Sherlockians (and Holmesians) did not gather in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 167th birthday this year, but the somewhat shorter long weekend offered plenty of events, thanks to Zoom and other modern technology. Detailed reports will be available soon at the web-site of The Baker Street Irregulars <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>, but here are few brief paragraphs to tide you over:

The BSI's Distinguished Speaker on Thursday was Andrew Lycett, the author of two fine books about Conan Doyle; his topic was "Conan Doyle's Questing World" (and close to 400 people were able to attend the virtual lecture); the event also included the announcement by Steve Rothman, editor of the Baker Street Journal, of the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article the BSJ last year: Jessica Schilling (for her "Just His Type: An Analysis of the *Découpé* Warning in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*").

Irregulars and guests gathered on Friday for the BSI's annual dinner, with Andrew Joffe offering the traditional first toast to Nina Singleton as *The* Woman, and the program continued with the usual toasts, rituals, and papers; this year the toast to Mrs. Hudson was delivered by the lady herself, splendidly impersonated by Denny Dobry from his recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street. Mike Kean (the "Wiggins" of the BSI) presented the Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) to Dan Andriacco (St. Saviour's Near King's Cross), Deborah Clark (Mrs. Cecil Forrester), Carla Coupe (London Bridge), Ann Margaret Lewis (The Polyphonic Motets of Lassus), Steve Mason (The Fortescue Scholarship), Ashley Polasek (Singlestick), Svend Ranild (A "Copenhagen" Label), Ray Riethmeier (Morrison, Morrison, and Dodd), Alan Rettig (The Red Lamp), and Tracy Revels (A Black Sequin-Covered Dinner-Dress). After which the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was presented to Ralph Hall and Jim Saunders.

Three new titles are available from the Baker Street Irregulars Press: *The Staunton Tragedy* is the latest in the Manuscript Series (193 pp., $39.95); edited by Michael F. Whelan; it has a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Missing Three-Quarter", with an annotated transcription and scholarly commentary (as always, the series offers readers an opportunity to be close to the moment when one of the stories was written). *Corporals, Colonels, and Commissionaires,* edited by Michael J. Quigley and Marsha Pollak (241 pp., $39.95), is the next book in the Professions Series, offering a fine assortment scholarship on the many military aspects of the Canon. And *"A Quiet Air of Mastery",* edited by Leslie S. Klinger (130 pp., $25.95), is a collection of warm tributes to Michael F. Whelan, written by many of his friends in appreciation of his 23 years as the "Wiggins" of the BSI. All three can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/the-bsi-press>.

The BSI's conference on "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" has again been postponed, in view of the prediction that less than half of the population will have received an initial coronavirus vaccination by June. The new date for the conference at the Bear Mountain Inn, N.Y. is July 29-31, 2022. Next year's birthday festivities will cluster around the BSI's next annual dinner on Jan. 14, 2022.

Jan 21 #2 "Doyle's Rotary Coffin" (a society whose motto is "All Holmes Is Good Holmes") has published its third book: Robert Perret and Paul Thomas Miller's *"Sherlock Holmes" Is an Anagram of "Snarky Clock" and 327 Other Holmesian Facts*, and it is a delightful contribution to the literature, from the dedication right through to the end; all three of the society's books are available in print, and as free downloads from the society's web-site at <www.sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin>.

The Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland have announced a Zoom meeting on Feb. 25 with a reading by Johanna Rieke, author of six pastiches, from the first of the pastiches to be available in English: *Sherlock Holmes and the Cornwall Affair*; the event will end with a conversation and a Q&A session. If you would like to Zoom in to the meeting, more information is available from the society at <reichenbachirregulars@gmail.com>.

Alexander Orlov has reported a very early appearance of Sherock Holmes on a phonograph record, issued by Pathé Records in Russia; it's the "Sherlock Holmes Polonaise" (as recorded by Oscar Filippovich Knaub with the Pathé Orchestra, circa 1911-1917). You can listen to the recording at a Russian web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9ne6pgr>, if you want to, and see an image of the record label at <www.tinyurl.com/y8sjex4f>. For those who have not danced a polonaise, it has been described as "a stately Polish processional dance, performed by couples who walk around the dance hall."

What city, mentioned in the Canon, had more than a million inhabitants at the time Conan Doyle visited it, but no longer exists?

The Jan.-Feb. issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine offers its annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes: Olga Popover's Sherlockian cover artwork; Terence Faherty's parody of "The Gloria Scott"; Steve Steinbock's reviews of Sherlockian books and television; Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" column; Josh Pachter's Ellery Queen pastiche "The Five Orange Pipes"; editor Janet Hutchings' "Happy Birthday, Sherlock Holmes!"; Mike Anderson's pastiche "The Shadow of the New"; Ruth Berman's poetic "Watson's Plane"; and Steve Hockensmith's Amlingmeyer Brothers story "Curious Incidents". There is additional non-Sherlockian content in the issue, of course, including a newly-discovered story by Cornell Woolrich.

William Link died on Dec. 27. Best known for his work creating and writing for television series such as "The Fugitive", "Mannix"", Colombo", and "Murder, She Wrote", he was named a Grand Master of the Mystery Writers of America in 2018; his many credits included "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes" (1984), the pilot episode of "Murder, She Wrote".

Craig Stephen Copland's *The Adventure of the Notable Bachelorette* (Washington: Conservative Growth, 2015; 101 pp., $9.95) is an amusing parody/pastiche inspired by "The Noble Bachelor"; it's part of a long series, and the author has information about all of them (and offers free samples) at his web-site at <www.sherlockholmesmystery.com>. More recent titles are available only as Kindle e-books, among them *The Adventure of the Engineer's Mom* (2018; 124 pp., $3.99).

Jan 21 #3 "Sherlock's Daughter" is another television series that might actually be produced. According a story at the Deadllne web-site (Jan. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/y66bzss3>, Starlings Television has green-lighted the series, in which a young American woman, after the mysterious murder of her mother, travels to London to track down her biological father, the legendary Sherlock Holmes, who isn't the mythological figure she has come to expect.

What city, mentioned in the Canon, had more than a million inhabitants at the time Conan Doyle visited it, but no longer exists? That challenge was issued in 1998, but the answer is still: Brooklyn (mentioned in "The Red Circle"), a city during his 1894 lecture tour, was annexed into the city of New York in 1896 and now is merely a borough.

Tania Henzell is celebrating Sherlock Holmes' birthday (and her Sherlock Holmes Tartan) by offering a 10% discount on the deerstalker (also on the hip flask). The discount code-word is IRREGULAR10, and her web-site at <www.sherlockholmestartan.com> has many other items in the Sherlock Holmes Tartan.

"Woolens became such a status symbol that Arthur Conan Doyle clad his fictional sleuth Sherlock Holmes in a tweed deerstalker hat in 1893," according to an article in the National Geographic Traveler Magazine (Jan. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/y2ebfjfo>. Dedicated Sherlockians will be quick to tell you that it was Sidney Paget, rather than Conan Doyle, who put Holmes in a deerstalker, but: did Sherlock Holmes, in the Canon, ever wear tweed?

The Public Domain Review recently posted an article about what may be the earliest "rogues' gallery" made available to the public: Samuel G. Szábo's *Rogues: A Study of Characters*, a photographic album published in 1857; the Pinkertons' collection of mug shots was circulated in 1855, but only among law enforcement agents <www.tinyurl.com/yxmmwmld>.

Edward C. McManus celebrated the holidays in verse with an amusing "Sherlockian Christmas Carol" posted to the blog of the Strand Magazine on Jan. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/y5nzzx22>.

Further to the announcement of the publication of a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Lost World" (Dec 20 #1), Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/lost-world-2020.htm> now has a review of the facsimile, as well as interesting details about the manuscript and the story.

Howard Ostrom and Ray Wilcockson have compiled a (now) 310-page data-base entitled "Under the Clock, Sherlock-—Still Rockin' After All These Years" that discusses (often with colorful illustrations) a wide variety of Sherlockian music, in various formats, from 1893 to the present. It's available on request from Howard at <howardostrom@gmail.com>, and is a delightful demonstration of the many ways in which Sherlock Holmes has become a part of our cultural literacy.

Jan 21 #4 Carter Dickson's *The Plague Court* Murders (1934) featured Sir Henry Merrivale, who is a member of the Diogenes Club and explains how and why he received the nickname of Mycroft. Carter Dickson is a pseudonym used by John Dickson Carr, and his novel is the latest in Otto Penzler's series of American Mystery Classics, with an introduction by Michael Dirda (416 pp., $25.95).

Karen Murdock has reported some interesting numbers in an article in Business Insider (Jan. 20): Netflix has listed its ten most-watched original movies, and "Enola Holmes" ranked 7th, with 76 million views ("Extraction" came in first, with 99 million views). The article also notes that Netflix counts a view if an account watches at least two minutes of a movie, so it isn't clear how Netflix views would translate into box-office dollars if the films had been shown in theaters.

It's marginally Sherlockian, but Alexander Orlov spotted an advertisement <www.tinyurl.com/y2fy34hq> for Sadler's Peaky Blinder spirits with an image of what seems to be a detective. Sadler's, originally a brewery that was founded in Birmingham's "Black Country" in 1900, has expanded its offerings, and their Peaky Blinder label celebrates the violent urban street gang that that flourished there <www.tinyurl.com/y2p97gqf>. There's also a television series, and you can look them up at Wikipedia. You needn't worry about what the advertisement says: it's in Latvian, and a dire warning about the dangers of alcohol.

Did Sherlock Holmes, in the Canon, ever wear tweed? Yes, in "A Scandal in Bohemia": "With a nod he vanished into the bedroom, whence he emerged in five minutes tweed-suited and respectable, as of old."

Andy Fusco has noted a nice essay ("The Mystery Is Holmes: Why We Return to Conan Doyle's Stories Over and Over Again") posted by Timothy Miller at the CrimeReads blog on Jan. 21 <www.tinyurl.com/y3edtyv9>. There's also:

Timothy Miller's new pastiche *The Strange Case of Eliza Doolittle* (Hoboken: Seventh Street, 2021; 249 pp., $15.95) is an imaginative mix of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, George Bernard Shaw, and Robert Louis Stevenson in a nicely-written story that offers some dramatic surprises.

The Parallel Case of St. Louis recently discussed "The Six Napoleons" at a meeting of their society, and someone reported a different and decidedly unusual bust of Napoleon <www.tinyurl.com/y5jhponj>.

J.P. Van Gordon has discovered a four-hour "ambience video" for Sherlock Holmes' Parlour at 221B Baker Street <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJeNG1R7FzM> (ambience videos offer "pleasant, soothing background images & sound for relaxation, study, play, or work"). A YouTube search for [ambience/asmr sherlock] will bring up many others.

Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> kindly offers (via e-mail) his new edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses are Investitured Irregulars).

Jan 21 #5 John Dickson Carr's *The Island of Coffins and Other Mysteries from the Casebook of Cabin B-13* (Cincinnati: Crippen & Landru, 2020; 329 pp., $47.00 cloth/$22.00 paper) is a collection of his scripts, published for the first time, from the 1948-1949 CBS radio series. Tony Medawar and James Keirans noted in The Armchair Detective (fall 1991) that "Death in the Desert" echoes Conan Doyle's *The Tragedy of the Korosko*, and that the murder methods used in "Till Death Do His Part" and "The Sleep of Death" were echoed in the 1953 Collier's pastiches "The Adventure of the Sealed Room" and "The Adventure of the Gold Hunter". The publisher's website is at <www.crippenlandru.com>. Carr was a master of the locked-room mystery, and his scripts provide a chance to see how much fun radio drama could be in (what some like to say) the good old days.

Ron Fish renews his offer to add meetings of Sherlockian societies to his Sherlockian Calendar, including gatherings held via Zoom or other technology; you can see his format at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>, and send him information about up-coming meetings at <ronf404@aol.com>.

One of the nice things about buying a mixed lot of books at an auction (as I did at the Paul Herbert auction) is finding something unexpected, such as Bob Brumfield's *Brumfield* (1980), a collection of columns he wrote for the Cincinnati Enquirer that includes one Sherlockian column. The opening is well worth quoting: "Baker Street seemed darker than I remembered it. This was due, primarily, to the energy crisis in England, with a resultant cutback in the use of electric lights; and, to some measure, I suppose, to the fact that I'd never been on Baker Street before.

Robert Lloyd Parry's "Nunkie Films" YouTube channel offers a long list of excellent readings of authors who include M. R James, H. G. Wells, Arthur Machen, Edgar Allan Poe, H. P. Lovecraft, W. W. Jacobs, and Arthur Conan Doyle (five Sherlockian and two non-Sherlockian stories); the channel is at <www.youtube.com/c/NunkieFilms/videos>.

If you're concerned (and many are) about delays in receiving your copies of the Baker Street Journal, BSJ publisher Steve Doyle has a YouTube explanation <www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnX5N37Xdco&feature=youtu.be> about how the pandemic has affected mail delivery.

Tedd Long's *Forgotten Visitors: Northwest Ohio's Notable Guests* (Toledo: Univ. of Toledo Press, 2020; 197 pp., $24.95) tells stories of a variety of visitors, from explorers Zebulon Pike and William Clark in 1794 to musician Neil Young in 2004, with a chapter devoted to Arthur Conan Doyle, who visited in 1894, 1922, and 1923.

Christopher Morley's poem "Graduate Student" (it's one of his many "Translations from the Chinese") appeared in the Saturday Review of Literature (Nov. 5, 1938) and was reprinted in The Middle Kingdom (1944): The loveliest pupil I ever had / Was my little Samoyed soubrette / Who used to cry, after every lecture, / "When does the drinking begin?" / And declared that Bosanquet's Essentials of Logic / Was more fun than Sherlock Holmes. You can find Bosanquet's book (first published in 1895) on-line at the Internet Archive <www.archive.org/details/theessentialsofl00bosauoft>.

Jan 21 #6 It's possible to feel grateful that postal mail gets through at all during the pandemic (not mentioned in the USPS unofficial motto "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds"). But: on Jan. 21 my mail delivery included a Christmas card mailed from Barcelona on Dec. 7, and another that was mailed from Buffalo on Dec. 16. So much for the old excuse "my check is in the mail."

Scott Hilburn's amusing "Argyle Sweater" comic strip was nicely Sherlockian on Jan. 22 <www.gocomics.com/theargylesweater/2021/01/22>, kindly reported by John Bergquist.

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar Awards, and one of them is Nev March's *Murder in Old Bombay* (Nov 20 #7) for best first novel by an American author (last year the novel won an MWA award for the best unpublished first crime novel). The winners of the Edgars will be announced on Apr. 29.

Dick Van Dyke will receive a Kennedy Center Honor this year (you will be able to watch the festivities on CBS-TV on June 6). He started his acting career more than 70 years ago (he's now 95 years old), and likely is best known for his "The Dick Van Dyke Show" television series. He went on to play Dr. Mark Sloan in the "Diagnosis Murder" television series; the episode "In Defense of Murder" (1997) was inspired by "A Scandal in Bohemia" and the Sherlock Holmes story is credited in the dialogue.

There's still news of some live theater: Neill Hartley's will perform his one-man show "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" at the Historic Village at Allaire in Wall Township, N.J., on Feb. 13 and 20; their web-site's at <www.allairevillage.org>.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (adapted for the digital stage by Rachel Kohler) will be performed at the Majestic Theatre in Corvallis, Ore., on Feb. 13 <www.magestic.org> and uploaded to Facebook and Vimeo.

John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed (and streamed) at the Mad Cow Theatre in Orlando, Fla., Mar. 15 <www.madcowtheatre.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Ziegfeld Theater in Ogden, Utah, Mar. 26-Apr. 10 <www.zigarts.com>; the announcement of auditions is an interesting summary of precautions some theaters are taking: "Safety: we will be taking every security measure possible throughout this process. No person will be allowed to attend our first in-person rehearsal without providing proof of receiving a negative test result for covid-19 within a week of Feb. 20. Masks will be required for all rehearsals. We will have enhanced sanitization of rehearsal and performance spaces to provide extra safety. For performances, actors will be masked off stage and possibly on stage in some scenarios."

