

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 169th birthday during the (very) long weekend from Jan. 4 to 8; reports on many if not most of the goings-on posted soon at the Baker Street Irregulars' web-site <[www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/reports](http://www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/reports)>. In the meantime, here are a few brief paragraphs to tide you over.

Locals and early arrivals enjoyed the ASH Wednesday dinner, and on Thursday morning the ACD Society's Doylean Awards Ceremony and a running of Wessex Cup were held at the Mysterious Bookshop; the society's web-site is at <[www.acdsociety.com](http://www.acdsociety.com)>. The BSI's Distinguished Speaker that evening was Dr. Lakshmi Krishnan, who suggested that the medical practice of diagnosis cannot be understood without examining its linkage with detective fiction; her paper will be published in the Baker Street Journal, and her book *The Doctor and the Detective* will be published this year.

On Friday the well-attended William Gillette Memorial Luncheon featured a performance of William Gillette's curtain-raiser "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes", and the presentation of the annual Susan Rice Mentorship Award (recognizing "commitment to mentoring Sherlockians as a means of keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes") to Evelyn Herzog.

Then Irregulars and guests gathered for dinner at the Yale Club, where Lou Lewis offered the first toast to Joan Blankenstein as *The Woman*. The dinner agenda included the usual toasts, and rituals, and spectacular presentations by Betsy Rosenblatt and Dan Stashower. The annual Morley-Montgomery Award went posthumously to Nicholas Utechin, and Mike Kean announced that Steve Rothman was retiring after a record 23 years as the editor of the Baker Street Journal; the new editor of the BSJ is Dan Andriacco, and Steve will be the editor emeritus.

The BSI's new Birthday Honours were awarded to Cindy Brown ("Sam Brown"), Elaine Coppola ("Syracuse"), Erika Dowell ("A First Folio Shakespeare"), Takahiko Endo ("James Armitage"), David Harnois ("James Boswell"), Palle Schantz Lauridsen ("The Royal Family of Scandinavia"), Dore Nash ("The Three Garridebs"), James O'Leary ("James, the Son of the Grimpen Postmaster"), Roberta Pearson ("Nottingham"), Lee Shackelford ("Woodman's Lee"), and John Sherwood ("The Imperial Theatre"). And the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was bestowed on Greg Ruby.

On Saturday morning Covent Garden West offered the traditional opportunity for dealers to help people who wanted to add to their collections, and at the Saturday luncheon and reception the Dr. John H. Watson Fund's auction attracted enthusiastic bidders; the raffle prize was an etched glass salver with matching glasses and coasters, created by Danna Mancini.

The second annual meeting of the Literary Agents was held via Zoom on Sunday morning; you are welcome to watch video of the proceedings at the "Doings of Doyle" page at Facebook <[www.tinyurl.com/3ncb9h2w](http://www.tinyurl.com/3ncb9h2w)>. And for those who lasted that long, the last event of the birthday festivities was the Adventuresses' Brunch on Sunday.

Jan 23 #2 There's more about the festivities at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <[www.tinyurl.com/5284d3rf](http://www.tinyurl.com/5284d3rf)>. Scott and Burt Wolder also discuss the goings-on at <[www.tinyurl.com/bp7386rm](http://www.tinyurl.com/bp7386rm)>. And you can plan ahead: the next annual dinner will be on Jan. 12, 2024, celebrating Sherlock Holmes' 170th birthday and the 90th (granite) anniversary of the founding of the BSI. Anyone who would like to have information about future events (and much more) is welcome to sign up for "News from the BSI" at <[www.tinyurl.com/yc5tsz27](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc5tsz27)>.

The Baker Street Irregulars Press has published two new titles: *The Haven Horror* is the newest addition to the Manuscript Series (211 pp., \$39.95); edited by Phillip Bergem, it offers a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Retired Colourman", with an annotated transcription and scholarly commentary on the manuscript and on various aspects of the story (the Manuscript Series continues to offer readers an opportunity to come close to the moment when the stories were written, and the commentary is delightful).

*Stimulating Medicine*, edited by Robert S. Katz and Andrew L. Solberg (225 pp., \$39.95), is subtitled "More Nerve and Knowledge: Doctors, Medicine, and the Sherlockian Canon"; it's the next title in the BSI's Professions Series, and a second volume, so to speak, accompanying their first title in the series, and the anthology continues to explore the many medical aspects of the Canon. Both of the new titles (and many others) can be ordered at <[www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books](http://www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books)>.

Don't delay: Neil Brand's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with Mark Gatiss as Sherlock Holmes (Dec 22 #6) will be available at the BBC Radio 3 web-site <[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001h56s](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001h56s)> only until Feb. 20 (and it's nicely done indeed).

As noted in last month's issue, all of the Sherlock Holmes stories now are in the public domain. You can visit Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <[www.tinyurl.com/2s4ck3s4](http://www.tinyurl.com/2s4ck3s4)> to listen to them interview Les Klinger, Betsy Rosenblatt, and Ashley Polasek about the significance of the end of Canonical copyright protection.

Radio Times reported on Jan. 19 <[www.tinyurl.com/257fh4ks](http://www.tinyurl.com/257fh4ks)> on the new Audible radio drama "The Baker Street Four" (based on the graphic-novel series *Les Quatre de Baker Street*), with Peterson Joseph as Sherlock Holmes and Bill Nighy as the Baker Street Irregulars' faithful cat Watson. You can listen to a sample from the recording at <[www.tinyurl.com/mr3nnkrb](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr3nnkrb)>.

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

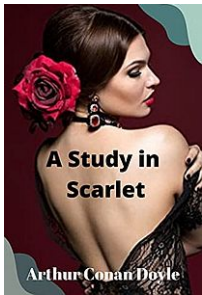
Further to the discussion of ChatGPT (Dec 22 #4), Dave Taylor, who has an interesting technology blog at <[www.askdavetaylor.com](http://www.askdavetaylor.com)>, asks his readers, "If you read every book Arthur Conan Doyle ever wrote and remembered every single sentence, do you think you could write new Sherlock Holmes stories in his style?" <[www.tinyurl.com/2yuu4dbw](http://www.tinyurl.com/2yuu4dbw)>. And provides some intriguing insight for people who pursue pastiches.

