

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 166th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 15 to 19; the (very) long weekend was filled with events, both formal and informal, and detailed reports on many if not most of them will be available soon at the web-site of The Baker Street Irregulars <[www.bakerstreetirregulars.com](http://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 Theodora Goss, an award-winning author of poetry, short stories, and novels in the fantasy genre (Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are characters in three novels about the Athena Club). On Friday the Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Emily Miranker proposed the traditional preprandial first toast to her mother, Cathy Miranker, as *The Woman*.

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 Mary Alcaro ("Ivy Douglas"), Frank Cho ("The Duke of Balmoral"), Walt Colby ("Neil Gibson"), Carlina de la Cova ("The *Anthropological Journal*"), Nancy Holder ("Beryl Garcia"), Freda Howlett ("The British Government"), Ken Ludwig ("Jack Stapleton"), David Richards ("Colonel Warburton's Madness"), and Jim Webb ("The Curious Incident of Sherlock Holmes in Japan"). And Andy Fusco received the prestigious Two-Shilling Award.

Mike Whelan ended the evening by handing over the gavel (and yes, there is a gavel) to Mike Kean, who as the new "Wiggins" then appointed Mike Whelan to the office of "Wiggins Emeritus". Mike Whelan has been head of the BSI for 23 years, and Mike Kean is only the sixth person to lead the BSI since it was founded by Christopher Morley in 1934.

Barbara Herbert reports that some of Paul's film posters and lobby cards will be available at Heritage Auctions on Mar. 21, including a poster and two lobby cards for Clive Brook's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929) and a poster for Basil Rathbone's "The Scarlet Claw" (1944). See them all at <[www.tinyurl.com/r9jmyez](http://www.tinyurl.com/r9jmyez)>.

The next BSI annual dinner will be on Jan. 8, and the next Sherlock Holmes Society of London annual dinner presumably will be on Jan. 16.

Registration is not yet open for the next Baker Street Irregulars' conference on "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at the Bear Mountain Inn near West Point, N.Y., on July 17-19, 2020, but the best way to learn when registration does open is to sign up for free news from the BSI by e-mail at <[www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email](http://www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email)>.

There are web-sites that monitor copyright's public domain. "The Sussex Vampire" and Conan Doyle's *Memories and Adventures*, which were published in *The Strand Magazine* in 1924, and Buster Keaton's film "Sherlock, Jr." (1924) are now in the public domain, as are "The Three Garridebs" and "The Illustrious Client" (published in *Collier's* in 1924).

Jan 20 #2 VITA Digital Productions <[www.myvitadvds.com](http://www.myvitadvds.com)> offers a series of Virtual Walks, Virtual Jogs, Virtual Bike Rides, and Virtual Cruises designed for use while exercising on treadmills, Nordic Tracks, indoor bikes, and other exercise equipment, and one of them is 60-minute *Sherlock Holmes Virtual Walk* (\$14.99 DVD/\$6.99 download) that takes you on a tour of sixteen filming locations used in the BBC's "Sherlock" series. There's no voice-over, but there's a "Footsteps" feature that pays closer attention to some of the filming locations. You can sample the *Sherlock* DVD at <[www.sherlockwalk.com](http://www.sherlockwalk.com)>.

It's not Sherlockian (so far) but: Willy Werby notes the existence of a personal computer ring that will play music, check your e-mail, give you alerts, and allow you to browse or chat with others. Who said that the future lies ahead? Seems to be here already.



When in Austria: you can pay a visit to Conan Doyle Gasse [Alley] in Feldkirch, where he studied at the Stella Matutina in 1875 (and first became an author. He edited and published the hand-written *Feldkirchian Gazette* (copies of two issues survive, owned by the British Library), and Marcus Geisser reports that last year the Deutsche Sherlock Holmes Gesellschaft joined the town in celebrating Conan Doyle's 160th birthday, unveiling a street sign. There's a report (with video) of the ceremony available online at <[www.tinyurl.com/r5jmf8](http://www.tinyurl.com/r5jmf8)>; it's all in German, but Google Translate will help you read the report.

The Journal of Popular Culture's web-site has a paywall, so you might want to see if your local library has a subscription: Mattias Boström reports that the Dec. 2019 issue includes Mary Katherine Evan's interesting article "'The Name Is Sherlock Holmes, and the Address Is 221B Baker Street': Virtual Reality, Fan Communities, and Tourism".

Robert E. Thomalen ("The Three Garridebs") died on Dec. 5. He was an energetic member of the Three Garridebs of Westchester County, and beginning in 1982 he presided over many "Autumn in Baker Street" (and one "Springtime in Baker Street") conferences, which he explained combined "scholarship with friendship, emotion with reason, and explication with participation"). In 1987 Bob was appointed "Cartwright" of the Baker Street Irregulars and he was awarded the BSI's Queen Victoria Medal when he retired in 1996; he received his Investiture in 1983, and the Two-Shilling Award in 1988. He was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog in 2007; you can listen to both parts of the interview at <[www.tinyurl.com/v5lwpuu](http://www.tinyurl.com/v5lwpuu)> and <[www.tinyurl.com/vbjkf2c](http://www.tinyurl.com/vbjkf2c)>. You can also read some nice tributes to Bob, sent by friends to Scott Monty's blog, at <[www.tinyurl.com/rq9enud](http://www.tinyurl.com/rq9enud)>.

The Royal Mail has announced that a new set of stamps honoring "Sherlock" will be issued on Aug. 18. No details available at the moment.

I've reported before (Feb 18 #2) on APOPO <[www.apopo.org](http://www.apopo.org)>, an organization that trains giant African pouched rats to detect unexploded landmines in countries in Africa and Asia (the rats don't weigh enough to set off the mines, which can then be disarmed); the rats can also be trained to detect tuberculosis in mucous samples, and now they are in pursuit of smugglers who traffic in endangered species. Needless to say, APOPO welcomes donations from anyone who wants to adopt a giant rat.

Jan 20 #3 "Cats" (Universal's film version of the 1981 Andrew Lloyd Webber musical that was adapted from T. S. Eliot's book *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*) has been in the works at least since 1990, and there's much to enjoy: Idris Elba is suitably malevolent as Macavity, and Ian McKellen is excellent as Gus the Theatre Cat (although the film, like the musical, omits the Canonical allusion in Eliot's poem). Savaged by the critics, the film's likely gone from theaters by the time you read this, but it's well worth watching on television or a DVD.

Now you can snuggle up with Holmes and Watson: Sidney Paget artwork is available in full color on a pillow case offered at CafePress <[www.tinyurl.com/ql5d8u7](http://www.tinyurl.com/ql5d8u7)>.



There's also a full "The Game Is Afoot" Langshan sheet set available from Roostery <[www.tinyurl.com/wpayd3q](http://www.tinyurl.com/wpayd3q)> for sizes twin to king.

Lee Mendelson died on Dec. 25. He was a television producer, and in 1965 he persuaded Charles Schulz to write the animated special "A Charlie Brown Christmas", and went on to produce a long series of specials that included "It's a Mystery, Charlie Brown" (1974), in which Woodstock's nest mysteriously disappears and Snoopy, in Sherlockian costume, plays detective in order to find it.

Gary Lovisi has been in business as Gryphon Books <[www.gryphonbooks.com](http://www.gryphonbooks.com)> for many years, offering a wide variety of Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian material, and he has an interesting YouTube channel where you can view his visit to the Merchants Room (also known as Covent Garden West) during the birthday festivities <[www.tinyurl.com/r7sd2bm](http://www.tinyurl.com/r7sd2bm)> and an interview with collector and dealer Bob Hess <[www.tinyurl.com/sz38bfr](http://www.tinyurl.com/sz38bfr)>.

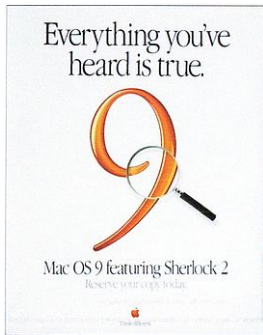
The third issue of *The Newspapers* (it's an "Irregular Journal of Sherlockiana" edited by Greg Ruby for the Sherlockians of Baltimore) has been published, with 183 pp. of articles, toasts, and much more, many by members of the SOBs (\$23.00 postpaid). The focus is on material from Baltimore's newspapers, and about Baltimore, but Greg has cast his net widely, and includes William A. Walsh's report on "Harrison Schmitt: Bringing Holmes to the Moon" and Ira Brad Matetsky's article about "Rex Stout at the BSI Dinners". Available at <[www.tinyurl.com/y4fe2zv](http://www.tinyurl.com/y4fe2zv)> and from Greg D. Ruby, 2400 Boston Street #102, Baltimore, MD 21224.

Greg also has published a detailed and colorful exploration of *The Numismatic Edgar Allan Poe* (160 pp., \$50.00 cloth/\$25.00 paper postpaid), discussing Conan Doyle's admiration for Poe in the introduction, reprinting Arthur S. Chapman's 1905 pastiche "The Unmasking of Sherlock Holmes", and including a nicely Sherlockian touch in Jeff Decker's back-cover artwork <[www.tinyurl.com/rxswwm7](http://www.tinyurl.com/rxswwm7)>.

Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, which was briefly on hiatus and now is open at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, S.C., through Apr. 19 <[www.scmuseum.org](http://www.scmuseum.org)>. The exhibition was created by the Exhibits Development Group, and there's an impressive web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/y9b7yq83](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9b7yq83)> where the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might want to put it on display. And you can plan ahead: the exhibition's due at the Minnesota Historical Center in St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 1, 2021, through Mar. 21, 2022.

Jan 20 #4 It's getting more and more difficult to find places where one can smoke cigars and cigarettes, but there still are cigar and cigarette cards being made (as trading cards): the Acheron Mint is offering a set of seventeen "Sherlock Holmes Moriarty Conan Doyle Irene Adler Lost World" trading cards at eBay (\$14.95); sixteen characters cards plus one card randomly selected from nine other cards. You can see them all at <[www.tinyurl.com/txfl3qg](http://www.tinyurl.com/txfl3qg)>.

Alexander Orlov has reported his discovery at the Polish web-site Culture a fascinating article by Igor Belov that translates as "Elementary Watson: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Poland" <[www.tinyurl.com/wj3hpom](http://www.tinyurl.com/wj3hpom)>; he offers a details discussion of Poland in the Canon and of Polish Sherlockiana. It's all in Russian, but Google Translate will be of assistance.



"Everything you've heard is true" was the slogan used to advertise Sherlock 2 for Apple's Mac OS 9 operating system. Named in honor of Sherlock Holmes, Sherlock was a file and web search tool that was officially retired and removed from Mac's operating systems when OS X 10.5 was released in 2007. But you can still buy the poster from The Missing Bite <[www.tinyurl.com/sxor3lf](http://www.tinyurl.com/sxor3lf)> for \$29.95. And there's more to the story: according to Wikipedia, advocates of Watson, made by Karelia Software, claimed that Apple copied their product without permission, compensation, or attribution in producing Sherlock 3. The phenomenon of Apple releasing a feature that supplants or obviates third-party software is so well known that being "Sherlocked" has become an accepted term used within the Mac and IOS developer community.

For the true fans of the BBC's "Sherlock" series: SamsXStitch offers colorful 18-count cross-stitch patterns showing Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes and Martin Freeman as Dr. Watson (\$3.99 each) at their shop at Etsy <[www.etsy.com/shop/SamsXStitch](http://www.etsy.com/shop/SamsXStitch)>.

Vicki Delany's *There's a Murder Afoot* (New York: Crooked Lane, 2020; 329 pp., \$26.99) is the fifth in her series of "Sherlock Holmes Bookshop" mysteries that star Gemma Doyle (proprietor of the Sherlock Holmes bookshop on Cape Cod) and her friend Jayne Wilson (who manages the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room). The pastiche brings Gemma and Jane and their friends to London for a Sherlock Holmes conference, where they encounter a murder and other goings-on. The author has more than one series going, and her web-site's at <[www.vickidelany.com](http://www.vickidelany.com)>.

Terry Jones died on Jan. 21. He was a charter member of the Monty Python comedy team, and he had a long career as an actor and director, and as an author, and once said that his "big hero" was Buster Keaton, "because he made comedy look beautiful."

There were many new books available in the Merchants Room on Saturday during the birthday festivities, but (for various reasons) there hasn't been sufficient time to read and review them. Three new titles from the Baker Street Irregulars Press are listed at <[www.bakerstreetirregulars.com](http://www.bakerstreetirregulars.com)>; you can click on [bsi books]. The Wessex Press has *The Annotated White Company* and the fifth volume of *Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers*; they're at <[www.wessexpress.com](http://www.wessexpress.com)>. Stay tuned.

Jan 20 #5 Ralph Earle II ("Joyce Cummings") died on Jan. 13. He practiced law in Philadelphia and was a member of the Sons of the Copper Beeches, and began a new career in government in 1968, when he was appointed a Pentagon aide for international security affairs; he went on to serve President Carter as chief negotiator for the second round of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, with the rank of ambassador. He briefly led the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, returning as its deputy director in 1994, and retired in 1999. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1968.



Jennie Paton has spotted a Sherlock Holmes perfume (the fragrance features tobacco, smoke, leather, woody notes, moss, and citrus) created by Ali Habibi and available in Tehran <[www.ayliperfumes.com/product/sherlock-holmes](http://www.ayliperfumes.com/product/sherlock-holmes)> (possibly only in Iran)

"221b Baker Street: The Board Game Classic" (the most recent version of the board game designed by Jim Moriarty and first issued by Antler Productions in 1975) now has a Deluxe Edition, available from the John N. Hansen Company, offering 200 cases (including 20 new ones); the company boasts that more than 3 million copies have been sold worldwide. It's advertised for \$38.49 (at Target), and at higher prices elsewhere, and it may be the oldest Sherlockian board game still in production.

Sherlockians are indebted to Twentieth Century-Fox, the movie studio that gave us Basil Rathbone's landmark "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 1939, and it's a bit sad to learn there will be no more films from the studio, at least under that name; it was bought last year by the Walt Disney Studios, and according to Variety (Jan. 17), "the mouse has officially killed the fox." The new name will be 20th Century Studios for the company (Variety quoted "an insider" as saying, "I think the Fox name means Murdoch, and that is toxic.")

Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" is one of the on-line features of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine; it appears monthly, and his January blog at <[www.tinyurl.com/yxx8upzs](http://www.tinyurl.com/yxx8upzs)> is the first of a two-part essay "Finding Sherlock" (the second part will appear in February); the EQMM web-site is well worth exploring.

"Dracula" (the three-episode television series created by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat) premiered on BBC One on Jan. 1, and on Netflix on Jan. 4, and fans in Britain were quick to observe a nod to "Sherlock" in the first episode, when Sister Agatha tells Jonathan Harker that "I have a detective acquaintance in London." According to a report in Radio Times (Jan. 1), after a screening of the episode, Moffat said that "I thought no one would get that," and Gatiss joked, "Really, it's Sexton Blake. We're just messing with you." Radio Times also noted <[www.tinyurl.com/78sdrbp](http://www.tinyurl.com/78sdrbp)> that they had explained previously how their "Dracula" was inspired by their work on "Sherlock".

If you're old enough to remember "Pac Man" you're surely aware that computer games today are not as primitive as they once were. "Sherlock Holmes Game Evolution 1984-2019" is an interesting 14-minute video noted by Jennie Paton that shows just how much more realistic computer games are now <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nWRDAhEgQU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nWRDAhEgQU)>.

Jan 20 #6 Jim Lehrer died on Jan. 23. A lifelong journalist, first on newspapers and then on public television, he covered the Watergate hearings, presided over a dozen presidential debates, and helped to create a long-running one-hour news broadcast. In Mar. 1990 (when he was associate editor of the "MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour") he wrote an instructive one-page essay for the Smithsonian magazine on the pleasures of collecting (describing himself as a world-class collector of bus depot signs and other memorabilia), and he offered a suggestion that many Sherlockians will agree with: collectors are not odd, he said, "we are merely possessed with a need to collect certain things that some people might consider odd."

Peter Melonas is a creative designer and illustrator who has been offering Sherlockiana at least since the 1980s; you can see his latest merchandise at <[www.society6.com/fancifullart](http://www.society6.com/fancifullart)>.

Hugh Ashton's *Some Cases of Mr. Sherlock Holmes Occurring in the Year 1894* (Lichfeld: j-views. 2018; 161 pp., \$8.99) offers six pastiches revealing what happened in some of the unrecorded cases; it's the latest in a long list of collections of his pastiches <[www.hughashtonbooks.com](http://www.hughashtonbooks.com)>.

James Gunn's appreciative and amusing tribute to "Asimov at 100" appeared in the Jan. 3 issue of Science <[www.tinyurl.com/smcqjap](http://www.tinyurl.com/smcqjap)>, mentioning Isaac Asimov's membership in the Baker Street Irregulars.

Further to the item (Dec 19 #5) about the Red-Headed League Public House in Lebanon (Pennsylvania), and owner Michael Kapp's belief that the name of the restaurant pays tribute to the story that was inspired by a notorious murder committed by the Blue-Eyed Six in Lebanon in 1878, Gary Ludwig's 36-page pamphlet *The Blue Eyed Six: A Historical Narrative* (Lebanon: Hodge Podge Press, 2004; \$13.95) offers a detailed account of the gang's crime and punishment. There's more about the book, and the author, at the web-site <[www.hodgepodgeusa.com](http://www.hodgepodgeusa.com)>.

When in Chile: Willis Frick reports the Café Sherlock in Puerto Montt; no web-site, but they do have a page at Facebook [sherlock puerto montt].

"The Game Is Never Over" is convention planned to celebrate "10 years of Sherlock" (that's the BBC series) scheduled for Nov. 19-22 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Phoenixville, Pa. <[www.thegameisneverover.com](http://www.thegameisneverover.com)>.

2020 will be a "Year of Mystery" in Bennington, Vt., planned by two local libraries and the Baker Street Breakfast Club, and of course the schedule includes Sherlockian events. You can see a video in which Sally Sugarman talks about the Sherlockian aspects at <[www.vimeo.com/38715504](http://www.vimeo.com/38715504)>.

Steve Mason has been creating sets of puzzles (crossword, criss cross, and word search) for each of the stories, and is now making them available at the web-site of the Beacon Society <[www.beaconsociety.com](http://www.beaconsociety.com)>; click on [the crossword puzzles of sherlock holmes]. They will be of interest to young readers, the target audience of the society, and perhaps to their elders.

Steve also posts a continuing series of amusing "Baker Street Elementary" comic strips (co-authored with his son Rusty and Joe Fay) at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star*. Annual compilations since 2005, and three comic books, can be read (and downloaded) at the society's web-site <[www.dfw-sherlock.org](http://www.dfw-sherlock.org)>; click on [ephemera--general stuff].



Jan 20 #7 It was H. R. F. Keating, in *Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His World* (1979), who explained that the "modern Belgian masters" whose pictures entirely absorbed Sherlock Holmes (noted in "The Hound of the Baskervilles") were the members of the XX Group. James Ensor was one of them, and Christie's offers an interesting (and colorfully illustrated) guide to Ensor and his work online at <[www.tinyurl.com/s3s54dt](http://www.tinyurl.com/s3s54dt)>.

The Literary Gift Company <[www.theliterarygiftcompany.com](http://www.theliterarygiftcompany.com)> offers attractive Hound of the Baskervilles bracelets, and Holmes & Watson earrings and cufflinks, hand-crafted from "rescued" copies of the Canon.

Paul Reffell died on Jan. 3. He was member of the Petaluma Radio Players for many years, and was excellent as Dr. Watson in five episodes of Vince Staddon's amusing "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes"; you can hear him as Watson at <[www.petalumaradioplayers.com](http://www.petalumaradioplayers.com)>; click on podcast].

Max Allan Collins' *The History of Mystery* (Collectors Press, 2001) offers a 196-page colorful tour of detective stories and film noir, as shown in cover art for pulp magazines, books, DVD jackets, and film posters; Sherlock Holmes is included early on, but the emphasis is on later work whose artwork featured comely ladies undressed or in peril, or both. It's out of print, but readily available at eBay and elsewhere.

Bradley Harper's *Queen's Gambit* (Jersey City: Seventh Street Books, 2019; 282 pp., \$15.95) is the second in his series about Margaret Harkness, who is again involved with Arthur Conan Doyle and Joseph Bella and is working to foil a plot against Queen Victoria; as with *A Knife in the Fog* (Oct 18 #5), the story's nicely told, and the characters well drawn. The author's colorful Fantastic Fiction page is at <[www.fantasticfiction.com](http://www.fantasticfiction.com)>.

Al Gregory <[gaslightandfog@verizon.net](mailto: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).

Karen Murdock notes a report in Scotland on Sunday (Jan. 25) that Dr. Joseph Bell's former Georgian townhouse at 22 St. Andrew Square in Edinburgh has just opened as a hotel; Conan Doyle, while a medical student, worked as a clerk for Bell, and paid tribute to him as an inspiration for Sherlock Holmes. The paper's reviewer gave high marks to the hotel's restaurant/bistro, and there's more information at the Malmaison Hotel's website at <[www.malmaison.com/locations/edinburgh-city](http://www.malmaison.com/locations/edinburgh-city)>.

The Holmes Hotel London (formerly the Sherlock Holmes Hotel) has been reviewed on-line by the Handbook <[www.tinyurl.com/uh4zwb](http://www.tinyurl.com/uh4zwb)>; the review includes a challenge from the hotel: solve "the barber shop mystery."

Further to the report (Oct 19 #2) about the imaginative life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká <[www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2](http://www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2)> of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes in the Garden of Heroes and Villains created by the late Felix Dennis in Dorsington, Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, the garden will be open to the public the evening of June 25; details at <[www.tinyurl.com/sarp8pj](http://www.tinyurl.com/sarp8pj)>.

Jan 20 #8 In her latest "News & Nonsense" newsletter, Laurie R. King describes the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars as "a room full of tux-clad men and sequin-bedecked women, raising their glasses and singing silly-ditties" such as "We Never Mention Aunt Clara", and provides a link to White Ghost Shivers singing the song at the Saxon Pub in Austin, Texas, on Apr. 21, 2012 <[www.tinyurl.com/s3fpod2](http://www.tinyurl.com/s3fpod2)>. According to Wikipedia, White Ghost Shivers is an "eclectic American band" that was declared to be "Best None of the Above" at the Austin Music Awards in 2005 and 2007.

Laurie also notes that Mrs. Hudson's given name is Clara (as revealed in an earlier "Mary Russell" novel, adding that "of course, we all know how much trouble she got into, back in her youth." A search for the title of the song at YouTube will bring up some interesting renditions in addition to the White Ghost Shivers recording.

