., \$21.95); it's the latest (sixth) casebook from The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis, offering a wide variety of writings by its members and guest speakers. And Dan Andriacco's imaginative and well-written pastiche HOUSE OF THE DOOMED (2018; 117 pp., \$19.95).

Jan 18 #6 The Long Beach Shakespeare Company continued their annual celebration of Sherlock Holmes' birthday last month offering an Old Time Radio adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes and the Scandal in Bohemia" dramatized by Ken Knight and featuring Joe LoCicero as Holmes; you'll be able to listen to a podcast of the show at <www.lbshakespeare.org/audio.php> in late February.

CBS has announced that the sixth season of "Elementary" (starring Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu) will premiere on Apr. 30; there will be 21 episodes in the season, which thus will run through the summer (some of us remember the long-ago age when series ran from fall through spring, and summer when one watched re-runs). If you want to know what Sherlock Holmes has on his book shelves (in "Elementary"), Gabby Barone has reported a list posted at Goodreads <www.tinyurl.com/ycfb8xur>.

Some important news from the birthday festivities: a print of the 1929 German silent film "Der Hund von Baskerville" (directed by Richard Oswald and with Carlyle Blackwell as Holmes), discovered in Poland and now restored by the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, will have its world premiere at the Festival on June 2 <www.tinyurl.com/y6w6cy4a>. The Festival's blog also is interesting: one of the items there is Kyle Westphal's "The Un-Lost World: A Conversation with Serge Bromberg of Lobster Films" about the latest restoration of "The Lost World" (1925) <www.tinyurl.com/yc7h5kvb>.

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards, and they include Mattias Boström's FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK: THE STORY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO CREATED AN ICON, and Michael Sims' ARTHUR AND SHERLOCK: CONAN DOYLE AND THE CREATION OF HOLMES (best critical/biographical), and Brad Ricca's MRS. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TRUE STORY OF NEW YORK'S GREATEST FEMALE DETECTIVE AND THE 1917 MISSING GIRL CASE THAT CAPTIVATED A NATION (best fact crime) [not really Sherlockian]; the winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 26.

Canterbury Classics offers a long series of "Word Cloud Classics" reprints in attractive "flexibound" bindings, one of the titles being THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2012; \$14.99), available at Amazon and elsewhere.

Ken Ludwig, the author of the Sherlockian plays "Postmortem", "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" and "Baskerville: Sherlock Holmes Mystery" has a new (and non-Sherlockian) play: a dramatization of "Murder on the Orient Express". "It's glamorous, it's romantic, and just the title itself is magic," he has explained, adding that "It is a bigger play than I usually write for the stage, but I've been able to cut the number of suspects down." The play had its premiere at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, N.J., last year, and is due at the Hartford Stage in Hartford, Conn., in February; the play has a web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/y9dz2kw9>, and one can be sure it will be produced elsewhere.

Nick Utechin still is pursuing his search for the plates that were used to produce Helan Halbach's 1974 edition of Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" (Sep 13 #5) (and in the 2016 Christmas Annual of The Baker Street Journal) and would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who has not already been in contact with him <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>.

Jan 18 #7 DEATH AT THE DIOGENES CLUB, by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley (Wilton Press, 2017; 355 pp., \$13.98), the sixth title in their "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series, has Lucy (Sherlock Holmes' daughter) and Holmes in pursuit of a vicious killer in a novel that offers both thrills and romance, together with some interesting characters. The series has a web-site at <www.sherlockandlucy.com>.

Material from the Daniel Posnansky Collection already is turning up at eBay from people who bought large lots at the auction, among them Lewis Durbin, whose shop is at lewidurbi0.

THE HISTORY OF THE LIMITED EDITIONS CLUB, by Carol Porter Grossman (Newcastle: Oak Knoll Press, 2017; 268 pp., \$125.00), is a splendid book, printed and bound in the high-quality tradition of the Club, offering the story of George Macy, and the many delightful books the Club produced for its subscribers; there are three pages about the Club's spectacular edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES and how much work was involved earning George Macy a well-deserved Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars. There's more information about the book, with colorful images, at <www.oakknoll.com>.

BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY: A SCANDAL IN CASSEROLE is the latest in the series of amusing comic books created by Joe Fay, Steve Mason, and Rusty Mason; it is available (along with their BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY comic strips) at The Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/j29mukf>.

Peter Wyngarde died on Jan. 15. He began his acting career with the Nottingham Repertory Company, and went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television; he played Baron Gruner with Peter Cushing in "The Illustrious Client" (1965), and Langdale Pike with Jeremy Brett in Granada's "The Three Gables" (1984). According to the obituary in the Guardian (Jan. 23) <www.tinyurl.com/yctcmdfw>, he had enough clout in 1965 that the producers of "The Illustrious Client" acceded to his agent's stipulation that on foreign prints he was credited alongside the leads in the opening titles, and was paid considerably more than Douglas Wilmer and Nigel Stock.

David Harnois continues to add to his dramatized readings of the Canon, and he now offers "The Blue Carbuncle" and six other stories at his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>, where you can listen to or download the readings, which are nicely done.

HAMPSHIRE THROUGH WRITERS' EYES (London: Eland, 2017; 373 pp., £12.99) is edited by Alastair Langlands and offers an interesting anthology of commentary about the county by writers who range from Austen to Wodehouse; Conan Doyle is included, of course: he lived in Southsea when he created Sherlock Holmes, and wrote about the county in the Canon, and in THE WHITE COMPANY and MICAH CLARKE. Eland has been described as offering "guidebooks for the enquiring mind," and their web-site <www.travelbooks.co.uk> shows how wide their coverage of the world is.