Jan 23 #3 The script for David MacGregor's comedy "The Adventure of the Ghost Machine" is now available from TRW Plays (\$12.95 print/\$9.00 digital) <[www.trwplays.com/david-macgregor](http://www.trwplays.com/david-macgregor)>; MacGregor has great fun with Holmes, Watson, and Irene Adler (who has moved into 221B Baker Street and is pretending to be Mrs. Hudson for the sake of propriety). This time they're involved with Nikola Tesla and Thomas Alva Edison, and (again) the villainous daughter of Prof. Moriarty.

Reginald Goodman's *The Willesden Harpooning: A Holmes Before Watson Novel* (2022; 224 pp., \$7.81) offers a look at Holmes when he was trying to find his vocation as a consulting detective, finding he had a lot to learn before he could establish himself; he solves one mystery easily, and then is confronted with another that is far more difficult.

"Why write a Victorian mystery?" is the question answered by Will Thomas, author of the series of novels about Cyrus Barker and Thomas Llewelyn in a post at Criminal Element (Jan. 3) <[www.tinyurl.com/3rzfuvck](http://www.tinyurl.com/3rzfuvck)>; *Heart of the Nile*, the latest in the long series, is due from Minotaur in the spring.

The fall 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 at <[www.bsitrust.org](http://www.bsitrust.org)>. with news about the Trust's activities. You're more than welcome to explore the Trust's web-site to read past issues.



"Don't judge a book by its cover," someone once said. Karen Murdock has noted a new digital edition of *A Study in Scarlet* offered at Amazon <[www.tinyurl.com/v69zdxe5](http://www.tinyurl.com/v69zdxe5)> for only \$3.00. One does wonder: Alice Charpentier? Lucy Ferrier?

I've long described this newsletter as "six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean." If you would like to run a word-search on a large file with all of the text since March 1985 (that's when I entered the computer age) you can now do that easily, thanks to Steve Mason, who provides an updated compilation each month and makes it available to one and all at the Beacon Society's web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/ys63328a](http://www.tinyurl.com/ys63328a)>.

The Jan.-Feb. issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine offers its annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes: a Sherlockian cover; Elizabeth Elwood's mystery involving a Sherlockian theater production; Steve Steinbock's reviews of some Sherlockian (and other) books, Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" column about a mystery that intrigued Conan Doyle; John Shen Yen Nee and S. J. Rozan's pastiche "The Killing of Henry Davenport"; an editorial happy birthday from Janet Hutchins; Terence Faherty's parody of "The Reigate Squires"; and an Amlingmeyer Brothers story "Can the Cat Catch the Rat?" by Steve Hockensmith.

What do Frankenstein, Sherlock Holmes, Dracula, Tarzan, the Count of Monte Cristo, and Pinocchio have in common? They are primordial literary myths, according to the novelist Gabriel García Márquez, quoted in an article in the Wall Street Journal (Dec. 27), noted by Karen Murdock. Can you name the authors who created all of those primordial literary myths?

Jan 23 #4    When in Norway: you can stay at the Union Hotel in Øye, where you can "step inside a world treasuring the olden times, when traveling meant introspective discovery, long days of reading and hiking adventures in tweed" <[www.unionoye.no](http://www.unionoye.no)>. The hotel boasts that Conan Doyle was one of many celebrities who stayed there, and "fell in love with our country right here, within these walls." It's certainly picturesque, but easy to get to only if you're on a ship cruising in the Hjørundfjord.

Jules Tasca's play "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" was first performed in 2014 and has had many local productions since then; the script's available from Dramatic Publishing (\$10.95) <[www.dramaticpublishing.com](http://www.dramaticpublishing.com)>. The evening consists of one-act dramatizations of two Canonical stories ("The Noble Bachelor" and "Charles Augustus Milverton") and his new one-act play "The Disappearance of Adam" (which is nicely imaginative and far more than a mere pastiche). The publisher offers many other Sherlockian plays.

Ron Fish continues to publicize meetings of Sherlockian societies via his Sherlockian Calendar, including gatherings held via Zoom or other technology; it's a great way to find out what's happening, where and when. You can see his format at <[www.sherlockiancalendar.com](http://www.sherlockiancalendar.com)>, and send information about upcoming meetings to him at <[ronf404@aol.com](mailto:ronf404@aol.com)>.

For those who like word-search puzzles: *Brain Games: Sherlock Holmes Word Search* (Morton Grove: Publications International, 2018; 192 pp. \$12.98).

The lists of Sherlockian societies that I used to maintain on my old computer are now sadly out of date, but there's still an easy way to for you to find Sherlockian societies and their contacts: Mike McSwiggin prepares annual listings of contact information for "Sherlockian Groups and Societies" for publication in the Baker Street Almanac, and the 2021 listing is available on-line at <[www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/bsa.html](http://www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/bsa.html)> (it's a large file, so be patient while it downloads); the 2022 listing should be available soon. Mike also presides over a handy-dandy interactive map of geographical Sherlockian societies at the web-site of the Beacon Society, at <[www.beaconsociety.com/sherlockian-societies.html](http://www.beaconsociety.com/sherlockian-societies.html)>.

"Pulp Friction" is how Heritage Auctions described what they called "one of the sauciest (and spiciest!) troves of pulp magazines ever assembled" <[www.tinyurl.com/55zsrpa8](http://www.tinyurl.com/55zsrpa8)>; there may not be any Sherlockian pulps in the upcoming auctions, but do take a look at some of the covers.

The Beacon Society continues to administer the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, and more than 120 people have completed all three exams and have received their Doctorate in Sherlockiana. There also are annual Re-Certification exams for those who want to continue on, and there is more information about the Program at <[www.tinyurl.com/4s6jtn35](http://www.tinyurl.com/4s6jtn35)>.

The December issue of the Beacon Society's Not-So-Quarterly Newsletter now is available at the society's web-site <[www.beaconsociety.com](http://www.beaconsociety.com)>, with the latest news from and about the society and its efforts to offer "teachers, librarians, children's museums, and children's theaters with local resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life."

