

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 165th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 9 to 13; the (very) long weekend was filled with events, both formal and informal, and detailed reports on most of them will be available soon at the web-site of The Baker Street Irregulars <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>. But in the meantime, here are few brief paragraphs to tide you over:

The BSI's Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Ken Ludwig, award-winning author of three Sherlockian (and many more non-Sherlockian) plays; he reported that he has just completed work on his newest play "Moriarty" (in the five-actor format of "Baskerville") and hopes it will be produced in the near future.

The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Evelyn Herzog proposed the traditional preprandial first toast to Nelda Richards as *The Woman*. This was followed by the presentation of a Festschrift to a thoroughly-surprised member of the BSI who was celebrating the 60th anniversary of his Investiture; immodestly, the editor of this newsletter says "let me recommend this book," which is available (80 pp., \$19.95) from the BSI at <www.tinyurl.com/yb5z9frc>.

The annual dinner's agenda included the usual toasts, rituals, and papers, and Mike Whelan (the "Wiggins" of the BSI) presented Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) to Alexander Katz ("Sarasate"), John Knud-Hansen ("This Lascar Scoundrel"), Brigitte Latella ("Holmes's Alpenstock"), Michele Lopez ("Attenta, Pericolo"), Ira B. Matetsky ("The Final Problem"), Terry McCammon ("Young Stamford"), Mike McSwiggin ("A Seven Percent Solution"), Greg D. Ruby ("Bulldog Pin with Ruby Eyes"), and Monica Schmidt ("Julia Stoner").

Mike Whelan then announced that Mike Kean had been appointed to the office of "Commissionaire" to serve one year, and the end of which he will become the BSI's new "Wiggins". Mike Kean will be only the sixth person to lead the BSI since it was founded by Christopher Morley in 1934.

The Baker Street Irregulars also have published a second title in the Professions Series that was launched with *Nerve and Knowledge* in 2015. The new book is *Canon Law: Lawyers, Law, and the Sherlockian Canon*, edited by William A. Walsh and Donny Zaldin (2018; 206 pp., \$39.95), and it offers a wide-ranging look at many of the legal (and illegal) aspects of the world of Sherlock Holmes, including a transcript of what might have happened if he were to have been tried for some of his infringements of the law.

The latest title in the BSI's Manuscript Series is *Deadly Harpoon*, edited by Glen Miranker (2018; 168 pp., \$39.95), which offers a facsimile of the manuscript of "Black Peter", an annotated transcript, and interesting commentary on the manuscript, the story, and the world in which the Great Detective lived when he was involved in the case. It is of course thoroughly appropriate that the volume has been edited by the fortunate owner of the manuscript. More information about both books, including the tables of contents, can be found at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>.

Jan 19 #2 It should be noted that there is much more to see at the BSI's web-site www.bakerstreetirregulars.com, such as information about The Baker Street Journal, which now appears five times a year (there are four quarterly issues and a Christmas Annual that's available only to subscribers). The 2018 Christmas Annual reported on the colorful history of the Sherlock Holmes Exhibitions in London in 1951 and then in New York in 1952, and the 2019 Christmas Annual will be a tribute to the late William S. Baring-Gould.

And, for those who want to plan ahead, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London will hold its annual dinner on Jan. 11, 2020, in London, and the BSI will hold their annual dinner on Jan. 17, 2020, in New York.

With regard to *Canon Law*, those who recall that William Shakespeare wrote (in *Henry VI*), "the first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers," should also remember that those words were spoken by Dick the Butcher, who was in rebellion against the king, and that the rebels then managed only to kill a county clerk.

Al Gregory gaslightandfog@verizon.net kindly offers (via e-mail) his new 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 are Investitured Irregulars).

Gasogene Books has published *Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers, Volume 4, January-June 1894*, edited and annotated by Mattias Bostrom, Mark Alberstat, Leah Guinn, and Matt Laffey (2019; 202 pp., \$34.95); there are more editors now, quite understandable considering the wealth of material about Holmes and Conan Doyle in the ever-expanding data-bases of digitized newspapers and magazines www.gasogenebooks.com.

Those who have bought Nicholas Utechin's splendid *The Complete Paget Portfolio* (Nov 18 #3), still available from Gasogene and still highly recommended, will be interested in a recent message from Nick: some of his text did not make it into the final version of the book, and he will be happy to send the text by e-mail so that you can print it out and insert it into your copy; you can reach Nick at highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com.

More news from the birthday festivities: Nicholas Meyer announced the discovery of another missing manuscript: *The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols*, which will be published later this year (the 45th anniversary of the publication of his *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*).

The Crew of the Barque Lone Star, in Dallas, has published a sequel to its *A Grimm Sherlock Holmes* (Dec 17 #2). *A Grimmer Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Steve Mason, is the society's second anthology of fairy-tale pastiches; it is a 179-page e-book, offering pastiches and the fairy tales on which they are based, nicely available without charge at www.tinyurl.com/y9oqdroc.

"Literary Figures Who Can't Commit" in the N.Y. Times Book Review on Jan. 20 offered graphic artist Ali Fitzgerald's illustrations of Captain Ahab, Edward Rochester, Mary Poppins, the White Rabbit, and Sherlock Holmes; you can see them all at www.tinyurl.com/y97b8lgp.

Jan 19 #3 Plan ahead: the latest issue of The Bowling Green (the newsletter of The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State) announces an excursion to Oxford in May 2021, commemorating Christopher Morley's first year as a Rhodes Scholar at the University. Details will be available (eventually) from Terry Hunt <18goldini95@gmail.com>.

The UCLA Film and Television Archive has announced a collaborative worldwide search for missing or deteriorating Sherlockian films that will lead to the films' restoration, and the project is being coordinated by Barbara Roisman Cooper, who is a member of The Baker Street Irregulars as well as the Archive's board; if you would like further information or to join the volunteer committee that's working on the project, you can contact Barbara at <penin1@aol.com>. UCLA has the second-largest moving-image archive in the United States (after the Library of Congress), and has worked on Sherlockian films in the past: restoring from nitrate originals and preserving the classic Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce films, with funding from UCLA, Warner Bros., and Hugh Hefner.

Barbara S. Koelle died on Nov. 28. She married Jack Koelle in 1948, and like her husband was an avid book collector, enthusiastic about children's books and especially the world of the Wizard of Oz. Barbara was a member of the board of directors of the International Wizard of Oz Club and she served as its president and as editor of its magazine *The Baum Bugle*. She was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as *The Woman* in 1982.

Plan ahead: the Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium, which is scheduled for Oct. 12-13 in Portland, Ore., promises "a weekend of scholarship and camaraderie" in the image of the Scintillation of Scions, 221B Con, and other Sherlockian conferences. Planning is underway, registration is open, and there's more information at their web-site at <www.leftcoastsherlock.com>.

The Golden Raspberry Awards (for failure in cinematic achievement), also known as the Razzies, were created in 1981, and traditionally are awarded the day before the Oscars. This year's nominations have been announced, and "Holmes & Watson" has been nominated in six of the nine categories: worst picture; worst actor (Will Ferrell); worst supporting actor (John C. Reilly); worst screen combo (Ferrell and Reilly); worst remake, rip-off, or sequel; and worst director (Etan Cohen). There's plenty of competition for each award, and the winners will be announced on Feb. 23.

