

Save the dates: The Baker Street Irregulars will hold a BSI Archive Conference on Nov. 8-10 at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., the new home of the BSI Archive. Ross Davies and Glen Miranker have assembled an outstanding list of speakers from the worlds of collecting, book-selling, and publishing, and registration information will be available later this year for anyone who wishes to attend the festivities.

There's now web-site information about Michael Mitnick's new play "Mysterious Circumstances" (due at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, June 11-July 14 <www.geffenplayhouse.org/mysterious-circumstances>); the play's inspired by David Grann's article in the New Yorker about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green.

A Juno Knitting Pattern Download for a "Conan Doyle Vest" is available for \$6.00 from Interweave <www.interweave.com/store/conan-doyle-vest-in-juno>. It's a cabled vest accented by a wide collar and with big shoulders, and it's not at all clear what the connection to Sir Arthur might be.

Greg Ruby reports that "they're off and running," at Laurel Race Course in Laurel, Md., on June 9. Registration for this year's Silver Blaze (Southern Division) is now open, at <www.fourthgarrideb.com/silver-blaze>.

The latest news about the gene-editing technology CRISPR is the invention of the Specific High sensitivity Enzymatic Reporter unLOCKing device (yes, it's called SHERLOCK) by Sherlock Biosciences; you can read all about it in Ellie Kincaid's article in Forbes (Mar. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/y67adjyp>.

"Desert Island Discs" has been broadcast by the BBC since 1942: each week distinguished guests are asked to choose eight pieces of music they'd take if they were castaways on a desert island, and Martin Freeman was the program's guest on Apr. 5, when he talked about his life and career, and (of course) playing Dr. Watson in the BBC's "Sherlock" series. You can hear the program at <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0003rlf>.

Chess players will enjoy Jennie Paton's discovery of an interesting analysis at YouTube of the chess match between Holmes and Moriarty in "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (2011) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLSDVbxRRek>.

Margalit Fox's CONAN DOYLE FOR THE DEFENSE (May 18 #5) has been optioned by Gold Circle Films, according to the Hollywood Reporter (Mar. 21); the book offers an up-to-date report on Conan Doyle's defense of Oscar Slater, so we may get to see Conan Doyle on the big screen.

Variety reported on Feb. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/yypwvyz5> that a new eight-episode television series based on Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose* was due for release on RAI on Italy in March; it will debut on SundanceTV in the U.S. on May 1, and on the BBC in Britain later in the year. The series stars John Turturro as William of Baskerville, Damien Hardung as Adso of Melk, and Rupert Everett as inquisitor Bernard Gui; the book is set in Italy in 1327, but nevertheless was nicely Sherlockian.

Apr 19 #2 Laird R. Blackwell's *Frederic Dannay, Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, and the Art of the Detective Story* (Jefferson: McFarland, 2019; 226 pp., \$45.00) is a splendid tribute to a magazine that has contributed so much to keeping a genre alive and well, and to its editor; there's a chapter on "The Fine Arts of Parody, Pastiche, and Spoof" that includes many of the Sherlockian contributors (and discussion of Conan Doyle in "The Old Masters Resuscitated"). The publisher's web-site is at www.mcfarlandbooks.com.

Shane Rimmer died on Mar. 29. He began his acting career in television in 1957, and is credited as a supporting actor in a long list of television series and films; he also wrote scripts and was a voice actor, and played Lysander Stark with Michael Pennington in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1987) and Jefferson Hope on BBC Radio 4 in "A Study in Scarlet" (1989).

"Kabukicho Sherlock" (a new anime due on television in Japan in October) is set in modern-day Kabukicho in Shinjuku, Tokyo, and "follows the comedic, mysterious, and dramatic adventures of a ragtag band of detectives as they live together in a tenement above Mrs. Hudson's bar in the red-light district and attempt to solve an unusual string of killings." You can see some of the artwork at www.tinyurl.com/y4wwtb6v.

One hears of Sherlock everywhere, Karen Murdock spotted a letter, written by David Doyle and published in the Irish Times (Mar. 30): "We appear to be heading for a Sherlock Holmes Brexit. Once you eliminate the impossible Brexits, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the true Brexit."