The Beacon Society offers annual Jan Stauber grants of up to \$500 to fund development of programs that introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/h7acxds>.

Jan 18 #8 Fraser McAlpine has noted at Anglophenia some Sherlockian allusions in the "Doctor Who" episode "The Angels Take Manhattan" (broadcast on BBC One on Sept. 29, 2012): the first chapter in Melody Malone's pulp novel is titled "The Dying Detective", and the TARDIS lands in China in the year 221 BC; it is not a surprise that the script was written by Steven Moffat.

"Sherlock Holmes is retired and in a foul mood. It's 1922, and Dr. Watson's granddaughter, Dot, has been trying to edit the old detective's long-awaited memoirs." That's the premise of the latest play by Craig Sodaro, just published by the Pioneer Drama Service <www.pioneerdrama.com> (\$7.00). Pioneer specializes in plays for schools and other organizations.

The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition is heading back to the United States, and will open at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., on Nov. 3, running through May 27, 2019; their web-site's at <www.lsc.org>, and while there's nothing about the exhibition up yet, stay tuned.

Will Thomas' ANATOMY OF EVIL (New York: Minotaur, 2015; 336 pp., \$25.99) is the seventh in his series that features private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewelyn, who in this novel have been enlisted to aid Scotland Yard in pursuit of Jack the Ripper, and are (eventually) successful at the end of a story that's told well and with imagination.

Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is running at the Barnstable Comedy Club in Barnstable, Mass., through Feb. 4 <www.barnstablecomedyclub.org>.

Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" is on at the Providence Playhouse in Scranton, Pa., through Feb. 4; web-site at <www.actorscircle.com>.

Jeremy Paul's "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" is on at the Brumder Mansion in Milwaukee, Wis., through Feb. 10 <www.milwaukeeemansion.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is on at the Great American Melodrama & Vaudeville in Oceano, Calif., through Mar. 4; web-site at <www.greatamericanmelodrama.com>.

R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" is due at the Whidby Island Center for the Arts in Langley, Wash., Feb. 9-24; their web-site's at <www.wicaonline.org>.

Max Gee's "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" is due at the Genesian Theatre in Sydney, N.S.W., Apr. 7-May 12 <www.genesiantheatre.com.au>.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" has been scheduled at the Silver Spring Stage in Silver Spring, Md., on Apr. 13-May 5 <www.sstage.org>.

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

Feb 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Malice Domestic has announced the nominees for this year's Agatha awards, which include Mattias Boström's FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK (best nonfiction). The winners will be announced at Malice in Bethesda on Apr. 29.

Sorry about that: in the last issue (Jan 18 #7) I noted that material from the Daniel Posnansky Collection already is turning up at eBay from people who bought large lots at the auction, among them Lewis Durbin, whose shop actually is at lewidurbi0.

"Worzel Gummidge" was a well-received British children's television series broadcast by ITV (1979-1981) that was continued in New Zealand as "Worzel Gummidge Down Under" (1987-1989). The series starred Jon Pertwee, and Howard Ostrom has discovered "Elementary My Dear Worthy" from the second series at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ybrkb378>. It's interesting to see Jon Pertwee as someone other than Doctor Who; Una Stubbs starred in the series as Aunt Sally, but doesn't appear in the Sherlockian episode.

Chris Redmond created <www.sherlockian.net> in 1994, and it's now managed by Michigan State University's WIDE Research Center; the web-site has been revised, and it's well worth visiting and exploring as a valuable resource for the ever-growing population of Internet-savvy Sherlockians.

J. M. W. Turner's iconic 1804 painting of the Reichenbach Falls seen twice in the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, at the end of the second season, and in the recent Christmas special, can be viewed on-line in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/hptv8q5>. If you like to know more about Turner and his work, Christie's has two excellent articles (one with an instructive video) on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ydgxenh4> and <www.tinyurl.com/y7syojua>.

Mike Vagnetti has reported a new stamp issued by the Solomon Islands, in a set of four stamps that honor the 300th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of England (founded in 1717, it was the first Masonic Grand Lodge); the stamp shows both Conan Doyle and Holmes, and the others stamps show Ernest Shackleton, Winston Churchill, and Rudyard Kipling. Mike also reports that the American Topical Association has a checklist of Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes stamps, available only to members, with 63 entries. You can see the Solomon Island stamps in full color at Steve Trussel's excellent web-site "The Philatelic Sherlock Holmes" <www.trussel.com/detfic/sholmes.htm>. And Mike <mjvagnetti@gmail.com> would be happy to hear from anyone who has Sherlockian items (stamps and poster stamps) to offer.

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH READS SHERLOCK HOLMES' REDISCOVERED RAILWAY MYSTERIES is a two-CD set from BBC Worldwide (2015, £11.78), offering four pastiches written by John Taylor.

"Yuukoku no Moriarty" ["Moriarty the Patriot"] is a Japanese manga written by Ryunosuke Takeuchi and drawn by Hikaru Mihoshi, reimagining the Canon "with Moriarty as the protagonist and exploring his motivation in becoming the greatest criminal Britain has ever seen." It has not been published as a book in English, but 16 episodes are available in English on-line at the Manga Rock web-site <www.mangarock.com/manga/mrs/serie-100056011>.

Feb 18 #2 The Bookseller has reported that "Sherlock Holmes: The Definitive Collection" (read by Stephen Fry) was Audible's best selling title in 2017; the set spent four month at the top of the Audible chart and was in the top 20 for 11 months since it was released in February 2016. If you don't have it yet, it is available at <www.audible.com> for \$85.26 (or free as a join-now premium).