For those who came in late, "Holmes & Watson" has won negative (sometimes scathing) reviews from critics, audiences, and Sherlockians, and (so far), according to the Box Office Mojo web-site, has grossed less than its estimated production budget of \$42 million. It has been reported that Netflix turned down the film, and that it likely will be available on DVD in March for those who want to find fault with it, or to enjoy watching Hugh Laurie overact as Mycroft.

The National (based in the United Arab Emirates) ran an article on Jan. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/yaop68m2> about "How Do Film Studios React When They Know They've Made a Dud?" (there have been many other films that foundered; it is interesting that some major newspapers, including the Washington Post, never bothered to review the film).

Jan 19 #4 Netflix has announced plans for a new live-action Sherlockian Television series called "The Irregulars" (to be produced by the Canadian company Muse Entertainment); Tom Bidwell, who will be writing the series, has said, "what if Sherlock Holmes was a drug addict and a delinquent and the kids solve the whole case whilst he takes credit?" Bidwell's adaptation of "Watership Down" aired on BBC One last month, and he talked about that (and about "The Irregulars") in a BBC Writersroom interview on Dec. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/ydxgpgqwh>. Muse produced four Sherlockian television films that starred Matt Frewer as Holmes: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2000), "The Sign of Four" (2001), "Royal Scandal" (2001), and "The Case of the Whitechapel Vampire" (2002).

The television series will be based on four graphic novels written by Tony Lee and illustrated by Dan Boulton that were published by Franklin Watts in 2011; their graphic novels already have been dramatized by Eric Coble as a two-act play "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" that premiered in Milwaukee, Wis., in 2014; it has had regional productions elsewhere and the script is available from Dramatic Publishing.

David L. Hammer ("Major-General Stoner") died on Dec. 27. He had a long career as a lawyer, and was launched as a Sherlockian author in 1983 with the publication of his splendid *The Game Is Afoot: A Travel Guide to the England of Sherlock Holmes*, the first of a long series of books about his world-wide travels in the footsteps of Holmes. He was the founder of the Gasogene Press, and presided over an interesting Sherlockian workshop in Dubuque. Scott Monty has a warm tribute to David at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/ya92lg7w>, with a link to Gael Stahl's interview with Dave for the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.

One of the interesting things about modern technology is that the Internet makes it possible to find productions of Sherlockian plays just about anywhere. Howard Ostrom notes Ken Ludwig's "Sherlock Holmes dhe Langoi i Baskervillëve" at the Metropol Theater in Tirana, Albania, Dec. 13, 2018-Feb. 3, 2019 <www.tinyurl.com/y92nmucv>.

The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2018 has "War and Peace" as its theme, with contributions that include pastiches, essay, and artwork, all related to appropriate aspects of the Canon; the 60-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, can be ordered from Phillip (at 3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304), and the cost is \$10.00 postpaid (checks payable to the Norwegian Explorers, please). Anyone outside the U.S. should contact Phillip <pgberman@gmail.com> to ask about the postpaid cost.

Peter Calamai ("The Leeds Mercury") died on Jan. 22. A distinguished Canadian journalist, Peter was awarded membership in the Order of Canada in 2014, honoring his achievements as a science journalist and his contributions to the cause of literacy. He drew upon his expertise in journalism for many of his contributions to Canonical scholarship, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2005, and was the winner of the BSI's Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article published in The Baker Street Journal in 2012.

Jan 19 #5 The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards, and they include Bradley Harper's *A Knife in the Fog* (for best first novel by an American author) and Leslie S. Klinger's *Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s* (for best critical/biographical). The winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 25.

The Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft and the Austrian town of Feldkirch will celebrate Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 160th birthday with an excursion to Feldkirch on May 23-26 (Conan Doyle studied at the Jesuit College of Stella Matutina from 1875 to 1876). More information on the event is available at www.dshc.de/dshg-jahresreise-2019, all in German (as the conference will be).

The Fourth Garrideb will hold its "Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes Dinner" in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Mar. 29, during the American Numismatic Association's National Money Show; there's more information about the event at www.tinyurl.com/y9nhndby.

Russell Baker died on Jan. 21. He was a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who worked most of his career for the N.Y. Times, as a reporter and as a columnist. He also succeeded Alistair Cooke as host of "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS, introducing programs from 1993 to 2004; none of the programs were Sherlockian, but he often found reason to mention (and praise) Holmes and Conan Doyle.

The British Royal Mint has announced that it will issue a 50p coin honoring Sherlock Holmes this year, and the coin already is available for purchase in an annual set that includes all of this year's coins, in various metals; details on the coin, the sets, and an illustration, will be found at the Fourth Garrideb web-site www.tinyurl.com/yc89akeo. Of course the Royal Mint hopes that collectors (and speculators) will pursue the expensive annual sets, but it will be worthwhile waiting: Greg has learned that individual coins will be available later this year at more modest prices. It is unlikely, however, that the coins will turn up in pocket change.

The Beacon Society offers annual Jan Stauber grants of up to \$600 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.

Windsor Davies died on Jan. 17. Born in Wales, he began his acting career on stage in 1961 and went on to work in film and television and as a voice actor in commercials. He played Inspector Illingworth in a dramatization of Max Pemberton's "The Ripening Rubies" (1971), with Bernard Sutton as Robert Lang, in the ITV television series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes".

The Chicago Philharmonic has an interesting afternoon program coming up on Mar. 24, at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie: "Silent Sherlock" will offer Buster Keaton's "Sherlock Jr.," (1924), Koko the Clown's "Fadeaway" (1926), and Felix the Cat's "Sure-Locked Holmes" (1928) (the first and third films being Sherlockian), with live orchestral accompaniment www.chicagophilharmonic.org/silent-sherlock.

Jan 19 #6 Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" on at Cheney Hall in Manchester, Conn., through Feb. 17 <www.cheneyhall.org>. It also is due at the Granite Theatre in Westerly, R.I., Mar. 22-Apr. 7 <www.granitetheatre.com>.

Richard Lavin's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Impaled Whaler" will be performed at the Tudor House in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., Feb. 15-23 <www.tudorhouseentertainment.villas>.

David Stuart Davies' new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Reckoning" will debut at the Assembly Roxy in Edinburgh, Feb. 25-Mar. 2; there's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/y8dlfpb4>.

Mike Grogan's "Life After Sherlock" (billed as "a tale of blackmail, murder, suicide, deceit, and treasure, all in two acts") is touring in Britain with performances scheduled at the Alton Assembly Rooms in Alton on May 25, the Hanger Farm Arts Centre in Southampton on May 31, the Capitol Theatre in Horsham on June 7, and the Petersfield Festival Hall in Petersfield on June 15. Devil's Drum Productions seems to be the producer, but doesn't have a working web-site; a Google search will help. Mike Grogan can be seen at <<https://twitter.com/mikegroganmusic>>.

If you haven't heard already, postage prices have gone up again: a first-class letter now costs 55¢ (up from 50¢), so subscriptions to this newsletter will cost more, for those few remaining subscribers willing to pay for the privilege of opening envelopes rather reading the newsletter online (or printing it themselves). The second ounce of a first-class letter now costs 15¢ (down from 21¢), and delivery outside the U.S. does not cost more (yet).