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The 2020 Christmas Annual of The Baker Street Journal celebrated the 100th anniversary of the publication of Vincent Starrett's classic pastiche "The Adventure of the Unique Hamlet", and Ray Betzner has written about the Annual, and the pastiche, at his Studies in Starrett blog; you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/y4aog2a2>.

A correction: the Mystery Writers of America have announced their nominees for this year's Edgar Awards; Nev March's *Murder in Old Bombay* (Nov 20 #7) for best first novel by an American author (last year the novel won an MWA award for the best unpublished first crime novel), and James W. Ziskin's "The Twenty-Five Year Engagement" in *In League with Sherlock Holmes* (Dec 20 #2) for best short story. The winners of the Edgars will be announced on Apr. 29.

Angela Misri, whose *The Detective and the Spy* (Nov 20 #4) was the fourth in her series about Portia Adams, granddaughter of both Holmes and Watson, was interviewed by Shelagh Rogers on the CBC on Jan. 22; you can listen to the 17-minute interview from a link at <www.tinyurl.com/y6z5fso4>.

Warren Randall ("Harold Stackhurst") died on Jan. 26. He worked in administration at Stony Brook University on Long Island, and joined the Three Garridebs in 1987 and in 1988 he volunteered to edit the society's newsletter Prescott's Press, serving in that post for more than a quarter of a century. Warren was an enthusiastic member of most of the Sherlockian societies in New York and New Jersey, writing songs and skits for performances at their meetings, and was an expert punster. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 2007.

"Under the Clock, Sherlock--Still Rockin' After All These Years" (the now-317-page data-base on Sherlockian music compiled by Howard Ostrom and Ray Wilcockson) (May 20 #5) now is readily available, with all the images and links, at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.sherlocktron.com>; there's a link at the top of the column at the left.

The second issue of the Beacon Society's "Sherlock's Spotlight" (described as "a quarterly gazette for young Sherlockians everywhere") is now available for (and for sharing with) youngsters who might enjoy an introduction to the Canonical world. Anyone who wants to be on their mailing list can contact Steve Mason <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>.

The Beacon Society offers annual Jan Stauber grants of up to $750 to fund development of programs that introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/h7acxds>.

Jennie Paton found an interesting article at the We Are the Mighty blog on Apr. 2, 2018 <www.wearethemighty.com/articles/army-crime-lab-mickey-mouse> about Mickey Mouse appearing in Sherlockian costume in the official logo of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory. The logo also is on-line at the lab's web-site <www.cid.army.mil/dfsc-usacil.html#sec3>.

Feb 21 #2 ***The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer: Arthur Conan Doyle, George Edalji, and the Case of the Foreigner in the English Village*** **(London: Bloomsbury, 2021; 320 pp., £20.00) is written by Shrabani Basu, an Indian author who tells the reader about George's father Shapurji Edalji, the complicated battle over George Edalji's guilt or innocence, and the deaths of George Edalji and all of his family, with due attention to the prejudice at the time against Indians in Britain. The book's available in India, the U.K., and Australia; no plans for a U.S. edition.**

R. Wolfgang Schramm's *The Apocryphal Cases of Sherlock Holmes* (Bloomington: Xlibris, 2010; 78 pp., $10.00) has Sherlock Holmes and Dr. James Watson investigating the shroud of Turin, the Loch Ness monster, and the Tunguska explosion.

Karen Murdock has reported an exhibition ("The Great Fog and Other London Pictures") at the Paul Mahder Gallery in Healdsburg, Calif., of paintings by Lawrence Gipe that offer a colorful idea of what London looked like in the past <www.paulmahdergallery.com/current-exhibit>.

Is "Enola Holmes" the most evil movie ever made? Yes indeed, according to Cy Kellett on the Catholic Answers Live podcast on Jan. 4 (there's a transcript, in case you don't want to listen to the entire 30-minute podcast) <www.tinyurl.com/yl2jzssz>. Reported by Jennie Paton, who does find truly weird things on-line.

When in Happisburgh: you can visit the Hill House Hotel and see the blue plaque installed there in 2006 by the Eastern Daily Press and the Norwich School of Art & Design (it says that Conan Doyle, during a visit to the hotel, was inspired to write "The Dancing Men"). The hotel now is the Happisburgh Hill House Inn <www.hillhouseinn.co.uk>, which offers a pub, dining room, coffee shop & carvery, and bed & breakfast, as well as a beer garden and the Dancing Men Brewery (plus a silhouette of Holmes at the web-site).

Alison Flood's story in the Guardian (Feb. 4) was headlined "'I Think I've Written More Sherlock Holmes Than Even Conan Doyle': The Ongoing Fight to Reimagine Sherlock Holmes" <www.tinyurl.com/4qqtfakv>; it's a good look at current and recently-past pastichery. The author who says he has written more Holmes than Conan Doyle, in case you don't want to read the article, is James Lovegrove.

Christopher Plummer died on Feb. 5. He began his acting career in Canada on stage and radio, performing in both French and English, and went on to a career that lasted almost 70 years. He played Sherlock Holmes on television in "Silver Blaze" (1977) and then on screen in "Murder by Decree" (1979), and is one of the very few actors to have played both Holmes and an actor who played Holmes, the latter on stage in "Barrymore" (1998). It has been reported that Jeremy Brett suggested that Plummer tour as Holmes in Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes". Plummer's autobiography *In Spite of Myself: A Memoir* (2008) is well worth reading, and you can watch "Silver Blaze" at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=8l7hs0tRCCo> where there also are clips from "Murder by Decree")

Feb 21 #3 The saga of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel continues. The Southern Daily Echo reported on Feb. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/2xluefjx> that the Hoburne Group is seeking permission to demolish most of the derelict hotel, which closed in 2014; the company wants to build 79 apartments and three commercial units on the site, and plans to retain the hotel's historic façade (the entrance and battlement-style terraces reportedly were designed by Conan Doyle in 1912).

Needless to say, there is opposition: "Residents Give Mixed Response to Lyndhurst Park Hotel Plans as Verderers Slam Proposals' Effect on Forest" was the headline on an article in the local Advertiser & Times on Feb. 24 <www.tinyurl.com/kt3w9fby>. Official Verderer Lord Manners said that the verderers "do not usually comment on planning applications," but are making an exception in this case. In case you are wondering, verderers are forestry officials who deal with common land in former royal hunting areas that are the property of the Crown; the office dates from the Middle Ages, and the New Forest is of interest to them.

Entertainment Weekly reported on Feb. 22 <tinyurl.com/da2dpu2z> that the new Netflix series "The Irregulars" will debut on Mar. 26. According to showrunner Tom Bidwell, "Sherlock Holmes is in the story, it's his world, but he's not the central focus. He plays a big part of it, don't get me wrong, but it's about the kids and their journeys." The Irregulars, now a slightly older group of teens "are the only ones who can stop an impending dark magical threat from destroying London." There will be eight episodes and there's a teaser video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=1APF6a4m74k>.

The fall/winter issue of The Magic Door (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) includes articles by Doug Elliott (about annotating Conan Doyle's *The White Company*) and Hartley R. Nathan (about Conan Doyle's *The Firm of Girdlestone*), and other reports from and about the Library and the Collection. You can ask for a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

The 2019 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Library by Martin Edwards (In Sherlock's Footsteps: The Connection Between Sherlock Holmes and the Detection Club") and his paper has now been published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available to people who join the Friends now. Their web-site at <www.acdfriends.org> has PayPal and credit-card capability, or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above); the minimum donation of $35.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2020 Memorial Lecture. Edwards' presentation included a nice quote from Ronald Knox, who once wrote "A Study in Scarlet appeared in 1887, and since that date other things have been published, but it is only the detective stories that mattered."

Steve Emecz continues to host on-line Sherlockian events for MX Publishing and offers links to videos of past events <www.tinyurl.com/2p3aw6wp>; you can explore the web-site to find information on their more than 400 titles and links to a long list of Sherlockian blogs.

Feb 21 #4 Michael Cox died on Jan. 29. He began his television career as a director of episodes of Granada's television series "Coronation Street" in 1965 and went on to a long career as director and producer. He was executive producer for "Young Sherlock: The Mystery of the Manor House" (1982) and producer (from its beginning in 1984) of Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series, in which he can be seen (uncredited) as the zoo cleaner in "The Creeping Man" (1991). His excellent *A Study in Celluloid: A Producer's Account of Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes* (2000), reprinted by the Wessex Press <www.wessexpress.com/html/studyincelluloid.html>, offers a fascinating history of the series, and Scott Monty's warm tribute to Cox is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/3je82yaw>.

Alexis Barquin has reported a truly unusual example of Sherlock Holmes in advertising, in a 2018 video from Prostate Cancer Canada (Sherlock is at the left) <www.tinyurl.com/1okjyfs6>.

There were virtual birthday festivities from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London last month, and their annual dinner on Jan. 16 included a Zoom performance of Bonnie MacBird's dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle", now on-line at the Society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/1cob324u>.

One finds all sorts of interesting things at Wikipedia, including an entry for "Sherlock Holmes fandom" (created in 2015). There also are entries for "The Baker Street Irregulars" and "The Baker Street Journal".

The success of the Netflix film "Enola Holmes" seems to have drawn renewed attention to the books about her: Bill Seil notes that Publishers Weekly has reported that Nancy Springer has a new publisher (St. Martin's Press/ Wednesday Books) for two more books in the series; the first, *Enola Holmes and the Black Barouche*, is due in August.

Ioan Baicu offers an interesting list of Romanian material for Sherlockians and Doyleans: movie posters and translations of Sherlockian and Doylean books <www.romanian-movie-collectibles.eu/sherlock-holmes.html>.

Larry Flynt died on Feb. 10. Once called "the Horatio Alger of the sexual revolution" by the N.Y. Times, he launched Hustler as an explicit version of magazines such as Playboy and Penthouse, and reveled in the controversy that ensued. He published "The Affair of the Disappearing Dildo" (by John Hegenberger aka Dr. John H. Twatson) Nov. 1975 (noted by Ron De Waal as "a sure candidate for the most obscene parody"), as well as (at least) three Sherlockian cartoons over the years,

The Wrap reported (Feb. 22) <www.tinyurl.com/bh3febmc>, that Guy Ritchie, who directed the first two films in the Sherlock Holmes that starred Robert Downey Jr., will write and direct a film about the Baker Street Irregulars. Not the Sherlockians, but rather the Special Operations Executive; the film ("Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare") is based on the book by Damien Lewis that is subtitled "how Churchill's secret warriors set Europe ablaze and gave birth to modern black ops." The SOE had its headquarters in Baker Street, and they were called (by those few who knew about them) the Baker Street Irregulars).

Feb 21 #5 "Dame Judi Dench and Benedict Cumberbatch as you've never seen them before" is Howard Ostrom's description of an amusing video at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka47YeUj6eg> that takes you behind the scenes for a promotion recorded for Red Nose Day (which will on Mar. 19 in Britain). For adults only, perhaps, but they had fun.

Cédric Asna's imaginative *Sherlock Holmes: The Beginning* (Van Ryder Games, 2020; $22.99) is the first of a series of five "graphic novel adventures" that allow the reader to try to solve a mystery along with Sherlock Holmes (and it's not easy) <www.vanrydergames.com>.

Christopher Redmond's *Lives Beyond Baker Street: A Biographical Dictionary of Sherlock Holmes's Contemporaries* (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 299 pp., $18.95) offers a grand tour of the real and not-so-real people who are and who aren't mentioned in the Canon, with more than 400 brief (but informative) entries for people who range from George Wombwell and Sir Moses Montefiore to Mary Pickford and Marjorie Kay. MX Publishing's many books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.

Also from MX: Nicko Vaughan's *The Adventure of the Wordy Companion* (2018; 171 pp., $12.95) provides "an A-Z guide to Sherlockian phraseology" (from "a priori" to "Zeppelin"), helpful to the young (and perhaps no so young) reader.

SHERLOC and WATSON are now on Mars. The Perseverance Rover, launched last year on July 30, landed safely on Feb. 18. They are resting quietly while the National Aeronautics and Space Administration tests the Ingenuity helicopter before activating the instruments on the rover. SHERLOC and WATSON are acronymed instruments (Jun 20 #2) that contribute to the exploration of the Red Planet.

Ron Weighell died on Dec. 24. He wrote fiction in the supernatural, fantasy, and horror genres, as well as *Sherlock Holmes and the Shadow of the Wolf* (1992) and a collection of pastiches *The Irregular Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* (2000).

The Book of Extraordinary New Sherlock Holmes Stories, edited by Maxim Jakubowski (Coral Gables: Mango, 2020; 281 pp., $18.95), is an anthology offering 15 pastiches, some straightforward, some supernatural and psychological. And Breck England's *The Tarleton Murders: Sherlock Holmes in America* (2017; 247 pp., $18.95) is set in pre-Watson 1878, in a story told by Rev. Simon Peter Grosjean, S.J., who was at school with Holmes at Stonyhurst, and brings Holmes a mystery that takes them to Rome (where they meet the Pope) and America (where they meet characters later found in the Canon and in other writers' fiction, as well as Gen. William T. Sherman and many other historical figures).

Also from Mango: *The Book of Extraordinary Amateur Sleuth and Private Eye Stories*, edited by Maxim Jakubowski (2019; 267 pp., $19.95) is an anthology of new and interesting (although non-Sherlockian) stories, with a nice reward for those who look at a table of contents to decide what story to read first: Mary Harris' "The Chocolate Underpants Caper".

Feb 21 #6 Darlene A. Cypser's *The Consulting Detective Trilogy Part II: On Stage* (Morrison: Foolscap & Quill, 2017; 282 pp., $12.99) continues her entertaining account of Sherlock Holmes' early life; he's no longer at Cambridge, after an explosive laboratory accident, and back in London becomes an actor with the Sassanof company, touring in England and then in the United States, hard at work honing his skills as a detective.

If you bought the 50p Sherlock Holmes coin the Royal Mint issued in 2019 thinking it would be a good investment, there were only 8,602,000 of the coins minted <www.tinyurl.com/33v6g9n>.

Margaret Maron died on Feb. 23. She was a prolific mystery author, and a Grand Master of the Mystery Writers of America. From her *Corpus Christmas* (1989): "People used to kill for 'noble' reasons—for revenge or honor or to usurp a throne. Today, everyone lets it 'all hang out'" … "You can't build a believable mystery around simple *scandal* for its own sake anymore. Can you *imagine* trying to write *A Scandal in Bohemia* today? Instead of hiring Sherlock Holmes to retrieve that picture of himself with Irene Adler, the king would probably be trying to peddle the negatives to *The National Enquirer.*" … "And would probably be turned down because both parties in the picture were fully clothed."

Jennie Paton has reported some intriguing Displates offered by the English Society <www.displate.com/zeroroom/the-english-society>; a Displate is a magnet-mounted metal poster "designed to capture your unique passions.

The French television series "Lupin" (available on Netflix) stars Omay Sy as Assane Diop, a present-day gentleman thief who is inspired by Maurice Leblanc's Arsène Lupin; it's well done indeed, although so far Sherlockian only for brief glimpses in one episode of a book-cover poster for *Arsène Lupin contre Sherlock Holmes*. There has been quite a bit of Internet buzz about whether there will be a Sherlockian cross-over in the series, and it turns out that there well might be: George Kay, one of the creators of the series, told Radio Times (Feb. 6) that he's "really interested" in exploring the idea <www.tinyurl.com/4xexmpf7>. Stay tuned for the second season to see what develops.

The Purple Rose Theatre is partnering with the Chelsea District Library to present a reading of David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" on-line on Mar. 6. There's no charge to attend, and you can register at <www.tinyurl.com/4ta4avjv>.