In the last issue of this newsletter (Jan 18 #4) I wrote about someone who was nommed "whorl" (based on a belief that aliases used on the Internet are "noms" as in "noms de plume"). A query from a reader (actually, my sharp-eyed proof-reader) led to some on-line research that revealed that my belief was unfounded, and then to a query to people who are far more Internet-savvy. Thanks to Lyndsay Faye, I can now report that an Internet alias is called a "pseud" (as in "pseudonym").

Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog offers two interesting items: one of them "Holmes & Watson 1916-2016" (an imaginative montage of film and television clips set to the song 'Something Good (Will Come from That)') <www.tinyurl.com/y8uyqgmg> and the other an interview with Ross Davies about "Boxes from Royalty" <www.tinyurl.com/y9y52p94>.

I've reported before (Aug 16 #2) on APOPO <www.apopo.org>, a company that trains giant African pouched rats to detect unexploded landmines in countries in Africa and Asia (the rats don't weigh enough to set off the mines, which can then be disarmed); the rats can also be trained to detect tuberculosis in mucous samples, and now they are in pursuit of smugglers who are shipping endangered pangolins from Africa to Asia, as noted in a recent report in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/y724dwol>. Needless to say, APOPO welcomes donations from people who want to adopt giant rats.

Has anyone seen the new play "The Play That Goes Wrong" (2012) in London or New York or elsewhere? The Tampa Bay Observer, reporting that the play is due there in October, describes it as "a carefully chaotic comedy that has tickled audiences with farcical disaster visited upon the erstwhile production of a Sherlock Holmes-style mystery."

Mort Walker died on Jan. 27. A legendary comic strip writer, he was best known for creating "Beetle Bailey" in 1950 and "Hi and Lois" in 1954, and drew "Beetle Bailey" for 68 years, making him the longest-running artist in comic-strip history. His colorful web-site is at <www.mortwalker.com>, and this strip was published on Jan. 7, 2008:



Feb 18 #3 The Strand Magazine (the modern version edited by Andrew Gulli) continues to publish quarterly <www.strandmag.com>, and its on-line blog includes interesting posts such as Daniel E. Lambert's "Sherlock Holmes in Verse" and Bonnie MacBird's "The Risk of 'The Reveal': Tampering with or Augmenting the Legend of Sherlock Holmes".

Leslie Katz continues to make his Sherlockian scholarship available at the Social Science Research Network; his latest article is "Each Picture Told a Story: Photography in the Sherlock Holmes Adventures" and you can read or download it (and his other articles) at <www.ssrn.com/author=1164057>.



The Holmes Financial Solutions web-site features a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes in the logo, and the company was in the news recently when it was fined £300,000 by the British government for making 8.8 million nuisance robo-calls in 2015 and 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/y8c4o35v>. The company's solicitors are at work on an appeal. If you're bothered by robo-calls in the U.S., there is a solution: <www.nomorobo.com>. The company won a challenge set by the Federal Trade Commission, and its service is available without charge for landlines (if your service provider's compatible) and for a modest monthly fee for cell phones. The N.Y. Times ran an interesting article last year <www.tinyurl.com/m4v8mkv> on how you can reduce the number of robo-calls you receive.

Les Klinger has an interesting web-site, which offers a helpful list of errata in all three volumes of THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, with a link at the end that allows you to download a PDF that shows which errata have been corrected in various editions <www.tinyurl.com/ycztyf48>.

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, and anyone who wants to run a word-search on two large files with all of the text since March 1985 can now do just that, thanks to Steve Mason, who updates the compilation and makes it available for download from the Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ybxh2y2m>.

John Mahoney died on Feb. 4. He had a long acting career on stage, screen, and television, and was best known as Frasier Crane's father Martin Crane on the NBC-TV sitcom "Frasier"; he wore Sherlockian costume in the "Halloween" episode broadcast in 1993.

There have been occasional reviews of the new animated film "Batman: Gotham by Gaslight" that have mentioned its Sherlockian echoes. According to Den of Geek! <www.tinyurl.com/ydeuvdms>, there is good reason: Jim Krieg, who adapted the film, said in an interview that he grew up as a Holmes fan and "didn't want to leave any Sherlockian stone unturned," citing "A Study in Terror" (1965) as a favorite Sherlock Holmes vs. Jack the Ripper film, and executive producer Bruce Timm said that he watched "Gilligan's Island" all the time as a kid, and recalled the episode that had the Professor as Sherlock Holmes and the Skipper as Dr. Watson. If you've not seen that episode of "Gilligan's Island" series it's "Up at Bat" (1966), and there's a Sherlockian clip at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y8lp7qkc>, from the dream sequence that features Inspector Sherlock and Colonel Watney).

Feb 18 #4 Janet Hutchings, the editor of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, presides over a blog ("Something Is Going to Happen") that offers interesting contributions about "suspense, short stories, and the mystery-fiction scene," such as an interesting post last year on "The Last of the Kingdom of Romance: 90 Years Since the Publication of The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes" by R. T. Raichev <www.tinyurl.com/y9qoe374> and a "Report from Baker Street" by Steve Steinbock <www.tinyurl.com/y9bppzeh> about the 2016 annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars.

John Morris died on Jan. 25. He began his musical career as a concert pianist ("I didn't like practicing," he once admitted) and went on to composing and arranging for Broadway shows, and then for films, and his credits included the orchestration for "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).

"Rugger, Romance, and Sherlock Holmes!" is the title of an illustrated talk delivered by Roger Johnson this month during the Portsmouth Bookfest last month; if you're wondering how those three topics were combined in the same talk, it was subtitled "You Should Go to Blackheath First" and Roger suggests that "the importance of Blackheath in the life of Arthur Conan Doyle and in the career of Sherlock Holmes should not be overlooked."