Finally: if you have noticed slight differences between this month's issue and past issues, that's because this month's issue was created on my newer computer, a change required by the hospitalization of my older MS-DOS computer, and the need to find an exorcist, a resurrectionist, and a wizard to bring me firmly into the 21st century. If you did not notice any differences, that is because I was easily able to find someone who combines all three skills, and has been able to show me how to use Microsoft Word instead of Volkswriter 3, and to write my newsletter on my newer Windows 10 computer. The font is slightly different (TrueType's Courier New isn't quite the same as dot-matrix Courier), but I'm delighted that I still can pretend that I'm using a typewriter (as I did when I started writing paragraphs to John Bennett Shaw in the now-distant 1970s). Some day you might see things such as proportional spacing and dingbats, but the world (this one, at least) is not quite prepared for that.

A few things, including some very recent paragraphing, have vanished, but I expect to catch up sooner rather than later. My Wizard has told me that there's a way to run my older software on my newer computer, so it's possible (but not likely) that this slightly-more-modern look may vanish. If there's anything I've forgotten to remember, please let me know.

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The Baker Street Irregulars Press and the BSI Trust will hold a book fair on Apr. 27 at the Chatham-Summit Quaker Friends Meeting House in Chatham, N.J., from noon to 4:00 pm, offering books from the various BSI Press series, and used books and other Sherlockiana that have been donated to the Trust. More information is available from Denny Dobry <dendobry@ptd.net>; the nearest train station is NJ Transit's Chatham Station on the Morristown Line, from Penn Station in New York, and Denny will be happy to arrange shuttle transportation from the Chatham Station on request.

If you can't make it to New Jersey, or just can't wait, you can send your want-list to Denny; the BSI Trust inventory includes a wide range of Sherlockian and Doylean material, offered at reasonable prices. Proceeds will be used to maintain the BSI Archives at the Lilly Library at the University of Indiana.

Heritage Auctions is offering the Otto Penzler Collection of Mystery Fiction, beginning with Part One on Mar. 6 in New York; there are some splendid items in the auction, and their web-site includes a short video showing his magnificent library <www.tinyurl.com/y26mknss>.

If you have been thinking about subscribing to the Baker Street Journal, now's the time to decide to do so, before the spring issue goes to press at the end of March. Subscribers will receive all five issues, including the Christmas Annual, which will be a tribute both to the late William S. Baring-Gould and to his *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*. Strike while the iron's hot: go to <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com> to subscribe (and find much else of interest).

Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, and there's still time to see it at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., where it will run through May 27 <www.lsc.org>. The exhibition was created by the Exhibits Development Group, and Ross Davies notes that there's an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9b7yq83> where you can see how the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might want to put it on display.

Greg Ruby discusses "Holmes & Watson in the Great War" (emphasizing Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce's military medals) in the *Numismatist* (Feb. 2019) <www.onlinedigitalpublishing.com/publication/?i=562102&vr=html5&p=50>.

Pokémon's "Detective Pikachu" film is scheduled for release on May 10, but Warner Bros. is so enthusiastic about the film that work has started on a sequel, according to the *Hollywood Reporter* (Jan. 25); you can see Pikachu in Sherlockian costume in a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/ybszcx68>.

You can now register for the "Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences" conference on Aug. 8-11 in Minneapolis; this is the triennial conference sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers, the University of Minnesota, and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. For more information (and a registration form), visit <www.norwegianexplorers.org>.

Feb 19 #2 Dame June Whitfield died on Dec. 28. She began her acting career on stage in 1944 and went on to work in films and on radio and television; she was best known for her appearance in the television series "Absolutely Fabulous", and played Mrs. Hudson and other female parts in Roy Hudd's "The Newly Discovered Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" on BBC Radio 2 in 1999. She was appointed OBE in 1985, CBE in 1998, and then Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2017, for services to drama and entertainment.

John Linsenmeyer has relayed Michael Quigley's report on the Jezail Bullet, an interesting cocktail with a nicely Canonical name and a Sherlockian history Lyndsay Faye commissioned her husband Gabriel Lehner (who does this sort of thing professionally) to create a specialty cocktail for the Baker Street Babes' "Daintiest Bee Under Your Bonnet Ball" at The Players during the birthday festivities in 2015. Laurie Fraser Manifold provided attractive artwork, and the cocktail is reported to have met with universal approval; you can find a readable, downloadable, and printable version of artwork and recipe at the Red Circle's web-site www.redcircledc.org.

"One Book/One Community" is an annual program sponsored by the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, and this year they have chosen *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. The program includes an exhibition titled "Who's Your Holmes?" at Louisiana State University's Hill Memorial Library through May 31; the material on display is drawn from the LSU Libraries' Russell A. Mann Sherlock Holmes Research Collection. More information about the program and the exhibition is available at www.tinyurl.com/ycg4tmnn, and there's an inventory of the collection at www.tinyurl.com/y9a2zfvc.

Registration is now open for the "Holmes, Doyle, & Friends" gathering on Mar. 29-30 in Dayton, Ohio; details will be found at the web-site of the Agra Treasurers www.agratreasurers.net/holmes--doyle---friends.html.

Stephen Fry's recording "Sherlock Holmes: The Definitive Collection" has been uploaded to YouTube in 17 parts, and may still be available for download at www.youtube.com/channel/UC4pYq9_yvIV8vfZzzwFY8Nw. This will be of interest to people in the U.S., where the version offered by Audible is not complete because of copyright restrictions. *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* is in parts 16 and 17.

"It's Elemental, My Dear Watson," according to an advertisement spotted by Joe Coppola www.tinyurl.com/yau8qlw2; the advertisement is by a company called SparkFun, which explains that its "gator:bit v.2.0 is an all-in-one carrier board for your micro:bit that provides you with a fully functioning development and prototype platform."

Joanna Blalock stars in *The Disappearance of Alistair Ainsworth* (New York: Minotaur, 2019; 306 pp., \$26.99), the third in Leonard Goldberg's series about the daughter of Sherlock Holmes, who once again is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son Dr. John H. Watson Jr.; her father taught her well, and she now (in 1915) she is trying to prevent disaster at the hands of German spies. It's all nicely done, and the author has a web-site at www.leonardgoldberg.com.

Feb 19 #3 There are many who benefit from Boolean algebra but know little if anything about the man who invented the logic that is used by Google for its searches, and who is credited with having invented the ones and zeros on which modern computers rely. The 200th anniversary of his birth was honored with a Google Doodle <www.tinyurl.com/y8d2lavc>, and *New Light on George Boole*, by Desmond MacHale and Yvonne Cohen (Cork: Atrium, 2018; 476 pp., €19.95), offers a detailed account of Boole's life and work, ending with a full chapter on "Sherlock Holmes, James Moriarty, and George Boole." The authors believe that it was Boole who was at least in part the inspiration for Moriarty, and they make a persuasive although sometimes circumstantial case.

Lynda Arco is offering a wide variety of Sherlockian and Doylean books at eBay; her seller ID is lyar_73 (you can use the advanced search function to find her items).

Don Hobbs continues to update his "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"; the January edition has now with 109 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English in non-Roman alphabets such as Braille and Pitman Shorthand), showing covers in color and with bibliographic details for more than 7,200 entries; a thumb drive costs \$15.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) or \$20.00 (elsewhere) from Don (2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028).

When in Monschau: Karen Murdock has found on-line images of an imaginative metal statue of Sherlock Holmes located in Germany; the artist and history are unknown, but you can see the statue at <www.tinyurl.com/ybkdkjqk>.