Jan 23 #5 J. Allen St. John was an author, artist, and illustrator, perhaps best known for his illustration of Edgar Rice Burroughs' novels, but he also created a spectacular image of Holmes and Watson for the Chicago Sunday Tribune's Magazine of Books (Feb. 13, 1949) to accompany Vincent Starrett's review of John Dickson Carr's *The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* <[www.pinterest.com/pin/338332990729622515](http://www.pinterest.com/pin/338332990729622515)>. Lauren Stump at Shasta/Phoenix offers some of his (non-Sherlockian) original artwork at <[www.shastaphoenixart.com/availableartwork](http://www.shastaphoenixart.com/availableartwork)>, and Stephen D. Korshak's *The Paintings of J. Allen St. John: Grand Master of Fantasy*.

St. John earlier illustrated "A Scandal in Bohemia" for the anthology *With All My Love* (1945); that artwork can be found on the cover of Baker Street Miscellanea (autumn 1982) and in an article in the winter 1982 issue.

*Regulation & Imagination: Legal & Literary Perspectives on Fox-Hunting* is the thoroughly misleading title of a delightful book edited by Ross E. Davies (Washington: Green Bag Press, 2021; 131 pp., \$65.00). It's actually an exploration of Conan Doyle's "The King of the Foxes" and offers a full-color reprint of the first publication of the story in *The Windsor Magazine*, a facsimile of the manuscript with a transcription and annotations, and essays about the history of the manuscript, illustrators, fox-hunting, and much more, by Doylean scholars and enthusiasts; do not neglect the illustrations on the front and back of the dust jacket, explained in detail on the jacket flaps. The publisher's web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/3v8ahmyw](http://www.tinyurl.com/3v8ahmyw)> has links to two of the essays, and information on how to order the book.

The next 221B Con (A Fan Con for All Things Sherlock Holmes) will be held in Atlanta, Ga., on Apr. 14-16 <[www.221bcon.com](http://www.221bcon.com)>, and you are welcome to apply to be on one or more of their panels <[www.221bcon.com/panels](http://www.221bcon.com/panels)>.



It would be nice indeed if the U.S. Postal Service were to issue a stamp to honor the new book about "The King of the Foxes", but in fact it's only a nice coincidence that a new 40¢ stamp shows a red fox. That's the rate for bulk mail (pre-sorted circulars, newsletters, and catalogs), and the stamps available in rolls of 3,000 and 10,000; it will be difficult to find them in post offices, but the Postal Service is well aware that there still are some people who collect stamps, and you can purchase 20-stamp sheets at the USPS web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/36puatuf](http://www.tinyurl.com/36puatuf)>.

"Tide: For Detectives with Sensitive Skin" is a new television commercial <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxPyxgh9xgA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxPyxgh9xgA)> reported by Jerry Margolin and found on-line by Jennie Paton.

Further to the recommendation of Anthony Horowitz's "Magpie Murders" television series (Dec 22 #1), the book from which he adapted the series also is nicely done; the solutions to the murders are the same, but it's interesting to see what Horowitz did when he adapted the book for television.

Jerry Margolin has reported a nicely Sherlockian (and affordable) collectible available in Oregon <[www.oregonlottery.org/scratch-its/cash-hunt](http://www.oregonlottery.org/scratch-its/cash-hunt)>; the question for collectors is: do you keep it in mint condition?

Jan 23 #6 The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2022 takes "International Holmes" as its theme, with a nice mix of essays, articles, pastiches, poetry, and a puzzle; only a few copies of the 107-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, are available (\$11.00 postpaid); ask Phillip <pgbergem@gmail.com> if you're in time to order, and he'll tell you how to pay. Back issues for some earlier years, and conference books, also are available.

Gillette Castle is currently closed for tours, and work is underway on renovating the castle's terrace; tours will resume on May 27. In the meantime, Susan Dahlinger reports, there's a virtual tour available on-line at the Gillette Castle State Park web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc38p73j>. The web-site of the Friends of Gillette Castle State Park also is well worth exploring <www.gillettecastlefriends.org>.

The Parallel Case of St. Louis has announced their "Holmes in the Heartland" conference on July 28-30; more information is available at their web-site <www.parallelcasestl.wixsite.com/home/holmes-in-the-heartland>.

The fall issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) offers full reports on the Jubilee@221B conference, news from the Library and the Collection, and much more. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb (Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Maurice Breslow's *Full Circle: Sherlock Holmes's Greatest Challenge Ever* (Altona: Friesen Press, 2022; 115 pp., \$14.99) presents Holmes with a dire problem: Conan Doyle has decided to dispose of Holmes at the Reichenbach. Their worlds collide, and overlap, and the novella provides an intriguing solution.

*Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers, Volume 6, October 1894*, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström and Mark Alberstat (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2023; 258 pp., \$38.95), continues the series launched in 2015; the first volume covered ten years, and this one reprints only some of the articles published in the month that saw Conan Doyle on his highly-publicized tour in the United States.

Also from Gasogene: *You Know My Methods, Watson*, edited by Andy and Shelly Gage (Indianapolis: Illustrious Clients, 2023; 113 pp., \$19.99) is the society's third case-notes, offering a fine mix of articles, toasts, poetry, drama, and explorations of the history of the Clients. The *Sherlock Holmes Review: 2022 Sherlockian Annual* (78 pp., \$24.95) has a wide variety of new articles and reminiscences, Canonical and Sherlockian interesting (Steve Doyle has an especially nice story in the Collectors' Corner.) And while it's not new, Christopher Redmond's *A Quick Succession of Subjects* (2016; 276 pp., \$19.95), a collection of lectures and speeches from 1978 to 2015, includes "Advice from Professor Moriarty on the Presentation of Sherlockian Papers" (which will be of interest and value to anyone who is considering speechifying about Sherlock Holmes). Gasogene's books can be ordered at <www.gasogenebooks.com>.