Lakin & Marley Rare Books in Mill Valley, Calif., are offering the original Universal Studios script archives for the Rathbone/Bruce series, most heavily annotated; go to <www.tinyurl.com/y86rhapq> for detailed descriptions and commentary.

Further to the item (Dec 17 #3) on Tania Henzell's new Sherlock Holmes Tartan: the tartan will have an official launch party at the Physicians Hall in Edinburgh on Mar. 22; details at <www.tinyurl.com/yawvtmxr>. Karen Ellery notes that you can inspect the official registration for the tartan at <www.tinyurl.com/y7twgdsq>. Lee Crow reports that there is an older Holmes tartan (from 1830); you can search the Register's web-site to find tartans for Watson and Moriarty and (likely) other Canonical characters.

For anyone who misses "Sherlock": "The Sherlock You Didn't See: Scenes--and Entire Episodes--That Never Aired" was the headline on a story at Digital Spy <www.tinyurl.com/yd99rmmh>.

The winter issue of The Magic Door (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) celebrates the 150th anniversary of Canada as a nation, and offers Donny Zaldin's article "Arthur Conan Doyle and Canada: 1914 and One Hundred Years Hence" along with news from and about the Library and the Collection. Copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>, and you can join the Friends at <www.acdfriends.org>.

"The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" was a delightful Japanese animated television series broadcast in 1984-1985, with 26 episodes (the first six directed by Hayao Miyazaki). Holmes is a red fox, Watson a Scottish terrier, and Moriarty a gray wolf, and it's nice indeed that all 26 episodes now are available at YouTube; search for [sherlock hound].

Feb 17 #5 George MacDonald Fraser noted in his introduction to a new edition of THE WHITE COMPANY and SIR NIGEL (Feb 00 #7) that John Ford was said to have had THE WHITE COMPANY in his sights at the end of his career, with John Wayne and Alec Guinness in mind. According to Wikipedia, the two novels were among Wayne's favorite books.

A GIFT OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: CHRISTMAS 1914: EDITION: THE VALLEY OF FEAR is a reproduction of what Ross E. Davies suggests might have been the true first book edition of the story (as he explained at this year's annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars). His book offers the text that was published in the Associated Sunday Magazines in newspapers in the U.S., which differs from the text that appeared in The Strand Magazine and then in books in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. in 1915. Ross has supplied a perceptive introduction, and he has kindly made an electronic edition of his book available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y83d3gvd>.

It should be noted that the book is only one of the many items available at <www.rossdavies.org>; click on "Maps and misc." and "Sherlockian toasts" to find links to interesting Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) material. You can also click on "Green Bag" and then on "Almanac & Reader" to be able to read the 2012 edition (which honored Rex Stout and Nero Wolfe); the 2015, 2016, and 2017 editions were thoroughly Sherlockian and Doylean.

DOUBLE TROUBLE IN BUGLAND, by William Kotzwinkle (Boston: David R. Govine, 2016; 244 pp., \$14.95) is a colorful sequel to his TROUBLE IN BUGLAND (Jun 83 #2), again illustrated by Joe Servello, and offering further adventures of Inspector Mantis and his companion Dr. Hopper.

Holmes and Watson appear to be taking over the MCU . . . that's the Marvel Cinematic Universe, which was launched with "Iron Man" in 2008 with Robert Downey Jr. as Tony Stark, and included "Doctor Strange" in 2016 with Benedict Cumberbatch as Stephen Strange, and now there's "Black Panther" with Martin Freeman as Everett K. Ross (kindly reported by Samantha Wolov).

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y76whnjf> has much to offer, including a new web-only column "Stranger Than Fiction" by Dean Jobb; his February column ("We Hear of Sherlock Everywhere") calls attention to four recent Sherlockian and Doylean titles.

Congratulations to Maggie Schpak, who received the 2018 Distinguished Service Award from the Costume Designers Guild. Maggie handcrafts the colorful raffle prizes for the Dr. John H. Watson Fund at each year's birthday festivities in New York, and at her Metal Arts Studio in Los Angeles makes items for major films and television series <www.tinyurl.com/y8m7zwze>; you can see her in the photo gallery at the web-site.

Reported by Howard Ostrom: Ernie Kovacs and Hans Conried in deerstalkers in "Private Eye, Private Eye" (an episode of "The U.S. Steel Hour" broadcast by CBS-TV on Mar. 8, 1961); the spoof of detective stories is included as a bonus disk with the first 1,000 copies of "Ernie Kovacs: Take a Good Look: The Definitive Collection" (available from Shout! Factory for \$64.97). One hopes that the episode will be available eventually at YouTube; but in the meantime you can see them with Edie Adams at <www.youtube.com/y842v4cq>.

Feb 18 #6 IN THE SHADOW OF AGATHA CHRISTIE: CLASSIC CRIME FICTION BY FORGOTTEN FEMALE WRITERS: 1850-1917, edited by Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2018; 356 pp., \$26.95) was reviewed in Publishers Weekly as a "stellar" anthology and a "must-have volume for classic crime fans," and includes Carolyn Wells' "The Adventure of the Clothes-Line" (a 1915 burlesque that features Sherlock Holmes as the president of the Society of Infallible Detectives) and Baroness Orczy's "The Regent's Park Murder" (about the baffling murder of a man who had won at cards, published in 1901, two years before "The Empty House").