Sunny Evans has mentioned Gregory Dowling's essay on "G. K. Chesterton's Father Brown Stories: The Debt to Sherlock Holmes", which is available as a free download at <www.academia.edu>, a web-site that offers free access to more than 22 million research papers (including 300 "sherlock holmes" in the title).

Malice Domestic has announced the nominees for this year's Agatha awards, which include Margalit Fox's *Conan Doyle for the Defense* (best non-fiction). The winners will be announced at Malice in Bethesda on May 4.

William Morgan Sheppard died on Jan. 6. He began his acting career with the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1958, performed on screen and television, and voiced characters in video games. He played Jim Craig in the Royal Shakespeare Company's tour of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in Washington and New York in 1975, and appeared in two episodes of the Geoffrey Whitehead television series in 1979 (as the Man in the Morgue in "The Case of Harry Crocker" and as Mischkin in "Four Minus Four Is One")

"Writers, new writers in particular, worry about giving the reader enough detail," Geri Schear wrote in an essay noted in a weekly e-mailing from MX Publishing <www.rycardus.wordpress.com/2019/01/16/the-final-frontier>; she has written three pastiches about Sherlock Holmes and Lady Beatrice for MX and contributed short stories to MX anthologies, and her advice should be heeded by anyone wanting to write a good pastiche (or a non-pastiche, for that matter).

Feb 19 #4 Thaddeus Holt Jr. died on Dec. 29. A lawyer, he also served as deputy undersecretary of the Army and as secretary to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and was a dedicated military historian and wrote *The Deceivers: Allied Military Deception in the Second World War* (2004). Thad's essay on "The Hornblower Saga" in the N.Y. Times Book Review (May 18, 1975) opened with a quote from Christopher Morley and was as much about Holmes as about Hornblower, and his article "You Have Been in Afghanistan, I Perceive" in *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History* (winter 1994) offered evidence that the fatal battle of Maiwand provided Conan Doyle with the names of both Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson.

Sherlockians and Holmesians have their Canon (and fans of Laurie R. King's "Mary Russell" stories have their Kanon), and Thomas Ling had a long essay in *Radio Times* (Feb. 5) www.tinyurl.com/yd5wtzwx about the canon created by fans of Doctor Who, with discussion of the Watsonian and Doylean Perspectives, and the similar approaches that the Whovians take regarding the contradictions and complications in their "Whoniverse".

Laurie R. King's *The Art of Detection* (Nov 05 #6) is a delightful crossover combining the worlds of Kate Martinelli and Mary Russell, and it includes a short story written by Sherlock Holmes that Laurie now offers as a free download: "The Marriage of Billy Birdsong" will be available until Mar. 11 at www.tinyurl.com/y2nloy4m.

Albert Finney died on Feb. 8. The British actor began his career on stage and appeared in his first film in 1956, achieving international stardom in the title role in "Tom Jones" (1963); he appeared in many other films and was nominated for five Oscars (and was sometimes called the greatest actor never to have won an Oscar), and had an uncredited cameo as a "man in the audience at opera" in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).

Sidney and Walter Paget contributed illustrations to the Canon (and Walter is said to have been the model when his brother Sidney first drew Holmes), but there is another artist in the Paget family; Greg Ruby has three items at his Fourth Garrideb web-site on coins and medals that were designed by Walter Paget's son Thomas Paget. Just go to www.fourthgarrideb.com and search for [paget].

Betty Ballantine died on Feb. 12. She and her late husband Ian Ballantine founded Bantam Books and the Ballantine Books, and helped invent the modern paperback. They published Sherlockian titles, of course, and were responsible for one of a delightful publishing hoax: Jean Shepherd, who had a night-time radio show in New York City, once asked his listeners to go to bookstores and ask for Frederick R. Ewing's *I Libertine*; neither the book nor the author existed, but the book made some best-seller lists, at a time when the lists were based on orders as well as sales, greatly frustrating booksellers. When the Ballantines heard about the hoax they asked science-fiction author Theodore Sturgeon to write the book as Ewing; Sturgeon did, and the Ballantines published it in 1956, with cover artwork by Frank Kelly Freas that shows a pub sign for the Fish & Staff; the sign has images of a sturgeon and shepherd's staff.

Feb 19 #5 Charles Finch's *The Vanishing Man* (New York: Minotaur, 2019; 269 pp., \$26.99), set in 1853, is a prequel to the long-running series about Charles Lenox, an amateur detective in pre-Sherlockian London (the series takes him into the 1870s), offering an intriguing view of the London, and England, into which Holmes was born; the story's well-told, with interesting characters and a good sense of time and place.

"Sherlock Holmes 3" (that's the only title announced so far for the third Robert Downey Jr. film) has an official release date of Dec. 25, 2020, according to Warner Bros. There's reported to be script, and one can assume that at some point they'll start production. Or not.

Further to an earlier mention of the CW television series "The Flash" (Aug 18 #4), the continuing character Harrison "Sherloque" Wells (played by Tom Cavanagh) is a distinct homage to Sherlock Holmes; in a recent episode he mentioned his former partner Watsune, who had an affair with Sherloque's fourth wife, and in the next episode we learned that she was Renee Adler (played by Kimberly Williams-Paisley).

Jennie Paton spotted an attractive plaster sculpture of Sherlock Holmes on eBay <www.tinyurl.com/y9ttxzxc>, offered by Sam Safieh at BargainSales365 in England (£29.99); they also offer a plaster sculpture of the exterior of 221 Baker Street (£110.00) <www.tinyurl.com/yaocmp6u>.

"Talk About Sherlock" is a new monthly audio blog by Mattias Bostrom; in the first episode ("The Walking Out Mystery") he discusses the impact of the Will Ferrell/John C. Reilly film "Holmes & Watson" and wonders whether the reported "mass walkouts" actually occurred. In the second episode ("The Micah Clarke Effect") he discusses the importance of Conan Doyle's historical fiction. You can listen to both of the episodes of his blog at <www.talkaboutsherlock.libsyn.com>.

Josh Sorokach's discussion of the documentary "Game Changers" in the online newsletter Decider (Feb. 4) included a report that there was a Sherlockian inspiration for the game show "Jeopardy" in a conversation between Merv Griffin and his wife Julann; details at <www.tinyurl.com/ycc29xdh>.

Ray Betzner has been blogging for some time at "Studies in Starrett" about Starrett's *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, and you can read Ray's final(17th) chapter at <www.tinyurl.com/ydqwpfh>, with links to the earlier chapters; there's much to be said about this landmark in the Sherlockian literature, and Ray says it well.

The Adventure of the Creeping Man (Winchester University Press, 2017; 132 pp., £35.00 postpaid in the U.K./£50.00 postpaid elsewhere) is a facsimile edition of the manuscript, accompanied by an introduction and an annotated transcript by Neil McCaw, and a facsimile of the story as published in *The Strand Magazine*; McCaw offers an excellent discussion of the story, and of the changes that Conan Doyle made as he wrote it. Of particular note is the book's epigraph: "Read at once if convenient—if inconvenient, read all the same," a delightful paraphrase of the Canon. The book can be ordered at <www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/conandoyle/thecreepingman>.