Jan 23 #7 Do you think copyright protection in the U.S. is complicated? Canada has just changed its regulations to provide protection for 70 (rather than 50) years from the death of the author. Fear not: Conan Doyle's works went into public domain in Canada in 1980, and even if the new regulations were retroaction, his protection would have ended in 2000. The CBC explained it all on Jan. 7 <[www.tinyurl.com/mr2zz5cp](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr2zz5cp)>.

The December issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, offers detailed reports on the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes (at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul through Apr. 2) and the mini-conference held last October), celebrations of A. A. Milne and D. Martin Dakin, and news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Timothy Johnson, #15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <[johns976@umn.com](mailto:johns976@umn.com)>. Planning's underway for a full-scale conference in Minneapolis in 2024.

Linda Bailey's *Arthur Who Wrote Sherlock* (Tundra Book Group, 2022; 56 pp., \$18.99) is written for children aged 5-9 years, and it's a delightful introduction to the life and work of Conan Doyle, enhanced by Isabelle Follath's colorful artwork.

A recent article in *The Times* reported on "the 22 poshest villages in the UK," and one of them was Forest Row, which was described as "a beacon of progressiveness" and "a posh hippy enclave sloshing with private wealth." Obviously it has changed since Holmes and Watson stayed at the Brambletye Hotel in Forest Row (in "Black Peter").

Howard Ostrom's "Silent Doyle: Non-Sherlockian Conan Doyle and the Silent Film Era" <[www.nplh.co.uk/silentdoyle.html](http://www.nplh.co.uk/silentdoyle.html)> is an informative and nicely-illustrated discussion of the subject; it is unfortunate that most of the films are not known to have survived.

It is getting harder and harder to find open-stack libraries, in which it is possible to browse the shelves, but one of the best and largest is the Mui Ho Fine Arts Library at Cornell University <[www.tinyurl.com/55npb48y](http://www.tinyurl.com/55npb48y)>.

Piers Haggard died on Jan. 11. He began his theatrical career in Britain in 1960 as an assistant director at the Royal Court, then moved to film and television, and was awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours in 2016; he directed the "Madame Sara" episode of the ITV series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971).

The Baker Street Irregulars in Oxfordshire: they were the Special Operations Executive (SOE), who called themselves the Baker Street Irregulars because during WW2 their headquarters were at 64 Baker Street. They were also called "the Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare" and sometimes it was said that SOE stood for "Stately 'omes of England" after the many country homes and estates they used during the war. One of those stately homes was still used by the intelligence services until the 1970s, when it was sold and carefully restored; it's now on the market again (at £6,000,000), and you can read all about it at <[www.tinyurl.com/djvaz7vc](http://www.tinyurl.com/djvaz7vc)>.

Jan 23 #8 Will Thomas' *Fierce Poison* (New York: Minotaur, 2022; 294 pp., \$27.99) is the next in his grand series that stars private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and (now) partner Thomas Llewelyn; it's 1893, and the story puts them and their friends in dire peril at the hands of a mysterious poisoner. The tale's well told, and the supporting characters are as interesting as the stars; the book is an excellent addition to the series.

The last Sherlock Holmes stories aren't the only things to enter the public domain this year. Here's something you may not have thought was protected by copyright: <[www.tinyurl.com/sxtbbfmr](http://www.tinyurl.com/sxtbbfmr)>.

"The only thing needed to be a Sherlockian is a curious mind and the free edition of *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* - Nick Martorelli, interviewed by Robb Nunn on his "Interesting Though Elementary" blog, which continues to offer a fine mix of essays and interviews <[www.tinyurl.com/5ym74vsk](http://www.tinyurl.com/5ym74vsk)>.

Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Reno Little Theater in Reno, Nev., through Feb. 12 <[www.renolittletheater.org](http://www.renolittletheater.org)>. It's also due at the Theatre Off The Square in Weatherford, Tex., on Feb. 3-19 <[www.theatreoffthesquare.org](http://www.theatreoffthesquare.org)>; and at the Olathe West Theatre in Olathe, Kan., Mar. 3-4 <[www.owtheatre.com](http://www.owtheatre.com)>.

The new musical "Sherlock Holmes and the Poisonwood" will be performed at the Other Palace in London, Feb. 2-4 <[www.theturbinetheatre.com](http://www.theturbinetheatre.com)>.

Joshua L. Peugh's new musical "My Dear Watson" was performed at The Grandel in St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 27-28, and it will be streamed on-line, Feb. 3-5 <[www.kranzbergartsfoundation.org/the-grandel](http://www.kranzbergartsfoundation.org/the-grandel)>.

The Red Throated League (of the Norwegian Explorers) will perform "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Heiress" at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, Minn., on Feb. 4 <[www.mnhs.org/event/9630](http://www.mnhs.org/event/9630)>.

Lesley Hart will discuss her "Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Lipstick, Ketchup and Blood" (with excerpts performed by Deirde Davis) at the Pitlochry Festival Theatre in Pitlochry, Perthshire, on Feb. 12 (it's her adaptation of "A Study in Scarlet") <[www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com](http://www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com)>.

Samuel Safa's "Sherlock Holmes: l'Aventure Musicale" will be performed at the 13eme Art theater in Paris, Feb. 18-Mar. 4 <[www.tinyurl.com/2s4dwdx](http://www.tinyurl.com/2s4dwdx)>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be performed at the Lakeland Cultural Arts Center in Littleton, N.C., Mar. 24-Apr. 1 <[www.lakelandcac.org](http://www.lakelandcac.org)>.

"Baker Street Irregulars" (by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is to be performed at the Kettering Children's Theatre in Kettering, Ohio, from Mar. 24 to Apr. 2 <[www.playkettering.org](http://www.playkettering.org)>.

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



The splendid exhibition of "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" from the collection of Glen Miranker opened with suitable fanfare at the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis on Feb. 13, and it will be on display until May 5. Special events are scheduled for Mar. 16 and Apr. 20, and you can watch Tim Johnson interviewing Glen about the exhibition at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jprpshwYQrg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jprpshwYQrg).