Jacklyn Fazio's new "Sherlock Holmes: Making the Grade" is scheduled during the next Sherlock Holmes Weekend in Cape May, N.J. on Mar. 19-21, and it will be repeated on Oct. 29-Nov. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/28273yxd>.

Craig Wichman's dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" will be performed at the Cape May Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., from Oct. 29 to Nov. 6 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

Benedict Cumberbatch designed a statue of Paddington Bear in Sherlockian costume, one of 50 statues on display in London to promote the film when it was released in 2014 (Nov 14 #3), and it sold at a charity auction for £17,000 (Jan 15 #4). There's an interesting interview with David Field, who sculpted the statues, at a Hungarian web-site for Sherlockian; it's in English, at <www.tinyurl.com/mpaavhc4>.

It has been said that Sherlockian chronology is the most abstract and confusing and contradictory aspect of the grand game that Sherlockians enjoy playing, and now there's a Sherlockian Chronologist Guild, founded by Brad Keefauver, who edits and publishes their electronic newsletter Timeline. If you would like to join the Guild, or merely see an issue of their newsletter, you can contact Brad at <bkeefauver@gmail.com>.

It's always interesting to see people quoting Sherlock Holmes from outside the Canon, as in a PsychTests press release (Feb. 27) noted by Karen Murdock <www.tinyurl.com/j9ar3pub>: "No one epitomizes the cool use of logic like Sherlock Holmes, who sliced through ignorance and ambiguity with his sharp, precise intellect. 'Sentiment,' he once remarked, 'is a chemical defect found on the losing side." Where and when did Sherlock Holmes say that?

If you enjoyed the first episodes of "Lupin" on Netflix (Feb 21 #6), you will welcome the rest of the first season, due this summer; here's a brief teaser <www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWawfOIjLZI>.

Jeff Falkingham's *Focusing the Lens on Doyle and Holmes* (Monee: Frontier Fantasies, 2021; 78 pp., $6.99) offers 13 chapters that include his personal essays, scholarly studies, limericks, and book and film reviews, all nicely illustrated; his web-site is at <www.cccaper.com>.

"When times are tough, we turn to detective fiction," according to Stephen Armstrong in The Sunday Times on Mar. 7 (in a review of the new television series "Unforgotten"). "Arthur Conan Doyle's first Sherlock Holmes story was published during the long depression of 1873-96," he added. "Raymond Chandler's hardboiled 'tec sprang from the 1930s slump. In 2020, as the pandemic ravaged us all, detective fiction offered resolution and even a sense of justice being done." There was indeed a Long Depression in Western Europe and North America, according to Wikipedia (in the United Kingdom it was called the Great Depression of British Agriculture). I don't recall any Sherlockian scholarship that addresses the economic situation when the early stories were written and published.

Leonard Goldberg's new *The Abduction of Pretty Penny* (New York: Minotaur Books, 2021; 340 pp., $26.99), is the fifth 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 rescue a young actress who has gone missing; they quickly find that she is a captive of Jack the Ripper, who has reappeared 28 years after his reign of terror in Whitechapel and soon threatens Joanna herself. The author's web-site is at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.

Mar 21 #2 Radric Delantic Davis (known professionally as Gucci Mane) is an American rapper with a long list of studio albums and mix-tapes, and an interesting entry at Wikipedia. The Music Ally web-site reported on Mar. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/3jkz785y> that a group called MSCHF has created Project Gucciberg with a deep-faked version of Gucci Mane's voice deployed to read classic works of literature, including "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" <www.projectgucciberg.mschfmag.com>. Here's your chance to hear a rapper's "A Scandal in Bohemia".

Trevor Peacock died on Mar. 8. He had a long career on British television beginning in 1961, appeared also on stage, and wrote for musicals; he was best known for his role as Jim Trott in the series "The Vicar of Dibley" on the BBC (1994-2015), he also played Sidney Prince in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974 in London, Washington, and New York.

A tip of the deerstalker to Roger Johnson who has reported the interesting RadioEchoes web-site <www.radioechoes.com>, which offers access to 99,842 episodes, of which there are 574 hits for [sherlock] in the comedy and detective genres, some of which have not previously been available (such as five of the eight episodes of the "Sherlock Holmes" series adapted by Michael Hardwick and broadcast by the BBC Light Programme in 1962, starring Carleton Hobbs and Norman Shelley).

So: where and when did Sherlock Holmes say, "Sentiment is a chemical defect found on the losing side"? Paige Bigelow was quick to answer: in "A Scandal in Belgravia" (2012) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=utwenXbh9hA>.

Nicola Pagett died on Mar. 3. She launched her acting career at the age of 8 in a school play, and went on to a long career on stage and then in television; her break-out role was Elizabeth Bellamy in "Upstairs, Downstairs" (1971-1973), and she played Countess Nadja in "Anonymous Letters" in the series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1973).

***Gender and the Modern Sherlock Holmes: Essays on Film and Television Adaptions Since 2009*, edited by Nadine Farghaly (Jefferson: McFarland & Co., 2015; 252 pp., $29.95), is a collection of discussions by (mostly) academic writers about the sexuality of, and the relations between, characters in Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" films and the "Sherlock" and "Elementary" television series. It can be interesting examining footnotes and citations such books, and making discoveries such as:**

Ariane Devere's list of interests includes barbershop singing, Formula One Grand Prix, and (most importantly for readers of this newsletter) Sherlock Holmes, and devoted fans of the BBC's "Sherlock" series will welcome her transcripts of every episode <www.arianedevere.livejournal.com>. They are in fact more than transcripts, since they include her commentaries of what is happening as well as on what is being said.

Herewith a reminder that the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will be open at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 1 through Mar. 21, 2022 <www.mnhs.org>. The exhibition, created by the Exhibits Development Group, has been on tour since 2013, and there is an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9b7yq83> where EDG promotes the exhibition to museums that might want to put it on display.

Mar 21 #3 The saga of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel continues. The local Advertiser & Times reported (Mar. 4) <www.tinyurl.com/p2eam9cv> that the Parish Council has recommended approval of the redevelopment, despite the plan calling for only eight affordable homes even though the New Forest National Park Authority's policy calls for 50 affordable homes on the site. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is said to have designed the entrance of the hotel and its battlement-style terraces in 1912, and the Daily Telegraph reported on Mar. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/p3a4482e> on a new discovery by local historian Brice Stratford in Portsmouth's Arthur Conan Doyle Collection of a sketch showing that his design for the front façade "was based on the spiritual view of the journey of the soul."

Ronald Pickup died on Feb. 24. He began his acting career on stage with the National Theatre Company in 1964 (earning praise from Laurence Olivier), and went on to a longer career that included films, radio, and television. He played Barrymore in Granada's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1988), Sherlock Holmes in "The Singular Case of Sherlock H. and Sigmund F." on BBC Radio 3 (1988), the Narrator in BBC-1's Merrison/Williams "The Valley of Fear" on BBC-1 (1997), and Sir John Starr in "Murder Rooms: The White Knight Stratagem" (2001).

Here's a somewhat unusual hansom cab, at auction in Switzerland this month: a German wind-up sheet-metal toy, color lithographed and hand-lacquered, made ca. 1910/20, and there's more information available at <www.tinyurl.com/ydkrr5mv>. It was estimated at 900-1800 CFH [Swiss francs], and sold for 1100 CHF [or about $1175].

The 38th (2020) issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle; it has 77 pages of scholarship (including an interesting article by Daniel Polvere about George Macy, who presided over the Limited Editions Club when it issued its landmark edition of the Canon), quizzes, theatric, artwork, and reports on the society and its members. The annual costs $13.00 postpaid (or $20.00 outside the U.S.); checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles can be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467.

Something new for fans of "Doctor Who": Mark Gatiss revealed in an interview in Radio Times (Mar. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/2zry963s> that he briefly considered having Conan Doyle appear in "The Crimson Horror" (2013). "The original pitch was going to have Conan Doyle in it," he said, but the idea didn't make it past the plotting stage. "There certainly wasn't a first draft with Doyle," Gatiss recalled, "but he does deserve his own story, so maybe some day."

The Three Locks, by Bonnie MacBird (London: Collins Crime Club, 2021; 412 pp., $26.99), is the fourth in her series of pastiches, and a prequel, set in 1887 and involving Holmes and Watson with stage magicians in London and with students and dons at Cambridge; it's nicely done, and a welcome addition to the series. The story is told with style and surprises, and there is a personal mystery for Watson. Her web-site <www.macbird.com> has interesting and colorful annotations for all of the books in the series.

Mar 21 #4 Richard T. Ryan's *The Vatican Cameos* (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 319 pp., $16.95) alternates between the early 16th century, when Pope Alexander VI commissions Michelangelo to create the cameos, and the early 20th century, when Pope Leo XIII needs assistance from Holmes and Watson in recovering the cameos after they're stolen from the Vatican and the papacy is threatened. MX Publishing's books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.

The Scotsman reported on Mar. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/yzsryxur> on an on-line exhibition ("Photographing Fairies") at the Stills center for photography in Edinburgh <www.stills.org/exhibitions/photographing-fairies>; it's colorful and interesting, and there's a 50-page exhibition book available for download.

Adler was a five-issue comic-book mini-series written by Lavie Tidhar and drawn by Paul McCafferty, and it's now available as a graphic novel (London: Titan Comics, 2021; 128 pp., $16.95); "it's time to meet the League of Extraordinary Gentlewomen" is the premise, in a story set in London in 1902, when Irene is involved with a host of heroines and villains (Canonical and otherwise) in a battle to save London. There also is a colorful gallery of the mini-series covers, and a gallery of the artist's designs for many of the characters.

Umberto Eco's best-selling novel *The Name of the Rose* (1980) was a medieval mystery that featured William of Baskerville as its detective, while confusing many readers with passages in Latin, including its last sentence (*Stat rosa pristina nomine, nomina nuda tenemus*). Lion Heart Autographs offers a letter from Eco in which he explains the meaning of the sentence <www.tinyurl.com/3vcas7r7>.

This month all residents of England and Wales were legally obliged to complete a census form for the Office of National Statistics, or face a fine of up to £1,000, according to a story in the magazine Country Life (Mar. 6) <www.tinyurl.com/2bmajhum> that explains, among other things, when the first British census was held. Has anyone ever checked the 1890s census records to see who lived at 221B Baker Street, wherever it might have been at the time?

The "Holmes in the Heartland" scheduled in St. Louis on July 9-11 has been cancelled. It's the latest casualty of the pandemic, according to an announcement from The Parallel Case of St. Louis, and they hope to be able to hold the conference safely, sooner rather than later.

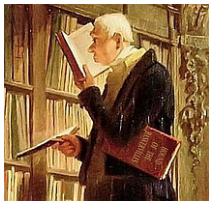
Accidental discoveries can be great fun; Anders Wiggström recently held a lottery for members of the Baskerville Hall Club (in Sweden), offering a copy of Patrick Kincaid's *The Continuity Girl* (London: Unbound, 2018; 268 pp.), described by the publisher <www.unbound.com> as "a comic love story in which the discovery of a long-lost version of a cult movie sheds light on a 45-year-old love affair between a Hollywood filmmaker and a real-life Loch Ness monster hunter." The movie, of course, is "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), and the story alternates between Scotland in 1969 and London and Scotland in 2013 and 2014, and it's a pleasure to read.

Mar 21 #5 The Lima Symphony Orchestra began streaming a performance of "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro" on Mar. 20, with Andrew Crust as the conductor and Enrico Lopez-Yañez as Sherlock Holmes; there's a teaser at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbG2uynt564>, and you can watch the performance at <www.limasymphony.com>.

Dr. John H. Watson's Last Chronicles, by C. Alfred Lewis, Sr. (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2010; 81 pp., $5.95), is an account of events at the end of the partnership of Holmes and Watson, and the results of Holmes' experiments with bees in his retreat on the Sussex Downs.

John Hillman describes his "Travels Through Time" podcast as "a mixture of serious history and a playful parlour game," and you can hear Peter Moore interview Shrabani Basu, author of *The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer: Arthur Conan Doyle, George Edalji, and the Case of the Foreigner in the English Village* (Feb 21 #2) at <www.tinyurl.com/pn2fs96>.

Laurie R. King's next Mary Russell novel, *Castle Shade* (Oct 20 #5), is due in June, and you'll find an amusing promotional video, and more news about Laurie, at <www.tinyurl.com/wfuuxe6p>.



The Bavarian poet and painter Carl Spitzweg (1808-1885) is perhaps best known for "Der Bücherwurm" [The Bookworm]. It is an image that resonates with book collectors, and Anders Wiggström (of the Baskerville Hall Club in Sweden) has found and kindly forwarded) this amusingly-edited version on the Internet.

"Tell Me More" was a 30-minute television series broadcast by BBC-1, and on July 9, 1977, the program included a 6-minute segment with Nanette Newman interviewing Lord Gore-Booth (the president of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London) and Chris Bazlinton (Sherlock Holmes' secretary at Abbey National) <www.archive.org/details/twitter-1148630309434482690>; thanks to Jennie Paton for finding the clip on-line.

On Nov. 13, 1968, Sir Paul (as he was then) was the castaway on BBC Radio 4's "Desert Island Discs"; he briefly discussed his participation in the Society's first tour of Switzerland, and you can listen to a 12-minute extract from the program at *<www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p009y1j7>.*

Buckingham Palace announced on Mar. 1 that "The Duke of Edinburgh was today transferred from King Edward VII's Hospital to St. Bartholomew's Hospital where doctors will continue to treat him for an infection, as well as undertake testing and observation for a pre-existing heart condition." He underwent a successful heart procedure on Mar. 3, returned to King Edward VII's Hospital for rest and recuperation, and then left the hospital on Mar. 16 to return to Windsor Castle.

Prince Philip, now 99 years old, was initially admitted to hospital as a precautionary measure after feeling unwell; Barts, founded in 1123, is the oldest hospital in Britain still providing medical services on its original site. It is well known to Sherlockians, of course, as the location of the first meeting of Holmes and Watson.

Mar 21 #6 Robert Downey Jr. had a spectacular fight scene in "Sherlock Holmes" (2009), and there is a detailed and interesting analysis of the fight by a British doctor named Ed Hope that is available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmltHCrXklQ>. Bob Katz (also a doctor, and one who knows whereof he speaks when it comes matters medical), says that the analysis is "very well done and comprehensive."

Frank Mills died on Feb. 11. He began acting on television in Britain in 1958, and was perhaps best known for his starring role in the ITV series "Coronation Street". He also played Commissionaire Peterson in Granada's "The Blue Carbuncle" (1984).

Cliff Goldfarb has kindly forwarded a Mar. 17 article about SherlockS Hats in Jerusalem <www.tinyurl.com/rw63cfz7>; it's an emporium that happily offers deerstalkers and many other styles of headgear. You can explore the shop in 3D at <www.sherlockshats.com>, and look for the picture of Sherlock Holmes.

Country Life published an interesting article ("Who Created the Your Country Needs YOU Poster") on Mar. 13, and you can read the article on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/23nze82p>. The poster is one of most iconic images of World War One, and the artist was Alfred Leete, who was best known, perhaps, for his work for Punch, but he also was a prolific illustrator in The Strand Magazine from 1912 to 1932, including, in Oct. 1915, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's article "An Outing in War-Time".

"An Outing in War-Time" seems not to have been reprinted, so it is only in the Strand (and now here) that one can see his portrait of Conan Doyle, sitting in a railway-carriage with a wounded veteran. It is interesting to consider how much the illustration echoes the now-iconic Sidney Paget illustration that shows Watson and Holmes on their way by rail to Exeter to investigate the disappearance of Silver Blaze.

The Internet is a great source for Sherlockian cartoons that may not turn up in your daily newspaper, such as "The Flying McCoys" (which was Sherlockian on Mar. 6) <www.gocomics.com/theflyingmccoys/2021/03/06>; kindly reported by John Bergquist.