Donald Tosh died on Dec. 3. He had a long career with the BBC, helping to develop their series "Coronation Street" and working as a story editor on "Doctor Who"; he also dramatized "Shoscombe Old Place" (1968) for the series that starred Peter Cushing.

Spotted by Dan Stashower: Nigel J. Hayler's imaginative *Read+Doodle Book 1* (Lancaster: Pocket Doodle Reads, 2018; 52 pp., \$12.80); "A Case of Identity" is one of four stories in the book, all with text, doodling hints, and pages to color <[www.doodlereads.com](http://www.doodlereads.com)>.

Jennie Paton spotted an attractive and imaginative teaser for a new French graphic novel "Dans la tête de Sherlock Holmes" <[www.vimeo.com/387129370](http://www.vimeo.com/387129370)>; the first of two volumes will be published in May, and you can order from the Ankama Shop <[www.ankama-shop.com](http://www.ankama-shop.com)>.

And some theater news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is being produced at the Strauss Theatre Center in Monroe, La., through Feb. 8 <[www.strausstc.com](http://www.strausstc.com)>. It's also due at the Longwood University Theatre in Farmville, Va., Apr. 15-19 <[www.tinyurl.com/wjhkym7](http://www.tinyurl.com/wjhkym7)>.

Jules Tasca's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" is on at the Mesquite Community Theatre in Mesquite, Nev., through Feb. 15 <[www.mctnv.com](http://www.mctnv.com)>.

Tom Hitchcock's "Sherlock Holmes and the Seven Wooden Figurines" will be performed at the Manifest Theatre in Manningtree, Essex, Feb. 27-29; website's at <[www.manifesttheatre.co.uk](http://www.manifesttheatre.co.uk)>.

"Sherlock Holmes the Musical" will be performed by the Spring-Time Experimental Theatre (in Cantonese) at the Tuen Mun Town Hall in Hong Kong, Mar. 27-28 <[www.springtime.com.hk](http://www.springtime.com.hk)>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at Steeltown Coffee & Tea in Pittsburg, Calif., Aug. 14-23 <[www.pittsburgcalifornia.com](http://www.pittsburgcalifornia.com)>.

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



Last year's Baker Street Irregulars Press and the BSI Trust Book Fair was a rousing success; this year's event will be expanded to include an Open House at Denny Dobry's home in Reading, Pa., where you will be able to see his delightful recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street. Mark your calendar for May 17, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, when you'll be able to do more than just see the sitting-room: visitors will be welcome to enter the room for hands-on inspection of its contents; the book fair will offer thousands of books and other Sherlockiana, at rock-bottom prices. Lunch will be available, and Denny's home is at 5003 Stony Run Drive in Reading (100 miles from Manhattan, 80 miles from Baltimore, and 40 miles from Philadelphia, and he suggests that you start planning your car pool). Additional information is available from Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>. There's a nice image of Denny's sitting-room at <www.tinyurl.com/rkojoza>.

*The Worst Man in London* (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2019; 186 pp., \$39.95), edited by Daniel Stashower and Constantine Rossakis, is the latest volume in the BSI's manuscript series, and it's a grand way to get as close as one can to the writing of "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton"; there's a facsimile and a transcript of the manuscript, and scholarly essays by Randall Stock (on the manuscript and its history), Carla Coupe (on the illustrators of the story), Russell Merritt (on television adaptation), Jonathan McCafferty (on the villainous Charles Augustus Howell), and many others. It's recommended, and available from the publisher at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>.

And there's more: the latest in the professional series is *Education Never Ends: Educators, Education, and the Sherlockian Canon* (2019; 210 pp., \$39.95), edited by Marino C. Alvarez and Timothy S. Greer, with an excellent and wide-ranging assortment of scholarly articles.

Also from the BSI: *Upon the Turf: Horse Racing and the Sherlockian Canon*, edited by Candace J. Lewis, Ira Brad Matetsky, and Roger Downey (2019; 203 pp., \$25.95), discusses horses, horse racing, gambling, and related topics such as horses named from Conan Doyle's stories. By nice coincidence, the current audio interview at Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog is devoted to the book <www.tinyurl.com/rw3n8yg>

"A Mountaineer Named Sherlock" is the title of the inaugural West Virginia University Symposium on Sherlock Holmes, on Mar. 20-21 Morgantown, W.Va.; the registration deadline is Mar. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/rnootvg>.

You can "tour the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes at the South Carolina State Museum" in Columbia, S.C., in a colorful video spotted by Jennie Paton at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvcIkRWPXT4>; the exhibition runs through Apr. 19 <www.scmuseum.org> (Jan 20 #3).

Bob Loomis' *Houdini's Final Incredible Secret* (CreateSpace, 2016; 323 pp., \$13.00) is subtitled "how Houdini mystified Sherlock Holmes creator," and the author has devoted an entire book to his research on the "slate test" that Houdini performed for Conan Doyle when he visited Houdini's home in New York in the 1920s; you can decide for yourself whether Loomis actually has solved the mystery.

Feb 20 #2 Ashley D. Polasek's imaginative *Being Sherlock: A Sherlockian's Stroll Through the Sherlock Holmes Stories* (Guilford: Lyons Press, 2019; 430 pp., \$26.95), offers ten short stories and "The Hound of the Baskervilles", each with entertaining and insightful introductions that explain her choices and provide insights for readers old and new; it is a grand and up-to-date approach to the Canon.

Freda Howlett ("The British Government") died on Feb. 15, aged 101. She was the last of the founders of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, was one of its most enthusiastic members, and was its president from 2003 to 2009. Freda received her Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 2020.



Just the thing for Sherlockian pipe-smokers (if there are any left in this "thanks for not smoking" era): the "Vape Pipe Battery Sherlock Style" (if looks just like a regular pipe "so you can smoke discreetly without anyone being the wiser!") advertised by This Is Why I'm Broke for (\$19.99) <[www.tinyurl.com/vptaegh](http://www.tinyurl.com/vptaegh)>.

Conan Doyle called the novel "the best thing I have ever done," and it has never been out of print since it was published in 1891. Now you can read *The Annotated White Company* and see for yourself how good he was at writing historical novels; it's annotated and introduced by Doug Elliott and Roy Pilot, with a foreword by Nicholas Meyer (who, like John Ford, wanted to make a film based on the novel), and black-and-white illustrations by George Willis Bardwell (from the second American edition) and color illustrations by N. C. Wyeth (from a later American edition). There also are 14 appendices that offer more information about the author, his notebooks and manuscript, and life in the 14th century; it's nicely done indeed, and recommended (Indianapolis: Wessex Press, 2020, 410 pp., \$48.95). The publisher's web-site is at <[www.wessexpress.com](http://www.wessexpress.com)>.

Also from the Wessex Press: *The Sherlock Holmes Review: Anthology Volume One 1986-1987* (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2020; 131 pp., \$27.95) is a welcome reprint of Steven T. Doyle's journal, published at a time when almost anything Sherlockian had a limited circulation; if you weren't a subscriber, here's an opportunity to read contributions from Jeremy Brett and Peter Cushing, and Sherlockians who included Stafford Davis, Jack Tracy, Al Rodin, Jack Key, Don Yates, Roger Johnson, and of course Steve himself.

And there's *Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers, Volume 5, July-September 1894*, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström, Mark Alberstat, and Leah Guinn (2020; 204 pp., \$36.95); the first volume in the series from Gasogene Books covered 1881-1892, the next three volumes covered six months each, and now it's three months, which show just how much more reporting there was in the press about his books, travel plans, and play "A Story of Waterloo".

Finally, *The Milvertonians of Hampstead: Forgotten Writings from the Worst Men in London*, introduced, collated, and edited by Nicholas Utechin (2020; 130 pp., \$18.95), is the story of the first scion society of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and it's a grand story indeed, painstakingly researched delightfully told, and reprinting for the first time the excruciatingly rare publications of the society.

Feb 20 #3 Andrew Lycett's *Conan Doyle's Wide World: Sherlock Holmes and Beyond* (London: Tauris Parke, 2020; 327 pp., £20.00) is a delightful presentation of Conan Doyle's expertise as a travel writer; Lycett, author of an impressive biography of Conan Doyle (Sep 07 #6), offers an excellent selection from his fiction (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian), articles, and essays, all nicely showing how well Conan Doyle was able to give his readers a proper sense of place. An American edition is due in April.

Mystery writer Duffy Brown may well own the world's largest Sherlockian teddy bear: her "Sherlock" is seven feet tall and she wrote about him in February in an "At the Scene" blog of *Mystery Scene* magazine <[www.tinyurl.com/rlnsk3](http://www.tinyurl.com/rlnsk3)>.



Kirk Douglas died on Feb. 5. He began his acting career on Broadway in 1941 and soon moved to films, appearing in more than 80 movies, with a starring role in "Spartacus" (1960). He received the American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1991, and an honorary Oscar in 1996. Like many famous American actors, Douglas appeared in television commercials that were seen only outside the United States; you can see him in Sherlockian costume, advertising Maxim coffee in Japan, at Greg Ruby's "Fourth Garrideb" web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/vbkd7sx](http://www.tinyurl.com/vbkd7sx)>.

The Conan Doyle Review, due in the spring of 2021, is described as "an interdisciplinary journal for scholarship on the life, works, creative afterlives, and cultural legacies of Arthur Conan Doyle," and it will be edited by Ashley D. Polasek, Kate Bromley, and Mary M. Alcaro; a Special Issue 1, available during the birthday festivities, offered 16 pages devoted to Ken Ludwig and his Sherlockian plays (including his upcoming "Moriarty"), and the Review itself should be interesting indeed.

Sorry about that: Donald Tosh, who died on Dec. 3 (Jan 20 #8) helped develop the television series "Coronation Street" for Granada; it was, and still is, broadcast by ITV. The series debuted in 1960, and will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

Registration is now open for the seventh "Holmes, Doyle, & Friends" gathering on Mar. 27-28 in Englewood, Ohio; details are available at the web-site of the Agra Treasurers <[www.agratreasurers.net](http://www.agratreasurers.net)>.

Orson Bean died on Feb. 7. He had a long career as a magician, stand-up comedian, and actor, on stage, screen, and television (where he became a fixture on game shows); he played Colonel Sebastian Moran/Sir Charles/Dr. Grimsby Roylott/Professor Moriarty in Susan L. Seder's play "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" in Lancaster, Pa., in 1988.

A letter written by Conan Doyle in 1901 was found under the floorboards in one of the rooms in the Sherlock Art Hotel in Riga, Latvia, according to a story reported by Karen Murdock in the Daily Mail (Feb. 8). The boutique hotel's web-site tells more at <[www.sherlock.lv/en/our-legendeng](http://www.sherlock.lv/en/our-legendeng)>, but you need not rush to make a reservation: Alexander Orlov queried the hotel and was told that there is no letter, and that the story was just an invention intended to generate publicity.

Feb 20 #4 *A Plum Assignment: Discourses on P. G. Wodehouse and His World* (Bensonberg: Winch and Clutterbuck, 2018; 183 pp., \$16.95), by Curtis Armstrong and Elliott Milstein, is a collection of their papers and toasts presented at Wodehouse conventions and published in Wodehouse journals, edited by Ashley D. Polasek; there are occasional allusions to Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes, and the book provides an interesting look at a Wodehousean world that can be as strange as that of Sherlockians. If you would like to see what all the fuss is about, Denny Dobry has a sales-list of Wodehouse's books that are being sold at quite reasonable prices by way of benefiting the Baker Street Irregulars Trust <dendobry@ptd.net>.

Reported: *Measure of Malice: Scientific Detection Stories*, edited by Martin Edwards (Naperville, Poisoned Pen Press, 2018; 336 pp., \$14.99) is the latest in the long-running series of "British Library Crime Classics" and it includes "The Boscombe Valley Mystery".

Randall Stock has noted an article in *Fine Books & Collections* (Feb. 12) <[www.tinyurl.com/tb2cubf](http://www.tinyurl.com/tb2cubf)> about an exhibition at the Old Bodleian Library in Oxford through Mar. 15: "From Studio to Selfie" displays photographs of authors, including one of Conan Doyle disguised as Professor Challenger. The photograph (which was the frontispiece in the 1912 first edition of *The Lost World*) is in a case displaying "Masks, disguises, and riddles" (in a bound volume of *The Strand Magazine*), which you can see at <[www.tinyurl.com/uakqcrh](http://www.tinyurl.com/uakqcrh)> (at the right, in the sixth image).



AbeBooks is far more than a web-site used by book dealers and collectors: there's also a podcast called "Behind the Bookshelves"; on Feb. 20 there was a 22-minute interview ("Sherlockians") with Richard Davies interviewing Denny Dobry about the Beacon Society and the worlds of Sherlock Holmes and the Sherlockians <[www.tinyurl.com/u6knws3](http://www.tinyurl.com/u6knws3)>.

Noel Murphy's interesting column in the *Geelong Advertiser* on Feb. 10 mentioned local architect/lecturer Derham Groves (first Australian member of the Baker Street Irregulars) and another "Geelong bloke," George Morrison, who "had a New Guinea native's spearhead surgically removed from his arse" by Scottish surgeon Joseph Bell, who was credited by Conan Doyle as having been the inspiration for Sherlock Holmes.

According to Wikipedia, George Ernest "Chinese" Morrison had a thoroughly interesting and colorful life <[www.tinyurl.com/r66hxtpt](http://www.tinyurl.com/r66hxtpt)>; the story of the spearhead is different at Wikipedia, both for its location and the name of the surgeon who removed it. And just to complicate things, Derham reports that Cyril Pearl, in *Morrison of Peking* (1967) says that "Chiene, assisted by Bell, and with sixteen other surgeons watching," operated on Morrison.

The list of members of the Baker Street Irregulars who have acted in films and on television can now be expanded to include music videos: there's now a video that promotes Pokey LaFarge's album "Rock Bottom Rhapsody" (due in April), and you can read all about it, and see the video, in an article in *Rolling Stone* (Jan. 22) <[www.tinyurl.com/uylfoxj](http://www.tinyurl.com/uylfoxj)>. The video was shot in Randsburg, Calif., home of Jennie C. Paton, who reports that she appears in the video about a dozen times (and dares you to find her).

Feb 20 #5 Further to the report (Sep 19 #7) about the exhibition "In the Company of Harold Prince" (at the N.Y. Public Library for the Performing Arts through Mar. 31 <[www.tinyurl.com/y3dwsfax](http://www.tinyurl.com/y3dwsfax)>, Greg Darak reports that there's an interactive screen that allows you to scroll through the prompt-book and the script of the musical "Baker Street" (which Prince directed). There also are multiple photographs from the show, illustrating almost every page of the script, and a television commercial (possibly the first television commercial for a Broadway musical).

Alexander Orlov notes that the National Library of Scotland offers on-line access to digitized material <[www.digital.nls.uk](http://www.digital.nls.uk)>. A search for [sherlock holmes] or [conan doyle] turns up interesting material, including theater programs and post office directories.

Welcome to the Year of the Giant Rat (or, according to the U.S. Postal Service, the Year of the Rat, which started on Jan. 25 (that's the Chinese Lunar New Year).



Karen Murdock noted a story in the Washington Examiner (Feb. 6) on the appointment of Dame Karen Pierce as the next British ambassador to Washington. She has been Britain's permanent representative to the United Nations, where she battled head-to-head with Russian ambassador Vasily Nebenzya in an exchange about the nerve-agent attack in Britain. Nebenzya said that Russia should be involved in the investigation, and she replied that "allowing Russian scientists into an investigation when they are the most likely perpetrators of the crime in Salisbury would be like Scotland Yard inviting in Professor Moriarty."

Jennie Paton has noted The Literary Tea Company, which offers a wide range of Sherlockian teas, caddies, and infusers <[www.tinyurl.com/rj8kpkn](http://www.tinyurl.com/rj8kpkn)>; they offer merchandise honoring other authors and characters, in case you have non-Sherlockian friends.

Will Thomas' *Blood Is Blood* (New York: Minotaur, 2018; 320 pp., \$27.00) is the tenth in his series featuring private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewelyn; it has an explosive beginning and a challenging mystery, and the characters, who include Barker's long-lost brother, are nicely done. The author has a web-site at <[www.willthomasauthor.com](http://www.willthomasauthor.com)>.

Titan Comics is continuing its series of manga adaptations of the BBC television series "Sherlock" (with artwork by Jay); "A Scandal in Belgravia" is due in July, and you can see the cover and samples of the interior artwork at Amazon <[www.tinyurl.com/rnrdrtn](http://www.tinyurl.com/rnrdrtn)>.

For the ladies: Howard Ostrom has noted Miss Patina, who offers a Holmes trench coat <[www.misspatina.com/product/holmes-trench-coat-tall](http://www.misspatina.com/product/holmes-trench-coat-tall)> and other items in two Sherlock Holmes Inspired Collections; search for [holmes].

The Swedish Film Institute <[www.filmarkivet.se](http://www.filmarkivet.se)> has a nice web-site (click on the British flag for text in English); search for [sherlock holmes] to see an amusing television commercial from 1960, and on [conan doyle] for film of him arriving in Stockholm in 1929.

Feb 20 #6 There's yet another Sherlock Holmes pub, but it's not open to just anyone: according to a report in the East Anglian Daily Times on Feb. 7, spotted by Karen Murdock, the pub's at Glastonbury Court, a care home in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, that provides quality dementia care for older people; there's a web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/wlmax9g](http://www.tinyurl.com/wlmax9g)>.

And now for some theatrical news: Ed. Lange's "Sherlock's Secret Life" is due in Southampton, N.Y., on Mar. 6-22 <[www.sc-arts.org](http://www.sc-arts.org)>.

Emily Pruna's "Hark! How the Bells" will be performed during the Sherlock Holmes Weekends in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 13-15, Oct. 30-Nov. 1, and Nov. 6-8 <[www.capemaymac.org/sherlock-holmes-weekend](http://www.capemaymac.org/sherlock-holmes-weekend)>. The East Lynn Theatre Company will perform Craig Wichman's radio play "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Speckled Band" during each weekend.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre in Frederick, Md., Mar. 13-Apr 25 <[www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com)>.

Tim Kelly's adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Schwartz Center for the Arts in Dover, Del., Mar. 14-15; tickets at <[www.eventbrite.com/e/sherlock-holmes-play-tickets-92036540711](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/sherlock-holmes-play-tickets-92036540711)>.

Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa Falls, Ga., Mar. 27-29 <[www.tinyurl.com/vqnxgvf](http://www.tinyurl.com/vqnxgvf)>.

Noveltease will perform a burlesque of "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes" Mar. 27-28 in the Auditorium at U-Heights in Seattle, Wash., on Mar. 27-28 <[www.novelteasetheater.org](http://www.novelteasetheater.org)>.

Brit Ward's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Sinister Trio" will be performed at the Totah Theatre in Farmington, N.M., Apr. 17-26; their Facebook page is at <[www.facebook.com/TEAcommunitytheatre](http://www.facebook.com/TEAcommunitytheatre)>.

Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be presented by the Long Island Repertory Company in Saint James, N.Y., Apr. 18-May 3 <[www.facebook.com/pg/longislandrep/posts](http://www.facebook.com/pg/longislandrep/posts)>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the East Riding Theatre in Beverley, Yorks., Apr. 23-May 16 <[www.eastridingtheatre.co.uk](http://www.eastridingtheatre.co.uk)>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" is scheduled at the Cary Arts Center in Cary, N.C., May 15-17 <[www.townofcary.org](http://www.townofcary.org)>.

Jules Tasca's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" is also due at the Heisler Theater in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., May 21-24 <[www.heislertheater.com](http://www.heislertheater.com)>.

R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse" is scheduled at People's Light in Malvern, Pa., Aug. 4-29, 2021 <[www.peopleslight.org](http://www.peopleslight.org)>.

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

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's web-site is recommended as the best source for helpful and reliable information about COVID-19 and what to do about the current pandemic, and for what we do and don't (yet) know about the novel coronavirus <[www.tinyurl.com/sx5yfuv](http://www.tinyurl.com/sx5yfuv)>. The CDC also tells you why they use the term COVID-19. If you scroll down, at the lower left there's a way to subscribe to e-mail updates. It's not the CDC's advice, but: "keep washing your hands, and family and friends."

Of course it's nice indeed that reading is a grand way to deal with self-quarantine. Bookshops in the DMV (that's the local abbreviation for DC/MD/VA) are helping <[www.tinyurl.com/wd8poss](http://www.tinyurl.com/wd8poss)>, and Mental Floss reported on Mar. 16 <[www.tinyurl.com/uwccm5d](http://www.tinyurl.com/uwccm5d)> on one bookshop's imaginative response to the situation. Bill Seil has forwarded an interesting report from Penguin Books about "how Britain's independent bookshops are rallying to help readers during the coronavirus crisis" <[www.tinyurl.com/vbvkujg](http://www.tinyurl.com/vbvkujg)>.

Herewith a reminder that the very best way to receive news about the Baker Irregulars' events and publications is to sign up for free e-mail messages from the BSI at <[www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email](http://www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email)>. For information about other Sherlockian events, the Sherlockian Calendar maintained by Ron Fish and Ben and Sue Vizoskie <[www.sherlockiancalendar.com](http://www.sherlockiancalendar.com)> is a valuable resource; you can contact Ron <[ronf404@aol.com](mailto:ronf404@aol.com)> if you would like to have meeting or conference listed.

The most recent news from the Baker Street Irregulars is that the "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" conference scheduled at the Bear Mountain Inn near West Point, N.Y., has been rescheduled to June 25-27, 2021; registration is expected to open by early April 2021. There's a revised web-site, with a colorful map <[www.tinyurl.com/udu3vjx](http://www.tinyurl.com/udu3vjx)>.

There are some Sherlockian events scheduled a few months ahead that have not been cancelled or postponed, one of them the Book Fair and Open House at Denny Dobry's home in Reading, Pa., on May 17 (Feb 20 #1). Additional information is available from Denny at <[dendobry@ptd.net](mailto:dendobry@ptd.net)>.

The *Baker Street Almanac 2020*, modestly described by editor Ross E. Davies as "an annual capsule of a timeless past and future," is now available on-line (without charge) at <[www.tinyurl.com/rufssb3](http://www.tinyurl.com/rufssb3)>, and in print (\$30.00 postpaid from The Green Bag, 6600 Barnaby Street NW, Washington, DC 20015) with more than 360 pages of news and gossip about some of the interesting events in the Sherlockian and Holmesian world in 2019, "The Cardboard Box" (presented with "extravagant Canonical annotation"), and a wide variety of scholarship and pseudo-scholarship. Ross promises some "amusing extras" in the print edition, perhaps for the benefit of those who prefer to turn pages, rather than scroll.