Feb 19 #6 "Cromer is a very 1902 kind of place," the Guardian reported on Feb. 22. "One half expects to see a non-ironic mutton-chop or a waxed moustache in the queue at Morrisons, or Arthur Conan Doyle (awfully keen on Cromer) filling up his Prius at the petrol station." You can read all about it at www.tinyurl.com/y3o2ogj9. It was at the Royal Links Hotel in Cromer in 1901 that Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson gave birth to the Hound of the Baskervilles; a photograph of the hotel that was taken two years earlier can be seen at www.tinyurl.com/yxh7sply.

It's nice to see old television commercials turn up at YouTube: Jennie Paton has reported a 30-second commercial for the American Gas Association and the Lennox Gas Furnace that aired in 1990, starring Patrick Horgan as Holmes and Sandy Marshall as Watson www.youtube.com/watch?v=wY3g47rID_w.

There are of course very few people who own a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, and if you're not one of those very few you may want to purchase the new facsimile published by Matt Wingett; it's nicely done and available from www.lifeisamazing.co.uk for £15.00, offering you a chance to read the two original drawing room plays that accompanied the first appearance of "A Study in Scarlet" (and the advertisements that provide an interesting look at what life was like in 1887).

Also available from the same publisher is Wingett's *Portsmouth: A Literary and Pictorial Tour* (2018; 93 pp, £12.50); it's a carefully-researched and nicely-illustrated history of the city's varied literary associations, including (needless to say) Arthur Conan Doyle, who was only one of the many authors who lived in or wrote about Portsmouth. And *Conan Doyle and the Mysterious World of Light 1887-1920* (2016; 320 pp., £12.99), in which Wingett reprints (and comments on) articles by and about Conan Doyle that appeared in *Light* and other magazine and newspapers, and offers a detailed look at the development of Conan Doyle's religious approach to Spiritualism.

"The Next Leader of the World's Oldest Sherlock Holmes Society Loves Mysteries—and the Great Game" is the headline on an article in the Monterey County Weekly (Feb. 21) www.tinyurl.com/y6tld37z, the next "benevolent dictator" of The Baker Street Irregulars.

Samuel Feinberg ("The Prince of Colonna") died on Feb. 13. He had a long career in broadcasting in Philadelphia and New York, and was a member of the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia. Sam was a devoted member of the Sons of the Copper Beeches, contributed articles to the Baker Street Journal and *More Leaves from the Copper Beeches*, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.

The Golden Raspberry Awards (for failure in cinematic achievement), also known as the Razzies, were created in 1981, and traditionally are awarded the day before the Oscars. This year's winners have been announced, and "Holmes & Watson" won in four categories: worst picture; worst supporting actor (John C. Reilly); worst remake, rip-off, or sequel; and worst director (Ethan Cohen). The film was nominated in two other categories (worst actor and worst screen combo). Details at www.tinyurl.com/y3feqrjp.

Feb 19 #7 The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State has announced a Raffle for a brick fragment from Christopher Morley's house in Roslyn Estates on Long Island, offering admirers of Morley a rare opportunity to own an artifact from his home, which was torn down in 2011. Tickets cost \$5.00 each, and proceeds from the raffle will go to the Christopher Morley grave decoration fund; the drawing will be held at the society's annual dinner in Hoboken on Apr. 28, and tickets can be purchased via hobokenfreestate@mbcable.com.

"Holmes & Watson" (with Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly) will be released on Apr. 9 in a Blu-ray/DVD set (\$34.99) and DVD only (\$30.99); the added features will include 20 deleted scenes www.tinyurl.com/y3zzbaod.

Will Thomas' *Hell Bay* (New York: Minotaur, 2016; 290 pp., \$25.99) continues his series featuring private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewellyn, taking them to one of the Scilly Isles and a desperate battle to solve a series of brutal murders. *Old Scores* (2017; 294 pp., \$25.99), the next in the series, opens with Barker arrested for the murder of a Japanese ambassador, and reveals a lot about Barker's interesting life before he arrived in London; the characters and mysteries are nicely done, and Thomas has a web-site at www.willthomasauthor.com.

Jennie Paton spotted Walmart's advertisement for an inexpensive Sherlock Holmes costume kit www.tinyurl.com/y644wpm3; for \$3.99 it's likely only patterns, but they also offer a variety of Sherlockian costumes.

The New Yorker, on-line as well as in print, offers "Daily Shouts: Humor, Satire, and Funny Observations" that included (on Jan. 9) Ellen Rosen and Colin Stokes' illustrated "Clues That You Are the Unorthodox Detective in a Murder Mystery"; go to www.tinyurl.com/y9h5nx92 to see their take on Sherlock Holmes.

"How Sherlock Changed the World" (a two-hour program broadcast in the U.K. and the U.S. in 2013) is now available at YouTube, Jennie Paton reports, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPYBxfvIULU.

The Royal Mint's new 50p coin honoring Sherlock Holmes so far is available (still) only in annual sets, but you can see some imaginative artwork that promotes the coin, and an item about its designer Stephen Raw, on-line at www.tinyurl.com/y7xajv2s.

"'Clue House' in Peterborough Inspired Parker Brothers" is the headline on a story in the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript (Feb. 18), noted by Karen Murdock www.tinyurl.com/yxgfecv9; according to the article, the house, in New Hampshire, was owned by George and Grace Parker of the Parker Brothers family when the game *Clue* was invented, and the game echoes the layout of the house. The citation for the game in Ron De Waal's *The Universal Sherlock Holmes* reports that in 1949 (when the game was first issued) it was called *Clue, The Great New Sherlock Holmes Game!* But (and there's often a but) according to Wikipedia, the British game *Cluedo* was licensed to Parker Brothers and issued in the U.S. as *Clue*.

Feb 19 #8 "Spy's Skeleton Found in British Home" was the headline on an article in the N.Y. Times (June 27, 1974); it's a spectacular story, well worth reading www.tinyurl.com/yxbvwlfj, not really Sherlockian except that Holmes certainly would have nodded and said, "Well, that's Scotland Yard for you." It seems, from an Internet search, that the mystery's still unsolved.

Deb E. Tenney's *The Adventure of Black Peter: Hawaiian Style* (El Cerrito: Glencannon Press, 2017; 16 pp., \$20.00) is an imaginative addition to the universe of Canonical translations, presented in Hawaiian pidgin, complete with footnotes and an explanation of how Hawaiian pidgin is pronounced.

I hear of Sherlock everywhere: Jennie Paton spotted an amusing advertisement created by Saatchi & Saatchi in the United Arab Emirates for Head & Shoulders shampoo www.tinyurl.com/y8nxfwf4.

The "Seattle Squeeze" is what the locals call the closing of the Alaskan Way Viaduct that recently was closed, affecting 90,000 cars full of commuters and other drivers. Bill Seil has kindly forwarded an amusing (and Sherlockian) editorial cartoon by David Horsey from the Seattle Times (on Jan. 30) www.tinyurl.com/ycartyxz, and you can click on the "simply disappeared" link for more context.

Theatrics: Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Coolidge Theatre in Wellsboro, Pa., Mar. 15-23 www.tinyurl.com/yxkvvr9b.

Holmes and Watson are characters in the musical "Take Me Away" to be performed at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, N.J., Mar. 20-Apr. 30 www.hhplayhouse.com.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at the Cante V. Sutton Theatre in Raleigh, N.C., Apr. 12-28; their web-site's at www.raleighlittlethetre.org. Also at the Theater Barn in New Lebanon, N.Y., June 21-30 www.theattheaterbarn.org; at Cumston Hall in Monmouth, Maine, July 11-Aug. 15 www.theateratmonmouth.org. It's also due at the Pepsi-Cola Theatre for the Performing Arts in Mitchell, S.D., on Oct. 4-13 www.mitchellact.org.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at the Greenville Theatre in Greenville, S.C., on Oct. 25-Nov. 10 www.greenvilleonline.org.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is due at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., June 12-July 26, 2020 www.parkquaretheatre.org.