In case you were worried about the bats at Highwell House (Dec 20 #7), the home of Cate Blanchett in Crowborough, the Tatler reported on Jan. 12 that that the Wealdon district council has granted permission to demolish the cottage on the grounds, provided that a "bat mitigation strategy" is implemented <www.tinyurl.com/y44x8r7z>. Press reports continue to say that Tom Baker and Conan Doyle lived at Highwell house; it's true that Tom Baker did, but Sir Arthur lived nearby at Windlesham.

Ken Ludwig has written three Sherlockian plays ("Postmortem", The Game's Afoot", and "Baskerville") and many others, and there's a lot about them all at his web-site <www.kenludwig.com>; click on the menu (the three horzontal bars at upper right) and then on [media] and [thoughts on comedy].

Mar 21 #7 ***Sherlock Holmes, The Missing Years: Japan*, by Vasudev Murthy (Scottsdale: Poisoned Pen, 2015; 270 pp., $24.95), is an account of some of Holmes' adventures (with Watson) during the Great Hiatus, on their travels from London to Tokyo, via Alexandria, Bombay, Calcutta, Angkor Wat, Saigon, Nagasaki, and Kyoto, all the while attempting to foil Professor Moriarty's evil plans.**

Otto Penzler plans to celebrate the publication of *The Three Locks* with an on-line conversation with Bonnie MacBird and Dan Stashower, on Apr. 13 at 6:00 pm DST. Details will be available at the Mysterious Bookshop's website <www.mysteriousbookhop.com/pages/events>.

***How to Instantly Size-Up Strangers Like Sherlock Holmes*, by Mark A. Williams, Sr. (South Richmond Hill: Real Deal, 2014; 384 pp., $26.79) offers a detailed examination of the many ways in which Holmes observed, drew inferences, and reached conclusions, and explains how you too can try to do the same.**

The Baker Street Players at Baker Street West have added a dramatization of "The Speckled Band" to their podcasts, and you're welcome to listen in at <bakerstreetwest.com/test-page-2>.

Sherlockiana, the newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark, now in its 66th year and edited by Svend Ranild, has in its first issue of 2021 some delightful artwork by Michael Skov Lambeck, thoroughly appropriate for these lockdown days, which will end sooner rather than later as more and more of us are being vaccinated.

"A crew of misfits investigates a series of supernatural crimes in Victorian London for Dr. Watson and his shadowy associate, Sherlock Holmes," is the premise of the new eight-episode series "The Irregulars" (launched on Netflix on Mar. 26). No spoilers here, in case you haven't watched it yet (or are refusing to watch it), although the Internet is full of buzz about the series (as was the case with Netflix' earlier series "Enola Holmes").

There have been some interesting articles about the series, including one in Radio Times (Mar. 26) <www.tinyurl.com/5b8k92vk>. It would appear that there's a lot of binge-watching in Britain: Radio Times also provided (on Mar. 26) an explanation of the ending of the series, with a firm warning about spoilers <www.tinyurl.com/mfhwhv9s>.

If you've not seen the 1929 silent "Der Hund von Baskerville" that starred Carlyle Blackwell as Sherlock Holmes, the first 12 minutes are available on-line at <www.vimeo.com/529650729>

"An Evening with Jeremy Brett's Sherlock Holmes" is the title of an interesting two-hour presentation arranged by Steve Emecz for MX Publishing on Mar. 27 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=6h1rFslLs34>, featuring the premiere of a performance by Jonathan Goodwin, a reading from Maureen Whittaker's *Jeremy Brett Is Sherlock Holmes*, and a panel of admirers.

Mar 21 #8 Elizabeth Crowens' *A Pocketful of Lodestones* (New York: Atomic Alchemist, 2019; 314 pp., $20.00), a sequel to her *Silent Meridian* in her The Time Traveler Professor series (Oct 18 #4), is a complicated time-shifting novel that involves a set of parallel (and sometimes supernatural) universes; Conan Doyle as one of the characters. The author's web-site is at <www.elizabethcrowens.com>.

Catherine Cooke reports that the City of Westminster Libraries & Archives will present "A Sherlock Holmes Adventure" via Microsoft Teams on May 20, to celebrate Bonnie MacBird's *The Three Locks* <www.tinyurl.com/xr78y3hz>.

The Spanish artist Marco Navas offered a "Sherlockians" collection with 12 7-cm figurines some years ago (Nov 14 #5), hand-crafted in resin and hand-painted, and there's now a new "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" collection that begins with a graphic scene from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <www.marconavas.com/Sherlock%20Holmes.html>. The web-site is in Spanish, and in English at <www.marconavas.com/EESherlock%20Holmes.html>.

"It was a very good year." 1887 is, of course, important as the year in which the first Sherlock Holmes story appeared, but it also marked Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, which was celebrated by the Royal Mint a with rarely-issued £5 golden sovereign. The Royal Mint now does more than provide Great Britain with its coinage; it's now a state-owned limited company that also deals in old coins, including the Golden Jubilee £5 sovereign (the first £5 sovereign ever minted), which they are advertising for a mere £3,950 <www.tinyurl.com/2mjncs4u>. There also was a Golden Jubilee £2 sovereign, available for only £1,720.

Christopher Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colo., Apr. 8-11, with audio of the production streamed on Apr. 14-22 <www.tinyurl.com/ya84htwa>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" (scheduled at the Longwood University Theatre in Farmville, Va., last year but postponed due to the coronavirus) will be produced and streamed on Apr. 14-18 <www.blogs.longwood.edu/theatre>. And it is scheduled at the Windhover Center for the Performing Arts in Rockport, Mass., July 2-25 <www.windhover.org>.

Cardinal Stage is presenting a walkabout radio-play series featuring two original Sherlock Holmes mysteries set in Bloomington, Ind. "Sherlock in Btown" will be presented in April, according to an article in the Indiana Daily Student (Mar. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/y6kv5k2x>. The two plays are Liam Castellan's "Predisposed to Violins" (beginning Apt. 15) and Bruce Walsh's "John Watson, PhD" (Apr. 23); more information will be found at their website <www.cardinalstage.com/mainstage/walkabout-radio-plays>. If you're not able to walk the route, Cardinal will be providing aa visual companion featuring photos of the walk, allowing you to enjoy the self-guided option from home.

A public service announcement: now that vaccines have become widely available, and more and more people are being vaccinated, it is possible that (at least) some people have not been fully advised on how important it can be to safeguard your vaccination records, because if they are lost it may not be possible to replace them. So: you should photograph or scan your card and store the image on your smart phone and other devices. You also should make copies of your card, for your wallet and for your files, and keep the original safe with your important papers, to tide you over until official vaccine passports are available for those who want to travel to other countries, or even within the United States. And do deliver a copy of the record to your primary care physician.

"Her letters to the flighty soldier are, without a doubt, among the great literary monuments that women of talent have, with relative frequency, erected to total good-for-nothings." That's from the chapter on "Julie de Lespinasse" (subtitled "The Amorous Mistress") in Javier Marías' *Written Lives* (New York: New Directions, 2007; 200 pp., $14.95). There also are chapters on many other writers (including "Arthur Conan Doyle and Women"), in a book that Michael Dirda correctly called "an immensely enjoyable collection of vignettes."

The Chinese animated film "The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes: The Jail-Breaker" (2019) has been dubbed in English (and with sub-titles) and released on an 84-minute DVD as "Sherlock Holmes and the Great Escape" from Shout Factory ($19.98); all of the characters are animals, and it's nicely done; you can see previews at YouTube.

The Adventure of the Oakshott Trunk, by C. Alfred Lewis, Sr. (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2010; 50 pp., $6.95), is a revised second edition of a story about Holmes and Watson's success in rescuing a young client while thwarting an evil villain.

Les Enfants Terribles, a theatre company that was founded in 2001, created "The Game's Afoot" for Madame Tussaud's in London a few years ago, and now offers "The Case of the Hung Parliament" as an "immersive on-line experience" <www.sherlockimmersive.com> (described by one Sherlockian as "utterly delightful" but "not for purists").

Howard Ostrom discovered "Dave Gorman's Terms & Conditions Apply" channel on the Internet, with an episode on "Guessing Weird Acronyms" that you can watch at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqoNZnMs-fk>. Two of the acronyms are HOLMES, one them the Home Office Large Major Enquires System, and the other Hunting cOol Low Mass Extrasolar planetS (which does seem to be a cheat).

"As a small kid in South Africa in the late 60s and 70s, I didn't see anything unusual about being called Sherlock Holmes. He wasn't a well-known character there at that time." That's from an interview in Metro UK (Apr. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/kwmb2vj5> with a present-day Sherlock Holmes (who was named after his father, whose mother had a sense of humor).

Apr 21 #2 *The Case of the Displaced Detective: The Arrival*, by Stephanie Osborn (Kingsport: Twilight Times, 2011; 326 pp., $19.95), is the first in a science fiction/mystery series in which Holmes has survived his battle with Moriarty at the Reichenbach having been transported to an alternate universe thanks to Project Tesseract, a government project supervised by Skye Chadwick, who becomes both his protector and his assistant. The author's web-site is at <www.stephanie-osborn.com>.

Britain is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Royal Albert Hall in London, and there was a well-illustrated report on its history published by the BBC News on Mar. 29 <www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-56428543>. The Royal Mint also is celebrating the event with a £5 coin; details on the coin are at <www.tinyurl.com/53ns63sn>.

It should be noted that Conan Doyle appeared at least twice in the Royal Albert Hall, the first time in 1901, when he was one of the judges at the world's first body-building contest, orchestrated by the strong man Eugene Sandow, and the second time in 1929, when he spoke during an Armistice Day spiritualist assembly. He may (or may not) have appeared a third time in 1930, during a spiritual memorial service in which a clairvoyant tried to contact him before an audience of 10,000 people; his widow, Lady Jean Conan Doyle, said that the event was "cheering and encouraging."

Steve Doyle's video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to watch interviews with David Stuart Davies, Rebecca Romney, and Roger Johnson.

Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, which will be at the Science Museum of Oklahoma, May 1-Sept. 6 <www.sciencemuseumok.org>. Created by the Exhibits Development Group, the exhibition has an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9b7yq83> where the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might consider putting it on display. The exhibition is scheduled next at the Frost Science Center in Miami, Fla., May 14-Sept. 5, 2022 (the appearance at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, Minn., has been postponed).

Christopher Redmond's *A Sherlockian History of England*, a new 28-page monograph that traces the country's history from prehistoric times into the Victorian era as echoed in the Canon; it is nicely done, and conveniently available as a free PDF file from Chris at <redmond2@execulink.com>; ink-on-paper copies are available for US$5.00 or CA$6.00 (postpaid) via PayPal or Interac.

Sherlock Holmes y la Conspiración de Barcelona written by Sergio Colomino and illustrated in full color by Jordi Palomé (Barcelona: Norma Editorial, 2012; 152 pp., $19.65) is an attractive example of graphic novels in other languages; it's set in 1893, during the Great Hiatus, with Holmes in dire peril in Barcelona. It's available from Amazon in Spanish and in Catalan, and the publisher's web-site is at <www.normaeditorial.com>. Also available from Amazon is their *Sherlock Holmes y el Legado de Moriarty* (2016), and Colomino's *Sherlock Holmes de Hayao Miyazaki* (2020), both in Spanish.

Apr 21 #3 Ridley Pearson's *Lock and Key: The Initiation* (New York: HarperCollins, 2016; 419 pp., $17.99) is the first volume in his trilogy about twelve-year-old Moria Moriarty. She's at school at Baskerville Academy, near Boston, where her older brother James is the roommate of Sherlock Holmes, and the series, written for young adults (age 8+) presents a well-told origin story for the boys who wind up arch enemies. The other two books in the series are *The Downward Spiral* (2017) and *The Final Step* (2018); the author has a web-site <www.ridleypearson.com>, where you can download a free prequel short story *The Gadwell Incident*.

John Christopher's *The London of Sherlock Holmes* (Stroud: Amberley, 2012; 96 pp., £11.99) offers a tour of Canonical locations, with an attractive variety of period photographs and illustrations; the publisher's web-site is at <www.amberley-books.com>.

Learn French with Sherlock Holmes and *Learn Spanish with Sherlock Holmes* (Dublin: Diglot, 2020) offer an intriguing approach to learning languages; each book has the text of "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in English, and page by page introduces more and more words in the foreign language, helping the reader understand context and meaning, without the need to focus on translation and grammar. Both of the books are available at Amazon ($15.20 each), and you can use the "look inside" feature to see how the system works. Diglot's web-site at <www.diglot.ie> offers a look at all their languages and authors, and they're on Instagram @diglotsocial, for those who want to know what's new with the company.

Sandra de Helen's *The Hounding* (McCorkle Ink, 2013; 168 pp., $14.57) features Shirley Combs (who would like to be the world's greatest detective) and Dr. Mary Watson in a murder mystery set in modern-day Portland. The sequel, *The Illustrious Client* (2013), has them investigating a series of murders, in the midst of which Mary finds romance (although not with Shirley). The author's web-site <www.sandradehelen.com> includes a video interview about the first book.

Olivia Rutigliano suggests that "Once you eliminate the least compelling Sherlock Holmes performances, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the best" in her article "The 100 Best, Worst, and Strangest Sherlock Holmes Portrayals of All-Time, Ranked" posted to the CrimeReads blog on Apr. 8 <www.crimereads.com/100-sherlock-holmes-ranked>, kindly reported by Les Klinger. One can agree or disagree with her choices, and comments, but it is interesting to consider how many (or few) people there are who actually have seen all 100 of the portrayals.

"Both in the books and on screen, Sherlock is shown to be fond of his tea, and so we infused vodka with Earl Grey tea. He's also found with a glass of wine, and we made a beetroot and wine reduction, making it look a little like blood for all the murder mysteries he's solved. Add to it a hint of rose for his unrequited hostility toward women, and a little fresh lime to balance it all. The very English gherkin pickles are added to it. We serve it with Sherlock's iconic magnifying glass." That's the recipe for "Sherlock in a Pickle" a cocktail reported (with an image) by Bill Seil in the Asian Age <www.tinyurl.com/39bfv9ch>.

Apr 21 #4 *Printer's Error*, by J. P. Romney and Rebecca Romney (New York: Harper, 2017; 353 pp., $26.00), Is subtitled "irreverent stories from book history," and it's a delightful excursion into the world of books and those who create them. It is not really Sherlockian (although Arthur Conan Doyle and Christopher Morley are quoted), but it is full of great stories, and Rebecca (who is "That Gap on the Second Shelf" in the Baker Street Irregulars) presides over Type Punch Matrix, with an on-line catalog <www.typepunchmatrix.com> that does not neglect the Canon in its offerings of interesting and rare books.

J. K. Van Dover's *The Detective and the Artist: Painters, Poets, and Writers in Crime Fiction, 1840s-1970s* (Jefferson, McFarland & Co., 2019; 188 pp., $55.00) explores artists in the detective genre, as detectives, villains, and victims, from Poe's Dupin through the hard-boiled detectives, with (of course) detailed discussion of the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Christopher Redmond wonders, "Can you name two literary works that never mention Sherlock Holmes but are coveted by Sherlockian collectors everywhere?" in his article in the spring issue of Canadian Holmes (published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto). The literary works are "Food for Poser" and "The Four Leaved Shamrock" (two drawing-room plays that accompanied "A Study in Scarlet" in Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887); Chris has some interesting commentary about the plays and their authors. Canadian Holmes costs $30.00 a year (US or CA), and single issues cost $12.00 <www.torontobootmakers.com>.

Nikki Stafford's *Investigating Sherlock: The Unofficial Guide* (Oct 15 #4) Was an insightful companion to the first three seasons of the series, with discussions of its history, analysis, and commentary on each episode. She hasn't updated the book, but her blog <www.nikkistafford.blogspot.com> has her commentary on "The Abominable Bride" and many other television series.