Dean Clark has reported an interesting article on "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Adventure of the Boer War" posted on-line at History Today on Feb. 12 <[www.tinyurl.com/vw8o22b](http://www.tinyurl.com/vw8o22b)> and notable for an attractive illustration by H. M. Paget; Henry Marriott Paget was Sidney Paget's brother.



Mar 20 #2 Alexander Orlov has reported seeing Vladimir Putin as Sherlock Holmes, and Dmitri Peskov as Dr. Watson, unraveling the case of journalist Ivan Golunov in an animated (and amusing) "news report" in Russian on the German television channel Deutsche Welle. Pesko is press secretary for Russian president Putin, and the video is available at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/s68be3o](http://www.tinyurl.com/s68be3o)>.

"Meet Maggie Schpak" is the title of an informative and interesting post to Greg Ruby's "The Fourth Garrideb" blog <[www.tinyurl.com/ty56jffj](http://www.tinyurl.com/ty56jffj)>; Maggie is investitured in the Baker Street Irregulars is "The Soup Plate Med-al" and has had a long career as a designer of medals and other artifacts for films and television, and for Sherlockian societies (and the Dr. John H. Watson Fund's raffle during the birthday festivities in New York each January).

Will Thomas' *Lethal Pursuit* (New York: Minotaur, 2019; 308 pp., \$27.99) is the eleventh in his series starring private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant (now partner) Thomas Llewelyn, who also now is married but still hard at work; there is an intriguing mystery that involves secret societies as well as domestic and foreign intrigue, and as in earlier books in the series, the characters, both principal and supporting are interesting. The author has a web-site at <[www.willthomasauthor.com](http://www.willthomasauthor.com)>.



German illustrator Romy Blümel's artwork was used by The New Yorker last November for a flash sale of subscriptions to the magazine, promising a free tote bag to new subscribers. Alas, the Sherlockian dachshund was used only in the advertisement, and did not appear on the free tote bag.

James Lipton died on Mar. 1. After a long career in show business, he was invited to join the board of directors of the Actors Studio workshop, and in 1994 created the "Inside the Actors Studio" television series for Bravo. He also wrote *An Exaltation of Larks* (1968), an exploration of "the venereal game" (which is not quite what you may be imagining at the moment); it's a delightful exploration of collective nouns, and he quotes at length from Conan Doyle's *Sir Nigel* in which young Nigel demonstrates his knowledge of such things as a cete of badgers and a skulk of foxes. The book has been revised and expanded, most recently in 1991, to include new coinages, and it's great fun indeed.

"A Billion-Dollar Scandal Turns the 'King of Manuscripts' into the 'Madoff of France'" was the headline on a story in the N.Y. Times (Feb. 21) about a literary Ponzi scheme perpetrated by Gérard Lhéritier, who bought rare manuscripts and letters, had them appraised, and sold shares in them, and promised to buy the shares back in five years for at least 40 percent over the original price. The appraisals were greatly inflated, and the company refused to buy back the shares; Lhéritier was arrested and is now free on \$2.1 million in bail, and the French government has begun to auction off the company's assets. The story is on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/w3uh42m](http://www.tinyurl.com/w3uh42m)>.

Mar 20 #3 Dean Clark notes that the only copy of the unpublished memoirs of Nigel Bruce is held by his daughter Pauline Page, who was interviewed some years ago by Nicholas Utechin, who published extracts in the winter 1999 issue of the Sherlock Holmes Journal. For those who don't have access to that issue of the SHJ, Dean reports that Stuart Fanning has posted (with permission) some of the extracts at the Scarlet Street Forums on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/sy8cvmo](http://www.tinyurl.com/sy8cvmo)>.

There are at least a few people who claim to read the N.Y. Times primarily because its obituaries are so interesting and well-written; if you'd like to see just how much fun the obituaries can be, here's what Neil Genzlinger had to say about the late Peregrine Pollen <[www.tinyurl.com/r2aszlk](http://www.tinyurl.com/r2aszlk)>.

"May God blast anyone who writes a biography of me," J. M. Barrie wrote, according to Piers Dudgeon, whose *Neverland: J. M. Barrie, the Du Mauriers, and the Dark Side of Peter Pan* (2009) is a dark and grim examination of the lives of the author and his friends, and he quotes D. H. Lawrence, who wrote in a letter that "Barrie has a fatal touch for those he loves. They die." Conan Doyle is mentioned briefly, and the book still is available in a reprint edition.

Potter & Potter Auctions in Chicago will be offering "fine books and manuscripts" on Apr. 18 <[www.tinyurl.com/yx4y7j9l](http://www.tinyurl.com/yx4y7j9l)>, with interesting Sherlockian and Doylean material; search for both [sherlock] and [doyle]. It appears to be someone's collection (some of the books are inscribed to John Nieminski and Nathan L. Bengis).

There was a nice (and nicely illustrated) article in France Today (Mar. 10) <[www.tinyurl.com/u93pr7p](http://www.tinyurl.com/u93pr7p)> about French criminologist Alphonse Bertillon, whom Sherlock Holmes admired: "he expressed his enthusiastic admiration of the French savant," Watson said (in "The Naval Treaty").

"Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Who Owns 221b Baker Street" headlined a story in The Telegraph (Mar. 14) that led with a misleading photograph of the Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street; the photograph was misleading because the story is about the block of property at 215-237 Baker Street, which includes the site of the former Abbey National, where mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes was for many years answered by Holmes' secretary. The block of offices and flats at 215-237 is owned by "a string of anonymous holding companies" tied to Kazakh oligarch Nurali Alivyev, and the government's National Crime Agency is investigating property in London that might have been bought with the proceeds of organized crime.

It's interesting to see that it's not only The Telegraph that is confused about where Sherlock Holmes lived: if you ask Google Maps to show you 221b Baker Street, you're shown an image and the location of the Museum.

*Deadly Anniversaries*, edited by Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini (New York: Hanover Square, 2020; 396 pp., \$26.99) celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Mystery Writers of America; it's an anthology of new stories by members of MWA, each involving some sort of anniversary, including Laurie R. King's "Ten Years On" (a nice addition to her Mary Russell stories).

Mar 20 #4 "Elementary, my dear Watson." One often hears or reads that Sherlock Holmes never said that iconic sentence, but of course it would be better to say that he never said that in the Canon (if one is going to play the Grand Game properly). The earliest recorded instance of Holmes actually saying that is in the film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929), which isn't all that surprising since it's the first film in which Holmes actually speaks. There has been quite a bit of research into other people saying that, or something like that, and you can read all about it at the Quote Investigator web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/tkm6pqu](http://www.tinyurl.com/tkm6pqu)>.

One hears of Sherlock everywhere: "While other detectives need their Mind Palaces to solve their crimes, the infamous 'Sherlock Homi' needs only a cup of tea and two eggs every morning! Come catch him in action with his partner, Dr. Jamshed Wadia in this funny yet adventurous play" at the Tata Theatre in Mumbai on Mar. 21.

Cenarth Fox's *Sherlock Holmes: Playing the Game* (Melbourne: Fox's Plays, 2020; 184 pp., \$12.99) is a delightfully imaginative pastiche: Holmes is preparing to retire to Sussex, and is informed by Mrs. Hudson that she has written her memoirs, in which she corrects the many mistakes he has made, and the many errors in Watson's stories; hoping to find a publisher, she takes her manuscript to Conan Doyle, who sends her to Greenhough Smith at the Strand magazine, and it is grand see two alternate universes collide. It's readily available at Amazon, and recommended.

Fox also has written two two-act plays "The Real Sherlock Holmes" (2005) and "Nursing Holmes" (2009), and a two-act musical comedy "Sherlock, Stock and Barrel" (2007); you can read preview scripts of all three plays at his web-site <[www.foxplays.com](http://www.foxplays.com)>. His own web-site's at <[www.cenfoxbooks.com](http://www.cenfoxbooks.com)>.

Mark Jones and Paul Chapman are continuing their interesting discussions of the writings of Conan Doyle (focusing on his non-Sherlockian work) at their "Doings of Doyle" podcast <[www.doingsofdoyle.com](http://www.doingsofdoyle.com)>; their latest post considers two Apocryphal stories ("The Man with the Watches" and "The Lost Special").

Roy Hudd died on Mar. 15. He launched his career as a comedian on stage in 1957 and went on to perform in pantomimes and music hall, and on radio and television, and was awarded an OBE in 2004. He played Sherlock Holmes in 1999 in the BBC Radio 2 series "The Newly Discovered Casebook of Sherlock Holmes", John Gedgrave in Granada's "The Dying Detective" (1994) and James Phillimore in "The Singular Inheritance of Miss Gloria Wilson on BBC Radio 4 (2002).

Leonard Goldberg's *The Art of Deception* (New York: Minotaur Books, 2020; 320 pp., \$26.99), is the fourth in his series that stars Sherlock Holmes' daughter Joanna Blalock, who learned much from her father and is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son Dr. John H. Watson Jr. to capture an apparent madman who is defacing valuable paintings in galleries and private collections in London in 1916. It turns out that there's method to the vandal's madness, and more than one mystery for the team to resolve; the author's web-site is at <[www.leonardgoldberg.com](http://www.leonardgoldberg.com)>.

Mar 20 #5 The Belfast Custom House is for sale, according to an article in the Belfast Telegraph on Mar. 9, kindly forwarded by Oscar Ross, who reports that the building is one of two candidates for the location of the post office in Belfast where James Browner mailed his gruesome packet (in "The Cardboard Box"); the Queen's Square post office was housed in the west wing of the building at the time the case occurred. You can see images of the Custom House on-line <[www.tinyurl.com/vlww6hj](http://www.tinyurl.com/vlww6hj)>; the estate agents say POA [price on application], which may or may not mean "if you have to ask, you can't afford it."

Here a plaque, there a plaque . . . Roger Johnson found the Open Plaques web-site <[www.openplaques.org](http://www.openplaques.org)>, with information about 47,627 commemorative plaques that have been installed world-wide; the listing's not complete, but a search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] reveals a nice assortment, hither, thither, and yon.

Catherine Cooke has received notice that the "Conan Doyle in Edinburgh" conference at Napier University on June 25-27 (Dec 19 #2) has been postponed, and that dates for a rescheduled conference later in the year will be posted as soon as possible at <[www.edinburgh-conan-doyle.org/events](http://www.edinburgh-conan-doyle.org/events)>.

The Old Court Radio Theatre Company collaborated with the Sherlock Holmes Society of London to make splendid recordings of ten stories from the Canon, two Apocryphal tales, the Gillette play, and two pastiches, and they are available on-line so that you can listen to them free at the Society's web-site <[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/category/podcasts](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/category/podcasts)>.

Sam Siciliano's new *The Venerable Tiger* (New York: Titan, 2020; 317 pp., \$14.95) is the latest in his series of accounts of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes and his cousin Dr. Henry Vernier; the story inspired by "The Speckled Band" (but with some interesting twists and turns). Siciliano's web-site is at <[www.samsiciliano.net](http://www.samsiciliano.net)>.

Samantha Wolov notes that Holmes and Watson are featured prominently (and unexpectedly), along with Wilkie Collins, Hunter S. Thompson, Dorothy Parker, Collette, Ernest Hemingway, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, in Paul Bassett Davies' *Dead Writers in Rehab* (2017).

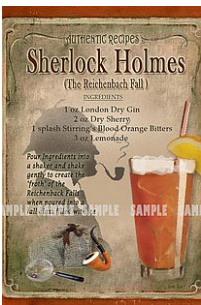
Walter Satterthwait died on Feb. 23. He was a prolific writer of mystery novels and short stories, and his novel *Escapade* (1995) was a locked-room murder mystery set in an English country house in 1921 and with Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on hand.

"Sherlockian Wisdom for a Pandemic" is an amusing challenge posted in the Inner Circle at the Red Circle's web-site <[www.redcircledc.org](http://www.redcircledc.org)>; everyone is welcome to participate.

"Sherlock Holmes est installé dans l'Allier!" is an interesting two-minute video (all in French) on YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/v5qxngp](http://www.tinyurl.com/v5qxngp)> about Thierry Saint-Joanis, president of the Société Sherlock Holmes de France. The Société has its own YouTube channel at <[www.tinyurl.com/txd8gxs](http://www.tinyurl.com/txd8gxs)> with many more videos, including the imaginative "See EU Later" comment on Brexit.

Mar 20 #6 Book collectors soon (or eventually) discover how interesting provenance can be; it's the history of a copy of a book, from owner to owner, and of course there's much more to it than merely saying "from the collection of ...," as shown in Ray Betzner's post to his "Studies in Starrett blog <[www.vincentstarrett.com/blog/2020/2/1](http://www.vincentstarrett.com/blog/2020/2/1)>.

Type Punch Matrix, the rare book firm founded by Rebecca Romney and Brian Cassidy has issued a new catalog <[www.tinyurl.com/ubnjtug](http://www.tinyurl.com/ubnjtug)>; there's nothing directly Sherlockian, but a copy of Sugiyama Toujirou's *A Japanese Argument for Women's Suffrage* (1887) is accompanied by an intriguing illustration that shows Japanese women dressed in contemporary Victorian fashion copied from British books and magazines (the Meiji Restoration began in 1868). Open the catalog in Adobe (there's a link at the right) and go to page 58 to see how up-to-date some Japanese women were in the year that "A Study in Scarlet" was published in Beeton's Christmas Annual.



It can be interesting to see what turns up Pinterest: go to <[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)> and search for [sherlock holmes cocktail] to find a heavy aluminum sign (£4.99) offering a recipe for "The Reichenbach Fall" (1 oz London dry gin, 2 oz dry sherry, 1 splash Stirrings' blood orange bitters, and 3 oz lemonade); pour ingredients into a shaker and shake gently to create the froth of the Reichenbach Falls when poured into a tall glass filled with ice. Stirrings makes a wide variety of mixes and seems to be owned by the Sazerac Company, which got its start in the 19th century in the Sazerac Coffee House in New Orleans.

This isn't the best time to travel, but in the meantime the Hotel Sherlock Holmes in Meiringen has a nice video advertisement that you can watch at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk70dqfIudg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk70dqfIudg)>.

"There's a Place Where Lost Things Go" was a recent episode on "Legacies" (a series streamed on the CW) that aired on Mar. 12, and included a dream sequence that had Alexis Denisof (Professor Vardemus) as Sherlock Holmes and Quincy Fouse (Milton Greasley) as Dr. Watson). As with many series on the CW, it can be difficult to understand just what's going on unless you've watched earlier episodes (or have a cheat sheet), but you may be able to see an excerpt from the dream sequence at <[www.tinyurl.com/sjntg56](http://www.tinyurl.com/sjntg56)>.

Kabukichō Syarokku [Kabukicho Sherlock] is an imaginative 30-minute Japanese animated series that's available on Amazon Prime; it's set in Tokyo's most famous red-light district, and features Katsuyuki Konishi (Sherlock Holmes) and Kuichi Nakamura (John Watson), and there's an entry at Wikipedia that gives you a good idea of what's going on.

The Golden Raspberry Awards (for failure in cinematic achievement), also known as the Razzies, have been announced, and this year "Cats" won in six categories: worst picture, worst supporting actor (James Corben), best actress (Rebel Wilson), worst director, worst screenplay, and worst screen combo (for "any two half-feline/ half-human hairballs"). Idris Elba, who played Macavity: The Mystery Cat) was not nominated in any category. Details at <[www.razzies.com/razz-newz.html](http://www.razzies.com/razz-newz.html)>.

Mar 20 #7 Ernest Dudley, Eille Norwood's son-in-law, was interviewed by David Stuart Davies at the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's film evening in 1998, and it's available, Jennie Paton notes, at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlH-g4UL5mo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlH-g4UL5mo)>. Norwood played Sherlock Holmes in 45 films in the early 1920s, and then in the play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1923), which was revised by Dudley and performed in 1953.

Jennie also has discovered "Movie Magic & Mysteries: The Making of Sherlock Jr." <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=0YR81Zp07AI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0YR81Zp07AI)>, a 23-minute documentary (produced by the Kino International Corp. in 2010) about how Buster Keaton made his now-classic 1924 silent film.

Nils Clausson, author of *Arthur Conan Doyle's Art of Fiction* (Oct 18 #3), reports that he has been commissioned by Cambridge Scholars Publishing to edit an anthology of essays on Conan Doyle's life and complete works (not just the Sherlock Holmes stories). The formal call for contributions is available on request <[nils.clausson@uregina.ca](mailto:nils.clausson@uregina.ca)>; please put "Reexamining ACD" in the subject line.

Reported: *The Big Book of Reel Murders: Stories That Inspired Great Crime Films*, edited by Otto Penzler (Viking, 2019), includes two tales from the Canon ("The Five Orange Pips" and "The Six Napoleons").

L.A. Theatre Works has launched an imaginative program to assist students who are working on-line: "Setting the Stage for Learning" is a package of audio recordings of plays that allows teachers to enhance distance learning <[www.latw.org/setting-stage-learning](http://www.latw.org/setting-stage-learning)>; one of the plays is "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright and performed by LATW in 2014). Their commercial CD set for the play included a live audience talk-back with Leslie S. Klinger, and it's available for purchase at <[www.latw.org/title/hound-baskervilles](http://www.latw.org/title/hound-baskervilles)> if you're not an educator.

Adam Hochschild's *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*, first published in 1998, now has a second edition (New York: Mariner, 2020; 380 pp., \$16.99), and it's a grand book indeed; the sub-title is thoroughly appropriate. Conan Doyle joined the campaign against Leopold, writing *The Crime of the Congo* (1909) and many letters to the press, but E. D. Morel and Roger Casement are the real heroes in the battle to end Leopold's infamous conduct in West Africa.

Steve Mason reports that the Beacon Society has established an Annual Recertification Exam for the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, by way of encouraging "increased familiarity with the Canon and the Sherlockian world." The questions are not overly difficult, he promises, and there is no charge to participate. Details at <[www.tinyurl.com/rmo52dy](http://www.tinyurl.com/rmo52dy)>.

The Strand Bookstore in New York, which boasts 18 miles of bookshelves, is opening a second store, on the Upper West Side, on Columbus Avenue between 81st and 82nd Streets, near the American Museum of Natural History; there is no word yet on how many more miles of bookshelves there will be at the new location <[www.tinyurl.com/srlo88q](http://www.tinyurl.com/srlo88q)>.

Mar 20 #8 There's an attractive edition of *A Study in Scarlet* (New York: Balzer + Bray, 2014; 277 pp, \$17.99) with many illustrations (in color and in black and white) by Gris Grimly, who has been described as a "modern master of gothic romanticism," and is just that; he has illustrated many other books, including *Frankenstein* and Neil Gaiman's *The Dangerous Alphabet*, and he has a web-site at <[www.madcreator.com](http://www.madcreator.com)>.

Radio Times has reported <[www.tinyurl.com/tk5fn6s](http://www.tinyurl.com/tk5fn6s)> that Audible has kindly made hundreds of its titles available for streaming without charge during the coronavirus crisis; one of them being "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" read by Simon Prebble.

P. James Macaluso Jr., who has illustrated more than a dozen of the Sherlock Holmes stories using Lego minifigures and bricks, also has created a similar *A Sherlock Holmes Alphabet* (London: MX Publishing, 2018; 68 pp., \$12.95); it's in full color, dedicated to Edward Gorey and typeset in Zombified, and imaginatively Sherlockian. MX Publishing's books are available at a discount at <[www.sherlockholmesbooks.com](http://www.sherlockholmesbooks.com)>.

The Nitrate Film Interest Group has an interesting web-site for those who want to help identify bits and pieces of films <[www.tinyurl.com/vjmw3zy](http://www.tinyurl.com/vjmw3zy)>; there are (alas) many films that survive today only as fragments.

"You don't happen to have a Raphael or a first folio Shakespeare without knowing it?" asked Sherlock Holmes (in "The Three Gables"). There are only five complete copies of the First Folio in private hands, according to Christie's, and here's your chance to own the sixth, which will be at auction at Christie's in New York on Apr. 24, estimated at \$4 million to \$6 million. Read all about it at <[www.tinyurl.com/rwt2lla](http://www.tinyurl.com/rwt2lla)>.

Theatrics: the CDC having advised against large gatherings, it is likely that there won't be any theatrical performances in the near future; I've not heard that any of the following have been postponed or canceled, but it would be wise, to be sure, to check with theaters.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Historic Casino Hall in La Grange, Tex., May 1-3; Facebook page at <[www.facebook.com/Fayettecountrycommunitytheatre](http://www.facebook.com/Fayettecountrycommunitytheatre)>.

Craig Sodaro's "Young Sherlock" will be performed at Playhouse 38 in Geneva, Ill., May 22-31 <[www.tinyurl.com/qwjsv2k](http://www.tinyurl.com/qwjsv2k)>. And his "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" is due at the PIX Theatre in Lapeer, Mich., May 22-23 <[www.centerfortheartslapeer.org](http://www.centerfortheartslapeer.org)>.

Sad news for my print subscribers: printing costs have risen again, so the new prices per year are \$19.50 (U.S.) and \$26.50 (foreign); as always, you can read the newsletter on-line at <[www.redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39](http://www.redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39)>, in full color and with live links, and at no cost whatsoever, and my feelings won't be hurt if you decide not to renew your print subscriptions.

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



"The Man from Beyond" (1922) is a silent film based on a story written by Harry Houdini, who plays Howard Hillary, a man who is frozen in Arctic ice in 1820 and is thawed and brought back to life a century later; at the end of the film Hillary gives the woman he loves (and believes to be the reincarnation of his lost sweetheart from a century earlier) a copy of Conan Doyle's *The New Revelation*. Conan Doyle praised the film in a letter that was published in a press book <[www.tinyurl.com/r74bysg](http://www.tinyurl.com/r74bysg)>, and you can see the film at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYnbe\\_2IZ8Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYnbe_2IZ8Q)>.

If you can't attend a performance, you can always read the script: Jeffrey Hatcher's *Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders* (based on the novel by Larry Millett) is available from the Dramatists Play Service (\$10.00) <[www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com)>. And Jon Jory's *Holmes and Watson: The Game's Afoot* has just been published by Playscripts (\$9.99) <[www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com)>; it's a collection of one-act dramatizations of four cases nicely suitable for school productions. Both companies also offer other Sherlockian plays.

"Reichenbach Falls" (broadcast by BBC-4 in 2007) was adapted by John Mayor from Ian Rankin's 1996 "John Rebus" short story "The Acid Test"; Richard Wilson appears as Arthur Conan Doyle; Jennie Paton discovered the program on-line at <[www.vimeo.com/400916730](http://www.vimeo.com/400916730)>.