Paul D. Herbert ("Mr. Leverton, of Pinkerton's") died on Feb. 16. He was excellent high-school history teacher, an energetic and wide-ranging collector, the founder of the Tankerville Club of Cincinnati and its only official secretary, and a delightful Sherlockian who was awarded his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1977 and their Two-Shilling Award in 2004; he also for twenty years was the BSI's Dr. Watson, presiding over the Dr. John H. Watson Fund, which offers financial assistance to Sherlockians who might otherwise not be able to participate in the birthday festivities in New York.

THE SECRET OF THE COTTINGLEY FAIRIES, by F. R. Maher (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2017; 96 pp., \$20.53), offers a speculative explanation for the famous hoax. The author also presides over the annual Legendary Llangollen Faery Festival in Wales <www.northwalesfaeryfestival.com>.

Further to the report (Oct 17 #4) on the competition set by the Folio Society and House of Illustration for artwork for THE SELECTED ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, there were 450 entries and 24 finalists. Samples of the finalists' imaginative submissions were published in full color at the web-site of the Guardian on Feb. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/ydgobmfz>, and the winners were chosen by a panel of six judges that included Helen Dorey as their Sherlockian expert. The \$5,000 commission to illustrate the book and design the binding was won by Max Löffler <www.tinyurl.com/y7r8d93k>.

Bill Crider died on Feb. 18. He was an author, a critic, a columnist, and a reviewer, all in the mystery field; Janet Hutchings, the editor of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, described him as a superfan and a perfect fit for the magazine's Blog Bytes department. His stories included three Sherlockian pastiches, and his web-site <www.billcrider.com> nicely shows how wide his interests were.

"Blossom Detective Holmes" (an animated mini-series that's seeking funding at Kickstarter) features two teen-age girls: Skylar Holmes and Jamie Watson; details (and video) at <www.tinyurl.com/ya46os5a>.

IMAGINATION THEATRE'S SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by David Marcum (London: MX Publishing, 2017; 388 pp., \$34.95), is a collection of 15 scripts from "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the long-running radio series produced by the late Jim French from 1998 to 2017). The scripts for the pastiches were written by Jim French and other authors, and provide a welcome opportunity for those who enjoy radio drama to see what goes into creating entertaining programs. The MX web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Feb 18 #7 Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is running at the Warehouse Living Arts Center in Corsicana, Texas, through Mar. 3 <www.warehouselivingartscenter.com>. And it's due at the Fallon House Theatre in Columbia, Calif., Aug. 31-Sept. 30 <www.sierrarep.org>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Kinetic Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pa., through Mar. 4 <www.kinetictheatre.org>. It's also scheduled at the Norris Center in Naples, Fla., Mar. 21-Apr. 20, 2019; web-site at <www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is running at the Wells Theatre in Norfolk, Va., through Mar. 11; web-site at <www.vastage.org>.

Simon Williams' "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is on at The Mill in Sonning Theatre in Sonning Eye, Oxon., until Mar. 17 <www.millatsonning.com>.

C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Spinsters of Blackmead" is being performed at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Tex., through Mar. 24; web-site at <www.theatresuburbia.org>.

The East Lynne Theater Company's will be touring Craig Wichman's radio-theater production of "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Speckled Band" will tour in New Jersey in March <www.tinyurl.com/ya6busq8>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Town Theatre in Columbia, S.C., Mar. 2-18 <www.towntheatre.com>.

C. P. Stancich's new play "Oscar Dove: Letters to Sherlock" will premiere at the Mary Miller Theatre in Lafayette, Colo., Mar. 2-24; their web-site's at <www.tclstage.org>.

Vince Staddon's "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., Mar. 2-31 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.

Peter Birch's new "The Sign of the Four" will be performed at the Garrick Theatre in Altrincham, Manchester, Mar. 5-10 <www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk>.

Broadway RDF will perform "Murder in the Casbah" (1945) in their "Old Time Radio Hour" at the Swedish Crown Restaurant in Lindsborg, Kans., Mar. 8 and 10 <www.broadwayrfd.org>.

John Nassivera's "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the East Cleveland Theater in East Cleveland, Ohio, Mar. 23-Apr. 8 <www.eastclevelandtheater.org>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette) is scheduled at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., on Aug. 1-Oct. 27 <www.shawfest.com>.

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

Mar 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

"If we could have ordered nature to construct a spot for us, it could not have hit upon anything more perfect," Conan Doyle wrote after visiting the site of Undershaw, and the Stepping Stones School has invited everyone to a celebration of his life and times on May 25-27; you can sit in the study in which he brought Sherlock Holmes back to life, and enjoy a variety of activities. Details are available at www.tinyurl.com/ya2h67zb.

Greg Darak has reported a nice discovery in Abel Green's THE SPICE OF VARIETY (published by Henry Holt in 1952); it's an anthology of articles that appeared in Variety, and one of them is drama critic Ashton Steven's "Night Letter Biographies"; he had asked actors to write autobiographies "confined to dimensions of a Western Union night letter, which at that time ran to 50 words before the extras began to count up." The first (with slightly more than 50 words) was written by William Gillette: AT AGE OF 18 COULD READ AND WRITE. AND HAD GRADUATED FROM EVERY CIRCUS THAT CAME TO TOWN. DID NOT RUN AWAY AND GO ON THE STAGE BECAUSE THERE WAS NOTHING TO RUN AWAY FROM. EVERYBODY HELPED ME TO LEAVE - AND THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON EVER SINCE. IT IS NOW 1930 AND I DO NOT FEEL VERY WELL - WILLIAM GILLETTE.

You can see Benedict Cumberbatch perform "I'm a Little Teapot" at the Nerd Reactor web-site www.tinyurl.com/y7tw34ok. You can also see his audition for Smaug in "The Hobbit" at www.tinyurl.com/mftxbvq, and then how he was filmed as Smaug at www.tinyurl.com/ydhmyvr8.