Dan Blackley's new play "Sherlock Holmes: Here There Be Dragons" will be performed at the Camino Real Playhouse in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., on Oct. 18-Nov. 3 www.caminorealplayhouse.org; "in 1880s London, there are gruesome killings in Whitechapel."

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Maiwand is in the news again, many years after the battle in which Watson was wounded in 1880: according to the Sunday Times (Feb. 24), the Ministry of Defence has reported to the Pentagon that the battlefield was looted by American soldiers who were deployed there in 2009, and that personal possessions and military items that had been buried with victims of the battle were sent to America and sold to collectors. Any soldier who took the material "may have broken international law," an MoD official said.

Peter C. Davidson's dramatization of Conan Doyle's "The Disintegration Machine" (brought up to date) is a 17-minute film that debuted at the University of Utah in 2017; it can be seen at www.tinyurl.com/yc3sbbdj.

It wasn't that long ago that people diagnosed Sherlock Holmes as displaying Asperger's syndrome, which now is considered part of the autism spectrum; Alan Rettig has found an interesting mention of Sherlock Holmes in a discussion of "autism chic" in an article by Robert Hughes in Northwestern Magazine www.tinyurl.com/y589z3hl.

There seem to be Sherlockians who collect anything and everything, but are there any who collect Sherlockian knives? Alexander Orlov has reported an artistic Sherlockian knife made by Alexander Aredakov, you can see images of his knife at www.vk.com/id167856065.

A reminder about the book fair due at the Chatham-Summit Meeting House in Chatham, N.J., from noon to 4:00 pm on Apr. 27, when publications of the Baker Street Irregulars Press and Sherlockian material donated to the BSI Trust will be offered for sale; details available from Denny Dobry, who's also happy to help fill want lists from those who can't get to the event dendobry@ptd.net.

Jennie Paton has found "The Shackles of Sherlock Holmes" available at YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVNhZXNPD9w; broadcast by ITV3 in 2007, the documentary features David Burke (who played Watson in the Granada series) and commentary by Owen Dudley Edwards, David Stuart Davies, Andrew Lycett, Jon Lellenberg, and Gyles Brandreth.

The latest "Sherlock" is a light-weight fingerprint scanner that's marketed by Integrated Biometrics www.integratedbiometrics.com; they also offer a Mini Watson.

The web-site HN Entertainment has "learned from a source" that "Sherlock Holmes 3" (the next in the Robert Downey Jr. franchise) will take place in the Old West, especially San Francisco www.tinyurl.com/y5klclu4; one can assume that this is the first possibly unreliable rumor about the film.

Playbill Vault www.playbill.com/vault bills itself as the largest Broadway data-base on-line, and it's well worth a look by anyone interested in Sherlockian and Doylean theater; there are images of programs as well as articles. The Internet Broadway Data Base www.ibdb.com is another fine resource for information about performances and casts and credits.

Mar 19 #2 Alexander Orlov has reported Mikhail Molyukov's *Biology with Sherlock Holmes* (Moscow: ACT, 2019; 242 pp., R239); it's all in Russian, with a detailed discussion of "how animals and plants helped the famous detective Sherlock Holmes unravel dozens of crimes!" The publisher's web-site is at www.labirint.ru/books/674416.

Frank Cho (the award-winning artist who created the comic strip "Liberty Meadows") contributed the elegant Sherlockian artwork on the cover of the program for this year's annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars, you can see the artwork at www.tinyurl.com/yvzpxas.

"Scooby-Doo and Guess Who?" is an animated television series scheduled to premiere on the Boomerang streaming service and app this year. The gang will solve mysteries while meeting celebrities, including Sherlock Holmes.

Fun Cases is a British company that offers a wide range of merchandise (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian), including an imaginative case for a cell phone (£7.99) www.funcases.com.



André Previn died on Feb. 28. He was a consummate musician, as a pianist, composer, and conductor; he won eleven Grammys and four Oscars, received a knighthood in 1996, and was one of the Kennedy Center Honorees in 1998. His connection with Sherlock Holmes is through Sarasate (Holmes said at the end of "The Red-Headed League" that "Sarasate plays at the St. James's Hall this afternoon"): Previn conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra for a 1979 recording of Sarasate's "Zigeunerweisen" with Itzhak Perlman on the violin, and you can listen to the recording at www.tinyurl.com/y5jstbqb.

"Catholic Royal Opens New Centre for Christian Renewal at Stonyhurst College" was the headline on a story in the Catholic Universe (Feb. 27); the Catholic royal was Lord Nicholas Windsor, great-grandson of King George V, and the article www.tinyurl.com/y273zf8s is interesting for its mention of Conan Doyle having carved his name on a desk at the school, very close to the engraving of a contemporary called Moriarty; the desk is one of the historical artifacts that went on display at the school in 2002, according to the Lancashire Telegraph www.tinyurl.com/yylflmwy, and you can see an image of the desk at www.tinyurl.com/y2qtqg68.

Martin Edwards will deliver this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture at 2:00 pm on Apr. 6 at the Toronto Reference Library, speaking on "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" www.acdfriends.org; admission is free, and the public is welcome to attend.

Carol Channing died on Jan. 15. The award-winning actress made her stage debut in 1941 and went on to stardom in leading roles in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" (1949) and "Hello Dolly" (1964). Jean Upton noted in the District Messenger that Channing also played Mehitabel the cat (with Eddie Bracken as Archy the cockroach) in the Broadway musical "archy & mehitabel" in 1954 (based on the writings of Don Marquis, who was a close friend of Christopher Morley and an early member of The Baker Street Irregulars; she also voiced Mehitabel in the animated film "Shinbone Alley" in 1970.

Mar 19 #3 Carolyn Senter has established the R. Joel Senter Sr. Prize in honor of her late husband (they published the Sherlockian E-Times for many years). The prize will reward young people from grades four through twelve for excellence in writing and critical thinking, based on an essay about one of the Sherlock Holmes stories; the reward will be administered by the Beacon Society <www.beaconsociety.com>, and you're invited to contribute at their web-site (please mark your contribution for the Senter Prize).

Arthur Thomas Walker died on Feb. 9. He was a cornerstone member of the Florida Bibliophile Society, and an avid collector of both Sherlock Holmes and Ernest Stratemeyer material. His collection eventually will be available; contact Maureen E. Mulvihill <maureenmulvihill@gmail.com> for more information.

Jaimee Leigh's hand-crafted "Well-Read Birdhouses" are sold at the Barrow Bookstore in Concord, Mass. Each one "aims to summarize the essence of a book or story," and of course she has not neglected Sherlock Holmes; his birdhouse can be seen at <www.barrowbookstore.com/literarygifts.html>.



Big Chief Studios offers a wide range of authorized (and expensive) figures and dioramas from the "Sherlock" television series, and they're now having a clearance sale <www.tinyurl.com/y62cjco6> on some of their merchandise.