The winter 2019 issue of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* is at hand, and nicely done as always; if you aren't a subscriber, their summary of the issue will show you what you're missing <[www.tinyurl.com/sbpquw3](http://www.tinyurl.com/sbpquw3)>.

Laurie R. King's *Riviera Gold* (New York: Bantam, 2020; 368 pp, \$28.00) is a sequel to her *Island of the Mad* (Apr 18 #2); now Mary Russell (and eventually her husband Sherlock Holmes) are in Monte Carlo in Jazz Age 1925, once more involved with Mrs. Hudson, whose early life is revealed to have been even more provocative than we learned in *The Murder of Mary Russell* (Mar 16 #1). It's all great fun, with some imaginative twists and turns in this 16th novel in the Mary Russell series. Laurie has an interesting web-site, well worth exploring, at <[www.laurierking.com](http://www.laurierking.com)>.

You can still go to the theatre while you're staying home: the National Theatre has begun streaming past productions on its YouTube channel, and they have done some magnificent shows <[www.tinyurl.com/ufxrhpc](http://www.tinyurl.com/ufxrhpc)>. You may eventually get to see Benedict Cumberbatch in their "Hamlet".

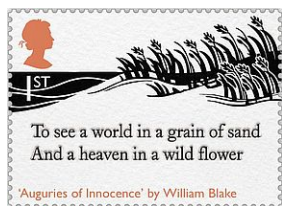
"Kate Middleton Shows Off Her Incredible Book Collection in Rare Picture Taken Inside Her Kensington Palace Home" was the headline on an article in Hello! (Mar. 29) <[www.tinyurl.com/tn6sngy](http://www.tinyurl.com/tn6sngy)>, spotted by Sonia Fetherston. That's Princess Kate, of course, and the "incredible book collection" actually consists of copies of Penguin's Clothbound Classics (£11.00 each), with attractive covers designed by Coralie Bickford-Smith. According to the article, she has *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (2010, with an introduction and notes by Christopher Frayling); the series has 69 titles so far, including *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (2018, with an introduction by Iain Pears and notes by Ed Glinert).

Apr 20 #2 *Classic Penguin: Cover to Cover*, edited by Paul Buckley (New York: Penguin, 2016; 288 pp., \$30.00) is a colorful tribute to the cover designs on many of the classics Penguin has published over the years, including the spectacular artwork created by Adam Simpson for the wrap-around cover of *Sherlock Holmes: The Novels* (2015); there's commentary by Simpson, and by Michael Dirda, who wrote the introduction for the book.

There's still a nice market for rare film posters such as one owned by the late Paul D. Herbert, offered at Heritage Auctions on Mar. 21 (Jan 20 #1): Paul's one-sheet poster for Clive Brook's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929) sold for \$17,400 <[www.tinyurl.com/toqg9qs](http://www.tinyurl.com/toqg9qs)>.

Greg Wagland has recorded many of Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian stories, and made them available at YouTube; you can listen to him reading "The Brazilian Cat" at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0Ttm2Lksm0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0Ttm2Lksm0)>, and there are links to other stories.

Neil Peter Jampolis died on Dec.15. He had a long career as a lighting, scenic, and costume designer for the stage, and was a professor emeritus at the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television; he won both a Drama Desk Award and the Tony for his lighting design for the American tour of the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes".



The Royal Mail has honored the 250th anniversary of the birth of William Wordsworth with a set of stamps showing extracts from works by ten Romantic poets. One wonders whether Sherlock Holmes (before he pursued the case of the missing naval treaty) had read William Blake's "Auguries of Innocence".

Michael W. McClure has edited and annotated *The Speckled Band* for first-time readers (Chester: Baskerville Productions, 2018; 72 pp., \$9.99) with illustrations by Tijana Tumbas; it's a nice introduction for young people to the story that Conan Doyle, in 1927, said was his favorite. The publisher's web-site's at <[www.baskervilleproductions.com](http://www.baskervilleproductions.com)>.

"Word on the Street" is a 30-minute series, produced by BBC Persian TV and the British Council, with Ashlie Walker, Stephen Walker, and Rob Lewis as presenters; "Murder Mystery" (2014) included a Sherlockian segment, with Wendy Hurrell interviewing Roger Johnson at the Sherlock Holmes Pub, and you can view it at <[www.tinyurl.com/rqu6yrm](http://www.tinyurl.com/rqu6yrm)>.

Fans of the late Jim French's "Imagination Theater" will welcome the news that it has been revived by Larry Albert and John Patrick Lowrie (who performed in many of their Sherlock Holmes broadcasts), and their web-site at <[www.harrynile.com](http://www.harrynile.com)> offers a long list of their Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) broadcasts, as well as a blog and other features such as links to the radio stations that are carrying their shows; they began recording new Sherlock Holmes programs (from scripts by M. J. Elliott) in 2019 (included at the end of their list of "further adventures"), and some of their older broadcasts are available at their YouTube channel.

Apr 20 #3 Crippen & Landru has told its customers that "Amazon has not replenished orders of our books. They've halted all warehouse replenishments of 'non-essential' items," adding that books were on that list (ironically, since Amazon started with books). Crippen & Landru has published, and still offers at <[www.crippenlandru.com](http://www.crippenlandru.com)>, excellent books, among them Douglas G. Greene's impressive biography *John Dickson Carr: The Man Who Explained Miracles*, and gladly fills orders directly. You can read more about this in an article at Vox <[www.tinyurl.com/tu7r9k4](http://www.tinyurl.com/tu7r9k4)>.

Scale75 is a Spanish company that makes attractive 75mm figurines, and one of their offers is a two-piece set of Holmes and Watson, priced at £123.96 <[www.tinyurl.com/yx2w4ytp](http://www.tinyurl.com/yx2w4ytp)> (Holmes and Watson also are available separately); their U.S. web-site is at <[www.tinyurl.com/w2prj1w](http://www.tinyurl.com/w2prj1w)>.

Christie's auction on Apr. 24 has been postponed to June 12, in case you are considering bidding on that first folio Shakespeare (Mar 20 #8); you can read all about it at <[www.tinyurl.com/rwt211a](http://www.tinyurl.com/rwt211a)>.

Andrew Jack died on Mar. 31. Best known as a dialect coach, he also was an actor; his lengthy list of credits as dialect coach include "Sherlock Holmes" (2009) and "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011), and you can see him working with Robert Downey Jr. at <[www.tinyurl.com/vac565p](http://www.tinyurl.com/vac565p)>.

"Cannabis-curious consumers in Canada who want to try marijuana drinks can now buy them at a dispensary or have them delivered to your door," according to the Green Entrepreneur (Apr. 2) <[www.tinyurl.com/srq3ysd](http://www.tinyurl.com/srq3ysd)>. Tweed's "Bakerstreet and Ginger" is of them, named in honor of the street in which Sherlock Holmes lived, and another is "Houndstooth and Soda"; the active ingredient is THC, and Bakerstreet and Houndstooth are the names of two of their strains of cannabis.

Christie's has a story on-line about "10 old masters that changed the art market" <[www.tinyurl.com/spk8oh4](http://www.tinyurl.com/spk8oh4)>; one of them is Gainborough's portrait of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, shown in full color, with discussion of the "Napoleon of Crime" (Adam Worth).

Jennie Paton discovered Paul Tumey's article on "The Screwball Comics of Gus Mager: Hippos, Monks, and Sherlock Holmes" on-line at the Comics Journal <[www.tinurl.com/zfv555k](http://www.tinurl.com/zfv555k)>; it's a nicely illustrated exploration of one of the earliest (and long-running) appearances of Sherlock Holmes in the comics.

Some Sherlockian societies have been using Zoom to hold virtual meetings. The Washington Post ran a story on Apr. 4 <[www.tinyurl.com/rw27gvb](http://www.tinyurl.com/rw27gvb)> about potential problems for those using Zoom; the story includes a link to "how to protect your Zoom calls"

"Rodger Baskerville's Lonely Hound from Hell" is a two-act rock opera performed by the Willie Nelson Oratorio Society (aka Wanda and Jeffery Dow) in 1997 and first published the following year (Sep 98 #4), and it's now included in their RODGER BASKERVILLE'S LONELY HOUND FROM HELL AND OTHERS, along with scripts from parodies they performed for the Pleasant Places of Florida over the years; 179 pp., \$10.00, available at <[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)>.

Apr 20 #4 And now for something completely different: "What's the least understood institution in Washington?" was the question put to Washington journalist Bob Woodward. His response was, "Congress. No institution has changed so much in the 30 years I've been reporting. Partisan warfare there is now like World War I, with everyone in their trenches. It is now an institution at risk." That's from the July 2004 issue of Washingtonian magazine, more than 15 years ago.

"A certain gracious lady" (the great-great-grand-daughter of the one that's mentioned in the Canon) gave a rare televised speech to the nation on Apr. 5 <[www.tinyurl.com/un49uka](http://www.tinyurl.com/un49uka)>, and the image that ran with many of the articles showed her in a green dress that made her a sitting Chroma-Key that was irresistible to many Photoshoppers, one of whom created an image that Alan Rettig found in an abandoned tin dispatch-box.



Honor Blackman died on Apr. 5. She was best known for playing Pussy Galore in the James Bond film "Goldfinger" (1964), but also appeared as Dr. Cathy Gale in the early days of the British television series "The Avengers"; the series eventually aired in the U.S. in 1991. You can see her briefly at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNlaSA2Qoxs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNlaSA2Qoxs)>. The Sherlockian connection is rather minor, but in the episode "Don't Look Behind You" someone says to her, "That's Hound of the Baskervilles country." If you're a fan of the series, you'll enjoy exploring <[www.theavengers.tv](http://www.theavengers.tv)>.

Robert Downey Jr. celebrated his 55th birthday on Apr. 4, tweeting a Sherlockian video message to his fans <[www.tinyurl.com/va72oh3](http://www.tinyurl.com/va72oh3)>.

Ellen Byerrum has eleven titles in her "crime of fashion" series that features Lacey Smithsonian, who's a fashion reporter in Washington, D.C. when she isn't solving mysteries, and her latest book is *Sherlocktopus Holmes: Eight Arms of the Law* (Denver: Ellen Street Books, 2020; 34 pp., \$8.99). Sherlocktopus Holmes is assisted by Dr. Flotsam in an amusing children's book with attractive art by Jacqueline Berkman-Glatigny. Ellen's web-site is at <[www.ellenbyerrum.com](http://www.ellenbyerrum.com)>.

"Chronicle of a Pandemic Foretold" was the headline on Jug Suraiya's post to the Times of India's blog on Apr. 7; he noted that "perhaps one of the earliest fictional accounts of a global threat that) wipes out all forms of life is Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Poison Belt* (1913)." You can read the blog at <[www.tinyurl.com/wcvvs2626f](http://www.tinyurl.com/wcvvs2626f)>.

"Sherlock Holmes Turns Engineer" is a delightful Fox Movietone news clip released in 1927 <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPws\\_KSmToo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPws_KSmToo)>; it shows William Gillette and the steam engine he drove on the grounds of his home at what is now Gillette Castle in Hadlyme, Conn. There's a carefully-restored engine on display at the castle now <[www.tinyurl.com/u488ax2](http://www.tinyurl.com/u488ax2)>, but it's an electric engine rather than the steam engine shown in the film. Tyke Ni-ver, who continues to impersonate Gillette at the castle (with his wife Teddie as Mrs. Gillette), reports that there were two engines: one electric, and the other steam (which is in storage until funds are available to restore it as well).

Apr 20 #5 Nick Utechin would like to hear from anyone who owns a copy of S. C. Roberts' eight-page pamphlet *A Note on the Watson Problem* (1929), published in an edition limited to 100 copies for his friends (it was an off-print of his review of Ronald Knox's *Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes*). Nick wants to create a detailed census of surviving copies; you can contact him at <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>.

"The Bloggess writes stuff that actually is laugh-out-loud, but you know that really you shouldn't be laughing and probably you'll go to hell for laughing, so maybe you shouldn't read it. That would be safer and wiser." That's what Neil Gaiman had to say in his back-over blurb for Jenny Lawson's *Let's Pretend This Never Happened* (2012), and he's absolutely correct; highly recommended if you want to read something that's not at all Sherlockian, and Lawson's web-site <www.thebloggess.com> will let you see what you're in for if you read the book.

The Open House and BSI Trust Book Fair scheduled for May 17 at Denny Dobry's home in Reading, Pa., has been postponed; if you'd like to be on the mailing list for an announcement of a new date, you can contact Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>.

Ira Wolff ("Douglas Maberley") died on Apr. 4. He worked in sales and direct marketing, and was an energetic collector in two areas: 19th and early 20th century photography, and mystery and detective fiction (including the first page of the manuscript of "The Sign of the Four" (he donated the latter collection to the University of California in San Diego in 1977). He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1970.

The "Scintillation of Scions" scheduled by Watson's Tin Box on June 12-14 at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport has, like so many Sherlockian events, been cancelled, but Karen Wilson and Greg Ruby have announced the substitute "Scintillation of Scions at Home" via the Internet on June 13. Many if not most of the presenters are expected to participate, and free registration will open on May 18 at <www.scintillation.org>.



"Even Sherlock Holmes Author Takes No Chances with Coronavirus" was the headline on a story in the Times of Tunbridge Wells on Apr. 17 that included an image of the statue of Conan Doyle in Crowborough.

"A Study in Scarlet" is seldom seen on stage, but Bart Lovins dramatized the story for a production in Elizabethtown, Ky., in Jan. 2019, it was done with imagination, on a revolving stage, with very few props, and it was impressive. His dramatization of "The Sign of Four" was performed in Jan. 2020, and there are links to videos of both shows at <www.bartlovins.com/writing>. The script for his "A Study in Scarlet" is available from Barnes and Noble (\$14.99).

Paul Thomas Miller's "Doyle's Rotary Coffin" (Mar 19 #4), a society whose motto is "All Holmes Is Good Holmes," has published *No Holmes Barred* (its first "scrapbook of Holmesiana"), which is available as a free download at the society's web-site at <www.sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin>.

Apr 20 #6 There's nothing Sherlockian about Dark Sky's weather reports, but it's spectacular: you can set it for your location and be told things such as "possible light rain starting in 6 min., stopping 14 min. later," which is far more specific than anything else available, and you can easily look out the window to see just how accurate it is. It's on-line at <[www.darksky.net](http://www.darksky.net)>, and available at Apple's app store (\$3.99).



Mort Drucker died on Apr. 9. He was one of the stars in the "usual gang of idiots" who made Mad magazine one of the most successful magazines of the 1970s. He worked for DC comics in the 1940s and went on to a 55-year career at Mad. Stabur Graphics advertised his signed caricature of Sherlock Holmes in the March 1984 issue of The Baker Street Journal.

"Sherlock Holmes in Russia" is a new Russian television mini-series, with Maxim Matveev as Holmes in St. Petersburg, following the trail of Jack the Ripper (who has fled to Russia). Alexander Orlov has reported a trailer for the series, on-line at <[www.start.ru/watch/sherlock-v-rossii](http://www.start.ru/watch/sherlock-v-rossii)>. And if that link doesn't work, try <[www.kinopoisk.ru/film/1272376/video/166497](http://www.kinopoisk.ru/film/1272376/video/166497)>. START is a subscription streaming service, available world-wide; it costs \$7.99 a month in the U.S.

Porter Press International is offering their remaining copies of Douglas Wilmer's splendid autobiography *Stage Whispers* (Apr 09 #3) at £14.95, with 75% going to the World Health Organization's COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund <[www.tinyurl.com/yat99q28](http://www.tinyurl.com/yat99q28)>.

Matt Lubbers-Moore's *Murder and Mayhem: An Annotated Bibliography of Gay and Queer Males in Mystery, 1909-2018* (Los Angeles: ReQueered Tales, 2020; 923 pp., \$39.95) is a detailed survey of the genre; the 3,061 entries include main-stream pastiches such as Gyles Brandreth's series about Oscar Wilde as a detective and Russell A. Brown's *Sherlock Holmes and the Mysterious Friend of Oscar Wilde*, Larry Townsend's *The Sexual Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, Michael Hardwick's novelization of the film "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes", many modern niche pastiches, and Conan Doyle's *Round the Fire Stories*, which contained the short story "The Man with the Watches" (Lubbers-Moore discusses the story in some detail, and presents the text so that readers can judge the homosexual content for themselves).

Roger Johnson notes in the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's newsletter The District Messenger that the street artist Banksy has posted Instagram images of his latest artwork, showing (according to Roger) "clearly distant relatives of the Giant Rat of Sumatra" <[www.tinyurl.com/y9wh4a8d](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9wh4a8d)>.

The saga of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel continues. The New Milton Advertiser and Lymington Times reported on Jan. 10 that a section of the derelict hotel had begun to collapse <[www.tinyurl.com/ybsb8ja6](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybsb8ja6)>, and on Feb. 26 that a new developer had pledged to revive the "original architectural glory" of the hotel as part of a plan to convert the property into 85 homes and five shops. A Hoburne Development representative explained that the project would bring back the entrance and battlement-style terraces designed by Conan Doyle in 1912 <[www.tinyurl.com/y9phrgp6](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9phrgp6)>.



Apr 20 #7 "Even Sir Arthur Conan Doyle found contact lenses fascinating," Valentina Lombardo wrote in *Advanced Science News* (Feb. 17) "to the point of deciding to have them used by his character, private detective Sherlock Holmes, in some of his disguises." Not in the Canon, so presumably in one or more pastiches. Which ones?

Kenneth C. Lanza ("His Last Bow") died on Apr. 13. He was an enthusiastic admirer of Frank Sinatra, old-time radio, and of course Sherlock Holmes; he was a co-founder of Altamont's Agents of Schenectady, and was awarded his Investiture in the Baker Street Irregulars in 1997.

The *Baker Street Almanac 2020*, modestly described by editor Ross E. Davies as "an annual capsule of a timeless past and future," previously published on-line (Mar 20 #1), now is available in a print edition (\$30.00 postpaid) with (as promised by Ross) some amusing extras. It is also imaginatively packaged, as you can see at <[www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/2020.html](http://www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/2020.html)>.

Jason Lethcoe's *No Place Like Holmes: The Future Door* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2011; 209 pp., \$9.99) is the second book about Griffin Sharpe, a young American living in London with his uncle Rupert Snodgrass, who lives at 221A Baker Street; it's juvenile fiction, and nicely done, with adventures, time travel, and plenty of villains (including two Moriartys).

VisitBritain (aka the British Tourist Authority) made headlines this month after posting an interactive map that highlighted British literature but included locations only for English writers. According to *The Times* (Apr. 16), the map displayed Sherlock Holmes as "the quintessential English detective," even though there's a statue of him in Edinburgh. VisitBritain quickly removed the map from its web-site, explaining that a VisitEngland "literary heroes" map published in 2018 had mistakenly been republished as British.



Keiji Fujiwara died on Apr. 12. He began his career as a voice actor in Japanese film and television in 1968; his many credits include dubbing for Robert Downey Jr. in "Sherlock Holmes" (2009) and "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011).

Here's your chance to see a member of the Baker Street Irregulars in action: Helen Dorey ("Helen Stoner") is deputy director and inspectress at Sir John Soane's Museum in London, and "Opening Up the Soane" is a three-episode report on their long-term restoration project; you can watch the series on-line at their web-site <[www.soane.org](http://www.soane.org)> or at YouTube.

In 1982 the television series "Fantasy Island" included a segment titled "Save Sherlock Holmes" in which Ron Ely played a department store detective in a fantasy that had him rescuing Sherlock Holmes from Prof. Moriarty. The cast included Peter Lawford as Sherlock Holmes, Donald O'Connor as Dr. Watson, Mel Ferrer as Moriarty, and Rita Jenrette (whose activities in Washington inspired the name of the group of political-satire performers "The Capitol Steps") as Nurse Heavenly. Howard Ostrom has found the segment on-line at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2RyY6F8o00](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2RyY6F8o00)>.



Apr 20 #8 "As you value your life and your reason, you should keep away from the dates," Paul Thomas Miller warns in the introduction to *Watson Does Not Lie: A Chronology of Sherlock Holmes and John H. Watson* (Cabin John: Wildside, 2019; 182 pp., \$14.99). Obviously he has ignored his own advice, as a new recruit to the stalwart band who have labored to make sense of Canonical dates, and his approach is to take what Watson has written as gospel, offering explanations for the many contradictions found in the Canon.

"Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson" is a British television series broadcast on Channel 4; their episode "Dartmoor" (2017) explored the story of the Hound of the Baskervilles, and Jennie Paton found it on-line at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgQETaP7U7g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgQETaP7U7g)>.

You'll soon be able to see Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller play the same character (not Sherlock Holmes), thanks to the National Theatre, which is making recordings of past productions available on-line at YouTube each week, and you'll be able to see their "Frankenstein" the first week in May <[www.tinyurl.com/yblepqbh](http://www.tinyurl.com/yblepqbh)>; it's a spectacular show, thanks to Danny Boyle (who also produced the recent Summer Olympics in London).

Theatrics (some theaters are planning to be open this summer, and others are planning ahead): Tal Aviezer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" is scheduled at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, N.Y., June 6-14 <[www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org](http://www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Gorton Theatre in Gloucester, Mass., July 10-Aug. 2 <[www.gloucesterstage.com](http://www.gloucesterstage.com)>; at the Balzer Theater at Herren's in Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 2-27 <[www.theateroutfit.org](http://www.theateroutfit.org)>; at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre in Lowell, Mass., Feb. 10-28, 2021; and at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Tex., Mar. 12 <[www.alleytheatre.org](http://www.alleytheatre.org)>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" will be performed at the Playhouse at White Lake in Whitehall, Mich., Aug. 20-22, during their Summer Theatre Festival <[www.theplayhouseatwhitelake.org](http://www.theplayhouseatwhitelake.org)>.

John Barry's "Sherlock's Excellent Adventure" is scheduled at the Phoenix Theatre in Ross-on-Wye, Herts., Sept. 9-12 <[www.phoenix-theatre.org.uk](http://www.phoenix-theatre.org.uk)>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" is due at the Lifeline Theatre in Chicago, Ill., Sept. 11-Nov. 1 <[www.lifelinetheater.org](http://www.lifelinetheater.org)>.

Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular" is scheduled by the Children's Theatre of Charleston in Charleston, W. Va., Oct. 1-4 <[www.ctoc.org](http://www.ctoc.org)>.

Robert Brock's marionette production "The Death & Life of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Lancaster Marionette Theatre in Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 31-Nov. 14 <[www.lancastermarionette.org](http://www.lancastermarionette.org)>.