And according to an editorial in The Times on Mar. 31, "we have reached the point in which, to paraphrase Arthur Conan Doyle, once you have eliminated the sensible, you are left with a series of unpalatable choices."

Vincent Starrett and Arthur Conan Doyle shared many literary interests in addition to Sherlock Holmes; one of them was pirates. Conan Doyle wrote four delightful stories about the terrible and terrifying Captain Sharkey (all of them now available online) and Ray Betzner has written an excellent article about "Pirates, Desert Islands, and Mermaids" at his "Studies in Starrett" blog www.tinyurl.com/y4cubbdw.

There seems to be no end to puzzle books that feature Sherlock Holmes, but Ian Stewart's *Professor Stewart's Casebook of Mathematical Mysteries* (New York: Basic Books, 2014; 320 pp., \$16.99) offers "mathematical curios and conundrums" that feature Hemlock Soames and Dr. John Watsup; real mathematics are involved, and the solutions are far from trivial.

Georgiana Cavendish, 5th Duchess of Devonshire, gave her name to the style of hat worn by Mary Sutherland (in "A Case of Identity"), and her portrait by Gainsborough was stolen by Adam Worth (who was described as the Napoleon of crime long before that title was given to the evil Prof. Moriarty). You can see the portrait, and learn much more about the Duchess, in an interesting article by Amanda Foreman www.tinyurl.com/yy8phllk.

Apr 19 #3 It's a remote connection between Sherlock Holmes and an American president, and one can only wish that there were a photograph of President John F. Kennedy with "a big Sherlock-Holmes style magnifying glass," but there's a reference to this in Don Moser's article on "The Time of the Angel" in *American Heritage* (Oct. 1977), reported by Alexander Orlov in the on-line library of the Central Intelligence Agency. The "Angel" was the nickname of the U-2, and the article is about the Cuban missile crisis. You can read the text of the article at the American Heritage web-site www.americanheritage.com/time-angel, and find a scan of the actual article (with illustrations) at www.tinyurl.com/y2oxehl3.

Ralph Hall and Mike McSwiggin are helping Barbara Herbert sell Paul Herbert's collection; he cast his net widely, and had interesting Sherlockiana as well as books, and if you have a want-list you're welcome to get in touch with Ralph at bugmanhall@aol.com.

"How did Sherlock hire Watson?" Using Google, according to an amusing advertisement www.vimeo.com/328543356 spotted by Jennie Paton.

"Comedy Playhouse" was a 30-minutes series broadcast by BBC-1; on Jan. 18, 1973, the program included a skit titled "Elementary, My Dear Watson" with John Cleese as Holmes and William Rushton as Watson, and Jennie Paton has found the skit at YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpjztufGwhI.

Gyles Brandreth's *Oscar Wilde and the Return of Jack the Ripper* (New York: Pegasus, 2019; 356 pp., \$25.95), is the seventh of his series of mysteries featuring Oscar Wilde and Arthur Conan Doyle; published in Britain in 2017 as *Jack the Ripper: Case Closed*, the novel's set in 1894 and presents an imaginative, well-written, and colorful solution to the identity of Jack the Ripper.

The 1979 Russian television series that starred Vasiliy Livanov and Vitaliy Solomin was filmed in Riga, and Alexander Orlov reports that the city began formal celebrations of Sherlock Holmes' birthday in 2012; there's a nice assortment of photographs at www.tinyurl.com/yxf76hqa, and video at www.tinyurl.com/y3geu5mn.

The Haven, in Jamaica Plain, Mass., proudly offers "Scottish food, drink, and great banter," and their menu includes a Sherlock Holmes cocktail made with Lapsang Souchong tea, scotch, honey liqueur, and lemon (in case you would like to try one at home) www.thehavenjp.com.

Ross E. Davies' excellent article about "The Bimetallic Question in The Valley of Fear" (published in the summer 2018 issue of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*) now is available on-line at the web-site of the Fourth Garrideb www.tinyurl.com/y47mdmev.