There's still time to visit Moscow to see the State Museum of the History of Russian Literature's exhibition "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Russia" [www.tinyurl.com/4n8yy2nm](http://www.tinyurl.com/4n8yy2nm), which closes on Mar. 26. There's more information about the exhibition at [www.goslitmuz.ru/poster/16438](http://www.goslitmuz.ru/poster/16438). And if you can't get to Moscow, Howard Ostrom has noted that there is a nice video tour at [www.tinyurl.com/bdmmhax](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdmmhax).

If you'd like to know more about the life and work of the late Nick Utechin, you can listen to his interview at the Baker Street Irregulars Trust oral-history project at their web-site [www.tinyurl.com/3whrpkt2](http://www.tinyurl.com/3whrpkt2).

Bookforum, launched in 1994 as a literary supplement to Artforum magazine and considered by some as "the cool-kid sibling of older publication like the N.Y. Review of Books," has ceased publication. There still is an online archive, where you can read articles such as Audrey Woolen's "Neither Fairy nor Foul" about the Cottingley photographs in the June/July/August issue [www.tinyurl.com/394frz56](http://www.tinyurl.com/394frz56).

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation reported (on Jan. 20) the twelve winners of their "name a snowplow" competition; they included "The Blizzard of Oz", "Luke Snowwalker", and "Sherlock Snowmes". See them all at [www.tinyurl.com/y9h973dv](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9h973dv).

"A Study in Sherlock" is the title of an auction due on Apr. 20 at Potter & Potter [www.potterauctions.com](http://www.potterauctions.com); it's "the first sale from Robert Hess' collection of Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle" including original illustration art, first editions, signed photos, letters, movie posters, items from the Jeremy Brett Estate, an original street sign from Baker Street, and much more.

"Boss of Sherlock Holmes Museum Wins Fight to Evict Brother from flm Home in 10-Year Feud" was the headline on a story in the Daily Mirror (Feb. 1) [www.tinyurl.com/bdfwjbbm](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdfwjbbm). John Aidiniantz, who now controls the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London, has won the latest lawsuit in a decade-long feud that has involved more than 100 court appearance and resulted in more than £2.5 million in costs and court orders in a legal war that started as a battle over profits from the Museum, which continues to claim that it's at 221B Baker Street.

John Cleese starred as Sherlock Holmes (with William Rushton as Dr. Watson) in "Elementary, My Dear Watson" (a 30-minute program in the BBC-1's "Comedy Playhouse", broadcast in 1973); you can watch their antics on-line at [www.tinyurl.com/2v5n565m](http://www.tinyurl.com/2v5n565m) (kindly reported by Jennie Paton).

Feb 23 #2 Demolition has begun at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel, a local paper reported on Nov. 24, 2022 <[www.tinyurl.com/3xx7cfts](http://www.tinyurl.com/3xx7cfts)>. Conan Doyle is said to have designed both the entrance of the hotel and its battlement-style terraces in 1912, and the Daily Telegraph noted on Mar. 20, 2021, that a local historian had found a sketch that showed that Sir Arthur's design for the front façade "was based on the spiritual view of the journey of the soul."

Why should presidents and former presidents and vice presidents be the only ones to have fun? Now you all can join the the club.



"When Katherine Mansfield died everybody said, 'We have lost a writer of exquisite short stories,' and so we did. We have still, fortunately, other writers not less good, and one thinks of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his 'Sherlock Holmes,' or, again, of Mr. Perceval Gibbon and of Mr. Stacy Aumonier, whose extraordinary lightness of touch gives readability to everything he writes." A quote from the chapter on "Short Stories of Quality" in James Milne's *A London Book Window* (1924), kindly reported by Mattias Boström; the book's on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/ez8w6hjc](http://www.tinyurl.com/ez8w6hjc)>. And one wonders; has anyone actually read a short story written by more than one of those four authors?

The winter 2022/2023 issue of *Canadian Holmes* is a special issue honoring the late Peter Calamai, reprinting eight of his delightful contributions to our pseudo-scholarship. A subscription costs \$40.00 a year (US or CA); single issues cost \$12.00 postpaid <[www.torontobootmakers.com](http://www.torontobootmakers.com)>.

Bob Coghill on vacation in New Zealand, found the Holmes Café in Waitara <[www.facebook.com/SHolmes-Coffee-More-309768106026323](https://www.facebook.com/SHolmes-Coffee-More-309768106026323)>; it was closed at the time, so he didn't get to sample the food and drinks.

Five Miles to Anywhere is a Sherlockian society that holds monthly on-line discussions, and makes recordings of their meetings available at Derrick Belanger's YouTube, where you can see both their interesting speakers, and how much fun they have <[www.youtube.com/channel/UC0msAhK3Awcs5cpXOj4zJ4A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0msAhK3Awcs5cpXOj4zJ4A)>. The society also has a Facebook page, but doesn't yet have a theme song; they might want to adopt <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaD\\_B\\_C2RwI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaD_B_C2RwI)>.

Howard Ostrom has reported S. V. Mukhin's interesting Conan Doyle web-site <[www.conan-doyle.narod.ru](http://www.conan-doyle.narod.ru)>; it's in Russian (Google Translate can be quite helpful), and is an excellent example of what people are doing to make Conan Doyle and Holmes available in other languages.

Moriarty has returned: Daniel Davis, who played Moriarty in two episodes of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" will be seen in the role again in the third season of "Picard" (which began streaming on Paramount+ beginning on Feb. 16); Robert Ryan reported on the new season of the series on the Inverse web-site (Jan. 25) <[www.tinyurl.com/mwby8hj6](http://www.tinyurl.com/mwby8hj6)>.

Feb 23 #3 The portable Goyard writing desk designed for Conan Doyle (Aug 18 #1) has been advertised yet again, discounted to \$106,720 (plus shipping from Hong Kong) <[www.tinyurl.com/59zd5sae](http://www.tinyurl.com/59zd5sae)>. It's not the desk actually owned by Conan Doyle, but rather one of the additional six made by Goyard; Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog offers a detailed and illustrated report on the desk <[www.tinyurl.com/ywnn6yc4](http://www.tinyurl.com/ywnn6yc4)>.