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

The 6sqft blog reported on Apr 24 <[www.tinyurl.com/ycah5tum](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycah5tum)> on an interesting two-bedroom condominium at 106 Waverly Place near Washington Square in New York City, with 1,520 square feet, advertised at \$3 million. One of its features is a library with teak built-in shelves and a secret closet that you can access by pulling on a copy of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*

*The Figure of the Detective: A Literary History and Analysis*, by Charles Brownson (Jefferson: McFarland, 2014; 210 pp., \$29.95) is an interesting academic discussion of the genre. Brownson's introduction to the detective story was reading, aged seven or eight, Walter R. Brooks' *Freddy the Detective*, and his book progresses from the pre-classical detective to the metaphysical modern; there's a chapter about Sherlock Holmes, of course, with a section on "portrayals of Holmes as an index of social change" in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and other stories in films and television.

"Mad Movies with the L.A. Connection" was a 30-minute series that was produced in 1985; Jennie Paton discovered their version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" on-line at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOV3fZLEs\\_0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOV3fZLEs_0)>.

"Start the day at Speedy's Café, beneath the lodgings of Holmes and Watson," was the suggestion of the Londonist (Feb. 17). It's located at 187 North Gower Street, and has a Sherlockian menu; the article has some nice images <[www.tinyurl.com/y79doj9c](http://www.tinyurl.com/y79doj9c)>, and one assumes that Speedy's will be open again eventually.

Hans Meyer died on Apr. 3. He began his acting career in films in France in the 1960s, and went on to perform in television in the 1970s; he played Heberth/Veitch in Granada's "The Master Blackmailer" (1992).

One hears of (well, sees) Sherlock everywhere: Mike Berdan has noted the Rolling Stones' "One World: Together at Home" split-screen video concert <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7pZgQepXfA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7pZgQepXfA)>; they performed "You Can't Always Get What You Want" from their homes on Apr. 18, and Keith Richards has on the table in front of him an indigo leather-bound copy of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. It's the Easton Press edition, published in 1981 in black leather, and later in indigo leather.

When in New South Wales: the South China Morning Post ran a nicely illustrated story on Feb. 25 about the Hydro Majestic Blue Mountains Hotel, now "home to heritage luxury," noting that Conan Doyle stayed there during his visit to Australia in 1920.

Those who attended the Sherlockian conference in Minneapolis last August may recall Steve Mason's challenge to identify the Canonical cases represented by an assortment of his imaginative Canonical needlepoint mats. He offered a similar challenge to members of the Beacon Society last month, with a deadline of Apr. 25, but you can see his mats in full color at the society's web-site <[www.beaconsociety.com](http://www.beaconsociety.com)> [click on "the puzzles of sherlock holmes"].

May 20 #2 "So That's Why Mr. Darcy Swims Wearing Shirt and Trousers" was the headline on a story in The Sunday Times on Feb. 23, about the "no nudity" clause the National Trust includes in its contracts with film and television companies, "to avoid causing distress to visitors on a day out." They made an exception, however, for a scene shot at Cliveden in which Robert Downey Jr. was filmed tied to a bed wearing only a strategically-placed pillow in his "Sherlock Holmes" (2009). The company was required to isolate the room in the estate's hotel so that guests did not encounter the star in the "modesty pouch" he wore between takes.

If you have access to Disney+, there's an excellent six-part series titled "Imagineering" about how Disney theme parks were and are created; it's not Sherlockian, but there's another program on the channel that is: "Waking Sleeping Beauty" (2009, an 86-minute documentary about the Disney Renaissance from 1984 to 1994 that revived Disney animation, with discussion of and clips from "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986). According to the documentary, it was Peter Schneider, then president of Walt Disney Feature Animation, who was responsible for changing the title of the film based on Eve Titus' *Basil of Baker Street* (Wikipedia and other sources say that it was Michael Eisner (CEO and chairman of the board of the company) who ordered the name of the film changed.

And then there's "The Great Louse Detective" (an episode of the Fox television series "The Simpsons") that aired on Dec. 15, 2020; there's nothing Sherlockian about the episode other than the punning title.

If you are running out of room in your library, an Atlas Obscura post on Apr. 24 (spotted by Bev Wolov) about "7 Spectacular Libraries You Can Explore from Your Living Room" <[www.tinyurl.com/y84lucc6](http://www.tinyurl.com/y84lucc6)> will be of interest, with virtual-reality tours of some spectacular libraries.

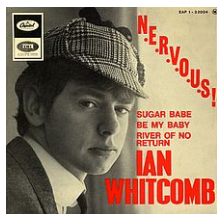
The West Liberty Public Library has an imaginative outreach program that includes videos of director Allie Paarsmith's daily readings from *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* <[www.facebook.com/WLPublicLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/WLPublicLibrary)>.

Scottish Field reported on Jan. 15 that the latest release in Macallan's Archival Series of fine whiskies will honor the tale of the "luggy bonnet" told in one of Macallan's old advertisements <[www.tinyurl.com/yay99pkj](http://www.tinyurl.com/yay99pkj)>. The luggy bonnet's a (non-Sherlockian) deerstalker, and you can see the advertisement (and read the amusing story) in the magazine. It was a limited issue, and there was a lottery; the winners paid £250 per bottle.



"What do you know, pray, of Tapanuli fever?" Holmes asked Watson (in "The Dying Detective"). And "Catch a Glimpse of Tapanuli, the World's Newest Ape" was headline on Matthew Moore's story in The Times on Apr. 18 about the Tapanuli orangutan, featured in "Primates" (a three-part series from the BBC's Natural History Unit). *Pongo tapanuliensis* was identified as a distinct species in 2017, and is found only in a small area in the Batang Toru area of South Tapanuli in Sumatra, and according to Wikipedia it is the world's rarest great ape.

May 20 #3 A few years back the Royal Mail issued a set of eight stamps honoring the 50th anniversary of the BBC's long-running television series "Dad's Army" (Jun 18 #3); the actors included Arthur Lowe as Capt. George Mainwaring and John Le Mesurier as Sgt. Arthur Wilson. They will soon be available <[www.tinyurl.com/y8sy8qpt](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8sy8qpt)> as "bobble buddies" from Big Chief Studios. Lowe played Dr. William Watson in "The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It" (1977), and Le Mesurier was Eduardo Lucas in "The Second Stain" in the Alan Wheatley television series (1951), Barrymore in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), and Lord Redcliff in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).



Ian Whitcomb died on Apr. 19. He was an English entertainer, singer-songwriter, record producer, writer, broadcaster, and actor, and was photographed wearing a deerstalker on the cover of the EP record "N-e-r-v-o-u-s!" released by Capital Records (1965). There's nothing Sherlockian about the song; You can listen to it (and read the transcribed lyrics) online at <[www.tinyurl.com/yceohm8s](http://www.tinyurl.com/yceohm8s)>.

Howard Ostrom has noted another Sherlockian connection for Ian Whitcomb: he narrated the audiobooks for some of the many Sherlockian pastiches that have been written by Pennie Mae Cartawick.

Dynamite Entertainment has made the first issue of many of its comic-book series available on-line free <[www.tinyurl.com/qgckfo3](http://www.tinyurl.com/qgckfo3)>, one of them being *The Trial of Sherlock Holmes* (2009), which was written by Leah Moore and John Reppion; only the first of the five issues is free, but of course you are welcome to purchase the other four. Dynamite has published many other Sherlockian series and graphic novels, in English and in French.

The Scintillation of Scions has come up with an imaginative way to celebrate the now-canceled gathering in June, offering T-shirts and tote bags for sale <[www.tinyurl.com/yaryc9p9](http://www.tinyurl.com/yaryc9p9)>.

Josh Lanyon is a prolific author of male/male romance fiction, including a "Holmes & Moriarity" series starring mystery author Christopher Holmes and former police officer J. X. Moriarity, with occasion allusions to Sherlock Holmes; the third title in the series is *The Boy with the Painful Tattoo* (Palmdale: JustJoshin, 2014; 236 pp., \$15.99. The author's web-site is at <[www.joshlanyon.com](http://www.joshlanyon.com)>.

The famous (perhaps infamous) "tent joke" has been making its rounds since 1998, and you can read it in this newsletter (Dec 01 #6), or (as noted by Jennie Paton) see it performed in Sinhalese at <[www.tinyurl.com/y7gzja7g](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7gzja7g)>.

The manuscript of an unpublished chapter from "The Land of Mist" went to auction at Christie's last year (Jul 19 #1), estimated at £3,000-£5,000; it sold for £13,750 (including the buyer's premium). Now the manuscript of the story (as published) is on offer in a private sale, for £120,000. Visit <[www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2020.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2020.htm)> for Randall Stock's discussion, with links to Christie's description of the manuscript as well as Christie's books-and-manuscripts specialist Sophie Hopkins.

May 20 #4 "Technique Critique" (an interesting web-site uploaded to YouTube by Wired) offers real experts recruited to offer commentary on films and television, and the episode on "Spies & Disguises" has Joanna Mendez, former CIA Chief of Disguise, discussing 30 scenes, one of them (on "furniture camouflage") <[www.tinyurl.com/y8fc2yce](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8fc2yce)> Sherlockian.

Molly Guptill Manning's *When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II* (2014) is an interesting discussion of the Armed Services Editions, the 123 million paperbacks that were distributed free among the men fighting in every theater of the war. There were more than 1,300 titles in the series, including Christopher Morley's *Kitty Foyle* and two Nero Wolfe books by Rex Stout, but nothing by Arthur Conan Doyle. There was, however, one Sherlockian title that collectors might want to pursue: Bennett Cerf's *Try and Stop Me*, a collection of humorous anecdotes and stories that include two about Conan Doyle and Holmes.

Kathy Manos Penn's *Bells, Tails & Murder* (Atlanta: Manos Penn & Ink, 2020; 246 pp. \$9.99) is the first of her "Dickens & Christie" mysteries; Dickens is a dog and Christie is a cat, owned by Leta Parker, who talks with them while they investigate crimes in the Cotswolds, where J. M. Barrie lived for a time in Stanway House (where Milne and Conan Doyle are said to have visited). It's Barrie who's at the heart of the mystery, and the author has a web-site at <[www.kathymanospenn.com](http://www.kathymanospenn.com)>.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Sherlockian face mask, offered by TeePublic, but possibly temporarily out of stock <[www.tinyurl.com/y817qd9c](http://www.tinyurl.com/y817qd9c)>.

Howard Ostrom has reported that Tal Aveizer, whose Sherlockian plays are performed by the Red Monkey Theater Group, reads some of the Canon on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/yavbgxj9](http://www.tinyurl.com/yavbgxj9)>.

"La dernière enquête de Sherlock Holmes" ["Sherlock Holmes' Last Investigation"] is an imaginative and nicely-produced 15-minute Swiss film that was produced by Gaël Grobéty and issued on a DVD (with English sub-titles) and added features in 2010; you can watch a trailer and purchase the film (CHF 10) at <[www.sherlockholmes-lefilm.ch](http://www.sherlockholmes-lefilm.ch)>.

There was a series of six Sherlock Holmes television programs broadcast in Germany in 1967 and 1968, with Erich Schellow (Sherlock Holmes) and Paul Edwin Roth (Dr. Watson), and Jennie Paton has discovered them all at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/channel/UC4h-j2r\\_hZRreC8bi0X9zyg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4h-j2r_hZRreC8bi0X9zyg)>.

Tom Fahres reports a treat for fans of Lewis Carroll, and Benedict Cumberbatch, who reads "Jabberwocky" at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q\\_Um3787fSY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_Um3787fSY)>

"The Booksellers" is a delightful documentary about the N.Y. antiquarian book trade; you can read Ella Taylor's enthusiastic review of the film on National Public Radio at <[www.tinyurl.com/y7aozj6c](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7aozj6c)>. You can also stream the film (\$9.99 for three days rental) at various Internet web-sites, one of them being <[www.theavalon.org](http://www.theavalon.org)>. It's not Sherlockian, but one of the dealers is Rebecca Romney ("That Gap on the Second Shelf" in the BSI); you can see what sort of books she offers at <[www.typepunchmatrix.com](http://www.typepunchmatrix.com)>.

May 20 #5 Mike Kean has reported a book offered by Burnside Rare Books that has nice Sherlockian provenance: the first American edition of Eric Ambler's *A Coffin for Dimitrios*, with a dust jacket and inscribed by Ambler at the Mystery Writers of America dinner in 1975 (when he won the Grand Master Award) to Norman Nolan ("Godfrey Norton" in the Baker Street Irregulars), from the collection of Otto Penzler ("The King of Bohemia" in the BSI); \$5,500 <[www.tinyurl.com/ya4cqvh5](http://www.tinyurl.com/ya4cqvh5)>. Another copy, inscribed to a non-Sherlockian, is advertised at AbeBooks for only \$4,500.

Howard Ostrom continues to revise and expand his data-base of Sherlockian music "Under the Clock, Sherlock - Still Rockin' After All These Years"; it's a 249-page file, with images and links, and it's available on request from Howard at <[howardostrom@gmail.com](mailto:howardostrom@gmail.com)>.

"Though it pains me to admit it, I love my Kindle," writes Maggie Topkis, who presides over the publisher Felony & Mayhem <[www.tinyurl.com/yc2jkzg9](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc2jkzg9)> and is offering a 30% discount on e-books, including Michelle Birkby's pastiche *All Roads Lead to Whitechapel*, while sales of print books are on hold.

Gordon McAlpine's *Holmes Entangled* (Amherst: Seventh Street Books, 2018; 189 pp., \$13.95) begins with the discovery (by J. L. Borges in Argentina) of a manuscript written by Holmes, and continues with his account of what happened when in 1928 he was consulted by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; the tale is well told, with twists, turns, surprises, and humor. Recommended.

Mark Jones and Paul Chapman are continuing their interesting discussions of the writings of Conan Doyle (focusing on his non-Sherlockian work) at their "Doings of Doyle" podcast <[www.doingsofdoyle.com](http://www.doingsofdoyle.com)>; their latest post considers "The Case of Lady Sannox". They've also devised "Cards Against Holmanity" (their amusing version of "Cards Against Humanity"), offered as a free download at <[www.bit.ly/CAHumanity](http://www.bit.ly/CAHumanity)> and nicely done indeed.

*Son of Sherlock*, by Amanda C. Raymond (Mesa: EpiphanyMill, 2017; 492 pp., \$14.95), is the story of what happens when 13-year-old Jonathan Eaton discovers that he is the son of Sherlock Holmes, then identifies his murdered mother, and soon is launched into a complicated and perilous campaign for justice, with battles against villains both high and low.

Laurie R. King has been keeping busy while waiting for the launch of her now Mary Russell novel *Riviera Gold* (Apr 20 #1), and there's much to see at her web-site <[www.laurierking.com](http://www.laurierking.com)>, including background on the book in her "Mutterings" blog, plus a (free) download of a PDF of her short story "Mrs. Hudson's First Case" illustrated by Mary Russell fans. Laurie also has an interesting YouTube channel <[www.youtube.com/user/LaurieRKing](http://www.youtube.com/user/LaurieRKing)>.

Rachel McMillan's *A Lesson in Love & Murder* (Eugene: Harvest House, 2018; 218 pp., \$12.99) is the second of three novels featuring Merinda Herringford and Jem Watts (two young women who would like to become detectives in the tradition of Holmes and Watson); they're set in Toronto, and this one involves radical anarchists and a member of the Royal North-West Mounted Police in 1912. The author's web-site is at <[www.rachelmcmillan.net](http://www.rachelmcmillan.net)>.

May 20 #6 TV Tropes (which describes itself as "the all devouring pop-culture wiki") defines a "noodle incident" as "something from the past that is sometimes referred to but never explained, with the implication that it's just too ludicrous for words—or perhaps too offensive for depiction—and the reality that any explanation would fall short of audience expectations." They've found noodle incidents in many categories, including "literature", with a number of citations for Sherlock Holmes in the Canon and its many derivatives <[www.tinyurl.com/y8gnzmbu](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8gnzmbu)>.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London web-site has an interesting new feature: the Sherlock Holmes Gazetteer <[www.gazetteer.sherlock-holmes.org.uk](http://www.gazetteer.sherlock-holmes.org.uk)> that will offer images of and commentary on places suggested as locations in the Canon. It's not yet complete, but it's well worth a look.



It has long been known that Queen Mary's Dolls' House has in its library the bound manuscript for Conan Doyle's pastiche "How Watson Learned the Trick" (written as his contribution to the library), but it turns out that there's another Sherlockian item in the library, mentioned in an article in the Daily Mail (May 11) <[www.tinyurl.com/yaub3mmu](http://www.tinyurl.com/yaub3mmu)> about a posting about the library at the Royal Family's Instagram account <[www.tinyurl.com/ybo2zqc3](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybo2zqc3)>. The library also contains a miniature issue of The Strand Magazine with a Sherlockian article (presumably Fenn Sherie's "Sherlock Holmes on the Film", that was published in the July 1921 issue). The front and back covers can be seen at the Royal Collection's web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/y86z4pmd](http://www.tinyurl.com/y86z4pmd)>, and it's not known (yet) whether the miniature issue actually has the article. In any case, there's now a unique variant of the magazine that completist collectors can only yearn for.

When in Ooty (in India): you can stay at the Sherlock Hotel (when you can travel again, of course) <[www.littleearth.in/sherlock/history.php](http://www.littleearth.in/sherlock/history.php)>.

Steve Doyle is hosting a new video podcast for the Baker Street Irregulars called the Fortnightly Dispatch: the first episode is his interview with Ray Betzner, discussing Vincent Starrett <[www.youtu.be/5M8sWGzllUc](http://www.youtu.be/5M8sWGzllUc)>, and he expects to post every other Monday at the Baker Street Journal's page at Facebook and its channel at YouTube.

Next year being the 70th anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition in London, Catherine Cooke <[ccooke@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:ccooke@westminster.gov.uk)> would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who has items, with display labels, and other original material, that were part of the Exhibition. A few items are known to have survived in library collections, the Sherlock Holmes Pub, and private collections; if you have anything from the Exhibition, please get in touch with Catherine.

"Sherlock Holmes Is the Marvel Universe's Greatest Hero" is the headline on a story in Screen Rant on May 20 <[www.tinyurl.com/y9n7uqkd](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9n7uqkd)> about the four-issue graphic-novel series *Deadpool Killustrated*, published by Marvel Entertainment in 2013 and kindly reported by Aziz Bin Adam. Screen Rant offers an explanation and some of the artwork.



May 20 #7 Further to the earlier report (Apr 17 #4) on the new SHERLOCK inexpensive diagnostic tool for detecting nucleic acids from disease-carrying microbes (developed from CRISPR), there was a report in the Washington Post on May 8 <[www.tinyurl.com/ybemwpqu](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybemwpqu)> that the Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of a CRISPR-engineered molecule to detect the genetic signature of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. CRISPR is an acronym for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, and SHERLOCK is an acronym for Specific High Sensitivity Enzymatic Reporter unLOCKing. Feng Zhang, a molecular biologist at MIT, was a co-inventor of CRISPR and a year ago a co-founder of Sherlock Biosciences, said that "we think this has a lot of potential" in the current pandemic.

S. F. Bennett's *The Secret Diary of Mycroft Holmes* (Manchester, Belanger Books, 2017; 193 p., \$12.95) is sub-titled "the thoughts and reminiscences of Sherlock Holmes' Elder Brother, 1880-1888," and it seems that Watson is not the only Canonical character who possesses an unexpected vein of pawky humor, on display in Mycroft's account of his early career, his family, and his relations with his younger brother

In 1976 the John H. Jenkins Award for Bibliography honored Ronald B. De Waal for his ground-breaking work on *The World Bibliography of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson*, and for those who know little (or nothing) about Jenkins, there's a new biography of the colorful Texas antiquarian book dealer, by Michael Vinson: *Bluffing Texas Style* (Norman: Univ. Of Oklahoma Press, 2020; 250 pp., \$45.00). It's full of grand stories about Jenkins' "arsons, forgeries, and high-stakes poker capers," as well as his timely and mysterious death, and there are passing mentions of three members of the Baker Street Irregulars (Stillman Drake, Christopher Morley, and Lew David Feldman).

Paul Thomas Miller's "Doyle's Rotary Coffin" (Mar 19 #4), a society whose motto is "All Holmes Is Good Holmes," has published *However Improbable* (a new "scrapbook of strange Holmesiana"), available as a (free) download at the society's web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/yb4rmqx6](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb4rmqx6)>; it's their second book, and the contents are amusing and interesting, as well as strange.

Geek Tyrant had an interesting interview (with video) on May 24 with VFX artists who worked on the visual effects in four films, one of which was "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011) <[www.tinyurl.com/y73hu7bl](http://www.tinyurl.com/y73hu7bl)>.

*Sheerluck Versus the Paranormal: Volume One* (London: MX Publishing, 2018; 90 pp., \$9.95) is the first of three graphic novels written by Dean Wilkinson and illustrated by Joseph Keen, offering an amusing account of what happens when Sheerluck and his sister Watson become involved (in this volume) with zombies, cursed paintings, slender man, and doppelgangers. MX's books are available at a discount at <[www.sherlockholmesbooks.com](http://www.sherlockholmesbooks.com)>.

And: T. L. Garrison's *The Twisted Blackmailer* (2016; 280 pp., \$14.95) is a fine pastiche for young adults: Sherlock Holmes and Joanna Watson are both teen-age girls who meet in high school and become partners, investigating cases that echo the Canon; the story's nicely told, and the girls are both appropriate and believable.

May 20 #8 Fred Willard died on May 15. A highly-regarded comic actor, he was well-known for his unscripted appearances in films and on television. He was seen in Sherlockian costume in the "Hostess to Murder" episode of "Just Shoot Me" (1999) and was more or less Sherlockian in "Best of Show" (2000) and "For Your Consideration" (2006); you can see him in action in Scott Monty's tribute at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at <[www.tinyurl.com/y8qoendk](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8qoendk)>.

Sorry about that: with regard to the item about Banksy and his image of a distant relative of the Giant Rat of Sumatra (Apr 20 #6), it's Jean Upton who's now the editor of The District Messenger, which still is distributed by Roger Johnson.

Jean reports in the May issue of The District Messenger that Bert Coules has been working on a one-man stage show "Watson: The Final Problem" to be performed by Tim Marriott when theaters open again. In the meantime, you can watch a video trailer for the play and listen to a one-hour audio version at their web-site <[www.smokescreenprods.com](http://www.smokescreenprods.com)>.

The "Holmes in the Heartland" conference that was scheduled in St. Louis on July 24-26 <[www.tinyurl.com/yd5elmpj](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd5elmpj)> has been postponed until summer 2021.

The on-going pandemic means that there's not much theater scheduled, but there are plans for at least a few productions. "Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of Miss Alice Faulkner" (an adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes") will be performed at the Molino Community Center in Molino, Fla., July 31-Aug. 1 <[www.tinyurl.com/y7p3nfad](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7p3nfad)>.