Kazuhito Kato died on Apr. 11. He used the pen name Monkey Punch as the creator of the popular "Lupin III" manga series that was adapted for television, films, musicals, and video games. Lupin III was the grandson of Arsène Lupin, and Sherlock Holmes III was one of the supporting characters in the television episode "The Great Detectives Take to the Sky" (1978).

Apr 19 #4 Uttiyo Bhattacharya's *Ba'az of the Bengal Lancers* (New Delhi: Juggernaut, 2019; 353 pp., INR-350) begins in 1857, the year of the Indian Mutiny (which will be familiar to anyone who has read "The Sign of the Four") and a stolen treasure, and the book is the story of a modern-day search for that treasure; Conan Doyle's story is one of the inspirations for the book (Captain Morstan, Major Sholto, and Jonathan Small make appearances, but aren't quite Conan Doyle's characters), and the story's nicely told. There's also an e-book version available for INR-80 at the publisher's web-site www.tinyurl.com/y3yvoew.

CBS-TV has announced that the final season of "Elementary" will begin airing on May 23.

Harold Wayne Billings died on Nov. 29, 2017. Born in Texas in 1931, he was for twenty-five years the director of general libraries at the University of Texas in Austin, and was the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article published in *The Baker Street Journal* in 2006 ("The *Materia Medica* of Sherlock Holmes").

Bill Amos' three-act play *Sherlock Holmes and the Scarlet Avenger* was published by Amazon's CreateSpace in 2015 (71 pp., \$10.50) and performed at the Performance Works Factory Theatre in Nuremburg, Pa., this year (it's an interesting dramatization of "A Study in Scarlet").

Arthur Conan Doyle lived and worked in Plymouth in 1882, in practice with George Turnavine Budd, before moving on to Southsea; Plymouth boasts not only a commemorative blue plaque at 1 Durnford Street, but also a series of quotations from his writings that have been set in stone in the sidewalks of the street www.tinyurl.com/y4jmu3cn.

Slot machines have come a long way since the days of the one-armed bandit: Tom Horn Gaming has just released "Sherlock: A Scandal in Bohemia" and you can visit www.tinyurl.com/y3antw5b to learn more about the game (and watch a trailer); thanks to Alexander Orlov for reporting this new development.

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the winners of this year's Edgar awards, and they include Leslie S. Klinger's *Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s* (for best critical/biographical); the book was edited by Les, with a Foreword by Otto Penzler (Sept 18 #3).

Jennie Paton found a nice tribute to the late Roger Llewellyn, who was interviewed and recorded by Steve and Pat Tanenbaum after a performance of "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!" www.tinyurl.com/y4vcsrte.

When in New Zealand: "Cut! Costume and the Cinema" (an exhibition at the Waikato Museum in Hamilton through July 21) features 43 outfits from 25 films (including Robert Downey Jr.'s suit from "Sherlock Holmes"); their web-site's at www.tinyurl.com/y3vh8pvu. The exhibition is mounted by EDG www.tinyurl.com/y3tsmy4q, and will appear next at the Reading Public Museum in Reading, Pa., Sept. 21-Jan. 5. EDG also is responsible for the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition that's now at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., through May 27 www.lsc.org.

Apr 19 #5 Greg Ruby has reported that The Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes will hold a dinner meeting during the World's Fair of Money in Rosemont, Ill., on Aug. 15; all Sherlockians in the Chicago area will be welcome at the festivities, and details are available at the web-site of The Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/y3a9djfc>.

Lucy Liu's star will be installed on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on May 1, at Hollywood and Vine, next to the star of Anna May Wong. Lucy Liu plays Joan Watson in the "Elementary" television series, and Anna May Wong was Mrs. Pyke in Reginald Owens' "A Study in Scarlet" (1933), a few years after she was burlesqued in the British marionette film "Herlock Sholmes in Be-a-Live Crook, or Anna Went Wrong" (1930). You can see if your favorite actor has a star using the search engine at <www.walkoffame.com>.

Bill Peschel blogs on behalf of his Peschel Press, and on Apr. 24 posted an amusing discussion of a "chaste salute" <www.tinyurl.com/y38apdsq>.