The Washington Post ran a "March Madness" poll to determine the greatest fictional detective <www.tinyurl.com/9d29c9y3>, with 32 bracketed choices; the winner was Armand Gamache, with Sherlock Holmes in second place. The poll still is up and running, so you can still vote (and see how many of the detectives you actually recognize). It has been suggested that fans of Louise Penny's books carried out an organized campaign in favor of her detective.

Quartet Records has released a "50th Anniversary Special Edition" CD for "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (€21.95) <www.tinyurl.com/54ykk6y8>; it's a remastered version of their 2013 CD, with additional material that includes a bonus track of "Gabrielle" (omitted from the 2013 version).

"Spring Cleaning the Old-Fashioned Way" is the title of an article posted on-line by English Heritage on Mar. 19 <www.tinyurl.com/bx82cxa5>, with a link to an instructive video, offering a look at some of things that Mrs. Hudson did (or perhaps tried to do) when it came to clean-up time. There also is Lucy Lethbridge's *Mind Your Manors: Tried-and-True British Household Cleaning Tips* (2016), noted with commentary in Maria Cramer's article in the N.Y. Times on Mar. 21 <www.tinyurl.com/9sbecdyf>.

Apr 21 #5 "Meitantei Conan" [Detective Conan] was first a Japanese manga comic-book series created by Gyosho Aoyama, developed into a long-running animated television series, and then animated films; Shinichi Kudo is a 17-year-old master detective who has been turned by villains into a child, and assumes the name Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Arthur Conan Doyle) and pursues evil-doers. The character is still popular. The Japan Times reported on Apr. 14 <www.tinyurl.com/5zzm4aw> that a train station in central Japan has (briefly) been renamed "Meitantei Conan" to celebrate this month's release of a new film "Detective Conan: The Scarlet Bullet".

SHERLOC and WATSON are alive and well on Mars, as you will see if you go to <www.apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html> and click on the Calendar link at the bottom of the page, and then on the image for Apr. 3.

"There's a genre of Sherlock Holmes story that starts brilliantly," Steven Moffat said, Radio Times reported (July 20, 2020), "and obviously someone comes to the door and suggests to Sir Arthur that maybe a game of cricket is in the offing, and he just dashes an ending rather quickly. Five Orange Pips and the Engineer's Thumb both fall foul of that. But they've got great beginnings!" <www.tinyurl.com/7kwpfvp2>.

Will Thomas' *Dance with Death* (New York: Minotaur, 2021; 307 pp., $27.99) is the latest in his excellent series that features private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewelyn; it's now 1893, and they're involved in combatting an attempt to assassinate the future czar of Russian, who is visiting London for a royal wedding; strong characters are the mark of a good series, and as usual, the plot is interesting and the story well told.

Stefan Bechtel and Laurence Roy Stains' *Through a Glass Darkly* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2017; 303 *pp.*, $26.99) reports in detail on "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the quest to solve the greatest mystery of all"; the authors note that they "are not true believers," adding "but it's fair to say we don't *not* believe," and address both sides of the lengthy argument over Spiritualism.

"Tobacco for the cigars was sourced from as far as Cuba and was fermented in fruits, jaggery, and honey, giving them their unique taste," according the News Minute (Feb. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/pxzkr7st>, in a story about the Trichinopoly cigar. It appears that cigars made in Trichinopoly are still available for purchase in India <www.tinyurl.com/5f7dr9dm>, although perhaps not with the same flavor as the cigar smoked by Jefferson Hope (in "A Study in Scarlet").

Matt Wingett's *The Mysteries of Portsmouth* (Portsmouth: Life Is Amazing, 2019; 107 pp., £10.00) includes his acknowledgement that "while many stories in this book are explicable, many appear not to be," and among those stories is his brief account about "Conan Doyle and the Paranormal". Matt earlier published an excellent facsimile of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, *Conan Doyle and the Mysterious World of Light 1887-1920*, and *Portsmouth: A Literary and Pictorial Tour*, (Feb 19 #6), and all his books are available at <www.lifeisamazing.co.uk>.

Apr 21 #6 Paul T. Gilbert's *Sherlock Holmes and the Unholy Trinity* (London: Robert Hall, 205; 222 pp., £19.99) is his version of two of the unrecorded cases ("The Death of Cardinal Tosca" and "The Coptic Patriarchs"), and it takes Holmes and Watson to Italy and Egypt in a battle against a mysterious and malignant enemy. The author's Facebook page is at <www.facebook.com/paul.gilbert.589100>.

Diana Bacco explained "Why we should thank Sherlock Holmes for the invention of forensic geology" in a post on Apr. 22 to the Ripley's Believe It or Not! web-site <www.tinyurl.com/48hfjnke>.

Bill Peschel's *The Casebook of Twain and Holmes* (Herschel: Peschel Press, 2018; 233 pp., $17.95) offers seven stories "as dictated by Samuel Clemens" in which Twain encounters Sherlock Holmes and other Canonical characters, most reprinted from his "223B Casebook Series" and all nicely capturing Twain's style and self-deprecating humor. Bill has a web-site at <www.peschelpress.com>.

Alexander Orlov reports something new for Sherlockian gardeners: seeds for Sherlock Holmes sweet peppers <www.tinyurl.com/2nhparmb>; the web-site describes them as "incredibly productive" and "zoned for Siberia."

Jon L. Lellenberg ("Rodger Prescott") died on Apr. 24. He had a long career as a strategist for the Defense Department, serving as the director of the Policy and Strategy Office of the Special Operations & Counterterrorism Bureau when he retired in 2006. Jon found the Sherlockian world as a member of the Red Circle of Washington in the early 1970s and became the American representative for Dame Jean Conan Doyle after she regained control of her father's American copyrights; he also wrote and edited volumes for the Baker Street Irregulars archival history series, and about Conan Doyle and his writings. He received his Investiture from the BSI in 1974, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1988.

It's nice that theaters continue to open (with appropriate wear-your-mask precautions, while more and more of us are being vaccinated for COVID-19). Susan Zeder's "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Royal Theatre in Versailles, Mo., May 6-9 <www.theroyaltheatre.com>.

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 14-16; Facebook page at <www.facebook.com/Fayettecountycommunitytheatre>.

Amy Frey's new "Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia" will be performed at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, N.Y., on June 14-13 <www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org>.

Leslie Bricusse's musical "The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled in a Spiegel-tent tour in Britain that's due to begin in Leicester in August <www.morphicgraffiti.co.uk>.

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

D. Martin Dakin's *A Sherlock Holmes Commentary* (1972) was widely hailed as an important contribution to the Higher Criticism; he discussed all of the Canon, plus two apocryphal tales, noting many of the scholars who had preceded him. Now Bruce Harris, in his *Anticipations in D. Martin Dakin's A Sherlock Holmes Commentary*, recently published by George A. Vanderburgh, digs deeper into the older scholarship, in an era when modern technology has made older publications so much more easily available, and has found more earlier commentary on the points that interested Dakin. The 87-page book is available from Harris <marxman@comcast.net> ($19.00 postpaid).

Russian writer and director Aleksandr Bubnov's credits include many artistic and amusing animations, two of them being "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson: The Murder of Lord Waterbrook" (2006) and "Sherlock Holmes and the Little Chimney Sweeps" (2012), both now available at YouTube, with English subtitles, at <www.tinyurl.com/ev9v3puj> and <www.tinyurl.com/2y95dhna>, kindly reported by Jennie Paton.

Sherlock Holmes from Screen to Stage, by Benjamin Poore (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017; 258 pp., $119.99), is a well-written and entertaining examination of the impact of stage, screen, and television on the continuing popularity of Sherlock Holmes, and it offers much more than its subtitle ("post-millennial adaptations in British theatre") suggests; there's discussion of William Gillette's play as well as many other American versions of Holmes, and more importantly, the author has seen or read the many productions, and has not merely relied on reviews.

There were 28 issues of Moody Street Irregulars (A Jack Kerouac Newsletter) published from 1978 to 1992, and according to the entry at Wikipedia "the title of the publication derives from the Baker Street Irregulars, a group of street urchins often employed by Sherlock Holmes." No one seems to have reported a mention of Holmes in the newsletter.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, and Nicholas Utechin tells some grand stories about its history in an interview at the I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere web-site; listen in at <www.tinyurl.com/8mcw2b5j>.

The spring issue of Sherlock's Spotlight Gazette (the Beach Society's outreach to younger Sherlockians) and a Sherlockian thread in John Hambrock's amusing comic strip "The Brilliant Mind of Edison Lee" are now available from Steve Mason <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>; he'll be glad to add you to their mailing list.

Christine Estima had an interesting article in the Hamilton Spectator (May 1) <www.tinyurl.com/2tt6mvhz> about the illustrated guidebooks published by Ward, Lock & Co. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, mentioning in passing a Great Postcard competition in 1907 that was judged by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, with £6,666 in prizes. Thanks to Google, one finds the "Raphael Tuck and Sons Competitive Prize Exhibition of Postcard Home Decorations and Tours, Together with Postcard Originals" in London in the summer of 1907; it was an imaginative promotional effort, and the catalogue's on-line at <www.catalogues.tuckdb.org/sets/5993>. Conan Doyle was on the board of directors of the company, and yes indeed, it was Ward, Lock & Co. who published Beeton's Christmas Annual in 1887.

May 21 #2 "In a bookless household, I had managed to acquire some sort of taste for books, largely because of a master at one of my early schools who read aloud to us beautifully from Conan Doyle and G. K. Chesterton." John le Carré, quoted in the Sunday Times on May 2, from his new introduction to the 60th-anniversary of his first novel *Call for the Dead*, published by Penguin Classics this month.

The spring issue of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust's electronic newsletter For the Sake of the Trust has been uploaded to the Trust's web-site <www.bsitrust.org>, where you'll also find information about the Trust's Oct. 2 webinar lecture by Roberta Pearson (professor of film and television studies in the School of Cultures, Languages, and Area Studies at the University of Nottingham).

The Paranormal World of Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Timothy Green Beckley (New Brunswick, Global Communications, 2010; 292 pp, $21.95) is subtitled "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, First Ghostbuster and Psychic Sleuth" and offers commentary on Conan Doyle and on the Cottingley Fairies; most of the book consists of reprints from Conan Doyle's writings about Spiritualism, including the complete text of *The Edge of the Unknown.

The Reichenbach Irregulars will launch their new *Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Switzerland: Serious and Less Serious Musings!* at a confence via Zoom on June 15; details on the conference and on the book will be found (in German and English) at their web-site <www.221b.ch>.

Netflix has cancelled plans for a second season of the series "The Irregulars", even though the series ranked in the channel's top ten programs in April. This certainly will not please Read & Co. Classics, who have just published *The Irregulars: A Complete Collection of the Baker Street Irregular Stories* (290 pp., $14.99), with "A Study in Scarlet, "The Sign of the Four", and "The Crooked Man", as a tie-in to the series.

It is nice to be reminded that the Baker Street Irregulars, who have appeared in countless pastiches, are mentioned in only three of the stories in the Canon.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder are continuing their long series of interviews at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.ihearofsherlock.com>; their latest episodes offer Bill Peschel (#214), Nicholas Utechin (#205), and a tribute to Jon Lellenberg (#216).

Karen Murdock reported that Garrison Keillor honored Christopher Morley's birthday in "The Writer's Almanac" on May 5: "Morley said, 'You can blow up a man with gunpowder in half a second, while it may take twenty years to blow him up with a book. But the gunpowder destroys itself along with its victim, while a book can keep on exploding for centuries.'"

Ron Fish's "Sherlockian Calendar" <www.sherlockiancalendar.com> continues to be a go-to destination for anyone who wants to see what Sherlockian societies are doing, and thanks to Zoom there certainly has been a lot going on during the pandemic. The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis happily celebrated the beginning of the end of the pandemic by holding a "hybrid" meeting on Apr. 24, in person for locals and via Zoom for those more distant, and a recording of the event, the first of its kind for a Sherlockian society meeting, is available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=if9lSjIiQtE>.

May 21 #3 *This August and Scholarly Body: The Society at 70*, edited by Nicholas Utechin, is a delightful and colorful 116-page celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, presenting its history; an account of its publications, meetings, and excursions; and the story behind the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition during the Festival of Britain in 1951. It's available (£11.00) from the Society's on-line shop at <www.tinyurl.com/sd6kx8>.

The National Archives in the U.K. have an interesting web-site, as well as a weekly newsletter <www.tinyurl.com/4cuw5df2>, noted by Howard Ostrom.

Paul Thomas Miller, not content with presiding over Doyle's Rotary Coffin, has created an electronic Chapter and Verse edition of the Canon, by way of making it easy to cite specific sentences in the stories. It's available as a free download at <www.chapterandverseholmes.co.uk>. The Appendix will be especially useful to some Sherlockians and Holmesians.

ALT.SHERLOCK.HOLMES (Oxford: Abaddon Books, 2016; 416 pp., $9.99) offers novellas by Jamie Wyman, Gini Koch, and Glen Mehn, each of them with their own and thoroughly non-Canonical versions of Sherlock Holmes, set in the worlds of a 1930s carnival, the drug-culture 1960s in New York, and today in Hollywood.

Admirers of Will Thomas' series about private enquiry agents Barker and Llewelyn (Apr 21 #5) will enjoy Vick Mickunas' May 8 interview with Will on WYSO-FM <www.tinyurl.com/yv9fvwue>.

Patricia Raybon's *All That Is Secret* (Carol Stream: Tyndale House, 2021; 374 pp., $25.99) is set in 1925, when Annalee Spain, a young Black theology professor in Chicago travels to Denver to investigate her father's murder; she is a devotee of Sherlock Holmes, and each chapter begins with a quote from the Canon, and it's an interesting mystery but not a pastiche.

Steve Doyle's video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to watch interviews with Jayantika Ganguly, Bert Coules, and others.

Robert J. Harris' *A Study in Crimson: Sherlock Holmes 1942* (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2021; 306 pp., $25.95) is inspired by the Universal series of films that brought Holmes and Watson into the 1940s, and presents them in war-time Britain in pursuit of Crimson Jack, a serial killer whose crimes echo those of Jack the Ripper; Holmes and Watson don't echo Rathbone and Bruce, but one can see this as one of their films. The author has a website at <www.harris-authors.com>.

You can see Sherlock Holmes in action (in Spanish) in a video spotted by Jennie Paton at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-QY2cXxRKI>.

And here's Herbert Pattee as Sherlock Moans in a short silent film held at Southern Methodist University <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll7R2TWXa8w>. But it doesn't seem to match any of Pattee's films listed in the Internet Movie Data Base. The shimmy was popular enough to have had its own song, "I Wish I Could Shimmy Like My Sister Kate" (written by Armand J. Piron and published in 1922), and if you would like to try the dance out for yourself, here's how <www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iMwrNuXikA>.

May 21 #4 The Beacon Society has created an impressive web-site devoted to Sherlockian societies, full of information and advice, on-line at <www.beaconsociety.com/sherlockian-societies.html>; it includes an interactive map that allows you to find geographical societies in the U.S. and in other countries (just zero in on wherever you are, or plan to be) with contact information and web-site URLs. If your society is not listed you can contact Mike McSwiggin <mikemcswiggin@gmail.com> and he'll be glad to add you to the map.

There's welcome news for all who enjoyed the first episodes of the Netflix series "Lupin" (Mar 21 #1): the rest of the first season will be available on June 11. The trailer is at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJ6x279y8GI>, and the web-site for the series is at <www.netflix.com/title/80994082>.

Norman Lloyd died on May 11. He had a long career on stage and screen and in television. His Sherlockian connection is by association: according to his obituary in the Hollywood Reporter, his first big break came in 1932, when while attending New York University, he was offered an apprenticeship at Eve Le Gallienne's Civic Repertory Theatre. Seeking advice, he knocked unannounced at the Broadway stage door of Nigel Bruce, who was then in the three-act play "Springtime for Henry".