Tal Aviezer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Copper Beeches" has been scheduled at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, N.Y., Aug. 14-23 <[www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org](http://www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org)>.

Mark Shanahan's new "A Sherlock Carol" will be performed as a script-in-hand reading at the Westport Country Playhouse in Westport., Conn., Dec. 14 <[www.westportplayhouse.com](http://www.westportplayhouse.com)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre in Arlington Heights, Ill., Jan. 28-Mar. 13; their web-site's at <[www.metropolisarts.com](http://www.metropolisarts.com)>. It's also scheduled (in Swedish) at the Åbo Svenska Teater in Turku, Finland, in Jan. <[www.abovenskatheater.fi](http://www.abovenskatheater.fi)>.

Ken Ludwig's new "Moriarty" will have its world premiere at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Apr. 17-May 16 <[www.cincyplay.com](http://www.cincyplay.com)>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the California Theatre in Pittsburg, Calif., in the summer of 2021 <[www.pittsburgcommunitytheatre.org](http://www.pittsburgcommunitytheatre.org)>.

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

Those who have been waiting patiently for full details on the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York will be glad to hear that the reports now are available at [www.tinyurl.com/ybj4qrub](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybj4qrub). Steve Doyle's video podcasts for the Baker Street Irregulars are continuing at YouTube; you can search for [fortnightly dispatch] to find interviews with Ray Betzner, Bob Katz, and others. If you would like to receive more of this sort of news from the BSI, you should sign up for occasional messages at the BSI's web-site [www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email](http://www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email).

The manuscript of "The Land of Mist", on offer in a private sale at Christie's (May 20 #3), will be included in an on-line public auction that opens on July 9 and closes on July 30 [www.tinyurl.com/ybp7g8tw](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybp7g8tw). Randall Stock provides a discussion of the manuscript at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site [www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2020.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2020.htm).

Sherlockian collectors will be more interested in the offer of the manuscript of "The Greek Interpreter", offered by Sotheby's in an on-line auction that opens on July 6 and closes on July 21 [www.tinyurl.com/y76zzrso](http://www.tinyurl.com/y76zzrso) (the estimate is \$400,000-\$600,000). Randall's description of this manuscript is at [www.tinyurl.com/y84j47g6](http://www.tinyurl.com/y84j47g6).

"Drat! The Cat!" was a short-lived (11 previews and 8 performances) Broadway musical that came and went in 1965; the score included a song "Holmes and Watson" that was sung by Lesley Ann Warren and Elliott Gould. A publicity photograph recently offered at eBay [www.tinyurl.com/yac8ytr9](http://www.tinyurl.com/yac8ytr9) is a nice reminder of the show (I'm not aware of any Sherlockian who actually saw the musical).

The South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, S.C. [www.scmuseum.org](http://www.scmuseum.org) has opened to the public, and the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition is still there, extended into September. The exhibition's due at the Minnesota Historical Center in St. Paul, Minn., from Oct. 1, 2021 to Mar. 21, 2022.

The Mysterious Bookshop posts to its customers helpful reading lists compiled by authors, and here's what Lyndsay Faye wrote when recommending *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*: "These books are the best 60 short stories and novels ever to happen, but it's not ultimately about how they solve crime or embark on adventures. These tales are about the most beautiful literary friendship I've ever seen. They helped define who I am as a person, and that's not an exaggeration. Some of my best connections, life decisions, clarifying moments, and wonderful challenges were about these characters helping me figure out who I am."

If you've watched any of the German television programs that starred Erich Schellow and Paul Edwin Roth in 1967 and 1968 (May 20 #4) and thought the dramatizations were familiar, there's a reason: Bert Coules notes that the scripts were adapted from the BBC's television series that starred Douglas Wilmer and Nigel Stock.

Jun 20 #2 "Conan Doyle slept here" may not be heard and read as often as "George Washington slept here" when it comes to old houses and hotels, but Prince Hall in Princetown, Dartmoor, formerly a private home and now a hotel <[www.princehall.co.uk](http://www.princehall.co.uk)>, says at its web-site that "it is thought that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stayed at Prince Hall and was inspired by the surrounding countryside to write *The Hound of the Baskervilles*."

Alexander Orlov has discovered an imaginative caricature of Conan Doyle, published in *Caricatures by Tom Tit* (1913); "Tom Tit" was the pen name of Arthur Good (1853-1928), a French engineer, science educator, journalist, author, artist, and caricaturist. The book has been digitized and is available at the Internet Archive <[www.tinyurl.com/y8vwwcve](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8vwwcve)>.



Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge, the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for the Sherlock Holmes Society of India, is now in its eighth year. The current issue (with 240 pages) offers colorfully illustrated scholarship, commentary, pastiches, the script of an audio play, and a quiz; all issues of the Proceedings can be found at the society web-site <[www.sherlockholmessocietyofindia.com](http://www.sherlockholmessocietyofindia.com)>.

My Modern Met reported on June 8 about an imaginative Sherlockian DIY Book Nook Kit <[www.mymodernmet.com/hemisphere-design-book-nooks](http://www.mymodernmet.com/hemisphere-design-book-nooks)>. It's sold by Creative Design at Etsy <[www.tinyurl.com/yceojr9n](http://www.tinyurl.com/yceojr9n)> (£74.32), and it will be a nice Christmas present for any do-it-yourselfers who have any room on their shelves.

Further to the earlier reports on SHERLOC and WATSON (Apr 14 #2 and Apr 19 #5), the instruments are ready for their exploration of Mars. The mission is scheduled for launch between July 17 and Aug. 5, according to a report from Firstpost on May 29 <[www.tinyurl.com/y8v6j4o4](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8v6j4o4)>. SHERLOC (an acronym for Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals) is a spectrometer that will be working with WATSON (a camera that will take close-up pictures of rock textures). The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's colorful press release on exploration of the Red Planet is on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/yafo2xve](http://www.tinyurl.com/yafo2xve)>, and there is more about SHERLOC at <[www.tinyurl.com/y95s4ln6](http://www.tinyurl.com/y95s4ln6)>. And WATSON (also an acronym) is NASA's Wide Angle Topographic Sensor for Operations and eNgin-eering.

Almost Canonical: "Discard the impossible; then if *nothing* remains, some part of the 'impossible' must be possible." Who said it?

Basil Rathbone once was asked whether he preferred playing Sherlock Holmes in films or on the radio, and he explained that acting on radio is by far more fun, "because no one can see what you look like." Perhaps the best example of this is the dramatization by Bert Coules of "A Scandal in Bohemia" for BBC Radio 4 in 1990, with Clive Merrison as Sherlock Holmes and Michael Williams as Dr. Watson. The King of Bohemia was played by Andrew Sachs (whom you may remember as Manuel, the Spanish Waiter in the television series "Fawlty Towers"). You can hear him as the King of Bohemia at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=yI8Cs\\_2\\_3ko](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yI8Cs_2_3ko)>.

Jun 20 #3 A wide variety of audiobooks are available (without charge) on the Internet, at web-sites such as LibriVox, including Sherlockian and Doylean titles, and parodies and pastiches such as J. Kendrick Bangs' *The Pursuit of the House-Boat* and Mark Twain's *The Double-Barreled Detective Story* (you can search for author or title, so you need to know what you're looking for) <[www.librivox.org](http://www.librivox.org)>.

Graham Reid has died. He was a British actor who began his career in the early 1990s, performing as Graham Martin, and he played Sherlock Holmes in Tim Churchill's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 2018.

Phoebe Judge reads classic mysteries, including "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at her "This Is Criminal" blog <[www.thisiscriminal.com/mystery](http://www.thisiscriminal.com/mystery)>.

Don Hobbs continues to expand his "Galactic Sherlock Holmes" data-base of foreign translations (which now has almost 11,000 entries) and many full-color illustrations, and would be glad to hear from anyone who has found something that's not already in the data-base; the latest version is now available on request and without charge (as a 430-MB file via WeTransfer) <[221b@verizon.net](mailto:221b@verizon.net)>.

Spotted by Alexander Orlov: "Sherlock Holmes Is on the Case" is the title of an amusing animated video that was uploaded to YouTube by the American Dental Association on Oct. 16, 2019 <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=86u1Mip2b90](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86u1Mip2b90)>.

Ruth Berman kindly forwarded an almost-Canonical "Discard the impossible; then if *nothing* remains, some part of the 'impossible' must be possible." Who said it? Sherlock Holmes' cousin Dr. Horace Verner, in Anthony Boucher's "The Anomaly of the Empty Man" (first published in *Fantasy & Science Fiction* (Apr. 1952)).

Further to the item (Oct 19 #2) about Felix Dennis' "Garden of Heroes and Villains" in Dorsington, Howard Ostrom has reported a post about the garden <[www.tinyurl.com/y8wlp56v](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8wlp56v)> by someone who blogs as peribrown and has a number of interesting posts under the heading "Sherlockian Sojourns"; this one offers images of many of the garden's life-size bronze sculptures, including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes.

BBC Radio Four Extra celebrated a Sherlock Holmes Weekend on June 13-14, and the good news is that the programs will be available at their web-site well into July; the programs are Peter Mackie's "The Adventure of the Pimlico Poisoner" (1990) and Nicholas Utechin's three-hour "The Game's Afoot: Sherlock Holmes Special" with some delightful treasures from the BBC archives (2008), and links are available at the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/ycobcgh4](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycobcgh4)>.

Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* has a long history of offering Sherlockian and Doylean content, and that's also true of its web-site, where web-only content in "The Crime Scene" includes podcasts with readings of Sherlockian pastiches by Steve Steinbock and Terence Faherty, and Dean Jobb's blog "Stranger Than Fiction" with a two-part discussion of "Finding Sherlock" <[www.elleryqueenmysterymagazine.com](http://www.elleryqueenmysterymagazine.com)>.

Jun 20 #4 Philip Purser-Hallard's *Sherlock Holmes: The Spider's Web* (New York: Titan, 2020; 261 pp., \$14.95) is an amusing cross-over pastiche in which Holmes and Watson investigate a complicated mystery in a London populated by characters created by Oscar Wilde; plot and dialogue are thoroughly appropriate. Lenny Picker's interview with Purser-Hallard for Publishers Weekly (June 1) <[www.tinyurl.com/yarudl7k](http://www.tinyurl.com/yarudl7k)> provides a nice behind-the-scenes look at how the book was written.

There's much more Sherlockian (and Doylean) material in Publishers Weekly, and the magazine has kindly made its current and archival content available without charge to all during the pandemic <[www.tinyurl.com/yd5sznre](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd5sznre)>. The magazine was founded in 1872, and their first Conan Doyle item was a mention of his story "My Friend the Murderer" in 1883. A search turns up 2,906 hits for [conan doyle] and 3,354 for [sherlock holmes], which will keep researcher busy for a while.

The late August Derleth, who created Solar Pons as a tribute to Sherlock Holmes, also was a great admirer of H. P. Lovecraft's tales of supernatural horror and terror, and Derrick Belanger has edited *The Necronomicon of Solar Pons* (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2020; 429 pp., \$24.95) as a tribute to both of Derleth's enthusiasms; it's an anthology of a dozen cross-over pastiches, subtitled as "Lovecraftian Tales of the Sherlock Holmes of Praed Street," and that's just what they are.

Derrick also has edited *The Pontine Dossier: Millennium Edition*, a revival of the journal published by the late Luther Norris, founder of the Praed Street Irregulars (2020; 85 pp., \$7.99), with eight new essays about Derleth and Pons. It should be noted that the August Derleth Society, founded in the late 1970s, continues to honor the author and his works; their web-site's at <[www.augustderleth.org](http://www.augustderleth.org)>.

And there's more: *Sherlock Holmes Is Everywhere*, edited by David Marcum, Sonia Fetherston, and Derrick Belanger (2019; 302 pp., \$19.99), is an interesting anthology of essays written by long-time Sherlockians and newcomers about the many ways that they have found and enjoyed the world of Sherlock Holmes. *Sherlock Holmes: Adventures in the Realms of Edgar Allan Poe*, edited by Brian and Derrick Belanger (2019; 369 pp., \$24.95), is an anthology of fourteen-crossover pastiches that bring Holmes and Watson into the many worlds of Poe.

Further to the report (Apr 20 6) on "Sherlock Holmes in Russia" (the new Russian television mini-series due later this year) Variety published an interview on June 9 <[www.tinyurl.com/ybrhyzj3](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybrhyzj3)> with Nurbek Egen, director of the series (which now is called "Sherlock: The Russian Chronicles").

Katy Perry, a singer, songwriter, and judge (on the ABC-TV television series "American Idol") has issued five albums, with a sixth on the way. She also has written some songs that have not been released; she recently said in an interview that her favorite unreleased song is "Sherlock Holmes" ("I always think that song needed a lyric change and a rerecord on all fronts and it would be great!"). She wrote the song with Glen Ballard, and their lyrics are available on the Internet <[www.tinyurl.com/ycbwlbzn](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycbwlbzn)>.

Jun 20 #5 Noted by Dana Richards: "My Blushes, Watson!" is the title of an amusing post by Dales James Nelson a few years ago at Sven Sellanraa's "Orthosphere" blog <[www.tinyurl.com/yab434ck](http://www.tinyurl.com/yab434ck)>. The subtitle is "Of Blood, Blushing, Whistling, & Holding Hands" and the post explores how different things could be in Canonical times.

Aziz Bin Adam notes that Iconic VIP Tours offers a Sherlock Holmes Virtual Escape Room Adventure via Zoom <[www.tinyurl.com/y8nn4hps](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8nn4hps)>. There are other literary escape rooms for non-Sherlockians <[www.iconicviptours.com](http://www.iconicviptours.com)>.

The Rat and Raven is the name of new pub in Lexington, N.C., according to a report in the Lexington Dispatch (June 14) <[www.tinyurl.com/yabjl7fd](http://www.tinyurl.com/yabjl7fd)>; owners Charlie and Layne McCarn inspiration for the name of the pub "was an old Sherlock Holmes movie, where Holmes and Watson duck into a pub with that same name." So: which movie?

Fans who enjoy playing the Sherlock Holmes computer games created by Frogwares will welcome their announcement (with a trailer) <[www.frogwares.com](http://www.frogwares.com)> of a new "Sherlock Holmes: Chapter One" prequel due for release in 2021.

Jennie Paton has discovered Adagio Teas, which advertises a wide range of imaginatively-named and variously-flavored blends of Sherlockian tea, at <[www.adagio.com/signature\\_blend.html?blend-90697](http://www.adagio.com/signature_blend.html?blend-90697)>.

"Dear Holmes" (reviewed in the N.Y. Times Book Review on June 7) was created by Michael Silver at Letterjoy <[www.dearholmes.com](http://www.dearholmes.com)> and offers monthly mysteries-by-mail.

Dennis J. O'Neil died on June 11. Best known for revitalizing Batman during his career at Marvel Comics, he was a legendary comic-book writer and editor (sometimes credited as Denny O'Neil); he also worked at DC Comics, where he brought Sherlock Holmes to the public in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium, held last October in Portland, Ore., will be held on-line this year on Oct. 19, promising "a fun and educational day of talks, socializing, and friendship" in the image of A Scintillation of Scions. More information, including their list of speakers, will be found at their web-site at <[www.leftcoastsherlock.com](http://www.leftcoastsherlock.com)>.

Ruth Berman has reported sad news from Minneapolis: Uncle Hugo's/Uncle Edgar's, the joint science-fiction/mystery bookstores owned by Don and Elizabeth Blyly, were set on fire during the recent demonstrations there, and burned to the ground. You can read their detailed report on the tragedy at their web-site <[www.unclehugo.com/prod/index.shtml](http://www.unclehugo.com/prod/index.shtml)>.

"Frederic Dorr Steele: Forgotten Master" is the title of a 9-minute video at a new GoFundMe web-site <[www.bit.ly/FDSteele](http://www.bit.ly/FDSteele)> for a campaign to raise money for a memorial to the artist whose work personified Sherlock Holmes for American readers. After his death in 1944 his ashes were interred in his family's plot in a cemetery in Menands, N.Y., but no stone marks his resting place. The campaign achieved quick success, but information (and the video) still can be found at the GoFundMe web-site.



Jun 20 #6 Ray Wilcockson has made a delightful discovery in the pages of digitized Irish newspapers: Sherlock Holmes and Mycroft Holmes were recorded as passengers leaving Kingstown on the Royal Mail steamer on Set. 27, 1897, and again on Sep. 27, 1899. He gave a detailed account of his research in his "Markings" blog on June 14 <[www.tinyurl.com/ybokhaa4](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybokhaa4)>, with images of the newspaper items.

Hannah McInally was one of the finalists in the competition to illustrate the Folio Society's *The Selected Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* (2019), and her striking artwork for the cover and three of the stories is available at <[www.society6.com/abeyance](http://www.society6.com/abeyance)> on a wide variety of merchandise.

"Meitantei Conan" [Detective Conan] was first a Japanese manga comic-book series created by Gyosho Aoyama, then developed into a long-running animated television series, and then animated films; Shinichi Kudo is a 17-year-old master detective who is turned by villains into a child, and assumes the name Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Arthur Conan Doyle) and pursues evil-doers. The English-language version is called "Case Closed" and there's a series of DVDs: "The Phantom of Baker Street" (released in Japan in 2002, and with subtitles in English in 2010) has Conan and his friends trapped in a virtual recreation of 19th-century London, pursuing Jack the Ripper; the cast of characters includes Mrs. Hudson, Irene Adler, Sebastian Moran, and James Moriarty, and Sherlock Holmes makes a brief appearance. The DVD is out-of-print, but you can find copies offered at eBay.

Ann Treherne's *Arthur and Me* (2020; 264 pp., £8.99) tells the story of her discovery of the psychic world, her seances, and her communications with Conan Doyle, who helped her find the derelict building that's now the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre in Edinburgh <[www.arthurconandoylecentre.com](http://www.arthurconandoylecentre.com)>; her book offers a detailed look at modern-day spiritualism.

"Arthur Conan Doyle" is a new music video that was uploaded to YouTube by Alien Tango Entertainment on June 3 <[www.tinyurl.com/yctxsm23](http://www.tinyurl.com/yctxsm23)>. It's performed by Alberto and Oso Peligro, and it's nice indeed that closed captions help one understand the lyrics.

In which movie did Holmes and Watson "duck" into a pub called the Rat and Raven? It was "Sherlock Holmes Faces Death" (1943) (the pub sign in the movie actually reads "The Rat and the Raven").

David Lambert's latest contribution to The Strand Magazine's blog is "The Razor-Potato Man" (analyzing Harlan Ellison's short story "He Who Grew Up Reading Sherlock Holmes") on May 23. Ellison's story was first published in 2014, and Lambert has some interesting commentary.

Deadline has reported (June 15) <[www.tinyurl.com/y9yr4vae](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9yr4vae)> that the team behind Netflix's "Astronomy Club" are moving onward and upward following the cancellation of their sketch comedy show and have partnered with "The Problem with Apu" producer Cowboy Bear Ninja on "Sherlock Homies" (a comedy series that they describe as "'Curb Your Enthusiasm' meets 'Reno 911' about Harlem's first all-black detective agency." It would seem that the only Sherlockian aspect of the series, if it ever gets made, is the title.

Jun 20 #7 One of the nice things about modern technology is that it is now so easy to attend distant meetings of Sherlockian societies, using Zoom or other programs. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's first virtual meeting, open to Sherlockians world-wide, is set for July 21 at 7:30 pm BST, and you are invited to contact Jane Arnold-Forster <janeaf@btinternet.com> so that she can send you meeting details.

The roster of Sherlockian societies holding virtual meetings continues to grow; the following list surely must be incomplete, and any additions will be welcome: the Bootmakers of Toronto, the Cesspudlians of London [Ontario], the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* [Dallas], the Curious Collectors of Baker Street [Los Angeles], Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients [Denver], Five Miles from Anywhere, the Goose Club of the Alpha Inn [Vermont], the Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn [St. Charles MO], the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis, the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club [Tokyo], the John Openshaw Society [Houston], the Knights of the Gnomon, the Notorious Canary Trainers [Madison WI], the Norwegian Explorers Study Group [Minneapolis], the Outpatients [Denver], the Parallel Case of St. Louis, the Priory Scholars of New York, the Red Circle of Washington, the Reichenbach Irregulars, the Sherlock Holmes Goose Club of the Upper Valley [Hanover NH], the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, the Sherlockians of Baltimore, the Six Napoleons of Baltimore, the Sound of the Baskervilles [Seattle], the Tankerville Club [Cincinnati], Theatre-Goers Homeward Bound, the Three Garridebs of Westchester County [NY], The Torists International [Chicago], and Watson's Tin Box [Ellicott City MD].

The next annual 221B Con (a well-attended "fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes") will be held in Atlanta, Apr. 19-21 <www.221bcon.com>. Next year's Scintillation of Scions will be held in Linthicum, Md., Aug. 6-7. <www.scintillation.org>.

Inscribed first editions of Conan Doyle's books (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian) are far from common. An inscribed copy of the first edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* was offered by Lucius Books for £85,000 last month at Firsts (the London book fair held on-line this year during the pandemic); it's still available <www.tinyurl.com/ybpbwqnx>.

Sarah LeFanu's *Something of Themselves* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020; 381 pp., \$29.95), is sub-titled "Kipling, Kingsley, Conan Doyle, and the Anglo-Boer War," and it's a well-written history of the war, focusing on three writers who were in South Africa in 1900; Mary Kingsley, far less well known than the other two writers, is just as interesting, and LeFanu offers a grand story, well told.

Reported by Nicholas Utechin: a the new Sherlock Holmes Magazine published in Britain <www.sherlockholmesmag.co.uk> and already out of print.

"Shermlock Shomes!" (a delightful parody, written by Harvey Kurtzman and illustrated by Bill Elder) appeared in Mad magazine (Oct.-Nov. 1953). The original artwork (all eight pages) will be offered at Heritage Auctions in July <www.tinyurl.com/ycstlg3j>; it has attracted some serious bidders: as we go to press, the current high bid is \$10,500.

Jun 20 #8 Joseph W. Svec III's *Sherlock Holmes and the Round Table Adventure* (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 169 pp., \$10.95) is the third book in his "missing authors" series; this time Alfred Lord Tennyson has gone missing, and Holmes and Watson encounter pixies, dragons, a unicorn, Merlin, Morgan le Faye, gnomes, the Lady of the Lake, Guinevere, and King Arthur before they are able to rescue the Poet Laureate. MX Publishing's books are available at a discount at <[www.sherlockholmesbooks.com](http://www.sherlockholmesbooks.com)>.