The release of "Sherlock Holmes 3" (the next film in the franchise starring Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law), previously scheduled for Christmas in 2020, has been postponed to the end of 2021 (according to a story in the Hollywood Reporter, which noted that the first film has grossed \$524 million world-wide, and the second film \$545.4 million).

The Occupants of the Empty House have published their monthly Camden House Journal ever since the society was established in 1977, and they finally have gone electronic, offering PDFs via e-mail. If you'd like to see news and scholarship from the Occupants, send an e-mail message to Bill Cochran <www.murraytheorderly.com>.

Further to the item (Sep 18 #1) about the origin of the name Doyle, there is a web-site <www.irishcentral.com> that offers information about Irish family names, with a short video that explains that the Dubhghaill (dark strangers) were the darker-haired Danish Vikings (rather than the lighter-haired Norwegian Vikings).

Frederic H. Mende ("Lord Holdhurst") died on Mar. 15. An expert musician, he played with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and after moving to Charlotte, N.C., he taught music in the public schools and played first trumpet with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. A life-long student of military history, he identified a military surgeon who might have been the inspiration for Dr. Watson and he was an energetic member of his local Sherlockian society, the Saxe-Coburg Squares of Mecklenburg County. Fred received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.

Mar 19 #4 James Mustich's *1,000 Books to Read Before You Die* (New York: Workman, 2018; 948 pp., \$35.00) is a delightful exploration of both Literature and literature, full of insightful commentary, and plenty of surprises. Conan Doyle's *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* is included ("it would be hard to name another modern literary character who has achieved such international celebrity"), and so are Christopher Morley's *Parnassus on Wheels* and *The Haunted Bookshop* (described as "two charming novels that celebrate the company of books").

Some Sherlockian societies are exclusive, some not so much, and a few are totally inclusive, including Doyle's Rotary Coffin, founded by Paul Thomas Miller (with the motto "All Holmes Is Good Holmes"). The society's so inclusive that you're invited to print your own membership card at its website <www.sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin>. The society's purpose is "wholeheartedly and contrarily enjoying stupid Holmesiana regardless of how canonical others consider it to be," and its goal is "resisting the urge to be a Sherlock Snob and instead embracing every last daft bit of Holmes available."

Australia has issued a stamp honoring the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the "Welcome Stranger" in the Bulldog Gully goldfields in 1869; it is still the largest alluvial gold nugget ever found, and it yielded 71kg of gold, worth (then) £9,583 or (now) about AU\$4 million. The second largest, the Welcome Nugget, found in Ballarat in 1859, yielded 69kg of gold (Ballarat is mentioned in "The Sign of the Four" and in "The Boscombe Valley Mystery"). They melted nuggets down in those days; the world's largest surviving nugget is the "Pepita Canaã" found in Brazil in 1983 with 52.33kg of gold, now on display in the Museu de Valores do Banco Central in Brasilia (the source nugget was larger, but split into pieces while being removed from the ground).



Karen Murdock spotted the "Sherlock Personality Quiz" at the WETA website <www.weta.org/tv/program/sherlock/quiz>, where fans of the Benedict Cumberbatch series can find their match.

The battle over the Lyndhurst Park Hotel continues. The developer withdrew its appeal against the National Park Authority's decision to reject a proposal to demolish the hotel (the campaign to protect the hotel included evidence that Conan Doyle helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912) (Dec 18 #4), but the Southern Daily Echo reported on Mar. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/y57jpw6> that PegasusLife plans to submit fresh proposals to replace the hotel with apartments and holiday homes.

Ross E. Davies has edited (and published) the *Baker Street Almanac: An Annual Capsule of a Timeless Past & Future 2019*, which he imaginatively describes as "a formidable scrap-book of 2018, including treasures created or uncovered then, with a few other odds and ends tossed in, and a glance ahead at 2019." It's that and more, in 301 pages, with a wide variety of articles written by Sherlockians from all corners of the globe, and it is available both ink-on-paper (for \$30.00) and as a free 659-MB download at <www.greenbag.org>.

Mar 19 #5 The fall 2018 issue of The Magic Door (that's the newsletter of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) includes a report by Dayna Nuhn on letters Conan Doyle wrote to the publisher Grant Richards (purchased at the auction of Daniel Posnansky's collection), and other news from and about the Library and the Collection; copies are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Barbara Rusch's one-act play "The Crossing" was performed at the Toronto Reference Library in 2011, during the "A Study in Scandal" conference; it has been expanded into a three-act play "The Crossing, or Three Authors in Search of a Character" that has been published for members of the Friends (the three authors being Oscar Wilde, Edgar Allan Poe, and Harry Houdini, with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle involved). There are a limited number of copies available to people who decide to join the Friends now; their web-site <www.acdfriends.org> is credit card and PayPal friendly, and you can send a check (in US or Canadian dollars) to Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above). The minimum donation of \$35.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the play. You can also purchase just the play, for \$20.00 postpaid, from Donny Zaldin; contact him at <donaldzaldin@rogers.com>.

BBC Radio 4 broadcast a series of twelve 30-minute programs in a "Sherlock Holmes" series in 1978, with Barry Foster as Holmes and David Buck as Watson, and Jennie Paton reports that many of them are available on-line at YouTube; search for [barry foster sherlock].

George Morfogen died on Mar. 8. He began his Broadway career as a stage manager in 1962, and went to appear on stage, screen, and television. He was perhaps best known for playing Bob Rebadow on the HBO series "Oz", and performed as Professor Moriarty (with Frank Langella as Holmes) in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" on stage in 1977, and again for a production broadcast by HBO in 1981.

Jennie Paton has found a new (and imaginative) Sherlockian artist: Domino Erdmann, a young woman in Germany who spent six months creating something that has to be seen to be believed <www.tinyurl.com/y5sjmhe8>.

Michael Halm's *Sherlock Holmes and the Mad Doctor* (Hierogamous Enterprises, 2015; 109 pp. \$8.00) has Holmes and Watson in pursuit of a doctor who has invented a time machine; they travel into a great number of pasts and futures described by other authors of pastiches.

Mystery-writer Peter Lovesey has long been interested in the Olympics, and some years ago helped identify the two men who assisted Dorando Pietro at the end of the Olympic marathon in 1908; they actually were Clerk of the Course Jack Andrew and Chief Medical Officer Michael Bulger, rather than (as some still maintain) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Mar 02 #4). Lovesey also has written Sherlockian pastiches, none of which are in the latest collection of his short stories published by Crippen & Landru, *The Crime of Miss Oyster Brown and Other Stories*, but his fans will welcome the opportunity to enjoy the book <www.crippenlandru.com>.

Mar 19 #6 Karen Murdock has noted a story in the San Jose Mercury News (Mar. 11) about Tesla's decision to close half of its stores. The car company's CEO Elon Musk said in a memo to company employees that some of the stores that have been closed so far had not passed "the Sherlock Holmes test," adding that "most of the stores are in such difficult or obscure locations, only Sherlock Holmes could find them!"

"Numismatists do not fear change" is the motto of the Fourth Garrideb website maintained by Greg Ruby, who recently discussed the souvenir he prepared for last January's birthday festivities in New York; explaining how and why Sherlock Crater on the Moon can be seen on a U.S. one-dollar coin issued in 1976 <www.tinyurl.com/y65894po>.