Bruce played the same part (the jealous husband) when the play was filmed in 1934. Alas: the film seems not to be available on-line or on DVD, but you can see what Nigel Bruce looked like in 1934 in a lobby card that may still be available at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/3f6z4bd3>.

"The game is afoot again as Millie Bobby Brown and Henry Cavill have re-united for a sequel to "Enola Holmes", the female-centric Sherlock Holmes hit from Legendary Entertainment and Netflix," according to the Hollywood Reporter (May 12); they're far more reliable than the click-bait rumor on the Internet.

Palgrave Macmillan's Crime Files series includes Clare Clarke's *Late Victorian Crime Fiction in the Shadows of Sherlock* (New York: 2014; 221 pp., $199.99), an interesting exploration of the genre in the 1890s and 1900s (which has been called "the first golden age of detective fiction"), in a discussion that ranges from Robert Louis Stevenson to Guy Boothby; there's a chapter on "The Sherlock Holmes Stories and Work", and among many other contributions to the literature she traces the phrase "detective fiction" to its first appearance in print, in the Saturday Review (Dec. 4, 1886) a year before the publication of "A Study in Scarlet" in Beeton's Christmas Annual.

Brianna Benji's *Shirley Jane and the Mystery of the Golden Monkey* (2014) is the first of five booklets for children aged 8-10; Shirley Jane Holmes is the great-great-granddaughter of Sherlock Holmes, who solve mysteries with her friends Janice Dickinson and Joshua Edgar Poe.

Raise Your Glass to Sherlock Holmes, by Phil Angelo (Flesherton: Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, 2020; 159 pp., $15.00), is a pleasant collection of 75 toasts that were delivered at meetings of the South Downers, for each of the 60 stories and some of the major characters, enhanced by attractive woodcuts by George and Betty Wells, plus John Brousch's heraldic coats of arms for the stories. $19.83 postpaid from the author (740 South Greenwood Avenue, Kankakee, IL 60901) <philangelo@comcast.net>.

May 21 #5 The publishing world ain't what it used to be: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt has been purchased by HarperCollins, which brings the number of major publishers down to five. To see just how big HarperCollins is now, go to <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HarperCollins> and scroll down to Imprints. Penguin Random House is planning to buy Simon & Schuster, which will take the number of major publishers down to four.

Chicago artist Scott Gustafson has painted three impressive portraits of Sherlock Holmes, offering the original artwork as well as prints of each portrait <www.scottgustafson.com>.

Lincoln Peirce's "Big Nate" comic strip featured a Sherlockian sequence on May 17-22; its on-line at <www.gocomics.com/bignate/2021/05/17>.

Reported: H. F. Heard's pastiche "The Enchanted Garden" (featuring Mr. Mycroft) in *Golden Age Detective Stories*, edited by Otto Penzler for his American Mystery Classics anthology (2021; 312 pp., $25.95).

Elizabeth Crowens' *A War in Too Many Worlds* (New York: Atomic Alchemist, 2021; 293 pp., $20.00), is the third in her "The Time Traveler Professor" series (Mar 21 #8); it's a complicated time-shifting novel that involves a set of parallel (and sometimes supernatural) universes; Conan Doyle is involved, along with H. G. Wells and Harry Houdini (and there are echoes of "The Lost World" and "The Island of Dr. Moreau"). The author's web-site at <www.elizabethcrowens.com> has more information on the series.

A nice quote, from the May issue of Timeline: "The beauty of Sherlockian scholarship, however, is that any one person *may* be right." Timeline is the official newsletter published by the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild, and the quotation is from William R. Cochran's *Thinking Outside the Tin-Dispatch Box* (2011). If you would like to join the Guild, or merely see an issue of their newsletter, contact Brad at <bkeefauver@gmail.com>.

The Sensible Necktie and Other Stories of Sherlock Holmes by Peter K. Andersson (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 204 pp., $14.95), offers nine traditional (and nicely plotted) pastiches. Susan Knight's *Mrs. Hudson Investigates* (2019; 218 pp., $14.95) offers seven stories that feature Holmes and Watson's landlady as the detective, and doing quite well with her own cases. Molly Carr's *Sherlock in the Springtime* (2012; 130 pp., $9.95) is s pleasant miscellany of notes and comments (as well as a short pastiche). A. S. Croyle's *The Case of the Swan in the Fog* (2017; 163 pp., $14.95) is the third in her "Before Watson" series; Dr. Poppy Stanford is again solving mysteries with Sherlock Holmes (while avoiding romantic entanglement with each other). MX books are available at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com> and MX has a "younger, sassy sibling" at <www.orangepipbooks.com>.

Laurie R. King's *Castle Shade* (New York: Bantam, 2021; 360 pp., $28,00) is the latest in her long series of novels about Mary Russell and her husband Sherlock Holmes, who (after their adventures in *Riviera Gold*) find themselves in Roumania; their client is Queen Marie, and since her Castle Bran is in Transylvania there's much talk of vampires and other creatures that go bump in the night. Laurie has much to say about the suspenseful story at her interesting web-site <www.laurierking.com>; just click on [blogs] to read her "Mutterings" and on [events] for information on upcoming signings, and don't neglect her YouTube channel <www.tinyurl.com/neh4hzac>.

May 21 #6 One of the most unusual Sherlockian musical performances ever is "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (composed by Jon Deak for Richard Hartshorne); it's a dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for double bass and six voices (all provided by Hartshorne), and it premiered in Maine in 1985. Hartshorne has performed the piece hither and yon since them, and you will be able to see (and hear) him in action in a video reported by Jennie Paton at <vimeo.com/552244434>.

Alexander Orlov has reported an imaginative do-it-yourself version of the Hound of the Baskervilles <www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIelKyKuvPg>.

The Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth is holding a series of four lectures via Zoom in honor of the late Neil McCaw, their academic director; details are available at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/v424xtfw>.

Mike McClure, who presides over Stimson & Co. (a professional society for Sherlockian funeral directors), is seeking photographs of the final resting places of notable Sherlockians from around the world, accompanied by a brief biography; visit <www.baskervilleproductions.com/sherlockianplots> to see how it works, and provide assistance to Mike.

The latest issue of the newsletter of the Friends of Gillette Castle State Park reports that the Castle (in Hadlyme, Conn.) opened to the public on May 29. The Friends' web-site is at <www.gilletteastlefriends.org>.

Murder at the Royal Observatory, by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley (Wilton, 154 pp., $9.00), is the 27th volume in their "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series; Lucy and her father, and her husband, Metropolitan Police officer Jack Kelly) investigate a mysterious death at the Royal Observatory in 1900 that may be evidence of a real invasion from Mars. The series web-site is at <www.sherlockandlucy.com>, and all of the books and stories can be bought at <www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0753CS4DJ>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is running at the Arts Theatre Cronulla in Cronulla, N.S.W., through June 12 <www.artstheatrecronulla.com.au>.

A partially-improvised three-actor dramatization "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed in the gardens at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury, Berks., through June 19 <www.watermill.org.uk>.

Craig Sodaro's "Young Sherlock" will be performed at the Ames City Auditorium in Ames, Iowa, June 18-27 <www.storytheatercompany.org>.

The East Haddam Stage Company is celebrating its return to live theater with performances at Gillette Castle State Park in East Haddam, Conn., of a radio script of "A Scandal in Bohemia" on weekends, July 3 through Aug. 8 <www.ehsco.org>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Octagon Theatre in Bolton, Lancs., from July 5 to Aug. 7 <www.octagonbolton.co.uk>.

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

Mark your calendar for Aug. 21, when Denny Dobry will be holding an open house from 10:00 am onward at his home in Reading, Pa., where visitors can enter and play in his splendid recreation of the sitting-room, and browse the shelves in his book fair, where he will be selling Sherlockiana that has been donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust (prices will be modest indeed) and publications of the BSI Press. It is well worth a visit, and directions are available from Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>. There are some enticing images at <www.bsitrust.org/2021/06/book-fair-2021.html>.

Steve Doyle's video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to watch interviews with Sean Wright, Monica Schmidt, and others.

"Omnibus" (for those too young to remember black-and-white television) was a 90-minute series produced by the Ford Foundation and broadcast weekly by ABC-TV. On Dec. 9, 1956, the program included a 40-minute segment titled "The Fine Art of Murder" that featured a murder solved in different ways by some detective-story writers and their heroes, and you can see Dennis Hoey as Conan Doyle in a 9-minute clip spotted by Jennie Paton at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAH27x79zDc>; you also get to see Rex Stout, and yes) Dennis Hoey also played Inspector Lestrade in the Universal series.

An imaginative "Sherlock Holmes Pixie Door" is available from Blue Toucan Studios <www.tinyurl.com/j4shankc>.

Peterson of Dublin began making and selling pipes in the 1870s, and their pipes have long been popular with Sherlockians (even though there are far fewer Sherlockian pipe-smokers now). Sean Wright has kindly reported the recent blog by Mark Irwin <www.tinyurl.com/3npmjdfc> about their Rathbone (XL20) that honors the pipes that Rathbone smoked in his Sherlock Holmes films. Smokers (and collectors) will find the Rathbone pipe, in various finishes, at <www.peterson.ie/search/?term=Rathbone>.

Jennie Paton spotted the Forgotten Library <www.forgottenlibrary.com> and their offers of amusing literary merchandise. Search for [sherlock], and pay close attention to their bookshelf layout humour bookmark.

Otto Penzler is continuing his "Otto Penzler Presents" series at YouTube, talking about authors, collecting, and collectibles at YouTube; a recent video was about Rex Stout, and of course Otto describes the debt that Nero Wolfe owes to Sherlock Holmes <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKOAx0NytKc>.

When in Novgorod: there's now a Mycroft pub, noted on Facebook by Alexander Sedov <tinyurl.com/2yuewt5y>. The Russians are enjoying their interesting "Everything Sherlock Holmes" Facebook page.

Nice news for film fans: the British Film Institute's National Archive has announced that Iron Mountain Entertainment Services will fund a full restoration of all of the 1920s films that starred Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes. This year is the 100th anniversary of the release of the first of his films, and the project is expected to be completed by 2023, the 100th anniversary of the last of his films. Only a few of the films can be seen at YouTube (search for "eille norwood"), and it will be grand to be able to see all of them (that's 45 two-reelers and two features).

Jun 21 #2 Paula Berinstein's *Amanda Lester and the Purple Rainbow Puzzle* (Agoura Hills: The Writing Show, 2015; 386 pp., $14.99) is the third in a young-adult series that now runs to ten titles; Amanda Lester, a descendant of Inspector Lestrade, is sent to a mysterious British school for descendants of famous detectives, where she encounters a real mystery and an assortment of villains, as well as some fantasy and science fiction (and with amusing touches) <www.amandalester.net>.

Jennie Paton spotted video of "The Musgrave Treasure" on-line; this is an alternate title for Georges Tréville's "The Musgrave Ritual" (1912), and you can watch it at <www.dailymotion.com/video/x81a4rd>.

Sherlockian fans of "Doctor Who" will recall "The Talons of Weng-Chiang" (broadcast by BBC-1 in 1977), starring Tom Baker as the Fourth Doctor. Big Chief Studios is taking pre-orders for its Fourth Doctor Mini Bobble <www.tinyurl.com/9au6rz64>; £9.99, due in November.

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 ninth year, and it's one of the better Sherlockian society publications. The current issue (with 204 colorful pages) offers scholarship, pastiches, and commentary, including Howard Ostrom's discussion of Father Brown and many other priests, vicars, and rabbis who had talents for detection, and David Marcum's detailed report on "prolific pasticheurs." All of the issues of the Proceedings are available at the society's web-site at <www.sherlockholmessocietyofindia.com>.

"West of Kashmir: A Sherlock Holmes Adventure" is a film that was planned by Jim Danforth in the 1990s, but never made, except for a brief preview clip that you can watch at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJfPSvF7dVo>; thanks to Doug Chapman for reporting the clip. And to Howard Ostrom for identifying Mark Clifton as Holmes and Gordan Roberts as Dr. John Watson.

Young Sherlock: Night Break, by Andrew Lane (London: Macmillan, 2015; 295 pp., £12.99), is the eighth and last book in his imaginative series; Sherlock leaves Oxford after his mother's death and his father's disappearance in India, and continues to combat bizarre crimes and criminals; the books are nicely written, and will interest young adults. There is a web-site for the series at <www.youngsherlock.com>.

One of the four stories in "Tales from the Darkside: The Movie" (1990) was Michael McDowell's dramatization of Conan Doyle's "Lot No.249"; Julianne Moore played Susan and on May 28 told an amusing behind-the-scenes story on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" (on NBC-TV). There's a clip available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ok2bWabNeTg>.

Mark Jones and Paul Chapman continue their interesting discussions of the writings of Conan Doyle (focusing on his non-Sherlockian work) on-line at their "Doings of Doyle" podcast <www.doingsofdoyle.com>; their latest post considers "The Terror of Blue John Gap" and they also have an interesting consideration of the Captain Sharkey stories (in case you're a fan of pirates), and a comprehensive report on the "Conan Doyle in Edinburgh" conference that was held at Napier University last September.

Jun 21 #3 "Typewriters might not be the first thing that comes to mind when watching 'The Lost World'" leads off Heritage Auctions' description of an unusual "Corona in the Lost World" tie-in poster issued in 1925, coming up in their sale #7243 on July 24-25, estimated at $1,500-$3,000 <www.tinyurl.com/2my245an>. And yes, Edward Malone did indeed have a Corona with him as part of his essential gear in the film.

It's not Sherlockian, but if you've ever wondered about how they came up with the two-letter abbreviations for the names of all the states, here's an explanation <www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLECCmKnrys>.

Nye & Company offered an interesting item at auction on June 2: 23 of the 24 volumes of the Crowborough Edition, apparently bound in leather, lacking (of course) the first volume (which was signed by Conan Doyle), with an opening bid of $100 and an estimate of $200-$300. It's possible that it was one of the few presentation sets, but one cannot tell without know- ing the number that appeared on the signed limitation page in the missing first volume <www.tinyurl.com/274n67w3>. Presumably the first volume was sold earlier, by someone who valued only Conan Doyle's signature. The 23 volumes sold for only $250. Complete sets with all 24 volumes are advertised by used-book dealers now for $5,000 or more.

Magda Jozsa's *Sherlock Holmes in the 21st Century* (CreateSpace, 2000; 314 pp., $13.99); offers three stories that involve time travel, clones of Mycroft and Moriarty, and the children of Holmes and Watson; she has written many other pastiches, and her web-site's at <www.read4life.com>.

Tor.com is an on-line magazine launched in 2008, and one of its features is a "Reading the Weird" department in which Anne M. Pillsworth and Ruth- anna Emrys recently discussed "The Horror of the Heights" in some detail <www.tinyurl.com/4mhhybkt>; there's also a link to their thoughts on Neil Gaiman's "A Study in Emerald", and the web-site has a search engine useful if you want to search for [sherlock holmes] or [conan doyle] or anyone or anything else.

John Murray founded his publishing house in London in 1768, and the company went on to become (and still is) the publisher of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's books; this month they announced a new imprint, to be called Baskerville, for new crime and thriller authors.

The Washington Post Book Club held an on-line "March Madness" bracket contest to "Pick the Best Fictional Detective" contest from Mar. 25 to Apr. 5 and can still see how it worked at <www.tinyurl.com/u9rmzpyy>. Your vote won't count now, alas; Sherlock Holmes came in second, well behind Armand Gamache. One might uncharitably assume that fans of Louise Penny's books launched an energetic turn-out-the-vote campaign (so far no one seems to have demanded a Cyber Ninjas recount).