Jim Webb kindly reported on Nick Allen's article in the Daily Telegraph on Mar. 15 www.tinyurl.com/y98uwjpu on comments by Vasily Nebenzya, Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations, on the nerve gas poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skirpal in England; Nebenzya compared the intelligence of Sherlock Holmes with that of Inspector Lestrade, and suggested that "we could all benefit from having a Sherlock Holmes with us today," adding that "the collective Inspector Lestrades today are high-level members of the UK government who are coming up with egregious, superficial, and unsupported accusations." This may be the first official mention of Sherlock Holmes at the United Nations, and you can watch Nebenzya's speech (with English subtitles) at www.youtube.com/watch?v=94l54nQnaCl at [14:38 minutes].

Bakerstreet Coffee, a Sherlock Holmes-themed cafe that will offer a fireplace, bookcases, and cozy furniture, is scheduled to open in mid-April in Livingstone, Mont. "I love Sherlock Holmes," co-owner Cassandra Weisgerber told the Livingston Enterprise, "and I obviously love themes."

Roger Johnson launched The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's newsletter The District Messenger, on Dec. 1, 1982, reporting the latest Sherlockian and Doylean news from the U.K. and elsewhere; Jean Upton is the editor now, and the newsletter is now at 373 issues, all available at the web-site of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London www.tinyurl.com/yd5et39e. There's always much of interest, including (in the February issue) news from Paul Carley of his "Sherlock Holmes in Phonetic Transcription" (phonetic may or may not count as a language that Don Hobbs will add to his bibliography of translations "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"); the project has begun with "A Scandal in Bohemia" www.phoneticsherlock.blogspot.co.uk.

Mar 18 #2 Rachel McMillan's THE BACHELOR GIRL'S GUIDE TO MURDER (Eugene: Harvest House, 2016; 222 pp., \$9.99) is set in Toronto in 1910 and features Merinda Herringford and Jem Watts, two young women who would like to become detectives in the tradition of Holmes and Watson; the series includes two more novels, A LESSON IN LOVE AND MURDER (2016) and THE WHITE FEATHER MURDERS (2017), and there are two e-book novellas and a (free) e-story available at Amazon.

The manuscript of "The Dancing Men" will be up for bids on Apr. 18 at Heritage Auctions in Dallas <www.tinyurl.com/ycreu8gc> (877-437-4824), with an opening bid of \$250,000. Randall Stock has 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>.

"Sherlock Holmes contre Conan Doyle" is the title of a French documentary broadcast by France 5 on Feb. 18; the program included interviews with Roger Johnson, Anthony Horowitz, Vincent Delay, Pierre Bayard, and others, and it's available in English ("Sherlock Holmes Against Conan Doyle") at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yb8gnqkf>.

Peter Miles died on Feb. 26. He began his acting career on stage and went on to perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and then moved on to supporting roles in television, including three appearances in "Doctor Who"; he also played Sam Brewer in "Shoscombe Old Place" and Williamson in "The Solitary Cyclist" in Peter Cushing's BBC-1 television series (1968) and Sir William Gull in Brian Clemens' play "Holmes and the Ripper" (1988).



Evvy Herzog spotted a Sumikko Gurashi Inspector Takage at a Barnes & Noble store (\$19.95) <www.tinyurl.com/y8avqfdg>; it's a 6-inch-high plush toy, and available at other web-sites as a Sumikko Gurashi Detective Dinosaur. It seems that Sumikko Gurashi Tokage is the son of the Loch Ness Monster, and an addition to the series of toys launched by the Japanese company San-X in 2012.

There have been past discussions of actors who have played both Holmes and Watson, and Moriarty, and Conan Doyle, and it turns out that there actors who have played both Holmes and Lestrade; Howard Ostrom has discovered that Peter Bromilow toured the streets of Toronto dressed as Sherlock Holmes to publicize the try-out there of the musical "Baker Street" in 1965 (he also played Lestrade in Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" in Los Angeles in 1984).

Roger Johnson reports that Roger Llewellyn also has played Holmes and Lestrade, and Howard notes that John Colicos has played Holmes, Lestrade, and Moriarty, and that Tim Pigott-Smith has played Holmes, Lestrade, and Watson. Any others to add to the list?

Jeff Falkingham's MURDER IN MINNESOTA! (Murrieta: AuthorCentrix, 2018; 259 pp., \$10.99) offers reprints of his earlier SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE CAPER (2007) and SHERLOCK HOLMES IN SEARCH OF THE SOURCE (2009); Holmes is in Browns Valley in 1886 to solve a series of murders, and in St. Paul in 1896 to solve another mystery (both stories involve a lot of local history); the author's web-site is at <www.cccaper.com>.

Mar 18 #3 John Nicholson, who collaborated with Steve Canny to dramatize "The Hound of the Baskervilles" as a three-man comedy for Peepolykus in 2007, went on to parody "Dracula: The Bloody Truth" as a four-man comedy for Le Navet Bete last year; it's not Sherlockian, but there are some interesting (and amusing) trailers available at YouTube. There is a web-site for the play at <www.lenavetbete.com/shows/dracula>.

Lewis Neisner died on Mar. 1. He worked in retail as an officer of the national chain Neisner Bros., and then as a professor retailing and marketing at universities in New York and Maryland, and was the founder of the Sherlockian society Rochester Row in Rochester, N.Y.

The Redbeard Brewing Co. makes "small batches of big beers" and has a craft brewery and taproom in Staunton, Va., where you can imbibe their 221B Baker Brown Ale <www.tinyurl.com/y9xxlym2>.