An attention-getting opening paragraph for a book, as noted by Kate Stine in Mystery Scene's monthly on-line newsletter: "On the third day of their honeymoon, infamous environmental activist Stewie Woods and his new bride, Annabel Bellotti, were spiking trees in the forest when a cow exploded and blew them up. Until then, their marriage had been happy." In *Savage Run*, by C. J. Box (2003).

Sherlockians who have 3D printers may want to purchase (for \$15) a program that prints a bust of Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes, reported by Jennie Paton; it's available from CGTrader <www.tinyurl.com/y4rauesw>, and there's a matching bust of Martin Freeman as Dr. Watson.

It's not at all surprising that anyone who knew the late John Bennett Shaw has stories to tell about him, and if you would like to read some of those stories you can find them at <www.johnbennettshaw.com>, a delightful website just launched by Jim Hawkins, who has done a fine job of collecting and illustrating tributes to John.

The late Bill Rabe was a thoroughly imaginative publicist, and many of the traditions he started are still observed, one of them the annual snowman burning that welcomes the arrival of spring at Lake Superior State University; Bill's son John has kindly forwarded the press release for the event <www.lssu.edu/snowman-burning>. Note the link to another of his inspired creations, the Unicorn Hunters. He also was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, and the two editions of his *Sherlockian Who's Who and What's What* in 1961 and 1962 offer a wonderful look at what our world was like in those distant days.

Marjorie Weinman Sharmat died on Mar. 12. She launched her career as an author of books for young readers in 1967, and wrote or co-wrote more than 130 books, including a long series of books that featured young detective Nate the Great, who often appeared in Sherlockian costume in illustrations by Marc Simont; the series debuted in 1972 and eventually sold more than 15 million copies, according to her publisher.

Rob Nunn and Dan Andriacco have created an e-mail exchange for Sherlockian societies, so that they can share news and announcements; if you would like to publicize your society's activities, and hear about what other societies are doing, contact Rob at <parallelcasestl@gmail.com>.

Mar 19 #7 Theodora Goss' *European Travel for the Monstrous Gentlewoman* (New York: Saga, 2018; 708 pp. \$26.99) is the second book in her trilogy about "the extraordinary adventures of the Athena Club"; it's a sequel to *The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter* (Jul 17 #6), and the monstrous gentlewomen are inspired by books written by Stevenson, Hawthorne, Wells, Shelley, Stoker, and Rider Haggard. This time Holmes and Watson are only mentioned, but the cliffhanger ending of the book promises that they'll be more involved in the third book, *The Sinister Mystery of the Mesmerizing Girl*. The author's web-site <www.theodoragoss.com>. offers an interesting look at this and other series.

The Hounds of the Internet continue to cycle through the Canon at a rate of one story per week, and Alexander Braun posts colorful "Case Inquiries" for reach story. Willis Frick reposts them at Sherlocktron, and you can examine them at <www.sherlocktron.com/inquiries.html>. Willis also offers Ralph Edwards' "Canon Queeries" <www.sherlocktron.com/queries.html> (Ralph didn't do Queeries for three of the long stories).

Ghost Stories: Classic Tales of Horror and Suspense, edited by Lisa Morton and Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Pegasus, 2019; 272 pp., \$25.95) has nothing by Conan Doyle (although he's mentioned in the introduction), but it's a treat for anyone who enjoys the genre.

Basil Rathbone's former home in Henley-on-Thames in Oxfordshire was burned down this month in a fire that experts believe "was started deliberately as an unlawful act," the Daily Mail reported <www.tinyurl.com/y4h7jdsp> on Mar. 20; according to the paper, the current owner is a Russian oligarch who lives abroad, and the property has been the subject of numerous planning applications, including a proposal to build 47 homes on the six-acre site. All of the applications have been turned down.

Bill Seil has forwarded a story in Publishers Weekly (Mar. 11) about plans to publish *Mark Twain's Literary Resources: A Reconstruction of His Library and Reading* <www.tinyurl.com/y3o9c4l8>. According to Alan Gribben, he began the project in 1969, and the resulting three volumes will include an annotated bibliography of all the books Twain cited in interviews and in his writings, and the 3,500 titles he owned in his personal library. Perhaps someone will someday do that for Conan Doyle.

"Let us consider the claims of *Whitaker's Almanack*," said Sherlock Holmes (in "The Velley of Fear"). The almanack (that's the British spelling) is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, and is still being published; Neil Clark offered a nice tribute to Whitaker's in the Daily Express (Mar. 11) <www.tinyurl.com/yyq3my3p>.

Further to the report that Great Scotland Yard had been sold for £370 million and would be converted to "mixed-use residential development" (Dec 14 #6), Nick Utechin notes a report in The Times on Mar. 23 that it soon will be the Great Scotland Yard Hotel. The newspaper's web-site is (alas) protected by a pay-wall, but there's a similar story in the Hindustan Times <www.tinyurl.com/yyaqb3zc>. Now owned by an Indian billionaire, the hotel will open later this year, and it will be both fancy and expensive.

Mar 19 #8 *The New Adventures of Solar Pons*, edited by David Marcum (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2018; 423 pp., \$29.95), offers twenty "tales of the Sherlock Holmes of Praed Street," all written by authors who wanted to extend the Pontine Canon that was launched by August Derleth in 1929, when he created Solar Pons as an homage to Sherlock Holmes; the anthology has been authorized by Derleth's estate, and the new stories follow nicely in the path set by Derleth.

Lynne Stephens has reported "Discovering Literature" (an on-line resource launched by the British Library in 2014); the (well-illustrated) articles include John Sutherland's "Sherlock Holmes Holmes, the World's Most Famous Literary Detective" <www.tinyurl.com/yylzjh8t> and Greg Buzwell's "An Introduction to *The Hound of the Baskervilles*" <www.tinyurl.com/yxsd64ff>.

"Sherlock's Other Brother by a Southern Mother" is being performed at the Black Fedora Comedy Mystery Theatre in Charleston, S.C., through Aug. 29 ("it was the Holmes family secret") <www.tinyurl.com/yyyberxr>.

"Sherlock Holmes Cirque-o-Rama: The Murder Under the Big Topless" will be performed at the Minnsky Theatre in Minneapolis, Minn., on Apr. 18-20; an adult comedy ("join our award-winning Wicked Wenches"), and their web-site is at <www.minnskystheatre.tix.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at the Gungahlin Theater in Gungahlin, Australia, Apr. 19-27; the theater's web-site's at <www.stagecenta.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro" is due at the Performance Hall at Hochstein in Rochester, N.Y., on Apr. 28 (it's presented by the Rochester Symphony Orchestra in their OrKIDStra series); the web-site is at <www.rpo.org>.

"The Game Is Afoot!" (an improvised Sherlock Holmes mystery) will be performed at the Factory Theatre in Marrickville, N.S.W., Australia, May 4-5, during the Sydney Comedy Festival <www.sydneycomedyfest.com.au>; it's advertised as "like 'Holmes & Watson' but funny").

Michael Mitnick's new play "Mysterious Circumstances" will premiere at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, June 11-July 14 <www.geffenplayhouse.org> (the play is inspired by David Grann's article in the New Yorker about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green).

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" is due at the Otto M. Budig Theater in Cincinnati, Ohio., July 17-Aug. 4 <www.cincyshakes.com>.

Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman's musical "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" is scheduled at the Tabard Theatre in San Jose, Calif., Sep. 13-Oct. 6 <www.tabardtheatre.org>.

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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>.

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