KD Sherrinford's *Song for Someone* (Extasy Books, 2022; 369 pp., \$13.25) is the first in her "Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler" series; it's a romantic novel, with young Charlotte Saporì reading diaries kept by her mother and father and discovering that she's the daughter of Irene Adler and Sherlock Holmes, and learning about the complicated history of their relationship. The story continues in *Christmas at the Saporìs* (2022; 82 pp., \$7.00) with Mycroft on hand to complicate things. Sherrinford has a Facebook page at <[www.tinyurl.com/mr2d9scf](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr2d9scf)>, and you can read more about the author and her two books at <[www.tinyurl.com/35hpeyhwh](http://www.tinyurl.com/35hpeyhwh)>.

"The Great MLB Jersey Caper" was the headline on a story at the Sports Illustrated web-site on Feb. 27 <[www.tinyurl.com/yc73bhjd](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc73bhjd)>, kindly forwarded by Ross Davies. According to the colorful and detailed report, "Baseball had somehow stumbled into a locked-room mystery, more Agatha Christie than Christy Mathewson, more Sherlock Holmes than Homer Bailey," and it's a grand mystery indeed, not just because the missing jerseys cost \$250 each.



Due on CBS-TV (perhaps): "Shortly after the death of his friend and partner Sherlock Holmes at the hands of Moriarty, Dr. John Watson resumes his medical career as the head of a clinic dedicated to treating rare genetic disorders, only to uncover a startling secret that puts him in the cross-hairs of Moriarty once again." CBS has opened a writers room for a series proposed by Craig Sweeney, who worked on the network's "Elementary" series for five years, most of them as executive producer, and targeted for the 2024-2025 season. Opening a writers room means that the network wants to see scripts before approving a pilot.

"September, 1925. Russell and Holmes cross Europe to the village outside Paris where his son, Damian Adler, has settled to paint. But Damian has fled, and while Holmes goes after him, Russell begins to look into the secrets of Holmes' own past, beginning with an intriguing lantern with figures that seem to dance." If you want to know more, you'll need to read Laurie R. King's next novel *The Lantern's Dance*, due early next year.

*Memories and Adventures*, edited by Douglas Kerr (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2022; 342 pp., £150.00/\$230.00), is the first volume in *The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle*, which will offer the text of the books; detailed introductions; comparisons of the manuscripts (if available), first serial appearances, and first editions; explanatory notes; and (for *Memories and Adventures*) occasional corrections of errors made by Conan Doyle in remembering his life and work. It's a grand project indeed, and *Memories and Adventures* is a splendid start. *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* is due next, to be followed by *Round the Red Lamp*.

Feb 23 #4 The imaginative life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká that shows Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes <[www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2](http://www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2)>, on display in the Garden of Heroes and Villains created by the late Felix Dennis in Dorsington, Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, is not easy to see, but the Garden will be open to the public during a guided walk on Aug. 2 <[www.tinyurl.com/yd7tjmph](http://www.tinyurl.com/yd7tjmph)>.

Jennie Paton reports an update to the video "Evolution of Sherlock Holmes Games" which now covers 2002-2023 <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UnD5sYGJTM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UnD5sYGJTM)>.

Mark Godburn advertised (it has been sold) a "rare Victorian book, in its dust jacket, a book that reportedly introduced the first non-white detective in Victorian fiction." The book is Headon Hill's *The Divinations of Kala Persad* (Ward, Lock & Bowden, 1895), a first edition, in a dust jacket, with advertising on the jacket flaps that includes *A Study in Scarlet* (possibly the earliest surviving reference to the book on a dust jacket). Does anyone know of an earlier dust jacket with Canonical advertising?

Mark buys, sells, and collects and researches early dust jackets, and is the author of *Nineteenth-Century Dust-Jackets* (2016) (still available from the Oak Knoll Press <[www.oakknoll.com](http://www.oakknoll.com)>. He'd be glad to hear from anyone who shares his enthusiasm, at <[markrgodburn@gmail.com](mailto:markrgodburn@gmail.com)>.

The late Jim French's "Imagination Theatre" radio series "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" began 25 years ago, and is still on the air. Larry Albert has played Dr. Watson on every program, and you can hear recent shows at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/2p88z22j](http://www.tinyurl.com/2p88z22j)>. You can also purchase MP3 downloads of the "Further Adventures" (and all of the Canonical stories as "The Classic Adventures") at <[www.tinyurl.com/28a8tfj6](http://www.tinyurl.com/28a8tfj6)>. M. J. Elliott has been writing scripts for about 20 years, and has done the entire Canon, as well as many other stories.

"Brian and Charles" (2002) is a splendid and amusing film about Brian (a lonely inventor) and Charles (his robot); Charles appears in Sherlockian costume in about ten minutes of the film, Howard Ostrom reports, and you get a very brief glimpse of him in the trailer <[www.youtube.com/4hzvcmzx](http://www.youtube.com/4hzvcmzx)>. It's available on Amazon Prime and on Blu-ray in the U.S., and on DVD only in the U.K.

"Workplace Return Should Be Elementary, My Dear Prime Minister" read the headline on Matthew Lau's column in the [Toronto] Financial Post on Feb. 22 <[www.tinyurl.com/w5vbf39n](http://www.tinyurl.com/w5vbf39n)>, kindly reported by Cliff Goldfarb. And the column's nicely Sherlockian.

Graeme Malcolm died on Jan. 10. Born in Scotland, he moved to the U.S. in his early twenties and began recording for the American Federation for the Blind's talking-books program; he went on to record 168 audiobooks, and to act on stage and in television and films. Malcolm also was an understudy for Frank Langella as Sherlock Holmes in a 1987 production of Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case", and his recordings include the anthology *Sherlock Holmes in America* and two Canonical stories (all of them now available from Audible, where you can hear samples at <[www.audible.com](http://www.audible.com)>.

Feb 23 #5 Joe Coppola reports that amateur radio operators holding extra-class licenses can ask the Federal Communications Commission for vanity call signs, and he has just been authorized to use K1BSI. K3BSI may still be available from the FCC. If you would like to join the Sherlock Holmes Wireless Society (for licensed amateur radio operators), you can contact Ron Fish at <ronf404@aol.com>.

Max Alvarez has noted an interesting web-site <www.movie-locations.com>, where searches for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] turn up some hits.