Further to items about Grace Humiston, a lawyer-turned-investigator in 1917 who was known as "Mrs. Sherlock Holmes" (Sep 11 #4 and Oct 17 #7), she will be featured in this season of the NBC-TV series "Timeless" (as reported by Brian Truitt in USA Today on Mar. 7).

They're off and running: The Baker Street Irregulars' triennial running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is set for Aug. 11. Lou Lewis <llewis@lewisgreer.com> is the contact, if you want to enroll on their mailing list.

Alexander Orlov has noted a Dr. Watson Restaurant in Moscow; the web-site's at <www.drwatson-restaurant.ru> (where they advertise "traditional English cuisine" and "British-loved beers").

Chris Redmond will deliver this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture on Apr. 21 at the Toronto Reference Library, speaking on "Sherlock Holmes and the Holy Grail" <www.acdfriends.org>; admission is free, and the public is welcome to attend.

Alexa, according to Wikipedia, is an "intelligent personal assistant" developed by Amazon for use in its Amazon Echo. If you have Alexa, you can play "Baker Street Experience" (an interactive audio Sherlock Holmes adventure developed by Schell Games); their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ycoagvm4> includes a link to a review that allows everyone to sample the game.

The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State will hold this year's Christopher Morley Birthday Lunch in Hoboken, N.J., on Apr. 29; more information is available from Terry Hunt <l8goldini95@gmail.com>.

The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre in Edinburgh, home of the Edinburgh Association of Spiritualists, has interesting events scheduled in August: Ann Treherne will talk about "Arthur Conan Doyle: Spiritualist", Bob Stek about "The Strange Friendship of Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini", and Peter Barratt about his great-grandmother "Alice Hawkins: Suffragette"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/y7owl3dj>. The Centre's an interesting venue for Peter Barratt's lecture, considering Conan Doyle's negative comments about suffragettes..

Mar 18 #4 SYFY Wire reported on Mar. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/yc7ekeyj> that Stephen King and Bev Vincent have edited FLIGHT OR FRIGHT (due in September from Cemetery Dance Books); the book's an anthology of flight-based horror stories (including Conan Doyle's "The Horror of the Heights"), and it will be published in three formats: a standard hardcover (\$29.95), a slip-cased numbered edition (\$85.00), and a leather-bound limited edition signed by King (\$1500.00) that's already sold out.

Further to the item (Aug 17 #6) about plans to film Stephen King's pastiche "The Doctor's Case" in western Canada, the completed film premiered at the College of New Caledonia's "Cinema CNC Film Festival" on Mar. 9. There is an excellent trailer for the film at <www.thedoctorscasemovie.com>.

Karen Kruse Anderson ("Emilia Lucca") died on Mar. 18. Karen was a teenager in Washington, D.C., in 1949, when she found three fellow-enthusiasts and founded The Red Circle in 1950. After moving to California she met and married Poul Anderson and went on to write delightful science-fiction and fantasy, both with her husband and on her own. She was noted as the first person to use the term "filk music" in print (1955), and was the author of the first published "scifaiku" (1962). Karen also wrote a draft version of "Hatty, or St. Simon's Bride (A Filbert and Sullivan Chamber Operetta)" for performance in 1994; the work was completed as "A Filk Opera" and presented by the "Doyle a la Carte Opera Company" in 1995 (with Karen performing as Sherlock Holmes). She received her Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2000.

The Christopher Morley Knothole Association reports in the February issue of their newsletter on a workshop reading last year of a new musical comedy "I'll Take It" based on Morley's book PARNASSUS ON WHEELS; book and lyrics by Eli Pasic, music by Henry Krieger, and there was a story about the event in Broadway World Off-Broadway <www.tinyurl.com/ya6v3gwl>.

"Holmes in the Heartland" is the title of the conference planned for Aug. 10-11 by The Parallel Case of St. Louis; details on the gathering will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/yd5elmpj>.

Sherlock Holmes' parents' home is on the market for £950,000. The six bedroom house, called Trewalter Fawr, is located in the Vale of Glamorgan and was featured in the episode "His Last Vow" in the BBC's "Sherlock" series; details (with images) at <www.tinyurl.com/y9pyk7k5>.

"People love the monster but do not always honor the book," Scott Van Wynsberghe wrote in the National Post on Mar. 9, in a long article about FRANK-ENSTEIN <www.tinyurl.com/yabl4pb5>, kindly reported by Cliff Goldfarb; one might believe that the quote might apply also to Sherlock Holmes.

A collection of 21 letters from Dorothy L. Sayers to various correspondents is up for bids at RR Auction on Apr. 11; in 1937 she wrote to Walter Klinefelter: "I am afraid I am not really very learned in the higher criticism of Sherlock Holmes, but the man who can, I am sure, give you the information...would be Mr. H. W. Bell...who wrote 'Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson,' and who is engaged on an elaborate and careful research into Conan Doyle's sources." <www.tinyurl.com/y99aj72v>.

Mar 18 #5 There may someday be an annotated edition of Conan Doyle's 1896 novel RODNEY STONE about the early days of bare-knuckle boxing, but in the meantime you can read about the real boxer John Jackson, who appears in the novel, at Wikipedia; he is buried at Brompton Cemetery in London, as reported by Alexander Orlov, and the Wikipedia entry has an image of Jackson's elaborate funerary monument.

Brooks Arthur Wachtel's LADY SHERLOCK: CIRCLE OF THE SMILING DEAD (Colorado Springs: WordFire, 2016; 232 pp., \$15.99) is set in 1906 and features Lady Natasha Dorrington ("an emancipated and brilliant detective") in a battle with a pagan cult that wants to launch a world-wide war; Mycroft Holmes is involved on behalf of the government, with Sherlock Holmes making a brief appearance.