Also: Molly Carr's *A Study in Crimson* (2010; 322 pp., \$19.95), the second volume in the further adventures of Mrs. Watson and Mrs. St. Clair (they are the Watson-Fanshaw Detective Agency); Holmes and Watson are on hand, along with Moriarty and many others, and everyone is rather different from how they will be remembered by those who have read the Canon. James Moffett's *The Trials of Sherlock Holmes* (2017; 228 pp., \$14.95) sends Holmes and Watson in pursuit of criminals in eight cases that end with a confrontation with a vicious adversary.

Plus: Balaji Narasimhan's *Sleight of Fate and Various Sherlock Holmes Puzzles* (2013; 107 pp., \$9.95) opens with a murderous challenge and continues with essays and pastiches set in India; it concludes with an exploration of Indian astrology used by Holmes to predict an eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 1944. L. F. E. Coombs' *Sherlock Holmes Plays the Game* (2014; 243 pp., \$16.96) is a collection of ten pastiches, many of which were brought to Holmes and Watson by Scotland Yard inspector Shershay. Phil Growick's *The Secret Journal of Dr. Watson* (2012; 285 pp., \$18.95) sends Holmes and Watson to Russia in 1918 to rescue the Tsar and his family; the top-secret mission results in dire events and a thoroughly complicated mystery.

There's still Sherlockian theater being performed during the pandemic, but on-line: you can watch the Children's Theatre of Annapolis presentation of Tom Considine's amusing one-act play "The Duck of the Baskervilles" (featuring Shylock Casa and Portia Watsonia in "a quacking good case") at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=biFIS7XwQ2g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biFIS7XwQ2g)>. The script is available as a PDF from <[www.offthewallplays.com](http://www.offthewallplays.com)>.

Planning ahead: "Sherlock Holmes and the Strange Case of Alice Faulkner" (an adaptation of the Gillette play) will be performed at the Molino Community Center in Molino, Fla., July 31-Aug. 1 <[www.tinyurl.com/y7p3nfad](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7p3nfad)>.

"Sherlock and Cinders" (a new musical written by Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crossey), formerly scheduled on July 3-4 at the Carver Theatre in Stockport, Cheshire, has been postponed to Oct. 9-10 <[www.carvertheatre.co.uk](http://www.carvertheatre.co.uk)>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Blue Carbuncle" is due at the Helen Borgers Theatre in Long Beach, Calif., Nov. 20-Dec. 13 <[www.lbshakespeare.org](http://www.lbshakespeare.org)>.

David MacGregor's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" will be performed at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., Mar. 25-Apr. 29, 2021 <[www.purplerosetheatre.org](http://www.purplerosetheatre.org)>.

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

USA Today 's "first look" story (June 24) about the new "Enola Holmes" film <[www.tinyurl.com/yba5l6ml](http://www.tinyurl.com/yba5l6ml)>was overtaken by the news that the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. has filed a lawsuit against just about everyone who had anything to do with the film, alleging that the film infringes on the CDEL's copyright on the few remaining Canonical stories not yet in the public domain. You can read the 19-page complaint at <[www.tinyurl.com/y7khds83](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7khds83)>, and the CDEL's brief statement about the lawsuit is available on-line at <[www.conandoyleestate.com/news/enola-holmes](http://www.conandoyleestate.com/news/enola-holmes)>.

The complaint says that Conan Doyle, after his brother and son died in the First World War, felt that "it was no longer enough that the Holmes character was the most brilliant rational and analytical mind. Holmes needed be human. The character needed to develop human connection and empathy." Thus a Holmes that demonstrates friendship and emotion is an infringement on stories still protected by copyright, according to the CDEL.

The film, tentatively scheduled on Netflix in September, is based on six novels by Nancy Springer that were published from 2006 to 2010, and features Millie Bobby Brown as Enola Holmes, Henry Cavill as Sherlock Holmes, Sam Claflin as Mycroft Holmes, and Helena Bonham Carter as their mother.

The lawsuit is similar to the one filed against the Ian McKellen film "Mr. Holmes" in 2015. That suit was settled out of court, and the DVD of the film and the Kindle edition of Mitch Cullin's *A Slight Trick of the Mind* now have a statement acknowledging the CDEL's permission to use material from Sherlock Holmes stories protected by copyright. Scott Monty has an interesting discussion of both lawsuits at <[www.tinyurl.com/y7gkqrkz](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7gkqrkz)>, and a 2015 interview with Cullin at <[www.tinyurl.com/y88x64cq](http://www.tinyurl.com/y88x64cq)>.

Den of Geek quoted Nicholas Meyer on June 26 <[www.tinyurl.com/y9dk5enc](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9dk5enc)> as saying that while he did pay the Conan Doyle estate for permission to publish his first three pastiches (in 1974, 1976, and 1993) he didn't for his *The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols* (2019) and won't be paying for his next pastiche *The Return of the Pharaoh* (due in 2021). The estate "has a long and complicated history" Meyer said, adding that "The estate has become various squabbling heirs--most of them having nothing to do with Doyle and still less interested in Holmes, except as a source of money to spend. They've used Holmes rights as a cash cow for their own pleasure."

The story continues: the defendants have "filed an appearance" in the case (which gives them time to prepare and file a formal response to the complaint by the CDEL), so there will be more to come in the next few weeks.

"The hardcopy texts are surrounded by on-line material (screenplays, reviews, fansubs, scanlations, etc.)" That's according to the abstract of Mary Wardle's "From Baker Street to Toyko and Back" (discovered by Jennie Paton) <[www.journals.openedition.org/palimpsests/3582](http://www.journals.openedition.org/palimpsests/3582)>; the academic paper deals with "(para)textual hybridity in translation" and offers a fine example of how new words are being coined. Google kindly defines "fansub" and "scanlation" for (I suspect) many if not most of us.

Jul 20 #2 Literary experts and academics fear the Sherlock Holmes statue in Edinburgh may be targeted by activists because of the many "crass racist descriptions" in the Canon, according to an article by Tim Stewart in The Times (July 6); he cited problematic language (in "The Sign of the Four" and "The Three Gables") and noted that Conan Doyle is "said to have believed in British superiority and was a staunch supporter of the Empire." Several statues linked to the slave trade have been damaged during Black Lives Matter demonstrations. The article does not mention the statue of Holmes in Baker Street, nor the statue of Conan Doyle in Crowborough.

It's not Sherlockian or Doylean, but: it's not easy to choose a title for a short story that makes you want to read it. "Mary Poppins Didn't Have Tattoos" for example; that's a story by Stacy Woodson in the July/August issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine.

George J. McCormack ("Hosmer Angel") died on Apr. 2. His early interest in Sherlock Holmes resulted in his being a co-founder of the Diogenes Club Brooklyn when he was a senior at Brooklyn Preparatory School, and he went on to graduate from Fordham University and Harvard Law School and then had a long and successful career as an attorney. He attended his first annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars in 1959, received his Investiture in 1961, and went on to set a record for continuous attendance at 60 BSI annual dinners.

The Internet can be a spectacular resource for people who want to research (or merely read) older publications such as The Strand Magazine; the Hathi Trust offers links to digitizations of the first 68 volumes (through 1924) <[www.catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000642318](http://www.catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000642318)>; later volumes have been digitized, but are not yet available due to copyright restrictions (the volumes for 1925 will be available at the end of this year).

Jean Upton reports (in the June issue of The District Messenger) that the web-site of the London Transport Museum <[www.tinyurl.com/ybsnn75v](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybsnn75v)> offers a nice selection of Sherlockian images from the history of the underground and of the decorations at the Baker Street Station.

Virtual meetings of Sherlockian societies do seem to ignore geography: the Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland will hold their second Zoom meeting on Sept. 3 at 7:00 pm BST (that's British Summer Time): Michael Meer will talk about "The Other War Service of Sherlock Holmes: The Master Detective in World War I Prison Camps" and anyone interested joining should contact Marcus Geisser <[reichenbachirregulars@gmail.com](mailto:reichenbachirregulars@gmail.com)>.

Michael McClure has created an imaginative new board game ("The Original Sherlock Holmes and His Baker Street Irregulars"), and there's a detailed and nicely-illustrated report at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <[www.tinyurl.com/yy57ppzv](http://www.tinyurl.com/yy57ppzv)>; you may recognize some of the images on the character cards. The cost of the game is \$39.00 through the August (\$55.00 thereafter) <[www.baskervilleproductions.com/shbsi](http://www.baskervilleproductions.com/shbsi)>; production is underway, with shipping planned for November, conveniently in time for Christmas.

Jul 20 #3 Simon Barnes' *Ten Million Aliens* (New York: Marble Arch Press, 2015; 480 pp., \$28.00) is a delightful book, offering "a journey through the entire animal kingdom" in short chapters that are devoted to the ten million (that's his estimate) species known and yet to be identified on our planet, and the writers he mentions include Adams, Kipling, Disraeli, Joyce, Dahl, Verne, Dylan, and (of course) Conan Doyle (in the chapter on "Infernal agony of gelatinous zooplankton"). Recommended.

"Police Sketches of Literary Characters Based on Their Book Descriptions" was an article on Mental Floss (Jan. 8, 2016) about illustrator Brian Joseph Davis' use of the law enforcement composite sketch software FACES ID <[www.tinyurl.com/y7svwmhn](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7svwmhn)>; one of the characters is Sherlock Holmes (as described in "A Study in Scarlet").

Reported: "Cobble & Fog (Unmatched)" is a "highly asymmetrical card-driven miniature fighting game featuring heroes from myth and legend," with four characters: Sherlock Holmes, Jekyll & Hyde, the Invisible Man, and Dracula; there are two different battlefields (Soho and Baskerville Manor), and there's more information at <[www.restorationgames.com](http://www.restorationgames.com)> (\$40.00).

There's also "The Great Game" that Alexa will help you play on your Amazon Echo; it's free, with an option to purchase bonus content, and you'll find more information at Sherlockian.net <[www.tinyurl.com/ydayd5sq](http://www.tinyurl.com/ydayd5sq)>. Sherlockian.net was created by Chris Redmond in 1994 and now is maintained by WIDE Research at Michigan State University, and it's well worth exploring.

The web-site "Casebook: Jack the Ripper" <[www.casebook.org](http://www.casebook.org)> offers items of Sherlockian interest, such as a "Sherlock: From Adler to Amberley" podcast that is working its way through the 56 short stories; Karl Coppack is the host for one-hour interviews with authors and experts who include Les Klinger ("The Five Orange Pips") and Bonnie MacBird ("The Speckled Band").

When you can travel again: Karen Murdock found a long and favorable review of the Holmes Hotel (formerly the Sherlock Holmes Hotel) in London at the Business Traveler web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/wgwhzl6](http://www.tinyurl.com/wgwhzl6)>. They also had nice things to say earlier this year <[www.tinyurl.com/y8jboxek](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8jboxek)> about the Great Scotland Yard Hotel; both reviews are well illustrated.

Further to the item (Apr 20 #1) about the "incredible book collection" of Kate Middleton (aka the Duchess of Cambridge, wife of Prince William), Sonia Fetherston reports that Kate's brother, James Middleton, has written an essay for the Daily Mail (June 28) <[www.tinyurl.com/yask95k4](http://www.tinyurl.com/yask95k4)> about his new hobby: beekeeping. "On a warm summer's day," he explains, "there are few places on Earth I'd rather be than tending my bees."

Howard Ostrom has found a weird sub-set of ASMR audios at YouTube (ASMR is autonomous sensory meridian response, also known as "brain massage"). You can search for [asmr sherlock holmes] to find them; the longest one is at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJeNG1R7FzM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJeNG1R7FzM)> (four hours of ambient noise in the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street), and another one is Holmes and Watson's 40-minute train ride to Dartmoor <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=psOFdDRWseU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psOFdDRWseU)>.

Jul 20 #4 Cory Howell has an interesting post ("Inspector Watson? An Alternate History Twist") at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog about a startling discovery at the Ill Bethisad Wiki at <[www.tinyurl.com/ychdxxtts](http://www.tinyurl.com/ychdxxtts)>. The great detective in this alternative Canonical universe is an Inspector Watson who lives at 221A Quaker Street; many of his fans call themselves the Quaker Street Irregulars, and there's much fun to be had in this imaginative world.

It's a nice reminder of the fun the late John Ruyle had with his Turlock Loams, who also lived in Quaker Street; John presided over two societies: The Quaker Street Irregulars and the Old Soldiers of Quaker Street, both parodies of Solar Pons societies created by the late Luther Norris as parodies of Sherlock Holmes societies. Anyone who tells you that the world of Sherlockian societies isn't complicated shouldn't be trusted.

"Meiringen" (by ABBA SPARVA, featuring Brenda the Headless Mannequin) is a three-minute music video, based on an original idea by Brad Keefauver and uploaded to YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/yadl4xmq](http://www.tinyurl.com/yadl4xmq)> on June 20 by Paul Thomas Miller. Brad is the founder of the Reichenbach Falls Lemming Society, and Brad has a YouTube channel <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=srtCEmPqoM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srtCEmPqoM)> with many additional Sherlockian music videos.

The Royal Mint has issued a commemorative £5 coin that honors music legend Elton John <[www.tinyurl.com/y99c7jv9](http://www.tinyurl.com/y99c7jv9)>; he was executive producer for the animated film "Sherlock Gnomes" (2018), and he wrote and performed some of the songs.

Catching up: Catherine Cooke received the British Empire Medal "for services to libraries" in this year's New Year's Honours List. She presides over the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the Westminster Reference Library in London, a Member of Council of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and Investiture as "The Book of Life" in the Baker Street Irregulars

When in Ontario: you can spend a night in the Arthur Conan Doyle room at the Arlington Hotel in Paris (a bit more than an hour's drive from Toronto); the hotel has 23 rooms, each themed for "some of our favourite authors and creative minds" <[www.arlingtonhotel.ca](http://www.arlingtonhotel.ca)>.

Carl Reiner died on June 29. He had a long career as a comic, director, and actor, famous for his appearance with Mel Brooks in their "2,000-Year-Old-Man" skit, and for being (as Billy Crystal called him) "a nice genius". You can see him in Sherlockian costume (as Chief Inspector House) in the "Who Killed Supersleuth?" episode of "Burke's Law" (Dec. 16, 1964, on ABC-TV) at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zfMZUI8S7A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zfMZUI8S7A)>

It should also be noted that Carl Reiner appears as a home craftsman in photographs in G. A. Mills' *A Saw Screams at Midnight* (1956), which was sub-titled "the whodunit-yourself book" and contains a Sherlockian parody ("The Adventure of the Purloined Pants"); it's possible, perhaps even probable, that Carl Reiner wrote the book using a pseudonym (no one has been able to track down Mr. Mills).



Jul 20 #5 It's always nice to see the results of combining two enthusiasms. Clifford Goldfarb does just that in his article "Winston Churchill and Arthur Conan Doyle—Finest of the Empire" in the summer issue of *Canadian Holmes* (which is published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto). Cliff has carefully researched Churchill and Conan Doyle's meetings and correspondence. *Canadian Holmes* costs \$30.00 a year (US or CA), and single issues cost \$12.00 <[www.torontobootmakers.com](http://www.torontobootmakers.com)>.

When in Southsea: Sherlock's Bar has opened in Clarendon Road, according to a story in the *Portsmouth News* <[www.tinyurl.com/y8hph2sv](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8hph2sv)>; "the venue has been themed around Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's legendary detective character, decorated with memorabilia and a Sherlock décor," and there's a bit of video accompanying the story.

MX Publishing has launched a Kickstarter campaign for Maureen Whittaker's new biography of Jeremy Brett; details on the book and campaign, as well as an interview with the author, are available at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <[www.tinyurl.com/y5flx9ge](http://www.tinyurl.com/y5flx9ge)>.

Julian Curry died on June 27. He began his acting career in television on the BBC, and went on to perform on stage and screen. Perhaps best known for playing Claude Erskine-Brown on "Rumpole of the Bailey", he also appeared as Albert Shlessinger in "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax" in the Granada series (1991), and as Sherlock Holmes in a commercial for OZ Kettle Descaler in the 1980s <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHQ5YKbLTBs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHQ5YKbLTBs)>.

"Without Julian Wolff's involvement, the Baker Street Irregulars might no longer exist," and Sonia Fetherston tells us all about that in *Commissionaire: Julian Wolff and His Baker Street Irregulars* (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2020; 176 pp., \$21.95) <[www.tinyurl.com/yb2gpxxq](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb2gpxxq)>.

Steve Doyle's video podcasts for the Baker Street Irregulars continue at YouTube; you can search for [fortnightly dispatch] to find interviews with Ray Betzner, Bob Katz, Carlina de la Cova, Les Klinger, and Denny Dobry.

Janina Woods' *Mycroft Holmes and the Edinburgh Affair* (London: MX Publishing, 2018; 386 pp., \$18.95), the second in her series about Mycroft, his fellow Secret Service agents, and Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, is more of a thriller than a mystery, but there is plenty of action and villainy. Arthur Hall's *The Secret Assassin* (2017; 92 pp., \$9.95) sends Holmes and Watson in pursuit of a mysterious killer in a case that begins in London and ends in rural Somerset. And Denis O. Smith's *The Further Chronicles of Sherlock Holmes, Volumes One and Two* (2018; 412 pp., \$34.95) is a collection of a dozen new pastiches, some of which were successful cases, and some not. Tim Symonds' *Sherlock Holmes and the Nine-Dragon Sigil* (2016; 358 pp., \$16.95) Holmes and Watson in Imperial China in 1906, involved in thwarting a civil war, in a tale that's full of detail about Chinese life, politics, and history. Peter Bevelin's *A Few Lessons from Sherlock Holmes* (2013; 81 pp., \$9.95) offers advice on improving one's critical thinking, with quotes from the Canon, and from others who include Cuvier, Pasteur, Darwin and Bell. MX Publishing's books can be purchased at a discount at <[www.sherlockholmesbooks.com](http://www.sherlockholmesbooks.com)>.

Jul 20 #6 Neil McCaw died on Mar. 23. A professor of Victorian literature and Culture at Winchester University, he put together a delightful TED-Ed lesson in 2015 on "Who IS Sherlock Holmes?" that's still available at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/zcmrobb](http://www.tinyurl.com/zcmrobb)>; he also contributed an insightful introduction and an annotated transcription of the story to the university's 2017 facsimile edition of *The Adventure of the Creeping Man*, wrote a *Historical Dictionary of Sherlock Holmes* (2019), and was academic director of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth.

The eight pages of original artwork for Mad magazine's "Shermlock Shomes!" (Jun 20 #7) did quite well at Heritage Auctions this month: \$72,000 (including the buyer's premium).

"He was entirely absorbed in the pictures of the modern Belgian masters," Watson said of Holmes (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). According to H. R. F. Keating (*Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His World*, 1979, p. 90-91), the modern Belgian masters were the Groupe des Vingt; one of its founders was Théo Van Rysselberghe, whose painting "Barques de pêche-Méditerranée" went to auction at Christie's in New York on July 10, estimated at \$7 million-\$10 million; it sold for \$9,128,000 (including the buyer's premium) <[www.tinyurl.com/y9fhx3s8](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9fhx3s8)>. You can read about the painting and the artist at <[www.tinyurl.com/y7cgexey](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7cgexey)>.

Lenny Picker reports some welcome news for fans of Gary Larson's "The Far Side": he's back, and has a new web-site at <[www.thefarside.com/newstuff](http://www.thefarside.com/newstuff)>, where he says "I've got my coffee, I've got this cool gizmo, and I've got no deadlines, And-to borrow from Sherlock Holmes-the game is afoot." His past work includes a cartoon about Buddy's dreams of being the Parakeet of the Baskervilles (Dec. 5, 1986) (reprinted in his *Hound of the Far Side* in 1987), and it's nice to know he hasn't forgotten Sherlock Holmes.

"Take a Look at Baker Street Bar Dr. Watson's Cheeky Toilet Makeover" was the headline on a nicely-illustrated article in the Middlesbrough Gazette on July 9 <[www.tinyurl.com/yb5y9jlu](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb5y9jlu)> that explained that "a large mural of Sherlock Holmes now looms over punters in the gents loos-and he's got his magnifying glass out." Middlesbrough (N. Yorks.) also has bars named "The Twisted Lip and Sherlock's."

"Strictly Professor Challenger" is a new one-man presentation written and performed by Jonathan Miller for Don't Go Into the Cellar and MX Publishing, and it's available on-line until the end of August at the MX web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/y46u2r56](http://www.tinyurl.com/y46u2r56)>.

Paul Thomas Miller has reported (sadly) the first coronavirus incident at a meeting of a Sherlockian society: "Now that easing is in place, 19th July 2020 was supposed to be the Shingle of Southsea's first meeting since the COVID Lockdown. Unfortunately when our member turned up he refused to comply with society policy on wearing a face mask in The Sherloft. Things turned physical and the meeting had to be cancelled. Fortunately the entire incident was caught on camera and the Shingle of Southsea board will be considering whether to take further action based on the evidence caught in the video." <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=f179yEN9o-0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f179yEN9o-0)>.

Jul 20 #7 The headline on the on-line version of Michael Dirda's "Book World" in the Washington Post (July 16) reads "William Clark Russell's 'The Wreck of the Grosvenor' Is a Transporting Nautical Adventure" (and the headline in print was "Sea Dogs Preyed Upon by Sea Wolves") <[www.tinyurl.com/78ccs7yc](http://www.tinyurl.com/78ccs7yc)>; he begins by recalling that Watson was "deep in one of Clark Russell's fine sea stories" (at the beginning of "The Five Orange Pips"). Dirda believes that the fine sea story was "The Wreck of the Grosvenor" and that "there's enough action and suspense to satisfy anyone, even Dr. Watson, who knows a thing or two about adventure."

One of the many actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes celebrated his 85th birthday this month, and was congratulated by the president; the official announcement is at <[www.tinyurl.com/y2aakdj6](http://www.tinyurl.com/y2aakdj6)>.

"Play Away" was a long-running 25-minute children's series that was broadcast by BBC-2, and in 1984 an episode included an 11-minute segment ("The Murder of Lord Ronnie Eccleston Smythe") featuring Floella Benjamin (Shirley Holmes) and Brian Cant (Wally Watson). The tape was thought to have been wiped by the BBC, but a videotape recorded by a fan has turned up at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/yyyhjhl4](http://www.tinyurl.com/yyyhjhl4)>. A tip of the deerstalker for the discovery to Adrian Nebbitt.

Roy and Maxine Reneker are seeking people, young and old, who would like to be charter members of a new Sherlockian society, open to everyone, in the Monterey region of California <[mreneker@pacbell.net](mailto:mreneker@pacbell.net)>.