Susan B. Diamond ("The Great Mogul") died on Apr. 25. She was a member of the Beacon Society since it was founded in 2003, serving on its board of directors and as chair of its grants committee, and for many years helped organize the STUD-Watsonian Weekends and runnings of the Silver Blaze in Chicago. Susan also was an editor of The Serpentine Muse and for a time presided over the Prince Albert League (a society for consorts of members of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes). Susan received her Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1998.

Jennie Paton discovered the Global Gourmet Games, sponsored by the Milkin Institute; they were Sherlockian this year, in Los Angeles on Apr. 27; you can see Michael Milkin (as Sherlock Holmes) explaining the game's rules at their web-site <www.globalgourmetgames.org>.

It's always nice to see the work of artists who have illustrated Sherlockian and Doylean stories, and Fred Taraba (at Taraba Illustration Art) is offering (non-Sherlockian and non-Doylean) original artwork by Arthur I. Keller and Joseph Clement Coll, first come, first served; his e-mail address is <fredappraisals@gmail.com>.

Another (more noted) artist who had Doylean credentials was N. C. Wyeth, who provided illustrations for *The Last Galley* (1911) and *The White Company* (1922); four of his originals will be offered at Heritage Auctions on May 4, including an illustration for *The Boy's King Arthur* (1917) with a reserve of \$500,000 <www.tinyurl.com/y5yfbtvl>.

A nice result of the recent five-week government shut-down that curtailed all but essential agency activities was a reprieve for the troubled Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals instrument scheduled for the Mars rover due to land on the planet next year. The shut-down gave NASA time to plan minor modifications to SHERLOC (yes, that's the instrument's acronym) and avoid cancelling SHERLOC to mitigate continuing cost overruns on the mission, according to an announcement <www.tinyurl.com/y2fdpqfh> noted by Bill Anselm in Space News (Mar. 31). See the earlier report (Apr 14 #2) for more about SHERLOC.

Apr 19 #6 Is anyone watching the CBS All Access web-series "Star Trek: Discovery"? A discussion of the episode "Such Sweet Sorrow" (broadcast on Apr. 11) reported that when Amanda referred to Sarek as "impossible," he replied "I will accept improbable," with a reminder to viewers that that Spock quoted the Canonical axiom, attributing it to "an ancestor of mine" in the 1991 film "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country".

Theatrics: Brian Clemens' "Holmes and the Ripper" is running at the Caxton Little Theatre in Grimsby through May 4 <www.caxtontheatre.com>. And (as "Sherlock Holmes and the Ripper Murders") at the Genesian Theatre in Sydney, N.S.W., until June 15 <www.genesiantheatre.com>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the B Street Theatre in Sacramento, Calif., through May 26 <www.bstreettheatre.org>.

Todd Wallinger's "The Enchanted Bookshop" is scheduled at the DCP Theatre in Telford, Pa., May 3-12 <www.dcptheatre.com>.

C.P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Spinsters of Blackmead" will be performed at the Dunedin Community Center in Dunedin, Fla., May 3-11; web-site at <www.dunidenshowcasetheater.net>.

Ondrej G. Brzobohaty's "Legenda jménem Holmes" [A Legend Named Holmes] is scheduled at Musical Theater Karlín in Prague, May 8-Sept. 29; their web-site's at <www.hdk.cz/en/repertoire/57-holmes-the-legend>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (a musical written by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman) will be performed at the Coast Capital Playhouse in White Rock, B.C., on May 11 <www.whiterockplayers.ca>.

Roger Utting's new play "The Trial of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Milestone Centre in Caversham, Berks., May 16-18; their web-site's at <www.cavparktheatre.org.uk>.

Tal Avizer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Dancing Men" is due at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in the Bronx, N.Y., June 1-9; web-site's at <www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at the Very Little Theatre in Eugene, Ore., June 7-22; web-site at <www.thevlt.com>; and at the Vault Theater in Hillsboro, Ore., Dec. 5-23 <www.bag&baggage.org>.

Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" will be performed at the Charity Randall Theater in Pittsburgh, Pa., June 13-30 <www.tinyurl.com/y2dgwbsb>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Bristol Valley Theater in Naples, N.Y., July 25 to Aug. 4 <www.bvtnaples.org>.

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