Hamilton House in Winnipeg, described as "one of the most historically and culturally important site in North America," is up for sale, at CA$410,000 (according to an article in the Winnipeg Free Press on May 25); what makes it so important is that it was the home of Thomas Glendenning Hamilton, a noted spiritualist who arranged for a séance that Conan Doyle attended in 1923, when he was visiting Winnipeg. You can read about the séance in an article by Michael W. Homer <www.tinyurl.com/39rucsjn>, and the realtor is Emma Alfons <www.tinyurl.com/ykz4pakj>.

Jun 21 #4 Roger Johnson has reported news from the Deadline web-site (on June 10) <www.tinyurl.com/ww8bfupd>: New Republic Pictures has optioned Adam Roche's podcast "The Secret History of Hollywood". The podcast included "The Game Is Afoot" (about Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, and their long friendship); there were three episodes, broadcast in 2018, and audio is available at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/3h4p7a8p>.

The *Baker Street Almanac 2021*, edited by Ross E. Davies, Jayantika Ganguly, Ira Brad Matetsky, and Monica Schmidt, is now available in print for $30.00 postpaid <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/2021.html> or from The Green Bag, 6600 Barnaby Street NW, Washington, DC 20015), with a copiously-annotated edition of "The Priory School" (and much more about the Sherlockian world), as well as some "amusing extras" that are not included in the on-line edition. All four issues of the Almanac are available on-line (free) as PDFs at <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/bsa.html>.

"Dear Holmes" is a monthly mysteries-by-mail subscription package created by Michael Silver <www.dearholmes.com> (Jun 20 #5); none of my readers has reported on it, but David John Moratta praised it enthusiastically in an article in Forbes (June 10) <www.tinyurl.com/h5hpzmv7>.

Reported: H. F. Heard's pastiche "The Enchanted Garden" (featuring Mr. Mycroft) in *Golden Age Detective Stories*, edited by Otto Penzler for his American Mystery Classics anthology (2021; 312 pp., $25.99).

John Gaspard's *The Greyhound of the Baskervilles* (Albert's Bridge Books, 2019; 218 pp., $19.99) is an amusing revision of the Canonical tale, told by Sherlock Holmes' greyhound Septimus. As with many books today, it also is available less expensively as a trade paperback, as well as via Kindle and Audible; the publisher's web-site is at <www.albertsbridgebooks.com>.

The British Library's HistFest series included (in May) a panel discussion of "The Real World of Arthur Conan Doyle" with BBC broadcast Matthew Sweet and authors Shrabani Basu and Clare Clarke. You can watch them at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkFTZRRTEuQ>.

More news for film fans, but this time it's good news and bad news. The good news is that the Museum of Modern Art has restored its print of Clive Brook's "Sherlock Holmes" (1932), reported by Russell Merritt in a post to "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/n5nv99hj>. The bad news is that the film was available on-line for only one month and only to members of the Museum, and (Russell notes) "the Walt Disney Company controls distribution rights, and getting them to release the film is likely to be an uphill battle."

Marvin Kaye died on May 13. He was an editor and anthologist, mainly science fiction, fantasy, horror, and mystery, and also was a playwright and an author of novels and short stories. Kaye wrote two amusing pastiches, *The Incredible Umbrella* (1979) and *The Amorous Umbrella* (1981), as well as short stories that were collected in *The Confidential Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* (1998); he also edited *The Game Is Afoot: Parodies, Pastiches, and Ponderings of Sherlock Holmes* (1994) and *The Resurrected Holmes* (1996).

Jun 21 #5 ***Villains, Victims, and Violets*****, edited by Resa Haile and Tamara Bower (Irvine: BrownWalker Press, 2019; 316 pp., $39.95), is an interesting anthology published by the Studious Scarlets, a society for women who write Sherlockiana; it is subtitled "Agency and Feminism in the Original Sherlock Holmes Canon," and the articles offer a new look at the ability of the women in the stories to act independently and to make their own decisions (that's "agency" in this context) in the man's world of the Sherlockian era.**

Margaret H. Laing has fun with her imaginative blog about "The Imaginary Writers' Room" for the Chicago Tribune <www.tinyurl.com/ytyfmk97>; you can search her archive to find earlier posts about Conan Doyle, and Holmes.

Charmouth, a small coastal village in Dorset near Lyme Regis, has a long history and an active local history society, which has published a colorful 8-page pamphlet "Discover Charmouth Old Village" that offers information about the many famous people who have lived and visited there. One of them was Arthur Conan Doyle, who in 1894 visited a local haunted house (which no longer survives). The pamphlet is available as a PDF from the society <www.freshford.com/Charmouth%20Trail%20and%20Map.html> Conan Doyle is on page 7).

Mark your calendar for June 18 next year (and every year): it's International Picnic Day, according to a post by Shikha Goyal at the Jagan Josh web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3kuxnddz>. The post quotes Conan Doyle: "Picnics are very dear to those who are in the first stage of the tender passion." The quote is from the short story "Our Derby Sweepstakes" (first published in London Society, May 1882); the text is conveniently available at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3uvbrw>.

Alexis Barquin presides over the Encyclopedia, which is comprehensive indeed, and well worth exploring. As an example, there's a detailed examination of the 62 Sherlock Holmes stories written by Conan Doyle (yes, 62) <www.tinyurl.com/vaxct9ut>, with text, artwork, commentary, and much more.

The Queen's Birthday Honours List for 2021 included a knighthood for Jonathan Pryce for services to drama and charity (he played Holmes in the 2007 television film "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars"), and an appointment as OBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) David Forbes-Nixon for services to children and adults with special educational needs and disabilities (he created the DFN Charitable Foundation to fund the purchase of Undershaw, where Conan Doyle once lived, and converting it into the Stepping Stones School for children with learning difficulties).

What does it mean to be a "Holmesian?" asks Stephen R. McAllister in his four-page Foreword to *The Black Book of Justice Holmes*, edited by Michael H. Hoeflich and Ross E. Davies (Clark: Talbot Publishing, 2021; 497 pp., $195.00). And nowhere in the Foreword does he mention Sherlock Holmes; he and his fellow Holmesians are devout admirers of Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. The Black Book is Holmes' list of the books he read throughout his life, now reprinted both in facsimile and with a transcription. Holmes was an enthusiastic reader, and his notes include *Exploits of Gerard* and *Study in Scarlet &c*. &c. It's nice to know that Holmes read Holmes. And frustrating not to know more about the &c. &c.

Jun 21 #6 *Serendipitous Adventures with Britannia: Personalities, Politics, and Culture in Britain*, edited by Wm. Roger Louis (London: I. B. Tauris, 2019; 366 pp., $50.00), is an anthology of thoroughly interesting lectures delivered at the British Studies seminar at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas in Austin, including one by David L. Leal on "Arthur Conan Doyle and Spiritualism". Leal's exploration of the Center's splendid Conan Doyle collection yielded some intriguing discoveries, including a statement by Conan Doyle that "his own writing was worse when he used a typewriter rather than a pen.:

"Herr Skopf shook his head; then he scratched it. He was baffled. He had never heard of Sherlock Holmes or he would have lost no time in invoking the aid of that celebrated sleuth, for here was a real mystery." One does indeed hear of Sherlock everywhere, this time in Edgar Rice Burroughs' *The Son of Tarzan*, serialized in All-Story Weekly (1915-1916) and published as a novel by A. C. McClurg (1917). Kindly reported by Don Miguel, who notes that it's available at <www.gutenberg.org/files/90/90-h/90-h.htm#chap04>.

"Gomorrah" (2014) is a four-season Italian television series that aired in the U.S. on SundanceTV in 2016; the series is a fictionalized account of today's crime syndicate in Naples <www.tinyurl.com/2yfundtv>. The title of the series is a pun on the syndicate's real name, the Camorra, which is well known to those who are aware that the manuscript of "The Red Circle" states "Camorra" (when the story was published the name was changed, and is "Carbonari"). The series is now streaming on HBO Max (in case you subscribe to the service, or want an excuse to) <www.tinyurl.com/t84r7reb>, and you can watch a trailer at the web-site. There are subtitles in English, of course; when the series aired in Italy it was subtitled in Italian, because the dialogue is in the Neapolitan dialect rather than in proper Italian. Fair waring the series is not for the faint-hearted.

MousePlanet (which describes itself as an "independent consumer guide to Disney travel and vacations") offers a blog on "Where Is the Love for This Disney Animation?"; on June 16 Jim Korkis had nice comments about Ratigan and "Basil of Baker Street" <www.tinyurl.com/yc34zd3r>.

The French television series "Lupin" that's available on Netflix (Feb 21 #6) offers more Sherlockian allusions: in the eighth episode Assane Diop steals into his son Raoul's bedroom and leaves him a copy of *Arsène Lupin contre Sherlock Holmes*, and in the ninth episode Raoul is seen reading the book. Diop is a present-day gentleman thief inspired by Maurice Leblanc's Arsène Lupin (it's an excellent series). Omar Sy plays Assane, and Lauren Collins had an interesting profile of him in the June 21 issue of The New Yorker <www.tinyurl.com/4h6fwwyy>.

Sherlock Holmes loves drinking at the Sherlock Holmes pub, according to an article in the Daily Mail (June 15) <www.tinyurl.com/x58fdj28>.

Amir Joy's *The Chronicles of the Obscure Detective* (2021; 174 pp., $9.99) stars Williams Joy, an "ambitious and obscure detective" who comes to modern-day London to follow in Sherlock Holmes' footsteps and manages to rent Holmes' rooms at 221B; the ink-on-paper version is mostly printed in white on black pages, but the less expensive and more readable e-book is black-on-white. The author, born in Romania and now an Egyptian national boxing champion, has a web-site at <www.amirjoy.net>.

Jun 21 #7 *Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Switzerland: Serious and Less Serious Musings!,* edited by Marcus Geisser, Guy Marriott, and Michael A. Meer (Meiringen: Reichenbach Irregulars, 2021; 108 pp., €21.99) is the society's first book, offering papers delivered at the conferences held in Switzerland since the society was founded in 1989; it is all nicely done, and you can visit <www.tinyurl.com/4epcnrsx> to see a sample from the book. There are various ways to order the book, on paper and as an e-book, depending on where you are; the society will be happy to explain it all <reichenbachirregulars@gmail.com>. The book will be celebrated at a "Routes to the Reichenbach" virtual event with the Red Circle of Washington, via Zoom on July 10; details and a registration button are available at <www.redcircledc.org>.

Robert Quackenbush died on May 17. He began his literary career as an illustrator of children's books, and then began writing as well. His creations included Sherlock Chick (who hatched from an egg holding a magnifying glass), and Detective Mole (who wore a trench coat and a houndstooth deerstalker.

Up for bids at Heritage Auctions in Dallas on Oct 20: a single page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (from the Karpeles Manuscript Museum) <www.tinyurl.com/m9um7m9d>; the page is item H31 in Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" census of pages from the story's manuscript, at <www.bestofsherlock.com/baskervilles-manuscript.htm#h31>.

The spring issue of The Magic Door (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) offers Joanne Alberstat's "A Diamond Cut Three Ways" (about "The Crown Diamond" and "The Mazarin Stone" and Eille Norwood), and reports from and about the Library and the Collection, which will mark its 50th anniversary this year with a celebration, possibly virtual, on Sept. 24-26. The celebration will include the 2021 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture on Sept. 25, with Jeffrey Hatcher speaking on "Arthur Conan Doyle as Playwright"; there's no charge for the lecture, which will be a Zoom event, with registration opening on Aug. 23 <www.acdfriends.org>. A copy of the newsletter is available on request from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Laurie R. King continues to post about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes, and *Castle Shade*, at her "Mutterings" blog at <www.laurierking.com/blog>; and you can listen to Laurie and Les Klinger talk about the book at Nancie Clare's "Speaking of Mysteries" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/3cd3b3ee>; search the blog for [sherlock] to find other Sherlockian conversations.

If you don't already have *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* with illustrations by Sophia Martineck (Dec 14 #6), it is now available discounted to $5.98 from Daedalus Books <www.daedalusbooks.com>; you can sample her imaginative artwork at <www.martineck.com/e/projekt.php?number=170>. Daedalous is an excellent resource for discounted books.

Is there anyone out there who is a devotee of electronic Sherlock Holmes games? Is there an archive somewhere of reviews of the games? Jennie Paton has noted a 9-minute video "Evolution of Sherlock Holmes Games 2002-2021" at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=lB-ZawdjHsw> that shows just how much the computer graphics have changed (for the better) over the years.

Jun 21 #8 David MacGregor has written three plays produced by the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., from 2018 to 2021, and he has turned the plays into short stories that have been collected in *Sherlock in Love: The Holmes-Adler Mysteries* (London: Orange Pip Books, 2021: 429 pp., $34.95); they star Holmes, Watson, and Irene Adler (who in fact did not die after she encountered Holmes in "A Scandal in Bohemia" and instead has moved in with him at 221B Baker Street). To avoid shocking his read-ers, Watson has Irene posing as Mrs. Hudson, and their investigations in- volve them with Vincent Van Gogh, Oscar Wilde, Auguste Escoffier, Nikola Tesla, Thomas Edison, and Moriarty's evil daughter; the stories are told with humor and style, and are also available as separate volumes ($14.95 each). Orange Pip is an imprint of MX Publishing <www.mxpublishing.com>.

Also from MX: David MacGregor's *Sherlock Holmes: The Hero with a Thousand Faces* is a carefully-researched and thoroughly-readable two-volume examination of the evolution of Sherlock Holmes, his readers, and the world of Sherlockians and Doyleans, with a particular emphasis (as one might expect from a playwright) on how Holmes has been portrayed on stage, screen, radio, television, video games, and the Internet. The first volume (2021; 338 pp., $28.95) covers the years from 1887 to 1937, and the second volume (2021; 344 pp., $28.95) brings everything up to date into 2021; MacGregor concludes by noting aptly that now "Sherlock Holmes isn't merely a popular character in the genre of detective fiction. Sherlock Holmes is a genre in and of itself."

Some theater news: Pat Mullen's "Kid Sherlock" is being performed at the Lilly Theatre in the Children's Museum in Indianapolis, Ind., through Aug. 1 <www.childrensmuseum.org/visit/calendar/event/31>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Mad Cow Theatre in Orland, Fla., July 9-18 <www.madcowtheatre.com>; and at the Mount Gretna Playhouse in Mount Gretna, Pa., Aug. 5 to Aug. 8 <www.gretnatheatre.org>.

R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse" is scheduled at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., July 23-Oct. 10 <www.shawfest.com>.

"Spontaneous Sherlock" (improvised by the Spontaneous Players) is due at the Harbour Arts Centre in Irvine, Scotland, Nov. 14 <www.thehac.co.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester, July 30-Aug. 22 <www.mercurytheatre.co.uk>; and the Harlequins Coach House Theatre in Sandusky, Ohio, in October <www.harlequinstheatre.org>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" is scheduled by Fat Goose Productions in Cold Springs, N.Y., Nov. 22-Jan. 2, 2022.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be produced at the Ross Valley Players Barn Theater in Ross, Calif., Jan. 21-Feb. 20, 2022.

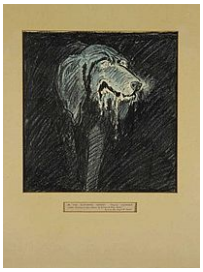
The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401 (301-229-5669) <blau7103@comcast.net>

Paul Thomas Miller has announced the first Doyle's Rotary Coffin Treasure Hunt <www.tinyurl.com/fke34nc6>; it's open to everyone, and you have until Blue Carbuncle Day (Dec. 27), when the Treasure Hunt ends. Paul has noted that "it will be presided over by the psychic ghost of Silver Blaze, the famous undead murder horse, so cheating is a very bad idea."

Richard Brown explores "The Place of William Clark Russell in the Sherlock Holmes Canon" and Mark Alberstat discusses "ACD and the Olympics of 1912-1916" in the summer issue of Canadian Holmes, which is published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto, and also offers news of Sherlockian goings-on in Canada. Subscriptions cost $30.00 a year (US or CA); single issues cost $12.50 <www.torontobootmakers.com>.