Greg Darak notes that the current issue of Little Shoppe of Horrors ("the journal of classic British horror films") features "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), and includes mentions of the BBC's "Sherlock" in coverage of the new "Dracula" series <[www.litleshoppeofhorrors.com/LSoH44.htm](http://www.litleshoppeofhorrors.com/LSoH44.htm)> (\$10.95 plus shipping).

Nominees for the Macavity Awards (from Mystery Readers International) include Terence Faherty's "The Cardboard Box" (best mystery short story) and Laird R. Blackwell's *Frederic Dannay, Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, and the Art of the Detective Short Story* (best mystery nonfiction/critical); the winners will be announced during the opening ceremonies of the Sacramento Virtual Bouchercon in October, and you can see all of the nominees at <[www.mysteryreaders.org/mccavity-awards](http://www.mysteryreaders.org/mccavity-awards)>.

And yes indeed, this year's Bouchercon, scheduled for Sacramento, will be virtual, on Oct. 16-17 <[www.bouchercon2020.org](http://www.bouchercon2020.org)>. Bouchercon will be held in New Orleans, Aug. 25-29, 2021; and in Minneapolis, Sept. 8-11, 2022.

The manuscript of "The Greek Interpreter" was offered in an on-line auction at Sotheby's this month, with an opening bid of \$300,000 (lowered to \$280,000 toward the end of the auction), but the manuscript did not sell. Sotheby's asked Mark Gatiss to reflect on-line on "the adventures of the famous detective" <[www.tinyurl.com/y8e5vj8b](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8e5vj8b)>; Gatiss not only was co-creator of "Sherlock" for the BBC, but he also played Mycroft Holmes (who appeared in the Canon for the first time in "The Greek Interpreter"). Randall Stock describes the manuscript at <[www.tinyurl.com/y87e5n6y](http://www.tinyurl.com/y87e5n6y)>.

Jul 20 #8 The summer issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) includes articles by Dana Richards (about Conan Doyle's *Psychic Bookshop*), and by Charles Prepoiec (about "The Case of Lady Sannox"), and other reports 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>.

"*Sherlock Holmes Is Real*" is an imaginative podcast launched by Toni Sutherland in 2017; now hosted by Talon King, with 28 episodes, it's available at <www.sherlockholmesisreal.libsyn.com>.

There was a virtual celebration of the 10th anniversary of the BBC "*Sherlock*" television series, in which Louis Moffat presided over a Q&A session with his parents, Steven Moffat and Sue Vertue, and Mark Gatiss; you can watch the proceedings at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=alJtully\_QQ>. And *Radio Times* celebrated the anniversary with an edited version of an older interview with Steven Moffat on "how Conan Doyle inspired me" that you can read at <www.tinyurl.com/yyz8hdtq>.

Benoit Guilielmo, an ardent Sherlockian in France, writes often about the Canon, in English as well as in French <www.tinyurl.com/y8xzipd2e>, and his anthology of "*Early Sherlockiana (1927-1934)*" will be of special interest to anyone who wants to read early Writings about the Writings.

Titan is continuing its series of manga graphic novels of the BBC's "*Sherlock*" series (illustrated by Jay); the latest is "*A Scandal in Belgravia: Part One*" (\$12.99), and you can see samples at <www.tinyurl.com/y2mbfbzy>.

The original *British Legion Album* <www.tinyurl.com/y9c5hljt> went to auction at Sotheby's in London this month, estimated at £30,000-£50,000; the album was compiled to aid veterans of the First World War, and a facsimile was published in 1924. The album contains hundreds of inscriptions, signatures, and other entries from a wide range of public figures, including Conan Doyle, who contributed the closing sentences, in manuscript, of *The British Campaign in France and Flanders*; the album was not sold (no bidder matched the reserve).

There's not much theatrical news, in this time of the novel coronavirus, but the Central Piedmont Theatre, which had to cancel their production of Ken Ludwig's "*Baskerville*" in July, have instead have gone virtual, and on June 27 streamed "*Sherlock Holmes*" <www.tinyurl.com/y7nt3x7r>.

A new (and partially improvised) three-actor dramatization "*The Hound of the Baskervilles*" is being performed on the lawn at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury, Berks., through Aug. 8 <www.watermill.org.uk>.

And the Pantaloons Theatre Company are on tour again in Britain, offering Mark Hayward's four-actor "*Sherlock Holmes*" <www.thepantaloons.co.uk>.

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

Because of the pandemic, the Baker Street Irregulars are planning two virtual events in January, with the Distinguished Speaker Lecture on Thursday evening, Jan. 7, and the BSI Annual dinner on Friday, Jan. 8. Visit the BSI web-site <[www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-event-dates](http://www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-event-dates)>, and sign up for "News from the BSI" to receive additional information about the birthday festivities when it's available.

If you would like know more about the Baker Street Irregulars, and our new Wiggins, Michael H. Kean, he was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for episode 198 of their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog, on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/y698vb4b](http://www.tinyurl.com/y698vb4b)>.

The lawsuit that was filed by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. over the upcoming Netflix television film based on Nancy Springer's "Enola Holmes" series of book (Jul 20 #1) will be contested: the film defendants (all those except Nancy Springer and her publishers) have filed a response, denying any infringement on copyrights and trademarks, demanding a jury trial, and asking the court to require the CDEL to reimburse the defendants for their costs.

The defendants state in their response that the CDEL's "claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the equitable doctrine of unclean hands." That's nicely theological: according to Wikipedia, the doctrine can be traced as far back as the Fourth Lateran Council, which was held in 1215. There's much more to the response, of course, and the documents in the case conveniently are available on-line at <[www.free-sherlock.com](http://www.free-sherlock.com)>

Netflix has released an official teaser for the film, available on-line at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrChuCpgbT0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrChuCpgbT0)>, and has announced that the film is to be released on Sept. 23.

Elinor Gray, coordinator of the Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium, has announced that the Symposium will be a virtual event via Zoom this year, on Oct. 10, with a four-hour cocktail hour followed by presentations by Les Klinger, Bonnie MacBird, Angela Misri, Rob Nunn, and Mina Hoffman. You're invited to name your own ticket price; details about the symposium (and a link to registration) are at <[www.leftcoastsherlock.com](http://www.leftcoastsherlock.com)>.

"Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss Reveal Their Top Picks for Female Sherlock Holmes" was the headline on a story in Radio Times (July 27): Moffat also noted a potential problem with casting a woman as Watson (the story's on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/y28wkqtr](http://www.tinyurl.com/y28wkqtr)>).

Otto Penzler is both the proprietor of the Mysterious Bookshop in New York and a publisher, and Penzler Publishers is issuing a long series of American Classic Mysteries, reprinting some fine books, often with new introductions and afterwords <[www.tinyurl.com/yyrdpkm4](http://www.tinyurl.com/yyrdpkm4)> (\$25.95 in cloth/\$15.95 in paper). Titles of interest to Sherlockians include Anthony Boucher's *Rocket to the Morgue* and H. F. Heard's *A Taste for Honey* (2019), and Anthony Boucher's *The Case of the Baker Street Irregulars* (2020). Vincent Starrett's *The Great Hotel Murder* (2020), with an introduction by Lyndsay Faye, isn't Sherlockian, but nevertheless a nice mystery.

Aug 20 #2 Edward D. Hoch's *Hoch's Ladies* (Cincinnati: Crippen & Landru, 2019; 288 pp., \$45.00 cloth/\$19.00 paper) has an introduction by Michael Dirda and includes Hoch's "A Parcel of Deerstalkers" (reprinted from Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine*, Jan. 1995) <[www.crippenlandru.com](http://www.crippenlandru.com)>. Jeffrey Marks now is the publisher at Crippen & Landru, which was founded by Douglas G. Greene (now the series editor), and they continue to publish grand collections of short stories by Ed Hoch and others, as well as long-out-of-print novels.

"I'm a writer but then nobody's perfect" is a delightful epitaph, chosen by someone who was far more than a writer, and had Sherlockian credentials <[www.flickr.com/photos/jrlogue/5199635955](http://www.flickr.com/photos/jrlogue/5199635955)>. A tip of the deerstalker to Al Gregory for reporting this.

The "Holmes in the Heartland" conference that was scheduled in St. Louis this summer has been rescheduled, and it will now take place on July 9-11, 2021 <[www.tinyurl.com/yd5elmpj](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd5elmpj)>.

Cade Deverell has reported a new publisher of miniature books: Tony Firman Bookbinding <[www.tonyfirmanbookbinding.com](http://www.tonyfirmanbookbinding.com)>; you can click on "Plum Park Press" and then on "Doyle" to see their edition of "The Five Orange Pips" (\$47.00 postpaid). Earlier editions of "A Scandal in Bohemia", "The Red-Headed League" and "The Blue Carbuncle" are out of print, but might be reprinted, and "The Copper Beeches" is planned for January; if you're interested in any of these, contact Tony Firman at <[tonyfirmanbooks@gmail.com](mailto:tonyfirmanbooks@gmail.com)>.

Chris Redmond's "Sherlock Holmes, Socks, and Simpson" (his latest contribution to Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere") shows that there always is something new to be said about things mentioned only in passing in the Canon <[www.tinyurl.com/y22nq27z](http://www.tinyurl.com/y22nq27z)>.

John Sutherland's *Curiosities of Literature* (New York: Skyhorse, 2011; 289 pp., \$12.95), accurately sub-titled "a feast for book-lovers," presents a collection of short entries covering a wide variety of literary trivia and miscellanea; the section on "morbid curiosity" includes a brief discussion of "the Baskerville Effect" (can one actually be frightened to death?) and the fascinating story of the only person to have committed suicide in the London Library (the suicide's not Sherlockian, but the London Library is mentioned in the Canon).

The manuscript of "The Land of Mist" (Jun 20 #1), at auction at Christie's in London, was sold July 30 for £47,500 (including the buyer's premium). Randall Stock offers a discussion of the manuscript at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <[www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2020.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2020.htm)>.

*Remote Sensing in Action: The Curious Case of Sherlock Holmes and Albert Einstein*, by Enders A. Robinson and Dean Clark (Tulsa: Society of Exploration Geophysicists, 2014; 374 pp., \$122.00), is an interesting example of "scientific fiction" combining a fictional narrative with real science; in this book Robinson (a geophysicist) and Clark (a Sherlockian as well as an editor) use Holmes and Watson to explain the impact of Einstein's theory of relativity on the science of remote sensing <[www.library.seg.org](http://www.library.seg.org)>.

Aug 20 #3 Just in case you weren't watching television in 1959: there's no mention Sherlock Holmes in "Count the Man Down" (an unsold pilot broadcast by CBS-TV), but it features Nero Wolfe (who of course does have a Sherlockian connection) and Archie Goodwin (played by an actor who may surprise you); kindly reported by J. P. Van Gordon, it's available at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9\\_AoebAAig4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_AoebAAig4)>.

History Extra (the web-site of the BBC History Magazine) offers a 34-minute podcast in which Sarah LeFanu discussing her recent book *Something of Themselves: Kipling, Kingsley, Conan Doyle, and the Anglo-Boer War* (Jun 20 #7) <[www.tinyurl.com/y4qe4cmu](http://www.tinyurl.com/y4qe4cmu)>.

An addition to the list of actors who have played Conan Doyle: Michael McElhatton, in the British film "Agatha and the Truth of Murder" (2018), now available on Netflix. It's a 92-minute film, almost completely fictional, opening with Agatha Christie, who has encountered writer's block, discussing writing and golf with Conan Doyle; she then goes on to investigate a murder, and there are amusing mentions of Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle at 29 and 69 minutes.



There's also Gavin McIver-Wright, who provided the voice of Conan Doyle, in "I Am Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (an 11-minute segment of the animated series "Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum" that aired on PBS Kids on Aug. 6 this year). There are lots of repeats on the channel, so you may still be able to watch it.

If you would like to read "A Study in Scarlet" in Beeton's Christmas Annual, that's easy to do, since the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas has digitized its copy <[www.tinyurl.com/yyfrpt69](http://www.tinyurl.com/yyfrpt69)> (thanks to Jim Hawkins for noting this). There's one living Sherlockian, by the way, who read his very first Sherlock Holmes story in a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual: Russell Merritt, at the Houghton Library at Harvard.

"Peter Cushing: In His Own Words" is an hour-long video (well, audio with images) of an interview with Cushing, recorded in 1986, long believed to have been lost, recently rediscovered, and issued last year by Rabbit & Snail Films <[www.tinyurl.com/yyomufpr](http://www.tinyurl.com/yyomufpr)>. Cushing discusses his career as an actor, with due attention paid to Sherlock Holmes; there's a trailer at the web-site, and another at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/y46x9yn5](http://www.tinyurl.com/y46x9yn5)>.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the publication of *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, Agatha Christie's first book, celebrated by Publishers Weekly (Aug. 3) with an article ("In the Study, with a Typewriter") by Liz Scheier, who notes that the Guinness World Records credits Agatha Christie as the best-selling fiction writer of all time, as well as the most translated (7,236 translations as of 2017).

On the other hand: Don Hobbs has recorded 11,287 translations of Sherlock Holmes stories, with more to come, in his colorful bibliography. The latest version of "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes" is available on request and without charge (as a 430-MB file via WeTransfer) <[221b@verizon.net](mailto:221b@verizon.net)>.



Aug 20 #4 Bryan Woolley's *Mythic Texas* (2000) is delightful collection of stories about the weird and wonderful people the author has met and written about in the Dallas Morning News (and it's easy to discover such people in Texas); his "The Adventure of the Eccentric Sherlockians" tells about his encounter with Bill Beeson, Don Hobbs, and Jim Webb. The book's out of print, but readily available from on-line booksellers, and great fun.

Rob Nunn's "Interesting Though Elementary" is one of many blogs available on the Internet <[www.interestingthoughelementary.blogspot.com](http://www.interestingthoughelementary.blogspot.com)>; he offers "interesting interviews" with Jerry Margolin, Jacquelynn Morris, Mike McSwiggin, Laurie R. King, Steve Doyle, and many others.

Further to the report (June 20 #4) on "Sherlock: The Russian Chronicles" (the new eight-part Russian television mini-series due later this year), there was a nicely illustrated interview with Nurbek Egen, director of the series, in Drama Quarterly (Aug. 20) <[www.tinyurl.com/y45gmrzk](http://www.tinyurl.com/y45gmrzk)>. And there is a trailer for the series at <[www.tinyurl.com/yxnrdnn3](http://www.tinyurl.com/yxnrdnn3)>.

The Bradford Telegraph & Argus published a nicely-illustrated story (Aug. 4) <[www.tinyurl.com/y57ydxmx](http://www.tinyurl.com/y57ydxmx)> on the Cottingley fairies material owned by the National Science and Media Museum; all three of the cameras are at the museum, along with Elsie Wright's drawings of fairies, made in 1983.

Sherlockian collectors value the Feb. 1890 issue of Lippincott's Monthly Magazine (which contained the first appearance of "The Sign of the Four"); the story was commissioned by the magazine during a dinner at which Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde were both asked to write something, and Wilde wrote "The Portrait of Dorian Grey" (which was published in the July 1890 issue). Steven Berkoff's splendid collection of Wilde material, offered at Sotheby's in London on Aug. 4, included both the British and American editions of the magazine <[www.tinyurl.com/y4mg3pax](http://www.tinyurl.com/y4mg3pax)>; the British edition (estimated at £1,500-£2,000) sold for £4,032 (including the buyer's premium) and the American edition (estimated at £1,000-£1,500) went unsold. It should be noted that a copy of the American edition with "The Sign of the Four" was sold at Heritage Auctions in 2018 for \$12,500.

Another interesting lot in Sotheby's auction, from the collection of M. T. Johnson, included five Kodak glass lantern slides of the Cottingley fairies <[www.tinyurl.com/yyqzqn6c](http://www.tinyurl.com/yyqzqn6c)>. Marjorie T. Johnson was the secretary of the Fairy Investigation Society, a "semi-secret occult group" founded in 1927. Estimated at £3,000-£5,000, the lot sold for £4,032.

"How Paul McGuigan Crafted the Visual Language of Sherlock" was the title of an interesting interview (Den of Geek, Aug. 5) with the director of the first four episodes of the BBC series <[www.tinyurl.com/y4yxjufb](http://www.tinyurl.com/y4yxjufb)>.

Reported: the SeaWolf Press <[www.seawolfpress.com](http://www.seawolfpress.com)> offers print-on-demand editions of a long list of classic authors, including Conan Doyle; their books are not facsimiles: *A Study in Scarlet*, for example, was published in 2018, but states 1888 on the title page and has text based on an 1892 British edition, and cover art from Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887.

Aug 20 #5 The Royal Mail has released its long-awaited stamps honoring both Sherlock Holmes and the 10th anniversary of the BBC television series, and offers a wide variety of collectibles: stamps, presentation packs, first day covers, prints, and (courtesy of the Royal Mint) silver medals <[www.shop.royalmail.com/special-stamp-issues/sherlock](http://www.shop.royalmail.com/special-stamp-issues/sherlock)>; the Royal Mail and the Royal Mint are corporations, and are far ahead of the U.S. Postal Service in catering to collectors. There also were plenty of authorized postmarks for the stamps <[www.royalmail.com/postmarks](http://www.royalmail.com/postmarks)>, in addition to the official first-day postmarks.

There are six stamps with designs from the television series, each with a hidden message that can be seen with ultra-violet light, and four stamps in a miniature sheet commemorating stories from the Canon. The miniature sheet was designed by Lithuanian artist Karolis Strautniekas; you can see a selection of his other artwork at <[www.strautniekas.com](http://www.strautniekas.com)>.

Eagle-eyed musicians were quick to report an error in one of the designs, explained at the Classic FM web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/y5rs2ukx](http://www.tinyurl.com/y5rs2ukx)>. And yes, it's the Royal Mail's mistake, which isn't in the episode in the series.

Not the sort of letter an author enjoys: "Probably the most hopeless kind of manuscript a publisher expects to receive from his favourite author is that of poetry for children." According to Barbara Richardson in *Book and Magazine Collector* (Dec. 1998), that is what an editor at Dutton wrote to A. A. Milne about *When We Were Very Young*. Of course Dutton did publish the book, which sold 10,000 copies in the first four weeks, not at all bad for 1924 (in Britain, Methuen's first printing of 5,140 copies sold out on the first day).

Nicholas Basbanes was one of the panelists at the Baker Street Irregulars' conference at the Lilly Library last year, and he has now written the introduction for W. Bolingbroke Johnson's *The Widening Stain*, recently reprinted in Otto Penzler's series of American mystery classics; Otto's 54-minute interview with Nick at the launch party for the book is available at <[www.tinyurl.com/yxmam5lw](http://www.tinyurl.com/yxmam5lw)>.

Karen Murdock reports that Stanfords offers a "Sherlock Holmes Map of London" showing London as it was in 1891 and keyed to locations in the four novels (£9.99) <[www.tinyurl.com/y2ha3mus](http://www.tinyurl.com/y2ha3mus)>. There is a different (and interesting) interactive Sherlockian map of the world (with descriptions in Spanish) on-line at <[www.sherlockland.com](http://www.sherlockland.com)>.

Paul Thomas Miller's "Doyle's Rotary Coffin" (Mar 19 #4), a society whose motto is "All Holmes Is Good Holmes," has published *No Holmes Barred* (its first "scrapbook of Holmesiana"), which is available as a free download at the society's web-site at <[www.sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin](http://www.sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin)>.

Greg Ruby reports that the Windsor Mint has issued a set of six "Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective" gold-plated copper medals that have something new for those who collect this sort of thing: the designs each include a bit of manuscript from one of the stories; £149.50 for the set in a presentation folder <[www.tinyurl.com/y6tbmjpx](http://www.tinyurl.com/y6tbmjpx)>.

Aug 20 #6 Roland-François Lack says his Cine-Tourist web-site is "about connections between maps and films" but there's much more than that, and it's well worth exploring <[www.thecinestetourist.net](http://www.thecinestetourist.net)>; there isn't a search engine, so: click on "London" and then on "Sherlock Holmes" for a quick tour of his many Sherlockian discoveries. A tip of the deerstalker to Steve Rothman for reporting this interesting web-site.

Linda Hein reports that Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are available for consultations at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif.; bring your friends or family, and a problem, and if you don't have a problem, one can easily be arranged. Facemasks and social distancing are required, and tea and refreshments will be available <[www.bakerstreetwest.com](http://www.bakerstreetwest.com)>.

One can still make good use of libraries while staying at home during the pandemic. The Toronto Reference Library has digitized 375 items in their Arthur Conan Doyle Collection: go to <[www.tinyurl.com/yypgdpez](http://www.tinyurl.com/yypgdpez)> and click on "View digitized items" to have fun exploring. They also have created an imaginative virtual Sherlock Holmes Escape Room, which you'll find online at <[www.tinyurl.com/y69x9ghn](http://www.tinyurl.com/y69x9ghn)>.

A few years ago Dana Richards reported Doyle's Delight, the highest peak in Belize, named in honor of "The Lost World" (Jun 17 #6). Now Geraldine Beare has noted Doyle's Delight Street in Balmopan, the capital of Belize; the street's only a few blocks long, but Google Maps shows you can dine at Bellavi's Bistro, and there's a nearby bed-and-breakfast to stay in

It's nice to know that the Sesame Street Workshop has not abandoned Sherlock Hemlock, who appears often (although briefly) in the audience during "The Not-Too-Late Show with Elmo" (which launched on HBO Max on May 27). You can see him, Howard Ostrom reports, in the third row at the far right in a preview available at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/yxvzxo9u](http://www.tinyurl.com/yxvzxo9u)>.

Sonia Fetherston reports a wide variety of Sherlockian merchandise at the Redbubble web-site; there are more than 200 Sherlockian jigsaw puzzles in case you're bored during the pandemic <[www.tinyurl.com/y4hxxwjxe](http://www.tinyurl.com/y4hxxwjxe)>.

Laurie R. King's web-site <[www.laurierking.com](http://www.laurierking.com)> always is interesting, and her blogs always entertaining; see "The Case of Laurie and the Monegasque Prince" (July 31) and "Feisty Old Ladies" (Aug. 12). She also reports in her occasional newsletter "News & Nonsense" that she is closing in on 200 pages in the first draft of her next Mary Russell novel *Castle Shade*.

All of the seats at the new (and partially improvised) three-actor dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (on the lawn at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury, Berks.) sold out in the first 24 hours, so the run has been extended through Sept. 6 <[www.watermill.org.uk](http://www.watermill.org.uk)>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" is due at the Muskegon Civic Theatre in Muskegon, Mich., Feb. 12-27 <[www.muskegoncivictheatre.com](http://www.muskegoncivictheatre.com)>.

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