Biblioctopus continues to offer important and (unusual) material at their web-site, and their current offers include a complete run of single issues of the Strand Magazine with all 58 stories published in the magazine (for \$85,000) <www.tinyurl.com/2cwbwwys>. They recently offered the manuscript of "His Last Bow" (for \$200,000) <www.tinyurl.com/236uh9wp>, and while it sold quickly, they've kept the description up at the web-site. Mark Hime, who founded the company in the mid-1970s, still presides over the catalog descriptions ("blame no one else," he says), and it's well worth reading what he writes, about his offers, his philosophy, and more.



"The Terror of Blue John Gap" continues to entertain geologists who admire Conan Doyle's fiction, because it includes both an interesting mineral and a monster that turns out to be a Pleistocene cave bear. Dana Martin Batory and William A. S. Sarjeant suggested in 1994 that the Terror was not, in fact, a cave bear, but rather a great scimitar cat, and it's nice that the Royal Mail issued a set of stamps in 2006 honoring Ice Age Animals that included both a cave bear and a sabre-tooth cat.



Marian Mistery and JD Singh have announced that they are going to retire, and will soon be closing the Sleuth of Baker Street in Toronto after 40 years of service to readers all over the world from one of the last remaining mystery-specialist bookstores; you can read the latest (and last) issue of their newsletter Merchant of Menace on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/mryjtv8e>.

*Southsea Stories and Beyond*, edited by Matt Wingett (Portsmouth: Life Is Amazing, 2022; 447 pp., £25.00 hardback/£15.00 paperback), offers a preface by Andrew Lycett and reprints of all the short stories not included in collections during Conan Doyle's lifetime; it has two additional stories ("The Haunted Grange of Goresthorpe" and "The Blood-Stone Tragedy") that are not in *Uncollected Stories* (edited by John Michael Gibson and Richard Lancelyn Green in 1982), and Wingett's added commentary discusses the many echoes of Southsea and Portsmouth found in the stories. The best price is available at the publisher's web-site at <www.lifeisamazing.co.uk>.

There's an amusing story about Wingett's book: because of the deep rivalry between the Portsmouth (blue) and Southsea (red) football teams, some of the shopkeepers in Portsmouth said their customers refused to purchase the book in its red dust jacket, so he made up a small supply in blue jackets, and you're welcome to order either or both.

Feb 23 #6 The Perseverance rover entered its extended-mission phase on Mars on Jan. 7. Designed to last one Martian year (687 Earth days), the rover reached that milestone on Jan. 6, and is still exploring Jezero Crater. SHERLOC also is continuing to perform well; it has its own entry at Wikipedia (with a mention of WATSON) <[www.tinyurl.com/5f6xnrwx](http://www.tinyurl.com/5f6xnrwx)> and <[www.tinyurl.com/2p9xteja](http://www.tinyurl.com/2p9xteja)>

"Sherlock Holmes was the first fictional sleuth to use a magnifying glass" (according to a recent post to the Mental Floss web-site from Jake Rossen and Kat Long) <[www.tinyurl.com/42v6vjfx](http://www.tinyurl.com/42v6vjfx)>. That might even be true. Can anyone cite an earlier magnifying glass used by a fictional sleuth?

Mark Jones and Paul M. Chapman ("unrepentant Doyleans and Sherlockians") continue their interesting on-line discussions of Conan Doyle's writings, at their "Doings of Doyle" podcast <[www.doingsofdoyle.com](http://www.doingsofdoyle.com)>; their latest posts are an interview with Martin Edwards (about "Conan Doyle and Crime Fiction") and an examination of "The Final Problem".



Sherlock and Holmes were adopted by the South African Association for Marine Biological Research, according to the Independent On-Line <[www.tinyurl.com/2fdf7vze](http://www.tinyurl.com/2fdf7vze)>. Sherlock and Holmes are African penguins (yes indeed, there are African penguins <[www.tinyurl.com/2ez83uhf](http://www.tinyurl.com/2ez83uhf)>.

The Lord Chamberlain's Office is where the script for Conan Doyle's play "The Crown Diamond" was discovered (he eventually turned it into the short story "The Mazarin Stone"); British plays no longer are required to be licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, and the British Library now has all of the new plays performed in Britain from 1824 to 1968 as submitted to the Lord Chamberlain. They're now available to researchers, and you can read more about it at <[www.tinyurl.com/yc8dcfdk](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc8dcfdk)>.

Sherlock has been granted a patent by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. That's Sherlock Biosciences, and the company says that it's now the leader in CRISPR-based diagnostics. CRISPR and SHERLOCK are acronyms (May 20 #4), and the company's press release is at <[www.tinyurl.com/n86zb2dk](http://www.tinyurl.com/n86zb2dk)>. An article in GEN Edge (Feb. 22) may or may not be helpful in explaining all of this.

Frank Emerson's *Sherlock Holmes and the Unmasking of the Whitechapel Horror* (London: MX Publishing, 2023; 166 pp., \$12.95) has Holmes and Watson pursuing the Ripper, assisted by Chief Inspector Abberline, and after 15 years they track the Ripper down and bring him to justice and the gallows.

The Baker Street Journal's 2022 Christmas Annual offers a grand survey, by Julie McKuras and Sonia Fetherston, of "Women on the Periphery of the BSI, 1940-1960"; four of them are on display in full color on the cover: Edith Meiser, Lillian de la Torre, and Sylvia Porter (top to bottom at the left, and Coe Glade at the right). The Annual is part of the annual subscription to the BSJ (if you aren't a subscriber, you should search for someone who is, and borrow it). You're welcome to subscribe to the BSJ, and receive the 2023 Christmas Annual, at <[www.tinyurl.com/5fvmdf86](http://www.tinyurl.com/5fvmdf86)>.



Feb 23 #7 "After getting a taste for blood, Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet set off to find a new source for food. It's not long before their bloody rampage begins." That's the premise of the new film "Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey" that was quick to take advantage of the end of copyright protection for A. A. Milne's iconic characters. A detailed report on the film in Variety (Feb. 7) <[www.tinyurl.com/2ayn2z4h](http://www.tinyurl.com/2ayn2z4h)> notes that at one point a horror Sherlock Holmes film was considered, but that seems to have been shelved: the company's next project is described as "Jurassic Park" meets "Bambi".