Nicholas Utechin's *From Abbey to Wiles* (London: Sherlock Holmes Society of London, 2021; 30 pp., £7.00) is what he calls the "third incarnation" of the book published in 2016, offering a splendid (and full-color) examination of the work of the seven artists who illustrated the dust jackets for the John Murray editions of the Canon, revised to include new information. Nick believes (well, hopes) that he has now covered everything. You can purchase the new edition at <www.tinyurl.com/bsrv7wwb> (that's the shop of the Society, where you'll find a nice variety of interesting Sherlockian scholarship).

There will be a fifth season of "The Crown" on Netflix, covering the royal family in the early 1990s. Jonny Lee Miller has signed on to play Prime Minister John Major, and Jonathan Pryce (another actor who has performed as Holmes) will appear as Prince Philip.



Frederic Dorr Steele's original artwork showing "The Slavering Hound" was offered at Quinn's Auction Galleries in Falls Church, Va., on July 8, estimated at $800-$1200. Described as unpublished, it was loaned by Edgar W. Smith to the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in London (1951) and at the Plaza Art Galleries in New York (1952). After Smith died his collection was bought by Carl Anderson, and after Anderson died his collection was purchased by Lew David Feldman, who published the artwork on the cover of his catalog *Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockiana: 76 Items* (1975). The artwork sold on July 8 for $6,500 (plus buyer's premium) to Jerry Margolin; Randall Stock has a detailed discussion of the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/phnwj64h>.

Storytel, a Swedish audiobook streaming subscription service that competes with Audible and is now available in 25 countries (not including the U.S., U.K., or Canada) has been licensed by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. to create new Sherlock Holmes stories to be scripted by a team of writers under the creative lead of Anthony Horowitz, who said "This is going to be Sherlock Holmes from a very different perspective, staying true to the spirit of the books-which I have always loved—but expanding the narrative and the vision of Conan Doyle in all sorts of unexpected ways." Their press release (June 28) <www.tinyurl.com/54ktw8kc> has more information.

Jul 21 #2 ***Roy V. Hunt: A Retrospective*, edited by David and Daniel Ritter (First Fandom Experience, 2021; 144 pp., $45.00), is a delightful tribute to a legendary fan, artist, and illustrator; he was one of the organizers of the third World Science Fiction Convention in Denver in 1941, and in 2016 at the 74th WorldCon was inducted into the Posthumous Hall of Fame. He also was a dedicated Sherlockian, one of the founders of the Council of Four in Denver (which in 1960 published the landmark anthology *The Science-Fictional Sherlock Holmes*), and the principal illustrator of books and journals published by Luther Norris' Pontine Press. The retrospective includes many of his Sherlockian illustrations, and is available at the publisher's web-site <www.firstfandomexperience.org>.**

High fashion: Jennie Paton spotted Simona Lampe's autumn/winter "Sherlockology" collection on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/k4pp8umk>; scroll down and click on "part II" to see the rest of the collection.

Alexander Orlov has reported a connection between Sherlock Holmes and the Russian city of Archangel. It is really a connection between Conan Doyle and Archangel, but that's close enough. You can start at 16 minutes into a Russian news broadcast on June 15 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jpp9btEfv4> (it's possible to get closed captions in not very good English). Then you can go to <www.vk.com/wall11955238_11914> to read Evgeny Tenetov's article (in Russian) about the Northern Maritime Museum in Archangel having what's left of the Peterhead whaler *Eclipse*; Google Translate will help you read the article in English. The *Eclipse was the* sister ship of the *Hope,* on which Conan Doyle sailed to the Arctic in 1880; in his diary, published as *'Dangerous Work'* (2012), he records having visited the *Eclipse* more than once in 1880.

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection's celebration of its 50th anniversary at the Toronto Public Library (Jun 21 #7) will be entirely virtual, on Sept. 25; stay tuned for details.

***The Arts of Beauty; or, Secrets of a Lady's Toilet. With Hints to Gentlemen on the Art of Fascinating* is the title of a book published in New York in 1858 that might be of interest to those who believe that the author was an inspiration when Conan Doyle created Irene Adler. The author? Madame Lola Montez, Countess of Landsfeld. A copy of the book was offered at the Swann Auction Galleries in New York on July 15, estimated at $300-$500; it sold for $688 (including buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/yc7ymuk9>.**

The book is dedicated (in an era when dedications in books were not brief) "To all men and women of every land, who are not afraid of themselves, who trust so much in their own souls that they dare to stand up in the might of their own individuality, to meet the tidal current of the world," and if you would like merely to read (rather than own) the first edition, and see what Madame Lopez had to say, you can, thanks to Google Books, do so at <www.tinyurl.com/uutzzzsw>.

Sherlock Holmes died on Sept. 29, 2020, in Vestavia, Ala., at the age of 93, according to an obituary in the Carbondale Southern Illinoisan, a celebration of Life Service was held on July 10 <www.tinyurl.com/xsnnt9y9>.

Jul 21 #3 Ichthys Theatre Productions in Brantford, Ont., has been producing some of the old Sherlock Holmes radio programs and uploading the recordings to their channel at YouTube; four shows are available, and a fifth show is due on Sept. 10.

Denis Zilber has created an imaginative portrait of Holmes and Watson, in full color, and a thumbnail won't do it justice, so you'll need to go online to see it properly <www.tinyurl.com/vwfx94eu>; $21.99 as a print, and $95.99 on canvas. You can (and you should) see more of his artwork at his web-site <www.deniszilber.com>.

Sightseeing in style in London: a private three-hour "Sherlock" location tour by black taxi from Get Your Guide <www.tinyurl.com/kavth3jb>, with a professional guide, driver and transportation, and hotel pick-up, for only $247.72 per person; kindly reported by Jennie Paton.

The July issue of Timeline (the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild's official newsletter) gives detailed attention to their proposed Supreme Chronology Court. If you would like to join the Guild, serve on the Court, or merely see an issue of their newsletter, that's easy enough to achieve: just contact Brad Keefauver at <bkeefauver@gmail.com>.

For anyone who remembers the film "Sin City" (2005) here's an interesting trailer that someone put together in 2011, kindly noted by Samantha Wolov <www.jezebel.com/walt-disney-presents-sin-city-5851797>; the film was not Sherlockian, but the trailer is.

Steve Doyle's video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to watch interviews with Ross Davies and others (including a tribute to John Bennett Shaw).

What is the world's oldest coin still in production today? According to the Royal Mint, it is the sovereign, first struck more than 500 years ago <www.tinyurl.com/mdrvuy6u>. Mentioned often in the Canon, the sovereign is a £1 coin (that's 20 shillings, for those who aren't decimalized).

"Sherlock Holmes Under the Magnifying Glass: The Game's Afoot!" is one of the many programs scheduled by the Smithsonian Associates, and since its programs still are presented on Zoom, you don't need to be in Panic on the Potomac to take advantage of them. This one is due on Oct. 8, at 6:30 pm (Eastern Time), and it will feature Dan Stashower discussing the Great Detective, and Scott Sedar reading from some of Conan Doyle's works; details are available at <www.tinyurl.com/zmbeh8yr>. Dan and Scott team up often for the Smithsonian Associates, and they're always entertaining.

"Like Matthiessen, he is a kind of Watson figure, sidekick throughout his adventure to a savvier character." According to Kathryn Schulz, in an article about Sylvain Tesson and Peter Matthiessen in the July 12 issue of The New Yorker <www.tinyurl.com/976sn9e5>. It's a nice example of cultural literacy: Schulz assumes her readers will know who Watson is, without any mention of Holmes.

Jul 21 #4 Fans of Michael Bond's "Paddington Bear" surely will flock to the British Library to see their new exhibition "Paddington: The Story of a Bear" (open until Oct. 31) <www.tinyurl.com/64kajz5x>. The exhibition may or may not have something Sherlockian, but Paddington used Sherlockian methods, and dialogue, in "Paddington Turns Detective" in *More About Paddington* (1959) and *Paddington on Stage* (1977). There's a video trailer for the exhibition at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqK_2uc7xR0>.

The National Archives in London proclaim that "the great and undetectable detective—the clue is in our collection," and they do indeed have a lot to offer <www.tinyurl.com/ch5s7ezw>, including an imaginative on-line jigsaw puzzle. Kindly reported by Nick Utechin.

Bill Amend's comic strip "FoxTrot" began a detective-agency thread on-line on June 23, and it quickly turned Sherlockian <www.tinyurl.com/nebfzmv>; thanks to Stan Hill for reporting on it. If you recall seeing the thread before, that's because it's repeated from June 2000 ("FoxTrot" now runs in papers only on Sundays).

Brad Keefauver's interesting "The Seventeen Steps: Discussion Questions for Investigating Mr. Sherlock Holmes" covers each of the Canonical stories <www.theseventeenstepsto221b.blogspot.com> and will be useful to any Sherlockian society (or for that matter any Sherlockian) in an era when it occurs to many that no new insights to be found in the Canon. Alexander Braun (aka Murray the Orderly) posts discussions of the stories each week to the Hounds of the Internet, and they are readily available at Sherlocktron <www.sherlocktron.com/inquiries.html>, along with the Canon Queeries from the late Ralph Edwards <www.sherlocktron.com/queries.html>. You will find a great deal more of interest at Sherlockton, thanks to Willis Frick, who presides over the web-site.

The Great Sherlock Holmes Puzzle Book, by Gareth Moore (London: Arcturus, 2021; 256 pp., £7.99), is a collection of puzzles and riddles described as "enigmas to puzzle even the greatest detective of all." And here's an example: what is special about the number 8,549,176,320?

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration does far more than sending missions to the Moon and to Mars. The NASA Earth Observatory's "image of the day" for July 13 showed "Venezuela's Flat-Topped Mountains" (with a mention of Conan Doyle's *The Lost World,* and the movie "Up") and discussed the geography and geology of the area <www.tinyurl.com/2dzseytn>.

There are at least some (who's counting?) who enjoy both Sherlock Holmes and Minions, and will be proud to wear a "Consulting Minion" shirt offered by TeePublic <www.tinyurl.com/3dewzjyp> with long or short sleeves; stickers, mugs, and masks also are available.

The newsletter of the Public Domain Review recently called attention to an article about the Sanger Circus Collection that was published on July 9 at JSTOR <www.tinyurl.com/44t8vpzd>; those who have read "The Veiled Lodger" will recall the mention of Sanger. The nicely illustrated article offers a photograph of "Ellen Sanger, lion tamer and wife of George Sanger."

Jul 21 #5 What's the second-most valuable Sherlockian periodical? The most valuable would be Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, in which "A Study in Scarlet" was published. Next in line would be the first issue of Playboy, with an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four" (as well as the iconic calendar photograph of Marilyn Monroe); a copy of that issue, signed by Hugh Heffner, was offered at Heritage Auctions on July 16, and sold for $48,750 (including buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/ybdc6cjf>.

Alexander Orlov has noted the Finaketto House of Chess in Baku (in Azerbaijan) <www.trend.az/life/sports/3447998.html#>, decorated with a mural that shows Holmes and Watson playing chess.

Michael K. Vaughan is a prolific uploader to YouTube, talking about books, and so far he has done *The Lost World* (on the Sunday Penguin) and *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Sign of Four* (in Sherlock Saturday); they're excellent introductions for those who haven't read the books.

Ken Ludwig has a monthly on-line Comedy Play Club that in August will celebrate his play "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" with a discussion on Aug. 11, and all sorts of fun and games <www.tinyurl.com/2nvfsujy>.

"The Astonishing Adventures of Houdini's Favorite Detective" was the headline on Karen Lee's story at the Fishwrap blog on July 20. Houdini's favorite detective was not Sherlock Holmes, of course, but rather Rose Mackenberg, and you can read all about her at <www.tinyurl.com/xyrf4yef>. A tip of the deerstalker to Alan Rettig, for reporting the article.

What is special about the number 8,549,176,320? It's the only number that contains all ten digits in alphabetical order.

Fans of Benedict Cumberbatch who haven't already seen him in "Hamlet" and in "Frankenstein" (in which he and Jonny Lee Miller played both roles on alternate nights), and other fine actors in excellent plays, may wish to subscribe to National Theatre at Home <www.tinyurl.com/38n9rf5f>. Their plays have been streamed to theaters around the world, but you now have a chance to see them at home.

Tom Fahres has noted that on July 12 Bill Griffith's "Zippy" comic strip had Zippy the Pinhead visiting Gillette Castle <www.tinyurl.com/4yxu2wum>.

The "Corona in the Lost World" tie-in poster issued in 1925 and offered at Heritage Auctions this month (Jun 21 #3) was bought for $1,200 (including the buyer's premium). And yes, Edward Malone did have a Corona typewriter with him as part of his essential gear in the film.

William F. Nolan died on July 15. A prolific author and screenwriter, as well as an artist and actor, he befriended Ray Bradbury and found his way into the world of science fiction. His short story "Sungrab" (first published in the anthology *After the Fall* in 1980), featured Mars-based private eye Sam Space, who was aided by computers named Holmes and Watson in pursuit of a new manifestation of the Baskerville curse; it was reprinted in his collection *Down the Long Night* in 2000.

Jul 21 #6 Just in case you want a nice present for someone special, the new Montblanc “writer’s edition” tribute to Conan Doyle will do very nicely. There’s a nice video <www.tinyurl.com/46kzdjf4> that features Dan Stashower and others talking about Conan Doyle and the new pens. Forbes has a fine article about the pens <www.tinyurl.com/tprtdz73>; there are four different pens, priced from only $1,150 up to $4,600, with accessories also available <www.tinyurl.com/dnph2ydj>. And despite its fancy French name, the company has always been German (Wikipedia has a nice entry for Montblanc).

It’s not easy, by the way, to find out just how limited Montblanc’s limited editions are. One Internet source says that, “the piston-filled fountain pen is limited to 9,800 pieces; the ballpoint pen to 10,300; the capless rollerball is limited to 8,600 pieces.”

“The Adventure of the Pimlico Poisoner” was a 90-minute drama written by Peter Mackie and broadcast by BBC Radio 4 in 1990, with William Chubb as Sherlock Holmes and Crawford Logan as Dr. Watson; Jennie Paton notes that it’s now available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/pwwnvstc>.

Yet another Sherlock Holmes cocktail, posted by Oliver Walkey at the Glass of Bubbly blog <www.glassofbubbly.com/sherlock-holmes-cocktail>; the explanation is perhaps more imaginative than the recipe. Sherlock Holmes is not recorded in the Canon as having imbibed a cocktail, although of course he could have: the Oxford English Dictionary cites the word as used in the Daily Telegraph (Aug. 23, 1864).

Theatrics: Daniel Foley’s “The Return of Sherlock Holmes” will be produced (during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe) at the Gilded Ballroom Teviot, Aug. 5 to 29 <www.tinyurl.com/dybjxdeb>.

Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” is scheduled at the Tarpon Springs Performing Art Center in Tarpon Springs, Sept.11-19 <www.tarponarts.org>; at the Balzer Theater in Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 17-Dec. 19 <www.theatricaloutfit.org>.

Ed. Lange’s “Sherlock’s Secret Life” will be produced at the Southampton Cultural Center in Southampton, Long Island, N.Y., from Sept. 17 to Oct. 10 <www.scc-arts.org>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at Theatr Clwyd in Mold, Wales, Sept. 21-25 <www.theatrclwyd.com>; and at the York Theatre Royal in York, Oct. 19-23 (on tour from the Octagon Theatre in Bolton) <www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk>; and at the Weymouth Pavilion in Weymouth, Dorset, Oct. 21-23 <www.weymouthpavilion.com>.

Denis Green and Anthony Boucher’s “A Scandal in Bohemia” will be streamed by the Resident Ensemble Players at the University of Delaware, Sept. 29-Oct. 17 <www.rep.udel.edu/presentations/a-scandal-in-bohemia>.

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