"You don't know Sherlock Holmes yet: the story begins in Portsmouth" is the title of an exhibition that will open at the Portsmouth City Museum on May 22, offering an exploration of the time Conan Doyle spent in the city and how it shaped Sherlock Holmes.

Further to the item (Feb 18 #4) on Tania Henzell's new Sherlock Holmes Tartan: according to a story in the Daily Telegraph (Mar. 25), Richard Pooley, director of the Conan Doyle Estate, has said that the Estate is working on getting stars of the upcoming comedy "Holmes and Watson" to wear the tartan on the red carpet when the film opens in November. Pooley has more to say about the tartan at the Estate's web-site <www.conandoyleestate.com> (see "Weaving Family and Holmes Together").

"Family Guy: V Is for Mystery" (broadcast on Fox on Mar. 25) had Stewie and Brian as Holmes and Watson in London in 1896; it's available (for a while) at <www.tinyurl.com/y96md2nc> and <www.tinyurl.com/y7vmc375>.

Henry Mance suggested in the Financial Times on Mar. 23 that the decision by Cynthia Nixon (Miranda in "Sex and the City" to run for governor of New York might inspire other actors: "Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective is all-knowing, able to infer people's characters from tiny details about their appearances and social habits. But when actor Benedict Cumberbatch sees that Facebook can do exactly the same thing, he realizes the error of his ways and becomes a pro-privacy Liberal Democrat candidate."

"Sherlock Gnomes" (the animated sequel to "Gnomeo and Juliet") will delight people who look for Easter eggs in films, and it will be interesting to see if someone puts up a web-site devoted to them. They're not only Sherlockian (watch for a tip of the hat to Ray Harryhausen), but there are plenty that will please the faithful: to start you off, the shop called Curly Fu's is a substitute for the Lucky Cat shop in the BBC's "Sherlock" series, and Curly Fu is the Chinese nickname for Benedict Cumberbatch's Sherlock Holmes.

An art group calling itself the PhiloSoraptors has released a video showing the face of Russian president Vladimir Putin being projected onto the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office on Mar. 18 (the day he was re-elected after a landslide victory) with the words "Miss Me?" in an apparent reference to the BBC's "Sherlock" series <www.tinyurl.com/y7h4e5hn>. A Foreign Office spokeswoman denied that the event happened.

Mar 18 #6 Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at Scripps Ranch Theatre in San Diego, Calif., through Apr. 9 <www.scrippsranctheatre.org>. The play also is scheduled at the Coaster Theatre Playhouse in Cannon Beach, Ore., June 22 to Sept. 2 <www.coastertheatre.com>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Maverick Theatre in Fullerton, Calif., through Apr. 22 <www.mavericktheatre.com>.

Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" has been scheduled by the English Speaking Society of the Université Bretagne Sud at the Paquebot in Lorient, France on Apr. 3 <www.tinyurl.com/y9q8xsjt>.

Callum Hale's parody "The Adventure of Isaac Saddlesore and the Witches of Drenn" will be performed at the Hen & Chicks Theatre in London on Apr. 8-9 <www.tinyurl.com/yaodd82b>.

Tim Kelly's adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Northwest Cabarrus High School in Concord, N.C., Apr. 13-14; web-site at <www.riseandshineplayers.com>.

"No Sh*t Sherlock!" (a program of four one-act plays that will include Tim Kelly's "The Last of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Northminster Community Hall in San Diego, Calif., Apr. 13-21 <www.clairmontactone.org>.

Tommy Kelley's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Crime of the Century" is scheduled at the Central School Project in Bisbee, Ariz., Apr. 20-29; their Facebook page is at <www.tinyurl.com/yavnkag9>.

"A Scandal in Nova Alba" (a new one-act play by Orlando Pearson) is scheduled at the cornerHOUSE Community Arts Centre in Surbiton, London, Apr. 24-28 <www.thech.org>; "a mix of Bard and Baker Street".

"Sherlock Holmes: The Final Curtain" (a new play by Simon Reade) will debut at the Theatre Royal in Bath, Apr. 25-May 5, and then go on tour in Britain; the tour schedule is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y9gkkaj9>.

The Baker Street Players will present Beth Barnard's new play "A Study in Sherlock: The Bitter Nemesis" at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., on Apr. 28 and May 5 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>; her "A Study in Sherlock: "You Sea But You Do Not Observe" is scheduled for Sept. 8 and 15.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Reno Little Theater in Reno, Nev., on May 4-20; web-site at <renolittletheater.org>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Stepping Stone School at Undershaw (Conan Doyle's former home) on May 25-26 <www.tinyurl.com/y7e5fpyk>.

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

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>. 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>. DANCING TO DEATH is still available for purchase at <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>; 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> 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>; 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>.

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>.

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>.

"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>.

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>.

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 houses 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>, 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> (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>, and you can reach Andrew Ive at <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>.



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> 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>.

"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>.

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>.

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>, 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>.



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>; search for [sherlock holmes].

Alexander Orlov has reported an interesting web-site: the Cover Art Archive <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>.

"The Real Sherlock of Baker Street" was the headline on a Londonist report <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>.

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>.

"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>.

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>.

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>.

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>.

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>. 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>.

"Sherlock Holmes" (a new "comedy musical") will be performed at the Sörby Rundloge in Mjölby, Sweden, June 2-17 <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>.

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>.

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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20817-4401 (301-229-5669) <blau7103@comcast.net>