An excellent way to add good books to your library while saving money is patronize discounters who specialize in publishers' remainders: Daedalus Books <[www.daedalusbooks.com](http://www.daedalusbooks.com)> is one of them: a recent search for [sherlock holmes] turned up Andrew Lycett's *Conan Doyle's Wide World: Sherlock Holmes and Beyond* (\$9.98) and Mike Ashley's *Adventures in the Strand: Arthur Conan Doyle & The Strand Magazine* (\$5.98), among others.

William Crick has launched a new on-line "Sherlock Holmes Forum" available at <[www.sherlockholmesforum.org](http://www.sherlockholmesforum.org)>, and welcomes one and all.



I hear of Sherlock everywhere: Howard Ostrom found an image of the F-86E Sabre flown by Maj. James Robinson Risner with the 366th Squadron in Korea in Jan. 1953, with artwork that shows Bugs Bunny looking for a discharge. He retired as a Brigadier General after serving in three wars, and his entry at Wikipedia is well worth reading.



One of the (few) nice things about the pandemic is the opportunity to attend meetings of distant Sherlockian societies via the Internet and YouTube: some societies have posted their virtual meetings on YouTube channels. One of those societies is the Sydney Passengers (posting from Australia) <[www.youtube.com/@sydneypassengers3476](http://www.youtube.com/@sydneypassengers3476)>. The Red Circle of Washington also has a YouTube channel <[www.tinyurl.com/nhfveysp](http://www.tinyurl.com/nhfveysp)>; other societies are welcome to let me know about their meeting videos.

Alexander Orlov has noted that there is a Moriarty Hotel in Krasnodar (in southern Russia). And a Sherlock Holmes Hostel. So it's more expensive for admirers of the Professor.

The August Derleth Society was founded in the late 1970s and continues to celebrate the many-faceted literary career of the creator of Solar Pons. Membership costs \$25.00 a year and includes four issues of their newsletter *Sage of Sac Prairie*; the latest issue offers Derrick Belanger's article about the first annual Luther Norris PSI Dinner, held during the January birthday festivities in New York, to honor the founder of the Praed Street Irregulars. You can find Derrick at <[www.belangerbooks.com](http://www.belangerbooks.com)>, and the August Derleth Society at <[www.augustderleth.org](http://www.augustderleth.org)>. Luther founded the PSI in 1966, edited and published the *Pontine Dossier*, and held delightful annual dinners in Los Angeles (attended by some people who are willing and able to tell stories about those festivities).

Feb 23 #8 Paul Thomas Miller's "Doyle's Rotary Coffin" (a society whose motto is "All Holmes Is Good Holmes") has a thoroughly amusing Sherlockian web-site <[www.sites.google.com/site/doylsrotarycoffin](http://www.sites.google.com/site/doylsrotarycoffin)>. Take a look at the article about his "Holmes Parody, Pastiche, and Drama Adaptation Tolerance Increaser Game"

"Baker Street Elementary" is a long-running on-line comic strip created by Joe Faye, Rusty Mason, and Steve Mason, now in its ninth year, and all of their amusing strips (and their six comic books) are available at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star <[www.tinyurl.com/ms76ytj8](http://www.tinyurl.com/ms76ytj8)>.

"Emmerdale Star Dominic Brunt Thought He Saw a Cottingley Fairy" was the headline on a Yahoo! News story (Jan. 30) <[www.tinyurl.com/mr3t3n5e](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr3t3n5e)>. The actor lived at Cottingley Beck in Bradford, where Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths took five photographs of what appeared to be real fairies. According to Brunt, when he lived at the Cottingley Fairies house, he looked out a window and thought he saw a fairy, and "my heart stopped. But when I looked closer it was a dragonfly!"

Larry Millett's *The Disappearance of Sherlock Holmes*, published in 2002, was the fifth in his series of pastiches about Sherlock Holmes in Minnesota; he was interviewed on WYSO-FM that year <[www.tinyurl.com/y5pttskp](http://www.tinyurl.com/y5pttskp)>.

And now for some theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Mantorville Opera House in Mantorville, Minn., Mar. 17-Apr. 2 <[www.mantorvilletheatrecompany.com](http://www.mantorvilletheatrecompany.com)>; also at the Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque, Ont., June 2-24 <[1000islandsplayhouse.com](http://1000islandsplayhouse.com)>; the John Goodman Amphitheatre at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo., on July 7-14 <[www.tenttheatre.missouristate.edu](http://www.tenttheatre.missouristate.edu)>; and at the Milam Community Theater in Cameron, Tex., July 22-30 <[www.milamcommunitytheater.com](http://www.milamcommunitytheater.com)> and the Cedar Street Playhouse in Rolla, Mo., July 27-Aug. 6 (that web-site's at <[www.ozarkactorstheatre.org](http://www.ozarkactorstheatre.org)>).

David Stuart Davies' "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act" will be performed at The White Bear Theatre in London, Mar. 21-25 <[www.whitebeartheatre.co.uk](http://www.whitebeartheatre.co.uk)> by Nigel Miles-Thomas; it's then due at the Hollywood Fringe Festival in June. The two-act one-man play was written by Davies for Roger Llewellyn, who toured the play in many countries after it debuted in 1999; he died in 2019, and the play has now been revived by Miles-Thomas.

Jon Jory's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Way Off Broadway Theatre in Prattville, Ala., Apr.13-30 <[www.facebook.com/prattvillewobt](http://www.facebook.com/prattvillewobt)>.

"The Hound of the Bursquervilles" (billed as "a burlesque mystery") will be produced at the Clocktower Cabaret in Denver, Colo., May 4-25; web-site at <[www./ci.ovationtix.com/35628/production/1144613](http://www.ci.ovationtix.com/35628/production/1144613)>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Foothills Playhouse in Easley, S.C., Oct. 27-Nov. 5 <[www.easleychamber.net](http://www.easleychamber.net)>.

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